

The Effect of the Singular Potential Functions for Eigenvalues of Sturm-Liouville Operators

Bülent Yılmaz

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Abstract

In this article we obtain asymptotic formulas of arbitrary order for eigenfunctions and eigenvalues of the non-self adjoint Sturm–Liouville operators with Dirichlet boundary conditions, when the potential is a summable function. Then using these we compute the main part of the eigenvalues in special cases. The eigenvalues obtained by the asymptotic method and the eigenvalues obtained by the finite difference method followed by a numerical correction, are compared.

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*Corresponding author

1. Introduction

Let $L(q)$ be an operator generated in $L_2[0, 1]$ by the expression

$$L(q) = -y''(x) + q(x)y(x), \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1 \quad (1)$$

and by Dirichlet boundary conditions

$$y(0) = y(1) = 0, \quad (2)$$

where $q(x)$ is a complex-valued summable function.

In this article, we consider the small and large eigenvalues of the operator $L(q)$ when $q(x)$ has a singularity. The large eigenvalues are investigated by the asymptotic method given in [1, 2]. Note that in classical investigations in order to obtain the asymptotic formulas of order $O(n^{-l})$ it is required that $q(x)$ be $(l - 1)$ times differentiable [4,11]. The method of [1] gives the possibility of obtaining the asymptotic formulas of order $O(n^{-l})$ of eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of $L(q)$ when $q(x)$ is arbitrary summable complex-valued function. The eigenvalues are compared by asymptotic method and corrected approximation.

Expression of differential equations in matrix form and the advances in the field of the computers have led to major developments in numerical methods. Regarding the numerical solution of the Sturm-Liouville problems, Finite Difference method is amongst the popular methods. Finite Difference method can give effective results

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for the eigenvalues when it is used in connection with asymptotic correction technique. In the paper [13] the Sturm-Liouville problems with Dirichlet and the general boundary conditions were studied respectively. Paine found the correction of Finite Difference Eigenvalue Approximations for Sturm-Liouville Problems. Chen [16] used the differential transform method to solve the eigenvalue problems. Ghelardoni and Gheri [18] used the shooting technique for the calculation of the eigenvalues of Sturm-Liouville problem by considering the Prüfer transformation given in [19].

2. Asymptotic Formulas For Eigenvalues

It is well-known [7] that the eigenvalues of the operator $L(q)$ consists of the sequences $\{\lambda_n\}$ satisfying

$$\lambda_n = (n\pi)^2 + O(1) \quad (3)$$

for $n \geq N$. Here and in forthcoming relations we denote by N a large positive integer, that is, $N \gg 1$. From these formulas one can easily obtain the following inequalities from which we use essentially:

$$|\lambda_n - (\pi k)^2| > |(n-k)\pi| |(n+k)\pi| - c_1 n^{\frac{1}{2}} > c_2 n, \forall k \neq n, k = 0, 1, \dots, \quad (4)$$

for $n \geq N$, where we denote by c_m , for $m = 1, 2, \dots$, the positive constants whose exact value are inessential. To obtain the asymptotic formula for eigenvalues λ_n and corresponding normalized eigenfunctions $\Phi_n(x)$ of $L(q)$ we use (4) and the following well-known relation

$$(\lambda_N - (\pi n)^2)(\Phi_N(x), \sin n\pi x) = (q(x)\Phi_N(x), \sin n\pi x) \quad (5)$$

Arguing as in the proof of Lemma 1 of [2], and using (5) and the decomposition

$$\Phi_N(x) = \sum_{n_1 > -n}^{\infty} 2(\Phi_N(x), \sin(n+n_1)\pi x) \sin(n+n_1)\pi x \quad (6)$$

of $\Phi_N(x)$ by orthonormal basis $\{\sqrt{2} \sin(n+n_1)\pi x : n_1 > -n\}$ we get

$$(q(x)\Phi_N(x), \sin n\pi x) = \quad (7)$$

$$\sum_{n_1 > -n}^{\infty} 2(q(x), (\sin(n+n_1)\pi x)(\sin n\pi x))(\Phi_N(x), \sin(n+n_1)\pi x)$$

from which using the multiplication formula in (7) and then replacing $2n+n_1$ by k , we get

$$\begin{aligned} (q(x)\Phi_N(x), \sin n\pi x) &= \sum_{n_1=1}^{\infty} C_{n_1}(\Phi_N(x), \sin(n+n_1)\pi x) \\ &+ \sum_{n_1=1}^{\infty} C_{n_1}(\Phi_N(x), \sin(n-n_1)\pi x) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

substituting this result in to (5) we obtain

$$(\lambda_N - (\pi n)^2)(\Phi_N(x), \sin n\pi x) = \sum_{n_1=-\infty}^{\infty} C_{n_1}(\Phi_N(x), \sin(n+n_1)\pi x) \quad (9)$$

where $C_n = \int_0^1 q(x) \cos n\pi x dx$ and, without loss of generality, we assume that $C_0 = 0$. Note that $C_n \rightarrow 0$, $C_n = C_{-n}$, as $|n| \rightarrow \infty$

Now we isolate the terms at right side of (9), containing $(\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x)$ (i.e., the case $n_1 = -2n$), Using the equality

$$(\Phi_n(x), \sin(n+n_1)\pi x) = \sum_{\substack{n_2=-\infty \\ n_1 \neq -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_2}(\Phi_n(x), \sin(n+n_1+n_2)\pi x)}{\lambda_n - (\pi(n+n_1))^2} \quad (10)$$

which can be obtained from (9) by taking n and $n + n_1$ instead of N and n , we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda_n - (\pi n)^2)(\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x) &= -C_{2n}(\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x) \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{n_1, n_2 = -\infty \\ n_1 \neq -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} C_{n_2} (\Phi_n(x), \sin (n + n_1 + n_2) \pi x)}{\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1))^2} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Again we isolate the terms for $n_1 + n_2 = 0, -2n$ from the summation and use the equality $C_{n_1} = C_{-n_1}$ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda_n - (\pi n)^2)(\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x) &= (\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x) \{-C_{2n} \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{n_1 = -\infty \\ n_1 \neq 0, -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} (C_{n_1} - C_{n_1+2n})}{\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1))^2}\} \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{n_1, n_2 = -\infty \\ n_1, n_1+n_2 \neq 0, -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} C_{n_2} (\Phi_n(x), \sin (n + n_1 + n_2) \pi x)}{\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1))^2} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Applying the above iteration to last sum and isolating the terms for which $n_1 + n_2 + n_3 = 0, -2n$. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda_n - (\pi n)^2)(\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x) &= (\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x) \{-C_{2n} \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{n_1 = -\infty \\ n_1 \neq 0, -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} (C_{n_1} - C_{n_1+2n})}{\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1))^2} \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{n_1, n_2 = -\infty \\ n_1, n_1+n_2 \neq 0, -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} C_{n_2} (C_{n_1+n_2} - C_{n_1+n_2+2n})}{[\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1))^2] [\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1 + n_2))^2]}\} \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{n_1, n_2, n_3 = -\infty \\ n_1, n_1+n_2, n_1+n_2+n_3 \neq 0, -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} C_{n_2} C_{n_3} (\Phi_n(x), \sin (n + n_1 + n_2 + n_3) \pi x)}{[\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1))^2] [\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1 + n_2))^2]} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Repeating this process m times we get

$$(\lambda_n - (\pi n)^2 - A_m(\lambda_n))(\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x) = R_{m+1} \quad (14)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_m(\lambda_n) &= \sum_{k=0}^m a_k(\lambda_n), \\ a_0(\lambda_n) &= -C_{2n}, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

$$a_1(\lambda_n) = \sum_{\substack{n_1 = -\infty \\ n_1 \neq 0, -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} (C_{n_1} - C_{n_1+2n})}{\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1))^2}, \quad (16)$$

$$a_2(\lambda_n) = \sum_{\substack{n_1, n_2 = -\infty \\ n_1, n_1+n_2 \neq 0, -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} C_{n_2} (C_{n_1+n_2} - C_{n_1+n_2+2n})}{[\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1))^2] [\lambda_n - (\pi(n + n_1 + n_2))^2]},$$

and in general for k

$$a_k(\lambda_n) = \sum_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k = -\infty}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} C_{n_2} \dots C_{n_k} (C_{n_1+n_2+\dots+n_k} - C_{n_1+n_2+\dots+n_k+2n})}{\prod_{j=1}^k [\lambda_n - (\pi(n + \sum_{s=1}^j n_s))^2]}$$

$$R_{m+1} = \sum_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_{m+1} = -\infty}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} C_{n_2} \dots C_{n_{m+1}} (q(x) \Phi_n(x), \sin(n + \sum_{k=1}^{m+1} n_k))}{\prod_{j=1}^{m+1} [\lambda_n - (\pi(n + \sum_{k=1}^j n_k))^2]}, \quad (17)$$

Here the sums for $a_k(\lambda_n)$ and R_{m+1} are taken under the conditions

$$\sum_{j=1}^s n_j \neq 0, -2n, .$$

for $s = 1, 2, \dots, k$ and $s = 1, 2, \dots, m + 1$ respectively. Moreover in obtaining (17) after m^{th} iteration we applied (5). Using (4) and arguing as in the proof of equalities (27), (28) of [2] we get the following relations

$$\sum_{\substack{k=-\infty \\ k \neq -n, n}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{|\lambda_n - (\pi k)^2|} = O\left(\frac{\ln |n|}{n}\right), \quad (18)$$

$$a_k = O\left(\left(\frac{\ln |n|}{n}\right)^k\right), \quad R_{m+1} = O\left(\left(\frac{\ln |n|}{n}\right)^{m+1}\right). \quad (19)$$

Theorem 2.1. *The eigenvalue λ_n of the operator $L(q)$ satisfies the asymptotic formula*

$$\lambda_n = (\pi n)^2 + F_m + O\left(\left(\frac{\ln |n|}{n}\right)^{m+1}\right), \quad (20)$$

for all $m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, where $F_0 = -C_{2n}$,

$$F_1 = A_1 \left((n\pi)^2 \right) = -C_{2n} + \sum_{\substack{n_1=-\infty \\ n_1 \neq -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{C_{n_1} (C_{n_1} - C_{n_1+2n})}{[(n\pi)^2 - (\pi(n+n_1))^2]}$$

$$F_k = A_k \left((n\pi)^2 + F_{k-1} \right), \quad \forall k = 2, 3, \dots$$

Proof: We shall use induction to prove this theorem. First we prove (20) for $m = 0$, that is,

$$\lambda_n = (\pi n)^2 - C_{2n} + O\left(\frac{\ln n}{n}\right), \quad (21)$$

Using the well-known formula (see [7, p.77])

$$\Phi_n(x) = \sqrt{2} \sin n\pi x + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$$

we get

$$(\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right) \quad (22)$$

Therefore dividing both sides of (14) for $m = 0$ by $(\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x)$ and using (19), (22) we get the proof of (21).

Now we prove (20) $m = 1$. Arguing as we have done in the proof of (20) we get from (14) for $m = 1$.

$$\lambda_n = (n\pi)^2 + A_1(\lambda_n) + O\left(\left(\frac{\ln |n|}{n}\right)^2\right) \quad (23)$$

Using $\lambda_n - (n\pi)^2 = O(1)$ and (18) one can easily verify that

$$\sum_{\substack{k=-\infty \\ k_2 \neq n, -n}}^{\infty} \left| \frac{1}{\lambda_n - (\pi k)^2} - \frac{1}{(\pi n)^2 - (\pi k)^2} \right| = O\left(\left(\frac{\ln |n|}{n}\right)^2\right) \quad (24)$$

and hence

$$A_1(\lambda_n) = A_1((\pi n)^2) + O\left(\left(\frac{\ln|n|}{n}\right)^2\right) \quad (25)$$

This together with (23) proves (20) for $m = 1$

In order to prove (20) by induction, we assume it to be true for $m = j - 1$, that is,

$$\lambda_n = (n\pi)^2 + F_{j-1} + O\left(\left(\frac{\ln|n|}{n}\right)^j\right) \quad (26)$$

Replacing m by j in (14), dividing both sides by $(\Phi_n(x), \sin n\pi x)$ and use (19), (22) we get

$$\lambda_n = (n\pi)^2 + A_j(\lambda_n) + O\left(\left(\frac{\ln|n|}{n}\right)^{j+1}\right) \quad (27)$$

Substituting the value of λ_n given by (26) in $A_j(\lambda_n)$, and arguing as in the proof of (25) we see that

$$\begin{aligned} A_j(\lambda_n) &= A_j((n\pi)^2 + F_{j-1} + O\left(\left(\frac{\ln|n|}{n}\right)^j\right)) \\ &= A_j((n\pi)^2 + F_{j-1}) + O\left(\left(\frac{\ln|n|}{n}\right)^{j+1}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Thus taking into account that $A_j((n\pi)^2 + F_{j-1}) = F_j$ we get the proof of (20) for $m = j$ from (27), (28). The theorem is proved.

As an example for asymptotic formulas (20), let the potential $q(x)$ of the operator $L(q)$ with the concrete potential

$$q(x) = \frac{c}{x^\alpha}, \quad 0 < \alpha < 1 \quad (29)$$

where c is a complex number.

Theorem 2.2. *The eigenvalues of the operator $L(q)$ with the potential (29) satisfy the formulas*

$$\lambda_n = (n\pi)^2 - \frac{c \cdot d}{(2n)^{1-\alpha}} + O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right) \quad (30)$$

where $d = \int_0^\infty \frac{\cos \pi t}{t^\alpha} dt$,

$$\lambda_n = (n\pi)^2 - \frac{c \cdot d}{(2n)^{1-\alpha}} + \sum_{\substack{k=-\infty \\ k \neq 0, -2n}}^{\infty} \frac{f_k(f_k - f_{k+2n})}{(n\pi)^2 - (\pi(n+k))^2} + O\left(\left(\frac{\ln|n|}{n}\right)^2\right) \quad (31)$$

where

$$f_n = \int_0^1 \frac{c \cdot \cos \pi n x}{x^\alpha} dx$$

This theorem is as proved in [1]

3. Numerical Approximation

Now, we consider the small eigenvalues of the $L(q)$ operator by numerical method.

For the finite difference method, take an equally spaced mesh ($m \geq 2$), $0 = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_{m+1} = 1$ where $x_j = jh$, $h = \frac{1}{m+1}$. Writing $y(x_j)$ as w_j , $q(x_j)$ as q_j and $y''(x_j)$ as w_j'' , we use the centred difference approximation $-w_j'' \approx \frac{-w_{j-1} + 2w_j - w_{j+1}}{h^2}$. Substituting in (1) gives the approximating scheme

$$\frac{-w_{j-1} + 2w_j - w_{j+1}}{h^2} + q_j w_j = \Lambda w_j \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m. \quad (32)$$

Table 2

n	$\bar{\Lambda}_n^{(0.1)}$	$\bar{\Lambda}_n^{(0.5)}$	$\bar{\Lambda}_n^{(0.9)}$
1	10,95108	11,37728	12,03832
2	40,57302	41,12744	42,17357
3	89,92594	90,53919	91,81482
4	159,0158	159,6646	161,1022
5	247,8438	248,5171	250,0792
6	356,4106	357,102	358,765
7	484,7162	485,4218	487,1692
8	632,7609	633,478	635,2977
9	800,5447	801,2712	803,1541
10	988,0675	988,8021	990,741
20	3948,951	3949,728	3952,013
30	8883,753	8884,548	8887,002
40	15792,48	15793,28	15795,82
50	24675,12	24675,93	24678,49
60	35531,69	35532,49	35535,03
70	48362,17	48362,97	48365,43
80	63166,58	63167,36	63169,66
90	79944,9	79945,64	79947,63
100	98697,13	98697,56	98698,28

Table 2 shows the n^{th} corrected eigenvalue obtained by using the finite difference method for $\alpha = 0.1, 0.5, 0.9$ respectively.

Table 3

n	$\bar{\Lambda}_n^{(0.1)} - (n\pi)^2$	$\bar{\Lambda}_n^{(0.5)} - (n\pi)^2$	$\bar{\Lambda}_n^{(0.9)} - (n\pi)^2$
1	1,081479893	1,507673921	2,16871913
2	1,094606645	1,649021921	2,695156874
3	1,09950304	1,712745752	2,988379079
4	1,102092404	1,750905378	3,188503476
5	1,103703936	1,776991574	3,339132542
6	1,104807505	1,796256532	3,459199448
7	1,105612449	1,811223831	3,558567804
8	1,106226483	1,823276353	3,643007064
9	1,106710823	1,833243483	3,71617449
10	1,107102891	1,841656869	3,780529819
20	1,108918458	1,886274806	4,171554409
30	1,109516903	1,904096257	4,358259832
40	1,109768063	1,912303842	4,45191185
50	1,109843865	1,914880513	4,482477541
60	1,109782116	1,912764558	4,457511461
70	1,109552451	1,905194836	4,370946909
80	1,109004827	1,888648163	4,196242546
90	1,10742319	1,848625597	3,838723497
100	1,081623478	1,515892515	2,237212549

The corrected differences $\bar{\Lambda}_n^{(\alpha)} - (n\pi)^2$ show the effect of the potential $q^{(\alpha)}$ to the eigenvalues for $\alpha = 0.1, 0.5, 0.9$

Table 4

n	$\lambda_n^{(0.1)} - (n\pi)^2$	$\lambda_n^{(0.5)} - (n\pi)^2$	$\lambda_n^{(0.9)} - (n\pi)^2$
1	-0,032802560	0,585315946	-10,69673415
2	-0,018317047	-0,489017416	-12,66831515
3	-0,013287336	-0,457752089	-14,42813566
4	-0,010719567	-0,444067713	-15,96747315
5	-0,009160065	-0,437461285	-17,32939883
6	-0,008112923	-0,434302424	-18,54919126
7	-0,007362049	-0,433014772	-19,65180001
8	-0,006797985	-0,432800998	-20,65304927
9	-0,006359217	-0,433180466	-21,55685193
10	-0,006007514	-0,433478708	-22,30805135
20	-0,004445580	-0,438827058	-26,31055883
30	-0,003965214	-0,448262049	-28,68837815
40	-0,003751163	-0,457500814	-30,46864132
50	-0,003640011	-0,465942480	-31,90956508
60	-0,003578065	-0,473584198	-33,12753648
70	-0,003542804	-0,480523723	-34,18640325
80	-0,003523263	-0,486863986	-35,12538671
90	-0,003513533	-0,492694053	-35,97046725
90	-0,003510185	-0,498087369	-36,73981629

The differences $\lambda_n^{(\alpha)} - (n\pi)^2$ show the effect of the potential $q^{(\alpha)}$ to the eigenavlues for $\alpha = 0.1, 0.5, 0.9$.

4. Conclusion

It is natural and well known that for large eigenvalues the asymptotic method gives us approximations with smaller errors. The numerical method, in general, gives better results for smaller eigenvalues. The Tables 1,2 show that the results of both the asymptotic method and corrected method give quiet acceptable results for eigenvalues. According to the Table 3 and 4, if α increases, the effect of the potential function to the eigenvalues also increases for both methods.

Therefore we can easily observe that the correcting method and the asymptotic method give good results for the calculation of the eigenvalues. It is natural and well known that for large eigenvalues the asymptotic method gives us approximations with smaller errors. The numerical method, in general, gives better results for smaller eigenvalues. We see that in this paper corrected eigenvalues also give us approximations with smaller errors for all eigenvalues.

The table 3 and 4 show that the results of the asymptotic method and numerical method also give quiet acceptable results for $\alpha = 0.1$. Therefore we can easily observe that asymptotic and corrected methods give good results for the calculation of all eigenvalues. Additionally while α tends to 1, both of the methods are effected by potential function and differences between two methods are also increasing.

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Affiliations

BÜLENT YILMAZ

ADDRESS: Marmara University, Dept. of Mathematics, 34722, Istanbul-Turkey.

E-MAIL: bulentyilmaz@marmara.edu.tr