

Infinite Potential Wall

The energy eigenfunctions and eigenvalues of the infinite potential wall:

$$\psi[x_, n_] = \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin\left[\frac{n\pi}{L} x\right]; \quad E_n[n_] = \frac{\hbar^2 \pi^2}{2 m L^2} n^2;$$

```

nrule = {L -> 1, m -> 1, h -> 1, p -> Pi}; (*Numerical values chosen for plots*)
Ncut = 20; (* We truncate the Hilbert space dimension to this value *)
$Assumptions = n ∈ Integers && l ∈ Integers && n > 0 && m > 0 && L > 0 &&
h > 0 && l > 0 && p ∈ Reals && x ∈ Reals && y ∈ Reals && t ∈ Reals;

```

Problem 4:

Consider the particle in the initial state $\phi(x, 0) = (c_1 \psi_1(x) + c_3 \psi_3(x) + c_5 \psi_5(x)) e^{i p x / \hbar}$ for $c_3/c_1 = -1/3$, $c_5/c_1 = 1/5$.

Compute the state $\phi(x, t)$ and the corresponding average values of position, momentum etc.

It is similar to problem 3 but we give to the particle initial momentum $\langle p \rangle = p$, see above.

Since now the coefficients c_n are infinite in number and complex in algebraic form (you can easily try to compute them), we put numerical values from the beginning.

Solution:

Consider the expression of the wave function in terms of the energy eigenfunctions:

$$\phi(x, 0) \equiv \phi(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \psi_n(x), \quad c_n = \int_0^L \psi_n^*(x) \phi(x) dx$$

$$\phi(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \psi_n(x) e^{-i E_n t / \hbar}$$

$$\langle x \rangle(t) = \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} c_m^* c_n e^{-i(E_n - E_m)t/\hbar} \int_0^L \psi_m^*(x) x \psi_n(x) dx$$

$$\langle x^2 \rangle(t) = \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} c_m^* c_n e^{-i(E_n - E_m)t/\hbar} \int_0^L \psi_m^*(x) x^2 \psi_n(x) dx$$

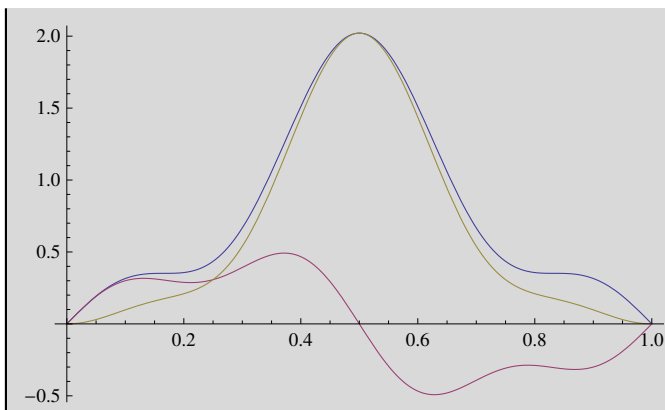
We compute the normalization factor A and define the wave function at t=0

$$A = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\int_0^L (\psi[x, 1] - (1/3) \psi[x, 3] + (1/5) \psi[x, 5])^2 dx}}$$

$$\frac{15}{\sqrt{259}}$$

$$\phi[x_, 0] = A (\psi[x, 1] - (1/3) \psi[x, 3] + (1/5) \psi[x, 5]) e^{i p x / \hbar};$$

```
Plot[{Abs[φ[x, 0]] /. nrule, Re[φ[x, 0]] /. nrule, Im[φ[x, 0]] /. nrule},
{x, 0, L /. nrule}]
```

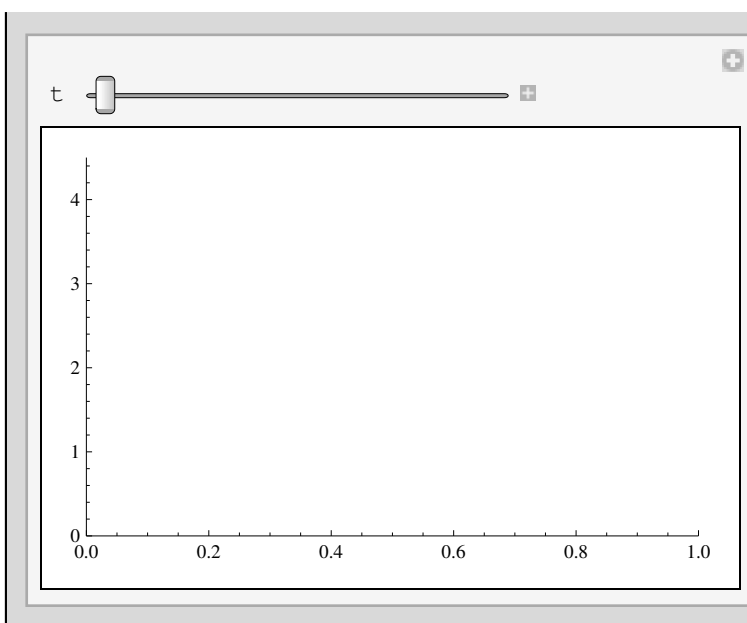


We compute the coefficients c_n :

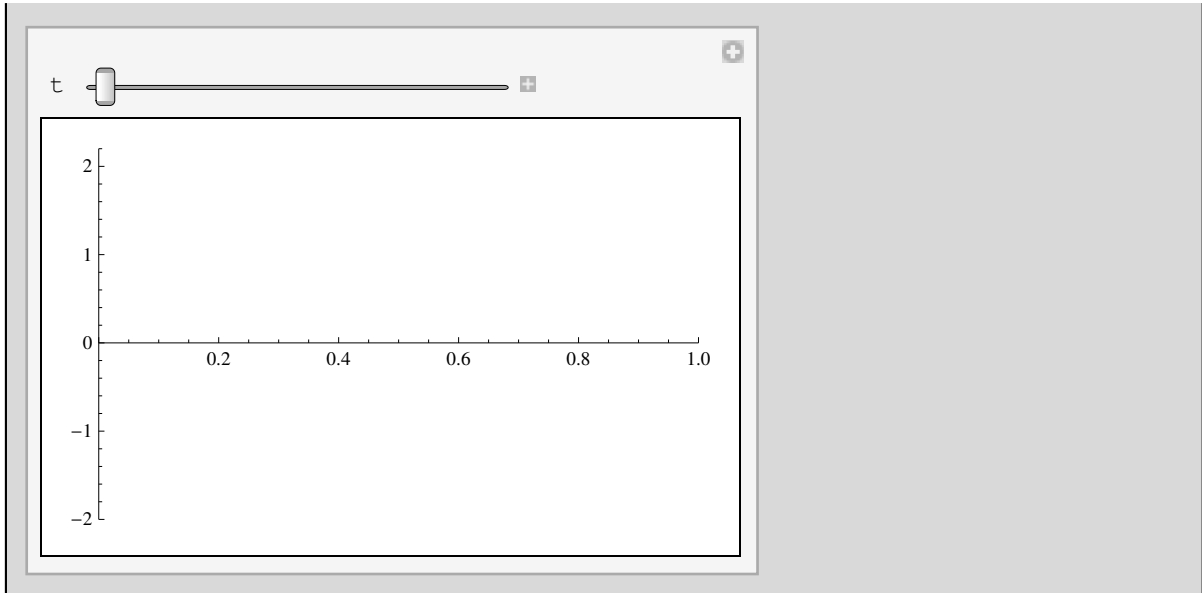
```
Table[cn[n] = Chop[NIntegrate[ψ[x, n] φ[x, 0] /. nrule,
{x, 0, L /. nrule}, MaxRecursion → 12, WorkingPrecision → 20]], {n, 1, Ncut}]
```

$$\phi[x_, t_] = \sum_{n=1}^{Ncut} c_n[n] \psi[x, n] e^{-i E_n[n] t / \hbar};$$

```
Absφ[x_, t_] = Abs[φ[x, t]] /. nrule;
Manipulate[
Plot[Absφ[x, t]^2, {x, 0, 1}, PlotRange → {{0, 1}, {0, 4.5}}, {t, 0, 4, 0.0001}]
```



```
Reφ[x_, t_] = Re[φ[x, t]] /. nrule;
Imφ[x_, t_] = Im[φ[x, t]] /. nrule;
Manipulate[Plot[{Reφ[x, t], Imφ[x, t]}, {x, 0, 1},
  PlotRange → {{0, 1}, {-2, 2.2}}, PlotStyle → {Red, Blue}], {t, 0, 4, 0.0001}]
```



Average energy $\langle E \rangle$, $\langle E^2 \rangle$ and uncertainty ΔE Here you have to be careful in the choice of Ncut: One must choose $N_{\text{cut}} \gg \sqrt{(\langle E \rangle + \Delta E)/E_1}$

```
avE = Sum[Abs[cn[n]]^2 En[n], {n, 1, Ncut}]; avE2 = Sum[Abs[cn[n]]^2 En[n]^2, {n, 1, Ncut}]; ΔE = Sqrt[avE2 - avE^2];
Print[
  "<E> = ", avE, " = ", avE / En[1], " E1",
  "\n<E^2> = ", avE2, " = ", avE2 / En[1]^2, " E1^2",
  "\nΔE = ", ΔE, " = ", ΔE / En[1] // Simplify, " E1"
]
```

$$\langle E \rangle = \frac{17.795126770793899314 \hbar^2}{L^2 m} = 3.6060466149645796003 E_1$$

$$\langle E^2 \rangle = \frac{1141.9364571309609795 \hbar^4}{L^4 m^2} = 46.892397619534177882 E_1^2$$

$$\Delta E = 28.727511558475357590 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar^4}{L^4 m^2}} = 5.821410948407325322 E_1$$

Position and momenta matrix elements:

$$x_{nm} = \int_0^L \psi_n^*(x) x \psi_m(x) dx, \quad x^2_{nm} = \int_0^L \psi_n^*(x) x^2 \psi_m(x) dx, \quad p_{nm} = \int_0^L \psi_n^*(x) \hat{p} \psi_m(x) dx, \quad p^2_{nm} = \int_0^L \psi_n^*(x) \hat{p}^2 \psi_m(x) dx$$

$$\begin{aligned}
xnm[n_, l_] &= \int_0^L \psi[x, n] x \psi[x, l] dx; \quad xnm[n_, n_] = \int_0^L \psi[x, n] x \psi[x, n] dx; \\
x2nm[n_, l_] &= \int_0^L \psi[x, n] x^2 \psi[x, l] dx; \quad x2nm[n_, n_] = \int_0^L \psi[x, n] x^2 \psi[x, n] dx; \\
pnm[n_, l_] &= \int_0^L \psi[x, n] (-i \hbar) \partial_x \psi[x, l] dx /. \text{Cos}[l \pi] \rightarrow (-1)^l; \\
pnm[n_, n_] &= \int_0^L \psi[x, n] (-i \hbar) \partial_x \psi[x, n] dx; \\
p2nm[n_, l_] &= \int_0^L \psi[x, n] (-\hbar^2) \partial_{xx} \psi[x, l] dx; \\
p2nm[n_, n_] &= \int_0^L \psi[x, n] (-\hbar^2) \partial_{xx} \psi[x, n] dx;
\end{aligned}$$

```
Table[pnm[i, j], {i, 1, 5}, {j, 1, 5}] // MatrixForm
```

$$\begin{pmatrix}
0 & \frac{8 i \hbar}{3 L} & 0 & \frac{16 i \hbar}{15 L} & 0 \\
-\frac{8 i \hbar}{3 L} & 0 & \frac{24 i \hbar}{5 L} & 0 & \frac{40 i \hbar}{21 L} \\
0 & -\frac{24 i \hbar}{5 L} & 0 & \frac{48 i \hbar}{7 L} & 0 \\
-\frac{16 i \hbar}{15 L} & 0 & -\frac{48 i \hbar}{7 L} & 0 & \frac{80 i \hbar}{9 L} \\
0 & -\frac{40 i \hbar}{21 L} & 0 & -\frac{80 i \hbar}{9 L} & 0
\end{pmatrix}$$

Here we have to be careful: Due to large arguments in trig/exp functions the numerical errors are large. In particular we find large real parts. Therefore we compute the real part from the beginning. Notice the use of the `Refine[]` function in order for mathematica to use the fact that `t` is real and compute the real part.

```

δ[i_, j_] := KroneckerDelta[i, j]; δ[i_, j_] := (2 - δ[i, j]);
xavφ[t_] =
  Sum[Sum[δ[i, n, l] Refine[Re[cn[n] cn[l] xnm[n, l] e^{-i (En[l] - En[n]) t/ħ}]]], {n, 1, Ncut}, {l, 1, Ncut}] /. nrule // N;

x2avφ[t_] =
  Sum[Sum[δ[i, n, l] Refine[Re[cn[n] cn[l] x2nm[n, l] e^{-i (En[l] - En[n]) t/ħ}]]], {n, 1, Ncut}, {l, 1, Ncut}] /.
  nrule // N;

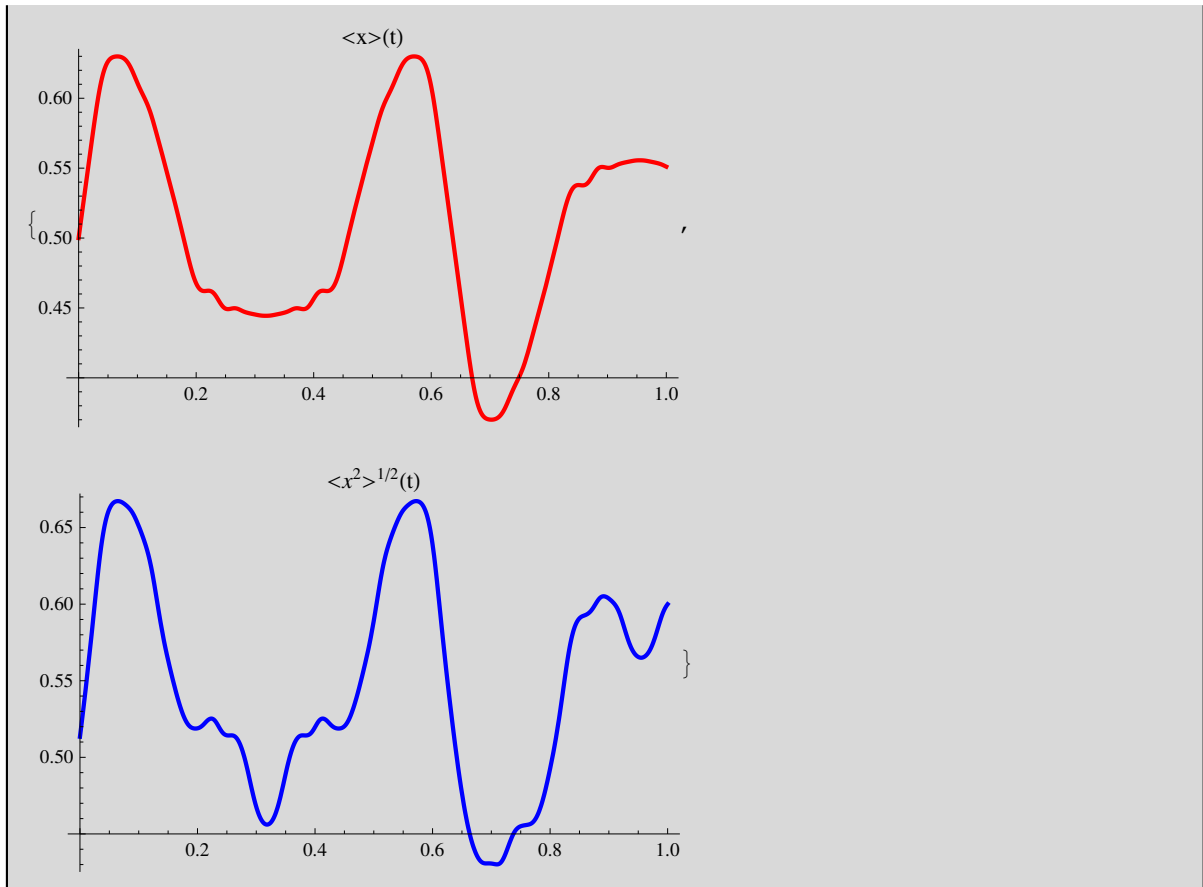
pavφ[t_] =
  Sum[Sum[δ[i, n, l] Refine[Re[cn[n] cn[l] pnm[n, l] e^{-i (En[l] - En[n]) t/ħ}]]], {n, 1, Ncut}, {l, 1, Ncut}] /.
  nrule // N;

p2avφ[t_] =
  Sum[Sum[δ[i, n, l] Refine[Re[cn[n] cn[l] p2nm[n, l] e^{-i (En[l] - En[n]) t/ħ}]]], {n, 1, Ncut}, {l, 1, Ncut}] /.
  nrule // N;

Δx[t_] = Sqrt[x2avφ[t] - xavφ[t]^2]; Δp[t_] = Sqrt[p2avφ[t] - pavφ[t]^2];

```

```
{Plot[xavφ[t] /. nrule, {t, 0, 1},
  PlotLabel → "<x>(t)", PlotStyle → Directive[Red, Thick]],
Plot[√x2avφ[t] /. nrule, {t, 0, 1}, PlotLabel → "<x²>¹/²(t)",
  PlotStyle → Directive[Blue, Thick]]}
```

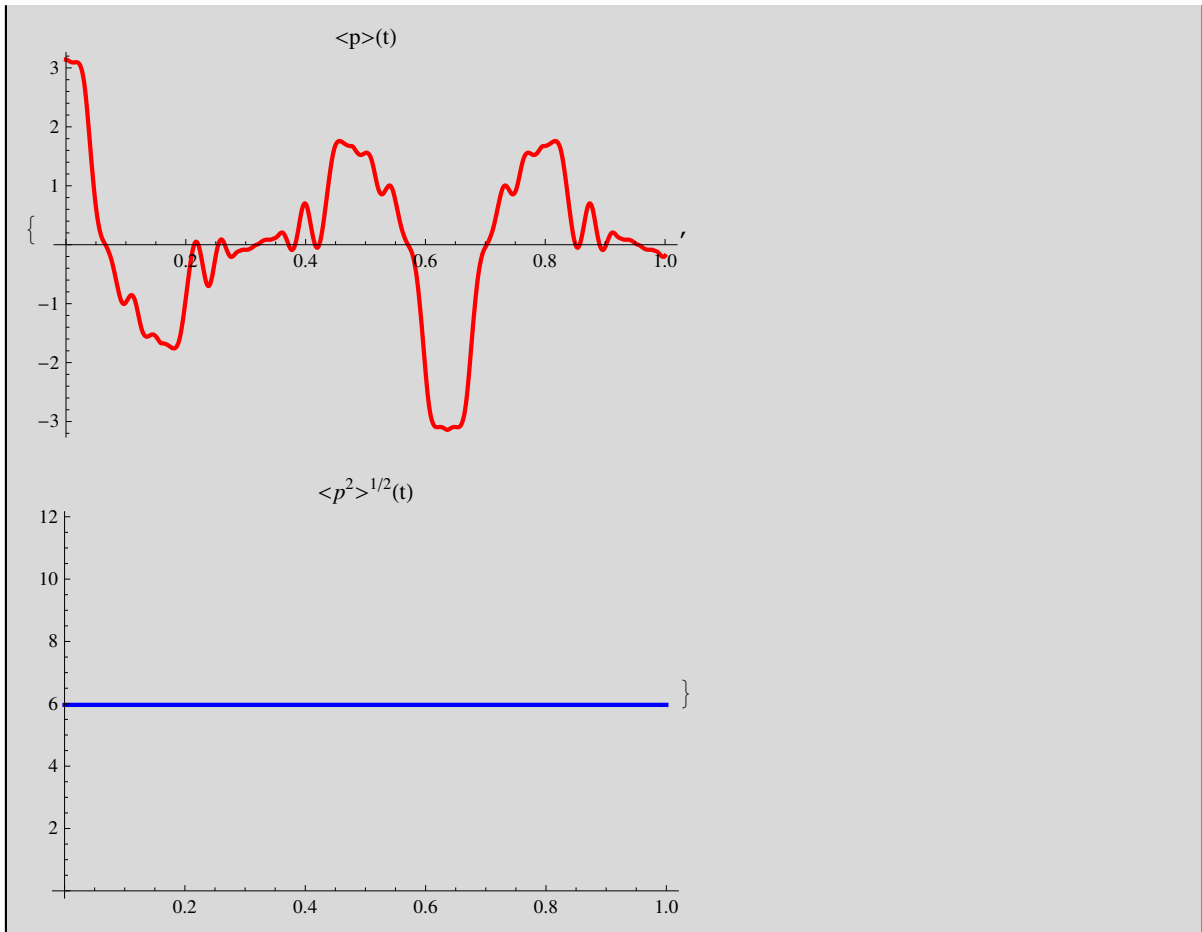


This should be the same as the value of p in nrule:

```
pavφ[0]
```

```
3.14119
```

```
{Plot[pavφ[t] /. nrule, {t, 0, 1},
  PlotLabel → "<p>(t)", PlotStyle → Directive[Red, Thick]],
Plot[√p2avφ[t] /. nrule, {t, 0, 1}, PlotLabel → "<p²>¹/²(t)",
  PlotStyle → Directive[Blue, Thick]]}
```



```
{Plot[Δ x[t] /. nrule, {t, 0, 1},
  PlotLabel → "Δ x(t)", PlotStyle → Directive[Red, Thick]],
 Plot[Δ p[t] /. nrule, {t, 0, 1}, PlotLabel → "Δ p(t)",
  PlotStyle → Directive[Blue, Thick]],
 Plot[{Δ x[t] Δ p[t] /. nrule, ħ / 2 /. nrule}, {t, 0, 1}, PlotLabel → "Δ x(t) Δ p(t)",
  PlotStyle → {Directive[Magenta, Thick], Directive[Green, Thick]}]}
```

