Accelerator modes of square well system

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We study accelerator modes of a particle, confined in an one-dimensional infinite square well potential, subjected to a time-periodic pulsed field. Dynamics of such a particle can be described by one generalization of the kicked rotor. In comparison with the kicked rotor, this generalization is shown to have a much larger parametric space for existence of the modes. Using this freedom we provide evidence that accelerator mode assisted anomalous transport is greatly enhanced when low order resonances are exposed at the border of chaos. We also present signature of the enhanced transport in the quantum domain.

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years there is a surge of interest in studying mixed systems, with both regular and chaotic regions co-existing in phase space. Mixed systems are important as a majority of dynamical systems found in nature fall in this category. One of the outstanding problems is to resolve how chaotic orbits are influenced by regular regions in the long time limit. In this direction of study, two dimensional area-preserving maps are promising candidates as they exhibit many generic features. A text book paradigm of this kind is the standard map of kicked rotor [1]. For certain values of system parameter, this map possesses special kind of orbits called Accelerator Modes (AM) [2]. If an initial state of the rotor corresponds to the AM, then it is uniformly accelerated after each kick. In other words, momentum of the rotor increases linearly with time. This is to be contrasted with generic chaotic orbits that diffuse in momentum, i.e., momentum variance of an ensemble of chaotic orbits increases linearly in time leading to normal diffusion.

AM are seen in phase space as small regular islands embedded in a chaotic sea. They are separated from chaotic region by cantori (partial-barriers). If a chaotic orbit enters through the cantori, it sticks to the cantori for very long time and thus is accelerated along with the modes. Considering \( n \) as time, such a long excursion of a chaotic orbit is an example of Lévy flight [3]. Lévy flight, some times called as super diffusion, is characterized by \( \langle p^2 \rangle \sim n^\gamma \) with \( \gamma > 1 \). AM assisted anomalous transport of this kind has been already studied with different motivations [4]. It should be noted that the above mechanism of anomalous effect is numerically ascertained.

Further studies have shown that these modes influence corresponding quantum system as well [5, 6]. In particular, the existence of regular islands in chaotic sea significantly alter the localization of quasienergy states in angular momentum, leading to enhancement in quantum transport. Developments on confining atoms in magneto-optical traps have opened experimental feasibility for atom-optics realizations of the kicked rotor. One such realization, in which an ensemble of cold cesium atoms are exposed to a periodically pulsed standing wave light, has shown that for certain values of the kick amplitude the momentum distribution of the atomic sample is non-exponentially localized [7]. This then is shown as an effect of AM in the quantum system, in contrast to the generic exponential localization.

Semiconductor based technological developments, on the other hand, have shown that it is possible to fabricate potential wells on atomic scales. Motion of electrons in such quantum wells in presence of an external electromagnetic field has been studied for experimental signatures of quantum chaos [8]. A simple model of this kind is a particle confined in a one-dimensional infinite square well exposed to a time periodic pulse field. This system is known to be one generalization of the kicked rotor [9]. The virtue of this generalization arises from two length scales of the system, namely, width of the well and field wavelength. If the well width is an integer multiple of the field wavelength, kick to kick dynamics of the particle is equivalent to that of the rotor. Otherwise, the dynamics is described by a discontinuous map resulting in a new scenario for transition to chaos even for weak field strengths [10].

In this paper we explore this model in the context of AM. We show that, our generalization leads to a larger parametric space, in comparison to the standard map, for existence of the AM. We demonstrate that when the border of AM (which we call a “beach”) exposes a chain of islands of a lower order resonance, “stickiness” of the beach increases significantly leading to anomalous transport. We also study the signature of such classical phenomena in the corresponding quantum system.

II. CLASSICAL SYSTEM

A. The Map

Let us consider a particle confined in an one-dimensional infinite square well potential \( V_0(x) \) of width \( 2a \) and the Hamiltonian is

\[
H_0 = \frac{p^2}{2M} + V_0(x) ; \quad V_0(x) = \begin{cases} 
0, & \text{for } |x| < a \\
\infty, & \text{for } |x| \geq a
\end{cases} . \tag{1}
\]

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The particle is subjected to a time periodic pulsed field of period $T$. The perturbed system is governed by the Hamiltonian

$$ H = H_0 + \epsilon \cos \left( \frac{2\pi x}{\lambda} \right) \sum_n \delta \left( n - \frac{t}{T} \right), $$

where $\epsilon$ and $\lambda$ are strength and wavelength of the field respectively; a train of delta functions accomplishes the time periodic pulse. Kick to kick dynamics of the particle can be described by the map

$$ X_{n+1} = (-1)^{B_n} (X_n + P_n) + (-1)^{B_{n+1}} \text{Sgn}(P_n) B_n, $$
$$ P_{n+1} = (-1)^{B_n} P_n + \frac{K}{2\pi} \sin(2\pi R X_{n+1}), $$

where $B_n = \lfloor \text{Sgn}(P_n)(X_n + P_n) + 1/2 \rfloor$; $\lfloor \rfloor$ and $\text{Sgn}(\cdot)$ stand for integer part and sign of the argument respectively. $B_n$ is the number of bounces of the particle between the walls during the interval between $n$th and $(n+1)$th kick. This dimensionless map is related to physical variables by the scaling:

$$ X_n = \frac{x_n}{2a}, \quad P_n = \frac{p_n T}{2aM}, \quad K = \frac{2\pi^2 T^2}{aMX}, \quad R = \frac{2a}{\lambda}, $$

where $K$ is effective field strength and $R$ is ratio of two length scales of the system. Henceforth we refer to the classical mapping as the well map.

The well map can be studied by invoking a Generalized Standard Map (GSM)

$$ J_{n+1} = J_n + \frac{K}{2\pi} \sin(2\pi R \theta_n), $$
$$ \theta_{n+1} = \theta_n + J_{n+1} \pmod{1}, $$

since time reversal of GSM and well map are quantitatively related. GSM is defined on a cylinder $(-\infty, \infty) \times [-1/2, 1/2]$ and the standard map is a special case with $R = 1$. A detailed study of GSM can be found in our earlier work. The GSM is highly chaotic for strong field strength (large $K$). In addition, it exhibits chaotic motion even for weak field strength (small $K$) depending on the parameter $R$. In order to study the AM in the well map, we invoke the GSM which is amenable to a detailed analysis.

### B. Stability Analysis

Periodicity of the GSM in $J$ and $\theta$ (with unit period) implies existence of AM. These are located at $(J', \theta')$:

$$ J' = m, \quad \frac{K}{2\pi} \sin(2\pi R \theta') = l, $$

where $m$ and $l$ are integers. They are also termed as step-$|l|$ AM as the acceleration is $|l|$ at each iteration. Fixed points belong to the family of AM with $l = 0$. For stable AM, required stability condition is

$$ -\frac{4}{KR} < \cos(2\pi R \theta') < 0, $$

and using (6) this becomes

$$ |l| < \frac{K}{2\pi} \sqrt{l^2 + \left( \frac{2}{\pi R} \right)^2}. $$

This inequality can also be rewritten as

$$ 0 < R < R_1, $$

where

$$ R_1 = \frac{2}{\pi} \left\{ \left( \frac{K}{2\pi} \right)^2 - l^2 \right\}^{-1/2}. $$

For stable AM

$$ |\theta'| = \frac{1}{2R} \left\{ 2j + 1 \mp \frac{1}{\pi} \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{2\pi |l|}{K} \right) \right\}, $$

where $j$ is an integer. Thus the AM are characterized by two integers $l$ and $j$ and we call them as $(l, j)_\pm$ type modes. Since the cylindrical phase space of GSM has the constraint $|\theta'| \leq 1/2$ (equivalent to restriction of the particle dynamics to between walls of the well), zero can not be lower limit in the above inequality.

The parameter $R$ in GSM is recognized as frequency of the sinusoidal force term. As $R$ increases from zero $|\theta'|$ decreases such that $(l, j)_-$ type modes first appear in the phase space followed by the $(l, j)_+$ type. In a similar way, as $R$ decreases $|\theta'|$ increases such that $(l, j)_+$ type is the first to disappear from the phase space while the $(l, j)_-$ type mode is the last to disappear. Hence, lowest limit for the inequality is set by the disappearance of $(l, j)_-$ type modes. From Eqn. (10), the constraint $|\theta'| \leq 1/2$ for $(l, j)_-$ becomes $R_0 \leq R$ where

$$ R_0 = 2j + 1 - \frac{1}{\pi} \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{2\pi |l|}{K} \right). $$

Thus the inequality is replaced by

$$ R_0 \leq R \leq R_1. $$

We emphasize that both the inequalities and (11) must be simultaneously satisfied for existence of AM in the phase space. This is in contrast to the standard map for which the inequality with $R = 1$ itself is sufficient. Thus the two control parameters, $K$ and $R$, provide a larger parametric space, in comparison to that of the standard map, for the existence of AM. At $K = 2\pi |l|$, the lower bound of the inequality is $R_0 = 1/2$ and this is the minimum possible value of $R_0$. In other words, for $R < 1/2$ AM do not exist. In fact, GSM is hyperbolic for $R < 1/2$ and there are only unstable orbits in the phase space.
FIG. 1: Stable regions embedded in chaotic sea are the accelerator modes of the well map \((K/2\pi = 1.05)\) whose \(P' = 0\) and \(X'\) is positive. For \(R = 0.7, 0.8\) and 1, we observe \((1, 0)_+\) type mode. For \(R = 1.4\), one more mode just appears in the phase space which is \((1, 0)_-\) type. For further increase of \(R\), both the types are fully visible. Since \(X' \propto 1/R\), as \(R\) increases the accelerator islands move towards interior of the square well. Note the three different scales on \(P\)-axis.

C. Results

Since the well map and the GSM are quantitatively related, location of AM are same for both the maps i.e., \((X', P') = (\theta', J')\) and all the above arguments hold for well map also. However, AM of the well map differ only in the following way due to the reflective boundary condition. When particle is on the AM, \(n\)th kick causes the particle to undergo \(n\) bounces between the walls. If \(n\) is odd momentum changes its sign, in turn sign of the particle position is also flipped.

Phase space of a mixed system generally has many intricate structures. In particular, boundaries of regular region embedded in chaotic sea have structures at all scales and all of them are hard to discern. Stable AM islands are believed to be separated from the remaining chaotic region by cantori (partial-barriers). Phase space in the vicinity of the cantori is sticky as it retains long time correlations. When chaotic orbits explore all parts of the phase space, there are occasions that they pass through the cantori. When such an event occurs, chaotic orbits stick to the vicinity of cantori for long time. Thus they are dragged along the modes ballistically. This is a mechanism which is known to enhance momentum transport. Below we demonstrate that the beaches around the AM island when occupied by a large resonance of small order are highly sticky. This in turn implies that the
The range of $R$ for $K/P = 5000$ time steps. For (i) the ensemble consists of points with 10000 phase space points is iterated by the well map for larger penetration of itinerant chaotic orbits. Cantori surrounding these must have large gaps to allow regular (accelerator) orbits. Chaotic orbits exhibit normal diffusion in momentum i.e., like the random walk, until they are dragged along the mode. On the other hand, the accelerator orbits exhibit ballistic behaviour ($\gamma = 2$). Hence, in the long time limit, evolution of accelerator orbits dominate the ensemble average. Fig. 2(i), shows the characteristic exponent $\gamma$ for different $R$ values. As we see, for the range of $R$ in Eqn. (11) $\gamma \simeq 2$, confirming the existence of AM islands. Here the lesser $\gamma$ for $R = 1.5$ is attributed to small size of AM (see Fig. 1). On contrary, for parameters outside the range of Eqn. (11), diffusion is normal as there are no AM in the phase space.

Fig. 2(ii) corresponds to the ensemble which contains only chaotic orbits. Within the parametric range where AM exist, the exponent $\gamma$ shows large fluctuations. There are also occasions wherein presence of AM does not enhance the diffusion significantly. It is natural to attribute the observed fluctuations to size of the islands and stickiness of their neighbourhood. That is, big AM islands with very sticky neighbourhood can significantly enhance the transport.

For $R = 0.8$, the exponent $\gamma$ is found to be maximum ($\simeq 1.6$). As seen from Fig. 1 in this case AM island is surrounded by a chain of 1/5 resonance zones. These zones are also step-1 accelerators and they are separated from chaotic region by their boundary, the so called “beaches”. Dynamics on the beach is chaotic, but very sticky with longer classical staying time. If a wandering chaotic orbit happens to approach the beach region, it stays there for long time and thus gets accelerated along the modes resulting in very large enhancement in momentum transport. This maximum transport is a generic behaviour i.e., independent of choice of the chaotic ensemble. From Fig. 1 we note that, although size of the AM for $R = 0.7$ is larger than that for $R = 0.8$, exponent $\gamma$ is maximum for the latter. This shows that the emergence of lower order resonance zones are chiefly responsible for the stickiness of the beach regions, leading to AM assisted anomalous transport. Thus the well map or equivalently GSM has a control parameter $R$ by tuning which AM induced super diffusion can be maximized.

More over, longer the period of resonance zones lesser the stickiness of associated beach regions. Upon magnifying boundaries of AM islands for $R = 0.7$ and 1, we found long chain of resonance zones and their beach regions. As seen from Fig. 2(ii), enhancement is limited for both these cases.

Further, we explore step-2 AM which are smaller in size than the step-1 modes. We choose $K/2\pi = 2.05$ and step-2 modes exist in the range $0.57 < R < 1.41$. Nearly ballistic evolution in this range and the otherwise normal diffusion are shown in Fig. 3(i). In Fig. 3(ii) the exponent exhibits large fluctuations. In order to appreciate the role of beach regions in large scale transport, we focus our attention on two distinct cases where the exponent shows a minimum and a maximum.

As we see from Fig. 2 when the enhancement is mini-
FIG. 3: Exponent $\gamma$ is plotted with respect to the parameter $R$ for $K/2\pi = 2.05$. Rest of the calculation details are similar to the Fig. 2. In (i) the range of $R$ given by the Eqn. (11) with $R_0 = 0.57$ and $R_1 = 1.41$ is seen as $\gamma \simeq 2$. In (ii) the exponents for $R = 0.8$ and $0.9$ are marked by circles. Corresponding AM islands for these two cases are shown in Fig. 4.

num (or absent) AM islands do not have the surrounding beach regions. On the other hand, transport is maximum when AM island is surrounded by short chain of resonance zones and their beach regions. These results reinforce that the expose of lower order resonance zones around the AM are chiefly responsible for stickiness of the beach and thus the resulting enhanced momentum transport.

III. QUANTUM SYSTEM

A. The Map

Analogous to the classical system, the kick to kick quantum dynamics can be studied using quantum map by solving Schrödinger equation for one period $T$ as

$$|\psi(t+T)| = U|\psi(t)|,$$

where $U = \exp\{-ik\cos(2\pi x/\lambda)\}\exp\{-iH_0 T/h\}$ with $k = \epsilon T/h$, being the effective field strength. Eigenvalue equation of the unperturbed system is $H_0|\phi_n\rangle = E_n|\phi_n\rangle$. The eigenstates and eigenvalues are given by

$$\langle X|\phi_n\rangle = \begin{cases} \sqrt{2}\cos(n\pi X), & \text{for } n \text{ odd} \\ \sqrt{2}\sin(n\pi X), & \text{for } n \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

with $n = 1, 2, 3 \ldots$ Considering unperturbed eigenstates as the basis, time evolution of an arbitrary quantum state is $|\psi(t)| = \sum_n A_n(t)|\phi_n\rangle$ where $A_n(t) = \langle \phi_n|\psi(t)\rangle$. With following substitution

$$\tau = \frac{E_n T}{\hbar n^2} = \frac{\pi^2 hT}{2M},$$

quantum map (15) takes the form

$$A_m(t+T) = \sum_n U_{mn}A_n(t),$$

where $U_{mn} = e^{-i\pi n^2}\langle \phi_m|\exp\{-ik\cos(2\pi RX)\}|\phi_n\rangle$.

Dimensionless quantum parameters $k, \tau$ and the classical parameters are related through $K/R = 8k\tau$. Since $k \sim 1/h$ and $\tau \sim \hbar$, semiclassical limit for given classical system can be achieved by taking the limits $k \to \infty$ and $\tau \to 0$. In the following numerical calculations, quantum map (15) is implemented with a finite, say $N$, number of unperturbed basis states. By obtaining the limit

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} \sum_{n=1}^N |A_n(t)|^2 \to 1$$

we ensure that such a truncation of basis does not influence the quantum system.

As seen from Eqn. (15), unperturbed motion of the particle between successive kicks just adds phase to the
wave function components through the parameter $\tau$ (mod $2\pi$). If $\tau = 2\pi$, unperturbed motion is absent and this is called quantum resonance. Under this condition, without loss of generality, we can write

$$\psi(t) = e^{-ik\cos(2\pi Rx)t}\psi(0), \quad (17)$$

where $t$ represents the number of kicks. Then in the limit $t \to \infty$, kinetic energy of the particle grows quadratically i.e., $\langle E \rangle_t \sim t^2$ [11]. This phenomenon is similar to that of the quantum kicked rotor [12]. An earlier study has shown that quantum resonance of kicked rotor occurs when $\tau$ is rational multiples of $2\pi$ [13]. This non-generic pure quantum phenomenon does not have any classical analogue. In order to investigate signatures of AM in the quantum system, it is necessary to suppress the resonance effect. This can be accomplished by taking $\tau$ as an irrational multiple of $2\pi$.

B. The wave packet

One natural way to study the quantum signatures of the AM is using the time evolution of an initial wave packet localized in chaotic region of the classical phase space. We take a Gaussian wave packet confined in the square well as the initial state. In position representation it is given by

$$\langle X | \psi(0) \rangle = C \exp \left\{ \frac{(X - \langle X \rangle)^2}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{i\langle P \rangle X}{\hbar} \right\}, \quad (18)$$

where $\sigma$ measures width of the wave packet, centred at $\langle X \rangle$ with momentum $\langle P \rangle$. Here $\hbar = 2\pi/\pi^2$ is the effective Planck constant. Normalization constant, $C$, is obtained from the condition

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} |\langle X | \psi(0) \rangle|^2 \, dX = 1$$

as

$$C = \left( \frac{2/\sigma \sqrt{\pi}}{\text{erf}(y_+) - \text{erf}(y_-)} \right)^{1/2} \quad \text{with} \quad y_{\pm} = \pm 1/2 - \langle X \rangle/\sigma. \quad (19)$$

As the quantum map is described in unperturbed basis states, the initial wave packet is represented in this basis. For evaluating $A_n(0)$ we consider following integral

$$G_n = \sqrt{2} \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} e^{in\pi X} \langle X | \psi(0) \rangle \, dX. \quad (20)$$

With change of variable $u = (X - \langle X \rangle)/\sqrt{2}\sigma$ the integral becomes

$$G_n = 2\sigma C \int_{u_-}^{u_+} e^{-(u^2 - i\sqrt{2}\sigma z_n u)} \, du, \quad (21)$$

where $z_n = n\pi + \langle P \rangle/\hbar$ and $u_\pm = y_\pm/\sqrt{2}$. Using the standard integral [14]

$$\int e^{-(a_x x^2 + 2bx + c)} \, dx = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi} \frac{1}{a_o} \exp \left( \frac{b^2 - ca_o}{a_o} \right) \text{erf} \left( \frac{a_o x + b}{\sqrt{a_o}} \right), \quad (22)$$

$G_n$ is represented in terms of complex error function, which can be computed using the algorithm [15]. The wave packet in the unperturbed basis is then given by

$$A_n(0) = \begin{cases} \frac{(G_n + G_{-n})}{2}, & \text{for } n \text{ odd} \\ \frac{(G_n - G_{-n})i}{2}, & \text{for } n \text{ even}. \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

It should noted that because of the spatial confinement, the initial state is a truncated Gaussian and hence it is not a minimum uncertainty wave packet. However, it can be made close to the minimum uncertainty wave packet provided mean $\langle X \rangle$ is not close to boundary of the well and $\Delta X \ll 1$, i.e., spread in position is much less than the width of the square well. With this condition on the wave packet we consider the uncertainty relation $\Delta X \Delta P = \hbar/2$ for the following exercise. We take $\Delta X = 0.02$ throughout.

C. Results

The initial wave packet is chosen with $(\langle X \rangle, \langle P \rangle) = (0, 0.5)$ such that it is placed in a chaotic region. We take $\hbar = 0.008$ and hence $\Delta P = 0.2$. For these choice of parameters, the initial state is squeezed in position and elongated in momentum. The number of basis states considered is as high as $N = 7500$. Dimensionless kinetic energy of the time evolved state is then given by

$$\langle E \rangle_t = \langle \psi(t) | P^2 | \psi(t) \rangle = \left( \frac{2\pi}{\pi} \right)^2 \sum_{n=1}^{N} |A_n(t)|^2 n^2, \quad (24)$$

which is equivalent to the classical energy $\langle P_t^2 \rangle$.

Shown in Fig. [14] are typical quantum evolutions for $K/2\pi = 1.05$ with varying $R$ values. In all the cases, initially the quantum energy increases and then attains a quasiperiodic saturation. However, the saturation is much higher for $R = 0.8$ than for $R = 0.7$ and 1. It should be noted that even though effective field strength $k$ is larger for $R = 0.7$ than for $R = 0.8$, energy saturation for the later is much higher. We may compare these results with the corresponding phase space shown in Fig. [14]. Thus we obtain a clear evidence that the exo of lower order resonance zones and the associated sticky beach around the AM are mainly responsible for AM assisted enhanced transport in quantum system also.
IV. DISCUSSION

We studied accelerator modes for a particle inside a 1D infinite square well in presence of a pulsed external field. Influence of modes in altering large scale transport of the classical system has been studied by invoking an equivalent dynamical model, the generalized standard map. The virtue of the generalization arises from the ratio of two length scales, namely, well width and field wave length. This generalization is found to have larger parametric space for existence of AM.

We demonstrated that when the border of AM (beach) exposes short periodic resonance zones, stickiness of the beach region is significantly increased, leading to AM assisted super diffusion in momentum. It also appears that longer the period of resonance lesser is the stickiness of the beach, results to less enhancement in transport. The corresponding quantum system is studied using time evolved wave packet. We showed that the presence of lower order resonance around the modes are responsible in enhancing the quantum transport as well.

Some investigations on standard map show that for certain “magic” values of system parameter, AM islands are accompanied with hierarchy of self-similar structures. The vicinity of these structures are known to be regions of stickiness for the chaotic orbits \[13, 17\], causing enhancement in transport. Further, various multi-island structures in the near threshold regime of the map are identified as trapping zones for wandering orbits \[13\] leading to Lévy-like flights. All these results collectively support that island-around-island structures are greatly responsible for anomalous transport in the mixed phase space. Using fractional kinetic equation \[16, 19\], it will be of interest to enquire the connection between the period of boundary islands and stickiness of the associated beach region.

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