

1. Consider a particle trapped in a cubical box given by potential

$$V(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0 \leq x, y, z \leq L \\ \infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Let $n(E)$ be the number of energy eigenstates with energy less than E . Find $n(E)$.
 (b) Find the density of states, which is defined as

$$g(E) = \frac{1}{L^3} \frac{dn}{dE}(E).$$

- (c) Sketch $g(E)$.

2. An anisotropic harmonic oscillator has the potential energy function

$$V(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 (x^2 + y^2) + \frac{1}{2}m\omega_z^2 z^2.$$

(Assume that ω_z/ω is large and irrational.)

- (a) Write down first few eigen-energies and their degeneracies.
 (b) This problem is separable in cartesian coordinates. Write down the eigenfunctions corresponding to the first few eigenstates.
 (c) Do the operators \mathbf{L}_x , \mathbf{L}_y and \mathbf{L}_z commute with the hamiltonian? And does \mathbf{L}^2 ?
 (d) Write down the ground state. Is this eigenfunction \mathbf{L}_z ? If so, what is the eigenvalue?
 (e) The degeneracy of the first excited state (energy: $\frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega_z + 2\hbar\omega$) is two. When separated in cartesian coordinates, the *un-normalized* eigenfunctions are

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{100}(x, y, z) &= x \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha^2 x^2}{2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha^2 y^2}{2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha_z^2 z^2}{2}\right] \\ \phi_{010}(x, y, z) &= y \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha^2 x^2}{2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha^2 y^2}{2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\alpha_z^2 z^2}{2}\right] \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha = \sqrt{m\omega/\hbar}$ and $\alpha_z = \sqrt{m\omega_z/\hbar}$. Show that these functions are not eigenfunctions of \mathbf{L}_z ? Can you construct linear combinations of ϕ_{100} and ϕ_{010} , which are eigenfunctions of \mathbf{L}_z ? (Hint: Write these functions in spherical polar coordinates and remember $e^{im\phi}$ are eigenfunctions of \mathbf{L}_z .)

3. Let $x_1 = x$, $x_2 = y$, and $x_3 = z$. Simillary, for any vector quantity \mathbf{A} , let $A_1 = A_x$, $A_2 = A_y$ and $A_3 = A_z$.

- (a) Prove that \mathbf{L} is a hermitian operator.
 (b) Prove $[L_i, x_j] = i\hbar \sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} x_k$. Here ϵ_{ijk} is called Levi-Civita antisymmetric symbol, given by

$$\epsilon_{ijk} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } ijk = 123, 231, 312 \\ -1 & \text{if } ijk = 132, 321, 213 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (c) Prove $[L_i, p_j] = i\hbar \sum_{k=1}^3 \epsilon_{ijk} p_k$.

4. For Legendre polynomials, Prove:

(a) Orthogonality:

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_m(x)P_n(x) = \frac{2}{2n+1}\delta_{m,n}$$

(b) Recursion Relations:

$$\begin{aligned}(n+1)P_{n+1}(x) &= (2l+1)xP_n(x) - nP_{n-1}(x) \\ (1-x^2)\frac{dP_n}{dx} &= -nP_n(x) + nP_{n-1}(x)\end{aligned}$$

5. Let $l > m > 0$.

(a) Show that $P_l^m(-x) = (-1)^{l-m}P_l^m(x)$.

(b) If the spherical coordinates of a vector \mathbf{r} are (r, θ, ϕ) , what are the spherical coordinates of $-\mathbf{r}$?

(c) Show that $Y_{l,m}$ has a parity $(-1)^l$ under $\mathbf{r} \rightarrow -\mathbf{r}$ transformation.

6. Show that $\mathbf{L}_- = \hbar e^{-i\phi} \left(-\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + i \cot\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right)$. Also show that $\mathbf{L}_- Y_{l,m} = \hbar\sqrt{l(l+1) - m(m-1)}Y_{l,m-1}$. Use recurrence relation 6.97d given on page 282 of Bransden.

7. Just as $Y_{l,m}$ is an eigenfunction of \mathbf{L}^2 and \mathbf{L}_z , let $Z_{l,n}$ be an eigenfunction of \mathbf{L}^2 and \mathbf{L}_x that is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{L}^2 Z_{l,n} &= l(l+1)\hbar^2 Z_{l,n} \\ \mathbf{L}_x Z_{l,n} &= n\hbar Z_{l,n}.\end{aligned}$$

We already know the eigenvalues of \mathbf{L}^2 , that is $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

(a) What are allowed values for n for given l ?

(b) Show that $\langle Z_{l,n}, Y_{l',m} \rangle = 0$ if $l \neq l'$.

(c) Show that $Z_{l,n}$ can be expressed in terms of $Y_{l,m}$, that is

$$Z_{l,n} = \sum_{m=-l}^l C_{n,m} Y_{l,m}.$$

(d) Find $Z_{1,n}$ in terms of $Y_{1,m}$ explicitly.

8. Let the state of a particle constrained to move on a sphere, be $Y_{1,0}$. What are the possible results of measurement of L_x ? What is the probability associated with each outcome?

9. The state of a particle constrained to move on a sphere is

$$\Psi(\theta, \phi, t = 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \left(e^{i\phi} \sin\theta + \cos\theta \right)$$

(a) What are the probabilities for the various results of the measurement of \mathbf{L}_z at $t = 0$? What about at $t > 0$?

(b) What is the expectation value of \mathbf{L}_z at $t = 0$?