

2 - 8 - 08

Note Title

2/8/2008

Free particle  $V(x) = 0$

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

$$\psi'' + \frac{2mE}{\hbar^2} \psi = 0$$

$$\psi'' + k^2 \psi = 0 \quad k^2 = \frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}$$

$$\psi(x) = A e^{ikx} + B e^{-ikx}$$

$$\Psi(x,t) = A e^{i(kx - Et/\hbar)} + B e^{-i(kx + Et/\hbar)}$$

factor out a  $k$   $e^{ik(x - \frac{E}{\hbar k} t)}$

$$\frac{E}{\hbar k} = \frac{\hbar k}{2m}$$

$$\Psi(x,t) = A e^{ik(x - \frac{\hbar k}{2m} t)} + B e^{-ik(x - \frac{\hbar k}{2m} t)}$$

plane waves moving to left & right

$$x \pm vt$$

$$v = \frac{\hbar k}{2m}$$

$$k = \pm \frac{\sqrt{2mE}}{\hbar}$$

$$k > 0$$
$$< 0$$

traveling to right  
left

de Broglie  $p = \hbar k$

$$v = \frac{\hbar k}{2m} = \frac{p}{2m} = \frac{1}{2} v_{\text{classical}}$$

Not normalizable, form a  
Linear combination

$$\Psi(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(k) e^{i(kx - \hbar k^2/2m t)} dk$$

for appropriate choice of  $\phi$  this  
can be normalized

now, as usual, we will be  
given  $\Psi(x, t=0)$  and asked to  
find  $\Psi(x, t)$ .

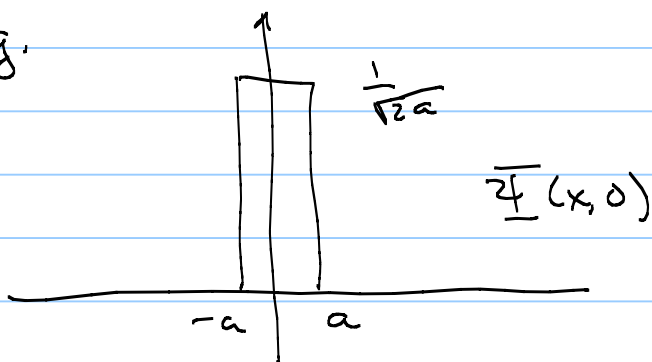
$$\underline{\Psi}(x, 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(k) e^{ikx} dk$$

Hence  $\phi(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \underline{\Psi}(x, 0) e^{-ikx} dx$

Recall from 311

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(k) e^{ikx} dk \Leftrightarrow P(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx$$

Eg.



$$\phi(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}} \int_{-a}^a e^{-ikx} dx$$
$$\frac{1}{-ik} e^{-ikx} \Big|_{-a}^a$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a}} \frac{i}{k} \left[ e^{-ika} - e^{+ika} \right]$$

$$-2i \sin ka$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a}} \frac{\sin ka}{k}$$

$$\text{So } \psi(x, t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\sin ka}{k} e^{-ik(x - \frac{\hbar k^2}{2m} t)} dk$$

can't be done analytically

Standard form of a wave packet

$$\psi(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(k) e^{i(kx - \omega t)} dk$$

in our case  $\omega = \hbar k^2 / 2m$

$\omega(k)$  is called the dispersion relation

$$\frac{\omega}{k} = v_{\text{phase}}$$

$$\frac{d\omega}{dk} = v_{\text{group}}$$

$$\omega = \frac{\hbar k^2}{2m}$$

for Free particle  $\frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{\hbar k}{m}$

$$\frac{\omega}{v} = \frac{\hbar k}{2m}$$

$$v_{\text{group}} = v_{\text{classical}} = 2 v_{\text{phase}}$$