

Composite quantum particles at the interface with general relativity

Magdalena Zych
Stockholm University



ICOLS, 29 June 2023

*Knut and Alice
Wallenberg
Foundation*

Composite quantum systems in curved space time – foundations and applications
Wallenberg Academy Fellow

Since February 2023 @ Stockholm Uni

Looking for postdoc!



Current Members

Germain Tobar

Evan Gale

Dr Rodrigo Bruni

Past members

Dr Carolyn Wood

Dr Laura Henderson

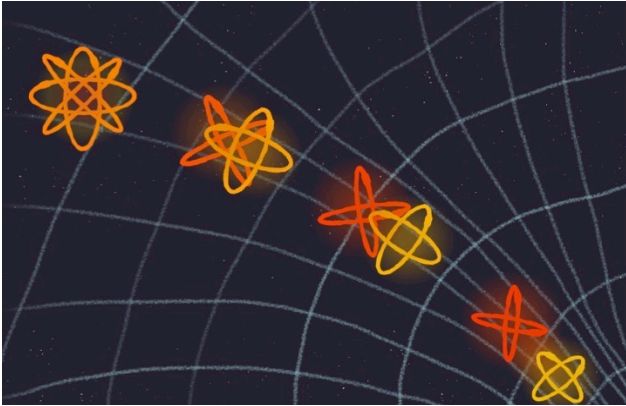
Dr Joshua Foo*

Rebecca Haustein

Ahmad Mohit

* co-sup with Tim Ralph

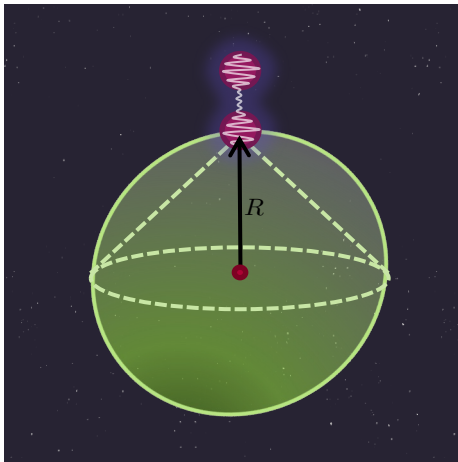
Theory and tests of QM+GR



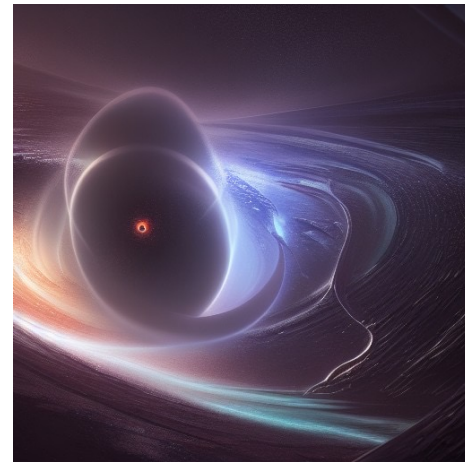
Quantum causal order



Tests of alternative theories (collapse models, classical-channel gravity)



QFT in classical & quantum curved spacetimes, link to quantum thermo



Gravitational phase shift (COW)

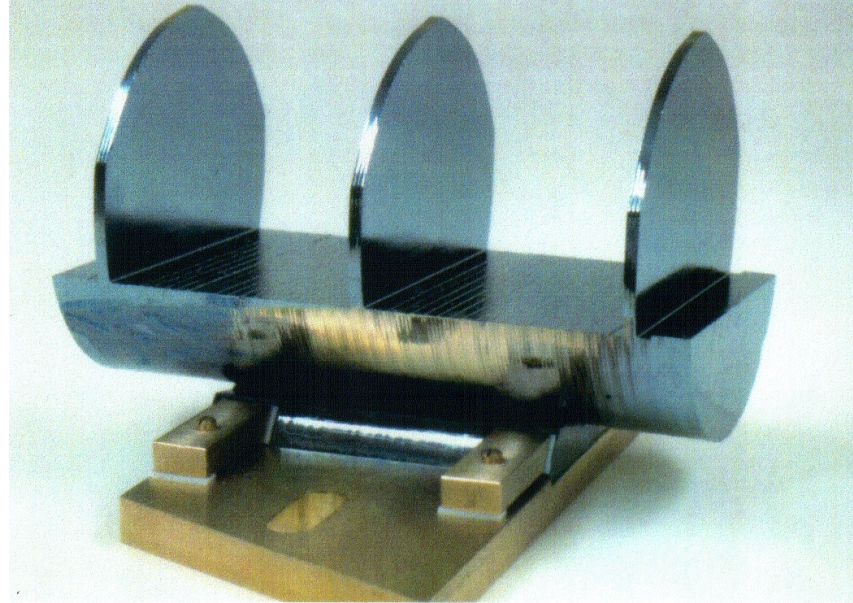
$$H = H_{int} + \frac{p^2}{2m} + mgh$$

gravitational potential

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (e^{-i\Delta\phi} |\gamma_1\rangle + |\gamma_2\rangle)$$

$$\Delta\phi = mght/\hbar$$

detection probability: $P_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2} \cos(\Delta\phi)$



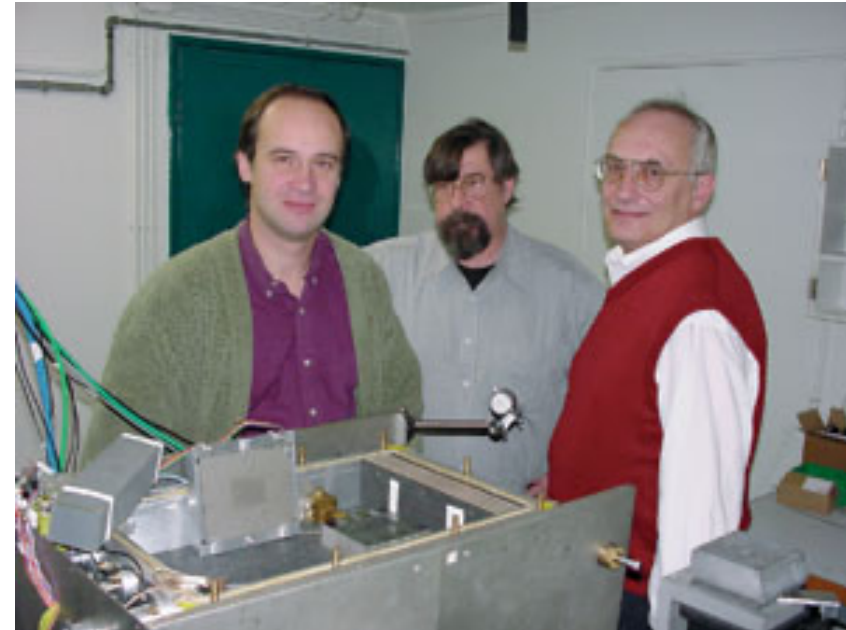
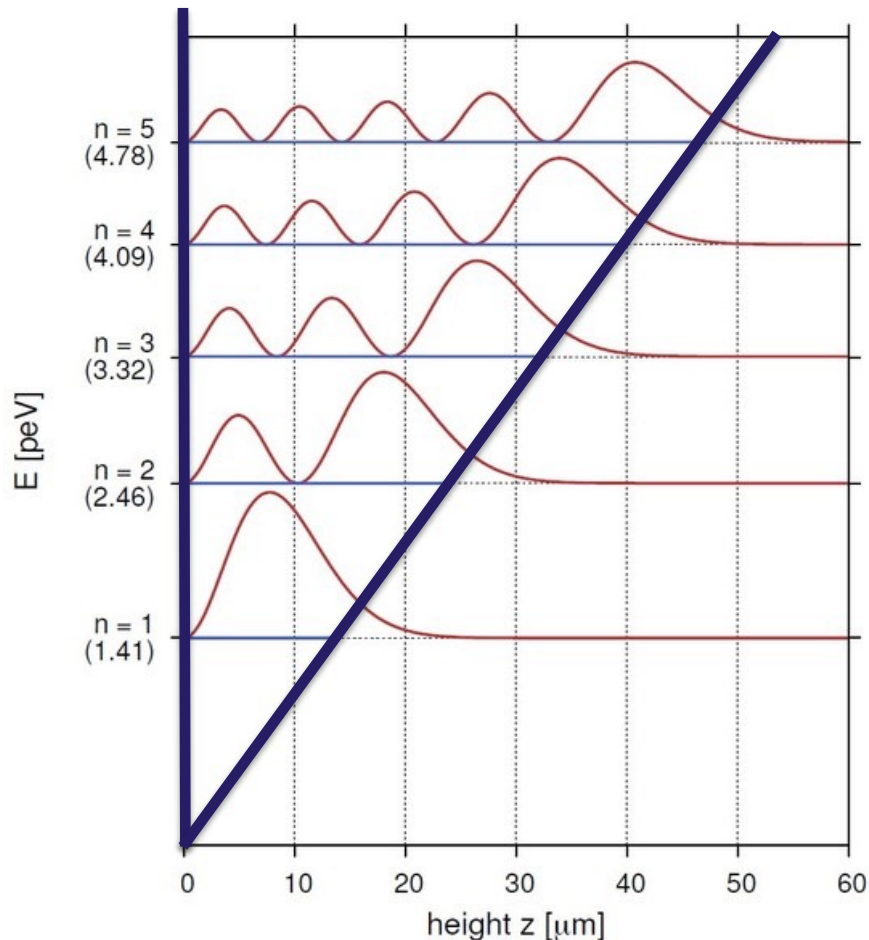
- Colella, Overhauser, Werner (COW) *PRL* **34**, 1472– 1474 (1975)
- Müller, Peters, Chu, *Nature* **463**, 926-929 (2010)
- Rosi et al, *Nature* **510** 518 (2014)
- Asenbaum et al, *PRL* **118**, 123602 (2017) → first time beyond const. gravitational acceleration!

Gravitationally trapped neutrons (q-Bounce)

$$H = H_{int} + \frac{p^2}{2m} + mgh$$

gravitational potential

potential well \rightarrow quantised bound states



Nesvizhevsky, Boerner, Petukhov

source: cerncourier.com

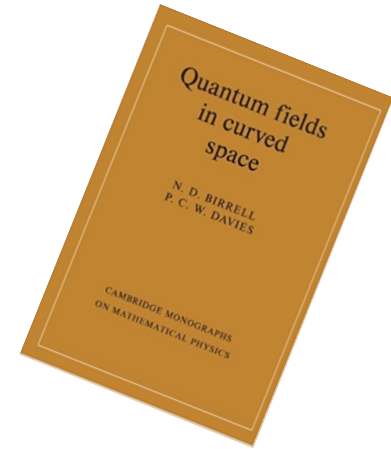
Nesvizhevsky, et al *Nature* 415 6869 (2002)
Abele et al, *Nature Phys.* 7 468 (2011)

Theory at the fundamental level

N.D. Birrel and P.C.W Davies

“Quantum fields in curved space”

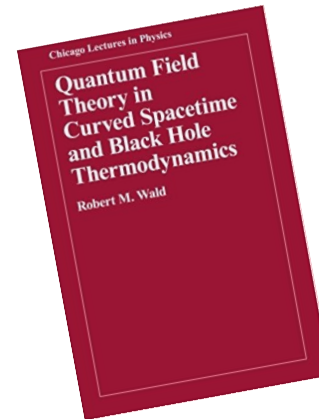
Cambridge Monographs on Mathematical Physics (1984)



R.M. Wald

“Quantum Field Theory in Curved Spacetime and Black Hole Thermodynamics”

Chicago Lectures in Physics (1994)

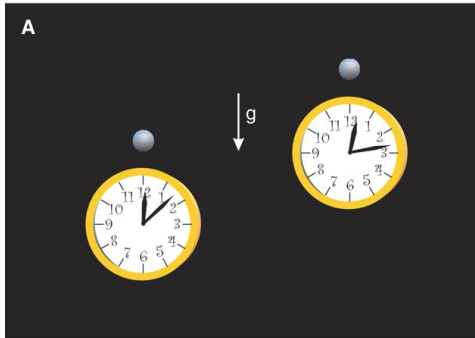


- Directly describes: elementary particles
- New effects: high energies, strong gravity, ...

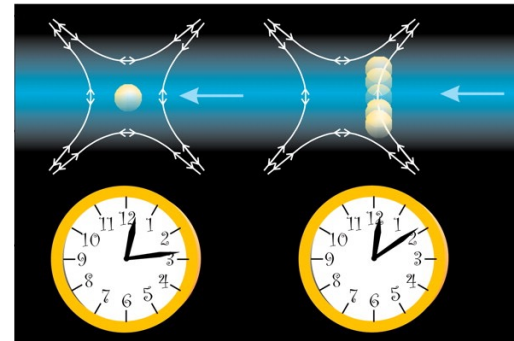
Strategy here: Include internal DOFs

Time dilation or redshift of internal states can be measured very precisely!

Chou et al *Science* **329** 1630–1633 (2010)



$$\Delta h = -17, +33\text{cm}$$



$$\Delta V = 10\div 35\text{ m/s}$$

Composite particles in GR

N-interacting particles

MZ, Rudnicki, Pikovski, PRD 99, 104029 (2019)

Sonnleitner, Barnett, PRA 98, 042106 (2018)

Schwartz, Giulini, Class. Quant. Grav. 36, 095016 (2019)

Schwartz, Giulini, PRA 100, 052116 (2019)

$$S = - \sum \left(m_i c^2 \int d\tau + q_i \int A_\mu (x_i) dx_i^\mu \right)$$

QFT in curved spacetime

MZ *Quantum Systems Under Gravitational Time Dilation* (Springer, 2017),

MZ, Brukner, Nat. Phys 14, 1027–1031 (2018)

Roura PRX 10 (2), 021014 (2020)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(\sum_J g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \varphi_J \partial_\nu \varphi_J + \sum_{J,K} M_{JK}^2 c^2 \varphi_J \varphi_K \right)$$

Give rise to the same Hamiltonian at low energies

Composite particles in GR

Pointlike particle in static symmetric spacetime

Hamiltonian $\hat{H} = \sqrt{-g_{00} \left(c^2 \hat{P}_i \hat{P}^i + \boxed{\hat{M}^2 c^4} \right)}$ rest energy

@ low energies $\hat{M} c^2 + \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2\hat{M}} + \hat{M} \Phi(\hat{x})$

$$\hat{M} = \boxed{m} \hat{\mathbb{1}}_{int} + \frac{\boxed{\hat{H}_{int}}}{c^2}$$

dynamical part \rightarrow internal Hamiltonian

static part \rightarrow effective mass parameter

$$H = H_{cm} + H_{int} \left(1 + \frac{\boxed{\Phi(x)}}{c^2} - \frac{p^2}{2m^2 c^2} \right)$$

grav. potential

$$H_{cm} = mc^2 + \frac{p^2}{2m} + m\Phi(x)$$

Terms p^4/m^3c^2 or $p^2\Phi/mc^2$ are higher order for slow/cold particles & Earth's gravity

Composite particles in GR

So far effectively classical

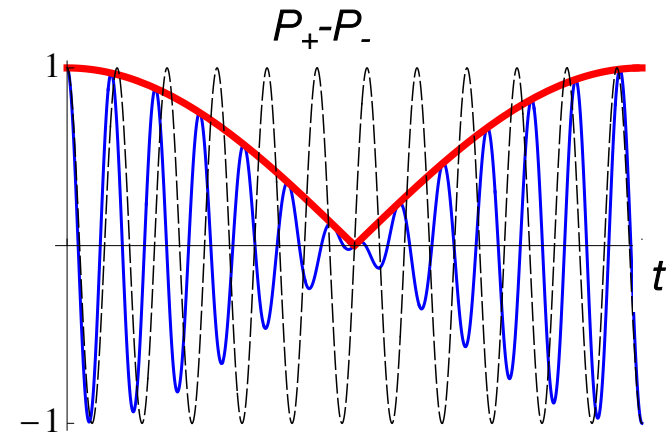
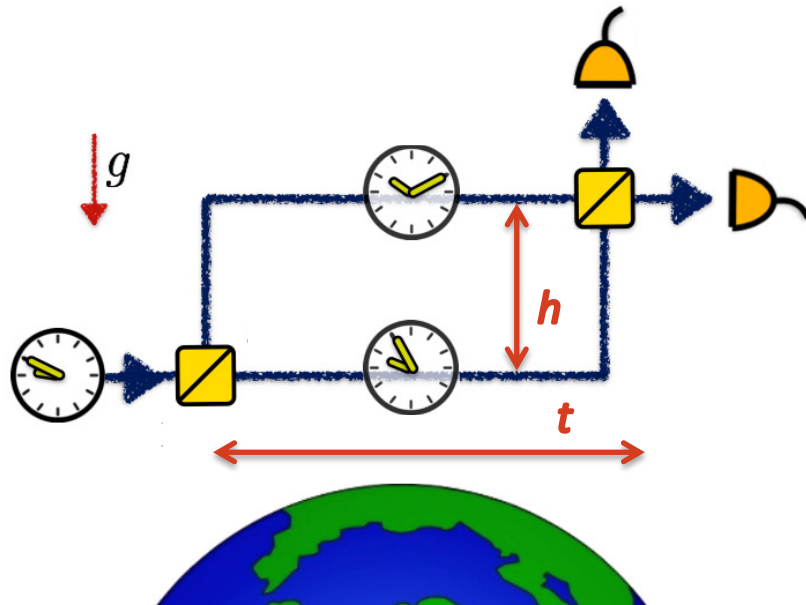


$$H = H_{cm} + \hat{H}_{int} \left(1 + \frac{\Phi(x)}{c^2} - \frac{p^2}{2m^2c^2} \right)$$

Gravitational
time dilation

Special relativistic
time dilation

Composite particles as clocks



- Newtonian/GR with no "clock"
- GR with "clock"
- **Visibility**

time dilation $\Delta\tau \approx \frac{ght}{c^2}$

two-level clock, frequency ω

$$P_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2} |\langle \tau_1 | \tau_2 \rangle| \cos(\Delta\phi)$$

To observe the effect: $\omega = 10^{15}$ Hz \rightarrow **ht = 10 m · s**

$$\left| \cos \left(\frac{\omega g h t}{2c^2} \right) \right|$$

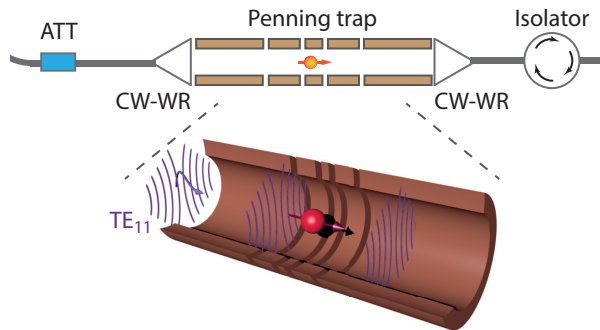
Interference of “clocks”: can we do it?

Atoms: VLBI @ Leibniz University Hannover



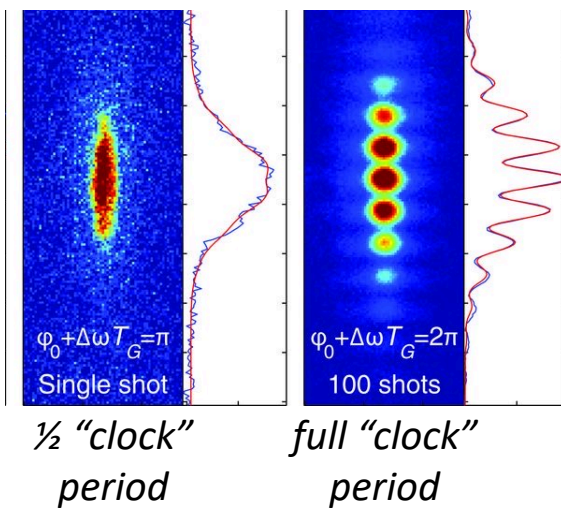
Loriani et al *Science Advances* 5: eaax8966, (2019)
 Roura *PRX* 10 (2), 021014 (2020)
 Roura, Schubert, Schlippert, Rasel *PRD* 104, 084001 (2021)

Electrons: Penning trap
 Saarbrücken/Jülich



Bushev et al *NJP* 18 093050 (2016)
 Editorial by JD Franson, *NJP* 18 101001 (2016)

Analog time dilation in spin precession → magnetic field



Photons: JPL/NASA
 Vienna (Walther)
 Padova (Villoresi)

MZ et al *CQG.* 29, 224010 (2012)
 Brodutch et al *PRD* 91, 064041 (2015)
 Hillweg et al *NJP* 19 033028 (2017)
 Beig et al *CQG.* 35 244001 (2018)
 Calderaro et al *QST* 4 015012 (2019)
 Terno et al *PRD* 101 104052 (2020)



Composite quantum particles

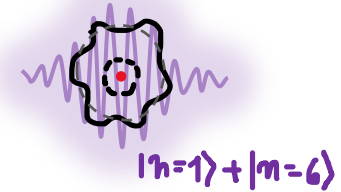
- Evolving internal states → **Quantum clocks**

MZ, Costa, Pikovski, Brukner Nature Commun. 2, 505 (2011)
Bushev, Cole, Sholokhov, Kukharczyk, MZ, NJP 18 093050 (2016)
Lorioni et al Science Advances 5: eaax8966, (2019)



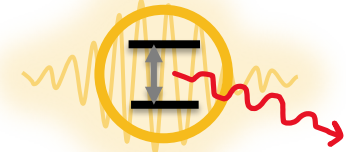
- Internal energy quantized → **Quantum test masses**

MZ, Brukner, Nat Phys 14 1027–1031 (2018)
Rosi et al Nat. Comm. 8, 15529 (2017)
Tobar, Heine, Costa, MZ PRA PRA 106 (5), (2022)



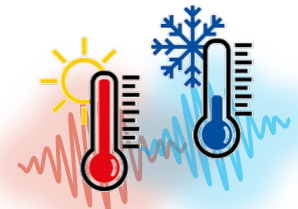
- Coupled to scalar field → **model of atom-light interaction**

Foo, Onoe, MZ PRD 102, 085013 (2020)
Henderson et al. PRL 125 (13), 131602 (2020)
Foo, Arabaci, MZ, Mann PRL 129 (18), 181301 (2022)
Gale, MZ PRD (2023)

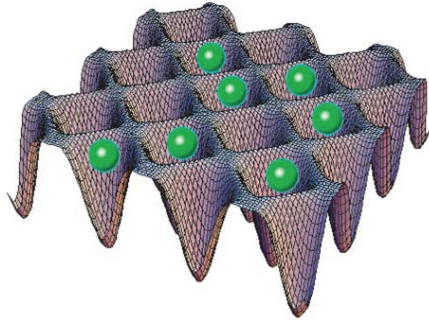


- Coupled to thermal bath(s) → **quantum thermometers**

Foo, Mann, Zych CQG 38 (11), 115010 (2021)
Wood, Verma, Costa, Zych arXiv:2112.07860 (2021)



Quantized mass-energy in trapped particles



Electrons:

Bushev et al *NJP* **18** 093050 (2016)

→ Editorial by JD Franson, *NJP* **18** 101001 (2016)

Neutrons:

Tobar, Heine, Costa, MZ *PRA* **106** (5), (2022)

$$\hat{H} = \hat{M}c^2 + \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2\hat{M}} + \hat{M}\Phi(\hat{x}) + V(\hat{x})$$

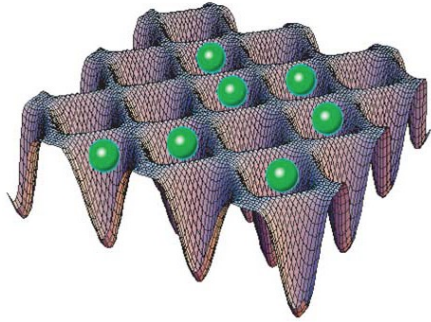
Atomic clocks:

Yudin, Taichenachev *Laser Phys. Lett.* **15** 035703 (2018)

Haustein, Milburn, MZ arXiv:1906.03980 (2019)

Martinez-Lahuerta et al *PRA* **106**, 032803 (2022)

Quantized mass-energy in trapped particles



$$\hbar\omega = \Delta E$$

$$\hat{H} = \hat{M}c^2 + \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2\hat{M}} + \hat{M}g\hat{x} + \frac{1}{2}k\hat{x}^2$$

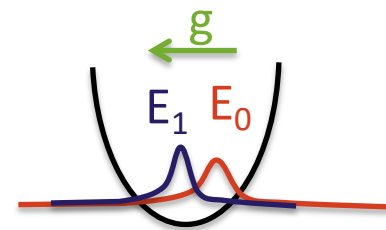
$$\hat{a}_M = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{M}\hat{\omega}}{2\hbar}} \left(\hat{x}_M + \frac{i\hat{p}}{\hat{M}\hat{\omega}} \right) \quad \hat{\omega} = \sqrt{\frac{k}{\hat{M}}} \quad \hat{x} + \frac{g}{\hat{\omega}^2}$$

Quantized mass-energy in trapped particles

correlated internal & CM modes

$$\hat{a}_i = \cosh(r_i) \hat{a}_0 - \sinh(r_i) \hat{a}_0^\dagger + \alpha_{gi}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{M_0}{M_i} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \pm \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{M_i}{M_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \quad \frac{g \Delta M_i}{\sqrt{2 \hbar M_i \omega_i^3}}$$



Energy difference between $|E_0, n_0\rangle, |E_i, n_i\rangle$

$$E_i \left(1 - \frac{g^2}{\omega_0^2 c^2} - \frac{\hbar \omega_0}{2 M_0 c^2} \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \right)$$

time dilation shift $M_0=10^{-26}\text{kg}, \omega_0=1\text{MHz} \rightarrow 10^{-20} - 10^{-19}$

minimum frequency shift 10^{-22} at $\omega_0 = 4\text{kHz}$ $\delta_{min} = -\frac{3}{2\sqrt[3]{2}} \left(\frac{\hbar g (n + \frac{1}{2})}{c^3 M_0} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}}$

Bonus 1: Gravitational mass of a composite system

the retardation terms must be removed from (4.1). The mass is then

$$M = \sum_i m_i + \frac{3}{2} \sum_i m_i v_i^2 - \sum_i \sum_j \frac{m_i m_j}{\Delta_{ij}}, \quad (4.5)$$

and the formal difficulty, caused by the divergence of (4.3) as $r \rightarrow \infty$, is avoided.

Let T , V be the kinetic and potential energies of the system. We have

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i m_i v_i^2, \quad V = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_i \sum_j \frac{m_i m_j}{\Delta_{ij}}.$$

Hence (4.5) becomes $M = \sum m_i + 3T + 2V$. (4.6)

Eddington, Clark, *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A*166, 465 (1938)

$$m_G = \sum m_i + \frac{1}{c^2} (R + 3T + 2V)$$

- Universal violation of EP
- EP holds only on average (virial theorem)

K. Nordtvedt, *Int. J. Theor. Phys.* 3, 133-139 (1970)

E. Fishbach et al., *Phys. Rev. D.* 23, 2157-2180 (1981)

S. Carlip, *Am. J. Phys.* 66, 409-413 (1998)

A. G. Lebed, *Cent. Eur. J. Phys.* 11, 969-976 (2013)

MZ, Rudnicki, Pikovski PRD 99, 104029 (2019)

$$V_{local} = \sum_{i,j=1}^N \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}^{local}} = V \left(1 + \frac{\phi(r)}{c^2} \right)$$

$$T_{local} = \sum_i \frac{1}{2} m_i v_i^{local 2} = T \left(1 + 2 \frac{\phi(r)}{c^2} \right)$$

$$m_G = \sum m_i + \frac{1}{c^2} (R + T_{local} + V_{local})$$

- Same expression in different coordinates
- T and V included *redshifted* quantities
- Correct description: different coordinates for COM and for the internal DOF

Bonus 2: semiclassical states?

Gaussian = semi classical in phase space

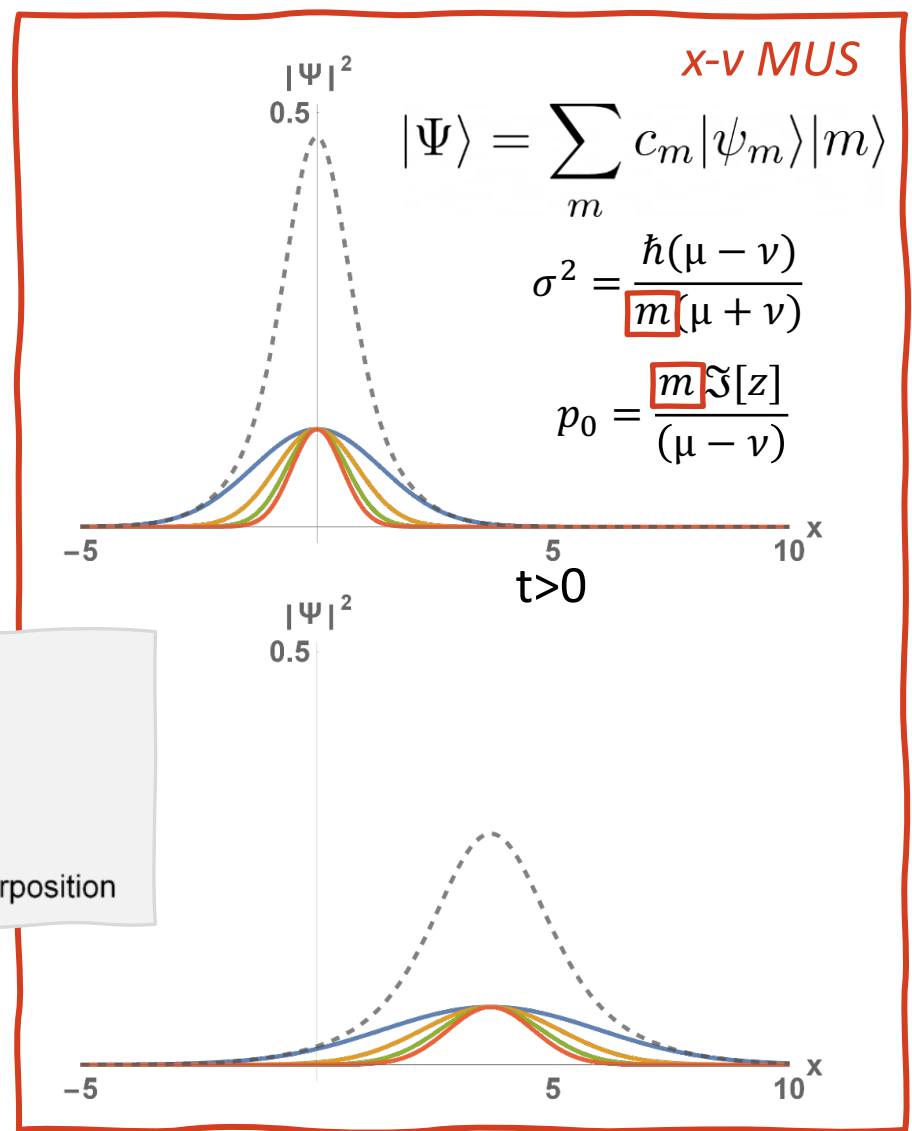
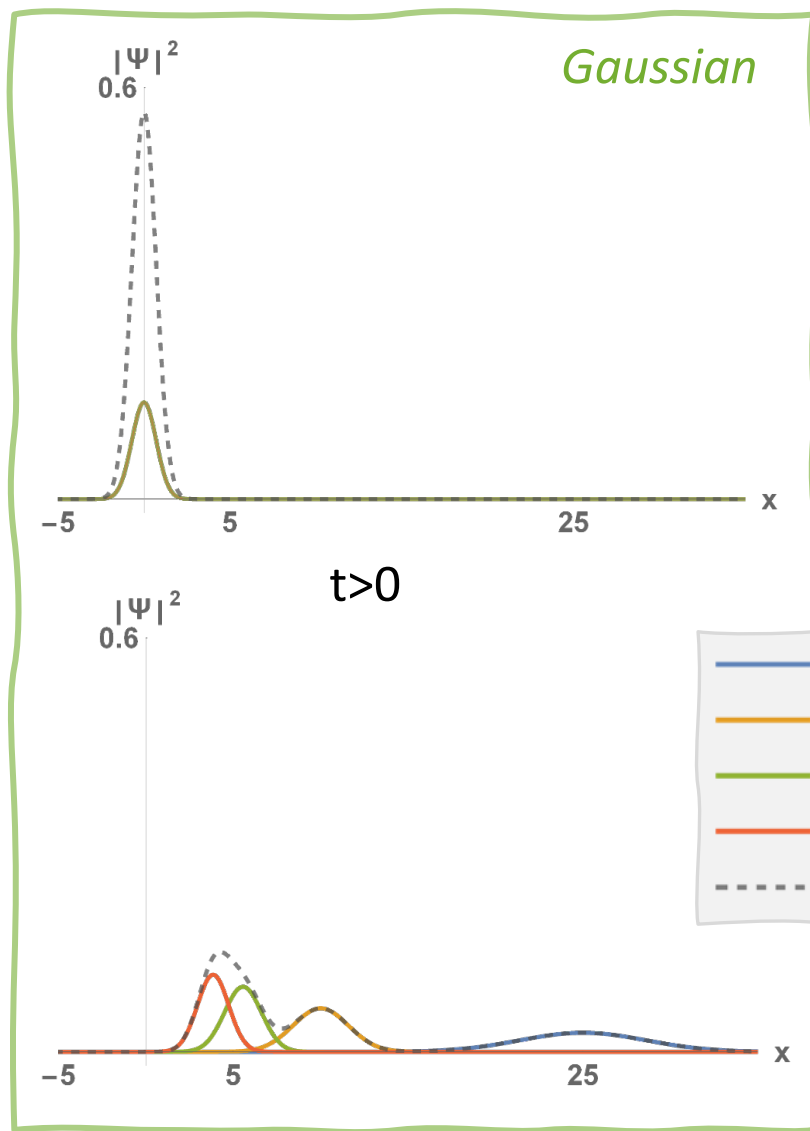
$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \hbar/2$$

Semi classical in spacetime \rightarrow minimize uncertainty for (x,v)

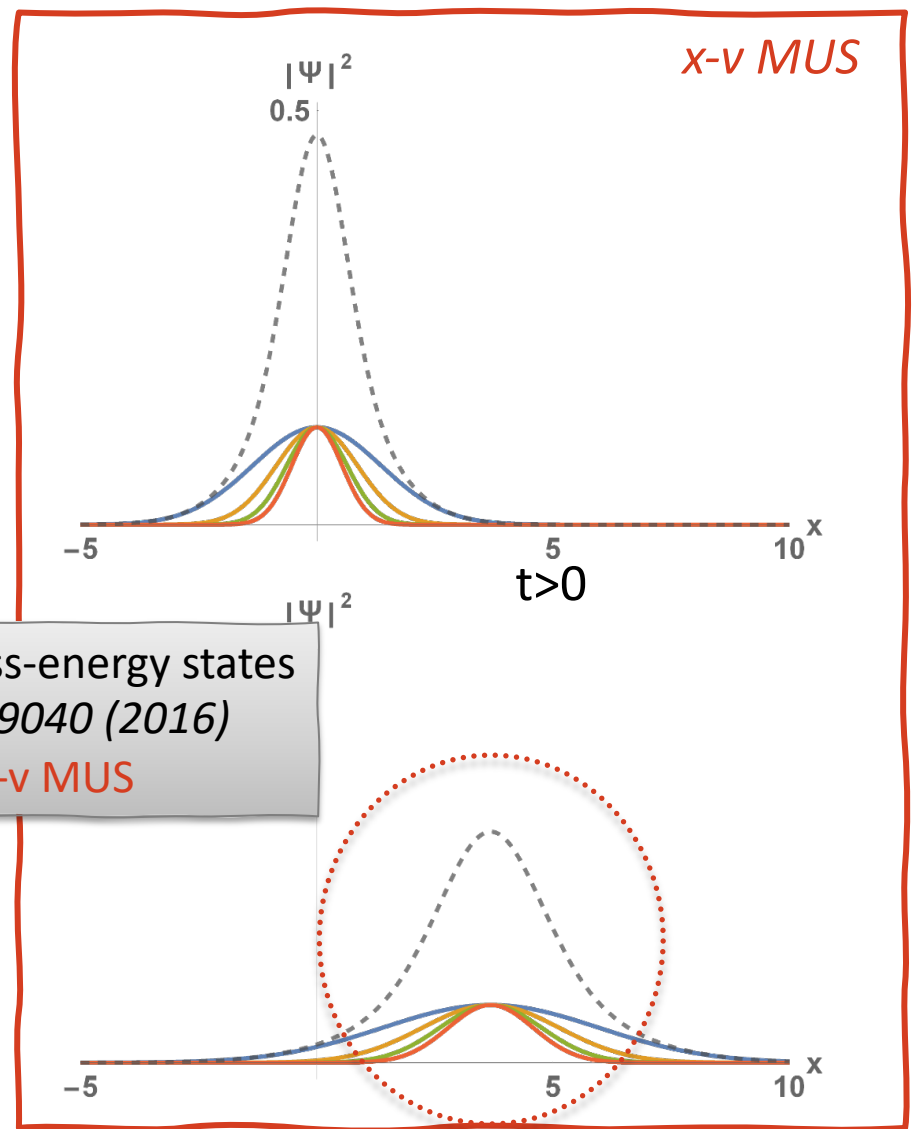
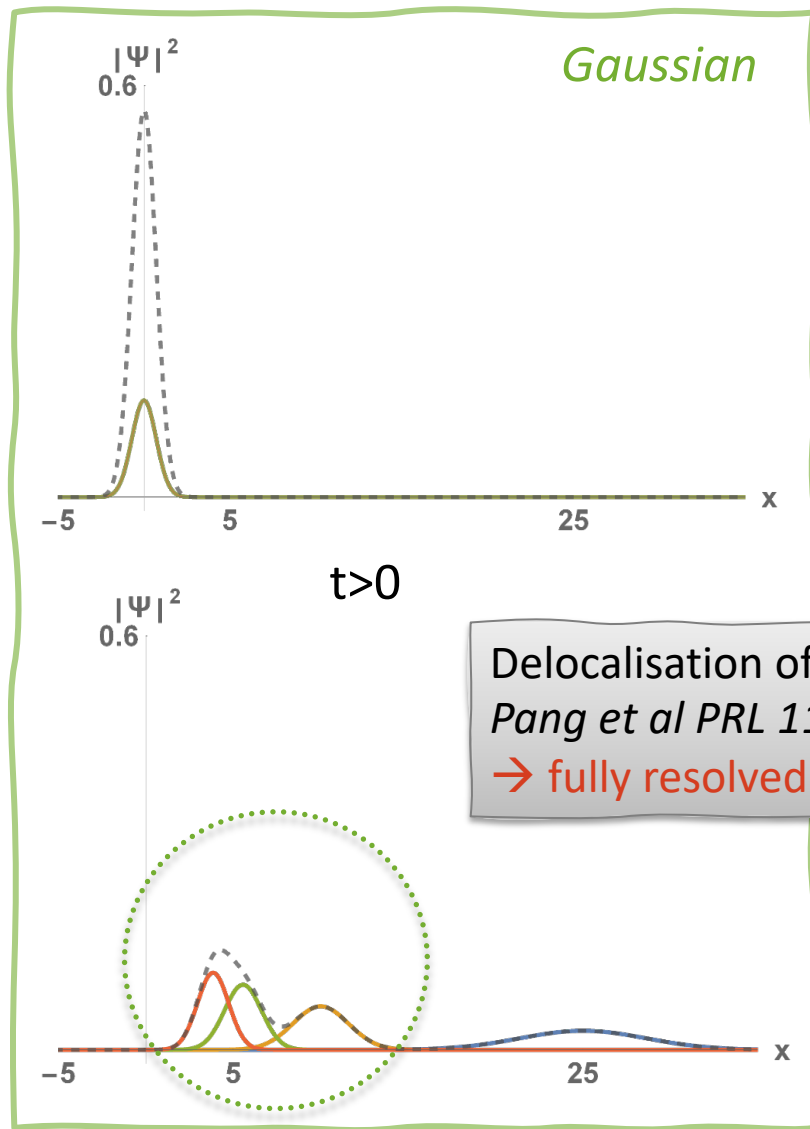
$$\text{S-R Uncertainty } (\Delta x)^2 (\Delta v)^2 - (\Delta xv)^2 \geq \frac{1}{4} |\langle [\hat{x}, \hat{v}] \rangle|^2$$

$$\text{Velocity operator: } \hat{v} := -\frac{i}{\hbar} [\hat{x}, \hat{H}] = \frac{\hat{p}c^2}{\sqrt{\hat{p}^2 c^2 + \hat{M}^2 c^4}}$$

x-v Minimum Uncertainty States – low energies



x-v Minimum Uncertainty States – low energies



Delocalisation of mass-energy states
Pang et al PRL 117, 09040 (2016)
→ fully resolved by x-v MUS

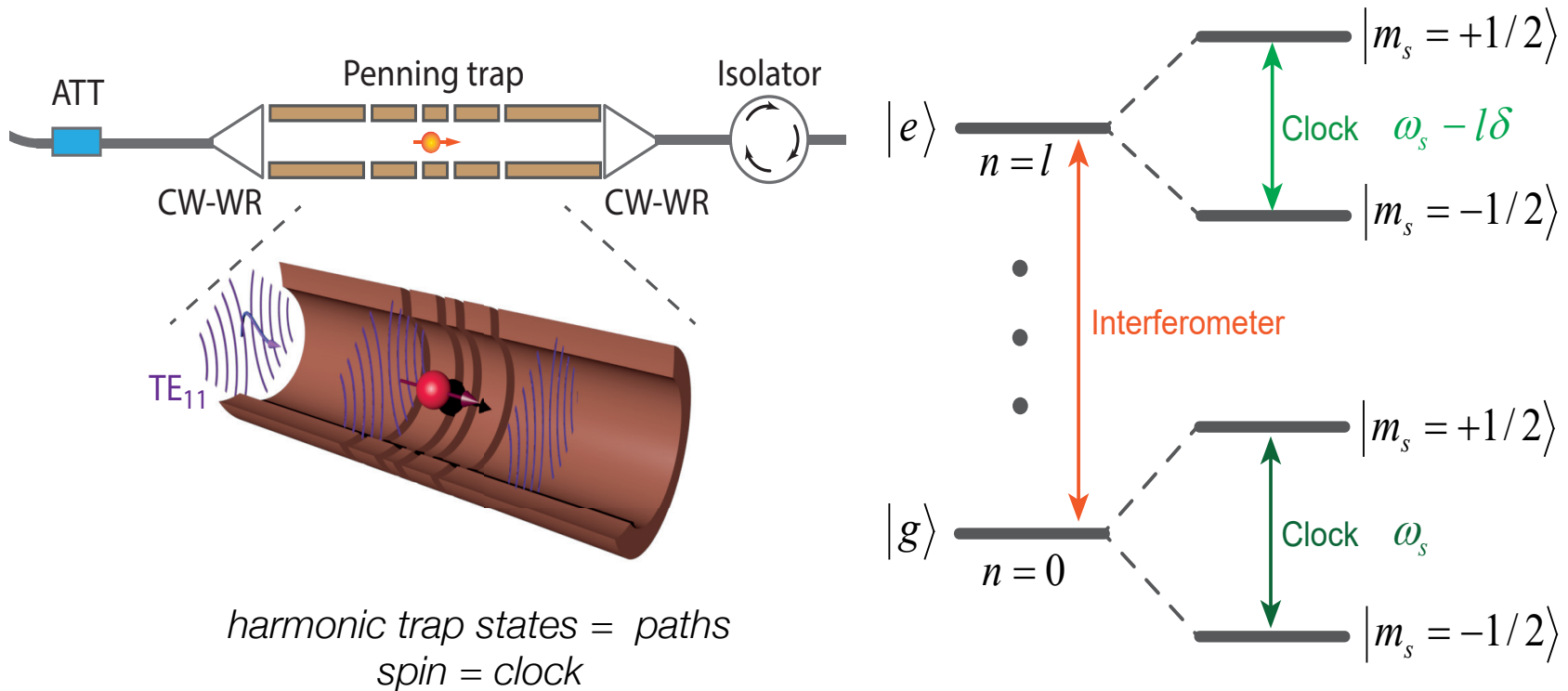
Delocalisation of mass-states of neutrinos="oscillation" length

Summary

- Composite quantum particles = ideal quantum clocks, masses, detectors, thermometers
- Relativity \rightarrow interaction between CoM and internal DoF
- For any potential – CoM energies & states depend on internal DoF
- Resulting effects relevant in high-precision experiments

Thank You

SR effects only: electron in a Penning trap



"Single electron relativistic clocks interferometer" ArXiv 1604.06217

P. Bushev, J. H. Cole, D. Sholokhov, N. Kukharchyk, M.Z.

MUS properties: longitudinal coherence

Gaussian state m_g to m_e separation:

$$\Delta v_{peaks} = v_g - v_e \approx v_g \left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{m_g c^2} \right)$$

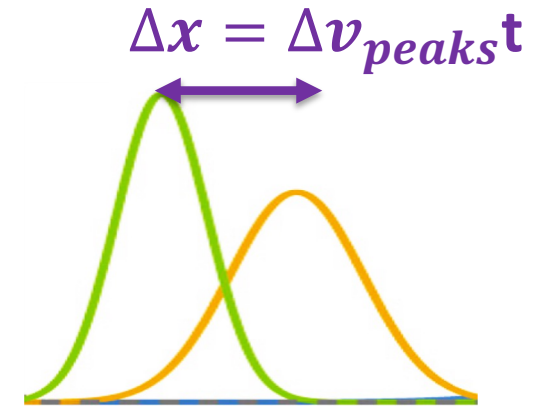
Example: Sr atoms

$$m_g = 10^{-25} \text{ kg}; \omega = 10^{15} \text{ Hz}^{[1]}, T \sim 800 \text{ K}^{[2]}$$

$$v_g = \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T}{m_g}}$$

$$\rightarrow \Delta v_{peaks} = 10^{-9} \text{ m/s}$$

$$\rightarrow \text{Sr deBroglie wavelength: } \sim 10^{-12} \text{ m}$$



Wood, *MZ Phys. Rev. Research*, 3, 013049 (2021)

Longitudinal coherence suppressed after **one millisecond**

[1] Bober, et al. (2015) *Meas Sci Technol*, **26**, 075201

[2] Poli, et al. (2005) *PRA*, **71**, 061403

MUS may be relevant for tests of QM in macroscopic limit

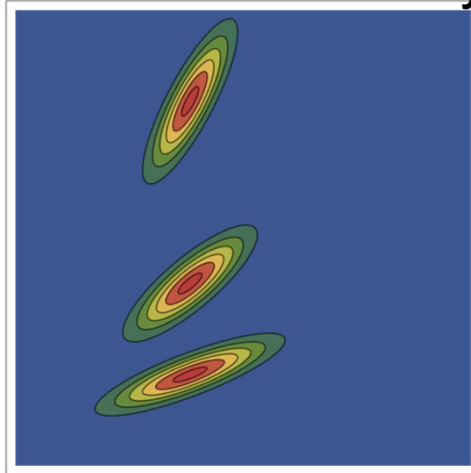
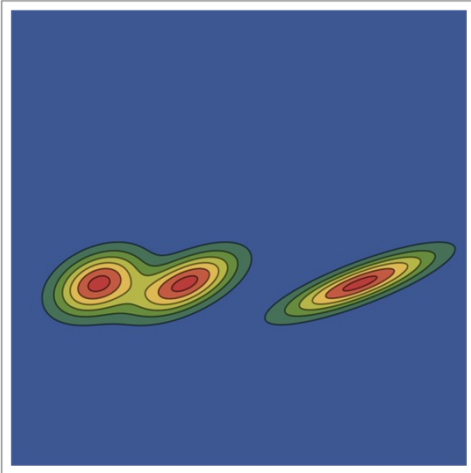
MUS properties: covariance

Wood, MZ *Phys. Rev. Research*, 3, 013049 (2021)

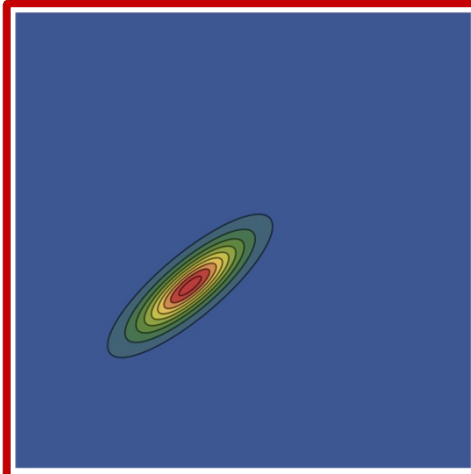
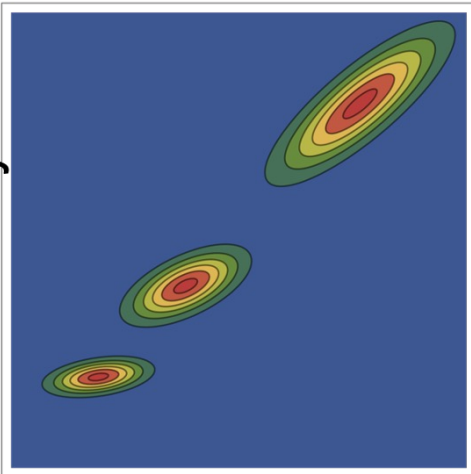
Gaussian

Minimum Uncertainty

momentum



velocity



position

$$\psi_{MUS}(x, t) =$$

$$e^{-\left[\frac{m\Omega}{2\hbar} \frac{e^{-2r}(x+vt)^2}{(1+e^{-4rt^2\Omega^2})} + \frac{r}{2} + \frac{imc^2t}{\hbar} \mathcal{F}(\Omega, r, v, t) \right]}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{\frac{\pi\hbar}{m\Omega} \sqrt{1 + ie^{-2r}t\Omega}}}$$

For highly localised state (large r)

$$\approx 1 + \frac{vx}{c^2t} + \frac{v^2}{2c^2}$$

$$\frac{t + \frac{vx}{c^2}}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

Lorentz transformation to $O(1/c^2)$

MUS are covariant – the correct time dilation factor!

Is mass delocalization = time-dilation decoherence?

Wood, MZ *Phys. Rev. Research*, 3, 013049 (2021)

Two separately verifiable effects:

- from time dilation
- from CoM delocalisation

