

H3 p2 2008

We need these operators to have similar properties to the raising- and lowering operators for z

$$S_x^+ |+\rangle_x = 0, \quad S_x^+ |-\rangle_x = \hbar |-\rangle_x, \quad S_x^- |+\rangle_x = \hbar |-\rangle_x, \quad S_x^- |-\rangle_x = 0$$

$$S_x^+ : \quad S_x^+ = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|-\rangle_x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$S_x^+ |+\rangle_x = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|+\rangle_x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow a+b=0, \quad c+d=0 \Rightarrow a=-b, \quad c=-d$$

$$S_x^+ |-\rangle_x = \hbar |+\rangle_x \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & -a \\ c & -c \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \hbar \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow a+a=\hbar, \quad c+c=\hbar \Rightarrow a=c=\frac{\hbar}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{S_x^+ = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}}$$

$$S_x^- : \quad S_x^- = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$S_x^- |-\rangle_x = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} a-b &= 0 \\ c-d &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow a=b, \quad c=d$$

$$S_x^- |+\rangle_x = \hbar |-\rangle_x \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & a \\ c & c \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \hbar \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow a+a=\hbar, \quad c+c=-\hbar \Rightarrow a=\frac{\hbar}{2}, \quad c=-\frac{\hbar}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\underline{S_x^- = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}}}$$