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Prelims

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May 2000 QM

$$3) \begin{array}{c} |2, 2\rangle = |1, 1\rangle \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ j \quad m_j \quad \quad m_1 \quad m_2 \end{array} \quad |2, 2\rangle$$

$$J_- |2, 2\rangle = (L_-^1 + L_-^2) |1, 1\rangle$$

$$\sqrt{2 \cdot 3 - 2 \cdot 1} |2, 1\rangle = \sqrt{1 \cdot 2 - 1 \cdot 0} |0, 1\rangle + \sqrt{1 \cdot 2 - 1 \cdot 0} |1, 0\rangle$$

$$2 |2, 1\rangle = \sqrt{2} |0, 1\rangle + \sqrt{2} |1, 0\rangle$$

$$|2, 1\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0, 1\rangle + |1, 0\rangle)$$

$$J_- |2, 1\rangle = (L_-^1 + L_-^2) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0, 1\rangle + |1, 0\rangle)$$

$$\sqrt{2 \cdot 3 - 1 \cdot 0} |2, 0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\sqrt{1 \cdot 2 - 0 \cdot 1} |-1, 1\rangle + \sqrt{1 \cdot 2 - 1 \cdot 0} |0, 0\rangle + \sqrt{1 \cdot 2 - 0 \cdot 1} |0, 0\rangle + \sqrt{1 \cdot 2 - 0 \cdot 1} |1, -1\rangle]$$

$$\sqrt{6} |2, 0\rangle = |-1, 1\rangle + 2|0, 0\rangle + |1, -1\rangle$$

$$|2, 0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} (|-1, 1\rangle + 2|0, 0\rangle + |1, -1\rangle)$$

$$\therefore |2, 2\rangle = |1, 1\rangle$$

$$|2, 1\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0, 1\rangle + |1, 0\rangle)$$

$$|2, 0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} (|-1, 1\rangle + 2|0, 0\rangle + |1, -1\rangle)$$

$$|2, -1\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0, -1\rangle + |-1, 0\rangle)$$

$$|2, -2\rangle = |-1, -1\rangle$$

Since the X particle is originally unpolarized, it has an equal probability of being in any of these five states

$ m_j\rangle$ state	Wavefunction	$\theta_1 = \frac{\pi}{2}$
$ 1, 1\rangle$	$Y_{11} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi}} \sin\theta_1 e^{i\phi_1}$	$Y_{11} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi}} e^{i\phi_1}$
$ 0, 0\rangle$ or $ 0, 1\rangle$	$Y_{10} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \cos\theta_1$	$Y_{10} = 0$
$ 1, -1\rangle$ or $ -1, 1\rangle$	$Y_{1-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi}} \sin\theta_1 e^{-i\phi_1}$	$Y_{1-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi}} e^{-i\phi_1}$

$\therefore$  When  $\theta_1, \theta_2 = \frac{\pi}{2}$ :

$$|2, 2\rangle = \frac{3}{8\pi} e^{i(\phi_1 + \phi_2)}$$

$$|2, 1\rangle = 0$$

$$|2, 0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \frac{3}{8\pi} [e^{i(\phi_2 - \phi_1)} + e^{i(\phi_1 - \phi_2)}] = \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} \frac{3}{8\pi} \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2)$$

$$|2, -1\rangle = 0$$

$$|2, -2\rangle = \frac{3}{8\pi} e^{-i(\phi_1 + \phi_2)}$$

Thus the angular probability distribution in each state is:

State                      Distribution ( $\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle$ )

$$|2, 2\rangle \quad \left(\frac{3}{8\pi}\right)^2$$

$$|2, 1\rangle \quad 0$$

$$|2, 0\rangle \quad \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{3}{8\pi}\right)^2 \cos^2(\theta_1 - \theta_2)$$

$$|2, -1\rangle \quad 0$$

$$|2, -2\rangle \quad \left(\frac{3}{8\pi}\right)^2$$

Since there is an equal probability of the  $\alpha$  particle being in any of the five states, the total angular probability distribution is proportional to the sum of the five distributions:

$$P(\theta_1, \theta_2) \propto \left(\frac{3}{8\pi}\right)^2 \left(2 + \frac{2}{3} \cos^2(\theta_1 - \theta_2)\right)$$

Note that the probability depends only on  $\ell = \theta_1 - \theta_2$ , the angle between the directions at which the  $\alpha$ -particles are emitted. This result is independent of the choice of quantization axis  $\theta_1, \theta_2 = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

$$\therefore P(\ell) = A \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} \cos^2 \ell\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Normalizing: } \frac{1}{A} &= 2\pi \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= \pi \left(\frac{6}{3} + \frac{1}{3}\right) \\ &= \frac{7\pi}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow P(\ell) = \frac{7\pi}{3} \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} \cos^2 \ell\right)$$