

**Symmetry and Group Theory**  
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**Lecture No. 17**  
**Similarity Transformation**

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When the matrix is Hermitian....  $A x_i = \lambda_i x_i$



Taking adjoint,  $(A x_i)^{\dagger} = (\lambda_i x_i)^{\dagger}$   
 $x_i^{\dagger} A = \lambda_i^* x_i^{\dagger}$  

- $(AB)^{\dagger} = B^{\dagger} A^{\dagger}$  : Homework problem
- $\lambda_i$  is a scalar

Right multiplying by  $x_i$ ,  $x_i^{\dagger} (A x_i) = \lambda_i^* x_i^{\dagger} x_i$   
 $\lambda_i x_i$

$\lambda_i x_i^{\dagger} x_i = \lambda_i^* x_i^{\dagger} x_i$

$(\lambda_i - \lambda_i^*) x_i^{\dagger} x_i = 0$   
 $= 0$   
 $\Rightarrow \lambda_i - \lambda_i^* = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow \lambda_i = \lambda_i^*$

Now let us repeat something that we discussed briefly but other aspects that we are going to bring up today. What happens when you have a matrix that is hermitian now I think you have understand the equation what is the meaning of i right. What is the definition of hermitian matrix?  $A = A$  dagger or  $A = A$  transpose  $A$  or  $A$  dagger equal to;  $A = A$  dagger. And what happens when  $A$  inverse =  $A$  dagger. It is unitary there is no reason to be scared. It is unitary fine.

Now what we have said is that you take the adjoint of the two side then you have dagger of  $Ax_i =$  dagger of  $\lambda_i x_i$  very simple. It is just put in a pair of brackets and in both sides and put in a dagger ok. And then the thing is you should work it out yourself that the dagger of  $AB = B$  dagger into  $A$  dagger not very difficult to work out leave that as homework problem. And do not forget now I think there no confusion  $\lambda_i A$  is scalar quantity right. So if that is the case will you agree with me the first equation yeah rather second equation goes on to become  $x_i^{\dagger} A = \lambda_i^* x_i^{\dagger}$  right.

People are like me are going to be like  $\lambda_i$  right because he got an eigenvalue that is imaginary, complex ok. But then his neighbour is not going to worry about a dagger about  $\lambda_i$  rather because they eigenvalue we got real Eigenvalue ok of course you know that  $\lambda_i$  is going to go at the end. Now what do you do now it is that you write multiply by  $x_i$  ok. Multiplying by  $x_i$  this is what you get  $x_i^\dagger A x_i = \lambda_i x_i^\dagger x_i$  why do you right multiply by  $x_i$ . Why not left multiply?

If I left multiply then I end up with not much. If I right multiply the good thing is it  $A x_i$  is there and you know what  $A x_i$  is.  $A x_i = \lambda_i x_i$  ok so you can simplify little bit and I can write  $x_i^\dagger \lambda_i x_i = \lambda_i x_i^\dagger x_i$ . And I can rearrange it write  $\lambda_i x_i^\dagger x_i = \lambda_i x_i^\dagger x_i$ .  $\lambda_i$  is a scalar  $\lambda_i x_i^\dagger x_i = \lambda_i x_i^\dagger x_i$  right. What is the next step make one of the sides 0 right  $\lambda_i - \lambda_i^* = \lambda_i - \lambda_i$  start multiplied by  $x_i^\dagger x_i = 0$ .

Now what is  $x_i$ ? Might sound like a foolish question at this point I do not want to wants to lose track what is  $x_i$ ? It is the  $i$ th eigenvector. Now if I take the adjoint of a eigenvector and multiply the original eigenvector what should I get? You work it out yourself what I am saying is that you are  $x_1 x_2 x_3$  so on and so forth. And since  $i$  is common I am not writing second  $i$  do you want to use it you can use it does not a issue. So I got a column  $x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4$  etcetera right. If I take  $x_i^\dagger$  and multiply it by  $x_i$  what should I get is summation of square what kind of square? Square of user spectrum it is summation of square terms exactly or you want to modify the little bit.

$x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + \dots$  and so on and so forth what should that be equal to? That should be  $= 1$ , right. It has to be normalised better not to be normal but if you want normalise to a value of rather than one I have no issues write that happens many times. But you better not normalise to 0, to some; that is not a good idea rather you let us not do that. So the thing is whatever it is it is definitely not zero right.

If it is not 0 what does it mean  $\lambda_i - \lambda_i^*$  has to be equal to 0 or in other words  $\lambda_i = \lambda_i^*$  right. Ho man and otherwise it becomes predictable he stole my line the eigenvalues are real ok. This is something that we encounter everywhere right and we use even mechanically if we have hermitian operator then you are going to get real eigenvalues and this is how it comes from mathematics algebra.

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When the matrix is Hermitian....

$A x_k = \lambda_k x_k$   
 $A x_j = \lambda_j x_j$

Taking adjoint of the 1st,  $(A x_k)^\dagger = (\lambda_k x_k)^\dagger$

$$x_k^\dagger A = \lambda_k^* x_k^\dagger$$


Right multiplying by  $x_j$ ,  $x_k^\dagger \boxed{A x_j} = \lambda_k^* x_k^\dagger x_j$

$$\lambda_j x_k^\dagger x_j = \lambda_k^* x_k^\dagger x_j$$

$$(\lambda_j - \lambda_k^*) x_k^\dagger x_j = 0$$

$\Rightarrow x_k^\dagger x_j = 0$

.....the eigenvectors are mutually orthogonal



But we have not done with the hermitian matrices yet today. Now let us have some more fun we have said that these x values they are normalised right. Of this answer of this eigenvectors are orthogonal are these eigenvectors are orthogonal or not let us see. Of course the default answer keeping eyes closed is yes, you study in physical chemistry certain times yes in some case what is going on. Yours is not physical chemistry with whom we are discussing some problem in some context once and we have the sound dynamics problem you find delta H.

And this gentleman said if I were to write the answer I would have just written 0. (FL: 07:16) and as a locked the answer would have been only 0 so it is like that yeah. They are going to be orthogonal so let us see how it comes. So we will start with two if I want to talk about orthogonal orthogonality then I cannot work only with one I should take two vectors right. So let us say k and l  $x_k$  and  $x_l$   $A x_k = \lambda_k x_k$  and  $A x_l = \lambda_l x_l$  right. Take this 2 and proceed more or less in the same manner as the previous derivation ok.

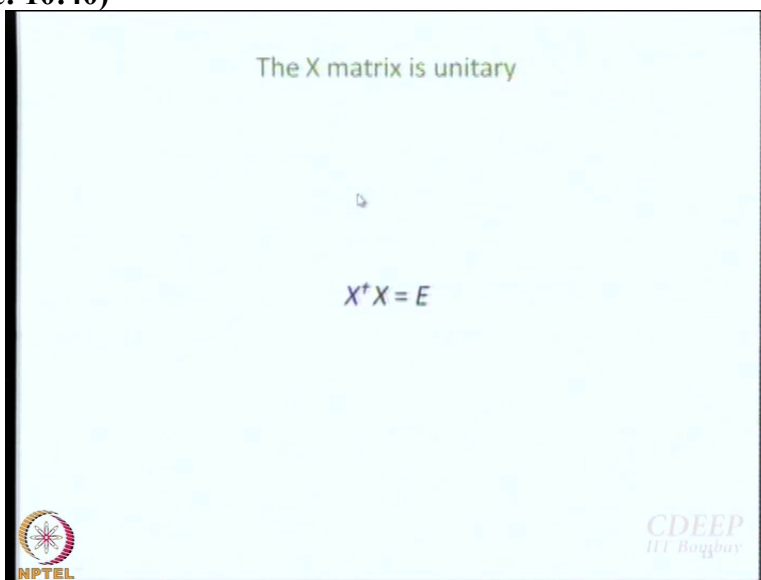
Well animation gone wrong what to do what; but just I take the first one and take the adjoint this is what you get, really that is what you get  $x_k^\dagger A = \lambda_k^* x_k^\dagger$ . I have not written star why not because I have benefit of Einstein because we have proved that hermitian matrix are going to have a real eigenvalues. So I have saved some ink by not writing star ok. Now what do I do? What did I do in the previous derivation I right multiply write this time also I will right multiply not by  $x_k$  but by  $A x_l$  that is right.

So I get  $x_k^\dagger A x_l = \lambda_k^* x_k^\dagger x_l$  right. Once again you know very well what is  $A x_l$  and we are using different substitute  $x_l$  it sounds funny alright  $x_l = \lambda_l x_l$  is it not and

take that plug it in you get  $\lambda_l x_k^\dagger x_l = \lambda_k x_k^\dagger x_l$  yeah so transpose you get  $x_l - \lambda_l - \lambda_k$  and also  $\lambda_l x_l$ ,  $\lambda_l - \lambda_k$  multiplied by  $x_k^\dagger$  and our favourite  $x_l = 0$  alright. So what will be the next step  $x_k^\dagger x_l = 0$  When? When  $\lambda_l$  and  $\lambda_k$  are not the same, so if I write  $x_k^\dagger x_l = 0$ .

Will you allow me to write the eigenvectors are mutually orthogonal right? So now we have to prove that eigenvectors are mutually orthogonal also. So that is why they are so useful in application in things the way the functions in quantum chemistry right so far so good even if it is  $= \lambda_k$  it can be, but then they are not going to be mutually orthogonal they are mutually same vector actually ok it can be

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Now this is something that I will leave it to you, it is not very difficult, you want you to; I want you to figure out convince yourself 0 is not happy at all and then you work it out and then convince yourself that x the big X matrix is unitary. What is x matrix? So this eigenvector1, eigenvector 2, eigenvector 3 so on and so forth that matrix is unitary. How will you do it? You take the adjoint and then multiply the adjoint with the original matrix when you do that you have to keep in mind something, what do you have to keep in mind, this orthonormality condition ok.

You keep that in mind and see what should be the product to be if it is unitary the product of the adjoint and the matrix itself what should it be if it is unitary, should be a unit Matrix now ok. What is the definition of unitary matrix? It is  $A^{-1}$  is  $A^\dagger$  right. So this is what you have to show  $X^\dagger X = E$ , I will leave it you, to do it, it is not very difficult. Just do not forget the orthonormality then you got a problem ok.

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A closer look at Similarity Transformations

If  $Q^{-1} A Q = B$ , then  $\det A = \det B$

$\det (XY) = \det (X) \det (Y)$  using the example of 2 x 2 matrices



$$XY = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} + a_{12}b_{21} & a_{11}b_{12} + a_{12}b_{22} \\ a_{21}b_{11} + a_{22}b_{21} & a_{21}b_{12} + a_{22}b_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\det (XY) =$

$$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} & a_{11}b_{12} \\ a_{21}b_{11} & a_{21}b_{12} \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} & a_{11}b_{12} \\ a_{22}b_{21} & a_{22}b_{22} \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} a_{12}b_{21} & a_{12}b_{22} \\ a_{21}b_{11} & a_{21}b_{12} \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} a_{12}b_{21} & a_{12}b_{22} \\ a_{22}b_{21} & a_{22}b_{22} \end{vmatrix}$$

$= 0$   $= 0$

$\det (X) \det (Y)$



Now let us; May be last few weeks we have done this once already so if  $Q$  inverse  $AQ=B$  then  $\det A = \det B$  this is what we want to prove. We start with this let  $\det xy = \det x \det y$  right how do you do it? You do it using an example of 2 by 2 matrix and it is ok we have discussed it earlier also  $xy$  is this. What is  $\det xy$  as for you trouble, I will write it myself and but then perhaps you can figure it out these two determinants are going to be 0. It is not very difficult to see this it is; this gets you  $\det x$  into  $\det y$  ok.

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A closer look at Similarity Transformations

If  $Q^{-1} A Q = B$ , then  $\det A = \det B$

$\det (XY) = \det (X) \det (Y)$

$$\begin{aligned} \det (B) &= \det (Q^{-1}) \det (A Q) \\ &= \det (Q^{-1}) \det (A) \det (Q) \\ &= \det (Q^{-1} Q) \det (A) \\ &= \det (E) \det (A) \\ &= \det (A) \end{aligned}$$



With that we need to see if this is correct or not. If  $Q$  inverse  $AQ=B$  then  $\det A = \det B$ . I am doing this again because there will be confusion last day and then we are going to use this in what you are going to say today also almost very 10, 15 minutes more almost done do not be

impatient ok. Do you agree with this  $\det B = \det Q^{-1} \det A Q$ . You started with  $B = Q^{-1} A Q$  right. So I can write it like this expand  $\det A Q$  and I get  $Q^{-1} \det A \det Q$  and determinants are just numbers it does not matter in which order you will write.

So I can write  $\det Q^{-1} \det Q \det A$  and  $\det Q^{-1} \det Q$  as we have seen earlier  $\det xy = \det x \det y$ . So this becomes  $\det Q^{-1} Q$ . What is  $Q^{-1} Q$ ? Unit matrix, so it becomes  $\det E$  and what is  $\det E$ ? 1, this becomes  $\det A$  and hence proved. And if B and A are conjugate to each other. Do not forget the term conjugate. Similarity transforms also go by the name conjugate. If A and B are conjugate to each other then the determinants are the same and this is only the first of list of things that are same for conjugates, the determinants are the same.

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A closer look at Similarity Transformations

If  $Q^{-1} A Q = B$ , then  $A$  and  $B$  have the same eigenvalues

$$\begin{aligned}
 B - \lambda E &= Q^{-1} A Q - \lambda E \\
 &= Q^{-1} (A - \lambda E) Q \\
 \det(B - \lambda E) &= \det(Q^{-1} (A - \lambda E) Q) \\
 &= \det(Q^{-1}) \det(A - \lambda E) \det(Q) \\
 &= \det(A - \lambda E)
 \end{aligned}$$

Identical equations: Identical roots



Next what you want to show is that conjugate have the same eigenvalue. If A and B are conjugate to each other then they should have the same eigenvalue. Start with this  $B = Q^{-1} A Q$  and then let us write  $-\lambda E$  on both sides. So now, from there will you allow me to write  $Q^{-1} (A - \lambda E) Q$ , can you do that?  $\lambda$  is this scalar and E is unit matrix that is why I can do it right. So then you get  $\det B - \lambda E = \det Q^{-1} \det A - \lambda E \det Q$  which gives you  $\det Q^{-1} \det A - \lambda E \det Q$ .

And then again you can write  $Q^{-1}$  and Q together and finally you are going to get determinants of  $A - \lambda E$  right. So, since they are identical equations you get identical roots if you get identical roots then you have same set of eigenvalues.

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A closer look at Similarity Transformations

If  $Q^{-1} A Q = B$ , then  $A$  and  $B$  have the same traces

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Trace}(B) &= \sum_i b_{ii} = \sum_i \sum_j \sum_k (Q^{-1})_{ik} A_{kj} Q_{ji} \\
 &= \sum_j \sum_k A_{kj} \sum_i Q_{ji} (Q^{-1})_{ik} = \sum_j \sum_k A_{kj} (Q Q^{-1})_{jk} \\
 &= \sum_j \sum_k A_{kj} \delta_{jk} \\
 &= \sum_k A_{kk} \\
 &= \text{Trace}(A)
 \end{aligned}$$



Next second last today is if  $A$  and  $B$  are conjugate to each other then they have the same traces and this is of utmost importance in our discussion in chemistry in symmetry. Because if  $A$  and  $B$  are conjugate to each other then they belong to the same class right. What is the definition of a class? It is a set of elements they are conjugate of each other are conjugate to each other. So what we are going to show that here they have the same traces.

So trace  $B$  is sum over  $i$   $b_{ii}$  ok and I do not mind mixing capital letters and small letters here somehow I felt that I could not write small  $q$  inverse just I did not sound right. So you could understand what I mean. So instead of  $b_{ii}$  I can write  $Q$  inverse  $AQ$  and in order to get  $ii$  this is how subscripts have to be  $ik$   $kj$   $ji$  that something that comes from basic mathematics algebra I think All of you know. So I am going to get  $Q$  inverse  $ik$ , what is the meaning of  $Q$  inverse  $i$   $k$ , which element,  $i$ th row  $k$ th column or  $i$ th column  $k$ th row,  $i$ th row  $k$ th column.

Latitude and longitude is important if you mix up with latitude and longitude then instead of coming to Bombay you could have reached I do not know. So the  $i$ th row  $k$ th column element of which matrix,  $Q$  inverse and similarly you know what is  $akj$  and what is  $qji$  right. So now I separate  $A$ , because  $Q$  is there  $Q$  inverse is there so I can easily get rid of them. So it is some over  $i$  some over  $j$   $akj$  sum over  $i$   $qji$   $q$  inverse  $ik$  right, will you agree with this now.

Can I combined this as  $Q Q$  inverse  $jk$ , I am multiplying right, I am multiplying  $qj$   $q$  with  $q$  inverse not only that I am multiplying this  $qji$  with  $q$  inverse  $ik$ , so what I get is that once again I suggest is that second subscript of the first and first subscript of the second cancel they do not

actually cancel but it is easy to remember that way ok. When you multiply together what you can write is you can write  $q$   $q$  inverse and the subscript are going to be  $jk$  alright.

And what is  $Q Q$  inverse? E spoiler sports again  $q q$  inverse is E, so now in E what happens when  $j = k$  that element is 1, and when  $j$  is not  $= k$  the element is 0. So, I can write our favourite Kronecker delta,  $\delta_{jk}$  right,  $\delta_{jk}$  is over  $j$  right. What do I get then? Once again multiplying this  $jj$  cancel of and you left with  $kk$ , some over  $k$   $\delta_{kk}$ , what is that? The trace right or the name that we are giving used earlier we are talking about the transformation matrices is character.

Now we have thought about reducible representation and we have talked about irreducible representation so on and so forth. So does that depends upon whether the matrices is that we are working with belongs to a reducible or irreducible representation? No right. Who has talked about reducible or irreducible representation here nothing I only talk about some matrix right. I am only talking about two matrices A and B the only condition is that A and B are conjugate to each other.

So no matter whether the representation is reducible or irreducible it does not matter the traces of matrices that belong to the same class are going to be the same right. This something we will use extensively when we discuss character tables ok.

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A closer look at Similarity Transformations

A unitary transformation leaves a unitary matrix unitary

$$X = U^{-1} A U \quad \text{where } A \text{ and } U \text{ are unitary}$$

$$X^{-1} = U^{-1} A^{-1} U = (AU)^{-1} U$$

$$X = (AU) U^{-1}$$

$$X^{-1} = (AU)^{-1} (U^{-1})^{-1}$$

$$= U^{-1} A^{-1} U$$

$$= X^{-1}$$

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Last topic of discussion this is also something that keeps coming back haunt us in many case. This is very important sounds a little funny. A unitary transformation is a unitary matrix unitary it



is almost like poetry, to many unitaries right. Unitary transformation is a unitary matrix unitary let us see. Let us say then I start with this  $X$  is  $U^{-1}AU$  where  $A$  and  $U$  are unitary. Alright we start from here that is the meaning of unitary transformation. What is the meaning of unitary transformation?

Yeah, no, but what is the unitary transformation? When I say unitary transformation what does it mean? So that the matrix that is used to for transformation that is  $U^{-1}U$  that matrix is unitary that is what it means. Now what you are saying is that if  $A$  is also unitary then  $X$  should be unitary as well. Unitary means too many times please do not get confused; unitary transformation is got to do with the  $U$ 's ok. When I say unitary suppose  $A$  it was some matrix  $B$  which is not unitary. Even then it would have been a unitary transformation is that I am in little clear now what I am trying to say. The  $U$ 's have to be; this  $U$  and this  $U$ , if I say  $U$  then once again it will confusing.

This  $U$  and this  $U$ , second  $U$  actually  $U$  and  $U^{-1}$  that is a unitary matrix,  $U$  for unitary ok. That is the meaning of unitary transformation and when you perform a unitary transformation on a unitary matrix  $A$  then our contention is that the matrix  $X$  that you get it is also unitary that is what we are going to learn alright. Unitary transformation is a unitary matrix is unitary let us see.

Will you agree with me that  $X^{-1}$  is  $U^{-1}A^{-1}U$  how? Start left multiplying  $X = X^{-1}AU$  is it not. So if I want to keep on left multiplying what should I get? If I want inverse of  $X$  then I should left multiply by the inverse of the first element first so that gives  $U$  next will come  $A^{-1}$  and finally you get  $U^{-1}$ . So you get  $U^{-1}A^{-1}U$ . Are U ok with this sometimes the order becomes confusing ok with  $U^{-1}A^{-1}U$ . Are you convince that it is  $X^{-1}$ , sure.

Now if you are convinced then allow me to write it as inverse of  $AU$  multiplied by  $U$  right. In that case next step is easy then  $X$  is  $AU$  multiplied by  $U^{-1}$ . I multiply  $AU$  first  $A$  and  $U$  together then multiplied by  $U^{-1}$ . So, what is the adjoint of  $X$ ?  $X^\dagger$ , it will be dagger of  $AU$  multiplied by dagger of  $U^{-1}$  right. That is going to be  $U^\dagger A^\dagger$ , dagger of  $AU$ ,  $AU$  you inside the bracket is  $U^\dagger A^\dagger$ , I think you asked workout or something.  $U^\dagger A^\dagger$  multiplied by  $U^{-1}$  dagger and we are done.

We are done,  $U^\dagger A^\dagger$  or dagger of  $A$  inverse are we ok with this so far. If you are ok with this then we are done because  $U^\dagger$  is  $U$  inverse do not forget that  $U$  for unitary right.  $A^\dagger$  is  $A$  inverse, now  $U^\dagger$  is most interesting because  $U^\dagger$  means inverse of  $U$  inverse. Inverse of  $U$  inverse is  $U$ . If I want to just touch my nose I will go around my head and touch that is that kind of thing. So that is  $U$  right and what is  $U$  inverse  $A$  inverse  $U$ ? Will you not agree with me if I say it is  $X$  inverse right.

Because you have started with  $X$  inverse  $AU$ , so what do we get? We get  $x^\dagger = X$  inverse is that not the condition for  $X$  to be unitary right. So, we have proved this somewhat funny sounding theorem that the unitary transformation leaves a unitary matrix, unitary ok. We stop here today because yeah I was also thinking that but I do not think so you work it out let me also work it out myself I do not think that it is a problem.

And then what we do it from this fitter we go on to something that is perhaps a little more abstract perhaps not. It starts about functional spaces, have you; functional space. Have you studied is in some other course or the other, in what ok yeah. The function space sounds scary but no reason to be scared about. I should be scared because while teaching first year B Tech course one side say let us say I have  $n$  dimensional space and they smart Alec stand, sir I say no you cannot talk about  $n$  dimensional space, Why?

Space in 17 dimensions, what are you talking about yes space is 17 dimensional we have been taught in Physics we used to study in relativity that time. I do not know exactly these 17 dimensional things. But present Dean I said who has taught them that. So I do not know what is that 17 dimension are. But anyway the thing is when we talk about space we will think of 3 dimensions is it not,  $X$   $Y$  and  $Z$ . But then suppose I have something that is dependent on more parameters.

Basically I am talking about the relationship like  $Y = x_1 A_1 + x_2 A_2 + A_3 x_3$  and so on and so forth. Can we not have equations like that, you already add equations like that, you encountered today also write. So, that what spaces to  $n$  dimensional space right the space is not face space it is just an analogue of space that we are talking about. Now say think of a position vectors, you know position vectors? Right, if I am the origin this is the. This is the position vector right.

Well everybody is origin with respect to himself or herself this is another position vector this is another position vector how many position vectors are there? Infinite, so these position vectors constitute function space. But then the point is this all this position vectors can be represented as something into X and something into Y and something in to Z right. So those are the normal modes, orthogonal modes of the functional space that is defined by position vectors ok.

So that is what we start talking about and then we need this concept to develop orthogonality theorem. And we talk about something called OR, transformation operator that will need one class and from there we move on to reducible and irreducible representation that will be next week. Week after that finally get to our orthogonality theorem the great. After that it is very, very simple it is just using orthogonality theorem to derive character tables using character tables you figure out lots of stops of whatever molecule you want. That is how this course is used to go from here.