

Physical interpretation of wave function \rightarrow

As wave function $\Psi(x, y, z, t)$ is related to probability, and it should be real and positive.

For this, take complex conjugate of Ψ , denoted by Ψ^* .
Therefore, the product of $\Psi \Psi^*$ becomes real and positive if $\Psi \neq 0$.

$|\Psi|^2 = \Psi \Psi^*$ is a measure of probability of finding the particle at the point (x, y, z) in space at an instant 't'.

The quantity $|\Psi|^2$ is called as probability density.

$|\Psi|^2 dV$ represent the probability that the particle must be found at given point at given instant of time 't' in a small volume element dV .

Larger the value of $|\Psi|^2$, greater is the chance of finding the particle.

As $|\Psi|^2 \neq 0$, there is definite chance of finding the particle at the given point at time 't'.

This interpretation was given by Max Born.

Thus, Max Born condition is

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \Psi \Psi^* dV = 1$$

This condition for Ψ is called as normalization condition. It shows, the particle must be found somewhere, the total probability is always equal to one.

conditions of wave function

As $\psi(r, t)$ is related to probability, it satisfies the following conditions as -

- ① ψ should be finite everywhere.
- ② ψ should be single valued over entire space.
- ③ ψ should be continuous for all values of 'r'.
- ④ Total probability is always equal to unity, i.e. probability integral is unity such a function is normalized.
- ⑤ ψ must tend to zero, at infinity, i.e. $\psi \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$.
- ⑥ Partial derivative of ψ must be finite, single valued and continuous for all values of 'r'.

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