

435(4): Free Particle time Dependent Schrodinger Equation

This is:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial r^2} \quad - (1)$$

where

$$\psi = e^{-i\omega t} e^{i\kappa r} \quad - (2)$$

is the wave function. Eq. (1) is:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = E\psi = H\psi \quad - (3)$$

So the energy levels of the free particle are:

$$E = \langle E \rangle = i\hbar \int \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} d\tau \quad - (4)$$

$$= \hbar \omega \int \psi^* \psi d\tau = \hbar \omega$$

These are equal to:

$$E = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int \psi^* \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial r^2} d\tau$$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2 \kappa^2}{2m} \int \psi^* \psi d\tau \quad - (5)$$

$$= \frac{\hbar^2 \kappa^2}{2m} = \frac{p^2}{2m}$$

So

$$E = \hbar \omega = \frac{\hbar^2 \kappa^2}{2m} \quad - (6)$$

Also no finite energy levels of a free particle.

In the frame of a moving free time dependent Schrödinger equation is:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi_1}{\partial t_1} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi_1}{\partial r_1^2} \quad (7)$$

where:

$$\psi_1 = \exp(-i\omega_1 t_1) \exp(i\kappa_1 r_1) \quad (8)$$

However, the phase is invariant under frame transformation, so:

$$\omega_1 t_1 - \kappa_1 r_1 = \omega t - \kappa r \quad (9)$$

so:

$$\psi_1 = \psi \quad (10)$$

is therefore the time dependent Schrödinger equation:

$$\frac{i\hbar}{m(r)^{1/2}} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial r^2} \quad (11)$$

So the energy levels of the free particle in the frame are:

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= \hbar \omega / \int \psi^* \frac{1}{m(r)^{1/2}} \psi \, d\tau \\ &= \frac{\hbar^2 \kappa_1^2}{2m} \\ &= \frac{p^2}{2m} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

The transformation to m space produces a shift in energy