

# The delta function well





- Bound states & scattering states

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- Real potentials



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- The Dirac delta function



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# Bound & scattering states

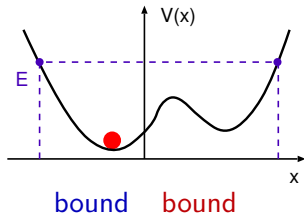


Given a particle of total energy  $E$  interacting with a potential  $V(x)$ , the **classical** and **quantum** states can be quite different

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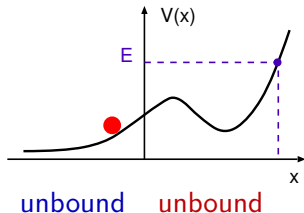
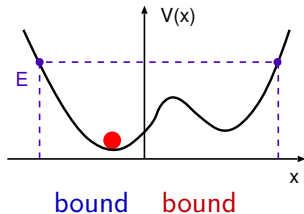
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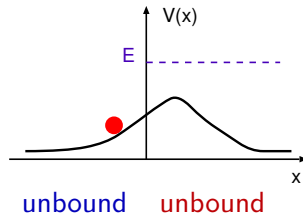
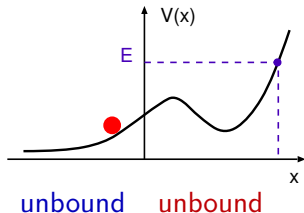
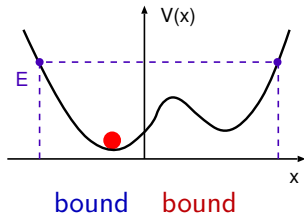




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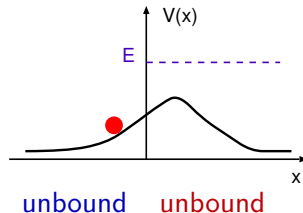
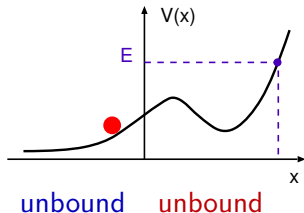
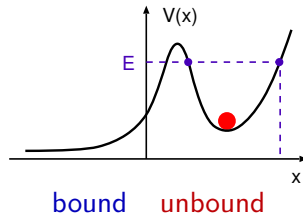
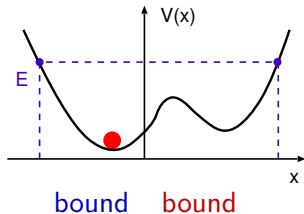
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# Real potentials



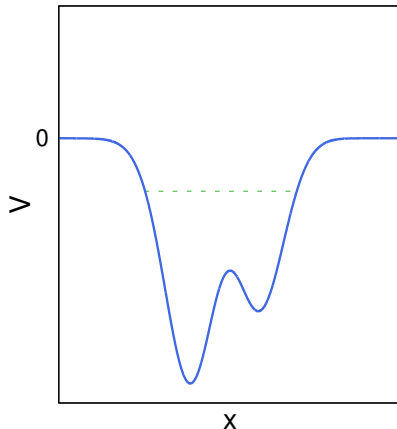
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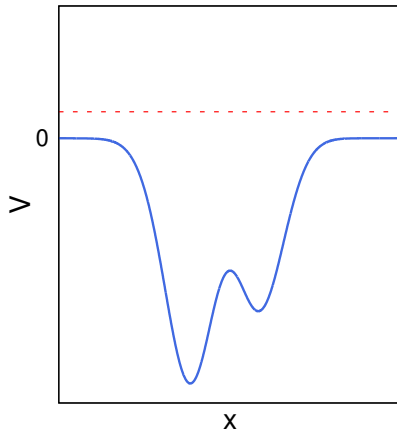
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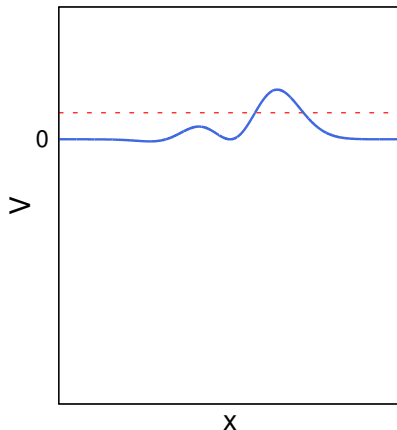
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This integral works for any limits which include the peak of the delta function.



# Delta function potential well

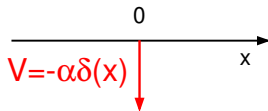


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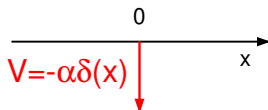


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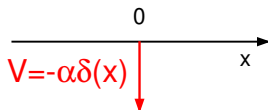


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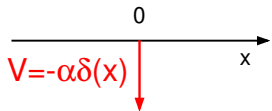
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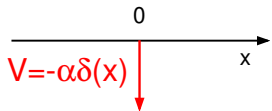
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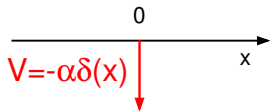
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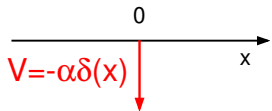
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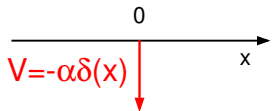
$$E\psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} - \alpha\delta(x)\psi$$
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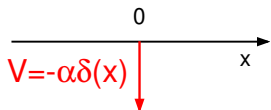
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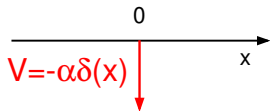
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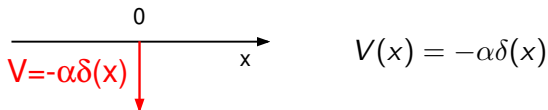
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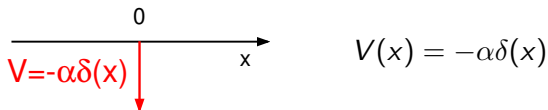
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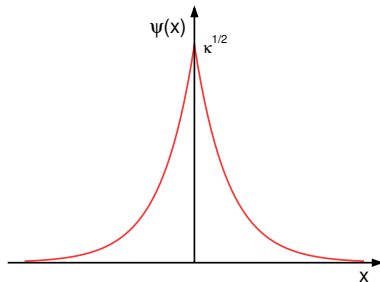
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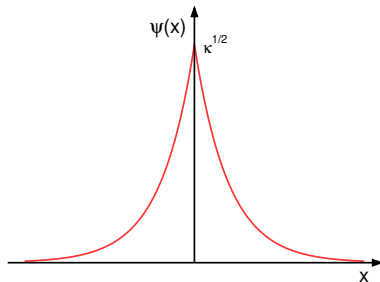
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the energy of this state is

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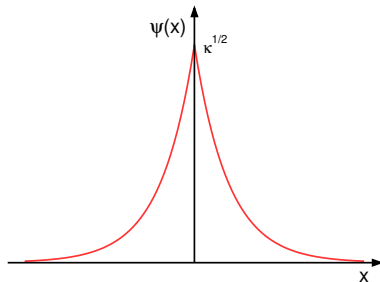
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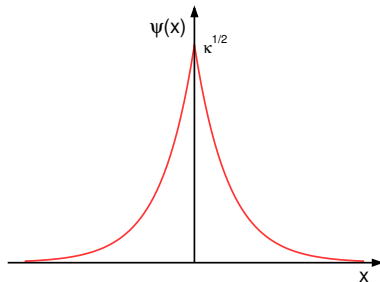
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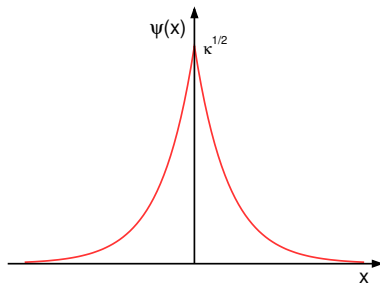
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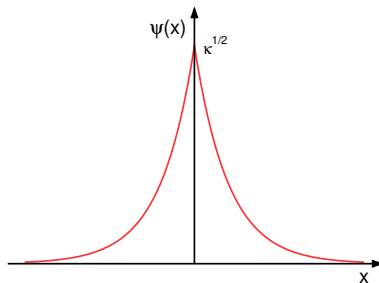
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$$\begin{aligned} \psi &\text{ is always continuous} \\ \frac{d\psi}{dx} &\text{ is continuous except where } V(x) = \infty \end{aligned}$$

what can this second condition tell us in the case of the delta function potential? Integrate the Schrödinger equation through the delta function discontinuity at  $x = 0$ .

$$E \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} \psi(x) dx = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} \frac{d^2\psi(x)}{dx^2} dx + \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} V(x)\psi(x) dx$$

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$$\Delta \left( \frac{d\psi}{dx} \right) = \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\epsilon}^{+\epsilon} V(x)\psi(x) dx$$

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The last term is usually zero, unless  $V(x) \rightarrow \infty$

# Delta function discontinuity



For the delta function, this limit is non-zero and can be calculated

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$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} Be^{-\kappa x}, & x \geq 0 \\ Be^{+\kappa x}, & x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

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$$\kappa = \frac{m\alpha}{\hbar^2} \rightarrow E = -\frac{\hbar^2 \kappa^2}{2m} = -\frac{m\alpha^2}{2\hbar^2}$$



Thus, the negative delta-function potential has a single bound state with wave function



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Thus, the negative delta-function potential has a single bound state with wave function and energy. There is always only one bound state for this potential, **independent of the strength of the potential  $\alpha$** .

$$\psi(x) = \frac{\sqrt{m\alpha}}{\hbar} e^{-m\alpha|x|/\hbar^2}; \quad E = -\frac{m\alpha^2}{2\hbar^2}$$



# The finite square well



# The finite square well



- General solution for three regions



# The finite square well



- General solution for three regions
- Applying the boundary conditions

# The finite square well



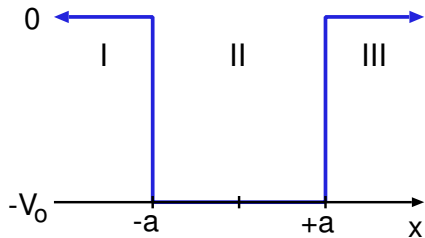
- General solution for three regions
- Applying the boundary conditions
- Even solutions

# The finite square well

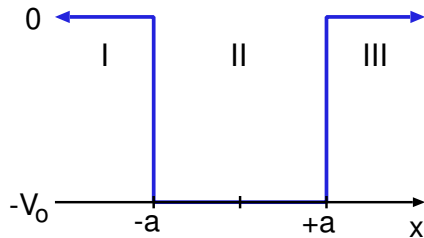


- General solution for three regions
- Applying the boundary conditions
- Even solutions
- Limiting cases

# Finite square well

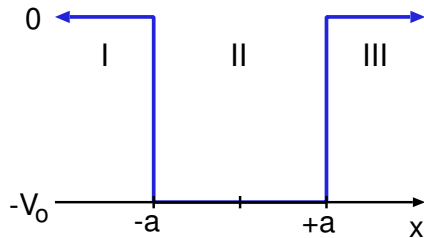


# Finite square well



In region I,  $x < -a$

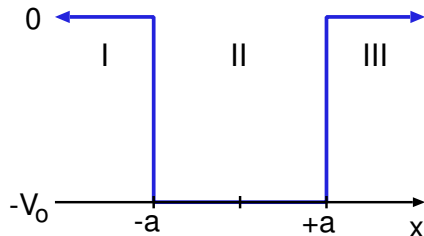
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$$E\psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2}$$

# Finite square well

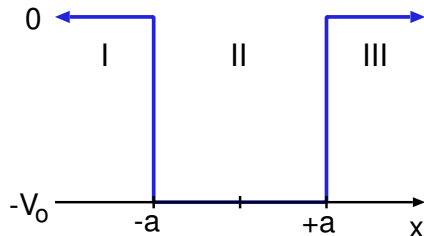


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$$\kappa^2\psi = \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2}, \quad \kappa \equiv \frac{\sqrt{-2mE}}{\hbar}$$

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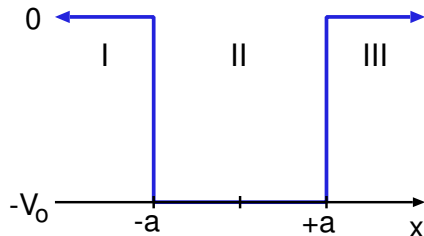
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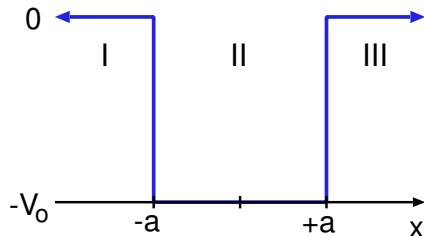
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# Finite square well



for the well in region II,  $|x| \leq a$



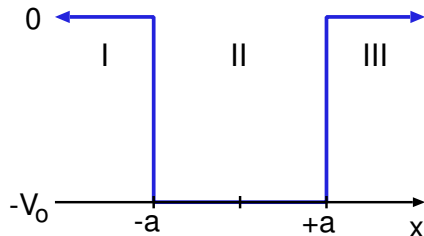
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# Finite square well



for the well in region II,  $|x| \leq a$

$$E\psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} - V_0\psi$$

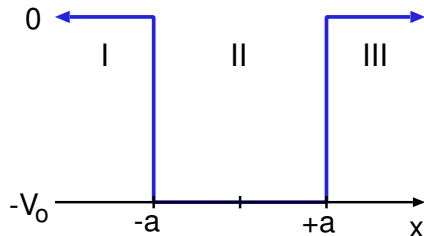
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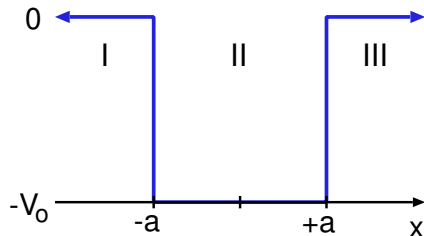
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In region I,  $x < -a$

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# Finite square well



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$$\psi = C \sin(lx) + D \cos(lx)$$

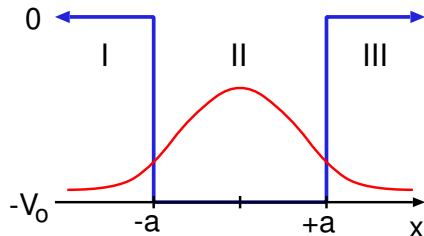
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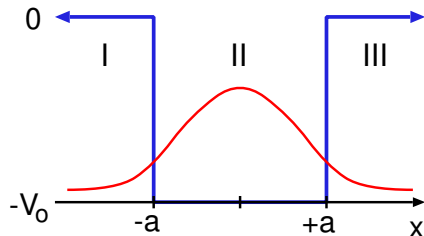
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# Finite square well



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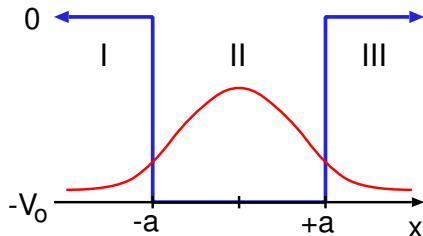
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finally, in region III,  $x > +a$

# Finite square well



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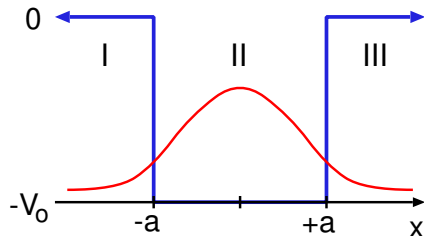
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# Finite square well



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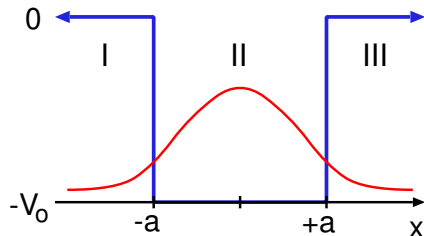
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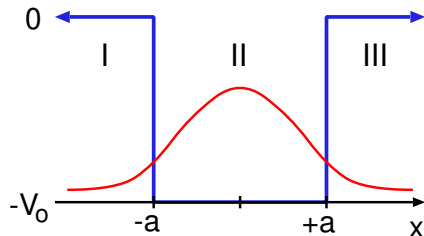
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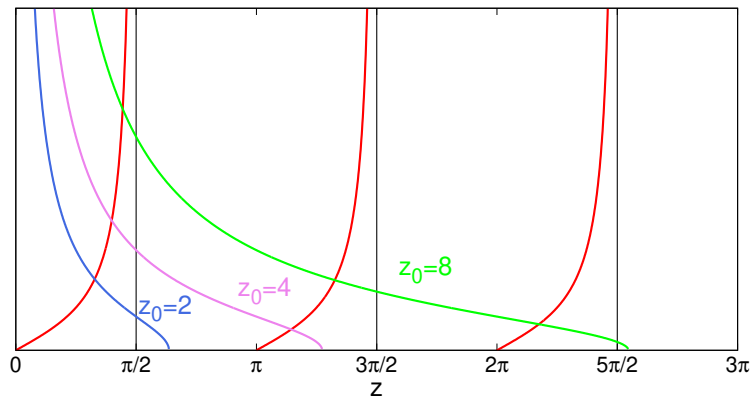
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Since  $E_n + V_0$  is just the energy above the bottom of the well and the width is  $2a$ , the even solutions (and the odd ones, of course) approach those of the infinite square well.

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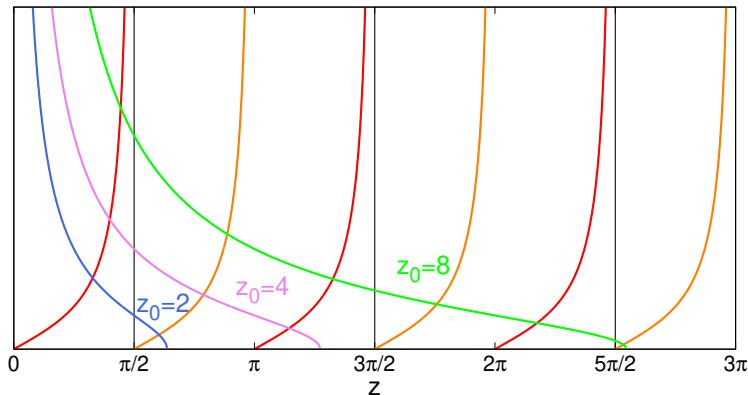


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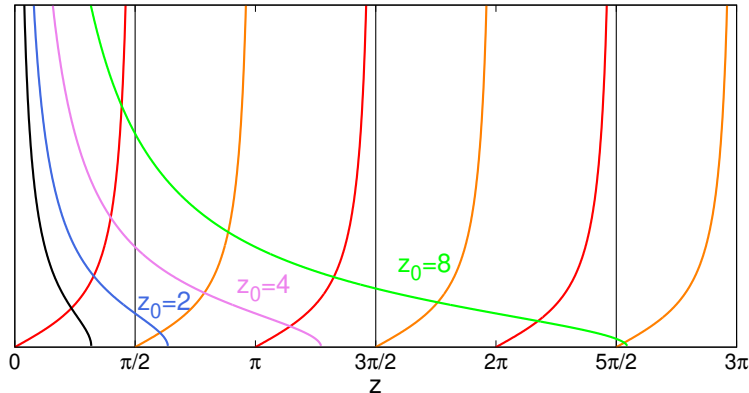




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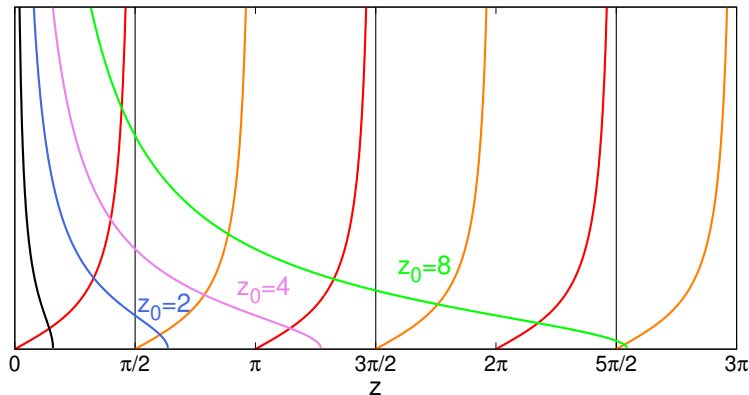


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The number of states decreases until the **lowest odd bound state** vanishes. However, the ground state (**lowest even state**) will never vanish. There is *always* a bound state no matter how shallow the well!

