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Elementary atoms in spaces of constant curvature by the Nikiforov-Uvarov method

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Spaces of constant curvature provide the simplest curved background against which to study theoretical problems and questions related to quantum mechanics in curved spaces, and therefore such studies are of considerable theoretical interest. However, they are not only of academic interest. Effective curvature of space arises in a number of real physical situations from the physics of atoms and nanotubes to the chiral and deconfinement phase transition in the Nambu-Jona-Lasinio model, symmetries of the W algebra of string theory and quasi-exactly solvable models, as well as superintegrability in the framework of supersymmetry (see, for example [1-3]).

The Nikiforov-Uvarov method is a simple, yet elegant and powerful method for solving second-order differential equations of generalized hypergeometric type [4]. In the past, it has been used to solve many problems in quantum mechanics [5,6,7]. We apply this method to the classical problem of hydrogen-like atoms in spaces of constant curvature. Both the spectra of these atoms and their wave functions, including normalization, are easily obtained.

References

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