

MAU34403: Quantum Mechanics I

Homework 7 due 12/11/2021

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JS Theoretical Physics

Problem 1.

(a)

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\lambda\rangle &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n |n\rangle \\
 \lambda |\lambda\rangle &= a |\lambda\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n a |n\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n \sqrt{n} |n-1\rangle \\
 &= 0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda_n \sqrt{n} |n-1\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_{n+1} \sqrt{n+1} |n\rangle \\
 \implies |\lambda\rangle &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_{n+1} \sqrt{n+1}}{\lambda} |n\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda_n |n\rangle \\
 \implies \lambda_{n+1} &= \lambda_n \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{n+1}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_1 &= \lambda_0 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{0+1}} & \lambda_2 &= \lambda_1 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{1+1}} & \lambda_3 &= \lambda_2 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2+1}} & \lambda_4 &= \lambda_3 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{3+1}} \\
 &= \lambda_0 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{1}} & &= \lambda_0 \frac{\lambda^2}{\sqrt{2 \cdot 1}} & &= \lambda_0 \frac{\lambda^3}{\sqrt{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}} & &= \lambda_0 \frac{\lambda^4}{\sqrt{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \implies \lambda_n &= \lambda_0 \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \\
 \implies |\lambda\rangle &= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
1 &= \langle \lambda | \lambda \rangle \\
&= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \langle \lambda | n \rangle \\
&= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \lambda_n^* \\
&= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \left(\lambda_0 \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \right)^* \\
&= \lambda_0 \lambda_0^* \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda \lambda^*)^n}{n!} \\
&= |\lambda_0|^2 e^{|\lambda|^2} \\
\implies |\lambda_0| &= e^{-\frac{|\lambda|^2}{2}} \\
\implies |\lambda\rangle &= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle \text{ where } |\lambda_0| = e^{-\frac{|\lambda|^2}{2}}
\end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned}
|n\rangle &= \frac{(a^\dagger)^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |0\rangle \\
\implies |\lambda\rangle &= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \frac{(a^\dagger)^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |0\rangle \\
&= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda a^\dagger)^n}{n!} |0\rangle \\
|\lambda\rangle &= \lambda_0 e^{\lambda a^\dagger} |0\rangle \text{ where } |\lambda_0| = e^{-\frac{|\lambda|^2}{2}}
\end{aligned}$$

(c)

$$X = \eta (a^\dagger + a) \quad P = \frac{i\hbar}{2\eta} (a^\dagger - a) \quad \Delta A = \sqrt{\langle A^2 \rangle - \langle A \rangle^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle X \rangle &= \langle \lambda | \eta (a^\dagger + a) | \lambda \rangle \quad \langle X^2 \rangle = \langle \lambda | \eta^2 \left((a^\dagger)^2 + a^\dagger a + a a^\dagger + a^2 \right) | \lambda \rangle \\
&= \eta (\langle \lambda | a^\dagger | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | a | \lambda \rangle) \quad = \eta^2 (\langle \lambda | a^\dagger a^\dagger | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | a^\dagger a | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | a a^\dagger - a^\dagger a + a^\dagger a | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | a a | \lambda \rangle) \\
&= \eta (\langle \lambda | \lambda^* | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | \lambda | \lambda \rangle) \quad = \eta^2 (\langle \lambda | \lambda^* a^\dagger | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | \lambda^* \lambda | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | [a, a^\dagger] | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | a^\dagger a | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | a \lambda | \lambda \rangle) \\
&= \eta (\lambda^* + \lambda) \quad = \eta^2 (\lambda^* \langle \lambda | \lambda^* | \lambda \rangle + \lambda^* \lambda + \langle \lambda | I | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | \lambda^* \lambda | \lambda \rangle + \lambda \langle \lambda | \lambda | \lambda \rangle) \\
\langle X \rangle^2 &= \eta^2 (\lambda^* + \lambda)^2 \quad = \eta^2 \left((\lambda^*)^2 + \lambda^* \lambda + 1 + \lambda^* \lambda + \lambda^2 \right) \\
&= \eta^2 \left((\lambda^* + \lambda)^2 + 1 \right) \\
\implies \Delta X &= \sqrt{\eta^2 \left((\lambda^* + \lambda)^2 + 1 \right) - \eta^2 (\lambda^* + \lambda)^2} = \eta
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle P \rangle &= \langle \lambda | \frac{i\hbar}{2\eta} (a^\dagger - a) | \lambda \rangle & \langle P^2 \rangle &= \langle \lambda | -\frac{\hbar^2}{4\eta^2} \left((a^\dagger)^2 - a^\dagger a - a a^\dagger + a^2 \right) | \lambda \rangle \\
&= \frac{i\hbar}{2\eta} (\langle \lambda | a^\dagger | \lambda \rangle - \langle \lambda | a | \lambda \rangle) & &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{4\eta^2} (\langle \lambda | a^\dagger a^\dagger | \lambda \rangle - \langle \lambda | a^\dagger a | \lambda \rangle - \langle \lambda | a a^\dagger - a^\dagger a + a^\dagger a | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | a a | \lambda \rangle) \\
&= \frac{i\hbar}{2\eta} (\langle \lambda | \lambda^* | \lambda \rangle - \langle \lambda | \lambda | \lambda \rangle) & &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{4\eta^2} (\langle \lambda | \lambda^* a^\dagger | \lambda \rangle - \langle \lambda | \lambda^* \lambda | \lambda \rangle - \langle \lambda | [a, a^\dagger] | \lambda \rangle - \langle \lambda | a^\dagger a | \lambda \rangle + \langle \lambda | a \lambda | \lambda \rangle) \\
&= \frac{i\hbar}{2\eta} (\lambda^* - \lambda) & &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{4\eta^2} (\lambda^* \langle \lambda | \lambda^* | \lambda \rangle - \lambda^* \lambda - \langle \lambda | I | \lambda \rangle - \langle \lambda | \lambda^* \lambda | \lambda \rangle + \lambda \langle \lambda | \lambda | \lambda \rangle) \\
\langle P \rangle^2 &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{4\eta^2} (\lambda^* - \lambda)^2 & &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{4\eta^2} ((\lambda^*)^2 - \lambda^* \lambda - 1 - \lambda^* \lambda + \lambda^2) \\
& & &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{4\eta^2} ((\lambda^* - \lambda)^2 - 1) \\
\implies \Delta P &= \sqrt{-\frac{\hbar^2}{4\eta^2} ((\lambda^* - \lambda)^2 - 1) + \frac{\hbar^2}{4\eta^2} (\lambda^* - \lambda)^2} = \frac{\hbar}{2\eta} \\
\Delta X \Delta P &= \eta \frac{\hbar}{2\eta} = \frac{\hbar}{2} \implies \text{uncertainty relation verified}
\end{aligned}$$

(d)

$$\begin{aligned}
\psi_\lambda(x) &= \langle x | \lambda \rangle \\
&= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \langle x | n \rangle \\
&= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \psi_n(x) \\
&= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n n!}} H_n \left(\frac{x}{\eta\sqrt{2}} \right) \psi_0(x) \\
&= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^n}{n!} H_n \left(\frac{x}{\eta\sqrt{2}} \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{\eta\sqrt{2\pi}}} \exp \left(-\frac{x^2}{4\eta^2} \right) \\
&= \frac{\lambda_0}{\sqrt{\eta\sqrt{2\pi}}} \exp \left(-\frac{x^2}{4\eta^2} \right) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} H_n \left(\frac{x}{\eta\sqrt{2}} \right) \frac{\left(\frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^n}{n!} \\
&= \frac{\lambda_0}{\sqrt{\eta\sqrt{2\pi}}} \exp \left(-\frac{x^2}{4\eta^2} \right) \exp \left(2 \frac{x}{\eta\sqrt{2}} \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2}} - \left(\frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 \right) \\
\psi_\lambda(x) &= \frac{\lambda_0}{\sqrt{\eta\sqrt{2\pi}}} \exp \left(-\frac{x^2}{4\eta^2} + \frac{x\lambda}{\eta} - \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \right) \text{ where } |\lambda_0| = e^{-\frac{|\lambda|^2}{2}}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Sum} \left[\text{HermiteH}[\textcolor{teal}{n}, \textcolor{blue}{a}] \frac{\textcolor{blue}{b}^{\textcolor{teal}{n}}}{\textcolor{teal}{n}!}, \{ \textcolor{teal}{n}, 0, \infty \} \right]$$

$$e^{2a b - b^2}$$

(e)

$$\begin{aligned}
|\lambda\rangle &= \lambda_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n) |n\rangle \\
\implies f(n) &= \frac{\lambda_0 \lambda^n}{\sqrt{n!}} \\
|f(n)|^2 &= \frac{|\lambda_0|^2 |\lambda^n|^2}{|\sqrt{n!}|^2} \\
&= \frac{|\lambda^2|^n}{n!} e^{-|\lambda|^2}
\end{aligned}$$

A Poisson distribution is of the form

$$P(n) = \frac{\bar{n}^n}{n!} e^{-\bar{n}}.$$

$|f(n)|^2$ is a Poisson distribution if it takes this form, i.e. if $|\lambda^2| = |\lambda|^2$, which is true, and so $|f(n)|^2$ is a Poisson distribution.

From inspection of the Poisson distribution, we can see that $\bar{n} = |\lambda|^2$. The expectation value of $a^\dagger a$ can be found as

$$\langle \lambda | a^\dagger a | \lambda \rangle = \langle \lambda | \lambda^* \lambda | \lambda \rangle = |\lambda|^2,$$

and so $\bar{n} = \langle a^\dagger a \rangle = |\lambda|^2$.

The most probable value of n can be found by finding the peak of the Poisson distribution. This occurs at n_{mp} when $P(n_{mp}) \geq P(n_{mp} + 1)$, and thus n_{mp} can be found as

$$\begin{aligned}
|f(n_{mp} + 1)|^2 &\geq |f(n_{mp})|^2 \\
\frac{|\lambda^2|^{n_{mp}+1}}{(n_{mp} + 1)!} e^{-|\lambda|^2} &\geq \frac{|\lambda^2|^{n_{mp}}}{n_{mp}!} e^{-|\lambda|^2} \\
\frac{|\lambda|^2}{n_{mp} + 1} &\geq 1 \\
n_{mp} &\geq |\lambda|^2 - 1 \\
n_{mp} &= \lfloor |\lambda|^2 \rfloor
\end{aligned}$$

Problem 2.

(a)

$$\begin{aligned}
V(x) \psi(x) &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \psi''(x) + E \psi(x) \\
\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\varepsilon}^{\varepsilon} V(x) \psi(x) dx &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\varepsilon}^{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \psi''(x) + E \psi(x) \right) dx \\
\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\varepsilon}^{\varepsilon} \nu \delta(x) \psi(x) dx &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\varepsilon}^{\varepsilon} \psi''(x) dx + E \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\varepsilon}^{\varepsilon} \psi(x) dx \\
\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \nu \psi(0) &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \psi'(x) \Big|_{-\varepsilon}^{\varepsilon} + 0 \quad (\text{since } \psi(x) \text{ is continuous at } x = 0) \\
\psi(0) &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m \nu} (\psi'_R(0) - \psi'_L(0)) \\
&\quad (\text{where } \psi_L(x) \text{ and } \psi_R(x) \text{ are the wavefunctions either side of } x = 0)
\end{aligned}$$

Assume $\psi(x)$ takes the form

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} A_L \sin(kx + \phi_L), & -a \leq x \leq 0 \\ A_R \sin(kx + \phi_R), & 0 \leq x \leq a \\ 0, & |x| \geq a \end{cases}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \psi_L(-a) & 0 &= \psi_R(a) \\ &= A_L \sin(-ka + \phi_L) & &= A_R \sin(ka + \phi_R) \\ \implies \phi_L &= ka & \implies \phi_R &= -ka \\ \implies \psi(x) &= \begin{cases} A_L \sin(kx + ka), & -a \leq x \leq 0 \\ A_R \sin(kx - ka), & 0 \leq x \leq a \\ 0, & |x| \geq a \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

If $\psi(x)$ is odd, then we must have $\psi(-x) = -\psi(x)$ for all x . Thus, $\psi(0) = \psi(-0) = -\psi(0)$ and so we have $\psi(0) = 0$. We therefore have $A_L \sin(ka) = A_R \sin(-ka) = 0$, and therefore $ka = n\pi$, where $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Since $n = 0$ corresponds to an energy of 0 and thus a non-normalisable constant 0 wavefunction, we only consider positive non-zero integers for n . We then have

$$ka = n\pi \implies E = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

for odd wavefunctions $\psi(x)$.

Now assume $\psi(x)$ is even. Assuming $\psi(0) \neq 0$ (as this would result in the same energy quantisation condition above), we have that

$$A_L \sin(ka) = A_R \sin(-ka) = -A_R \sin(ka) \implies A \equiv A_L = -A_R.$$

Our wavefunction thus takes the form

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} A \sin(kx + ka), & -a \leq x \leq 0 \\ -A \sin(kx - ka), & 0 \leq x \leq a \\ 0, & |x| \geq a \end{cases}.$$

From the expression relating $\psi(0)$, $\psi'_R(0)$ and $\psi'_L(0)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(0) &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m\nu} (\psi'_R(0) - \psi'_L(0)) \\ A \sin(ka) &= \frac{\hbar^2}{2m\nu} (-kA \cos(-ka) - kA \cos(ka)) \\ \sin(ka) &= -\frac{k\hbar^2}{m\nu} \cos(ka) \\ \tan(ka) &= -\frac{k\hbar^2}{m\nu} \end{aligned}$$

Our quantisation conditions are therefore

$$\psi(x) \text{ odd} \implies E = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad \psi(x) \text{ even} \implies \tan(ka) = -\frac{k\hbar^2}{m\nu}$$

(b)

(i)

For small ν we have that for even $\psi(x)$, $-\tan(ka)$ is very large, and thus tends to infinity. Thus $ka = \frac{n\pi}{2}$ for $n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$, which leads to $E = \frac{(\frac{n}{2})^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}$ for $n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$ or $E = \frac{(n+\frac{1}{2})^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}$ for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Combining with the energy values for odd $\psi(x)$ gives us $E = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2}$ for $n = \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, \dots$, or $E = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{8ma^2}$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Since this energy does not have any ν dependence, we can immediately say that

$$E_n^{(0)} = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{8ma^2}, \quad E_n^{(1)} = 0.$$

Thus for small enough ν , the energy levels match those of the infinite square well with no barrier.

(ii)

For large ν we have that for even $\psi(x)$, $\tan(k a)$ is very small, i.e. approximately 0. Thus $k a = n \pi$ for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. This leads to the same energy as that for odd $\psi(x)$, and thus $E = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2m a^2}$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Similarly, since these energy values have no ν dependence,

$$E_n^{(\infty)} = \frac{n^2 \pi^2 \hbar^2}{2m a^2}, \quad E_n^{(-1)} = 0.$$

Thus for large enough ν , only the odd wavefunctions are possible solutions for the Schrödinger equation, since the odd functions are not affected by the barrier (as $\psi(0) = 0$) yet the even functions cannot pass through.

(c)

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi(x)|^2 dx \\ &= \int_{-a}^0 |A|^2 \sin^2(kx + ka) dx + \int_0^a |A|^2 \sin^2(kx - ka) dx \\ &= |A|^2 \frac{2ka - \sin(2ka)}{2k} \\ \implies |A| &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a - \frac{\sin(2ka)}{2k}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a - \frac{1}{2k} \frac{2\tan(ka)}{1 + \tan^2(ka)}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a + \frac{1}{k} \frac{k\hbar^2}{m\nu} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{k^2\hbar^4}{m^2\nu^2}}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a + \frac{\hbar^2 m \nu}{m^2 \nu^2 + k^2 \hbar^4}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a + \frac{\hbar^2 m \nu}{m^2 \nu^2 + k^2 \hbar^4}}} \end{aligned}$$

Integrate[(Sin[k x + k a])², {x, -a, 0}] +
Integrate[(Sin[k x - k a])², {x, 0, a}] // FullSimplify

$$a - \frac{\text{Sin}[2 a k]}{2 k}$$

$$\implies \psi(x) = \begin{cases} A \sin(kx + ka), & -a \leq x \leq 0 \\ -A \sin(kx - ka), & 0 \leq x \leq a \\ 0, & |x| \geq a \end{cases}, \text{ where } |A| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a + \frac{\hbar^2 m \nu}{m^2 \nu^2 + k^2 \hbar^4}}}$$

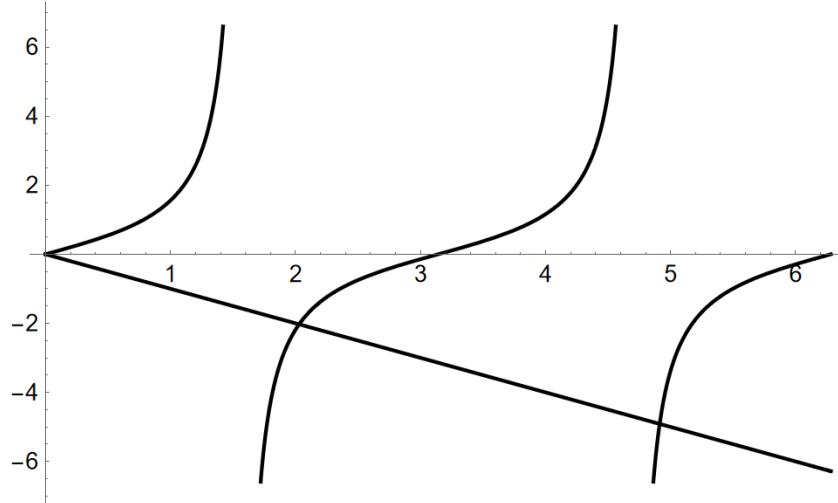
$$a = 1, m = 1, \hbar = 1, \nu = 1 \implies \psi(x) = \begin{cases} A \sin(k(x+1)), & -1 \leq x \leq 0 \\ -A \sin(k(x-1)), & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0, & |x| \geq 1 \end{cases}, \text{ where } |A| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{1+k^2}}}$$

and $\tan(k) = -k \implies k \approx 2.02876 \implies E = \frac{k^2}{2} \approx 2.05793$

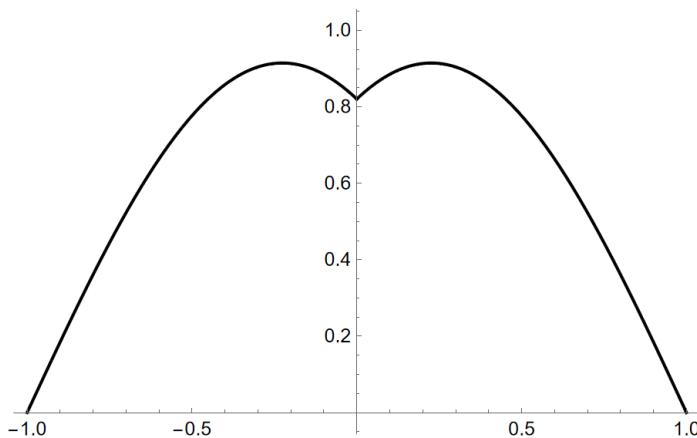
$$a = 1, m = 1, \hbar = 1, \nu = 10 \implies \psi(x) = \begin{cases} A \sin(k(x+1)), & -1 \leq x \leq 0 \\ -A \sin(k(x-1)), & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0, & |x| \geq 1 \end{cases}, \text{ where } |A| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{10}{100+k^2}}}$$

and $\tan(k) = -\frac{k}{10} \implies k \approx 2.86277 \implies E = \frac{k^2}{2} \approx 4.09773$

```
tank = Plot[Tan[k], {k, 0., 2 π}, PlotStyle → Black];
minusk1 = Plot[-k, {k, 0., 2 π}, PlotStyle → Black];
Show[tank, minusk1]
```



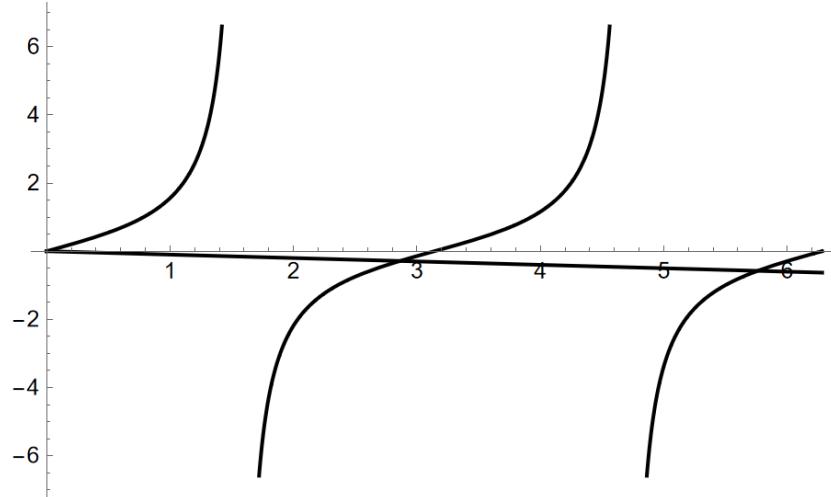
```
FindRoot[Tan[x] == -x, {x, 2}]
{x → 2.02876}
k = 2.028757838110434;
A =  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{1+k^2}}};$ 
leftpsi1 = Plot[A Sin[k (x + 1)], {x, -1, 0}, PlotStyle → Black];
rightpsi1 = Plot[-A Sin[k (x - 1)], {x, 0, 1}, PlotStyle → Black];
Show[leftpsi1, rightpsi1, PlotRange → {{-1, 1}, {0, 1}}]
```



```

tank = Plot[Tan[k], {k, 0., 2 π}, PlotStyle → Black];
minusk10 = Plot[-k/10, {k, 0., 2 π}, PlotStyle → Black];
Show[tank, minusk10]

```



$$\text{FindRoot}\left[\tan[x] == -\frac{x}{10}, \{x, 3\}\right]$$

$$\{x \rightarrow 2.86277\}$$

$$k = 2.8627725875152072;$$

$$A = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{10}{100+k^2}}};$$

```

leftpsi10 = Plot[A Sin[k (x + 1)], {x, -1, 0}, PlotStyle → Black];
rightpsi10 = Plot[-A Sin[k (x - 1)], {x, 0, 1}, PlotStyle → Black];
Show[leftpsi10, rightpsi10, PlotRange → {{-1, 1}, {0, 1}}]

```

