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§B.7. Notes	506
§B.8. Exercises	506
Appendix C. Fredholm theory	507
§C.1. Grushin problems	507
§C.2. Fredholm operators	509
§C.3. Meromorphic continuation of operators	513
§C.4. Gohberg–Sigal theory	516
§C.5. Notes	524
§C.6. Exercises	524
Appendix D. Complex analysis	527
§D.1. General facts	527
§D.2. Entire functions	531
Appendix E. Semiclassical analysis	535
§E.1. Pseudodifferential operators	536
§E.2. Wavefront sets and ellipticity	556
§E.3. Semiclassical defect measures	566
§E.4. Propagation estimates	569
§E.5. Hyperbolic estimates	586
§E.6. Notes	603
§E.7. Exercises	604
Bibliography	613
Index	631

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# PREFACE

*Mathematicians are Frenchmen of sorts: whatever one says to them they translate into their own language and then it becomes something entirely different.*

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Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Maximen und Reflexionen*, 1840

The purpose of this book is to provide a broad introduction to the theory of scattering resonances.

Scattering resonances appear in many branches of mathematics, physics and engineering. They generalize eigenvalues or bound states for systems in which energy can scatter to infinity. A typical state has then a rate of oscillation (just as a bound state does) and a rate of decay. Although the notion is intrinsically dynamical, an elegant mathematical formulation comes from considering meromorphic continuations of Green's functions or scattering matrices. The poles of these meromorphic continuations capture the physical information by identifying the rate of oscillations with the real part of a pole and the rate of decay with its imaginary part. The resonant state, which is the corresponding wave function, then appears in the residue of the meromorphically continued operator. An example from pure mathematics is given by the zeros of the Riemann zeta function: they are, essentially, the resonances of the Laplacian on the modular surface. The Riemann hypothesis then states that the decay rates for the modular surface are all either 0 or  $\frac{1}{4}$ . A standard example from physics is given by shape resonances created when the interaction region is separated from free space by a potential barrier. The decay rate is then exponentially small in a way depending on the width of the barrier.

In this book we provide an introduction to mathematical techniques used in the study of scattering resonances, concentrating on the simplest models but providing references to modern literature and indications of what happens in more general situations. Some chapters (such as Chapters 2 and 3) are meant to be easily accessible and others (such as Chapter 5) somewhat more demanding. The rather substantial set of appendices provides detailed accounts of most methods needed in the text. A diagram representing the dependencies of various sections is presented at the end of Chapter 1. The choice of topics is necessarily determined by the research interests of the authors, and many important aspects of the subject are not covered. We also stayed away from exciting but technical developments such as precise asymptotics for shape resonances, fractal Weyl laws, resonance gaps for chaotic systems, or the applications of scattering theory to hyperbolic dynamical systems – see the survey [Zw17] for an overview and references.

SD was introduced to scattering resonances by MZ, who in turn had the good fortune to be introduced to this field by Richard Melrose. We would like to thank him for his generous guidance and insights and for his foundational results on resonance counting and trace formulas.

The viewpoint and many discoveries of Johannes Sjöstrand changed the subject in a profound way. MZ was privileged to maintain a long collaboration with Sjöstrand and would like to thank him for sharing his ideas and expertise over the years.

Many other colleagues and collaborators have contributed to our understanding of the subject, and special thanks are due to Ivana Alexandrova, Jean-François Bony, David Bindel, Paul Brumer, Nicolas Burq, Tanya Christiansen, Kiril Datchev, Frédéric Faure, Jeff Galkowski, Colin Guillarmou, Laurent Guillopé, Bernard Helffer, Peter Hintz, Michael Hitrik, Long Jin, Ulrich Kuhl, André Martinez, William H. Miller, Shu Nakamura, Frédéric Naud, Stéphane Nonnenmacher, Galina Perelman, Vesselin Petkov, Jim Ralston, Antônio Sá Barreto, Hart Smith, Plamen Stefanov, Siu-Hung Tang, Jared Wunsch, András Vasy, and Georgi Vodev.

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Chapter 2 developed from notes on one-dimensional scattering written by Siu-Hung Tang and MZ in 2001 [TZ01] – we are grateful for Tang’s help on the project and for allowing us to use that material.

Simon Becker’s careful reading of the final version eliminated countless mistakes: we and the readers of this book owe him a great debt. We are also particularly grateful to Alexis Drouot, Benjamin Küster, Hari Manoharan, Alberto Parmeggiani, Euan Spence, Jian Wang, Tobias Weich, Mengxuan Yang and the three anonymous reviewers of the book for their helpful comments and corrections.

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# INDEX

- $\pm^s$ , 480
- analytic Fredholm theory, 514
- asymptotic expansion, *see* symbol
- asymptotically hyperbolic manifold, 308
  - canonical coordinates, 310
  - even, 312
  - even extension, 313
  
- black box Hamiltonian, 221
- black box scattering, 217
- black hole
  - ergoregion, 355
  - event horizon, 355
  - Kerr–de Sitter, 355
  - mode stability, 356
  - Schwarzschild–de Sitter, 355, 368
- Borel–Carathéodory theorem, 529
- boundary defining function, 307
  - canonical, 310
- Breit–Wigner approximation, 6, 64, 209, 468
  
- $C^\infty$ ,  $C_c^\infty$ , 477, 480
- $C_t^j H_y^s$ , 590
- canonical 1-form, 541
- Carleman estimates, 134, 411
- Cauchy–Green formula, 527
- complex scaling, 70, 268
- $\text{Con}_p$ , 333
- control condition, 571
- cotangent bundle, 377, 537
  - fiber-radially compactified, 540
- cut-off chart, 544
  
- $\mathcal{D}'$ , 480
- $D_x$ , 536
- $\Delta_g$ , 218
- $\Delta_\theta$ , 271
- $\text{Diff}_h^k$ , 536
- differential operator, 536, 543
- domain of operator, 485
  
- $\mathcal{E}'$ , 480
- $\text{ell}_h$ , 559
- elliptic, 559
  - estimate, 560
  - parametrix, 559
- energy estimate, 590
- escape, 374
- escape function, 403, 573, 583
- essential support, 556
- eventually positive/negative, 580
  
- Fermi Golden Rule, 256, 301
- fiber infinity, 540
- finite-volume surface, 221
- Fredholm determinant, 501
- free resolvent, 26, 96
  
- $\tilde{g}$ , 352
- Gårding inequality, 555, 560
- $\Gamma^\pm$ ,  $\Gamma_\bullet^\pm$ , 374
- Gohberg–Sigal theory, 516
- Grönwall’s inequality, 478
- Grushin problem, 508
  
- $h$ , 82, 371, 536
- $h^\infty \Psi^{-\infty}$ , 546



- $h$ -tempered, 561
- $H_p$ , 372, 541
- $H_{\text{comp}}^s, H_{\text{loc}}^s, H^s$ , 477, 554
- $\bar{H}^s, \dot{H}^s$ , 556
- $H_h^s$ , 552, 553
- $H_{h,\text{comp}}^s, H_{h,\text{loc}}^s$ , 553
- $\bar{H}_h^s, \dot{H}_h^s$ , 556
- $H_h^{s,r}$ , 598
- $\tilde{H}^s, \tilde{H}_h^{s,r}$ , 598
- Hadamard's factorization theorem, 532
- Hamiltonian vector field, 372, 541
- hyperbolic cylinder, 309
  - associated spacetime, 353
  - canonical coordinates, 310
  - even extension, 314
- hyperbolic operator, 588
  - Cauchy problem, 596
  - estimate, 589
- hyperbolic space, 305
  - associated spacetime, 353
  - canonical coordinates, 310
  - even extension, 313
- indicial roots, 315
- Jensen's formula, 529
- $K, K_\bullet$ , 374
- $\kappa$ , 540
- Kato's local smoothing, 426
- $L_\pm$ , 326
- $L^2, L_{\text{loc}}^2, L_{\text{comp}}^2$ , 477
- $\mathcal{L}_1(H_1, H_2), \mathcal{L}_1(H)$ , 492
- $\mathcal{L}(X), \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$ , 478
- Lax–Phillips theory, 208
- Liouville measure, 377
- locally finite, 482
- $m_D$ , 38
- $m_R$ , 29, 109, 230
- $m_S$ , 51, 151, 265
- $\tilde{m}_R(0)$ , 121, 124
- $m_V$ , 78, 109
- maximum principle
  - rectangle, 528
  - semiclassical, 440
- Mazzeo–Melrose theory, 363
- meromorphic continuation
  - modified Laplacian, 342
  - resolvent, 27, 108, 225, 345
  - scattering matrix, 46, 147, 260
- method of nonstationary phase, 542
- method of stationary phase, 542
- microlocal equivalence, 558
- modified Laplacian, 319
  - hyperbolic cylinder, 321
  - hyperbolic space, 321
- modular surface, 262
- multiplicity, *see* resonances
- normally hyperbolic trapping, 392
- $\mathcal{O}(F)_X, \mathcal{O}(F)_{X \rightarrow Y}$ , 478
- $\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ , 478
- obstacle scattering, 221
- $\text{Op}_h$ , 543, 549
- $\text{Op}_h^M$ , 549
- operator
  - closable, 485
  - closed, 485
  - compactly microlocalized, 558
  - compactly supported, 481
  - essentially self-adjoint, 486
  - Fredholm, 509
  - of trace class, 492
  - properly supported, 481
  - regular, 481
  - self-adjoint, 486–488
  - smoothing, 481
  - symmetric, 486
  - unitary, 486
- outgoing resolvent, *see* scattering
  - resolvent
- outgoing solution
  - asymptotically hyperbolic, 316, 345
  - dimension one, 22
  - Euclidean scattering, 131, 233, 251
- $p$ 
  - asymptotically hyperbolic, 320
  - Schrödinger operator, 372
- $P(h)$ , 371
- $P_h(\omega)$ , 319
- $P(\lambda)$ , 319
- $\tilde{P}(\lambda)$ , 358
- $P_\psi(\lambda), P_{\psi,h}(\omega)$ , 320
- $P_\theta$ , 271
- $P_V$ , 27, 108
- $\tilde{P}(z)$ , 388
- perfectly matched layer, 72, 301
- Poisson bracket, 476
- positive commutator method, 405, 574, 577
- principal symbol

- commutator, 537, 550
- differential operator, 537
- product, 537, 550
- vector field, 537
  - pseudodifferential operator, 548
- product structure, 308
  - canonical, 310
- propagation of singularities, 571
- pseudodifferential operator, 536
  - change of variables, 545
  - nonsemiclassical, 552
  - on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , 543
  - on manifolds, 547
  - partition of unity, 558
- $\Psi_h^{\text{comp}}$ , 558
- $\Psi_0^k$ , 605
- $\Psi_{\delta,h}^k$ , 552
- $\Psi_h^k$ , 547
- quantization
  - on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , 543
  - on manifolds, 549
- quasi-normal modes, 358
- $R_0(\lambda)$ , 26, 96
- $R(\lambda)$ , 225, 314, 317, 345
- $R_\theta(\lambda)$ , 272
- $R_V(\lambda)$ , 27, 108
- $R(z, h)$ , 83, 372, 380
- radial
  - estimate, 582, 585
  - point, 580
  - sets for asymptotically hyperbolic
    - manifolds, 326
  - source/sink, 579
- reference operator, 236
- Rellich's uniqueness theorem, 133, 136, 251, 346
- Rellich–Kondrachev theorem, 485
- resolvent, *see* scattering resolvent
- resonance at zero, 124
  - obstacle scattering, 253
  - one dimension, 35
  - potential scattering, 116
- resonance counting
  - asymptotics
    - convex obstacles, 302
    - normally hyperbolic trapping, 394, 398
    - one dimension, 52
  - lower bounds
    - from closed orbits, 419, 468
    - semiclassical, 452
  - upper bounds
    - black box scattering, 241
    - fractal, 467
    - potential scattering, 126, 208
    - semiclassical, 432
- resonance expansion
  - black hole, 360
  - potential scattering, 40, 111
  - strong trapping
    - Schrödinger equation, 460
    - wave equation, 464
- resonance-expansion
  - non-trapping black box, 299
- resonance-free regions
  - general semiclassical, 90, 415
  - logarithmic
    - non-trapping black box, 295
    - non-trapping semiclassical, 405
  - potential scattering, 40, 110
  - semiclassical overview, 373
  - strips
    - black hole, 360
    - hyperbolic trapping, 419
    - non-trapping, 380
    - normally hyperbolic trapping, 396
- resonances
  - asymptotically hyperbolic, 344, 345
  - black box Hamiltonians, 230
  - black hole, 358
  - hyperbolic cylinder, 347
  - hyperbolic space, 347
  - multiplicity
    - agreement with complex scaling, 282
    - agreement with scattering matrix, 51, 150, 265
    - black box scattering, 230
    - generic simplicity, 79, 284
    - potential scattering, 29, 109
  - one dimension, 29
  - potential scattering, 109
  - shape, 8, 84, 92
- resonant state
  - asymptotically hyperbolic, 344, 345
  - black box Hamiltonians, 233
  - potential scattering, 32, 110
- $\text{Res}(P)$ ,  $\text{Res}(P(h))$ , 83, 372
- Rouché's theorem for operators, 518, 524
- $S_{1,0}^k$ , 538

- $\overline{S}_{1,0}^k, \overline{S}^k, \overline{S}_h^k$ , 542
- $S^k$ , 538
- $S_\delta^k$ , 551
- $S_h^k$ , 539
- $S^{-\infty}$ , 539
- scattering matrix
  - black box scattering, 259
  - modular surface, 265
  - one dimension, 45
  - potential scattering, 143
  - surfaces with cusps, 262
  - time-dependent definition, 208
- scattering resolvent, 29, 109
  - asymptotically hyperbolic, 345
  - black box scattering, 225
  - lower bounds, 426
  - potential scattering, 27
  - semiclassical, 372
  - upper bounds
    - non-trapping, 40, 110, 295, 385, 390, 405
    - normally hyperbolic trapping, 396
    - trapping, 415, 435
- Schur's inequality, 479
- Schwartz kernel, 481
- semiclassical measure, 386, 566
- semiclassically outgoing, 350, 383, 389
- $\sigma_h$ , 537, 548
- $\Sigma_\pm, \widehat{\Sigma}_\pm$ , 324
- singular values, 489
- Sobolev space, 552
  - manifold with boundary, 555
- spectral gap, *see* resonance-free regions
- spectrum, 487
- `splinepot.m`, 9
- `squarepot.m`, 3, 65
- Stone's formula, 487
- symbol, 537
  - asymptotic expansion, 538, 539
  - polyhomogeneous, 538
  - positively homogeneous, 538
- symplectic form, 541
- $\overline{T}^*M$ , 540
- tails, incoming/outgoing, 374
- trace formula
  - Bardos–Guillot–Ralston, 209
  - Birman–Kreĭn, 59, 163
  - for resonances, 68, 178, 446
  - Lax–Phillips, 209
  - Melrose, 178, 209
  - Selberg, 362
  - Sjöstrand, 446
- trapped set, 374
  - homoclinic, 419, 459
  - hyperbolic, 419
  - normally hyperbolic, 392, 419
- wavefront set, 556
  - composition, 565
  - distribution, 562
  - nonsemiclassical, 607
  - operator, 562
  - pseudodifferential operator, 557
- Weierstrass product, 532
- Weyl inequalities, 499
- WF, 607
- $WF_h$ , 557, 562
- $WF'_h$ , 562
- Young's inequality, 478
- zero resonance, *see* resonance at zero

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