

Übungen zur Quantenmechanik (T2)

Übungsblatt 11, Besprechung vom 10.1 – 14.01

Aufgabe 1 – Impuls

- (i) Zeigen Sie für $x, a \in \mathbb{R}$ und eine beliebige Wellenfunktion $\psi(x)$, dass

$$\exp(-a\partial_x)\psi(x) = \psi(x-a).$$

- (ii) Nutzen Sie diese Eigenschaft und den Satz von Stone, um die Ortsdarstellung des Impulsoperators \mathcal{P} zu finden. Finden Sie auch die notwendigen Faktoren von \hbar , um dem Impuls-Erwartungswert die kanonische Dimension $[\langle \mathcal{P} \rangle] = \frac{[\text{Wirkung}]}{[\text{Länge}]} = \frac{\text{kg m}}{\text{s}}$ zu geben.
- (iii) Finden Sie die explizite Ortsraum-Darstellung von $e_p(x) = \langle x | p \rangle$. Betrachten Sie hierfür $\langle x | \mathcal{P} | p \rangle$. Bestimmen Sie die Normierungskonstante, indem Sie

$$\langle p | q \rangle = \int dx \langle p | x \rangle \langle x | q \rangle = \delta(p - q)$$

fordern.

- (iv) Betrachten Sie nun die drei euklidischen Ortsoperatoren \mathcal{Q}^a , $a = 1, 2, 3$ und zugehörigen Impulsoperatoren \mathcal{P}_b , $b = 1, 2, 3$ mit der oben bestimmten Darstellung. Zeigen Sie die Kommutatorrelationen

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathcal{Q}^a, \mathcal{P}_b] &= i\hbar\delta_b^a, \\ [\mathcal{Q}^a, (\mathcal{P}_b)^n] &= in\hbar\delta_b^a \mathcal{P}_b^{n-1}, \\ [\mathcal{P}_a, (\mathcal{Q}^b)^n] &= -in\hbar\delta_b^a (\mathcal{Q}^b)^{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Was können Sie mithilfe der ersten Relation über die Ortsdarstellung des Impulsoperators folgern, wenn Sie diese nur aus den Kommutatorrelationen bestimmen möchten? Wie sieht die allgemeinst mögliche Form aus und welche Konsequenz hat diese für mögliche Messwerte?

- (v) Bestimmen Sie die Fourier-Transformation der Funktionen

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x) &= \exp(-ax^2 + bx + c), \\ f_2(x) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{für } -a < x < a, \\ 0 & \text{sonst.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Solution

- (i) We expand the expression

$$\exp(-a\partial_x)\psi(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (-a)^n \partial_x^n \psi(x) = \psi(x-a),$$

where we used Taylor's theorem in the last step.

- (ii) Since the norm of ψ is translationally-invariant (cf. last sheet), this defines a unitary operator. We reparametrise it as

$$\mathcal{U}(a) = \exp\left(-ia\frac{\mathcal{P}}{\hbar}\right).$$

Taking now the derivative with respect to a and using Stone's theorem, we find that the operator \mathcal{P} defined on the dense subset $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \subset L^2(\mathbb{R})$, defined as

$$\mathcal{P} = -i\hbar\partial_x,$$

can be extended to a self-adjoint operator.

- (iii) We can compute $e_p(x) := \langle x | p \rangle$ with this representation. Consider

$$\langle x | \mathcal{P} | p \rangle = -i\hbar e'_p(x) = p e_p(x),$$

so we conclude $e_p(x) = N_p e^{i\frac{px}{\hbar}}$. We compute

$$\langle p | q \rangle = \int dx N_p^* N_q e^{-\frac{ipx}{\hbar}} e^{\frac{iqx}{\hbar}} = N_p^* N_q 2\pi\hbar\delta(p - q),$$

so we fix $N_p = N_q = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}$.

- (iv) We first compute

$$[\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{P}] \psi(x) = [x, -i\hbar\partial_x] \psi(x) = -i\hbar(x\psi'(x) - \psi(x) - x\psi'(x)) = i\hbar\psi(x).$$

This generalises straightforwardly to 3 dimensions, since $\partial_b x^a = \delta_b^a$, the momenta commute with position operators they are not conjugate to. We show the identities by induction. The case $n = 1$ follows from the CCR. Suppose now for n the relation

$$[\mathcal{Q}^a, (\mathcal{P}_b)^n] = i\hbar\delta_b^a \mathcal{P}_b^{n-1}$$

holds. Then for $n \rightarrow n + 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathcal{Q}^a, \mathcal{P}_b^{n+1}] &= \mathcal{P}_b [\mathcal{Q}^a, \mathcal{P}_b^n] + [\mathcal{Q}^a, \mathcal{P}_b] \mathcal{P}_b^n \\ &= \mathcal{P}_b i\hbar\delta_b^a \mathcal{P}_b^{n-1} + i\hbar\delta_b^a \mathcal{P}_b^n \\ &= i(n+1)\hbar\delta_b^a \mathcal{P}_b^n. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we find for the second relation

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathcal{P}_a, (\mathcal{Q}^b)^{n+1}] &= \mathcal{Q}^b [\mathcal{P}_a, (\mathcal{Q}^b)^n] + [\mathcal{P}_a, \mathcal{Q}^b] (\mathcal{Q}^b)^n \\ &= \mathcal{Q}^b (-i\hbar\delta_a^b (\mathcal{Q}^b)^{n-1}) - i\hbar\delta_a^b (\mathcal{Q}^b)^n \\ &= -i(n+1)\delta_a^b (\mathcal{Q}^b)^n. \end{aligned}$$

We see that the representation satisfies the canonical commutation relations, but so does any other representation $\mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P} + f(x)$. We are saved by the Stone-von Neumann theorem, which guarantees that all these representations are unitarily equivalent, so amplitudes are not affected. In a handway way, we can see this for representations given by $\mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P} + \partial_x f(x)$, then the unitary transformation relating the different wave functions is given by

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}f(x)}\psi(x).$$

- (v) The Fourier transform of the first function can be computed by completing the square in the exponent. We have

$$-ax^2 + bx - ikx = -a\left(x - \frac{1}{2a}(b - ik)\right)^2 + \frac{1}{4a}(b - ik)^2.$$

Now we can compute

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{f}_1(k) &= \int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-ax^2 + bx + c} e^{-ikx} \\ &= e^c e^{\frac{1}{4a}(b - ik)^2} \int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-a\left(x - \frac{1}{2a}(b - ik)\right)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}} e^{-\frac{k^2}{4a} - \frac{ikb}{2a} + \frac{b^2}{4a} + c}. \end{aligned}$$

The second transformation is computed by

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{f}_2(x) &= \int \frac{dx}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \theta(a - |x|) e^{-ikx} \\ &= -\frac{1}{ik} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-ikx} \Big|_{-a}^a \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{\sin(ka)}{k}.\end{aligned}$$

Aufgabe 2 – Unschärfe

- (i) Die Ortsdarstellung eines Zustands $|\alpha\rangle$ ist gegeben durch

$$\langle x | \alpha \rangle = \frac{1}{(\pi\sigma^2)^{1/4}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2} + i\frac{kx}{\hbar}\right)$$

Bestätigen Sie für diesen Zustand die Heisenbergsche Unschärferelation für den Orts- und Impulsoperator. Was zeichnet das Gauß'sche Wellenpaket aus?

- (ii) Zeigen Sie die verallgemeinerte Unbestimmtheitsrelation für zwei Observablen \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} und einen beliebigen Zustand Φ

$$\text{Streu}_\Phi(\mathcal{A})\text{Streu}_\Phi(\mathcal{B}) \geq \frac{1}{2} |\langle \Phi | [\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}] | \Phi \rangle|.$$

- (iii) Bestimmen Sie die normierten Spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ Zustände $|\psi\rangle$, für die das Unschärfe-Produkt

$$\text{Streu}_\psi(S_x)\text{Streu}_\psi(S_y)$$

minimal bzw. maximal wird. Überprüfen Sie zudem explizit, dass für diese Zustände die Unschärferelation für S_x und S_y nicht verletzt ist.

Solution

- (i) We first compute the expectation value of \mathcal{Q} and \mathcal{Q}^2 for the state $|\alpha\rangle$. We find

$$\langle \alpha | \mathcal{Q} | \alpha \rangle = \int dx \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2\pi}} x e^{-\frac{x^2}{\sigma^2}} = 0$$

as well as

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \alpha | \mathcal{Q}^2 | \alpha \rangle &= \int dx \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2\pi}} x^2 e^{-\frac{x^2}{\sigma^2}} \\ &= \int dx \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2\pi}} \left(-\sigma^2 \frac{d}{da} \Big|_{a=1} e^{-a\frac{x^2}{\sigma^2}} \right) \\ &= -\sigma^2 \frac{d}{da} \Big|_{a=1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2. \end{aligned}$$

For the expectation values of the momentum, there are two possibilities. Either we use the derivative, or we compute the Fourier transformation. We can use the result from Ex. 1, that the transformed function is again a Gaussian of the form

$$\langle p | \alpha \rangle = \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{\hbar^2\pi} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma^2}{2\hbar^2} (p-k)^2\right).$$

Analogous computation to above gives the expectation values

$$\langle \alpha | \mathcal{P} | \alpha \rangle = \int dp p \sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{\hbar^2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2\hbar^2} (p-k)^2} = k,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \alpha | \mathcal{P}^2 | \alpha \rangle &= \int dp p^2 \sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{\hbar^2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{\hbar^2} (p-k)^2} \\ &= \int dp (p^2 + 2pk + k^2) \sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{\hbar^2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{\hbar^2} (p-k)^2} \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2\sigma^2} + k^2. \end{aligned}$$

We compute the uncertainty and find

$$\langle (\Delta \mathcal{Q})^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2$$

and

$$\langle (\Delta \mathcal{P})^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{2\sigma^2} + k^2 - k^2 = \frac{\hbar^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

and the relation

$$\langle (\Delta \mathcal{Q})^2 \rangle \langle (\Delta \mathcal{P})^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \frac{\hbar^2}{2\sigma^2} = \frac{\hbar^2}{4},$$

or, equivalently, $\langle \Delta \mathcal{Q} \rangle \langle \Delta \mathcal{P} \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2}$, which is minimal.

- (ii) Recall the definitions from PS9, $\Delta A = A - \langle A \rangle$. We will derive an inequality for the variance. Consider

$$\langle \Phi | (\Delta A)^2 | \Phi \rangle = \langle (A - \langle A \rangle) \Phi | (A - \langle A \rangle) \Phi \rangle = \langle a | a \rangle,$$

and

$$\langle \Phi | (\Delta B)^2 | \Phi \rangle = \langle (B - \langle B \rangle) \Phi | (B - \langle B \rangle) \Phi \rangle = \langle b | b \rangle.$$

Then, by Cauchy-Schwarz, we have

$$\langle \Phi | (\Delta A)^2 | \Phi \rangle \langle \Phi | (\Delta B)^2 | \Phi \rangle = \langle a | a \rangle \langle b | b \rangle \geq |\langle a | b \rangle|^2.$$

Splitting this into real and imaginary part, we find

$$|\langle a | b \rangle|^2 = \left(\frac{\langle a | b \rangle + \langle b | a \rangle}{2} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\langle a | b \rangle - \langle b | a \rangle}{2i} \right)^2.$$

We now compute

$$\langle a | b \rangle = \langle \Phi | (A - \langle A \rangle)(B - \langle B \rangle) | \Phi \rangle = \langle AB \rangle - \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle.$$

With this, we find the real and imaginary part to be

$$\langle a | b \rangle + \langle b | a \rangle = \langle AB + BA \rangle - 2\langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle = \langle [A, B]_+ \rangle - 2\langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle,$$

and

$$\langle a | b \rangle - \langle b | a \rangle = \langle AB - BA \rangle = \langle [A, B] \rangle.$$

We find

$$|\langle a | b \rangle|^2 = \left(\frac{1}{2} \langle [A, B]_+ \rangle - 2\langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle \right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2i} \langle [A, B] \rangle \right)^2$$

Neglecting the first term and taking the square root, we find

$$(\Delta A)(\Delta B) \geq \frac{1}{2} |\langle [A, B] \rangle|.$$

As it stands, this proof only holds for finite-dimensional operators. This is due to our ignorance about domains, in particular about the domains of products AB . For the infinite-dimensional case, this requires more care.

- (iii) First, we parametrise a state $|\alpha\rangle = \cos(\frac{\theta}{2})|+\rangle + \sin(\frac{\theta}{2})e^{i\varphi}|-\rangle$. The expectation values are readily computed to be

$$\langle S_z \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \cos(\theta), \quad \langle S_x \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \cos(\varphi), \quad \langle S_y \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \sin(\varphi).$$

With this, the variance is given by

$$\langle (\Delta S_x)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4} (1 - \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\varphi)),$$

and

$$\langle (\Delta S_y)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4} (1 - \sin^2(\theta) \sin^2(\varphi)),$$

and the uncertainty is

$$\langle (\Delta S_x)^2 \rangle \langle (\Delta S_y)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4} (1 - \sin^2(\theta) - \sin^4(\theta) \cos^2(\varphi) \sin^2(\varphi)).$$

We want to find values of θ, φ where this is extremal. We compute the derivative with respect to the angles and find the two equations

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) + 4 \sin^3(\theta) \cos(\theta) \cos^2(\varphi) \sin^2(\varphi) &= 0 \\ \cos(\varphi) \sin^3(\varphi) - \cos^3(\varphi) \sin(\varphi) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

From the second equation, we find two solutions. The first one is $\varphi = \frac{n}{2}\pi$ for an integer n , and this gives for the first equation

$$0 = 2 \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) = \sin(2\theta),$$

which is solved by $2\theta = n\pi$, i.e. $\theta = \frac{n}{2}\pi$ for integer n . Half of these solutions, namely $\theta = n\pi$, correspond to S_z eigenstates, and the phase φ is irrelevant. The other half, where $\theta = \frac{2n+1}{2}\pi$, correspond to S_x and S_y eigenstates, depending on φ . If $\varphi = n\pi$, they are S_x eigenstates, and for $\varphi = \frac{2n+1}{2}\pi$, they belong to S_y . The second solution of the second equation is $\varphi = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{n}{2}\pi$, however, with this φ , there is no solution to the first equation. Fixing now $\varphi = \frac{n}{2}\pi$, we compute the second derivative to check for maxima and minima. We obtain

$$\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \langle (\Delta S_x) \rangle \langle (\Delta S_y) \rangle = \sin^2(\theta) - \cos^2(\theta).$$

We see that the S_z eigenstates have negative second derivative, they are maxima, and the S_x and S_y eigenstates have positive second derivatives, they are minima. To conclude, we find

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi &= \frac{n}{2}\pi, \\ \theta &= \begin{cases} n\pi & \Rightarrow \text{maximal uncertainty, } S_z \text{ eigenstates,} \\ \frac{2n+1}{2}\pi & \Rightarrow \text{minimal uncertainty, } S_x \text{ and } S_y \text{ eigenstates.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Next, we compute explicitly the uncertainty for these states. Consider first the S_z eigenstates, given by $\theta = n\pi$. We find

$$\langle (\Delta S_x)^2 \rangle = \langle (\Delta S_y)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4}, \quad \langle S_z \rangle = (-1)^n \frac{1}{2}.$$

Thus the bound is $\langle \Delta S_x \rangle \langle \Delta S_y \rangle \geq \frac{1}{4}$, and we find

$$\langle (\Delta S_x) \rangle \langle (\Delta S_y) \rangle = \frac{1}{4}.$$

For the eigenstates, we have $\langle S_z \rangle = 0$, and either $\langle \Delta S_x \rangle = 0$ or $\langle \Delta S_y \rangle = 0$. Thus we have 0 as lower bound and reach it.

Aufgabe 3 – Spin-Algebra Teil II

Diese Aufgabe ist der zweite Teil zu Aufgabe 3 auf dem letzten Blatt. Stellen Sie sicher, dass Sie die Analyse der Drehimpulsalgebra verstanden haben, denn diese Aufgabe wird eine analoge Analyse für Tensorprodukte durchführen.

Wir betrachten nun die Zustände $|s, m\rangle$ definiert wie in Aufgabe 3 auf dem letzten Blatt, und wir definieren sie so, dass sie ein Orthonormalsystem bilden.

- (i) Auf dem letzten Blatt haben wir gezeigt, dass $S_- |s, m\rangle = N_m |s, m-1\rangle$. Bestimmen Sie N_m . Zeigen Sie, dass

$$\begin{aligned} S_- |s, m\rangle &= N_m |s, m\rangle, \\ S_+ |s, m\rangle &= N_{m+1} |s, m+1\rangle, \end{aligned}$$

also dass wir die gleiche Normierungskonstante für beide Operatoren benutzen können.

Hinweis: Starten Sie mit $|s, s\rangle$ und finden Sie eine Rekursionsrelation für N_m .

- (ii) Welche Dimension hat die Darstellung $s = \frac{1}{2}$? Welche die Darstellung $s = 1$?
 (iii) Bestimmen Sie die Matrix-Darstellung der Operatoren S_a in der Basis der $|s, m\rangle$, gegeben durch

$$(S_a^s)_{m,m'} = \langle s, m | S_a | s, m' \rangle,$$

für $s = \frac{1}{2}$ und $s = 1$. Überprüfen Sie an einem Beispiel, dass die Algebra erfüllt ist.

Hinweis: Nutzen Sie die Algebra und bestimmen Sie S_x, S_y aus S_+ und S_- .

Nun werden wir das Tensorprodukt eines $s = \frac{1}{2}$ Systems mit einem $s = 1$ System betrachten, und dieses in eine direkte Summe von Darstellungen mit bestimmtem s' zerlegen. Im Folgenden bezeichnen wir diese Systeme durch $\frac{1}{2}$ bzw. $\mathbf{1}$, d.h. $\mathbf{1}$ ist die Spin-1 Darstellung von $SU(2)$. Unser Vorgehen wird analog zu Aufgabe 3 auf dem letzten Blatt sein.

- (iv) Bestimmen Sie die Dimension des Tensorproduktes $\frac{1}{2} \otimes \mathbf{1}$.

Ein Zustand $|s_1, m_1; s_2, m_2\rangle$ des Produktsystems transformiert als

$$D_{\frac{1}{2} \otimes \mathbf{1}}(U) |s_1, m_1; s_2, m_2\rangle = D_{\frac{1}{2}}(U) |s_1, m_1\rangle \otimes D_{\mathbf{1}}(U) |s_2, m_2\rangle,$$

wobei $D_s(U)$ die Spin- s Darstellung des Elements $U \in SU(2)$ ist, d.h. bezüglich der Matrixdarstellung der Generatoren wie in (iii).

- (v) Zeigen Sie, dass für infinitesimale Transformationen, d.h.

$$D_s(U) = \mathbf{1}_s + \alpha_a S_{a,s},$$

die Drehimpulse addiert werden, d.h.

$$S_{a,s_1 \otimes s_2} = S_{a,s_1} \otimes \mathbf{1}_{s_2} + \mathbf{1}_{s_1} \otimes S_{a,s_2}.$$

Dies bedeutet, dass für Produktzustände m einfach addiert wird.

- (vi) Überzeugen Sie sich damit, dass der Zustand mit maximalem m in $\frac{1}{2} \otimes \mathbf{1}$ gegeben ist durch

$$\left| \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle \otimes |1, 1\rangle = \left| \frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2} \right\rangle.$$

- (vii) Finden Sie die Produktdarstellung der anderen Zustände $|\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\rangle, |\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\rangle$ sowie $|\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}\rangle$ durch Anwenden von $S_{-, \frac{1}{2} \otimes \mathbf{1}}$. Spannen diese Zustände $\frac{1}{2} \otimes \mathbf{1}$ auf?

Hinweis: Nutzen Sie das Resultat aus (v) um Leiteroperatoren auf dem Tensorprodukt aus den Leiteroperatoren der Faktorenräume zu konstruieren.

- (viii) Überlegen Sie sich aus der Drehimpulsalgebra und durch Betrachten der Dimension, in welcher s -Darstellung die fehlenden Zustände liegen. Nutzen Sie dann $m = m_1 + m_2$ für Produktzustände, um diese Zustände aus Kombinationen von Produktzuständen von $\frac{1}{2} \otimes \mathbf{1}$ zu konstruieren, welche orthogonal zu den $\frac{3}{2}$ -Zuständen sind.

Dieses Vorgehen funktioniert für beliebige Tensor Darstellungen von $SU(2)$. Wir finden den Zustand mit maximalem m , und zerlegen die Produktdarstellung dann in Darstellungen mit bestimmtem s .

(ix) Überzeugen Sie sich, dass für beliebige Darstellungen \mathfrak{s}_1 und \mathfrak{s}_2 gilt

$$\mathfrak{s}_1 \otimes \mathfrak{s}_2 = \bigoplus_{s=|s_1-s_2|}^{s_1+s_2} \mathfrak{s},$$

wobei \bigoplus die direkte Summe ist. Im obigen Beispiel entspricht dies

$$\frac{\mathbf{1}}{2} \otimes \mathbf{1} = \frac{\mathbf{1}}{2} \oplus \frac{\mathbf{3}}{2}.$$

Sie müssen hierfür nicht die explizite Darstellung der Zustände angeben, sondern lediglich das allgemeine Vorgehen für jedes s und die Zustände jeder Darstellung richtig zählen.

Solution

(i) We start with the highest weight state $|s, s\rangle$. Consider the action

$$\langle s, s | S_+ S_- | s, s \rangle = \langle s, s | [S_+, S_-] | s, s \rangle = \langle s, s | 2S_z | s, s \rangle = 2s.$$

We see that $N_s = \sqrt{2s}$. Note that similarly for S_+ , we can find

$$S_+ |s, s-1\rangle = S_+ \frac{1}{N_s} S_- |s, s\rangle = \frac{1}{N_s} [S_+, S_-] |s, s\rangle = N_s |s, s\rangle.$$

We can now find a recursive relation for all other N_m , with the convention

$$S_- |s, s-1\rangle = N_{s-1} |s, s-2\rangle, S_+ |s, s-2\rangle = N_{s-1} |s, s-1\rangle.$$

Consider now

$$\begin{aligned} N_{s-k}^2 &= \langle s, s-k | S_+ S_- | s, s-k \rangle, \\ &= \langle s, s-k | [S_+, S_-] | s, s-k \rangle + \langle s, s-k | S_- S_+ | s, s-k \rangle \\ &= 2(s-k) + N_{s-k+1}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Taking now $k = s - m$ and using the recursion relations

$$\begin{aligned} N_s^2 &= s \\ N_{s-1}^2 - N_s^2 &= s-1, \\ \vdots & \quad \quad \quad \vdots \\ N_{s-k}^2 - N_{s-k+1}^2 &= s-k, \end{aligned}$$

we find $N_m = \sqrt{(s+m)(s-m+1)}$.

(ii) The dimension of the representations is $2s+1$ (cf. last sheet). So the $s = \frac{1}{2}$ representation has dimension 2, and $s = 1$ has dimension 3.

(iii) We fix the basis

$$\left| \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \left| \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

as well as

$$|1, 1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad |1, 0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad |1, -1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We can obtain S_x and S_y from the ladder operators. We have

$$\begin{aligned} S_x &= \frac{1}{2}(S_+ + S_-), \\ S_y &= -\frac{i}{2}(S_+ - S_-). \end{aligned}$$

To find the explicit form, we use the algebra, namely

$$\begin{aligned} S_+ |s, m\rangle &= N_{m+1} |s, m+1\rangle, \\ S_- |s, m\rangle &= N_m |s, m-1\rangle, \\ S_z |s, m\rangle &= m |s, m\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

The corresponding matrix representations are thus given by

$$S_+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$S_+ = \sqrt{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_- = \sqrt{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

With this, we now conclude for $s = \frac{1}{2}$

$$S_z = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_x = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_y = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

and for $s = 1$

$$S_z = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(iv) The product is of dimension $2 \cdot 3 = 6$.

(v) For an infinitesimal transformation, we expand both sides and find

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{1} + \alpha_a S_{a, \frac{1}{2} \otimes \mathbb{1}} &= (\mathbb{1}_{\frac{1}{2}} + \alpha_a S_{a, \frac{1}{2}}) \otimes (\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{1}} + \alpha_a S_{a, \mathbb{1}}) \\ &= \mathbb{1}_{\frac{1}{2}} \otimes \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{1}} + \alpha_a S_{a, \frac{1}{2}} \otimes \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{1}} + \alpha_a \mathbb{1}_{\frac{1}{2}} \otimes S_{a, \mathbb{1}} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2), \end{aligned}$$

so indeed the m -values simply add.

(vi) Since we can “add” the eigenvalues of S_z , the maximal one is given by $m = \frac{1}{2} + 1 = \frac{3}{2}$. The only state available with this m is $|\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\rangle |1, 1\rangle$.

(vii) From the consideration of the infinitesimal generators above, we can also construct ladder operators as

$$\begin{aligned} S_+ &= S_{+, \frac{1}{2}} \otimes \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{1}} + \mathbb{1}_{\frac{1}{2}} \otimes S_{+, \mathbb{1}}, \\ S_- &= S_{-, \frac{1}{2}} \otimes \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{1}} + \mathbb{1}_{\frac{1}{2}} \otimes S_{-, \mathbb{1}}. \end{aligned}$$

We use the same normalisation as above, and apply the operator S_- to the state $|\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\rangle = |\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\rangle \otimes |1, 1\rangle$, to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left| \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle |1, 1\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \left| \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle |1, 0\rangle, \\ \left| \frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \left| \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle |1, 0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left| \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle |1, -1\rangle, \\ \left| \frac{3}{2}, -\frac{3}{2} \right\rangle &= \left| \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle |1, -1\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

(viii) The above states form only the four-dimensional representation $s = \frac{3}{2}$. We are lacking two dimensions, which corresponds to a $s = \frac{1}{2}$ representation. From the angular momentum algebra, we also know that there is a $s = \frac{1}{2}$ representation (in general, for each $s \geq 1$ there exists a $s - 1$ representation.) Hence we need to find states with $m = \frac{1}{2}$ and $s = \frac{1}{2}$, which are orthogonal to the four above. Good candidates are the states corresponding to $m = \frac{1}{2}$ above with changed sign. We find

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \left| \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle |1, 1\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \left| \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle |1, 0\rangle \\ \left| \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \left| \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} \right\rangle |1, 0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \left| \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle |1, -1\rangle, \end{aligned}$$

which are indeed related by S_{\pm} . We found the six states spanning the Hilbert space and see that the tensor representation decomposes as

$$\frac{\mathbf{1}}{2} \otimes \mathbf{1} = \frac{\mathbf{3}}{2} \oplus \frac{\mathbf{1}}{2}.$$

- (ix) For a general product, the procedure is analogous to the previous discussion. First, we compute the maximal m value by adding the maximal eigenvalues of all factors. Next, we construct the corresponding spin- m -representation by acting with S_- on the maximal state. Once this process terminates, we consider the next-lower spin- $m-1$ -representation and do the same analysis. We perform this procedure until we have obtained $\mathbf{s}_1 \cdot \mathbf{s}_2$ orthogonal vectors. The claim, based on our example above, is that this continues until the lowest spin $|s_1 - s_2|$. We show this inductively. The claim is

$$(2s_1 + 1)(2s_2 + 1) = \sum_{\ell=|s_1-s_2|}^{s_1+s_2} (2\ell + 1).$$

As base step, consider $s_1 = s_2 = \frac{1}{2}$. We have

$$2 \cdot 2 = 3 + 1.$$

Now suppose $s_1 \geq s_2$. We first perform induction in s_1 , i.e. $s_1 \rightarrow s_1 + \frac{1}{2}$. We have

$$(2(s_1 + \frac{1}{2}) + 1) \cdot (2s_2 + 1) = (2s_1 + 1)(2s_2 + 1) + 2s_2 + 1 = \sum_{\ell=s_1-s_2}^{s_1+s_2} (2\ell + 1) + 2s_2 + 1.$$

Note that the sum contains $2s_2 + 1$ terms, so we use the $2s_2 + 1$ to add one to each term, resulting in

$$\sum_{\ell=s_1-s_2}^{s_1+s_2} (2\ell + 1) + 2s_2 + 1 = \sum_{\ell=s_1-s_2}^{s_1+s_2} (2(\ell + \frac{1}{2}) + 1) = \sum_{\ell=(s_1+\frac{1}{2})-s_2}^{(s_1+\frac{1}{2})+s_2} (2\ell + 1).$$

Induction in s_2 works analogous, we have to watch out for the case where $s_2 + \frac{1}{2} > s_1$, this is where the absolute value comes in. We now know that the dimensions match, and we know how to find the complete set of states in each spin- ℓ -representation, so we conclude that indeed

$$\mathbf{s}_1 \otimes \mathbf{s}_2 = \bigoplus_{s=|s_1-s_2|}^{s_1+s_2} \mathbf{s}.$$