

Useful formulae

Integration by parts: $\int_a^b dx f(x) \frac{\partial g(x)}{\partial x} = - \int_a^b dx \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} g(x) + f(x)g(x)|_a^b$

Commutators: $[A, B] \equiv AB - BA$.

Gaussian Integrals:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda x^2} dx = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\lambda}}, \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x e^{-\lambda x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2\lambda}, \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 e^{-\lambda x^2} dx = 2\sqrt{\pi/\lambda^3}$$

Probability: $\text{Prob}(a \leq x \leq b \text{ at time } t) = \int_a^b \Psi^*(x, t) \Psi(x, t) dx$

Probability Current: $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\Psi|^2 = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} J(x, t)$ for $J(x, t) = -\frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi \right)$

Operators: $\hat{x} = x$ and $\hat{p} = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ (in position space) and $[\hat{x}, \hat{p}] = i\hbar$

Expectation Values: $\langle \hat{Q}(x, p) \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Psi^*(x, t) \hat{Q}(x, -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x}) \Psi(x, t) dx$

Uncertainties: $\sigma_x \equiv \sqrt{\langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2}$, $\sigma_p \equiv \sqrt{\langle p^2 \rangle - \langle p \rangle^2}$.

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

Hamiltonian: $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V$

Time-independent Schrödinger Equation: $\hat{H}\psi(x) = E\psi(x)$ for separable solutions $\psi(x, t) = e^{-iEt/\hbar} \psi(x)$.

Orthonormality and completeness: $\int \psi_m^* \psi_n dx = \delta_{mn}$ for orthonormality; completeness implies $\Psi(x, 0) = \sum_n c_n \psi_n(x)$ with $c_n = \int \psi_n^* \Psi(x, 0) dx$ for discrete spectrum of ψ_n .

Infinite square well: For $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V$ with $V = 0$ for $0 \leq x \leq a$, ∞ otherwise. Stationary solutions $\psi_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin(n\pi x/a)$, $E_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}$, $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Harmonic oscillator: $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 \hat{x}^2$

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\pm} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2m\hbar\omega}} (m\omega\hat{x} \mp i\hat{p}), & \hat{x} &= \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (a_+ + a_-), & \hat{p} &= i\sqrt{\frac{\hbar m\omega}{2}} (a_+ - a_-) \\ \hat{H} &= \hbar\omega (a_+ a_- + 1/2) & E_n &= \hbar\omega (n + 1/2), n = 0, 1, \dots & 1 &= [a_-, a_+] \\ a_+ \psi_n &= \sqrt{n+1} \psi_{n+1} & a_- \psi_n &= \sqrt{n} \psi_{n-1} & \psi_0(x) &= \left(\frac{m\omega}{\pi\hbar} \right)^{1/4} e^{-\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar} x^2} \end{aligned}$$