

PH 422: Quantum Mechanics II Tutorial Sheet 2

This tutorial sheet contains problems related to the Clebsch-Gordan series, tensor operators, and the Wigner-Eckart theorem.

1. By use of the unitary condition for the D matrices and the orthogonality condition of the CGCs, derive from the Clebsch-Gordan series the result

$$\sum_{m'_2} \langle j_1 j_2 m'_1 m'_2 | j_1 j_2 j_3 m_3 \rangle D_{m'_2 m_2}^{(j_2)}(R) = \sum_{m_1 m} D_{m_3 m}^{(j_3)}(R) \langle j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | j_1 j_2 j_3 m \rangle D_{m'_1 m_1}^{(j_1)*}(R).$$

2. Prove

$$D_{mm'}^{(j)}(R) = \sum_{m_1, m'_1, m_2, m'_2} \langle j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | j_1 j_2 j m \rangle D_{m_1 m'_1}^{(j_1)}(R) D_{m_2, m'_2}^{(j_2)}(R) \langle j_1 j_2 m'_1 m'_2 | j_1 j_2 j m' \rangle.$$

Verify that this result holds for $j_1 = 1/2$, $j_2 = 1$, $j = 3/2$, when R denotes a rotation by an angle θ about the z axis.

3. Using the spherical harmonics $Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$, establish the connection between components of a Cartesian tensor of rank 2 defined as $T_{ij} = x_i x_j$, and the corresponding spherical tensor $T_{k=2}^q$. Here x_i denotes the i -th Cartesian component of the position vector.
4. If $|nlm\rangle$ denotes an eigenfunction of the hydrogen atom (without considering its spin), and we define

$$\chi = \langle n' = 3, l' = 2, m' = 2 | xy | n = 3, l = 0, m = 0 \rangle.$$

Compute, as a function of χ , the matrix elements

$$\langle n' = 3, l' = 2, m' | T_{ij} | n = 3, l = 0, m = 0 \rangle,$$

where T_{ij} is defined in the previous problem.

5. Directly compute the matrix elements

$$\langle j = 1, m' | J^q | j = 1, m \rangle,$$

where J^q denotes the q -th spherical component of the angular momentum operator. Verify that these matrix elements satisfy Wigner-Eckart theorem, and deduce the corresponding reduced matrix elements from them.

6. Evaluate

$$\sum_{m=-j}^j |D_{mm'}^{(j)}(\beta)|^2 m$$

for any j (integer or half-integer), then check your answer for $j = \frac{1}{2}$.

7. Prove the following results for $j = 1$, using the corresponding representation of J_y

(a)

$$e^{-\frac{iJ_y\beta}{\hbar}} = 1 - i \left(\frac{J_y}{\hbar} \right) \sin \beta - \left(\frac{J_y}{\hbar} \right)^2 (1 - \cos \beta)$$

(b)

$$D^{(j=1)}(\beta) = \begin{pmatrix} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)(1 + \cos \beta) & -\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \sin \beta & \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)(1 - \cos \beta) \\ \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \sin \beta & \cos \beta & -\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \sin \beta \\ \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)(1 - \cos \beta) & \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \sin \beta & \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)(1 + \cos \beta) \end{pmatrix}$$

8. Consider a spherical tensor of rank 1 (that is, a vector)

$$V_1^{\pm 1} = \mp \frac{V_x \pm iV_y}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad V_1^0 = V_z.$$

Using the expression for $D^{(j=1)}(\beta)$ given in the previous problem, evaluate

$$\sum_{q'} D_{qq'}^{(1)}(\beta) V_1^{q'}$$

and show that your results are just what you expect from the transformation properties of $V_{x,y,z}$, under rotation about the y -axis.

9. (a) Construct a spherical tensor of rank 1 out of two different vectors $\mathbf{U} = (U_x, U_y, U_z)$ and $\mathbf{V} = (V_x, V_y, V_z)$. Explicitly write $T_1^{\pm 1,0}$, in terms of $U_{x,y,z}$ and $V_{x,y,z}$.

(b) Construct a spherical tensor of rank 2 out of two different vectors \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} . Write down explicitly $T_2^{\pm 2, \pm 1, 0}$, in terms of $U_{x,y,z}$ and $V_{x,y,z}$.

10. Consider a spinless particle bound to a fixed center by a central force potential.

(a) Relate, as much as possible, the matrix elements

$$\langle n', l', m' | \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(x \pm iy) | n, l, m \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \langle n', l', m' | z | n, l, m \rangle$$

using only the Wigner-Eckart theorem. Make sure to state under what conditions the matrix elements are nonvanishing.

(b) Do the same problem using the wave function $\psi_{nlm}(\mathbf{r}) = R_{nl}(r)Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$.

11. (a) Write xy , xz , and $(x^2 - y^2)$ as components of a spherical (irreducible) tensor of rank 2.

(b) The expectation value

$$Q \equiv e\langle\alpha, j, m = j|(3z^2 - r^2)|\alpha, j, m = j\rangle$$

is known as *quadrupole moment*. Evaluate

$$e\langle\alpha, j, m'|(x^2 - y^2)|\alpha, j, m = j\rangle,$$

(where $m' = j, j - 1, j - 2, \dots$) in terms of Q and appropriate C-G coefficients.

12. The magnetic moment of an atom is defined as

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = -\frac{e}{2mc}(g_L\mathbf{L} + g_S\mathbf{S}),$$

where e is the electronic charge, m is the electronic mass, c is the speed of light, \mathbf{L} is the total orbital angular momentum operator for the atom, \mathbf{S} is total spin angular momentum operator of the atom, and g_L and g_S are, respectively, orbital and spin Lande g factors.

(a) Argue that the expectation value components $\langle\mu_i\rangle = \langle\alpha jj|\mu_i|\alpha jj\rangle$, are proportional to each other

(b) Using the projection theorem, prove that if $g_L = 1$ and $g_S = 2$, $\mu = \langle\mu_z\rangle$ is given by

$$\mu = -\frac{e\hbar}{2mc}g_JJ,$$

where

$$g_J = \left\{1 + \frac{J(J+1) - L(L+1) + S(S+1)}{2J(J+1)}\right\},$$

and S , L , and J , respectively denote the total spin, orbital angular momentum, and total angular momentum of the atom.