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CONDITIONALLY EXACTLY SOLVABLE POTENTIALS

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Abstract

The Green's functions of the recently discovered conditionally exactly solvable potentials are computed. This is done through the use of a second order differential realization of the so(2,1) Lie algebra. So we present the dynamical symmetry underlying the solvability of such potentials and show that they belong to a general class of solvable and partially solvable potentials.

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1 Introduction:

The so(2,1) Lie algebra (isomorphic to su(1,1) and sl(2,R)) is known to generate a family of exactly solvable (ES) potentials, among them the harmonic oscillator, the Coulomb and Morse potentials [1]. This was presented in an unified way using a direct construction of the so(2,1) generators [2] or with the Millstein-Strakovenko method [3,4]. So it seemed that, at least, the one-dimensional so(2,1) class of potentials was exhausted. In fact, the so(2,1) Lie algebra can also be used to describe two and three-dimensional systems [5].

Recently however, it was pointed out that there is a special class of exactly solvable potentials which can be mapped into a harmonic oscillator although with a restriction in some of its parameters. They were called conditionally exactly solvable (CES) potentials. They were discussed independently by Stillinger [6] and de Souza Dutra [7]. Probably due to historical reasons, Stillinger has not perceived that the potentials he was studying were only the first representatives of a broaden class. In fact, two-dimensional examples were recently added to this family [8], also some other one-dimensional ones are under investigation [9]. Furthermore a supersymmetric origin for these potentials was discussed in [10].

What distinguishes the potentials belonging to the CES class, is that it is only possible to get exact solutions when specific conditions are provided. Namely, the exact solvability is only possible when some of the potential parameters hold fixed to a very special value [6-10].

Until 1979, as far as we know, only two classes of quantum-mechanical potentials were known, the exact and the non-exact ones. But in that year, Flessas [11] presented examples of potentials that could be solved analytically only when some constraints among the potential parameters were obeyed. Besides only part of their spectra could be obtained exactly, the remaining should be obtained by standard numerical calculations. This new class of potentials were called quasi-exact solvable potentials (QES) or partially algebraized [11-15]. This last name was due to the observed fact that it was possible to generate algebraically the exact part of its spectrum [13-15].
Now a natural question is that of wondering if there is a dynamical algebra behind the exact solvability of the CES class of potentials. In fact, we are going to show that the algebraic method used before was not quite general as one could thought and we will improve this method in order to enlarge as wide as possible the class of dynamically generated so(2,1) potentials. The result is that the method that we are going to obtain can generate both ES, CES and QES potentials. This is possible through a redefinition of the resolvent operator with an arbitrary scaling and the consequent relaxing of a condition related to the fact that the Hamiltonian of a non-relativistic system usually does not possess first order space derivatives.

Furthermore we hope to be possible to do a systematization of the quest for new CES potentials through the use of dynamical algebras. For this we will improve the method developed in Ref. 4, and also get the Green's functions for these CES potentials.

This work is organized as follows: in the second section we perform the necessary improvements in the approach used in [4], in order to deal with CES potentials. In the third section we obtain the CES from the so(2,1) Lie algebra in a systematized way. Section four is devoted to obtaining the Green's functions of the CES potentials. Finally in the last section we do our final considerations.

2 The algebraic method and the so(2,1) generators:

The imposition of a dynamical algebra on a quantum system, corresponds to say that its Hamiltonian must be written as a combination of the corresponding generators. In the present case we use the so(2,1) Lie algebra, whose generators satisfy the relations,

\[ \left[ T_1, T_2 \right] = i T_1 \quad \left[ T_2, T_3 \right] = -i T_2 \quad \left[ T_1, T_3 \right] = -i T_2. \]  

(2.1)

Besides we will use a second order differential operator realization, in such a way that the Hamiltonian shall be constructed as a linear combination of the generators. In general, second order generators obeying (2.1) can be written [4] as,

\[ T_1 = \alpha_2 x^{2-j} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \alpha_1 x^{1-j} \frac{d}{dx} + \alpha_0 x^{-j}, \]  

(2.2a)

\[ T_2 = -i \frac{d}{j} \frac{d}{dx} - i \beta, \]  

(2.2b)

\[ T_3 = \lambda x^j, \]  

(2.2c)

where \( \beta = \left( \frac{j}{\alpha_1} \right) \left( \frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_2} + j - 1 \right) \) and \( \lambda = -2 \alpha_2 j^2 -1 \). Naturally the parameters \( \alpha_1 \) and \( j \left( \neq 0 \right) \) will be chosen conveniently to construct a desired Hamiltonian.

Performing a point canonical transformation \( x = F(u) \), the generators (2.2) become [4],

\[ T_1 = \alpha_2 \frac{F(u)^{2-j}}{F(u)^2} \frac{d^2}{du^2} + \frac{F(u)^{1-j}}{F(u)} \left( \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 \frac{F'(u)F(u)}{F(u)^2} \right) \frac{d}{du} + \alpha_0 F(u)^{-j}; \]  

(2.3a)

\[ T_2 = -i \frac{F'(u)}{j F(u)} \frac{d}{du} - i \beta; \]  

(2.3b)

\[ T_3 = \lambda F(u)^j, \]  

(2.3c)

where the dot stands for derivatives in variable \( u \). At this point, one can see the appearing of a linear derivative term in the generator \( T_1 \) (even when \( \alpha_1 = 0 \)). As in general the Hamiltonian for an one-dimensional Schrödinger equation, does not have such a term, it is necessary to eliminate it. For this we begin by remembering that the Green's function obeys the non-homogeneous equation:

\[ (\mathcal{H} - \mathcal{E}) G_{\mathcal{E}}(x, x') = \delta(x - x'); \]  

(2.4)

and consequently, due to the form of the generators \( T_n \), it is necessary to introduce the resolvent operator [1].
\[ \Lambda = \frac{F(u)^{2-j}}{F(u)^2} (\mathcal{H} - \mathcal{E}) = g_0 + g_1 T_1 + g_2 T_2 + g_3 T_3, \]  

(2.5)

where \( g_1 \) are arbitrary constants, that will be fixed in each case. From this resolvent operator we can apply the algebraic method and find the corresponding Green's function \([4]\)

\[ G_\varepsilon(u, u') = -j \sum_{\nu} e^{\varepsilon u (4\zeta + 1)} [F(u)F(u')]^{-1/2} \left[ \frac{F(u)F(u')}{F(u) + F(u')} \right]^{1/2} \times \exp\{-2k\zeta[F(u)^2 + F(u')^2] \}, \]  

(2.6)

where \( \zeta(x) \) are the Laguerre's polynomials \([16]\) and \( \alpha = 0 \)

\[ k = \sqrt{\gamma}; \quad \nu = \pm \sqrt{1 - \frac{4\zeta}{\alpha}} \]  

(2.7)

Note that the poles of the Green's functions determine the energy spectrum through

\[ g_0 + k(\nu + 1 + 2n) = 0; \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots), \]  

(2.8)

once the energy \( \mathcal{E} \) is related to these parameters.

Here, the idea is to redefine the Green's function, and also the resolvent operator, in such a way as to eliminate the first order derivative term. From this point we change the approach presented in ref. 4. The easiest way of discarding the linear derivative term in (2.3a) is to choose

\[ \alpha_1 = \frac{\sqrt{F(u)} F(u)}{F(u)^2}, \]  

but this will restrict undesirably the class of potentials that could be generated by the algebraic method. A simple way to circumvent this restriction is to introduce an arbitrary scaling in the Green's function,

\[ G_\varepsilon(x, x') = e^{\varepsilon x + \varepsilon' x'} S_\varepsilon(x, x'), \]  

(2.9)

so that we can choose \( \varepsilon(x) \) in order that \( S_\varepsilon(x, x') \) obeys an equation where only second order derivatives appear. Consequently we have that

\[ \Lambda = (g_0 + g_1 T_1 + g_2 T_2 + g_3 T_3) e^{\varepsilon(x) + \varepsilon' x'} \]  

(2.10)

Under this change the generators become

\[ \tilde{T}_1 = a_2 \frac{d^2}{du^2} + (2a_2 \hat{h}(u) + a_1) \frac{d}{du} + A_0; \]  

(2.11a)

\[ \tilde{T}_2 = -i \frac{\hat{F}(u)}{j \hat{F}(u)} \frac{d^2}{du^2} - i \left( \beta + \frac{1}{j} \frac{\hat{F}(u)}{j \hat{F}(u)} \hat{h}(u) \right); \]  

(2.11b)

\[ \tilde{T}_3 = \lambda F(u)'; \]  

(2.11c)

where we defined,

\[ a_2 \equiv \frac{F(u)^{2-j}}{F(u)^2}; \quad a_1 \equiv \frac{F(u)^{1-j}}{F(u)} \left( \alpha_1 - 2 \frac{\sqrt{\hat{F}(u)F(u)}}{F(u)} \right), \]  

(2.12a)

and

\[ A_0 \equiv a_2 \hat{h}(u) + \lambda (\hat{h}(u))^2 + a_1 \hat{h}(u) + \alpha_0 \hat{F}(u)'. \]  

(2.12b)

Finally we can choose \( \hat{h}(u) \) in order to get a vanishing first order derivative term in the generator \( \tilde{T}_1 \), so we get

\[ \hat{h}(u) = - \frac{\hat{F}(u)}{2a_2 F(u)} \left( \alpha_1 - 2 \frac{\sqrt{F(u)F(u)}}{F(u)^2} \right), \]  

(2.13)

whose solution is given by

\[ \hat{h}(u) = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{\hat{F}(u)}{F(u)^{1/2}} \right). \]  

(2.14)
Substituting this \( h(u) \) in the equation (2.12b) we get

\[
A_0 = \frac{n_1}{2} \left[ \frac{\dot{F}(u)}{F(u)} \right]^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\dot{F}(u)}{F(u)} + \frac{\mu}{\alpha_1} \frac{\dot{F}(u)}{F(u)} + \alpha_0 \left( 1 + \frac{\mu}{\alpha_1} \right) \left( \frac{\dot{F}(u)}{F(u)} \right)^2 \right]

+ \frac{n_2}{2} \left( \frac{\dot{F}(u)}{F(u)} - \frac{\mu}{\alpha_1} \frac{\dot{F}(u)}{F(u)} \right) + \alpha_0 F(u)^2.
\] (2.15)

From now on we will make some particularizations on the new generator \( \hat{A} \), Eq. (2.10). Without any loss of generality we take \( \alpha_1 = 0 \) and \( g_2 = 0 \). Both these choices reflect the fact that an usual non-relativistic Hamiltonian of a general form does not possess first order space derivatives. In this case we obtain:

\[
\hat{A} = e^{t\dot{F}(u)} e^{i\dot{F}(u)} \left[ \frac{(F(u)^2 - \dot{F}(u)^2)}{F(u)^2} \right] [\mathcal{H} - \mathcal{E}],
\] (2.16)

where

\[
\mathcal{H} - \mathcal{E} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu} \frac{d^2}{du^2} + \Delta V(u) + \left( \frac{\dot{F}(u)}{F(u)} \right)^2 \left[ \alpha_0 + g_0 F(u) + g_2 \lambda F(u)^2 \right],
\] (2.17)

with

\[
\Delta V(u) = \frac{\hbar^2}{\mu} \left\{ -\frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{\dot{F}(u)}{F(u)} \right)^2 + \frac{3}{8} \left( \frac{\dot{F}(u)}{F(u)} \right)^3 \right\}.
\] (2.18)

Now we are prepared to generate the one-dimensional family of so(2,1) potentials including the CES class. This is going to be done in the next section.

### 3 CES potentials from so(2,1) Lie algebra:

In this section we will obtain a family of one-dimensional so(2,1) potentials, with the method developed above. This family includes the classes of ES, QES and CES potentials. The first two were extensively studied in the literature [1-4,11-15] and we will concentrate on the CES potentials [6,7] which is our main interest here. So we are going to see how the so(2,1) Lie algebra can generate this new class of potentials. With this in mind, we redefine the arbitrary function \( F(u) \) through a translation

\[
F(u) = f(u) + a,
\] (3.1)

where \( a \) is an arbitrary constant. It is easy to see that apart from the kinetic term, the Hamiltonian (2.17) has a potential of the form

\[
V(u) = \mathcal{E} + \Delta V(u) + \left( \frac{f(u)}{f(u) + a} \right)^2 \left[ \alpha_0 + g_0 f(u) + g_2 \lambda f(u)^2 \right],
\] (3.2)

with \( \Delta V(u) \) remaining unchanged in its form, because \( \dot{F}(u) = \dot{f}(u) \). The above expression for the potential \( V(u) \) can accomodate a large family of potentials including ES, QES and CES. In fact, its form is quite general and for practical purposes we will make some restrictions on it, in order to elucidate its analysis. Remembering that the potentials discussed in [7] were mapped into a harmonic oscillator, and also that for the harmonic oscillator, the constant \( j \) is taken to be equal to two [4], we put \( j = 2 \) in Eq.(3.2), obtaining:

\[
V(u) = \mathcal{E} + \Delta V(u) + \dot{f}(u)^2 \left[ \alpha + 2\sigma f(u) + g_2 \lambda f(u)^2 + \frac{\alpha_0}{(f(u) + a)^2} \right],
\] (3.3)

where we defined \( \alpha \equiv g_0 + \lambda g_2 u^2 \) and \( \sigma \equiv \lambda \alpha_2 \). Note that with the choice \( j = 2 \) we can only describe potentials which could be mapped into a harmonic oscillator. This can easily be seen taking \( f(u) = u - a \) which turns \( V(u) \) into a simple harmonic oscillator plus a centrifugal barrier. Other choices for \( j \) would lead to different potentials. For example, taking \( j = 1 \) and \( f(u) = u - a \) in Eq. (3.2) we get the Coulomb potential plus a centrifugal barrier [4].

As we are looking for exact potentials, the potential \( V(u) \) in (3.3) can not be energy dependent, contrary to what happens with the quasi-exactly solvable potentials [11-15].
So, at least one of the terms in (3.3) must be a constant. This is necessary to cancel the explicit dependence of $V(u)$ in the energy.

This condition is expressed through the following non-linear differential equations

$$\sigma f(u)^2 f'(u) = \gamma^2, \quad (3.4a)$$

$$-\lambda g_5 f(u)^2 f'(u)^2 = \gamma^2, \quad (3.4b)$$

$$\frac{\alpha_0 f'(u)^2}{f(u) + \alpha} = \gamma^2, \quad (3.4c)$$

$$\frac{3 \lambda^2}{8 \mu} \left( \frac{f(u)}{f(u)} \right)^2 = \gamma^2, \quad (3.4d)$$

$$\frac{\lambda^2}{4 \mu} \left( \frac{f'(u)}{f(u)} \right)^2 = \gamma^2, \quad (3.4e)$$

$$\frac{\lambda^2}{\mu} \left( -\frac{1}{4} \frac{f''(u)}{f(u)} + \frac{3}{8} \left( \frac{f'(u)}{f(u)} \right)^2 \right) = \gamma^2. \quad (3.4f)$$

The solution of each one of the above equations will give us a transformation linking the harmonic oscillator with a particular potential. In some cases it will be an exactly solvable, in others it will be a CES and may also be a QES one.

The first three equations have the solutions:

$$f(u) = u^\frac{\lambda}{2}, \quad (3.5a)$$

$$f(u) = u^\frac{\lambda}{2}, \quad (3.5b)$$

$$f(u) = e^{\gamma x} - \alpha. \quad (3.5c)$$

where we choose the constants conveniently, without any loss of generality. The third transformation (3.5c), lead us to the Morse potential, as described in [4]. The other two, lead us respectively to the two CES studied formerly [1,2]. The first transformation gives the following potential,

$$V^{(1/3)}(u) = -\frac{5\lambda^2}{72\mu u^2} + \mathcal{E} + \frac{4}{9} \left[ 2\sigma + \lambda g_5 u^\frac{\lambda}{2} + \frac{\alpha}{u} + \frac{\alpha_0}{u^\frac{\lambda}{2} (u^\frac{\lambda}{2} + \alpha)^2} \right]. \quad (3.6)$$

So, we must take $\mathcal{E} = -8\sigma/9$, in order to keep $V^{(1/3)}(u)$ energy-independent. This general potential is, in fact, not exactly solvable since the presence of the term with coefficient $\alpha_0$ depends on the energy $\mathcal{E}$. In order to get a complete solution we must take $\alpha_0 = 0$, rendering this QES potential a CES one, since the strength of the centrifugal barrier has a very special value of $-5\lambda^2/72\mu$ [7]. Substituting these choices in Eq. (2.8) we find the energy spectrum ($\nu = \pm 1/2$)

$$\mathcal{E} = \pm \frac{8}{9} \sqrt{\alpha + \frac{8\sigma}{2}(n + \frac{1}{2})}, \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots), \quad (3.7)$$

in accordance with previous results [6,7]. The second transformation, Eq. (3.5b), gives the potential:

$$V^{(1/3)}(u) = -\frac{3\lambda^2}{32\mu u^2} + \mathcal{E} + \frac{1}{4} \left[ 2\sigma + \frac{\alpha}{u} + \frac{\alpha_0}{u^\frac{\lambda}{2} (u^\frac{\lambda}{2} + \alpha)^2} \right], \quad (3.8)$$

with the same choices as before. Again the term with $\alpha_0$ brings this potential a QES one. Taking $\alpha_0 = 0$ it becomes a CES one with the strength of the centrifugal barrier fixed to $-3\lambda^2/32\mu$ [7]. The energy spectrum is given by Eq. (2.8):

$$\nu + 4\mathcal{E} + \left( -\frac{2\mathcal{E}}{\lambda} n + \frac{1}{2} \right) = 0; \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots), \quad (3.9)$$

which is easily shown to be

$$\frac{2\mathcal{E}^2}{\lambda} (n + \frac{1}{2})^2 + \alpha \mathcal{E}^2 + \frac{\alpha \mathcal{E}^2}{2} + \frac{\alpha_0^2 \mathcal{E}}{16} = 0; \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots), \quad (3.10)$$
as was expected [6,7].

The remaining three conditions \((3.4d - f)\) lead to the following transformations:

\[
f(u) = ke^{\gamma u} \tag{3.11a}
\]

for both \((3.4d)\) and \((3.4e)\); and

\[
f(u) = i\gamma h(\gamma u) \tag{3.11b}
\]

corresponding to \((3.4f)\). The transformation \((3.11a)\) leads to the following potential \((\alpha_0 = 0)\):

\[
V_c(u) = \mathcal{E} + \frac{k_2^2}{8\mu} + k_2^2\gamma^2\lambda e^{2\gamma u}[k_2^2e^{2\gamma u} + 2ke^{\gamma u} + \alpha^2], \tag{3.12}
\]

which is a QES potential since \(\mathcal{E} = -h^2\gamma^2/8\mu\) and the constant \(\gamma\) appears in all the potential terms leaving \(V_c(u)\) energy-dependent. Note that no choice of the other parameters for transformation \((3.11a)\) can remedy this situation.

The last transformation \((3.11b)\) leads also to a QES potential because the same relation between energy and parameters is present here, as can easily be verified with its substitution in the general potential, Eq. \((3.2)\). Many other QES potentials can also be generated taking for example \(j \neq 2\) in \((3.2)\), but we will concentrate on the CES ones since for this class we can find the analytical solution for the entire spectrum. Let us now discuss the Green’s functions for the CES found above.

4 Green’s functions for the CES potentials:

Now, once we have established the one-dimensional so(2,1) CES potentials we are going to present their Green’s functions. Applying the rescaling \((2.9)\) and the shift \((3.1)\) into Eq. \((2.6)\) we have the Green's function for an arbitrary so(2,1) potential \((\alpha_1 = 0)\):

\[
G_{c}(u, u') = -j \sum_{n} e^{2\pi i n(4k\lambda)^{n/2}}[(f(u) + a)(f(u') + a)]^{(2n+1)}
\]

\[
\times \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \frac{(e^{2\pi i (4k\lambda)^{s/2}} + 1)^{(s+1)}}{(s+1)!} \frac{\partial^{s+1}}{\partial (f(u') + a)^s}
\]

\[
\times \exp\{-2k\lambda[(f(u) + a)^2 + (f(u') + a)^2]\}. \tag{4.1}
\]

This general form can be restricted to the cases discussed in the preceding section. For \(V^{(2/2)}(u)\), Eq. \((3.6)\), with \(f(u)\) given by \((3.5a)\) we find \((\alpha_0 = 0; \ j = 2; \ k = \sqrt{3}/2)\)

\[
G_{c}^{(2/2)}(u, u') = -2\sum_{n=-1/2}^{+1/2} e^{2\pi i n(4k\lambda)\gamma^{n/2}}[(u^{1/2} + a)(u^{1/2} + a)]^{1/2n+1}
\]

\[
\times \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{2\pi i n(4k\lambda)^{s/2}}}{(s+1)!} \frac{\partial^{s+1}}{\partial (u^{1/2} + a)^s}
\]

\[
\times \exp\{-2k\lambda[(u^{1/2} + a)^2 + (u^{1/2} + a)^2]\}. \tag{4.2}
\]

From this Green's function it is easy to obtain the wave functions (up to a phase) which satisfy the Schrödinger equation for that potential:

\[
\Psi_{c,n}^{(2/2)}(u) = \sqrt{\frac{2n+1}{1+2n}} (4k\lambda)^{1/2} (u^{1/2} + a)^{1/2n+1}
\]

\[
\times L_{n}^{(4k\lambda)(u^{1/2} + a)^2} \exp\{-2k\lambda(u^{1/2} + a)^{2}\}. \tag{4.3}
\]

Note that \(n (0, 1, 2, \ldots)\) is the usual principal quantum number and \(\nu (= \pm 1/2)\) defines the parity of the solution. Owing to the relation between Laguerre and Hermite polynomials [16], one can see that this solution coincides with the previous results for this potential appearing in the literature [6,7].

An analogous situation occurs for the potential \(V^{(1/2)}(u)\), Eq. \((3.8)\). With the transformation \((3.5b)\) we find its Green’s function \((\alpha_0 = 0; \ j = 2; \ k = 3/2)\)

\[
G_{c}^{(1/2)}(u, u') = -2\sum_{n=-1/2}^{+1/2} e^{2\pi i n(4k\lambda)^{n/2}}[(u^{1/2} + a)(u^{1/2} + a)]^{1/2n+1}
\]

\[
\times \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{2\pi i n(4k\lambda)^{s/2}}}{(s+1)!} \frac{\partial^{s+1}}{\partial (u^{1/2} + a)^s}
\]

\[
\times \exp\{-2k\lambda[(u^{1/2} + a)^2 + (u^{1/2} + a)^2]\}, \tag{4.4}
\]

and the corresponding wave functions.
\begin{equation}
\psi^{(1/2)}_{\mathbf{a}}(u) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{\Gamma(1+\mathbf{a}^2)} (4k\lambda)^{1/2} (u^{1/2} + a)^{1/2} \times \Gamma(4k\lambda(u^{1/2} + a)^2) \exp\left\{-2k\lambda(u^{1/2} + a)^2\right\}, \tag{4.5}
\end{equation}

in accordance, as before, with the literature [6,7]. We limit ourselves in discussing the Green's functions for the CES potentials since it is well known that is meaningless to construct such a function for a QES potential once only part of its spectrum is exactly solvable. The other exactly solvable potentials were discussed before [4].

5 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we have shown that the class of potentials which can be described by the so(2,1) Lie algebra can be enlarged, adding to it the CES potentials to the previously known ES and QES ones. The approach used here led to obtaining the Green's function for these potentials, from which we have found their spectra and wave functions in accordance with the literature [6,7].

So far, we have only considered one-dimensional systems but the technique employed here can be easily extended to systems in two, three or arbitrary dimensions with symmetries described by direct sums of the so(2,1) Lie algebra, as is well known for the ES and QES potentials [4,15]. This is presently under investigation, and we hope to report on it in the near future.

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