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SPECTRAL DEVIATIONS FOR THE DAMPED WAVE EQUATION

NALINI ANANTHARAMAN

ABSTRACT. We prove a Weyl-type fractal upper bound for the spectrum of the damped wave equation, on a negatively curved compact manifold. It is known that most of the eigenvalues have an imaginary part close to the average of the damping function. We count the number of eigenvalues in a given horizontal strip deviating from this typical behaviour; the exponent that appears naturally is the ‘entropy’ that gives the deviation rate from the Birkhoff ergodic theorem for the geodesic flow. A Weyl-type lower bound is still far from reach; but in the particular case of arithmetic surfaces, and for a strong enough damping, we can use the trace formula to prove a result going in this direction.

1. RESULTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SPECTRUM OF THE DAMPED WAVE EQUATION

Let (M, g) be a smooth compact Riemannian manifold without boundary. Let a be a C^∞ real valued function on M . We study the “damped¹ wave equation”,

$$(1.1) \quad (\partial_t^2 - \Delta + 2a(x)\partial_t) v = 0$$

for $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x \in M$. We shall be interested in the stationary solutions, that is, solutions of the form $v(t, x) = e^{it\tau}u(x)$ for some $\tau \in \mathbb{C}$. This means that u must satisfy

$$(1.2) \quad (-\Delta - \tau^2 + 2ia\tau)u = 0.$$

Equivalently, τ is an eigenvalue of the operator

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ -\Delta & 2ia \end{pmatrix}$$

acting on $H^1(M) \times L^2(M)$. For $a = 0$ this operator is the wave operator, an anti-selfadjoint operator; but for $a \neq 0$ the operator is not normal anymore. It is known that its spectrum is discrete and consists of a sequence (τ_n) with $\Im m(\tau_n)$ bounded and $|\Re e(\tau_n)| \rightarrow +\infty$ (see Section 2). One sees easily that $\Im m(\tau_n) \in [2 \min(\inf a, 0), 2 \max(\sup a, 0)]$ if $\Re e(\tau_n) = 0$, and $\Im m(\tau_n) \in [\inf a, \sup a]$ if $\Re e(\tau_n) \neq 0$ [28]. One can also note, obviously, that $-\bar{\tau}_n$ is an eigenvalue if τ_n is : the spectrum is symmetric with respect to the imaginary axis.

1.1. Background. Motivated by questions from control theory, Lebeau [17] was interested in the so-called “stabilization problem” : define

$$\rho = \sup \left\{ \beta, \exists C, E(u_t) \leq Ce^{-\beta t} E(u_0) \text{ for every solution } u \text{ of (1.1)} \right\}$$

¹The term “damped” applies to the case when $a \geq 0$, that is to say, when the energy is decreasing. In this paper the sign of a will be of no importance.

where the energy functional is $E(u) = \int_M |\nabla u|^2$. The stabilization problem consists in finding some damping function a (necessarily nonnegative) such that $\rho > 0$. Lebeau identified

$$\rho = 2 \min \{D(0), C(\infty)\}$$

where $D(0)$ is a sort of “spectral gap” :

$$D(0) = \inf \{ \Im m(\tau_n), \tau_n \neq 0 \}$$

and $C(\infty)$ is defined in terms of the Birkhoff averages of a along the geodesic flow

$$G^t : T^*M \longrightarrow T^*M,$$

$$C(\infty) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \inf_{\rho \in T^*M} \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t a(G^s \rho) ds.$$

Lebeau also showed, on an example, that it is possible to have a spectral gap ($D(0) > 0$) but no exponential damping ($\rho = 0$) : this surprising phenomenon is typical of non normal operators.

Markus and Matsaev [19] proved an analogue of Weyl’s law, also found independently later on by Sjöstrand [28] :

$$(1.3) \quad \# \{n, 0 \leq \Re e(\tau_n) \leq \lambda\} = \left(\frac{\lambda}{2\pi} \right)^d \left(\int_{p^{-1}[0,1[} dxd\xi + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-1}) \right)$$

where d is the dimension of M , p is the principal symbol of $-\Delta$, namely the function $p(x, \xi) = g_x(\xi, \xi)$ defined on the cotangent bundle T^*M , and $dxd\xi$ is the Liouville measure on T^*M (coming from its canonical symplectic structure).

It is a natural question to ask about the distribution of the imaginary parts $\Im m(\tau_n)$ in the interval $[\inf a, \sup a]$. For non normal operators, obtaining fine information on the distribution of the spectrum is much harder than for normal operators – one of the reason being the absence of continuous (or even smooth) functional calculus. Another related difficulty is that there is no general relation between the norm of the resolvent and the distance to the spectrum. Some techniques have being developed to obtain upper bounds on the density of eigenvalues, but lower bounds are notoriously more difficult.

Assuming that the geodesic flow is ergodic with respect to the Liouville measure on an energy layer, Sjöstrand proved that most of the τ_n have asymptotically an imaginary part $\Im m(\tau_n) \sim \bar{a}$, where \bar{a} denotes the average of a on the energy layer $S^*M = \{(x, \xi) \in T^*M, g_x(\xi, \xi) = 1\}$ with respect to the Liouville measure :

Theorem 1.1. [28] *Assume that the geodesic flow is ergodic with respect to the Liouville measure on S^*M . For every $C > 0$, for every $\epsilon > 0$, we have*

$$\# \{n, \lambda \leq \Re e(\tau_n) \leq \lambda + C, \Im m(\tau_n) \notin [\bar{a} - \epsilon, \bar{a} + \epsilon]\} = o(\lambda^{d-1})$$

as λ goes to infinity.

Remark 1.2. If C is not too small, one sees from (1.3) that there exists $\tilde{C} > 0$ such that

$$\# \{n, \lambda \leq \Re e(\tau_n) \leq \lambda + C\} \geq \tilde{C} \lambda^{d-1}$$

for large λ . Thus, the theorem does say that a majority of the τ_n have $\Im m(\tau_n) \in [\bar{a} - \epsilon, \bar{a} + \epsilon]$.

Remark 1.3. More generally, without the ergodicity assumption, [28] proves the following results. Introduce the functions on T^*M ,

$$\langle a \rangle_T = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} a \circ G^s ds,$$

$$\langle a \rangle_\infty = \lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \langle a \rangle_T,$$

and the real numbers

$$a_+ = \lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_{S^*M} \langle a \rangle_T,$$

$$a_- = \lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \inf_{S^*M} \langle a \rangle_T.$$

The function $\langle a \rangle_\infty$ is well defined Liouville-almost-everywhere, by the Birkhoff theorem.

Lebeau [17] proves that for any $\epsilon > 0$, there are at most finitely many n with $\tau_n \notin [a_- - \epsilon, a_+ + \epsilon]$, and Sjöstrand [28] proves that

$$\# \{n, \lambda \leq \Re(\tau_n) \leq \lambda + C, \Im(\tau_n) \notin [\text{ess inf } \langle a \rangle_\infty - \epsilon, \text{ess sup } \langle a \rangle_\infty + \epsilon]\} = o(\lambda^{d-1}).$$

1.2. Semiclassical formulation. As in [28] we reformulate the problem using semiclassical notations. In doing so, we also generalize a little the problem. We introduce a semiclassical parameter $0 < \hbar \ll 1$ and will be interested in the eigenvalues τ such that $\hbar\tau \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0} 1$. If we put $\tau = \frac{\lambda}{\hbar}$ with λ close to 1, then equation (1.2) can be rewritten as

$$(1.4) \quad \left(-\frac{\hbar^2 \Delta}{2} - \frac{\lambda^2}{2} + i\hbar\lambda a \right) u = 0,$$

or

$$(1.5) \quad (\mathcal{P} - z)u = 0$$

if we put $z = \frac{\lambda^2}{2}$, and

$$(1.6) \quad \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(z) = P + i\hbar Q(z), \quad P = -\frac{\hbar^2 \Delta}{2}, \quad Q(z) = a\sqrt{z}.$$

The parameter z is close to $E = \frac{1}{2}$.

More generally, we will consider a spectral problem of the form (1.5) where

$$\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(z) = P + i\hbar Q(z), \quad P = -\frac{\hbar^2 \Delta}{2},$$

$z \in \Omega = e^{i[-s_0, s_0]} [E_{\min}, E_{\max}]$, with $0 < E_{\min} < \frac{1}{2} < E_{\max} < +\infty$, $0 < s_0 < \frac{\pi}{4}$. We will assume that $Q(z) \in \Psi DO^1$ is a pseudodifferential operator that depends holomorphically on $z \in \Omega$, and that Q is formally self-adjoint for z real (the definition of our operator classes is given in Section 9).

We denote

$$\Sigma = \Sigma_\hbar = \{z \in \Omega, \exists u, (\mathcal{P}(z) - z)u = 0\}.$$

The operator P has principal symbol $p_o(x, \xi) = \frac{g_x(\xi, \xi)}{2}$, and $Q(z)$ has principal symbol $q_z(x, \xi)$, taking real values for z real. In these notations, the previous results read as follows : for any $E_{\min} < E_1 \leq E_2 < E_{\max}$,

$$(1.7) \quad \# \{z \in \Sigma, E_1 \leq \Re e(z) \leq E_2\} = \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^d} \left[\int_{p_o^{-1}[E_1, E_2]} dx d\xi + \mathcal{O}(\hbar) \right]$$

(uniformly for all $c > 0$ and for all E_1, E_2 such that $|E_2 - E_1| \geq 2c\hbar$, E_1 and E_2 staying away from E_{\min}, E_{\max}). One can show that $\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar}$ (for $z \in \Sigma$) has to stay bounded if E_1, E_2 stay in a bounded interval. Fix some $c > 0$, and take $E_1 = E - c\hbar$ and $E_2 = E + c\hbar$. Let us denote

$$q_E^- = \lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \inf_{p_o^{-1}\{E\}} \langle q_E \rangle_T,$$

$$q_E^+ = \lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_{p_o^{-1}\{E\}} \langle q_E \rangle_T,$$

then we have [28]

$$(1.8) \quad q_E^- + o(1) \leq \frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} \leq q_E^+ + o(1)$$

for all $z \in \Sigma$ such that $E - c\hbar \leq \Re e(z) \leq E + c\hbar$. Finally, denote \bar{q}_E the average of q_E on the energy layer $p_o^{-1}\{E\}$. Assuming that the geodesic flow is ergodic on $p_o^{-1}\{E\}$, then for any $\epsilon > 0$, any $c > 0$,

$$(1.9) \quad \# \left\{ z \in \Sigma, E - c\hbar \leq \Re e(z) \leq E + c\hbar, \frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} \notin [\bar{q}_E - \epsilon, \bar{q}_E + \epsilon] \right\} = o(\hbar^{1-d}).$$

The method of [28] allows to treat the case of a more general P (and thus a more general Hamiltonian flow than the geodesic flow), and also to deal with the case when the flow is not ergodic. However, in this paper we will stick to the case of an ergodic geodesic flow; we will add even stronger assumptions in the next paragraph.

1.3. Questions, and a few results. We try to give (partial) answers to the three natural questions :

(Q1) (Fractal Weyl law) Let I be an interval that does not contain \bar{q}_E . Can we describe in a finer way the asymptotic behaviour for

$$\# \left\{ z, E - c\hbar \leq \Re e(z) \leq E + c\hbar, \frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} \in I \right\} ?$$

For instance, can we find

$$\lim_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \# \left\{ z \in \Sigma, E - c\hbar \leq \Re e(z) \leq E + c\hbar, \frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} \in I \right\}}{\log \hbar} ?$$

(Q2) (Inverse problem) Suppose we know everything about P and about the dynamics of the geodesic flow, but that Q is unknown. To what extent does the knowledge of the eigenfrequencies $\{z \in \Sigma, E - c\hbar \leq \Re e(z) \leq E + c\hbar\}$ determine q_E ?

Replacing \mathcal{P} by $B^{-1}\mathcal{P}B$, where B is an elliptic pseudodifferential operator with positive principal symbol b , amounts to replacing q by $q - \{p_o, \log b\}$, where $\{.,.\}$ stands for the Poisson bracket on T^*M . Two smooth functions f and g on T^*M are said to be cohomologous (with respect to the geodesic flow) if there exists a third smooth function h such that $f = g + \{p_o, h\}$. This defines an equivalence relation, we write $f \sim_{p_o} g$.

It is thus more natural to ask :

(Q2') Does the knowledge of the eigenfrequencies $\{z \in \Sigma, E - c\hbar \leq \Re(z) \leq E + c\hbar\}$ determine the *cohomology class* of q_E ?

If the length spectrum of M is simple, then one can most probably use a trace formula and recover from the knowledge of Σ all the integrals of q_E along closed geodesics. And this is enough to determine the cohomology class of q_E if M has negative sectional curvature : the Livshitz theorem [18, 7] says that if two functions have the same integrals along all closed geodesics, then they are cohomologous. Thus, the answer to (Q2) is probably “yes” if M has negative sectional curvature and the length spectrum is simple (this last assumption is satisfied generically, but unfortunately not for surfaces of constant negative curvature).

In fact, it also makes sense to ask whether *some* knowledge of the imaginary parts alone $\{\Im(z), z \in \Sigma, E - c\hbar \leq \Re(z) \leq E + c\hbar\}$ allows to recover *some* information about q_E . For instance, one can ask the apparently simple question :

(Q3) (Very weak inverse problem) Let C denote a constant function. As follows from (1.8), we have the implication

$$q_E \sim_{p_o} C \text{ on } p_o^{-1}\{E\} \implies \frac{\Im(z)}{\hbar} \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0, z \in \Sigma, E - c\hbar \leq \Re(z) \leq E + c\hbar} C.$$

Does the converse hold ?

Main assumption on the manifold M : From now on, we assume that M has constant sectional curvature -1 . This implies the ergodicity of the geodesic flow on any energy layer (with respect to the Liouville measure), and in fact a very chaotic behaviour of trajectories (see Section 3). We will indicate how to generalize our results in the case of *surfaces* of variable negative curvature; however, it is not clear what to do in higher dimension and variable negative curvature.

In the following theorem, h_{KS} stands for the Kolmogorov–Sinai entropy, or metric entropy. It is an affine functional, taking nonnegative values, defined on \mathcal{M} , the set of G -invariant probability measures on T^*M : see for instance [12] for the definition of h_{KS} . We will also denote $\mathcal{M}_E \subset \mathcal{M}$ the set of invariant probability measures carried by $p_o^{-1}\{E\}$. Since p_o is homogeneous it is enough to consider, for instance, the case $E = \frac{1}{2}$, and $p_o^{-1}\{E\} = S^*M$. For $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}$, we have $h_{KS}(\mu) \leq d - 1$, with equality if and only if μ is the Liouville measure. We now fix $E = \frac{1}{2}$ and we denote $q = q_{\frac{1}{2}}$, $\bar{q} = \bar{q}_{\frac{1}{2}}$, $q^+ = q_{\frac{1}{2}}^+$, $q^- = q_{\frac{1}{2}}^-$.

We fix some $c > 0$ and denote

$$\Sigma_{\frac{1}{2}} = \left\{ z \in \Sigma, \frac{1}{2} - c\hbar \leq \Re(z) \leq \frac{1}{2} + c\hbar \right\}.$$

Theorem 1.4. *Assume M has constant sectional curvature -1 . Define*

$$H(\alpha) = \sup \left\{ h_{KS}(\mu), \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu = \alpha \right\}.$$

If $\alpha \geq \bar{q}$, then for any $c > 0$

$$\limsup_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \# \left\{ z \in \Sigma_{\frac{1}{2}}, \frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} \geq \alpha \right\}}{|\log \hbar|} \leq H(\alpha).$$

If $\alpha \leq \bar{q}$, then for any $c > 0$

$$\limsup_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \# \left\{ z \in \Sigma_{\frac{1}{2}}, \frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} \leq \alpha \right\}}{|\log \hbar|} \leq H(\alpha).$$

Remark 1.5. (see [16], §4, or [4], §3 for the argument) The function H is concave and is identically $-\infty$ outside $[q^-, q^+]$. It is continuous and strictly concave in $[q^-, q^+]$, and real analytic in $]q^-, q^+[$ (note that $q^- = q^+$ if and only if q is cohomologous to a constant on S^*M). The function H reaches its maximum $d - 1$ at the point \bar{q} , and has finite (nonnegative) limits at the endpoints q^-, q^+ . In particular H is positive in the open interval $]q^-, q^+[$.

Remark 1.6. The key fact in the proof of Theorem 1.4 is the large deviation estimate from [13],

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log L_{\frac{1}{2}} \{ \rho \in S^*M, \langle q \rangle_T(\rho) \in I \}}{T} = \sup \{ H(\alpha), \alpha \in I \} - d - 1$$

for any interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ – where $L_{\frac{1}{2}}$ is the Liouville measure on $p_o^{-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \right\} = S^*M$. This result gives the volume of the set of trajectories deviating from the Birkhoff ergodic theorem. See Section 3.

On a surface of variable negative curvature, we can generalize the result to :

Theorem 1.7. *Assume M is a surface of variable negative curvature. Denote φ the infinitesimal unstable Jacobian (see Section 3). Define*

$$H(\alpha) = \sup \left\{ \frac{h_{KS}(\mu)}{\int \varphi d\mu}, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu = \alpha \right\}.$$

Then the same conclusion as in Theorem 1.4 holds.

Remark 1.8. For a manifold of variable negative curvature and dimension d we would expect the same to hold with $H(\alpha) = (d - 1) \sup \left\{ \frac{h_{KS}(\mu)}{\int \varphi d\mu}, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu = \alpha \right\}$. However, our proof does not work in this case.

One may wonder if the limsup in Theorem 1.4 is also a liminf. This question is reminiscent of the fractal Weyl law conjecture asked by Zworski and Sjöstrand, but in our situation we can say with certainty that it is not true. Worse, one cannot expect the lower bound to hold for a “generic” q . In a paper in preparation, Emmanuel Schenck² is proving that there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} \leq q^+ - \delta$ for all $z \in \Sigma_{\frac{1}{2}}$, provided a certain criterion on q is satisfied. The criterion reads $\Pr(q - \frac{d-1}{2}) < q^+$, where the pressure functional \Pr is defined on the space of continuous functions on S^*M and is the Legendre transform of $-h_{KS}$ (see Section 3). The functional \Pr is lipschitz with respect to the C^0 norm, and the condition $\Pr(q - \frac{d-1}{2}) < q^+$ defines a non-empty open set in the C^0 topology. For such a q we cannot have

$$\liminf_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \# \left\{ z \in \Sigma_{\frac{1}{2}}, \frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} > q_+ - \delta \right\}}{|\log \hbar|} \geq H(q_+ - \delta),$$

since H is positive in $]q_-, q_+[$ but the liminf on the left-hand side is $-\infty$.

In Sections 7 and 8, we investigate Question 3 in some special cases. We work on compact hyperbolic surfaces ($d = 2$), and we study operators of the form

$$\Delta_\omega f = \Delta f - 2\langle \omega, df \rangle + \|\omega\|_x^2 f,$$

called “twisted laplacians” – here ω is a harmonic real-valued 1-form on M . Studying the large eigenvalues of Δ_ω amounts to studying a fixed spectral window for the semiclassical twisted laplacian

$$-\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta_\omega}{2} = -\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta}{2} + \hbar^2 \langle \omega, d. \rangle - \hbar^2 \frac{\|\omega\|_x^2}{2}, \quad \hbar \rightarrow 0.$$

This question falls exactly into the setting of §1.2, with $q(x, \xi) = \langle \omega_x, \xi \rangle$. Since $q(x, -\xi) = -q(x, \xi)$, we have $\bar{q} = 0$. We will denote $\Pr(\omega) = \Pr(q)$ the pressure of the function q , defined in Section 3.2. It will also be interesting to note that $q^+ = -q^-$ coincides with the stable norm $\|\omega\|_s$ defined in Section 7.2, that $\|\omega\|_s + 1 \geq \Pr(\omega) \geq \|\omega\|_s$ and that $\Pr(t\omega) - |t|\|\omega\|_s \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} 0$ in the case of surfaces.

Theorem 1.9. *Assume M is a compact arithmetic surface coming from a quaternion algebra. Take $\omega \neq 0$. Fix $\beta \in (0, 1]$, and $0 < \epsilon < \beta$. Then, for every \hbar small enough, there exists $z \in Sp(-\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta_\omega}{2})$ with $|\Re(z) - \frac{1}{2}| \leq \hbar^{1-\beta}$, such that*

$$\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} \geq \Pr(\omega) - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1+\epsilon}{2\beta}.$$

Equivalently, given $\beta \in (0, 1]$, and $0 < \epsilon < \beta$, for all T large enough, there exists r_n such that $|\Re(r_n) - T| \leq T^\beta$ and

$$|\Im m(r_n)| \geq \Pr(\omega) - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1+\epsilon}{2\beta},$$

where r_n is the “spectral parameter” defined by $\lambda_n = -(\frac{1}{4} + r_n^2)$.

²Private communication.

Of course, we deduce immediately the following corollary :

Corollary 1. $\#\{n, |\Re(r_n)| \leq T, |\Im(r_n)| \geq \Pr(\omega) - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1+\epsilon}{2\beta}\} \geq T^{1-\beta}$, asymptotically as $T \longrightarrow +\infty$.

Since $\Pr(\omega) \longrightarrow 1$ as $\omega \longrightarrow 0$ (but $\Pr(\omega) \longrightarrow +\infty$ as $\|\omega\|_s \longrightarrow +\infty$) this result is only interesting if $\|\omega\|_s$ is large enough (depending on β). Note also that if $\|\omega\|_s$ is large enough we have $\Pr(\omega) < \|\omega\|_s + \frac{1}{2}$, so that the work of Emmanuel Schenck mentioned above will show that there is a strip $\{\Im(z) \geq \|\omega\|_s - \delta\}$ ($\delta > 0$) that contains no r_n .

The arithmetic case is special, in that the lengths of closed geodesics are well separated : we can write a trace formula, find a lower bound on the geometric part (despite of its oscillatory nature) and deduce a lower bound on the imaginary parts of eigenvalues. The ideas are borrowed from [8].

Remark 1.10. Another way of defining the twisted laplacian is to write $M = \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}$, where \mathbb{H} is the universal cover of M and Γ is a discrete group of isometries of \mathbb{H} ; to fix an origin $o \in \mathbb{H}$, and to write

$$\Delta_\omega f(x) = e^{\int_o^x \omega} \circ \Delta \left(e^{-\int_o^x \omega} f(x) \right);$$

this operator preserves Γ -periodic functions, hence descends to M . The case where ω takes purely imaginary values is self-adjoint, and analogous to the study of “Bloch waves”. The case where ω takes real values is no longer self-adjoint.

Remark 1.11. Our motivation for working with twisted laplacians on hyperbolic manifolds was that it is a case where the trace formula is exact. There was, *a priori*, hope to prove finer results than in cases where the trace formula is not exact (in the latter case the space of test functions to which the formula can be applied is more limited). *A posteriori*, we never use any wild test function that wouldn’t be allowed in the general case. So, one can think that the same result holds for our general operator (1.6) – provided one proves a semiclassical trace formula first.

If we don’t assume arithmeticity, we can only treat the following operator :

$$-\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta_{\theta(\hbar)\omega}}{2} = -\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta}{2} + \hbar^2 \theta(\hbar) \langle \omega, d. \rangle - \hbar^2 \theta(\hbar)^2 \frac{\|\omega\|_x^2}{2}, \quad \hbar \longrightarrow 0,$$

where $\theta(\hbar) \geq |\log \hbar|$ and $\hbar \theta(\hbar) \longrightarrow 0$. In other words the non-selfadjoint perturbation is stronger than in the previous cases.

Theorem 1.12. Assume M is a compact hyperbolic surface. Take $\omega \neq 0$. Take any function $f(\hbar) \gg \theta(\hbar)^{3/2} \log \log \hbar^{1/2}$. Then there is a sequence $\hbar_n \longrightarrow 0$ such that

$$\sup \left\{ \frac{\Im(z)}{\hbar_n \theta(\hbar_n)}, z \in Sp \left(-\hbar_n^2 \frac{\Delta_{\theta(\hbar_n)\omega}}{2} \right), |\Re z - \frac{1}{2}| \leq \hbar_n f(\hbar_n) \right\} \xrightarrow{n \longrightarrow +\infty} \|\omega\|_s,$$

the stable norm of ω .

See Section 7.2 for the definition of the stable norm. Note that with our previous notations, $\|\omega\|_s = q^+ = -q^-$, and $\Pr(t\omega) - |t| \|\omega\|_s \xrightarrow{t \longrightarrow \infty} 0$ on a hyperbolic surface.

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2. NOTE ON THE DEFINITION OF THE SPECTRUM AND ITS MULTIPLICITY.

By the term “spectrum”, we mean the set Σ of $z \in \Omega$ such that $\mathcal{P}(z) - z$ is not bijective $H^2(M) \rightarrow H^0(M)$. If it is bijective, then the inverse must be continuous, by the closed graph theorem.

If z is restricted to a compact subset of Ω , it is easy to see that $G(z) = I + \lambda^{-1}(\mathcal{P}(z) - z)$ is invertible for $\lambda > 0$ large enough. The inverse $G(z)^{-1}$ is then a compact operator on $H^0(M)$. Besides, one sees that $\mathcal{P}(z) - z$ is not bijective $H^2(M) \rightarrow H^0(M)$ if and only if 1 is in the spectrum of $G(z)^{-1}$, if and only if there exists $u \in H^2(M)$ such that $(\mathcal{P}(z) - z)u = 0$. This shows, in particular, that the “spectrum” is discrete and corresponds to the existence of “eigenfunctions”.

To define the multiplicity of $z_0 \in \Sigma$, we proceed the same way as in [28]. By the density of finite rank operators in the space of compact operators [24], one shows that in a neighbourhood of z_0 there exists a finite rank operator $K(z)$, depending holomorphically on z , such that $\mathcal{P}(z_0) - z_0 + K(z_0)$ is invertible. The multiplicity of z_0 is then defined as the order of z_0 as a zero of the holomorphic function

$$z \mapsto \det[(\mathcal{P}(z) - z + K(z))^{-1}(\mathcal{P}(z) - z)] = \det[I - (\mathcal{P}(z) - z + K(z))^{-1}K(z)].$$

It is shown in [28] that this definition does not depend on the choice of $K(z)$, and coincides with other usual definitions of the multiplicity. Besides, the argument can be extended to the case where $K(z)$ is trace class.

3. A FEW FACTS ON THE GEODESIC FLOW ON A NEGATIVELY CURVED MANIFOLD

3.1. Anosov property. If M has negative sectional curvature, then the geodesic flow on S^*M has the Anosov property [3]. This means there are $C, \lambda > 0$ such that for each $\rho \in S^*M$, the tangent space $T_\rho(S^*M)$ splits into

$$T_\rho(S^*M) = E^u(\rho) \oplus E^s(\rho) \oplus \mathbb{R}X(\rho)$$

where

- the vector field X generates the geodesic flow G^t ;
- E^s is the stable subspace : for all $v \in E^s(\rho)$, and for $t \geq 0$, $\|DG_\rho^t.v\| \leq Ce^{-\lambda t}\|v\|$;
- E^u is the unstable subspace : for all $v \in E^u(\rho)$, and for $t \leq 0$, $\|DG_\rho^t.v\| \leq Ce^{\lambda t}\|v\|$.

If M has constant negative curvature -1 , any $\lambda < 1$ will do. We take $\lambda = 1 - \epsilon$, with ϵ arbitrarily small. One also has an upper bound $\|DG_\rho^t.v\| \leq Ce^{(1+\epsilon)|t|}\|v\|$ for any $\epsilon > 0$ and any $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

3.2. Pressure, entropy, and large deviation. The pressure is defined on $C^0(S^*M)$, as the Legendre transform of the entropy :

$$\text{Pr}(f) = \sup \left\{ h_{KS}(\mu) + \int f d\mu, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}.$$

If f is Hölder, then the supremum is attained for a unique μ , called the equilibrium measure of f . The functional Pr is analytic on any Banach space of sufficiently regular functions – for instance, a space of Hölder functions [5, 26]. Besides, the restriction of Pr to any line $\{f + tg, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is strictly convex, unless g is cohomologous to a constant [23]. If g is sufficiently smooth, we recall that this means that $g = \{p_o, h\} + c$ for some smooth function h and a constant c . If g is Hölder, it is better to use the integral version of the notion. If $\gamma(t)$ is a periodic trajectory of the geodesic flow on S^*M (equivalently, a closed geodesic), we denote l_γ its period (equivalently, the length of the closed geodesic). We denote $d\gamma$ the measure $\int g d\gamma = \int_0^{l_\gamma} g(\gamma(t))dt$ on S^*M , and $d\mu_\gamma$ the probability measure $\int g d\mu_\gamma = l_\gamma^{-1} \int g d\gamma$. One says that g is cohomologous to the constant function c if $\int g d\gamma = cl_\gamma$ for all periodic trajectories of the geodesic flow (the Livschitz theorem says that both notions are equivalent for smooth functions).

Let us now fix a smooth function q on S^*M , not cohomologous to a constant. For $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, define

$$H(\alpha) = \sup \left\{ h_{KS}(\mu), \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu = \alpha \right\},$$

$$P(\beta) = \text{Pr}(\beta q) = \sup \left\{ h_{KS}(\mu) + \beta \int q d\mu, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}} \right\} = \sup_{\alpha} \alpha\beta + H(\alpha).$$

The function H is concave, continuous on the interval $[q_-, q_+]$ defined earlier :

$$q^- = \lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \inf_{p_o^{-1}\{\frac{1}{2}\}} \langle q \rangle_T,$$

$$q^+ = \lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_{p_o^{-1}\{\frac{1}{2}\}} \langle q \rangle_T.$$

In the case of a negatively curved manifold, this definition coincides with

$$q^- = \inf \left\{ \int q d\mu, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}} \right\},$$

$$q^+ = \sup \left\{ \int q d\mu, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}.$$

The function H is real analytic and strictly concave in $]q_-, q_+[$. The function P is real analytic, strictly convex on \mathbb{R} . Clearly, $P(\beta) \geq \beta q_+$ for $\beta \geq 0$, and it is not very difficult to show that the limit $\lim_{\beta \rightarrow +\infty} P(\beta) - \beta q_+$ exists and is nonnegative³. Similarly, $P(\beta) \geq \beta q_-$ for $\beta \leq 0$, the limit $\lim_{\beta \rightarrow -\infty} P(\beta) - \beta q_-$ exists and is nonnegative.

³This limit is equal to $H(q^+)$.

The pressure and the entropy appear naturally when studying large deviations for the Birkhoff averages of the function q . Denote $J_t(\rho)$ the Jacobian of DG^t going from $E^u(\rho)$ from $E^u(G^t\rho)$. Define φ (the infinitesimal unstable Jacobian) by

$$\varphi(\rho) = \frac{dJ_t}{dt} \Big|_{t=0}(\rho).$$

On a manifold of dimension d and constant negative curvature -1 , the function φ is constant, equal to $d - 1$. In general one can only say that it is a Hölder function. The function φ is not necessarily positive, but it is cohomologous to a positive function, for instance $\langle \varphi \rangle_T$ for T large enough. In what follows, we will assume without loss of generality that $\varphi > 0$.

The two following large deviation results are due to Kifer [13].

Theorem 3.1. [13], Prop 3.2. *Let M be a compact manifold of negative sectional curvature. Let q be a smooth function on S^*M . For $T > 0$, define the function $\langle q \rangle_T = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} q \circ G^s ds$ on S^*M . Denote $L_{\frac{1}{2}}$ the Liouville measure on S^*M .*

Then

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log \int_{S^*M} e^{T\langle q \rangle_T(\rho)} dL_{\frac{1}{2}}(\rho)}{T} = \Pr(q - \varphi).$$

As a consequence, one also has :

Theorem 3.2. [13], Thm 3.4 (i) *Let M be a compact manifold of negative sectional curvature. Let q be a smooth function on S^*M . For $T > 0$, define the function $\langle q \rangle_T = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} q \circ G^s ds$ on S^*M . Denote $L_{\frac{1}{2}}$ the Liouville measure on S^*M .*

Then, for any closed interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$\limsup_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log L_{\frac{1}{2}} \{ \rho \in S^*M, \langle q \rangle_T(\rho) \in I \}}{T} \leq \sup \left\{ h_{KS}(\mu) - \int \varphi d\mu, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu \in I \right\}.$$

For any open interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log L_{\frac{1}{2}} \{ \rho \in S^*M, \langle q \rangle_T(\rho) \in I \}}{T} \geq \sup \left\{ h_{KS}(\mu) - \int \varphi d\mu, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu \in I \right\}.$$

(ii) *Let M be a compact manifold of dimension d , with constant sectional curvature -1 . Then (i) can be rephrased as follows. Let q be a smooth function on S^*M . For $T > 0$, define the function $\langle q \rangle_T = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} q \circ G^s ds$ on S^*M . Denote $L_{\frac{1}{2}}$ the Liouville measure on S^*M . Then, for any closed interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$, we have*

$$\limsup_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log L_{\frac{1}{2}} \{ \rho \in S^*M, \langle q \rangle_T(\rho) \in I \}}{T} \leq \sup \{ H(\alpha), \alpha \in I \} - (d - 1)$$

where H is the function $H(\alpha) = \sup \{ h_{KS}(\mu), \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu = \alpha \}$. For any open interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log L_{\frac{1}{2}} \{ \rho \in S^*M, \langle q \rangle_T(\rho) \in I \}}{T} \geq \sup \{ H(\alpha), \alpha \in I \} - (d - 1).$$

The pressure and entropy functions also appear when counting closed geodesics γ with a given q -average :

$$\Pr(q) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \sum_{\gamma, l_\gamma \leq t} e^{\int q d\gamma},$$

and as consequence

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \# \left\{ \gamma, l_\gamma \leq t, \int q d\mu_\gamma \in I \right\} \leq \sup \{H(\alpha), \alpha \in I\},$$

(for a closed interval I),

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{t} \log \# \left\{ \gamma, l_\gamma \leq t, \int q d\mu_\gamma \in I \right\} \geq \sup \{H(\alpha), \alpha \in I\},$$

(for an open interval I). See [14].

In negative variable curvature, we will also need the following variant of Theorem 3.2 :

Theorem 3.3. *Let M be a compact manifold of negative sectional curvature. Let q be a smooth function on S^*M . Let ϕ be a smooth positive function. Denote $L_{\frac{1}{2}}$ the Liouville measure on S^*M . For $\rho \in S^*M$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$, define $\mathcal{T}_\rho(t)$ by $\int_0^{\mathcal{T}_\rho(t)} \phi(G^s \rho) ds = (d-1)t$. For $t > 0$, define the function*

$$\langle q \rangle_{\mathcal{T}(-t/2), \mathcal{T}(t/2)} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{T}_\rho(t/2) - \mathcal{T}_\rho(-t/2)} \int_{\mathcal{T}_\rho(-t/2)}^{\mathcal{T}_\rho(t/2)} q \circ G^s(\rho) ds$$

on S^*M .

Then, for any closed interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log L_{\frac{1}{2}} \{ \rho \in S^*M, \langle q \rangle_{\mathcal{T}(-t/2), \mathcal{T}(t/2)}(\rho) \in I \}}{t} \\ \leq (d-1) \sup \left\{ \frac{h_{KS}(\mu)}{\int \phi d\mu} - \frac{\int \varphi d\mu}{\int \phi d\mu}, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu \in I \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

For any open interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log L_{\frac{1}{2}} \{ \rho \in S^*M, \langle q \rangle_{\mathcal{T}(-t/2), \mathcal{T}(t/2)}(\rho) \in I \}}{t} \\ \geq (d-1) \sup \left\{ \frac{h_{KS}(\mu)}{\int \phi d\mu} - \frac{\int \varphi d\mu}{\int \phi d\mu}, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu \in I \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Define a flow \bar{G} on S^*M that has the same trajectories as G but different speed : $\bar{G}^t(\rho) = G^{\mathcal{T}_\rho(t)}(\rho)$. For the new flow, the infinitesimal unstable Jacobian is equal to $(d-1) \frac{\int \varphi d\mu}{\int \phi d\mu}$. If μ is an invariant probability measure of G , then $d\bar{\mu} = \frac{\phi d\mu}{\int \phi d\mu}$ is an invariant probability measure of \bar{G} . Besides, their entropies are related by the Abramov formula :

$$h_{KS}(\bar{\mu}) = (d-1) \frac{h_{KS}(\mu)}{\int \phi d\mu},$$

where the entropies of $\bar{\mu}$ and μ are computed with respect to \bar{G} and G respectively.

The theorem is then again an application of Theorem 3.4 in [13] for the Anosov flow \bar{G} . \square

4. AVERAGING

We are now ready to start the proof of Theorem 1.4. We will work in dimension d and constant negative -1 . The changes to make in order to get Theorem 1.7 are indicated in Remarks 4.3 and 6.1.

The following proposition is proved in [28], §2 :

Proposition 4.1. *Let $T > 0$, there exists an invertible selfadjoint pseudodifferential operator $A_T \in \Psi DO^0$ such that*

$$A_T^{-1}(P + i\hbar Q(z))A_T = P + i\hbar \text{Op}_{\hbar}(q^T(z)) + \hbar^2 R_T(z)$$

for $z \in \Omega$; with $R_T \in \Psi DO^0$ depending holomorphically on $z \in \Omega$, and with $q^T(z) \in S^1$ depending holomorphically on $z \in \Omega$, equal to $\langle q \rangle_T - q + q_z$ in a neighbourhood of $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$.

The definition of our symbol classes S^m and operator classes ΨDO^m is given in Section 9.

We recall that the operator A_T constructed by Sjöstrand is $A = \text{Op}_{\hbar}(e^{g_T})$, where

$$g_T = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{T/2} \left(\frac{2s}{T} - 1 \right) q \circ G^s ds + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-T/2}^0 \left(\frac{2s}{T} + 1 \right) q \circ G^s ds$$

on $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$. The function g_T solves $\{p_o, g_T\} = q - \langle q \rangle_T$. Exactly the same proof yields :

Proposition 4.2. *Assume M has constant curvature -1 . Let $\epsilon > 0$ and $T = (1-4\epsilon)|\log \hbar|$. Define $\delta = \frac{1-\epsilon}{2}$. There exists an invertible selfadjoint pseudodifferential operator $A_T \in \Psi DO_{\delta}^0$ such that*

$$A_T^{-1}(P + i\hbar Q(z))A_T = P + i\hbar \text{Op}_{\hbar}(q^T(z)) + \hbar^2 R_T(z)$$

for $z \in \Omega$; with $R_T \in \hbar^{-2\delta} \Psi DO_{\delta}^0$ depending holomorphically on z , and with $q^T(z) \in S_{\delta}^1$ depending holomorphically on z , equal to $\langle q \rangle_T - q + q_z$ in a neighbourhood of $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$.

In what follows, we will restrict our attention to a region where $|z - \frac{1}{2}| = \mathcal{O}(\hbar)$. As a consequence, we can write

$$(4.1) \quad P + i\hbar \text{Op}_{\hbar}(q^T(z)) + \hbar^2 R_T(z) = P + i\hbar \text{Op}_{\hbar}(q^T) + \hbar \tilde{R}_T(z)$$

with $q^T = q^T(\frac{1}{2}) = \langle q \rangle_T$ in a neighbourhood of $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$, and $\tilde{R}_T(z)$ is a pseudodifferential operator depending holomorphically on $z \in \Omega$, tending to zero when $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ and $|z - \frac{1}{2}| = \mathcal{O}(\hbar)$. More precisely,

$$\tilde{R}_T(z) = \left(z - \frac{1}{2} \right) Q'(z) + \hbar R_T(z),$$

$R_T \in \hbar^{-2\delta} \Psi DO_{\delta}^0$ depending holomorphically on z , and $Q'(z) \in \Psi DO_{\delta}^1$ depending holomorphically on z .

Remark 4.3. To treat the case of variable curvature, we should modify Proposition 4.2 as follows. Fix ϕ a smooth function such that $\phi \geq \varphi$. Define $\mathcal{T}_\rho(\frac{T}{2})$, $\mathcal{T}_\rho(-\frac{T}{2})$ as in Theorem 3.3, in a neighbourhood of $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$. We have to choose ϕ smooth because we want \mathcal{T}_ρ to depend smoothly on ρ . In dimension $d = 2$, we have $\mathcal{T}_\rho(\frac{T}{2}) \in S_\delta^0$ with $\delta = \frac{1-\epsilon}{2}$ (which may not be true for $d > 2$ since the unstable Jacobian no longer controls the derivatives of the geodesic flow). In Proposition 4.2, we now define $A_T = \text{Op}_h(e^{g_T})$ where

$$g_T(\rho) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\mathcal{T}_\rho(T/2)} \left(\frac{s}{\mathcal{T}_\rho(T/2)} - 1 \right) q \circ G^s ds + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\mathcal{T}_\rho(T/2)}^0 \left(\frac{s}{\mathcal{T}_\rho(T/2)} + 1 \right) q \circ G^s ds$$

on $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$. In the last sentence of Proposition 4.2, we replace $\langle q \rangle_T$ by $\langle q \rangle_{\mathcal{T}(-\frac{T}{2}), \mathcal{T}(\frac{T}{2})} + r_T$ where $r_T = q - \{p_o, g_T\} - \langle q \rangle_{\mathcal{T}(-\frac{T}{2}), \mathcal{T}(\frac{T}{2})}$ satisfies $r_T \in |\log \hbar|^{-1} S_\delta^0$ and $\{p_o, r_T\} \in |\log \hbar|^{-1} S_\delta^0$. For $d = 2$, all the operators A_T , R_T etc stay in the same class as stated in Proposition 4.2.

5. PERTURBATIONS WITH CONTROLLED TRACE NORM.

In the following sections, we let z vary in a disc of radius $\mathcal{O}(\hbar)$ around $\frac{1}{2}$. We will write $2z = 1 + \zeta$, $\zeta = \mathcal{O}(\hbar)$. We consider the operator (4.1), that we write

$$(5.1) \quad \mathcal{P}_T = \mathcal{P}_T(z) = P + i\hbar Q_T + \hbar \tilde{R}_T(z), \quad Q_T = \text{Op}_h(q^T).$$

Note that we have

$$\{p_o, q^T\} = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{T}\right)$$

in a neighbourhood of $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$. By Proposition 9.2, this implies

$$(5.2) \quad \|[P, Q_T]u\| \leq C \left(\frac{\hbar}{T} + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{2-2\delta}) \right) \|u\| + \mathcal{O}(\hbar) \|(P - \frac{1}{2})u\|.$$

We now want to make a small perturbation $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}$ of \mathcal{P} with a good control over the resolvent $(\tilde{\mathcal{P}}(z) - z)^{-1}$, and over the trace class norm $\|\cdot\|_1$ of $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} - \mathcal{P}$.

We construct a pseudodifferential operator $\tilde{Q}_T = \text{Op}_h(\tilde{q}^T) \in \Psi DO_\delta^1$ such that $\tilde{q}^T \leq q^T$ on $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$ and $\{p_o, \tilde{q}^T\} = \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{T})$. In addition, we fix some $\epsilon > 0$ and introduce an arbitrarily small $\theta > 0$, and we want $q^T = \tilde{q}^T$ on $p_o^{-1}([\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon, \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon]) \cap \{q^T \leq \alpha - 3\theta\}$, and $\tilde{q}^T \leq \alpha - 2\theta$ everywhere on $p_o^{-1}([\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon, \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon])$. For instance we can take $\tilde{q}^T = a(q^T)$ on $p_o^{-1}([\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon, \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon])$ where a is real and smooth, $a(E) \leq E$, $|a'| \leq 1$; $a(E) = E$ if $E \leq \alpha - 3\theta$, and $a \leq \alpha - 2\theta$ everywhere.

Remark 5.1. At this stage it is convenient to choose a positive quantization scheme Op_h , in order to have $\text{Op}_h(q^T) \geq \text{Op}_h(\tilde{q}^T)$.

Let $0 \leq f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$, with $\hat{f} \in C_0^\infty$, where $\hat{f}(t) = \int e^{itE} f(E) dE$ is the Fourier transform. Put

$$\tilde{\mathcal{P}} = P + i\hbar \hat{Q}_T + \hbar \tilde{R}_T(z),$$

with

$$\hat{Q}_T = Q_T + f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right) (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right).$$

The following proposition is proved in [28] for fixed T (and $\delta = 0$, that is, with standard symbol classes). One can follow the proof of [28] line by line and check that it is still valid for $T = (1 - 4\epsilon)|\log \hbar|$, $\epsilon > 0$ very small :

Proposition 5.2. *Let $P = -\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta}{2}$. Let $Q = Q(z) \in \Psi DO^1$ have principal symbol $q(z)$ depending holomorphically on $z \in \Omega$, and be formally self-adjoint when z is real. Let*

$$\mathcal{P}_T = P + i\hbar Q_T + \hbar \tilde{R}_T(z), \quad Q_T = Q_T \left(\frac{1}{2} \right), \quad z = \frac{1+\zeta}{2}, \quad \zeta = \mathcal{O}(\hbar),$$

be the operator defined in (5.1), with $Q_T = \text{Op}_\hbar(q^T) \in \Psi DO_\delta^1$, and $\tilde{R}_T(z) \in \hbar^{1-2\delta} \Psi DO_\delta^0 + (z - \frac{1}{2}) \Psi DO_\delta^1$. Let $\tilde{Q}_T = \text{Op}_\hbar(\tilde{q}^T) \in \Psi DO_\delta^1$, with $\tilde{q}^T = a(q^T)$ on $p_o^{-1}([\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon, \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon])$, where a is real and smooth, $a(E) \leq E$, $|a'| \leq 1$; $a(E) = E$ if $E \leq \alpha - 3\theta$, and $a \leq \alpha - 2\theta$.

Put

$$\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T = P + i\hbar \hat{Q}_T + \hbar \tilde{R}_T(z),$$

with

$$\hat{Q}_T = Q_T + f \left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar} \right) (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) f \left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar} \right).$$

Then

$$\|\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T - \mathcal{P}_T\| \leq \hbar \left(\|f\|_\infty^2 \sup_{p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta}) \right)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T - \mathcal{P}_T\|_1 &\leq C_d \hbar^{2-d} \left[\hat{f}^2(0) \int_{p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) L_{\frac{1}{2}}(d\rho) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} \hbar^k |D_t^{2k} \hat{f}^2(0)| \int_{p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})} |D_\rho^{2k} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T)| L_{\frac{1}{2}}(d\rho) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{N(1-2\delta)}) \right], \end{aligned}$$

where D_t^{2k} and D_ρ^{2k} are differential operators of degree $\leq 2k$, respectively on \mathbb{R} and T^*M .

If we restrict z by assuming that for some continuous function $\alpha(E) > 0$, defined on some bounded interval J containing 0, we have

$$\frac{\Im m(\zeta)}{2\hbar} - q^T + f \left(\frac{\Re e(\zeta)}{\hbar} \right)^2 (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) \geq \alpha \left(\frac{\Re e(\zeta)}{\hbar} \right),$$

on $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$, $\frac{\Re e(\zeta)}{\hbar} \in J$,

then for \hbar small enough, $(z - \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T)^{-1}$ exists, and we have

$$\left\| \left(\frac{1}{\hbar} (z - \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T) \right)^{-1} \right\| \leq \frac{2 + 12 \sup_{p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) \|f'\|_\infty \|f\|_\infty}{\alpha \left(\frac{\Re e(\zeta)}{\hbar} \right)}.$$

The proof is identical to the proof in [28]. In Appendix 10 we will give some details, for the reader's convenience.

Corollary 2. Define

$$\tilde{\Omega}_h = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} - 2c\hbar \leq \Re e(z) \leq \frac{1}{2} + 2c\hbar \right\} \cap \{(\alpha - \theta)\hbar \leq \Im m(z) \leq 4\|q\|_\infty \hbar\} \subset \mathbb{C}.$$

For $z \in \tilde{\Omega}_h$, the operator $z - \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T$ is invertible, and

$$\|(\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T - z)^{-1}\| \leq \frac{C_{f,q}}{\theta\hbar}.$$

Corollary 3. For \hbar small enough, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T - \mathcal{P}_T\|_1 &\leq C_{d,f,q} \hbar^{2-d} L_{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\left\{ \tilde{q}^T \neq q^T \right\} \cap \left\{ p_o^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \right\} \right) \\ &\leq C_{d,f,q} \hbar^{2-d} L_{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\left\{ q^T \geq \alpha - 3\theta \right\} \cap \left\{ p_o^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \right\} \right) \\ &\leq C_{d,f,q} \hbar^{2-d} e^{T[H(\alpha-3\theta)-(d-1)+\epsilon]} \\ &\leq C_{d,f,q} \hbar^{2-d} \hbar^{[(d-1)-H(\alpha-3\theta)-\epsilon](1-4\epsilon)} \end{aligned}$$

for \hbar small enough.

6. JENSEN'S INEQUALITY

We already defined

$$\tilde{\Omega}_h = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} - 2c\hbar \leq \Re e(z) \leq \frac{1}{2} + 2c\hbar \right\} \cap \{(\alpha - \theta)\hbar \leq \Im m(z) \leq 4\|q\|_\infty \hbar\} \subset \mathbb{C}.$$

To finish the proof of Theorem 1.4, we also introduce the set

$$\Omega_h = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} - c\hbar \leq \Re e(z) \leq \frac{1}{2} + c\hbar \right\} \cap \{\alpha\hbar \leq \Im m(z) \leq 3\|q\|_\infty \hbar\} \subset \tilde{\Omega}_h.$$

For $z \in \tilde{\Omega}_h$, we can write

$$\mathcal{P}_T - z = (\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T - z)(1 + K(z))$$

where $K(z)$ is the trace class operator $(\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T - z)^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_T - \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T)$.

We can bound the number of eigenvalues of \mathcal{P}_T in Ω_h by the number of zeros of the holomorphic function $g(z) = \det(1 + K(z))$ in Ω_h . Let us call $N(g, \Omega_h)$ this number of zeros. Introduce $z_0 = \frac{1}{2} + 2i\hbar\|q\|_\infty$. By the Jensen inequality [25],

$$(6.1) \quad N(g, \Omega_h) \leq C \left(\log \|g\|_{\infty, \tilde{\Omega}_h} - \log |g(z_0)| \right),$$

where the constant C does not depend on \hbar (because the rectangles $\tilde{\Omega}_h$ and Ω_h can be transported, by translations and homotheties, to the fixed rectangles $\tilde{\Omega}_1$ and Ω_1).

On the one hand, for all $z \in \tilde{\Omega}_h$,

$$\begin{aligned}
|\det(1 + K(z))| &\leq \exp \|K(z)\|_1 \\
&\leq \exp \left(\|\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T - z\|^{-1} \|\mathcal{P}_T - \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T\|_1 \right) \\
&\leq \exp \left(\frac{C_{d,f,q}}{\theta h} h^{2-d} h^{[(d-1)-H(\alpha-3\theta)-\epsilon](1-4\epsilon)} \right) \\
&\leq \exp \left(C_{f,q,\theta,d} h^{1-d} h^{[(d-1)-H(\alpha-3\theta)-\epsilon](1-4\epsilon)} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we also know that $\|(1 + K(z_0))^{-1}\| \leq C h^{-1}$: since z_0 has ‘large’ imaginary part, $\mathcal{P}_T - z_0$ is invertible, and it is easy to get a bound $\|(\mathcal{P}_T - z_0)^{-1}\| = \mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$. We use the same calculation as in [28] and get

$$\begin{aligned}
|\det(1 + K(z_0))^{-1}| &= |\det(1 - K(z_0)(1 + K(z_0))^{-1})| \\
&\leq \exp \|K(z_0)(1 + K(z_0))^{-1}\|_1 \\
&\leq \exp \|K(z_0)\|_1 \|(1 + K(z_0))^{-1}\| \\
&\leq \exp \left(\tilde{C}_{f,q,\theta,d} h^{1-d} h^{[(d-1)-H(\alpha-3\theta)-\epsilon](1-4\epsilon)} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

so that

$$|\det(1 + K(z_0))| \geq \exp \left(-\tilde{C}_{f,q,\theta,d} h^{1-d} h^{[(d-1)-H(\alpha-3\theta)-\epsilon](1-4\epsilon)} \right).$$

This, combined to (6.1), yields

$$|N(g, \Omega_h)| \leq C h^{1-d} h^{[(d-1)-H(\alpha-2\theta)-\epsilon](1-4\epsilon)}$$

Since θ and $\epsilon > 0$ are arbitrary, we have proved Theorem 1.4.

Remark 6.1. Starting from Remark 4.3, the proof of Theorem 1.7 goes exactly along the same lines. We find

$$\limsup_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \# \left\{ z \in \Sigma_{\frac{1}{2}}, \frac{\Im m(z)}{h} \geq \alpha \right\}}{|\log h|} \leq \tilde{H}(\alpha),$$

where $\tilde{H}(\alpha) = (d-1) \sup \left\{ \frac{h_{KS}(\mu)}{\int \phi d\mu} - \frac{\int \varphi d\mu}{\int \phi d\mu} + 1, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int q d\mu = \alpha \right\}$ and ϕ is as in Remark 4.3. Letting ϕ converge to φ uniformly, we obtain Theorem 1.7.

7. ABOUT QUESTION 3

In this section, we consider a particular case of the problem (1.5) in which the trace formula is exact. We then try to investigate Question 3 on this example.

Let M be a compact hyperbolic surface : M can be written as $M = \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}$, where \mathbb{H} is the hyperbolic disc and Γ is a discrete subgroup of the group of hyperbolic isometries. Let $[\omega] \in H^1(M, \mathbb{C})$ be represented by the harmonic complex valued 1-form ω . Introduce the twisted laplacian

$$\Delta_\omega f = \Delta f - 2\langle \omega, df \rangle + \|\omega\|_x^2 f.$$

Studying the large eigenvalues of Δ_ω amounts to studying a fixed spectral window for the semiclassical twisted laplacian

$$-\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta_\omega}{2} = -\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta}{2} + \hbar^2 \langle \omega, d. \rangle - \hbar^2 \frac{\|\omega\|_x^2}{2}, \quad \hbar \longrightarrow 0.$$

The “usual” selfadjoint case is when ω has coefficient in $i\mathbb{R}$. We shall instead be interested in the case when ω has coefficients in \mathbb{R} . The operator falls exactly into the case studied in §1.2, with $q(x, \xi) = \langle \omega_x, \xi \rangle$. The geodesic flow is ergodic, and Sjöstrand’s result tells us that “most” eigenvalues of $-\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta_\omega}{2}$ such that $\Re(z) \in [\frac{1}{2} - C\hbar, \frac{1}{2} + C\hbar]$ have imaginary part $\Im(z) = o(\hbar)$. Equivalently, “most” eigenvalues of $-\Delta_\omega$ such that $\Re(z) \in [\lambda - C\sqrt{\lambda}, \lambda + C\sqrt{\lambda}]$ have imaginary part $\Im(z) = o(\sqrt{\lambda})$.

We rephrase Question 3 as

(Q3’) If $\omega \neq 0$, is it possible to have $\frac{\Im(z)}{\hbar} \longrightarrow 0$ as $\hbar \longrightarrow 0$ and $\Re(z) \in [\frac{1}{2} - C\hbar, \frac{1}{2} + C\hbar]$, $z \in Sp(-\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta_\omega}{2})$?

Conjecture : I conjecture the opposite : if $\omega \neq 0$, then there is a sequence $\hbar_n \longrightarrow 0$, $z_n \in Sp(-\hbar_n^2 \frac{\Delta_\omega}{2})$ with $\Re(z_n) \in [\frac{1}{2} - C\hbar_n, \frac{1}{2} + C\hbar_n]$ and $\frac{\Im(z_n)}{\hbar_n} \not\longrightarrow 0$.

As is usual in hyperbolic spectral theory, we introduce the spectral parameter r : if λ_j is an eigenvalue of $-\Delta_\omega$, we denote $\lambda_j = \frac{1}{4} + r_j^2$. Yet another way to phrase Question 3 is to ask whether it is possible to have $\Im(r_j) \longrightarrow 0$ as $\Re(r_j) \longrightarrow \infty$. Sjöstrand’s results say that $\Im(r_j)$ is bounded and that $\Im(r_j) \longrightarrow 0$ for a subsequence of density one. But I naturally believe that it is impossible to have $\Im(r_j) \longrightarrow 0$ for the whole sequence, unless $\omega = 0$.

Recall the Selberg trace formula [27], valid for $\omega \in H^1(M, i\mathbb{R})$:

$$(7.1) \quad \sum_{\lambda_j} \hat{f}(r_j) = \frac{\text{Area}(M)}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \hat{f}(r) r \tanh(\pi r) dr + \sum_{\gamma} \frac{e^{\int_{\gamma} \omega} l_{\gamma_o}}{\sinh \frac{l_{\gamma}}{2}} f(l_{\gamma}),$$

for any function f on \mathbb{R} , even, smooth enough, and decaying faster than any exponential. On the right hand side, the sum runs over the set of closed geodesics (equivalently, the set of conjugacy classes in Γ). If γ is a periodic geodesic, we denote $l_{\gamma} > 0$ its length, or period; and l_{γ_o} is its shortest period.

Proposition 7.1. *The trace formula holds, under the same assumptions on f , if $\omega \in H^1(M, \mathbb{R})$.*

Recall that the Fourier transform is defined by $\hat{f}(r) = \int e^{iru} f(u) du$.

Proof. Take $\omega \in H^1(M, \mathbb{R})$. We consider the operator $\Delta_{z\omega}$ for $z \in \mathbb{C}$. The argument of Section 2 shows that this operator has discrete spectrum (eigenvalues).

The right hand side of the trace formula reads

$$(7.2) \quad \frac{\text{Area}(M)}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \hat{f}(r) r \tanh(\pi r) dr + \sum_{\gamma} \frac{e^{z \int_{\gamma} \omega} l_{\gamma_o}}{\sinh \frac{l_{\gamma}}{2}} f(l_{\gamma})$$

and clearly is an entire function of z .

The left hand side is $\sum_j \hat{f}(r_j(z))$. To check that it is an entire function of z , we first note that $\hat{f}(r)$, being an even entire function, can be written as $g(\frac{1}{4} + r^2)$ where g is entire. Thus $\hat{f}(r_j(z)) = g(\lambda_j(z))$, where the $\lambda_j(z)$ are the eigenvalues of $-\Delta_{z\omega}$.

If z is restricted to a bounded subset Ω of \mathbb{C} , we note that the $\Im m(r_j(z))$ are uniformly bounded. To that end, we write $-\lambda_j = \frac{1}{4} + r_j^2$ with $r_j = x + iy$. The eigenvalue equation

$$-\Delta_{z\omega} f = \lambda_j f$$

with f normalized in L^2 implies both equations

$$\frac{1}{4} + x^2 - y^2 = \int |\nabla f|^2 + 2\beta i \int \langle \omega, df \rangle \bar{f} + (\beta^2 - \alpha^2) \int \|\omega\|_x^2 |f|^2$$

and

$$2xy = -2\alpha i \int \langle \omega, df \rangle \bar{f} - 2\alpha\beta \int \|\omega\|_x^2 |f|^2$$

if we decompose $z = \alpha + i\beta \in \mathbb{R} + i\mathbb{R}$ and $r_j = x + iy \in \mathbb{R} + i\mathbb{R}$. If α and β stay bounded, it also follows that y must stay bounded.

Besides

$$\lambda^{-2} \# \{n, 0 \leq \Re e(r_n(z)) < \lambda\}$$

is bounded uniformly for $\lambda > 1$ and z staying in a compact set of \mathbb{C} (the arguments of [28], §4, or of our Sections 4, 5, 6 are locally uniform in z). Since \hat{f} is rapidly decreasing in each horizontal strip, it follows that the sum $\sum_j \hat{f}(r_j(z))$ is the uniform limit of the partial sums $\sum_{|\Re e(r_j(z))| < \lambda} \hat{f}(r_j(z))$. But for a given λ , this is a holomorphic function of z (in the open set $\{z, \Re e(r_j(z)) \neq \lambda \text{ for all } j\}$), since $\Delta_{z\omega}$ depends holomorphically on z and $\sum_{|\Re e(r_j(z))| < \lambda} \hat{f}(r_j(z))$ can be defined by holomorphic functional calculus.

This shows that $\sum_j \hat{f}(r_j(z))$ is also an entire function. Both sides of (7.2) coincide for $z \in i\mathbb{R}$ (by the usual trace formula), thus they must coincide everywhere. \square

Introduce some parameters $\sigma, R, T > 0$, and take

$$f(u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \left[e^{-\frac{(u-T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} e^{iuR} + e^{-\frac{(u+T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} e^{-iuR} \right]$$

so that

$$\hat{f}(r) = e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r-R)^2} e^{-iT r} + e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r+R)^2} e^{iT r}.$$

This yields :

$$\begin{aligned}
 (7.3) \quad \sum_j e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r_j-R)^2} e^{-iTr_j} + e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r_j+R)^2} e^{iTr_j} \\
 = \frac{\text{Area}(M)}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} r \tanh \pi r \left[e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r-R)^2} e^{-iTr} + e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r+R)^2} e^{iTr} \right] dr \\
 + \sum_{\gamma} \frac{e^{\int_{\gamma} \omega} l_{\gamma_o}}{\sinh \frac{l_{\gamma}}{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \left[e^{-\frac{(l_{\gamma}-T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} e^{il_{\gamma}R} + e^{-\frac{(l_{\gamma}+T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} e^{-il_{\gamma}R} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

We want to bound from below the right hand side. We hope that this bound will tell us that $\exp(\pm iTr_j)$ cannot be too small on the left hand side, giving some information on the imaginary part of r_j , for $\Re(r_j) \sim R$. On the right, the idea is that the main contribution should come from the geodesics with $l_{\gamma} \sim T$. We want to choose R so as not to be bothered by the oscillatory terms $e^{\pm il_{\gamma}R}$. For that purpose, R and T will be related in the following manner :

Lemma 7.2. [21], *Lemma 3.3*, [11].

For any $M > 1$, there exists $R \in [M, M \exp(\exp(5T))]$ such that $\cos(Rl_{\gamma}) \geq \frac{1}{2}$ for every closed geodesic γ with $l_{\gamma} \leq 5T$.

In the sequel we take $M = \exp(\exp(cT))$, ($c > 0$ arbitrary) to ensure that T is of order $\log \log R$. We note that this relation between R and T is independent of ω . This will allow us to modify slightly our initial problem by extending it to the case where ω can depend on R (or T). More precisely, we want to consider the case when $\omega = \Theta(R)\omega_o$, where ω_o is fixed and $\Theta(R) \geq 1$ is allowed to go to infinity with R at a reasonable rate.

This means that we consider a slight generalization of (1.5) (the motivation should become clearer in §7.2):

7.1. A more general problem. We consider a spectral problem of the form

$$(7.4) \quad (\mathcal{P} - z)u = 0$$

where

$$\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(z) = P + i\hbar\theta(\hbar)Q(z), \quad P = -\frac{\hbar^2\Delta}{2}$$

where $z \in \Omega = e^{i[-s_0, s_0]}[E_{\min}, E_{\max}]$, with $0 < E_{\min} < \frac{1}{2} < E_{\max} < +\infty$, $0 < s_0 < \frac{\pi}{4}$. We will assume that $Q(z) \in \Psi DO^1$ depends holomorphically on $z \in \Omega$, and that $\theta(\hbar)$ is some real valued function such that $\theta(\hbar) \geq 1$ and $\hbar\theta(\hbar) \xrightarrow{\hbar \rightarrow 0} 0$. We have in mind $\theta(\hbar) = |\log(\hbar)|$. Finally, we assume that Q is formally self-adjoint for z real. Again, we call Σ the “spectrum” the set of z for which the equation $(\mathcal{P}(z) - z)u = 0$ has a solution.

The results of §1.2 can be generalized as follows : for any $E_{\min} < E_1 \leq E_2 < E_{\max}$,

$$(7.5) \quad \# \{z \in \Sigma, E_1 \leq \Re(z) \leq E_2\} = \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^d} \left[\int_{p_o^{-1}[E_1, E_2]} dx d\xi + \mathcal{O}(\hbar\theta(\hbar)) \right].$$

One can show that $\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar\theta(\hbar)}$ has to stay bounded for $z \in \Sigma$. Taking $\theta(\hbar) = |\log(\hbar)|$, $E_1 = E - c\hbar\theta(\hbar)$ and $E_2 = E + c\hbar\theta(\hbar)$, one has

$$q_E^- + o(1) \leq \frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar\theta(\hbar)} \leq q_E^+ + o(1)$$

for $z \in \Sigma$ such that $E_1 \leq \Re e(z) \leq E_2$. Assuming that the geodesic flow is ergodic on $p_o^{-1}\{E\}$, and for $\theta(\hbar) = |\log(\hbar)|$, then for any $\epsilon > 0$, any $c > 0$,

$$\# \left\{ z \in \Sigma, E - c\hbar\theta(\hbar) \leq \Re e(z) \leq E + c\hbar\theta(\hbar), \frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar\theta(\hbar)} \notin [\bar{q}_E - \epsilon, \bar{q}_E + \epsilon] \right\} = \theta(\hbar) o(\hbar^{1-d}). \quad (7.6)$$

Remark 7.3. The paper [28] only treats the case $\theta(\hbar) = 1$. But the method of [28], §5 can be adapted in a straightforward way to show the following : consider the spectral problem

$$(\mathcal{P} - z)u = 0 \quad (7.7)$$

where

$$\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(z) = P + i\hbar\theta Q(z), \quad P = -\frac{\hbar^2 \Delta}{2}$$

where $z \in \Omega = e^{i[-s_0, s_0]} E_{\min}, E_{\max}$, with $0 < E_{\min} < \frac{1}{2} < E_{\max} < +\infty$, $0 < s_0 < \frac{\pi}{4}$. Fix some $\epsilon > 0$. Then

$$\# \{z \in \Sigma, E_1 \leq \Re e(z) \leq E_2\} = \frac{1}{(2\pi\hbar)^d} \left[\int_{p_o^{-1}[E_1, E_2]} dx d\xi + \mathcal{O}(\hbar\theta) \right]. \quad (7.8)$$

uniformly in all $\theta \geq 1$ such that $\theta\hbar \leq \epsilon$ and E_1, E_2 such that $E_{\min} < E_1 - 2\epsilon$, $E_2 + 2\epsilon < E_{\max}$, $|E_2 - E_1| \geq \hbar\theta$.

For (7.6) (and $\theta(\hbar) = |\log \hbar|$), the generalization of the proof in [28] is without surprise, but requires some rather technical changes : we will not prove it here, but still feel allowed to ask about Question 3 in this generalized setting. We note that to extend (7.6) to more general $\theta(\hbar)$, some analyticity assumptions would be required, as in [9].

We will focus our attention on the operator

$$-\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta_{\theta(\hbar)\omega}}{2} = -\hbar^2 \frac{\Delta}{2} + \hbar^2 \theta(\hbar) \langle \omega, d. \rangle - \hbar^2 \theta(\hbar)^2 \frac{\|\omega\|_x^2}{2}, \quad \hbar \longrightarrow 0,$$

when ω has coefficients in \mathbb{R} .

We generalize Question 3 as

(Q3'') If $\omega \neq 0$, prove that there exists a sequence $\hbar_n \longrightarrow 0$, and $z_n \in Sp(-\hbar_n^2 \frac{\Delta_{\theta(\hbar_n)\omega}}{2})$ with $\Re e(z_n) \in [\frac{1}{2} - C\hbar_n\theta(\hbar_n), \frac{1}{2} + C\hbar_n\theta(\hbar_n)]$, such that $\frac{\Im m(z_n)}{\hbar_n\theta(\hbar_n)} \not\rightarrow 0$.

7.2. Heuristic discussion of the parameters σ, R, T . We start again from the trace formula (7.3), considering the case where $\omega = \Theta(R)\omega_o$, $\Theta(R) = \theta(R^{-1}) \geq 1$. Here R^{-1} is

going to play the role of the small parameter \hbar . The form ω_o is fixed, and we normalize it to have stable norm $\|\omega_o\|_s = 1$.

$$(7.9) \quad \|\omega\|_s = \sup \left\{ \int_{S^*M} \omega d\mu, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}$$

$$(7.10) \quad = \sup_{\gamma} \frac{\int_{\gamma} \omega}{l_{\gamma}}.$$

The first line can be considered as a definition of the stable norm (valid for a general compact riemannian manifold M), whereas the second line holds on negatively curved manifolds because of the density of the closed geodesics. Using the definition $\Pr(\omega) = \sup \left\{ h_{KS}(\mu) + \int_{S^*M} \omega d\mu, \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}$, it is not difficult to show that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \Pr(t\omega) - |t| \|\omega\|_s = \sup \left\{ h_{KS}(\mu), \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int_{S^*M} \omega d\mu = \|\omega\|_s \right\}.$$

On a surface, the right-hand side vanishes [2]. Besides, for any T one can find a closed geodesic γ with $l_{\gamma} \in [T-1, T]$, and such that

$$(7.11) \quad \frac{\int_{\gamma} \omega_o}{l_{\gamma}} \geq \|\omega_o\|_s (1 + o_T(1)) = (1 + o_T(1)),$$

where $o_T(1)$ goes to 0 as T approaches $+\infty$. Simply recall that for any $0 < \delta < 1$,

$$(7.12) \quad \lim \frac{\log \# \left\{ \gamma, l_{\gamma} \in [T-1, T], \frac{\int_{\gamma} \omega_o}{l_{\gamma}} \geq (1-\delta) \right\}}{T} = H(1-\delta) > 0,$$

where

$$H(\alpha) = \sup \left\{ h_{KS}(\mu), \mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\frac{1}{2}}, \int_{S^*M} \omega_o d\mu = \alpha \right\}.$$

The function H is continuous, concave on $[-1, 1]$, real-analytic on $] -1, 1[$ [4]. And again, $H(-1) = H(1) = 0$ on a compact surface [2].

In (7.3), we have not said yet how σ will depend on R and T . For the moment, let us decide *a priori* that σ should be such that the term

$$\frac{\text{Area}(M)}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} r \tanh \pi r \left[e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r-R)^2} e^{-iTr} + e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r+R)^2} e^{iTr} \right] dr$$

is negligible compared to the sum \sum_{γ} . Remember that R and T are chosen so as to satisfy Lemma 7.2. Then, fixing $1 > \delta > 0$, the right hand side of (7.3) should be bounded from below by

$$(7.13) \quad \sigma^{-1} e^{TH(1-\delta)-T/2} e^{\Theta(R)(1-\delta)T} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}}.$$

We want to use the fact that this grows quite fast with T . On the other hand, looking at the left hand side of (7.3), we cannot hope to do better than to bound it from above by

$$(7.14) \quad \# \{j, |\Re(r_j) - R| \leq \sigma^{-1}\} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \sup_j \Im m(r_j)^2} e^{T \sup_j |\Im m(r_j)|},$$

where each time the \sup_j should be restricted to the indices j such that $|\Re(r_j) - R| \leq \sigma^{-1}$.

This heuristic argument would give an inequality

$$(7.15) \quad \sharp \{j, |\Re(r_j) - R| \leq \sigma^{-1}\} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \sup_j \Im m(r_j)^2} e^{T \sup_j |\Im m(r_j)|} \geq \sigma^{-1} e^{TH(1-\delta)-T/2} e^{\Theta(R)(1-\delta)T} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}},$$

obtained by comparing the lower bound (7.13) and the upper bound (7.14). Again, the hope is to compare the powers of e^T on both sides to prove that $\sup_j |\Im m(r_j)|$ cannot be arbitrarily small.

Consider the case $\Theta(R) = 1$, which is the case we were originally interested in. If we take σ to be a constant, then by Weyl's law we have $\sharp \{j, |\Re(r_j) - R| \leq \sigma^{-1}\} \sim R \geq \exp(\exp(cT))$. In this case (7.15) cannot bring any useful information. On the other hand, if we want to choose σ such that $\sharp \{j, |\Re(r_j) - R| \leq \sigma^{-1}\}$ is bounded, we are led to take $\sigma \sim R$; in this case the term $e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \sup_j \Im m(r_j)^2}$ will be too large to yield any interesting information.

We see that the method only has a chance to work if $T\Theta(R) \gg \log R$. From now on we take $\Theta(R) \geq \log R$, and always such that $R^{-1}\Theta(R) \rightarrow 0$. We also take $\sigma^{-2} = C\Theta(R)$ with C large. We must note that the parameters r_j correspond to the eigenvalues of $-\Delta_{\Theta(R)\omega}$, and thus they also depend on R .

7.3. Proof of Theorem 1.12. The right hand side of (7.3) is easy to understand. The term

$$(7.16) \quad \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} r \tanh \pi r \left[e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r-R)^2} e^{-iTr} + e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r+R)^2} e^{iTr} \right] dr$$

is $\mathcal{O}(\sigma^{-1}R)$, whereas the \sum_γ has modulus greater than

$$(7.17) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{l_\gamma \leq 5T} \frac{e^{\int_\gamma \omega} l_{\gamma_0}}{\sinh \frac{l_\gamma}{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \left[e^{-\frac{(l_\gamma-T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} + e^{-\frac{(l_\gamma+T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right] + \sum_{l_\gamma \geq 5T} \frac{e^{\int_\gamma \omega} l_{\gamma_0}}{\sinh \frac{l_\gamma}{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \left[e^{-\frac{(l_\gamma-T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} + e^{-\frac{(l_\gamma+T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right] \cos(l_\gamma R) \\ & \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{T-1 \leq l_\gamma \leq T} \frac{e^{\int_\gamma \omega} l_{\gamma_0}}{\sinh \frac{l_\gamma}{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \left[e^{-\frac{(l_\gamma-T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} + e^{-\frac{(l_\gamma+T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right] + \sum_{l_\gamma \geq 5T} \frac{e^{\int_\gamma \omega} l_{\gamma_0}}{\sinh \frac{l_\gamma}{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \left[e^{-\frac{(l_\gamma-T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} + e^{-\frac{(l_\gamma+T)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right] \cos(l_\gamma R) \\ & \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi}\sigma} \left[e^{TH(1-\delta)-T/2} e^{\Theta(R)(1-\delta)T} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}} + \mathcal{O}(1) \right], \end{aligned}$$

(using (7.12)), and thus is much greater than the integral (7.16). To get the last $\mathcal{O}(1)$ we have used the exponential growth of the number of closed geodesics. The left hand side of (7.3) is more complicated to bound from above, since the r_j now depend on R .

Proposition 7.4. *Take $\Theta(R) \geq \log R$, and such that $R^{-1}\Theta(R) \rightarrow 0$. Take $\sigma^{-2} = C\Theta(R)$. Let $f(R)$ be such that $\sigma^2 f(R)^2 \gg T\Theta(R)$. Then*

$$\left| \sum_j e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r_j-R)^2} e^{-iTr_j} \right| \leq \sharp \{j, |\Re(r_j) - R| \leq f(R)\} e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \sup_j \Im m(r_j)^2} e^{T \sup_j |\Im m(r_j)|} + \mathcal{O}(1),$$

where the \sup_j are taken over the set of indices j such that $|\Re(r_j) - R| \leq f(R)$.

Proof.

Lemma 7.5. *We have an a priori bound $|\Im(r_j)| \leq c\Theta(R)$, where c depends only on ω_o .*

Indeed, let $r_j = x + iy$ and $f \in L^2(M)$ be such that $\|f\|_{L^2} = 1$ and

$$-\Delta f + 2\Theta(R)\langle\omega_o, df\rangle - \Theta(R)^2\|\omega_o\|_x^2 f = \left(\frac{1}{4} + r_j^2\right) f.$$

Taking the scalar product with f , we get

$$(7.18) \quad \frac{1}{4} + x^2 - y^2 = \int |\nabla f|^2 - \Theta(R)^2 \int \|\omega_o\|_x^2 |f|^2$$

and

$$(7.19) \quad 2xy = -2\Theta(R)i \int \langle\omega_o, df\rangle \bar{f}.$$

Equation (7.19) yields $|xy| \leq c\Theta(R)\sqrt{\int |\nabla f|^2}$. Equation (7.18) implies that $x^2 \geq \int |\nabla f|^2 - c^2\Theta(R)^2$. If $|x| \geq \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\int |\nabla f|^2}$ then we are done, by (7.19). If $|x| \leq \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\int |\nabla f|^2}$, then (7.18) implies that $\int |\nabla f|^2 \leq 2c^2\Theta(R)^2$ and that $y^2 \leq \frac{1}{4} + 5c^2\Theta(R)^2$. The lemma follows.

We now break the sum $\sum_j e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(r_j-R)^2} e^{-iT r_j}$ into three parts : $I = \sum_{j, \Re(r_j) \leq R-f(R)}$, $II = \sum_{j, |\Re(r_j)-R| \leq f(R)}$ and $III = \sum_{j, \Re(r_j) \geq R+f(R)}$.

The last sum III is bounded by

$$e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{2}c^2\Theta(R)^2} e^{cT\Theta(R)} \sum_{j, \Re(r_j) \geq R+f(R)} e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(\Re(r_j)-R)^2}.$$

We decompose this sum into $\sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{R+f(R)+n \leq \Re(r_j) \leq R+f(R)+n+1}$, and by Weyl's law in the form (7.8), this is dominated by

$$e^{cT\Theta(R)} \sum_{n \geq 0} (R+n+f(R))\Theta(R) e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(n+f(R))^2} \leq e^{cT\Theta(R)}\Theta(R) \int_{f(R)-1}^{+\infty} (R+x) e^{-\frac{\sigma^2 x^2}{2}} dx$$

and with our relations between $T, R, f(R)$ and σ , this last quantity is $\mathcal{O}(1)$.

Concerning the first sum I , we bound it by

$$(7.20) \quad e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{2}c^2\Theta(R)^2} e^{cT\Theta(R)} \sum_{j, \Re(r_j) \leq R-f(R)} e^{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2}(\Re(r_j)-R)^2}.$$

The subsum $\sum_{j, \Re(r_j) \leq -R+f(R)}$ can be treated as above and shown to be $\mathcal{O}(1)$ (using Weyl's law in the form (7.8)), and we only need to concentrate on $\sum_{j, |\Re(r_j)| \leq R-f(R)}$. To bound this sum, we first need a control the number of terms.

Lemma 7.6. $\#\{j, |\Re(r_j)| \leq R\} = \mathcal{O}(R^2\Theta(R))$.

To that end, we use again the trace formula and write :

$$\sum_j e^{-\frac{r_j^2}{2R^2}} = \frac{\text{Area}(M)}{4\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} r \tanh(\pi r) \cdot e^{-\frac{r^2}{2R^2}} dr + \sum_{\gamma} \frac{e^{\Theta(R) \int_{\gamma} \omega_o} l_{\gamma_o}}{\sinh \frac{l_{\gamma}}{2}} \frac{R}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-R^2 l_{\gamma}^2/2}.$$

On the right, the term \sum_{γ} is clearly $o(1)$ whereas the \int term is of order R^2 . On the left, we break the sum into $\sum_{j, |\Re(r_j)| \leq R}$ and $\sum_{j, |\Re(r_j)| \geq R}$. As above, we can use Weyl's law in the form (7.8) to show that the $\sum_{j, |\Re(r_j)| \geq R} e^{-\frac{r_j^2}{2R^2}}$ is $\mathcal{O} \sum_{n \geq 0} (R + n + 1) \Theta(R) e^{-\frac{(R+n)^2}{2R^2}} = \mathcal{O}(R^2 \Theta(R))$. Thus we have

$$\sum_{j, |\Re(r_j)| \leq R} e^{-\frac{\Re(r_j)^2 - \Im(r_j)^2}{2R^2}} e^{-\frac{i\Re(r_j)\Im(r_j)}{R^2}} = \mathcal{O}(R^2 \Theta(R)).$$

Remember that $|\Im(r_j)| \leq c \Theta(R)$ and that $R^{-1} \Theta(R) \rightarrow 0$. Thus, for $|\Re(r_j)| \leq R$ we can write $e^{-\frac{i\Re(r_j)\Im(r_j)}{R^2}} = 1 + \mathcal{O}(R^{-1} \Theta(R))$. This yields

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-1/2} \# \{j, |\Re(r_j)| \leq R\} (1 + \mathcal{O}(R^{-1} \Theta(R))) &\leq \sum_{j, |\Re(r_j)| \leq R} e^{-\frac{\Re(r_j)^2 - \Im(r_j)^2}{2R^2}} (1 + \mathcal{O}(R^{-1} \Theta(R))) \\ &= \mathcal{O}(R^2 \Theta(R)) \end{aligned}$$

and finishes the proof of Lemma 7.6.

Now, we go back to the sum $\sum_{j, |\Re(r_j)| \leq R-f(R)}$ in (7.20), and we see that it is bounded by

$$R^2 \Theta(R) e^{\frac{\sigma^2}{2} c^2 \Theta(R)^2} e^{cT \Theta(R)} e^{-\sigma^2 f(R)^2/2} = \mathcal{O}(1).$$

This ends the proof of Proposition 7.4 □

We can now come back to (7.3). Noting that $\sigma^2 \sup_j \Im(r_j)^2 = \mathcal{O}(1)$, Proposition 7.4 shows that the left-hand side of the trace formula (7.3) is bounded from above by

$$C \# \{j, |\Re(r_j) - R| \leq f(R)\} e^{T \sup_j |\Im(r_j)|} + \mathcal{O}(1) \leq CRf(R) \Theta(R) e^{T \sup_j |\Im(r_j)|}$$

where the sup is taken over all j such that $|\Re(r_j) - R| \leq f(R)$, and where we have used again (7.8). We can of course assume, without loss of generality, that $f(R) = \mathcal{O}(R)$.

On the right hand side of (7.3), the \int is $\mathcal{O}(R \Theta(R)^{1/2})$, and the \sum_{γ} is bounded from below by

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi\sigma}} e^{TH(1-\delta)-T/2} e^{\Theta(R)(1-\delta)T} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}},$$

as in (7.17). Writing

$$CRf(R) \Theta(R) e^{T \sup_j |\Im(r_j)|} \geq \sigma^{-1} e^{TH(1-\delta)-T/2} e^{\Theta(R)(1-\delta)T} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}},$$

remembering that $\Theta(R) \geq \log(R)$, $\Theta(R) = o(R)$, $\sigma^{-2} = c \Theta(R)$ and $T \asymp \log \log R$, we see that necessarily

$$\sup_j |\Im(r_j)| \geq (1 - 2\delta) \Theta(R).$$

This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.12.

8. THE ARITHMETIC CASE.

Let $p \geq 3$ be a prime, $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, and $A \geq 1$ be a quadratic non-residue modulo p . We set

$$\Gamma = \Gamma(A, p) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} y_0 + y_1\sqrt{A} & y_2\sqrt{p} + y_3\sqrt{Ap} \\ y_2\sqrt{p} - y_3\sqrt{Ap} & y_0 - y_1\sqrt{A} \end{pmatrix}, y_0, y_1, y_2, y_3 \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$

It is a discrete cocompact subgroup of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ which contains only hyperbolic transformations [8]. We consider the hyperbolic surface $M = \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}$. In M , the lengths of the closed geodesics are the $\log x_m$, where

$$x_m = 2m^2 - 1 + 2m\sqrt{m^2 - 1}, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

We define

$$\mu(m) = \sum_{\gamma, l_\gamma = \log x_m} e^{\int_\gamma \omega} l_{\gamma_o}.$$

We now follow very closely the approach of [8], pp. 304–314. We introduce an even function k on \mathbb{R} , whose Fourier transform is nonnegative and compactly supported in $[-1, 1]$; we also assume that $\hat{k} \geq 1$ on $[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$. We define

$$K_\alpha(r) = k(r)[e^{i\alpha r} + e^{-i\alpha r}].$$

We write again the trace formula : for all $t > 0$,

$$(8.1) \quad \sum_j K_\alpha(r_j - t) + K_\alpha(r_j + t) = \frac{\text{Area}(M)}{4\pi} \int r \tanh(\pi r) [K_\alpha(r - t) + K_\alpha(r + t)] dr \\ + 2 \sum_\gamma \frac{e^{\int_\gamma \omega} l_{\gamma_o}}{\sinh \frac{l_\gamma}{2}} \hat{K}_\alpha(l_\gamma) \cos(t l_\gamma).$$

We will bound from below the right-hand side (averaged in t) to obtain information on the left-hand side. Denote

$$S_\alpha(t) = \sum_\gamma \frac{e^{\int_\gamma \omega} l_{\gamma_o}}{\sinh \frac{l_\gamma}{2}} \hat{K}_\alpha(l_\gamma) \cos(t l_\gamma) = 2 \sum_{e^{\alpha-1} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1}} \frac{\mu(m)}{x_m^{1/2} + x_m^{-1/2}} \hat{K}_\alpha(\log x_m) \cos(t \log x_m).$$

Proposition 8.1. *Let $\alpha = 2\beta \log T - C$, $0 < \beta \leq 1$ and C large enough. Then,*

$$\int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right) |S_\alpha(t)|^2 dt \geq \tilde{C} T^{\beta(4\text{Pr}(\omega)-1)}.$$

Although we are really interested in the quantity $\int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} |S_\alpha(t)|^2 dt$, the reason for introducing the regularizing factor $\left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right)$ is exactly the same as in [8], p. 315.

Proof. Introduce the notations

$$\eta(m) = \frac{\mu(m)}{x_m^{1/2} + x_m^{-1/2}} \hat{K}_\alpha(\log x_m),$$

$$\nu(m) = \mu(m) \hat{K}_\alpha(\log x_m).$$

Divide the integral $I = \int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right) |S_\alpha(t)|^2 dt$ into $I = I_1 + I_2$, where

$$I_1 = \sum_{e^{\alpha-1} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1}} \eta(m)^2 \int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right) \cos^2(t \log x_m) dt$$

and

$$I_2 = 2 \sum_{e^{\alpha-1} \leq x_k < x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1}} \eta(m) \eta(k) \int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right) \cos(t \log x_m) \cos(t \log x_k) dt.$$

The idea is that the x_m, x_k , with $x_m \neq x_k$, are well-spaced, implying that the oscillatory integral I_2 is small compared to I_1 .

Lemma 8.2. *For $T \geq 1$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$,*

$$\int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right) e^{i\lambda t} dt = \mathcal{O} \left[\min \left(T^\beta, \frac{1}{\lambda^2 T^\beta} \right) \right].$$

Let us first consider I_1 .

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right) \cos^2(t \log x_m) dt &= \int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right) \frac{1 + \cos(2t \log x_m)}{2} dt \\ &= \frac{T^\beta}{2} + \mathcal{O}(T^{-\beta} \log x_m^{-2}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$(8.2) \quad I_1 \geq \left(\frac{T^\beta}{2} + o(1) \right) \sum_{e^{\alpha-1} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1}} \eta(m)^2$$

$$(8.3) \quad \geq \left(\frac{T^\beta}{2} + o(1) \right) \sum_{e^{\alpha-1} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1}} \frac{\nu(m)^2}{(x_m^{1/2} + x_m^{-1/2})^2}$$

$$(8.4) \quad \geq c_1 T^\beta e^{-\alpha} \sum_{e^{\alpha-1} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1}} \nu(m)^2.$$

The right-hand side of (8.4) will be estimated later. We now turn to I_2 , and want to show that it is much smaller than I_1 . The integral

$$\int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right) \cos(t \log x_m) \cos(t \log x_k) dt$$

is smaller than $\frac{1}{T^\beta(\log x_m - \log x_k)^2}$. We can ensure that

$$\frac{1}{|\log x_m - \log x_k|} \leq cT^\beta$$

for $e^{\alpha-1} < x_k < x_m < e^{\alpha+1}$, by choosing α in an appropriate range : writing

$$\log x_m - \log x_{m-1} \sim \frac{x_m - x_{m-1}}{x_m} \sim \frac{2}{m} \sim \frac{4}{\sqrt{x_m}},$$

we see we have to take $\alpha \leq 2\beta \log T - C$ (C large). More generally, we have by the intermediate value theorem

$$|\log x_m - \log x_k| \geq \tilde{C}e^{-\alpha/2}|m - k|.$$

The analysis done by [8], pp. 310–311, can be applied *verbatim* to show that

$$(8.5) \quad |I_2| \leq \frac{\tilde{C}}{T^\beta} \sum_{e^{\alpha-1} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1}} \nu(m)^2.$$

Comparing (8.4) and (8.5), we see that

$$|I_2| \leq \frac{I_1}{100}$$

provided $\alpha \leq 2\beta \log T - C$ with C sufficiently large. Thus,

$$I \geq \frac{99}{100} I_1.$$

To complete our estimate for I , we must return to equation (8.4). Clearly,

$$\sum_{e^{\alpha-1} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1}} \nu(m)^2 \geq \sum_{e^{\alpha-1/2} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1/2}} \mu(m)^2.$$

We write the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\left[\sum_{e^{\alpha-1/2} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1/2}} \mu(m) \right]^2 \leq \left(\sum_{e^{\alpha-1/2} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1/2}} 1 \right) \left(\sum_{e^{\alpha-1/2} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1/2}} \mu(m)^2 \right).$$

But

$$\sum_{e^{\alpha-1/2} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1/2}} \mu(m) = \sum_{\gamma, \alpha-1/2 \leq l_\gamma \leq \alpha+1/2} e^{\int_\gamma \omega} l_{\gamma_o} \geq \tilde{C} e^{\alpha \text{Pr}(\omega)},$$

see [20], p. 117. On the other hand,

$$\sum_{e^{\alpha-1/2} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1/2}} 1 = \mathcal{O}(e^{\alpha/2}).$$

We obtain this way

$$\sum_{e^{\alpha-1/2} \leq x_m \leq e^{\alpha+1/2}} \mu(m)^2 \geq C e^{2\alpha \text{Pr}(\omega) - \alpha/2}.$$

We have proved

$$\int_{2T-T^\beta}^{2T+T^\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|t-2T|}{T^\beta}\right) |S_\alpha(t)|^2 dt \geq \tilde{C} T^{\beta(4\text{Pr}(\omega)-1)}.$$

□

This implies

$$S_\alpha(t) \geq C t^{\beta(2\text{Pr}(\omega)-1)}$$

for some $t \in [2T - T^\beta, 2T + T^\beta]$.

Now consider the integral $\int r \tanh(\pi r) K_\alpha(r-t) dr$ or $\int r \tanh(\pi r) K_\alpha(r+t) dr$ in (8.1). We write

$$\int r \tanh(\pi r) K_\alpha(r-t) dr = \int r \tanh(\pi r) k(r-t) [e^{i\alpha(r-t)} + e^{-i\alpha(r-t)}] dr.$$

To evaluate $\int (r+t) \tanh(\pi(r+t)) k(r) e^{i\alpha r} dr$, we shift the integral over \mathbb{R} to an integral over $(\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon)i + \mathbb{R}$, and we find that the integral is $\mathcal{O}(te^{-|\alpha|(\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon)})$ for any $\epsilon > 0$.

Lemma 8.3. $\int r \tanh(\pi r) K_\alpha(r-t) dr$ or $\int r \tanh(\pi r) K_\alpha(r+t) dr = \mathcal{O}(te^{-|\alpha|(\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon)}) = \mathcal{O}(t^{1+\epsilon-\beta})$ for any $\epsilon > 0$.

We finally turn to $\sum_j K_\alpha(r_j - t) + K_\alpha(r_j + t)$. Fixing a small $\epsilon > 0$, one sees using Weyl's law, the fact that k is rapidly decreasing in any horizontal strip – and the fact that the $\Im m(r_j)$ are bounded – that

$$\sum_j K_\alpha(r_j - t) = \sum_{j, |\Re(r_j) - t| \leq t^\epsilon} K_\alpha(r_j - t) + \mathcal{O}(t^{-\infty}).$$

Similarly,

$$\sum_j K_\alpha(r_j + t) = \sum_{j, |\Re(r_j) + t| \leq t^\epsilon} K_\alpha(r_j + t) + \mathcal{O}(t^{-\infty}).$$

We see that

$$\left| \sum_j K_\alpha(r_j - t) + K_\alpha(r_j + t) \right| \leq C e^{\alpha \sup_j |\Im m(r_j)|} t^{1+\epsilon} \leq C t^{2\beta \sup_j |\Im m(r_j)|} t^{1+\epsilon}$$

where the \sup_j is taken over the j such that $|\Re(r_j) \pm t| \leq t^\epsilon$.

We have proved that there exists $t \in [T - T^\beta, T + T^\beta]$, and r_j with $|\Re(r_j) - t| \leq t^\epsilon$, such that

$$t^{2\beta \sup_j |\Im m(r_j)|} t^{1+\epsilon} \geq \tilde{C} t^{\beta(2\text{Pr}(\omega)-1)}.$$

In particular, if T is large enough, this implies

$$\sup \{ |\Im m(r_j)|, |\Re(r_j) \pm T| \leq T^\beta \} \geq \text{Pr}(\omega) - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1+\epsilon}{2\beta},$$

and this proves Theorem 1.9.

9. SYMBOL CLASSES

Following [6], for any $0 \leq \delta < 1/2$ we introduce the symbol class

$$(9.1) \quad S_\delta^m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ a \in C^\infty(T^*M), \quad |\partial_x^\alpha \partial_\xi^\beta a| \leq C_{\alpha,\beta} \hbar^{-\delta|\alpha+\beta|} \langle \xi \rangle^{m-|\beta|} \right\}.$$

If $\delta = 0$ we will just denote S^m . We will denote $\text{Op}_\hbar(a(x, \xi)) = \text{Op}(a(x, \hbar\xi))$, where Op is a quantization procedure on M . The quantization of any $a \in S_\delta^0$ leads to a bounded operator on $L^2(M)$ (the norm being bounded uniformly in \hbar), see [6]. We will denote $\Psi DO_\delta^m = \text{Op}_\hbar(S_\delta^m)$.

We use :

Proposition 9.1. *Let $a \in S_\delta^m, b \in S_{\delta'}^n$ with $0 \leq \delta' \leq \delta < 1/2$. Then*

- (i) $\text{Op}_\hbar(a) \text{Op}_\hbar(b) - \text{Op}_\hbar(ab) \in \hbar^{1-\delta-\delta'} \text{Op}_\hbar(S_\delta^{m+n-1})$.
- (ii) $[\text{Op}_\hbar(a), \text{Op}_\hbar(b)] - \frac{\hbar}{i} \text{Op}_\hbar(\{a, b\}) \in \hbar^{2(1-\delta-\delta')} \text{Op}_\hbar(S_\delta^{m+n-2})$.

We also use a local form of the Calderon-Vaillancourt estimate [6] :

Proposition 9.2. *There exists $K \in \mathbb{N}$ depending only on the dimension of M , such that the following holds. Take $A = \text{Op}_\hbar(a)$ where $a \in \Psi DO_\delta^2$. Let I be an open interval of \mathbb{R}^+ and let λ belong to I . Then, there exists $C > 0$, and $C(a, \lambda)$ depending on a finite number of seminorms of a (uniform in λ if it stays inside a compact subset of I), such that, for all $u \in L^2(M)$,*

$$\|Au\|_{L^2} \leq C \left(\sup_{p_o^{-1}(I)} |a| + \sum_{k=1}^K \hbar^k \sup_{p_o^{-1}(I)} |D^{2k}a| \right) \|u\|_{L^2} + C(a, \lambda) \|(P - \lambda)u\|_{L^2}.$$

In fact $C(a, \lambda)$ is controlled by the supremum norm of $\frac{a}{p_o - \lambda}$ and a finite number of its derivatives outside $p_o^{-1}(I)$. Similarly we have

$$|\langle u, Au \rangle| \leq C \left(\sup_{p_o^{-1}(I)} |a| + \sum_{k=1}^K \hbar^k \sup_{p_o^{-1}(I)} |D^{2k}a| \right) \|u\|_{L^2} + C(a, \lambda) \|(P - \lambda)u\|_{L^2}^2.$$

10. APPENDIX : SJÖSTRAND'S PROOF OF PROPOSITION 5.2

In order to prove Proposition 5.2, we first want to bound the norm and trace norm of

$$f \left(\frac{2P - 1}{\hbar} \right) (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) f \left(\frac{2P - 1}{\hbar} \right).$$

We write a Calderon-Vaillancourt type estimate,

$$\|(\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T)u\| \leq \left(\sup_{p_o^{-1}[\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon, \frac{1}{2}+\epsilon]} (\tilde{q}^T - \tilde{q}^T) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta}) \right) \|u\| + \mathcal{O}(1) \|(2P - 1)u\|,$$

where δ is as in Proposition 4.2. Besides, $\|(2P-1)f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right)\| = \mathcal{O}(\hbar)$. It follows that

$$\left\| f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right) (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right) \right\| \leq \|f\|_\infty^2 \left(\sup_{p_o^{-1}]\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon, \frac{1}{2}+\epsilon[} (\tilde{q}^T - q^T) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta}) \right).$$

For the trace class norm, we need to be even more careful than in [28]. Instead of using the Gårding inequality, we use the existence of a positive quantization. If we choose such, we have directly that $f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right) (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right) \geq 0$ in the operator sense. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right) (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right) \right\|_1 &= \text{Tr} f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right) (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right) \\ &= \text{Tr} f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right)^2 (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) \\ &= \text{Tr} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \hat{f}^2(t) e^{it\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}} (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) dt. \end{aligned}$$

Writing the expansion of $e^{it\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}}$ as a Fourier Integral Operator, writing the trace as the integral of the kernel, and applying the stationary phase method in the time-energy variables, we obtain an asymptotic expansion

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Tr} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \hat{f}^2(t) e^{it\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}} (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) dt \\ &= C_d \hbar^{2-d} \left[\hat{f}^2(0) \int_{p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) L_{\frac{1}{2}}(d\rho) + \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} \hbar^k D_t^{2k} \hat{f}^2(0) \int_{p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})} D_\rho^{2k} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) L_{\frac{1}{2}}(d\rho) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{N(1-2\delta)}) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where D_t^{2k} and D_ρ^{2k} are differential operators of degree $\leq 2k$, respectively on \mathbb{R} and T^*M . Note that the term $\hbar^k D_t^{2k} \hat{f}^2(0) \int_{p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})} D_\rho^{2k} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) L_{\frac{1}{2}}(d\rho)$ is a $\mathcal{O}(\hbar^{k(1-2\delta)}) L_{\frac{1}{2}}(\tilde{q}^T \neq q^T) = o(1) L_{\frac{1}{2}}(\tilde{q}^T \neq q^T)$. This proves, in particular, Corollary 3.

To finish the proof of Proposition 5.2, there remains to study the invertibility of $z - \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T$. Recall the identity

$$\|(A + iB)u\|^2 = \|Au\|^2 + \|Bu\|^2 + i\langle u, [A, B]u \rangle,$$

if A, B are bounded self-adjoint operators. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
2\|(\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T - z)u\|^2 &\geq \|(P + i\hbar\hat{Q}_T - z)u\|^2 - \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{4(1-\delta)})(\|(2P - 1)u\|^2 + \|u\|^2) \\
&\geq \|(P - \Re e(z))u\|^2 + \hbar^2\left\|\left(\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} - \hat{Q}_T\right)u\right\|^2 + i\hbar\langle u, [P, \hat{Q}_T]u \rangle \\
&\quad - \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{4(1-\delta)})(\|(2P - 1)u\|^2 + \|u\|^2) \\
&= \|(P - \Re e(z))u\|^2 + \hbar^2\left\|\left(\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} - \hat{Q}_T\right)u\right\|^2 \\
&\quad + \left(\mathcal{O}(1)\frac{\hbar^2}{T}(1 + \|f\|_\infty^2) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{3-2\delta})\right)\|u\|^2 + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^2)\|(P - \Re e(z))u\|^2
\end{aligned}$$

We have used (5.2) (or Proposition 9.2), and the same for \tilde{Q}_T . We find that

$$(10.1) \quad \sqrt{3}\|(\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T - z)u\| \geq \|(P - \Re e(z))u\| - (\mathcal{O}(\frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{T}}) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{\frac{3}{2}-\delta}))\|u\|.$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(10.2) \quad \Im m \left\langle \frac{1}{\hbar}(z - \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_T)u, u \right\rangle &= \left\langle \left(\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} - \hat{Q}_T\right)u, u \right\rangle + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta})(\|u\| + \|(\Re e(z) - P)u\|)\|u\| \\
&\quad \left\langle \left(\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} - Q_T + f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right)(\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T)f\left(\frac{2P-1}{\hbar}\right)\right)u, u \right\rangle \\
&\quad + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta})(\|u\| + \|(\Re e(z) - P)u\|)\|u\| \\
&= \left\langle \left(\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} - Q_T + f\left(\frac{2\Re e(z)-1}{\hbar}\right)^2(\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T)\right)u, u \right\rangle \\
&\quad + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta})(\|u\| + \|(\Re e(z) - P)u\|)\|u\| \\
&\quad - \left(2 \sup_{p_o^{-1}]\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon, \frac{1}{2}+\epsilon[} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T)\|f\|_\infty\|f'\|_\infty + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta})\right)\|u\| \left\|\frac{P - \Re e(z)}{\hbar}u\right\|
\end{aligned}$$

by the same trick as in [28], (3.19). Recall that we are interested in a region where $z - \frac{1}{2} = \mathcal{O}(\hbar)$.

Let $\alpha(E) > 0$ be a continuous function defined on a bounded interval J containing 0, and restrict z by assuming that

$$\frac{\Im m(\zeta)}{2\hbar} - q^T + f\left(\frac{\Re e(\zeta)}{\hbar}\right)^2(q^T - \tilde{q}^T) \geq \alpha\left(\frac{\Re e(\zeta)}{\hbar}\right),$$

near $p_o^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$, $\frac{\Re(\zeta)}{\hbar} \in J$ (where $\zeta = 2z - 1$). It follows from the Gårding inequality that for such z

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle \left(\frac{\Im m(z)}{\hbar} - Q_T + f \left(\frac{2\Re(z) - 1}{\hbar} \right)^2 (\tilde{Q}_T - Q_T) \right) u, u \right\rangle \\ & \geq \left(\alpha \left(\frac{\Re(\zeta)}{\hbar} \right) - \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta}) \right) \|u\|^2 - \mathcal{O}(1) \|u\| \|(P - \Re(z))u\|. \end{aligned}$$

Using this in (10.2), we get

$$\begin{aligned} (10.3) \quad \Im m \left\langle \frac{1}{\hbar} (z - \tilde{P}_T) u, u \right\rangle & \geq \left(\alpha \left(\frac{\Re(\zeta)}{\hbar} \right) - \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta}) \right) \|u\|^2 \\ & - \left(2 \sup_{p_o^{-1}[\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon, \frac{1}{2}+\epsilon]} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) \|f\|_\infty \|f'\|_\infty + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta}) \right) \|u\| \left\| \frac{P - \Re(z)}{\hbar} u \right\|. \end{aligned}$$

Reasoning as in [28], (3.25) and (3.26), we find finally

$$\begin{aligned} \Im m \left\langle \frac{1}{\hbar} (z - \tilde{P}_T) u, u \right\rangle & \geq \left(\alpha \left(\frac{\Re(\zeta)}{\hbar} \right) - \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta}) \right) \|u\|^2 \\ & - \sqrt{3} \left(2 \sup_{p_o^{-1}[\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon, \frac{1}{2}+\epsilon]} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) \|f\|_\infty \|f'\|_\infty + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta}) \right) \|u\| \left\| \frac{\tilde{P}_T - z}{\hbar} u \right\| \\ & - (\mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{\sqrt{T}}) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{\frac{1}{2}-\delta})) \|u\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\alpha \left(\frac{\Re(\zeta)}{\hbar} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{\sqrt{T}}) + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{\frac{1}{2}-\delta}) \right) \|u\| \\ & \leq \left[1 + 2\sqrt{3} \sup_{p_o^{-1}[\frac{1}{2}-\epsilon, \frac{1}{2}+\epsilon]} (q^T - \tilde{q}^T) \|f\|_\infty \|f'\|_\infty + \mathcal{O}(\hbar^{1-2\delta}) \right] \left\| \frac{\tilde{P}_T - z}{\hbar} u \right\| \end{aligned}$$

which finishes the proof of Proposition 5.2.

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