

Boulder notes by Victor V. Albert

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Let's add a spin to the electron in a magnetic field problem:

$$H_D = v_F \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\sigma} \longrightarrow H_D^B = v_F \underbrace{\left(\vec{p} + \frac{|e|\hbar}{c} \vec{A} \right)}_{\vec{\pi}} \cdot \vec{\sigma}$$

where $\vec{\sigma} = \langle \sigma_x, \sigma_y \rangle$. In the Landau gauge, $\vec{A} = \langle 0, Bx, 0 \rangle$,

$$[\pi_x, \pi_y] = -i \frac{|e|\hbar}{c} B = -i \frac{\hbar^2}{\ell^2},$$

where ℓ is the magnetic length. Define ladder operators for $\vec{\pi}$,

$$a = \frac{\ell}{\hbar\sqrt{2}} (\pi_x - i\pi_y),$$

which satisfy $[a, a^\dagger] = 1$. Then $\pi_x = \frac{\hbar}{\ell\sqrt{2}} (a + a^\dagger)$ and $\pi_y = -i \frac{\hbar}{\ell\sqrt{2}} (a - a^\dagger)$. Hamiltonian then becomes

$$H_D^B = \hbar\omega \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a \\ a^\dagger & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\omega = \sqrt{2} \frac{v_F}{\ell}$. This is the interaction term in the Jaynes-Cummings model and can be solved to obtain

$$\epsilon_{n,\pm} = \pm \hbar v_F \sqrt{\frac{2|e|\hbar}{\hbar c}} \sqrt{Bn} = O(\sqrt{n})$$

We recall the LL problem for two ‘‘Schrodinger fermions’’ $\epsilon_n \propto \pm (n + \frac{1}{2})$. Key differences are \sqrt{n} dependence and the presence of a zero energy Landau level for the Dirac fermion case.