

PHYS 3701 - Assignment #3
Due Friday February 13, 2015

1. a) Show $[\hat{A} + \hat{B}, \hat{C}] = [\hat{A}, \hat{C}] + [\hat{B}, \hat{C}]$.
b) Show $[\hat{A}\hat{B}, \hat{C}] = \hat{A}[\hat{B}, \hat{C}] + [\hat{A}, \hat{C}]\hat{B}$.
c) Show that $(\hat{A}\hat{B})^\dagger = \hat{B}^\dagger \hat{A}^\dagger$. Note that the small 't' here is supposed to be a dagger and represent Hermitian conjugation.
d) If $[\hat{B}, \hat{C}] = \hat{A}$ and $[\hat{A}, \hat{C}] = \hat{B}$ show $\sigma_{AB}\sigma_C \geq \frac{1}{2}\langle \hat{A}^2 + \hat{B}^2 \rangle$.
e) Simplify $[\hat{x}^2, \hat{p}^2]$.

2. Scherrer Chapter 5 # 6. We will discuss this in class in the context of the time-energy uncertainty principle.

3. Show that Hermitian operators have real eigenvalues. Show that eigenvectors of a Hermitian operator with unique eigenvalues are orthogonal. Use Dirac notation for this problem.

4. Show that the position, momentum, and Hamiltonian operators are Hermitian. (see Chapter 5 and question 5.7).