

Physics 3041 (Spring 2021) Solutions to Homework Set 5

1. (a) Problem 9.1.6. (5 points)

$$\begin{aligned} a(1, 1, 0) + b(1, 0, 1) + c(3, 2, 1) &= (a + b + 3c, a + 2c, b + c) = (0, 0, 0), \\ \Rightarrow a &= -2c, \quad b = -c, \quad a + b + 3c = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The above linear combination of the three row vectors is a null row vector for any nonzero value of c with $a = -2c$ and $b = -c$. Therefore, the three row vectors are linearly dependent.

$$\begin{aligned} a(1, 1, 0) + b(1, 0, 1) + c(0, 1, 1) &= (a + b, a + c, b + c) = (0, 0, 0), \\ \Rightarrow a &= -b = -c, \quad b = -c \Rightarrow b = c = -c = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the above three row vectors are linearly independent.

(b) Problem 9.2.1.(ii). (10 points)

$$|V\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + i \\ \sqrt{3} + i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|I\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1+i\sqrt{3}}{4} \\ -\frac{\sqrt{3}(1+i)}{\sqrt{8}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad |II\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{3}(1+i)}{\sqrt{8}} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}+i}{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\langle I|I\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1-i\sqrt{3}}{4} & -\frac{\sqrt{3}(1-i)}{\sqrt{8}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1+i\sqrt{3}}{4} \\ -\frac{\sqrt{3}(1+i)}{\sqrt{8}} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1+3}{16} + \frac{3(1+1)}{8} = 1$$

$$\langle II|II\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{3}(1-i)}{\sqrt{8}} & \frac{\sqrt{3}-i}{4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{3}(1+i)}{\sqrt{8}} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}+i}{4} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{3(1+1)}{8} + \frac{3+1}{16} = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle I|II\rangle &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1-i\sqrt{3}}{4} & -\frac{\sqrt{3}(1-i)}{\sqrt{8}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{3}(1+i)}{\sqrt{8}} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}+i}{4} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{(1-i\sqrt{3})\sqrt{3}(1+i) - \sqrt{3}(1-i)(\sqrt{3}+i)}{4\sqrt{8}} \\ &= \frac{-i(i+\sqrt{3})\sqrt{3}(1+i) + i\sqrt{3}(1+i)(\sqrt{3}+i)}{4\sqrt{8}} = 0 \Rightarrow \langle II|I\rangle = \langle I|II\rangle^* = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_I = \langle I|V\rangle &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1-i\sqrt{3}}{4} & -\frac{\sqrt{3}(1-i)}{\sqrt{8}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1+i \\ \sqrt{3}+i \end{bmatrix} = \frac{(1-i\sqrt{3})(1+i)}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{3}(1-i)(\sqrt{3}+i)}{\sqrt{8}} \\ &= \frac{1+\sqrt{3}+i(1-\sqrt{3})}{4} - \frac{\sqrt{3}[1+\sqrt{3}+i(1-\sqrt{3})]}{\sqrt{8}} = \left(\frac{1}{4} - \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}}\right) [1+\sqrt{3}+i(1-\sqrt{3})] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_{II} = \langle II|V\rangle &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{3}(1-i)}{\sqrt{8}} & \frac{\sqrt{3}-i}{4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1+i \\ \sqrt{3}+i \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\sqrt{3}(1-i)(1+i)}{\sqrt{8}} + \frac{(\sqrt{3}-i)(\sqrt{3}+i)}{4} \\ &= \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{8}} + 1 = 1 + \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
|v_I|^2 + |v_{II}|^2 &= \left| \left(\frac{1}{4} - \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}} \right) [1 + \sqrt{3} + i(1 - \sqrt{3})] \right|^2 + \left| 1 + \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \right|^2 \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{16} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{3}{8}} + \frac{3}{8} \right) [(1 + \sqrt{3})^2 + (1 - \sqrt{3})^2] + 1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} + \frac{3}{2} \\
&= 8 \left(\frac{7}{16} - \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \right) + \frac{5}{2} + 2\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} = 6
\end{aligned}$$

(c) Problem 9.2.3. (10 points)

$$|I\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad |II\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad |III\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|1\rangle = \frac{|I\rangle}{\sqrt{\langle I|I\rangle}} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\langle 1|II\rangle = 0 \Rightarrow |2'\rangle = |II\rangle, \quad \langle 2'|2'\rangle = 5 \Rightarrow |2\rangle = \frac{|2'\rangle}{\sqrt{\langle 2'|2'\rangle}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{5} \\ 2/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\langle 1|III\rangle = 0, \quad \langle 2|III\rangle = \left[0 \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \quad \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \right] \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2+10}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{12}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$|3'\rangle = |III\rangle - |2\rangle\langle 2|III\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{12}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{5} \\ 2/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 2 - \frac{12}{5} \\ 5 - \frac{24}{5} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2/5 \\ 1/5 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\langle 3'|3'\rangle = \frac{4+1}{25} = \frac{1}{5} \Rightarrow |3\rangle = \frac{|3'\rangle}{\sqrt{\langle 3'|3'\rangle}} = \sqrt{5} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2/5 \\ 1/5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -2/\sqrt{5} \\ 1/\sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Use $\text{Tr } \sigma_i = 0$, $\sigma_i^2 = I$, and $\sigma_i \sigma_j = i \sum_k \epsilon_{ijk} \sigma_k$ to obtain the components of a general 2×2 matrix in the basis of $\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, I\}$, where σ_i represents the Pauli matrices and I is the identity matrix. (15 points)

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = \alpha \sigma_1 + \beta \sigma_2 + \gamma \sigma_3 + \delta I, \quad I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{Tr}(I) = 2$$

$$\text{Tr}(M) = a + d = \text{Tr}(\alpha \sigma_1 + \beta \sigma_2 + \gamma \sigma_3 + \delta I) = \alpha \text{Tr}(\sigma_1) + \beta \text{Tr}(\sigma_2) + \gamma \text{Tr}(\sigma_3) + \delta \text{Tr}(I) = 2\delta$$

$$\delta = \frac{a+d}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}(M\sigma_1) &= \text{Tr}(\alpha \sigma_1^2 + \beta \sigma_2 \sigma_1 + \gamma \sigma_3 \sigma_1 + \delta I \sigma_1) = \alpha \text{Tr}(\sigma_1^2) + \beta \text{Tr}(\sigma_2 \sigma_1) + \gamma \text{Tr}(\sigma_3 \sigma_1) + \delta \text{Tr}(I \sigma_1) \\ &= \alpha \text{Tr}(I) + \beta \text{Tr}(-i\sigma_3) + \gamma \text{Tr}(i\sigma_2) + \delta \text{Tr}(\sigma_1) = 2\alpha \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(M\sigma_1) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \begin{bmatrix} b & a \\ d & c \end{bmatrix} = \frac{b+c}{2}$$

Similarly, we obtain

$$\beta = \frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}(M\sigma_2) = \frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}\begin{bmatrix} ib & -ia \\ id & -ic \end{bmatrix} = \frac{i(b-c)}{2}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}(M\sigma_3) = \frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}\begin{bmatrix} a & -b \\ c & -d \end{bmatrix} = \frac{a-d}{2}$$

3. Problem 9.2.5. (10 points)

$$\begin{aligned} |V+W|^2 &= \langle V+W|V+W\rangle = \langle V|V\rangle + \langle V|W\rangle + \langle W|V\rangle + \langle W|W\rangle \\ &= |V|^2 + \langle V|W\rangle + \langle V|W\rangle^* + |W|^2 = |V|^2 + 2\text{Re}\langle V|W\rangle + |W|^2 \\ &\leq |V|^2 + 2|\langle V|W\rangle| + |W|^2 \leq |V|^2 + 2|V||W| + |W|^2 = (|V| + |W|)^2 \\ \Rightarrow |V+W| &\leq |V| + |W|. \end{aligned}$$

For the equality $|V+W| = |V| + |W|$ to hold, we must have $\text{Re}\langle V|W\rangle = |\langle V|W\rangle|$ and $|\langle V|W\rangle| = |V||W|$. From the first condition, $\langle V|W\rangle$ is real and positive. From the second condition (see proof of the Schwarz inequality in the textbook),

$$|V\rangle = \frac{\langle W|V\rangle}{|W|^2}|W\rangle = \frac{\langle V|W\rangle^*}{|W|^2}|W\rangle = a|W\rangle, \quad a = \frac{\langle V|W\rangle^*}{|W|^2}.$$

Because $\langle V|W\rangle$ is real and positive, a is also real and positive.

4. Problem 9.3.5. (20 points)



From the above figures, we have

$$R_z(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{i} \cdot \vec{i}' & \vec{i} \cdot \vec{j}' & \vec{i} \cdot \vec{k}' \\ \vec{j} \cdot \vec{i}' & \vec{j} \cdot \vec{j}' & \vec{j} \cdot \vec{k}' \\ \vec{k} \cdot \vec{i}' & \vec{k} \cdot \vec{j}' & \vec{k} \cdot \vec{k}' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

for rotation around the z -axis by an angle θ , and

$$R_x(\phi) = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{i} \cdot \vec{i}' & \vec{i} \cdot \vec{j}' & \vec{i} \cdot \vec{k}' \\ \vec{j} \cdot \vec{i}' & \vec{j} \cdot \vec{j}' & \vec{j} \cdot \vec{k}' \\ \vec{k} \cdot \vec{i}' & \vec{k} \cdot \vec{j}' & \vec{k} \cdot \vec{k}' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ 0 & \sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}$$

for rotation around the x -axis by an angle ϕ .

$$\begin{aligned}
R_z(\theta)^T R_z(\theta) &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I, \\
R_x(\phi)^T R_x(\phi) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & \sin \phi \\ 0 & -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ 0 & \sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I, \\
R_x(\phi) R_z(\theta) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ 0 & \sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta \cos \phi & \cos \theta \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ \sin \theta \sin \phi & \cos \theta \sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix}, \\
[R_x(\phi) R_z(\theta)]^T R_x(\phi) R_z(\theta) &= \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \cos \phi & \sin \theta \sin \phi \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \cos \phi & \cos \theta \sin \phi \\ 0 & -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta & 0 \\ \sin \theta \cos \phi & \cos \theta \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ \sin \theta \sin \phi & \cos \theta \sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{bmatrix} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I.
\end{aligned}$$

In general, if $M^T M = I$ and $N^T N = I$, then we have $(NM)^T(NM) = M^T N^T N M = M^T M = I$.

5. Problem 9.5.6, but only for the proof without doing the inverse matrix part. (10 points)

For a Hermitian operator Ω with non-degenerate eigenvalues, we have

$$\Omega|\omega_i\rangle = \omega_i|\omega_i\rangle, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

We can then expand an arbitrary vector as

$$|V\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i |\omega_i\rangle.$$

The characteristic polynomial satisfies $P(\omega_i) = 0$, so

$$P(\Omega)|V\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i P(\Omega)|\omega_i\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i P(\omega_i)|\omega_i\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^n 0|\omega_i\rangle = |0\rangle \Rightarrow P(\Omega) = 0.$$

6. Problem 9.5.10. (20 points)

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad N = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$MN = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$NM = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = MN$$

$$M \Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} 1 - \omega & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -\omega & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 - \omega \end{vmatrix} = -\omega(1 - \omega)^2 + \omega = \omega^2(2 - \omega) = 0 \Rightarrow \omega_M = 0, 0, 2.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ b_0 \\ c_0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_0 + c_0 \\ 0 \\ a_0 + c_0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow |\omega_M = 0\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ b_0 \\ -a_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_2 \\ b_2 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -a_2 + c_2 \\ -2b_2 \\ a_2 - c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow |\omega_M = 2\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} a_2 \\ 0 \\ a_2 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$N \Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} 2 - \omega & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -\omega & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 - \omega \end{vmatrix} = (2 - \omega)[- \omega(2 - \omega) - 1] - (2 - \omega + 1) - 1 + \omega$$

$$= (2 - \omega)(\omega - 3)(\omega + 1) = 0 \Rightarrow \omega_N = -1, 2, 3.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ e_1 \\ f_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3d_1 + e_1 + f_1 \\ d_1 + e_1 - f_1 \\ d_1 - e_1 + 3f_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\omega_N = -1\rangle = d_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_2 \\ e_2 \\ f_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} e_2 + f_2 \\ d_2 - 2e_2 - f_2 \\ d_2 - e_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\omega_N = 2\rangle = d_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -3 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_3 \\ e_3 \\ f_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -d_3 + e_3 + f_3 \\ d_3 - 3e_3 - f_3 \\ d_3 - e_3 - f_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\omega_N = 3\rangle = d_3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

It is clear from the above results that M and N share a common eigenbasis

$$\{|\omega_N = -1\rangle, |\omega_N = 2\rangle, |\omega_N = 3\rangle\}.$$