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On the pseudospectrum of the harmonic oscillator with imaginary cubic potential

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Abstract: We study the Schrödinger operator with a potential given by the sum of the potentials for harmonic oscillator and imaginary cubic oscillator and we focus on its pseudospectral properties. A summary of known results about the operator and its spectrum is provided and the importance of examining its pseudospectrum as well is emphasized. This is achieved by employing scaling techniques and treating the operator using semiclassical methods. The existence of pseudoeigenvalues very far from the spectrum is proven, and as a consequence, the spectrum of the operator is unstable with respect to small perturbations and the operator cannot be similar to a self-adjoint operator via a bounded and boundedly invertible transformation. It is shown that its eigenfunctions form a complete set in the Hilbert space of square-integrable functions; however, they do not form a Schauder basis.