

# 5.73

## Quiz 24 ANSWERS

$$\text{Pauli Matrices: } \mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

A. What are the eigenvalues of  $\sigma_x$ ,  $\sigma_y$ , and  $\sigma_z$ ?

$$\begin{array}{ll} \sigma_x: & E^2 - 1 = 0 \quad E = \pm 1 \text{ (E is for eigenvalue)} \\ \sigma_y: & E^2 - 1 = 0 \quad E = \pm 1 \\ \sigma_z: & (1-E)((-1-E) = 0 \quad (-1+E^2) = 0 \quad E = \pm 1 \end{array}$$

B. Let  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3\cos\omega t \\ 3\cos\omega t & 4 \end{pmatrix}$ . Find the trace of

(i)  $\mathbf{MI}$

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{MI} = M \\ \text{Trace } M = 1 + 4 = 5 \end{array}$$

(ii)  $\mathbf{M}\sigma_x$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3\cos\omega t \\ 3\cos\omega t & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3\cos\omega t & 1 \\ 4 & 3\cos\omega t \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Trace}(\mathbf{M}\sigma_x) = 3\cos\omega t + 3\cos\omega t \\ = 6\cos\omega t \end{array}$$

(iii)  $\mathbf{M}\sigma_y$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3\cos\omega t \\ 3\cos\omega t & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 3\cos\omega t - 3i\cos\omega t$$
$$= 0$$

(iv)  $\mathbf{M}\sigma_z$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3\cos\omega t \\ 3\cos\omega t & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3\cos\omega t \\ 3\cos\omega t & -4 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\text{Trace}(\mathbf{M}\sigma_z) = 1 + (-4) = -3$$

C. Let  $\rho(t) = \frac{1}{5}\mathbf{M}$ .  $\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3\cos\omega t \\ 3\cos\omega t & 4 \end{pmatrix}$  Consider the vector

$$a_x = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\rho\sigma_x) = \frac{1}{10} \text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3\cos\omega t \\ 3\cos\omega t & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{10}(1+3\cos\omega t + 3\cos\omega t) = \frac{1}{10} + \frac{3}{5}\cos\omega t$$

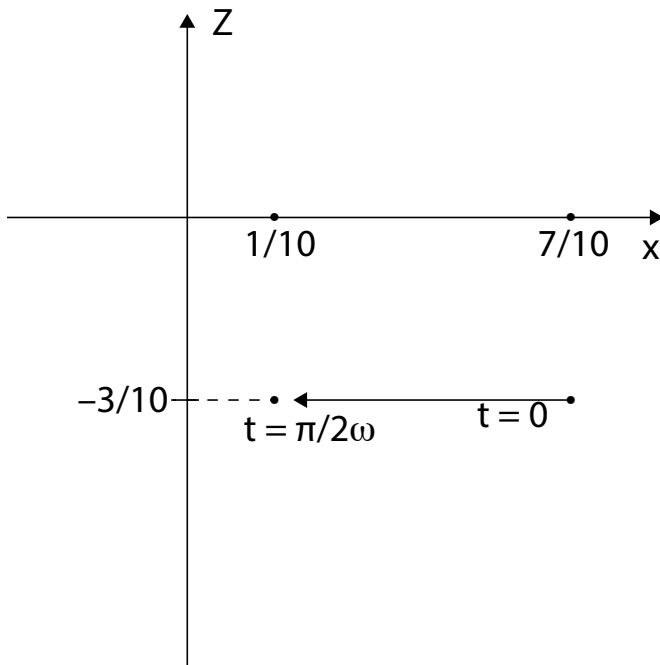
$$a_y = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\rho\sigma_y) = \frac{1}{10} \text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3\cos\omega t \\ 3\cos\omega t & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{10}[3i\cos\omega t - 3i\cos\omega t] = 0$$

$$a_z = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\rho\sigma_z) = \frac{1}{10} \text{Tr} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3\cos\omega t \\ 3\cos\omega t & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{10}[1-4] = -\frac{3}{10}$$

Where is the vector  $\vec{a}$  pointing at  $t = 0$  and at  $t = \pi/2\omega$ ?

at $t = 0$	$t = \pi/2\omega$
$a_x(0) = \frac{7}{10}$	$a_x(\pi/2\omega) = \frac{1}{10}$
$a_y(0) = 0$	$a_y(\pi/2\omega) = 0$
$a_z(0) = -\frac{3}{10}$	$a_z(\pi/2\omega) = -\frac{3}{10}$

$\vec{a}$  is moving back and forth along a line in  $xz$  plane



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