

1/R expansion for H_2^+ : Calculation of exponentially small terms and asymptotics

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The energy of any bound state of the hydrogen molecule ion H_2^+ has an expansion in inverse powers of the internuclear distance R of the form

$$E(R) \sim \sum_N E^{(N)}(2R)^{-N} + e^{-R/n} \sum_N A^{(N)}(2R)^{-N} \\ + e^{-2R/n} \left[\sum_N B^{(N)}(2R)^{-N} + \ln(R) \text{ terms} \right] \pm i e^{-2R/n} \sum_N C^{(N)}(2R)^{-N} + \dots$$

Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation theory (RSPT) gives the coefficients $E^{(N)}$ but is otherwise unable to treat the exponentially small series, which in part are characteristic of the double-well aspect of H_2^+ . (Here n denotes the hydrogenic principal quantum number.) We develop a quasisemiclassical method for solving the Schrödinger equation that gives all the exponentially small subseries. The RSPT series diverges: for the ground state $E^{(N)} \sim -(N+1)!/e^2$ for large N . The $E^{(N)}$ asymptotics are governed via a dispersion relation by the imaginary $e^{-2R/n}$ series, which itself is given by the square of the $e^{-R/n}$ series times a "normalization integral." That the expansion itself contains imaginary terms might seem inconsistent with the reality of the H_2^+ eigenvalues. In fact, the RSPT series is Borel summable for R complex. The Borel sum has a cut on the real R axis, and its limit from above or below the positive R axis is complex. The imaginary $e^{-2R/n}$ (and higher) series consist of just the counterterms to cancel the imaginary part of the Borel sum. Extensive numerical examples are given. Of interest is a weak (down by a factor N^{-6}) alternating-sign contribution to $E^{(N)}$, which is uncovered both theoretically and numerically. Also of interest is the identification of the Borel sum of the RSPT series with nonphysical boundary conditions. This too is illustrated both theoretically and numerically.

I. INTRODUCTION

This paper is about the expansion of the energy of the hydrogen molecule ion H_2^+ in powers of $(2R)^{-1}$, R being the internuclear distance. Of course, H_2^+ has special importance as a prototype for molecular binding and for

double wells, but it is generally regarded as simple, well understood,¹⁻⁴ and perhaps not very interesting. Exactly the opposite is true: the study of H_2^+ at large R has revealed several unexpected features.^{5,6}

We list in this introduction seven main results. The first is that (i) the energy of any bound state is given for-

mally by an explicitly computable *complex* expansion that is *discontinuous* across the positive R axis,

$$E(R) \sim \sum_N E^{(N)}(2R)^{-N} + e^{-R/n} \sum_N A^{(N)}(2R)^{-N} + e^{-2R/n} \left[\sum_N B^{(N)}(2R)^{-N} + \ln(R) \text{ terms} \right] \pm ie^{-2R/n} \sum_N C^{(N)}(2R)^{-N} + \dots \quad (1)$$

Here the \pm is the sign of $\text{Im}R$, and n is the hydrogenic principal quantum number. When R is real, then the sign indicates whether it has become real from above or below the real axis.

More surprising is that (ii) the “sum” of the explicitly complex series (1) is both real and continuous across the positive R axis. The explicit imaginary series is canceled by an implicit imaginary contribution from the sum of the ordinary, real, divergent Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation-theory (RSPT) expansion, $\sum_N E^{(N)}(2R)^{-N}$. This remarkable subtlety involves taking the sum of the divergent RSPT series to be the analytic continuation back to the real axis of the Borel sum, which exists for R complex;⁶ this is equivalent, as we shall see,⁷ to recognizing that $R > 0$ is a Stokes line of the expansion. (A similar cancellation in part has been noticed by Zinn-Justin for the double-well oscillator.^{8–10})

This paper is also about the method used to generate the solution of the eigenvalue problem by asymptotic expansion—the quasisemiclassical (QSC) method. Through the separability of the H₂⁺ eigenvalue equation in prolate spheroidal coordinates,¹¹ which here involves two separation constants β_1 and β_2 , a systematic procedure is developed to generate the RSPT series, the

$e^{-R/n}$ double-well gap series, the $e^{-2R/n}$ real and imaginary series, and so forth. Of course ordinary RSPT gets only the first of these series.

The third specific result concerns the relationship between the imaginary $ie^{-2R/n}$ series and the $e^{-R/n}$ “gap” series. These two series arise primarily from the separation constant β_2 for which (iii) the corresponding imaginary series as πi times the square of the corresponding gap series times a normalization constant.

Other main points include the following. (iv) The H₂⁺ eigenvalue equation has complex eigenvalues closely associated with the real eigenvalues in the sense that they have the same RSPT, but involve different boundary conditions.^{5,6} The “different boundary conditions” can be understood in a simple way by considering the analytic continuation of one of the separated equations of a related, physically interpretable problem:^{5,6} an electron moving in the field of a fixed proton and a fixed antiproton. (v) RSPT for β_2 is Borel summable to the complex eigenvalues.^{5,6} (vi) The imaginary series determine the large-order behavior of the RSPT coefficients via dispersion relations. (vii) The imaginary series associated with the discontinuity of the separation constant β_1 across the negative real axis has logarithmic terms in $-R$, which lead to $\ln(N)$ terms in the asymptotics of the $\beta_1^{(N)}$ and $E^{(N)}$.

Two empirical facts have been our main motivation. The first is the same-sign factorial divergence of the RSPT series for the ground state:^{3,12–14}

$$E^{(N)} \sim -(N+1)!e^{-2} \left[1 + \frac{2}{N+1} - \frac{18}{(N+1)N} + \dots \right]. \quad (2)$$

Such behavior is consistent with the asymptotic expansion of a *complex* function that is discontinuous across the $R > 0$ axis, whose Borel sum would be like

$$- \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} (N+1)!e^{-2}(2R)^{-N} \sim e^{-2} \int_0^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t}(t-2R)^{-1} dt \quad [0 < |\arg(R)| < 2\pi] \quad (3)$$

$$= Pe^{-2} \int_0^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t}(t-2R)^{-1} dt \pm i\pi 4R^2 e^{-2R-2} \quad (\text{Im}R = \pm 0). \quad (4)$$

where P denotes the principal value of the integral. The second empirical fact is an approximate relationship¹² between the double-well energy gap E_{gap} , which for the pair consisting of the ground and first excited state is $\sim 4Re^{-R-1}$, and the asymptotics of the RSPT coefficients [Eq. (2)], which by a dispersion relation involves the “ \pm ” discontinuity in Eq. (1). The relationship is

$$\text{discontinuity in Eq. (1)} \sim 2\pi i \left(\frac{1}{2}E_{\text{gap}}\right)^2. \quad (5)$$

Our initial goal was to explain both facts, but in the process we have obtained many more results, which have been summarized in Ref. 5. Further, in Ref. 6, the first of two papers announced in Ref. 5, we have collected the mathematically rigorous results: proof of the analyticity of β_1 , β_2 , and E ; proof of Borel summability of the RSPT series for β_1 , β_2 , and E to eigenvalues of non-self-adjoint versions of the H₂⁺ problem; proof of the approximate

formula (5); justification of the dispersion relations; and justification of the leading asymptotic behavior of the RSPT coefficients. This paper is the second paper announced in Ref. 5 in which we develop the QSC technique, derive the multiply-exponentially-small series, and obtain the full high-order asymptotics of the RSPT quantities, i.e., all the corrections in formula (2) for the ground state and for excited states as well.

The organization of the paper is briefly as follows. In Sec. II, the Schrödinger equation is separated, and the RSPT solution is sketched. Section III is a long section devoted to the separation constant β_2 , which comes from the separated equation that contains the double-well character of H₂⁺. In Sec. III A, the quasisemiclassical method is introduced through the form of the wave function, and the separated Schrödinger equation is turned into a Riccati equation. In Sec. III B, the recursive, perturbative solution of the Riccati equation is sketched, and the usual

RSPT is shown to fall out. In Sec. III C, it is shown how the second boundary condition, ignored by RSPT for H_2^+ , leads to the double-well gap and to exponentially small (e^{-R}) terms. Sections III D and III E give alternative formulas for quantities that appear first in Sec. III C. How *imaginary* terms occur in the expansion for β_2 is first introduced in Sec. III F and further developed in Sec. III G, where the “gap-squared” formula is discussed. The doubly-exponentially-small series contributing to β_2 is obtained in Sec. III H. The final subsection, III I, is a mathematical diversion from the physical H_2^+ problem: the β_2 equation is solved not on the finite physical interval, but on a semiinfinite interval. As mentioned in (v) above, the resulting eigenvalue turns out to be the Borel sum of the RSPT series, and the series for the discontinuity in the Borel sum across its cut is given by the imaginary series obtained in Sec. III G. Section IV contains the details for the solution of the separation constant β_1 . In Sec. V the two separation constants are put back together to get the energy $E(R)$. The details are mostly algebraic, but nontrivial. In Sec. V C the (appropriate) approximate, gap-squared formula of Brézin and Zinn-Justin is shown to be true for exactly two terms for all states, not just the ground state. In Sec. V E the discontinuity in $E(R)$ for R negative is discussed in preparation for the development of the asymptotics of the RSPT coefficients via dispersion relations in Sec. VI. Section VII contains a JWKB-like reformulation of the method that is easier to use for numerical calculations of the various series, which calculations are discussed and illustrated in Secs. VIII–X. Summation of the expansions and comparison with direct numerical solution of the eigenvalue equations are discussed in Sec. XI. All of the quantities discussed are illustrated numerically in extensive tables, and the paper is summarized in Sec. XII.

II. PRELIMINARIES: SEPARATION OF VARIABLES; RSPT RESULTS

The aims of this preliminary section are to give the separated equations for H_2^+ in prolate spheroidal coordinates,¹¹ to indicate how to carry out RSPT on them, to state the asymptotic RSPT results, and to set out the notation. The RSPT results serve both as part of the motivation and as a point of departure for the QSC treatment that follows in Sec. III. (For the implementation of the separability in terms of operator theory in Hilbert space, see Ref. 6.)

A. Separated equations in prolate spheroidal coordinates

Prolate spheroidal coordinates, with a translation to make the left endpoints for the ξ and η both be 0, are given by¹¹

$$\xi \equiv (r_a + r_b)/R - 1 \quad (0 \leq \xi < \infty), \quad (6)$$

$$\eta \equiv (r_a - r_b)/R + 1 \quad (0 \leq \eta \leq 2), \quad (7)$$

$$\phi \equiv \arctan(y/x). \quad (8)$$

The dependence of the wave function on ϕ is the familiar and simple $e^{im\phi}$ (m an integer). The dependence on ξ and

η is what needs to be determined.

The Schrödinger equation,

$$H\Psi = \left(-\frac{1}{2}\nabla^2 - 1/r_a - 1/r_b + 1/R\right)\Psi = (E + 1/R)\Psi, \quad (9)$$

yields two equations for the separation constants β_1 and β_2 ,

$$\left[-\frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} + \frac{1}{4}r^2 - r\frac{\beta_1}{\xi} - r\frac{\beta_1 + 2\beta_2}{\xi + 2} + \frac{m^2 - 1}{\xi^2(\xi + 2)^2}\right]\Phi_1 = 0, \quad (10)$$

$$\left[-\frac{d^2}{d\eta^2} + \frac{1}{4}r^2 - r\frac{\beta_2}{\eta} - r\frac{\beta_2}{2 - \eta} + \frac{m^2 - 1}{\eta^2(2 - \eta)^2}\right]\Phi_2 = 0, \quad (11)$$

with the energy E being obtained from β_1 and β_2 by the formula

$$E = -\frac{1}{2}(\beta_1 + \beta_2)^{-2}. \quad (12)$$

Equation (12) and the familiar expression for the hydrogen-atom energy eigenvalue, $-\frac{1}{2}n^{-2}$, show that $\beta_1 + \beta_2$ may be regarded as a “perturbed principal quantum number n .” The r in Eqs. (10) and (11) is a scaled version of the internuclear distance R :

$$r \equiv R/(\beta_1 + \beta_2) \sim R/n. \quad (13)$$

B. Manipulation of the separated equations into standard RSPT form

Despite the nonstandard form of Eqs. (10)–(13), it is straightforward to develop solutions by RSPT. We begin with a scale transformation that makes the unperturbed problem hydrogenic:

$$u = r\xi, \quad v = r\eta, \quad (14)$$

$$\left[-u \frac{d^2}{du^2} + \frac{1}{4}u + \frac{1}{4}(m^2 - 1)/u\right]\Phi_1 + uV_1(u, \beta_1 + 2\beta_2, r)\Phi_1 = \beta_1\Phi_1, \quad (15)$$

$$\left[-v \frac{d^2}{dv^2} + \frac{1}{4}v + \frac{1}{4}(m^2 - 1)/v\right]\Phi_2 + vV_2(v, \beta_2, r)\Phi_2 = \beta_2\Phi_2. \quad (16)$$

The expression that occurs in square brackets in Eqs. (15) and (16) is identical with the separated “Hamiltonians” for the hydrogen atom in parabolic coordinates:^{15,16} we take it as the unperturbed Hamiltonian for both problems. Notice also that the factors u and v in $u d^2/du^2$ and $v d^2/dv^2$ imply that the volume elements are $u^{-1}du$ and $v^{-1}dv$. Thus the unperturbed eigenfunctions are identical with the parabolic hydrogenic eigenfunctions, and the unperturbed separation constants are

$$\beta_i = \beta_i^{(0)} = n_i + \frac{1}{2}(|m| + 1) \quad (i = 1, 2, r = +\infty), \quad (17)$$

where n_1 and n_2 are the usual parabolic quantum numbers.

We continue by expanding the perturbing potentials V_i in power series in $(2r)^{-1}$ (the perturbation expansions for

the $\beta_i^{(N)}$ are defined below):

$$V_1(u, \beta_1 + 2\beta_2, r) = -\frac{\beta_1 + 2\beta_2}{u + 2r} + \frac{1}{4}(m^2 - 1) \times \left[-\frac{2}{u(u + 2r)} + \frac{1}{(u + 2r)^2} \right] \quad (18)$$

$$= \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} V_1^{(N)}(2r)^{-N}, \quad (19)$$

$$V_1^{(N)} = \frac{1}{4}(m^2 - 1)(N + 1)(-u)^{N-2} - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (\beta_1^{(k)} + 2\beta_2^{(k)})(-u)^{N-k-1}, \quad (20)$$

$$V_2(v, \beta_2, r) = -\frac{\beta_2}{2r - v} + \frac{1}{4}(m^2 - 1) \left[\frac{2}{v(2r - v)} + \frac{1}{(2r - v)^2} \right] \quad (21)$$

$$= \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} V_2^{(N)}(2r)^{-N}, \quad (22)$$

$$V_2^{(N)} = \frac{1}{4}(m^2 - 1)(N + 1)v^{N-2} - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \beta_2^{(k)}v^{N-k-1}. \quad (23)$$

Given the expansions (18)–(23), it is straightforward to solve Eqs. (15) and (16) by textbook RSPT. The first step is to obtain β_2 as a power series in $(2r)^{-1}$ by solving Eq. (16). The second step is to obtain the series for β_1 from Eq. (15) and the β_2 series. The third step is to obtain r^{-1} as a series in R^{-1} from Eq. (13), which then permits E to be expressed as a series in R^{-1} , the fourth and final step. Note that Eqs. (20) and (23) are strictly valid only when u and v are both less than $2r$. However, the RSPT solution is an asymptotic power series in $1/2r$, and the order-by-order equations, which are obtained for large $2r$, of course hold formally for all values of u and v . To look at it another way, if a nonperturbative solution were to be obtained, then by ignoring the corresponding expansions for u and v greater than $2r$, an error that is exponentially small in r would be introduced into the solution, which would again therefore be of no consequence for the $1/2r$ RSPT.

Note that β_1 and β_2 depend on m only through the magnitude $|m|$ and not on the sign. To simplify the appearance of the formulas, we assume from now on, *without loss of generality*, that $m \geq 0$.

C. RSPT results for the separation constants

The RSPT series for the separation constants have been calculated as outlined above. We shall not go into the relatively uninteresting details. At low order the series appear unremarkable. One finds for the ground state ($n_1 = n_2 = m = 0$), for example, that

$$\beta_1 \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \beta_1^{(N)}(2r)^{-N} \quad (24)$$

$$= 0.5 - (2r)^{-1} + 3(2r)^{-2} + 4(2r)^{-3} - 15(2r)^{-4} + \dots, \quad (25)$$

$$\beta_2 \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \beta_2^{(N)}(2r)^{-N} \quad (26)$$

$$= 0.5 - (2r)^{-1} - (2r)^{-2} - 4(2r)^{-3} - 23(2r)^{-4} + \dots \quad (27)$$

What is especially significant is that at high order the $\beta_i^{(N)}$ for the ground state behave asymptotically as

$$\beta_2 \sim -(N + 1)! \left[1 - \frac{6}{N + 1} + \frac{2}{(N + 1)N} - \frac{16}{(N + 1)N(N - 1)} - \dots \right], \quad (28)$$

$$\beta_1 \sim 2N! \left[1 - \frac{6}{N} - \frac{8}{N(N - 1)} + \frac{48}{N(N - 1)(N - 2)} + \dots \right]. \quad (29)$$

The same-sign factorial divergence of the separation-constant coefficients, Eqs. (28) and (29), is the same phenomenon as the factorial divergence^{3,13} of $E^{(N)}$, Eq. (2), discovered by Morgan and Simon.³ This phenomenon is a main motivating fact for this study. In explaining the detailed relationships among the RSPT quantities and the exponentially small quantities associated with the double-well phenomena, we shall focus on the separation constants. It is easier to deal with the separation constants than with E directly, because the separation constants are eigenvalues of ordinary differential equations.

We conclude this section with a remark about the end-points of the β_2 equation (16), which have been treated rather unequally in RSPT. By this we mean that since the unperturbed problem is defined on the semi-infinite interval, the influence of the second boundary condition is not seen by the perturbation theory. As a consequence typical of double-well problems, the characteristic splitting does not show up: both the symmetric and antisymmetric partners of a double-well pair have the same $1/2r$ RSPT expansion. The quasisemiclassical method developed in the next section deals explicitly with both boundary points and consequently gets the double-well splitting.

III. SOLUTION OF THE β_2 EQUATION BY THE QUASISEMICLASSICAL METHOD

Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation theory is unable to calculate the double-well gap. In this section we develop a method for solving the β_2 equation (11) that gives not only the gap, but also smaller more subtle effects, while still yielding within the same formalism the RSPT expansion. The *exact* relationship between the RSPT asymptotics and the square of the gap is found. The final formula we are led to for β_2 is a complex expansion whose explicit imaginary terms for real r are discontinuous across the

positive axis. The explanation of this apparently paradoxical representation of a real, continuous function is that the Borel sum of the real RSPT expansion exists and has a cut on the positive r axis,⁶ so that the value of the Borel sum continued to the real axis is complex, and the explicitly imaginary terms in the expansion are the counterterms that cancel the imaginary part of the Borel sum. This behavior turns out to be widespread: for examples in familiar functions, such as the Airy Bi function, see Ref. 7.

The Borel sum of the RSPT expansion for β_2 turns out^{5,6} not to be the eigenvalue associated with Eq. (16), but to be the eigenvalue of a related problem. Consider Eq. (16) both at $-r$ and with a semi-infinite domain. That is, set $r' = -r$ in V_2 of Eq. (21):

$$V_2(v, \beta_2(-r'), -r') = \frac{\beta_2}{2r'+v} + \frac{1}{4}(m^2 - 1) \times \left[-\frac{2}{v(2r'+v)} + \frac{1}{(2r'+v)^2} \right]. \quad (30)$$

On the semi-infinite interval, $0 \leq v < \infty$, Eq. (16), with V_2 given by Eq. (30), represents a stable, single-well eigenvalue problem whose RSPT expansion is Borel summable^{5,6} to the eigenvalue of that problem. That RSPT expansion is the same as for $\beta_2(r)$ with r replaced by $-r'$. This modified problem [Eq. (16) where V is defined by Eq. (30) on $0 \leq v < \infty$] arises naturally from the separation of the Schrödinger equation for an electron moving in the field of a proton and an antiproton.^{5,6}

To bring out the connection of the Borel sum with the imaginary series for β_2 mentioned in the first paragraph of this section, we also solve here by the QSC method the β_2 eigenvalue problem on the semi-infinite interval $0 \leq v < \infty$, but without changing the sign of r . To avoid the singularity that would occur at $v = 2r$, we make r complex. Then the QSC method yields an expansion for the discontinuity in the Borel sum at the $r > 0$ axis that is exactly -2 times the imaginary series that occurs in the finite, $0 \leq v \leq 2r$ β_2 problem, thus clinching the cancellation. (To leading exponential order only, the calculation of the discontinuity has been made completely rigorous. See Sec. IV of Ref. 6.)

The *method* we develop here is semiclassical. It is closest to the methods of Langer¹⁷ and Cherry.¹⁸ It differs from standard semiclassical practice in that a *singular point* of the differential equation, rather than a *classical turning point*, is the “anchor point” for the expansion, and exponentially small, subdominant terms can enter the actionlike function. To emphasize the similarities and differences, and for lack of a better term, we refer to the approach as the quasisemiclassical (QSC) method.

The basic idea of the QSC method is to make the perturbation expansion on the “natural variable” on which depends a function that represents the solution of the differential equation near one boundary or singular point. One converts the linear Schrödinger equation into a nonlinear, fourth-order Riccati equation for the natural variable that is solved perturbatively. To satisfy one

boundary condition perturbatively, β_2 must be represented by its RSPT series. To satisfy both boundary conditions, β_2 must have an additional, exponentially small (e^{-r}) series that represents half the double-well gap between the symmetric and antisymmetric states of an associated pair. In fact there are additional series that are $O(e^{-2r})$, $O(e^{-3r})$, etc., that are found by satisfying both boundary conditions to higher exponentially small orders. (We stop at the e^{-2r} series.)

A. The quasisemiclassical wave function

The most direct way to characterize the QSC method is through the form of the wave function. The characteristic of the semiclassical Jeffreys-Wentzel-Kramers-Brillouin (JWKB) method¹ is that the logarithm of the wave function is expanded in a power series in \hbar . More precisely, the wave function is put in the form

$$\Psi_{\text{JWKB}} = (dS/dx)^{-1/2} e^{iS/\hbar}, \quad (31)$$

$$S = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} S^{(N)}(x) \hbar^{2N}, \quad (32)$$

where $S^{(0)}$ is the classical action, and where the corrections $S^{(N)}$ ($N \geq 1$) are determined recursively.

The JWKB method fails at the classical turning points, where the $S^{(N)}(x)$ may have singularities. Langer¹⁷ generalized the JWKB method to include the classical turning points in part by solving the differential equation itself at the turning point in terms of Airy functions. Away from a turning point the Airy functions can be expanded asymptotically, and Langer’s method goes over into the JWKB method.

The points of special interest in the β_2 equation (11) are $\eta = 0$ and 2 —which are singular points rather than turning points. (The JWKB method fails even more strongly at singularities.) Near $\eta = 0$, Eq. (11) is

$$\left[-\frac{d^2}{d\eta^2} + \frac{1}{4}r^2 - r\frac{\beta_2}{\eta} + \frac{m^2 - 1}{4\eta^2} \right] \Phi_2 \sim 0, \quad (33)$$

which up to rescaling is Whittaker’s confluent hypergeometric equation, whose solution^{19,20} regular at 0 is denoted by $M_{\beta_2, m/2}(r\eta)$. In the spirit of Langer’s generalization, we take the solution of Eq. (11) near $\eta = 0$ to have the form

$$\Phi_2 = \frac{1}{m!} (d\phi/d\eta)^{-1/2} M_{b, m/2}(r\phi). \quad (34)$$

The Whittaker M function here plays the role of the Airy function in Langer’s method, while $1/r$ is like \hbar . The value of the index b will be clarified later. The problem of determining the solution Φ_2 of Eq. (11) then becomes the problem of determining the function $\phi = \phi(\eta, r)$, which by Eqs. (11), (33), and (34) satisfies the Riccati equation

$$-\left(\frac{d\phi}{d\eta}\right)^2 \left[\frac{1}{4} - \frac{b}{r\phi} + \frac{m^2-1}{4r^2\phi^2} \right] - \frac{1}{r^2} \left[\frac{d\phi}{d\eta} \right]^{1/2} \frac{d^2}{d\eta^2} \left[\frac{d\phi}{d\eta} \right]^{-1/2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{\beta_2}{r} \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right] + \frac{m^2-1}{4r^2} \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right]^2 = 0. \quad (35)$$

Cherry¹⁸ extended Langer's approach by expanding the function corresponding here to ϕ as a power series in a parameter that here is $(2r)^{-1}$:

$$\phi(\eta, r) \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \phi^{(N)}(\eta)(2r)^{-N}. \quad (36)$$

Thus the problem of determining Φ_2 becomes the problem of determining the $\phi^{(N)}$.

The parameter b in the Whittaker function is ultimately determined by making Φ_2 satisfy both boundary conditions. We anticipate that it is equal to the unperturbed value of β_2 to zeroth exponential order:

$$b = \beta_2^{(0)} + O(r^k e^{-r}) \quad (\text{for some } k > 0). \quad (37)$$

Then $M_{\beta_2^{(0)}, m/2}(r\eta)$ is simply the usual RSPT unperturbed wave function,^{1,16} i.e., a polynomial in η times $\eta^{m/2+1/2} e^{-r\eta/2}$. This value of b turns out to simplify both the analytic form of the $\phi^{(N)}$ and also the asymptotic analysis of $M_{b, m/2}$ that is needed to match the boundary condition at $\eta=2$. (Later it will also be necessary to add exponentially small terms to b , to ϕ , and to β_2 when the process of satisfying both boundary conditions is extended to higher exponential order.)

B. Equations satisfied by the $\phi^{(N)}$; explicit solution for $\phi^{(0)}$, $\phi^{(1)}$, and $\phi^{(2)}$; RSPT for $\beta_2^{(1)}$

To provide a concrete example and to illustrate how RSPT "falls out," we calculate $\phi^{(0)}$, $\phi^{(1)}$, $\phi^{(2)}$, and $\beta_2^{(1)}$ ex-

$$-\frac{1}{2} \frac{d\phi^{(2)}}{d\eta} - \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{d\phi^{(1)}}{d\eta} \right]^2 + 4\beta_2^{(0)} \frac{1}{\phi^{(0)}} \frac{d\phi^{(1)}}{d\eta} - 2\beta_2^{(0)} \frac{\phi^{(1)}}{(\phi^{(0)})^2} - (m^2-1) \frac{1}{(\phi^{(0)})^2} - 2\beta_2^{(1)} \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right] + (m^2-1) \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right]^2 = 0, \quad (44)$$

$$d\phi^{(2)}/d\eta = -16(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 \eta^{-2} \ln(1 - \frac{1}{2}\eta) - 16(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 \eta^{-1} (2-\eta)^{-1} + 2[-4(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + m^2 - 1] \frac{1}{(2-\eta)^2} + 2[-2\beta_2^{(1)} + m^2 - 1 - 4(\beta_2^{(0)})^2] \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right], \quad (45)$$

$$\phi^{(2)} = 16(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 [\eta^{-1} \ln(1 - \frac{1}{2}\eta) + \frac{1}{2}] + 2[-4(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + m^2 - 1] [(2-\eta)^{-1} - \frac{1}{2}] + 2[-2\beta_2^{(1)} + m^2 - 1 - 4(\beta_2^{(0)})^2] \ln[\eta/(2-\eta)]. \quad (46)$$

Equation (46) would display a singularity in $\phi^{(2)}$ at $\eta=0$ unless

$$\beta_2^{(1)} = -2(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + \frac{1}{2}(m^2 - 1), \quad (47)$$

which is precisely the RSPT result. Then instead of Eq. (46), $\phi^{(2)}$ is given by

explicitly.

Put the expansions (36) for ϕ , (26) for β_2 , and (37) for b into the Riccati equation (35), which can then be solved recursively. To lowest order in $(2r)^{-1}$, one finds

$$-\frac{1}{4} (d\phi^{(0)}/d\eta)^2 + \frac{1}{4} = 0, \quad (38)$$

$$d\phi^{(0)}/d\eta = 1, \quad \phi^{(0)} = \eta. \quad (39)$$

Note that the unperturbed value of ϕ is η , consistent with the discussion above [between Eqs. (33) and (34)] of Φ_2 near $\eta=0$. Moreover, since Φ_2 at $\eta=0$ behaves like

$$\Phi_2 \sim \eta^{m/2+1/2}, \quad (40)$$

the equivalent condition for ϕ is

$$\phi^{(N)} = O(\eta) \quad \text{as } \eta \rightarrow 0, \quad (41)$$

which also explains the choice of "integration constant" in Eq. (39).

To first order in $(2r)^{-1}$, Eqs. (35)–(41) yield

$$-\frac{1}{2} \frac{d\phi^{(1)}}{d\eta} + 2\beta_2^{(0)} \frac{1}{\eta} - 2\beta_2^{(0)} \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right] = 0, \quad (42)$$

$$\phi^{(1)} = 4\beta_2^{(0)} \ln(1 - \frac{1}{2}\eta). \quad (43)$$

To second order in $(2r)^{-1}$, Eqs. (35)–(43) yield

$$\phi^{(2)} = 16(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 [\eta^{-1} \ln(1 - \frac{1}{2}\eta) + \frac{1}{2}] + 4\beta_2^{(1)} [(2-\eta)^{-1} - \frac{1}{2}]. \quad (48)$$

The equations for $\phi^{(3)}$, $\phi^{(4)}$, . . . get progressively more tedious. However, each $\phi^{(N)}$ can be found in closed form; each $\phi^{(N)}$ is analytic and has a zero at $\eta=0$, provided only

that $\beta_2^{(N-1)}$ is chosen correctly. In fact it is not hard to show inductively from Eqs. (35), (39), (43), and (48) that $\beta_2^{(N-1)}$ can be chosen to make $\phi^{(N)}$ analytic and zero at $\eta=0$. By the uniqueness of power series, the $\beta_2^{(N)}$ —determined so that the QSC Φ_2 satisfy the boundary condition at $\eta=0$ —must be identical with the RSPT $\beta_2^{(N)}$. In this way the QSC method contains RSPT.

C. Boundary condition at $\eta=2$ and the double-well gap

A major advantage of the QSC method over RSPT is that the wave function can be made to vanish at $\eta=2$, as will now be demonstrated. The basic idea is to generate QSC wave functions from both $\eta=0$ and 2 and to match them in the middle where the asymptotic expansion for the Whittaker function is valid. A most crucial detail, however, is that the exponentially small shift [Eq. (37)] in the b index of the Whittaker function of Eq. (34) must now be determined. To find this shift, we reexamine the perturbation hypothesis—namely, that β_2 and ϕ can be expanded in power series in $(2r)^{-1}$.

As is well known, the RSPT expansion for β_2 is incomplete in the sense that there is an exponentially small correction of the form^{2,4}

$$\beta_2 \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \beta_2^{(N)} (2r)^{-N} + \Delta\beta_2^{(1)} + O(r^k e^{-2r}) \quad (\text{for some } k > 0), \quad (49)$$

$$\Delta\beta_2^{(1)} \sim \pm \frac{(2r)^{2\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-r}}{n_2!(n_2+m)!}. \quad (50)$$

The notation $\Delta f^{(q)}$ is to signify that part of f that is proportional to e^{-qr} . The quantity $2\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ is the double-well

splitting [through $O(e^{-r})$] that separates the symmetric and antisymmetric states of a double-well pair, both of which have the same RSPT expansion. To make it possible to calculate the exponentially small terms, it is necessary to add them to the perturbation expansions (24) and (26) for β_1 and β_2 , and to permit them to enter the expansions (37) for b and (36) for ϕ . This generalization is a natural but marked departure from the usual semiclassical practice. We put

$$\beta_i \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \beta_i^{(N)} (2r)^{-N} + \Delta\beta_i^{(1)} + O(r^k e^{-2r}) \quad (i=1,2), \quad (51)$$

$$b \sim \beta_2^{(0)} + \Delta b^{(1)} + O(r^k e^{-2r}), \quad (52)$$

$$\phi(\eta, r) \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \phi^{(N)}(\eta) (2r)^{-N} + \Delta\phi^{(1)} + O(r^k e^{-2r}). \quad (53)$$

[In Eqs. (51)—(53) and in all subsequent equations, we omit the generic “for some $k > 0$,” which without danger of confusion may be taken as understood.] It will be seen later that the leading terms of $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ and $\Delta b^{(1)}$ are equal:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\beta_2^{(1)} &= \Delta b^{(1)} [1 + O(r^{-1})] \\ &= \pm \frac{(2r)^{2\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-r}}{n_2!(n_2+m)!} [1 + O(r^{-1})]. \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

The crucial role played by the shift in the b index is immediately apparent when, in preparation for matching the wave function (34) with one satisfying the boundary condition at $\eta=2$, the Whittaker M function is expanded asymptotically:²⁰

$$\frac{1}{m!} M_{b, m/2}(z) = \frac{e^{\pm\pi i(m/2+1/2-b)}}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2} + b)} W_{b, m/2}(z) + \frac{e^{\mp\pi i b}}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2} - b)} W_{-b, m/2}(ze^{\mp\pi i}) \quad (0 < \pm \arg z < \pi) \quad (55)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\sim \frac{e^{\pm\pi i(m/2+1/2-b)}}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2} + b)} z^b e^{-z/2} {}_2F_0(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}m - b, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}m - b; ; -z^{-1}) \\ &+ \frac{1}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}m - b)} z^{-b} e^{+z/2} {}_2F_0(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}m + b, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}m + b; ; +z^{-1}) \quad (0 < \pm \arg z < \pi) \end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

$$\sim (-1)^{n_2} \frac{e^{\mp\pi i \Delta b^{(1)}}}{(n_2+m)!} z^b e^{-z/2} + \Delta b^{(1)} (-1)^{n_2+1} n_2! z^{-b} e^{+z/2} \quad (0 < \pm \arg z < \pi), \quad (57)$$

where we have used the Γ -function reflection formula¹⁹ and that $b + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}m \sim n_2 + 1 + \Delta b^{(1)}$ to get

$$\begin{aligned} 1/\Gamma(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}m - b) \\ = \Gamma(b + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}m) \pi^{-1} \sin[\pi(b + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}m)] \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$

$$= (-1)^{n_2+1} n_2! \Delta b^{(1)} [1 + O(\Delta b^{(1)})]. \quad (59)$$

Note the introduction in Eq. (55) of the Whittaker W functions, primarily for later use, and in Eq. (56) the usual generalized hypergeometric series,¹⁹

$${}_2F_0(a, b; ; z) = 1 + ab \frac{z}{1!} + a(a+1)b(b+1) \frac{z^2}{2!} + \dots \quad (60)$$

When $\Delta b^{(1)} \neq 0$, there is a *positive exponential term* in Φ_2 . Consider for the moment how Φ_2 appears near the point $\eta=2$. The positive exponential in Eqs. (56) and (57) (where $z=r\phi \sim r\eta$) is the term that is *decaying* away from $\eta=2$ (in the direction of $\eta=0$) and near $\eta=2$ should be the most important term. In fact, because of the symmetry of Eq. (11), Φ_2 should be either symmetric or antisymmetric under the transformation $\eta \rightarrow 2 - \eta$, so

that both exponentials should be equally weighted. It will turn out that $\Delta b^{(1)}$ has exactly the right value to achieve this symmetry.

It is now straightforward to obtain the leading terms in the asymptotic expansion of Φ_2 . Take $\phi^{(0)}$ and $\phi^{(1)}$ from Eqs. (39) and (43), and use Eqs. (34) and (57) to obtain, for Φ_2 anchored at $\eta=0$ (denoted here by $\Phi_{2[0]}$),

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{2[0]} \sim & \frac{(-1)^{n_2}(2r)^{\beta_2^{(0)}}}{(n_2+m)!} \eta^{\beta_2^{(0)}} (2-\eta)^{-\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-r\eta/2} [1+O(r^{-1})] \\ & + \Delta b^{(1)} (-1)^{n_2+1} n_2! (2r)^{-\beta_2^{(0)}} (2-\eta)^{\beta_2^{(0)}} \\ & \times \eta^{-\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{+r\eta/2} [1+O(r^{-1})]. \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

(Here and in the following, we use "anchored at $\eta=a$ " to mean a QSC wave function generated by expansion from the point a .) If instead of starting the expansion at the boundary point $\eta=0$ we had started at $\eta=2$, exactly the same expression would have been obtained for Φ_2 an-

chored at $\eta=2$ ($\Phi_{2[2]}$), except that η would be replaced by $2-\eta$:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{2[2]} \sim & \frac{(-1)^{n_2}(2r)^{\beta_2^{(0)}}}{(n_2+m)!} \\ & \times (2-\eta)^{\beta_2^{(0)}} \eta^{-\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-r+r\eta/2} [1+O(r^{-1})] \\ & + \Delta b^{(1)} (-1)^{n_2+1} n_2! (2r)^{-\beta_2^{(0)}} \eta^{\beta_2^{(0)}} \\ & \times (2-\eta)^{-\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{+r-r\eta/2} [1+O(r^{-1})]. \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

These two equations represent the same wave function only if

$$(\Delta b^{(1)})^2 = \frac{(2r)^{4\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-2r}}{[n_2!(n_2+m)!]^2} [1+O(r^{-1})], \quad (63)$$

which gives the formula (54) for $\Delta b^{(1)}$.

The complete series for $\Delta b^{(1)}$ is obtained by carrying out the above process to all powers of $(2r)^{-1}$. The formal result is

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta b^{(1)} = & \pm \frac{(2r)^{2\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-r}}{n_2!(n_2+m)!} \left(\frac{1}{2} \phi_{[0]} \right)^{\beta_2^{(0)}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \phi_{[2]} \right)^{\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-r(\phi_{[0]}+\phi_{[2]}-2)/2} \left[\frac{{}_2F_0(-n_2, -n_2-m; ; -(r\phi_{[0]})^{-1})}{{}_2F_0(n_2+m+1, n_2+1; ; +(r\phi_{[0]})^{-1})} \right]^{1/2} \\ & \times \left[\frac{{}_2F_0(-n_2, -n_2-m; ; -(r\phi_{[2]})^{-1})}{{}_2F_0(n_2+m+1, n_2+1; ; +(r\phi_{[2]})^{-1})} \right]^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

By $\phi_{[0]}$ is meant the ϕ for the QSC eigenfunction anchored at $\eta=0$, while $\phi_{[2]}$ corresponds to the QSC eigenfunction anchored at $\eta=2$. In fact here $\phi_{[2]}(\eta, r) = \phi_{[0]}(2-\eta, r)$. The right-hand side of Eq. (64) is $(2r)^{2\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-r}$ times a series in $(2r)^{-1}$ that is independent of η .

The index shift $\Delta b^{(1)}$ and RSPT can now be put together to give the $O(e^{-r})$ contribution $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ to β_2 . Recall that in the preceding subsection (III B) the index b was set equal to $\beta_2^{(0)}$ and then the higher $\beta_2^{(N)}$ ($N \geq 1$) were obtained as functions of $\beta_2^{(0)}$ by requiring that $\phi^{(N+1)}$ vanish as $\eta \rightarrow 0$. That process did not depend on the value of $\beta_2^{(0)}$. If now $\beta_2^{(0)} \rightarrow \beta_2^{(0)} + \Delta b^{(1)}$, then one can expand out from the RSPT series the part linear in $\Delta b^{(1)}$,

$$\Delta\beta_2^{(1)} = \Delta b^{(1)} \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \frac{d\beta_2^{(N)}}{d\beta_2^{(0)}} (2r)^{-N} \quad (65)$$

$$= \Delta b^{(1)} [1 - 4\beta_2^{(0)}(2r)^{-1} + \dots], \quad (66)$$

where Eq. (47) has been used to calculate $d\beta_2^{(1)}/d\beta_2^{(0)}$. In a similar way it follows that

$$\Delta\phi^{(1)} = \Delta b^{(1)} \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \frac{d\phi^{(N)}(\eta)}{d\beta_2^{(0)}} (2r)^{-N} \quad (67)$$

$$= r^{-1} \Delta b^{(1)} [2 \ln(1 - \frac{1}{2}\eta) + \dots], \quad (68)$$

where Eq. (43) has been used to calculate $d\phi^{(1)}/d\beta_2^{(0)}$.

[Note that $\phi^{(0)}$, Eq. (39), is independent of $\beta_2^{(0)}$.]

To use Eqs. (65) and (67) relating $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ and $\Delta\phi^{(1)}$ to $\Delta b^{(1)}$, it is necessary to calculate the RSPT $\beta_2^{(N)}$ and the QSC $\phi^{(N)}$ as explicit functions of $\beta_2^{(0)}$. This is easy for low orders but tedious for high orders. An alternative procedure is given in the next subsection.

D. Solution of the Riccati equation directly to $O(e^{-r})$

To avoid solving for $\beta_2^{(N)}$ and $\phi^{(N)}$ as explicit functions of $\beta_2^{(0)}$ to high order, which would be required to use Eqs. (65) and (67) for $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ and $\Delta\phi^{(1)}$, we give an alternative procedure, which is to solve the Riccati equation (35) directly to $O(e^{-r})$.

Let $q(r)$ denote the ratio

$$q(r) \equiv \Delta\beta_2^{(1)}/\Delta b^{(1)} = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \frac{d\beta_2^{(N)}}{d\beta_2^{(0)}} (2r)^{-N}. \quad (69)$$

We anticipate that $r^{-1}\Delta b^{(1)}$ is a natural factor in $\Delta\phi^{(1)}$, and we accordingly define the ratio

$$\theta(\eta, r) = \Delta\phi^{(1)}/r^{-1}\Delta b^{(1)}. \quad (70)$$

Let ϕ in the remainder of this section denote only the zeroth-exponential-order part of ϕ —i.e., the $1/r$ power-series part. In place of ϕ , put $\phi + r^{-1}\Delta b^{(1)}\theta$ into the Riccati equation (35), and put $\beta_2^{(0)} + \Delta b^{(1)}$ for b and $\sum \beta_2^{(N)}(2r)^{-N} + \Delta b^{(1)}q(r)$ for β_2 . Expand the equation in powers of $\Delta b^{(1)}$, and keep only the terms first order in $\Delta b^{(1)}$. The result, divided by $r^{-1}\Delta b^{(1)}$, is an equation for $\theta(\eta, r)$ and $q(r)$, given $\phi(\eta, r)$:

$$\left(\frac{d\phi}{d\eta}\right)^2 \left[\frac{1}{\phi} - \frac{\beta_2^{(0)}\theta}{r\phi^2} + \frac{(m^2-1)\theta}{2r^2\phi^3} \right] - 2 \frac{d\phi}{d\eta} \frac{d\theta}{d\eta} \left[\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\beta_2^{(0)}}{r\phi} + \frac{m^2-1}{4r^2\phi^2} \right] - q(r) \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right] - \frac{1}{2r^2} \frac{d\theta}{d\eta} \left[\frac{d\phi}{d\eta} \right]^{-1/2} \frac{d^2}{d\eta^2} \left[\frac{d\phi}{d\eta} \right]^{-1/2} + \frac{1}{2r^2} \left[\frac{d\phi}{d\eta} \right]^{1/2} \frac{d^2}{d\eta^2} \left[\frac{d\theta}{d\eta} \left[\frac{d\phi}{d\eta} \right]^{-3/2} \right] = 0. \quad (71)$$

To solve Eq. (71), first expand $q(r)$ and $\theta(\eta, r)$ in power series in $(2r)^{-1}$:

$$q(r) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} q^{(N)}(2r)^{-N}, \quad (72)$$

$$\theta(\eta, r) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \theta^{(N)}(\eta)(2r)^{-N}. \quad (73)$$

From Eq. (71) and $\phi^{(0)}$ [Eq. (39)], one obtains the zeroth-order equation,

$$\frac{1}{2} d\theta^{(0)}/d\eta = \eta^{-1} - q^{(0)}[\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}]. \quad (74)$$

Since $d\theta^{(0)}/d\eta$ must be finite at $\eta=0$,

$$q^{(0)} = 1, \quad \theta^{(0)} = 2 \ln(1 - \frac{1}{2}\eta). \quad (75)$$

Similarly, one obtains the equation

$$\begin{aligned} d\theta^{(1)}/d\eta &= (d/d\eta)[16\beta_2^{(0)}\eta^{-1}\ln(1 - \frac{1}{2}\eta)] \\ &\quad - 8\beta_2^{(0)}(2-\eta)^{-2} \\ &\quad - 2(4\beta_2^{(0)} + q^{(1)})[\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}]. \end{aligned} \quad (76)$$

From the regularity condition at $\eta=0$ it follows that

$$q^{(1)} = -4\beta_2^{(0)}, \quad (77)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^{(1)} &= 16\beta_2^{(0)}[\eta^{-1}\ln(1 - \frac{1}{2}\eta) + \frac{1}{2}] \\ &\quad - 8\beta_2^{(0)}[(2-\eta)^{-1} - \frac{1}{2}]. \end{aligned} \quad (78)$$

Thus the ratios $q(r)$ and $\theta(\eta, r)$ can be calculated by a recursive, perturbative technique directly, rather than through the $\beta_2^{(0)}$ derivatives of the $\phi^{(n)}$ and the $\beta_2^{(N)}$. It is interesting that there is yet another alternative method for calculating $q(r)$ —a “normalization-integral” method—that will be given in the next subsection.

E. Normalization-integral formula for $q(r)$

The two methods given previously for $q(r)$ are generalizable to higher exponential orders. A third formula is developed in this section that is less generalizable but simpler in the respect that it uses only the zeroth-exponential-order wave function in the practical evaluation of $q(r)$. The argument starts out with a “current-density” formula and ends up with an expression that looks like a normalization integral.

Let $\Phi^{(+)}$ and $\Phi^{(-)}$ denote the paired solutions of Eq. (11) that differ only in the choice of sign for $\Delta b^{(1)}$ in Eq. (64). To $O(e^{-r})$ the difference in the two eigenvalues—i.e., the double-well gap for these two states—is $2\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$. From Eq. (11) one sees by a standard current-density argument that

$$2\Delta\beta_2^{(1)} + O(e^{-2r}) = \frac{\Phi^{(+)}(d\Phi^{(-)}/d\eta) - \Phi^{(-)}(d\Phi^{(+)}/d\eta)}{r \int_0^\eta \Phi^{(+)}\Phi^{(-)}[\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}]d\eta}. \quad (79)$$

The numerator is a Wronskian of two functions that solve the same differential equation if terms $O(r^k e^{-r})$ are neglected. From the form of $\Phi^{(\pm)}$ [in terms of the Whittaker M function, Eq. (34)], from Eqs. (55) and (56) [or more simply Eq. (57)] for the asymptotics of the M function, from the Wronskian of the Whittaker functions,²⁰

$$\begin{aligned} W_{b,m/2}(z) \frac{d}{dz} e^{\mp\pi ib} W_{-b,m/2}(ze^{\mp\pi i}) \\ - e^{\mp\pi ib} W_{-b,m/2}(ze^{\mp\pi i}) \frac{d}{dz} W_{b,m/2}(z) = 1, \end{aligned} \quad (80)$$

and from standard error estimates for formulas of this type,⁴ it follows that so long as $0 \ll \eta \ll 2$, i.e., for $\eta = 1 + \epsilon$ ($\epsilon \sim 0$), the numerator is to first exponential order,

$$2rn_2! \Delta b^{(1)} / (n_2 + m)!. \quad (81)$$

Similarly, also for $0 \ll \eta \ll 2$, the denominator is to terms $O(r^k e^{-r})$ independent of η and dominated by the exponentially decreasing component, the $W_{b,m/2}$ in Eq. (55). Since for $b = \beta_2^{(0)}$ this W is just an unperturbed wave function, there is no difficulty and insignificant error in replacing the M by the unperturbed W , expanding the integrand as $e^{-r\eta}$ times a power series in $(2r)^{-1}$ and in η , and then taking the upper limit of the integral to be ∞ . That is, the denominator is again up to $O(r^k e^{-r})$

$$\begin{aligned} r[(n_2 + m)!]^{-2} \int_0^\infty (d\phi/d\eta)^{-1} [W_{\beta_2^{(0)}, m/2}(r\phi)]^2 \\ \times [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}] d\eta. \end{aligned} \quad (82)$$

We emphasize that (82) is not meant literally, but instead as an asymptotic power series in $(2r)^{-1}$. Also, ϕ is meant to be the zeroth-exponential-order solution of the Riccati equation (35). Thus one obtains for $q(r) = \Delta\beta_2^{(1)}/\Delta b^{(1)}$,

$$\begin{aligned} q(r) &= n_2!(n_2 + m)! \left[\int_0^\infty (d\phi/d\eta)^{-1} [W_{\beta_2^{(0)}, m/2}(r\phi)]^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}] d\eta \right]^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (83)$$

Equation (83), being only an integral to be evaluated, is perhaps the most useful practical expression for computing $q(r)$.

F. Imaginary contribution to the index b

As mentioned in the Introduction and in Sec. II C, same-sign factorial divergence suggests a complex, discon-

tinuous Borel sum [cf. Eqs. (3) and (4)]. For the RSPT for β_2 , we infer from Eq. (28) that for the ground state, with $r > 0$,

$$\sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \beta_2^{(N)} (2r)^{-N} \sim - \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} (N+1)! (2r)^{-N} \quad (84)$$

$$\sim \text{P} \int_0^{\infty} t^2 e^{-t} (t-2r)^{-1} dt \\ \pm i\pi 4r^2 e^{-2r} \quad (\text{Im}r = \pm 0). \quad (85)$$

This motivates us to look for an *explicit* contribution to β_2 that is $O(e^{-2r})$ and that is *imaginary*, to cancel the imaginary term in Eq. (85).

Since the Riccati equation (35) is formally real, explicit imaginary terms in β_2 can only originate in the index b . The value of b through $O(e^{-r})$ was obtained in Sec. III C by matching two QSC wave functions that separately satisfied the boundary conditions at either $\eta=0$ or 2, and that value was real (for real r and η). The imaginary $O(e^{-2r})$ contribution has its computational origin in the complex phase factor multiplying the subdominant contribution to the ordinary asymptotic expansion for the Whittaker M function, Eqs. (55) and (56).

The reader is well aware that the Whittaker M function is real on the real axis, and that the complex expansion (56) is not usually considered valid²¹ on the real axis, which is a Stokes line of the expansion.²¹ However, there is a sense⁷ in which the complex expansion (56) is valid also on the real axis. In fact, the two power-series expansions represented by the ${}_2F_0$ functions in Eq. (56) are Borel summable,⁷ and the overall result is the Whittaker

M function in each appropriate half-plane. The positive real axis is a cut of the Borel sum of the power series multiplying $e^{+z/2}$, the dominant expansion. In the limit as $\text{Im}z \rightarrow 0$ from above or below, the imaginary part of the Borel sum times $e^{+z/2}$ cancels the explicit imaginary contribution coming from the phase factor multiplying the subdominant expansion. This is the sense in which the sum of the explicitly complex, discontinuous expansion mentioned in the Introduction is real and continuous. The same phenomenon that holds for the Whittaker M function appears to apply to β_2 . (See Ref. 6 for a proof that the Borel sum of the RSPT series for β_2 is complex.)

Let us now get on with the details of extending the matching process of Sec. III C to $O(e^{-2r})$. First we extend the notation to include second exponential order [cf. Eqs. (51)–(53)]:

$$\beta_i \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \beta_i^{(N)} (2r)^{-N} \\ + \Delta\beta_i^{[1]} + \Delta\beta_i^{[2]} + O(r^k e^{-3r}) \quad (i=1,2), \quad (86)$$

$$b \sim \beta_2^{(0)} + \Delta b^{[1]} + \Delta b^{[2]} + O(r^k e^{-3r}), \quad (87)$$

$$\phi(\eta, r) \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \phi^{(N)}(\eta) (2r)^{-N} + \Delta\phi^{[1]} + \Delta\phi^{[2]} + O(r^k e^{-3r}). \quad (88)$$

Next we keep the phase factor in Eqs. (55)–(57) and get as a requirement for the matching of the two QSC functions, instead of Eqs. (64) and (63),

$$(\Delta b^{[1]} + \Delta b^{[2]})^2 = e^{\mp 2\pi i \Delta b^{[1]}} \times [\text{right-hand side of Eq. (64)}]^2 \times [1 + O(\Delta b^{[1]})] \quad (89)$$

$$= e^{\mp 2\pi i \Delta b^{[1]}} \frac{(2r)^{4\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-2r}}{[n_2!(n_2+m)!]^2} [1 + O(r^{-1})] \quad (\pm \text{Im}r \geq 0). \quad (90)$$

(The $O(\Delta b^{[1]})$ error in Eq. (89) comes from replacing the $\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2} \pm b)$ [cf. Eq. (55)] by $(n_2+m)!$ and $n_2!$. There is no contribution from this term to $\text{Im}\Delta b^{[2]}$ (this section), but there is a contribution to $\text{Re}\Delta b^{[2]}$ that will be taken care of in Sec. III H.)

The imaginary contribution to $\Delta b^{[2]}$ comes from the expansion of the phase factor. Take the square root of both sides of Eq. (89), then expand the factor $e^{\mp \pi i \Delta b^{[1]}}$:

$$\Delta b^{[1]} + \Delta b^{[2]} = (1 \mp i\pi \Delta b^{[1]}) \times [\text{right-hand side of Eq. (64)}] \times [1 + O(\Delta b^{[1]})] \quad (91)$$

$$= (1 \mp i\pi \Delta b^{[1]}) \times \Delta b^{[1]} \times [1 + O(\Delta b^{[1]})]. \quad (92)$$

Let $\Delta_r b^{[2]}$ and $\Delta_i b^{[2]}$ denote the real and imaginary parts of $\Delta b^{[2]}$ when r is real and positive, and their analytic continuations otherwise:

$$\Delta b^{[2]} = \Delta_r b^{[2]} + i\Delta_i b^{[2]}. \quad (93)$$

Then it is immediately seen from Eq. (92) that the second-exponential-order imaginary contribution to b is

$$\Delta_i b^{[2]} = \mp \pi (\Delta b^{[1]})^2 \quad (\pm \text{Im}r \geq 0). \quad (94)$$

This relationship between the asymptotic expansions is exact. It is the key to the Brézin–Zinn-Justin conjecture¹² discussed in the next subsection. Note, moreover, that for

the ground state,

$$\Delta_i b^{[2]} \sim \mp \pi 4r^2 e^{-2r} \quad (\text{Im}r = \pm 0), \quad (95)$$

so that $i\Delta_i b^{[2]}$ to leading order is exactly the counterterm to cancel the imaginary part of Eq. (85).

G. Imaginary contribution to β_2 . The gap-squared formula

The imaginary series (94) contributing to the index b leads directly to an imaginary series in β_2 that is $O(e^{-2r})$. Denote by $\Delta_r \beta_2^{[2]}$ and $\Delta_i \beta_2^{[2]}$ the real and imaginary series

contributing to $\Delta\beta_2^{[2]}$ when r is real and positive:

$$\Delta\beta_2^{[2]} = \Delta_r\beta_2^{[2]} + i\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}. \quad (96)$$

By exactly the same argument that led to Eq. (65) for $\Delta\beta_2^{[1]}$, one finds that the imaginary series to second exponential order is obtained from $\Delta_i b^{[2]}$ via

$$\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]} = \Delta_i b^{[2]} \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \frac{d\beta_2^{(N)}}{d\beta_2^{(0)}} (2r)^{-N} \quad (97)$$

$$= \Delta_i b^{[2]} q(r) \quad (98)$$

$$= \mp\pi \frac{(2r)^{4\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-2r}}{[n_2!(n_2+m)!]^2} [1 + O(r^{-1})] \quad (\pm \text{Im}r \geq 0). \quad (99)$$

$$\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]} = \mp\pi(\Delta\beta_2^{[1]})^2 \frac{\int_0^{\infty} (d\phi/d\eta)^{-1} [W_{\beta_2^{(0)}, m/2}(r\phi)]^2 [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}] d\eta}{n_2!(n_2+m)!} \quad (\pm \text{Im}r \geq 0). \quad (102)$$

Recall that the expansion for $q(r)$ starts out with 1 [cf. Eqs. (66) and (75)]. Equations (101) and (102) express the *exact* relationship between the asymptotics of the $\beta_2^{(N)}$ [via Eq. (100)] and the square of the gap whose leading term was found numerically by Brézin and Zinn-Justin.⁹ In fact, that relationship did not involve β_2 but the energy $E(R)$. It will be seen in Sec. VI, however, that the asymptotics of the $E^{(N)}$ are dominated by $\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}$, so that the crux of the explanation of the $E^{(N)}$ asymptotics has already been given.

H. Doubly-exponentially-small real series

The matching process described in Sec. III C was carried out there to $O(e^{-r})$ for the index shift $\Delta b^{[1]}$ and in

$$b = \beta_2^{(0)} + \Delta b, \quad (104)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^{-2} \sin^2(\pi\Delta b) &= \frac{e^{\mp 2\pi i \Delta b}}{[\Gamma(n_2+m+1+\Delta b)\Gamma(n_2+1+\Delta b)]^2} \frac{W_{\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b, m/2}(r\phi_{[0]})}{e^{\mp\pi i(\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b)} W_{-\beta_2^{(0)}-\Delta b, m/2}(r\phi_{[0]}e^{\mp\pi i})} \\ &\times \frac{W_{\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b, m/2}(r\phi_{[2]})}{e^{\mp\pi i(\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b)} W_{-\beta_2^{(0)}-\Delta b, m/2}(r\phi_{[2]}e^{\mp\pi i})} \quad (\pm \text{Im}r \geq 0). \end{aligned} \quad (105)$$

As with Eq. (64), the η dependence of the right-hand side of Eq. (105) cancels, leaving only a function of r . Now expand Δb in exponentially ordered terms $\Delta b^{[q]}$,

$$\Delta b = \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} \Delta b^{[q]}. \quad (106)$$

The asymptotic equation for Δb , which is the general version of Eq. (64) valid to all exponential orders, is obtained by using the asymptotic expansions [cf. Eqs. (55)–(57)] for the Whittaker functions and taking the square root of both sides of Eq. (105). To put the result in a form that can be solved recursively for the $\Delta b^{[q]}$ after expansion, we add $\pi^{-1}\sin(\pi\Delta b) - \Delta b$ to both sides (after taking the square root). Then for $\text{Im}r \geq 0$ (the complex conjugate holds for the reverse) we obtain

The importance of $\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}$ is the role it plays, via a dispersion relation⁶ to be discussed later in Sec. VI, in the asymptotics of the RSPT coefficients $\beta_2^{(N)}$:

$$\beta_2^{(N)} \sim \pi^{-1} 2^N \int_0^{\infty+i\epsilon} r^{N-1} \Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]} dr. \quad (100)$$

The $\infty+i\epsilon$ is to indicate that the “ $\text{Im}r \geq 0$ sign” is to be used for $\Delta_i b^{[2]}$ in Eq. (94). Since the same ratio $q(r)$ occurs here that occurred for the first-exponential-order quantity $\Delta\beta_2^{[1]}$ [Eqs. (66)–(69)], it is possible to express $\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}$ directly in terms of $\Delta\beta_2^{[1]}$ and $q(r)$ via Eq. (94):

$$\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]} = \mp\pi(\Delta\beta_2^{[1]})^2/q(r) \quad (\pm \text{Im}r \geq 0), \quad (101)$$

which, because of Eq. (83), can be written as the product of $\mp\pi$, the “half gap” squared, and a normalization integral, taken in the sense of an asymptotic power series as explained in Sec. III E,

Sec. III F for the $O(e^{-2r})$ imaginary shift $\Delta_i b^{[2]}$. In this section the calculation of the shift in b to any exponential order is sketched, and results are given for the real $O(e^{-2r})$ shift $\Delta_r b^{[2]}$ and the real second-exponential-order $\Delta_r\beta_2^{[2]}$.

The formulas in this section involve the logarithmic derivative of the gamma function,¹⁹ usually defined by ψ :

$$\psi(z) = \frac{d}{dz} \ln\Gamma(z). \quad (103)$$

The exact form of the matching equation that results from equating the two QSC functions, one anchored at $\eta=0$, the other at $\eta=2$, the $O(e^{-r})$ version of which is Eq. (64), is [cf. Eqs. (34) and (55)–(59)]

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta b = -[\pi^{-1}\sin(\pi\Delta b) - \Delta b] \pm & \frac{e^{-\pi i\Delta b}(2r)^{2\beta_2^{(0)}+2\Delta b} e^{-r}}{\Gamma(n_2+m+1+\Delta b)\Gamma(n_2+1+\Delta b)} \left(\frac{1}{2}\phi_{[0]}\right)^{\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b} \left(\frac{1}{2}\phi_{[2]}\right)^{\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b} e^{-r(\phi_{[0]}+\phi_{[2]-2})/2} \\ & \times \left[\frac{{}_2F_0(-n_2-\Delta b, -n_2-m-\Delta b; ; -(r\phi_{[0]})^{-1})}{{}_2F_0(n_2+m+1+\Delta b, n_2+1+\Delta b; ; +(r\phi_{[0]})^{-1})} \right]^{1/2} \\ & \times \left[\frac{{}_2F_0(-n_2-\Delta b, -n_2-m-\Delta b; ; -(r\phi_{[2]})^{-1})}{{}_2F_0(n_2+m+1+\Delta b, n_2+1+\Delta b; ; +(r\phi_{[2]})^{-1})} \right]^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (107)$$

The leading term of the second-exponential-order real series comes from the expansion of the Γ functions and of $(2r)^{2\Delta b}$, the latter of which leads to $\ln(2r)$ terms. Subsequent terms are down by $1/2r$ and require ϕ through $O(e^{-r})$. Like $\Delta_i b^{[2]}$, the real $\Delta_r b^{[2]}$ is proportional to the square of the first-exponential-order series. The first few terms of $\Delta_r b^{[2]}$ are

$$\Delta_r b^{[2]} = (\Delta b^{[1]})^2 [2\ln(2r) - \psi(n_2+1) - \psi(n_2+m+1) - 12\beta_2^{(0)}(2r)^{-1} + O(r^{-2})]. \quad (108)$$

The real second-exponential-order contribution $\Delta_r \beta_2^{[2]}$ to β_2 can be found from the index shift as in Sec. III C, Eq. (65), except that now second derivatives with respect to $\beta_2^{(0)}$ are required:

$$\Delta \beta_2^{[2]} = \Delta b^{[2]} \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \frac{d\beta_2^{(N)}}{d\beta_2^{(0)}} (2r)^{-N} + \frac{1}{2} (\Delta b^{[1]})^2 \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \frac{d^2\beta_2^{(N)}}{d(\beta_2^{(0)})^2} (2r)^{-N}. \quad (109)$$

As for the first-exponential-order case in Sec. III D, it is also possible to avoid the second derivatives of the $\beta_2^{(N)}$ by solving the Riccati equation directly to second exponential order, but we omit the details here. The leading terms in the expansion for $\Delta_r \beta_2^{[2]}$ are

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_r \beta_2^{[2]} = & \frac{(2r)^{4\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-2r}}{(n_2!)^2 [(n_2+1)!]^2} \left[2\ln(2r) - \psi(n_2+1) - \psi(n_2+m+1) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{2r} \left[2\ln(2r) - \psi(n_2+1) - \psi(n_2+m+1) \right] \right. \\ & \left. \times \left[-4\beta_2^{(0)} - 12(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + m^2 - 1 \right] - 12\beta_2^{(0)} - 2 \right] + O(r^{-2}\ln(2r)). \end{aligned} \quad (110)$$

I. The β_2 equation on a semi-infinite interval and the discontinuity in the Borel sum

In this section we treat a different problem: we solve the β_2 eigenvalue equation not on the original finite interval, but on a semi-infinite interval. There are two reasons for considering this modified problem. (i) It has the same RSPT expansion as the original problem, but the Borel sum of the common RSPT expansion is the eigenvalue of this modified problem.^{5,6} (ii) The positive r axis is a cut of the eigenvalue of the modified problem, and calculation of the discontinuity across the cut gives an immediate, unambiguous meaning to the imaginary second-exponential-order series $\Delta_i \beta_2^{[2]}$ calculated already in Sec. III G, but which comes up again here: it is the discontinuity that determines the dispersion relation and that gives the asymptotics of the RSPT coefficients [cf. Eq. (100) and Sec. VI].

The problem is to solve Eq. (11) with the boundary conditions

$$\Phi_2(\eta) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \eta \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{and as } \text{Re}(\eta r) \rightarrow +\infty, \quad \text{Im}(\eta r) > 0 \quad (111)$$

or equivalently Eq. (16) with the boundary conditions

$$\Phi_2(v) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } v \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{and as } \text{Re} v \rightarrow +\infty, \quad \text{Im} v > 0. \quad (112)$$

The nonstandard aspect of this modified problem is to avoid the singularity on the positive real axis at $\eta=2$ for Eq. (11) or at $v=2r$ for Eq. (16), as indicated by the $\text{Im} r > 0$ in Eq. (112). The modified eigenvalue problem is related to a standard eigenvalue problem: the ξ (or u) equation when the Schrödinger equation for an electron moving in the field of a proton and an antiproton [change the sign of the $1/r_b$ term in Eq. (9)] is separated in prolate spheroidal coordinates. The u equation is

$$\begin{aligned} & [-u d^2/du^2 + \frac{1}{4}u + \frac{1}{4}(m^2-1)/u] \Phi_1 \\ & + u V_1(u, \beta_1, r') \Phi_1 = \beta_1 \Phi_1, \end{aligned} \quad (113)$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_1(u, \beta_1, r') = & + \frac{\beta_1}{2r'+u} \\ & + \frac{1}{4}(m^2-1) \left[-\frac{2}{u(2r'+u)} \frac{1}{(2r'+u)^2} \right] \\ & (0 \leq u < \infty), \end{aligned} \quad (114)$$

where the primes are to distinguish the mixed-charge problem from H₂⁺. The modified β_2 problem is the analytic continuation up to $r' = e^{\pm\pi i} r$ of the stable, single-well β_1 problem. (See Sec. IV of Ref. 6 for the use of this approach in estimating rigorously the leading term in the discontinuity.)

Before giving the details of the QSC solution, one can anticipate certain of its characteristics, which depend on how the singularity on the positive v or η axis is avoided. The v case is easier to state but completely equivalent to the η case. By making r complex, the singularity at $v=2r$ [see Eq. (21)] is moved off the positive axis. Note^{5,6} that the positive r axis is a cut for $\beta'_1(r)$, where $r'=e^{\pm\pi i}r$. If $\text{Im}r>0$, then the direct Borel sum [for which $|\arg(r')|<\pi$] of the RSPT series will be $\beta'_1(e^{-\pi i}r)$, while if $\text{Im}r<0$, the direct Borel sum will be $\beta'_1(e^{+\pi i}r)$. Now here is the subtlety: suppose one requires the complete asymptotic expansion for $\beta'_1(e^{-\pi i}r)$ both for $\text{Im}r>0$, where the answer has to be exactly RSPT, and for its *analytic continuation to* $\text{Im}r<0$, where the answer cannot be exactly RSPT, because for $\text{Im}r<0$ the Borel sum of the RSPT series is $\beta'_1(e^{+\pi i}r)$. In the fourth quadrant, the asymptotic expansion for $\beta'_1(e^{-\pi i}r)$ necessarily must have, besides the RSPT terms, additional terms that represent the difference, $\beta'_1(e^{-\pi i}r)-\beta'_1(e^{+\pi i}r)$, below the positive real r axis. In other words, these additional terms represent the discontinuity in the eigenvalue of the modified problem across the cut on the positive r axis.

The major difference in the details for the modified problem versus the original β_2 problem is the choice of Whittaker function for the solution anchored at $\eta=2$. In the original case the choice was an M function to be regular at $\eta=2$. In the present case the solution does not have to be regular at $\eta=2$: instead it must vanish as $\eta\rightarrow\infty$. For $\text{Im}r>0$, the correct choice for Φ_2 anchored at $\eta=2$ [$\Phi_{2[2]}$] which vanishes at infinity [cf. Eqs. (55)–(57)] is $W_{-b,m/2}(e^{-\pi i}z)$:

$$\Phi_{2[2]} = (-d\phi_{[2]}/d\eta)^{-1/2} e^{-\pi i b} W_{-b,m/2}(e^{-\pi i} r \phi_{[2]}) \quad (\text{Im}r > 0). \quad (115)$$

The details of the calculation of both $\phi_{[0]}$ and $\phi_{[2]}$ are exactly the same as before. Only the value of the index b needs clarification.

The index b must be chosen to make the two QSC wave functions the same. The asymptotic behavior for the QSC function anchored at $\eta=0$ is given by Eq. (61). It always has a term with a negative exponential factor $e^{-r\eta/2}$. If the index shift $\Delta b \neq 0$, it will also have a term with a positive exponential factor $e^{+r\eta/2}$. The QSC wave function anchored at $\eta=2$ in the present case has only a negative exponential factor:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{2[2]} \sim & (-d\phi_{[2]}/d\eta)^{-1/2} (r\phi_{[2]})^{-b} e^{+r\phi_{[2]}/2} \\ & \times {}_2F_0\left(\frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2} + b, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}m + b; ; + (r\phi_{[2]})^{-1}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (116)$$

$$\sim (2r)^{-b} \eta^b (2-\eta)^{-b} e^{r-r\eta/2} [1 + O(r^{-1})]. \quad (117)$$

Comparison of Eq. (117) with Eq. (61) shows that the two solutions can be identical (except for normalization) only if $\Delta b \equiv 0$, in which case the solution anchored at $\eta=0$ has no positive exponential factor, and $b = \beta_2^{(0)}$. Thus when $\text{Im}r>0$, there is no additional, exponentially small contribution to the expansion for β_2 for the modified problem, i.e., $\beta'_1(e^{-\pi i}r)$, as has been shown rigorously.^{5,6}

Now consider the analytic continuation of the QSC function based on the Whittaker $W_{-b,m/2}$, across the positive real axis to $\text{Im}r<0$. Since $\arg(e^{-\pi i}r) < -\pi$ when $\arg(r)$ is negative, the asymptotic expansion (116) is no longer valid. To get the correct expansion for the Whittaker function the argument of the $r\phi_{[2]}$ must first be brought within the range $(-\pi, \pi)$ by the circuital relation²⁰

$$e^{-\pi i b} W_{-b,m/2}(e^{-\pi i} r \phi_{[2]}) = e^{+\pi i b} W_{-b,m/2}(e^{+\pi i} r \phi_{[2]}) - \frac{2\pi i W_{b,m/2}(r\phi_{[2]})}{\Gamma(b + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}m)\Gamma(b + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}m)} \quad (118)$$

$$\sim (2r)^{-b} \eta^{-b} (2-\eta)^{-b} e^{r-r\eta/2} - \frac{2\pi i}{(n_2+m)!n_2!} (2r)^b \eta^{-b} (2-\eta)^b e^{-r+r\eta/2}. \quad (119)$$

Since both exponentials now appear, they must also appear in the M -based QSC function anchored at $\eta=0$. Consequently Δb cannot vanish. The exact matching equation to determine Δb , the analog of Eq. (105), is

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^{-1} \sin(\pi \Delta b) = & \frac{2\pi i e^{+\pi i \Delta b}}{[\Gamma(n_2+m+1+\Delta b)\Gamma(n_2+1+\Delta b)]^2} \frac{W_{\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b, m/2}(r\phi_{[0]})}{e^{+\pi i(\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b)} W_{-\beta_2^{(0)}-\Delta b, m/2}(r\phi_{[0]}e^{+\pi i})} \\ & \times \frac{W_{\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b, m/2}(r\phi_{[2]})}{e^{+\pi i(\beta_2^{(0)}+\Delta b)} W_{-\beta_2^{(0)}-\Delta b, m/2}(r\phi_{[2]}e^{+\pi i})} \quad (\text{Im}r < 0). \end{aligned} \quad (120)$$

[Note that even though Eq. (120) appears to be η dependent, as before the η dependence cancels out, and Δb depends only on r .]

Compare the matching formula here [Eq. (120)] with Eq. (105). It is easily seen that the lowest nonvanishing exponential order of the right-hand side of Eq. (120) is the second, that it is purely imaginary, and that it is $2\pi i$ times the square of the previously determined half-gap index shift $\Delta b^{(1)}$ of Eqs. (63) and (64):

$$\Delta b(\text{modified } \beta_2 \text{ equation}) = +2\pi i (\Delta b^{(1)})^2 + O(r^k e^{-4r}) \quad (\text{Im}r < 0, \arg r' < -\pi) \quad (121)$$

$$= 2i \Delta_1 b^{(2)} + O(r^k e^{-4r}) \quad (\text{Im}r < 0, \arg r' < -\pi). \quad (122)$$

Thus the index shift on analytic continuation from the first to the fourth quadrant is nonvanishing in second exponential order and is exactly 2 times the second-exponential-order imaginary index shift already calculated for the original β_2 problem. Since the mechanism by which the lowest-order nonvanishing imaginary index shift induces an imaginary contribution to β_2 is exactly the same for both the original and modified problems, Eqs. (97)–(102), a second-exponential-order contribution completely analogous to Eq. (122) holds for the modified β_2 :

$$\beta_1'(e^{-\pi i r}) \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \beta_2^{(0)}(2r)^{-N} + 2i\Delta_i \beta_2^{[2]} + O(r^k e^{-4r})$$

$$(\text{Im}r < 0, \text{arg}r' < -\pi). \quad (123)$$

As anticipated, by analytic continuation directly across the positive r axis, one finds a purely imaginary $O(e^{-2r})$ series in addition to the RSPT series. At the real axis, this series represents to lowest exponential order the discontinuity at the cut of the Borel sum of the RSPT series,

$$\beta_1'(e^{-\pi i r}) - \beta_1'(e^{+\pi i r}) \sim 2\pi i (\Delta b^{[1]})^2 q(r), \quad (124)$$

and as such is the dominating factor in the dispersion relation that gives the asymptotic behavior of the RSPT coefficients, to be discussed further in Sec. VI. Since the RSPT series coefficients are real and the discontinuity is purely imaginary, the imaginary parts of the Borel sums just above and below the positive real axis are equal in magnitude and opposite in sign:

$$\text{Im} \left[\lim_{\text{Im}r \rightarrow \pm 0} \left[\text{Borel sum of } \sum \beta_2^{(N)}(2r)^{-N} \right] \right]$$

$$\sim \pm \pi (\Delta b^{[1]})^2 q(r). \quad (125)$$

The explicit imaginary series found for the original β_2 problem [Eqs. (94)–(102)] is exactly this result (125), but with opposite sign. This clearly demonstrates the cancellation of the explicit imaginary second-exponential-order series with the implicit imaginary part of the Borel sum of the double-well problem, the phenomenon of a complex expansion with a real sum, mentioned in the Introduction.

IV. THE β_1 EQUATION

Although most of the interesting results for H₂⁺ come from the β_2 equation, yet the β_1 equation adds its own distinctive twist in the form of a branch cut in the *negative* r direction and in the form of logarithmic terms.²² Both $\beta_1^{(N)}$ and $E^{(N)}$ get asymptotic contributions with *alternating signs* and with a $\ln N$ dependence, but the relative magnitudes with respect to the dominant, same-sign behavior are down by several powers of N .

Before discussing these unique contributions, we dispense first with the terms in β_1 that are “induced” by the exponentially small terms $\Delta\beta_2 = \Delta\beta_2^{[1]} + \Delta\beta_2^{[2]} + \dots$ already in β_2 . Consider $\Delta\beta_2$ to be a shift of $\beta_2^{(0)}$. Then the induced effect on $\Delta\beta_1$ is expressed by the Taylor series

$$(\Delta\beta_1)_{\text{ind}} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\Delta\beta_2)^k}{k!} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_2^{(0)}} \right]^k \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \beta_1^{(N)}(2r)^{-N}. \quad (126)$$

The dependence of $\beta_1^{(N)}$ on $\beta_2^{(0)}$ is determined through Eqs. (15) and (18)–(20). The use of partial derivatives in Eq. (126) is to indicate that the $\beta_2^{(N)}$ ($N \geq 1$) are to be held constant. An alternative method to obtain $(\Delta\beta_1)_{\text{ind}}$ is to regard the terms $-2u(u+2r)^{-1}(\Delta\beta_2^{[1]} + \Delta\beta_2^{[2]} + \dots)$ in Eq. (18) as a second, independent perturbation. The effect on $\Delta\beta_1$ can then be calculated by double RSPT. In particular, the leading real first-exponential-order series and the leading imaginary second-exponential-order series, $\Delta\beta_1^{[1]}$ and $i\Delta_i\beta_1^{[2]}$, can be obtained by the standard perturbation formula first order in the exponentially small perturbation but infinite order in the $1/r$ perturbation. That is, with the ordinary RSPT wave function for Φ_1 in powers of $(2r)^{-1}$, Φ_{RSPT} , the induced exponentially small contributions to β_1 in leading exponential order are

$$(\Delta\beta_1^{[1]} + i\Delta_i\beta_1^{[2]})_{\text{ind}} = \frac{-2(\Delta\beta_2^{[1]} + i\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}) \int_0^{\infty} \Phi_{\text{RSPT}}^2(u+2r)^{-1} du}{\int_0^{\infty} \Phi_{\text{RSPT}}^2[u^{-1} + (u+2r)^{-1}] du}. \quad (127)$$

Here Φ_{RSPT} refers to the solution of Eq. (15) by RSPT in powers of $(2r)^{-1}$. Both integrals are to be evaluated order by order in powers of $(2r)^{-1}$. In short, the induced exponentially small contributions to β_1 are straightforward to obtain but are otherwise unremarkable.

The more interesting exponentially small contributions to β_1 come from a cut in the negative r direction, which is suggested by the singularity in Eq. (15) [cf. also Eq. (18)] at $u = -2r$. Associated with this cut is a dispersion relation that implies alternating-sign asymptotic contributions to $\beta_1^{(N)}$ and to $E^{(N)}$, both proportional to $(N - 4n_2 - 3m - 5)!$ [which is $(n_2 + 4m + 6)$ powers of N down from the asymptotics of the $\beta_2^{(N)}$].

One obtains an explicit formula for the discontinuity in β_1 across the cut by connecting a QSC wave function anchored at the origin, which we denote by $\Phi_{[0]}$, with one with the correct behavior at infinity, but that is anchored at $u = -2r$, which we denote by $\Phi_{[-2]}$. As in the semi-infinite treatment of the β_2 equation in Sec. IIII, the role of the QSC function anchored at a singularity that is not an endpoint is to provide control of analytic continuation around that singularity. As in Sec. IIII, where β_2 is analytically continued across $r > 0$, here when β_1 is analytically continued across $r < 0$, the Borel sum of the RSPT series switches branches and is discontinuous across the cut. A doubly-exponentially-small imaginary series appears that explicitly cancels the implicit discontinuity in the sum of the RSPT series. Unlike the semi-infinite β_2 case, there is here a new technical feature—the first index of the W Whittaker function is necessarily a power series in $(2r)^{-1}$. This feature leads to *logarithmic* terms in the expansion for $\Delta\beta_1^{[2]}$.

A. QSC wave function at $\xi = 0$

Near $\xi = 0$, Eq. (10) is Whittaker’s equation [cf. Eq. (33)],

$$\left[-(d/d\xi)^2 + \frac{1}{4}r^2 - r\beta_1/\xi + \frac{1}{4}(m^2 - 1)/\xi^2\right]\Phi_{[0]} \sim 0, \quad (128)$$

and the QSC wave function regular at the origin has the form

$$\Phi_{[0]} = \frac{1}{m!} (d\phi_{[0]}/d\xi)^{-1/2} M_{b_{[0]}, m/2}(r\phi_{[0]}). \quad (129)$$

$$-\left[\frac{d\phi_{[0]}}{d\xi}\right]^2 \left[\frac{1}{4} - \frac{b_{[0]}}{r\phi_{[0]}} + \frac{m^2 - 1}{4r^2\phi_{[0]}^2}\right] - \frac{1}{r^2} \left[\frac{d\phi_{[0]}}{d\xi}\right]^{1/2} \frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} \left[\frac{d\phi_{[0]}}{d\xi}\right]^{-1/2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{\beta_1}{r\xi} - \frac{\beta_1 + 2\beta_2}{r(\xi + 2)} + \frac{m^2 - 1}{r^2\xi^2(\xi + 2)^2} = 0. \quad (131)$$

Expanding β_1 and $\phi_{[0]}$ in powers of $(2r)^{-1}$ and solving recursively, one finds that

$$\phi_{[0]} = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \phi_{[0]}^{(N)}(\xi)(2r)^{-N}, \quad (132)$$

$$\beta_1 = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \beta_1^{(N)}(2r)^{-N},$$

$$\phi_{[0]}^{(0)} = \xi, \quad (133)$$

$$\phi_{[0]}^{(1)} = -4(\beta_1^{(0)} + 2\beta_2^{(0)})\ln(1 + \frac{1}{2}\xi), \quad (134)$$

$$\beta_1^{(0)} = b_{[0]}, \quad (135)$$

$$\beta_1^{(1)} = -2b_{[0]}(\beta_1^{(0)} + 2\beta_2^{(0)}) - \frac{1}{2}(m^2 - 1), \quad (136)$$

and so forth. The value of $b_{[0]}$ is to be obtained by matching $\Phi_{[0]}$ with the QSC function that behaves correctly at ∞ . The $\beta_1^{(N)}$ are determined so that the $\phi_{[0]}^{(N+1)}$ are analytic and zero at $\xi=0$, just as was the case for the $\beta_2^{(N)}$ in Sec. III B. The $\beta_1^{(N)}$ will turn out to be the RSPT coefficients.

B. QSC wave function at $\xi = -2$

Near $\xi = -2$, Eq. (10) is again a Whittaker equation,

$$\left[-(d/d\xi)^2 + \frac{1}{4}r^2 - r(\beta_1 + 2\beta_2)/(\xi + 2) + \frac{1}{4}(m^2 - 1)/(\xi + 2)^2\right]\Phi_{[0]} \sim 0. \quad (137)$$

The QSC wave function that is exponentially small as $r\xi \rightarrow +\infty$ (but singular at $\xi = -2$) is [cf. Eq. (115)]

$$\Phi_{[-2]} = (d\phi_{[-2]}/d\xi)^{-1/2} W_{b_{[-2]}, m/2}(r\phi_{[-2]}), \quad (138)$$

with boundary condition

$$\phi_{[-2]}(-2, r) = 0. \quad (139)$$

The Riccati equation for $\phi_{[-2]}$ is nominally the same as for $\phi_{[0]}$, Eq. (131), and is not repeated here. One solves for $\phi_{[-2]}$ as an expansion,

$$\phi_{[-2]} = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \phi_{[-2]}^{(N)}(\xi)(2r)^{-N}. \quad (140)$$

In contrast with the method of solution for $\phi_{[0]}$, however, both $\beta_1^{(N)}$ and $\beta_2^{(N)}$ are already fixed and cannot be adjusted to make $\phi_{[-2]}^{(N+1)}$ vanish at $\xi = -2$. Here that role

The function $\phi_{[0]}$, which plays the ‘‘action’’ role, depends on both ξ and r : $\phi_{[0]} = \phi_{[0]}(\xi, r)$. The boundary condition at $\xi = 0$ is

$$\phi_{[0]}(0, r) = 0. \quad (130)$$

$\phi_{[0]}$ satisfies the Riccati equation [cf. Eq. (35)],

is taken by the index $b_{[-2]}$ on the Whittaker W function. The index $b_{[-2]}$ is given by an expansion in $(2r)^{-1}$,

$$b_{[-2]} = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} b_{[-2]}^{(N)}(2r)^{-N}. \quad (141)$$

One finds that

$$\phi_{[-2]}^{(0)} = \xi + 2, \quad (142)$$

$$\phi_{[-2]}^{(1)} = -4\beta_1^{(0)}\ln(-\frac{1}{2}\xi), \quad (143)$$

$$b_{[-2]}^{(0)} = \beta_1^{(0)} + 2\beta_2^{(0)}, \quad (144)$$

$$b_{[-2]}^{(1)} = 2(\beta_1^{(1)} + \beta_2^{(1)}) \quad (145)$$

$$= -4(\beta_1^{(0)} + \beta_2^{(0)})^2 = -4n^2, \quad (146)$$

and so forth.

C. Determination of $b_{[0]}$ by matching $\Phi_{[0]}$ and $\Phi_{[-2]}$

The index $b_{[0]}$ is evaluated by the condition that the two QSC functions be the same. Two cases are considered: r large, but with small phase; and r large, but with phase more negative than $-\pi$. In the former case one gets RSPT, while in the latter there is in addition an imaginary second-exponential-order series.

The logic is by now familiar. When $r\phi_{[0]}$ and $r\phi_{[-2]}$, viz., $r\xi$ and $r(\xi + 2)$, are large, the asymptotic expansions for the Whittaker functions give

$$\Phi_{[-2]} \sim r^{b_{[-2]}(\xi + 2)^{b_{[-2]}(-\frac{1}{2}\xi)^{\beta_1^{(0)}}} e^{-r(\xi + 2)/2}, \quad (147)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{[0]} \sim & \frac{e^{\pm i\pi(m/2 + 1/2 - b_{[0]})}}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2} + b_{[0]})} (r\xi)^{b_{[0]}} \\ & \times [(\xi + 2)/2]^{\beta_1^{(0)} + 2\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-r\xi/2} \\ & + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2} - b_{[0]})} (r\xi)^{-b_{[0]}} \\ & \times [(\xi + 2)/2]^{-\beta_1^{(0)} - 2\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{+r\xi/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (148)$$

[The \pm corresponds to the sign of $\arg(r\phi_{[0]})$.] The elimination of the positive exponential $e^{+r\xi/2}$ series from $\Phi_{[0]}$ requires that $\frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2} - b_{[0]}$ be zero or a negative integer.

$$b_{[0]} = n_1 + \frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2} \quad (n_1 = 0, 1, 2, \dots) \quad (149)$$

Thus $b_{[0]}$ is the unperturbed eigenvalue of Eq. (15). [Cf. also Eq. (17).]

To get at the cut in $\beta_1(r)$ on the negative r axis, we now consider the possibility that r becomes negative. It turns out that $b_{[0]}$ has a different expansion when $\arg r < -\pi$. Notice from Eq. (18) that the singularity at $u = -2r$, which originally occurs at an unphysical value of the physical variable u , moves into the physical domain when r is negative. Note also that to keep the physical variable u approximately positive as r is made negative, ξ will also have to be made negative, but in the opposite sense of r , since $u = r\xi$. Further, it will be convenient to match the two QSC Φ 's in the region between their "anchor" points, $\xi = 0$ and -2 . Consequently the primary region of interest for ξ is near -1 , and for $2 + \xi$ near $+1$. The dominant term $r\xi$ in $r\phi_{[0]}$ will be large and stay approximately positive, while the dominant term $r(\xi + 2)$ in $r\phi_{[2]}$ will become large and approximately negative. The negative z axis, however, is a branch cut for the Borel sum of the asymptotic series for $W_{b,m/2}(z)$. The asymptotic expansion for $W_{b,m/2}(z)$ above the negative z axis and its *analytic continuation* across the negative z axis will differ by an exponentially small expansion that cancels the discontinuity in the Borel sum.

To make this last point more precise, let $z = e^{-\pi i}z'$, and let z' be approximately real and positive. When $\arg z = -\pi - \epsilon$ ($\epsilon > 0$), the standard asymptotic expansion for $W_{b,m/2}(z)$ is not applicable. The correct expansion

may be obtained by first applying the circuital relation²⁰ (here $\arg z' = -\epsilon < 0$),

$$W_{b,m/2}(z'e^{-\pi i}) = e^{-2\pi i b} W_{b,m/2}(z'e^{\pi i}) - 2\pi i \frac{e^{-\pi i b} W_{-b,m/2}(z')}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}m - b)\Gamma(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}m - b)}, \quad (150)$$

and then by using the asymptotic expansions for the standard domains. As a consequence, $\Phi_{[-2]}$ will now have a positive exponential series, and $b_{[0]}$ will be different from $n_1 + \frac{1}{2}m + \frac{1}{2}$. Let

$$b_{[0]} = \beta_1^{(0)} + \Delta b_{[0]}. \quad (151)$$

Also define $\delta b_{[-2]}$ by

$$\delta b_{[-2]} = b_{[-2]} - b_{[-2]}^{(0)} = \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} b_{[-2]}^{(N)} (2r)^{-N} + O(\Delta b_{[0]}). \quad (152)$$

Note that Δ has been used exclusively to denote exponentially small quantities. In this case $\delta b_{[-2]}$ is not exponentially small, and δ has been used instead of Δ .

To determine $\Delta b_{[0]}$, one obtains the following matching equation, which is the analog of Eqs. (105) and (120), and which is a simple consequence of Eqs. (55), (58), and (150):

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^{-1} \sin(\pi \Delta b_{[0]}) &= \frac{2\pi i (-1)^m e^{+\pi i \Delta b_{[0]}}}{\Gamma(n_1 + m + 1 + \Delta b_{[0]})\Gamma(n_1 + 1 + \Delta b_{[0]})} \\ &\times \pi^{-2} \sin^2(\pi \delta b_{[-2]}) \Gamma(n_1 + 2n_2 + 2m + 2 + \delta b_{[-2]}) \Gamma(n_1 + 2n_2 + m + 2 + \delta b_{[-2]}) \\ &\times \frac{W_{\beta_1^{(0)} + \Delta b_{[0]}, m/2}(r\phi_{[0]})}{e^{+\pi i(\beta_1^{(0)} + \Delta b_{[0]})} W_{-\beta_1^{(0)} - \Delta b_{[0]}, m/2}(r\phi_{[0]}e^{+\pi i})} \frac{e^{-\pi i b_{[-2]}} W_{-b_{[-2]}, m/2}(r\phi_{[-2]}e^{\pi i})}{e^{-2\pi i b_{[-2]}} W_{b_{[-2]}, m/2}(r\phi_{[-2]}e^{2\pi i})} \quad (\text{Im}r < -\pi). \end{aligned} \quad (153)$$

Since r is essentially negative, set $r = -r'$:

$$r' = e^{\pi i} r \quad (\arg r' = \epsilon < 0). \quad (154)$$

The right-hand side of Eq. (153) is $O(r'^k e^{-2r'})$ and is also to this order purely imaginary. Consequently we can write

$$\Delta b_{[0]} = i \Delta_i b_{[0]}^{(2)} + O(r'^k e^{-4r'}), \quad (155)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_i b_{[0]}^{(2)} &= 2\pi (-1)^m \frac{\sin^2(\pi \delta b_{[-2]})}{\pi^2} (2r')^{2\beta_1^{(0)} - 2b_{[-2]}^{(0)} - 2\delta b_{[-2]}} e^{-2r'} \\ &\times \frac{\Gamma(n_1 + 2n_2 + 2m + 2 + \delta b_{[-2]})\Gamma(n_1 + 2n_2 + m + 2 + \delta b_{[-2]})}{n_1!(n_1 + m)!} \\ &\times \left(\frac{1}{2}e^{-\pi i}\phi_{[0]}\right)^{2\beta_1^{(0)}} \left(\frac{1}{2}\phi_{[-2]}\right)^{-2b_{[-2]}} e^{r'(\phi_{[0]} - \phi_{[-2]} + 2)} \frac{{}_2F_0(-n_1, -n_1 - m; ; + (r'\phi_{[0]})^{-1})}{{}_2F_0(n_1 + m + 1, n_1 + 1; ; - (r'\phi_{[0]})^{-1})} \\ &\times \frac{{}_2F_0(n_1 + 2n_2 + m + 2 + \delta b_{[-2]}, n_1 + 2n_2 + 2m + 2 + \delta b_{[-2]}; ; - (r'\phi_{[-2]})^{-1})}{{}_2F_0(-n_1 - 2n_2 - m - 1 - \delta b_{[-2]}, -n_1 - 2n_2 - 2m - 1 - \delta b_{[-2]}; ; + (r'\phi_{[-2]})^{-1})} \end{aligned} \quad (156)$$

$$\sim 2\pi(-1)^m 16n^4 \frac{(n_1+2n_2+2m+1)!(n_1+2n_2+m+1)!}{n_1!(n_1+m)!} (2r')^{-4\beta_2^{(0)}-2} e^{-2r'} \\ \times \left[1 - \frac{1}{2r'} \{ 8n^2 \ln(2r') - 4n^2 + 12(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 - (m^2-1) - 8n + 12\beta_2^{(0)} \right. \\ \left. - 4n^2 [\psi(n_1+2n_2+m+2) + \psi(n_1+2n_2+2m+2)] \} + O[r'^{-2}(\ln r')^2] \right]. \quad (157)$$

The complete evaluation of Eq. (156) is somewhat more tedious than the preceding similar cases because of the necessity for expanding the $\delta b_{[-2]}$ series out from the two Γ functions, the \sin^2 , the $(\frac{1}{2}\phi_{[-2]})^{-2b_{[-2]}}$, and the $(2r')^{\delta b_{[-2]}}$, the last of which leads to subseries proportional to powers of $(2r')^{-1}\ln(2r')$. It is possible to avoid expanding out the generalized hypergeometrics. Since the expression is really independent of ξ , it can be evaluated at a special value of ξ . If $\xi = \infty$, then the generalized hypergeometrics are evaluated at 0 where they are unity.

After evaluating $\Delta_i b_{[0]}^{[2]}$, the corresponding imaginary doubly-exponentially-small contribution to the discontinuity of β_1 on the negative axis can be obtained via

$$\Delta_i \beta_1^{[2]} = \Delta_i b_{[0]}^{[2]} \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \frac{d\beta_1^{(N)}}{d\beta_1^{(0)}} (-2r')^{-N}. \quad (158)$$

As for the β_2 cases, there are also other methods that avoid derivatives of the RSPT series, but we shall not go into the details here.

V. EXPANSION FOR $E(R)$ FROM THE EXPANSIONS FOR $\beta_1(r)$ AND $\beta_2(r)$

A. Preliminaries

The asymptotic expansion for $E(R)$ in terms of $(2R)^{-1}$ can be obtained from Eq. (12) for E in terms of β_1 and β_2 , from Eqs. (24) and (26) for the RSPT expansions, and from the various equations of Secs. III and IV for the ex-

ponentially small series contributing to β_1 and β_2 , but only after r has been found explicitly as a function of R from the implicit Eq. (13), $R(r) = r[\beta_1(r) + \beta_2(r)]$. The process is mainly algebraic. The main complication is that the transformation itself from r to R contains exponentially small terms. The purpose of this section is to clarify the process and to sketch the necessary steps.

Note that β_1 and β_2 appear in E and $R(r)$ only as the sum $\beta_1 + \beta_2$, which we denote by γ :

$$\gamma(r) = \beta_1(r) + \beta_2(r), \quad (159)$$

$$\gamma^{(N)} = \beta_1^{(N)} + \beta_2^{(N)}, \quad (160)$$

$$\Delta\gamma^{[q]} = \Delta\beta_1^{[q]} + \Delta\beta_2^{[q]} \quad (q = 1, 2, \dots), \quad (161)$$

and so forth. Further, we denote by γ_0 the formal power series

$$\gamma_0(r) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{(N)} (2r)^{-N}. \quad (162)$$

In the expression of r as a function of R , there will be a power-series contribution that we denote by r_0 , and that is the formal power-series solution of

$$\frac{1}{2r_0} = \frac{\gamma_0(r_0(R))}{2R}. \quad (163)$$

By means of Lagrange's formula,¹⁹ the solution can in fact be immediately written:

$$\frac{1}{2r_0} = \frac{n}{2R} + \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{n}{2R} \right]^{N+1} \sum_{\substack{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_N \\ (i_1+2i_2+\dots+Ni_N=N)}} \frac{N!(\gamma^{(1)}/n)^{i_1}(\gamma^{(2)}/n)^{i_2} \dots (\gamma^{(N)}/n)^{i_N}}{\left[N+1 - \sum_k i_k \right]! i_1! i_2! \dots i_N!} \quad (164)$$

$$= \frac{n}{2R} + \left[\frac{n}{2R} \right]^2 \frac{\gamma^{(1)}}{n} + \left[\frac{n}{2R} \right]^3 \left[\frac{\gamma^{(2)}}{n} + \frac{(\gamma^{(1)})^2}{n^2} \right] + \dots \quad (165)$$

Here n is the usual principal quantum number. Note that $\gamma^{(0)} = n$, $\gamma^{(1)} = -2n^2$, and that the "natural" expansion parameter is $n/2R$. In a similar fashion the RSPT expansion for $E(R)$ can be written

$$\sum_{N=0}^{\infty} E^{(N)} (2R/n)^{-N} = -\frac{1}{2} \gamma_0^{-2}(r_0) \quad (166)$$

$$= \frac{-1}{2n^2} + n^{-2} \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{n}{2R} \right]^N \sum_{\substack{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_N \\ (i_1+2i_2+\dots+Ni_N=N)}} \frac{(N-3)!(\gamma^{(1)}/n)^{i_1}(\gamma^{(2)}/n)^{i_2} \dots (\gamma^{(N)}/n)^{i_N}}{\left[N-2 - \sum_k i_k \right]! i_1! i_2! \dots i_N!} \quad (167)$$

$$= \frac{-1}{2n^2} + \left[\frac{n}{2R} \right] \frac{\gamma^{(1)}}{n^3} + \left[\frac{n}{2R} \right]^2 \left[\frac{\gamma^{(2)}}{n^3} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{(\gamma^{(1)})^2}{n^4} \right] + \dots \quad (168)$$

The aim now is to express the exponentially small series in E , namely $\Delta E^{(1)}$, $\Delta E^{(2)}$, etc., entirely in terms of $\gamma_0(r_0)$, $\Delta\gamma^{(1)}(r_0)$, $\Delta\gamma^{(2)}(r_0)$, etc. That is, the $\Delta E^{(q)}$ should be put into a form in which the exponentially small contributions Δr to $r=r_0+\Delta r$ are expanded out explicitly as a function of r_0 , and the remaining r_0 dependence can be replaced by its power series in R , Eq. (164). In fact, by two successive expansions of $E = -\frac{1}{2}\gamma^{-2}$ [Eq. (12)], the first with respect to $\Delta\gamma$, the second with respect to $\Delta(r^{-1})$, one obtains

$$E = E_{\text{RSPT}} + \Delta E = E_{\text{RSPT}} + \Delta E^{(1)} + \Delta E^{(2)} + \dots \quad (169)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}\gamma_0^{-2}(r) + \Delta\gamma(r)\gamma_0^{-3}(r) - \frac{3}{2}[\Delta\gamma(r)]^2\gamma_0^{-4}(r) + \dots \quad (170)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}\gamma_0(r_0)^{-2} - \frac{1}{2}\Delta(r^{-1})[(d/dr_0^{-1})\gamma_0(r_0)^{-2}] - \frac{1}{4}[\Delta(r^{-1})]^2[(d/dr_0^{-1})^2\gamma_0(r_0)^{-2}] + \dots \\ + \Delta\gamma_0(r_0)[\gamma_0(r_0)^{-3}] - \frac{3}{2}[\Delta\gamma_0(r_0)]^2[\gamma_0(r_0)^{-4}] + \dots + \Delta(r^{-1})(d/dr_0^{-1})[\Delta\gamma(r_0)\gamma_0(r_0)^{-3}] + \dots \quad (171)$$

The $\Delta(r^{-1})$ can be expressed directly in terms of ΔE , Eq. (169); the ΔE can then be obtained recursively, as will be shown in the next several paragraphs:

$$r^{-1} = R^{-1}\gamma = R^{-1}(-2E)^{-1/2} = r_0^{-1} + \Delta(r^{-1}), \quad (172)$$

$$\Delta(r^{-1}) = R^{-1}\Delta E[(-2E_{\text{RSPT}})^{-3/2}] \\ + \frac{3}{2}R^{-1}(\Delta E)^2[(-2E_{\text{RSPT}})^{-5/2}] + \dots \quad (173)$$

$$= \Delta E[r_0^{-1}\gamma_0(r_0)^2] \\ + \frac{3}{2}(\Delta E)^2[r_0^{-1}\gamma_0(r_0)^4] + \dots, \quad (174)$$

where $E = E_{\text{RSPT}} + \Delta E$ has been expanded around $E_{\text{RSPT}} = -\frac{1}{2}\gamma_0(r_0)^{-2}$.

B. First exponential order

From Eqs. (171) and (174) the following preliminary formula for $\Delta E^{(1)}$ can be obtained:

$$\Delta E^{(1)} = \frac{\Delta\gamma^{(1)}(r_0)}{\gamma_0^3(r_0) - r_0^{-1}\gamma_0^2(r_0)(d/dr_0^{-1})\gamma_0(r_0)}. \quad (175)$$

The final formula for $\Delta E^{(1)}$ results from inserting Eq. (164) for r_0 into Eq. (175) and using the appropriate equations for $\Delta\gamma^{(1)}(r_0)$ developed in previous sections: Eqs. (64), (65), (69), (83), (126), (127), and (159)–(161). The first few terms are

$$\Delta E^{(1)} = \pm \frac{(2R/n)^{2\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-R/n-n}}{n^3 n_2!(n_2+m)!} \\ \times \left[1 + \left[\frac{n}{2R} \right] [2n\beta_1^{(0)} - 4(\beta_2^{(0)})^2] \right. \\ \left. + \beta_2^{(1)} + 2n^2 + O(R^{-2}) \right]. \quad (176)$$

C. Imaginary second exponential order; more on the approximate formula of Brézin and Zinn-Justin

In exactly the same way that Eq. (175) was obtained, one gets for the imaginary second-exponential-order

series, i.e., the imaginary part of $\Delta E^{(2)}$ when R is real and positive,

$$\Delta E^{(2)} = \Delta_r E^{(2)} + i\Delta_i E^{(2)}, \quad (177)$$

$$\Delta_i E^{(2)} = \frac{\Delta_i \gamma^{(2)}(r_0)}{\gamma_0^3(r_0) - r_0^{-1}\gamma_0^2(r_0)(d/dr_0^{-1})\gamma_0(r_0)}. \quad (178)$$

When the series (164) for r_0 is substituted into the denominator and into the appropriate expressions for $\Delta_i \gamma^{(2)}$, then one gets the desired formula for $\Delta_i(E)^{(2)}$. Up to two terms (but not to three) the formula is, except for sign, πn^3 times the square of $\Delta E^{(1)}$, Eq. (176):

$$\Delta_i E^{(2)} = \mp \pi n^3 (\Delta E^{(1)})^2 [1 + O(R^{-2})] \quad (\pm \text{Im}R \geq 0). \quad (179)$$

Apart from the adjustment by the factor n^3 , this result is the approximation of Brézin and Zinn-Justin,¹² demonstrated to be valid to only two terms for the ground state by Čížek, Clay, and Paldus¹³ numerically, and by Damburg and Propin analytically.¹⁴ In fact, it is not difficult to see that the exact relationship is

$$\mp \pi n^3 \frac{\Delta_i E^{(2)}}{(\Delta E^{(1)})^2} \\ = \frac{n^3 (d/d\beta_2^{(0)})\gamma_0(r_0)}{\gamma_0(r_0)^3 - r_0^{-1}\gamma_0(r_0)^2 (d/dr_0^{-1})\gamma_0(r_0)} \quad (180)$$

$$= 1 - (2r_0)^{-2} 4\beta_2^{(0)} n + O(r^{-3}) \quad (181)$$

$$= 1 - (2R/n)^{-2} 4\beta_2^{(0)} n + O(R^{-3}). \quad (182)$$

Thus, exactly two terms are given correctly by the gap-squared formula for every state.

D. Real second exponential order

The extraction of the real second-exponential-order series for $\Delta_r E^{(2)}$ is more tedious, as can be seen from the following equation obtained from Eqs. (171) and (174), and in which all quantities are to be evaluated at $r=r_0$, the power series given by Eq. (164):

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_r E^{[2]} = & \gamma_0^{-3} \Delta_r \gamma^{[2]} - \frac{3}{2} \gamma_0^{-4} (\Delta \gamma^{[1]})^2 + \gamma_0^{-1} \Delta_r E^{[2]} r_0^{-1} (d\gamma_0/dr_0^{-1}) \\ & + \Delta E^{[1]} [\gamma_0^{-1} r_0^{-1} (d\Delta \gamma^{[1]}/dr_0^{-1}) - 3\gamma_0^{-2} \Delta \gamma^{[1]} r_0^{-1} (d\gamma_0/dr_0^{-1})] \\ & + (\Delta E^{[1]})^2 \left\{ \frac{3}{2} r_0^{-1} (d\gamma_0/dr_0^{-1}) + \frac{1}{2} \gamma_0 r_0^{-2} [d^2 \gamma_0 / (dr_0^{-1})^2] - \frac{3}{2} r_0^{-2} (d\gamma_0/dr_0^{-1})^2 \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (183)$$

The leading term comes from $\Delta E^{[1]} \gamma_0^{-1} r_0^{-1} (d\Delta \gamma^{[1]}/dr_0^{-1})$, since $r^{-1} (d/dr^{-1}) e^{-r} = r e^{-r}$. Consequently we obtain for the first few terms of $\Delta_r E^{[2]}$

$$\Delta_r E^{[2]} = \frac{\Delta E^{[1]} \Delta \gamma^{[1]} (r_0 - 2\beta_0^{(0)})}{\gamma_0 - r_0^{-1} (d\gamma_0/dr_0^{-1})} [1 + O(r^{-2})] + \frac{\Delta_r \gamma^{(2)} - \frac{3}{2} \gamma_0^{-1} (\Delta \gamma^{[1]})^2}{\gamma_0^3 - \gamma_0^2 r_0^{-1} (d\gamma_0/dr_0^{-1})} \quad (184)$$

$$= R (\Delta E^{[1]})^2 \gamma_0 [1 - (2r_0)^{-1} (3 + 2\beta_2^{(0)}) + O(r_0^{-2})] + n^{-3} \Delta_r b^{[2]} [1 + O(r_0^{-2})], \quad (185)$$

and finally,

$$\Delta_r (E)^{[2]} = nR (\Delta E^{[1]})^2 \left[1 - \frac{n}{2R} [3 + 2\beta_2^{(0)} + 2n^2 + 2n\psi(n_2 + 1) + 2n\psi(n_2 + m + 1)] + \frac{n}{2R} [4n \ln(2R/n)] + O(R^{-2}) \right]. \quad (186)$$

Note the term $(n/2R) \ln(2R/n)$.

E. Discontinuity in $E(R)$ for R negative

The last expression we obtain in this section is for the discontinuity of E across the negative R axis, namely, $E(e^{-\pi i R'}) - E(e^{+\pi i R'})$, with $\arg R' = 0$. The contributing expressions are Eqs. (156)–(161), (171), and (174). By the same logic that led to Eqs. (175) and (178) for $\Delta E^{[1]}$ and $\Delta_i E^{[2]}$, one can see that with $r'_0 = -r_0$,

$$\begin{aligned} E(e^{-\pi i R'}) - E(e^{+\pi i R'}) \\ = \frac{i \Delta_i \beta_2^{[2]}}{\gamma_0^3 (-r'_0) - r'_0^{-1} \gamma_0^2 (-r'_0) (d/dr'_0^{-1}) \gamma_0 (-r'_0)} \end{aligned} \quad (187)$$

$$= i n^{-3} \Delta_i b^{[2]} [1 + O(r'_0^{-2})] \quad (188)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & = 2\pi i (-1)^m 16n \frac{(n_1 + 2n_2 + 2m + 1)!(n_1 + 2n_2 + m + 1)!}{n_1!(n_1 + m)!} (2R'/n)^{-4\beta_2^{(0)} - 2} e^{-2R'/n + 2n} \\ & \times \left[1 - \frac{n}{2R'} [8n^2 \ln(2R'/n) + 12(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 - (m^2 - 1) - 8\beta_1^{(0)} + 4\beta_2^{(0)}] \right. \\ & \quad \left. - 4n^2 [\psi(n_1 + 2n_2 + 2m + 2) + \psi(n_1 + 2n_2 + m + 2)] - 12n\beta_1^{(0)} - 4n - 8n\beta_2^{(0)} \right] + O[R'^{-2} (\ln R')^2] \quad (189) \end{aligned}$$

Again, notice the term $(n/2R') \ln(2R'/n)$.

VI. DISPERSION RELATIONS AND ASYMPTOTICS OF THE RSPT COEFFICIENTS

Dispersion relations are pertinent to the large- N behavior of the RSPT coefficients, whose asymptotic behavior they permit to be expressed as moments of the discontinuity of the imaginary part of the eigenvalue across the real axis. Dispersion relations arise from Cauchy's integral formula by enlargement of the contour to wrap around a branch cut. (These are standard arguments. See, e.g., Simon.²³)

Consider first the β_2 RSPT series, whose Borel sum is $\beta_1(re^{-i\pi})$ for $\text{Im} r \geq 0$ (see Sec. III I). One is led to the formula (see Sec. IV of Ref. 6 for a rigorous discussion)

$$\beta_1(re^{-i\pi}) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_0^\infty \frac{\beta_1'(re^{-i\pi}) - \beta_1'(re^{+i\pi})}{z - r} dz, \quad (190)$$

where again, this integral is meant only in the sense of power-series expansion. The discontinuity in β_1' is given by Eq. (124), which is ∓ 2 times the imaginary series entering the expansion for β_2 when $\pm \text{Im} r \geq 0$. This fact, along with the expansion of the denominator $(z - r)$ in a geometric series, gives [cf. Eq. (100)]

$$\beta_2^{(N)} \sim - \int_0^\infty (2z)^{N-1} \Delta b^{[1]}(z)^2 q(z) d(2z) \quad (191)$$

$$\sim \pi^{-1} \int_0^{\infty + i\epsilon} (2z)^{N-1} \Delta_i \beta_2^{[2]}(z) d(2z) \quad (\epsilon > 0) \quad (192)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sim - \frac{(N + 4n_2 + 2m + 1)!}{(n_2!)^2 [(n_2 + m)!]^2} \\ & \times \left[1 - \frac{12(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + 4\beta_2^{(0)} - m^2 + 1}{N + 4n_2 + 2m + 1} + O(N^{-2}) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (193)$$

In this way the discontinuity in $\beta_1'(re^{-\pi i})$, which is imaginary and of second exponential order, determines the asymptotics of the RSPT $\beta_2^{(N)}$.

Similar considerations apply to the RSPT series for β_1 , which is Borel summable to the eigenvalue of the modi-

fied Eq. (15) when $\beta_1'(re^{-\pi i})$ is used for β_2 . (See again Ref. 6 for the rigorous details.) Since, however, $\beta_1(r)$ also has a cut for negative r , as well as the cut for positive r induced by the cut in $\beta_1'(re^{-\pi i})$, there are two terms in the dispersion relation:

$$\beta_1(r) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_0^\infty \frac{\beta_1(z) - \beta_1(ze^{2\pi i})}{z-r} dz + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{-\beta_1(ze^{-2\pi i}) + \beta_1(z)}{z-r} dz \quad (194)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_0^\infty \frac{\beta_1(z) - \beta_1(ze^{2\pi i})}{z-r} dz + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_0^\infty \frac{\beta_1(z'e^{-\pi i}) - \beta_1(z'e^{+\pi i})}{z'+r} dz'. \quad (195)$$

As for the β_1' (i.e., β_2) dispersion relation, the discontinuity on the positive axis, $\beta_1(z) - \beta_1(ze^{2\pi i})$, is imaginary and of second exponential order: it is $\mp 2i$ times the $(\Delta_i \beta_1^{[2]})_{\text{ind}}$ of Eqs. (126) and (127). The discontinuity on the negative axis is given by Eqs. (156)–(158). Just as for $\beta_2^{(N)}$, one obtains for $\beta_1^{(N)}$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_1^{(N)} &\sim \pi^{-1} \int_0^{\infty+i\epsilon} (2z)^{N-1} [\Delta_i \beta_1^{[2]}(z)]_{\text{ind}} d(2z) + (2\pi)^{-1} \int_0^\infty (-2z')^{N-1} \Delta_i \beta_1^{[2]}(z') d(2z') \quad (\epsilon > 0) \\ &\sim \frac{(N+4n_2+2m)!}{(n_2!)^2 [(n_2+m)!]^2} \left[4\beta_1^{(0)} - \frac{48\beta_1^{(0)}(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + 12(\beta_1^{(0)})^2 - (1+4\beta_1^{(0)})(m^2-1)}{N+4n_2+2m} + O(N^{-2}) \right] \\ &\quad + (-1)^{m+N-1} 16n^4 \frac{(n_1+2n_2+2m+1)!(n_1+2n_2+m+1)!}{n_1!(n_1+m)!} (N-4n_2-2m-5)! \\ &\quad \times \left[1 + \frac{4n^2 - 12(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + m^2 - 1 + 12n - 12\beta_2^{(0)}}{N-4n_2-2m-5} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{4n^2 [2\psi(N-4n_2-2m-5) - \psi(n_1+2n_2+2m+2) - \psi(n_1+2n_2+m+2)]}{N-4n_2-2m-5} + O[N^{-2}(\ln N^2)] \right]. \quad (197) \end{aligned}$$

Note that the dominant asymptotic behavior coming from the positive cut is a same-sign $(N+4n_2+2m)!$, but that buried a factor of N^{5+8n_2+4m} down is an alternating-sign contribution that also involves a $\ln N$ dependence, since $\psi(N) \sim \ln N + O(N^{-1})$. Because of its relative smallness, the alternating-sign contribution is not immediately apparent from a numerical table of the $\beta_1^{(N)}$, but careful numerical analysis can detect it.

Similar considerations apply to the RSPT series for $E(R)$, which is Borel summable^{5,6} to $-\frac{1}{2}[\beta_1'(r_0 e^{-i\pi}) + \beta_1(r_0, \beta_1'(r_0 e^{-\pi i}))]^{-2}$. That is, instead of the *real* β_2 of Eq. (11), one puts into both Eqs. (10) and (12) the analytic continuation of the β_1' of Eqs. (113) and (114). There are two cuts in this Borel sum, with the key second-exponential-order quantities given by Eqs. (172), (173), and (182). The resulting asymptotics for the $E^{(N)}$ are

$$\begin{aligned} E^{(N)} &\sim \pi^{-1} \int_0^{\infty+i\epsilon} (2z/n)^{N-1} \Delta_i E^{[2]}(z) d(2z/n) \\ &\quad + (2\pi i)^{-1} \int_0^\infty (2z'/n)^{N-1} [E(R'e^{-\pi i}) - E(R'e^{+\pi i})] d(2z'/n) \quad (198) \\ &\sim - \frac{e^{-2n}}{n^3 (n_2!)^2 [(n_2+m)!]^2} (N+4n_2+2m+1)! \left[1 + \frac{4n\beta_1^{(0)} - 8(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + 2\beta_2^{(1)} + 4n^2}{N+4n_2+2m+1} + O(N^{-2}) \right] \\ &\quad + (-1)^{m+N-1} e^{2n} 16n^4 \frac{(n_1+2n_2+2m+1)!(n_1+2n_2+m+1)!}{n^3 n_1!(n_1+m)!} (N-4n_2-2m-5)! \\ &\quad \times \left[1 + \frac{12n^2 - 12(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + m^2 - 1 + 12n - 12\beta_2^{(0)} - 4n\beta_2^{(0)}}{N-4n_2-2m-5} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{4n^2 [2\psi(N-4n_2-2m-5) - \psi(n_1+2n_2+2m+2) - \psi(n_1+2n_2+m+2)]}{N-4n_2-2m-5} + O(N^{-2}(\ln N^2)) \right]. \quad (199) \end{aligned}$$

Again, note the alternating-sign contribution that is down by a factor of N^{6+8n_2+4m} from the dominant same-sign $(N+4n_2+2m+1)!$ behavior. The alternating-sign contribution is not readily apparent from a table of the $E^{(N)}$, but careful numerical analysis can detect it. In fact, it

was this unsuspected alternating-sign contribution that was responsible for the prior difficulty in carrying out the Bender-Wu analysis of the numerical $E^{(N)}$ for the ground state.¹³ This point will be discussed in more detail in Secs. IX and X.

VII. JWKB-LIKE FORMULATION

The purpose of this section is to simplify the practical procedure for calculating the $O(e^{-r})$ and imaginary $O(e^{-2r})$ expansions for β_1 and β_2 . The procedure so far involves three steps: (i) solution of a Riccati equation for ϕ , e.g., Eq. (35); (ii) determination of the index shift, e.g., $\Delta b^{(1)}$ of Eq. (64); (iii) determination of the ratio $q(r)$ by, e.g., Eq. (69) or (83). What complicates the procedure is the presence of ϕ^{-1} and ϕ^{-2} in the Riccati equation, which is the consequence of starting from the Whittaker confluent hypergeometric function. The alternative is to start from an exponential function—i.e., the JWKB-like form—which leads to a much simpler Riccati equation, but which then requires a “connection formula” and an alternative method to calculate $q(r)$.

The JWKB-like form for the QSC wave function Φ_2 [cf. Eqs. (31) and (32)] is

$$\Phi_2 = (dS/d\eta)^{-1/2} (Ae^{-rS/2} + Be^{+rS/2}), \quad (200)$$

where $S = S(\eta, r)$ satisfies the Riccati equation,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{dS}{d\eta} \right)^2 &= \frac{1}{4} - \frac{\beta_2}{4} \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right] \\ &+ \frac{m^2-1}{4r^2} \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right]^2 \\ &- \frac{1}{r^2} \left[\frac{dS}{d\eta} \right]^{1/2} \frac{d^2}{d\eta^2} \left[\frac{dS}{d\eta} \right]^{-1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (201)$$

$$\begin{aligned} dS^{(N)}/d\eta &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} (dS^{(k)}/d\eta)(dS^{(N-k)}/d\eta) - 4\beta_2^{(N-1)} [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}] \\ &+ 2\delta_{N,2}(m^2-1) [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}]^2 - 8[(dS/d\eta)^{1/2} (d^2/d\eta^2) (dS/d\eta)^{-1/2}]^{(N-2)}, \end{aligned} \quad (206)$$

from which it follows that (see also immediately below)

$$dS^{(1)}/d\eta = -4\beta_2^{(0)} [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}], \quad (207)$$

$$S^{(1)} = +4\beta_2^{(0)} \ln \left[\frac{2-\eta}{\eta} \right], \quad (208)$$

$$\begin{aligned} dS^{(2)}/d\eta &= -8(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}]^2 \\ &- 4\beta_2^{(1)} [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}] \\ &+ 2(m^2-1) [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}]^2 \end{aligned} \quad (209)$$

$$\beta_2^{(1)} = -2(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + \frac{1}{2}(m^2-1), \quad (210)$$

$$S^{(2)} = -4\beta_2^{(1)} [\eta^{-1} - (2-\eta)^{-1}], \quad (211)$$

and so forth. There are two tricky points. The first is that the Riccati equation (201) involves only derivatives of S , and not S itself. The integration constants implicit in Eqs. (208) and (211) are therefore not determined by the Riccati equation; they will be explained in the next paragraph. The second point is that, apart from $S^{(1)}$, the $S^{(N)}$ for $N \geq 2$ cannot have a $\ln \eta$ dependence. That is, $\beta_2^{(N-1)}$ has the value that eliminates the η^{-1} term from the recur-

We assume for $S(\eta, r)$ an expansion of the form

$$S(\eta, r) \sim \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} S^{(N)}(\eta) (2r)^{-N} + O(r^k e^{-r}), \quad (202)$$

where in fact the $S^{(N)}(\eta)$ can be obtained directly from the QSC wave function by using the asymptotic expansion (56) for the Whittaker function and then rearranging terms appropriately. For instance, Eqs. (200) and (61) imply that

$$\begin{aligned} A (dS/d\eta)^{-1/2} e^{-rS/2} &= \frac{(-1)^{n_2} (2r)^{\beta_2^{(0)}}}{(n_2+m)!} \\ &\times \eta^{\beta_2^{(0)}} (2-\eta)^{-\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-r\eta/2} [1 + O(r^{-1})]. \end{aligned} \quad (203)$$

Then,

$$S = c + \eta + (2r)^{-1} 4\beta_2^{(0)} \ln \left[\frac{2-\eta}{\eta} \right] + O(r^{-2}), \quad (204)$$

$$A = (-1)^{n_2} e^{+rc/2} (2r)^{2\beta_2^{(0)}} / (n_2+m)!, \quad (205)$$

where c is a constant (with respect to η) related to the normalization (see below).

The main point, however, is not to obtain the $S^{(N)}$ from the $\phi^{(N)}$, but figuratively the reverse, because the $S^{(N)}$ are much easier to obtain directly from Eq. (201) than the $\phi^{(N)}$ from Eq. (35). For instance, given already that $dS^{(0)}/d\eta = 1$, then for $N \geq 1$, $S^{(N)}$ satisfies

sive Eq. (206) for $S^{(N)}$. A most important practical consequence turns out to be that for $N \geq 2$, $dS^{(N)}/d\eta$ is a polynomial $P_N(\eta^{-1})$ in η^{-1} of degree N , with no constant or first-order term, plus a similar polynomial in $(2-\eta)^{-1}$. Moreover, because of the symmetry of Eqs. (201) and (206) with respect to $\eta \rightarrow 2-\eta$, it follows that

$$dS^{(N)}/d\eta = P_N(\eta^{-1}) + P_N[(2-\eta)^{-1}]. \quad (212)$$

Thus, the $S^{(N)}$ for $N \geq 2$ have a much simpler structure than the $\phi^{(N)}$ in that they are polynomials requiring only $N-1$ coefficients, and they have no complicated logarithmic terms.

Now we return to the integration-constant problem, which affects both the absolute normalization, which cannot be determined from the differential equation anyway, and the relative weights of the $e^{\pm rS/2}$ components, which is a connection-formula problem solved here easily because the overall Schrödinger equation is symmetric under $\eta \rightarrow 2-\eta$. The solution is to make $S^{(N)}$ satisfy

$$S^{(N)}(2-\eta) = S^{(N)}(\eta), \quad (213)$$

and to take A/B in Eq. (200) to be ± 1 . This then fixes

also $S^{(0)}$,

$$S^{(0)} = \eta - 1, \quad (214)$$

as well as the integration constants for all $S^{(N)}$.

However, there are still two major remaining problems: how to get $\Delta\beta_2^{[1]}$ and $\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}$ from Φ_2 in JWKB form. In Sec. III the procedure depended first on calculating the Whittaker index shift, which does not occur here, and second, the ratio $q(r)$. Here we can obtain $\Delta\beta_2^{[1]}$ from the two functions $\Phi_2^{(\pm)}$,

$$\Phi_2^{(\pm)} = (dS/d\eta)^{-1/2} (e^{-rS/2 \pm e^{rS/2}}), \quad (215)$$

via the standard current density formula, Eq. (79), which here becomes

$$2\Delta\beta_2^{[1]} = -2 \int_0^\eta (dS/d\eta)^{-1} (e^{-rS} - e^{rS}) \times [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}] d\eta \quad (0 \ll \eta \ll 2). \quad (216)$$

By the same argument as in Sec. III E, Eq. (216) can be put in the form

$$\Delta\beta_2^{[1]} = -e^{-r} \int_0^\infty (dS/d\eta)^{-1} e^{-r(S+1)} \times [\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}] d\eta, \quad (217)$$

where the integral in Eq. (217) is meant only in the sense of a series in $(2r)^{-1}$, obtained by appropriate expansion of

$$\begin{aligned} dT^{(N)}/d\eta = & - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (dT^{(k)}/d\eta)(dS^{(N-k)}/d\eta) - 4q^{(N-1)}[\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}] \\ & - 4[(dT/d\eta)(dS/d\eta)^{-1/2}(d^2/d\eta^2)(dS/d\eta)^{-1/2} \\ & - (dS/d\eta)^{1/2}(d^2/d\eta^2)(dS/d\eta)^{-3/2}(dT/d\eta)]^{(N-2)}. \end{aligned} \quad (220)$$

One then finds (recall that $q^{(0)}=1$) that

$$T^{(0)} = 0, \quad (221)$$

$$dT^{(1)}/d\eta = -4[\eta^{-1}(2-\eta)^{-1}], \quad (222)$$

$$T^{(1)} = +4 \ln \left[\frac{2-\eta}{\eta} \right], \quad (223)$$

$$dT^{(2)}/d\eta = -16\beta_2^{(0)}[\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}]^2 - 4q^{(1)}[\eta^{-1} + (2-\eta)^{-1}], \quad (224)$$

$$q^{(1)} = -4\beta_2^{(0)}, \quad (225)$$

$$T^{(2)} = 16\beta_2^{(0)}[\eta^{-1} - (2-\eta)^{-1}], \quad (226)$$

and so forth. As is by now a familiar argument, the value of $q^{(N-1)}$ is obtained by eliminating the η^{-1} term in the equation [Eq. (220)] for $dT^{(N)}/d\eta$ for $N \geq 2$. In such a way $q(r)$ can be obtained, and consequently $\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}$ via Eq. (101).

Finally, we consider the two contributions to β_1 : $(\Delta\beta_1^{[1]} + i\Delta_i\beta_1^{[2]})_{\text{ind}}$ and $i\Delta_i\beta_1^{[2]}(-r)$ (the discontinuity at

the integrand, followed by integration term by term.

The determination of the imaginary second-exponential-order series $\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}$ could also be obtained from the JWKB function by a current-density formula, if one had the requisite connection formula. Unfortunately, we have not found a way to get the right formula without going directly through the Whittaker function. However, we can get $\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}$ via Eq. (101) from the square of $\Delta\beta_2^{[1]}$ and from $q(r)$, the latter of which can be solved for directly in the JWKB approach. Note that $q(r) = d\beta_{2,\text{RSPT}}/d\beta_2^{(0)}$ is a series in $(2r)^{-1}$ [Eq. (69)]. Let

$$T^{(N)}(\eta) \equiv dS^{(N)}(\eta)/d\beta_2^{(0)}. \quad (218)$$

Then T and $q(r)$ satisfy an equation obtained by differentiating the Riccati equation (201) with respect to $\beta_2^{(0)}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{dS}{d\eta} \frac{dT}{d\eta} = & -r^{-1}q(r) \left[\frac{1}{\eta} + \frac{1}{2-\eta} \right] \\ & - r^{-2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{dT}{d\eta} \left[\frac{dS}{d\eta} \right]^{-1/2} \frac{d^2}{d\eta^2} \left[\frac{dS}{d\eta} \right]^{-1/2} \\ & + r^{-2} \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{dS}{d\eta} \right]^{-1/2} \frac{d^2}{d\eta^2} \left[\frac{dS}{d\eta} \right]^{-3/2} \frac{dT}{d\eta}. \end{aligned} \quad (219)$$

Further, by taking the $\beta_2^{(0)}$ derivative of the recursive Eq. (206), one obtains

negative r). The induced terms are needed to high order. They can be calculated from Eq. (127) with the RSPT wave function, and thus require no further comment. The discontinuity for negative r , on the other hand, will not be taken further than the few orders given here explicitly, and so the JWKB approach will not be sketched.

This now completes the theoretical discussion of the computation of the asymptotic expansions for β_1 , β_2 , and E . In the remaining sections we give numerical illustrations of the various terms in the expansions, their asymptotics, and their interrelations.

VIII. NUMERICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE β_2 SERIES

In this section we tabulate and discuss the asymptotics for the various series contributing to the asymptotic expansion of β_2 . First we list in Tables I–III the terms of the RSPT series, the exponentially small gap series $\Delta\beta_2^{[1]}$, and the doubly-exponentially-small imaginary series $\Delta_i\beta_2^{[2]}$, all through fifty-first order in $(2r)^{-1}$, for the ground state (for which $n_2=0$ and $m=0$) and for two excited states for which n_2 and m are (1,0) and (0,1). We

TABLE III. Coefficients for the RSPT series, the $\Delta\beta_2^{[1]}$ series, and the $\Delta_1\beta_2^{[2]}$ series, as defined by Eqs. (26), (227), and (228) of the text, for the ($n_2=0, m=1$) excited state of β_2 .

Order	$\beta_2^{(N)}$	Coefficient $c^{(1)(N)}$	$c^{(2)(N)}$
0	1. 00000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁰	1. 00000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁰	1. 00000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁰
1	-2. 00000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁰	-1. 00000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹	-1. 60000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹
2	-4. 00000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁰	8. 00000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁰	6. 40000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹
3	-2. 40000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹	-4. 80000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹	-1. 04000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ²
4	-2. 00000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ²	-5. 80000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ²	-3. 28000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ²
5	-2. 01600 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ³	-7. 48000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ³	-4. 89600 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ³
6	-2. 31680 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁴	-1. 03568 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁵	-7. 28000 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁴
7	-2. 94144 00000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁵	-1. 52982 40000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁶	-1. 13612 80000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁶
8	-4. 04886 40000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁶	-2. 39283 52000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁷	-1. 85722 08000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁷
9	-5. 96958 72000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁷	-3. 93987 26400 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁸	-3. 17245 05600 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁸
10	-9. 35031 68000 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁸	-6. 79920 53760 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁹	-5. 65015 25760 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ⁹
11	-1. 54693 27872 00000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁰	-1. 22590 79884 80000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹¹	-1. 04728 20364 80000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹¹
12	-2. 69193 68371 20000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹¹	-2. 30392 03428 48000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹²	-2. 01732 33895 68000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹²
13	-4. 91201 56016 64000 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹²	-4. 50543 56797 82400 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹³	-4. 03372 18125 31200 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹³
14	-9. 37628 90723 32800 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹³	-9. 15592 81229 49120 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁴	-8. 36514 33929 06240 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁴
15	-1. 86885 76969 72800 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁵	-1. 93165 90899 22713 60000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁶	-1. 79793 93963 46265 60000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁶
16	-3. 88370 71338 67776 00000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁶	-4. 22741 50482 92408 32000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁷	-4. 00277 77477 65836 80000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁷
17	-8. 40420 68016 11857 92000 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁷	-9. 59058 84493 80975 61600 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁸	-9. 22605 31364 71498 75200 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁸
18	-1. 89169 34886 99642 06080 00000 000 x 10 ¹⁹	-2. 25415 45617 81600 41984 00000 000 x 10 ²⁰	-2. 20058 58918 34310 32832 00000 000 x 10 ²⁰
19	-4. 42462 17665 65281 05472 00000 000 x 10 ²⁰	-5. 48589 88501 96950 28633 60000 000 x 10 ²¹	-5. 42916 44313 67332 99097 60000 000 x 10 ²¹
20	-1. 07440 27756 35857 90894 08000 000 x 10 ²²	-1. 38165 27991 83060 69919 74400 000 x 10 ²³	-1. 38484 30328 17282 12963 32800 000 x 10 ²³
21	-2. 70603 51042 39472 98078 72000 000 x 10 ²³	-3. 59910 63521 10533 96414 05440 000 x 10 ²⁴	-3. 65033 35474 65427 44333 51680 000 x 10 ²⁴
22	-7. 06307 14522 84627 41507 27680 000 x 10 ²⁴	-9. 69136 19662 67827 05149 13280 000 x 10 ²⁵	-9. 93822 69721 12706 01209 77408 000 x 10 ²⁵
23	-1. 90884 86356 42899 25508 43187 200 x 10 ²⁶	-2. 69593 63553 29941 41437 42935 040 x 10 ²⁷	-2. 79316 96996 86573 81493 15215 360 x 10 ²⁷
24	-5. 33697 33102 89601 45846 41454 080 x 10 ²⁷	-7. 74284 03651 30866 09938 41119 232 x 10 ²⁸	-8. 09942 37604 10702 89308 06788 096 x 10 ²⁸
25	-1. 54239 78463 51307 58563 66488 781 x 10 ²⁹	-2. 29445 91630 54104 45539 96369 592 x 10 ³⁰	-2. 42173 23352 81385 51231 37515 684 x 10 ³⁰
26	-4. 60376 41702 78633 69811 98374 830 x 10 ³⁰	-7. 01080 26281 52372 76772 64822 010 x 10 ³¹	-7. 46196 25743 21848 53308 91739 333 x 10 ³¹
27	-1. 41804 17250 31727 51726 10206 309 x 10 ³²	-2. 20738 20760 34027 12384 02811 521 x 10 ³³	-2. 36793 61646 67898 62205 86112 125 x 10 ³³
28	-4. 50376 94527 22540 95973 68211 057 x 10 ³³	-7. 15688 43088 83317 05264 56626 571 x 10 ³⁴	-7. 73410 17795 78155 86706 42297 178 x 10 ³⁴
29	-1. 47378 96971 25289 26058 30488 482 x 10 ³⁵	-2. 38793 83703 43630 94475 80447 367 x 10 ³⁶	-2. 59839 90084 55357 53263 72962 166 x 10 ³⁶
30	-4. 96521 64280 81112 14342 78197 278 x 10 ³⁶	-8. 19396 72317 89302 91911 53902 723 x 10 ³⁷	-8. 97414 37133 40939 98093 29841 256 x 10 ³⁷
31	-1. 72094 08950 60214 53338 85764 683 x 10 ³⁸	-2. 88975 91120 63477 48480 58175 925 x 10 ³⁹	-3. 18427 23534 76594 72900 43246 414 x 10 ³⁹
32	-6. 13213 57385 70984 69034 47651 078 x 10 ³⁹	-1. 04678 09528 80914 92932 97202 597 x 10 ⁴¹	-1. 16011 50478 78334 12209 56993 577 x 10 ⁴¹
33	-2. 24481 12406 67547 79391 73805 946 x 10 ⁴¹	-3. 89237 01919 74876 38441 55236 998 x 10 ⁴²	-4. 33725 58059 49575 09867 31546 774 x 10 ⁴²
34	-8. 43695 38955 83334 49409 59536 439 x 10 ⁴²	-1. 48484 64984 86378 34637 92912 871 x 10 ⁴⁴	-1. 66306 04740 10825 20485 42504 234 x 10 ⁴⁴
35	-3. 25353 84079 78630 75435 72353 408 x 10 ⁴⁴	-5. 80778 97647 62745 32334 30782 664 x 10 ⁴⁵	-6. 53646 37574 53146 48975 82917 538 x 10 ⁴⁵
36	-1. 28655 42403 03024 99411 24527 804 x 10 ⁴⁶	-2. 32789 27592 21978 16503 46432 946 x 10 ⁴⁷	-2. 63202 12722 45744 07511 67507 533 x 10 ⁴⁷
37	-5. 21374 94182 38823 50424 48239 120 x 10 ⁴⁷	-9. 55667 27556 83667 27111 41257 767 x 10 ⁴⁸	-1. 08523 75211 94378 82744 48132 443 x 10 ⁴⁹
38	-2. 16411 43365 49032 40103 03211 461 x 10 ⁴⁹	-4. 01623 40577 77871 93899 63445 474 x 10 ⁵⁰	-4. 57966 23345 86010 24148 98973 144 x 10 ⁵⁰
39	-9. 19572 63165 28012 99435 46621 835 x 10 ⁵⁰	-1. 72696 91957 80488 63154 53603 438 x 10 ⁵²	-1. 97700 10865 55540 07562 14630 475 x 10 ⁵²
40	-3. 99801 76984 58478 85839 30951 055 x 10 ⁵²	-7. 59444 06896 89895 50199 92081 660 x 10 ⁵³	-8. 72657 27525 64503 71852 92694 954 x 10 ⁵³
41	-1. 77763 30030 03953 13985 68352 041 x 10 ⁵⁴	-3. 41391 23547 10593 61242 09256 098 x 10 ⁵⁵	-3. 93685 37661 65573 34821 77509 223 x 10 ⁵⁵
42	-8. 07927 68518 20944 86792 92822 731 x 10 ⁵⁵	-1. 56805 46075 39565 68345 33212 958 x 10 ⁵⁷	-1. 81441 09847 33018 58730 45585 351 x 10 ⁵⁷
43	-3. 75178 66114 84874 93484 01114 947 x 10 ⁵⁷	-7. 35590 27477 51297 52543 24836 487 x 10 ⁵⁸	-8. 53928 15714 53621 25202 39539 069 x 10 ⁵⁸
44	-1. 77929 87191 74216 90990 68731 144 x 10 ⁵⁹	-3. 52287 37604 07422 17599 86641 306 x 10 ⁶⁰	-4. 10233 33480 91543 39763 79749 593 x 10 ⁶⁰
45	-8. 61433 48316 18318 76745 01538 475 x 10 ⁶⁰	-1. 72175 41174 38477 02490 31508 341 x 10 ⁶²	-2. 01092 15330 98022 79251 37733 026 x 10 ⁶²
46	-4. 25579 46361 88988 40652 73769 831 x 10 ⁶²	-8. 58402 18479 14235 85944 99103 971 x 10 ⁶³	-1. 00542 62179 42892 23922 90764 418 x 10 ⁶⁴
47	-2. 14464 78468 75634 72822 33920 275 x 10 ⁶⁴	-4. 36409 90995 97032 46814 62895 880 x 10 ⁶⁵	-5. 12552 10656 74151 60586 05945 406 x 10 ⁶⁵
48	-1. 10200 68188 84216 01455 22633 754 x 10 ⁶⁶	-2. 26165 57416 42607 33286 94221 006 x 10 ⁶⁷	-2. 66321 15861 13510 19355 32483 192 x 10 ⁶⁷
49	-5. 77175 57651 61523 65614 94220 444 x 10 ⁶⁷	-1. 19436 14723 88742 88435 17899 028 x 10 ⁶⁹	-1. 40995 51338 22096 70891 46864 535 x 10 ⁶⁹
50	-3. 08017 19432 47631 67846 14925 771 x 10 ⁶⁹	-6. 42505 42174 78515 31986 50090 213 x 10 ⁷⁰	-7. 60315 52960 37439 96066 53109 700 x 10 ⁷⁰
51	-1. 67432 05275 14734 41042 82490 310 x 10 ⁷¹	-3. 51972 46750 67149 81233 74327 203 x 10 ⁷²	-4. 17477 40581 97506 34985 77375 030 x 10 ⁷²

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_2^{(N)} \sim & \frac{(N+4n_2+2m+1)!}{(n_2!)^2[(n_2+m)!]^2} \\
& \times \left[1 + \frac{c^{(2)(1)}}{N+4n_2+2m+1} \right. \\
& \left. + \frac{c^{(2)(2)}}{(N+4n_2+2m+1)(N+4n_2+2m)} + \dots \right].
\end{aligned}
\tag{229}$$

In Table IV, the fit between the numerical and asymptotic $\beta_2^{(N)}$'s is displayed for the same three states for orders 10–150 (by tens). The agreement is similar to that for the RSPT of the one-dimensional anharmonic oscillator:²⁴ for large N it is impressive.

The expansion (229) has some of the character of an asymptotic expansion in that at first the partial sums approach the exact result, but then as the number of terms increases the partial sums eventually diverge. The partial

TABLE IV. (*Continued*).

^aCalculated by standard RSPT. Relative accuracy appears to be at least one part in 10^{29} .

^bCalculated by the asymptotic formula, truncated at the value of k that gives a result closest to the exact value in the preceding column. This value of k is denoted by k_{best} .

^cSee b for definition of k_{best} . Generally, k_{best} increases with N . The “ $k = 51$ ” is not fundamentally significant in the sense that the maximum number of terms $c^{\{2\}(k)}$ available for this table was 51.

^dThe k_{min} is the value of k for which the term $c^{\{2\}(k)}/(N+4n_2+2m+1) \cdots (N+4n_2+2m+2-k)$ is smallest in magnitude, and which is a practical index for determining the truncation of the asymptotic formula.

^eThe number of significant figures in sum to k terms is operationally defined as the negative of the \log_{10} —truncated to an integer—of the magnitude of the relative error between the exact $\beta_2^{(N)}$ and the asymptotic formula. A box surrounds the entry on each line with the largest number of significant figures.

sum that comes closest to the exact result usually occurs when the last term is approximately the smallest. Compare the columns k_{best} and k_{min} in Table IV. The pattern of convergence followed by divergence is visible in the 11 rightmost columns of Table IV, in which are listed the approximate number of digits in the various partial sums that are the same as in the exact result. The best result is boxed.

The order at which the RSPT coefficients become asymptotic seems strongly dependent on n_2 , more so than the corresponding n dependence for the anharmonic oscillator.²⁴ In particular, notice here that for the ($n_2 = 1, m = 0$) state, the best asymptotic value for $N = 10$ does not even have the correct sign, while for the (0,0) and (0,1) states, for which n_2 is only 1 less, the errors in the best asymptotic values for the tenth-order coefficients are smaller than 2%. On the other hand, at the highest orders the accuracy obtained by using the asymptotic formula (229) is greater than the practical accuracy to which the RSPT calculation can be carried out.

IX. NUMERICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE β_1 SERIES

The asymptotics of the RSPT coefficients $\beta_1^{(N)}$ are more complicated than in the β_2 case because of the presence of small alternating-sign contributions, as in Eq. (197). First we list in Tables V–VIII the terms of the RSPT series, the induced exponentially small gap series $(\Delta\beta_1^{\{1\}})_{\text{ind}}$, and the induced doubly-exponentially-small imaginary series $(\Delta_i\beta_2^{\{2\}})_{\text{ind}}$, all through fifty-first order in $(2r)^{-1}$, for the ground state ($n_1 = 0, n_2 = 0, m = 0$) and for the three excited states for which n_1, n_2 , and m are (1,0,0), (0,1,0), and

(0,0,1). We use the notation $d^{\{1\}(N)}$ and $d^{\{2\}(N)}$ for the series coefficients for the two exponentially small quantities, according to

$$(\Delta\beta_1^{\{1\}})_{\text{ind}} = \mp 4\beta_1^{(0)} \frac{(2r)^{2\beta_2^{(0)}-1} e^{-r}}{n_2!(n_2+m)!} \times \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} d^{\{1\}(N)} (2r)^{-N}, \quad (230)$$

$$(\Delta_i\beta_2^{\{2\}})_{\text{ind}} = \pm \pi 4\beta_1^{(0)} \frac{(2r)^{4\beta_2^{(0)}-1} e^{-2r}}{[n_2!(n_2+m)!]^2} \times \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} d^{\{2\}(N)} (2r)^{-N} \quad (\pm \text{Im}r \geq 0). \quad (231)$$

Notice that the coefficients (at least those with fewer than the maximum number of significant digits) appear to be integers, except in the (1,0,0) case for which multiplication of $d^{\{1\}(N)}$ and $d^{\{2\}(N)}$ by $4\beta_1^{(0)}$, which had been explicitly factored out in Eqs. (230) and (231) to make the leading coefficient of each power series equal to 1, is needed to restore the integer property of the coefficients. The coefficients are estimated to be accurate to the precision reported, with uncertainty only in the last digit. Notice that for the (0,1,0) state, only 27 digits have been reported for the coefficients $d^{\{1\}(N)}$ and $d^{\{2\}(N)}$, two fewer than the 29 reported for the other states. The lower accuracy comes from the lower accuracy of the $\Delta\beta_2$ quantities for $n_2 = 1$, as mentioned in Sec. VIII.

It is especially interesting to examine numerically the prediction of the asymptotics of the $\beta_1^{(N)}$ by the dispersion relation [Eqs. (196) and (197)], which in the notation of Eq. (231) becomes

$$\beta_1^{(N)} \sim 4\beta_1^{(0)} \frac{(N+4n_2+2m)!}{(n_2!)^2 [(n_2+m)!]^2} \left[1 + \frac{d^{\{2\}(1)}}{N+4n_2+2m} + \frac{d^{\{2\}(2)}}{(N+4n_2+2m)(N+4n_2+2m-1)} + \cdots \right] \\ + (-1)^{m+N-1} 16n^4 \frac{(n_1+2n_2+2m+1)!(n_1+2n_2+m+1)!}{n_1!(n_1+m)!} (N-4n_2-2m-5)! \\ \times \left[1 + \frac{4n^2 - 12(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + m^2 - 1 + 12n - 12\beta_2^{(0)}}{N-4n_2-2m-5} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{4n^2 [2\psi(N-4n_2-2m-5) - \psi(n_1+2n_2+2m+2) - \psi(n_1+2n_2+m+2)]}{N-4n_2-2m-5} \right]$$

TABLE IX. Coefficients $A(n_1, n_2, m)$, $B(n_1, n_2, m)$, $C(n_1, n_2, m)$, and $D(n_1, n_2, m)$ for the alternating-sign contributions to the asymptotics of $\beta_1^{(N)}$, as in Eq. (232), and to the asymptotics of $E^{(N)}$, as in Eq. (236).

n_1	n_2	m	$A(n_1, n_2, m)$	$B(n_1, n_2, m)$	$C(n_1, n_2, m)$	$D(n_1, n_2, m)$
0	0	0	83	-120	243	-184
1	0	0	2983	-2656	6179	-3680
0	1	0	7459/9	-4960/3	22039/9	-7264/3
0	0	1	2060	-6848/3	13492/3	-9536/3

X. NUMERICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ENERGY SERIES

The asymptotics of the RSPT coefficients $E^{(N)}$ for the energy are similar to those for the $\beta_1^{(N)}$: again there is an alternating-sign contribution down several powers of N from the dominant same-sign contribution [cf. Eq. (199)]. First we list in Tables XI–XIV the terms of the RSPT series, the exponentially small gap series $\Delta E^{(1)}$, and the doubly-exponentially-small imaginary series $\Delta_i E^{(2)}$, all through fifty-first order in $(2R/n)^{-1}$, for the ground state ($n_1 = n_2 = m = 0$) and for the three $n=2$ excited states for which n_1 , n_2 , and m are (1,0,0), and (0,1,0) and (0,0,1). We use the notation $C^{(1)(N)}$ and $C^{(2)(N)}$ for the series coefficients for the two exponentially small quantities, according to [cf. Eqs. (176) and (179)]

$$\Delta E^{(1)} = \pm \frac{(2R/n)^{2\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-R/n-n}}{n^3 n_2! (n_2+m)!} \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} C^{(1)(N)} (2R/n)^{-N}, \quad (234)$$

$$\Delta_i E^{(2)} = \mp \pi \frac{(2R/n)^{4\beta_2^{(0)}} e^{-2R/n-2n}}{n^3 [n_2! (n_2+m)!]^2} \times \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} C^{(2)(N)} (2R/n)^{-N} (\pm \text{Im} R \geq 0). \quad (235)$$

As for β_1 and β_2 , the coefficients are estimated to be accurate to the precision reported [29 digits for $(n_1, n_2, m) = (0,0,0)$, (1,0,0), and (0,0,1), and 27 digits for (0,1,0)]. We call the reader's attention to the sign pattern, which settles down quickly to uniform minus signs for the ground state and two of the excited states, but which is quite irregular until after twenty-seventh order for the (1,0,0) state.

The asymptotics of the $E^{(N)}$ have two contributions, as did the $\beta_1^{(N)}$. In the notation of Eq. (235), Eq. (199) becomes

$$E^{(N)} \sim - \frac{e^{-2n(N+4n_2+2m+1)!}}{n^3 (n_2!)^2 [(n_2+m)!]^2} \left[1 + \frac{C^{(2)(1)}}{N+4n_2+2m+1} + \frac{C^{(2)(2)}}{(N+4n_2+2m+1)(N+4n_2+2m)} + \dots \right] \\ + (-1)^{m+N-1} e^{2n} 16n \frac{(n_1+2n_2+2m+1)!(n_1+2n_2+m+1)!}{n_1!(n_1+m)!} (N-4n_2-2m-5)! \\ \times \left[1 + \frac{12n^2 - 12(\beta_2^{(0)})^2 + m^2 - 1 + 12n - 12\beta_2^{(0)} - 4n\beta_2^{(0)}}{N-4n_2-2m-5} \right. \\ - \frac{4n^2 [2\psi(N-4n_2-2m-5) - \psi(n_1+2n_2+2m+2) - \psi(n_1+2n_2+m+2)]}{N-4n_2-2m-5} \\ \left. + \frac{C(n_1, n_2, m) + 8\pi^2 n^4 / 3 + D(n_1, n_2, m) [\psi(N-4n_2-2m-6) - \psi(1)]}{(N-4n_2-2m-5)(N-4n_2-2m-6)} \right. \\ \left. + 32n^4 \frac{[\psi(N-4n_2-2m-6) - \psi(1)]^2 + [\psi^{(1)}(N-4n_2-2m-6) - \psi^{(1)}(1)]}{(N-4n_2-2m-5)(N-4n_2-2m-6)} + O(N^{-3} (\ln N)^3) \right], \quad (236)$$

where the coefficients $C(n_1, n_2, m)$ and $D(n_1, n_2, m)$ are independent of N . The first few are listed in Table IX.

In Table XV we uncover numerically the alternating-sign contributions to the asymptotics by subtracting the terms in Eq. (236) that come from $\Delta_i E^{(2)}$ (those involving

the coefficients $C^{(2)(k)}$). We truncate the partial sum after including the smallest term. Listed in Table XV are the exact $E^{(N)}$, the k index of the last correction term included in the partial sum and the value of that term, the difference between the exact and asymptotic values—

TABLE X. Asymptotic analysis of the RSPT $\beta_1^{(N)}$. The dominant, same-sign subseries in the asymptotic formula (232) of the text is truncated with the inclusion of the smallest term, whose index has been indicated by k_{\min} . The relative asymptotic error refers to the difference between the exact coefficient $\beta_1^{(N)}$ and the asymptotic formula to the indicated number of terms, divided by the leading asymptotic term, which is $(4n_1 + 2m + 2)(N + 4n_2 + 2m)!/(n_2!)^2[(n_2 + m)!]^2$. For sufficiently large N , the relative asymptotic error, after accounting for the same-sign subseries, is alternating in sign. The effect of the alternating-sign subseries is seen through the inclusion of up to three terms.

N	$\beta_1^{(N)}$ (exact)	same-sign subseries		alternating-sign subseries			
		k_{\min}	smallest term	relative asymptotic error	relative asymptotic error after inclusion of terms through order (in N^{-1})		
		0	1	2			
Ground state: $n_1=0, n_2=0, m=0$							
30	4. 20484 95981 43437 52856 90821 189 $\times 10^{32}$	14	1.1×10^{-6}	-3.6×10^{-7}	1.0×10^{-7}	-2.0×10^{-7}	-1.6×10^{-7}
31	1. 31482 83626 14689 16879 39208 591 $\times 10^{34}$	14	5.8×10^{-7}	-2.1×10^{-7}	-6.1×10^{-7}	-3.6×10^{-7}	-3.9×10^{-7}
32	4. 24136 03481 22180 14997 27011 495 $\times 10^{35}$	15	3.2×10^{-7}	-2.3×10^{-7}	1.0×10^{-7}	-1.0×10^{-7}	-7.1×10^{-8}
33	1. 41014 46206 91339 49621 17275 387 $\times 10^{37}$	15	1.8×10^{-7}	7.0×10^{-9}	-2.7×10^{-7}	-1.0×10^{-7}	-1.3×10^{-7}
34	4. 82802 38503 08125 29553 31706 145 $\times 10^{38}$	16	9.5×10^{-8}	-1.5×10^{-7}	9.4×10^{-8}	-5.0×10^{-8}	-2.8×10^{-8}
35	1. 70085 93393 95120 27806 01785 581 $\times 10^{40}$	16	5.2×10^{-8}	6.3×10^{-8}	-1.4×10^{-7}	-2.1×10^{-8}	-4.0×10^{-8}
36	6. 16061 45090 62291 67417 63524 285 $\times 10^{41}$	17	2.8×10^{-8}	-1.0×10^{-7}	7.7×10^{-8}	-2.6×10^{-8}	-9.8×10^{-9}
37	2. 29254 43917 84602 54356 91615 649 $\times 10^{43}$	17	1.5×10^{-8}	6.7×10^{-8}	-8.6×10^{-8}	1.6×10^{-9}	-1.2×10^{-8}
38	8. 75883 13712 37131 11125 90672 419 $\times 10^{44}$	18	8.0×10^{-9}	-7.4×10^{-8}	5.9×10^{-8}	-1.5×10^{-8}	-3.3×10^{-9}
39	3. 43337 61289 94263 40892 50487 074 $\times 10^{46}$	18	4.3×10^{-9}	5.9×10^{-8}	-5.7×10^{-8}	6.5×10^{-9}	-3.6×10^{-9}
40	1. 37996 71455 77679 10787 76135 778 $\times 10^{48}$	19	2.3×10^{-9}	-5.6×10^{-8}	4.5×10^{-8}	-9.7×10^{-9}	-1.0×10^{-9}
45	2. 06510 55699 12521 40804 36906 726 $\times 10^{56}$	22	9.6×10^{-11}	3.1×10^{-8}	-2.3×10^{-8}	4.2×10^{-9}	-4.9×10^{-11}
60	1. 49440 30280 94080 16957 06185 790 $\times 10^{82}$	29	5.6×10^{-15}	-7.9×10^{-9}	4.3×10^{-9}	-6.9×10^{-10}	2.9×10^{-11}
75	4. 55831 63582 14424 59695 34188 535 $\times 10^{109}$	37	2.7×10^{-19}	2.7×10^{-9}	-1.2×10^{-9}	1.7×10^{-10}	-8.2×10^{-12}
90	2. 77057 11141 95650 94203 64577 899 $\times 10^{138}$	44	1.2×10^{-23}	-1.1×10^{-9}	4.1×10^{-10}	-5.2×10^{-11}	2.6×10^{-12}
105	2. 03771 32634 96922 30359 18117 521 $\times 10^{168}$	51	5.0×10^{-28}	5.2×10^{-10}	-1.7×10^{-10}	1.9×10^{-11}	-9.5×10^{-13}
120	1. 27029 42073 70747 46762 41761 449 $\times 10^{199}$	51	6.0×10^{-32}	-2.7×10^{-10}	7.9×10^{-11}	-8.2×10^{-12}	3.9×10^{-13}
135	5. 13952 02223 01706 16760 56611 113 $\times 10^{230}$	51	2.9×10^{-35}	1.5×10^{-10}	-4.0×10^{-11}	3.8×10^{-12}	-1.7×10^{-13}
150	1. 09657 73249 78189 64805 40729 875 $\times 10^{263}$	51	3.8×10^{-38}	-9.1×10^{-11}	2.2×10^{-11}	-1.9×10^{-12}	8.4×10^{-14}
Excited state: $n_1=1, n_2=0, m=0$							
35	4. 63527 95548 81703 42107 57979 025 $\times 10^{40}$	21	1.0×10^{-7}	6.0×10^{-6}	1.6×10^{-6}	8.7×10^{-6}	8.5×10^{-6}
36	1. 68397 18149 95061 54938 41790 695 $\times 10^{42}$	21	4.2×10^{-8}	1.3×10^{-5}	1.7×10^{-5}	1.1×10^{-5}	1.1×10^{-5}
37	6. 28413 68274 68655 29873 69117 033 $\times 10^{43}$	21	1.8×10^{-8}	-3.3×10^{-6}	-6.6×10^{-6}	-1.4×10^{-6}	-1.8×10^{-6}
38	2. 40732 62624 95121 58317 30959 517 $\times 10^{45}$	21	8.1×10^{-9}	-8.9×10^{-7}	1.9×10^{-6}	-2.5×10^{-6}	-2.0×10^{-6}
39	9. 46037 67189 73453 98270 12646 060 $\times 10^{46}$	21	3.7×10^{-9}	6.9×10^{-7}	-1.8×10^{-6}	2.1×10^{-6}	1.5×10^{-6}
40	3. 81149 49519 09701 02495 76615 853 $\times 10^{48}$	21	1.8×10^{-9}	-1.7×10^{-7}	2.0×10^{-6}	-1.3×10^{-6}	-8.3×10^{-7}
41	1. 57340 44239 91749 11825 05650 717 $\times 10^{50}$	21	8.6×10^{-10}	9.1×10^{-8}	-1.8×10^{-6}	1.1×10^{-6}	5.9×10^{-7}
42	6. 65115 23979 40872 72589 32947 434 $\times 10^{51}$	21	4.3×10^{-10}	-1.2×10^{-7}	1.6×10^{-6}	-9.6×10^{-7}	-5.0×10^{-7}
43	2. 87760 16315 26658 55137 53854 547 $\times 10^{53}$	21	2.2×10^{-10}	1.3×10^{-7}	-1.4×10^{-6}	8.4×10^{-7}	4.1×10^{-7}
44	1. 27355 17426 99160 79925 99461 395 $\times 10^{55}$	21	1.2×10^{-10}	-1.2×10^{-7}	1.2×10^{-6}	-7.3×10^{-7}	-3.3×10^{-7}
45	5. 76288 84684 97828 21323 99269 039 $\times 10^{56}$	21	6.2×10^{-11}	1.1×10^{-7}	-1.1×10^{-6}	6.4×10^{-7}	2.7×10^{-7}
60	4. 25469 21649 34195 83172 33508 800 $\times 10^{82}$	29	5.0×10^{-15}	-4.7×10^{-8}	2.1×10^{-7}	-1.1×10^{-7}	-1.4×10^{-8}
75	1. 31285 33314 91568 17177 38410 795 $\times 10^{110}$	37	2.5×10^{-19}	2.1×10^{-8}	-6.2×10^{-8}	2.8×10^{-8}	4.4×10^{-10}
90	8. 03918 89765 54943 53588 04877 827 $\times 10^{138}$	44	1.1×10^{-23}	-1.0×10^{-8}	2.2×10^{-8}	-9.1×10^{-9}	3.4×10^{-10}
105	5. 94338 14608 72294 73269 41028 217 $\times 10^{168}$	51	4.7×10^{-28}	5.3×10^{-9}	-9.4×10^{-9}	3.5×10^{-9}	-2.3×10^{-10}
120	3. 71916 15533 21328 05918 28739 902 $\times 10^{199}$	51	5.7×10^{-32}	-3.0×10^{-9}	4.5×10^{-9}	-1.5×10^{-9}	1.2×10^{-10}
135	1. 50912 32797 30865 49194 88339 840 $\times 10^{231}$	51	2.7×10^{-35}	1.8×10^{-9}	-2.3×10^{-9}	7.3×10^{-10}	-6.3×10^{-11}
150	3. 22727 61757 73613 99640 39047 709 $\times 10^{263}$	51	3.6×10^{-38}	-1.1×10^{-9}	1.3×10^{-9}	-3.8×10^{-10}	3.4×10^{-11}
Excited state: $n_1=0, n_2=1, m=0$							
110	3. 84066 68154 66344 53494 67272 941 $\times 10^{186}$	51	4.8×10^{-24}	-2.1×10^{-23}	-4.3×10^{-24}	-2.3×10^{-23}	-1.4×10^{-23}
111	4. 42831 79529 24774 51625 18522 473 $\times 10^{188}$	51	2.7×10^{-24}	-5.2×10^{-24}	-2.0×10^{-23}	-3.5×10^{-24}	-1.2×10^{-23}
112	5. 15003 51797 28241 91850 55330 994 $\times 10^{190}$	51	1.5×10^{-24}	-1.0×10^{-23}	3.4×10^{-24}	-1.1×10^{-23}	-4.3×10^{-24}
113	6. 04072 59073 33858 38876 59420 723 $\times 10^{192}$	51	8.4×10^{-25}	1.8×10^{-25}	-1.2×10^{-23}	1.4×10^{-24}	-5.0×10^{-24}
114	7. 14569 41846 99620 35747 03243 307 $\times 10^{194}$	51	4.8×10^{-25}	-5.4×10^{-24}	5.2×10^{-24}	-6.4×10^{-24}	-8.1×10^{-25}
115	8. 52403 88989 87193 37750 23460 236 $\times 10^{196}$	51	2.7×10^{-25}	1.8×10^{-24}	-7.7×10^{-24}	2.6×10^{-24}	-2.3×10^{-24}
116	1. 02532 59914 08535 71897 61735 152 $\times 10^{199}$	51	1.6×10^{-25}	-3.4×10^{-24}	5.0×10^{-24}	-4.1×10^{-24}	2.6×10^{-25}
117	1. 24355 32652 55245 94115 13581 471 $\times 10^{201}$	51	9.0×10^{-26}	2.0×10^{-24}	-5.5×10^{-24}	2.5×10^{-24}	-1.3×10^{-24}
118	1. 52062 98594 46173 47627 08109 775 $\times 10^{203}$	51	5.3×10^{-26}	-2.4×10^{-24}	4.3×10^{-24}	-2.8×10^{-24}	5.1×10^{-25}

TABLE X. (Continued).

N	$\beta_1^{(N)}$ (exact)	same-sign subseries			alternating-sign subseries		
		k_{\min}	smallest term	relative asymptotic error	relative asymptotic error after inclusion of terms through order (in N^{-1})		
					0	1	2
119	1. 87460 86416 42265 94460 30816 980 $\times 10^{205}$	51	3.1×10^{-26}	1.8×10^{-24}	-4.2×10^{-24}	2.2×10^{-24}	-8.1×10^{-25}
120	2. 32968 62305 67245 00079 98391 415 $\times 10^{207}$	51	1.8×10^{-26}	-1.9×10^{-24}	3.5×10^{-24}	-2.1×10^{-24}	5.0×10^{-25}
125	7. 77622 45330 15126 32981 58236 992 $\times 10^{217}$	51	1.4×10^{-27}	1.1×10^{-24}	-2.1×10^{-24}	1.1×10^{-24}	-3.2×10^{-25}
130	3. 14585 46826 64292 16242 59039 798 $\times 10^{228}$	51	1.2×10^{-28}	-6.6×10^{-25}	1.2×10^{-24}	-6.3×10^{-25}	1.7×10^{-25}
135	1. 53154 39326 78469 42414 90862 477 $\times 10^{239}$	51	1.2×10^{-29}	4.2×10^{-25}	-7.2×10^{-25}	3.7×10^{-25}	-9.7×10^{-26}
140	8. 91417 76528 46513 18858 83709 809 $\times 10^{249}$	51	1.3×10^{-30}	-2.7×10^{-25}	4.4×10^{-25}	-2.2×10^{-25}	5.6×10^{-26}
145	6. 16495 21436 76917 94321 95285 938 $\times 10^{260}$	51	1.5×10^{-31}	1.7×10^{-25}	-2.7×10^{-25}	1.3×10^{-25}	-3.3×10^{-26}
150	5. 03716 89616 45249 73328 18252 223 $\times 10^{271}$	51	2.0×10^{-32}	-1.1×10^{-25}	1.7×10^{-25}	-7.9×10^{-26}	2.0×10^{-26}
Excited state: $n_1=0, n_2=0, m=1$							
65	1. 13885 00590 21654 30449 69843 011 $\times 10^95$	31	3.3×10^{-14}	-4.2×10^{-14}	7.3×10^{-15}	-6.0×10^{-14}	-3.0×10^{-14}
66	7. 77531 43019 45827 29475 89791 639 $\times 10^96$	32	1.7×10^{-14}	-1.0×10^{-15}	-4.4×10^{-14}	1.4×10^{-14}	-1.2×10^{-14}
67	5. 38584 79493 22852 74308 15564 229 $\times 10^98$	32	9.4×10^{-15}	-1.7×10^{-14}	2.0×10^{-14}	-2.9×10^{-14}	-7.3×10^{-15}
68	3. 78430 66855 26025 29819 08827 997 $\times 10^{100}$	33	5.0×10^{-15}	3.7×10^{-15}	-2.9×10^{-14}	1.4×10^{-14}	-4.9×10^{-15}
69	2. 69667 40945 68716 52063 62962 081 $\times 10^{102}$	33	2.7×10^{-15}	-8.6×10^{-15}	2.0×10^{-14}	-1.7×10^{-14}	-9.4×10^{-16}
70	1. 94848 30612 01337 28345 91680 476 $\times 10^{104}$	34	1.4×10^{-15}	4.3×10^{-15}	-2.1×10^{-14}	1.2×10^{-14}	-2.5×10^{-15}
71	1. 42728 01030 14265 96995 99307 339 $\times 10^{106}$	34	7.6×10^{-16}	-5.5×10^{-15}	1.6×10^{-14}	-1.2×10^{-14}	6.5×10^{-16}
72	1. 05970 92346 33030 19251 82579 320 $\times 10^{108}$	35	4.0×10^{-16}	3.9×10^{-15}	-1.5×10^{-14}	9.0×10^{-15}	-1.5×10^{-15}
73	7. 97355 05617 87022 18242 21594 741 $\times 10^{109}$	35	2.2×10^{-16}	-4.0×10^{-15}	1.3×10^{-14}	-8.3×10^{-15}	9.0×10^{-16}
74	6. 07895 46016 11356 16506 76649 181 $\times 10^{111}$	36	1.1×10^{-16}	3.3×10^{-15}	-1.2×10^{-14}	6.9×10^{-15}	-1.1×10^{-15}
75	4. 69509 80519 05535 03298 01084 668 $\times 10^{113}$	36	6.1×10^{-17}	-3.1×10^{-15}	1.0×10^{-14}	-6.1×10^{-15}	8.2×10^{-16}
90	4. 17505 47693 53232 78059 13419 611 $\times 10^{142}$	44	4.1×10^{-21}	7.0×10^{-16}	-1.7×10^{-15}	9.1×10^{-16}	-1.5×10^{-16}
105	4. 22596 42190 25580 41268 06350 781 $\times 10^{172}$	51	2.4×10^{-25}	-2.0×10^{-16}	3.9×10^{-16}	-1.8×10^{-16}	3.1×10^{-17}
120	3. 46896 63375 28781 08724 93612 405 $\times 10^{203}$	51	3.6×10^{-29}	6.5×10^{-17}	-1.1×10^{-16}	4.6×10^{-17}	-7.6×10^{-18}
135	1. 78742 61945 40356 87670 07584 213 $\times 10^{235}$	51	2.0×10^{-32}	-2.4×10^{-17}	3.5×10^{-17}	-1.3×10^{-17}	2.2×10^{-18}
150	4. 73149 48064 78678 81088 48155 313 $\times 10^{267}$	51	3.0×10^{-35}	1.0×10^{-17}	-1.3×10^{-17}	4.5×10^{-18}	-7.0×10^{-19}

divided by the leading asymptotic term (called the relative asymptotic error in the table), and the relative asymptotic error after taking account of one, two, and three terms from the alternating-sign asymptotic formula. These quantities are listed for various orders, up to order 150.

Notice that for the ground state the residual remaining after subtraction of the same-sign terms is alternating in sign after order $N=25$, and that it has relative magnitude 7×10^{-11} at order 150—which is small compared to unity, but large compared with the corresponding relative residual for $\beta_2^{(N)}$, which at order 110 is already less than 10^{-30} . The first alternating-sign asymptotic contribution significantly overcompensates, but by the third alternating-sign contribution the relative error has dropped by a factor of 10^{-4} at $N=150$ (see Table XV).

For the excited states, the threshold for alternation is pushed higher to $N=39$ for (1,0,0), $N=50$ for (0,0,1), and $N=93$ for (0,1,0). For (1,0,0) the alternating-sign contribution is significantly larger than for the ground state—a consequence of the increased value of n_1 . For (0,0,1) and (0,1,0), the alternating-sign contribution is significantly smaller, which is a consequence of the dependence on n_2 and m that brings it down from the same-sign contribution by a factor of N^{-8n_2-4m-6} . Thus, for (0,1,0) the alternating-sign contribution is $\sim 5 \times 10^{-24}$, versus $\sim 7 \times 10^{-11}$ for the ground state.

Comparison of Table XV with Tables IV and X reveals clearly that like the $\beta_1^{(N)}$, the $E^{(N)}$ become asymptotic

much more slowly than the $\beta_2^{(N)}$.

It is of some interest to turn to an observation made in Ref. 13, that the “Neville table” for the ground-state $E^{(N)}$ seems to converge in a zigzag fashion,¹² and that much better convergence is obtained by treating the even and odd terms separately. An aim of that study was to confirm the asymptotic behavior, $E^{(N)} \sim -e^{-2n}(N+1)!$. The Neville table for the quantities a_N is the matrix, defined recursively with $a_N^0 = a_N$,

$$a_N^k = [Na_N^{k-1} - (N-k)a_{N-1}^{k-1}] / k. \quad (237)$$

If a_N is given asymptotically by the expression

$$a_N \sim 1 + A/N + B/[N(N-1)] + C/[N(N-1)(N-2)] + \dots, \quad (238)$$

then the difference between each entry and unity, $a_N^k - 1$, approaches 0 as N^{-k-1} . If, however, a_N has additional terms, say of the form

$$(-1)^N D / [N(N-1)(N-2)(N-3)(N-4)(N-5)],$$

as is the case for $E^{(N)}$ for the ground state, then the entry a_N^k has an alternating-sign contribution proportional to N^{k-6} . That is, the difference with unity has an alternating-sign contribution that grows with k . This is the explanation of alternation phenomenon observed in Ref. 13. If the alternating-sign contribution could be eliminated, then the Neville table should converge more

TABLE XII. Coefficients for the RSPT series, the ΔE^[1] series, and the Δ_rE^[2] series, as defined by Eqs. (166), (234), and (235) of the text, for the (n₁, n₂, m) = (1, 0, 0) excited state of H₂⁺.

Table with 4 columns: Order N, E(N), Coefficient C(1)(N), and C(2)(N). Rows range from 0 to 51, showing numerical coefficients for each order N.

example is for N=150 and k=3, for which the entry with three alternating-sign terms accounted for is 0.0000004, and which is an improvement of three orders of magnitude over the corresponding entry with no alternating-sign correction terms.

XI. NUMERICAL SOLUTION FOR β₂ AND SUMMATION OF THE EXPANSIONS

In this section we compare values of β₂ obtained by numerical solution of the eigenvalue equation with values

TABLE XIV. Coefficients for the RSPT series, the ΔE⁽¹⁾ series, and the Δ_rE⁽²⁾ series, as defined by Eqs. (166), (234), and (235) of the text, for the (n₁, n₂, m) = (0, 0, 1) excited state of H₂⁺.

Table with 3 columns: Order N, Coefficient C⁽¹⁾(N), and Coefficient C⁽²⁾(N). It lists numerical values for N from 0 to 51, with some values in scientific notation.

Φ₂(η) ~ η^{m/2+1/2} at η=0, and Φ₂(η) ~ (2-η)^{m/2+1/2} at η=2; and the semi-infinite problem for which the boundary condition at η=2 is replaced by Φ₂(η) ~ e^{-rη/2} as η → ∞. In both cases the wave function near the origin can be expanded in a convergent power series in η. For the physical case, the power series can be summed at the midpoint of the physical interval, η=1, and the eigen-

value β₂ determined to make either Φ₂ or dΦ₂/dη vanish for odd or even states, respectively. For the unphysical case, e^{rη/2}Φ₂ for large η can be expanded in a divergent series in powers of η⁻¹. This series can be summed to sufficient accuracy for the ground state for |η| near 4, and then integrated numerically by a fourth-order Runge-Kutta algorithm²⁵ to a value of η for which the

TABLE XV. Asymptotic analysis of the RSPT E(N). The dominant, same-sign subseries in the asymptotic formula (236) of the text is truncated with the inclusion of the smallest term, whose index has been indicated by k_min. The relative asymptotic error refers to the difference between the exact coefficient E(N) and the asymptotic formula to the indicated number of terms, divided by the leading asymptotic term, which is -e^{-2n}(N+4n_2+2m+1)/(n_2!)^2[(n_2+m)!]^2. For sufficiently large N, the relative asymptotic error, after accounting for the same-sign subseries, is alternating in sign. The effect of the alternating-sign subseries is seen through the inclusion of up to three terms.

Table with columns: N, E(N)(exact), same-sign subseries (k_min, smallest term, relative asymptotic error), and alternating-sign subseries (relative asymptotic error after inclusion of terms through order (in N^k), 0, 1, 2). It is divided into Ground state and Excited state sections.

TABLE XV. (Continued).

N	E ^(N) (exact)	same-sign subseries			alternating-sign subseries		
		k _{min}	smallest term	relative asymptotic error	relative asymptotic error after inclusion of terms through order (in N ⁻¹)		
					0	1	2
105	-3.34887 31765 21245 83788 50242 260 x 10 ¹⁷⁵	51	5.9 x 10 ⁻²⁴	-5.9 x 10 ⁻²²	1.1 x 10 ⁻²¹	-5.1 x 10 ⁻²²	6.8 x 10 ⁻²³
110	-6.19247 66051 35553 60449 62734 926 x 10 ¹⁸⁵	51	2.9 x 10 ⁻²⁵	3.1 x 10 ⁻²²	-5.7 x 10 ⁻²²	2.5 x 10 ⁻²²	-3.7 x 10 ⁻²³
115	-1.42134 73900 14061 05461 23906 579 x 10 ¹⁹⁶	51	1.7 x 10 ⁻²⁶	-1.7 x 10 ⁻²²	3.0 x 10 ⁻²²	-1.2 x 10 ⁻²²	1.8 x 10 ⁻²³
120	-4.01350 46348 84955 00256 59932 505 x 10 ²⁰⁶	51	1.2 x 10 ⁻²⁷	9.8 x 10 ⁻²³	-1.6 x 10 ⁻²²	6.4 x 10 ⁻²³	-9.5 x 10 ⁻²⁴
125	-1.38280 24776 68477 37271 74455 133 x 10 ²¹⁷	51	9.4 x 10 ⁻²⁹	-5.7 x 10 ⁻²³	8.7 x 10 ⁻²³	-3.4 x 10 ⁻²³	5.0 x 10 ⁻²⁴
130	-5.76908 79997 60099 90273 22398 986 x 10 ²²⁷	51	8.3 x 10 ⁻³⁰	3.4 x 10 ⁻²³	-4.9 x 10 ⁻²³	1.9 x 10 ⁻²³	-2.7 x 10 ⁻²⁴
135	-2.89404 47723 41030 70694 09814 842 x 10 ²³⁸	51	8.3 x 10 ⁻³¹	-2.0 x 10 ⁻²³	2.8 x 10 ⁻²³	-1.0 x 10 ⁻²³	1.5 x 10 ⁻²⁴
140	-1.73425 01258 17999 54002 35382 259 x 10 ²⁴⁹	51	9.1 x 10 ⁻³²	1.2 x 10 ⁻²³	-1.6 x 10 ⁻²³	6.0 x 10 ⁻²⁴	-8.6 x 10 ⁻²⁵
145	-1.23389 62504 95032 24434 05554 295 x 10 ²⁶⁰	51	1.1 x 10 ⁻³²	-7.7 x 10 ⁻²⁴	9.8 x 10 ⁻²⁴	-3.5 x 10 ⁻²⁴	5.0 x 10 ⁻²⁵
150	-1.03641 42160 91805 70362 06542 761 x 10 ²⁷¹	51	1.5 x 10 ⁻³³	4.9 x 10 ⁻²⁴	-6.0 x 10 ⁻²⁴	2.1 x 10 ⁻²⁴	-2.9 x 10 ⁻²⁵
Excited state: n ₁ =0, n ₂ =0, m=1							
45	-3.49959 20366 93598 91668 17769 328 x 10 ⁵⁸	22	7.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-2.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-6.6 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-2.4 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-1.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁰
46	-1.70905 86893 95210 74016 63064 942 x 10 ⁶⁰	23	4.1 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-5.7 x 10 ⁻¹²	3.0 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-2.9 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-7.6 x 10 ⁻¹¹
47	-8.51750 20559 09728 74946 57078 558 x 10 ⁶¹	23	2.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-6.1 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-3.1 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-4.4 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-1.3 x 10 ⁻¹¹
48	-4.33020 10973 72823 98193 60749 684 x 10 ⁶³	24	1.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-1.8 x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.8 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-3.1 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-5.1 x 10 ⁻¹¹
49	-2.24479 16414 87821 85905 65104 858 x 10 ⁶⁵	24	6.4 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-3.6 x 10 ⁻¹²	-1.6 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	5.4 x 10 ⁻¹²	1.8 x 10 ⁻¹¹
50	-1.18618 97135 90882 24223 81705 143 x 10 ⁶⁷	25	3.4 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-1.7 x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.1 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	-2.4 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-3.2 x 10 ⁻¹¹
51	-6.38684 60774 93345 40838 33238 854 x 10 ⁶⁸	25	1.8 x 10 ⁻¹¹	9.3 x 10 ⁻¹²	-9.6 x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.4 x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.8 x 10 ⁻¹¹
52	-3.50285 91147 92997 96351 76467 618 x 10 ⁷⁰	26	9.9 x 10 ⁻¹²	-1.4 x 10 ⁻¹¹	7.2 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-1.7 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-1.9 x 10 ⁻¹¹
53	-1.95622 12316 73804 17530 76068 320 x 10 ⁷²	26	5.3 x 10 ⁻¹²	1.0 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-6.1 x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.2 x 10 ⁻¹¹	1.3 x 10 ⁻¹¹
54	-1.11207 12695 26913 49760 71599 369 x 10 ⁷⁴	27	2.8 x 10 ⁻¹²	-1.1 x 10 ⁻¹¹	4.8 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-1.2 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-1.2 x 10 ⁻¹¹
55	-6.43326 98100 20438 74103 15384 765 x 10 ⁷⁵	27	1.5 x 10 ⁻¹²	8.6 x 10 ⁻¹²	-4.0 x 10 ⁻¹¹	9.3 x 10 ⁻¹²	8.5 x 10 ⁻¹²
60	-5.36148 52495 03114 46697 41902 328 x 10 ⁸⁴	30	6.4 x 10 ⁻¹⁴	-4.4 x 10 ⁻¹²	1.5 x 10 ⁻¹¹	-4.0 x 10 ⁻¹²	-2.7 x 10 ⁻¹²
75	-2.97729 94882 91636 90670 94542 361 x 10 ¹¹²	37	4.4 x 10 ⁻¹⁸	6.1 x 10 ⁻¹³	-1.4 x 10 ⁻¹²	3.7 x 10 ⁻¹³	1.2 x 10 ⁻¹³
90	-2.98060 26338 04127 24387 81243 041 x 10 ¹⁴¹	45	2.6 x 10 ⁻²²	-1.1 x 10 ⁻¹³	2.0 x 10 ⁻¹³	-5.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁴	-8.1 x 10 ⁻¹⁵
105	-3.36203 13361 38534 15647 21639 506 x 10 ¹⁷¹	51	1.5 x 10 ⁻²⁶	2.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁴	-3.8 x 10 ⁻¹⁴	9.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	7.4 x 10 ⁻¹⁶
120	-3.04696 22545 61093 87351 71675 528 x 10 ²⁰²	51	2.4 x 10 ⁻³⁰	-7.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	9.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	-2.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	-7.0 x 10 ⁻¹⁷
135	-1.71925 10469 39378 61467 12246 696 x 10 ²³⁴	51	1.5 x 10 ⁻³³	2.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	-2.6 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	5.9 x 10 ⁻¹⁶	2.3 x 10 ⁻¹⁸
150	-4.94850 17433 83943 65938 49553 170 x 10 ²⁶⁶	51	2.3 x 10 ⁻³⁶	-9.1 x 10 ⁻¹⁶	8.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁶	-1.8 x 10 ⁻¹⁶	2.6 x 10 ⁻¹⁸

series at the origin converges. The value of β_2 is determined by matching logarithmic derivatives. The integration path is kept away from $\eta=2$, at which the potential is singular, by keeping η in the lower half-plane. As a consequence, $\beta_2(r)$ for $r>0$ is continuous with $\text{Im}r>0$. The numerical values of β_2 so obtained are listed in Table XVII.

To calculate the Borel sum is also straightforward.²⁶ For unimportant reasons of convenience, the values reported here were not calculated directly by the Borel method, but instead by the sequential Padé approximant method of Reinhardt,²⁷ which for the related problem of the LoSurdo-Stark effect in hydrogen^{26,27} is known from numerical studies to give the same results as the Borel method. (The idea of this method is to generate the power-series expansion at some point away from the origin via Padé approximants of the series at the origin. At a point near the real axis in the right half-plane, β_2 is an analytic function of r , and the power series at that point converges on the nearby real axis. The procedure is most easily implemented in a continued-fraction representation of the RSPT series in which the even and odd approximants are the $[N/N]$ and $[N/N+1]$ Padé approximants,^{26,28} We were able to calculate up to 70 continued-

fraction coefficients for the function and its first 70 derivatives— using the RSPT coefficients through order 140—before completely losing numerical significance.) The numerical results are illustrated in Table XVII for the ground state at three internuclear distances. The values obtained by summing the RSPT series agree within the accuracy of the calculations with the values obtained by solving the differential equation numerically on the semi-infinite interval.

Summation of the imaginary second-exponential-order series for $\Delta_i\beta_i^{[2]}$ [Eq. (228)] and the real first-exponential-order series [Eq. (227)] is also reported in Table XVII. The sequential Padé-Padé method again was used, since these series are even more divergent than the RSPT series. Since only 51 power-series coefficients are available for these two series, Table I, the accuracy of the approximants for the higher derivatives is not as great as for the RSPT series. For $r=12$ and 10, the imaginary series cancels quite well the imaginary part of the Borel sum. For $r=6$, the cancellation is not so marked: clearly, higher-exponential-order series are not so small in the $r=6$ case and are needed to cancel the imaginary part of the Borel sum.

It should be noted that for each of the exponentially

TABLE XVI. Neville table for $-E^{(N)}/[e^{-2(N+1)!}-1]$ with up to three alternating-sign correction terms, for the ground state.

N	kth Neville iterate for k =				
	0	1	2	3	4
with no alternating-sign correction term					
145	0.01282 68094 126	0.0009 887	-0.0000 199	-0.0003 504	-0.0253 500
146	0.01274 56323 515	0.0009 750	-0.0000 124	0.0003 444	0.0250 107
147	0.01266 54677 424	0.0009 614	-0.0000 190	-0.0003 365	-0.0246 785
148	0.01258 62975 623	0.0009 483	-0.0000 119	0.0003 308	0.0243 527
149	0.01250 81030 018	0.0009 353	-0.0000 182	-0.0003 233	-0.0240 335
150	0.01243 08668 759	0.0009 227	-0.0000 115	0.0003 179	0.0237 204
with first alternating-sign correction term					
145	0.01282 68095 127	0.0009 887	-0.0000 156	0.0000 697	0.0050 078
146	0.01274 56322 555	0.0009 749	-0.0000 166	-0.0000 669	-0.0049 134
147	0.01266 54678 345	0.0009 615	-0.0000 149	0.0000 662	0.0048 212
148	0.01258 62974 739	0.0009 483	-0.0000 159	-0.0000 635	-0.0047 316
149	0.01250 81030 867	0.0009 353	-0.0000 143	0.0000 629	0.0046 440
150	0.01243 08667 944	0.0009 227	-0.0000 153	-0.0000 604	-0.0045 589
with two alternating-sign correction terms					
145	0.01282 68094 954	0.0009 887	-0.0000 163	-0.0000 032	-0.0002 738
146	0.01274 56322 719	0.0009 749	-0.0000 159	0.0000 042	0.0002 678
147	0.01266 54678 188	0.0009 615	-0.0000 156	-0.0000 031	-0.0002 621
148	0.01258 62974 889	0.0009 483	-0.0000 152	0.0000 039	0.0002 564
149	0.01250 81030 724	0.0009 353	-0.0000 150	-0.0000 029	-0.0002 510
150	0.01243 08668 081	0.0009 227	-0.0000 146	0.0000 037	0.0002 456
with three alternating-sign correction terms					
145	0.01282 68094 963	0.0009 887	-0.0000 163	0.0000 006	0.0000 021
146	0.01274 56322 711	0.0009 749	-0.0000 159	0.0000 005	-0.0000 022
147	0.01266 54678 196	0.0009 615	-0.0000 156	0.0000 005	0.0000 021
148	0.01258 62974 881	0.0009 483	-0.0000 153	0.0000 005	-0.0000 022
149	0.01250 81030 731	0.0009 353	-0.0000 150	0.0000 005	0.0000 021
150	0.01243 08668 074	0.0009 227	-0.0000 147	0.0000 004	-0.0000 022

small terms, the sum of each real power-series factor is itself also complex. However, here we have only listed the contribution that comes from the real part of the sum of each power-series factor, since the imaginary part would be expected to be canceled by higher-exponential-order series.

The sum of the first-exponential-order series can be either added or subtracted to the sum of the RSPT, leading to the symmetric or antisymmetric members of the double-well pair. Moreover, for quantitative accuracy, it is also necessary to include the real second-exponential-order series, for which we have given two terms in Eqs. (227) and (110), and which comes in only with one sign. The agreement of the sum of the asymptotic series with the numerical eigenvalues for the physical double-well pair is nicely illustrated for $r=12$ and 10 , as well as the deteriorating convergence at $r=6$. At this shortest distance, the two-term truncation of the real second-exponential-order series is inadequate, and higher exponential-order contributions are also significant both for the accuracy of the real part and to cancel the imaginary part.

XII. SUMMARY

As set out in the Introduction, we have developed the quasisemiclassical method to solve the H_2^+ eigenvalue problem by asymptotic expansion. The bulk of the calculation has focused on the separation constants β_1 and β_2 , which arise from separation in prolate spheroidal coordinates (Sec. II A). The transformation from separation constants to energy $E(R)$ is relatively elementary (Sec. V).

The development of asymptotic expansions for β_1 (Sec. IV) and β_2 (Sec. III) depends first on solving the separated Schrödinger equation near the boundary points, which are also singular points, in terms of Whittaker confluent hypergeometric functions. These solutions are extended away from the boundary points, by expanding the natural variable in a series in the reciprocal internuclear distance. The Schrödinger equation is thereby turned into a Riccati equation that is solved by expansion. A crucial role is played by the b index of the Whittaker function. If taken equal to the unperturbed separation constant, then RSPT is the result of solving the Riccati equation, but the wave function satisfies only the boundary condition at $\eta=0$. If

TABLE XVII. Comparison of values of β_2 obtained by summation of the asymptotic expansion and by numerical solution of the eigenvalue equation (11) with (physical) boundary conditions at $\eta=0$ and $\eta=2$, and with (nonphysical) boundary conditions at $\eta=0$ and $\eta=\infty$, for the ground state.

Computational Method	$\beta_2(r)$		
r=12			
Numerical solution, boundary conditions at 0 and $\infty - i\epsilon$	0.45620 55605 36	+ i 0.51348	$\times 10^{-7}$
Sequential Padé-Padé [35/35] for RSPT series	0.45620 55605 36	+ i 0.51347	$\times 10^{-7}$
Sequential Padé-Padé [25/26] for $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$	-0.00012 17975 46		
Sequential Padé-Padé [25/26] for $i\Delta_1\beta_2^{(2)}$		- i 0.51348	$\times 10^{-7}$
Two-term formula (110) for $\Delta_r\beta_2^{(2)}$	0.00000 01152 38		
RSPT + $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ + $i\Delta_1\beta_2^{(2)}$ + $\Delta_r\beta_2^{(2)}$	0.45608 38782 28		
Sym. num. solution, boundary conditions at 0 and 2	0.45608 38789 89		
RSPT - $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ + $i\Delta_1\beta_2^{(2)}$ + $\Delta_r\beta_2^{(2)}$	0.45632 74733 20		
Antisym. num. solution, boundary conditions at 0 and 2	0.45632 74743 50		
r=10			
Numerical solution, boundary conditions at 0 and $\infty - i\epsilon$	0.44675 97795 93	+ i 0.18165 34	$\times 10^{-5}$
Sequential Padé-Padé [35/35] for RSPT series	0.44675 97795 92	+ i 0.18165 34	$\times 10^{-5}$
Sequential Padé-Padé [25/26] for $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$	-0.00071 57275 4		
Sequential Padé-Padé [25/26] for $i\Delta_1\beta_2^{(2)}$		- i 0.18166	$\times 10^{-5}$
Two-term formula (110) for $\Delta_r\beta_2^{(2)}$	0.00000 37943		
RSPT + $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ + $i\Delta_1\beta_2^{(2)}$ + $\Delta_r\beta_2^{(2)}$	0.44604 78463		
Sym. num. solution, boundary conditions at 0 and 2	0.44604 78627 33		
RSPT - $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ + $i\Delta_1\beta_2^{(2)}$ + $\Delta_r\beta_2^{(2)}$	0.44747 93014		
Antisym. num. solution, boundary conditions at 0 and 2	0.44747 93660 55		
r=6			
Numerical solution, boundary conditions at 0 and $\infty - i\epsilon$	0.40438 98390 4	+ i 0.13374 2866	$\times 10^{-2}$
Sequential Padé-Padé [35/35] for RSPT series	0.40438 984	+ i 0.13374 3	$\times 10^{-2}$
Sequential Padé-Padé [25/26] for $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$	-0.01825 5		
Sequential Padé-Padé [25/26] for $i\Delta_1\beta_2^{(2)}$		- i 0.13508 0	$\times 10^{-2}$
Two-term formula (110) for $\Delta_r\beta_2^{(2)}$	0.00211 94		
RSPT + $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ + $i\Delta_1\beta_2^{(2)}$ + $\Delta_r\beta_2^{(2)}$	0.38825 4	- i 0.00133 7	$\times 10^{-2}$
Sym. num. solution, boundary conditions at 0 and 2	0.38805 89412 28		
RSPT - $\Delta\beta_2^{(1)}$ + $i\Delta_1\beta_2^{(2)}$ + $\Delta_r\beta_2^{(2)}$	0.42476 5	- i 0.00133 7	$\times 10^{-2}$
Antisym. num. solution, boundary conditions at 0 and 2	0.42504 99757 82		

the boundary condition at $\eta=2$ is also to be satisfied, then the b index gains a sequence of exponentially small series, which in turn imply exponentially small contributions to the separation constant.

The explicit complexness of the expansions, starting in second exponential order, is a consequence of the explicit complexness of the asymptotic expansions for the Whittaker function. That a real function should have a complex asymptotic expansion is not as paradoxical as it might seem (Sec. III F): the asymptotic expansion for the

Whittaker function is summable through the Borel summability of its associated power series. The real axis is a cut of the Borel sum. Thus the Borel sum of the RSPT series is complex and discontinuous on the real axis, but the explicit second-exponential-order series has the effect of canceling the implicit imaginary part and making the sum of the entire expansion (including all exponential orders) real and continuous.

The explicit imaginary series is directly related to the discontinuity on the positive real axis (Sec. III I) of the

Borel sum of RSPT for the separation constants, which in turn determines the asymptotics of the RSPT coefficients via a dispersion relation (Sec. VI). In the course of deriving the imaginary second-exponential-order expansion, the relation to the square of the first-exponential-order expansion is obtained, which is the exact version (Secs. III G and V C) of the approximate relation discovered by Brézin and Zinn-Justin.¹² There is also a second imaginary series (Sec. IV) associated with the discontinuity of β_1 on the negative r axis that leads both to alternating-sign and logarithmic contributions to the asymptotics of the RSPT coefficients (Sec. VI). These contributions had in fact implicitly been discovered in an earlier Bender-Wu analysis of the asymptotics of the RSPT for H_2^+ .¹³

Extensive numerical illustration has been provided for both the values (Tables I–III, V–VIII, and XI–XIV) and the asymptotic behavior (Tables IV, X, XV, and XVI) of the coefficients of the various series. In particular, the relation between the imaginary series and the RSPT asymptotics is verified in practice (Tables IV, X, XV, and XVI). The higher the quantum numbers n_1 and n_2 the more slowly the RSPT approaches asymptotic behavior. The alternating-sign contributions to both $\beta_1^{(N)}$ and to $E^{(N)}$ have been explicitly demonstrated (Tables X, XV, and XVI).

The RSPT series for β_2 has been summed and shown (Table XVII) to agree numerically with the numerical solution of the differential equation for β_2 on a semi-

infinite domain, the analytic continuation to negative r' or the closely related $\beta_1(r')$ for the electron moving in the field of a proton and an antiproton. For instance, at $r=10$ the sum of the RSPT series for β_2 is $0.446759779592 + i0.1816534 \times 10^{-5}$, while direct numerical integration of the differential equation gives $0.446759779593 + i0.1816534 \times 10^{-5}$. For the physical β_2 , the sum of all the β_2 subseries together agrees well with the numerically solved values for β_2 for large r (≥ 10), but still more terms and subseries are needed for smaller r ($r=6$ being the example given in Table XVII).

Such a richly complex asymptotic expansion for such a simple problem was not anticipated.

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