



# 993SM - Laboratory of Computational Physics II week October 4, 2024

**Maria Peressi**

Università degli Studi di Trieste - Dipartimento di Fisica  
Sede di Miramare (Strada Costiera 11, Trieste)

e-mail: [peressi@units.it](mailto:peressi@units.it)

tel.: +39 040 2240242

# more on the Numerov's algorithm

- deeper analysis of the Numerov's algorithm
- numerical analysis: search for zeros

# 1D Schroedinger equation and the Numerov's method

The Schroedinger eq.:

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + V(x)\psi(x) = E\psi(x),$$

unknown      unknown  
↓      ↙

has the form:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -g(x)y(x) + s(x)$$

with:

$$g(x) = (2m/\hbar^2)[E - V(x)] \text{ and } s(x) = 0.$$

# 1D Schroedinger equation for harmonic oscillator and the Numerov's method

Since  $s(x) = 0$ , the Numerov's formula reduces to :

$$y_{n+1} \left[ 1 + g_{n+1} \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{12} \right] = 2y_n \left[ 1 - 5g_n \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{12} \right] - y_{n-1} \left[ 1 + g_{n-1} \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{12} \right] + O[(\Delta x)^6]$$

Defining:  $f_n \equiv 1 + g_n \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{12}$  with  $g(x) = 2 \left( \epsilon - \frac{x^2}{2} \right)$

we rewrite Numerov's formula as

$$y_{n+1} = \frac{(12 - 10f_n)y_n - f_{n-1}y_{n-1}}{f_{n+1}}$$

contain  $\epsilon$

# inside the Numerov's method

Find a solution  $\psi$  with a **given number  $n$**  of nodes and energy  $E_n$

Possibility 1): we fix  $E_n$

Possibility 2): we do not know  $E_n$ , but we start from an initial energy guess  $E$ ; the guess is on an energy interval  $[E_{low}, E_{up}]$  that we know for sure to contain  $E_n$

For each value of  $E$ : start integrating  $\psi$  from  $x=0$  towards positive values of  $x$  (forward)

During integration, count for the number  $n_{cross}$  of changes of sign of  $\psi$ :

if  $n_{cross} > n \Rightarrow E$  is too high  $\Rightarrow$  choose  $[E_{low}, E]$

if  $n_{cross} < n \Rightarrow E$  is too low  $\Rightarrow$  choose  $[E, E_{up}]$

# inside the Numerov's method

Find a solution  $\psi$  with a **given number  $n$**  of nodes and energy  $E_n$

**Possibility 1): we fix  $E_n$**

Possibility 2): we do not know  $E_n$ , but we start from an initial energy guess  $E$ ; the guess is on an energy interval  $[E_{low}, E_{up}]$  that we know for sure to contain  $E_n$

For each value of  $E$ : start integrating  $\psi$  from  $x=0$  towards positive values of  $x$  (forward)

**During integration, count for the number  $n_{cross}$  of changes of sign of  $\psi$ :**

if  $n_{cross} > n \Rightarrow E$  is too high  $\Rightarrow$  choose  $[E_{low}, E]$

if  $n_{cross} < n \Rightarrow E$  is too low  $\Rightarrow$  choose  $[E, E_{up}]$

```
search_loop: do
```

```
!
! set initial lower and upper bounds to the eigenvalue
!
eup=maxval (vpot(:)) ! initially = vpot(xmax)
elw=minval (vpot(:)) ! initially = vpot(0)
!
! Set trial energy
```

Possibility 1): fix E

```
write(*, "('Trial energy (0=search with bisection) > ')", advance='no')
read (*,*) e
```

```
if ( e == 0.0_dp ) then
! search eigenvalues with bisection (max 1000 iterations)
e = 0.5_dp * (elw + eup)
n_iter = 1000
else
! test a single energy value (no bisection)
n_iter = 1
endif
```

```
iterate: do k = 1, n_iter
```

Iterate (k=1 only!) to integrate y

```
!
! outward integration and count number of crossings
!
ncross=0 ! iterate Numerov's algorithm all over the mesh
do i =1, mesh-1
y(i+1)=((12.0_dp-10.0_dp*f(i))*y(i)-f(i-1)*y(i-1))/f(i+1)
if ( y(i) /= sign(y(i),y(i+1)) ) ncross=ncross+1
end do
!
print *, k, e, ncross, hnodes
```

half nodes (only for x>0)

```
end do iterate
```

```
end do search_loop
```

0. **(ADD!)** Calculate and plot eigenfunctions for various values of “**nodes**” (number of **nodes** of the eigenfunction), from nodes=0, 1, 2,... **Input also the precise energy value, which is (nodes+1/2).**

It may be useful to plot, together with eigenfunctions or eigenfunctions squared, the classical probability density, contained in the fourth column of the output file. It will clearly show the classical inversion points. See `harmonic0.gpl` on Moodle as an example of a macro for `gnuplot`.

*I/O on the screen:*

```
Max value for x (typical value: 10) > 5
Number of grid points (typically a few hundreds) > 500
output file name > dat
nodes (type -1 to stop) > 1
Trial energy (0=search with bisection) > 1.5
      1      1.500000000000000000      0      0
```

*the last line comes from this command in the code:*

```
print *, k, e, ncross, hnodes
```

number of  
iterations

energy

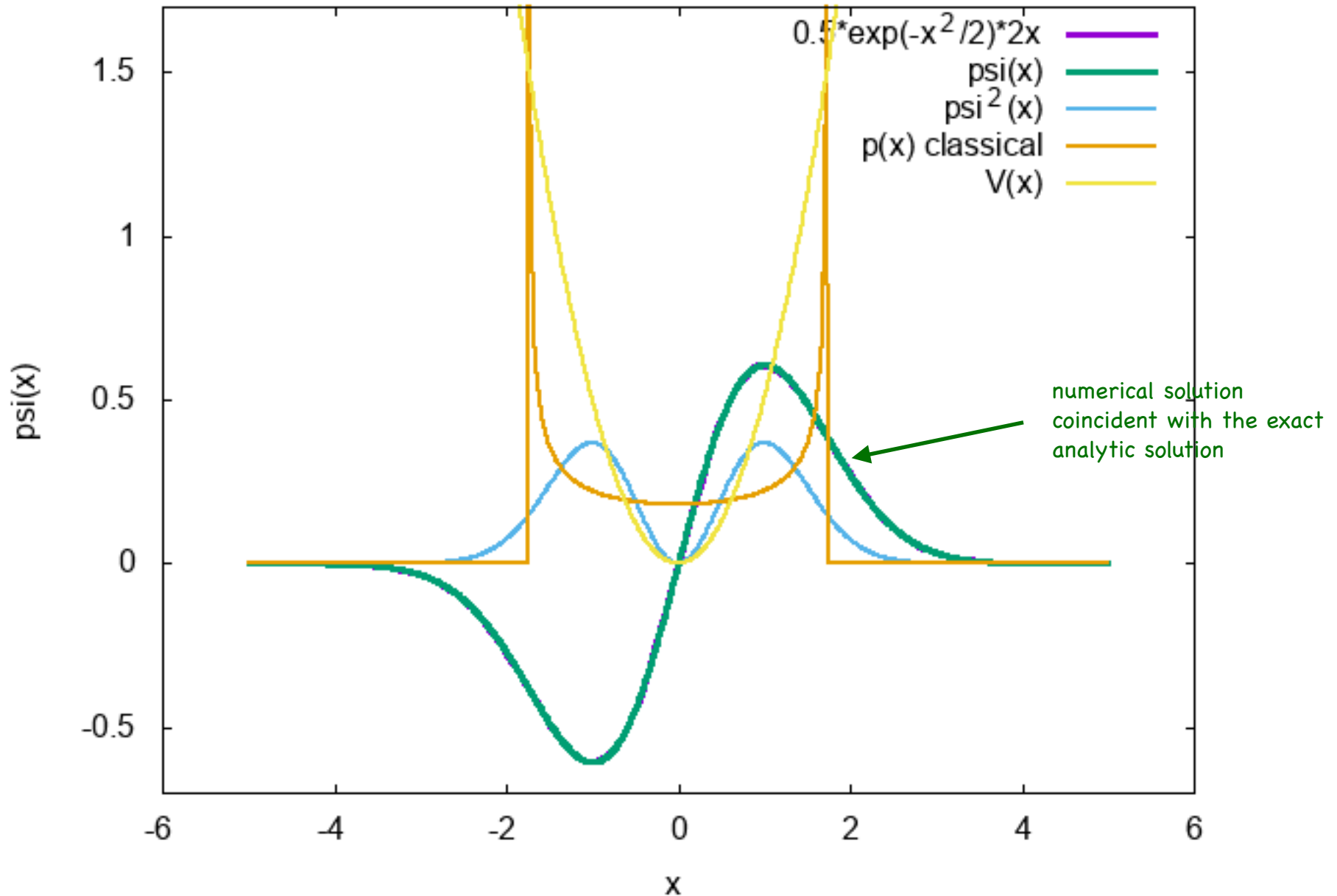
number of nodes for x>0  
numerically found

number of nodes for x>0  
expected:  
 $hnodes = nodes/2$   
(within the integers!)

*are equal, ok!*



# Solution for $n=1$ and energy exact (1.5)



# inside the Numerov's method

Find a solution  $\psi$  with a **given number  $n$**  of nodes and energy  $E_n$

Possibility 1): we fix  $E_n$

Possibility 2): we do not know  $E_n$ , but we start from an initial energy guess  $E$ ; the guess is on an energy interval  $[E_{low}, E_{up}]$  that we know for sure to contain  $E_n$

For each value of  $E$ : start integrating  $\psi$  from  $x=0$  towards positive values of  $x$  (forward)

During integration, count for the number  $n_{cross}$  of changes of sign of  $\psi$ :  
if  $n_{cross} > n \Rightarrow E$  is too high  $\Rightarrow$  choose  $[E_{low}, E]$   
if  $n_{cross} < n \Rightarrow E$  is too low  $\Rightarrow$  choose  $[E, E_{up}]$

We expect a set of orthogonal eigenvectors with increasing number of zeros for increasing energy eigenvalue; more precisely, equal to the energy quantum number  $n$ , because the number of zeros is equal to the degree of the polynomial

```
search_loop: do
```

```
!
! set initial lower and upper bounds to the eigenvalue
!
eup=maxval (vpot(:)) ! initially = vpot(xmax)
elw=minval (vpot(:)) ! initially = vpot(0)
!
! Set trial energy
!
write(*, "('Trial energy (0=search with bisection) > ')", advance='no')
read (*,*) e
if ( e == 0.0_dp ) then
! search eigenvalues with bisection (max 1000 iterations)
e = 0.5_dp * (elw + eup)
n_iter = 1000
else
! test a single energy value (no bisection)
n_iter = 1
endif
```

Possibility 2): iterate on E

```
iterate: do k = 1, n_iter
```

Iterate to integrate y

```
...
if (ncross > hnodes) then
! Too many crossings: current energy is too high
! lower the upper bound
eup = e
else
! Too few (or correct) number of crossings:
! current energy is too low, raise the lower bound
elw = e
end if
! New trial value:
c = 0.5_dp * (eup+elw)
! Convergence criterion:
if (eup-elw < 1.d-10) exit iterate
!..
```

iterate on energy

```
end do iterate
```

```
end do search_loop
```

1. Calculate and plot eigenfunctions for various values of  $n$  (number of nodes of the eigenfunction), from  $n=0, 1, 2, \dots$ . Let the code find the correct energy value (choosing "0" when the code asks for an energy value). It may be useful to plot, together with eigenfunctions or eigenfunctions squared, the classical probability density, contained in the fourth column of the output file. It will clearly show the classical inversion points. See `harmonic0.gpl` on Moodle as an example of a macro for `gnuplot`.

*I/O on the screen:*

```

Max value for x (typical value: 10) > 5
Number of grid points (typically a few hundreds) > 500
output file name > dat
nodes (type -1 to stop) > 1
Trial energy (0=search with bisection) > 0

```

		ncross	hnodes
1	6.2500000000000000	3	0
2	3.1250000000000000	1	0
3	1.5625000000000000	1	0
4	0.7812500000000000	0	0
5	1.1718750000000000	0	0
6	1.3671875000000000	0	0
...			
34	1.5000000035797711	1	0
35	1.5000000032159733	0	0
36	1.5000000033978722	1	0
37	1.5000000033069227	0	0

← *ncross=hnodes is ok, but the stop criterion is a tolerance on the energy (now the uncertainty is  $\sim 0.4$ )*

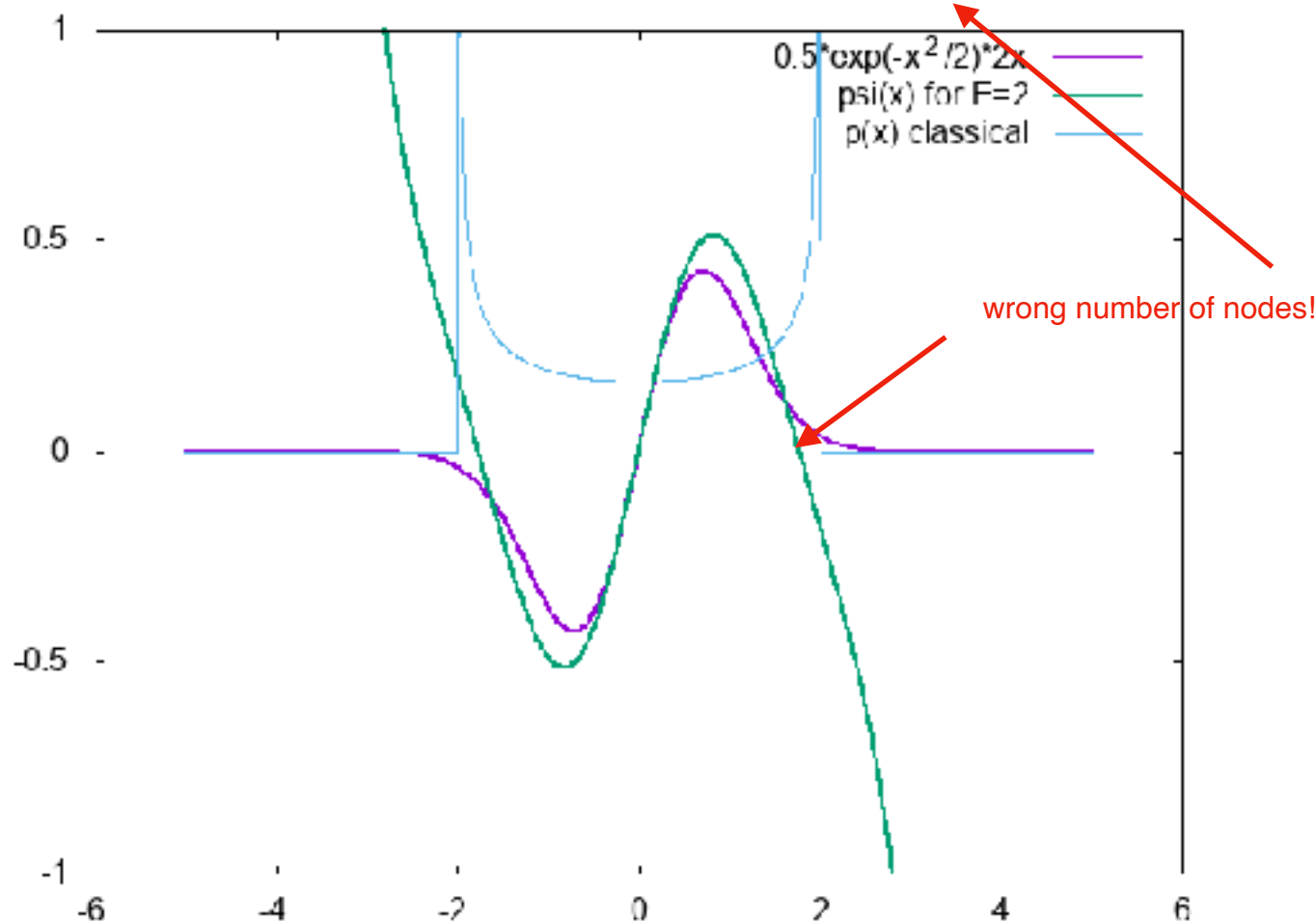
*uncertainty < tolerance =  $10^{-10}$*

*The results*

2. Specify an energy value not corresponding to an eigenvalue. Look at the resulting wavefunctions.

*I/O on the screen:*

```
Max value for x (typical value: 10) > 5
Number of grid points (typically a few hundreds) > 500
output file name > Ewrong
nodes (type -1 to stop) > 1
Trial energy (0=search with bisection) > 2
1 2.0000000000000000 1 0
```

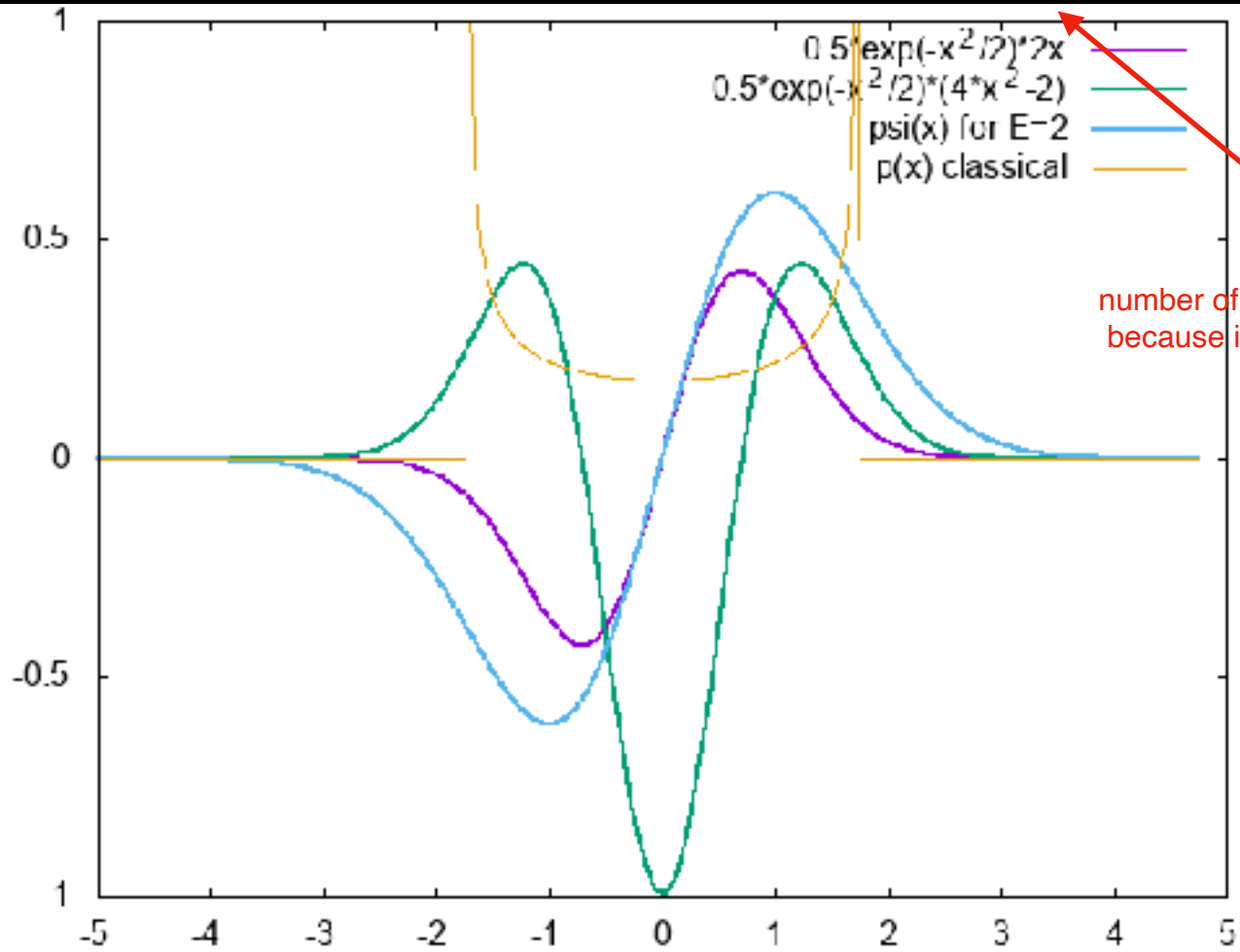


2. Specify an energy value not corresponding to an eigenvalue. Look at the resulting wavefunctions.

*I/O on the screen:*

```
Max value for x (typical value: 10) > 5
Number of grid points (typically a few hundreds) > 500
output file name > Ewrong
nodes (type -1 to stop) > 2
Trial energy (0=search with bisection) > 2
1 2.0000000000000000 1 1
```

$1.5 < 2 < 2.5$

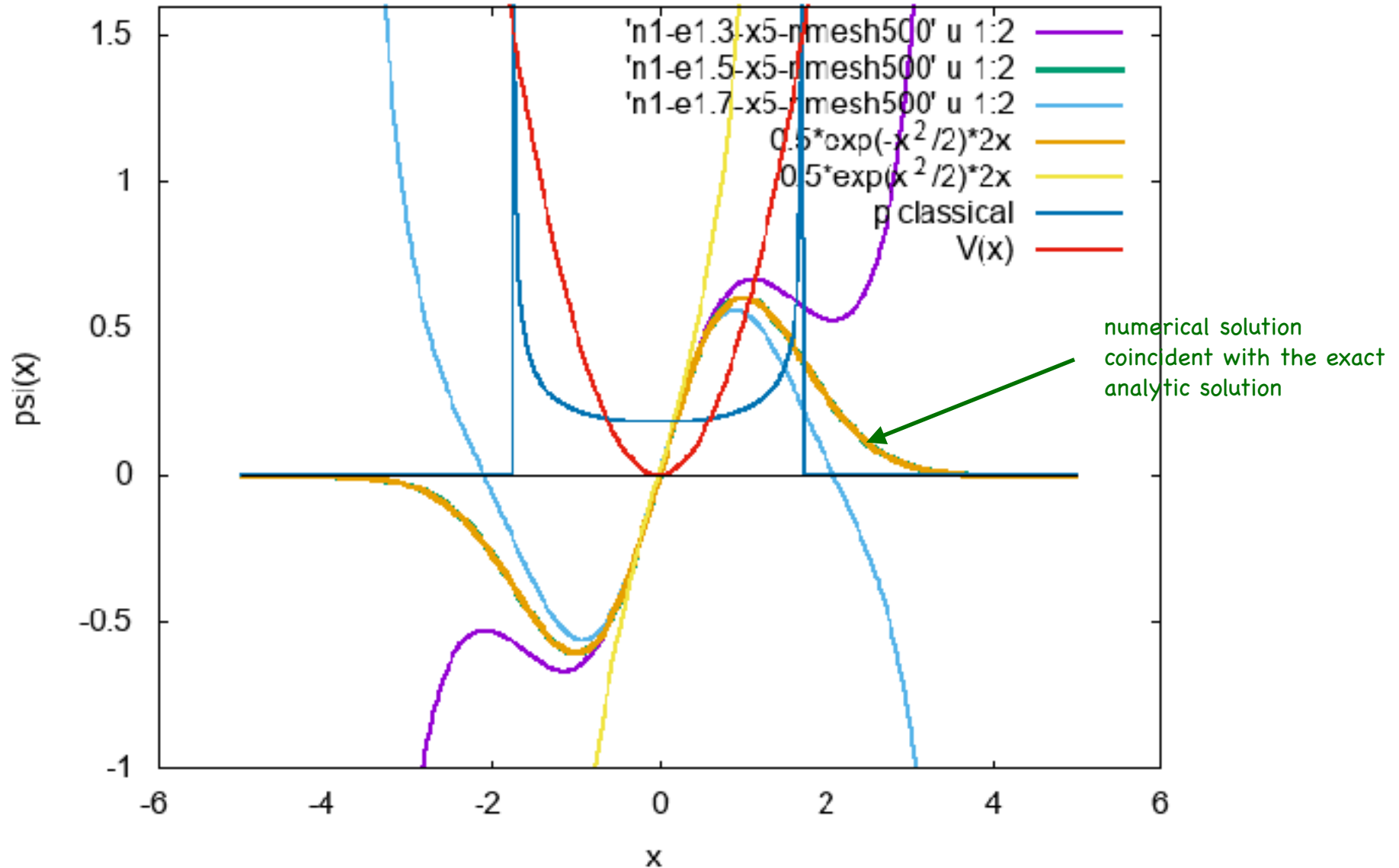


number of nodes apparently correct because it disregards the central one!

???  
solution  
apparently  
reasonable?  
but closer to  $H_1$   
rather than  $H_2$

3. Specify an energy value close to but not exactly corresponding to an eigenvalue. Look at the resulting wavefunctions.

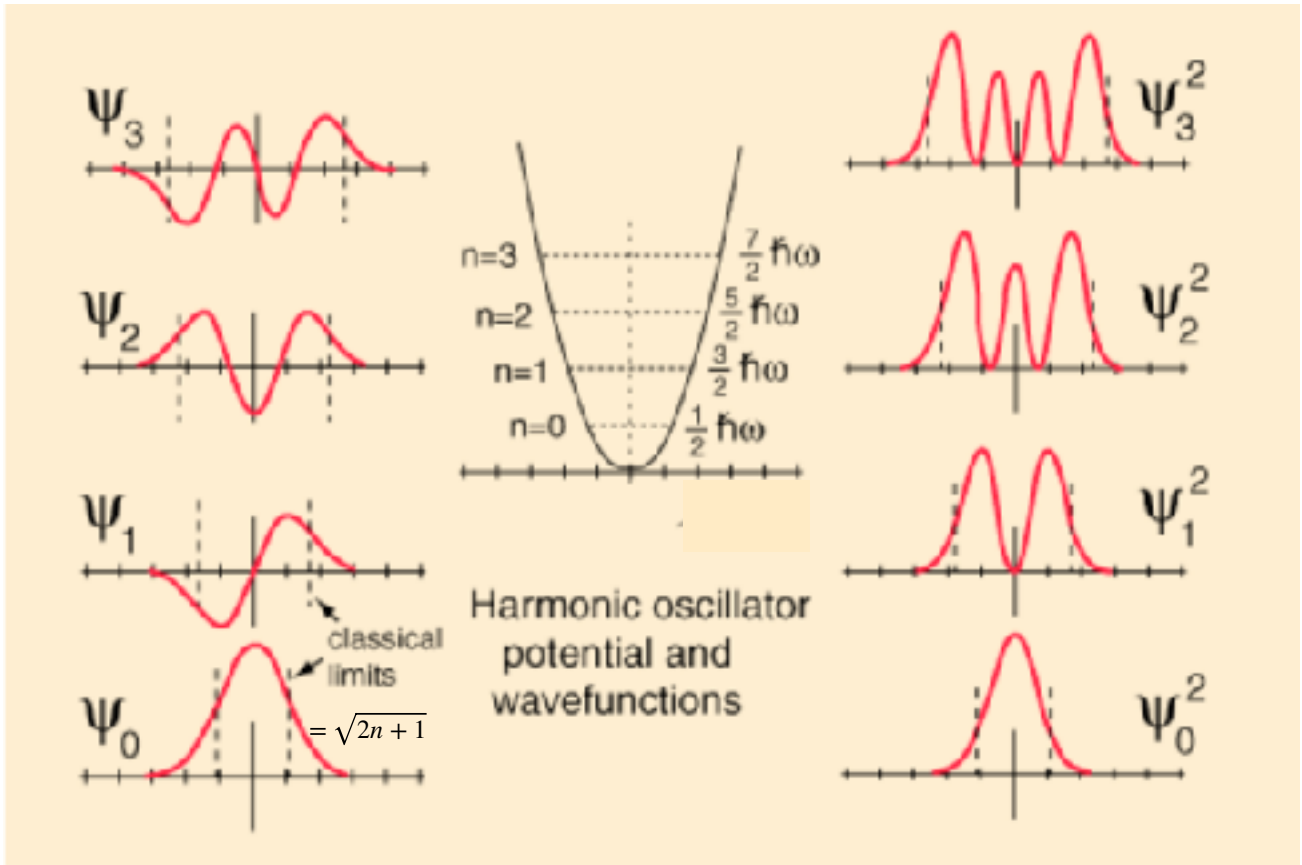
```
Max value for x (typical value: 10) > 5  
Number of grid points (typically a few hundreds) > 500  
output file name > dat  
nodes (type -1 to stop) > 1  
Trial energy (0=search with bisection) > 1.3  
1 1.3000000000000000 0 0
```



4. Examine the effects of the parameters  $x_{max}$ ,  $mesh$ . For a given  $\Delta x$ , how large can be the number of nodes?

Hint: the nodes are internal to the classical limit range  $\Rightarrow$

$$\sqrt{2n + 1} < x_{mesh} \implies n_{max} < (x_{mesh}^2 - 1)/2$$





# inside the Numerov's method

Used to count the number of nodes while “building” the wavefunction:

```
if ( y(i) /= sign(y(i), y(i+1)) ) ncross=ncross+1  
(ncross means crossing with the x axis, i.e., zeros)
```

Used to count the number of change of sign of 1-f, determining the classical inversion point

```
f(i)=ddx12*(2.0_dp*(vpot(i)-e))  
if ( f(i) /= sign(f(i), f(i-1)) ) icl=i
```

**possibility 2):  
guess on the energy,  
then refine  
(iterating, "shooting" method)**

# inside the Numerov's method: (rectangular) numerical integration

```
norm = 0.0_dp
p(icl:) = 0.0_dp
do i=0,icl
  arg = (e - x(i)**2/2.0_dp)
  if ( arg > 0.0_dp) then
    p(i) = 1.0_dp/sqrt(arg)
  else
    p(i) = 0.0_dp
  end if
  norm = norm + 2.0_dp*dx*p(i)
enddo
```

! p allocated from 0:nmesh;  
! here p(i)=0 for i>icl, i.e. outside the classical inversion point

! the point x(i) is smaller than the max elongation, dictated by e  
! therefore,  $1/\sqrt{e-x(i)**2/2} = 1/\sqrt{x_{max}**2-x(i)**2}$

! the simplest integration (rectangular method)

## Polinomi ortogonali classici rispetto al peso $w$ nell'intervallo $I$ :

$$\int_I w(x)P_n(x)P_m(x) \propto \delta_{n,m}$$

Nome dei polinomi $P(x)$	$I$	$w(x)$
Legendre	$(-1, 1)$	1
Chebyshev di 1 <sup>a</sup> specie	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x^2)^{-1/2}$
Chebyshev di 2 <sup>a</sup> specie	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x^2)^{1/2}$
Legendre associati	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x^2)^m$ per $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$
Jacobi	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x)^\alpha(1 + x)^\beta$ con $\alpha, \beta > -1$
Gegenbauer o ultrasferici	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x^2)^\lambda$ con $\lambda > -1$
Laguerre	$(0, \infty)$	$x^\alpha e^{-x}$ per $\alpha > -1$
Hermite	$(-\infty, \infty)$	$e^{-x^2}$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx e^{-x^2} H_n(x)H_m(x) = \sqrt{\pi}2^n n! \delta_{n,m}$$

$$H_0 = 1$$

$$H_1 = 2x$$

$$H_2 = 4x^2 - 2$$

$$H_3 = 8x^3 - 12x$$

$$H_4 = 16x^4 - 48x^2 + 12$$

# Polinomi ortogonali classici rispetto al peso $w$ nell'intervallo $I$ :

$$\int_I w(x)P_n(x)P_m(x) \propto \delta_{n,m}$$

Nome dei polinomi $P(x)$	$I$	$w(x)$
Legendre	$(-1, 1)$	1
Chebyshev di 1 <sup>a</sup> specie	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x^2)^{-1/2}$
Chebyshev di 2 <sup>a</sup> specie	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x^2)^{1/2}$
Legendre associati	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x^2)^m$ per $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$
Jacobi	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x)^\alpha(1 + x)^\beta$ con $\alpha, \beta > -1$
Gegenbauer o ultrasferici	$(-1, 1)$	$(1 - x^2)^\lambda$ con $\lambda > -1$
Laguerre	$(0, \infty)$	$x^\alpha e^{-x}$ per $\alpha > -1$
<b>Hermite</b>	$(-\infty, \infty)$	$e^{-x^2}$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx e^{-x^2} H_n(x)H_m(x) = \sqrt{\pi}2^n n! \delta_{n,m}$$

$$H_0 = 1$$

$$H_1 = 2x$$

$$H_2 = 4x^2 - 2$$

$$H_3 = 8x^3 - 12x$$

$$H_4 = 16x^4 - 48x^2 + 12$$

# Part II: search for zeros

# searching for zeros of a function

## $x_0=?$ bisection method

1. determine an interval  $[x_L, x_U]$  at whose extremes the function  $y(x)$  has discordant signs (to be sure that it contains  $x_0$ )
2. calculate the midpoint of the interval  $[x_L, x_U]$ :  $x_M = (x_L + x_U)/2$  and evaluate  $y(x_M)$ ;
3. If  $y(x_M)=0$  then  $x_M = x_0$  and the search ends.
4. Otherwise, take as the new interval the one at whose extremities the function has discordant signs (depending on the case it will be necessary to redefine  $x_L=x_M$  or  $x_U=x_M$ ): it contains  $x_0$
5. iterate points 2 - 4 until:
  - a) the uncertainty on the location of  $x_0$  decreases below a pre-established absolute threshold ( $|x_U - x_L| < \varepsilon$ ), or a relative threshold ( $|x_U - x_L| < \varepsilon |x_L|$  or  $< \varepsilon |x_U|$ , where  $x_0$  is approximated by  $x_L$  or  $x_U$ ); or
  - b)  $|y(x_M)| < \varepsilon'$ ; or
  - c) a maximum number of iterations is exceeded.

# searching for zeros of a function

## $x_0=?$ bisection method

- I. determine an interval  $[x_L, x_U]$  at whose extremes the function  $y(x)$  has discordant signs (to be sure that it contains  $x_0$ )

Implementation:

$$y(x_L) * y(x_U) < 0$$

$$y(x_L) /= \text{sign}(y(x_L), y(x_U)) \text{ or } y(x_U) /= \text{sign}(y(x_U), y(x_L))$$



# searching for zeros of a function

## $x_0=?$ bisection method

4. take as the new interval the one at whose extremities the function has discordant signs (depending on the case it will be necessary to redefine  $x_L=x_M$  or  $x_U=x_M$ ): it contains  $x_0$

Implementation:

```
if (y(xL)*y(xM) < 0) then
    xU = xM
else if (y(xU)*y(xM) < 0) then
    xL = xM
end if
```

# searching for zeros of a function

## $x_0=?$ bisection method

5. iterate points 2 - 4 until:
  - a) the uncertainty on the location of  $x_0$  decreases below a pre-established an absolute threshold ( $|x_U - x_L| < \varepsilon$ ), or a relative threshold ( $|x_U - x_L| < \varepsilon |x_L|$  or  $< \varepsilon |x_U|$ , where  $x_0$  is approximated by  $x_L$  or  $x_U$ )

Implementation - which is the best criterion?

- use an absolute threshold: possible problems (for roundoff errors) if  $x_0$  is large
- use a relative threshold: possible problems if  $x_0$  is small
- other possible problems if  $y(x)$  is too flat close to  $x_0$

## Exercise:

**implement this algorithm**  
if you never did,  
or if you have forgotten...