

EX352: Hamiltonian in uniform magnetic field

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The problem:

(1) A particle is placed in a uniform magnetic field. The field $\vec{B} = (0, 0, B)$.

Prove that the standart hamiltonian of the particle in the uniform magnetic field $H = \frac{1}{2m} \left(\vec{p} - \frac{e}{c} \vec{A} \right)^2$

we can write as $H = \frac{p^2}{2m} - \frac{e}{2mc} BL_z + \frac{e^2 B^2}{8mc^2} (x^2 + y^2)$.

(2) Derive using polar coordinate.

(3) What is the effective $V(r)$ which is experienced by a particle with $L_z = m'$.

(4) Generalize your answers to the case of non-uniform magnetic field: $B = (0, 0, Br^a)$.

The solution:

(1) Some definitions: $\vec{p} = (p_x, p_y, p_z)$ and $L_z = \epsilon_{zij} r_i p_j = xp_y - yp_x$.

The pastulat $\vec{B} = \text{rot} \vec{A}$ is describing three differential equations.

By using the gauge transformation $A_z = 0$ we simplified the problem to one differential equation : $\frac{\partial A_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial y} = B$,

so we get: $\vec{A} = \left(-\frac{1}{2}By, \frac{1}{2}Bx, 0 \right)$.

$$H = \frac{1}{2m} \left(\vec{p} - \frac{e}{c} \vec{A} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2m} \left\{ \left(p_x + \frac{e}{2c}By \right)^2 + \left(p_y - \frac{e}{2c}Bx \right)^2 + p_z^2 \right\} =$$

$$= \frac{1}{2m} \left\{ (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2) + \frac{eB}{c} (-xp_y + yp_x) + \left(\frac{eB}{2c} \right)^2 (x^2 + y^2) \right\} =$$

$$= \frac{p^2}{2m} - \frac{e}{2mc} BL_z + \frac{e^2 B^2}{8mc^2} (x^2 + y^2)$$

(2) To defined the Hamiltonian in cylindrical coordinates we shell use those relationships $x = r \cos \varphi$, $y = r \sin \varphi$ while L_z is not change when $(x, y, z) \Rightarrow (r, \varphi, z)$ and $p^2 = p_r^2 + \frac{L^2}{r^2}$ so we get:

$$H = \frac{1}{2m} \left(p_r^2 + \frac{L^2}{r^2} \right) - \frac{e}{2mc} BL_z + \frac{e^2 B^2}{8mc^2} r^2$$

(3) The effective $V(r)$ is:

$$V_{eff} = \frac{L^2}{2mr^2} - \frac{e}{2mc} BL_z + \frac{e^2 B^2}{8mc^2} r^2$$

The effective $V(r)$ which is experienced by a particle with $L_z = m'$ is:

$$V_{eff} |lm' \rangle = \left(\frac{l(l+1)}{2mr^2} - \frac{eBm'}{2mc} + \frac{e^2 B^2}{8mc^2} r^2 \right) |lm' \rangle$$

(4) By using the gauge transformation we set $A_r = A_z = 0$ in cylindrical coordinates from $\vec{B} = \text{rot}\vec{A}$ we get :

$$Br^a = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial (rA_\varphi)}{\partial r} \quad \Rightarrow \quad A(r)\hat{\varphi} = \frac{B}{a+2} r^{a+1}$$

when

$$A_x = -A_\varphi \sin\varphi = -\frac{yA_\varphi}{r} \quad , \quad A_y = A_\varphi \cos\varphi = \frac{xA_\varphi}{r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \frac{1}{2m} \left\{ (p_x, p_y, p_z) - \frac{e}{c} \left(-\frac{yA_\varphi}{r}, \frac{xA_\varphi}{r}, 0 \right) \right\}^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} \left\{ p^2 - \frac{2eB}{(a+2)c} r^a L_z + \left[\frac{eB}{(a+2)c} \right]^2 r^{2a+2} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that if $a = 0$ we have solution for particle in an uniform magnetic field. And more easy solution can be derived in polar coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \frac{1}{2m} \left\{ (p', p_\varphi, p_z) - \frac{e}{c} (0, A(r), 0) \right\}^2 = \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} \left\{ p'^2 - (p', p_\varphi, p_z) \cdot \frac{e}{c} (0, A(r), 0) - \frac{e}{c} (0, A(r), 0) \cdot (p', p_\varphi, p_z) + \left(\frac{eA}{c} \right)^2 \right\} = \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} \left\{ p'^2 - \frac{2e}{c} A p_\varphi + \left(\frac{eA}{c} \right)^2 \right\} = \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} \left\{ p_r^2 + \frac{L^2}{r^2} - \frac{2eB}{(a+2)c} r^a L_z + \left[\frac{eB}{(a+2)c} \right]^2 r^{2a+2} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Remarks:

(2) is wrong.

(4) is better derived in polar coordinates.