quantum mechanics  $\rightarrow$  harmonic oscillator

## Harmonic Oscillator in Magnetic Field

Consider the 2D harmonic oscillator

$$H = \frac{p_x^2 + p_y^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega_0^2 \left(x^2 + y^2\right).$$

As usual we can define the annihilation operators  $a_x$  and  $a_y$ , and associated Hermitian conjugates. Furthermore, define

$$a_{\pm} \equiv \frac{a_x \pm \mathrm{i}a_y}{\sqrt{2}}$$

- (a) Show that  $[a_{\pm}, a_{\pm}^{\dagger}] = 1$ .
- (b) Show that

$$H = \hbar\omega_0 \left( a_+^{\dagger} a_+ + a_-^{\dagger} a_- + 1 \right).$$

(c) Show that

$$L_z = xp_y - yp_x = \hbar \left( a_-^{\dagger} a_- - a_+^{\dagger} a_+ \right).$$

We can now use this trick to use the harmonic oscillator creation/annihilation operators to find the spectra of Hamiltonians where the harmonic oscillator has an angular momentum term. Here's a simple example of this.

(d) Verify that the vector potential

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{B\hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \mathbf{r}}{2}$$

corresponds to a constant magnetic field of magnitude B.

- (e) Write down the Hamiltonian for the harmonic oscillator of charge q, placed in a magnetic field of constant strength B.
- (f) By exploiting the tricks developed in parts (a)-(c), find the eigenvalues of this Hamiltonian. Express your answer in terms of  $\hbar$ ,  $\omega_0$ , and

$$\omega_{\rm c} \equiv \frac{qB}{2m}.$$