There is no exercise session on Friday 25th. Exercise session 3 will be held on October 2nd.

763312A QUANTUM MECHANICS I Exercise 3 Autumn 2009

1. A particle moves in a potential V = V(x). Show that the quantum mechanical expectation values satisfy

$$\frac{d}{dt}\langle p_x\rangle = -\left\langle \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right\rangle$$

where $p_x = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ is the momentum operator in the *x*-direction. *Hint:* Like the proof for the result $\frac{d}{dt} \langle \mathbf{r} \rangle = \frac{\langle \hat{\mathbf{p}} \rangle}{m}$ in the lecture notes, also this proof relies on an assumption that a certain surface integral vanishes.

- 2. Let us consider a particle in an infinite potential well. Calculate the expectation value of its
 - a) kinetic energy,
 - b) potential energy.
- 3. Let us consider the eigenvalue equation

$$\hat{A}u = \lambda u, \qquad \hat{A} = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2},$$

under the boundary condition u(-a) = u(a) = 0 (a is a positive real number). Determine those eigenfunctions u that correspond to a positive eigenvalue λ .

4. Particles scatter from a potential step. Show that from the conservation of the probability current it follows that the reflection and transmission coefficients R and T satisfy the condition

$$R+T=1.$$

5. A particle scatters from a potential step of height V_0 . The energy of the particle $E < V_0$.

a) Show that the probability current inside the potential step vanishes.b) Show that total reflection happens.

c) Estimate the penetration depth by evaluating $\langle x \rangle$ inside the step.

d) Show that there is a phase shift between the incoming and the scattered wave.

e) Study the behavior of the probability density outside the potential step.