

Question 1

According to the Cauchy Schwarz Inequality,

$$|\langle u, v \rangle|^2 \leq \langle u, u \rangle \cdot \langle v, v \rangle \Rightarrow |\langle u, v \rangle| \leq \|u\| \cdot \|v\| \quad - (1)$$

Meanwhile the reverse triangle inequality states that  $\forall$  two vectors  $x$  and  $y$  in a Hilbert space  $\|x - y\| \geq |\|x\| - \|y\|| \quad - (2)$

Now, suppose we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \|x - y\|^2 &= \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2 - 2|\operatorname{Re}(\langle x, y \rangle)| \\ &\geq \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2 - 2|\langle x, y \rangle| \\ &\geq \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2 - 2\|x\| \cdot \|y\| \quad [\text{from (1)}] \\ &= (\|x\| - \|y\|)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \|x - y\| \geq |\|x\| - \|y\||$$

as required in (2).

Hence, we proved the reverse triangle inequality from Cauchy Schwarz inequality.

Question 2

Since radius of the nucleus is of order  $10^{-15} \text{ m}$ , the

maximum uncertainty in position ( $\Delta x$ ) shall be  $10^{-15} \text{ m} \quad - (1)$

Now, given maximum energy coming out of the nucleus is  $4\text{MeV}$  which is equivalent to  $6.41 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J}$  (let  $E$ ).

Thus maximum uncertainty in momentum shall be  $\Delta p \leq \sqrt{2mE}$   
 $\approx 1.08 \times 10^{-21} \text{ kg m/s}$   
Here,  $m$  is the mass of an electron ( $9.1 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$ ) - (2)

Thus the maximum uncertainty in position and momentum for an electron residing in the nucleus is  $\Delta x \cdot \Delta p$

Now,  $\Delta x \cdot \Delta p = 1e-15 + 1.08e-21 = 1.08e-36$  in SI units

Thus, we have  $\Delta x \cdot \Delta p = 1.08e-36$  in SI

$$< 5.27e-35 \text{ in SI} = \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

$\Rightarrow \Delta x \cdot \Delta p < \frac{\hbar}{2}$  which completely violates the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle.

Therefore, we can conclude from the above that the electron cannot reside inside the nucleus.

### Question 3 a

We have  $H = a (|1\rangle\langle 1| - |2\rangle\langle 2| + |1\rangle\langle 2| + |2\rangle\langle 1|)$

Now let  $|1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $|2\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  then we have,

$$H = a \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & a \\ a & -a \end{bmatrix}$$

Now let  $|\psi\rangle$  be an eigenvector of  $H$ , then

$$H|\psi\rangle = \lambda|\psi\rangle \quad \text{where } \lambda \text{ is the corresponding eigenvalue}$$

$$\Rightarrow (H - \lambda I)|\psi\rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \det(H - \lambda I) = 0$$

$$\text{Thus, } \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} a-\lambda & a \\ a & -a-\lambda \end{bmatrix} \right) = 0 \Rightarrow -(a-\lambda)(a+\lambda) - a^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -2a^2 + \lambda^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{\lambda = \pm \sqrt{2} a}$$

two eigenvalues

Let  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix}$  be the eigenvectors corresponding to  $\sqrt{2}a$  and  $-\sqrt{2}a$  then,

$$H \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} = \sqrt{2}a \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a & a \\ a & -a \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2}a x_1 \\ \sqrt{2}a y_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} ax_1 + ay_1 \\ ax_1 - ay_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2}a x_1 \\ \sqrt{2}a y_1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} ax_1 + ay_1 &= \sqrt{2}a x_1 \\ \text{and } ax_1 - ay_1 &= \sqrt{2}a y_1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus, } x_1 + y_1 = \sqrt{2} x_1 \text{ and } x_1 - y_1 = \sqrt{2} y_1$$

$$\text{and assuming } y_1 = k, \text{ we have } x_1 = (1 + \sqrt{2})k$$

Now by normalization we have,

$$x_1 = \frac{1 + \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{4 + 2\sqrt{2}}} \text{ and } y_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4 + 2\sqrt{2}}}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } x_2 = \frac{1 - \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{4 - 2\sqrt{2}}} \text{ and } y_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4 - 2\sqrt{2}}}$$

Now since  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = x|1\rangle + y|2\rangle$  we have the following eigenvectors

$$\frac{1 + \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{4 + 2\sqrt{2}}} |1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{4 + 2\sqrt{2}}} |2\rangle \text{ with eigenvalue } \sqrt{2}a \text{ and}$$

$$\frac{1 - \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{4 - 2\sqrt{2}}} |1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{4 - 2\sqrt{2}}} |2\rangle \text{ with eigenvalue } -\sqrt{2}a$$

### Question 3b

Given,  $A = |1\rangle\langle 2| - |2\rangle\langle 1|$  and

$$\begin{aligned}\text{now } A^\dagger &= (|1\rangle\langle 2| - |2\rangle\langle 1|)^\dagger = (|2\rangle\langle 1| - |1\rangle\langle 2|) \\ &= -A\end{aligned}$$

Thus the operator  $A$  is not Hermitian since  $A \neq A^\dagger$  and hence  $A$  cannot be a Hamiltonian.

### Question 3c

Given  $B = a|1\rangle\langle 1| + b|2\rangle\langle 2| + c(|1\rangle\langle 2| - |2\rangle\langle 1|)$

$$\text{then we have } B^\dagger = a^*|1\rangle\langle 1| + b^*|2\rangle\langle 2| + c^*(|2\rangle\langle 1| - |1\rangle\langle 2|)$$

Now  $B$  can be Hamiltonian iff  $B$  is Hermitian.

$$\text{Thus, } B = B^\dagger$$

$$\Rightarrow a = a^*, b = b^* \text{ and } c = -c^*$$

Thus the required condition for  $B$  to be Hamiltonian is  $a = a^*$ ,  
 $b = b^*$  and  $c = -c^*$   
In other words,  $a$  and  $b$  are real and  $c$  is purely imaginary.

### Question 3d

Given,  $B = a|1\rangle\langle 1| + b|2\rangle\langle 2| + c(|1\rangle\langle 2| - |2\rangle\langle 1|)$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are real ( $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ ) and  $c = id$  where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$   
and  $d \in \mathbb{R}$

Now, let  $|1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $|2\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  then,

$$B = a \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + b \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + id \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - id \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let  $|\psi\rangle$  be an eigenvector of  $B$  then,

$$B|\psi\rangle = \lambda|\psi\rangle \text{ then,}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & id \\ -id & b \end{bmatrix} |\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} |\psi\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a-\lambda & id \\ -id & b-\lambda \end{bmatrix} |\psi\rangle = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} a-\lambda & id \\ -id & b-\lambda \end{bmatrix} \right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (a-\lambda)(b-\lambda) + (id)(id) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - (a+b)\lambda + ab - d^2 = 0$$

Therefore we have,

$$\lambda = \frac{a+b \pm \sqrt{(a+b)^2 - 4(ab - d^2)}}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{a+b \pm \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{2}$$

Now let the corresponding eigenkets be of form  $|\psi\rangle = x|1\rangle + y|2\rangle$

with its corresponding matrix form as  $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = |\psi\rangle$

When  $\lambda = \frac{a+b + \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{2}$  we have

$$|\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{i(a-b + \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2})}{2d} k \\ k \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{solving for } y = k \text{ where}$$

$$|\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $B|\psi\rangle = \lambda|\psi\rangle$

$$\Rightarrow |\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\frac{i(a-b + \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2})}{2d}}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{4} \left| \frac{a-b + \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{d} \right|^2}} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{on normalization}$$

When  $\lambda = \frac{a+b - \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{2}$  similarly we have the following eigenket,

$$|\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{i(a-b - \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2})}{2d} k \\ k \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{solving for } y = k \text{ where}$$

$$|\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $B|\psi\rangle = \lambda|\psi\rangle$

$$\Rightarrow |\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\frac{i(a-b - \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2})}{2d}}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{4} \left| \frac{a-b - \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{d} \right|^2}} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{on normalization}$$

Thus, the required eigenkets (normalized for B under cond<sup>n</sup>s described in Question 3c) are as follows:

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \frac{i(a-b + \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2})}{2d \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{4} \left| \frac{a-b + \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{d} \right|^2}} |1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{4} \left| \frac{a-b + \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{d} \right|^2}} |2\rangle$$

$$\text{for the eigenvalue } \lambda = \frac{a+b + \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{2}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \frac{i(a-b - \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2})}{2d \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{4} \left| \frac{a-b - \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{d} \right|^2}} |1\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{4} \left| \frac{a-b - \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{d} \right|^2}} |2\rangle$$

$$\text{for the eigenvalue } \lambda = \frac{a+b - \sqrt{(a-b)^2 + 4d^2}}{2}$$

#### Question 4

Given matrix  $A = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  and let its eigenvalues be  $\lambda$  then,

$$Av = \lambda v \quad \text{where } v \text{ is some eigenvector}$$

$$\Rightarrow \det(A - \lambda I) = 0 \Rightarrow \det \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -\lambda & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & -\lambda \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -\lambda^3 + \frac{1}{2}\lambda + \frac{1}{2}\lambda = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -\lambda^3 + \lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda^3 - \lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda(\lambda^2 - 1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda(\lambda - 1)(\lambda + 1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda = -1$$

When  $\lambda = 0$  we have,

$$A \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = k \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{where } k \in \mathbb{C}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{from normalization since}$$
$$k^2(1+1) = 1$$
$$\Rightarrow k = 1/\sqrt{2}$$



When  $\lambda = 1$  we have,

$$A \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = k \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \sqrt{2} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ where } k \in \mathbb{C}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ by normalization since } k^2(1+2+1) = 1$$

$\Rightarrow k = 1/2$

When  $\lambda = -1$  we have,

$$A \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = k \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -\sqrt{2} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ where } k \in \mathbb{C}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ by normalization since } k^2(1+2+1) = 1$$

$\Rightarrow k = 1/2$

Therefore the required normalized eigenket and corresponding eigenvalues

are  $\begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}$  for  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $\begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$  for  $\lambda = 1$  and  $\begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$  for  $\lambda = -1$

### Question 5

According to the theorem of simultaneous diagonalization we have, if  $A$  and  $B$  are Hermitian operators then iff  $[A, B] = 0$ ,  $\exists$  an orthonormal basis such that both  $A$  and  $B$  are diagonal w.r.t that basis.

Now if simultaneous diagonalization is not possible then we can't have simultaneous eigenkets.

Thus, we need  $[A, B] = 0 \Rightarrow AB - BA = 0$ .

Now given,  $\{A, B\} = 0 \Rightarrow AB + BA = 0$  [known] - ①

Thus from ① if we were to satisfy  $[A, B] = 0$  then it is necessary to have  $\underline{BA = 0}$ .

derivation

$$AB - BA = AB + BA$$

$$\Rightarrow 2BA = 0 \Rightarrow BA = 0$$

Thus it is possible to have simultaneous eigenkets of  $A$  and  $B$  if and only if  $BA = 0$ .