

Consider the one-dimensional problem of a particle of mass  $m$  in a gravitational field  $g$ . Let  $z$  be the coordinate giving the height above an impenetrable floor.

- a) Write down the time-independent Schrödinger equation that describes the particle in an eigenstate of energy  $E$ .
- b) Give an expression for  $E_0$ , the ground-state energy, (in terms of  $m$ ,  $g$ , and Planck's constant  $\hbar$ ) which is correct to within a dimensionless factor.
- c) Sketch the ground-state wavefunction,  $\psi_0(z)$ , and the first excited state wavefunction,  $\psi_1(z)$ , for both positive and negative  $z$ .
- d) How many nodes does  $\psi_n(z)$ , the wavefunction of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  excited state, have for  $z > 0$ ?
- e) Find  $\langle \psi_n | z | \psi_n \rangle$  in terms of  $E_n$ ,  $m$ ,  $g$ , and  $\hbar$ , again to within a dimensionless factor. Is that dimensionless factor bigger than or smaller than one? (Explain how you know.)
- f) Using the results of the previous parts, find an approximate expression for the dependence of  $E_n/E_0$  on  $n$ , for  $n \gg 1$ .