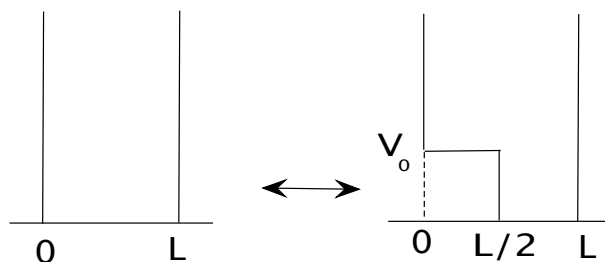


2. A particle of mass  $m$  is confined to the interval  $[0, L]$  by a one-dimensional infinite square well. It is initially in the ground state of the Hamiltonian with the confining potential.

a) At time  $t = 0$  the potential *within the well* is suddenly changed to:

$$V(x) = \begin{cases} V_0, & \text{for } 0 < x < L/2 \\ 0, & \text{for } L/2 < x < L \end{cases}$$

with  $V_0 \ll E_1 - E_0$  (the latter being the gap between the two lowest states of the initial operator).



The perturbation lasts for time  $T$ , after which the potential is restored to its initial value. What is the probability that after the potential is restored the particle's energy is  $E_1$ , calculated to first order in  $V_0/(E_1 - E_0)$ ?

- b) In a second experiment the value of  $V_0$  (in the perturbing potential, as above) is increased very slowly, and to a much higher value  $\bar{V} \gg E_1$ . It is switched off instantaneously when that value is reached. What is the probability that at this point the particle will have the energy  $E_1$ .