

# 6) Permutation Operator 5-137 and Particle ~~Exchange~~ Exchange

This is a topic which  
is, in my opinion, poorly  
explained in many textbooks.  
I've read through the relevant  
~~the~~ sections in CT-1378

Baym - 389

Menzbacher - 423

But I've  
thought  
that  
before

and believe I finally "get it".

Probably if one was really smart  
one could "get it" from any of them,  
but I'm not so smart.

→ It's a case of each one  
~~omitting a~~ clarifying detail or  
~~some~~ omitting a different set of  
clarifying remarks or details  
or examples.

Let's see if I can do any better.

5-138

First let's say permutation  
and particle exchange <sup>{ which is what permutation does when explained. }</sup>  
are a formalism for studying  
the symmetry properties  
of states (AKA wave  
functions when that  
term is appropriate)  
and operators.

The permutation operator  
"effects" a particle exchange.  
But this is NOT a physical  
process — it's a way of  
mathematically constructing a new state.  
(But with symmetrized states, it  
doesn't construct a new state.)

Let's start (and only  
look in much detail) at  
the case of 2 particles.

In this section, we'll assume they are distinct.

— So they can be told apart by some interaction.

But we will assume they have the same spin  $S$ .

(Usually, we are thinking of spin  $\frac{1}{2}$  particles).

Each particle has its own ~~spin~~ state space (this is the formalism that works)

But And assume that we have a complete set of commuting observables (C.S.C.O.) for each particle (CT-143)

synonym  
↓  
or compatible  
CT-231

5-140

What is a C.S.C.O.?

A C.S.C.O.

is enough observables

so that their

eigenvalues

or quantum numbers

completely specify

the state of a particle

quantum number

are dimensionless

indexes

for

eigenvalues

For example

a spin  $\frac{1}{2}$

particle

has spin

quantum number  $\frac{1}{2}$

The observables

have to commute

e.g.,  $[A, B] = 0$ .

When they do ~~the~~  
a particle can be in

a definite ~~state~~  
eigenstate

of both observables.

(CT-140)

But this is relative to

remember and say

The actual spin

ang. mom.

squared eigenvalue

is

$$s(s+1)\hbar^2$$

$$= \frac{3}{4}\hbar^2$$

If  $[A, B] \neq 0$ ,

then ~~there~~ a particle can't be in an eigenstate of both simultaneously and there is an uncertainty relation for the results of "measurements" of the observable.

Really standard deviations in the eigenvalues of superimposed states.

$$\sigma_A^2 \sigma_B^2 \geq \left( \frac{1}{2} \langle i[A, B] \rangle \right)^2 \quad (Eq-110)$$

~~How if you have the~~

Particles do have alternative ~~sets~~ C.S.C.O.'s

~~The~~ most basic ~~subset~~ C.S.C.O., I think,

$$\begin{aligned}
& (i[A, B])^\dagger \\
&= (-i)[(AB)^\dagger - (BA)^\dagger] \\
&= -i[B^\dagger A^\dagger - A^\dagger B^\dagger] \\
&= -i[BA - AB] \\
&= i[A, B] \\
&\text{and so is itself Hermitian.}
\end{aligned}$$

5-142

in the space - spin C.S.C.O.  
(or position)

There are only 2 observables  
in the C.S.C.O.

$\hat{L}_op$  and  $\hat{S}_z op$

(well 3 if you count

$S^2 op$  but it has only

one ~~observable~~  $S^2$  <sup>quantum</sup> number

For a spin  $1/2$  particle  
 $s = 1/2$ )

The eigen values of  $\hat{L}_op$

are all points in space

— a continuous spectrum  
of them.

— the eigenfunctions in the  
space representation are  
Dirac delta functions

$\delta(\underline{r} - \underline{r}')$

Well  
the number  
(k-space,  
AKA  
momentum  
space)  
— spin  
C.S.C.O  
may be  
equally  
bare  
depending  
on

Your  
point  
of view,

Maybe  
Not  
though

Particles  
at some  
point  
in space  
are part  
of the  
same system.

but particles  
Not entangled  
but remote  
with some k  
are not part  
of same system.

But maybe particles  
at same point in  
space in alternate world  
are equally disentangled?

But not quite symmetric  
— two particles have some  $\underline{r}$  &  $\underline{k}$  and be  
disentangled — and unsymmetrical  
if identical? maybe  
works yes.

in bra-ket notation  
the spatial eigenstate  
is the abstract ket

5-143

Expansion coefficient of  $|r\rangle$

$$|r\rangle$$



in space

$$\langle r' | r \rangle = \delta(r - r')$$

(CT-145)

a sort  
of normalized  
condition  
for a  
continuous  
spectrum  
of eigenstates

I always  
picture  
these  
as attached  
to every  
point  
in space

The quantum numbers for  $S_{zop}$

$$\text{are } m = -s, -s+1, \dots, s-1, s$$

there are always  $2s+1$   
of these.

So the space-spin eigenket  
of a particle is

$$\cancel{|r\rangle}, |r, m\rangle$$

Another C.S.C.O would

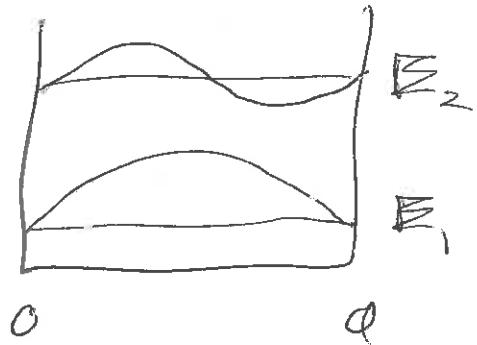
be one ~~including~~<sup>specifying</sup> energy  
eigenstate (stationary states)

5-144

e.g., say we had a 1-d  
infinite square well.

The stationary  
states  
are

$$|\psi_n\rangle$$



where  $E_n = \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\right) \left(\frac{\pi}{a}\right)^2 n^2$  (Gr-32)

In a space representation,  
the coefficient is what we  
ordinarily call a wave function:

$$\langle x | \psi_n \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin(kx)$$

$$ka = n\pi$$

$$n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$n$  is the quantum number indexing  
energy.

If the particle has spin, then we  
need 2 quantum numbers for  
an eigenket  $|\psi_n, m\rangle$



which you could just 5-145  
write  $|n m\rangle$  if you like.

~~That's~~ If you specify  $n, m$   
you have uniquely specified  
the state.

— in general more than one  
particle can be in the state.

So having a C.S.C.O. allows  
you to specify the full state  
of a particle — but not  
in general specify a particle  
uniquely.

That's enough on C.S.C.O.'s  
for now.

Return to our two particles  
— they have the same spin  
recall, but are distinct.

5-146

They each have their own state space and their own individual observables  
(It's just the formalism that works.)

We demand or assume further that they have isomorphic C.S.C.O.'s

ones  $n$  will have the same eigenstates and eigenvalues.

For example, all particles of the same spin have isomorphic space-spin C.S.C.O.'s

Particle 1

$v_{op1}, s_{zop1}$  for 1

$v_{op2}, s_{zop2}$  for 2

And  $k$ -space-spin  
wave number or momentum  
C.S.C.O.'s too.

Other C.S.C.A.s

5-147

can be isomorphic  
for the two particles  
depending on cases.

e.g., two distinct, but  
non-interacting particles  
in an infinite-square well.

→ as far as the system  
behaves, the ~~particle~~  
single-particle states could be fully  
specified by  $n$  &  $m$ .

(Actually we could tell  
they were distinct particles  
(if they are distinct) since  
the overall 2-particle state  
doesn't have to be  
(though it could be) symmetrized

(we'll get to  
this soon)

5-148

Any way we have our  
two ~~particles~~ distinct  
particles with the same  
spin and some  
isomorphic C.S.C.O. ~~for~~  
~~is~~ for them.

Then joint ~~state~~ <sup>eigenstates</sup> we further  
assume can be formed

by a tensor product

I think this is always possible for the space-spin  
C.S.C.O. — CT-1378  
grows coy on the subject  
of whether this can generally  
be done.

are  
irreducible  
-spin  
space

~~There are~~ I think not.

~~For~~ For example we can't form  
a tensor product for the ~~energy~~  
stationary states positronium

In the ideal case of neglecting spin and weak interaction the positronium stationary states are hydrogenic.

↳ see p. 5-95 and 5-86 and we can't factor these energy eigenstates into products.

Ideal Positronium is actually an interesting system as we'll see.

The particles are NOT identical but the Hamiltonian is symmetric — and eigenstates are symmetrized, but NOT mixed states in general

but bold include symmetric and antisymmetric states.

5-150

$u_i$  and  $u_j$  ~~state~~ stand for the complete set of eigenvalues of C.S.C.O that uniquely specify state  $i, j$

$$|1 u_i\rangle |2 u_j\rangle$$

$$= |1 u_i, 2 u_j\rangle$$

$$= |2 u_j, 1 u_i\rangle$$

just formally taking the tensor product.

Tensor product commutes.

The permutation operator

$P_{21}$  is a linear operator that transforms the state so

$$P_{21} |1 u_i, 2 u_j\rangle$$

$$= |2 u_i, 1 u_j\rangle$$

$$= |1 u_j, 2 u_i\rangle$$

something since tensor product commutes.

So initially particle 1 has set  $u_i$  and 2 has set  $u_j$

5-551

and the permutation has given us a different state.

Since the particles are distinct

particles have been exchanged

$|1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$  and  $|1u_j, 2u_i\rangle$

are different states and would evolve

differently under an interaction ~~perturbation Hamiltonian~~

that distinguished the particles.

For example.

$$\psi_a(1)\psi_b(2)$$

$$\psi_a(r)$$

↑ position of r

So  $\psi_a(1)\psi_b(2)$

and  $\psi_b(2)\psi_a(1)$

are different states

There's nothing physical doing the exchange.

We are just saying physically

5-152

That the two distinct states are possible.

So much for eigenstates,

What of general states

that are formed by a linear combination of the eigen states — which recall form a complete set (a basis)

We look at two cases in parallel,

- A case of expansion in a discrete but otherwise general basis.
- A case of expansion in the space-spin basis.

The space basis is a continuum basis.  
(Wave number - spin basis would be analogous.)



general discrete basis

$$|\Psi_{12}\rangle = \sum_{ij} c_{ij} |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$$

$$\langle \Psi_{21} | \langle \Psi_{12} | = \mathcal{P}_{21} |\Psi_{12}\rangle$$

$$= \sum_{ij} c_{ij} \mathcal{P}_{21} |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$$

$$= \sum_{ij} c_{ij} |2u_j, 2u_i\rangle$$

$$= \sum_{ij} c_{ji} |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$$

relabeling  
the dummy  
indices,  
 $i \rightarrow j$   
 $j \rightarrow i$

$$= \sum_{ij} c_{ij} |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$$

$$\therefore c_{ij} = c_{ji}$$

The coefficients can be regarded as functions of indices which are "variables" or "coordinates".

space-spin basis (5-153)

$$|\Psi_{12}\rangle = \sum_{mm'} \int \Psi(\underline{r}m, \underline{r}'m')$$

$$|1\underline{r}m, 2\underline{r}'m'\rangle d\underline{r} d\underline{r}'$$

$$|\Psi_{21}\rangle = \mathcal{P}_{21} |\Psi_{12}\rangle$$

$$= \sum_{mm'} \int \Psi(\underline{r}m, \underline{r}'m')$$

$$|2\underline{r}'m', 2\underline{r}m\rangle d\underline{r} d\underline{r}'$$

interchanging  
the dummy labels  
~~gives~~

$$\underline{r} \leftrightarrow \underline{r}'$$
  
$$m \leftrightarrow m' \text{ gives}$$

$$= \sum_{mm'} \int \Psi(\underline{r}'m', \underline{r}m)$$

$$|2\underline{r}m, 2\underline{r}'m'\rangle d\underline{r} d\underline{r}'$$

$$|\Psi_{12}\rangle$$

has spatial-spin representation

$$\Psi(\underline{r}m, \underline{r}'m')$$

prime associated with particle 2

$|\Psi_{21}\rangle$  has spatial spin representation  $\Psi(\underline{r}'m', \underline{r}m)$

5-154

$$c'_{ij} = c_{ji}$$

has a different  
dependence on  
 $i, j$

than  $c_{ij}$

unless there  
is some symmetry:

$$c_{ji} = e^{i\phi} c_{ij}$$

where  $e^{i\phi}$  is  
~~a phase~~ a global  
phase factor  
of the state.

$$\Psi(\underline{r}' m', \underline{r} m)$$

is distinct  
from

$$\Psi(\underline{r} m, \underline{r}' m')$$

because the particles  
distinct

unless we have  
some symmetry:

$$\Psi(\underline{r}' m', \underline{r} m)$$

$$= e^{i\phi} \Psi(\underline{r} m, \underline{r}' m')$$

In space-fixed representation

$$\int_{21} \Psi(\underline{r} m, \underline{r}' m')$$

$$= \Psi(\underline{r}' m', \underline{r} m)$$

~~Often to~~  $\Phi$  for notational  
simplicity.

$$\int_{21} \Psi(\underline{r}_1 m_1, \underline{r}_2 m_2) = \Psi(\underline{r}_2 m_2, \underline{r}_1 m_1)$$

The  $\underline{r}_1 m_1$  and  $\underline{r}_2 m_2$  are  
like indices.

Permutation operator is formally  
a QM observable

5-155

Or one can regard it that way.

Note  $\mathcal{P}_{21}^2 = 1$  } the unit operator.

Say we have  $|1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$   
as an eigenstate of  $\mathcal{P}_{21}$

Then  $\mathcal{P}_{21}|1u_i, 2u_j\rangle = \lambda|1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$   
eigenvalue.

Now  $\mathcal{P}_{21}^2|1u_i, 2u_j\rangle = |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle = \lambda^2|1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$

Anyons  
have  
 $e^{i\phi}$   
as eigenvalues  
somehow.  
Some weird  
formalism.  
But they  
are just  
quasi-particles  
(WIK)

$\lambda^2 = 1$  } Note NOT  $|\lambda|^2 = 1$

$$\lambda = \pm 1$$

~~The eigenvalues~~ The only two ~~possible~~ eigenvalues  
are pure real  
just as for an observable.

$$(e^{i\phi})^2 = e^{i(2\phi)} = \cos(2\phi) + i\sin(2\phi) = 1$$

5-15E

only for  $\phi = 0$  and  $\pi$   
for  $\phi \in [0, 2\pi)$

These eigenvectors do  
form a complete set.

Proof Say  $|1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$

is not an eigenket,

then neither is  $|1u_j, 2u_i\rangle$

But one can then construct eigenvectors

$$|1u_i, 2u_j\rangle_S = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle + |1u_j, 2u_i\rangle \right)$$

and

$$|1u_i, 2u_j\rangle_A = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle - |1u_j, 2u_i\rangle \right)$$

are symmetric and antisymmetric  
eigenkets of  $P_{21}$

Since you can reconstruct 5-157

$$|2u_i, 2u_j\rangle$$
$$\& |2u_j, 2u_i\rangle$$

from  $|2u_i, 2u_j\rangle_S$  &  $|2u_i, 2u_j\rangle_A$ ,

it's clear that a complete  
basis of eigenbits of  $\mathcal{P}_{21}$   
exists.

Since the eigenvalues are real  
and a complete basis exists

$\mathcal{P}_{21}$  should be an observable,

One can prove it is formally Hermitian too.

Recall the Hermitian conjugate  
is defined by

$$\langle \alpha | Q | \beta \rangle = \langle \beta | Q^\dagger | \alpha \rangle^*$$

and  $Q$  is Hermitian if

$$Q = Q^\dagger$$

Pr 158 ) Consider

$$a = \langle 1u_i', 2u_j' | P_{21} | 1u_i, 2u_j \rangle$$

$$= \langle 1u_i', 2u_j' | 1u_j, 2u_i \rangle$$

$$= \delta_{ij} \delta_{j'i}$$

and

$$b = \langle 1u_i, 2u_j | P_{21}^\dagger | 1u_i', 2u_j' \rangle^*$$

$a = b$  by definition of Hermitian conjugate

$$c = \langle 1u_i, 2u_j | P_{21} | 1u_i', 2u_j' \rangle^*$$

$$= \langle 1u_i, 2u_j | 1u_j', 2u_i' \rangle^*$$

~~$\langle 1u_i, 2u_j | 1u_i', 2u_j' \rangle^*$~~

$$= \langle 1u_j', 2u_i' | 1u_i, 2u_j \rangle$$

$$= \delta_{j'i} \delta_{i'j}$$

$$= \delta_{i'j} \delta_{j'i} = a = b$$

$\therefore P_{21} = P_{21}^\dagger$  for the basis

We've assumed the single-particle state basis is orthonormal which we always can.

and so for any state expanded in the basis

Q say  $\{|\phi_i\rangle\}$  is a basis but not of Q  
 $\langle \alpha | Q | \beta \rangle$  and Q is

Hermitian for all basis states ~~but not of Q~~

$$= \sum_{ij} a_i^* b_j \langle \phi_i | Q | \phi_j \rangle$$

$$= \sum_{ij} a_i^* b_j \langle \phi_j | Q^\dagger | \phi_i \rangle^*$$

$$= \sum_{ij} a_i^* b_j \langle \phi_j | Q | \phi_i \rangle^*$$

~~$$\sum_{ij} a_i^* b_j \langle \phi_j | Q | \phi_i \rangle^*$$~~

$$= \left( \sum_{ij} a_i b_j^* \langle \phi_j | Q | \phi_i \rangle \right)$$

~~$$\sum_{ij} a_i b_j^* \langle \phi_j | Q | \phi_i \rangle$$~~

$$= \langle \beta | Q | \alpha \rangle^*$$

using Hermitian conjugate defn.

Using own assumption Q is Hermitian for eigensates

and so  $Q = Q^\dagger$  for all states.

5-160

~~The permutation operator  
and other operators.  
We will just look at  
the position representation~~

A general rule deduced from  
p. 5-153 is that  $P_{21}$   
just ~~into~~ exchanges the  
particle indexes. The things  
that get  
summed  
on,

Say  $A(1)$  is an operator  
for particle 1

$$P_{21} A(1) \psi(1, 2) \\ = A(2) \psi(2, 1)$$

$$= A(2) P_{21} \psi(1, 2)$$

$$P_{21} A(1) = A(2) P_{21}$$

Since  
 $A(1) \neq A(2)$   
in general  
 $A$  and  $P_{21}$   
don't commute  
in general.



Let us look at spatial representation for concreteness.

5-61

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathcal{P}_{21} V(x_1) \Psi(x_1, x_2) \\
 &= V(x_2) \Psi(x_2, x_1) \\
 &= V(x_2) \mathcal{P}_{21} \Psi(x_1, x_2)
 \end{aligned}$$

Potential that acted on particle 1 now acts on particle 2

What about a differentiating operator like

$$T_1 = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2}$$

for particle 1

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathcal{P}_{21} T_1 \Psi(x_1, x_2) \\
 &= \mathcal{P}_{21} \left( -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_1} \right) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} \Psi(x_1, x_2) \\
 &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_2^2} \Psi(x_2, x_1) \\
 &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_2^2} \mathcal{P}_{21} \Psi(x_1, x_2)
 \end{aligned}$$

Particle 2 now mysteriously has the mass of particle 1 after the permutation operation. - a confusing notation, but common.

5-162a

Consider now a Hamiltonian  
for ~~identical~~ two particles

$$H_{12} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_2^2} + V(x_1, x_2)$$

$$\mathcal{P}_{21} H_{12} = \left( -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_2^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} + V(x_2, x_1) \right) \mathcal{P}_{21}$$

$$= H_{21} \mathcal{P}_{21}$$

Not the original  
Hamiltonian

unless the  
particles were identical

$$m_1 = m_2$$

$$\text{and } V(x_2, x_1) = V(x_1, x_2)$$

necessarily

or the particles were distinct  
but had the same mass  
and in this system had the  
same potential.

For example  
positronium  
neglecting  
weak interaction  
(maybe?)

or

$$\text{If } \mathcal{H}_{21} = \mathcal{H}_{12}$$

$$\text{then } [\mathcal{P}_{21}, \mathcal{H}_{12}] = 0$$

they commute and  
~~can~~ can have a  
common basis set.  
CT-140

Actually, you might ~~also~~ wonder if there is something finite about ~~the spectrum~~

$$\begin{aligned}
& P_{21} H_{12} \Psi(12) \\
&= H_{21} P_{21} \Psi(12) \\
&= H_{21} \Psi(2, 1)
\end{aligned}$$

$P_{21}$  on  $\Psi(12)$  exchanges the particles and creates a different state if the ~~two~~ particles ~~are identical~~

~~and~~ are NOT identical (unless the state is only changed by a global phase factor  $e^{i\phi}$  which could be 1 or  $-1$ )

Best  $P_{21} H_{12} \Psi(12) = H_{21} \Psi(2, 1)$

You've got particle 1 having

5-162c

~~the Hamiltonian~~

Hamiltonian attributes particle 2  
used to have  
and particle 2 having the ~~particle~~  
Hamiltonian attributes particle 1  
used to have.

But knowing how the permutation  
operator acts on operators  
is useful in studying the time  
evolution of a system.

Recall general time evolution equation  
from Gr-115

$$\frac{d\langle Q \rangle}{dt} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [H, Q] \rangle + \left\langle \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} \right\rangle$$

where  $Q$  is a general observable,  
actually  $Q$  just has to be  
an operator, not an observable  
(Gr-p. (0) )

So if  $[H, P_{21}] = 0$

then  $\frac{d\langle P_{21} \rangle}{dt} = 0$  or  $\langle P_{21} \rangle = \text{constant}$ ,

~~If you are in a state with a particular~~  
~~symmetry (to  $P_{21}$ ), then one is an eigenstate of~~  
 $P_{21}$ , then it stays an eigenstate as long as the

Hamiltonian  
is  
symmetric  
See p 5-179

5-1626

Actually, you might ~~also~~ wonder if there is something finite about ~~the operation~~

$$P_{21} H_{12} \Psi(12)$$

$$= H_{21} P_{21} \Psi(12)$$

$$= H_{21} \Psi(2,1)$$

$P_{21}$  on  $\Psi(12)$  exchanges the particles and creates a different state if the ~~two~~ particles ~~are identical~~

(~~or if~~ are NOT identical unless the state is only changed by a global phase factor  $e^{i\phi}$  which could be 1 or ~~0~~ -1)

But  $P_{21} H_{12} \Psi(12) = H_{21} \Psi(2,1)$

You've got particle 1 having

5-162c

~~the Hamiltonian~~  
 Hamiltonian attributes particle 2,  
 used to have  
 and particle 2 having the ~~particle~~  
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 (actually  $Q$  just has to be  
 an operator, not an observable  
 Gr-p. (0) )

So if  $[H, P_{21}] = 0$

then  $\frac{d\langle P_{21} \rangle}{dt} = 0$  or  $\langle P_{21} \rangle = \text{constant}$ ,

~~If you are in a state that has a particular~~  
~~symmetry (state), then an operator is an eigenstate of~~  
 $P_{21}$ , then it stays an eigenstate because as the

Hamiltonian  
 stays  
 symmetric  
 See p 9-179

# I Identical Particles

## ↳ Symmetrization Principle

The symmetrization principle is a postulate.

It cannot be derived although the world be ~~paradoxical~~ weirder than it is if it didn't exist.

If you exchange ~~particles~~ any two <sup>identical</sup> particles of multi-particle state the state must be unchanged (i.e., be symmetric)

or be changed only by an overall factor of  $-1$  (i.e., be antisymmetric)

In other words the state must be eigenstates of ~~the~~ any two particle permutation operator.

5-164

Let's just consider  
our 2 particle basis system  
again

$$\mathcal{P}_{21} |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle = |1u_j, 2u_i\rangle$$

To satisfy the symmetrization principle.

$$|1u_j, 2u_i\rangle = \pm |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle$$

It's actually a ~~second~~  
~~postulate~~ that  
boson states

What of general states given a  
symmetrized basis?

$$|\Psi_{21}\rangle = \sum_{ij} c_{ji} |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle \quad (\text{Lea p. 5-153})$$

$$= \sum_{ij} c_{ji} (\pm 1) |1u_j, 2u_i\rangle$$
$$= (\pm 1) \sum_{ij} c_{ij} |1u_i, 2u_j\rangle \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{relabeling} \end{array} \right.$$

$\Psi_{12}$



$$= \pm |\gamma 1 2 \rangle$$

5-165  
2011 jan 01

and similarly for the particle-spin basis.

$$\begin{aligned} P_{21} \Psi(r_1, m_1, r_2, m_2) &= \Psi(r_2, m_2, r_1, m_1) \\ &= \pm \Psi(r_1, m_1, r_2, m_2) \end{aligned}$$

For  $N$  particles ~~particles~~  $P_{ji} \Psi(\dots, r_i, m_i, \dots, r_j, m_j, \dots) = \pm \Psi(\dots, r_j, m_j, \dots, r_i, m_i, \dots)$

Identical particles with only symmetric states are called bosons.

Identical particles with only antisymmetric states are called fermions.

It is actually a 2<sup>nd</sup> postulate

that integer spin particles are

bosons  
(i.e., have symmetric states)

and

half-integer spin particles are

fermions  
(i.e., have antisymmetric states)

5-166

By the way you  
might say

$$\psi(\nu_1 m_1, \nu_2 m_2)$$

and  $\psi(\nu_2 m_1, \nu_1 m_2)$

are always the same  
state because the particles  
are identical.

True in a sense,  
but the state is not  
symmetrized in respect  
to its coordinates sets  
(i.e., eigenvalues  $\nu_1 m_1, \nu_2 m_2$ )

# Exchange Degeneracy

5-167

The symmetrization principle is an axiom. It cannot be derived.

But there is an argument that suggests that the world would be weirder than it is without it.

Say you had two simple particle <sup>eigen</sup> states

they are  
orthonormal

$$\Psi_a(\underline{r}) \text{ and } \Psi_b(\underline{r})$$

(particles 1 and 2) — We consider first two distinct particles with <sup>energy</sup> some common energy eigenstates for ~~some~~ the system for which  $\Psi_a(\underline{r}) + \Psi_b(\underline{r})$  are eigenstates.

5-168

They have the same spin  
and are in same spin  
state, so we don't  
need to fuss with spin  
coordinates.

The 2-particle eigenstates  
we can construct are

$$\cancel{c_a \psi_a(x_1) \psi_b(x_2) + c_b \psi_b(x_1) \psi_a(x_2)}$$

by simple products  
are

$$\psi_a(x_1) \psi_b(x_2) \text{ and } \psi_a(x_2) \psi_b(x_1)$$

These are distinct states even  
if indistinct in the system  
at hand

↳ You or nature can always  
impose a perturbation to

detect which particle  
is in which state

5-169

— since they are distinct,

so it seems these are two  
good 2-particle eigenstates.

One can form an infinite continuum  
of mixed states.

$$\Psi_M = c_i \Psi_a(v_{i1}) \Psi_b(v_{i2}) + c_j \Psi_a(v_{j2}) \Psi_b(v_{j1})$$

$$\int |\Psi_M|^2 dv_{i1} dv_{i2} = |c_i|^2 + |c_j|^2 = 1$$

So we require  $|c_i|^2 + |c_j|^2 = 1$

for normalization

but otherwise  $c_i$  and  $c_j$   
are free ~~to~~

Set by all past history (i.e.,  
initial condition)

Note

$$H = H_1 + H_2$$

has  
degenerate

$$E_a + E_b$$

no matter  
what  $c_i$   
and  $c_j$  are.

They are  
energy  
degenerate.

5-170

~~You can't~~

In principle some measurement can collapse the mixed state

$$\text{to } \psi_a(v_1) \psi_b(v_2)$$

$$\text{or } \psi_a(v_2) \psi_b(v_1)$$

A measurement of particles and particle energies  
Example has  $E_a$  and  $2$  has  $E_b$  or vice versa.

and you could measure  $|c_i|$  and  $|c_j|$ .

Harder to get ~~their phases~~ the phases of  $c_i$  and  $c_j$  themselves but somehow it could be done.

— There are no paradoxes. The ~~states~~ eigenstates are distinct since the particles are and some past history could arrange

either of these states. 5-17

Now we go to identical particles:

$$\Psi_a(r_1) \Psi_b(r_2)$$

and  $\Psi_a(r_2) \Psi_b(r_1)$

are now the same state.

Formalism gives the particles different labels, but they are the same state since the particles are identical.

~~Now~~ But

$$\Psi_{\mu} = c_i \Psi_a(r_1) \Psi_b(r_2) + c_j \Psi_a(r_2) \Psi_b(r_1)$$

exchange  
degeneracy.

- one all distinct states
- a continuum infinity of energy degenerate states
- only condition  $|c_i|^2 + |c_j|^2 = 1$

5-172

Now there is always  
a continuum infinity  
for mixed states.  
— So that in itself is  
not a problem.

↳ But there is a bit of a odd  
~~paradox~~ that you  
can create a continuum  
infinity from one eigenstate.  
But there is a lot of odd  
things in QM.

Also odd that any collapse  
of the wave function on  
measurement can only be a  
collapse to one state

~~measure~~

$$\psi_a(\psi_1) \psi_b(\psi_2)$$



interchange  
and it's the  
same.



And how would it be  
by nature?

You'd measure  $E_a$  for a particle  
and  $E_b$  for another  
but can't distinguish  
which is which.

— So has there even been  
a collapse?  
Maybe ~~is~~ (counterfactual  
situations are hard  
to get a right  
answer)

$\Psi_m$  is certainly a different  
state from  $\Psi_a(r_1) \Psi_b(r_2)$

Ex

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
 f(x, y) &= x^2 y \\
 f(y, x) &= y^2 x^2
 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$f_m = c_i x^2 y + c_j y^2 x^2$$

Not  
real  
wave functions,  
but they  
illustrate  
the point.

different functional behavior.

You could measure the particle  
position somehow.

5-174

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Note } |a + b|^2 &= (a^* + b^*)(a + b) \\
 &= |a|^2 + |b|^2 + a^*b + b^*a \\
 &= |a|^2 + |b|^2 + 2\operatorname{Re}(ab^*)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(u_1, u_2) &= |c_i|^2 |\Psi_a(u_1)|^2 |\Psi_b(u_2)|^2 \\
 &\quad + |c_j|^2 |\Psi_a(u_2)|^2 |\Psi_b(u_1)|^2 \\
 &\quad + 2\operatorname{Re} [c_i c_j^* \Psi_a(u_1) \Psi_b(u_2) \Psi_a(u_2)^* \Psi_b(u_1)^*]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\operatorname{Re}[z_1 z_2] = x_1 x_2 - y_1 y_2$$

$$\operatorname{Re}[z_1] \operatorname{Re}[z_2] = x_1 x_2$$

Not equal

unless

$$y_1 y_2 = 0$$

Actually stationary states can always be chosen pure real since  
 $H\psi = E\psi$   
 is pure real.

$$\text{So } \operatorname{Re}[c_i c_j^* \Psi_a \dots] = \operatorname{Re}[c_i c_j^*] \Psi_a \dots$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{z_2 \text{ with } y_2 = 0}$

$$\Re [c_i c_j^*]$$

5-175

$$= \Re [ |c_i| |c_j| e^{i\phi_i} e^{-i\phi_j} ]$$

$$= |c_i| |c_j| \cos(\phi_i - \phi_j)$$

Recall

$$e^{iN}$$

$$= \cos N$$

+ i sin N

(with

Euler's

formula)

So "3 measurements"  
of  $P(r_1, r_2) dr_1 dr_2$   
can allow you  
to solve for  
 $|c_i|, |c_j|$   
and  $\phi_i - \phi_j$

One only  
needs relative  
phase since the  
global phase of  
wave function  
is arbitrary.

Of course, ~~3 measurements~~ just 3 measurements  
is ~~to~~ difficult since  $P$  is just  
a probability density and says  
nothing about any actual measurement.

— So one needs to do many  
and build up all of  $P(r_1, r_2)$ .

But it can be done in principle.

5-176

So one can determine  $c_i$  and  $c_j$  fully in principle.

But what if  $c_i = 1 - \epsilon$   
and  $c_j = \epsilon$  where  $\epsilon$  is very small.

Then  $\Psi_a(v_1) \Psi_b(v_2)$   
is strongly favored  
over  $\Psi_a(v_2) \Psi_b(v_1)$ .

But the two states are same since the particles are identical.

What favors one over the other?

Are the particles distinguished after all?

So the neutral choice  
is suggested where the

$$|c_i| = |c_j| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

so both forms are  
equally weighted

So maybe all eigenstates  
must be symmetrized  
for identical particles

~~Now if~~ } symmetric or  
antisymmetric

Now if all eigenstates for  
a kind of particle  
have the same symmetrization,  
then all states for those particles  
are symmetrized. See p. 5-164.

There are other ~~and~~ arguments why  
the exchange degeneracy suggests

5-178

symmetrization

↳ but they don't communicate much to me

(see CT - 1375 - 1377)

# Hamiltonian for Identical Particles

— It must be symmetrical

$$H = \sum_i \left[ \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} + V \right]$$

$$H = \sum_k \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m_k} \nabla_k^2 + V(x_1, m_1, \dots, x_j, m_j, \dots)$$

all masses the same  
— so exchanging any indexes changes nothing.

interchange any particular values and nothing can change since the particles are identical.

So  $\rho_{ji} H(\dots i \dots j \dots)$

5-179

$= H(\dots j \dots i \dots) \rho_{ji}$  (see p. 5-160)

by symmetry  $\hookrightarrow = H(\dots i \dots j \dots) \rho_{ji}$

$[H, \rho_{ji}] = 0$

~~commute~~ commute.

Recall the general time evolution equation for an ~~observable~~ expectation value

$\frac{d\langle Q \rangle}{dt} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [H, Q] \rangle + \left\langle \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} \right\rangle$

(Gr-115)

↑  
explicit time dependence of observable.

Now  $\rho_{ji}$  has no explicit time dependence.

$\frac{d\langle \rho_{ji} \rangle}{dt} = 0$

5-180

So if a state is  
an eigenstate of  $\hat{P}_{ji}$

~~and~~ it has  $\langle \hat{P}_{ji} \rangle = \pm 1$ ,  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{boson} \\ \text{fermion} \end{array} \right\}$

then this  
value is constant.

So a symmetrized  
state stays symmetrized  
no matter what.

Maybe ~~no~~ integer spin particles  
integer/half integer spin  
particles were bosons/fermions  
at the beginning  
and that initial condition  
means they stay that  
way.



On the other hand, (5-181)  
our argument relies  
on Sch. eqn. evolution.

— if wave function  
collapse violates  
that (and it does  
NOT in pure decoherence &  
theory), then our  
argument has a flaw  
— takes another {axiom}  
to say symmetrization  
is conserved in wave function  
collapse.

So for this reason, one  
can't say  $[H, P_{j,i}] = 0$   
proves symmetrization.

5-182)

another reason for NOT believing that  $[H, P_{ij}] = 0$  proves symmetrization

is that non-identical particles can have symmetric Hamiltonians at least it seems that way.

Consider an ideal isolated positronium — neglecting any weak force effects (of which I know nothing), the Hamiltonian is symmetric.

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla_1^2 - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla_2^2 - \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |r_2 - r_1|}$$

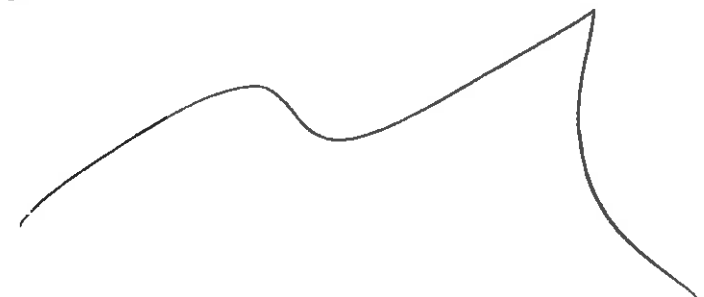
↖ equal masses ↗

neglecting any spin components which should be symmetric too.

In fact the Hydrogenic stationary states are symmetric.

$$\Psi_{\text{total}}(\underline{r}_1, \underline{r}_2) = \Psi(\underline{r}_2 - \underline{r}_1) \Psi_{\text{CM}}\left(\frac{m_1 \underline{r}_1 + m_2 \underline{r}_2}{M}\right)$$

(see p. 5-95)



$$\Psi = R(|\underline{r}_2 - \underline{r}_1|) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

radial part just depends on magnitude

If  $\underline{r}_1$  &  $\underline{r}_2$  interchange,

$$\underline{r} \rightarrow -\underline{r}$$

and  $\theta_{\text{new}} = \pi - \theta$  ,  $\phi_{\text{new}} = \phi + \pi$

5-182

$$Y_{lm}(\pi - \theta, \phi + \pi)$$

$$= (-1)^l Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

so even  $l$  symmetric  
odd  $l$  antisymmetric

so eigenstates are symmetrized  
but since that have both  
kinds of symmetrization,  
mixed states are  
NOT necessarily symmetrized.

~~Now that I think~~  
I know of ~~no~~ no other symmetrization  
~~on~~ no other symmetrization  
restriction on the states  
of positronium, but  
I don't know much about  
it actually.

Come to think of it

$$[H, P_{ji}] = 0$$

implies a common <sup>orthonormal</sup> basis  
can be found

(CT-140)

But if the particles aren't identical  
both ~~symmetrized~~ ~~and~~  
symmetric & antisymmetric eigenstates  
allowed.

5-184a

Symmetrization  
and linearity

The Sch. eqn is a linear DE

$$H\psi = \cancel{=} i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t}$$

∴ any linear combination of solutions is a solution of Sch eqn

The symmetrization principle rules out some solutions as being non-physical for <sup>identical</sup> particles

So in a sense QM is a non-linear theory.

— Is this a profound sense?

I don't know

# Composite Particles

5-184b

The symmetrization principle ~~applies~~  
~~only to~~ as a law of nature  
applies to fundamental particles

— those that are not made  
of other particles

→ These are identical in all respects  
except position and spin orientation  
(I think).

But what of composite particles?

Well it's pretty easy.  
Composite particles are made of  
fundamental ~~ones~~.

So a wave function for a composite particle  
can be written in terms of fundamental  
particles:

Say  $\Psi(\dots \sum_{\mathbf{r}_i} \psi_{\mathbf{r}_i}(\mathbf{r}_i) \dots \sum_{\mathbf{r}_j} \psi_{\mathbf{r}_j}(\mathbf{r}_j) \dots)$

is  
wave  
function  
for a  
set of

set of coordinates for composite  
particle if  $j$ 's component particles  
fundamental

identical composite particle — identical  
in properties — the state of the composite  
could be anything.

5-184c

If you exchange sets  $i$  and  $j$ ,  
Symmetrization requires  
that the wave function  
change value be only

~~(-1)^n~~  $(-1)^n$

where  $n$  is the number  
of fermions in the composite particle.

So composite particles  
are bosons if  $n$  even  
and fermions if  $n$  odd.

What of composites of composites?

Well in the above argument nothing  
changes if one says the  
components are NOT fundamental  
but are merely known bosons and  
fermions.

So the symmetrization principle applies to  
all identical particles.



# The Symmetrization

5-184d

nature of composite particles  
can have very striking  
effects.

99.99986% of all He on Earth He-4 is a boson  $2e, 2p, 2n$

He-3 is a fermion  $2e, 2p, 1n$

stable  
but  
low  
abundance  
on Earth

He-4 exhibits  
superfluidity  
which is a complex  
manifestation  
of Bose-Einstein condensation  
(only shown by bosons

He-3  
doesn't  
show  
superfluidity  
since a fermion

↳ where all ~~the bosons~~  
or a large fraction  
of bosons get in the  
same single-particle  
state)

and obey the Pauli exclusion  
principle which

~~forbids~~ "allows only  
one fermion in a single particle  
state"

5-184d

— or more exactly  
allows only one fermion  
single particle state  
in a product state  
from which symmetrized  
states are constructed

or one can "measure" only  
one fermion in a  
single-particle state  
or wave function  
collapse.

We get to the Pauli exclusion principle  
next.

Another example of a composite particle  
with great properties are Cooper Pairs.

↳ two electrons weakly bound in  
side ~~of~~ some solids at low T  
— they are bosons and superconductivity  
(at least of low T superconductors) rely  
on their bosonic nature.

This supports some

arbitrary (or unique) specification of

$c_i$  and  $c_j$  that

kills the exchange degeneracy

Of course

$c_i = c_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

for bosons

~~and  $c_i = c_j$~~

and  $c_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, c_j = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

for fermions

In both cases multiplied by a common phase factor is allowed and doesn't change the physical state.

Maybe some way to make the exchange degeneracy

argument more

coherent but I don't know it

(CT-1375-1377 kind of flub I think.)

5-186)

# Pauli Exclusion Principle

— Historically introduced by Pauli in  $\sim 1925$  or so just to explain atoms. which is just for Fermions

— the modern version is more general and also is not really an independent law — it's a consequence of the

" No two fermions can occupy the same single particle eigen state " symmetrization principle

~~Generalized version~~

Perhaps a more correct, but less memorable way to say it is

~~No two~~

" A single particle eigenstate cannot be included twice in the ~~construction~~ of product states of a symmetrized fermion state " "

We can prove the Pauli exclusion principle from the symmetrization principle for fermions

Say  $|1 u_1, 2 u_2, \dots, k u_k, \dots, l u_l \dots \rangle$

$u_i$  are set of eigenvalues that fully characterize the state.

is a symmetrized ~~multiple~~-particle fermion state

$P_{kl} | \dots k u_k \dots l u_l \dots \rangle$

~~||~~  $| \dots k u_l \dots l u_k \dots \rangle$

$= - | \dots k u_k \dots l u_l \dots \rangle$

Necessary symmetrization on ~~either~~ particle exchange.

But if  $u_l = u_k$ , then ~~the state can only~~

5-188

the equality only holds if the state is the null state  $|0\rangle$

— which can't be normalized and can't be a physical state.

What if the overall state cannot be expressed ~~as a tensor product~~ in terms of single particle states?

Can't do  
hydrogenic  
atom for  
example  
— see  
p. 5-95

No one addresses this question — it's what John Bell refers to as "unspeakable in QM".

But actually any state I think can be expressed in terms of single particle

# eigenstates of space & spin

5-188

or wave number space & spin

AKA momentum & spin eigenstates

So

$$\Psi(\dots \underbrace{k_i}_{\text{space}} m_i \dots \underbrace{k_j}_{\text{space}} m_j \dots)$$

$$= -\Psi(\dots \underbrace{k_j}_{\text{space}} m_j \dots \underbrace{k_i}_{\text{space}} m_i \dots)$$

But if  $k_i = k_j$  and  $m_i = m_j$  } particular values

then  $\Psi = 0$

an antibunching effect.  
- Not a real force since it arises from a restriction on wave functions - at least in standard QM

No two <sup>identical</sup> fermions can be found at the same point with same spin state. But called

or the probability density for two <sup>identical</sup> fermions at one point with same spin is zero. <sup>is always force anyway.</sup>

5-190

Remember spatial wave functions are smooth  
i.e., continuous.

~~So if  $\psi = 0$~~

So if  $\psi = 0$

$$k_i = k_j$$

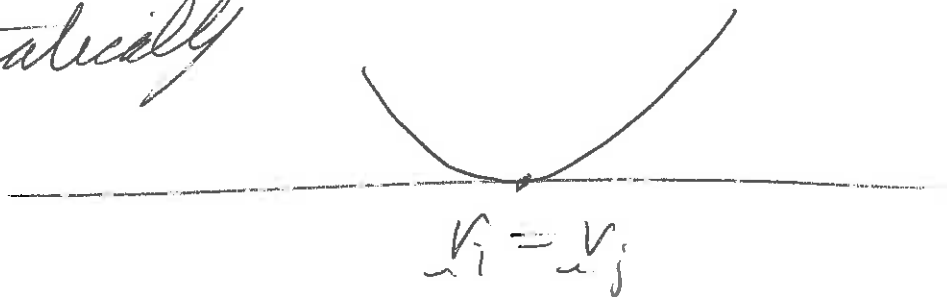
$$m_i = m_j$$

it must be nearly zero

for  $k_i \cong k_j$

$$m_i = m_j$$

So actually



So in the neighborhood of zero the wave function, the wave function and probability density will be small.



But what of other kinds of single-particle eigenstates.

— Well if they exist exactly then the exclusion Principle applies exactly.

— if they exist as an approximation then the exclusion principle is right for them as far as they go.

— What if single-particle eigenstates are NOT even a good approximation?

→ Well maybe some other way to use the exclusion principle to characterize the state (but this is apparently unspeakable).

5-192

# Examples of spin $\frac{1}{2}$ states

## Example 1

Two spin  $\frac{1}{2}$  particles  
(e.g., electrons)

~~and two states eigenstates.~~

~~$\Psi_a(\mathbf{r}_1) \chi_{\uparrow}$~~

and two single-particle <sup>stationary</sup> states

They are orthonormal

$$\Psi_a(\mathbf{r}_1) \chi_{\uparrow} \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi_b(\mathbf{r}_1) \chi_{\uparrow}$$

both up states for simplicity.

Two product states can be constructed

$$\Psi_a(\mathbf{r}_1) \chi_{\uparrow 1} \Psi_b(\mathbf{r}_2) \chi_{\uparrow 2}$$

and  $\Psi_a(\mathbf{r}_2) \chi_{\uparrow 2} \Psi_b(\mathbf{r}_1) \chi_{\uparrow 1}$

Question: Construct [5-193]  
a symmetrized state.

Ans:

$$\Psi(1, 2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ \Psi_a(r_1) \Psi_b(r_2) - \Psi_a(r_2) \Psi_b(r_1) \right]$$

$\times \chi_{+1} \chi_{+2}$

$$\Psi(2, 1) = -\Psi(1, 2)$$

and is antisymmetric  
as ~~advertised~~.  
required.

Normalization?  $|\Psi(1, 2)|^2 = 1$  ?

— The cross terms vanish

since  $\int \Psi_a^*(r) \Psi_b(r) dr = 0$

etc.

$$|\Psi(1, 2)|^2 = \frac{1}{2} [1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 1] \chi_{+1}^\dagger \chi_{+1} \chi_{+2}^\dagger \chi_{+2}$$
$$= 1$$

5-194

Example 2M

Note if  $\psi = \psi_1 = \psi_2$

then  $\psi(12) \rightarrow 0$ .

The exchange force repulsion.

If  $a = b$ ,  $\psi(12) = 0$

everywhere for

We couldn't construct <sup>any</sup>  $\psi_{1,2}$  values  
a 2-particle state  
in this case.

↳ Both examples of the  
Pauli ~~exchange~~  
exclusion principle.