

# Constraints on the Form of $\psi(x)$

$|\psi(x)|^2$  corresponds to a physically meaningful quantity:  
the **probability density** of finding the particle near  $x$ .

To avoid unphysical behavior,  $\psi(x)$  must satisfy some conditions:

**$\psi(x)$  must be single-valued, and finite.**

Finite to avoid infinite probability density.

**$\psi(x)$  must be continuous, with finite  $d\psi/dx$ .**

$d\psi/dx$  is related to the momentum.

**In regions with finite potential,  $d^2\psi/dx^2$  must be finite.**

To avoid infinite energies.

This also means that  $d\psi/dx$  must be continuous.

There is no significance to the overall *sign* of  $\psi(x)$ .

It goes away when we take the absolute square.

{In fact, we will see that  $\psi(x,t)$  is usually complex!}