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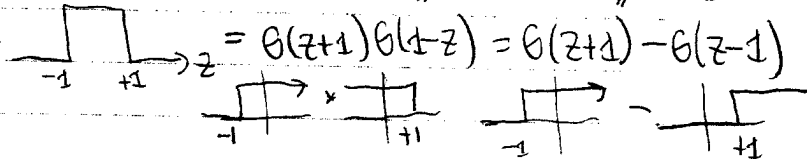
# 834 Lecture 12

## Lecture Plan

- finish up delta function discussion
- start on Fourier transforms
- solving S eqn for bound states (Numerov method) 68-70

## Before class:

- return rest of PS#5 up front (see me for grading issues)
- start up 834 page + Mathematics
- start up DOS Box and APS Waves and Optics  $\rightarrow$  Fourier

On board:  $\theta$  functions:   $= \theta(z+1)\theta(z-1) = \theta(z+1) - \theta(z-1)$

## Spot the error: (write correct expression)

Expand  $f(t)$  in one period:  $f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{in\pi t/T}$ ,  $c_n = \frac{1}{2T} \int_0^T f(t) e^{-in\pi t/T} dt$

Correct expressions:  $f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{in\pi t/T}$ ,  $c_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) e^{-in\pi t/T} dt$   
 (class fill in)  $\leftarrow \frac{2}{T}$  or  $\frac{1}{T}$  or  $\frac{1}{2T}$ ? check!

Analysis: How do you know what is up in the exponent?

ans: For  $n=1$ , the exponent should go from 0 to  $2\pi i$   
 $\Rightarrow$  one full period.

• But what about those expansions for strings where  $y(x,0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$ ,  $a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L y(x,0) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$

ans: The period here is not  $L$ , but  $2L \Rightarrow -L \leq x \leq L$  (look at  $n=1$  term!)  
 $\Rightarrow y(x,0) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{2L}\right)$  Always check a term.

- The prefactor is easy: just set  $n=m$   $\frac{1}{T} \int c_n dt = c_n$ . Couldn't be  $\frac{1}{2T}$  by units!
- Again, plug in  $f(t)$  to see how  $c_m$  is projected, this tells you - in exponent.

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Start with page (109) and  $\delta(\vec{x}-\vec{x}_0)$  in spherical and cylindrical, getting to  $\vec{x}_0 \rightarrow 0$  limit.

see  
Hassani,  
Mathematical  
Physics,  
pg. 593.  
for more  
rigorous  
treatment

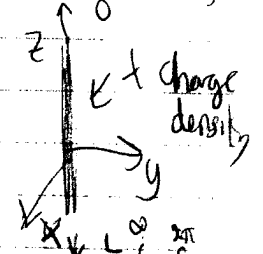
If we take the actual limit with  $\vec{x}_0 = (r_0, \theta_0, \phi_0)$  in spherical coordinates, then we could keep  $\theta_0$  and  $\phi_0$  fixed and take  $r_0 \rightarrow 0^+$ .

$$\Rightarrow \delta(\vec{x}-\vec{x}_0) \rightarrow \frac{1}{r_0} \delta(r) \delta(\cos\theta - \cos\theta_0) \delta(\phi - \phi_0)$$

- Does the result for  $\int d^3x f(\vec{x}) \delta(\vec{x})$  depend on  $\theta_0$  and  $\phi_0$ ?
- No, if  $f(\vec{x})$  is continuous (uniform limit as  $\vec{x} \rightarrow 0$ , so same from any direction)
- So averaging over angles is just as good:  $\delta(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{4\pi r^2} \delta(r)$

Because  $r_0 \rightarrow 0^+$ ,  $\int_0^\infty \delta(r - r_0) dr = \int_0^\infty \delta(r) dr = 1$  (and not  $\frac{1}{a} = \int_0^a \delta(x) dx$ )

So back to problem 6.17, where  $\rho_{ch}(\vec{x}) = \lambda \delta(x) \delta(y)$   
 - Take the limit in cylindrical and spherical coordinates



- Cylindrical:  $\lambda \frac{1}{\rho} \delta(\rho - \rho_0) \delta(\phi - \phi_0) \xrightarrow{\rho_0 \rightarrow 0^+} \lambda \frac{1}{2\pi \rho} \delta(\rho) \Rightarrow \rho_{ch}(\vec{x}) = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi \rho} \delta(\rho)$   
 where  $\int_0^\infty \delta(\rho) d\rho = 1 = \lambda L \checkmark$

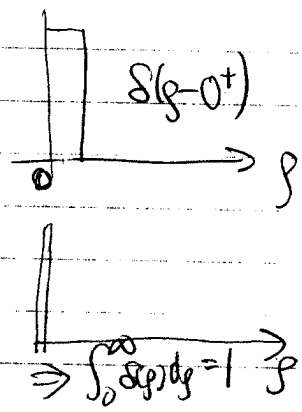
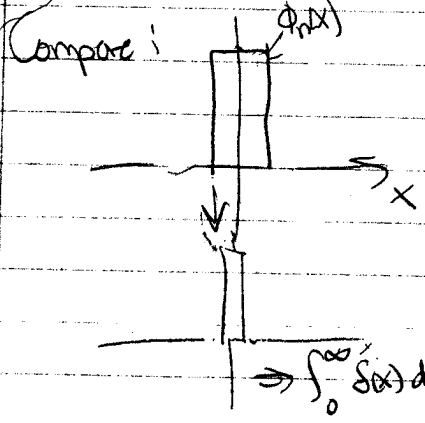
- Spherical:  $\lambda \frac{1}{2\pi r^2 \sin\theta} (\delta(\theta) + \delta(\theta - \pi))$

$\int_0^R r dr \int_0^\pi \sin\theta d\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \rho_{ch}(\vec{x}) = 2\lambda L \checkmark$  both directions (+z and -z)

note: this is sometimes taken to be  $\frac{1}{a}$ !

1) find delta functions in coordinates that take on single values.

2) then determine function that multiplies by integrating over appropriate region.



This may be considered a mnemonic rather than a formal analysis!

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(12)

Important equations we'll see again!

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \frac{\hat{r}}{r^2} = +4\pi\delta(\vec{r})$$

$$\text{or } \nabla^2\left(\frac{1}{r}\right) = -4\pi\delta(\vec{r}) \quad (\text{note } \vec{\nabla}\frac{1}{r} = -\frac{\hat{r}}{r^2})$$

On homework,  $\nabla_2^2(\ln \frac{\rho}{a}) = 2\pi\delta(\vec{\rho})$ , in the  $xy$  plane

where  $\nabla_2^2 \equiv \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}$ ,  $a$  is any constant,  $\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$

Prove these by usual steps!

- i) Easy to show  $\nabla^2(1/r) = 0$  for  $r \neq 0$  (we've done this!)
- ii) show sifting property

$$\int \nabla^2\left(\frac{1}{r}\right) f(\vec{r}) d^3r = -4\pi f(0)$$

Proofs in Leo, Boas, etc.  $\Rightarrow$  use divergence, Gauss's, <sup>and other vector calculus</sup> but it's non-trivial  $\Rightarrow$  some terms cancel

Extension:

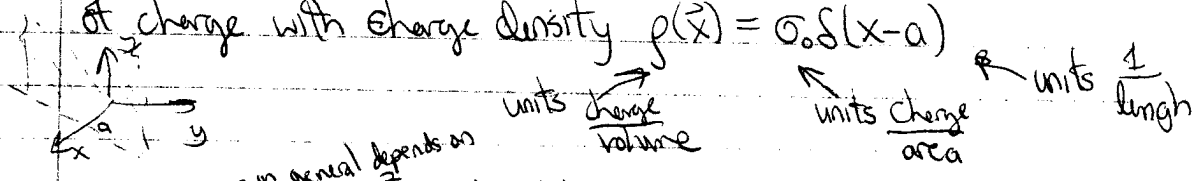
$$\nabla^2 \frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0|} = -4\pi\delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0)$$

we'll return to this!

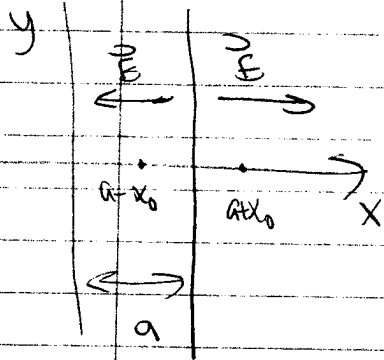
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### An E/M example (Lea example 6.5)

Find the solution for the electric field due to a sheet of charge with charge density  $\rho(\vec{x}) = \sigma_0 \delta(x-a)$



$\vec{E} = (E_x, 0, 0)$   $\Rightarrow \frac{dE_x(x)}{dx} = \frac{\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0} \delta(x-a)$  (from  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$ )



Usually would invoke a gaussian cylinder!

Instead, integrate from  $a-x_0$  to  $a+x_0$

$$\int_{a-x_0}^{a+x_0} \frac{dE_x}{dx} \cdot dx = E_x(a+x_0) - E_x(a-x_0) = \int_{a-x_0}^{a+x_0} \frac{\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0} \delta(x-a) dx = \frac{\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0}$$

By symmetry,  $E_x(a+x_0) = -E_x(a-x_0)$  [can we get this any other way?]

$$\Rightarrow 2E_x(a+x_0) = \frac{\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0} \text{ or } E_x(a+x_0) = \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow E_x(x) = \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} (\theta(x-a) - \theta(a-x))$$

Plug in to check the equation

$$\frac{dE_x}{dx} = \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} \left( \frac{d\theta(x-a)}{dx} - \frac{d\theta(a-x)}{dx} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\sigma_0}{2\epsilon_0} (\delta(x-a) - (-\delta(x-a)))$$

$$= \frac{\sigma_0}{\epsilon_0} \delta(x-a) \checkmark$$

important to get the signs!

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# Fourier Transforms: Core Competencies

- ① definition and basic Fourier transforms ← completing the square  
← Gaussian, exponential, delta funct
- ② Using Mathematica for complicated transforms
- ③ Use Fourier transforms to solve partial differential equations

## Definition

$$F(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx \quad \text{transform}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(k) e^{ikx} dk \quad \text{inverse}$$

but symmetric (with - sign in exponent)

## conventions:

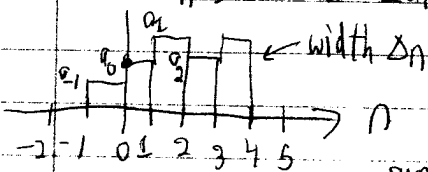
- notation for  $F(k)$ : sometimes  $\tilde{f}(k)$ , sometimes just  $f(k)$
- product of factors out front is  $1/2\pi$  but different fields distribute differently (eg.  $\int dx \leftrightarrow \int \frac{dk}{2\pi}$ )
- which exponential has the - sign ( $x, k$ ) vs. ( $t, \omega$ ), for example

Comparison to Fourier series:  $f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{in\pi x/L}$  for  $-L \leq x \leq L$

Can we just take  $L \rightarrow \infty$ ?

$$a_n = \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) e^{-in\pi x/L} dx$$

No:  $a_n \rightarrow 0$ . But  $La_n$  would be ok.



$$\Rightarrow f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{in\pi x/L} \Delta n$$

rescale  $\Delta n$  to  $k = \frac{n\pi}{L}$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{k=-\frac{\pi}{L}}^{\frac{\pi}{L}} \left( \frac{L}{\pi} a_n \right) e^{i \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right) x} \frac{\Delta n \pi}{L}$$

$$\Rightarrow dk = \frac{\Delta n \pi}{L} = \sum_{k(n)} \left( \frac{L}{\pi} a_n \right) e^{ikx} \Delta k$$

sum is like an integral if we could take  $\Delta n \rightarrow 0$ .

where  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} F(k) = \frac{L}{\pi} a(k = \frac{\pi}{L})$  [here  $a(k)$  becomes continuous]

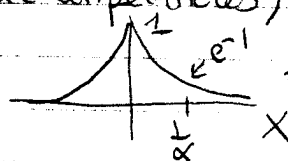
$$\Rightarrow F(k) = L \sum_{k(n)} a_n \xrightarrow{L \rightarrow \infty} F(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx \quad \checkmark$$

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• Key examples: check with Mathematica Fourier Transform

• Note: You should be able to do the manipulations here, not just using Mathematica (core competencies)

(A)  $f(x) = e^{-\alpha|x|}$  exponential



"width"  $\Rightarrow$  standard deviation  $\Delta x \sim 1/\alpha$

$$F(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\alpha|x|} e^{-ikx} dx \quad \leftarrow \text{just combine exponentials and integrate as usual}$$

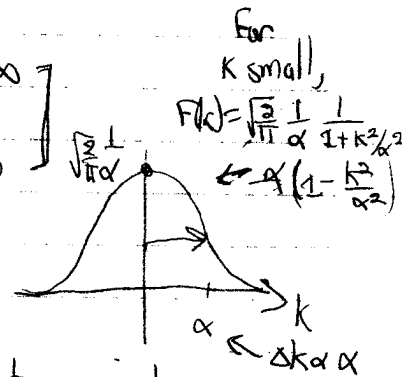
split so  $|x|$  can be separated

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{(\alpha-ik)x} dx + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(\alpha+ik)x} dx \right]$$

$\Rightarrow |x| = -x$                        $\Rightarrow |x| = +x$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha-ik} e^{(\alpha-ik)x} \Big|_{-\infty}^0 + \frac{e^{-(\alpha+ik)x}}{-(\alpha+ik)} \Big|_0^{\infty} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left( \frac{1}{\alpha-ik} - \frac{-1}{\alpha+ik} \right) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\alpha}{\alpha^2+k^2}$$

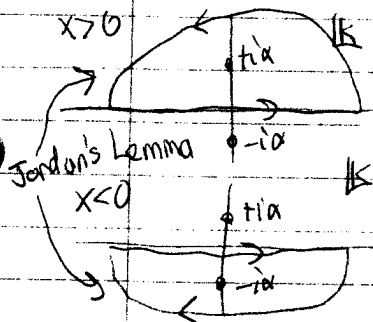


• product of widths,  $\Delta x \Delta k \sim \frac{1}{\alpha} \cdot \alpha \sim 1$  (up to numerical factors)

More precise:  $\Delta x \equiv \sqrt{\langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2}$  (use normalized distribution for easiest calculation of  $\langle x^2 \rangle, \langle x \rangle$ )

Now the inverse: this should look familiar (from the midterm!)

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\alpha}{\alpha^2+k^2} e^{ikx} dk = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{ikx}}{(k+ia)(k-ia)} dk$$



$$x > 0: f(x) = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} 2\pi i \left( \frac{e^{-\alpha x}}{2ia} \right) = e^{-\alpha x}$$

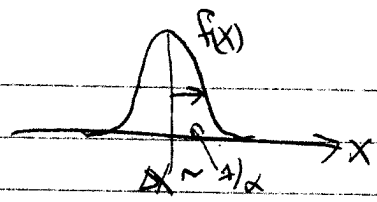
$$x < 0: f(x) = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} (-2\pi i) \frac{e^{i(-ia)x}}{-2ia} = e^{\alpha x}$$

$\leftarrow$  clockwise

$e^{\alpha|x|}$  ✓

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(B) Gaussian  $f(x) = Ne^{-\alpha^2 x^2}$



$$F(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} Ne^{-\alpha^2 x^2} e^{-ikx} dx$$

observe  $e^{-\alpha^2(x+\beta)^2} = e^{-\alpha^2 x^2 - 2\alpha^2 \beta x - \alpha^2 \beta^2}$

$$\Rightarrow e^{-\alpha^2 x^2 - 2\alpha^2 \beta x} = e^{-\alpha^2(x+\beta)^2} e^{+\alpha^2 \beta^2} \Rightarrow 2\alpha^2 \beta = ik \Rightarrow \beta = \frac{ik}{2\alpha^2}$$

simplify terms

$\alpha^2 \beta^2 = \alpha^2 \left( \frac{-k^2}{4\alpha^4} \right)$

$$\Rightarrow F(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{k^2}{4\alpha^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\alpha^2 \left(x + \frac{ik}{2\alpha^2}\right)^2} dx$$

change to  $u = \alpha \left(x + \frac{ik}{2\alpha^2}\right)$

$$= \frac{N}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{k^2}{4\alpha^2}} \int_{-\infty + \frac{ik}{2\alpha}}^{\infty + \frac{ik}{2\alpha}} e^{-u^2} \frac{du}{\alpha}$$

$$= \frac{N}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{k^2}{4\alpha^2}} \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-u^2} du$$

because  $\int_{-R}^R e^{-u^2} du$  goes to zero as  $R \rightarrow \infty$

no poles!

$$F(k) = \frac{N}{\alpha\sqrt{2}} e^{-\frac{k^2}{4\alpha^2}}$$

$\Rightarrow$  integral on top = integral on bottom

Gaussian  $\xrightarrow{\text{Fourier transform}}$  Gaussian

width  $\Delta k \sim 2\alpha$  so  $\Delta x \Delta k \sim \frac{1}{\alpha} 2\alpha \sim 1$  again

[More precise with  $\Delta x = \sqrt{\langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2}$ ]

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⊙  $f(x) = 1 \Rightarrow$  delta function

$$F(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 1 \cdot e^{-ikx} dx = \sqrt{2\pi} \delta(k)$$

$$\text{or } \delta(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikx} dx \quad \delta(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{+ikx} dk$$

Properties of Fourier transform  $F[\ ]$

• can you prove these?

$$\cdot F[f+g] = F[f] + F[g] \Leftrightarrow \int (f(x)+g(x)) e^{-ikx} dx = \int f(x) e^{-ikx} dx + \int g(x) e^{-ikx} dx$$

$$\cdot F[af] = aF[f] \Leftrightarrow \int a f(x) e^{-ikx} dx = a \int f(x) e^{-ikx} dx$$

$$\cdot F\left[\frac{df}{dx}\right] = ikF(k)$$

$$\cdot F^*(k) = F(-k)$$

$$\text{Parseval: } \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)|^2 dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |F(k)|^2 dk$$

so normalized distribution in  $x$  is also normalized in  $k$ !



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### Application to a PDE (partial differential equation): Diffusion

- physical situation: at  $t=0$ , total mass  $m$  at  $x=L$  in long pipe of cross section  $A$ , full of water. Find  $t>0$  distribution
- Or, temperature of rod initially at  $T_0$ , heated at one end to  $T_1$  at  $t=0$ .

equation:  $\frac{\partial \rho(x,t)}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 \rho(x,t)}{\partial x^2}$

(cf. time-dependent Schrödinger equation) diffusion constant  $\rho$  is mass distribution (integrate over  $x$  to get  $m$ )

$\rho(x, t < 0) = 0$  and assume  $\rho(x, t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  [physically reasonable]

Initial condition:  $\rho(x, 0) = \frac{m}{A} \delta(x-L)$  [check:  $\int_{\text{pipe}} \delta x \rho(x, 0) = \frac{m}{A} \cdot A = m \checkmark$ ]

Let  $\tilde{\rho}(k, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \rho(x, t) e^{-ikx} dx$

Plan: "apply"  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikx} dx [ ]$  to both sides of diffusion equation

On left, pull  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$  from integral  $\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \tilde{\rho}(k, t)}{\partial t}$  (still a partial derivative!)

On right,  $\frac{D}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikx} \frac{\partial^2 \rho(x, t)}{\partial x^2} dx \Rightarrow$  partially integrate twice (no surface terms because  $\rho(\pm\infty) = 0$ )

$$= \frac{D}{\sqrt{2\pi}} (-ik)^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikx} \rho(x, t) dx = -k^2 D \tilde{\rho}(k, t) !$$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{\partial \tilde{\rho}(k, t)}{\partial t} = -k^2 D \tilde{\rho}(k, t)}$  but this is simple for any given value of  $k$ !

Solve by inspection:  $\tilde{\rho}(k, t) = \tilde{\rho}_0(k) e^{-k^2 D t}$  and find  $\tilde{\rho}_0$  from initial condition.

$$\tilde{\rho}_0(k) = \tilde{\rho}(k, 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{m}{A} \delta(x-L) e^{-ikx} dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{m}{A} e^{-ikL} \Rightarrow \tilde{\rho}(k, t) = \frac{m}{A} \frac{e^{-ikL}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-k^2 D t}$$

$$\text{Find } \rho(x, t) = \frac{m}{A 2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(kx - ikL - k^2 D t)} dk = \frac{m}{A 2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\sqrt{D t} k + i(kx - kL) + \frac{1}{4} \frac{(x-L)^2}{D t}} e^{-\frac{k^2 D t}{4}} dk$$

complete square! note  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{4}} = \frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{1}{\sqrt{4}} = \frac{1}{2}$  Gaussian spread