Midterm "Take home"-exam FYS3110

Unable to see candidate no

October 11, 2016

1 Spin-1/2 systems

The following is given:

$$\begin{split} \hat{S}^2 &= \hat{S}_x^2 + \hat{S}_y^2 + \hat{S}_z^2, \quad \hat{S}^\pm = \hat{S}_x \pm i \hat{S}_y \\ |\uparrow\rangle &\equiv \left|s = \frac{1}{2}, m_s = \frac{1}{2}\right\rangle, \quad |\downarrow\rangle \equiv \left|s = \frac{1}{2}, m_s = -\frac{1}{2}\right\rangle \\ \hat{S}^2 |\uparrow\rangle &= \hbar^2 \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + 1\right) |\uparrow\rangle, \quad \hat{S}^2 |\downarrow\rangle = \hbar^2 \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + 1\right) |\downarrow\rangle \\ \hat{S}_z |\uparrow\rangle &= \frac{\hbar}{2} |\uparrow\rangle, \quad \hat{S}_z |\downarrow\rangle = -\frac{\hbar}{2} |\downarrow\rangle \\ [\hat{S}_x, \hat{S}_y] &= i\hbar \hat{S}_z, \quad [\hat{S}_y, \hat{S}_z] = i\hbar \hat{S}_x, \quad [\hat{S}_z, \hat{S}_x] = i\hbar \hat{S}_y \end{split}$$

1.1

$$\hat{S}_z \hat{S}^+ |\downarrow\rangle = \hat{S}_z \hat{S}_x |\downarrow\rangle + i \hat{S}_z \hat{S}_y |\downarrow\rangle$$

rewriting commutation relations

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{S}_{z}, \hat{S}_{x}] &= \hat{S}_{z} \hat{S}_{x} - \hat{S}_{x} \hat{S}_{z} = i\hbar \hat{S}_{y} \to \hat{S}_{z} \hat{S}_{x} = i\hbar \hat{S}_{y} + \hat{S}_{x} \hat{S}_{z} \\ [\hat{S}_{y}, \hat{S}_{z}] &= \hat{S}_{y} \hat{S}_{z} - \hat{S}_{z} \hat{S}_{y} = i\hbar \hat{S}_{x} \to \hat{S}_{z} \hat{S}_{y} = \hat{S}_{y} \hat{S}_{z} - i\hbar \hat{S}_{x}, \end{aligned}$$

gives

$$\begin{split} \hat{S}_z \hat{S}^+ \left| \downarrow \right\rangle &= \left(i \hbar \hat{S}_y + \hat{S}_x \hat{S}_z + i \hat{S}_y \hat{S}_z + \hbar \hat{S}_x \right) \left| \downarrow \right\rangle \\ &= \left(i \hbar \hat{S}_y - \frac{\hbar}{2} \hat{S}_x - i \frac{\hbar}{2} \hat{S}_y + \hbar \hat{S}_x \right) \left| \downarrow \right\rangle \\ &= \left(\frac{\hbar}{2} \hat{S}_x + i \frac{\hbar}{2} \hat{S}_y \right) \left| \downarrow \right\rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2} \hat{S}^+ \left| \downarrow \right\rangle. \end{split}$$

This means that $\hat{S}^+ |\downarrow\rangle$ is an eigenstate of \hat{S}_z with eigenvalue $\hbar/2$.

$$\hat{S}^{-}\hat{S}^{+} = (\hat{S}_{x} - i\hat{S}_{y})(\hat{S}_{x} + i\hat{S}_{y})$$

$$= \hat{S}_{x}^{2} + i\hat{S}_{x}\hat{S}_{y} - i\hat{S}_{y}\hat{S}_{x} + \hat{S}_{y}^{2}$$

$$= \hat{S}_{x}^{2} + \hat{S}_{y}^{2} + i[\hat{S}_{x}, \hat{S}_{y}]$$

$$= \hat{S}^{2} - \hat{S}_{z}^{2} - i\hbar\hat{S}_{z}$$

This can be uses to compute the norm of $|\psi_1\rangle = \hat{S}^+ |\uparrow\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle = \hat{S}^+ |\uparrow\rangle$.

$$\begin{split} \langle \psi_1 | \psi_1 \rangle &= \langle \downarrow | \, \hat{S}^- \hat{S}^+ \, | \downarrow \rangle = \langle \downarrow | \, (\hat{S}^2 - \hat{S}_z^2 - \hbar \hat{S}_z) \, | \downarrow \rangle \\ &= \langle \downarrow | \, \hbar^2 \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + 1 \right) | \downarrow \rangle - \langle \downarrow | \, \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \, | \downarrow \rangle + \langle \downarrow | \, \frac{2\hbar^2}{4} \, | \downarrow \rangle \\ &= \frac{3\hbar^2}{4} - \frac{\hbar^2}{4} + \frac{2\hbar}{4} = \hbar^2 \end{split}$$

which means that $|||\psi_1\rangle|| = \hbar$

$$\begin{split} \langle \psi_2 | \psi_2 \rangle &= \langle \uparrow | \, \hat{S}^- \hat{S}^+ \, | \uparrow \rangle = \langle \uparrow | \, (\hat{S}^2 - \hat{S}_z^2 - \hbar \hat{S}_z) \, | \uparrow \rangle \\ &= \langle \uparrow | \, \hbar^2 \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + 1 \right) | \uparrow \rangle - \langle \uparrow | \, \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \, | \uparrow \rangle - \langle \uparrow | \, \frac{2\hbar^2}{4} \, | \uparrow \rangle \\ &= \frac{3\hbar^2}{4} - \frac{\hbar^2}{4} - \frac{2\hbar^2}{4} = 0 \end{split}$$

which measn that $||\psi_2\rangle|| = 0$.

1.3

Phases are chosen sucht that the following relations hold

$$\hat{S}^{+} |\downarrow\rangle = \hbar |\uparrow\rangle, \quad \hat{S}^{-} |\uparrow\rangle = \hbar |\downarrow\rangle.$$

Introducing a new state

$$|\phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\rangle + e^{i\theta}|\downarrow\rangle)$$

where θ is a real number. We wish to compute the "uncertainty" product $\sigma_{sx}^2\sigma_{sy}^2$ where

$$\begin{split} \sigma_{sx}^2 &= \left\langle \phi \right| (\hat{S}_x - \left\langle \phi \right| \hat{S}_x \left| \phi \right\rangle)^2 \left| \phi \right\rangle \\ \sigma_{sy}^2 &= \left\langle \phi \right| (\hat{S}_y - \left\langle \phi \right| \hat{S}_y \left| \phi \right\rangle)^2 \left| \phi \right\rangle. \end{split}$$

First we need to find expressions for \hat{S}_x and \hat{S}_y

$$\hat{S}^{+} + \hat{S}^{-} = (\hat{S}_x + i\hat{S}_y) + (\hat{S}_x - i\hat{S}_y) = 2\hat{S}_x \to \hat{S}_x = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{S}^{+} + \hat{S}^{-})$$
 (1)

$$\hat{S}^{+} - \hat{S}^{-} = (\hat{S}_x + i\hat{S}_y) - (\hat{S}_x - i\hat{S}_y) = 2i\hat{S}_y \to \hat{S}_y = \frac{1}{2i}(\hat{S}^{+} - \hat{S}^{-})$$
 (2)

It will also make things easier to calculate $\hat{S}_x |\uparrow\rangle$, $\hat{S}_x |\downarrow\rangle$, $\hat{S}_y |\uparrow\rangle$ and $\hat{S}_y |\downarrow\rangle$. These values can be found using equations 1 and 2.

$$\hat{S}_{x} |\uparrow\rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2} |\downarrow\rangle \quad \hat{S}_{x}^{2} |\uparrow\rangle = \frac{\hbar^{2}}{4} |\uparrow\rangle$$

$$\hat{S}_{x} |\downarrow\rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2} |\uparrow\rangle \quad \hat{S}_{x}^{2} |\downarrow\rangle = \frac{\hbar^{2}}{4} |\downarrow\rangle$$

$$\hat{S}_{y} |\uparrow\rangle = -\frac{\hbar}{2i} |\downarrow\rangle \quad \hat{S}_{y}^{2} |\uparrow\rangle = \frac{\hbar^{2}}{4} |\uparrow\rangle$$

$$\hat{S}_{y} |\downarrow\rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2i} |\uparrow\rangle \quad \hat{S}_{y}^{2} |\downarrow\rangle = \frac{\hbar^{2}}{4} |\downarrow\rangle$$

We can begin on what is the real task at hand

$$\langle \phi | \hat{S}_x | \phi \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\langle \uparrow | + e^{-i\theta} \langle \downarrow |) \hat{S}_x (| \uparrow \rangle + e^{i\theta} | \downarrow \rangle)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\langle \uparrow | + e^{-i\theta} \langle \downarrow |) \left(\frac{\hbar}{2} | \downarrow \rangle + e^{i\theta} \frac{\hbar}{2} | \uparrow \rangle \right)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{4} \left(e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{4} (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta + \cos \theta - i \sin \theta)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2} \cos \theta$$

$$\langle \phi | \hat{S}_y | \phi \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\langle \uparrow | + e^{-i\theta} \langle \downarrow |) \hat{S}_y (| \uparrow \rangle + e^{i\theta} | \downarrow \rangle)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\langle \uparrow | + e^{-i\theta} \langle \downarrow |) \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2i} | \downarrow \rangle + e^{i\theta} \frac{\hbar}{2i} | \uparrow \rangle \right)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{4i} \left(e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{4i} (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta - \cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar}{2} \sin \theta$$

$$\begin{split} &\sigma_{sx}^2 = \langle \phi | (\hat{S}_x - \frac{\hbar}{2} \cos \theta)^2 | \phi \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\langle \uparrow | + e^{-i\theta} \langle \downarrow |) (\hat{S}_x^2 - \hbar \cos \theta \hat{S}_x + \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \cos^2 \theta) (| \uparrow \rangle + e^{i\theta} | \downarrow \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\langle \uparrow | + e^{-i\theta} \langle \downarrow |) \\ &\qquad \qquad \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{4} | \uparrow \rangle + \frac{\hbar^2}{4} e^{i\theta} | \downarrow \rangle - \frac{\hbar^2}{2} \cos \theta | \downarrow \rangle - \frac{\hbar^2}{2} e^{i\theta} \cos \theta | \uparrow \rangle + \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \cos^2 \theta | \uparrow \rangle + \frac{\hbar^2}{4} e^{i\theta} \cos^2 \theta | \uparrow \rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{8} - \frac{\hbar^2}{4} e^{i\theta} \cos \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \cos^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} e^{i\theta} \cos^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} - \frac{\hbar^2}{4} e^{-i\theta} \cos \theta \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{4} - \frac{\hbar^2}{4} (\cos^2 \theta + i \sin \theta \cos \theta) + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \cos^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} (\cos^3 \theta + i \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta) - \frac{\hbar^2}{4} (\cos^2 \theta - i \sin \theta \cos \theta) \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{4} - \frac{3\hbar^2}{8} \cos^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} (\cos^3 \theta + i \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta) \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{4} - \frac{3\hbar^2}{8} \cos^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} (\cos^3 \theta + i \sin \theta \cos^2 \theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\langle \uparrow | + e^{-i\theta} \langle \downarrow |) (\hat{S}_y^2 - \hbar \sin \theta \hat{S}_y + \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \sin^2 \theta) (| \uparrow \rangle + e^{i\theta} | \downarrow \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\langle \uparrow | + e^{-i\theta} \langle \downarrow |) (\hat{S}_y^2 - \hbar \sin \theta \hat{S}_y + \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \sin^2 \theta) (| \uparrow \rangle + e^{i\theta} | \downarrow \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\langle \uparrow | + e^{-i\theta} \langle \downarrow |) (\hat{S}_y^2 - \hbar \sin \theta \hat{S}_y + \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \sin^2 \theta) (| \uparrow \rangle + \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \sin^2 \theta | \uparrow \rangle + \frac{\hbar^2}{4} e^{i\theta} \sin^2 \theta | \uparrow \rangle) \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{8} - \frac{\hbar^2}{4i} e^{i\theta} \sin \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \sin^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} e^{i\theta} \sin^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} e^{i\theta} \sin^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} e^{i\theta} \sin^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} (\sin^2 \theta \cos \theta + i \sin^3 \theta) + \frac{\hbar^2}{4i} (\sin \theta \cos \theta - i \sin^2 \theta) \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{4} - \frac{3\hbar^2}{4i} \sin^2 \theta \cos \theta + i \sin^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \sin^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} (\sin^2 \theta \cos \theta + i \sin^3 \theta) \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{4} - \frac{3\hbar^2}{8} \sin^2 \theta + \frac{\hbar^2}{8} (\sin^2 \theta \cos \theta + i \sin^3 \theta) \end{split}$$

And finally

$$\sigma_{sx}^2 \sigma_{sy}^2 = \frac{\hbar^4}{64} (e^{i\theta} \sin^2 \theta - 3\sin^2 \theta + 2)(e^{i\theta} \cos^2 \theta - 3\cos^2 \theta + 2)$$

1.4

A system has three interacting spin degrees of freedom with the followin hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{J}{\hbar^2} (\mathbf{S}_1 \cdot \mathbf{S}_2 + \mathbf{S}_2 \cdot \mathbf{S}_3 + \mathbf{S}_3 \cdot \mathbf{S}_1)$$
 (3)

where J si a positive number with units of energy. The spin operators are $\mathbf{S}_1 \equiv \mathbf{S} \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbb{1}$, $\mathbf{S}_2 \equiv \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbf{S} \otimes \mathbb{1}$ and $\mathbf{S}_3 \equiv \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbf{S}$, where $\mathbf{S} = (S_x, S_y, S_z)$. A general state of this three-spin system is a linear combination of product states

 $|m_{s1}m_{s2}m_{s3}\rangle \equiv |m_{s1}\rangle \otimes |m_{s2}\rangle \otimes |m_{s3}\rangle$ where m_{si} is hte spin-z quantum number of spin number i, either up $(\frac{1}{2})$ or down $(-\frac{1}{2})$. For example: the product state $|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$ is a state where spin number one is in state $|\uparrow\rangle$, spin number two is in state $|\downarrow\rangle$ and spin number three is in state $|\uparrow\rangle$.

 $\mathbf{S}_1 \cdot \mathbf{S}_2$ can be expressed in terms of $S_1^+, S_1^-, S_2^+, S_2^-, S_1^z$ and S_2^z . First we have

$$\mathbf{S}_1 \cdot \mathbf{S}_2 = S_1^x S_2^x + S_1^y S_2^y + S_1^z S_2^z$$

where

$$\begin{split} S_1^x S_2^x &= \frac{1}{4} (S_1^+ S_2^+ + S_1^+ S_2^- + S_1^- S_2^+ + S_1^+ S_2^+) \\ S_1^y S_2^y &= -\frac{1}{4} (S_1^+ S_2^+ - S_1^+ S_2^- - S_1^- S_2^+ + S_1^+ S_2^+) \end{split}$$

then

$$S_1^x S_2^x + S_1^y S_2^y = S_1^+ S_2^-$$

assuming that the lowering and raising operators of different spins commutes¹, i.e. $[S_i^+, S_j^j] = 0$. We end up with

$$\mathbf{S}_1 \cdot \mathbf{S}_2 = S_1^+ S_2^- + S_1^z S_2^z \tag{4}$$

if the ladder operators does not commute then

$$S_1^x S_2^x + S_1^y S_2^y = \frac{1}{2} (S_1^+ S_2^- + S_2^+ S_1^-)$$

and we end up with

$$\mathbf{S}_1 \cdot \mathbf{S}_2 = \frac{1}{2} (S_1^+ S_2^- + S_2^+ S_1^-) + S_1^z S_2^z \tag{5}$$

which seems more reasonable.

Comtuting $H |\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$ should now be quite straight-forward.

$$\begin{split} H \left| \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \right\rangle &= \frac{J}{\hbar^2} \Big(\frac{1}{2} (S_1^+ S_2^- + S_2^+ S_1^-) \left| \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \right\rangle + S_1^z S_2^z \left| \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \right\rangle \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} (S_2^+ S_3^- + S_3^+ S_2^-) \left| \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \right\rangle + S_2^z S_3^z \left| \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \right\rangle \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} (S_3^+ S_1^- + S_1^+ S_3^-) \left| \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \right\rangle + S_3^z S_1^z \left| \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \right\rangle \Big) \\ &= \frac{J}{\hbar^2} \Big(\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \left| \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \right\rangle \frac{\hbar^2}{2} \left| \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow \right\rangle \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \left| \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \right\rangle \Big) \\ &= J \Big(\frac{1}{2} \left| \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \right\rangle \frac{1}{2} \left| \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow \right\rangle \frac{1}{4} \left| \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \right\rangle \Big) \end{split}$$

This result is confirmed by the python script in appendix A.

 $^{^1\}mathrm{Ladder}$ operator for same spin/state commute: $[S^+,S^-]=(S^x+iS^y)(S^x-iS^y)-(S^x-iS^y)(S^x+iS^y)=S_x^2+S_y^2-S_x^2-S_y^2=0$

1.5

It is realtively easy to show with matrices or algebra or a script or anything that

$$[H, S_{tot}^z] = 0 (6)$$

The eigenvalues of $S_t^z ot$ are easy enough to compute

$$S_{tot}^z\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\right\rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\right\rangle + \frac{\hbar}{2}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\right\rangle + \frac{\hbar}{2}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\right\rangle = \frac{3\hbar}{2}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\right\rangle$$

the rest are

$$\begin{split} S_{tot}^z \mid \uparrow \uparrow \downarrow \rangle &= \frac{\hbar}{2} \mid \uparrow \uparrow \downarrow \rangle \\ S_{tot}^z \mid \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \rangle &= \frac{\hbar}{2} \mid \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \rangle \\ S_{tot}^z \mid \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \rangle &= \frac{\hbar}{2} \mid \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \rangle \\ S_{tot}^z \mid \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow \rangle &= -\frac{\hbar}{2} \mid \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow \rangle \\ S_{tot}^z \mid \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \rangle &= -\frac{\hbar}{2} \mid \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow \rangle \\ S_{tot}^z \mid \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \rangle &= -\frac{\hbar}{2} \mid \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \rangle \\ S_{tot}^z \mid \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \rangle &= -\frac{3\hbar}{2} \mid \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \rangle \end{split}$$

The "general" rule appears to be

$$S_{tot}^{z} \left| m_{s1} m_{s2} m_{s3} \right\rangle = \hbar (m_{s1} + m_{s2} + m_{s3}) \left| m_{s1} m_{s2} m_{s3} \right\rangle \tag{7}$$

1.6

Finding eigenvalues of H. The trick is first to express H in terms of S_{tot}^2 .

$$S_t ot^2 = S_1^2 + S_2^2 + S_3^2 + 2S_1 \cdot S_2 + 2S_2 \cdot S_3 + 2S_3 \cdot S_1$$

$$H = \frac{J}{2\hbar^2} (2S_1 \cdot S_2 + 2S_2 \cdot S_3 + 2S_3 \cdot S_1)$$

$$= \frac{J}{2\hbar^2} (S_{tot}^2 - (S_1^2 + S_2^2 + S_3^3))$$

So for the first eigenvalue

$$H\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle\right. = \frac{J}{2\hbar^2}(S_{tot}^2\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - (S_1^2 + S_2^2 + S_3^2)\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle\right.) = \frac{J}{2\hbar^2}\left(\frac{9\hbar^2}{4}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - 3\frac{3\hbar^2}{4}\right.\right) = \frac{J}{2\hbar^2}\left(\frac{9\hbar^2}{4}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - 3\frac{3\hbar^2}{4}\right|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - 3\frac{3\hbar^2}{4}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - 3\frac{3\hbar^2}{4}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - 3\frac{3\hbar^2}{4}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - 3\frac{3\hbar^2}{4}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - 3\frac{3\hbar^2}{4}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - 3\frac{3\hbar^2}{4}\left|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - 3$$

most others will be some negative value. I'm not sure that makes sense.

1.7

1.8

At time t=0 the system is in state $|\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$. After som time t the system will be in state $\hat{U}(t,t_0)|\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$, where $\hat{U}(t,t_0)$ is the time evolution operator (or propegator). The propagator satisfy three important properties. First, it does nothing when t=0

$$\lim_{t \to t_0} \hat{U}(t, t0) = 1. \tag{8}$$

Second, it is unitary $(\hat{U}^{\dagger}\hat{U}=1)$, and as a consequence preserves the norm of the states

$$\langle \psi | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi(t) | \psi(t) \rangle = \langle \psi(t) | \hat{U}^{\dagger}(t, t_0) U(t, t_0) | \psi(t) \rangle \tag{9}$$

Third, it satisfies the composition property

$$\hat{U}(t_2, t_0) = \hat{U}(t_2, t_1)\hat{U}(t_1, t_0) \tag{10}$$

One can see from the simplest form of Scrhdinger's equation that the Hamiltonian H generates the time evolution of quantum states. if $|\psi(t)\rangle$ is the state of the system at time t, then

$$H|\psi(t)\rangle = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle.$$
 (11)

Given the state at some initial time (t=0) one can solve Schrdinger's equation in order to obtain the state at any subsequent time. Particularly, if H is independent of time, then

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-iHt/\hbar} |\psi(0)\rangle.$$
 (12)

This exponential operator is usually defined by the corresponding power series.

$$U(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} \left(\frac{it}{\hbar}\right) H^k = e^{-iHt/\hbar}$$
(13)

If a spin system is initially in state $|\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$ at $t=t_0=0$ then the expression $\left|\langle\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow|\hat{U}(t,0)|\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle\right|^2$ gives the probability that the system is still in that state. To make things a little simpler, I am

2

TAYLOR THEN TRUNCATE?

A Numerical computation of $H |\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$

```
TAKE HOME MIDTERM EXAM, Quantum Mechanics FYS3110
The first part of this script is to check the computation
in problem 1.4.
import numpy as np
import scipy.linalg
up = np. array([[1], [0]])
dn = np. array([[0], [1]])
S_{plus} = np.array([[0, 1], [0, 0]])
S_{\text{-minus}} = \text{np.array}([[0, 0], [1, 0]])
Sz = (1.0/2)*np.array([[1, 0], [0, -1]])
S1z = np.kron(Sz, np.kron(np.eye(2), np.eye(2)))
S2z = np.kron(np.eye(2), np.kron(Sz, np.eye(2)))
S3z = np.kron(np.eye(2), np.kron(np.eye(2), Sz))
Sztot = S1z + S2z + S3z
S1_plus = np.kron(S_plus, np.kron(np.eye(2), np.eye(2)))
S2_plus = np.kron(np.eye(2), np.kron(S_plus, np.eye(2)))
S3_{plus} = np.kron(np.eye(2), np.kron(np.eye(2), S_{plus}))
S1_{\text{minus}} = \text{np.kron}(S_{\text{minus}}, \text{np.kron}(\text{np.eye}(2), \text{np.eye}(2)))
S2\_minus \, = \, np.\,kron \, (\, np.\,eye \, (\, 2\, ) \, , \ np.\,kron \, (\, S\_minus \, , \ np.\,eye \, (\, 2\, ) \, ) \, )
S3-minus = np.kron(np.eye(2), np.kron(np.eye(2), S-minus))
# Hamilton operator w/o (J/hbar^2) factor
def Hamilton (state):
         return \
         (1.0/2)*
                  (np.dot(S1_plus, np.dot(S2_minus, state)) +\
                  np.dot(S2_plus, np.dot(S1_minus, state))) +\
                  np.dot(S1z, np.dot(S2z, state)) +
         (1.0/2)*
                  (np.dot(S2_plus, np.dot(S3_minus, state)) +\
                  np.dot(S3_plus, np.dot(S2_minus, state))) +\
                  np.dot(S2z, np.dot(S3z, state)) + 
         (1.0/2)*
                  (np.dot(S3_plus, np.dot(S1_minus, state)) +\
```

```
np.dot(S1_plus, np.dot(S3_minus, state))) +\
np.dot(S3z, np.dot(S1z, state))

updndn = np.kron(up, np.kron(dn, dn))
print("Hamiltonian(up_down_down)_==="")
print(Hamilton(updndn))
```