

Operators & Functions

For each of the following operators:

- Test each function to see if it is an eigenfunction of the operator.
- If it is, what is the eigenvalue?
- If it is not, can you write it as a superposition of functions that are eigenfunctions of that operator?

$$\begin{array}{ll} 1. \hat{p} = -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx} & \begin{array}{l} \psi_1(x) = Ae^{-ikx} \\ \psi_2(x) = Ae^{+ikx} \\ \psi_3(x) = A \sin(kx) \end{array} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} 2. \hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} & \begin{array}{l} \psi_1(x) = Ae^{-i\frac{p}{\hbar}x} \\ \psi_2(x) = Ae^{+i\frac{p}{\hbar}x} \\ \psi_3(x) = A \sin\left(\frac{p}{\hbar}x\right) \end{array} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} 3. \hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} & \begin{array}{l} \psi_1(x) = A \sin(kx) \\ \psi_2(x) = A \cos(kx) \\ \psi_3(x) = Ae^{ikx} \end{array} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} 4. \hat{S}_z \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\hbar}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{\hbar}{2} \end{pmatrix} & \begin{array}{l} |\psi_1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \\ |\psi_2\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ \\ |\psi_3\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{array} \end{array}$$

Are superpositions of eigenfunctions of an operator themselves eigenfunctions of the same operator?