

# Quantum Mechanics

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Lesson V  
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- 1 Scattering in one dimension
  - Step potential
  - Potential barrier and tunneling
  - The ins and outs of tunneling

# LAST CLASS WE SAW

$$E\psi = \hbar\omega\psi = -j\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi$$

$$p_x\psi = \hbar k\psi = j\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\psi$$

$$E = \frac{p^2}{2m} \quad (\text{free-particle})$$

Notation  $\Rightarrow i = j$



$$-j\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial x^2} \quad (\text{free-particle})$$

..The Free-Particle Schrodinger Wave Equation !

probability

$$P(x) = |\psi|^2 dx$$



Erwin Schrödinger (1887-1961)  
Image in the Public Domain

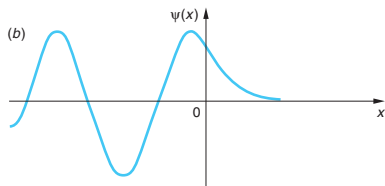
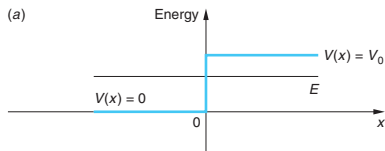
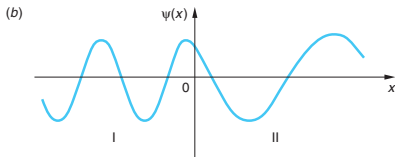
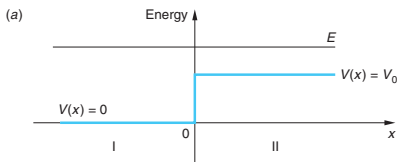
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The Schrodinger Wave Equation

$$E\psi(x) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2\psi(x)}{\partial x^2} + V(x)\psi(x)$$

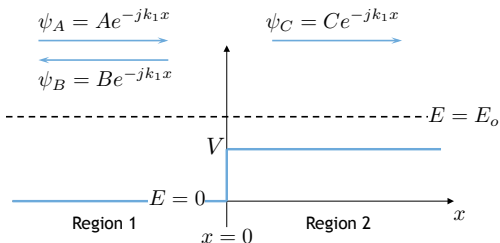
# Quantum Intuition

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x < 0 \\ V_0 & \text{for } x \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$



## A Simple Potential Step

CASE I :  $E_o > V$

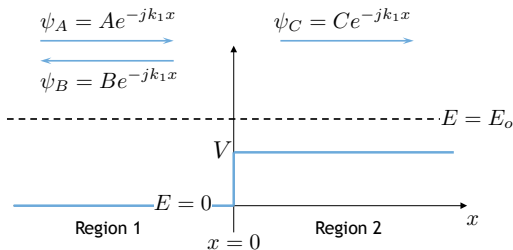


In Region 1: 
$$E_o \psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad k_1^2 = \frac{2mE_o}{\hbar^2}$$

In Region 2: 
$$(E_o - V) \psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad k_2^2 = \frac{2m(E_o - V)}{\hbar^2}$$

# A Simple Potential Step

CASE I :  $E_o > V$



$$\psi_1 = Ae^{-jk_1x} + Be^{jk_1x}$$

$$\psi_2 = Ce^{-jk_2x}$$

$\psi$  is continuous:

$$\psi_1(0) = \psi_2(0)$$



$$A + B = C$$

$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$  is continuous:

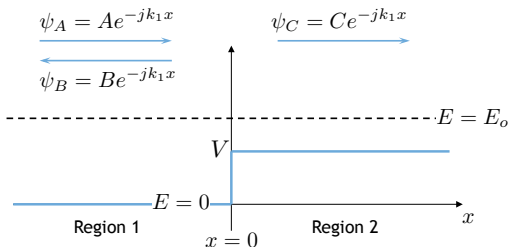
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi_1(0) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi_2(0)$$



$$A - B = \frac{k_2}{k_1} C$$

## A Simple Potential Step

CASE I :  $E_o > V$



$$\begin{aligned}\frac{B}{A} &= \frac{1 - k_2/k_1}{1 + k_2/k_1} \\ &= \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{C}{A} &= \frac{2}{1 + k_2/k_1} \\ &= \frac{2k_1}{k_1 + k_2}\end{aligned}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} A + B = C \\ A - B = \frac{k_2}{k_1} C \end{array} \right.$$

## Quantum Electron Currents

Given an electron of mass  $m$

that is located in space with charge density  $\rho = q |\psi(x)|^2$

and moving with momentum  $\langle p \rangle$  corresponding to  $\langle v \rangle = \hbar k / m$

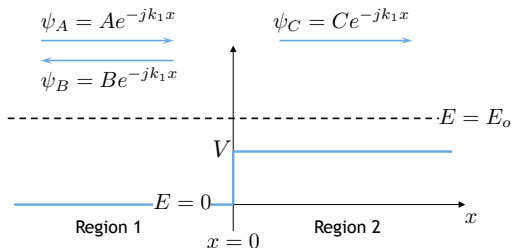
... then the current density for a *single electron* is given by

$$J = \rho v = q |\psi|^2 (\hbar k / m)$$



## A Simple Potential Step

CASE I :  $E_o > V$



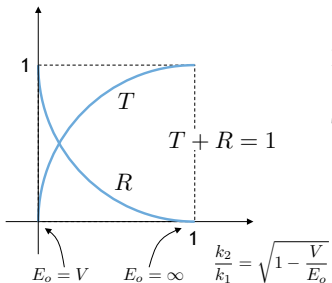
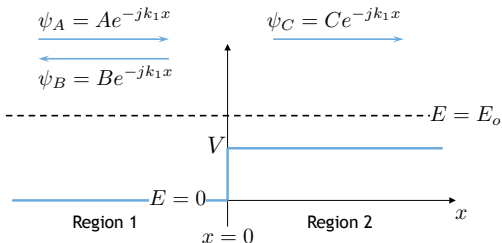
$$\text{Reflection} = R = \frac{J_{\text{reflected}}}{J_{\text{incident}}} = \frac{J_B}{J_A} = \frac{|\psi_B|^2 (\hbar k_1/m)}{|\psi_A|^2 (\hbar k_1/m)} = \left| \frac{B}{A} \right|^2$$

$$\text{Transmission} = T = \frac{J_{\text{transmitted}}}{J_{\text{incident}}} = \frac{J_C}{J_A} = \frac{|\psi_C|^2 (\hbar k_2/m)}{|\psi_A|^2 (\hbar k_1/m)} = \left| \frac{C}{A} \right|^2 \frac{k_2}{k_1}$$

$$\frac{B}{A} = \frac{1 - k_2/k_1}{1 + k_2/k_1} \quad \frac{C}{A} = \frac{2}{1 + k_2/k_1}$$

## A Simple Potential Step

CASE I :  $E_o > V$

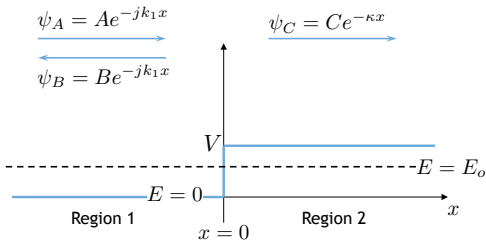


$$\text{Reflection} = R = \left| \frac{B}{A} \right|^2 = \left| \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2} \right|^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Transmission} = T &= 1 - R \\ &= \frac{4k_1k_2}{|k_1 + k_2|^2} \end{aligned}$$

# A Simple Potential Step

CASE II :  $E_o < V$

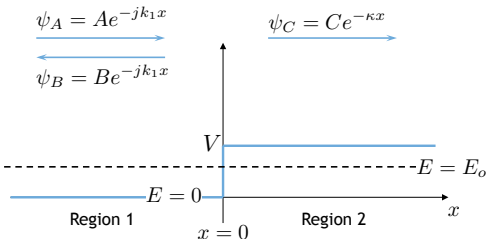


In Region 1: 
$$E_o \psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad k_1^2 = \frac{2mE_o}{\hbar^2}$$

In Region 2: 
$$(E_o - V) \psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \kappa^2 = \frac{2m(E_o - V)}{\hbar^2}$$

# A Simple Potential Step

CASE II :  $E_o < V$



$$\psi_1 = Ae^{-jk_1x} + Be^{jk_1x}$$

$$\psi_2 = Ce^{-\kappa x}$$

$\psi$  is continuous:

$$\psi_1(0) = \psi_2(0)$$



$$A + B = C$$

$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$  is continuous:

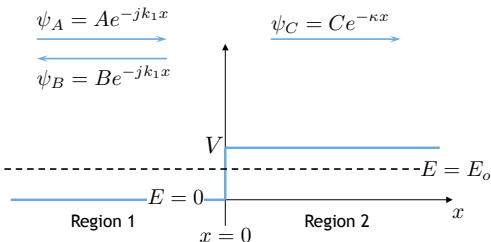
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi_1(0) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi_2(0)$$



$$A - B = -j \frac{\kappa}{k_1} C$$

# A Simple Potential Step

CASE II :  $E_o < V$



$$\frac{B}{A} = \frac{1 + j\kappa/k_1}{1 - j\kappa/k_1}$$

$$\frac{C}{A} = \frac{2}{1 - j\kappa/k_1}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} A + B = C \\ A - B = -j\frac{\kappa}{k_1}C \end{array} \right.$$

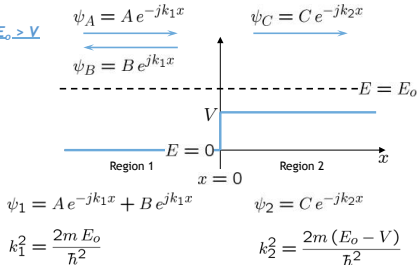
$$\boxed{R = \left| \frac{B}{A} \right|^2 = 1 \quad T = 0}$$

Total reflection  $\rightarrow$  Transmission must be zero

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**A Simple Potential Step

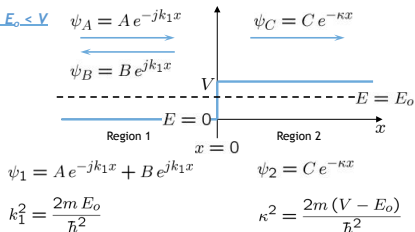
$$\text{Reflection} = R = \left| \frac{B}{A} \right|^2 = \left| \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2} \right|^2$$

$$\text{Transmission} = T = 1 - R = \frac{4 k_1 k_2}{|k_1 + k_2|^2}$$

**PARTIAL REFLECTION**CASE I:  $E_o > V$ 

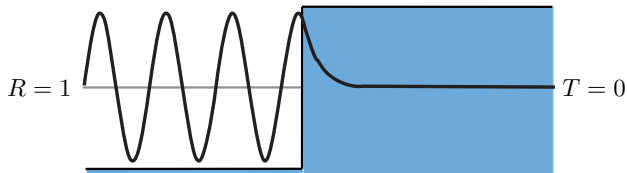
$$R = \left| \frac{B}{A} \right|^2 = 1$$

$$T = 0$$

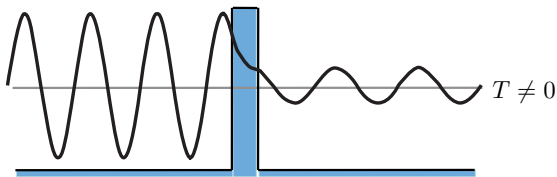
**TOTAL REFLECTION**CASE II:  $E_o < V$ 

## Quantum Tunneling Through a Thin Potential Barrier

### Total Reflection at Boundary

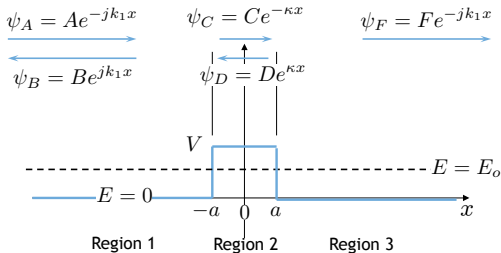


### Frustrated Total Reflection (Tunneling)



# A Rectangular Potential Step

CASE II :  $E_o < V$



In Regions 1 and 3:

$$E_o\psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \Rightarrow k_1^2 = \frac{2mE_o}{\hbar^2}$$

In Region 2:

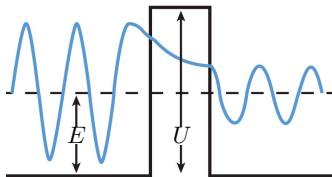
$$(E_o - V)\psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \Rightarrow \kappa^2 = \frac{2m(V - E_o)}{\hbar^2}$$

for  $E_o < V$ :

$$T = \left| \frac{F}{A} \right|^2 = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{4} \frac{V^2}{E_o(V - E_o)} \sinh^2(2\kappa a)}$$



## A Rectangular Potential Step



for  $E_o < V$  :

$$T = \left| \frac{F}{A} \right|^2 = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{4} \frac{V^2}{E_o(V-E_o)} \sinh^2(2\kappa a)}$$

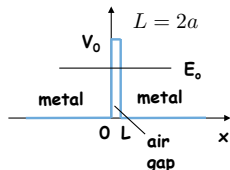
$$\sinh^2(2\kappa a) = [e^{2\kappa a} - e^{-2\kappa a}]^2 \approx e^{-4\kappa a}$$

$$T = \left| \frac{F}{A} \right|^2 \approx \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{4} \frac{V^2}{E_o(V-E_o)}} e^{-4\kappa a}$$

### Example: Barrier Tunneling

- Let's consider a tunneling problem:

An electron with a total energy of  $E_o = 6 \text{ eV}$  approaches a potential barrier with a height of  $V_o = 12 \text{ eV}$ . If the width of the barrier is  $L = 0.18 \text{ nm}$ , what is the probability that the electron will tunnel through the barrier?



$$T = \left| \frac{F}{A} \right|^2 \approx \frac{16E_o(V - E_o)}{V^2} e^{-2\kappa L}$$

$$\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{2m_e}{\hbar^2}(V - E_o)} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{2m_e}{h^2}(V - E_o)} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{6\text{eV}}{1.505\text{eV}\cdot\text{nm}^2}} \approx 12.6 \text{ nm}^{-1}$$

$$T = 4e^{-2(12.6 \text{ nm}^{-1})(0.18 \text{ nm})} = 4(0.011) = \boxed{4.4\%}$$

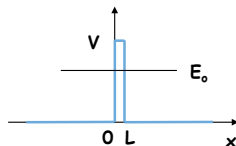
**Question:** What will T be if we double the width of the gap?

## Multiple Choice Questions

Consider a particle tunneling through a barrier:

- Which of the following will increase the likelihood of tunneling?

- decrease the height of the barrier
  - decrease the width of the barrier
  - decrease the mass of the particle



- What is the energy of the particles that have successfully “escaped”?
  - < initial energy
  - = initial energy
  - > initial energy

Although the *amplitude* of the wave is smaller after the barrier, no energy is lost in the tunneling process

## Schrodinger Equations

Key to solving for the wave function of a particle hitting a potential barrier is finding the **Schrodinger equations** which describe the system. First, define the energy potential,  $V(x)$ , of the system as this:

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ V_0, & 0 < x < a \\ 0, & x > a \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Writing the wave function of the particle as  $\psi_1(x)$  for  $x < 0$ ,  $\psi_2(x)$  for  $0 < x < a$ , and  $\psi_3(x)$  for  $x > a$ , the **Schrodinger equations** for  $x < 0$ ,  $0 < x < a$ , and  $x > a$  are respectively:

$$E\psi_1(x) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi_1(x) \quad (2)$$

$$E\psi_2(x) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi_2(x) + V_0 \psi_2(x) \quad (3)$$

$$E\psi_3(x) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi_3(x) \quad (4)$$

This can be simplified, considering the wavenumbers,  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ , of the wave function for inside and outside the barrier respectively. Since  $k_1^2 = 2mE/\hbar^2$  and  $k_2^2 = 2m(E - V_0)/\hbar^2$ , this can be said of the wave function of a particle with  $E \geq V_0$ .

$$0 = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi_1(x) + k_1^2 \psi_1(x) \quad (5)$$

$$0 = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi_2(x) + k_2^2 \psi_2(x) \quad (6)$$

$$0 = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi_3(x) + k_1^2 \psi_3(x) \quad (7)$$

Notice, however that if  $E < V_0$ ,  $k_2$  is imaginary and thus no longer an observable. By convention therefore,  $\kappa$ , defined by  $\kappa^2 = 2m(V_0 - E)/\hbar^2$ , is used instead for  $E < V_0$ . The differential equations defining the wave function of a particle with insufficient energy are thus:

$$0 = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi_1(x) + k_1^2 \psi_1(x) \quad (8)$$

$$0 = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi_2(x) - \kappa^2 \psi_2(x) \quad (9)$$

$$0 = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \psi_3(x) + k_1^2 \psi_3(x) \quad (10)$$

## If There Is Sufficient Energy

For  $E \geq V_0$ , to find the wave function of the particle, equations (5), (6), and (7) must be solved. These are homogeneous second-order linear differential equations and have the following general solutions:

$$\psi_1(x) = A e^{r_A x} + B e^{r_B x} \quad (11)$$

$$\psi_2(x) = C e^{r_C x} + D e^{r_D x} \quad (12)$$

$$\psi_3(x) = F e^{r_F x} + G e^{r_G x} \quad (13)$$

where  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ ,  $F$ , and  $G$  are constants and  $r_A = r_F$  and  $r_B = r_G$  are the two solutions to the equation  $r^2 + k_1^2 = 0$  while  $r_C$  and  $r_D$  are the two solutions to the equation  $r^2 + k_2^2 = 0$ .

$$\psi_1(x) = Ae^{ik_1x} + Be^{-ik_1x} \quad (14)$$

$$\psi_2(x) = Ce^{ik_2x} + De^{-ik_2x} \quad (15)$$

$$\psi_3(x) = Fe^{ik_1x} + Ge^{-ik_1x} \quad (16)$$

tice, considering **Euler's formula**, that  $Ae^{ik_1x}$ ,  $Ce^{ik_2x}$ , and  $Fe^{ik_1x}$  represent waves travelling in the positive direction while  $Be^{-ik_1x}$ ,  $De^{-ik_2x}$ , and  $Ge^{-ik_1x}$  represent waves travelling in the negative direction. Since reflection by a barrier is conceivable, it is possible to have wave components travelling in the negative direction for  $x < a$ , but there is no reason to have waves doing so for  $x > a$ . Thus,  $G = 0$ .

$$\psi_1(x) = Ae^{ik_1x} + Be^{-ik_1x} \quad (17)$$

$$\psi_2(x) = Ce^{ik_2x} + De^{-ik_2x} \quad (18)$$

$$\psi_3(x) = Fe^{ik_1x} \quad (19)$$

solve for  $B$  and  $F$  in relation to  $A$ , impose these four boundary conditions to ensure that the wave function is a smooth curve as  $x \rightarrow 0$  and as  $x \rightarrow a$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \psi_1(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \psi_2(x) \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{d}{dx} \psi_1(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{d}{dx} \psi_2(x) \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} \psi_2(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \psi_3(x) \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} \frac{d}{dx} \psi_2(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{d}{dx} \psi_3(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$A + B = C + D \quad (20)$$

$$ik_1 A - ik_1 B = ik_2 C - ik_2 D \quad (21)$$

$$Ce^{ik_2 a} + De^{-ik_2 a} = Fe^{ik_1 a} \quad (22)$$

$$ik_2 Ce^{ik_2 a} - ik_2 De^{-ik_2 a} = ik_1 Fe^{ik_1 a} \quad (23)$$

$$k_1 A + k_1 B = k_1 C + k_1 D \quad (24)$$

$$k_1 A - k_1 B = k_2 C - k_2 D \quad (25)$$

$$k_2 Ce^{ik_2 a} + k_2 De^{-ik_2 a} = k_2 Fe^{ik_1 a} \quad (26)$$

$$k_2 Ce^{ik_2 a} - k_2 De^{-ik_2 a} = k_1 Fe^{ik_1 a} \quad (27)$$



$$2k_1 A = (k_1 + k_2)C + (k_1 - k_2)D \quad (28)$$

$$2k_1 B = (k_1 - k_2)C + (k_1 + k_2)D \quad (29)$$

$$2k_2 C e^{ik_2 a} = (k_1 + k_2)F e^{ik_1 a} \quad (30)$$

$$2k_2 D e^{-ik_2 a} = (k_2 - k_1)F e^{ik_1 a} \quad (31)$$

To solve for  $F$  in relation to  $A$ , consider equations (28), (30), and (31).

$$2k_1 A = \frac{(k_1 + k_2)^2}{2k_2} F e^{i(k_1 - k_2)a} - \frac{(k_1 - k_2)^2}{2k_2} F e^{i(k_1 + k_2)a} \quad (32)$$

$$4k_1 k_2 e^{-ik_1 a} A = (k_1 + k_2)^2 F e^{-ik_2 a} - (k_1 - k_2)^2 F e^{ik_2 a} \quad (33)$$

Using **Euler's formula** to expand  $e^{-ik_2 a}$  and  $e^{ik_2 a}$ , the following can be derived:

$$4k_1 k_2 e^{-ik_1 a} A = (-2ik_1^2 \sin k_2 a + 4k_1 k_2 \cos k_2 a - 2ik_2^2 \sin k_2 a) F \quad (34)$$

$$F = \frac{2k_1 k_2 e^{-ik_1 a} A}{2k_1 k_2 \cos k_2 a - i(k_1^2 + k_2^2) \sin k_2 a} \quad (35)$$

To solve for  $B$  in relation to  $A$ , consider equations (29), (30), and (31).

$$2k_1 B = \frac{k_1^2 - k_2^2}{2k_2} F e^{i(k_1 - k_2)a} - \frac{k_1^2 - k_2^2}{2k_2} F e^{i(k_1 + k_2)a} \quad (36)$$

$$\frac{4k_1 k_2 e^{-ik_1 a} B}{k_1^2 - k_2^2} = (e^{-ik_2 a} - e^{ik_2 a}) F \quad (37)$$

Using **Euler's formula** to expand  $e^{-ik_2 a}$  and  $e^{ik_2 a}$ , the following can be derived:

$$\frac{2k_1 k_2 e^{-ik_1 a} B}{-i(k_1^2 - k_2^2) \sin k_2 a} = F \quad (38)$$

Comparing equations (35) and (38),  $B$  is solved for in relation to  $A$ .

$$B = \frac{-i(k_1^2 - k_2^2) \sin(k_2 a) A}{2k_1 k_2 \cos k_2 a - i(k_1^2 + k_2^2) \sin k_2 a} \quad (39)$$

Considering equations (30) and (31) alongside equation (35),  $C$  and  $D$  can also be solved for in relation to  $A$ , but since only  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $F$  are needed to calculate the reflection and transmission coefficients, the derivations of  $C$  and  $D$  are omitted here. In order to find the reflection and transmission coefficients, the wave function must be first written in terms of its incident, reflected, and transmitted components,  $\psi_i(x)$ ,  $\psi_r(x)$ , and  $\psi_t(x)$  respectively.

$$\psi_i(x) = A e^{ik_1 x} \quad (40)$$

$$\psi_r(x) = B e^{-ik_1 x} \quad (41)$$

$$\psi_t(x) = F e^{ik_1 x} \quad (42)$$

The reflection and transmission coefficients,  $R$  and  $T$  respectively, are defined as follows:

$$R = -\frac{\dot{j}_r}{\dot{j}_i} \quad (43)$$

$$T = \frac{\dot{j}_t}{\dot{j}_i} \quad (44)$$

where  $j_i$ ,  $j_r$ , and  $j_t$  are the incident, reflected, and transmitted **probability currents** respectively.

$$R = -\frac{\psi_r(x) \frac{d}{dx} \psi_r^*(x) - \psi_r^*(x) \frac{d}{dx} \psi_r(x)}{\psi_i(x) \frac{d}{dx} \psi_i^*(x) - \psi_i^*(x) \frac{d}{dx} \psi_i(x)} \quad (45)$$

$$T = \frac{\psi_t(x) \frac{d}{dx} \psi_t^*(x) - \psi_t^*(x) \frac{d}{dx} \psi_t(x)}{\psi_i(x) \frac{d}{dx} \psi_i^*(x) - \psi_i^*(x) \frac{d}{dx} \psi_i(x)} \quad (46)$$

$$R = \frac{|B|^2}{|A|^2} \quad (47)$$

$$T = \frac{|F|^2}{|A|^2} \quad (48)$$

Applying the solutions for  $B$  and  $F$  found in equations (39) and (35) respectively gives:

$$R = \frac{(k_1^2 - k_2^2)^2 \sin^2 k_2 a}{4k_1^2 k_2^2 \cos^2 k_2 a + (k_1^2 + k_2^2)^2 \sin^2 k_2 a} \quad (49)$$

$$T = \frac{4k_1^2 k_2^2}{4k_1^2 k_2^2 \cos^2 k_2 a + (k_1^2 + k_2^2)^2 \sin^2 k_2 a} \quad (50)$$

$$R = \frac{(k_1^2 - k_2^2)^2 \sin^2 k_2 a}{4k_1^2 k_2^2 + (k_1^2 - k_2^2)^2 \sin^2 k_2 a} \quad (51)$$

$$T = \frac{4k_1^2 k_2^2}{4k_1^2 k_2^2 + (k_1^2 - k_2^2)^2 \sin^2 k_2 a} \quad (52)$$

$$R = \left[ \frac{4k_1^2 k_2^2}{(k_1^2 - k_2^2)^2 \sin^2 k_2 a} + 1 \right]^{-1} \quad (53)$$

$$T = \left[ \frac{(k_1^2 - k_2^2)^2 \sin^2 k_2 a}{4k_1^2 k_2^2} + 1 \right]^{-1} \quad (54)$$

Interestingly contrary to classical mechanics, quantum mechanics suggests that the particle may actually be reflected by the potential barrier, despite having a total energy of equal or greater value than  $V_0$ .

## If There Is Insufficient Energy

For  $E < V_0$ , equations (8), (9), and (10) must be solved to find  $\psi_1(x)$ ,  $\psi_2(x)$ , and  $\psi_3(x)$ . To do this, follow the methodology employed in the previous section, **"If There Is Sufficient Energy"**. The solutions of equations (8), (9), and (10) are identical to those of (5), (6), and (7) respectively save for the use of  $i\kappa$  in the place of  $k_2$ .

$$\psi_1(x) = Ae^{ik_1 x} + Be^{-ik_1 x} \quad (55)$$

$$\psi_2(x) = Ce^{-\kappa x} + De^{\kappa x} \quad (56)$$

$$\psi_3(x) = Fe^{ik_1 x} \quad (57)$$

Applying the same boundary conditions as in the previous section and manipulating algebra in the same manner, it can also be found that:

$$2ik_1 A = (ik_1 - \kappa)C + (ik_1 + \kappa)D \quad (58)$$

$$2ik_1 B = (ik_1 + \kappa)C + (ik_1 - \kappa)D \quad (59)$$

$$2\kappa C e^{-\kappa a} = (\kappa - ik_1)F e^{ik_1 a} \quad (60)$$

$$2\kappa D e^{\kappa a} = (ik_1 + \kappa)F e^{ik_1 a} \quad (61)$$

To solve for  $F$  in relation to  $A$ , consider equations (58), (60), and (61).

$$2ik_1 A = -\frac{(ik_1 - \kappa)^2}{2\kappa} F e^{(ik_1 + \kappa)a} + \frac{(ik_1 + \kappa)^2}{2\kappa} F e^{(ik_1 - \kappa)a} \quad (62)$$

$$4ik_1 \kappa e^{-ik_1 a} A = -(ik_1 - \kappa)^2 F e^{\kappa a} + (ik_1 + \kappa)^2 F e^{-\kappa a} \quad (63)$$

$$4ik_1 \kappa e^{-ik_1 a} A = [(k_1^2 - \kappa^2)(e^{\kappa a} - e^{-\kappa a}) + 2ik_1 \kappa(e^{\kappa a} + e^{-\kappa a})] F \quad (64)$$

$$F = \frac{2ik_1 \kappa e^{-ik_1 a} A}{(k_1^2 - \kappa^2) \sinh \kappa a + 2ik_1 \kappa \cosh \kappa a} \quad (65)$$

(In case you are unfamiliar with **hyperbolic functions**,  $\sinh u = (e^u - e^{-u})/2$  is the **hyperbolic sine function** and  $\cosh u = (e^u + e^{-u})/2$  is the **hyperbolic cosine function**.) To solve for  $B$  in relation to  $A$ , consider equations (59), (60), and (61).

$$2ik_1 B = \frac{k_1^2 + \kappa^2}{2\kappa} F e^{(ik_1 + \kappa)a} - \frac{k_1^2 + \kappa^2}{2\kappa} F e^{(ik_1 - \kappa)a} \quad (66)$$

$$\frac{4ik_1 \kappa e^{-ik_1 a} B}{k_1^2 + \kappa^2} = F e^{\kappa a} - F e^{-\kappa a} \quad (67)$$

$$\frac{2ik_1 \kappa e^{-ik_1 a} B}{(k_1^2 + \kappa^2) \sinh \kappa a} = F \quad (68)$$



Comparing equations (65) and (68),  $B$  is solved for in relation to  $A$ .

$$B = \frac{(k_1^2 + \kappa^2) \sinh(\kappa a) A}{(k_1^2 - \kappa^2) \sinh \kappa a + 2ik_1 \kappa \cosh \kappa a} \quad (69)$$

As in the previous section, the wave function written in terms of its incident, reflected, and transmitted components is:

$$\psi_i(x) = Ae^{ik_1 x} \quad (70)$$

$$\psi_r(x) = Be^{-ik_1 x} \quad (71)$$

$$\psi_t(x) = Fe^{ik_1 x} \quad (72)$$

Furthermore, the reflection and transmission coefficients, derivable using the same method as in the previous section, are again given by:

$$R = \frac{|B|^2}{|A|^2} \quad (73)$$

$$T = \frac{|F|^2}{|A|^2} \quad (74)$$

$$R = \frac{(k_1^2 + \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a}{(k_1^2 - \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a + 4k_1^2 \kappa^2 \cosh^2 \kappa a} \quad (75)$$

$$T = \frac{4k_1^2 \kappa^2}{(k_1^2 - \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a + 4k_1^2 \kappa^2 \cosh^2 \kappa a} \quad (76)$$

$$R = \frac{(k_1^2 + \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a}{(k_1^2 + \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a + 4k_1^2 \kappa^2} \quad (77)$$

$$T = \frac{4k_1^2 \kappa^2}{(k_1^2 + \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a + 4k_1^2 \kappa^2} \quad (78)$$

$$R = \left[ \frac{4k_1^2 \kappa^2}{(k_1^2 + \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a} + 1 \right]^{-1} \quad (79)$$

$$T = \left[ \frac{(k_1^2 + \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a}{4k_1^2 \kappa^2} + 1 \right]^{-1} \quad (80)$$

Contrary to classical expectations which would suggest that the particle has zero probability of travelling beyond  $x = 0$ , quantum mechanics asserts that the particle has a non-zero probability of tunneling through the rectangular potential barrier, despite having a total energy less than  $V_0$ . This phenomenon marks a major difference between quantum and classical mechanics.