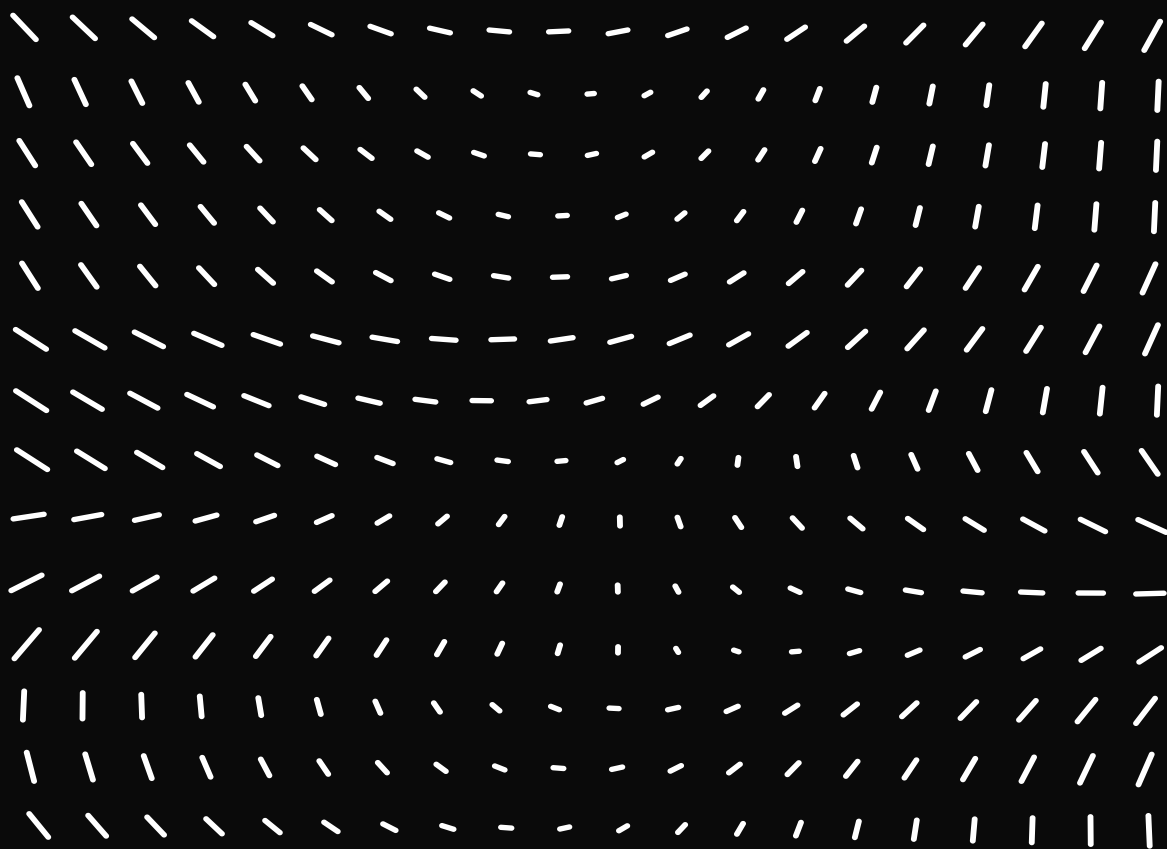


Utg 13



13. \*\* Prove the following statements for all functions  $F$  and  $G$  that can be expressed as a power series in their arguments:

$$[x_i, G(\mathbf{p})] = i\hbar \frac{\partial G}{\partial p_i}, \quad [p_i, F(\mathbf{x})] = -i\hbar \frac{\partial F}{\partial x_i} \quad (7)$$

We will use these identities when we discuss Ehrenfest's theorem.

$$[x_i, G(\mathbf{p})] = i\hbar \frac{\partial G}{\partial p_i}$$

$$x_i G(\mathbf{p}) - G(\mathbf{p}) x_i$$

$x_i$  in momentum space  
is represented by  $-\frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i}$

We will use a test function  
 $\psi(x)$  to evaluate

$$[x_i, G(\mathbf{p})] \rightarrow$$

$$[x_i, G(p)] \psi$$

$$= (x_i G(p) - G(p) x_i) \psi =$$

$$\left[ x_i = i\hbar \frac{d}{dp_i} \right]$$

$$\rightarrow i\hbar \frac{d}{dp_i} (G(p) \psi) - i\hbar G(p) \frac{d}{dp_i} \psi$$

from product rule of  
derivatives:

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dp_i} G(p) \psi + i\hbar G(p) \cdot \frac{d}{dp_i} \psi - i\hbar G(p) \frac{d}{dp_i} \psi$$

$$= i\hbar \frac{d}{dp_i} G(p) \psi$$

$$\rightarrow [x_i, G(p)] = i\hbar \frac{d}{dp_i} G(p)$$

We know evaluate

$[P_i, F(x)]$  with test  
function  $\psi(x)$  and

$$P_i = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \text{ in position space}$$

$$[P_i, F(x)] \psi(x) =$$

$$= P_i F(x) \psi(x) - F(x) P_i \psi(x) =$$

$$-i\hbar \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (F(x) \psi(x)) - F(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \psi(x) \right) =$$

$$= \left[ \text{Product rule of derivatives} \right] =$$

$$= -i\hbar \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} F \cdot \psi + F \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \psi - F \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \psi \right)$$

$$= -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} F \psi = [P_i, F(x)] \psi$$

$$\rightarrow [P_i, F(x)] = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} F \quad \square$$

Thus we have proven the two identities.