

51. The proposed wave function is

$$\psi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a^3/2}} e^{-r/a}$$

where a is the Bohr radius. Substituting this into the right side of Schrödinger's equation, our goal is to show that the result is zero. The derivative is

$$\frac{d\psi}{dr} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a^5/2}} e^{-r/a}$$

so

$$r^2 \frac{d\psi}{dr} = -\frac{r^2}{\sqrt{\pi a^5/2}} e^{-r/a}$$

and

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{d\psi}{dr} \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a^5/2}} \left[-\frac{2}{r} + \frac{1}{a} \right] e^{-r/a} = \frac{1}{a} \left[-\frac{2}{r} + \frac{1}{a} \right] \psi .$$

The energy of the ground state is given by $E = -me^4/8\varepsilon_0^2 h^2$, and the Bohr radius is given by $a = h^2 \varepsilon_0 / \pi m e^2$, so $E = -e^2/8\pi \varepsilon_0 a$. The potential energy is given by $U = -e^2/4\pi \varepsilon_0 r$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{8\pi^2 m}{h^2} [E - U] \psi &= \frac{8\pi^2 m}{h^2} \left[-\frac{e^2}{8\pi \varepsilon_0 a} + \frac{e^2}{4\pi \varepsilon_0 r} \right] \psi = \frac{8\pi^2 m}{h^2} \frac{e^2}{8\pi \varepsilon_0} \left[-\frac{1}{a} + \frac{2}{r} \right] \psi \\ &= \frac{\pi m e^2}{h^2 \varepsilon_0} \left[-\frac{1}{a} + \frac{2}{r} \right] \psi = \frac{1}{a} \left[-\frac{1}{a} + \frac{2}{r} \right] \psi . \end{aligned}$$

The two terms in Schrödinger's equation cancel, and the proposed function ψ satisfies that equation.