

This paper shows proofs related to the Gauss Integrals:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx = \sqrt{\pi}$$
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{a}\right) dx = \sqrt{\pi a}$$
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{a}\right) dx = x_0 \cdot \sqrt{\pi a}$$
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{a}\right) dx = \left(\frac{a}{2} + x_0^2\right) \cdot \sqrt{\pi a}$$

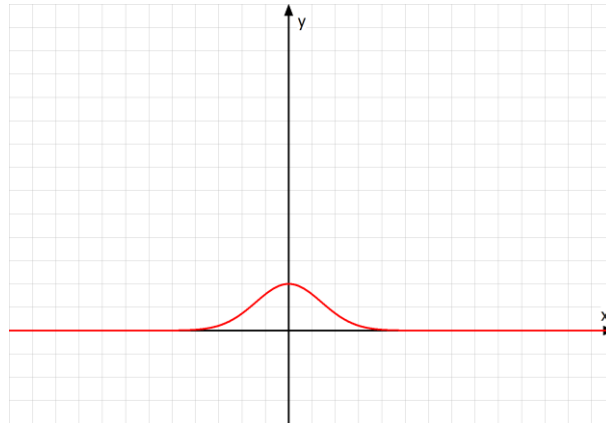
It follows:

Jan-Markus Schwindt, Conceptual Basis of Quantum Mechanics, ISBN 978-3-319-24524-9

Hope I can help you with learning quantum mechanics.

Proof one: $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx = \sqrt{\pi}$

The function looks like:



We need:

$$\left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx \right)^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-(x^2 + y^2)) dx \right) dy$$

We check:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-(x^2 + y^2)) dx \right) dy = \\ & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) \exp(-y^2) dx \right) dy = \\ & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\exp(-y^2) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx \right) dy = \\ & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-y^2) dy = \\ & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx = \\ & \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

We rewrite in polar coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-(x^2 + y^2)) dx \right) dy = \\ & \int_0^{2\pi} \left(\int_0^{\infty} r \cdot \exp(-r^2) dr \right) d\varphi =; \end{aligned}$$

Note: r is a correction factor needed because the circumference with radius r is r -times the circumference of the unit circle. Integration along the angle φ gives r -times the contribution.

The inner integral is independent of the angle φ and gives 2π :

$$2\pi \int_0^{\infty} r \cdot \exp(-r^2) dr$$

We substitute $u := r^2$:

$$u := r^2 \rightarrow \frac{du}{dr} = 2r \rightarrow dr = \frac{du}{2r}$$

We rewrite the integral:

$$\begin{aligned} 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} r \cdot \exp(-u) \frac{du}{2r} &= \\ \pi \int_0^{\infty} \exp(-u) du &= \\ -\pi \cdot \exp(-u) \Big|_0^{\infty} &= \\ -\pi \cdot (0 - 1) &= \pi \end{aligned}$$

We get:

$$\left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx \right)^2 = \pi^2$$

It follows:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) dx = \sqrt{\pi}$$

Proof two: $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{a}\right) dx = \sqrt{\pi a}$

We substitute:

$$\begin{aligned} u &:= \frac{x - x_0}{\sqrt{a}} \\ u &:= \frac{x - x_0}{\sqrt{a}} \rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}; dx = \sqrt{a} \cdot du \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - x_0)^2}{a}\right) dx &\rightarrow \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-u^2) \sqrt{a} \cdot du &= \\ \sqrt{a} \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-u^2) du &= \\ \sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{\pi} & \end{aligned}$$

Note: this holds for complex valued x_0 resp. $a > 0$ too.

Proof three: $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{a}\right) dx = x_0 \cdot \sqrt{\pi a}$

We substitute:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u &:= \frac{x - x_0}{\sqrt{a}} \\
 u &:= \frac{x - x_0}{\sqrt{a}} \rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}; dx = \sqrt{a} \cdot du; x = u\sqrt{a} + x_0 \\
 &\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{a}\right) dx \rightarrow \\
 &\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (u\sqrt{a} + x_0) \cdot \exp(-u^2) \sqrt{a} \cdot du = \\
 &\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u \cdot a \cdot \exp(-u^2) \sqrt{a} \cdot du + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_0 \cdot \exp(-u^2) \sqrt{a} \cdot du = \\
 &0 + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_0 \cdot \exp(-u^2) \cdot \sqrt{a} \cdot du = \\
 &x_0 \cdot \sqrt{a} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-u^2) \cdot du = \\
 &x_0 \cdot \sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{\pi}
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof four: $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \exp\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{a} dx = \left(\frac{a}{2} + x_0\right) \cdot \sqrt{\pi a}$

We substitute:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u &:= \frac{x - x_0}{\sqrt{a}} \\
 u &:= \frac{x - x_0}{\sqrt{a}} \rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}; dx = \sqrt{a} \cdot du; x = u\sqrt{a} + x_0 \\
 &\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{a}\right) dx \rightarrow \\
 &\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (u\sqrt{a} + x_0)^2 \cdot (\exp(-u^2)) \sqrt{a} du = \\
 &\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (u^2 a + 2u\sqrt{a}x_0 + x_0^2) \cdot (\exp(-u^2)) \cdot \sqrt{a} du = \\
 &\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u^2 a (\exp(-u^2)) \sqrt{a} du + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 2u\sqrt{a}x_0 (\exp(-u^2)) \sqrt{a} du + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_0^2 (\exp(-u^2)) \sqrt{a} du = \\
 &a\sqrt{a} \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u^2 \cdot \exp(-u^2) du + 0 + x_0^2 \sqrt{a} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-u^2) du = \\
 &a\sqrt{a} \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u^2 \cdot \exp(-u^2) du + 0 + x_0^2 \sqrt{a\pi} =;
 \end{aligned}$$

We integrate by parts:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f' \cdot g = f \cdot g - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f \cdot g'$$

We set:

$$f' := u \cdot \exp(-u^2), g := u \rightarrow f = -\frac{\exp(-u^2)}{2}, g' = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u^2 \cdot \exp(-u^2) du \rightarrow \\ & = \left[-\frac{\exp(-u^2)}{2} \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} -\frac{\exp(-u^2)}{2} du = \\ & = 0 - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} -\frac{\exp(-u^2)}{2} du = \\ & \quad \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-u^2) du = \\ & \quad \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

We combine the result:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{a}\right) dx = \\ & a\sqrt{a} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} + x_0^2 \sqrt{a\pi} = \\ & \quad \sqrt{a\pi} \left(\frac{a}{2} + x_0^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$