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On superintegrable symmetry-breaking potentials in *N*-dimensional Euclidean space

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Abstract

We give a graphical prescription for obtaining and characterizing all separable coordinates for which the Schrödinger equation admits separable solutions for one of the superintegrable potentials

or

$$V = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{n} \left[\frac{k_{\ell}^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{x_{\ell}^2} + \omega^2 x_{\ell}^2 \right] + 2\omega^2 x_{n+1}^2$$
$$V = -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_{n+1}^2}} + \sum_{\ell=1}^{n} \frac{\frac{1}{4} - k_{\ell}^2}{x_{\ell}^2} \right)$$

Here x_{n+1} is a distinguished Cartesian variable. The algebra of second-order symmetries of the resulting Schrödinger equation is given and, for the first potential, the closure relations of the corresponding quadratic algebra. These potentials are particularly interesting because they occur in all dimensions $n \ge 1$, the separation of variables problem is highly nontrivial for them, and many other potentials are limiting cases.

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1. Introduction

In previous papers we have looked at two- and three-dimensional superintegrable potentials for which the Schrödinger equation is maximally superintegrable [1–4]. (As the first investigation of superintegrable potentials we also refer to papers [5–7]. Many examples of the relation

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between symmetry and variable separation are given in [8].) In this paper we extend our study to the case of N-dimensional Euclidean space, where the requirement is that the potentials admit 2N - 1 functionally independent second-order symmetries. As shown previously for two- and three-dimensional Euclidean space, the potentials we consider have bound state solutions which can be found in polynomial form. Using the graphical calculus developed for separable coordinates in Euclidean N-space and on the *n*-sphere [9, 10] we are able to describe systematically coordinate separation and bound state solutions for a large class of superintegrable systems. The basic equation that we investigate is of course Schrödinger's equation (N = n + 1)

$$H\Psi = -\frac{1}{2}\Delta_N\Psi + V(\vec{x})\Psi = -\frac{1}{2}\sum_{\ell=1}^N \partial_{x_\ell}^2\Psi + V(\vec{x})\Psi = E\Psi.$$
 (1)

Our goal is to find, for two particularly chosen superintegrable potentials, all solutions of this equation via a separation of variables ansatz $\Psi = \prod_{j=1}^{n} \psi_j(u_j)$ for all possible coordinate systems u_j . These potentials are exceptional. Not only are they superintegrable (admitting 2N - 1 functionally independent second-order constants of the motion), but also they occur for all $N = n + 1 \ge 2$, and contain many other special potentials as limiting cases. They have a distinguished Cartesian coordinate x_{n+1} , and due to this symmetry breaking, these potentials do not separate in all coordinate systems for which the zero potential Schrödinger equation separates. However, they do separate in a large subclass of such systems, large in the sense that the number of separable systems grows without bound as $N \to \infty$. Though the analysis is complicated, we can use the graphical characterization of all separable systems also separate for the given potentials. The two cases are the nonisotropic oscillator potential

(I)
$$V = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{n} \left[\frac{k_{\ell}^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{x_{\ell}^2} + \omega^2 x_{\ell}^2 \right] + 2\omega^2 x_{n+1}^2 + \rho x_{n+1}$$

and the nonisotropic Coulomb potential

(II)
$$V = -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_{n+1}^2}} + \sum_{\ell=1}^n \frac{\frac{1}{4} - k_\ell^2}{x_\ell^2} \right).$$

A third superintegrable potential, an extension of the isotropic oscillator,

(III)
$$V = \frac{1}{2}\omega^2 \left(x_1^2 + \dots + x_{n+1}^2\right) + \sum_{\ell=1}^{n+1} \frac{k_\ell^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{x_\ell^2}$$

also belongs to this group. However, the variable separation problem for that case is relatively simple and is well known [11–13] (ellipsoidal coordinates and all possible limiting cases of these coordinates). Potentials (I) and (III) are *nondegenerate* in the sense of [3], i.e., they form an (N + 1)-parameter family such that at any regular point **x** one can choose the values of the N + 1 quantities $\partial V / \partial x_j$ and $\partial^2 V / \partial x_N^2$ arbitrarily. (This is so even though for a fixed choice of parameters we can always translate coordinates in (I) so that $\rho = 0$.) On the other hand, potential (II) is *degenerate*, it depends on only N parameters.

To shed some insight on the concept of nondegeneracy we digress and examine the relationship between the potential and the invariants in a classical superintegrable system. Let the Hamiltonian be

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^{N} p_i^2 + V(\mathbf{x})$$
⁽²⁾

$${H, A^{(m)}} = 0$$
 $m = 1, ..., 2N - 1$ (3)

where

$$A^{(m)} = \sum_{j,k=1}^{N} A_{jk}^{(m)}(\mathbf{x}) p_j p_k + W^{(m)}(\mathbf{x}) \qquad A_{jk}^{(m)} = A_{kj}^{(m)}.$$
 (4)

The integrability conditions for the matrix components and the potential are

$$\partial_i A_{jk}^{(m)} + \partial_j A_{ki}^{(m)} + \partial_k A_{ij}^{(m)} = 0$$
⁽⁵⁾

and

A

$$A_{jk}^{(m)}(\partial_{jj}V - \partial_{kk}V) + \left(A_{kk}^{(m)} - A_{jj}^{(m)}\right)\partial_{jk}V + \sum_{\ell \neq j,k} \left(A_{k\ell}^{(m)}\partial_{j\ell}V - A_{j\ell}^{(m)}\partial_{k\ell}V\right) \\ = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\partial_{k}A_{ji}^{(m)} - \partial_{j}A_{ki}^{(m)}\right)\partial_{i}V$$
(6)

for m = 1, ..., 2N - 1 and $1 \le j < k \le N$. Expressions (5) are the equations for secondorder Killing tensors [14]. The space of solutions is $N(N + 1)^2(N + 2)/12$ dimensional and each component $A_{jk}^{(m)}$ is a second-order polynomial in the Cartesian coordinates. For fixed (j, k) and m = 2, ..., 2N - 1, expressions (6) constitute 2N - 2 equations for the 2N - 2unknowns $\partial_{jj}V - \partial_{kk}V$, $\partial_{jk}V$, $\partial_{j\ell}V$, $\partial_{k\ell}V$, $\ell \ne j, k$.

In all, expressions (6) constitute $M = N(N-1)^2$ equations for P = (N+2)(N-1)/2unknowns (the independent second derivatives of V). We can write this system in the form $AV_2 = V_1$ where A is $M \times P$, V_2 is the $P \times 1$ vector of second-order derivatives of V and V_1 is the $M \times 1$ vector containing the terms that are first-order derivatives of V. We say that this system is *nondegenerate* provided three conditions are satisfied:

- 1. A has rank P, the maximum possible.
- 2. The augmented matrix $\mathcal{A}' = (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V}_1)$ also has rank *P*.

These two conditions imply that we can (uniquely) solve for the *P* second-order derivatives $\partial_{jj}V - \partial_{NN}V$, $1 \leq j < N$ and $\partial_{ik}V$, $1 \leq i < k \leq N$ as linear combinations of the *N* functions $\partial_i V$ with coefficients that are rational functions of the Cartesian coordinates,

$$\partial_{jj}V - \partial_{NN}V = \sum_{\ell=1}^{N} B_{\ell}^{jj}(\mathbf{x})\partial_{\ell}V$$

$$\partial_{ik}V = \sum_{\ell=1}^{N} B_{\ell}^{ik}(\mathbf{x})\partial_{\ell}V.$$
(7)

(This is most easily seen, for example, if all *P*-rowed minors in \mathcal{A} are nonzero. Then one can find solutions of the form (7), and if \mathcal{A}' also has rank *P*, these solutions are consistent.) From these expressions we can solve for all the third-order derivatives $\partial_{ijk} V$ and all higher order derivatives, as linear combinations of the derivatives $\partial_{NN} V$, $\partial_i V$, $1 \le i \le N$. We require that this process puts no further restrictions on the components.

3. All higher derivatives of V can be determined unambiguously from relations (7), i.e., the integrability conditions are satisfied identically.

We say that \mathbf{x}_0 is a *regular point* if all the rational functions $B_\ell^{jj}(\mathbf{x})$, $B_\ell^{ik}(\mathbf{x})$ are well defined at $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_0$.

From the definition of nondegeneracy one can show that the potential V is nondegenerate if and only if it is uniquely determined by the N + 2 parameters $\partial_{NN}V(\mathbf{x}_0)$, $\partial_i V(\mathbf{x}_0)$, $V(\mathbf{x}_0)$, and these parameters can be prescribed arbitrarily at the regular point \mathbf{x}_0 .

All known nondegenerate superintegrable systems have the property that there is a quadratic algebra of constants of the motion. In particular, there is a basis for these constants that closes under a finite number of commutators. We verify that this is indeed the case for system (I). The structure of the quadratic algebra, which we work out, provides important information for interbasis expansions relating the separable systems. On the other hand, the basis constants for the degenerate system (II) do not close under a finite number of commutators.

2. Nonisotropic N-dimensional oscillator

The first potential that we consider is

$$V(\vec{x}, X) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{n} \left[\frac{k_{\ell}^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{x_{\ell}^2} + \omega^2 x_{\ell}^2 \right] + 2\omega^2 X^2$$
(8)

where $(x_1, \ldots, x_n, x_{n+1}) = (\vec{x}, X)$. From the known separable systems on the *n*-dimensional sphere and in *N*-dimensional Euclidean space [9, 10], we will see that the separation of variables problem can be solved for this multiparameter potential [13]. To completely describe the separable coordinates for the corresponding Schrödinger equation it will be convenient to consider first some special classes of coordinate systems. These will provide the groundwork for the complete classification of all such systems. Each such coordinate system gives rise to separation constants which are second-order symmetries of the corresponding Schrödinger equation. A basis for the vector space of such symmetries is given by

$$M_{i} = \partial_{x_{i}}^{2} - \omega^{2} x_{i}^{2} + \frac{\frac{1}{4} - k_{i}^{2}}{x_{i}^{2}}$$
(9)

$$L_{ij} = \left(x_i \partial_{x_j} - x_j \partial_{x_i}\right)^2 + \frac{x_i^2}{x_j^2} \left(\frac{1}{4} - k_j^2\right) + \frac{x_j^2}{x_i^2} \left(\frac{1}{4} - k_i^2\right) - \frac{1}{2}$$
(10)

$$L = \partial_X^2 - 4\omega^2 X^2 \tag{11}$$

$$U_{i} = \frac{1}{2} \{ \partial_{X}, x_{i} \partial_{X} - X \partial_{x_{i}} \} + \omega^{2} X x_{i}^{2} + \frac{X}{x_{i}^{2}} \left(\frac{1}{4} - k_{j}^{2} \right).$$
(12)

(Note: strictly speaking, there should be a term ρX added to the expression (8) for the nonisotropic oscillator potential, but we can translate the X coordinate so that this term becomes zero. (Addition of a constant to the potential is ignored.) It is worth a few words to explain why this is the case and why it does not occur for other superintegrable systems. In our classification of nondegenerate superintegrable systems we categorize the *space of secondorder symmetry operators* for each system up to equivalence under Euclidean transformations, *not* the corresponding *potentials*. Once the space of symmetries is fixed, we calculate all potentials that are compatible with this space. Ordinarily each of our spaces of symmetry operators on a list of superintegrable potentials admits no proper subgroup of E(N, R) as a symmetry group, i.e., any Euclidean transformation maps the space into a distinct space of symmetries. However, for case (I) the space of symmetries is invariant under translations in X. (The individual symmetry operators change but the space is invariant.) Thus the ρX term should appear, since it is compatible with the symmetry space, but it can be made zero by a translation.)

We first consider separable coordinate systems for which X remains unchanged. In addition, we consider the various forms of coordinates for which there is a polar coordinate r. Typically such coordinates have the form

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n, X) = (r\vec{s}, X) = (rs_1, \dots, rs_n, X)$$
 (13)

where

$$\vec{s} = 1. \tag{14}$$

For coordinates of this type the corresponding separable solutions of the Schrödinger equation have the form $\Psi(r, \vec{s}, X) = F(r)\Phi(\vec{s})G(X)$. The effect of this choice is to reduce the problem to the equivalent one on the (n - 1)-dimensional sphere with corresponding Rosokhatius [15] potential

$$V_1 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^n \frac{k_\ell^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{s_\ell^2}.$$
(15)

Indeed, the corresponding Schrödinger equation

 \vec{s} .

$$H_1\Phi = -\frac{1}{2}\Delta_{LB}^{(n-1)}\Phi + V_1\Phi = E\Phi \tag{6}$$

where

$$\Delta_{LB}^{(n-1)} = \sum_{n \ge j > k \ge 1} \left(s_j \partial_{s_k} - s_k \partial_{s_j} \right)^2 \tag{17}$$

is separable in all the coordinates for which the zero-potential Schrödinger equation is separable. (The potential is a Stäckel multiplier [16].) The complete solution of this latter problem is known [17] (see also [13] for hyperspherical coordinates). The various coordinates can be constructed from a knowledge of the solution to this problem for elliptic coordinates in p dimensions. In graphical notation [9, 10], this corresponds to

$$[e_1|\ldots|e_{p+1}]. \tag{18}$$

The associated coordinates on the p-dimensional sphere have the form

$$s_i^2 = \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{p} (u_j - e_i)}{\prod_{k \neq i} (e_i - e_k)} \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots, p+1$$
(19)

where $e_1 < u_1 < e_2 < \cdots < u_p < e_{p+1}$. In terms of these coordinates, the corresponding Schrödinger equation (16) is

$$\sum_{i=1}^{p} \frac{4}{\prod_{\ell \neq i} (u_i - u_\ell)} \left\{ \prod_{q=1}^{p+1} (u_i - e_q) \left[\partial_{u_i}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m=1}^{p+1} \frac{1}{u_i - e_m} \partial_{u_i} \right] + \sum_{q=1}^{p+1} \left(\frac{1}{4} - k_q^2 \right) \frac{\prod_{k \neq q} (e_q - e_k)}{\prod_{j=1}^p (u_j - e_q)} \right\} \Psi = -2E\Psi.$$
(20)

The separation equations are

$$4\left\{\prod_{q=1}^{p+1} (u_i - e_q) \left[\partial_{u_i}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m=1}^{p+1} \frac{1}{u_i - e_m} \partial_{u_i}\right]\right\} \psi_i(u_i) + \left[\sum_{\ell=1}^{p+1} \left(\frac{1}{4} - k_\ell^2\right) \frac{\prod_{j \neq \ell} (u_i - e_j)}{(u_i - e_\ell)} - 2Eu_i^{p-1} + \sum_{\ell=0}^{p-2} (-1)^\ell \lambda_\ell^p u_i^\ell\right] \psi_i(u_i) = 0$$
(21)

16)

for i = 1, ..., p. We find the solutions of this equation as follows. If we make the ansatz

$$\Psi = \left(\prod_{\ell=1}^{p+1} s_{\ell}^{k_{\ell}+1/2}\right) \prod_{m=1}^{q} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{p+1} \frac{s_j^2}{\theta_m - e_j}\right)$$

the zeros must satisfy [17]

$$\sum_{j=1}^{p+1} \frac{k_j + 1}{\theta_q - e_j} + \sum_{l \neq q} \frac{2}{\theta_q - \theta_l} = 0.$$
 (22)

This ansatz is based on the identity

$$\sum_{j=1}^{p+1} \frac{s_j^2}{\theta - e_j} = -\frac{\prod_{i=1}^p (u_i - \theta)}{\prod_{j=1}^{p+1} (\theta - e_j)}.$$
(23)

The operators that specify the separation constants are

$$\Lambda_{j}^{p} = \sum_{i_{p} \neq i_{p+1}} S_{i_{1}\dots i_{p-1}}^{j+1} \left(L_{i_{p}i_{p+1}} - k_{i_{p}}^{2} - k_{i_{p+1}}^{2} \right) + \sum_{i_{p+1}} (j+1) S_{i_{1}\dots i_{p}} \left(k_{i_{p+1}}^{2} - \frac{1}{4} \right).$$
(24)

The eigenvalues of E and these operators are

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \left[2q + p + \sum_{j=1}^{p+1} k_j \right]^2 - \frac{1}{8} (p-1)^2$$
(25)

$$\lambda_{j}^{p} = \sum_{i_{p+1}=1}^{p+1} \left[4S_{i_{1}\dots i_{p}}^{p-j} \sum_{m=1}^{q} \frac{(k_{i_{p+1}}+1)}{\theta_{m} - e_{i_{p+1}}} + 2S_{i_{1}\dots i_{p-1}}^{p-j-1} k_{i_{p}} k_{i_{p+1}} + 2(j+1)S_{i_{1}\dots i_{p}}^{p-j-1} k_{i_{p+1}} + \frac{1}{4}(j+1)(2j+5)S_{i_{1}\dots i_{p+1}}^{p-j-1} \right].$$
(26)

Here the symbol $S_{j_1...j_t}^r$ denotes the sum of all products of *r* elements taken from $e_{j_1}, ..., e_{j_t}$, where $j_1, ..., j_t$ are all different and the symbol is symmetric in the indices $j_1, ..., j_t$, e.g.,

$$S_{123}^1 = e_1 + e_2 + e_3$$
 $S_{123}^2 = e_1e_2 + e_1e_3 + e_2e_3$.

Effectively the sum in these formulae is taken over i_{p+1} as indicated. In order to obtain the basic building blocks we need to illustrate how coordinates corresponding to the diagram

$$\begin{bmatrix} e_1 & | & e_2 & | & \cdots & | & e_{p+1} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow \qquad \cdots \qquad \downarrow$$

$$S_{n_1} \qquad S_{n_2} \qquad \cdots \qquad S_{n_{p+1}}$$
(27)

give rise to separable solutions and how the wavefunctions can be computed. A convenient choice of coordinates in this case is

$$(v_1, \dots, v_N) = \left(s_1 \vec{w}_{n_1}, \dots, s_{p+1} \vec{w}_{n_{p+1}}\right)$$
(28)

where $\vec{w}_{n_j} = (w_{n_j}^1, \dots, w_{n_j}^{n_j+1})$ is a unit vector on the sphere S_{n_j} and $N = \sum_{j=1}^{p+1} n_j + p + 1$. If we now redefine the k_i according to

$$\vec{k} = (k_1, \dots, k_N) = \left(K_{11}, \dots, K_{1n_1+1}, K_{21}, \dots, K_{2n_2+1}, \dots, K_{p+1n_{p+1}+1}\right)$$
(29)

then a solution of the Schrödinger equation can be obtained in the form

$$\Psi = \prod_{\ell=1}^{p+1} s_{\ell}^{\Gamma_{\ell} - n_{\ell} + 1/2} \left[\prod_{m=1}^{s} \left\{ \left(\sum_{j=1}^{p+1} \frac{s_{j}^{2}}{\theta_{m} - e_{j}} \right) \chi_{n_{m}}(w_{n_{m}}) \right\} \right]$$
(30)

where

$$\Gamma_{\ell} = 2m_{\ell} + n_{\ell} + 1 + \sum_{h=1}^{n_{\ell}+1} K_{\ell h} \qquad E = \frac{1}{2} \left(2s + \sum_{\ell=1}^{N} \Gamma_{\ell} + p \right)^2 - \frac{1}{8} (p-1)^2$$

and

$$\left[\Delta_{LB}^{(n_{\ell})} + \sum_{h=1}^{n_{\ell}+1} \frac{\frac{1}{4} - K_{\ell h}^2}{\left(w_{n_{\ell}}^h\right)^2}\right] \chi_{n_{\ell}}\left(\vec{w}_{n_m}\right) = \left[\frac{1}{4}(n_{\ell} - 1)^2 - \Gamma_{\ell}^2\right] \chi_{n_{\ell}}\left(\vec{w}_{n_m}\right).$$
(31)

The equation satisfied by the zeros θ_m is

$$\sum_{n=1}^{p+1} \frac{\Gamma_n + 1}{\theta_s - e_n} + \sum_{r \neq s} \frac{2}{\theta_s - \theta_r} = 0.$$
 (32)

The separation equations are

[

$$4\prod_{q=1}^{p+1} (u_i - e_q) \left[\partial_{u_i}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m=1}^{p+1} \frac{n_m}{u_i - e_m} \partial_{u_i} \right] \psi_i(u_i) + \left\{ \sum_{\ell=1}^{p+1} \left[\frac{1}{4} (n_\ell - 1)^2 - \Gamma_\ell^2 \right] \frac{\prod_{j \neq \ell} (u_i - e_j)}{(u_i - e_\ell)} - 2Eu_i^{p-1} + \sum_{\ell=1}^{p-1} (-1)^\ell \lambda_\ell u_i^{\ell-1} \right\} \psi_i(u_i) = 0.$$
(33)

The eigenvalues λ_ℓ are given by the formulae used for general elliptic coordinates corresponding to the diagram

$$[e_1|\ldots|e_{p+1}] \tag{34}$$

but with the replacement $k_j \to \Gamma_j$, j = 1, ..., p+1. This enables us to give all the separable coordinates of the type for the potential under consideration.

We give an example of how this works. Consider the coordinate system described by the diagram

This diagram corresponds to the choice of coordinates

$$(s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4, s_5, s_6) = (t_1 w_1, t_1 w_2, t_1 w_3, t_2, t_3 r_1, t_3 r_2)$$
(36)

where

$$t_i^2 = \frac{\prod_{j=1}^2 (u_j - e_i)}{\prod_{k \neq i} (e_i - e_k)} \qquad i = 1, 2, 3$$
(37)

$$w_i^2 = \frac{\prod_{j=1}^2 (v_j - a_i)}{\prod_{k \neq i} (a_i - a_k)} \qquad i = 1, 2, 3$$
(38)

$$r_i^2 = \frac{y - c_i}{\prod_{k \neq i} (c_i - c_k)} \qquad i = 1, 2.$$
(39)

The solutions to the corresponding Schrödinger equation with potential

$$V = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{6} \frac{k_{\ell}^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{s_{\ell}^2}$$

have the form $\Psi = \Psi_1(u_1, u_2)\Psi_2(v_1, v_2)\Psi_3(y)$ where

$$\Psi_{3}(y) = r_{1}^{k_{5}+1/2} r_{2}^{k_{6}+1/2} \prod_{\ell=1}^{m} \left(\frac{r_{1}^{2}}{\varphi_{\ell} - c_{1}} + \frac{r_{2}^{2}}{\varphi_{\ell} - c_{2}} \right)$$
(40)

$$\Psi_2(v_1, v_2) = w_1^{k_1 + 1/2} w_2^{k_2 + 1/2} w_3^{k_3 + 1/2} \prod_{b=1}^n \left(\frac{w_1^2}{\theta_b - a_1} + \frac{w_2^2}{\theta_b - a_2} + \frac{w_3^2}{\theta_b - a_3} \right)$$
(41)

$$\Psi_1(u_1, u_2) = t_1^{\Gamma_1 - 1/2} t_2^{\Gamma_2 + 1/2} t_3^{\Gamma_3} \prod_{j=1}^o \left(\frac{t_1^2}{\mu_j - e_1} + \frac{t_2^2}{\mu_j - e_2} + \frac{t_3^2}{\mu_j - e_3} \right)$$
(42)

with $\Gamma_1 = 2n + 2 + k_1 + k_2 + k_3$, $\Gamma_2 = k_4$ and $\Gamma_3 = 2m + 1 + k_5 + k_6$. The equations satisfied by the zeros are

$$\frac{k_5+1}{\varphi_s - c_1} + \frac{k_6+1}{\varphi_s - c_2} + \sum_{r \neq s} \frac{2}{\varphi_s - \varphi_r} = 0$$
(43)

$$\frac{k_1+1}{\theta_s - a_1} + \frac{k_2+1}{\theta_s - a_2} + \frac{k_3+1}{\theta_s - a_3} + \sum_{r \neq s} \frac{2}{\theta_s - \theta_r} = 0$$
(44)

$$\frac{\Gamma_1 + 1}{\mu_s - e_1} + \frac{\Gamma_2 + 1}{\mu_s - e_2} + \frac{\Gamma_3 + 1}{\mu_s - e_3} + \sum_{r \neq s} \frac{2}{\mu_s - \mu_r} = 0.$$
(45)

The separation equations for these solutions are

$$4(y-c_1)(y-c_2)\left\{\partial_y^2 + \frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{1}{y-c_1} + \frac{1}{y-c_2}\right]\partial_y\right\}\Psi_3(y) + \left[(c_1-c_2)\left(\frac{\frac{1}{4}-k_5^2}{y-c_1} - \frac{\frac{1}{4}-k_6^2}{y-c_2}\right) + \Gamma_3^2\right]\Psi_3(y) = 0$$
(46)

$$\left\{4(v_{i}-a_{1})(v_{i}-a_{2})(v_{i}-a_{3})\left[\partial_{v_{i}}^{2}+\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{v_{i}-a_{1}}+\frac{1}{v_{i}-a_{2}}+\frac{1}{v_{i}-a_{3}}\right)\partial_{v_{i}}\right] + \left(\frac{1}{4}-k_{1}^{2}\right)\frac{(v_{i}-a_{2})(v_{i}-a_{3})}{(v_{i}-a_{1})} + \left(\frac{1}{4}-k_{2}^{2}\right)\frac{(v_{i}-a_{1})(v_{i}-a_{3})}{(v_{i}-a_{2})} + \left(\frac{1}{4}-k_{3}^{2}\right)\frac{(v_{i}-a_{2})(v_{i}-a_{1})}{(v_{i}-a_{3})} - 2\left(\frac{1}{4}-\Gamma_{1}^{2}\right)v_{i}+\lambda\right\}\psi_{2}^{i}(v_{i}) = 0 \quad (47)$$

where $\Psi_2(v_1, v_2) = \psi_2^1(v_1)\psi_2^2(v_2)$,

$$\left\{ 4(u_i - e_1)(u_i - e_2)(u_i - e_3) \left[\partial_{u_i}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{3}{u_i - e_1} + \frac{1}{u_i - e_2} + \frac{2}{u_i - e_3} \right) \partial_{u_i} \right] + \left(1 - \Gamma_1^2 \right) \frac{(u_i - e_2)(u_i - e_3)}{(u_i - e_1)} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \Gamma_2^2 \right) \frac{(u_i - e_1)(u_i - e_3)}{(u_i - e_2)} - \Gamma_3^2 \frac{(u_i - e_2)(u_i - e_1)}{(u_i - e_3)} - 2Eu_i + \eta \right\} \varphi_1^i(u_i) = 0$$

$$(48)$$

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where $\Phi_1(u_1, u_2) = \varphi_1^1(u_1)\varphi_1^2(u_2)$ and

 $E = (2(m + n + o + 3) + k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 + k_5 + k_6)^2 - \frac{9}{4}.$

The operators describing the separation constants Γ_3^2 , λ , $\frac{1}{4} - \Gamma_1^2$, η and 2E are

$$\Gamma_3^2 = L_{56} + 1 - k_5^2 - k_6^2$$

$$\lambda = -a_1 L_{23} - a_2 L_{13} - a_3 L_{12} - \frac{1}{2}(a_1 + a_2 + a_3)$$
(49)
(49)

$$\frac{1}{4} - \Gamma_1^2 = L_{12} + L_{13} + L_{23}$$
(51)

$$\eta = e_1(L_{45} + L_{46}) + e_2(L_{15} + L_{25} + L_{35} + L_{16} + L_{26} + L_{36})$$

$$+e_3(L_{14}+L_{24}+L_{34}) - \frac{1}{2}(e_1+e_2+e_3)$$
(52)

$$2E = \sum_{1 < i < j < 6} L_{ij} \tag{53}$$

respectively. The eigenvalues λ and η are given by

$$\lambda = -a_1(k_2k_3 + k_2 + k_3) - a_2(k_1k_3 + k_1 + k_3) - a_3(k_2k_1 + k_2 + k_1) - \frac{3}{2}(a_1 + a_2 + a_3) + 4a_2a_3(k_1 + 1)\sum_{\ell=1}^n \frac{1}{\theta_\ell - a_1} + 4a_2a_1(k_3 + 1)\sum_{\ell=1}^n \frac{1}{\theta_\ell - a_3} + 4a_3a_1(k_2 + 1)\sum_{\ell=1}^n \frac{1}{\theta_\ell - a_2}$$
(54)

$$\eta = -e_1(k_4\Gamma_3 + k_4 + \Gamma_3) - e_2(\Gamma_1\Gamma_3 + \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_3) - e_3(k_4\Gamma_1 + k_4 + \Gamma_1) - \frac{3}{2}(\Gamma_1 + k_4 + \Gamma_3) + 4e_2e_3(\Gamma_1 + 1)\sum_{\ell=1}^{o} \frac{1}{\mu_\ell - e_1} + 4e_2e_1(\Gamma_3 + 1)\sum_{\ell=1}^{o} \frac{1}{\mu_\ell - e_3} + 4e_3e_1(k_4 + 1)\sum_{\ell=1}^{o} \frac{1}{\mu_\ell - e_2}.$$
(55)

We have established the following result. For the potential V_1 , solution of the Schrödinger equation via the separation of variables ansatz is possible in all the coordinate systems for which the Helmholtz equation on the sphere is separable. In terms of the graphical calculus, all separable systems on the sphere are constructed from tree graphs whose components come from the branching rule

$$\begin{bmatrix} e_1 & | & e_2 & | & \cdots & | & e_q \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \downarrow \qquad \cdots \qquad \downarrow$$

$$S_1 \qquad S_2 \qquad \cdots \qquad S_q$$
(56)

where S_j indicates coordinates on the sphere of dimension $n_j = \dim S_j$.

Now that we see how the separation of variables works on the sphere for the potential V_1 , we can describe how separation of variables works in the case of the potential

$$V_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^n \left[\frac{k_\ell^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{x_\ell^2} + \omega^2 x_\ell^2 \right].$$
 (57)

The corresponding Schrödinger equation can be solved by separation of variables in all the coordinates for which the corresponding Helmholtz equation can be solved. The coordinates for which this is possible consist of a disjoint sum of graphs of the form

where the symbol $\langle e_1 | \dots | e_m \rangle$ denotes elliptic coordinates in *m*-dimensional Euclidean space [10], namely

$$x_i^2 = \frac{\prod_{j=1}^m (z_j - e_i)}{\prod_{k \neq i} (e_i - e_k)} \qquad i = 1, \dots, m.$$
(59)

The standard choice of coordinates for the above diagram is

$$\vec{r} = (x_1 \vec{w}_1, \dots, x_m \vec{w}_m) \tag{60}$$

where each \vec{w}_j lies on a unit sphere of dimension p_j . The corresponding Schrödinger equation can be written in the form

$$\left\{\partial_{\vec{x}} \cdot \partial_{\vec{x}} - \omega^2 \vec{x} \cdot \vec{x} + \sum_{\ell=1}^m \left[\frac{1}{4}(p_\ell - 1)^2 - \Gamma_\ell^2\right] \frac{1}{x_\ell^2} + 2E\right\} \Psi = 0$$
(61)

where

$$\Delta_{LB}^{(j)}\Psi = \left[\frac{1}{4}(p_j - 1)^2 - \Gamma_j^2\right]\Psi$$
(62)

for j = 1, ..., m. If we write this out in elliptical coordinates z_k the equality assumes the form

$$\begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left[\frac{4}{\Pi_{\ell \neq i} (z_i - z_\ell)} \prod_{q=1}^{m} (z_i - e_q) \left[\partial_{z_i}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{m} \frac{p_\ell}{z_i - e_\ell} \partial_{z_i} \right] \right. \\ \left. + \left[\frac{1}{4} (p_i - 1)^2 - \Gamma_i^2 \right] \frac{\Pi_{k \neq i} (e_i - e_k)}{\Pi_{q=1}^n (z_i - e_q)} \right] + \omega^2 \sum_{\ell=1}^{m} (z_\ell - e_\ell) + 2E \end{cases} \Psi = 0.$$

$$(63)$$

The separation equations are

$$4\prod_{q=1}^{m} (z_{i} - e_{q}) \left[\partial_{z_{i}}^{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{m} \frac{p_{\ell}}{z_{i} - e_{\ell}} \partial_{z_{i}} \right] \varphi_{i}(u_{i}) + \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left[\frac{1}{4} (p_{k} - 1)^{2} - \Gamma_{k}^{2} \right] \frac{\Pi_{j \neq k}(z_{i} - e_{j})}{(z_{i} - e_{k})} - \omega^{2} u^{m} - \left(2E + \omega^{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n} e_{k} \right) z_{i}^{m-1} + \sum_{\ell=1}^{m-2} \lambda_{\ell-1}^{m} z_{\ell}^{\ell} \right\} \varphi_{i}(u_{i}) = 0.$$
(64)

To obtain the polynomial solutions in the usual way we look for solutions of the form

$$\Psi = \exp\left(-\frac{\omega}{2}\sum_{j=1}^{m}x_{j}^{2}\right)\left[\prod_{j=1}^{M}x_{j}^{\frac{1}{2}(1-p_{j})+\Gamma_{j}}\right]\prod_{\ell=1}^{m}\left(\sum_{s=1}^{m}\frac{x_{s}^{2}}{\theta_{\ell}-e_{s}}-1\right).$$
(65)

With this ansatz the θ_m satisfy

$$\sum_{s=1}^{n} \frac{\Gamma_s + 1}{\theta_\ell - e_s} + \sum_{t \neq \ell} \frac{2}{\theta_\ell - \theta_t} - \omega = 0.$$
(66)

The energy E is given by

$$E = \omega \left(2q + M + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \Gamma_j \right).$$
(67)

The operators whose eigenvalues are the separation parameters $\lambda_{\ell-1}^n$ are

$$\Lambda_{\ell-1}^{n} = \sum_{i_{1} \neq i_{2}} S_{i_{3},\dots,i_{\ell-1}}^{\ell-1} \left(L_{i_{1}i_{2}} - k_{i_{1}}^{2} - k_{i_{2}}^{2} \right) + \sum_{i_{1}} S_{i_{2},\dots,i_{\ell-1}}^{\ell} \left[M_{i_{1}} + (\ell - n) \left(\frac{1}{4} - \Gamma_{i_{1}}^{2} \right) \right] - S^{\ell+1} \omega^{2}.$$
(68)

The eigenvalues can be readily calculated as

$$\lambda_{\ell-1}^{n} = -\sum_{i_{1} \neq i_{2}} S_{i_{3},\dots,i_{\ell-1}}^{\ell-1} \left(1 + k_{i_{1}} + k_{i_{2}}\right)^{2} - \sum_{i_{1}} S_{i_{2},\dots,i_{\ell-1}}^{\ell} \left[2\left(k_{i_{1}} + 1\right) \left(\omega + 2\sum_{\ell=1}^{q} \frac{1}{\theta_{\ell} - e_{i_{1}}}\right) + \left(n - \ell\right) \left(\frac{1}{4} - \Gamma_{i_{1}}^{2}\right) \right] - S^{\ell+1} \omega^{2}.$$
(69)

For the potential V_2 exactly the coordinate systems constructed from disjoint graphs, namely

enable the corresponding Schrödinger equation to be solved via separation of variables.

We are now in a position to give a complete solution to the problem of separation of variables for our original problem: the Schrödinger equation in (n + 1) dimensions with potential

$$V = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=1}^{n} \left(\frac{k_{\ell}^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{x_{\ell}^2} + \omega^2 x_{\ell}^2 \right) + 2\omega^2 X^2.$$
(71)

There are two possible types of separable coordinate systems. The first and most obvious are the disjoint coordinate systems of the type already used for the previous potential V_2 and excluding the coordinate X. For a coordinate system of this type the X coordinate is not connected to any other coordinate and can be factored out of the solution via the ansatz $\Psi = \Psi(x_1, \ldots, x_n)\Psi(X)$ where $\Psi(X) = e^{-\omega X^2}H_q(\sqrt{2\omega}X)$.

The only type of separable coordinate system that is linked to the coordinate X can be taken as

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n, X) = \left(\xi \eta \vec{w}, \frac{1}{2}(\xi^2 - \eta^2)\right) = (x' \vec{w}, y') = (\vec{x}, y').$$
(72)

Here $\vec{w} \cdot \vec{w} = 1$ is a vector on the (n - 1)-dimensional sphere. (Note: we could also take coordinates of the form $(x_1, \ldots, x_n, X) = (\vec{x}'w, x_{p+1}, \ldots, x_n, X)$ upon suitable rearrangement of the Cartesian coordinates x_1, \ldots, x_n . If we separated the dependence on x_{p+1}, \ldots, x_n out we would then have essentially the coordinate system (72) but with n = p.) Returning to (72), if we write the Schrödinger equation for these coordinates and use our potential we have, with $\Psi = \Psi(x', y') \Psi(w)$, that the equation for $\Psi(x', y')$ is

$$\begin{bmatrix} \partial_{x'}^{2} + \frac{n}{x'} \partial_{x'} + \partial_{y'}^{2} - \omega^{2} (x'^{2} + 4y'^{2}) + \left(\frac{1}{4}(n-1)^{2} - \Gamma_{n}^{2}\right) \frac{1}{x'^{2}} + 2E \end{bmatrix} \Psi(x', y') = 0$$

$$\sum_{n \ge i > j \ge 1} \left(x_{i} \partial_{x_{j}} - x_{j} \partial_{x_{i}} \right)^{2} \psi(w) = \left[\frac{1}{4}(n-1)^{2} - \Gamma_{n}^{2} \right] \psi(w)$$
(73)

where $\Gamma_n = 2q + n + \sum_{l=1}^n k_l$. This equation assumes a more transparent form if we write $\Psi(x', y') = (x')^{-n/2} \Phi(x', y')$. Then

$$\left[\partial_{x'}^2 + \partial_{y'}^2 - \omega^2 (x'^2 + 4y'^2) + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \Gamma_n^2\right) \frac{1}{x'^2} + 2E\right] \Phi(x', y') = 0.$$
(74)

This is exactly the equation we obtain in the case of two-dimensional space, with the exception of the occurrence of Γ_n [1]. If we use x' and y' as separable coordinates then the corresponding solutions are

$$\Phi(x', y') = (y')^{\frac{1}{2} + \Gamma_n} \exp^{(-\omega(\frac{1}{2}(y')^2 + (x')^2))} L_n^{\Gamma_n}(\omega y'^2) H_q(\sqrt{2\omega x'}).$$
(75)

(However, this is equivalent to the earlier type in which X = y' is isolated from the other coordinates.) Alternatively, if we choose parabolic coordinates

$$x' = \xi \eta$$
 $y' = \frac{1}{2}(\xi^2 - \eta^2)$

then y' is linked and the equation assumes the form

$$\left\{\frac{1}{\xi^2 + \eta^2} \left[\partial_{\xi}^2 + \partial_{\eta}^2\right] - \omega^2 (\xi^4 - \xi^2 \eta^2 + \eta^4) + \frac{\frac{1}{4} - \Gamma_n^2}{\xi^2 \eta^2} + 2E\right\} \Phi = 0.$$
(76)

This equation admits separable solutions $\varphi_1(\xi)\varphi_2(\eta)$ which satisfy the separation equations

$$\left(\partial_{\mu}^{2} - \omega^{2}\mu^{6} + \frac{\frac{1}{4} - \Gamma_{n}^{2}}{\mu^{2}} + 2E\mu^{2} + \epsilon\beta\right)\varphi_{j}(\mu) = 0$$
(77)

where $\mu = \xi$, η according to j = 1, 2, respectively. To obtain the bound state solutions for this problem we make use of the identity [1]

$$\frac{x \cdot x}{\lambda^2} + 2y' - \lambda^2 = \frac{(\xi^2 - \lambda^2)(\eta^2 + \lambda^2)}{\lambda^2}.$$
 (78)

If we look for solutions of the form

$$\Phi = \prod_{j=1}^{q} \left(\frac{\vec{x} \cdot \vec{x}}{\lambda_j^2} + 2y' - \lambda_j^2 \right)$$
(79)

we see that the λ_j satisfy

$$\frac{4(\Gamma_n+1)}{\lambda_m^2} + \sum_{\ell \neq m} \frac{4}{\lambda_\ell^2 - \lambda_m^2} - 2\omega\lambda_m^2 = 0$$
(80)

and the eigenvalue β is given by the expression

$$\beta = 2(\Gamma_n + 1) \prod_{j=1}^q \lambda_j^2 \left(\sum_{k=1}^q \lambda_k^{-2} \right)$$
(81)

which is the eigenvalue of the operator $2\sum_{\ell=1}^{n} U_{\ell}$ given by (12).

We have established that the coordinate systems for which the Schrödinger equation with potential V is separable are of two types:

1. Coordinate systems for which the *X* coordinate remains isolated. This corresponds to the systems which separate for V_2 ,

$$\langle e_1 | \cdots | e_k \rangle + \cdots + \langle c_1 | \cdots | c_s \rangle + \langle a \rangle \downarrow \cdots \downarrow \cdots \downarrow \cdots \downarrow \cdots \downarrow (82) S_{p_1} \cdots S_{p_k} \cdots S_{q_1} \cdots S_{q_s}.$$

2. Coordinate systems which are associated with disjoint sum of graphs of the form

Here, (0) is the basic parabolic coordinate system.

How do we know that this potential does not separate in coordinate systems other than those listed above? The characterization of the separable systems by *N* second-order symmetry operators in involution is crucial here. In [10], these operators are listed in detail for the zeropotential case in Euclidean spaces and on the sphere. We have computed the vector space of symmetry operators for our potential, and given a basis in (9)–(12). In order that our equation separates in a given coordinate system, we must be able to construct operators from this vector space that agree in their differential terms with the characterizing operators listed in [10]. For example, the fact that there is no operator analogous to $L_{n+1,n+1}$ in (9)–(12) means that the coordinate x_{n+1} cannot be part of any separable ellipsoidal or hyperspherical coordinate system.

3. Nonisotropic N-dimensional Coulomb problem

In addition to the potential we have considered thus far we can also discuss the potential (which is the *N*-dimensional generalization of the three-dimensional superintegrable potential [7])

$$V = -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_{n+1}^2}} + \frac{\frac{1}{4} - k_1^2}{x_1^2} + \dots + \frac{\frac{1}{4} - k_n^2}{x_n^2} \right\}.$$
 (84)

`

The corresponding Schrödinger equation

$$\left\{\partial_{x_1}^2 + \dots + \partial_{x_{n+1}}^2 + \frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_{n+1}^2}} + \frac{\frac{1}{4} - k_1^2}{x_1^2} + \dots + \frac{\frac{1}{4} - k_n^2}{x_n^2} + 2E\right\}\Psi = 0$$
(85)

admits symmetries (here $J_{h\ell} = x_h \partial_{x_\ell} - x_\ell \partial_{x_h}$)

$$L_{ij} = J_{ij}^2 + \left(\frac{1}{4} - k_j^2\right) \frac{x_i^2}{x_j^2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - k_j^2\right) \frac{x_j^2}{x_i^2} - \frac{1}{2}$$
(86)

$$L_{i,n+1} = J_{i,n+1}^2 + \left(\frac{1}{4} - k_j^2\right) \frac{x_{n+1}^2}{x_i^2} - \frac{1}{2}$$
(87)

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(\left\{ \partial_{x_i}, J_{n+1,i} \right\} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - k_j^2 \right) \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_i^2} \right) + \frac{\alpha x_{n+1}}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_{n+1}^2}}.$$
 (88)

The Schrödinger equation admits a separation of variables in coordinates

$$(x_1,\ldots,x_{n+1})=r\vec{s} \tag{89}$$

where $\vec{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_{n+1})$ is expressed in terms of any separable coordinate system on the *n*-dimensional sphere. If we look for solutions of Schrödinger's equation of the form $\Psi = F(r)\Phi(\vec{s})$, the equations for F(r) and $\Phi(\vec{s})$ are

$$\left\{\partial_r^2 + \frac{n}{r}\partial_r + \frac{2\alpha}{r} - \left[\Gamma^2 - \frac{(n-1)^2}{4}\right]\frac{1}{r^2} + 2E\right\}F(r) = 0$$
(90)

$$\left(\Delta_{LB}^{(n)} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{k_i^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{s_i^2}\right) \Phi = -\left[\Gamma^2 - \frac{(n-1)^2}{4}\right] \Phi$$
(91)

where $\Gamma = \ell + M + \frac{1}{2}$, $M = 2m + n - 1 + k_1 + k_2 + \dots + k_n$. This equation has solutions

$$F(r) = \exp(-\sqrt{-2Er})r^{\Gamma - \frac{n-1}{2}} L_{n_r}^{2\Gamma}(2\sqrt{-2Er})$$
(92)

where $L_{\ell}^{\beta}(z)$ is a Laguerre polynomial and $n_r = 0, 1, 2, ...$ is the radial quantum number. The quantization condition on the energy levels is

$$E = -\frac{\alpha^2}{2(n_r + \ell + M + 1)^2}.$$
(93)

The second set of coordinates in which separation of variables is possible is a version of parabolic coordinates, namely

$$x_i = \xi \eta s_i$$
 $x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}(\xi^2 - \eta^2)$ $i = 1, 2, ..., n.$ (94)

In these coordinates the Schrödinger equation has the form

$$\begin{cases} \partial_{\xi}^{2} + \frac{n-1}{\xi} \partial_{\xi} + \partial_{\eta}^{2} + \frac{n-1}{\eta} \partial_{\eta} + 4\alpha + 2E(\xi^{2} + \eta^{2}) \\ + \left(\frac{1}{\xi^{2}} + \frac{1}{\eta^{2}}\right) \left[\Delta_{LB}^{(n-1)} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{k_{i}^{2} - \frac{1}{4}}{s_{i}^{2}}\right] \end{cases} \Psi = 0.$$
(95)

With $\Psi = (\xi \eta)^{\frac{1}{2}(1-n)} \hat{\Psi}(\xi, \eta) \Phi(s_1, \dots, s_n)$, the equations for $\hat{\Psi}$ and Φ have the form

$$\left\{\partial_{\xi}^{2} + \partial_{\eta}^{2} + 4\alpha - \left(\frac{1}{\xi^{2}} + \frac{1}{\eta^{2}}\right)\left(M^{2} - \frac{1}{4}\right) + 2E(\xi^{2} + \eta^{2})\right\}\hat{\Psi} = 0$$
(96)

$$\left(\Delta_{LB}^{(n-1)} - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{k_i^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{s_i^2}\right) \Phi = -\left[M^2 - \frac{(n-2)^2}{4}\right] \Phi$$
(97)

where $M = 2q + (n - 1) + k_1 + \dots + k_n$. Equation (96) is essentially that we have already looked at. The separable solutions for the wavefunctions $\hat{\Psi}$ in the parabolic coordinates ξ, η are

$$\hat{\Psi}(\xi,\eta) = \exp[-\sqrt{-2E}(\xi^2 + \eta^2)](\xi\eta)^{M + \frac{1}{2}} L_{n_1}^M (2\sqrt{-2E}\xi) L_{n_2}^M (2\sqrt{-2E}\eta)$$
(98)

where $n_1, n_2 = 0, 1, 2, ...$, and the energy spectrum has the form

$$E = -\frac{\alpha^2}{2(n_1 + n_2 + M + 1)^2}.$$
(99)

Equation (96) can be also solved by a separation of variables by regarding ξ and η as Cartesian coordinates. We could also choose polar or elliptical coordinates and solve our problem by separation of variables. In elliptical coordinates we can obtain a solution for $\hat{\Psi}$ by writing

$$\hat{\Psi}(\xi,\eta) = \exp[-\sqrt{-2E}(\xi^2 + \eta^2)](\xi\eta)^{(M+\frac{1}{2})} \prod_{j=1}^s \left(\frac{\xi^2}{\theta_j - e_1} + \frac{\eta^2}{\theta_j - e_2} - 1\right)$$
(100)

where the θ_j satisfy

$$\frac{M+1}{\theta_j - e_1} + \frac{M+1}{\theta_j - e_2} + \sum_{j \neq m} \frac{2}{\theta_m - \theta_j} - \sqrt{-2E} = 0$$
(101)

and we have the quantization condition

$$E = -\frac{\alpha^2}{2(s+M+1)^2}.$$
 (102)

We could also write this expression in terms of Cartesian coordinates by using

$$\xi^2 = \sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_{n+1}^2} + x_{n+1}$$
 $\eta^2 = \sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_{n+1}^2} - x_{n+1}.$

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In conclusion, this potential separates into three classes of coordinate systems:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} polar & ellipsoidal & parabolic \\ \langle a \rangle & \langle a, b \rangle & (o) \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ S_n & S_{n-1} & S_{n-1}. \end{array}$$

$$(103)$$

Here, S_k is the sphere of dimension k.

Again, we can check that this potential does not separate into coordinate systems other than those listed above by making use of the characterization of the separable systems by N second-order symmetry operators in involution as given in [10]. We have computed the vector space of symmetry operators for our potential, and given a basis in (86)–(88). In order that our equation separates in a given coordinate system, we must be able to construct operators from this vector space that agree in their differential terms with the characterizing operators listed in [10].

4. Operator characterizations

Associated with the various separations of variables are the operator characterizations of the individual systems. The operators form a quadratic algebra which determines the nature of the dynamical symmetries associated with the Schrödinger equation. For the first potential, we give the defining relations for the quadratic algebra generated by M_i , L_{jk} , L and U_i . (We note that the algebra of operators for the last potential cannot be closed polynomially under repeated commutation. However, if we discard L closure is again possible.) Returning to our first potential, the first commutators are

$$[M_{i}, M_{j}] = [M_{i}, L_{jk}] = [M_{i}, L] = [M_{i}, U_{j}] = 0 [M_{i}, L_{ij}] = Q_{ij} = Q_{[ij]} [L_{ij}, L_{ik}] = R_{ijk} = R_{[ijk]} [L_{ij}, L_{kl}] = 0 [L_{ij}, L] = [L_{ij}, U_{k}] = 0 [M_{i}, U_{i}] = A_{i} [L_{ij}, U_{i}] = B_{ij} = B_{[ij]} [L, U_{i}] = -A_{i} [U_{i}, U_{j}] = -\frac{1}{4}Q_{ij}$$
 (104)

where the Q_{ij} , R_{ijk} and B_{ij} are totally antisymmetric. The commutators of the M_i , L_{jk} , L, U_k and Q_{pq} are

$$\begin{split} & [M_i, Q_{ij}] = 4\{M_i, M_j\} + 16\omega^2 L_{ij} & [M_i, Q_{jk}] = 0 \\ & [L_{ij}, Q_{ij}] = 4\{M_i, L_{ij}\} - 4\{M_j, L_{ij}\} + 16(1 - k_j^2)M_i - 16(1 - k_i^2)M_j \\ & [L_{ij}, Q_{ik}] = 4\{M_i, L_{jk}\} - 4\{M_j, L_{ik}\} & [U_i, Q_{ij}] = 4\{M_i, U_j\} \\ & [L_{ij}, Q_{kl}] = [L, Q_{ij}] = [U_i, Q_{jk}] = 0. \end{split}$$

The commutators of M_i , L_{jk} , L, U_k and with R_{klm} are

$$\begin{split} & [M_i, R_{ijk}] = 4\{M_k, L_{ij}\} - 4\{M_j, L_{ik}\} & [M_i, R_{jkl}] = 0 \\ & [L_{ij}, R_{ijk}] = 4\{L_{ij}, L_{jk}\} - 4\{L_{ij}, L_{ik}\} + 16(1 - k_i^2)L_{jk} - 16(1 - k_j^2)L_{ik} \\ & [L_{ij}, R_{ikl}] = 4\{L_{ik}, L_{jl}\} - 4\{L_{jk}, L_{il}\} & [U_i, R_{ijk}] = 4\{L_{ij}, U_k\} - 4\{L_{ik}, U_j\} \\ & [L, R_{ijk}] = [L_{ij}, R_{klm}] = [U_i, R_{jkl}] = 0. \end{split}$$

The commutators of M_i , L_{jk} , L, U_k and with A_m are

$$\begin{split} & [M_i, A_i] = 16\omega^2 U_i & [M_i, A_j] = 0 & [L_{ij}, A_i] = 4\{M_i, U_j\} - 4\{M_j, U_i\} \\ & [L, A_i] = -16\omega^2 U_i & [U_i, A_i] = 2M_i^2 - 2\{M_i, L\} + 8\omega^2 (1 - k_i^2) \\ & [L_{ij}, A_k] = 0 & [U_i, A_j] = 2M_i M_j + 4\omega^2 L_{ij}. \end{split}$$

The commutators of M_i , L_{jk} , L, U_k and with B_{mn} are

$$\begin{split} & [M_i, B_{ij}] = -4\{M_i, U_i\} & [M_i, B_{jk}] = 0 \\ & [L_{ij}, B_{ij}] = -4\{L_{ij}, U_i\} + 4\{L_{ij}, U_j\} - 16\left(1 - k_j^2\right)U_i + 16\left(1 - k_i^2\right)U_j \\ & [L_{ij}, B_{ik}] = 4\{L_{ki}, U_j\} - 4\{L_{kj}, U_i\} & [L_{ij}, B_{kl}] = 0 \\ & [U_i, B_{ij}] = \{L_{ij}, L\} - 2\{L_{ij}, L\} - 4\{U_i, U_j\} - 4\left(1 - k_i^2\right)M_i \\ & [U_i, B_{jk}] = \{L_{ik}, M_j\} - \{L_{ij}, M_k\} & [L, B_{ij}] = 4\{M_j, U_i\} - 4\{M_i, U_j\}. \end{split}$$

The commutators of the Q_{ij} , R_{klm} , A_k and B_{mn} amongst themselves are

$$\begin{split} & [Q_{ij}, Q_{ik}] = 4\{M_i, Q_{jk}\} & [Q_{ij}, Q_{kl}] = 0 & [Q_{ij}, R_{ijk}] = -4\{L_{ij}, Q_{ik}\} - 4\{L_{ij}, Q_{jk}\} \\ & [Q_{ij}, R_{ikl}] = 4\{L_{ik}, Q_{lj}\} + 4\{L_{il}, Q_{jk}\} & [Q_{ij}, R_{ikl}] = 0 & [Q_{ij}, A_i] = -4\{M_i, A_j\} \\ & [Q_{ij}, B_{ij}] = -4\{L_{ij}, A_i\} - 4\{L_{ij}, A_j\} & [Q_{ij}, B_{ik}] = -4\{L_{ik}, A_j\} + 4\{U_i, Q_{jk}\} \\ & [R_{ijk}, R_{ijl}] = 4\{L_{ij}, R_{ikl}\} - 4\{L_{kl}, R_{ijm}\} - 4\{L_{jm}, R_{ikl}\} + 4\{L_{km}, R_{ijl}\} \\ & [R_{ijk}, R_{imn}] = [R_{ijk}, A_l] = [Q_{ij}, B_{kl}] = 0 \\ & [R_{ijk}, B_{ij}] = 4\{L_{kl}, B_{ij}\} - 4\{L_{kl}, B_{ij}\} - 4\{U_i, R_{ijk}\} + 4\{U_j, R_{ijk}\} \\ & + 16(1 - k_i^2)B_{jk} - 16(1 - k_j^2)B_{ki} \\ & [R_{ijk}, B_{il}] = 4\{L_{jl}, B_{ik}\} - 4\{L_{kl}, B_{ij}\} - 4\{U_j, R_{kli}\} + 4\{U_k, R_{lij}\} \\ & [R_{ijk}, B_{lm}] = 0 & [A_i, A_j] = 4\omega^2Q_{ij} \\ & [A_i, B_{ij}] = \{M_i, Q_{ij}\} - 4\{U_i, A_j\} & [A_i, B_{jk}] = \{M_i, Q_{jk}\} - 4\omega^2R_{ijk} \\ & [B_{ij}, B_{ik}] = 4\{U_i, B_{jk}\} + \{L_{kl}, Q_{ik}\} - \{L_{ik}, Q_{ij}\} - 16(1 - k_i^2)Q_{jk} \\ & [B_{ij}, B_{kl}] = -\{L_{ik}, Q_{jl}\} + \{L_{kl}, Q_{jk}\} + \{L_{jk}, Q_{il}\} - \{L_{jl}, Q_{ik}\}. \end{split}$$

All the commutators of the M_i , L_{mn} , Q_{pq} and R_{rst} can be expressed in terms of quadratic symmetric products of themselves. The algebra therefore closes quadratically. We should note that only some of these commutators exist in dimension five or higher. There are relations between the symmetric products of the generators of this algebra. These are listed in the appendix.

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Appendix

Here we list identities between symmetric products of the generators of the quadratic algebra for the first potential. The list is exhaustive, except that identities having overall more indices than those which appear in each of the terms of the identity have not been listed, e.g., an identity of the form

$$\{D_i, D_j\} + \{D_j, D_k\} + \{D_k, D_i\} = 0 \qquad i \neq j \neq k.$$
(A.1)

Our exhaustive list is as follows. In all the formulae it is assumed that indices with different labels have distinct numerical values. Definitions of each of the terms are given in (104),

$$\{M_i, R_{ijk}\} = \{L_{ij}, Q_{ik}\} - \{L_{ik}, Q_{ij}\} - \{L_{ii}, Q_{jk}\}$$

$$\{M_i, R_{jkl}\} = -\{L_{ij}, Q_{kl}\} - \{L_{ik}, Q_{lj}\} - \{L_{il}, Q_{jk}\}$$
(A.2)

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{ij}^{2} &= \frac{8}{3} \{ L_{ij}, M_{i}, M_{j} \} + 16\omega^{2} L_{ij}^{2} - 16(1 - k_{j}^{2}) M_{i}^{2} - 16(1 - k_{i}^{2}) M_{j}^{2} \\ &+ \frac{64}{3} \{ M_{i}, M_{j} \} - \frac{128}{3} \omega^{2} L_{ij} - 64(1 - k_{i}^{2})(1 - k_{j}^{2}) \\ \{ Q_{ij}, Q_{ik} \} &= \frac{8}{3} \{ L_{ij}, M_{i}, M_{k} \} + \frac{8}{3} \{ L_{ik}, M_{i}, M_{j} \} - \frac{8}{3} \{ L_{jk}, M_{i}, M_{i} \} \\ &+ 32\omega^{2}(1 - k_{i}^{2}) \{ L_{ij}, L_{ik} \} - 8\{ M_{j}, M_{k} \} - 32(1 - k_{i}^{2}) L_{jk} \\ \{ Q_{ij}, Q_{kl} \} &= -\frac{8}{3} \{ L_{ik}, M_{j}, M_{l} \} - \frac{8}{3} \{ L_{jl}, M_{i}, M_{k} \} + \frac{8}{3} \{ L_{il}, M_{j}, M_{k} \} \\ &+ \frac{8}{3} \{ L_{jk}, M_{i}, M_{l} \} - 16\omega^{2} \{ L_{ik}, L_{jl} \} + 16\omega^{2} \{ L_{il}, L_{jk} \} \end{aligned}$$
(A.3)

$$\begin{aligned} \{Q_{ij}, R_{ijk}\} &= \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ij}, M_k\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ik}, M_j\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{jk}, M_i\} - \frac{64}{3} \{L_{ij}, M_k\} \\ &\quad - \frac{64}{3} \{L_{ik}, M_j\} - \frac{64}{3} \{L_{jk}, M_i\} + 16(1 - k_i^2) \{L_{jk}, M_j\} \\ &\quad + 16(1 - k_j^2) \{L_{ik}, M_i\} - 64(1 - k_i^2)(1 - k_j^2)M_k \\ \{Q_{ij}, R_{ikl}\} &= \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ik}, M_l\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{il}, M_k\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{jl}, M_i\} \\ &\quad + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{il}, L_{jk}, M_i\} + 16(1 - k_i^2)(\{L_{jl}, M_k\} - \{L_{jk}, M_l\}) \\ \{Q_{ij}, R_{klm}\} &= -\frac{8}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{jl}, M_m\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{il}, L_{jk}, M_m\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{jm}, M_l\} \\ &\quad - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{im}, L_{jk}, M_l\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{il}, L_{jm}, M_k\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{im}, L_{jl}, M_k\}. \end{aligned}$$

The symmetric products of components of
$$R_{ijk}$$
 with itself are

$$R_{ijk}^{2} = -\frac{4}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ik}, L_{jk}\} + \frac{64}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ik}\} + \frac{64}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{jk}\} + \frac{64}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{jk}\} - 4L_{kk} \{L_{ij}, L_{ij}\} - 8(1 - k_{j}^{2}) \{L_{ik}, L_{ik}\} - 8(1 - k_{i}^{2}) \{L_{jk}, L_{jk}\} + \frac{128}{3} (1 - k_{k}^{2}) L_{ij} + \frac{128}{3} (1 - k_{j}^{2}) L_{ik} + \frac{128}{3} (1 - k_{i}^{2}) L_{jk} + 64(1 - k_{i}^{2}) (1 - k_{j}^{2}) (1 - k_{k}^{2})$$
(A.5)

$$\{R_{ijk}, R_{ijl}\} = -\frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ij}, L_{kl}\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ik}, L_{jl}\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{il}, L_{jk}\} + \frac{64}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{kl}\} + \frac{64}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{jl}\} + \frac{64}{3} \{L_{il}, L_{jk}\} - 16(1 - k_j^2) \{L_{ik}, L_{il}\} - 16(1 - k_i^2) \{L_{jk}, L_{jl}\} + 64(1 - k_i^2)(1 - k_j^2) L_{kl} \{R_{ijk}, R_{ilm}\} = -\frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{il}, L_{km}\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ik}, L_{jl}\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{il}, L_{jm}\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{im}, L_{jl}\} + 16(1 - k_i^2)(\{L_{jl}, L_{km}\} - \{L_{jm}, L_{kl}\}) \{R_{ijk}, R_{lmn}\} = \frac{8}{3} \{L_{il}, L_{jm}, L_{kn}\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{il}, L_{jn}, L_{km}\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{im}, L_{jl}, L_{km}\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{im}, L_{jn}, L_{kl}\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{in}, L_{jl}, L_{km}\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{in}, L_{jm}, L_{kl}\}.$$

Symmetric products of R with A are

$$\{R_{ijk}, A_i\} = \frac{8}{3} \{M_i, L_{ik}, U_j\} + \frac{8}{3} \{M_k, L_{ji}, U_i\} - \frac{8}{3} \{M_i, L_{ij}, U_k\} - \frac{8}{3} \{M_j, L_{ki}, U_i\} + 16(1 - k_i^2)(\{M_j, U_k\} - \{M_k, U_j\}) \{R_{ijk}, A_\ell\} = \frac{8}{3} \{M_i, L_{\ell k}, U_j\} - \frac{8}{3} \{M_i, L_{\ell j}, U_k\} + \frac{8}{3} \{M_j, L_{\ell i}, U_k\} - \frac{8}{3} \{M_j, L_{\ell k}, U_i\} + \frac{8}{3} \{M_k, L_{\ell j}, U_i\} - \frac{8}{3} \{M_k, L_{\ell i}, U_j\}.$$

$$(A.7)$$

Symmetric products between R and B are

$$\{R_{ijk}, B_{ij}\} = \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{jk}, U_i\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ki}, U_j\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ij}, U_k\} + \frac{64}{3} \{L_{ij}, U_j\} + \frac{64}{3} \{L_{jk}, U_j\} + \frac{64}{3} \{L_{jk}, U_i\} - 16(1 - k_i^2) \{L_{jk}, U_j\} - 16(1 - k_j^2) \{L_{ki}, U_i\} + 64(1 - k_i^2)(1 - k_j^2) U_k$$

$$\{R_{ijk}, B_{il}\} = \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{kl}, U_i\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{jl}, U_i\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{il}, U_j\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{il}, U_k\} + 16(1 - k_i^2)(\{L_{jl}, U_k\} - \{L_{kl}, U_j\})$$

$$\{R_{ijk}, B_{lm}\} = \frac{8}{3} \{L_{il}, L_{jm}, U_k\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{im}, L_{jl}, U_k\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{jl}, L_{km}, U_i\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{jm}, L_{kl}, U_i\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{kl}, L_{im}, U_j\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{jm}, L_{kl}, U_i\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{km}, L_{il}, U_j\}.$$

$$(A.8)$$

The symmetric products of A with itself are

$$A_i^2 = \frac{2}{3} \{M_i, M_i, L\} + 16\omega^2 U_i^2 + 16\omega^2 (1 - k_i^2) L - 32\omega^2 M_i \{A_i, A_j\} = \frac{4}{3} \{M_i, M_j, L\} + 16\omega^2 \{U_i, U_j\} + 8\omega^2 \{L_{ij}, L\}.$$
(A.9)

The symmetric products of A and B are

$$\{A_i, B_{ij}\} = \frac{8}{3}\{M_i, U_i, U_j\} - \frac{8}{3}\{M_j, U_i, U_i\} + \frac{4}{3}\{M_i, L_{ij}, L\} + \frac{32}{3}\{M_i, M_j\} - 8(1 - k_i^2)\{M_j, L\} - \frac{64}{3}\omega^2 L_{ij}$$
(A.10)

 $\{A_i, B_{jk}\} = \frac{8}{3}\{M_j, U_k, U_i\} - \frac{8}{3}\{M_k, U_j, U_i\} + \frac{4}{3}\{M_j, L_{ki}, L\} - \frac{4}{3}\{M_k, L_{ji}, L\}.$ The symmetric products of *B* with itself are

$$B_{ij}^{2} = \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, U_{i}, U_{j}\} + \frac{2}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ij}, L\} + \frac{64}{3} \{U_{i}, U_{j}\} - 16(1 - k_{i}^{2})U_{j}^{2} - 16(1 - k_{j}^{2})U_{i}^{2} + \frac{16}{3} \{L_{ij}, M_{i}\} + \frac{16}{3} \{L_{ij}, M_{j}\} - \frac{16}{3} \{L_{ij}, L\} + \frac{32}{3}(1 - k_{i}^{2})M_{j} + \frac{32}{3}(1 - k_{j}^{2})M_{i} - 16(1 - k_{i}^{2})(1 - k_{j}^{2})L \{B_{ij}, B_{ik}\} = \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ij}, U_{i}, U_{j}\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{jk}, U_{i}, U_{j}\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{jk}, U_{i}, U_{i}\} + \frac{4}{3} \{L_{ij}, L_{ik}, L\} + \frac{16}{3} \{L_{ij}, M_{k}\} + \frac{16}{3} \{L_{jk}, M_{i}\} + \frac{16}{3} \{L_{ki}, M_{j}\} - 8(1 - k_{i}^{2})(2\{U_{j}, U_{k}\} + \{L_{jk}, L\}) \{B_{ij}, B_{kl}\} = \frac{8}{3} \{L_{il}, U_{j}, U_{k}\} - \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ik}, U_{j}, U_{l}\} + \frac{8}{3} \{L_{ik}, L_{jl}, L\}.$$
(A.11)

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