

An electron is sent from  $x \rightarrow -\infty$  towards a potential barrier,

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0, \\ V_0, & x > 0. \end{cases}$$

The electron's energy is  $E > V_0$ .

- (a.) (5 points) Solve the time-independent Schrödinger equation for  $\psi_{\text{I}}(x)$  and  $\psi_{\text{II}}(x)$ , solutions for  $x < 0$  and  $x > 0$  respectively. Like we did in class for finite square-wells, combine the collection of constants,  $\hbar, m, V_0$ , and  $E$ , into real quantities  $k, \ell \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- (b.) (5 points) Apply boundary conditions at  $x = 0$  and solve for the reflection and transmission coefficients  $R$  and  $T$ . Remember that these coefficients are defined

$$R \equiv \frac{|B|^2}{|A|^2}, \quad T \equiv \frac{|F|^2}{|A|^2},$$

where  $A$  is the incident amplitude,  $B$  is the reflected amplitude, and  $F$  is the transmitted amplitude.

- (c.) (2 points) Using your results from part (b.), calculate  $R + T$ . What do you expect  $R + T$  should equal? Do you have any ideas for why  $R + T$  gives an unexpected answer in this case?
- (d.) (5 points) Calculate a quantity called the probability current,

$$j(x) \equiv \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left[ \psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial x} - \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right],$$

on both sides of the barrier. Let  $j_{\text{I}}(x)$  be the probability current for  $x < 0$  and  $j_{\text{II}}(x)$  be the probability current for  $x > 0$ . Evaluate them at  $x = 0$ ; that is,  $j_{\text{I}}(0)$  and  $j_{\text{II}}(0)$ . Don't forget that  $A, B$ , and  $F$  could be complex.

- (e.) (3 points) It must be true that  $j_{\text{I}}(0) = j_{\text{II}}(0)$ . Construct an equation using this conservation rule and your answers from part (d.). Divide this equation by  $|A|^2$  and rearrange it so that you determine what linear combination of  $R$  and  $T$  sums to 1.