

a) $\text{tr } \sigma_j = 0$ for $j = 1$ to 3 by inspection

b) $\text{tr } \sigma_0 \sigma_j = \text{tr } \sigma_j = 0$ for $j = 1$ to 3

$\text{tr } \sigma_0 \sigma_0 = \text{tr } \sigma_0 = 2$

$\therefore \text{tr } \sigma_0 \sigma_j = 2 \delta_{0j}$ for $j = 0$ to 3

Also, $\sigma_1 \sigma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow$

$\sigma_1 \sigma_2 = -\sigma_3$ cyclicly, and

$\sigma_1 \sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \sigma_0$, etc.

$\therefore \text{tr } \sigma_j \sigma_k = 2 \Rightarrow \text{tr } (\sigma_j \sigma_k) = 2 \delta_{jk}$

for $j, k = 1$ to 4

c) Observe that $\sigma_j^\dagger = \sigma_j$. It follows that

$\sigma_2 \sigma_1 = (\sigma_1 \sigma_2)^\dagger = (-\sigma_3)^\dagger = -\sigma_3 = -\sigma_1 \sigma_2$