Griffiths Intro to Quantum Mechanics, Self-Study

Selected Solutions for Griffiths' Intro to Quantum Mechanics (3rd)

Guilherme Albertini

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Preface

TODO blah blah

Chapter 1

The Wave Equation

1.1 Exercises

Exercise 1.4
Given positive constants A, a, and b:

$$\Psi(x,0) = \begin{cases} A(x/a), & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq a, \\ A(b-x)/(b-a), & \text{if } a \leq x \leq b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Normalize Ψ.

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\Psi(x,t)|^2 \, dx = 1$$

$$A^2 \left(\int_0^a \frac{x^2}{a^2} \, dx + \int_a^b \frac{(b-x)^2}{(b-a)^2} \, dx \right) = 1$$

$$A^2 \left(\frac{a}{3} + \frac{b-a}{3} \right) = 1 \implies A = \sqrt[2]{\frac{3}{b}}$$

$$\Psi(x,0) = \begin{cases} \sqrt[2]{\frac{3}{b}}(x/a), & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq a, \\ \sqrt[2]{\frac{3}{b}}(b-x)/(b-a), & \text{if } a \leq x \leq b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Where is particle most likely to be found at $t = 0$? Based on plots, you will see it is most likely at position a.

- Probablility of finding particle to the left of a? Check with b = a and b = 2a.

$$\int_0^a \left| \sqrt[2]{\frac{3}{b}}(x/a) \right|^2 \, dx$$

$$\int_0^a \frac{3}{b}(x^2/a^2) \, dx = \frac{a}{b}$$

- What is the first moment (expected value) of x?

$$\langle x \rangle = \int_0^b x\Psi(x,t)dx = \int_0^a \sqrt[2]{\frac{3}{b}}(x/a) \, dx + \int_a^b \sqrt[2]{\frac{3}{b}}(b-x)/(b-a) \, dx$$
$$= \frac{b+2a}{4}$$

Exercise 1.5MOD
Given positive, real constants A, λ, ω:

$$\Psi(x,t) = Ae^{-\lambda|x|-i\omega t}$$

- Normalize Ψ.

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\Psi(x,t)|^2 \; dx &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Psi^*\Psi = 1 \\
\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A^2 e^{-2\lambda|x|} e^{-i\omega t} e^{i\omega t} \; dx &= 1 \\
A^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-2\lambda|x|} \; dx &= 1 \\
A^2 \left(\int_{-\infty}^{0} e^{-2\lambda\cdot(-x)} \; dx + \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-2\lambda\cdot(x)} \right) &= 1 \\
A^2 \left(\frac{1}{2\lambda} e^{2\lambda x} \right) \Bigg|_{-\infty}^{0} - A^2 \left(\frac{1}{2\lambda} e^{-2\lambda x} \right) \Bigg|_{0}^{\infty} &= 1 \\
\frac{A^2}{\lambda} = 1 \implies A &= \sqrt[2]{\lambda} \\
\Psi(x,t) &= \sqrt{\lambda} e^{-\lambda|x|-i\omega t} \\
|\Psi(x,t)|^2 = \Psi^*\Psi &= \lambda e^{-\lambda|x|-i\omega t} e^{-\lambda|x|+i\omega t} = \lambda e^{-2\lambda|x|}
\end{aligned}$$

- Find the n^{th} moment.

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle x^n \rangle &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^n \lambda e^{-2\lambda|x|} \; dx \\
&= \lambda \left(\int_{-\infty}^{0} x^n e^{2\lambda x} + \int_{0}^{\infty} x^n e^{-2\lambda x} \right) \; dx
\end{aligned}$$

Now note the following is smells like the gamma function, and make substitution of $u = -x$ to change limits (also note that n is positive to extract the alternating negative one):

$$I_{n_1} = \int_{-\infty}^{0} x^n e^{2\lambda x} \; dx = \int_{\infty}^{0} (-u)^n e^{2\lambda(-u)} \; (-du) = -\int_{\infty}^{0} (-1)^n u^n e^{-2\lambda u} \; du = (-1)^n \int_{0}^{\infty} x^n e^{-2\lambda x} \; dx$$

By using substitution of the type $u = 2\lambda x$ we get,

$$I_{n_1} = \frac{(-1)^n}{2\lambda(2\lambda)^n} \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-u} u^n du = \frac{(-1)^n}{(2\lambda)^{n+1}} \Gamma(n+1), \;\; \mathrm{Re}(n) > -1$$

where the last equation can be used to show the required base case of $I_0 = \frac{1}{2\lambda}$. A similar analysis for the second integrand gives us the combined relation

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle x^n \rangle &= \lambda I_n = \lambda (I_{n_1} + I_{n_2}) \\
&= \lambda \left(\frac{(-1)^n + 1}{(2\lambda)^{n+1}} \right) \Gamma(n+1)
\end{aligned}$$

For practical purposes, we see that the first few moments give

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle x \rangle &= 0 \\
\langle x^2 \rangle &= \frac{2\lambda}{8\lambda^3} \Gamma(3) = \frac{1}{2\lambda^2} \\
\langle x^3 \rangle &= 0 \\
\langle x^4 \rangle &= \frac{2\lambda}{32\lambda^5} \Gamma(4) = \frac{3}{8\lambda^4}
\end{aligned}$$

- Find standard deviation. Compute probability particle is outside one standard deviation from the mean.

$$\sigma^2 = \langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2 \implies \sigma = \frac{1}{\lambda\sqrt{2}}$$

$$|\Psi(0 \pm \sigma, t)|^2 = |A|^2 e^{-2\lambda\sigma} = \lambda e^{-\sqrt{2}}$$

$$P_{outside} = 1 - P_{inside} = 1 - \int_{-\sigma}^{\sigma} |\Psi|^2 \; dx = 1 - |A|^2 \int_{-\sigma}^{\sigma} e^{-2\lambda|x|} \; dx = 2\lambda \int_{\sigma}^{\infty} e^{-2\lambda x} \; dx = e^{-\sqrt{2}}$$

Exercise 1.6
Why can't you do integration-by-parts (IBP) directly in the middle expression of Equation 1.29 – pull the time derivative over into x, note that $\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = 0$, and conclude that $\frac{\langle x \rangle}{dx} = 0$?

Well, you could but this would not allow us to do IBP over some domain D:

$$\frac{\partial x|\Psi|^2}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial t}|\Psi|^2 + x\frac{\partial |\Psi|^2}{\partial t} = x\frac{\partial |\Psi|^2}{\partial t}$$

$$\int_{\partial D} x\frac{\partial |\Psi|^2}{\partial t} dx = \int_{\partial D} \frac{\partial (x|\Psi|^2)}{\partial t} dx \neq (x|\Psi|^2)|_{\partial D}$$

Exercise 1.7
Calculate $\frac{d\langle p \rangle}{dt}$.

By Ehrenfest's theorem, expectation values are goverened by classical laws: $\langle p \rangle = m\langle v \rangle = m\frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt}$. Recall the time derivatives for the conjugate pairs or derive it yourself. Also note that interchange of differentiaiton to integration (Leibnitz integral rule) implicitly assumes the (wave) function and its first partial derivative are continuous in time and space (both) in the open neighborhood of $\{x\} \times [a, b]$ for any continuous and differentiable functions a, b. Text assumes all partials continuous, and by extent differentiable (converse not necessarily true). Second order partials assumed continuous for Clairaut's Theorem, C^2, throughout text.

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{\partial \Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x}}{\partial t} \\
&\quad = \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial t}\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} + \Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x, t} \\
&\quad = \Big(\frac{-i\hbar}{2m}\frac{\partial^2 \Psi^*}{\partial x^2} + \frac{iV(x,t)\Psi^*}{\hbar}\Big)\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} + \Psi^* \; \partial \frac{i\hbar}{2m}\frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{iV(x,t)\Psi}{\hbar}\Big/ \partial x \\
&\quad = \frac{i\hbar}{2m}\Big(\frac{\partial^3 \Psi}{\partial x^3}\Psi^* - \frac{\partial^2 \Psi^*}{\partial x^2}\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x}\Big) + \frac{i}{\hbar}\Big(V(x,t)\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \Psi^* \frac{\partial V(x,t)\Psi}{\partial x}\Big) \\
&\quad = \frac{i\hbar}{2m}\Big(\frac{\partial^3 \Psi}{\partial x^3}\Psi^* - \frac{\partial^2 \Psi^*}{\partial x^2}\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x}\Big) + \frac{i}{\hbar}\Big(V(x,t)\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \Psi^* V(x,t)\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \Psi^* \frac{\partial V(x,t)}{\partial x}\Psi\Big) \\
&\quad = \frac{i}{\hbar}\Big(|\Psi|^2 \frac{\partial V(x,t)}{\partial x}\Big)
\end{aligned}$$

Whereby we used IBP twice to drop the first term. Accordingly,

$$\frac{\partial \langle p \rangle}{\partial t} = -i\hbar\frac{i}{\hbar}\int_{\mathbb{R}} -|\Psi|^2 \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \; dx = \langle -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \rangle$$

Thus, the time derivative of the expectation value of velocity by mass is equal to the position derivative of the expectation value of potential V.

Exercise 1.8
Suppose we add a constant V_0 to the potential energy. In classical mechanics, this won't change a thing, but

what about in quantum mechanics? Show that the function picks up a time-dependent phase factor. What effect does this have on the expectation value of a dynamic variable?

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

Set $\zeta(x,t)$ to the wave function holding potential energy $V(x,t)+V_0$ and rewrite to notice a familiar separable PDE,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} &= \frac{i\hbar}{2m}\frac{\partial^2 \zeta}{\partial x^2} - \frac{i}{\hbar}\Big(V(x,t)+V_0\Big)\zeta \\ \implies \frac{i\hbar}{2m}\frac{\partial^2 \zeta}{\partial x^2} - \frac{iV\zeta}{\hbar} &= \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + \frac{iV_0\zeta}{\hbar}\end{aligned}$$

We consider the following boundary conditions (BC): $\zeta(\infty,t) = \zeta(-\infty,t) = 0$. We then proceed with letting $\zeta = X(x)T(t)$. Also, for this course, we are dealing mostly with the time-independent wave equation, such that the potential well is independent of time, $V(x,t) = V(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta(x,t) &= X(x)\,T(t) \\ \zeta(\infty,t) &= X(\infty)\,T(t) \quad \forall t \implies c_1 = X(\infty) = 0 \\ \zeta(-\infty,t) &= X(-\infty)\,T(t) \quad \forall t \implies c_2 = X(-\infty) = 0 \\ \frac{i\hbar}{2m}\frac{\partial^2 XT}{\partial x^2} - \frac{iV(x)XT}{\hbar} &= \frac{\partial XT}{\partial t} + \frac{iV_0XT}{\hbar} \\ \frac{i\hbar}{2m}X''T - \frac{iV(x)XT}{\hbar} &= XT' + \frac{iV_0XT}{\hbar} \\ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{X''}{X} + V(x) &= \frac{T'}{T}i\hbar - V_0 \\ k\frac{X''}{X} + V(x) &= \frac{T'}{T}i\hbar - V_0 = E, \text{ up to constant E, now decompose to ODEs} \\ kX'' &= X(E - V(x)), \text{ stop here as we need potential energy specified, else BC gives trivial solutions} \\ \frac{T'}{T} &= -i\frac{E+V_0}{\hbar}\end{aligned}$$

For arbitrary constant C (and thus also ζ_0),

$$\zeta(x,t) = e^{-\frac{i(E+V_0)t}{\hbar}+C} = \zeta_0 e^{-\frac{i(V_0+E)}{\hbar}t}$$

Thus, when plugging this back in to the wave equation (and seeings results from the next chapter!) we note the implication: $\Psi(x,t) = \zeta(x,t)e^{\frac{iV_0}{\hbar}t}$. If we substitute into Equation 1.36, then we see that it remains unchanged. We conclude that this has no effect on the expectation value of a dynamical variable, since the extra phase factor cancels out and is independent of position.

Exercise 1.9MOD
A particle of mass m has the wave function (for positive constants A, a) of

$$\Psi(x,t) = Ae^{-a\frac{mx^2}{\hbar}-ait}$$

- Normalize to find A. Watch video on Gaussian integral if stuck on how to derive it.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int_{\mathbb{R}} |\Psi(x,t)|^2 \, dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \Psi^* \Psi \, dx = 1 \\
&= A^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-\frac{2amx^2}{\hbar}} \, dx \\
&= A^2 \sqrt{\frac{\pi\hbar}{2am}} \implies A = \sqrt[4]{\frac{2am}{\pi\hbar}} \\
\Psi(x,t) &= \sqrt[4]{\frac{2am}{\pi\hbar}} e^{-a\frac{mx^2}{\hbar} - ait}
\end{aligned}
$$

- For which potential energy function, $V(x)$, is this a solution to Schro's wave equation?

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} &= -ia\Psi \\
\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} &= -\frac{2amx}{\hbar}\Psi \\
\frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x^2} &= \frac{-2am}{\hbar}\Big(\Psi + x\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x}\Big) \\
&= \frac{-2am}{\hbar}\Big(1 - \frac{2amx^2}{\hbar}\Big) \\
i\hbar\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x^2} + V(x)\Psi \\
V(x) &= i\hbar(-ia\Psi) + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\Big(1 - \frac{2amx^2}{\hbar}\Big)\Big(\frac{-2am}{\hbar}\Big)\Psi \\
&= 2a^2mx^2
\end{aligned}
$$

- Find the n^{th} moment.

Recall details in problem 1.5 and note n is a positive constant. Here, we split up the integral as was performed then, for negative infinity to 0 then 0 to positive infinity. This simplifies calculation. We set $C = \frac{2am}{\hbar}$ and use A for constant above.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\int_{\mathbb{R}} x^n |\Psi(x,t)|^2 \, dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \Psi^* [x^n] \Psi \, dx \\
&= A^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^n e^{-Cx^2} \, dx \\
I_{left} &= \int_{-\infty}^{0} x^n e^{-Cx^2} \, dx = (-1)^n \int_0^{\infty} (x^n) e^{-Cx^2} \, dx
\end{aligned}
$$

From here, you may use substitution of $u = x^2$, then $z = Cu$, to arrive at:

$$
\frac{(-1)^n}{2C^{\frac{n+1}{2}}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-z} z^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \, dz = \frac{(-1)^n}{2C^{\frac{n+1}{2}}} \Gamma\Big(\frac{n+1}{2}\Big)
$$

A similar analysis for the positive side results in a similar answer. Combining for the intended integral and substitute back into our original expression:

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle x^n \rangle &= \frac{A^2((-1)^n+1)}{2C^{\frac{n+1}{2}}}\Gamma\Big(\frac{n+1}{2}\Big) \\
\langle x \rangle &= 0 \\
\langle x^2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{2}(2)\sqrt[2]{\frac{2am}{\pi\hbar}}\left(\frac{2am}{\hbar}\right)^{-3/2}\cancelto{\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}}{\Gamma\Big(\frac{3}{2}\Big)} \\
&= \frac{\hbar}{4am}
\end{aligned}$$

- Find the expression for the p^{th} momentum. Note it gives non-trivial position partials for the first five degrees.

$$\begin{gathered}
\langle p^n \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \Psi^* \Big(\frac{\hbar}{i}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\Big)^n \Psi \; dx = \Big(\frac{\hbar}{i}\Big)^n \int_{\mathbb{R}} \Psi^* \frac{\partial^n \Psi}{\partial x^n} \\
\langle p \rangle = 0 \\
\langle p^2 \rangle = am\hbar
\end{gathered}$$

- Find σ_x and σ_p. Is their product consistent withe the uncertainty principle?

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma_x = \sqrt{\langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle} &= \frac{\hbar}{4am} \\
\sigma_p = \sqrt{\langle p^2 \rangle - \langle p \rangle} &= \sqrt{am\hbar} \\
\sigma_p \sigma_x &= \frac{\hbar}{2} \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

This implies we have a wave function that barely satisifes the uncertainty principle.

Exercise 1.11

Imagine a mass particle m and energy E in a potential well $V(x)$ sliding back and forth on a frictionless surface between a and b given in Figure 1.10. Classically, the probability of finding particle in range dx is equal to the fraction of time T it takes to get from a to b that it spends on the interval dx, and for speed $v(x)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho(x)dx &= \frac{dt}{T} = \frac{\frac{\mathrm{dt}}{\mathrm{d}x}dx}{T} = \frac{1}{v(x)T}dx \\
T &= \int_0^T dt = \int_a^b \frac{1}{v(x)}dx \\
\implies \rho(x) &= \frac{1}{v(x)T}
\end{aligned}$$

- Use conservation of energy to express speed in terms of potential well and energy.

$$E = U + K = V(x) + \frac{mv(x)^2}{2}$$

- Find the probability density for simple harmonic oscillator, $V(x) = \frac{kx^2}{2}$. Check normalization.

$$
\begin{aligned}
v(x) &= \pm\sqrt{\frac{2(E-V(x))}{m}} = \pm\sqrt{\frac{2E-kx^2}{m}} \\
\rho(x) &= \frac{1}{\pm\sqrt{\frac{2E-kx^2}{m}}\int_{-A}^{A}\frac{1}{\pm\sqrt{\frac{2E-kx^2}{m}}}\,dx} \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{2E-kx^2}{m}}\sqrt{\frac{m}{2E}}\int_{-A}^{A}\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{kx^2}{2E}}}\,dx} \\
&= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1-\frac{kx^2}{2E}}\int_{0}^{A}\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{kx^2}{2E}}}\,dx}
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
x &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{k}{2E}}}\sin\theta = \sqrt{\frac{2E}{k}}\sin\theta,\ \theta \in \left[\frac{-\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right] \\
\cos^2\theta = 1-\sin^2\theta = 1-\frac{k}{2E}x^2 &\implies \cos\theta = \sqrt{1-\frac{kx^2}{2E}} \\
dx &= \sqrt{\frac{2E}{k}}\cos\theta d\theta
\end{aligned}
$$

Where we note that for a SHM, the turning points are at the amplitudes $\pm A$ of the oscillation and apply a familiar trigonometric substitution; see Paul's online math notes.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{2\sqrt{1-\frac{kx^2}{2E}}\sqrt{\frac{2E}{k}}\int_{\theta=0}^{\theta=\sin^{-1}A\sqrt{\frac{k}{2E}}}\,d\theta} &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1-\frac{kx^2}{2E}}\sqrt{\frac{2E}{k}}\int_{\theta=0}^{\theta=\sin^{-1}1}\,d\theta} \\
&= \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{A^2-x^2}} \\
\rho(x) &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{A^2-x^2}}, & \text{if } -A < x < A, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\int_{-A}^{A}\rho(x)\,dx = \frac{2}{\pi}\int_{0}^{A}\frac{1}{\sqrt{A^2-x^2}}\,dx = \frac{2}{\pi}\sin^{-1}\frac{x}{A}\bigg|_{-A}^{A} = 1
$$

- Find the first and second expected value of position. Find σ_x. Note that knowing the odd integrand for an even interval yields 0, but can verify with substitution, $u = A^2 - x^2$. It is also helpful to use $x = A\sin\theta$ for the second moment substitution.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\langle x\rangle &= \int_{-A}^{A}\frac{x}{\pi\sqrt{A^2-x^2}}\,dx\ /\ 1 = 0 \\
\langle x^2\rangle &= \int_{-A}^{A}\frac{x^2}{\pi\sqrt{A^2-x^2}}\,dx\ /\ 1 = \frac{2}{\pi}\left(\frac{-x\sqrt{A^2-x^2}}{2} + \frac{A^2}{2}\sin^{-1}\frac{x}{A}\right)\bigg|_{-A}^{A} = \frac{A^2}{2} \\
\sigma_x &= \langle x^2\rangle - \langle x\rangle^2 \implies \sigma_x = \frac{A}{\sqrt{2}}
\end{aligned}
$$