

The Schrodinger equation is a complex differential equation that describes...well...I'm trying to figure that out

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \frac{ih}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} - \frac{i}{h} V\psi \quad 1.23$$

Each of the terms in this equation will evaluate to a complex number, which we will call C_1 , C_2 , and C_3

$$C_1 = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = R_1 + iI_1$$

$$C_2 = \frac{ih}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = R_2 + iI_2$$

$$C_3 = -\frac{i}{h} V\psi = R_3 + iI_3$$

The thing that is confusing the hell out of me is how the Griffiths text found the complex conjugate.

I think that we can all agree that if the following equation is true, then so is its complex conjugate
IF

$$C_1 = C_2 + C_3$$

THEN

$$C_1^* = C_2^* + C_3^*$$

let's look at C_2 a bit closer and pull out the i term. We will designate the term that is left behind C_{2i}

$$C_2 = \frac{ih}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = R_2 + iI_2$$

per the definition of the complex conjugate,

$$C_2^* = R_2 - iI_2$$

The Griffiths text would seem to indicate that

$$C_2^* = -iC_{2i}^*$$

Let's look at C_{2i} to see if this makes sense:

$$iC_{2i} = C_2 \quad \text{and per our definition,} \quad C_2 = R_2 + iI_2$$

therefore

$$C_{2i} = -iR_2 + I_2$$

and so

$$C_{2i}^* = iR_2 + I_2$$

How does

$$C_2^* \text{ relate to } C_{2i}^* ?$$

Let's first multiply C_{2i}^* by i and see what we get:

$$iC_{2i}^* = -R_2 + iI_2$$

From here, we can see that

$$-iC_2^* = C_{2i}^*$$

And that's why David J. Griffiths writes Quantum Mechanics textbooks and I don't

QED