

1 Energy current

The Hamiltonian is

$$\begin{aligned} H_0 &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int dr \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla^2 \psi(r) \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int dr \nabla \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla \psi(r) \end{aligned}$$

The Hamiltonian density is

$$h_0(r) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla \psi(r)$$

The continuity equation is

$$\frac{\partial h_0(r)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot j_E = 0$$

To calculate the derivative of $h(r)$ I evaluate the commutator

$$\begin{aligned} [h_0, H_0] &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} [\nabla \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla \psi(r), H_0] \\ &= \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \right) (\nabla [\psi^\dagger(r), H_0] \nabla \psi(r) + \nabla \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla [\psi(r), H_0]) \end{aligned}$$

I have the two commutators

$$[\psi(r), H_0] = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi(r)$$

$$[\psi^\dagger(r), H_0] = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi^\dagger(r)$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} [h_0, H_0] &= \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \right)^2 (\nabla \nabla^2 \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla \psi(r) - \nabla \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla \nabla^2 \psi(r)) \\ &= \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \right)^2 \nabla \cdot (\nabla^2 \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla \psi(r) - \nabla \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla^2 \psi(r)) \end{aligned}$$

Now because

$$\frac{\partial h_0}{\partial t} = -\frac{i}{\hbar} [h_0, H_0] = -\nabla \cdot j_E(r)$$

I have

$$j_E(r) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \right)^2 (\nabla \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla^2 \psi(r) - \nabla^2 \psi^\dagger(r) \nabla \psi(r))$$

I now reintroduce the commutators

$$[\psi(r), H_0] = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi(r)$$

$$[\psi^\dagger(r), H_0] = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi^\dagger(r)$$

Giving the following current

$$j_E(r) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \right) (-\nabla \psi^\dagger(r) [\psi(r), H_0] - [\psi^\dagger(r), H_0] \nabla \psi(r))$$

Which can also be expressed in terms of the time derivative

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = [\psi(r), H_0]$$

So the final result is

$$j_E(r) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\nabla \psi^\dagger(r) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \psi^\dagger}{\partial t} \nabla \psi(r) \right)$$