

On the bound states of magnetic Laplacians on wedges

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in collaboration with Pavel Exner and Vladimir Lotoreichik

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Chaos17, Hradec Králové, May 9-11 2017



Outline

Introduction

- Mathematical and physical motivation
- Definition of the **mathematical problem** and its relation to **superconductivity**

Existence of bound states

- **Neumann and Robin** boundary conditions
- **Delta** interaction on a broken line

Summary and conclusions

Motivation

- **Spectral properties of Schrödinger operators:**
 - Neumann: conjectured that bound states exist on a corner domain for $\phi < \pi$ (proved for $\phi < 0.51\pi$)*
 - Delta: discrete spectrum with $\mathbf{B}=0$ ** . Does it persist with $\mathbf{B}\neq 0$?

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- **Quantum mechanics:** is a spinless, massive charged particle on a corner domain of angle ϕ bounded?
- **Superconductivity:** the lowest eigenvalues in the Neumann and Robin conditions limit the critical magnetic field below which there is superconductivity

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Magnetic Laplacian on a wedge

- Eigenvalue equation:

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{A}}^2 \psi = \lambda \psi, \text{ with } \nabla_{\mathbf{A}} := (i\nabla + \mathbf{A}), \mathbf{A}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2}(-x_2, x_1)^\top, \text{ and}$$

$$\psi \in H_{\mathbf{A}}^1(\Omega), \quad H_{\mathbf{A}}^1(\Omega) := \{\psi \in L^2(\Omega) : \nabla_{\mathbf{A}} \psi \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{C}^2)\}$$

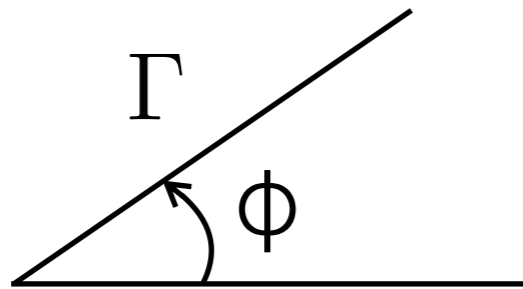
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- We consider a wedge of angle ϕ and distinguish three cases:

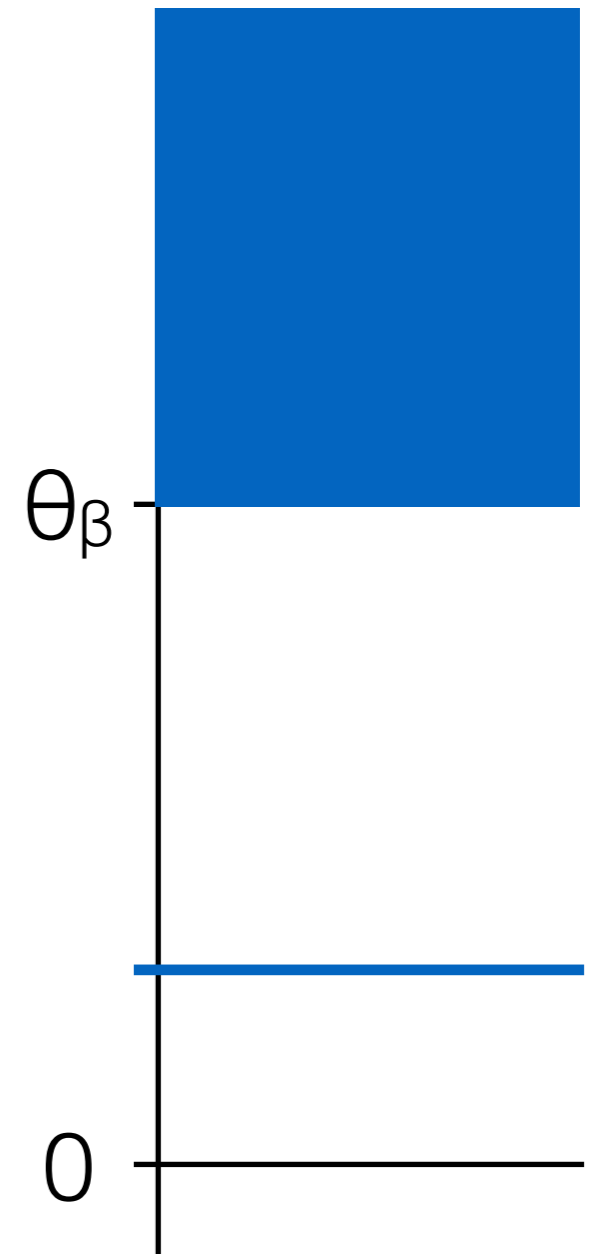


$$\Omega_\phi := \{(r, \theta) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{S}^1 : \theta \in (0, \phi)\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$$

- Neumann: $\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} \psi \cdot \hat{n} = 0, \quad \Omega := \Omega_\phi$
- Robin: $\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} \psi \cdot \hat{n} = \beta \psi, \quad \Omega := \Omega_\phi$
- Attractive δ int. on Γ : $(\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} \psi_+ + \nabla_{\mathbf{A}} \psi_-) \cdot \hat{n} = \beta \psi, \quad \Omega := \mathbb{R}^2$

Magnetic Laplacian on a wedge

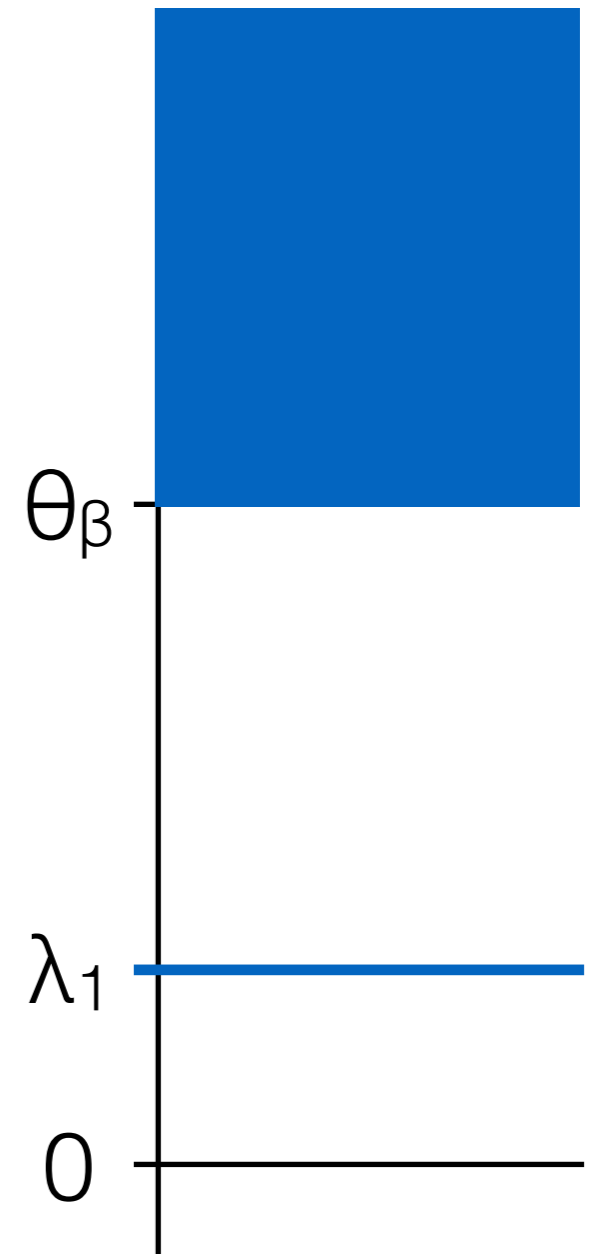
- Bottoms of essential spectra θ_β found by *variational characterisation*
- Bound state λ below θ_β ?



Magnetic Laplacian on a wedge

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- Min-max principle:

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_1 &= \inf_{u \in H_A(\Omega)} \frac{\int_\Omega dS |\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} u|^2 - \beta \int_\Gamma dr |u|^2}{\int_\Omega dS |u|^2} \\ &= \inf_{u \in H_A(\Omega)} R_{\mathbf{A}}(u)\end{aligned}$$



Magnetic Laplacian on a wedge

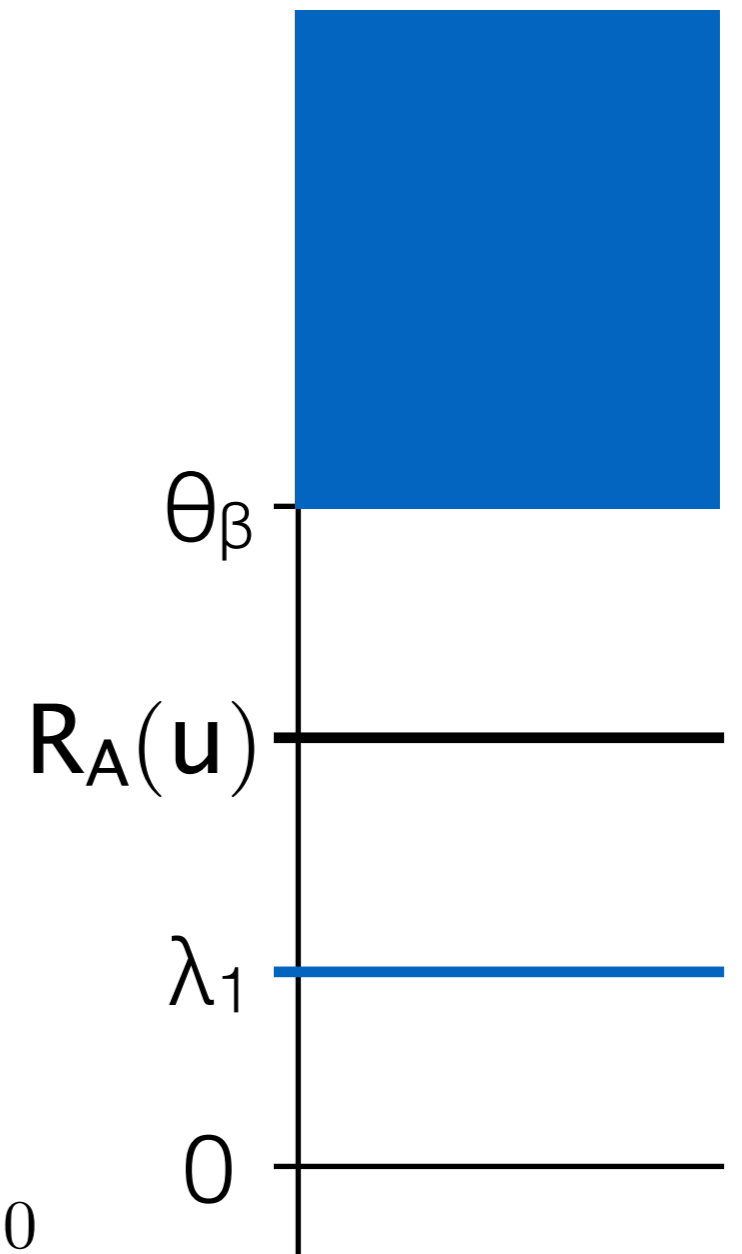
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- Find u such that $R_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{u}) < \theta_\beta$, i.e.

$$\mathcal{I}[u] = \int_{\Omega} dS \left(|\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} u|^2 - \theta_\beta |u|^2 \right) - \beta \int_{\Gamma} dr |u|^2 < 0$$



- **Ginzburg-Landau functional:**

$$\mathcal{G}(\psi, \mathbf{A}) = \int_{\Omega} \left(|(-i\nabla + \kappa\mathbf{A})\psi|^2 + \frac{\kappa^2}{2} (|\psi|^2 - 1)^2 + \kappa^2 |\nabla \times \mathbf{A} - H|^2 \right)$$

$|\psi|$ is the density of cooper pairs, \mathbf{A} the magnetic potential, κ a physical constant, and $\mathbf{H} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_n$ the applied (constant) magnetic field

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- The normal state is not minimum if $\int_{\Omega} (|(-i\nabla + \kappa\mathbf{A}_n)\phi|^2 - \kappa|\phi|^2) < 0$

→ Together with a boundary condition we recover our bound state problem

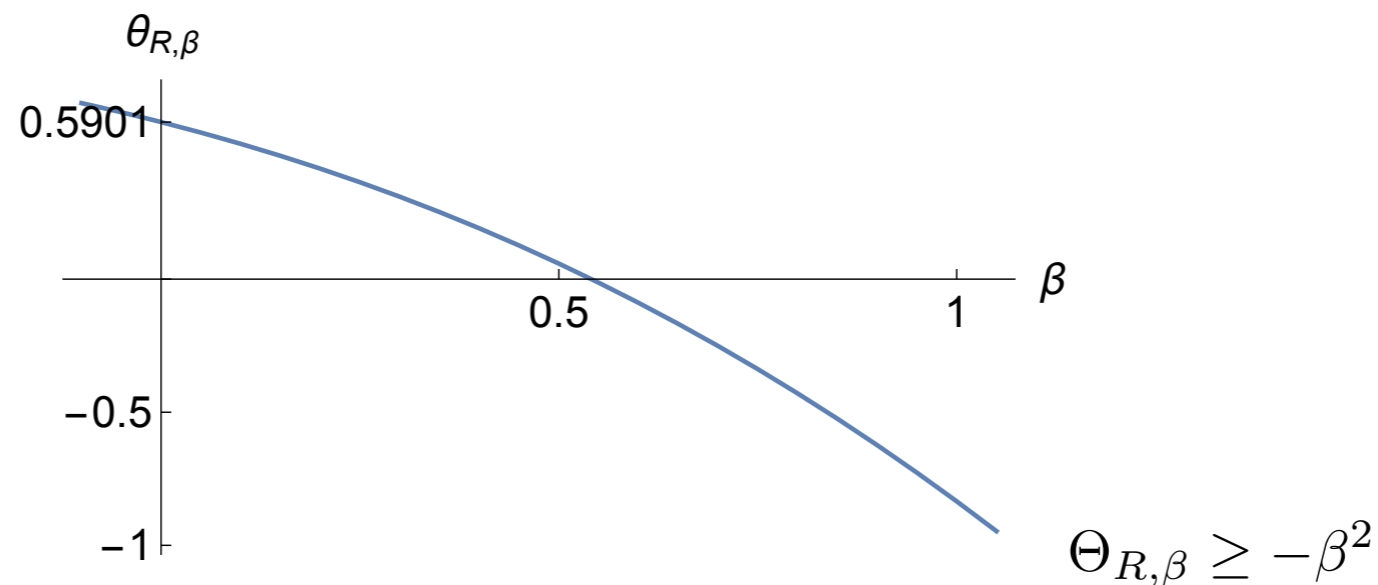
Neumann & Robin

- Find u that makes $\mathcal{I}[u] = \int_{\Omega} dS \left(|\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} u|^2 - \theta_{R,\beta} |u|^2 \right) - \beta \int_{\Gamma} dr |u|^2 < 0$

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- $\theta_{R,\beta}$ is the bottom of the essential spectrum:

$$\theta_{R,\beta} := \inf_{r_0, \eta} \frac{\int_{r_0}^{\infty} (|g'(r)|^2 + r^2 |g(r)|^2) dr - \beta |g(r_0)|^2}{\int_{r_0}^{\infty} |g(r)|^2 dr}, \text{ with } -g''(r) + r^2 g(r) = \eta g(r)$$



- We try functions of the type $\mathbf{u}_\star(\mathbf{r},\theta) = \mathbf{e}^{-a\mathbf{r}^2/2} \mathbf{e}^{i\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{r},\theta)}$
with $\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{r},\theta) = r \mathbf{b}_1(\theta) + r^2 \mathbf{b}_2(\theta) + r^3 \mathbf{b}_3(\theta) + \dots$

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- We start with $\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{r},\theta)=\mathbf{r}\mathbf{b}_1(\theta)$ and systematically improve:

$$\mathcal{I}[u_\star] = \frac{1}{2a} \int_0^\phi \left(b_1^2 + (\partial_\theta b_1)^2 - \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\sqrt{a}} (\partial_\theta b_1) \right) d\theta + \frac{\phi}{2} - \frac{\Theta_{\mathbf{R},\beta}\phi}{2a} + \frac{\phi}{8a^2} - \beta \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}}$$

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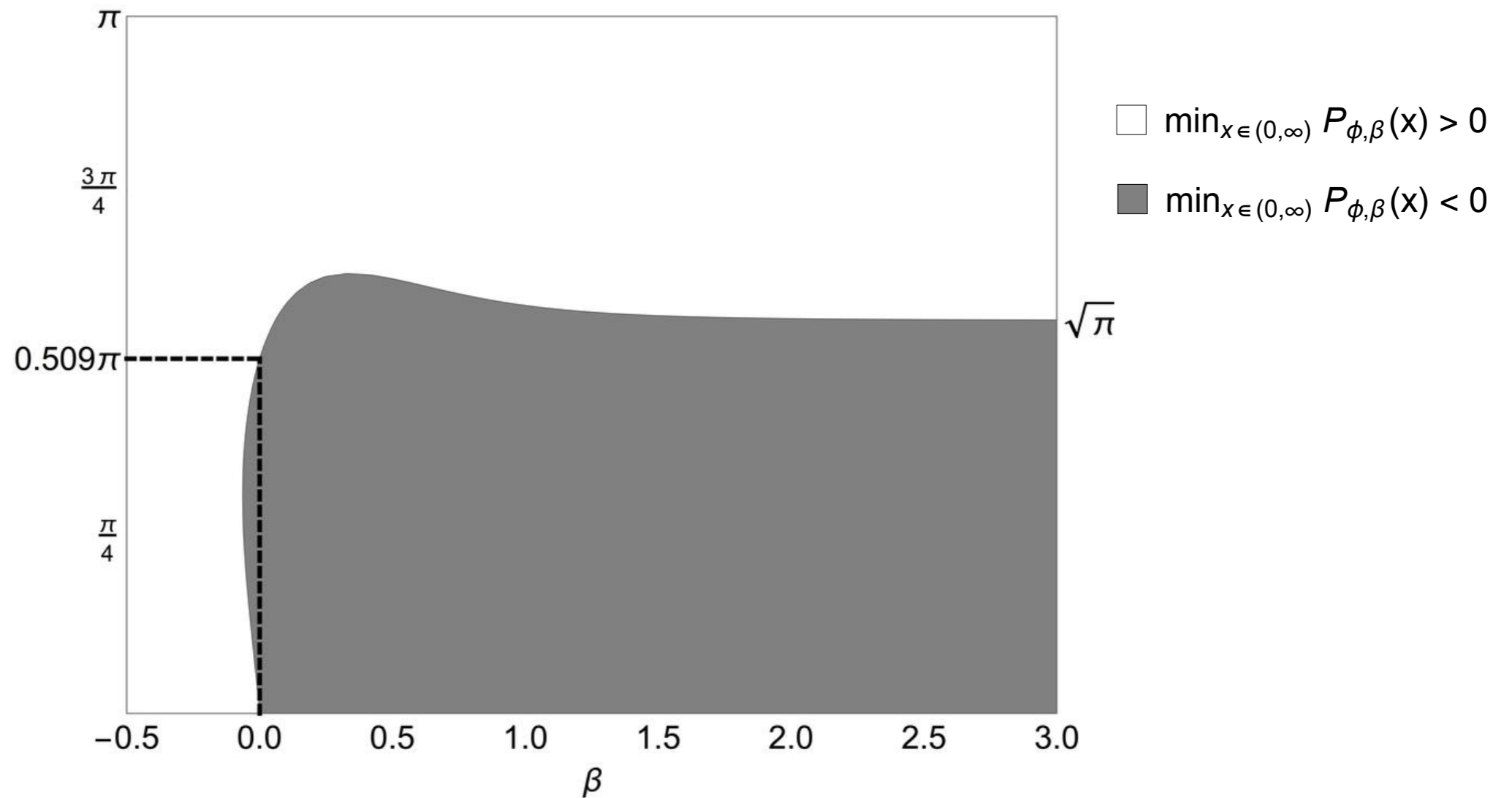
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- **Optimal:** $b_1(\theta) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}x}{4(1+e^\phi)} \left(e^\theta - e^{-(\phi+\theta)} \right)$, with $x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}$

$$\mathcal{I}[u_\star] = x^4 \left(\frac{\phi}{8} - \frac{\pi \tanh(\phi/2)}{16} \right) - \frac{\Theta_{R,\beta}\phi x^2}{2} + \frac{\phi}{2} - \beta \sqrt{\pi}x = \frac{P_{\phi,\beta}(x)}{16}$$

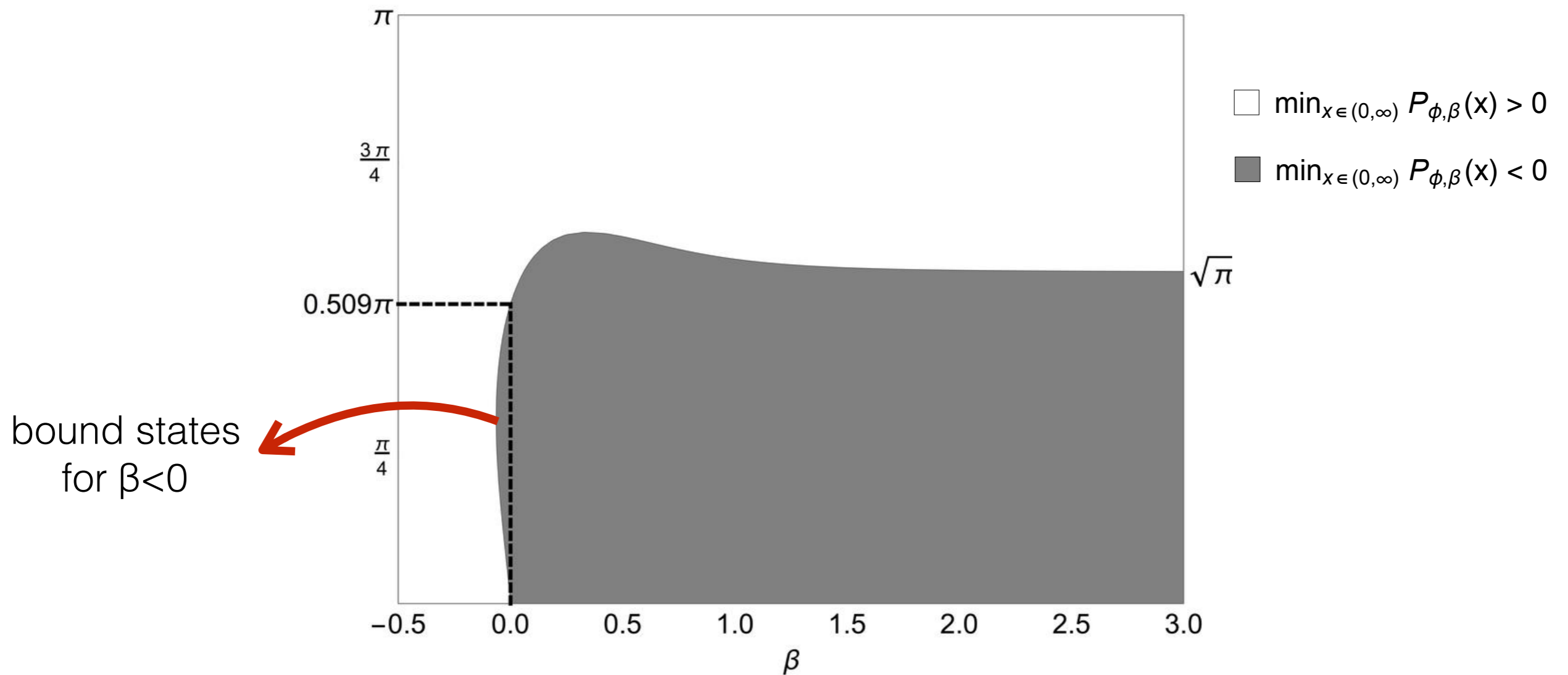
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with $u_\star = e^{-r^2/(2x^2)} e^{i r b_1(\theta)}$



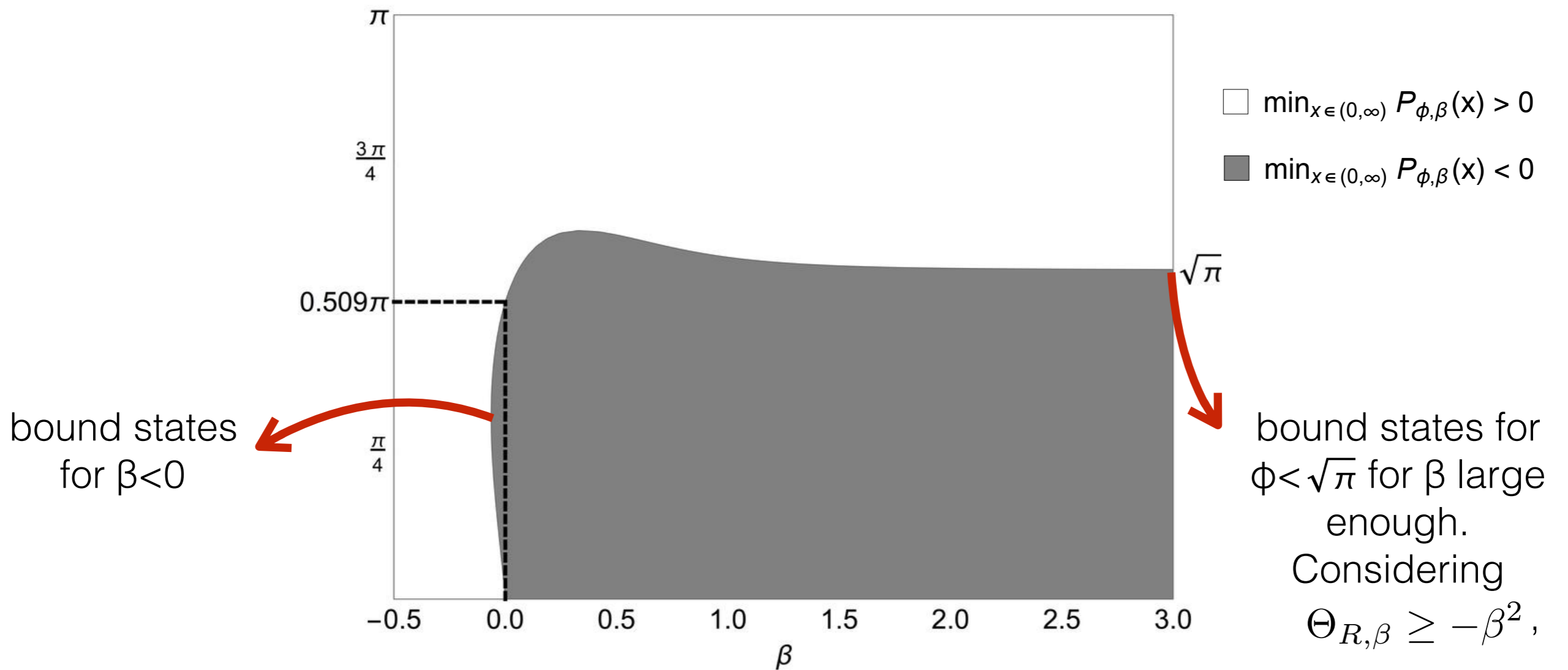
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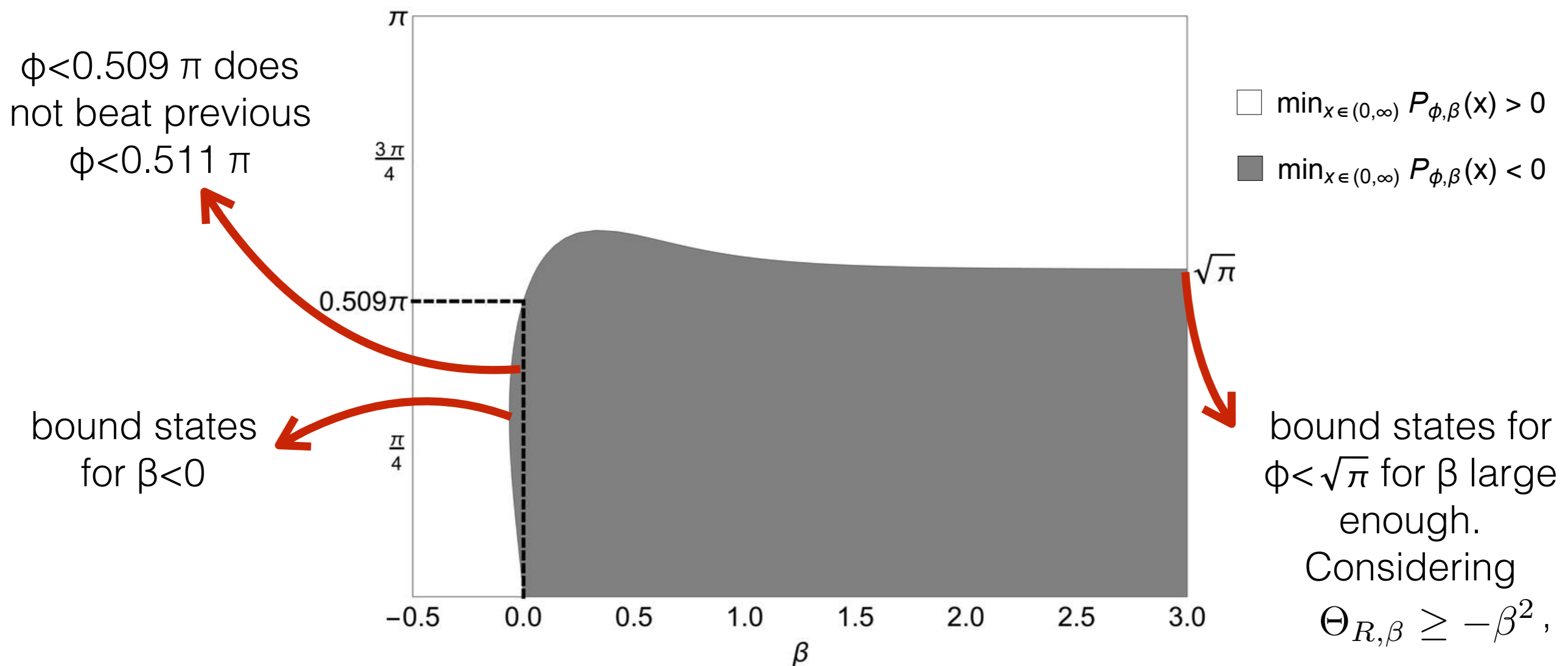
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$$P_{\phi,\beta}(1/\beta) \leq \beta^{-4} \left(2\phi - \pi \tanh\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right) \right) + 16(\phi - \sqrt{\pi}) < 0$$

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Improvements in Neumann

- Now we try $u_{\star}(\mathbf{r}, \theta) = e^{-a/2 \cdot r^2} e^{i(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{b}_1(\theta) + r^2 \cdot \mathbf{b}_2(\theta))}$ and obtain:

$$\mathcal{I}[u_{\star}] = \int_0^{\phi} \left[\frac{(b_1'(\theta))^2}{2a} + \frac{(b_2'(\theta))^2}{2a^2} + \frac{\sqrt{\pi} b_1'(\theta) b_2'(\theta)}{2a^{3/2}} + \frac{(b_1(\theta))^2}{2a} + \frac{2(b_2(\theta))^2}{a^2} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\sqrt{\pi} b_1(\theta) b_2(\theta)}{a^{3/2}} - \frac{\sqrt{\pi} b_1'(\theta)}{4a^{3/2}} - \frac{b_2'(\theta)}{2a^2} \right] d\theta + \frac{\phi(4a^2 + 1 - 4a\Theta_0)}{8a^2}$$

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- **Optimal** b_1 and b_2 :

- Functional derivative: $-\begin{pmatrix} 2a & \sqrt{a\pi} \\ \sqrt{a\pi} & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_1''(\theta) \\ b_2''(\theta) \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2a & 2\sqrt{a\pi} \\ 2\sqrt{a\pi} & 8 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} b_1(\theta) \\ b_2(\theta) \end{pmatrix} = 0$

- Usual derivate with respect to the free parameters

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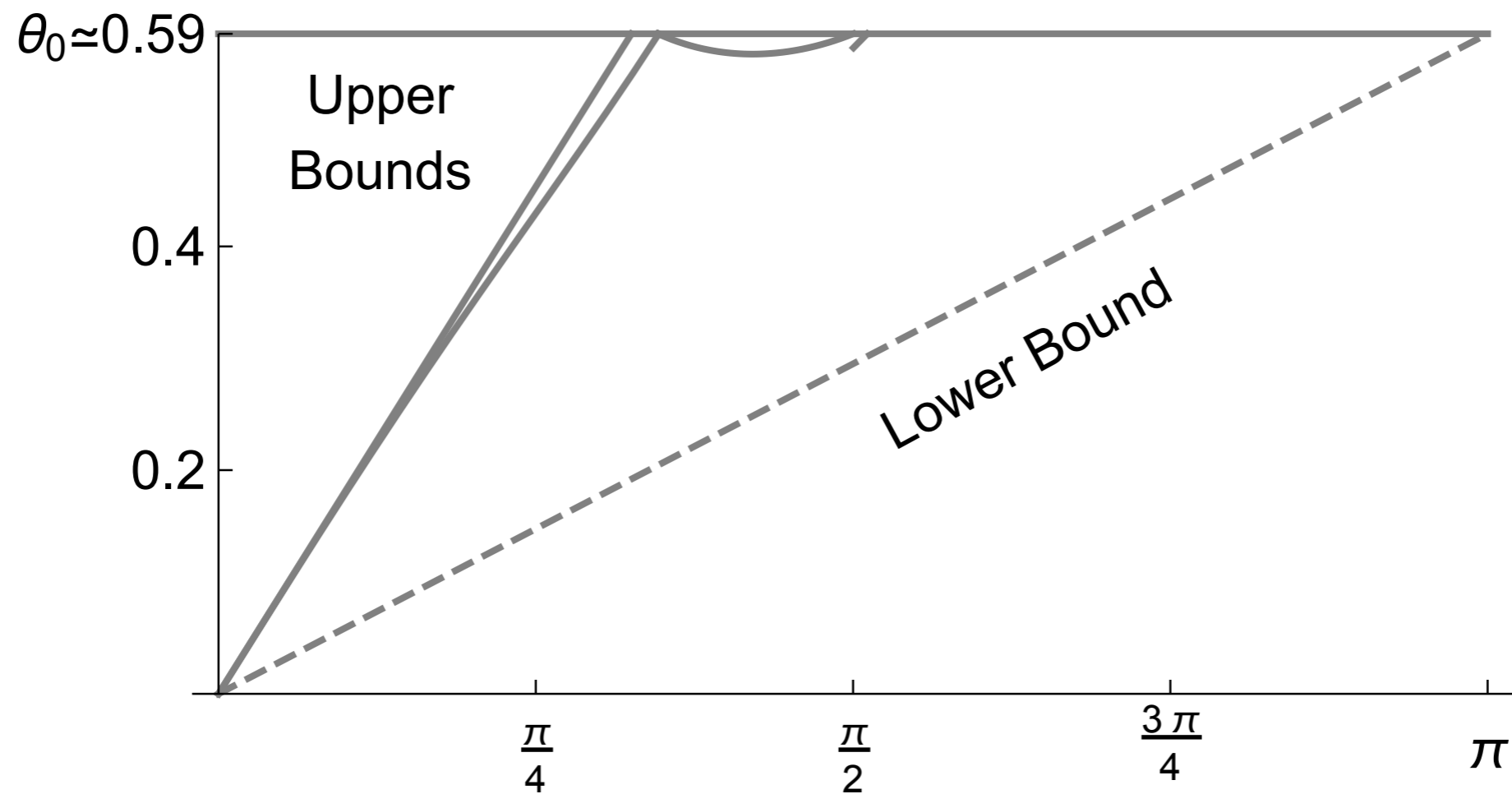
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- Usual derivate with respect to the free parameters

- $\mathcal{I}[u_*] = \frac{\phi}{2} - \phi^2 s \Theta_0^2 [2\phi s - \mu_1^2 \mu_2^2 \{ \nu_1 \tanh(\frac{1}{2} \mu_1 \phi) + \nu_2 \tanh(\frac{1}{2} \mu_2 \phi) \}]^{-1}$

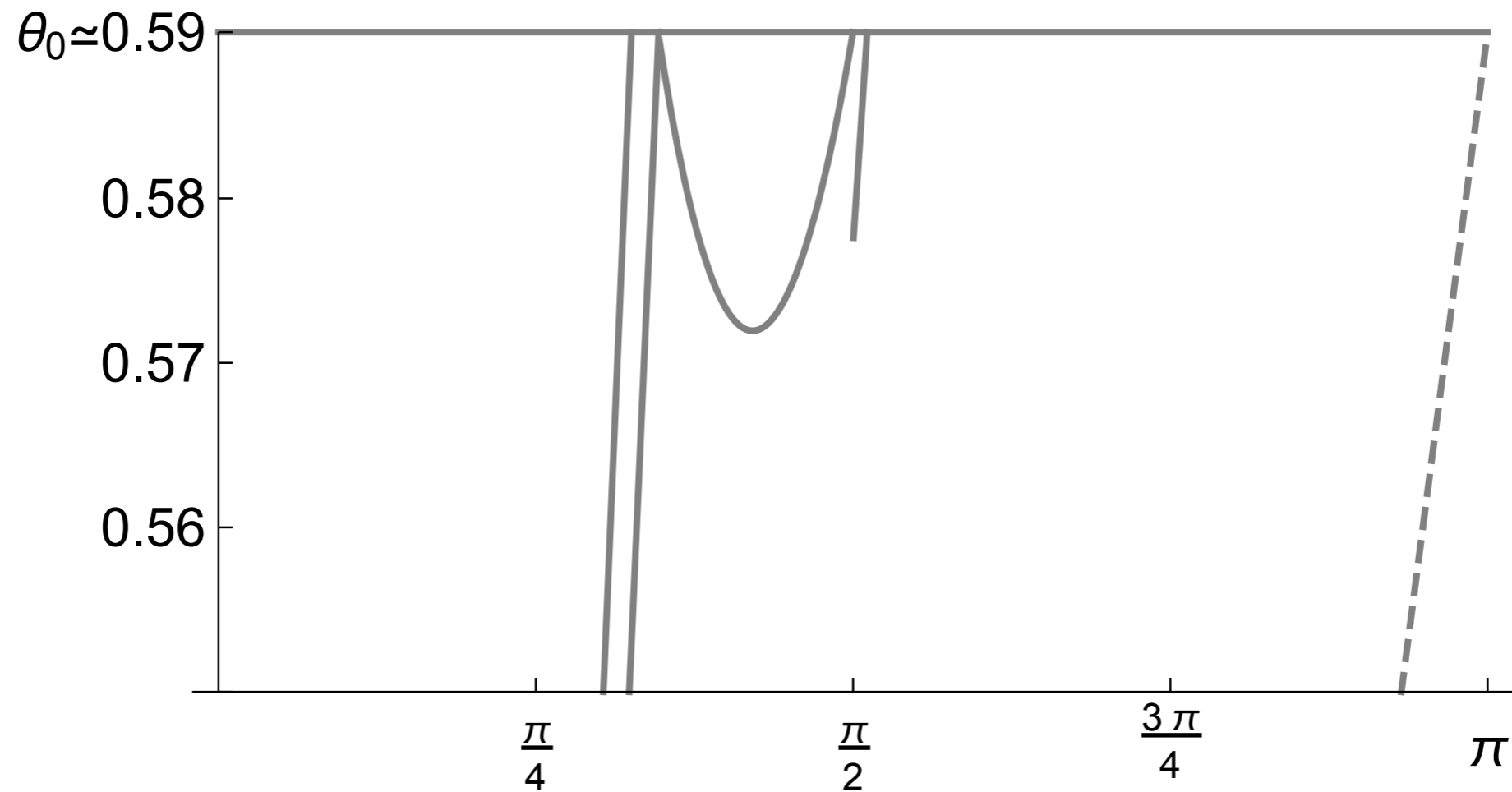
$$\nu_{1,2} = \frac{\sqrt{4-\pi}}{2} \frac{3-\pi \pm s}{1 \pm s}, \quad s = \sqrt{9-2\pi}, \quad \mu_{1,2} = \frac{s \pm 1}{\sqrt{4-\pi}} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \phi < 0.583\pi!$$

Comparison of Neumann results



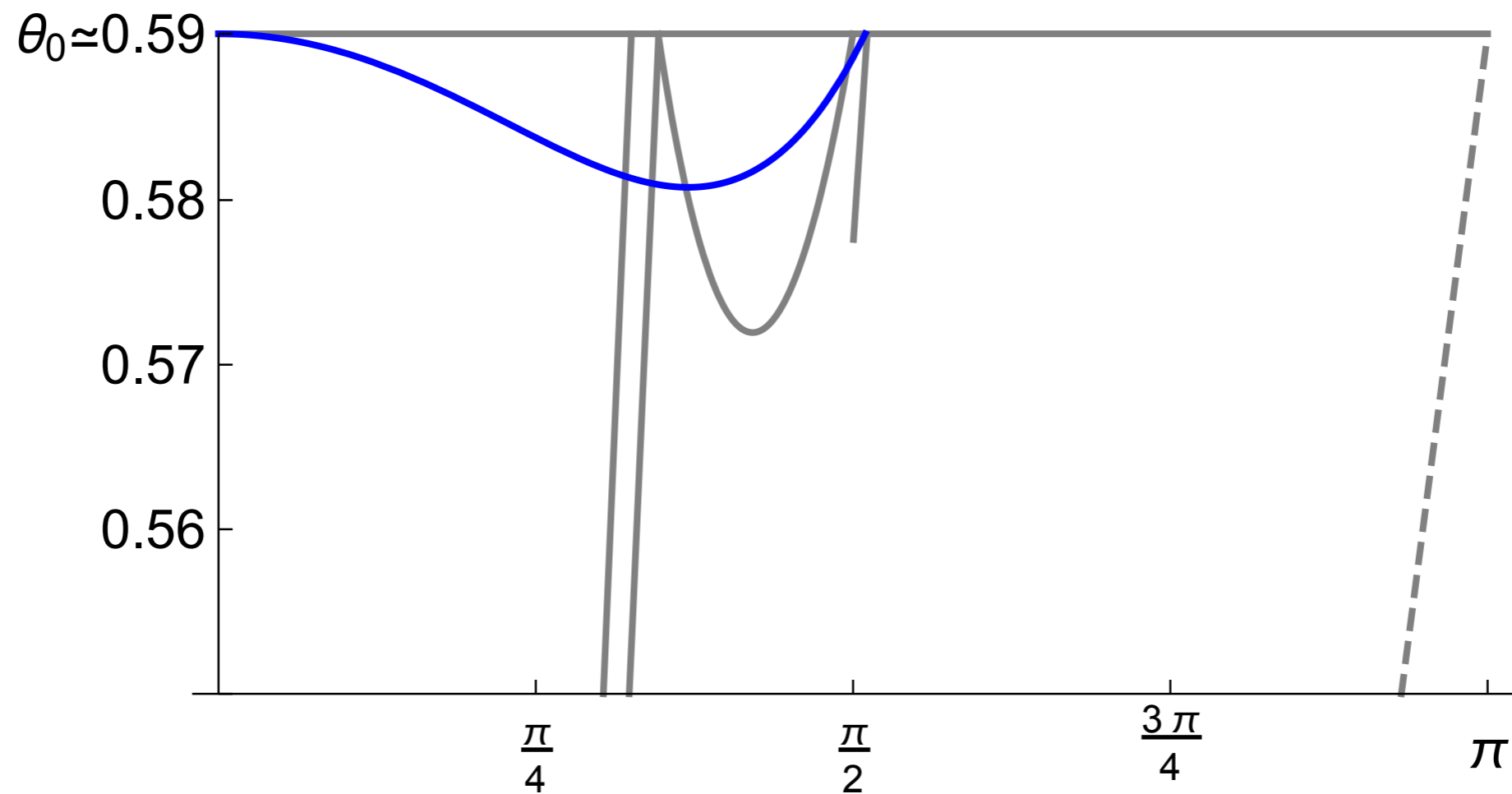
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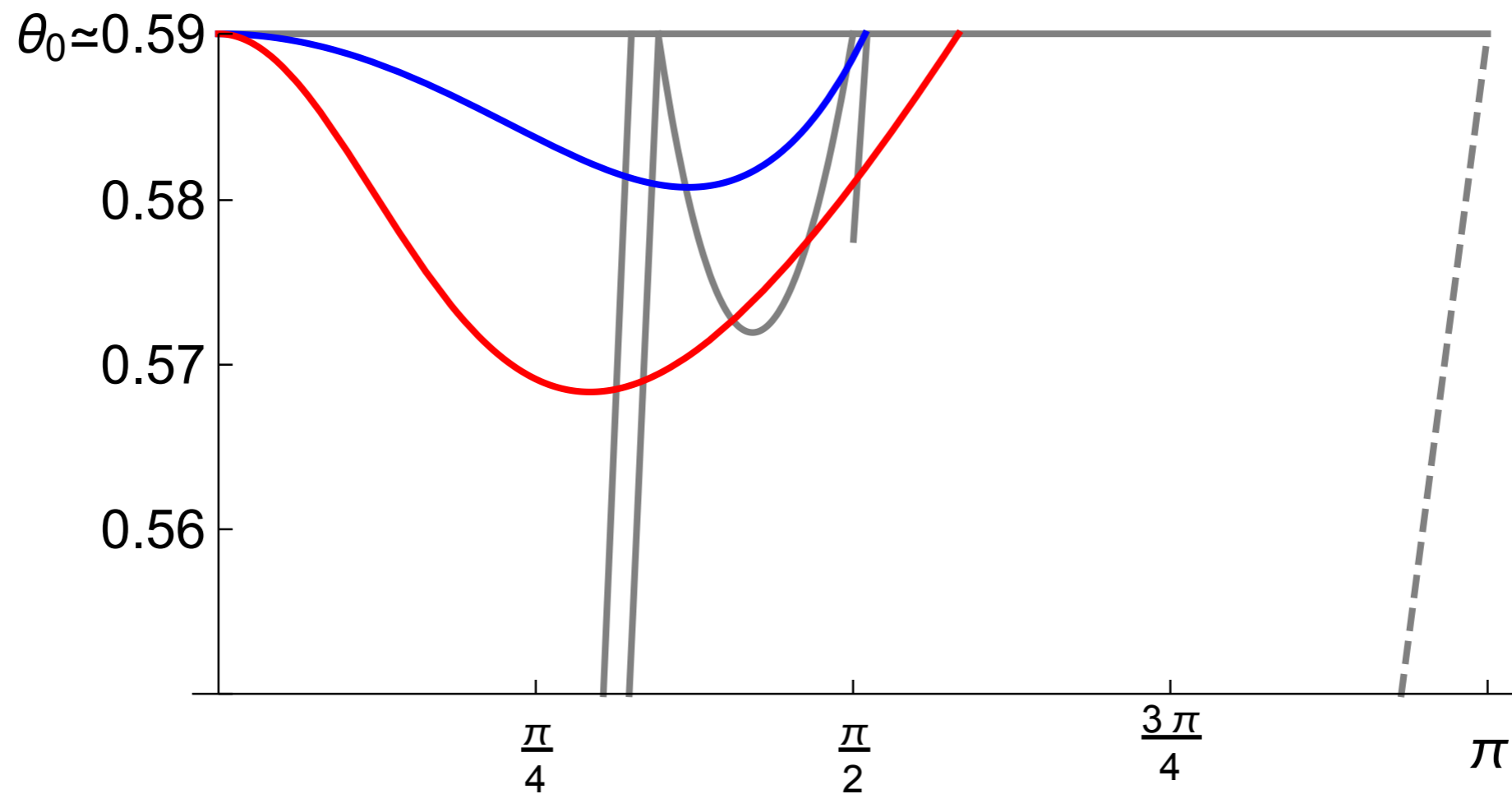
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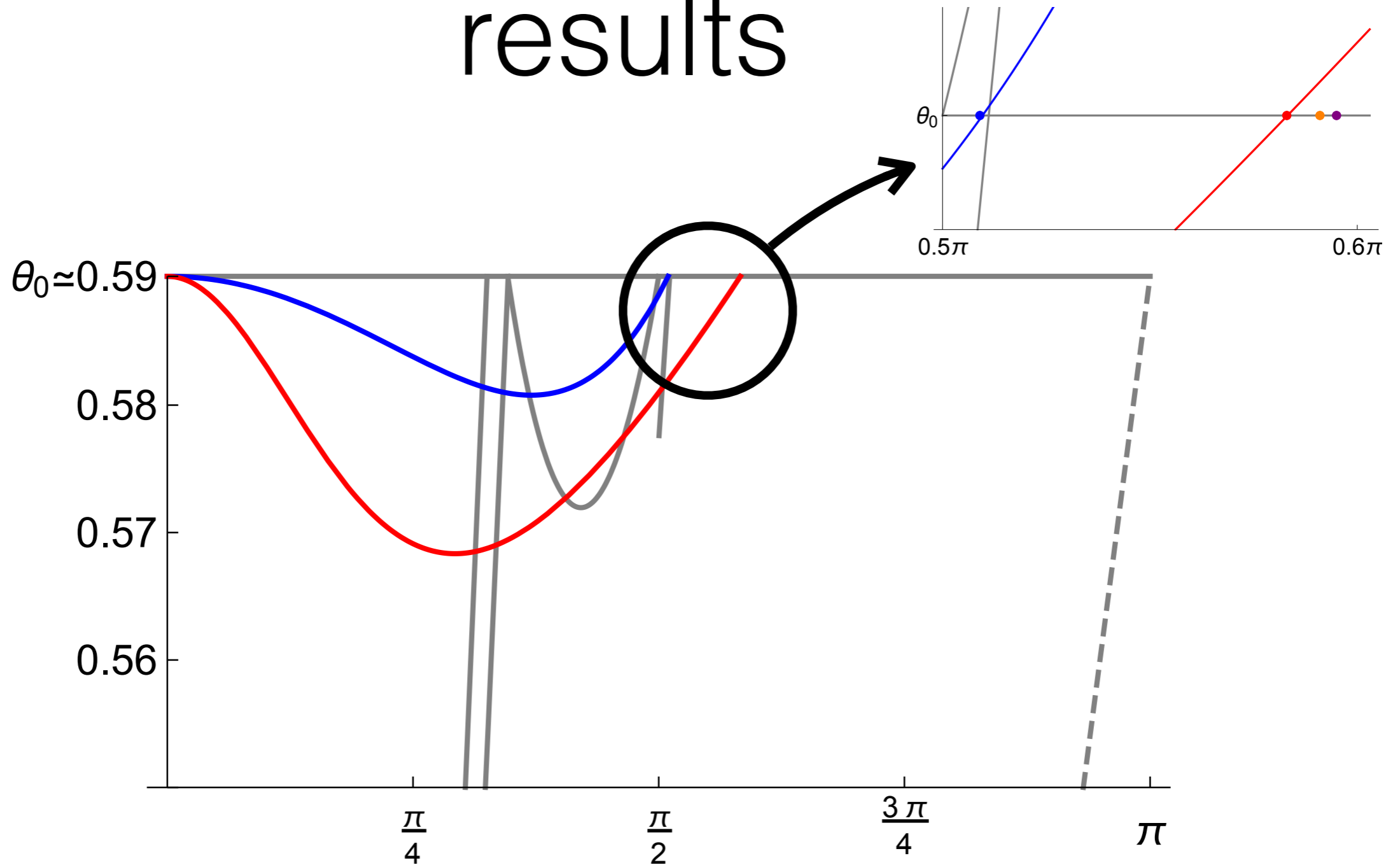


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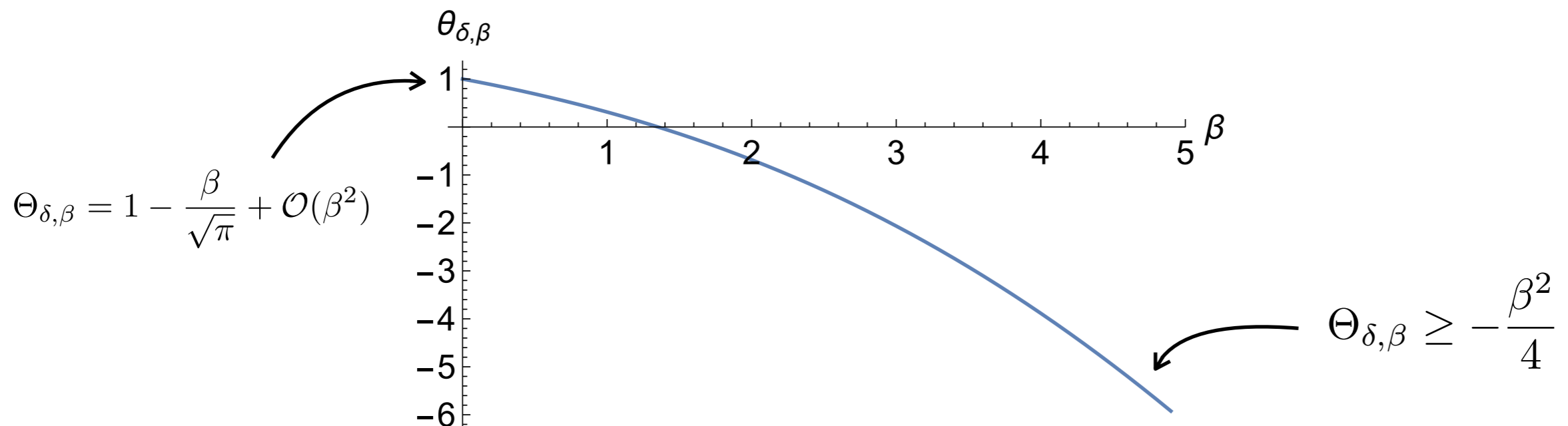
Delta interaction

- Find u that makes $\mathcal{I}[u] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} dS \left(|\nabla_{\mathbf{A}} u|^2 - \theta_{\delta, \beta} |u|^2 \right) - \beta \int_{\Gamma} dr |u|^2 < 0$

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- The bottom of the essential spectrum $\theta_{\delta, \beta}$ is

$$\theta_{\delta, \beta} := \inf_{r_0, \eta} \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (|g'(r)|^2 + r^2 |g(r)|^2) dr - \beta |g(r_0)|^2}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(r)|^2 dr}, \text{ with } -g''(r) + r^2 g(r) = \eta g(r)$$



- Useful to rotate \mathbf{A} by $\pi/4$ and shift it c . Equivalently, we rotate and shift the wedge

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}[u_\star] := & \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\infty [|\nabla u_\star|^2 + (|\mathbf{A}|^2 - \Theta_{\delta,\beta})|u_\star|^2] r dr d\theta \\ & - \beta \int_0^\infty |u_\star(r \cos \phi_+ - c, r \sin \phi_+ - c)|^2 dr - \beta \int_0^\infty |u_\star(r \cos \phi_- - c, r \sin \phi_- - c)|^2 dr \end{aligned}$$

with $\phi_\pm := \pi/4 \pm \phi/2$

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with $\phi_\pm := \pi/4 \pm \phi/2$

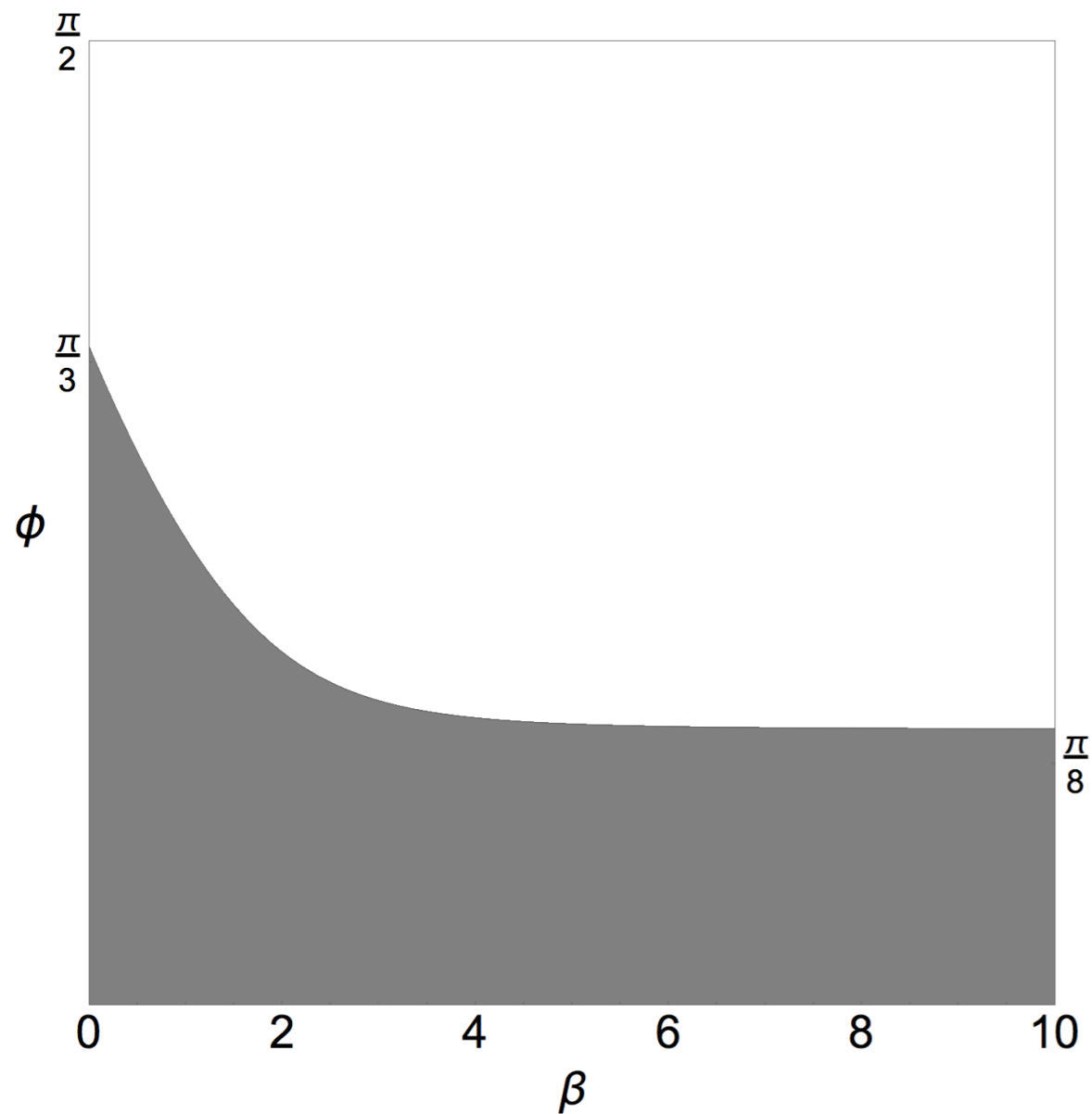
- Using $\mathbf{u}_\star(\mathbf{r}, \theta) = e^{-a/2 \cdot r^2}$,

$$\mathcal{I}[u_\star] = \pi \left(1 + \frac{x^4}{4} - x^2 \Theta_{\delta,\beta} \right) - \beta x \sqrt{\pi} e^{-y^2 \tan^2(\phi/2)} (1 + \operatorname{erf}(y)) = \pi F_{\phi,\beta}(x, y)$$

with $x = 1/\sqrt{a}$ and $y = \sqrt{2ac^2} \cos(\phi/2)$

$$\mathcal{I}[u_\star] = \pi \left(1 + \frac{x^4}{4} - x^2 \Theta_{\delta, \beta} \right) - \beta x \sqrt{\pi} e^{-y^2 \tan^2(\phi/2)} (1 + \operatorname{erf}(y)) = \pi F_{\phi, \beta}(x, y)$$

with $u_\star = e^{-r^2/(2x^2)}$



□ $\inf_{x, y \in (0, \infty)} F_{\phi, \beta}(x, y) > 0$

■ $\inf_{x, y \in (0, \infty)} F_{\phi, \beta}(x, y) < 0$

$$\mathcal{I}[u_\star] = \pi \left(1 + \frac{x^4}{4} - x^2 \Theta_{\delta, \beta} \right) - \beta x \sqrt{\pi} e^{-y^2 \tan^2(\phi/2)} (1 + \operatorname{erf}(y)) = \pi F_{\phi, \beta}(x, y)$$

with $u_\star = e^{-r^2/(2x^2)}$

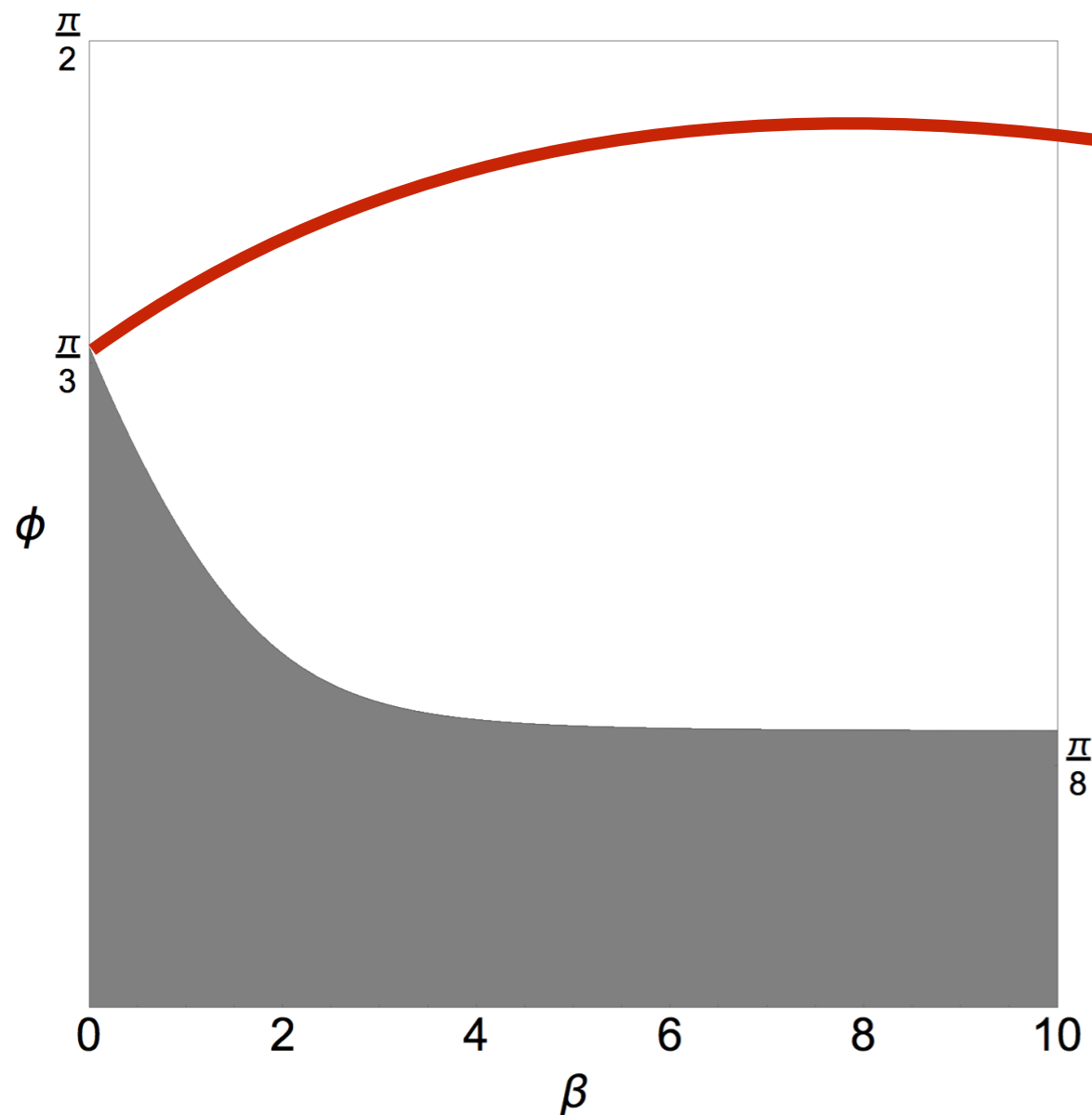
As $\beta \rightarrow 0+$

$$\Theta_{\delta, \beta} = 1 - \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$$

For $\phi \in (0, \pi/3]$

$$F_{\phi, \beta}(\sqrt{2}, \frac{17\sqrt{3}}{40}) \leq F_{\frac{\pi}{3}, \beta}(\sqrt{2}, \frac{17\sqrt{3}}{40})$$

$$\simeq -0.003\beta + \mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$$

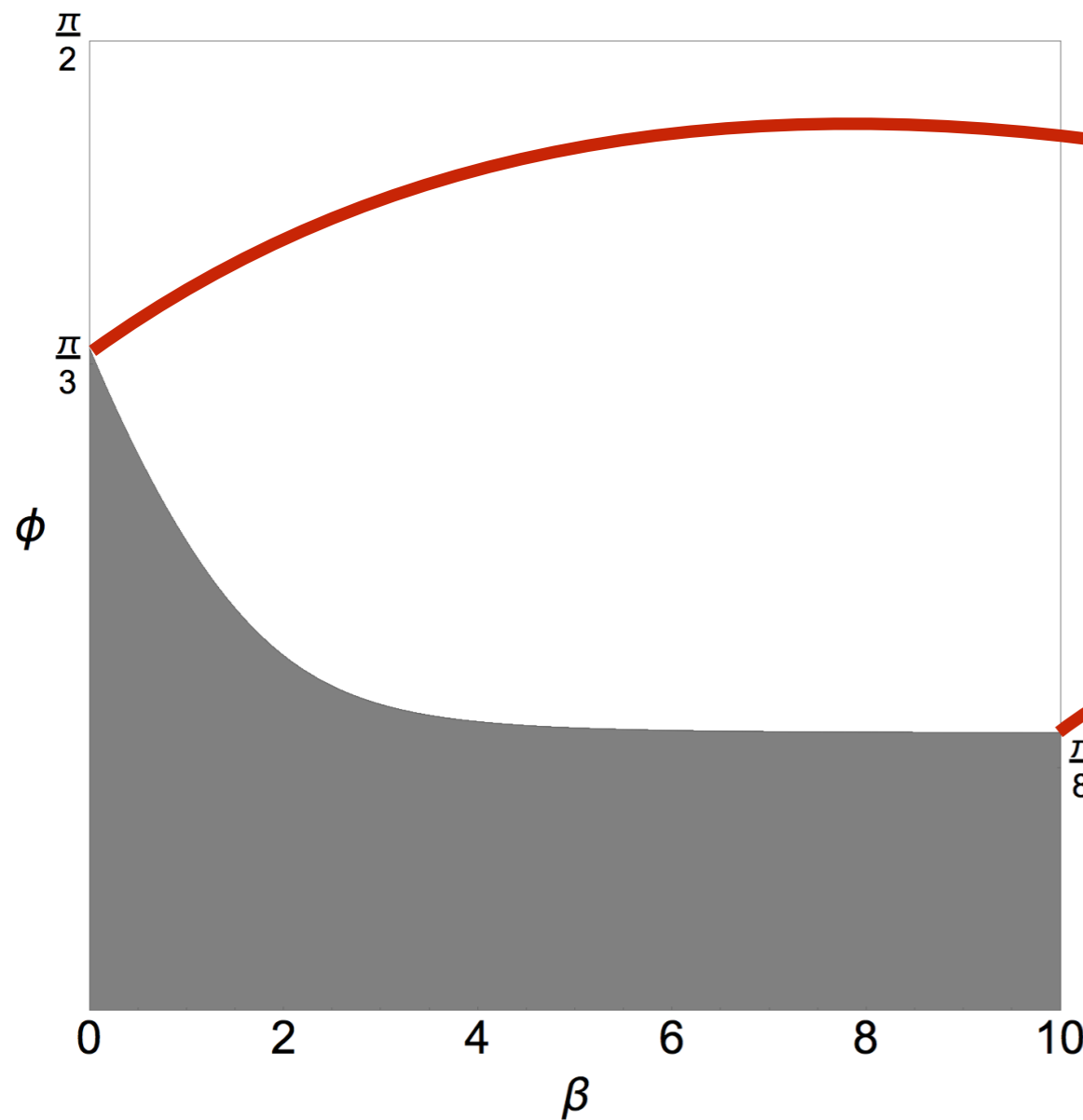


□ $\inf_{x, y \in (0, \infty)} F_{\phi, \beta}(x, y) > 0$

■ $\inf_{x, y \in (0, \infty)} F_{\phi, \beta}(x, y) < 0$

$$\mathcal{I}[u_\star] = \pi \left(1 + \frac{x^4}{4} - x^2 \Theta_{\delta, \beta} \right) - \beta x \sqrt{\pi} e^{-y^2 \tan^2(\phi/2)} (1 + \operatorname{erf}(y)) = \pi F_{\phi, \beta}(x, y)$$

with $u_\star = e^{-r^2/(2x^2)}$



□ $\inf_{x, y \in (0, \infty)} F_{\phi, \beta}(x, y) > 0$

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As $\beta \rightarrow 0+$

$$\Theta_{\delta, \beta} = 1 - \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$$

For $\phi \in (0, \pi/3]$

$$F_{\phi, \beta}(\sqrt{2}, \frac{17\sqrt{3}}{40}) \leq F_{\frac{\pi}{3}, \beta}(\sqrt{2}, \frac{17\sqrt{3}}{40}) \simeq -0.003\beta + \mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$$

For large β

$$\Theta_{\delta, \beta} \geq -\frac{\beta^2}{4}$$

For $\phi \in (0, \pi/8]$

$$F_{\phi, \beta} \left(\frac{g_\phi(\frac{13}{10})}{\beta}, \frac{13}{10} \right) \leq 1 - \frac{g_{\frac{\pi}{8}}(\frac{13}{10})^2}{4} + \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-4}) \simeq -0.042 + \mathcal{O}(\beta^{-4})$$

$$g_\phi(y) := 2\pi^{-1/2} e^{-y^2 \tan^2(\phi/2)} (1 + \operatorname{erf}(y))$$

Summary & conclusions

- We have investigated the existence of bound states for the **Laplacian with a constant magnetic field on a wedge** with different boundary conditions and angles
- The **Neumann** case has been proved up to $\phi \leq 0.583\pi$ ($\sim 105^\circ$), 14% more than the previous limit.
- For the **Robin** boundary condition we have proved the existence of bound states for $\phi \leq 0.564\pi$ ($\sim 102^\circ$) **for positive β** . For small **negative β** there are also bound states for $\phi \leq 0.51\pi$ (92°).
- By applying a magnetic field to the plane with a **delta interaction** on a broken line, the discrete spectrum persists, at least for $\phi \leq \pi/8$ ($\sim 23^\circ$)