

**Essence of the project:** Take the initial wave function  $\Psi(x,0) = Ax \sin(\pi x / a)$  in the **standard infinite square well**, and study (through plotting) how the **probability density function** varies with time.

Define the **Characteristic angular frequency** (angular frequency for ground state):

$$\omega = \pi^2 \hbar / 2ma^2 .$$

Recall that the revival time for any wave function in the square well is given by  $T = 2\pi / \omega$ .

For your convenience, the normalization constant and the expansion coefficients for the given wave function are presented below:

$$A = \frac{1}{a^{3/2}} \sqrt{\frac{12\pi^2}{2\pi^2 - 3}} ;$$

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{6\pi^2}{2\pi^2 - 3}}$$

$$c_n = -\frac{1}{\pi^2} \sqrt{\frac{24\pi^2}{2\pi^2 - 3}} \left[ \frac{1}{(n-1)^2} - \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \right] \quad \text{for even } n;$$

$$c_n = 0 \quad \text{for odd } n \text{ except } n=1.$$

**Hence, the wave function at a later time  $t$  will be given by:**

$$\Psi(x,t) = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{6\pi^2}{2\pi^2 - 3}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin(\pi x / a) e^{-i\omega t} - \frac{1}{\pi^2} \sqrt{\frac{24\pi^2}{2\pi^2 - 3}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sum_{\text{even } n} \left[ \frac{1}{(n-1)^2} - \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \right] \sin(n\pi x / a) e^{-in^2\omega t}$$

## Task

(a) Using the expansion coefficients from  $n=1$  up to  $n=20$  (instead of worrying about the infinite sum), plot the regenerated initial wave function. Take  $\hbar = 1$ ;  $m = 1$ ;  $a = 1$ . Check if this indeed matches the given initial wave function. **(3 points)**

(b) Plot the initial probability density function. **(1 points)**

(c) Plot the probability density function at times

$$t = T / 8;$$

$$t = T / 4;$$

$$t = 3T / 8;$$

$$t = T / 2;$$

$$t = 5T / 8;$$

$$t = 3T / 4;$$

$$t = 7T / 8;$$

$$t = T.$$

Plot all these on the same graph along with the plot at  $t=0$ ! **(5 points)**

Check if indeed the density function at  $t=T$  matches the density function at  $t=0$ .

(d) For which value/s of  $t$  is the density function an even function about the midpoint ( $x=a/2$ )?

**Mathematically explain why!** **(3 points)**

(e) For which value/s of  $t$  is the density function a mirror reflection (about the line  $x=a/2$ ) of the initial density function?

**Mathematically explain why!** **(3 points)**

If you can make an actual movie of the evolution (which I cannot, alas!) with plots of the density function at, say, 100 equally spaced values of  $t$  (instead of the eight plotted) between  $t=0$  and  $t=T$ , you get **3 extra bonus points!**