

To summarize,

$$|\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle \text{ has eigenvalue of } \vec{S}_1 \cdot \vec{S}_2 = \frac{\hbar^2}{4}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle) \quad \text{"} \quad \text{"}$$

$$|\downarrow, \downarrow\rangle \quad \text{"} \quad \text{"}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle) \quad \text{"} \quad = -3 \frac{\hbar^2}{4}$$

Another way of looking at this is to consider the operators: (Read Text 107-113)

$$\vec{S}^2 \equiv (\vec{S}_1 + \vec{S}_2)^2 = \vec{S}_1^2 + \vec{S}_2^2 + 2\vec{S}_1 \cdot \vec{S}_2$$

$$\vec{S}_1^2 |\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle = \hbar^2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}+1) |\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle = \frac{3}{4}\hbar^2 |\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle$$

same for $|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle, |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle, |\downarrow, \downarrow\rangle$; \vec{S}_2^2

$$\vec{S}^2 \begin{bmatrix} |\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle) \\ |\downarrow, \downarrow\rangle \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\left(2 \times \frac{3}{4}\hbar^2 + 2 \times \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \right)}_{1(1+1)\hbar^2} \begin{bmatrix} |\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle) \\ |\downarrow, \downarrow\rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

so the triplet of states has total angular momentum $1 \times \hbar$; eigenvalue of \vec{S}^2 is $S(S+1)\hbar^2$, so $S=1$

the z-component of \vec{S} varies for these 3 states

$$S_z |\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle = (S_{1z} + S_{2z}) |\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle = \left(\frac{\hbar}{2} + \frac{\hbar}{2}\right) |\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle = \hbar |\uparrow, \uparrow\rangle; \quad S_z = 1$$

$$S_z \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle) = (S_{1z} + S_{2z}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle) = \left(\frac{\hbar}{2} - \frac{\hbar}{2}\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle + |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle) \\ S_z = 0$$

$$\text{and } S_z |\downarrow, \downarrow\rangle = -\hbar |\downarrow, \downarrow\rangle \quad S_z = -1$$

For the singlet

$$\vec{S}^2 \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle) \right] = \left(2 \times \frac{3}{4}\hbar^2 - 2 \times \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle) \\ = 0 \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow, \downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow, \uparrow\rangle)$$

so: eigenvalue of \vec{S}^2 is $0 \cdot \hbar^2$, or $S=0$; S_z is 0

What's happened here is an example of the addition of angular momentum. The addition of angular momentum \vec{J}_1 and \vec{J}_2 (which might be 2 spins; an orbital + a spin; or even 2 orbitals) is relevant when there is physics that adds a term like $\vec{J}_1 \cdot \vec{J}_2$ to the Hamiltonian

Eigenvalues of $(\vec{J}_1 + \vec{J}_2)^2 = \vec{J}_1^2 + \vec{J}_2^2 + 2\vec{J}_1 \cdot \vec{J}_2$

↑
"total angular momentum"

will be eigenvalues of $\vec{J}_1 \cdot \vec{J}_2$.

So there are two bases:

#1 Product States:

$|j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2\rangle$

↑
eigenstates of
of $\vec{J}_1^2, \vec{J}_2^2, J_{1z}, J_{2z}$

like $|1, 1/2\rangle$

not eigenstates
of $(\vec{J}_1 + \vec{J}_2)^2$

#2 Eigenstates of Total J

$|j_1 j_2 J M\rangle$

↑
eigenstates of
 $\vec{J}_1^2, \vec{J}_2^2, J^2, J_z$

$\vec{J}^2 = (\vec{J}_1 + \vec{J}_2)^2$

not eigenstates of
 J_{1z} individually
"
 J_{2z}

like $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|1, 1/2\rangle \pm |1/2, 1\rangle)$

$-j_1 \leq m_1 \leq +j_1 \quad -j_2 \leq m_2 \leq +j_2$

= $(2j_1 + 1) \times (2j_2 + 1)$

= ?

answer: $|j_1 - j_2| \leq J \leq j_1 + j_2$

How Many ??

Product states:

Eigenstates of
total J

Claim: $\sum_{j=|j_1-j_2|}^{j_1+j_2} (2j+1) = (2j_1+1)(2j_2+1)$

homework.

The coefficients that translate between the $|j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2\rangle$ basis and the $|j_1 j_2 JM\rangle$ are known as the "Clebsch-Gordan" coefficients

$$|j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2\rangle = \sum_{J=|j_1-j_2|}^{j_1+j_2} C_{M m_1 m_2}^{J j_1 j_2} |j_1 j_2 JM\rangle$$

Coefficients

$M = m_1 + m_2$

example: $j_1 = 2, j_2 = 1 \Rightarrow 1 \leq J \leq 3$
 $m_1 = 1, m_2 = -1$

$$|2 1; 1 -1\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{1}{5}} |2 1; 3 0\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} |2 1; 2 0\rangle + \sqrt{\frac{3}{10}} |2 1; 1 0\rangle$$

$M=0$

reverse works as well.

$$|j_1 j_2 JM\rangle = \sum_{\substack{m_1, m_2 \\ m_1 + m_2 = M}} C_{M m_1 m_2}^{J j_1 j_2} |j_1 j_2 m_1 m_2\rangle$$

again: $j_1 = 2, j_2 = 1 \quad 1 \leq J \leq 3$
pick $J=2, M=0$

$$|2 0\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} |2 1; 1 -1\rangle + 0 |2 1; 0 0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} |2 1; -1 1\rangle$$

use particle data book table (attached) to get the C-G coefficients

31. 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 $-\sqrt{8/15}$.

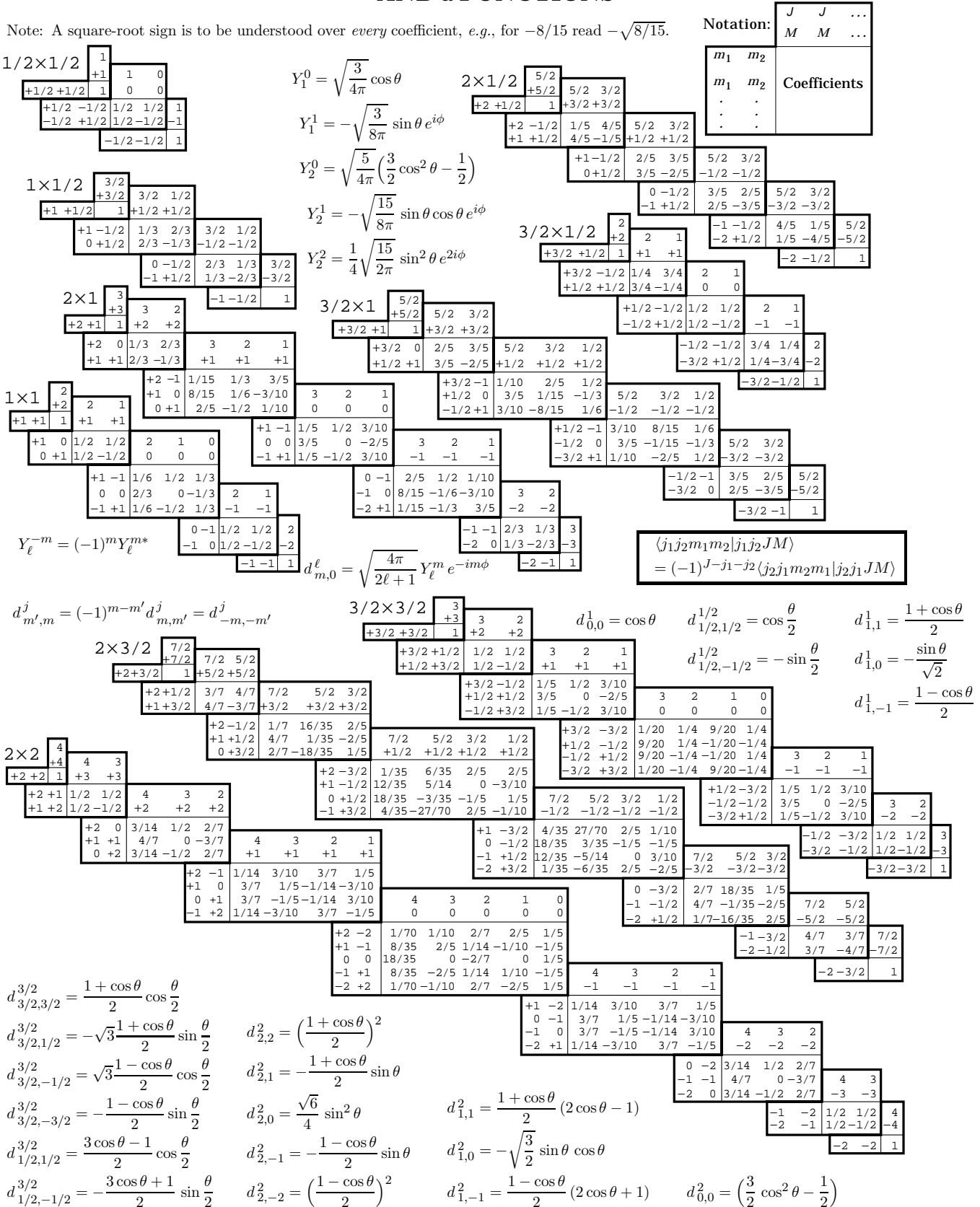


Figure 31.1: The sign convention is that of Wigner (*Group Theory*, Academic Press, New York, 1959), also used by Condon and Shortley (*The Theory of Atomic Spectra*, Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, 1953), Rose (*Elementary Theory of Angular Momentum*, Wiley, New York, 1957), and Cohen (*Tables of the Clebsch-Gordan Coefficients*, North American Rockwell Science Center, Thousand Oaks, Calif., 1974). The coefficients here have been calculated using computer programs written independently by Cohen and at LBNL.