

Homework 10

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Problem 1

Solution

(a) From

$$w(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) = N^{-1/2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \exp(-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_n) \psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) \quad (1)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int d^3\mathbf{r} w(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) w^*(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_m) &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_n} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_m} \int d^3\mathbf{r} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) \psi_{\mathbf{k}'}^*(\mathbf{r}) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'} \delta_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'} e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_n} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_m} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_m - \mathbf{r}_n)} \\ &= \delta_{mn}. \end{aligned}$$

So when $m \neq n$, we have

$$\int d^3\mathbf{r} w(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) w^*(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_m) = 0. \quad (2)$$

(b) We have

$$\begin{aligned} w(x - x_n) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_k e^{-ikx_n} \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} e^{ikx} u_0(x)}_{\psi_k(x)} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} u_0(x) \sum_k e^{ik(x-x_n)} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} u_0(x) \sum_{i=1}^N e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot 2\pi i/L} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} u_0(x) \frac{e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot 2\pi/L} (1 - e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot 2\pi N/L})}{1 - e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot 2\pi/L}} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} u_0(x) e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot 2\pi/L} \frac{e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot \pi N/L} - e^{-i(x-x_n) \cdot \pi N/L}}{e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot \pi/L} - e^{-i(x-x_n) \cdot \pi/L}} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} u_0(x) e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot 2\pi/L} \frac{e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot \pi N/L}}{e^{i(x-x_n) \cdot \pi/L}} \frac{\sin \pi(x-x_n)N/L}{\sin \pi(x-x_n)/L}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $L = Na$, and therefore

$$\frac{\sin \pi(x-x_n)N/L}{\sin \pi(x-x_n)/L} = \frac{\sin \pi(x-x_n)/a}{\sin \pi(x-x_n)/Na} \approx \frac{\sin \pi(x-x_n)/a}{\pi(x-x_n)/Na},$$

and therefore

$$w(x - x_n) = e^{i \cdot \text{some number}} \cdot u_0(x) \frac{\sin \pi(x-x_n)/a}{\pi(x-x_n)/a}, \quad (3)$$

and we can just throw away the unitary prefactor and therefore

$$w(x - x_n) = u_0(x) \frac{\sin \pi(x-x_n)/a}{\pi(x-x_n)/a}. \quad (4)$$

Problem 2

Solution

(a) Following the standard procedure to find the band structure, we have

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\mathbf{k}} &= A + \sum_{\mathbf{R}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{R}} h(\mathbf{R}) \\ &= A - te^{ika} - te^{-ika} = A - 2t \cos(ka). \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

(b) The smallest energy is taken when $k = 0$, and here we have

$$m^* = \frac{1}{\hbar^2} \frac{\partial^2 E_k}{\partial k^2} = 2t \frac{a^2}{\hbar^2} \cos ka|_{k=0} = 2t \frac{a^2}{\hbar^2}. \tag{6}$$

The largest energy is taken when $k = \pm\pi/a$, and

$$m^* = \frac{1}{\hbar^2} \frac{\partial^2 E_k}{\partial k^2} = 2t \frac{a^2}{\hbar^2} \cos ka|_{k=\pi/a} = -2t \frac{a^2}{\hbar^2}. \tag{7}$$