

Select/ Special Topics in Atomic Physics

Prof. P. C. Deshmukh

Department of Physics

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Lecture No. # 06

Angular Momentum in Quantum Mechanics

Greetings, we will begin unit 2 today, this is an Angular Momentum in Quantum Mechanics. We have already introduced angular momentum as such in unit 1, because the whole machinery of the rotation symmetry of the hydrogen atom was intimately geared to the angular momentum algebra. So, we will develop it further, but in more formal way now and some other results that we had sort of anticipated or assumed, we will establish them more vigorously now.

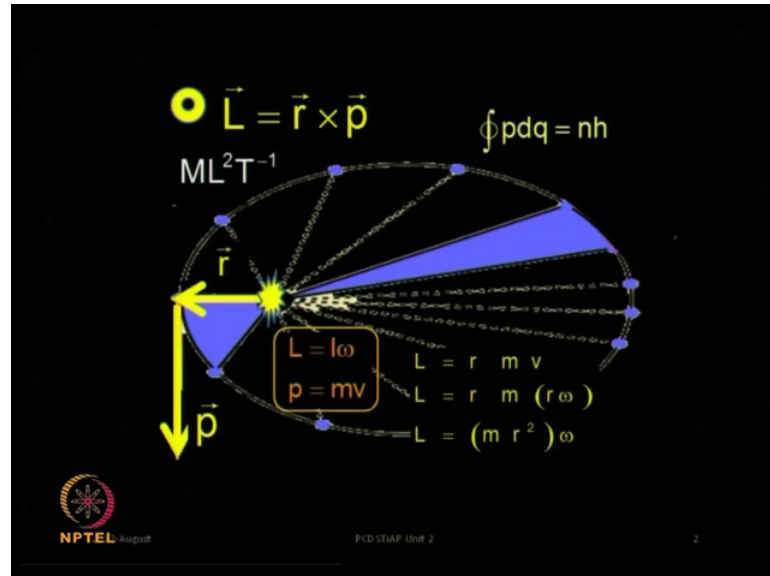
In particular, there are some questions, which sometimes are quite interesting for example, one might asked, is relativistic mechanics needed only when you are dealing with particles, which are moving at extremely high speed like relativistic speeds $0.9 C$, $0.8 C$. These are relativistic speeds and if you are not dealing with very high speed, do you need relativistic mechanics at all, this is the question which sometimes people ask.

And very often people believe, that you do not really need relativistic mechanics, very often you say that, you do not need quantum mechanics if you are dealing with microscopic objects. If you are dealing with big objects this water bottle, the laptop, the furniture in this room, motion of trains and aero plane and so on, you do not really need quantum mechanics. You need only when you are dealing with small tiny particle, atomic particles, elementary particles and so on.

When often believes or when often asks, do you really need relativistic quantum mechanics if you are dealing with the electrons spin, because you can deal with half angular momentum quantum numbers in non relativistic mechanics. So, do you really need relativistic quantum mechanics, so these are some questions which people ask. And one really needs very precise answer and I will believe that, you already have some of

these answers and if you do not have these answers, I expect you to find these answers in this class.

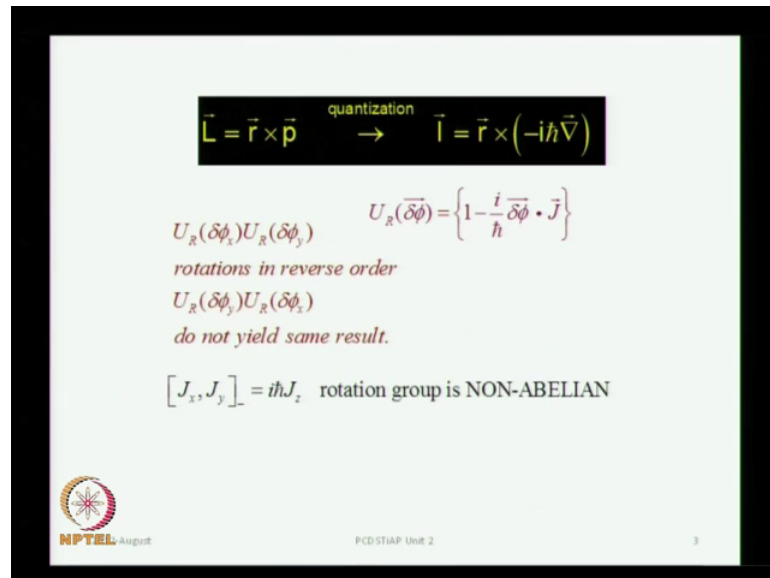
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Now, angular momentum in classical mechanics is very well known thing and you have the Kepler problem, the two body problem. And angular momentum is defined as \vec{r} cross \vec{p} and it has got a magnitude, which is r times the momentum, so it is sometimes called as moment of momentum for this reason. You can see that, it can be written as a product of the moment of inertia and the angular velocity and the angular speed in a form, which is very similar to linear momentum, which is a product of mass times the linear speed.

And then, in the Bohr model of the quantum mechanics, when you go over to quantization, it does appear once again as this line integral of $p dq$ which is quantized, which was done in Bohr's model of the old quantum theory, but that is valid only for periodic orbits, not for open orbits.


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$\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p} \xrightarrow{\text{quantization}} \vec{L} = \vec{r} \times (-i\hbar \vec{\nabla})$

$U_R(\delta\phi_x)U_R(\delta\phi_y)$
rotations in reverse order
 $U_R(\delta\phi_y)U_R(\delta\phi_x)$
do not yield same result.

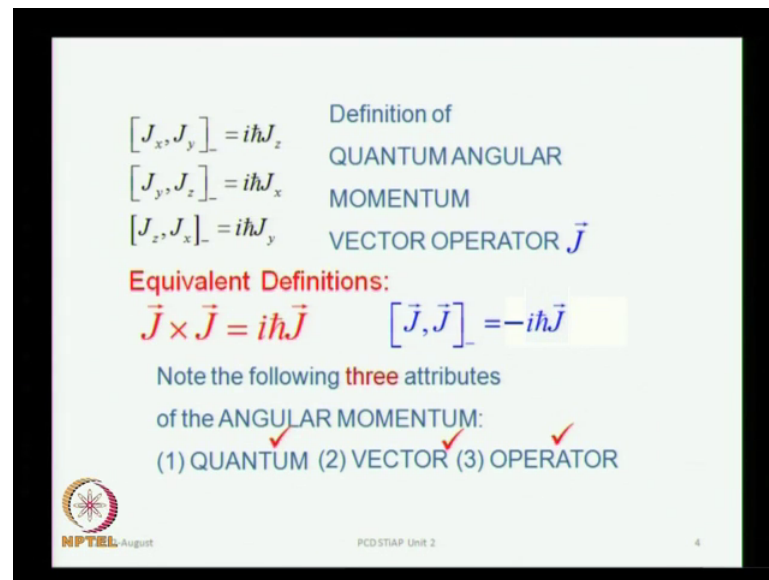
$[J_x, J_y]_- = i\hbar J_z$ rotation group is NON-ABELIAN

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Now, if you quantized this, you replace the dynamical variables by corresponding operators and then, instead of \vec{p} , you get the quantum operator, which is minus $i\hbar$ cross gradient operator, this is one way of quantizing the system as such. What it leads to is that, when you connect it to the generator for rotations, which angular momentum is and you know this for classical mechanics as well. What happens is that, if you perform rotation about x axis and y axis in one order and then, do it in the reverse order, you do not get the same result, I refer to this exercise in number 1 unit as well.

As a result of this, the operators in quantum mechanics J_x and J_y do not commute, the rotation group is therefore, is non abelian. And this commutation relation is what we proceed, to take as the very definition of angular momentum in quantum mechanics.

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Definition of
QUANTUM ANGULAR
MOMENTUM
VECTOR OPERATOR \vec{J}


$$\begin{aligned} [J_x, J_y]_- &= i\hbar J_z \\ [J_y, J_z]_- &= i\hbar J_x \\ [J_z, J_x]_- &= i\hbar J_y \end{aligned}$$

Equivalent Definitions:

$$\vec{J} \times \vec{J} = i\hbar \vec{J} \quad [\vec{J}, \vec{J}]_- = -i\hbar \vec{J}$$

Note the following **three** attributes
of the ANGULAR MOMENTUM:

(1) QUANTUM (2) VECTOR (3) OPERATOR

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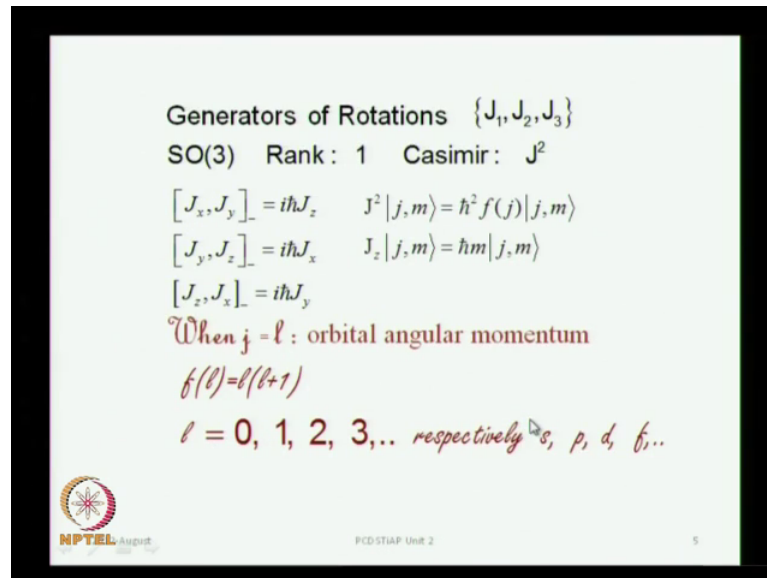
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So, the definition of angular momentum in quantum mechanics is given by these commutation relations. I have shown in this class that, she found that $\vec{J} \times \vec{J}$ turnout to be 0 and that $\vec{J} \text{ comma } \vec{J}$ also turn out to be 0 while doing the algebra. So, I think it is obviously some careless mistake that she would have done and I hope that, all of you have worked this out to convince yourself that, the quantum \vec{J} operator does not commute with itself.

The commutator of \vec{J} with \vec{J} is not 0, it is $i\hbar \vec{J}$, likewise the cross product of these two operators is not 0, so these are equivalent definitions of the angular momentum. And it has got these three attributes that, it is the quantum creature, it is a vector creature and it is an operator. So, all of these attributes must be respected when you deal with the angular momentum operator.

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Generators of Rotations $\{J_1, J_2, J_3\}$
 SO(3) Rank: 1 Casimir: J^2

$$[J_x, J_y]_- = i\hbar J_z \quad J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) |j, m\rangle$$


$$[J_y, J_z]_- = i\hbar J_x \quad J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle$$

$$[J_z, J_x]_- = i\hbar J_y$$

When $j = \ell$: orbital angular momentum

$$f(\ell) = \ell(\ell+1)$$

$\ell = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ respectively s, p, d, f, ..

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Now, we have already equated ourselves with a fact that, these are generators of rotations and then, of the SO 3 group, whose rank is 1, whose Casimir operator is J square. And because, J square commutes with every generator, J square and J z can be simultaneously diagonalized, what it means is that, these correspond to simultaneously measurable quantities, their compatible measurements.

You can therefore, have simultaneous Eigen values of these two operators, you can perform a measurement of J square. Then, perform a measurement of J z then, come back and perform a measurement J square and do it in any which order and the Eigen values will remain intact. Because, what the measurement does to a quantum system, is that the system collapses into the Eigen state of the measurement. And once it collapses into that Eigen state, it stays in that as long as it is not disturbed by another measurement, which is not compatible with this.

If it is disturbed by the measurement, which is not compatible with this then, it will not remain in that pure state, it will have to be expressed as a linear superposition of the entire basis center. So, this is what it means and as a result of this, the Eigen vectors can be labeled by two quantum numbers, both of these are the good quantum numbers j and m. And what we have done is, we are going to find out for ourselves, what this j should be and what this m should be.

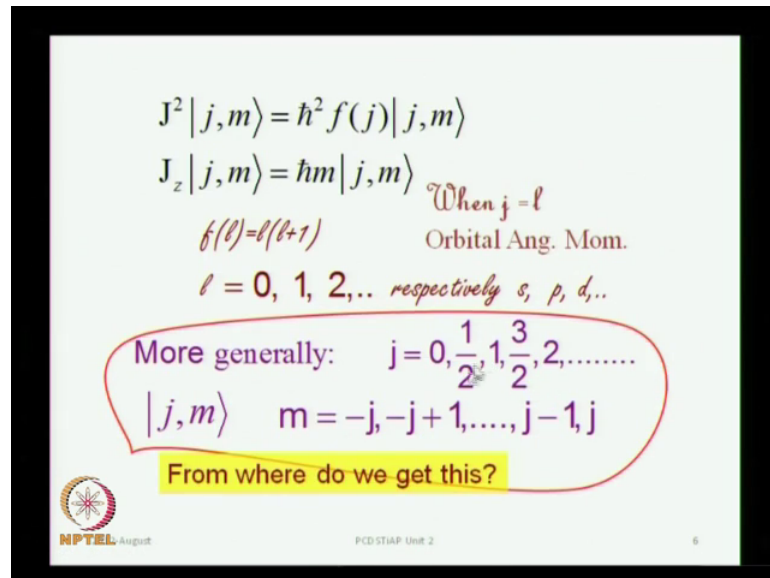
So, I am aware that, you have some earlier knowledge about this from your previous courses, you know that j can be either 0 or half or 1 and three half and so on. You also know that, m goes from minus j into plus j in steps of 1, what we are going to do is, to establish this on first principles. So, we will not assume that, we have already know what j will be like, we are not going to assume that, we already know that, m goes from minus j to plus j .

But, we will do a simple analysis and discover that, this is what it will have to be, it cannot be anything else. So, it is not something like a result that we have take for guaranteed or make assumption or anything, we will see from very simple analysis and the most beautiful thing about this is that, in physics you like to get results based on this smallest number of assumptions. You should not add any additional assumptions and what I am going to demonstrate here is that, the algebra of angular momentum that you see in the screen, that just a definition of angular momentum.

It is defined by, how it is components commute with each other, this is sufficient to lead to the consequence, that j will have to be in number, which is either 0, half, 1, etcetera and m will have to be number, which is from minus j to plus j . So, this will come automatically just from the very definition of the angular momentum, which is here, nothing else has to be used, nothing has to be invoked, nothing has to be assumed. You have already done the Schrodinger equation for the hydrogen atom and from the solution to the spherical harmonics you know that, when you are dealing with orbital angular momentum, L can take these values.

Now, these are integers, there are no half integer here when you are dealing with the orbital angular momentum, there is no half integer. But, in general, these half integers are admitted in the angular momentum algebraic scheme.

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$J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) |j, m\rangle$
 $J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle$

When $j = \ell$
Orbital Ang. Mom.
 $f(\ell) = \ell(\ell+1)$
 $\ell = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ respectively s, p, d, ...

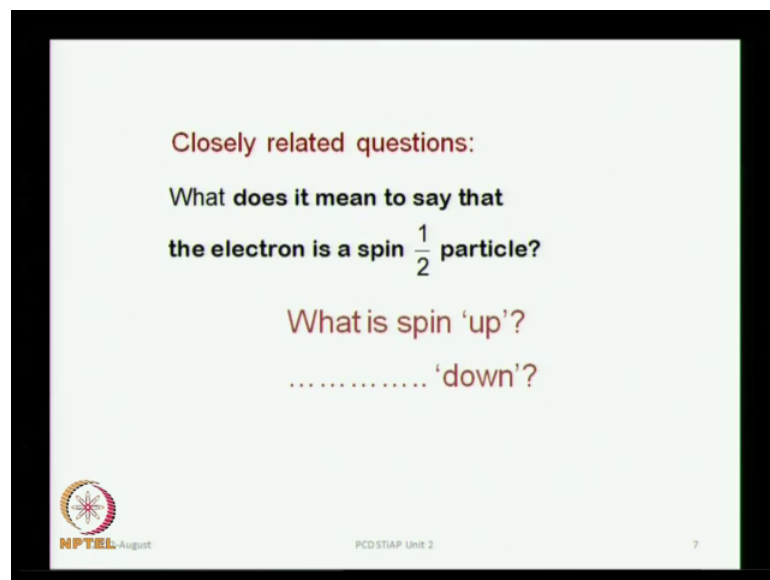
More generally: $j = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2, \dots$
 $|j, m\rangle$ $m = -j, -j+1, \dots, j-1, j$

From where do we get this?


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And we have to find out, from where these really come, there are some related questions, as to how we get this.

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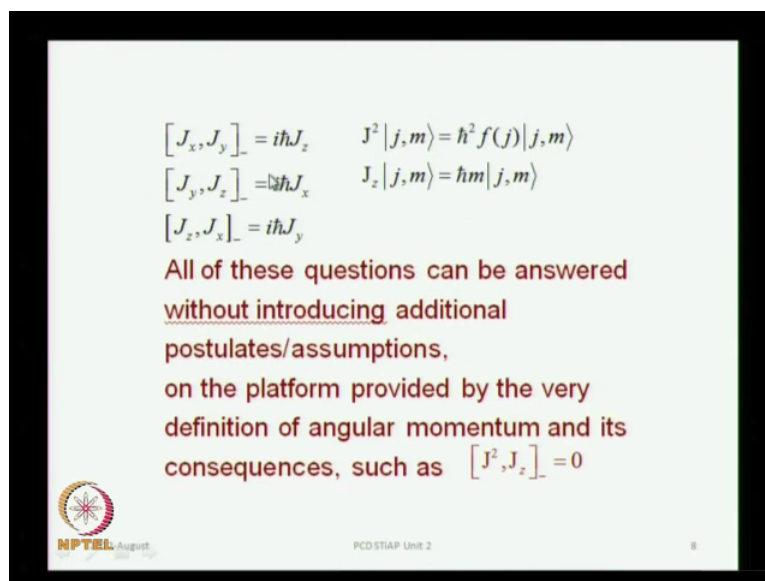


Closely related questions:
 What does it mean to say that
 the electron is a spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particle?
 What is spin 'up'?
 'down'?

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When we say that, the electron is spin half particle, what exactly do we mean by this, what does it mean to say that, the spin is half and spin is down. These are some related questions and we will look for very regress answer to this questions.

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$$[J_x, J_y]_- = i\hbar J_z \quad J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) |j, m\rangle$$

$$[J_y, J_z]_- = i\hbar J_x \quad J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle$$

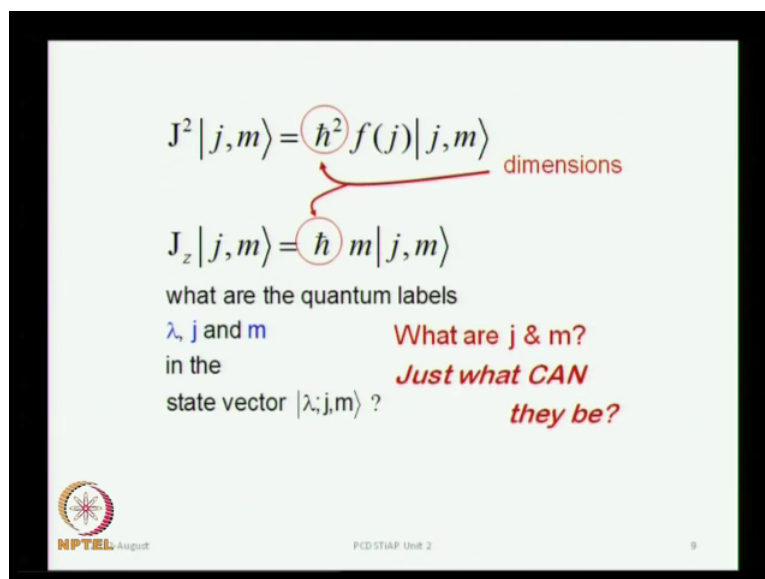
$$[J_z, J_x]_- = i\hbar J_y$$

All of these questions can be answered without introducing additional postulates/assumptions, on the platform provided by the very definition of angular momentum and its consequences, such as $[J^2, J_z]_- = 0$

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And all of these questions will be answered based on this very simple defining relationship, nothing else is needed. You do not have to make new assumptions or additional postulates.

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$$J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) |j, m\rangle$$

dimensions

$$J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle$$

what are the quantum labels
 λ, j and m
 in the
 state vector $|\lambda, j, m\rangle$?

What are j & m ?
 Just what CAN
 they be?

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So, these are our basic Eigen value equations, we know that J square and J z will have simultaneous Eigen states, they can simultaneously diagonalized. So, you can write Eigen value equations for both of them and used the Eigen values to label of states. This is what we have learnt already in unit 1, that your label state vectors by Eigen values of

those operators, of which these are Eigen vector. So, the Eigen vectors are label by j and m , where the labels come from the Eigen values.

From the Eigen value, I extract the dimension separately, so this is J^2 , so there will be a dimension of angular momentum square in the Eigen value, which I extract in units of \hbar^2 . And then, I am left with a residual Eigen value, which will be just a number, which will be dimensionless number, whatever it is, which I call as some functions of j and used that label j to describe the vector. Likewise, for J_z , I have extracted the dimension \hbar cross over here, which is angular momentum dimension, which is \hbar rather than \hbar^2 , that just a matter of convenience.

And then, there is an additional label which is m , but at this stage, I really do not know what m is, now do I know what j is, that is something which we have to figured out. There can always be an additional quantum number like λ , it will come from Eigen value of some other operator, with which J^2 and J_z both commute and there can be one or more such operators. So, λ represent the family of all these additional operators, which also commute with J^2 and J_z .

For the hydrogen atom, you already know it is a Hamiltonian, but it could be something else. So, we ask what can be j and m , they can be only one they turn out to be, cannot be anything else.

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$$J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) |j, m\rangle$$

$$J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle$$

J^2 and J_z will be DIAGONAL in their EIGEN-BASIS: $\{ |j, m\rangle \}$

$$\langle j, m | J^2 | j', m' \rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) \delta_{jj'} \delta_{mm'}$$

$$\langle j, m | J_z | j, m \rangle = \hbar m \delta_{jj'} \delta_{mm'}$$

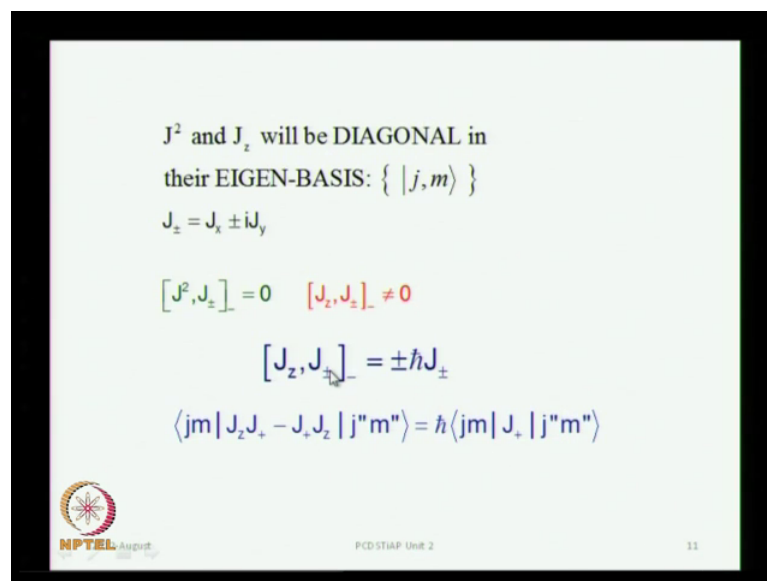


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So, we will find out what j and m turn out to be, now we know that, in this basis J^2 and J_z both must be diagonal, because they can be simultaneously measured. So, if you determine a matrix element of J^2 in the $|j, m\rangle$ basis, it must be diagonal in the j index as well as in the m index, that is what is meant by a diagonal representation. So, both of these matrix elements, matrix element of J^2 as well as matrix element of J_z must be diagonal in the j, m index, which is I have represented here. The rest of it is coming straight from this $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{J}_x + i\mathbf{J}_y$ and $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{J}_x - i\mathbf{J}_y$, fair enough.

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J^2 and J_z will be DIAGONAL in their EIGEN-BASIS: $\{ |j, m\rangle \}$

$J_{\pm} = J_x \pm iJ_y$

$[J^2, J_{\pm}] = 0 \quad [J_z, J_{\pm}] = \pm \hbar J_{\pm}$

$\langle jm | J_{\pm} J_{\pm} - J_{\pm} J_z | j' m' \rangle = \hbar \langle jm | J_{\pm} | j' m' \rangle$

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So, we know that, now if we construct these operators J_+ and J_- , which is the sum and difference of J_x and iJ_y then, it is clear that, J^2 will commute with J_+ and J_- , but J_z will not commute with J_+ and J_- . And if you just use a original algebraic equation, this is the point which I am emphasizing repeatedly, that all you are using is the defining relationship for the angular momentum. The J_x comma J_y is equal to $i\hbar$ cross J_z or J cross J is equal to $i\hbar$ cross J , just these definitions do not use anything else.

Do not use what you know from other sources, just use this and using this you find that, J_z does not commute with J_+ and J_- . And using these basic commutators between J_x and J_y , you can easily show that, this commutator is not 0, rather it is plus or minus \hbar cross J_+ or minus. So, this is very a simple algebra that you can work out, all you do is, plugging the original commutation relations.

What it means that, if you take the matrix element of the left hand side which is here, in two states j double prime and m double prime and j m . It is equal to the matrix element of the corresponding matrix element of right hand side and I am taking the case of J plus, just to demonstrate this argument.

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$$[J_z, J_{\pm}]_{\pm} = \pm \hbar J_{\pm}$$

$$\langle jm | J_z J_{\pm} - J_{\pm} J_z | j''m'' \rangle = \hbar \langle jm | J_{\pm} | j''m'' \rangle$$

(Note: Red arrows labeled 'op' point to the operators in the above equation)

$$\sum_{j'm'} \langle jm | J_z | j'm' \rangle \langle j'm' | J_{\pm} | j''m'' \rangle - \sum_{j'm'} \langle jm | J_{\pm} | j'm' \rangle \langle j'm' | J_z | j''m'' \rangle = \hbar \langle jm | J_{\pm} | j''m'' \rangle$$

(Note: Red arrows labeled 'requires $\delta_{jj'}$ ' point to the terms in the summation)

$$\Rightarrow f(j) = f(j') = f(j'')$$

condition to get non-trivial solution

J_{\pm} will be diagonal in the j index, also on the RHS

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So, here you have this relation, this matrix element is equal to matrix element of \hbar cross J plus, \hbar cross is a constant which I have extracted out, I can always insert a unit operator here, I can insert a unit operator here as well. You know how to resolve the unit operator, so resolve the unit operator in this basis, j prime m prime, j prime m prime, this is the ((Refer Time: 16:34)) summed over j prime and m prime. This is the resolution of the unity, which I have exploded and what you immediately find is that, when you look at this matrix element, this is a factor here.

The first term is product of two scalars, the first one will require a delta j j prime, because J_z is diagonal in j index. Likewise, the second term requires orthogonality of j prime j double prime, because J plus is also diagonal in the j index. So, we can exploit this and what it essentially means that, the function J and j prime and j double prime, these are must all be equal to get non trivial solutions, they must be equal to each other, that automatically follows. And this would be the case on the right hand side as well, so this J and this j double prime must also be equal.

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$$\begin{aligned}
 [J_z, J_+]_- &= \hbar J_+ \\
 \sum_{j'm'} \langle jm | J_z | j'm' \rangle \langle j'm' | J_+ | j''m'' \rangle \\
 - \sum_{j'm'} \langle jm | J_+ | j'm' \rangle \langle j'm' | J_z | j''m'' \rangle &= \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | j''m'' \rangle \\
 \Rightarrow f(j) = f(j') = f(j'') \\
 \text{condition to get non-trivial solution} \\
 \sum_j \dots \dots \dots \text{summing over } j' \text{ and using } \delta_{jj'}, \delta_{jj''}, \text{ we get:} \\
 \sum_{m'} \langle jm | J_z | jm' \rangle \langle jm' | J_+ | jm'' \rangle \\
 - \sum_{m'} \langle jm | J_+ | jm' \rangle \langle jm' | J_z | jm'' \rangle &= \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

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So, here we have the main result and now we proceed by carrying out these sum over j prime and we now have this orthogonality between J and j prime and j prime and j double prime. So, you are left with the sum over m prime, all the sums over j indices have been carried out. And what remains, we will have all the js, J, j prime, j double prime, all of must be equal to each other, for which I used a single symbol, which is J itself, so let us take this result to the top of the next slide here.

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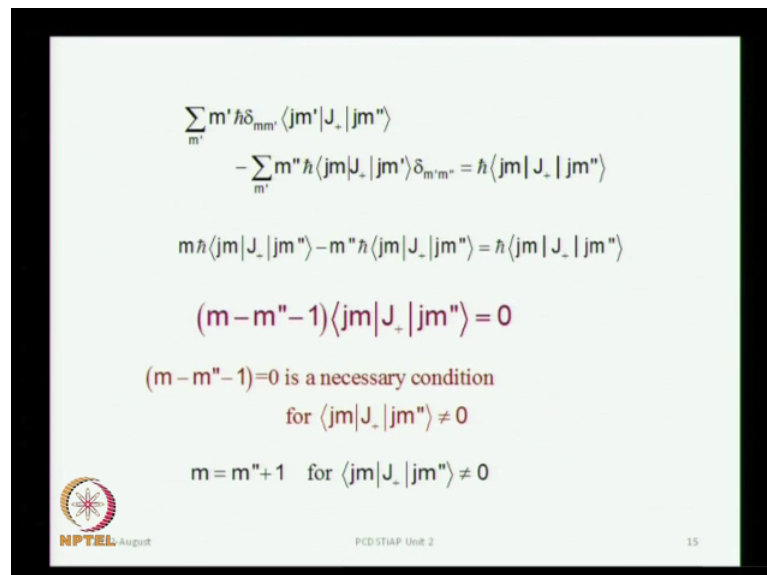
$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{m'} \langle jm | J_z | jm' \rangle \langle jm' | J_+ | jm'' \rangle \\
 - \sum_{m'} \langle jm | J_+ | jm' \rangle \langle jm' | J_z | jm'' \rangle &= \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle \\
 \sum_{m'} m' \hbar \langle jm | jm' \rangle \langle jm' | J_+ | jm'' \rangle \\
 - \sum_{m'} m'' \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm' \rangle \langle jm' | jm'' \rangle &= \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle \\
 \sum_{m'} m' \hbar \delta_{mm'} \langle jm' | J_+ | jm'' \rangle \\
 - \sum_{m'} m'' \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm' \rangle \delta_{m'm''} &= \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

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And now, you have J_z operating on j, m prime and J_z operating on m double prime over here. So, the result from the first one is m prime \hbar cross from the Eigen value equation, so this m prime \hbar cross comes here, from here you get m double prime \hbar cross, which comes over here, there is a minus sign which drops here. And now, you can see that, there is an orthogonality between m and m prime and then, you can sum over this m prime to exploit that orthogonality and reduce this whole sum.

So, it is very straight forward, you get this orthogonality between m and m prime, because these are orthogonal states or the normal states.

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$$\sum_{m'} m' \hbar \delta_{mm'} \langle jm' | J_+ | jm'' \rangle - \sum_{m'} m'' \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm' \rangle \delta_{m'm''} = \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle$$

$$m \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle - m'' \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle = \hbar \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle$$

$$(m - m'' - 1) \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle = 0$$

$(m - m'' - 1) = 0$ is a necessary condition for $\langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle \neq 0$

$$m = m'' + 1 \quad \text{for } \langle jm | J_+ | jm'' \rangle \neq 0$$

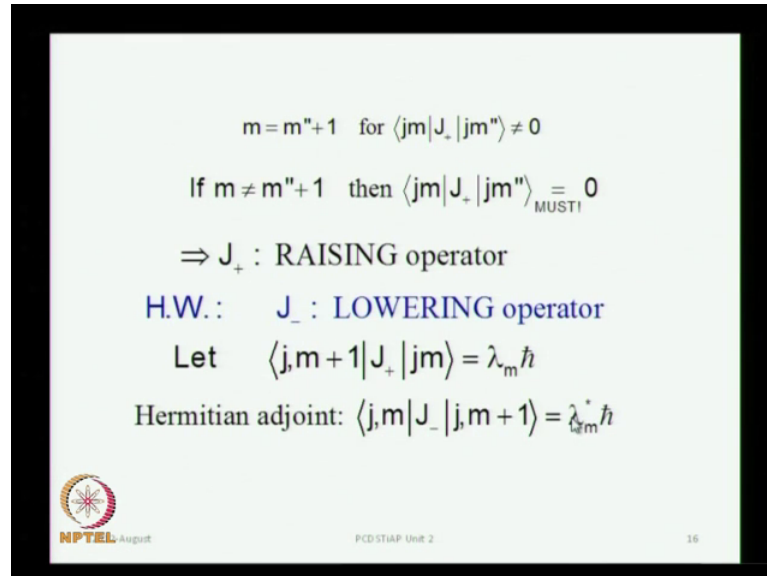
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And now, you exploit this orthogonality, carry out the summation over m prime and you are left with only one term now and what is that term, it is m \hbar cross times this element, in which m prime has been set equal to m . And in the second term, you have summed over m prime and the only term that survives is the one, in which m prime is equal to m double prime. So, you have got m double prime over here, so this is the result that you get.

Now notice, that this factor matrix element is common to all three terms, it is matrix element of J plus and corresponding states in all three terms. So, you can factored it out as a common factor and you get a very simple relationship, which is a product of two terms which vanishes which means that, at least one of has been 0. And the condition that the matrix element of J plus is not 0 is that, the other side factor must be 0. So,

essentially it means that, $m - m' + 1$ must be 0 for the matrix element of J_+ to be non trivial, otherwise it is a trivial 0.

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$$m = m' + 1 \quad \text{for } \langle jm | J_+ | jm' \rangle \neq 0$$




$$\text{If } m \neq m' + 1 \quad \text{then } \langle jm | J_+ | jm' \rangle = 0 \quad \text{MUST!}$$

$$\Rightarrow J_+ : \text{RAISING operator}$$

H.W.: $J_- : \text{LOWERING operator}$

Let $\langle j, m+1 | J_+ | jm \rangle = \lambda_m \hbar$

Hermitian adjoint: $\langle j, m | J_- | j, m+1 \rangle = \lambda_m^* \hbar$

In other words, m must be equal to m' plus 1 and this is a necessary condition that emerges from a very simple analysis, which offers this interpretation to the operator J_+ as a raising operator. Because, this the index on the left must be in excess of the index on the right by unity, that is necessary condition involves. I will leave it as very simple exercise for you to find out that, J_- is lowering operator, do the same analysis, it will come out automatically.

So now, you know that, you have a non trivial value for this matrix element, only when this index is in excess of the index on the right side by 1. So, you plug this m as $m + 1$ when this is m' and this will be some scalar, it will have dimensions of angular momentum, which you extract in units of \hbar . And then, you are left with an unknown quantity, which is some number λ_m and we have now to find, what this λ_m must be like.

So, if you now take the Hermitian adjoint of this relation, what is a Hermitian adjoint of this relation, it is what you have over here, term by term. So, you get $\lambda_m^* \hbar$ cross, this is no new algebra which is introduced over here, all you have done is to determine the Hermitian adjoint of the previous relation.

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$$\begin{aligned}\langle j, m+1 | J_+ | j, m \rangle &= \lambda_m \hbar \\ J_+ | j, m \rangle &= \lambda_m \hbar | j, m+1 \rangle \\ \langle j, m+1 | j, m+1 \rangle &= 1 \\ \langle j, m | J_- | j, m+1 \rangle &= \lambda_m^* \hbar \\ J_- | j, m+1 \rangle &= \lambda_m^* \hbar | j, m \rangle \\ \langle j, m | j, m \rangle &= 1\end{aligned}$$

same index

index: 1 less

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So, what it essentially means is that, J_+ would raise the m index to $m+1$ and scale the new vector by $\lambda_m \hbar$. It will not give you an Eigen value equation, it is not an Eigen value equation, it gives you a new vector, whose m index is in excess of previous one by unity and which is scaled by a factor $\lambda_m \hbar$, but we have to find what λ_m is, this belongs to the orthogonal basis.

Likewise J_- , you have an exactly identical relation, in which J_- lowers this index by unity from $m+1$ it will go to m and it will be equal to $\lambda_m^* \hbar$, which comes from the adjoint relation. So, J_- reduces the m index by 1 and scales it by $\lambda_m^* \hbar$, once again the angular momentum has been factored out. Notice that, when J_+ operates on this, this index and the subscript on λ is the same, whereas in the case of J_- , it is different. Here, this index is $m+1$, but the subscript on λ is one less, keep track of that.

(Refer Slide Time: 24.20)

$$\text{Now, } [J_+, J_-] = 2\hbar J_z$$

$$\langle j, m | J_+ J_- - J_- J_+ | j, m \rangle = 2\hbar \langle j, m | J_z | j, m \rangle$$

$$\langle j, m | J_+ J_- | j, m \rangle - \langle j, m | J_- J_+ | j, m \rangle = 2\hbar \langle j, m | J_z | j, m \rangle$$


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Now, this is a basic commutation relation, which again comes from the basic fundamental definition of angular momentum operators, it is very easy to establish. You take the matrix element of this, a diagonal matrix of element of state J, m , which is equal to the corresponding diagonal element of J_z . You separate these two terms, so you have two matrix elements on the left hand side and now, you operate on J, m by J_+ and J_- term by term. First by J_- , which will lower the index and then, by J_+ , which will increase that index, you do it stepwise.

(Refer Slide Time: 25.14)

$$\langle j, m | J_+ J_- | j, m \rangle - \langle j, m | J_- J_+ | j, m \rangle = 2\hbar \langle j, m | J_z | j, m \rangle$$

$$J_- | j, m+1 \rangle = \lambda_m^* \hbar | j, m \rangle \quad J_+ | j, m \rangle = \lambda_m \hbar | j, m+1 \rangle$$

$$\langle j, m | J_+ \lambda_m^* \hbar | j, m-1 \rangle - \langle j, m | J_- \lambda_m \hbar | j, m+1 \rangle = 2\hbar \langle j, m | J_z | j, m \rangle$$

$$\lambda_{m-1}^* \hbar \lambda_m \hbar \langle j, m | j, m \rangle - \lambda_m \hbar \lambda_m^* \hbar \langle j, m | j, m \rangle = 2\hbar m \langle j, m | j, m \rangle$$


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So, you know how to do that, because J minus lower this index by 1, so J minus would lower this index to m minus 1 and the subscript on will be lambda minus 1, it is a same as this index over here. So, this index will be lambda m minus 1 star, whereas in the second term over here, J plus operating on J m will give you lambda m h cross. So, this subscript will be mm, so this is lambda m, this is lambda m minus 1, keep track of that. Now, you work with J plus and J plus when it operates on this, it will increase this index from m minus 1 to m but then, it will give you the same index as was before, so it will again give you lambda m minus 1.

So, in the first term, you get lambda m minus 1 star lambda m minus 1, you will get this modulus square of lambda m minus 1 in the first term. Likewise in the second term, you get the modulus square of lambda m, of course there are h cross square terms appearing everywhere that is, h cross square in the first term, h cross square in the second term and h cross square in the third term as well, because when J z operates on J m, you get m h cross. So, that h cross with this h cross will give you this h cross square over here and you can cancel the h cross square in all the three terms.

(refer Slide Time: 26.56)

$$\lambda_{m-1}^* \hbar \lambda_{m-1} \hbar \langle j, m | j, m \rangle - \lambda_m \hbar \lambda_m^* \hbar \langle j, m | j, m \rangle = 2 \hbar m \langle j, m | j, m \rangle$$

$$\lambda_{m-1}^* \lambda_{m-1} - \lambda_m \lambda_m^* = 2m \quad |\lambda_{m-1}|^2 - |\lambda_m|^2 = 2m$$

1st order linear difference equation in $|\lambda_m|^2$

Try Solution: $|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m(m+1) = c - m^2 - m$

& hence $|\lambda_{m-1}|^2 = c - (m-1)m = c - m^2 + m$

$c - m^2 + m - (c - m^2 - m) = 2m$...which is correct!

\Rightarrow the solution $|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m(m+1)$ is correct!

c may depend on j; it is constant w.r.t. m

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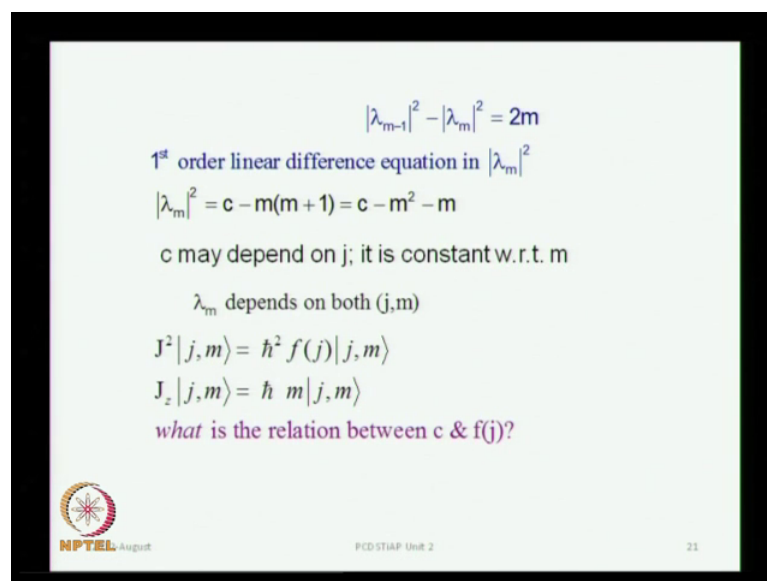
So, let us do that, you cancel the h cross square in all the three terms, here you get just the normalization overlap and what you have is a simple first order linear differential equation in lambda. You began with just a basic angular momentum commutation rules and you arrive at a very simple first order linear difference equation in lambda. So now,

it is not so difficult to solve it, there are well known techniques of solving first order linear difference equations.

And you can try the solution that, λ_m^2 is equal to $c - m(m+1)$ and if you try this solution, the same prescription for λ_{m-1} gives you $c - (m-1)m$. Here, instead of m you get a minus 1 and instead of this $m+1$, you get m and you get $c - m^2 + m$ over here and you get $c - m^2 - m$ over here. And you can convince yourself that, this is the correct solution, because you can plug in this right hand side over here and this right hand side over here and asked yourself the difference turns out to be $2m$, it does, so our solution is correct.

So, this is our solution to λ_m^2 , c must be a constant, it cannot depend on m , but it may depend on j , nothing stops it from depending on j at this point and that is the question that we will leave as open at this stage.

(Refer Slide Time: 28.54)



$|\lambda_{m-1}|^2 - |\lambda_m|^2 = 2m$

1st order linear difference equation in $|\lambda_m|^2$

$$|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m(m+1) = c - m^2 - m$$


c may depend on j ; it is constant w.r.t. m

λ_m depends on both (j, m)

$$J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) |j, m\rangle$$

$$J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle$$

what is the relation between c & $f(j)$?



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So, this is our solution to the first order linear difference equation and λ would depend not just on m , but also on j . Because, λ depends on c and c may depend on j , so you have to remember that. Our question now is, what is the relation between c and $f(j)$, $f(j)$ was Eigen value of J^2 , that is what we want to detect.

(Refer Slide Time: 29.22)

$$|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m^2 - m$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow$$


$$\geq 0 \qquad \geq 0$$

Either if m attains sufficiently large positive values, or sufficiently large negative values, the RHS could go negative!

$$m_2 < m \leq m_1$$

$$\langle j, m_1 + 1 | J_+ | j, m_1 \rangle = \lambda_{m_1} \hbar = 0 \qquad \lambda_{m_1} = 0$$

$$\langle j, m_2 | J_- | j, m_{2+1} \rangle = \lambda_{m_2}^* \hbar = 0 \qquad \lambda_{m_2}^* = 0$$

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Now, let us have a look this relationship now, now this is an exact equality, the left hand side however cannot be negative, because it is square of the modulus, there is no way the left hand side can go negative. So, the right hand side also cannot go negative, which means that, in the right hand side you have three terms, are you subtracting m square, which is also cannot be negative. And if this relation is to remain valid, the necessary condition is that, m cannot take arbitrarily large positive values, nor it can take arbitrarily large negative values.

It must be confined to a certain range, it will have an upper limit, it will have an upper bound and it will have an lower bounds. So, these bounds project themselves automatically, they are not artificial, we just have to find what these bounds are. These bounds are necessary conditions and it means that, m can have a maximum value and it must always be greater than a certain lower bound. So, there are these bounds to m , but we do not know what these bounds are, that is what we will find.

Now, what we do is that, if this is the upper bound m_1 , m_1 is this upper bound then, you cannot raise this any further, that is a very meaning of the upper bound. So, J plus operating on j, m_1 must vanish, likewise J minus operating on this cannot bring it down to a lower value m_2 , because there is a certain lower bound. So, these relations come automatically which means that, λ_{m_1} must be 0, $\lambda_{m_2}^*$ must also be 0.

(Refer Slide Time : 31.30)

$$|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m^2 - m$$

$$m_2 < m \leq m_1$$


$$\langle j, m_1 + 1 | J_+ | j, m_1 \rangle = \lambda_{m_1} \hbar = 0 \quad c - m_1^2 - m_1 = 0$$

$$\langle j, m_2 | J_- | j, m_{2+1} \rangle = \lambda_{m_2}^* \hbar = 0 \quad c - m_2^2 - m_2 = 0$$

m_1 & m_2 are the roots of:

$$c - m^2 - m = 0$$

$$m_1 = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1+4C}$$

$$m_2 = -\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1+4C}$$


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And we will now exploit this, to find what these values must be, now we do have these relations, because this relation is satisfied by both m_1 and m_2 . What this means is that, m_1 and m_2 must be roots of this quadratic equation and this you know from your elementary school, this is the quadratic equation, find the roots and these are the roots of this quadratic equation.

(Refer Slide Time: 32.06)

$$|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m^2 - m$$

$$m_2 < m \leq m_1$$

$$m_1 = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1+4C}$$

$$m_2 = -\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1+4C}$$

m_1 & m_2 are the roots of:

$$c - m^2 - m = 0$$

$$-m_1 \leq m \leq m_1$$

observe:

$$m_2 + 1 = -m_1$$


Rename m_1 as j

$$-j \leq m \leq +j$$

Why in steps of 1?

\therefore of J_+, J_-

$2j = 0$ or positive integer $\Rightarrow j = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2, \frac{5}{2}, 3, \dots$



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So, m_1 is equal to minus half plus half times root over 1 plus 4 c and m_2 is minus half and minus half times root over 1 plus 4 c, so these come as natural roots of the quadratic

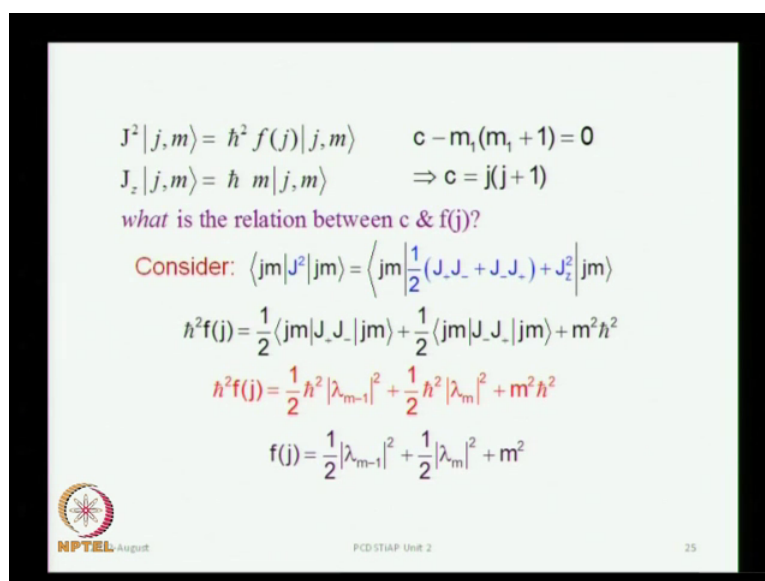
equation. Notice that, $m^2 + 1$ is equal to $-m^2$, from these the relationship between these two roots is very simple, $m^2 + 1$ if you add $1/2$ from this minus half, you get plus half which means that, m must be confined to this region. Now, this we have established, the only thing we have used is the commutation relation of J_x and J_y .

And m is some number such that, $+m$ and $-m$ are attainable bounds at upper limit, $+m$ and the lower limit, it is $-m$, these are attainable bounds at the top and at the bottom. And why you want to call it m , you can call it anything, it is just a label, it is just a name, it is just a symbol and this is what, we relabel as j . This is the new name for m , so m now belongs to the range $-j$ to $+j$, where j is a new name of m .

We still do not know what j is, we are not claiming that, it must be 0, half, 1, three half, it will turn out to be so. So, j is the new name and m belongs to this range in steps of 1, why in steps of 1, because you can go from 1 to the next through the raising and lowering operators which changes the m index by 1. So, it has to be in steps of unity, because of the raising and lowering operators, so we know that much. What it also means is that, $2j$ must be either 0 or a positive integer, because this can go in steps of 1.

So, the number of steps will have to be in integer, so $2j$ can be either 0 or a positive integer and this is what, gives us the result that, j can be either 0 or half or 1 or three half and so on. So, half integer quantum numbers come automatically from the angular momentum algebra, we are not using anything else. And they have a natural place and then, we still have to find out what this $f(j)$ is, so let us complete that and come back to a discussion on this point.

(Refer Slide Time: 35.29)



$$J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) |j, m\rangle \quad c - m_1(m_1 + 1) = 0$$

$$J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle \quad \Rightarrow c = j(j + 1)$$

what is the relation between c & $f(j)$?

Consider: $\langle jm | J^2 | jm \rangle = \langle jm | \frac{1}{2} (J_+ J_- + J_- J_+) + J_z^2 | jm \rangle$

$$\hbar^2 f(j) = \frac{1}{2} \langle jm | J_+ J_- | jm \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle jm | J_- J_+ | jm \rangle + m^2 \hbar^2$$

$$\hbar^2 f(j) = \frac{1}{2} \hbar^2 |\lambda_{m-1}|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \hbar^2 |\lambda_m|^2 + m^2 \hbar^2$$

$$f(j) = \frac{1}{2} |\lambda_{m-1}|^2 + \frac{1}{2} |\lambda_m|^2 + m^2$$

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We have to find the relation between c and $f(j)$, so that should emerge a few steps, we already know that, $c - m_1(m_1 + 1) = 0$. We mean that, c must be $m_1(m_1 + 1)$, but m_1 is now renamed as j , so this is a relation between c and j . Now, if we consider the matrix element, the diagonal matrix element of J^2 and J^2 you can express in terms of $J_x^2 + J_y^2 + J_z^2$. So, this is just a matter of simple rearrangement of these terms, you can see that already.

And you have the Eigen value J^2 , which is $f(j)$, from which of course the angular momentum of J^2 has been extracted, \hbar^2 over here. And now, you use a lowering and the raising operators, using the earlier forms you find that, you will get a term in modulus λ_{m-1}^2 , from this term and from this term, you will get modulus of λ_m^2 , very easy to see that. Now, all you have to do, is to cancel \hbar^2 , which appears in all the terms, which connects the Eigen value f to the λ s.

(Refer Slide Time: 37.12)

$$f(j) = \frac{1}{2}|\lambda_{m-1}|^2 + \frac{1}{2}|\lambda_m|^2 + m^2$$

$$\text{But: } |\lambda_m|^2 = c - m(m+1) = c - m^2 - m$$

$$\& \ |\lambda_{m-1}|^2 = c - (m-1)m = c - m^2 + m$$


$$\Rightarrow f(j) = c = j(j+1)$$

$$J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 j(j+1) |j, m\rangle$$

$$J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle$$

where $j=0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2, \frac{5}{2}, 3, \dots$

$-j \leq m \leq +j$
..... in steps of 1



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And the lambdas we know, because the lambdas are in terms of c's, so lambda m minus 1 square is c minus m square plus m and lambda m square c minus m square minus m. So, you put this right hand side over here and you find that, f j must be equal to c, which we already know, is equal to j into j plus 1. So now, you have the result that, when J square operates on J m, the Eigen value h cross square j into j plus 1, you also know that j must be either 0, half, 1, three half and so on.

You also know that, m can go from minus j to plus j in steps of 1, so this is not something like a new postulate or new addition that you have to make to your set of assumptions. All this comes automatically from just the basic definition of the angular momentum, that angular momentum is a quantum vector operator, whose components do not commute. But, the components commute according to the prescription that J x comma J y is equal to i h cross J z and other two relations of this kind, nothing else has been used.

And that is something which I think, one should try to learn in angular momentum algebra that, what are the basic postulates, what are the basic considerations and then, everything else can be built from it. So, this is the fundamental thing, from which you can build everything else.

(Refer Slide Time: 39.00)

$$\begin{aligned}\langle j, m+1 | J_+ | jm \rangle &= \lambda_m \hbar \\ \text{But } |\lambda_m|^2 &= c - m(m+1) \\ &= j(j+1) - m(m+1) \\ |\lambda_m| &= \pm \sqrt{j(j+1) - m(m+1)}\end{aligned}$$


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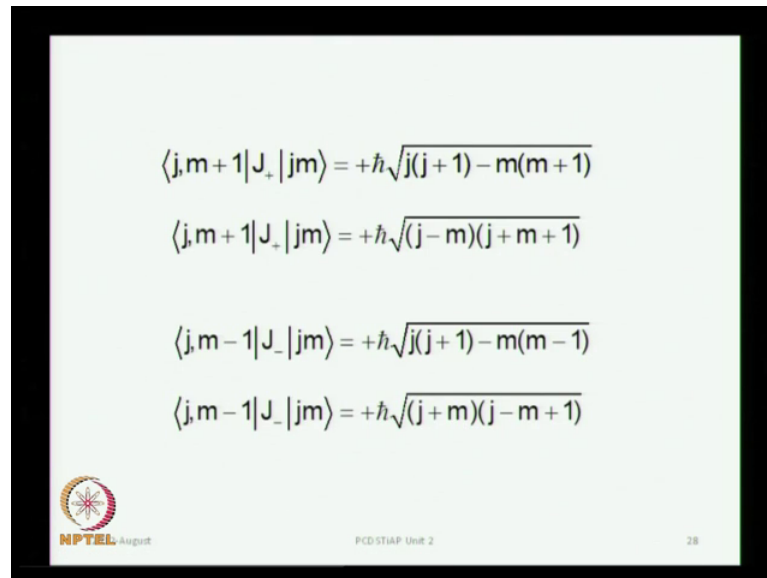
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So, these results come automatically from angular momentum definition and now, the only thing that needs to be fixed is a fact that, you have a relation for the square of the modulus, rather than the lambda m itself. So, modulus of lambda m can be plus or minus square root of this, so there is a little bit of ambiguity there. There is something that cannot be resolved from this analysis and it is a matter of convention that, one picks a phase convention, this is called as a phase convention in angular momentum algebra.

This is a very important one, because different contributors to angular momentum algebra sometimes make use of different conventions. And if you do some analysis using one scheme and the remaining analysis using another scheme and if the originator of these two schemes have used different conventions, you are going to mess up your angular momentum algebra. And I am alerting you for very good reason, because there are lots of practitioners in atomic physics, nuclear physics, would do make use of angular momentum algebra.

Are you are working with very involve problems and then, you need to use some results, which have been produced by one group, some other results produced by another group and if they have used different conventions and if they do not reconcile them to each other, you can end up into a very messy situation and this is not a very uncommon. So, please be alert to that, that always check the phase convention and we now have these relations with the phase convention that we have adopted.

(Refer Slide Time: 40.55)



$$\langle j, m+1 | J_+ | jm \rangle = +\hbar \sqrt{j(j+1) - m(m+1)}$$

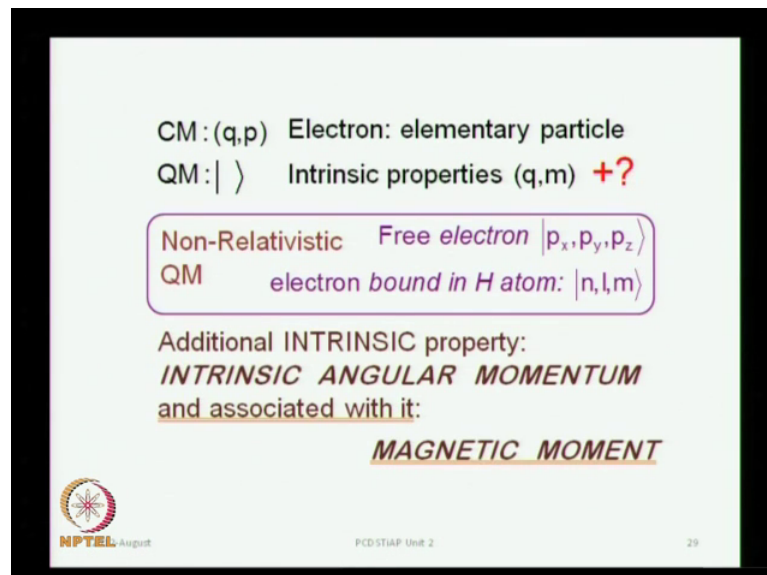
$$\langle j, m+1 | J_- | jm \rangle = +\hbar \sqrt{(j-m)(j+m+1)}$$

$$\langle j, m-1 | J_- | jm \rangle = +\hbar \sqrt{j(j+1) - m(m-1)}$$

$$\langle j, m-1 | J_+ | jm \rangle = +\hbar \sqrt{(j+m)(j-m+1)}$$

And you can write this j into j minus 1 minus m into m plus 1 also as, what comes another square root as product of these two factors. You have a similar relationship for J minus and these are our basic relationships that we will use in angular momentum algebra.

(Refer Slide Time: 41.14)



CM : (q,p) Electron: elementary particle

QM : $| \rangle$ Intrinsic properties (q,m) **+?**

Non-Relativistic Free electron $| p_x, p_y, p_z \rangle$

QM electron bound in H atom: $| n, l, m \rangle$

Additional INTRINSIC property:
INTRINSIC ANGULAR MOMENTUM
 and associated with it:
MAGNETIC MOMENT

So, the main thing over here is that, in classical mechanics, you describe the state of the system by position and momentum q and p in quantum mechanics by a state of vector. Electron is an elementary particle having some intrinsic properties like charge and mass,

this q is a position, this q is a charge. So, it has some intrinsic properties like charge and mass, but it may have some additional properties, not just these two. And it has this additional property, in non relativistic quantum mechanics, you can describe this state by these quantum numbers.

For a free electron, it is a different set of quantum numbers, which are the three components of momentum. For a bound electron in a hydrogen atom, these are the three quantum numbers like n , l and m , which come from Eigen values of the Hamiltonian L^2 and L_z . But, what you have in addition to charge and mass is an additional quantity, which is an intrinsic angular momentum. And associated with this intrinsic angular momentum is also a magnetic momentum, so there is this additional property which the electron has.

(Refer Slide Time: 42.29)

$$J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 j(j+1) |j, m\rangle$$

$$J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle$$

$|j, m\rangle \quad j = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2, \dots$
 $m = -j, -j+1, \dots, j-1, j$

From where do we get this?
 What does it mean to say that the electron is a spin $\frac{1}{2}$ particle?
 Ref: Schiff's Q.M.
 Next class: Ang. Mom. Matrices; coupling

Bye! We have now answered these questions!

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And you have this half integer quantum number for the electron spin and we have got it basically using angular momentum algebra, nothing else. So, sometimes people used this to say that, the electron spin has got a natural place in non relativistic quantum mechanics, we have not used relativistic quantum mechanics in our discussion today. We have not referred to the finiteness of the speed of light, we have not used a Lorentz transformation, we have not used a Dirac equation, which is the signature of the relativistic quantum mechanics right, you are not done any of that.

We have got half integral quantum number, which can be used for a electrons spin, now this does not mean that, non relativistic mechanics provides for half integer quantum number as the spin property of the electron. It accommodates this property, it does not provide for it, there is a difference between this and I hope you recognize this difference. The provision of the electron spin does not come from non relativistic quantum mechanics, it comes only from the Dirac equation.

You have to go to the relativistic quantum mechanics and we shall do so unitary and when we do unitary, when we do relativistic quantum mechanics, you will find that the electrons spin automatically comes out neatly out of it. Here, we have done angular momentum algebra, which accommodates half integer quantum numbers, it does not mean that, it assigns half integer quantum number to the electron, it does not do that.

The assignment of half integer quantum number to electrons spin is done by the Dirac equation, which we shall discuss in unit 3 and it is important to recognize this difference. Questions, I like to refer you to shifts quantum mechanics, where all this is nicely done.

Yes.

Student: ((Refer Time: 45:05))

(Refer Slide Time: 45.13)

$|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m^2 - m$
 $m_1 = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1+4C}$
 $m_2 = -\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1+4C}$

$m_2 < m \leq m_1$

m_1 & m_2 are the roots of : $c - m^2 - m = 0$

$-m_1 \leq m \leq m_1$

Rename m_1 as j

$-j \leq m \leq +j$

Why in steps of 1? \therefore of J_+, J_-

$2j = 0$ or positive integer $\Rightarrow j = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2, \frac{5}{2}, 3, \dots$

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Yes, may it did not have any specific meaning, the meaning comes now, it is just a name.

Student: ((Refer Time: 45:34))

You can carry this name into the Eigen value, it is just a name and because, m can go from minus j to plus j and this process of going from the lower bound to the upper bound, has to be in integer steps. Because, that is mandated by the lowering and the raising operators, there is no other way to do it, but through integer steps.

So, the difference to j will have to be either 0 or some positive integer, which is what guarantees that, j can be either 0 or half. It is a very simple analysis and I really love it. You will find it this is straight from ships quantum mechanics but then, you do not have to learn it as an additional postulates. it comes straight from the basic definition of angular momentum algebra of what angular momentum is, any other question.

Student: ((Refer Time: 46:52))

(Refer Slide Time: 46.56)

The slide contains the following content:

$$|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m^2 - m$$

Below the equation, two arrows point down to the terms $-m^2$ and $-m$, each with a ≥ 0 below it, indicating they are non-negative.

Either if m attains sufficiently large positive values,
or sufficiently large negative values,
the RHS could go negative!

A green box highlights the inequality: $m_2 < m \leq m_1$

Below the box, two equations are shown:

$$\langle j, m_1 + 1 | J_+ | j, m_1 \rangle = \lambda_{m_1} \hbar = 0$$
$$\langle j, m_2 | J_- | j, m_{2+1} \rangle = \lambda_{m_2}^* \hbar = 0$$

In the bottom left corner is the NPTEL logo with the text "NPTEL August". In the bottom center is "PCD-STAP Unit 2". In the bottom right corner is the number "22".

Yes, see from c minus m , you are subtracting m square, so if m becomes arbitrarily large and m square is definitely a positive quantity. So, whatever is c minus m , from c minus m if you subtract m square then, if m is sufficiently large then, this whole thing will become negative, because when you subtract a large quantity from a small number, the difference is negative, you know it better if you think of money. If you have a certain amount and you take out a big chunk of it, you will be in debt. So, to avoid that and you

have to avoid it, because a right hand side cannot go negative, because a left hand side cannot go negative. The left hand side is a square of modulus, how can it be negative.

Student: ((Refer Time: 48:06))

Yes, any other question.

Student: ((Refer Time: 48:15))

Yes, it is a difference equation rather than the differential equation.

Student: ((Refer Time: 48:21))

Yes.

(Refer Slide Time: 48.30)

$$|\lambda_{m-1}|^2 - |\lambda_m|^2 = 2m$$

1st order linear difference equation in $|\lambda_m|^2$


$$|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m(m+1) = c - m^2 - m$$

c may depend on j; it is constant w.r.t. m

λ_m depends on both (j,m)

$$J^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 f(j) |j, m\rangle$$
$$J_z |j, m\rangle = \hbar m |j, m\rangle$$

what is the relation between c & f(j)?

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We do know, because you know these are usual ways of solving difference equations.


Student: ((Refer Time: 48:47))

Not to my knowledge, I think this solution is pretty much unique.

(Refer Slide Time: 49:00)

$$|\lambda_m|^2 = c - m^2 - m$$
$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$
$$\geq 0 \qquad \qquad \geq 0$$

Either if m attains sufficiently large positive values,
or sufficiently large negative values,
the RHS could go negative!

$$m_2 < m \leq m_1$$


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Any other question, Mandy, Anna question, so thank you all very much.