

# Ordering Ambiguity Revisited via Position Dependent Mass Pseudo-Momentum Operators

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*Received September 12, 2006; accepted October 23, 2006*  
*Published Online: July 28, 2007*

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Ordering ambiguity associated with the von Roos position dependent mass (PDM) Hamiltonian is considered. An affine locally scaled first order differential introduced, in Eq. (9), as a PDM-pseudo-momentum operator. Upon intertwining our Hamiltonian, which is the sum of the square of this operator and the potential function, with the von Roos  $d$ -dimensional PDM-Hamiltonian, we observed that the so-called von Roos ambiguity parameters are strictly determined, but not necessarily unique. Our new ambiguity parameters' setting is subjected to Dutra's and Almeida's, *Phys. Lett. A* **275** (2000) 25 reliability test and classified as good ordering.

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**PACS numbers:** 03.65.Ge, 03.65.Fd, 03.65.Ca

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Quantum mechanical Hamiltonians with position dependent mass (PDM) constitute interesting and useful models for the study of many physical problems (Alhaidari, 2002, 2003; Arias de Saaverda *et al.*, 1994; Bagchi *et al.*, 2004; Barranco *et al.*, 1997; Bastard, 1988; Ben Danial and Duke, 1966; Brezini *et al.*, 1995; Borges *et al.*, 1988; Burt, 1992; Cooper *et al.*, 1995; Csavinszky and Elabsy, 1988; de Souza Dutra, 2006; Dong and Lozada-Cassou, 2005; Einevoll, 1990; Einevoll and Hemmer, 1988; Galbraith and Duggan, 1988; Geller and Kohn, 1993; Gora and Williams, 1969; Hagston *et al.*, 1994; Jiang *et al.*, 2005; Koç *et al.*, 2005; Lévai, 1994; Li and Kuhn, 1993; Lipparini, 1997; Morrow and Browstein, 1984; Mustafa and Mazharimousavi, 2006a,b,c,d,e,f; Puente and Casas, 1994; Puente *et al.*, 1994; Plastino *et al.*, 2001; Quesne, 2006; Quesne and Tkachuk, 2004; Schmidt, 2006; Serra and Tanaka, 2006; von Roos, 1983; Zhu and Kroemer, 1983). They are used in the energy density many-body problem (Puente and Casas, 1994), in the determination of the electronic properties of the semiconductors (Bastard,

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1988) and quantum dots (Serra and Lipparini, 1997), in quantum liquids (Arias de Saaverda *et al.*, 1994), in  $^3\text{He}$  clusters (Barranco *et al.*, 1997) and metal clusters (Puente *et al.*, 1994), in the Bohmian approach to quantum theory (cf., e.g. Plastino *et al.*, 2001), in the full and partial wave-packet revivals (cf., e.g., Schmidt, 2006), etc. Comprehensive reviews on the applicability of such position dependent mass settings could be found in the sample of references in Arias de Saaverda *et al.* (1994), Barranco *et al.* (1997), Bastard (1988), de Souza Dutra (2006), Dong and Lozada-Cassou (2005), Puente and Casas (1994), Puente *et al.* (1994), Plastino *et al.* (2001), Schmidt (2006), Serra and Lipparini (1997), Tanaka (2006), and Quesne (2006).

However, it is concredited that an ordering ambiguity conflict arises in the process of defining a unique kinetic energy operator, due non-commutativity between the momentum operator  $\hat{p}_x = -i\partial_x$  and the position dependent mass  $M(x) = m_\circ m(x)$ . A problem that has shown poor advancement over the last few decades.

In general, working on PDM Hamiltonians is inspired by the von Roos Hamiltonian (1983) proposal (with  $\hbar = 2m_\circ = 1$ )

$$H = -\frac{1}{2}[m(x)^\alpha \partial_x m(x)^\beta \partial_x m(x)^\gamma + m(x)^\gamma \partial_x m(x)^\beta \partial_x m(x)^\alpha] + V(x) \quad (1)$$

subjected to von Roos constraint

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = -1; \quad \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{R} \quad (2)$$

Hamiltonian (1) may, in a straightforward manner and with the constraint (2), be very well recast (cf., e.g., de Souza Dutra, 2006; Quesne, 2006; Tanaka, 2006) as

$$H = -\partial_x \left( \frac{1}{m(x)} \right) \partial_x + \tilde{V}(x), \quad (3)$$

with

$$\tilde{V}(x) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \beta) \frac{m''(x)}{m(x)^2} - [\alpha(\alpha + \beta + 1) + \beta + 1] \frac{m'(x)^2}{m(x)^3} + V(x), \quad (4)$$

where primes denote derivatives. Obviously, nevertheless, the profile of  $\tilde{V}(x)$  (namely the first two terms in (4)) changes as the parameters  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  change, manifesting therefore the eruption of ordering ambiguity in the process of choosing the kinetic energy operator  $\hat{T}$ . Hence,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  are usually called the von Roos ambiguity parameters.

Several proposals for the kinetic energy operator are suggested in literature. Amongst exist; the Gora and Williams ( $\beta = \gamma = 0$ ,  $\alpha = -1$ ) (1969), Ben Danial and Duke ( $\alpha = \gamma = 0$ ,  $\beta = -1$ ) (1966), Zhu and Kroemer ( $\alpha = \gamma = -1/2$ ,  $\beta = 0$ ) (1983), and Li and Kuhn ( $\beta = \gamma = -1/2$ ,  $\alpha = 0$ ) (1993). However, the

Hermiticity of the kinetic energy operator, the current density conservation, the experimental results (Brezini *et al.*, 1995; Csavinszky and Elabsy, 1988; Einevoll and Hemmer, 1988; Galbraith and Duggan, 1988; Hagston *et al.*, 1994; Morrow and Browstein, 1984), and the condensed matter theories (Burt, 1992; Geller and Kohn, 1993) may give some ideas on the identity of the von Roos ambiguity parameters. Applying Hamiltonian (1) to an abrupt heterojunction between two crystals (cf., e.g., sample of references in Borges *et al.*, 1988; Burt, 1992; Einevoll and Hemmer, 1988; Einevoll, 1990; Geller and Kohn, 1993; Koç *et al.*, 2005), for example, implied that for  $\alpha \neq \gamma$  the wave function vanishes at the heterojunction (i.e., the heterojunction plays the role of an impenetrable barrier). Hence, the only feasible cases are due  $\alpha = \gamma$  to ensure the continuity of  $m(x)^\alpha \psi(x)$  and  $m(x)^{\alpha+\beta} [\partial_x \psi(x)]$  at the heterojunction boundary.

Very recently, however, Dutra and Almeida (2000) have carried out a reliability test on the orderings available in literature. They have used an exactly solvable Morse model and concluded that the orderings of Gora and Williams ( $a = \beta = \gamma = 0$ ,  $\alpha = -1$ ) (1969), and Ben Danial and Duke ( $a = \alpha = \gamma = 0$ ,  $\beta = -1$ ) (1966) should be discarded for they result in complex energies. Nevertheless, they have classified the ordering of Zhu and Kroemer ( $a = 0$ ,  $\alpha = \gamma = -1/2$ ,  $\beta = 0$ ) (1983), and that of Li and Kuhn ( $a = \alpha = 0$ ,  $\beta = \gamma = -1/2$ ) (1993) as good orderings. Yet, they have shown that Weyl (cf., e.g., Borges *et al.*, 1988; Koç *et al.*, 2005) and Li and Kuhn (1993) orderings are equivalent.

Ultimately, therefore, the continuity conditions at the heterojunction boundaries and Dutra's and Almeida's (2000) reliability test single out Zhu and Kroemer ( $a = 0$ ,  $\alpha = \gamma = -1/2$ ,  $\beta = 0$ ) (1983) as good ordering. This, in effect, inspires our current methodical proposal and manifests the introduction of a PDM-pseudo-momentum operator which, in turn, leads to a new good ordering.

On the other hand, within a Liouvillean-type change of variables spiritual lines, the point canonical transformation (PCT) method for Schrödinger equation often mediates a transition between two different effective potentials. That is, in the PCT settings, one needs the exact solution of a potential model in a class of shape invariant potentials to form the so-called *reference/old* potential. The *reference/old* potential along with its exact solution (i.e. eigenvalues and eigenfunctions) is then mapped into the so-called *target/new* potential, hence exact solution for the *target/new* potential is obtained. For more details on this issue the reader may refer to (e.g., Alhaidari, 2002; Mustafa and Mazharimousavi, 2006a).

In this paper, we recollect (in Section 2) the  $d$ -dimensional form of the von Roos Hamiltonian suggested by de Souza Dutra (2006), Quesne (2006), and Tanaka (2006) and introduce our PDM-pseudo-momentum operator. The consequences of such operator's setting on the von Roos ambiguity parameters are given in the same section. Moreover, the corresponding  $d$ -dimensional radial

Schrödinger Hamiltonian and the PCT  $d$ -dimensional mapping are also reported. Our concluding remarks are given in Section 3.

## 2. $d$ -DIMENSIONAL VON ROOS HAMILTONIAN AND PDM-PSEUDO-MOMENTUM OPERATORS

Quesne (2006), Tanaka (2006), and de Souza Dutra (2006) has suggested a general form of von Roos  $d$ -dimensional PDM Schrödinger equation

$$\left\{ -\frac{1}{2} [m(\mathbf{q})^\alpha \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})^\beta \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})^\gamma + m(\mathbf{q})^\gamma \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})^\beta \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})^\alpha] \right\} \psi(\mathbf{q}) + \{V(\mathbf{q}) - E\} \psi(\mathbf{q}) = 0, \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, q_2, \dots, q_d)$ ,  $\partial_j = \partial/\partial q_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, d$ ,  $m(\mathbf{q})$  is the dimensionless form of the mass  $M(\mathbf{q}) = m_0 m(\mathbf{q})$ ,  $V(\mathbf{q})$  is the potential function, and summation runs over repeated indices. In this case, the  $d$ -dimensional PDM Schrödinger Hamiltonian reads

$$H = -\partial_j \left( \frac{1}{m(\mathbf{q})} \right) \partial_j + \tilde{V}(\mathbf{q}), \quad (6)$$

with

$$\tilde{V}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \beta) \frac{\partial_j \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})}{m(\mathbf{q})^2} - [\alpha(\alpha + \beta + 1) + \beta + 1] \frac{[\partial_j m(\mathbf{q})]^2}{m(\mathbf{q})^3} + V(\mathbf{q}). \quad (7)$$

Let us now consider, for simplicity, quasi-free-particles' setting (i.e.,  $V(\mathbf{q}) = 0$ ). Then it would be obvious that the quasi-free-particles' Hamiltonian structure suggests that the kinetic energy operator

$$\hat{T} = -\partial_j \left( \frac{1}{m(\mathbf{q})} \right) \partial_j + \frac{1}{2} (1 + \beta) \frac{\partial_j \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})}{m(\mathbf{q})^2} - [\alpha(\alpha + \beta + 1) + \beta + 1] \frac{[\partial_j m(\mathbf{q})]^2}{m(\mathbf{q})^3} \quad (8)$$

may, mathematically speaking, very well be expressed as the square of a first-order differential vector operator of a general form

$$\hat{\Pi}_j = -i \{ F(m(\mathbf{q})) \partial_j + G_j(m(\mathbf{q})) \}. \quad (9)$$

This would (with  $F(m(\mathbf{q})) \equiv F(\mathbf{q}) = F$ ,  $G_j(m(\mathbf{q})) \equiv G_j(\mathbf{q}) = G_j$  for simplicity, and  $\hat{T} = \hat{\Pi}^2 = \delta_{ij} \hat{\Pi}_i \hat{\Pi}_j$ ) imply

$$\hat{T} = -F^2 \partial_j \partial_j - [F(\partial_j F) + 2FG_j] \partial_j - [F(\partial_j G_j) + G_j G_j], \quad (10)$$

If we compare Eq. (10) with (8) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(\mathbf{q}) &= \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{m(\mathbf{q})}}, \\
 \frac{\partial_j m(\mathbf{q})}{m(\mathbf{q})^2} &= -2F\partial_j F = -[F(\partial_j F) + 2FG_j], \\
 G_j &= \frac{\partial_j F}{2};
 \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

The structure of our first-order differential operator is therefore clear and can be cast as

$$\hat{\Pi}_j = -i \left\{ F(\mathbf{q})\partial_j + \frac{1}{2}[\partial_j F(\mathbf{q})] \right\}. \tag{12}$$

At this point, it should be noted that our operator  $\hat{\Pi}$  is Hermitian and represents the position-dependent-mass generalization of the ordinary momentum operator  $\hat{p}_j = -i\partial_j$  (i.e., at constant mass settings  $M(x) = m_\circ$ ). Hence,  $\hat{\Pi}$  could be labeled, hereinafter, as a *PDM-pseudo-momentum operator*.

## 2.1. Consequences of Our *PDM-pseudo-momentum Operator* $\hat{\Pi}$ on the von Roos Ambiguity Parameters

In a straightforward manner it is easy to show that

$$\hat{\Pi}^2 = -\partial_j \left( \frac{1}{m(\mathbf{q})} \right) \partial_j + \frac{1}{4} \frac{\partial_j \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})}{m(\mathbf{q})^2} - \frac{7}{16} \frac{[\partial_j m(\mathbf{q})]^2}{m(\mathbf{q})^3}. \tag{13}$$

Comparing this result with the kinetic energy operator  $T$  in (8) we obtain

$$(1 + \beta) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad [\alpha(\alpha + \beta + 1) + \beta + 1] = \frac{7}{16}, \tag{14}$$

which in turn suggests that the von Roos ambiguity parameters are strictly determined (but not necessarily unique) as

$$\beta = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha = \gamma = -\frac{1}{4}. \tag{15}$$

Hence, the  $d$ -dimensional von Roos Hamiltonian reads

$$H = -\partial_j \left( \frac{1}{m(\mathbf{q})} \right) \partial_j + \tilde{V}(\mathbf{q}) = -\vec{\nabla}_d \left( \frac{1}{m(\mathbf{q})} \right) \cdot \vec{\nabla}_d + \tilde{V}(\mathbf{q}) \tag{16}$$

with

$$\tilde{V}(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\partial_j \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})}{m(\mathbf{q})^2} - \frac{7}{16} \frac{[\partial_j m(\mathbf{q})]^2}{m(\mathbf{q})^3} + V(\mathbf{q}). \tag{17}$$

At this point, one may wish to subject such ambiguity parameters' settings (15) to Dutra's and Almeida's (2000) reliability test on the exactly solvable one-dimensional Morse model (see Eqs. (10)–(16) in de Souza Dutra and Almeida (2000)). Such test shows that the ambiguous term  $v(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, a) = \sqrt{1/4 - 2q/c^2} = 1/4$  (i.e., Eq. (16) in de Souza Dutra and Almeida (2000) for  $\alpha = \gamma = -1/4, \beta = -1/2$ ) and classifies our ordering as a *good-ordering* (along with that of Zhu's and Kroemer's (1983)).

## 2.2. Corresponding $d$ -Dimensional Radial Schrödinger Hamiltonian

We, in the forthcoming developments, shall assume the radial symmetrization of  $m(\mathbf{q})$  and  $V(\mathbf{q})$  in the  $d$ -dimensional radially symmetric Schrödinger Hamiltonian for  $d \geq 2$ . Under these settings, (17) and (18) imply

$$H_{r,d} = -\partial_j \left( \frac{1}{m(r)} \right) \partial_j + \tilde{V}(r) = -\tilde{\nabla}_d \left( \frac{1}{m(r)} \right) \cdot \tilde{\nabla}_d + \tilde{V}(r) \quad (18)$$

where

$$\tilde{V}(r) = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\partial_r^2 m(r)}{m(r)^2} - \frac{7}{16} \frac{[\partial_r m(r)]^2}{m(r)^3} + V(r); \quad \mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty) \quad (19)$$

Recollecting that the  $d$ -dimensional wave function for radially symmetric Schrödinger equation is given by

$$\Psi(\vec{r}) = r^{-(d-1)/2} R_{n_r, \ell_d}(r) Y_{\ell_d, m_d}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_{d-2}, \varphi). \quad (20)$$

would, in turn, when substituted in

$$\left\{ -\tilde{\nabla}_d \left( \frac{1}{m(r)} \right) \cdot \tilde{\nabla}_d + \tilde{V}(r) \right\} \Psi(\vec{r}) = E_d \Psi(\vec{r}), \quad (21)$$

results in the following  $d$ -dimensional radial Schrödinger equation

$$\left\{ \frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{\ell_d(\ell_d + 1)}{r^2} + \frac{m'(r)}{m(r)} \left( \frac{d-1}{2r} - \frac{d}{dr} \right) - m(r)[\tilde{V}(r) - E_d] \right\} \\ \times R_{n_r, \ell_d}(r) = 0. \quad (22)$$

Where  $\ell_d = \ell + (d-3)/2$  for  $d \geq 2$ ,  $\ell$  is the regular angular momentum quantum number, and  $n_r = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  is the radial quantum number. Of course, Eq. (23) is privileged with the inter-dimensional degeneracies associated with the isomorphism between angular momentum  $\ell$  and dimensionality  $d$ . On the other hand, moreover, the  $d = 1$  (with  $\mathbb{R} \ni r \in (0, \infty) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \ni x \in (-\infty, \infty)$ ) case can be obtained through the trivial substitutions  $\ell_d = -1$  and  $\ell_d = 0$  for even and odd parity,  $\mathcal{P} = (-1)^{\ell_d+1}$ , respectively. Yet, a unique isomorphism exists between the  $S$ -wave ( $\ell = 0$ ) energy spectrum in 3D and in 1D. On this issue, the reader may wish to refer to, e.g., Mustafa and Znojil (2002), Mustafa and Mazharimousavi

(2006a,b,c,d,e,f), Alhaidari (2002, 2003), Jiang *et al.* (2005), Quesne and Tkachuk (2004) and references cited therein.

### 2.3. Corresponding PCT $d$ -Dimensional Mapping

In this section, we closely follow Mustafa's and Mazharimousavi's recipe discussed in Alhaidari (2002), and Mustafa and Mazharimousavi (2006b). Where, a substitution of the form  $R(r) = m(r)^{1/4} \phi(Z(r))$  in (22) would result in  $Z'(r) = \sqrt{m(r)}$ , manifested by the requirement of a vanishing coefficient of the first-order derivative of  $\phi(Z(r))$  (hence a one-dimensional form of Schrödinger equation is achieved), and suggests the following point canonical transformation

$$Z(r) = \int^r \sqrt{m(y)} dy \implies \phi_{n_r, \ell_d}(Z(r)) = m(r)^{-1/4} R_{n_r, \ell_d}(r). \quad (23)$$

Which in effect implies

$$\left\{ -\frac{d^2}{dZ^2} + \frac{\ell_d(\ell_d + 1)}{r^2 m(r)} + V_{eff}(r) - E_d \right\} \phi_{n_r, \ell_d}(Z) = 0, \quad (24)$$

where

$$V_{eff}(r) = V(r) - U_d(r); \quad U_d(r) = \frac{m'(r)(d-1)}{2r m(r)^2}. \quad (25)$$

It should be noted, however, that the definition of  $U_d(r)$  in (25) is now more simplified than that in Eq. (8) of Mustafa and Mazharimousavi (2006b), and Alhaidari (2002).

On the other hand, an exactly solvable (including conditionally-exactly or quasi-exactly solvable)  $d$ -dimensional time-independent radial Schrödinger wave equation (with a constant mass  $M(x) = m_\circ$  and  $\hbar = 2m_\circ = 1$  units)

$$\left\{ -\frac{d^2}{dZ^2} + \frac{\mathcal{L}_d(\mathcal{L}_d + 1)}{Z^2} + V(Z) - \varepsilon \right\} \psi_{n_r, \ell_d}(Z) = 0 \quad (26)$$

would form a *reference* for the exact solvability of the *target* Eq. (24). That is, if the exact/conditionally-exact/quasi-exact solution (analytical/numerical) of (26) is known one can construct the exact/conditionally-exact/quasi-exact solution of (24) through the relation

$$\frac{\ell_d(\ell_d + 1)}{r^2 m(r)} + V(r) - U_d(r) - E_d \iff \frac{\mathcal{L}_d(\mathcal{L}_d + 1)}{Z^2} + V(Z) - \varepsilon, \quad (27)$$

Where  $\mathcal{L}_d$  is the  $d$ -dimensional angular momentum quantum number of the *reference* Schrödinger equation. The *reference-target* map is therefore complete and an explicit correspondence (cf. e.g., Znojil and Lévai, 2000; Alhaidari, 2003; Jiang *et al.*, 2005; Mustafa and Mazharimousavi, 2006a; Quesne and Tkachuk, 2004) between two bound state problems is obtained.

A power-law position dependent mass of the form  $m(r) = \varsigma r^\nu$ , for example, would imply a PCT function

$$Z(r) = \sqrt{\varsigma} \int^r y^{\nu/2} dy = \frac{2\sqrt{\varsigma}}{(\nu + 2)} r^{(\nu+2)/2} \implies \frac{(\nu + 2)}{2} Z(r) = r \sqrt{m(r)} \quad (28)$$

and hence Eq. (26) gives

$$U_d(r) = \frac{\nu(d - 1)}{2r^2 m(r)} \equiv \frac{2\nu(d - 1)}{(\nu + 2)^2 Z(r)^2}; \quad \nu \neq -2 \quad (29)$$

Relation (28) in effect reads,

$$\frac{\lambda(\lambda + 1)}{r^2 m(r)} \left(\frac{\nu}{2} + 1\right)^2 + V(r) - E_d \iff \frac{\mathcal{L}_d(\mathcal{L}_d + 1)}{Z^2} + V(Z) - \varepsilon, \quad (30)$$

with

$$\lambda = -\frac{1}{2} + |\nu + 2|^{-1} \sqrt{\left(\frac{\nu}{2} + 1\right)^2 + 4\ell_d(\ell_d + 1) + 2\nu(1 - d)}; \quad \nu \neq -2. \quad (31)$$

However, for  $\nu = -2 \implies m(r) = \alpha r^{-2}$  we obtain

$$Z(r) = \sqrt{\varsigma} \int^r t^{-1} dt = \sqrt{\varsigma} \ln r, \quad (32)$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{U}_d(\nu = -2) &= \frac{\ell_d(\ell_d + 1)}{\varsigma} - U_d(r, \nu = -2) \\ &= \frac{\ell_d(\ell_d + 1) + d - 1}{\varsigma}. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Which would only add a constant to the left-hand-side of (28) to yield, with  $\mathcal{L}_d = 0$  and/or  $\mathcal{L}_d = -1$  (i.e., only  $s$ -states and/or  $d = 1$  states are available from the right-hand-side of (28)),

$$V(r) + \tilde{U}_d(\nu = -2) - E_d \iff V(q) - \varepsilon. \quad (34)$$

### 3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this paper we have developed a Hermitian PDM-pseudo-momentum operator  $\hat{\Pi}_j = -i\{F(\mathbf{q})\partial_j + [\partial_j F(\mathbf{q})]/2\}$ , where  $F(\mathbf{q}) = \pm 1/\sqrt{m(\mathbf{q})}$ . Hereby, the notion of *PDM-pseudo-momentum operator* is inspired by the fact that  $\hat{\Pi}$  has an in-built regular momentum operator  $\hat{p}_j = -i\partial_j$ , which is recoverable at constant mass settings (i.e.,  $M(\mathbf{q}) = m_o \implies F(\mathbf{q}) = \pm 1$ ). Moreover, we have constructed our  $d$ -dimensional PDM-Hamiltonian,  $H_{MM} = \hat{\Pi}^2 + V(\mathbf{q})$ .

On the other hand, upon intertwining our Hamiltonian,  $H_{MM}$ , with the von Roos  $d$ -dimensional PDM-Hamiltonian,  $H_{vR} = \hat{T}_d(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) + V(\mathbf{q})$ , (cf., e.g., de



Souza Dutra, 2006; Quesne, 2006; Tanaka, 2006), we have observed that the so-called von Roos ambiguity parameters (i.e.,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ ) are strictly determined (i.e.,  $\beta = -1/2$  and  $\alpha = \gamma = -1/4$ ), but not necessarily unique of course. Therefore, the von Roos  $d$ -dimensional PDM-Hamiltonian collapses into

$$H_{vR} \implies H_{MM} = -m(\mathbf{q})^{-1/4} \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})^{-1/2} \partial_j m(\mathbf{q})^{-1/4} + V(\mathbf{q}). \quad (35)$$

On the logistical supportive sides of our strict determination of the von Roos ambiguity parameters  $\beta = -1/2$  and  $\alpha = \gamma = -1/4$ , we recollect that (Bagchi *et al.*, 2004; Cooper *et al.*, 1995; Lévai, 1994), while analyzing the so-called quasi-free-particle problem, have used an intertwining relationship  $\eta H = H_1 \eta$  (where  $\eta$  is a Darbouxal first-order intertwining operator) and reported that such choices of the ambiguity parameters correspond to smooth mass functions  $m(x)$  that signalled the formation of bound states. Yet, Borges *et al.* (1988), and Koç *et al.* (2005) have started with  $\alpha = \gamma = 0$  and  $\beta = -1$  with constant potential  $V(z) = V_0$  (Eq. (3) of Borges *et al.* (1988), and Koç *et al.* (2005)) in their study of transmission probabilities of the scattering problem through a square well potential with PDM barrier. However, they were forced to change the potential form (Eq. (4) of Borges *et al.* (1988), and Koç *et al.* (2005)) into

$$V(z) = V_0 + \frac{\hbar^2}{8m(z)^2} \left( m''(z) - \frac{7m'(z)^2}{4m(z)} \right) \quad (36)$$

which is exactly the same form of the effective potential that comes out from our Eq. (17) with the new  $\beta = -1/2$  and  $\alpha = \gamma = -1/4$  parameters setting (of course one should mind the units used in this paper,  $\hbar = 2m_0 = 1$ ). Moreover, Dutra's and Almeida's (2000) reliability test resulted in classifying our ordering as a *good-ordering* (along with that of Zhus and Kroemer's, 1983; Li and Kuhn's, 1993).

Therefore, the continuity conditions at the heterojunction boundaries and de Souza Dutra's and Almeida's (2000) reliability test would ultimately single out Zhu and Kroemer ( $a = 0$ ,  $\alpha = \gamma = -1/2$ ,  $\beta = 0$ ) (1983) and our new ordering ( $\beta = -1/2$ ,  $\alpha = \gamma = -1/4$ ) as *good orderings*.

On the least consequential research stimulant side, such ambiguity parameters' setting would, in effect, flourish a production-line for new sets of exactly-solvable, quasi-exactly solvable, and conditionally-exactly solvable *target/new* Hamiltonian models. The point canonical transformation (PCT) method used in this work exemplifies one of the methods that generate such spectrum of exact-solvability. For example, for a *reference/old* exactly-solvable

$$\tilde{V}_{eff}(Z) = \frac{\mathcal{L}_d(\mathcal{L}_d + 1)}{Z^2} + V(Z)$$

in (30) there is a corresponding *target/new* exactly-solvable

$$\tilde{V}_{\text{eff}}(r) = \frac{\lambda(\lambda + 1)}{r^2 m(r)} \left( \frac{v}{2} + 1 \right)^2 + V(r)$$

where  $\lambda$  is given by (31) and  $v \neq -2$ . Yet, a comprehensive number of illustrative examples on the generalized  $d$ -dimensional PCT is given by Alhaidari (2002), and Mustafa and Mazharimousavi (2006b). Of course other methods designed to obtain exact-solvability do exist. Amongst, we may name the Lie algebraic method (cf., e.g., Bagchi *et al.* (2004), Cooper *et al.* (1995), and Lévai (1994)), intertwining operators related to supersymmetric quantum mechanics (SUSYQM) method (cf., e.g., de Souza Dutra (2006), Quesne (2006), and Tanaka (2006)), and the shape-invariance technique (cf., e.g., de Souza Dutra (2006), Quesne (2006), Tanaka (2006), Bagchi *et al.* (2004), Cooper *et al.* (1995), and Lévai (1994)).

On the feasible applicability side of our strictly determined von Roos ambiguity parameters, the applicability of such ambiguity parameters' recipe should not only be restricted to Hermitian PDM Hamiltonians but also to a broader class of non-Hermitian PDM  $\eta$ -weak-pseudo-Hermitian Hamiltonians (cf., e.g., Mustafa and Mazharimousavi (2006c,d,e,f) and related references cited therein).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the referee for the valuable comments and suggestions.

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