961 QUANTUM FIELD THEORY - Homework 1 - Due: 2/22/2007.

1. Energy-Momentum Tensor, Noether's Theorem

Problem 2.1, Peskin and Schroeder

2. Quantization of Complex Scalar Fields

Problem 2.2, Peskin and Schroeder

3. Free Electromagnetic Fields*

Consider a pair of hermitian vector fields, namely the free electromagnetic fields $\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ and $\hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{x}, t)$. These are transverse vector fields

$$\nabla \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}} = \nabla \cdot \hat{\mathbf{B}} = 0 , \qquad (1)$$

whose time-dependence

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{E}},
\frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial t} = +\nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{B}},$$
(2)

follows from the free electromagnetic Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H}_{EM} = \int d^3 \mathbf{x} \left(\frac{1}{2} \hat{\mathbf{E}}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \hat{\mathbf{B}}^2 \right).$$
(3)

Actually, the time-dependent Maxwell equations, eq. (2), follow from the Hamiltonian, eq.(3) and the equal-time commutation relations:

$$[\hat{E}_{i}(\mathbf{x},t), \hat{E}_{j}(\mathbf{x}',t'=t)] = ???, [\hat{B}_{i}(\mathbf{x},t), \hat{B}_{j}(\mathbf{x}',t'=t)] = ???, [\hat{E}_{i}(\mathbf{x},t), \hat{B}_{j}(\mathbf{x}',t'=t)] = ???.$$
(4)

Such commutation relations for the electromagnetic fields are completely determined by the consistency of eq. (2) with the Hamiltonian, eq. (3); write them down. Make sure your answer is consistent with the transversality of the fields, i.e., with the timeindependent Maxwell's equations, eq. (1).