

Basic Quantum Mechanics
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Module No.# 04
Simple Applications of Schrodinger Equation
Lecture No. # 01

Tunneling through a Barrier

In our last lecture, we had discussed the case when electron approach a potential step and we were calculating the reflection and transmission of that electron wave.

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$0 < E < V_0$
 $E > V_0$

$V(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ V_0 & x > 0 \end{cases}$

$\frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} [E - V(x)] \psi(x) = 0$

$x < 0 \quad \psi(x) = A e^{ikx} + B e^{-ikx}$
 $x > 0 \quad \psi(x) = C e^{ik_1 x} + D e^{-ik_1 x}$

$\frac{C}{A} = \frac{B}{A}$
 $D = 0$

$k^2 = \frac{2\mu E}{\hbar^2}$
 $k_1^2 = \frac{2\mu (E - V_0)}{\hbar^2}$

So, we considered a potential step, such that the potential is zero for x less than zero and it is equal to V_0 for x greater than zero. So, there are two cases, one in which E is less than V_0 and in the other we will have the energy of the incident particle is greater than V_0 .

So, in our last lecture we had considered E greater than V_0 and the solution of the Schrödinger equation $\frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} [E - V(x)] \psi(x) = 0$. So, in the region x less than 0 this is V is 0. So, that in the region x less than 0 the solutions will be $\psi(x)$ is equal to E to the power of $i k x$ plus B into e to the power of minus $i k x$ where k^2 is equal to $2 \mu E$ by \hbar^2 .

The first term represents a wave propagating in the plus x direction and the second term represents the reflected wave which propagates in the minus x direction and that is because, as I had mentioned earlier the time dependence is of the form of e to the power of minus i omega t. So, this is equal to E to the power of minus i omega t by h cross and. So, when I multiply the space dependent part with e to the power of minus i omega t, this represents the forward propagating wave or the incident wave and this term represents the backward propagating wave or the reflected wave.

In the region I am assuming $E > V_0$, as we have done in our last lecture. So, in the region $x > 0$ we will have the solutions ψ of x is equal to c into e to the power of i k_1 x plus D into E to the power of minus i k_1 x where $k_1^2 = 2\mu E - V_0$ by h cross's square. So, once again this represents a forward propagating wave and this term represents a backward propagating wave.

Now, in the region two that is in the region $x > 0$, there cannot be any backward propagating wave because there is no reflection that can take place and. So, therefore, D is equal to zero this is my boundary condition. So, this term can be this term vanishes and. So, we match the boundary conditions and found out the relation between we had found out the C by A and B by A before we interpret that.

The image shows handwritten mathematical derivations on a blue background. The equations are as follows:

$$\psi \quad \vec{J} = \frac{i\hbar}{2\mu} [\psi \nabla \psi^* - \psi^* \nabla \psi]$$

$$J_x = \text{Re} \left[\psi^* \frac{\hbar}{i\mu} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right]$$

$$\psi = A e^{ikx} + B e^{-ikx} \quad J = \text{Re} \left[A^* e^{-ikx} \cdot \frac{\hbar}{i\mu} \cdot ik A e^{ikx} \right]$$

$$J_{inc} = \frac{\hbar k}{\mu} |A|^2 = |A|^2 \frac{\hbar k}{\mu} \quad x > 0 \quad ikx \quad \psi = c e^{ikx}$$

$$J_{refl} = \frac{\hbar k}{\mu} |B|^2$$

An NPTEL logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the image.

Let me mention that few lectures back, we had associated with the wave function ψ is the current density which was given by J vector this is the current density, which is equal to $i\hbar$ cross by 2μ multiplied by ψ grade, ψ^* grade ψ^* minus ψ star, grade

psi. Now, this can also be written as the real part of $\psi^* \hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$ in for the one dimensional case $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$. This is the X component of the of the current density if the wave function depends only on the X coordinate which it is true in this particular example then it will become like this.

We if I have a wave function the space dependent part is e^{ikx} then the associated current density will be J will be the real part of $\psi^* \hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$ that is suppose this is a into e^{ikx} . So, $A^* e^{-ikx}$ multiplied by $\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} e^{ikx}$ will be ik into $A^* A$ into $e^{ikx} e^{-ikx}$. So, therefore, $A^* A$ is mod A square and this term cancels with this term. So, this will be multiplied by $\hbar k$ by m . So, my incident wave associated with the incident wave is the current density $\hbar k$ by m multiplied by A^2 this should be also physically obvious because $\hbar k$ represents the momentum.

So, momentum divided by mass is the velocity, so that is the current associated with the position probability density associated as mod A square. So, similarly the reflected wave, the reflected wave is described by $B e^{-ikx}$ and if you substitute it in this expression, you will get $\hbar k$ by m into B^2 , this is my reflection coefficient, reflected current density associated with the reflected wave. Similarly, the transmitted wave, for the transmitted wave the wave function in the region x greater than 0 we had written down as $C e^{ik_1 x}$ and if I substitute it here. So, the transmitted wave will be mod C square $\hbar k_1$ by m .

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The image shows handwritten mathematical derivations on a blue grid background. The equations are as follows:

$$R = \frac{|B|^2}{|A|^2} = \left(\frac{k - k_1}{k + k_1} \right)^2$$

$$T = \frac{J_{tr}}{J_{inc}} = \frac{|C|^2}{|A|^2} \frac{k_1}{k} = \frac{4kk_1}{(k + k_1)^2}$$

$$R + T = 1$$

$$J = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} \left[\psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial x} - \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right]$$

$$\psi = C e^{-\alpha x}$$

$$= 0$$

In the bottom left corner, there is a small circular logo with the text "NPTEL" below it.

So, therefore, from these two expressions one can find out, one can find out that the reflection coefficient, the reflection coefficient is the reflected current divided by the incident current. So, that will be equal to mod B square by mod A square and this as we had found out in our last lecture this was equal to K minus K one divided by K plus K one whole square. The transmission coefficient will be equal to the transmitted current divided by the incident current and this will be equal to mod C square divided by mod A square and then this will be h cross k 1 by mu, divided by h cross k by mu. So, this will be k 1 by k and if you substitute the value of C by A whole square then this will come out to be 4 k k 1 divided by k plus k one whole square.

So, we get the result that this is the this is the transmission probability and this is the reflection probability and if you add this two then you will get R plus T this is equal to k minus k 1 whole square plus 4 k k 1 will be k plus k 1 whole square and this will be 1, but one has to be little careful in calculating the current density and that is and therefore, the factors k1 and k will appear in the expression it is not just c by a mod whole square, but it is multiplied by k 1 divided by k.

Now, there is one more thing that I would like to mention that if psi is real, if the wave function is real then psi will be equal to psi star and if psi is real this quantity will be real, this quantity will be real and. So, this quantity will be pure imaginary so the current density will be zero. So, if I have a wave function which looks like this, so the expression

for the current density is that J is equal to $i \hbar$ cross by two mu psi if the wave function depend only on the x coordinate $\frac{d\psi}{dx}$ minus $\psi \frac{d}{dx}$.

So, let us suppose my wave function ψ is something like $c e^{-\kappa x}$ if it is a real function then you can immediately substitute this here and you will find that the current density will be zero and this also follows from the fact that if ψ is real, if ψ is real then this quantity will be all this quantity will be real and this is pure imaginary, so that the current density is zero. So, I leave it as an exercise for you to show that, if I use for the wave functions ψ equal to $c e^{-\kappa x}$ then the associated current density will be zero.

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$E < V_0$
 $x < 0 \quad \psi'' + k^2 \psi(x) = 0$
 $k^2 = \frac{2\mu E}{\hbar^2}$
 $\psi(x) = A e^{ikx} + B e^{-ikx}$
 $x > 0 \quad \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} [E - V_0] \psi(x) = 0$
 $\psi'' - \kappa^2 \psi(x) = 0 \Rightarrow \psi(x) = C e^{-\kappa x} + D e^{\kappa x}$
 $A + B = C$
 $i k (A - B) = -\kappa C$
 $\kappa^2 \equiv \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} [V_0 - E]$
 Evanescent Wave.

So, therefore, when we considered the case, then we next considered the case then E is less than V_0 . If E is less than V_0 , so this is κ is equal to 0 for x less than 0 the Schrödinger equation is $\psi'' + k^2 \psi = 0$. So, that is $k^2 \psi = 0$. So, I am assuming now the energy is less than V_0 where k^2 is again the same quantity which is equal to $2\mu E / \hbar^2$. So, the solution of this equation is again $\psi(x) = A e^{ikx} + B e^{-ikx}$ this represents the incident wave and this represents the reflected wave.

Now, we consider the region x greater than zero where the Schrödinger equation will be $\frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} + 2\mu(\hbar^2)^{-1}(E - V_0)\psi = 0$.

So, since E is less than V_0 , so this quantity is negative. So, that I write this as $-\kappa^2 \psi = 0$ where κ^2 is defined to be equal to $2\mu(V_0 - E)/\hbar^2$ and the solution of this equation will be. So, this is $\psi'' + \kappa^2 \psi = 0$ and the solution will be as I had discussed last time the evanescent wave, one term will be $C e^{-\kappa x}$ plus $D e^{+\kappa x}$ this term will blow up at infinity will go to infinity at x is equal to infinity. So, I kind of said this $D = 0$. So, this is known as the exponentially decaying solution or this is also known as the evanescent wave, evanescent wave. I associated with this evanescent wave the current density is zero, the current density is zero. So, there is a certain probability of finding the particle in the classically forbidden region.

You see if I have E less than V_0 the total energy is less than V_0 . So, the kinetic energy is negative classically speaking. So, this is a region where classically a particle will not be found; however, quantum mechanically there exists a probability of finding it in the classically forbidden region, but it is an exponential decaying solution and such a wave is known as an evanescent wave for an exponentially decaying wave. So, my solution will be $e^{-\kappa x}$ and then we can apply the continuity conditions. So, at x is equal to zero we will have $A + B = C$ this is one condition and then $i\hbar k$ even if I have the derivative of the wave function equal to continuous then $i\hbar k(A - B) = -i\hbar \kappa C$.

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$$A + B = C$$

$$\frac{ik}{\kappa} (A - B) = -C$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{ik}{\kappa}\right) A + \left(1 - \frac{ik}{\kappa}\right) B = 0$$

$$\frac{B}{A} = - \frac{1 + \frac{ik}{\kappa}}{1 - \frac{ik}{\kappa}} = - \frac{\kappa + ik}{\kappa - ik}$$

$$\left|\frac{B}{A}\right|^2 = 1 \quad \text{Reflection is complete}$$

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From this equation, we can find out what are the so for example, I have these two equations that $A + B$ is equal to C and ik by κ $A - B$ is equal to minus C . So, if I add them if I add the two equations then I get one plus ik by κ times A plus one minus ik by κ into B this is equal to 0.

So, we will have **we will have** B by A is equal to B by A , I can calculate and that will be that will be minus one plus ik by κ divided one minus ik by κ , so this will be minus κ plus ik divided by κ minus ik and if I take the modules square B by A whole square then, this will be κ square plus k square this will be κ square

plus square. So, this will be one indicating that the reflection is complete **reflection is complete.**

Now, this is what I had try to tell you last time, that when I have an electromagnetic wave which is incident at a rarer medium at an angle greater than the critical angle then you have the phenomenon of total internal reflection the energy gets completely reflected; however, the reason evanescent wave here, the reason evanescent wave in the rarer medium and which can be used to tunnel. So, if you have a glass your glass surface then it will undergo internal reflection here and there is a certain probability that it can tunnel through the barrier. So, if you have if you have a potential step and if the energy is less than V_0 then physically one may understand that as if the particles sought of penetrates into the classically forbidden region and comes back the reflection coefficient is unity.

In this case also, in the case of **in the case of** reflection by a rarer medium what one understand that the wave enters the classically the rarer medium sought of enters and it comes out it gets slightly shifted to the right, so the same thing happens even in quantum mechanics. You have a wave which is present in the classically forbidden region and the wave gets totally reflected, the reflection coefficient is one and, but there is an evanescent wave in the classically forbidden region. So, that was the complete analysis for the for a wave electron wave incident on a potential step.

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Diagram of a potential step: Region I ($x < 0$) has $V=0$, Region II ($0 < x < a$) has $V=V_0$, and Region III ($x > a$) has $V=0$. The energy $E < V_0$.

Wave function solutions for $E < V_0$:

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} E \psi = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \psi_I = Ae^{ikx} + Be^{-ikx} \quad x < 0$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} [E - V_0] \psi = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \psi_{II} = Ce^{-kx} + De^{kx} \quad 0 < x < a$$

$$x^2 = \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} [V_0 - E] \quad \Rightarrow \psi_{III} = Fe^{ikx} + Ge^{-ikx} \quad x > a$$

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The next thing, that we will be discussing is reflection by a potential barrier that is you have here, you have a barrier of finite height, finite height and, something like this. So, let us suppose this is my x axis and this is V_0 and this is x is equal to 0 and this is x is equal to a . I have a particle which is incident, which is coming from the left whose energy is less than V_0 whose energy is less than V_0 it is something like a tennis ball which in front of it there is a mountain. So, we know that the tennis ball will roll up to a certain distance and will come back.

But here, there is a certain possibility that you will be tunnel through the barrier and will go through the other side, this is purely a quantum mechanical phenomenon **this is purely a quantum mechanical phenomenon**. And there have been experiments which are proved that indeed the particles will tunnel do tunnel through the barrier, do tunnel through a through a region which is classically forbidden.

So, let us do the mathematics once again we have to solve the Schrödinger equation in the three regions the three regions are x less than zero, x lying between 0 and a and greater than a . So, in region one **in region one** the Schrödinger equation is the potential is zero. So, that $\frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} + 2\mu(E - V_0) \psi = 0$. So, V_0 ψ is equal to 0. So, this we again denote by k^2 . So, the solution in region one, in region one which is x less than 0 that is $A e^{ikx} + B e^{-ikx}$. So, this represents the incident wave and this represents the reflected wave in the second region, we will have $\frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} + 2\mu(E - V_0) \psi = 0$, but E is less than V_0 zero.

So, I write this as $-\kappa^2 \psi = 0$ where κ^2 is defined as we had done before $2\mu(V_0 - E)$ and the solution of this equation is ψ in region two, this is the region two; will be $C e^{-\kappa x}$ this is the exponentially decaying solution and since there is a boundary we cannot reject the exponentially amplifying solution because it will become large, but it will not becoming infinite. So, there is no reason why we have to neglect this solution. In fact, it has to be taken. So, this is the solution in the classically forbidden region, then in the third region which corresponds to so this region, this is the first solution corresponds to x less than 0 this is in the region 0 less than x less than a and then for x greater than

a, for x greater than a the wave function will satisfy the same Schrödinger equation because the potential energy is 0.

So, therefore if the third region, **if the third region** we will have e^{ikx} plus $G e^{-ikx}$, this represents a wave propagating in the plus x direction, this term represents a wave propagating in the minus x direction and since there is no barrier, no further barrier or a potential change beyond this place. So, therefore, you cannot have a reflected wave because there is nothing to reflect it. So, G will be zero, so this term we will have to neglect. So, will have five unknowns one A, B, C, D, F and we will have four continuity conditions two at x is equal to 0 and two at x is equal to a and using these four continuity conditions, one can find the ratio between any two coefficients. So, let us try to do that.

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Continuity Conditions at $x=0$

$$A + B = C + D$$

$$\frac{d\psi}{dx} \Rightarrow ik(A - B) = -\kappa(C - D)$$

$$\frac{ik}{\kappa}(A - B) = -C + D$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{ik}{\kappa}\right)A + \left(1 - \frac{ik}{\kappa}\right)B = C$$

$$C = \left(1 + \frac{ik}{\kappa}\right)A + \left(1 - \frac{ik}{\kappa}\right)B$$

$$D =$$

So, continuity of the wave function, the continuity condition at conditions at x is equal to zero. So, if I apply at x is equal to 0, this will be A plus B and this will be equal to C plus D . So, we will have one condition as A plus B is equal to C plus D and similarly, if I take the derivative, if I take the derivative then this will be ikA times one because at x is equal to zero this will be one minus and here also minus κ plus κD . So, we will have the continuity, this is the continuity of the wave function and continuity of $d\psi/dx$, continuity of $d\psi/dx$ will lead to ikA minus B is equal to minus κC minus

D. So, using these two equations I can write C and D in terms of A and B. So, I can write down as $i k$ over $kappa$ A minus B is equal to minus C plus D this is correct.

So, I add them and I will get one plus $i k$ by $kappa$ into A, this will be B plus one minus $i k$ over $kappa$ this is equal to C. So, this multiplied by B is equal to C. So, I can write C as one plus $i k$ by $kappa$ into A plus one minus $i k$ upon $kappa$ into B similarly, D also I can write it as a linear combination of A and B, I just have to subtract this equation, from this equation so I will get an expression for D once we have obtained that. So, we have expressions for C and expressions for D.

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Continuity conditions at $x=a$

$$C e^{-\kappa a} + D e^{+\kappa a} = F e^{i k a}$$

$$-\kappa C e^{-\kappa a} + \kappa D e^{+\kappa a} = i k F e^{i k a}$$

$$\dots A + \dots B = F e^{i k a}$$

$$\dots A + \dots B = i k F e^{i k a}$$

$$R = \left| \frac{B}{A} \right|^2$$

$$T = \left| \frac{F}{A} \right|^2$$

$$R = \frac{J_r}{J_i} = \left| \frac{B}{A} \right|^2$$

$$T = \left| \frac{F}{A} \right|^2$$

$$A e^{i k x} \Rightarrow J_i = \frac{\hbar k}{m} |A|^2$$

$$J_r = \frac{\hbar k}{m} |B|^2$$

$$J_{tr} = \frac{\hbar k}{m} |F|^2$$

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The we next apply the continuity conditions at x is equal to a , continuity conditions at x is equal to a . So, you will have the wave function was if you recollect the wave function was C into e to the power of minus $i k x$. So, you will have C into e to the power of minus $kappa a$ plus D into e to the power of plus $kappa a$, this is equal to F into e to the power of $i k a$, this is the continuity of the wave function at the point x is equal to a . Similarly, if I take the derivative so I will get minus $kappa$ C into e to the power of minus $kappa a$, plus $kappa$ D e to the power of plus $kappa a$ and if I take the derivative of this will be $i k F$ into e to the power of i .

Now, this is slightly cumbersome algebra, but very straight forward we have just now obtained expressions for C and D in terms of A and B, I leave it as an exercise for you to substitute those expressions here for C and D and. So, therefore you will have something

like this A some coefficient plus, some coefficient B is equal to F into e to the power of $ik a$ and again A plus, some coefficient B will be equal to $i k F$ into e to the power of ik .

From these two equations, I can find out what is B by A whole square. So, this will be my reflection coefficient and then you can find out what is F by A whole square, which will be my transmission coefficient. So, actually the reflection coefficient will be you see associated with A into e to the power $ik x$ the current density, the current density is given by h cross k by μ multiplied by A square. This is the incident the reflected will be h cross even the same $k \mu b$ square and the transmitted will be again h cross k by $\mu \bmod f$ square. So, since the same k appears in all the equations. So, the reflection coefficients which will be actually the reflected current divided by the incident current will just be equal to $\bmod B$ by A whole square and the transmission coefficient will be $\bmod F$ by A whole square. And if you, if you carry out this algebra I leave this is as a simple exercise.

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The image shows handwritten mathematical derivations for the transmission coefficient T and reflection coefficient R in terms of the incident wave amplitude A . The transmission coefficient is given by:

$$T = \left| \frac{F}{A} \right|^2 = \frac{4k^2 \kappa^2}{(k^2 + \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a + 4k^2 \kappa^2}$$

The reflection coefficient is given by:

$$R = \left| \frac{B}{A} \right|^2 = \frac{(k^2 + \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a}{(k^2 + \kappa^2)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa a + 4k^2 \kappa^2}$$

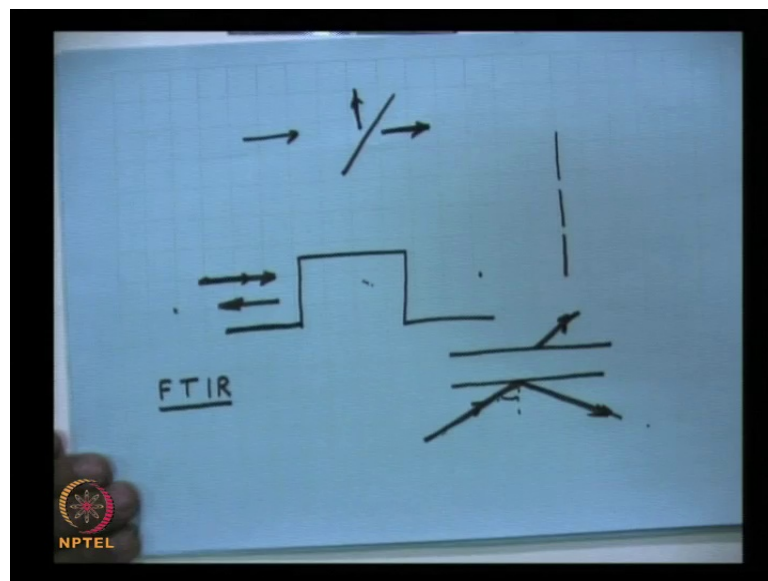
Below the equations, it is noted that $R + T = 1$. A diagram illustrates a transmission line with a step change in impedance, represented by a rectangular pulse. Incident waves are shown as wavy arrows moving to the right, and reflected waves as wavy arrows moving to the left.

You will find that the transmission coefficient will be T is equal to F by A whole square this will be equal to four k square κ square divided by, k square plus κ square its fairly straight forward whole square, \sin hyperbolic square κa plus four k square κ square and the reflection coefficient will be equal to $\bmod B$ by A whole square will be equal to k square plus κ square whole square, \sin hyperbolic square κa divided by the same thing that is k square plus κ square whole square, \sin hyperbolic square κa plus four k square κ square.

As you can see if I add these two up the reflection and the transmission will be equal to one. So, therefore what we have shown above is a very important application of the solution of the Schrödinger equation, that you have an incident wave on a potential barrier like this, you have a reflected wave, you have a you have a incident wave there is a reflected wave and there is also a certain probability for the particle to tunnel through the barrier.

So, if an individual electron approaches a barrier if there is a certain probability for it getting reflected, there is a certain probability for it getting transmitted what will happen to an individual electron no one can predict, one can only predict the odds the probabilities of the events and so therefore, if one is not making a measurement then it is both in the reflected beam as well as in the transmitted beam. Only when one makes a measurement then this then the electrons certainly collapses to a state when it is found either in the reflected beam or in the transmitted beam.

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So, this is something similar to the famous Michelson interferometer experiment. I have a I have a photon this is very nicely discussed in Dirac's book that it can get reflected as well as transmitted.

So, there is a certain probability and say half probability of it getting reflected and half probability of it get transmitted. So, unless you make a measurement it is describe by a wave function which is present here as well as here. So, it is in both the beams and it is

because of that these two beams can be further reflected and made to interfere, so this is the same thing that we had discussed quite some time back that the electron passes through both slit both the wholes simultaneously.

So, similarly if you have a potential barrier **if you have a potential barrier** then an electron is incident from the left then after it interacts with the potential barrier, it is both in the transmitted beam and in the reflected beam there is a certain probability of it being found there in this region as well as in this region. So, this is the concept the underline concept in quantum mechanics that there is a certain probability of it being reflected certain probability of it being transmitted.

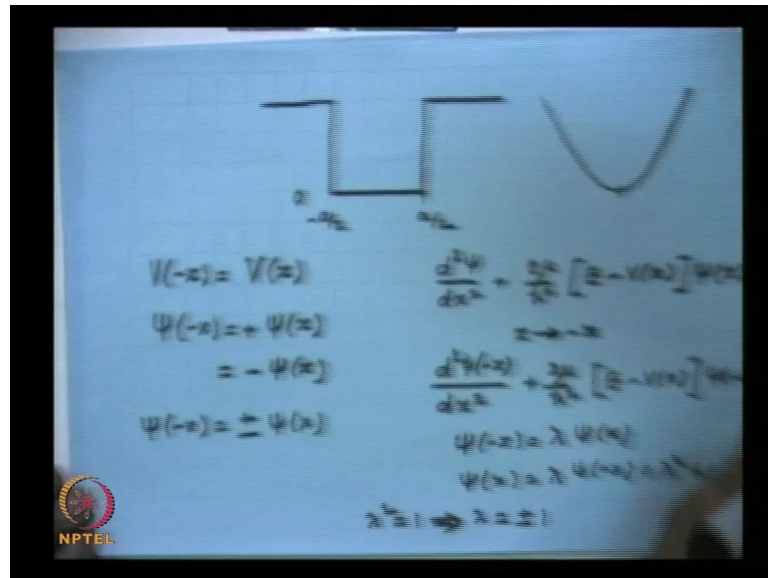
What will happen in a particular event? No one can predict, one can only predict the odds of happening in a particular measurement. So, therefore we have here a tunneling through barrier and this the equations are almost identical to the to the phenomenon that I had mentioned very briefly in my last lecture, that is the phenomenon of frustrated total internal reflection now that is a entirely a classical phenomenon that in which you have **in which you have** a rarer medium and it is because the light wave is incident if there is the evanescent waves are created in this rarer medium and there is a the light wave is incident at an angle, which is greater than the critical angle there is a probability that it will be reflected back, but there is a small probability that it will tunnel through this rarer medium and appear on the other side, but this comes out from by classically by solving the classical Maxwell's equation.

So, this phenomenon is known as the frustrated total internal reflection and the is quite analogous to the phenomenon of the one solves the same type of equation, even in considering the tunneling through a potential barrier. In fact, according to geometrical optics one may have always hundred percent reflection and one says that the relationship between geometrical optics and wave optics is the same as that between classical mechanics and quantum mechanics.

In geometrical optics there will be always the ray will be reflected back and no ray will be found in this particular region, in classical mechanics a particle which is incident here will always be reflected there'll be no transmission because it cannot enter this region, this is a classically forbidden region in which the total energy is less than the potential energy and classically speaking therefore, it leads to a negative kinetic energy.

So, the particle can never enter inside the barrier and. So, therefore, it is always reflected back on the other hand, when you solve the Schrödinger equation on the other hand **when you solve the Schrödinger equation** you do find that there is a small possibility of tunneling through the barrier.

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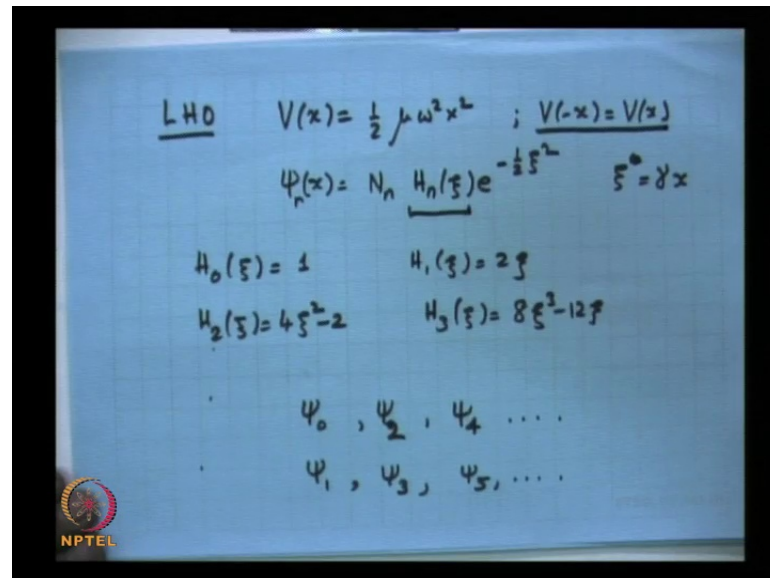
Now, I will do one more problem in one dimensional one more problem of evolving the solution of the one dimensional Schrödinger equation and that is the potential well problem. That you have a potential well, in which say this is V equal to 0 for x less than minus a by 2 to x less than.

I have discussed sometime back, that if the potential energy function is a symmetric function that is beam of minus x is $e V$ of x then the solutions can always be written down which are either symmetric or ant symmetric that is, the Eigen functions can be written down as ψ of minus x will be either minus plus ψ of x which is the symmetric functions or it will be minus ψ of x which is the ant symmetric functions. So, this follows from the fact that I write down the Schrödinger equation $d^2 \psi$ by dx^2 plus $2m$ by h^2 cross's square e minus v of x e minus v of x , ψ of x is equal to 0.

Now, if I make a transformation x to minus x and since v of minus x is equal to v of x . So, we find that $d^2 \psi$ of minus x satisfies the same Schrödinger equation $2m$ by h^2 cross's square e minus v of x ψ of minus x . So, therefore, ψ of minus x must be a

multiple of psi of x and therefore, if I make the transformation again psi of minus, minus x. So, therefore, psi of x will be lambda psi of minus x. So, this will be equal to lambda square psi of x leading to lambda is equal to plus minus one, lambda square is equal to one imply lambda is equal to plus minus one. So, therefore, psi of minus x must be either plus psi of x or minus psi of x.

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$$\text{LHO} \quad V(x) = \frac{1}{2} \mu \omega^2 x^2 ; \quad V(-x) = V(x)$$

$$\psi_n(x) = N_n \underbrace{H_n(\xi)} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \xi^2} \quad \xi = \gamma x$$

$$H_0(\xi) = 1 \quad H_1(\xi) = 2\xi$$

$$H_2(\xi) = 4\xi^2 - 2 \quad H_3(\xi) = 8\xi^3 - 12\xi$$

$$\psi_0, \psi_2, \psi_4, \dots$$

$$\psi_1, \psi_3, \psi_5, \dots$$

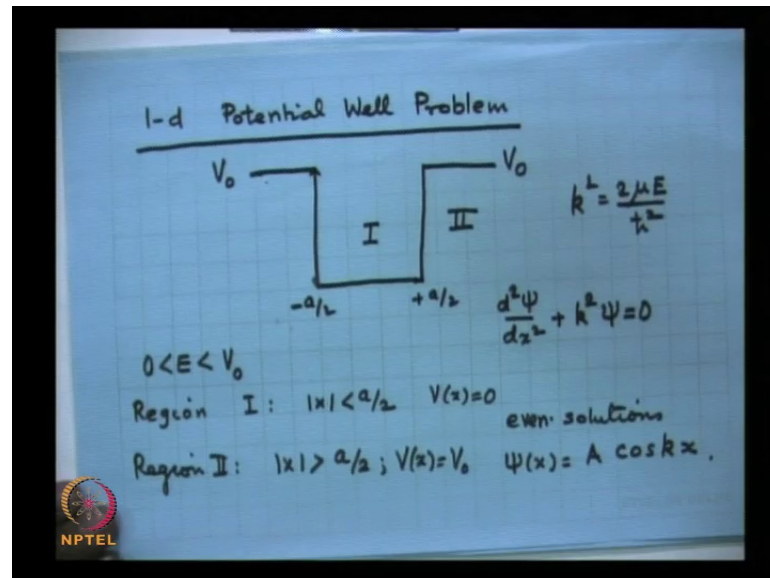
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If you recollect that when we did the harmonic oscillator potential. It was something like this and then this potential function is symmetric with respect to x and the wave functions are wave function be, the wave function that we had calculated for the for the linear harmonic oscillator problem in which V of x is equal to half mu omega square x's square in this case you have V of minus x is equal to V of x. So, we found we had found out the psi of x, psi n of x is equal to n of n this is the normalization constant H n of psi e to the power of minus half psi square, where xi is a multiple of x is xi is equal to gamma x.

Now, h n xi are alternately the hermit polynomials which are even and odd. So, for example, H 0 of xi is equal to 1, h 1 of xi is equal to 2 xi H 2 of xi is equal to 4 xi square by minus two something like that H 3 of xi will be equal to 8 xi cube minus twelve xi. So, H 0 of xi, H 2 of xi, H 4 of xi, H 6 of xi are even polynomials involving even powers of xi H 1, H 3, H 5, H 7 will involve only odd powers. So, therefore psi 0, psi 1 of x, psi 0, psi 2, psi 4 they may be all even functions of x and psi 1, psi 3, psi 5, will be all odd

functions of x . So, whenever the potential energy function is a symmetric function of x , whenever v of minus x is equal to v of x then the Eigen functions are either symmetric functions or ant symmetric functions.

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So, let us use this to solve the one dimensional potential well problem, the one dimensional this is a very important problem one dimensional potential well problem in which the potential function as I had mentioned earlier, is that you have this is x is equal to minus a by 2 this is plus a by 2 and this is V_0 , this is V_0 . So, let me first consider the case where zero lies between, where the energy lies between 0 and V_0 . So, let me write down the solution the Schrödinger equation in region one **region one** is region one corresponds to $|x| < a/2$ where the potential is 0. So, where V of x is equal to 0.

So, therefore, the Schrödinger equation is $\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + k^2\psi = 0$, where k^2 is equal to $\frac{2\mu E}{\hbar^2}$ which I write as $k^2\psi = 0$, where k^2 is equal to $\frac{2\mu E}{\hbar^2}$ we write the solution in terms of sin and cosine functions. So, sin functions as we know is an odd function of x and cos function is an even function of x . So, we first consider the even solutions, so the even solutions I did this down as ψ of x in region one. I can write this down as $A \cos kx$ now in region two, this is region two for x region two $|x| > a/2$ and my V of x is equal to V_0 , but E is less than V_0 . So, that the Schrödinger equation.

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$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} [E - V_0] \psi(x) = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} - \kappa^2 \psi(x) = 0 \quad \kappa^2 = \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} (V_0 - E)$$

$$\psi(x) = C e^{-\kappa x} + D e^{+\kappa x} \quad D=0$$

$$\psi(x) = A \cos kx \quad |x| < \frac{a}{2}$$

$$= C e^{-\kappa x} \quad x > \frac{a}{2}$$

$$A \cos \frac{\kappa a}{2} = C e^{-\kappa a/2}$$

$$-k A \sin \frac{\kappa a}{2} = -\kappa C e^{-\kappa a/2}$$

So, the Schrödinger equation becomes $\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} [E - V_0] \psi(x) = 0$. Since E is less than V_0 as in the previous case I write this is a negative quantity and I write this as $-\kappa^2 \psi(x) = 0$, where κ^2 is defined to be equal to $\frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2} (V_0 - E)$. So, this is $\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\kappa^2 \psi$ and the solutions are once again $\psi(x) = C e^{-\kappa x} + D e^{+\kappa x}$. You will have C into e to the power of $-\kappa x$, which is the exponentially decaying solution plus D into e to the power of $+\kappa x$.

So, in this region, in region two you will have one which exponentially decreases and one which exponentially amplifies and since this extends to infinity. So, this will lead to the exponentially amplifying solution, will lead to a wave function which blows up at infinity, **which blows up at infinity** and we cannot allow that and. So, therefore the wave function has to move to zero at infinity and therefore, D must be equal to zero, so we must neglect this term.

So, I will have two solutions, so $\psi(x)$ is equal to $A \cos kx$, for x less than $a/2$ and $C e^{-\kappa x}$ for x greater than $a/2$. So, I match the boundary conditions, so I have $A \cos$ we see this $\cos k a/2$ by two will be equal to $C e^{-\kappa a/2}$ that is the continuity of the wave function at x is equal to $a/2$ and then I differentiate it and get $-k A \sin k a/2$ I differentiate that and put x is equal to $a/2$, this is equal to $-\kappa C e^{-\kappa a/2}$.

into e to the power of minus κa by 2. This is a set of homogeneous equations A and C. So, for a non trivial solution the determinant must be zero. So, I divide one with respect to the other and you will get if I divide this, so you will get **you will get** minus, minus cancels out.

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Transcendental Equation

$$\frac{\kappa a \tan \frac{\kappa a}{2}}{2} = \frac{\kappa a}{2} = \eta$$

$$\xi = \frac{\kappa a}{2} \quad \xi^2 = \frac{\kappa^2 a^2}{4} = \frac{2\mu E a^2}{4\hbar^2}$$

$$\eta^2 = \frac{\kappa^2 a^2}{4} = \frac{2\mu (V_0 - E) a^2}{4\hbar^2}$$

$$\xi^2 + \eta^2 = \alpha^2 = \frac{2\mu V_0 a^2}{4\hbar^2}$$

$ax + by = 0$
 $cx + dy = 0$
 $x=0=y$
 $\frac{y}{x} = -\frac{a}{b} = -\frac{c}{d}$
 $\boxed{ad=bc}$
 $\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = 0$

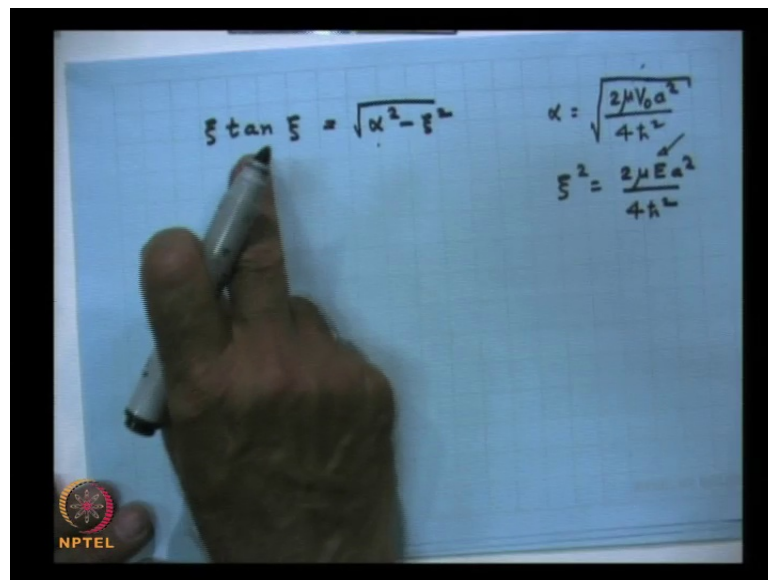
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So, you get $\kappa \tan \frac{\kappa a}{2}$ this is equal to κa , I multiplied both sides by a by two so, I get κa by 2.

I hope you understand, what I am trying to say that the determinant must be zero because let us consider it a set of 2 equations $ax + by = 0$ and $cx + dy = 0$. Now one solution is of course, the trivial solution that x is equal to 0 is equal to y is equal to 0, but if I neglect this trivial solution then you can see from here that y by x is equal to minus a by b and in the second case y by x is equal to minus c by d . So, you must have ad is equal to bc . So, this is said that if a set of homogeneous equation, if you have a set of homogeneous equations then for non trivial solutions this determinant a, b, c, d must be equal to 0; this is for non trivial solutions. So, here for example, we have a here c here. So, for non trivial solutions one trivial solution is A is 0 C is 0 that corresponds to the wave functions **the wave function** vanishing everywhere, but otherwise if I do not include those trivial solutions then this must be equal to this is said to be a transcendental equation, now this is very important and I want to spend some time on this. So, that you understand the meaning of the word transcendental equation.

Now, I put this equal to ξ , so you have I define this as ξ is equal to $k a$ by two, so my ξ square is equal to k square, a square by four or this is equal to $2\mu E a$ square by four \hbar cross's square and k square a by two, let us suppose I write it as η . So, you will have η square is equal to k square a square by four, so this is equal to $2\mu k$ square is V_0 minus E , a square by four \hbar cross's square. So, if I add them up, so I get ξ square plus η square so E cancels out, you get you write this as α square which is equal to $2\mu V_0 a$ square by four \hbar cross's square for a given potential, for a given value of V_0 , for a given value of a and of course, \hbar cross is a constant this is just a number. So, I get this therefore, η is equal to under root of α square minus ξ square.

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$$\xi \tan \xi = \sqrt{\alpha^2 - \xi^2}$$

$$\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{2\mu V_0 a^2}{4\hbar^2}}$$

$$\xi^2 = \frac{2\mu E a^2}{4\hbar^2}$$

So, the equation that we obtain is $\xi \tan \xi$ is equal to η that is under root of α square minus ξ square. We say that this is a transcendental equation; that means, for a given value of α , for a given potential as I had told you α square is equal to α is equal to under root of $2\mu V_0 a$ square by four \hbar cross's square.

For a given particle the mass is known, for a given potential V_0 is known a is known \hbar cross is a constant. So, this is a number now it is only for certain discrete values of ξ that the left hand side will be equal to right hand side and what is ξ square? So, what is ξ square is equal to $2\mu E a$ square by four \hbar cross's square. So, there are only there will be only certain discrete values of ξ and therefore, certain discrete values of E for

which the left hand side will be equal to right hand side those are the Eigen values of the problem. So, we stop here in of my next class, we will try to understand the this we will discuss in greater detail the solution of the transcendental equation that I have described here.