

16. Show that for a single particle moving in a potential

$$V(x), \quad \frac{\partial \langle p \rangle}{\partial t} = - \left\langle \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right\rangle$$

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V(x) \quad \left[\hat{H}, \frac{d}{dx} \right] = -\frac{dV}{dx} \quad \text{Show how!}$$

$$\frac{d \langle p \rangle}{dt} = \int \frac{d}{dt} \psi^* \psi dx - i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \int \psi^* \frac{d}{dx} \psi dx$$

$$= \int -i\hbar \frac{d\psi^*}{dt} \frac{d\psi}{dx} dx + \int -i\hbar \psi^* \frac{d}{dt} \frac{d\psi}{dx} dx$$

$$= \int -i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} dx + \int -i\hbar \psi^* \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} dx$$

$$= \int \hat{H} \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} dx - \int \psi^* \frac{\partial \hat{H} \psi}{\partial x} dx$$

↙ Show how!

$$\left(\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} \psi &= -i\hbar \frac{d\psi}{dt} \\ \mathcal{H} \psi^* &= -i\hbar \frac{d\psi^*}{dt} \end{aligned} \right)$$

$$= \int \psi^* \hat{H} \frac{d\psi}{dx} dx - \int \psi^* \frac{\partial \hat{H} \psi}{\partial x} dx$$

$$= \int \psi^* \left(\hat{H} \frac{d}{dx} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{H} \right) \psi dx$$

$$= - \int \psi^* \frac{dV}{dx} \psi dx = - \left\langle \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right\rangle$$

This shows that the expectation values obey

$$\text{Newton's law } (F = ma = \frac{dp}{dt} = -\frac{dV}{dx})$$