

Orbital angular momentum

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1 Theory of the orbital angular momentum

For a solid state system, let a Bloch-type wave function for a wave vector \mathbf{k} be, in general,

$$\begin{aligned} |\Psi_{\mathbf{k}}\rangle &= \mathbf{1} \cdot |\Psi_{\mathbf{k}}\rangle \\ &= \sum_{nlm} |\phi_{nlm}\rangle \langle \phi_{nlm} | \Psi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{nlm} |\phi_{nlm}\rangle C_{nlm} \end{aligned}$$

Where ϕ_{nlm} are the all atomic orbitals, which forms the basis set. The projected wavefunction onto the i -th atomic site, $\psi_{\mathbf{k},i}$, is given by

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi_{\mathbf{k},i}\rangle &= \mathbf{1} \cdot |\psi_{\mathbf{k},i}\rangle \\ &= \sum_{nlm} |\phi(r-r_i)_{nlm}\rangle \langle \phi(r-r_i)_{nlm} | \psi_{\mathbf{k},i} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{nlm} |\phi(r-r_i)_{nlm}\rangle C_{nlm,i} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the angular momentum vector around the i -th atomic site is

$$\vec{L}_i = \langle \psi_{\mathbf{k},i} | \hat{L}_{i,x} | \psi_{\mathbf{k},i} \rangle \hat{x} + \langle \psi_{\mathbf{k},i} | \hat{L}_{i,y} | \psi_{\mathbf{k},i} \rangle \hat{y} + \langle \psi_{\mathbf{k},i} | \hat{L}_{i,z} | \psi_{\mathbf{k},i} \rangle \hat{z}$$

Here, $\hat{L}_{i,x}$, $\hat{L}_{i,y}$, $\hat{L}_{i,z}$, are operators for x-, y-, and z-components of the OAM around the i -th atomic site, respectively.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi_{\mathbf{k},i} | \hat{L}_{i,z} | \psi_{\mathbf{k},i} \rangle &= \langle \sum_{nlm} \phi(r-r_i)_{nlm} C_{nlm,i} | \hat{L}_{i,z} | \sum_{n'l'm'} \phi(r-r_i)_{n'l'm'} C_{n'l'm',i} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{nlm} \sum_{n'l'm'} \langle C_{nlm,i} \phi(r-r_i)_{nlm} | \hat{L}_{i,z} | C_{n'l'm',i} \phi(r-r_i)_{n'l'm'} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{nlm} \sum_{n'l'm'} C_{nlm,i}^* C_{n'l'm',i} \langle \phi(r-r_i)_{nlm} | \hat{L}_{i,z} | \phi(r-r_i)_{n'l'm'} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{nlm} \sum_{n'l'm'} C_{nlm,i}^* C_{n'l'm',i} \langle R_{nl} Y_l^m | \hat{L}_{i,z} | R_{n'l'} Y_{l'}^{m'} \rangle \\ &= \sum_{nlm} \sum_{n'l'm'} C_{nlm,i}^* C_{n'l'm',i} \langle Y_l^m | \hat{L}_{i,z} | Y_{l'}^{m'} \rangle \quad (\text{Radial part wavefunction } R_{nl} \text{ is normalized}) \end{aligned}$$

VASP use the atomic orbital basis (AOB) instead of spherical harmonic basis (SHB). The transformation from SHB to AOB was made by the following formulas:

$$\begin{aligned}
|s\rangle &= |Y_0^0\rangle \\
|p_y\rangle &= \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(|Y_1^{-1}\rangle + |Y_1^1\rangle) \\
|p_z\rangle &= |Y_1^0\rangle \\
|p_x\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|Y_1^{-1}\rangle - |Y_1^1\rangle) \\
|d_{xy}\rangle &= \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(|Y_2^{-2}\rangle - |Y_2^2\rangle) \\
|d_{yz}\rangle &= \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(|Y_2^{-1}\rangle + |Y_2^1\rangle) \\
|d_{z^2}\rangle &= |Y_2^0\rangle \\
|d_{xz}\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|Y_2^{-1}\rangle - |Y_2^1\rangle) \\
|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|Y_2^{-2}\rangle + |Y_2^2\rangle)
\end{aligned}$$

In the matrix form, it will be

$$\begin{bmatrix} |s\rangle \\ |p_y\rangle \\ |p_z\rangle \\ |p_x\rangle \\ |d_{xy}\rangle \\ |d_{yz}\rangle \\ |d_{z^2}\rangle \\ |d_{xz}\rangle \\ |d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} |Y_0^0\rangle \\ |Y_1^{-1}\rangle \\ |Y_1^0\rangle \\ |Y_1^1\rangle \\ |Y_2^{-2}\rangle \\ |Y_2^{-1}\rangle \\ |Y_2^0\rangle \\ |Y_2^1\rangle \\ |Y_2^2\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Let

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} |s\rangle \\ |p_y\rangle \\ |p_z\rangle \\ |p_x\rangle \\ |d_{xy}\rangle \\ |d_{yz}\rangle \\ |d_z^2\rangle \\ |d_{xz}\rangle \\ |d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \end{bmatrix} \quad U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \quad Y = \begin{bmatrix} |Y_0^0\rangle \\ |Y_1^{-1}\rangle \\ |Y_1^0\rangle \\ |Y_1^1\rangle \\ |Y_2^{-2}\rangle \\ |Y_2^{-1}\rangle \\ |Y_2^0\rangle \\ |Y_2^1\rangle \\ |Y_2^2\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\langle L_z \rangle_{AOB} = X^* \hat{L}_z X^T = \begin{bmatrix} \langle s| \\ \langle p_y| \\ \langle p_z| \\ \langle p_x| \\ \langle d_{xy}| \\ \langle d_{yz}| \\ \langle d_z^2| \\ \langle d_{xz}| \\ \langle d_{x^2-y^2}| \end{bmatrix} \hat{L}_z \begin{bmatrix} |s\rangle \\ |p_y\rangle \\ |p_z\rangle \\ |p_x\rangle \\ |d_{xy}\rangle \\ |d_{yz}\rangle \\ |d_z^2\rangle \\ |d_{xz}\rangle \\ |d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \langle s|\hat{L}_z|s\rangle & \langle s|\hat{L}_z|p_y\rangle & \langle s|\hat{L}_z|p_z\rangle & \langle s|\hat{L}_z|p_x\rangle & \langle s|\hat{L}_z|d_{xy}\rangle & \langle s|\hat{L}_z|d_{yz}\rangle & \langle s|\hat{L}_z|d_z^2\rangle & \langle s|\hat{L}_z|d_{xz}\rangle & \langle s|\hat{L}_z|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \\ \langle p_y|\hat{L}_z|s\rangle & \langle p_y|\hat{L}_z|p_y\rangle & \langle p_y|\hat{L}_z|p_z\rangle & \langle p_y|\hat{L}_z|p_x\rangle & \langle p_y|\hat{L}_z|d_{xy}\rangle & \langle p_y|\hat{L}_z|d_{yz}\rangle & \langle p_y|\hat{L}_z|d_z^2\rangle & \langle p_y|\hat{L}_z|d_{xz}\rangle & \langle p_y|\hat{L}_z|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \\ \langle p_z|\hat{L}_z|s\rangle & \langle p_z|\hat{L}_z|p_y\rangle & \langle p_z|\hat{L}_z|p_z\rangle & \langle p_z|\hat{L}_z|p_x\rangle & \langle p_z|\hat{L}_z|d_{xy}\rangle & \langle p_z|\hat{L}_z|d_{yz}\rangle & \langle p_z|\hat{L}_z|d_z^2\rangle & \langle p_z|\hat{L}_z|d_{xz}\rangle & \langle p_z|\hat{L}_z|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \\ \langle p_x|\hat{L}_z|s\rangle & \langle p_x|\hat{L}_z|p_y\rangle & \langle p_x|\hat{L}_z|p_z\rangle & \langle p_x|\hat{L}_z|p_x\rangle & \langle p_x|\hat{L}_z|d_{xy}\rangle & \langle p_x|\hat{L}_z|d_{yz}\rangle & \langle p_x|\hat{L}_z|d_z^2\rangle & \langle p_x|\hat{L}_z|d_{xz}\rangle & \langle p_x|\hat{L}_z|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \\ \langle d_{xy}|\hat{L}_z|s\rangle & \langle d_{xy}|\hat{L}_z|p_y\rangle & \langle d_{xy}|\hat{L}_z|p_z\rangle & \langle d_{xy}|\hat{L}_z|p_x\rangle & \langle d_{xy}|\hat{L}_z|d_{xy}\rangle & \langle d_{xy}|\hat{L}_z|d_{yz}\rangle & \langle d_{xy}|\hat{L}_z|d_z^2\rangle & \langle d_{xy}|\hat{L}_z|d_{xz}\rangle & \langle d_{xy}|\hat{L}_z|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \\ \langle d_{yz}|\hat{L}_z|s\rangle & \langle d_{yz}|\hat{L}_z|p_y\rangle & \langle d_{yz}|\hat{L}_z|p_z\rangle & \langle d_{yz}|\hat{L}_z|p_x\rangle & \langle d_{yz}|\hat{L}_z|d_{xy}\rangle & \langle d_{yz}|\hat{L}_z|d_{yz}\rangle & \langle d_{yz}|\hat{L}_z|d_z^2\rangle & \langle d_{yz}|\hat{L}_z|d_{xz}\rangle & \langle d_{yz}|\hat{L}_z|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \\ \langle d_z^2|\hat{L}_z|s\rangle & \langle d_z^2|\hat{L}_z|p_y\rangle & \langle d_z^2|\hat{L}_z|p_z\rangle & \langle d_z^2|\hat{L}_z|p_x\rangle & \langle d_z^2|\hat{L}_z|d_{xy}\rangle & \langle d_z^2|\hat{L}_z|d_{yz}\rangle & \langle d_z^2|\hat{L}_z|d_z^2\rangle & \langle d_z^2|\hat{L}_z|d_{xz}\rangle & \langle d_z^2|\hat{L}_z|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \\ \langle d_{xz}|\hat{L}_z|s\rangle & \langle d_{xz}|\hat{L}_z|p_y\rangle & \langle d_{xz}|\hat{L}_z|p_z\rangle & \langle d_{xz}|\hat{L}_z|p_x\rangle & \langle d_{xz}|\hat{L}_z|d_{xy}\rangle & \langle d_{xz}|\hat{L}_z|d_{yz}\rangle & \langle d_{xz}|\hat{L}_z|d_z^2\rangle & \langle d_{xz}|\hat{L}_z|d_{xz}\rangle & \langle d_{xz}|\hat{L}_z|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \\ \langle d_{x^2-y^2}|\hat{L}_z|s\rangle & \langle d_{x^2-y^2}|\hat{L}_z|p_y\rangle & \langle d_{x^2-y^2}|\hat{L}_z|p_z\rangle & \langle d_{x^2-y^2}|\hat{L}_z|p_x\rangle & \langle d_{x^2-y^2}|\hat{L}_z|d_{xy}\rangle & \langle d_{x^2-y^2}|\hat{L}_z|d_{yz}\rangle & \langle d_{x^2-y^2}|\hat{L}_z|d_z^2\rangle & \langle d_{x^2-y^2}|\hat{L}_z|d_{xz}\rangle & \langle d_{x^2-y^2}|\hat{L}_z|d_{x^2-y^2}\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= U^* Y^* \hat{L}_z Y^T U^T$$

$$= U^* (Y^* \hat{L}_z Y^T) U^T$$

$$= U^* \langle L_z \rangle_{SHB} U^T$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & i & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -i & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -i & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -2i & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

To obtain the $\langle \hat{L}_x \rangle$ and $\langle \hat{L}_y \rangle$, it needs ladder operators:

$$\hat{L}^+ |Y_l^m\rangle = \hbar \sqrt{l(l+1) - m(m+1)} |Y_l^{m+1}\rangle,$$

$$\hat{L}^- |Y_l^m\rangle = \hbar \sqrt{l(l+1) - m(m-1)} |Y_l^{m-1}\rangle,$$

$$\hat{L}_x = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{L}^+ + \hat{L}^-),$$

$$\hat{L}_y = \frac{1}{2i}(\hat{L}^+ - \hat{L}^-),$$