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Examining student understanding of basic topics in quantum mechanics in different populations¹ HOMEYRA R. SADAGHIANI, PETER S. SHAFFER, LILLIAN C. MCDERMOTT, University of Washington — As part of an ongoing research and curriculum development effort, the Physics Education Group at the University of Washington is examining student understanding of introductory quantum mechanics. The investigation includes data from four different classes at two large research universities. Specific research questions will be used to illustrate some common problems students have in applying and interpreting basic quantum mechanical principles.

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