1-1-2014

A squeeze-like operator approach to position-dependent mass in quantum mechanics

Héctor M. Moya-Cessa

Francisco Soto-Eguibar

Demetrios N. Christodoulides
University of Central Florida

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/facultybib2010>
University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Bibliography at STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Bibliography 2010s by an authorized administrator of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Moya-Cessa, Héctor M.; Soto-Eguibar, Francisco; and Christodoulides, Demetrios N., "A squeeze-like operator approach to position-dependent mass in quantum mechanics" (2014). *Faculty Bibliography 2010s*. 5858.

<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/facultybib2010/5858>

A squeeze-like operator approach to position-dependent mass in quantum mechanics

Cite as: J. Math. Phys. 55, 082103 (2014); <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.4890462>

Submitted: 02 December 2013 . Accepted: 30 June 2014 . Published Online: 24 July 2014

Héctor M. Moya-Cessa, Francisco Soto-Eguibar, and Demetrios N. Christodoulides

View Online

Export Citation

CrossMark

ARTICLES YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN

[Removal of ordering ambiguity for a class of position dependent mass quantum systems with an application to the quadratic Liénard type nonlinear oscillators](#)

Journal of Mathematical Physics **56**, 012103 (2015); <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.4905167>

[Solutions to position-dependent mass quantum mechanics for a new class of hyperbolic potentials](#)

Journal of Mathematical Physics **54**, 122108 (2013); <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.4840615>

[An exactly solvable Schrödinger equation with finite positive position-dependent effective mass](#)

Journal of Mathematical Physics **51**, 092103 (2010); <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.3483716>

A squeeze-like operator approach to position-dependent mass in quantum mechanics

Héctor M. Moya-Cessa,¹ Francisco Soto-Eguibar,¹
and Demetrios N. Christodoulides²

¹*Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica, Calle Luis Enrique Erro No. 1,
Santa María Tonantzintla, San Andrés Cholula, Puebla CP 72840, Mexico*

²*CREOL/College of Optics and Photonics, University of Central Florida, Orlando,
Florida 32816-2700, USA*

(Received 2 December 2013; accepted 30 June 2014; published online 24 July 2014)

We provide a squeeze-like transformation that allows one to remove a position dependent mass from the Hamiltonian. Methods to solve the Schrödinger equation may then be applied to find the respective eigenvalues and eigenfunctions. As an example, we consider a position-dependent-mass that leads to the integrable Morse potential and therefore to well-known solutions. © 2014 AIP Publishing LLC. [<http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.4890462>]

I. INTRODUCTION

Considerable interest has been recently devoted in finding exact solutions to Schrödinger equations involving known potentials when the mass is position-dependent (PDM). Among them, one may mention the Morse and Coulomb potentials.^{1–18} Moreover, it has been recently shown¹⁹ that to lowest order of perturbation theory, there exists a whole class of Hermitian position-dependent-mass Hamiltonians that are associated with pseudo-Hermitian Hamiltonians.

A great deal of interest has been paid to the interplay between these pseudo-Hermitian parity-time reversal (PT)-symmetric Hamiltonian and their equivalent Hermitian representations.^{20–24} In particular, Mostafazadeh^{20,21} has considered the transition to the classical limit by showing that the relevant classical Hamiltonian for the PT-symmetric cubic anharmonic oscillator plus a harmonic term produces a behavior similar to a point particle with position-dependent-mass interacting with a quartic harmonic oscillator.

Indeed, many physical settings exist in which the effective mass can in principle depend on position. For example, Wang *et al.*²⁵ have recently shown that the Schrödinger equation for a thin charged shell moving under the influence of its own gravitational field may be viewed as a position-dependent-mass problem.

Displacement operators have already been introduced for systems with position-dependent-mass, for null or constant potentials from which generalized forms of the momentum operator have been obtained.^{26,27}

In this contribution, we demonstrate the possibility of transforming via similarity transformations, a position dependent mass Hamiltonian into a Hamiltonian with constant (unity) mass. By doing so, these Hamiltonians can then be solved (if integrable) using well-known techniques from quantum mechanics. If on the other hand the potentials are not solvable, perturbative methods may be applied for their solution. In order to achieve this objective, we use aspects associated with some non-classical states of the harmonic oscillator, namely, squeezed states.^{28,29} For squeezed states, the uncertainty may be “squeezed” in one of the quadratures, while in the other canonical conjugate variable the uncertainty increases.

II. SQUEEZE OPERATOR

In what follows, we will first show how the constant mass may be eliminated from the kinetic energy in a Hamiltonian. In this regard, consider the Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m_0} + V(x), \quad (1)$$

where the mass particle is m_0 and $\hbar = 1$. This Hamiltonian is in turn transformed using the squeeze unitary operator²⁸

$$\hat{R} = \exp \left[-i \frac{\ln m_0}{4} (\hat{p}\hat{x} + \hat{x}\hat{p}) \right]. \quad (2)$$

To find how the operator $\hat{R}$ transforms the position and the momentum operators, the Hadamard lemma³⁰ is used, i.e., $e^{\hat{A}}\hat{B}e^{-\hat{A}} = \hat{B} + [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] + \frac{1}{2!}[\hat{A}, [\hat{A}, \hat{B}]] + \frac{1}{3!}[\hat{A}, [\hat{A}, [\hat{A}, \hat{B}]]] + \dots$, from which we obtain that

$$\hat{R}\hat{x}\hat{R}^\dagger = \frac{\hat{x}}{\sqrt{m_0}}, \quad \hat{R}\hat{p}\hat{R}^\dagger = \sqrt{m_0}\hat{p}. \quad (3)$$

As a result, the transformed Hamiltonian takes the form

$$\hat{H}_R = \hat{R}\hat{H}\hat{R}^\dagger = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2} + V\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{m_0}}\right). \quad (4)$$

And thus the mass has been effectively eliminated from the kinetic energy term. Based on this latter possibility, one could ask if the mass can also be eliminated from the kinetic energy via a proper transformation, even if it is position dependent.

III. POSITION DEPENDENT MASS

There is always some uncertainty as to the actual form of the kinetic energy term in a Hamiltonian, when the mass is position dependent. This is because $m(x)$ no longer commutes with the momentum. There are consequently several ways to write the kinetic part of the Hamiltonian that must be kept Hermitian; for instance,

$$\hat{H}_{\text{kin}} = \frac{1}{4} (m^\alpha \hat{p} m^\beta \hat{p} m^\gamma + m^\gamma \hat{p} m^\beta \hat{p} m^\alpha), \quad \alpha + \beta + \gamma = -1. \quad (5)$$

On the other hand, by choosing $\alpha = \gamma = 0$, $\beta = -1$, we arrive to the ordering proposed by BenDaniel and Duke,³¹

$$\hat{H}_{\text{kin}} = \hat{p} \frac{1}{2m(x)} \hat{p}, \quad (6)$$

while with the choice $\alpha = -1$, $\beta = \gamma = 0$, we get

$$\hat{H}_{\text{kin}} = \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{1}{m(x)} \hat{p}^2 + \hat{p}^2 \frac{1}{m(x)} \right]. \quad (7)$$

Although there is no apparent reason in selecting any particular ordering for the kinetic position-dependent-mass Hamiltonian, here we will choose to work with BenDaniel and Duke's proposal. Physical arguments supporting this choice were put forward by Lévy-Leblond.³²

We now consider the complete quantum Hamiltonian of a particle with position-dependent mass

$$\hat{H} = \hat{p} \frac{1}{2m(x)} \hat{p} + V(x). \quad (8)$$

We then use the transformation

$$\hat{H}_T = \hat{T}^\dagger \hat{H} \hat{T}, \quad (9)$$

with

$$\hat{T} = \exp \left\{ -\frac{i}{2} [\hat{p} g(\hat{x}) + g(\hat{x}) \hat{p}] \right\}, \quad (10)$$

where $g(x)$ is a well behaved function that will depend on position. Using the Hadamard lemma,³⁰ one can show that the momentum operator transforms according to

$$\hat{T}^\dagger \hat{p} \hat{T} = \frac{1}{2} [\hat{p} G(x) + G(x) \hat{p}], \quad (11)$$

where

$$G(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k G_k(x)}{k!}, \quad (12)$$

for which

$$G_{k+1}(x) = g^2(x) \frac{d}{dx} \frac{G_k(x)}{g(x)}, \quad G_0 = 1. \quad (13)$$

On the other hand, for the position operator, we obtain

$$\hat{T} \hat{x} \hat{T}^\dagger = x + F(x), \quad \hat{T}^\dagger \hat{x} \hat{T} = x + f(x), \quad (14)$$

where

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k f_k(x)}{k!}, \quad f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{f_k(x)}{k!}, \quad (15)$$

with

$$f_1(x) = g(x), \quad f_{k+1}(x) = g(x) \frac{d f_k(x)}{dx}. \quad (16)$$

From Eq. (11), we note that

$$\hat{T} \hat{p}^2 \hat{T}^\dagger = \hat{p} G \hat{p} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{d^2 G^2}{dx^2} + \left(\frac{dG}{dx} \right)^2. \quad (17)$$

From the above equations, we can then write

$$\hat{H}_T = \hat{T}^\dagger \hat{H} \hat{T} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2} + W(x), \quad (18)$$

where the transformed potential $W(x)$ is given by

$$W(x) = \tilde{V} [x + f(x)], \quad (19)$$

and where

$$\tilde{V}(x) = V(x) + \frac{1}{8} \frac{d^2 G^2}{dx^2} - \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{dG}{dx} \right)^2. \quad (20)$$

Up to this point, we have succeeded in eliminating the position dependency of the mass. Note that both Hamiltonians, $\hat{H}$ and $\hat{H}_T$, have the same sets of eigenvalues since they are related by a similarity transformation. Therefore, by finding the eigenvalues of $\hat{H}_T$ we can directly obtain the eigenvalues corresponding to the position dependent mass Hamiltonian $\hat{H}$.

FIG. 1. Plot of the mass function (21) for $\alpha = 1$ and $\beta = \frac{1}{2}, 1, 2$.

IV. AN EXAMPLE

Let us consider a mass that decays with the position in an exponential-like fashion, i.e., let

$$m(x) = \frac{1}{(1 + \alpha\beta e^{\beta x})^2}. \quad (21)$$

Figure 1 depicts this mass dependence on position when $\alpha = 1$, and for three different values of the parameter β .

This particular dependence of the mass on position suggests the auxiliary function $g(x) = \alpha e^{\beta x}$, in which case the similarity transformation takes the form

$$\hat{T} = \exp \left[-i \frac{\alpha}{2} (\hat{p} e^{\beta x} + e^{\beta x} \hat{p}) \right]. \quad (22)$$

From here one finds that

$$f(x) = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln(1 - \alpha\beta e^{\beta x}) \quad (23)$$

and

$$G(x) = 1 + \alpha\beta e^{\beta x}, \quad (24)$$

that is consistent with $G^2 = \frac{1}{m}$.

With this particular choice for a position dependent mass (21), we also choose the following potential:

$$V(x) = a_0 + a_1 e^{-\beta x} + a_2 e^{-2\beta x} + a_3 e^{\beta x} + a_4 e^{2\beta x}, \quad (25)$$

with real arbitrary coefficients. If $a_2 = \frac{a_1^2}{4a_0}$, $a_3 = -\frac{1}{4}\alpha\beta^3$, and $a_4 = -\frac{3}{8}\alpha^2\beta^4$, the transformed potential function $W(x)$ is given by the Morse potential

$$W(x) = D_e [1 - e^{-\beta(x-\gamma)}]^2, \quad (26)$$

where $D_e = \frac{(2a_0 - \alpha\beta a_1)^2}{4a_0}$ and $\gamma = \frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left(\frac{a_1}{\alpha\beta a_1 - 2a_0} \right)$.

FIG. 2. Plot of the potential (25) for $\alpha = 1$, $\beta = \frac{1}{2}, 1, 2$, and $a_0 = a_1 = 1$.

In Figure 2, we plot the original potential (25) as a function of the position for the same values as in Figure 1, when $a_0 = a_1 = 1$. The solution of the transformed equation can now be obtained given that the mass is constant and the potential involved is of the Morse type that is known to admit analytical solutions.

V. CONCLUSIONS

By means of a squeeze-like unitary transformation, we have related a position dependent mass Hamiltonian to a Hamiltonian with constant mass. By doing so, we can use standard methods for analyzing quantum mechanical problems of this type. Importantly, the eigenvalues of the transformed Hamiltonian are the same as those associated with the original position dependent problem. Meanwhile the eigenfunctions of these two Hamiltonians are related by a similarity transformation-given by the squeeze-like operator (10).

- ¹ A. de Souza Dutra and C. A. S. Almeida, *Phys. Lett. A* **275**, 25 (2000).
- ² B. Bagchi, A. Banerjee, and C. Quesne, *Czech. J. Phys.* **56**, 893 (2006).
- ³ B. Roy and P. Roy, *J. Phys. A* **35**, 3961 (2002).
- ⁴ A. D. Alhaidari, *Phys. Rev. A* **66**, 042116 (2002).
- ⁵ L. Dekar, L. Chetouani, and T. F. Hammann, *J. Math. Phys.* **39**, 2551 (1998).
- ⁶ V. Milanovic and Z. Ikonc, *J. Phys. A* **32**, 7001 (1999).
- ⁷ B. Bagchi, P. Gorain, C. Quesne, and R. Roychoudhury, *Mod. Phys. Lett. A* **19**, 2765 (2004).
- ⁸ C. Quesne and V. M. Tkachuk, *J. Phys. A* **37**, 4267 (2004).
- ⁹ J. Yu, S.-H. Dong, and G.-H. Sun, *Phys. Lett. A* **322**, 290 (2004).
- ¹⁰ G. Chen and Z. Chen, *Phys. Lett. A* **331**, 312 (2004).
- ¹¹ A. R. Plastino, A. Puente, M. Casas, F. Garcias, and A. Plastino, *Rev. Mex. Fis.* **46**, 78 (2000).
- ¹² C. Quesne, K. A. Penson, and V. M. Tkachuk, "Revisiting maths-type q-deformed coherent states," in *Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Squeezed States and Uncertainty Relations, Puebla, Mexico, June 9–13, 2003*, edited by H. Moya-Cessa, R. Jáuregui, S. Hacyan, and O. Castañón (Rinton Press, NJ, 2003), pp. 336–341.
- ¹³ B. Gönül, B. Gönül, D. Tutcu, and O. Özer, *Mod. Phys. Lett. A* **17**, 2057 (2002).
- ¹⁴ R. Ko, M. Koca, and E. Körçük, *J. Phys. A* **35**, L527 (2002).
- ¹⁵ B. Bagchi, A. Banerjee, C. Quesne, and V. M. Tkachuk, *J. Phys. A* **38**, 2929 (2005).
- ¹⁶ S.-H. Dong and M. Lozada-Cassou, *Phys. Lett. A* **337**, 313 (2005).
- ¹⁷ L. Jiang, L.-Z. Yi, and C.-S. Jia, *Phys. Lett. A* **345**, 279 (2005).
- ¹⁸ J. F. Carinena, M. F. Ranada, and M. Santander, *Ann. Phys. N.Y.* **322**, 434 (2007).
- ¹⁹ C. Weisbuch and B. Vinter, *Quantum Semiconductor Heterostructures* (Academic, New York, 1997).
- ²⁰ A. Mostafazadeh, *J. Phys. A* **38**, 6557 (2005).
- ²¹ A. Mostafazadeh and A. Batal, *J. Phys. A* **37**, 11645 (2004).
- ²² H. F. Jones, *J. Phys. A* **38**, 1741 (2005).
- ²³ P. K. Ghosh, *J. Phys. A* **38**, 7313 (2005).
- ²⁴ B. Bagchi, C. Quesne, and R. Roychoudhury, *J. Phys. A* **38**, L647 (2005).

- ²⁵J. E. Wang, E. Greenwood, and D. Stojkovic, [Phys. Rev. D](#) **80**, 124027 (2009).
- ²⁶R. N. Costa Filho, M. P. Almeida, G. A. Farias, and J. S. Andrade, Jr., [Phys. Rev. A](#) **84**, 050102(R) (2011).
- ²⁷S. H. Mazharimousavi, [Phys. Rev. A](#) **85**, 034102 (2012).
- ²⁸R. Loudon and P. L. Knight, [J. Mod. Opt.](#) **34**, 709 (1987).
- ²⁹H. Moya-Cessa and A. Vidiella-Barranco, [J. Mod. Opt.](#) **39**, 2481 (1992).
- ³⁰H. M. Moya-Cessa and F. Soto-Eguibar, *Introduction to Quantum Optics* (Rinton Press, 2011).
- ³¹D. J. BenDaniel and C. B. Duke, [Phys. Rev.](#) **152**, 683 (1966).
- ³²J. M. Lévy-Leblond, [Phys. Rev. A](#) **52**, 1845 (1995).