

[Sakurai 3-9]

We should begin by noting that

$$D^{(1/2)}(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-i(\alpha+\gamma)/2} \cos(\beta/2) & -e^{-i(\alpha-\gamma)/2} \sin(\beta/2) \\ e^{i(\alpha-\gamma)/2} \sin(\beta/2) & e^{i(\alpha+\gamma)/2} \cos(\beta/2) \end{bmatrix}$$

has the form of the general unimodular matrix in 3.3.7, with

Cayley-Klein Parameters $a = e^{-i(\alpha+\gamma)/2} \cos(\beta/2)$, $b = -e^{-i(\alpha-\gamma)/2} \sin(\beta/2)$.

→ Thus $D = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ -b^* & a^* \end{bmatrix}$, and D is unitary b/c $D^\dagger D = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ -b^* & a^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ -b^* & a^* \end{bmatrix} = I$.

→ D is also Unimodular because $aa^* - (b(-b^*)) = |a|^2 + |b|^2$

$$= e^{-i(\alpha+\gamma)/2} \cos(\beta/2) e^{i(\alpha+\gamma)/2} \cos(\beta/2) + e^{-i(\alpha-\gamma)/2} \sin(\beta/2) (-e^{i(\alpha-\gamma)/2} \sin(\beta/2))$$

$$= \cos^2(\beta/2) + \sin^2(\beta/2) = I \quad \checkmark$$

Thus we use $\text{Re}(a) = \cos(\theta/2) \Rightarrow \theta = 2\cos^{-1}(\text{Re}(a))$ from 3.3.10

From Euler's Formula, $a = (\cos(\frac{\alpha+\gamma}{2}) - i \sin(\frac{\alpha+\gamma}{2})) \cos(\beta/2)$ (10)

$$\text{So } \text{Re}(a) = \cos(\frac{\alpha+\gamma}{2}) \cos(\beta/2) \Rightarrow \sqrt{\theta = 2\cos^{-1}(\cos(\frac{\alpha+\gamma}{2}) \cos(\beta/2))}$$