



# Quantum Theory viewed from Wigner Phase Space

**Wolfgang Schleich**  
Institut für Quantenphysik  
Center for Integrated Quantum Science and Technology IQ<sup>ST</sup>  
Universität Ulm

# Overview

---

- Wigner function essentials
- focusing wave packets
- quantum dynamics and kinematics in phase space
- quantum tunneling
- Wigner function in higher dimensions



JUNE 1, 1932

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 40

## On the Quantum Correction For Thermodynamic Equilibrium

By E. WIGNER

Department of Physics, Princeton University

(Received March 14, 1932)



If a wave function  $\psi(x_1 \cdots x_n)$  is given one may build the following expression<sup>2</sup>

$$P(x_1, \cdots, x_n; p_1, \cdots, p_n) \\ = \left(\frac{1}{h\pi}\right)^n \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \cdots \int dy_1 \cdots dy_n \psi(x_1 + y_1 \cdots x_n + y_n)^* \\ \psi(x_1 - y_1 \cdots x_n - y_n) e^{2i(p_1 y_1 + \cdots + p_n y_n)/h} \quad (5)$$

and call it the probability-function of the simultaneous values of  $x_1 \cdots x_n$  for the coordinates and  $p_1 \cdots p_n$  for the momenta.

<sup>2</sup> This expression was found by L. Szilard and the present author some years ago for another purpose.

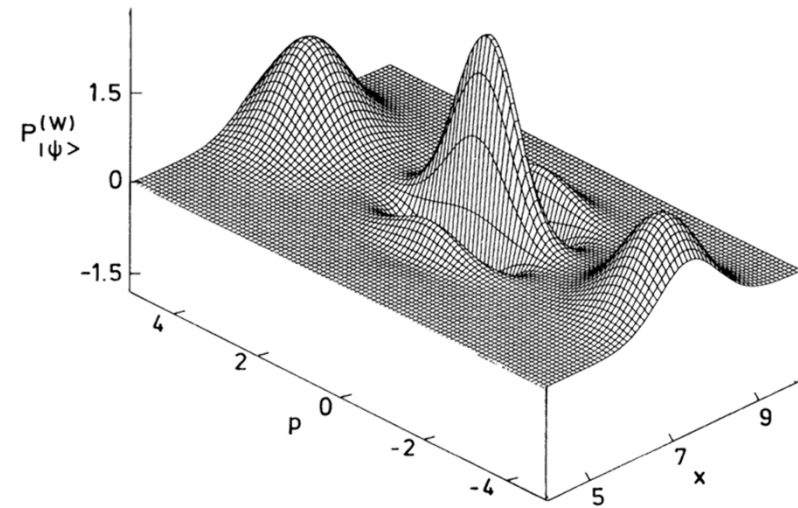
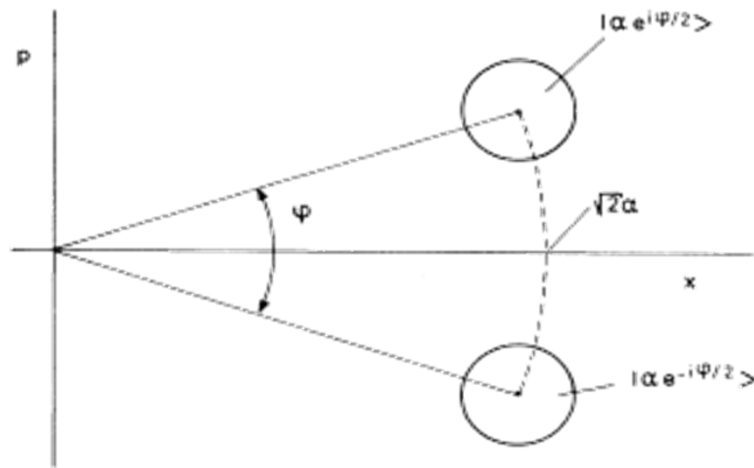
### Nonclassical state from two pseudoclassical states

W. Schleich, M. Pernigo, and Fam Le Kien

*Max-Planck-Institut für Quantenoptik, D-8046 Garching bei München, Federal Republic of Germany  
and Center for Advanced Studies, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131*

(Received 3 December 1990)

The quantum-mechanical superposition of two coherent states of identical mean photon number but different phases yields a state that can exhibit sub-Poissonian and oscillatory photon statistics, as well as squeezing.

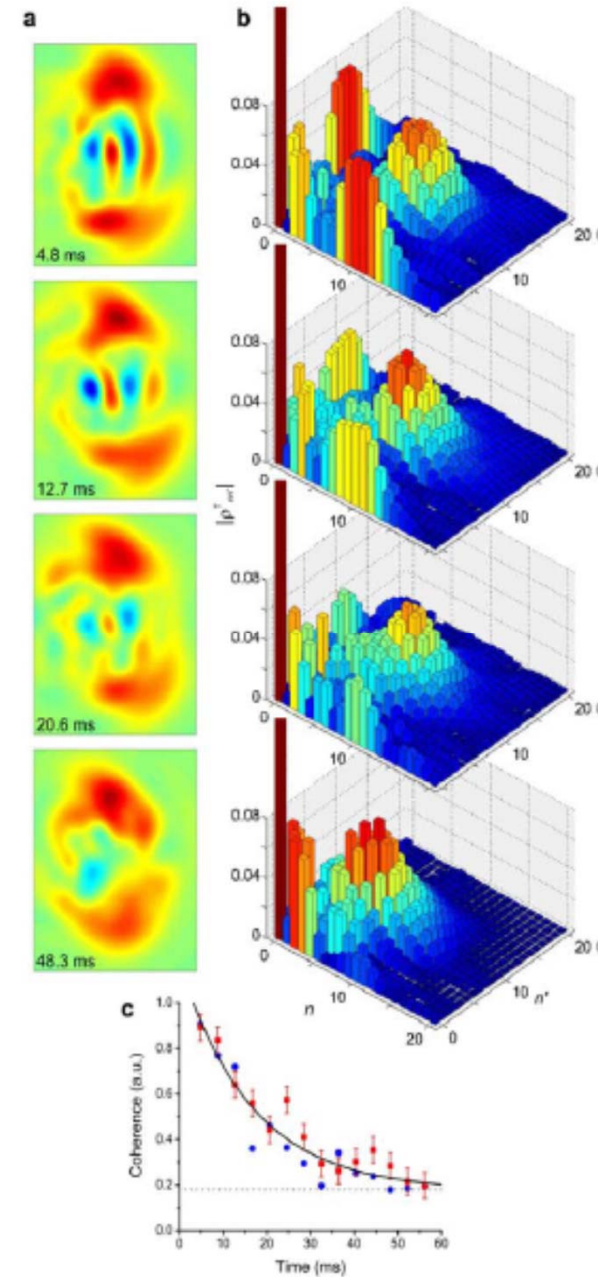
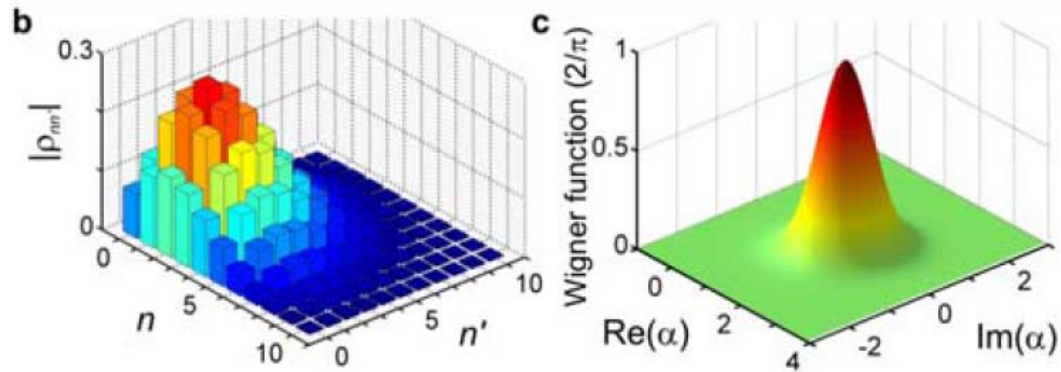
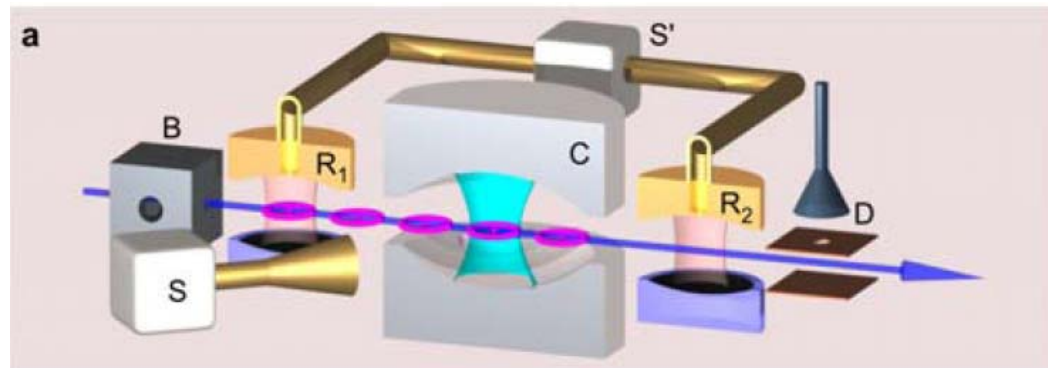


$$|\psi\rangle \sim \sum_n w_n e^{in\phi} |n\rangle + \sum_n w_n e^{-in\phi} |n\rangle$$

## LETTERS

## Reconstruction of non-classical cavity field states with snapshots of their decoherence

Samuel Deléglise<sup>1</sup>, Igor Dotsenko<sup>1,2</sup>, Clément Sayrin<sup>1</sup>, Julien Bernu<sup>1</sup>, Michel Brune<sup>1</sup>, Jean-Michel Raimond<sup>1</sup> & Serge Haroche<sup>1,2</sup>



# Wigner function: essentials

---

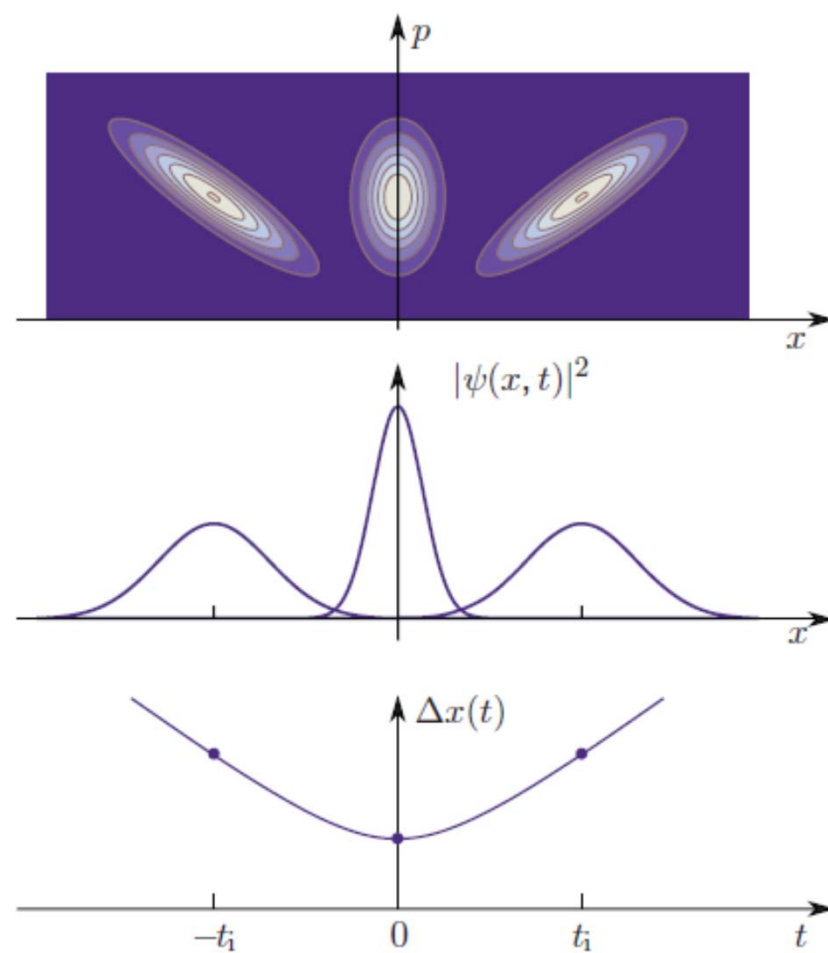
$$W(x, p) \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy e^{-ipy/\hbar} \psi^*(x - y/2) \psi(x + y/2)$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dp W(x, p) = |\psi(x)|^2$$

$$W(x, p; t) = W_0\left(x - \frac{p}{m} t, p\right)$$

# Contracting states: classical correlations

---





Thomas Young (1773-1829)

PHILOSOPHICAL  
TRANSACTIONS.

---

I. *The Bakerian Lecture. Experiments and Calculations relative to physical Optics.* By Thomas Young, M. D. F. R. S.

Read November 24, 1803.

I. EXPERIMENTAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE GENERAL LAW OF  
THE INTERFERENCE OF LIGHT.

IN making some experiments on the fringes of colours accompanying shadows, I have found so simple and so demonstrative a proof of the general law of the interference of two portions of light, which I have already endeavoured to establish, that I think it right to lay before the Royal Society, a short statement of the facts which appear to me so decisive. The proposition on which I mean to insist at present, is simply this, that fringes of colours are produced by the interference of two portions of light; and I think it will not be denied by the most prejudiced, that the assertion is proved by the experiments I am about to relate, which may be repeated with great ease, whenever the sun shines, and without any other apparatus than is at hand to every one.





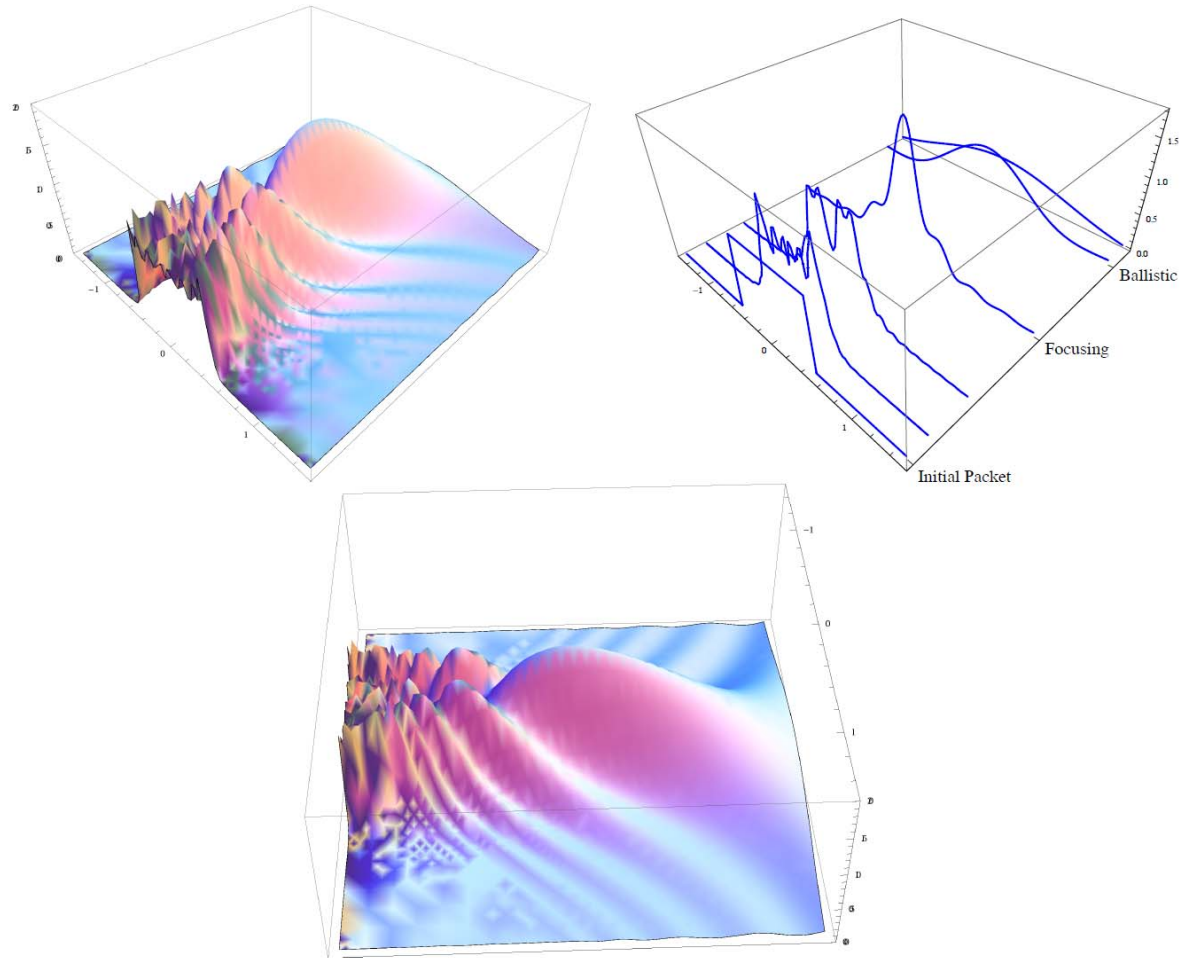
Isaac Newton ( 1643-1727)

*Is. Newton*

Those who are attached to the NEWTONIAN theory of light, or to the hypotheses of modern opticians, founded on views still less enlarged, would do well to endeavour to imagine any thing like an explanation of these experiments, derived from their own doctrines; and, if they fail in the attempt, to refrain at least from idle declamation against a system which is founded on the accuracy of its application to all these facts, and to a thousand others of a similar nature.

# Diffraction from a single slit

---



# A diffractive mechanism of focusing

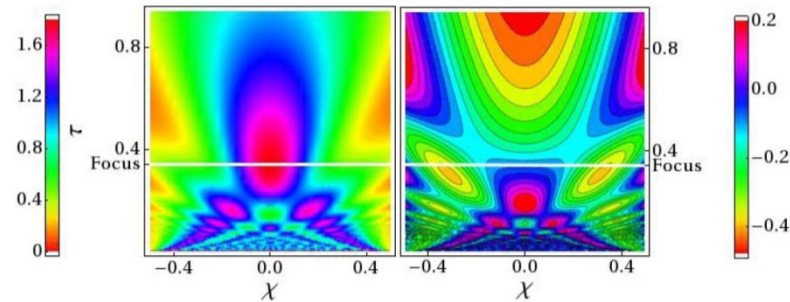
W. B. Case,<sup>1</sup> E. Sadurni,<sup>2,4,\*</sup> and W. P. Schleich<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, Grinnell College, P.O. Box 805, Grinnell, Iowa 50112, USA

<sup>2</sup>Institut für Quantenphysik and Center for Integrated Quantum Science and Technology (IQ<sup>ST</sup>), Universität Ulm, Albert-Einstein-Allee 11, D-89081 Ulm, Germany

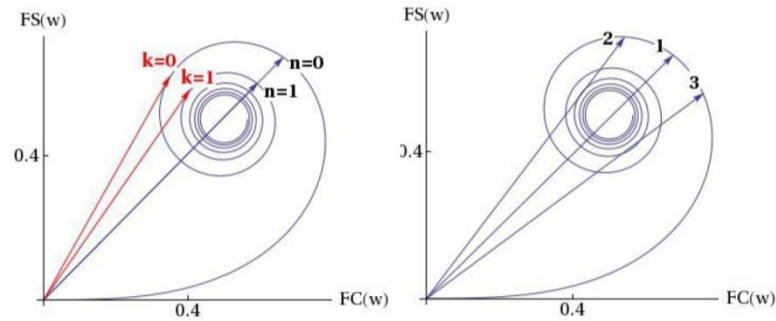
<sup>3</sup>wolfgang.schleich@uni-ulm.de

<sup>4</sup>Instituto de Física, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Apartado Postal J-48, 72570 Puebla, Mexico



(a)

(b)



(c)

(d)

# Diffraction from a single slit

---

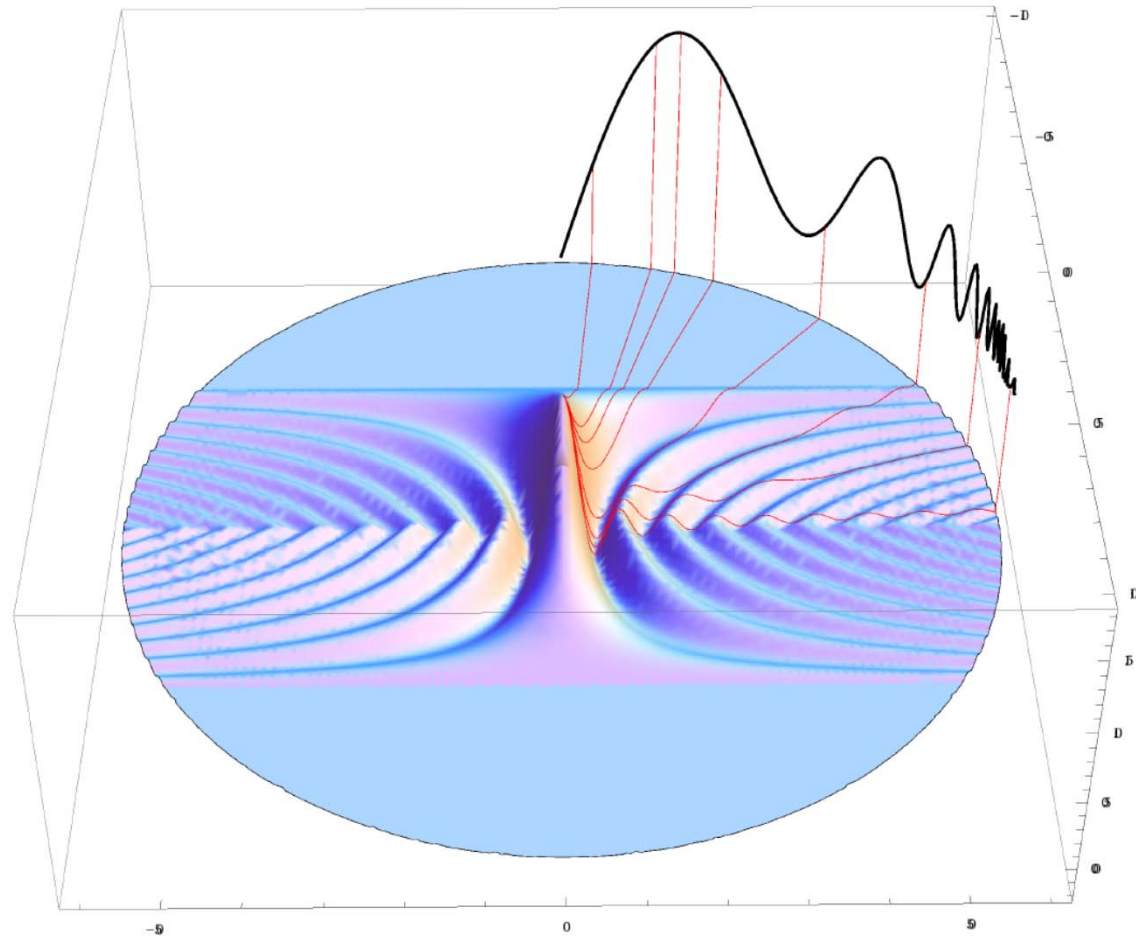
$$W(x, p; t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx_0 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dp_0 W_0(x_0, p_0) \delta \left[ x - \left( x_0 + \frac{pt}{M} \right) \right] \delta(p - p_0)$$

$$|\psi(x, t)|^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx W(x, p; t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi(x, t)|^2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dp W_0 \left( x - \frac{pt}{M}, p \right) \\ &= \frac{M}{t} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy W_0 \left( y, \frac{M(x - y)}{t} \right) \end{aligned}$$

# Intensity distribution from tomographic cuts of Wigner function

---



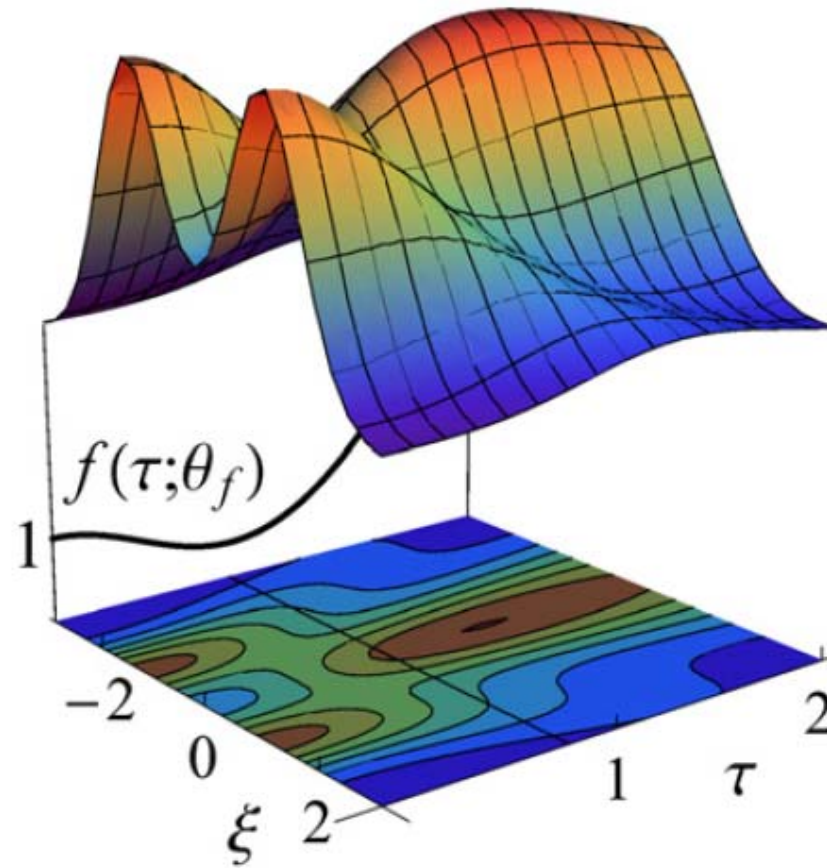
Optimally focusing wave packets <sup>☆</sup>K. Vogel <sup>a,\*</sup>, F. Gleisberg <sup>a</sup>, N.L. Harshman <sup>a,b</sup>, P. Kazemi <sup>a</sup>, R. Mack <sup>a</sup>, L. Plimak <sup>a</sup>, W.P. Schleich <sup>a</sup><sup>a</sup> *Institut für Quantenphysik, Universität Ulm, Albert-Einstein-Allee 11, D-89081 Ulm, Germany*<sup>b</sup> *Department of Physics, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016-8058, USA*

$$\psi(x, t = 0) = \cos \theta u_0(x) + \sin \theta u_2(x)$$

$$u_0, u_2 = \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{energy wave function} \\ \text{of harmonic oscillator} \end{array} \right)$$

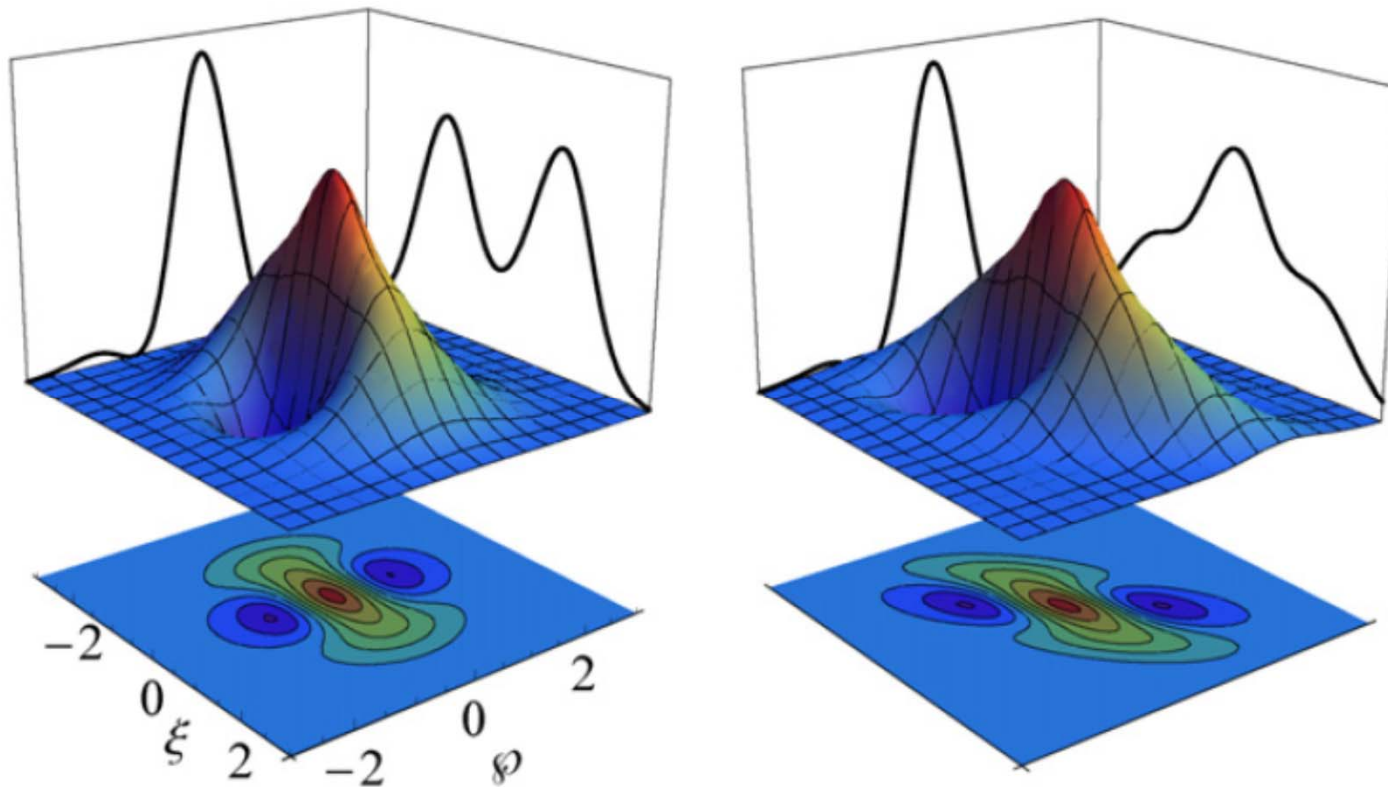
# Optimal wave packet: time evolution

---



# Optimal wave packet: Wigner function

---





# Quantum dynamics in phase space

---

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H} |\psi(t)\rangle \quad \hat{H} \equiv \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V(\hat{z})$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{p}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \frac{\partial}{\partial p} - \hat{\mathcal{L}}_0 \right) W(z, p; t) = 0$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}_0 \equiv \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^l}{(2l+1)!} \left( \frac{\hbar}{2} \right)^{2l} \frac{\partial^{2l+1} V(z)}{\partial z^{2l+1}} \frac{\partial^{2l+1}}{\partial p^{2l+1}}$$

# Quantum kinematics in phase space

---

$$\hat{H}|E\rangle = E|E\rangle$$

$$\left( \frac{p}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \frac{\partial}{\partial p} - \hat{\mathcal{L}}_o \right) W_E = 0$$

$$\left( -\frac{\hbar^2}{8m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} + \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(z) + \hat{\mathcal{L}}_e \right) W_E = E W_E$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}_e \equiv \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^l}{(2l)!} \left( \frac{\hbar}{2} \right)^{2l} \frac{\partial^{2l} V(z)}{\partial z^{2l}} \frac{\partial^{2l}}{\partial p^{2l}}$$

## Area in phase space

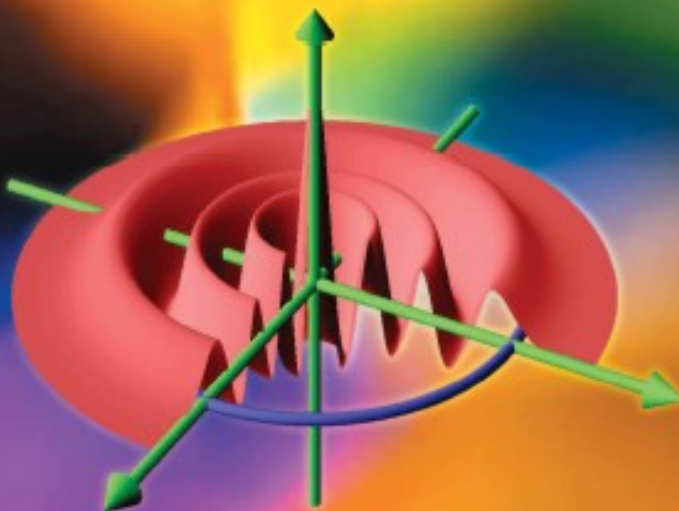
---

$$2\pi \hbar \leq \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dp W_0^2(z, p) \right]^{-1}$$

# opn

Vol. 2 No. 1, October 2002

## TRENDS



**The Nature  
of Light**

***What Is a Photon?***

**OSA**

Supplement to *Optics & Photonics News*  
©Optical Society of America 2002



## Tunneling of an energy eigenstate through a parabolic barrier viewed from Wigner phase space



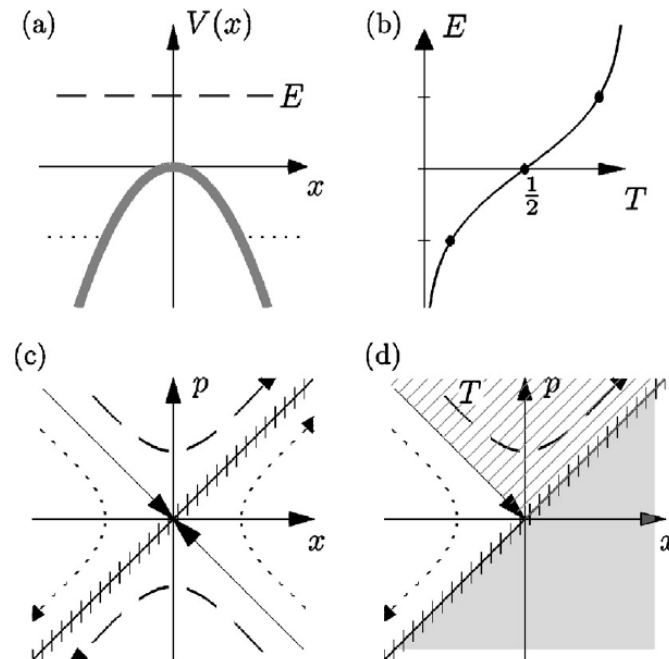
D.M. Heim<sup>a,\*</sup>, W.P. Schleich<sup>a</sup>, P.M. Alsing<sup>b</sup>, J.P. Dahl<sup>c</sup>, S. Varro<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institut für Quantenphysik and Center for Integrated Quantum Science and Technology (IQ<sup>ST</sup>), Universität Ulm, D-89069 Ulm, Germany

<sup>b</sup> Information Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, Rome, NY 13441, USA

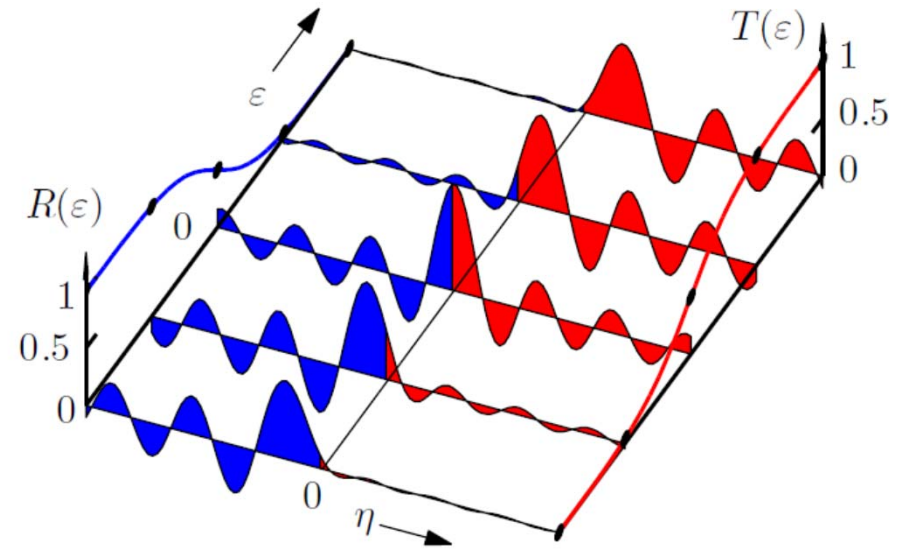
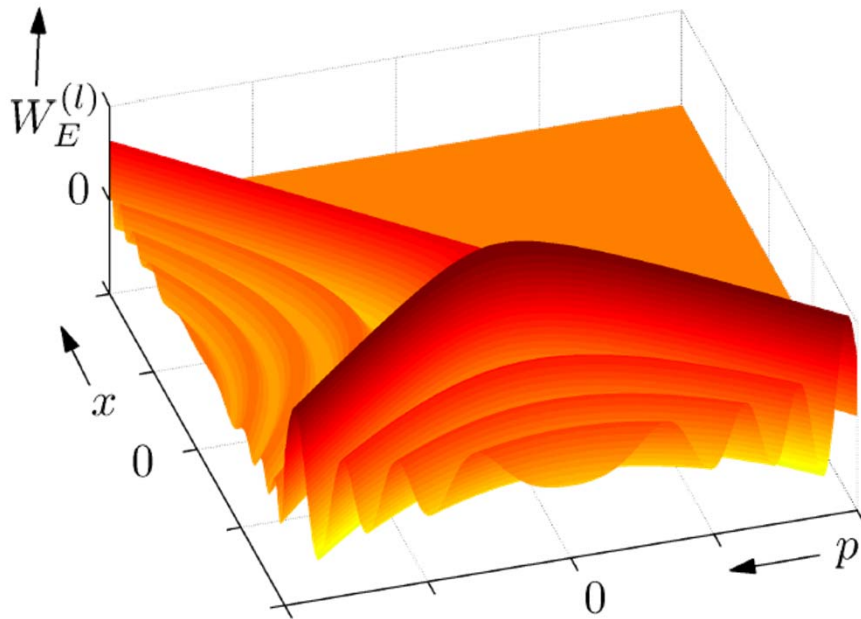
<sup>c</sup> Chemical Physics, Department of Chemistry, Technical University of Denmark, DTU 207, DK-2800 Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark

<sup>d</sup> Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Solid State Physics and Optics, 1525 Budapest, Hungary



$$\left[ \frac{p}{M} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + M\Omega^2 x \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \right] W_E(x, p) = 0$$

$$\left\{ \left[ \frac{p^2}{2M} - \frac{1}{2} M\Omega^2 x^2 \right] - \frac{\hbar^2}{8} \left[ \frac{1}{M} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - M\Omega^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial p^2} \right] \right\} \\ \times W_E(x, p) = EW_E(x, p)$$

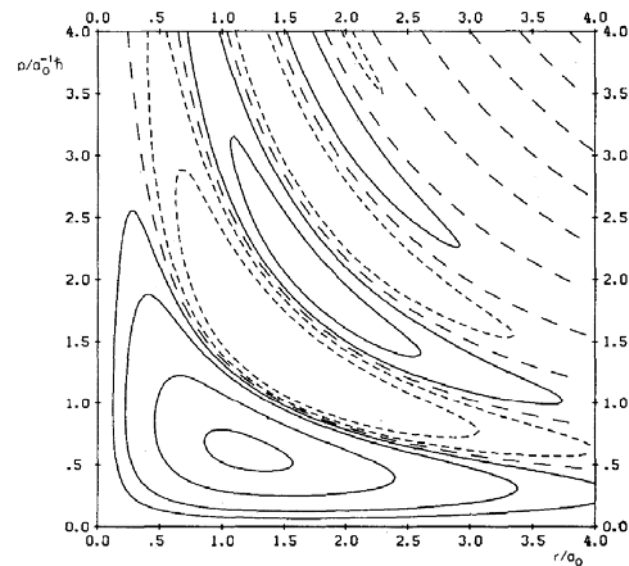
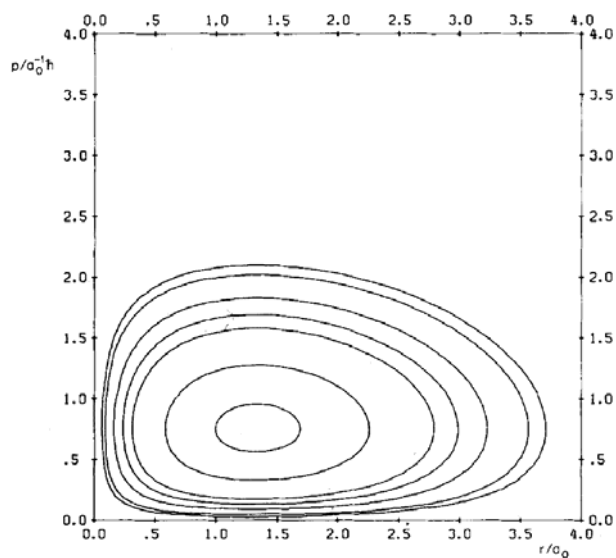




## Wigner's phase space function and atomic structure

### I. The hydrogen atom ground state

by JENS PEDER DAHL and MICHAEL SPRINGBORG  
Department of Chemical Physics, Technical University of Denmark,  
DTH 301, DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark



## Wigner functions of $s$ waves

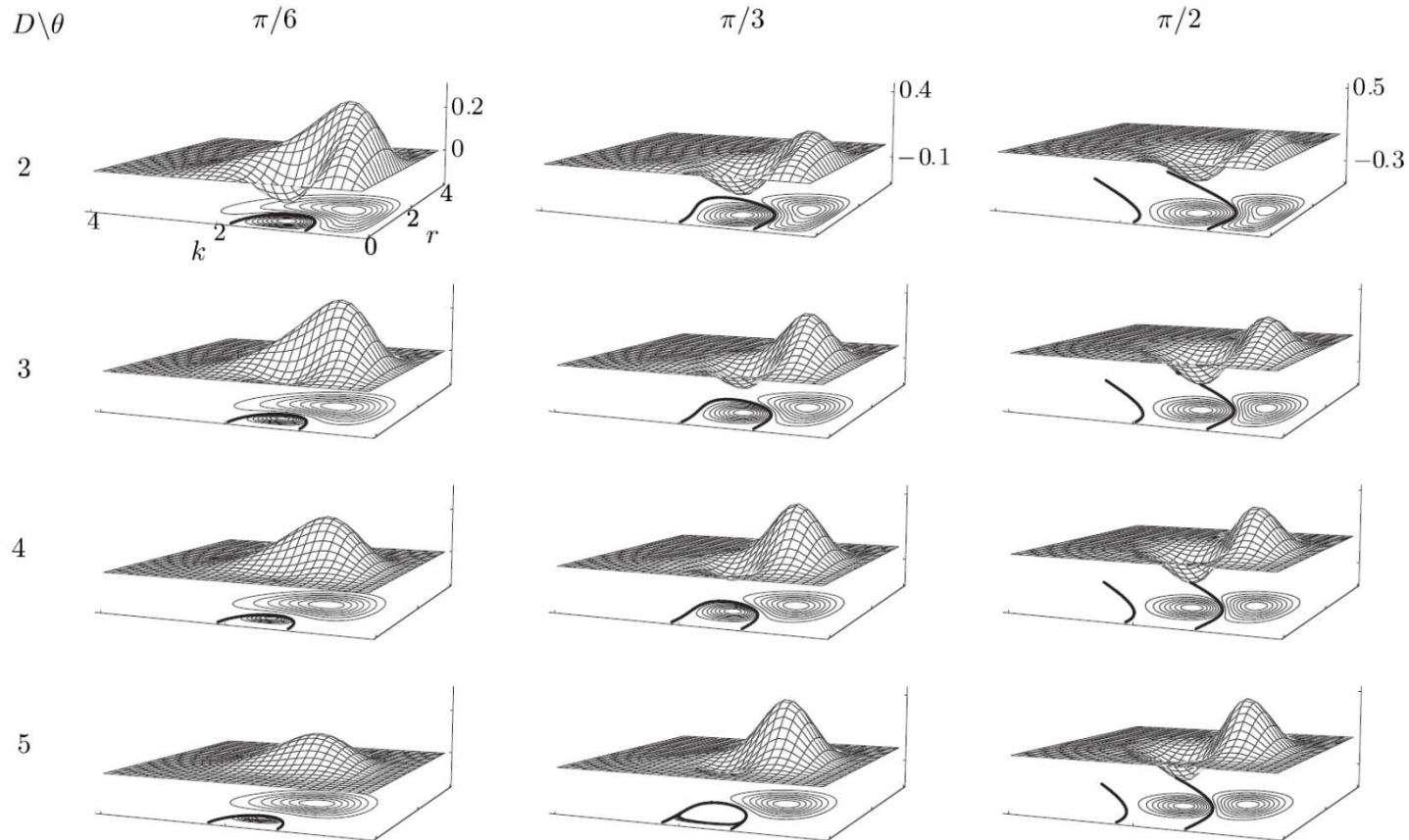
J. P. Dahl,<sup>1,2</sup> S. Varro,<sup>3,2</sup> A. Wolf,<sup>2</sup> and W. P. Schleich<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Chemical Physics, Department of Chemistry, Technical University of Denmark, DTU 207, DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark*

<sup>2</sup>*Institut für Quantenphysik, Universität Ulm, D-89069 Ulm, Germany*

<sup>3</sup>*Research Institute for Solid State Physics and Optics, H-1525 Budapest, P.O. Box 49, Hungary*

(Received 15 January 2007; published 11 May 2007)





## In- and Outbound Spreading of a Free-Particle $s$ -Wave

I. Bialynicki-Birula,<sup>1,2</sup> M. A. Cirone,<sup>2</sup> J. P. Dahl,<sup>2,3</sup> M. Fedorov,<sup>2,4</sup> and W. P. Schleich<sup>2</sup>

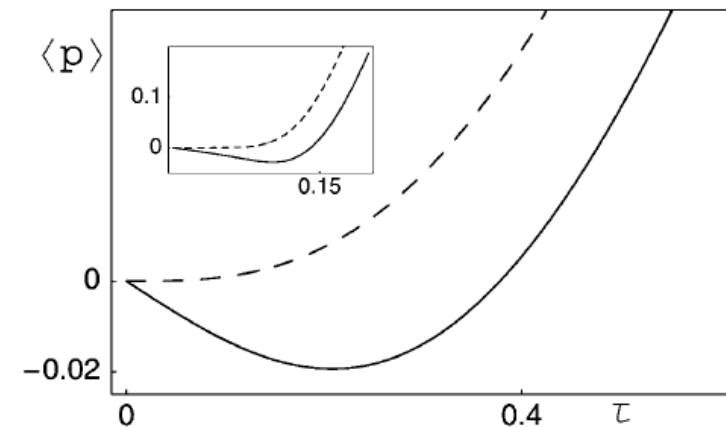
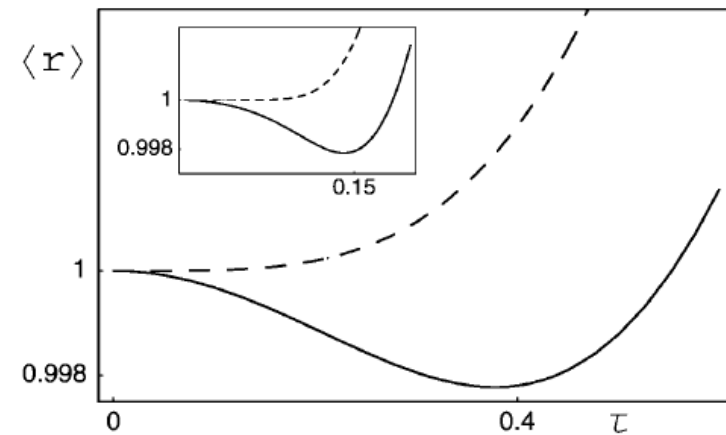
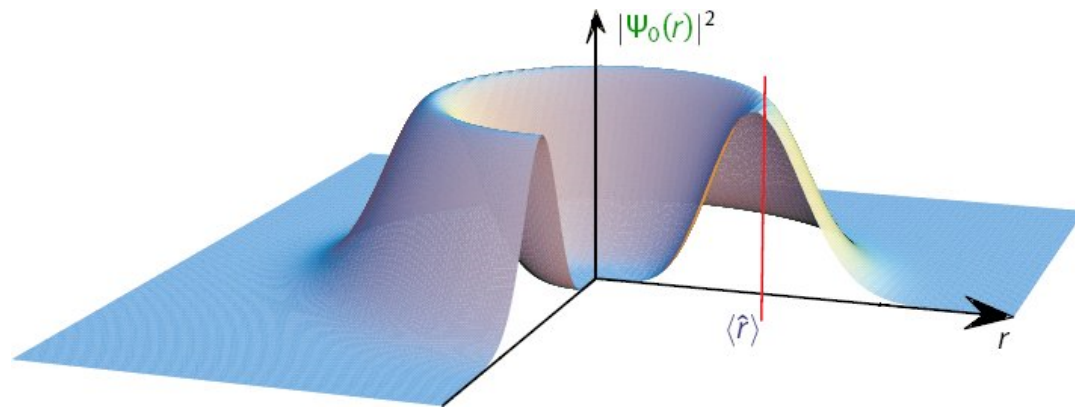
<sup>1</sup>*Center for Theoretical Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Aleja Lotników 32/46, 02-668, Warsaw, Poland*

<sup>2</sup>*Abteilung für Quantenphysik, Universität Ulm, D-89069 Ulm, Germany*

<sup>3</sup>*Chemical Physics, Department of Chemistry, Technical University of Denmark, DTU 207, DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark*

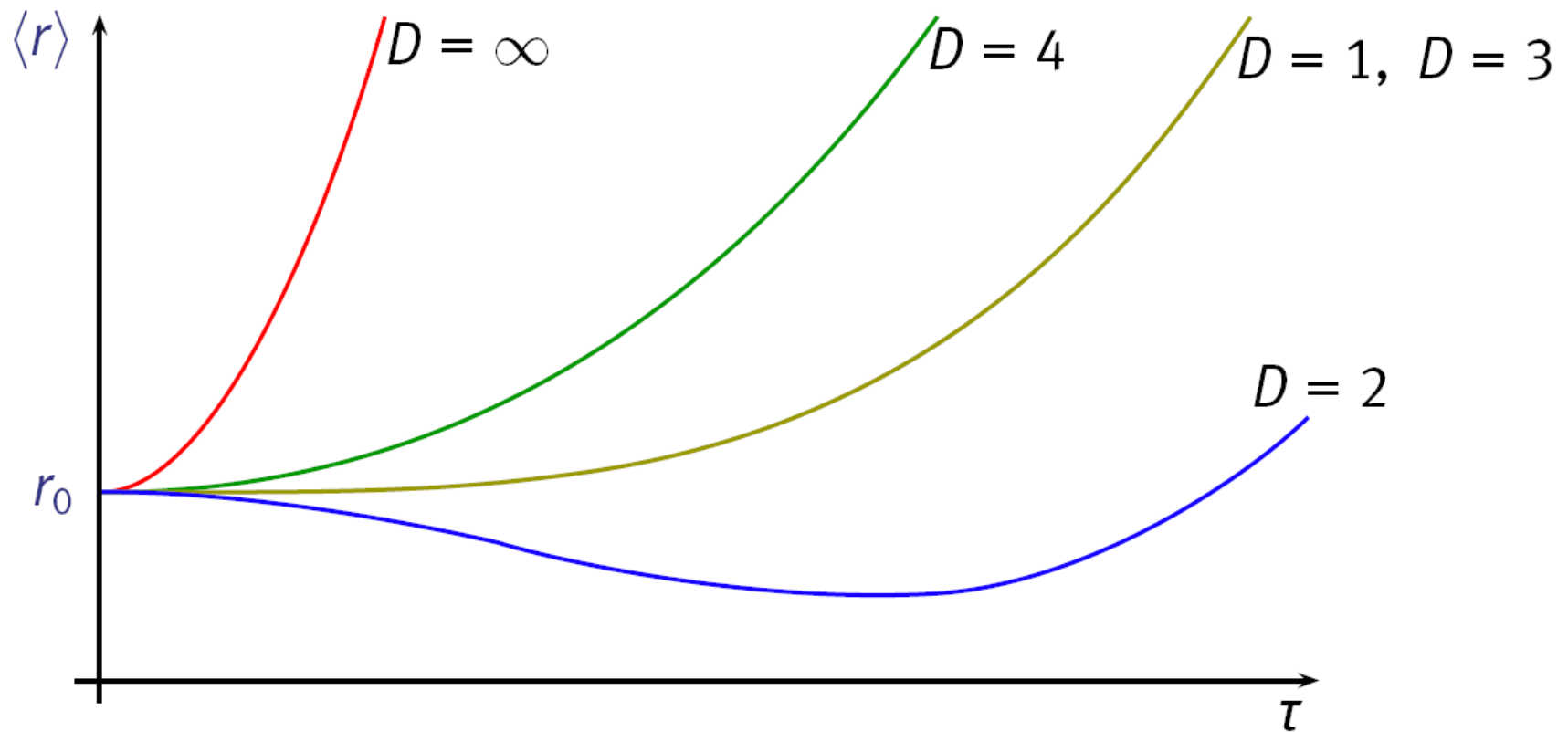
<sup>4</sup>*General Physics Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, 38 Vavilov Street, Moscow 117942 Russia*

(Received 17 October 2001; published 23 July 2002)



# Dependence on dimensions

---



## A representation-free description of the Kasevich–Chu interferometer: a resolution of the redshift controversy

Wolfgang P Schleich<sup>1</sup>, Daniel M Greenberger<sup>2</sup>  
and Ernst M Rasel<sup>3</sup>

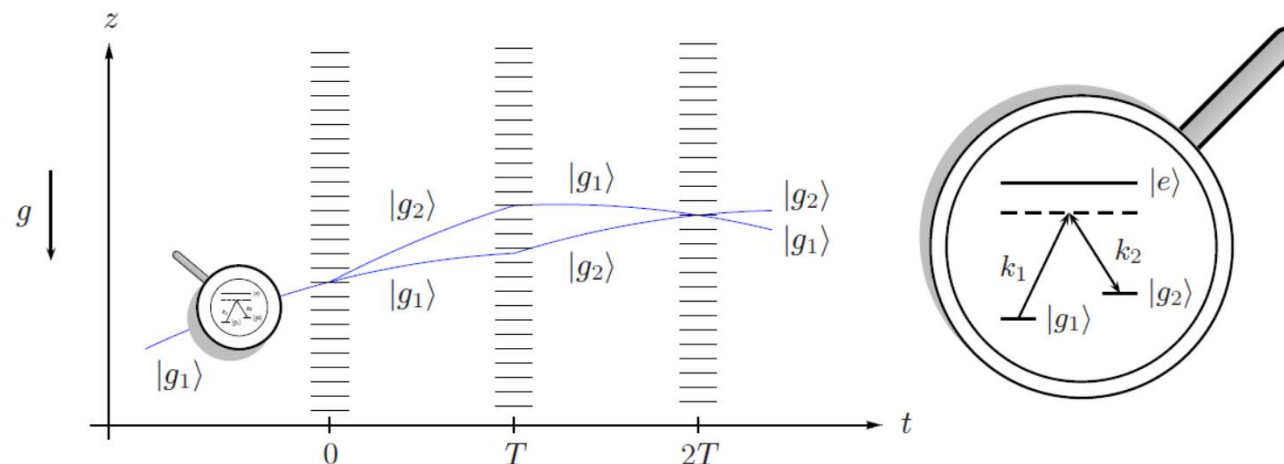
<sup>1</sup> Institut für Quantenphysik and Center for Integrated Quantum Science and Technology (IQ<sup>ST</sup>), Universität Ulm, Albert Einstein Allee 11, D-89069 Ulm, Germany

<sup>2</sup> City College of New York, New York, NY 10031, USA

<sup>3</sup> Institut für Quantenoptik, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Welfengarten 1, D-30167 Hannover, Germany

E-mail: [wolfgang.schleich@uni-ulm.de](mailto:wolfgang.schleich@uni-ulm.de), [greenbgr@sci.cny.cuny.edu](mailto:greenbgr@sci.cny.cuny.edu)  
and [rasel@iqo.uni-hannover.de](mailto:rasel@iqo.uni-hannover.de)

*New Journal of Physics* **15** (2013) 013007 (48pp)



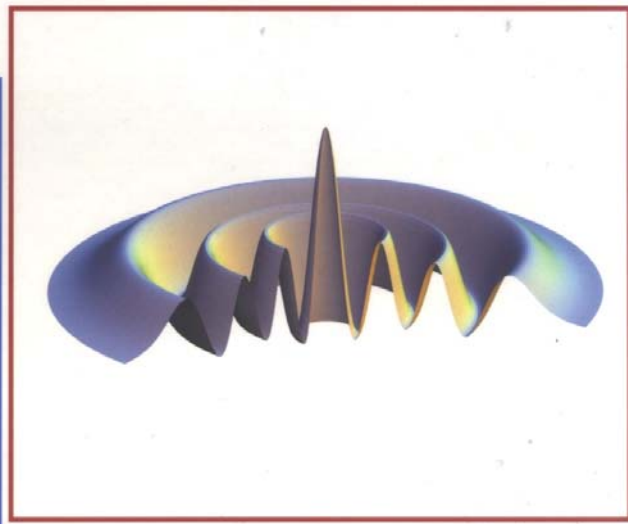
# Summary

---

- Wigner function essentials
- focusing wave packets
- quantum dynamics and kinematics in phase space
- quantum tunneling
- Wigner function in higher dimensions

Wolfgang P. Schleich

# Quantum Optics in Phase Space

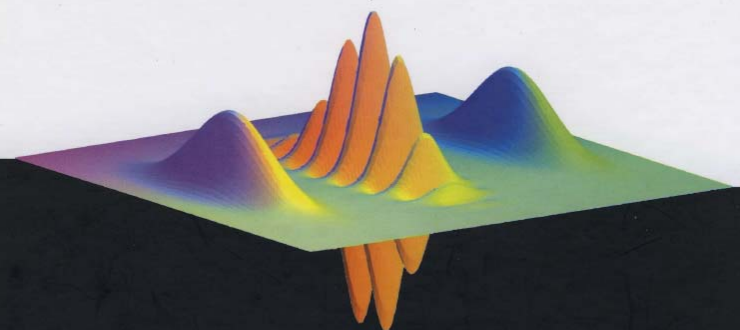


 WILEY-VCH

World Scientific Series in 20th Century Physics **Vol. 34**

# QUANTUM MECHANICS IN PHASE SPACE

An Overview with Selected Papers



*Editors*

**Cosmas K. Zachos**  
**David B. Fairlie**  
**Thomas L. Curtright**