

Matrix Formulation

Formulation of Q-theory established in 1926 was truly a major break-through in the development of modern physics (After 1925, Pauli).

But even in 1926, the situation was that the formulation of wave mechanics established by Schrödinger contained a number of uninterpreted terms such as wave function.

Schrödinger firmly convinced that

ψ represents something physically real in terms of wave function ψ^* . He interpreted Q.Th. as a simple classical Th. of waves.

He denied discrete energy levels and quantum jumps on the ground that in wave mechanics -

Meanwhile, a new interpretation of ψ was put forward by Born, which had far-reaching consequences for modern physics not only from purely technical point of view but also with respect to its philosophical contents.

He proposed for the first time, a probabilistic interpretation of ψ .

$$\int \psi^*(x)\psi(x) dx = 1 \Rightarrow \text{Normalization condition}$$

Notes

The Probability density

Contacts

$$p(x) = |\psi(x)|^2.$$

The probability density $\varphi(r) = |\psi(r)|^2$, represents a convenient starting point for the consideration of particle and charge currents as computed quantum mechanically.

$$\frac{d\varphi(r)}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} (\psi^* \psi) \\ = \psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \quad (1)$$

This time rate of change of probability-density at any given point in space requires a difference between the particle currents flowing into and out of the different volumes surrounding the point under consideration.

i.e

$$\frac{d\varphi}{dt} = - \nabla \cdot j \quad (2)$$

where, $\nabla \cdot j \Rightarrow$ Divergence of Particle current density at the point of question.

so,

$$\nabla \cdot j = - \left(\psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \psi \right), \quad (3)$$

To evaluate the quantity on R.H.S. of the above eq, let us write the complex conjugate of Schrödinger eq. in the following form

Notes

$$\left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V(r) \right) \psi^* = -i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \quad (4)$$

$$i\hbar \left(\psi^* \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \psi \frac{\partial \psi^*}{\partial t} \right) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\psi \nabla^2 \psi^* - \psi^* \nabla^2 \psi \right)$$

$$= -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \operatorname{div} (\psi^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^*)$$

After comparing (3) and (5) exp. !

(Day 174-181) • Week 26
we get

023rd day

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$$j = -\frac{ie}{2m} (4^* \nabla \psi - \psi \nabla \psi^*) - (6)$$

coefficient on arbitrary const. which vanishes if $j = 0$ whenever $|\psi| = 0$.

so,

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} + \text{div } j = 0$$

↳ eqy. of continuity responsible for conservation of charge.

Uncertainty Principle —

$$\Delta P \Delta x = \Delta E \Delta t \geq h$$

Consequences of Uncertainty Principle —

(a) Non existence of Electron in Nucleus.

The electron must have the minimum energy of ≈ 95.22 Mev to reside inside the nucleus. But electron emitted during β -decay has the energy of the order of 3 Mev only. Hence, the existence of electron inside the nucleus is not possible.

- (b) Finite width of spectral lines in Atomic Spectra
- (c) Minⁿ. energy of Harmonic oscillator