

(4)

The expectation value of L_z in spherical Polar Coordinates is,

$$\begin{aligned} L_z &= -i\hbar \left[x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right] \\ &= -i\hbar \left[r \sin\theta \cos\phi \left(\frac{\partial r}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right) - y \left(\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right) \right] \\ &= -i\hbar \left[r \sin\theta \cos\phi \left(\sin\theta \sin\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\sin\phi \cos\theta}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + \frac{\cos\phi}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right) - r \sin\theta \sin\phi \left(\sin\theta \cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\cos\phi \cos\theta}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} - \frac{\sin\phi}{r \sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right) \right] \\ &= -i\hbar \left[r \sin^2\theta \cos\phi \sin\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \sin\theta \cos\phi \sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + \cos^2\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} - r \sin^2\theta \sin\phi \cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial r} - \sin\theta \sin\theta \cos\phi \cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + \sin^2\theta \sin\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right] \\ &= -i\hbar \left[\cos^2\phi + \sin^2\phi \right] \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \end{aligned}$$

$$L_z = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi}$$

Similarly

$$L_x = i\hbar \left[\sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + \cot\theta \cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right]$$

$$L_y = i\hbar \left[\cot\theta \sin\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} - \cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \right]$$

Assignment

Prove that

$$L^2 = L_x^2 + L_y^2 + L_z^2$$

$$= -\hbar^2 \left[\frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \left(\sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial\phi^2} \right]$$

Now.
↔

$$\frac{L_{\pm}}{\hbar} = L_x + i L_y$$

$$= i\hbar \left[\left(\sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + \cot\theta \cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right) + i \left(\cot\theta \sin\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} - \cos\phi \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \right) \right]$$

$$L_x^2 =$$

Now

$$L_z = L_x + i L_y$$

$$L_x = i \hbar \left[\sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \cot \theta \cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

$$= \hbar \left[i \sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \downarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{Multiply and divide} \\ \text{by } i \end{array} i \cot \theta \cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

$$= \hbar \left[i \sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} - \frac{1}{i} \cot \theta \cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

$$i L_y = i \cdot i \hbar \left[\cot \theta \sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} - \cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right]$$

$$= -\hbar \left[\cot \theta \sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} - \cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right]$$

$$= \hbar \left[\cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} - \cot \theta \sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

multiply and divide by "i" 2nd term.

$$i L_y = \hbar \left[\cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} - \frac{i}{i} \cot \theta \sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right]$$

then

$$L_+ = \hbar \left[(\cos\theta + i \sin\theta) \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} - \frac{1}{i} \cot\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right]$$

$$= \hbar \left[e^{i\phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} - \frac{1}{i} e^{i\phi} \cot\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right]$$

$$L_+ = \hbar e^{i\phi} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + i \cot\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right]$$

Similarly $L_- = L_x - iL_y$

$$L_- = -\hbar e^{-i\phi} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + i \cot\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \right)$$

Eigenfunctions of L_+ and L_-

As the operators \hat{L}_+ and \hat{L}_- depend only on θ and ϕ , since their eigenstates depends only on θ and ϕ , therefore we write a function ψ for both operators as

$$\psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

where $\Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$ are the continuous eigenfn of σ_ϕ , hence

$$\hat{L}^2 \Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = l(l+1) \hbar^2 \Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

and

$$\hat{L}_z \Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = m \hbar \Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

As we know, \hat{L}_z depends only on ϕ , so we can separate the eigenfn. as

$$\Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = G'_{lm}(\theta) \cdot \bar{\Phi}_{lm}(\phi)$$

Eigenfunction of and Eigenvalue

$$\sigma_\phi \uparrow \hat{L}_z$$

Since

$$\hat{L}_z \Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = m \hbar \Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

$$\text{as } \hat{L}_z = -i \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}$$

so

$$-i \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} [G'_{lm}(\theta) \bar{\Phi}_{lm}(\phi)] = m \hbar G'_{lm}(\theta) \bar{\Phi}_{lm}(\phi)$$

$$-i \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \bar{\Phi}_{lm}(\phi) = m \bar{\Phi}_{lm}(\phi)$$

↓
because G'_{lm} is not a function of ϕ

The sol. of the eqn is

$$\Phi_m(\phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{im\phi}$$

where $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$ is the normalization.

Constant can be calculated as

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \Phi_m^* \Phi_m d\phi = 1 \quad 0 \leq \phi \leq 2\pi$$

This is the eigenfunction of

\hat{L}_z operator. Now calculate the eigenvalue of this,

$$\hat{L}_z \Phi_m(\phi) = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \Phi_m(\phi)$$

$$= -i\hbar \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} e^{im\phi}$$

$$= -i\hbar im \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{im\phi}$$

$$\hat{L}_z \Phi_m(\phi) = m\hbar \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{im\phi} = m\hbar \Phi_m(\phi)$$

This shows that the expectation

value of \hat{L}_z has a discrete set

of values, which varies from $-l\hbar$ to $+l\hbar$.

Eigenfunctions of L^2_z

L^2_z depend both on θ and ϕ

therefore, we choose the eigenfn. as $\psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = G(\theta) e^{im\phi}$

$$\psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = G(\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

where $G(\theta) = G'(\theta) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$

so

$$L^2 \psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = \lambda G(\theta) \psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

$$L^2 G(\theta) e^{im\phi} = \lambda G(\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

$$-k^2 \left[\frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \left(\sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial\phi^2} \right] G(\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

$$= \lambda G(\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sin\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \left[\sin\theta \frac{\partial G}{\partial\theta} \right] e^{im\phi} - \frac{G \sin^2\theta}{\sin^2\theta} e^{im\phi} =$$

$$= -\lambda G e^{im\phi}$$

or

$$\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial G}{\partial \theta} \right) - \frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \theta} G = -\frac{\lambda}{k^2} G$$

\Rightarrow

$$\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial G}{\partial \theta} \right) + \left(\frac{\lambda}{k^2} - \frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \theta} \right) G = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Let us write

$$\cos \theta = \xi \Rightarrow$$

$$\cos^2 \theta = \xi^2$$

$$1 - \sin^2 \theta = \xi^2$$

$$\sin \theta = \sqrt{1 - \xi^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \frac{\partial \xi}{\partial \theta}$$

$$= -\sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}$$

then equ (1) becomes

$$\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \left(-\sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \right) \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} G \right) + \left[\frac{\lambda}{k^2} - \frac{m^2}{(1 - \xi^2)} \right] G = 0$$

\downarrow
put the value of $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$

$$\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \left(-\sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \right) \left(-\sin^2 \theta \frac{\partial G}{\partial \xi} \right) + \left[\frac{\lambda}{k^2} - \frac{m^2}{(1 - \xi^2)} \right] G = 0$$

or

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \left[\sin^2 \theta \frac{\partial G}{\partial \xi} \right] + \left[\frac{\lambda}{k^2} - \frac{m^2}{(1 - \xi^2)} \right] G = 0$$

put the value of $\sin^2 \theta$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \left[(1 - \xi^2) \frac{\partial G}{\partial \xi} \right] + \left[\frac{\lambda}{k^2} - \frac{m^2}{(1 - \xi^2)} \right] G = 0$$

Differentiate the 1st term w.r.t. ξ .
we will get

$$(1-\xi^2) \frac{d^2 G}{d\xi^2} - 2\xi \frac{dG}{d\xi} + \left[\frac{\lambda}{\xi^2} - \frac{m^2}{(1-\xi^2)} \right] G = 0$$

For $\lambda = l(l+1)\xi^2$, we will get

$$(1-\xi^2) \frac{d^2 G}{d\xi^2} - 2\xi \frac{dG}{d\xi} + \left[l(l+1) - \frac{m^2}{1-\xi^2} \right] G = 0$$

This is the associated Legendre's eqn.
Hence

The Legendre polynomials $P_l(\xi)$ are

the sol. of the following eqn. for $m=0$

$$(1-\xi^2) \frac{d^2 P_l}{d\xi^2} - 2\xi \frac{dP_l}{d\xi} + l(l+1) P_l = 0$$

when $m=0$ and l is integer, the eqn (*) is identical to the polynomial (Legendre)

$$(1-x^2) y'' - 2x y' + \left(l(l+1) - \frac{m^2}{1-x^2} \right) y = 0$$

when $m=0$, $l = \text{integer}$.
then the sol. is

$$P_l(x) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^l}{dx^l} [(x^2-1)^l]$$

So in our case the sol will be

$$P_l(\xi) = \frac{1}{2^l l!} \frac{d^l}{d\xi^l} (\xi^2-1)^l$$

This is the Rodrigues formula for Legendre polynomial;

for, $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, the values are.

$$P_0(x) = 1.$$

~~$$P_1(x) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dx} (x^2 - 1) = x$$~~

~~$$P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} (x^2 - 1) = (3x^2 - 1)$$~~

Now we are interested in the value of G ;

differentiating the eqn (*) m -times. By applying the Leibnitz the.

$$(1-x^2) \frac{d^{m+2}}{dx^{m+2}} P_l - 2x \frac{d^{m+1}}{dx^{m+1}} P_l - 2 \frac{d^m}{dx^m} P_l \frac{m(m-1)}{2!} - 2x \frac{d^{m+1}}{dx^{m+1}} P_l - 2m \frac{d^m}{dx^m} P_l + l(l+1) \frac{d^m}{dx^m} P_l = 0$$

or.

$$(1-x^2) \frac{d^{m+2}}{dx^{m+2}} P_l - 2x(m+1) \frac{d^{m+1}}{dx^{m+1}} P_l + [l(l+1) - m(m-1) - 2m] \frac{d^m}{dx^m} P_l = 0$$

$$\hookrightarrow (f \cdot g)^{(n)} = f \cdot g^{(n)} + \binom{n}{1} f' \cdot g^{(n-1)} + \binom{n}{2} f'' \cdot g^{(n-2)} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} f^{(n)} \cdot g$$

Let us write.

$$u = \frac{d^m p}{d\zeta^m}$$

So.

$$(1-\zeta^2) \frac{d^2 u}{d\zeta^2} - 2\zeta(m+1) \frac{du}{d\zeta} + [l(l+1) - m(m+1)] u = 0$$

If we make the substitution.

$$u = (1-\zeta^2)^{-m/2} v = u(1-\zeta^2)^{m/2}$$

then.

$$\frac{du}{d\zeta} = -\frac{m}{2} (1-\zeta^2)^{-m/2-1} (-2\zeta) v + (1-\zeta^2)^{-m/2} \frac{dv}{d\zeta}$$

$$= m\zeta (1-\zeta^2)^{-m/2-1} v + (1-\zeta^2)^{-m/2} \frac{dv}{d\zeta}$$

$$\frac{d^2 u}{d\zeta^2} = m (1-\zeta^2)^{-m/2-1} v + m\zeta (-m/2-1) (1-\zeta^2)^{-m/2-1} v + (2\zeta) v + m\zeta (-\zeta^2)^{-m/2-1} \frac{dv}{d\zeta} -$$

$$-m/2 (1-\zeta^2)^{-m/2-1} (-2\zeta) \frac{dv}{d\zeta} -$$

$$+ (1-\zeta^2)^{-m/2} \frac{d^2 v}{d\zeta^2}$$

By putting the values of $\frac{du}{d\zeta}$ and $\frac{d^2 u}{d\zeta^2}$ in equ above, we will get

$$(1-\zeta^2) \frac{d^2 v}{d\zeta^2} - 2\zeta \frac{dv}{d\zeta} + [l(l+1) - \frac{m^2}{1-\zeta^2}] v = 0$$

This is identical to equ. (*), so we can take.

$$G \propto V.$$

$$G = C_{em} V = C_{em} (1 - \xi^2)^{m/2} U.$$

or

$$G = C_{em} (1 - \xi^2)^{m/2} \frac{d^m}{d\xi^m} P_p$$

$$= C_{em} P_{em}(\xi)$$

where

$$P_{em}(\xi) = (1 - \xi^2)^{m/2} \frac{d^m}{d\xi^m} [P_p]$$

is the associated Legendre Polynomial and C_{em} are constant of proportionality.

The Associated Legendre Polynomial can be written as by putting P_p value

$$P_{em}(\xi) = (1 - \xi^2)^{m/2} \frac{d^m}{d\xi^m} \left[\frac{1}{2^p p!} \frac{d^p}{d\xi^p} (\xi^2 - 1)^p \right]$$

$$= (1 - \xi^2)^{m/2} \frac{1}{2^p p!} \frac{d^{m+p}}{d\xi^{m+p}} (\xi^2 - 1)^p$$

$$P_{em} = \frac{(1 - \xi^2)^{m/2}}{2^p p!} \frac{d^{m+p}}{d\xi^{m+p}} (\xi^2 - 1)^p$$

So the simultaneous eigenfns. of L_z and L^2 are

$$\Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = C_{lm} G_l(\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

$$\Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = C_{lm} P_{lm}(\xi) e^{im\phi}$$

$$\Psi_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

The functions Y_{lm} are called spherical harmonics. So the spherical harmonics are precisely the simultaneous eigenfunctions of L_z and L^2 .

We can observe that $P_l(\xi)$ is a polynomial in ξ of degree l , but $P_{lm}(\xi)$ is not a polynomial in general. For example, when m is odd, $P_{lm}(\xi)$ will have a function of $\sqrt{1-\xi^2}$.

i.e.

$$P_{21}(\xi) = (1-\xi^2)^{1/2} \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\frac{1}{2} (3\xi^2 - 1) \right)$$

$$= 3\xi \sqrt{1-\xi^2} \quad \text{etc.}$$

We therefore write P_{lm} as $P_{lm}(\cos\theta)$ where $\sqrt{1-\cos^2\theta} = \sin\theta$

Some associated Legendre polynomials are.

$$P_{11} = \sin\theta$$

$$P_{10} = \cos\theta$$

$$P_{22} = 3\sin^2\theta$$

$$P_{21} = 3\sin\theta\cos\theta$$

$$P_{20} = \frac{1}{2}(3\cos^2\theta - 1)$$

The simultaneous eigenfunctions of L^2 and L_z are

$$Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) = C_{lm} P_{lm}(\cos\theta) e^{im\phi}$$

The constant C_{lm} are fixed in such a way that the spherical harmonics are normalized.

$$\int \Psi_{l'm'}^*(\theta, \phi) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) dV = \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}$$

Since the integral, over we have spherical angles whose range of integration is

$$0 \leq \phi \leq 2\pi$$

$$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$$

So,

$$= \int_0^\pi P_{lm}(\cos\theta) P_{lm}(\cos\theta) \sin\theta d\theta \times \int_0^{2\pi} |e^{im\phi}|^2 d\phi |C_{lm}|^2$$

Because the integral over dV is

$$\int dV = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta$$

ad.

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |e^{im\phi}|^2 d\phi = 2\pi$$

Hence, the normalization constants of spherical harmonics are

$$C_{lm} = (-1)^m \sqrt{\frac{(2l+1)}{2} \frac{(l-m)!}{(l+m)!}}$$

Assignment