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Chapter 6

## Equations of Motion, Classical limit &amp;

Ex-2 WKB (Wentzel-Kramers-Brillouin) approximation  
Heisenberg picture v.s. Schrödinger picture

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \hat{U}(t, t_0) |\psi(t_0)\rangle$$

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = \left( i\hbar \frac{d\hat{U}(t, t_0)}{dt} \right) |\psi(t_0)\rangle$$

$$\longleftarrow = \hat{H} |\psi(t)\rangle$$

$$= \hat{H} \hat{U}(t, t_0) |\psi(t_0)\rangle$$

$$\therefore i\hbar \frac{d\hat{U}(t, t_0)}{dt} = \hat{H} \hat{U}(t, t_0) \quad -i\hbar \frac{d\hat{U}^\dagger}{dt} = \hat{U}^\dagger \hat{H}$$

If  $H$  is independent of  $t$ ,  $\hat{U} = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}(t-t_0)}$

$$\therefore |\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}t} |\psi(0)\rangle$$

Consider an operator  $\hat{A}$  (no explicit  $t$  dependence,  
 e.g.  $\hat{A} = \hat{X}$ , or  $\hat{P}$ , ...) )

$$\langle \hat{A} \rangle_t \equiv \langle \psi(t) | \hat{A} | \psi(t) \rangle \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{Schrödinger picture} \\ \psi(t) \end{array}$$

Heisenberg:

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \psi(t) \\ A \text{ indept. of } t. \end{array} \right\}$

$$\langle \hat{A} \rangle_t = \langle \psi(t) | \hat{A} | \psi(t) \rangle$$

$$= \langle \psi(0) | e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}t} \hat{A} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}t} | \psi(0) \rangle$$

Can define  $A(t) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}t} \hat{A} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H}t} \Rightarrow$  time-dependent

use  $|\psi(0)\rangle \leftarrow$  indept. of  $t$ .

In Schrödinger picture

$|\psi(t)\rangle$  carries the time-dependence  
 One needs the equation of motion for  $|\psi(t)\rangle$ ,  
 which is the Schrödinger eq.

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H} |\psi(t)\rangle$$

In the Heisenberg picture

more general

$$A_H(t) = U^\dagger(t, 0) A U(t, 0)$$

$$A_H(t) \equiv e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} H t} A e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} H t} \quad \text{carries the time dependence.}$$

$\uparrow$   
 $A_S$

One needs the equation of motion for  $\hat{A}_H(t)$

$$\frac{dA_H(t)}{dt} = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} H t} \left[ \frac{i}{\hbar} H A_S - \frac{i}{\hbar} A_S H \right] e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} H t}$$

$$+ e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} H t} \frac{dA_S}{dt} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} H t}$$

$$= \frac{i}{\hbar} [H, A_H(t)] + \frac{dA_H}{dt}$$

Remarks (i)  $[f(A)]_H = f(A_H)$

e.g.  $f(A) = A^2$

$$e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} H t} f(A) e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} H t} = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} H t} A e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} H t} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} H t} A e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} H t}$$

$$= A_H^2$$

(ii)  $H_H = H_S \equiv H$

(iii)  $\frac{d}{dt} A_H(t)$  and  $\frac{dA_H}{dt}$  are different, while

$$\frac{dA_S}{dt} = \frac{dA}{dt} :$$

example.  $A_S = X_S^2 \cos \omega t$ , in Schrödinger picture  
 $X_S$  is independent of  $t$

$$\therefore \frac{dA_S}{dt} = -\omega X_S^2 \sin \omega t = \frac{dA}{dt}$$

But in Heisenberg picture,  $A_H = X_H^2 \cos \omega t$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dA_H}{dt} &= \frac{dX_H}{dt} X_H \cos \omega t + X_H \frac{dX_H}{dt} \cos \omega t - \omega \sin \omega t X_H^2 \\ &= \left\{ \frac{i}{\hbar} [H, X_H] X_H + \frac{i}{\hbar} X_H [H, X_H] \right\} \cos \omega t - \omega \sin \omega t X_H^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{i}{\hbar} [H, A_H] \cos \omega t - \omega \sin \omega t X_H^2$$

$$\frac{dA_H}{dt} = -\omega \sin \omega t X_H^2$$

### \* Ehrenfest theorem

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle A \rangle = \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [H, A] \rangle + \left\langle \frac{dA}{dt} \right\rangle$$

This is independent of which picture we use.

Consequence & examples:

(i)  $[H, A] = 0$ ,  $A$  independent of time.

$$\frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} = 0 \quad \langle A \rangle = \text{constant (time-indep.)}$$

$\therefore$  initially, if  $|\psi\rangle$  is an eigenket of  $A$ ,

$\langle A \rangle = a$ , ( $a = \text{eigenvalue}$ ),  $|\psi(t)\rangle$  will always  
 be the eigenket of  $A$ !

(ii)

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

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

$$= \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [\frac{p^2}{2m}, x] \rangle$$

$$= \langle \frac{p}{m} \rangle \Leftrightarrow \text{classical } m \frac{dx}{dt} = p$$

$$\begin{aligned} [p^2, x] &= -2i\hbar p \\ &\stackrel{\text{more generally}}{=} \langle \frac{dH(x,p)}{dp} \rangle \Leftrightarrow \text{classical } \dot{x} = \frac{dH}{dp} \\ &\stackrel{x=i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}}{=} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d\langle p \rangle}{dt} = \frac{i}{\hbar} \langle [U(x), p] \rangle$$

$$= - \langle \frac{dU(x)}{dx} \rangle \left[ = - \langle \frac{dH}{dx} \rangle \text{ more generally} \right]$$

When  $\langle \frac{dU(x)}{dx} \rangle \approx \frac{dV(\langle x \rangle)}{d\langle x \rangle} \dots \dots \textcircled{1}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d\langle p \rangle}{dt} = - \frac{dV(\langle x \rangle)}{d\langle x \rangle} \Leftrightarrow \text{classical } \frac{dp}{dt} = - \frac{dU}{dx}$$

Example: suppose  $U(x) = 0$  (free particle)

$$\frac{d\langle p \rangle}{dt} = 0 \quad \langle p \rangle = \text{constant fixed}$$

but  $\langle p^2 \rangle$  is not as shown in exercises.

( $\langle p(t) \rangle$  is a function of  $t$ .)

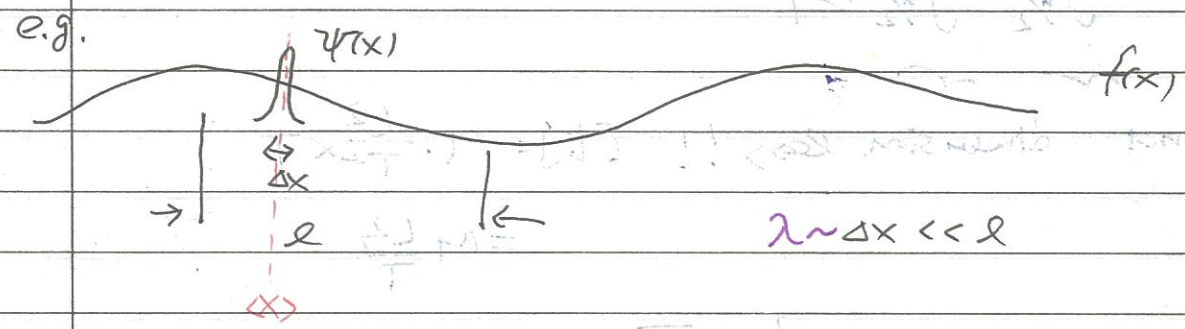
But when is  $\textcircled{1}$  valid? i.e. when do we recover classical results (classical limit is valid).

To answer this question, we ~~must~~ realize that we are essentially asking when

$$\langle f(x) \rangle \approx f(\langle x \rangle) ?$$

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Since  $\langle f(x) \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx |\psi(x)|^2 f(x)$ , it is obvious that this is true when  $\Delta x$  of  $\psi(x) \ll$  the spatial variation length of  $f(x)$ .



$\langle f(x) \rangle \sim f(\langle x \rangle)$  The above is for mean value only!

How can a macroscopic particle be described by classical mechanics?

first: we have to prepare an initial state resembling the state of classical Mech.

i.e. well defined  $x$  &  $p$ .

But this is impossible in Q.M. The best one can do is to prepare a state with

$\langle x \rangle = x_0, \langle p \rangle = p_0$  and  $\Delta x = \Delta$  &  $\Delta p = \frac{\hbar}{\Delta}$  as small as possible.

$\psi \sim \left(\frac{1}{\pi \Delta^2}\right)^{1/4} e^{\frac{i p_0 x}{\hbar}} e^{-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{2\Delta^2}}$

$\hbar \sim 1 \times 10^{-27}$  dyne-sec

$\Delta$  in cm       $\Delta p$  in g cm/sec      dimension not right?

try to make  $\Delta + \frac{\hbar}{\Delta}$  min  $\therefore \Delta \approx \sqrt{\hbar}$

$\Delta \approx 10^{-13}$  cm (IF)       $\Delta p \approx 10^{14}$  g cm/sec

far below experimental detectable range!

mass = g       $\Delta v \sim 10^{14}$  cm/sec

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$$\checkmark \Delta(t) = \Delta \sqrt{1 + \frac{\hbar^2 t^2}{m^2 \Delta^2}} \sim 1 \text{ mm} \quad t \sim 310^6 \text{ year!}$$

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~~due to  $\hbar$  is very small~~

i.e., the experimental determined  $H$  is an averaged version of true  $\hat{H}$ . The averaged length scale

$$\gg \Delta x, \Delta p$$

In other words, in the classical scale, the  $\psi$  has well-defined  $x$  &  $p$  at  $x_0$  &  $p_0$ .

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial H(x,p)}{\partial p} \right\rangle \approx \frac{\partial H(x_0, p_0)}{\partial p_0}$$

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial H(x,p)}{\partial x} \right\rangle \approx \frac{\partial H(x_0, p_0)}{\partial x_0}$$

$$\therefore \frac{d\langle x \rangle}{dt} = \left\langle \frac{\partial H(x,p)}{\partial p} \right\rangle$$

reduces to  $\dot{x}_0 \approx \frac{\partial H(x_0, p_0)}{\partial p_0}$

while  $\frac{d\langle p \rangle}{dt} = - \left\langle \frac{\partial H(x,p)}{\partial x} \right\rangle$

reduces to  $\dot{p}_0 \approx - \frac{\partial H(x_0, p_0)}{\partial x_0}$

the equality holds when  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ . This statement is generally true as we'll show it when discussing the path integral method.

WKB approximation (semi-classical approximation) [§ 16.2] path integral method

idea:

If  $V = \text{const}$ , we have  $\psi(x) = \psi(0) e^{\pm i p x / \hbar}$

$$p = \sqrt{2m(E-U)} \quad E > 0$$

to be true  $\Rightarrow + \leftarrow$  ,  $- \rightarrow$  ( $\omega = \frac{E}{\hbar}$ )

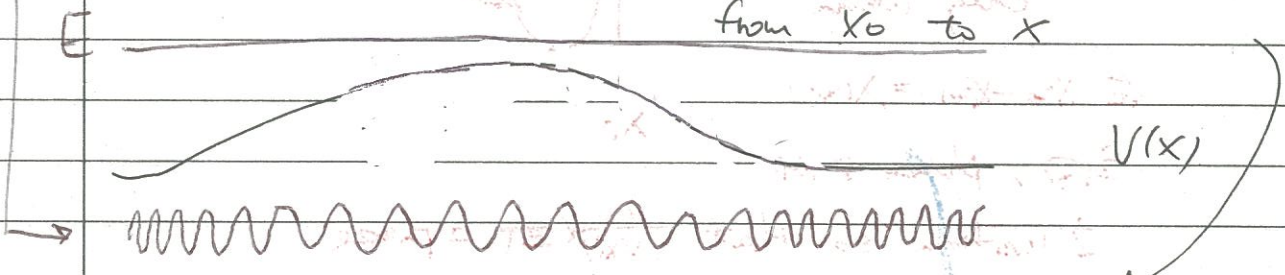
$$\lambda = \frac{2\pi\hbar}{p} = \frac{h}{p}$$

Now, suppose  $V(x)$  varies slowly, then

We expect  $\lambda \rightarrow \lambda(x) = \frac{2\pi\hbar}{p(x)} = \frac{2\pi\hbar}{\sqrt{2m(E-U(x))}}$   
 =  $|\psi(x_0)| e^{i\alpha(x_0) + i \text{ accumulated phase from } x_0 \rightarrow x}$

$$\psi(x) = \psi(x_0) \exp \left[ \frac{\pm i}{\hbar} \int_{x_0}^x p(x') dx' \right]$$

accumulated phase shift from  $x_0$  to  $x$



Amplitude fixed

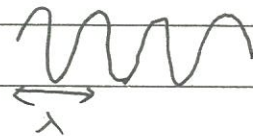
$$\frac{1}{\hbar} p(x) dx = \frac{2\pi dx}{\lambda(x)}$$

Heuristic argument for validity

For  $\lambda(x)$  to be well-defined, the change of  $\lambda$  over a period ( $\lambda$ )  $\equiv \delta\lambda$  should be  $\ll \lambda$

i.e.  $\left| \frac{\delta\lambda}{\lambda} \right| \ll 1 \quad \therefore \delta\lambda = \frac{d\lambda}{dx} \cdot \lambda$

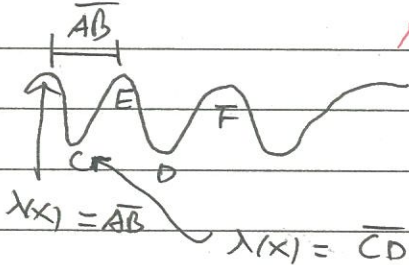
$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{d\lambda}{dx} \right| \ll 1$$



$\overline{AB} = \overline{CD}$

$2\pi \frac{dx}{\lambda(x)}$  then

describes the phase shift due to  $dx$



$$\lambda(xE) = \overline{EF}$$

$$\lambda(x) \ll \left| \frac{E-U(x)}{\frac{dU}{dx}} \right| \leftarrow \text{Characteristic length of } \frac{V(x)}{V'(x)}$$

Theorize the idea:

(see over)

$$\left[ \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (E-U(x)) \right] \psi(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[ \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{p(x)^2}{\hbar^2} \right] \psi(x) = 0, \text{ we now write } \psi(x) = e^{i\phi(x)}$$

$\phi(x)$  needs not to be real!

$\phi(x)$  satisfies

i.e.  $i\hbar\phi''(x) - \phi'^2 + p^2 = 0$

$$-\left(\frac{\phi'(x)}{\hbar}\right)^2 + \frac{i\phi'}{\hbar} + \frac{p^2(x)}{\hbar^2} = 0 \dots \textcircled{1}$$

$$\therefore \lambda(x) = \frac{2\pi\hbar}{p(x)} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \hbar \rightarrow 0,$$

$\therefore$  at  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\lambda(x)$  is small compared to any finite variations of  $U(x)$  !!

One thus expects  $\hbar$  is the parameter to expand,

$\therefore$  we expand (treat  $\hbar$  as small variable even though  $\hbar$  is a const.)  $\phi(x) = \phi_0(x) + \hbar\phi_1(x) + \hbar^2\phi_2(x) + \dots$   
 $\hookrightarrow$  as long as  $O(\hbar^n) = 0$ ,  $\leftarrow$  is satisfied!  $\textcircled{2}$

Substitute  $\textcircled{2}$  into  $\textcircled{1}$ ,

$$O(\hbar^0) \Rightarrow \phi_0'^2 + p^2(x) = 0 \quad \phi_0'(x) = \pm p(x) \downarrow$$

$$\therefore \phi_0 = \pm \int^x p(x') dx' \quad \text{反之不復:}$$

$$\textcircled{1} = 0$$

$$\therefore \psi(x) = A \exp \left[ \pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int^x p(x') dx' \right] = ( ) + \hbar ( ) + \dots + \hbar^2 \dots$$

$$= \psi(x_0) \exp \left[ \pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{x_0}^x p(x') dx' \right] \text{ doesn't imply}$$

which recovers the previous result.

$$O(\hbar) \quad i\hbar\phi_0'' - 2\hbar\phi_0'\phi_1' = 0$$

$$\therefore i\phi_0'' = 2\phi_0'\phi_1'$$

$$\frac{(\phi_0')'}{\phi_0'} = -2i\phi_1' \Rightarrow \ln \phi_0' = -2i\phi_1 + C$$

$$\phi_1 = i \ln (\phi_0')^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{C}{2i} = C' + i \ln p^{\frac{1}{2}}$$



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$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \psi(x) &= e^{-i\frac{\phi(x)}{\hbar}} \approx e^{-i\frac{\phi(x)}{\hbar} + i\phi(x)} \\ &= A e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \int^x p(x') dx'} \exp\left[\pm i \int^x p(x') dx'\right] \\ &= \frac{A}{\sqrt{p(x)}} \exp\left[\frac{\pm i}{\hbar} \int^x p(x') dx'\right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\psi(x_0) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{p(x_0)}} \exp\left[\frac{\pm i}{\hbar} \int^{x_0} p(x') dx'\right]$$

$$\psi(x) = \psi(x_0) \sqrt{\frac{p(x_0)}{p(x)}} \exp\left[\frac{\pm i}{\hbar} \int_{x_0}^x p(x') dx'\right]$$

WKB Approximation!  $\uparrow$   $p(x)$  can be imaginary!

argument for  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{p(x)}}$ :

classically,

$$\text{Probability at } x \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{p(x)}} \sim \frac{1}{p(x)}$$

$$\therefore \psi(x) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{p(x)}}!$$

Validity of WKB approximation

$$i\hbar \phi'' - \phi'^2 + p^2 = (p^2 - \phi_0'^2) + i\hbar (\phi_0'' - 2\phi_0'\phi_1') + \dots = 0$$

expansion is valid if

$$(p^2 - \phi_0'^2) \gg \hbar (\phi_0'' - 2\phi_0'\phi_1')$$

take  $\phi_0'^2$  as a measure of  $p^2 - \phi_0'^2$

$\phi_0''$  as " of  $\phi_0'' - 2\phi_0'\phi_1'$

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or from eq. ①  
 $|\frac{1}{2}\phi'| \ll \phi'^2$

Obviously,  $\hbar \ll \lambda$  near turning point  
 $(\frac{1}{\sqrt{p(x)}} = \infty)$

$$\phi_0'^2 \gg |\frac{1}{2}\phi_0''|$$

i.e.  $|\frac{\hbar \frac{d\phi_0'}{dx}}{\phi_0'^2}| \ll 1$

$$|\frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{d\phi_0'}{dx}| \ll 1$$

$$|\frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{d\sqrt{p(x)}}{dx}| \ll 1 \Rightarrow \left\{ \frac{1}{2\pi} \left| \frac{d\lambda}{dx} \right| \ll 1 \right.$$

$$\frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m(E-V(x))}} \ll \frac{2(E-V(x))}{|\frac{dV(x)}{dx}|}$$

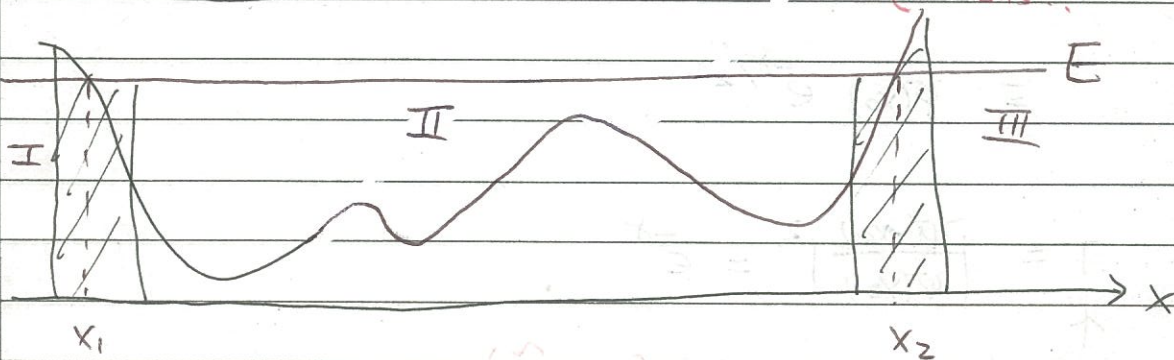
$$\parallel \frac{\lambda(x)}{2\pi}$$

Characteristic Variation Length of $V(x)$
----------------------------------------------------

agree with the heuristic argument  
 $\Rightarrow$  tunneling Amplitude see over

Bound states

for bound state  
 $\boxed{\hbar \gg \lambda}$  guarantees this!!



$x_1, x_2 =$  turning points

WKB region

I  $\psi(x) \sim \frac{A}{\sqrt{2m(V(x)-E)}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left[\frac{1}{\hbar} \int^x \sqrt{2m(V(x')-E)} dx'\right]$

III  $\psi(x) \sim \frac{A}{\sqrt{2m(V(x)-E)}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left[\frac{-1}{\hbar} \int^x \sqrt{2m(V(x')-E)} dx'\right]$

II:  $\psi(x) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{p(x)}} \cos\left[\frac{1}{\hbar} \int^x p(x') dx' + B\right]$

$\boxed{A, B = \text{Real}}$

$\left[ \frac{1}{2} \right]$  region:  $E \approx V(x)$ ,  $\lambda(x) = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2m(E-V(x))}} \rightarrow \infty$

there,  $\lambda(x) \ll \frac{2(E-V(x))}{\left| \frac{dV(x)}{dx} \right|}$  is not valid!

$\therefore$  WKB is not valid!

Need to solve Schrödinger equation directly:  
(no free lunch!)

but  $\because V(x) \approx V(x_i) + V'(x_i)(x-x_i)$   $(i=1,2)$   
 $= E + V'(x_i)(x-x_i)$

$\Rightarrow$  we can solve for linear potential.

Results:

near  $x_1^+$ :  $B = -\frac{\pi}{4}$

$$\psi_{II}(x) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{p(x)}} \cos \left[ \frac{1}{h} \int_{x_1}^x p(x') dx' - \frac{\pi}{4} \right]$$

near  $x_2^-$ ,  $B = \frac{\pi}{4}$

$$\psi_{II}(x) = \frac{A'}{\sqrt{p(x)}} \cos \left[ \frac{1}{h} \int_{x_2}^x p(x') dx' + \frac{\pi}{4} \right]$$

To be self consistent,  $\psi_{II}(x)$  single value over

$$|A| = |A'|$$

$$\frac{1}{h} \int_{x_1}^x p(x') dx' - \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{1}{h} \int_{x_2}^x p(x') dx' + \frac{\pi}{4} + n\pi$$

$n = \text{odd}$ ,  $A' = -A$

$n = \text{even}$ ,  $A' = A$

Theorem: regarding  $x \rightarrow z$  if  $V(z)$  is entire

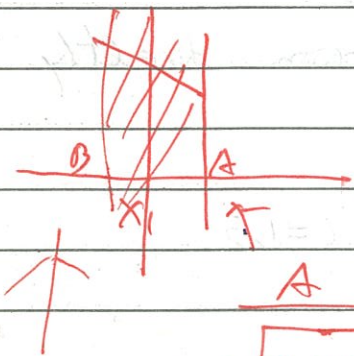
$\psi(z)$  has to be an entire function

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Quick way to understand  $\pm \frac{\pi}{4}$

Imagine that we can analytically continue

$x \rightarrow$  complex plane so that we can avoid  $(x_1, 0)$



$$\frac{A}{\sqrt{2m(B-V(x))}} \left[ e^{\frac{i}{h} \int^x \sqrt{2m(E-V(x))} dx + i\pi B} + e^{\frac{i}{h} \int^x \sqrt{2m(E-V(x))} dx - i\pi B} \right]$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2m(V(x)-E)}} e^{\frac{i}{h} \int^x \sqrt{2m(V(x)-E)} dx}$$

when we go from  $x_A$  to  $x_B$

$$\sqrt{2m(B-V(x))} \rightarrow \sqrt{2m(V(x)-E)}$$

$$\therefore \left( \sqrt{2m(B-V(x))} \right)^{1/2} \rightarrow \left( \sqrt{2m(V(x)-E)} \right)^{1/2} e^{-\frac{i}{h} \pi}$$

dominant one  
(see Griffiths book page 211-221)

$\notin \mathbb{R}$   
required coeff  $\rightarrow$

also imply

$$I = \frac{2A}{\sqrt{p(x)}} e^{\frac{i}{h} \int^x p(x) dx}$$

$$II = \frac{2A}{\sqrt{p(x)}} \cos\left(\frac{i}{h} \int^x p(x) dx - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) \therefore B = -\frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\frac{II}{I} = \frac{A}{\sqrt{p(x)}} e^{-\frac{i}{h} \int^x p(x) dx}$$

$$e^{\frac{i}{h} \int^x \dots - i\pi B}$$

$$\therefore B + \frac{\pi}{4} = 0$$

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meaning  $p = \frac{2\pi\hbar}{\lambda} \Rightarrow \frac{2\pi (1/2)x_1}{\lambda} = (n+1/2)\pi$

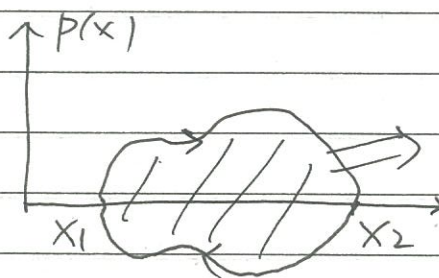
$2L = (n+1/2)\lambda n \Rightarrow$  see over

$\Rightarrow \int_{x_1}^{x_2} p(x') dx' = \hbar (n+1/2) \pi$

i.e.  $\int_{x_1}^{x_2} p(x') dx' + \int_{x_2}^{x_1} p(x') (-dx') = 2\hbar (n+1/2)\pi$

$\therefore \oint p(x) dx = (n+1/2)h, n \uparrow, p \uparrow, \lambda \downarrow$

$\therefore \lambda <$  characteristic length of  $V$  is satisfied!



Area is quantized:

# of states belonging to the phase space volume  $\Delta x \Delta p = \frac{\Delta x \Delta p}{2\pi\hbar}$   
( $2\pi\hbar = h$ )

$\sim$  Old quantum theory by Sommerfeld & W. Wilson

( $n+1/2 \rightarrow n$ ), 19 15 (resulting from  $\pm \frac{\pi}{4}$ !)

$\therefore p = \sqrt{2m(E - V(x))} \Rightarrow E$  is quantized:  $E_n$ !

Example: Simple harmonic oscillator (Ex 16.2.4)

$E = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}Kx^2 \quad \frac{K}{m} = \omega^2$

$p = \sqrt{2m(E - \frac{1}{2}Kx^2)} \quad x_1 = -\left(\frac{2E}{K}\right)^{1/2}$

$x_2 = \sqrt{\frac{2E}{K}}$

$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} p(x) dx = \sqrt{2mE} \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{K}{2E}x^2} dx$

$= 2\sqrt{\frac{m}{K}} E \int_{-1}^1 \sqrt{1-y^2} dy = \frac{2E}{\omega} \int_{-1}^1 \sqrt{1-y^2} dy$

$= \frac{\pi E}{\omega} = \pi \hbar (n+1/2), \therefore E_n = \hbar \omega (n+1/2)$  exact!!! Angel

Revise 2005

Validity of WKB approximation:

Recall that  $i\hbar\phi'' - \phi'^2 + p^2 = 0$

$$\therefore \phi'^2 - i\hbar\phi'' = p^2$$

RHS is independent of  $\phi$ . For LHS, we

do the expansion:

$$\phi'^2 - i\hbar\phi'' = \phi_0'^2 - i\hbar(\phi_0'' - 2\phi_0'\phi_1') + \dots$$

the expansion is valid if

$$|\hbar\phi_0''| \ll |\phi_0'^2| \quad \dots \textcircled{1}$$

$$\& \quad \hbar|\phi_0'\phi_1'| \ll |\phi_0'^2| \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hbar\phi_1' \ll |\phi_0'| = p(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \hbar \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}} \frac{d\sqrt{p}}{dx} < p$$

Now  $\textcircled{1}$  implies  $|\hbar\phi_0''| \ll |\phi_0'|^2$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{\hbar}{p} \frac{dp}{dx} < p$$

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \left| \hbar \frac{d\phi_0'}{dx} \right| \ll 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \hbar \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{p(x)} \right) < 1$$

With the solution,  $\phi_0' = \pm p(x)$

same!

$$\text{we get} \quad \left| \hbar \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{p(x)} \right) \right| \ll 1$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{\lambda} \left| \frac{d\lambda}{dx} \right| \ll 1$$

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No.

Date

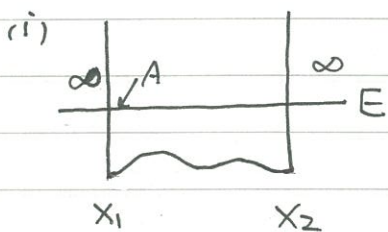
1.

Remark: the quantization rule  $\int_{x_1}^{x_2} p(x') dx' = \hbar n \pi (n + \frac{1}{2})$

only applies to smooth potential such that

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d\lambda}{dx} \ll 1 \quad \text{where} \quad \frac{\lambda(x)}{2\pi} = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m(E-U(x))}}$$

It doesn't apply to <sup>vibrant</sup> potentials such as:



or (ii)



However, near the point with  $\infty$  potential (e.g. point A)

$$\lambda(x) = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2\pi(E-U(x))}} = \text{finite}, \text{ there is actually no}$$

intersection of  $E$  &  $U(x)$ !  $\therefore$  WKB approximation

is valid down to the  $\infty$  points!

$$\therefore \text{For (i)} \quad \psi(x) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{p(x)}} \cos \left[ \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{x_1}^x p(x') dx' + B \right]$$

$$\psi(x_1) = \psi(x_2) = 0, \quad B = \frac{1}{2}\pi, \quad \int_{x_1}^{x_2} p(x') dx = \hbar n \pi, \quad n=1,2,3,\dots$$

$$* \text{ if } U=0 \quad x_1 < x < x_2, \quad \sqrt{2mE}(x_2-x_1) = n\pi\hbar \Rightarrow E = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2m(x_2-x_1)^2}$$

$$(ii) \quad \psi(x) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{p(x)}} \cos \left[ \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{x_2}^x p(x') dx' + \frac{\pi}{4} \right]$$

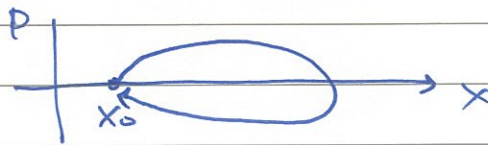
$$\psi(x_1) = 0 \quad \therefore \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{x_2}^{x_1} p(x') dx' + \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{2n-1}{2} \pi, \quad n=1,2,\dots$$

$$\therefore \int_{x_1}^{x_2} p(x') dx' = \hbar (n - \frac{1}{4}) \pi, \quad n=1,2,3,\dots$$

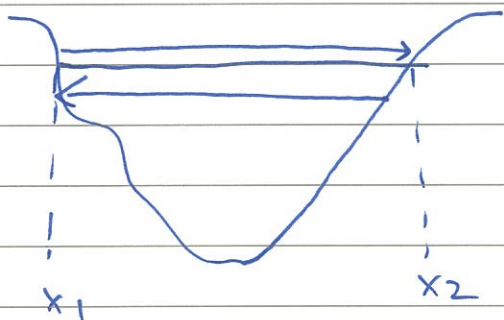
Meaning of  $\oint p(x) dx = (n + 1/2) \cdot h$ .

wavefunction is single-valued.

$\therefore$  Starting from  $x_0$

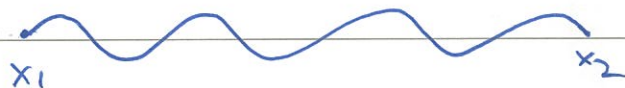


the accumulated phase  $\oint = 2\pi \times n!$



Now,  $\oint_{x_1 \rightarrow x_2} \stackrel{\text{accumulated}}{\neq} \text{phase}$

$$= \frac{1}{h} \int_{x_1}^{x_2} p(x) dx \quad (= K(x_2 - x_1) \text{ if } p = \text{const})$$



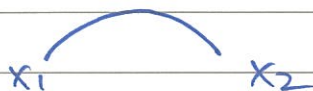
② 同理,  $x_2 \rightarrow x_1 \neq$  a accumulated phase ( $> 0$ )

$$= \frac{1}{h} \int_{x_1}^{x_2} p(x') dx' \text{ too!}$$

$$= \frac{1}{h} \int_{x_2}^{x_1} (-p(x)) dx \quad (p(x) \text{ is reversed})$$

(Note that  $\neq \frac{1}{h} \int_{x_2}^{x_1} p(x') dx'$ . For example:

(i)

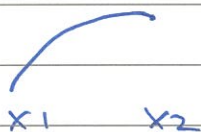


$$x_1 \rightarrow x_2 = \frac{\Delta}{2} = \pi$$

$$x_2 \rightarrow x_1 \text{ (if } x_2 \neq 0) : \text{also } \frac{\Delta}{2} = \pi$$

$\therefore$  total phase accumulated  $= 2\pi$

(ii)



$$x_1 \rightarrow x_2 = \frac{\Delta}{4} = \pi/2$$

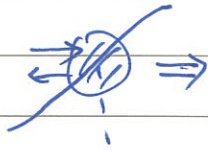
$$x_2 \rightarrow x_1 = \frac{\Delta}{4} = \pi/2$$

} total  $= \pi$

} not allowed!



turning phase :



$$e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{x_2}^x p(x') dx'} + \frac{\pi}{4} i + e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{x_2}^x p(x') dx'} - \frac{\pi}{4} i$$

$$= e^{+i k y + \frac{\pi}{4} i} + e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} k y - \frac{\pi}{4} i}$$

$$y = \cancel{x - x_2} \quad \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \text{向右} \lambda \text{射} \\ \text{outgoing} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \text{向左} \\ \text{incoming} \end{array}$$

(essentially  $k \rightarrow -k$ )

$$\therefore \text{turning phase} = \frac{\pi}{4} - (-\frac{\pi}{4}) = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$\lambda \text{射} \quad \text{反射}$

another view:  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{p(x)}} \rightarrow +\frac{1}{\sqrt{-p(x)}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{p(x)}} e^{-i\pi/2}$



$$e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{x_1}^x p(x') dx'} - \frac{\pi}{4} i + e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{x_1}^x p(x') dx'} + \frac{\pi}{4} i$$

$$= e^{+i k z - \frac{\pi}{4} i} + e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} k z + \frac{\pi}{4} i}$$

$\downarrow \text{向右} \quad \text{向右}$

$$z = \cancel{x - x_1} \quad (\text{or see } k \rightarrow -k) \quad \lambda \text{射}$$

z

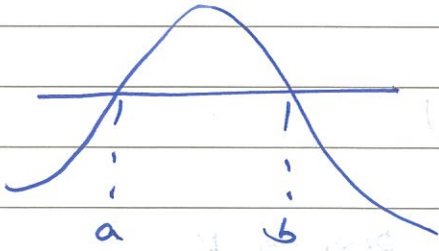
$$\text{turning phase} = \frac{\pi}{4} - (-\frac{\pi}{4}) = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$\lambda \text{射} \quad \text{反射}$

$$\therefore \frac{\pi}{2} x_2 + \frac{i}{\hbar} \oint p(x') dx' = 2\pi n$$

$$\oint p(x') dx' = (n + \frac{1}{2}) h \quad (h - \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow n + \frac{1}{2})$$

# Application to tunneling



I      II      III

transmission

$$\text{III} \quad \psi(x) = \frac{t}{\sqrt{p(x)}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_b^x (p(x') dx') - \frac{\pi}{4}}$$

$$\text{II} : \quad \psi(x) = \frac{t}{\sqrt{p(x)}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_x^b (p(x') dx')}$$

$$= \frac{t}{\sqrt{p(x)}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_a^b (p(x') dx')} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_a^x (p(x') dx')}$$

$$\text{I} : \quad \psi(x) = 2 \frac{t}{\sqrt{p(x)}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_a^b (p(x') dx')} \cos\left(\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_a^x p(x') dx' + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

↑  
coming from turning point

~~incident flux =  $\frac{\hbar^2}{p(x)} e^{\frac{2}{\hbar} \int_a^b (p(x') dx')}$~~

Now, assuming  $x \ll a$ ,  $V \sim 0 \Rightarrow p(x) \rightarrow k = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$

$x \gg b$ ,  $V \sim 0 \Rightarrow p(x) \rightarrow k = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$

$\therefore \frac{1}{\sqrt{p(x)}}$  is the same, and can be dropped

$\rightarrow$  or assuming  $\frac{V \rightarrow 0}{V \rightarrow \infty} \rightarrow 1 \therefore p(x \rightarrow \infty) = p(x \rightarrow -\infty)$

$$\cos\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_a^x p(x') dx' + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

$$\rightarrow e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_a^x p(x') dx' + \frac{\pi}{4}i} \quad (\text{incident})$$

$$\text{flux, } \nabla\psi \Rightarrow \nabla \int_a^x p(x') dx' = p(x) \rightarrow k$$

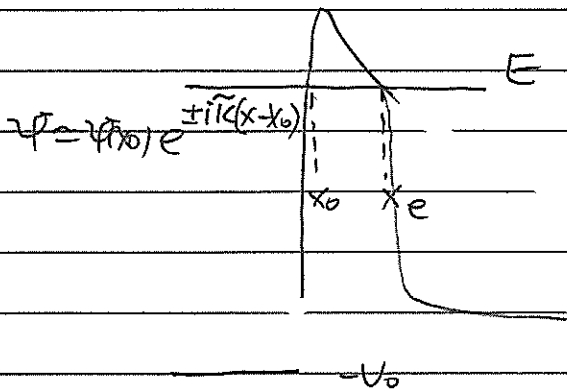
$$\Rightarrow \therefore \text{incident flux} = |t|^2 e^{\frac{2i}{\hbar} \int_a^b p(x') dx'} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}\right)^2 \times k \quad \textcircled{1}$$

transmission

$$\text{flux} = |t|^2 \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}\right)^2 k \quad \textcircled{2}$$

$$\therefore T = \frac{\textcircled{2}}{\textcircled{1}} = e^{-\frac{2}{\hbar} \int_a^b p(x') dx'}$$

## Tunneling Amplitude



$$\psi = \psi(x_e) e^{i k(x-x_e)}$$

$$k = \frac{1}{\hbar} \sqrt{E - 2m}$$

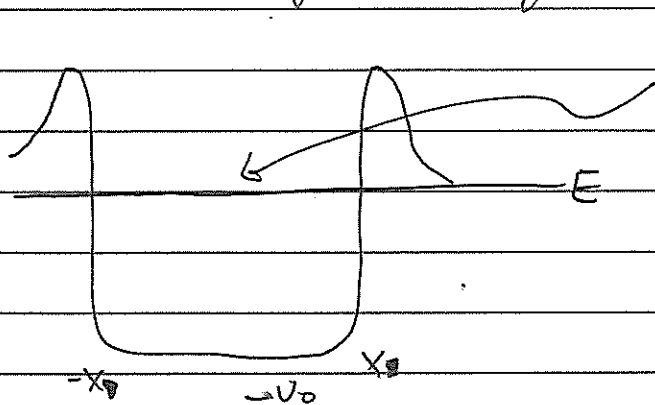
$$\tilde{k} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \sqrt{2m(V_0 + E)}$$

$$\psi(x_e) = \psi(x_0) \exp\left[-\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{x_0}^{x_e} \sqrt{2m[V(x) - E]} dx\right]$$

$$\equiv \psi(x_0) e^{-\delta/2}$$

$$\therefore T = \left| \frac{\psi(x_e)}{\psi(x_0)} \right|^2 = e^{-\delta}$$

↑  
tunneling probability (if  $k = \tilde{k}$ )



$$v = \frac{\hbar k}{m}$$

frequency of collision  
with the barrier

$$= \frac{v}{2x_1}$$

$$\therefore R \text{ (escaping rate)} = \frac{v}{2x_1} e^{-\delta}$$

$$\tau \equiv \text{life time} = \frac{1}{R}$$