

**PHYSICS 521 - FALL 2010**  
**Midterm Exam II**

**Problem 1**

A particle of mass  $m$  and charge  $q$  is moving in the  $x$ -direction under the influence of a uniform electric field  $\vec{E} = \mathcal{E}_0 \hat{x}$ .

Calculate the average acceleration

$$\frac{d^2 \langle X \rangle}{dt^2}$$

and compare your result with the one expected from classical mechanics.

**Problem 2**

A spin-1/2 particle of magnetic moment  $\vec{\mu} = \gamma \vec{S}$ , where

$$S_x = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_y = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_z = \frac{\hbar}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is placed in a uniform magnetic field

$$\vec{B} = B_0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 3/5 \\ 4/5 \end{pmatrix}$$

At  $t = 0$  the  $z$  component of its spin is measured and found to be  $+\hbar/2$ .

If the  $x$  component of the spin is measured at time  $t > 0$ , what are the possible outcomes and with what probability will each occur?