

Ques Estimate the speed of free particle based on present quantum mechanical analysis and compare it with the one obtained using the classical description of free particle.

Are both the speeds same, if not then what is the reason behind this?

→ From TDSE we know that,

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

$$\frac{i\hbar}{x} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{1}{\psi} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + V$$

$$i\hbar \frac{1}{x} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = E \rightarrow [\text{total Energy}]$$

$$\psi(x) = e^{-\frac{iEt}{\hbar}}$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{1}{\psi} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + V = E$$

⇒ For free particle $V=V_0$, let $V_0=0$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2} \psi$$

$$k = \frac{\sqrt{2mE}}{\hbar}$$

$$E = \frac{(\hbar k)^2}{2m}$$

$$\psi(x) = A e^{ikx}$$

$$\psi(x) = \chi(x) \phi(x)$$

$$= A e^{i(kx - \frac{Et}{\hbar})}$$

$$\psi(x,t) = A e^{i(Kx - \frac{\hbar K^2}{2m} t)}$$

Comparing with $A e^{i(Kx - \omega t)}$
we get. $\omega(K) = \frac{\hbar K^2}{2m}$

$$V_p = \frac{\omega}{K} = \frac{\hbar K}{2m} = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon}{2m}} \quad V_g = \frac{d\omega}{dK} = \frac{\hbar K}{m} = \sqrt{\frac{2\epsilon}{m}}$$

\Rightarrow Born Classical mech.

\therefore P.E of free particle $= 0$, $K\epsilon = \epsilon$, $V = \sqrt{\frac{2\epsilon}{m}}$

$$V = V_g = 2V_p$$

Hence V_p is half the velocity calculated by classical mech. but also V_p does not represent 'particle velocity' (wave). Rather it is the V_g that denote it, thus $V_g = V_{\text{classical}}$

Que

As we have seen that the wavefunction of a free particle is not normalisable. How to overcome this issue?

\rightarrow for free particle $V(x) = \text{constant}$, so let $V(x) = 0$

\Rightarrow on solving SE (Schrodinger Equation). we get A wave function of free particle

$$\psi(x,t) = A e^{i(Kx - \frac{\hbar K^2}{2m} t)} = A e^{i\theta}$$

on trying to normalise it by

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi \psi^* dx = 1$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A|^2 dx = 1 \Rightarrow |A|^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx = 1$$

→ This diverges and unsatisfies the equality

⇒) Thus to overcome it, instead of normalizing over infinity, we can set this ψ to be non-zero for finite limits & zero elsewhere, since a particle is generally localized.