

1. A rod of proper length l_0 sits at rest in S frame, lying in the x - y plane at an angle of $\theta = \tan^{-1}(3/4)$ with the x -axis. A frame S' moves with velocity $\vec{v} = v\hat{x}$ with respect to S . In S' , the rod is angled at 45° with respect to the x' axis. [3+5]

(a) What is v ?

(b) What is the length l' of the rod as measured in S' frame?

Solution:

(i) We have in S' frame $\tan\theta' = \frac{y'}{x'}$, where θ' is the angle made by the rod with x' axis.

As the frame is moving with the velocity $v\hat{x}$, we have $y' = y$ and $x' = \frac{x}{\gamma_v}$, where γ_v is the Lorentz factor.

Now, $\tan(\theta') = \gamma_v \frac{y}{x} = \gamma_v \tan(\theta)$.

Which will give $\gamma_v = (\sqrt{1 - \beta^2})^{-1} = \frac{\tan(\theta')}{\tan(\theta)} = 4/3$.

We get, $\beta = \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}$. Therefore, $v = \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}c$

(ii) The length measured in S' would be given by $l'^2 = y'^2 + x'^2 = y^2 + x^2(1 - \beta^2) = l_0^2 - x^2\beta^2 = l_0^2(1 - \cos^2\theta\beta^2)$.

Using,

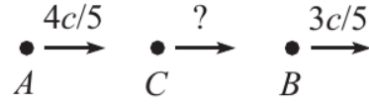
$$\cos^2\theta = \frac{1}{1 + \tan^2\theta} = \frac{16}{25}.$$

and $\beta^2 = 7/16$. We get

$$l'^2 = l_0^2 \left(1 - \frac{7}{25}\right).$$

Finally we get $l' = l_0 \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{5}$.

2. Two observers A and B travel at speed $4c/5$ and $3c/5$, respectively, with respect to the ground, as shown in the Figure. How fast should the observer C travel with respect to the ground so that she sees A and B are approaching towards her at the same speed u ? Compute the value of u . [8]



Solution:

Let C moves at speed v with respect to the ground, and let the speed of A and B measured by C from her frame of reference are $u'_{A,C}$ and $u'_{B,C}$. Velocity of A and B w.r.t ground are $u_{A,g} = 4c/5$ and $u_{B,g} = 3c/5$, respectively.

Now,

$$u'_{A,C} = \frac{u_{A,g} - v}{1 - u_{A,g}v/c^2} = \frac{\frac{4c}{5} - v}{1 - \frac{4}{5c}v}$$

and,

$$u'_{B,C} = \frac{u_{B,g} - v}{1 - u_{B,g}v/c^2} = \frac{\frac{3c}{5} - v}{1 - \frac{3}{5c}v}$$

Since both observers A and B are approaching towards C with the same speed u . Therefore, $u'_{A,C} = -u'_{B,C} = u$

$$\frac{\frac{4c}{5} - v}{1 - \frac{4}{5c}v} = u = \frac{v - \frac{3c}{5}}{1 - \frac{3}{5c}v} \quad (1)$$

Therefore, we have $0 = 35v^2 - 74vc + 35c^2 = (5v - 7c)(7v - 5c)$.

Since v can not be greater than the light velocity. The acceptable solution will be

$$v = \frac{5c}{7}$$

.

Plugging this in Eq.(1) gives $u = c/5$

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3. The ground state of a particle in one dimensional harmonic oscillator potential is given as $\psi_0(x) = Ae^{-\alpha x^2/2}$ with energy $E_0 = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega$, where $A = (m\omega/\pi\hbar)^{1/4}$, $\alpha = m\omega/\hbar$ and ω is the angular frequency of oscillation. [4+6]

- (a) Compute the uncertainty relation ($\Delta x \Delta p$) of the particle in the state $\psi_0(x)$.
 (b) Compute the expectation values of the kinetic energy ($\langle \hat{T} \rangle$) and the potential energy ($\langle \hat{V} \rangle$) of the particle in the state $\psi_0(x)$.

Note: You may consider using the Gaussian integrals given as $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ax^2} dx = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}}$.

Solution:

(a) Here ψ_0 is even function and hence $|\psi_0|^2$ is also even.

Therefore, $\langle x \rangle = \int x |\psi_0|^2 dx = 0$.

Hence $\langle p \rangle = m d\langle x \rangle / dt = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}\langle x^2 \rangle &= A^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 |\psi_0|^2 dx = A^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 e^{-\alpha x^2} dx \\ &= \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\langle p^2 \rangle &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0 \left(\frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d}{dx} \right)^2 \psi_0 dx \\ &= A^2 \hbar^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\alpha x^2/2} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} e^{-\alpha x^2/2} = \frac{m\hbar\omega}{2}\end{aligned}$$

$$(b) \Delta x = \sqrt{\langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}}$$

$$\Delta p = \sqrt{\langle p^2 \rangle - \langle p \rangle^2} = \sqrt{\frac{m\hbar\omega}{2}}$$

$$\Delta x \Delta p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} \sqrt{\frac{m\hbar\omega}{2}} = \frac{\hbar}{2}.$$

$$\langle T \rangle = \frac{\langle p^2 \rangle}{2m} = \frac{\hbar\omega}{4}$$

$$\langle V \rangle = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 \langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar\omega}{4}.$$

4. Consider the one-dimensional normalised wave functions $\psi_0(x)$ and $\psi_1(x)$ with the properties $\psi_0(-x) = \psi_0(x) = \psi_0^*(x)$ and $\psi_1(x) = N \frac{d\psi_0(x)}{dx}$. Consider another wave function $\psi(x) = c_1\psi_0(x) + c_2\psi_1(x)$, with $|c_1|^2 + |c_2|^2 = 1$. N , c_1 and c_2 are known constants. [2+6+4]

- (a) Check if $\psi_0(x)$ and $\psi_1(x)$ are orthogonal to each other and $\psi(x)$ is normalised.
- (b) Compute the expectation values of \hat{x} and \hat{p} in the states ψ_0 and ψ_1 separately.
- (c) Compute the expectation value of \hat{T} (the kinetic energy operator) in the state ψ_0 .

Solution:

(a) For ψ_0 and ψ_1 to be orthogonal we have to show

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0^*(x) \psi_1(x) dx &= 0 \\ \therefore \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0(x) \psi_1(x) dx &= N \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \psi_0^* \frac{d\psi_0}{dx} = N \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \psi_0 \frac{d\psi_0}{dx} \\ &= \frac{N}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \frac{d\psi_0^2}{dx} = \frac{N}{2} \left[\psi_0^2(x) \right]_{-\infty}^{+\infty} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

For normalization of $\psi(x)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^*(x) \psi(x) dx &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (c_1\psi_0(x) + c_2\psi_1(x))^* (c_1\psi_0(x) + c_2\psi_1(x)) dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (c_1\psi_0 c_1\psi_0 + c_1\psi_0 c_2\psi_1 + c_2\psi_1 c_1\psi_0 + c_2\psi_1 c_2\psi_1) dx \end{aligned}$$

As ψ_0 and ψ_1 are orthogonal (shown before) and with the given condition $|c_1|^2 + |c_2|^2 = 1$ we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^*(x) \psi(x) dx = 1.$$

i.e. $\psi(x)$ is normalised.

- (b) Expectation value of \hat{x} vanishes both the state ψ_0 and ψ_1 owing to the oddness of the integrand $x|\psi_0|^2$ and $x|\psi_1|^2$.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle p \rangle_{\psi_0} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0^*(x) p \psi_0(x) dx = -i\hbar \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0(x) \frac{d\psi_0(x)}{dx} dx \\ &= \frac{-i\hbar}{N} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0(x) \psi_1(x) dx = 0 \\ &\text{(As } \psi_1 = N \frac{d\psi_0}{dx} \text{ and } \psi_0 \text{ and } \psi_1 \text{ are orthogonal).} \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle p \rangle_{\psi_1} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_1^*(x) p \psi_1(x) dx = -i\hbar \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_1^*(x) \frac{d\psi_1(x)}{dx} dx$$

$$-i\hbar \frac{N}{N^*} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_1(x) \frac{d\psi_1(x)}{dx} dx = -i\hbar \frac{N}{2N^*} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d(\psi_1(x))^2}{dx} dx = -i\hbar \frac{N}{2N^*} \left[(\psi_1(x))^2 \right]_{-\infty}^{+\infty} = 0$$

(Owing to the fact that $\psi_1 \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$.)

(c) Expectation value of T in ψ_0 is given as

$$\langle T \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0 T \psi_0 dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0 \frac{p^2}{2m} \psi_0 dx = \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_0 \frac{d^2 \psi_0}{dx^2} dx$$

Now consider the term $\frac{d}{dx} \left(\psi_0 \frac{d\psi_0}{dx} \right) = \frac{d\psi_0}{dx} \frac{d\psi_0}{dx} + \psi_0 \frac{d^2 \psi_0}{dx^2}$

$$\Rightarrow \psi_0 \frac{d^2 \psi_0}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\psi_0 \frac{d\psi_0}{dx} \right) - \frac{d\psi_0}{dx} \frac{d\psi_0}{dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow \psi_0 \frac{d^2 \psi_0}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{N} \frac{d}{dx} \left(\psi_0 \psi_1 \right) - \frac{1}{N^2} \psi_1 \psi_1$$

Substituting this in the expression for $\langle T \rangle$ we have ,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T \rangle &= \frac{-\hbar^2}{2mN} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dx} \left(\psi_0 \psi_1 \right) dx + \frac{\hbar^2}{2mN^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_1 \psi_1 dx \\ &= \frac{-\hbar^2}{2mN} \left[\psi_0 \psi_1 \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2mN^2} \end{aligned}$$

The first term vanishes as $\psi_0, \psi_1 \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$ we have

$$\langle T \rangle = \frac{\hbar^2}{2mN^2}$$

5. A particle in the infinite square well potential of width 'a' has its initial wave function which is a linear combination of the first two stationary eigenstates, namely the ground state ($\psi_1(x)$) and the first excited state ($\psi_2(x)$) given by: [1+4+3]

$$\Psi(x, 0) = A[\psi_1(x) + \psi_2(x)].$$

- (a) Find the value of A.
 (b) Find $\Psi(x, t)$ and $|\Psi(x, t)|^2$. Express the latter in terms of *sinusoidal* functions of time, eliminating the exponentials with the help of formula: $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$.
 (c) Compute the expectation value of the Hamiltonian operator $\langle \hat{H} \rangle$ at $t = 0$ and at t in the state $\Psi(x, t)$.

(a)

$$|\Psi|^2 = \Psi^* \Psi = |A|^2 (\psi_1^* + \psi_2^*) (\psi_1 + \psi_2) = |A|^2 [\psi_1^* \psi_1 + \psi_1^* \psi_2 + \psi_2^* \psi_1 + \psi_2^* \psi_2].$$

$$1 = \int |\Psi|^2 dx = |A|^2 \int [|\psi_1|^2 + \psi_1^* \psi_2 + \psi_2^* \psi_1 + |\psi_2|^2] dx = 2|A|^2 \Rightarrow \boxed{A = 1/\sqrt{2}}.$$

(b)

$$\Psi(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\psi_1 e^{-iE_1 t/\hbar} + \psi_2 e^{-iE_2 t/\hbar} \right] \quad (\text{but } \frac{E_n}{\hbar} = n^2 \omega)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \left[\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) e^{-i\omega t} + \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{a}x\right) e^{-i4\omega t} \right] = \boxed{\frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} e^{-i\omega t} \left[\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) + \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{a}x\right) e^{-3i\omega t} \right]}.$$

$$|\Psi(x, t)|^2 = \frac{1}{a} \left[\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{a}x\right) (e^{-3i\omega t} + e^{3i\omega t}) + \sin^2\left(\frac{2\pi}{a}x\right) \right]$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{1}{a} \left[\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) + \sin^2\left(\frac{2\pi}{a}x\right) + 2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{a}x\right) \cos(3\omega t) \right]}.$$

- (c) You could get either $\boxed{E_1 = \pi^2 \hbar^2 / 2ma^2}$ or $\boxed{E_2 = 2\pi^2 \hbar^2 / ma^2}$, with equal probability $\boxed{P_1 = P_2 = 1/2}$.

$$\text{So } \langle H \rangle = \boxed{\frac{1}{2}(E_1 + E_2) = \frac{5\pi^2 \hbar^2}{4ma^2}}; \text{ it's the average of } E_1 \text{ and } E_2.$$

6. Hydrogen atoms in states of high quantum number are known as the Rydberg atoms. [2+2]

- (a) Find the quantum number of the Bohr orbit in a hydrogen atom whose radius is 0.01 mm .
- (b) What is the energy of a hydrogen atom in this state ?

Solution:

- (a) From the radius formula for Bohr atom we have $r_n = n^2 a_0$, where $a_0 = 5.29 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}$ is the Bohr radius .

Hence the quantum number of the Bohr orbit of H-atom whose radius is 0.01 mm is ;

$$n = \sqrt{\frac{r_n}{a_0}} = \sqrt{\frac{1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}}{5.29 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}}} \sim 435$$

- (b) From the energy formula we know that $E_n = \frac{E_1}{n^2} = \frac{-13.6 \text{ eV}}{(435)^2} = -7.19 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}$.