

often, to eliminate the uninteresting normalization, we take the ratio:

$$L \times \frac{\Psi'(L)}{\Psi(L)} = kL \cot kL = \frac{-KL (Be^{-KL} - Ce^{KL})}{Be^{-KL} + Ce^{KL}}$$

#2 For a localized state, $C=0$.

Why? C multiplies a rising exponential; if $C \neq 0$, then $|\Psi(x)|^2 \rightarrow \infty$ when $x \rightarrow \infty$, and the particle's probability is not local.

For a localized state:

$$kL \cot kL = -KL$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$k = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}} \qquad \qquad K = \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}(V_0 - E)}$$

so, note: $k^2 + K^2 = \frac{2m}{\hbar^2}(E + V_0 - E) = \frac{2mV_0}{\hbar^2}$

↑
constant.

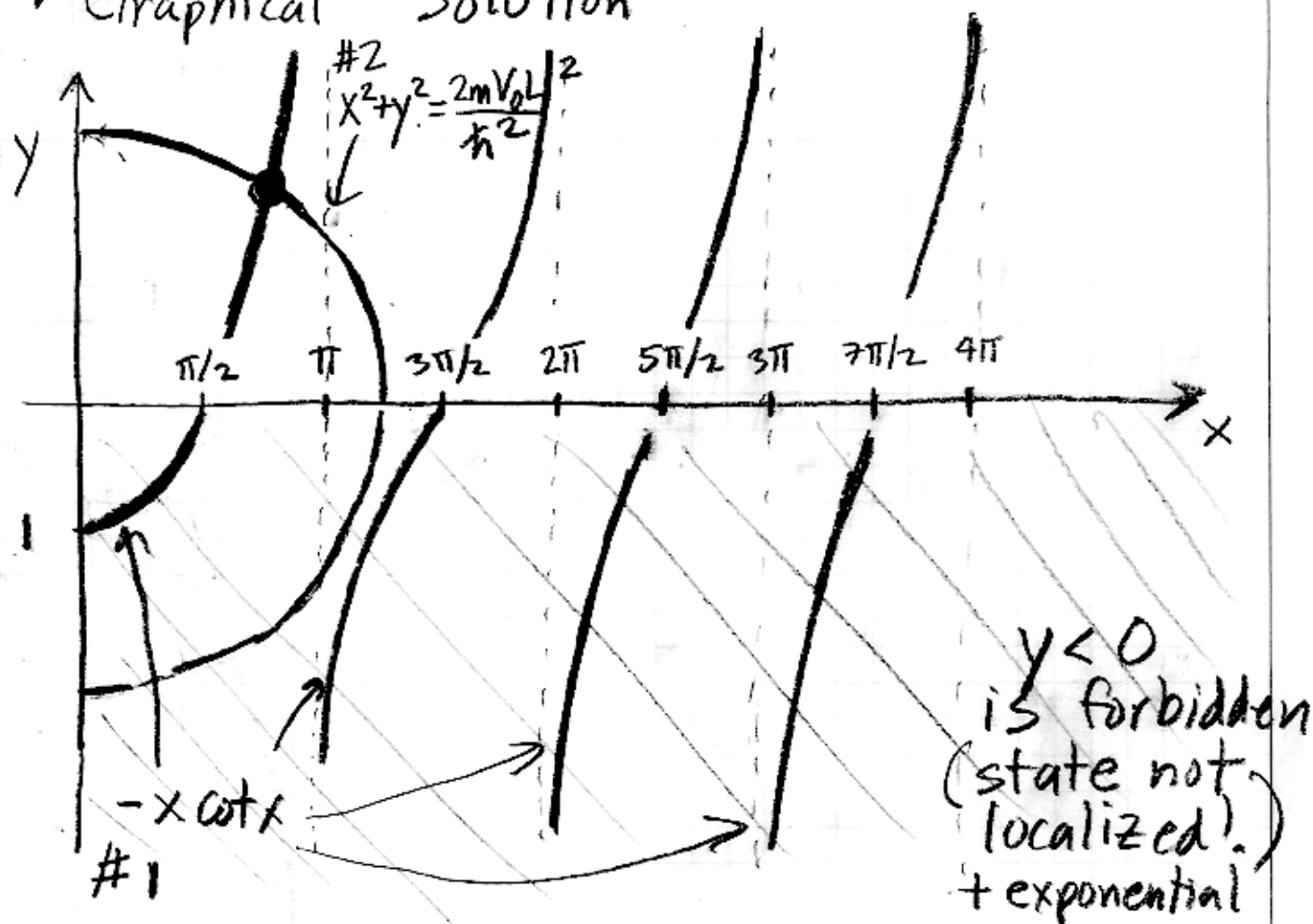
$$\text{or } (kL)^2 + (KL)^2 = \frac{2mV_0L^2}{\hbar^2}$$

• Two equations in two unknowns, but non-linear (and transcendental)

• denote $y \equiv KL > 0$ $x = kL > 0$

#1: $y = -x \cot x$ #2: $x^2 + y^2 = \frac{2mV_0L^2}{\hbar^2}$

Graphical Solution:



The intersections of the two curves determine the allowed (or quantized) values of k and κ .

Note that as $V_0 \rightarrow 0$, one reaches a situation where there is not even one bound state (!). No bound states when

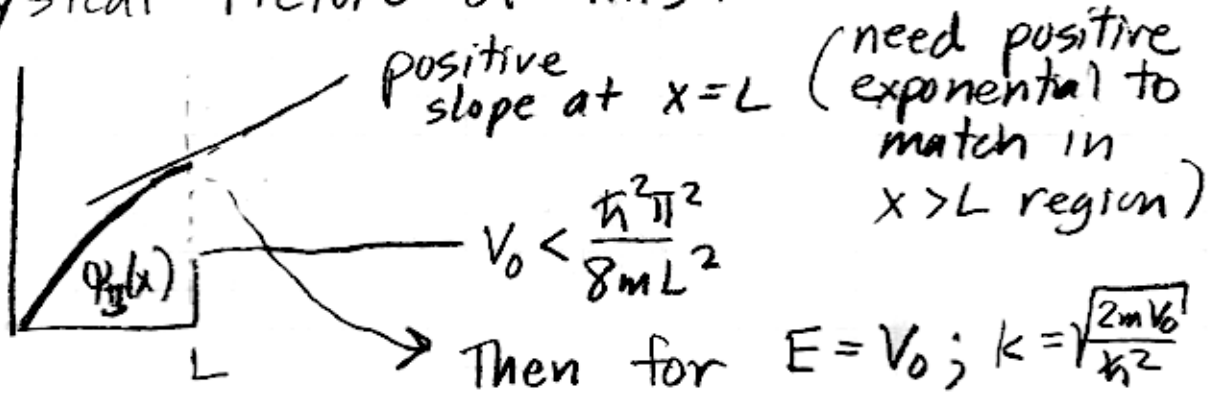
$$x^2 + y^2 < \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^2$$

or

$$\boxed{\frac{2mV_0L^2}{\hbar^2} < \frac{\pi^2}{4}}$$

or $V_0 < \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{8mL^2}$

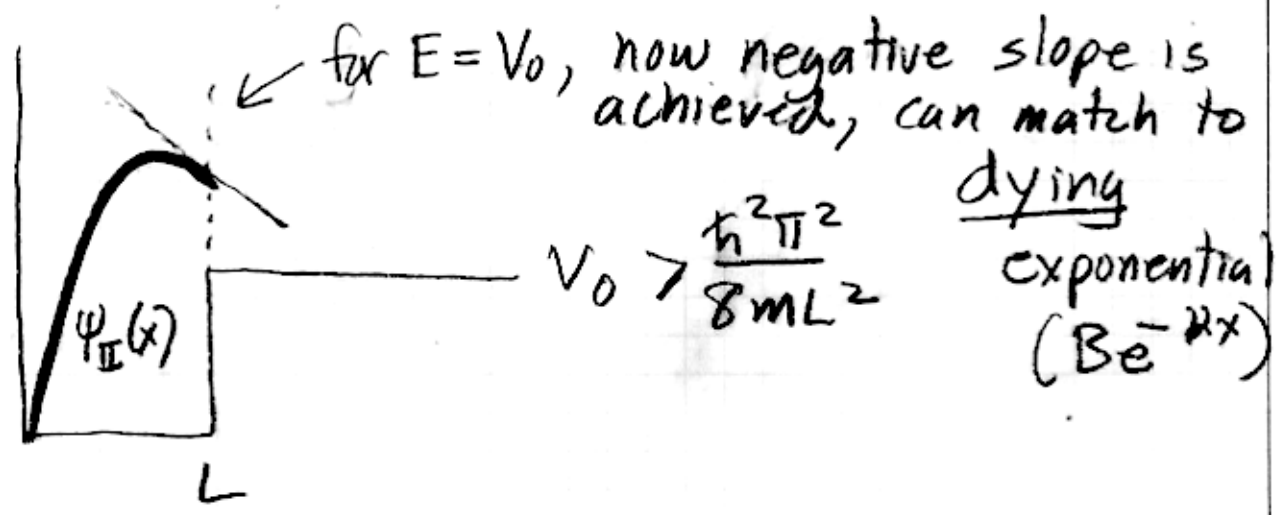
Physical Picture of this:



$\psi(x) \propto \sin kx$
 $\psi'(L) \propto \cos kL > 0$ since
 $kL < \pi/2$

Positive slope: need $C \neq 0$, Ce^{+KL} term to match in $x > L$

$\sqrt{\frac{2mV_0}{\hbar^2}} L < \pi/2$
 $V_0 < \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{8mL^2}$



a famous physical example:

(proton + neutron) = successful bound state, but just barely.

(neutron + neutron) = just fails as a bound state; potential too shallow and/or narrow.

Probability Current

→ stay in one dimension (book does 3).

$$\text{Schrödinger: } i\hbar \frac{d\psi}{dt} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{real}}}{V(x)} \psi \quad (\text{A})$$

$$\text{Complex Conjugate: } -i\hbar \frac{d\psi^*}{dt} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi^*}{dx^2} + \overset{\downarrow}{V(x)} \psi^* \quad (\text{B})$$

multiply (A) by ψ^* and (B) by ψ ,
then subtract (B) from (A):

$$i\hbar \left(\psi^* \frac{d\psi}{dt} + \psi \frac{d\psi^*}{dt} \right) = \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\psi^* \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} - \psi \frac{d^2\psi^*}{dx^2} \right)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(x)|^2 = \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d}{dx} \left(\psi^* \frac{d\psi}{dx} - \psi \frac{d\psi^*}{dx} \right)$$

and now integrate over some region,
x from a to b:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_a^b dx |\psi(x)|^2 = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \int_a^b dx \frac{d}{dx} \left(\psi^* \frac{d\psi}{dx} - \psi \frac{d\psi^*}{dx} \right)$$

$$= \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left(\psi^* \frac{d\psi}{dx} - \psi \frac{d\psi^*}{dx} \right) \Big|_a^b$$

net current; in at
point b, out at point a

probability
between
a + b
time
derivative

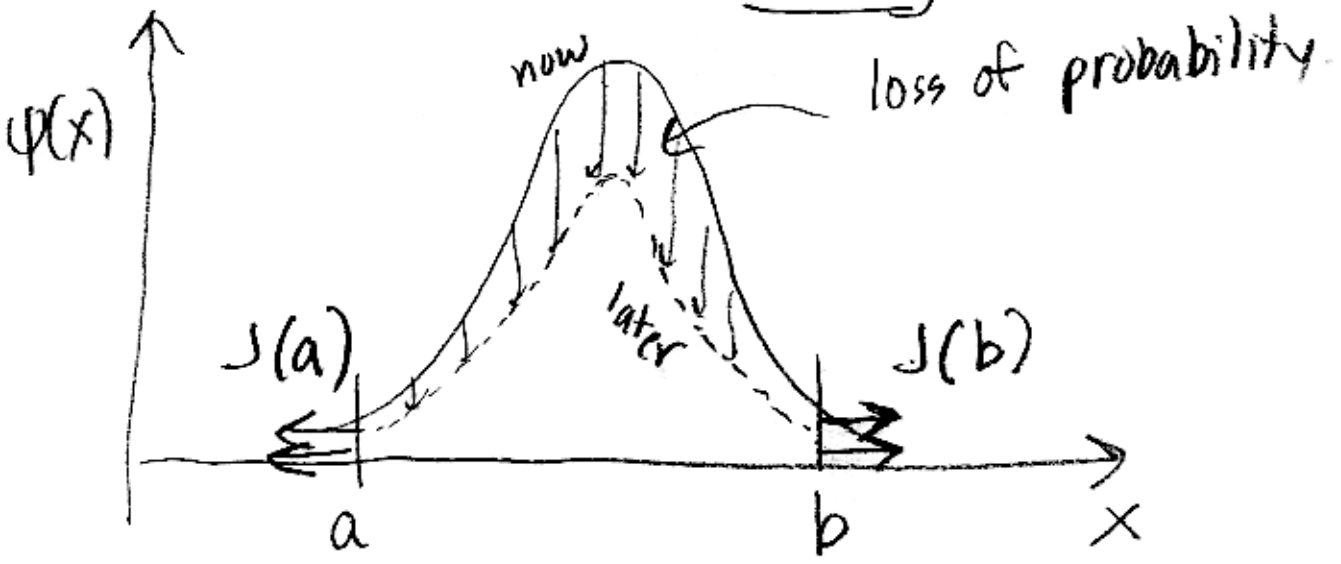
$$J \equiv -\frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left(\psi^* \frac{d\psi}{dx} - \psi \frac{d\psi^*}{dx} \right) \Big|_a^b$$

defined as "probability current"

so

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_a^b dx |\psi(x)|^2 = J(a) - J(b)$$

when $J(b) > 0$, current leaving



The Classical Limit

p. 179
Chap. #6

look at the time derivative of the expectation value of an operator $\hat{\Omega}$:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi | \hat{\Omega} | \psi \rangle = \frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi | \hat{\Omega} | \psi \rangle + \langle \psi | \frac{d\hat{\Omega}}{dt} | \psi \rangle + \langle \psi | \hat{\Omega} \frac{d|\psi\rangle}{dt}$$

But the time derivatives of the bras & kets satisfy the Schrödinger Equation:

$$\frac{d|\psi\rangle}{dt} = \frac{\hat{H}}{i\hbar} |\psi\rangle \rightarrow \frac{d\langle\psi|}{dt} = -\langle\psi| \frac{\hat{H}^\dagger}{i\hbar}$$

\hat{H}^\dagger
- sign is from $i\hbar$
but $\hat{H}^\dagger = \hat{H}$ (Hamiltonian is Hermitian)

$$\text{so } \frac{d\langle\psi|}{dt} = -\frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle\psi| \hat{H}$$

so,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \langle \hat{\Omega} \rangle &= -\frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle \psi | \hat{H} \hat{\Omega} | \psi \rangle + \langle \psi | \frac{d\hat{\Omega}}{dt} | \psi \rangle + \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle \psi | \hat{\Omega} \hat{H} | \psi \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle \psi | (\hat{\Omega} \hat{H} - \hat{H} \hat{\Omega}) | \psi \rangle + \langle \psi | \frac{d\hat{\Omega}}{dt} | \psi \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dt} \langle \hat{\Omega} \rangle = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [\hat{\Omega}, \hat{H}] \rangle + \langle \psi | \frac{d\hat{\Omega}}{dt} | \psi \rangle}$$

"Ehrenfest's Theorem"

Examples (all one-dimensional)

$$\boxed{\Omega = x}$$

and then $\frac{d\Omega}{dt} = 0$

$$\underline{H} = \frac{\underline{p}^2}{2m} + V(\underline{x})$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \underline{x} \rangle = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [\underline{x}, \underline{H}] \rangle \quad [\underline{x}, \underline{H}] = [\underline{x}, \left(\frac{\underline{p}^2}{2m} + V(\underline{x}) \right)]$$

$$= [\underline{x}, \frac{\underline{p}^2}{2m}] + \underbrace{[\underline{x}, V(\underline{x})]}_0$$

$[\underline{x}, \underline{p}^2] \leftarrow$ look at p.20, 1.5.10

$$= \underline{p} \underbrace{[\underline{x}, \underline{p}]}_{i\hbar} + \underbrace{[\underline{x}, \underline{p}]}_{i\hbar} \underline{p} = 2i\hbar \underline{p}$$

so

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \underline{x} \rangle = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [\underline{x}, \underline{H}] \rangle = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \frac{1}{2m} \langle [\underline{x}, \underline{p}^2] \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{i\hbar} \frac{1}{2m} \cdot 2i\hbar \langle \underline{p} \rangle$$

$$\frac{d\langle \underline{x} \rangle}{dt} = \frac{\langle \underline{p} \rangle}{m} \quad \left(\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{p}{m} \text{ is classical equation} \right)$$

\Rightarrow what holds for classical variables holds for EXPECTATION VALUES in QM.

$$\boxed{\Omega = p}$$

\Rightarrow expect, $\frac{dp}{dt} = -\frac{dV}{dx}$ (classical)

so, $\frac{d\langle p \rangle}{dt} = -\langle \frac{dV}{dx} \rangle$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \underline{p} \rangle = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [\underline{p}, \underline{H}] \rangle = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \left(\underbrace{\langle [\underline{p}, \frac{\underline{p}^2}{2m}] \rangle}_0 + \langle [\underline{p}, V(\underline{x})] \rangle \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 [p, V(x)] |\psi\rangle &\doteq \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d}{dx} V(x) \psi(x) - V(x) \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d}{dx} \psi(x) \\
 &= \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{dV}{dx} \psi + \frac{\hbar}{i} V \frac{d\psi}{dx} - V \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d\psi}{dx} \\
 &= \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{dV}{dx} |\psi\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

so, $\frac{d}{dt} \langle p \rangle = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle \frac{dV}{dx} \rangle = - \langle \frac{dV}{dx} \rangle$

as expected.

$$\langle \underline{H} \rangle = \underline{H}$$

suppose \underline{H} = independent of time

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \underline{H} \rangle = \frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [\underline{H}, \underline{H}] \rangle = 0$$

mean energy of system is conserved.

However, it appears sometimes that energy is not conserved in specific cases. Usually this kind of apparent situation results from interaction of measurement apparatus with the system, or, broadly, the focusing on a subsystem instead of the entire system.