

Game Plan for Solution of the TISE of the SHO

Step 1: Clean up TISE using intermediate quantities

$$\psi_E(x) \rightarrow \psi_K(\xi)$$

Step 2: Find the solution in the asymptotic limit $\xi \rightarrow \pm\infty$

$$\psi_K(\xi) \rightarrow \chi_{as}(\xi)$$

Step 3: Factor out the asymptotic behavior

$$\psi_K(\xi) \rightarrow Ah_K(\xi)\chi_{as}(\xi)$$

Step 4: Derive a DE for the unknown factor

$$\text{equation for } h_K(\xi)$$

Step 5: Expand the unknown function in a power series

$$h_K(\xi) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j \xi^j$$

Step 6: Put series in DE & derive recurrence relation

$$a_j \text{ in terms of } a_{j-1}$$

Step 7: Enforce boundary conditions

$$\text{quantize } K_n \rightarrow E_n$$

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$$\left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} - \frac{m^2\omega^2}{\hbar^2}x^2 + \frac{2mE}{\hbar^2} \right) \psi_E(x) = 0$$

TISE for SHO

Quantity	Definition	Units
energy	$K \equiv \frac{2E}{\hbar\omega}$	dimensionless
potential strength	$\alpha \equiv \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{\hbar}}$	(length) ⁻¹
position	$\xi \equiv \alpha x$	dimensionless

$$\frac{d\psi}{dx} = \frac{d\psi}{d\xi} \frac{d\xi}{dx} = \alpha \frac{d\psi}{d\xi}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d\psi}{dx} \right) = \frac{d}{d\xi} \frac{d\xi}{dx} \left(\frac{d\psi}{dx} \right) = \alpha^2 \frac{d^2\psi}{d\xi^2}$$

$$\left(\frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} - \xi^2 + K \right) \psi_K(\xi) = 0$$

Weber's equation

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Asymptotic solution (singularity hunt), $\xi \rightarrow \pm\infty$

$$\psi_K(\xi) \xrightarrow{\xi \rightarrow \pm\infty} \chi_{as}(\xi) \Rightarrow \left(\frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} - \xi^2 \right) \chi_{as}(\xi) = 0$$

$$\chi_{as}(\xi) = Ae^{-\xi^2/2} + Be^{+\xi^2/2} = Ae^{-\xi^2/2}$$

Factor out asymptotic behavior

$$\psi_K(\xi) = Ah_K(\xi)e^{-\xi^2/2}$$

$$\frac{d\psi}{d\xi} = A \left(\frac{dh}{d\xi} - \xi h \right) e^{-\xi^2/2}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{d\xi^2} = \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\frac{d\psi}{d\xi} \right) = \left(\frac{d^2h}{d\xi^2} - 2\xi \frac{dh}{d\xi} + (\xi^2 - 1)h \right) e^{-\xi^2/2}$$

$$\left(\frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} - 2\xi \frac{d}{d\xi} + (K - 1) \right) h_K(\xi) = 0$$

Hermite equation