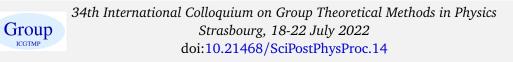


Quantum cylindrical integrability in magnetic fields

Ondřej Kubů* and Libor Šnobl

Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering, Prague, Czech Republic

★ ondrej.kubu@fjfi.cvut.cz



Abstract

We present the classification of quadratically integrable systems of the cylindrical type with magnetic fields in quantum mechanics. Following the direct method used in classical mechanics by [F Fournier et al 2020 J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 53 085203] to facilitate the comparison, the cases which may *a priori* differ yield 2 systems without any correction and 2 with it. In all of them the magnetic field *B* coincides with the classical one, only the scalar potential *W* may contain a \hbar^2 -dependent correction. Two of the systems have both cylindrical integrals quadratic in momenta and are therefore not separable. These results form a basis for a prospective study of superintegrability.

Copyright O. Kubů and L. Šnobl. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. Published by the SciPost Foundation. Received 10-10-2022 Accepted 11-08-2023 Published 24-11-2023 doi:10.21468/SciPostPhysProc.14.032

1 Introduction

This article is a contribution to the study of integrable and superintegrable Hamiltonian systems with magnetic fields on the 3D Euclidean space \mathbb{E}_3 in quantum mechanics. More specifically, we assume a Hamiltonian of the form (using units where e = -1, m = 1)

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \left(\vec{p}^2 + A_j(\vec{x}) p_j + p_j A_j(\vec{x}) + A_j(\vec{x})^2 \right) + W(\vec{x}), \tag{1}$$

with implicit summation over repeated indices j = 1, 2, 3 (in the whole paper), $\vec{p} = -i\hbar\vec{\nabla}$ is the momentum operator and $\vec{A} = (A_1(\vec{x}), A_2(\vec{x}), A_3(\vec{x}))$ and $W(\vec{x})$ are the vector and scalar potentials of the electromagnetic field.

Integrability then entails the existence of two algebraically independent integrals of motion X_1, X_2 (further specified below) mutually in involution, i.e.

$$[H, X_1] = [H, X_2] = [X_1, X_2] = 0.$$
⁽²⁾

They are usually considered to be polynomials in the momenta p_j , for computational feasibility usually of a low order (typically 2).

Integrable (and especially superintegrable) systems are rare and distinguished by the possibility to obtain the solution to their equations of motion in a closed form. They are subsequently invaluable for gaining physical intuition and serve as a starting point for modelling more complicated systems. Finding and classifying these systems is therefore of utmost importance.

The case without the vector potential \vec{A} has been widely studied. The quadratic integrable systems were classified in 1960s and the 1:1 correspondence with orthogonal separation of variables of the Schrödinger (or, in classical context, the Hamilton-Jacobi) equation was found [1–3]. This leads to the 11 classes of scalar potentials *V* studied by Eisenhart [4]. Higher order superintegrability followed, see e.g. [5] and references therein.

Despite its physical relevance, integrability with magnetic fields was mostly ignored due to its computational difficulty. The first systematic result remedying this omission was the article by Shapovalov on separable systems [6], followed by the articles in \mathbb{E}_2 [7,8]. Subsequent articles in \mathbb{E}_3 assumed first order integrals [9] or separation of variables [10–13]. Marchesiello et al. [9] found a quadratic superintegrable system with an integral not connected to separation of variables, which was recently followed up by [14, 15].

Here we present in an abridged form the classification of quadratically integrable systems of the cylindrical type (see (9)) in quantum mechanics obtained in O. Kubů's Master thesis [16], which closely followed Fournier et al.'s [13] classical analysis to highlight the differences arising in quantum mechanics.

In Section 2 we introduce the differential form formalism for magnetic fields in cylindrical coordinates, derive the determining equations for cylindrical-type integrals and reduce them to a simpler form. The calculations separate into several cases depending on the rank of the matrix in equation (15). In the case that may *a priori* differ from the classical one from [13] only ranks 2 and 1 are relevant. We present the corresponding results in Sections 3 and 4, respectively. We draw our conclusions in Section 5.

2 Cylindrical–type system

Before we specify the corresponding integrals X_1, X_2 , we have to introduce the formalism used for magnetic field in curvilinear coordinates in classical mechanics, cf. [13, 17].

Defining the cylindrical coordinates

$$x = r\cos(\phi), \quad y = r\sin(\phi), \quad z = Z, \tag{3}$$

we represent the vector potential A as a 1-form

$$A = A_x dx + A_y dy + A_z dz = A_r dr + A_\phi d\phi + A_Z dZ.$$
 (4)

Hence, we obtain the following transformations

$$A_x = \cos(\phi)A_r - \frac{\sin(\phi)}{r}A_\phi, \qquad A_y = \sin(\phi)A_r + \frac{\cos(\phi)}{r}A_\phi, \qquad A_z = A_Z.$$
(5)

As a part of the canonical 1-form $\lambda = p_j dx^J$, the momenta p_j transform in the same way and we can define the covariant momenta by $p_j^A = p_j + A_j$ in both Cartesian and cylindrical coordinates.

Components of the magnetic field 2-form B = dA are

$$B = B^{x}(\vec{x}) dy \wedge dz + B^{y}(\vec{x}) dz \wedge dx + B^{z}(\vec{x}) dx \wedge dy$$

= $B^{r}(r, \phi, Z) d\phi \wedge dZ + B^{\phi}(r, \phi, Z) dZ \wedge dr + B^{Z}(r, \phi, Z) dr \wedge d\phi$, (6)

which leads to the following transformation

$$B^{x}(\vec{x}) = \frac{\cos(\phi)}{r} B^{r}(r,\phi,Z) - \sin(\phi) B^{\phi}(r,\phi,Z),$$

$$B^{y}(\vec{x}) = \frac{\sin(\phi)}{r} B^{r}(r,\phi,Z) + \cos(\phi) B^{\phi}(r,\phi,Z),$$

$$B^{z}(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{r} B^{Z}(r,\phi,Z).$$
(7)

We can use the same formalism and notation in quantum mechanics as well, we just have to quantize the equations and the integrals (properly symmetrized) in Cartesian coordinates and subsequently transform our equations into cylindrical ones. For example, the transformed momenta read

$$p_x = -i\hbar \left(\cos(\phi)\partial_r - \frac{\sin(\phi)}{r} \partial_\phi \right), \quad p_y = -i\hbar \left(\sin(\phi)\partial_r + \frac{\cos(\phi)}{r} \partial_\phi \right), \quad p_z = -i\hbar\partial_z, \quad (8)$$

i.e. the transformation is the same as (5) upon defining $p_{r,\phi,Z} = -i\hbar\partial_{r,\phi,Z}$.

We can now introduce integrals of motion of the cylindrical type, i.e. integrals that imply separation of Schrödinger (or, classically, Hamilton-Jacobi) equation in the cylindrical coordinates in the limit of vanishing magnetic field \vec{B} . Expressed in the cylindrical coordinates they read

$$X_{1} = \left(p_{\phi}^{A}\right)^{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha=r,\phi,Z} \left(s_{1}^{\alpha}(r,\phi,Z)p_{\alpha}^{A} + p_{\alpha}^{A}s_{1}^{\alpha}(r,\phi,Z)\right) + m_{1}(r,\phi,Z),$$

$$X_{2} = \left(p_{Z}^{A}\right)^{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha=r,\phi,Z} \left(s_{2}^{\alpha}(r,\phi,Z)p_{\alpha}^{A} + p_{\alpha}^{A}s_{2}^{\alpha}(r,\phi,Z)\right) + m_{2}(r,\phi,Z).$$
(9)

The functions $s_{1,2}^{\{r,\phi,Z\}}$, $m_{1,2}$ are to be determined from the integrability conditions (2) together with the electromagnetic field B, W.

Our form of integrals allows us to separate the integrability conditions (2) into coefficients of momenta, e.g. $p_r p_Z$, which must all vanish, yielding the so-called determining equations. The second order ones can be solved in terms of 5 auxiliary functions of one variable each, namely

$$s_{1}^{r} = \frac{d}{d\phi}\psi(\phi), \qquad s_{1}^{\phi} = -\frac{\psi(\phi)}{r} - r^{2}\mu(Z) + \rho(r), \qquad s_{1}^{Z} = \tau(\phi),$$

$$s_{2}^{r} = 0, \qquad s_{2}^{\phi} = \mu(Z), \qquad s_{2}^{Z} = -\frac{\tau(\phi)}{r^{2}} + \sigma(r),$$
(10)

$$B^{r} = -\frac{r^{2}}{2} \frac{d}{dZ} \mu(Z) + \frac{1}{2r^{2}} \frac{d}{d\phi} \tau(\phi), \qquad B^{\phi} = \frac{\tau(\phi)}{r^{3}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dr} \sigma(r),$$

$$B^{Z} = \frac{-\psi(\phi)}{2r^{2}} + r\mu(Z) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dr} \rho(r) - \frac{1}{2r^{2}} \frac{d^{2}}{d\phi^{2}} \psi(\phi),$$
(11)

cf. [13]. We further use primes for derivatives of these functions with respect to their variable.

We substitute this result into the remaining determining equations and the corresponding Clairaut compatibility conditions $\partial_{ba}m_j = \partial_{ab}m_j$ and after some calculations we obtain the following reduced equations. (Indexes of *W* mean partial derivatives.)

$$\psi'(\phi) \left(r^3 \sigma'(r) + 2\tau(\phi) \right) - \tau'(\phi) (r\rho(r) - \psi(\phi)) = 0,$$
(12)

$$\mu(Z)\psi'(\phi) + r^{3}\sigma(r)\mu'(Z) = 0, \qquad (13)$$

0

J

We denote the matrix in (15) by M.

The only change with respect to the classical case is the non-zero RHS in equation (15), corresponding to equation (39) in [13].

We proceed depending on the rank of the matrix M: rank 0 implies vanishing magnetic field and rank 3 is inconsistent with the other reduced equations (12)-(14), we therefore consider ranks 1 and 2 only.

For both these ranks we have to consider the following 2 cases,

a)
$$\psi'(\phi) = 0$$
,

b) $\psi'(\phi) \neq 0$, and $\mu(Z) = 0$.

Case a) implies vanishing quantum correction in (15), i.e. the systems are characterized by the same functions B, W, s and m in the classical and quantum mechanics. The reader can find those in [13]. Hereafter we present only the results for case b) for brevity, details can be found in [16].

$\operatorname{rank}(M) = 2$ 3

Here the matrix equation (15) implies that the coordinate Z is cyclical in a suitable gauge and the integral X_2 reduces to a first order one $p_Z = p_z$ in that gauge.

We obtain 2 systems. The dynamics of the first one splits to a free motion in the z direction and a 2D system with perpendicular magnetic field, so some details were extracted from the consideration of 2D systems in [7,8]. The other system cannot be separated in this way due to a more complicated magnetic field (but p_z remains an integral).

In what follows we use $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ for brevity in Cartesian coordinates as well and expressions like ρ_1 , ψ_2 and W_0 are (usually nonvanishing) constants unless a variable is explicitly indicated.

1. The first system is classical, i.e. the quantum correction vanishes. The electromagnetic field in Cartesian coordinates reads

$$B^{x} = 0, \quad B^{y} = 0, \quad B^{z} = -6\rho_{2}r^{2} + \rho_{1},$$

$$W = -2\rho_{2}(\psi_{1}x + \psi_{2}y) - \rho_{2}^{2}r^{6} + \frac{\rho_{2}\rho_{1}}{2}r^{4} - \rho_{2}W_{0}r^{2}.$$
(16)

The cylindrical integral of motion X_1 in Cartesian coordinates is

$$X_{1} = (L_{z}^{A})^{2} + (3\rho_{2}r^{4} - \rho_{1}r^{2} + W_{0})L_{z}^{A} - \psi_{2}p_{x}^{A} + \psi_{1}p_{y}^{A} + (2\rho_{2}r^{2} - \rho_{1})(\psi_{1}x + \psi_{2}y) + \frac{1}{4}(3\rho_{2}r^{4} - \rho_{1}r^{2} + 2W_{0})(3\rho_{2}r^{2} - \rho_{1})r^{2}.$$
(17)

2. This time the reduced equations (12)–(15) were not completely solved. The electromagnetic field listed below features a function $\beta(\phi) = \psi(\phi) - \rho_0$ which must satisfy the following ODE

$$\beta'(\phi) \left(7\beta(\phi)\beta''(\phi) + 4\beta'(\phi)^2 + 12\beta(\phi)^2 + f_1 \right) + \beta(\phi)^2 \beta'''(\phi) = 0, \quad (18)$$

where f_1 is a parameter, or equivalently its reduced form with integrating constants β_1, β_2

$$4\beta(\phi)^4\beta'(\phi)^2 + 4\beta(\phi)^6 - 4\beta_1\beta(\phi)^2 + f_1\beta(\phi)^4 = \beta_2.$$
(19)

We were not able to solve this autonomous first order differential equation in general in an explicit form. As was noted in [7], a hodograph transformation leads to $\phi(\beta)$ obtainable by a quadrature in terms of elliptic integrals. However, the subsequent inversion to find $\beta(\phi)$ is either impossible or not illuminating, therefore the authors of [7] proceed only with some special solutions. e.g. by choosing $\beta_2 = 0$, $f_1 < 0$, and $-\frac{f_1^2}{64} < \beta_1 < 0$, we obtain a well-defined solution

$$\beta(\phi) = \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{64\beta_1 + f_1^2}\sin(2(\phi - \phi_0)) - f_1}{8}}.$$
(20)

Using the ODEs above to eliminate derivatives of $\beta(\phi)$, the electromagnetic field for any solution $\beta(\phi)$ of (19) is given by

$$B^{r} = -\tau_{1} \frac{\sqrt{4\beta_{1}\beta(\phi)^{2} + \beta_{2} - 4\beta(\phi)^{6} - f_{1}\beta(\phi)^{4}}}{2r^{2}\beta(\phi)^{5}},$$

$$B^{\phi} = \frac{\tau_{1}}{r^{3}\beta(\phi)^{2}}, \qquad B^{Z} = \frac{2\beta_{1}\beta(\phi)^{2} + \beta_{2}}{4r^{2}\beta(\phi)^{5}},$$

$$W = \frac{W_{0}}{r^{2}\beta(\phi)^{2}} - \frac{(4\tau_{1}^{2} + \beta_{2})}{32r^{4}\beta(\phi)^{4}} + \hbar^{2}\frac{f_{1}\beta(\phi)^{4} - 12\beta_{1}\beta(\phi)^{2} - 5\beta_{2}}{32r^{2}\beta(\phi)^{6}}.$$
(21)

The sign of the square root depends on the branch chosen while substituting for $\beta'(\phi)$ from (19).

We note that the magnetic field is the same classically and quantum mechanically in both cases, only the scalar potential W obtains an \hbar^2 -proportional correction depending on β . This system admits $\tau_1 = 0$, which leads to its separation into free 1D motion plus 2D motion in a perpendicular magnetic field.

The lower order terms of the cylindrical integral X_1 from (9) are determined by

$$s_{1}^{r} = \frac{\sqrt{4\beta_{1}\beta(\phi)^{2} + \beta_{2} - 4\beta(\phi)^{6} - \beta(\phi)^{4}f_{1}}}{2\beta(\phi)^{2}},$$

$$s_{1}^{\phi} = -\frac{\beta(\phi)}{r}, \qquad s_{1}^{Z} = \tau_{0} + \frac{\tau_{1}}{\beta(\phi)^{2}},$$

$$m_{1} = \frac{2W_{0}}{\beta(\phi)^{2}} - \frac{4\beta(\phi)^{2}\tau_{0}\tau_{1} + 2\beta_{1}\beta(\phi)^{2} + 4\tau_{1}^{2} + \beta_{2}}{8\beta(\phi)^{4}r^{2}} + \hbar^{2}\frac{f_{1}\beta(\phi)^{4} - 12\beta_{1}\beta(\phi)^{2} - 5\beta_{2}}{16r^{2}\beta(\phi)^{6}},$$
(22)

the integral X_2 reduces to the first order one $\tilde{X}_2 = p_Z$ in a suitable gauge.

4 $\operatorname{rank}(M) = 1$

Here the general form of the fields is as follows

$$B^{x} = 0, \quad B^{y} = 0, \quad B^{z} = B^{z}(x, y),$$

$$W = W_{12}(x, y) + W_{3}(z).$$
(23)

This implies that the system again separates into the 1D motion in the *z* direction, influenced by the scalar potential $W_3(z)$ and no magnetic field ($B^x = B^y = 0$), and the motion in the *xy* direction determined by a perpendicular magnetic field $B^z(x, y)$ and a scalar potential $W_{12}(x, y)$ containing *a priori* a quantum correction.

The presence of the scalar potential $W_3(z)$, which is not constrained further, implies that the cylindrical integral,

$$X_2 = \left(p_z^A\right)^2 + 2W_3(z),$$
(24)

does not reduce to a first order one and the motion in the z direction is no longer free.

The remaining 2D motion, studied earlier in [7,8], is integrable due to the integral X_1 from (9). The relevant magnetic field $B^z(x, y)$, the 2D scalar potential $W_{12}(x, y)$ and the functions $s_1^{r,\phi,Z}, m_1$ coincide with the results of Section 3, namely case 1, see (16), and case 2 with $\tau_1 = 0$, see (21). In both cases neither of the cylindrical integrals reduces to a first order one (with potential exceptions for some special solutions of $\beta(\phi)$), therefore the results of [6, 18] imply that these systems are in general not separable.

5 Conclusions

In this article we presented the classification of quantum quadratically integrable systems of cylindrical type obtained in O. Kubů's Master thesis [16]. We proceeded by directly solving the determining equations (2). Despite our focus on the quantum case, we followed the analysis from the classical case [13] to facilitate comparison and because only the zeroth order equations contain a correction, see the reduced equation (15).

Noting that the results of case a) coincide with the classical ones known from [13], we analyze further only case b) where the quantum correction is *a priori* non-trivial. We find that in all remaining subcases the magnetic fields coincide with their classical counterparts and only the scalar potential W is modified by a \hbar^2 -proportional correction. However, even here it may vanish due to the consistency conditions on the scalar potential W, leaving us with 2 systems with a correction, namely system 2 in Section 3 and its counterpart in Section 4 (in the latter $\tau_1 = 0$ is necessary).

In all cases there is at least one free parameter, a constant or even a function. It is therefore probable that some superintegrable systems can be found by imposing further restrictions. This has been done in classical mechanics for separable systems [19] and on the intersection with other integrable systems [20], but only for first order integrals in quantum mechanics [16]. Easing these restrictions is necessary as well as going beyond integrals connected to orthogonal separation of variables as was shown in [14].

Acknowledgements

OK thanks late Pavel Winternitz, his supervisor and host during his ERASMUS+ stay at Université de Montréal, where the work on his Master thesis started.

Funding information The research in OK's Master thesis, on which the article is based, was supported by the Czech Science Foundation (Grant Agency of the Czech Republic), project 17-11805S, and Grant Agency of the Czech Technical University in Prague, grant No. SGS19/183/OHK4/3T/14. OK's presentation at Group 34 conference and recent research is supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Technical University in Prague, grant No. SGS22/178/OHK4/3T/14.

References

- [1] P. Winternitz, J. A. Smorodinsky, M. Uhlíř and I. Friš, *Symmetry groups in classical and quantum mechanics*, Soviet J. Nucl. Phys. **4**, 444 (1967).
- [2] A. A. Makarov, J. A. Smorodinsky, K. Valiev and P. Winternitz, A systematic search for nonrelativistic systems with dynamical symmetries, Nuovo Cimento A 52, 1061 (1967), doi:10.1007/BF02755212.
- [3] J. Friš, V. Mandrosov, Y. A. Smorodinsky, M. Uhlíř and P. Winternitz, *On higher symmetries in quantum mechanics*, Phys. Lett. **16**, 354 (1965), doi:10.1016/0031-9163(65)90885-1.
- [4] L. P. Eisenhart, Separable systems of stackel, Ann. Math. 35, 284 (1934), doi:10.2307/1968433.
- [5] A. M. Escobar-Ruiz, J. C. López Vieyra and P. Winternitz, Fourth order superintegrable systems separating in polar coordinates. I. Exotic potentials, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 50, 495206 (2017), doi:10.1088/1751-8121/aa9203.
- [6] V. N. Shapovalov, V. G. Bagrov and A. G. Meshkov, *Separation of variables in the stationary Schroedinger equation*, Sov. Phys. J. **15**, 1115 (1972), doi:10.1007/bf00910289.
- [7] J. Bérubé and P. Winternitz, *Integrable and superintegrable quantum systems in a magnetic field*, J. Math. Phys. **45**, 1959 (2004), doi:10.1063/1.1695447.
- [8] E. McSween and P. Winternitz, *Integrable and superintegrable Hamiltonian systems in magnetic fields*, J. Math. Phys. **41**, 2957 (2000), doi:10.1063/1.533283.
- [9] A. Marchesiello, L. Šnobl and P. Winternitz, Three-dimensional superintegrable systems in a static electromagnetic field, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 48, 395206 (2015), doi:10.1088/1751-8113/48/39/395206.
- [10] A. Zhalij, Quantum integrable systems in three-dimensional magnetic fields: The Cartesian case, J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 621, 012019 (2015), doi:10.1088/1742-6596/621/1/012019.
- [11] A. Marchesiello and L. Šnobl, An infinite family of maximally superintegrable systems in a magnetic field with higher order integrals, Symmetry Integr. Geom.: Methods Appl. 14, 092 (2018), doi:10.3842/SIGMA.2018.092.
- [12] S. Bertrand and L. Šnobl, On rotationally invariant integrable and superintegrable classical systems in magnetic fields with non-subgroup type integrals, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 52, 195201 (2019), doi:10.1088/1751-8121/ab14c2.
- [13] F. Fournier, L. Šnobl and P. Winternitz, Cylindrical type integrable classical systems in a magnetic field, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 53, 085203 (2020), doi:10.1088/1751-8121/ab64a6.

- [14] A. Marchesiello and L. Šnobl, Pairs of commuting quadratic elements in the universal enveloping algebra of Euclidean algebra and integrals of motion, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 55, 145203 (2022), doi:10.1088/1751-8121/ac515e.
- [15] O. Kubů, A. Marchesiello and L. Šnobl, New classes of quadratically integrable systems in magnetic fields: The generalized cylindrical and spherical cases Ann. Phys. 451, 169264 (2022), doi:10.1016/j.aop.2023.169264.
- [16] O. Kubů, Integrable and superintegrable systems of cylindrical type in magnetic fields, MSc thesis, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic, (arXiv preprint) doi:10.48550/arXiv.2210.02393.
- [17] A. Marchesiello, L. Šnobl and P. Winternitz, Spherical type integrable classical systems in a magnetic field, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 51, 135205 (2018), doi:10.1088/1751-8121/aaae9b.
- [18] S. Benenti, C. Chanu and G. Rastelli, Variable separation for natural Hamiltonians with scalar and vector potentials on Riemannian manifolds, J. Math. Phys. 42, 2065 (2001), doi:10.1063/1.1340868.
- [19] O. Kubů, A. Marchesiello and L. Šnobl, Superintegrability of separable systems with magnetic field: The cylindrical case, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 54, 425204 (2021), doi:10.1088/1751-8121/ac2476.
- [20] S. Bertrand, O. Kubů and L. Šnobl, On superintegrability of 3D axially-symmetric nonsubgroup-type systems with magnetic fields, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 54, 015201 (2020), doi:10.1088/1751-8121/abc4b8.