

4.1) Show that the Fourier integral formula

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty f(y) \cos k(y-x) dk dy, \quad (1)$$

where f is a real function, follows from

$$f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty \tilde{f}(k) e^{ikx} \frac{dk}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{f}(k) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty f(x) e^{-ikx} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \quad (2)$$

and

$$\tilde{f}^*(k) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{2\pi}} f(x) e^{ikx} = \tilde{f}(-k). \quad (3)$$

We know that $f^*(x) = f(x)$ since f is a real-valued function. Equivalently, $\text{Im } f(x) = 0$. We can write

$$f(x) = \frac{f(x) + f^*(x)}{2}. \quad (4)$$

Thus,

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\int_{-\infty}^\infty \tilde{f}(k) e^{ikx} \frac{dk}{\sqrt{2\pi}} + \int_{-\infty}^\infty \tilde{f}^*(k) e^{-ikx} \frac{dk}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \right) \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(\int_{-\infty}^\infty \tilde{f}(k) e^{ikx} \frac{dk}{\sqrt{2\pi}} + \int_{-\infty}^\infty \tilde{f}(-k) e^{-ikx} \frac{dk}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^\infty \left(\left[\int_{-\infty}^\infty f(y) e^{-iky} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \right] e^{ikx} + \left[\int_{-\infty}^\infty f(y) e^{iky} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \right] e^{-ikx} \right) \frac{dk}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \quad (7)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty f(y) \left[\frac{1}{2} (e^{ik(x-y)} + e^{-ik(x-y)}) \right] \frac{dk dy}{2\pi} \quad (8)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty f(y) \cos k(x-y) dk dy \quad (9)$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty f(y) \cos k(x-y) dk dy}, \quad (10)$$

which is the of the same form as Eq. (1) noting that cosine is odd in its argument.

4.4) By using the Fourier-transform formulas

$$f(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \cos kx dk \int_0^\infty f(y) \cos ky dy, \quad (11a)$$

if f is both real and even, and

$$f(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \sin kx dk \int_0^\infty f(y) \sin ky dy. \quad (11b)$$

if f is both real and odd, derive the formulas

$$e^{-\beta|x|} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{\beta \cos kx}{\beta^2 + k^2} dk \quad (12a)$$

and

$$\frac{x}{|x|} e^{-\beta|x|} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{k \sin kx}{\beta^2 + k^2} dk \quad (12b)$$

for the even and odd extensions of the exponential $\exp(-\beta|x|)$.

Let us derive the expression for $\exp(-\beta|x|)$, which is clearly a real-valued function and even, so we use Eq. (11a):

$$e^{-\beta|x|} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty \cos kx e^{-\beta y} \cos ky dy dk = \int_0^\infty \frac{\beta}{\beta^2 + k^2} \cos kx dk. \quad (13)$$

Similarly, we notice that $x \exp(-\beta|x|)/|x|$ is an odd real-valued function, so

$$\frac{x}{|x|} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty \sin kx e^{-\beta y} \sin ky dy dk = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{k}{\beta^2 + k^2} \sin kx dk. \quad (14)$$

4.6) At time $t = 0$, a particle of mass m is in a gaussian superposition of momentum eigenstates centered at $p = \hbar K$

$$\psi(x, 0) = \mathcal{N} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{ikx} e^{-L^2(k-K)^2} dk. \quad (15)$$

a) Shift k by K and do the integral. Where is the particle most likely to be found?

Let $\ell = k - K$ such that

$$\psi(x, 0) = \mathcal{N} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{i(\ell+K)x} e^{-L^2\ell^2} d\ell = e^{iKx} \mathcal{N} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{i\ell x} e^{-L^2\ell^2} d\ell \quad (16)$$

$$= \mathcal{N} e^{iKx} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-x^2/4L^2} e^{-L^2(\ell - ix/2L^2)^2} d\ell \quad (17)$$

$$= \mathcal{N} e^{iKx} e^{-x^2/4L^2} \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{L} \right). \quad (18)$$

We can normalize this state as follows:

$$\int_{-\infty}^\infty |\psi|^2 dx = \mathcal{N}^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{L^2} \right) \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-x^2/2L^2} dx = \mathcal{N}^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{L^2} \right) (L\sqrt{2\pi}) = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi^3}}{L} \mathcal{N}^2. \quad (19)$$

Thus, we require

$$\mathcal{N} = \left(\frac{L^2}{2\pi^3}\right)^{1/4} \Rightarrow \psi(x, 0) = \frac{1}{(2\pi L^2)^{1/4}} e^{iKx} e^{-x^2/4L^2}. \quad (20)$$

Thus, the expected value of x at $t = 0$ is

$$\langle x \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^*(x, 0) x \psi(x, 0) dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}L} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x e^{-x^2/2L^2} dx = 0 \quad (21)$$

since this is an odd function integrated over an even range.

b) At time t , the wave function $\psi(x, t)$ is $\psi(x, 0)$ but with ikx replaced with $ikx - i\hbar k^2 t/2m$. Shift k by K and do the integral. Where is the particle most likely to be found?

The wavefunction at an arbitrary time $t > 0$ is given by

$$\psi(x, t) = \mathcal{N} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ikx - i\hbar k^2 t/2m} e^{-L^2(k-K)^2} dk. \quad (22)$$

Again, we let $\ell = k - K$ such that

$$\psi(x, t) = \mathcal{N} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(\ell+K)x - i\hbar(\ell+K)^2 t/2m} e^{-L^2 \ell^2} d\ell \quad (23)$$

$$= \mathcal{N} e^{iKx} e^{-i\hbar K^2 t/2m} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i\ell x} e^{-i\hbar \ell^2 t/2m} e^{-i\hbar K\ell t/m} e^{-L^2 \ell^2} d\ell \quad (24)$$

$$= \mathcal{N} e^{iKx - i\hbar K^2 t/2m} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(x - \hbar K t/m)\ell} e^{-(L^2 + i\hbar t/2m)\ell^2} d\ell \quad (25)$$

$$= \mathcal{N} e^{iKx - i\hbar K^2 t/2m} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{L^2 + i\hbar t/2m}} e^{-(x - \hbar K t/m)^2/4(L^2 + i\hbar t/2m)}. \quad (26)$$

Thus, we can normalize the wavefunction as follows:

$$\mathcal{N}^2 \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{L^4 + \hbar^2 t^2/4m^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-L^2(x - \hbar K t/m)^2/2(L^4 + \hbar^2 t^2/4m^2)} dx = 1 \quad (27)$$

$$\mathcal{N}^2 \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{L^4 + \hbar^2 t^2/4m^2}} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi(L^4 + \hbar^2 t^2/4m^2)}{L^2}} = \mathcal{N}^2 \left[\frac{2\pi^3}{L^2}\right]^{1/2} = 1 \quad (28)$$

$$\mathcal{N} = \left(\frac{L^2}{2\pi^3}\right)^{1/4}, \quad (29)$$

which is the same normalization as for $\psi(x, 0)$ (this is expected – actually it is required for conservation of probability). The wavefunction for all times is then given by

$$\psi(x, t) = \left(\frac{L^2}{2\pi^3}\right)^{1/4} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{L^2 + i\hbar t/2m}} e^{iKx - i\hbar K^2 t/2m} e^{-(x - \hbar K t/m)^2/4(L^2 + i\hbar t/2m)}. \quad (30)$$

Hence, the expected position is

$$\langle x \rangle = \frac{L}{\pi\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{L^4 + \hbar^2 t^2/4m^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x e^{-L^2(x - \hbar K t/m)^2/2(L^4 + \hbar^2 t^2/4m^2)} dx \quad (31)$$

$$= \frac{L}{\sqrt{2\pi(L^4 + \hbar^2 t^2/4m^2)}} \frac{\hbar K t}{m} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi(L^4 + \hbar^2 t^2/4m^2)}{L^2}} \quad (32)$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{\hbar K}{m} t}. \quad (33)$$

This is a very nice result, appearing as the classical relation between a particle's position and momentum ($p = \hbar K$).

c) Does the wave packet spread out like t or like \sqrt{t} as in classical diffusion?

The spread of the gaussian wave packet is given by its standard deviation, where the time-dependent behavior goes like t for large time scales.

4.11) Derive

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = \vec{\nabla}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}) - \vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{A} = -\vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{A} = \mu_0 \vec{J} \quad (34)$$

from $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}$ and Ampère's Law $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J}$.

Observe that

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}) = \vec{\nabla}(\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}) - \vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{A} = \mu_0 \vec{J}. \quad (35)$$

Note that we can make $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = 0$ by a suitable gauge transformation. Thus, in the appropriate gauge,

$$\boxed{-\vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{A} = \mu_0 \vec{J}}. \quad (36)$$

4.14) Use the Green's function relations

$$-\vec{\nabla}^2 G(\vec{x} - \vec{x}') = \int \frac{d^3 \vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{x}')} = \delta^{(3)}(\vec{x} - \vec{x}') \quad (37a)$$

and

$$G(\vec{x} - \vec{x}') = \frac{1}{2\pi^2 |\vec{x} - \vec{x}'|} \int_0^\infty \frac{\sin k dk}{k} \quad (37b)$$

to show that

$$\vec{A}(\vec{x}) = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int d^3\vec{x}' \frac{\vec{J}(\vec{x}')}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}'|} \quad (38)$$

satisfies Eq. (34).

Notice that the Green's function is

$$G(\vec{x} - \vec{x}') = \frac{1}{4\pi|\vec{x} - \vec{x}'|}. \quad (39)$$

Thus,

$$\vec{A}(\vec{x}) = \mu_0 \int d^3\vec{x}' G(\vec{x} - \vec{x}') \vec{J}(\vec{x}'). \quad (40)$$

Hence,

$$\vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{A}(\vec{x}) = \mu_0 \int d^3\vec{x}' [\vec{\nabla}^2 G(\vec{x} - \vec{x}')] J(\vec{x}') = \mu_0 \int d^3\vec{x}' \delta^{(3)}(\vec{x} - \vec{x}') J(\vec{x}') \quad (41)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{A}(\vec{x}) = \mu_0 \vec{J}(\vec{x})}. \quad (42)$$

4.16) Compute the Laplace transform of $1/\sqrt{t}$ (Hint: let $t = u^2$).

The Laplace transform of $1/\sqrt{t}$ is computed as follows

$$\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}\right\} = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} e^{-st} dt. \quad (43)$$

If we let $t = u^2$, then $dt = 2u du$ and

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L}\left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}\right\} = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{u} e^{-su^2} 2u du = 2 \int_0^\infty e^{-su^2} du = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{s}}}, \quad (44)$$

where we have assumed that $|s| > 0$ such that the integral converges.

4.17) Show that the commutation relations

$$[a(\vec{k}), a^\dagger(\vec{k}')] = \delta(\vec{k} - \vec{k}') \quad \text{and} \quad [a(\vec{k}), a(\vec{k}')] = [a^\dagger(\vec{k}), a^\dagger(\vec{k}')] = 0 \quad (45)$$

of the annihilation and creation operators imply the equal-time commutation relations

$$[\phi(\vec{x}, t), \pi(\vec{y}, t)] = i\delta(\vec{x} - \vec{y}) \quad \text{and} \quad [\phi(\vec{x}, t), \phi(\vec{y}, t)] = [\pi(\vec{x}, t), \pi(\vec{y}, t)] = 0 \quad (46)$$

for the field ϕ and its conjugate momentum π .

The fields

$$\phi(x) = \int \left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a(\vec{k}) + e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}) \right] \frac{d^3 k}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_k}} \quad (47a)$$

and

$$\pi(x) = -i \int \left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a(\vec{k}) - e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}) \right] \sqrt{\frac{\omega_k}{2(2\pi)^3}} d^3 k. \quad (47b)$$

Hence,

$$[\phi(\vec{x}, t), \pi(\vec{y}, t)] = \phi(\vec{x}, t)\pi(\vec{y}, t) - \pi(\vec{y}, t)\phi(\vec{x}, t) \quad (48)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= -i \iint \left[\left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a(\vec{k}) + e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}) \right] \left[e^{i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a(\vec{k}') - e^{-i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}') \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \left[e^{i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a(\vec{k}') - e^{-i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}') \right] \left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a(\vec{k}) + e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}) \right] \right] \times \\ &\quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_k}} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{k'}}{2(2\pi)^3}} d^3 k d^3 k' \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= i \iint \left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} e^{-i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} [a(\vec{k}), a^\dagger(\vec{k}')] + e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} e^{i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} [a(\vec{k}'), a^\dagger(\vec{k})] \right] \times \\ &\quad \frac{1}{2(2\pi)^3} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{k'}}{\omega_k}} d^3 k d^3 k' \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

$$= i \int \left[e^{i\vec{k} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{y})} + e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{y})} \right] \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} = \frac{i}{2(2\pi)^3} 2(2\pi)^3 \delta(\vec{x} - \vec{y}) = \boxed{i\delta(\vec{x} - \vec{y})}. \quad (51)$$

Similarly,

$$[\phi(\vec{x}, t), \phi(\vec{y}, t)] = \phi(\vec{x}, t)\phi(\vec{y}, t) - \phi(\vec{y}, t)\phi(\vec{x}, t) \quad (52)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \iint \left[\left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a(\vec{k}) + e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}) \right] \left[e^{i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a(\vec{k}') + e^{-i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}') \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \left[e^{i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a(\vec{k}') + e^{-i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}') \right] \left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a(\vec{k}) + e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}) \right] \right] \times \\ &\quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_k}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_{k'}}} d^3 k d^3 k' \end{aligned} \quad (53)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \iint \left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} e^{-i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} [a(\vec{k}), a^\dagger(\vec{k}')] - e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} e^{i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} [a(\vec{k}'), a^\dagger(\vec{k})] \right] \times \\ &\quad \frac{1}{2(2\pi)^3 \sqrt{\omega_k \omega_{k'}}} d^3 k d^3 k' \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

$$= \int \left[e^{i\vec{k} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{y})} - e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{y})} \right] \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3 \omega_k} = \boxed{0}, \quad (55)$$

and

$$[\pi(\vec{x}, t), \pi(\vec{y}, t)] = \pi(\vec{x}, t)\pi(\vec{y}, t) - \pi(\vec{y}, t)\pi(\vec{x}, t) \quad (56)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= - \iint \left[\left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a(\vec{k}) - e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}) \right] \left[e^{i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a(\vec{k}') - e^{-i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}') \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \left[e^{i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a(\vec{k}') - e^{-i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}') \right] \left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a(\vec{k}) - e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} a^\dagger(\vec{k}) \right] \right] \times \\ &\quad \sqrt{\frac{\omega_k}{2(2\pi)^3}} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{k'}}{2(2\pi)^3}} d^3k d^3k' \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \iint \left[e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} e^{-i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} [a(\vec{k}), a^\dagger(\vec{k}')] - e^{-i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega_k t)} e^{i(\vec{k}' \cdot \vec{y} - \omega_{k'} t)} [a(\vec{k}'), a^\dagger(\vec{k})] \right] \times \\ &\quad \frac{\sqrt{\omega_k \omega_{k'}}}{2(2\pi)^3} d^3k d^3k' \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$

$$= \int \left[e^{i\vec{k} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{y})} - e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{y})} \right] \frac{\omega_k d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} = \boxed{0}. \quad (59)$$