

$$(b) \quad \sigma_1 \sigma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\lambda \\ \lambda & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & -\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_2 \sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\lambda \\ \lambda & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_1 \sigma_2 - \sigma_2 \sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 2\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & -2\lambda \end{pmatrix} = 2\lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = 2\lambda \sigma_3$$

One finds in general

$$[\sigma_j, \sigma_k] = (2i) \sum_l \epsilon_{jkl} \sigma_l. \quad \text{Now let}$$

$$J_j = \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2}\right) \sigma_j. \quad \text{Then,}$$

$$[J_j, J_k] = \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2}\right)^2 [\sigma_j, \sigma_k] = \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2}\right)^2 (2i) \sum_l \epsilon_{jkl} \sigma_l$$

$$= \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2}\right) (2i) \sum_l \epsilon_{jkl} \left(-\frac{\hbar}{2}\right) \sigma_l = \sum_l \epsilon_{jkl} J_l.$$

So, the J 's obey same commutation rules as the σ 's.

Also note some other important properties of the Pauli matrices:

a) $\sigma_u \sigma_j + \sigma_j \sigma_u = 0 \quad (u \neq j) \quad \text{-- anticommuting property.}$

b) $\sigma_j \sigma_k = i \sum_l \epsilon_{jkl} \sigma_l + \delta_{jk} \sigma_0$

where $\sigma_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$