

PHYS2111 Cheat Sheet

Moisty Eyes

April 2021

1 Formula Sheet

1.1 Expectation Value

Expectation value of function $f(x)$ subject to $\Psi(x, t)$

$$\mathbb{P}(f(x)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \|\Psi(x, t)\|^2 dx.$$

Note that the Hamiltonian operator H is

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x, t),$$

and the expectation value of the energy $\langle H \rangle$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \langle H \rangle &= \left\langle -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x, t) \right\rangle \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Psi^*(x, t) \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x, t) \right) \Psi(x, t) dx. \end{aligned}$$

General case, the expectation value for any operator $Q(x, \hat{p})$ is

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Psi^*(x, t) Q(x, \hat{p}) \Psi(x, t) dx.$$

1.2 Position and Momentum Operators

The position operator,

$$\hat{x} = x.$$

The momentum operator,

$$\hat{p} = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x}.$$

1.3 The Infinite Square Well

Time Dependent Schrodinger's Equation

$$\Psi(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right) \exp(-iE_n t).$$

with constant

$$c_n = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \int_0^a \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right) \Psi(x, 0) dx.$$

and allowed energy

$$E_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}.$$

1.4 The Harmonic Oscillator

A harmonic oscillator has potential energy

$$V(x) = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 x^2.$$

With ground state $\psi_0(x)$

$$\psi_0(x) = \left(\frac{m\omega}{\pi\hbar}\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \exp\left(-\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}x^2\right).$$

The ladder operator

$$a_{\pm} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\hbar m\omega}}(\mp i\hat{p} + m\omega x), \quad (\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}})$$

and to extract the n-th state with the ladder operator

$$\psi_n(x) = A_n(\hat{a}_+)^n \psi_0(x).$$

1.5 The Free Particle

The initial condition can be expressed in the Fourier k space,

$$\phi(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Psi(x, 0) \exp(-ikx) dx, \quad (k = \frac{\sqrt{2mE}}{\hbar})$$

we can then use this $\phi(k)$ calculated above to determine the time dependent wave equation for the free particle

$$\Psi(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(k) \exp\left(i\left(kx - \frac{\hbar k^2}{2m}t\right)\right) dk.$$

Notably, the particle has a phase velocity and a group velocity,

$$v_{\text{phase}} = \frac{\omega}{k}, \quad v_{\text{group}} = \frac{d\omega}{dk}. \quad (\omega = \frac{\hbar k^2}{2m})$$

Also note that

$$v_{\text{group}} = v_{\text{classical}}.$$

For a free particle, note that the potential energy is zero namely $V(x, t) = 0$. Also note that we can switch from the Fourier k space and the momentum p space ($p = \hbar k$), obtaining the following

$$\phi(p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Psi(x, 0) \exp\left(-\frac{ip}{\hbar}x\right) dx,$$

and

$$\Psi(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(p) \exp\left(\frac{ip}{\hbar}x\right) \exp\left(\frac{-iEt}{\hbar}\right) dp \quad (E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m})$$

1.6 The Delta-Function Potential

The delta function well has **only one** bound state (for $\alpha > 0$) namely

$$\phi(x) = \frac{\sqrt{m\alpha}}{\hbar} \exp\left(\frac{-m\alpha|x|}{\hbar}\right),$$

with **only one** allowed energy

$$E = -\frac{m\alpha^2}{\hbar}.$$

The reflection coefficient R and the transmission coefficient T can be expressed as the following

$$R = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{2\hbar^2 E}{m\alpha^2}}, \quad T = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{m\alpha^2}{2\hbar^2 E}}.$$

1.7 The Finite Square Well

The finite square well has the potential function such that (note that this is a flipped tophat function),

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} -V_0 & \text{if } -a \leq x \leq a, \\ 0 & \text{if } |x| > a. \end{cases}$$

TO DO LIST

- Finishing up the finite square well
- proof read
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