Homework 2

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Contents

1 Problem 4.25

If the electron were a classical solid sphere, with radius,

$$r_c = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o mc^2}$$

(the so-called classical electron radius, obtained by assuming the electron's mass is attributable to energy sotred in its electric field, via the Einstein formula $E = mc^2$), and its angular momentum is $\hbar/2$, then how fast (in m/s) would a point on the "equator" be moving? Does this model make sense? (Actually, the radius of the electrin is known experimentally to be much less than r_c but this only makes matters worse.)

Solution 1: Classical spinning

From the classical framework the angular momentum is modeled with the following relation,

$$L = I\omega,$$

where I is the moment of interia, which in this case is $I = 2/5mr^2$ and w is the angular frequency, that can be express as $\omega = v/r$. Replacing this equivalences into the angular momentum equation we can get the following expression for v,

$$v = \frac{5}{2}\frac{L}{mr_c},$$

substituting the values of L and r_c,

$$v = \frac{5\pi\hbar\epsilon_o}{e^2}c^2.$$

Recalling the order of magnitud of the constants, $e \approx 10^{-19}$, $\hbar \approx 10^{-34}$, $\epsilon_o \approx 10^{-12}$ and $c \approx 10^8$, we get that,

$$\frac{5\pi\hbar\epsilon_o}{e^2}c \approx 90,$$

which tells us that the velocity at the ecuator is 90 times the velocity of light, which does not make sense.

$$\boxed{v \approx 90c.}$$

2 Problem 4.26

- Check that the spin matrices 4,145 and 4,147 obey the fundamental commutation relations for angular momentum eqn 4.134
- Show that the Pauli spin matrices 4.148 satisfy the product rule

$$\sigma_j \sigma_k = \delta_{jk} + i \sum_l \epsilon_{jkl} \sigma_l,$$

where the indices stand for x, y, z and ϵ_{jkl} is the Levi-Civita symbol.

Solution 2: Mathematical spin properties

$$\boxed{\text{Sol}}$$

3 Problem 4.27

An electron is in the spin state,

$$\Xi = A \begin{pmatrix} 3i \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Determine the normalization constant A.
- Find the expectation values of S_x, S_y and S_z.
- Find the "uncertanties" $\sigma_{S_x}, \sigma_{S_y}$ and σ_{S_z}. (Note: These sigmas are standard deviations, not Pauli matrices!)
- Confirm that your results are consistent with all three uncertanty principles 4.100 and its cyclic permutations-only with S in place of L, of course.

Solution 3: Practice spin state

Sol

4 Problem 4.32 a

If you measure the component of spin angular momentum along the x direction, at time t, what is the probability that you would get $+\hbar/2$?

Solution 4: Practice spin state

Sol