

Componenti di \vec{L} in coordinate sferiche

Indichiamo con $\hat{e}_r, \hat{e}_\theta, \hat{e}_\varphi$ i versori tangenti alle linee coordinate r, θ e φ . I vettori $\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial r}, \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \varphi}$ hanno le stesse direzioni e i loro versori sono quindi $\hat{e}_r, \hat{e}_\theta, \hat{e}_\varphi$. Dalle espressioni di x, y, z in coordinate sferiche, cioè da

$$\vec{r} = (r \sin \theta \cos \varphi, r \sin \theta \sin \varphi, r \cos \theta)$$

segue quindi

$$\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial r} = \hat{e}_r, \quad \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta} = r \hat{e}_\theta, \quad \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \varphi} = r \sin \theta \hat{e}_\varphi$$

dove

$$\begin{cases} \hat{e}_r = (\sin \theta \cos \varphi, \sin \theta \sin \varphi, \cos \theta), \\ \hat{e}_\theta = (\cos \theta \cos \varphi, \cos \theta \sin \varphi, -\sin \theta), \\ \hat{e}_\varphi = (-\sin \varphi, \cos \varphi, 0). \end{cases}$$

$\hat{e}_r, \hat{e}_\theta, \hat{e}_\varphi$ formano una terna ortogonale sinistrorsa di versori (cioè: $\hat{e}_r \times \hat{e}_\theta = \hat{e}_\varphi, \hat{e}_\theta \times \hat{e}_\varphi = \hat{e}_r, \hat{e}_\varphi \times \hat{e}_r = \hat{e}_\theta$). Si ha inoltre

$$\hat{e}_r \cdot \vec{\nabla} = \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial r} \cdot \vec{\nabla} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r}, \quad \hat{e}_\theta \cdot \vec{\nabla} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \theta} \cdot \vec{\nabla} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}, \quad \hat{e}_\varphi \cdot \vec{\nabla} = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \varphi} \cdot \vec{\nabla} = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi}.$$

Per cui il gradiente in coordinate sferiche è dato da:

$$\vec{\nabla} = \hat{e}_r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \hat{e}_\theta \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \hat{e}_\varphi \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi}.$$

Per \vec{L} allora segue:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{L} &= -i\hbar \vec{r} \times \vec{\nabla} = -i\hbar r \hat{e}_r \times \left(\hat{e}_r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \hat{e}_\theta \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \hat{e}_\varphi \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right) \\ &= i\hbar \left(-\hat{e}_\varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \hat{e}_\theta \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right), \end{aligned}$$

in cui ogni dipendenza da r è scomparsa, perciò possiamo metterci sulla sfera unitaria ($r = 1$). Dalle componenti cartesiane di \hat{e}_θ ed \hat{e}_φ , seguono le espressioni di L_x, L_y e L_z in coordinate sferiche:

$$L_x = i\hbar \left(\sin \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \cot \theta \cos \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right), \quad L_y = i\hbar \left(-\cos \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \cot \theta \sin \varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right), \quad L_z = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi}.$$

Inoltre si possono definire gli operatori

$$L_\pm \equiv L_x \pm iL_y = \hbar e^{\pm i\varphi} \left(\pm \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + i \cot \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right).$$

Infine dalle identità:

$$\hat{e}_\varphi \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{e}_\varphi}{\partial \theta} = \hat{e}_\varphi \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{e}_\theta}{\partial \theta} = \hat{e}_\theta \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{e}_\theta}{\partial \varphi} = 0, \quad \hat{e}_\theta \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{e}_\varphi}{\partial \varphi} = -\cos \theta,$$

segue l'espressione per \vec{L}^2 :

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{L}^2 &= \vec{L} \cdot \vec{L} = -\hbar^2 \left(-\hat{e}_\varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \hat{e}_\theta \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right) \cdot \left(-\hat{e}_\varphi \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \hat{e}_\theta \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \right) \\ &= -\hbar^2 \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} + \cot \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \varphi^2} \right) = -\hbar^2 \left(\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \varphi^2} \right) .\end{aligned}$$