

# **Qin's seminar**

--- teaching part

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2022. 9. 30

# Time reversal $\Theta$

- Refs: P277 《群论及其在固体物理中的应用》  
P103 《quantum field theory in a nutshell》, A. Zee  
曾谨言, 第九章 时间反演

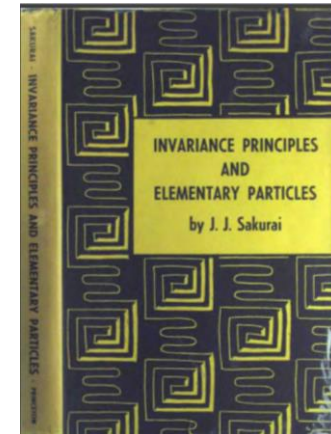
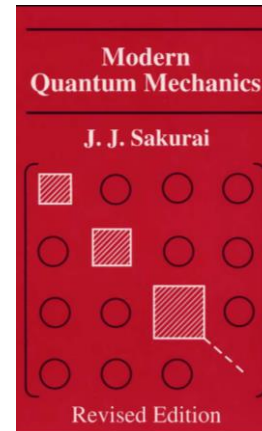
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Most inspiring demonstration:

**J. J. Sakurai (Jun John, 1933-1982)**

《Modern quantum mechanics》

《Invariance principle and elementary particles》



# 时间倒流了吗？

你不在的时候，我有个机会去过了一段年轻时候的日子。本来以为我再活一次的话，也许会有什么不一样，结果，还是差不多，没什么不同。只是突然觉得，再活一次的话，好像真的没那个必要，真的没那个必要。



你知道我以后想做什么吗？我要去告诉别人他们不知道的事，给别人看他们看不到的东西，我想，这样一定天天都很好玩。



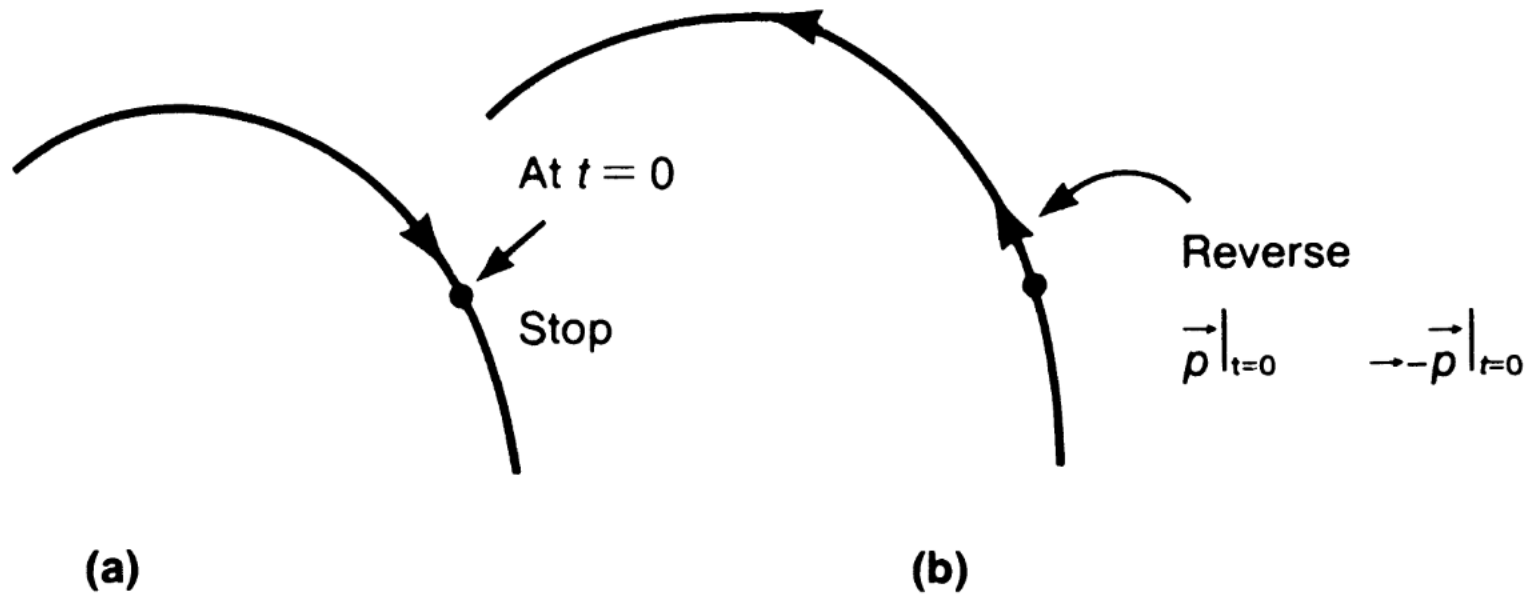
《 A one and a Two 》：杨德昌的《一一》

## Learning to teaching

- Wigner (1932) : “时间反演态”并不意味着“time reversal”  
→ misnomer, “science fictions”

而是“reversal of direction of motion”

时间反演对称性（反线性）并不导致某种守恒量



**FIGURE 4.9.** (a) Classical trajectory which stops at  $t = 0$  and (b) reverses its motion  $\mathbf{p}|_{t=0} \rightarrow -\mathbf{p}|_{t=0}$ .

## Newtonian mechanics

$$m \frac{d^2 \vec{x}}{dt^2} = \vec{F}(\vec{x})$$

Clearly if  $\vec{x}(t)$  is a possible trajectory, then likewise so is  $\vec{x}(-t)$  since

$$m \frac{d^2 \vec{x}}{d(-t)^2} = \vec{F}(\vec{x})$$

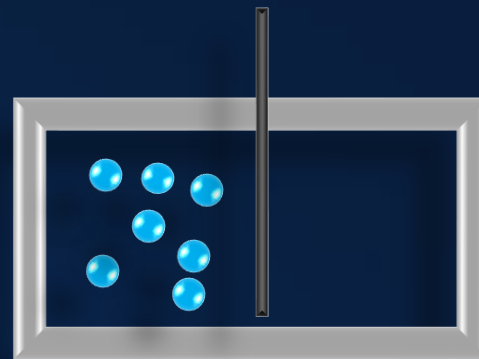


Falling body vs thrown upwards



## 覆水难收

未来与过去不同



气体的等温自由膨胀：不可逆性

**Q：微观上每个气体分子运动可逆，  
为什么宏观上无法退回到膨胀前？**

Wigner(1932,1959): out of dilemma

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi(\vec{r}, t) = \hat{H} \psi(\vec{r}, t)$$

$$\psi(\vec{r}, t) = e^{i(\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x} - E_n t)/\hbar} \quad t \rightarrow -t \quad \psi(\vec{r}, t) = e^{i(\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x} + E_n t)/\hbar}$$

• Contradiction:  $\frac{p^2}{2m} \psi(\vec{r}, t) = E_n \psi(\vec{r}, t)$        $\frac{p^2}{2m} \psi(\vec{r}, t) = -E_n \psi(\vec{r}, t)$

Introduce time reversed state  $\Theta \psi(\vec{r}, t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$

$$e^{-i(\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x} - E_n(-t))/\hbar} = e^{i(-\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x} - E_n t)/\hbar}$$

$$\Theta |p\rangle = |-p\rangle, E_n \text{ keep invariant!}$$



- We require the probability of finding a particle which will be the same .

$$\langle \psi | \psi \rangle = \langle \Theta \psi | \Theta \psi \rangle$$

We have two choices :  $|\langle \varphi | \psi \rangle| = |\langle \Theta \varphi | \Theta \psi \rangle|$

$$\langle \varphi | \psi \rangle = \langle \Theta \varphi | \Theta \psi \rangle \quad (\Theta \text{ unitary, keep inner product invariant})$$

$$\langle \varphi | \psi \rangle^* = \langle \psi | \varphi \rangle = \langle \Theta \varphi | \Theta \psi \rangle \quad (\Theta \text{ anti-unitary: an extra complex conjugate})$$

# Hermitian operator

→ a generalization of a real number

Hermitian conjugate of  $|\psi\rangle$

$$|\psi\rangle^\dagger = \langle\psi|$$

$$\langle\psi|^\dagger = |\psi\rangle$$

Why this requirement  $\hat{O} = \hat{O}^\dagger$  (Hermitian, or self-adjoint) ?

$$a = \langle\psi|\hat{O}|\psi\rangle = \langle\psi|\hat{O}^\dagger|\psi\rangle = a^* \quad (\text{physical observable})$$

$$\text{Generally, } \langle\varphi|\hat{O}|\psi\rangle = \langle\psi|\hat{O}|\varphi\rangle^*$$

## 反线性么正算符 $\Theta$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi(\vec{r}, t) = \hat{H} \psi(\vec{r}, t)$$

数学处理:  $t \rightarrow -t$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi(\vec{r}, -t)}{\partial (-t)} = H \psi(\vec{r}, -t), \text{ 不满足薛定谔方程}$$

等式两边取复共轭, 发现

当  $\psi'(\vec{r}, t) = \psi^*(\vec{r}, -t)$  满足薛定谔方程,

回到对于时间反演算符 $\Theta$ (物理)的要求, 将时间反演算符作用于方程的两边

$$\Theta i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial (t)} = \Theta H \psi(\vec{r}, t)$$

如果 $\Theta = UK$ 是反线性的么正算符, 问题迎刃而解,  $\Theta$ 与 $i$ 的对易关系负号合并数学上 $t \rightarrow -t$ 的要求。

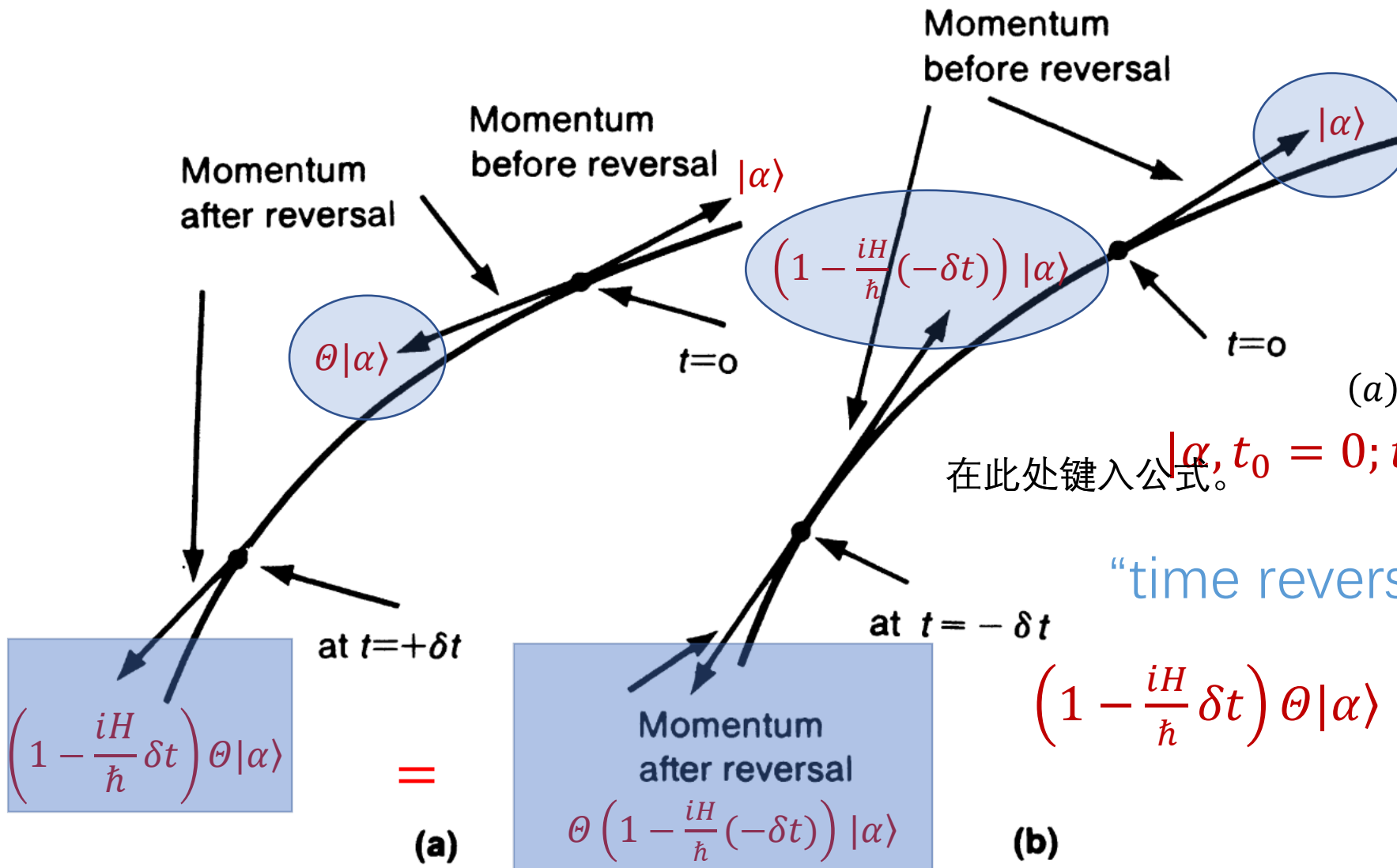
$$\text{左边} = -i\hbar \Theta \frac{\partial \psi(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial (t)} = \text{右边} = H \Theta \psi(\vec{r}, t)$$

$$\left[ \Theta, i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right] = 0 \text{ match } [\Theta, H] = 0$$

如果  $\Theta \psi(\vec{r}, t) = \psi^*(\vec{r}, -t)$

一切变得简单，复共轭视为打补丁（**qinsx**）

得到  $\psi^*(\vec{r}, -t)$  满足薛定谔方程的形式。



Note:

All the treatments start at  $t = 0$

(a):  $0 \rightarrow \delta t$

在此处键入公式。 $|\alpha, t_0 = 0; t = \delta t\rangle = \left(1 - \frac{iH}{\hbar}\delta t\right)|\alpha\rangle$

“time reversal symmetry” requires

$$\left(1 - \frac{iH}{\hbar}\delta t\right)\Theta|\alpha\rangle = \Theta|\alpha, t_0 = 0; t = -\delta t\rangle$$

$$= \Theta\left(1 - \frac{iH}{\hbar}(-\delta t)\right)|\alpha\rangle$$

(b):  $(-\delta t \rightarrow 0)^{-1}$

“reversal of motion”

FIGURE 4.11. Momentum before and after time reversal at time  $t = 0$  and  $t = \pm \delta t$ .

$$\left(1 - \frac{iH}{\hbar} \delta t\right) \Theta |\alpha\rangle = \Theta \left(1 - \frac{iH}{\hbar} (-\delta t)\right) |\alpha\rangle$$

$$-iH\Theta = \Theta iH$$

If  $\Theta$  is unitary,

$$-H\Theta = \Theta H$$

$$H\Theta |n\rangle = -\Theta H |n\rangle = -E_n \Theta |n\rangle$$

Nonsensical!



$\Theta$  is anti-unitary  $\rightarrow$  antilinear

$$-iH\Theta = \Theta iH = -i\Theta H$$

$$H\Theta = \Theta H$$

# 时间反演算符的性质

- 反线性

$$\Theta(a\phi + b\varphi) = a^* \Theta\phi + b^* \Theta\varphi$$

$$(\Theta\phi, \Theta\varphi) = (\varphi, \phi) = (\phi, \varphi)^*$$

- 反么正 (反线性的么正)

$$\Theta = UK$$

Unitary \* complex conjugate

# The operation of time-reversal operator

Dual  
Corres-  
pondence

*proof:*

$$\langle \beta | \Theta | \alpha \rangle = \langle \beta | (\Theta | \alpha \rangle)$$

$$|\tilde{\alpha}\rangle = \Theta |\alpha\rangle, \quad |\tilde{\beta}\rangle = \Theta |\beta\rangle,$$

$$|\gamma\rangle \equiv \otimes^\dagger |\beta\rangle$$

$$|\gamma\rangle \leftrightarrow \langle \gamma| = \langle \beta| \otimes$$

$$\langle \beta| \otimes |\alpha\rangle = \langle \gamma|\alpha\rangle = \langle \tilde{\alpha}|\tilde{\gamma}\rangle$$

$$= \langle \tilde{\alpha} | \Theta \otimes^\dagger | \beta \rangle$$

$$= \langle \tilde{\alpha} | \Theta \otimes^\dagger \Theta^{-1} \Theta | \beta \rangle$$

$$= \langle \tilde{\alpha} | \Theta \otimes^\dagger \Theta^{-1} | \tilde{\beta} \rangle$$

← Identity from the antiunitary nature of  $\Theta$

$$\langle \beta | \otimes |\alpha\rangle = \langle \tilde{\alpha} | \Theta \otimes^\dagger \Theta^{-1} | \tilde{\beta} \rangle$$



Linear operator

For Hermitian observables:

$$\langle \beta | A | \alpha \rangle = \langle \tilde{\alpha} | \Theta A \Theta^{-1} | \tilde{\beta} \rangle$$

Odd/even operator

$$\Theta A \Theta^{-1} = \pm A$$

$$\langle \beta | A | \alpha \rangle = \pm \langle \tilde{\beta} | A | \tilde{\alpha} \rangle^*$$



- Expectation value

$$\langle \alpha | p | \alpha \rangle = -\langle \tilde{\alpha} | p | \tilde{\alpha} \rangle$$

$$\Theta p \Theta^{-1} = -p$$

$$p \Theta |p'\rangle = -\Theta p |p'\rangle = -\Theta p' |p'\rangle = -p' \Theta |p'\rangle$$

$\Theta |p'\rangle = | -p' \rangle$  (up to a phase factor):  $| -p' \rangle$  is the momentum eigen-ket with eigenvalue  $-p'$

$$\langle \alpha | x | \alpha \rangle = \langle \tilde{\alpha} | x | \tilde{\alpha} \rangle$$

$$\Theta x \Theta^{-1} = x$$

$$\Theta |x'\rangle = |x'\rangle \text{ (up to a phase)}$$

- Check the fundamental commutation relation:

$$[x_i, p_j] | \rangle = i\hbar \delta_{ij} | \rangle$$

$$\Theta [x_i, p_j] \Theta^{-1} \Theta | \rangle = \Theta i\hbar \delta_{ij} | \rangle$$

$$[x_i, -p_j] \Theta | \rangle = -i\hbar \delta_{ij} \Theta | \rangle$$

for angular-momentum operator,

$$[J_i, J_j] = i\hbar \varepsilon_{ijk} J_k$$

$$\Theta J \Theta^{-1} = -J$$

- This is consistent for spin-less system where  $J = r \times p$

# Wave function

$|\alpha\rangle$ : a spinless single – particle state

$$|\alpha\rangle = \int d^3x' |x'\rangle\langle x'|\alpha\rangle$$
$$\Theta|\alpha\rangle = \int d^3x' |x'\rangle\langle x'|\alpha\rangle^*$$
$$\psi(x') \rightarrow \psi^*(x')$$

**Theorem** : Suppose the Hamiltonian is invariant under time reversal and the energy eigen-ket  $|n\rangle$  is nondegenerate; then the corresponding Energy eigen-function is real (or ,more generally, a real function times a phase factor independent of  $\mathbf{x}$ )

$$\langle x'|n\rangle = \langle x'|n\rangle^*$$

The eigen-spinor of  $\sigma \cdot \hat{n}$

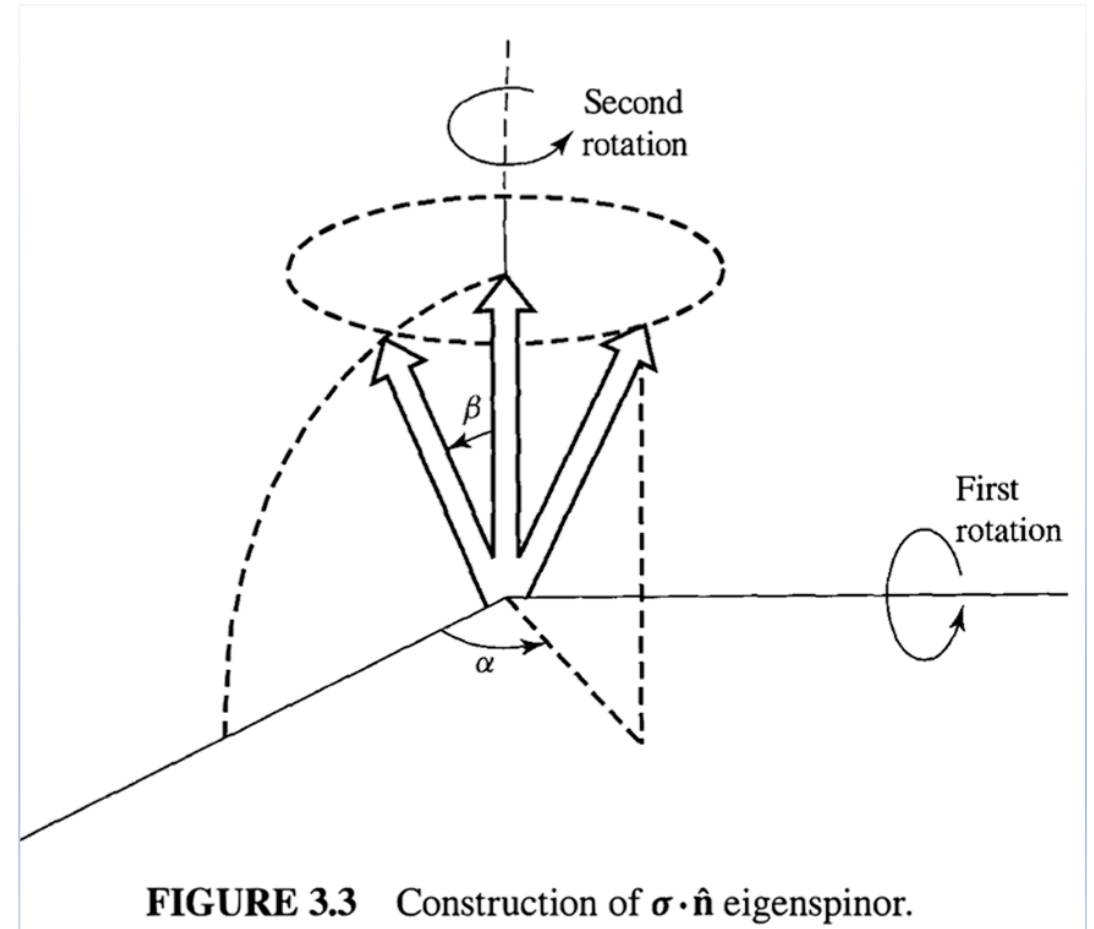
$$\sigma \cdot \hat{n} \chi = \chi$$

$\hat{n} \rightarrow$  unit vector,  
polar angle:  $\beta$  ; azimuthal angle:  $\alpha$

$$\sigma = (\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z)$$

$$\hat{n} = (\cos\beta \cos\alpha, \cos\beta \sin\alpha, \sin\beta)$$

$$\chi = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) e^{-i\alpha/2} \\ \sin\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) e^{-i\alpha/2} \end{pmatrix}$$



For spin-1/2 system

$$\sigma = \frac{2S}{\hbar}$$

$$\hat{n} = (0,0,1)$$

$$\sigma \cdot \hat{n} = \sigma_z$$

The first rotation, the operator :  $e^{-iS_y\beta/\hbar}$

$|+\rangle$  : eigenvector of  $\sigma_z$

1: eigenvalue

*The second rotation*, the operator :  $e^{-iS_z\alpha/\hbar}$

$$e^{-iS_z\alpha/\hbar} e^{-iS_y\beta/\hbar} |+\rangle = e^{-i\sigma_z\alpha/2} e^{-i\sigma_y\beta/2} |+\rangle$$

$$= \left[ \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} - i \sigma_z \sin \frac{\alpha}{2} \right] \left[ \cos \beta - i \sigma_y \sin \frac{\beta}{2} \right] \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) e^{-i\alpha/2} \\ \sin\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) e^{-i\alpha/2} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Time reversal for a spin $\frac{1}{2}$ system

- $|\hat{n}; +\rangle = e^{-is_z\alpha/\hbar} e^{-is_y\beta/\hbar} |+\rangle$
- $\Theta |\hat{n}; +\rangle = e^{-is_z\alpha/\hbar} e^{-is_y\beta/\hbar} \Theta |+\rangle = \eta |\hat{n}; -\rangle$  (\*)
- $|+\rangle$  is the initial state, the factor  $e^{-is_z\alpha/\hbar} e^{-is_y\beta/\hbar}$  is the transformation of  $|+\rangle$ ,  $\Theta$  directly operates on  $|+\rangle$ , it is the requirement for TRS, we expect  $|\hat{n}; -\rangle$  (compare to the argument in P271, (4.4.22-4.4.24)),

$\eta$  stands for an arbitrary

phase (a complex number of modulus unity)

$$|\hat{n}; -\rangle = e^{-is_z\alpha/\hbar} e^{-is_y(\pi+\beta)/\hbar} |+\rangle$$

$$\Theta = UK$$

## Identity

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \exp\left(-\frac{i\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{n}\alpha}{2}\right) &= \left[ 1 - \frac{(\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{n})^2}{2!} \left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{(\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{n})^4}{4!} \left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)^4 - \dots \right] \\ &\quad - i \left[ (\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{n}) \frac{\alpha}{2} - \frac{(\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{n})^3}{3!} \left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)^3 + \dots \right] \\ &= \mathbf{1} \cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) - i (\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{n}) \sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$(\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{a})(\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{b}) = \vec{a}\cdot\vec{b} + i \vec{\sigma}\cdot(\vec{a}\times\vec{b})$$

$$(\vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{\hat{n}})^n = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } n \text{ even} \\ \vec{\sigma}\cdot\vec{\hat{n}} & \text{for } n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

# Time reversal for a spin $\frac{1}{2}$ system

$$\Theta = \eta e^{-i\pi S_y/\hbar} K = -i \eta \frac{2S_y}{\hbar} K = -i \eta \sigma_y K$$

Then we can check  $\Theta |\hat{n}; +\rangle = e^{-iS_z\alpha/\hbar} e^{-iS_y\beta/\hbar} \Theta |+\rangle$

$$\Theta e^{-iS_z\alpha/\hbar} = e^{-iS_z\alpha/\hbar} \Theta \quad (1)$$

$$\Theta e^{-iS_y\beta/\hbar} = e^{-iS_y\beta/\hbar} \Theta \quad (2)$$

In (1):  $i \rightarrow -i$ ,  $S_y S_z = -S_z S_y$

In (2): exponential factor  
is real. And  $S_y$  commutes  
with itself



- $\mathcal{X}(\hat{n}; +) \rightarrow |\hat{n}; +\rangle$
- $\sigma \cdot \hat{n} \mathcal{X}(\hat{n}; +) = \mathcal{X}(\hat{n}; +)$ , then
- $-i\sigma_y \mathcal{X}^*(\hat{n}; +) \rightarrow |\hat{n}; -\rangle$
- Choosing  $S_z$  representation

$$e^{-i\pi S_y/\hbar} |+\rangle = +|-\rangle, \quad e^{-i\pi S_y/\hbar} |-\rangle = -|+\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta (c_+ |+\rangle + c_- |-\rangle) &= +\eta c_+^* |-\rangle - \eta c_-^* |+\rangle, \\ \Theta^2 (c_+ |+\rangle + c_- |-\rangle) &= -|\eta|^2 c_+ |+\rangle - |\eta|^2 c_- |-\rangle \\ &= - (c_+ |+\rangle + c_- |-\rangle) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Theta^2 = -1 \rightarrow \text{kramers degeneracy}$$

证明:

$\because [\Theta, H] = 0, \quad H\psi = E\psi, H\Theta\psi = E\Theta\psi,$   
 $\Theta\psi$ 与 $\psi$ 对应同样的能量 $E$ 。

假设 $\Theta\psi = e^{i\alpha}\psi$  (即两个波函数等价), 则有

$$\Theta^2\psi = \Theta e^{i\alpha}\psi = e^{-i\alpha}\Theta\psi = \psi \Rightarrow \Theta^2 = 1$$

与 $\Theta^2 = -1$ 相矛盾, 故波函数不等价, 二重简并。

The presence of  $K$  (complex conjugate) makes  $\Theta$  “anti-linear unitary.”

• Let  $\Theta = UK$   $U^{-1}iU = i$ ,  $U$  is the unitary operator.

(1) for a spinless particle ( $U$ : phase factor )

$$\Theta = K \Rightarrow \Theta^2 = 1$$

(2) odd number of electrons

$$\Theta = -i\sigma_2 K \Rightarrow \Theta^2 = -1$$



Kramers degeneracy

由于时间反演算符和哈密顿量对易，对系统作时间反演不会改变系统的能量，因此

$$E_n(\vec{k}) = E_n(-\vec{k})$$

考虑倒空间中能带的周期性

$$E(\vec{k}) = E(\vec{k} + \vec{K})$$

$\vec{K}$ 为倒格矢，考虑

$$E\left(\frac{\vec{K}}{2} - \vec{\delta k}\right) = E\left(-\frac{\vec{K}}{2} + \vec{\delta k}\right) = E\left(\frac{\vec{K}}{2} + \vec{\delta k}\right)$$

$E(\vec{k})$ 是以零斜率进入布里渊区边界。

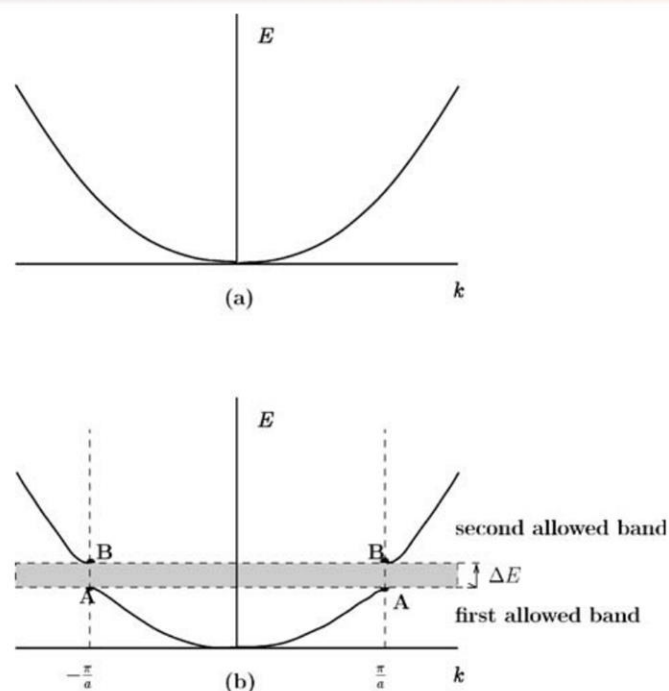
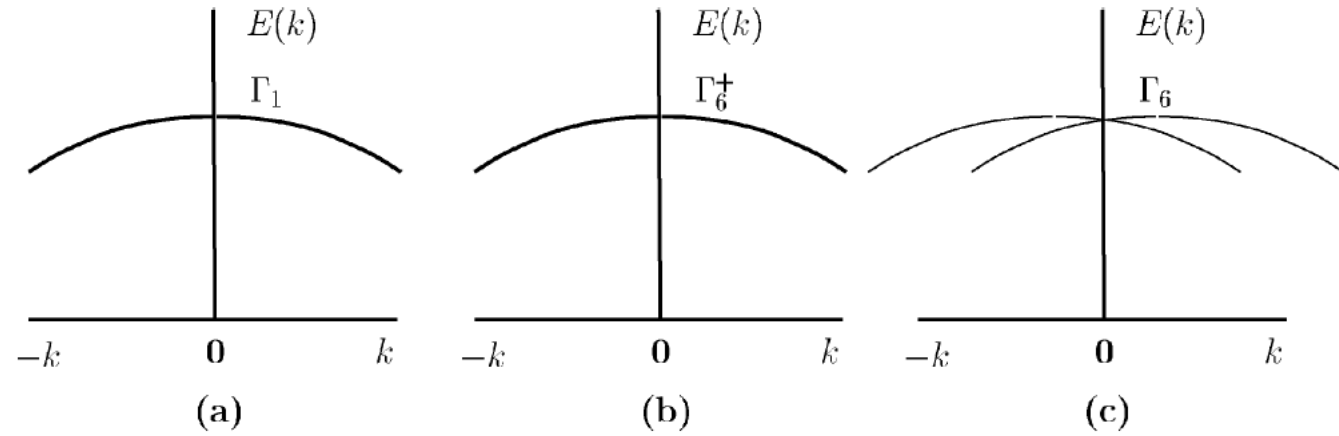
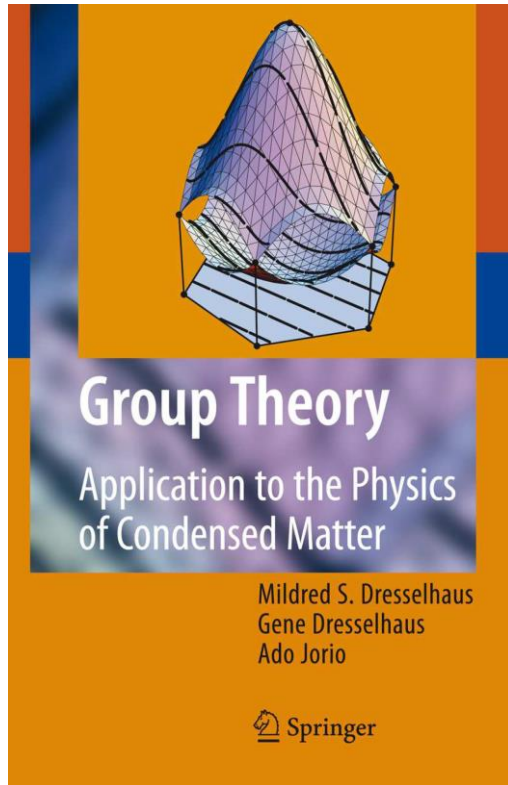


Fig. 16.1. Simple  $E(k)$  diagram for a spinless electron illustrating both  $E(\mathbf{k}) = E(-\mathbf{k})$  and the zero slope of  $E(\mathbf{k})$  at the Brillouin zone boundary



**Fig. 16.2.** Schematic example of Kramers degeneracy in a crystal in the case of: **(a)** no spin–orbit interaction where each level is doubly degenerate ( $\uparrow, \downarrow$ ), **(b)** both spin–orbit interaction and inversion symmetry are present and the levels are doubly degenerate, **(c)** spin–orbit interaction and no spatial inversion symmetry where the relations (16.23) and (16.24) apply

$$E_{n\uparrow}(\mathbf{k}) = E_{n\downarrow}(-\mathbf{k}) \quad (16.23)$$

$$E_{n\downarrow}(\mathbf{k}) = E_{n\uparrow}(-\mathbf{k}). \quad (16.24)$$

# Back to wave mechanics

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \left( -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V \right) \psi(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

$$\psi(\mathbf{x}, t) = u_n(\mathbf{x}) e^{-iE_n t/\hbar} \quad \psi^*(\mathbf{x}, -t) = u_n^*(\mathbf{x}) e^{-iE_n t/\hbar}$$

If at  $t = 0$  the wave function is given by

$$\psi = \langle \mathbf{x} | \alpha \rangle, \quad \text{then}$$

$$\Theta \psi = \langle \mathbf{x} | \alpha \rangle^*$$

In the spin-less case

Variance or constant ?  $t, \Delta t$

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi &= \Theta \frac{\psi(t + \Delta t) - \psi(t)}{\Delta t} = \frac{\psi^*(-t + \Delta t) - \psi^*(-t)}{\Delta t} \\ &= - \frac{\psi^*(-(t - \Delta t)) - \psi^*(-t)}{-\Delta t} = - \frac{\partial \psi^*(-t)}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Theta \psi \end{aligned}$$

$$\Theta i = -i\Theta, \quad \Theta \frac{\partial}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Theta \quad \rightarrow \quad \left[ \Theta, i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right] = 0$$

$$\Theta \psi(\vec{r}, t) = \psi^*(\vec{r}, -t),$$

$$\Theta e^{iHt} |\alpha\rangle = e^{iHt} \Theta |\alpha\rangle \quad (\text{here, } H\Theta = \Theta H)$$

# Kramers' theorem

which states that the energy levels of a time-reversal invariant system with an odd number of electrons are  $n$ -fold degenerate where  $n$  is even(偶数).

- Essentially the energy levels come in pairs of Kramers doublets, and you can only split these pairs by Hendrik Kramers (1894–1952) introducing a perturbation that breaks time-reversal, such as a magnetic field.



- 时间反演的灵魂是什么？

当  $t \rightarrow -t$ ， 你希望什么保持不变？ 薛定谔方程？

Ok, 如果是， 需要取复共轭，  
这样产生了所谓的反线性么正算符。

定义了state  $|p, s\rangle$ ， 要求  $\Theta|p, s\rangle = |-p, -s\rangle$ ， 一切可以推导  
时间在牛顿力学里是动力学变量， 在Hilbert space不是。

从运动轨迹的反演                      vs                      态演化“轨迹”的反演

## Learning to teaching

- 苔

作者：袁枚（清代）

白日不到处，青春恰自来。  
苔花如米小，也学牡丹开。

“The essence of education means that  
one tree shakes another tree,  
one cloud pushes another cloud,  
and one soul awakens another soul.”

----- German philosopher Karl Theodor Jaspers,  
《What is education》

**Best way to learn is to learn from the best**