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Subatomic physics

Mid-term exam

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Exercise 1

Special relativity and four vectors

(a) For a decay of the form $A \to B + C$, show that the mass of particle A, m_A, is given by

$$m_A^2 = m_B^2 + m_C^2 + E_B E_C (1 - \beta_B \beta_C \cos\theta),$$

where θ is the opening angle between the two daughters B and C and β_B, β_C their velocities. Work with natural units.

(b) Find the maximum opening angle between the photons produced in the decay $\pi^0 \to e^+ + e^-$ if the energy of the neutral pion is 10 GeV. The mass of π^0 is 0.139 GeV.

Exercise 2

Transformations and symmetries

(a) The representation of spin-1/2 particles is usually given by the operators $\hat{S}_i = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_i$, where σ_i are the Pauli spin matrices:

$$\sigma_1 = \frac{1}{2}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_2 = \frac{1}{2}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_3 = \frac{1}{2}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Show that they satisfy the same algebra as the operators of angular momentum, namely that $[\hat{S}_1, \hat{S}_2] = i\hat{S}_3$, $[\hat{S}_2, \hat{S}_3] = i\hat{S}_1$ and $[\hat{S}_3, \hat{S}_1] = i\hat{S}_2$ (show at least one of them).

(b) Consider the operator $\hat{U} = e^{-i\alpha\hat{F}/\hbar}$, where α is a displacement in real space along the z axis and $\hat{F}$ the generator of the transformation.

1. What operation is described by U?
2. Identify the symmetry generator of the transformation if the Hamiltonian of the system is invariant under translation in space. What is the conserved quantity?

Exercise 3

Particles and quantum numbers

(a) Which reactions are possible and which are not, and why?

1. $\mu^- \to e^- + \overline{\nu}_e$
2. $p + \overline{p} \to \pi^+ + \pi^- + \pi^0 + \pi^+ + \pi^-$
3. $\overline{\nu}_\mu + p \to n + e^+$
4. $p \to e^+ + \gamma$
5. $n \to p + e^- + \overline{\nu}_e$

(b) Consider a particle of spin 3/2 and another one of spin 2 that form a system whose orbital angular momentum is 0 and total spin is 5/2. If the z-component of the composite system is -1/2, what values would we get for the measurement of S_z and what is the probability for each? Show that they add up to unity?

Exercise 4

Accelerators, interaction of particles with matter and detectors

(a) Define what is luminosity and indicate what each term corresponds to in the formula.

(b)One of the possible future directions of CERN is to have a physics program based on the acceleration of proton beams at a momentum of 50 TeV. The main scientific motivation is the search for particles associated with physics beyond the standard model with mass by far larger than the mass of the Higgs ($m_H \approx 125$ GeV). In the hypothetical case that you are responsible of selecting between to design an experiment operating in

1. a collider mode with each proton beam being accelerated up to $P = 50$ TeV,
2. a fixed target mode where a proton beam accelerated up to $P = 50$ TeV collides with a proton target

what would be your choice and why? What is the centre-of-mass energy in both cases?

34. CLEBSCH-GORDAN COEFFICIENTS, SPHERICAL HARMONICS, AND d FUNCTIONS

Note: A square-root sign is to be understood over *every* coefficient, *e.g.*, for $-8/15$ read $-\sqrt{8/15}$.

Notation:

	J	J	...
	M	M	...
m_1 m_2			
m_1 m_2	Coefficients		
. .			

$$Y_1^0 = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}}\cos\theta$$

$$Y_1^1 = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}}\sin\theta\, e^{i\phi}$$

$$Y_2^0 = \sqrt{\frac{5}{4\pi}}\left(\frac{3}{2}\cos^2\theta - \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$Y_2^1 = -\sqrt{\frac{15}{8\pi}}\sin\theta\cos\theta\, e^{i\phi}$$

$$Y_2^2 = \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{15}{2\pi}}\sin^2\theta\, e^{2i\phi}$$

$$Y_\ell^{-m} = (-1)^m Y_\ell^{m*}$$

$$d^\ell_{m,0} = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{2\ell+1}}\, Y_\ell^m\, e^{-im\phi}$$

$$\langle j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | j_1 j_2 J M\rangle = (-1)^{J-j_1-j_2}\langle j_2 j_1 m_2 m_1 | j_2 j_1 J M\rangle$$

$$d^j_{m',m} = (-1)^{m-m'} d^j_{m,m'} = d^j_{-m,-m'}$$

1/2×1/2

m_1	m_2	J=1, M=+1
+1/2	+1/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=1, M=0	J=0, M=0
+1/2	−1/2	1/2	1/2
−1/2	+1/2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=1, M=−1
−1/2	−1/2	1

1×1/2

m_1	m_2	J=3/2, M=+3/2
+1	+1/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=3/2, M=+1/2	J=1/2, M=+1/2
+1	−1/2	1/3	2/3
0	+1/2	2/3	−1/3

m_1	m_2	J=3/2, M=−1/2	J=1/2, M=−1/2
0	−1/2	2/3	1/3
−1	+1/2	1/3	−2/3

m_1	m_2	J=3/2, M=−3/2
−1	−1/2	1

2×1/2

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+5/2
+2	+1/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+3/2	J=3/2, M=+3/2
+2	−1/2	1/5	4/5
+1	+1/2	4/5	−1/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+1/2	J=3/2, M=+1/2
+1	−1/2	2/5	3/5
0	+1/2	3/5	−2/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−1/2	J=3/2, M=−1/2
0	−1/2	3/5	2/5
−1	+1/2	2/5	−3/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−3/2	J=3/2, M=−3/2
−1	−1/2	4/5	1/5
−2	+1/2	1/5	−4/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−5/2
−2	−1/2	1

3/2×1/2

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=+2
+3/2	+1/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+3/2	−1/2	1/4	3/4
+1/2	+1/2	3/4	−1/4

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0
+1/2	−1/2	1/2	1/2
−1/2	+1/2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
−1/2	−1/2	3/4	1/4
−3/2	+1/2	1/4	−3/4

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=−2
−3/2	−1/2	1

2×1

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+3
+2	+1	1

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+2	J=2, M=+2
+2	0	1/3	2/3
+1	+1	2/3	−1/3

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+1	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+2	−1	1/15	1/3	3/5
+1	0	8/15	1/6	−3/10
0	+1	2/5	−1/2	1/10

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=0	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0
+1	−1	1/5	1/2	3/10
0	0	3/5	0	−2/5
−1	+1	1/5	−1/2	3/10

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−1	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
0	−1	2/5	1/2	1/10
−1	0	8/15	−1/6	−3/10
−2	+1	1/15	−1/3	3/5

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−2	J=2, M=−2
−1	−1	2/3	1/3
−2	0	1/3	−2/3

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−3
−2	−1	1

1×1

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=+2
+1	+1	1

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+1	0	1/2	1/2
0	+1	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0	J=0, M=0
+1	−1	1/6	1/2	1/3
0	0	2/3	0	−1/3
−1	+1	1/6	−1/2	1/3

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
0	−1	1/2	1/2
−1	0	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=2, M=−2
−1	−1	1

3/2×1

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+5/2
+3/2	+1	1

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+3/2	J=3/2, M=+3/2
+3/2	0	2/5	3/5
+1/2	+1	3/5	−2/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=+1/2	J=3/2, M=+1/2	J=1/2, M=+1/2
+3/2	−1	1/10	2/5	1/2
+1/2	0	3/5	1/15	−1/3
−1/2	+1	3/10	−8/15	1/6

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−1/2	J=3/2, M=−1/2	J=1/2, M=−1/2
+1/2	−1	3/10	8/15	1/6
−1/2	0	3/5	−1/15	−1/3
−3/2	+1	1/10	−2/5	1/2

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−3/2	J=3/2, M=−3/2
−1/2	−1	3/5	2/5
−3/2	0	2/5	−3/5

m_1	m_2	J=5/2, M=−5/2
−3/2	−1	1

3/2×3/2

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+3
+3/2	+3/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+2	J=2, M=+2
+3/2	+1/2	1/2	1/2
+1/2	+3/2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=+1	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+3/2	−1/2	1/5	1/2	3/10
+1/2	+1/2	3/5	0	−2/5
−1/2	+3/2	1/5	−1/2	3/10

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=0	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0	J=0, M=0
+3/2	−3/2	1/20	1/4	9/20	1/4
+1/2	−1/2	9/20	1/4	−1/20	−1/4
−1/2	+1/2	9/20	−1/4	−1/20	1/4
−3/2	+3/2	1/20	−1/4	9/20	−1/4

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−1	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
+1/2	−3/2	1/5	1/2	3/10
−1/2	−1/2	3/5	0	−2/5
−3/2	+1/2	1/5	−1/2	3/10

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−2	J=2, M=−2
−1/2	−3/2	1/2	1/2
−3/2	−1/2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=3, M=−3
−3/2	−3/2	1

2×3/2

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=+7/2
+2	+3/2	1

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=+5/2	J=5/2, M=+5/2
+2	+1/2	3/7	4/7
+1	+3/2	4/7	−3/7

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=+3/2	J=5/2, M=+3/2	J=3/2, M=+3/2
+2	−1/2	1/7	16/35	2/5
+1	+1/2	4/7	1/35	−2/5
0	+3/2	2/7	−18/35	1/5

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=+1/2	J=5/2, M=+1/2	J=3/2, M=+1/2	J=1/2, M=+1/2
+2	−3/2	1/35	6/35	2/5	2/5
+1	−1/2	12/35	5/14	0	−3/10
0	+1/2	18/35	−3/35	−1/5	1/5
−1	+3/2	4/35	−27/70	2/5	−1/10

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=−1/2	J=5/2, M=−1/2	J=3/2, M=−1/2	J=1/2, M=−1/2
+1	−3/2	4/35	27/70	2/5	1/10
0	−1/2	18/35	3/35	−1/5	−1/5
−1	+1/2	12/35	−5/14	0	3/10
−2	+3/2	1/35	−6/35	2/5	−2/5

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=−3/2	J=5/2, M=−3/2	J=3/2, M=−3/2
0	−3/2	2/7	18/35	1/5
−1	−1/2	4/7	−1/35	−2/5
−2	+1/2	1/7	−16/35	2/5

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=−5/2	J=5/2, M=−5/2
−1	−3/2	4/7	3/7
−2	−1/2	3/7	−4/7

m_1	m_2	J=7/2, M=−7/2
−2	−3/2	1

2×2

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=+4
+2	+2	1

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=+3	J=3, M=+3
+2	+1	1/2	1/2
+1	+2	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=+2	J=3, M=+2	J=2, M=+2
+2	0	3/14	1/2	2/7
+1	+1	4/7	0	−3/7
0	+2	3/14	−1/2	2/7

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=+1	J=3, M=+1	J=2, M=+1	J=1, M=+1
+2	−1	1/14	3/10	3/7	1/5
+1	0	3/7	1/5	−1/14	−3/10
0	+1	3/7	−1/5	−1/14	3/10
−1	+2	1/14	−3/10	3/7	−1/5

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=0	J=3, M=0	J=2, M=0	J=1, M=0	J=0, M=0
+2	−2	1/70	1/10	2/7	2/5	1/5
+1	−1	8/35	2/5	1/14	−1/10	−1/5
0	0	18/35	0	−2/7	0	1/5
−1	+1	8/35	−2/5	1/14	1/10	−1/5
−2	+2	1/70	−1/10	2/7	−2/5	1/5

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=−1	J=3, M=−1	J=2, M=−1	J=1, M=−1
+1	−2	1/14	3/10	3/7	1/5
0	−1	3/7	1/5	−1/14	−3/10
−1	0	3/7	−1/5	−1/14	3/10
−2	+1	1/14	−3/10	3/7	−1/5

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=−2	J=3, M=−2	J=2, M=−2
0	−2	3/14	1/2	2/7
−1	−1	4/7	0	−3/7
−2	0	3/14	−1/2	2/7

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=−3	J=3, M=−3
−1	−2	1/2	1/2
−2	−1	1/2	−1/2

m_1	m_2	J=4, M=−4
−2	−2	1

$$d^1_{0,0} = \cos\theta \qquad d^{1/2}_{1/2,1/2} = \cos\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^1_{1,1} = \frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}$$

$$d^{1/2}_{1/2,-1/2} = -\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^1_{1,0} = -\frac{\sin\theta}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$d^1_{1,-1} = \frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}$$

$$d^{3/2}_{3/2,3/2} = \frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}\cos\frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$d^{3/2}_{3/2,1/2} = -\sqrt{3}\,\frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,2} = \left(\frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}\right)^2$$

$$d^{3/2}_{3/2,-1/2} = \sqrt{3}\,\frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}\cos\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,1} = -\frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}\sin\theta$$

$$d^{3/2}_{3/2,-3/2} = -\frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,0} = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}\sin^2\theta \qquad d^2_{1,1} = \frac{1+\cos\theta}{2}(2\cos\theta-1)$$

$$d^{3/2}_{1/2,1/2} = \frac{3\cos\theta-1}{2}\cos\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,-1} = -\frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}\sin\theta \qquad d^2_{1,0} = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\sin\theta\cos\theta$$

$$d^{3/2}_{1/2,-1/2} = -\frac{3\cos\theta+1}{2}\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \qquad d^2_{2,-2} = \left(\frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}\right)^2 \qquad d^2_{1,-1} = \frac{1-\cos\theta}{2}(2\cos\theta+1) \qquad d^2_{0,0} = \left(\frac{3}{2}\cos^2\theta - \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

Figure 34.1: The sign convention is that of Wigner (*Group Theory*, Academic Press, New York, 1959), also used by Condon and Shortley (*The Theory of Atomic Spectra*, Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, 1953), Rose (*Elementary Theory of Angular Momentum*, Wiley, New York, 1957), and Cohen (*Tables of the Clebsch-Gordan Coefficients*, North American Rockwell Science Center, Thousand Oaks, Calif., 1974). The coefficients here have been calculated using computer programs written independently by Cohen and at LBNL.