

The angular momentum

Analysis of angular momentum

Suppose a particle move at a distance (r) from the center of force with velocity of v' around the axis pass through this point as shown in the figure(6.1).

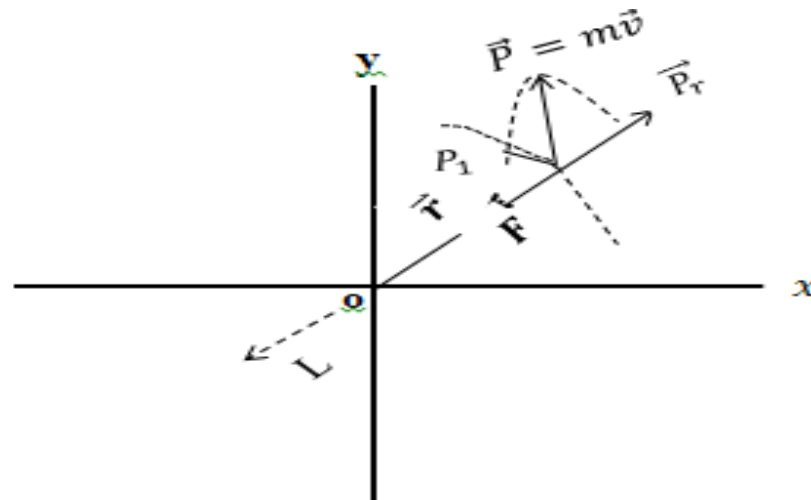


Figure (6.1) Directions of angular momentum

- $\vec{L} = \vec{r} \times P \dots \dots \dots (6.1)$
- Where P is the Linear momentum and the direction as a tangent of Curvature path of particle.
- Angular momentum in Cartesian coordinates
- By using the quantum formula of linear momentum P
- $\hat{P} = \frac{\hbar}{\lambda} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \dots (6.2)$
- $\hat{P} = -\lambda \hbar \nabla \dots \dots \dots (6.3)$
- $L = r \times (-\lambda \hbar) \vec{\nabla} \dots \dots \dots (6.4)$
- $L = -\lambda \hbar \begin{vmatrix} \lambda & J & k \\ x & y & z \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \end{vmatrix} \dots \dots \dots (6.5)$

- This means that the components of the angular Momentum as in the following formula.

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
 \hat{L}_x &= \lambda \hbar \left(y \frac{\partial}{\partial z} - z \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \\
 \hat{L}_y &= \lambda \hbar \left(z \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - x \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \\
 \hat{L}_z &= \lambda \hbar \left(x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)
 \end{aligned} \right\} \dots \dots \dots (6.6)$$

- Equation(6.6) represents the quantum formula for angular momentum components

- **Solved problem:** find the commutator of $[\hat{L}_x, L_y]$
- Solution: $[\hat{L}_x, \hat{L}_y] = \hat{L}_x \hat{L}_y - \hat{L}_y \hat{L}_x$
- $[L_x, L_y]\psi = (\lambda \hbar)^2 \left[\left(y \frac{\partial}{\partial z} - z \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \left(z \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - x \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) - \left(z \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - x \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \left(y \frac{\partial}{\partial z} - z \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \right] \psi$
- $= (-\lambda \hbar)^2 \left[y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(z \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y \partial z} \right) - y \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(x \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial x} \right) - z \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(z \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x \partial z} \right) + z^2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial z} \left(x \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \right) - z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(y \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z \partial x} \right) + z \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(z \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial z} \right) + x \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(y \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z \partial x} \right) - x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(z \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z \partial x} \right) \right]$
- $= (-\lambda \hbar)^2 \left[yz \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z \partial x} + y \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z^2} - z^2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial z} + zx \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z \partial x} + zy \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x \partial z} + z \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x \partial y} + xy \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z^2} - xz \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z \partial x} - x \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \right]$
- $= (-\lambda \hbar)^2 \left[y \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} - x \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \right]$
- $= (\lambda \hbar)^2 \left[y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right] \psi$
- $[L_x, L_y]\psi = (\lambda \hbar)^2 \left[y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right] \psi$
- $[L_x, L_y] = (\lambda \hbar)(\lambda \hbar) \left[y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right]$
- $\therefore [L_x, L_y] = \lambda \hbar L_z \dots(6.7)$

• **Use the same method to test your understanding to proving the following**

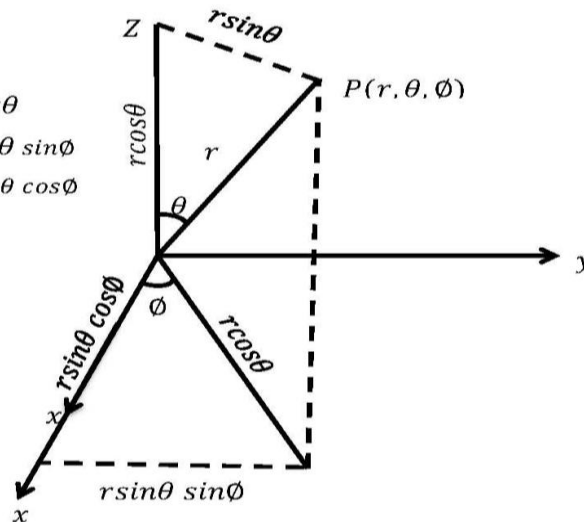
- $[L_y, L_z] = \lambda \hbar L_x \dots(6.8)$
- $[L_z, L_x] = \lambda \hbar L_y \dots(6.9)$
- $[L_y, L_x] = \lambda \hbar L_z \dots (6.10)$
- $[L_z, L_y] = -\lambda \hbar L_x (6.11)$
- $[L_x, L_z] = -\lambda \hbar L_y \dots(6.12)$
- $L^2 = \hat{L} \cdot \hat{L} = L_x^2 + L_y^2 + L_z^2 \dots(6.13)$

- $[A^2, B] = \dot{A}(\hat{A}\hat{B} - \hat{B}\hat{A}) + (\hat{A}\hat{B} - \hat{B}\hat{A})\dot{A} = \hat{A}[\hat{A}, \hat{B}] + [\hat{A}, \hat{B}]\hat{A}$
- **Solved problem:** find $[L^2, L_x]$
- $[L^2, L_x] = L^2 L_x - L_x L^2$
- $= (L_x^2 + L_y^2 + L_z^2)(L_x) - (L_x)(L_x^2 + L_y^2 + L_z^2)$
- $= \frac{L_x^2 L_x}{(1)} + \frac{L_y^2 L_x}{(2)} + \frac{L_z^2 L_x}{(3)} - \frac{L_x L_x^2}{(1)} - \frac{L_x L_y^2}{(2)} - \frac{L_x L_z^2}{(3)}$
- $[L_x^2, L_x] + [L_y^2, L_x] + [L_z^2, L_x]$
- $\therefore [L_x^2, L_x] = 0$
- By the other method, we can prove $[\hat{L}_y^2, \hat{L}_x] = \text{zero}$
- $[\hat{L}_y^2 \hat{L}_x] + [L_z^2, L_x] = L_y[L_y, L_x] + [L_y, L_x]L_y + L_z[L_y, L_x] + [L_y, L_x]L_z$
- and we have $[L_y, L_x] = -i\hbar L_z$
- $[L_z, L_x] = i\hbar L_y$
- $= -i\hbar L_y L_z - i\hbar L_z L_y + i\hbar L_y L_z + i\hbar L_y L_z$
- $= \text{zero}$

- By same procedure we can prove the following
- $[L^2, \hat{L}_x] = 0$
- $[L^2, L_y] = 0$
- $[L^2, L_z] = 0$
- **The angular momentum in spherical coordinates**

$$\begin{aligned} \cos\theta &= \frac{z}{r} \Rightarrow z = r\cos\theta \\ \sin\theta &= \frac{y}{r\sin\theta} \Rightarrow y = r\sin\theta \sin\phi \\ \cos\phi &= \frac{x}{r\sin\theta} \Rightarrow x = r\sin\theta \cos\phi \end{aligned}$$

Figure (6.2) angular momentum in spherical coordinates



$$x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

- $y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi \dots \dots \dots (6.14)$

$$z = r \cos \theta$$

- $r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$

- $\tan \phi = \frac{y}{x} =$

- $\cos \theta = \frac{z}{r} = \frac{z}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \dots (6.15)$

- $$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} &= \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} &= \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial r}{\partial z} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \end{aligned} \right] \dots \dots \dots (6.16)$$

- We have
- $r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$
- $2r \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = 2x$, $2r \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = 2y$, $2r \frac{\partial r}{\partial z} = 2z$

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
 & \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{2x}{2r} = \frac{x}{r} = \frac{r \sin\theta \cos\phi}{r} = \sin\theta \cos\phi \\
 & \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{r} = \frac{r \sin\theta \sin\phi}{r} = \sin\theta \sin\phi \\
 & \frac{\partial r}{\partial z} = \frac{z}{r} = \frac{r \cos\phi}{r} = \cos\phi
 \end{aligned} \right] \dots \dots (6.17)$$

- To obtain $\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x}$

- $\text{Cos}\theta = \frac{z}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \Rightarrow \cos\theta = z(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- $-\sin\theta \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial x} = -\frac{1}{2} z(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}}(2x) = \frac{-zx}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{-zx}{(r^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$
- $-\sin\theta \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial x} = \frac{-zx}{r^3} \Rightarrow z \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial x} = \frac{zr}{r^3 \sin\theta}$
- $\therefore \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial x} = \frac{r\cos\theta \cdot r\sin\theta \cos\phi}{r^3 \sin\theta} = \frac{\cos\theta \cos\phi}{r}$
- $\therefore \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial y} = \frac{\cos\theta \cos\phi}{r}$
- $\frac{\partial\theta}{\partial y}$
- $\text{Cos}\theta = \frac{z}{(x^2+y^2+z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} = z(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Rightarrow$
- $-\sin\theta \frac{\partial\theta}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{2} z(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}}(2y) = \frac{-zy}{r^3}$
- $\frac{\partial\theta}{\partial y} = \frac{zy}{r^3 \sin\theta} = \frac{r\cos\theta \cdot r\sin\theta \cos\phi}{r^3 \sin\theta}$
- $\boxed{\frac{\partial\theta}{\partial y} = \frac{\cos\theta \cdot \sin\phi}{r}}$

- **Test your understanding by proving the following**

- $\frac{d\theta}{dz} = -\frac{\sin\theta}{r}$

- $\tan\phi = \frac{y}{x}$

- $\sec^2\phi \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} = -\frac{y}{x^2} = -\frac{r\sin\theta \cdot \sin\phi}{r^2 \sin^2\theta \cos^2\phi}$

- $\frac{1}{\cos^2\phi} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} = -\frac{\sin\theta}{r\sin\theta \cos^2\phi}$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} = \frac{-\sin\phi}{r\sin\theta}}$$

- $\boxed{\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial y} = \frac{\cos\phi}{r\sin\theta}}$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} = 0}$$

- $L_z = -\lambda \hbar \left(x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)$ in the Cartesian coordinates

$$L_z = -\lambda \hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}$$

- $L_x = \lambda \hbar \left(\sin \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \cos \phi \cot \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right)$ (in the

$$L_y = \lambda \hbar \left(\sin \phi \cot \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} - \cos \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right)$$

spherical coordinates)....(6.18).

- $L^2 = L_x^2 + L_y^2 + L_z^2$

- $\hat{L}^2 = -\hbar^2 \left[\frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right) \right]$

.....(6.19)

- $\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$

- $\nabla^2 = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) - \frac{\hat{L}^2}{\hbar^2 r^2} \right) \dots\dots(6.20)$