

$$a) \left[\frac{1}{x}, \hat{p}_x \right] = -i\hbar \left[\frac{1}{x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right]$$

It is often helpful to use a test function to not get mixed up

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\frac{1}{x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right] f &= \frac{1}{x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{1}{x} f \right) \\ &= \cancel{\frac{1}{x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}} - \left(-\frac{1}{x^2} f + \cancel{\frac{1}{x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{x^2} f \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\left[\frac{1}{x}, \hat{p}_x \right] = -\frac{i\hbar}{x^2}}$$

(1)

$$\begin{aligned} b) [V, \hat{p}] f &= V(-i\hbar \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}) - (-i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x})(Vf) \\ &= \cancel{-i\hbar V \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}} + i\hbar f \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} + \cancel{i\hbar V \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}} \\ &= i\hbar f \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow [V, \hat{p}] = i\hbar \frac{\partial V}{\partial x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c) [x\hat{p}_y - y\hat{p}_x, y\hat{p}_z - z\hat{p}_y] &= [x\hat{p}_y, y\hat{p}_z - z\hat{p}_y] \\ &\quad - [y\hat{p}_x, y\hat{p}_z - z\hat{p}_y] \\ &= [x\hat{p}_y, y\hat{p}_z] - [x\hat{p}_y, z\hat{p}_y] \\ &\quad - [y\hat{p}_x, y\hat{p}_z] + [y\hat{p}_x, z\hat{p}_y] \end{aligned}$$

(2)

Now the 2nd and 3rd commutators here are obviously zero because the derivatives do not involve the coordinates.

The remaining commutators can be rearranged using the identities

$$[AB, C] = A[B, C] + [A, C]B$$

$$[A, BC] = B[A, C] + [A, B]C$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so } [x\hat{p}_y, y\hat{p}_z] &= x[\hat{p}_y, y\hat{p}_z] + [x, y\hat{p}_z]\hat{p}_y \\ &= x(y[\hat{p}_y, \hat{p}_z] + [\hat{p}_y, y]\hat{p}_z) \\ &= -i\hbar x\hat{p}_z \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{And } [y\hat{p}_x, z\hat{p}_y] &= y[\hat{p}_x, z\hat{p}_y] + [y, z\hat{p}_y]\hat{p}_x \\ &= (z[y, \hat{p}_y] + [y, z]\hat{p}_y)\hat{p}_x \\ &= z\hat{p}_x(i\hbar) \end{aligned}$$

So the final result is

$$[x\hat{p}_y - y\hat{p}_x, y\hat{p}_z - z\hat{p}_y] = i\hbar(zp_x - xp_z)$$

If you already know about angular momentum, you can identify this as a commutator relation for orbital angular momentum

$$[\hat{L}_z, \hat{L}_x] = i\hbar\hat{L}_y$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (d) \quad [x^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}, y \frac{\partial}{\partial x}] &= x^2 [\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}, y \frac{\partial}{\partial x}] \\
 &\quad + [x^2, y \frac{\partial}{\partial x}] \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \\
 &= -x^2 \left(y \cancel{[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}]} + [y, \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}] \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \\
 &\quad - \left(y \cancel{[\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, x^2]} + \cancel{[y, x^2]} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \\
 &= +x^2 [\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}, y] \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y [x^2, \frac{\partial}{\partial x}] \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \\
 &= x^2 \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} [\frac{\partial}{\partial y}, y] + [\frac{\partial}{\partial y}, y] \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \\
 &\quad + y \left(x [x, \frac{\partial}{\partial x}] + [x, \frac{\partial}{\partial x}] x \right) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Now this is broken down into the elementary commutator

$$\begin{aligned}
 [q, \frac{\partial}{\partial q}] f &= q \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} - \frac{\partial}{\partial q} (q f) \\
 &= -f
 \end{aligned}$$

$$[q, \frac{\partial}{\partial q}] = -1$$

So we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 [x^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}, y \frac{\partial}{\partial x}] &= x^2 \left(\cancel{1} + 1 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y (-x - x) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \\
 &= \boxed{2x^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} - 2xy \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}}
 \end{aligned}$$