

"Motivation" of Schrödinger Equation

Start with the classical wave equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \underline{\Psi}}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 \underline{\Psi}}{\partial t^2}$$

$$\text{Try } \underline{\Psi}(x, t) = e^{-i\omega t} \psi(x)$$

This leads to

$$\psi''(x) = -\omega^2/v^2 \psi(x)$$

$$v = \lambda \nu = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi} \omega = \hbar \omega/p \quad \text{via de Broglie}$$

$$\omega^2/v^2 = p^2/\hbar^2 = 2m(E-V)/\hbar^2$$

$$\therefore \psi''(x) = -\frac{2m(E-V)}{\hbar^2} \psi(x)$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2 \psi}{dx^2} + V \psi(x) = E \psi(x) \quad (1)$$

$$\underline{\Psi}(x, t) = e^{-i\omega t} \psi(x) = e^{-iEt/\hbar} \psi(x)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \underline{\Psi}}{\partial t} = E e^{-iEt/\hbar} \psi(x)$$

Multiply each side of (1) by $e^{-iEt/\hbar}$

Then:

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \underline{\Psi}}{\partial x^2} + V \underline{\Psi} = i\hbar \frac{\partial \underline{\Psi}}{\partial t}$$

x)

