

PHY 484 : Week 3

Spin, Angular Momentum

Noether's Theorem: Every Symmetry corresponds to a conserved quantity.

Translations in time $\rightarrow$ conservation of energy

Translations in space $\rightarrow$ conservation of linear momentum

Rotations in space $\rightarrow$ conservation of angular momentum

Gauge transformations $\rightarrow$ conservation of charge
 $\psi \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \psi$

Spin in QM:

- Spin quantized in half-integer units of $\hbar$
- orbital ang. momentum quantized in integer units of $\hbar$
- QM forbids simultaneously specifying more than 1 component of $\vec{L}$, but can specify magnitude and one other component:

$$L^2 = \vec{L} \cdot \vec{L} = l(l+1)\hbar^2$$

and $L_z = m_l \hbar$ $[m_l = -l, -l+1, \dots, l-1, l]$
 $\uparrow 2l+1 \text{ values}$

- Intrinsic spin in SM:

- Fermions (spin $\frac{1}{2}$)
- Gauge Bosons (spin 1)
- Higgs (spin 0)

* Composite particles have a total spin J that has contributions from the spins of the fundamental constituents.

Any relative orbital angular momentum also adds, hence

$$J = L + S.$$

↖ orbital ↗ intrinsic spin

Mesons: either spin 1 or 0.

Baryons: all spin $\frac{1}{2}$ (Fermions)

- Addition of Angular Momentum:

$$J = J_1 + J_2$$

↖ arbitrary angular
momentum vector

→ z components add, but magnitudes (J^2) do not:

$$J_z = J_{1z} + J_{2z} ;$$

$$J^2 = j(j+1)\hbar^2 \quad (j \text{ runs from } |j_1 - j_2| \text{ to } |j_1 + j_2|)$$

→ For states with $L > 0$, there are 3 angular momentum vectors to add (2 spins + 1 orbital):

ie. $q\bar{q}$ states with $L > 0$, mesons with spins

$$\begin{aligned} j &= l+1 \\ j &= l \\ j &= l-1 \end{aligned}$$

Rules are well established:

$$|j_1 m_1\rangle |j_2 m_2\rangle = \sum_{j=|j_1-j_2|}^{|j_1+j_2|} C_{m_1 m_2}^{j j_1 j_2} |j m\rangle \quad (m = m_1 + m_2)$$

↑
Clebsch-Gordan
Coefficients
(see below)

→ The square of the CG coefficient gives the probability of getting a state of total spin j from a system of two angular momentum states $|j_1 m_1\rangle |j_2 m_2\rangle$.

• Review of the Spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ Formalism:

Write as 2-component spinors: $|\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2}\rangle \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$; $|\frac{1}{2} -\frac{1}{2}\rangle \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

→ Most general state: $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

α^2 prob. yields $+\frac{\hbar}{2} S_z$ β^2 prob. yields $-\frac{\hbar}{2} S_z$.

Pauli Matrices:

$$\hat{S}_x = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \hat{S}_y = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \hat{S}_z = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(each has eigenvalues $\pm \frac{\hbar}{2}$)

Example: adding angular momentum:

An electron occupies the orbital state $|2, -1\rangle$ and the spin state $|\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\rangle$.

What are the possible measurements of J^2 and with what probability do they occur?

• Z components add: $m = -1 + \frac{1}{2} = -\frac{1}{2}$.

• Magnitude is either $\frac{3}{2}$ or $\frac{5}{2}$ ($2 \pm \frac{1}{2}$).

$$|2, -1\rangle |\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\rangle = A |\frac{5}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\rangle + B |\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\rangle.$$

(A, B (6 coefficients).

On coefficient table, $2 \times \frac{1}{2}$ with $m_1, m_2 = -1, \frac{1}{2}$

and $+\frac{5}{2}, +\frac{3}{2}$ yields

$$A = \sqrt{\frac{2}{5}}, \quad B = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{5}}$$

$$\text{Thus } |2, -1\rangle |\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2}{5}} |\frac{5}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} |\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\rangle.$$

