

175(6): Evaluations with Particle in a Box Wave functions

The problem is to evaluate the expectation value of the right hand side of the equation:

$$[\hat{x}^2, \hat{p}^2] \psi = 2i\hbar^2 \psi + 4i\hbar^2 x p \psi \quad (1)$$

with the particle in a box wave function:

$$\psi_n = \left(\frac{2}{L}\right)^{1/2} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \quad (2)$$

$$n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Therefore:

$$\langle \hat{x} \hat{p} \rangle = -\frac{2i\hbar^2}{L} \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) x \frac{d}{dx} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad (3)$$

$$= -\frac{2i\hbar^2 n\pi}{L^2} \int_0^L x \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

I cannot find this in table of integrals but it is imaginary value and so will contribute to the expectation value of the right hand side of eq. (1).

For the two dimensional square well:

$$\psi_{n_1, n_2}(x, y) = \left(\frac{4}{L_1 L_2}\right)^{1/2} \sin\left(\frac{n_1 \pi x}{L_1}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n_2 \pi y}{L_2}\right) \quad (4)$$

$$\text{and: } \hat{p} = -i\hbar \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \quad (5)$$