

A1: Infinite square well

We again study the infinite square well potential:

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq L \\ \infty & \text{for } x < 0, x > L \end{cases}$$

with eigenfunctions

$$\phi_n(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq L \\ 0 & \text{for } x < 0, x > L \end{cases}$$

and eigen-energies $E_n = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2 n^2}{2mL^2}$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

- (a) Show that these eigenfunctions are orthonormal, *i.e.*, $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi_n^*(x) \phi_{n'}(x) dx = \delta_{nn'}$
- (b) For a given wavefunction $\chi(x)$ find formally the decomposition into eigenfunctions $\phi(x)$, $\chi(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \phi_n(x)$, *i.e.*, solve for c_n by evaluating $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi_n^*(x) \chi(x) dx$ and using the result of problem 2a.
- (c) Assume that at time $t = 0$ the particle is confined to the right half of the well:

$$\psi(x, t = 0) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x \leq L/2 \\ \frac{2}{\sqrt{L}} \sin\left(2\pi \frac{x-L/2}{L}\right) & \text{for } L/2 < x < L \\ 0 & \text{for } x \geq L \end{cases}$$

Express this initial state in terms of the eigenfunctions of the full well, *i.e.*, find the coefficients a_n such that $\psi(x, t = 0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \phi_n(x)$. Pay special attention to the case $n = 2$.

- (d) Find the time-dependent wavefunction $\psi(x, t)$ which satisfies the time-dependent Schrödinger equation (do not evaluate any occurring sums explicitly).
- (e) What is the probability that a measurement of the energy would yield the value E_1 ?
- (f) What is the expectation value of the energy? (Hint: $\sum_{n \text{ odd}} \frac{n^2}{(n^2-4)^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{16}$).

A2: Ehrenfest theorem

A particle of mass m moves along the x axis in a potential $V(x)$. Newton's (classical) equation of motion is (" $ma = F$ ")

$$\frac{d}{dt} p = -\frac{\partial V(x)}{\partial x}.$$

Using Schrödinger's equation, demonstrate that it's quantum-mechanical equivalent called Ehrenfest theorem

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \hat{p} \rangle = \left\langle -\frac{\partial V(x)}{\partial x} \right\rangle$$

holds for all quantum-mechanical states $\psi(x, t)$. *Hint:* use

$$\langle \hat{p} \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi^*(x, t) \left(-i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \psi(x, t) dx$$

and note that only the wave function $\psi(x, t)$ depends on time, but not the operator $\hat{p} = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$.