Title: Quasispin models in quantum physics

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Abstract: The use of symmetries in quantum physics helps in a deeper understanding of physical systems and simplifies numerical calculations. This thesis studies models based on the SU(2) algebra, which, in spite of their apparent simplicity, show rather rich behavior and describe a wide spectrum of physical phenomena. We review various realizations of the SU(2) algebra (namely the spin, boson, and fermion realization) and present the most general quantum hamiltonian with one- and two-body interactions, constructed from the SU(2) generators. We perform the classical limit of the hamiltonian and show a numerical study of several particular examples.

Keywords: dynamical symmetries, Lipkin model, su(2) algebra, quasispin