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## Bohmian Dynamics on Subspaces Using Linearized Quantum Force

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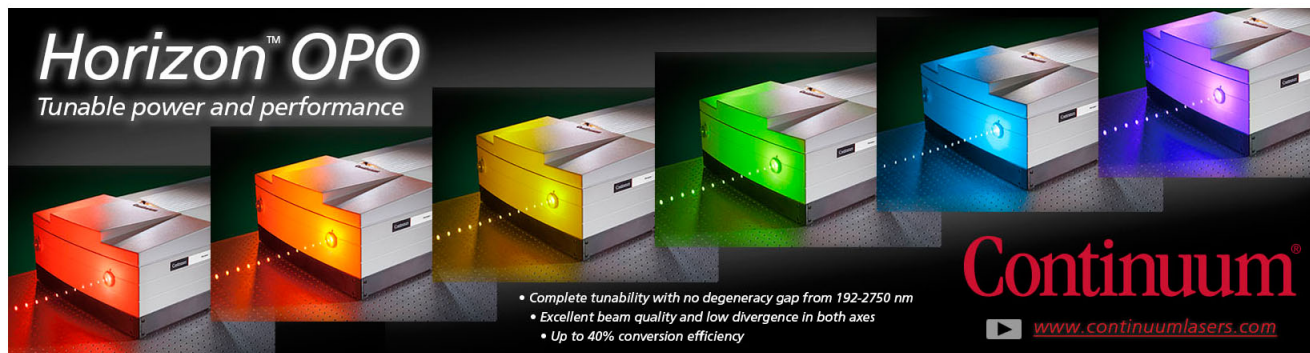
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## ARTICLES

## Bohmian dynamics on subspaces using linearized quantum force

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In the de Broglie–Bohm formulation of quantum mechanics the time-dependent Schrödinger equation is solved in terms of quantum trajectories evolving under the influence of quantum and classical potentials. For a practical implementation that scales favorably with system size and is accurate for semiclassical systems, we use approximate quantum potentials. Recently, we have shown that optimization of the nonclassical component of the momentum operator in terms of fitting functions leads to the energy-conserving approximate quantum potential. In particular, linear fitting functions give the exact time evolution of a Gaussian wave packet in a locally quadratic potential and can describe the dominant quantum-mechanical effects in the semiclassical scattering problems of nuclear dynamics. In this paper we formulate the Bohmian dynamics on subspaces and define the energy-conserving approximate quantum potential in terms of optimized nonclassical momentum, extended to include the domain boundary functions. This generalization allows a better description of the non-Gaussian wave packets and general potentials in terms of simple fitting functions. The optimization is performed independently for each domain and each dimension. For linear fitting functions optimal parameters are expressed in terms of the first and second moments of the trajectory distribution. Examples are given for one-dimensional anharmonic systems and for the collinear hydrogen exchange reaction. © 2004 American Institute of Physics.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Quantum-mechanical effects on the dynamics of nuclei are essential for a description of many chemical reactions. For large molecular systems, the exact methods of solving the Schrödinger equation are unfeasible, because of their exponential scaling with system size, while the methods of molecular dynamics, based on classical mechanics and applicable to high-dimensional systems, do not describe quantum effects. Therefore, great effort went into the development of semiclassical time-dependent methods that would combine favorable scaling of classical trajectory methods with a description of the dominant quantum effects in the limit of large mass or small  $\hbar$  appropriate for a description of molecules. We find that the de Broglie–Bohm formulation of the Schrödinger equation can serve as a very good starting point for the development of semiclassical time-propagation methods.

Traditional semiclassical methods, such as the van Vleck–Gutzwiller propagator<sup>1</sup> and initial-value representation methods,<sup>2–4</sup> are based on the stationary phase approximation to the Schrödinger equation. They involve the purely classical time evolution of trajectories with the quantum effects coming from summation over classical paths using the action and stability of classical trajectories. In contrast, in the de Broglie–Bohm formulation<sup>5</sup> the Schrödinger equation can be solved in terms of quantum or Bohmian trajectories, evolving in time according to classical equations of motion, but under the influence of the *quantum* potential in addition to an external potential. For a particle of mass  $m$  described

by the wave function  $\psi$ , the quantum potential is defined as

$$U = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\nabla^2 |\psi|}{|\psi|}.$$

Bohmian trajectories can be a useful visualization tool<sup>6</sup> and the formalism has been adapted to nonadiabatic dynamics,<sup>7,8</sup> phase-space representations, and density matrix approaches.<sup>9–15</sup> Numerical implementation of the quantum trajectory formulation is hindered by the special features of quantum trajectory dynamics: (i) quantum trajectories cannot cross and (ii) the quantum potential is, in general, singular when the density of the wave function vanishes. These properties lead to complicated and rapidly varying in time and space quantum potentials and quantum forces, which are very difficult to compute accurately. In recent years the quantum trajectory propagation method gained attention as an alternative way of solving the Schrödinger equation. Several approaches based on a local interpolation of the wave function density were suggested<sup>16–20</sup> and some of them proved to be efficient for model problems in many dimensions. Nevertheless, for general problems the accuracy of the quantum potential and consequently that of dynamics was found to deteriorate with time or to become impractical.<sup>21,22</sup>

This motivates us to focus on the Bohmian formulation as a basis for *semiclassical* propagation methods that use an approximate quantum potential (AQP). As follows from the definition of the quantum potential, the classical limit in the Bohmian formulation can be defined as the quantum potential being zero in the limit of  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  or  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . This implies a

certain behavior and properties of  $|\psi|$ , such as  $|\psi| \neq 0$ . When the AQP is determined with high accuracy the formulation becomes equivalent to the full quantum mechanics. We are interested in the intermediate regime when the AQP is smooth enough for efficient and practical implementation in many dimensions, and at the same time, it is accurate enough to describe leading quantum effects in semiclassical systems.<sup>23</sup> For example, fitting of the wave function density in terms of a single Gaussian function determines an AQP which is exact for a Gaussian wave packet evolving in a locally quadratic potential. This AQP also gives a good description of scattering on a barrier in one dimension.<sup>24</sup> A recently proposed trajectory derivative propagation method of Trahan *et al.*<sup>25</sup> effectively involves approximations for individual trajectories: the quantum potential is determined from auxiliary equations on the derivatives of the density and action function, and truncation of the infinite hierarchy of equations at a finite level (such as second or third order) leads to “approximate Bohmian trajectories.”<sup>26</sup>

Originally, we determined the AQP from the wave function density approximated in terms of fitting functions (the number of the fitting functions controls the accuracy and numerical cost).<sup>23</sup> We found that the resulting AQP did not conserve energy in a closed system, because the low-density regions are “underweighted” in the global density fit, whereas the quantum potential can be large in these regions. Then we found that the nonclassical component of the momentum operator, proportional to  $|\psi|^{-1} \vec{\nabla} |\psi|$ , might be a better candidate for the development of approximations. This quantity is inherently linked to the quantum potential: the optimized nonclassical momentum defines the energy-conserving AQP regardless of the quality of the representation of  $|\psi|^{-1} \vec{\nabla} |\psi|$  (Ref. 27). We also showed that a simple linear approximation to the nonclassical momentum results in a linear optimization problem, which makes this method cheap in many dimensions. The linearized nonclassical momentum generates a linear quantum force (LQF), which describes the quantum dynamics of a correlated Gaussian wave packet in a locally quadratic potential exactly. The LQF description is somewhat reminiscent of the thawed Gaussian method<sup>28</sup> and variational Gaussian wave packet dynamics,<sup>29</sup> since the linear nonclassical momentum corresponds to the Gaussian wave function density. However, in the LQF method, there is no assumption about the actual wave function density. Therefore, the wave packet bifurcations are describable within this approach, as was shown by computing the wave packet transmission probabilities for one-dimensional scattering and for the collinear hydrogen exchange reaction.<sup>30</sup>

To go beyond the LQF within the framework of approximating the nonclassical momentum, one may approach a full quantum-mechanical description by increasing the flexibility of the fitting functions. If the fitting function can be represented in terms of a complete basis set, the description will be formally exact, though optimization with complicated fitting functions will be a nonlinear problem which significantly increases computational costs. In this paper we present a different strategy of approximating the nonclassical momentum on subspaces or *domains*, which allows us to

keep the fitting functions simple. The presence of spatial domains is included in the definition of the quantum potential, which makes this approach *energy conserving*. With the nonclassical momentum linearized on domains, the optimization problem remains linear, as in the LQF, and is independent for each domain and each dimension. The introduction of domains improves the description for anharmonic potentials and non-Gaussian wave packets, as shown by studies of the reflection on the Eckart barrier, the description of the ground state of the Morse oscillator, the computation of spectra for anharmonic and metastable wells, and studies of dynamics for the collinear H<sub>3</sub> system.

Sections II A and II B summarize the quantum trajectory method and the globally defined energy-conserving AQP, which are needed to define Bohmian dynamics and the energy-conserving AQP on spatial domains (Sec. II C). Numerical examples and a discussion are presented in Sec. III. Section IV concludes. The energy conservation and solution for linear fitting functions are given as Appendixes A and B.

## II. THEORY

### A. Quantum trajectory formalism

Consider a quantum-mechanical system in  $N$ -dimensional Cartesian space, governed by the Hamiltonian  $\hat{H} = \hat{P}^\dagger M^{-1} \hat{P} / 2 + V$ , where  $M$  is a diagonal matrix of masses,  $\{M_{nn}\} = m^{(n)}$ . (Single superscript indexes are used to label dimensions; subscript indexes are used to label trajectories.) The time evolution of the density and the phase of a wave function  $\psi(\vec{x}, t)$ ,

$$\psi(\vec{x}, t) = A(\vec{x}, t) \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} S(\vec{x}, t)\right), \quad A(\vec{x}, t) = \sqrt{\rho(\vec{x}, t)}, \quad (1)$$

which is a solution of the time-dependent Schrödinger equation in the Lagrangian frame of reference, are defined by

$$\frac{dS(\vec{x}, t)}{dt} = \frac{\vec{p}^T M^{-1} \vec{p}}{2} - V - U, \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{d\rho(\vec{x}, t)}{dt} = -\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v} \rho(\vec{x}, t). \quad (3)$$

The amplitude  $A(\vec{x})$  and phase  $S(\vec{x})$  are real functions, and  $\vec{p} = M\vec{v} = \vec{\nabla} S(\vec{x}, t)$  is the hydrodynamic, or “classical,” momentum.<sup>31</sup>  $U$  is a nonlocal time-dependent quantum potential:

$$U = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2} \frac{\vec{\nabla}^T M^{-1} \vec{\nabla} A(\vec{x}, t)}{A(\vec{x}, t)}. \quad (4)$$

Expression (2) is the Hamilton–Jacobi equation for the classical action of a trajectory in the presence of a classical potential  $V$  and a quantum potential  $U$ . Equation (3) is a continuity equation for a normalizable wave function density. Atomic units  $\hbar = 1$  will be used below.

In order to implement Eqs. (2) and (3), the initial wave function is represented in a set of trajectories with initial conditions  $\{\vec{x}_i(0), \vec{p}_i(0)\}$ . The initial momenta are defined by the initial phase of  $\psi(\vec{x}, 0)$ ,  $\vec{p}_i = \vec{\nabla} S(\vec{x}_i, 0)$ . A certain amount of density within a volume element,  $d\Theta(\vec{x}_i, t) = \Pi \delta x_i^{(n)}(t)$



$\times(i=1,\dots,N)$ , or a certain *weight* can be associated with the  $i$ th trajectory. For a closed system the trajectory weight  $w_i$  remains constant in the course of dynamics.<sup>24</sup>

$$w_i = \rho(\vec{x}_i, t) d\Theta(\vec{x}_i, t) = \rho(\vec{x}_i, 0) d\Theta(\vec{x}_i, 0). \quad (5)$$

The initial density of  $\psi(\vec{x}, 0)$ ,  $\rho(\vec{x}, 0)$ , defines the initial value of the quantum potential  $U$ , which affects the subsequent dynamics of the system. Conservation of the total energy in a closed system leads to the following property of the quantum potential:

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \int \frac{\partial U(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial t} \rho(\vec{x}, t) d\Theta(\vec{x}, t) = 0. \quad (6)$$

## B. Global energy-conserving approximation of the nonclassical momentum

As follows from the definition (4), the quantum potential depends on the curvature of the wave function amplitude. Local interpolation of  $\rho(\vec{x}, t)$ , evaluation of the derivatives of  $\rho(\vec{x}, t)$ , and subsequent determination of the quantum potential and quantum force become expensive and inherently inaccurate for the low-density regions. Therefore, we look for a global approximation to the “nonclassical momentum”  $\vec{r}(\vec{x}, t) = \rho(\vec{x}, t)^{-1} \vec{\nabla} \rho(\vec{x}, t)$  (Ref. 27), proportional to the difference between the quantum-mechanical momentum operator  $\hat{p}$  and the classically defined, or hydrodynamic, momentum  $\vec{p} = \vec{\nabla} S$  (Ref. 31). Each spatial component of  $\vec{r}(\vec{x}, t)$ ,

$$r^{(n)}(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{1}{\rho(\vec{x}, t)} \frac{\partial \rho(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial x^{(n)}}, \quad (7)$$

is approximated by a function of  $\vec{x}$  of the general form  $g^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s})$  with  $K$  time-dependent parameters forming the vector  $\vec{s}$ . For each dimension we define a functional

$$I^{(n)} = \int [r^{(n)}(\vec{x}, t) - g^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s})]^2 \rho(\vec{x}, t) d\Theta(\vec{x}, t), \quad (8)$$

which after trajectory discretization of the initial density  $\rho(\vec{x}, 0)$ ,  $I^{(n)}$  can be rewritten as weighted sum over trajectories:

$$I^{(n)} = I_0^{(n)} + \sum_i w_i \left( 2 \frac{\partial g^{(n)}(\vec{x}_i, \vec{s})}{\partial x^{(n)}} + g^{(n)}(\vec{x}_i, \vec{s})^2 \right). \quad (9)$$

$I_0^{(n)}$  abbreviates a term that does not depend on  $\vec{s}$ . The fact that neither  $\rho(\vec{x}, t)$  nor its derivatives are involved is of central importance for an efficient implementation algorithm, which in this case will be linear with respect to the number of trajectories. The optimal values of  $\vec{s}$  can be found from gradients of  $I^{(n)}$  with respect to all components of  $\vec{s}$ :

$$\vec{\nabla}_s I^{(n)} = 0. \quad (10)$$

An approximate quantum potential  $\tilde{U}$  in terms of  $g^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s})$  is

$$\tilde{U} = - \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{8m^{(n)}} \left( g^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s})^2 + 2 \frac{\partial g^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s})}{\partial x^{(n)}} \right). \quad (11)$$

As we have shown earlier,<sup>30</sup>  $\tilde{U}$  evaluated at the optimal values of  $\vec{s}$  satisfies Eq. (6) and, therefore, conserves the total energy of a closed system regardless of the functional form of  $g^{(n)}$ .

The simplest physically meaningful choice, corresponding to a Gaussian density, is to approximate  $r^{(n)}$  with a linear function  $g^{(n)}$  for each spatial component. This functional form for  $g^{(n)}$  generates a quadratic approximate quantum potential  $\tilde{U}$  and a LQF. The optimal values of the parameters  $\vec{s}$ , given by Eq. (10), are found analytically from the first and second moments of the trajectory distribution (see Appendix A), resulting in an efficient propagation scheme, which scales linearly with respect to the number of trajectories.

From the theoretical point of view, the assumption of a linear nonclassical momentum is exact for a Gaussian wave packet evolving in time in a locally quadratic potential and it can describe dominant quantum effects in semiclassical systems. In order to improve the description of non-Gaussian wave functions and general potentials, we have to increase the flexibility of the fitting functions  $g^{(n)}$ . A more sophisticated functional form (up to  $g^{(n)}$  being a linear combination of the functions forming a complete basis) could serve this purpose. Alternatively, the nonclassical momentum can be approximated with the fitting functions of restricted functional form on subspaces rather than on the full space, generalizing Eqs. (8)–(11).

## C. Approximation on subspaces or spatial domains

Let us divide the coordinate space into several subspaces or domains labeled  $l=1,\dots,L$ , each one defined by a “domain” function  $\Omega_l(x)$ :  $\Omega_l(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x$ . For the sake of clarity the presentation below is given for a one-dimensional system; a generalization to many dimensions is outlined in Appendix A. These subspaces may correspond to physically significant regions such as reactants, products, and transition states in reactive dynamics, or they can be based on other considerations, such as the shape of the wave functions and features of the potential  $V$ . The domains are fixed in time and, in general, overlap in space. We choose the last domain with index  $L$  to complement the rest of the domains to unity,

$$\Omega_L(x) = 1 - \sum_{l=1, L-1} \Omega_l(x), \quad (12)$$

so that the solution on the subspaces is equivalent to the solution on the full space.

In order to solve the Schrödinger on a subspace, the kinetic energy operator  $\hat{K}$  has to be modified to include the interface terms since  $\Omega_l(x)$  now enters the inner product. The Hermitian form of the kinetic energy matrix element,  $\langle \phi_i | \hat{K} | \phi_j \rangle$ , is

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2m} \int \frac{\partial \phi_i^*(x)}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \phi_j(x)}{\partial x} \Omega_l(x) dx \\ &= -\frac{1}{2m} \int \Omega_l(x) \phi_i^*(x) \left[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\Omega_l'(x)}{\Omega_l(x)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right] \phi_j(x) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

With this form of  $\hat{K}$ , for each domain the quantum potential  $U$  in Eq. (2) is replaced by its modified version  $U_l$  with the additional interface term

$$U_l = -\frac{1}{2m} \left( \frac{A''(x,t)}{A(x,t)} + \frac{\Omega'(x)}{\Omega(x)} \frac{A'(x,t)}{A(x,t)} \right). \quad (14)$$

Equation (3) for the density on a domain is also modified:

$$\frac{d\rho(x,t)}{dt} = -v' \rho(x,t) - \frac{\Omega'(x)}{\Omega(x)} v \rho(x,t). \quad (15)$$

Note that  $\rho(x,t)$  and  $S(x,t)$  are still defined on the full space, not on the domains. The summation of Eq. (15) over all domains weighted by  $\Omega_l$  gives Eq. (3), since  $\sum \Omega_l(x) = 1$  and  $\sum \Omega'_l(x) = 0$  for domain functions satisfying Eq. (12).

This formulation is formally equivalent to the Schrödinger equation on the full space and offers no advantage if the quantum potential is determined exactly. But it enables us to define an approximate quantum potential on domains. We can approximate the nonclassical momentum on each domain by minimizing a functional

$$I_l = \int \left( \frac{\rho'(x,t)}{\rho(x,t)} - g_l(x, \vec{s}) \right)^2 \Omega_l(x) \rho(x,t) dx, \quad (16)$$

where  $\vec{s}$  is a collection of the fitting parameters. The contribution to the approximate QP from each domain is determined by Eq. (14):

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{U}_l = & -\frac{1}{8m} \{ [g_l(x, \vec{s})^2 + 2g'_l(x, \vec{s})] \Omega_l(x) \\ & + 2g_l(x, \vec{s}) \Omega'_l(x) \}. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

The total quantum potential is a simple sum over domains:

$$\tilde{U} = \sum_{l=1,L} \tilde{U}_l. \quad (18)$$

$\tilde{U}$  should be evaluated at the optimal values of  $\vec{s}$  that minimize Eq. (16) and for which  $\vec{\nabla}_{\vec{s}} I_l = 0$ . Then, the approximate quantum potential defined on domains will rigorously conserve energy in a closed system, as was the case with the full space approximation, Eq. (11). The derivation is given in Appendix A.

We do not have to solve Eq. (15) for the density, because once summed over the domains, it is equivalent to Eq. (3). The latter can be solved for closed systems without approximations apart from the trajectory discretization, as given in Eq. (5). In our approach we use spatial domains to approximate the nonclassical momentum and to define the AQP, while the wave function remains defined in the full space according to Eq. (1). Within the quantum trajectory approach, it might be possible to describe the dynamics of unbound systems on a subspace, rather than on full space, according to Eqs. (14) and (15), since the effect of a given trajectory, moving in the asymptotic region toward infinite  $\vec{x}$  on the rest of the trajectories, vanishes according to the domain function. This intriguing possibility, however, is beyond the scope of present paper.

As a practical implementation of the AQP defined on subspaces, we will use the linear fitting functions  $g_l(x, \vec{s})$  with different values of the parameters  $\vec{s}$  for each domain. With this choice, the optimal parameters  $\vec{s}$  are found by means of linear algebra in terms of first and second moments of the trajectory distribution independently for each domain. This solution is given in Appendix B.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the preceding section we have described a rigorous way to define the quantum potential in terms of the approximate nonclassical momentum optimized on domains. This procedure gives an exact quantum potential if the fit of  $\vec{r}(\vec{x}, t)$  were perfect. In practical applications to semiclassical systems we want to keep the number of domains small and to work with linear fitting functions. This leads to the issue of the domain setup. An efficient choice of a limited number of domains has to be based on some knowledge about the problem at hand: we set up domains in the regions of strong anharmonicity of the potential accessible to the quantum trajectories representing a given wave function. For the reactive scattering problem we set up separate domains to represent the reaction channels and transition state. The model systems studied below are chosen for their relevance to problems of nuclear dynamics. In all examples the quantum-mechanical results used for comparison were obtained using the split-operator method.<sup>32</sup>

#### A. Scattering on the Eckart barrier

A standard one-dimensional test for semiclassical propagation methods is the scattering of a wave packet on a barrier. The computation of the transition probabilities within the frame work of quantum trajectories appears to be quite straightforward,<sup>17,23</sup> while an accurate description of the reflected wave function presents a challenge. The reason for this is that the reflected component of the wave function interferes with the slow incoming component creating a “rippled” density profile. This caused instabilities in methods based on local density interpolation and derivative evaluation, which initiated the development of more sophisticated trajectory approaches such as moving grids<sup>33</sup> or wave function transformation between representations.<sup>22</sup> We study scattering on the Eckart barrier,  $V = D \cosh(zx)^{-2}$ , mimicking the transition state of the  $H_3$  system. The parameters of the potential are  $D = 16$ ,  $z = 1.3624$  in scaled atomic units, where the reduced mass of the hydrogen molecule is set to 1. The distance is measured in bohr,  $m = 1$ . The initial wave packet is centered to the left of the barrier:

$$\psi(x, 0) = (2\alpha_0/\pi)^{1/4} \exp[-\alpha_0(x-x_0)^2 + ip_0(x-x_0)]. \quad (19)$$

The choice of initial parameters as  $\{\alpha_0 = 6, x_0 = 2, p_0 = 3\}$  defines a wave packet with initial energy of about half the barrier height. Since we use Eq. (5) for the amount of density within a volume element and do not compute the density explicitly, we examine quantities that can be computed directly as a sum over trajectories (labeled by the index  $i$ ), such as the reaction probability of a wave packet,  $P$ , defined as  $P = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sum_i w_i h(x_i(t))$  [ $h(x)$  is the Heaviside function].

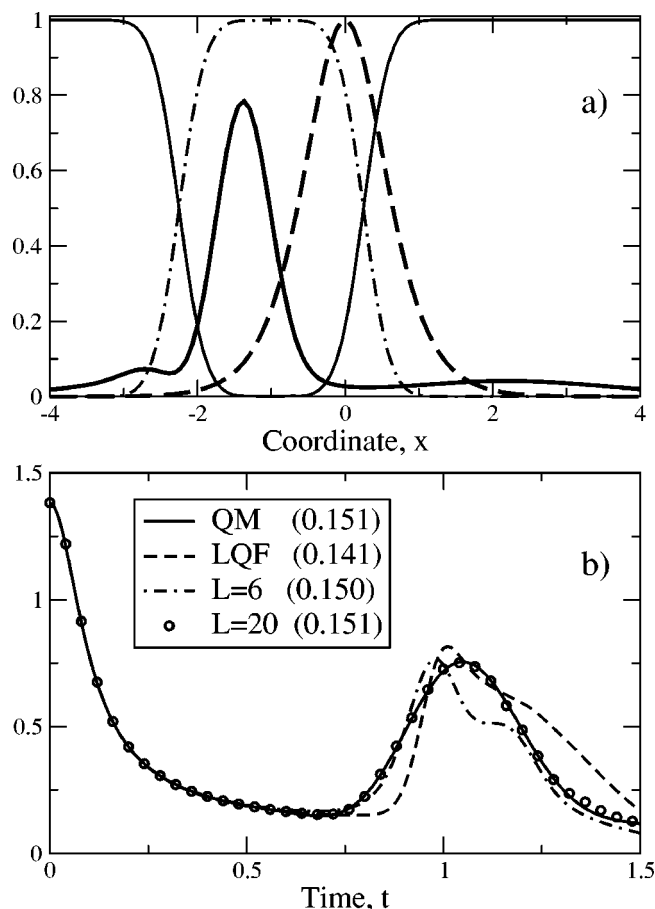


FIG. 1. Scattering on the Eckart barrier. a) The domain set up: the potential (scaled) is shown with a dashed line; the sum of five Gaussian domains described in text, is represented with a dot-dashed line; the complimentary domain is shown with a thin solid line; the wavefunction density,  $\rho_t$  at  $t=0.8$ , is shown with a thick solid line. b) The density overlap,  $\langle \rho_0 | \rho_t \rangle$  obtained exactly (QM) and using AQP defined on the full space (LQF) and with six,  $L=6$ , and twenty,  $L=20$ , domains. Numbers in parentheses show the wavepacket transmission probability for these four calculations, respectively.

The quality of the description of the reflected component of a wave packet is assessed from a time-dependent overlap of the initial density  $\rho_0$  with the evolving density  $\rho_t$ :

$$C(t) = \langle \rho_0 | \rho_t \rangle = \sum_i |\psi(x_i(t), 0)|^2 w_i. \quad (20)$$

The domains are chosen as Gaussian functions,

$$\Omega_l(x) = \exp[-\beta(x - q_l)^2], \quad (21)$$

placed before and inside the barrier region, where the density is compressed as the wave packet encounters the barrier and  $\rho_t$  has a non-Gaussian shape. The centers of Gaussian domains form an equidistant grid. Their width is such that adjacent  $\Omega_l$  have an overlap of about 0.55, which makes the sum of Gaussian domains a smooth function. The Gaussian domain functions are normalized so that their sum does not exceed 1. There is also a domain, given by Eq. (12), that compliments this sum to unity on the full space. As an illustration, Fig. 1(a) shows a sum of five Gaussian domains and the complimentary domain, as well as the potential and bifurcating wave function density at  $t=0.8$ . Gaussian domains

are defined by setting  $q_1 = -2.0$ ,  $q_{l+1} - q_l = 0.5$ , and  $\beta = 5.0$ . Trajectories were propagated up to  $t=1.5$  with an increment of 0.0025. For the given wave packet the quantum value of the transmission probability is  $P^{QM} = 0.151$ . With  $U=0$ , the classical value of  $P$  is zero, since the classical energy of each trajectory is lower than the barrier height. The quantum potential gives a spread in energies to the quantum trajectories. The LQF is accurate while the quantum potential energy is converted into the classical kinetic energy. It gives a fairly accurate value for the transmission probability of  $P^{LQF} = 0.141$ , even though the quantum force in this approximation goes to zero as the reflected and transmitted components of the wave function separate. A comparison of the density overlaps  $C(t)$ , which depend on the accuracy of the reflected wave function, are presented on Fig. 1(b). Using the six domains described above gives a more accurate  $C(t)$  compared to the LQF result, as  $C(t)$  rises and falls off around  $t=1.1$ , but the discrepancy at the maximum remains. The transmission probability in this calculation is  $P=0.150$ . Using more localized domains covering a larger subspace—19 Gaussian domains defined by  $\{q_1 = -3.75, q_{l+1} - q_l = 0.25, \beta = 18.0\}$  and a complimentary domain—gives an accurate description of density overlaps and  $P = P^{QM}$ . The number of trajectories required to converge  $C(t)$  within 0.02 were 249 and 849 for calculations with 6 and 20 domains, respectively.

Formally, there should be no restrictions on domain functions in the limit of perfect fitting of  $\rho^{-1} \nabla \rho$  and infinitely closely spaced trajectories. However, we find it useful to impose certain requirements of the functional form of  $\Omega_l$ . These restrictions are mainly due to the density discretization in terms of trajectories and of the restricted form of fitting functions. Narrow, step-function-like domains have high derivatives at the domain boundary  $q_0$ . This makes interface contributions to the integrals, such as those of Eqs. (B5) and (B6), inaccurate. Another point is that in the case of an ideal fitting, the contributions to the quantum potential from adjacent domains cancel at  $q_0$ , since  $\Omega'_l(q_0) = -\Omega'_{l+1}(q_0)$  and  $g_l(q_0) = g_{l+1}(q_0)$ . This is not the case for linear fitting functions. Therefore, we choose domain functions  $\Omega_l$  in such a way that their derivatives in the interface regions are smaller than the change in the fitting parameters, which also gives better convergence of these parameters with respect to the number of trajectories.

## B. Anharmonic oscillators

A description of the long-time dynamics of general nonlinear bound systems in terms of quantum trajectories is numerically challenging, even with the wave function provided, because in the quantum trajectory formulation the interference is described by complicated density variations, as discussed and illustrated in Ref. 34. Therefore, it is important to rationalize the applicability of the AQP for anharmonic systems in the context of nuclear dynamics.

At first, we apply the AQP approach to the Morse oscillator problem. The potential  $V$  describes a nonrotating  $H_2$  molecule,  $V = D\{1 - \exp[-z(x - x_e)]\}^2$ . With  $m = 1.15$ , the parameters of the potential in scaled atomic units are  $D = 160.0$ ,  $r_e = 1.40$  bohr, and  $z = 1.0$ . We apply the quantum

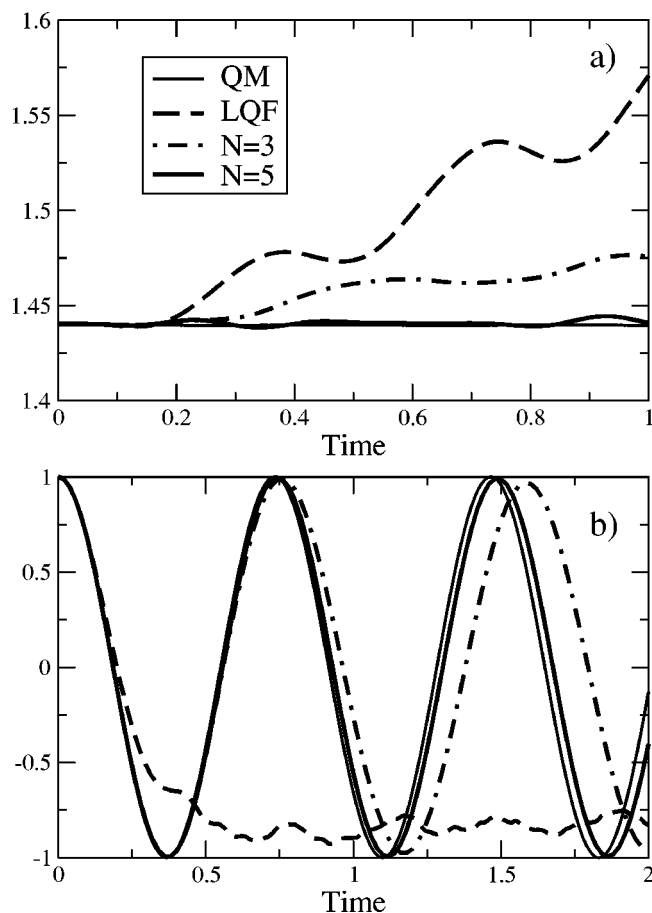


FIG. 2. Time-evolution of the Morse oscillator ground state. a) The average position as a function of time obtained quantum-mechanically (thin solid line), using LQF on the full space (dash), and using three (dot-dash) and five (thick solid line) domains. b) Real part of the auto-correlation function. The legend is the same as in panel a).

trajectory formalism to the propagation of the ground state  $\psi(x,0)$  and examine the average position  $\langle x(t) \rangle = \sum_i w_i x_i(t)$  and a more sensitive quantity: the autocorrelation function, which for a real initial wave packet is

$$C(2t) = \langle \psi^*(x,t) | \psi(x,t) \rangle = \sum_i w_i \exp[2\epsilon S(x_i, t)]. \quad (22)$$

Within the quantum trajectory formalism, the description of an eigenstate means that the quantum force exactly cancels the effect of the external potential and trajectories do not move, which is difficult to obtain with an approximate quantum force. From Fig. 2 we see that for the ground state the LQF works for short times: the anharmonicity of the potential leads to a large net force at the tails of the wave functions. For trajectories that start out on the steep side of the potential the net force is large and they move toward large values of  $x$ . Even though the weight of these trajectories is small, this behavior leads to incorrect values of the LQF parameters and “drains” energy from the remaining trajectories. Figure 2(a) shows the average position of the wave packet for a few oscillation periods:  $\langle x(t) \rangle$  obtained with the LQF method shifts toward the dissociation region of  $V$ , whereas the exact value should stay as a constant. To de-

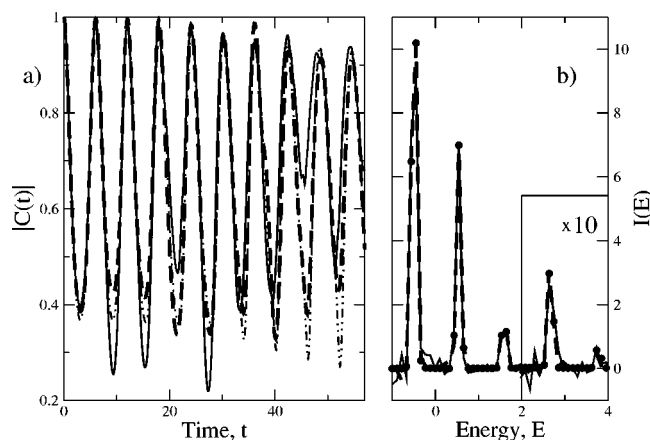


FIG. 3. Dynamics in the potential with quartic anharmonicity. a) The amplitude of the auto-correlation function,  $C(t)$ , as a function of time obtained with the LQF method (solid line) and using two domains (dashed line). The quantum result is shown with a dot-dash line. b) The energy spectrum of  $C(t)$ ,  $I(E)$ . The LQF, the two-domain and the exact results are shown with the solid line, dashed line and filled circles, respectively. The amplitude of the spectra for  $E > 2.0$  is multiplied by a factor of 10.

scribe the anharmonic regions of the potential better, we introduce two Gaussian domains, given by Eq. (21), centered on the steep wall and at the bottom of the well:  $q_1 = 0.9$ ,  $q_2 = 1.4$ , and  $\beta_{1,2} = 6.0$ . The complementary domain covers the dissociation region of the potential. As can be seen from Fig. 2, this reduces the amount of overenergetic trajectories— $\langle x(t) \rangle$  grows much slower compared to the LQF calculation, and the accuracy of the correlation function is drastically improved. We still see the effect of the incorrect energy distribution: the oscillations of the phase of  $C(t)$  slow down as a function of time, as more trajectories move toward large  $x$ . The addition of another two Gaussian domains on the dissociation side reduces this effect and gives an accurate description of  $\langle x(t) \rangle$  and  $C(t)$  for about two and a half oscillation periods. For this system the semiclassical  $C(t)$  is converged within 0.001 with 99 trajectories.

The second example is the dynamics of a Gaussian wave packet in the anharmonic potential studied in Ref. 35. The potential is a harmonic oscillator perturbed by a quartic potential:  $V = x^2/2 + 0.01x^4 - 1$ ,  $m = 1$ . The initial wave function is a displaced Gaussian, given by Eq. (19), with the values  $\alpha_0 = 0.5$ ,  $x_0 = 1.0$ , and  $p_0 = 0.0$ . We examine the auto-correlation function  $C(t)$  defined by Eq. (22) and the spectrum of damped  $C(t)$ :

$$I(E) = \text{Re} \left[ \int_0^T C(t) e^{-\gamma^2 t} e^{iEt} dt \right]. \quad (23)$$

$C(t)$  was obtained for nine oscillation periods ( $T = 57.0$ ) by propagating 399 trajectories with the time increment of 0.05, which gave a convergence of  $|C(t)|$  within 0.02. The damping is introduced to reduce the artifact of the finite propagation time. The value of the damping function at  $T$  is 0.01. The results of the LQF and of the two-domain calculations are shown in Fig. 3 in comparison to the exact quantum result. From the spectrum, we can see that the initial wave packet, which is displaced relative to the bottom of the well, has components from the five lowest eigenstates of the po-



tential. On this time scale the effect of anharmonicity is fairly small and linearization of the nonclassical momentum works well. We obtain all of the recurrences in  $C(t)$ : the maxima are described accurately, while the amplitude of the minima shows deviations from the quantum result. The introduction of a single Gaussian domain  $\{q_1=0.0, \beta_1=2.5\}$  separating the bottom of the well from the high-energy regions of the potential largely removes this discrepancy in  $C(t)$ . The agreement of the corresponding spectra is excellent, with the two-domain calculation having less “noise.” The energy spectrum for  $E>2.0$  was multiplied by a factor of 10. The high accuracy of the semiclassical description is due to the slow accumulation of the effect of anharmonicity in this case. A two-peaked profile of the density develops after about ten oscillation periods. Effectively, we obtain  $C(t)$  from five oscillation periods during which the density becomes non-Gaussian, but it still has a single maximum. Thus the LQF works rather well. Interestingly, in the derivative propagation method calculation of Ref. 35 the effect of anharmonicity appears on a shorter time scale, resulting in the reproduction of two recurrences in  $C(t)$ .

In general, the description of the dynamics with the AQP for bound anharmonic systems, dominated by interference effects, will become impractical at long times. However, for high-dimensional systems, this type of behavior is, normally, quenched at short or intermediate times due to the decoherence of the wave function as, for example, was demonstrated in Refs. 36–39. An approximate quantum potential approach might be accurate and efficient for these systems.

### C. Metastable potential well

As an example of a combined bound- and open-system dynamics we consider a metastable well studied in Ref. 14 with entangled trajectory molecular dynamics, combining the Bohmian formulation with the Wigner phase-space representation. The classical potential in scaled units with  $m=1$  is  $V=Z(x^2-x^3)$ , where  $Z=200$ . Here  $V$  forms a well, supporting two metastable states. The energy of the barrier top, located at  $x^\ddagger=0.667$ , is  $V^\ddagger=29.619$ . The potential of the unbound region is set to a constant:  $V=-V^\ddagger$  for  $x>1.1184$ . We examine the time evolution of two wave packets, defined by Eq. (19) and initially centered on the repulsive wall, with total energies  $E_{\text{tot}}=2V^\ddagger$  and  $E_{\text{tot}}=V^\ddagger$ . The parameters of  $\psi(x,0)$  are  $\alpha_0=10.0$ ,  $p_0=0.0$  with  $q_0=-0.4125$  and  $q_0=-0.2821$  for the two values of  $E_{\text{tot}}$ .

Figure 4 shows the amount of wave function density in the metastable well—the survival probability  $P(t)=\sum_{x_i(t)<x^\ddagger} w_i$  and the energy spectrum of the autocorrelation function. Convergence for  $P(t)$  within 0.02 was achieved by propagating 499 and 999 trajectories with a time step of 0.0025 for the two values of the total energy, respectively. Classically ( $U=0$ ), the energy of each trajectory remains constant in the course of dynamics and all trajectories with energies exceeding  $V^\ddagger$  escape on a short time scale ( $t\approx 0.25$ ). Quantum mechanically, the density continues to escape from the well, as the energy of quantum trajectories undergoes certain redistribution. Since the system shows strong quantum effects over an extended time, the linear ap-

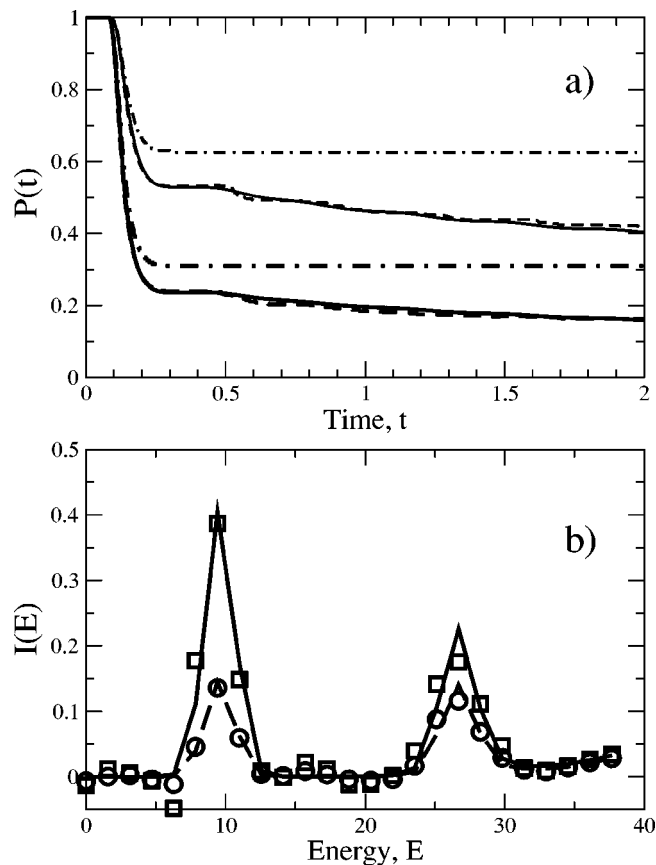


FIG. 4. Dynamics in the metastable well. a) Amount of the wavepacket in the well as a function of time. The upper three curves describe the classical (dot-dash), the AQP with 10 domains (dash) and the quantum (solid line) results for the wavepacket with the total energy equal to the barrier height,  $E_{\text{tot}}=V^\ddagger$ . The lower three curves show the same quantity (the same legend, all lines are bold) for the wavepacket with the total energy of  $T_{\text{tot}}=2V^\ddagger$ . b) The quantum and the AQP spectra are shown with solid line and squares, respectively, for the  $E_{\text{tot}}=V^\ddagger$  system, and with dashed line and circles for the  $E_{\text{tot}}=2V^\ddagger$  system.

proximation to the nonclassical momentum on the full space is inaccurate. We find that the introduction of nine domains reproduces the effect of density leaking out of the well. The domains are defined by Eq. (21) with parameters  $q_1=-1.0$ ,  $q_{l+1}-q_l=0.25$ , and  $\beta=20.0$ . The Fourier transform of the autocorrelation function resolves the energy levels. The spectra shown in Fig. 4 were computed from the correlating functions obtained for  $t=[0.0,2.0]$  and damped by  $\exp(-\gamma^2)$  with  $\gamma=2.3$ .

To summarize, our one-dimensional studies show that generalization of the energy-conserving AQP method to multiple spatial domains increases the applicability of the linearized nonclassical momentum approach. Using a few spatial domains, we were able to reproduce accurately and efficiently a variety of quantum-mechanical effects on semiclassical wave packet dynamics, such as tunneling in open and quasibound systems, the zero-point energy effect, and resolution of the energy levels. The method is exact for Gaussian wave packets in a locally quadratic potential and can reproduce the effects of the distortion of the Gaussian density on the dynamics.

Nevertheless, an efficient description of bound systems

with complicated dynamics, such as long-time dynamics in a double well, typical for proton transfer reactions or surface crossing problems, remains an outstanding challenge. An efficient description of the wave packet interference effect is essential for studies of these systems, whose behavior goes beyond the semiclassical regime. Interference is accompanied by the development of density nodes with small wave function amplitude, which makes the transition to the classical limit,  $U \rightarrow 0$  as  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ , impossible. Our example with the Eckart barrier shows that the development of an interference pattern can be described by performing linearization of the nonclassical momentum on small domains, but it becomes increasingly impractical for longer times. Except for the case of excited eigenstates, the quantum potential, quantum force, and nonclassical momentum have a  $1/x$ -type singularity at the node, and linear functions, even “modulated” by the domain functions, are inefficient in this situation. Addressing the problem of a practical description of the wave function nodes is needed to extend the applicability of the AQP to the dynamics of bound systems dominated by interference effects. In its present form, our approach is capable of an efficient description of wave packet bifurcations, effects of distortion of the Gaussian density on dynamics, and redistribution of energy between quantum trajectories, which are the main features of semiclassical dynamics.

#### D. Dynamics in the collinear $\text{H}_3$ system

The collinear hydrogen exchange reaction  $\text{H}_A + \text{H}_B\text{H}_C \rightarrow \text{H}_A\text{H}_B + \text{H}_C$  is a standard test in reaction dynamics and presents a considerable challenge for semiclassical approaches. Recently, we have computed the wave packet transmission probabilities and studied the isotope effect for this system using the LQF.<sup>30</sup> The system is described in the Jacobi coordinates of reactants where the kinetic energy is diagonal. The Hamiltonian, coordinates, and potential surface are the same as in Ref. 40. The initial wave packet is defined as

$$\psi(0) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} (\alpha_1 \alpha_2)^{1/2} \exp[-\alpha_1 (R - R_0)^2 - \alpha_2 (r - r_0)^2 + i p_0 (R - R_0)], \quad (24)$$

where  $r$  is the vibrational coordinate of the diatomic, the distance between  $\text{H}_B$  and  $\text{H}_C$ , and  $R$  is the translational degree of freedom—the distance between  $\text{H}_A$  and the diatomic. In the Jacobi coordinates of reactants the angle  $\phi$ ,  $\phi = \arctan(r/R)$ , is used to divide the potential energy surface into the reactant region  $0 < \phi \leq \pi/6$  and product region  $\pi/6 < \phi < \pi/3$ . The surface is symmetric with respect to  $\phi_0 = \pi/6$ . Values of the parameters in atomic units (scaled by the reduced mass of the diatomic,  $m_H/2 = 1$ ) are  $R_0 = 4.5$ ,  $r_0 = 1.3$ ,  $\alpha_1 = 4.0$ ,  $\alpha_2 = 9.73$ , and  $p_0 = [-15, -1]$ . The scaled unit of time is equal to 918 a.u. The initial positions for the quantum trajectories  $\vec{x}(0) = \{R_i, r_i\}$  are chosen on a rectangular grid with spacings  $dR = 0.017$  and  $dr = 0.020$ . Trajectory with weights smaller than  $10^{-8}$  are not included. The initial momenta are  $\vec{p}(0) = \{p_0, 0\}$ ; the initial classical actions are  $S_i(0) = p_0(R_i - R_0)$ . We analyze the wave packet

transmission probability  $P(t)$ ,  $P(t) = \sum_i^{\text{prod}} w_i$ , where the summation goes over the trajectories in the product region for which  $\arctan[r_i(t)/R_i(t)] > \pi/6$ .

For optimization using domains, the reactant and product channel are divided into two subspaces: the switching functions between the reactant and product channels are

$$\eta_{\text{reac}} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\arctan[z(\phi - \pi/6)]}{2 \arctan(z\pi/6)},$$

$$\eta_{\text{prod}} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\arctan[z(\phi - \pi/6)]}{2 \arctan(z\pi/6)}. \quad (25)$$

The slope parameter is  $z = 10$ . In each channel three subspaces are introduced in the same way as for the one-dimensional Morse oscillator in this section. In the reactant channels there are two Gaussian domains in the vibrational coordinate  $r$ , given by Eq. (21), centered at  $q_1 = 0.9$  and  $q_2 = 1.4$ , with the width parameter  $\beta = 6.0$ , and a complimentary domain. The reactant domains functions are multiplied by  $\eta_{\text{reac}}$ . The product domains are symmetrical to the reactant domains with respect to  $\phi = \pi/6$  and are multiplied by  $\eta_{\text{prod}}$ . In addition, three two-dimensional Gaussian domains are specified in the transition state with appropriate modification of the reactant and product domains satisfying Eq. (12), bringing the total number of domains to  $L = 9$ . The transition-state domain functions are centered in the transition state around the minimum along  $\phi = \pi/6$  at  $q_7 = 2.1$ ,  $q_8 = 2.6$ , and  $q_9 = 3.1$  bohrs. The width parameter along the transition state was  $\beta = 5.0$  in both coordinates. The wave packets were propagated up to  $t = 1.8$  with step size of 0.0025. Using 2453 trajectories per wave packet gave values of  $P$  within 0.015 of the converged result. The wave packet reaction probability as a function of energy is presented on Fig. 5(a), which also shows the classical  $U = 0$  and LQF results. Optimization on full space gives a qualitative agreement with the quantum result. Optimization on the domains leads to improved probabilities, which are now within 0.04 of the quantum-mechanical values. For this system the main deficiency of the LQF method was the same as in the Morse oscillator example: an appreciable amount of the total energy was carried away by the trajectories from the repulsive wall. This was corrected by treating high regions of the potential surface within separate domains, which “uncouples” them from the low-energy regions, where most of the trajectories evolve.

For a more detailed analysis of the method we examine the dynamics of the wave packet for which wave packet transmission probability is large and the quantum trajectory result is close to the quantum-mechanical calculation,  $p_0 = -7.5$ . The time-dependent transmission probability is plotted on Fig. 5(b). Semiclassical  $P(t)$  has a smaller value at the maximum, showing that fewer trajectories entered the transition-state region compared to the exact dynamics. To examine the dynamics in the product channel, we have also computed the density overlap of the time-evolving density with the fixed wave packet on the product side, symmetrical to  $\psi(0)$ ,  $C(t) = \langle \rho(t) | \rho^{\text{prod}}(0) \rangle$ . The domain calculation agrees with the exact result qualitatively. The integral amount of transmitted density overlapping with  $\rho^{\text{prod}}$ ,

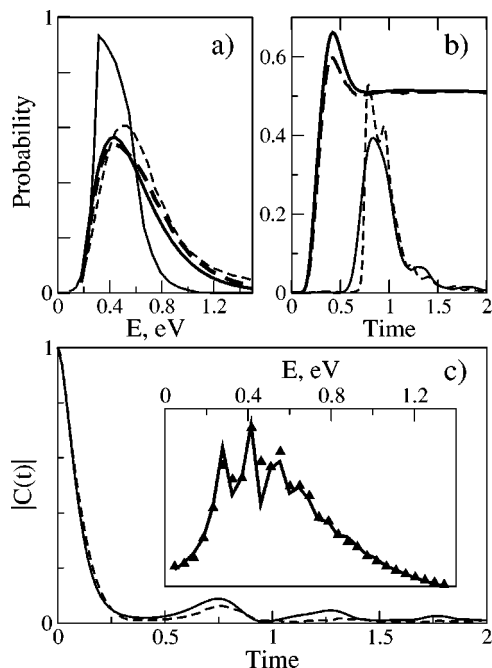


FIG. 5. Dynamics of the collinear  $H_3$  system. a) The wavepacket transmission probability as a function of the total energy of the wavepacket: quantum (thick solid line), classical (thin solid line), LQF (thin dash) and the domain (thick dash) results are shown. b) The wavepacket transmission probability as a function of time computed for the wavepacket with  $p_0 = 7.5$ . The quantum and the domain results are shown with thick solid and dashed lines, respectively. Thin solid and dashed lines mark the corresponding reactant/product density overlaps. c) The absolute value of the auto-correlation function for the transition state wavepacket as a function of time. The quantum and the domain results are shown with the solid and dashed lines, respectively. The insert shows the corresponding spectra (the semiclassical spectrum with triangles).

$\int C(t)dt$ , agrees very well with the exact result. The buildup of the semiclassical  $C(t)$  is delayed, which might be the reason for the double-peaked profile, while the exact result has a smooth peak around  $t = 1.0$ . The domain calculation reproduces rather well the short-time dynamics, which largely determines the total wave packet reactivity. The details of the long-time dynamics, affected by the presence of resonances in the transition state and implying interference effects in the wave function, are not captured. This feature is also manifested in the analysis of the transition-state wave packet. We propagate a Gaussian wave packet, given by Eq. (24) located at  $t = 0$  in the transition state and displaced from its minimum. The initial parameters are  $\{R_0 = 2.5, r_0 = 1.3, \alpha_1 = 6.3, \alpha_2 = 6.3, p_0 = 0.0\}$ . Figure 5(c) shows its autocorrelation function for  $t = [0.0, 2.0]$  and the corresponding energy spectrum. Five two-dimensional Gaussian domains in the transition, whose centers form a grid along the  $\phi = \pi/6$  direction,  $q_I = \{2.1, 2.6, 3.1, 3.6, 4.1\}$  bohrs, were used in this calculation. The width parameter in the direction of the transition state was  $\beta = 8.0$ . The width parameter for the domain functions in the perpendicular direction was chosen to be smaller,  $\beta = 2.0$ , to make these functions more delocalized, since the channel regions were described within a single domain each, defined by  $\eta_{\text{reac}}$  and  $\eta_{\text{prod}}$ . In this calculation we used 4281 trajectories, whose weights were greater than  $10^{-6}$ , which gave a spectrum with amplitudes within 7% of the converged

values. The position of the spectrum peaks is converged within its resolution. The number of trajectories is slightly greater in comparison to the probability calculations, because the autocorrelation function  $C(t)$  is a complex quantity. Our semiclassical method reproduced one recurrence in  $C(t)$  around  $t = 1.0$  and does not reproduce low-amplitude recurrences at later times. The inset in the figure shows the exact and the semiclassical spectra of  $C(t)$ , which agree quite well.

In general, the agreement of the semiclassical description with the full quantum-mechanical result depends on the level of detail one obtains. This is the case for scattering on the Eckart barrier discussed in the beginning of this section: the LQF gives an accurate description of the wave packet transmission, while details of the reflected wave function density are reproduced only with the introduction of a fairly large number of spatial domains. For the collinear  $H_3$  system we do not reproduce quantitatively the details of the reactant wave packet passing through the product channel, but we describe shorter-time dynamics accurately and obtain very good agreement for the wave packet transmission probabilities and for the medium-resolution transition-state spectrum, using the AQP optimized on domains.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we formulated the Bohmian dynamics on subspaces and defined the energy-conserving approximate quantum potential in terms of the optimized nonclassical momentum  $\rho^{-1}\nabla\rho$ . The new strategy enables us to solve the optimization problem on the subspaces or spatial domains instead of the full coordinate space. Consequently, we can obtain a more accurate fitting of the nonclassical momentum using simple fitting functions in the optimization. In particular, optimization with linear fitting functions on domains is solved separately for each domain and for each dimension by means of linear algebra. This is a generalization of the linearized quantum force approximation we developed earlier. The optimization is performed for all trajectories at once at every time step, resulting in an efficient procedure that scales well with the number of dimensions. The scaling with respect to the number of trajectories is *linear*. The cost of propagating quantum trajectories with this type of AQP is essentially the same as in classical mechanics. An additional effort is to compute the first and second moments of the trajectory distribution in each domain, which is a linear operation with respect to the number of trajectories, and to invert the matrix of the size of the number of dimensions. The proposed AQP rigorously conserves energy in a closed system and describes the dynamics of a Gaussian wave packet in a locally quadratic potential exactly. The classical and quantum limits are well defined.

Increased flexibility of the fitting functions results in more accurate AQP, which expands the applicability of our approach. In this paper we used the energy-conserving AQP to describe reflection from the barrier and dynamics in the anharmonic bound and quasibound one-dimensional systems. The new method is a significant improvement over the linearized quantum force approximation and is capable of

describing the main features of semiclassical dynamics, such as tunneling, wave packet bifurcation, zero-point energy, and quantum potential energy redistribution effects. The description of dynamics, dominated by the interference effects, such as the long-time dynamics of anharmonic bound systems, remains an outstanding challenge. This type of behavior is beyond the semiclassical regime in a sense that the system does not have a classical limit of vanishing quantum potential as  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ , due to the nodes in the density. Since bound anharmonic potentials are encountered in nuclear dynamics, this problem must be addressed. We believe that in order to describe interference effects in a practical way, one has to account for singularities in the density by explicitly including the appropriate term, such as  $c(x-x_0)^{-1}$  or its “smoothed” representation  $2c(x-x_0)/[c(x-x_0)^2+1]$ , into the definition of the fitting function  $g$ . These functional forms can be easily generalized to the multidimensional case. Optimization with respect to  $x_0$  and  $c$  will be a more complicated (compared to the present method) nonlinear problem, but optimization of the coefficient  $c$  as well as that for the linear part of  $g$  will remain linear, so that an efficient overall implementation might be developed. Studies of this issue are under way in our group. Application of the energy-conserving AQP to the hydrogen exchange reaction shows that in its present form, the method can correctly describe short- and medium-time dynamics, which is demonstrated by very good agreement for the wave packet transmission probabilities and of a medium resolution spectrum for the transition-state wave packet dynamics. The long-time dynamics, dominated by the interference effects, is reproduced only qualitatively. Nevertheless, this method might be well suited for studies of complex molecular systems in high dimensions, where long-time quantum effects are effectively quenched.

#### APPENDIX A: ENERGY-CONSERVING APPROXIMATE QUANTUM POTENTIAL IN MANY DIMENSIONS

Equations (16) and (17) are generalized in a straightforward manner for  $N$  dimensions. For each domain defined by  $\Omega_l(\vec{x})$  the functional  $I_l$  includes summation over the dimensions  $n=1,\dots,N$ ,

$$I_l = \sum_n \frac{1}{m^{(n)}} \int \left( \frac{1}{\rho(\vec{x},t)} \frac{\partial \rho(\vec{x},t)}{\partial x^{(n)}} - g_e^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s}_l^{(n)}) \right)^2 \times \rho(\vec{x},t) d\Theta(\vec{x},t). \quad (\text{A1})$$

The total approximate quantum potential includes a double sum over the dimensions  $n=1,\dots,N$  and over the domains  $l=1,\dots,L$ :

$$\tilde{U} = - \sum_{l,n} \frac{1}{8m^{(n)}} \left( \frac{g_l^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s}_l^{(n)})^2}{2} \Omega_l(\vec{x}) + \frac{dg_l^{(n)}}{dx^{(n)}} \left( \vec{x}, \vec{s}_e^{(n)} \Omega_l(\vec{x}) + g_l^{(n)} \left( \vec{x}, \vec{s}_e^{(n)} \frac{d\Omega_l(\vec{x})}{dx^{(n)}} \right) \right) \right). \quad (\text{A2})$$

The key point is that minimization of Eq. (A1) can be done independently for each dimension and for each domain. The

introduction of a multiplicative nonzero constant in front of each term of the sum in this expression does not change the optimal values of  $\vec{s}_l^{(n)}$ , which satisfy

$$\vec{\nabla}_{\vec{s}_l^{(n)}} I_l = 0. \quad (\text{A3})$$

Integrating Eq. (A1) by parts one arrives at

$$I_l = I_0 + \sum_n \frac{1}{m^{(n)}} \int \left( \frac{g_l^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s}_l^{(n)})^2}{2} \Omega_l(\vec{x}) + \frac{dg_l^{(n)}}{dx^{(n)}} \vec{x}, \vec{s}_e^{(n)} \Omega_l(\vec{x}) + g_l^{(n)} \left( \vec{x}, \vec{s}_e^{(n)} \frac{d\Omega_l(\vec{x})}{dx^{(n)}} \right) \right) \rho(\vec{x},t) d\Theta(\vec{x},t), \quad (\text{A4})$$

where  $I_0$  does not depend on the fitting parameters and the remaining term is proportional to the domain contribution into the average AQP,  $\langle \tilde{U} \rangle$ . We use this, along with Eq. (6), to prove the energy conservation property. Substitution of  $\tilde{U}$  given by Eq. (A2) instead of  $U$  into Eq. (6) gives

$$\int \frac{\partial \tilde{U}}{\partial t} \rho(\vec{x},t) d\Theta(\vec{x},t) = \sum_{l,n} \frac{d\vec{s}_l^{(n)}}{dt} \vec{\nabla}_{\vec{s}_l^{(n)}} \langle \tilde{U} \rangle = 0. \quad (\text{A5})$$

#### APPENDIX B: OPTIMAL PARAMETERS OF THE LINEARIZED MOMENTUM ON SPATIAL DOMAINS IN MANY DIMENSIONS

In the case of linear fitting functions Eq. (A4) can be written as a matrix equation for each spatial domain. The domain label  $l$  is omitted below. With index  $n$  labeling dimensions, a general linear function  $g^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s}^{(n)})$  is represented as a scalar product of two vectors of length  $(N+1)$ —a vector of space variables,

$$\vec{r} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N, 1)^T, \quad (\text{B1})$$

and a vector of parameters,

$$\vec{s}^{(n)} = (s_{1n}, s_{2n}, \dots, s_{Nn}, s_{0n})^T. \quad (\text{B2})$$

Then  $g^{(n)}(\vec{x}, \vec{s}^{(n)}) = \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}^{(n)}$ . Organizing vectors  $\vec{s}^{(n)}$  into a rectangular matrix  $\mathbf{S}$  of size  $N \times (N+1)$ ,

$$\mathbf{S} = (\vec{s}^{(1)}, \vec{s}^{(2)}, \dots, \vec{s}^{(N)}), \quad (\text{B3})$$

Eq. (A3) can be rewritten as a linear matrix equation

$$\mathbf{M}_2 \mathbf{S} = -\mathbf{M}_0 - \mathbf{M}_1, \quad (\text{B4})$$

and then solved for  $\mathbf{S}$ . The dimension of the matrix  $\mathbf{M}_2$ ,  $\mathbf{M}_2 = \langle \vec{r} \vec{r}^T \Omega \rangle$ , is  $(N+1) \times (N+1)$ . Its elements are the first and second moments of the trajectory distribution weighted by the domain function:

$$M_2^{ij} = \int r^{(i)} r^{(j)} \Omega(\vec{x}) d\rho(\vec{x},t) d\Theta(\vec{x},t). \quad (\text{B5})$$

The dimension of the matrix  $\mathbf{M}_0$  is  $N \times (N+1)$ . Its diagonal elements are

$$M_0^{ii} = \int \Omega(\vec{x}) \rho(\vec{x},t) d\Theta(\vec{x},t). \quad (\text{B6})$$



Off-diagonal elements are zero. The matrix  $\mathbf{M}_1$  containing the “interface” terms is of the same size as  $\mathbf{M}_0$ ,  $\mathbf{M}_1 = \langle \vec{r} | \vec{\nabla} \Omega \rangle^T$ . Its elements are

$$M_1^{ij} = \int r^{(i)} \frac{d\Omega(\vec{x})}{dx^{(j)}} \rho(\vec{x}, t) d\Theta(\vec{x}, t). \quad (\text{B7})$$

In a numerical implementation the integrals in Eqs. (B5)–(B7) are replaced by a summation over trajectories with  $\rho(\vec{x}, t) d\Theta(\vec{x}, t)$  represented by the trajectory weight  $w_i$  according to Eq. (5).

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