

The Spin Statistics Theorem

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The Spin of a Particle is a type of Angular Momentum intrinsic to the particle itself. Since Spin is a type of Angular Momentum, its operators \hat{S}_x , \hat{S}_y and \hat{S}_z must satisfy the same commutations relations as \hat{L}_x , \hat{L}_y and \hat{L}_z . That is:

$$[\hat{S}_x, \hat{S}_y] = i\hbar\hat{S}_z \quad (1)$$

$$[\hat{S}_y, \hat{S}_z] = i\hbar\hat{S}_x \quad (2)$$

$$[\hat{S}_z, \hat{S}_x] = i\hbar\hat{S}_y \quad (3)$$

$$[\hat{S}^2, \hat{S}_x] = [\hat{S}^2, \hat{S}_y] = [\hat{S}^2, \hat{S}_z] = 0 \quad (4)$$

These commutation relations ultimately arise from imposing Rotational Invariance in three Dimensions.

From these commutation relations we can find the eigenfunctions of the Spin operators. Since, \hat{S}_x , \hat{S}_y and \hat{S}_z do not commute, we can try to find only the simultaneous eigenfunctions of \hat{S}^2 and S_z . On doing this we see that the eigenvalues of \hat{S}^2 and S_z are such that:

$$\hat{S}^2 f_{sm} = s(s+1)\hbar^2 f_{sm} \quad (5)$$

$$\hat{S}_z f_{sm} = m_s \hbar f_{sm} \quad (6)$$

Where s is known as the Spin of the particle and it can be any non-negative integer or half-integer.

$$s \in \{0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2 \dots\} \quad (7)$$

and m_s is known as the Spin Quantum number, and it can be:

$$m_s \in \{-s, -s+1 \dots s-1, s\} \quad (8)$$

The Spin Statistics Theorem states that every elementary particle (such as electrons, photons, etc) have a specific value of s intrinsic to them. Since, as shown before, s must be either a integer or a half integer, there cannot be any particles with fractional spin (other than the ones with half integer spins).