

November 1, 2023

1. For hydrogen-like systems, the energy levels are given by

$$E_n = -\frac{Z^2}{n^2}\mathcal{R}, \quad (1)$$

with  $\mathcal{R}$  being the Rydberg constant,  $Z$  the atomic number, and  $n$  the principal quantum number. It is noticed that the eigenvalues of hydrogen-like systems are greatly degenerate, indicating that the Hamiltonian,

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{p}}^2}{2m_e} - \frac{Ze^2}{r}, \quad (2)$$

has more internal symmetries or conserved dynamic quantities. The symmetry arises from nothing but the Runge-Lenz (RL) vector you have encountered in the classical mechanics. The RL vector is defined as

$$\hat{\mathbf{M}} \equiv \frac{1}{2m_e}(\hat{\mathbf{p}} \times \hat{\mathbf{L}} - \hat{\mathbf{L}} \times \hat{\mathbf{p}}) - \frac{Ze^2}{r}\hat{\mathbf{r}}, \quad (3)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{L}} = \hat{\mathbf{r}} \times \hat{\mathbf{p}}$  is the angular momentum operator. Show that

$$[\hat{\mathbf{M}}, \hat{H}] = 0 \quad (4)$$

and

$$\hat{\mathbf{L}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{M}} = \hat{\mathbf{M}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{L}} = 0. \quad (5)$$

2. Exercise *E5.4.1-5.4.2* in textbook.