

Bound-Unbound Universality

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Source energy-
momentum tensor

$$T_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{src}}(x')$$

$$x_{\mu}^{\text{src}}(\tau)$$

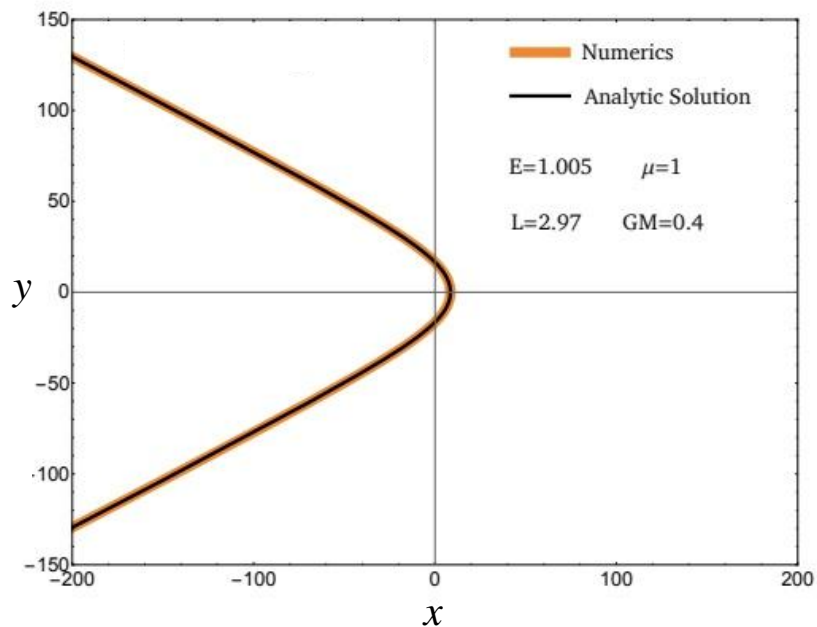
Source trajectory

Time-Dependent Observables

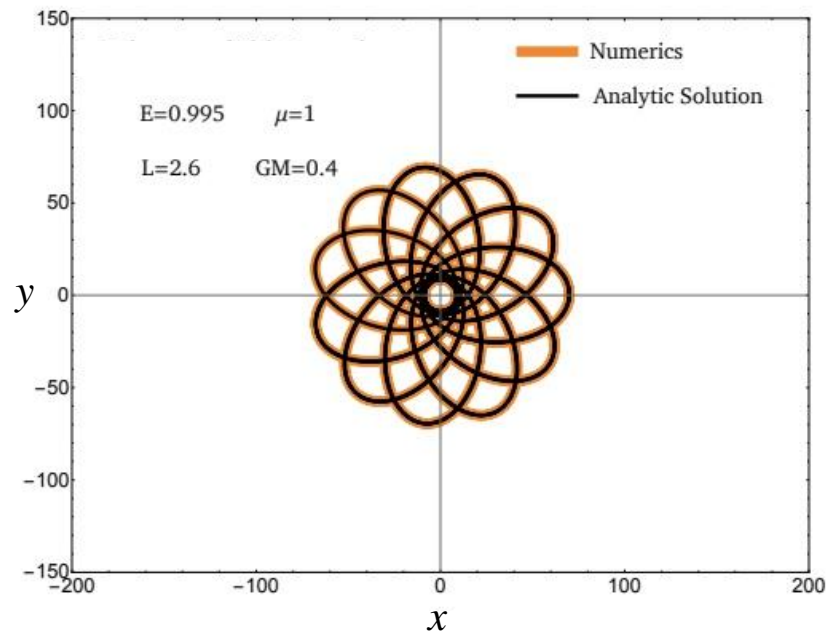
Consider a time-dependent observable $\mathcal{O}(t)$: radius, azimuthal angle, etc...

Clearly, $\mathcal{O}(t)$ is very different between the unbound ($E > \mu$) and bound ($E < \mu$) cases.

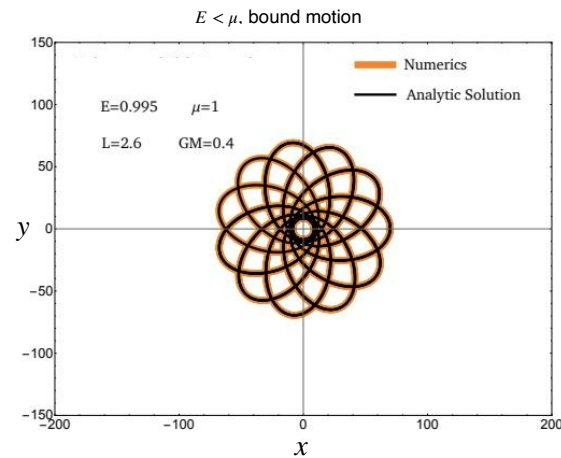
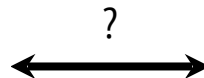
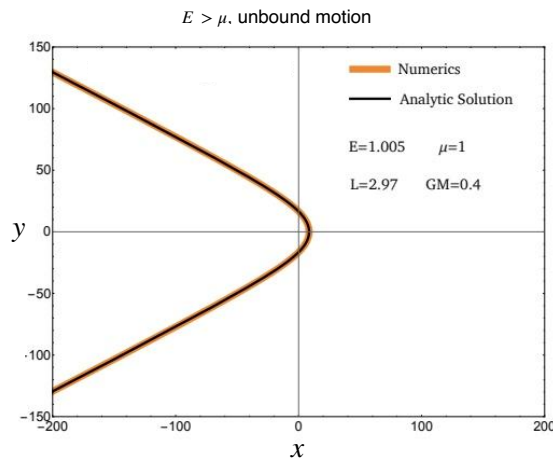
$E > \mu$, unbound motion



$E < \mu$, bound motion



Is there a way to compute and **analytically continue** $\mathcal{O}(t)$ between the unbound and bound regimes?



This is a crucial question for the computation of (bound) black hole inspirals with (unbound) scattering amplitude methods. We answer it in the **probe limit**.

We found a representation for any $\mathcal{O}(t)$ which is automatically analytically continued between unbound and bound motion: its **Laplace transform**

$$\text{Laplace:} \quad \hat{\mathcal{O}}(s_L) = \frac{\Omega_r}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \, \mathcal{O}(t) e^{-s_L \Omega_r t}$$

$$\text{Inverse Laplace:} \quad \mathcal{O}(t) = -i\mathcal{P} \int_{\Gamma_r - i\infty}^{\Gamma_r + i\infty} \hat{\mathcal{O}}(s_L) e^{s_L \Omega_r t} ds_L$$

Γ_r - real value in
convergence strip of $\hat{\mathcal{O}}(s_L)$
 \mathcal{P} - Principal value

$$\Omega_r^b = i\Omega_r = \frac{2\pi}{T_r} \text{ is the radial fundamental frequency with } T_r = 2 \int_{r_{min}}^{r_*} \frac{\gamma(r')\mu}{\sqrt{U_r(r')}} dr'$$

Ω_r^b is positive real for bound. Ω_r is positive real for unbound

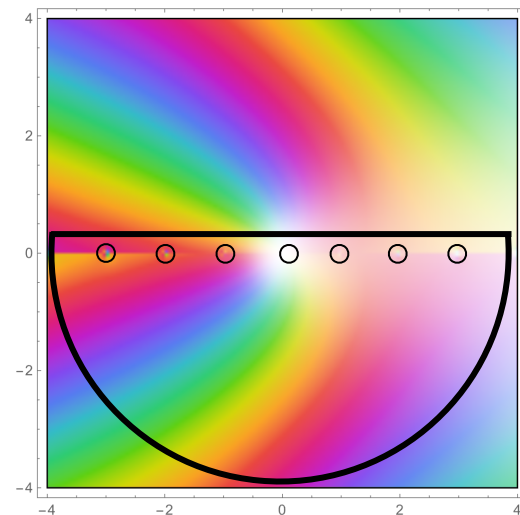
In the bound regime, the Laplace transform becomes a **Fourier transform**

Fourier:
$$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(s_L) = i\hat{\mathcal{O}}(s_L) = \frac{\Omega_r^b}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \mathcal{O}(t) e^{is_L \Omega_r^b t}$$

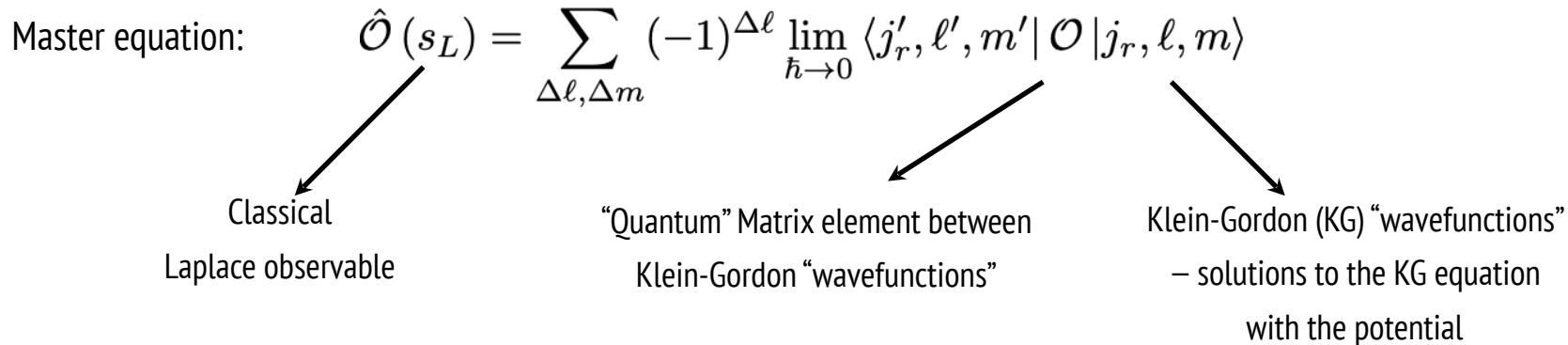
Inverse Fourier:
$$\mathcal{O}(t) = \mathcal{P} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} ds_L \tilde{\mathcal{O}}(s_L) e^{-is_L \Omega_r^b t}$$

The inverse Fourier can be computed by contour integration, picking up the poles of $\hat{\mathcal{O}}(s_L)$ on the real line and becoming a **Fourier series**

$$\mathcal{O}(t) = 2\pi \operatorname{sign}(t) \sum \operatorname{Res}_{s_L} \left[\hat{\mathcal{O}}(s_L) e^{-is_L \Omega_r^b t} \right]$$



Computing $\hat{\mathcal{O}}(s_L)$ as a complex function \leftrightarrow Solving the full dynamics both in bound and unbound



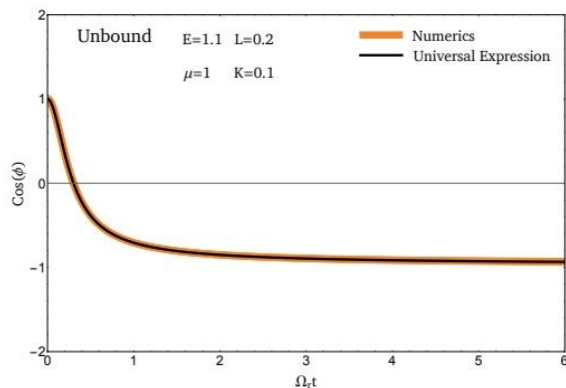
In the point-particle (classical) limit $\hbar \rightarrow 0$, the “quantum numbers” j_r, ℓ, m go to infinity while their products with \hbar are the finite, dimensional **action variables** for point-particle motion:

$$(j_r, \ell, m) = \hbar^{-1} (J_r, L, L_z) \quad (j'_r, \ell', m') = (j_r, \ell, m) - (\Delta j_r, \Delta \ell, \Delta m) \quad \Delta j_r = -s_L - f_\varphi \Delta \ell$$

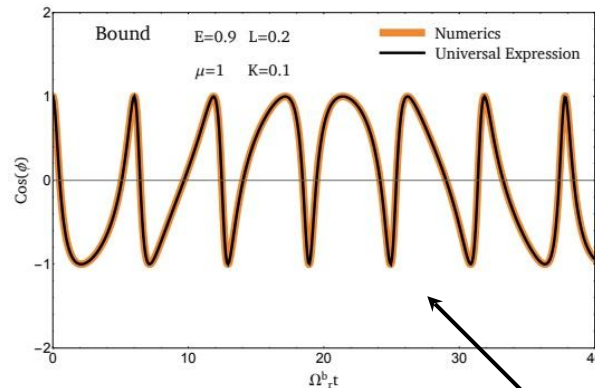
$$f_\varphi = L / \sqrt{L^2 - K^2}$$

Sample QSM Calculation: Azimuthal Angle

MK, Shen, Telem '25



(a) Unbound



(b) Bound

Can see periastron advance

$\text{Cos } \phi(t)$

Same analytic Laplace observable: bound - unbound universality