

New class of exact coherent states: Enhanced quantization of motion on the half line

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We have discovered a class of dynamically stable coherent states for motion on the half line. The regularization of the half line boundary and the consequent quantum motion are expounded within the framework of covariant affine quantization, although alternative approaches are also feasible. The former approach is rooted in affine coherent states and offers a consistent semiclassical representation of quantum motion. However, this method has been known to possess two shortcomings: (a) the dependence of affine coherent states on the choice of a vector, denoted as the “fiducial vector” (which remains unspecified), introduces significant arbitrariness in boundary regularization, and (b) regardless of the choice of fiducial vector, affine coherent states fail to evolve parametrically under the Schrödinger equation, thus limiting the accuracy of the semiclassical description. This limitation, in particular, hampers their suitability for approximating the evolution of compound observables. We demonstrate that a distinct and more refined definition of affine coherent states can simultaneously address both of these issues. In other words, these new affine coherent states exhibit parametric evolution only when the fiducial vector, denoted as $|\psi_0\rangle$, possesses a highly specific character, such as being an eigenstate of a well-defined Hamiltonian. Our discovery holds significant relevance in the field of quantum cosmology, particularly in scenarios where the positive variable is the scale factor of the universe, and its regularized motion plays a crucial role in avoiding the big-bang singularity.

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I. INTRODUCTION

This paper deals with the problem of quantization of a system on the half line and of finding its exact quantum motion. Our motivation comes from quantum cosmology, where the scale factor of the universe is a positive variable and its regularized motion represents the avoidance of the big-bang singularity (see, e.g., [1]). We derive a new class of coherent states (defined on the half line) that evolve parametrically under the Schrödinger equation. By the latter we mean that a complete set of solutions to the Schrödinger equation are expressible in terms of trajectories in the space of coherent states’ parameters, and these trajectories satisfy simple Hamilton’s equations generated by a “semiclassical” Hamiltonian. Unlike the standard coherent states (defined on the real line), the new coherent

states do not solve the classical equations of motion but semiclassical ones that include an important quantum correction regularizing the behavior of the system at the boundary. Because of this regularizing effect of quantization and of the key role of the semiclassical Hamiltonian, we work in the framework of covariant affine quantization. We use the latter to derive and discuss our results, which can, however, be viewed independently of this particular framework, having applications beyond it.

Covariant affine quantization is a special case of a generic approach to quantization named *covariant integral quantization* (CIQ) [2–5]. Introduced ten years ago, CIQ is based on operator-valued measures, with *covariant* meaning that the quantization map intertwines classical (geometric operations) and quantum (unitary transformations) symmetries, while *integral* refers to the fact that the map uses the resources of integral calculus, in order to implement the method for singular situations. Furthermore, CIQ is not only a method to build a quantum model from a classical theory, but it is also a tool to build a semiclassical portrait of quantum behavior.

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CIQ includes the so-called Berezin-Klauder-Toeplitz quantization, and more generally coherent state quantization [3,6,7]. On the mathematical level, CIQ is part of important developments such as time-frequency and wavelet analyses (see, for instance, Refs. [8–11] and references therein). A famous example is the covariant integral quantization of the plane (phase space of the motion on the real line) based on the Weyl-Heisenberg group, such as Weyl-Wigner [12–15] and (standard) coherent states quantization [6]. Many other quantizations follow this framework [2,16].

Another important example of CIQ concerns the half plane $\Pi_+ = \{(q, p) | q > 0, p \in \mathbb{R}\}$ viewed as the phase space for the motion on the half line [2,4,16,17] (see also [18] and references therein). The Lie group involved is that of affine transformations

$$x \mapsto (q, p) \cdot x := \frac{x}{q} + p, \quad q > 0,$$

of the real line. If Π_+ is equipped with the combination law $(q, p) \cdot (q', p') = (qq', p + p'/q)$, it can be identified with the affine group $\text{Aff}_+(\mathbb{R})$, the left invariant measure being $d\mu(q, p) = dqdp$.

In many previous papers involving the half plane and devoted to quantum cosmology [17,19–23], CIQ was implemented using affine coherent states (ACS) built from a unitary irreducible representation (UIR) of the group $\text{Aff}_+(\mathbb{R})$ acting on the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}_+, dx)$ as $\hat{U}_{q,p} : \psi \in \mathcal{H} \mapsto \hat{U}_{q,p}\psi(x) = q^{-1/2}e^{ipx}\psi(x/q)$, with \mathcal{H} the Hilbert space of the quantum representation (we work in units with $\hbar = c = 1$). The ACS are defined as

$$|q, p\rangle_{\psi_0} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \hat{U}_{q,p}|\psi_0\rangle \in \mathcal{H},$$

where $|\psi_0\rangle \in \mathcal{H}$ is a fixed normalized vector named the *fiducial vector*. Besides the supplementary condition $\psi_0 \in L^2(\mathbb{R}_+, dx/x)$, the state $|\psi_0\rangle$ is a free parameter of the quantization procedure. Then the quantization map $f(q, p) \mapsto \hat{A}_f$ is implemented through the family of ACS $\{|q, p\rangle_{\psi_0}\}_{(q,p) \in \Pi_+}$ [2,24], the resulting operators \hat{A}_f acting on the Hilbert space \mathcal{H} . The physical meaning of the fiducial vector becomes clear upon considering the quantization of the classical states represented by Dirac's delta functions on the phase space:

$$\delta(q_0, p_0) \mapsto |q_0, p_0\rangle\langle q_0, p_0|_{\psi_0}.$$

They are thus replaced with the respective projector operators on \mathcal{H} that depend on the fiducial vector. At the semiclassical level these sharply defined classical states become smooth probability distributions:

$$\delta(q - q_0, p - p_0) \mapsto |\langle q_0, p_0 | q, p \rangle_{\psi_0}|^2,$$

which again are determined by $|\psi_0\rangle$. These smooth probability distributions (e.g., Gaussians) encode the basic uncertainty and are used to regularize all the observables $f(q, p) \mapsto \check{f}(q, p) = \int dq_0 dp_0 f(q_0, p_0) |\langle q_0, p_0 | q, p \rangle|^2$.

To recover the simple correspondence $\hat{A}_q = \hat{x}$ and $\hat{A}_p = \hat{p}$, where $\hat{x}\psi(x) = x\psi(x)$ and $\hat{p}\psi(x) = -i\psi'(x)$, automatically ensuring the commutation relation $[\hat{A}_q, \hat{A}_p] = i$, it suffices to impose a few relations on the expectation values of $|\psi_0\rangle$. Let us notice that although \hat{x} is self-adjoint on \mathcal{H} , \hat{p} is only symmetric and does not possess any self-adjoint extension on \mathcal{H} [25]. We also obtain the canonical correspondence $\hat{A}_{qp} = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{x}\hat{p} + \hat{p}\hat{x}) = \hat{d}$, i.e., the self-adjoint generator of dilations on \mathcal{H} . But the canonical correspondence is broken for p^2 since $\hat{A}_{p^2} \neq \hat{p}^2$. We instead have $\hat{A}_{p^2} = \hat{p}^2 + C_{\psi_0}\hat{q}^{-2}$ where $C_{\psi_0} > 0$ is a positive constant depending on the choice of the fiducial vector $|\psi_0\rangle$.

The operator \hat{p}^2 often being part of the Hamiltonian for many quantum systems, it should be made self-adjoint. There exist different self-adjoint extensions of \hat{p}^2 on the half line, depending on the boundary condition at $x = 0$ that is not a part of canonical rules. Therefore, \hat{p}^2 is not uniquely defined as a self-adjoint operator, so that, if $\hat{H} \propto \hat{p}^2$, the unitary evolution is not uniquely specified. On the other hand, if $\hat{A}_{p^2} = \hat{p}^2 + C_{\psi_0}\hat{q}^{-2}$ with $C_{\psi_0} > \frac{3}{4}$, then \hat{H} has a unique self-adjoint extension [25,26] on \mathcal{H} , so the Hamiltonian and the quantum evolution are completely specified by the quantization procedure. At the semiclassical level, for any quantum operator \hat{O} the mapping $\hat{O} \mapsto \langle q, p | \hat{O} | q, p \rangle$ gives a semiclassical picture of the quantum observable \hat{O} . More details about the semiclassical expressions and probabilistic aspects can be found in [2,17]. Let us note finally that the affine group and related coherent states were also used for the quantization of the half plane in works by Klauder, although from a different point of view and with a definite fiducial state ψ_0 selected along an algebraic condition (see [27–29] with references therein).

An interesting application of the ACS quantization lies in quantum cosmology, i.e., models of a homogeneous universe that in the classical theory suffer from the big-bang/big-crunch singularity. The regularizing potential $\propto \hat{q}^{-2}$ of the quantized Hamiltonian naturally acts as an “antigravity” component that eventually overtakes the attractive force of gravity, bringing the contracting universe to a halt and triggering reexpansion [17,19–23]. One then extends these models by adding perturbations to homogeneity. The use of affine coherent states allows one to conveniently account for the coupling of these perturbations to the quantized background spacetime via expectation values of some background quantities and next to solve the full dynamical system [30–32].

Unfortunately, the approach discussed above crucially depends on the choice of the family of coherent states and on how well they approximate the exact dynamics. This is

particularly true when the coupling is through a compound variable. Some effort has been undertaken to better control the accuracy of this approach by allowing some dynamics in the fiducial vectors, thereby making it less rigid and thus more adjustable to a given dynamics [33]; although there are indisputable positive points to be credited to ACS quantization on the half plane, some aspects of the method still need clear-cut justifications.

The first aspect concerns the arbitrariness of the fiducial vector $|\psi_0\rangle$. Since only a small number of constraints on $|\psi_0\rangle$ are necessary to obtain the results mentioned above—and they concern only some expectation values, i.e., integrals over the state, so $|\psi_0\rangle$ remains largely unspecified. Depending on the point of view about “what a quantization procedure must be,” this can be seen as an advantage or a weakness. On the one hand, the main quantum observables \hat{A}_f given by the procedure are the same, up to a few number of constraints on $|\psi_0\rangle$: one can consider the arbitrariness of $|\psi_0\rangle$ as a necessary mathematical feature to be able to deal with the quantization of all functions $f(q, p)$, while, in fact, the most important quantum observables are not modified by a change of $|\psi_0\rangle$. From this point of view, the arbitrariness of $|\psi_0\rangle$ is seen as a degree of freedom that allows one to generate different possible “complete” quantum frameworks that share a common subset of quantum observables, each of these frameworks being mathematically consistent. In principle, only experiments could be able to select the good/best one. On the other hand, if one considers that a quantization procedure must directly provide “the complete right quantum theory” with “certainty,” or with a finite list of unknown parameters that can be fixed by experiments, then the arbitrariness of $|\psi_0\rangle$ is a drawback: one expects that the mathematical expression of $\psi_0(x)$ should be specified as a function dependent on some unknown parameters. This entails that something is missing.

The second point concerns the dynamical properties of the ACS $|q, p\rangle_{\psi_0}$. First, examining the dynamical properties at the quantum level means that, at the classical level, we view the half plane not only as a geometric domain invariant under affine transformations but also as the phase space (equipped with its Poisson bracket) of some system whose evolution is ruled by some classical Hamiltonian H . Therefore, the classical structure is much richer than the simple affine symmetry. Let us focus in the remainder on the case where $H = p^2$. If the vectors $|q, p\rangle_{\psi_0}$ are distinguished as “special,” because allowing a mapping between classical and quantum pictures through ACS quantization, we can try to impose that this “classical to quantum” mapping is valid not only at a given time (affine symmetry) but also during evolution with time (dynamical symmetry). This means that we can try to impose that, at least up to a time-dependent phase factor, the $|q, p\rangle_{\psi_0}$ evolve parametrically through the Schrödinger equation, and this for some specific choice of the fiducial vector $|\psi_0\rangle$. Said differently,

we demand that there exists a phase-space trajectory (q_t, p_t) and a phase $\phi(t)$ such that $i\partial_t[e^{-i\phi(t)}|q_t, p_t\rangle_{\psi_0}] = e^{-i\phi(t)}\hat{H}|q_t, p_t\rangle_{\psi_0}$ for some specific choice of $|\psi_0\rangle$, where the quantum Hamiltonian \hat{H} would be precisely the operator obtained from the ACS quantization, i.e., $\hat{H} = \hat{A}_{p^2}$. If possible, this enhanced framework would be a consistent way to fix the existing unease with the procedure. However, and this could be viewed as a drawback of the existing framework, the ACS used in all papers cited above are not evolving parametrically whatever the choice of the fiducial vector $|\psi_0\rangle$; therefore, this idea cannot be taken any further without modifying the ACS.

The purpose of this article is to prove that it is possible to define the ACS quantization for a specific type of classical Hamiltonian and for a specific choice of the fiducial vector $|\psi_0\rangle$ evolving parametrically through the Schrödinger equation in such a way that it always gives the same basic quantum operators. One is left with a single unknown parameter in this procedure, namely the coefficient $C > 0$ that appears in the repulsive term of $\hat{A}_{p^2} = \hat{p}^2 + C\hat{q}^{-2}$. The key point is to use a degree of freedom (a parameter) that exists in the definition of the UIR of the affine group $\text{Aff}_+(\mathbb{R})$, a parameter that is usually considered irrelevant and chosen to vanish; it turns out that a different choice allows for the new effects we are interested in.

The article is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we define the new UIR of the affine group needed for our calculations. Section III is devoted to the application of the ACS quantization to recover the most important quantum observables, and in Sec. IV, we prove that for a special choice of $|\psi_0\rangle$, we obtain ACS that evolves parametrically. The final Sec. V presents some concluding remarks.

II. NEW DEFINITION OF THE ACS

The affine coherent state quantization discussed in the Introduction can be generalized through the use of a seemingly innocuous and irrelevant parameter. We first show why this parameter may label physically different representations and justify a specific choice for its value.

A. The new framework

The usual UIR of the affine group is defined on the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}_+, dx)$ as

$$\hat{U}_{q,p}: \psi \in \mathcal{H} \mapsto \hat{U}_{q,p}\psi(x) = \frac{e^{ipx}}{\sqrt{q}}\psi\left(\frac{x}{q}\right), \quad (1)$$

which can be cast into the operator form

$$\hat{U}_{q,p} = e^{ip\hat{x}}e^{-i(\ln q)\hat{d}}, \quad (2)$$

where $\hat{d} = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{x}\hat{p} + \hat{p}\hat{x})$ is the generator of dilations and $\hat{x}\psi(x) = x\psi(x)$ and $\hat{p}\psi(x) = -i\psi'(x)$ as usual. The

relation $[\hat{d}, \hat{x}] = -i\hat{x}$ characterizes the Lie algebra of the affine group.

Equivalent representations can be defined on the Hilbert spaces $\mathcal{H}_\alpha = L^2(\mathbb{R}, x^{-\alpha} dx)$, a choice that imposes $\psi \in \mathcal{H}_\alpha$ to obey $|\psi(x)| \sim x^\gamma$ as $x \rightarrow 0$ with $\gamma > (\alpha - 1)/2$. The choice $\mathcal{H} \equiv \mathcal{H}_{\alpha=0}$ has been made because of the apparent absence of the effect of $\alpha \neq 0$. It turns out that such effects do exist if we use this degree of freedom differently. Indeed, these possibilities have a representation on the initial Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}_+, dx)$ by choosing as generators of the group not the pair (\hat{x}, \hat{d}) but the pair $(\hat{x}^\alpha, \hat{d}/\alpha)$ with $\alpha > 0$. Indeed, we have again $[\hat{d}/\alpha, \hat{x}^\alpha] = -i\hat{x}^\alpha$ which specifies the Lie algebra of the affine group. Therefore, there are infinitely many (equivalent) ways to represent the affine group on \mathcal{H} dependent on a free parameter $\alpha > 0$. They read

$$\hat{U}_{q,p}^{(\alpha)} = e^{ip\hat{x}^\alpha} e^{-i(\ln q)\hat{d}/\alpha}. \quad (3)$$

Note that using the change of variable $x = e^y$ the dilation \hat{d} becomes $\hat{p}_y = -i\frac{d}{dy}$, canonical rules are restored, and the classical phase space is \mathbb{R}^2 . Then the above transform of the canonical pair is nothing more than the plane dilation $y \mapsto \alpha y$, $p_y \mapsto p_y/\alpha$. Together with plane rotation and upper triangular matrix action $y \mapsto y + \mathfrak{t}p_y$, $p_y \mapsto p_y$, these three actions are the Iwasawa factors of $SP(2, \mathbb{R}) \cong SL(2, \mathbb{R})$. This observation paves the way to the use of more possibilities in dealing with representations of affine symmetries.

In the following we are especially interested in the case $\alpha = 2$. The reason will be explained below. Because we wish to preserve the correspondence $q \leftrightarrow \hat{x}$ and therefore $q^2 \leftrightarrow \hat{x}^2$, we first make a change of parameters in $\hat{U}_{q,p}^{(2)}$, substituting $q \mapsto q^2$. Since the pair (q, p) is a canonical pair, we also change p as $p \mapsto p/(2q)$, to preserve canonicity. We then obtain a new realization of the affine group UIR that we call $\hat{V}_{q,p}$ acting on the same $\hat{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}_+, dx)$ as

$$\hat{V}_{q,p} = e^{i\frac{p}{2q}\hat{x}^2} e^{-i(\ln q^2)\hat{d}/2} = e^{i\frac{p}{2q}\hat{x}^2} e^{-i(\ln q)\hat{d}}. \quad (4)$$

With this new parametrization of the affine group, the previous law of the group $(q, p) \cdot (q', p') = (qq', p + p'/q)$ is, of course, modified, and we now have $(q, p) \cdot (q', p') = (qq', q'p + p'/q)$. Nevertheless, the left invariant measure remains unchanged, i.e., $d\mu(q, p) = dqdp$, because our new parametrization results from a canonical transformation of the half plane.

This UIR \hat{V}_{qp} of $\text{Aff}_+(\mathbb{R})$ is square integrable, akin to the former one, which implies similar functional properties: picking some unit-norm vector $\psi_0 \in L^2(\mathbb{R}_+, dx) \cap L^2(\mathbb{R}_+, dx/x^2)$, and we define ACS as previously

$$|q, p\rangle_{\psi_0} = \hat{V}_{q,p} |\psi_0\rangle. \quad (5)$$

In the remainder, to lighten notations as there should be no ambiguity, we remove the label ψ_0 , i.e., $|q, p\rangle_{\psi_0} \rightarrow |q, p\rangle$. Setting

$$c_\gamma(\psi) = \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{dx}{x^{\gamma+2}} |\psi(x)|^2, \quad (6)$$

the fiducial vector $|\psi_0\rangle$ is admissible and square integrable if the constant $c_0(\psi_0)$ is finite, and one gets

$$\int_{\Pi_+} \frac{dqdp}{2\pi c_0(\psi_0)} |q, p\rangle \langle q, p| = \mathbb{1}, \quad (7)$$

which is the expression of the resolution of the identity operator $\mathbb{1}$ in \mathcal{H} .

B. Choice rationale

We extend the pure geometric symmetry group (i.e., the affine group) to a larger dynamical group at both classical and quantum levels. Classically, the affine Lie algebra (through Poisson brackets) is usually assumed to be generated by the pair $(q, d = qp)$, but adding the assumption that the classical Hamiltonian is $H = p^2$, one can obtain a larger closed algebra \mathfrak{A} with the generators $(H, p, q, d, 1)$. Unfortunately, this algebra is no longer closed if the Hamiltonian is changed into

$$\tilde{H} = p^2 + Cq^{-2}, \quad (8)$$

and since noncanonical quantum corrections precisely involve such a repulsive term Cq^{-2} , it is impossible to keep the algebra \mathfrak{A} : the structure of the algebra must be the same for both classical and quantum systems because, by assumption, the symmetry group we are seeking must act at both levels.

The pair $(q^2, d/2)$ also generates a representation of the Lie algebra of the affine group, and the triplet $(H, q^2, d/2)$ is the basis of a closed Lie algebra. Furthermore, if we change from H to \tilde{H} , the algebra generated by $(\tilde{H}, q^2, d/2)$ remains closed with the same structure coefficients whatever the repulsive potential Cq^{-2} . With this choice, the affine symmetry appears as a part of the same dynamical symmetry group that acts both classically and quantum mechanically. In addition, the Lie-Poisson algebra generated by $(\tilde{H}, q^2, d/2)$ is just the well-known $\mathfrak{sp}(2) \cong \mathfrak{sl}(1, 1) \cong \mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$ Lie algebra (see, for instance, [34]). At the classical level, the usual canonical representation of $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$ consisting of the three generators (k_0, k_1, k_2) verifying $\{k_0, k_1\} = k_2$, $\{k_0, k_2\} = -k_1$, $\{k_1, k_2\} = -k_0$ is recovered with $k_0 = \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{H} + q^2/4)$, $k_1 = \frac{1}{2}[\cos \omega(\tilde{H} - q^2/4) + \sin \omega d]$ and $k_2 = \frac{1}{2}[-\sin \omega(\tilde{H} - q^2/4) + \cos \omega d]$, where ω is an arbitrary angle. The canonical generators of a $SU(1, 1)$

unitary representation on some Hilbert space are three self-adjoint operators $(\hat{K}_0, \hat{K}_1, \hat{K}_2)$ verifying the commutation rules

$$[\hat{K}_0, \hat{K}_1] = i\hat{K}_2, \quad [\hat{K}_0, \hat{K}_2] = -i\hat{K}_1, \quad [\hat{K}_1, \hat{K}_2] = -i\hat{K}_0. \quad (9)$$

The Casimir operator of the representation is given by $\hat{Q} = \hat{K}_1^2 + \hat{K}_2^2 - \hat{K}_0^2$. It can be shown (see Appendix B) that, in our case, $\hat{Q} = \lambda \mathbb{1}$, where the c -number λ is directly related to the coefficient C involved in the quantization of p^2 , i.e., that leading to $\hat{A}_{p^2} = \hat{p}^2 + C\hat{q}^{-2}$. In other words, the appearance of a repulsive term $C \neq 0$ in the Hamiltonian corresponds to a change of UIR of $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$. This explains the key role of $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$ in our problem. Furthermore, if we introduce the ladder operators

$$\hat{K}_\pm = \hat{K}_2 \mp i\hat{K}_1, \quad [\hat{K}_+, \hat{K}_-] = -2\hat{K}_0, \quad (10)$$

the operators $\hat{V}_{q,p}$ of (4) can be expressed in terms of $\hat{K}_{\pm,0}$ (see Appendix B),

$$\hat{V}_{q,p} = e^{(\xi\hat{K}_+ - \bar{\xi}\hat{K}_-)} e^{i\theta\hat{K}_0} = e^{i\theta'\hat{K}_0} e^{(\xi'\hat{K}_+ - \bar{\xi}'\hat{K}_-)}, \quad (11)$$

where the coefficients ξ and θ depend on q and p . The unitary operator $e^{(\xi\hat{K}_+ - \bar{\xi}\hat{K}_-)}$ is the SU(1,1) analogous of the displacement operator in the Weyl-Heisenberg symmetry case, and was used by Perelomov to build his SU(1,1) coherent states [35,36].

III. NEW ACS QUANTIZATION OF THE HALF PLANE

Having settled the framework, we now move to the actual quantization and the establishment of the semi-classical setup through which we can define meaningful trajectories.

A. The quantized observables

From the resolution of the identity the covariant integral quantization follows [2,16] for any function $f(q, p)$ as

$$f \mapsto \hat{A}_f = \int_{\Pi_+} \frac{dqdp}{2\pi c_0(\psi_0)} f(q, p) |q, p\rangle \langle q, p|. \quad (12)$$

If we assume the fiducial vector $\psi_0(x)$ to be a real function and rapidly decreasing on \mathbb{R}^+ , i.e., $\psi_0(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ is C^∞ on \mathbb{R}_+ and $\forall n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x^{-n} \psi_0^{(m)}(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} x^n \psi_0^{(m)}(x) = 0$, the basic quantized observables can be obtained easily [and the coefficients $c_\gamma(\psi_0)$ of (7) are finite for all γ]. Without this assumption of rapid decrease, calculations need more caution because of possible divergencies, or supplementary terms coming

from integration by parts at different levels. Details can be found in Appendix A.

We obtain first

$$\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \hat{A}_{q^\alpha} = \frac{c_\alpha(\psi_0)}{c_0(\psi_0)} \hat{x}^\alpha \Rightarrow \hat{A}_q = \frac{c_1(\psi_0)}{c_0(\psi_0)} \hat{x}, \quad (13)$$

and we find also

$$\hat{A}_p = \frac{c_1(\psi_0)}{c_0(\psi_0)} \hat{p}. \quad (14)$$

Therefore, it suffices to add the supplementary constraint on the fiducial vector $c_1(\psi_0) = c_0(\psi_0)$, which is obtained by a simple rescaling of $\psi_0(x)$, to recover the canonical rule $[\hat{A}_q, \hat{A}_p] = i$ with $\hat{A}_q = \hat{x}$ and $\hat{A}_p = \hat{p}$.

The quantization of the generator of dilations $d = qp$ yields

$$\hat{A}_{qp} = \frac{c_2(\psi_0)}{c_0(\psi_0)} \hat{d} \quad \text{with} \quad \hat{d} = \frac{1}{2} (\hat{x} \hat{p} + \hat{p} \hat{x}). \quad (15)$$

We recover the expected quantum generator of dilations up to a renormalization factor c_2/c_0 . Let us remark that the renormalization factor c_2/c_0 cannot be removed if we have already imposed $c_1/c_0 = 1$. If we try to impose at the same time $c_2 = c_1 = c_0$, the unique solution is $\psi_0(x)^2 = \delta(x-1)$, $\delta(x)$ being the Dirac distribution, which is not acceptable. If $c_1/c_0 = 1$, then we have necessarily $c_2/c_0 > 1$.

Quantization of the classical Hamiltonian $H = p^2$ gives

$$\hat{H} = \hat{A}_{p^2} = \frac{c_2(\psi_0)}{c_0(\psi_0)} \left\{ p^2 + \left[\frac{K}{c_2(\psi_0)} - \frac{3}{2} \right] \frac{1}{\hat{x}^2} \right\}, \quad (16)$$

with

$$K = \int_0^\infty \frac{dy}{y^2} \psi_0'(y)^2. \quad (17)$$

While not obvious at first sight, the constant in front of \hat{x}^{-2} is positive since we have (keeping the assumption of rapid decrease for ψ_0)

$$K - \frac{3}{2} c_2(\psi_0) = \int_0^\infty dy \left[y^2 \phi'(y)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \phi(y)^2 \right], \quad (18)$$

where

$$\phi(y) = y\psi_0(1/y). \quad (19)$$

Therefore, we recover the main feature of the ACS quantization, namely the appearance of a repulsive potential in the quantum Hamiltonian.

B. The semiclassical framework

The semiclassical framework is obtained by the mapping $\hat{O} \mapsto \langle q, p | \hat{O} | q, p \rangle$ with always $|q, p\rangle = \hat{V}_{q,p} |\psi_0\rangle$. In what follows, although we do not assume ψ_0 to be the vector already used in the quantization procedure, we keep the same generic assumptions for ψ_0 . We easily obtain

$$\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \langle q, p | \hat{x}^\alpha | q, p \rangle = c_{-\alpha-2}(\psi_0) q^\alpha, \quad (20)$$

which implies

$$\langle q, p | \hat{x} | q, p \rangle = c_{-3}(\psi_0) q \quad (21)$$

and

$$\langle q, p | \hat{p} | q, p \rangle = c_{-3}(\psi_0) p. \quad (22)$$

With a rescaling of ψ_0 , it is possible to impose $c_{-3}(\psi_0) = 1$ in order to obtain the expected relations $\langle q, p | \hat{x} | q, p \rangle = q$ and $\langle q, p | \hat{p} | q, p \rangle = p$. Indeed, if we define $\psi_{0,\lambda}(x) = \lambda^{-1/2} \psi_0(x/\lambda)$, $\psi_{0,\lambda}$ is always a unit-norm vector and $c_{-3}(\psi_{0,\lambda}) = \lambda c_{-3}(\psi_0)$. Then choosing $\lambda = c_{-3}(\psi_0)^{-1}$ we obtain $c_{-3}(\psi_{0,\lambda}) = 1$.

The generator of dilation \hat{d} is obtained in a similar fashion, namely

$$\langle q, p | \hat{d} | q, p \rangle = c_{-4}(\psi_0) qp, \quad (23)$$

and finally for \hat{p}^2

$$\langle q, p | \hat{p}^2 | q, p \rangle = c_{-4}(\psi_0) p^2 + \frac{C}{q^2} \quad (24)$$

with

$$C = \int_0^\infty \psi_0'(x)^2 dx \quad (25)$$

a positive definite constant.

IV. STABILITY IN TIME OF ACS

From Sec. III A above, we know that the quantum Hamiltonian obtained from the covariant affine quantization with these new ACS is, in fact, that provided by the old procedure, up to some renormalization factor. Therefore, the details of the ACS quantization are not so important, and we assume in this part that the quantized Hamiltonian \hat{H} is just

$$\hat{H}_\nu = \hat{p}^2 + \frac{\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{\hat{x}^2}, \quad (26)$$

where the coefficient of the repulsive potential has been written as $\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}$ with $\nu > \frac{1}{2}$ for later convenience. As

indicated in the Introduction, we are looking for a fiducial vector ψ_0 such that the ACS $|q_t, p_t\rangle_{\psi_0}$ evolves parametrically through the Schrödinger equation, for some semiclassical trajectory (q_t, p_t) and up to some global phase factor $e^{-i\phi(t)}$, i.e.,

$$i\partial_t [e^{-i\phi(t)} |q_t, p_t\rangle_{\psi_0}] = e^{-i\phi(t)} \hat{H}_\nu |q_t, p_t\rangle_{\psi_0}. \quad (27)$$

Furthermore, since a simple rescaling on ψ_0 is able to give $c_{-3}(\psi_0) = 1$, we assume in what follows that this rescaling has been done. To find all solutions of our problem, we split the argument into two parts: the first is devoted to necessary conditions, and the second part to sufficient ones.

A. Necessary conditions on semiclassical trajectories (q_t, p_t)

To begin with, let us assume that there exists a choice for ψ_0 such that Eq. (27) holds true. We now show that this implies that the semiclassical trajectories (q_t, p_t) are those generated by the semiclassical Hamiltonian $H_{sc}(q, p) = c_{-4}(\psi_0)^{-1} \langle q, p | \hat{H}_\nu | q, p \rangle$.

Let us define $|\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-i\phi(t)} |q_t, p_t\rangle$ satisfying the Schrödinger equation (27). From the Ehrenfest equation we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi(t) | \hat{O} | \psi(t) \rangle = i \langle \psi(t) | [\hat{H}_\nu, \hat{O}] | \psi(t) \rangle. \quad (28)$$

Because of the expression (26) of \hat{H}_ν we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi(t) | \hat{x} | \psi(t) \rangle = 2 \langle \psi(t) | \hat{p} | \psi(t) \rangle, \quad (29a)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi(t) | \hat{p} | \psi(t) \rangle = 2 \left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4} \right) \langle \psi(t) | \hat{x}^{-3} | \psi(t) \rangle, \quad (29b)$$

and finally

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \psi(t) | \hat{H}_\nu | \psi(t) \rangle = 0. \quad (30)$$

Using Eqs. (20), (22), and (24), together with the assumption $c_{-3}(\psi_0) = 1$, we obtain

$$\frac{dq_t}{dt} = 2p_t, \quad (31a)$$

$$\frac{dp_t}{dt} = 2 \left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4} \right) \frac{c_1(\psi_0)}{q_t^3}, \quad (31b)$$

and therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[c_{-4}(\psi_0) p_t^2 + \frac{(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}) c_0(\psi_0) + C}{q_t^2} \right] = 0, \quad (32)$$

where C was defined in (24). Equation (31) imply that the possible trajectories (q_t, p_t) must be those generated by the semiclassical Hamiltonian $H_{sc}(q, p)$, defined as

$$H_{sc}(q, p) = p^2 + \frac{(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4})c_1(\psi_0)}{q^2}, \quad (33)$$

up to an arbitrary and irrelevant additive constant. Consistency of the above with Eq. (32) implies that the constraint on ψ_0 ,

$$C = \int_0^\infty \psi_0'(x)^2 dx = \left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)[c_1(\psi_0)c_{-4}(\psi_0) - c_0(\psi_0)], \quad (34)$$

must hold. If this constraint is not fulfilled, Eqs. (31) and (32) are incompatible, and therefore, the ACS cannot evolve parametrically with the Schrödinger equation. If the constraint (34) is fulfilled, then it may be possible to have ACS evolving parametrically with the Schrödinger equation, and in that case the trajectories are necessarily given by the Hamiltonian of (33), which is just $H_{sc}(q, p) = c_{-4}(\psi_0)^{-1}\langle q, p | \hat{H}_\nu | q, p \rangle$.

B. Finding ψ_0

Let us now consider in more details the conditions required for the existence of the fiducial state.

1. Necessary conditions

We assume that some ψ_0 exists satisfying Eq. (27) with the rescaling $c_{-3}(\psi_0) = 1$. We then have

$$i\hat{V}_{q_t, p_t}^\dagger \partial_t [e^{-i\phi(t)} \hat{V}_{q_t, p_t}] |\psi_0\rangle = e^{-i\phi(t)} \hat{V}_{q_t, p_t}^\dagger \hat{H}_\nu \hat{V}_{q_t, p_t} |\psi_0\rangle. \quad (35)$$

Using the relations (31) that necessarily hold true, and given the commutation relation between \hat{x}^2 and \hat{d} , we first deduce that

$$e^{i\phi(t)} i\hat{V}_{q_t, p_t}^\dagger \partial_t [e^{-i\phi(t)} \hat{V}_{q_t, p_t}] = \phi'(t) + p_t^2 \hat{x}^2 - \frac{(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4})c_1(\psi_0)}{q_t^2} \hat{x}^2 + \frac{2p_t}{q_t} \hat{d}. \quad (36)$$

Besides, we find

$$\hat{V}_{q_t, p_t}^\dagger \hat{H}_\nu \hat{V}_{q_t, p_t} = \frac{1}{q_t^2} \hat{p}^2 + p_t^2 \hat{x}^2 + \frac{2p_t}{q_t} \hat{d} + \frac{\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{q_t^2 \hat{x}^2}, \quad (37)$$

so that Eq. (35) becomes

$$\left[\hat{p}^2 + \frac{\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{\hat{x}^2} + \left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)c_1(\psi_0)\hat{x}^2 \right] |\psi_0\rangle = q_t^2 \phi'(t) |\psi_0\rangle. \quad (38)$$

This implies that $q_t^2 \phi'(t) = \omega$ where ω is an eigenvalue of a fixed operator \hat{H}_0 , which is nothing but the radial Hamiltonian of a three-dimensional (3D) harmonic oscillator, and furthermore, ψ_0 is the eigenvector of \hat{H}_0 associated with ω . Let us remark that in this case, $\psi_0(x)$ is not a rapidly decreasing function on \mathbb{R}_+ because $\psi_0(x) \propto x^\alpha$ when $x \rightarrow 0$. Nonetheless, because our initial assumption of rapid decrease was just a way to simplify proofs and was not, in fact, mandatory, this choice of ψ_0 turns out to be completely valid: the different constants $c_\gamma(\psi_0)$ are merely only defined for some domain of γ bounded above.

Taking into account the equations of motion (31) the condition $q_t^2 \phi'(t) = \omega$ yields

$$q_t^2 \phi'(t) = \omega \Rightarrow \phi(t) = \frac{\omega}{2\sqrt{(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4})c_1(\psi_0)}} \arctan \left[\frac{q_t p_t}{\sqrt{(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4})c_1(\psi_0)}} \right], \quad (39)$$

in which we used the relation $\frac{d}{dt}(q_t p_t) = 2H_{sc}(q_t, p_t)$ stemming from (31) and (33). Therefore, the phase factor $\phi(t)$ is itself a function of q and p , namely

$$e^{-i\phi(t)} = \left\{ \exp \left[-2i \arctan \frac{q_t p_t}{\sqrt{(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4})c_1(\psi_0)}} \right] \right\}^{\frac{1}{4}\omega[(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4})c_1(\psi_0)]^{-1/2}}, \quad (40)$$

which can also be written as

$$e^{-i\phi(t)} = \left[\frac{\sqrt{(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4})c_1(\psi_0)} - i q_t p_t}{\sqrt{(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4})c_1(\psi_0)} + i q_t p_t} \right]^{\frac{1}{4}\omega[(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4})c_1(\psi_0)]^{-1/2}}. \quad (41)$$

2. Sufficient conditions

Reciprocally, let us assume that \hat{H}_0 is the following Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H}_0 = \hat{p}^2 + \frac{\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}}{\hat{x}^2} + \xi^2 \hat{x}^2, \quad \text{with } \nu > \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{and } \xi > 0, \quad (42)$$

and let $|\psi_0\rangle$ be a normalized eigenvector of \hat{H}_0 with eigenvalue ω , i.e.,

$$\hat{H}_0|\psi_0\rangle = \omega|\psi_0\rangle. \quad (43)$$

We know from the general properties of eigenfunctions that $\psi_0(x)$ are all real as required.

In Eq. (43), ξ determines the length scale of the problem. If we now impose $c_{-3}(\psi_0) = 1$ as before, this constraint defines a relation between ξ and ν that uniquely specifies ξ as a function of ν : we call ξ_ν this specific value set $\xi = \xi_\nu$ from now on. The constraint $c_{-3}(\psi_0) = 1$ is thus automatically fulfilled.

Provided the relation

$$C + \left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)c_0(\psi_0) + \xi_\nu^2 c_{-4}(\psi_0) = \omega \quad (44)$$

holds, in which

$$C = \int_0^\infty \psi_0'(x)^2 dx, \quad (45)$$

we have that $\langle\psi_0|\hat{H}_0|\psi_0\rangle = \omega$. Besides, since $|\psi_0\rangle$ is an eigenvector of \hat{H}_0 , we know that for any observable \hat{O} , we have $\langle\psi_0|[\hat{H}_0, \hat{O}]|\psi_0\rangle = 0$. Applying this relation for $\hat{O} = \hat{p}$ and $\hat{O} = \hat{a}$, we obtain two new relations

$$\left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)c_1(\psi_0) - \xi_\nu^2 c_{-3}(\psi_0) = 0, \quad (46a)$$

$$C + \left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)c_0(\psi_0) - \xi_\nu^2 c_{-4}(\psi_0) = 0. \quad (46b)$$

Because of the scaling $c_{-3}(\psi_0) = 1$, Eq. (46a) yields

$$\left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)c_1(\psi_0) = \xi_\nu^2, \quad (47)$$

while from (44) and (46b), we obtain

$$c_{-4}(\psi_0) = \frac{\omega}{2\xi_\nu^2}, \quad (48)$$

as well as

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \frac{\omega}{2} - \left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)c_0(\psi_0) \\ &= \left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)[c_1(\psi_0)c_{-4}(\psi_0) - c_0(\psi_0)], \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

so that the (mandatory) constraint (34) is also fulfilled.

Let us assume that the semiclassical trajectory (q_t, p_t) is obtained from the semiclassical Hamiltonian $H_{sc}(q, p)$, defined as

$$H_{sc}(q, p) = p^2 + \frac{\xi_\nu^2}{q^2} = p^2 + \left(\nu^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right) \frac{c_1(\psi_0)}{q^2}, \quad (50)$$

the last equality stemming from (47). The Hamiltonian $H_{sc}(q, p)$ coincides with that of Eq. (33), and therefore, the Hamiltonian equations derived from $H_{sc}(q, p)$ satisfy Eq. (31). Thus, Eqs. (36) and (37) of the previous section are valid, and therefore, $|\psi_0\rangle$ solves our problem if (and only if) Eq. (38) holds true, which is equivalent to $q_t^2 \phi'(t) = \omega$. Taking into account (39) and (47), we finally obtain $\phi(t)$ as

$$\phi(t) = \frac{\omega}{2\xi_\nu} \arctan\left(\frac{q_t p_t}{\xi_\nu}\right), \quad (51)$$

and

$$e^{-i\phi(t)} = \left(\frac{\xi_\nu - iq_t p_t}{\xi_\nu + iq_t p_t}\right)^{\frac{\omega}{4\xi_\nu}}. \quad (52)$$

The above lines of arguments show that the fiducial vectors generating affine coherent states stable in time are exactly all eigenvectors of \hat{H}_0 . Since the eigensystem for \hat{H}_0 is completely solvable, we can go a step further with explicit formulas.

C. Summary

Since the solutions to our problem are given by the eigenvectors (and the eigenvalues) of the Hamiltonian (42), we begin by recalling some known results about it.

1. Definitions

The solutions of $\hat{H}_0|\Phi_n\rangle = \omega_n|\Phi_n\rangle$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and $|\Phi_n\rangle$ being normalized, are

$$\omega_n = 2\xi(2n + \nu + 1), \quad (53)$$

$$\Phi_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2n!}{\Gamma(\nu + n + 1)}} \xi^{\frac{\nu+1}{2}} x^{\nu+1/2} L_n^\nu(\xi x^2) e^{-\frac{1}{2}\xi x^2}, \quad (54)$$

where the $L_n^\nu(y)$ are Laguerre polynomials and we have defined $\Phi_n(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \langle x|\Phi_n\rangle$. The first three fiducial vectors are plotted in Fig. 1.

Let us introduce for convenience the functions $G_n(\alpha, \nu)$ for $\alpha + \nu > 0$, $\nu > 0$, and $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$G_n(\alpha, \nu) = \frac{n!}{\Gamma(\nu + n + 1)} \int_0^\infty x^{\nu+\alpha-1} L_n^\nu(x)^2 e^{-x} dx. \quad (55)$$

Although they can easily be computed for each value of n , there does not exist, to the best of our knowledge, a generic formula in terms of usual special functions. The normalization factor in front of the integral has been chosen such

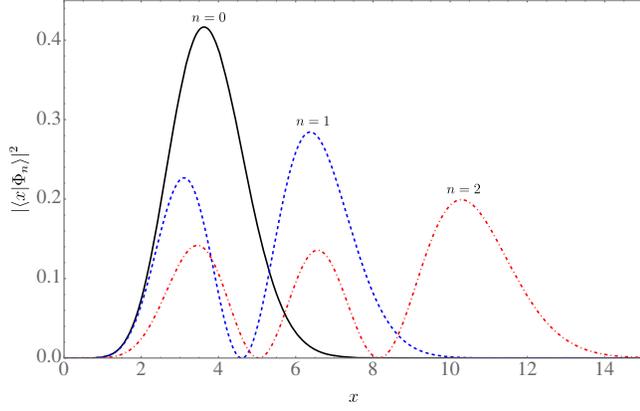


FIG. 1. The probability distributions of positions for the first three fiducial vectors: $|\langle x|\Phi_n\rangle|^2$ for $n=0$, $n=1$, and $n=2$ ($\nu=3$ and $H_{sc}=1$).

that $G_n(1, \nu) = 1$ and $G_0(\alpha, \nu) = \Gamma(\nu + \alpha)/\Gamma(\nu + 1)$. With this definition we obtain

$$c_\gamma(\Phi_n) = \xi^{1+\gamma/2} G_n\left(-\frac{\gamma}{2}, \nu\right), \quad (56)$$

so that the scaling condition $c_{-3}(\Phi_n) = 1$ previously used gives, for $\xi_{\nu,n}$,

$$\xi_{\nu,n} = \left[G_n\left(\frac{3}{2}, \nu\right) \right]^2. \quad (57)$$

To end with the useful definitions, we call $\tilde{\omega}_{\nu,n}$ the values of ω_n for $\xi = \xi_{\nu,n}$, i.e.,

$$\tilde{\omega}_{\nu,n} = 2\xi_{\nu,n}(2n + \nu + 1) = 2 \left[G_n\left(\frac{3}{2}, \nu\right) \right]^2 (2n + \nu + 1). \quad (58)$$

We are now in a position to summarize the results of the previous sections.

2. General case

Given the quantum Hamiltonian \hat{H}_ν (26), all families of ACS $e^{-i\phi_{q,p}}|q, p\rangle_{\psi_0}$ evolving parametrically by the Schrödinger equation as $i\partial_t(e^{-i\phi_{q_t,p_t}}|q_t, p_t\rangle_{\psi_0}) = e^{-i\phi_{q_t,p_t}}\hat{H}_\nu|q_t, p_t\rangle_{\psi_0}$ depend on an integer n and, of course, on the parameter ν of \hat{H}_ν . If we introduce the notation $|q, p; \nu, n\rangle \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} e^{-i\phi_{q,p}}|q, p\rangle_{\psi_0}$ that makes explicit all the parameters involved, we have the complete formula

$$\langle x|q, p; \nu, n\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2n!}{\Gamma(\nu + n + 1)}} \left(\frac{\xi_{\nu,n} - iqp}{\xi_{\nu,n} + iqp} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}(2n+\nu+1)} \frac{\xi_{\nu,n}^{\frac{\nu+1}{2}} x^{\nu+1/2}}{q^{\nu+1}} L_n\left(\xi_{\nu,n} \frac{x^2}{q^2}\right) \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}(\xi_{\nu,n} - iqp) \frac{x^2}{q^2}\right]. \quad (59)$$

The semiclassical trajectories (q_t, p_t) compatible with the Schrödinger equation (with Hamiltonian \hat{H}_ν) for a family $\{|qp; \nu, n\rangle\}_{(q,p) \in \Pi_+}$ are those resulting from the following semiclassical Hamiltonian $H_{sc}^{(\nu,n)}(q, p)$:

$$H_{sc}^{(\nu,n)}(q, p) = p^2 + \frac{\xi_{\nu,n}^2}{q^2}. \quad (60)$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle q, p; \nu, n|\hat{x}|q, p; \nu, n\rangle &= q \quad \text{and} \\ \langle q, p; \nu, n|\hat{p}|q, p; \nu, n\rangle &= p, \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

and, in addition,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle q, p; \nu, n|\hat{H}_\nu|q, p; \nu, n\rangle &= c_{-4}(\Phi_n)H_{sc}^{(\nu,n)}(q, p) \\ &= \frac{\tilde{\omega}_{\nu,n}}{2\xi_{\nu,n}^2} H_{sc}^{(\nu,n)}(q, p) \\ &= \frac{2n + \nu + 1}{\xi_{\nu,n}} H_{sc}^{(\nu,n)}(q, p). \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

For each pair (ν, n) , the family of states $\{|q, p; \nu, n\rangle\}_{(q,p) \in \Pi_+}$ solves the identity according to the general formula (7), i.e.,

$$\int_{(q,p) \in \Pi_+} \frac{dqdp}{2\pi c_0(\nu, n)} |q, p; \nu, n\rangle \langle q, p; \nu, n| = \mathbb{1}, \quad \text{with} \\ c_0(\nu, n) = \left[G_n\left(\frac{3}{2}, \nu\right) \right]^2 G_n(0, \nu), \quad (63)$$

the expression of $c_0(\nu, n)$ resulting from Eqs. (56) and (57). Therefore, for any $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi\rangle &= \int_{\Pi_+} \frac{dqdp}{2\pi c_0(\nu, n)} \psi(q, p) |q, p; \nu, n\rangle \quad \text{with} \\ \psi(q, p) &= \langle q, p; \nu, n|\psi\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

It follows that the time-dependent vector $|\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-i\hat{H}_\nu t}|\psi\rangle$ verifies

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-i\hat{H}_\nu t}|\psi\rangle = \int_{\Pi_+} \frac{dqdp}{2\pi c_0(\nu, n)} \psi_t(q, p) |q, p; \nu, n\rangle$$

with $\psi_t(q, p) = \langle q, p; \nu, n | e^{-i\hat{H}_\nu t} |\psi\rangle$. (65)

Let us define $(q, p) \mapsto [Q_t(q, p), P_t(q, p)]$ as the Hamiltonian flow resulting from the semiclassical Hamiltonian $H_{sc}^{(\nu, n)}(q, p)$. Since the states $|q, p; \nu, n\rangle$ evolve parametrically, we have $e^{-i\hat{H}_\nu t} |q, p; \nu, n\rangle = |Q_t(q, p), P_t(q, p); \nu, n\rangle$ from which it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_t(q, p) &= \langle q, p; \nu, n | e^{-i\hat{H}_\nu t} |\psi\rangle \\ &= \langle Q_{-t}(q, p), P_{-t}(q, p); \nu, n | \psi\rangle \\ &= \psi[Q_{-t}(q, p), P_{-t}(q, p)]. \end{aligned} \quad (66)$$

$$\langle x | q, p; \nu, 0\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\Gamma(\nu+1)}} \left(\xi_{\nu,0} \frac{\xi_{\nu,0} - iqp}{\xi_{\nu,0} + iqp} \right)^{\frac{\nu+1}{2}} \frac{x^{\nu+1/2}}{q^{\nu+1}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} (\xi_{\nu,0} - iqp) \frac{x^2}{q^2} \right] \quad \text{with} \quad \xi_{\nu,0} = \left[\frac{\Gamma(\nu+3/2)}{\Gamma(\nu+1)} \right]^2. \quad (68)$$

The semiclassical trajectories (q_t, p_t) compatible with the Schrödinger equation are now coming from the semiclassical Hamiltonian $H_{sc}^{(\nu,0)}(q, p)$,

$$H_{sc}^{(\nu,0)}(q, p) = p^2 + \frac{\xi_{\nu,0}^2}{q^2}. \quad (69)$$

We keep the relations

$$\langle q, p; \nu, 0 | \hat{x} | q, p; \nu, 0\rangle = q \quad \text{and} \quad \langle q, p; \nu, 0 | \hat{p} | q, p; \nu, 0\rangle = p, \quad (70)$$

and

$$\langle q, p; \nu, 0 | \hat{H}_\nu | q, p; \nu, 0\rangle = \frac{\nu+1}{\xi_{\nu,0}} H_{sc}^{(\nu,0)}(q, p). \quad (71)$$

Furthermore, since the vectors $|q, p; \nu, 0\rangle$ solve the identity, the function $\rho_\psi(q, p) = |\langle q, p; \nu, 0 | \psi\rangle|^2 / [2\pi c_0(\nu, 0)]$ is a semiclassical probability density that gives a phase-space portrait of any quantum state $|\psi\rangle$. In particular, we can obtain a phase-space portrait for $|\psi_t\rangle = |q_t, p_t; \nu, 0\rangle$ at any time t along a semiclassical trajectory. A straightforward calculation gives

$$|\langle q', p'; \nu, 0 | q, p; \nu, 0\rangle|^2 = \frac{(2\xi_{\nu,0})^{2\nu+2}}{\left[\xi_{\nu,0}^2 \left(\frac{q'}{q} + \frac{q}{q'} \right)^2 + (qp' - q'p)^2 \right]^{\nu+1}}. \quad (72)$$

An example of $\rho_{\psi_t}(q, p)$ for $|\psi_t\rangle = |q_t, p_t; \nu, 0\rangle$ is given in Fig. 2.

Thus, the time-dependent vector $|\psi(t)\rangle$ of (65), written in the ACS (overcomplete) basis $|q, p; \nu, n\rangle$, possesses coefficients $\psi_t(q, p)$ of splitting that follow exactly the classical Liouville equation (but with a semiclassical Hamiltonian)

$$\frac{\partial \psi_t}{\partial t} = -\{\psi_t, H_{sc}^{(\nu, n)}\}. \quad (67)$$

Therefore, the use of the ACS $|q, p; \nu, n\rangle$ allows one (as desired) to completely intertwine quantum and classical evolutions of states for the quantum Hamiltonian \hat{H}_ν .

3. Special case $n=0$

In the particular case $n=0$, the previous generic formula can be simplified, giving

4. Special case $n=1$

For $n \neq 0$, the functions $x \mapsto |\langle x | q, p; \nu, n\rangle|^2$ have several maxima and zeros, so that these states are highly nonclassical, although their structure is always stable with time. Figure 3 shows the semiclassical probability density $\rho_\psi(q, p) = |\langle q, p; \nu, 0 | \psi\rangle|^2 / (2\pi c_0)$ for $|\psi\rangle = |q=2, p=0, \nu, n=1\rangle$ compared with the one obtained for $|\psi\rangle = |q=2, p=0, \nu, n=0\rangle$, i.e., keeping the same parameters at the exception of n . While in the case $n=0$ the structure is simple with a well-defined peak reaching its maximum at one point, at the opposite for $n=1$ the structure is more complex with always a peak

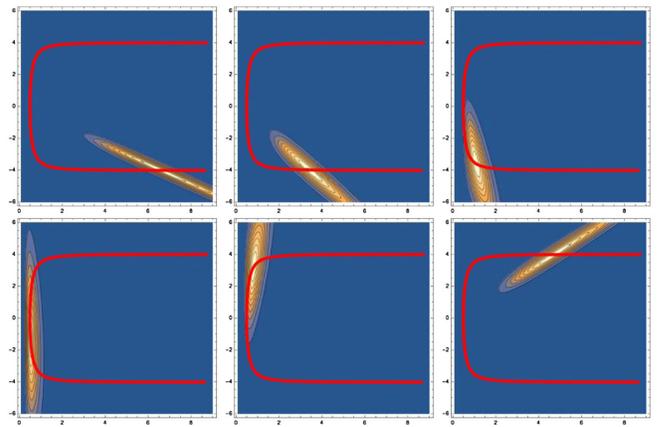


FIG. 2. Some phase-space portraits of $\rho_{\psi_t}(q, p)$ for $\nu=3$. Time t is increasing from top left to bottom right. The semiclassical trajectory in red is going through the point $(q=5, p=-4)$.

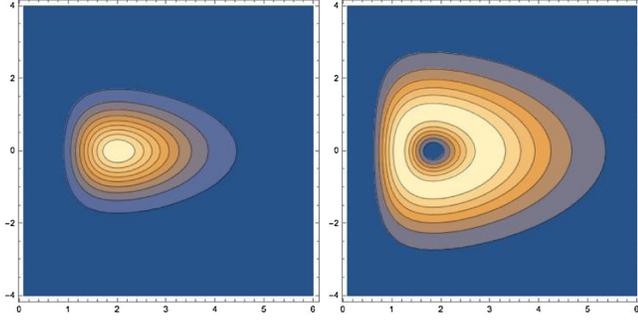


FIG. 3. A phase-space portrait $\rho_\psi(q, p)$ with $\nu = 3$ for $|\psi\rangle = |q = 2, p = 0, \nu, n = 0\rangle$ (left panel) and $|\psi\rangle = |q = 2, p = 0, \nu, n = 1\rangle$ (right panel).

but equipped with a central hole and a ring for maximal values.

V. CONCLUSION

Focusing on the case of a classical Hamiltonian $H = p^2$ on the half plane, we discovered a class of dynamically stable coherent states parametrized by the half plane phase space. They are expected to play an important role in quantum cosmology, e.g., by providing exact expressions for expectation values of compound dynamical quantum observables. The latter are requisite for coupling primordial perturbations to quantum models of the universe.

Moreover, these new coherent states enhance the framework of ACS quantization. By fixing the choice of the fiducial vector they remove some ambiguous aspects of the framework. On the one hand, the new ACS evolve parametrically through the Schrödinger equation, with the parameters following a trajectory in phase space given by a semiclassical Hamiltonian. On the other hand, the

fiducial vector usually unspecified is now given as an eigenvector of a well-defined Hamiltonian. The basic quantum observables given by this enhanced procedure remain unchanged, up to some normalization factors. Therefore, the new ACS are really “exceptional” states among all possible definitions of affine coherent states. If one accepts the general framework of coherent state quantization as an admissible one, it becomes clear that these new coherent states should be favored. The crucial point is that they are explicit solutions to the Schrödinger equation, allowing one to avoid troublesome approximations. We plan to use them in our future works on quantum cosmology.

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APPENDIX A: QUANTIZATION FORMULA

In this appendix, we sketch the proof for the formula of Sec. III A. To obtain the operators \hat{A}_f , we need to calculate the matrix elements $\langle x|\hat{A}_f|x'\rangle$, i.e., to calculate in the sense of distributions, the integrals

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_f|x'\rangle = \int_{\Pi_+} \frac{dqdp}{2\pi c_0} \langle x|q, p\rangle \langle q, p|x'\rangle f(q, p).$$

For the cases mentioned in Sec. III A, i.e., $f(q, p) = q^\alpha, p, qp, p^2$, $f(q, p)$ is factorized as a product of a function of q by a function of p , and the technique is the same. We have

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_{q^\alpha p^\beta}|x'\rangle = \int_{\Pi_+} \frac{dqdp}{2\pi c_0} q^\alpha p^\beta \exp\left[\frac{ip}{2q}(x^2 - x'^2)\right] \frac{1}{q} \psi_0\left(\frac{x}{q}\right) \psi_0\left(\frac{x'}{q}\right). \quad (\text{A1})$$

First, we can use a change of canonical variables $[Q = q^2, P = p/(2q)]$, leading to

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_{q^\alpha p^\beta}|x'\rangle = 2^\beta \int_{\Pi_+} \frac{dQdP}{2\pi c_0} Q^{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha+\beta)} P^\beta \exp[iP(x^2 - x'^2)] \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q}} \psi_0\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{Q}}\right) \psi_0\left(\frac{x'}{\sqrt{Q}}\right). \quad (\text{A2})$$

Therefore, we have

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_{q^\alpha p^\beta}|x'\rangle = \frac{2^\beta}{c_0} \left[\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dP}{2\pi} P^\beta e^{iP(x^2 - x'^2)} \right] \int_0^\infty dQ Q^{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha+\beta-1)} \psi_0\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{Q}}\right) \psi_0\left(\frac{x'}{\sqrt{Q}}\right). \quad (\text{A3})$$

The basic relations

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dP}{2\pi} e^{iPy} = \delta(y) \Rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dP}{2\pi} P e^{iPy} = -i\delta'(y) \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dP}{2\pi} P^2 e^{iPy} = -\delta''(y)$$

show that, to calculate expressions (A3), at least for $\beta = 0, 1, 2$, we need to simplify the formula of the type $f(x, a)\delta^{(\beta)}(x^2 - a^2)$ with the constraint $x, a > 0$.

Using the well-known relations for the Dirac δ -function

$$\begin{aligned} f(x)\delta(x-a) &= f(a)\delta(x-a); \\ f(x)\delta'(x-a) &= f(a)\delta'(x-a) - f'(a)\delta(x-a); \\ f(x)\delta''(x-a) &= f(a)\delta''(x-a) - 2f'(a)\delta'(x-a) + f''(a)\delta(x-a), \end{aligned}$$

and the fact that $\delta(x^2 - a^2) = \frac{1}{2a}\delta(x-a)$ if $x, a > 0$, it is straightforward to obtain

$$f(x)\delta(x^2 - a^2) = \frac{f(a)}{2a}\delta(x-a), \quad (\text{A4a})$$

$$f(x)\delta'(x^2 - a^2) = \frac{f(a)}{4a^2}\delta'(x-a) + \left[\frac{f(a)}{4a^3} - \frac{f'(a)}{4a^2}\right]\delta(x-a), \quad (\text{A4b})$$

$$f(x)\delta''(x^2 - a^2) = \frac{f(a)}{8a^3}\delta''(x-a) + \left[\frac{3f(a)}{8a^4} - \frac{2f'(a)}{8a^3}\right]\delta'(x-a) + \left[\frac{f''(a)}{8a^3} - \frac{3f'(a)}{8a^4} + \frac{3f(a)}{8a^5}\right]\delta(x-a). \quad (\text{A4c})$$

Let us show how, for instance, Eq. (A4a) allows one to recover \hat{A}_{q^α} . We have

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_{q^\alpha}|x'\rangle = \frac{1}{c_0}\delta(x^2 - x'^2)f(x, x'), \quad (\text{A5})$$

in which we set

$$f(x, x') = \int_0^\infty dQ Q^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} \psi_0\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{Q}}\right) \psi_0\left(\frac{x'}{\sqrt{Q}}\right), \quad (\text{A6})$$

so that from (A4a)

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_{q^\alpha}|x'\rangle = \frac{1}{c_0} \frac{f(x', x')}{2x'} \delta(x - x'), \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$f(x', x') = 2(x')^{\alpha+1} c_\alpha(\psi_0), \quad (\text{A8})$$

and finally,

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_{q^\alpha}|x'\rangle = \frac{c_\alpha(\psi_0)}{c_0(\psi_0)} (x')^\alpha \delta(x - x'), \quad (\text{A9})$$

which implies

$$\hat{A}_{q^\alpha} = \frac{c_\alpha(\psi_0)}{c_0(\psi_0)} \hat{x}^\alpha. \quad (\text{A10})$$

Similarly, we find

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_p|x'\rangle = -\frac{2i}{c_0}\delta'(x^2 - x'^2)f(x, x'), \quad (\text{A11})$$

with

$$f(x, x') = \int_0^\infty dQ \psi_0\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{Q}}\right) \psi_0\left(\frac{x'}{\sqrt{Q}}\right). \quad (\text{A12})$$

Using (A4b) we obtain first

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_p|x'\rangle = -\frac{2i}{c_0} \left\{ \frac{f(x', x')}{4x'^2} \delta'(x - x') + \left[\frac{f(x', x')}{4x'^3} - \frac{\partial_x f(x', x')}{4x'^2} \right] \delta(x - x') \right\}. \quad (\text{A13})$$

Then a change of variable and an integration by parts (assuming ψ_0 to be rapidly decreasing) gives

$$f(x', x') = 2x'^2 c_1(\psi_0) \text{ and } \partial_x f(x', x') = 2x' c_1(\psi_0). \quad (\text{A14})$$

Thus, we conclude that

$$\langle x|\hat{A}_p|x'\rangle = -i \frac{c_1(\psi_0)}{c_0(\psi_0)} \delta'(x - x') \Rightarrow \hat{A}_p = \frac{c_1(\psi_0)}{c_0(\psi_0)} \hat{p}. \quad (\text{A15})$$

More complicated formulas involving p or p^2 can be obtained in a similar fashion.

APPENDIX B: DETAILED RELATIONS INVOLVING SU(1, 1)

The basic SU(1,1) self-adjoint generators $\hat{K}_{0,1,2}$ on $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}_+, dx)$ mentioned in Sec. II B read in our case

$$\hat{K}_0 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\hat{H} + \frac{\hat{x}^2}{4} \right), \quad (\text{B1})$$

$$\hat{K}_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left[\cos \omega \left(\hat{H} - \frac{\hat{x}^2}{4} \right) + \sin \omega \hat{d} \right], \quad (\text{B2})$$

$$\hat{K}_2 = \frac{1}{2} \left[-\sin \omega \left(\hat{H} - \frac{\hat{x}^2}{4} \right) + \cos \omega \hat{d} \right], \quad (\text{B3})$$

where $\hat{H} = \hat{p}^2 + \frac{C}{\hat{x}^2}$ with $C > 0$ and ω is a free real parameter. They verify the usual commutation rules of $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$, i.e.,

$$[\hat{K}_0, \hat{K}_1] = i\hat{K}_2, \quad [\hat{K}_0, \hat{K}_2] = -i\hat{K}_1, \quad [\hat{K}_1, \hat{K}_2] = -i\hat{K}_0. \quad (\text{B4})$$

Conversely, we have

$$\hat{H} = K_0 + \cos \omega \hat{K}_1 - \sin \omega \hat{K}_2, \quad (\text{B5})$$

$$\frac{\hat{x}^2}{4} = \hat{K}_0 - \cos \omega \hat{K}_1 + \sin \omega \hat{K}_2, \quad (\text{B6})$$

$$\frac{\hat{d}}{2} = \sin \omega \hat{K}_1 + \cos \omega \hat{K}_2. \quad (\text{B7})$$

In the unit disk realization of SU(1,1) actions, \hat{K}_0 is the generator of rotations while \hat{K}_1 and \hat{K}_2 are generators of hyperbolic transforms. Introducing the ladder operators

$$\hat{K}_\pm = \hat{K}_2 \mp i\hat{K}_1, \quad [\hat{K}_+, \hat{K}_-] = -2\hat{K}_0, \quad (\text{B8})$$

one can also write

$$\hat{H} = \hat{K}_0 - \frac{1}{2i} (\hat{K}_+ e^{i\omega} - \hat{K}_- e^{-i\omega}), \quad (\text{B9})$$

$$\frac{\hat{x}^2}{4} = \hat{K}_0 + \frac{1}{2i} (\hat{K}_+ e^{i\omega} - \hat{K}_- e^{-i\omega}), \quad (\text{B10})$$

$$\hat{d} = \hat{K}_+ e^{i\omega} + \hat{K}_- e^{-i\omega}. \quad (\text{B11})$$

The Casimir operator is given by

$$\hat{Q} = \hat{K}_1^2 + \hat{K}_2^2 - \hat{K}_0^2 = \frac{1}{2} \{ \hat{K}_+, \hat{K}_- \} - \hat{K}_0^2, \quad (\text{B12})$$

which gives, in this representation,

$$\hat{Q} = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{3}{4} - C \right) \mathbb{1} \quad \text{with } C > 0. \quad (\text{B13})$$

Hence, the corresponding SU(1,1) UIR is identified through the Bargman index $\eta > 0$ such that $\eta(\eta - 1) = \frac{1}{4}(C - \frac{3}{4})$, i.e., $\eta = \frac{1}{2} \pm \sqrt{C + \frac{1}{4}}$. For $C = \frac{3}{4}$, which corresponds to the lowest value allowing the operator \hat{H} to have a unique self-adjoint extension, we get the element lying at the bottom of the genuine discrete series corresponding to $\eta = 1$.

Since the parameter ω introduced above is free, we choose in what follows $\omega = 0$ to simplify expressions and calculations.

With this material at hand, the unitary operator $\hat{V}_{q,p}$ of Eq. (4) can be viewed as a combination of SU(1,1) displacement operators [37] allowing us to interpret our CS in terms of Perelomov CS for SU(1,1). We first have from Eq. (4)

$$\hat{V}_{q,p} = e^{2ip(\hat{K}_0 - \hat{K}_1)/q} e^{-2i \ln q \hat{K}_2}. \quad (\text{B14})$$

One can rewrite $\hat{V}_{q,p}$ differently in terms of the generators (see below) as

$$\hat{V}_{q,p} = e^{(\xi \hat{K}_+ - \bar{\xi} \hat{K}_-)} e^{i\theta \hat{K}_0} = e^{i\theta' \hat{K}_0} e^{(\xi' \hat{K}_+ - \bar{\xi}' \hat{K}_-)}. \quad (\text{B15})$$

The unitary operator $e^{(\xi \hat{K}_+ - \bar{\xi} \hat{K}_-)}$ is the SU(1,1) analog of the displacement operator in the Weyl-Heisenberg symmetry case, and was used by Perelomov to build his SU(1,1) coherent states [35,36]. On the other hand, the exponentiation of the operator \hat{K}_0 , i.e., $e^{i\theta \hat{K}_0}$, leads to the compact subgroup of rotations in the unit disk. In doing so, we use the one-to-one correspondence

$$i\hat{K}_0 \leftrightarrow N_0 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B16a})$$

$$i\hat{K}_1 \leftrightarrow N_1 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B16b})$$

$$i\hat{K}_2 \leftrightarrow N_2 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ -i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B16c})$$

i.e.,

$$i\hat{K}_+ \leftrightarrow N_+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad i\hat{K}_- \leftrightarrow N_- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{B17})$$

Then, one uses the generic exponentiation correspondence between $X \in \mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$ and $g \in \text{SU}(1, 1)$,

$$X = \sum_{i=0,1,2} \lambda_i N_i = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} i\lambda_0 & z \\ \bar{z} & -i\lambda_0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad z = \lambda_1 + i\lambda_2,$$

$$\mapsto g = \exp X = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \bar{\beta} & \bar{\alpha} \end{pmatrix}, \quad |\alpha|^2 - |\beta|^2 = 1,$$

so that, for $\hat{V}_{q,p}$ of Eq. (B14), we have the correspondences between unitary operators $\mapsto 2 \times 2$ matrices $\in \text{SU}(1, 1)$:

$$e^{2ip(\hat{K}_0 - \hat{K}_1)/q} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 + i\frac{p}{q} & -\frac{p}{q} \\ -\frac{p}{q} & 1 - i\frac{p}{q} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B18})$$

$$e^{-2i \ln q \hat{K}_2} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \frac{q+q^{-1}}{2} & -i\frac{q-q^{-1}}{2} \\ i\frac{q-q^{-1}}{2} & \frac{q+q^{-1}}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B19})$$

and so

$$\hat{V}_{q,p} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \bar{\beta} & \bar{\alpha} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B20})$$

with

$$\alpha = \frac{q+q^{-1}}{2} + i\frac{p}{q^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = -i\left(\frac{q-q^{-1}}{2} - i\frac{p}{q^2}\right). \quad (\text{B21})$$

We also have the left and right Cartan factorizations of $\text{SU}(1,1)$, namely

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \bar{\beta} & \bar{\alpha} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta & \delta\zeta \\ \delta\bar{\zeta} & \delta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\frac{\theta}{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}} \end{pmatrix} \equiv p(\zeta)h(\theta)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\frac{\theta}{2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \delta & \delta\zeta' \\ \delta\bar{\zeta}' & \delta \end{pmatrix} \equiv h(-\theta)p(\zeta'),$$

with $e^{i\frac{\theta}{2}} = \frac{\alpha}{|\alpha|}$, $\zeta = \beta\bar{\alpha}^{-1}$, $\zeta' = \beta\alpha^{-1}$, and $\delta = |\alpha| = (1 - |\zeta|^2)^{-1/2}$. In terms of exponentials of $\mathfrak{su}(1,1)$ elements and corresponding unitary operators, the decomposition factors read

$$h(\theta) = e^{\theta N_0} \mapsto e^{-i\theta K_0},$$

$$p(\zeta) = e^{-i\xi N_+ + i\bar{\xi} N_-} \mapsto e^{\xi K_+ - \bar{\xi} K_-},$$

with $\zeta = -\tanh|\xi| \exp(-i \arg \xi)$. The application of these relations to (B15) yields quite involved expressions in terms of the original variables q and p whose explicit form we do not write here.

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