

3-9 *Why can bound-state wave functions be chosen to be real?* The text states that, in one-dimensional problems, the spatial wave func-

tion for any allowed state can be chosen to be real-valued. Verify this using the following outline or some other method.

(a) Write the wave function  $\psi_n(x)$  in terms of its real and imaginary parts:  $\psi_n = \text{Re } \psi_n + i \cdot \text{Im } \psi_n$ , and substitute this into the Schrödinger equation.

(b) Show that  $\text{Re } \psi_n$  and  $\text{Im } \psi_n$  separately satisfy the Schrödinger equation.

(c) In one dimension there is only one (linearly independent) wave function for each energy eigenvalue  $E_n$ . What does this imply about  $\text{Re } \psi_n$  and  $\text{Im } \psi_n$ ? Describe how you can construct a real, normalized wave function from  $\psi_n$ .