

$$(1) \quad \psi(x) = Be^{kx} \quad \forall \quad x < -a$$

$$(2) \quad \psi(x) = Ce^{-kx} + De^{kx} \quad \forall \quad x < -a$$

$$(3) \quad \psi(x) = Fe^{kx} \quad \forall \quad x > a$$

From the earlier equations,

$$(4) \quad kCe^{ka} = \frac{m\alpha}{\hbar^2}Be^{-ka}$$

$$(5) \quad kDe^{ka} = \frac{m\alpha}{\hbar^2}Fe^{-ka}$$

it is obvious that

$$(6) \quad \frac{D}{C} = \frac{F}{B} = \lambda$$

where λ is some scalar constant. Hence $D = \lambda C$ and $F = \lambda B$. Substituting into the original system,

$$(7) \quad Be^{-ka} = Ce^{ka} + De^{-ka}$$

$$(8) \quad Fe^{-ka} = Ce^{-ka} + De^{ka}$$

dividing (7) by (8), we get,

$$(9) \quad \frac{1}{\lambda} = \frac{e^{2ka} + \lambda}{1 + \lambda e^{2ka}}$$

which is easily solved to get $\lambda = \pm 1$. Hence the two solutions are $D = \pm C$ and $F = \pm B$.

Plugging back into either of (7) or (8) yields

$$(10) \quad D = C = \left(\frac{e^{-ka}}{e^{ka} + e^{-ka}} \right) B$$

for the positive sign, and,

$$(11) \quad D = -C = \left(\frac{e^{-ka}}{e^{ka} - e^{-ka}} \right) B$$

for the negative sign.

Hence for the positive sign,

$$(12) \quad \psi(x) = Be^{kx} \quad \forall \quad x < -a$$

$$(13) \quad \psi(x) = \left(\frac{Be^{-ka}}{e^{ka} + e^{-ka}} \right) (e^{kx} + e^{-kx}) \quad \forall \quad -a < x < a$$

$$(14) \quad \psi(x) = Be^{-kx} \quad \forall \quad x > a$$

And for the negative sign,

$$(15) \quad \psi(x) = Be^{kx} \quad \forall \quad x < -a$$

$$(16) \quad \psi(x) = \left(\frac{Be^{-ka}}{e^{ka} - e^{-ka}} \right) (e^{-kx} - e^{kx}) \quad \forall \quad -a < x < a$$

$$(17) \quad \psi(x) = -Be^{-kx} \quad \forall \quad x > a$$

Consider (+) sign. From equations (4) and (10), we get

$$(18) \quad \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{m\alpha} \right) k = 1 + e^{-2ka}$$

again a transcendental equation.

Issues:

1. Solution of an equation like (18).
2. What is the significance of the sign of α ? If we chose (16) for example, then the probability of finding the particle at $x = 0$ is zero, whereas it is nonzero from (13).