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# Summary of Lecture #1: fundamental concepts

## Goals and Requirements:

- Reflect on what you have learned about the basic objects in quantum mechanics: wavefunctions & operators.
- Establish the basic picture about the math structure of quantum mechanics (NOTE: these are not mathematically rigorous)

Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$	linear space equipped with an inner product
quantum states ('ket') $ \psi\rangle$	elements in the linear space $\mathcal{H}$
'bra' $\langle\psi $	linear functionals defined on $\mathcal{H}$ : $\mathcal{H} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$
quantum mechanical operators	linear mappings: $\mathcal{H}_1 \mapsto \mathcal{H}_2$ .

- Be familiarized with the general description of a quantum state: the density matrix. Get some taste of quantum entropy and quantum entanglement if time permits.
- By the end of this lecture, you should feel comfortable about dealing with abstract quantum *states* without reference to the wavefunctions, and dealing with abstract quantum *operators* without reference to matrices.
- NOTE: statements with  $\star$  are advanced topics/challenge questions/extra exercises (NOT required).

## References:

J.J. Sakurai, *Modern Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter 1.

P.A.M. Dirac, *The Principle of Quantum Mechanics*, Sections I.5-6, Chapter III.

J. von Neumann, *Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics*, Chapters I,II.

## I. THE HILBERT SPACE

### A. The Wavefunction

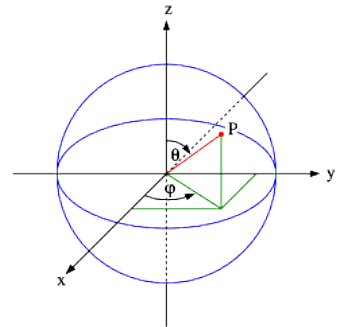
- $\psi(\mathbf{x})$  is a **complex-valued** function defined on some “coordinate” space  $V$  ( $\mathbf{x} \in V$ ).
- Strictly speaking,  $\psi(\mathbf{x})$  shall be normalizable:  $\int |\psi(\mathbf{x})|^2 dV < \infty$ .
- Probability of the system being in “volume element”  $dV$  is  $\frac{|\psi(\mathbf{x})|^2 dV}{\int |\psi(\mathbf{x})|^2 dV}$ . – *Max Born*.
- Normalized  $\psi(\mathbf{x})$  has “dimension”(unit) of “volume”<sup>-1/2</sup> (usually not dimensionless).
- Be careful when you parametrize the coordinate space. You might need to absorb the Jacobian into the wavefunction (depending on the definition of  $dV$ ), and/or introduce artificial “boundary conditions”.
- We may need non-normalizable wavefunctions when the space  $V$  is not compact ( $\int dV = \infty$ ), *e.g.* plane waves in open space. We usually regularize this problem by first taking a finite  $V$ , and finally taking the limit that the volume goes to infinity.
- Most wavefunctions we will deal with are continuous, and (piecewise) smooth.
- Example:

$V$  is the unit sphere  $S^2$  parametrized by polar and azimuth angles  $\mathbf{x} = (\theta, \varphi) \in [0, \pi] \times [0, 2\pi]$ ,  $dV = \sin \theta d\theta d\varphi$ , legitimate  $\psi(\theta, \varphi)$  are normalizable complex functions

$$\left( \int_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \int_{\theta=0}^{\pi} |\psi(\theta, \varphi)|^2 \sin \theta d\theta d\varphi < \infty \right)$$

with the “boundary condition”  $\psi(\theta, 0) = \psi(\theta, 2\pi)$ ,  $\forall \theta$  and  $\psi(0, \varphi) = \psi(0, 0)$ ,  $\psi(\pi, \varphi) = \psi(\pi, 0)$ ,  $\forall \varphi$ .

A basis of such wavefunctions are spherical harmonics  $Y_\ell^m(\theta, \phi)$ .



### B. The Hilbert Space

- The Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}(V)$  defined on a coordinate space  $V$  is the *complex linear* space formed by *normalizable* wavefunctions defined on  $V$ .
  - Being a linear space: if  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$  are elements of  $\mathcal{H}$  (legitimate wavefunc.), then so does  $\lambda_1 \psi_1 + \lambda_2 \psi_2$ , for any complex numbers  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ . **Exercise: prove this.**

- There is a natural *inner product* (“overlap”) of two wavefunctions  $\phi$  and  $\psi$ ,  
 $(\phi, \psi) = \int \phi^*(\mathbf{x}) \psi(\mathbf{x}) dV$ , satisfying the three important “axioms”
  - Hermiticity:  $(\phi, \psi) = (\psi, \phi)^*$ .
  - Linearity:  $(\phi, \lambda_1 \psi_1 + \lambda_2 \psi_2) = \lambda_1 \cdot (\phi, \psi_1) + \lambda_2 \cdot (\phi, \psi_2)$ , for  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ .
    - \* Above two properties lead to,  $(\lambda_1 \phi_1 + \lambda_2 \phi_2, \psi) = \lambda_1^* \cdot (\phi_1, \psi) + \lambda_2^* \cdot (\phi_2, \psi)$ .
  - Positive definiteness:  $(\psi, \psi) \geq 0$ , and  $(\psi, \psi) = 0$  if and only if “ $\psi = 0$ ”.
- One consequence:  $(\sum_i \lambda_i \psi_i, \sum_j \lambda_j \psi_j) = \sum_{i,j} \lambda_i^* \cdot (\psi_i, \psi_j) \cdot \lambda_j \geq 0 \Rightarrow$   
 the Gram matrix  $(\psi_i, \psi_j)$  (where  $i$  is row-index,  $j$  is column-index) is Hermitian and positive semi-definite.
  - The Gram determinant  $\det[(\psi_i, \psi_j)] \geq 0$ .
  - $n = 2$  case is the **Cauchy-Schwarz inequality**,  $(\psi_1, \psi_1)(\psi_2, \psi_2) \geq |(\psi_1, \psi_2)|^2$ .
  - The states  $\psi_i$  are linearly dependent if and only if the matrix  $(\psi_i, \psi_j)$  is singular, or equivalently  $\det[(\psi_i, \psi_j)] = 0$ .

### C. Combining Hilbert Spaces: Direct Sum & Tensor Product

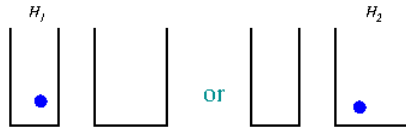
- Direct sum of two Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}_1(V_1) \oplus \mathcal{H}_2(V_2)$ :  
 the wavefunction  $(\psi_1 \oplus \psi_2)(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \psi_1(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in V_1; \\ \psi_2(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in V_2. \end{cases}$   
 The inner product becomes  $(\phi_1 \oplus \phi_2, \psi_1 \oplus \psi_2)_{V_1 \oplus V_2} = (\phi_1, \psi_1)_{V_1} + (\phi_2, \psi_2)_{V_2} = \int \phi_1^* \psi_1 dV_1 + \int \phi_2^* \psi_2 dV_2$ .
  - Note: you need consistent definition of the “volumes” of  $V_{1,2}$ .
- Tensor product of two Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}_1(V_1) \otimes \mathcal{H}_2(V_2)$ :  
 the wavefunction  $(\psi_1 \otimes \psi_2)(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \psi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) \cdot \psi_2(\mathbf{x}_2)$ , for  $\mathbf{x}_1 \in V_1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2 \in V_2$ .  
 The inner product becomes  $(\phi_1 \otimes \phi_2, \psi_1 \otimes \psi_2)_{V_1 \otimes V_2} = (\phi_1, \psi_1)_{V_1} \cdot (\phi_2, \psi_2)_{V_2}$ .
  - Entanglement: wavefunctions in  $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$  may not be a direct product  $\psi_1 \otimes \psi_2$ .
  - Identical particles: will be treated later.

• Example:

direct sum:

one particle in two potential wells

need to know if it is in left **or** right

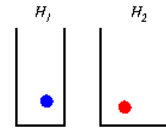


$$\mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2$$

vs. tensor product:

two inequivalent particles in two wells

need to know **both** left & right particles' state



$$\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$$

#### D. The Dirac Notation

- 'kets'  $|\psi\rangle$ : element(quantum state) in Hilbert space corresponding to wavefunction  $\psi$ .
- 'bras'  $\langle\psi|$ : linear functional defined on the Hilbert space:  $\mathcal{H} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\phi \mapsto (\psi, \phi)$ .

– Short-hand notation:  $\langle\psi|\phi\rangle \equiv (\psi, \phi) = \int \psi^* \phi dV$ .

– 'bra' is a linear functional:  $\langle\psi|\lambda_1\phi_1 + \lambda_2\phi_2\rangle = \lambda_1\langle\psi|\phi_1\rangle + \lambda_2\langle\psi|\phi_2\rangle$ .

– 'bras' form an *anti-linear* space:  $\lambda_1^*\langle\psi_1| + \lambda_2^*\langle\psi_2| = \langle\lambda_1\psi_1 + \lambda_2\psi_2|$ .

– Any 'continuous' linear functional  $f : \mathcal{H} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\phi \mapsto f(\phi)$ , corresponds to a wavefunction  $\psi_f$  so that  $f = \langle\psi_f|$ ,  $f(\phi) = (\psi_f, \phi)$ . – *Riesz-Fréchet theorem*.

With complete orthonormal basis  $|\mathbf{e}_i\rangle$ ,  $\langle\psi_f| = \sum_i f(\mathbf{e}_i) \langle\mathbf{e}_i|$ ,

so  $|\psi_f\rangle = \sum_i f(\mathbf{e}_i)^* |\mathbf{e}_i\rangle$ .

- Short-hand notation:  $|\psi_1\rangle + |\psi_2\rangle$  with  $\psi_1 \in \mathcal{H}_1$ ,  $\psi_2 \in \mathcal{H}_2$  means the direct sum state  $\psi_1 \oplus \psi_2 \in \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2$ .
- Short-hand notation:  $|\psi_1\rangle|\psi_2\rangle$  with  $\psi_1 \in \mathcal{H}_1$ ,  $\psi_2 \in \mathcal{H}_2$  means the tensor product state  $\psi_1 \otimes \psi_2 \in \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$ .
- Short-hand notation:  $|\psi_1\rangle\langle\psi_2|$  with  $\psi_1 \in \mathcal{H}_1$ ,  $\psi_2 \in \mathcal{H}_2$  is a linear operator:  $\mathcal{H}_2 \mapsto \mathcal{H}_1$ ,  $\phi \mapsto (\psi_2, \phi)\psi_1 \equiv |\psi_1\rangle\langle\psi_2|\phi\rangle$ .
- Other labels like quantum numbers or just an index, are often used in 'bras' & 'kets':  
e.g.  $|L = 2, L_z = 0\rangle$ ,  $|0\rangle$ .

### E. Complete Orthonormal Basis

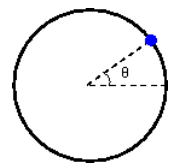
- (Discrete) Orthonormal basis  $e_i$  ( $i = 0, 1, \dots$ ) satisfy  $\langle e_i | e_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$ .
- Complete orthonormal basis: for any  $\psi \in \mathcal{H}$ ,  $|\psi\rangle = \sum_i |e_i\rangle \langle e_i | \psi \rangle$ .
  - For finite dimensional Hilbert space, this is just ‘number of orthonormal basis’=‘dimension of Hilbert space’.
  - For infinite dimensional Hilbert space, completeness is usually very hard to prove.
- **Resolution of identity:**  $\mathbb{1} = \sum_i |e_i\rangle \langle e_i|$ , the sum is over a *complete orthonormal* basis.
  - We will see the resolution of identity in terms of *overcomplete* basis later.
  - Application: **change of basis**, for  $|\psi\rangle = \sum_j \tilde{c}_j |\tilde{e}_j\rangle = \sum_i c_i |e_i\rangle = \sum_{i,j} c_i |\tilde{e}_j\rangle \langle \tilde{e}_j | e_i \rangle$ , coefficients  $\tilde{c}_j = \sum_i c_i \langle \tilde{e}_j | e_i \rangle$ , where  $\tilde{e}_j$  are another complete orthonormal basis.
    - \* The matrix  $U_{ji} = \langle \tilde{e}_j | e_i \rangle$  is a unitary matrix.  $(U \cdot U^\dagger)_{jk} = \sum_i U_{ji} (U^\dagger)_{ik} = \sum_i \langle \tilde{e}_j | e_i \rangle \langle e_i | \tilde{e}_k \rangle = \langle \tilde{e}_j | \tilde{e}_k \rangle$  (by resolution of identity)  $= \delta_{jk} = (\mathbb{1})_{jk}$ . Above relation is  $\tilde{c}_j = \sum_i U_{ji} c_i$  or  $\tilde{c} = U \cdot c$  in short form.
    - \* Conversely, given a unitary matrix  $U$  and complete orthonormal basis  $|e_i\rangle$ , then  $|\tilde{e}_j\rangle \equiv \sum_i U_{ji} |e_i\rangle$  form a new set of complete orthonormal basis.

Exercise: is the “ $U$ ” here same as the “ $U$ ” in previous item?

- Example: Fourier series.

Particle moving on a ring parametrized by angle  $\theta$ , legitimate wavefunctions are normalizable  $\psi(\theta)$  with period  $2\pi$ ,  $\psi(\theta + 2\pi) = \psi(\theta)$ .

A complete orthonormal basis is  $e_n(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(in\theta)$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .



- Basis of composite Hilbert space:

if  $|e_i\rangle$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) are the basis of  $\mathcal{H}_1$ , and  $|e'_j\rangle$  ( $j = 1, \dots, m$ ) are the basis of  $\mathcal{H}_2$ ,

- the  $(n + m)$  basis of  $\mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2$  can be chosen as  $(|e_1\rangle, |e_2\rangle, \dots, |e_n\rangle, |e'_1\rangle, |e'_2\rangle, \dots, |e'_m\rangle)$ .
- the  $(n \times m)$  basis of  $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$  can be chosen as  $|e_i\rangle \otimes |e'_j\rangle$ , namely  $(|e_1\rangle|e'_1\rangle, |e_1\rangle|e'_2\rangle, \dots, |e_1\rangle|e'_m\rangle, |e_2\rangle|e'_1\rangle, \dots, |e_2\rangle|e'_m\rangle, \dots, |e_n\rangle|e'_1\rangle, \dots, |e_n\rangle|e'_m\rangle)$ .

## II. QUANTUM MECHANICAL OPERATORS

### A. Quantum Mechanical Operators

- Linear operators: *linear* mappings between two (often the same) Hilbert spaces:

$$\hat{O}|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_2 \text{ for } |\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_1, \text{ and } \hat{O}[\lambda_1\psi_1 + \lambda_2\psi_2] = \lambda_1\hat{O}|\psi_1\rangle + \lambda_2\hat{O}|\psi_2\rangle.$$

- Anti-linear operators: replace the last condition of linear operators by

$$\hat{O}[\lambda_1\psi_1 + \lambda_2\psi_2] = \lambda_1^*\hat{O}|\psi_1\rangle + \lambda_2^*\hat{O}|\psi_2\rangle.$$

- Example: the operator of “taking complex conjugate”  $\mathcal{K}$ :  $\phi(x) \mapsto \phi(x)^*$ .

- Hermitian conjugate (adjoint) of linear operators:  $\hat{O}^\dagger$  is a linear operator satisfying  $(\hat{O}^\dagger\psi, \phi) = (\psi, \hat{O}\phi)$  for any  $\psi$  &  $\phi$ , or  $\langle\hat{O}^\dagger\psi| = \langle\psi|\hat{O}$  for any  $\psi$ .

$$-(\hat{O}^\dagger)^\dagger = \hat{O}.$$

“Proof”: for *any*  $\psi$  &  $\phi$ , by definitions of inner product and hermitian conjugate,

$$(\psi, ((\hat{O}^\dagger)^\dagger)\phi) = (((\hat{O}^\dagger)^\dagger)\phi, \psi)^* = (\phi, (\hat{O}^\dagger)\psi)^* = ((\hat{O}^\dagger)\psi, \phi) = (\psi, \hat{O}\phi). \text{ Then } ((\hat{O}^\dagger)^\dagger) \text{ and } \hat{O} \text{ must be the same.}$$

$$-(\lambda\hat{O})^\dagger = \lambda^*\hat{O}^\dagger, (\hat{A}\hat{B})^\dagger = \hat{B}^\dagger\hat{A}^\dagger.$$

Exercise: try to “prove” these as the “proof” for the previous relation.

$$-\text{Hermitian operators: those satisfy } \hat{O}^\dagger = \hat{O}.$$

$$\text{Anti-Hermitian operators: } \hat{O}^\dagger = -\hat{O}.$$

- Any operator is the sum of its Hermitian & anti-Hermitian part:

$$\hat{O} = \frac{\hat{O} + \hat{O}^\dagger}{2} + \frac{\hat{O} - \hat{O}^\dagger}{2}, \text{ the 1st term is Hermitian, 2nd term is anti-Hermitian.}$$

- Matrix representation: under a complete orthonormal basis  $|n\rangle$ , the operator  $\hat{O}$  has ‘matrix elements’  $O_{mn} \equiv \langle m|\hat{O}|n\rangle$ .  $(O^\dagger)_{mn} = (O_{nm})^*$ .

- Matrix representation under non-orthogonal/overcomplete basis can also be useful.

$$-\text{Expectation value of } \hat{O} \text{ in state } \psi: \langle\psi|\hat{O}|\psi\rangle/\langle\psi|\psi\rangle.$$

- Trace:  $\text{Tr}\hat{O} = \sum_n \langle n|\hat{O}|n\rangle$ , summing over a complete orthonormal basis.

The result of trace is *independent of the choice of basis*.

Cyclic property:  $\text{Tr}(\hat{A}\hat{B}) = \text{Tr}(\hat{B}\hat{A})$ , for ‘finite’ operators  $\hat{A}, \hat{B}$  (e.g. finite dimensional)

- Eigenvalue  $\lambda$  and eigenstate  $|\hat{O} = \lambda\rangle$  of operator  $\hat{O}$ : defined by  $\hat{O}|\hat{O} = \lambda\rangle = \lambda|\hat{O} = \lambda\rangle$ .
  - Eigenvalues of Hermitian operators are real.
- (Not required) Singular value decomposition (SVD):
  - Any operator can be written as  $\hat{O} = \sum_n |\tilde{n}\rangle \rho_n \langle n|$ , where  $n$  labels the singular value  $\rho_n \geq 0$ , and the two sets of orthonormal basis  $|n\rangle$  &  $|\tilde{n}\rangle$  are eigenstates of  $\hat{O}^\dagger \hat{O}$  &  $\hat{O} \hat{O}^\dagger$  respectively.
  - In complete orthonormal basis  $|e_i\rangle$ , the above relations becomes
 
$$O_{ij} = \langle e_i | \hat{O} | e_j \rangle = \sum_n \langle e_i | \tilde{n} \rangle \rho_n \langle n | e_j \rangle = (U \cdot \rho \cdot V^\dagger)_{ij},$$
 where the unitary matrices  $U_{in} = \langle e_i | \tilde{n} \rangle$  and  $V_{jn} = \langle e_j | n \rangle$ , and the diagonal matrix  $\rho$  has diagonal elements  $\rho_n$ . And
 
$$(O^\dagger O)_{ij} = \langle e_i | \hat{O}^\dagger \hat{O} | e_j \rangle = \sum_n \langle e_i | n \rangle \rho_n^2 \langle n | e_j \rangle = (V \cdot \rho^2 \cdot V^\dagger)_{ij},$$
 and
 
$$(O O^\dagger)_{ij} = \langle e_i | \hat{O} \hat{O}^\dagger | e_j \rangle = \sum_n \langle e_i | \tilde{n} \rangle \rho_n^2 \langle \tilde{n} | e_j \rangle = (U \cdot \rho^2 \cdot U^\dagger)_{ij}.$$
- **Projection operators**: operators  $\hat{P} : \mathcal{H} \mapsto \mathcal{H}$ , satisfying  $\hat{P}\hat{P} = \hat{P}$ .
  - Hermitian projection operators  $\hat{P} = \sum_i |e_i\rangle \langle e_i|$ ,  $e_i$  are a set of orthonormal basis, and  $\hat{P}$  have eigenvalues 1 and 0 only.
  - $\mathbb{1} - \hat{P}$  is also a projection operator. **Exercise: check that  $(\mathbb{1} - \hat{P})(\mathbb{1} - \hat{P}) = (\mathbb{1} - \hat{P})$ .**
- Inverse of an operator:  $\hat{A}^{-1}$  must satisfy  $\hat{A}^{-1} \cdot \hat{A} = \mathbb{1}$  and  $\hat{A} \cdot \hat{A}^{-1} = \mathbb{1}$ 
  - $\star$  In infinite dimensional Hilbert space, there can be cases with  $\hat{B}\hat{A} = \mathbb{1}$  while  $\hat{A}\hat{B} \neq \mathbb{1}$ ,  $\hat{B}$  shall not be called  $\hat{A}^{-1}$ .
- **Unitary operators**: linear operators with
 
$$(\hat{U}\psi, \hat{U}\phi) = (\psi, \phi), \forall \psi, \phi. \text{ Or equivalently } \hat{U}^\dagger \hat{U} = \mathbb{1}.$$
  - Unitary operators are of the form  $\sum_i |\tilde{e}_i\rangle \langle e_i|$ , where  $e_i$  is a set of complete orthonormal basis,  $\tilde{e}_i$  is another set of orthonormal basis.
  - If  $\hat{H}$  is Hermitian, then  $\exp(i\hat{H})$  is unitary. **Exercise: is the converse true?**
- **Anti-unitary operators**: anti-linear operators with
 
$$(\hat{U}\psi, \hat{U}\phi) = (\psi, \phi)^*, \forall \psi, \phi.$$

## B. Abstract Calculations with Operators

- Commutator & anti-commutator of  $\hat{A}$  &  $\hat{B}$ :  $[\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \equiv \hat{A}\hat{B} - \hat{B}\hat{A}$ ,  $\{\hat{A}, \hat{B}\} \equiv \hat{A}\hat{B} + \hat{B}\hat{A}$ .
  - For notation simplicity, define ‘Lie derivative’  $\mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}}\hat{B} \equiv [\hat{A}, \hat{B}]$ .
- Elementary functions of operators may be defined by their power series expansion, *e.g.*  $\exp(\hat{A}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\hat{A})^n / n!$  (let’s not worry about convergence).
  - Note:  $\hat{A} \cdot f(\hat{B}) \cdot \hat{A}^{-1} = f(\hat{A} \cdot \hat{B} \cdot \hat{A}^{-1})$  for such functions  $f$  that can be defined as power series, because  $\hat{A} \cdot (\hat{B})^n \cdot \hat{A}^{-1} = (\hat{A} \cdot \hat{B} \cdot \hat{A}^{-1})^n$ .
- Jacobi identity:  $[\hat{A}, [\hat{B}, \hat{C}]] + [\hat{B}, [\hat{C}, \hat{A}]] + [\hat{C}, [\hat{A}, \hat{B}]] = 0$ . Or  $[\mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}}, \mathcal{L}_{\hat{B}}]\hat{C} = \mathcal{L}_{[\hat{A}, \hat{B}]} \hat{C}$ .
- ‘Leibniz’s rule’:
 
$$[\hat{A}, \hat{B}_1 \hat{B}_2 \cdots \hat{B}_n] = [\hat{A}, \hat{B}_1] \hat{B}_2 \cdots \hat{B}_n + \hat{B}_1 [\hat{A}, \hat{B}_2] \cdots \hat{B}_n + \cdots + \hat{B}_1 \hat{B}_2 \cdots [\hat{A}, \hat{B}_n].$$
 Or
 
$$\mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}}(\hat{B}_1 \hat{B}_2 \cdots \hat{B}_n) = (\mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}} \hat{B}_1) \hat{B}_2 \cdots \hat{B}_n + \hat{B}_1 (\mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}} \hat{B}_2) \cdots \hat{B}_n + \cdots + \hat{B}_1 \hat{B}_2 \cdots (\mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}} \hat{B}_n).$$
- **Baker-Hausdorff formula:**  $e^{\hat{A}} \hat{B} e^{-\hat{A}} = \hat{B} + [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] / 1! + [\hat{A}, [\hat{A}, \hat{B}]] / 2! + \dots$   
 Or formally  $e^{\hat{A}} \hat{B} e^{-\hat{A}} = \exp(\mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}}) \hat{B}$ .
  - A heuristic “proof”:  
 define  $\hat{f}(t) = e^{t\hat{A}} \hat{B} e^{-t\hat{A}}$ , then  $\hat{f}(0) = \hat{B}$ .  
 Take derivative with respect to  $t$ , note that  $\frac{d}{dt} e^{t\hat{A}} = \hat{A} e^{t\hat{A}} = e^{t\hat{A}} \hat{A}$ ,  
 then  $\frac{d}{dt} \hat{f}(t) = \hat{A} \cdot \hat{f}(t) - \hat{f}(t) \cdot \hat{A} = [\hat{A}, \hat{f}(t)] = \mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}} \hat{f}(t)$ .  
 The formal solution of this ordinary differential equation is then  $\hat{f}(t) = e^{t\mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}}} \hat{f}(0)$ ,  
 so  $e^{\hat{A}} \hat{B} e^{-\hat{A}} = \hat{f}(1) = \exp(\mathcal{L}_{\hat{A}}) \hat{B}$ . □
- Direct sum & tensor product of operators are defined similarly to wavefunctions:  
 for operator  $\hat{A}$  defined on  $\mathcal{H}_1$ , and  $\hat{B}$  defined on  $\mathcal{H}_2$ ,  $\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B}$  is an operator defined on  $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$ , such that  $(\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B})|\psi \otimes \phi\rangle = (\hat{A}|\psi\rangle) \otimes (\hat{B}|\phi\rangle)$ , for states  $\psi \in \mathcal{H}_1$  and  $\phi \in \mathcal{H}_2$ .
  - $(\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B}) \cdot (\hat{C} \otimes \hat{D}) = \hat{A}\hat{C} \otimes \hat{B}\hat{D}$ .
  - When  $\hat{A}$  is referred to within  $\hat{H}_1 \otimes \hat{H}_2$ , it usually means  $\hat{A} \otimes \mathbb{1}$ . With this convention,  $\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B}$  is usually written as  $\hat{A}\hat{B}$ , which means  $(\hat{A} \otimes \mathbb{1}) \cdot (\mathbb{1} \otimes \hat{B}) = \hat{A} \otimes \hat{B}$ .
  - $\text{Tr}_{1 \otimes 2}(\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B}) = \text{Tr}_1(\hat{A}) \cdot \text{Tr}_2(\hat{B})$ , where the three different traces are taken in Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_1$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_2$ , respectively.



- With complete orthonormal basis,  $|e_i\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_1$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) and  $|e'_j\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_2$  ( $j = 1, \dots, m$ ), the matrix representation of  $\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B}$  is a  $(n \times m)$ -row  $(n \times m)$ -column matrix,  $(\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B})_{(i,j)(i',j')} \equiv \langle e_i | \langle e'_j | \hat{A} \otimes \hat{B} | e_{i'} \rangle | e'_{j'} \rangle = \langle e_i | \hat{A} | e_{i'} \rangle \cdot \langle e'_j | \hat{B} | e'_{j'} \rangle = A_{ii'} B_{jj'}$ . The combination  $(i, j)[(i', j')]$  is the row[column] index ( $i, i' = 1, \dots, n$  and  $j, j' = 1, \dots, m$ ).

### C. Back to Wavefunction

- The coordinate operator  $\hat{x}$ :  $\phi(x) \mapsto x \cdot \phi(x)$ . It is obviously Hermitian.
  - Worry #1:  $x \cdot \phi(x)$  may not be normalizable!
  - Worry #2: What are the eigenstate wavefunctions of  $\hat{x}$ ? Are they normalizable?
- Despite the above worries, denote the eigenstates of  $\hat{x}$  by  $|x\rangle$ , *i.e.*  $\hat{x}|x\rangle = x|x\rangle$ .
  - ‘Normalization’:  $\langle x'|x\rangle = \delta(x' - x)$ , where  $\delta$  is the Dirac- $\delta$  ‘function’.
  - **Resolution of identity**:  $\mathbb{1} = \int |x\rangle \langle x| dx$ .
  - The wavefunction  $\psi(x)$ : expansion coefficients of state  $\psi$  in the basis  $|x\rangle$ .  
 $\psi(x) = \langle x|\psi\rangle$ . And  $|\psi\rangle = \int \psi(x)|x\rangle dx$ .
- The momentum operator  $\hat{p}$ :  $\phi(x) \mapsto -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \phi(x)$ . It is not-so-obviously Hermitian.
  - Canonical commutation relation  $[\hat{x}, \hat{p}] = i\hbar$ .
  - Similar worries as for the coordinate operator.
  - Nonetheless, denote the eigenstate of  $\hat{p}$  as  $|p\rangle$ ,  $\hat{p}|p\rangle = p|p\rangle$ .
  - ‘Normalization’:  $\langle p'|p\rangle = \delta(p' - p)$ .
  - **Resolution of identity**:  $\mathbb{1} = \int |p\rangle \langle p| dp$ .
  - $\langle x|p\rangle = \frac{e^{ipx/\hbar}}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}$  for 1D infinite space.
- ★ Construct examples of normalizable  $\phi(x)$  so that  $\hat{x}\phi(x)$  or  $\hat{p}\phi(x)$  is not normalizable.
- IMPORTANT:  $\hbar$  will be frequently omitted hereafter.

### III. DENSITY MATRIX & ENTANGLEMENT

#### A. Density Matrix

- Density matrix of a *normalized* ‘pure state’  $\psi$ :  $\hat{\rho}_\psi = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$  is a projection operator.
  - Expectation value of  $\hat{O}$  in  $\psi$  is  $\langle\psi|\hat{O}|\psi\rangle = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}_\psi \hat{O}) = \text{Tr}(\hat{O} \hat{\rho}_\psi)$ .
  - $\hat{\rho}$  is independent of the complex phase of  $|\psi\rangle$ , is a ‘better’ description of the state.
- Generic density matrix  $\rho$ : linear Hermitian non-negative operator of trace unity.
  - $\hat{\rho}^\dagger = \hat{\rho}$ ;  $\langle\phi|\hat{\rho}|\phi\rangle \geq 0$ ,  $\forall\phi$ ; and  $\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}) = 1$ .
  - $\rho = \sum_i \lambda_i |e_i\rangle\langle e_i|$ , with some orthonormal basis  $e_i$ , and  $\lambda_i > 0$ ,  $\sum_i \lambda_i = 1$ .
  - Expectation value of  $\hat{O}$  in generic ‘mixed state’ is  $\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} \hat{O})$ .
  - If  $\hat{\rho}_j$  are density matrices, and  $c_j > 0$ , and  $\sum_j c_j = 1$ , then  $\sum_j c_j \hat{\rho}_j$  is also a density matrix.
- The density matrix of Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}$  at finite temperature  $T$ :
  - $\rho = \exp(-\hat{H}/k_B T)/Z = \sum_{E_i} \frac{\exp(-E_i/k_B T)}{Z} |E_i\rangle\langle E_i|$ ,
  - where  $E_i$  are eigenvalues,  $|E_i\rangle$  are corresponding eigenstates,
  - $Z = \text{Tr}[\exp(-\hat{H}/k_B T)] = \sum_{E_i} \exp(-E_i/k_B T)$ .

#### B. ★ Some Quantum Information Basics (not required)

- von Neumann entropy of a density matrix  $\hat{\rho}$ :  $S \equiv -\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} \ln \hat{\rho}) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i$ .
  - Pure states have zero entropy &  $\hat{\rho}^2 = \hat{\rho}$ .
  - Mixed states have positive entropy &  $\hat{\rho}^2 < \hat{\rho}$ .
  - In  $n$ (finite)-dimensional Hilbert space,  $0 \leq S[\hat{\rho}] \leq \ln(n)$ .
  - Rényi entropy:  $S_n \equiv \frac{\ln[\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}^n)]}{1-n}$ . Note: formally  $\lim_{n \rightarrow 1} S_n = S$ .
- ★ ★ ★ Concavity of von Neumann entropy: mixing two systems increases entropy.
  - $S[\lambda \hat{\rho}_1 + (1-\lambda) \hat{\rho}_2] \geq \lambda S[\hat{\rho}_1] + (1-\lambda) S[\hat{\rho}_2]$ ,
  - for two density matrices  $\hat{\rho}_{1,2}$  and  $0 < \lambda < 1$ .

- Reduced density matrix: given a density matrix  $\hat{\rho}$  on  $\mathcal{H}_a \otimes \mathcal{H}_b$ , reduced density matrix  $\rho_a$  on  $\mathcal{H}_a$  is  $\hat{\rho}_a = \text{Tr}_b(\hat{\rho})$ , obtained by taking partial trace over  $\mathcal{H}_b$ .
  - Meaning of partial trace: for any  $\psi_{1,2} \in \mathcal{H}_a$ ,  $\langle \psi_1 | \hat{\rho}_a | \psi_2 \rangle = \sum_i \langle \psi_1 \otimes \phi_i | \hat{\rho} | \psi_2 \otimes \phi_i \rangle$ , and the sum is over a complete orthonormal basis  $\phi_i$  of  $\mathcal{H}_b$ . The matrix elements of  $\hat{\rho}_a$  under a orthonormal basis  $\mathcal{H}_a$  can be computed by this relation.
  - \*\*\* Subadditivity of entropy: information is ‘lost’ by separating two subsystems.  $S_{a \otimes b}[\hat{\rho}] = \text{Tr}_{a \otimes b}(-\hat{\rho} \ln \hat{\rho}) \leq S_a[\hat{\rho}_a] + S_b[\hat{\rho}_b] = \text{Tr}_a(-\hat{\rho}_a \ln \hat{\rho}_a) + \text{Tr}_b(-\hat{\rho}_b \ln \hat{\rho}_b) = S_{a \otimes b}[\hat{\rho}_a \otimes \hat{\rho}_b]$ .
- Special case:  $\hat{\rho} = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$  is for a normalized pure state  $\psi \in \mathcal{H}_a \otimes \mathcal{H}_b$ .
  - “Entanglement entropy”: von Neumann entropy of reduced density matrix:  $S_a = -\text{Tr}_a(\hat{\rho}_a \ln \hat{\rho}_a)$ , where  $\hat{\rho}_a = \text{Tr}_b(\hat{\rho})$ .
  - The degrees of freedom of  $a$  and  $b$  are ‘entangled’ in this state  $\psi$  if  $S_a > 0$ .
  - The state  $\psi$  is a disentangled product state  $\psi_a \otimes \phi_b$  if and only if  $S_a = 0$ .
  - Schmidt decomposition (just SVD):  $|\psi\rangle = \sum_i \lambda_i |\phi_i\rangle \otimes |\varphi_i\rangle$ , where  $(\lambda_i)^2$  are eigenvalues of  $\hat{\rho}_a$ ,  $\phi_i$  ( $\varphi_i$ ) are orthonormal eigenstates of  $\hat{\rho}_a$  ( $\hat{\rho}_b$ ).
  - ★ Reciprocity: define reduced density matrix  $\hat{\rho}_b = \text{Tr}_a(\hat{\rho})$  on  $\mathcal{H}_b$ .  $S_b = \text{Tr}_b(-\hat{\rho}_b \ln \hat{\rho}_b)$  equals to  $S_a$  above for a *pure state* in  $\mathcal{H}_a \otimes \mathcal{H}_b$ .
- Example: Bell state.
 

$\mathcal{H}_a$  ( $\mathcal{H}_b$ ) is 2-dimensional, with orthonormal basis  $|0\rangle, |1\rangle$  ( $|\tilde{0}\rangle, |\tilde{1}\rangle$ ).

One of the Bell states is  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle|\tilde{1}\rangle - |1\rangle|\tilde{0}\rangle)$ .

Exercise: write down the reduced density matrices  $\hat{\rho}_a$  and  $\hat{\rho}_b$ . Compute the entanglement entropy.

# IV. MEASUREMENT & THE UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE

## A. Measurement

- Measurement can be done for a Hermitian operator  $\hat{A}$  on pure or mixed states  $\hat{\rho}$ .
- The outcome of the measurement will be eigenvalues of  $\hat{A}$ .
- The probability of outcome  $\lambda$  is  $P_\lambda = \text{Tr}(\hat{P}_\lambda \hat{\rho})$ ,  $\hat{P}_\lambda$  is the projection to eigenvalue- $\lambda$  subspace.  $\hat{P}_\lambda = \sum |\hat{A} = \lambda\rangle\langle\hat{A} = \lambda|$ , summing over orthonormal eigenstates of  $\hat{A}$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .
  - If all eigenvalues  $\lambda'$  of  $\hat{A}$  are known, then  $\hat{P}_\lambda$  can be formally obtained by the “Lagrange interpolating polynomial”,  $\hat{P}_\lambda = \prod_{\lambda', \lambda' \neq \lambda} \left( \frac{\hat{A} - \lambda' \mathbb{1}}{\lambda - \lambda'} \right)$ .
  - The statistical average of outcome is the expectation value of  $\hat{A}$  in state  $\hat{\rho}$ ,  $\text{Tr}(\hat{A} \hat{\rho}) = \text{Tr}[(\sum_\lambda \lambda \hat{P}_\lambda) \hat{\rho}] = \sum_\lambda \lambda \text{Tr}(\hat{P}_\lambda \hat{\rho}) = \sum_\lambda \lambda P_\lambda$ .  
For pure state  $\hat{\rho} = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ , this is  $\langle\psi|\hat{A}|\psi\rangle$ .
- The “collapse” postulate:
  - if the measurement outcome is  $\lambda$ , the quantum state will “collapse” to  $\frac{\hat{P}_\lambda \hat{\rho} \hat{P}_\lambda}{\text{Tr}(\hat{P}_\lambda \hat{\rho})}$ .
  - If eigenvalue- $\lambda$  eigenstate is unique, this is the familiar statement that the system collapses to eigenstate  $|\hat{A} = \lambda\rangle$ .
- \*\*\* Information is gained by measurement: ‘entropy’ decreases.  
 $S[\hat{\rho}] \geq \sum_\lambda P_\lambda S[\hat{\rho}_\lambda]$ ,  $P_\lambda$  is the probability of outcome  $\lambda$ ,  $\hat{\rho}_\lambda$  is the collapsed state.
- An example:

- Define Pauli matrices

$$\sigma_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Consider a state described by the density matrix  $\hat{\rho}$ , represented in some basis as

$$\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & i \\ 0 & 1 & -i & 0 \\ 0 & i & 1 & 0 \\ -i & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{4} [\mathbb{1} - \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_2]. \text{ Exercise: is this a pure state?}$$

- Measure a Hermitian operator  $\hat{A}$ , represented in the same basis as  $\hat{A} = \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_3$ .
- Eigenvalues of  $\hat{A}$  are  $\pm 1$ .  
Corresponding projection operators are  $\hat{P}_{+1} = \frac{(-1)-\hat{A}}{(-1)-1}$  and  $\hat{P}_{-1} = \frac{1-\hat{A}}{1-(-1)}$ .
- Outcome +1: probability  $\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} \hat{P}_{+1}) = 1/2$ ,  
collapsed state is  $\hat{\rho}_{+1} = (1/4)[\mathbb{1} + \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_3]$ .  
Outcome -1: probability  $\text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} \hat{P}_{-1}) = 1/2$ ,  
collapsed state is  $\hat{\rho}_{-1} = (1/4)[\mathbb{1} - \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_3]$ .
- ★ Exercise: compute entropies  $S[\hat{\rho}]$ ,  $S[\hat{\rho}_{+1}]$  and  $S[\hat{\rho}_{-1}]$ , check if any information can be gained by this measurement, namely whether  $S[\hat{\rho}] > (1/2)S[\hat{\rho}_{+1}] + (1/2)S[\hat{\rho}_{-1}]$  ?

## B. The Uncertainty Principle

- For Hermitian  $\hat{A}$  &  $\hat{B}$ ,  $(\langle \hat{A}^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{A} \rangle^2)(\langle \hat{B}^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{B} \rangle^2) \geq \frac{1}{4} |\langle [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \rangle|^2$ . – *W. Heisenberg*  
 $\langle \cdot \rangle$  is the expectation value under a quantum state  $\hat{\rho}$ .
  - Rough description: product of variances of measurement outcomes for  $\hat{A}$  &  $\hat{B}$  is bounded below by the square of their commutator's expectation value.
  - Variances of measurement outcome:  $\sum_{\lambda} P_{\lambda} (\lambda - \bar{\lambda})^2 = (\sum_{\lambda} P_{\lambda} \lambda^2) - \bar{\lambda}^2$ , where  $\lambda$  are eigenvalues,  $P_{\lambda}$  is the probability of outcome  $\lambda$ ,  $\bar{\lambda} = \sum_{\lambda} P_{\lambda} \lambda$  is the ‘average’.
  - Proof:  
Define the inner product of two operators  $\hat{A}, \hat{B}$  as  $(\hat{A}, \hat{B}) = \langle \hat{A}^{\dagger} \hat{B} \rangle = \text{Tr}(\hat{A}^{\dagger} \hat{B} \hat{\rho})$ .  
**Exercise:** check that this indeed satisfies the “axioms” of inner product.  
Define two new operators  $\hat{A}' = \hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle$ ,  $\hat{B}' = \hat{B} - \langle \hat{B} \rangle$ . For Hermitian  $\hat{A}, \hat{B}$ ,  
 $\frac{1}{4} |\langle [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \rangle|^2 = \frac{1}{4} |\langle [\hat{A}', \hat{B}'] \rangle|^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\hat{A}', \hat{B}') (\hat{B}', \hat{A}') - \frac{1}{4} (\hat{A}', \hat{B}')^2 - \frac{1}{4} (\hat{B}', \hat{A}')^2$   
 $= [\text{Im}(\hat{A}', \hat{B}')]^2 \leq |(\hat{A}', \hat{B}')|^2 \leq (\hat{A}', \hat{A}') (\hat{B}', \hat{B}') = (\langle \hat{A}^2 \rangle - |\langle \hat{A} \rangle|^2) (\langle \hat{B}^2 \rangle - |\langle \hat{B} \rangle|^2)$ .  
The last inequality used here is Cauchy-Schwarz.    □
  - Exercise: what is the condition for the equality to be true?
- Familiar case:  $\hat{A} = \hat{x}$ ,  $\hat{B} = \hat{p}$ .  $\langle \hat{x}^2 - \bar{x}^2 \rangle \langle \hat{p}^2 - \bar{p}^2 \rangle \geq \hbar^2/4$ .

**Appendix A: ★ About the Statements with ★ (not required)**

- ★ In infinite dimensional Hilbert space, there can be cases with  $\hat{B}\hat{A} = \mathbb{1}$  while  $\hat{A}\hat{B} \neq \mathbb{1}$ ,  $\hat{B}$  shall not be called  $\hat{A}^{-1}$ .
  - Example:
 

Assume  $|0\rangle, |1\rangle, \dots$  are complete orthonormal basis.

Define  $\hat{A} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |n+1\rangle\langle n| = |1\rangle\langle 0| + |2\rangle\langle 1| + \dots$

Consider  $\hat{B} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |n\rangle\langle n+1|$ , then  $\hat{B} \cdot \hat{A} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |n\rangle\langle n| = \mathbb{1}$ .

However  $\hat{A} \cdot \hat{B} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |n+1\rangle\langle n+1| = \mathbb{1} - |n=0\rangle\langle n=0| \neq \mathbb{1}$ .
- ★ Construct examples of normalizable  $\phi(x)$  so that  $\hat{x}\phi(x)$  or  $\hat{p}\phi(x)$  is not normalizable.
  - Example:
 

$\phi(x) = \frac{\sin(x^3)}{x}$ , defined on real axis of  $x$ .

Check that  $\phi$  is normalizable while both  $\hat{x}\phi$  and  $\hat{p}\phi$  are not.
- ★★★ Concavity of von Neumann entropy:  $S[\lambda \hat{\rho}_1 + (1-\lambda) \hat{\rho}_2] \geq \lambda S[\hat{\rho}_1] + (1-\lambda) S[\hat{\rho}_2]$ , for two density matrices  $\hat{\rho}_{1,2}$  and  $0 < \lambda < 1$ .
  - Proof: see *e.g.*, M.A. Nielsen, I.L. Chuang, *Quantum Computation and Quantum Information*, section 11.3.5.
- ★ ★ ★ Subadditivity of entropy:  $S_{a \oplus b}[\hat{\rho}] = \text{Tr}_{a \oplus b}(-\hat{\rho} \ln \hat{\rho}) \leq S_a[\hat{\rho}_a] + S_b[\hat{\rho}_b] = \text{Tr}_a(-\hat{\rho}_a \ln \hat{\rho}_a) + \text{Tr}_b(-\hat{\rho}_b \ln \hat{\rho}_b) = S_{a \oplus b}[\hat{\rho}_a \otimes \hat{\rho}_b]$ .
  - Proof: see [H. Araki, E. H. Lieb, Commun. Math. Phys. 18, 160 \(1970\)](#).
- ★ Reciprocity: define reduced density matrices  $\hat{\rho}_a = \text{Tr}_b(\hat{\rho})$  &  $\hat{\rho}_b = \text{Tr}_a(\hat{\rho})$  on subspace  $\mathcal{H}_a$  &  $\mathcal{H}_b$  respectively, where  $\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$  is a *pure state* on  $\mathcal{H}_a \otimes \mathcal{H}_b$ . Then  $S_b = \text{Tr}_b(-\hat{\rho}_b \ln \hat{\rho}_b) = S_a = \text{Tr}_a(-\hat{\rho}_a \ln \hat{\rho}_a)$ .
  - Proof:
 

This a simple consequence of the Schmidt decomposition of a pure state.

$|\psi\rangle = \sum_i \lambda_i |e_i\rangle \otimes |\tilde{e}_i\rangle$ , with orthonormal basis  $e_i$  for  $\mathcal{H}_a$  and  $\tilde{e}_i$  for  $\mathcal{H}_b$ , and real positive singular values  $\lambda_i$ . Then the reduced density matrix on  $\mathcal{H}_a$  is  $\sum_i \lambda_i^2 |e_i\rangle\langle e_i|$ , and on  $\mathcal{H}_b$  is  $\sum_i \lambda_i^2 |\tilde{e}_i\rangle\langle \tilde{e}_i|$ . So  $S_a = -\sum_i \lambda_i^2 \ln(\lambda_i^2) = S_b$ .  $\square$

- ★★ Information is gained by measurement: ‘entropy’ decreases.

$S[\hat{\rho}] \geq \sum_{\lambda} P_{\lambda} S[\hat{\rho}_{\lambda}]$ ,  $P_{\lambda}$  is the probability of outcome  $\lambda$ ,  $\hat{\rho}_{\lambda}$  is the collapsed state.

- Proof: see [G. Lindblad, \*Commun. Math. Phys.\* \*\*28\*\*, 245 \(1972\)](#).

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## Summary of Lecture #2: identical particles

### Goals and Requirements:

- Get a clear picture of the *Fock space*:  
direct sum of identical particle Hilbert spaces for all possible particle numbers.  
 $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{H}_0 \oplus \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2 \oplus \dots$
- Get a clear picture of the many-body Hilbert space of fermions and bosons:  
(Anti-)Symmetrized tensor product space.
  - $n$ -body Hilbert space for identical particles  $\mathcal{H}_n$  is a subspace of  $(\mathcal{H}_1)^{\otimes n}$ .
  - $\mathcal{H}_n$  is the image of the multi-linear (anti-)symmetrization mapping:  
 $\mathcal{S} : (\mathcal{H}_1)^{\otimes n} \mapsto \mathcal{H}_n$ .
  - The (anti-)symmetrization mapping is defined on a tensor product basis as  
 $\mathcal{S} : |\psi_1\rangle \dots |\psi_n\rangle \mapsto \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} |\psi_{\sigma(1)}\rangle \dots |\psi_{\sigma(n)}\rangle \equiv |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle$ , for boson;  
 $\mathcal{S} : |\psi_1\rangle \dots |\psi_n\rangle \mapsto \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-1)^\sigma |\psi_{\sigma(1)}\rangle \dots |\psi_{\sigma(n)}\rangle \equiv |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle$ , for fermion.
  - NOTE: the above picture is rather inconvenient, and will not be used in practice.
- Be familiarized with the second quantization language:  
**creation & annihilation operators, and their (anti-)commutation relations.**  
Be able to use it to understand/formulate many-body Hamiltonians.
- Be familiarized with several simple(‘free particle’) many-body wavefunctions:  
*e.g.* boson coherent states, fermion product states, BCS states.
  - They are the “vacuum” of certain single particle “annihilation” operators.

### References:

- J.J. Sakurai, *Modern Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter 6.  
P.A.M. Dirac, *The Principle of Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter IX.  
L.D. Landau, E.M. Lifschitz, *Quantum Mechanics: Non-relativistic Theory*, Chapter IX.  
A. Altland, B.D. Simons, *Condensed Matter Field Theory*, Chapter 2.



## I. THE FOCK SPACE

### A. Trivia about the Permutation Group $S_n$

- A permutation  $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ \sigma(1) & \sigma(2) & \cdots & \sigma(n) \end{pmatrix}$  means replacing 1 by  $\sigma(1)$ , 2 by  $\sigma(2)$ ,  $\cdots$ ,  $n$  by  $\sigma(n)$ , where  $\sigma(1), \sigma(2), \cdots, \sigma(n)$  is a rearrangement of  $1, 2, \cdots, n$ .
- Product of permutations  $\sigma$  and  $\mu$  (in one convention):  $(\sigma \cdot \mu)(i) = \sigma(\mu(i))$ .
- Transposition  $(i, j)$ : exchange  $i$  and  $j$  while keeping the others fixed.
- Any permutation can be represented as a product of transpositions.  
In fact only transpositions of neighbors  $(i, i+1)$  are needed.

– Example:  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = (2, 3)(3, 4)(1, 2) = (1, 3)(2, 3)(3, 4) = \dots$

- The parity of a permutation: parity of the number of transpositions.  
Even(Odd) permutation: product of even(odd) number of transpositions.
- The sign (signature) of a permutation  $(-1)^\sigma$  [ also denoted by  $\text{sgn}(\sigma)$  ]:  
+1 for even permutations; -1 for odd permutations.
  - An explicit formula:  $(-1)^\sigma = \prod_{i < j} \text{sgn}[\sigma(j) - \sigma(i)]$ . Here  $\text{sgn}[x] = \begin{cases} +1, & x > 0; \\ -1, & x < 0. \end{cases}$
  - $(-1)^{\sigma\mu} = (-1)^\sigma \cdot (-1)^\mu$ . Namely, (even perm.)·(even perm.)=(even perm.),  $\dots$
- The permutation group has only two 1-dimensional “representations”:  
trivial representation:  $R(\sigma) = 1$ ; and “alternating representation”:  $R(\sigma) = (-1)^\sigma$ .

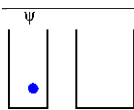
### B. Identical Particle: Traditional Treatment using Wavefunctions

- The configuration of  $n$  identical(indistinguishable) particles  
 $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$  should be equivalent to (all permutations of  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$ ).
- $n$ -body state  $\psi(\mathbf{x}) = \psi(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$  should be ‘invariant’ under permutations of  $\mathbf{x}_i$ .
  - The wavefunction may get complex phase, the density matrix should be the same.

- Assume: the  $n$ -body wavefunction is a one-dimensional representation of the permutation group  $S_n$ , then there are only two possibilities: bosons and fermions.
  - Being a 1D representation means, for a permutation  $\sigma \in S_n$ ,  
 $\psi(\mathbf{x}_{\sigma(1)}, \mathbf{x}_{\sigma(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{\sigma(n)}) = R(\sigma) \cdot \psi(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$ , where  $R(\sigma)$  is a complex number of unit modulus, and  $R(\sigma \cdot \mu) = R(\sigma) \cdot R(\mu)$ .
  - Note that pairwise exchange(transposition)  $\sigma_{i,j}$  ( $\mathbf{x}_i \leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}_j$ ) is its own inverse,  $(\sigma_{i,j})^2 = \mathbb{1}$ , then  $[R(\sigma_{i,j})]^2 = 1$ , namely  $R(\sigma_{i,j}) = \pm 1$ .  
 \*  $\sigma_{i',j'} = \sigma_{i,i'}\sigma_{j,j'}\sigma_{i,j}\sigma_{i,i'}\sigma_{j,j'}$ , therefore  $R(\sigma_{i',j'}) = R(\sigma_{i,j})$ .
  - Bosons: a pairwise exchange (any permutation) has no effect on the wavefunction. Trivial representation of permutation group.
  - Fermions: a pairwise exchange changes the sign of the wavefunction. Odd permutations(odd # of pair exchanges) changes the sign of the wavefunction. Alternating representation of permutation group.
  - In *two-dimensional space*, braiding group instead of permutation group should be considered. There are particles(anyons) beyond bosons and fermions. See e.g. C. Nayak *et al.*, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **80**, 1083 (2008).

### C. The Structure of Many-body Hilbert Space

- Fock space: the Hilbert space of identical particles with indefinite particle number, is the *direct sum* of 0-particle & 1-particle & ... Hilbert spaces.  $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{H}_0 \oplus \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \dots$ 
  - generic states in Fock space: ‘linear superpositions’ of 0-particle state(‘vacuum’), and 1-particle state  $\psi_{N=1}(\mathbf{r}_1)$ , and 2-particle state  $\psi_{N=2}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2)$ , and ...
- 0-particle Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_0$ : Hilbert space containing only the “vacuum” state.
  - The “vacuum” state is usually denoted by  $|\text{vac}\rangle$  or  $|0\rangle$ .
  - About the “vacuum”: roughly speaking, it means that **no** particle (that we are considering) is in the coordinate space of 1-particle wavefunctions in  $\mathcal{H}_1$ .



Example: for this particle confined in the left well, the state is  $|\psi\rangle_{\text{left}} \otimes |\text{vac}\rangle_{\text{right}}$

- 1-particle Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_1$ : linear space of 1-body wavefunctions, can be of finite or infinite dimension. Denote the 1-body states by *e.g.*  $|\psi\rangle$ .
- $n(\geq 2)$ -particle Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_n$ : a *subspace* of the tensor product  $(\mathcal{H}_1)^{\otimes n} = \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_1$ , with (anti-)symmetrization between the factor  $\mathcal{H}_1$ s.  
(Anti-)Symmetrization is for identical particles so that they are indistinguishable.
- Consider the (anti-)symmetrization operation, which maps  $\mathcal{H}_1^{\otimes n}$  to  $\mathcal{H}_n$ ,  
 $\mathcal{S}: \mathcal{H}_1^{\otimes n} \mapsto \mathcal{H}_n, \quad |\psi_1\rangle \otimes |\psi_2\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\psi_n\rangle \mapsto |\psi_1, \psi_2, \dots, \psi_n\rangle.$ 
  - $\mathcal{S}$  is multi-linear, namely linear with respect to each factor  $|\psi_i\rangle$ .
  - Permutations of  $\psi_i$  produce the same  $n$ -body state, up to an overall phase.
  - If  $\psi_i$  are orthonormal,  $|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle$  is normalized (for both bosons and fermions).
- Bosons: permutations of  $\psi_i$  are trivial.
  - $\mathcal{S}: |\psi_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\psi_n\rangle \mapsto |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} |\psi_{\sigma(1)}\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\psi_{\sigma(n)}\rangle.$
  - $|\psi_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \psi_{\sigma(n)}\rangle = |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle, \forall \sigma \in S_n.$
- Fermions: permutations of  $\psi_i$  produces the sign of permutation.
  - **Exclusion principle**: if  $\psi_i = \psi_j$  ( $i \neq j$ ), fermion state  $|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle = 0$ .  
(by *W. Pauli*).
  - “Fermion exchange sign”:  $|\cdots \psi_i \cdots \psi_j \cdots\rangle = -|\cdots \psi_j \cdots \psi_i \cdots\rangle.$ 
    - \* “Proof”:  $0 = |\cdots (\psi_i + \psi_j) \cdots (\psi_i + \psi_j) \cdots\rangle$   
 $= |\cdots \psi_i \cdots \psi_i \cdots\rangle + |\cdots \psi_j \cdots \psi_j \cdots\rangle + |\cdots \psi_i \cdots \psi_j \cdots\rangle + |\cdots \psi_j \cdots \psi_i \cdots\rangle$   
 $= 0 + 0 + |\cdots \psi_i \cdots \psi_j \cdots\rangle + |\cdots \psi_j \cdots \psi_i \cdots\rangle.$
  - $\mathcal{S}: |\psi_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\psi_n\rangle \mapsto |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-1)^\sigma |\psi_{\sigma(1)}\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\psi_{\sigma(n)}\rangle$
  - $|\psi_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \psi_{\sigma(n)}\rangle = (-1)^\sigma |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle, \forall \sigma \in S_n.$

#### D. Basis of Many-body Hilbert Space

- The wavefunction is the expansion coefficient in the coordinate eigenstate basis.  
This time the coordinate basis are the tensor product states  $|x_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |x_n\rangle$ .  
The (un-normalized) wavefunction is  $\psi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (|x_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |x_n\rangle, |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle).$

- Bosons:  $\psi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \langle x_1 | \psi_{\sigma(1)} \rangle \cdots \langle x_n | \psi_{\sigma(n)} \rangle$   
 $= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \psi_{\sigma(1)}(x_1) \cdots \psi_{\sigma(n)}(x_n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \text{perm}[\psi_j(x_i)].$ 
  - Permanent of a square matrix  $A_{ij}$ :  $\text{perm}[A] \equiv \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_i A_{i, \sigma(i)}$ .
  - $\langle \phi_1, \dots, \phi_n | \psi_1, \dots, \psi_n \rangle = \text{perm}[\langle \phi_i | \psi_j \rangle] = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_i \langle \phi_i | \psi_{\sigma(i)} \rangle$ . [Exercise](#).
- Fermions:  $\psi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-1)^\sigma \langle x_1 | \psi_{\sigma(1)} \rangle \cdots \langle x_n | \psi_{\sigma(n)} \rangle$   
 $= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-1)^\sigma \psi_{\sigma(1)}(x_1) \cdots \psi_{\sigma(n)}(x_n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \det[\psi_j(x_i)].$

This is the [Slater determinant](#).

- Determinant of a square matrix  $A_{ij}$ :  $\det[A] \equiv \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-1)^\sigma \prod_i A_{i, \sigma(i)}$ .
- $\langle \phi_1, \dots, \phi_n | \psi_1, \dots, \psi_n \rangle = \det[\langle \phi_i | \psi_j \rangle] = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} (-1)^\sigma \prod_i \langle \phi_i | \psi_{\sigma(i)} \rangle$ . [Exercise](#).
- Suppose  $\mathcal{H}_1$  has complete orthonormal basis  $|e_i\rangle$ . For simplicity, assume a  $m$ (finite)-dimensional  $\mathcal{H}_1$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ). The goal is to construct a basis for  $\mathcal{H}_n$ .
- Bosons: basis are  $|e_{i_1}, e_{i_2}, \dots, e_{i_n}\rangle$ , for all  $1 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_n \leq m$ .
  - These basis are orthogonal, but not normalized.
  - The number of basis (dimension of  $\mathcal{H}_n$ ) is  $\binom{m+n-1}{n} = \frac{(m+n-1)!}{n!(m-1)!}$ .
- Fermions: basis are  $|e_{i_1}, e_{i_2}, \dots, e_{i_n}\rangle$ , for all  $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_n \leq m$ .
  - Obviously, if  $n > m$ , there is no legitimate  $n$ -body state (exclusion principle).
  - These basis are orthonormal.
  - The number of basis (dimension of  $\mathcal{H}_n$ ) is  $\binom{m}{n} = \frac{m!}{n!(m-n)!}$ .

- [Occupation number representation](#):

denote the above basis  $|e_{i_1}, e_{i_2}, \dots, e_{i_n}\rangle$  as  $|e_1^{n_1}, e_2^{n_2}, \dots, e_m^{n_m}\rangle$ ,

where  $n_j$  is the number of appearance of  $e_j$ . Note that  $n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_m = n$ .

The occupation basis  $|n_1, n_2, \dots, n_m\rangle$  is the state  $|e_1^{n_1}, e_2^{n_2}, \dots, e_m^{n_m}\rangle$  normalized:

$$|n_1, n_2, \dots, n_m\rangle = (n_1!)^{-1/2} (n_2!)^{-1/2} \cdots (n_m!)^{-1/2} |e_1^{n_1}, e_2^{n_2}, \dots, e_m^{n_m}\rangle.$$

- For fermions,  $n_j = 0$  or  $1$ , the normalization factor is trivial.

## II. SECOND QUANTIZATION

### A. Creation and Annihilation Operators

- The goal is to define linear operators which creates(destroys) a particle of the 1-body state  $\psi$ , in the Fock space.

– The creation operator  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$  maps  $\mathcal{H}_n$  to  $\mathcal{H}_{n+1}$ .

The annihilation operator  $\hat{\psi}$  maps  $\mathcal{H}_n$  to  $\mathcal{H}_{n-1}$  (vanishes on “vacuum”  $\mathcal{H}_0$ ).

- Creation operator: (“add a 1-body state as a new factor”)

$$\hat{\psi}^\dagger : \mathcal{H}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{n+1}, \quad |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle \mapsto |\psi, \psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle.$$

– In occupation basis (exercise: check these by definition):

for bosons,  $\hat{e}_i^\dagger |\dots, n_i, \dots\rangle = \sqrt{n_i + 1} |\dots, (n_i + 1), \dots\rangle$ ;

for fermions,  $\hat{e}_i^\dagger |\dots, n_i = 0, \dots\rangle = (-1)^{\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} n_j} |\dots, n_i = 1, \dots\rangle$ .

- Annihilation operator: (“try to remove a 1-body state from each factor respectively”)

$$\hat{\psi} : \mathcal{H}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{n-1}, \quad |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n (\pm 1)^{i-1} \langle \psi | \psi_i \rangle |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{i-1}, \psi_{i+1}, \dots, \psi_n\rangle,$$

where +1 is for bosons and -1 is for fermions.

– In occupation basis (exercise: check these by definition):

for bosons,  $\hat{e}_i |\dots, n_i, \dots\rangle = \sqrt{n_i} |\dots, (n_i - 1), \dots\rangle$ ;

for fermions,  $\hat{e}_i |\dots, n_i = 1, \dots\rangle = (-1)^{\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} n_j} |\dots, n_i = 0, \dots\rangle$ .

- Occupation basis  $|n_1, \dots, n_m\rangle = (n_1!)^{-1/2} \dots (n_m!)^{-1/2} (\hat{e}_1^\dagger)^{n_1} \dots (\hat{e}_m^\dagger)^{n_m} |0\rangle$ .

- (Anti-)Commutation relations: Bosons:  $[\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}^\dagger] = 1$ . Fermions:  $\{\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}^\dagger\} = 1$ .

And mode occupation number operator:  $\hat{n}_\psi = \hat{\psi}^\dagger \hat{\psi}$ , for normalized 1-particle state  $\psi$ ,

–  $[\hat{n}_\psi, \hat{\psi}^\dagger] = \hat{\psi}^\dagger$ , namely  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$  increases eigenvalue of  $\hat{n}_\psi$  by 1.

$[\hat{n}_\psi, \hat{\psi}] = -\hat{\psi}$ , namely  $\hat{\psi}$  decreases eigenvalue of  $\hat{n}_\psi$  by 1.

Exercise: check these statements for both bosons and fermions.

– Eigenvalues of  $\hat{n}_\psi$  are non-negative integers:  $\hat{n}_\psi$  is hermitian, positive semi-definite (because  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$  is indeed the hermitian conjugate of  $\hat{\psi}$ , see later)

– Occupation basis  $|n_1, \dots, n_m\rangle$  are eigenstates of  $\hat{n}_{e_i}$  with eigenvalue  $n_i$ .

- (Anti-)Commutation relations between annihilation/creation operators of different modes (**exercise**: check these by definition):

Bosons:  $[\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}^\dagger] = \langle \psi | \psi' \rangle$ ,  $[\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}] = 0 = [\hat{\psi}^\dagger, \hat{\psi}^\dagger]$ .

Fermions:  $\{\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}^\dagger\} = \langle \psi | \psi' \rangle$ ,  $\{\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}\} = 0 = \{\hat{\psi}^\dagger, \hat{\psi}^\dagger\}$ .

- For the 1-body orthonormal basis  $e_i$ , corresponding operators satisfy:

Bosons:  $[\hat{e}_i, \hat{e}_j^\dagger] = \delta_{ij}$ . Fermions:  $\{\hat{e}_i, \hat{e}_j^\dagger\} = \delta_{ij}$ .

- For coordinate eigenstates  $|x\rangle$ , denote corresponding operators by  $\widehat{\psi(x)}$  and  $\widehat{\psi^\dagger(x)}$ :

Bosons:  $[\widehat{\psi(x)}, \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x')}] = \delta(x - x')$ . Fermions:  $\{\widehat{\psi(x)}, \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x')}\} = \delta(x - x')$ .

NOTE: these are not related to some state  $\psi$ , symbols like  $\phi$  may also be used.

- (Anti-)Commutation relations of momentum eigenstate operators  $\widehat{\psi(p)}$  &  $\widehat{\psi^\dagger(p)}$  are similar.

- Basis change:  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger = \sum_i \langle e_i | \psi \rangle \hat{e}_i^\dagger$ , sum is over a complete orthonormal basis.

In particular  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger = \int \psi(x) \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x)} dx$ , where  $\psi(x) = \langle x | \psi \rangle$  is the wavefunction.

- If  $e_i$  and  $e'_i$  are two sets of complete orthonormal 1-body basis, then

$\hat{e}'_i = \sum_j \langle e'_i | e_j \rangle \hat{e}_j$ , or column vector  $\hat{\mathbf{e}}' = U \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}$ ,

where  $U_{ij} = \langle e'_i | e_j \rangle$  is a unitary matrix.

- **Exercise**: check the converse of the above statement.

For orthonormal boson(fermion) basis  $\hat{e}_i$  satisfying  $[\hat{e}_i, \hat{e}_j^\dagger] = \delta_{ij}$  ( $\{\hat{e}_i, \hat{e}_j^\dagger\} = \delta_{ij}$ ), the transformed operators  $\hat{e}'_i = \sum_j U_{ij} \cdot \hat{e}_j$  satisfy the same form of commutation(anti-commutation) relations,  $[\hat{e}'_i, \hat{e}'_j^\dagger] = \delta_{ij}$  ( $\{\hat{e}'_i, \hat{e}'_j^\dagger\} = \delta_{ij}$ ), namely that  $\hat{e}'_i$  also form orthonormal basis, if  $U$  is a unitary matrix.

- **(USEFUL)** This can be used to “diagonalize” bilinear operators  $\hat{M} = \sum_{i,j} \hat{e}_i^\dagger M_{ij} \hat{e}_j = \hat{\mathbf{e}}^\dagger \cdot M \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}} = \hat{\mathbf{e}}'^\dagger \cdot U \cdot M \cdot U^\dagger \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}'$ . By choosing the unitary matrix  $U_{ij} = \langle e'_i | e_j \rangle$ , the matrix  $U \cdot M \cdot U^\dagger$  may become diagonal with eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$  on the major diagonal. Then  $\hat{M} = \sum_i \lambda_i \hat{e}'_i \hat{e}'_i^\dagger = \sum_i \lambda_i \hat{n}'_i$ , and  $e'_i$  occupation basis are normalized eigenstates of  $\hat{M}$  in the entire Fock space.

- **“vacuum”**:  $\hat{\psi}|0\rangle = 0$  for any “annihilation” operator  $\hat{\psi}$ ,  
and  $\langle 0 | \hat{\psi}^\dagger = 0$  for any “creation” operator  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$ .

## 1. Creation and Annihilation Operators: Consistency Check

- Check that  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$  is indeed  $(\hat{\psi})^\dagger$ : show that

$$(\hat{\psi}^\dagger|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{n-1}\rangle, |\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n\rangle) = (|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{n-1}\rangle, \hat{\psi}|\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n\rangle),$$

for any  $n$ -body state  $|\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n\rangle$  and  $(n-1)$ -body state  $|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{n-1}\rangle$ .

- Bosons: (check Laplace expansion of permanent)

$$(\hat{\psi}^\dagger|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{n-1}\rangle, |\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n\rangle) = \langle\psi, \psi_1, \dots, \psi_{n-1}|\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n\rangle$$

$$= \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \langle\psi|\phi_{\sigma(1)}\rangle \langle\psi_1|\phi_{\sigma(2)}\rangle \dots \langle\psi_{n-1}|\phi_{\sigma(n)}\rangle.$$

$$(|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{n-1}\rangle, \hat{\psi}|\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n\rangle) = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle\psi|\phi_i\rangle \langle\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{n-1}|\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n \text{ without } \phi_i\rangle$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \langle\psi|\phi_i\rangle \sum_{\text{permutation } \sigma' \text{ of } (1, \dots, n, \text{ without } i)} \langle\psi_1|\phi_{\sigma'(1)}\rangle \dots \langle\psi_{n-1}|\phi_{\sigma'(n-1)}\rangle,$$

$\sigma'(1), \dots, \sigma'(n-1)$  is a rearrangement of  $n-1$  numbers  $(1, \dots, n, \text{ without } i)$ , therefore the sequence  $i, \sigma'(1), \dots, \sigma'(n-1)$  is a permutation  $\sigma$  of  $1, \dots, n$ ,

the two final results are summations over the same  $n!$  terms.

- Fermions: (check Laplace expansion of determinant). [Exercise](#).

- Note that  $\hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle = |\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle$ , by definition of creation operators.

- Action of creation operator  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$ :  $\hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle \mapsto \hat{\psi}^\dagger \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle$ ,

consistent with  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$ :  $|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle \mapsto |\psi, \psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle$ .

- Action of annihilation operator  $\hat{\psi}$ :

$$* \text{ Bosons: } \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle \mapsto \hat{\psi} \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle$$

$$= [\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger] |0\rangle + \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger \hat{\psi} |0\rangle = \sum_i \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots [\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}_i^\dagger] \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle + 0$$

$$= \sum_i \langle\psi|\psi_i\rangle \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_{i-1}^\dagger \hat{\psi}_{i+1}^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle,$$

consistent with the definition of  $\hat{\psi}$  and commutation relation.

$$* \text{ Fermions: } \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle \mapsto \hat{\psi} \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle$$

$$= \sum_i (-1)^{i-1} \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \{\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}_i^\dagger\} \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle + (-1)^n \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger \hat{\psi} |0\rangle$$

$$= \sum_i (-1)^{i-1} \langle\psi|\psi_i\rangle \hat{\psi}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_{i-1}^\dagger \hat{\psi}_{i+1}^\dagger \dots \hat{\psi}_n^\dagger |0\rangle,$$

consistent with the definition of  $\hat{\psi}$  and anti-commutation relation.

- Under coordinate basis:  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger = \int \psi(x) \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x)} dx$ ,  $\hat{\psi} = \int \psi^*(x) \widehat{\psi(x)} dx$ .

$$* \text{ Bosons: } [\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}'^\dagger] = \int \int \psi^*(x) \psi'(x') [\widehat{\psi(x)}, \widehat{\psi'^\dagger(x')}] dx dx'$$

$$= \int \int \psi^*(x) \psi'(x') \delta(x - x') dx dx' = \int \psi^*(x) \psi'(x) dx = \langle\psi|\psi'\rangle.$$

Anti-commutation relation of fermions is similar.

2. Creation and Annihilation Operators: Some Calculation Tricks

- For orthonormal basis of creation(annihilation) operators  $\hat{e}_i^\dagger$  ( $\hat{e}_i$ ), the commutator  $[\hat{e}_i^\dagger \hat{e}_j, \hat{e}_k^\dagger] = \delta_{jk} \hat{e}_i^\dagger$ . This is true for both bosons and fermions. **Exercise:** check this.
- By the above fact,  $\hat{e}_i^\dagger \hat{e}_j \cdot \hat{e}_{i_1}^\dagger \dots \hat{e}_{i_n}^\dagger |\text{vac}\rangle = [\text{sum of } \hat{e}_{i'_1}^\dagger \dots \hat{e}_{i'_n}^\dagger |\text{vac}\rangle]$ , where the sequence  $(i'_1, \dots, i'_n)$  is  $(i_1, \dots, i_n)$  with one appearance of  $j$  replaced by  $i$ ].  
For example:  $\hat{e}_1^\dagger \hat{e}_2 \cdot \hat{e}_1^\dagger \hat{e}_2^\dagger \hat{e}_2^\dagger \hat{e}_3^\dagger |\text{vac}\rangle = \hat{e}_1^\dagger \hat{e}_1^\dagger \hat{e}_2^\dagger \hat{e}_3^\dagger |\text{vac}\rangle + \hat{e}_1^\dagger \hat{e}_2^\dagger \hat{e}_1^\dagger \hat{e}_3^\dagger |\text{vac}\rangle$ .

**B. The Second Quantization**

- The goal: use the creation & annihilation operators to simplify the presentations of operators for identical particles in Fock space.
  - The rule of thumb: to get a many-body term (defined on the Fock space), replace the 1-body wavefunctions  $\psi(x)$  [ $\psi^*(x)$ ] in the expectation value formula for a product states by operator  $\hat{\psi}(x)$  [ $\hat{\psi}^\dagger(x)$ ], remove the summations over particle indices. Some ‘normal ordering’ may be needed.
  - Generic 1-body term  $\hat{O}(x)$ :
    - $\hat{O}(x)$  can be ‘taking derivatives with respect to  $x$ ’ and ‘multiplication by a function of  $x$ ’ and so on. Here  $x$  is the particle’s coordinate.
    - For  $n$  identical particles with coordinates  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , the corresponding many-body term in the ‘first quantized’ language is  $\sum_{i=1}^n \hat{O}(x_i)$ .
    - In a (anti-)symmetrized tensor product state  $|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle$ , the expectation value would be  $\sum_{i=1}^n \int \psi_i^*(x_i) \hat{O}(x_i) \psi(x_i) dx_i$ .
    - The corresponding second quantized form is  $\int \hat{\psi}^\dagger(x) \hat{O}(x) \hat{\psi}(x) dx$ .
  - Example: 1-body kinetic energy term:  $\sum_i \int \psi_i^*(x) (-\frac{\hbar^2 \partial_x^2}{2m}) \psi_i(x) dx$ .  
Corresponding many-body term is  $\int \hat{\psi}^\dagger(x) (-\frac{\hbar^2 \partial_x^2}{2m}) \hat{\psi}(x) dx = \int \hat{\psi}^\dagger(p) (\frac{p^2}{2m}) \hat{\psi}(p) dp$
  - Example: 1-body potential term:  $\sum_i \int V(x) \psi_i^*(x) \psi_i(x) dx$ .  
Corresponding many-body term is  $\int V(x) \hat{\psi}^\dagger(x) \hat{\psi}(x) dx$ .
- Exercise:** convert this into momentum eigenstate representation.



- Example: total particle number operator:  $\hat{N} = \int \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x)} \widehat{\psi(x)} dx$ .

It is difficult to write down the corresponding ‘first quantized’ form.

- Generic 2-body term  $\hat{O}(x, x')$ :  $x$  and  $x'$  are the two particles’ coordinates.
  - For  $n$  identical particles with coordinates  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , the corresponding many-body term in the ‘first quantized’ language is  $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j,i \neq j} \hat{O}(x_i, x_j)$ . Here the factor  $\frac{1}{2}$  is to remove the double-counting of the same pair  $(x_i, x_j)$ .
  - In a (anti-)symmetrized tensor product state  $|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle$ , the expectation value would be  $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j,i \neq j} \int \int \psi_i^*(x_i) \psi_j^*(x_j) \hat{O}(x_i, x_j) \psi_j(x_j) \psi_i(x_i) dx_i dx_j$ .
  - The corresponding second quantized form is  $\frac{1}{2} \int \int \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x)} \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x')} \hat{O}(x, x') \widehat{\psi(x')} \widehat{\psi(x)} dx dx'$ .

- Example: 2-body potential term:  $(1/2) \sum_{i \neq j} \int V(x, x') \psi_i^*(x) \psi_i(x) \psi_j^*(x') \psi_j(x') dx dx'$ .

Corresponding many-body term is  $\hat{V} = (1/2) \int V(x, x') \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x)} \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x')} \widehat{\psi(x')} \widehat{\psi(x)} dx dx'$

- Note the “normal ordering”: put all creation operators in front of annihilation operators, be careful about the exchange sign in case of fermions.
- **Exercise:** convert this into momentum eigenstate representation, in case that  $V(x, x') = V(x - x')$  depends only on the distance of two particles.
- In the ‘first quantized’ language, the 2-body potential term should be  $\hat{V} : \psi(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (1/2) \sum_{i \neq j} V(x_i, x_j) \psi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ .
- Check: Assume the case of bosons.

Many-body states can generically be expanded in terms of  $|x_1, \dots, x_n\rangle$  as  $\int \psi(x_1, \dots, x_n) |x_1, \dots, x_n\rangle dx_1 \dots dx_n$ . Apply the many-body term to coordinate basis state  $|x_1, \dots, x_n\rangle$ . The result is

$$\begin{aligned} & (1/2) \int V(x, x') \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x)} \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x')} \sum_{i \neq j} \delta(x - x_i) \delta(x' - x_j) |x_i \& x_j \text{ removed} \rangle dx dx' \\ &= (1/2) \sum_{i \neq j} V(x_i, x_j) \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x_i)} \widehat{\psi^\dagger(x_j)} |x_i \& x_j \text{ removed} \rangle \\ &= (1/2) \sum_{i \neq j} V(x_i, x_j) |x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

The above result shows that the action of  $\hat{V}$  on many-body wavefunction  $\psi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is the same as the ‘first quantized’ description.

**Exercise:** check the case of fermions, be careful about fermion exchange signs.

- Example: the Bose-Hubbard model.

$$\hat{H} = -t \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (\hat{b}_j^\dagger \hat{b}_i + h.c.) + \frac{U}{2} \sum_i \hat{n}_i (\hat{n}_i - 1),$$

where  $\hat{n}_i = \hat{b}_i^\dagger \hat{b}_i$  is the occupation number operator,  $h.c.$  means the Hermitian conjugate of the previous term.  $[\hat{b}_i, \hat{b}_j^\dagger] = \delta_{ij}$  and all other commutators between them vanish.

- On each site  $i$  of a lattice, there is one single-boson mode  $\phi_i(\mathbf{x})$ , and all  $\phi_i$  form a complete orthonormal basis of 1-body Hilbert space.  $\hat{b}_i^\dagger$  &  $\hat{b}_i$  are the corresponding creation/annihilation operators.
- The Hamiltonian consists of a kinetic energy term and an interaction term. The kinetic energy term makes a particle to ‘hop’ from site  $i$  to one of its neighbors  $j$ , with a matrix element  $-t$ . The interaction term creates repulsion energy  $U$  between each pair of particles on the same site.
- Example: consider only two sites  $i$  &  $j$ , use the occupation number basis, the action of  $\hat{H}$  on  $|n_i = 3, n_j = 1\rangle$  is  $\hat{H} |n_i = 3, n_j = 1\rangle = -t\sqrt{3}\sqrt{2}|n_i = 2, n_j = 2\rangle - t\sqrt{4}|n_i = 4, n_j = 0\rangle + 3U|n_i = 3, n_j = 1\rangle$ .

### III. SPECIAL MANY-BODY STATES

#### A. Fermion “Product” State (Fermi Sea)

- $|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle = \prod_{i=1}^n \hat{\psi}_i^\dagger |0\rangle$ .

Norm of this state is given by the Gram determinant  $\sqrt{\det[\langle \psi_i | \psi_j \rangle]}$ .

- If  $\psi_i$  are linearly dependent, this state vanishes.
- Linearly independent  $\psi_i$  span a  $n$ -dimensional 1-body Hilbert space. Given a complete orthonormal basis of this space  $c_i$ , then  $|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle = \det[\langle c_i | \psi_j \rangle] \cdot |c_1, \dots, c_n\rangle$ ,
  - Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization: the orthonormal basis can be constructed as
 
$$|c_1\rangle \propto |\psi_1\rangle, \text{ e.g. } |c_1\rangle = \frac{|\psi_1\rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \psi_1 | \psi_1 \rangle}},$$

$$|c_2\rangle \propto |\psi_2\rangle - |c_1\rangle \langle c_1 | \psi_2 \rangle = |\psi_2\rangle - |\psi_1\rangle \frac{\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle}{\langle \psi_1 | \psi_1 \rangle},$$

$$|c_3\rangle \propto |\psi_3\rangle - |c_1\rangle \langle c_1 | \psi_3 \rangle - |c_2\rangle \langle c_2 | \psi_3 \rangle, \dots$$

- If  $c_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) form a complete orthonormal basis of 1-body Hilbert space, the total particle number  $\hat{n} = \sum_i \hat{c}_i^\dagger \hat{c}_i$  is invariant under basis change. The state  $|\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\rangle$  is an eigenstate of  $\hat{n}$  with eigenvalue  $n$ .
- The ‘parent’ Hamiltonian of this state:  $\hat{H} = -\sum_{i=1}^n c_i^\dagger c_i + \sum_{i=n+1}^m c_i^\dagger c_i$ . Namely the unique ground state of this Hamiltonian is this fermion product state.

### 1. Particle-hole Transformation of Fermions

- Particle-hole transformation of a single fermion mode: formally  $\hat{c}_i \leftrightarrow \hat{c}_i^\dagger$ , note that this preserves the anti-commutation relations.
  - This corresponds to a unitary transformation on the Fock space:  

$$\hat{U} = (\hat{c}_i + \hat{c}_i^\dagger) \cdot (-1)^{\sum_{j \neq i} \hat{c}_j^\dagger \hat{c}_j}.$$

**Exercise:** check the following,  $\hat{U}^\dagger \hat{U} = \mathbb{1}$ ,  $\hat{U} \hat{c}_i \hat{U}^\dagger = \hat{c}_i^\dagger$ ,  $\hat{U} \hat{c}_j \hat{U}^\dagger = \hat{c}_j$  for  $j \neq i$ .
  - The unitary transformation on occupation number basis is  

$$|\dots, n_i = 0, \dots\rangle \leftrightarrow (-1)^{\sum_{j>i} n_j} |\dots, n_i = 1, \dots\rangle.$$

Note: the factor  $(-1)^{\sum_{j>i} n_j}$  is to preserve the matrix elements of  $\hat{\psi}_j$  &  $\hat{\psi}_j^\dagger$  for  $j > i$ .
  - In particular, the new ‘vacuum’ is originally  $|0, \dots, n_i = 1, \dots, 0\rangle$ .
- Particle-hole transformation of all fermion modes: formally  $\hat{c}_i \leftrightarrow \hat{c}_i^\dagger$  for all  $i$ .  
**Exercise:** what is the corresponding unitary transformation?  
 what is the new ‘vacuum’?
- By particle-hole transformation, the fermion product state  $\hat{c}_1^\dagger \dots \hat{c}_n^\dagger |0\rangle$  can be viewed as the ‘vacuum’ of  $\hat{c}_i = \begin{cases} c_i^\dagger, & 1 \leq i \leq n, \text{ ‘hole’ annihilation operators} \\ c_i, & n < i, \text{ ‘particle’ annihilation operators.} \end{cases}$

### B. Fermion Pairing State (BCS State)

- Consider two orthonormal fermion modes  $c_1$  &  $c_2$ , the pairing state is  
 $|\lambda\rangle = (1 + |\lambda|^2)^{-1/2} \exp(\lambda \hat{c}_1^\dagger \hat{c}_2^\dagger) |0\rangle$ , where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  is a complex number.
  - This state is **not** an eigenstate of fermion number operator  $\hat{c}_1^\dagger \hat{c}_1 + \hat{c}_2^\dagger \hat{c}_2$ .

- Bogoliubov transformation: define ‘Bogoliubov quasiparticles’,  
 $\hat{\gamma}_1 = u\hat{c}_1 + v\hat{c}_2^\dagger$ ,  $\hat{\gamma}_2 = -v\hat{c}_1^\dagger + u\hat{c}_2$ ,  
 where  $u = (1 + |\lambda|^2)^{-1/2}$  and  $v = -\lambda(1 + |\lambda|^2)^{-1/2}$ .  
 The pairing state is vanished by  $\hat{\gamma}_{1,2}$ , namely  $\hat{\gamma}_{1,2}|\lambda\rangle = 0$ .  
**Exercise:** check this statement, and check that  $\{\hat{\gamma}_i, \hat{\gamma}_j^\dagger\} = \delta_{ij}$ .
- A ‘parent’ Hamiltonian is  $\hat{H} = \hat{\gamma}_1^\dagger \hat{\gamma}_1 + \hat{\gamma}_2^\dagger \hat{\gamma}_2$ . **Exercise:** rewrite this in terms of  $\hat{c}$ s.
- (Not required) Generic fermion pairing state  $|\{f_{ij}\}\rangle \propto \exp(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} f_{ij} \hat{c}_i^\dagger \hat{c}_j^\dagger) |0\rangle$ ,  
 where  $\hat{c}_i$  are some orthonormal basis,  $f_{ij} = -f_{ji}$  are complex numbers.

- By a orthogonal transformation  $\hat{c}_i^\dagger \rightarrow O_{ij} \hat{c}_j^\dagger$ , where  $O$  is an orthogonal matrix, the antisymmetric  $f$  matrix can be brought into a standard form

$$O^T \cdot f \cdot O = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ -\lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & -\lambda_2 & 0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix},$$

the state becomes  $\propto \exp(\lambda_1 \hat{c}_1^\dagger \hat{c}_2^\dagger + \lambda_2 \hat{c}_3^\dagger \hat{c}_4^\dagger + \dots) |0\rangle = e^{\lambda_1 \hat{c}_1^\dagger \hat{c}_2^\dagger} e^{\lambda_2 \hat{c}_3^\dagger \hat{c}_4^\dagger} \dots |0\rangle$ .

Bogoliubov transformations can then be defined on  $\hat{c}_{2i-1}$  &  $\hat{c}_{2i}$ .

### C. Boson Coherent State

- The coherent state from a single boson mode  $\hat{b}$  is  $|z\rangle = e^{-|z|^2/2} e^{z\hat{b}^\dagger} |0\rangle$ ,  
 where  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  is a complex number.

**Exercise:** check the normalization of  $|z\rangle$ .

- This state is **not** an eigenstate of boson number  $\hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b}$ .
- **(USEFUL)** This state is an eigenstate of  $\hat{b}$ ,  $\hat{b}|z\rangle = z|z\rangle$ .  
 Therefore the coherent state is vanished by  $\hat{b}' = \hat{b} - z$ .  
**Exercise:** check this statement, and that  $[\hat{b}', \hat{b}'^\dagger] = 1$ .
- The ‘parent’ Hamiltonian is thus  $\hat{H} = \hat{b}'^\dagger \hat{b}'$ .
- Expectation value of ‘normal ordered’ polynomials of  $\hat{b}^\dagger$  and  $\hat{b}$  (all  $\hat{b}^\dagger$ s appear in front of  $\hat{b}$ s) in state  $|z\rangle$  can be obtained by simply replacing  $\hat{b}^\dagger$  by  $z^*$  and  $\hat{b}$  by  $z$ .  
 Example:  $\langle z | (\hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b})^2 | z \rangle = \langle z | (\hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b} \hat{b} + \hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b}) | z \rangle = z^* z^* z z + z^* z = |z|^4 + |z|^2$ .

### D. Boson Pairing State

- Consider two orthonormal boson modes  $\hat{b}_1$  &  $\hat{b}_2$ , the boson pairing state is  $|\lambda\rangle = (1 - |\lambda|^2)^{1/2} \exp(\lambda \hat{b}_1^\dagger \hat{b}_2^\dagger) |0\rangle$ , where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  is a complex number, and  $|\lambda| < 1$ .

**Exercise:** check the normalization of  $|\lambda\rangle$ .

- This state is **not** an eigenstate of boson number  $\hat{b}_1^\dagger \hat{b}_1 + \hat{b}_2^\dagger \hat{b}_2$ .
- Bogoliubov transformation: define  $\hat{\gamma}_1 = u \hat{b}_1 + v \hat{b}_2^\dagger$ ,  $\hat{\gamma}_2 = u \hat{b}_2 + v \hat{b}_1^\dagger$ , where  $u = (1 - |\lambda|^2)^{-1/2}$  and  $v = -\lambda (1 - |\lambda|^2)^{-1/2}$ .

Then  $|\lambda\rangle$  is vanished by  $\hat{\gamma}_{1,2}$ , namely  $\hat{\gamma}_{1,2}|\lambda\rangle = 0$ .

**Exercise:** check this statement, and check that  $[\hat{\gamma}_i, \hat{\gamma}_j^\dagger] = \delta_{ij}$ .

- A ‘parent’ Hamiltonian is  $\hat{H} = \hat{\gamma}_1^\dagger \hat{\gamma}_1 + \hat{\gamma}_2^\dagger \hat{\gamma}_2$ . **Exercise:** rewrite this in terms of  $\hat{b}$ s.

### E. Summary of These Special Many-body States

- All these special states are “free particle” states, they can be defined as the ‘vacuum’ of a complete set of single-particle “annihilation” operators.

Free particle state	complete set of “annihilation” operators
Fermion product state	(particle-hole transformed) fermion annihilation operators
Boson coherent state	boson annihilation operators shifted by constants
Boson(Fermion)pairing state	Bogoliubov quasi-particles (superposition of particles and ‘holes’ )

- The Wick expansion: rough statement.

Expectation value of a product of single-particle creation/annihilation operators in these states (except boson coherent states), can be expanded into a sum of products of pair expectation values, over all pair combinations with appropriate sign for fermions.

- The Wick expansion:

Let  $|0\rangle$  be the single-particle ‘vacuum’. Let  $\hat{A}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, 2n$ ) be a set of single-particle operators, namely linear combinations of annihilation and creation operators. Then  $\langle 0 | \hat{A}_1 \hat{A}_2 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} | 0 \rangle$  is the Hafnian(Pfaffian) of matrix  $\langle 0 | \hat{A}_i \hat{A}_j | 0 \rangle$  for bosons(fermions).

- Hafnian of  $2n \times 2n$  symmetric matrix  $M_{ij}$  is

$$\text{Hf}(M) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_{2n}, \sigma(1) < \sigma(2), \sigma(3) < \sigma(4), \dots} M_{\sigma(1)\sigma(2)} M_{\sigma(3)\sigma(4)} \cdots M_{\sigma(2n-1)\sigma(2n)}.$$

- Pfaffian of  $2n \times 2n$  anti-symmetric matrix  $M_{ij}$  is
 
$$\text{Pf}(M) = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_{2n}, \sigma(1) < \sigma(2), \sigma(3) < \sigma(4), \dots} (-1)^\sigma M_{\sigma(1)\sigma(2)} M_{\sigma(3)\sigma(4)} \cdots M_{\sigma(2n-1)\sigma(2n)}.$$
- NOTE: this is true only for such ‘free particle’ states  $|0\rangle$ .
- NOTE: the matrix  $\langle 0 | \hat{A}_i \hat{A}_j | 0 \rangle$  may not be symmetric or anti-symmetric. But the above definition for Hafnian/Pfaffian still works for the Wick expansion.
- Example:  $\langle \hat{A}_1 \hat{A}_2 \hat{A}_3 \hat{A}_4 \rangle = \langle \hat{A}_1 \hat{A}_2 \rangle \langle \hat{A}_3 \hat{A}_4 \rangle + \langle \hat{A}_1 \hat{A}_4 \rangle \langle \hat{A}_2 \hat{A}_3 \rangle \pm \langle \hat{A}_1 \hat{A}_3 \rangle \langle \hat{A}_2 \hat{A}_4 \rangle$ ,  
the  $\pm$  sign is for boson or fermion cases respectively.

- The Wick expansion: sketch of a proof.

Consider boson case first. Use mathematical induction.

For the case of two operators, the Wick expansion is trivially true.

Suppose the expansion is correct for product of  $2n$  and less operators.

Add two more operators, we just need to prove that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} \cdot \hat{A}_{2n+1} \hat{A}_{2n+2} \rangle &= \langle \hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} \rangle \langle \hat{A}_{2n+1} \hat{A}_{2n+2} \rangle \\ &+ \sum_{i,j, i \neq j} \langle (\hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} \text{ without } \hat{A}_i, \hat{A}_j) \rangle \langle \hat{A}_i \hat{A}_{2n+1} \rangle \langle \hat{A}_j \hat{A}_{2n+2} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Because of linearity, only need to consider four possible cases, with  $(\hat{A}_{2n+1}, \hat{A}_{2n+2}) =$

(I) both annihilation operators  $(\hat{\psi}, \hat{\phi})$ , this is trivially  $0 = 0$ ;

(II) both creation operators  $(\hat{\psi}^\dagger, \hat{\phi}^\dagger)$ , try to move  $\hat{A}_{2n+1}$  and  $\hat{A}_{2n+2}$  to the left side by commutation relations,  $\langle \hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} \hat{A}_{2n+1} \hat{A}_{2n+2} \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \langle \hat{A}_{2n+1} \cdot \hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} \cdot \hat{A}_{2n+2} \rangle + \langle [\hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n}, \hat{A}_{2n+1}] \cdot \hat{A}_{2n+2} \rangle \\ &= 0 + \sum_i \langle (\hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} \text{ without } \hat{A}_i) [\hat{A}_i, \hat{A}_{2n+1}] \cdot \hat{A}_{2n+2} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

(NOTE:  $[\hat{A}_i, \hat{A}_{2n+1}]$  is a  $c$ -number)

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_i \langle \hat{A}_{2n+2} \cdot (\hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} \text{ without } \hat{A}_i) \rangle \cdot [\hat{A}_i, \hat{A}_{2n+1}] \\ &+ \sum_i \langle [(\hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} \text{ without } \hat{A}_i), \hat{A}_{2n+2}] \cdot [\hat{A}_i, \hat{A}_{2n+1}] \rangle \\ &= 0 + \sum_i \sum_{j, j \neq i} \langle (\hat{A}_1 \cdots \hat{A}_{2n} \text{ without } \hat{A}_i, \hat{A}_j) \rangle \cdot [\hat{A}_i, \hat{A}_{2n+1}] [\hat{A}_j, \hat{A}_{2n+2}]. \end{aligned}$$

In this case,  $[\hat{A}_i, \hat{A}_{2n+1}] = \langle \hat{A}_i \hat{A}_{2n+1} \rangle$ ,  $[\hat{A}_j, \hat{A}_{2n+2}] = \langle \hat{A}_j \hat{A}_{2n+2} \rangle$ , and  $\langle \hat{A}_{2n+1} \hat{A}_{2n+2} \rangle = 0$ .

So this extends the Wick expansion to  $2n + 2$  operator case.

(III)  $(\hat{\psi}^\dagger, \hat{\phi})$ , and (IV)  $(\hat{\psi}, \hat{\phi}^\dagger)$  are left for exercise.

**Exercise:** repeat the above reasoning for fermions.

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## Summary of Lecture #3: quantum dynamics

### Goals and Requirements:

- Get a clear understanding about the Schrödinger  $\{ \text{i}\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi, t\rangle = \hat{H}_S(t) |\psi, t\rangle \}$  and the Heisenberg  $\{ \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{O}_H(t) = \text{i} [\hat{H}_H(t), \hat{O}_H(t)] \}$  pictures about time evolution.
- Get some basic understanding about propagators (Green's functions): matrix element of time-evolution operator.
- Get some basic understanding about path integrals.
- Get some taste about geometric phase: Berry's phase.
- Get some basic understanding about gauge invariance in quantum mechanics.
- Optional references:
  - J.J. Sakurai, *Modern Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter 2.
  - P.A.M. Dirac, *The Principle of Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter V.
  - R.P. Feynman, A.R. Hibbs, *Quantum Mechanics and Path Integral*, Chapter 2.
  - A. Altland, B.D. Simons, *Condensed Matter Field Theory*, Chapter 3.
  - M.E. Peskin, D.V. Schroeder, *An Introduction to Quantum Field Theory*, Section 9.1
- Note: for simplicity I will frequently assume the space is one-dimensional, generalization to higher spatial dimensions should be obvious in most cases.

## I. TIME EVOLUTION

### A. Unitary Time Evolution

- The basic assumption of quantum dynamics:

time evolution of a *closed* system is unitary.

- State at  $t$  is related to state at  $t_0$  by a unitary operator  $\hat{U}(t, t_0)$ :

$$|\psi, t\rangle = \hat{U}(t, t_0)|\psi, t_0\rangle, \quad \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0)\hat{U}(t, t_0) = \mathbb{1}.$$

- $\hat{U}(t, t_1) \cdot \hat{U}(t_1, t_0) = \hat{U}(t, t_0)$ , and  $\hat{U}(t_0, t_0) = \mathbb{1}$ .

- The time evolution is usually ‘continuous’, and reversible,  $\hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0) = [\hat{U}(t, t_0)]^{-1}$ .

- The infinitesimal time evolution:  $\hat{U}(t_0 + dt, t_0) = \mathbb{1} - \frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}(t_0)dt + O(dt^2)$ .

$$\text{The Hamiltonian } \hat{H}(t_0) = i\hbar \left. \frac{d}{dt}\hat{U}(t, t_0) \right|_{t=t_0} = i\hbar \left. \frac{d}{dt}\hat{U}(t, t_0) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0) \right|_{t=t_0}.$$

- $\hat{H}(t) = i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}\hat{U}(t, t_0) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0)$ , independent of the choice of  $t_0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}\hat{U}(t, t'_0) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t'_0) &= i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}\hat{U}(t, t_0)\hat{U}(t_0, t'_0) \cdot [\hat{U}(t, t_0)\hat{U}(t_0, t'_0)]^\dagger \\ &= i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}\hat{U}(t, t_0)\hat{U}(t_0, t'_0) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t_0, t'_0)\hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0) = i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}\hat{U}(t, t_0) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0). \end{aligned}$$

- $\hat{H}$  is Hermitian:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}^\dagger &= -i\hbar \hat{U}(t, t_0) \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0) = -i\hbar \left\{ \frac{d}{dt} [\hat{U}(t, t_0) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0)] - \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}(t, t_0) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0) \right\} \\ &= -i\hbar \left\{ \frac{d}{dt}(\mathbb{1}) - \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}(t, t_0) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0) \right\} = i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}(t, t_0) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0) = \hat{H} \end{aligned}$$

### B. The Schrödinger Equation and The Schrödinger Picture

- From the definition of Hamiltonian, we have the

$$\text{Schrödinger equation for the time evolution operator: } i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}\hat{U}(t, t_0) = \hat{H}(t) \cdot \hat{U}(t, t_0).$$

- This translates into the

$$\text{Schrödinger equation for the quantum state: } i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}|\psi, t\rangle = \hat{H}(t)|\psi, t\rangle,$$

$$\text{and the Schrödinger equation for the ‘bra’: } -i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}\langle\psi, t| = \langle\psi, t|\hat{H}(t).$$

- Explicit form of the time evolution operator in terms of  $\hat{H}$ :

- If  $\hat{H}$  is independent of  $t$ ,  $\hat{U}(t, t_0) = \exp[-i(t - t_0)\hat{H}/\hbar]$ . (**IMPORTANT**)

Conversely, if  $\hat{U}(t, t_0)$  depends only on  $(t - t_0)$ , then  $\hat{H}$  is independent of time.



– In general,  $\hat{U}(t, t_0) = \mathcal{T}(\exp[-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t'=t_0}^t \hat{H}(t') dt'])$ , where  $\mathcal{T}$  means time-ordering.

$$* \text{ Time-ordering for bosonic } \hat{A} \text{ \& } \hat{B}, \mathcal{T}[\hat{A}(t)\hat{B}(t')] = \begin{cases} \hat{A}(t)\hat{B}(t'), & t > t', \\ \hat{B}(t')\hat{A}(t), & t' > t. \end{cases}$$

– This is equivalent to the **Dyson series**,

$$\hat{U}(t, t_0) = \mathbb{1} + \frac{-i}{\hbar} \int_{t_1=t_0}^t \hat{H}(t_1) dt_1 + (\frac{-i}{\hbar})^2 \int_{t_2=t_0}^t \int_{t_1=t_0}^{t_2} \hat{H}(t_2)\hat{H}(t_1) dt_2 dt_1 + \dots$$

- Stationary states: eigenstates of  $\hat{H}$ ,  $|\hat{H} = E, t\rangle = e^{-iE(t-t_0)}|\hat{H} = E, t_0\rangle$ .

Expectation value of any operator does not change over time (stationary).

Density matrix does not change over time.

- This is the **Schrödinger picture** (subscript <sub>S</sub> hereafter):  
time evolution is implemented on the states.

### C. The Heisenberg picture

- The **Heisenberg picture** (subscript <sub>H</sub> hereafter):

time evolution is encoded in operators, while the states have no evolution.

- Consider the time evolution of matrix elements of an operator  $\hat{O}_S$ :

$$\langle \phi, t | \hat{O}_S | \psi, t \rangle = \langle \phi, t_0 = 0 | \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \hat{O}_S \hat{U}(t) | \psi, t_0 = 0 \rangle.$$

- Define the time-dependent operator  $\hat{O}_H(t)$  in the Heisenberg picture:

$$\text{(IMPORTANT)} \quad \hat{O}_H(t) = \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \hat{O}_S \hat{U}(t).$$

The time-dependent matrix element is simply  $\langle \phi | \hat{O}_H(t) | \psi \rangle$ ,

where the states  $\phi$  &  $\psi$  do not evolve over time in Heisenberg picture.

- The Heisenberg **equation of motion**:  $\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{O}_H(t) = i [\hat{H}_H(t), \hat{O}_H(t)]$ .

NOTE: the Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}_H(t)$  here is also in the Heisenberg picture,  $\hat{H}_H(t) = i\hbar \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}(t) = \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \hat{H}_S(t) \hat{U}(t)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{– Proof: use } \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}(t) &= -i \hat{U}(t) \cdot i\hbar \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}(t) = -i \hat{U}(t) \cdot \hat{H}_H(t), \text{ and} \\ \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}^\dagger(t) &= \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \cdot \hat{U}(t) \hat{U}^\dagger(t) = -\hbar \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}(t) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t) = i \hat{H}_H(t) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{O}_H(t) &= \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \cdot \hat{O}_S \cdot \hat{U}(t) + \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \cdot \hat{O}_S \cdot \hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{U}(t) \\ &= i \hat{H}_H(t) \cdot \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \cdot \hat{O}_S \cdot \hat{U}(t) - i \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \cdot \hat{O}_S \cdot \hat{U}(t) \cdot \hat{H}_H(t) = i [\hat{H}_H(t), \hat{O}_H(t)]. \end{aligned}$$

– If  $\hat{H}_S(t)$  is independent of time, then  $\hat{H}$  commutes with  $\hat{U}(t)$ , and  $\hat{H}_H = \hat{H}_S$ .

### D. Some Applications

- The Schrödinger picture: quantum Liouville equation,  
time evolution of density matrix:  $\mathrm{i}\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \hat{\rho}(t) = [\hat{H}_S(t), \hat{\rho}(t)]$ .
- Consider time-independent  $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V(\hat{x})$ .
  - The Schrödinger picture: continuity equation,  $\frac{d}{dt}[\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)] + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0$ ,  
where the probability density  $\rho(\mathbf{x}, t) = \psi^*(\mathbf{x}, t)\psi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \langle x | \hat{\rho}(t) | x \rangle$ ,  
probability current  $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathrm{Re}[\psi^*(\mathbf{x}, t) \frac{-\mathrm{i}\hbar \partial}{m} \psi(\mathbf{x}, t)]$ .
  - The Heisenberg picture: Ehrenfest theorem:  
the equation of motion of position  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  and momentum  $\hat{\mathbf{p}}$  are (subscript  $H$  omitted)  
 $\frac{d}{dt} \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \frac{\mathrm{i}}{\hbar} [\hat{H}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t)] = \hat{\mathbf{p}}/m$ ,  
 $\frac{d}{dt} \hat{\mathbf{p}}(t) = \frac{\mathrm{i}}{\hbar} [\hat{H}, \hat{\mathbf{p}}(t)] = \mathrm{i}[V(\hat{\mathbf{x}}), \hat{\mathbf{p}}] = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} V(\mathbf{x})$ .  
Combine them,  $m \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \hat{\mathbf{x}}(t) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} V(\mathbf{x})$ , or equivalently,  $m \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \langle \hat{\mathbf{x}} \rangle = -\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} V(\mathbf{x}) \rangle$ ,  
which looks like the classical equation of motion.
- 1D harmonic oscillator: time-independent  $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2}{2} \hat{x}^2 = \hbar\omega(\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + 1/2)$ ,  
where  $\hat{a} = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}}(\hat{x} + \frac{\mathrm{i}\hat{p}}{m\omega})$ ,  $[\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] = 1$ .  $\hat{x} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}}(\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger)$ ,  $\hat{p} = -\mathrm{i}\sqrt{\frac{m\omega\hbar}{2}}(\hat{a} - \hat{a}^\dagger)$ .  
Normalized ground state  $|0\rangle$  ( $\hat{a}|0\rangle = 0$ ), and excited states  $|n\rangle \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}}(\hat{a}^\dagger)^n|0\rangle$ , energy  
eigenvalues  $E_n = \hbar\omega \cdot (n + \frac{1}{2})$ .
  - Equation of motion:  $\frac{d}{dt} \hat{a}(t) = \frac{\mathrm{i}}{\hbar} [\hat{H}, \hat{a}(t)] = -\mathrm{i}\omega \hat{a}(t)$ . Then  
 $\hat{a}(t) = e^{-\mathrm{i}\omega t} \hat{a}(0)$ ,  $\hat{a}^\dagger(t) = e^{\mathrm{i}\omega t} \hat{a}^\dagger(0)$ .
  - Solution to the equation of motion of  $\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{p}$ : ellipse on  $\langle x \rangle$ - $\langle p \rangle$  plane,  
 $\hat{x}(t) = \cos(\omega t) \hat{x}(0) + \frac{1}{m\omega} \sin(\omega t) \hat{p}(0)$ ,  
 $\hat{p}(t) = -m\omega \sin(\omega t) \hat{x}(0) + \cos(\omega t) \hat{p}(0)$ .
  - Example:  $t = 0$  state is coherent state,  $|\psi(0)\rangle = e^{-|z|^2/2} e^{z\hat{a}^\dagger} |0\rangle$ , with  $\langle \hat{a}(0) \rangle = z$ .  
Then  $\langle \hat{x}(0) \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2\hbar}{m\omega}} \mathrm{Re}(z)$ ,  $\langle \hat{p}(0) \rangle = \sqrt{2\hbar m\omega} \mathrm{Im}(z)$ .  
The expectation value of  $\hat{x}$  at time  $t$  is  $\langle \hat{x}(t) \rangle = \cos(\omega t) \langle \hat{x}(0) \rangle + \frac{\sin(\omega t)}{m\omega} \langle \hat{p}(0) \rangle$   
 $= \sqrt{\frac{2\hbar}{m\omega}} \mathrm{Re}(ze^{-\mathrm{i}\omega t})$ . You do not need to solve  $|\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-\frac{\mathrm{i}}{\hbar} \hat{H} \cdot t} |\psi(0)\rangle$ .
  - The coherent state satisfies the minimal uncertainty relation for  $\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{p}$ :  
 $\langle \hat{x}^2 \rangle - (\langle \hat{x} \rangle)^2 = \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}$ ,  $\langle \hat{p}^2 \rangle - (\langle \hat{p} \rangle)^2 = \frac{\hbar m\omega}{2}$ , so  $\langle (\Delta \hat{x})^2 \rangle \langle (\Delta \hat{p})^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{4} = \frac{1}{4} |\langle [\hat{x}, \hat{p}] \rangle|^2$ .  
**Exercise:** check the proof of uncertainty relation to see why.

- Landau level: time-independent  $\hat{H} = \frac{1}{2m}\hat{\mathbf{P}}^2 = \frac{1}{2m}[\hat{\mathbf{p}} - q\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})]^2$ ,  
charge- $q$  particle in  $xy$ -plane under uniform magnetic field  $\mathbf{B} = B\mathbf{e}_z$  along  $z$  ( $B > 0$ ),  
 $\mathbf{r} = (x, y)$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{p}} = -i(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y})$ ,  $\mathbf{A}$  is vector potential with  $\nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}$  or  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}A_y - \frac{\partial}{\partial y}A_x = B$ .
  - Note:  $[\hat{r}_a, \hat{r}_b] = 0$ ,  $[\hat{r}_a, \hat{P}_b] = i\hbar\delta_{ab}$ ,  
 $[\hat{P}_a, \hat{P}_b] = [\hat{p}_a - qA_a, \hat{p}_b - qA_b] = i\hbar q(\partial_a A_b - \partial_b A_a) = i\hbar q \sum_c \epsilon_{abc} B_c$ .
  - Equation of motion:  $\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{i}{\hbar}[\hat{H}, \hat{\mathbf{r}}] = \frac{1}{m}\hat{\mathbf{P}}$ ,  
 $\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \frac{i}{\hbar}[\hat{H}, \hat{\mathbf{P}}] = \frac{q}{2m}(\hat{\mathbf{P}} \times \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{B} \times \hat{\mathbf{P}})$ , for uniform  $\mathbf{B}$ ,  $\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \frac{q}{m}\hat{\mathbf{P}} \times \mathbf{B}$ .  
 Combine these,  $m \frac{d^2}{dt^2}\hat{\mathbf{r}}(t) = \frac{d}{dt}\hat{\mathbf{r}}(t) \times q\mathbf{B}$ , Lorentz force & cyclotron motion.
  - Define  $\hat{b} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\hbar qB}}(\hat{P}_x + i\hat{P}_y)$ , then  $[\hat{b}, \hat{b}^\dagger] = 1$ , and  $\hat{H} = \hbar\omega_c(\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b} + 1/2)$ .  
 $\omega_c = qB/m$  is the cyclotron frequency, energy levels are  $E_n = \hbar\omega_c \cdot (n + 1/2)$  for non-negative integer  $n$ . **Exercise:** check these statements.
  - Guiding center coordinates:  $\hat{\mathbf{R}} = (\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) = \hat{\mathbf{r}} - \frac{\mathbf{e}_z}{qB} \times \hat{\mathbf{P}} = (\hat{x} + \frac{\hat{P}_y}{qB}, \hat{y} - \frac{\hat{P}_x}{qB})$ .  
 $\hat{\mathbf{R}}$  is conserved:  $\hbar \frac{d}{dt}\hat{\mathbf{R}}(t) = i[\hat{H}, \hat{\mathbf{R}}] = 0$ .  
 NOTE:  $[\hat{X}, \hat{Y}] = -\frac{i}{qB} \neq 0$ , indicates degeneracy of Landau level.  
**Exercise:**  $e^{i\hat{X}}$  commutes with  $\hat{H}$ , but changes eigenvalue of  $\hat{Y}$  by  $-1/qB$ .
- The adiabatic theorem: roughly speaking, if a system starts at (one of) the instantaneous ground state(s), and the Hamiltonian changes *slowly* with time, then the system will remain to be (one of) the instantaneous ground state(s) at later times.
  - Sketch of a proof (for non-degenerate case):  
 Denote the instantaneous eigenstates of  $\hat{H}_S(t)$  by  $|\psi_n(t)\rangle$ , and corresponding eigenvalues by  $E_n(t)$ , where  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , and  $E_0(t) < E_1(t) < E_2(t) < \dots$ .  
 Suppose  $|\psi, t\rangle$  satisfies  $i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}|\psi, t\rangle = \hat{H}_S(t)|\psi, t\rangle$ , and  $|\psi, t=0\rangle = |\psi_0(t=0)\rangle$ .  
 Expand  $|\psi, t\rangle$ ,  $|\psi, t\rangle = \sum_n c_n(t)e^{-i\theta_n(t)}|\psi_n(t)\rangle$ , where  $\theta_n(t) \equiv \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_0^t E_n(t)dt$ . The Schrödinger equation becomes differential equations for coefficients  $c_n(t)$ ,  
 $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}c_n(t) = -\sum_m \langle \psi_n(t) | (\frac{\partial}{\partial t}|\psi_m(t)\rangle) \cdot e^{i\theta_n(t)-i\theta_m(t)} \cdot c_m(t)$ , and  $c_0(t=0) = 1$ ,  $c_{n \neq 0}(t=0) = 0$ . Take  $t$ -derivative on  $\langle \psi_n(t) | \psi_m(t) \rangle = \delta_{mn}$  and  $\langle \psi_n(t) | \hat{H}_S(t) | \psi_m(t) \rangle = \delta_{mn}E_n(t)$ , we have  $\langle \psi_n(t) | (\frac{\partial}{\partial t}|\psi_m(t)\rangle) = \frac{1}{E_m(t)-E_n(t)} \cdot \langle \psi_n(t) | \frac{\partial \hat{H}_S(t)}{\partial t} | \psi_m(t) \rangle$  for  $m \neq n$ . So if the magnitude of  $\left[ \frac{1}{E_0(t)-E_n(t)} \cdot \langle \psi_n(t) | \frac{\partial \hat{H}_S(t)}{\partial t} | \psi_0(t) \rangle \cdot (\text{time duration}) \right]$  is small, the final  $c_{n \neq 0}(t)$  will be small, the system will approximately remain to be the instantaneous ground state (up to an overall phase).

## II. PROPAGATOR AND PATH INTEGRAL

### A. Brief Review of Gaussian Integrals

- One dimensional case:  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2/2a} dx = \sqrt{2\pi a}$ .

$$- \langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{\int x^2 e^{-x^2/2a} dx}{\int e^{-x^2/2a} dx} = a.$$

$$- \langle x^{2n} \rangle = \frac{\int x^{2n} e^{-x^2/2a} dx}{\int e^{-x^2/2a} dx} = a^n \cdot (2n-1)!!, \text{ satisfies the 'Wick expansion' } [(2n-1)!! = (2n-1)(2n-3)\cdots(1) \text{ ways of pairing up } xs].$$

$$- \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2/2a+yx} dx = \sqrt{2\pi a} \cdot e^{ay^2/2}.$$

- Higher dimensional Gaussian integral:  $\int \exp(-\frac{\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{A}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{x}}{2}) d^m \mathbf{x} = (2\pi)^{m/2} \sqrt{\det \mathbf{A}}$ , where  $\mathbf{x} = (x_i)$  is  $m$ -component real vector,  $\mathbf{A} = (A_{ij})$  is  $m \times m$  real symmetric positive-definite matrix, the integral is over all components of  $\mathbf{x}$  from  $-\infty$  to  $+\infty$ .

$$- \langle x_i x_j \rangle = \frac{\int x_i x_j \exp(-\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{A}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{x}/2) d^m \mathbf{x}}{\int \exp(-\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{A}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{x}/2) d^m \mathbf{x}} = A_{ij}.$$

$$- \text{'Wick expansion': all possible ways of pairing up } xs, \\ \text{example, } \langle x_i x_j x_k x_\ell \rangle = A_{ij} A_{k\ell} + A_{ik} A_{j\ell} + A_{il} A_{jk}.$$

$$- \int \exp(-\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{A}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{x}/2 + \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{x}) d^m \mathbf{x} = (2\pi)^{m/2} \sqrt{\det \mathbf{A}} \cdot \exp(\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{y}/2).$$

- Complex Gaussian integral:  $\int e^{-z^* z/a} d^2 z = \pi a$ ,

where  $d^2 z = d\text{Re}z d\text{Im}z$ , and the integral is over  $\text{Re}z$  and  $\text{Im}z$  from  $-\infty$  to  $+\infty$ .

$$- \langle z z^* \rangle = \frac{\int z z^* e^{-z^* z/a} d^2 z}{\int e^{-z^* z/a} d^2 z} = a.$$

$$- \langle z^n (z^*)^m \rangle = 0 \text{ if } n \neq m. \text{ Consider } z \rightarrow e^{i\theta} z.$$

$$- \langle z^n (z^*)^n \rangle = a^n \cdot n! \text{ ('Wick expansion': } n! \text{ ways of pairing up } z^* \text{ and } z).$$

$$- \int e^{-z^* z/a + y^* z + z^* y} d^2 z = \pi a e^{ay^* y}.$$

- Higher dimensional complex Gaussian integral:  $\int \exp(-z^* \cdot \mathbf{A}^{-1} \cdot z) d^{2m} z = \pi^m \det(\mathbf{A})$ , where  $z = (z_i)$  is  $m$ -component complex vector,  $\mathbf{A} = (A_{ij})$  is a  $m \times m$  Hermitian positive-definite matrix.

$$- \langle z_i z_j^* \rangle = A_{ij}.$$

$$- \text{Non-vanishing 'correlators' must contain the same number of } z^* \text{ and } z.$$

- ‘Wick expansion’: all possible ways of pairing up  $z^*$  and  $z$ ,  
example,  $\langle z_i z_j z_k^* z_\ell^* \rangle = A_{ik} A_{j\ell} + A_{i\ell} A_{jk}$ .
- $\int \exp(-\mathbf{z}^* \cdot \mathbf{A}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{y}^* \cdot \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{z}^* \cdot \mathbf{y}) d^{2m} \mathbf{z} = \pi^m \det(\mathbf{A}) \exp(\mathbf{y}^* \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{y})$ .

## B. Propagator

- The propagator is the time-evolution operator represented in coordinate basis:  
 $K(x', t; x, t_0) = \langle x' | \hat{U}(t, t_0) | x \rangle$ , then  $K(x', t; x, t) = \delta(x' - x)$ .
  - By definition,  $\psi(x', t) = \int K(x', t; x, t_0) \psi(x, t_0) dx$ .
  - It is the *transition probability amplitude* for the particle (the system) to start at  $x$  at time  $t_0$  and end up at  $x'$  at time  $t$ .
- Customarily, when  $t < t_0$ ,  $K(x', t; x, t_0) \equiv 0$ , then  $K$  is the Green’s function satisfying  $[H' - i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}]K(x', t; x, t_0) = -i\hbar \delta(x' - x) \delta(t - t_0)$ , where  $H'$  is the Hamiltonian acting on  $x'$ .
- For time-independent  $\hat{H}$  with energy eigenstates  $|E\rangle$ ,  
 $K(x', t; x, t_0) = \sum_E e^{-iE(t-t_0)/\hbar} \langle x' | E \rangle \langle E | x \rangle$ , for  $t > t_0$ .
  - For  $\hat{H} = \frac{p^2}{2m}$ ,  
 $K(x', t; x, t_0) = \int \frac{dp}{h} e^{-\frac{i}{h} \frac{p^2}{2m} (t-t_0)} \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{\frac{i}{h} p(x'-x)} = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi\hbar(t-t_0)i}} \exp\left[\frac{im(x'-x)^2}{2\hbar(t-t_0)}\right]$ .  
**Exercise:** draw qualitatively the shape of real/imaginary part of  $K$ .
- Trace of time-evolution operator  $G(t, t_0) = \text{Tr}[\hat{U}(t, t_0)] = \int K(x, t; x, t_0) dx$ .  
For time-independent  $\hat{H}$  with eigenvalues  $E_i$ ,  $G(t) = \sum_i \exp[-iE_i t/\hbar]$ , for  $t > 0$ , similar to finite temperature partition function (with  $\beta$  replaced by  $it/\hbar$ ).

### 1. Brief Notes on Causal Functions

- The propagator and  $G(t)$  are “causal functions”: nonzero only for *later* ( $t > 0$ ) times.
- You especially experimentalists will frequently encounter/measure such functions (response functions): perturb the system and measure the response at *later* times.

- Consider the Fourier transform  $\tilde{G}(\omega) = -i \int G(t) e^{i\omega t} dt$ .

Because  $G(t < 0) = 0$ ,  $\tilde{G}(\omega' + i\omega'')$  is non-singular (analytic) for  $\omega'' > 0$  for all real  $\omega'$ , and tends to zero fast enough at infinity with  $\omega'' > 0$ .

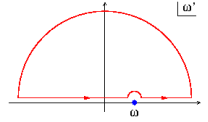
- Kramer-Kronig relation** (Hilbert transform): for such functions  $\tilde{G}(\omega)$ ,

$$\text{Re}\tilde{G}(\omega) = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{P} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\text{Im}\tilde{G}(\omega')}{\omega' - \omega} d\omega', \quad \text{Im}\tilde{G}(\omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \text{P} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\text{Re}\tilde{G}(\omega')}{\omega' - \omega} d\omega'.$$

$$\text{Or equivalently, } i\pi \tilde{G}(\omega) = \text{P} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\tilde{G}(\omega')}{\omega' - \omega} d\omega'.$$

Here P means Cauchy principal value.

For a proof, consider the integral of  $\frac{\tilde{G}(\omega')}{\omega' - \omega}$  over  $\omega'$  contour on the right.



- Measurements usually observe the imaginary part (dissipation, absorption, *etc.*) of the response functions. Kramer-Kronig can be used to get the real part.

- Example:  $G(t > 0) = e^{-iEt}$ , then  $\tilde{G}(\omega) = \frac{1}{\omega - E} - i\pi \delta(\omega - E)$ .

The imaginary part (poles) can be used to identify the energy spectrum.

### C. Reminder about Classical Mechanics

- The *Lagrangian* for dynamical system is  $L(q, \dot{q}) = T - V$  (kinetic - potential energy), which is a function of generalized coordinate  $q$  and generalized velocity  $\dot{q} = \frac{d}{dt}q$ .
- Dynamics follows **the principle of least action**: classical trajectory ‘minimizes’ the *action*,  $S = \int L(q, \dot{q}) dt$ , among all trajectories with the same boundary condition.
- Euler-Lagrange equation:  $\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = 0$ , from  $\delta S = 0$ .
- The *Hamiltonian* is  $H(p, q) = p\dot{q} - L(q, \dot{q})$ , the Legendre transformation of Lagrangian, where the generalized momentum  $p = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}}$ , and  $\dot{q}$  should be solved in terms of  $p$  and  $q$ .
- The Hamilton’s equation:  $\dot{p} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q}$  and  $\dot{q} = +\frac{\partial H}{\partial p}$ .
- Poisson bracket:  $\{A, B\} = \frac{\partial A}{\partial q} \frac{\partial B}{\partial p} - \frac{\partial A}{\partial p} \frac{\partial B}{\partial q}$ .  
Corresponds to quantum commutator  $-\frac{i}{\hbar} [\hat{A}, \hat{B}]$  of corresponding observables.
- Equation of motion:  $\frac{d}{dt} A(p, q) = -\{H, A\}$ .  
Corresponds to the Heisenberg equation of motion,  $\frac{d}{dt} \hat{A}(t) = \frac{i}{\hbar} [\hat{H}, \hat{A}]$ .

- Hamilton's principal function:  $S(q_f, t_f; q_i, t_i) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} L(q, \dot{q}) dt$ , with  $q(t_i) = q_i$  &  $q(t_f) = q_f$ , integrated over a classical trajectory.  $\frac{\partial S}{\partial q_f} = p(t = t_f)$ ,  $\frac{\partial S}{\partial t_f} = -H(t = t_f)$ .
- Hamilton-Jacobi equation:  $\frac{\partial S}{\partial t_f} + H(\frac{\partial S}{\partial q_f}, q_f) = 0$ .

#### D. Path Integral in Quantum Mechanics

- The goal: try to describe the quantum dynamics from a 'classical' point of view, as particle moving in coordinate space (or coordinate-momentum phase space). Then quantum interference between paths must be considered.

- Path integral version #1:

$$K(x', x, t) = \int \mathcal{D}[x(\tau)] \exp\left[\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t L(x(\tau), \dot{x}(\tau)) d\tau\right] = \int \mathcal{D}[x] \exp\left[\frac{i}{\hbar} S\right].$$

–  $\int \mathcal{D}[x(\tau)]$ : *functional integral* over all *path*  $x(\tau)$  with  $x(0) = x$  and  $x(t) = x'$ .

The measure of paths is very difficult to define.

–  $L(x, \dot{x})$ : the Lagrangian.

$\dot{x} = \frac{d}{d\tau}x$ : the 'velocity' on the path  $x(\tau)$ .

$S$ : the action of path  $x(\tau)$ ,  $S[x(\tau)] \equiv \int_0^t L(x(\tau), \dot{x}(\tau)) d\tau$ .

- Path integral version #2:

$$K(x', x, t) = \int \mathcal{D}[x(\tau)] \mathcal{D}[p(\tau)] \exp\left[\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t [p\dot{x} - H(p, x)] d\tau\right].$$

–  $\int \mathcal{D}[p(\tau)]$ : integral over all path in momentum space, with proper measure.

Path of  $p$  has no boundary condition.

–  $H(p, x)$ : classical Hamiltonian.

- An example: time-independent  $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V(x)$ . Propagator  $K(x', x, t) = \langle x' | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} t \hat{H}} | x \rangle$ .

– Divide this propagation over time  $t$  into  $N$  steps, each of time  $\epsilon = t/N$ ,

$$K(x', x, t) = \langle x' | (e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}})^N | x \rangle, \text{ insert } N - 1 \text{ resolution of identities. } K(x', x, t) = \int dx_{N-1} \cdots \int dx_2 \int dx_1 \langle x' | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}} | x_{N-1} \rangle \cdots \langle x_2 | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}} | x_1 \rangle \langle x_1 | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}} | x \rangle.$$

– Approximation (Trotter-Suzuki):  $e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}} = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m}} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon V(x)} + O(\epsilon^2)$ .

$$\langle x_{i+1} | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}} | x_i \rangle \approx \langle x_{i+1} | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m}} | x_i \rangle e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon V(x_i)} = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi\hbar\epsilon i}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon [\frac{m}{2} (\frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{\epsilon})^2 - V(x_i)]}.$$

$$- K(x', x, t) \approx \int dx_{N-1} \cdots dx_1 \left( \frac{m}{2\pi\hbar\epsilon i} \right)^{\frac{N}{2}} \exp\left( \frac{i}{\hbar} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \epsilon \left[ \frac{m}{2} \left( \frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{\epsilon} \right)^2 - V(x_i) \right] \right),$$

where  $x_0 = x$  &  $x_N = x'$ . The integral is over the discretized path

$$x_0(\tau = 0) = x, x_1(\tau = \epsilon), \dots, x_N(\tau = N\epsilon = t) = x'.$$

$$\begin{aligned} - \text{Take } N \rightarrow \infty (\epsilon \rightarrow 0) \text{ limit, sum in the exponent } (\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \epsilon) \text{ becomes integral} \\ \int_0^t d\tau, \text{ then } K(x', x, t) = \int \mathcal{D}[x(\tau)] \exp\left( \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t \left[ \frac{m\dot{x}^2}{2} - V(x) \right] d\tau \right) \\ = \int \mathcal{D}[x(\tau)] \exp\left( \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t L(x, \dot{x}) d\tau \right). \end{aligned}$$

\* NOTE: there is an ugly normalization factor  $\left( \frac{m}{2\pi\hbar\epsilon i} \right)^{\frac{N}{2}}$  hidden in  $\mathcal{D}[x(\tau)]$ .

- The example again:  $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V(x) = T(\hat{p}) + V(x)$ .

$$K(x', x, t) = \langle x' | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} t \hat{H}} | x \rangle = \langle x' | (e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}})^N | x \rangle.$$

$$- \text{Trotter-Suzuki: } e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}} = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon T(\hat{p})} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon V(x)} + O(\epsilon^2).$$

- Insert  $N - 1$  resolution of identity in terms of  $x$  eigenstates,  
and  $N$  resolution of identity in terms of  $\hat{p}$  eigenstates,

$$\begin{aligned} K(x', x, t) &= \int \hbar^{-N} dp_{N-1} \cdots dp_0 dx_{N-1} \cdots dx_1 \\ &\quad \times \langle x_N | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon T(\hat{p})} | p_{N-1} \rangle \langle p_{N-1} | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon V(x)} | x_{N-1} \rangle \cdots \langle x_1 | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon T(\hat{p})} | p_0 \rangle \langle p_0 | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon V(x)} | x_0 \rangle \\ &= \int \hbar^{-N} dp_{N-1} \cdots dp_0 dx_{N-1} \cdots dx_1 \exp\left\{ -\frac{i}{\hbar} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \epsilon [T(p_i) + V(x_i)] \right\} \\ &\quad \times \langle x_N | p_{N-1} \rangle \langle p_{N-1} | x_{N-1} \rangle \cdots \langle x_1 | p_0 \rangle \langle p_0 | x_0 \rangle \\ &= \int \hbar^{-N} dp_{N-1} \cdots dp_0 dx_{N-1} \cdots dx_1 (2\pi)^{-N} \\ &\quad \times \exp\left\{ \frac{i}{\hbar} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \epsilon \left[ p_i \left( \frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{\epsilon} \right) - T(p_i) - V(x_i) \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$- \text{In the } N \rightarrow \infty \text{ limit, } K(x', x, t) = \int \mathcal{D}[x] \mathcal{D}[p] \exp\left( \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t [p\dot{x} - H(p, x)] d\tau \right).$$

\* The measure of paths  $\mathcal{D}[x] \mathcal{D}[p]$  contains the  $(2\pi\hbar)^{-N}$  normalization factor.

- If the Hamiltonian contains terms like  $\hat{p}\hat{x}$  or  $\hat{x}\hat{p}$ , special care is needed.

See *e.g.* Peskin&Schroeder, Section 9.1.

## E. Equivalence of Path Integral to the Schrödinger Equation

- The example:  $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V(x)$ .
- Consider  $K(x', x, t + \epsilon)$ , add one last step ( $x_{N+1} = x'$ ) to the path integral.

$$\begin{aligned} K(x', x, t + \epsilon) &= \int dx_N \langle x' | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}} | x_N \rangle K(x_N, x, t) \\ &\approx \int dx_N \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi\hbar\epsilon i}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \left[ \frac{m}{2} \left( \frac{x' - x_N}{\epsilon} \right)^2 - V(x_N) \right]} K(x_N, x, t). \end{aligned}$$



- Expand  $K(x_N, x, t)$  around  $x_N \sim x'$ ,  $K(x', x, t + \epsilon)$   

$$\approx \int dx_N \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi\hbar\epsilon i}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}\epsilon [\frac{m}{2}(\frac{x'-x_N}{\epsilon})^2 - V(x_N)]} \left[ 1 + (x_N - x') \frac{\partial}{\partial x'} + \frac{(x_N - x')^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x'^2} + \dots \right] K(x', x, t).$$
- Do the Gaussian integral, keep terms up to  $O(\epsilon)$ ,  

$$K(x', x, t + \epsilon) \approx [1 + \frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{\epsilon}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x'^2} - \frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon V(x') + O(\epsilon^2)] K(x', x, t).$$
- Finally, taking limit of  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ ,  

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} K(x', x, t) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} [-\frac{1}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x'^2} + V(x')] K(x', x, t) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}' K(x', x, t),$$
 which is the Schrödinger equation for propagator.

### F. Stationary Phase Approximation

- For  $\int e^{ik f(x)} dx$  with large  $k$ , most contribution comes from  $x_s$  where  $f$  is ‘stationary’ [ $f'(x_s) = 0$ ], where the integrand has no rapid oscillation. Expand  $f$  around  $x_s$ ,  $f(x) \approx f(x_s) + \frac{1}{2} f''(x_s) (x - x_s)^2$ , do the Gaussian integral, sum over all stationary  $x_s$ ,  

$$\int e^{ik f(x)} dx \approx \sum_{x_s} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi i}{k f''(x_s)}} e^{ik f(x_s)}.$$
- For  $n$ -dimensional integral,  $\int e^{ik f(\mathbf{x})} d^n \mathbf{x}$ , where  $\mathbf{x} = (x_i)$  is  $n$ -component vector, expand  $f$  around stationary point  $\mathbf{x}_s$ ,  $f(\mathbf{x}) \approx f(\mathbf{x}_s) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 f(\mathbf{x}_s)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_s)_i (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_s)_j$ , do the Gaussian integral, sum over all stationary points  $\mathbf{x}_s$ ,  

$$\int e^{ik f(\mathbf{x})} d^n \mathbf{x} \approx \sum_{\mathbf{x}_s} \left( \frac{2\pi i}{k} \right)^{n/2} \left( \det \frac{\partial^2 f(\mathbf{x}_s)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \right)^{-1/2} e^{ik f(\mathbf{x}_s)}.$$
- In path integral formulation of quantum mechanics, the large number  $k$  is  $1/\hbar$ .  
 The stationary phase approximation is the semi-classical approximation ( $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ ).
  - The stationary phase condition for  $\int \mathcal{D}[x] e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S}$  is  

$$\frac{\delta S}{\delta x} = 0$$
, or the classical equation of motion (Euler-Lagrange equation).
  - (Not required) van Vleck formula: (see *e.g.* Prof. Littlejohn’s lecture notes #9)  

$$K(x', x, t) = \int \mathcal{D}[x] e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S} \approx \sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar i}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial x' \partial x} \right)^{1/2} \exp\left[\frac{i}{\hbar} S(x', x, t)\right],$$
 the sum is over all classical trajectories from  $x$  to  $x'$  in time  $t$ .

## III. GEOMETRIC PHASE

- Consider an adiabatic periodic evolution of a Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}(t)$  with  $\hat{H}(T) = \hat{H}(0)$ .  
 Suppose the Hamiltonian always has a unique ground state  $|E_0(t)\rangle$  of energy  $E_0(t)$ .

After the periodic evolution, what is the phase acquired by the ground state?

- The phase factor is  $\langle E_0(0) | \hat{U}(T) | E_0(0) \rangle$ , where  $U(T) = \mathcal{T}(\exp[-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t'=0}^T \hat{H}(t') dt'])$ .
  - Note that  $|E_0(t)\rangle$  is not a “trajectory” of time evolution,  $t$  here is just a parameter of these states.  $\hat{U}(t) | E_0(0) \rangle$  is not *exactly*  $|E_0(t)\rangle$ , but by the adiabatic theorem they will only differ by a complex phase.
- Divide  $T$  into  $N$  intervals of  $\epsilon = T/N$ , define  $t_n = n\epsilon$ . Then up to  $O(\epsilon^2)$  error,  $\langle E_0(0) | \hat{U}(T) | E_0(0) \rangle \approx \langle E_0(0) | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}(t_{N-1})} | E_0(t_{N-1}) \rangle \cdots \langle E_0(t_1) | e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \hat{H}(t_0)} | E_0(0) \rangle \approx e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} E(t_i)} \langle E_0(0) | E_0(t_{N-1}) \rangle \cdots \langle E_0(t_1) | E_0(0) \rangle$ .
- With  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  ( $N \rightarrow \infty$ ) limit, the first factor becomes  $e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^T E(t) dt}$ , which is the expected *dynamic* phase acquired from time-evolution.
- The second factor is  $\langle E_0(0) | E_0(t_{N-1}) \rangle \cdots \langle E_0(t_n) | E_0(t_{n-1}) \rangle \cdots \langle E_0(t_1) | E_0(0) \rangle$ .  
 IF  $|E_0(0)\rangle = |E_0(t_N = T)\rangle$ , this is  $\prod_{n=1}^N \langle E_0(t_n) | E_0(t_{n-1}) \rangle \approx \prod_{n=1}^N [1 - \epsilon \langle E_0(t_n) | (\frac{\partial}{\partial t_n} | E_0(t_n) \rangle)] \approx \exp[\sum_{n=1}^N \epsilon i A_t(t_n)] \approx \exp[i \int_0^T A_t(\tau) d\tau]$ ,  
 where  $A_t(t) = i \langle E_0(t) | (\frac{\partial}{\partial t} | E_0(t) \rangle)$ .
- The Berry’s phase:  $\int A_t(t) dt$ , where  $t$  parametrizes a *periodic* evolution  $|\psi(t)\rangle$ , the Berry connection (with respect to  $t$ ) is  $A_t = i \langle \psi(t) | (\frac{\partial}{\partial t} | \psi(t) \rangle)$ .
  - Periodicity requirement:  $\psi(t_{\text{final}}) = \psi(t_{\text{initial}})$ .  
 Otherwise  $\int A_t(t) dt$  is not the total Berry’s phase accumulated.
  - Here  $t$  is just a parameter describing the path in the Hilbert space.  
 $|\psi(t)\rangle$  is not a “trajectory” of time-evolution,  $|\psi(t)\rangle$  is not *exactly*  $\hat{U}(t, t_{\text{initial}}) |\psi(t_{\text{initial}})\rangle$ .
- NOTE: The Berry’s phase does not depend on the speed of evolution, it only depends on the closed path (geometry) in Hilbert space.
  - Consider another evolution parametrized by  $u = f(t)$ , then  
 $A_u = i \langle \psi | (\frac{\partial}{\partial u} | \psi \rangle) = (f')^{-1} \cdot i \langle \psi | (\frac{\partial}{\partial t} | \psi \rangle) = (f')^{-1} A_t$ ,  
 the Berry’s phase  $\int A_u(u) du = \int (f')^{-1} A_t \cdot f' dt = \int A_t dt$ .
- The Berry’s phase does not depend on  $\hbar$ .

- ‘Gauge transformation’ of the Berry connection:

add ( $t$ -dependent) complex phases to the wavefunctions  $|\psi(t)\rangle \rightarrow e^{i\theta(t)}|\psi(t)\rangle$ ,

note that  $\theta(T) - \theta(0) \equiv 0 \pmod{2\pi}$  for periodicity.

- The Berry connection becomes,

$$A_t \rightarrow i \langle \psi(t) | e^{-i\theta(t)} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (e^{i\theta(t)} |\psi(t)\rangle) = A_t - \frac{d\theta}{dt}.$$

- The Berry’s phase becomes  $\int A_t dt \rightarrow \int A_t dt - \int \frac{d\theta}{dt} dt = \int A_t dt - [\theta(T) - \theta(0)] = \int A_t dt \pmod{2\pi}$ .

- Example: spin-1/2 under a Zeeman field rotating in  $xy$ -plane.

- $\hat{H}(\phi) = -(g\mu_B B/2)(\cos \phi \cdot \sigma_x + \sin \phi \cdot \sigma_y) = -(g\mu_B B/2) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{-i\phi} \\ e^{i\phi} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$

- The ground state is  $(\sqrt{1/2}, \sqrt{1/2}e^{i\phi})^T$ , periodic with  $\phi$  from 0 to  $2\pi$ .

- The Berry connection  $A_\phi = i(\sqrt{1/2}, \sqrt{1/2}e^{-i\phi}) \cdot (0, i\sqrt{1/2}e^{i\phi})^T = -(1/2)$ .

- The Berry’s phase is  $\int_0^{2\pi} A_\phi d\phi = \pi$ .

The state acquires an additional minus sign after this periodic evolution.

- Another choice of eigenvector  $(\sqrt{1/2}e^{-i\phi/2}, \sqrt{1/2}e^{i\phi/2})^T$  is not good for computing Berry’s phase (not explicitly periodic for  $\phi$  from 0 to  $2\pi$ ).

#### IV. GAUGE INVARIANCE AND ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD

- Consider non-relativistic particle described by normalized wavefunction  $\psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$ .

- The Schrödinger equation is  $[\frac{-\hbar^2}{2m}\partial_{\mathbf{r}}^2 + V(\mathbf{r})]\psi = i\hbar\partial_t\psi$ .

- The probability density is  $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t) = |\psi|^2$ .

- The probability current density is  $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \text{Re}[\psi^* \frac{\hat{\mathbf{p}}}{m}\psi] = -i\frac{\hbar}{2m}(\psi^* \partial_{\mathbf{r}}\psi - \psi \partial_{\mathbf{r}}\psi^*)$ .

- The continuity equation for probability is  $\frac{d}{dt}[\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)] + \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0$

- Adding a global phase factor  $\psi \rightarrow e^{i\theta}\psi$  with real  $\theta$  independent of  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $t$  will not change the above results.

- If  $\theta$  depends on  $\mathbf{r}, t$ , then  $\partial_t \psi \rightarrow e^{i\theta} \partial_t \psi + (i\partial_t \theta) e^{i\theta} \psi$ ,  $\partial_{\mathbf{r}} \psi \rightarrow e^{i\theta} \partial_{\mathbf{r}} \psi + (i\partial_{\mathbf{r}} \theta) e^{i\theta} \psi$ ,  $\rho \rightarrow \rho$ ,  $\mathbf{J} \rightarrow \mathbf{J} + \frac{\hbar}{m}(\partial_{\mathbf{r}} \theta) \rho$ . It seems that the Schrödinger equation is not preserved, the probability current density changes, and the continuity equation is violated.
- To make the theory formally “gauge invariant” under arbitrary  $\psi \rightarrow e^{i\theta} \psi$ , we need to absorb the  $\partial_t \theta$  and  $\partial_{\mathbf{r}} \theta$  terms into the transformation of a “gauge field”.
  - Define a 4-component space-time-dependent real-valued “gauge field”  $(a_0, \mathbf{a})$ . Define the canonical momentum  $\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \hat{\mathbf{p}} - \hbar \mathbf{a}$ .
  - Demand the gauge transform to be:  $\psi \rightarrow e^{i\theta} \psi$ ,  $\mathbf{a} \rightarrow \mathbf{a} + \partial_{\mathbf{r}} \theta$ ,  $a_0 \rightarrow a_0 + \partial_t \theta$ . Then it is easy to see that  $\hat{\mathbf{P}} \psi \rightarrow e^{i\theta} \hat{\mathbf{P}} \psi$ .
  - Modify the Schrödinger equation as  $[\frac{\hat{\mathbf{P}}^2}{2m} + V(\mathbf{r})] \psi = \hbar(i\partial_t + a_0) \psi$ . This will be invariant under the above gauge transformation.
  - Modify the definition of probability current density as  $\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \text{Re}[\psi^* \frac{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}{m} \psi] = -i\frac{\hbar}{2m}(\psi^* \partial_{\mathbf{r}} \psi - \psi \partial_{\mathbf{r}} \psi^*) - \frac{\hbar}{m} \mathbf{a} \rho$ . This is invariant under the gauge transformation. So continuity equation is preserved.
- For particle with electric charge  $q$ , the above “gauge field” is the electromagnetic 4-potential,  $(a_0, \mathbf{a}) = \frac{q}{\hbar}(-\phi, \mathbf{A})$ , (under SI units), where  $\phi$  is the electrostatic potential (electric field  $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla \phi - \partial_t \mathbf{A}$ ),  $\mathbf{A}$  is the vector potential (magnetic field  $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$ ). The gauge transformation of wavefunction is related to the gauge transformation of electromagnetic 4-potential.

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# Summary of Lecture #4: symmetry in quantum mechanics

## Goals and Requirements:

- Get a clear picture of the role of symmetry in quantum mechanics.
  - Generators of continuous symmetry group are conserved observables.
  - For a Hamiltonian with certain symmetry, the degenerate energy levels(states) form a *linear representation* of the symmetry group.
  - Symmetry group elements are represented by (anti-)unitary operators.
- Be familiarized with the analysis of symmetry of a system, and its application in *conservation laws & selection rules*.
  - Be familiarized with certain discrete symmetries of condensed matter systems: discrete translations, point groups.
- NOTE: natural unit  $\hbar = 1$ , and the Einstein convention of implicit summation of repeated indices, are sometimes used.
- Optional references:
  - J.J. Sakurai, *Modern Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter 4.
  - L.D. Landau, E.M. Lifschitz, *Quantum Mechanics: Non-relativistic Theory*, Chapter XII.
  - Reference for space group:  
*International Tables for Crystallography*, Volume A, Springer, 2005.

## I. BASICS OF GROUP THEORY

### A. Defining a Group

- Group: a set  $G$  with a binary multiplication  $\circ : G \times G \mapsto G$  defined, satisfying,
  - Associativity:  $f \circ (g \circ h) = (f \circ g) \circ h$ . The  $\circ$  will be omitted hereafter.
  - Existence of identity: there is a (unique)  $\mathbf{1} \in G$  so that(s.t.)  $\mathbf{1} g = g \mathbf{1} = g$ .
  - Existence of inverse: for any  $g \in G$ , there is a  $g^{-1} \in G$  s.t.  $g^{-1} g = g g^{-1} = \mathbf{1}$ .

- Group multiplication table: all results of the binary multiplication  $\circ$ .

NOTE: need to check if this table satisfies the above defining properties.

	$h$	
$\cdot$	$h$	$\cdot$
$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$
$g \cdot$	$gh$	$\cdot$
$\cdot$	$\cdot$	$\cdot$

- Free presentation of group:  $\{\text{generators} \mid \text{defining relations}\}$ , *roughly*

it is all sequences of generators (free group) “modulo” the defining relations.

- Free group:  $\sim$  all sequences of generators (& their inverses), group multiplication is just concatenation of sequences. It is usually non-Abelian.

\* Example: the free group generated by  $x, y$  contains  $\{\mathbf{1}, x, y, x^{-1}, y^{-1}, x^2 \equiv xx, xy, xy^{-1}, x^{-2} \equiv x^{-1}x^{-1}, x^{-1}y, x^{-1}y^{-1}, yx, y^2, yx^{-1}, \dots\}$ , and  $x \circ y = xy$ ,  $y \circ x = yx, \dots, yx \circ x^{-1}y = yxx^{-1}y = yy \equiv y^2, \dots$

- Example: the cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ :  $\{x \mid x^3 = \mathbf{1}\}$  means all  $x^{(n \bmod 3)}$ , or  $\{\mathbf{1}, x, x^2\}$ .
- Example: 2D dihedral group  $D_n$ ,  $\{C_n, \sigma \mid C_n^n = \sigma^2 = (C_n\sigma)^2 = \mathbf{1}\}$ ,

it is the symmetry of the regular  $n$ -sided polygon in 2D space,

the last relation is  $C_n^{-1}\sigma = \sigma C_n$ , by this all sequence  $C_n^{p_1}\sigma^{q_1}C_n^{p_2}\dots$

can be converted to  $C_n^p\sigma^q$ , then by the first two relations,

the  $2n$  elements are  $C_n^{(p \bmod n)}\sigma^{(q \bmod 2)}$ :

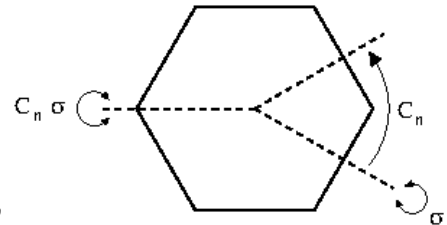
$\{\mathbf{1}, C_n, C_n^2, \dots, C_n^{n-1}, \sigma, C_n\sigma, \dots, C_n^{n-1}\sigma\}$ ,

multiplication rule is

$$C_n^m \cdot C_n^{m'} = C_n^{m+m'}, \quad C_n^m \sigma \cdot C_n^{m'} = C_n^{m-m'} \sigma,$$

$$C_n^m \cdot C_n^{m'} \sigma = C_n^{m+m'} \sigma, \quad C_n^m \sigma \cdot C_n^{m'} \sigma = C_n^{m-m'},$$

where  $m \pm m'$  should be understood with implicit modulo  $n$ .



**B. Concepts and Terminology**

- order of group  $|G|$ : ‘number’ of group elements.
- order of an element  $|g|$ : minimal integer  $n$  s.t.  $g^n = \mathbf{1}$  (or  $\infty$  if  $n$  does not exist).
- Abelian group:  $gh = hg$  for all  $g, h \in G$ . (non-Abelian: not Abelian)
- subgroup  $H \leq G$ : a subset  $H \subseteq G$  which is also a group under multiplication  $\circ$ .
- left(right) coset  $gH(Hg)$ : set of elements of the form  $gh$  ( $hg$ ) for all  $h$  in subgroup  $H$ .
- normal subgroup  $H \trianglelefteq G$ : a subgroup  $H$  satisfying  $gH = Hg$  for all  $g$ .
- quotient group  $G/H$ : the group of cosets for normal subgroup  $H$  of  $G$ .
- **conjugacy class**:  $f$  and  $h$  are conjugate if there is  $g$  s.t.  $gfg^{-1} = h$ .  
All elements conjugate to  $f$  form the conjugacy class of  $f$ .
  - Elements in one conjugacy class have the same order:  $(gfg^{-1})^n = gf^n g^{-1}$ .
- direct product of groups  $G \times H$ : the set of  $(g, h)$  with  $g \in G$  &  $h \in H$ , and  $(g, h) \circ (g', h') = (gg', hh')$ , usually the element  $(g, h)$  is denoted just as  $gh$ .

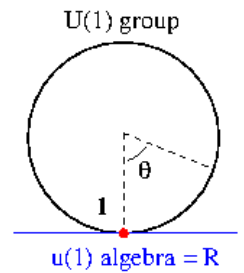
**C. Examples of Groups**

- Useful examples of abstract groups:
  - group of integer, real, complex numbers,  $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ : Abelian, group multiplication is just number addition, group identity is number 0.
  - cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ : Abelian,  $\{\mathbf{1}, g, g^2, \dots, g^{n-1}\}$ , with  $g^n = \mathbf{1}$ ; or the group of integers modulo  $n$ .
  - symmetric group  $\text{Sym}X$ : generically non-Abelian, all permutation actions on elements of the set  $X$ . If  $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , this is the permutation group  $S_n$ .
- $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of the permutation group  $\text{Sym}G$ . - *Cayley's Theorem*.  
Left(Right) multiplication of a group element just permutes all group elements.  
Each row(column) of the multiplication table is a permutation of group elements.  
 $\sum_{g \in G} F(g) = \sum_{g \in G} F(gh) = \sum_{g \in G} F(hg)$ , for any ‘function’  $F$ , and fixed  $h \in G$ .

- Groups of  $n \times n$  real or complex non-singular matrices: generically non-Abelian. Group multiplication is the matrix multiplication. Group identity is the identity matrix.
  - general non-singular matrices  $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{C})$ ,
  - real orthogonal matrices  $\text{O}(n, \mathbb{R})$  [usually just  $\text{O}(n)$ ],  $O^T O = \mathbb{1}$  for  $O \in \text{O}(n)$ ,
  - unitary matrices  $\text{U}(n, \mathbb{C})$  [usually just  $\text{U}(n)$ ],  $U^\dagger U = \mathbb{1}$  for  $U \in \text{U}(n)$ ,
  - “special” versions:  $\text{SL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\text{SL}(n, \mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{SO}(n)$ ,  $\text{SU}(n)$ . Determinants are unity.
 All of these are Lie groups.

## D. Lie Groups and Lie Algebra

- Lie group: the group elements form a differentiable manifold,
  - group  $\text{U}(1)$  :
    - $\{e^{i\theta}\}$  with real  $\theta \bmod 2\pi$  has the geometry of a circle.
  - group  $\text{U}(1) \times \text{U}(1)$  :  $\{(e^{i\theta}, e^{i\phi})\}$  with real  $\theta, \phi \bmod 2\pi$ , is a torus.
  - group  $\text{SU}(2)$  :  $\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} u & v \\ -v^* & u^* \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ ,  $u, v \in \mathbb{C}$ , is 3-sphere  $S^3$ ,  
 $(\text{Re}u)^2 + (\text{Im}u)^2 + (\text{Re}v)^2 + (\text{Im}v)^2 = 1$ .
- Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{LG}$ : *roughly speaking*, the linear space tangent to Lie group manifold  $G$  at identity  $\mathbf{1}$ , spanned by ‘derivatives’ of Lie group elements,  $-\mathfrak{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial(\text{real parameter})} g|_{g=\mathbf{1}}$ .
  - Example:  $\text{SU}(2)$  group  $\{\exp(\mathfrak{i}\theta \mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})\}$  with real  $\theta$  and unit vector  $\mathbf{n}$ , the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$  is the linear space spanned by  $\sigma_{1,2,3}$ : suppose  $\theta \mathbf{n}$  depends on parameter  $t$ , and  $\theta \mathbf{n}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{0}$  [so  $\exp(\mathfrak{i}\theta \mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})|_{t=0} = \mathbb{1}_{2 \times 2}$ ], then “ $-\mathfrak{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial(\text{real parameter})} g|_{g=\mathbf{1}}$ ” =  $[\frac{d}{dt}(\theta \mathbf{n})]_{t=0} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ , which can be any real-coefficient linear combinations of  $\sigma_{1,2,3}$ .
  - For connected Lie group, any element  $g$  is formally an exponential  $g = \exp(\mathfrak{i}tX)$ , where  $X$  is a basis vector in Lie algebra,  $t$  is a real number (may not be unique).
    - \*  $X = -\mathfrak{i} g^{-1} \frac{d}{dt} g$ .
    - \* E.g.  $\text{U}(1) \times \text{U}(1)$  element  $(e^{i\theta}, e^{2i\theta}) = \exp[\mathfrak{i}\sqrt{5}\theta (\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}})]$ , where  $(\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}})$  is a basis vector in the Abelian Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}(1) \times \mathfrak{u}(1) \sim \mathbb{R}^2$ .





- \* There are disconnected Lie groups, *e.g.*, orthogonal group  $O(n)$ . The two kinds of orthogonal matrices with  $\det O = \pm 1$  are disconnected.
- Commutator of two elements  $\mathfrak{i}[X, Y]$  is also an element of Lie algebra:  
 $\mathfrak{i}[X, Y] \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left[ -\mathfrak{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (e^{\mathfrak{i}tX} e^{\mathfrak{i}sY} e^{-\mathfrak{i}tX} e^{-\mathfrak{i}sY}) \right]_{t=0} \Big|_{s=0}$ . The  $\left[ \dots \right]_{t=0}$  term is an element of Lie algebra, by the above definition, and it depends on real parameter  $s$ .

## II. BASICS OF GROUP REPRESENTATION THEORY

### A. Basic Concepts of Group Representation

- Linear representation of group  $G$  on linear space  $V$ : homomorphism  $R$  from  $G$  to  $GL(V)$ ,  $R(g)$  is a linear transformation on  $V$  satisfying  $R(g)R(h) = R(gh)$ .
  - usually consider ( $n$ -dimensional) complex linear space [ $(n$ -dim'l) Hilbert space], the linear representation is a matrix representation,  $R(g) \in GL(n, \mathbb{C})$ .
  - $R(\mathbf{1}) = \mathbb{1}$ ,  $R(g^{-1}) = R(g)^{-1}$
  - $A \cdot R(g) \cdot A^{-1}$  is also a representation, for constant nonsingular  $A$ .
  - there is always the *trivial representation*  $R(g) = \mathbb{1}$  for all  $g$ .
  - if all  $R(g)$  are unitary, this is a **unitary representation**. NOTE: we will only deal with unitary representations here.
- Adjoint representation of Lie groups: the representation space is the Lie algebra  $LG$ , the representation  $R(g)$  satisfies  $g \cdot \mathbf{x} \cdot g^{-1} = \mathbf{x} \circ R(g)$ , for  $g \in G$  and  $\mathbf{x} \in LG$ .
  - $g \cdot \mathbf{x} \cdot g^{-1}$  is defined as another Lie algebra element  $-\mathfrak{i} \frac{d}{dt} (g \cdot e^{\mathfrak{i}t\mathbf{x}} \cdot g^{-1}) \Big|_{t=0}$ .
  - $\mathbf{x} \circ R(g)$  means the vector  $\mathbf{x}$  transformed by linear transformation  $R(g)$ . If  $\mathbf{e}_i$  is a basis of Lie algebra,  $\mathbf{x} = \sum_i \mathbf{e}_i x_i$ , then  $\mathbf{x} \circ R(g) = \sum_{i,j} \mathbf{e}_j [R(g)]_{ji} x_i$ .
  - Example:  $e^{\mathfrak{i}\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \in SU(2)$  is represented by  $SO(3)$  matrix  $[R(e^{\mathfrak{i}\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}})]_{ij} = \cos \theta \delta_{ij} + (1 - \cos \theta) n_i n_j - \sin \theta \epsilon_{ijk} n_k$ , namely,  $e^{\mathfrak{i}\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot \sigma_i \cdot e^{-\mathfrak{i}\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \sum_j \sigma_j \cdot [R(e^{\mathfrak{i}\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}})]_{ji}$ .
- Direct sum  $\oplus$  & tensor product  $\otimes$  of representations:  
 similar to quantum operators and matrices.

- Reducible representations:  
a representation that all  $R(g)$  can be *simultaneously* block-diagonalized,  
namely a subspace of representation space  $V$  is invariant under action of  $G$ .
- Irreducible representations (irrep.): representations that are not reducible.  
reducible representation can be decomposed into a direct sum of irreps.

## B. Orthogonality Theorem

- *Orthogonality theorem:*

for two “inequivalent” unitary irreps.  $\sum_{g \in G} R(g)_{ij}^* R'(g)_{i'j'} = 0$ ;

for the same unitary irrep.  $\sum_{g \in G} R(g)_{ij}^* R(g)_{i'j'} = \frac{|G|}{\dim R} \delta_{ii'} \delta_{jj'}$ .

- If  $R'(g) = A \cdot R(g) \cdot A^{-1}$ , they are “equivalent”; otherwise they are “inequivalent”.
- If  $R'(g) = A \cdot R(g) \cdot A^{-1}$  then  $\sum_{g \in G} R(g)_{ij}^* R'(g)_{i'j'} = \frac{|G|}{\dim R} (A)_{ii'} (A^{-1})_{jj'}$ .
- For compact Lie group,  $\sum_g F(g)$  should be replaced by the integral  $\int F(g) d\mu(g)$ ,  
where  $d\mu(g)$  is the “Haar measure”, satisfying  $\int F(g) d\mu(g) = \int F(gh) d\mu(g) = \int F(hg) d\mu(g)$ , for any function  $F$  and fixed  $h \in G$ .  $|G|$  should be replaced by the ‘volume’ of the group,  $\int d\mu(g)$ .
- Example: U(1) group  $g = e^{i\theta} = x + iy$ ,  $d\mu(g) \propto d\theta = \delta(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} - 1) dx dy$ .  
1D irreps. are  $R_n(g) = e^{in\theta}$ , then  $\int R_n(g)^* R_m(g) d\mu(g) = \frac{2\pi}{1} \delta_{n,m}$ .
- Example: SU(2) group  $g = a_0 \sigma_0 - i \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \sigma_i$ ,  $d\mu(g) \propto \delta(\sqrt{\sum a_i^2} - 1) \prod_{i=1}^4 da_i$ .
- Character:  $\chi_R(g) = \text{Tr} R(g)$ . Here Tr is the matrix trace.
  - $\chi_R(g)$  is invariant under similarity transformation of representation.  
 $R'(g) = A \cdot R(g) \cdot A^{-1}$  for all  $g$  with constant  $A$ , then  $\chi_{R'}(g) = \chi_R(g)$ .
  - Elements of the same conjugacy class have the same character,  
 $\chi(hgh^{-1}) = \text{Tr}[R(hgh^{-1})] = \text{Tr}[R(h)R(g)R(h^{-1})] = \text{Tr}[R(h)^{-1}R(h)R(g)] = \chi(g)$ .
  - $\chi_{R \oplus R'}(g) = \chi_R(g) + \chi_{R'}(g)$ ,  $\chi_{R \otimes R'}(g) = \chi_R(g) \cdot \chi_{R'}(g)$ .
  - Example: SU(2),  
fundamental representation  $R(g) = \exp(i \frac{\theta}{2} \mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})$ ,  $\chi_{S=\frac{1}{2}}(g) = 2 \cos \frac{\theta}{2}$ ;  
adjoint representation (previous page),  $\chi_{S=1}(g) = 1 + 2 \cos \theta$ .

• *Orthogonality of characters:*

for two inequivalent unitary irreps.  $\sum_{g \in G} \chi_R(g)^* \chi_{R'}(g) = 0$ ;

for two equivalent unitary irreps.  $\sum_{g \in G} \chi_R(g)^* \chi_R(g) = |G|$ .

– Example: SU(2) group,  $g = a_0 \sigma_0 - i \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \sigma_i$  (fundamental rep.),

$d\mu(g) \propto \delta(\sqrt{\sum a_i^2} - 1) \prod_{i=0}^3 da_i$ , volume of group is  $\int d\mu(g) = 2\pi^2$ .

For the examples on previous page,  $\chi_{S=\frac{1}{2}}(g) = 2a_0$ ,  $\chi_{S=1}(g) = 4a_0^2 - 1$ .

then  $\int |\chi_{S=\frac{1}{2}}(g)|^2 d\mu(g) = \int |\chi_{S=1}(g)|^2 d\mu(g) = 2\pi^2$ ,

and  $\int \chi_{S=\frac{1}{2}}(g)^* \chi_{S=1}(g) d\mu(g) = 0$ .

**Exercise:** check these results, use 4D polar coordinates.

– This relation generalizes Fourier series [U(1) group].

• For finite group, (number of inequivalent irreps) = (number of conjugacy classes);

and (sum of squares of irrep. dimensions) = (the order of the group);

and (dimension of irrep.) divides (the order of the group).

– Abelian group of order  $n$ :  $n$  conjugacy classes,  $n$  inequivalent 1-dim'l irreps.

–  $S_3$  group: three classes, identity  $\{()\}$ , transpositions  $\{(12), (13), (23)\}$ , cyclic permutations  $\{(123), (132)\}$ , three irreps.  $|S_3| = 6 = 1^2 + 1^2 + 2^2$ :

trivial irrep.:  $\{1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1\}$ ; alternating irrep.:  $\{1, -1, -1, -1, 1, 1\}$ ;

2dim'l irrep.:  $\{\sigma_0, \sigma_3, \frac{-\sigma_3 + \sqrt{3}\sigma_1}{2}, \frac{-\sigma_3 - \sqrt{3}\sigma_1}{2}, \frac{-\sigma_0 + i\sqrt{3}\sigma_2}{2}, \frac{-\sigma_0 - i\sqrt{3}\sigma_2}{2}\}$

• Character table:

	size & representative of conjugacy classes
name of irrep. #1	characters
name of irrep. #2	characters
$\vdots$	$\ddots$

Example:  $D_4$  group: conjugacy classes  $\{1\}$ ,  $\{C_4, C_4^3\}$ ,  $\{C_4^2\}$ ,  $\{\sigma, C_4^2\sigma\}$ ,  $\{C_4\sigma, C_4^3\sigma\}$ ,  
generators  $C_4 : (x, y) \rightarrow (-y, x)$ , and  $\sigma : (x, y) \rightarrow (x, -y)$

$D_4 (C_{4v})$	$1$	$2C_4$	$C_4^2$	$2\sigma$	$2C_4\sigma$	irrep. basis in space of homogeneous functions
$\Gamma_1 (A_1)$	1	1	1	1	1	$1, x^2 + y^2, \dots$
$\Gamma_2 (A_2)$	1	1	1	-1	-1	$xy(x^2 - y^2)$
$\Gamma_3 (B_1)$	1	-1	1	1	-1	$x^2 - y^2$
$\Gamma_4 (B_2)$	1	-1	1	-1	1	$xy$
$\Gamma_5 (E)$	2	0	-2	0	0	$(x, y)$

- Projection operator:

given a possibly reducible representation  $R$  of group  $G$ , and the characters of one irrep.  $\chi_{R'}$ , it is possible to build an irrep.  $R'$  within the representation space of  $R$ .

- Denote the orthonormal basis of representation  $R$  by  $|e_i\rangle$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, \dim(R)$ . The action of group element  $g$  on the basis is  $\hat{g}|e_i\rangle = \sum_j |e_j\rangle R(g)_{ji}$ .
- Build new basis  $|\tilde{e}_i\rangle = \sum_{g \in G} \hat{g}|e_i\rangle \cdot \chi_{R'}^*(g) = \sum_{g \in G} \sum_j |e_j\rangle R(g)_{ji} \chi_{R'}^*(g)$ . These are usually not linearly independent and not orthonormal.
- If  $R$  contains irrep.  $R'$ , then  $|\tilde{e}_i\rangle$  will span a finite dimensional space (not all  $|\tilde{e}_i\rangle$  are zero), then the group  $G$  is represented on this subspace as (several copies of) the irrep.  $R'$ .

### III. CONSERVATION LAW AND DEGENERACY

#### A. Symmetry as Unitary Operator: 1-Particle Hilbert Space

- Think of a symmetry group  $G$  acting on the coordinate space, *e.g.* spatial translations/rotations/reflections. Such symmetries  $\mathbf{x} \rightarrow g\mathbf{x}$  induce unitary transformations (normalization depends on convention)  $|\mathbf{x}\rangle \rightarrow |g\mathbf{x}\rangle$ .
  - $|\psi\rangle = \int \psi(\mathbf{x})|\mathbf{x}\rangle d\mathbf{x} \rightarrow |g\psi\rangle = \int \psi(\mathbf{x})|g\mathbf{x}\rangle d\mathbf{x} = \int \psi(g^{-1}\mathbf{x})|x\rangle J^{-1}d\mathbf{x}$ , so the wavefunction  $(g\psi)(\mathbf{x}) = J^{-1}\psi(g^{-1}\mathbf{x})$ , where  $J = |\det \frac{\partial(g\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}}|$  is the Jacobian.
  - Assume  $J = 1$  hereafter, no need to worry about normalization.
  - Associativity: we write  $|hg\psi\rangle$  with no ambiguity, because  $(h(g\psi))(\mathbf{x}) = (g\psi)(h^{-1}\mathbf{x}) = \psi(g^{-1}h^{-1}\mathbf{x}) = \psi((hg)^{-1}\mathbf{x}) = ((hg)\psi)(\mathbf{x})$ .
  - Given a complete orthonormal basis  $|e_i\rangle$ ,  $|ge_i\rangle$  are also orthonormal basis.  $g$  induces a unitary transformation  $\hat{g} = \sum_i |ge_i\rangle\langle e_i|$ ,  $|ge_i\rangle = \hat{g}|e_i\rangle$ .
  - $\hat{g}$  has a unitary matrix representation,  $(\hat{g})_{ij} = \langle e_i|ge_j\rangle$ .  
 Note:  $|ge_j\rangle = \sum_i |e_i\rangle (\hat{g})_{ij}$  in this convention, and  $(\widehat{hg})_{ij} = \sum_k (\hat{h})_{ik}(\hat{g})_{kj}$ ,  
 from  $|hg e_j\rangle \stackrel{g}{=} \sum_k |h e_k\rangle (\hat{g})_{kj} \stackrel{h}{=} \sum_i \sum_k |e_i\rangle (\hat{h})_{ik}(\hat{g})_{kj}$ .
  - Basis change induces similarity transformation of the representation:

$\langle e_i | g e_j \rangle = \sum_{i',j'} \langle e_i | e'_{i'} \rangle \langle e'_{i'} | g e'_{j'} \rangle \langle g e'_{j'} | g e_j \rangle = \sum_{i',j'} \langle e_i | e'_{i'} \rangle \langle e'_{i'} | g e'_{j'} \rangle \langle e'_{j'} | e_j \rangle$  for unitary symmetry  $g$ .

- Some symmetries act on internal degrees of freedom, *e.g.* spin.

### B. Symmetry as Unitary Operator: Fock space

- Implicit assumption: the vacuum is invariant under symmetry. Be careful about this!
- Symmetry operation  $\hat{g}$  defined on single particle Hilbert space induces symmetry operation on Fock space, as the tensor product  $\hat{g} \otimes \hat{g} \otimes \cdots \otimes \hat{g}$  restricted in the the (anit-)symmetrized many-body Hilbert space. *E.g.*: Homework #2, Problem 2.
- A more concise way is to consider the symmetry operations on the annihilation/creation operators, which generates the Fock space.
- The rule of thumb:  $\hat{\psi}$  transforms as  $\langle \psi |$ ,  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$  transforms as  $|\psi\rangle$ .
  - For complete orthonormal 1-particle basis  $e_i$ :  $\widehat{g}e_j = g_{ij}^* \hat{e}_i$ ,  $\widehat{g}e_j^\dagger = \hat{e}_i^\dagger g_{ij}$ . Treating  $\hat{e}_i(\hat{e}_i^\dagger)$  as a column(row) vector  $\hat{\mathbf{e}}(\hat{\mathbf{e}}^\dagger)$ , this can be written as vector-matrix products,  $\widehat{g}\hat{\mathbf{e}} = g^\dagger \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}$ ,  $\widehat{g}\hat{\mathbf{e}}^\dagger = \hat{\mathbf{e}}^\dagger \cdot g$ .
  - The argument for this relation:  $|0\rangle$  is invariant,  $|ge_j\rangle = |e_i\rangle g_{ij}$ , the corresponding creation operators must be  $\widehat{g}e_j^\dagger = \hat{e}_i^\dagger g_{ij}$ .
- The operator of total particle number (both bosons and fermions)  $\hat{\mathbf{e}}^\dagger \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}} = \sum_i \hat{e}_i^\dagger \hat{e}_i$  is invariant under symmetry transformation.
- For fermions, the total product  $\prod_i \hat{e}_i^\dagger$  is invariant (up to a phase) under symmetry transformation,  $\prod_i \widehat{g}e_i^\dagger = \det(\hat{g}) \prod_i \hat{e}_i^\dagger$ .

### C. Symmetry as Unitary Operator: Action on Operators

- Similar to the Heisenberg picture of time evolution, we can transfer the symmetry operation on states to operations on operators:  $\hat{O} \xrightarrow{g} \widehat{g}\hat{O}$ .

- Convention #1: like the Heisenberg picture of time evolution, let the symmetry acts only on the operator, with matrix element being the same as that of transforming only states,  $\langle g\psi|\hat{O}|g\phi\rangle = \langle\psi|\widehat{g\hat{O}}|\phi\rangle$ , then  $\widehat{g\hat{O}} = \hat{g}^{-1}\hat{O}\hat{g}$ .
- Convention #2: demand the matrix element to be invariant under symmetry operation,  $\langle g\psi|\widehat{g\hat{O}}|g\phi\rangle = \langle\psi|\hat{O}|\phi\rangle$ , then  $\widehat{g\hat{O}} = \hat{g}\hat{O}\hat{g}^{-1}$ . This is more commonly used.
- A set of linear operators  $\hat{O}_i$  can also form a linear representation  $R(g)$  of the group,  $\widehat{g\hat{O}_i} = \sum_j \hat{O}_j R(g)_{ji}$ .
  - Example: angular momentum operators  $\hat{L}_{x,y,z}$  form the adjoint representation of  $SO(3)$  (spatial rotation).

#### D. Symmetry Generators as Conserved Observables

- Noether's theorem: continuous symmetries correspond to conserved quantities, for classical system described by the action  $S = \int L(q, \dot{q}, t) dt$ , if the action is invariant under 'translation'  $q(t) \rightarrow q(t) + \epsilon f(t)$  for infinitesimal  $\epsilon$ , then 'momentum'  $P = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}} \cdot f$  is conserved,  $\frac{d}{dt}P = 0$ ; if the action is invariant under translation in time  $t \rightarrow t + \epsilon$  ( $L$  is independent of  $t$ ), then the Hamiltonian  $H = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}}\dot{q} - L$  is conserved,  $\frac{d}{dt}H = 0$ .
- Symmetry of a quantum system: the Hamiltonian is invariant under the action of  $g$ ,  $\langle g\phi|\hat{H}|g\psi\rangle = \langle\phi|\hat{H}|\psi\rangle$  for all states  $\phi, \psi$ , namely  $\hat{g}^\dagger \cdot \hat{H} \cdot \hat{g} = \hat{H}$ , or  $[\hat{H}, \hat{g}] = 0$  for unitary symmetry.
- In quantum mechanics,
 

generators of continuous unitary symmetry corresponds to conserved observables.

- For generator  $X$  (element of Lie algebra), the corresponding observable is  $\hat{X} = -i e^{\widehat{i\theta X}} \cdot \frac{d}{d\theta} e^{\widehat{i\theta X}}^{-1}$  (this is independent of the value of  $\theta$  where  $\frac{d}{d\theta}$  is taken).
- $\hat{X}$  is Hermitian, and  $\frac{d}{dt}\hat{X} = i[\hat{H}, \hat{X}] = 0$ .  
 Proof: consider  $e^{\widehat{i\theta X}^\dagger} \cdot \hat{H} \cdot e^{\widehat{i\theta X}} = e^{\widehat{i\theta X}^{-1}} \cdot \hat{H} \cdot e^{\widehat{i\theta X}} = \hat{H}$ , take  $\frac{d}{d\theta}$  at  $\theta = 0$ , and use the fact that  $\hat{X} = -i \frac{d}{d\theta} e^{\widehat{i\theta X}}|_{\theta=0} = -i \frac{d}{d\theta} e^{\widehat{i\theta X}} \cdot e^{\widehat{i\theta X}}^{-1}|_{\theta=0} = i e^{\widehat{i\theta X}} \cdot \frac{d}{d\theta} [e^{\widehat{i\theta X}}^{-1}]|_{\theta=0} = i \frac{d}{d\theta} [e^{\widehat{i\theta X}}^{-1}]|_{\theta=0}$

- Symmetry quantum number carried by an operator  $\hat{O}$ :  
operator  $\hat{O}$  carries quantum number  $\lambda$  of the symmetry generator  $\hat{X}$  if  $[\hat{X}, \hat{O}] = \lambda \hat{O}$ .
  - Operators invariant under a continuous symmetry should commute with the symmetry generators (carry vanishing quantum number).
  - Example:  $\hat{H} = \hbar\omega (\hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b} + 1/2)$ , and  $[\hat{H}, \hat{b}] = -\hbar\omega \hat{b}$ , so the ‘energy’ ( $\hat{H}$  quantum number) of  $\hat{b}$  is  $(-\hbar\omega)$ .

### E. Symmetry and Level Degeneracy

- A symmetry  $g$  satisfies  $[\hat{H}, \hat{g}] = 0$ , therefore  $g$  does not change energy eigenvalue. Degenerate energy eigenstates form a representation space of the symmetry group. Representation of  $g$  is block diagonalized in energy eigenbasis.
- Nondegenerate energy eigenstates are one-dimensional representations (the state may only change phase under action of symmetry).
- Existence of non-commuting symmetry generators,  $\hat{X}$  and  $\hat{Y}$  with  $[\hat{H}, \hat{X}] = [\hat{H}, \hat{Y}] = 0$  and  $[\hat{X}, \hat{Y}] \neq 0$ , *usually* implies degeneracy of energy levels.
  - If  $[\hat{X}, \hat{Y}] = iz$  is a non-zero c-number, there must be degeneracy. Unitary operator  $e^{i\hat{X}}$  changes eigenvalue of  $\hat{Y}$  by  $z$ . See Landau level example of Lecture #3.
  - If  $[\hat{X}, \hat{Y}]$  is not a c-number, there may be a non-degenerate energy level, IF the state is vanished by commutators of all order,  $0 = [\hat{X}, \hat{Y}]|E\rangle = [\hat{X}, [\hat{X}, \hat{Y}]]|E\rangle = [\hat{Y}, [\hat{X}, \hat{X}]]|E\rangle = \dots$   
Example: ground state of electron in hydrogen atom (ignore spin) with angular momentum  $L = 0$ , take  $\hat{X} = \hat{L}_x$  &  $\hat{Y} = \hat{L}_y$ .
- Usually label the degenerate levels by the representation of symmetry they belong to. *E.g.* with spatial translation, label the states by momentum  $|\mathbf{p}\rangle$ ; with spatial rotation, label the states by angular momentum  $|L, L_z\rangle$ , *etc.*

### F. Examples: Translation

- Continuous translation in 1D open space:  $T_a : x \rightarrow x + a$ , for all  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

They form an Abelian group,  $T_a T_{a'} = T_{a+a'}$ , which is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}$ .

- The related unitary operator is  $\hat{T}_a = \int |x+a\rangle\langle x| dx$ .
- Use momentum basis, this is simply  $\hat{T}_a = \exp(-ia\hat{p}/\hbar)$ .
  - \*  $\hat{T}_a = \int |p\rangle\langle p|x+a\rangle\langle x|p'\rangle\langle p'| dp dp' dx = \int \frac{e^{(-ip(x+a)+ip'x)/\hbar}}{2\pi\hbar} |p\rangle\langle p'| dp dp' dx$   
 $= \int \delta(p-p') e^{-ip a/\hbar} |p\rangle\langle p'| dp dp' = \int e^{-ip a/\hbar} |p\rangle\langle p| dp = \exp(-ia\hat{p}/\hbar)$ , where  
 $\hat{p} = \int p |p\rangle\langle p| dp$  is the momentum operator.
  - \* **Exercise:** use  $\hat{p} = -i\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ , check that  $\exp(-a\frac{\partial}{\partial x})\psi(x) = \psi(T_a^{-1}x) = \psi(x-a)$ .
- The 1D Lie algebra is spanned by the single generator, the momentum  $\hat{p}$ , which is conserved in translation-invariant systems, *e.g.*  $\hat{H} = \hat{p}^2/2m$ .
- The momentum eigenstates  $|p\rangle$  are 1D irreps. of this translation group, with the representation matrix (and character)  $e^{-iap/\hbar}$ .

### G. Example: Discrete Translation

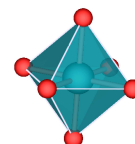
- Discrete translation (lattice translation): define  $T : x \rightarrow x + a$  for a constant  $a \neq 0$ , the discrete translation group is the cyclic group generated by  $T$ ,  $\{T^n\}$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
  - The unitary operator is still  $\hat{T} = \exp(-ia\hat{p}/\hbar)$ .
  - There is no associated Lie algebra and conserved observables.
  - Unitary irreps are 1D,  $\hat{T} = e^{i\theta}$  with real  $\theta \bmod 2\pi$ .
  - Momentum eigenstates  $|p + \frac{2\pi\hbar}{a}n\rangle$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  belong to the same 1D irrep.  $e^{-iap/\hbar}$
  - *Bloch's theorem:* for system with the above translation symmetry,  $[\hat{H}, \hat{T}] = 0$ , The  $m$ -th energy eigenstate of irrep  $\hat{T} = e^{-iap/\hbar}$  is a superposition of  $|p + nG\hbar\rangle$ ,  $|E_m, p\rangle = \sum_n u_{mn} |p + nG\hbar\rangle$ , with  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $G = \frac{2\pi}{a}$  (the reciprocal lattice vector). The wavefunction is thus  $\langle x|E_m, p\rangle = \sum_n u_{mn} e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{a}} e^{ixp/\hbar} = u_m(x) e^{ixp/\hbar}$ , the “Bloch function”  $u_m(x) = \sum_n u_{mn} e^{2\pi i n (x/a)}$  is periodic,  $u_m(x+a) = u_m(x)$ .



- The Bloch function  $u_m(x)$  (or Fourier coefficients  $u_{mn}$ ), and the “crystal momentum”  $p$  in first Brillouin zone ( $-\pi/a \leq \frac{p}{\hbar} < \pi/a$  in this case), define the eigenstates (Bloch waves).

### H. Examples: Point Group $O_h$

- In many materials there are the following oxygen octahedron structure: one cation surrounded by six oxygens (or other anions), the symmetry of the central atom is reduced from continuous rotation to discrete rotation+reflections.



The point group (transformations leaving the central point invariant) is  $O_h$ .

**The energy levels of electron orbitals on central cation are classified by irreducible representations of  $O_h$ .**

- Character table of  $O_h$ :

	$E$	$8C_3$	$6C'_2$	$6C_4$	$3C_2$	$I$	$6S_4$	$8S_6$	$3\sigma_h$	$6\sigma_d$	basis of rep.	
$A_{1g}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$1, r^2$	s-orbital
$A_{2g}$	1	1	-1	-1	1	1	-1	1	1	-1		
$E_g$	2	-1	0	0	2	2	0	-1	2	0	$(3z^2 - r^2, \sqrt{3}(x^2 - y^2))$	some d-orbitals
$T_{1g}$	3	0	-1	1	-1	3	1	0	-1	-1		
$T_{2g}$	3	0	1	-1	-1	3	-1	0	-1	1	$(yz, zx, xy)$	some d-orbitals
$A_{1u}$	1	1	1	1	1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1		
$A_{2u}$	1	1	-1	-1	1	-1	1	-1	-1	1	$xyz$	one f-orbital
$E_u$	2	-1	0	0	2	-2	0	1	-2	0		
$T_{1u}$	3	0	-1	1	-1	-3	-1	0	1	1	$(x, y, z), (x, y, z)r^2$ $(x^3, y^3, z^3)$	p-orbitals, some f-orbitals
$T_{2u}$	3	0	1	-1	-1	-3	1	0	1	-1	$(x(y^2 - z^2), y(z^2 - x^2), z(x^2 - y^2))$	some f-orbitals

Some group elements of  $O_h$ : action results of the  $(x, y, z)$  point.

$E$	$8C_3$	$6C'_2$	$6C_4$	$3C_2$	$I$	$6S_4$	$8S_6$	$3\sigma_h$	$6\sigma_d$
$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} y \\ z \\ x \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} y \\ x \\ -z \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} -y \\ x \\ z \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} -x \\ -y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} -x \\ -y \\ -z \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} y \\ -x \\ -z \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} -y \\ -z \\ -x \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ -z \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} -y \\ -x \\ z \end{pmatrix}$

## IV. SELECTION RULE

## A. Symmetry Constraints on Matrix Elements

- In general we want to consider the matrix element  $(f_k)_{ij} = \langle \phi_i | \hat{f}_k | \psi_j \rangle$ ,  
 where  $i(j)$  indicates that  $\phi_i(\psi_j)$  is one of the degenerate energy levels of irrep.  $R_\phi(R_\psi)$ ,  
 and  $k$  means that  $\hat{f}_k$  belongs to a set of operators forming irrep.  $R_f$ ,  
 then these matrix elements shall form a tensor product representation  $R_f \otimes R_\phi^* \otimes R_\psi$ .
  - $\hat{f}_k$  form a representation, in the sense that  $\hat{g}\hat{f}_k\hat{g}^{-1} = \hat{f}_{k'}R_f(g)_{k'k}$ .
  - $R_\phi^*$  is the conjugate representation of  $R_\phi$ ,  $R_\phi^*(g) = [R_\phi(g)]^*$ .  
 $\langle g\phi_i | = \langle \phi_i | \hat{g}^\dagger = R_\phi^*(g)_{i'i} \langle \phi_{i'} |$ .
  - $(f_k)_{ij}$  form a tensor representation in the sense that  
 $(f_k)_{ij} = \langle \phi_i | \hat{f}_k | \psi_j \rangle = \langle \phi_i | \hat{g}^{-1} \hat{g} \hat{f}_k \hat{g}^{-1} \hat{g} | \psi_j \rangle = R_\phi^*(g)_{i'i} R_f(g)_{k'k} R_\psi(g)_{j'j} \langle \phi_{i'} | \hat{f}_{k'} | \psi_{j'} \rangle =$   
 $R_f(g)_{k'k} R_\phi^*(g)_{i'i} R_\psi(g)_{j'j} (f_{k'})_{i'j'}$ .
  - Sum over  $g$ , by the orthogonality theorem, we have the ...
- **Selection rule:** the matrix element  $(f_k)_{ij} = \langle \phi_i | \hat{f}_k | \psi_j \rangle$  will vanish  
 if the tensor representation  $R_f \otimes R_\phi^* \otimes R_\psi$ , after decomposed into direct sum of irreps.,  
**does not** contain *trivial representation*.
  - Special case: if  $R_f, R_\phi, R_\psi$  are all 1-dim'l irrep., then  $R_f \otimes R_\phi^* \otimes R_\psi$  is also a  
 1-dim'l irrep., then  $\langle \phi | \hat{f} | \psi \rangle$  will vanish if  $R_f \otimes R_\phi^* \otimes R_\psi$  is not the trivial irrep.
  - Special case: if  $R_f$  is the trivial irrep. (there is only one  $\hat{f}$ , and it is invariant  
 under the group actions), and if  $R_\phi$  and  $R_\psi$  are both irrep., then
    - (i)  $\langle \phi_i | \hat{f} | \psi_j \rangle$  will vanish if  $R_\phi$  and  $R_\psi$  are “inequivalent” irrep.;
    - (ii) if  $R_\phi = R_\psi$  (exactly same matrices), then  $\langle \phi_i | \hat{f} | \psi_j \rangle = \delta_{ij} \cdot \frac{1}{\dim R_\phi} \sum_{i'} \langle \phi_{i'} | \hat{f} | \psi_{i'} \rangle$ .

## B. Examples: Selection Rule

- Parity selection rule (or usually “optical selection rule”):  
 consider group  $\{1, I\}$  generated by spatial inversion  $I$  with  $I^2 = 1$ ,  
 it has only two irreps.: trivial (even)  $\{1, 1\}$  and odd representation  $\{1, -1\}$ .

- States & operators are classified into “parity odd” (usually subscript  $_u$ ) and “parity even” (usually subscript  $_g$ ) classes.
- Atomic orbitals of even(odd) angular momentum are parity even(odd).
- The matrix element is nonzero only for  $\langle \psi_g | \hat{O}_g | \psi'_g \rangle$ ,  $\langle \psi_g | \hat{O}_u | \psi_u \rangle$ ,  $\langle \psi_u | \hat{O}_g | \psi'_u \rangle$ ,  $\langle \psi_u | \hat{O}_u | \psi_g \rangle$ . Here  $\hat{I}|\psi_g\rangle = +|\psi_g\rangle$ ,  $\hat{I}|\psi_u\rangle = -|\psi_u\rangle$ ,  $\hat{I}\hat{O}_g\hat{I}^\dagger = +\hat{O}_g$ ,  $\hat{I}\hat{O}_u\hat{I}^\dagger = -\hat{O}_u$ , ... (Check the special cases under the “**selection rule**”)
- The optical transition (absorption/emission of one photon) probability amplitude is proportional to  $\langle \psi_{\text{final}} | \mathbf{E} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}} | \psi_{\text{initial}} \rangle$  (under lowest order of perturbation theory), where  $\mathbf{E}$  is the external electric field, the electric dipole operator  $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$  is parity odd ( $I : \mathbf{r} \rightarrow -\mathbf{r}$ ), so initial and final states should have opposite parity.
- Pseudo-vector: vectors that are even under inversion,  
e.g. the angular momentum operator  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{p}$ , the magnetic moment  $\mathbf{M}$ .
- Pseudo-scalar: scalars that are odd under inversion,  
e.g. inner product of a pseudo-vector and a vector is a pseudo-scalar.
- Raman selection rule: absorb a photon of polarization  $\mathbf{E}_{\text{in}}$  and emit a photon of polarization  $\mathbf{E}_{\text{out}}$ , the relevant matrix element is  $\langle \text{final} | (\mathbf{E}_{\text{out}} \cdot \mathbf{r})(\mathbf{E}_{\text{in}} \cdot \mathbf{r}) | \text{initial} \rangle$ .
  - If the system have  $C_{4v}$  symmetry (2D  $D_4$  symmetry, character table on page 7), the initial state is of trivial representation  $A_1$  (e.g.  $s$ -orbital),  $\mathbf{E}_{\text{in,out}}$  are along  $x, y$  directions respectively, then the final state must have the symmetry of function  $xy$ , or  $B_2$  representation (e.g.  $d_{xy}$  orbital).

### C. Examples: Symmetry-allowed Hamiltonian

- In many cases you know the symmetry of your system, but don't know the exact Hamiltonian. The goal is to write down a Hamiltonian consistent with the symmetry.
  - The general rule: find out representation  $\hat{g}$  of all symmetry generators, and demand that  $\hat{g}^{-1}\hat{H}\hat{g} = \hat{H}$ .
  - For continuous symmetry,  $\hat{H}$  should commute with all symmetry generators, or carry vanishing symmetry quantum number.

- Example: translation symmetry, momentum conservation.

If the system has continuous translation symmetry, then for each monomial of operators in  $\hat{H}$ , the sum of “momentum quantum numbers” of the factors must be zero,

*e.g.*  $\widehat{\psi(p)}^\dagger \widehat{\psi(p)}$ ,  $\widehat{\psi(-p)} \widehat{\psi(p)}$ ,  $\widehat{\psi(p_1)}^\dagger \widehat{\psi(p_2)}^\dagger \widehat{\psi(p_3)} \widehat{\psi(p_4)} \delta(p_1 + p_2 - p_3 - p_4)$ .

Here  $\widehat{\psi(p)}^\dagger$  is the creation operator for momentum eigenstate  $|p\rangle$ , and carries “momentum quantum number”  $p$  (will change total momentum of the system by  $p$ ); the annihilation operator  $\widehat{\psi(p)}$  carries “momentum quantum number”  $-p$ .

- Example: particle number conservation  $U(1)$  symmetry.

$\hat{e}_i^\dagger$  are creation operators for orthonormal modes (bosons or fermions). The total particle number operator,  $\hat{N} \equiv \sum_i \hat{e}_i^\dagger \hat{e}_i$ , generates a  $U(1)$  group,  $\widehat{g(\theta)} = e^{-i\theta \hat{N}}$ , for real  $\theta \bmod 2\pi$ . From  $[\hat{N}, \hat{e}_i^\dagger] = +\hat{e}_i^\dagger$ , the creation operators carry “particle number quantum number”  $+1$  (the annihilation operators carry “particle number quantum number”  $-1$ ). Then if  $\hat{H}$  has “particle number conservation symmetry”, namely  $\widehat{g(\theta)} \hat{H} \widehat{g(\theta)}^\dagger$  for any  $\theta$ , or equivalently  $[\hat{H}, \hat{N}] = 0$ , each term in  $\hat{H}$  must have the same number of creation operators and annihilation operators, *e.g.*  $\hat{e}_i^\dagger \hat{e}_j$ ,  $\hat{e}_i^\dagger \hat{e}_j^\dagger \hat{e}_k \hat{e}_\ell$ .

- Example: point group symmetry on free particle Hamiltonian  $\hat{H} = \int \hat{\psi}_\mathbf{k}^\dagger \cdot H(\mathbf{k}) \cdot \hat{\psi}_\mathbf{k} d\mathbf{k}$ , where  $\hat{\psi}_\mathbf{k}$  is a column vector of annihilation operators,  $H(\mathbf{k})$  is a matrix. Under  $g: \hat{\psi}_\mathbf{k} \xrightarrow{g} R(g) \cdot \hat{\psi}_{g\mathbf{k}}$ ,  $\hat{H} \xrightarrow{g} \int \hat{\psi}_{g\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \cdot R(g)^{-1} \cdot H(\mathbf{k}) \cdot R(g) \cdot \hat{\psi}_{g\mathbf{k}} d\mathbf{k}$ , then  $H(g\mathbf{k}) = R(g)^{-1} \cdot H(\mathbf{k}) \cdot R(g)$ .

–  $C_{4v}$  symmetry generated by  $C_4: (x, y) \rightarrow (-y, x)$ , and  $\sigma_v: (x, y) \rightarrow (x, -y)$ ,

consider the case  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$  = (creation operators for  $p_x, p_y$  orbitals),

then  $R(C_4) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = i\sigma_y$ ,  $R(\sigma_v) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \sigma_z$ ,

so  $\sigma_y H(k_x, k_y) \sigma_y = H(-k_y, k_x)$ ,  $\sigma_z H(k_x, k_y) \sigma_z = H(k_x, -k_y)$ ,

let  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $H(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{i=0}^3 h_i(\mathbf{k}) \sigma_i$ , the real functions  $h_i(\mathbf{k})$  must satisfy

$h_0(k_x, k_y) = h_0(-k_y, k_x) = h_0(k_x, -k_y) \sim A_1$  irrep.,

$h_1(k_x, k_y) = -h_1(-k_y, k_x) = -h_1(k_x, -k_y) \sim B_2$  irrep.,

$h_2(k_x, k_y) = h_2(-k_y, k_x) = -h_2(k_x, -k_y) \sim A_2$  irrep.,

$h_3(k_x, k_y) = -h_3(-k_y, k_x) = h_3(k_x, -k_y) \sim B_1$  irrep.,

this constrains the form of  $H$  matrix up to  $O(k^2)$  around  $k = (0, 0)$  as

$H(k_x, k_y) = (c_0 + c_1 \mathbf{k}^2) \sigma_0 + c_2 \cdot k_x k_y \cdot \sigma_x + c_3 \cdot (k_x^2 - k_y^2) \cdot \sigma_z$ , with real constant cs.

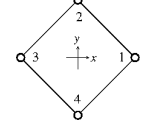
### D. Examples: Symmetry-assisted Diagonalization of Hamiltonian

- Given a Hamiltonian, first analyze its symmetry, then divide the Hilbert space into smaller subspaces of different irreps of symmetry group.

- Example: Bose-Hubbard model on a 4-site square,

$$\hat{H} = -t (\hat{b}_1^\dagger \hat{b}_2 + \hat{b}_2^\dagger \hat{b}_3 + \hat{b}_3^\dagger \hat{b}_4 + \hat{b}_4^\dagger \hat{b}_1 + h.c.) + \frac{U}{2} \sum_{i=1}^4 \hat{n}_i(\hat{n}_i - 1),$$

solve the eigenstates of two bosons (10-dimensional Hilbert space).



- The apparent symmetry is  $C_{4v}$  (2D  $D_4$ , character table on p.7). Generated by

$$C_4 : \hat{b}_1 \mapsto \hat{b}_2, \hat{b}_2 \mapsto \hat{b}_3, \hat{b}_3 \mapsto \hat{b}_4, \hat{b}_4 \mapsto \hat{b}_1; \text{ and}$$

$$\sigma : \hat{b}_1 \mapsto \hat{b}_1, \hat{b}_2 \mapsto \hat{b}_4, \hat{b}_3 \mapsto \hat{b}_3, \hat{b}_4 \mapsto \hat{b}_2.$$

- The basis of creation operators can be chosen as (use projection operator):

$$\widehat{A}_1^\dagger : \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \hat{b}_i^\dagger, \widehat{B}_1^\dagger : \frac{1}{2}(\hat{b}_1^\dagger - \hat{b}_2^\dagger + \hat{b}_3^\dagger - \hat{b}_4^\dagger), \widehat{E}_{x,y}^\dagger : \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{b}_1^\dagger - \hat{b}_3^\dagger) \text{ \& } \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{b}_2^\dagger - \hat{b}_4^\dagger)$$

They correspond to single boson eigenstates of  $\hat{H}$ .

$$\text{Action of } C_4: \widehat{A}_1^\dagger \mapsto \widehat{A}_1^\dagger \cdot (1), \widehat{B}_1^\dagger \mapsto \widehat{B}_1^\dagger \cdot (-1), (\widehat{E}_x^\dagger, \widehat{E}_y^\dagger) \mapsto (\widehat{E}_x^\dagger, \widehat{E}_y^\dagger) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\text{Action of } \sigma: \widehat{A}_1^\dagger \mapsto \widehat{A}_1^\dagger \cdot (1), \widehat{B}_1^\dagger \mapsto \widehat{B}_1^\dagger \cdot (1), (\widehat{E}_x^\dagger, \widehat{E}_y^\dagger) \mapsto (\widehat{E}_x^\dagger, \widehat{E}_y^\dagger) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- The procedures of applying the “projection operator” are summarized in the following tables,

$g$	<b>1</b>	$C_4$	$C_4^3$	$C_4^2$	$\sigma$	$C_4^2\sigma$	$C_4\sigma$	$C_4^3\sigma$
$\widehat{gb}_1^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_1^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_2^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_4^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_3^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_1^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_3^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_2^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_4^\dagger$
$\widehat{gb}_2^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_2^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_3^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_1^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_4^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_4^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_2^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_1^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_3^\dagger$
$\widehat{gb}_3^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_3^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_4^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_2^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_1^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_3^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_1^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_4^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_2^\dagger$
$\widehat{gb}_4^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_4^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_1^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_3^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_2^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_2^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_4^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_3^\dagger$	$\hat{b}_1^\dagger$
$\chi_{A_1}(g)$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi_{A_2}(g)$	1	1	1	1	-1	-1	-1	-1
$\chi_{B_1}(g)$	1	-1	-1	1	1	1	-1	-1
$\chi_{B_2}(g)$	1	-1	-1	1	-1	-1	1	1
$\chi_E(g)$	2	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0

$\sum_g \chi_R^*(g) \widehat{gb_i^\dagger}$	$R = A_1$	$R = A_2$	$R = B_1$	$R = B_2$	$R = E$
$i = 1$	$2(\hat{b}_1^\dagger + \hat{b}_2^\dagger + \hat{b}_3^\dagger + \hat{b}_4^\dagger)$	0	$2(\hat{b}_1^\dagger - \hat{b}_2^\dagger + \hat{b}_3^\dagger - \hat{b}_4^\dagger)$	0	$2(\hat{b}_1^\dagger - \hat{b}_3^\dagger)$
$i = 2$	$2(\hat{b}_2^\dagger + \hat{b}_3^\dagger + \hat{b}_4^\dagger + \hat{b}_1^\dagger)$	0	$2(\hat{b}_2^\dagger - \hat{b}_3^\dagger + \hat{b}_4^\dagger - \hat{b}_1^\dagger)$	0	$2(\hat{b}_2^\dagger - \hat{b}_4^\dagger)$
$i = 3$	$2(\hat{b}_3^\dagger + \hat{b}_4^\dagger + \hat{b}_1^\dagger + \hat{b}_2^\dagger)$	0	$2(\hat{b}_3^\dagger - \hat{b}_4^\dagger + \hat{b}_1^\dagger - \hat{b}_2^\dagger)$	0	$2(\hat{b}_3^\dagger - \hat{b}_1^\dagger)$
$i = 4$	$2(\hat{b}_4^\dagger + \hat{b}_1^\dagger + \hat{b}_2^\dagger + \hat{b}_3^\dagger)$	0	$2(\hat{b}_4^\dagger - \hat{b}_1^\dagger + \hat{b}_2^\dagger - \hat{b}_3^\dagger)$	0	$2(\hat{b}_4^\dagger - \hat{b}_2^\dagger)$

- Two boson states: symmetrized tensor product (use symbol  $\odot$ ) representations, these states are classified into irreps as

$$\begin{aligned}
A_1^{(2)}: & A_1 \odot A_1: \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\widehat{A_1}^\dagger)^2|0\rangle; B_1 \odot B_1: \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\widehat{B_1}^\dagger)^2|0\rangle; E \odot E: \frac{1}{2}[(\widehat{E_x}^\dagger)^2 + (\widehat{E_y}^\dagger)^2]|0\rangle, \\
B_1^{(2)}: & A_1 \odot B_1: \widehat{A_1}^\dagger \widehat{B_1}^\dagger|0\rangle; E \odot E: \frac{1}{2}[(\widehat{E_x}^\dagger)^2 - (\widehat{E_y}^\dagger)^2]|0\rangle, \\
B_2^{(2)}: & E \odot E: \frac{1}{2}(\widehat{E_x}^\dagger \widehat{E_y}^\dagger + \widehat{E_y}^\dagger \widehat{E_x}^\dagger)|0\rangle = \widehat{E_x}^\dagger \widehat{E_y}^\dagger|0\rangle, \\
E^{(2)}: & A_1 \odot E: (\widehat{A_1}^\dagger \widehat{E_x}^\dagger|0\rangle, \widehat{A_1}^\dagger \widehat{E_y}^\dagger|0\rangle); B_1 \odot E: (\widehat{B_1}^\dagger \widehat{E_x}^\dagger|0\rangle, -\widehat{B_1}^\dagger \widehat{E_y}^\dagger|0\rangle).
\end{aligned}$$

The  $10 \times 10$  problem is reduced(block-diagonalized) to

$A_1$  irreps:  $3 \times 3$ ,  $B_1$  irreps:  $2 \times 2$ ,  $B_2$  irreps:  $1 \times 1$ , and  $E$  irreps:  $2 \times 2$  (!).

- Note that  $E \otimes E = A_1 \oplus A_2 \oplus B_1 \oplus B_2$ , however the  $A_2$  irrep here is anti-symmetric with respect to the two factors and does not appear in boson system.
- Why  $E$  representation sub-problem is  $2 \times 2$  instead of  $4 \times 4$ ?

Note that  $(A_1 E_x, A_1 E_y)$  and  $(B_1 E_x, -B_1 E_y)$  are exactly the same 2-dim'l representation, with exactly the same representation matrices,

$$C_4 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By symmetry (check the special cases under the “**selection rule**”)

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle A_1 E_x | \hat{H} | B_1 E_x \rangle &= \langle A_1 E_y | \hat{H} | -B_1 E_y \rangle = \langle B_1 E_x | \hat{H} | A_1 E_x \rangle^* = \langle -B_1 E_y | \hat{H} | A_1 E_y \rangle^*, \\
\langle A_1 E_x | \hat{H} | A_1 E_x \rangle &= \langle A_1 E_y | \hat{H} | A_1 E_y \rangle, \langle B_1 E_x | \hat{H} | B_1 E_x \rangle = \langle -B_1 E_y | \hat{H} | -B_1 E_y \rangle, \text{ and}
\end{aligned}$$

other matrix elements are zero. The  $4 \times 4$  matrix is two copies of the same  $2 \times 2$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{matrix, } \begin{pmatrix} \langle A_1 E_x | \hat{H} | A_1 E_x \rangle, & \langle A_1 E_x | \hat{H} | B_1 E_x \rangle \\ \langle B_1 E_x | \hat{H} | A_1 E_x \rangle, & \langle B_1 E_x | \hat{H} | B_1 E_x \rangle \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} \langle A_1 E_y | \hat{H} | A_1 E_y \rangle, & \langle A_1 E_y | \hat{H} | -B_1 E_y \rangle \\ \langle -B_1 E_y | \hat{H} | A_1 E_y \rangle, & \langle -B_1 E_y | \hat{H} | -B_1 E_y \rangle \end{pmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

- Hamiltonian is  $\hat{H} = -2t \widehat{A_1}^\dagger \widehat{A_1} + 2t \widehat{B_1}^\dagger \widehat{B_1} + \frac{U}{2} \sum_i \hat{n}_i(\hat{n}_i - 1)$ .

- The matrix elements between  $A_1^{(2)}$  states are

$$\hat{H}|A_1^{(2)} : A_1 \odot A_1 \rangle = -4t|A_1^{(2)} : A_1 \odot A_1 \rangle + U \sum_i \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}}(\hat{b}_i^\dagger)^2|0\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= -4t|A_1^{(2)} : A_1 \odot A_1\rangle + U(\frac{1}{4}|A_1^{(2)} : A_1 \odot A_1\rangle + \frac{1}{4}|A_1^{(2)} : B_1 \odot B_1\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}|A_1^{(2)} : E \odot E\rangle); \\
 &\hat{H}|A_1^{(2)} : B_1 \odot B_1\rangle = +4t|A_1^{(2)} : B_1 \odot B_1\rangle + U \sum_i \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}}(\hat{b}_i^\dagger)^2|0\rangle \\
 &= +4t|A_1^{(2)} : B_1 \odot B_1\rangle + U(\frac{1}{4}|A_1^{(2)} : A_1 \odot A_1\rangle + \frac{1}{4}|A_1^{(2)} : B_1 \odot B_1\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}|A_1^{(2)} : E \odot E\rangle); \\
 &\hat{H}|A_1^{(2)} : E \odot E\rangle = U \sum_i \frac{1}{4}(\hat{b}_i^\dagger)^2|0\rangle \\
 &= U(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}|A_1^{(2)} : A_1 \odot A_1\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}|A_1^{(2)} : B_1 \odot B_1\rangle + \frac{1}{2}|A_1^{(2)} : E \odot E\rangle).
 \end{aligned}$$

So the Hamiltonian in the  $A_1^{(2)}$  subspace is 
$$\begin{pmatrix} -4t + \frac{U}{4} & \frac{U}{4} & \frac{\sqrt{2}U}{4} \\ \frac{U}{4} & 4t + \frac{U}{4} & \frac{\sqrt{2}U}{4} \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}U}{4} & \frac{\sqrt{2}U}{4} & \frac{U}{2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

- The matrix elements between  $B_1^{(2)}$  states are

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\hat{H}|B_1^{(2)} : A_1 \odot B_1\rangle = U \sum_i \frac{1}{4}(-1)^{i-1}(\hat{b}_i^\dagger)^2|0\rangle \\
 &= U(\frac{1}{2}|B_1^{(2)} : A_1 \odot B_1\rangle + \frac{1}{2}|B_1^{(2)} : E \odot E\rangle); \\
 &\hat{H}|B_1^{(2)} : E \odot E\rangle = U \sum_i \frac{1}{4}(-1)^{i-1}(\hat{b}_i^\dagger)^2|0\rangle \\
 &= U(\frac{1}{2}|B_1^{(2)} : A_1 \odot B_1\rangle + \frac{1}{2}|B_1^{(2)} : E \odot E\rangle).
 \end{aligned}$$

So the Hamiltonian in the  $B_1^{(2)}$  subspace is 
$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{U}{2} & \frac{U}{2} \\ \frac{U}{2} & \frac{U}{2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

- The matrix elements between  $B_2^{(2)}$  states are

$$\hat{H}|B_2^{(2)} : E \odot E\rangle = 0.$$

- The matrix elements between  $E^{(2)}$  states are

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\hat{H}|E^{(2)} : A_1 \odot E_x\rangle = -2t|E^{(2)} : A_1 \odot E_x\rangle + U \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}[(\hat{b}_1^\dagger)^2 - (\hat{b}_3^\dagger)^2]|0\rangle \\
 &= -2t|E^{(2)} : A_1 \odot E_x\rangle + U(\frac{1}{2}|E^{(2)} : A_1 \odot E_x\rangle + \frac{1}{2}|E^{(2)} : B_1 \odot E_x\rangle); \\
 &\hat{H}|E^{(2)} : B_1 \odot E_x\rangle = +2t|E^{(2)} : B_1 \odot E_x\rangle + U \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}[(\hat{b}_1^\dagger)^2 - (\hat{b}_3^\dagger)^2]|0\rangle \\
 &= +2t|E^{(2)} : B_1 \odot E_x\rangle + U(\frac{1}{2}|E^{(2)} : A_1 \odot E_x\rangle + \frac{1}{2}|E^{(2)} : B_1 \odot E_x\rangle).
 \end{aligned}$$

So the Hamiltonian in the  $E^{(2)}$  subspace is two copies of 
$$\begin{pmatrix} -2t + \frac{U}{2} & \frac{U}{2} \\ \frac{U}{2} & 2t + \frac{U}{2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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# Summary of Lecture #5: angular momentum and spin

## Goals and Requirements:

- Get some understanding of the  $SO(3)$  and  $SU(2)$  group, their representations, and their relations.
  - Finite dimensional irreducible representations of  $SU(2)$  are labeled by half-integer ‘angular momentum’  $j$ . Integer  $j$  representations are irreducible representations of  $SO(3)$ .
  - Roughly speaking  $SU(2)$  is twice as large as  $SO(3)$ ,  $SO(3) \simeq SU(2)/\mathbb{Z}_2$ .
- Be familiarized with orbital angular momentum and spin, and basic calculations involving them.
  - Be familiarized with ladder operators and calculations involving them.
  - Basic tools for computation of  $g$ -factors and similar quantities.
- Get a clear understanding of time-reversal symmetry  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}$ , especially its effect on spin.
  - Time-reversal symmetry is anti-unitary, namely a unitary operator times the complex conjugation operator.
  - For half-odd-integer spin,  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}^2 = -1$ . Such system with time-reversal symmetry must have two-fold level degeneracy (Kramers theorem).
- Optional references:
  - J.J. Sakurai, *Modern Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter 4.
  - Landau & Lifschitz, *Quantum Mechanics: Non-relativistic Theory*, Chapter IV & VIII.
  - A. Auerbach, *Interacting Electrons and Quantum Magnetism*, Chapter 7.
- NOTE: Einstein convention for implicit summation over repeated indices is frequently used.
- ★ indicates advanced topics (NOT required).



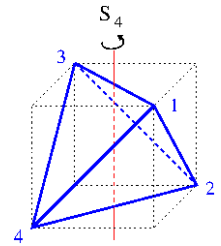
## I. SU(2) AND SO(3) GROUPS

### A. Defining SO(3) Group

- SO(3) group: the group of proper rotations in 3-dimensional space,  $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \overleftrightarrow{R} \bullet \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$ , with  $\overleftrightarrow{R}^T \bullet \overleftrightarrow{R} = \overleftrightarrow{1}$  and  $\det(\overleftrightarrow{R}) = 1$ . The notation  $\overleftrightarrow{R}$  means it is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix. The symbol  $\bullet$  means multiplication between 3-component vector and  $3 \times 3$  matrix, or multiplication between  $3 \times 3$  matrices.

- improper rotation (rotary reflection): those with  $\det(\overleftrightarrow{R}) = -1$ . Improper rotations are a proper rotation followed by inversion.

Example:  $S_4$  point group symmetry (do not confuse with permutation group). The tetrahedron has no 4-fold axis, but the 4-fold improper rotation  $S_4 = I \cdot C_4^{-1}$  (clockwise 4-fold rotation  $C_4^{-1}$  followed by an inversion  $I$  about the center) is its symmetry (vertices transform as  $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$ ).

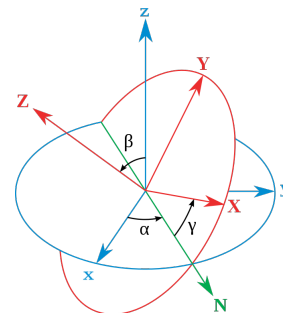


- (Proper + improper rotations) form O(3) group.
- Some facts about SO(3) group:
  - Any SO(3) rotation is a rotation of some angle  $\theta$  around some axis  $\mathbf{n}$  (3D unit vector), denoted by  $\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)$  hereafter.  $[\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)]^{-1} = \overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(-\theta)$ .
  - $\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta) = \overleftrightarrow{R}_{-\mathbf{n}}(-\theta)$ , two-fold redundancy for representing SO(3) by  $\mathbf{n}$  and  $\theta$ .
  - $\overleftrightarrow{R}' \bullet \overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta) \bullet \overleftrightarrow{R}'^{-1} = \overleftrightarrow{R}_{\overleftrightarrow{R}' \bullet \mathbf{n}}(\theta)$ :  $R'^{-1}$  followed by rotation around  $\mathbf{n}$  axis of angle  $\theta$  then followed by  $R'$ , is equivalent to a rotation around  $\overleftrightarrow{R}' \bullet \mathbf{n}$  axis of angle  $\theta$ .
  - $[\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)]_{i,j} = n_i n_j + \cos \theta \cdot (\delta_{i,j} - n_i n_j) - \sin \theta \cdot \sum_c \epsilon_{ijk} n_k$ , here  $i, j, k = x, y, z$ .

- Parametrizing SO(3) group: Euler angles.

any SO(3) rotation can be represented as

$\overleftrightarrow{R}_z(\alpha) \bullet \overleftrightarrow{R}_y(\beta) \bullet \overleftrightarrow{R}_z(\gamma)$ , with three Euler angles  $\alpha \in [0, 2\pi)$ ,  $\beta \in [0, \pi)$ ,  $\gamma \in [0, 2\pi)$ .



- Rotations around principal axis are explicitly,  

$$\overleftrightarrow{R}_z(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \overleftrightarrow{R}_y(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & \sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}, \quad \overleftrightarrow{R}_x(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}.$$
- Representing group multiplication, Haar measure (volume element of group space), *et cetera*, are not convenient in terms of Euler angles, or  $\mathbf{n}$  and  $\theta$ .

## B. Defining SU(2) Group

- SU(2) group: the group of  $2 \times 2$  special unitary matrices,  $U^\dagger \cdot U = \mathbb{1}$ , and  $\det(U) = 1$ .
  - U(2) group: no unity determinant condition. Any U(2) matrix  $\tilde{U}$  is of the form of  $\tilde{U} = e^{i\theta}U$  with  $U \in \text{SU}(2)$ , with  $\theta = \text{Arg}(\det \tilde{U})/2$ .
- Parametrizing SU(2) group:  $U = \begin{pmatrix} u & v \\ -v^* & u^* \end{pmatrix}$ , with  $|u|^2 + |v|^2 = 1$ ,  
 the two complex number  $u, v$  give a faithful(1-to-1) parametrization of SU(2).
- Quaternion representation of SU(2):  $U = a_0\sigma_0 - \mathbf{i}(a_1\sigma_1 + a_2\sigma_2 + a_3\sigma_3) = a_0\sigma_0 - \mathbf{i}\mathbf{a} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ ,  
 with 4 real numbers  $(a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3) = (a_0, \mathbf{a})$  with  $\sum_i a_i^2 = a_0^2 + \mathbf{a}^2 = 1$ .
  - Relation to  $u, v$ :  $a_0 = \text{Re}(u)$ ,  $a_3 = -\text{Im}(u)$ ,  $a_1 = -\text{Im}(v)$ ,  $a_2 = -\text{Re}(v)$ .
  - Quaternion: numbers of the form  $a_0 + a_1\mathbf{i} + a_2\mathbf{j} + a_3\mathbf{k}$ , represented as  $(a_0, \mathbf{a})$ ,  
 where  $\mathbf{i}^2 = \mathbf{j}^2 = \mathbf{k}^2 = \mathbf{ijk} = -1$ .
    - \* Note the three “square roots of (-1)”  $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}$  anti-commute,  
 $\mathbf{ij} = -\mathbf{ji} = \mathbf{k}$ ,  $\mathbf{jk} = -\mathbf{kj} = \mathbf{i}$ ,  $\mathbf{ki} = -\mathbf{ik} = \mathbf{j}$ .
    - \*  $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}$  can be represented by  $(-\mathbf{i}\sigma_{1,2,3})$ . [Exercise](#): check this.
  - SU(2) group multiplication becomes quaternion number multiplication,  
 and looks like a rotation of 4-component vectors by a  $SO(4)$  matrix,  

$$(a_0, \mathbf{a}) \circ (b_0, \mathbf{b}) \equiv (a_0b_0 - \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}, a_0\mathbf{b} + b_0\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) = (a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3) \begin{pmatrix} b_0 & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ -b_1 & b_0 & -b_3 & b_2 \\ -b_2 & b_3 & b_0 & -b_1 \\ -b_3 & -b_2 & b_1 & b_0 \end{pmatrix}.$$
  - $\exp(-\mathbf{i}\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})$  is represented by  $(\cos \frac{\theta}{2}, \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \cdot \mathbf{n})$ , for unit vector  $\mathbf{n}$  and real  $\theta$ .
  - SU(2) manifold is 3-sphere  $S^3$ : points  $\vec{a}$  in 4D Euclidean space with  $|\vec{a}| = 1$ .  
 Group multiplications are rotations of  $S^3$  in 4D space.

### C. Defining SO(3) and SU(2) Groups

- Relation between SU(2) (quaternion) and SO(3):

the adjoint representation of SU(2) element  $e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\bullet\boldsymbol{\sigma}}$  is the  $3\times 3$  rotation matrix  $\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)$ .

$$e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\bullet\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \bullet \mathbf{A}) \cdot e^{i\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\bullet\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \bullet \overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta) \bullet \mathbf{A}. \text{ Or } e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\bullet\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot \sigma_a \cdot e^{i\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}\bullet\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \sum_b \sigma_b \cdot [\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)]_{ba}.$$

- NOTE the two-to-one nature of this mapping from SU(2) to SO(3):

$\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)$  is a quadratic function of quaternion  $(a_i)$ , so  $(a_i)$  and  $(-a_i)$ , or SU(2) matrices  $U$  and  $-U$ , represent the same SO(3) rotation.  $\text{SO}(3) \simeq \text{SU}(2)/\mathbb{Z}_2$ .

- SO(3) manifold is real projective space  $\text{RP}^3 = S^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$

(identify antipodal points,  $\vec{a}$  and  $-\vec{a}$  with  $|\vec{a}| = 1$ , on  $S^3$ ).

- Haar measure of SU(2):  $d\mu(U) = \delta(\sqrt{\sum_{i=0}^3 a_i^2} - 1) \prod_{i=0}^3 da_i$ .

This is the proper (up to constant factor) volume element of SU(2) group space.

- use 4D polar coordinates,  $(a_i) = r \cdot (\cos \frac{\theta}{2}, \sin \frac{\theta}{2} (\sin \vartheta \cos \phi, \sin \vartheta \sin \phi, \cos \vartheta))$ ,

this measure is  $\delta(r - 1) \cdot \left| \frac{\partial(a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3)}{\partial(r, \theta, \vartheta, \phi)} \right| \cdot dr d\theta d\vartheta d\phi = \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \sin \vartheta d\theta d\vartheta d\phi$ .

Integral over group space is over  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ ,  $\vartheta \in [0, \pi]$ ,  $\phi \in [0, 2\pi)$ . This can be written as  $\frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} d\theta \cdot d^2\mathbf{n}$ , where  $d^2\mathbf{n}$  means the surface area element on the unit sphere  $S^2$  of rotation axis  $\mathbf{n}$  with  $|\mathbf{n}| = 1$  in 3D space.

### D. SU(2) and SO(3) Groups and Lie Algebras

- The Lie algebras of SU(2) and SO(3) are essentially the same,  $\mathfrak{su}(2) = \mathfrak{so}(3)$ .

- Both  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$  and  $\mathfrak{so}(3)$  are three dimensional, with three basis(generators)  $J_{x,y,z}$ .

- $J_{x,y,z}$  satisfy the commutation relation  $[J_a, J_b] = i\epsilon_{abc}J_c$  (Einstein convention),

this is sometimes written as  $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{J} = i\mathbf{J}$ . Here  $a, b, c = x, y, z$ .

- For SO(3),  $\overleftrightarrow{J}_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\overleftrightarrow{J}_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\overleftrightarrow{J}_z = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Or  $(\overleftrightarrow{J}_a)_{bc} = -i\epsilon_{abc}$ . And  $\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta) = \exp(-i\theta \overleftrightarrow{J} \bullet \mathbf{n})$ .

- For SU(2) matrix group,  $J_{x,y,z} = \frac{\sigma_{x,y,z}}{2}$ ,  $\mathbf{J}$  are usually denoted by  $\mathbf{S}$  here.

- If  $[J_a, M_b] = i\epsilon_{abc}M_c$ , by the Baker-Hausdorff formula and the above results,

$$e^{-i\theta\mathbf{n}\bullet\mathbf{J}} \cdot M_b \cdot e^{i\theta\mathbf{n}\bullet\mathbf{J}} = \sum_c M_c \cdot [\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)]_{cb}.$$

- Group elements are  $\exp(-i\theta \mathbf{J} \bullet \mathbf{n})$ , with real  $\theta$  and real unit vector  $\mathbf{n}$ .
  - For SO(3),  $\theta$  has period  $2\pi$  ( $e^{-i2\pi \vec{J} \bullet \mathbf{n}} = \vec{1}$ ).
  - For SU(2),  $\theta$  has period  $4\pi$ . Roughly means SU(2) is twice as large as SO(3) (note the 2-to-1 mapping between them).
  - SO(3) & SU(2) matrices are *fundamental representations* of the SO(3) & SU(2) group respectively. SO(3) matrices are adjoint representation of both groups.
  - NOTE:  $\exp(-i\theta' \mathbf{J} \bullet \mathbf{n}') \exp(-i\theta \mathbf{J} \bullet \mathbf{n}) \exp(i\theta' \mathbf{J} \bullet \mathbf{n}') = \exp(-i\theta \mathbf{J} \bullet \vec{R}_{\mathbf{n}'}(\theta') \bullet \mathbf{n})$ , where  $\vec{R}_{\mathbf{n}'}(\theta')$  is SO(3) rotation matrix (adjoint representation of  $e^{-i\theta' \mathbf{J} \bullet \mathbf{n}'}$ ).
  - Therefore, every element of SU(2) [SO(3)] is conjugate to  $\exp(-i\theta J_z)$ , (because any rotation axis  $\mathbf{n}$  can be rotated to  $z$ -direction). The conjugacy classes are determined by  $\theta$  (infinite many classes). Note that  $\theta$  and  $-\theta$  give the same class, therefore the character of any representation must be even functions of  $\theta$ .

### E. Schwinger Boson Representations of SU(2) & SO(3)

- SU(2) matrices act on a 2-dim'l complex linear space as
 
$$\begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{U} U \cdot \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} uz_1 + vz_2 \\ -v^*z_1 + u^*z_2 \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} z'_1 \\ z'_2 \end{pmatrix}$$
- View this space as the 1-boson states  $(z_1 \hat{b}_\uparrow^\dagger + z_2 \hat{b}_\downarrow^\dagger)|0\rangle = (\hat{b}_\uparrow^\dagger|0\rangle, \hat{b}_\downarrow^\dagger|0\rangle) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $\hat{b}_{\uparrow,\downarrow}$  are two orthonormal boson modes. The transformation of  $(z_1, z_2)$  can be also viewed as a unitary transformation on the basis,  $(\hat{b}_\uparrow^\dagger, \hat{b}_\downarrow^\dagger) \xrightarrow{U} (\hat{b}_\uparrow^\dagger, \hat{b}_\downarrow^\dagger) \cdot U$ .
- The single-boson transformation induces transformation in  $n$ -boson space according to  $\frac{(z_1 \hat{b}_\uparrow^\dagger + z_2 \hat{b}_\downarrow^\dagger)^n}{\sqrt{n!}}|0\rangle \xrightarrow{U} \frac{(z'_1 \hat{b}_\uparrow^\dagger + z'_2 \hat{b}_\downarrow^\dagger)^n}{\sqrt{n!}}|0\rangle$ , note that the norm  $(|z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2)^n = (|z'_1|^2 + |z'_2|^2)^n$  does not change, because this is unitary transformation in  $n$ -boson space.
- Label the occupation basis  $|\hat{n}_\uparrow = n_\uparrow, \hat{n}_\downarrow = n - n_\uparrow\rangle$  as  $|j = \frac{n}{2}, m = n_\uparrow - \frac{n}{2}\rangle$ .

The above state can be expanded in the occupation basis as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(z_1 \hat{b}_\uparrow^\dagger + z_2 \hat{b}_\downarrow^\dagger)^n}{\sqrt{n!}}|0\rangle &= \sum_{n_\uparrow=0}^n z_1^{n_\uparrow} z_2^{n-n_\uparrow} \frac{\sqrt{n!}}{(n_\uparrow)!(n-n_\uparrow)!} (\hat{b}_\uparrow^\dagger)^{n_\uparrow} (\hat{b}_\downarrow^\dagger)^{n-n_\uparrow} |0\rangle \\ &= \sum_{n_\uparrow=0}^{2j} z_1^{n_\uparrow} z_2^{2j-n_\uparrow} \sqrt{\frac{n!}{n_\uparrow!(n-n_\uparrow)!}} |j, n_\uparrow - j\rangle = \sum_m z_1^{j+m} z_2^{j-m} \sqrt{\frac{(2j)!}{(j+m)!(j-m)!}} |j, m\rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\sum_m$  means summing over  $m = -j, -j+1, \dots, j-1, j$ .

- $U$  induces a unitary transformation on the basis  $|j, m\rangle \xrightarrow{U} \sum_{m'} |j, m'\rangle D_{m'm}^{(j)}(U)$ .

The  $D$  matrix can be solved by considering

$$\sum_m z_1^{j+m} z_2^{j-m} \sqrt{\frac{(2j)!}{(j+m)!(j-m)!}} |j, m\rangle \xrightarrow{U} \sum_m (z'_1)^{j+m} (z'_2)^{j-m} \sqrt{\frac{(2j)!}{(j+m)!(j-m)!}} |j, m\rangle, \text{ and}$$

$$\sum_m z_1^{j+m} z_2^{j-m} \sqrt{\frac{(2j)!}{(j+m)!(j-m)!}} |j, m\rangle \xrightarrow{U} \sum_{m,m'} z_1^{j+m'} z_2^{j-m'} \sqrt{\frac{(2j)!}{(j+m')!(j-m')!}} D_{mm'}^{(j)}(U) |j, m\rangle.$$

Plug in  $z'_1 = uz_1 + vz_2$  and  $z'_2 = -v^*z_1 + u^*z_2$ ,

$$\text{expand } (z'_1)^{j+m} = \sum_{k=0}^{j+m} u^k v^{j+m-k} z_1^k z_2^{j+m-k} \binom{j+m}{k},$$

and  $(z'_2)^{j-m} = \sum_{k'=0}^{j-m} (-v^*)^{k'} (u^*)^{j-m-k'} z_1^{k'} z_2^{j-m-k'} \binom{j-m}{k'}$ , match terms ( $k+k'=j+m'$ ).

The matrix element of the  $(2j+1) \times (2j+1)$  representation is thus

$$D_{mm'}^{(j)}(U) = \sqrt{\frac{(j+m')!(j-m)!}{(j+m)!(j-m')!}} \sum_{k=0}^{j+m} \binom{j+m}{k} \binom{j-m}{j+m'-k} u^k v^{j+m-k} (-v^*)^{j+m'-k} (u^*)^{j-m-(j+m'-k)}.$$

Note: invalid binomial coefficients  $\binom{n}{m}$  with  $m < 0$  or  $m > n$  shall be zero.

- $D^{(j)}$  is a  $(2j+1)$ -dimensional *irreducible* unitary representation of SU(2) group.

Its “irreducibility” will not be proved here.

- $D_{mm'}^{(j)}(U)$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $2j$  in terms of  $u, v, u^*, v^*$ .

For integer  $j$ ,  $U$  and  $-U$  produce the same  $D$  matrix, this is then an irreducible unitary representation of SO(3).

- Relation to spherical harmonics:  $D_{0m}^{(\ell)}(e^{i\phi J_z} e^{i\theta J_y}) = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{2\ell+1}} Y_\ell^m(\theta, \phi)$ , for integer  $\ell$ .
- Orthogonality theorem:  $\int [D_{\mu'\mu}^{(j')}(U)]^* \cdot D_{m'm}^{(j)}(U) d\mu(U) = \frac{|\text{SU}(2)|}{2j+1} \delta_{j'j} \delta_{\mu'm'} \delta_{\mu m}$ ,  
 $d\mu(U)$  is the Haar measure,  $|\text{SU}(2)| = \int d\mu(U)$  is the volume of SU(2) group space.
- Character of  $j$ -representation:  $\chi_j(e^{-i\theta \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{J}}) = \chi_j(e^{-i\theta J_z}) = \sum_{\mu=0}^{2j} e^{-i(j-\mu)\theta} = \frac{\sin[(j+\frac{1}{2})\theta]}{\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta}$ .

– Proof:  $U = e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}\sigma_z}$  induces  $z_1 \rightarrow e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}} z_1$  and  $z_2 \rightarrow e^{i\frac{\theta}{2}} z_2$ . Then

$$\sum_m (z'_1)^{j+m} (z'_2)^{j-m} \sqrt{\frac{(2j)!}{(j+m)!(j-m)!}} |j, m\rangle$$

$$= \sum_m e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}[(j+m)-(j-m)]} z_1^{j+m} z_2^{j-m} \sqrt{\frac{(2j)!}{(j+m)!(j-m)!}} |j, m\rangle.$$

Therefore  $D_{m'm}^{(j)} = \delta_{m'm} e^{-im\theta}$  is a diagonal matrix, and its character is

$$\sum_m e^{-im\theta} = \sum_{\mu=0}^{2j} e^{i(j-\mu)\theta} = \frac{e^{ij\theta} - e^{i(-j-1)\theta}}{1 - e^{-i\theta}} = \frac{e^{i(j+\frac{1}{2})\theta} - e^{i(-j-\frac{1}{2})\theta}}{e^{i\theta/2} - e^{-i\theta/2}} = \frac{\sin[(j+\frac{1}{2})\theta]}{\sin \frac{1}{2}\theta}.$$

– **Exercise:** check orthogonality relation  $\int_0^{2\pi} \chi_{j'}(\theta)^* \chi_j(\theta) \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} d\theta = \pi \delta_{j'j}$ .

## II. ANGULAR MOMENTUM AND SPIN

## A. Angular Momentum as SO(3) Generators

- The action of spatial rotation  $\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)$  on a wavefunction of 3D coordinates  $\psi(\mathbf{r})$ , by our convention of symmetry action, is  $(R_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)\psi)(\mathbf{r}) = \psi(\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}}(\theta)^{-1} \bullet \mathbf{r}) = \psi(e^{i\theta \overleftrightarrow{\mathbf{J}} \cdot \mathbf{n}} \bullet \mathbf{r})$ . Here  $\mathbf{J}$  are the fundamental representation matrices of  $SO(3)$ .

- Take  $i \frac{d}{d\theta}$  at  $\theta = 0$ , this produces the action of symmetry generator  $\widehat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \widehat{\mathbf{J}}$  on  $\psi$ ,  $\widehat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \widehat{\mathbf{J}} : \psi \mapsto -((\mathbf{n} \cdot \overleftrightarrow{\mathbf{J}}) \bullet \mathbf{r}) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{r}} \psi = -n_a(-i\epsilon_{abc})r_c \frac{\partial}{\partial r_b} \psi = \mathbf{n} \cdot (-i\mathbf{r} \times \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{r}}) \psi$ .

Therefore  $\widehat{\mathbf{J}} = -i\mathbf{r} \times \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{r}} = \hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \hat{\mathbf{p}}/\hbar$ .

This is the orbital angular momentum (divided by  $\hbar$ ) and usually denoted as  $\widehat{\mathbf{L}}$ .

- $\hat{L}_{x,y,z}$  are hermitian.  $\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 \equiv \hat{L}_x^2 + \hat{L}_y^2 + \hat{L}_z^2$  is hermitian and positive semi-definite.

- **Exercise:** check  $\widehat{\mathbf{L}} \times \widehat{\mathbf{L}} = i\widehat{\mathbf{L}}$ ,  $[\hat{L}_a, \hat{r}_b] = i\epsilon_{abc}\hat{r}_c$ ,  $[\hat{L}_a, \hat{p}_b] = i\epsilon_{abc}\hat{p}_c$ ,  $[\widehat{\mathbf{L}}^2, \hat{L}_{x,y,z}] = 0$ .

- Ladder operators:  $\hat{L}_{\pm} = \hat{L}_x \pm i\hat{L}_y$ , obviously  $(\hat{L}_+)^{\dagger} = \hat{L}_-$ .

$$- [\hat{L}_z, \hat{L}_+] = +\hat{L}_+, [\hat{L}_z, \hat{L}_-] = -\hat{L}_-, \text{ namely } \hat{L}_{\pm} \text{ changes } \hat{L}_z \text{ eigenvalues by } \pm 1.$$

$$- [\hat{L}_+, \hat{L}_-] = 2\hat{L}_z, \text{ and}$$

$$\widehat{\mathbf{L}}^2 = \hat{L}_z^2 + (1/2)(\hat{L}_+\hat{L}_- + \hat{L}_-\hat{L}_+) = \hat{L}_z(\hat{L}_z - 1) + \hat{L}_+\hat{L}_- = \hat{L}_z(\hat{L}_z + 1) + \hat{L}_-\hat{L}_+.$$

- Eigenstates of orbital angular momentum:

suppose  $|\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 = \alpha, \hat{L}_z = \beta\rangle$  is the simultaneous eigenstate of  $\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2$  and  $\hat{L}_z$ , then

$$- \hat{L}_{\pm}|\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 = \alpha, \hat{L}_z = \beta\rangle \propto |\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 = \alpha, \hat{L}_z = \beta \pm 1\rangle, \text{ from the commutation relations.}$$

$$- \text{Use the above formula of } \hat{\mathbf{L}}^2, \text{ notice that } \hat{L}_+\hat{L}_- \text{ and } \hat{L}_-\hat{L}_+ \text{ are both positive semi-definite. Then } \alpha = \langle \alpha, \beta | \hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 | \alpha, \beta \rangle \geq \langle \alpha, \beta | \hat{L}_z(\hat{L}_z \pm 1) | \alpha, \beta \rangle = \beta \cdot (\beta \pm 1).$$

$$- \text{The sequence of } |\alpha, \beta\rangle \text{ with different } \beta \text{ (differ by integers) must be truncated with a minimal } \beta_{\min} \text{ and maximal } \beta_{\max}, \text{ s.t. } \hat{L}_+|\alpha, \beta_{\max}\rangle = 0 \text{ and } \hat{L}_-|\alpha, \beta_{\min}\rangle = 0. \text{ Then } \alpha = \beta_{\max} \cdot (\beta_{\max} + 1) = \beta_{\min} \cdot (\beta_{\min} - 1). \text{ So } \beta_{\max} = -\beta_{\min} = -\frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{\alpha + \frac{1}{4}} \equiv \ell, \alpha = \ell \cdot (\ell + 1), \text{ and } 2\ell = \beta_{\max} - \beta_{\min} \text{ is a non-negative integer.}$$

$$- |\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 = \ell(\ell + 1), \hat{L}_z = m\rangle \text{ are usually denoted by } |L = \ell, L_z = m\rangle, \text{ or just } |\ell, m\rangle, \text{ with } m = -\ell, -\ell + 1, \dots, \ell - 1, \ell.$$

- In polar coordinates  $(r, \theta, \phi)$ ,  $\hat{L}_a$  does not depend on radius  $r$ .  

$$\hat{L}_z = -i\frac{\partial}{\partial\phi}, \quad \hat{L}_\pm = \pm e^{\pm i\phi} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \pm i \frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right).$$
- If a wavefunction  $\psi(\mathbf{r})$  is the simultaneous eigenstate of  $\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2$  and  $\hat{L}_z$ , then it must be  $R(r) \cdot Y_\ell^m(\theta, \phi)$ , where  $R$  is the radial wavefunction,  $Y_\ell^m$  is the spherical harmonics. Here  $\ell$  must be integer, due to the periodicity with respect to  $\phi$  with period  $2\pi$ .
- Matrix elements in orthonormal  $|L = \ell, L_z = m\rangle$  basis:  

$$\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 |\ell, m\rangle = \ell(\ell + 1) |\ell, m\rangle, \quad \hat{L}_z |\ell, m\rangle = m |\ell, m\rangle,$$
 Condon-Shortley convention:  

$$\hat{L}_\pm |\ell, m\rangle = \sqrt{\ell(\ell + 1) - m(m \pm 1)} |\ell, m \pm 1\rangle = \sqrt{(\ell \mp m)(\ell \pm m + 1)} |\ell, m \pm 1\rangle.$$
  - The magnitude of matrix element for  $\hat{L}_\pm$  can be computed by,  

$$\begin{aligned} (\hat{L}_\pm |\ell, m\rangle, \hat{L}_\pm |\ell, m\rangle) &= \langle \ell, m | \hat{L}_\pm^\dagger \hat{L}_\pm | \ell, m \rangle = \langle \ell, m | \hat{L}_\mp \hat{L}_\pm | \ell, m \rangle \\ &= \langle \ell, m | \hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 - \hat{L}_z(\hat{L}_z \pm 1) | \ell, m \rangle = \ell(\ell + 1) - m(m \pm 1) = (\ell \mp m)(\ell \pm m + 1) \end{aligned}$$
  - Condon-Shortley convention fixes relative phases between  $|\ell, m\rangle$  with different  $m$ .

## B. Spin-1/2

- “Real” spin - the intrinsic angular momentum - of a particle (*e.g.* spin-1/2 moment of electron) is usually the combined effect of relativity and quantum mechanics. However there are many pseudo-spin-1/2 systems, which are just *two-state* systems.

– Examples of pseudospin: electron on one of two-sublattices of graphene.

- Spin-1/2 wavefunctions & spin coherent state:

Generators of rotation in spin-1/2 Hilbert space are “spin operators”  $\mathbf{S} = \frac{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}{2}$ .

$S_z$  eigenstates form a complete orthonormal basis  $|S_z = \pm \frac{1}{2}\rangle$ .

A generic spin-1/2 wavefunction is  $z_1 |S_z = +\frac{1}{2}\rangle + z_2 |S_z = -\frac{1}{2}\rangle$  (with  $|z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 = 1$ ).

This two-component “spinor wavefunction”  $\begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix}$  corresponds to a “magnetic moment”

along  $\mathbf{n} = (z_1^*, z_2^*) \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix}$  direction, this is the spin coherent state  $|\mathbf{n}\rangle$ .

**Exercise:** check that  $\mathbf{n}$  defined above is a real unit vector, check that  $(\mathbf{n} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}})|\mathbf{n}\rangle = \frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{n}\rangle$ .

- For  $\mathbf{n} = (\sin\theta \cos\phi, \sin\theta \sin\phi, \cos\theta)$ , the spinor wavefunction is usually chosen as  $(z_1[\mathbf{n}], z_2[\mathbf{n}])^T = (e^{-i\phi/2} \cos \frac{\theta}{2}, e^{i\phi/2} \sin \frac{\theta}{2})^T$ .

- Note that under  $\phi \rightarrow \phi + 2\pi$  this spinor wavefunction (zs) changes sign (!)
- Resolution of identity:  $\int |\mathbf{n}\rangle\langle\mathbf{n}| \frac{\sin\theta d\theta d\phi}{2\pi} = \mathbb{1}$ .  $|\mathbf{n}\rangle$  form overcomplete basis.
- ★ Path integral of spin system can be defined in terms of classical vector  $\mathbf{n}$  using these basis. However Berry phase must be included: *e.g.* Auerbach, Chapter 10.
- Rotation in spin-1/2 space is implemented by SU(2) matrix  $e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}'\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}}$ :  
 spinor  $e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}\mathbf{n}'\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} z_1[\mathbf{n}] \\ z_2[\mathbf{n}] \end{pmatrix}$  corresponds to moment along  $\overleftrightarrow{R}_{\mathbf{n}'}(\theta) \bullet \mathbf{n}$  direction.
  - Rotation by  $2\pi$  angle operator is  $-\mathbb{1}$  (sign change of spinor wavefunction!).  
 This is true for all half-odd-integer spin/angular momentum system.
- ★ Higher spin coherent states: see *e.g.* Auerbach, Chapter 7.  
 a spin- $S$  moment along  $\mathbf{n}$  direction can be thought as  $2S$  number of spin-1/2 moments along  $\mathbf{n}$ ,  $|\mathbf{n}\rangle_S \sim |\mathbf{n}\rangle_{\frac{1}{2}} \otimes \cdots \otimes |\mathbf{n}\rangle_{\frac{1}{2}}$  ( $2S$  spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ ). The  $2S$  spin-1/2 has to be symmetrized. It is in fact the state  $\frac{(z_1\hat{b}_\uparrow^\dagger + z_2\hat{b}_\downarrow^\dagger)^n}{\sqrt{n!}}|0\rangle$  used before in Schwinger boson representation, if we identify boson occupation basis  $|j, m\rangle$  as spin- $S$  basis  $|S, S_z\rangle$ .
  - $|\mathbf{n}\rangle_S = \sum_{m=-S}^S \sqrt{\frac{(2S)!}{(S+m)!(S-m)!}} z_1^{S+m} z_2^{S-m} |S, S_z = m\rangle$ ,  
 where  $z_{1,2}$  are components of spin- $\frac{1}{2}$  spinor  $(z_1, z_2)^T$  for moment along  $\mathbf{n}$ .  
 The  $(2S+1)$  coefficients are spin- $S$  spinor wavefunction for moment along  $\mathbf{n}$ .
  - $(\mathbf{n} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}})|\mathbf{n}\rangle_S = S|\mathbf{n}\rangle_S$ , where  $\hat{\mathbf{S}}$  is spin operator of spin- $S$ .
  - Resolution of identity:  $\int |\mathbf{n}\rangle_S\langle\mathbf{n}|_S \frac{(2S+1)\sin\theta d\theta d\phi}{4\pi} = \mathbb{1}$ .

### C. Addition of Angular Momentum

- system of angular momentum  $j_1$  + system of angular momentum  $j_2$ :  
 the tensor product states  $|j_1, m_1\rangle \otimes |j_2, m_2\rangle$  transform under SU(2) rotation as  
 $|j_1, m_1\rangle \otimes |j_2, m_2\rangle \xrightarrow{U} \sum_{m'_1, m'_2} |j_1, m'_1\rangle \otimes |j_2, m'_2\rangle D_{m'_1 m_1}^{(j_1)}(U) D_{m'_2 m_2}^{(j_2)}(U)$ .  
 This  $(2j_1+1)(2j_2+1)$ -dimensional tensor product representation is usually reducible.
- Label the angular momentum  $j$  irrep by  $\mathbf{j}$ . Then the tensor product representation  
 $\mathbf{j}_1 \otimes \mathbf{j}_2 = |\mathbf{j}_1 - \mathbf{j}_2| \oplus (|\mathbf{j}_1 - \mathbf{j}_2| + 1) \oplus \cdots \oplus (\mathbf{j}_1 + \mathbf{j}_2)$ . - *Clebsch-Gordon*.  
 This is just the multiplication table of irreps for SU(2)[SO(3)].



- “Proof”: assume without loss of generality  $j_1 \geq j_2$ , use orthogonality of characters, and  $\chi_j = \frac{\sin[(j+\frac{1}{2})\theta]}{\sin(\frac{\theta}{2})}$ , show that  $\chi_{j_1 \otimes j_2} = \chi_{(j_1-j_2) \oplus \dots \oplus (j_1+j_2)}$ ,  
 Method #1: define  $x = e^{i\theta}$ , then  $\chi_j = \sum_{\mu=0}^{2j} x^{j-\mu}$ , represent  $\chi_{j_1 \otimes j_2} = \chi_{j_1} \cdot \chi_{j_2}$  and  $\chi_{(j_1-j_2) \oplus \dots \oplus (j_1+j_2)} = \sum_J \chi_J$  both as Laurent series of  $x$ , then compare coefficients.  
 Method #2:  $\chi_{j_1 \otimes j_2} = \frac{\sin[(j_1+\frac{1}{2})\theta] \cdot \sin[(j_2+\frac{1}{2})\theta]}{\sin(\frac{\theta}{2}) \cdot \sin(\frac{\theta}{2})} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\cos[(j_1-j_2)\theta] - \cos[(j_1+j_2+1)\theta]}{\sin(\frac{\theta}{2}) \cdot \sin(\frac{\theta}{2})}$   
 $= \sum_{J=j_1-j_2}^{j_1+j_2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\cos[J\theta] - \cos[(J+1)\theta]}{\sin(\frac{\theta}{2}) \cdot \sin(\frac{\theta}{2})} = \sum_{J=j_1-j_2}^{j_1+j_2} \frac{\sin[(J+\frac{1}{2})\theta]}{\sin(\frac{\theta}{2})} = \chi_{(j_1-j_2) \oplus \dots \oplus (j_1+j_2)}.$
- The total angular momentum operator  $\hat{\mathbf{J}} = \hat{\mathbf{J}}_1 \otimes \mathbb{1} + \mathbb{1} \otimes \hat{\mathbf{J}}_2$  (just write  $\hat{\mathbf{J}}_1 + \hat{\mathbf{J}}_2$ ) satisfies  $\hat{\mathbf{J}} \times \hat{\mathbf{J}} = i\hat{\mathbf{J}}$ . By a unitary transformation of basis,  $\hat{\mathbf{J}}$  can be block-diagonalized, each block is the angular momentum operator for  $J$  between  $|J_1 - J_2|$  and  $J_1 + J_2$ . The unitary transformation is given by the ...
- Clebsch-Gordon coefficient:  $\langle J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 | J, m \rangle$  (also denoted by  $C_{m_1 m_2 m}^{J_1 J_2 J}$ ),  
 expansion coefficient of total angular momentum  $J$  and  $\hat{J}_z = m$  basis state  $|J, m\rangle$  on tensor product basis  $|J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2\rangle \equiv |J_1, m_1\rangle \otimes |J_2, m_2\rangle, .$ 
  - Definition:  $|J, m\rangle = \sum_{m_1, m_2} |J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2\rangle \langle J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 | J, m \rangle.$
  - Orthogonality: as  $(2j_1 + 1)(2j_2 + 1)$ -dimensional unitary matrix,  
 $\sum_{J, m} \langle J_1, m'_1; J_2, m'_2 | J, m \rangle \langle J, m | J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 \rangle = \delta_{m'_1 m_1} \delta_{m'_2 m_2},$   
 $\sum_{m_1, m_2} \langle J', m' | J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 \rangle \langle J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 | J, m \rangle = \delta_{J' J} \delta_{m' m}.$
  - Decomposition of the tensor product representation,  $D_{m', m}^{(j)}(U)$   
 $= \sum_{m'_1, m'_2, m_1, m_2} \langle J, m' | J_1, m'_1; J_2, m'_2 \rangle \cdot D_{m'_1, m_1}^{(j_1)}(U) \cdot D_{m'_2, m_2}^{(j_2)}(U) \cdot \langle J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 | J, m \rangle.$
  - Then by orthogonality theorem,  $\frac{1}{|SU(2)|} \sum_{U \in SU(2)} [D_{m', m}^{(J)}(U)]^* D_{m'_1, m_1}^{(J_1)}(U) D_{m'_2, m_2}^{(J_2)}(U)$   
 $= \frac{1}{2J+1} \langle J_1, m'_1; J_2, m'_2 | J, m' \rangle \langle J, m | J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 \rangle.$
  - Selection rule:  $\langle J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 | J, m \rangle$  is nonzero only if  $m_1 + m_2 = m$  ( $\hat{J}_z$  conservation), and  $|J_1 - J_2| \leq J \leq J_1 + J_2$  and  $J_1 + J_2 - J$  is integer.
  - Recursion relation: apply  $J_{\mp} = J_{1, \mp} + J_{2, \mp}$  on  $|J, m \pm 1\rangle$ , use the above definition of C-G coefficient, we have,  $\langle J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 | J, m \rangle$   
 $= \sqrt{\frac{(J_1 - m_1)(J_1 + m_1 + 1)}{(J - m)(J + m + 1)}} \langle J_1, m_1 + 1; J_2, m_2 | J, m + 1 \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{(J_2 - m_2)(J_2 + m_2 + 1)}{(J - m)(J + m + 1)}} \langle J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 + 1 | J, m + 1 \rangle$   
 $= \sqrt{\frac{(J_1 - m_1 + 1)(J_1 + m_1)}{(J - m + 1)(J + m)}} \langle J_1, m_1 - 1; J_2, m_2 | J, m - 1 \rangle + \sqrt{\frac{(J_2 - m_2 + 1)(J_2 + m_2)}{(J - m + 1)(J + m)}} \langle J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 - 1 | J, m - 1 \rangle$
  - Consider  $m = J + 1$  (so  $|J, m\rangle = 0$ ) for the above relation after the last “=”.  
 We have,  $\frac{\langle J_1, m_1 - 1; J_2, J - m_1 + 1 | J, J \rangle}{\langle J_1, m_1; J_2, J - m_1 | J, J \rangle} = -\sqrt{\frac{(J_2 - (J - m_1 + 1))(J_2 + (J - m_1))}{(J_1 - m_1 + 1)(J_1 + m_1)}}.$

This solves all  $\langle J_1, m_1; J_2, m_2 = J - m_1 | J, m = J \rangle$  up to an overall phase factor.  $m < J$  case can be obtained by recursion relation after the first “=”.

#### D. Wigner-Eckart Theorem

- If  $(2k + 1)$  operators  $\hat{T}_q^{(k)}$  ( $q = -k, -k + 1, \dots, k$ ) transform under rotation as the  $|J = k, J_z = q\rangle$  angular momentum basis states, namely under  $SU(2)$  rotation  $U$ ,  

$$\hat{T}_q^{(k)} \xrightarrow{U} \hat{U} \hat{T}_q^{(k)} \hat{U}^\dagger = \sum_{q'} \hat{T}_{q'}^{(k)} D_{q'q}^{(k)}(U),$$
 then the matrix element of  $\hat{T}_q^{(k)}$  between angular momentum  $j'$  &  $j$  states is  

$$\langle j', m' | \hat{T}_q^{(k)} | j, m \rangle = \langle j', m' | j, m; k, q \rangle \langle j' || \hat{T}^{(k)} || j \rangle,$$
 $\langle j' || \hat{T}^{(k)} || j \rangle$  is “reduced matrix element” and does not depend on  $m', q, m$ ,  
 dependence on  $m', q, m$  are all in the Clebsch-Gordon coefficient  $\langle j', m' | j, m; k, q \rangle$ .

- In some convention a factor  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2j'+1}}$  is on the right-hand-side.
- Such operators  $\hat{T}_q^{(k)}$  are usually called *irreducible tensor operators*.  
 Their commutator with rotation generators are  $[\hat{\mathbf{J}}, \hat{T}_q^{(k)}] = \sum_{q'} \hat{T}_{q'}^{(k)} \langle k, q' | \hat{\mathbf{J}} | k, q \rangle$ .  
 In particular  $[\hat{J}_z, \hat{T}_q^{(k)}] = q \hat{T}_q^{(k)}$ ,  $[\hat{J}_\pm, \hat{T}_q^{(k)}] = \sqrt{(k \mp q)(k \pm q + 1)} \hat{T}_{q\pm 1}^{(k)}$ .
- $\sum_{a=x,y,z} [\hat{J}_a, [\hat{J}_a, \hat{T}_q^{(k)}]] = k(k+1) \hat{T}_q^{(k)}$ . This can be used to determine the “angular momentum quantum number”  $k$  of an operator.
- Proof:  $\langle j', m' | \hat{T}_q^{(k)} | j, m \rangle = \frac{1}{|SU(2)|} \sum_{U \in SU(2)} \langle j', m' | \hat{U}^\dagger \hat{T}_q^{(k)} \hat{U} | j, m \rangle$   

$$= \frac{1}{|SU(2)|} \sum_{U \in SU(2)} \sum_{n', q', n} [D_{n', m'}^{(j')}(U)]^* D_{q', q}^{(k)}(U) D_{n, m}^{(j)}(U) \langle j', n' | \hat{T}_{q'}^{(k)} | j, n \rangle$$
 (use orthogonality theorem for C-G coefficients)  

$$= \sum_{n', q', n} \frac{1}{2j'+1} \langle j', m' | j, m; k, q \rangle \langle j, n; k, q' | j', n' \rangle \langle j', n' | \hat{T}_{q'}^{(k)} | j, n \rangle.$$
 So  $\langle j' || \hat{T}^{(k)} || j \rangle = \frac{1}{2j'+1} \sum_{n', q', n} \langle j, n; k, q' | j', n' \rangle \langle j', n' | \hat{T}_{q'}^{(k)} | j, n \rangle$ .

- Special case:  $\hat{T}_a$  transform like a vector,  $[\hat{J}_a, \hat{T}_b] = i\epsilon_{abc} \hat{T}_c$ , ( $a, b, c = x, y, z$ ).

**Projection theorem:**  $\langle j, m' | \hat{T}_a | j, m \rangle = \frac{\langle j, n | \hat{\mathbf{J}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{T}} | j, n \rangle}{j(j+1)} \langle j, m' | \hat{J}_a | j, m \rangle$ . ( $a = x, y, z$ )

- Define  $\hat{T}_0^{(1)} \equiv \hat{T}_z$ ,  $\hat{T}_{\pm 1}^{(1)} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\mp \hat{T}_x - i \hat{T}_y)$ , and similarly  $\hat{J}_q^{(1)}$  ( $q = -1, 0, 1$ ), they are irreducible tensor operators with angular momentum quantum number  $k = 1$ .
- $\hat{\mathbf{J}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{T}} \equiv \hat{J}_x \hat{T}_x + \hat{J}_y \hat{T}_y + \hat{J}_z \hat{T}_z = \sum_{q=-1}^1 (\hat{J}_q^{(1)})^\dagger \hat{T}_q^{(1)}$ .
- $\langle j, n | \hat{\mathbf{J}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{T}} | j, n \rangle$  is independent of  $n$ . So  $\hat{\mathbf{T}}$  is proportional to  $\hat{\mathbf{J}}$  in  $J = j$  space.  
 The proportionality constant can depend on  $j$  though.

- Proof: use Wigner-Eckert theorem, and results for C-G coefficient,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle j, m' | j, m; k=1, q \rangle &= \frac{\langle j, m' | \hat{J}_q^{(1)} | j, m \rangle}{\sqrt{j(j+1)}} \text{ (solve } m' = J \text{ case first), then} \\
 \langle j, m' | \hat{T}_q^{(1)} | j, m \rangle &= \sum_{n', q', n} \frac{\langle j, m' | j, m; k=1, q \rangle \langle j, n; k=1, q' | j, n' \rangle}{2j+1} \langle j, n' | \hat{T}_{q'}^{(1)} | j, n \rangle \\
 &= \frac{\langle j, m' | \hat{J}_q^{(1)} | j, m \rangle}{j(j+1)} \sum_{n', q', n} \frac{1}{2j+1} \langle j, n | (\hat{J}_{q'}^{(1)})^\dagger | j, n' \rangle \langle j, n' | \hat{T}_{q'}^{(1)} | j, n \rangle \\
 &= \langle j, m' | \hat{J}_q^{(1)} | j, m \rangle \cdot \frac{1}{j(j+1)} \cdot \frac{\sum_n \langle j, n | \hat{\mathbf{J}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{T}} | j, n \rangle}{2j+1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

### E. Examples:

- Landé  $g$ -factor:

consider a particle with orbital angular momentum  $L$  and spin  $S$ ,

the coupling to Zeeman magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$  is  $\hat{H} = -\mathbf{B} \cdot \mu_B (g_L \hat{\mathbf{L}} + g_S \hat{\mathbf{S}})$ ,

where  $\mu_B = \frac{e\hbar}{2m}$  is a constant derived from particle charge  $e$  and mass  $m$ .

Define total angular momentum  $\hat{\mathbf{J}} = \hat{\mathbf{L}} + \hat{\mathbf{S}}$ . Then  $[\hat{\mathbf{J}}^2, \hat{H}] = 0$ . In the subspace of total angular momentum  $J$  [namely subspace of  $\hat{\mathbf{J}}^2 = J(J+1)$ ], this Hamiltonian is  $\hat{H}_J = -\mathbf{B} \cdot \mu_B g_J \hat{\mathbf{J}}$ , where  $g_J$  is the Landé  $g$ -factor.

- Define  $\hat{\mathbf{M}} = (g_L \hat{\mathbf{L}} + g_S \hat{\mathbf{S}})$ . **Exercise:** check  $[\hat{J}_a, \hat{M}_b] = i\epsilon_{abc} \hat{M}_c$ , and  $[\hat{\mathbf{J}}^2, \hat{\mathbf{M}}] = 0$ .
- According to the projection theorem,  $\hat{\mathbf{M}} = \frac{\langle J, m | \hat{\mathbf{J}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{M}} | J, m \rangle}{J(J+1)} \hat{\mathbf{J}}$ .  
 Use  $\hat{\mathbf{J}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{M}} = g_L \hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 + g_S \hat{\mathbf{S}}^2 + (g_L + g_S) \hat{\mathbf{L}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}} = g_L \hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 + g_S \hat{\mathbf{S}}^2 + (g_L + g_S) \frac{\hat{\mathbf{J}}^2 - \hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 - \hat{\mathbf{S}}^2}{2}$   
 $= \frac{g_L - g_S}{2} (\hat{\mathbf{L}}^2 - \hat{\mathbf{S}}^2) + \frac{g_L + g_S}{2} \hat{\mathbf{J}}^2$ ,  
 then we have  $g_J = \frac{(g_L - g_S)[L(L+1) - S(S+1)] + (g_L + g_S)J(J+1)}{2J(J+1)}$ .
- For electron,  $g_L = 1$ ,  $g_S \approx 2$ ,  $\mu_B = \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e}$  is the Bohr magneton.

## III. TIME-REVERSAL SYMMETRY

- Effects of time-reversal in classical physics: changes sign of velocity, momentum, angular momentum, electric current, magnetic moment, magnetic field, ...
- Time-reversal for non-relativistic wavefunction in quantum mechanics:  
 Take complex conjugate of  $i\frac{d}{dt}\psi = \hat{H}\psi$ , it becomes  $i\frac{d}{d(-t)}\psi^* = \hat{H}^*\psi^*$ . In this case, time-reversal is just complex conjugation on wavefunction,  $\hat{\mathcal{T}} : t \rightarrow -t, \psi \rightarrow \psi^*$ .

- If the Hamiltonian is “real”, the system has **time-reversal symmetry**:  
 $\psi^*(-t)$  is the solution of the same Schrödinger equation as  $\psi(t)$ .
- With time-reversal symmetry, non-degenerate energy eigenstates  $\psi(t)$  are  
 (real function)  $\times e^{-i\phi} e^{-iEt}$ .  
 ‘proof’:  $\psi(t)$  and  $\psi^*(-t)$  are of same energy. So  $\psi^*(t=0) = e^{2i\phi} \psi(t=0)$ , then  
 $e^{i\phi} \psi(t=0)$  is real.
- Complex conjugation operator  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}$ : anti-linear operator ( $\hat{\mathcal{K}}\lambda|\psi\rangle = \lambda^* \hat{\mathcal{K}}|\psi\rangle$ ) defined in  
 coordinate basis as  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}|x\rangle = |x\rangle$ . Note that  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}^\dagger = \hat{\mathcal{K}}^{-1} = \hat{\mathcal{K}}$ . For anti-linear operator  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}$ ,  
 the Hermitian conjugate is defined by  $(\hat{\mathcal{K}}^\dagger \psi, \phi) = (\psi, \hat{\mathcal{K}}\phi)^*$ .
  - “**Real states**” are states invariant under time-reversal:  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}|\phi\rangle = |\phi\rangle$ .
  - $\langle x|\hat{\mathcal{K}}|\psi\rangle = \langle x|\hat{\mathcal{K}}(\int \psi(x')|x'\rangle dx') = \langle x|(\int \psi^*(x')|x'\rangle dx') = \psi(x)^*$ .
  - $\hat{\mathcal{K}}|p\rangle = \hat{\mathcal{K}}(\int \frac{e^{ipx}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}|x\rangle dx) = \int \frac{e^{-ipx}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}|x\rangle dx = |-p\rangle$ .
  - For linear operator  $\hat{O}$ ,  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}\hat{O} = \hat{O}^* \hat{\mathcal{K}}$ , or  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}\hat{O}\hat{\mathcal{K}}^{-1} = \hat{O}^*$ .  
 Note:  $\langle \phi|\hat{O}^*|\psi\rangle = (\langle \phi|\hat{O}|\psi\rangle)^*$  only for real states.
  - Any anti-linear operator  $\hat{O} = \hat{O}\hat{\mathcal{K}} \cdot \hat{\mathcal{K}}$ , where  $\hat{O}\hat{\mathcal{K}}$  is a linear operator.  
 Any anti-unitary operator is of the form  $\hat{U}\hat{\mathcal{K}}$  where  $\hat{U}$  is a unitary operator.

### A. Time-reversal Symmetry and Angular Momentum

- Time-reversal operation on states should change sign of measured angular momentum,  
 $\langle J, m'|\hat{\mathcal{T}}^\dagger \hat{\mathbf{J}} \hat{\mathcal{T}}|J, m\rangle = -\langle J, m'|\hat{\mathbf{J}}|J, m\rangle$ .
  - Consider  $\hat{J}_z$ ,  $\langle J, m'|\hat{J}_z|J, m\rangle = \delta_{m'm}m$ , the above relation shows that  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}|J, m\rangle = c_m|J, -m\rangle$ , where  $c_m$  is a phase factor.
  - Consider  $\hat{J}_x$ ,  $\langle J, m'|\hat{J}_x|J, m\rangle$   
 $= \frac{1}{2}(\delta_{m',m+1}\sqrt{(J-m)(J+m+1)} + \delta_{m'+1,m}\sqrt{(J-m')(J+m'+1)})$ .  
 $\langle J, m'|\hat{\mathcal{T}}^\dagger \hat{J}_x \hat{\mathcal{T}}|J, m\rangle = c_{m'}^* c_m \langle J, -m'|\hat{J}_x|J, -m\rangle$   
 $= c_{m'}^* c_m \frac{1}{2}(\delta_{-m',-m+1}\sqrt{(J+m)(J-m+1)} + \delta_{-m'+1,-m}\sqrt{(J+m')(J-m'+1)})$ .  
 Comparing terms, e.g. for  $m' = m+1$ , we must have  $c_{m+1} = -c_m$ .
  - Finally  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}|J, m\rangle = c(-1)^{J-m}|J, -m\rangle$ , where  $c$  is a constant phase.

- For integer  $J$ , Condon-Shortley convention is  $[c = (-1)^J]$   
 $\hat{\mathcal{T}}|J, m\rangle = (-1)^m|J, -m\rangle$ .
- For spin-1/2, the usual convention is  $c = 1$ ,  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}|\uparrow\rangle = |\downarrow\rangle$ ,  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}|\downarrow\rangle = -|\uparrow\rangle$ .
- $\hat{\mathcal{T}}\hat{\mathcal{T}}|J, m\rangle = \hat{\mathcal{T}}c(-1)^{J-m}|J, -m\rangle = c^*c(-1)^{J-m}(-1)^{J+m}|J, m\rangle = (-1)^{2J}|J, m\rangle$ .  
 For half-odd-integer  $J$  states,  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}^2 = -\mathbb{1}$ .

- Time-reversal operations on operators: time-reversal operator  $\hat{\mathcal{T}} = \hat{U}_T\hat{\mathcal{K}}$ , where  $\hat{U}_T$  is some unitary operator,  $\hat{\mathcal{K}}$  is complex conjugation.

We need  $(\hat{U}_T)_{ij}(\hat{\mathcal{J}})_{jk}^*(\hat{U}_T^\dagger)_{kl} = -(\hat{\mathcal{J}})_{il}$ . However  $\hat{U}_T$  would depend on basis choice (!).

- Using  $|J, J_z\rangle$  basis,  $\hat{U}_T = e^{i\pi\hat{J}_y}$  (Condon-Shortley convention). In this basis,  $\hat{J}_y$  are purely imaginary in this basis, so changes sign under complex conjugation;  $\hat{J}_{x,z}$  matrix elements are real, but  $e^{i\pi\hat{J}_y}\hat{J}_{x,z}e^{-i\pi\hat{J}_y} = -\hat{J}_{x,z}$ .
- For spin-1/2, the common convention is  $\hat{U}_T = i\sigma^y$ .
- However if “real” basis are used, e.g., for  $L = 1$ , use  $p$ -orbital basis,  $|p_x\rangle = \frac{|L=1, m=-1\rangle - |L=1, m=1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$ ,  $|p_y\rangle = \frac{|L=1, m=-1\rangle + |L=1, m=1\rangle}{-\sqrt{2}i}$ ,  $|p_z\rangle = |L = 1, m = 0\rangle$ , the matrix elements of  $\hat{\mathcal{L}}$  are all purely imaginary. Time-reversal is just complex conjugation on matrix elements, without further unitary transformation.

## B. Time-reversal Symmetry: Kramers Degeneracy

- **Kramers theorem** (Kramers degeneracy):

for system with time-reversal symmetry and of half-odd-integer angular momentum, all energy levels are (at least) doubly degenerate.

- Suppose energy eigenstate  $|E\rangle$  is non-degenerate, time-reversal symmetry dictates that  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}|E\rangle$  is also energy  $E$  eigenstate, so  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}|E\rangle = e^{i\phi}|E\rangle$ , then  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}\hat{\mathcal{T}}|E\rangle = e^{i\phi}e^{-i\phi}|E\rangle = |E\rangle$ , this contradicts  $\hat{\mathcal{T}}^2 = -\mathbb{1}$  for half-odd-integer spin.
- In fact, the inner product  $(|E\rangle, \mathcal{T}|E\rangle)$  vanishes. By the definition of anti-unitary operator,  $(|E\rangle, \mathcal{T}|E\rangle) = (\mathcal{T}|E\rangle, \mathcal{T}\mathcal{T}|E\rangle)^* = (\mathcal{T}|E\rangle, -|E\rangle)^* = -( |E\rangle, \mathcal{T}|E\rangle )$ .
- For system with odd number of electrons and time-reversal symmetry, the energy levels must be doubly degenerate. Because odd number of spin-1/2 can only produce half-odd-integer total spin.

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# Summary of Lecture #6: perturbation theory

## The Goals and The Requirements

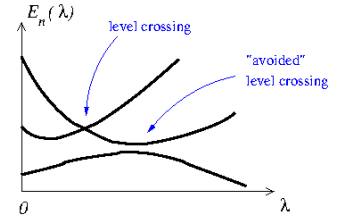
- Understand the generic and formal approach to perturbative expansion for time-independent perturbations.
  - Viewpoint #1: perturbative expansion as a (asymptotic) series expansion of energy eigenvalues and eigenstates.
  - Viewpoint #2: perturbative expansion as a sequence of unitary transformations, trying to separate coupled modes/degrees of freedom.
- Understand the basic tools for dealing with time-dependent perturbations:  
the interaction picture for Hamiltonian (Schrödinger picture)  $\hat{H}_S(t) = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}_S(t)$ .
  - Definitions:  $|\psi(t)\rangle_I = e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} |\psi(t)\rangle_S$ ,  $\hat{O}_I(t) = e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} \hat{O}_S e^{-i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar}$ .  
Relation to Schrödinger picture:  $\langle\psi(t)|_S \hat{O}_S |\phi(t)\rangle_S = \langle\psi(t)|_I \hat{O}_I(t) |\phi(t)\rangle_I$ .
  - Time evolution:  $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle_I = \hat{V}_I(t) |\psi(t)\rangle_I$ .  
 $|\psi(t)\rangle_I = \hat{U}_I(t) |\psi(t=0)\rangle_I = \hat{U}_I(t) |\psi(t=0)\rangle_S$ , formally  $\hat{U}_I(t) = \mathcal{T} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t \hat{V}_I(t') dt'}$ ,  
Dyson series:  $\hat{U}_I(t) = \mathbb{1} + \frac{-i}{\hbar} \int_{t_1=0}^t \hat{V}_I(t_1) dt_1 + (\frac{-i}{\hbar})^2 \int_{t_1=0}^t \int_{t_2=0}^{t_1} \hat{V}_I(t_1) \hat{V}_I(t_2) dt_1 dt_2 + \dots$
  - Note the similarity and difference to the Heisenberg picture (lecture notes #3).
- Optional references:  
J.J. Sakurai, *Modern Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter 5.  
Landau & Lifschitz, *Quantum Mechanics: Non-relativistic Theory*, Chapter VI.

## I. TIME-INDEPENDENT PERTURBATION THEORY FOR DISCRETE LEVELS

## A. Nondegenerate Perturbation Theory: The Goal

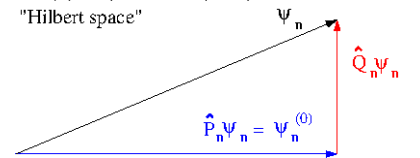
- Given a Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}_0$  with nondegenerate energy eigenvalues  $E_n^{(0)}$  and corresponding normalized eigenstates  $|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$  ( $n = 0, 1, \dots$ ), compute the energy eigenvalues and eigenstates of  $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \lambda\hat{V}$ , in terms of series of the “small parameter”  $\lambda$ .
  - In the  $|n\rangle$  basis,  $\hat{H}_0$  is a diagonal matrix  $(H_0)_{mn} = E_n\delta_{mn}$  with nondegenerate diagonal entries.  $\hat{V}$  is a generic matrix with matrix element  $V_{mn} = \langle\psi_m^{(0)}|\hat{V}|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$ .
  - Diagonal and off-diagonal matrix elements of  $\hat{V}$  play different roles: diagonal  $V_{nn}$  shifts energy of  $n$ -th level without changing eigenstate; off-diagonal  $V_{mn}$  mixes  $n$ -th and  $m$ -th eigenstates and shifts their energies.
  - “Level repulsion”: eigenvalues of  $\begin{pmatrix} E_0 & V_{12} \\ V_{12}^* & E_1 \end{pmatrix}$  is  $\frac{E_0+E_1}{2} \pm \sqrt{(\frac{E_0-E_1}{2})^2 + |V_{12}|^2}$ , the difference is  $\sqrt{(E_0 - E_1)^2 + 4|V_{12}|^2} \geq |E_1 - E_0|$ , adding off-diagonal perturbation tends to increase level distance.
  - It is usually assumed that for sufficiently small  $\lambda$ , the  $n$ -th eigenstates  $|n, \lambda\rangle$  of  $\hat{H}$  is *adiabatically* connected to  $|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$  (no level-crossing with increasing  $\lambda$ ).
  - Assume the  $n$ -th eigenvalue and  $n$ -th eigenstate are,
 
$$E_n = E_n^{(0)} + \lambda E_n^{(1)} + \lambda^2 E_n^{(2)} + \dots,$$

$$|\psi_n\rangle = |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle + \lambda |\psi_n^{(1)}\rangle + \lambda^2 |\psi_n^{(2)}\rangle + \dots.$$
 Note that  $|\psi_n\rangle$  here is *not* normalized, and it is usually assumed that all perturbations  $|\psi_n^{(k>0)}\rangle$  are orthogonal to  $|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$ .



## B. Formal Perturbative Expansion

- Define projection operators  $\hat{P}_n = |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|$  and  $\hat{Q}_n = \mathbb{1} - \hat{P}_n = \sum_{m \neq n} |\psi_m^{(0)}\rangle\langle\psi_m^{(0)}|$ . Note that  $\hat{H}_0\hat{P}_n = \hat{P}_n\hat{H}_0 = E_n^{(0)}\hat{P}_n$ ,  $[\hat{H}_0, \hat{Q}_n] = 0$  and  $\hat{P}_n\hat{Q}_n = \hat{Q}_n\hat{P}_n = 0$ .
- Consider the stationary state Schrödinger equation:  $(\hat{H}_0 + \lambda\hat{V})|\psi_n\rangle = E_n|\psi_n\rangle$ . Use  $|\psi_n\rangle = \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle + \hat{Q}_n|\psi_n\rangle$ , assume  $\hat{Q}_n|\psi_n\rangle$  is a small perturbation to be solved. Rearrange terms,
 
$$(E_n - \hat{H}_0)\hat{Q}_n|\psi_n\rangle = (E_n^{(0)} - E_n)\hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle + \lambda\hat{V}|\psi_n\rangle \quad (*)$$
 Apply  $\hat{Q}_n$  on both sides of (\*),  $\hat{Q}_n(E_n - \hat{H}_0)\hat{Q}_n|\psi_n\rangle = 0 + \lambda\hat{Q}_n\hat{V}|\psi_n\rangle$ .



- The non-trivial eigenvalues of  $\hat{Q}_n(E_n - \hat{H}_0)\hat{Q}_n$  are  $E_n - E_m^{(0)}$  with  $m \neq n$ , assume all these eigenvalues are nonzero, then this operator has an “inverse”  $\hat{G}_n = \hat{Q}_n \frac{1}{E_n - \hat{H}_0} \hat{Q}_n$ . defined on the space orthogonal to  $|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$ ,  $\hat{G}_n \cdot \hat{Q}_n(E_n - \hat{H}_0)\hat{Q}_n = \hat{Q}_n$ . Note that  $\hat{G}_n\hat{Q}_n = \hat{Q}_n\hat{G}_n = \hat{G}_n$ , and  $\hat{G}_n\hat{P}_n = \hat{P}_n\hat{G}_n = 0$ .
- We can now “solve” the perturbation as  $\hat{Q}_n|\psi_n\rangle = \hat{G}_n\hat{Q}_n\lambda\hat{V}|\psi_n\rangle = \hat{G}_n\lambda\hat{V}|\psi_n\rangle$ . Then  $|\psi_n\rangle = \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle + \hat{G}_n\lambda\hat{V}|\psi_n\rangle$ , or  $(\mathbb{1} - \hat{G}_n\lambda\hat{V})|\psi_n\rangle = \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle$ , or formally  $|\psi_n\rangle = (\mathbb{1} - \hat{G}_n\lambda\hat{V})^{-1} \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (\hat{G}_n\lambda\hat{V})^k \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle$  [1].
- Take inner product with  $\hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle$  on both sides of (\*), we can “solve” the energy shift,  $(E_n - E_n^{(0)})\langle\psi_n|\hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle = \langle\psi_n|\hat{P}_n\lambda\hat{V}|\psi_n\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle\psi_n|\hat{P}_n\lambda\hat{V}(\hat{G}_n\lambda\hat{V})^k \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle$  [2].
- $\hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle \propto |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$ , usually just choose  $\hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle = |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$ . Then  $\langle\psi_n|\psi_n\rangle \geq \langle\psi_n|\hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle = 1$ .
- Example: 3-level problem, under the basis of  $(|\psi_1^{(0)}\rangle, |\psi_2^{(0)}\rangle, |\psi_3^{(0)}\rangle)$ ,  $\hat{H}_0$  is diagonal. For  $n = 1$ ,  $\hat{P}_{n=1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\hat{Q}_{n=1} = \mathbb{1}_{3 \times 3} - \hat{P}_{n=1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\hat{G}_{n=1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{E_1 - E_2^{(0)}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{E_1 - E_3^{(0)}} \end{pmatrix}$ .

### C. Formal Perturbative Expansion: Summary

- Summary:  
 $|\psi_n\rangle = (\mathbb{1} - \lambda\hat{G}_n\hat{V})^{-1} \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \lambda^k (\hat{G}_n\hat{V})^k \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle$  [1],  
 $(E_n - E_n^{(0)})\langle\psi_n|\hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \langle\psi_n|\hat{P}_n\lambda\hat{V}(\hat{G}_n\lambda\hat{V})^k \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle$  [2], where  $\hat{G}_n = \hat{Q}_n \frac{1}{E_n - \hat{H}_0} \hat{Q}_n$ .
- Note that [1] and [2] do not really solve  $|\psi_n\rangle$  and  $E_n$  in terms of known quantities. Because  $\hat{G}_n$  contains the unknown  $E_n$ .
- 1st-order perturbation: approximate  $|\psi_n\rangle = \hat{P}_n|\psi_n\rangle + O(\lambda) = |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle + O(\lambda)$ . Then  $E_n - E_n^{(0)} = \lambda\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\hat{V}|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle + O(\lambda^2) = \lambda V_{nn} + O(\lambda^2)$ .
- 2nd-order perturbation:  $|\psi_n\rangle = |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle + \lambda\hat{G}_n\hat{V}|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle + O(\lambda^2)$   
 $= |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle + \lambda\hat{Q}_n \frac{1}{E_n^{(0)} - \hat{H}_0} \hat{Q}_n\hat{V}|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle + O(\lambda^2) = |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle + \lambda \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{V_{mn}}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}} |\psi_m^{(0)}\rangle + O(\lambda^2)$ .  
 $E_n - E_n^{(0)} = \lambda V_{nn} + \lambda^2 \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{V_{nm}V_{mn}}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}} + O(\lambda^3)$ .  
 Note that off-diagonal  $V_{nm}$  always lowers ground state energy (level repulsion).
- For higher order perturbation, more accurate  $E_n$  should be used in  $\hat{G}_n$ . For example, the 3rd-order energy shift is  $E_n - E_n^{(0)} = \lambda V_{nn} + \langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\lambda\hat{V}\hat{G}_n\lambda\hat{V}|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle +$



$\langle \psi_n^{(0)} | \lambda \hat{V} \hat{G}_n \lambda \hat{V} \hat{G}_n \lambda \hat{V} | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle + O(\lambda^4)$ . In the  $\langle \psi_n^{(0)} | \lambda \hat{V} \hat{G}_n \lambda \hat{V} | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle$  term, you need to use  $\lambda^1$ -order approximation of  $\hat{G}_n$ , then you need to use  $E_n \approx E_n^{(0)} + \lambda V_{nn}$ , and  $\frac{1}{E_n - E_m^{(0)}} \approx \frac{1}{E_n^{(0)} + \lambda V_{nn} - E_m^{(0)}} \approx \frac{1}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}} - \frac{\lambda V_{nn}}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})^2}$  in  $\hat{G}_n$ . In the  $\langle \psi_n^{(0)} | \lambda \hat{V} \hat{G}_n \lambda \hat{V} \hat{G}_n \lambda \hat{V} | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle$  term, you can use the 0<sup>th</sup>-order approximation of  $\hat{G}_n$ .

- Wavefunction re-normalization:  $\langle \psi_n | \psi_n \rangle = \frac{1}{Z_n}$ ,  $Z_n \leq 1$  is the weight of unperturbed state  $|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$  in  $|\psi_n\rangle$ . Perturbative expansion is good when  $Z_n$  is close to unity.

$Z_n$  is related to  $Z_n = \frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} E_n$ .

– ‘Proof’:  $\frac{1}{Z_n} = \langle \psi_n | \psi_n \rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k'=0}^{\infty} \lambda^{k+k'} \langle \psi_n^{(0)} | (\hat{V} \hat{G}_n)^k (\hat{G}_n \hat{V})^{k'} | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k'=1}^{\infty} \lambda^{k+k'} \langle \psi_n^{(0)} | (\hat{V} \hat{G}_n)^k (\hat{G}_n \hat{V})^{k'} | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle$ . Note that  $\hat{G}_n |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle = 0$ , so the  $k=0, k' \neq 0$  or  $k' = 0, k \neq 0$  terms do not contribute.

Take  $\frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}}$  on both sides of [2] (fix  $E_m^{(0)}$  for  $m \neq n$ ,  $|\psi_m^{(0)}\rangle$ ,  $\hat{V}$ ), note that  $\frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} \hat{G}_n = \frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} (\hat{Q}_n \frac{1}{E_n - \hat{H}_0} \hat{Q}_n) = \sum_{m \neq n} |\psi_m^{(0)}\rangle \langle \psi_m^{(0)} | \frac{-1}{(E_n - E_m^{(0)})^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} E_n = -(\hat{G}_n)^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} E_n$ , then  $\frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} E_n - 1 = \lambda \langle \psi_n^{(0)} | \hat{V} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} | \psi_n \rangle \right) = \lambda \langle \psi_n^{(0)} | \hat{V} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda^k \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} (\hat{G}_n \hat{V})^k \right) | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle = -\frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} E_n \cdot \langle \psi_n^{(0)} | \hat{V} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda^{k+1} \sum_{k'=0}^{k-1} (\hat{G}_n \hat{V})^{k'} \hat{G}_n (\hat{G}_n \hat{V})^{k-k'} | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle$ . Therefore  $(\frac{\partial}{\partial E_n^{(0)}} E_n)^{-1} = 1 + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \lambda^k \sum_{k'=1}^{k-1} \langle \psi_n^{(0)} | (\hat{V} \hat{G}_n)^{k'} (\hat{G}_n \hat{V})^{k-k'} | \psi_n^{(0)} \rangle = \langle \psi_n | \psi_n \rangle$ .

- Non-degenerate perturbation is a good approximation when the off-diagonal terms are much smaller than original energy differences,  $|\lambda V_{n,m}| \ll |E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}|$  ( $n \neq m$ ).

#### D. Example: Harmonic Oscillator Plus Linear Potential

- $\hat{H}_0 = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2}{2} \hat{x}^2 = \hbar\omega(\hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b} + \frac{1}{2})$ , with non-degenerate energy levels  $E_n^{(0)} = (n + \frac{1}{2})\hbar\omega$ , and unperturbed eigenstates  $|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}}(\hat{b}^\dagger)^n |\psi_0^{(0)}\rangle$ , and  $\hat{b} |\psi_0^{(0)}\rangle = 0$ ,
- Perturbation  $\lambda \hat{V} = \lambda \hat{x} = \lambda \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}}(\hat{b} + \hat{b}^\dagger)$ ,  $V_{nm} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}}(\sqrt{m}\delta_{n+1,m} + \sqrt{n}\delta_{n,m+1})$ .
- 1st-order perturbation vanishes. 2nd-order perturbation correction to energy is  $E_n \approx E_n^{(0)} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\lambda^2 |V_{nm}|^2}{E_n - E_m} = E_n^{(0)} + \frac{\lambda^2}{2m\omega}(\frac{n+1}{-\omega} - \frac{n}{\omega}) = E_n^{(0)} - \frac{\lambda^2}{2m\omega^2}$ .
- This happens to be the exact result.  $\hat{H}_0 + \lambda \hat{V} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2}{2} \hat{x}^2 + \lambda \hat{x} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2}{2} (\hat{x} + \frac{\lambda}{m\omega^2})^2 - \frac{\lambda^2}{2m\omega^2} = \hbar\omega(\hat{b}'^\dagger \hat{b}' + \frac{1}{2}) - \frac{\lambda^2}{2m\omega^2}$ , with  $\hat{b}' = \hat{b} + \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2\hbar m\omega^3}}$ .
- Due to inversion symmetry  $\hat{I}: |x\rangle \mapsto |-x\rangle$ ,  $\hat{I}(\hat{H}_0 + \lambda \hat{V})\hat{I}^\dagger = \hat{H}_0 - \lambda \hat{V}$ . Eigenvalues of  $\hat{H}_0 + \lambda \hat{V}$  must be even function of  $\lambda$ . Therefore all odd-order perturbations vanish.

- **Exercise:** compute the 4th order correction and check that it vanishes.

### E. Degenerate Perturbation Theory

- If energy level  $E_n^{(0)}$  has  $g$ -fold degenerate orthonormal eigenstates  $|\psi_{n\alpha}^{(0)}\rangle$ ,  $\alpha = 1, \dots, g$ , define  $\hat{P}_n = \sum_{\alpha} |\psi_{n\alpha}^{(0)}\rangle \langle \psi_{n\alpha}^{(0)}|$  and  $\hat{Q}_n = \mathbb{1} - \hat{P}_n$ . The expansion is the same, except...
- $\hat{P}_n |\psi_n\rangle = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} |\psi_{n\alpha}^{(0)}\rangle$  is a linear combination with unknown coefficients  $c_{\alpha}$  to be solved.
- $|\psi_n\rangle = (\mathbb{1} - \lambda \hat{G}_n \hat{V})^{-1} \hat{P}_n |\psi_n\rangle = \sum_{\beta} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \lambda^k (\hat{G}_n \hat{V})^k |\psi_{n\beta}^{(0)}\rangle c_{\beta}$  [1'].
- Take inner product with  $|\psi_{n\alpha}^{(0)}\rangle$  on both sides of (\*), we have the “secular equation”,  $(E_n - E_n^{(0)}) \cdot (c_{\alpha}) = \sum_{\beta} \langle \psi_{n\alpha}^{(0)} | \hat{V} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \lambda^{k+1} (\hat{G}_n \hat{V})^k | \psi_{n\beta}^{(0)} \rangle \cdot (c_{\beta})$  [2'].
- 1st-order perturbation:  $|\psi_n\rangle = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} |\psi_{n\alpha}^{(0)}\rangle + O(\lambda)$ , the secular equation is  $(E_n - E_n^{(0)}) \cdot c_{\alpha} = \sum_{\beta} \lambda V_{n\alpha, n\beta} \cdot c_{\beta} + O(\lambda^2)$ , diagonalize the  $g \times g$  matrix  $V_{n\alpha, n\beta} = \langle \psi_{n\alpha}^{(0)} | \hat{V} | \psi_{n\beta}^{(0)} \rangle$  to get the energy shift and  $c_{\alpha}$ .
- 2nd-order perturbation:  $|\psi_n\rangle = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\alpha} (|\psi_{n\alpha}^{(0)}\rangle + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\lambda V_{m, n\alpha}}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}} |\psi_m^{(0)}\rangle) + O(\lambda^2)$ , the secular equation is  $(E_n - E_n^{(0)}) c_{\alpha} = \sum_{\beta} (\lambda V_{n\alpha, n\beta} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\lambda^2 V_{n\alpha, m} V_{m, n\beta}}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}}) \cdot c_{\beta} + O(\lambda^3)$ .
- If 1st order perturbation *completely* removes degeneracy, we can use *normalized*  $c_{\alpha}$  ( $\sum_{\alpha} |c_{\alpha}|^2 = 1$ ) from 1st order perturbation here to compute 2nd-order energy shift,  $E_n - E_n^{(0)} = \lambda \sum_{\alpha, \beta} c_{\alpha}^* V_{n\alpha, n\beta} c_{\beta} + \lambda^2 \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{c_{\alpha}^* V_{n\alpha, m} V_{m, n\beta} c_{\beta}}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}} + O(\lambda^3)$ .
- Almost-degenerate perturbation: for  $E_n^{(0)} \neq E_m^{(0)}$ , if  $|\lambda V_{n, m}| \gg |E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}|$ , we need to use degenerate perturbation theory, and treat the original energy difference as perturbation. For example, for  $\hat{H} = \begin{pmatrix} E_0 & \lambda V \\ \lambda V & E_1 \end{pmatrix}$ , when  $|\lambda V| \gg |E_1 - E_0|$ , we should define  $\hat{H}_0 = E_0 \mathbb{1}_{2 \times 2}$ , and  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda V \\ \lambda V & E_1 - E_0 \end{pmatrix}$  as perturbation.

### F. Example: Heisenberg Exchange from Hubbard Model

- For two sites  $i = 1, 2$ , on each site we have spin-1/2 electron modes  $\hat{c}_{is}$ ,  $s = \uparrow, \downarrow$ . The unperturbed Hamiltonian is onsite Coulomb repulsion (Hubbard interaction),  $\hat{H}_0 = U(\hat{n}_{1\uparrow} \hat{n}_{1\downarrow} + \hat{n}_{2\uparrow} \hat{n}_{2\downarrow})$ . Consider electron number  $\sum_{i,s} \hat{n}_{is} = \sum_{i,s} \hat{c}_{is}^{\dagger} \hat{c}_{is} = 2$  subspace.

- The spectrum of  $\hat{H}_0$  is illustrated on the right.

The ground states are 4-fold degenerate,  $E_0^{(0)} = 0$ ,

$$|\psi_{0\alpha}^{(0)}\rangle = (\hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger |0\rangle, \hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger |0\rangle, \hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger |0\rangle, \hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger |0\rangle),$$

The excited states are two-fold degenerate,  $E_1^{(0)} = U$ ,

$$|\psi_{1\alpha}^{(0)}\rangle = (\hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger |0\rangle, \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger |0\rangle).$$



- Consider electron hoppings,  $\hat{V} = -t \sum_{s=\uparrow,\downarrow} (\hat{c}_{1s}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2s} + \hat{c}_{2s}^\dagger \hat{c}_{1s})$ . 1st-order perturbation vanishes. We have to solve the 2nd-order secular equation. For the ground states subspace,  $(E_0 - E_0^{(0)})c_\alpha = \sum_\beta \sum_\gamma \frac{\langle \psi_{0\alpha}^{(0)} | \hat{V} | \psi_{1\gamma}^{(0)} \rangle \langle \psi_{1\gamma}^{(0)} | \hat{V} | \psi_{0\beta}^{(0)} \rangle}{E_0^{(0)} - E_1^{(0)}} \cdot c_\beta$ . The  $4 \times 4$  matrix is

$$-\frac{2t^2}{U} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \text{ The lowest energy state is spin singlet } \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger - \hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger)|0\rangle, \text{ with energy } -\frac{4t^2}{U}, \text{ the remaining three spin triplet states have zero energy.}$$

- This energy difference between spin singlet and triplets is effectively captured by Heisenberg exchange,  $\frac{4t^2}{U}(\hat{\mathbf{S}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}_2 - \frac{1}{4})$ , where  $\hat{\mathbf{S}}_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s,s'} \hat{c}_{is}^\dagger(\boldsymbol{\sigma})_{ss'} \hat{c}_{is'}$ .
- Degenerate perturbation may be avoided by symmetry analysis. Define unitary operator  $\hat{I}: \hat{c}_{1s} \leftrightarrow \hat{c}_{2s}$ , which swaps the two sites. Then  $\hat{I}\hat{H}\hat{I}^\dagger = \hat{H}$ , and  $\hat{I}^2 = \mathbb{1}$ .  $\hat{I}$  generates a  $Z_2$  group  $\{\mathbb{1}, \hat{I}\}$  with two irreps  $(\Gamma_{1,2})$ ,  $R_{\Gamma_1}(I) = 1$  and  $R_{\Gamma_2}(I) = -1$ . Define  $\hat{S}_z \equiv \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\hat{n}_{i\uparrow} - \hat{n}_{i\downarrow})$ , then  $\hat{S}_z$  commutes with  $\hat{H}$  and  $\hat{I}$ . Then we can divide the Hilbert space by  $\hat{S}_z$  eigenvalues and irreps of the  $Z_2$  group, and solve the perturbation theory in each subspace.

$\hat{S}_z$	$\hat{I}$	states	$\hat{H}_0$	$\hat{V}$
1	-1	$\hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger  0\rangle$	(0)	(0)
-1	-1	$\hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger  0\rangle$	(0)	(0)
0	1	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger - \hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger) 0\rangle$ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger + \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger) 0\rangle$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & U \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2t \\ -2t & 0 \end{pmatrix}$
0	-1	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger + \hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger) 0\rangle$ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{c}_{1\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{1\downarrow}^\dagger - \hat{c}_{2\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2\downarrow}^\dagger) 0\rangle$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & U \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

## II. PERTURBATIVE EXPANSION AS UNITARY TRANSFORMATIONS

### A. Prelude: A Harder Way to Solve a $2 \times 2$ Problem

- Given  $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \lambda \hat{V} = \begin{pmatrix} E_0 & 0 \\ 0 & E_1 \end{pmatrix} + \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 0 & V \\ V & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{E_0 + E_1}{2} \sigma_0 + \frac{E_0 - E_1}{2} \sigma_z + \lambda V \sigma_x$ , in orthonormal basis  $(|\psi_0^{(0)}\rangle, |\psi_1^{(0)}\rangle)$ . Try to “decouple” the two levels by unitary transformations.
- Consider  $(|\psi_0^{(1)}\rangle, |\psi_1^{(1)}\rangle) = e^{i\lambda \hat{S}_0} (|\psi_0^{(0)}\rangle, |\psi_1^{(0)}\rangle)$ , Hamiltonian in this basis is  $\hat{H}^{(1)} = e^{i\lambda \hat{S}_0} \hat{H} e^{-i\lambda \hat{S}_0} = \hat{H}_0 + \lambda([\hat{S}_0, \hat{H}_0] + \hat{V}) + \lambda^2(\frac{1}{2}[\hat{S}_0, [\hat{S}_0, \hat{H}_0]] + [\hat{S}_0, \hat{V}]) + \dots$ , demand that  $\hat{H}^{(1)}$  has no off-diagonal term of order  $O(\lambda)$ . Then we need  $[\hat{S}_0, \hat{H}_0] + \hat{V} = 0$ , which is  $\hat{S}_0 = \frac{V}{E_0 - E_1} \sigma_y$ .
- $\hat{H}^{(1)} = \hat{H}_0 + \frac{\lambda^2 V^2}{E_0 - E_1} \sigma_z - \frac{4}{3} \frac{\lambda^3 V^3}{(E_0 - E_1)^2} \sigma_x - \frac{\lambda^4 V^4}{(E_0 - E_1)^3} \sigma_z + O(\lambda^5)$ , eigenvalues up to  $O(\lambda^2)$  are  $E_0 + \frac{\lambda^2 V^2}{E_0 - E_1}$  and  $E_1 - \frac{\lambda^2 V^2}{E_0 - E_1}$ .
- This procedure can be continued: define  $\hat{H}^{(2)} = e^{i\lambda^3 \hat{S}_1} \hat{H}^{(1)} e^{-i\lambda^3 \hat{S}_1}$ , and choose  $\hat{S}_1$  to cancel the off-diagonal terms in  $\hat{H}^{(1)}$  of order  $\lambda^3$ ,  $\hat{H}^{(2)}$  is then diagonal up to  $O(\lambda^4)$ , the diagonal entries give approximate eigenvalues up to  $O(\lambda^4)$ , and the new basis  $(|\psi_0^{(2)}\rangle, |\psi_1^{(2)}\rangle) = e^{i\lambda^3 \hat{S}_1} e^{i\lambda \hat{S}_0} (|\psi_0^{(0)}\rangle, |\psi_1^{(0)}\rangle)$  are the approximate eigenstates up to  $O(\lambda^3)$ .
- Note: Because  $\hat{H}^{(1)}$  contains off-diagonal terms of only order  $\lambda^3$  and higher, the difference between  $\hat{H}^{(2)}$  diagonal terms and  $\hat{H}^{(1)}$  diagonal terms will be at least of order  $\lambda^6$ , coming from  $[\hat{S}_1, \text{(order } \lambda^3 \text{ off-diagonal terms of } \hat{H}^{(1)})]$  and  $\frac{1}{2}[\hat{S}_1, [\hat{S}_1, \hat{H}_0]]$ . Therefore the diagonal term of  $\hat{H}^{(1)}$  is already accurate up to order  $\lambda^4$ .

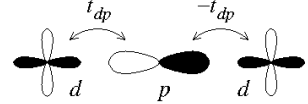
### B. The General Idea

- Given  $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \lambda \hat{V}$ ,  $\hat{H}_0$  has known energy levels  $E_n$  (may be degenerate). Try to use a sequence of unitary transformations to remove “off-diagonal terms”.
- Here “off-diagonal terms” means terms connecting eigenstates of  $\hat{H}_0$  with *different* energy. Therefore the procedure only block-diagonalizes the Hamiltonian. Terms (diagonal and off-diagonal) connecting eigenstates of  $\hat{H}_0$  with the same energy, namely the matrix in the secular equation of degenerate perturbation theory, will be produced.

- Define the projection operators  $\hat{P}_n$  projecting onto  $E_n$  eigenstate space. Then  $\mathbb{1} = \sum_n \hat{P}_n$ . Define  $\hat{V}_{nm} = \hat{P}_n \hat{V} \hat{P}_m$  (related to matrix element  $V_{nm}$  by  $\hat{V}_{nm} = V_{nm} |\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle \langle \psi_m^{(0)}|$ ), then  $\hat{V} = \sum_{n,m} \hat{V}_{nm}$ . Note that  $[\hat{H}_0, \hat{V}_{nm}] = (E_n - E_m) \hat{V}_{nm}$ .
- Consider  $\hat{H}^{(1)} = e^{i\lambda \hat{S}_0} \hat{H} e^{-i\lambda \hat{S}_0}$ , we want to cancel  $\hat{V}_{nm}$  terms with  $n \neq m$  in  $\hat{H}^{(1)}$ , then we need  $[i\hat{S}_0, \hat{H}_0] + \sum_{n \neq m} \hat{V}_{nm} = 0$ . The solution is  $i\hat{S}_0 = \sum_{n \neq m} \frac{\hat{V}_{nm}}{E_n - E_m}$ .
- $\hat{H}^{(1)} = \hat{H}_0 + \lambda \sum_n \hat{V}_{nn} + \frac{\lambda^2}{2} [i\hat{S}_0, \sum_{m \neq n} \hat{V}_{mn}] + \lambda^2 [i\hat{S}_0, \sum_n \hat{V}_{nn}] + O(\lambda^3) = \hat{H}_0 + \lambda \sum_n \hat{V}_{nn} + \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sum_{n' \neq m, m \neq n} (\frac{\hat{V}_{n'm} \hat{V}_{mn}}{E_{n'} - E_m} - \frac{\hat{V}_{n'm} \hat{V}_{mn}}{E_m - E_n}) + \lambda^2 \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\hat{V}_{mn} \hat{V}_{nn} - \hat{V}_{mm} \hat{V}_{mn}}{E_m - E_n} + O(\lambda^3)$ . The diagonal terms are  $\hat{H}_0 + \lambda \sum_n \hat{V}_{nn} + \lambda^2 \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\hat{V}_{nm} \hat{V}_{mn}}{E_n - E_m} + O(\lambda^3)$ , same as series expansion result.
- This abstract procedure can be carried out to arbitrary order of  $\lambda$  (by computers). For next order,  $\hat{H}^{(2)} = e^{i\lambda^2 \hat{S}_2} \hat{H}^{(1)} e^{-i\lambda^2 \hat{S}_2}$ , we demand that  $[i\lambda^2 \hat{S}_2, \hat{H}_0]$  cancels the order  $\lambda^2$  off-diagonal terms of  $\hat{H}^{(1)}$ . Note that  $[\hat{H}_0, \hat{V}_{n'm} \hat{V}_{mn}] = (E_{n'} - E_n) \hat{V}_{n'm} \hat{V}_{mn}$ . Then  $i\hat{S}_2 = \sum_{n' \neq m, m \neq n, n' \neq n} \frac{1}{2(E_{n'} - E_n)} (\frac{\hat{V}_{n'm} \hat{V}_{mn}}{E_{n'} - E_m} - \frac{\hat{V}_{n'm} \hat{V}_{mn}}{E_m - E_n}) + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{1}{E_m - E_n} \frac{\hat{V}_{mn} \hat{V}_{nn} - \hat{V}_{mm} \hat{V}_{mn}}{E_m - E_n}$ . But the generated corrections to diagonal terms will be  $O(\lambda^4)$ . So diagonal terms in  $\hat{H}^{(1)}$  is already accurate up to  $O(\lambda^3)$ .

### C. Example: $d$ - $d$ Hoppings Mediated by $d$ - $p$ Hybridization

- Consider two transition metal(TM) ions connected by an oxygen, the  $d$ -electrons can hop between the two TM ions through oxygen  $p$ -orbitals. Ignore spin here.



$\hat{H}_0 = \epsilon_d (\hat{d}_1^\dagger \hat{d}_1 + \hat{d}_2^\dagger \hat{d}_2) + \epsilon_p \hat{c}^\dagger \hat{c}$ . Here  $\hat{d}_{1,2}$  are  $d$ -electrons,  $\hat{c}$  is  $p$ -electron.

- The perturbation is  $d$ - $p$  hybridization,  $\hat{V} = t_{dp} (\hat{d}_1^\dagger \hat{c} - \hat{d}_2^\dagger \hat{c} + h.c.)$ . NOTE the signs. Define  $\hat{V}_+ = t_{dp} (\hat{d}_1^\dagger \hat{c} - \hat{d}_2^\dagger \hat{c})$  and  $\hat{V}_- = (\hat{V}_+)^\dagger$ . Then  $[\hat{H}_0, \hat{V}_\pm] = \pm(\epsilon_d - \epsilon_p) \hat{V}_\pm$ ,  $\hat{V} = \hat{V}_+ + \hat{V}_-$ . Note  $\hat{V}$  has no diagonal component (always change eigenvalues of  $\hat{H}_0$ ).
- $\hat{H}^{(1)} = e^{i\hat{S}_0} \hat{H} e^{-i\hat{S}_0}$ , and demand  $[i\hat{S}_0, \hat{H}_0] + \hat{V} = 0$ . Then  $i\hat{S}_0 = \frac{1}{\epsilon_d - \epsilon_p} (\hat{V}_+ - \hat{V}_-)$ .  $\hat{H}^{(1)} \approx \hat{H}_0 + \frac{1}{2} [i\hat{S}_0, \hat{V}] = \hat{H}_0 + \frac{1}{2(\epsilon_d - \epsilon_p)} [\hat{V}_+ - \hat{V}_-, \hat{V}_+ + \hat{V}_-] = \hat{H}_0 + \frac{1}{\epsilon_d - \epsilon_p} [\hat{V}_+, \hat{V}_-]$ .
- $[\hat{V}_+, \hat{V}_-] = t_{dp}^2 \sum_{i,j=1}^2 (-1)^{i+j} [\hat{d}_i^\dagger \hat{c}, \hat{c}^\dagger \hat{d}_j] = t_{dp}^2 \sum_{i,j=1}^2 (-1)^{i+j} (\hat{d}_i^\dagger \hat{d}_j - \delta_{ij} \hat{c}^\dagger \hat{c}) = t_{dp}^2 (\sum_i \hat{d}_i^\dagger \hat{d}_i - 2\hat{c}^\dagger \hat{c}) - t_{dp}^2 (\hat{d}_1^\dagger \hat{d}_2 + h.c.)$ .
- The 2nd-order perturbation generates effective  $d$ - $d$  hopping  $-\frac{t_{dp}^2}{\epsilon_d - \epsilon_p} (\hat{d}_1^\dagger \hat{d}_2 + h.c.)$ .

### D. Example: Spin Interactions from Hubbard Model (Not Required)

- Reference: A.H. MacDonald, *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. B* **37**, 9753 (1988).
- Consider the Hubbard model,  $\hat{H}_0 = U(\hat{n}_{1\uparrow}\hat{n}_{1\downarrow} + \hat{n}_{2\uparrow}\hat{n}_{2\downarrow})$ ,  $\hat{V} = -t \sum_{s=\uparrow,\downarrow} (\hat{c}_{1s}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2s} + h.c.)$ . Define  $\hat{V}_{+1} = -t \sum_{s=\uparrow,\downarrow} (\hat{n}_{1,-s} \hat{c}_{1s}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2s} (1 - \hat{n}_{2,-s}) + h.c.)$ ,  
 $\hat{V}_{-1} = -t \sum_{s=\uparrow,\downarrow} ((1 - \hat{n}_{1,-s}) \hat{c}_{1s}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2s} \hat{n}_{2,-s} + h.c.)$ ,  
 $\hat{V}_0 = -t \sum_{s=\uparrow,\downarrow} ((1 - \hat{n}_{1,-s}) \hat{c}_{1s}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2s} (1 - \hat{n}_{2,-s}) + \hat{n}_{1,-s} \hat{c}_{1s}^\dagger \hat{c}_{2s} \hat{n}_{2,-s} + h.c.)$ ,  
 then  $[\hat{H}_0, \hat{V}_m] = mU \hat{V}_m$ , and  $\hat{V} = \sum_m \hat{V}_m$ .  
 Note that by definition  $\hat{V}_m$  changes the number of “double-occupancy” by  $m$ .
- We want  $[\hat{S}_0, \hat{H}_0] + \hat{V}_{+1} + \hat{V}_{-1} = 0$ , then  $\hat{S}_0 = \frac{1}{U}(\hat{V}_{+1} - \hat{V}_{-1})$ .  $\hat{H}^{(1)} = e^{i\hat{S}_0} \hat{H} e^{-i\hat{S}_0} \approx \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}_0 + \frac{1}{2}[\hat{S}_0, \hat{V}_{+1} + \hat{V}_{-1}] + [\hat{S}_0, \hat{V}_0]$
- The diagonal terms (those commute with  $\hat{H}_0$ ) are  $\hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}_0 + \frac{1}{U}[\hat{V}_{+1}, \hat{V}_{-1}]$ .
- Consider the action of these terms on the  $H_0$  ground states (single-occupancy states, with  $\hat{n}_1 = \hat{n}_{1\uparrow} + \hat{n}_{1\downarrow} = 1$  and  $\hat{n}_2 = \hat{n}_{2\uparrow} + \hat{n}_{2\downarrow} = 1$ ), then only  $-\frac{1}{U}\hat{V}_{-1}\hat{V}_{+1}$  is effective, because  $\hat{V}_{-1}$  acting on single-occupancy states will vanish ( $\hat{V}_{-1}$  will decrease the number of double-occupancy by 1).  $\hat{V}_{+1}$  can move an electron from site  $i$  to site  $j$ , create a double-occupancy on site  $j$ , then  $\hat{V}_{-1}$  must move an electron from site  $j$  back to site  $i$ , to remove this double-occupancy. The effect of this term is then  $-\frac{t^2}{U} \sum_{s,s',i \neq j} (\hat{c}_{is}^\dagger \hat{c}_{js}) (\hat{c}_{js'}^\dagger \hat{c}_{is'}) = \frac{t^2}{U} [\sum_{s,s',i \neq j} \hat{c}_{is}^\dagger \hat{c}_{js'}^\dagger \hat{c}_{js} \hat{c}_{is'} - \sum_{s,i \neq j} \hat{n}_{is}] = \frac{t^2}{U} [\sum_{i \neq j} (2\hat{\mathbf{S}}_i \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}_j + \frac{1}{2}) - 2] = \frac{4t^2}{U} (\hat{\mathbf{S}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}_2 - \frac{1}{4})$ .
- **Exercise:** check the spin exchange  $\sum_{s,s'} \hat{c}_{is}^\dagger \hat{c}_{js'}^\dagger \hat{c}_{js} \hat{c}_{is'} = 2\hat{\mathbf{S}}_i \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}_j + \frac{1}{2}$ , in the single-occupancy subspace. Here  $\hat{\mathbf{S}}_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s,s'} \hat{c}_{is}^\dagger (\boldsymbol{\sigma})_{ss'} \hat{c}_{is'}$ .

## III. TIME-DEPENDENT PERTURBATION THEORY

### A. The interaction picture

- Given the Schrödinger picture time-dependent Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}_S(t) = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}_S(t)$ , where  $\hat{H}_0$  is independent of time  $t$ , The time evolution is  $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle_S = [\hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}_S(t)] |\psi(t)\rangle_S$ . The goal is to “eliminate”  $\hat{H}_0$  from this equation.

- Define the “interaction picture” states  $|\psi(t)\rangle_I = e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} |\psi(t)\rangle_S$ .  
Define the “interaction picture” operators  $\hat{O}_I(t) = e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} \hat{O}_S e^{-i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar}$ .  
Note the similarity to the Heisenberg picture, and  
 $\langle\psi(t)|_S \hat{O}_S |\phi(t)\rangle_S = \langle\psi(t)|_I \hat{O}_I(t) |\phi(t)\rangle_I$ .
- Time evolution of states:  $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle_I = \hat{V}_I(t) |\psi(t)\rangle_I$ .  
– “Proof”:  $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle_I = (i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar}) |\psi(t)\rangle_S + e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} \cdot i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle_S$   
 $= e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} (-\hat{H}_0) |\psi(t)\rangle_S + e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} [\hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}_S(t)] |\psi(t)\rangle_S = e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} \hat{V}_S(t) |\psi(t)\rangle_S$   
 $= e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} \hat{V}_S(t) e^{-i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} \cdot e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} |\psi(t)\rangle_S = \hat{V}_I(t) |\psi(t)\rangle_I$ .
- Define the unitary time evolution operator in the interaction picture  $\hat{U}_I(t)$ ,  $|\psi(t)\rangle_I = \hat{U}_I(t) |\psi(t=0)\rangle_I = \hat{U}_I(t) |\psi(t=0)\rangle_S$ . Then  $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} = \hat{V}_I(t) \hat{U}_I(t)$ . The formal solution is the time-ordered exponential  $\hat{U}_I(t) = \mathcal{T} \exp[-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_0^t \hat{V}_I(t') dt']$ , or ...
- **Dyson series:**  $\hat{U}_I(t) = \mathbb{1} + \frac{-i}{\hbar} \int_{t_1=0}^t \hat{V}_I(t_1) dt_1 + (\frac{-i}{\hbar})^2 \int_{t_1=0}^t \int_{t_2=0}^{t_1} \hat{V}_I(t_1) \hat{V}_I(t_2) dt_1 dt_2 + \dots$
- Relation to Schrödinger picture time evolution operator:  $\hat{U}_I(t) = e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} \hat{U}_S(t)$ .
- Transition probability:  
Let  $|i\rangle$  and  $|f\rangle$  be normalized eigenstates of  $\hat{H}_0$ ,  $\hat{H}_0|i\rangle = E_i|i\rangle$ ,  $\hat{H}_0|f\rangle = E_f|f\rangle$ .  
Start at state  $|i\rangle$  at  $t=0$ , evolve over time  $t$ , the probability of final state  $|f\rangle$  is  
 $P(i \rightarrow f, t) = |\langle f|U_S(t)|i\rangle|^2 = |\langle f|e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}_0 t} \hat{U}_I(t)|i\rangle|^2 = |\langle f|e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}E_f t} \hat{U}_I(t)|i\rangle|^2$   
 $= |\langle f|\hat{U}_I(t)|i\rangle|^2$

### B. Transition probability: constant perturbation

$$\bullet \hat{H}_S(t) = \begin{cases} \hat{H}_0, & t < 0, \\ \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}, & t > 0. \end{cases}$$

$\hat{V}$  is hermitian and  $t$ -independent. This is a constant perturbation turned on at  $t=0$ .

- Keep up to 1st order term in the Dyson series of  $\hat{U}_I(t)$ .  
 $\langle f|\hat{U}_I(t)|i\rangle = \langle f|i\rangle + \frac{-i}{\hbar} \int_{t_1=0}^t e^{i(E_f - E_i)t_1/\hbar} \langle f|\hat{V}|i\rangle dt_1 + O(V^2)$   
 $= \langle f|i\rangle + \frac{-i}{\hbar} \frac{\hbar}{i(E_f - E_i)} (e^{i(E_f - E_i)t/\hbar} - 1) V_{fi} + O(V^2)$ . Here  $V_{fi} \equiv \langle f|\hat{V}|i\rangle$ .  
The probability is (for  $f \neq i$  case),  $P(i \rightarrow f, t) = \frac{4 \sin^2(\frac{E_f - E_i}{2\hbar} t)}{(E_f - E_i)^2} |V_{fi}|^2$

- Transition rate:  $P(i \rightarrow f, t)/t = \frac{4 \sin^2(\frac{\Delta E}{2\hbar}t)}{t(\Delta E)^2} |V_{fi}|^2$ , where  $\Delta E = E_f - E_i$ .

Take  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  limit, use  $\lim_{a \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\sin^2(ax)}{ax^2} = \pi \delta(x)$ , then we have

- **Fermi's golden rule:** transition rate is

$$\Gamma(i \rightarrow f) \equiv \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{P(i \rightarrow f, t)}{t} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \delta(E_f - E_i) |V_{fi}|^2.$$

- **Exercise:** keep up to 2nd order terms in Dyson series, redo the calculation.

- The meaning of the  $\delta(E_f - E_i)$ :

The total transition rate to *leave* the initial state is,  $\Gamma_i \equiv \sum_{f, f \neq i} \Gamma(i \rightarrow f)$ . Then  $P(i \rightarrow i, t) \sim (1 - \Gamma_i t) \sim e^{-\Gamma_i t}$ . The *lifetime* of state  $i$  is  $\frac{1}{\Gamma_i}$ . Formally the energy of state  $i$  has imaginary part  $-\frac{i\hbar}{2\Gamma_i}$ .  $\Gamma_i$  equals to  $\int dE_f \rho'(E_f) \Gamma(i \rightarrow f)$ , where  $\rho'(E_f)$  is the *density of state*,  $\rho'(E) = \sum_{f', f' \neq i} \delta(E - E_{f'})$ . Here  $f'$  may be a continuous label, then  $\sum_{f'}$  is an integral. The Fermi golden rule means that the *decay rate* of the initial state is (to lowest order of perturbation),  $\frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \rho'(E_i) \cdot (\text{average of } |V_{fi}|^2 \text{ for } E_f = E_i)$ .

### C. Transition probability: harmonic perturbation

$$\hat{H}_S(t) = \begin{cases} \hat{H}_0, & t < 0, \\ \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}e^{i\omega t} + \hat{V}^\dagger e^{-i\omega t}, & t > 0. \end{cases}$$

$\omega$  is a nonzero real constant.  $\hat{V}$  may not be hermitian, but is  $t$ -independent.

- Keep up to 1st order term in the Dyson series of  $\hat{U}_I(t)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f | \hat{U}_I(t) | i \rangle &= \langle f | i \rangle + \frac{-i}{\hbar} \int_{t_1=0}^t e^{i(E_f - E_i)t_1/\hbar} (e^{i\omega t_1} V_{fi} + e^{-i\omega t_1} V_{fi}^\dagger) dt_1 + O(V^2) \\ &= \langle f | i \rangle - \left[ \frac{V_{fi}}{(E_f - E_i + \hbar\omega)} (e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(E_f - E_i + \hbar\omega)t} - 1) + \frac{V_{fi}^\dagger}{(E_f - E_i - \hbar\omega)} (e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}(E_f - E_i - \hbar\omega)t} - 1) \right] + O(V^2). \end{aligned}$$

The probability is (for  $f \neq i$  case),

$$\begin{aligned} P(i \rightarrow f, t) &= \frac{4 \sin^2(\frac{\Delta E + \hbar\omega}{2\hbar}t)}{(\Delta E + \hbar\omega)^2} |V_{fi}|^2 + \frac{4 \sin^2(\frac{\Delta E - \hbar\omega}{2\hbar}t)}{(\Delta E - \hbar\omega)^2} |V_{fi}^\dagger|^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{4 \sin(\frac{\Delta E + \hbar\omega}{2\hbar}t) \sin(\frac{\Delta E - \hbar\omega}{2\hbar}t)}{(\Delta E)^2 - \hbar^2\omega^2} (V_{fi}^* V_{fi}^\dagger e^{-i\omega t} + (V_{fi}^\dagger)^* V_{fi} e^{i\omega t}). \end{aligned}$$

Take  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  limit, the transition rate is given by

- **Fermi's golden rule:** transition rate is

$$\Gamma(i \rightarrow f) \equiv \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{P(i \rightarrow f, t)}{t} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} [\delta(E_f - E_i + \hbar\omega) |V_{fi}|^2 + \delta(E_f - E_i - \hbar\omega) |V_{fi}^\dagger|^2].$$

- **Exercise:** keep up to 2nd order terms in Dyson series, redo the calculation.



- Detailed balance (see Sakurai, section 5.7): note that  $\Gamma(i \rightarrow f)$  equals to  $\Gamma(f \rightarrow i)$ .  
Roughly speaking, absorption(of energy  $\hbar\omega$ ) rate = emission rate.

#### D. Relation to time-independent theory

- $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}$ .

Denote normalized eigenstates of  $\hat{H}_0$  as  $|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$ ,  $\hat{H}_0|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle = E_n^{(0)}|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$ , and normalized eigenstates of  $\hat{H}$  as  $|\psi_n\rangle$ ,  $\hat{H}|\psi_n\rangle = E_n|\psi_n\rangle$ .

For simplicity denote  $\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\hat{V}|\psi_m^{(0)}\rangle$  as  $V_{nm}$ .

- Consider  $\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\hat{U}_I(t)|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle = \langle\psi_n^{(0)}|e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar}\hat{U}_S(t)|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$   
 $= e^{iE_n^{(0)}t/\hbar}\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|(\sum_m |\psi_m\rangle\langle\psi_m|e^{-iE_m t/\hbar})|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle = \sum_m |\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\psi_m\rangle|^2 e^{-iE_m t/\hbar} e^{iE_n^{(0)}t/\hbar}$ .

Consider non-degenerate case,  $|\psi_n\rangle$  has large overlap with only  $|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\hat{U}_I(t)|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle &= Z_n e^{-i(E_n - E_n^{(0)})t/\hbar} + \sum_{m, m \neq n} |\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\psi_m\rangle|^2 e^{-iE_m t/\hbar} e^{iE_n^{(0)}t/\hbar} \\ &\approx Z_n + Z_n \frac{-i}{\hbar} (E_n - E_n^{(0)})t + Z_n \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{-i(E_n - E_n^{(0)})t}{\hbar} \right)^2 + \sum_{m, m \neq n} |\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\psi_m\rangle|^2 e^{-iE_m t/\hbar} e^{iE_n^{(0)}t/\hbar}. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $Z_n = |\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\psi_n\rangle|^2$  is close to unity.

- Compute  $\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\hat{U}_I(t)|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$  by Dyson series. Up to 2nd order this is  $\langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\hat{U}_I(t)|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$   
 $= 1 + \frac{-i}{\hbar} \int_{t_1=0}^t dt_1 \langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\hat{V}_I(t_1)|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle + \left(\frac{-i}{\hbar}\right)^2 \int_{t_1=0}^t dt_1 \int_{t_2=0}^{t_1} dt_2 \langle\psi_n^{(0)}|\hat{V}_I(t_1)\hat{V}_I(t_2)|\psi_n^{(0)}\rangle$   
 $= 1 + \frac{-i}{\hbar} V_{nn}t + \left(\frac{-i}{\hbar}\right)^2 \int_{t_1=0}^t dt_1 \int_{t_2=0}^{t_1} dt_2 \sum_m e^{iE_n^{(0)}t_1/\hbar} V_{nm} e^{-iE_m^{(0)}t_1/\hbar} \cdot e^{iE_m^{(0)}t_2/\hbar} V_{mn} e^{-iE_m^{(0)}t_2/\hbar}$   
 $= 1 + \frac{-i}{\hbar} V_{nn}t + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{-iV_{nn}t}{\hbar} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{-i}{\hbar}\right)^2 \sum_{m \neq n} V_{nm} V_{mn} \int_{t_1=0}^t dt_1 e^{i(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})t_1/\hbar} \frac{e^{i(E_m^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)})t_1/\hbar} - 1}{i(E_m^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)})/\hbar}$   
 $= 1 + \frac{-i}{\hbar} (V_{nn} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{V_{nm} V_{mn}}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}}) \cdot t + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{-iV_{nn}t}{\hbar} \right)^2$   
 $- \left(\frac{-i}{\hbar}\right)^2 \sum_{m \neq n} V_{nm} V_{mn} \frac{e^{i(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})t/\hbar} - 1}{i(E_m^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)})/\hbar \cdot i(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})/\hbar}$   
 $= [1 - \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{V_{nm} V_{mn}}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})^2}] + \frac{-i}{\hbar} (V_{nn} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{V_{nm} V_{mn}}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}}) \cdot t + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{-iV_{nn}t}{\hbar} \right)^2$   
 $- \left(\frac{-i}{\hbar}\right)^2 \sum_{m \neq n} V_{nm} V_{mn} \frac{e^{i(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})t/\hbar}}{i(E_m^{(0)} - E_n^{(0)})/\hbar \cdot i(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})/\hbar}.$

Compare with previous results, we see that up to 2nd order,

- $E_n - E_n^{(0)} = V_{nn} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{V_{nm} V_{mn}}{E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)}},$   
 $Z_n = 1 - \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{V_{nm} V_{mn}}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_m^{(0)})^2}.$

Consistent with time-independent perturbation theory.

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# Summary of Lecture #7: scattering theory

## The Goals and The Requirements

- Understand the basic tools in scattering theory:  
perturbation theory applied to continuous spectrum of  
the Hamiltonian of (free particle  $\hat{H}_0$  + scattering potential  $\hat{V}$ )
  - For sufficiently short-ranged potential, scattering state energy is the same as plane wave state energy for  $\hat{H}_0$ .
  - Lippmann-Schwinger equation:  $|\psi\rangle = |\mathbf{k}\rangle + \frac{1}{E_0 - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} |\psi\rangle$ .  
Note the  $+i\epsilon$  produces correct  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$  limit.
  - Born approximation:  $|\psi\rangle \approx |\mathbf{k}\rangle + \frac{1}{E_0 - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} |\mathbf{k}\rangle$ .
  - Scattering matrix ( $S$ -matrix): unitary time evolution operator in interaction picture.
- Note: we will assume that the space is three dimensional.
- Understand some basic concepts in scattering theory
  - Scattering cross section,  $\sigma$ : total scattered particle current under unit incoming particle current density.
  - Differential scattering cross section,  $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}$ : scattered particle current  $d\sigma$  into the solid angle element  $d\Omega$ , divided by  $d\Omega$ , under unit incoming current density.
  - Optical theorem:  $\sigma = \frac{4\pi}{k} \text{Im}[f(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k})]$ .  
Total cross section is related to the forward scattering amplitude.
- We will not be dealing with inelastic scattering in class.
- Optional references:  
J.J. Sakurai, *Modern Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter 7.  
Landau & Lifschitz, *Quantum Mechanics: Non-relativistic Theory*, Chapter XVII.

## I. SETUP OF SCATTERING PROBLEM

- Rough picture (time-dependent):  
particle beam (plane wave packet)  $|\psi(t=0)\rangle$  coming in, interacting with  $\hat{V}$ ;  
scattered particles (scattered wave)  $|\psi(t \rightarrow +\infty)\rangle$  going out.
- Rough picture (time-independent):  
a (short-ranged) scattering potential  $\hat{V}$  as a perturbation to free particle Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}_0$ . The unperturbed state is momentum eigenstate  $|\mathbf{k}\rangle$  ( $\mathbf{k}$  is wavevector,  $\hbar\mathbf{k}$  is momentum). The perturbed state contains scattered waves.
  - difficulties in treating scattering theory as perturbation theory: infinite degeneracy, because there are infinitely many  $|\mathbf{k}'\rangle$  with the same energy ( $|\mathbf{k}'| = |\mathbf{k}|$ ) under  $\hat{H}_0$  as  $|\mathbf{k}\rangle$ .
- We will consider non-relativistic particles only.  $\hat{H}_0 = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2$ .
- Particle number (probability) current is  $\text{Re}[\psi^*(\mathbf{r})(-\mathrm{i}\frac{\hbar}{m}\nabla)\psi(\mathbf{r})]$ .

### A. Scattering cross section

- Differential cross section:  $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}$ .  
 $d\sigma$  is the particle current being scattered into the solid angle element  $d\Omega$ , under unit incoming particle current density.
- Cross section:  $\sigma = \int \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} d\Omega$ .  
Total scattered particle current, under unit incoming particle current density.
- Incoming plane wave  $|\mathbf{k}\rangle$  is not normalizable. Probability is not easily defined. To overcome this, one can use free wave packet instead of plane wave. See *e.g.* Sakurai, Chapter 7.

## II. LIPPMANN-SCHWINGER EQUATION

- Take the time-independent approach,  $(\hat{H}_0 + \hat{V})|\psi\rangle = E|\psi\rangle$ .

- Assume that  $\hat{V}$  is sufficiently short-ranged, namely for position  $\mathbf{r}$  at a large distance from the scatterer,  $\hat{V}(\mathbf{r}) \approx 0$ . And  $|\psi\rangle$  has the plane wave component  $|\mathbf{k}\rangle$ . Consider the Schrödinger equation around  $\mathbf{r}$  (where we can ignore  $\hat{V}$ ), we conclude that  $E = E_0 = \frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m}$ .
- Formally (see also series expansion approach to time-independent perturbation),  $|\psi\rangle = |\psi_0\rangle + \frac{1}{E - \hat{H}_0} \hat{V} |\psi\rangle$ , where  $|\psi_0\rangle$  is  $\hat{H}_0$  eigenstate, usually taken as  $|\mathbf{k}\rangle$ . We however need to avoid the singularity of  $\frac{1}{E - \hat{H}_0}$ .
- **Lippmann-Schwinger equation:**  $|\psi\rangle = |\mathbf{k}\rangle + \frac{1}{E - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} |\psi\rangle$ , where  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0+$ .
- Understanding  $+i\epsilon$  (not rigorous):

Lippmann-Schwinger equation can be rewritten as  $(\hat{H}_0 + \hat{V})|\psi\rangle = (E + i\epsilon)|\psi\rangle - i\epsilon|\mathbf{k}\rangle$ . Consider Schrödinger equation  $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi\rangle = (\hat{H}_0 + \hat{V})|\psi\rangle$ , we have  $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} (e^{iEt/\hbar - \epsilon t/\hbar} |\psi\rangle) = -e^{iEt/\hbar - \epsilon t/\hbar} \cdot i\epsilon|\mathbf{k}\rangle$ , solution is  $e^{iEt/\hbar - \epsilon t/\hbar} |\psi\rangle = |\psi(t=0)\rangle - \frac{e^{iEt/\hbar - \epsilon t/\hbar} - 1}{iE - \epsilon} \cdot i\epsilon|\mathbf{k}\rangle$ , or  $|\psi\rangle = e^{-iEt/\hbar + \epsilon t/\hbar} (|\psi(t=0)\rangle + \frac{\epsilon}{E + i\epsilon} |\mathbf{k}\rangle) - \frac{\epsilon}{E + i\epsilon} |\mathbf{k}\rangle$ .

Then  $|\psi\rangle$  becomes the plane wave when  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ , mimic the scattering process.

- Insert resolution of identity into Lippmann-Schwinger equation

$$\langle \mathbf{r} | \psi \rangle = \langle \mathbf{r} | \mathbf{k} \rangle + \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' \int d^3 \mathbf{p} \langle \mathbf{r} | \frac{1}{\frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m} - \frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{p}^2}{2m} + i\epsilon} | \mathbf{p} \rangle \langle \mathbf{p} | \mathbf{r}' \rangle \langle \mathbf{r}' | \hat{V} | \psi \rangle.$$

Note that  $\langle \mathbf{r} | \psi \rangle = \psi(\mathbf{r})$ ,  $\langle \mathbf{r} | \mathbf{p} \rangle = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{i\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$ ,  $\langle \mathbf{r}' | \hat{V} = V(\mathbf{r}') \langle \mathbf{r}' |$  (assume  $\hat{V}$  depends on position only), then  $\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} + \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' \int d^3 \mathbf{p} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')}}{\mathbf{k}^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 + i\epsilon} \cdot \frac{2m}{(2\pi)^3 \hbar^2} \cdot V(\mathbf{r}') \psi(\mathbf{r}')$ . The integration over  $\mathbf{p}$  can be done. Use polar coordinates and define the  $+z$  direction along  $\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'$ . We have  $\int d^3 \mathbf{p} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')}}{\mathbf{k}^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 + i\epsilon} = \int_0^\infty p^2 dp \int_0^\pi \sin \theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \frac{e^{ip|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'| \cos \theta}}{k^2 - p^2 + i\epsilon} = \int_0^\infty p^2 dp \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos \theta) 2\pi \frac{e^{ip|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'| \cos \theta}}{k^2 - p^2 + i\epsilon} = \int_0^\infty p^2 dp \frac{2\pi}{ip|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \frac{(e^{ip|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} - e^{-ip|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|})}{k^2 - p^2 + i\epsilon} = \int_{-\infty}^\infty p dp \frac{2\pi}{i|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \frac{e^{ip|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}}{k^2 - p^2 + i\epsilon} = 2\pi i \text{Res}_{z = +\sqrt{k^2 + i\epsilon}} (z \cdot \frac{2\pi}{i|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \cdot \frac{e^{iz|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}}{k^2 + i\epsilon - z^2}) = -\frac{2\pi^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} e^{ik|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}.$

Finally

- $\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} - \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' \frac{e^{ik|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}}{4\pi|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \cdot V(\mathbf{r}') \psi(\mathbf{r}')$ .
- Further approximation:  $|\mathbf{r}| \gg |\mathbf{r}'|$ , the position where we measure the scattered wave is very far (compared to the range of  $\hat{V}$ ) from the scattering potential,  $|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'| \approx |\mathbf{r}| - \frac{\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r}|}$ ,  $\psi(\mathbf{r}) \approx \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} - \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \frac{e^{ikr}}{4\pi r} \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' e^{-i\mathbf{k}' \cdot \mathbf{r}'} V(\mathbf{r}') \psi(\mathbf{r}')$ , where  $\mathbf{k}' = |\mathbf{k}| \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}$ . This is usually written as

- $\psi(\mathbf{r}) \approx \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \left( e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} + f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{r}}}{r} \right)$ , where  $\mathbf{k}' = |\mathbf{k}| \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}$ . This looks like superposition of incoming plane wave and outgoing spherical wave (with angle dependent amplitude).  
 $f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) = -\frac{(2\pi)^{3/2}}{4\pi} \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \int d^3\mathbf{r}' e^{-i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{r}'} V(\mathbf{r}') \psi(\mathbf{r}')$ , has the unit of length.
- The outgoing particle current in solid angle element  $d\Omega$  along  $\mathbf{k}'$  direction at distance  $r$  is  $\text{Re}\left\{ \left[ \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{r}}}{r} \right]^* \left( -i\frac{\hbar}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) \left[ \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{r}}}{r} \right] \right\} \cdot r^2 d\Omega = \frac{\hbar k}{m} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} |f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k})|^2 d\Omega$ .  
 The incoming particle current density is  $\text{Re}\left[ \left( \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \right)^* \left( -i\frac{\hbar}{m} \nabla \right) \left( \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \right) \right] = \frac{\hbar \mathbf{k}}{m} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3}$ . The differential cross section is the ratio of the two,
- $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = |f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k})|^2$

### III. OPTICAL THEOREM

- Not very rigorous derivation (see *e.g.* Prof. Murayama's notes for rigorous one):  
 Consider a sphere of radius  $r$ , the total outgoing particle current should be zero,  
 $\int r^2 d\Omega \text{Re}[\psi^*(\mathbf{r}) \left( -i\frac{\hbar}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) \psi(\mathbf{r})] = 0$ , where  $\psi = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \left( e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} + f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{r}}}{r} \right)$ .  
 Use polar coordinates and define  $+z$  direction along  $\mathbf{k}$ ,  $0 = r^2 \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi$   
 $\frac{\hbar}{m} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ k \cos\theta + k \frac{|f(\theta, \phi)|^2}{r^2} + \text{Re} \left[ \frac{k \cos\theta}{r} f^*(\theta, \phi) e^{ik(\cos\theta-1)r} + \left( \frac{k}{r} + \frac{-i}{r^2} \right) f(\theta, \phi) e^{-ik(\cos\theta-1)r} \right] \right\}$ ,  
 so  $\sigma = \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi |f(\theta, \phi)|^2 = -r \cdot \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \text{Re}[\cos\theta \cdot f^*(\theta, \phi) e^{ik(\cos\theta-1)r} + (1 + \frac{-i}{kr}) f(\theta, \phi) e^{-ik(\cos\theta-1)r}]$ .  
 Consider the case  $kr \gg 1$  and average over  $r$ , the contribution to the integral comes mainly from  $\theta \approx 0$  region, and  $\phi$  dependence of  $f$  is small there. Define  $x = 1 - \cos\theta$ ,  $\sigma \approx -r \cdot \int_0^2 dx \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \text{Re}[f^*(0, 0) e^{-ikrx} + f(0, 0) e^{ikrx}] = -r \cdot 2\pi \text{Re}[f^*(0, 0) \frac{e^{-2ikr}-1}{-ikr} + f(0, 0) \frac{e^{2ikr}-1}{ikr}]$ , ignore the fast oscillating factor  $e^{\pm 2ikr}$  (for averaging over  $r$ ), we have

- **Optical theorem:**  $\sigma = \frac{4\pi}{k} \text{Im}[f(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k})]$ .

Total cross section is related to the forward scattering amplitude.

### IV. BORN APPROXIMATION

- Like in 1st order approximation in the series expansion approach to time-independent perturbation theory, approximate the unknown  $|\psi\rangle$  on the right-hand-side of Lippmann-Schwinger equation by the incoming plane wave, we have the

- **Born approximation:**  $|\psi\rangle = |\mathbf{k}\rangle + \frac{1}{E - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} |\mathbf{k}\rangle$
- $f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) = -\frac{(2\pi)^{3/2}}{4\pi} \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \int d^3\mathbf{r}' e^{-i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{r}'} V(\mathbf{r}') \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}'}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} = -\frac{2m}{4\pi\hbar^2} \int d^3\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r}') e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}'}$ ,  
where  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{k}$  is the *momentum transfer*. So  $f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k})$  is proportional to the Fourier transform of  $V(\mathbf{r})$  at momentum transfer wavevector.
- If the scattering potential  $V(\mathbf{r})$  is central (depends on  $r = |\mathbf{r}|$  only),  
$$f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) = -\frac{2m}{4\pi\hbar^2} \int r^2 dr \int \sin\theta d\theta \int d\phi V(r) e^{-iqr \cos\theta}$$
$$= -\frac{2m}{4\pi\hbar^2} \int r^2 dr 2\pi \frac{e^{-iqr} - e^{iqr}}{-iqr} V(r) = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \int dr \frac{r \sin(qr)}{q} V(r)$$
- One can apply higher order approximation to the Lippmann-Schwinger equation, and obtain the *Born expansion*,  $|\psi\rangle = |\mathbf{k}\rangle + \frac{1}{E - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} |\mathbf{k}\rangle + \frac{1}{E - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} \frac{1}{E - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} |\mathbf{k}\rangle + \dots$

## V. PARTIAL WAVE EXPANSION

- Consider the case of central potential  $V(\mathbf{r}) = V(r)$ , then  $f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k})$  is only function of the angle  $\theta$  between  $\mathbf{k}'$  and  $\mathbf{k}$ , define the  $\mathbf{k}$  direction as  $+z$  direction,  
 $\psi(\mathbf{r}) \sim e^{ikz} + f(\theta) \frac{e^{ikr}}{r}$ .
- Expand the plane wave into spherical waves,  
$$e^{ikz} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (2l+1) i^l j_l(kr) P_l(\cos\theta),$$
where  $P_l$  is Legendre polynomial,  $j_l$  is spherical Bessel function.
- For large  $r$ ,  $e^{ikz} \sim \frac{1}{2ikr} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (2l+1) (e^{ikr} - (-1)^l e^{-ikr}) P_l(\cos\theta)$ ,
- Expand  $f(\theta)$  into Legendre polynomials,  $f(\theta) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (2l+1) f_l P_l(\cos\theta)$ .
- $\sigma = \int d\Omega |f|^2 = 4\pi \sum_l (2l+1) |f_l|^2$ ,  
where we have used  $\int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta P_{l'}(\cos\theta) P_l(\cos\theta) = \frac{2}{2l+1} \delta_{l'l}$ .
- By optical theorem,  $\sigma = \frac{4\pi}{k} \text{Im}[f(0)] = \frac{4\pi}{k} \sum_l (2l+1) \text{Im}(f_l)$ ,  
where we have used  $P_l(1) = 1$ .
- Comparing the two results,  $|f_l|^2 = \frac{1}{k} \text{Im}(f_l)$ , or  $|1 + 2ikf_l|^2 = 1$ .  
Define **phase shift**  $\delta_l$  such that  $1 + 2ikf_l = e^{2i\delta_l}$ , then  $f_l = \frac{1}{k} e^{i\delta_l} \sin\delta_l$ .
- $\psi(\mathbf{r}) \sim \frac{1}{2ikr} \sum_l (2l+1) P_l(\cos\theta) [e^{2i\delta_l} e^{ikr} - (-1)^l e^{-ikr}]$ .  
 $\sigma = \frac{4\pi}{k^2} \sum_l (2l+1) \sin^2 \delta_l$ .

- Expand  $\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_l Y_l^0(\theta, \phi) R_l(r)$ , where  $Y_l^0(\theta) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}} P_l(\cos \theta)$ , then the radial wavefunction satisfies  $\left[-\frac{1}{r} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} r + \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} + \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} V(r)\right] R_l(r) = k^2 R_l(r)$ , and  $R_l(r) \sim \frac{1}{2ikr} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi(2l+1)}} [e^{2i\delta_l} e^{ikr} - (-1)^l e^{-ikr}]$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ .
- To solve  $\delta_l$ , solve the radial wavefunction  $R_l(r)$  first, expand its asymptotic ( $r \rightarrow \infty$ ) form by spherical Bessel functions  $j_l(kr)$  and  $n_l(kr)$ ,  $R_l(r) \sim j_l(kr) \cos \delta_l + n_l(kr) \sin \delta_l$ .
  - Reminder about spherical Bessel function:  $j_l(\rho)$  and  $n_l(\rho)$ , solutions to  $\left[-\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{d^2}{d\rho^2} \rho + \frac{l(l+1)}{\rho^2}\right] R(\rho) = R(\rho)$ .  
 $j_l(\rho) = (-\rho)^l \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{d}{d\rho}\right)^l \left(\frac{\sin \rho}{\rho}\right)$ ,  $n_l(\rho) = -(-\rho)^l \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{d}{d\rho}\right)^l \left(\frac{\cos \rho}{\rho}\right)$ .
  - Asymptotic behavior:  
 $\rho \rightarrow 0$ ,  $j_l(\rho) \sim \frac{\rho^l}{(2l+1)!!}$ ,  $n_l(\rho) \sim -\frac{(2l-1)!!}{\rho^l}$ .  
 $\rho \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $j_l(\rho) \sim \frac{\sin(\rho-l\pi/2)}{\rho}$ ,  $n_l(\rho) \sim -\frac{\cos(\rho-l\pi/2)}{\rho}$ .

## VI. SCATTERING MATRIX (S-MATRIX)

- $\hat{S}$  is the unitary time evolution operator in interaction picture, under the limit that the initial time  $t_i \rightarrow -\infty$  and the final time  $t_f \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $\hat{S} \sim \lim_{t_i \rightarrow -\infty, t_f \rightarrow +\infty} \hat{U}_I(t_f, t_i)$ .
- From Dyson series,  $\hat{S} = \mathbb{1} + \frac{-i}{\hbar} \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt_1 \hat{V}_I(t_1) + \left(\frac{-i}{\hbar}\right)^2 \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt_1 \int_{t_i}^{t_1} dt_2 \hat{V}_I(t_1) \hat{V}_I(t_2) + \dots$ , with  $\hat{V}_I(t) = e^{i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar} \hat{V} e^{-i\hat{H}_0 t/\hbar}$ .
- The limit  $t_i \rightarrow -\infty$  and  $t_f \rightarrow +\infty$  will formally cause non-convergent integrals. To avoid this, assume that the potential (in Schrödinger picture)  $\hat{V}$  depends on time and decays to zero as  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$ ,  $\hat{V}(t) = \hat{V} e^{-\epsilon|t|}$  with  $\epsilon > 0$ .
- The 1st order term in Dyson series is  $\frac{-i}{\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt_1 e^{i\hat{H}_0 t_1/\hbar} \hat{V} e^{-\epsilon|t_1|} e^{-i\hat{H}_0 t_1/\hbar}$ 

$$= \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} \frac{-i}{\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt_1 |\mathbf{k}\rangle e^{iE_{\mathbf{k}} t_1/\hbar} \langle \mathbf{k} | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}' \rangle e^{-\epsilon|t_1|} e^{-iE_{\mathbf{k}'} t_1/\hbar} \langle \mathbf{k}' |$$

$$= \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} \frac{-i}{\hbar} |\mathbf{k}\rangle \langle \mathbf{k} | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}' \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}' | \left( \int_{-\infty}^0 dt_1 e^{i(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'})/h \cdot t_1 + \epsilon t_1} + \int_0^{+\infty} dt_1 e^{i(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'})/h \cdot t_1 - \epsilon t_1} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} \frac{-i}{\hbar} |\mathbf{k}\rangle \langle \mathbf{k} | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}' \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}' | \left( \frac{1}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'})/h + \epsilon} - \frac{1}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'})/h - \epsilon} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} \frac{-i}{\hbar} |\mathbf{k}\rangle \langle \mathbf{k} | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}' \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}' | \frac{2\epsilon}{(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'})^2/\hbar^2 + \epsilon^2}$$

$$\sim \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} \frac{-i}{\hbar} |\mathbf{k}\rangle \langle \mathbf{k} | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}' \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}' | \cdot 2\pi \delta\left(\frac{E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'}}{\hbar}\right) = -\sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} |\mathbf{k}\rangle \langle \mathbf{k} | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}' \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}' | \cdot 2\pi i \delta(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'}),$$
 note that formally  $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow +0} \frac{2\epsilon}{x^2 + \epsilon^2} = 2\pi \delta(x)$ .

- The 2nd order term in Dyson series is  $(\frac{-i}{\hbar})^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 \int_{-\infty}^{t_1} dt_2 \hat{V}_I(t_1) \hat{V}_I(t_2)$ 

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (\frac{-i}{\hbar})^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 \int_{-\infty}^{t_1} dt_2 \sum_{\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3} |\mathbf{k}_1\rangle e^{iE_{\mathbf{k}_1} t_1 / \hbar} \langle \mathbf{k}_1 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_2 \rangle e^{-\epsilon |t_1|} e^{-iE_{\mathbf{k}_2} t_1 / \hbar} \\
 &\quad \times e^{iE_{\mathbf{k}_2} t_2 / \hbar} \langle \mathbf{k}_2 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_3 \rangle e^{-\epsilon |t_2|} e^{-iE_{\mathbf{k}_3} t_2 / \hbar} \langle \mathbf{k}_3 | \\
 &= (\frac{-i}{\hbar})^2 \sum_{\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3} |\mathbf{k}_1\rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_1 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_2 \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_2 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_3 \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_3 | \\
 &\quad \times \left[ \int_{-\infty}^0 dt_1 \int_{-\infty}^{t_1} dt_2 + \int_0^{\infty} dt_1 (\int_{-\infty}^0 dt_2 + \int_0^{t_1} dt_2) \right] e^{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_2}) t_1 / \hbar - \epsilon |t_1|} e^{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_2} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) t_2 / \hbar - \epsilon |t_2|} \\
 &= (\frac{-i}{\hbar})^2 \sum_{\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3} |\mathbf{k}_1\rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_1 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_2 \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_2 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_3 \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_3 | \times \left[ \int_{-\infty}^0 dt_1 \frac{e^{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) t_1 / \hbar + \epsilon t_1}}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_2} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) / \hbar + \epsilon} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \int_0^{\infty} dt_1 \left( \frac{e^{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_2}) t_1 / \hbar - \epsilon t_1}}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_2} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) / \hbar + \epsilon} + \frac{e^{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) t_1 / \hbar - \epsilon t_1} e^{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_2} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) t_1 / \hbar - \epsilon t_1}}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_2} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) / \hbar - \epsilon} \right) \right] \\
 &= (\frac{-i}{\hbar})^2 \sum_{\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3} |\mathbf{k}_1\rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_1 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_2 \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_2 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_3 \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_3 | \\
 &\quad \times \left[ \frac{1}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_2} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) / \hbar + \epsilon} \left( \frac{1}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) / \hbar + \epsilon} - \frac{1}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_2}) / \hbar - \epsilon} \right) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_2} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) / \hbar - \epsilon} \left( \frac{1}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3}) / \hbar - \epsilon} - \frac{1}{i(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_2}) / \hbar - \epsilon} \right) \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Consider  $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow +0} \frac{1}{x + i\epsilon} = -i\pi\delta(x) + \mathcal{P}(\frac{1}{x})$  where  $\mathcal{P}$  means Cauchy principal value, above result is  $-\sum_{\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3} |\mathbf{k}_1\rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_1 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_2 \rangle \frac{1}{E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_2} + i\epsilon} \langle \mathbf{k}_2 | \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_3 \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_3 | \times 2\pi i\delta(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3})$

$$= -\sum_{\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_3} |\mathbf{k}_1\rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_1 | \hat{V} \frac{1}{E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} | \mathbf{k}_3 \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}_3 | \times 2\pi i\delta(E_{\mathbf{k}_1} - E_{\mathbf{k}_3})$$

- Finally  $\langle \mathbf{k} | (\hat{S} - \mathbb{1}) | \mathbf{k}' \rangle = -2\pi i\delta(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'}) \langle \mathbf{k} | (\hat{V} + \hat{V} \frac{1}{E_{\mathbf{k}} - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} + \dots) | \mathbf{k}' \rangle$ .

Note the similarity to Born expansion.

- From  $\sum_{\mathbf{k}'} \langle \mathbf{k} | \hat{S}^\dagger | \mathbf{k}' \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}' | \hat{S} | \mathbf{k} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{k} | \mathbf{k} \rangle$  (because  $\hat{S}$  is unitary), we have
$$\begin{aligned}
 &\sum_{\mathbf{k}'} [\langle \mathbf{k} | \mathbf{k}' \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}' | (\hat{S} - \mathbb{1}) | \mathbf{k} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{k} | (\hat{S}^\dagger - \mathbb{1}) | \mathbf{k}' \rangle \langle \mathbf{k}' | \mathbf{k} \rangle + |\langle \mathbf{k}' | (\hat{S} - \mathbb{1}) | \mathbf{k} \rangle|^2] = 0, \text{ or} \\
 &-\sum_{\mathbf{k}'} 4\pi\delta(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'}) \text{Im}[\langle \mathbf{k} | \mathbf{k}' \rangle T(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k})] = \sum_{\mathbf{k}'} [2\pi\delta(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'})]^2 |T(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k})|^2, \text{ where} \\
 &T(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) = \langle \mathbf{k}' | (\hat{V} + \hat{V} \frac{1}{E_{\mathbf{k}'} - \hat{H}_0 + i\epsilon} \hat{V} + \dots) | \mathbf{k} \rangle. \text{ This is formally the} \\
 &\text{optical theorem } -\text{Im}[T(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k})] = \sum_{\mathbf{k}'} \pi\delta(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'}) |T(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k})|^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

In 3D space,  $f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \cdot 2\pi^2 \cdot T(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k})$ , and  $\sum_{\mathbf{k}'} \delta(E_{\mathbf{k}} - E_{\mathbf{k}'}) \dots = \int d\Omega \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \frac{k}{2} \dots$ , this recovers the previous optical theorem.
- For central potential problem, the  $S$ -matrix is block-diagonal in the basis of angular momentum  $\ell$  free spherical waves, the matrix element of  $\hat{S}$  between inward spherical wave and outward spherical wave is  $\exp(2i\delta_\ell)$  where  $\delta_\ell$  is the phase shift.

See *e.g.* Prof. Murayama's lecture notes for more details.



## VII. EXAMPLES

## A. Coulomb potential scattering: Born approximation

- $V(\mathbf{r}) = V(r) = \frac{ZZ'e^2}{r}$ ,  $Z$  and  $Z'$  are charges (in unit of elementary charge  $e$ ) of the point-like scatterer and the incoming particle respectively, Gauss unit is used (to change to SI unit, replace  $e^2$  by  $e^2/4\pi\epsilon_0$ ).

- Under Born approximation:

$$f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \frac{1}{q} \int_0^\infty dr r V(r) \sin(qr) = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \frac{1}{q} \int_0^\infty dr (ZZ'e^2) \sin(qr).$$

This however does not seem to converge.

- Consider a short-ranged Yukawa potential  $V(r) = (ZZ'e^2) \frac{\exp(-\mu r)}{r}$ .

Under Born approximation:

$$f(\mathbf{k}', \mathbf{k}) = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \frac{1}{q} \int_0^\infty dr (ZZ'e^2) \exp(-\mu r) \sin(qr) = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (ZZ'e^2) \frac{1}{q^2 + \mu^2}.$$

Note that  $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{k}$ , so  $q = 2k \sin(\theta/2)$  where  $\theta$  is the scattering angle (between  $\mathbf{k}'$  and  $\mathbf{k}$ ),

$$f(\theta) = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (ZZ'e^2) \frac{1}{4k^2 \sin^2(\theta/2) + \mu^2}.$$

- Differential cross section:  $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = |f(\theta)|^2 = \left[ \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (ZZ'e^2) \right]^2 \left( \frac{1}{4k^2 \sin^2(\theta/2) + \mu^2} \right)^2$ .
- Total cross section:  $\sigma = \int \sin \theta d\theta \int d\phi \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = 2\pi \int d(\cos \theta) \left[ \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (ZZ'e^2) \right]^2 \left( \frac{1}{2k^2(1 - \cos \theta) + \mu^2} \right)^2$   
 $= \left[ \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (ZZ'e^2) \right]^2 \frac{4\pi}{4k^2\mu^2 + \mu^4}$
- Finally take the limit that  $\mu \rightarrow 0$ ,  
 $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \left[ \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (ZZ'e^2) \right]^2 \frac{1}{q^4} = \left[ \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (ZZ'e^2) \right]^2 \frac{1}{16k^4 \sin^4(\theta/2)}$ ;  
 $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$ .
- $\sigma$  diverges because Coulomb potential is a long-ranged, no matter how off-target the incoming particle is from the scatterer, it will be affected.
- Form factor:

if the scatterer's charge has a distribution  $\rho(\mathbf{r}')$  [ $Z = \int d^3\mathbf{r}' \rho(\mathbf{r}')$ ],  $V(\mathbf{r}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}' \frac{Z'e^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \rho(\mathbf{r}')$ . This is a convolution of Coulomb potential with  $\rho(\mathbf{r}')$ , under Born approximation, the scattering amplitude is the Fourier transform of  $V$ , so is the product of Fourier transforms of Coulomb potential and  $\rho$ ,

$$f(\theta) = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \frac{Z'e^2}{q^2} \int d^3\mathbf{r}' \rho(\mathbf{r}') \exp(-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}') = f_{\text{point scatterer}}(\theta) \cdot F(\mathbf{q}),$$

$$\text{where the form factor } F(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{Z} \int d^3\mathbf{r}' \rho(\mathbf{r}') \exp(-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}').$$

By measuring differential cross section and comparing with that of point scatterer, one can measure  $|F(\mathbf{q})|^2$  and obtain information about the charge distribution  $\rho$ .

- Bragg scattering: *e.g.* X-ray or neutron diffraction on crystal,  
if the scatterer has a periodic density distribution, *e.g.* electrons in crystals,  $\rho(\mathbf{r}') = \rho(\mathbf{r}' + \mathbf{a}_1) = \rho(\mathbf{r}' + \mathbf{a}_2) = \rho(\mathbf{r}' + \mathbf{a}_3)$  when the arguments are within the parallelepiped spanned by  $L\mathbf{a}_1, L\mathbf{a}_2, L\mathbf{a}_3$ . Under Born approximation, the scattering amplitude is  $f(\mathbf{q}) = f_{\text{point scatterer}}(\mathbf{q}) \int d^3\mathbf{r}' \rho(\mathbf{r}') \exp(-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}')$ . The total form factor is  $F(\mathbf{q}) = \int_{\text{unit cell}} d^3\mathbf{r}' \rho(\mathbf{r}') \exp(-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}') \sum_{x=0}^{L-1} \sum_{y=0}^{L-1} \sum_{z=0}^{L-1} \exp[-i\mathbf{q} \cdot (x\mathbf{a}_1 + y\mathbf{a}_2 + z\mathbf{a}_3)]$   
 $= F_{\text{unit cell}}(\mathbf{q}) \cdot \frac{1-e^{-Li\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1}}{1-e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1}} \frac{1-e^{-Li\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_2}}{1-e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_2}} \frac{1-e^{-Li\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3}}{1-e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3}}$ , differential cross section is proportional to  $|F(\mathbf{q})|^2 = |F_{\text{unit cell}}(\mathbf{q})|^2 \frac{\sin^2(L\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1/2)}{\sin^2(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1/2)} \frac{\sin^2(L\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_2/2)}{\sin^2(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_2/2)} \frac{\sin^2(L\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3/2)}{\sin^2(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_3/2)}$ . The differential cross section is peaked when  $\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{1,2,3} = 0 \pmod{2\pi}$ , namely  $\mathbf{q}$  is a reciprocal lattice vector (Bragg's law). The peak width (in  $\mathbf{k}$ -space) is proportional to  $1/L$  namely inverse of sample's linear size.

## B. Hard sphere: s-wave scattering

- $V(r) = \begin{cases} 0, & r > a; \\ V_0, & r < a. \end{cases}$
- For small momentum  $k \ll 1/a$ , scattering happens mainly in the s-wave channel ( $l = 0$ ). The radial Schrödinger equation is  $[-\frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{2m}{\hbar^2}V(r)](r R_0(r)) = k^2(r R_0(r))$ .
- Repulsive case:  $V_0 > 0$ , define  $K = \sqrt{\frac{2mV_0}{\hbar^2}}$ .

$$\text{– For } k > K, r R(r) = \begin{cases} \sin(\sqrt{k^2 - K^2}r), & r < a; \\ A \sin(ka + \delta_0), & r > a. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{The phase shift } \delta_0 = \arctan\left[\frac{k}{\sqrt{k^2 - K^2}} \tan(\sqrt{k^2 - K^2}a)\right] - ka.$$

For  $k \gg K$ ,  $\delta_0$  vanishes (as  $K^2/k^2$ ) and so does the cross section.

$$\text{– For } k < K, r R(r) = \begin{cases} \sinh(\sqrt{K^2 - k^2}r), & r < a; \\ A \sin(ka + \delta_0), & r > a. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{The phase shift } \delta_0 = \arctan\left[\frac{k}{\sqrt{K^2 - k^2}} \tanh(\sqrt{K^2 - k^2}a)\right] - ka.$$

For  $k \ll K$ ,  $\delta_0 \sim ka[\frac{\tanh(Ka)}{Ka} - 1]$ .

Define the s-wave *scattering length*,  $a_0 = -\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{d\delta_0}{dk}$ , in this case  $a_0 = a[1 - \frac{\tanh(Ka)}{Ka}] > 0$ . For infinitely repulsive potential ( $V_0 \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $K \rightarrow +\infty$ ),  $a_0 = a$ .

- Attractive case:  $V_0 < 0$ , define  $K = \sqrt{-\frac{2mV_0}{\hbar^2}}$ .

$$-rR(r) = \begin{cases} \sin(\sqrt{K^2 + k^2}r), & r < a; \\ A \sin(ka + \delta_0), & r > a. \end{cases}$$

The phase shift  $\delta_0 = \arctan[\frac{k}{\sqrt{K^2 + k^2}} \tan(\sqrt{K^2 + k^2}a)] - ka$ .

The scattering length  $a_0 = -\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{d\delta_0}{dk} = a[1 - \frac{\tan(Ka)}{Ka}]$ .

For small  $Ka \ll 1$ , this is negative.

- For  $Ka = \pi/2 + n\pi$ ,  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ , the scattering length  $a_0$  diverges. This is the

condition to have a zero energy bound state  $rR(r) = \begin{cases} \sin(Kr), & r < a; \\ \text{constant}, & r > a. \end{cases}$

- The  $S$ -matrix element  $e^{2i\delta_0} = e^{-2ika} \frac{1+i\frac{k}{\sqrt{k^2+K^2}} \tan(\sqrt{k^2+K^2}a)}{1-i\frac{k}{\sqrt{k^2+K^2}} \tan(\sqrt{k^2+K^2}a)}$  can have a pole at

$k = i\kappa$ , if  $\kappa = -\frac{\sqrt{K^2 - \kappa^2}}{\tan(\sqrt{K^2 - \kappa^2}a)}$ . This is the condition to have a energy  $-\frac{\hbar^2 \kappa^2}{2m}$  bound

$$\text{state } rR(r) = \begin{cases} \sin(\sqrt{K^2 - \kappa^2}r), & r < a; \\ A \exp(-\kappa r), & r > a. \end{cases}$$

- In summary,

the scattering length is positive(usually negative) for repulsive(attractive) potential;

scattering length can diverge if a bound state energy approaches zero;

poles of  $S$ -matrix (with complex  $k$ ) indicate bound states.

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# Summary of Lecture #8: introduction to relativistic quantum mechanics

## The Goals and The Requirements

- Have some basic understanding about the Dirac equation:
  - One way to reconcile special relativity  $E = \sqrt{m^2c^4 + c^2p^2}$  and quantum mechanics  $\psi \sim \exp[\mathrm{i}(\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{x} - E \cdot t)/\hbar]$ .
  - $\mathrm{i}\hbar \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\psi = (c\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}} + mc^2\beta)\psi$ .  
 $\alpha_i$  and  $\beta$  anti-commute, are hermitian, and square to identity.  
Use Dirac's convention  $\alpha_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_i \\ \sigma_i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma_0 \end{pmatrix}$ .
- Get to know some basic consequences of the Dirac equation:
  - Orbital angular momentum  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{p}$  is not conserved.  
Angular momentum  $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S}$  is conserved. Spin  $S_a = \frac{\hbar}{4\mathrm{i}}\epsilon_{abc}\alpha_b\alpha_c$ .  
 $S_a = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_a & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_a \end{pmatrix}$  under Dirac's convention.
  - Zeeman coupling term  $-\frac{q}{m}\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{B}$  with  $g = 2$ .
  - Spin-orbit coupling: under potential  $V(\mathbf{x})$ , the low energy effective Hamiltonian include  $-\frac{q}{2m^2c^2}\hat{\mathbf{S}} \cdot (\mathbf{E} \times \hat{\mathbf{p}})$ , where  $\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{r}}V$ .
  - Zitterbewegung: Dirac particle cannot be “at rest” in the classical sense. Even with  $\mathbf{p} = 0$  and without external potential, it seems to be oscillating,  $\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}(0) + \frac{\hbar}{2mc}(\boldsymbol{\alpha} \sin \frac{2mc^2t}{\hbar} + \mathrm{i}\boldsymbol{\alpha}\beta \cos \frac{2mc^2t}{\hbar})$ .
- Optional references:
  - M.E. Peskin, D.V. Schroeder, *An Introduction to Quantum Field Theory*, Chapter 3.
  - J.J. Sakurai, *Advanced Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter 3.
  - P.A.M. Dirac, *The Principle of Quantum Mechanics*, Chapter XI.

## I. REMINDER ABOUT BASICS OF SPECIAL RELATIVITY

- Lorentz group:  $O(1, 3)$  group,  
 $(ct, x, y, z) \rightarrow (ct, x, y, z) \cdot \Lambda_{4 \times 4}$ , preserving  $(ct)^2 - x^2 - y^2 - z^2$ .
- Use metric  $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(1, -1, -1, -1)$  where diag means diagonal matrix.  $\Lambda \cdot \eta \cdot \Lambda^T = \eta$ .
- Contra-variant 4-vectors: index  $\mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$ ,  
 4-position  $x^\mu = (ct, x, y, z)$ ;  
 4-momentum  $p^\mu = (\frac{E}{c}, p_x, p_y, p_z)$ ,  $E$  is energy;  
 4-potential  $A^\mu = (\frac{\phi}{c}, A_x, A_y, A_z)$ ,  $\phi$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  are electrostatic and vector potentials;  
 4-current density  $j^\mu = (c\rho, \mathbf{j})$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\mathbf{j}$  are density and current density.
- Covariant 4-vectors are obtained by contravariant ones as  $v_\nu = v^\mu \eta_{\mu\nu}$ . Einstein's convention of implicit summation over repeated indices is used.  $\partial_\mu \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu}$ . Greek indices take values of 0, 1, 2, 3, Roman indices take values of 1, 2, 3 (or  $x, y, z$ ).
- Proper time element  $d\tau$  is given by  $(d\tau)^2 = dx^\mu \eta_{\mu\nu} dx^\nu$ .
- Lorentz invariant quantities:  
 for example  $p^\mu p_\mu = E^2/c^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 = m^2 c^2$
- Classical mechanics and electromagnetism can be cast into Lorentz covariant form.  
 Maxwell's equations:  $\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} \partial_\mu F_{\nu\rho} = 0$ ,  $\partial^\mu F_{\mu\nu} = \mu_0 j_\nu$  where  $\mu_0$  is vacuum permeability.  
 $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu = -F_{\nu\mu}$  is electromagnetic field tensor.  $F_{0a} = E_a/c$  for  $a = 1, 2, 3$  and  $\mathbf{E}$  is electric field;  $F_{ab} = -\epsilon_{abc} B_c$  for  $a, b, c = 1, 2, 3$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  is magnetic field.
- A moving particle in electric field will experience an effective magnetic field, the magnetic moment of the particle will precess (Thomas precession).

## II. KLEIN-GORDON EQUATION

- The plane wave states are  $\psi \sim e^{i(\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{x} - E \cdot t)/\hbar}$ , suggesting  $\mathbf{p} \rightarrow -i\hbar \nabla$  and  $E \rightarrow i\hbar \frac{d}{dt}$ .
- For non-relativistic particle, dispersion relation is  $E = \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m}$ , suggesting non-relativistic Schrödinger equation  $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi$ .

- The first attempt to reconcile with relativistic dispersion relation  $E^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 c^2 = m^2 c^4$  is the *Klein-Gordon equation*  $\hbar^2 \left( -\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} + \nabla^2 \right) \psi = m^2 c^2 \psi$ , or  $(\hbar^2 \partial^\mu \partial_\mu + m^2 c^2) \psi = 0$ .
- The  $\psi$  in Klein-Gordon equation cannot be treated as probability amplitude.
  - In non-relativistic case,  $\int \psi^* \psi d^3 \mathbf{x}$  is conserved, and  $\psi^* \psi$  is non-negative, so can be interpreted as probability density.
  - Under Klein-Gordon equation,  $\int (\dot{\psi} \psi^* - \dot{\psi}^* \psi) d^3 \mathbf{x}$  is conserved, however the integrand is not positive semidefinite and cannot be interpreted as probability density.

### III. DIRAC EQUATION

- The trouble with probability interpretation of Klein-Gordon equation is the appearance of 2nd time derivative. Then it is tempting to consider the dispersion relation,  $E = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4}$  and replace  $E$  and  $\mathbf{p}$  as before. However quantum mechanics should allow linear superposition of wave functions, the square root does not allow that. Dirac formally solved the square root as linear function of  $\mathbf{p}$  and obtain

- **Dirac equation:**  $\dot{\psi} = (c \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}} + mc^2 \beta) \psi$ .

- To be consistent with  $E^2 = \mathbf{p}^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4$ , we need

$$\{\alpha_i, \alpha_j\} = 2\delta_{ij}, \quad \{\alpha_i, \beta\} = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad \beta^2 = 1.$$

Then  $\alpha_i$  and  $\beta$  must be matrices, and  $\psi$  is a vector.

- Dirac's convention:  $\alpha_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_i \\ \sigma_i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma_0 \end{pmatrix}$ .  $\sigma_{0,1,2,3}$  are Pauli matrices.

$$\text{Dirac equation becomes } \dot{\psi} = \begin{pmatrix} mc^2 & c \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}} \\ c \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}} & -mc^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \psi.$$

- $\psi^\dagger \cdot \psi$  can be interpreted as probability density.
- Lorentz covariant form of Dirac equation:  $(i\hbar \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - mc^2) \tilde{\psi} = 0$ , where  $\gamma^\mu = (\beta, \beta \boldsymbol{\alpha})$  and  $\tilde{\psi} = \beta \psi$ . Note that  $\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = \eta^{\mu\nu}$ .

Under Lorentz transformations (including spatial rotations) the vector wave function  $\tilde{\psi}$  shall transform non-trivially (not only changing argument  $t$  and  $\mathbf{x}$ ).

- Conserved quantities for  $\hat{H} = c\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}} + mc^2\beta$ ,
  - momentum  $\hat{\mathbf{p}} = -i\hbar\nabla$ .
  - angular momentum  $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S}$ ,  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{x} \times \hat{\mathbf{p}}$  is orbital angular momentum,  $S_a = \frac{\hbar}{4i}\epsilon_{abc}\alpha_b\alpha_c$  is “spin” angular momentum.  $\mathbf{L}$  (or  $\mathbf{S}$ ) alone is not conserved. Spin has eigenvalues  $\pm\frac{\hbar}{2}$  (Dirac particles are spin-1/2).  
 $[J_a, J_b] = i\hbar\epsilon_{abc}J_c$ ,  $[L_a, L_b] = i\hbar\epsilon_{abc}L_c$ ,  $[S_a, S_b] = i\hbar\epsilon_{abc}S_c$ ,  $[L_a, S_b] = 0$ .  
 Spatial rotation corresponds to  $\exp(-i\theta\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{J}/\hbar)$ .
  - helicity  $\mathbf{J} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{p}}{|\mathbf{p}|} = \mathbf{S} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{p}}{|\mathbf{p}|}$ , projection of (spin) angular momentum onto direction of momentum. Helicity can be  $\pm\frac{\hbar}{2}$ .
- Weyl equation: when mass  $m = 0$ , the Dirac equation can be block-diagonalized into two  $2 \times 2$  equations  $i\hbar\frac{d}{dt}\psi = \pm(c\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}})\psi$ .  $\pm$  signs correspond to right(left)-handed Weyl fermions.
- Majorana fermions: it is possible to choose  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  to be real and  $\beta$  to be purely imaginary (*e.g.*  $\beta = \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_2$ ,  $\alpha_1 = \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_3$ ,  $\alpha_2 = -\sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_0$ ,  $\alpha_3 = -\sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_1$ ), in this case the Dirac equation divided  $i$  on both sides becomes real, so has real wave function solutions.
- Zitterbewegung:
 

consider the Heisenberg picture equation of motion,  $\frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{x} = \frac{i}{\hbar}[\hat{H}, \mathbf{x}] = c\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ , so the velocity operator has eigenvalue  $\pm c$  and different components of velocity do not commute! Consider the case that  $\mathbf{p} = 0$ , further use of Heisenberg equations of motion produces  $(\frac{d}{dt})^2\frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{x} = -\frac{4m^2c^4}{\hbar^2}\frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{x}$ . solution is  $\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}(0) + \frac{\hbar}{2mc}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}\sin\frac{2mc^2t}{\hbar} + i\boldsymbol{\alpha}\beta\cos\frac{2mc^2t}{\hbar})$ . Dirac particle “at rest” seems to be oscillating very rapidly.

#### A. Solutions to Dirac equation

- let  $\psi(t, \mathbf{x}) = e^{i(\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x} - Et)/\hbar}u(\mathbf{p})$ . Then  $\begin{pmatrix} mc^2 & c\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p} \\ c\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p} & -mc^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot u(\mathbf{p}) = E u(\mathbf{p})$   
 Note that  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p}$  has eigenvalues  $\pm|\mathbf{p}|$ , denote the corresponding eigenvectors as  $\chi_{\pm}(\mathbf{p})$ ,  $(\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p})\chi_{\pm}(\mathbf{p}) = \pm|\mathbf{p}|\chi_{\pm}(\mathbf{p})$ , if  $\mathbf{p} = |\mathbf{p}|(\sin\theta\cos\phi, \sin\theta\sin\phi, \cos\theta)$ , one can choose  $\chi_+(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta/2) \\ e^{i\phi}\sin(\theta/2) \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\chi_-(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} -e^{-i\phi}\sin(\theta/2) \\ \cos(\theta/2) \end{pmatrix}$ , the two solutions to  $u(\mathbf{p})$  with

$E = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4}$  are  $u_+(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{E+mc^2}{2mc^2}} \chi_+(\mathbf{p}) \\ \sqrt{\frac{E-mc^2}{2mc^2}} \chi_+(\mathbf{p}) \end{pmatrix}$  and  $u_-(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{E+mc^2}{2mc^2}} \chi_-(\mathbf{p}) \\ -\sqrt{\frac{E-mc^2}{2mc^2}} \chi_-(\mathbf{p}) \end{pmatrix}$ , the subscript  $\pm$  of  $u$  indicate helicity states.

- Negative energy solutions:

let  $\psi(t, \mathbf{x}) = e^{-i(\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{x} - E \cdot t)/\hbar} v(\mathbf{p})$ . Then  $\begin{pmatrix} -mc^2 & c\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p} \\ c\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p} & mc^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot v(\mathbf{p}) = E v(\mathbf{p})$ . For

$$E = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4}, v_+(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{E-mc^2}{2mc^2}} \chi_+(\mathbf{p}) \\ \sqrt{\frac{E+mc^2}{2mc^2}} \chi_+(\mathbf{p}) \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } v_-(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} -\sqrt{\frac{E-mc^2}{2mc^2}} \chi_-(\mathbf{p}) \\ \sqrt{\frac{E+mc^2}{2mc^2}} \chi_-(\mathbf{p}) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Because of the way we define  $\psi$  here, this seems negative energy  $-E$  solution of the Dirac equation, with momentum  $-\mathbf{p}$ . This  $\psi$  should be interpreted as the conjugate of the “positron” wave function.

### B. Non-relativistic limit of Dirac equation

- The Dirac equation of charge  $q$  particle in electromagnetic field is

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \psi = [c\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (-i\hbar \nabla - q\mathbf{A}) + mc^2 \beta + qV] \psi.$$

$V$  is electrostatic potential,  $\mathbf{A}$  is vector potential, both depend on space and time.

- Consider the case that  $|\mathbf{p}| \ll mc$ . Separate the “diagonal” and “off-diagonal” parts of Hamiltonian,  $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}_1$  where  $\hat{H}_0 = mc^2 \beta + qV$  and  $\hat{H}_1 = c\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (-i\hbar \nabla - q\mathbf{A})$ .

- Eliminate the off-diagonal parts  $\hat{H}_1$  by sequences of unitary transformations,

$$\begin{aligned} \psi' &= e^{i\hat{S}} \psi, \text{ then } i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \psi' = \hat{H}' \psi' \text{ where } \hat{H}' = e^{i\hat{S}} \hat{H} e^{-i\hat{S}} - i\hbar e^{i\hat{S}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} e^{-i\hat{S}} \\ &= \hat{H} + [i\hat{S}, \hat{H}] + \frac{1}{2} [i\hat{S}, [i\hat{S}, \hat{H}]] + \frac{1}{6} [i\hat{S}, [i\hat{S}, [i\hat{S}, \hat{H}]]] + \frac{1}{24} [i\hat{S}, [i\hat{S}, [i\hat{S}, [i\hat{S}, \hat{H}]]]] + \dots \\ &\quad - \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{S} - \hbar \frac{1}{2} [i\hat{S}, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{S}] - \hbar \frac{1}{6} [i\hat{S}, [i\hat{S}, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{S}]] + \dots \end{aligned}$$

- $\hat{H}_1$  anti-commutes with  $\beta$ . Choose  $i\hat{S} = \beta \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (\hat{\mathbf{p}} - q\mathbf{A})/2mc = \beta \hat{H}_1/2mc^2$ , so that  $[i\hat{S}, mc^2 \beta] = -\hat{H}_1$ , note that  $[i\hat{S}, \hat{H}_1] = \frac{\beta}{mc^2} (\hat{H}_1)^2$ ,  $[i\hat{S}, [i\hat{S}, \hat{H}_1]] = -\frac{1}{m^2 c^4} (\hat{H}_1)^3$ ,  $\dots$ ;  $\hat{H}' = mc^2 \beta + (qV + \frac{\beta}{2mc^2} [\hat{H}_1, qV] - \frac{1}{(2mc^2)^2} [\hat{H}_1, [\hat{H}_1, qV]] + \dots)$   $+ (\frac{\beta}{2mc^2} (\hat{H}_1)^2 - \frac{1}{3m^2 c^4} (\hat{H}_1)^3 + \frac{\beta}{8m^2 c^4} (\hat{H}_1)^3 + \dots)$   $+ (i\hbar \frac{\beta}{2mc^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{H}_1 - \frac{i\hbar}{8m^2 c^4} [\hat{H}_1, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{H}_1] + \dots)$

- The diagonal terms up to  $\frac{1}{m^2}$  are (no need for further unitary transformation)

$$\beta (mc^2 + \frac{(\hat{H}_1)^2}{2mc^2}) + qV - \frac{1}{8m^2 c^4} [\hat{H}_1, [\hat{H}_1, qV]] - \frac{i\hbar}{8m^2 c^4} [\hat{H}_1, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{H}_1].$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 \bullet \quad \frac{(\hat{H}_1)^2}{2mc^2} &= \frac{1}{2m} \alpha_i (\hat{p}_i - qA_i) \cdot \alpha_j (\hat{p}_j - qA_j) = \frac{1}{2m} (\delta_{ij} + i\frac{2\hat{S}_k}{\hbar} \epsilon_{ijk}) (\hat{p}_i - qA_i) (\hat{p}_j - qA_j) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2m} [(\hat{\mathbf{p}} - q\mathbf{A})^2 - 2\hat{S}_k \epsilon_{ijk} \cdot q \partial_i A_j] = \frac{1}{2m} [(\hat{\mathbf{p}} - q\mathbf{A})^2 - 2q\hat{\mathbf{S}} \cdot \mathbf{B}],
 \end{aligned}$$

this gives the non-relativistic kinetic energy and the Zeeman term with Landé  $g$ -factor  $g = 2$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bullet \quad \text{For the last two terms, } [\hat{H}_1, qV] &= -i\hbar qc\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (\nabla V), [\hat{H}_1, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{H}_1] = [\hat{H}_1, -qc\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{A}], \\
 [\hat{H}_1, [\hat{H}_1, qV]] &= [\hat{H}_1, -i\hbar qc\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (\nabla V)], \text{ so } -\frac{1}{8m^2c^4} [\hat{H}_1, [\hat{H}_1, qV]] - \frac{i\hbar}{8m^2c^4} [\hat{H}_1, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{H}_1] \\
 &= -\frac{i}{8m^2c^4} [\hat{H}_1, i\hbar qc\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot (-\nabla V - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{A})] = -\frac{i}{8m^2c^4} [\hat{H}_1, i\hbar qc\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{E}] \\
 &= -\frac{i\hbar c^2 q}{8m^2c^4} [\alpha_i (\hat{p}_i - qA_i), \alpha_j E_j] \\
 &= -\frac{i\hbar q}{8m^2c^2} ((\delta_{ij} + i\frac{2\hat{S}_k}{\hbar} \epsilon_{ijk}) (\hat{p}_i - qA_i) E_j - (\delta_{ij} - i\frac{2\hat{S}_k}{\hbar} \epsilon_{ijk}) E_j (\hat{p}_i - qA_i)) \\
 &= -\frac{\hbar^2 q}{8m^2c^2} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}) + \frac{q}{2m^2c^2} \epsilon_{ijk} \hat{S}_k E_j (\hat{p}_i - qA_i) - \frac{i\hbar q}{4m^2c^2} (\hat{S}_k \epsilon_{ijk} \partial_i E_j) \\
 &= -\frac{\hbar^2 q}{8m^2c^2} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}) - \frac{q}{2m^2c^2} \hat{\mathbf{S}} \cdot (\mathbf{E} \times \hat{\mathbf{P}}) - \frac{i\hbar q}{4m^2c^2} \hat{\mathbf{S}} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}).
 \end{aligned}$$

The 1st term is the Darwin term. The 2nd term is the spin-orbit coupling. The last term vanishes for static electromagnetic field.

$$\bullet \quad \text{For static central potential } V(\mathbf{r}) = V(r), \mathbf{E} = -\nabla V = -\frac{\mathbf{r}}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} V(r), \text{ the spin-orbit coupling becomes } -\frac{q}{2m^2c^2} \hat{\mathbf{S}} \cdot (\mathbf{E} \times \hat{\mathbf{P}}) = \frac{q}{2m^2c^2} \frac{1}{r} \frac{dV}{dr} \hat{\mathbf{S}} \cdot (\mathbf{r} \times \hat{\mathbf{P}}) = \frac{q}{2m^2c^2} \frac{1}{r} \frac{dV}{dr} \hat{\mathbf{S}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{L}}.$$