

71. For $U = U_0$, Schrödinger's equation becomes

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} [E - U_0] \psi = 0 .$$

We substitute $\psi = \psi_0 e^{ikx}$. The second derivative is $d^2\psi/dx^2 = -k^2\psi_0 e^{ikx} = -k^2\psi$. The result is

$$-k^2\psi + \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} [E - U_0] \psi = 0 .$$

Solving for k , we obtain

$$k = \sqrt{\frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} [E - U_0]} = \frac{2\pi}{h} \sqrt{2m [E - U_0]} .$$