

Lecture #6: Linear V(x). JWKB Approximation and Quantization

JWKB: Jeffreys, Wentzel, Kramers, Brillouin.

Last time: Normalization schemes for eigenfunctions which belong to continuously variable eigenvalues.

1. identities
2. $\Psi_{\delta k}, \Psi_{\delta p}, \Psi_{\delta E}, \Psi_{\text{box}}$: different normalization schemes
3. trick using box normalization (θ is k, p, E)

$$\left(\frac{\# \text{ states}}{\delta\theta} \right) \left(\frac{\# \text{ particles}}{\delta x} \right)$$

∞L $\infty 1/L$ for box normalization
4. $\frac{dn}{dE}$ ("density of states") often needed - alternate method via JWKB next lecture

1. $V(x) = \alpha x$ linear potential
solve in momentum representation, $\phi(p)$, and take F.T. to $\psi(x) \rightarrow$ Airy functions
2. Semi-classical (JWKB) approx. for $\psi(x)$
- * $p(x) = [(E - V(x))2m]^{1/2}$ Classical mechanical momentum function dependence on x.
- * $\psi(x) = \underset{\text{envelope}}{|p(x)|^{-1/2}} \exp \left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx' \right]$

←
- * visualize $\psi(x)$ as plane wave with x-dependent wave vector
- * useful for evaluating stationary phase integrals (localization, causality)
- **** splicing across boundary between classical ($E > V$) and forbidden ($E < V$) regions]

Next lecture

↓

WKB Quantization Condition

$$\int_{x_-(E)}^{x_+(E)} p(x') dx' = \frac{\hbar}{2} (n + 1/2) \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

5.73 Lecture #6

6 - 2

Linear Potential. $V(x) = \alpha x$

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \alpha \hat{x}$$

coordinate representation

momentum representation

$$\hat{x} \rightarrow x$$

$$\hat{p} \rightarrow p$$

$$\hat{p} \rightarrow \frac{\hbar}{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$

$$\hat{x} \rightarrow i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial p}$$

(note $[\hat{x}, \hat{p}] = i\hbar$ in both representations - prove this?)

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \alpha x$$

$$\hat{H} = \frac{p^2}{2m} + i\hbar\alpha \frac{d}{dp}$$

$$0 = (H - E)\phi(p)$$

$$0 = \left(\frac{p^2}{2m} + i\hbar\alpha \frac{d}{dp} - E \right) \phi(p)$$

2nd order

1st order - much easier!

differential equation

Solve in momentum representation (a sometimes useful trick)

Schr. Eq. $\frac{d\phi(p)}{dp} = -\frac{i}{\hbar\alpha} (E - p^2/2m)\phi(p)$

Form of Solution

$$\phi(p) = Ne^{ap+bp^3}$$

$$\frac{d\phi}{dp} \text{ gives } p^2 \text{ times } \phi(p)$$

$$\frac{d\phi}{dp} \text{ gives constant times } \phi(p)$$

when you take $\frac{d}{dp}$

Must solve for a and b

plug into Schr. Eq. and identify correspondences, term-by-term, to get

$$a = -\frac{iE}{\hbar\alpha}$$

$$b = \frac{i}{6\hbar\alpha m}$$

$$\phi(p) = N \exp\left[-\frac{i}{\hbar\alpha} \left(Ep - \frac{p^3}{6m}\right)\right]$$

easy? Note that, if p is real, $\phi(p)$ is oscillatory

$$\phi^*(p)\phi(p) = 1! \quad \therefore N = 1!$$

5.73 Lecture #6

6 - 3

Now p is an observable, so it must be real. Thus $\phi(p)$ is defined for all (real) p and is oscillatory in p for all p . $\phi(p)$ is NEVER exponentially increasing or decreasing if p is real!

IT IS STRANGE THAT $\phi(p)$ does not distinguish between classically allowed and forbidden regions. IS THIS REALLY STRANGE? If we allow p to be imaginary in order to deal with classically forbidden regions, $\phi(p)$ becomes an increasing or decreasing exponential. When we extend the solution to the Schrödinger equation into the classically forbidden region, p is imaginary and $\phi(p)$ is exponentially increasing or decreasing.

If we insist on working in the $\psi(x)$ picture, we must perform a Fourier Transform.

$$\psi(x) = N' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ipx/\hbar} \phi(p) dp$$

$$\psi(x) = N' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp \left[\frac{i}{\hbar\alpha} \left\{ \underbrace{p(\alpha x - E) + p^3 / 6m}_{\text{odd function of } p: O(p)} \right\} \right] dp$$

$$e^{i\theta} = \underbrace{\cos \theta}_{\text{even}} + i \underbrace{\sin \theta}_{\text{odd}}$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sin O(p) dp = 0 \quad \text{since } \sin O(p) \text{ is odd wrt } p \rightarrow -p.$$

$$\psi(x) = N' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \cos \left[\frac{(\alpha x - E)p + p^3 / 6m}{\hbar\alpha} \right] dp \quad \text{Solution!}$$

$$Ai(z) = \pi^{-1/2} \int_0^{\infty} \cos(s^3/3 + sz) ds$$

$$\begin{aligned} E &= V(x) = \alpha x_p \\ x_p &= E / \alpha \end{aligned}$$

Surprise! This is a *named* (Airy) function and a *tabulated* integral

- * numerical tables for x near turning point i.e., $x \approx E/\alpha$
- * analytic "asymptotic" functions for x far from turning point.

↑
useful for deriving energy levels as an explicit function of quantum numbers and for matching wave functions across boundaries.

- * zeroes of Airy functions [$Ai(z_i)=0$] and of derivatives of Airy functions [$Ai'(z'_i)=0$] are tabulated. (Useful for matching across center symmetry-point of potentials with definite even or odd symmetry.) [Two kinds of Airy functions, Ai and Bi.]

5.73 Lecture #6

6 - 4

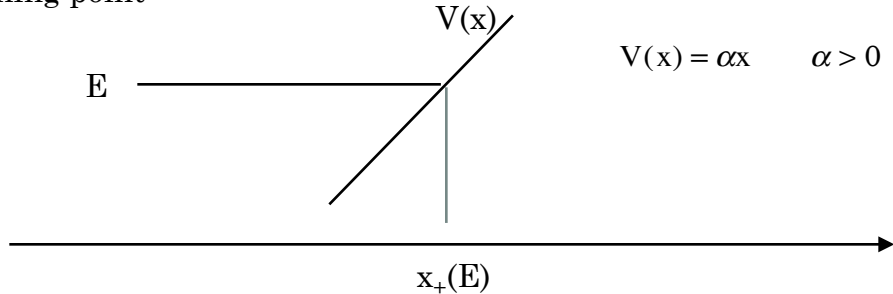
$$\text{Ai}(z) = \pi^{-1/2} \int_0^\infty \cos\left(\frac{s^3}{3} + sz\right) ds$$

for our specific problem

$$s \equiv p(2m\hbar\alpha)^{-1/3} \quad (\text{if } \alpha > 0)$$

$$z \equiv \frac{(\alpha x - E)}{\alpha} [2m\alpha/\hbar^2]^{1/3}$$

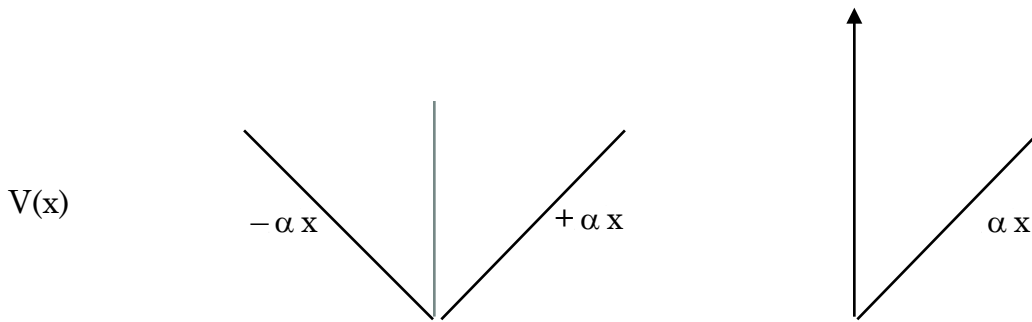
Turning point



At a turning point $E = V(x_+) = \alpha x_+ \therefore x_+(E) = E / \alpha$

Problems with linear potentials:

boundary conditions



When there is symmetry (or 1/2 symmetry) we need to know the locations of the

zeroes of $\frac{d\psi}{dx}$ for even functions and $\psi(x)$ for odd functions or ∞ barrier

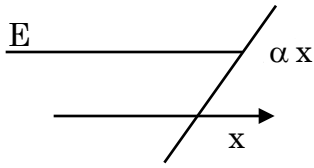
tables of zeroes of $\text{Ai}(z)$ and $\text{Ai}'(z)$
 "z_n" "z'_n"



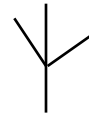
When there is no symmetry, must match or join Ai (or, more precisely, a linear combination of Ai and Bi) and Ai' across boundaries, but we do not need to actually look at the Airy function itself near the joining point.

5.73 Lecture #6

6 - 5



This is not as bad as it seems because we are usually far from the *turning point* at an internal *joining point* and can use *analytic asymptotic expressions* for $Ai(z)$.



2 linear potentials of different |slope|.

For $\alpha > 0$ there are 2 cases (classical and non-classical regions)

(i) $z \ll 0, E > V(x)$ classically allowed region

$$Ai(z) \rightarrow \pi^{-1/2} \underbrace{(-z)}_{\text{positive}}^{-1/4} \sin \left[\underbrace{\frac{2}{3}(-z)}_{\text{x is in here}}^{3/2} + \underbrace{\pi/4}_{\text{phase shift}} \right] \quad \text{asymptotic form for } z \ll 0.$$

* oscillatory, but wave vector, k , varies with x

* Ai vanishes as $x \rightarrow -\infty$ because of $(-z)^{-1/4}$ factor

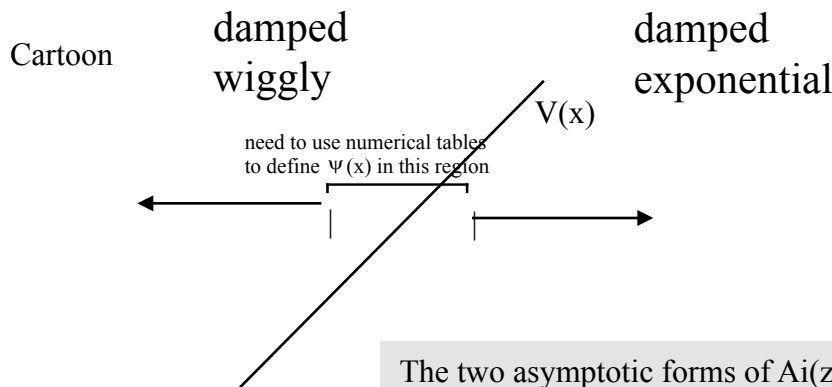
* Bi is needed for case where Airy function must vanish as $x \rightarrow +\infty$ in classical region

(ii) $z \gg 0, E < V(x)$ forbidden region

$$Ai(z) \rightarrow \left(\pi^{-1/2} / 2 \right) \underbrace{z^{-1/4}}_{\text{positive}} \underbrace{e^{-(2/3)z^{3/2}}}_{\text{decreasing exponential}} \quad \text{asymptotic form for } z \gg 0.$$

well behaved {

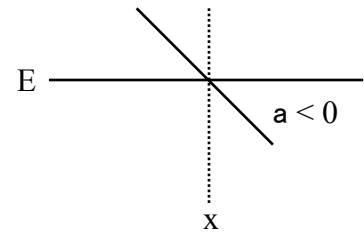
- * not oscillatory, monotonic
- * Ai vanishes as $x \rightarrow +\infty$
- * Bi vanishes as $x \rightarrow -\infty$ in forbidden region



The two asymptotic forms of $Ai(z)$ are not normalized, but their amplitudes (& phases) can and must be matched. This links boundary condition at $x \rightarrow +\infty$ to boundary condition at $x \rightarrow -\infty$.

NonLecture

OTHER CASE: $\alpha < 0 \rightarrow z \equiv -\frac{(1 \alpha |x + E)}{|\alpha|} \left[\frac{2m |\alpha|}{\hbar^2} \right]^{1/3}$



for this case, we need $Bi(z)$ instead of $Ai(z)$

$$Bi(z) \rightarrow (\pi^{-1/2}/2) |z|^{-1/4} \exp\left[-\frac{2}{3}|z|^{3/2}\right] \quad (\text{forbidden region, } z \ll 0.)$$

$$Bi(z) \rightarrow \pi^{-1/2} |z|^{-1/4} \cos\left[\frac{2}{3}|z|^{3/2} + \frac{\pi}{4}\right] \quad (\text{allowed region, } z \gg 0.)$$

What is so great about $V(x) = \alpha x$? $\Psi(x)$ seems ugly — need lookup tables, complicated solutions!

But $Ai(z)$ turns out to be key to generalization of quantization of *all* (well behaved) $V(x)$!

These are semi-classical JWKB $\Psi(x)$ functions — They blow up near turning points (i.e. on both sides). The $Ai(z)$'s permit matching of JWKB $\Psi(x)$ s across the large gap where Ψ_{JWKB} is invalid, ill-defined.

(JEFFREYS)

WENTZEL

KRAMERS

BRILLOUIN

JWKB provides a way to get $\Psi_n(x)$ and E_n without solving differential equations or performing a Fourier Transform.

But actually, the differential equations are easy to solve numerically. The reason we care about JWKB is that it provides a basis for:

- * physical interpretation (semi-classical)
- * RKR inversion from $E_{v,J} \rightarrow V_J(R)$. [Rydberg, Klein, Rees]
- * semi-classical quantization.
- * the link to classical mechanics is essential for wavepacket pictures.

5.73 Lecture #6

6 - 7

(generalize on e^{ikx} for free particle by letting $k = p(x)/\hbar$ depend explicitly on x (why does this not violate $[x,p]=i\hbar$?)

$$\Psi_{\text{JWKB}} = \underbrace{|p(x)|^{-1/2}}_{\text{classical envelope}} \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx'\right]$$

No violation because $k(x)$ and $p(x)$ are classical mechanical functions of x , not QM operators.

$$p(x) = [2m(E - V(x))]^{1/2}$$

phase factor: choose c to satisfy boundary conditions

$p(x)$ is pure real (classically allowed) or pure imaginary (classically forbidden). $p(x)$ is not the Q.M. momentum. It is a classically motivated function of x , which has the form of the classical mechanical momentum and has the property that the $\lambda = \frac{h}{p}$ varies with x in a reasonable way.

- * $|p(x)|^{-1/2}$ is probability amplitude envelope because
 probability $\propto \frac{1}{v}$ so amplitude $\propto \sqrt{\frac{1}{v}}$ (v is velocity)
- * $\exp\left[-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx'\right]$ is the generalization of $e^{ipx/\hbar}$ to non-constant $V(x)$.
- * node spacing $\frac{\lambda(x)}{2} = \frac{h}{2p(x)}$
- * gives easily identifiable stationary phase region for many wiggly integrands.
 (Both ψ 's have same λ at stationary phase point $x_{\text{s.p.}}$)

Long Nonlecture derivation/motivation of the JWKB splice across the turning point, even though the JWKB functions are not valid near the turning point.

5.73 Lecture #6

6 - 8

$$\text{Try } \psi(x) = N(x) \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx'\right]$$

plug into Schr. Eq. and get a new differential equation that $N(x)$ must satisfy

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2m}{\hbar^2}(E - V(x))\psi = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{\hbar^2} p(x)^2 \psi = 0 \quad **$$

* derived
in box
below

$$0 = \left[N'' \pm \frac{2ip(x)}{\hbar} N' \pm \frac{ip'(x)}{\hbar} N \right] \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx' \right]$$

This is a new Schr. Eq. for $N(x)$. Now make an approximation, to be tested later, that N'' is negligible everywhere. This is based on the expectation that a slowly varying $V(x)$ will lead to a slowly varying $N(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned} * \quad \frac{d\psi}{dx} &= \left[N' \pm \frac{i}{\hbar} p(x) N \right] \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx' \right] \\ \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} &= \left[N'' \pm \frac{i}{\hbar} N' p \pm \frac{i}{\hbar} N p' \pm \frac{ip}{\hbar} \left(N' \pm \frac{i}{\hbar} N p \right) \right] \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx' \right] \\ &= \left[N'' \pm \frac{2i}{\hbar} N' p \pm \frac{ip'}{\hbar} N - \frac{p^2}{\hbar^2} N \right] \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx' \right] \\ 0 &= \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{p^2}{\hbar^2} N \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx' \right] \\ 0 &= \left[N'' \pm \frac{2ip(x)}{\hbar} N' \pm \frac{ip'}{\hbar} N \right] \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx' \right] \end{aligned}$$

so, if we neglect N'' , we get for the first term in []

$$2pN' + p'N = 0$$

$$\text{if } p \neq 0, \text{ then } 2p^{1/2} \left[p^{1/2} N' + \frac{1}{2} p^{-1/2} p' N \right] = 0$$

$$\frac{d(Np^{1/2})}{dx} = \left[N' p^{1/2} + \frac{1}{2} p^{-1/2} p' N \right]$$

$$\therefore \frac{d(Np^{1/2})}{dx} = 0$$

$$N(x)p^{1/2}(x) = \text{constant}$$

$$\boxed{\therefore N(x) = cp(x)^{-1/2}}$$

OK, now we have a form for $N(x)$ that we can use to tell us what conditions must be satisfied so that $N''(x)$ is negligible everywhere.

$$N = cp^{-1/2}$$

$$\frac{dp^{-1/2}}{dx} = -\frac{1}{2} p^{-3/2} \frac{dp}{dx} \quad p(x) = [2m(E - V(x))]^{1/2}$$

$$\frac{dp}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} [2m(E - V(x))]^{-1/2} (-2m) \frac{dV}{dx}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} p^{-1} (-2m) \frac{dV}{dx} = -mp^{-1} \frac{dV}{dx}$$

$$\therefore \frac{dp^{-1/2}}{dx} = p^{-5/2} \frac{m}{2} \frac{dV}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d^2 p^{-1/2}}{dx^2} = \frac{m}{2} \frac{dV}{dx} \left(-\frac{5}{2} \right) p^{-7/2} \left[-\frac{m}{p} \frac{dV}{dx} \right] + p^{-5/2} \frac{m}{2} \underbrace{\frac{d^2 V}{dx^2}}_{\text{ignore}}$$

5.73 Lecture #6

6 - 10

$$\therefore N'' = c \frac{5}{4} m^2 p^{-9/2} \left(\frac{dV}{dx} \right)^2$$

But we have made several assumptions about N'' :

$$* |N''| \ll \left| \frac{2ip}{\hbar} N' \right| = \left| + \frac{icm}{\hbar} p^{-3/2} \frac{dV}{dx} \right|$$

$$* |N''| \ll \left| \frac{ip'}{\hbar} N \right| = \left| - \frac{icm}{\hbar} p^{-3/2} \frac{dV}{dx} \right|$$

$$* |N''| \ll \frac{p^2}{\hbar^2} N = \frac{c}{\hbar^2} p^{+3/2}$$

all of this is satisfied if

$$\left| \frac{5}{4} \frac{m\hbar}{i} \left(\frac{dV}{dx} \right) p^{-3} \right| \ll 1$$

Is this the JWKB validity condition? If it is, what does it mean?

Spirit of JWKB: if initial JWKB approximation is not sufficiently accurate, iterate:

$$p(x) \rightarrow \Psi_0(x) \quad (\text{ordinary JWKB})$$

$$\Psi_0(x) \rightarrow p_1(x)$$

$$p_1(x) \rightarrow \Psi_1(x) \quad (\text{first order JWKB})$$

$$e.g. \quad \frac{d^2 \Psi_0}{dx^2} + \frac{p_1^2}{\hbar^2} \Psi_0 = 0 \rightarrow p_1(x) = \left[- \frac{\hbar^2}{\Psi_0(x)} \frac{d^2 \Psi_0}{dx^2} \right]^{1/2}$$

see ** Eq.
on p. 6-8

$$\Psi_1(x) = |p_1(x)|^{-1/2} \exp \left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p_1(x') dx' \right]$$

iterative improvement
of accuracy

$p_1(x)$ is not smaller than $p_0(x)$, but it has more nearly correct wiggles in it.

END OF NONLECTURE

Resume Lecture

$$\psi(x) \approx \underbrace{|p(x)|}_{\text{envelope}}^{-1/2} \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_c^x p(x') dx'\right]$$

↑ adjustable phase shift.

provided that $\frac{d^2V}{dx^2}$ is negligible

AND

$$\underbrace{\frac{\hbar m}{|p|^3} \frac{dV}{dx}}_{\text{required for } N''(x) \text{ to be negligible}} \ll 1 \left(\text{satisfied by } \lambda(x) \left| \frac{dp}{dx} \right| < |p(x)| \text{ or } \frac{d\lambda}{dx} \ll 1 \right)$$

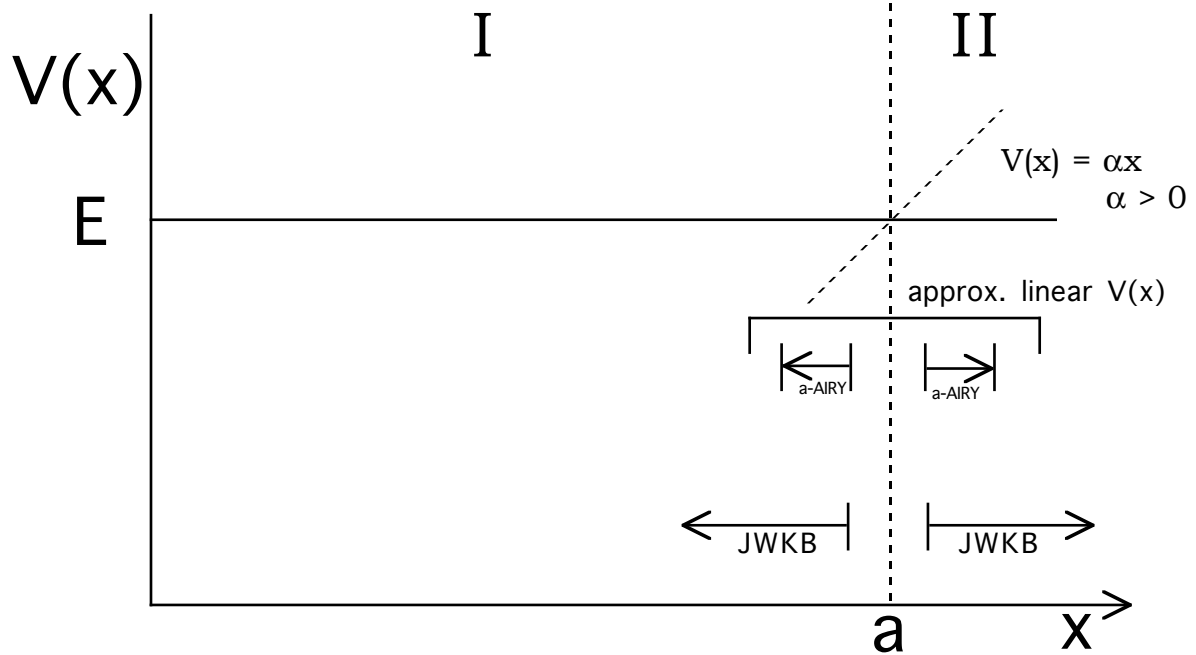
Next need to work out connection of $\Psi_{\text{JWKB}}(x)$ functions across region of x where the JWKB approx. breaks down (at turning points!).

$$\left| \frac{d\lambda}{dx} \right| \rightarrow \infty \text{ at turning point because } p(x) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{Looks BAD!}$$

BUT ALL IS NOT LOST — near enough to a turning point all potentials $V(x)$ look like $V(x) = \alpha x$! We have Airy functions that are solutions to the Schrödinger Equation for this linear potential.

Now our job is to show that asymptotic – AIRY and JWKB are identical for a small region not too close and not too far on both sides of each turning point.

THIS PERMITS ACCURATE SPLICING OF $\Psi(x)$ ACROSS TURNING POINT REGION!



Region I $E > V(x)$ classical

$$\psi_{a\text{-AIRY}}^I \sim \pi^{-1/2} (-z)^{-1/4} \sin\left[\frac{2}{3}(-z)^{3/2} + \pi/4\right]$$

First use Airy to splice across I,II junction

$$z = \frac{(\alpha x - E)}{\alpha} \left[\frac{2m\alpha}{\hbar^2} \right]^{1/3}$$

at turning point $E = V(a) = \alpha a$ so $\left[\frac{\alpha x - E}{\alpha} \right] = (x - a)$

$$z = (x - a) \left(\frac{2m\alpha}{\hbar^2} \right)^{1/3} \ll 0 \quad \text{when } x \ll a$$

Region I/II splice using a-Airy.

Region II $E < V(x)$ forbidden region, $z \gg 0$

$$\psi_{a\text{-AIRY}}^{II} \sim \frac{\pi^{-1/2}}{2} z^{-1/4} e^{-(2/3)z^{3/2}}$$

Now consider ψ_{JWKB} for a linear potential and show that it is identical to a-Airy!

$$\psi_{\text{JWKB}} \sim c_{\pm} |p(x)|^{-1/2} \exp\left[\pm \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_a^x p(x') dx'\right]$$

Then use WKB both c_+ and c_- additive terms could be present

$$p(x) \equiv [2m(E - V(x))]^{1/2}$$

5.73 Lecture #6

6 - 13

$x < a$ classical , p is real , ψ_{JWKM} oscillates
 $x > a$ forbidden , p is imaginary , ψ_{JWKB} is exponential

pretend $V(x)$ looks linear near $x = a$ (ℓ -JWKB)
 linear

$$p(x) = [2m\alpha(a - x)]^{1/2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^x p(x') dx' &= (2m\alpha)^{1/2} \int_a^x (a - x')^{1/2} dx' \\ &= (2m\alpha)^{1/2} \left(-\frac{2}{3} \right) (a - x')^{3/2} \Big|_a^x \\ &= -(2m\alpha)^{1/2} \frac{2}{3} (a - x)^{3/2} \end{aligned}$$

Region I

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{I-JWKB}^I(x) &\sim |p(x)|^{-1/2} [Ae^{i\theta} + Be^{-i\theta}] \\ &= |p(x)|^{-1/2} C \sin(\theta + \phi) \end{aligned}$$

Define the JWKB phase factor, $\theta(x)$:

$$\theta = \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_a^x p(x') dx' = -\left(\frac{2m\alpha}{\hbar^2} \right)^{1/2} \frac{2}{3} (a - x)^{3/2}$$

Now compare $\theta(x)$ to $z(x)$

but, earlier, $z = (x - a) \left(\frac{2m\alpha}{\hbar^2} \right)^{1/3} \therefore \theta = -\frac{2}{3} (-z)^{3/2}$

$$\therefore p = (2m\alpha\hbar)^{1/3} (-z)^{1/2} \quad \text{for exponential factor}$$

$$|p|^{-1/2} = (2m\alpha\hbar)^{-1/6} (-z)^{-1/4} \quad \text{for pre-exponential factor}$$

Thus, putting all of the pieces together

$$\Psi_{\ell-JWKB}^I = \overbrace{-(2m\alpha\hbar)^{-1/6} (-z)^{-1/4}}^{-|p|^{-1/2}} C \sin \left[\overbrace{\frac{2}{3} (-z)^{3/2}}^{-\theta} - \phi \right]$$

$$= \Psi_{a-AIRY}^I \quad \text{If } C = -(2m\alpha\hbar)^{1/6} \pi^{-1/2}$$

$$\phi = -\pi/4$$

$\Psi_{\ell-JWKB}^I$ exactly splices onto Ψ_{a-AIRY}^I
 with a $\pi/4$ phase factor (shifted from what the argument of sine
 would have been if one had started the phase integral at $x = a$)

Similar result in Region II

$$\Psi_{JWKB}^{II} \sim Ae^{-f(x)} + Be^{+f(x)}$$

$$\text{at } x \rightarrow +\infty \quad f(x) \rightarrow \infty \quad \therefore B = 0$$

$$\therefore \Psi_{\ell-JWKB}^{II} = A(2m\alpha)^{-1/4} (x-a)^{-1/4} \exp \left[-\left(\frac{2m\alpha}{\hbar^2} \right)^{1/2} \frac{2}{3} (x-a)^{3/2} \right]$$

$$\text{which is equal to } \Psi_{a-AIRY}^{II} \text{ if } A = (2m\alpha\hbar)^{+1/6} \pi^{-1/2} / 2$$

$$\text{Final step: } \Psi_{JWKB}^I \leftrightarrow \Psi_{a-AIRY}^I, \quad \Psi_{JWKB}^{II} \leftrightarrow \Psi_{a-AIRY}^{II}$$

$$\text{require } A = -C/2$$

perfect match on opposite sides of turning point.

$Ai(z)$ is valid in region where Ψ_{JWKB} is invalid.

The logic is complicated, but the analysis assures that matching of Ψ_{JWKB}^I to Ψ_{JWKB}^{II} is valid and that one gets an extra $\pi/4$ phase factor at each turning point in the classically allowed region. This corresponds to the extra phase accumulated in the non-classical region so that $\Psi(\pm \infty) \rightarrow 0$. The energy levels are lowered below where they would have been if the wavefunctions in the classically allowed region were zero at turning points.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<https://ocw.mit.edu/>

5.73 Quantum Mechanics I
Fall 2018

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <https://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.