HIGHER ORDER TRACE RELATIONS FOR SCHRÖDINGER OPERATORS

F. Gesztesy[1], H. Holden[2], B. Simon[3], and Z. Zhao[1]

Dedicated to Henry P. McKean on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday

Abstract. We extend the trace formula recently proven for general one-dimensional Schrö-dinger operators which obtains the potential $V(x)$ from a function $\xi(x,\lambda)$ by deriving trace relations computing moments of $\xi(x,\lambda)\,d\lambda$ in terms of polynomials in the derivatives of V at x. We describe the relation of those polynomials to KdV invariants. We also discuss trace formulae for analogs of ξ associated with boundary conditions other than the Dirichlet boundary condition underlying ξ.

§1. Introduction

This paper is one in a series [14–20] concerning a basic function, $\xi(\lambda,x)$, associated to any one-dimensional Schrödinger operator, $H=-\frac{d^2}{dx^2}+V$ in $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ and its application to inverse spectral problems. A basic formula proven in [18] is that

$$V(x)=E_0+\lim_{\alpha\downarrow 0}\int_{E_0}^{\infty}d\lambda\, e^{-\alpha\lambda}(1-2\xi(\lambda,x)), \tag{1.1}$$

where $E_o=\inf\,\mathrm{spec}(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2}+V)$. (1.1) was proven in [18] assuming V is bounded below, continuous, and $|V(x)|\le C_1e^{C_2x^2}$.

Our definition of ξ is

$$\xi(\lambda,x):=\frac{1}{\pi}\,\mathrm{Arg}((G(\lambda+i0,x,x)) \tag{1.2}$$

(where $G(z,x,x')$ denotes the Green's function of H, that is, the integral kernel of $(H-z)^{-1}$), although we derived that from a basic definition as the Krein spectral shift in going from H to $H_{D;x}$, the operator on $L^2(-\infty,x)\oplus L^2(x,\infty)$ with Dirichlet boundary condition at x.

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[1] Department of Mathematics, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. E-mail for F.G.: mathfg
@mizzou1.missouri.edu; e-mail for Z.Z.: mathzz@mizzou1.missouri.edu

[2] Department of Mathematical Sciences, The Norwegian Institute of Technology, University of Trondheim, N-7034 Trondheim, Norway. E-mail: holden@imf.unit.no

[3] Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy, California Institute of Technology, 253-37, Pasa-dena, CA 91125. This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DMS-9101715. The Government has certain rights in this material.

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The key to (1.1) then was

$$\mathrm{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_{D;x}}) = \frac{1}{2}\,(1 - tV(x) + o(t)) \quad \text{as } t \downarrow 0. \tag{1.3}$$

(1.3) is related to (1.1) because the Krein spectral shift [30] is a function $0 \leq \xi(\lambda, x) \leq 1$ obeying

$$\mathrm{Tr}[f(H) - f(H_{D;x})] = -\int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\, f'(\lambda)\xi(\lambda, x) \tag{1.4}$$

for a rich set of f's including exponentials (e.g., $f \in C^2(\mathbb{R})$, $(1 + \lambda^2)f^{(j)} \in L^2((0,\infty))$, $j = 1, 2$ and also $f(\lambda) = (\lambda - z)^{-1}$, $z \in \mathbb{C}\backslash[E_o, \infty)$) so that

$$\mathrm{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_{D;x}}) = t\int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\, e^{-t\lambda}\xi(\lambda, x).$$

One of our goals in the present paper is to prove (1.1) in greater generality; we only need V bounded from below with no growth restriction at infinity. V need not be continuous; a local L^1 condition suffices. (1.1) then holds at points of Lebesgue continuity of V.

Our main goal though is to prove higher order trace formulas. In great generality (suppose V has an asymptotic Taylor series at x_0), we'll extend (1.3) to

$$\mathrm{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_{D;x_0}}) \underset{t\downarrow 0}{\sim} -\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} s_j(x_0)t^j,$$

where $s_j(x) = (-1)^{j+1}(j!)^{-1}r_j(x)$ and the r_j are KdV invariants defined recursively in Theorem 5.1 below. With more information one can relate this to a similar formula in terms of ξ (for simplicity of notation we suppose that $E_o = 0$):

$$r_j(x_0) = j\lim_{\alpha\downarrow 0}\int_0^{\infty} d\lambda\, e^{-\lambda\alpha}\lambda^{j-1}\left(\frac{1}{2} - \xi(\lambda, x_0)\right). \tag{1.5}$$

The key to handling potentials with no growth condition at infinity is a path space representation for $\mathrm{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_{D;x}})$. Properties of the paths needed are proven in §2. Then in §3, we prove (1.1) for general V. In §4, we show that $\mathrm{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_{D;x}})$ has an asymptotic expansion to all orders in t at $t = 0$ if V is C^∞. In §5, we relate the coefficients of this expansion to the KdV invariants, and in §6 we discuss what happens if boundary conditions other than Dirichlet are used.

Historically, trace formulas for Schrödinger operators on a finite interval originated with a 1953 paper by Gel'fand and Levitan [11] with later contributions by Dikii [6], Gel'fand [9], Halberg-Kramer [22], and Gilbert-Kramer [21]. The case of periodic potentials was first studied by Hochstadt [25] who obtained a trace formula for $V(x) - V(0)$ in terms of appropriate Dirichlet eigenvalues in the special case of finite-gap potentials. The periodic trace formula (5.59) for finite-gap potentials $V(x)$ in terms of Dirichlet eigenvalues was first derived by Dubrovin [7]. The periodic trace formulas (5.59) for all higher order Korteweg-de Vries invariants $s_j(x)$ were first proven in 1975 by McKean-van Moerbeke [35] and independently by Flaschka [8], the trace formula for $s_1(x) = \frac{1}{2}V(x)$ for general periodic C^3 potentials by Trubowitz [40] in 1977. More recently, the trace formula (5.59) for $V(x)$ has been extended to certain classes of almost periodic potentials in Levitan [32,33], Kotani-Krishna [29], and Craig [2]. Analogous trace formulas for Schrödinger operators on the real line with potentials decaying sufficiently rapidly at infinity have been studied in 1979 by Deift and Trubowitz [5], and more recently by Venakides [41], Gesztesy-Holden [13], Gesztesy [12], and Gesztesy-Holden-Simon-Zhao [14].

These trace formulas are a key element of the solution of the inverse spectral problem for periodic potentials and the inverse scattering problem for potentials decaying sufficiently fast at infinity (see, e.g., [5], [7], [8], [25], [26], [32–36], [40], [41] and the references therein.)

§2. The Xi Process

In [18], we introduced a probability measure on the set of paths on $[0,1]$ as follows. Let α be the Brownian bridge, that is, the Gaussian process of $\{\alpha(s)\}_{0\le s\le 1}$ of mean zero and covariance $E_\alpha(\alpha(s)\alpha(t)) = s(1-t)$ if $s \le t$. In terms of Brownian motion, one can realize α as $\alpha(s) = b(s) - sb(1)$ (see [37] for discussion of Brownian motion, Gaussian processes, and the Brownian bridge). There is a Baire measure $\mathcal{D}\alpha$ on $C([0,1])$ induced by the process.

Let $d\kappa$ be the measure on $\mathbb{R} \times C([0,1])$ given by $dx \otimes (4\pi)^{-1/2}\mathcal{D}\alpha$ where dx is Lebesgue measure. Let $\omega(s) = x + \alpha(s)$ and let $\Omega_0 \subset \mathbb{R} \times C([0,1])$ be the set of paths given by $\{\omega \mid \omega(s) = 0 \text{ for some } s \in [0,1]\}$. We claim that

$$\int_{\Omega_0} d\kappa = \frac{1}{2} \tag{2.1}$$

for the free Feynman-Kac formula says

$$e^{\Delta/2}(x,x) = (4\pi)^{-1/2} \int_{\{\omega(0)=x\}} \mathcal{D}\alpha = (4\pi)^{-1/2}, \tag{2.2}$$

$$e^{\Delta_D/2}(x,x) = (4\pi)^{-1/2} \int_{\{\omega(0)=x;\,\omega(s)\neq 0 \text{ all } s\in[0,1]\}} \mathcal{D}\alpha, \tag{2.3}$$

where $\Delta_D = \Delta_{D;0}$ has a Dirichlet boundary condition at $x = 0$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\Omega_0} d\kappa &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx \left[\exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\Delta\right)(x,x) - \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\Delta_D\right)(x,x)\right] \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\Delta\right)(x,-x) \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\Delta\right)(2x,0) \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}} dy \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\Delta\right)(y,0) = \frac{1}{2}.
\end{aligned}$$

We define the xi process by placing the measure $\mathcal{D}\omega \equiv 2\chi_{\Omega_0}\, d\kappa$ on $C([0,1])$ with $\omega(s) = x + \alpha(s)$.

The reason for the interest in $\mathcal{D}\omega$ is that by writing (2.3) with a potential, one finds (see [37]):

Proposition 2.1. *Let V be bounded below and continuous on $(-\infty,\infty)$, $H = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V$ on $L^2(-\infty,\infty)$ and let $H_D = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V$ on $L^2(-\infty,0) \oplus L^2(0,\infty)$ with a Dirichlet boundary condition at $x = 0$ (i.e., $H_D = H_{D;0}$). Then*

$$\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_D}) = \frac{1}{2}E_\omega\left(\exp\left(-t\int_0^1 ds\, V(\sqrt{2t}\,\omega(s))\right)\right). \tag{2.4}$$

The Feynman-Kac formula (2.4) will be critical for the proof of our higher order trace relations. We'll need the following technical result (we use the notation employed in [37], i.e., $E(f) = \int_\Omega f\, d\mu$, $E(A) = \int_A d\mu = \mu(A)$, $E(f;A) = \int_A f\, d\mu$, etc., where $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mu)$ denotes a probability space, $A \in \mathcal{F}$, $f : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ is $\mathcal{F}$-measurable):

Theorem 2.2. $E_\omega\big(\{\omega \mid \sup_{0\le s\le 1} |\omega(s)| \ge a\}\big) \le C_1 \exp(-C_2 a^2)$ *for some* $C_1, C_2 > 0$.

Proof. Look at sets on $\mathbb{R} \times C([0,1])$ with measure $d\kappa$. Let $T_a = \big\{\omega \in \Omega_0 \mid \sup_{0\le s\le 1} |\omega(s)| \ge a\big\}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
T_a \subset &\left\{\omega \in \Omega_0 \mid |\omega(0)| > \frac{a}{2}\right\} \cup \left\{\omega \mid |\omega(0)| < \frac{a}{2},\ \sup_{0\le s\le 1} \omega(s) \ge a\right\} \\
&\cup \left\{\omega \mid |\omega(0)| < \frac{a}{2},\ \inf_{0\le s\le 1} \omega(s) \le -a\right\} \\
\equiv\ & T_a^{(1)} \cup T_a^{(2)} \cup T_a^{(3)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Notice that we have dropped the $\omega \in \Omega_0$ condition from $T_a^{(i)}$, $i = 2,3$. In each case, we have a single condition on a value that we must take, for example:

$$T_a^{(2)} = \left\{\omega \mid |\omega(0)| < \frac{a}{2}, \omega(s) = a \text{ for some } s \in [0,1]\right\}.$$

Thus, each $\int_{T_a^{(i)}} dx$ can be written in terms of a Dirichlet boundary condition (at 0, a, $-a$, respectively) and then by the method of images in terms of the free heat kernel of $e^{\Delta/2}$. Explicitly,

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{T_a^{(1)}} dx &= \int_{|x|>a/2} dx\, e^{\Delta/2}(x,-x), \\
\int_{T_a^{(2)}} dx &= \int_{|x|<a/2} dx\, e^{\Delta/2}(x,2a-x), \\
\int_{T_a^{(3)}} dx &= \int_{|x|<a/2} dx\, e^{\Delta/2}(x,-2a-x)
\end{aligned}$$

and each of these is bounded by $C_1 \exp(-C_2 a^2)$. $\square$

Remark 2.3. The xi process, ω, is not Gaussian. However, the process, L, obtained by reflecting ω in the first time it hits 0 is Gaussian. It will be discussed in [16] where an alternate proof of Theorem 2.2 can be found.

§3. Zeroth Order Asymptotics

Here we'll prove the following generalization of a result we proved in [18].

Theorem 3.1. *Let V be a measurable function of $\mathbb{R}$ obeying*

(i) $\sup_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \int_n^{n+1} |V_-(x)|\, dx < \infty$,

(ii) $\int_n^{n+1} |V_+(x)|\, dx < \infty$ *for all* $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

where $V_\pm(x) = {\max \atop \min}(V(x),0)$. *Let* $H = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V$ *on* $L^2(-\infty,\infty)$ *and* $H_{D;y} = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V$ *on* $L^2(-\infty,y) \oplus L^2(y,\infty)$ *with Dirichlet boundary conditions at* y. *Let* $\xi(\lambda,y)$ *be the Krein spectral shift for* H *to* $H_{D;y}$. *Let* $E_o = \inf \operatorname{spec}(H)$. *If* x *is a point of Lebesgue continuity for* V, *then*

$$V(x) = E_o + \lim_{\alpha\downarrow 0} \int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\, e^{-\alpha\lambda}[1-2\xi(\lambda,x)].$$

Remark 3.2. This generalizes the result in [18] in three ways. There we assumed $V(x) \le C_1 e^{C_2 x^2}$, we supposed V bounded below and that V is continuous.

Proof of Theorem 3.1. For notational simplicity, suppose $x = 0$, $E_o = 0$, and write

$H_{D;0} = H_D$. Let $W(y) = V(y)$ if $|y| \leq 1$ and $W(y) = 0$ if $|y| \geq 1$. Then, by (2.4)

$$\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_D}) &= \frac{1}{2} E_\omega \Big(\exp\Big(-t \int_0^1 ds\, V(\sqrt{2t}\,\omega(s)) \Big) \Big) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} E_\omega \Big(\chi\big(\sup_{0 \leq s \leq 1} (\sqrt{2t}\,|\omega(s)| < 1) \big) \exp\Big(-t \int_0^1 ds\, V(\sqrt{2t}\,\omega(s)) \Big) \Big) \\
&\qquad + O(C_1 e^{-C_2/t}) \qquad (3.1) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} E_\omega \Big(\chi\big(\sup_{0 \leq s \leq 1} (\sqrt{2t}\,|\omega(s)| < 1) \big) \exp\Big(-t \int_0^1 ds\, W(\sqrt{2t}\,\omega(s)) \Big) \Big) \\
&\qquad + O(C_1 e^{-C_2/t}) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} E_\omega \Big(\exp\Big(-t \int_0^1 ds\, W(\sqrt{2t}\,\omega(s)) \Big) \Big) + O(C_1 e^{-C_2/t}), \qquad (3.2)
\end{aligned}$$

where (3.1) follows from Theorem 2.2, the Schwartz inequality and the estimate that $\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-t\tilde{H}} - e^{-t\tilde{H}_D}) < \infty$ with $\tilde{H} = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + 2V$.

The general proof when only (ii) holds is a little complicated so we consider first the case where V is bounded. Then since $|e^x - 1 - x| \leq \frac{1}{2} x^2 e^{|x|}$, we have by (3.2) that

$$\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_D}) &= \frac{1}{2} \Big(1 - t E_\omega \Big(\int_0^1 ds\, W(\sqrt{2t}\,\omega(s)) \Big) \Big) + O(t^2) + O(C_1 e^{-C_2/t}) \\
&= \frac{1}{2}(1 - ta) + o(t), \qquad (3.3)
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$a = \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx\, V(x) g_t(x)$$

with $g_t(x)$ the probability distribution for $\sqrt{2t}\,\omega(s)$ with s distributed uniformly in $[0, 1]$. Then $g_t(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2t}} g_1(x/\sqrt{2t})$ so by general principles, $a = V(0)$ since $x = 0$ is a point of Lebesgue continuity for V.

Next note that

$$\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_D}) = t \int_0^\infty d\lambda\, e^{-t\lambda} \xi(\lambda, 0), \quad 1 = t \int_0^\infty e^{-t\lambda}\, d\lambda.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{t \downarrow 0} \int_0^\infty d\lambda\, e^{-t\lambda} (1 - 2\xi(\lambda, 0)) &= -\lim_{t \downarrow 0} 2 \Big[\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_D}) - \frac{1}{2} \Big] \Big/ t \\
&= a = V(0)
\end{aligned}$$

by (3.3).

Turning to the general case, as above we can suppose that V is supported on $[-1,1]$ (i.e., is equal to W), and we need only prove (3.3) assuming $V \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$. Let $P(x,y;t,\mu)$ be the integral kernel of $\exp(-t(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2}+\mu V))$, $P_t(x,y) \equiv P(x,y,t,\mu = 1)$, $P_t^{(o)}(x,y) = P(x,y,t,\mu=0) = (4\pi t)^{-1/2}\exp(-(x-y)^2/4t)$. By the method of images:

$$\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_D}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx\, P_t(x,-x). \tag{3.4}$$

Moreover, (see, e.g., [38]) uniformly on $\mu, t \in [0,1]$:

$$P(x,y,t,\mu) \le C_\epsilon t^{-1/2} \exp\bigl(-(x-y)^2/(4+\epsilon)\bigr). \tag{3.5}$$

By (3.5) for any $\alpha > 0$, we can integrate in (3.4) over $|x| < t^{1/2-\alpha}$ with an error $O(e^{-d/t^{2\alpha}})$.

By DuHamel's formula:

$$\frac{d}{d\mu}P(x,y,t,\mu) = -\int_0^t ds\, dz\, P(x,z,s,\mu)V(z)P(z,y,t-s,\mu).$$

Thus, iterating and using (3.5) in the form $|P(x,y;t,\mu)| \le C_\epsilon t^{-1/2}$,

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\frac{d^k}{d\mu^k} P(x,y,t,\mu)\right| &\le \Bigl(\int_{[-1,1]} dz\, |V(z)|\Bigr)^k C_k \int_{\substack{s_i \ge 0 \\ \sum_{i=1}^k s_i < t}} \prod_j ds_j \Bigl[\prod_{i=1}^k s_i^{-1/2}\Bigr]\Bigl(t - \sum_{\ell=1}^k s_\ell\Bigr)^{-1/2} \\ &\le \tilde{C}_k t^{(k-1)/2}.\end{aligned}$$

Thus by Taylor's theorem with remainder if we take the $0,1,2$ terms in the Taylor expansion about $\mu = 0$, the error in

$$\int_{|x|<t^{1/2-\alpha}} dx\, P_t(x,-x)$$

is bounded by $C\,t\,t^{1/2-\alpha} = o(t)$. Thus up to $o(t)$ errors $\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-tH} - e^{-tH_D}) = \alpha+\beta+\gamma$, where

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx\, P_t^{(o)}(x,-x), \\ \beta &= -\int_{0<s<t} dz\, ds\, dx\, P_s^{(o)}(x,z)V(z)P_{t-s}^{(o)}(z,-x), \\ \gamma &= \frac{1}{2}\int_{\substack{0<u<t \\ 0<s<t \\ u+s<t}} du\, ds\, dx\, dz\, dw\, P_u^{(o)}(x,z)V(z)P_s^{(o)}(z,w)V(w)P_{t-s-u}^{(o)}(z,-x).\end{aligned}$$

By a direct integration, $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$. Using $P_t^{(o)}(z, -x) = P_t^{(o)}(-z, x)$ and doing the x integral:

$$\beta = -t \int_{\mathbb{R}} dz \, P_t^{(o)}(z, -z) V(z) = -\frac{1}{2} \, tV(0) + o(t)$$

if 0 is a point of Lebesgue continuity for V.

Thus the result is reduced to proving

$$\gamma = o(t). \tag{3.6}$$

Doing the x integral as for β:

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \int dz \, dw \, ds \, (t-s) P_{t-s}^{(o)}(z, -w) V(z) V(w) P_s^{(o)}(z, w)$$

so it suffices to show that

$$\delta \equiv \int dz \, dw \, ds \, P_{t-s}^{(o)}(z, -w) |V(z)| |V(w)| P_s^{(o)}(z, w) = o(1).$$

Write $\delta \leq \delta_1 + \delta_2 + \delta_3$ where δ_1 is the integral over the region $|w - z| > \frac{1}{2} t^{1/4}$, δ_2 the region where $|w + z| > \frac{1}{2} t^{1/4}$, and δ_3 the region where $|w| < t^{1/4}$, $|z| < t^{1/4}$. The δ_1, δ_2 integrals are bounded by $(\int_{[-1,1]} |V(z)|)^2 e^{-c/t^{1/2}} \int_0^t ds \, (t-s)^{-1/2} (s^{-1/2}) = O(e^{-c/t^{1/2}}) = o(1)$ since

$$\int_0^t ds \, (t-s)^{-1/2} s^{-1/2} = \int_0^1 ds \, s^{-1/2} (1-s)^{-1/2} < \infty. \tag{3.7}$$

To control δ_3, bound $P_u^{(o)}$ by $Cu^{-1/2}$ and find, by (3.7)

$$\delta_3 = C \biggl(\int_{|x| < t^{1/4}} dx \, |V(x)| \biggr)^2 \int_0^1 ds \, s^{-1/2} (1-s)^{-1/2} = o(1)$$

since $V \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ (w.l.o.g. $\text{supp}(V) \subset [-1, 1]$). $\square$

§4. Asymptotic Expansions

Our goal in this section is to prove a number of related theorems on

$$F(x, t) := \text{Tr}(e^{-tH_{D;x}} - e^{-tH}). \tag{4.1}$$

Theorem 4.1. *Suppose that $V(x)$ is C^∞ and bounded from below. Then $F(x, t)$ has an asymptotic expansion as $t \downarrow 0$:*

$$F(x, t) \sim \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} s_j(x) t^j,$$

where $s_j(x)$ is dependent only on the numbers $V(x), \dots, V^{(k)}(x)$ $(V^{(k)}(x)) := (d^k V / dx^k (x))$ with $k = 2j - 2$.

Theorem 4.2. *Suppose that $V(x)$ is bounded from below and locally bounded from above. Fix x_0 and n and suppose that near x_0,*

$$V(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{2n-2} b_j (x - x_0)^j + o(|x - x_0|^{2n-2}).$$

Then there exists $\{s_j(x_0)\}_{j=0}^{n}$ such that

$$F(x_0, t) = \sum_{j=0}^{n} s_j(x_0) t^j + o(t^n).$$

The $s_j(x_0)$ are the same functions of the b's as in Theorem 4.1.

Theorem 4.3. *Suppose that $V(x)$ is C^∞ and bounded from below and*

$$|V^{(k)}(x)| \leq C_k e^{A_k x^2} \tag{4.2}$$

for some C_k, A_k. Then for $j \geq 1$

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} \int_0^\infty d\lambda \, e^{-\lambda t} \lambda^{j-1} (\lambda t - j) \xi(\lambda, x_0) = (-1)^{j+1} s_j(x_0) j!$$

and if $V \geq 0; j \geq 1$

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} \int_0^\infty d\lambda \, \lambda^{j-1} e^{-\lambda t} \left(\xi(\lambda, x_0) - \frac{1}{2} \right) = (-1)^j s_j(x_0)(j-1)!.$$

Proof. Theorem 4.1 clearly follows from Theorem 4.2. The first assertion in Theorem 4.3 follows directly from

$$F(x, t) = -t \int_0^\infty d\lambda \, e^{-\lambda t} \xi(\lambda, x) \tag{4.3}$$

if we prove that $F(x, t)$ is C^∞ in t with derivatives having limits at $t = 0$. The second equality then follows if we note that

$$F(x, t)|_{V \equiv 0} = -\frac{1}{2} t \int_0^\infty d\lambda \, e^{-\lambda t}$$

so

$$\sum_{j=1}^\infty s_j(x_0) t^{j-1} \sim - \int_0^\infty d\lambda \, e^{-\lambda t} \left(\xi(\lambda, x_0) - \frac{1}{2} \right).$$

Thus the proofs are reduced to showing Theorem 4.2 and that under the hypothesis (4.2), F is C^∞ in t with continuous derivatives at $t=0$. W.l.o.g. take $x_0=0$.

We turn first to Theorem 4.2. As in the last section, let $W(x)=V(x)\chi_{[-1,1]}(x)$ and note that by Theorem 2.2

$$F(0,t)|_V - F(0,t)|_W = O(e^{-C/t})$$

so we can suppose that V is supported in $[-1,1]$ which we will henceforth do. By local boundedness, we can suppose $\|V\|_\infty<\infty$. Use an asymptotic expansion of

$$F(0,t) = -\frac{1}{2}E_\omega\Big(\exp\Big(-t\int_0^1 ds\, V(\sqrt{2t}\,\omega(s))\Big)\Big) = \sum_{j=0}^n b_j(t) + R_n(t),$$

where

$$b_j(t) = \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{2(j!)}E_\omega\Big(t^j\Big(\int_0^1 ds\, V(\sqrt{2t}\,\omega(s))\Big)^j\Big)$$

and for $0\le t\le 1$

$$|R_n(t)| \le \exp(\|V\|_\infty)t^{n+1}\|V\|_\infty^{n+1}/(n+1)!,$$

since Taylor's theorem with remainder implies

$$\Big|e^{-x} - \sum_{j=0}^n (-x)^j/j!\Big| \le C^{n+1}\,e^C/(n+1)!$$

if $|x|\le C$.

By hypothesis V has an asymptotic expansion

$$V(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{2n-2} b_j x^j + o(x^{2n-2}).$$

Plug that into $b_j(t)$, $j\ge 1$ and find

$$b_j(t) = \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{2(j!)}E_\omega\Big(t^j\int_0^1 ds \sum_{k=1}^{2n-2} C_{k,j}(b_1,\dots,b_k)(\sqrt{2t})^k(\omega(s))^k\Big) + o(t^{n+j-1}),$$

where $C_{k,j}(b_1,\dots,b_k)$ are certain polynomials in $b_1,\dots,b_k$. Since $E(\omega(s)^j)=0$ if j is odd (by $x\to -x$ symmetry), we have the required asymptotic series proving Theorem 4.2.

As for Theorem 4.3, under hypothesis (4.2) define

$$K(t) := F(x=0,t^2).$$

Then there are formal formulae one can write down for $d^\ell K/dt^\ell$ by differentiating inside the $E(\cdots)$ expectation and integral. Because of (4.2), it is easy to see the integrand in $E(\cdots)$ converges absolutely, and then by integrating the derivative that the formal formula is valid. With this formula in hand, one sees that $d^\ell K/dt^\ell$ is continuous as $t \downarrow 0$ and $d^\ell K/dt^\ell = 0$ if ℓ is odd. It follows by Taylor's theorem with remainder that

$$K(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{n} a_j t^{2j} + E_n(t) \tag{4.4a}$$

with

$$\frac{d^m E_n(t)}{dt^m} = O(t^{2n+1-m}), \qquad m = 0, \dots, 2l. \tag{4.4b}$$

But $F(x = 0, t) = K(\sqrt{t})$. Using (4.4), $F(t)$ has continuous derivatives at $t = 0$, that is, we have proven what is used to conclude Theorem 4.3. $\square$

§5. Analysis of the Coefficients

In §4 we proved the existence of an asymptotic expansion of the form

$$Tr(e^{tH_{D;x}} - e^{-tH}) \underset{t\downarrow 0}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} s_j(x) t^j, \quad x \in \mathbb{R} \tag{5.1}$$

assuming

$$V \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}), \quad V \text{ real-valued and bounded from below} \tag{5.2}$$

so that the differential expression

$$h = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R} \tag{5.3}$$

is non-oscillatory at $\pm\infty$ (and hence in the limit point case at $\pm\infty$). The main purpose of this section is to identify the coefficients $s_j(x)$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$ in (5.1) with the KdV invariants (and hence with certain differential polynomials of V).

In order to identify $s_j(x)$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$ with the KdV invariants, we adopt the following strategy. By strengthening the assumptions (5.2), (5.3) momentarily to

$$V \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}), \tag{5.4}$$

we shall derive the asymptotic expansion

$$Tr[(H_{D;x} - z)^{-1} - (H - z)^{-1}] \underset{z\downarrow -\infty}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} r_j(x) z^{-j-1} \tag{5.5}$$

and relate $r_j(x)$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$ with the KdV invariants by means of well-known Riccati-type equation arguments. The Laplace transform connecting (5.1) and (5.5) is then used to derive the relation

$$s_j(x) = (-1)^{j+1}(j!)^{-1} r_j(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N}_0 = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\} \tag{5.6}$$

which then identifies $s_j(x)$ and the KdV invariants (up to inessential numerical factors). Since by Theorem 4.1, $s_j(x)$ only depends on the numbers $V(x), \dots, V^{(k)}(x)$ with $k = 2j - 2$, the connection (5.6) between $s_j(x)$ and $r_j(x)$ is independent of the short-range nature of $V \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ and extends to all $V \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ bounded from below. In fact, it extends to V bounded from below and locally bounded from above, satisfying the asymptotic expansion assumed in Theorem 4.2.

Theorem 5.1. *Assume $V \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. Then for each $N \in \mathbb{N}$,*

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Tr}[(H_{D;x} - z)^{-1} - (H - z)^{-1}] &= -\frac{d}{dz} \ln[G(z,x,x)] \\ &\underset{z\downarrow -\infty}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^{N} r_j(x) z^{-j-1} + O(z^{-N-1}), \quad x \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned} \tag{5.7}$$

uniformly with respect to $x \in \mathbb{R}$, where $r_j(x)$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$ represent the KdV invariants. More precisely, one has

$$\begin{gathered} r_0(x) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad r_1(x) = \frac{1}{2} V(x), \\ r_j(x) = (-1)^{j+1} 2^{1-2j} j \phi_{2j-1}(x) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{j-1} (-1)^{j-\ell+1} 2^{1-2(j-\ell)} \phi_{2(j-\ell)-1}(x) r_\ell(x), \quad j \geq 2, \end{gathered} \tag{5.8}$$

where $\phi_j(x), j \in \mathbb{N}$ are given by the recursion relation

$$\begin{gathered} \phi_1(x) = V(x), \quad \phi_2(x) = -V'(x), \\ \phi_{j+1}(x) = -\phi_j'(x) - \sum_{\ell=1}^{j-1} \phi_\ell(x) \phi_{j-\ell}(x), \quad j \geq 2. \end{gathered} \tag{5.9}$$

Proof. Since $V \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, one can set up the Volterra integral equations

$$\begin{gathered} f_\pm(z,x) = e^{\pm i z^{1/2} x} + \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1 z^{-1/2} \sin[z^{1/2}(x - x_1)] V(x_1) f_\pm(z,x_1), \\ \mathrm{Im}(z^{1/2}) \geq 0, \quad z \in \mathbb{C},\ x \in \mathbb{R}, \end{gathered} \tag{5.10}$$

such that

$$H f_\pm(z,x) = z f_\pm(z,x), \quad z \in \mathbb{C} \tag{5.11}$$

in the sense of distributions. Better suited for our purpose are actually $g_\pm(z,x)$ defined by

$$g_\pm(z,x) = e^{\mp i z^{1/2} x} f_\pm(z,x) \tag{5.12}$$

satisfying

$$g_\pm(z,x) = 1 \pm (2iz^{1/2})^{-1} \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1 \left[1 - e^{\mp 2 i z^{1/2}(x - x_1)}\right] V(x_1) g_\pm(z,x_1). \tag{5.13}$$

Iterating (5.13) one infers by a standard procedure that

$$|g_\pm(z,x)| \leq C, \quad z \in \mathbb{C},\ x \in \mathbb{R} \tag{5.14}$$

and combined with integrations by parts, one obtains the asymptotic expansions

$$g_\pm^{(m)}(z,x) \underset{\substack{z\to\infty\\ \mathrm{Im}(z^{1/2})\geq 0}}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} g_{\pm,j}^{(m)}(x)(2iz^{1/2})^{-j}, \quad m\in\mathbb{N}_0,\, x\in\mathbb{R} \tag{5.15}$$

uniformly with respect to $x\in\mathbb{R}$. In order to illustrate (5.15), it suffices to discuss as a special case the asymptotic expansion of $g_\pm(z,x)$ up to order $O(z^{-2})$. Using (5.13), one infers from repeated integrations by parts that

$$\begin{aligned}
g_\pm(z,x) &= 1 \pm \frac{1}{2iz^{1/2}} \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1\, V(x_1) \mp \frac{e^{\mp 2iz^{1/2}x}}{2iz^{1/2}} \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1\, e^{\pm 2iz^{1/2}x_1} V(x_1)\\
&+ \frac{1}{(2iz^{1/2})^2} \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1 \left[1-e^{\mp 2iz^{1/2}(x-x_1)}\right] V(x_1) \int_{\pm\infty}^{x_1} dx_2 \left[1-e^{\mp 2iz^{1/2}(x_1-x_2)}\right] V(x_2)\\
&\pm \frac{1}{(2iz^{1/2})^3} \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1 \left[1-e^{\mp 2iz^{1/2}(x-x_1)}\right] V(x_1) \int_{\pm\infty}^{x_1} dx_2 \left[1-e^{\mp 2iz^{1/2}(x_1-x_2)}\right] V(x_2)\,\cdot\\
&\qquad \cdot \int_{\pm\infty}^{x_2} dx_3 \left[1-e^{\mp 2iz^{1/2}(x_2-x_3)}\right] V(x_3) g_\pm(z,x_3)\\
&\underset{\substack{z\to\infty\\ \mathrm{Im}(z^{1/2})\geq 0}}{\sim} 1 \pm \frac{1}{2iz^{1/2}} \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1\, V(x_1) + \frac{1}{4z} V(x) - \frac{1}{8z}\left[\int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1\, V(x_1)\right]^2\\
&\mp \frac{1}{8iz^{3/2}} V'(x) \pm \frac{1}{8iz^{3/2}} \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1\, V(x_1)^2 \pm \frac{1}{8iz^{3/2}} V(x) \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1\, V(x_1)\\
&\mp \frac{1}{64iz^{3/2}} \left[\int_{\pm\infty}^{x} dx_1\, V(x_1)\right]^3 + O(z^{-2}), \quad x\in\mathbb{R},
\end{aligned} \tag{5.16}$$

where we used (5.14) to arrive at the $O(z^{-2})$-term uniformly with respect to $x\in\mathbb{R}$. By induction one extends this expansion to $O(z^{-N})$ for each $N\in\mathbb{N}$ uniformly in $x\in\mathbb{R}$. Analogously, one arrives at the corresponding expansions for $g^{(m)}(z,x)$, $m\in\mathbb{N}$. In particular, introducing

$$\phi_\pm(z,x) = \frac{f'_\pm(z,x)}{f_\pm(z,x)} = \pm iz^{1/2} + \frac{g'_\pm(z,x)}{g_\pm(z,x)} \tag{5.17}$$

($'$ denotes d/dx) one obtains

$$\phi_\pm^{(m)}(z,x) \underset{\substack{z\to\infty\\ \mathrm{Im}(z^{1/2})\geq 0}}{\sim} \pm iz^{1/2} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \phi_\pm^{(m)}(x)(2iz^{1/2})^{-j}, \quad x\in\mathbb{R} \tag{5.18}$$

for certain coefficients $\phi_\pm(x)$ (uniformly in $x \in \mathbb{R}$ since $V \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$). Combining (5.11), (5.12), and (5.17) yields the Riccati-type equation

$$\phi_\pm'(z,x) + \phi_\pm(z,x)^2 = V(x) - z. \tag{5.19}$$

A comparison of (5.18) and (5.19) then yields

$$\begin{gathered}\phi_{\pm,1}(x) = \pm V(x), \quad \phi_{\pm,2}(x) = -V'(x), \\ \phi_{\pm,j+1}(x) = \mp\phi_{\pm,j}'(x) \mp \sum_{\ell=1}^{j-1} \phi_{\pm,\ell}(x)\phi_{\pm,j-\ell}(x), \quad j \geq 2.\end{gathered} \tag{5.20}$$

This identifies $\phi_{+,j}$ and ϕ_j

$$\phi_{+,j}(x) = \phi_j(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N} \tag{5.21}$$

as introduced in (5.9) and also yields

$$\phi_{-,j}(x) = (-1)^j\phi_{+,j}(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N}. \tag{5.22}$$

In order to connect (5.7) and (5.18) we recall a few facts. First of all, the Green's function $G(z,x,x')$ of H satisfies

$$G(z,x,x) = [\phi_-(z,x) - \phi_+(z,x)]^{-1}, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}\backslash\mathrm{spec}(H),\, x \in \mathbb{R} \tag{5.23}$$

since, due to definition (5.17), $\phi_\pm(z,x)$ equal the Weyl m-functions associated with $H_{D,\pm;x}$ in $L^2((x,\pm\infty))$, the restrictions of H to $(x,\pm\infty)$ with a Dirichlet boundary condition at $x \in \mathbb{R}$. In particular,

$$H_{D;x} = H_{D,-;x} \oplus H_{D,+;x}. \tag{5.24}$$

Thus we obtain

$$\mathrm{Tr}[(H_{D;x} - z)^{-1} - (H-z)^{-1}] = -\frac{d}{dz}\ln[G(z,x,x)] = \frac{d}{dz}\ln[\phi_-(z,x) - \phi_+(z,x)] \tag{5.25}$$

$$\begin{aligned}&\underset{z\downarrow-\infty}{\sim} \frac{d}{dz}\ln\Big[z^{1/2}\sum_{j=0}^\infty 2\phi_{2j-1}(x)(2iz^{1/2})^{-2j}\Big] \\ &\underset{z\downarrow-\infty}{\sim} (1/2z) + \frac{d}{dz}\ln\Big[1 + \sum_{j=1}^\infty (-1)^j 2^{1-2j}\phi_{2j-1}(x)z^{-j}\Big] \\ &\underset{z\downarrow-\infty}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^\infty r_j(x)z^{-j-1},\end{aligned} \tag{5.26}$$

where $r_j(x), j \in \mathbb{N}_0$ are given by (5.8). Here we made use of (5.23), (5.18), (5.22), and the fact that if F has the asymptotic expansion

$$F(z) \underset{|z|\to\infty}{\sim} \sum_{j=1}^\infty c_j z^{-j} \tag{5.27}$$

then

$$\ln[1+F(z)] \underset{|z|\to\infty}{\sim} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} d_j z^{-j}, \tag{5.28}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} d_1 &= c_1, \\ d_j &= c_j - \sum_{\ell=1}^{j-1} (\ell/j) c_{j-\ell} d_\ell, \quad j \geq 2. \quad \square \end{aligned} \tag{5.29}$$

Remark 5.2. (i) Using

$$G(z,x,x) = \frac{f_+(z,x)f_-(z,x)}{W(f_+(z),f_-(z,x))}, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}\backslash \mathrm{spec}(H),\, x \in \mathbb{R} \tag{5.30}$$

one derives the relation (see, e.g., [27])

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln[G(z,x,x)] = \phi_-(z,x) + \phi_+(z,x) \tag{5.31}$$

which yields the simpler expression

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \mathrm{Tr}[(H_{D;x}-z)^{-1} - (H-z)^{-1}] &= \frac{d}{dz}\frac{d}{dx} \ln[\phi_-(z,x) - \phi_+(z,x)] \\ &= -\frac{d}{dz} [\phi_+(z,x) + \phi_-(z,x)] \underset{z\downarrow -\infty}{\sim} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (-1)^j 2^{1-2j} \phi_{2j}(x) z^{-j-1}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.32}$$

Integrating (5.32) term by term (putting integration constants indentically zero since $r_j(x)$ are homogeneous differential polynomials of degree $\deg(r_j) = 2j$, $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$ defining $\deg(V^{(m)}) = m+2$, $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$) yields (5.7) except for the leading term $1/2z$ which can be inferred from the free case $V^{(o)}(x) \equiv 0$.

(ii) Relations (5.22) and (5.31) prove that $\phi_{\pm,2m}(x)$ are total derivatives, that is,

$$\phi_{\pm,2m}(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\eta_m(x), \quad m \in \mathbb{N} \tag{5.33}$$

for some differential polynomials η_m of V with $\eta_m \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ (resp. $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$) if $V \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ (resp. $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$). Moreover, the following asymptotic expansion holds (see, e.g., [12], [13]).

$$G(z,x,x) \underset{z\downarrow -\infty}{\sim} -\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \omega_{2j}(x)(2iz^{1/2})^{-2j-1}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R} \tag{5.34}$$

uniformly with respect to $x \in \mathbb{R}$, where

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_0(x) &= 1, \\ \omega_{2j}(x) &= -2\phi_{2j-1}(x) - 2\sum_{\ell=1}^{j-1} \phi_{2\ell-1}(x)\omega_{2(j-\ell)}(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N} \end{aligned} \tag{5.35}$$

One can prove that ([10], [13])

$$\omega_{2j+2}(x) = -2(2j+1)\phi_{2j+1}(x) + \frac{d}{dx}\,\nu_j(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N}_0, \tag{5.36}$$

where ν_j are differential polynomials in V with $\nu_j \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ (resp. $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$) if $V \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ (resp. $V \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$).

(iii) Clearly (5.7), (5.32), and (5.33) extend to uniformly asymptotic expansions as $|z| \to \infty$ outside any cone with apex $E_o = \inf \operatorname{spec}(H)$ and arbitrarily small opening angle $\epsilon > 0$ along the positive real axis. Explicitly, one infers from (5.8), (5.9), and (5.35) that

$$r_0(x) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad r_1(x) = \frac{1}{2}\,V(x), \quad r_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}\,V(x)^2 - \frac{1}{4}\,V''(x), \quad \text{etc.} \tag{5.37}$$

$$\begin{gathered}\phi_1(x) = V(x), \quad \phi_2(x) = -V'(x), \quad \phi_3(x) = V''(x) - V(x)^2, \\ \phi_4(x) = 4V(x)V'(x) - V'''(x), \quad \text{etc.,}\end{gathered} \tag{5.38}$$

and

$$\omega_0(x) = 1, \quad \omega_2(x) = -2V(x), \quad \omega_4(x) = 6V(x)^2 - 2V''(x), \quad \text{etc.} \tag{5.39}$$

Next we relate (5.7) and (5.1).

Theorem 5.3. *Suppose $V \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, V real-valued and bounded from below. Then for each $N \in \mathbb{N}$,*

$$\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-tH_{D;x}} - e^{-tH}) \underset{t\downarrow 0}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^{N} s_j(x)t^j + O(t^{N+1}), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \tag{5.40}$$

where $s_j(x)$ are the KdV invariants

$$s_j(x) = (-1)^{j+1}(j!)^{-1}r_j(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N}_0 \tag{5.41}$$

with $r_j(x)$ given by (5.8).

Proof. Since the existence of the asymptotic expansion (5.40) has been proven in §4 we only need to identify the coefficients $s_j(x)$ as in (5.41). Without loss of generality we may assume in addition that $V \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. Let $E_o = \inf \operatorname{spec}(H)$, then one obtains from (1.4) and Fubini's theorem that

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{Tr}[(H_{D;x} - z)^{-1} - (H-z)^{-1}] &= -\int_{E_o}^{\infty} \frac{d\lambda\,\xi(\lambda,x)}{(\lambda - z)^2} \\ &= \int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\,\xi(\lambda,x) \int_0^\infty dt\,(-t)e^{(z-\lambda)t} \\ &= \int_0^\infty dt\,e^{zt} \int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\,(-t)e^{-\lambda t}\xi(\lambda,x) \\ &= \int_0^\infty dt\,e^{zt}\operatorname{Tr}(e^{-tH_{D;x}} - e^{-tH}), \quad z < E_o.\end{aligned} \tag{5.42}$$

Define

$$F(x,t) = \mathrm{Tr}(e^{-tH_{D;x}} - e^{-tH}) = -t\int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\, e^{-t\lambda}\xi(\lambda,x), \quad t>0,\, x\in\mathbb{R}. \tag{5.43}$$

Then

$$F(x,\cdot)\in C^\infty([0,\infty)), \quad \text{for each } x\in\mathbb{R} \tag{5.44}$$

is proven at the end of §4 and Theorem 4.1 yields for each $N\in\mathbb{N}$,

$$F(x,t) \underset{t\downarrow 0}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^{N} s_j(x)t^j + O(t^{N+1}). \tag{5.45}$$

In particular,

$$\left| F(x,t) - \sum_{j=0}^{N} s_j(x)t^j \right| \leq C_N(x)t^{N+1}, \quad 0\leq t\leq 1 \tag{5.46}$$

by estimating the remainder in the Taylor expansion for $F(x,\cdot)$. Thus

$$z\mathrm{Tr}[(H_{D;x}-z)^{-1}-(H-z)^{-1}] = z\int_0^1 dt\, e^{zt}F(x,t)+z\int_1^\infty dt\, e^{zt}F(x,t) := G_1(x,z)+G_2(x,z). \tag{5.47}$$

Clearly,

$$|G_2(x,z)| = \left| z\int_1^\infty dt\, e^{zt}F(x,t)\right| \leq (-z)\int_1^\infty dt\, e^{zt}|F(x,t)| \leq C_0e^z, \quad z<\min(0,E_o) \tag{5.48}$$

since $|F(x,t)|\leq e^{-tE_o}$ (because of $0\leq\xi(\lambda,x)\leq 1$). Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} G_1(x,z) &= z\int_0^1 dt\, e^{zt}\left[F(x,t) - \sum_{j=0}^{N} s_j(x)t^j + \sum_{j=0}^{N} s_j(x)t^j\right] \\ &\underset{z\downarrow -\infty}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^{N} s_j(x)\left[z\int_0^\infty dt\, e^{zt}t^j + O(e^{\epsilon z})\right] + z\int_0^1 dt\, e^{zt}\left[F(x,t) - \sum_{j=0}^{N} s_j(x)t^j\right] \\ &\underset{z\downarrow -\infty}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^{N} s_j(x)(-1)^{j+1}(j!)[z^{-j}+O(e^{\epsilon z})]+z\int_0^1 dt\, e^{zt}\left[F(x,t)-\sum_{j=0}^{N} s_jt^j\right], \quad z<\min(0,E_o) \end{aligned} \tag{5.49}$$

for some $0<\epsilon<1$. Thus

$$z\mathrm{Tr}[(H_{D;x}-z)^{-1}-(H-z)^{-1}] \underset{z\downarrow -\infty}{\sim} \sum_{j=0}^{N} s_j(x)(-1)^{j+1}(j!)z^{-j} + O(z^{-N-1}) \tag{5.50}$$

using the estimate (5.46). A comparison of (5.7) and (5.50) then yields (5.41). □

Relations (5.37) and (5.41) then yield explicitly

$$s_0(x) = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad s_1(x) = \frac{1}{2}V(x), \quad s_2(x) = \frac{1}{8}V''(s) - \frac{1}{4}V(x)^2, \quad \text{etc.} \tag{5.51}$$

Finally we epxress the KdV invariants $s_j(x)$ in terms of $\xi(\lambda, x)$ according to Theorem 4.3.

Theorem 5.4. *Suppose $V \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, V real-valued and bounded from below. Assume that* (4.2) *holds and denote $E_o = \inf spec(H)$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} &s_0(x) = -\frac{1}{2}, \\ &s_j(x) = \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{j!}\left\{\frac{E_o^j}{2} + j \lim_{t\downarrow 0}\int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\, e^{-t\lambda}\lambda^{j-1}\left[\frac{1}{2} - \xi(\lambda, x)\right] \quad j \in \mathbb{N},\ x \in \mathbb{R}.\right. \end{aligned} \tag{5.52}$$

Explicitly, one has

$$\begin{aligned} s_1(x) &= \frac{1}{2}V(x) \\ &= \frac{E_o}{2} + \lim_{t\downarrow 0}\int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\, e^{-t\lambda}\left[\frac{1}{2} - \xi(\lambda, x)\right], \end{aligned} \tag{5.53}$$

$$\begin{aligned} s_2(x) &= \frac{1}{8}V''(x) - \frac{1}{4}V(x)^2 \\ &= -\frac{E_o^2}{4} - \lim_{t\downarrow 0}\int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\, e^{-t\lambda}\lambda\left[\frac{1}{2} - \xi(\lambda, x)\right], \quad \text{etc.} \end{aligned} \tag{5.54}$$

We will illustrate these results in the special case where $V(x)$ is periodic.

Example 5.5. Assume $V \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, V real-valued, for some $a > 0$, $V(x + a) = V(x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. In this case the spectrum of H is given by

$$\operatorname{spec}(H) = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty}[E_{2(n-1)}, E_{2n-1}]. \tag{5.55}$$

Then for each $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $\xi(\lambda, x)$ is real-valued for $\lambda \in (E_{2n-1}, E_{2n})$ and purely imaginary for $\lambda \in (E_{2(n-1)}, E_{2n-1})$ (see, e.g., [4], [28]). More precisely,

$$\xi(\lambda, x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \lambda < E_0, \quad \mu_n(x) < \lambda < E_{2n}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N} \\ 1, & E_{2n-1} < \lambda < \mu_n(x), \quad n \in \mathbb{N} \\ \frac{1}{2}, & E_{2(n-1)} < \lambda < E_{2n-1}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N} \end{cases} \tag{5.56}$$

(and analogously for limiting cases where $\mu_n(x) \in \{E_{2n-1}, E_{2n}\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$). Here $\mu_n(x)$ denote the Dirichlet eigenvalues (or limits thereof) of $H_{D;x}$, that is,

$$\operatorname{spec}(H_{D;x}) = \{\mu_n(x)\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} [E_{2(n-1)}, E_{2n-1}], \quad E_{2n-1} \leq \mu_n(x) \leq E_{2n},\, n \in \mathbb{N}. \tag{5.57}$$

Inserting (5.56) into (5.52) and noticing that

$$|E_{2n} - E_{2n-1}| \underset{n\to\infty}{=} 0(n^{-k}) \qquad \text{for all } k \in \mathbb{N} \tag{5.58}$$

since $V \in C^\infty$ (see [36], [40] and the references therein), one can interchange the limit $t \downarrow 0$ and the integral in (5.52) to obtain

$$2(-1)^{j+1} j!\, s_j(x) = 2r_j(x) = E_0^j + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [E_{2n-1}^j + E_{2n}^j - 2\mu_n(x)^j], \quad j \in \mathbb{N},\ x \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{5.59}$$

The periodic trace formula (5.59) for $j = 1$ has been noticed by Hochstadt [25] and Dubrovin [7]. The general case $j \in \mathbb{N}$ appeared in McKean and van Moerbeke [35] and Flaschka [8]. For more recent accounts, see, for example, [2], [29], [32], [33], [40].

Remark 5.6. The heat kernel approach in §2–4 naturally leads to the heat kernel regularization for $s_j(x)$ in Theorem 5.4. Alternatively, we could have exploited a resolvent regularization for $r_j(x)$ as follows. Applying (1.4) to $f(\lambda) = (\lambda - z)^{-1}$ and expanding in z^{-1} near $z^{-1} = 0$ yields

$$\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{Tr}[(H_{D;x} - z)^{-1} - (H - z)^{-1}] &= -\int_{E_o}^{\infty} \frac{d\lambda\, \xi(\lambda, x)}{(\lambda - z)^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{2z} - \frac{E_o}{2z(E_o - z)} + \int_{E_o}^{\infty} \frac{d\lambda[\frac{1}{2} - \xi(\lambda, x)]}{(\lambda - z)^2} \\
&\underset{z\to i\infty}{\sim} \frac{1}{2z} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} r_j(x) z^{-j-1},
\end{aligned} \tag{5.60}$$

where

$$r_j(x) = \frac{E_o^j}{2} - \lim_{z\to i\infty} \int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\, \frac{z^{j+1}}{(\lambda - z)^{j+1}}\, j(-\lambda)^{j-1} \left[\frac{1}{2} - \xi(\lambda, x)\right], \quad j \in \mathbb{N},\ x \in \mathbb{R} \tag{5.61}$$

under the assumptions on V as in Theorem 5.4. In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}
r_1(x) &= \frac{1}{2} V(x) \\
&= \frac{E_o}{2} + \lim_{z\to i\infty} \int_{E_o}^{\infty} d\lambda\, \frac{z^2}{(\lambda - z)^2} \left[\frac{1}{2} - \xi(\lambda, x)\right].
\end{aligned} \tag{5.62}$$

We shall return to a detailed discussion of resolvent regularization (proving the existence of an asymptotic expansion of the type (5.7) under the hypothesis on V as in Theorem 5.4) in §6 in connection with other self-adjoint boundary conditions different from the Dirichlet boundary condition at $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

§6. Other Boundary Conditions

In this section we shall study higher order trace formulas associated to boundary conditions other than the Dirichlet conditions studied so far. In general, we want to consider operators which decompose into a direct sum under the decomposition $L^2(-\infty, y) \oplus L^2(y, \infty)$ and which differ from H by a rank one perturbation. It can be shown the later condition forces the boundary conditions to match, that is, in (6.1) below the boundary conditions

$$g'(y \pm 0) + \beta_\pm g(y \pm 0) = 0$$

have $\beta_+ = \beta_-$. Thus, we define

$$H_{\beta;y} f = hf, \quad h = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}(H_{\beta;y}) = \{g \in \mathrm{L}^2(\mathbb{R}) \mid g, g' \in AC_{\mathrm{loc}}(\mathbb{R} \backslash \{y\}),\ hg \in L^2(\mathbb{R}), \\ \lim_{\epsilon \downarrow 0} [g'(y \pm \epsilon) + \beta g(y \pm \epsilon)] = 0\}, \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R},\ y \in \mathbb{R}, \end{aligned} \tag{6.1}$$

where we assume again that V satisfies

$$V \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}),\ V \text{ real-valued and bounded from below.} \tag{6.2}$$

Thus $H_{\beta=0;y} = H_{N;y}$ represents a Neumann boundary condition at $y \in \mathbb{R}$ and formally, $H_{\beta=\infty;y} = H_{D;y}$. In analogy to

$$\begin{aligned} (H_{D;y} - z)^{-1} = (H - z)^{-1} - G(z, y, y)^{-1} (\overline{G(z, y, \cdot)}, \cdot) G(z, \cdot, y), \\ z \in \mathbb{C} \backslash \{\mathrm{spec}(H_{D;y}) \cup \mathrm{spec}(H)\}, \end{aligned} \tag{6.3}$$

one now obtains

$$\begin{aligned} (H_{\beta;y} - z)^{-1} = (H - z)^{-1} - [(\beta + \partial_1)(\beta + \partial_2) G(z, y, y)]^{-1} \cdot \\ \cdot (\overline{(\beta + \partial_1) G(z, y, \cdot)}, \cdot)(\beta + \partial_2) G(z, ., y), \quad z \in \mathbb{C} \backslash \{\mathrm{spec}(H_{\beta;y}) \cup \mathrm{spec}(H)\},\ \beta \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.4}$$

Here

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_1 G(z, y, x') := \partial_x G(z, x, x')|_{x=y}, \quad \partial_2 G(z, x, y) := \partial_{x'} G(z, y, x')|_{x'=y}, \\ \partial_1 \partial_2 G(z, x, y) := \partial_x \partial_{x'} G(z, x, x')|_{x=x'=y}, \quad \text{etc.} \end{aligned} \tag{6.5}$$

and we note that

$$\partial_1 G(z,y,x) = \partial_2 G(z,x,y), \quad x \neq y \tag{6.6}$$

renders the rank-one piece self-adjoint in (6.4) for $z < \inf \operatorname{spec}(H_{\beta;y})$. Hence the Herglotz function $G(z,y,y)$ is now replaced by $[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,y,y)]$. The latter is Herglotz too as can be inferred from the first resolvent equation

$$\partial_x^r \partial_{x'}^s \operatorname{Im}[G(z,x,x')] = \int\limits_{\mathbb{R}} dx'' \, [\overline{\partial_x^r G(z,x,x'')}][\partial_{x'}^s G(z,x'',x')], \quad r,s \in \{0,1\} \tag{6.7}$$

implying (together with (6.6))

$$\begin{aligned} &\operatorname{Im}[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,y,y,)] \\ &= \operatorname{Im}(z)\Big\{\beta^2 \int\limits_{\mathbb{R}} dx'' \, |G(z,x'',y)|^2 + \beta \int\limits_{\mathbb{R}} dx'' \, [\overline{\partial_1 G(z,y,x'')}\,]G(z,x'',y) \\ &\qquad + \beta \int\limits_{\mathbb{R}} dx'' \, \overline{G(z,y,x'')}\,[\partial_1 G(z,y,x'')] + \int\limits_{\mathbb{R}} dx'' |\partial_1 G(z,y,x'')|^2 \Big\} \\ &\geq \operatorname{Im}(z)\big[\|\partial_1 G(z,\cdot,y)\|_2 - |\beta|\|G(z,\cdot,y)\|_2\big]^2 > 0 \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Im}(z) > 0 \end{aligned} \tag{6.8}$$

by Cauchy's inequality. Equation (5.25) then turns into

$$\operatorname{Tr}[(H_{\beta;x}-z)^{-1} - (H-z)^{-1}] = -\frac{d}{dz}\ln[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x,)] \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R},\ x \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{6.9}$$

In order to introduce $\xi_\beta(\lambda,x)$, Krein's spectral shift function associated with the pair $(H_{\beta;x},H)$ (in analogy to $\xi(\lambda,x) \equiv \xi_\infty(\lambda,x)$ associated with $(H_{D;x} \equiv H_{\infty;x},H)$), we next investigate $[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x)]$ a bit further. First of all we notice that

$$H_{\beta;x} \leq H, \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R},\ x \in \mathbb{R} \tag{6.10}$$

as opposed to

$$H_{D;x} = H_{\infty;x} \geq H, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{6.11}$$

One way of understanding (6.10) is in terms of quadratic forms. Let $Q(H_{\beta=0}) = N_y$ be the form domain of the Neumann boundary condition object. Then φ's in N_y are continuous on $\mathbb{R}\backslash\langle y\rangle$ and have continuous boundary values $\varphi(y \pm 0)$. $Q(H_\beta) = N_y$ with

$$(\varphi, H_\beta\varphi) = (\varphi, H_{\beta=0}\varphi) - \beta[|\varphi(y+)|^2 - |\varphi(y-)|^2].$$

Let $N_y^0 = \{\varphi \in N \mid \varphi(y+) = \varphi(y-)\}$. Thus H is just the form H_β restricted to N_y^0, so $H_{\beta,y} \leq H$.

Moroever, one easily verifies the identity

$$\begin{aligned} [(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x)] &= \beta^2 G(z,x,x) \\ &+ \beta\left[\frac{d}{dx}G(z,x,x)\right] + H(z,x,x), \quad z \in \mathbb{C}\backslash\mathbb{R},\ \beta \in \mathbb{R},\ x \in \mathbb{R}, \end{aligned} \tag{6.12}$$

where

$$H(z,x,x)=\frac{f'_+(z,x)f'_-(z,x)}{W(f_+(z),f_-(z))} \tag{6.13}$$

and

$$\frac{d}{dx}H(z,x,x)=[V(x)-z]\frac{d}{dx}G(z,x,x). \tag{6.14}$$

From

$$G(z,x,x)\underset{z\downarrow-\infty}{=}\frac{1}{2|z|^{1/2}}+o(|z|^{-1/2}), \tag{6.15}$$

in accordance with

$$G(z,x,x)>0 \quad \text{for } z<\inf\operatorname{spec}(H), \tag{6.16}$$

and from (6.14) one infers

$$\begin{aligned}H(z,x,x)&=H(z,x_o,x_o)+\int_{x_o}^{x}dx'\,[V(x')-z]\left[\frac{d}{dx'}G(z,x',x')\right]\\&\underset{z\downarrow-\infty}{=}H(z,x_o,x_o)+o(|z|^{1/2})\end{aligned} \tag{6.17}$$

upon integration by parts. In particular, the leading asymptotic behavior of $H(z,x,x)$ as $z\downarrow-\infty$ is independent of x and can be obtained from the free case $V^{(o)}(x)\equiv 0$. Since for $V^{(o)}(x)=0$,

$$G^{(o)}(z,x,x)=\frac{i}{2z^{1/2}},\quad H^{(o)}(z,x,x)=\frac{iz^{1/2}}{2}, \tag{6.18}$$

one infers

$$H(z,x,x)\underset{z\downarrow-\infty}{=}-\frac{|z|^{1/2}}{2}+o(|z|^{1/2}) \tag{6.19}$$

and hence

$$[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x)]<0 \quad \text{for } -z>0 \text{ large enough.} \tag{6.20}$$

Thus the exponential Herglotz representation [1] for $[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x)]$ yields

$$[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x)]=\exp\left\{c+\int_{\mathbb{R}}\left[\frac{1}{\lambda-z}-\frac{\lambda}{1+\lambda^2}\right][\xi_\beta(\lambda,x)+1]\right\}d\lambda \tag{6.21}$$

for some $c\in\mathbb{R}$, where for each $x\in\mathbb{R}$ and a.e. $\lambda\in\mathbb{R}$

$$\xi_\beta(\lambda,x)=\frac{1}{\pi}\lim_{\epsilon\downarrow 0}\operatorname{Im}\{\ln[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(\lambda+i\epsilon,x,x)]\}-1 \tag{6.22}$$

and

$$-1\le\xi_\beta(\lambda,x)\le 0,\quad \text{a.e. } \lambda\in\mathbb{R},\quad \xi_\beta(\lambda,x)=0\quad \lambda<\inf\operatorname{spec}(H_{\beta;x}) \tag{6.23}$$

in agreement with (6.10) and (6.20). Hence

$$\operatorname{Tr}[f(H_{\beta;x})-f(H)]=\int_{\mathbb{R}}d\lambda\,f'(\lambda)\xi_\beta(\lambda,x) \tag{6.24}$$

for any $f\in C^2(\mathbb{R})$ with $(1+\lambda^2)f^{(j)}\in L^2((0,\infty))$, $j=1,2$ and for $f(\lambda)=(\lambda-z)^{-1}$, $z\in\mathbb{C}\backslash[\inf\operatorname{spec}(H_{\beta;x}),\infty)$.

The following example in the free case $V^{(o)}(x)\equiv 0$ illustrates these facts.

Example 6.1. $V^{(o)}(x) \equiv 0$. Then $G^{(o)}(z,x,x') = \frac{i}{2z^{1/2}} \cdot e^{iz^{1/2}|x-x'|}$, $\mathrm{Im}(z^{1/2}) \geq 0$ yields

$$[(\beta + \partial_1)(\beta + \partial_2)G^{(o)}(z,x,x)] = (i/2)[\beta^2 z^{-1/2} + z^{1/2}], \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R} \tag{6.25}$$

and

$$\xi^{(o)}_\beta(\lambda, x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \lambda < -\beta^2 \\ -1, & -\beta^2 < \lambda < 0, \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R}\backslash\{0\}, \\ -\frac{1}{2}, & \lambda > 0 \end{cases} \tag{6.26}$$

$$\xi^{(o)}_o(\lambda, x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \lambda < 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2}, & \lambda > 0. \end{cases} \tag{6.27}$$

Thus

$$\mathrm{Tr}[(H^{(o)}_{\beta;x} - z)^{-1} - (H^{(o)} - z)^{-1}] = \frac{\beta^2 - z}{2z(z+\beta^2)}, \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R},\ z \in \mathbb{C}\backslash\{\{-\beta^2\} \cup [0,\infty)\}, \tag{6.28}$$

$$\mathrm{Tr}[e^{-tH^{(o)}_{\beta;x}} - e^{-tH^{(o)}}] = -\frac{1}{2} + e^{t\beta^2}, \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R},\ t > 0, \tag{6.29}$$

where $H^{(o)} = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$, $\mathcal{D}(H^{(o)}) = H^{2,2}(\mathbb{R})$. One has

$$\mathrm{spec}(H^{(o)}_{\beta;x}) = \{-\beta^2\} \cup [0,\infty), \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{6.30}$$

Next we recall the well-known fact that the Weyl m-functions $\phi_\pm(z,x)$ associated with $H_{D,\pm;x}$ in $L^2((x,\pm\infty))$ (see the paragraph following (5.23)) have the asymptotic expansion (5.18) as $z \to i\infty$ whenever V satisfies (6.2), see [3], [23], [24]. (Actually the l.p. property of h at $\pm\infty$ is irrelevant in this context and the asymptotic expansion (5.18) is valid outside any cone $|\tan\theta| < \epsilon$ for $\epsilon > 0$ arbitrarily small.) Hence (5.23), (5.31), and (6.14) imply the existence of asymptotic expansions for $G(z,x,x)$, $\frac{d}{dx}G(z,x,x)$, $H(z,x,x) = [\partial_1\partial_2 G(z,x,x)]$, and $\frac{d}{dx}H(z,x,x)$ as $z \to i\infty$ to all orders in z. In the following we derive recursion relations for the coefficients in the expansion for $[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x)]$ by reducing it to those of $G(z,x,x)$ and $H(z,x,x)$ under the assumptions (6.2) on V. The ansatz

$$G(z,x,x) \underset{z\to i\infty}{\sim} \frac{i}{2}\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} g_j(x) z^{-j-1/2} \tag{6.31}$$

inserted into the well-known differential equation for $G(z,x,x)$ (essentially equivalent to (5.19))

$$4[V(x)-z]G(z,x,x)^2 + \left[\frac{d}{dx}\,G(z,x,x)\right]^2 - 2G(z,x,x)\left[\frac{d^2}{dx^2}\,G(z,x,x)\right] = 1 \tag{6.32}$$

then yields the recursion relation [10]

$$\begin{aligned} &g_0(x) = 1, \quad g_1(x) = \frac{1}{2}\,V(x), \\ &g_{j+1}(x) = -\frac{1}{2}\sum_{\ell=1}^{j} g_\ell(x) g_{j+1-\ell}(x) + \frac{1}{2}\,V(x)\sum_{\ell=0}^{j} g_\ell(x) g_{j-\ell}(x) \\ &\quad +\frac{1}{8}\sum_{\ell=0}^{j} g'_\ell(x) g'_{j-\ell}(x) - \frac{1}{4}\sum_{\ell=0}^{j} g''_\ell(x) g_{j-\ell}(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.33}$$

Equivalently, one could have used the linear third order equation

$$\left[\frac{d^3}{dx^3}\, G(z,x,x)\right] - 4[V(x)-z]\left[\frac{d}{dx}\, G(z,x,x)\right] + V'(x)G(z,x,x) = 0 \tag{6.34}$$

to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &g_0(x) = 1, \\ &g_j'(x) = -\frac{1}{4}\, g_{j-1}'''(x) + V(x)g_{j-1}'(x) + \frac{1}{2}\, V'(x)g_{j-1}(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N} \end{aligned} \tag{6.35}$$

which yields $g_j(x)$ upon (homogeneous) integration. Here g_j are homogeneous differential polynomials in V of degree

$$\deg(g_j) = 2j, \quad j \in \mathbb{N}_0 \tag{6.36}$$

assuming $\deg(V^{(m)}) = m+2$, $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Explicitly, one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} g_0 = 1, \quad g_1(x) = \frac{1}{2}V(x), \quad g_2(x) = \frac{3}{8}V(x)^2 - \frac{1}{8}V''(x), \\ g_3(x) = \frac{1}{32}V''''(x) - \frac{5}{16}V(x)V''(x) - \frac{5}{32}V'(x)^2 + \frac{5}{16}V(x)^3, \quad \text{etc.} \end{aligned} \tag{6.37}$$

Equation (6.14) then yields

$$\frac{d}{dx}\, H(z,x,x) \underset{z\to i\infty}{\sim} \frac{i}{2}\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}[V(x)g_j'(x) - g_{j+1}'(x)]z^{-j-1/2} \tag{6.38}$$

and hence

$$H(z,x,x) \underset{z\to i\infty}{\sim} \frac{i}{2}\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}\left[\int^x dx'\, V(x')g_j'(x') - g_{j+1}(x)\right]z^{-j-1/2} + C(z). \tag{6.39}$$

Here $\int^x dx'\, V(x')g_j'(x')$ denotes homogeneous integration, that is, all integration constants are put zero. Moreover, as proven in [10],

$$g_\ell(x)g_j'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\, h_{\ell,j}(x) \tag{6.40}$$

for some homogeneous differential polynomial $h_{\ell,j}$ in V and hence $Vg_j' = 2g_1g_j'$ is a total derivative (see (6.39)). The x-independent constant $C(z)$ in (6.39) can be obtained from the free case $V(x) \equiv 0$ and one gets (cf. (6.18), (6.19))

$$C(z) = iz^{1/2}/2. \tag{6.41}$$

Alternatively, one could have used

$$H(z,x,x)^{-1} = \phi_+(z,x)^{-1} - \phi(z,x)^{-1} \tag{6.42}$$

and the asymptotic expansions (5.18) for $\phi_\pm(z,x)$. Combining (6.12), (6.31), (6.39), and (6.41) then yields

$$\begin{aligned}&[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x)] = (iz^{1/2}/2) + (i/2)\sum_{j=0}^\infty\bigg[\beta^2 g_j(x) + \beta g_j'(x)\\ &\quad + \int^x dx'\,V(x')g_j'(x') - g_{j+1}(x)\bigg]z^{-j-1/2} = (iz^{1/2}/2)\sum_{j=0}^\infty c_{\beta,j}(x)z^{-j}, \end{aligned} \tag{6.43}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}&c_{\beta,0}(x) = 1,\\ &c_{\beta,j}(x) = \beta^2 g_{j-1}(x) + \beta g_{j-1}'(x) + \int^x dx'\,V(x')g_{j-1}'(x') - g_j(x), \quad j\in\mathbb{N}.\end{aligned} \tag{6.44}$$

Explicitly, one gets

$$\begin{aligned}c_{\beta,0}(x) = 1, \quad c_{\beta,1}(x) = \beta^2 - \frac{1}{2}V(x),\\ c_{\beta,2}(x) = \frac{1}{2}\beta^2 V(x) + \frac{1}{2}\beta V'(x) - \frac{1}{8}V(x)^2 + \frac{1}{8}V''(x), \quad \text{etc.}\end{aligned} \tag{6.45}$$

Hence, applying (5.27)–(5.29) again, one infers

$$\ln[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x)] = \ln(iz^{1/2}/2) + \sum_{j=1}^\infty d_{\beta,j}(x)z^{-j}, \tag{6.46}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}&d_{\beta,1}(x) = c_{\beta,1}(x) = \beta^2 - \frac{1}{2}V(x),\\ &d_{\beta,j}(x) = c_{\beta,j}(x) - \frac{1}{j}\sum_{\ell=1}^{j-1}\ell c_{\beta,j-\ell}(x)d_{\beta,\ell}(x), \quad j\geq 2.\end{aligned} \tag{6.47}$$

Explicitly,

$$\begin{aligned}&d_{\beta,1}(x) = \beta^2 - \frac{1}{2}V(x),\\ &d_{\beta,2}(x) = -\frac{1}{2}\beta^4 + \beta^2 V(x) + \frac{\beta}{2}V'(x) - \frac{1}{4}V(x)^2 + \frac{1}{8}V''(x), \quad \text{etc.}\end{aligned} \tag{6.48}$$

This finally leads to the following theorem.

Theorem 6.2. *Suppose $V\in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, V real-valued and bounded from below. Then for each $N\in\mathbb{N}$,*

$$\begin{aligned}&\operatorname{Tr}[(H_{\beta;x}-z)^{-1} - (H-z)^{-1}] = -\frac{d}{dz}\ln[(\beta+\partial_1)(\beta+\partial_2)G(z,x,x)]\\ &\qquad \underset{z\to i\infty}{\sim}\sum_{j=0}^N r_{\beta,j}(z)z^{-j-1} + O(z^{-N-1}), \quad \beta\in\mathbb{R},\ x\in\mathbb{R},\end{aligned} \tag{6.49}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} r_{\beta,0}(x) &= -\frac{1}{2}, \\ r_{\beta,j}(x) &= jc_{\beta,j}(x) - \sum_{\ell=1}^{j-1} c_{\beta,j-\ell}(x) r_{\beta,\ell}(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N} \end{aligned} \tag{6.50}$$

with $c_{\beta,j}(x)$ *computed from* (6.44)*.*

Proof. It suffices to note that

$$r_{\beta,0}(x) = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad r_{\beta,j}(x) = jd_{\beta,j}(x), \quad j \in \mathbb{N} \tag{6.51}$$

upon differentiating (6.46) with respect to z. □

Explicitly, one obtains from (6.50), (6.44),

$$\begin{aligned} &r_{\beta,0}(x) = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad r_{\beta,1}(x) = \beta^2 - \frac{1}{2} V(x), \\ &r_{\beta,2}(x) = -\beta^4 + 2\beta^2 V(x) + \beta V'(x) - \frac{1}{2} V(x)^2 + \frac{1}{4} V''(x), \quad \text{etc.} \end{aligned} \tag{6.52}$$

It remains to express $r_{\beta,j}(x)$ in terms of $\xi_\beta(\lambda, x)$ in analogy to the resolvent regularization procedure sketched in Remark 5.6. By exactly the same procedure one proves the following result.

Theorem 6.3. *Suppose* $V \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$*,* V *real-valued and bounded from below. Assume that* (4.2) *holds and denote* $E_{\beta,o}(x) = \inf \operatorname{spec}(H_{\beta;x})$*. Then*

$$r_{\beta,0}(x) = -\frac{1}{2}, \tag{6.53}$$

$$\begin{aligned} r_{\beta,1}(x) &= \beta^2 - \frac{1}{2} V(x) \\ &= \frac{E_{\beta,o}(x)}{2} + \lim_{z \to i\infty} \int_{E_{\beta,o}(x)}^{\infty} d\lambda \, \frac{z^2}{(\lambda - z)^2} \left[\frac{1}{2} - \xi(\lambda, x) \right], \end{aligned} \tag{6.54}$$

$$r_{\beta,j}(x) = \frac{E_{\beta,o}(x)^j}{2} + \lim_{z \to i\infty} \int_{E_{\beta,o}(x)}^{\infty} d\lambda \, \frac{z^{j+1}}{(\lambda - z)^{j+1}} \, j(-\lambda)^{j-1} \left[\frac{1}{2} - \xi(\lambda, x) \right], \quad j \in \mathbb{N}, \ x \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{6.55}$$

Finally, the analog of Example 5.5 in the case where $V(x)$ is periodic reads as follows.

Example 6.4. Assume $V \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, V real-valued, for some $a > 0$, $V(x + a) = V(x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the spectrum of H is given by (5.55) while the spectrum of $H_{\beta;x}$ is of the type

$$\begin{aligned} &\operatorname{spec}(H_{\beta;x}) = \{\lambda_{\beta,n}(x)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}_0} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} [E_{2(n-1)}, E_{2n-1}], \\ &\lambda_{\beta,0}(x) \le E_0, \quad E_{2n-1} \le \lambda_{\beta,n}(x) \le E_{2n}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.56}$$

The analog of (5.56) then reads

$$\xi_\beta(\lambda,x)=\begin{cases}0, & \lambda<\lambda_{\beta,0}(x), \quad E_{2n-1}<\lambda<\lambda_{\beta,n}(x), \quad n\in\mathbb{N}\\ -1, & \lambda_{\beta,0}(x)<\lambda<E_0, \quad \lambda_{\beta,n}(x)<\lambda<E_{2n}, \quad n\in\mathbb{N}\\ -\frac{1}{2}, & E_{2(n-1)}<\lambda<E_{2n-1}, \quad n\in\mathbb{N}\end{cases} \tag{6.57}$$

and one obtains from (6.55) the higher order periodic trace formulas

$$2r_{\beta,j}(x)=E_0^j-2\lambda_{\beta,0}(x)^j+\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}[E_{2n-1}^j+E_{2n}^j-2\lambda_{\beta,n}(x)^j], \quad \beta\in\mathbb{R},\ j\in\mathbb{N},\ x\in\mathbb{R}. \tag{6.58}$$

While the periodic trace formulas (6.58) for $r_{\beta,j}(x)$ were known in the Neumann case $\beta=0$ [36] (see also [31]), the cases $\beta\in\mathbb{R}\backslash\{0\}$ in (6.58) appear to be new.

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