

Physics 412—Practice S-6 (Due Feb. 24, 4 pm) Name:

S-6: I can use the wave function in position or momentum space to make predictions about measurements for a free particle in one dimension.

Unsatisfactory Progressing Acceptable Polished

- (1) A particle is in a quantum state with momentum-space wave function

$$\phi_0(p) = Ae^{-p^2/2\hbar^2 a^2} (1 + e^{-ipx_0/\hbar}).$$

Here p has the range $-\infty < p < \infty$. For this question, I want you to explicitly write out *and simplify* any integrals necessary to answer the questions, but you don't try to evaluate them.

- Explain how to find the normalization constant A .
- Does the $e^{-ipx_0/\hbar}$ term affect the probability density for the momentum? If so, how? Explain.
- If this is the momentum-space wave function of the particle at time $t = 0$, what is the momentum-space wave function at a later time t ?
- Explain how you would calculate the probability that the particle will be found in the range $x = [x_1, x_2]$ if its position were measured at time $t = 0$.

$$(a) \langle \phi_0 | \phi_0 \rangle = 1 = A^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\phi_0(p)|^2 dp \rightarrow A = \sqrt{1 / \int |\phi_0(p)|^2}$$

(B) yes, we are in momentum space and there is a p term in $e^{-ipx_0/\hbar}$

$$(C) \text{ Propagator } U(t) |\phi(p, 0)\rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\hbar k^2 t / 2m} |x\rangle |\phi_0(p)| \rightarrow \phi(x, t)$$

$$(D) \text{ Convert to position space } \rightarrow \psi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int e^{ixp/\hbar} \cdot \phi(p) dp$$

$$P[x_1, x_2] = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} |\psi(x, 0)|^2 dx$$