

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{L}^2|\psi\rangle &= \hat{L}^2(\hat{L}_+|\psi\rangle) = \hat{L}_+ \hat{L}^2|\psi\rangle \\
 &= \hat{L}_+ [\ell(\ell+1)\hbar^2|\psi\rangle] = \ell(\ell+1)\hbar^2 \hat{L}_+|\psi\rangle \\
 &= \ell(\ell+1)\hbar^2|\psi\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{L}_z|\psi\rangle &= \hat{L}_z(\hat{L}_+|\psi\rangle) = (\hat{L}_z \hat{L}_+)|\psi\rangle \\
 &= (\hbar \hat{L}_+ + \hat{L}_+ \hat{L}_z)|\psi\rangle \\
 &= \hbar \hat{L}_+|\psi\rangle + \hat{L}_+ m\hbar|\psi\rangle = \hbar(1+m)\hat{L}_+|\psi\rangle \\
 &= \hbar(1+m)|\psi\rangle \quad \square \quad 0|\psi\rangle \quad \text{if } m = m_{\max}
 \end{aligned}$$

The raising process must eventually end.

$$\hat{L}_+|\ell, m_{\max}\rangle = 0 \quad \text{since } \boxed{m^2 \leq \ell(\ell+1)}$$

Proof: $\langle \hat{L}^2 \rangle = \langle \psi | \hat{L}^2 | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | \hat{L}_x^2 + \hat{L}_y^2 + \hat{L}_z^2 | \psi \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \langle \psi | \hat{L}_x^2 | \psi \rangle + \langle \psi | \hat{L}_y^2 | \psi \rangle + \langle \psi | \hat{L}_z^2 | \psi \rangle \\
 &= (\langle \psi | \hat{L}_x) (\hat{L}_x | \psi \rangle) + \dots \\
 &= \langle \alpha | \alpha \rangle + m^2 \hbar^2 \langle \psi | \psi \rangle \quad \uparrow
 \end{aligned}$$

$$l(l+1)\hbar^2 \langle \psi | \psi \rangle = \underbrace{m^2 \hbar^2}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{b^2 + a^2}_{\geq 0}$$

$$\hat{L}_z |l, m_{\max}\rangle = ? = q\hbar |l, m_{\max}\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{L}_+ \hat{L}_- &= (\hat{L}_x + i\hat{L}_y)(\hat{L}_x - i\hat{L}_y) \\ &= \underbrace{\hat{L}_x^2 + \hat{L}_y^2}_{\hat{L}^2 - \hat{L}_z^2} - i(\hat{L}_x \hat{L}_y - \hat{L}_y \hat{L}_x) \\ &\qquad\qquad\qquad [\hat{L}_x, \hat{L}_y] = i\hbar \hat{L}_z \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{L}_+ \hat{L}_- = \hat{L}^2 - \hat{L}_z^2 - i(i\hbar)\hat{L}_z$$

$$\hat{L}^2 = \hat{L}_+ \hat{L}_- + \hat{L}_z^2 + \hbar \hat{L}_z$$

$$\hat{L}^2 |l, m_{\max}\rangle = (\hat{L}_+ \hat{L}_- + \hat{L}_z^2 + \hbar \hat{L}_z) |l, m_{\max}\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} l(l+1)\hbar^2 |l, m_{\max}\rangle &= (0 + q^2 \hbar^2 + \hbar q \hbar) |l, m_{\max}\rangle \\ &= q(q+1)\hbar^2 |l, m_{\max}\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$q = l$$

$$m_{\max} = l$$

$$m_{\min} = -l$$

$$m \in \underbrace{\{-l, -l+1, \dots, -1, 0, +1, \dots, l-1, l\}}_{2l+1}$$

There are N integer steps between $-l$ and $+l$.

$$-l + N = +l \Rightarrow N = 2l \Rightarrow l = \frac{N}{2}$$

$$l \in \left\{ 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2, \dots \right\}$$

orbital angular momentum
 l must be an integer

spin angular momentum
 l can be any in the set.

Cohen-Tannoudji

It is possible to find simultaneous eigenvectors

$$[\hat{L}_z, \hat{L}^2] = 0, \quad [\hat{H}, \hat{L}_z] = 0, \quad [\hat{H}, \hat{L}^2] = 0$$

$$\hat{H} |\psi_{nlm}\rangle = E_{nl} |\psi_{nlm}\rangle$$

$$\hat{L}^2 |\psi_{nlm}\rangle = l(l+1)\hbar^2 |\psi_{nlm}\rangle$$

$$\hat{L}_z |\psi_{nlm}\rangle = m\hbar |\psi_{nlm}\rangle$$