

For these questions, use the simulation “Semi-classical vector model of orbital angular momentum” and work through the simulation, including the step-by-step exploration (click on the “Step-by-step Exploration” tab).

1) State differences between orbital angular momentum of a classical particle and a quantum particle.

2) a) Assume a quantum particle is in a state with orbital quantum number $l = 3$ and magnetic quantum number $m = 2$. What do these two quantum numbers tell you about the orbital angular momentum of the particle? Explain how l and m relate to the length and direction of the vector shown in the simulation for these quantum numbers. Explain why a cone is a better representation for the orbital angular momentum than a single vector.

b) How many different orientations in space (each only defined up to a cone with fixed opening angle) would there be for the orbital quantum number $l = 6$? Generalize your result. How many different orientations are there for an arbitrary quantum number l ?

c) Make a sketch similar to the ones shown in the simulation showing all possible orientations of the angular momentum vector for $l = 6$. You do not need to draw the cones. Explain how you are determining the directions of the vectors in your sketch. Label the vectors by their magnetic quantum numbers m .

3) a) Consider a *classical* (incorrect) model of hydrogen consisting of an electron orbiting a proton in a circular orbit in the xy plane. In an xyz coordinate system, sketch the orbit and the angular momentum vector. Assume the magnitude of orbital angular momentum of the electron is L . What can you say about the z -component of orbital angular momentum L_z ?

b) Explain why for a quantum particle the value of the z -component of angular momentum L_z must always be less than the magnitude of angular momentum L .