

1. Show that the operators
  - a)  $p = -i\hbar\nabla$ ,
  - b)  $x$ , the position operator,
  - c)  $H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\nabla^2 + V$ , where  $V$  is a real function,are Hermitian.
2. Show that a linear combination of two square-integrable, complex-valued functions is also square-integrable.
3. a) Calculate the density  $\rho(k_F)$  of the one-dimensional Fermi gas as a function of the Fermi wave vector  $k_F$ .  
b) Calculate the density of states  $g(E)$  as a function of energy  $E$  in one and two dimensions.

4. Let us consider a two-state system. We denote the eigenstates of the Hamiltonian by  $|\psi_i\rangle$  and the corresponding eigenvalues by  $\hbar\omega_i$ . That is,

$$H|\psi_i\rangle = \hbar\omega_i|\psi_i\rangle, \quad \text{where } i \in \{1, 2\}. \quad (1)$$

We denote the state of the system at time  $t = t_0$  by

$$|\Psi(t_0)\rangle = c_1(t_0)|\psi_1\rangle + c_2(t_0)|\psi_2\rangle. \quad (2)$$

We want to measure a dynamical quantity  $\beta$  to which corresponds a Hermitian operator  $B$ . We denote the eigenstates of  $B$  by  $|u_j\rangle$  and the corresponding eigenvalues by  $b_j$ . That is,

$$B|u_j\rangle = b_j|u_j\rangle, \quad \text{where } j \in \{1, 2\}. \quad (3)$$

We assume that the eigenvalues of both  $H$  and  $B$  are nondegenerate (i.e.  $\omega_1 \neq \omega_2$  and  $b_1 \neq b_2$ ).

- a) Let us assume that  $B$  and  $H$  commute. What are the probabilities for obtaining  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  when we measure the dynamical quantity  $\beta$  at time  $t \neq t_0$ ? Do these probabilities depend on time?

*Hint: It follows from our assumptions that  $B$  and  $H$  have the same eigenstates.*

- b) Like a) but now  $B$  and  $H$  do not commute.

*Hint: For a discussion on the two-state system, see e.g. Wikipedia, two-state system.*

5. a) Show that a wave packet  $\psi(x, t)$ , with a weight function  $g(k)$  of Gaussian shape, centered around  $k = k_0$ , is at time  $t = 0$  itself a Gaussian function, centered at  $x = 0$ :

$$\psi(x, 0) = \left( \frac{2}{\pi a^2} \right)^{1/4} e^{ik_0 x} e^{-x^2/a^2}.$$

The constant  $a$  describes the spread of the Gaussian weight function. The rest of the constants are due to normalization.

- b) A particle is described by a Gaussian wave packet. Is the particle then in a momentum eigenstate? Is it in an energy eigenstate of a free particle? Justify your answers.