

GEOMETRIC QUANTIZATION FOR THE MECHANICS ON SPHERES

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1. Introduction. The classical Hamiltonian (kinetic energy) H for the mechanical system consisting of a non-relativistic free particle of unit mass moving on a Riemannian manifold is given by one-half the Riemannian metric. Several authors say that the quantum Hamiltonian \hat{H} corresponding to H is $2^{-1}\hbar^2\Delta$, where Δ is the Laplacian acting on functions and $\hbar = (2\pi)^{-1}h$, $h = \text{Planck's constant}$. See Blattner [4] and Simms and Woodhouse [20]. However, DeWitt [7] and Cheng [5] used the method of "Feynman's path integrals" to derive a different operator for the quantum Hamiltonian. See also Ben-Abraham and Lonke [1]. Elhadad [9] applied the method of "Maslov pairing" to the geodesic flow on the unit n -sphere S^n to obtain a quantum Hamiltonian. Also, Weinstein [21] has shown, in the case of S^n , that the N -th quasi-classical eigenvalue for H is $\lambda_N = 2^{-1}\hbar^2(N + 2^{-1}(n-1))^2$, which is not equal to the N -th eigenvalue $\mu_N = 2^{-1}\hbar^2N(N + n - 1)$ of the operator $2^{-1}\hbar^2\Delta$ on S^n . Note that the multiplicity of λ_N is equal to that of μ_N . See Ii [11]. These results show that $2^{-1}\hbar^2\Delta$ may not necessarily be the quantum Hamiltonian corresponding to H . The correct quantum Hamiltonian \hat{H} has to be determined from appropriate general principles. In the present paper, we apply the quantization procedure of Kostant to quantize the mechanical system consisting of a non-relativistic, positive energy free particle of unit mass moving on the unit n -sphere S^n ($n \geq 3$). We construct a polarization which enables us to quantize H . The resulting quantum Hamiltonian \hat{H} has λ_N as the N -th eigenvalue. Moreover using the same polarization, we define an operator \tilde{L}^2 which has $2\mu_N$ as the N -th eigenvalue and has the same eigenspaces as that of \hat{H} . From the construction \tilde{L}^2 may be identified with $\hbar^2\Delta$. Under this identification, the correct quantum Hamiltonian \hat{H} on S^n is given by $2^{-1}\hbar^2(\Delta + 4^{-1}(n-1)^2)$. The referee pointed out that the idea of adding $4^{-1}(n-1)^2$ to the Laplacian was also found by Y. Akyildiz in

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his Berkeley thesis in connection with the representation of $SO(n+1, 2)$ on $L^2(S^n)$.

2. Preliminaries. Let \mathbf{R}^{n+1} and $T^*\mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ be the $(n+1)$ -space and its cotangent bundle with coordinates $x = (x_1, \dots, x_{n+1})$ and $(x, y) = (x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}, y_1, \dots, y_{n+1})$, respectively. Let $|x|^2 = \sum x_j^2$, $|y|^2 = \sum y_j^2$ and $x \cdot y = \sum x_j y_j$, so that the cotangent bundle on the unit n -sphere S^n is represented by $T^*S^n = \{(x, y) \in T^*\mathbf{R}^{n+1} \mid |x| = 1, x \cdot y = 0\}$. The Hamiltonian of a free particle of unit mass on S^n is given by $H(x, y) = 2^{-1}|y|^2$. The phase space of the positive energy free particle of unit mass on S^n is given by $M = T^*S^n - \{0\text{-section}\} = \{(x, y) \in T^*S^n \mid |y| > 0\}$ with the action form $\omega = \sum y_j dx_j$ and the symplectic form $\Omega = -d\omega = \sum dx_j \wedge dy_j$. Let $C^\infty(M; \mathbf{R})$ be the space of real-valued smooth functions on M . Since Ω is real and non-degenerate, we can define for each $f \in C^\infty(M; \mathbf{R})$ a real vector field X_f on M by $X_f \lrcorner \Omega = df$. X_f is called the Hamiltonian vector field generated by f . Let us define L_{jk} and $L^2 \in C^\infty(M; \mathbf{R})$ by $L_{jk}(x, y) = x_j y_k - x_k y_j$ ($1 \leq j, k \leq n+1$) and $L^2 = \sum_{j < k} L_{jk}^2$, which are called angular momenta and square of angular momenta, respectively. Note that $H = 2^{-1}L^2$. Let us denote $X_j = \partial/\partial x_j$, $Y_j = \partial/\partial y_j$, $X = (X_1, \dots, X_{n+1})$ and $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_{n+1})$. For the sake of simplicity, we write $u \cdot X$ instead of $\sum u_j X_j$ for $u = (u_1, \dots, u_{n+1})$. Then we have $X_H = \sum (y_j X_j - |y|^2 x_j Y_j) = y \cdot X - |y|^2 x \cdot Y$ and $X_{j_k} \equiv X_{L_{jk}} = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \{(-\delta_{ij} x_k + \delta_{ik} x_j) X_i + (-\delta_{ij} y_k + \delta_{ik} y_j) Y_i\}$, which are complete vector fields on M . X_H is the geodesic flow vector field on M . See Moser [13].

3. Quantum bundle L . Since the symplectic form Ω is exact, and M is simply connected ($n \geq 3$), there exists, up to isomorphism, unique quantum bundle L over M . For quantum bundles, see Kostant [12]. L is a trivial bundle; $L = (M \times \mathbf{C}, p, M)$. Let $\Gamma(L)$ denote the space of smooth cross-sections of L . Then $\Gamma(L)$ is identified with the space $C^\infty(M)$ of complex-valued smooth functions on M in a natural manner. The connection form θ on L is given by $\theta|_{(x, y, z)} = -\hbar^{-1} p^* \omega + i^{-1} z^{-1} dz$ ($z \in \mathbf{C} - \{0\}$), where $i = \sqrt{-1}$. The covariant differentiation ∇ corresponding to θ is given by $\nabla_Z \varphi = Z\varphi - i\hbar^{-1} \omega(Z)\varphi$ for any tangent vector Z to M and for any $\varphi \in C^\infty(M)$.

4. Polarization P . In this section, we construct a polarization of our symplectic manifold (M, Ω) , which is invariant under the flows of X_H and X_{j_k} . By means of this polarization, we quantize the "classical observables" H and L_{j_k} . See Elhadad [8], Gawedzki [10], Kostant [12], Onofri [14], [15], [16], Simms [18], [19] and Simms and Woodhouse [20].

Let F_j ($1 \leq j \leq n+1$) be vector fields on $T^*\mathbf{R}^{n+1}$ defined by

$F_j|_{(x,y)} = X_j - i|y|Y_j$. For any $(x, y) \in M$ and for any $v = (v_1, \dots, v_{n+1}) \in \mathbf{R}^{n+1}$, such that $v \cdot x = v \cdot y = 0$, the vector $v \cdot F|_{(x,y)} = \sum v_j F_j|_{(x,y)}$ is tangent to M . Let $P_{(x,y)}$ be the complexified tangent space spanned by the vectors $X_H|_{(x,y)}$ and $\{v \cdot F|_{(x,y)} | v \in \mathbf{R}^{n+1}, v \cdot x = v \cdot y = 0\}$. Then $P: (x, y) \mapsto P_{(x,y)}$ defines a distribution on M , and we have:

LEMMA 1. P is a polarization of (M, Ω) , which is invariant under the flows of X_H and X_{jk} .

PROOF. It is easy to see that P is an n -dimensional smooth, complex distribution on M . $\Omega(P, P) = 0$ is straightforward. Let $v = (v_1, \dots, v_{n+1})$ and $w = (w_1, \dots, w_{n+1})$ be \mathbf{R}^{n+1} -valued smooth functions on M such that $v \cdot x = v \cdot y = w \cdot x = w \cdot y = 0$. Then we have $[X_H, v \cdot F] = \sum (X_H v_j + i|y|v_j)F_j$, $[v \cdot F, w \cdot F] = \sum (a_j - i|y|b_j)F_j$, $[X_{jk}, X_H] = 0$ and $[X_{jk}, v \cdot F] = \sum c_i F_i$, where $a_j = (v \cdot X)w_j - (w \cdot X)v_j$, $b_j = (v \cdot Y)w_j - (w \cdot Y)v_j$ and $c_i = X_{jk}v_i + \delta_{ij}v_k - \delta_{ik}v_j$. a_j , b_j and c_i are real-valued and satisfy $\sum (X_H v_j)x_j = \sum (X_H v_j)y_j = a \cdot x = a \cdot y = b \cdot x = b \cdot y = 0$, $c \cdot x = X_{jk}(v \cdot x) = 0$ and $c \cdot y = X_{jk}(v \cdot y) = 0$. It follows that P is involutive and invariant under the flows of X_H and X_{jk} . $P \cap \bar{P}$ is a one-dimensional complex distribution spanned by X_H . $P + \bar{P}$ is a $(2n - 1)$ -dimensional involutive complex distribution spanned by X_H and the vectors of the form $v \cdot X$ and $v \cdot Y$. Thus we are done.

In the terminology of Gawedzki [10], P is a strongly admissible, positive polarization.

5. **Half- P -forms.** Let $\alpha = \sum y_j dy_j$ and $\beta_j = dx_j - i|y|^{-1}dy_j$ ($1 \leq j \leq n + 1$) be one-forms on M . Choose \mathbf{R}^{n+1} -valued (not necessarily continuous) functions $u_a = (u_a^1, \dots, u_a^{n+1})$, ($1 \leq a \leq n - 1$), on M , such that the matrix ${}^t(x, |y|^{-1}y, u_1, \dots, u_{n-1}) \in SO(n + 1)$ at any point $(x, y) \in M$. Define $\beta = \bigwedge_{a=1}^{n-1} \sum_{1 \leq j \leq n+1} u_a^j \beta_j$. Then β is a smooth $(n - 1)$ -form on M , which is independent of the choice of $\{u_a\}$. Let \mathcal{L}_Z denote the Lie derivation with respect to a vector field Z on M .

LEMMA 2. $\mu = \alpha \wedge \beta$ is a nowhere-vanishing smooth n -form on M , which satisfies: (1) $Z \lrcorner \mu = 0$ for any vector Z from P , (2) $\mathcal{L}_{X_H} \mu = i(n - 1)|y|\mu$, (3) $\mathcal{L}_{v \cdot F} \mu = 0$ for any \mathbf{R}^{n+1} -valued smooth function v on M with $v \cdot x = v \cdot y = 0$ and (4) $\mathcal{L}_{X_{jk}} \mu = 0$.

By the above lemma, it follows that the bundle D of complex n -forms on M , vanishing after contraction with any vector from P is a trivial bundle. Let $D^{1/2} = (M \times \mathbf{C}, p, M)$ be another complex line bundle (trivial bundle) over M , and ν denote the cross-section $(x, y) \mapsto (x, y, 1)$ of $D^{1/2}$. Let $\iota: D^{1/2} \otimes D^{1/2} \rightarrow D$ be the vector bundle isomorphism defined

by $\iota(\nu \otimes \nu) = \mu$. We call the pair $(D^{1/2}, \iota)$ the square root structure for P and sections of $D^{1/2}$ half- P -forms on M . See Gawedzki [10] and Simms and Woodhouse [20]. Since $H^1(M, \mathbb{Z}_2) = 0$ ($n \geq 3$), the square root structure is unique. For any smooth vector field Z on M , let us define a Z -derivation $\mathcal{L}_Z^{1/2}$ acting on the space $\Gamma(D^{1/2})$ of smooth cross-sections of $D^{1/2}$ by the following: $\iota(2(\mathcal{L}_Z^{1/2}\sigma) \otimes \sigma) = \mathcal{L}_Z(\iota(\sigma \otimes \sigma))$, for any $\sigma \in \Gamma(D^{1/2})$. See Gawedzki [10].

Let $\mathcal{D}'(M)$ be the space of generalized functions (distributions or 0-currents) on M . See de Rham [6] and Schwartz [17]. We call the tensor product $\mathcal{D}'(M) \otimes \Gamma(D^{1/2})$, taken over the ring $C^\infty(M)$, the space of generalized half- P -forms on M . See Simms [19]. Finally, we have the space of generalized L -valued half- P -forms on M , $\Gamma = \Gamma(L) \otimes D'(M) \otimes \Gamma(D^{1/2})$. Note that Γ is naturally identified with $\mathcal{D}'(M)$ by the correspondence $1 \otimes T \otimes \nu \leftrightarrow T$.

6. Quantum phase space \mathcal{H}^P . Let $\Gamma(P)$ denote the space of smooth, complex vector fields on M which belong to P at each point of M . A complex vector field Z on M is said to preserve the polarization P if $[Z, X] \in \Gamma(P)$ for any $X \in \Gamma(P)$. For each vector field Z , which preserves P , we define a linear operator δ_Z on Γ by $\delta_Z(\varphi \otimes T \otimes \sigma) = (\nabla_Z \varphi) \otimes T \otimes \sigma + \varphi \otimes ZT \otimes \sigma + \varphi \otimes T \otimes \mathcal{L}_Z^{1/2}\sigma$, where ZT is defined by $(ZT)(A) = -T(\mathcal{L}_Z A)$ for any smooth $2n$ -form A on M of compact support. See Gawedzki [10] and Simms [19]. A cross-section $\gamma \in \Gamma$ is called P -horizontal if $\delta_Z(\gamma) = 0$ for all $Z \in \Gamma(P)$. Then by Lemma 2, a cross-section $1 \otimes T \otimes \nu \in \Gamma$ is P -horizontal if and only if $X_H T - i|y|(\hbar^{-1}|y| - 2^{-1}(n-1))T = 0$ and $(v \cdot F)T = 0$, for any v as in Lemma 2.

For each integer N , $N > 2^{-1}(n-1)$, let us denote $r_N = \hbar(N + 2^{-1}(n-1))$. Define a submanifold: $M_N = \{(x, y) \in M \mid |y| = r_N\}$ of M with the inclusion $p_N: M_N \rightarrow M$. Let $\Lambda^q(M)$ denote the space of smooth q -forms on M . Define $\eta = |y|^{-1}(y \cdot Y) \lrcorner \Omega^n \in \Lambda^{2n-1}(M)$. Then η satisfies $(y \cdot Y) \lrcorner \eta = 0$, $d(|y|) \wedge \eta = \Omega^n$ and $p_N^*(\mathcal{L}_{X_H} \eta) = 0$. It follows that $\eta_N = p_N^* \eta \in \Lambda^{2n-1}(M_N)$ is non-vanishing and invariant under the flow of X_H restricted to M_N . For any $A \in \Lambda^{2n}(M)$, $A = a\Omega^n$ with $a \in C^\infty(M)$, let $A_N = p_N^*(a\eta) \in \Lambda^{2n-1}(M_N)$. For any $T_N \in \mathcal{D}'(M_N)$, let us define $\tilde{T}_N \in \mathcal{D}'(M)$ by $\tilde{T}_N(A) = T_N(A_N)$, for any $A \in \Lambda^{2n}(M)$ of compact support. In the following, we shall determine the subspace \mathcal{H}^P of Γ composed of P -horizontal cross-sections of the form $1 \otimes \sum_N \tilde{T}_N \otimes \nu$. If we write $\mathcal{H}_N^P = \{1 \otimes \tilde{T}_N \otimes \nu \in \mathcal{H}^P \mid T_N \in \mathcal{D}'(M_N)\}$, then $\mathcal{H}^P = \bigoplus \mathcal{H}_N^P$.

LEMMA 3. \mathcal{H}_N^P is non-trivial if and only if N is non-negative. In this case, \mathcal{H}_N^P is given by $\mathcal{H}_N^P = \{1 \otimes \tilde{T}_N \otimes \nu \mid T_N = \sum_{|K|=N} c_K z^K\}$, where

$c_K \in \mathcal{C}$, $z = (z_1, \dots, z_{n+1})$, $z_j = x_j - ir_N^{-1}y_j \in C^\infty(M_N)$, $K = (k_1, \dots, k_{n+1})$ and $|K| = \sum k_j$.

Note that

$$\dim \mathcal{H}_N^P = \frac{2N + n - 1}{N} \binom{N + n - 2}{n - 1},$$

which is equal to the multiplicity of the N -th eigenvalue of the Laplacian Δ acting on functions on S^n . See Berger-Gauduchon-Mazet [2].

7. Kostant quantization for H and L_{jk} . Following the Kostant quantization prescription, we shall assign for H and L_{jk} linear operators $\hat{H} = i^{-1}\hbar\delta_{x_H} + H$ and $\hat{L}_{jk} = i^{-1}\hbar\delta_{x_{jk}} + L_{jk}$ on \mathcal{H}^P . We call \hat{L}_{jk} the angular momentum operators. Furthermore, we define $\tilde{L}^2 = \sum_{i < k} (\hat{L}_{jk})^2$, which we call the square of angular momentum operators.

LEMMA 4. (1) $\hat{H}|_{\mathcal{H}_N^P} = 2^{-1}\hbar^2(N + 2^{-1}(n - 1))^2$ (multiplication operator). (2) $\hat{L}_{jk}(1 \otimes z^A \otimes \nu) = 1 \otimes i^{-1}\hbar(a_k z^B - a_j z^C) \otimes \nu$, where $z = (z_1, \dots, z_{n+1})$, $z_j = x_j - ir_N^{-1}y_k$, $A = (a_1, \dots, a_{n+1})$, $\sum a_j = N$, $z^A = z_1^{a_1} \dots z_{n+1}^{a_{n+1}}$, $B = (a_1, \dots, a_j + 1, \dots, a_k - 1, \dots, a_{n+1})$ and $C = (a_1, \dots, a_j - 1, \dots, a_k + 1, \dots, a_{n+1})$. (3) $\tilde{L}^2|_{\mathcal{H}_N^P} = \hbar^2 N(N + n - 1)$ (multiplication operator).

PROOF. Since $\delta_{x_H} = 0$ on \mathcal{H}^P , we have $\hat{H}|_{\mathcal{H}_N^P} = H|_{\mathcal{H}_N^P} = 2^{-1}\hbar^2(N + 2^{-1}(n - 1))^2$. Thus (1) is proved. To prove (2), it is sufficient to note $\nabla_{x_{jk}} 1 = -i\hbar^{-1}L_{jk}$ and $\mathcal{L}_{x_{jk}}^{1/2}\nu = 0$, which follow from Lemma 2. To prove (3), it is sufficient to note $z \cdot z = 0$ on M_N .

Summing up, we have the following:

THEOREM. There exists a polarization P on $M = T^*S^n - \{0\text{-section}\}$, which is invariant under the geodesic flow and under the natural $SO(n + 1)$ -action on M . By means of this polarization, the classical Hamiltonian H and the functions L_{jk} 's are geometrically quantized. For $n \geq 3$, the corresponding quantum Hamiltonian \hat{H} has $2^{-1}\hbar^2(N + 2^{-1}(n - 1))^2$ as the N -th eigenvalue ($N \geq 0$) with the eigenspace \mathcal{H}_N^P of dimension

$$\frac{2N + n - 1}{N} \binom{N + n - 2}{n - 1}.$$

Moreover, an operator \tilde{L}^2 , defined by $\sum_{i < k} (\hat{L}_{jk})^2$, has $\hbar^2 N(N + n - 1)$ as the N -th eigenvalue with the eigenspace \mathcal{H}_N^P .

As "classical observables", energy H and one-half the square of angular momenta, $2^{-1} \sum L_{jk}^2$, are equal, but as "quantum observables", \hat{H} and $2^{-1} \sum (\hat{L}_{jk})^2$ are different by an additive constant; $\hat{H} = 2^{-1}(\tilde{L}^2 + \hbar^2(2^{-1}(n - 1))^2)$.

A similar observation may be possible for such manifolds as compact symmetric spaces of rank one. See Besse [3].

8. Appendix. Let Q be the restriction to M of the vertical polarization of $p: T^*S^n \rightarrow S^n$, and E the bundle of complex n -forms on M , vanishing after contraction with any vector from Q . In the following, we use the same letter p for the restriction of p to M . E is a trivial bundle and $p^*\mu$ is a nowhere-vanishing cross-section of E , where $\mu \in \Lambda^n(S^n)$ is the volume form on S^n . Let $(E^{1/2}, \iota)$ be the square root structure for Q and ν the cross-section of the trivial bundle $E^{1/2}$ such that $\iota(\nu \otimes \nu) = p^*\mu$. For each vector field Z on M , which preserves the polarization Q , we define a linear operator δ_Z on $\Gamma(L) \otimes \Gamma(E)$ by $\delta_Z(\varphi \otimes \nu) = (\nabla_Z \varphi) \otimes \nu + \varphi \otimes \mathcal{L}_Z^{1/2} \nu$. Q -horizontal sections are similarly defined, which are of the form $(f \circ p) \otimes \nu$ for $f \in C^\infty(S^n)$. The space \mathcal{H}^Q of Q -horizontal sections is naturally identified with $C^\infty(S^n)$ by the correspondence $(f \circ p) \otimes \nu \leftrightarrow f$. Since X_{jk} preserves Q , we can define a linear operator \hat{L}_{jk} by $\hat{L}_{jk} = i^{-1} \hbar \delta_{X_{jk}} + L_{jk}$ on \mathcal{H}^Q . We also call \hat{L}_{jk} the angular momentum operator. Furthermore, if we define $\tilde{L}^2 = \sum_{j < k} (\hat{L}_{jk})^2$, then we have $\tilde{L}^2((f \circ p) \otimes \nu) = ((\hbar^2 \Delta f) \circ p) \otimes \nu$. Thus, under the identification of \mathcal{H}^Q with $C^\infty(S^n)$, \tilde{L}^2 is nothing but \hbar^2 times the Laplacian Δ acting on functions on S^n , (the Casimir operator). Since X_H does not preserve Q , we cannot quantize H in the same way as above as a linear operator on \mathcal{H}^Q . But, by Lemma 4 and the above calculation, it is reasonable to say that if we quantize the classical Hamiltonian H as an operator on \mathcal{H}^Q , then we should have the operator $\hat{H} = 2^{-1}(\tilde{L}^2 + \hbar^2(2^{-1}(n-1))^2)$ as the corresponding quantum Hamiltonian. If we identify \mathcal{H}^Q with $C^\infty(S^n)$, then \hat{H} is given by $2^{-1}\hbar^2(\Delta + (2^{-1}(n-1))^2)$.

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