

# Cosine Potential

August 9, 2012

We wish to solve the equation

$$-\frac{1}{2}y''(x) + V_0\text{Cos}(x)y(x) = Ey(x) \quad (1)$$

subject to the boundary condition

$$y(0) = y(2\pi) \quad (2)$$

We then have  $-y''(x) = 2(E - V_0\text{Cos}(x))y(x)$  Let  $x = 2q$ . Then,  $y''(q) + (-8V_0\text{Cos}(2q) + 8E)y(q) = 0 \implies y(x) = a_0C(8E, 4V_0, \frac{x}{2}) + a_1S(8E, 4V_0, \frac{x}{2})$ , where  $C(a,q,v)$  is the Mathieu cosine function,  $S(a,q,v)$  is the Mathieu sine function.

For symmetric eigenfunctions, we can take  $a_1 = 0$ , and normalize  $\psi$  based on  $\int_0^{2\pi} \psi^2 dx = 1$ .  
For asymmetric eigenfunctions, we can take  $a_0 = 0$ , and normalize in the same manner.  
The energies are found by noticing that  $\frac{a_r}{8} = E$ , where  $a_r$  is the Mathieu characteristic for the Mathieu cosine function (i.e. the value of  $8E$  needed for the Mathieu cosine function to be periodic), for even functions, and  $\frac{b_r}{8}$  for odd functions, with  $b_r$  the characteristic for Mathieu sine functions.