

Physics 3041 (Spring 2021) Solutions to Homework Set 7

1. Problem 9.7.3. (15 points)

(a) Using the orthonormal basis  $\{|m\rangle \rightarrow \frac{e^{i2m\pi x/L}}{\sqrt{L}}, m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots\}$ , we can expand

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2xh/L, & 0 \leq x \leq L/2, \\ 2(L-x)h/L, & L/2 \leq x \leq L \rightarrow 2x'h/L, 0 \leq x' \leq L/2, \end{cases}$$

as follows. Note that a change of variable  $x' = L - x$  is made to simplify the integration over  $L/2 \leq x \leq L$ .

$$f_{m=0} = \langle m=0|f\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \int_0^L f(x)dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \left[ \int_0^{L/2} \frac{2xh}{L} dx + \int_0^{L/2} \frac{2x'h}{L} dx' \right] = \frac{2}{\sqrt{L}} \frac{h}{L} \left( \frac{L}{2} \right)^2 = \frac{h\sqrt{L}}{2},$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{m \neq 0} &= \langle m|f\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \int_0^L e^{-\frac{i2m\pi x}{L}} f(x)dx = \frac{2h}{L\sqrt{L}} \left[ \int_0^{L/2} x e^{-\frac{i2m\pi x}{L}} dx + \int_0^{L/2} x' e^{-\frac{i2m\pi(L-x')}{L}} dx' \right] \\ &= \frac{2h}{L\sqrt{L}} \int_0^{L/2} x \left[ e^{-\frac{i2m\pi x}{L}} + e^{\frac{i2m\pi x}{L}} \right] dx = \frac{4h}{L\sqrt{L}} \int_0^{L/2} x \cos \frac{2m\pi x}{L} dx \\ &= \frac{4h}{L\sqrt{L}} [(-1)^m - 1] \left( \frac{L}{2m\pi} \right)^2 = [(-1)^m - 1] \frac{h\sqrt{L}}{(m\pi)^2} = \begin{cases} -2h\sqrt{L}/(m\pi)^2, & m = \text{odd}, \\ 0, & m = \text{even}. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_m \frac{f_m}{\sqrt{L}} e^{\frac{i2m\pi x}{L}} = \frac{h}{2} - \frac{2h}{\pi^2} \sum_{m=\text{odd}} \frac{e^{\frac{i2m\pi x}{L}}}{m^2} = \frac{h}{2} - \frac{2h}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\frac{i2(2n+1)\pi x}{L}} + e^{-\frac{i2(2n+1)\pi x}{L}}}{(2n+1)^2} \\ &= \frac{h}{2} - \frac{4h}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)^2} \cos \frac{2(2n+1)\pi x}{L} \end{aligned}$$

(b) For  $x = 0$ ,

$$f(x) = 0 = \frac{h}{2} - \frac{4h}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)^2} \Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{8}.$$

2. Problem 9.7.8. (35 points)

(i) We use the orthonormal basis  $\{|m=0\rangle \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}}, |m, \alpha=1\rangle \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \cos \frac{2m\pi x}{L}, |m, \alpha=2\rangle \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin \frac{2m\pi x}{L}, m=1, 2, \dots\}$  to expand  $f(x)$ ,  $-L/2 \leq x \leq L/2$ .

For  $f(x) = e^{-|x|}$ ,  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ , we use the orthonormal basis  $\{|m=0\rangle \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, |m, \alpha=1\rangle \rightarrow \cos m\pi x, |m, \alpha=2\rangle \rightarrow \sin m\pi x, m=1, 2, \dots\}$  for  $L=2$ . Note that  $f(-x) = f(x)$ .

$$a_0 = \langle m=0|f\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^1 e^{-|x|} dx = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} \int_0^1 e^{-x} dx = (1 - e^{-1})\sqrt{2},$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_m &= \langle m, \alpha=1|f\rangle = \int_{-1}^1 e^{-|x|} \cos m\pi x dx = 2 \int_0^1 e^{-x} \cos m\pi x dx = \int_0^1 e^{-x} (e^{im\pi x} + e^{-im\pi x}) dx \\ &= \frac{1 - e^{-1+im\pi}}{1 - im\pi} + \frac{1 - e^{-1-im\pi}}{1 + im\pi} = \frac{2[1 - (-1)^m e^{-1}]}{1 + (m\pi)^2}, \end{aligned}$$

$$b_m = \langle m, \alpha=2|f\rangle = \int_{-1}^1 e^{-|x|} \sin m\pi x dx = 0,$$

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{\sqrt{2}} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m \cos m\pi x + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_m \sin m\pi x = 1 - e^{-1} + 2 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - (-1)^m e^{-1}}{1 + (m\pi)^2} \cos m\pi x$$

(ii)  $f(x) = \cosh x$ ,  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ . Note that  $f(-x) = f(x)$ .

$$a_0 = \langle m=0|f\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^1 \cosh x dx = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} \int_0^1 \cosh x dx = (\sinh 1)\sqrt{2},$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_m &= \langle m, \alpha=1|f\rangle = \int_{-1}^1 \cosh x \cos m\pi x dx = 2 \int_0^1 \cosh x \cos m\pi x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 (e^x + e^{-x})(e^{im\pi x} + e^{-im\pi x}) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{e^{1+im\pi} - 1}{1 + im\pi} + \frac{e^{1-im\pi} - 1}{1 - im\pi} + \frac{1 - e^{-1+im\pi}}{1 - im\pi} + \frac{1 - e^{-1-im\pi}}{1 + im\pi} \right) \\ &= \frac{(-1)^m (e - e^{-1})}{1 + (m\pi)^2} = \frac{2(-1)^m (\sinh 1)}{1 + (m\pi)^2}, \end{aligned}$$

$$b_m = \langle m, \alpha=2|f\rangle = \int_{-1}^1 \cosh x \sin m\pi x dx = 0,$$

$$f(x) = \sinh 1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{2(-1)^m (\sinh 1)}{1 + (m\pi)^2} \cos m\pi x = (\sinh 1) \left[ 1 + 2 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m \cos m\pi x}{1 + (m\pi)^2} \right]$$

(iii) For  $f(x) = e^x$ ,  $-\pi < x < \pi$ , we use the orthonormal basis  $\{|m=0\rangle \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}, |m, \alpha=1\rangle \rightarrow \frac{\cos mx}{\sqrt{\pi}}, |m, \alpha=2\rangle \rightarrow \frac{\sin mx}{\sqrt{\pi}}, m=1, 2, \dots\}$  for  $L=2\pi$ . Note that to enforce  $f(-\pi) = f(\pi)$ , we must allow two discontinuities at  $x = \pm\pi$ , which does not affect the convergence of the

expansion within the interval  $-\pi < x < \pi$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
a_0 &= \langle m = 0 | f \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^x dx = \frac{e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} = (\sinh \pi) \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}}, \\
a_m &= \langle m, \alpha = 1 | f \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^x \cos mx dx = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^x (e^{imx} + e^{-imx}) dx \\
&= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \left[ \frac{e^{(1+im)\pi} - e^{-(1+im)\pi}}{1+im} + \frac{e^{(1-im)\pi} - e^{-(1-im)\pi}}{1-im} \right] \\
&= \frac{(-1)^m (e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi})}{(1+m^2)\sqrt{\pi}} = \frac{2(-1)^m (\sinh \pi)}{(1+m^2)\sqrt{\pi}}, \\
b_m &= \langle m, \alpha = 2 | f \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^x \sin mx dx = \frac{1}{2i\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^x (e^{imx} - e^{-imx}) dx \\
&= \frac{1}{2i\sqrt{\pi}} \left[ \frac{e^{(1+im)\pi} - e^{-(1+im)\pi}}{1+im} - \frac{e^{(1-im)\pi} - e^{-(1-im)\pi}}{1-im} \right] \\
&= -\frac{m(-1)^m (e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi})}{(1+m^2)\sqrt{\pi}} = -\frac{2m(-1)^m (\sinh \pi)}{(1+m^2)\sqrt{\pi}}, \\
f(x) &= \frac{\sinh \pi}{\pi} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{2(-1)^m (\sinh \pi)}{(1+m^2)\pi} \cos mx - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{2m(-1)^m (\sinh \pi)}{(1+m^2)\pi} \sin mx \\
&= \frac{\sinh \pi}{\pi} \left[ 1 + 2 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m (\cos mx - m \sin mx)}{1+m^2} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\sinh x &= \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2} = \frac{f(x) - f(-x)}{2} = \frac{\sinh \pi}{\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m (-2m \sin mx)}{1+m^2} \\
&= \frac{2 \sinh \pi}{\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+1} m \sin mx}{1+m^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\cosh x &= \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2} = \frac{f(x) + f(-x)}{2} = \frac{\sinh \pi}{\pi} \left[ 1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m (2 \cos mx)}{1+m^2} \right] \\
&= \frac{\sinh \pi}{\pi} \left[ 1 + 2 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m \cos mx}{1+m^2} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\cosh(-\pi) = \cosh \pi$ , so we expect that its expansion is continuous at  $x = \pm\pi$ . We obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\cosh \pi &= \frac{\sinh \pi}{\pi} \left[ 1 + 2 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m \cos m\pi}{1+m^2} \right] = \frac{\sinh \pi}{\pi} \left( 1 + 2 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+m^2} \right) \\
\Rightarrow \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+m^2} &= \frac{\pi \cosh \pi}{2 \sinh \pi} - \frac{1}{2}.
\end{aligned}$$

Clearly, the expansion of  $\sinh x$  is discontinuous at  $x = \pm\pi$  as it gives zero. Similarly, the expansion of  $e^x$  is also discontinuous at  $x = \pm\pi$ , as it gives  $\cosh \pi$ , i.e., the average of the actual values at  $x = \pm\pi$ .

3. Perform appropriate integration to show the following results regarding the Dirac delta function (25 points):

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(ax) &= \delta(x)/|a|, \text{ where } a \text{ is a real number,} \\ \delta(f(x)) &= \sum_i \frac{\delta(x - x_i)}{|df/dx|_{x_i}}, \text{ where } x_i \text{ satisfies } f(x_i) = 0, \\ \frac{d}{dx}\delta(x - x') &= \delta(x - x')\frac{d}{dx'}.\end{aligned}$$

Consider  $a > 0$  and let  $y = ax$ . We have

$$\int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} \delta(ax)dx = \frac{1}{a} \int_{-a\epsilon}^{a\epsilon} \delta(y)dy = \frac{1}{a} = \int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} \frac{\delta(x)}{a}dx \Rightarrow \delta(ax) = \delta(x)/a.$$

For  $a < 0$ , we have  $\delta(ax) = \delta(-|a|x) = \delta(|a|x) = \delta(x)/|a|$ , where the last equality follows from the result for  $a > 0$ . Therefore,  $\delta(ax) = \delta(x)/|a|$  in general.

Consider Taylor expansion near a specific root  $x_i$  of  $f(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= f(x_i) + f'(x_i)(x - x_i) + \dots = f'(x_i)(x - x_i) + \dots, \\ \Rightarrow \int_{x_i-\epsilon}^{x_i+\epsilon} \delta(f(x))dx &= \int_{x_i-\epsilon}^{x_i+\epsilon} \delta(f'(x_i)(x - x_i))dx = \frac{1}{|f'(x_i)|},\end{aligned}$$

where  $f'(x_i) = (df/dx)_{x_i}$  and the last equality follows from  $\delta(ax) = \delta(x)/|a|$ . Including all roots of  $f(x)$ , we have

$$\sum_i \int_{x_i-\epsilon}^{x_i+\epsilon} \delta(f(x))dx = \sum_i \frac{1}{|f'(x_i)|} = \sum_i \int_{x_i-\epsilon}^{x_i+\epsilon} \frac{\delta(x - x_i)}{|f'(x_i)|}dx \Rightarrow \delta(f(x)) = \sum_i \frac{\delta(x - x_i)}{|f'(x_i)|}.$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx} \int_{x-\epsilon}^{x+\epsilon} \delta(x - x')f(x')dx' &= \int_{x-\epsilon}^{x+\epsilon} \frac{d}{dx}\delta(x - x')f(x')dx' + [\delta(x - x')f(x')]_{x-\epsilon}^{x+\epsilon} \\ &= \int_{x-\epsilon}^{x+\epsilon} \frac{d}{dx}\delta(x - x')f(x')dx',\end{aligned}$$

where we have used  $\delta(x - x') = 0$  for  $x - x' \neq 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{x-\epsilon}^{x+\epsilon} \frac{d}{dx}\delta(x - x')f(x')dx' &= \frac{d}{dx} \int_{x-\epsilon}^{x+\epsilon} \delta(x - x')f(x')dx' = \frac{d}{dx}f(x), \\ \int_{x-\epsilon}^{x+\epsilon} \delta(x - x')\frac{d}{dx'}f(x')dx' &= \frac{d}{dx}f(x) \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx}\delta(x - x') = \delta(x - x')\frac{d}{dx'}.\end{aligned}$$

4. For each energy eigenstate of a particle of mass  $m$  in the infinitely-deep potential well between  $x = 0$  and  $L$ , find the probability distribution of the possible results when the particle momentum is measured. (25 points)

The wavefunctions of the energy eigenstates with eigenvalues  $E_n = n^2\pi^2\hbar^2/(2mL^2)$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  are

$$\langle x|\psi_n\rangle = \psi_n(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}, & 0 < x < L, \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$

The wave function of the momentum eigenstate with eigenvalue  $p$  is

$$\langle x|\phi_p\rangle = \phi_p(x) = \frac{e^{ipx/\hbar}}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}}.$$

The probability amplitude for measuring momentum  $p$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi_p|\psi_n\rangle &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \langle \phi_p|x\rangle \langle x|\psi_n\rangle dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi_p^*(x) \psi_n(x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \int_0^L e^{-ipx/\hbar} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{1}{2i\sqrt{\pi\hbar L}} \int_0^L e^{-ipx/\hbar} (e^{in\pi x/L} - e^{-in\pi x/L}) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2i\sqrt{\pi\hbar L}} \left( \frac{e^{-ipL/\hbar + in\pi} - 1}{-ip/\hbar + in\pi/L} - \frac{e^{-ipL/\hbar - in\pi} - 1}{-ip/\hbar - in\pi/L} \right) \\ &= \frac{(-1)^n e^{-ipL/\hbar} - 1}{2\sqrt{\pi\hbar L}} \left( \frac{1}{p/\hbar - n\pi/L} - \frac{1}{p/\hbar + n\pi/L} \right) \\ &= \frac{(-1)^n e^{-ipL/\hbar} - 1}{2\sqrt{\pi\hbar L}} \left[ \frac{2n\pi/L}{(p/\hbar)^2 - (n\pi/L)^2} \right] = \frac{1 - (-1)^n e^{-ipL/\hbar}}{\sqrt{\pi\hbar L}} \left[ \frac{n\pi/L}{(n\pi/L)^2 - (p/\hbar)^2} \right], \end{aligned}$$

which corresponds to the probability distribution

$$\begin{aligned} P_n(p) &= |\langle \phi_p|\psi_n\rangle|^2 = \left[ \frac{n\pi/L}{(n\pi/L)^2 - (p/\hbar)^2} \right]^2 \frac{[1 - (-1)^n e^{-ipL/\hbar}][1 - (-1)^n e^{ipL/\hbar}]}{\pi\hbar L} \\ &= \left[ \frac{n\pi/L}{(n\pi/L)^2 - (p/\hbar)^2} \right]^2 \frac{2[1 - (-1)^n \cos(pL/\hbar)]}{\pi\hbar L} \\ &= \frac{2L}{\pi\hbar} \left[ \frac{n\pi}{(n\pi)^2 - (pL/\hbar)^2} \right]^2 [1 - \cos(n\pi - pL/\hbar)] \\ &= \frac{4L}{\pi\hbar} \left[ \frac{n\pi}{(n\pi)^2 - (pL/\hbar)^2} \right]^2 \sin^2 \left( \frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{pL}{2\hbar} \right) \\ &= \frac{L}{\pi\hbar} \left( \frac{n\pi}{n\pi + pL/\hbar} \right)^2 \frac{\sin^2[(n\pi - pL/\hbar)/2]}{[(n\pi - pL/\hbar)/2]^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $-\infty < p < \infty$ .