

PHYSICS 160  
Problem Set #4  
SOLUTIONS

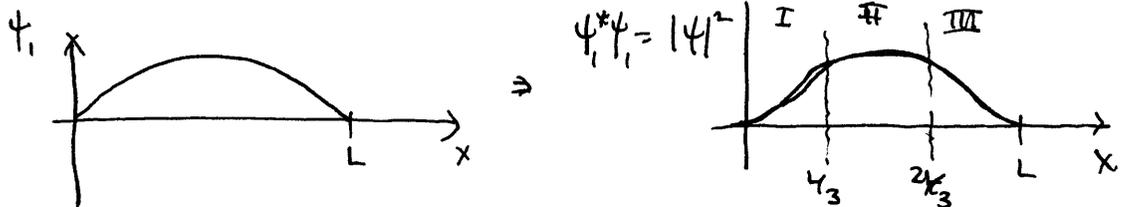
Spring 2009

6-17

Infinite square-well: Find the probability that a particle in its ground state is in each third of the one-dimensional box:  $0 \leq x \leq L/3$ ,  $L/3 \leq x \leq 2L/3$ , and  $2L/3 \leq x \leq L$ .

Wavefunction for particle in 1D box:  $\psi_n = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$  Eq. 6.34  
 $\uparrow$  properly normalized

The ground state has  $n=1$ :



Clearly, by symmetry, the probability of finding the particle in the region  $0 \leq x \leq L/3$  is the same as the probability of finding it in the region  $2L/3 \leq x \leq L$ . So, we only need to do two integrals

Regions I + III:  $0 \leq x \leq L/3$  and  $2L/3 \leq x \leq L$

$$P_I = P_{III} = \int_0^{L/3} \left(\frac{2}{L}\right) \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

Use the trig. identity  $\sin^2 x = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos(2x))$

$$\begin{aligned} P_I = P_{III} &= \left(\frac{2}{L}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{L/3} (1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right)) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{L} \left[ \int_0^{L/3} dx - \int_0^{L/3} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right) dx \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{L} \left[ x \Big|_0^{L/3} - \frac{L}{2\pi} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right) \Big|_0^{L/3} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{L} \left[ \frac{L}{3} - \frac{L}{2\pi} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \right] = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = 0.1955 = \boxed{19.6\%} \end{aligned}$$

Region II:  $\frac{L}{3} \leq x \leq \frac{2L}{3}$

$$P_{II} = \int_{\frac{L}{3}}^{\frac{2L}{3}} \left(\frac{2}{L}\right) \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

Use trig. identity  $\sin^2 x = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos(2x))$

$$P_{II} = \left(\frac{2}{L}\right) \frac{1}{2} \int_{\frac{L}{3}}^{\frac{2L}{3}} (1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right)) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{L} \left[ x \Big|_{\frac{L}{3}}^{\frac{2L}{3}} - \frac{L}{2\pi} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right) \Big|_{\frac{L}{3}}^{\frac{2L}{3}} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[ \sin\left(\frac{4\pi}{3}\right) - \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \right]$$

$\uparrow$                        $\uparrow$   
 $-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$                        $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

$$P_{II} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2\pi} = 0.609 = \boxed{60.9\%}$$

Check that  $P_{III} = P_I + P_{II} + P_{III} = 1$

$$= 2P_I + P_{II} = 2 \cdot 0.1955 + 0.609 = 1 \quad \underline{\text{check}} \checkmark$$

6-20

What is the minimum energy of (a) a proton and (b) an  $\alpha$ -particle trapped in a one-dimensional region the size of a uranium nucleus ( $r = 7 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$ )?

Ground state energy of a particle in a 1D box:  $E_1 = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2mL^2} = \frac{\pi^2 (\hbar c)^2}{2(mc^2)L^2}$

(a) Proton rest mass energy  $m_p c^2 = 938 \text{ MeV} = 938 \times 10^6 \text{ eV}$

So...  $E_1 = \frac{\pi^2 (197 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm})^2}{2 (938 \times 10^6 \text{ eV}) (7 \times 10^{-6} \text{ nm})^2} = \underline{4.17 \times 10^6 \text{ eV}} = \boxed{4.17 \text{ MeV}}$

$\uparrow$  convert to nm

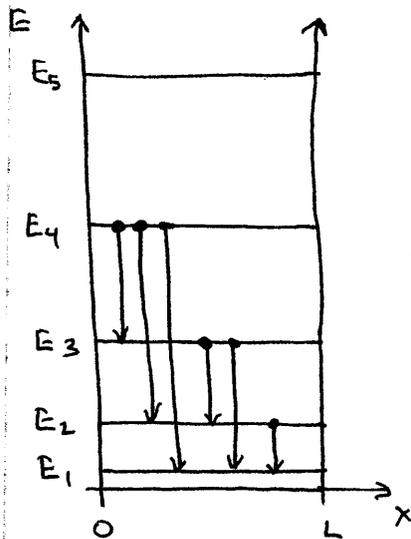
$\uparrow$   
much less than rest mass energy  
... justifies use of non-relativistic equations.

(b)  $\alpha$ -particle rest mass energy  $m_\alpha c^2 = 3727 \text{ MeV} = 3.727 \times 10^9 \text{ eV}$

So...  $E_1 = \frac{\pi^2 (197 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm})^2}{2 (3.727 \times 10^9 \text{ eV}) (7 \times 10^{-6} \text{ nm})^2} = 1.05 \times 10^6 \text{ eV} = \boxed{1.05 \text{ MeV}}$

6-21

An electron is trapped in an infinite square-well of width 0.5 nm. If the electron is initially in the  $n=4$  state, what are the various photon energies that can be emitted as the electron jumps to the ground state?



$$E_n = E_1 n^2 \quad \text{where } E_1 = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2mL^2} = \frac{\pi^2 (hc)^2}{2(mc^2)L^2}$$

$$\text{In this case } E_1 = \frac{\pi^2 (197 \text{ eV}\cdot\text{nm})^2}{2(511000 \text{ eV})(0.5 \text{ nm})^2} = \underline{1.5 \text{ eV}} \quad n=1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Photon energies from initial  $n=4$  state...

$$4 \rightarrow 3 \quad \Delta E = E_1(4^2 - 3^2) = 7E_1 = \boxed{10.5 \text{ eV}}$$

$$4 \rightarrow 2 \quad \Delta E = E_1(4^2 - 2^2) = 12E_1 = \boxed{18 \text{ eV}}$$

$$4 \rightarrow 1 \quad \Delta E = E_1(4^2 - 1^2) = 15E_1 = \boxed{22.5 \text{ eV}}$$

$$3 \rightarrow 2 \quad \Delta E = E_1(3^2 - 2^2) = 5E_1 = \boxed{7.5 \text{ eV}}$$

$$3 \rightarrow 1 \quad \Delta E = E_1(3^2 - 1^2) = 8E_1 = \boxed{12 \text{ eV}}$$

$$2 \rightarrow 1 \quad \Delta E = E_1(2^2 - 1^2) = 3E_1 = \boxed{4.5 \text{ eV}}$$

6-26

Find the energies of the second, third, fourth, and fifth levels for the 3D cubical box. Which are degenerate?

The energies for the 3D <sup>cubical</sup> infinite square well are...  $E_{n_1, n_2, n_3} = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2mL^2} (n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2)$

Ground state:  $E_{111} = E_1 (1^2 + 1^2 + 1^2)$   
 $= 3E_1$  is NOT degenerate.

$E_1$  = ground state energy for 1D infinite square well.

2<sup>nd</sup> energy level:  $n_1=2, n_2=1, n_3=1$  is three-fold degenerate...

$$E_{211} = E_{121} = E_{112} = E_1 (2^2 + 1^2 + 1^2)$$
$$= \boxed{6E_1}$$

3<sup>rd</sup> energy level:  $n_1=2, n_2=2, n_3=1$  is three-fold degenerate

$$E_{221} = E_{212} = E_{122} = E_1 (2^2 + 2^2 + 1^2)$$
$$= \boxed{9E_1}$$

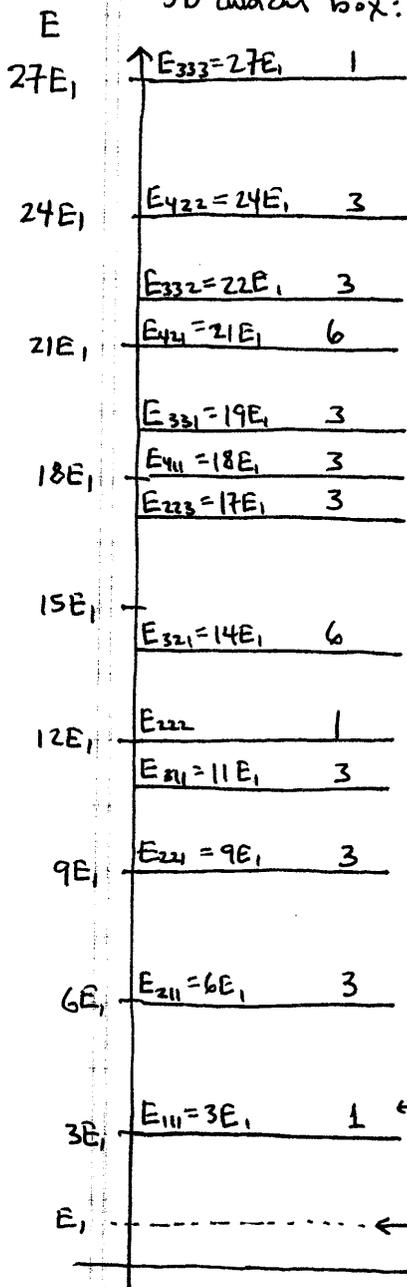
4<sup>th</sup> energy level:  $n_1=3, n_2=1, n_3=1$  is three-fold degenerate

$$E_{311} = E_{131} = E_{113} = E_1 (3^2 + 1^2 + 1^2)$$
$$= \boxed{11E_1}$$

5<sup>th</sup> energy level:  $n_1=2, n_2=2, n_3=2$  is NOT degenerate

$$E_{222} = E_1 (2^2 + 2^2 + 2^2)$$
$$= \boxed{12E_1}$$

Just for fun... here are first 13 energy levels and their degeneracy for the 3D cubical box:



If the quantum numbers are all equal, the state is not degenerate.

If one of the quantum numbers differs from the other two then the state is 3-fold degenerate.

If all three quantum numbers are different then the state is 6-fold degenerate.

$$\leftarrow E_{321} = E_{312} = E_{231} = E_{213} = E_{132} = E_{123}$$

$$\leftarrow E_{211} = E_{121} = E_{112}$$

← degeneracy  
← ground state for 3D particle in a cube

← ground state energy for 1D particle in a box

6-36

Show that the energy of a simple harmonic oscillator in the  $n=1$  state is  $3\hbar\omega/2$  by substituting the wave function  $\psi_1 = A x e^{-\alpha x^2/2}$  directly into the Schrödinger Eq.

First recall that  $\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{mK}{\hbar^2}}$  (Eq. 6.55a) where  $K$  is the spring constant

or... using the natural frequency of oscillation  $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{K}{m}} \rightarrow \alpha = \frac{m\omega}{\hbar}$

$$\psi_1 = A x e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}}$$

Substitute this into the time-independent Schrödinger Eq. and show that it is a solution for  $V(x) = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2$ , and  $E = (n + \frac{1}{2})\hbar\omega$  with  $n=1$ .

Sch. Eq.  $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi_1}{dx^2} + V(x)\psi_1 = E\psi_1$

Take derivatives...  $\frac{d\psi_1}{dx} = A e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}} + A x \left( \frac{-m\omega x}{\hbar} \right) e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}}$   
derivative of argument of exponential  
 $\frac{d}{dx} \left( -\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar} \right) = -\frac{m\omega x}{\hbar}$

$$\frac{d\psi_1}{dx} = A e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}} - A \left( \frac{m\omega}{\hbar} \right) x^2 e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2\psi_1}{dx^2} &= A \left( -\frac{m\omega x}{\hbar} \right) e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}} - A \left( \frac{2m\omega}{\hbar} \right) x e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}} - A \left( \frac{m\omega}{\hbar} \right) x^2 \left( -\frac{m\omega x}{\hbar} \right) e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}} \\ &= \underbrace{\left( -\frac{m\omega}{\hbar} \right) A x e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}}}_{\psi_1} - \underbrace{\left( \frac{2m\omega}{\hbar} \right) A x e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}}}_{\psi_1} + \underbrace{\left( \frac{m\omega}{\hbar} \right)^2 x^2 A x e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}}}_{\psi_1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi_1}{dx^2} = \left[ -\frac{3m\omega}{\hbar} + \left( \frac{m\omega}{\hbar} \right)^2 x^2 \right] \psi_1$$

Put this into the Sch. Eq. with  $V(x) = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 x^2$  - SHO potential energy function.

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left[ -\frac{3m\omega}{\hbar} + \left(\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}\right)^2 x^2 \right] \psi_1 + \frac{1}{2} m\omega^2 x^2 \psi_1 = E_1 \psi_1$$

↑ ↑ ↑  $\psi_1$  cancels out

$$E_1 = \frac{3}{2} \hbar\omega - \frac{1}{2} m\omega^2 x^2 + \frac{1}{2} m\omega^2 x^2$$

↑ ↑ cancel

$$E_1 = \frac{3}{2} \hbar\omega$$

which is the expected result for  $n=1$ .

So... we have verified that  $\psi_1 = A x e^{-\frac{m\omega x^2}{2\hbar}}$  is a solution to the time-independent Schrödinger equation for the 1D simple harmonic oscillator, and that it corresponds to an energy of  $\frac{3}{2} \hbar\omega$ .

6-40

(a) Calculate the transmission probability for an  $\alpha$ -particle of energy  $E = 5 \text{ MeV}$  through a Coulomb barrier of a heavy nucleus that is approximated by a square barrier with  $V_0 = 15 \text{ MeV}$  and width  $L = 1.3 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m}$ .

$E < V_0 \dots$  transmission probability is given by eq. 6.69

$$T = \left[ 1 + \frac{V_0^2 \sinh^2(KL)}{4E(V_0 - E)} \right]^{-1}$$

where  $K = \frac{\sqrt{2m(V_0 - E)}}{\hbar} \approx \frac{\sqrt{2mc^2(V_0 - E)}}{\hbar c}$

In this problem...  $mc^2 = 3727 \text{ MeV}$  (rest mass energy of an  $\alpha$ -particle)

So...

$$K = \frac{\sqrt{2(3.727 \times 10^9 \text{ eV})(10 \times 10^6 \text{ eV})}}{197 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm} \times 10^{-9} \text{ m/nm}} = 1.4 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-1}$$

So...  $KL = 1.4 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-1} \cdot 1.3 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m} = \underline{18}$  This is substantially larger than unity, so we could use eq. 6.70...

$$T = 16 \frac{E}{V_0} \left( 1 - \frac{E}{V_0} \right) e^{-2KL}$$

$$T = 16 \left( \frac{5}{15} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{5}{15} \right) e^{-36} = 16 \left( \frac{5}{15} \right) \left( \frac{10}{15} \right) e^{-36} = 16 \left( \frac{1}{3} \right) \left( \frac{2}{3} \right) e^{-36}$$

$$T = 8.2 \times 10^{-16} \quad \text{This is a tiny probability}$$

Use the more exact equation to confirm this result: Note that  $\sinh(KL) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{KL} - e^{-KL})$

For  $KL = 18 \dots \sinh(KL) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{18} - e^{-18}) = 3.28 \times 10^7$

$$T = \left[ 1 + \frac{(5)^2 \cdot 1.08 \times 10^{15}}{4 \cdot 5 \cdot 10} \right]^{-1} = 8.2 \times 10^{-16} \quad \text{check } \checkmark$$

(b) Also calculate the probability by doubling the barrier height.  $V_0 = \underline{\underline{30 \text{ MeV}}}$

Recalculate  $K$ : 
$$K = \frac{\sqrt{2m^2(V_0 - E)}}{\hbar c} = \frac{\sqrt{2(3.727 \times 10^9 \text{ eV})(25 \times 10^6 \text{ eV})}}{197 \text{ eV nm} \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ m/nm}}$$

$$K = 2.19 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-1} \quad \text{so... } KL = 2.19 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-1} \cdot 1.3 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m} = \underline{\underline{28}}$$

Since  $KL = 18$  was sufficiently greater than unity to use eq. 6-70, we can use it again here...

$$T = 16 \frac{E}{V_0} \left(1 - \frac{E}{V_0}\right) e^{-2KL} = 16 \left(\frac{5}{30}\right) \left(1 - \frac{5}{30}\right) e^{-56}$$

$$T = 16 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) \left(\frac{5}{6}\right) e^{-56} = 2.22 e^{-56} = \boxed{1.06 \times 10^{-24}}$$

$$\frac{T_b}{T_a} = \frac{1.06 \times 10^{-24}}{8.2 \times 10^{-16}} \approx 10^{-9} \quad \text{doubling the barrier height reduces the transmission probability by a factor of } 10^9 \text{ (1 billion)!}$$

(c) Use the original barrier height, but double the width:

So... ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~...

$K = 1.4 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-1}$  as in part (a) because the barrier width does not enter the equation for  $K$ .

$$KL = 1.4 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-1} \cdot 2.6 \times 10^{-14} \text{ m} = \underline{\underline{36.4}} \approx \underline{\underline{36}}$$

$$T = 16 \frac{E}{V_0} \left(1 - \frac{E}{V_0}\right) e^{-2KL} = 16 \left(\frac{5}{15}\right) \left(1 - \frac{5}{15}\right) e^{-72}$$

$$= 16 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) e^{-72} = 3.55 e^{-72} = \underline{\underline{1.91 \times 10^{-31}}}$$

$$\frac{T_c}{T_a} = \frac{1.91 \times 10^{-31}}{8.2 \times 10^{-16}} = 2 \times 10^{-16} \quad \text{doubling the barrier width reduces the transmission probability by a factor of } \underline{\underline{\sim 4 \times 10^{15}}}$$

6-43

Let 11.0 eV electrons approach a potential barrier of height 3.8 eV

(a) For what barrier thickness  $z$  there no reflection?

Note that  $E > V_0$

From eq. 6.67, the transmission is 100% when  $k_{II}L = n\pi$

$$\text{where } k_{II} = \frac{\sqrt{2m(E-V_0)}}{\hbar} = \frac{\sqrt{2mc^2(E-V_0)}}{\hbar c}$$

$$\text{In this case... } k_{II} = \frac{\sqrt{2(511,000 \text{ eV})(11.0 \text{ eV} - 3.8 \text{ eV})}}{197 \text{ eV} \cdot \text{nm}} = 13.77 \text{ nm}^{-1}$$

$$\text{So... for barrier thickness... } L = \frac{n\pi}{k_{II}} = n \left( \frac{\pi}{13.77 \text{ nm}^{-1}} \right) = n \left( \underline{\underline{0.228 \text{ nm}}} \right)$$

Transmission will be 100%!

multiples of this  
this

$$L = 0.228 \text{ nm}, 0.456 \text{ nm}, 0.684 \text{ nm}, \dots$$

(b) For what barrier thickness is the reflection a maximum?

The maximum reflection occurs when  $T$  is a minimum, which happens when...

$$k_{II}L = \frac{n\pi}{2} \quad \text{for } n = 1, 3, 5, 7, \dots$$

$$\text{So.. for } L = n \left( \frac{\pi}{2k_{II}} \right) = 0.114 \text{ nm}, 0.342 \text{ nm}, 0.570 \text{ nm}, \dots$$



Now recognize that  $a_0 = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2}{\mu e^2}$ ; so... the equation becomes

$$-\frac{2\mu e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2 r} + \frac{\mu^2 e^4}{4(4\pi\epsilon_0)^2\hbar^4} + \frac{2\mu E}{\hbar^2} + \frac{2\mu e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2 r} = 0$$

↑ ↑ These terms cancel.

Solve for E:

$$\frac{2\mu E}{\hbar^2} = -\frac{\mu^2 e^4}{4(4\pi\epsilon_0)^2\hbar^4}$$

$$E = \frac{-\mu e^4}{8(4\pi\epsilon_0)^2\hbar^2} = -\frac{E_0}{4} \leftarrow n^2 \text{ for } n=2$$

$$\text{where } E_0 = \frac{\mu e^4}{2(4\pi\epsilon_0)^2\hbar^2} = \underline{\underline{13.6\text{eV}}} \text{ (see Eq. 4.26)}$$

So  $R_{2,1}$  is indeed a solution to the radial equation for  $n=2, l=1$ , and gives the same energy as the Bohr model for  $n=2$ .

7-9

List all the possible quantum numbers for the  $n=6$  level in atomic hydrogen.

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 n=6, & l=0 \quad m_l=0 \\
 & l=1 \quad m_l=-1, 0, 1 \\
 & l=2 \quad m_l=-2, -1, 0, 1, 2 \\
 & l=3 \quad m_l=-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3 \\
 & l=4 \quad m_l=-4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 \\
 & l=5 \quad m_l=-5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, -3, 4, 5
 \end{array}$$


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7-10

For a  $3p$  state give the possible values of  $n, l, m_l, L, L_z, L_x,$  and  $L_y$

The  $3p$  notation indicates that  $n=3, l=1, L=\hbar\sqrt{l(l+1)}=\sqrt{2}\hbar$

$$* \quad \boxed{m_l = -1} \quad \boxed{L_z = m_l \hbar = -\hbar}$$

The values of  $L_x$  and  $L_y$  are not "sharp" but must be consistent

$$\text{with... } L_x^2 + L_y^2 + L_z^2 = L^2$$

$$\text{so... } L_x^2 + L_y^2 + \hbar^2 = 2\hbar^2$$

$$\text{so... } \boxed{L_x^2 + L_y^2 = \hbar^2}$$

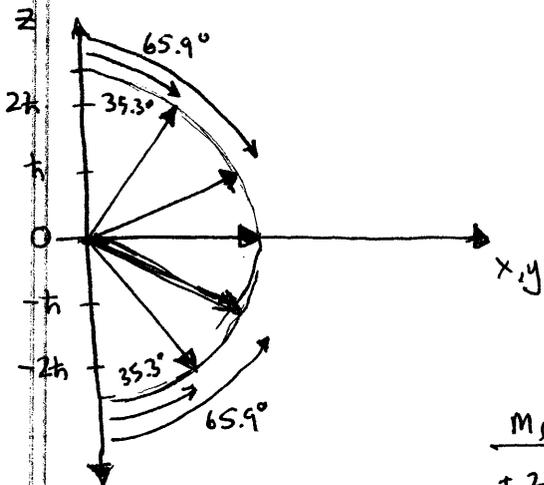
$$* \quad \boxed{m_l = 0} \quad \boxed{L_z = 0} \quad \boxed{L_x^2 + L_y^2 = 2\hbar^2}$$

$$* \quad \boxed{m_l = 1} \quad \boxed{L_z = \hbar} \quad \boxed{L_x^2 + L_y^2 = \hbar^2}$$

7-14

Draw for a 3d state all the possible orientations of the angular momentum vector  $\vec{L}$ .

The 3d state has  $n=3, l=2$ . So  $m_l = -2, -1, 0, 1, 2$



$$|\vec{L}| = \hbar \sqrt{l(l+1)} = \sqrt{6} \hbar$$

Angles of  $\vec{L}$  with respect to the z-axis:

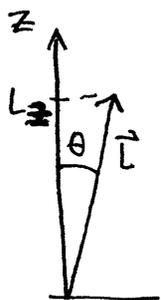
$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{L_z}{|\vec{L}|} \right) \quad L_z = m_l \hbar$$

$m_l$	$\theta$	$L_x^2 + L_y^2 = L^2 - L_z^2 = 6\hbar^2 - \hbar^2 m_l^2$
+2	35.3°	2 $\hbar^2$
+1	65.9°	5 $\hbar^2$
0	90°	6 $\hbar^2$
-1	114.1°	5 $\hbar^2$
-2	144.7°	2 $\hbar^2$

← answer to second part

7-15

What is the smallest value that  $l$  may have if  $\vec{L}$  is within 3° of the z-axis?



$$\cos \theta = \frac{L_z}{L} = \frac{m_l \hbar}{\sqrt{l(l+1)} \hbar}$$

When  $L_z$  is closest to perfect alignment with the z-axis  $m_l = l$

$$\text{So... } \cos \theta = \frac{l}{\sqrt{l(l+1)}}$$

for  $\theta = 3^\circ$

$$\cos 3^\circ = 0.9986 \dots$$

Or... inverting equation

$$\frac{\sqrt{l(l+1)}}{l} = (\cos \theta)^{-1} \quad \frac{l(l+1)}{l^2} = (\cos^2 \theta)^{-1}$$

$$\frac{l^2 + l}{l^2} = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta}$$

$$\frac{1}{l} = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} - 1$$

$$1 + \frac{1}{l} = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta}$$

$$l = \left( \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} - 1 \right)^{-1} = \boxed{364}$$

Minimum value for  $l$  to have  $\vec{L}$  within 3° of z-axis.