Biphoton phase-space correlations from Gouy-phase measurements using double slits

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Quantum correlations encoded in photonic Laguerre-Gaussian modes were shown to be related to the Gouyphase shifts [Kawase *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **101**, 050501 (2008)], allowing for a nondestructive manipulation of photonic quantum states. In this work, we exploit the relation between phase-space correlations of biphotons produced by spontaneously parametric down-conversion (SPDC) as encoded in the logarithmic negativity (LN) and the Gouy phase as they are diffracted through an asymmetrical double-slit setup. Using an analytical approach based on a double-Gaussian approximation for type-I SPDC biphotons, we show that measurements of Gouy-phase differences provide information on their phase-space entanglement variation, governed by the physical parameters of the experiment and expressed by the LN via covariance matrix elements.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Quantum information science has reached a revolutionary point in the timeline of technological advances and commercial exploitation. Quantum effects have been effectively used in various kinds of information processing and communication. More recently, continuous quantum variables [1] have been used to extend quantum communication protocols from discrete (finite dimension) to continuous variables (infinite dimensions). This amounts to encoding information in continuous variables, such as quadratures of coherent states. The main advantage of working with continuous variables is their unconditionality [2], meaning that the information carriers (e.g., entangled states) originate from the nonlinear optical interaction of a laser with a crystal in an unconditional (every inverse bandwidth time). The drawback is the quality of the entanglement of the states. Quantum information via continuous variables has been contemplated in quantum key distribution protocols [3], in which one may convey unconditionally secure communication. Continuum variable quantum correlations can be encoded in degrees of freedom with a continuous spectrum such as the position and momentum of a particle as well as light quadratures and collective magnetic moments of atomic ensembles, which obey the same canonical algebra. In this contribution, we study the quantification of quantum correlations encoded in continuous variables of biphotons produced in a nonlinear crystal via spontaneous parametric down-conversion as encoded in their Gouy phase in a double-slit experiment.

In a nutshell, the Gouy phase is an axial phase shift that a converging light wave suffers as it passes through a focal point. This phase anomaly was first observed by Gouy in 1890 [4,5] and it can be seen as the result of the photon transverse momentum spread as its trajectory is limited in the transverse direction due to focusing or diffracting through a slit aperture. However, the Gouy-phase shift is present in any kind of wave that is transversally confined, and its physical interpretation is connected to the underlying wave phenomena [6-13]. For instance, the Gouy phase shift can be seen as a manifestation of a general Berry phase, namely a topological phase acquired by a system after a cyclic adiabatic evolution in parameter space [14]. It is known that the Gouy phase shift can be understood in light of the uncertainty principle, as transverse spatial confinement leads to a spread in the transverse momenta and, consequently, to a shift in the expectation value of the axial propagation constant. Thus, a general expression for the Gouy-phase shift is given in terms of expectation values of the squares of the transverse momenta. Therefore, the physical origin of the Gouy phase shift arises from the covariance matrix elements [6,11]. The Gouy-phase shift amounts to a $n \times \pi/2$ axial phase shift that a converging light wave experiences as it passes through its focus in propagating from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$. Whereas the Gouyphase shift for a focused wave is equal to $\pi/2$ for cylindrical waves (line focus) and π for spherical waves (point focus), in wave diffraction by small apertures it was verified to be $\pi/4$ [15].

Gouy-phase shift is observed in different wave phenomena, such as water [16], acoustic [17], surface plasmonpolariton [18], phonon-polariton [19], and more recently matter waves [20–22], and it has important applications in modern optics and photonics. For example, the Gouy phase

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was used to determine the resonant frequencies in laser cavities [23], the phase matching in high-order harmonic generation (HHG) [24], and the spatial variation of the carrier envelope phase of ultrashort pulses in a laser focus [25]. Moreover, it has been observed that the Gouy phase influences the evolution of optical [26] and electronical vortex beams, which acquire an additional Gouy-phase dependence on the absolute value of the orbital angular momentum [21]. For coherent matter waves, the Gouy phase has been studied in Refs. [15,27–29] and experimental realizations were performed in different systems such as Bose-Einstein condensates [20], electron vortex beams [21], and astigmatic electron matter waves [22]. Matter-wave Gouy-phase shifts can be used as mode converters in quantum information processing [27], in the development of singular electron optics [22],

and in the study of nonclassical looped path contributions in

multiple-slit interferometry [30]. In our analysis, we use entangled photon pairs (biphotons or twin photons) produced via spontaneous parametric down-conversion (SPDC). Such events are produced when a nonlinear crystal is hit by a (pump) photon with frequency ω_p , which in turn produces two new outgoing photons of lower frequencies ω_s (signal) and ω_i (idler). A type-I SPDC process happens when the polarization of the outgoing pair of photons is parallel to each other and orthogonal to the polarization of the pump photon. The spatial distribution of the emerging photons forms a cone that is aligned with the pump beam propagation, with the apex at the crystal. Such a process is energy-momentum conserving, namely $\omega_p = \omega_i + \omega_s$ and $\vec{k}_p = \vec{k}_i + \vec{k}_s$, and thus the outgoing photon pair state is highly correlated in their spatial, temporal, spectral, and polarization properties [31]. Therefore, their joint quantum state is entangled [32]. Under reasonable physical assumptions, a double-Gaussian effective wave function for a type-I SPDC can be constructed from the quantization of the nonlinear interaction in the medium represented by the crystal which allows for two outgoing photons from the pump beam source, which may be treated classically [33–36]. We study the propagation of the twin photons diffracted by a double-slit setup in order to obtain the wave functions corresponding to the four possible paths, namely both photons passing through the upper (lower) slit or each one passing through a different slit. The purpose here is to generalize the results cast in Ref. [37], where we established a connection between the logarithmic negativity and the Gouy phase in the biphoton-free propagation, as both depend on the biphoton correlations through the Rayleigh length. Furthermore, by focusing the double Gaussian biphoton wave function using a thin lens, we have calculated the Gouy phase by writing the quantities as a function of the Rayleigh range and have found good agreement with the experimental data [38].

In this contribution, we calculate the Gouy phase and the logarithmic negativity at the detection screen after the diffraction of a type-I SPDC biphoton wave packet. In contrast to the free evolution, in which the biphoton entanglement remains constant, a diffraction through the double slit changes the phase-space correlations [39]. We analyze the quantum correlation behavior of twin photons diffracting through a double slit, and from these correlations presented in the

covariance matrix, one can calculate an entanglement quantifier known as logarithmic negativity. The biphoton entanglement at the detection screen depends on the double-slit geometrical parameters as well as on the initial wave-packet Gaussian widths. We show that the logarithmic negativity and the Gouy-phase difference are connected to each other through the slit width; thus, this setup can serve the purpose of measuring the variation of entanglement, produced by the change in spatial geometry, in terms of the slit width using indirect measurements of the Gouy-phase shift. The Gouy-phase difference is experimentally accessible through the relative intensity and visibility for certain values of slit widths in an asymmetrical double slit. We follow the ideas presented in Refs. [37,38], where it was shown that biphoton phase-space correlations are related with the Gouy phase via the logarithmic negativity. For this purpose, we use an asymmetrical double slit (different slit widths) in order to generate a Gouy-phase shift, since this phase cancels out when the slits have the same widths.

We organize our results as follows. In Sec. II, we study the time evolution of a type-I SPDC biphoton wave function diffracted through an asymmetrical double slit and obtain the corresponding Gouy phase. Then, we calculate the covariance matrix elements and the biphoton entanglement through the logarithmic negativity at the detection screen in terms of the slit parameters. The biphoton position cross correlations both at the slits and at the detection screen are computed for biphotons passing through the same slit as well as through different slits as a function of the geometrical parameters and the wave-packet Gaussian widths. We verify that for a specific set of those parameters, the interference pattern can be fitted by the interference of the wave functions corresponding to the photons passing through the same slit only. For this case, we define the fringe visibility in analogy to the double-slit single-particle interferometry and study the behavior of the visibility as a function of the logarithmic negativity. Section III is devoted to the study of the Gouy-phase difference for an asymmetrical double slit. We show that the Gouy-phase difference can be expressed in terms of the relative intensity and the fringe visibility, which can be measured in a simple way. Then we fix the double-slit parameters as well as the propagation distances and vary the width aperture of one slit. This procedure enables us to obtain the Gouy-phase difference and the logarithmic negativity as a function of the slit aperture. We draw our concluding remarks in Sec. IV.

II. BIPHOTONS DOUBLE-SLIT INTERFEROMETRY

Consider a biphoton produced in a typical type-I SPDC process undergoing diffraction through a double slit. It can be described by an effective wave function [33,40,41] in the position space whose parameters encode phase-space entanglement, and a propagator can be derived [40,42] to evolve the double-Gaussian biphoton wave function in time. Analytical expressions for the time evolution and intensity at the detection screen can be obtained by considering Gaussian slit apertures [43]. From the four wave functions describing the biphoton diffraction through a double slit (namely the two photons passing either through the same or different slits), we extract the Gouy phase, a geometric phase that arises from transverse spatial confinement. Thereafter, we can calculate

the logarithmic negativity using the photon pair diffracted state in terms of phase-space correlations expressed by the covariance matrix. Quantum correlations of a biphoton pair were first investigated in connection with the Gouy phase in Ref. [38]. Later on, a relation between the Gouy phase and quantum correlations through the logarithmic negativity for the biphoton-free evolution was shown in Ref. [37]. Here, we express the relation between the Gouy phase and the logarithmic negativity through the double-slit geometrical parameters (as seen in Fig. 4). We also study how the position cross correlations affect the interference pattern. By judiciously choosing a regime for position correlations, we derive the visibility and relative intensity [15,44], which are experimentally accessible and contain information about the Gouy-phase difference.

A. Type-I SPDC photon pair state in a double slit and the Gouy phase

Let us first consider the free evolution of the biphoton wave function. The effective wave function for biphotons generated in a degenerate collinear type-I SPDC process is given by [33,40,41]

$$\psi_0(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi\sigma\Omega}} e^{\frac{-(x_1 - x_2)^2}{4\sigma^2}} e^{\frac{-(x_1 + x_2)^2}{4\Omega^2}},$$
 (1)

which is the generalized Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen state for the momentum-entangled particles. In Eq. (1), $x_{1,2}$ is one of the transverse biphoton coordinates for which the effective wave function factorizes in the paraxial approximation. Moreover, Ω and \hbar/σ quantify the position and momentum spread of the particles in the *x* direction [40]. Notice that this state is not entangled (it factorizes) if $\Omega = \sigma$ [37]. The time propagation kernel for each of the photons in the pair is given by

$$K_{y}(y,t;y',t') = \sqrt{\frac{1}{i\lambda ct}} \exp\left[-\frac{2\pi (y-y')^{2}}{i\lambda c(t-t')}\right], \quad (2)$$

from which we write the state describing the free propagation of the biphoton as

$$\psi(r,q,t) = \int_{r',q'} K_r(r,t;r',0) K_q(q,t;q',0) \psi_0(r',q'), \quad (3)$$

where $\psi(r', q')$ is given by Eq. (1) written in terms of relative coordinates $r' = (x_1 + x_2)/2$ and $q' = (x_1 - x_2)/2$. Writing the time propagation as a function of the longitudinal distance [37], namely z = ct, yields

$$\psi(r, q, z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi w(z)\tilde{w}(z)}} \exp\left\{-\left[\frac{r^2}{w^2(z)} + \frac{q^2}{\tilde{w}^2(z)}\right]\right\} \\ \times \exp\left\{-i\left[-\frac{k_0}{r_+}r^2 - \frac{k_0}{r_-}q^2 + \zeta(z)\right]\right\}.$$
 (4)

Similarly to the single-particle propagation, the biphoton wave function is characterized by the wave-packet spreads w(z) and $\tilde{w}(z)$, the radius of curvature of the wave fronts $r_{\pm}(z)$, and the biphoton Gouy phase for the free propagation $\zeta(z)$, whose expressions are presented in Appendix A. In the double-slit setup, the biphoton covers a distance z = ct from the source to the slits and $z_{\tau} = c\tau$ from the slits to the detection screen. There are four contributions that account for the intensity at the detection screen: both entangled photons



FIG. 1. Double-slit setup for biphoton interference. (a) Both photons can propagate through slit 1 (upper slit) or slit 2 (lower slit); (b) each photon of the pair can propagate through different slits. The photons travel a distance z = ct from the nonlinear crystal to the slits of widths β_1 (upper slit) and β_2 (lower slit), with *d* being the interslit distance. Thereafter, the photons travel a distance $z_{\tau} = c\tau$ until the detection screen.

propagating through the same slit and each one propagating through different slits, as seen in Fig. 1. The complete evolution from source to detection screen for a type-I SPDC biphoton is described by the wave function

$$\Psi(r, q, z, z_{\tau}) = \int_{r', q'} K_r(r, z + z_{\tau}; r', z) K_q(q, z + z_{\tau}; q', z)$$

× $F(r', q') \psi(r', q', z),$

where the integrals over the primed variables $\{r', q'\}$ run from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$. The propagators K_r and K_q , and the initial state $\psi(r, q, z)$ are given by Eqs. (2) and (4), respectively. The Gaussian window functions, representing slits of widths β_1 (upper slit), β_2 (lower slit), and interslit center-to-center distance *d*, read either

$$F(r,q) \equiv \exp\left[-\frac{\left[(r+q) \mp \frac{d}{2}\right]^2}{2\beta_{1(2)}^2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\left[(r-q) \mp \frac{d}{2}\right]^2}{2\beta_{1(2)}^2}\right],$$
(5)

when the two photons travel through the same slit, where the upper (lower) sign refers to photons traveling by slit 1 (slit 2), or

$$F(r,q) \equiv \exp\left[-\frac{\left[(r+q) \mp \frac{d}{2}\right]^2}{2\beta_{1(2)}^2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{\left[(r-q) \pm \frac{d}{2}\right]^2}{2\beta_{2(1)}^2}\right],$$
(6)

when the two photons propagate through different slits.

Firstly, let us consider identical slit apertures $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta$. The wave function for the biphoton propagating through the upper slit is

$$\Psi_{uu}(r,q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi B\tilde{B}}} \exp\left[-\frac{(r-D_{uu}/2)^2}{B^2}\right] \exp\left[\frac{q^2}{\tilde{B}^2}\right]$$
$$\times \exp\left(\frac{ik_0}{R_+}r^2 + \frac{ik_0}{R_-}q^2 + i\Delta_{uu}r + i\theta_{uu} + i\zeta\right),$$
(7)

where the expressions for B, \overline{B} , R_{\pm} , D_{uu} , Δ_{uu} , and θ_{uu} are written in Appendix B. As for the biphoton propagating through the lower slit, $\psi_{dd}(r, q, z, z_{\tau})$, we replace d with -d in Eq. (7). On the other hand, the wave function describing a photon, say 1, passing through the upper slit and a photon 2 passing through the lower slit is

$$\Psi_{ud}(r,q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi B\tilde{B}}} \exp\left[-\frac{r^2}{B^2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{(q-D_{ud}/2)^2}{\tilde{B}^2}\right]$$
$$\times \exp\left(\frac{ik_0}{R_+}r^2 + \frac{ik_0}{R_-}q^2 + i\Delta_{ud}q + i\theta_{ud} + i\zeta\right).$$
(8)

Clearly the state $\psi_{du}(r, q, z, z_{\tau})$, which describes the propagation of photon 1 through the lower slit and photon 2 through the upper slit, is obtained by replacing *d* with -d in $\psi_{ud}(r, q, z, z_{\tau})$ (see Appendix B). Just as in the biphoton propagation in the free space, $B(z, z_{\tau})$ and $\tilde{B}(z, z_{\tau})$ are the wave-packet spreads, $R_{\pm}(z, z_{\tau})$ is the radius of curvature of the wave fronts for the propagation through the slit, $D(z, z_{\tau})$ is the wave-packet separation, and $\theta(z, z_{\tau})$ is a phase which depends on the propagation distances and *d*. Therefore, the Gouy phase is given by

$$\zeta = -\frac{1}{2}\arctan\left[\frac{f(z, z_{\tau}, \beta) + g(z, z_{\tau}, \beta)}{1 - f(z, z_{\tau}, \beta)g(z, z_{\tau}, \beta)}\right], \quad (9)$$

where the functions $f(z, z_{\tau}, \beta)$ and $g(z, z_{\tau}, \beta)$ are given in Appendix B. As the parameters Ω and σ become identical, the initial state is not entangled [40], yet some correlations remain, as seen from the covariance matrix [37].

Let us study the behavior of the biphoton Gouy phase in Eq. (9) as a function of the distance after slits z_{τ} , for different values of the initial correlation between the two photons. A small correlation $\Omega = 3.5\sigma$ produces a large total Gouyphase variation as compared with $\Omega = 5.0\sigma$ or $\Omega = 10\sigma$, represented by the dashed, dash-dotted, and solid curves respectively, in the upper plot of Fig. 2. This result has a similar pattern to the biphoton-free propagation case [37], showing that initial correlation between the photons plays a relevant role in the value of the Gouy phase in Eq. (9), even when the wave packet suffers diffraction. Moreover, we analyze the Gouy phase (9) as a function of z_{τ} , for three values of the slit width β as seen in Fig. 2. We observe that the smaller slit width, the larger the total Gouy-phase variation (dash-dotted curve) as seen in Fig. 2. In the limit where $\beta \to \infty$, the Gouy phase in (9) for the propagation through a double slit tends to the Gouy phase given by Eq. (A4) for the free propagation, as it should. We considered the following set values of parameters to construct Fig. 2: biphoton wavelength $\lambda = 702$ nm, laser pump wavelength $\lambda_p = 351.1$ nm, and crystal typical



FIG. 2. Gouy phase as a function of the propagation distance from the slits to the detector z_{τ} . As the biphoton crosses the slits, its wave function acquires a Gouy phase that is dependent on the initial correlations. Notice that the smaller the initial correlation, the larger is the total Gouy-phase variation. (Top) The dashed curve corresponds to the Gouy phase for the parameter $\Omega = 3.5\sigma$ whereas the dash-dotted curve corresponds to $\Omega = 5\sigma$. After diffraction, the Gouy phase shows dependence on the slit parameters. (Bottom) The Gouy phase for slit widths $\beta = 35 \ \mu m$ and $\beta = 65 \ \mu m$ represented by the dash-dotted and dashed curves, respectively. Notice that as the slit width β increases, the curve approaches the one for the Gouy phase for free biphoton propagation ($\beta \rightarrow \infty$) represented by the solid curve.

length $L_z = 7.0$ mm. This enables us to obtain $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{L_p\lambda_p}{6\pi}} = 11.4 \ \mu\text{m}$ and $z_{0-} = k_0\sigma^2 = 1.4$ mm, where $k_0 = 2\pi/\lambda$. We consider the distance from the source to the slits z = 1.2 mm. The slit width for the upper plot in Fig. 2 is $\beta = 40 \ \mu\text{m}$. The Gaussian spread is such that $\Omega = 10\sigma$ in the lower plot of Fig. 2. Those are typical values as used in the biphoton double-slit experiment in Ref. [45]. It is noteworthy that SPDC biphotons were theoretical and experimentally studied by Kawase and collaborators in Ref. [38], and the Gouy phase generated in the free evolution was connected to quantum correlations encoded in Laguerre-Gaussian modes. Moreover, the authors suggest that the Gouy phase can be used as a tool

to manipulate multidimensional photonic quantum states. By diffracting a wave packet through a double slit, the Gouyphase shift can be measured only in asymmetric setup, namely for different slit widths. In the next section, we study this configuration and how the Gouy phase difference is related to the relative intensity and visibility.

B. Logarithmic negativity for type-I SPDC biphotons in a double slit

A type-I SPDC biphoton pair diffracted through a double slit is effectively described by the double-Gaussian state expressed by Eq. (7). Such Gaussian states are fully characterized by their first and second moments. It is possible to set the first moments to zero by local unitary operations, while keeping the entanglement unchanged, and the second moments are given by the covariance matrix elements [46]. A necessary condition for an entanglement quantifier is that it has to vanish if the state is separable. According to the Peres-Horodecki criterion [47], if a state is separable, the partial transpose of the correlation (variance) matrix of the state has a non-negative spectrum. Therefore, we can establish that a Gaussian state is separable if and only if the minimum value of the symplectic spectrum of M^{T_2} , M defined in Eq. (10), is greater than 1/2, the lowest value allowed by the uncertainty principle [41]. Consider the wave function for the biphoton propagating through the upper slit, as seen in Fig. 1(a). Using Eq. (7), we calculate the elements of the covariance matrix whose symplectic form can be written as

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} g & 0 & c & 0\\ 0 & g & 0 & c'\\ c & 0 & h & 0\\ 0 & c' & 0 & h \end{bmatrix},$$
(10)

which is related to the phase space correlation matrices

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\langle x_1^2 \rangle}{L^2} & \frac{\langle x_1 p_1 + p_1 x_1 \rangle}{2\hbar} \\ \frac{\langle x_1 p_1 + p_1 x_1 \rangle}{2\hbar} & \frac{L^2 \langle p_1^2 \rangle}{\hbar^2} \end{bmatrix},$$
$$H = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\langle x_2^2 \rangle}{L^2} & \frac{\langle x_2 p_2 + p_2 x_2 \rangle}{2\hbar} \\ \frac{\langle x_2 p_2 + p_2 x_2 \rangle}{2\hbar} & \frac{L^2 \langle p_2^2 \rangle}{\hbar^2} \end{bmatrix},$$
$$C = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\langle x_1 x_2 \rangle}{L^2} & \frac{\langle x_1 p_2 \rangle}{\hbar} \\ \frac{\langle x_2 p_1 \rangle}{\hbar} & \frac{L^2 \langle p_1 p_2 \rangle}{\hbar^2} \end{bmatrix},$$

through simple relations det $G = g^2$, det $H = h^2$, and det C = cc'. The constants \hbar and L, which appear in the above matrices, are inserted to make the matrix M dimensionless. The full expressions for the elements of M are disposed in Appendix C. With that in sight, the logarithmic negativity is a suitable measure to quantify entanglement for general Gaussian states. It can be written as $E_N = \max\{0, -\ln(2\nu_{\min})\}$ where ν_{\min} is the lowest symplectic eigenvalue of M^{T_2} . The equation that determines the symplectic eigenvalues is $\nu^4 + (g^2 + c^2 - 2cc')\nu^2 + \det(M) = 0$, with solutions $\pm i\nu_{\alpha}$, $\alpha = 1, 2$, and ν_{α} is the symplectic spectrum. Thus, the logarithmic negativity



FIG. 3. The biphoton logarithmic negativity in Eq. (11) depends on propagation distances z and z_{τ} . As the slit width increases, the quantum correlations become independent of z and z_{τ} and saturate at a maximum constant value, represented by the solid curve in the four plots. In these plots, we have the logarithmic negativity E_N as a function of the distance from the source to the slits z (distance from the slits to the detector z_{τ}), with $z_{\tau} = 70$ mm (z = 2 mm), for the slit widths $\beta = 50$ mm and $\beta = 60 \ \mu$ m ($\beta = 60 \ \mu$ m and $\beta = 70 \ \mu$ m), dash-dotted and dashed curve, respectively. For two different values of slit distance $d = 100 \ \mu$ m (upper plots) and $d = 180 \ \mu$ m (lower plots), we observe deeper valleys for larger values of d due to loss of correlation for a range of values of z_{τ} .

obtained is expressed as

$$E_{N} = \ln \left[\frac{\sqrt{2icB\tilde{B}R_{+}R_{-}}}{\sqrt{\sqrt{-A_{1}A_{2}} + A_{3}}} \right],$$
(11)

where *i* is the imaginary unit and *c* is the speed of light constant. The expressions for *B*, \tilde{B} , R_+ , and R_- are shown in Appendix B, and the expressions for A_1 , A_2 , and A_3 are displayed in Appendix C. In a free evolution, the logarithmic negativity for a similar biphoton [37] is written in terms of the Gaussian wave packet spreads as $E_N = \ln(\frac{\Omega}{\sigma})$, i.e., in terms only of the initial correlation between the photons. After diffracting through a double slit, the logarithmic negativity calculated for the biphoton wave function depends on the geometrical double-lit parameters as well. Consequently, we may explore how the quantum correlations represented by the logarithmic negativity behave as a function of the apparatus parameters.

In order to study how E_N is affected by the slit parameters, we show in the graphs of Fig. 3 the logarithmic negativity as a function of z and z_{τ} , the flight distances before and after the slits, respectively, for some typical values of the interslit distance d, and the slit width β . Notice that the logarithmic negativity E_N decreases as z increases (plots on the left), whereas, as z_{τ} increases, it displays a valley before it becomes constant (plots on the right). As the interslit distance d increases, the photons become less correlated, and the logarithmic negativity is nearly zero for a slit width $\beta = 60 \ \mu m$ (dash-dotted curve in the lower right plot in Fig. 3). One can see this by comparing the upper right with the lower right plot, the only difference being that $d = 100 \ \mu m$ in the upper one and $d = 180 \ \mu m$ in the lower one. Due to the existence of a region where the momentum uncertainty has a maximum, between $z_{\tau} = 0$ and $z_{\tau} = 50 \ mm$, the logarithmic negativity decreases in that same region, which is consistent with the fact that decreased entanglement leads to higher uncertainty of the position and momentum [48].

Moreover, notice in the plots of Fig. 3 that as the slit width β increases, so does E_N . Evidently when $\beta \to \infty$, E_N becomes independent of z and z_{τ} and saturates at a maximum constant value. This value coincides with logarithmic negativity for biphotons in a free propagation regime $E_N =$ $\log_e(\frac{\Omega}{\sigma}) \approx 2.3$. We used a biphoton wavelength $\lambda = 702$ nm, laser pump wavelength $\lambda_p = 351.1$ nm, and a crystal typical length $L_z = 7.0$ mm. Thus, we have $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{L_p \lambda_p}{6\pi}} = 11.4 \ \mu m$, $\Omega = 10\sigma$, and $z_{0-} = k_0 \sigma^2 = 1.4$ mm, where $k_0 = 2\pi / \lambda$ [45].

While the logarithmic negativity depends on all geometrical parameters of the double slit, the Gouy phase does not depend on the interslit distance d. Later, we show that the Gouy-phase difference, in terms of the relative intensity and visibility, does present a dependence on d. Then, to investigate the relation between the biphoton Gouy phase and its quantum correlations, we may replace for a while the two slits with a single one, located in the origin x = 0, by setting d = 0. On the other hand, the slit width β plays an important role in the measurement of the Gouy phase, as expected. Consequently, the biphoton logarithmic negativity at the detection screen is influenced by the spatial transverse confinement represented by β . The logarithmic negativity E_N as a function of slit width β is exhibited in Fig. 4 (upper left plot). Notice that the smaller β , so are the quantum correlations between the photons. We have also depicted the Gouy phase in Eq. (9) as a function of β in Fig. 4 (upper right plot), which shows that the Gouy phase diminishes as the slit width increases. We used a biphoton wavelength $\lambda = 702$ nm, laser pump wavelength $\lambda_p = 351.1$ nm, and the crystal typical length $L_z =$ 7.0 mm, in Fig. 4, which yield $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{L_p \lambda_p}{6\pi}} = 11.4 \ \mu \text{m}$ and $z_{0-} = k_0 \sigma^2 = 1.4$ mm, where $k_0 = 2\pi/\lambda$ [45]. We also considered $\Omega = 10\sigma$, d = 200 mm, z = 2 mm, and $z_{\tau} = 70$ mm.

We now proceed to investigate the relation between the phase-space quantum correlations and the Gouy phase of a type-I SPDC biphoton in a double-slit setup. For a free evolution, such a relation was first studied in Ref. [38], where the authors used lenses to focus the biphoton beams and thus manipulated the quantum correlations in the free propagation evolution by promoting transverse spatial confinement of the wave packet. In our proposal, the Gouy-phase difference arises due to the transverse spatial confinement promoted by a double slit, and it can be measured if we use different slit widths β . Since in the case we are considering here both the logarithmic negativity and the Gouy phase depend on the slit parameters, we can relate them through the slit width (see lower plot in Fig. 4). For the set of parameters considered in



FIG. 4. The biphoton entanglement at the detection screen is influenced by the transverse spatial confinement represented by the slit. As we can see, the logarithmic negativity E_N equation (11), for d = 0, as a function of the slit width $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta$ indicates that the larger is β , the larger is the biphoton entanglement at the detection screen (upper left plot). On the other hand, the biphoton Gouy-phase variation ζ increases with transverse spatial confinement (upper right plot). Finally, we verify that the entanglement represented by E_N decreases as the Gouy-phase ζ increases (lower plot).

Fig. 4, the logarithmic negativity decreases as a function of the Gouy phase. Therefore, we conclude that for the system type-I SPDC biphoton diffracted by a double slit, one can access information about the logarithmic negativity through values of the Gouy phase. In the next section, we explore the possibility of relating the logarithmic negativity and the Gouyphase difference in an asymmetric double slit experiment. For this purpose, we have to define the visibility and the relative intensity, which is attainable in a certain regime of position correlations.

C. Position cross-correlation effects in the interference pattern

In this section, we will see that by choosing the wavepacket parameters such that one has strong position correlation at the slits, we can numerically disregard the amplitudes that correspond to photons crossing different slits. In turn, this configuration results in a slightly anticorrelated photon pair at the detection screen. Also, in analogy to a single particle-double-slit interferometric setup, we can define the visibility and the relative intensity [15,44]. We investigate how the interference pattern of biphotons diffracted through a double slit is related to their position correlations at the detection screen.

The two-particle normalized spatial cross correlation reads [49]

$$\rho_x = \frac{\langle x_1 x_2 \rangle - \langle x_1 \rangle \langle x_2 \rangle}{\sigma_{x1} \sigma_{x2}},\tag{12}$$

where $\sigma_{x_{1,2}}$ is the standard deviation of $x_{1,2}$. It ranges from -1 to 1, it is zero if the two particles are uncorrelated. They are spatially closely correlated (bunched), if $\rho_x \rightarrow 1$ and spatially closely anticorrelated, if $\rho_x \rightarrow -1$. The position cross correlations at the detector, calculated using the wave functions in Eqs. (7) and (8), respectively, are

$$\rho_{uu}(z, z_{\tau}, \beta) = \frac{B - B + D_{uu}}{B + \tilde{B} + D_{uu}},$$
$$\rho_{ud}(z, z_{\tau}, \beta) = \frac{B - \tilde{B} - D_{ud}}{B + \tilde{B} + D_{ud}}.$$
(13)

As we can observe, these quantities are expressed in terms of the wave-packet spreads *B* and \tilde{B} , as well as the wavepacket separation D_{uu} and D_{ud} (whose expressions are in Appendix B). Also in the limit of wide slit width $\beta \rightarrow \infty$, we recover the biphoton cross correlation for a free propagation

$$\rho(z, z_{\tau}) = \frac{(\Omega^2 - \sigma^2)}{(\Omega^2 + \sigma^2)} \frac{\left[1 - \left(\frac{z + z_{\tau}}{k_0 \sigma \Omega}\right)^2\right]}{\left[1 + \left(\frac{z + z_{\tau}}{k_0 \sigma \Omega}\right)^2\right]},\tag{14}$$

where, as usual, Ω and σ are the wave-packet initial parameters, $k_0 = 2\pi/\lambda$, and z and z_τ are free propagation distances traveled by the photons. For the position cross correlations in (13) and depicted in Fig. 5, we consider $\sigma = 11.4 \,\mu\text{m}$, $\Omega = 10\sigma, d = 100 \ \mu m, \beta = 5.0 \ \mu m$. Just after crossing the upper slit, the biphoton is evidently very correlated in its spatial coordinates. As the photons move away from the slits, the position correlation ρ_{uu} decreases until reaching a constant value. In contrast, photons traveling separately through different slits are considerably anticorrelated just after crossing. The position correlation ρ_{ud} decreases as z_{τ} increases and the photons become less anticorrelated until ρ_{ud} assumes a constant value. The asymptotic values of correlations can be easily obtained numerically. For instance, if we take $z_{\tau} = 500$ mm, we get $\rho_{uu}^{\infty} = 0.00035$ and $\rho_{ud}^{\infty} = 0.000035$ for z = 500 mm, whereas for $z = 8 \ \mu$ m, we have $\rho_{uu}^{\infty} = -0.0099$ and $\rho_{ud}^{\infty} =$ -0.010. In other words, the biphoton becomes uncorrelated as it travels large distances between the slits and the detector z_{τ} , regardless of the distance traveled before reaching the slits z (see Fig. 5). However, the asymptotic value reached by the cross correlations is not equal to zero. Thus, we see that for $z = 500 \ \mu m$, photons crossing the same slit are very correlated $\rho_{uu} = 0.98$ whereas when each one crosses a different slit, they are as much anticorrelated, $\rho_{ud} = -0.98$, just after crossing the slits. As z_{τ} increases, they lose spatial correlation in both cases. For small distances before the diffraction, say $z = 8 \ \mu m$, the photons leave the slits with the position cross correlations $\rho_{uu} = 0.98$ and $\rho_{ud} = -0.98$, and they become anticorrelated at the detector far from the slits.

As we showed in Subsec. II B (see Fig. 4), one can access information about the logarithmic negativity through the values of the Gouy phase in this setup. In the next section, we obtain analytical expressions for an asymmetric double-slit experiment in order to obtain (experimentally) measurable values of Gouy phase differences of the biphoton. For this purpose, we need analytical expressions for the visibility and the relative intensity. Such quantities are easily obtained analytically for one-particle interference. Despite having a two-particle wave function, we may still obtain analytical



FIG. 5. Cross-correlation ρ_{uu} (ρ_{ud}) as a function of the distance from the slits to the detector z_{τ} , calculated using the wave function for the two photons crossing the upper slit (crossing different slits). (Top) The cross correlations for ρ_{uu} and ρ_{ud} for the distance between the source and the slits z = 500 mm. (Bottom) The cross correlations for ρ_{uu} and ρ_{ud} for the distance between source and the slits z = 8 mm We can observe from both plots that the biphoton passing through the same slit is very correlated just after crossing the slits $z_{\tau} \approx 0$ and becomes less correlated far from the slits. A closer view at $z_{\tau} \approx 0$ shows that the pair becomes actually slightly anticorrelated. The constant values achieved by the cross correlations are $\rho_{uu} =$ 0.00035 and $\rho_{ud} = 0.000035$, for z = 500 mm, and $\rho_{uu} = -0.0099$ and $\rho_{ud} = -0.010$, for z = 8 mm.

expressions because within a particular range of position correlations only two wave functions instead of four contribute effectively to the interference pattern at the detection screen. In order to see how the position correlations affect the interference pattern at the detection screen, we study the intensity as a function of the position on the screen x, using different values of position correlation. The intensity composed by the four possibilities for the biphoton to cross the double slit, the intensity including only the (two) wave functions that represent the photons passing through the same slit and the intensity for wave functions that represent only the photons passing through different slits are given, respectively, by

$$I_{4\Psi} = |\Psi_{uu} + \Psi_{ud} + \Psi_{du} + \Psi_{dd}|^2,$$

$$I_{2\Psi} = |\Psi_{uu} + \Psi_{dd}|^2, \text{ and } I'_{2\Psi} = |\Psi_{ud} + \Psi_{du}|^2.$$
(15)



FIG. 6. Interference pattern for the biphoton as a function of the transversal position on the detector x. (a) The dashed line represents the intensity, considering only two wave functions, that describes propagation through the same slit. The dash-dotted line exhibits the intensity considering only photons going through different slits. (b) The solid line represents the intensity taking into account the four possibilities of propagation, while the dashed line describes the intensity for the propagation through the same slit. For the upper plots, the position cross correlation for the photons just after leaving the slits are $\rho_{uu} = 0.98$ and $\rho_{ud} = -0.98$; at the detector placed in $z_{\tau} = 500$ mm we have $\rho_{uu} = 0.00035$ and $\rho_{ud} = 0.000035$, with z = 500 mm. (c) The dashed line represents the intensity for the photons passing through the same slit, and the red dash-dotted line exhibits the intensity considering only two propagations for each photon crossing different slits. (d) The solid line represents the intensity taking into account the four possibilities for the propagation, while the dashed line describes the intensity for the photons passing through the same slit. For the lower plots, the photons have position cross correlation $\rho_{uu} = 0.98$ and $\rho_{ud} = -0.98$ just after the slits, whereas far from the slits $\rho_{uu} = -0.0099$ and $\rho_{ud} = -0.010$, considering z = 8 mm and $z_{\tau} = 500$ mm, respectively.

We calculated the intensities $I_{4\psi}$, $I_{2\psi}$, and $I'_{2\psi}$ as functions of the position at the screen x as shown in Fig. 6. We consider the set of parameters $\sigma = 11.4 \ \mu m$, $\Omega = 10\sigma$, $d = 100 \ \mu m$, $\beta = 5.0 \ \mu m$, and $z_{\tau} = 500 \ mm$. The flight distance before the slits is $z = 500 \ mm$ for the upper graphs and $z = 8 \ mm$ for the lower graphs. The interference fringes produced by $I_{2\psi}$ [dashed curve in Fig. 6(a)] are composed by the wave functions corresponding to the propagation of the photons through the same slit (strongly correlated at the slit). On the other hand, the wave functions corresponding to the propagation of photons through different slits (photons anticorrelated at the slits) produce only the envelope $I'_{2\Psi}$ given by the dash-dotted curve for the interference pattern. In Fig. 6(b), we compare the intensity $I_{4\Psi}$ (solid curve) that contains the four amplitudes for the biphoton diffraction with $I_{2\psi}$ (dashed curve) using the same parameters as those used in Fig. 6(a). As we can observe, the interference pattern produced by the four wave functions has a few interference fringes as compared to $I_{2\Psi}$, which means that the wave functions in $I'_{2\Psi}$ are still giving relevant contribution to $I_{4\Psi}$. In other words, we conclude that a stronger position correlation between the photons play an important role in unraveling the effective contributions to the interference pattern. Notice that we have the behavior shown in Figs. 6(a) and 6(c), where the wave functions in $I'_{2\Psi}$ have an even smaller contribution. This means that its wave functions contribute less to $I_{4\Psi}$. In fact, by comparing the intensities $I_{4\Psi}$ (solid curve) and $I_{2\Psi}$ (dashed curve) in Fig. 6(d), one notices that its interference patterns match. Thus, the wave functions present in $I_{2\Psi}$ govern the interference pattern. Meaning that, under this choice of parameters that leads to strong position correlation for the biphoton at the slit and anticorrelation at the detection screen, it is reasonable to take into account only the wave functions Ψ_{uu} and Ψ_{dd} . In such a regime, the relative intensity $I_r = I/F$ for a biphoton is given by [44]

$$I_r(r) = [1 + v(r)\cos\phi(r)],$$
 (16)

where $F(r) = |\Psi_{uu}|^2 + |\Psi_{dd}|^2$ and

$$\phi = \phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd} = \left(\frac{k_0}{cR_+} - \frac{k_0}{cR_-}\right)r^2,$$
 (17)

where R_{\pm} is the radius of curvature of the wave fronts for the propagation through the slit (whose expression is in Appendix B). We have fixed q = 0; i.e., the two photons strike at the same position on the screen. From Eq. (16), the visibility is defined as

$$\nu(r) = \frac{2|\Psi_{uu}||\Psi_{dd}|}{|\Psi_{uu}|^2 + |\Psi_{dd}|^2} = \cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{2D_{uu}r}{B^2}\right), \quad (18)$$

where D_{uu} and B are the wave-packet separation and wavepacket spreads, respectively (see Appendix B). The visibility equation (18), using the logarithmic negativity at the screen equation (11), as a function of the detector position r and for different values of the logarithmic negativity E_N is exhibited in Figs. 7(a), 7(b), and 7(c), where the last represents the logarithmic negativity as a function of an initial entanglement parameter Ω . We use the following set parameters: $\lambda = 702 \text{ nm}, \ \lambda_p = 351.1 \text{ nm}, \ L_z = 7.0 \text{ nm}, \ \sigma = \sqrt{\frac{L_p \lambda_p}{6\pi}} =$ 11.4 μ m, $d = 200 \ \mu$ m, $\beta = 60 \ \mu$ m, $z = 1 \ m$ m, and $z_{\tau} =$ 70 mm. For a set of three increasing (a) and three decreasing (b) values of logarithmic negativity in Fig. 7, we obtain the same behavior for the visibility. In order to understand this apparent inconsistency, we investigate the logarithmic negativity as a function of the parameter Ω (c). Up to $\Omega \approx 0.05$ mm, the logarithmic negativity E_N increases monotonically, and then decreases down to a constant value. This explains why in Fig. 7(a) the visibility becomes wider both when the logarithmic negativity increases and decreases [Fig. 7(b)]. For $E_N = 0.15, E_N = 0.69$, and $E_N = 0.85, E_N$ grows in Fig. 7(c) for $\,\Omega=0.01$ mm, $\,\Omega=0.03$ mm, and $\,\Omega=0.05$ mm, respectively. On the other hand, for $E_N = 0.86$, $E_N = 0.83$, and $E_N = 0.71$, we have respectively $\Omega = 0.06$ mm, $\Omega =$ 0.09 mm, and $\Omega = 0.28$ mm.

The visibility of the biphoton in a double slit has a maximum value v = 1 at the center r = 0 regardless of the value



FIG. 7. The visibility ν has a maximum value $\nu = 1$ at the center x = 0 independent of the behavior of the logarithmic negativity E_N equation (11) at the detection screen, which is a characteristic of a totally coherent system. On the other hand, outside the center $r \neq 0$, the visibility is influenced by the behavior of the entanglement E_N . (a) The visibility ν becomes less wide as the logarithmic negativity increases; see the dash-dotted, dashed, and solid curves, respectively, for $E_N = 0.15$, $E_N = 0.69$ and $E_N = 0.85$. (c) The visibility ν is wider for larger values of logarithmic negativity, for instance, $E_N = 0.86$, $E_N = 0.83$, and $E_N = 0.71$, dash-dotted, dashed, and solid curves, respectively. As can be seen in panel (c), there are two regions of Ω , where the E_N increases and decreases, which marks the same behavior for ν in the increasing and decreasing range of E_N values.

of E_N at the detection screen, which is a characteristic of a totally coherent system. On the other hand, outside the region $r \neq 0$, the visibility is influenced by the behavior of the entanglement. In fact, for the double-slit parameters chosen here, outside the detector center $r \neq 0$, the visibility can cover a larger domain depending on the logarithmic negativity E_N .

III. GOUY-PHASE DIFFERENCE AND LOGARITHMIC NEGATIVITY FOR A TYPE-I SPDC BIPHOTONS

For a type-I SPDC biphoton diffraction through a double slit, we have shown that one can access information about the logarithmic negativity through values of the Gouy phase (see the lower plot in Fig. 4). However, only a Gouy-phase difference can be measured in a double-slit experiment. The Gouy phases acquired by the biphoton propagating through the upper and lower slits are equal if the slits have the same width. Thus, in order to measure a Gouy-phase difference at the detector, one has to consider an asymmetric, namely different slit widths, double-slit setup. The Gouy-phase difference can be assessed by measuring the relative intensity and the fringe visibility in an asymmetric double slit. In the previous section, we have seen that for a judicious choice of position correlations through a set of parameters, the contribution of two wave functions is suppressed in the intensity which allows us to define the intensity and fringe visibility just as for the case of single-particle interference.

From Eq, (16), the visibility is written as

$$\nu(r) = \frac{I_r - 1}{\cos[\phi(r)]},\tag{19}$$

and since we are considering an asymmetric double slit, the phase

$$\phi = (\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd}) + (\zeta_1 - \zeta_2) \tag{20}$$

has a contribution from the Gouy-phase difference $(\zeta_1 - \zeta_2)$. Notice that the phase difference

$$\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd} = \left(\frac{k_0}{cR_{+1}} - \frac{k_0}{cR_{-2}}\right)r^2 + (\Delta_1 + \Delta_2)r + (\theta_1 - \theta_2)$$
(21)

is given in terms of $\Delta_{1,2}$ and $\theta_{1,2}$. These new contributions stem from different slit widths. The label 1 (2) refers to the upper (lower) slit, and we have fixed q = 0; i.e., the two photons strike the same position at the screen. The Gouy phase difference can be obtained from Eq. (19), if the phase difference ($\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd}$) = $n\pi$ rad (where n = 2, 4, 6, ...). In this way, the only phase difference that contributes to the relative intensity is the Gouy-phase difference. Since the phase difference ($\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd}$) depends on the setup parameters, one can easily fulfill the requirement. The Gouy-phase difference can be expressed as

$$(\zeta_1 - \zeta_2) = \arccos\left[\frac{I_r(r) - 1}{\nu(r)}\right].$$
 (22)

If one has access to the relative intensity I_r and to the fringe visibility $v(r) = (I_{\text{max}} - I_{\text{min}})/(I_{\text{max}} + I_{\text{min}})$ in a double-slit experiment, the Gouy-phase difference can be measured. The relative intensity I_r as a function of the position r (exhibited in the upper plot of Fig. 8) for the four biphoton wave-function contributions (represented by the dashed curve) matches I_r using two wave functions only (solid curve), representing the biphotons crossing the upper or lower slits. Thus, using an asymmetric double slit, we can neglect two wave functions, without significant loss of accuracy in the description of our system. The behavior of the visibility ν at the detection screen for photons passing through slits with different widths can be seen in the lower plot of Fig. 8. As a consequence of taking different slit widths, the visibility presents two maxima which are shifted from the center r = 0. We consider the following set values of parameters in Fig. 8: $\lambda = 702$ nm, $\lambda_p = 351.1$ nm, $L_z = 7.0$ mm, $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{L_p \lambda_p}{6\pi}} = 11.4 \ \mu \text{m}, \ z_{0-} = k_0 \sigma^2 = 1.4 \ \text{mm}, \ \text{where} \ k_0 =$ $2\pi/\lambda$, $\Omega = 10\sigma$, $d = 200 \ \mu m$, $z = 2 \ mm$, $z_{\tau} = 70 \ mm$, $\beta_1 =$ 60 μ m, and $\beta_2 = 5 \mu$ m.

In order to single out the Gouy-phase difference in the relative intensity, we have chosen $(\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd} = n\pi)$, where n = 2, 4, 6, This automatically selects the set of parameters that fulfill this constraint. Notice that the interslit distance *d* also appears in the definition of the Gouy-phase difference written in Eq. (22) (as it does in the logarithmic negativity) through the parameter D_{uu} contained in the visibility equation (18). However, the condition $(\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd} =$



FIG. 8. (Top) The relative intensity I_r , as a function of the position r, considering the four wave functions for all possibilities for the photons to cross the double slit is represented by the dashed curve $I_{r(4\psi)}$. The relative intensity taking into account only two wave functions for the photons going through the same slit is represented by the solid curve $I_{r(2\psi)}$. We can see that the two curves are approximately equal, so even for different slit widths, we can still find a regime of parameters where two wave functions can be safely neglected. (Bottom) The visibility ν as a function of the transversal position at the screen r for an asymmetric double-slit experiment with biphotons. As a consequence of the different slit width, the visibility ν presents two maxima which are shifted from the center of the position at the screen r = 0.

 $n\pi$, where n = 2, 4, 6, ...) eliminates automatically the dependence on *d* in the Gouy-phase difference, which comes only from the terms expressed in Eq. (21).

As a next step, consider the same parameters as used in Fig. 8, except for the slit widths β_1 and β_2 . In order to have $(\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd}) = n\pi$ (where n = 2, 4, 6, ...), we set a value of β_1 , which in turn requires a specific value of the position *r* at the detection screen [see Eq. (21)]. For each value of β_1 , there is one correspondent specific value of the Gouy phase difference $|\zeta_1 - \zeta_2|$, which is obtained from Eq. (22) by measuring the relative intensity and the visibility. The corresponding values of *r*, β_1 , and $|\zeta_1 - \zeta_2|$ are shown in Table I. Thus, the study of diffraction of a biphoton through its effective wave function in a double slit enables us to measure the Gouy-phase difference.

TABLE I. Gouy-phase difference as a function of the slit width β_1 .

r(mm)	$\beta_1(\mu m)$	$ \zeta_1 - \zeta_2 $ (rad)	$E_N = \frac{ \zeta_2 - \zeta_1 - 0.48}{0.16}$
-0.123	10	0.105	
-0.123	15	0.220	
-0.123	20	0.315	
-0.124	30	0.436	
-0.124	36	0.486	0.0254
-0.124	40	0.515	0.206
-0.125	45	0.548	0.410
-0.125	50	0.578	0.598

Let us summarize our conclusions. The logarithmic negativity E_N is an entanglement quantifier, which in the case of a double Gaussian describing the biphoton, can be calculated through its covariance matrix. It is known that the Gouy-phase shift is given in terms of the covariance matrix elements as well [6]. In the experiment reported in Ref. [38], the quantum correlations of a biphoton-free evolution are related to their Gouy phase. Likewise, we obtain a relation between these two quantities for the case of a biphoton diffracting through a double slit.

That being said, two crucial issues appear in this proposal. First, the primarily measurable quantities in a double-slit experiment are the relative intensity and the visibility of the interference fringes. Second, the logarithmic negativity considered refers to the propagation through a single slit, and thus it is not directly related to the measurable quantities in a double-slit setup. It is exactly in this point that the Gouy-phase difference plays a fundamental role. Because the Gouy-phase difference for slits with the same width is zero, we may employ slits with different apertures β_1 and β_2 . Therefore, we may fix β_2 and vary β_1 in order to relate the Gouy-phase difference (encoded in β_1) and the logarithmic negativity (supposing that it was calculated for the wave function corresponding to slit 1, that is to say, through ψ_{uu}).

We set all the slit parameters, except one of the slit widths, as mentioned before, so to modify the slit width β_1 implies to vary the Gouy-phase difference, which can be obtained from Eq. (9). Thus, we can write the slit width β_1 as a function of $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$ and substitute it into E_N Eq. (11). Therefore, we obtain the relation between the logarithmic negativity and the Gouy-phase difference of a biphoton diffracting through a double-slit setup, which is represented by the solid curve in Fig. 9 (upper plot). We emphasize that such a connection between the logarithmic negativity and the Gouy-phase difference is possible for any set of parameters.

The Gouy-phase difference (data in Table I), numerically calculated using the relative intensity and the visibility, is illustrated in Fig. 9 (dotted curve in the lower left plot) as a function of β_1 . The theoretical curve for the Gouy-phase difference, represented by the solid curve, is obtained from Eq. (9). For the plots in Fig. 9, we have used the parameters $\lambda = 702 \text{ nm}, \ \lambda_p = 351.1 \text{ nm}, \ L_z = 7.0 \text{ nm}, \ \sigma = \sqrt{\frac{L_p \lambda_p}{6\pi}} = 11.4 \ \mu\text{m}, \ z_{0-} = k_0 \sigma^2 = 1.4 \text{ nm}, \text{ where } k_0 = 2\pi/\lambda, \ \Omega = 10\sigma, \ d = 200 \ \mu\text{m}, \ z = 2 \text{ nm}, \ z_\tau = 70 \text{ nm}, \text{ and } \beta_2 = 5 \ \mu\text{m}.$

A suitable way to relate Gouy-phase difference measurements and logarithmic negativity values in terms of the β_1



FIG. 9. (Upper) We can observe how the logarithmic negativity E_N behaves in terms of the Gouy-phase difference substituting $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$ in terms of β_1 into the logarithmic negativity expression equation (11), which gives us the solid curve. We have observed that the behavior of E_N for a small variation of Gouy-phase difference can be reproduced by a linear relation; for instance, $E_N = \frac{|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1| - 0.48}{0.16}$ (represented by the dashed curve) describes the behavior in the range of 36 μ m < β_1 < 50 μ m. (Lower left) Gouy-phase difference $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$ as a function of the slit width β_1 : The solid curve is the theoretical curve, and the dotted curve was obtained numerically calculating the relative intensity and the fringe visibility for the parameters that satisfy $(\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd}) \approx n\pi$ (where n = 2, 4, 6, ...) (see Table I). (Lower right) Logarithmic negativity E_N as a function of the slit width β_1 : the solid curve is the theoretical curve, and the curve with boxes is the negativity values obtained from $E_N = \frac{|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1| - 0.48}{0.16}$, for each value of $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$ as a function of β_1 in Table I. The slit width is what essentially determines the variation of the logarithmic negativity, just as for the Gouy-phase difference. Thus, we propose to access values of E_N through the slit width from $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$ measurements in terms of β_1 .

(both depicted in Fig. 9 lower left and lower right plots), for our experimental setup, is if a linear relation exists between these two quantities at a certain interval of β_1 . In fact, there are ranges of β_1 where the variation of the Gouy-phase difference $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$ is small, and a linear relation reproduces the theoretical behavior in the region considered. We considered the region where the slit width is $36 \,\mu m < \beta_1 < 50 \,\mu m$, which corresponds to $0.486 < |\zeta_2 - \zeta_1| < 0.578$, and the theoretical curve can be approximated by $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1| \approx 0.16E_N + 0.48$. Thus, it allows us to attain an expression to extract the logarithmic negativity in terms of the slit width, valid in the neighborhood of $36 \,\mu m < \beta_1 < 50 \,\mu m$, from experimental indirect measurements of the Gouy-phase difference.

Thus, straightforwardly, each measurement of $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$ obeying the constraint $(\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd}) \approx n\pi$ (where n =

2, 4, 6, ...) as a function of β_1 in Table I gives an associated E_N value, through $E_N = \frac{|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1| - 0.48}{0.16}$, related to an equivalent slit width β_1 . We notice in Fig. 9 (lower right plot) that the behavior obtained for the logarithmic negativity from these data (curve with square-shaped points) is in good agreement with the theoretical curve (solid curve), calculated through the symplectic eigenvalue equation (11). We have noticed that values of E_N for slit widths $\beta_1 < 36 \ \mu m$ provide negative values of logarithmic negativity, so although we have Gouyphase difference for other β_1 values, they are not convenient for this analysis. Thus, we do not present them in the table, and the plot starts from $\beta_1 = 36 \ \mu m$. We show only some points representing possible indirect measurements of $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$, although one may obtain many other points in this interval of β_1 (satisfying to $(\phi_{uu} - \phi_{dd}) = n\pi$ rad, where n = 2, 4, 6, ...), which yield many other convenient logarithmic negativity values through β_1 in terms of $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$. Notice that in Fig. 4, the logarithmic negativity decreases as the Gouy-phase ζ increases; in the present case, we have the opposite behavior, where one increases as the other one increases as well. However, here we are considering the behavior of the logarithmic negativity versus the Gouy-phase difference $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$, which increases monotonically.

Therefore, we have achieved our goal of obtaining the quantum correlations behavior, encoded in the logarithmic negativity, in terms of the Gouy-phase difference of a pair of entangled photons diffracting through a double slit. In addition, we considered a region of small variation of this Gouy-phase difference as a function of the slit width, where a linear relation between E_N and $|\zeta_2 - \zeta_1|$ is capable of reproducing the theoretical curve, allowing one to obtain E_N as a function of β_1 through indirect measurements of Gouy-phase difference variation is small, a large range of logarithmic negativity values is obtained in that interval, as we have a wide range of slit-width values.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL REMARKS

We proposed a scheme to measure biphoton spatial correlation as it propagates through a double slit. Our proposal is based on measuring the biphoton Gouy-phase difference and the logarithmic negativity in the double-slit experiment. We considered an asymmetric double-slit experiment with biphotons and calculated the wave functions at the detection screen corresponding to the four possibilities of propagation through the slits. Next, we calculated the logarithmic negativity at the detection screen and showed that it is dependent on the initial entanglement and the geometrical parameters of the double slit. We found conditions for which the interference pattern corresponds to the one produced by the two wave functions corresponding to the propagation of photons through the same slit. These conditions are related with the behavior of the cross correlations at the double slit as well as at the detection screen. Under such conditions, we calculated the fringe visibility. We observed that the behavior of the visibility is influenced by the behavior of the initial entanglement created by the nonlinear crystal and the entanglement modification imposed by the diffraction of the twin photons through the double slit, encoded in the logarithmic negativity

APPENDIX A: BIPHOTON FREE PROPAGATION WAVE-FUNCTION CONSTANTS

The photon pair state for a free propagation after a general distance z, in terms of the relative coordinates $r = (x_1 + x_2)/2$ and $q = (x_1 - x_2)/2$, is given by [37]

$$\psi(r, q, z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi w(z)\tilde{w}(z)}} \exp\left\{-\left[\frac{r^2}{w^2(z)} + \frac{q^2}{\tilde{w}^2(z)}\right]\right\} \\ \times \exp\left\{-i\left[-\frac{k_0}{r_+}r^2 - \frac{k_0}{r_-}q^2 + \zeta(z)\right]\right\}, \quad (A1)$$

where the wave-packet spread for the signal and idler beams is written as

$$w^{2}(z) = \Omega^{2} \left[1 + \left(\frac{z}{z_{0+}} \right)^{2} \right], \quad \tilde{w}^{2}(z) = \sigma^{2} \left[1 + \left(\frac{z}{z_{0-}} \right)^{2} \right].$$
(A2)

Respectively, the radius of curvature of the wave fronts and the longitudinal distance are given by

$$r_{\pm}(z) = z \Big[1 + \Big(\frac{z_{0\pm}}{z} \Big)^2 \Big], \quad z = ct.$$
 (A3)

Lastly, we can identify the Gouy phase, which is propagation distance dependent, and it carries the parameters of the initial wave packet, as

$$\zeta(z) = -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \arctan\left[z \left(\frac{z_{0+} + z_{0-}}{z_{0+} z_{0-} - z^2} \right) \right] \right\}, \quad (A4)$$

where the corresponding Rayleigh lengths are

$$z_{0+} = k_0 \Omega^2$$
, $z_{0-} = k_0 \sigma^2$, and $k_0 = 2\pi / \lambda$. (A5)

APPENDIX B: BIPHOTON DIFFRACTING THROUGH A DOUBLE-SLIT WAVE-FUNCTION CONSTANTS

The state that describe the twin photons after diffracting a double slit is given by

$$\Psi_{uu}(r,q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi B\tilde{B}}} \exp\left[-\frac{(r-D_{uu}/2)^2}{B^2}\right] \exp\left[\frac{q^2}{\tilde{B}^2}\right]$$
$$\times \exp\left(\frac{ik_0}{R_+}r^2 + \frac{ik_0}{R_-}q^2 + i\Delta_{uu}r + i\theta_{uu} + i\zeta\right),$$
(B1)

where, using the same interpretation as the biphoton free propagation, the wave packet spreads for the propagation through the slit are written as

$$B^{2}(z, z_{\tau}) = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{2}} + \frac{1}{w^{2}}\right)^{2} + k_{0}^{2}\left(\frac{1}{z_{\tau}} + \frac{1}{r_{+}}\right)^{2}}{\left(\frac{k_{0}}{z_{\tau}}\right)^{2}\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{2}} + \frac{1}{w^{2}}\right)}$$
(B2)

and

$$\tilde{B}^{2}(z, z_{\tau}) = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{2}} + \frac{1}{\tilde{w}^{2}}\right)^{2} + k_{0}^{2}\left(\frac{1}{z_{\tau}} + \frac{1}{r_{-}}\right)^{2}}{\left(\frac{k_{0}}{z_{\tau}}\right)^{2}\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{2}} + \frac{1}{\tilde{w}^{2}}\right)}.$$
 (B3)

ent widths in order to produce a Gouy-phase difference. We expressed that Gouy-phase difference in terms of the relative intensity and the visibility, showing that it can be experimentally assessed. Finally, we obtained the quantum correlations behavior, encoded in the logarithmic negativity, in terms of the Gouy-phase difference (as the logarithmic negativity has dependence on the slit width, which in turn can be written in terms of the Gouy-phase difference) of a pair of entangled photons diffracting through a double slit. Moreover, we found conditions in which a linear relation between the logarithmic negativity and the Gouy-phase difference is capable of reproducing the theoretical behavior, allowing one to obtain the logarithmic negativity, as a function of the slit width, from indirect measurements of the Gouy-phase difference, in terms of slit width as well. Therefore, measuring the Gouy-phase difference allow us for accessing information about quantum correlations at the detection screen as a function of the slit aperture.

Spatially correlated photonic qutrit pairs were proposed theoretically and experimentally tested in Ref. [50]. Those qutrits were produced by parametric down-converted biphotons passing through a three-slit apparatus and displayed a high spatial correlation, with a Pearson coefficient of about 0.9. Such correlations are governed by geometrical parameters such as the slit width, the interslit distance, and the nonlinear crystal longitudinal length, which also characterize the Gouy phases in our model. An important point raised in Ref. [50] regards the truly quantum nature of qutrit correlations. Our approach using the relation between the Gouy-phase differnce and the logarithmic negativity can be an important tool to evaluate the nature of the continuous variable correlations in this case. Moreover, in Ref. [38], it was proposed theoretically and experimentally that the relative phase of two different Laguerre-Gauss modes of biphotons can be manipulated via the Gouy phase. Their result suggests the Gouy phase as a new tool to manipulate multidimensional photonic quantum states. In our model, we explicitly demonstrate how to measure the Gouy phase difference for a similar system and establish its connection to the quantum correlations as encoded in the logarithmic negativity. In addition, just as in Ref. [38], our scheme is inherently nondestructive as the Gouy-phase difference is established by a two-slit interference and assessed via the visibility and the relative intensity as seen in the interference pattern.

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$$R_{+}(z, z_{\tau}) = z_{\tau} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{2}} + \frac{1}{w^{2}}\right)^{2} + k_{0}^{2} \left(\frac{1}{z_{\tau}} + \frac{1}{r_{+}}\right)^{2}}{\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{2}} + \frac{1}{w^{2}}\right)^{2} + \left(\frac{z}{\Omega^{2}w^{2}}\right) \left(\frac{1}{z_{\tau}} + \frac{1}{r_{+}}\right)}$$
(B4)

and

$$R_{-}(z, z_{\tau}) = z_{\tau} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{2}} + \frac{1}{\tilde{w}^{2}}\right)^{2} + k_{0}^{2} \left(\frac{1}{z_{\tau}} + \frac{1}{r_{-}}\right)^{2}}{\left(\frac{1}{\beta^{2}} + \frac{1}{\tilde{w}^{2}}\right)^{2} + \left(\frac{z}{\sigma^{2}\tilde{w}^{2}}\right) \left(\frac{1}{z_{\tau}} + \frac{1}{r_{-}}\right)}.$$
 (B5)

The wave-packet separation due to the slits is

$$D_{uu}(z, z_{\tau}) = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{z_{\tau}}{r_{+}}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{\beta^{2}}{y_{-}^{2}}\right)}d,$$
 (B6)

and the phase that plays a role of wave number is given by

$$\Delta_{uu}(z, z_{\tau}) = \frac{z_{\tau} \Omega^2}{z_{0+} \beta^2 B^2} d, \qquad (B7)$$

where $z_{0\pm}$ is the corresponding Rayleigh lengths.

The phase dependents of the propagation distance are

$$\theta_{uu}(z, z_{\tau}) = \frac{d^2}{4\beta^4} \frac{k_0 \left(\frac{1}{z_{\tau}} + \frac{1}{r_+}\right)}{\left[\left(\frac{1}{\beta^2} + \frac{1}{w^2}\right)^2 + k_0^2 \left(\frac{1}{z_{\tau}} + \frac{1}{r_+}\right)^2\right]}$$
(B8)

and the Gouy phase, identified as

$$\zeta = -\frac{1}{2} \arctan\left[\frac{f(z, z_{\tau}, \beta) + g(z, z_{\tau}, \beta)}{1 - f(z, z_{\tau}, \beta)g(z, z_{\tau}, \beta)}\right], \quad (B9)$$

where

$$f(z, z_{\tau}, \beta) = \frac{z + z_{\tau} \left(1 + \frac{\sigma^2}{\beta^2}\right)}{z_{0-} \left(1 - \frac{zz_{\tau} \sigma^2}{z_{0-}^2 \beta^2}\right)}$$
(B10)

and

$$g(z, z_{\tau}, \beta) = \frac{z + z_{\tau} \left(1 + \frac{\Omega^2}{\beta^2}\right)}{z_{0+} \left(1 - \frac{z z_{\tau} \Omega^2}{z_{0+}^2 \beta^2}\right)}.$$
 (B11)

Aiming to obtain the expressions for the wave function that describes the two photons propagating through the lower slit, $\Psi_{dd}(r, q, z, z_{\tau})$, we just have to substitute the parameter d with -d in the expressions corresponding to the two photons propagating through the upper slit, i.e., in $\Psi_{uu}(r, q, z, z_{\tau})$.

The wave function describing one photon propagating through the upper slit while the another propagates through the lower slit is given by

$$\Psi_{ud}(r,q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi B\tilde{B}}} \exp\left[-\frac{r^2}{B^2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{(q-D_{ud}/2)^2}{\tilde{B}^2}\right]$$
$$\times \exp\left(\frac{ik_0}{R_+}r^2 + \frac{ik_0}{R_-}q^2 + i\Delta_{ud}q + i\theta_{ud} + i\zeta\right),$$
(B12)

where

$$D_{ud}(t,\tau) = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{z_{\tau}}{r_{-}}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{\beta^2}{\pi^2}\right)}d,$$
 (B13)

$$\Delta_{ud}(t,\tau) = \frac{z_{\tau} \Omega^2}{z_0 - \beta^2 B^2} d \tag{B14}$$

and

$$\theta_{ud}(t,\tau) = \frac{d^2}{4\beta^4} \frac{k_0 \left(\frac{1}{z_\tau} + \frac{1}{r_-}\right)}{\left[\left(\frac{1}{\beta^2} + \frac{1}{\tilde{w}^2}\right)^2 + k_0^2 \left(\frac{1}{z_\tau} + \frac{1}{r_-}\right)^2\right]}.$$
 (B15)

In order to obtain $\Psi_{du}(r, q, z, z_{\tau})$, we need to replace d with -d in $\Psi_{ud}(r, q, z, z_{\tau})$.

APPENDIX C: LOGARITHMIC NEGATIVITY AND COVARIANCE MATRIX TERMS FOR A TYPE-I SPDC PAIR OF PHOTONS DIFFRACTING IN A DOUBLE SLIT

The logarithmic negativity in Eq. (11) is given by

$$E_N = \ln\left[\frac{\sqrt{2icB\tilde{B}R_+R_-}}{\sqrt{\sqrt{-A_1A_2} + A_3}}\right],$$
 (C1)

where *i* is the imaginary unit and *c* is the speed of light constant. *B*, \tilde{B} , R_+ , and R_- are shown in Eqs. (B2), (B3), (B4), and (B5), respectively. In the following,

$$A_{1} = \left(B^{2} + \frac{\alpha_{1} + \alpha_{3}}{2(\alpha_{2} + \alpha_{4})}\right)^{2}(\alpha_{2} + \alpha_{4}) - \frac{(\alpha_{1} + \alpha_{3})^{2}}{4(\alpha_{2} + \alpha_{4})} + \frac{\alpha_{4}}{\Delta_{uu}^{2}}(\tilde{B} + D_{uu}^{2}),$$

in order to obtain A_2 , replace α_1 and α_2 with $-\alpha_1$ and $-\alpha_2$, respectively. Next, we have

$$A_3 = 4\alpha_5 \left(B^2 + \frac{\alpha_6}{2\alpha_5}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{\alpha_6^2}{\alpha_5} + \frac{8\alpha_4}{\Delta_{uu}^2}\right)$$

where

$$\alpha_{1} = [(R_{-} c \Delta_{uu} - D_{uu} k_{0})R_{+} + D_{uu} R_{-} k_{0}]^{2}B^{+}$$
$$+ c^{2}D_{uu}^{2}R_{+}^{2}R_{-}^{2},$$
$$\alpha_{2} = c^{2}R_{+}^{2}R_{-}^{2} + k_{0}^{2}(R_{+} - R_{-})^{2}\tilde{B}^{4},$$
$$\alpha_{3} = 2c^{2}\tilde{B}^{2}R_{+}^{2}R_{-}^{2}, \quad \alpha_{4} = \frac{\alpha_{3}\Delta_{uu}^{2}}{2},$$
$$\alpha_{5} = -2k_{0}^{2}(R_{+} - R_{-})^{2}\tilde{B}^{4} - 2c^{2}R_{+}^{2}R_{-}^{2}$$

and

$$\alpha_{6} = \left(-2 c^{2} \Delta_{uu}^{2} R_{-}^{2} - 4 c k_{0} D_{uu} R_{+} \Delta_{uu} - 2 D_{uu}^{2} k_{0}^{2}\right)$$
$$\times \left(R_{-} - \frac{k_{0} R_{+} D_{uu}}{c R_{+} \Delta_{uu} + k_{0} D_{uu}}\right)^{2} \tilde{B}^{4} - 2 c^{2} D_{uu}^{2} R_{uu}^{2} R s^{2}.$$

The covariance matrix elements employed to calculate the logarithmic negativity, using the wave function in Eq. (7), are written as

$$\langle x_1^2 \rangle_{\Psi_{uu}} = \langle x_2^2 \rangle_{\Psi_{uu}} = \frac{1}{4} [B^2 + \tilde{B}^2 + D_{uu}^2],$$
 (C2)

$$\langle x_1 x_2 \rangle_{\Psi_{uu}} = \langle x_2 x_1 \rangle_{\Psi_{uu}} = \frac{1}{4} \left[B^2 - \tilde{B}^2 + D_{uu}^2 \right], \tag{C3}$$

$$\left\langle p_{1}^{2} \right\rangle_{\Psi_{uu}} = \frac{\hbar^{2}}{4} \left[\frac{1}{B^{2}} + \frac{1}{\tilde{B}^{2}} + \frac{k_{0}^{2}}{c^{2}} \left(\frac{B^{2}}{R_{+}^{2}} + \frac{\tilde{B}^{2}}{R_{-}^{2}} \right) + \left(\Delta_{uu} + \frac{k_{0}D_{uu}}{cR_{+}} \right)^{2} \right], \tag{C4}$$

$$\langle p_1 p_2 \rangle_{\Psi_{uu}} = \frac{\hbar^2}{4} \left[\frac{1}{B^2} - \frac{1}{\tilde{B}^2} + \frac{k_0^2}{c^2} \left(\frac{B^2}{R_+^2} - \frac{\tilde{B}^2}{R_-^2} \right) + \left(\Delta_{uu} + \frac{k_0 D_{uu}}{cR_+} \right)^2 \right], \tag{C5}$$

$$\langle x_1 p_2 \rangle_{\Psi_{uu}} = \frac{\hbar}{4} \bigg[\frac{k_0}{c} \bigg(\frac{B^2}{R_+} - \frac{\tilde{B}^2}{R_-} + \frac{D_{uu}^2}{R_+} \bigg) + D_{uu} \Delta_{uu} \bigg], \tag{C6}$$

and

$$\frac{\langle x_1 p_1 + p_1 x_1 \rangle_{\Psi_{uu}}}{2} = \frac{\langle x_2 p_2 + p_2 x_2 \rangle_{\Psi_{uu}}}{2} = \frac{\hbar}{4} \bigg[\frac{k_0}{c} \bigg(\frac{B^2}{R_+} + \frac{\tilde{B}^2}{R_-} + \frac{D_{uu}^2}{R_+} \bigg) + D_{uu} \Delta_{uu} \bigg].$$
(C7)

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