

For these questions, use the simulation “Successive energy measurements” and work through the simulation, including the step-by-step exploration.

The energy eigenfunctions and energy eigenvalues for a particle confined to a one-dimensional infinite square well with impenetrable walls at  $x = 0$  and  $x = a$  are

$$u_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{a}\right) \text{ and } E_n = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} n^2 \text{ respectively.}$$

- (a) i) Write down an explicit expression for the wavefunction  $\psi(x, t)$  and the probability density  $|\psi(x, t)|^2$  shown in the simulation prior to any energy measurement.
- ii) Show that  $\psi(x, t)$  is properly normalized.
- iii) Find an expression for the oscillation period of the probability density. Assuming the wave function depicts an electron in a well of length  $10^{-10}m$ , determine the oscillation period in seconds. (electron mass:  $9.11 \times 10^{-31}kg$ ,  $\hbar = 1.05 \times 10^{-34}Js$ )
- (b) What is the probability of a first energy measurement finding i) the ground state energy, ii) the first-excited state energy, iii) the second-excited state energy? Verify your answers qualitatively by running the simulation multiple times.
- (c) Assume that a first energy measurement has found the ground state energy. Write down an explicit expression for  $\psi(x, t)$  after this first energy measurement. What is the wave function of the particle if a second measurement of energy is performed? Does the result depend on whether or not the second measurement is done immediately after the first? Explain your answer.