

## WKB approximation results in WKB\_levels.dat

In the last question of Problem 2 of Lab 2, the energy levels were calculated “exactly” (of course, still within the WKB approximation) by calculating

$$S(E) = 2 \int_{-A}^A |p(x)| dx \quad (1)$$

directly by numerical integration and using a root-finding procedure to solve the equation for the energy levels  $E_n$ :

$$S(E_n) = 2\pi\hbar(n + 1/2). \quad (2)$$

The results obtained using this approach for  $\alpha = 1$ ,  $\beta = 1$ ,  $m = 2$ ,  $\hbar = 0.1$  are given in the second column of `WKB_levels.dat` (the first column is the level numbers  $0, 1, 2, \dots$ ).

Another, more indirect and therefore potentially more approximate way was based on calculating  $S(E)$  at a discrete set of points as

$$S(E) = \int_0^E T(E) dE \quad (3)$$

using the results for  $T(A)$  obtained in Problem 1 of that lab and then interpolating between those points to solve Eq. (2). One possible way of doing this is using the trapezoidal rule for  $S(E)$ . Given a set of data for  $T(A^{(i)})$ , as obtained in Problem 1, where  $A^{(i)} = 0.01i$  and  $i = 0, 1, \dots$ ,

$$S(E(A^{(i)})) \approx \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^i [T(A^{(j-1)}) + T(A^{(j)})][E(A^{(j)}) - E(A^{(j-1)})], \quad (4)$$

where

$$E(A^{(i)}) = \alpha(A^{(i)})^2 + \beta(A^{(i)})^4. \quad (5)$$

Then linear interpolation was used and Eq. (2) was solved. The results obtained using this approach for  $\alpha = 1$ ,  $\beta = 1$ ,  $m = 2$ ,  $\hbar = 0.1$  are given in the third column of `WKB_levels.dat`.