

1. Consider the harmonic oscillator (with, as usual, spring constant: $k = m\omega^2$) in one dimension with orthonormal energy eigenfunctions (a.k.a. stationary states) denoted by $\psi_n(x)$ of energy $E_n = \hbar\omega \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)$.

$$\Psi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} (\psi_1(x) + 2i\psi_2(x) + \psi_3(x))$$

Calculate $\langle \Psi | p^2 | \Psi \rangle$ using raising and lowering operators. What is the probability that an energy of $\frac{5}{2} \hbar\omega$ would be measured for this state?

2. Prove the following formulae for commutators. In the below $f(x)$ is an arbitrary function and p is the momentum operator.

$$(a) [p, x]f(x) = \frac{\hbar}{i} f(x)$$

$$(b) [p, V(x)]f(x) = \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} f(x)$$

$$(c) [p^2, x]f(x) = 2 \frac{\hbar}{i} p f(x)$$

3. Consider the particle-in-a-box problem with $V(x) = 0$ for $0 < x < L$, but $V(x) = \infty$ elsewhere with orthonormal energy eigenfunctions denoted $\psi_n(x)$ for ($n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$):

$$H\psi_n = E_n\psi_n \quad \text{where:} \quad E_n = \frac{(k\hbar)^2}{2m} \quad \psi_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin(kx) \quad k = \frac{n\pi}{L}$$

Normalize the wave function

$$\Psi(x) = \psi_1(x) + i\psi_2(x)$$

Write down the expression for $\Psi(x, t)$ (i.e., a formula for ψ at future times). Directly calculate $\langle \Psi(x, t) | p | \Psi(x, t) \rangle$ and $\langle \Psi(x, t) | x | \Psi(x, t) \rangle$. Show that your answers satisfy the equation:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \Psi(x, t) | x | \Psi(x, t) \rangle = \frac{\langle \Psi(x, t) | p | \Psi(x, t) \rangle}{m}$$

The following integrals may be of use:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi_1 | x | \psi_1 \rangle &= L/2 & \langle \psi_1 | p | \psi_1 \rangle &= 0 \\ \langle \psi_2 | x | \psi_2 \rangle &= L/2 & \langle \psi_2 | p | \psi_2 \rangle &= 0 \\ \langle \psi_2 | x | \psi_1 \rangle &= -\frac{16}{9\pi^2} L & \langle \psi_2 | p | \psi_1 \rangle &= \frac{8}{3} \frac{\hbar}{iL} \end{aligned}$$

4. Consider the below operators (matrices):

Operator	Eigen		Eigen	
	vector	value	vector	value
$S_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	+1		-1
$S_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix}$		$\begin{pmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	
$S_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	+1	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	-1
$S_{\hat{r}} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & e^{-i\phi} \sin \theta \\ e^{+i\phi} \sin \theta & -\cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} c \\ e^{+i\phi} s \end{pmatrix}$	+1	$\begin{pmatrix} e^{-i\phi} s \\ -c \end{pmatrix}$	-1

For the eigenvectors of $S_{\hat{r}}$ I used the shorthand: $c \equiv \cos(\theta/2)$ and $s \equiv \sin(\theta/2)$. The parameters θ, ϕ should be considered fixed real constants. Note of no consequence: particular values of θ, ϕ can result in $S_{\hat{r}}$ being equal to any of the S_i , for example: $\theta = 0, \phi = 0 \Rightarrow S_{\hat{r}} = S_3$; $\theta = \pi/2, \phi = 0 \Rightarrow S_{\hat{r}} = S_1$; $\theta = \pi/2, \phi = \pi/2 \Rightarrow S_{\hat{r}} = S_2$.

- Is S_1 Unitary? Is S_2 Hermitian?
- Determine and fill in the three missing entries in the above table: 2 eigenvalues and 1 eigenvector.
- Show that the two eigenvectors of $S_{\hat{r}}$ are normalized and orthogonal.
- If the particle is known to be in the state $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, find the probability that a measurement of $S_{\hat{r}}$ results in +1.
- Find $[S_1, S_2]$.