Introduction to Particle Physics

1. Show that (by expanding in Taylor series)

$$e^{i\theta\sigma_1} = 1\cos\theta + i\sigma_1\sin\theta$$
.

Convince yourself that similar result also holds for σ_2 and σ_3 . Show then

$$e^{i\theta_k\sigma_k} = 1\cos|\theta| + i\hat{\theta}_k\sigma_k\sin|\theta|$$

where $|\theta| = \sqrt{\sum_i \theta_i^2}$ and $\hat{\theta}_k = \theta_k / |\theta|$. (Hint: show that $(\hat{\theta}_k \sigma_k)^2 = 1$.)

2. Using the operators

$$J_{\pm} = J_x \pm i J_y$$

and the relations

$$J_{\pm}|jm\rangle = \sqrt{j(j+1) - m(m\pm 1)}|j(m\pm 1)\rangle, \qquad J_{z}|jm\rangle = m|jm\rangle,$$

construct the spin j = 1 generator matrices

$$(\lambda_k)_{m'm} = \langle 1m' | J_k | 1m \rangle.$$

Show that this is consistent with the identification

$$|11\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad |10\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0\\1\\0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad |1-1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0\\0\\1 \end{pmatrix},$$

or λ_z , λ_{\pm} operate on these vectors as they should.

3. In a collider experiment 2 protons move to opposite directions with the same speed and collide head-on; in a fixed target experiment the other proton is at rest (as seen in the laboratory frame). Let us assume that the total energy of the protons in the collider experiment is 2T (T: beam energy). What should the energy of the moving proton be in the fixed target experiment in order for the center-of-mass energy to be equal to the collider experiment? Calculate this for T = 10 GeV and T = 10 TeV. This shows the advantage of doing collider experiments.