

Quantum Mechanics Fall 2019

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Important equations and constants

Schrödinger equation

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

Week 1

Get to know the quantum world

Notes on Lesson 1

Monday Sep 2

Notes on Lesson 2

Tuesday Sep 3

Notes on Lesson 3

Friday Sep 6

Born Statistical Interpretation of Wave Function

The wave function $\Psi(x, t)$ describes the "Amplitude" of the probability finding the particle at coordinate (x, t) . While the probability density equals amplitude squared.

That is, the probability finding the particle among $x \in [a, b]$ at time t_0 is described as:

$$P(x \in [a, b], t = t_0) = \int_a^b |\psi|^2 dx = \int_a^b \psi^* \psi dx$$

Or, to say, the **Probability Density** can be written as:

$$p(x, t) = |\psi(x, t)|^2 = \psi^*(x, t)\psi(x, t)$$

Homework

[week1 hw1]

- Problem 1 - [Thinking][Optional] A Brief History of Clues
- Problem 2 - Calculate wave length of an electron after a 1000V potential field
- Problem 3 - Derivation of Klein-Gordon equation

[week1 hw2]

- Problem 4 - Griffiths 1.2

- (a) Find the standard deviation of the distribution in Example 1.1.
- (b) What is the probability that a photograph, selected at random, would show a distance x more than one standard deviation away from the average?

• Problem 5 - Griffiths 1.4

At time $t = 0$ a particle is represented by the wave function

$$\Psi(x, 0) = \begin{cases} A \frac{x}{a}, & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq a, \\ A \frac{(b-x)}{(b-a)}, & \text{if } a \leq x \leq b, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where A , a and b are constants.

- (a) Normalize Ψ (that is, find A in terms of a and b)
- (b) Sketch $\Psi(x, 0)$, as a function of x .
- (c) Where is the particle most likely to be found, at $t = 0$?
- (d) What is the probability of finding the particle to the left of a ? Check your result in the limiting cases $b = a$ and $b = 2a$.
- (e) What is the expectation value of x ?