

# On the pseudospectrum of the harmonic oscillator with imaginary cubic potential

Radek Novák

Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering  
Czech Technical University in Prague

Department of Theoretical Physics  
Nuclear Physics Institute, Rež

Jean Leray Laboratory of Mathematics  
University of Nantes

<http://gemma.ujf.cas.cz/~r.novak>

Metody algebry a funkcionální analýzy v aplikacích

Telč, August 18, 2015

Based on:

*On the pseudospectrum of the harmonic oscillator with imaginary cubic potential*  
Int. J. Theor. Phys. (2015), arXiv: 1411:1856

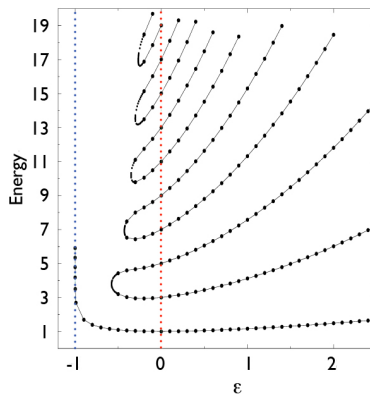
# Outline of the talk

- ▶  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric quantum mechanic
  - ▶ Origins and some aspects of the theory
- ▶ The model
  - ▶ Introduction of the operator  $H$
  - ▶ Known properties of  $H$
- ▶ The pseudospectrum
  - ▶ Study of the pseudospectrum of  $H$
- ▶ Consequences of the pseudospectral properties of  $H$



# Origins of $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric Quantum mechanics

- ▶ Operator  $-\Delta + ix^3$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$  possesses real spectrum  
[Bender, Boettcher 98]
- ▶ More generally:  $-\Delta + x^2(ix)^\varepsilon$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$



# Origins of $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric Quantum mechanics

- ▶ Operator  $-\Delta + ix^3$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$  possesses real spectrum

[Bender, Boettcher 98]

- ▶ More generally:  $-\Delta + x^2(ix)^\varepsilon$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$

? Due to  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetry ?

Operator  $H$  is  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric



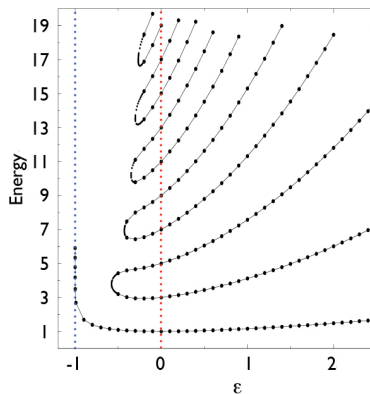
$[H, \mathcal{PT}] = 0$  (in operator sense)

- ▶ Parity

$$(\mathcal{P}\psi)(x) = \psi(-x)$$

- ▶ Time reversal

$$(\mathcal{T}\psi)(x) = \overline{\psi(x)}$$



# Some aspects of $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetry

## Quasi-self-adjoint operators:

[Scholtz, Geyer, Hahne 92]

$H$  is q-s-a if there exists a positive bounded operator  $\Theta$  with bounded inverse (called metric) such that  $H^* = \Theta H \Theta^{-1}$



# Some aspects of $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetry

## Quasi-self-adjoint operators:

[Scholtz, Geyer, Hahne 92]

$H$  is q-s-a if there exists a positive bounded operator  $\Theta$  with bounded inverse (called metric) such that  $H^* = \Theta H \Theta^{-1}$



- ▶ Change of Hilbert space
  - ▶  $H$  is self-adjoint in Hilbert space  $(L^2, \langle \cdot, \Theta \cdot \rangle)$
- ▶ Similarity to a self-adjoint operator
  - ▶  $h = \Theta^{1/2} H \Theta^{-1/2}$  is self-adjoint
  - ▶ solves problem with Stone's theorem

# Physical relevance

- ▶ Suggestions

- ▶ nuclear physics [Scholtz, Geyer, Hahne 92]
- ▶ optics [Klaiman, Günther, Moiseyev 08], [Schomerus 10]
- ▶ solid state physics [Bendix, Fleischmann, Kottos, Shapiro 09]
- ▶ superconductivity [Rubinstein, Sternberg, Ma 07]
- ▶ electromagnetism [Ruschhaupt, Delgado, Muga 05], [Mostafazadeh 09]
- ▶ scattering [Hernandez-Coronado, Krejčířík, Siegl 11]

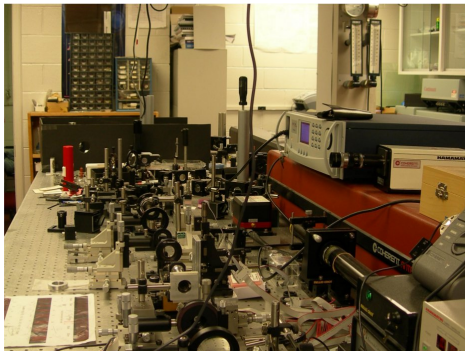
# Physical relevance

## ► Suggestions

- nuclear physics [Scholtz, Geyer, Hahne 92]
- optics [Klaiman, Günther, Moiseyev 08], [Schomerus 10]
- solid state physics [Bendix, Fleischmann, Kottos, Shapiro 09]
- superconductivity [Rubinstein, Sternberg, Ma 07]
- electromagnetism [Ruschhaupt, Delgado, Muga 05], [Mostafazadeh 09]
- scattering [Hernandez-Coronado, Krejčířík, Siegl 11]

## ► Experiments

- optics  
[Guo *et al.* 09],  
[Rüter *et al.* 10]





# Introduction of the model

- ▶ Hilbert space  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$

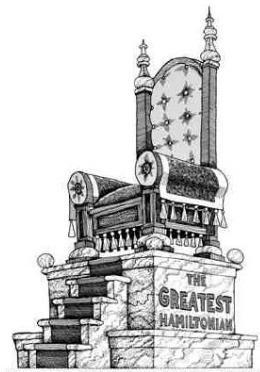
$$H := -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + x^2 + ix^3,$$

$$\text{Dom}(H) := \left\{ \psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \left| -\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + x^2\psi + ix^3\psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \right. \right\}$$

- ▶ Observation of real spectrum

[Caliceti, Graffi, Maioli 80]

$\Rightarrow$  attributed to the  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetry



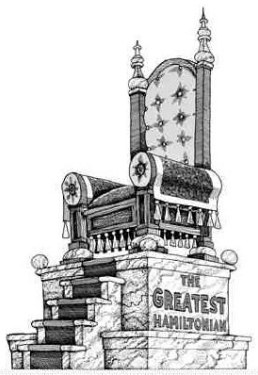
# Introduction of the model

- ▶ Hilbert space  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$

$$H := -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + x^2 + ix^3,$$

$$\text{Dom}(H) := \left\{ \psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \left| -\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + x^2\psi + ix^3\psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \right. \right\}$$

- ▶ Observation of real spectrum  
[Caliceti, Graffi, Maioli 80]  
 $\Rightarrow$  attributed to the  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetry
- ▶ Resembles the “Bender oscillator”



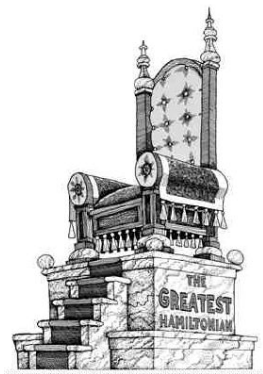
# Introduction of the model

- ▶ Hilbert space  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$

$$H := -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + x^2 + ix^{2n+1},$$

$$\text{Dom}(H) := \left\{ \psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \left| -\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + x^2\psi + ix^{2n+1}\psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \right. \right\}$$

- ▶ Observation of real spectrum  
[Caliceti, Graffi, Maioli 80]  
 $\Rightarrow$  attributed to the  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetry
- ▶ Resembles the “Bender oscillator”
- ▶ Results hold for the more general case  $x^3 \rightarrow x^{2n+1}$  ( $n \geq 1$ )



# Properties of $H$

- ▶  $\text{Dom}(H) = \{ \psi \in W^{2,2}(\mathbb{R}) \mid x^3 \psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \}$  [Caliceti, Graffi, Maioli 80]
- ▶  $H$  is closed [Caliceti, Graffi, Maioli 80]
- ▶  $H$  is an operator with compact resolvent [Caliceti, Graffi, Maioli 80]  
 $\Rightarrow \sigma(H)$  consists of isolated eigenvalues of finite algebraic multiplicity
- ▶ Eigenvalues of  $H$  are real and simple [Shin 02]
- ▶  $H$  is m-accretive  
 $\Rightarrow \{ \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \text{Re } \lambda < 0 \} \subset \rho(H)$
- ▶  $H$  is  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric
- ▶ Resolvent is a Hilbert-Schmidt operator [Caliceti, Graffi, Maioli 80]

## Results about $-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + ix^3$

- ▶ All of the properties of  $H$  [Caliceti, Graffi, Maioli 80],[Dorey, Dunning, Tateo 01], [Tai 05]
- ▶ Resolvent is a trace class operator [Mezincescu 01]

## Results about $-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + ix^3$

- ▶ All of the properties of  $H$  [Caliceti, Graffi, Maioli 80],[Dorey, Dunning, Tateo 01], [Tai 05]
- ▶ Resolvent is a trace class operator [Mezincescu 01]

Recent results:

- ▶ Completeness of eigenfunctions in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$  [Siegl, Krejčířík 12]
- ▶ Existence of a bounded metric operator  $\Theta$  [Siegl, Krejčířík 12]
- ▶  $\Theta$  cannot have bounded inverse [Siegl, Krejčířík 12]
- ▶ Wild pseudospectral behaviour [Krejčířík, Siegl, Tater, Viola 14]

Does something similar hold for  $H$ ?

# Definition of pseudospectrum

... in the previous lecture

# Pseudospectral behaviour

Trivial

×

Non-trivial

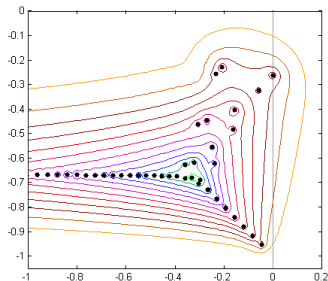


# Pseudospectral behaviour

Trivial

×

Non-trivial



$i\alpha T^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{i\alpha R} T^2 - (1 - x^2) T^2 - 2 \right)$ , where  
 $T = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} - \alpha^2$ , Ors-Sommerfeld operator

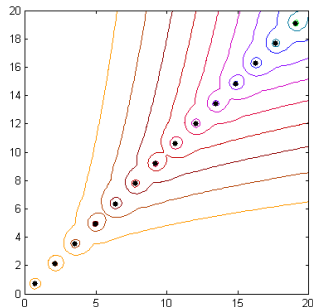
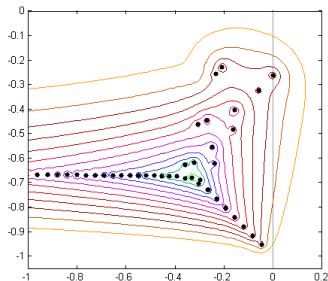
For some  $C > 0$  holds  $\sigma_\varepsilon(A) \subset$   
 $\{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid \text{dist}(z, \sigma(A)) < C\varepsilon\}$

# Pseudospectral behaviour

Trivial

×

Non-trivial



$i\alpha T^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{i\alpha R} T^2 - (1 - x^2) T^2 - 2 \right)$ , where  
 $T = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} - \alpha^2$ , Ors-Sommerfeld operator

$-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + ix^2$ , Davies' oscillator

For some  $C > 0$  holds  $\sigma_\varepsilon(A) \subset \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid \text{dist}(z, \sigma(A)) < C\varepsilon\}$

$\sigma_\varepsilon(A)$  is not in any neighbourhood of  $\sigma(A)$

# Pseudospectrum of $H$

**Idea:** Use semiclassical analysis [Davies 99]

$$H = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + x^2 + ix^3$$

Unitary transformation

$$(U\psi)(x) := \tau^{1/2} \psi(\tau x)$$

leads to the semiclassical analogue of  $H$ :

$$UHU^{-1} = \tau^3 H_h,$$

where

$$H_h := -h^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + h^{2/5} x^2 + ix^3$$

and  $h := \tau^{-5/2}$  is the semiclassical parameter.

How to study the pseudospectrum of  $H_h$  ?

# Semiclassical technique

## Theorem:

Let

$$T_h := -h^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V_h(x),$$

where  $V_h$  are analytic potentials in  $x$  for all  $h > 0$  small enough which take the form  $V_h(x) = V_0(x) + \tilde{V}(x, h)$ , where  $\tilde{V}(x, h) \rightarrow 0$  locally uniformly as  $h \rightarrow 0$ .

Let  $\lambda$  be from the set

$$\Lambda_h := \{ \xi^2 + V_h(x) \mid (x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^2, \xi \operatorname{Im} V'_h(x) < 0 \},$$

where the dash denotes standard differentiation with respect to  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Then there exists some  $C = C(\lambda) > 1$ , some  $h_0 = h_0(\lambda) > 0$ , and an  $h$ -dependent family of  $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  functions  $\{\psi_h\}_{0 < h \leq h_0}$  with the property that, for all  $0 < h \leq h_0$ ,

$$\|(T_h - \lambda)\psi_h\| < C^{-1/h} \|\psi_h\|.$$

# Remarks to the Theorem

- ▶ Analogue of a result in [Davies 99], [Dencker, Sjöstrand, Zworski 04] for potential depending on  $h$
- ▶ Proof inspired by [Krejčířík, Siegl, Tater, Viola 14]
- ▶ For  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  we have  $\lambda \in \sigma_\varepsilon(H_h)$  for all  $\varepsilon \geq C(\lambda)^{-1/h}$

## Nomenclature:

- ▶  $f(x, \xi) := \xi^2 + V_h(x)$  – the symbol associated with  $A_h$
- ▶ Closure of  $\Lambda$  – the semiclassical pseudospectrum

# Ingredients of the proof

1. Fix  $\lambda = x_0^2 + V_h(x_0)$
2. JWKB approximation of the solution to  $(T_h - \lambda)u = 0$

$$u(x, h) := e^{i\phi(x, h)/h} \sum_{j=0}^{N(h)} h^j a_j(x, h),$$

3. Eikonal equation

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, \phi'(x, h)) - \lambda &= 0 \\ \phi'(x, h)^2 + V_h(x) - \lambda &= 0 \\ \phi'(x, h) &= \pm \sqrt{\lambda - V_h(x)} \end{aligned}$$

The solution is analytic and well-defined near  $x_0$ :

$$\phi(x, h) = -\operatorname{sgn}(\operatorname{Im} V_h'(x_0)) \int_0^x \sqrt{\lambda - V_h(y)} \, dy.$$

# Ingredients of the proof

## 4. Transport equation

$$e^{-i\phi/h} (T_h - \lambda) e^{i\phi/h} = \frac{2h}{i} \left( \phi' \frac{d}{dx} + \frac{1}{2} \phi'' \right) - h^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$$

If we in  $a(x, h) := \sum_{j=0}^{N(h)} h^j a_j(x, h)$  set

$$\phi'(x, h) a_0'(x, h) + \frac{1}{2} \phi''(x, h) a_0(x, h) = 0,$$

$$\phi'(x, h) a_j'(x, h) + \frac{1}{2} \phi''(x, h) a_j(x, h) = \frac{i}{2} a_{j-1}''(x, h)$$

then  $e^{-i\phi/h} (T_h - \lambda) e^{i\phi/h} a(x, h) = -h^{N+2} a_N''(x, h).$

# Ingredients of the proof

## 4. Transport equation

$$e^{-i\phi/h} (T_h - \lambda) e^{i\phi/h} = \frac{2h}{i} \left( \phi' \frac{d}{dx} + \frac{1}{2} \phi'' \right) - h^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$$

If we in  $a(x, h) := \sum_{j=0}^{N(h)} h^j a_j(x, h)$  set

$$\phi'(x, h) a'_0(x, h) + \frac{1}{2} \phi''(x, h) a_0(x, h) = 0,$$

$$\phi'(x, h) a'_j(x, h) + \frac{1}{2} \phi''(x, h) a_j(x, h) = \frac{i}{2} a''_{j-1}(x, h)$$

then  $e^{-i\phi/h} (T_h - \lambda) e^{i\phi/h} a(x, h) = -h^{N+2} a''_N(x, h)$ . We add boundary conditions  $a_0(x_0, h) = 1$  and  $a_j(x_0, h) = 0$  for  $j > 0$  and get analytic and well-defined solution near  $x_0$ :

$$a_0(x, h) = \frac{\sqrt{\phi'(x_0, h)}}{\sqrt{\phi'(x, h)}},$$

$$a_j(x, h) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\phi'(x_0, h)}} \int_0^x \frac{i a''_{j-1}(y, h)}{2 \sqrt{\phi'(y, h)}} dy.$$



# Ingredients of the proof

5.  $|a_j(x, h)| \leq C_1^{j+1} j^j$

$\Rightarrow a(x, h) := \sum_{0 \leq j \leq (e^{C_1 h})-1} h^j a_j(x, h)$  is uniformly bounded analytic function

6. Pseudomode  $\psi_h(x) := e^{i\phi(x, h)/h} \chi(x) a(x, h),$

►  $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  identically equal to 1 in some neighbourhood of  $x_0$  and with sufficiently small support

7.  $\|(T_h - \lambda)\psi_h\| \leq C e^{-1/h}$

8.  $\|\psi_h\|$  not exponentially small for  $h \rightarrow 0$

## Application on $H_h$

$$H_h = -h^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + h^{2/5} x^2 + ix^3$$

- ▶  $V_0(x) = ix^3$ ,  $V_h(x) = h^{2/5} x^2$
- ▶  $\Lambda \supset \left\{ \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \operatorname{Re} \lambda > 0, |\arg \lambda| < \arctan(\sqrt{\operatorname{Re} \lambda}) \right\}$
- ▶ for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  the Theorem gives  $(\tau = h^{2/5})$

$$\left\| (H - \tau^3 \lambda)^{-1} \right\| = \tau^{-3} \left\| (H_h - \lambda)^{-1} \right\| > h^{6/5} C(\lambda)^{1/h}$$

## Application on $H_h$

$$H_h = -h^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + h^{2/5} x^2 + ix^3$$

- ▶  $V_0(x) = ix^3$ ,  $V_h(x) = h^{2/5} x^2$
- ▶  $\Lambda \supset \left\{ \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \operatorname{Re} \lambda > 0, |\arg \lambda| < \arctan(\sqrt{\operatorname{Re} \lambda}) \right\}$
- ▶ for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  the Theorem gives  $(\tau = h^{2/5})$

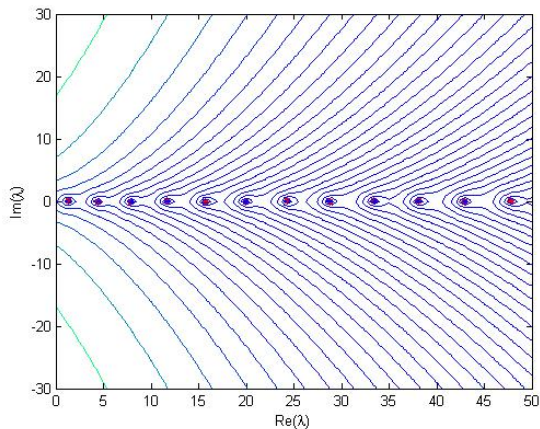
$$\left\| (H - \tau^3 \lambda)^{-1} \right\| = \tau^{-3} \left\| (H_h - \lambda)^{-1} \right\| > h^{6/5} C(\lambda)^{1/h}$$



For  $\delta > 0$  exist constants  $C_1, C_2 > 0$  such that for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  small,  $\sigma_\varepsilon$  contains the set

$$\left\{ \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid |\lambda| > C_1, |\arg \lambda| < \arctan \sqrt{\operatorname{Re} \lambda} - \delta, |\lambda| \geq C_2 \left( \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \right)^{6/5} \right\}$$

# Numerical visualisation



- ▶ Spectrum (red dots) and  $\varepsilon$ -pseudospectra (enclosed by blue-green lines)
- ▶  $\varepsilon = 10^{-7}$  (blue),  $10^{-6.75}$ ,  $10^{-6.5}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $10^1$  (green)
- ▶ Used computational method can be found in [Trefethen 00].

# Basis properties

Let us denote by  $\{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^{+\infty}$  the set of eigenfuncions of  $H$

- ▶ The eigenfunctions of  $H$  **form a complete set** in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$   
(i.e. span of  $\psi_k$  is dense in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ )
  - ▶ resolvent is trace class operator (shown using [Almog, Helffer 14])
  - ⇒ completeness of its eigenfunctions
  - ⇒ Spectral mapping theorem

# Basis properties

Let us denote by  $\{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^{+\infty}$  the set of eigenfunctions of  $H$

- ▶ The eigenfunctions of  $H$  **form a complete set** in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$   
(i.e. span of  $\psi_k$  is dense in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ )
  - ▶ resolvent is trace class operator (shown using [Almog, Helffer 14])
  - $\Rightarrow$  completeness of its eigenfunctions
  - $\Rightarrow$  Spectral mapping theorem
- ▶ The eigenfunctions of  $H$  **do not form a (Schauder) basis** in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$   
(Schauder basis – every  $\psi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$  can be uniquely expressed as  $\psi = \sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} \alpha_k \psi_k$ , where  $\alpha_k \in \mathbb{C}$ )
  - ▶  $\|(H - \lambda)^{-1}\|$  grows exponentially fast for  $|\lambda|$  large
  - $\Rightarrow$  spectral projections cannot be polynomially bounded [Davies 00]
  - $\Rightarrow \{\psi_k\}_{k=1}^{+\infty}$  cannot form a basis

# Consequences of the non-trivial pseudospectrum

- ▶  $H$  is not similar to a self-adjoint operator via bounded and boundedly invertible transformation  $\Omega$ 
  - ▶ If  $H$  were similar to a self-adjoint  $h$  then

$$\sigma_{\varepsilon/\kappa}(H) \subset \sigma_{\varepsilon}(h) \subset \sigma_{\varepsilon\kappa}(H),$$

where  $\kappa = \|\Omega\|\|\Omega^{-1}\|$

# Consequences of the non-trivial pseudospectrum

- ▶  $H$  is not similar to a self-adjoint operator via bounded and boundedly invertible transformation  $\Omega$ 
  - ▶ If  $H$  were similar to a self-adjoint  $h$  then

$$\sigma_{\varepsilon/\kappa}(H) \subset \sigma_{\varepsilon}(h) \subset \sigma_{\varepsilon\kappa}(H),$$

where  $\kappa = \|\Omega\|\|\Omega^{-1}\|$

- ▶  $H$  is not quasi-self-adjoint with a bounded and boundedly invertible metric  $\Theta$ 
  - ▶ Equivalent to the previous claim due to  $\Theta = \Omega^*\Omega$



# Consequences of the non-trivial pseudospectrum

- ▶  $H$  is not similar to a self-adjoint operator via bounded and boundedly invertible transformation  $\Omega$

- ▶ If  $H$  were similar to a self-adjoint  $h$  then

$$\sigma_{\varepsilon/\kappa}(H) \subset \sigma_{\varepsilon}(h) \subset \sigma_{\varepsilon\kappa}(H),$$

where  $\kappa = \|\Omega\|\|\Omega^{-1}\|$

- ▶  $H$  is not quasi-self-adjoint with a bounded and boundedly invertible metric  $\Theta$ 
  - ▶ Equivalent to the previous claim due to  $\Theta = \Omega^*\Omega$
- ▶  $-iH$  is not a generator of a bounded semigroup
  - ▶ Exponential growth of  $\|(H - \lambda)^{-1}\|$
  - ▶ Result follows from [\[Davies 07\]](#)

# Conclusions

$$H = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + x^2 + ix^3$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric quantum mechanics
- ▶ Importance of the pseudospectrum



# Conclusions

$$H = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + x^2 + ix^3$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric quantum mechanics
- ▶ Importance of the pseudospectrum



Results:

- ▶ Eigenfunctions of  $H$  form a complete set in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$
- ▶ Wild behaviour of the pseudospectrum
  - $\Rightarrow$  The eigenfunctions of  $H$  do not form a basis in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$
  - $\Rightarrow H$  is not similar to a self-adjoint operator via bounded and boundedly invertible transformation
  - $\Rightarrow -iH$  is not a generator of a bounded semigroup

# Conclusions

$$H = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + x^2 + ix^3$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric quantum mechanics
- ▶ Importance of the pseudospectrum



Results:

- ▶ Eigenfunctions of  $H$  form a complete set in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$
- ▶ Wild behaviour of the pseudospectrum
  - $\Rightarrow$  The eigenfunctions of  $H$  do not form a basis in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$
  - $\Rightarrow H$  is not similar to a self-adjoint operator via bounded and boundedly invertible transformation
  - $\Rightarrow -iH$  is not a generator of a bounded semigroup

**Moral:** Pseudospectrum reveals what spectrum hides.

Thank you for your attention!

