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# Vector Operator

Ordinary vector:  $\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{V}_x \\ \tilde{V}_y \\ \tilde{V}_z \end{pmatrix} = R \begin{pmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ V_z \end{pmatrix} \leftarrow \tilde{V}_i = \sum_j R_{ij} V_j$

with  $R_x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\epsilon \\ 0 & \epsilon & 1 \end{pmatrix}$   $R_y = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \epsilon \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -\epsilon & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$   $R_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\epsilon & 0 \\ \epsilon & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

3 components that rotate by a prescribed rule

Vector Operators — when we rotate only the system

System:  $|\alpha\rangle \rightarrow |\tilde{\alpha}\rangle = D|\alpha\rangle$

Operator — does not change when only the system is rotated

eg.  $\vec{x}$  does not change

but matrix elements change

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle \alpha | x | \alpha \rangle \\ \langle \alpha | y | \alpha \rangle \\ \langle \alpha | z | \alpha \rangle \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \langle \tilde{\alpha} | x | \tilde{\alpha} \rangle \\ \langle \tilde{\alpha} | y | \tilde{\alpha} \rangle \\ \langle \tilde{\alpha} | z | \tilde{\alpha} \rangle \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{equal}$$

transforms *ordinarily*  
like an ord. vector

$$R \begin{pmatrix} \langle \alpha | x | \alpha \rangle \\ \langle \alpha | y | \alpha \rangle \\ \langle \alpha | z | \alpha \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

Generally:  $\langle \tilde{\alpha} | V_i | \tilde{\alpha} \rangle = \sum_j R_{ij} \langle \alpha | V_j | \alpha \rangle$

$$\langle \alpha | D^\dagger V_i D | \alpha \rangle =$$

vector operator  
is 3 component op.  
that "rotate" in  
this way

$$\therefore D^\dagger V_i D = \sum_j R_{ij} V_j$$

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## Equivalent definition of vector operator

Infinitesimal rotation:  $D_{\hat{n}}(\epsilon) = \hat{I} - \frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n}$

$$D^\dagger V_i D = \left[ 1 + \frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n} \right] V_i \left[ 1 - \frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n} \right]$$

$$= V_i - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_i, \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n}] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$$

Vector operator:  $D^\dagger V_i D = R_{ij} V_j$

$$V_i - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_i, \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n}] = R_{ij} V_j$$

III Rotations about  $\hat{z}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} V_x - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_x, J_z] \\ V_y - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_y, J_z] \\ V_z - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_z, J_z] \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\epsilon & 0 \\ \epsilon & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ V_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} V_x - \epsilon V_y \\ V_y + \epsilon V_x \\ V_z \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore [V_x, J_z] = -i\hbar V_y$$

$$[V_y, J_z] = i\hbar V_x$$

$$[V_z, J_z] = 0$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} V_x - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_x, J_x] \\ V_y - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_y, J_x] \\ V_z - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_z, J_x] \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\epsilon \\ \epsilon & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ V_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} V_x \\ V_y - \epsilon V_z \\ V_z + \epsilon V_y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\therefore [V_x, J_x] = 0$$

$$[V_y, J_x] = -i\hbar V_z$$

$$[V_z, J_x] = i\hbar V_y$$

$$\boxed{\hat{y}} \quad \begin{pmatrix} V_x - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_x, J_y] \\ V_y - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_y, J_y] \\ V_z - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} [V_z, J_y] \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \epsilon \\ & 1 \\ -\epsilon & \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ V_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} V_x + \epsilon V_z \\ V_y \\ V_z - \epsilon V_x \end{pmatrix} \quad \boxed{3}$$

$$\therefore [V_x, J_y] = i\hbar V_z$$

$$[V_y, J_y] = 0$$

$$[V_z, J_y] = -i\hbar V_x$$

$\boxed{\hat{x}}, \boxed{\hat{y}}, \boxed{\hat{z}}$  together

$$\boxed{[V_i, J_j] = i\hbar \epsilon_{ijk} V_k}$$

equiv. def. of a vector operator

Check for our examples

$\hat{J}$

get comm. relation for  $\hat{J}$  ✓

$$\text{Use } L_j = \epsilon_{kij} x_k p_i$$

$$L_x = x_2 p_3 - x_3 p_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} [x_i, L_j] &= [x_i, \epsilon_{kij} x_k p_i] \\ &= \epsilon_{kij} x_k [x_i, p_i] \\ &= \epsilon_{kij} x_k i\hbar \delta_{ik} \\ &= i\hbar \epsilon_{kmj} x_k \end{aligned}$$

$$[x_i, L_j] = i\hbar \epsilon_{kij} x_k$$

$$\boxed{[x_i, L_j] = i\hbar \epsilon_{kij} x_k} \quad \checkmark$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{1/2}$$

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$$[X^1 F^1] = [X^1 \frac{1}{2} X^1]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} X^1 X^1$$

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$$[X^1 F^2] = [X^1 \frac{1}{2} X^2]$$

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(Check for minor corrections)