

## Square well ground state (Weinberg problem 1.1)

Define the ground state wavefunction in a square well from  $[-a,a]$ . Check it's norm. (Every command is executed in Mathematica using 'Shift Return' after it's typed properly. To input  $\psi$  in Mathematica, type 'esc y esc')

```
 $\psi_0[x_] = \dots$   
Integrate[ $\psi_0[x] \psi_0[x]$ , {x, -a, a}]
```

Define the trial wavefunction, up to a constant normalization factor. The underbar `_` makes x a variable.

```
 $\psi[x_] = \text{norm} (a^2 - \dots)$ 
```

Norm is defined to make the wavefunction normalized

```
ShouldBeOne = Integrate[ ..., {x, -a, a}]
```

Find solutions for norm. (We clear first to avoid problems when you accidentally re-run the command.)

```
In[7]:= Clear[norm]  
sols = Solve[ShouldBeOne == 1, norm]
```

Select positive one

```
In[11]:= norm = norm /. sols[[2]]
```

Plot  $\psi$  and  $\psi_0$  for  $a=3$

```
In[14]:= Plot[{ $\psi[x] /. a \rightarrow 3$ ,  $\psi_0[x] /. a \rightarrow 3$ }, {x, -3, 3}]
```

Find the probability that  $\psi$  is in the ground state by calculating the overlap of the two wavefunctions. Numerical evaluation of 'blah' can be done by `N[blah]` or by `blah // N`.

```
Overlap = Integrate[ ..., {x, -a, a}]  
ProbGroundState = ... // N
```