

26. (a) Using Eq. 40-20 (see also problem 27 in Chapter 40) we find that the lowest five levels of the rectangular corral (with this specific “aspect ratio”) have energies $E_{1,1} = 1.25$, $E_{1,2} = 2.00$, $E_{1,3} = 3.25$, $E_{2,1} = 4.25$, and $E_{2,2} = 5.00$ (all of these understood to be in “units” of $h^2/8mL^2$). It should be noted that the energy level we denote $E_{2,2}$ actually corresponds to two energy levels ($E_{2,2}$ and $E_{1,4}$; they are degenerate), but that will not affect our calculations in this problem. The configuration which provides the lowest system energy higher than that of the ground state has the first three levels filled, the fourth one empty, and the fifth one half-filled:

$$E_{\text{first excited}} = 2E_{1,1} + 2E_{1,2} + 2E_{1,3} + E_{2,2} = 2(1.25) + 2(2.00) + 2(3.25) + 5.00$$

which means (putting the “unit” factor back in) the energy of the first excited state is $E_{\text{first excited}} = 18.00(h^2/8mL^2)$.

- (b) The configuration which provides the next higher system energy has the first two levels filled, the third one half-filled, and the fourth one filled:

$$E_{\text{second excited}} = 2E_{1,1} + 2E_{1,2} + E_{1,3} + 2E_{2,1} = 2(1.25) + 2(2.00) + 3.25 + 2(4.25)$$

which means (putting the “unit” factor back in) the energy of the second excited state is $E_{\text{second excited}} = 18.25(h^2/8mL^2)$.

- (c) Now, the configuration which provides the *next* higher system energy has the first two levels filled, with the next three levels half-filled:

$$E_{\text{third excited}} = 2E_{1,1} + 2E_{1,2} + E_{1,3} + E_{2,1} + E_{2,2} = 2(1.25) + 2(2.00) + 3.25 + 4.25 + 5.00$$

which means (putting the “unit” factor back in) the energy of the third excited state is $E_{\text{third excited}} = 19.00(h^2/8mL^2)$.

- (d) The energy states of this problem and problem 24 are suggested in the sketch below:

