## Physics 309 Final

I pledge that I have given nor received unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.

Name Signature

Questions (3 pts. apiece) Answer questions in complete, well-written sentences WITHIN the spaces provided.

1. The CO molecule can be represented by quantum numbers  $n, l$ , and  $m$ . Describe in words the meaning of each quantum number.

2. In our study of the CO molecule we used the quantum number  $\ell$  to terminate the series for the rotational  $(\theta)$  part of the CO eigenfunctions. What physical quantity is  $\ell$  related to and how did we connect it to that quantity?

3. What is a solid angle?

4. What is the quantum program?

Do not write below this line.

5. Cite at least two experimental measurements that required quantum mechanics to explain.

6. The eigenfunctions and eigenvalues of the particle in a box are

$$
|\phi\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{a} \qquad E_n = n^2 \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{2ma^2}
$$

for  $0 < x < a$ . The eigenfunctions are zero outside the box. Consider the following sequence of measurements of a particle in a box.

- (a) The energy of the particle is measured. A value  $E_1$  is obtained.
- (b) The position of the particle is measured and a value  $x_2$  is obtained.
- (c) The energy of the particle is measured again.

What possible values of the energy can you obtain in step 6.c? Explain.

7. Why does the Sun shine? Your answer should be descriptive and qualitative - not quantitative.

8. Why do we express the wave function in terms of energy eigenstates?

Do not write below this line.

9. Consider the potential barrier shown below. How would you use the transfer-matrix approach to connect the wave function  $\psi_0$  in region 0 to the wave function  $\psi_4$  in region 4? Give your answer in the appropriate notation used in class for problems like this one. What is the form of the wave number  $k_i$  in each region?



10. A proton and electron are each trapped in their own infinite square well which covers the same range  $0 < x < a$ . Both particles are in the ground state. At the center of the well is the probability density of the proton greater than, less than, or equal to the probability density of the electron? Explain.

Problems. Clearly show all work for full credit on a separate piece of paper.

- 1. (10 pts.) The work function of zinc is  $\Phi = 3.6 \text{ eV}$ . What is the energy of the most energetic photoelectron emitted by ultraviolet light of wavelength  $\lambda = 2500 \text{ Å}$ ?
- 2. (10 pts.) Recall the vibration-rotation spectrum of carbon monoxide shown in the figure. The peaks are separated by constant energy except at the center of the spectrum where the separation is larger (the 'hole'). The energy levels of the carbon monoxide are the sum of the harmonic oscillator energies  $E_n$  and the rotational ones  $E_{\ell}$ . Starting from the expression for the energy levels in CO calculate an expression for the size of the hole.



3. (10 pts.) Legendre's differential equation determines Θ the solution of the polar angle part  $\theta$  of the CO rotator Schoedinger equation

$$
(1-z^2)\frac{d^2\Theta}{dz^2} - 2z\frac{d\Theta}{dz} + \left(A - \frac{m^2}{1-z^2}\right)\Theta = 0
$$

where m is an integer, A is the separation constant, and  $z = \cos \theta$ . For the case  $m = 0$  what is the recursion relationship for the series solution to Legendre's differential equation? In other words, let  $\Theta = \sum a_k z^k$ , set  $m = 0$ , and show that Legendre's differential equation leads to a relationship between the coefficients in the sum. What must the constant A equal if we want to terminate the series at some arbitrary value of  $k = l$ ?

4. (10 pts.) A hypernucleus is an atomic nucleus which contains hyperons, particles that contain a strange quark replacing one of the  $u$  or  $d$  quarks in a nucleon. Suppose a hyperon is confined in a nucleus of diameter a and has the following initial wave function.

$$
\psi(x,0) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin \frac{4\pi x}{a} \qquad 0 \le x \le a
$$
  
= 0 \qquad \text{otherwise}

Treat the system as a one dimensional infinite rectangular well. The eigenfunctions and eigenvalues are

$$
E_n = \frac{n^2 \hbar^2 \pi^2}{2m a^2} \qquad \phi_n = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin\left(\frac{n \pi x}{a}\right) \qquad 0 \le x \le a
$$
  
= 0 \qquad x < 0 \text{ and } x > a

The mass of the hyperon in energy units is  $m_h c^2 = 1405 \; MeV$ .

- 1. What are the coefficients of the Fourier series describing the initial wave function?
- 2. If  $a = 1.0$  fm, what is the probability of the hyperon being in the ground state  $(n = 1)$ ? What is the probability of the hyperon being in the third excited state?

5. (15 pts.) For a particle-in-a-box (see Prob. 4 for eigenfunctions and eigenvalues) with initial state

$$
\psi(x,0) = A_1 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) \cos\left(\frac{3\pi x}{a}\right) \quad 0 \le x \le a
$$
  
= 0 \qquad x < 0 \text{ and } x > a

what are  $A_1$ ,  $\psi(x,t)$  and  $P(E_n)$  at  $t > 0$  in terms of m, a, and any other constants?

6. (15 pts.) Cold emission is a process where electrons are drawn from a metal at room temperature by an external electric field. The potential of the electrons in the metal without the external field is shown in the left-hand panel below. The electrons fill all available energy states (the Fermi sea) up to a maximum value  $E_F$ . The potential with with the field  $\mathcal E$  on is shown in the right-hand panel.

$$
V(x) = \Phi + E_F - e\mathcal{E}x
$$

where  $E_F$  is the Fermi energy,  $\Phi$  is the work function,  $\mathcal E$  is the applied electric field,  $e$  is the electronic charge, and x is the position. See the figure for more information. Electrons can 'tunnel' through this barrier.

1. Use the WKB approximation to calculate the transmission coefficient

$$
T = \exp\left[-2\int_{x_1}^{x_2} \sqrt{\frac{2m(V(x) - E)}{\hbar^2}} dx\right]
$$

where  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are values of the position x where the energy  $E_F$  equals  $V(x)$  (see the figure). Get your answer in terms of the electron mass  $m, \Phi$ ,  $e, \mathcal{E}$ , and any other necessary constants.

2. The electric current inside the metal is described by  $J_{inc} = env$  where n is the electron density and  $v$  is the electron speed in the Fermi sea. Consider a current coming out of the metal. The most likely electrons to tunnel through the barrier are the ones at the Fermi energy  $E_F$  (the top of the Fermi sea). Calculate an expression for the electric field  $\mathcal E$  needed to reach a current  $J_0$  through the barrier from the Fermi sea in terms of  $m, e, n$ ,  $E_F$ ,  $\Phi$ , and  $J_0$ .

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## Physics 309 Equations

$$
R_T(\nu) = \frac{Energy}{time \times area} \quad E = h\nu = \hbar\omega \quad v_{wave} = \lambda\nu \quad I \propto |\vec{E}|^2 \quad \lambda = \frac{h}{p} \quad p = \hbar k \quad K = \frac{p^2}{2m} \quad K_{max} = h\nu - \Phi
$$

$$
-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}\Psi(x,t) + V(x)\Psi(x,t) = i\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\Psi(x,t) \quad \hat{p}_x = -i\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \quad \hat{A}\ |\phi\rangle = a|\phi\rangle \quad \langle \hat{A}\ \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^* \hat{A} \ \psi dx
$$

$$
\langle \phi_{n'} | \phi_n \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi_{n'}^* \phi_n dx = \delta_{n',n} \quad \langle \phi(k') | \phi(k) \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi_{k'}^* \phi_k dx = \delta(k - k') \quad e^{i\phi} = \cos\phi + i\sin\phi
$$

$$
|\psi\rangle = \sum b_n |\phi_n\rangle \to b_n = \langle \phi_n | \psi \rangle \qquad |\phi\rangle = e^{\pm ikx} \qquad |\psi\rangle = \int b(k) |\phi(k)\rangle dk \to b(k) = \langle \phi(k) | \psi \rangle
$$

$$
|\psi(x,t)\rangle = \sum b_n |\phi_n\rangle e^{-i\omega_n t} \quad |\psi(x,t)\rangle = \int b(k)|\phi(k)\rangle e^{-i\omega(k)t} dk \quad \Delta p \Delta x \ge \frac{n}{2} \quad (\Delta x)^2 = \langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2
$$
  
The wave function,  $\Psi(\vec{r}, t)$ , contains all we know of a system and its square is the probability of

finding the system in the region  $\vec{r}$  to  $\vec{r} + d\vec{r}$ . The wave function and its derivative are (1) finite, (2) continuous, and (3) single-valued  $(\psi_1(a) = \psi_2(a)$  and  $\psi'_1(a) = \psi'_2(a))$ .

$$
V_{HO} = \frac{\kappa x^2}{2} \quad \omega = 2\pi \nu = \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{m}} \quad E_n = (n + \frac{1}{2})\hbar\omega_0 = \hbar\omega \quad |\phi_n\rangle = e^{-\xi^2/2}H_n(\xi) \quad \xi = \beta x \quad \beta^2 = \frac{m\omega_0}{\hbar}
$$
  

$$
\psi_1 = \mathbf{t}\psi_3 = \mathbf{d}_{12}\mathbf{p}_2\mathbf{d}_{21}\mathbf{p}_1^{-1}\psi_3 \qquad T = \frac{1}{|t_{11}|^2} \qquad R + T = 1
$$
  

$$
\mathbf{d}_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \frac{k_i}{k_i} & 1 - \frac{k_i}{k_i} \\ 1 - \frac{k_i}{k_i} & 1 + \frac{k_i}{k_i} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{p}_i = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-ik_i2a} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{ik_i2a} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{p}_i^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{ik_i2a} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-ik_i2a} \end{pmatrix}
$$
  

$$
E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} \quad k = \sqrt{\frac{2m(E - V)}{\hbar^2}} \quad T = \frac{\text{transmitted flux}}{\text{incident flux}} \quad R = \frac{\text{reflected flux}}{\text{incident flux}} \quad \text{flux} = |\psi|^2 v
$$
  

$$
V(r) = \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{r} \quad E = \frac{1}{2} \mu v^2 + V(r) \quad \vec{R}_{cm} = \frac{\sum_i m_i \vec{r}_i}{\sum_i m_i} \quad \mu = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}
$$
  

$$
\psi(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n x^n \quad \langle K \rangle = \frac{3}{2} kT \qquad n(v) = 4\pi N \left(\frac{m}{2\pi k_B T}\right)^{3/2} v^2 e^{-mv^2/2k_B T} \quad \vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p} = \mathcal{I} \vec{\omega}
$$
  

$$
\mathcal{I} = \sum_i m_i r_1^2 = \int r^2 dm \quad KE_{rot} = \frac{L^2}{2L} \quad E_{\ell} = \frac
$$

## Constants



## Integrals and Derivatives

$$
\frac{df}{du} = \frac{df}{dx}\frac{du}{dx} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x \quad \frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) = -\sin x \quad \frac{d}{dx}(e^{ax}) = ae^{ax}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{d}{dx}(\ln ax) = \frac{1}{x} \quad \int x^n dx = \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} \quad \int e^{ax} dx = \frac{e^{ax}}{a} \quad \int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln x \quad \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} dx = \ln \left[ x + \sqrt{x^2 + a^2} \right]
$$
\n
$$
\int \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} dx = \sqrt{x^2 + a^2} \quad \int \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} dx = \frac{1}{2}x\sqrt{x^2 + a^2} - \frac{1}{2}a^2 \ln \left[ x + \sqrt{x^2 + a^2} \right]
$$
\n
$$
\int \frac{x^3}{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} dx = \frac{1}{3}(-2a^2 + x^2)\sqrt{x^2 + a^2} \quad \int x^2 \sin(ax) dx = \frac{2x \sin(ax)}{a^2} - \frac{(a^2x^2 - 2)\cos(ax)}{a^3}
$$
\n
$$
\int x \sin(ax) dx = \frac{\sin(ax)}{a^2} - \frac{x \cos(ax)}{a} \quad \int x^3 \sin ax dx = \frac{3(a^2x^2 - 2)\sin(ax)}{a^4} - \frac{x(a^2x^2 - 6)\cos(ax)}{a^3}
$$

Hermite polynomials  $(H_n(\xi))$ 

$$
H_0(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sqrt{\pi}}} \qquad H_5(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3840\sqrt{\pi}}} (32\xi^5 - 160\xi^3 + 120\xi)
$$
  
\n
$$
H_1(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\sqrt{\pi}}} 2\xi \qquad H_6(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{46080\sqrt{\pi}}} (64\xi^6 - 480\xi^4 + 720\xi^2 - 120)
$$
  
\n
$$
H_2(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\sqrt{\pi}}} (4\xi^2 - 2) \qquad H_7(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{645120\sqrt{\pi}}} (128\xi^7 - 1344\xi^5 + 3360\xi^3 - 1680\xi)
$$
  
\n
$$
H_3(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{48\sqrt{\pi}}} (8\xi^3 - 12\xi) \qquad H_8(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10321920\sqrt{\pi}}} (256\xi^8 - 3584\xi^6 + 13440\xi^4 - 13440\xi^2 + 1680)
$$
  
\n
$$
H_4(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{384\sqrt{\pi}}} (16\xi^4 - 48\xi^2 + 12) \qquad H_9(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{185794560\sqrt{\pi}}} (512\xi^9 - 9216\xi^7 + 48384\xi^5 - 80640\xi^3 + 30240\xi)
$$



