

(A) The original potential is:

$$\hat{V}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0 < x < a \\ \infty & \textit{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

The original energy eigenstates are:

$$\psi_n(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{a}x\right) & 0 < x < a \\ 0 & \textit{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

The original energy eigenvalues are:

$$E_n = \frac{n^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}. \quad (16)$$

In this system, we take $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. The system starts out in the ground state, $n = 1$.

The potential suddenly changes:

$$\hat{V}'(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0 < x < 2a \\ \infty & \textit{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

The new energy eigenstates are:

$$\psi'_n(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{2}{2a}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2a}x\right) & 0 < x < 2a \\ 0 & \textit{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

The new energy eigenvalues are:

$$E'_n = \frac{n^2\pi^2\hbar^2}{2m(2a)^2}. \quad (17)$$

We need to construct the old ground state, $\psi_1(x)$, as a linear combination of the new energy eigenstates:

$$\psi_1(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c'_n \psi'_n(x). \quad (18)$$

The coefficients are

$$\begin{aligned} c'_n &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi'_n(x) \psi_1(x) dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^0 \psi'_n(x) \psi_1(x) dx + \int_0^a \psi'_n(x) \psi_1(x) dx + \int_a^{\infty} \psi'_n(x) \psi_1(x) dx \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{a} \int_0^a \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2a}x\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) dx \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{a} \int_0^a \left(\frac{e^{i\frac{n\pi}{2a}x} - e^{-i\frac{n\pi}{2a}x}}{2i}\right) \left(\frac{e^{i\frac{n\pi}{a}x} - e^{-i\frac{n\pi}{a}x}}{2i}\right) dx \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}a} \int_0^a (e^{i\frac{3n\pi}{2a}x} - e^{i\frac{n\pi}{2a}x} - e^{i\frac{n\pi}{2a}x} + e^{i\frac{3n\pi}{2a}x}) dx \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

These terms can be integrated and then turned back into trig functions for easy evaluation.

The end result is

$$P'_n = |c'_n|^2 = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & n = 2 \\ \pm \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{\pi(n^2-4)} & n \text{ odd} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The most probable result of an energy measurement is $E'_2 = \frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}$, with a probability of $P'_2 = 50\%$.

(B) The *next* most probable result is $E'_1 = \frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{8ma^2}$, with a probability of $P'_1 \approx 36\%$.

(C) The expectation value of the Hamiltonian for this state is

$$\langle H \rangle_{\psi_1} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_1^*(x) \hat{H} \psi_1(x) dx \quad (21)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{a}x\right) dx \\ &= \frac{\pi^2\hbar^2}{2ma^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

which is the same as before the potential was altered. The calculation makes this obvious.