

Thurs 4 Feb 98

LAST WEEK I derived Schrödinger eqn

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x^2} + V\Psi.$$

from Energy Conservation:

$$\hat{E}\Psi = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m}\Psi + \hat{V}\Psi. \quad \text{Now derive momentum operator } \hat{p}$$

Now the Schrödinger equation says that

$$\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{i}{\hbar} V\Psi, \quad [1.23]$$

and hence also (taking the complex conjugate of Equation 1.23)

$$\frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial t} = -\frac{i\hbar}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi^*}{\partial x^2} + \frac{i}{\hbar} V\Psi^*, \quad [1.24]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\Psi^* \Psi| &= \Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial t} \Psi \\ &= \left(\frac{i\hbar}{2m} \Psi^* \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{i}{\hbar} \Psi^* V\Psi \right) + \left(-\frac{i\hbar}{2m} \Psi \frac{\partial^2 \Psi^*}{\partial x^2} + \frac{i}{\hbar} \Psi V\Psi^* \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi^2 = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x^2} - \Psi \frac{\partial^2 \Psi^*}{\partial x^2} \right)$$

so

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\Psi|^2 = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \Psi^*}{\partial x^2} \Psi \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi \right) \right] \quad [1.25]$$

The integral (Equation 1.21) can now be evaluated explicitly:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\Psi(x, t)|^2 dx = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi \right) \Big|_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \quad [1.26]$$

But $\Psi(x, t)$ must go to zero as x goes to (\pm) infinity—otherwise the wave function would not be normalizable. It follows that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\Psi(x, t)|^2 dx = 0, \quad [1.27]$$

and hence that the integral on the left is *constant* (independent of time); if Ψ is normalized at $t = 0$, it *stays* normalized for all future time. QED

state Ψ , the expectation value of x is

$$\langle x \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x |\Psi(x, t)|^2 dx.$$

[1.28]

might be interested in knowing how fast it moves. Referring to Equations 1.28, we see that⁹

$$\frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt} = \int x \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\Psi|^2 dx = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \int x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi \right) dx. \quad [1.29]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(fg) = f \frac{dg}{dx} + \frac{df}{dx} g.$$

IBP

$$\int_a^b f \frac{dg}{dx} dx = - \int_a^b \frac{df}{dx} g dx + fg \Big|_a^b.$$

Equation can be simplified using integration by parts¹⁰:

$$\begin{aligned} \int x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi \right) dx &= \int f \frac{dg}{dx} dx \\ &= - \int \frac{df}{dx} g dx \\ &= - \int \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi \right) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt} = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left[- \int \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi \right) dx \right]$$

$$\frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt} = - \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \int \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi \right) dx. \quad [1.30]$$

$$\frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt} = - \frac{i\hbar}{m} \int \Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} dx.$$

the fact that $\partial x / \partial x = 1$, and throw away the boundary term, on the ground goes to zero at (\pm) infinity.] Performing another integration by parts on the term, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi dx &= \int \Psi \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} dx = \\ &= - \int \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} \Psi^* dx + \Psi \Psi^* \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} \Psi \right) dx &= \int \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} + \Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} \right) dx = 2 \int \Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt} = - \frac{i\hbar}{2m} 2 \int \Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} dx = - \frac{i\hbar}{m} \int \Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} dx$$

3

$$\langle v \rangle = \frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt}. \quad [1.32]$$

tells us, then, how to calculate $\langle v \rangle$ directly from Ψ .
it is customary to work with momentum ($p = mv$), rather than ve-

$$\langle p \rangle = m \frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt} = -i\hbar \int \left(\Psi^* \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} \right) dx. \quad [1.33]$$