

Solution for HW6 20161109

Taper

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Abstract

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1 Validate that $\text{Tr} = \sum \lambda_i$ with σ_x

The characteristic equations is

$$\begin{aligned}\det \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda \end{pmatrix} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \lambda^2 - 1 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \lambda &= \pm 1 \\ \Rightarrow \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Meanwhile, we have $\text{Tr}(\sigma_x) = 0 + 0 = 0$, confirming theorem.

2 Prove $[X, Y] = [Y, Z] = [X, Z] = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}[X, Y] &= \int dx |x\rangle \langle x| x \int dy |y\rangle \langle y| y - \int dy |y\rangle \langle y| y \int dx |x\rangle \langle x| x \\ &= \iint dx dy (xy - yx) |x\rangle \langle x| |y\rangle \langle y| \\ &= \iint dx dy 0 |x\rangle \langle x| |y\rangle \langle y| \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}[Y, Z] &= \int dy |y\rangle \langle y| y \int dz |z\rangle \langle z| z - \int dz |z\rangle \langle z| z \int dy |y\rangle \langle y| y \\ &= \iint dy dz (yz - zy) |y\rangle \langle y| |z\rangle \langle z| \\ &= \iint dy dz 0 |y\rangle \langle y| |z\rangle \langle z| \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
[X, Z] &= \int dx |x\rangle \langle x| x \int dz |z\rangle \langle z| z - \int dz |z\rangle \langle z| z \int dx |x\rangle \langle x| x \\
&= \iint dx dz (xz - zx) |x\rangle \langle x| |z\rangle \langle z| \\
&= \iint dx dz 0 |x\rangle \langle x| |z\rangle \langle z| \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

3 Prove

3.1 Translation operator is unitary

Proof. Since

$$\begin{aligned}
|T_a \beta\rangle &\equiv T_a |\beta\rangle = T_a \int d^3x |x\rangle \langle x|\beta\rangle \\
&= \int d^3x |x+b\rangle \langle x|\beta\rangle
\end{aligned}$$

So

$$\langle T_a \beta| = \int d^3x \langle x|\beta\rangle^* \langle x+b|$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle T_a \beta|\gamma\rangle &= \int d^3x \langle x|\beta\rangle^* \langle x+b| \int d^3x' \langle x'|\gamma\rangle |x'\rangle \\
&= \iint d^3x d^3x' \delta(x+a-x') \langle x|\beta\rangle^* \langle x'|\gamma\rangle \\
&= \iint d^3x d^3x' \delta(x-(x'-a)) \langle x|\beta\rangle^* \langle x'|\gamma\rangle \\
&= \int d^3x \langle x|\beta\rangle^* \langle x| \int d^3x' \langle x'|\gamma\rangle |x'-a\rangle \\
&= \int d^3x \langle x|\beta\rangle^* \langle x| \left(T_{-a} \int d^3x' \langle x'|\gamma\rangle |x'\rangle \right) \\
&= \langle \beta|T_{-a}\gamma\rangle
\end{aligned}$$

So

$$T_a^\dagger = T_{-a} \quad (3.1.1)$$

So, with the result of section 3.3, we have

$$T_a T_a^\dagger = T_a T_{-a} = T_{a-a} = T_0 = \mathbb{1}$$

□

Hence it is unitary.

3.2 $[T_a, T_b] = 0$

Proof. Notice that

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_{a+b} |\alpha\rangle &= T_{a+b} \int d^3x |x\rangle \langle x|\alpha\rangle = \int d^3x |x + (a+b)\rangle \langle x|\alpha\rangle \\
 &= \int d^3x |x + (b+a)\rangle \langle x|\alpha\rangle \\
 &= T_{b+a} \int d^3x |x\rangle \langle x|\alpha\rangle \\
 &= T_{b+a} |\alpha\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

So $T_{a+b} = T_{b+a}$. Then use the result of section 3.3, we have

$$[T_a, T_b] = T_a T_b - T_b T_a = T_{a+b} - T_{b+a} = T_{a+b} - T_{a+b} = 0$$

□

3.3 $T_a T_b = T_{a+b}$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_a T_b |\alpha\rangle &= T_a T_b \int d^3x |x\rangle \langle x|\alpha\rangle \\
 &= T_a \int d^3x |x+b\rangle \langle x|\alpha\rangle \\
 &= \int d^3x |x+b+a\rangle \langle x|\alpha\rangle \\
 &= \int d^3x |x+(a+b)\rangle \langle x|\alpha\rangle \\
 &= T_{a+b} \int d^3x |x\rangle \langle x|\alpha\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

So $T_a T_b = T_{a+b}$.

□