

## J10Q.2 - Angular Momentum

### Problem

A two-particle system is in a state  $|\Psi_0\rangle$ , where each particle has orbital angular momentum quantum numbers  $\ell = 1$  and  $m_\ell = 0$ .

Let  $\vec{L}_{\text{tot}} = \vec{L}_1 + \vec{L}_2$  be the total angular momentum of the two particles, where  $L_{\text{tot}}^2$  has eigenvalues  $\hbar^2 L(L + 1)$ .

- a) If the two-particle state is expanded in eigenstates of  $L_{\text{tot}}^2$ , which values of  $L$  have non-zero amplitude in the expansion? For each of these values, what is the probability that it will be found in a measurement of  $|\vec{L}_{\text{tot}}|^2$ ?

At time  $t = 0$ , a coupling between the particles is “switched on”, so that for  $t > 0$  the time evolution of the state is governed by the Hamiltonian

$$H = \gamma \vec{L}_1 \cdot \vec{L}_2.$$

The amplitude  $f(t) = |\langle \Psi(t) | \Psi_0 \rangle|^2$  oscillates as a function of time, returning to the value 1 at times  $t = t_n = nT$ . What is the period  $T$ ?

- b) What is the value of  $f(t)$  when  $t = (t_n + t_{n+1})/2$ ?