### Lecture 2

## **Application of Quantum mechanics**

## **I- Translation motion**

# **Particle-in-Box (PIB) Models**

#### **Quantum Mechanical Particle-in-Box**





Inside the box:  $0 \le x \le a$ 

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = E\psi \qquad \text{or}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = -\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}\psi$$

#### **Solving the Equation**



So far, there is no restriction on  $\alpha$  and, hence none on the energy, E (other than that it cannot be negative)

#### **Applying Boundary Conditions (BC's)**

Because the wavefunction,  $\psi$ , is 0 outside the box, x<0 and x>a, it must also be 0 inside the box at x=0 and x=a

 $\psi = A\sin(\alpha x) + B\cos(\alpha x)$ 

- **BC-1:**  $\psi(0) = 0 = Asin(0) + Bcos(0) = B$ Therefore,  $\psi(x) = Asin(\alpha x)$
- **BC-2:**  $\psi(a) = 0 = A \sin(\alpha a)$   $\sin(n\pi) = 0$

Therefore:  $\alpha a = n\pi$  n = 1, 2, 3, ...

or: 
$$\alpha = \frac{n\pi}{a}$$
 n = 1, 2, 3, ...  
Why isn't n = 0 acceptable?

#### **Wavefunctions and Energy Levels**

$$\alpha = \frac{n\pi}{a}$$
 n = 1, 2, 3, ...

$$\psi_n = A\sin(\alpha x) = A\sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right)$$
  $n = 1, 2, 3, ...$ 

$$E = \frac{\alpha^2 \hbar^2}{2m} = \left(\frac{n\pi}{a}\right)^2 \frac{1}{2m} \left(\frac{h}{2\pi}\right)^2 = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{a^2} \cdot \frac{1}{2m} \cdot \frac{h^2}{4\pi^2}$$

$$E_n = \frac{n^2 h^2}{8ma^2}$$
 n = 1, 2, 3, ...

Note that

(a) the allowed energies are quantized

(b) E = 0 is **NOT** permissible (i.e. the particle can't stand still)

Energy Quantization results from application of the Boundary Conditions

$$E_n = \frac{n^2 h^2}{8ma^2}$$
$$E_1 = 1\frac{h^2}{8ma^2}$$
$$E_2 = 4\frac{h^2}{8ma^2}$$
$$E_3 = 9\frac{h^2}{8ma^2}$$
$$E_4 = 16\frac{h^2}{8ma^2}$$
$$E_5 = 25\frac{h^2}{8ma^2}$$

#### **Wavefunctions**





Note that: The number of "nodes" increases with increasing quantum number.

The increasing number of nodes reflects the higher kinetic energy with higher quantum number.

#### **Some Useful Integrals**

$$\int \sin^2(\alpha x) dx = \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{4\alpha}\sin(2\alpha x)$$

$$\int \sin(\alpha x) \sin(\beta x) dx = \frac{\sin[(\alpha - \beta)x]}{2(\alpha - \beta)} - \frac{\sin[(\alpha + \beta)x]}{2(\alpha + \beta)}$$

$$\int \sin(\alpha x) \cos(\alpha x) dx = \frac{1}{2\alpha} \sin^2(\alpha x)$$

$$\int x \sin^2(\alpha x) dx = \frac{x^2}{4} - \frac{x \sin(2\alpha x)}{4\alpha} - \frac{\cos(2\alpha x)}{8\alpha^2}$$

$$\int x^2 \sin^2(\alpha x) dx = \frac{x^3}{6} - \left(\frac{x^2}{4\alpha} - \frac{1}{8\alpha^3}\right) \sin(2\alpha x) - \frac{x\cos(2\alpha x)}{4\alpha^2}$$

# Other PIB Models 1. PIB with one non-infinite wall



 $\begin{array}{ll} V(x) \rightarrow \infty & x < 0 \\ V(x) = 0 & 0 \leq x \leq a \\ V(x) = V_o & x > a \end{array}$  We will first consider the case where E < V\_0.

#### **Boundary Conditions**

The wavefunction must satisfy two conditions at the boundaries (x=0, x=a,  $x \rightarrow \infty$ )

- 1)  $\psi$  must be continuous at all boundaries.
- 2)  $d\psi/dx$  must be continuous at the boundaries unless  $V \rightarrow \infty$  at the boundary.



 $V(x) \rightarrow \infty \quad x < 0$  $V(x) = 0 \quad 0 \le x \le a$  $V(x) = V_0 \quad x > a$ 

We will first consider the case where  $E < V_0$ .

#### **Region I**

$$\frac{d\psi_l}{dx} = A\alpha \cos(\alpha x) - B\alpha \sin(\alpha x)$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi_1}{dx^2} = -A\alpha^2 \sin(\alpha x) - B\alpha^2 \cos(\alpha x)$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi_1}{dx^2} = -\alpha^2\psi_1$$

 $\psi_{I} = A\sin(\alpha x) + B\cos(\alpha x)$ 



$$V(x) \rightarrow \infty \quad x < 0$$
$$V(x) = 0 \quad 0 \le x \le a$$
$$V(x) = V_o \quad x > a$$

We will first consider the case where  $E < V_0$ .

# Relation between $\alpha$ and E

 $\alpha^2 = \frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}$ 

$$\frac{d^2\psi_1}{dx^2} = -\alpha^2\psi_1$$

$$\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$$

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 $V(x) \rightarrow \infty \quad x < 0$  $V(x) = 0 \qquad 0 \le x \le a$ 

 $V(x) = V_0 \quad x > a$ 

We will first consider the case where  $E < V_0$ .

#### **Region II**

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{d^2\psi_{\parallel}}{dx^2}+V_0\psi_{\parallel}=E\psi_{\parallel}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi_{\parallel}}{dx^2} = -\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (E - V_0)\psi_{\parallel}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \psi_{\parallel}}{dx^2} = +\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (V_0 - E) \psi_{\parallel} = +const \cdot \psi_{\parallel}$$

$$\int_{assume}^{can} assume$$

$$\psi_{\parallel} = Ce^{\beta x} + De^{-\beta x}$$

$$\frac{d\psi_{\parallel}}{dx} = C\beta e^{\beta x} - D\beta e^{-\beta x}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi_{\parallel}}{dx^2} = C\beta^2 e^{\beta x} + D\beta^2 e^{-\beta x}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi_{\parallel}}{dx^2} = \beta^2\psi_{\parallel}$$



 $V(x) \rightarrow \infty \quad x < 0$  $V(x) = 0 \qquad 0 \le x \le a$  $V(x) = V_0 \quad x > a$ 

We will first consider the case where  $E < V_0$ .

# **Relation between** β and E

$$\frac{d^2 \psi_{\parallel}}{dx^2} = +\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (V_0 - E) \psi_{\parallel} \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad \beta^2 \psi_{\parallel} = +\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (V_0 - E) \psi_{\parallel}$$
$$\psi_{\parallel} = \mathbf{C} \mathbf{e}^{\beta x} + \mathbf{D} \mathbf{e}^{-\beta x} \qquad \qquad \beta^2 = +\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (V_0 - E)$$

 $\frac{d^2\psi_{\parallel}}{dx^2} = \beta^2\psi_{\parallel}$ 

$$\beta = \sqrt{\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} (V_0 - E)}$$









These equations can be solved analytically to obtain the allowed values of the energy, E. However, it's fairly messy.

I'll just show you some results obtained by numerical solution of the Schrödinger Equation.

$$V_{0} = 30 \frac{h^{2}}{8ma^{2}}$$
 This is an arbitrary value of  $V_{0}$   

$$E_{1} = 0.9 \frac{h^{2}}{8ma^{2}}$$

$$V_{0} = 30 \frac{h^{2}}{$$

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#### What happened??

Why is the wavefunction so different?

The condition for the earlier solution,  $E < V_0$ , is no longer valid.



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#### **PIB with central barrier: Tunneling**

Preliminary: Potential Energy Barriers in Classical Mechanics

#### **Bowling Ball**



Will the bowling ball make it over the hill? Of course not!!

In classical mechanics, a particle cannot get to a position in which the potential energy is greater than the particle's total energy.



$$V(x) \rightarrow \infty \quad x < 0$$
$$V(x) = 0 \quad 0 \le x \le x_1$$
$$V(x) = V_0 \quad x_1 \le x \le x_2$$
$$V(x) = 0 \quad x_2 \le x \le a$$
$$V(x) \rightarrow \infty \quad x > a$$

I'll just show the Boundary Conditions and graphs of the results.

BC: x=0 BC's: x=x<sub>1</sub> BC's: x=x<sub>2</sub> BC: x=a  $\psi_{I}(0) = 0$   $\psi_{I}(x_{1}) = \psi_{II}(x_{1})$   $\psi_{II}(x_{2}) = \psi_{III}(x_{2})$   $\psi_{III}(a) = 0$  $\left(\frac{d\psi_{I}}{d\psi_{I}}\right) = \left(\frac{d\psi_{II}}{d\psi_{II}}\right)$   $\left(\frac{d\psi_{II}}{d\psi_{II}}\right) = \left(\frac{d\psi_{III}}{d\psi_{III}}\right)$ 

$$\frac{d\psi_{I}}{dx}\Big|_{x_{1}} = \left(\frac{d\psi_{II}}{dx}\right)_{x_{1}} \quad \left(\frac{d\psi_{II}}{dx}\right)_{x_{2}} = \left(\frac{d\psi_{III}}{dx}\right)_{x_{2}}$$





Note that there is a significant probability of finding the particle inside the barrier, even though  $V_0 > E$ .

This means that the particle can get from one side of the barrier to the other by *tunneling* through the barrier.

We have just demonstrated the quantum mechanical phenomenon called *tunneling*, in which a particle can be in a region of space where the potential energy is higher than the total energy of the particle.

This is not simply an abstract phenomenon, but is known to occur in many areas of Chemistry and Physics, including:

- Ammonia inversion (the ammonia clock)
- Kinetic rate constants
- Charge carriers in semiconductor devices
- Nuclear radioactive decay
- Scanning Tunneling Microscopy (STM)

#### Application of PIB model Free Electron Molecular Orbital (FEMO) Model

What id the main application of "particle in a box" model???

To a good approximation, the  $\pi$  electrons in conjugated polyalkenes are free to move within the confines of the  $\pi$  orbital system.



Notes: Estimation of the box length, a, will be discussed later.

Each carbon in this conjugated system contributes 1  $\pi$  electron. Thus, there are 6 electrons in the  $\pi$ -system of 1,3,5-hexatriene (above)

#### **The Box Length**

#### Hexatriene



 $a = 5 \cdot R + 2 \cdot (\frac{1}{2}R) = 6 \cdot R$ 

**General:**  $a = nb \cdot R + 2 \cdot (\frac{1}{2}R) = (nb+1) \cdot R$  R = 1.40 Å = 0.14 nm

#### $\pi$ Bonding in Ethylene

Bonding  $(\pi)$  Orbital





Maximum electron density between C's



Maximum electron density between C's

Anti-bonding  $(\pi^*)$  Orbital





Electron density node between C's

PIB  $(\psi_2^2)$ 

Electron density node between C's

#### $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ Transition in Ethylene using FEMO



It is common (although not universal) to assume that the  $\pi$  electrons are free to move approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  bond length beyond each outermost carbon.

$$\Delta E = \frac{3h^2}{8ma^2} = \frac{3(6.63x10^{-34} \, J \cdot s)^2}{8(9.11x10^{-31} \, kg)(0.268x10^{-9} \, m)^2} = 2.52x10^{-18} \, J$$

Units: 
$$\frac{J^2 \cdot s^2}{kg \cdot m^2} = \frac{J \cdot \frac{kg \cdot m^2}{s^2} \cdot s^2}{kg \cdot m^2} = J$$

#### Calculation of $\lambda_{max}$

$$\Delta E = E_{phot} = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \quad \rightarrow \quad \lambda = \frac{hc}{\Delta E} = \frac{(6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s})(3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})}{2.52 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J}}$$
$$\lambda = 7.9 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m} \approx 80 \text{ nm}$$

 $\lambda(exp) = 190 \text{ nm}$ 

The difficulty with applying FEMO to ethylene is that the result is extremely sensitive to the assumed box length, a.

#### **Application of FEMO to 1,3-Butadiene**



It is common to use R = 0.14 nm (the C-C bond length in benzene, where the bond order is 1.5) as the average bond length in conjugated polyenes.



$$\Delta E = \frac{5h^2}{8ma^2} = \frac{5(6.63x10^{-34} J \cdot s)^2}{8(9.11x10^{-31} kg)(0.56x10^{-9} m)^2} = 9.62x10^{-19} J$$

#### Calculation of $\lambda_{max}$

 $\Delta E = E_{phot} = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{hc}{\Delta E} = \frac{(6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s})(3.00 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s})}{9.62 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}}$ 

 $\lambda = 2.07 \text{x} 10^{-7} \text{ m} \approx 207 \text{ nm}$ 

 $\lambda(exp) = 217 \text{ nm}$ 

#### **Application of FEMO to 1,3,5-Hexatriene**





a = 5•R + 2•(1/<sub>2</sub>R) = 6•R  
a = 6•0.14 nm = 0.84 nm  

$$\Delta E = E_4 - E_3 = \frac{16h^2}{8ma^2} - \frac{9h^2}{8ma^2} = \frac{7h^2}{8ma^2}$$

$$\Delta E = 5.98 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

$$\lambda (\exp) = 258 \text{ nm}$$

$$\lambda = 332 \text{ nm}$$

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### PIB and the Color of Vegetables Introduction

The FEMO model predicts that the  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  absorption wavelength,  $\lambda$ , increases with the number of double bonds, #DB

| Compound   | #DB | λ <b>(FEMO)</b> |  |
|------------|-----|-----------------|--|
| Ethylene   | 1   | 80 nm           |  |
| Butadiene  | 2   | 207             |  |
| Hexatriene | 3   | 333             |  |

This is because: 
$$\Delta E \propto \frac{(N+1)^2 - N^2}{a^2} \propto \frac{nb}{(nb)^2} \propto \frac{1}{nb}$$
 N = # of electron pairs  
and:  $\lambda \propto \frac{1}{\Delta E} \propto nb$ 

#### **Light Absorption and Color**



If a substance absorbs light in the blue region of the visible spectrum, the color of the transmitted (or reflected) light will be red.

If a substance absorbs light in the red region of the visible spectrum, the color of the transmitted (or reflected) light will be blue.

#### Conjugated $\pi$ Systems and the Color of Substances



White light contains all wavelengths of visible radiation ( $\lambda = 400 - 700$  nm)

If a substance absorbs certain wavelengths, then the remaining light is reflected, giving the appearance of the complementary color.

e.g. a substance absorbing violet light appears to be yellow in color.

| I               | No. of Conj. |                 |        |          |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| Molecule D      | oub. Bonds   | $\lambda_{max}$ | Region |          |
| Ethylene        | 1            | 190 nm          | UV     |          |
| 1,3-Butadiene   | 2            | 217             | UV     |          |
| 1,3,5-Hexatrier | ne 3         | 258             | UV     |          |
| β-Carotene      | 11           | ~450            | Vis.   | Carrots  |
| Lycopene        | 13           | ~500            | Vis.   | Tomatoes |

#### **Comparison of FEMO and QM Wavefunctions**



#### Part II. The 2D PIB

**The 2D Hamiltonian:**  $H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \right) + V(x, y)$ 

The 2D Schr. Eqn.:

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}+\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}\right)\psi(x,y)+V(x,y)\psi(x,y)=E\psi(x,y)$$

#### **The Potential Energy**



 $V(x,y) = 0 \quad 0 \le x \le a \quad and \quad 0 \le y \le b$ 

 $V(x,y) \rightarrow \infty$  x < 0 or x > a or y < 0 or y > b

Outside of the box i.e. x < 0 or x > a or y < 0 or y > b $\psi(x,y) = 0$ 

#### **Solution: Separation of Variables**

**The 2D Schr. Eqn.:** 
$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}\right)\psi(x,y) + V(x,y)\psi(x,y) = E\psi(x,y)$$

**Inside the box:** V(x,y) = 0  $0 \le x \le a$  and  $0 \le y \le b$ 

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} = H_x + H_y$$

**Note:** This two dimensional differential equation can be solved by the method of **Separation of Variables**.

Inside the box: 
$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} = H_x + H_y$$

$$\psi(x, y) = X(x)Y(y)$$
  $E = E_x + E_y$ 

#### **The Wavefunctions**

$$\psi(x,y) = X(x) \cdot Y(y) = \left[ A_x \sin\left(\frac{n_x \pi x}{a}\right) \right] \cdot \left[ A_y \sin\left(\frac{n_y \pi y}{b}\right) \right] \qquad A_x = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \qquad A_y = \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}$$
Range

$$\psi(x,y) = \sqrt{\frac{4}{ab}} \sin\left(\frac{n_x \pi x}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n_y \pi y}{b}\right) \qquad \begin{array}{l} n_x = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ n_y = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{l} 0 \le x \le a \\ 0 \le y \le b \end{array}$$



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b

#### **The Energies: Wavefunction Degeneracy**

$$E = E_x + E_y = \frac{n_x^2 h^2}{8ma^2} + \frac{n_x^2 h^2}{8mb^2} = \frac{h^2}{8m} \left(\frac{n_x^2}{a^2} + \frac{n_y^2}{b^2}\right) \qquad \begin{array}{l} n_x = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ n_y = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{array}$$

**Square Box** a = b $\begin{bmatrix} 23 & 32 & g = 2 \\ 32 & 32 & g = 2 \\ \hline 13 & 31 & g = 2 \\ 22 & g = 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 13  $E = \frac{h^2}{8ma^2} \left( n_x^2 + n_y^2 \right)$ 10 8  $\left[\frac{h^2}{8ma^2}\right]$ Е g = 2g = 1g = 15 12 21 2 n<sub>x</sub> n<sub>y</sub>

#### **Application:** $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ **Absorption in Benzene**



The six  $\pi$  electrons in benzene can be approximated as particles in a square box.

One can estimate the wavelength of the lowest energy  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  from the 2D-PIB model

#### **Three Dimensional PIB**

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}+\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}+\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}\right)\psi(x,y,z)+V(x,y,z)\psi(x,y,z)=E\psi(x,y,z)$$



$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}+\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}+\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}\right)\psi(x,y,z)=E\psi(x,y,z)$$

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$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}\right)\psi = \left(H_x + H_y + H_z\right)\psi = E\psi$$

Assume:  $\psi(x, y, z) = X(x) \cdot Y(y) \cdot Z(z)$ 

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2 X}{\partial x^2} = E_x X \qquad -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial y^2} = E_y Y \qquad -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2 Z}{\partial z^2} = E_z Z$$

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

$$E_x = \frac{n_x^2 h^2}{8ma^2} \quad n_x = 1,2,3,... \qquad E_y = \frac{n_y^2 h^2}{8mb^2} \quad n_y = 1,2,3,... \qquad E_z = \frac{n_z^2 h^2}{8mc^2} \quad n_z = 1,2,3,...$$

$$X(x) = A_x \sin\left(\frac{n_x \pi x}{a}\right) \qquad Y(y) = A_y \sin\left(\frac{n_y \pi y}{b}\right) \qquad Z(z) = A_z \sin\left(\frac{n_z \pi z}{c}\right)$$

$$A_x = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \qquad A_y = \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}} \qquad A_z = \sqrt{\frac{2}{c}}$$

$$\psi(x, y, z) = X(x) \cdot Y(y) \cdot Z(z) = \sqrt{\frac{8}{abc}} \sin\left(\frac{n_x \pi x}{a}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n_y \pi y}{b}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n_z \pi z}{c}\right)$$

 $n_x = 1, 2, 3, ...$  $n_y = 1, 2, 3, ...$  $n_z = 1, 2, 3, ...$ 

$$E = E_x + E_y + E_z = \frac{n_x^2 h^2}{8ma^2} + \frac{n_x^2 h^2}{8mb^2} + \frac{n_z^2 h^2}{8mc^2} = \frac{h^2}{8m} \left(\frac{n_x^2}{a^2} + \frac{n_y^2}{b^2} + \frac{n_z^2}{c^2}\right)$$

**Cubical Box** a = b = c

$$E = \frac{h^2}{8ma^2} \left( n_x^2 + n_y^2 + n_z^2 \right)$$

**Note:** You should be able to determine the energy levels and degeneracies for a cubical box and for various ratios of a:b:c

Question: construct the energy Diagram for a PIB in 3 D

- a) For cubical box
- b) For a box with a= 2b and c= 2a

#### **Thanks**

#### Examples and Answers Particle in a Box

For a particle in a box with Wavefunctions and Energy:

$$\psi_n = A\sin(\alpha x) = A\sin(\frac{n\pi}{a}x)$$
  $E_n = \frac{n^2h^2}{8ma^2}$   $n = 1, 2, 3, ...$ 

1. Show that the wavefunction is an eigenfunction of the Hamiltonian operator.

- 2. Normalize the wavefunction and find A
- 3. Calculate the following quantities:

$$$$
  $$   $$   $\sigma_{x}^{2}$   $\sigma_{p}^{2}$   $\sigma_{x}\sigma_{p}$   $$   $$   $\Delta x \Delta P$ 

4 Find the number and position of nodes for n= 1, 2, 3 45. Find the probablity of finding the particle in

- *I.*  $0.24L \le x \le 0.26L$
- *II.*  $0. \le x \le 0.25L$

#### **The Correspondence Principle**

The predictions of Quantum Mechanics cannot violate the results of classical mechanics on macroscopically sized systems.

Consider an electron in a 1 Angstrom box. Calculate (a) the Zero Point Energy (i.e. minimum energy) (b) the minimum speed of the electron  $E_1 = \frac{h^2}{8ma^2} = \frac{(6.63x10^{-34} J \cdot s)^2}{8(9.1x10^{-31} kg)(1x10^{-10} m)^2} = 6.04x10^{-18} J$  $E_1 = \frac{mv_1^2}{2} \rightarrow v_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2E_1}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(6.04x10^{-18} kg \cdot m^2 / s^2)}{9.1x10^{-31} kg}}$ 

 $v_1 = 3.6 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s} \ (\approx 1.7 \times 10^7 \text{ mi/hr})$ 

Thus, the minimum speed of an electron confined to an atom is quite high.

Let's perform the same calculation on a macroscopic system.

Consider a 1 gram particle in a 10 cm box. Calculate (a) the Zero Point Energy (i.e. minimum energy) (b) the minimum speed of the particle  $m = 1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}$  a = 0.10 m $h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s})^2$ 

$$E_{1} = \frac{h^{2}}{8ma^{2}} = \frac{\left(6.63x10^{-34} J \cdot s\right)^{2}}{8(1x10^{-3} kg)(0.1m)^{2}} = 5.50x10^{-63} J$$

$$E_{1} = \frac{mv_{1}^{2}}{2} \rightarrow v_{1} = \sqrt{\frac{2E_{1}}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(5.50 \times 10^{-63} \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{2} / \text{s}^{2})}{\times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}}} = 3.3 \times 10^{-30} \text{ m/s}$$

Thus, the minimum energy and speed of a macroscopic particle are completely negligible.

#### **Probability Distribution of a Macroscopic Particle**

Consider a 1 gram particle in a 10 cm box moving at 1 cm/s. Calculate the quantum number, n, which represents the number of maxima in the probability,  $\psi^2$ . m = 1x10<sup>-3</sup> kg

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mv^{2} = \frac{1}{2}(1x10^{-3} kg)(0.01m/s)^{2} = 5.0x10^{-8} J$$
  
$$a = 0.10 m$$
  
$$v = 0.01 m/s$$
  
$$h = 6.63x10^{-34} J-s$$

$$E = \frac{n^2 h^2}{8ma^2} \rightarrow n^2 = \frac{8ma^2 E}{h^2} = \frac{8(1x10^{-3} kg)(0.1m)^2 (5.0x10^{-8} J)}{(6.63x10^{-34} J \cdot s)^2}$$

 $n^2 = 9.1 \times 10^{54} \rightarrow n = 3 \times 10^{27}$ 

Thus, the probability distribution is uniform throughout the box, as predicted by classical mechanics.

#### **PIB Properties**

#### **Normalization of the Wavefunctions**

$$\psi_n = A \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right)$$
  $0 \le x \le a$   $\int \sin^2(\alpha x) dx = \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{4\alpha}\sin(2\alpha x)$ 

$$1 = \int_0^a \psi_n^2 dx = \int_0^a \left[ A \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right) \right]^2 dx = A^2 \int_0^a \sin^2\left(\alpha x\right) dx \qquad \alpha = \frac{n\pi}{a}$$

$$= A^{2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} x - \frac{1}{4\alpha} \sin(2\alpha x) \right]_{0}^{a} = A^{2} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{2} a - \frac{1}{4\alpha} \sin(2\alpha x) - \left( 0 - \frac{1}{4\alpha} \sin(0) \right) \right]_{0}^{a} \right]$$

$$1 = A^{2} \left(\frac{a}{2}\right) \longrightarrow A = \left(\frac{2}{a}\right)^{1/2} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}}$$

# Probability of finding the particle in a particular portion of the box

Calculate the probability of finding a particle with  $\psi_1 = A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right)$ n=1 in the region of the box between 0 and a/4

$$\int \sin^2(\alpha x) dx = \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{4\alpha}\sin(2\alpha x)$$

 $P(0 \le x \le a/4) = A^2 \int_0^{a/4} \sin^2(\alpha x) dx \qquad \alpha = \pi/a$  $= A^2 \left[ \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{4\alpha} \sin(2\alpha x) \right]_0^{a/4} = A^2 \left[ \left( \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{a}{4} - \frac{1}{4(\pi/a)} \sin\left(2\frac{\pi}{a}\frac{a}{4}\right) \right) - \left(0 - \frac{1}{4(\pi/a)} \sin(0)\right) \right]$  $P(0 \le x \le a/4) = \frac{2}{a} \left( \frac{a}{8} - \frac{a}{4\pi} \right) = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2\pi} = 0.091$ 

This is significantly lower than the classical probability, 0.25.

#### **Orthogonality of the Wavefunctions**

Two wavefunctions are orthogonal if:  $\int \psi_i^* \psi_j d\tau = 0$   $i \neq j$ 

We will show that the two lowest wavefunctions of the PIB are orthogonal:  $\psi_1 = A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) \quad \psi_2 = A \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{a}\right)$  $\int_{0}^{a} \psi_{2} \psi_{1} dx = \int_{0}^{a} A \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{a}\right) A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) dx = A^{2} \int_{0}^{a} \sin(\alpha x) \sin(\beta x) dx \quad \alpha = \frac{2\pi}{a} \quad \beta = \frac{\pi}{a}$  $\int \sin(\alpha x) \sin(\beta x) dx = \frac{\sin[(\alpha - \beta)x]}{2(\alpha - \beta)} - \frac{\sin[(\alpha + \beta)x]}{2(\alpha + \beta)}$  $\int_{0}^{a} \psi_{2} \psi_{1} dx = A^{2} \left( \frac{\sin\left[(\alpha - \beta)a\right]}{2(\alpha - \beta)} - \frac{\sin\left[(\alpha + \beta)a\right]}{2(\alpha + \beta)} \right) - A^{2} \left(0 - 0\right) \qquad (\alpha + \beta)a = \frac{3\pi}{a}a = 3\pi$  $(\alpha - \beta)a = \frac{\pi}{\alpha}a = \pi$  $\int_{0}^{a} \psi_{2} \psi_{1} dx = A^{2} \left( \frac{\sin[\pi]}{2(\alpha - \beta)} - \frac{\sin[3\pi]}{2(\alpha + \beta)} \right) = 0$  Thus,  $\psi_{1}$  and  $\psi_{2}$  are orthogonal

Using the same method as above, it can be shown that:

$$\int \psi_i^* \psi_j d\tau = 0 \quad \text{For all } i \neq j$$

Thus, the PIB wavefunctions are orthogonal.

If they have also been normalized, then the wavefunctions are **orthonormal**:

$$\int \psi_i^* \psi_j d\tau = \delta_{ij}$$
  
or  
 $\langle \psi_i | \psi_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$ 

#### **Positional Averages**

We will calculate the averages for  $\psi_1$  and present the general result for  $\psi_n$ 

$$\psi_1 = A\sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) = A\sin(\alpha x) \quad \alpha = \frac{\pi}{a} \quad A = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}}$$

$$\sin(\alpha a) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}a\right) = 0$$
  $\sin(2\alpha a) = \sin\left(2\frac{\pi}{a}a\right) = 0$ 

$$\cos(\alpha a) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{a}a\right) = -1$$
  $\cos(2\alpha a) = \cos\left(2\frac{\pi}{a}a\right) = +1$ 

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$$\langle x \rangle = \langle \psi_1 | x | \psi_1 \rangle = \int_0^a \psi_1^* x \psi_1 dx = \int_0^a A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) x A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) dx$$
$$= A^2 \int_0^a x \sin^2\left(\alpha x\right) dx \quad \alpha = \frac{\pi}{a}$$

$$\langle x \rangle = A^2 \int_0^a x \sin^2(\alpha x) dx \qquad \int x \sin^2(\alpha x) dx = \frac{x^2}{4} - \frac{x \sin(2\alpha x)}{4\alpha} - \frac{\cos(2\alpha x)}{8\alpha^2}$$
$$\langle x \rangle = \frac{2}{a} \left[ \left( \frac{a^2}{4} - \frac{a \sin(2\alpha a)}{4\alpha} - \frac{\cos(2\alpha a)}{8\alpha^2} \right) - \left( 0 - 0 - \frac{\cos(0)}{8\alpha^2} \right) \right]$$
$$\langle x \rangle = \frac{2}{a} \left[ \left( \frac{a^2}{4} - \frac{1}{8\alpha^2} \right) - \left( -\frac{1}{8\alpha^2} \right) \right]$$
$$\langle x \rangle = \frac{a}{2}$$

**General Case:** 
$$\langle x \rangle = \frac{a}{2}$$

This makes sense because  $\psi^2$  is symmetric about the center of the box.

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$$\left\langle x^{2} \right\rangle = \left\langle \psi_{1} \right| x^{2} \left| \psi_{1} \right\rangle = \int_{0}^{a} \psi_{1}^{*} x^{2} \psi_{1} dx = \int_{0}^{a} A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) x^{2} A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right) dx$$
$$= A^{2} \int_{0}^{a} x^{2} \sin^{2}\left(\alpha x\right) dx \quad \alpha = \frac{\pi}{a}$$

$$\int x^2 \sin^2(\alpha x) dx = \frac{x^3}{6} - \left(\frac{x^2}{4\alpha} - \frac{1}{8\alpha^3}\right) \sin(2\alpha x) - \frac{x \cos(2\alpha x)}{4\alpha^2}$$

$$\left\langle x^{2} \right\rangle = \frac{2}{a} \left[ \left( \frac{a^{3}}{6} - \left( \frac{a^{2}}{4\alpha} - \frac{1}{8\alpha^{3}} \right) \sin(2\alpha a) - \frac{a\cos(2\alpha a)}{4\alpha^{2}} \right) - (0 - 0 - 0) \right]$$
$$\left\langle x^{2} \right\rangle = \frac{2}{a} \left( \frac{a^{3}}{6} - \frac{a}{4\left(\frac{\pi}{a}\right)^{2}} \right) = \frac{a^{2}}{3} - \frac{a^{2}}{2\pi^{2}} = \left( \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2\pi^{2}} \right) a^{2} \approx 0.28a^{2}$$

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$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2\pi^2}\right)a^2 \approx 0.28a^2$$

compared to the classical result

$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \frac{a^2}{2} \approx 0.33a^2$$

**General Case:** 
$$\langle x^2 \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2n^2\pi^2}\right)a^2$$

Note that the general QM value reduces to the classical result in the limit of large n, as required by the Correspondence Principle.

#### **Momentum Averages**

#### **Preliminary**

$$\hat{p} \equiv \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d}{dx} \qquad \qquad \hat{p}^2 \equiv -\hbar^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$$

$$\psi_1 = A\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) = A\sin(\alpha x) \quad \alpha = \frac{\pi}{a} \quad A = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}}$$

$$\frac{d\psi_1}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} (A\sin(\alpha x)) = A\alpha \cos(\alpha x)$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi_1}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} (A\alpha \cos(\alpha x)) = -A\alpha^2 \sin(\alpha x)$$

$$\sin(\alpha a) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}a\right) = 0 \quad \sin(2\alpha a) = \sin\left(2\frac{\pi}{a}a\right) = 0$$
$$\cos(\alpha a) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{a}a\right) = -1 \quad \cos(2\alpha a) = \cos\left(2\frac{\pi}{a}a\right) = 1$$

$$\langle \mathbf{p} \rangle = \langle \psi_1 | \hat{p} | \psi_1 \rangle = \int_0^a \psi_1^* \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{d\psi_1}{dx} dx = \int_0^a A \sin(\alpha x) \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{dA \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right)}{dx} dx \quad \alpha = \frac{\pi}{a}$$
$$= \int_0^a A \sin(\alpha x) \frac{\hbar}{i} A\alpha \cos(\alpha x) dx = A^2 \left(\frac{\hbar}{i}\right) \alpha \int_0^a \sin(\alpha x) \cos(\alpha x) dx$$
$$\int \sin(\alpha x) \cos(\alpha x) dx = \frac{1}{2\alpha} \sin^2(\alpha x)$$
$$\langle \mathbf{p} \rangle = A^2 \left(\frac{\hbar}{i}\right) \alpha \left[ \left(\frac{1}{2\alpha} \sin^2(\alpha a)\right) - \left(\frac{1}{2\alpha} \sin^2(0)\right) \right] = A^2 \left(\frac{\hbar}{i}\right) \alpha \left[ 0 - 0 \right]$$

= 0 (General case is the same)

On reflection, this is not surprising. The particle has equal probabilities of moving in the + or - x-direction, and the momenta cancel each other.

$$\langle p^{2} \rangle \qquad \hat{p}^{2} \equiv -\hbar^{2} \frac{d^{2}}{dx^{2}}$$

$$\left\langle p^{2} \right\rangle = \left\langle \psi_{1} \right| \hat{p}^{2} \left| \psi_{1} \right\rangle = \int_{0}^{a} \psi_{1}^{*} \left( -\hbar^{2} \right) \frac{d^{2} \psi_{1}}{dx^{2}} dx = \int_{0}^{a} A \sin(\alpha x) \left( -\hbar^{2} \right) \frac{d^{2} A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{a}\right)}{dx^{2}} dx \quad \alpha = \frac{\pi}{a}$$

$$= \int_{0}^{a} A \sin(\alpha x) \left( -\hbar^{2} \right) \left( -A\alpha^{2} \right) \sin(\alpha x) dx = A^{2} \hbar^{2} \alpha^{2} \int_{0}^{a} \sin^{2}(\alpha x) dx$$

$$\int \sin^{2}(\alpha x) dx = \frac{1}{2} x - \frac{1}{4\alpha} \sin(2\alpha x)$$

$$\langle p^2 \rangle = A^2 \hbar^2 \alpha^2 \left[ \left( \frac{a}{2} - \frac{1}{4\alpha} \sin(2\alpha a) \right) - \left( 0 - \frac{1}{4\alpha} \sin(0) \right) \right] = \left( \frac{2}{a} \right) \hbar^2 \alpha^2 \left[ \frac{a}{2} \right]$$

$$\left\langle \boldsymbol{p}^{2}\right\rangle = \hbar^{2}\alpha^{2} = \frac{\pi^{2}\hbar^{2}}{\boldsymbol{a}^{2}}$$

**General Case:** 
$$\langle p^2 \rangle = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{a^2}$$

#### **Standard Deviations and the Uncertainty Principle**

Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle:  $\sigma_x \sigma_p \ge \frac{\hbar}{2}$ 

| $\langle x \rangle = \frac{a}{2} = 0.50a$ | $ig\langle oldsymbol{ ho}ig angle = oldsymbol{0}$                          |
|---|--|
| $\langle x^2 \rangle \approx 0.28a^2$     | $\left< \boldsymbol{p}^2 \right> = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{\boldsymbol{a}^2}$ |

$$\sigma_{x} = \sqrt{\left\langle x^{2}\right\rangle - \left\langle x\right\rangle^{2}} = \sqrt{0.28a^{2} - (0.50a)^{2}} \approx 0.17a$$

$$\sigma_{p} = \sqrt{\left\langle \boldsymbol{p}^{2} \right\rangle - \left\langle \boldsymbol{p} \right\rangle^{2}} = \sqrt{\left\langle \boldsymbol{p}^{2} \right\rangle - 0} = \frac{\pi\hbar}{a} \approx 3.14 \frac{\hbar}{a}$$

$$\sigma_x \sigma_p \approx (0.17a) \left( 3.14 \frac{\hbar}{a} \right) \approx 0.53\hbar$$