

Physics IV
ISI B.Math
End Semestral Exam : April 27, 2011

Total Marks: 75. Time: 3 hours. Answer **any FIVE** questions

Question 1. Total Marks:15

Consider a particle in three dimensions and two normalized energy eigenfunctions $\psi_1(x)$, $\psi_2(x)$ corresponding to eigenvalues $E_1 \neq E_2$. Assume that the eigenfunctions vanish outside two non-overlapping regions $\Omega_1(x)$ and $\Omega_2(x)$ respectively.

(a) Show that if the particle is initially in region $\Omega_1(x)$ then it will stay there forever.

(b) If, initially, the particle is in the state with wave function

$$\psi_1(x, 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[\psi_1(x) + \psi_2(x)]$$

show that the probability density $|\psi(x, t)|^2$ is independent of time.

(c) Now assume that the two regions $\Omega_1(x)$ and $\Omega_2(x)$ overlap partially. Starting with the initial wave function of case (b), show that the probability density is a periodic function of time.

Question 2. Total Marks:15

Assume that a particle in a 3-d central potential is in a state with an orbital angular momentum with z component $\hbar m$ and square magnitude $\hbar^2 l(l+1)$

(a) What is the value of $\langle L_z \rangle$?

(a) What is the value of $\langle L_x \rangle$?

(b) Show that $\langle L_x^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2}[\hbar^2 l(l+1) - \hbar^2 m^2]$

(c) Based on the above what will be the values of $\langle L_y \rangle$ and $\langle L_y^2 \rangle$? Justify your answers.

Question 3. Total Marks:15

A one dimensional quantum spring that can be stretched but cannot be compressed may be represented by the potential

$$V(x) = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2 \text{ for } x > 0 \text{ and } \infty \text{ for } x < 0$$

- (a) What is the value of the wave function in the region $x < 0$?
- (b) What is the behaviour of the wave function for large values of x ?
- (c) Determine all the energy eigenvalues of the system.

Justify your answers. [Hint: This problem requires very little actual computation. You can use results from the standard harmonic oscillator]

Question 4. Total Marks:15

Take a two dimensional quantum system. Assume that $H = \frac{1}{2m}[p_x^2 + p_y^2] + V(r)$

Consider the operator $R = -i\hbar(x\frac{\partial}{\partial y} - y\frac{\partial}{\partial x})$

- (a) Show that $\langle R \rangle$ is time independent. Hint: Calculate $[R, H]$
- (b) Show that R has real eigenvalues. Calculate the eigenstates and eigenvalues of R . Hint: use radial coordinates.
- (c) What conditions must eigenvalues of R satisfy?

Question 5. Total Marks:15

(a) Prove that if any one of the components of a Lorentz 4-vector is zero in all inertial frames, then the vector must be a null vector.

(b) Use this result to show that if any of the components of a total 4-momentum of a closed system is conserved in all frames, all components of the 4-momentum must be conserved.

Question 6. Total Marks:15

(a) Prove that the 4x4 Lorentz transformation matrix connecting two inertial frames which have parallel coordinate axes but are moving with a relative velocity $\pm \vec{v}$ is symmetric.

(b) Use this result to determine if composition of two boosts is another boost or not.