

Problem 1 – Chapter 3 # 4)

The time-dependent Schrödinger equation of a charged particle in an electromagnetic field reads

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(\vec{r}, t) = \left\{ \frac{1}{2m} \left[-i\hbar \vec{\nabla} - \frac{q}{c} \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) \right]^2 + qU(\vec{r}, t) \right\} \Psi(\vec{r}, t) \quad (1)$$

where $U(\vec{r}, t)$ and $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$ are the (real) scalar and vector potential, respectively, c is the speed of light, and q is the charge of the particle. Show that the probability density $\rho(\vec{r}, t)$ and the probability current density $\vec{j}(\vec{r}, t)$ are given in this case by

$$\rho(\vec{r}, t) = |\Psi(\vec{r}, t)|^2 \quad (2)$$

$$\vec{j}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\hbar}{2mi} \left[\Psi^*(\vec{r}, t) \vec{\nabla} \Psi(\vec{r}, t) - \Psi(\vec{r}, t) \vec{\nabla} \Psi^*(\vec{r}, t) \right] - \frac{q}{mc} \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) |\Psi(\vec{r}, t)|^2 \quad (3)$$

with

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho(\vec{r}, t) + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j}(\vec{r}, t) = 0. \quad (4)$$

Problem 2 – Chapter 3 # 8)

Consider a particle in a potential $V(\vec{r})$ with associated wave function satisfying the time-dependent Schrödinger equation

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(\vec{r}, t) = \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V(\vec{r}) \right] \Psi(\vec{r}, t). \quad (5)$$

(a) Show that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \vec{r}(t) \rangle = \int d^3\vec{r} \vec{j}(\vec{r}, t), \quad (6)$$

where $\langle \vec{r}(t) \rangle$ is the average position of the particle (notation as in notes) and $\vec{j}(\vec{r}, t)$ is the probability current density. Using the definition of $\vec{j}(\vec{r}, t)$, show that the equation above can also be written as

$$m \frac{d}{dt} \langle \vec{r}(t) \rangle = \langle \vec{p}(t) \rangle. \quad (7)$$

(b) Show that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \langle \vec{p}(t) \rangle &= - \langle \vec{\nabla} V \rangle = - \int d^3\vec{r} \Psi^*(\vec{r}, t) [\vec{\nabla} V(\vec{r})] \Psi(\vec{r}, t) \\ &= \int d^3\vec{r} \Psi^*(\vec{r}, t) \vec{F}(\vec{r}) \Psi(\vec{r}, t) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where we have introduced the force $\vec{F}(\vec{r})$.

Hint: Consider, say, the x -component and, by using the Schrödinger equation and its complex conjugate, obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \langle p_x(t) \rangle = & -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int d^3\vec{r} \left[(\nabla^2 \Psi^*) \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \Psi^* \nabla^2 \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} \right] \\ & + \int d^3\vec{r} \left[V \Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \Psi^* \frac{\partial (V \Psi)}{\partial x} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where the dependence on \vec{r} and t on the r.h.s. has been suppressed for brevity. Next examine these two terms.

(c) The equation above looks like Newton's second law but for average values. As a matter of fact if $\langle \vec{F} \rangle = \vec{F}(\langle \vec{r} \rangle)$, then $\langle \vec{r}(t) \rangle$ changes in time as the position of a classical particle under the action of the force $\vec{F}(\vec{r})$. Under what condition(s) can this happen? Obtain $\langle \vec{r}(t) \rangle$ and $\langle \vec{p}(t) \rangle$ for a particle in a harmonic potential

$$V(\vec{r}) = \frac{m\omega^2}{2} \vec{r}^2. \quad (10)$$

Problem 3 – Chapter 4 # 1)

Consider the problem of a particle in an attractive δ -function potential given by

$$V(x) = -V_0 \delta(x) \quad V_0 > 0. \quad (11)$$

(a) Obtain the energy and wave-function of the bound state. Sketch the wave function and provide an estimate for Δx .

(b) Calculate the probability $dP(p)$ that a measurement of the momentum in this bound state will give a result included between p and $p + dp$. For what value of p is this probability largest? Provide an estimate for Δp and an order of magnitude for $\Delta x \Delta p$.

Problem 4 – Chapter 4 # 5)

Consider a particle in the one-dimensional potential $V(x)$, such that $V(x) = \infty$ for $x < 0$ and

$$V(x) = -V_0 \delta(x - a) \text{ for } x > 0 \quad (12)$$

where $V_0 > 0$. Determine whether this potential admits any bound states.

