

**PHYSICS 373 Problem Set 7**

Due: March 7, 2025.

1. Consider the Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = \frac{E_0}{18} \begin{pmatrix} 22 & 8 & 8 \\ 8 & 43 & 7 \\ 8 & 7 & 43 \end{pmatrix}$$

acting on the 3-dimensional Hilbert space,  $\mathbb{C}^3$ . ( $\hat{H}$  is related by a similarity transformation,  $\hat{H}/E_0 = SMS^{-1}$  to the matrix you studied on the last homework and hence, up to a factor of  $E_0$ , it has the same eigenvalues.) Find the general solution to the Schrödinger equation

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\Psi\rangle = \hat{H} |\Psi\rangle$$

2. Given the state  $|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$ , what is the probability distribution for measurements of the Hamiltonian of the previous problem?
3. Consider a 1D harmonic oscillator, whose initial state is

$$\Psi(x, 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\psi_0(x) + \psi_1(x))$$

- a) What is the probability that, at time  $t$ , the particle is located to the right of the origin ( $x > 0$ )?
- b) What is the probability that, at time  $t$ , the momentum of the particle is positive ( $p > 0$ )?

4. In class, we proved the uncertainty relation

$$(\Delta F)^2(\Delta G)^2 \geq \frac{1}{4} \langle i[\hat{F}, \hat{G}] \rangle^2$$

by demanding

$$0 \leq \left\| \left( (\hat{F} - \langle F \rangle) + i\alpha(\hat{G} - \langle G \rangle) \right) |\Psi\rangle \right\|^2$$

for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ . Generalize this to prove the stronger relation

$$(\Delta F)^2(\Delta G)^2 \geq \frac{1}{4} \langle i[\hat{F}, \hat{G}] \rangle^2 + \frac{1}{4} \langle \{\hat{F} - \langle F \rangle, \hat{G} - \langle G \rangle\} \rangle^2$$

where the anticommutator  $\{\hat{A}, \hat{B}\} = \hat{A}\hat{B} + \hat{B}\hat{A}$ . Hint: demand

$$0 \leq \left\| \left( (\hat{F} - \langle F \rangle) + (\alpha_1 + i\alpha_2)(\hat{G} - \langle G \rangle) \right) |\Psi\rangle \right\|^2$$

for any  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ .