

Exactly solvable time-dependent non-Hermitian quantum systems from point transformations

Rebecca Tenney
City, University of London
Pseudo-Hermitian Hamiltonians in Quantum Physics

October 14, 2021

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- Time-dependent non-Hermitian quantum systems
 - Key equations
 - The Dyson map, the metric
 - Different solution procedures

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- Conclusions

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If a Hamiltonian is \mathcal{PT} -symmetric it has real eigenvalues.

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If a Hamiltonian is \mathcal{PT} -symmetric it has real eigenvalues.

$$\mathcal{PT} : \quad p \rightarrow p, \quad x \rightarrow -x, \quad i \rightarrow -i$$

$$H = p^2 + x^2(ix)^\epsilon$$

$\epsilon > 0 \rightarrow$ real eigenvalues

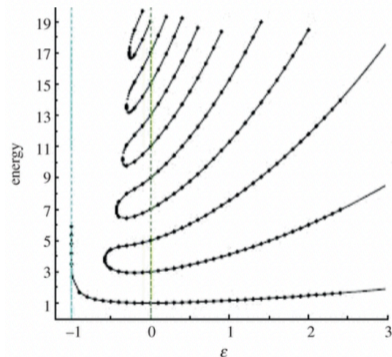


Figure 1: C. M. Bender and S. Boettcher, Phys. Rev. Lett. **80**, 5243 (1998)

Key equations

Two time-dependent Schrödinger equations for $h(t) = h^\dagger(t)$, $H(t) \neq H^\dagger(t)$

$$h(t)\Psi(t) = i\hbar\partial_t\Psi(t) \quad \text{and} \quad H(t)\phi(t) = i\hbar\partial_t\phi(t)$$

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Time-dependent Dyson map

$$\Psi(t) = \eta(t)\phi(t)$$

\implies Time-dependent Dyson equation (TDDE):

$$h(t) = \eta(t)H(t)\eta(t)^{-1} + i\hbar\partial_t\eta(t)\eta(t)^{-1}$$

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\implies Time-dependent quasi-Hermiticity relation (TDQH):

$$H^\dagger(t)\rho(t) - \rho(t)H(t) = i\hbar\partial_t\rho(t), \quad \text{where} \quad \rho(t) = \eta^\dagger(t)\eta(t)$$

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Observables $o(t)$ in Hermitian system are self-adjoint.

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Calculate observables:

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Must start by calculating $\rho(t)$ and $\eta(t)$!

How do we calculate $\rho(t)$ and $\eta(t)$?

¹H. Lewis and W. Riesenfeld, J. Math. Phys. **10**, 1458-1473 (1969)

²B. Khantoul, A. Bounames and M. Maamache, The European Physical Journal Plus **132**(6), 258 (2017).

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1. Solve TDDE directly for $\eta(t)$

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3. Lewis-Riesenfeld invariants¹ :

$$\frac{dI_{\mathcal{H}}(t)}{dt} = \partial_t I_{\mathcal{H}}(t) - i\hbar [I_{\mathcal{H}}(t), \mathcal{H}(t)] = 0, \text{ for } \mathcal{H} = h = h^\dagger, H \neq H^\dagger$$

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Invariants are quasi-Hermitian²

$$I_h(t) = \eta(t) I_H \eta(t)^{-1}$$

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Invariants are quasi-Hermitian²

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Solution to TDSE:

$$I_{\mathcal{H}} |\phi_{\mathcal{H}}(t)\rangle = \lambda |\phi_{\mathcal{H}}(t)\rangle, \quad |\Psi_{\mathcal{H}}(t)\rangle = e^{i\hbar\alpha(t)} |\phi_{\mathcal{H}}(t)\rangle$$

$$\dot{\alpha}(t) = \langle \phi_{\mathcal{H}}(t) | (i\hbar\partial_t - \mathcal{H}) | \phi_{\mathcal{H}}(t) \rangle, \quad \dot{\lambda} = 0$$

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Four step approach

For information on point transformations constructed between Hermitian Hamiltonians see³

- Two time-dependent Schrödinger equations:

$$H_0(\chi)\psi(\chi, \tau) = i\hbar\partial_\tau\psi(\chi, \tau) \quad \text{and} \quad H(x, t)\phi(x, t) = i\hbar\partial_t\phi(x, t)$$

Reference Hamiltonian: $H_0(\chi)$ Target Hamiltonian: $H(x, t) \neq H^\dagger(x, t)$

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- Point transformation Γ :

$$\Gamma : H_0 - \text{TDSE} \rightarrow H - \text{TDSE} \quad [\chi, \tau, \psi(\chi, \tau)] \rightarrow [x, t, \phi(x, t)]$$

$$\chi = P(x, t, \phi) \quad \tau = Q(x, t, \phi) \quad \psi = R(x, t, \phi)$$

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- Construction of invariant

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- Determine $\eta(t)$ and $\rho(t)$:

$$I_h(t) = \eta(t)I_H(x, t)\eta(t)^{-1}$$

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- Determine $\eta(t)$ and $\rho(t)$:

$$I_h(t) = \eta(t)I_H(\mathbf{x}, t)\eta(t)^{-1}$$

$$\implies h(t) = \eta(t)H(\mathbf{x}, t)\eta^{-1} + i\hbar\partial_t\eta(t)\eta(t)^{-1}$$

$$\implies \rho(t) = \eta^\dagger(t)\eta(t)$$

The reference Hamiltonian

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Time-independent harmonic oscillator:

$$H_0(\chi) = \frac{P^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2\chi^2, \quad P = -i\hbar\partial_\chi$$

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- Simplify the calculation.

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$$\chi = \chi(\mathbf{x}, t), \quad \tau(t), \quad \psi = A(\mathbf{x}, t)\phi,$$

- Simplify the calculation.
- No ϕ_x^2 term so require $\psi_{\phi\phi} = 0$.

The Reference Hamiltonian

Compute the total derivatives:

$$\frac{d\psi}{dx} = \psi_x \chi_x = \mathbf{A}\phi_x + \mathbf{A}_x\phi$$

$$\frac{d\psi}{dt} = \psi_x \chi_t + \psi_\tau \tau_t = \mathbf{A}\phi_t + \mathbf{A}_t\phi$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = \psi_{x,x} \chi_x^2 + \psi_x \chi_{x,x} = \mathbf{A}\phi_{x,x} + 2\mathbf{A}_x\phi_x + \psi \mathbf{A}_{x,x}$$

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$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = \psi_{\chi,\chi}\chi_x^2 + \psi_{\chi}\chi_{x,x} = \mathbf{A}\phi_{x,x} + 2\mathbf{A}_x\phi_x + \psi\mathbf{A}_{x,x}$$

→ Solve for ψ_{χ} , ψ_{τ} and $\psi_{\chi,\chi}$ and sub into TDSE for $H_0(\chi)$

The Reference Hamiltonian

Point transformed TDSE:

$$i\hbar\phi_t + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\tau_t}{\chi_x^2} \phi_{xx} + B_0(x, t)\phi_x - V_0(x, t)\phi = 0 \quad (*)$$

where

$$B_0(x, t) = -i\hbar \frac{\chi_t}{\chi_x} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\tau_t}{\chi_x^2} \left(2 \frac{A_x}{A} - \frac{\chi_{xx}}{\chi_x} \right)$$

$$V_0(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 \tau_t \chi^2 - i\hbar \left(\frac{A_t}{A} - \frac{A_x \chi_t}{A \chi_x} \right) - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\tau_t}{\chi_x^2} \left(\frac{A_{xx}}{A} - \frac{A_x \chi_{xx}}{A \chi_x} \right)$$

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→ Compare (*) directly with TDSE for target Hamiltonian $H(x, t)$ and solve for A , χ and τ .

The reference Hamiltonian - other choices

$$i\hbar\phi_t + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\tau_t}{\chi_x^2} \phi_{xx} + B_i(x, t)\phi_x - V_i(x, t)\phi = 0$$

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$$H_0^{(1)}(\chi) = \frac{P^2}{2m}, \quad B_1(x, t) = B_0(x, t), \quad V_1(x, t) = V_0(x, t) - \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2\chi^2\tau_t$$

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$$H_0^{(2)}(\chi) = H_0(\chi) + a\chi, \quad B_2(x, t) = B_0(x, t), \quad V_2(x, t) = V_0(x, t) + a\chi\tau_t$$

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$$H_0^{(3)}(\chi) = H_0(\chi) + a\{\chi, P\}, \quad B_3(x, t) = B_0(x, t) + \frac{2ia\hbar\chi\tau_t}{\chi_x}, \quad V_3(x, t) = V_0(x, t) - \frac{2ia\chi_x\tau_t}{A\chi_x} - ia\hbar\tau_t$$

The time-dependent Swanson model

The time-dependent Swanson model

$$\tilde{H}_S(t) = \omega(t) \left(a^\dagger a + 1/2 \right) + \tilde{\alpha}(t) a^2 + \tilde{\beta}(t) \left(a^\dagger \right)^2, \quad \tilde{\alpha} \neq \tilde{\beta}^*$$

$$a = (x + ip)/2, \quad a^\dagger = (x - ip)/2$$

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$$a = (x + ip)/2, \quad a^\dagger = (x - ip)/2$$

$$\tilde{\alpha} = \frac{M\Omega^2}{4} - \frac{1}{4M} + \alpha, \quad \tilde{\beta} = \frac{M\Omega^2}{4} - \frac{1}{4M} - \alpha, \quad \omega = \frac{M\Omega^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2M},$$

$$H_S(x, t) := \tilde{H}_S(t) - \frac{\omega(t)}{2} = \frac{p^2}{2M(t)} + \frac{M(t)}{2} \Omega(t)^2 x^2 + i\alpha(t) \{x, p\}, \quad M, \Omega \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \alpha \in \mathbb{C}$$

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$$\mathcal{PT} : x \rightarrow -x, \quad p \rightarrow p, \quad i \rightarrow -i, \quad (M, \Omega, \alpha) \rightarrow (M, \Omega, \alpha), \quad \alpha = \alpha_r + i\alpha_i$$

$$\alpha_r \rightarrow \alpha_r, \quad \alpha_i \rightarrow -\alpha_i$$

Point transformation $\Gamma_0^S : H_0(\chi) \rightarrow H_S(x, t)$

Point transformed TDSE:

$$i\hbar\psi_t + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\tau_t}{\chi_x^2} \phi_{xx} + B_0(x, t)\phi_x - V_0(x, t)\phi = 0 \quad (*)$$

TDSE for $H_S(x, t)$:

$$i\hbar\phi_t + \frac{\hbar^2}{2M(t)} \phi_{xx} - 2\hbar\alpha(t)x\phi_x - \hbar\alpha(t)\phi - \frac{1}{2}M(t)\Omega(t)^2 x^2 \phi = 0, \quad (\circ)$$

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Compare (*) and (\circ):

$$\frac{\tau_t}{m\chi_x^2} = \frac{1}{M(t)},$$

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$$\frac{\tau_t}{m\chi_x^2} = \frac{1}{M(t)}, \quad B(x, t) = -2\hbar\alpha(t)x,$$

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Solution:

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⁴V. Ermakov, Univ. Izv. Kiev. **20**, 1-19 (1880).

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Many choices for r , s and α_r , for example:

Time-independent mass:

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α complex

- $\alpha_r = \sigma^{-2-r}$, $r = 0$

$$\sigma_{tt} = \frac{4}{\sigma^3} + \sigma(\Omega^2 - \omega^2)$$

σ : non-linear Ermakov-Pinney equation^{4,5}

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Different reference Hamiltonians \rightarrow different invariants.

The Dyson map and metric

All invariants can be written as ($\gamma \neq 0$)

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Substitute $\eta(t)$ into TDDE

$$h = \frac{\sigma^{r+2s}}{2m} p^2 + \left(2m\alpha_i^2 \sigma^{-r-2s} + \frac{1}{2} m \sigma^{-r-2s} \Omega^2 \right) x^2 + \frac{1}{4} \partial_t \ln \left(\frac{\sigma^{r+2s}}{\alpha_r} \right) \{x, p\}.$$

Conclusions

- Point transformations can be used to construct non-Hermitian invariants for time-dependent non-Hermitian systems.

⁶A. Fring and R. Tenney, arXiv:2108.06793 [quant-ph]

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- Apply technique to determine Dyson maps for more complicated systems.

Thank you for your attention.

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