

Ex) Let us apply the recipe to a particle of mass m , with a force of 0 N applied.

- This particle is either ~~moving~~ still, or moving at a constant velocity:

$$F = ma = 0 = m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$$

1- Define the hamiltonian operator: convert observables to quantum observables

$$x = x(0) + vt, \quad v \text{ is constant.}$$

$$p = mv$$

$$E = K + U \rightarrow E = \frac{p^2}{2m} + U. \quad \text{What is potential energy in this case?}$$

$$\text{We defined } F = -\frac{dU}{dx} \quad (\text{The definition of potential energy}) \rightarrow \int F dx = U$$

If the force is 0, then $0 = -\frac{dU}{dx}$ and U must be a constant.

Let us just define $U = 0$, for simplicity

$$\text{Therefore } E = K + U = \frac{p^2}{2m} + 0 = \frac{p^2}{2m}. \quad \text{We have already defined the total hamiltonian before:}$$

$$\hat{p}\Psi = -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}\Psi \quad \text{from previous definition. } \hat{p}^2 \Psi = -\hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Since } E = \frac{p^2}{2m}, \quad p = \pm \sqrt{2mE}$$

$$\hat{p}^2 \Psi = (-i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}\Psi)(-i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}\Psi)$$

$$\hat{p}^2 \Psi = -\hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi$$

$$\text{and } \hat{K}\Psi \text{ therefore is equal to } -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi$$

$$\text{Since } E = K + U, \quad \hat{E}\Psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi + U\Psi$$

$$\text{The total hamiltonian } \hat{H} \text{ is } \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + U\Psi$$

2- Write Schrödinger's Equation

For this course, we will focus on the Time Independent Schrödinger's Equation:

$$\hat{H}\Psi = E\Psi$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi + U\Psi = E\Psi$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi = (E - U)\Psi$$

$U=0 \rightarrow$ We set potential energy to 0 at the start.

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi = E\Psi$$

3- Define boundary conditions

$$\text{Normalise: } \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\Psi|^2 dx = 1$$

4- Solve Schrödinger's Equation

$$\hat{H}\Psi = E\Psi, \quad -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi = E\Psi$$

$$\therefore \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi = -\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}\Psi$$

Substitute

$$\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2} = k^2 \quad \text{and } E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$$

Since

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi = -k^2\Psi$$

We can solve this using differential equations.

\rightarrow We take the second derivative of a function to result in the same function times a constant. Therefore the solution must be either an exponential or $\sin(x)$ or $\cos(x)$.

$$\Psi = ce^{bx}, \quad \text{where } b \text{ and } c \text{ are constants.}$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\Psi = -k^2\Psi, \quad \therefore kb^2e^{bx} = -k^2(ce^{bx}). \quad \text{We see that } b^2 = -k^2, \quad \text{and } b = \pm ik: 2 \text{ solutions to wave fun.}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \Psi_+ = c_+ e^{ikx} \\ \Psi_- = c_- e^{-ikx} \end{array} \right\} \text{Oscillating exponential}$$

What can we deduce from our result, that

$$\Psi_+ = C_+ e^{ikx} \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi_- = C_- e^{-ikx}?$$

Put into Time Dependent Schrödinger Equation:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi(x,t)}{\partial t} = \hat{E} \Psi(x,t) \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \Psi(x,t)}{\partial t} = C_+ e^{ikx} \left(-\frac{i}{\hbar} \right) \rightarrow \omega$$

$$\Psi_+(x,t) = C_+ e^{ikx} e^{-i\frac{E}{\hbar}t}$$

Recall that $E/\hbar = \omega$ and $k = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$

What we are left with is

$$\Psi_+(x,t) = C_+ e^{ikx - i\omega t} = C_+ e^{-i(\omega t - kx)} \quad \rightarrow \text{wave propagating to the right} \quad \text{~~~~~}$$

Similarly

$$\Psi_-(x,t) = C_- e^{-ikx - i\omega t} = C_- e^{-i(\omega t + kx)} \quad \rightarrow \text{wave propagating to the left} \quad \text{~~~~~}$$

What happens if we use the momentum operator on this wave function?

$$\Psi_+ = C_+ e^{ikx}$$

$$\hat{p}\Psi_+ = -i\hbar k e^{ikx} C_+$$

$$p = \hbar k \quad k = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$$

$$\therefore p = \hbar \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}} = \sqrt{2mE}$$

Which is exactly the momentum of a classical particle.

The difference between the wave and classical models is the probability:
- The probability everywhere in the range is constant, and differs from C.M. interpretation, which states the particle may only exist at a single point.

Are we able to normalize this function from $-\infty$ to ∞ ?

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\Psi_+|^2 dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |C_+|^2 \underbrace{|e^{ikx}|^2}_{=1} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |C_+|^2 dx = \infty \rightarrow \text{We cannot: the range must be restricted.}$$

Restricting the range from $-L$ to L :

$$\int_{-L}^L |C_+|^2 dx = C_+^2 \cdot 2L$$

Recall that to normalize a wave function we use $\tilde{\Psi} = \frac{\Psi}{\sqrt{\int |\Psi|^2 dx}}$

$$\tilde{\Psi}_+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2L}} e^{ikx} \rightarrow \text{Notice that as } L \rightarrow \infty, \text{ the wave function behaves more and more linearly.}$$

Since $\Psi_+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2L}} e^{ikx}$, $\Psi_- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2L}} e^{-ikx}$. Any linear combination of these two are also solutions to Schrödinger's equation, since the wave functions are normalized.

For example, $b_1 \Psi_+ + b_2 \Psi_-$ is also a solution.

$$\left(b_1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2L}} e^{ikx} + b_2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2L}} e^{-ikx} \right)$$

Notice also that we found the momentum for the wave function, represented as $\hbar k$. We can now compare this to wavelength:

$$p = \hbar k = \hbar \left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \right) = \frac{h}{\lambda} \left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \right) = \frac{h}{\lambda}$$

De Broglie's equation is $\lambda = \frac{h}{p}$:
these statements are in agreement.