

PHYS 4380 Quantum Mechanics I

Homework Assignment 05

Due date: October 9, 2018

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Erenso

Name: _____

Mandatory problems: 1 & 5

Student signature: _____

Student Comment: _____

Problem #	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Score	/	/	/	/	/	/100

1. Townsend 3.1 & 3.8

Townsend 3.1

Solution:

(a)

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{A}, \hat{B} + \hat{C}] &= \hat{A}(\hat{B} + \hat{C}) - (\hat{B} + \hat{C})\hat{A} = \hat{A}\hat{B} + \hat{A}\hat{C} - \hat{B}\hat{A} - \hat{C}\hat{A} = \hat{A}\hat{B} - \hat{B}\hat{A} + \hat{A}\hat{C} - \hat{C}\hat{A} \\ &\Rightarrow [\hat{A}, \hat{B} + \hat{C}] = [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] + [\hat{A}, \hat{C}] \end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{A}, \hat{B}\hat{C}] &= \hat{A}\hat{B}\hat{C} - \hat{B}\hat{C}\hat{A} = \hat{A}\hat{B}\hat{C} - \hat{B}\hat{A}\hat{C} + \hat{B}\hat{A}\hat{C} - \hat{B}\hat{C}\hat{A} = (\hat{A}\hat{B} - \hat{B}\hat{A})\hat{C} + \hat{B}(\hat{A}\hat{C} - \hat{C}\hat{A}) \\ &\Rightarrow [\hat{A}, \hat{B}\hat{C}] = [\hat{A}, \hat{B}]\hat{C} + \hat{B}[\hat{A}, \hat{C}] \end{aligned}$$

(c)

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{A}\hat{B}, \hat{C}] &= \hat{A}\hat{B}\hat{C} - \hat{C}\hat{A}\hat{B} = \hat{A}\hat{B}\hat{C} - \hat{A}\hat{C}\hat{B} + \hat{A}\hat{C}\hat{B} - \hat{C}\hat{A}\hat{B} = \hat{A}(\hat{B}\hat{C} - \hat{C}\hat{B}) + (\hat{A}\hat{C} - \hat{C}\hat{A})\hat{B} \\ &\Rightarrow [\hat{A}\hat{B}, \hat{C}] = \hat{A}[\hat{B}, \hat{C}] + [\hat{A}, \hat{C}]\hat{B} \end{aligned}$$

Townsend 3.8

Solution: For an operator \hat{C} defined by

$$[\hat{A}, \hat{B}] = i\hat{C} \Rightarrow \hat{C} = -i[\hat{A}, \hat{B}]$$

the Hermitian adjoint operator \hat{C}^\dagger is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{C}^\dagger &= \left\{ -i[\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \right\}^\dagger = (-i)^\dagger [\hat{A}, \hat{B}]^\dagger = i(\hat{A}\hat{B} - \hat{B}\hat{A})^\dagger = i\left((\hat{A}\hat{B})^\dagger - (\hat{B}\hat{A})^\dagger \right) = i(\hat{B}^\dagger \hat{A}^\dagger - \hat{A}^\dagger \hat{B}^\dagger) \\ &= -i(\hat{A}^\dagger \hat{B}^\dagger - \hat{B}^\dagger \hat{A}^\dagger) \Rightarrow \hat{C}^\dagger = -i[\hat{A}^\dagger, \hat{B}^\dagger] \end{aligned}$$

We can find

$$\hat{C}^\dagger = -i[\hat{A}, \hat{B}] = \hat{C}$$

if and only if both \hat{A} and \hat{B} are Hermitian,

$$\hat{A}^\dagger = \hat{A}, \hat{B}^\dagger = \hat{B}$$

2. Townsend 3.9 and 3.10

Solution: Townsend 3.9

Recalling that the eigenvalue equation for \hat{S}_x and \hat{S}_y for a spin-half particle is

$$\hat{S}_x |\pm X\rangle = \pm \frac{\hbar}{2} |\pm X\rangle, \hat{S}_y |\pm Y\rangle = \pm \frac{\hbar}{2} |\pm Y\rangle$$

for an eigenstate

$$|\psi\rangle = |\pm Z\rangle$$

which can be expressed in terms of the x and y basis

$$\begin{aligned} | +X \rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (| +Z \rangle + | -Z \rangle), | -X \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (| +Z \rangle - | -Z \rangle) \Rightarrow |\pm Z\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (| +X \rangle \pm | -X \rangle) \\ &\Rightarrow |\psi\rangle = |\pm Z\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (| +X \rangle \pm | -X \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
|+Y\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+Z\rangle + i|-Z\rangle), |-Y\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+Z\rangle - i|-Z\rangle) \\
\Rightarrow | +Z\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|-Y\rangle + |+Y\rangle), |-Z\rangle = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(|-Y\rangle - |+Y\rangle) \\
\Rightarrow |\psi\rangle &= |+Z\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|-Y\rangle + |+Y\rangle) \text{ or } |\psi\rangle = |-Z\rangle = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(|-Y\rangle - |+Y\rangle)
\end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{S}_x \rangle &= \langle \psi | \hat{S}_x | \psi \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\langle +X | \pm \langle -X |) \hat{S}_z \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+X\rangle \pm |-X\rangle) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (\langle +X | \pm \langle -X |) \left[\frac{\hbar}{2} |+X\rangle \pm \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2} \right) |-X\rangle \right] \Rightarrow \langle \hat{S}_x \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\hbar}{2} \langle +X | +X \rangle + \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2} \right) \langle -X | +X \rangle \right) = 0
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{S}_x^2 \rangle &= \langle \psi | \hat{S}_x^2 | \psi \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\langle +X | \pm \langle -X |) \hat{S}_z^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+X\rangle \pm |-X\rangle) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (\langle +X | \pm \langle -X |) \left[\left(\frac{\hbar}{2} \right)^2 |+X\rangle \pm \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2} \right)^2 |-X\rangle \right] = \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\frac{\hbar}{2} \right)^2 \langle +X | +X \rangle + \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2} \right)^2 \langle -X | +X \rangle \right] \\
&\Rightarrow \langle \hat{S}_x^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{4}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{S}_y \rangle &= \langle \psi | \hat{S}_y | \psi \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\langle +Y | \pm \langle -Y |) \hat{S}_y \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+Y\rangle \pm |-Y\rangle) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (\langle +Y | \pm \langle -Y |) \left[\frac{\hbar}{2} |+Y\rangle \pm \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2} \right) |-Y\rangle \right] \Rightarrow \langle \hat{S}_y \rangle = 0
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \hat{S}_y^2 \rangle &= \langle \psi | \hat{S}_y^2 | \psi \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\langle +Y | \pm \langle -Y |) \hat{S}_y^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+Y\rangle \pm |-Y\rangle) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} (\langle +Y | \pm \langle -Y |) \left[\left(\frac{\hbar}{2} \right)^2 |+Y\rangle \pm \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2} \right)^2 |-Y\rangle \right] \Rightarrow \langle \hat{S}_y^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{4}
\end{aligned}$$

Then the uncertainties becomes

$$\Delta S_y = \sqrt{\langle \hat{S}_y^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{S}_y \rangle^2} = \frac{\hbar}{2}, \Delta S_x = \sqrt{\langle \hat{S}_x^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{S}_x \rangle^2} = \frac{\hbar}{2} \Rightarrow \Delta S_y \Delta S_x = \frac{\hbar^2}{4}$$

Noting that for

$$|\psi\rangle = |\pm Z\rangle$$

we have

$$\langle \hat{S}_z \rangle = \langle \psi | \hat{S}_z | \psi \rangle = \pm \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

so that

$$\frac{\hbar |\langle \hat{S}_z \rangle|}{2} = \frac{\hbar^2}{4}$$

Therefore, what we found is

$$\Delta S_y \Delta S_x = \frac{\hbar |\langle \hat{S}_z \rangle|}{2}$$

3. (a) Show that

$$\langle \psi | \hat{A} (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle) | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle)^2 | \psi \rangle.$$

(b) Show that the quadrature operators

$$\hat{a}_1 = \frac{\hat{O}^\dagger + \hat{O}}{2}, \hat{a}_2 = \frac{i(\hat{O}^\dagger - \hat{O})}{2}, \quad (1)$$

are Hermitian and any operator \hat{O} .

Solution: (a)

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi | \hat{A} (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle) | \psi \rangle &= \langle \psi | (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle + \langle \hat{A} \rangle) (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle) | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle)^2 | \psi \rangle + \langle \psi | \langle \hat{A} \rangle (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle) | \psi \rangle \\ &= \langle \psi | (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle)^2 | \psi \rangle + \langle \hat{A} \rangle \langle \psi | \hat{A} | \psi \rangle - \langle \psi | \langle \hat{A} \rangle^2 | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle)^2 | \psi \rangle + \langle \hat{A} \rangle^2 - \langle \hat{A} \rangle^2 \\ &\Rightarrow \langle \psi | \hat{A} (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle) | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | (\hat{A} - \langle \hat{A} \rangle)^2 | \psi \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

(b)

$$\hat{a}_1^\dagger = \left(\frac{\hat{O}^\dagger + \hat{O}}{2} \right)^\dagger = \frac{(\hat{O}^\dagger)^\dagger + \hat{O}^\dagger}{2} = \frac{\hat{O} + \hat{O}^\dagger}{2} = \hat{a}_1, \quad (3)$$

$$\hat{a}_2^\dagger = \left(\frac{i(\hat{O}^\dagger - \hat{O})}{2} \right)^\dagger = -i \left(\frac{(\hat{O}^\dagger)^\dagger - \hat{O}^\dagger}{2} \right) = -i \left(\frac{\hat{O} - \hat{O}^\dagger}{2} \right) = \frac{i(\hat{O}^\dagger - \hat{O})}{2} = \hat{a}_2, \quad (4)$$

4. Suppose we rotated the vector $\vec{A} = (A_x, A_y, A_z)$ by an angle φ about the y-axis and found a new vector $\vec{A}' = (A'_x, A'_y, A'_z)$. The projection of the vector \vec{A} on the x-z plane makes an angle θ from the positive z-axis (try to make 3D vectors visualization like the one in Fig.?? in my note). Show that the rotation matrix is given by

$$R(\varphi) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\varphi) & 0 & \sin(\varphi) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin(\varphi) & 0 & \cos(\varphi) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

5. Following the same approach we followed in class show that

$$[\hat{J}_z, \hat{J}_x] = i\hbar \hat{J}_y$$

Solution: Using

$$R(\Delta\varphi i) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} & -\Delta\varphi \\ 0 & \Delta\varphi & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} \end{bmatrix}, R(\Delta\varphi k) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} & -\Delta\varphi & 0 \\ \Delta\varphi & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

we may write

$$\begin{aligned} &R(\Delta\varphi k) R(\Delta\varphi i) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} & -\Delta\varphi & 0 \\ \Delta\varphi & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} & -\Delta\varphi \\ 0 & \Delta\varphi & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right)^2 & -\left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right)\Delta\varphi & (\Delta\varphi)^2 \\ \Delta\varphi & \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right)^2 & -\Delta\varphi \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right) \\ 0 & \Delta\varphi & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

and for the reverse order rotation

$$\begin{aligned}
& R(\Delta\varphi i) R(\Delta\varphi k) \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} & -\Delta\varphi \\ 0 & \Delta\varphi & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} & -\Delta\varphi & 0 \\ \Delta\varphi & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right)^2 & -\Delta\varphi & 0 \\ \Delta\varphi \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right) & \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right)^2 & -\Delta\varphi \\ (\Delta\varphi)^2 & \Delta\varphi \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right) & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} \end{bmatrix}. \tag{8}
\end{aligned}$$

There follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
& R(\Delta\varphi k) R(\Delta\varphi i) - R(\Delta\varphi i) R(\Delta\varphi k) \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right)^2 & -\left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right) \Delta\varphi & (\Delta\varphi)^2 \\ \Delta\varphi & \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right)^2 & -\Delta\varphi \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right) \\ 0 & \Delta\varphi & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} \end{bmatrix} \\
&\quad - \begin{bmatrix} \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right)^2 & -\Delta\varphi & 0 \\ \Delta\varphi \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right) & \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right)^2 & -\Delta\varphi \\ (\Delta\varphi)^2 & \Delta\varphi \left(1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2}\right) & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^2}{2} \end{bmatrix} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^3}{2} & (\Delta\varphi)^2 \\ \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^3}{2} & 0 & \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^3}{2} \\ -(\Delta\varphi)^2 & \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^3}{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \tag{9}
\end{aligned}$$

Since we can make our rotation as small as we want to, we can set $(\Delta\varphi)^3 \simeq 0$. This leads to

$$R(\Delta\varphi k) R(\Delta\varphi i) - R(\Delta\varphi i) R(\Delta\varphi k) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & (\Delta\varphi)^2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -(\Delta\varphi)^2 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Suppose if one make a rotation by an angle of $\Delta\varphi' = (\Delta\varphi)^2$, in a counterclockwise direction about the y axis, the rotation matrix can be written as

$$R((\Delta\varphi)^2 j) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos((\Delta\varphi)^2) & 0 & \sin((\Delta\varphi)^2) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\sin((\Delta\varphi)^2) & 0 & \cos((\Delta\varphi)^2) \end{bmatrix} \simeq \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^4}{2} & 0 & (\Delta\varphi)^2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -(\Delta\varphi)^2 & 0 & 1 - \frac{(\Delta\varphi)^4}{2} \end{bmatrix} \tag{10}$$

$$\simeq \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & (\Delta\varphi)^2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -(\Delta\varphi)^2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & (\Delta\varphi)^2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -(\Delta\varphi)^2 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \tag{11}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & (\Delta\varphi)^2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -(\Delta\varphi)^2 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = R((\Delta\varphi)^2 j) - I \tag{12}$$

where

$$I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

is the identity matrix. One can then rewrite

$$R(\Delta\varphi k) R(\Delta\varphi i) - R(\Delta\varphi i) R(\Delta\varphi k) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & (\Delta\varphi)^2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -(\Delta\varphi)^2 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = R((\Delta\varphi)^2 j) - I$$

and it can be put in terms of the corresponding operators in the form

$$\hat{R}(\Delta\varphi k) \hat{R}(\Delta\varphi i) - \hat{R}(\Delta\varphi i) \hat{R}(\Delta\varphi k) = \hat{R}((\Delta\varphi)^2 j) - \hat{I}. \quad (13)$$

We recall that these operators (for spin-one particles like a photon) in terms of the rotation generators can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{R}(\Delta\varphi i) &= e^{-i\frac{\hat{J}_x}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi} = \hat{I} - i\frac{\hat{J}_x}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\hat{J}_x}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi\right)^2 \dots, \\ \hat{R}(\Delta\varphi k) &= e^{-i\frac{\hat{J}_z}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi} = \hat{I} - i\frac{\hat{J}_z}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\hat{J}_z}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi\right)^2 \dots, \\ \hat{R}((\Delta\varphi)^2 j) &= e^{-i\frac{\hat{J}_y}{\hbar}(\Delta\varphi)^2} = \hat{I} - i\frac{\hat{J}_y}{\hbar}(\Delta\varphi)^2 \dots \Rightarrow \hat{R}((\Delta\varphi)^2 j) - \hat{I} = -i\frac{\hat{J}_y}{\hbar}(\Delta\varphi)^2 \dots \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

so that the commutation relation becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &\left[\hat{I} - i\frac{\hat{J}_z}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\hat{J}_z}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi\right)^2 \dots \right] \left[\hat{I} - i\frac{\hat{J}_x}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\hat{J}_x}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi\right)^2 \dots \right] \\ &- \left[\hat{I} - i\frac{\hat{J}_x}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\hat{J}_x}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi\right)^2 \dots \right] \left[\hat{I} - i\frac{\hat{J}_z}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\hat{J}_z}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi\right)^2 \dots \right] \\ &= -i\frac{\hat{J}_y}{\hbar}(\Delta\varphi)^2 \dots \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

The zero and first order in $\Delta\varphi$ cancel out and keeping only up to the second order in $\Delta\varphi$ on the left side of this equation, one can easily find

$$\begin{aligned} &\left[-i\frac{\hat{J}_z}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi \right] \left[-i\frac{\hat{J}_x}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi \right] - \left[-i\frac{\hat{J}_x}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi \right] \left[-i\frac{\hat{J}_z}{\hbar}\Delta\varphi \right] \\ &= -i\frac{\hat{J}_y}{\hbar}(\Delta\varphi)^2 \Rightarrow \hat{J}_z\hat{J}_x - \hat{J}_x\hat{J}_z = i\hbar\hat{J}_y \Rightarrow [\hat{J}_z, \hat{J}_x] = i\hbar\hat{J}_y. \end{aligned}$$