

Phys 521
HW #8
Solution Set

8.1. C-T F.v. 8

①

$$[A, \vec{L}] = 0$$

A, \vec{L}^2, L_z are CSCO, with eigenkets $|n, l, m\rangle$

$$A|n, l, m\rangle = a_n |n, l, m\rangle$$

$$\vec{L}^2 |n, l, m\rangle = l(l+1)\hbar^2 |n, l, m\rangle$$

$$L_z |n, l, m\rangle = m\hbar |n, l, m\rangle$$

$$U(\varphi) = e^{-i\varphi L_z / \hbar}$$

$$\vec{L} = U(\varphi) \mathcal{R} U^\dagger(\varphi)$$

(a) $L_\pm = L_x \pm iL_y$

$$\vec{L}_\pm = U(\varphi) L_\pm U^\dagger(\varphi)$$

$$\vec{L}_\pm |n, l, m\rangle = U(\varphi) L_\pm U^\dagger(\varphi) |n, l, m\rangle$$

$$= e^{-i\varphi L_z / \hbar} L_\pm \underbrace{e^{i\varphi L_z / \hbar} |n, l, m\rangle}_{e^{im\varphi} |n, l, m\rangle}$$

$$= e^{im\varphi} L_\pm |n, l, m\rangle$$

$$= e^{im\varphi} \sqrt{l(l+1) - m(m\pm 1)} |n, l, m\pm 1\rangle$$

$$= e^{im\varphi} \sqrt{l(l+1) - m(m\pm 1)} e^{-i(m\pm 1)\varphi} |n, l, m\pm 1\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{L}_\pm |n, l, m\rangle = e^{\mp i\varphi} \sqrt{l(l+1) - m(m\pm 1)} |n, l, m\pm 1\rangle$$

$$= e^{\mp i\varphi} L_\pm |n, l, m\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\tilde{L}_{\pm} = e^{\mp i\varphi} L_{\pm}}$$

Because the \tilde{L} operators have same action on a complete, orthonormal set

$$(b) \boxed{\tilde{L}_z = U(\varphi) L_z U^\dagger(\varphi) = L_z}$$

$$\tilde{L}_x \pm i\tilde{L}_y = \tilde{L}_{\pm} = e^{\mp i\varphi} L_{\pm}$$

$$= (\cos\varphi \mp i\sin\varphi) (L_x \pm iL_y)$$

$$= L_x \cos\varphi + L_y \sin\varphi$$

$$\pm i(-L_x \sin\varphi + L_y \cos\varphi)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\begin{aligned} \tilde{L}_x &= L_x \cos\varphi + L_y \sin\varphi \\ \tilde{L}_y &= -L_x \sin\varphi + L_y \cos\varphi \end{aligned}}$$

This is a rotation by angle φ about the z -axis

(c) Use the result of problem 7.3.

$$[X_j, L_k] = i\hbar \epsilon_{ijk} X_l$$

$$[X \pm iY, L_z] = [X, L_z] \pm i[Y, L_z]$$

$$= i\hbar \epsilon_{xzy} Y \pm i i\hbar \epsilon_{yzz} X$$

$$= i\hbar (-Y \pm iX)$$

$$= \mp i\hbar (X \pm iY)$$

$$[X \pm iY, L_z] = \mp \hbar (X \pm iY)$$

$$[Z, L_z] = 0$$

$$L_z (X \pm iY) |n, l, m\rangle = ((X \pm iY) L_z - [X \pm iY, L_z]) |n, l, m\rangle$$

$$= (X \pm iY) L_z |n, l, m\rangle \mp \hbar (X \pm iY) |n, l, m\rangle$$

$$= (m \pm 1) \hbar (X \pm iY) |n, l, m\rangle$$

$(X \pm iY) |n, l, m\rangle$ is an eigenvector of L_z with eigenvalue $(m \pm 1) \hbar$.

$$L_z Z |n, l, m\rangle = Z L_z |n, l, m\rangle = m \hbar Z |n, l, m\rangle$$

$Z |n, l, m\rangle$ is an eigenvector of L_z with eigenvalue $m \hbar$.

$\langle n', l', m' | (X \pm iY) |n, l, m\rangle$ is nonzero only if $m' = m \pm 1$.
 $\langle n', l', m' | Z |n, l, m\rangle$ is nonzero only if $m' = m$.

(d)

$$\langle n', l', m' | (\vec{X} \pm i\vec{Y}) | n, l, m \rangle = \underbrace{\langle n', l', m' | U(\varphi)}_{e^{-im'\varphi} \langle n', l', m' |} (\vec{X} \pm i\vec{Y}) \underbrace{U^\dagger(\varphi) | n, l, m \rangle}_{e^{im\varphi} | n, l, m \rangle}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$= e^{-i(m'-m)\varphi} \langle n', l', m' | (\vec{X} \pm i\vec{Y}) | n, l, m \rangle$$

Because the only non-zero matrix elements have $m' = m \pm 1$

$$= e^{\mp i\varphi} \langle n', l', m' | (\vec{X} \pm i\vec{Y}) | n, l, m \rangle$$

$$\therefore (\vec{X} \pm i\vec{Y}) = e^{\mp i\varphi} (\vec{X} \pm i\vec{Y})$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \vec{X} = X \cos\varphi + Y \sin\varphi \\ \vec{Y} = -X \sin\varphi + Y \cos\varphi \end{cases}$$

$$\langle n', l', m' | \vec{Z} | n, l, m \rangle = e^{-i(m'-m)\varphi} \langle n', l', m' | \vec{Z} | n, l, m \rangle$$

$$= \langle n', l', m' | \vec{Z} | n, l, m \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{Z} = \vec{Z}$$

(c) Suppose $\Delta J_x = \Delta J_y = \Delta J_z = 0$

$$\Delta J_x = 0 \Rightarrow \langle \psi | (\Delta J_x)^2 | \psi \rangle = 0, \text{ where } \Delta J_x = J_x - \langle J_x \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta J_x | \psi \rangle = 0, \text{ i.e., } | \psi \rangle \text{ is an eigenstate}$$

$$\text{of } J_x \text{ (with eigenvalue } \langle J_x \rangle \text{).}$$

$\therefore | \psi \rangle$ must be a simultaneous eigenstate of $J_x, J_y,$ and J_z

Eigenstate of J_z :

$$J_z | \psi \rangle = m\hbar | \psi \rangle \Rightarrow | \psi \rangle = \sum_{k,j} c_{kj} | k, j, m \rangle$$

↑
for some value of m

Eigenstate of J_x and J_y

$$J_x | \psi \rangle = \langle J_x \rangle | \psi \rangle \iff J_y | \psi \rangle = \langle J_y \rangle | \psi \rangle$$

$$J_y | \psi \rangle = \langle J_y \rangle | \psi \rangle$$

$$\langle J_{\pm} \rangle | \psi \rangle = J_{\pm} | \psi \rangle = \sum_{k,j} c_{kj} J_{\pm} | k, j, m \rangle = \sum_{k,j} c_{kj} \sqrt{j(j+1) - m(m \pm 1)} | k, j, m \pm 1 \rangle$$

The only way this can be true for J_+ is if $m = +j$, and the only way it can be true for J_- is if $m = -j$. We therefore must have

$$m = j = -j \Rightarrow m = j = 0.$$

Conclusion:

$$\Delta J_x = \Delta J_y = \Delta J_z = 0 \quad \text{iff} \quad |\psi\rangle = \sum_k c_k |k, 0, 0\rangle$$

(b)

(c) Let A and B be any two observables.

$$(\Delta A)^2 (\Delta B)^2 = \langle \psi | \underbrace{(\Delta A)^2} (A - \langle A \rangle)^2 | \psi \rangle \langle \psi | \underbrace{(\Delta B)^2} (B - \langle B \rangle)^2 | \psi \rangle$$

Schwarz inequality
 $|\langle \phi | \chi \rangle|^2 \leq \langle \phi | \phi \rangle \langle \chi | \chi \rangle$,
 with $|\chi\rangle = \Delta B | \psi \rangle$
 and $|\phi\rangle = \Delta A | \psi \rangle$
 Equality iff
 $\Delta A | \psi \rangle = -i \lambda \Delta B | \psi \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} &\geq \left| \langle \psi | \Delta A \Delta B | \psi \rangle \right|^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{real} \\ &= \left| \langle \psi | \frac{1}{2} (\Delta A \Delta B + \Delta B \Delta A) | \psi \rangle \right|^2 \\ &\quad + \left| \frac{1}{2} \langle \psi | [\Delta A, \Delta B] | \psi \rangle \right|^2 \\ &= \langle \psi | [A, B] | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | [A, B]^\dagger | \psi \rangle^* \\ &\quad \downarrow \\ &\quad \text{this is pure imaginary} \\ &= \langle \psi | [A, B] | \psi \rangle^* \\ &= C^2 + \frac{1}{4} |\langle [A, B] \rangle|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Equality iff
C=0

$$\rightarrow \geq \frac{1}{4} |\langle [A, B] \rangle|^2$$

Robertson uncertainty principle:

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

There is equality in the Robertson up iff

$$\textcircled{1} \quad C = \frac{1}{2} \langle \Delta A \Delta B + \Delta B \Delta A \rangle = 0$$

$$\text{and } \textcircled{2} \quad (\Delta A + i\lambda \Delta B)|\psi\rangle = 0$$

$$C = \frac{1}{2} \langle \psi | \Delta A \Delta B | \psi \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle \psi | \Delta B \Delta A | \psi \rangle$$
$$= i\lambda^* \langle \psi | \Delta B^2 | \psi \rangle - i\lambda \langle \psi | \Delta B^2 | \psi \rangle$$

$$= -\frac{2i}{2} (\lambda - \lambda^*) \langle \psi | (\Delta B)^2 | \psi \rangle$$

$$= \text{Im}(\lambda) \langle \psi | (\Delta B)^2 | \psi \rangle$$

$$\therefore C = 0 \text{ iff } \text{Im}(\lambda) = 0$$

We can replace the equality conditions $\textcircled{1}$ and $\textcircled{2}$ above by

There is equality in the Robertson uncertainty principle iff

$$(\Delta A + i\lambda \Delta B)|\psi\rangle = 0, \text{ where } \lambda = \lambda^*.$$

Notice that $\lambda^2 = \frac{\langle \psi | (\Delta A)^2 | \psi \rangle}{\langle \psi | (\Delta B)^2 | \psi \rangle}$ determines the ratios of the variances.

Applied to angular momentum, the Robertson up yields

$$\Delta J_x \Delta J_y \geq \frac{1}{2} |\langle [J_x, J_y] \rangle| = \frac{\hbar}{2} |\langle J_z \rangle|$$

and cyclic permutations thereof.

Equality iff $(\Delta J_x + i\lambda \Delta J_y)|\psi\rangle = 0$, $\lambda = \lambda^*$

(ii) $\langle \vec{J} \rangle = \langle J_z \rangle \vec{e}_z \Rightarrow \langle J_x \rangle = \langle J_y \rangle = 0$

$$(\Delta J_x)^2 + (\Delta J_y)^2 = \langle J_x^2 \rangle + \langle J_y^2 \rangle$$

$$= \langle \vec{J}^2 \rangle - \langle J_z^2 \rangle$$

$$= \langle J_+ J_- \rangle + \hbar \langle J_z \rangle$$

$$= \langle \psi | J_+ J_- | \psi \rangle \geq 0$$

$$\langle J_z \rangle \geq 0: (\Delta J_x)^2 + (\Delta J_y)^2 \geq \hbar \langle J_z \rangle = \hbar |\langle J_z \rangle|$$

Equality iff $J_+ |\psi\rangle = 0$

$$\langle J_z \rangle \leq 0: (\Delta J_x)^2 + (\Delta J_y)^2 \geq -\hbar \langle J_z \rangle = \hbar |\langle J_z \rangle|$$

Equality iff $J_- |\psi\rangle = 0$

Equality iff $J_+ |\psi\rangle = 0$

(c) Equality in (b)(i) and (b)(ii) $\Rightarrow J_+ |\psi\rangle = 0$ or $J_- |\psi\rangle = 0$

Moreover, if $J_+ |\psi\rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta J_+ |\psi\rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta J_x = \Delta J_y = 0$

$\Rightarrow (\Delta J_x \pm i \Delta J_y) |\psi\rangle = 0 \Rightarrow$ equality in (b)(i) with $\lambda = \pm 1$

and equality in (b)(w).

Direct check:

$$0 = J_{\pm} |\psi\rangle = (J_x \pm iJ_y) |\psi\rangle \Rightarrow 0 = \langle \psi | J_{\pm} | \psi \rangle = \langle J_x \rangle \pm i \langle J_y \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \langle \psi | (J_x \pm iJ_y)^2 | \psi \rangle = \underbrace{\langle J_x^2 \rangle - \langle J_y^2 \rangle}_0 \pm i \underbrace{\langle J_x J_y + J_y J_x \rangle}_0$$

and

$$0 = \langle \psi | (J_x \mp iJ_y)(J_x \pm iJ_y) | \psi \rangle$$

$$= \langle J_x^2 \rangle + \langle J_y^2 \rangle \pm i \underbrace{\langle [J_x, J_y] \rangle}_{\hbar J_z}$$

$$= \langle J_x^2 \rangle + \langle J_y^2 \rangle \mp \hbar \langle J_z \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle J_x^2 \rangle - \langle J_y^2 \rangle = \pm \frac{1}{2} \hbar \langle J_z \rangle$$

(d) $\vec{J} = \vec{L} = \vec{R} \times \vec{P}$

Suppose $\Delta L_x \Delta L_y = \frac{\hbar}{2} | \langle L_z \rangle |$ and $(\Delta L_x)^2 + (\Delta L_y)^2 = \hbar | \langle L_z \rangle |$.
Then $L_+ |\psi\rangle = 0$ or $L_- |\psi\rangle = 0$

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{k,l,m} c_{klm} |k,l,m\rangle$$

$$0 = L_{\pm} |\psi\rangle = \sum_{k,l,m} c_{klm} L_{\pm} |k,l,m\rangle = \sum_{k,l,m} c_{klm} \sqrt{l(l+1) - m(m \pm 1)} |k,l,m \pm 1\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow |\psi\rangle = \sum_{k,l} c_{k,l,\pm l} |k,l,\pm l\rangle$$

$$\psi(\vec{r}) = \langle \vec{r} | \psi \rangle = \sum_{k,l} c_{k,l,\pm l} R_{kl}(\vec{r}) \underbrace{Y_l^{\pm l}(\theta, \varphi)}_{\propto (\sin\theta)^l e^{\pm i l \varphi} = \left(\frac{x \pm iy}{r}\right)^l}$$

$$\therefore \Psi(\vec{r}) = F(r, \sin\theta e^{i\phi})$$

8.3.

$$H = \vec{P}^2 / 2\mu + \frac{1}{2} \mu \omega^2 \vec{R}^2$$

$$= \hbar \omega \left(a_x^\dagger a_x + a_y^\dagger a_y + a_z^\dagger a_z + \frac{3}{2} \right)$$

$$= \hbar \omega \left(a_R^\dagger a_R + a_L^\dagger a_L + a_z^\dagger a_z + \frac{3}{2} \right)$$

$$a_j = \sqrt{\frac{\mu \omega}{2\hbar}} \left(X_j + i P_j / \mu \omega \right),$$

$j=1,2,3$

$$a_R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (a_x + i a_y)$$

$$L_z = \hbar (a_R^\dagger a_R - a_L^\dagger a_L)$$

$$L_+ = \sqrt{2} \hbar (a_z^\dagger a_L - a_R^\dagger a_z)$$

$$L_- = \sqrt{2} \hbar (a_L^\dagger a_z - a_z^\dagger a_R)$$

$$|X_{n_R n_L n_z}\rangle = \frac{(a_R^\dagger)^{n_R} (a_L^\dagger)^{n_L} (a_z^\dagger)^{n_z}}{\sqrt{n_R! n_L! n_z!}} |X_{000}\rangle$$

Work in the 6-d subspace with $n = n_R + n_L + n_z = 2$

($E_n = \frac{7}{2} \hbar \omega$), which consists of the states

(a) $|X_{200}\rangle$

$|X_{101}\rangle$

$|X_{110}\rangle, |X_{002}\rangle$

$|X_{011}\rangle$

$|X_{020}\rangle$

$$L_j = \epsilon_{jkl} X_k P_l$$

$$= \epsilon_{jkl} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\mu\omega}} (a_k + a_k^\dagger) (i\mu\omega) \sqrt{\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}} (a_l - a_l^\dagger)$$

$$= -i \frac{\hbar}{2} \epsilon_{jkl} (a_k a_l - a_k^\dagger a_l^\dagger - a_k^\dagger a_l + a_k a_l^\dagger)$$

Symmetric in k and l,
so sum to zero

$$= -i \frac{\hbar}{2} \epsilon_{jkl} (a_k^\dagger a_l - a_l^\dagger a_k - \delta_{kl})$$

sum to zero

$$= i\hbar \epsilon_{jkl} a_l^\dagger a_k$$

$$L_z = i\hbar (a_y^\dagger a_x - a_x^\dagger a_y)$$

$$L_x = i\hbar (a_z^\dagger a_y - a_y^\dagger a_z)$$

$$L_y = i\hbar (a_x^\dagger a_z - a_z^\dagger a_x)$$

$$L_+ = L_x + iL_y$$

$$= i\hbar (a_x^\dagger (a_y - i a_z) - (a_y^\dagger - i a_z^\dagger) a_x)$$

$$= -i (a_x^\dagger + i a_z^\dagger) (a_y + i a_z)$$

$$= -i \sqrt{2} a_R^\dagger (a_L + a_z)$$

$$L_+ = \hbar \sqrt{2} (a_R^\dagger a_L - a_R^\dagger a_z)$$

$$L_- = L_+^\dagger = \hbar \sqrt{2} (a_L^\dagger a_R - a_z^\dagger a_R)$$

$$L_z |X_{200}\rangle = 2\hbar |X_{200}\rangle$$

$$L_z |X_{101}\rangle = \hbar |X_{101}\rangle$$

$$L_z |X_{110}\rangle = 0, \quad L_z |X_{002}\rangle = 0$$

$$L_z |X_{011}\rangle = -\hbar |X_{011}\rangle$$

$$L_z |X_{020}\rangle = -2\hbar |X_{020}\rangle$$

(b) The eigenvalues of L_z suggest that there is one $l=2$ subspace and one $l=0$ subspace. We know that $|X_{200}\rangle$, which has $m=2$, is the top state in an $l=2$ subspace because

$$L_+ |X_{200}\rangle = \sqrt{2} \hbar (a_z^\dagger a_z - a_R^\dagger a_z) |X_{200}\rangle = 0$$

Since L_- cannot take us out of the $l=2$ subspace, the states in the $l=2$ subspace are

$$|X_{200}\rangle \quad m=2$$

$$|X_{101}\rangle \quad m=1$$

$$\alpha |X_{110}\rangle + \beta |X_{002}\rangle \quad m=0$$

$$|X_{011}\rangle \quad m=-1$$

$$|X_{020}\rangle \quad m=2$$

where we must determine α and β . The orthogonal linear combination of $|X_{110}\rangle$ and $|X_{002}\rangle$ must make up a $l=0$ subspace. We can find this orthogonal linear combination because it must satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= L_+ (\gamma |X_{110}\rangle + \delta |X_{002}\rangle) \\ \Rightarrow 0 &= \gamma (a_z^\dagger a_z - a_R^\dagger a_z) |X_{110}\rangle + \delta (a_z^\dagger a_z - a_R^\dagger a_z) |X_{002}\rangle \\ &= \gamma |X_{101}\rangle - \delta \sqrt{2} |X_{101}\rangle \\ \Rightarrow \gamma &= \delta \sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

Normalization: $1 = |x|^2 + |y|^2 = 3|x|^2 \Rightarrow |x| = 1/\sqrt{3}$

Choose δ real: $\delta = 1/\sqrt{3}, \gamma = \sqrt{2}/3$

$$l=0, m=0: |0,0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (\sqrt{2}|X_{110}\rangle + |X_{002}\rangle)$$

The orthogonal linear combination, which has $l=2, m=0$ is $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (|X_{110}\rangle - \sqrt{2}|X_{002}\rangle)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 l=2, m=2: |2,2\rangle &= |X_{200}\rangle \\
 l=2, m=1: |2,1\rangle &= |X_{101}\rangle \\
 l=2, m=0: |2,0\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (|X_{110}\rangle - \sqrt{2}|X_{002}\rangle) \\
 l=2, m=-1: |2,-1\rangle &= |X_{011}\rangle \\
 l=2, m=-2: |2,-2\rangle &= |X_{020}\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

Another way to proceed is to lower $|X_{200}\rangle$ successively to produce the other $l=2$ states

$$|X_{200}\rangle = |2,2\rangle$$

$$L_- |2,2\rangle = 2\hbar |2,1\rangle$$

$$\sqrt{2}\hbar (a_L^\dagger a_L - a_R^\dagger a_R) |X_{200}\rangle = -\sqrt{2}\hbar \sqrt{2} |X_{101}\rangle = -2\hbar |X_{101}\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow |2,1\rangle = -|X_{101}\rangle$$

$$L_- |2, 1\rangle = \sqrt{6} \hbar |2, 0\rangle$$

$$= -\sqrt{2} \hbar (a_L^\dagger a_z - a_z^\dagger a_R) |X_{101}\rangle = -\sqrt{2} \hbar (|X_{110}\rangle - \sqrt{2} |X_{002}\rangle)$$

$$\Rightarrow |2, 0\rangle = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (|X_{110}\rangle - \sqrt{2} |X_{002}\rangle)$$

$$L_- |2, 0\rangle = \sqrt{6} \hbar |2, -1\rangle$$

$$= -\sqrt{2} \hbar (a_L^\dagger a_z - a_z^\dagger a_R) \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (|X_{110}\rangle - \sqrt{2} |X_{002}\rangle) \right]$$

$$= -\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \hbar (-|X_{011}\rangle - \sqrt{2} |X_{011}\rangle)$$

$$= \sqrt{6} \hbar |X_{011}\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow |2, -1\rangle = |X_{011}\rangle$$

When doing things this way, we find the conventional phases of the states $|l, m\rangle$

$$L_- |2, -1\rangle = 2 \hbar |2, -2\rangle$$

$$= \sqrt{2} \hbar (a_L^\dagger a_z - a_z^\dagger a_R) |X_{011}\rangle = \sqrt{2} \hbar \sqrt{2} |X_{020}\rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow |2, -2\rangle = |X_{020}\rangle$$

We find the other m=0 state as the orthogonal linear combination to $|2, 0\rangle$ and then verify that it has l=0 by showing that it raises to 0.

8.4. Schwinger representation

(e) $J_z = \frac{1}{2\hbar} (\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ - \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_-)$
 $J_x = \frac{1}{2\hbar} (\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_- + \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+)$
 $J_y = -\frac{i}{2\hbar} (\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_- - \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+)$

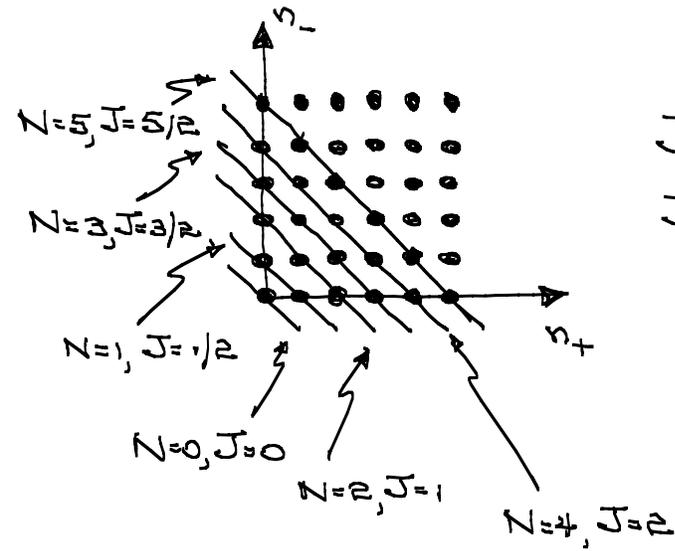
$$\begin{aligned} \vec{J} \cdot \vec{J} &= J_x^2 + J_y^2 + J_z^2 = \frac{1}{4} \hbar^2 \left[(\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_- + \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+)^2 - (\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_- - \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+)^2 + (\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ - \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_-)^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \hbar^2 \left(\underbrace{2\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_- \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+ + 2\alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+ \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_-}_{-2\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_-} + \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ + \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- \right) \\ &\quad \begin{array}{l} \swarrow \qquad \searrow \\ \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ (\alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- + 1) \qquad \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- (\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ + 1) \\ = \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- + \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ \qquad \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ + \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- \end{array} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \hbar^2 \left[(\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+)^2 + (\alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_-)^2 + 2\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- + 2\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ + 2\alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \hbar^2 (\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ + \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- + 2)(\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ + \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_-) \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{J} \cdot \vec{J} = \hbar^2 (N/2 + 1) N/2$$

$$\begin{aligned} [J_x, J_y] &= -\frac{i}{4} \hbar^2 [\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_- + \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+, \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_- - \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+] \\ &= -\frac{i}{2} \hbar^2 [\alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+, \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_-] \\ &\quad \begin{array}{l} \swarrow \qquad \searrow \\ = \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+ \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_- - \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_- \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_+ \\ = \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- (\alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ + 1) - \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ (\alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- + 1) \\ = \alpha_-^\dagger \alpha_- - \alpha_+^\dagger \alpha_+ \end{array} \\ &= i\hbar J_z \end{aligned}$$

The eigenvalue equations allow a phase in this relation. But, suppose we choose $|n_+, n_-\rangle = |J=N/2, M=N/2\rangle$ and then lower using $J_- = J_x - iJ_y = \hbar a_-^\dagger a_+$. Each lowering decreases n_+ by 1 and increases n_- by 1, i.e., decreases M by 1, without putting in any phase. So things are as stated.

Digression: The states $|n_+, n_-\rangle = |JM\rangle$ lie on a grid, with the angular-momentum subspaces corresponding to the antidiagonals.



$J_+ = \hbar a_+^\dagger a_-$ ← moves down one unit and to the right one unit
 $J_- = \hbar a_-^\dagger a_+$ ← moves to the left one unit and up one unit