

**Note:** For vectors it is useful to invent a notation that distinguishes unit vectors ( $\hat{e}$ ) from generic vectors ( $\vec{v}$ ). For those same reasons, below I've used  $u(x)$  to denote a normalized wavefunction, i.e.,  $\int u^*(x)u(x) dx = 1$ ; just as a unit vector is a vector,  $u(x)$  is a  $\psi$ . While this notation is not standard, I find it useful.

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-\alpha x^2 - \beta x} dx = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\alpha}} e^{\beta^2/4\alpha} \quad \int_0^{+\infty} x e^{-\alpha x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2\alpha} \quad \int_0^{+\infty} x^n e^{-\alpha x} dx = n!/\alpha^{n+1}$$

$$H\psi = i\hbar\partial_t\psi \quad H\psi = E\psi \quad H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(x) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\partial_x^2 + V(x) \quad p = -i\hbar\partial_x \quad [p, x] = -i\hbar$$

Notation:  $Hu_n = E_n u_n$ ,  $u_n(x)$  orthonormal, and  $\omega_n \equiv E_n/\hbar$ :  $\Psi(x, t=0) = \sum c_n u_n(x) \Rightarrow \Psi(x, t) = \sum c_n u_n e^{-i\omega_n t}$

where (Fourier's Trick):  $c_n = \langle u_n | \Psi \rangle$  Notation:  $\langle f | Q | g \rangle \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f^*(x) Qg(x) dx$

$$\partial_t \psi^*(x, t)\psi(x, t) = -\partial_x J \quad \text{where current } J = \frac{\hbar}{2im} (\psi^* \partial_x \psi - \psi \partial_x \psi^*) = \frac{\hbar}{2im} \psi^* \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_x \psi$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi | A | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | \partial_t A | \psi \rangle + \langle \psi | i[H, A]/\hbar | \psi \rangle \quad [A, B] \equiv AB - BA$$

$$\sigma_A \sigma_B = \Delta A \Delta B \geq \frac{1}{2} |\langle \psi | i[A, B] | \psi \rangle| \quad [AB, C] = A[B, C] + [A, C]B$$

**Free Particle:**  $\psi_p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} e^{ipx/\hbar}$  or  $\psi_k(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{ikx}$  where  $p = \hbar k$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{ikx} g(k) dk \quad g(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-ikx} f(x) dx$$

**Particle-in-a-box** with  $V(x) = 0$  for  $|x| < a$ , but  $V(x) = \infty$  elsewhere. Note:  $L = 2a$   $n = 1, 2, 3 \dots$

$$E_n^+ = \frac{(\hbar k)^2}{2m} \quad u_n^+(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} \cos(kx) \quad \text{where } k = \frac{(n - \frac{1}{2})\pi}{a} = \frac{(2n - 1)\pi}{2a} = \frac{(\text{odd } N)\pi}{2a}$$

$$E_n^- = \frac{(\hbar k)^2}{2m} \quad u_n^-(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} \sin(kx) \quad \text{where } k = \frac{n\pi}{a} = \frac{(2n)\pi}{2a} = \frac{(\text{even } N)\pi}{2a}$$

$$\text{shifted origin: } E_n = \frac{(\hbar k)^2}{2m} \quad u_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin(kx) \quad \text{where } k = \frac{n\pi}{L}$$

**Particle-in-a-box** with  $V(x) = -V_0$  for  $|x| < a$ , but  $V(x) = 0$  elsewhere

$$z_0^2 \frac{(\hbar/a)^2}{2m} = V_0 \quad -\frac{\kappa^2 \hbar^2}{2m} = E \quad z^2 \frac{(\hbar/a)^2}{2m} = \frac{k^2 \hbar^2}{2m} = E + V_0 = KE \quad \text{where: } z = ka$$

$$E_n^+ = (z^2 - z_0^2) \frac{(\hbar/a)^2}{2m} \quad \psi_n^+(x) = \begin{cases} \cos(kx) & |x| < a \\ e^{-\kappa|x|} & |x| > a \end{cases} \quad \text{where } \tan z = \sqrt{(z_0/z)^2 - 1} \quad z \approx \frac{(\text{odd } N)\pi}{2}$$

$$E_n^- = (z^2 - z_0^2) \frac{(\hbar/a)^2}{2m} \quad \psi_n^-(x) = \begin{cases} \sin(kx) & |x| < a \\ \pm e^{-\kappa|x|} & |x| > a \end{cases} \quad \text{where } \cot z = -\sqrt{(z_0/z)^2 - 1} \quad z \approx \frac{(\text{even } N)\pi}{2}$$

$$\text{reflection: (shifted origin)} \quad \psi(x) = \begin{cases} e^{ikx} + Re^{-ikx} & x < 0 \\ A \cos qx + B \sin qx & 0 < x < L \\ Te^{ikx} & x > L \end{cases} \quad \text{where } R = \frac{i(q^2 - k^2) \sin qL}{2qk \cos qL - i(q^2 + k^2) \sin qL}$$

**Harmonic Oscillator** with  $V(x) = \frac{1}{2} m\omega^2 x^2$   $E_n = \hbar\omega (n + \frac{1}{2})$   $n = 0, 1, 2 \dots$

$$|n\rangle = u_n(x) = N_n H_n(\xi) e^{-\frac{1}{2}\xi^2} \quad \text{where } \xi = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}} x \quad \text{and } H_n \text{ is an } n^{\text{th}} \text{ degree polynomial}$$

$$a_- = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}} \left( x + i \frac{p}{m\omega} \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\xi + \partial_\xi) \quad a_+ = a_-^\dagger = \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}} \left( x - i \frac{p}{m\omega} \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\xi - \partial_\xi)$$

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (a_+ + a_-) \quad p = i \sqrt{\frac{\hbar m\omega}{2}} (a_+ - a_-) \quad a_- |n\rangle = \sqrt{n} |n-1\rangle \quad a_+ |n\rangle = \sqrt{(n+1)} |n+1\rangle$$

$$[a_-, a_+] = 1 \quad [H, a_-] = -\hbar\omega a_- \quad [H, a_+] = \hbar\omega a_+ \quad H = \hbar\omega \left( \frac{1}{2} + a_+ a_- \right)$$

**Delta Function** with  $V(x) = -\alpha\delta(x) \Rightarrow \Delta\psi' = -\frac{2m\alpha}{\hbar^2} \psi(0)$

$$u(x) = \sqrt{\kappa} e^{-\kappa|x|} \quad \text{where: } \kappa = m\alpha/\hbar^2 \quad E = -\frac{\kappa^2 \hbar^2}{2m}$$

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} e^{ikx} + Re^{-ikx} & x < 0 \\ Te^{ikx} & x > 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{where } R = \frac{-1}{ik/\kappa + 1}$$

$$\text{Note: } \delta(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{ikx} dk = \frac{d}{dx} \Theta(x) \quad f(x_0) = \int f(x) \delta(x - x_0) dx$$