CHM452: Problem Set 3

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Let $\mathrm{i} = \sqrt{-1}$, $o(\cdot)$ and $O(\cdot)$ are little-o and big-O notations, respectively, and $\mathbb{N}$ is the set of natural numbers ($\mathbb{N} = \{0,\ 1,\ 2,\ 3,\ \ldots\}$) and $\mathbb{N}_+ = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$

1. Set $\hbar = 1$.

(i) Analytically, when $x_0 = 0$ and $p_0 = 0$,

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^{1/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}x\, x^2 e^{-\alpha x^2} = \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi} \frac{\pi}{4\alpha^3}\right)^{1/2} = \frac{1}{2\alpha}, \langle x \rangle = \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^{1/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}x\, x e^{-\alpha x^2} = 0.$$

When $\alpha = 1$, $\Delta x = \sqrt{\langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2} = 1/\sqrt{2} \approx 0.70710678$.

Use the grid basis in the range $[-20,\ 20]$ and the number of grid points be 1024, and results are:

norm: 1.00000000; $\langle x \rangle$: 0.00000000; and Δx: 0.70710678.

The wavefunction is plotted in Figure 1.

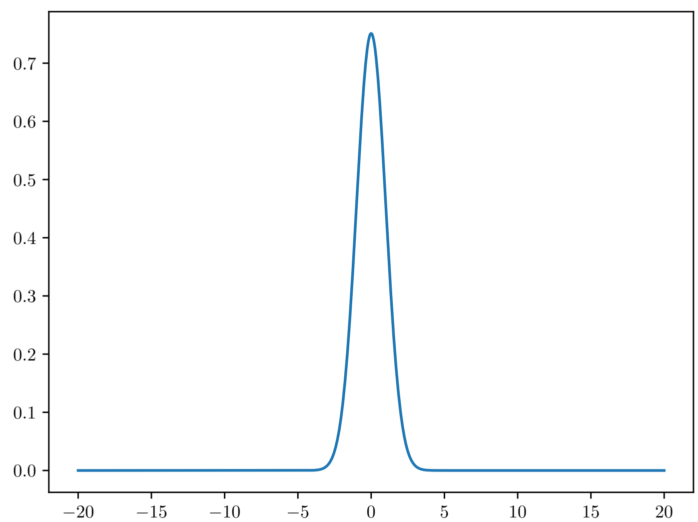

Figure 1

(ii) Analytically, when $x_0 = 0$ and $p_0 = 0$, the fourier transformation gives

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi_0(p) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int \mathrm{d}x\, e^{-\mathrm{i}px} \Psi_0(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^{1/4} \int \mathrm{d}x\, e^{-\mathrm{i}px - \alpha x^2/2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha}} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^{1/4} e^{-p^2/(2\alpha)},\end{aligned}$$

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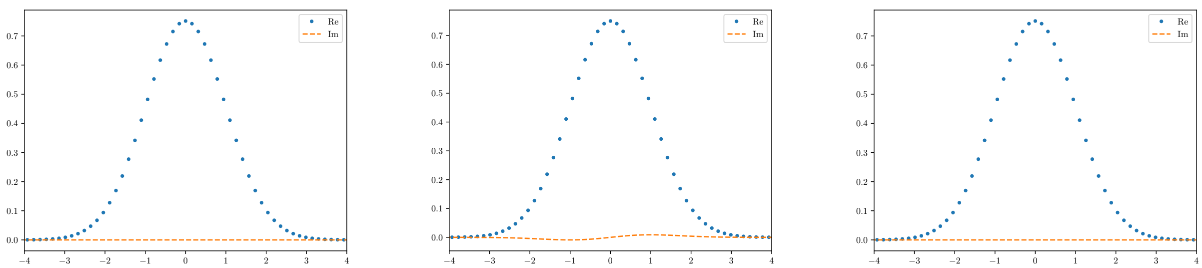
and when $\alpha = 1$,

$$\Psi_0(p) = \left(\frac{1}{\pi}\right)^{1/4} e^{-p^2/2},$$

Hence, follow the same procedure we will find that $\langle p \rangle = 0$, $\langle p^2 \rangle = 1/2$ and $\Delta p = 1/\sqrt{2} \approx 0.70710678$.
Use the grid basis in the range $[-20,\ 20]$ and the number of grid points be 1024 and 1025, and results are:

1024 grid points: norm: 1.00000000; $\langle p \rangle$: 0.00000000; and Δp: 0.70849123;
1024 grid points: norm: 1.00000000; $\langle p \rangle$: 0.00000000; and Δp: 0.70848987;
1025 grid points: norm: 1.00000000; $\langle p \rangle$: 0.00000000; and Δp: 0.70848852.

The wavefunction is plotted in Figure 2.



1023 grid points | 1024 grid points | 1025 grid points

Figure 2

Note that the relevant errors of Δp are larger than the ones of Δx, and the when the number of grid points is odd the results are more accurate than the case that the number of grid points is similar but is even. This can be also justified the imaginary part of the wavefunction in momentum space

(iii) With 1024 gird points, the answer is

Potential: 0.25000000; Kinetic: 0.25097895; Total = 0.50097895.

With 2^{20} gird points, the answer is

Potential: 0.25000000; Kinetic: 0.25000095; Total: 0.50000095.

Note that the analytical expectation of the total energy is 0.5.

2. (i) 1
   (ii) 2
   (iii) 3
   (iv) 4

3. (i) 1
   (ii) 2
   (iii) 3