

PHYS 20323/60323: Fall 2025 - LaTeX Example

1. At time $t = 0$ a particle is represented by the wave function

$$\Psi(x) = \begin{cases} A \frac{x}{a}, & 0 < x < a \\ A \frac{(b-x)}{(b-a)}, & a < x < b \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where A , a , and b are constants.

(a) (3.3 points) Normalize Ψ (i.e., find A in terms of a and b).

(b) (3.3 points) Where is the particle likely to be found at $t = 0$?

(c) (3.4 points) What is the expectation value of x ?

2. The following questions refer to stars in the Table below.

Note: there may be multiple answers.

Name	Mass	Luminosity	Lifetime	Temperature	Radius	Variable?
δ Scu.	$2.0 M_{\odot}$		5.0×10^8 years		$2.0 R_{\odot}$	Y
γ Del.	$0.7 M_{\odot}$		4.5×10^{10} years	5000 K		N
β Cyg.	$1.3 M_{\odot}$	$3.5 L_{\odot}$				Y
η Car.	$60. M_{\odot}$	$10^6 L_{\odot}$	8×10^5 years			Y
ϵ Eri.	$6.0 M_{\odot}$	$10^3 L_{\odot}$		20,000 K		N
α Cen.	$1.0 M_{\odot}$			6000 K	$1.0 R_{\odot}$	N

(a) (4 points) Which of these stars will produce a planetary nebula.

(b) (4 points) Elements heavier than Carbon will be produced in which stars.

3. An electron is found to be in the spin state (in the z -basis): $\chi = A \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ i \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$

(a) (5 points) Determine the possible values of A such that the state is normalized.

(b) (5 points) Find the expectation values of the operators S_x , S_y , S_z and S^2

The matrix representations in the z -basis for the components of electron spin operators are given by:

$$\mathbf{S}_x = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad \mathbf{S}_y = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}; \quad \mathbf{S}_z = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$