

Exercise 2

PHYS4000 Advanced Computational Quantum Mechanics

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1 Question 1

Calculate the expectation value $\langle \hat{\mathbf{S}}_z \rangle$ (will be using bold & hat notation for operators because it looks nice in latex) for $|\psi\rangle = |z_-\rangle$:

Starting with the definition for the expectation value:

$$\langle \hat{\mathbf{S}}_z \rangle = \langle \psi | \hat{\mathbf{S}}_z | \psi \rangle \quad (1)$$

$$\langle \psi | \hat{\mathbf{S}}_z | \psi \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (|\langle \psi | z_+ \rangle|^2 - |\langle \psi | z_- \rangle|^2) \quad (2)$$

for a general state $|\psi\rangle$, which we substitute with $|z_-\rangle$ to get

$$\langle z_- | \hat{\mathbf{S}}_z | z_- \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (|\langle z_- | z_+ \rangle|^2 - |\langle z_- | z_- \rangle|^2) \quad (3)$$

We are aware that $\langle z_{\pm} | z_{\mp} \rangle = 0$ and $\langle z_{\pm} | z_{\pm} \rangle = 1$, subsequently

$$\langle z_- | \hat{\mathbf{S}}_z | z_- \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (-1)^2$$

$$\langle z_- | \hat{\mathbf{S}}_z | z_- \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \quad (4)$$

We expect this because its essentially asking what the expectation that we get a $|z_-\rangle$ state from an SG_z experiment is. And we know from Exp 1 that it ought to be 1/2.

2 Question 2

3 Question 3

We start with the knowledge that a projection operator satisfies $P^2 = P$, and we apply this to I_y :

$$I_y = |y_+\rangle \langle y_+| + |y_-\rangle \langle y_-| \quad (5)$$

$$I_y^2 = (|y_+\rangle \langle y_+| + |y_-\rangle \langle y_-|)^2$$

$$I_y^2 = |y_+\rangle \langle y_+| y_-\rangle \langle y_-| + |y_-\rangle \langle y_-| y_+\rangle \langle y_+| + (|y_+\rangle \langle y_+|)^2 + (|y_-\rangle \langle y_-|)^2$$

$$I_y^2 = 0 + 0 + |y_+\rangle \langle y_+| y_+\rangle \langle y_+| + |y_-\rangle \langle y_-| y_-\rangle \langle y_-|$$

$$I_y^2 = |y_+\rangle \langle y_+| + |y_-\rangle \langle y_-|$$

$$I_y^2 = |y_+\rangle \langle y_+| + |y_-\rangle \langle y_-| = I_y$$

The above shows that $I_y^2 = I_y$ and thus satisfies the condition of a projection operator.

4 Question 4

Showing that $I_y = I_z$ using 5.12.

5.12:

$$|y_{\pm}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_+\rangle \pm \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} |z_-\rangle \quad (6)$$

Substitute directly into I_y :

$$\begin{aligned}
I_y &= |y_+\rangle \langle y_+| + |y_-\rangle \langle y_-| \\
I_y &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_+\rangle \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle z_+| - \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \langle z_-| \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} |z_-\rangle \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle z_+| - \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \langle z_-| \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_+\rangle \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle z_+| + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \langle z_-| \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} |z_-\rangle \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle z_+| + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \langle z_-| \right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
I_y &= |z_+\rangle \langle z_-| - \frac{i}{2} |z_+\rangle \langle z_-| \\
&\quad + \frac{i}{2} |z_-\rangle \langle z_+| + \frac{1}{2} |z_-\rangle \langle z_-| \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} |z_+\rangle \langle z_+| + \frac{i}{2} |z_+\rangle \langle z_-| \\
&\quad - \frac{i}{2} |z_-\rangle \langle z_+| - \frac{1}{2} |z_-\rangle \langle z_-|
\end{aligned}$$

$$I_y = |z_+\rangle \langle z_+| + |z_-\rangle \langle z_-| = I_z \quad (7)$$

5 Question 5

5.15:

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= |\langle z_- | x_+ \rangle|^2 |\langle x_+ | z_+ \rangle|^2 + |\langle z_- | x_- \rangle|^2 |\langle x_- | z_+ \rangle|^2 \\
&\quad + \langle z_- | x_+ \rangle \langle x_+ | z_+ \rangle \langle z_- | x_- \rangle^* \langle x_- | z_+ \rangle^* \\
&\quad + \langle z_- | x_+ \rangle^* \langle x_+ | z_+ \rangle^* \langle z_- | x_- \rangle \langle x_- | z_+ \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

We can note that there are really only four terms, and their respective conjugates. If we substitute $|x_\pm\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|z_+\rangle \pm |z_-\rangle)$ into the four repeating terms and evaluate them, we can simplify the RHS in terms of z .

$$\langle z_- | x_+ \rangle = \langle z_- | \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_+\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_-\rangle \right) \quad (8)$$

$$\langle x_+ | z_+ \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_+\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_-\rangle \right) |z_+\rangle \quad (9)$$

$$\langle z_- | x_- \rangle = \langle z_- | \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_+\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_-\rangle \right) \quad (10)$$

$$\langle x_- | z_+ \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_+\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z_-\rangle \right) |z_+\rangle \quad (11)$$

Which evaluate respectively to

$$\langle z_- | x_+ \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \langle x_+ | z_+ \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (12)$$

$$\langle z_- | x_- \rangle = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \langle x_- | z_+ \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (13)$$

Substituting the evaluated amplitudes into 5.15 we get

$$0 = \left| \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right|^2 \left| \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right|^2 + \left| -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right|^2 \left| \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right|^2 \quad (14)$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^* \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^* \quad (15)$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^* \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^* \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \quad (16)$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4} = 0 \quad (17)$$

RHS = 0 and LHS = RHS.

6 Question 6

7 Question 7

8 Question 8