

# Functional determinants and Casimir energies in higher dimensional spherically symmetric background potentials

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Benasque, Sept. 8, 2016

M. Beauregard, M. Bordag and K. Kirsten, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. **48** (2015) 095401

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Basic ideas: Exterior of a sphere
- 3 Spherically symmetric background potentials: Jost functions
- 4 Reformulation using phase shifts
- 5 Examples for several background potentials
- 6 Conclusions

# Introduction

## What are spectral functions?

Eigenvalue problem for a suitable differential operator  $P$ :

$$Pu_\ell(x) = \lambda_\ell u_\ell(x), \quad 0 < \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \dots, \quad \lambda_\ell \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{as} \quad \ell \rightarrow \infty.$$

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- Zeta function:

$$\zeta_P(s) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \lambda_{\ell}^{-s}, \quad \Re s > \frac{D}{2}$$

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- Functional determinant:

$$\ln \det P = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \ln \lambda_{\ell} = - \frac{d}{ds} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \lambda_{\ell}^{-s} \Big|_{s=0} = -\zeta'_P(0)$$

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$$E_P = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \lambda_{\ell}^{1/2} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \zeta_P \left( s = -\frac{1}{2} \right)$$

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- Spherical coordinates:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_{n\ell m}(\vec{x}) &= \frac{1}{r} \psi_{n\ell}(r) Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \varphi), \\ 0 &= \left[ \frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{r^2} + \lambda_{n\ell}^2 \right] \psi_{n\ell}(r).\end{aligned}$$

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- Solutions typically written as ( $\nu = \ell + \frac{1}{2}$ ):

$$\psi_{n\ell}(r) = a_1 \sqrt{r} J_\nu(\lambda_{n\ell} r) + a_2 \sqrt{r} N_\nu(\lambda_{n\ell} r).$$

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$$F_\nu(\lambda_{n\ell}) \equiv H_\nu^{(1)}(\lambda_{n\ell} a) H_\nu^{(2)}(\lambda_{n\ell} R) - H_\nu^{(1)}(\lambda_{n\ell} R) H_\nu^{(2)}(\lambda_{n\ell} a) = 0.$$

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- Zeta function representation:

$$\zeta_{ext}^{(\ell)}(s) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int\limits_{\gamma} dp (p^2 + m^2)^{-s} \frac{d}{dp} \ln F_\nu(p).$$

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$$\zeta_{rel}^{(\ell)}(s) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} dp (p^2 + m^2)^{-s} \frac{d}{dp} \ln \frac{H_\nu^{(1)}(pa) H_\nu^{(2)}(pR) - H_\nu^{(1)}(pR) H_\nu^{(2)}(pa)}{H_\nu^{(1)}(pa) - H_\nu^{(2)}(pa)}.$$

## Basic ideas: Exterior of a sphere

- Full exterior sphere contribution ( $a \rightarrow \infty$ ):

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta_{rel}^{(\ell)}(s) &= \frac{\sin \pi s}{\pi} \int\limits_m^{\infty} dk (k^2 - m^2)^{-s} \frac{d}{dk} \ln H_{\nu}^{(1)}(ikR) \\ &= \frac{\sin \pi s}{\pi} \int\limits_m^{\infty} dk (k^2 - m^2)^{-s} \frac{d}{dk} \ln K_{\nu}(kR).\end{aligned}$$

# Background potentials

- Eigenvalue equation with background potentials:

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- Eigenfunctions used in scattering theory:

$$\phi_{\ell,p}(r) \sim \hat{j}_\ell(pr) = \frac{i}{2} \left[ \hat{h}_\ell^-(pr) - \hat{h}_\ell^+(pr) \right] \quad \text{as } r \rightarrow 0$$

$$\phi_{\ell,p}(r) \sim \frac{i}{2} \left[ f_\ell(p) \hat{h}_\ell^-(pr) - f_\ell^*(p) \hat{h}_\ell^+(pr) \right] \quad \text{as } r \rightarrow \infty$$

with the **Jost function**  $f_\ell(p)$ .

## Background potentials

- Impose boundary conditions at  $r = a$  (a sphere containing the compact support of  $V(r)$ ):

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- Summation  $\sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (2\ell + 1)$  and integration cannot be interchanged:

$$\ln f_\ell^{asym}(ik) \sim \frac{1}{2\nu} \int\limits_0^\infty dr \frac{r V(r)}{\left(1 + \left(\frac{kr}{\nu}\right)^2\right)^{1/2}} + \dots$$

# Phase shifts

- Eigenfunctions using phase shift  $\delta_\ell(p)$ :

$$\psi_{\ell,p}(r) \sim c_\ell \sin \left( pr - \frac{\pi\ell}{2} + \delta_\ell(p) \right) \quad \text{as } r \rightarrow \infty.$$

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- Compare with Jost function representation:

$$c_\ell \sin \left( pr - \frac{\pi\ell}{2} + \delta_\ell(p) \right) \sim \frac{i}{2} \left[ f_\ell(p) \hat{h}_\ell^-(pr) - f_\ell^* \hat{h}_\ell^+(pr) \right]$$

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- This shows the relation:

$$f_\ell(p) = |f_\ell(p)| e^{-i\delta_\ell(p)}.$$

# Phase shifts

- Dispersion relation (in absence of bound states):

$$f_\ell(ik) = \exp \left\{ -\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{q}{q^2 + k^2} \delta_\ell(q) dq \right\}.$$

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- Interchanging summation and integration now?

$$\delta_\ell(q) \sim \frac{m\ell V\left(\frac{\ell}{q}\right)}{q^2}, \quad \text{so yes for } V(r) \sim \frac{1}{r^{3+\epsilon}}.$$

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$$\delta(q) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (2\ell+1) \delta_{\ell}(q),$$

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- The pole structure of the zeta function shows for  $q \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\delta(q) \sim \pi \left( \frac{4q^3}{3\sqrt{\pi}} a_0 + q^2 a_{1/2} + \frac{2q}{\sqrt{\pi}} a_1 + a_{3/2} + \frac{1}{q\sqrt{\pi}} a_2 + \dots \right).$$

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- Phase shift asymptotics equals terms to be subtracted, so:

$$E_{Cas}^{(ren)} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty dq \frac{q}{\sqrt{q^2 + m^2}} \delta_{subtr}(q),$$

$$\delta_{subtr}(q) = \delta(q) - \frac{4\sqrt{\pi}}{3} a_0 q^3 - \pi a_{1/2} q^2 - 2\sqrt{\pi} a_1 q - \pi a_{3/2} - \sqrt{\pi} a_2 \frac{1}{q}.$$

## Examples

- Phase shift determined from the Jost function:

$$\frac{f_\ell(p)}{f_\ell^*(p)} = e^{-2i\delta_\ell(p)} \implies \delta_\ell(p) = -\arctan \frac{\Im f_\ell(p)}{\Re f_\ell(p)}.$$

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- Jost function determined as follows:  $V(r) = 0$  for  $r \geq R$

$$\psi_{\ell,p}(r) = u_{\ell,p}(r)\Theta(R-r) + \frac{i}{2} \left[ f_\ell(p)\hat{h}_\ell^-(pr) - f_\ell^*(p)\hat{h}_\ell^+(pr) \right] \Theta(r-R).$$

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- Continuity of  $\psi_{\ell,p}$  and its derivative:

$$f_\ell(p) = -\frac{1}{p} \left( p u_{\ell,p}(R) \left( \hat{h}_\ell^+ \right)'(pR) - u'_{\ell,p}(R) \hat{h}_\ell^+(pR) \right).$$

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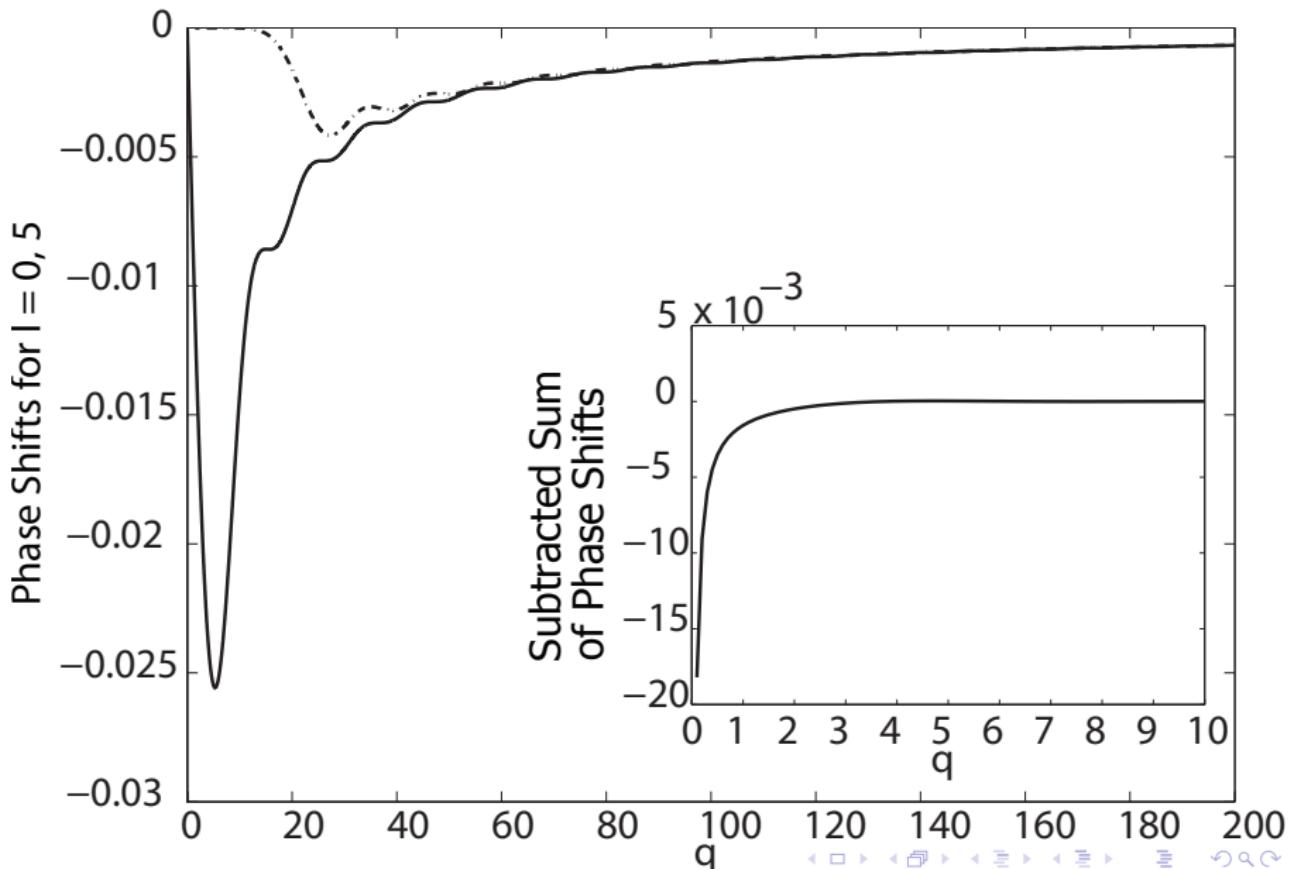
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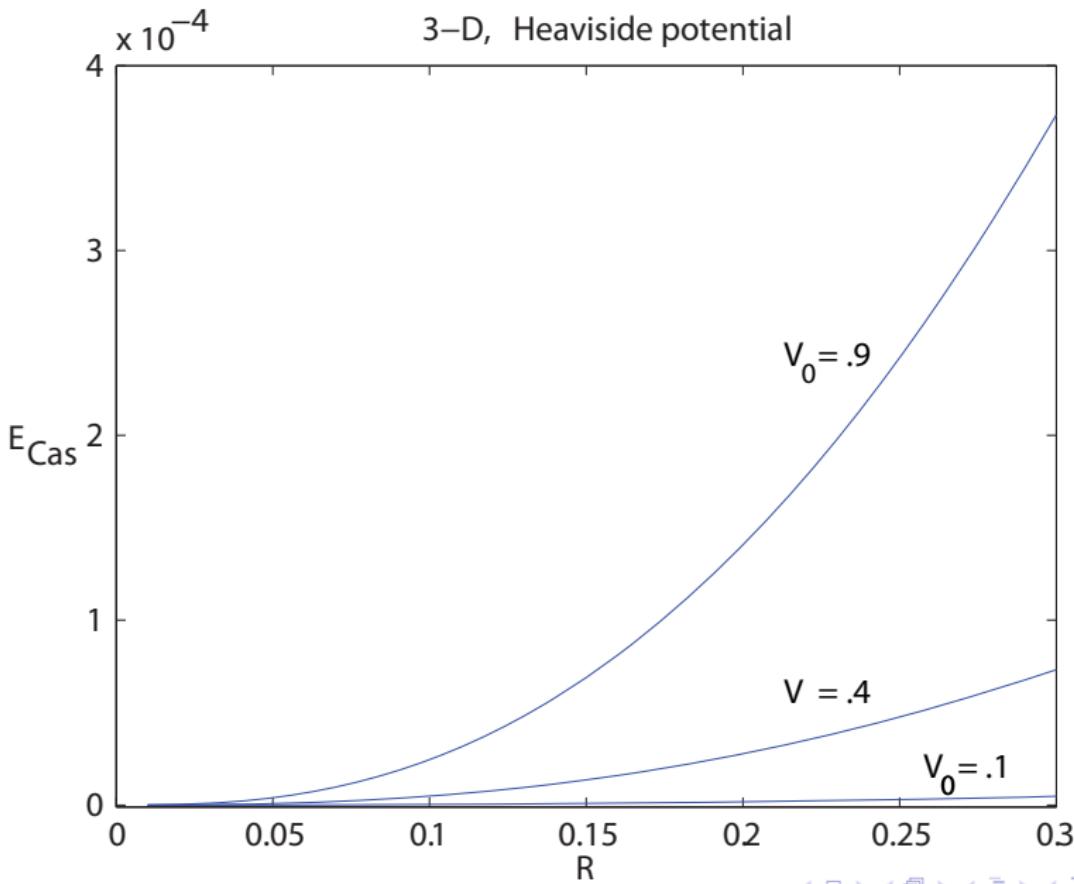
- Subtracted terms:

$$a_0 = a_{1/2} = a_{3/2} = 0, \quad a_1 = -\frac{R^3 V_0}{6\sqrt{\pi}}, \quad a_2 = \frac{R^3 V_0^2}{12\sqrt{\pi}}.$$

- $V_0 = 0.9, R = 1:$



- $m = 1$ :



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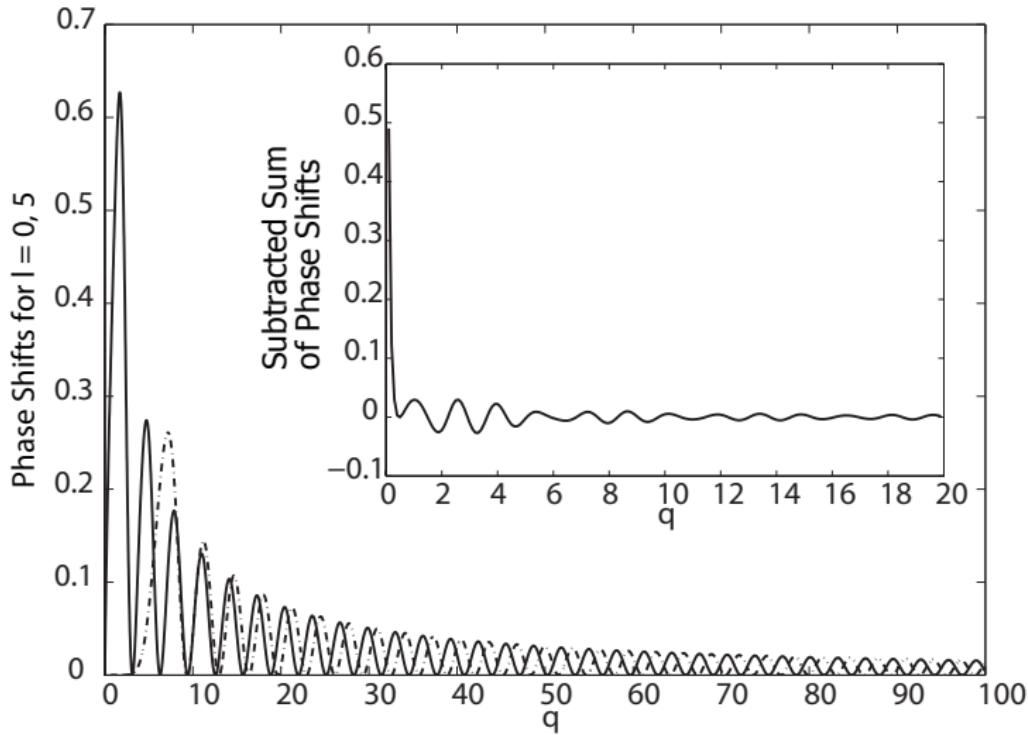
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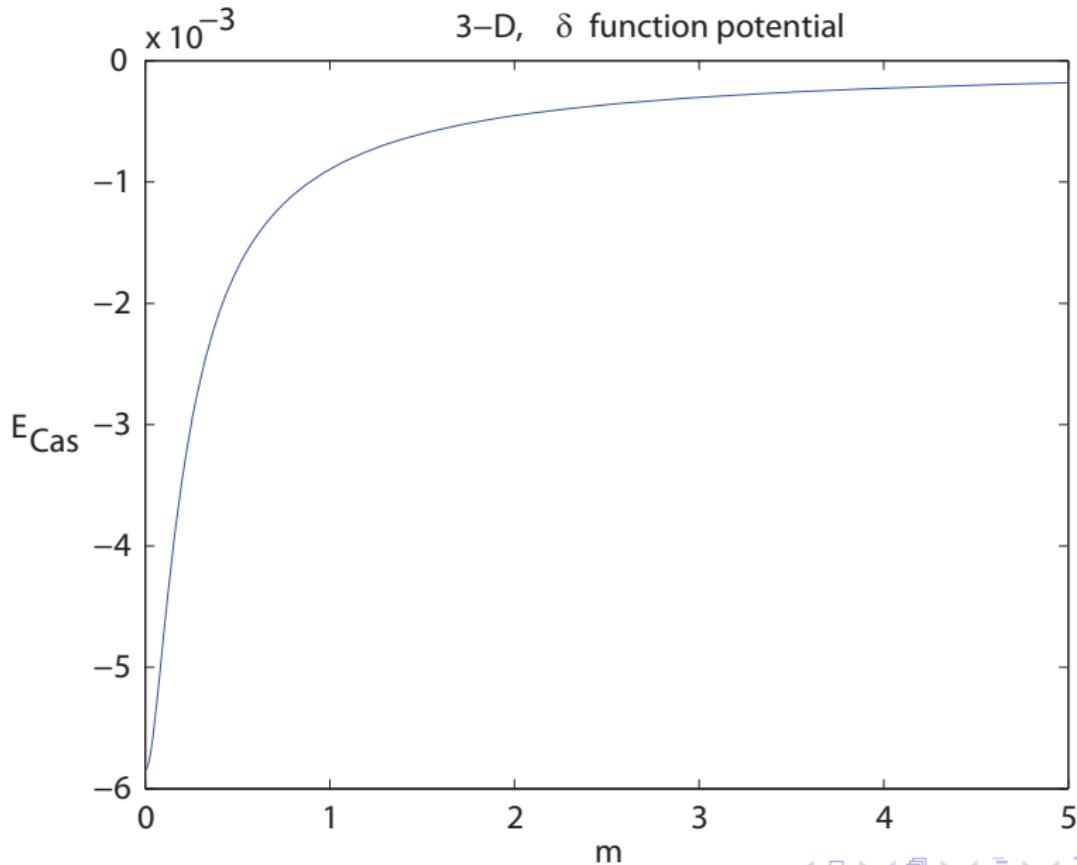
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$$a_0 = a_{1/2} = 0, \quad a_1 = -\frac{\alpha R}{2\sqrt{\pi}}, \quad a_{3/2} = \frac{\alpha^2}{8}, \quad a_2 = -\frac{\alpha^3}{12\sqrt{\pi}R}.$$

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# Conclusions

- Casimir energy in arbitrary dimension  $D$ :

$$E_{Cas}^{(ren)} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{q}{\sqrt{q^2 + m^2}} \left\{ \delta(q) - \pi \sum_{k=0}^{D+1} \frac{q^{D-k}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{D-k}{2} + 1\right)} a_{k/2} \right\} dq.$$

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- Functional determinants in arbitrary even dimension  $D = 2M$ :

$$\zeta'(0) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{q}{q^2 + m^2} \left\{ \delta(q) - \pi \sum_{k=0}^{2M} \frac{q^{2M-k}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{2M-k}{2} + 1\right)} a_{k/2} \right\} dq$$

$$+ m^{2M} \sum_{j=0}^M \frac{(-1)^{M-j}}{(M-j)!} m^{-2j} a_j (-\log m^2 + H_{M-j})$$

$$+ m^{2M} \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} \Gamma\left(-M+j+\frac{1}{2}\right) m^{-2j-1} a_{j+1/2}.$$

# Conclusions

- Higher spin particles: very complicated uniform asymptotic expansions of Jost functions replaced by a simple computation of heat kernel coefficients  
(soliton, instanton, magnetic flux tube, color magnetic vortex, cosmic strings, Nielsen-Olesen vortex, dielectric backgrounds...)

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- Higher spin particles: very complicated uniform asymptotic expansions of Jost functions replaced by a simple computation of heat kernel coefficients  
(soliton, instanton, magnetic flux tube, color magnetic vortex, cosmic strings, Nielsen-Olesen vortex, dielectric backgrounds...)
- Question: Can something like this be done for cases with boundary like the sphere? What corresponds to the phase shift?

Exterior yes:

$$\sqrt{\frac{2p}{\pi}} e^p K_{\ell+1/2}(p) = \exp \left\{ -\frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty dz \frac{z}{z^2 + p^2} \delta_\ell(z) \right\}$$

$$\delta_\ell(z) = -\arctan \frac{\cos z \ J_{2n+1/2}(z) + \sin z \ N_{2n+1/2}(z)}{\sin z \ J_{2n+1/2}(z) - \cos z \ N_{2n+1/2}(z)}$$