

Two Angular momenta Addition

Let there be \vec{L}_i , $i = 1, 2$ with $L_i^2|l_i, m_i\rangle = \hbar^2 l_i(l_i + 1)|l_i, m_i\rangle$, $L_{iz}|l_i, m_i\rangle = m_i \hbar |l_i, m_i\rangle$. Determine

$$\vec{J} = \vec{L}_1 + \vec{L}_2 \quad (1)$$

Assume

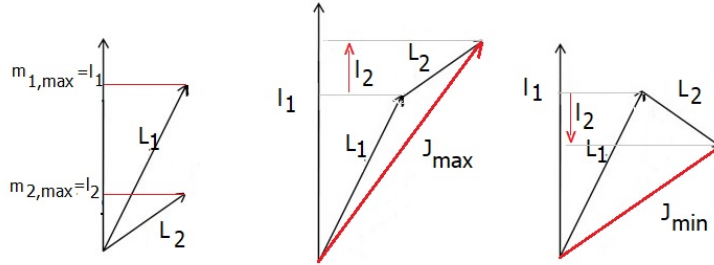
$$J^2|j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 j(j + 1)|j, m\rangle, \quad J_z|j, m\rangle = \hbar m|j, m\rangle \quad (2)$$

We can see graphically that

$$m = m_1 + m_2 \rightarrow |m_{max}| = j_1 + j_2 \rightarrow j_{max} = l_1 + l_2 \quad (3)$$

$$\rightarrow |m_{min}| = |j_1 - j_2| \rightarrow j_{min} = |l_1 - l_2| \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Or } j = l_1 + l_2, l_1 + l_2 - 1, \dots, |l_1 - l_2| \geq 0 \quad (5)$$



Since

$$\sum_{m_i} |l_i, m_i\rangle \langle l_i, m_i| = 1$$

Let us define

$$|\{l_1, l_2\}; m_1, m_2\rangle = |l_1, m_1\rangle \otimes |l_2, m_2\rangle \quad (6)$$

$$\sum_{m_1, m_2} |\{l_1, l_2\}; m_1, m_2\rangle \langle \{l_1, l_2\}; m_1, m_2| = 1 \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow |j, m\rangle &= \sum_{m_1, m_2} |\{l_1, l_2\}; m_1, m_2\rangle \underbrace{\langle \{l_1, l_2\}; m_1, m_2 | j, m \rangle}_{= C_{l_1, l_2; m_1, m_2}^{j, m}} \\ &= \sum_{m_1, m_2} C_{l_1, l_2; m_1, m_2}^{j, m} |\{l_1, l_2\}; m_1, m_2\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where $C_{l_1, l_2; m_1, m_2}^{j, m}$ is known as *Clebsch-Gordan coefficients*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notation:

J		J	
m_1	m_2	M	M
Coefficients			

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

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

$(j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2 | j_1 j_2 JM)$
 $= (-1)^{J-j_1-j_2} (j_2 j_1 m_2 m_1 | j_2 j_1 JM)$