

Attempt #1

Since

$$|x_{\pm}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z+\rangle \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z-\rangle$$

 \therefore

$$|x+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z+\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z-\rangle$$

and

$$|x-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z+\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |z-\rangle$$

$$\hat{S}_x |x+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|z+\rangle + |z-\rangle]$$

$$\hat{S}_x |x-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|z+\rangle - |z-\rangle]$$

In matrix form, we can represent \hat{S}_x as

$$\hat{S}_x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} |z+\rangle + |z-\rangle & 0 \\ 0 & |z+\rangle - |z-\rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\hat{S}_y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & |z+\rangle + |z-\rangle \\ |z+\rangle + |z-\rangle & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\hat{S}_z = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i|z+\rangle - i|z-\rangle \\ i|z+\rangle + i|z-\rangle & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$