

**Presidential Address (2006): Student Understanding of Tunneling in  
Quantum Mechanics**

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We are studying student understanding of the phenomenon of quantum tunneling through a potential barrier, a standard topic in most introductory quantum physics courses. Series of interviews and tests revealed that many students believe energy is lost in the tunneling process. A survey was designed to investigate the prevalence of the energy-loss idea. This survey was administered to Physics special and engineering Physics special students of the department of Physics, University of Colombo.