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# 1. Basics of nonrelativistic quantum mechanics

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very brief repetition of some basic elements of nonrelativistic quantum mechanics you probably know already from the introductory courses

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very brief repetition of some basic elements of nonrelativistic quantum mechanics you probably know already from the introductory courses

- ▶ **Goals:**

- ▶ general introduction to this course
- ▶ among other things: preparation for the relativistic quantum mechanics

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# 1.1 Heuristic motivation of the Schrödinger equation from wave-particle duality

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## ▶ Wave-Particle-Duality

A plane **wave**  $\psi(\vec{r}, t) \sim e^{i(\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}-\omega t)}$  corresponds to a **particle** with

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- ▶ nonrelativistic energy-momentum relation:  $E = \frac{\vec{p}^2}{2m} + V$

$\Rightarrow$  Schrödinger equation:  $i\hbar\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\vec{\nabla}^2 + V\right)\psi \equiv H\psi$

- ▶ Hamiltonian:  $H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\vec{\nabla}^2 + V$



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## 1.2 Probabilistic interpretation and continuity equation

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Obviously, this also works with a real potential  $V$ .



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probability density:  $\rho = \psi^* \psi = |\psi|^2$

probability current:

$$\vec{j} = \frac{\hbar}{2mi} (\psi^* \vec{\nabla} \psi - \psi \vec{\nabla} \psi^*) \equiv \frac{\hbar}{2mi} \psi^* (\vec{\nabla} - \overleftarrow{\nabla}) \psi$$



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variation of charge in  $\mathcal{V}$  with time =  $-$  current through the surface of  $\mathcal{V}$
- ▶ Quantum mechanics:  $Q =$  probability to find a particle in  $\mathcal{V}$   
(if correctly normalized as  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3r |\psi|^2 = 1$ )

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  - (ii) Observables are represented by **hermitian operators**  $\hat{O}$ .
  - (iii) Possible measurements correspond to the **eigenvalues** of  $\hat{O}$ .





(iv) The corresponding eigenstates  $|n\rangle$ , i.e.,  $\hat{O}|n\rangle = \lambda_n|n\rangle$ , form a **complete orthonormal basis** of the Hilbert space.

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(For continuous spectra one can generalize this to  $\delta$ -functions and integrals.)

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= sum over the possible measurements, weighted by their probability ✓

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# Time evolution



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## 1.4 Schrödinger vs. Heisenberg picture



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