

### †† Particle in a magnetic field

The Hamiltonian for a particle of charge  $q$ , mass  $m_0$ , in a constant magnetic field  $\mathbf{B} = (0, 0, B)$  is (approximately)

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2m_0} - \frac{qB}{2m_0} L_z.$$

- (a) The eigenvalues of which of the following are good quantum numbers:  $L^2$ ,  $L_x$ ,  $L_y$ ,  $L_z$ ?
- (b) Show (using the Ehrenfest Theorem result from MT) that the expectation values of  $L_x$ ,  $L_y$  and  $L_z$  in a general state  $|\psi\rangle$  satisfy the equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi | L_x | \psi \rangle &= \frac{qB}{2m_0} \langle \psi | L_y | \psi \rangle \\ \frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi | L_y | \psi \rangle &= -\frac{qB}{2m_0} \langle \psi | L_x | \psi \rangle \\ \frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi | L_z | \psi \rangle &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

- ~~(c) The magnetic moment operator  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  is defined by  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \frac{q}{2m_0} \mathbf{L}$ . Deduce that~~

~~$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi | \boldsymbol{\mu} | \psi \rangle = \frac{q}{2m_0} \langle \psi | \boldsymbol{\mu} | \psi \rangle \times \mathbf{B}. \quad (14)$$~~

- ~~(d) You've seen the equation of motion (14) before in the Prelims vector work. Show that (i) the length of the vector  $\langle \psi | \boldsymbol{\mu} | \psi \rangle$  is constant in time, and (ii)  $\langle \psi | \boldsymbol{\mu} | \psi \rangle \cdot \mathbf{B}$  is constant in time. Hence show that  $\langle \psi | \boldsymbol{\mu} | \psi \rangle$  precesses around the direction of  $\mathbf{B}$  with angular frequency  $\omega = \frac{qB}{2m_0}$ . Calculate  $\omega$  for the electron in a field of 1 tesla.~~