

Q Show $(\hat{n} \cdot \vec{\sigma})^2 = I$

⇒ The vector of Pauli matrices $\vec{\sigma}$ can be represented as,

$$\vec{\sigma} = (\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z)$$

So, $\hat{n} \cdot \vec{\sigma} = n_x \sigma_x + n_y \sigma_y + n_z \sigma_z$

$$\therefore (\hat{n} \cdot \vec{\sigma})^2 = (n_x \sigma_x + n_y \sigma_y + n_z \sigma_z)^2$$

$$= (n_x \sigma_x + n_y \sigma_y + n_z \sigma_z)(n_x \sigma_x + n_y \sigma_y + n_z \sigma_z)$$

$$= n_x^2 \sigma_x^2 + n_y^2 \sigma_y^2 + n_z^2 \sigma_z^2 + n_x n_y (\sigma_x \sigma_y + \sigma_y \sigma_x)$$

$$+ n_x n_z (\sigma_x \sigma_z + \sigma_z \sigma_x) + n_y n_z (\sigma_y \sigma_z + \sigma_z \sigma_y) \quad \text{①}$$

Now, $\sigma_i^2 = I$ for $i = x, y, z$

$$\sigma_i \sigma_j = -\sigma_j \sigma_i \text{ for } i \neq j$$

On simplifying expression ①

$$(\hat{n} \cdot \vec{\sigma})^{\vee} = n_x^{\vee} I + n_y^{\vee} I + n_z^{\vee} I + n_x n_y (0) + (0) n_x n_y + (0) n_z n_x + (0) n_z n_y$$

$$= I (n_x^{\vee} + n_y^{\vee} + n_z^{\vee})$$

Since \hat{n} is unit vector $|\hat{n}| = 1$

$$\text{so, } n_x^{\vee} + n_y^{\vee} + n_z^{\vee} = 1$$

$$\therefore (\hat{n} \cdot \vec{\sigma})^{\vee} = I \quad \underline{\underline{\text{Proved}}}$$