

## Properties of Wave function:

MTWTFSS  
Date \_/ \_/ \_

The probability that a particle will be found at a given place in space at a given instant of time is characterized by the function  $\psi(x, y, z, t)$ . It is called the wavefunction. This function can be real or complex.

The wavefunction  $\psi$  itself has no direct physical significance. There is a simple reason why  $\psi$  can not be interpreted in terms of experiment. The probability that the particle at a certain place at a time must be lie between 0 and 1.

The square of the absolute value of the wavefunction which is known as probability density. It is a real quantity and given by

$$\rho = \psi \psi^* = |\psi|^2$$

The Total probability of finding the particle in a given space is written as

$$\rho = \int_V \psi \psi^* dV = \int_V |\psi|^2 dV$$

Since the particle is found somewhere in space

$$\boxed{\int_V |\psi|^2 dV = 1}$$

A wavefunction satisfies above equation is called a normalized wave function.

If the product i.e. of the wavefunction  $\psi_1(x)$  and the complex conjugate  $\psi_2^*(x)$  of a function  $\psi_2(x)$  vanishes when integrated in the interval  $[a, b]$  wrt to  $x$ , if

$$\int_a^b \psi_2^*(x) \psi_1(x) dx = 0$$

Then  $\psi_1(x)$  and  $\psi_2(x)$  are said to be orthogonal in the interval  $[a, b]$

Function satisfying both conditions, orthogonality and normality are called orthonormal function and, written as

$$\int \psi_m^*(x) \psi_n(x) dx = \delta_{mn} \quad \delta_{mn} \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } m=n \\ 0 & \text{if } m \neq n \end{cases}$$

If  $\psi$  is not normalized wavefunction then it is possible to multiply  $\psi$  by a constant known as Normalisation constant.

$$\int \psi^* N^* N \psi dx = 1$$

$$N^* N \int \psi^* \psi dx = 1$$

$$|N|^2 = \frac{1}{\int \psi^* \psi dx}$$