

4.2 a) \hat{T}_d and \hat{T}_d' obviously commute: 5 paces North + 2 paces East is the same as 2 paces East + 5 paces North. Let's show this.

$$\hat{T}_d = 1 - \frac{i\vec{d} \cdot \hat{p}}{\hbar}, \quad \hat{T}_d' = 1 - \frac{i\vec{d}' \cdot \hat{p}}{\hbar}$$

Now, let $\vec{d} \cdot \hat{p} \equiv P_i$ and $\vec{d}' \cdot \hat{p} \equiv P_j$

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{T}_d, \hat{T}_d'] &= \left(1 - \frac{iP_i}{\hbar}\right)\left(1 - \frac{iP_j}{\hbar}\right) - \left(1 - \frac{iP_j}{\hbar}\right)\left(1 - \frac{iP_i}{\hbar}\right) \\ &= 1 - \frac{iP_i}{\hbar} - \frac{iP_j}{\hbar} - P_i P_j \frac{1}{\hbar^2} - \left(1 + \frac{i}{\hbar} P_j + \frac{i}{\hbar} P_i + \frac{1}{\hbar^2} P_j P_i\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\hbar^2} (P_j P_i - P_i P_j) = 0 \quad \text{because } [P_j, P_i] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Yes. \hat{T}_d and \hat{T}_d' commute

b) Intuition tells me that $\hat{D}(\hat{n}, \phi)$ and $\hat{D}(\hat{n}', \phi')$ do not commute. Let's show this.

$$\hat{D}(\hat{n}, \phi) \approx 1 - \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n} = 1 - \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} J_i \quad (J_i \equiv \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n})$$

$$\hat{D}(\hat{n}', \phi') \approx 1 - \frac{i\phi'}{\hbar} \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n}' = 1 - \frac{i\phi'}{\hbar} J_j \quad (J_j \equiv \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n}')$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{D}(\hat{n}, \phi), \hat{D}(\hat{n}', \phi')] &= 1 - \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} J_i - \frac{i\phi'}{\hbar} J_j - \frac{\phi\phi'}{\hbar^2} J_i J_j - \left(1 + \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} J_i + \frac{i\phi'}{\hbar} J_j + \frac{\phi\phi'}{\hbar^2} J_j J_i\right) \\ &= \frac{\phi\phi'}{\hbar^2} (J_j J_i - J_i J_j) = \frac{\phi\phi'}{\hbar^2} [J_j, J_i] \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

b/c J_i and J_j do not commute: No. $\hat{D}(\hat{n}, \phi)$, $\hat{D}(\hat{n}', \phi')$ do not commute

c) \hat{T}_d and $\hat{\Pi}$ obviously do not commute: If I walk 5 paces forward, then turn around, I'm not at the same spot as turning around, and then walking 5 paces forward! Let's show this.

$$[\hat{T}_d, \hat{\Pi}] = \left(1 - \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} \vec{d} \cdot \hat{p}\right) \Pi - \Pi \left(1 - \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} \vec{d} \cdot \hat{p}\right)$$

$$= \Pi - \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} \Pi - \Pi + \Pi \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} P = \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} (\Pi P - P \Pi) \neq 0$$

b/c $\{\Pi, P\} = 0 \Rightarrow [\Pi, P] \neq 0$.

No. \hat{T}_d and $\hat{\Pi}$ do not commute.

d) $\hat{D}(\hat{n}, \phi)$ and $\hat{\Pi}$ commute. Let's show this.

$$[\hat{D}(\hat{n}, \phi), \hat{\Pi}] = \left(1 - \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} J_n\right) \Pi - \Pi \left(1 - \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} J_n\right) = \Pi - \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} J_n \Pi - \Pi + \Pi \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} J_n$$

$$= \frac{i\phi}{\hbar} (\Pi J_n - J_n \Pi) = 0 \quad \text{b/c } [\Pi, J_n] = 0 \quad \text{by 4.2.16.}$$

Yes. $\hat{D}(\hat{n}, \phi)$ and $\hat{\Pi}$ commute

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