

**Mathematical Analysis of Floquet Problem  
with applications to pipe/channel flows**

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# Background

**Stability of oscillating pipe or channel flows important in transition to turbulence**

**Numerical methods become difficult and unreliable for large Reynolds number, most analytic calculations limited to small amplitude oscillations**

**Earlier investigations (Hall, '78), Hall ('03), (Blennerhasset-Bassom, '08) present a confusing picture; quantitative agreement with experiment (Eckmann-Grotberg, 1991) not good.**

**More generally, analysis methods available for stability of time oscillating states are quite limited- hence the motivation for this line of research.**

## 2-D Linearized disturbance equation for parallel flow

$$2\partial_t[\partial_y^2 - \alpha^2]\psi - [\partial_y^2 - \alpha^2]^2\psi = -\frac{iU}{\epsilon}[\partial_y^2 - \alpha^2]\psi + \frac{iU_{yy}}{\epsilon}\psi,$$

where  $0 < y < \beta$ ,  $U(y, t)$  is the known time-periodic base flow,  $\psi$ : perturbed stream function,  $\epsilon$ : reciprocal Reynolds number.

**Disturbance wavelength  $\alpha$  fixed.**

**Initial condition:  $\psi(y, 0) = \psi_0(y)$  and no slip wall BC implies:**

$$\psi(0, t) = \psi_y(0, t) = 0 = \psi(\beta, t) = \psi_y(\beta, t)$$

**$U(y, t)$  depends on flow situation. For  $\beta = \infty$  for walls oscillating along  $x$ -direction,  $U(y, t) = e^{-y} \cos(t - y)$ . Other expressions for time-oscillating pressure or for finite  $\beta$ . In pipe flows, equations more complicated, though similar mathematical structure**

# Relation of IVP with Floquet problem

In a general context, if

$$u_t = [\mathcal{A} + 2 \cos t \mathcal{B}] u, \quad u(x, 0) = u_0,$$

where  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are time-independent spatial operators.

If  $\mathcal{A}^{-1}$  incorporates boundary or decay conditions at  $\infty$ , we can write

$$\mathcal{A}^{-1} u_t = [\mathcal{I} + 2 \cos t \mathcal{A}^{-1} \mathcal{B}] u$$

When *a priori* exponential bounds in  $t$  exist, Laplace transform

$U(., p) = \int_0^t e^{-pt} u(., t) dt$  justified and satisfies

$$(\mathcal{I} - K) U(., p) = u_0, \tag{1}$$

where  $K = p\mathcal{A}^{-1} - \mathcal{A}^{-1}\mathcal{B}S_+ - \mathcal{A}^{-1}\mathcal{B}S_-$ , where shift operators defined by  $[S_- U](., p) = U(., p - i)$ ,  $[S_+ U](., p) = U(., p + i)$

## Relation to Floquet problem- page II

If we define  $p = \sigma + in$ ,  $U(\cdot, \sigma + in) = U_n$ ,

$$[\mathcal{A} - in] U_n - \sigma U_n - \mathcal{B}U_{n-1} - \mathcal{B}U_{n+1} = u_0 \quad (2)$$

When  $\mathcal{R}_n \equiv [\mathcal{A} - in]^{-1}$  exists,

$$U_n = \sigma \mathcal{R}_n U_n + \mathcal{R}_n \mathcal{B}U_{n-1} + \mathcal{R}_n \mathcal{B}U_{n+1} + \mathcal{R}_n u_0$$

We may define operator  $\mathcal{K}$  acting on  $U = \{U_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  such that

$$[\mathcal{K}U]_n = \sigma \mathcal{R}_n U_n + \mathcal{R}_n \mathcal{B}U_{n-1} + \mathcal{R}_n \mathcal{B}U_{n+1}$$

$$\text{Then, } [\mathcal{I} - \mathcal{K}] U = U^0$$

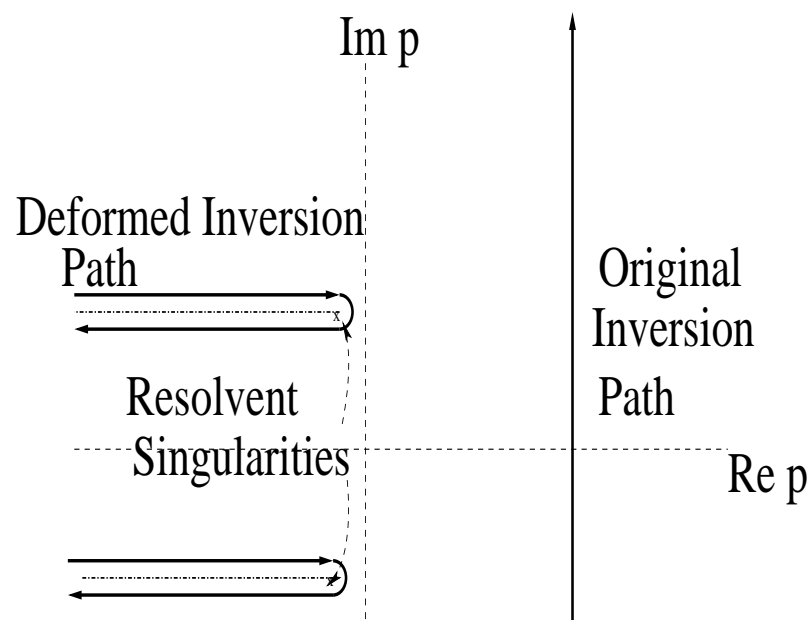
Fredholm applies when  $\mathcal{K}$  is a compact operator on a Hilbert space, implying solvability iff only solution to Floquet problem  $(\mathcal{I} - \mathcal{K})U = 0$  is  $U = 0$ .

# Stability criteria

If Floquet problem has only zero solution for  $\text{Re } \sigma \geq 0$  in a Hilbert space where  $u_n$  decays sufficiently rapidly in  $n$ , then  $u(x, t)$  decays since

$$u(x, t) = \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} e^{pt} U(x, p) dp$$

Since  $U(., p) = (I - \mathcal{K})^{-1} u_0 = \mathcal{R}_\sigma u_0$ , the singularities of resolvent  $\mathcal{R}_\sigma$  in  $\sigma$  determine the long-term behavior of  $u(x, t)$



# Floquet spectrum for oscillating plates

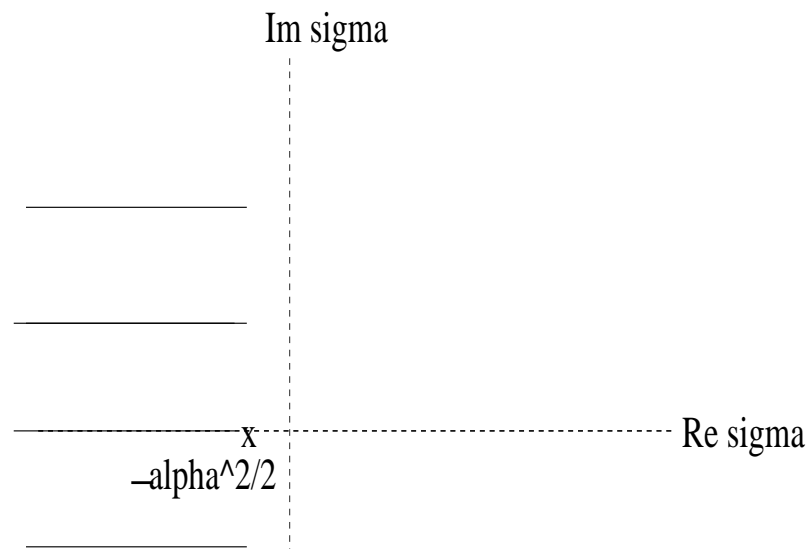
For the oscillating plate, the floquet problem becomes

$$\left(\partial_y^2 - \alpha^2 - 2\sigma - 2in\right) \Phi_n = \frac{iV}{2\epsilon} (1 + \mathcal{I}) \Phi_{n+1} + \frac{iV^*}{2\epsilon} (1 + \mathcal{I}) \Phi_{n+1},$$

$$\text{where } V(y) = a \left[ e^{-(1+i)y} + e^{-(1+i)(\beta-y)} \right], \quad \psi = \mathcal{I}\phi$$

*Theorem: For  $0 < \beta < \infty$ , the Floquet problem has only discrete spectrum. For*

*$\beta = \infty$ , discrete spectrum also, except for  $\sigma \in \left\{ -\frac{\alpha^2}{2} + i\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{R}^- \right\}$*



# Floquet problem for oscillating plate for $\beta = \infty$

For  $\beta = \infty$ ,  $V(y) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-y(1+i)}$ , with Floquet problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \partial_y^2 - \alpha^2 - 2\sigma - 2in \right) \Phi_n &= \frac{iV(y)}{\epsilon} \Phi_{n-1} + \frac{2V}{\epsilon} \mathcal{I}[\Phi_{n-1}] \\ &+ \frac{iV^*(y)}{\epsilon} \Phi_{n+1} - \frac{2V^*}{\epsilon} \mathcal{I}[\Phi_{n+1}]. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\gamma_n = \sqrt{\alpha^2 + 2\sigma + 2in}$ . Hall ('74) assumed

$$\Phi_n = \sum_{j,k,n} A_{j,k,n} e^{-(\gamma_n + k + ij)y} + \sum_{j,k} B_{j,k} e^{-(\alpha + k + ij)y},$$

constrained by  $\text{Re } \gamma_n + k > 0$ ,  $\alpha + k > 0$ . The recurrence relations for  $A_{j,k,n}$ ,  $B_{j,k}$  were solved numerically. Concluded  $\text{Re } \sigma < 0$  for  $\epsilon \geq 1/200$ . Note: more and more terms are needed for accuracy as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+$ .



# Floquet problem for oscillating plate

Blennerhasset and Bassom ('08) concluded instability for  $\epsilon \approx \frac{1}{700}$  based on numerics on the same recurrence relation. They suggest an inviscid instability mode

Based on  $U$  varying on relatively slow time scale, a quasi-steady calculation (Hall, '03) based on inviscid Rayleigh equation:

$$(U - c) \left[ \partial_y^2 - \alpha^2 \right] \psi - U_{yy} \psi = 0, \text{ with } c = 2i\epsilon\sigma$$

suggested stability.

Experiment (Merkli-Thomann, '75, Clemen-Minton, '77, Eckmann-Grotberg '91) suggests instability, though quantitative disagreement with theory about onset.

Effect of transients on possible nonlinear stability, like for non-oscillatory pipe and channel flow, is not known.

## Further Laplace transform for $\beta = \infty$

Laplace Transform in  $y$ , which can be rigorously justified, gives

$$\begin{aligned}(s^2 - \lambda_n^2) \hat{\Phi}_n(s) &= (s^2 - \lambda_n^2) \hat{\Phi}_n^{(0)}(s) \\ &+ \frac{i}{2\epsilon} \left( 1 + \frac{2i}{[(s+1-i)^2 - \alpha^2]} \right) \hat{\Phi}_{n+1}(s+1-i) \\ &+ \frac{i}{2\epsilon} \left( 1 - \frac{2i}{[(s+1+i)^2 - \alpha^2]} \right) \hat{\Phi}_{n-1}(s+1+i),\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\hat{\Phi}_n^{(0)}(s) = \frac{\Phi_n'(0) + s\Phi_n(0)}{s^2 - \lambda_n^2},$$

$$\lambda_n^2 = \alpha^2 + 2\sigma + 2in$$

Contraction argument gives for large  $\text{Re } s$ , unique solution

$$\Phi(s) \sim \Phi^{(0)}(s)$$

# More on Floquet Problem for $\beta = \infty$

Convenient to introduce discretized variables

$$s_{k,j} = s+k-ij, \quad \lambda_{n,k,j} = \lambda_n+k-ij, \quad \Phi_{n,k,j}(s) = \Phi_n(s+k-ij)$$

Then, with

$$\beta_{n,k,j}^{(1)}(s) \equiv \frac{1}{s_{k,j}^2 - \lambda_{n+j}^2} \left\{ 1 + \frac{2i}{[s_{k+1,j+1}^2 - \alpha^2]} \right\},$$

$$\beta_{n,k,j}^{(-1)}(s) \equiv \frac{1}{s_{k,j}^2 - \lambda_{n+j}^2} \left\{ 1 - \frac{2i}{[s_{k+1,j-1}^2 - \alpha^2]} \right\},$$

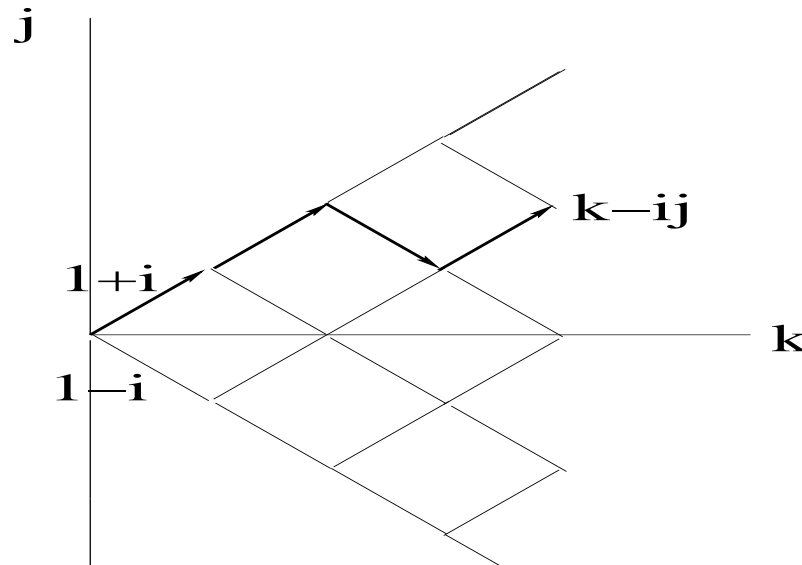
$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{n,k,j}(s) &= \Phi_{n,k,j}^{(0)}(s) + \beta_{n,k,j}^{(1)}(s) \Phi_{n+1,k+1,j+1}(s) \\ &\quad + \beta_{n,k,j}^{(-1)}(s) \Phi_{n-1,k+1,j-1}(s) \end{aligned}$$

# Associated Homogeneous Equation and Solution

$$G_{k,j}^{(n)} = \beta_{n+j,k,j}^{(1)} G_{k-1,j-1}^{(n)} + \beta_{n+j,k,j}^{(-1)} G_{k-1,j+1}^{(n)} \quad , \quad \text{with } G_{0,0}^{(n)} = 1$$

Introduce  $\tau = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\} \in \{-1, 1\}^k$  with  $j_k \equiv a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_k$ . Then for  $|j| \leq k$ ,

$$G_{k,j}^{(n)}(s) = \sum_{\tau, j_k=j} \prod_{l=1}^k \beta_{n+j_{l-1}, l-1, j_{l-1}}^{(a_l)}(s)$$



$$G_{k,j}^{(n)}(s) = \sum_{\tau, j_k=j} \prod_{l=1}^k \frac{1}{(s+l-1+ij_{l-1})^2 - \lambda_{n+j_{l-1}}^2} \\ \times \left[ 1 + \frac{2ia_l}{(s+l+ij_l)^2 - \alpha^2} \right]$$

**where**

$$j_{l-1} = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{l-1} , \quad j_0 = 0 , \quad \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\} \in \{-1, 1\}^k$$

$$\lambda_n = \sqrt{\alpha^2 + 2\sigma + 2in}$$

# Solution in terms of $\{\Phi_n(0), \Phi'_n(0)\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$

It can be proved that

$$\hat{\Phi}_n(s) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{i}{2\epsilon}\right)^k \sum_{j=-k, 2}^k G_{k,j}^{(n)}(s) \Phi_{n+j,k,j}^{(0)}(s)$$

Requiring solution to be pole free at  $s = \lambda_n, s = \alpha$  gives

$$\sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{n,n+j} \Phi_n(0) + \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} b_{n,n+j} \Phi'_n(0) = 0, \text{ for } n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} c_{n,n+j} \Phi_n(0) + \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} d_{n,n+j} \Phi'_n(0) = 0, \text{ for } n \in \mathbb{Z},$$

$$\text{where } a_{n,n+j} = \sum_{k=|j|}^{\infty} \left(\frac{i}{2\epsilon}\right)^k \frac{\alpha_{k,j} G_{k,j}^{(n)}(\alpha)}{\alpha_{k,j}^2 - \lambda_{n+j}^2},$$

Similarly expressions for  $b_{n,n+j}, c's, d's$ . Note  $\left|G_{k,j}^{(n)}\right| \leq \frac{C}{k!}$ .

# Asymptotics for $G_{k,j}^{(n)}$ for $|j| \ll k$

for  $|n| \ll k, k \gg 1, \sigma \ll \frac{1}{\epsilon}$

We note that

$$\beta_{n+j_{l-1}, l-1, j_{l-1}}^{(a_l)}(s) = \frac{1}{(s+l-1)^2 - \lambda_n^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{2ilj_{l-1} + j_{l-1}^2 + 2ij_{l-1}}{(s+l-1)^2 - \lambda_n^2} \right]$$

For  $l \gg 1$ , if  $j_{l-1} \ll l$ , then we have

$$\beta_{n+j_{l-1}, l-1, j_{l-1}}^{(a_l)}(s) = \frac{1}{(s+l-1)^2 - \lambda_n^2} + \frac{2ilj_{l-1}}{[(s+l-1)^2 - \lambda_n^2]^2} + O\left(\frac{j_{l-1}^2}{l^2}\right)$$

$$G_{k,j}^{(n)}(s) \sim \frac{A(n)\Gamma(s - \lambda_n)\Gamma(s + \lambda_n)}{\Gamma(s + k - \lambda_n)\Gamma(s + k + \lambda_n)} \frac{k!}{\left(\frac{k-j}{2}\right)! \left(\frac{k+j}{2}\right)!} \left[ 1 + A_1 \frac{j}{k} + \dots \right]$$

# Computational details in $G_{k,j}^{(n)}(s)$

To get results for  $G_{k,j}^{(n)}$  as quoted, we need

$$S_{k,j;m} \equiv \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{\tau, j_k=j} g(l) j_{l-1}^m.$$

Note that  $S_{k,j;m} = \sum_{l=1}^k f(l) \partial_{\beta}^m |_{\beta=0} T_{l,k,j}(\beta),$

$$T_{l,k,j}(\beta) = \sum_{\tau, j_k=j} e^{\beta j_{l-1}}$$

$$\zeta(z; \beta) \equiv \sum_{j=-k}^k T_{l,k,j} z^j = \sum_{\tau} e^{a_1(\beta+\log z)} \dots e^{a_{l-1}(\beta+\log z)} e^{a_l \log z} \dots e^{a_k \log z}$$

$$\zeta = \left( z e^{\beta} + \frac{1}{z} e^{-\beta} \right)^{l-1} \left( z + \frac{1}{z} \right)^{k-l+1}$$



# Floquet Spectrum in the closed right-half plane

Use of Gamma function asymptotics and Euler-McLaurin summation converts the system of equation into a set of integral equations for which there is no nonzero solution for  $\text{Re } \sigma \geq 0$  for  $|\sigma| \leq \frac{c}{\epsilon}$  for some small  $c$ .

*Theorem: For  $\beta = \infty$ , the Floquet problem for oscillating plate has no spectrum in the region  $\text{Re } \sigma \geq 0$  for  $|\sigma| \leq \frac{c}{\epsilon}$  for some small  $c$ .*

**For  $\sigma = O\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)$  a different asymptotic analysis is needed.**

**Further, for finite  $\beta$ , we use a Neumann series based on Volterra kind of integral equation, instead of explicit Laplace transform in  $y$ , though analysis is more complicated.**

**Other non-perturbative Floquet problems require somewhat different techniques, as exemplified in the following for the 3-D Schroedinger equation with time-periodic potential.**

# Floquet problem in ionization of hydrogen atom

Reference: O. Costin, J. Lebowitz, S.T, Comm. Math. Phys, 2010

$$\left( -\Delta - \frac{b}{r} - i\sigma + n\omega \right) \Phi_n = -i\Omega(|x|) [\Phi_{n+1} - \Phi_{n-1}]$$

reduces to  $\left[ \frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{b}{r} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} + i\sigma - n\omega \right] w_n = -i\Omega[w_{n+1} - w_{n-1}]$

$\Omega(r)$  assumed smooth and nonzero in support  $r \leq 1$ . Also, can prove  $i\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$

Can prove  $w_n = 0$  for  $r > 1$  for  $n < 0$  as otherwise

$\Phi_n = \frac{w_n(r)}{r} Y_{l,m}(\theta, \phi) \notin L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , implying  $w_n(1), w'_n(1) = 0$  for  $n < 0$ .

# Floquet problem asymptotics for Hydrogen atom

Define  $n_0$  as the smallest positive integer for which either  $w_{n_0}(1)$  or  $w'_{n_0}(1)$  nonzero for assumed nonzero solution. Take the case

$w_{n_0}(1) \neq 0$ , taken 1 w.l.o.g. Find  $\frac{\partial^j}{\partial \xi^j} w_{n_0-k}(1) = i^k \delta_{j,2k}$ , where

$\xi = \int_r^1 \sqrt{\Omega(s)} ds$ . For  $\xi$  small,  $w_{n_0-k} \sim \frac{i^k \xi^{2k}}{(2k)!}$ .

Above suggests that for  $r = O(1)$ , for  $k \gg 1$ ,

$$w_{n_0-k} \sim \frac{i^k \xi^{2k}}{(2k)!} f(r),$$

Requiring  $O(k^2)$ ,  $O(k)$  terms to vanish in the residual

$$R_k \equiv \frac{\mathcal{L}_k w_{n_0-k} - i\Omega [w_{n_0-k+1} - w_{n_0-k+1}]}{g_{n_0-k}(r)},$$

$$\text{gives } f(r) = \Omega^{-1/4}(r) \Omega^{1/4}(0) \exp \left[ \frac{1}{4} \int_1^r ds \frac{\omega \xi(s)}{\sqrt{\Omega(s)}} \right]$$

# Hydrogen Floquet Problem asymptotics

The asymptotics  $w_{n_0-k} \sim \frac{i^k \xi^{2k}}{(2k)!} f(r)$  invalid when  $kr = O(1)$ . We demand substitution of

$$w_{n_0-k} = \frac{i^k \xi^{2k}}{(2k)!} f(r) \frac{H(k\alpha r)}{H(k\alpha)}$$

result in residuals of  $O(1)$  uniformly in  $r \in (0, 1]$ . Obtain to the leading order in  $k$ ,

$$H(\zeta) \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} e^{\zeta} \zeta^{1/2} K_{l+1/2}(\zeta) \text{ where } K_{l+1/2} \text{ is a Bessel function.}$$

Any assumed nonzero solution is singular at  $r = 0$ . Therefore, Floquet problem has no acceptable solution for  $\text{Re } \sigma \geq 0$ , implying hydrogen atom ionizes for assumed time-periodic compact potential of arbitrary size. (Proofs appear in the paper cited).

# Conclusions

The Floquet spectral problem arises naturally in the linearized time-evolution equation for disturbance on a time-periodic solution. May be rigorously and constructively analyzed in a number of situations, including oscillating channel and pipe flows, 3-D Schroedinger equations, etc.

For Stokes layer problem  $\beta = \infty$  problem, an intriguing connection revealed with calculation of expected value in some stochastic process. A continuum limit is identified as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  that reduces an infinite discrete system of linear equation into a system of integral equations for which the only solution is 0 for  $\text{Re } \sigma \geq 0$  when  $\sigma \ll \frac{1}{\epsilon}$ . Analysis for  $\sigma = O(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$  is in progress

In some problems like the 3-D Schroedinger equation with a time-periodic compact potential added to Coulomb potential, the infinite set of differential-difference equations may be analyzed through rigorous WKB analysis.

# An integral reformulation of 2-D channel IVP

If we introduce  $\phi = (\partial_y^2 - \alpha^2)\psi$ , then equation may be written as:

$$2\partial_t\phi - \left(\partial_y^2 - \alpha^2\right)\phi = -\frac{iU}{2\epsilon}\phi + \frac{iU_{yy}}{2\epsilon}\mathcal{I}[\phi],$$

where operator  $\mathcal{I} : L^2(0, \beta) \rightarrow H^2(0, \beta)$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{I}[\phi](y) = \frac{\sinh(\alpha y)}{\alpha \sinh(\alpha\beta)} \int_{\beta}^y \sinh[\alpha(\beta - y')] \phi(y') dy' \\ - \frac{\sinh(\alpha(\beta - y))}{\alpha \sinh[\alpha\beta]} \int_0^y \sinh(\alpha y') \phi(y') dy',$$

which incorporates  $\mathcal{I}[\phi](0) = 0 = \mathcal{I}[\phi](\beta)$ . For  $\beta = \infty$ ,

$$\mathcal{I}[\phi](y) = \frac{e^{-\alpha y}}{\alpha} \int_{\infty}^y \sinh(\alpha y') \phi(y') dy' - \frac{\sinh(\alpha y)}{\alpha} \int_0^y e^{-\alpha y'} \phi(y') dy',$$

# Integral reformulation-II

An operator  $\mathcal{R}$  similar to similar to  $\mathcal{I}$  can be defined as an inversion of  $\left(\partial_y^2 - \alpha^2\right)$  such that for  $\chi \in L^2(0, \beta)$ ,  $\frac{d}{dy}\mathcal{I}[\mathcal{R}[\chi]]$  is zero at  $y = 0$  and  $y = \beta$ . When  $\beta = \infty$ , replace by decay.

Evolution for  $\phi$  may be written as:

$$\phi - \partial_t \mathcal{R}[\phi] = \frac{i}{2\epsilon} \mathcal{R}[U\phi] - \frac{i}{2\epsilon} \mathcal{R}[U_{yy}\mathcal{I}[\phi]]$$

Integration in time over  $(0, t)$  results in an integral reformulation for rigorous justification of Laplace transform in  $t$ , and determining how Floquet spectrum relates to initial value problem.

Space integration of  $\psi$  equation gives  $O(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$  growth rate, since

$$\frac{d}{dt} \{ \|\psi_y\|^2 + \alpha^2 \|\psi\|^2 \} + \|\psi_{yy}\|^2 \leq \frac{|U_y|_\infty}{2\epsilon\alpha} \{ \|\psi_y\|^2 + \alpha^2 \|\psi\|^2 \}$$