The quantum kicked particle in a magnetic field is studied in a weak-chaos regime under realistic conditions, i.e., for general values of the conserved coordinate $x_c$ of the cyclotron orbit center. The system exhibits spectral structures ["Hofstadter butterflies" (HBs)] and quantum diffusion depending sensitively on $x_c$. Most significant changes take place when $x_c$ approaches the value at which quantum antiresonance (exactly periodic recurrences) can occur: the HB essentially "doubles" and the quantum-diffusion coefficient $D(x_c)$ is strongly reduced. An explanation of these phenomena, including an approximate formula for $D(x_c)$ in a class of wave packets, is given on the basis of an effective Hamiltonian which is derived as a power expansion in a small parameter. The global quantum diffusion of a two-dimensional wave packet for all $x_c$ is briefly considered.

I. INTRODUCTION

Simple quantum systems whose classical counterparts are nonintegrable exhibit a variety of remarkable phenomena [1] which continue to attract much interest in several contexts. A realistic system, whose experimental realization by different methods has been the object of many recent works (see a very partial list in Ref. [2]), is the well-known kicked rotor [1,3,4], modeling the dynamical-localization phenomenon. A class of systems exhibiting basically different phenomena, such as quantum diffusion associated with a fractal spectrum, are represented by Hamiltonians periodic in phase space [5–20]. The simplest such system is the integrable Harper model [5] with Hamiltonian $H=\cos(x)+\cos(p)$, whose quantization describes the energy spectrum within a Bloch band in a magnetic field or within a broadened Landau level in a crystalline periodic potential [5–7,10]. Plotting this spectrum as a function of the magnetic flux through a unit cell (this flux is related to a scaled Planck constant for the Harper model) gives the well-known "Hofstadter butterfly" [6], featuring a clearly fractal structure [9]. Quite recently [10], much of this structure was detected experimentally.

The simplest nonintegrable system with a mixed phase space and a periodic Hamiltonian is the kicked Harper model (KHM) [11–19] with $H=\cos(p)+\cos(x)\sum_{s=0}^{\infty}\delta(t-sT)$, which reduces to the Harper Hamiltonian when the time period $T\to 0$. The KHM models the regular-chaotic transition [11,19] as well as the effect of chaos on a fractal spectrum and on quantum diffusion [13]. It seems that the only realistic interpretation of the KHM is its exact relation [16] with a particular case of the two-dimensional (2D) system of the periodically kicked particle in a magnetic field [21–23]. This system is described by

$$H = \Pi^2/2 - K \cos(x) \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \delta(t-sT),$$

(1)

where $\Pi=(\Pi_x,\Pi_y)=p-B\times r/(2c)$ is the kinetic momentum of a particle with unit charge and unit mass in a uniform magnetic field $B$ (along the $z$ axis) and $K$ is a nonintegrability parameter. Let us first summarize some known facts about (1) [21–23]. It is crucial to represent (1) in the natural degrees of freedom in a magnetic field, given by the independent conjugate pairs $(\Pi_x,\Pi_y)$ and $(x_c,y_c)$ (coordinates of the center of a cyclotron orbit) [24]. Defining $u=\Pi_x/\omega$, $v=\Pi_y/\omega$, where $\omega=B/c$ is the cyclotron frequency, and using the relation $x_c=x+\Pi_y/\omega=1+t$ (from simple geometry), (1) can be rewritten as follows [22]:

$$H = \omega^2(u^2+v^2)/2 - K \cos(x_c-v) \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \delta(t-sT).$$

(2)

Since $y_c$ does not appear in (2), its conjugate mate $x_c$ is conserved and, therefore, can be treated as a parameter. This reduces (1) to an ensemble of periodically kicked harmonic oscillators parametrized by $x_c$. Classically, these degenerate systems are expected to exhibit unbounded chaotic diffusion in the $(u,v)$ phase plane for arbitrarily small values of $K$, especially under resonance conditions, with $\alpha=\omega T$ a rational multiple of $2\pi$ [21,22]; this diffusion is observed to take place on a "stochastic web" whose symmetry depends on $\alpha$. Examples of square-symmetry webs ($\alpha=\pi/2$) are shown in Fig. 1. The KHM is exactly related to (2), in essence, only for $\alpha=\pi/2$ and for very special values of $x_c$, $x_c=0, \pi$ (see Sec. A 1 of the Appendix and generalizations of this relation in Refs. [15,16]). Now, the classical properties of (2), in particular the structure of the stochastic web, its width, and

![Image](https://example.com/image)

**FIG. 1.** Classical stochastic webs for $K=0.157$ and $\alpha=\pi/2$, generated by the map (8) in three cases: (a) $x_c=0$; (b) $x_c=1.47$; (c) $x_c=\pi/2$. The range of both $u$ and $v$ in all the plots is $[-2\pi, 2\pi]$.  

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the diffusion rate on it, are known to depend strongly on $x_c$ [22,23] (see also Sec. III). In addition, one should notice that realistic classical ensembles or 2D wave packets for (1) exhibit all values of $x_c$. These facts motivate the investigation of the quantum properties of (2) for arbitrary $x_c$. Except for general results [15,16], these properties appear to be essentially unexplored.

In this paper, we present a study of the quantized system (2) for general $x_c$. We focus on the weak-chaos regime of small $K$ and, as in the classical studies [22,23], on the case of $\alpha=\pi/2$. The global spectral features of the system at fixed $x_c$ are exhibited by a suitably defined plot of the quasienergy spectrum as a function of a scaled Planck constant $\hbar$. The term Hofstadter butterfly (HB) is extended so as to refer to such a plot. The quantum properties are found to depend sensitively on $x_c$. Most significant changes take place when $x_c$ approaches the value of $\pi/2$ at which quantum antiresonance (QAR), i.e., exactly periodic recurrences [15,25], occurs for integer $h/(2\pi)$. While the HB for most values of $x_c$ is approximately the standard one of the Harper model [6], the HB for $x_c=\pi/2$ is, up to a local scaling, a perturbed “doubled” version of the standard HB. This change of the HB structure in the “QAR transition” $x_c\to\pi/2$ is explained on the basis of an effective Hamiltonian which is derived as a power expansion in a small parameter. For irrational $h/(2\pi)$, the time evolution of wave packets is observed to exhibit approximately an asymptotic quantum diffusion. This is characterized by either a diffusion coefficient $D(x_c)$ at fixed $x_c$ or a global coefficient $\bar{D}$, given by a weighted average of $D(x_c)$ over $x_c$. An approximate formula for $D(x_c)$ in a simple class of wave packets is derived from the effective Hamiltonian and is verified numerically. As $x_c\to\pi/2$, $D(x_c)$ decreases and QAR is manifested by the fact that $D(\pi/2)$ is significantly smaller than typical values of $D(x_c)$. While these phenomena are of a purely quantum nature, they have classical analogs. The paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we recall the QAR phenomenon [15,25] and study general spectral properties of the system (2), also on the basis of an effective Hamiltonian which is derived as an expansion in a small parameter. In Sec. III, we consider classical limits and analogs of some of the results in Sec. II. In Sec. IV, we study the quantum diffusion of wave packets for general $x_c$, using also the effective-Hamiltonian approximation. A summary and conclusions are presented in Sec. V. Proofs of several statements in Secs. I, II, and IV are given in the Appendix.

II. QUANTUM ANTIRESONANCE, GENERAL SPECTRAL PROPERTIES, AND EFFECTIVE HAMILTONIAN

To quantize the system (2), $(u,v)$ are replaced by the corresponding conjugate operators $(\hat{u},\hat{v})$. From the definitions $u=\Pi_1/\omega, v=\Pi_2/\omega$, where $(\Pi_1,\Pi_2)=p-B\times r/(2c)$ and $\omega=Bl/c$, it is easy to see that $(\hat{u},\hat{v})$ satisfy $[\hat{u},\hat{v}]=i\hbar/\omega$. We choose units such that $\omega=1$, so that $[\hat{u},\hat{v}]=i\hbar$, where $\hbar$ is a scaled Planck constant. The one-period evolution operator for the quantized system (2) will be denoted by $\hat{U}_T(x_c)$. Let us now recall the phenomenon of quantum antiresonance (QAR) [15]. Under classical resonance conditions, $\alpha=\omega T=2\pi j/l$ ($j$ and $l$ are coprime integers), QAR for the system (2) is defined by $\hat{U}_T(x_c)=\text{constant phase factor}$, i.e., exactly periodic recurrences with the natural resonance period $T$. As shown in Ref. [15], QAR occurs in the nonintegrable ($l>2$) case of a general kicked harmonic oscillator only if three conditions are satisfied: (a) The kicking periodic potential is an odd function, up to an additive constant; this implies that $x_c=\pi/2,3\pi/2$ for the potential $\cos(x_c-\nu)$ in Eq. (2). (b) $l=4$ or $l=6$, corresponding to stochastic webs with square or hexagonal symmetry, respectively. (c) $h/(2\pi)$ is integer for $l=4$ while $\sqrt{sh}/(4\pi)$ is integer for $l=6$. When all these conditions hold, it follows from the results in Ref. [15] that $\hat{U}_T(x_c)=-1$ for $x_c=\pi/2,3\pi/2$ and $l=4,6$. In this paper, only the case of $l=4$ with $j/l=1/2, (\alpha=\pi/2)$ will be considered. Using general results [15], one finds that the evolution operator $\hat{U}_T(x_c)$ in this case is equal to $-\hat{U}(x_c)$, where

$$\hat{U}(x_c)=\exp[i\mu \cos(x_c-\nu)]\exp[\mu \cos(x_c+\nu)] \times \exp[i\mu \cos(x_c+\nu)]\exp[i\mu \cos(x_c-\nu)]$$

and $\mu=K/h$. We show in the Appendix (Sec. A 1) that the range of $x_c$ in Eq. (3) can be restricted to $[0,\pi/2]$ without loss of generality. Thus, only the QAR point $x_c=\pi/2$ will be considered; $\hat{U}(\pi/2)=1$ for integer $h/(2\pi)$.

We now extend the notion of HB [6] to the operator (3). Let us denote by $E$ and $\Psi$, respectively, the quasienergies (QEs) and QE eigenstates, defined by $\hat{U}(x_c)\Psi=\exp(-i\mu E)\Psi$ with $E$ lying in the interval $[-\pi/\mu,\pi/\mu]$. We then define the HB as the plot of the QE spectrum $E(h)$ as a function of $h$, for $0\leq h\leq 2\pi$, at fixed $\mu$. Such a plot was introduced in Ref. [13] for the KHM and is motivated by the fact, shown in the Appendix (Sec. A 2), that $E(h)$ is $2\pi$-periodic in $h$ at fixed $\mu$. A small value of $\mu$ characterizes a HB associated with a “semiclassical weak-chaos regime,” i.e., a regime of small $K=\hbar \mu$ for all small values of $h$, $h<1$. We also show in the Appendix (Sec. A 2) that: (a) For rational $h/(2\pi)=q/p$ ($q$ and $p$ are coprime integers), the QE spectrum consists of $p$ bands, each $q$-fold degenerate. (b) The HB has reflection symmetry around $h=\pi$ [i.e., $E(2\pi-h)=E(h)$] only if $x_c=0$ or $x_c=\pi/2$. Examples of HBs, plotted for all $h=2\pi q/p$ with $1\leq q\leq p\leq 50$, are shown in Fig. 2 for three values of $x_c$. We see that for $x_c=\pi/2$ [Fig. 2(c)] the QE spectrum $E\to 0$ as $h\to\pi$ or $h\to 0$, reflecting the QAR phenomenon, $\hat{U}(\pi/2)=1$ for $h=2\pi/\mu$.

The unitary operator (3) can be formally written as $\hat{U}(x_c)=\exp[-i\mu \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(x_c)]$, where $\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(x_c)$ is an effective Hamiltonian for the problem. Clearly, if $E'$ is the “energy” spectrum of $\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(x_c)$, theQE spectrum $E$ is just $E'$ modulo the interval $[-\pi/\mu,\pi/\mu]$. Thus, the “unfolded” HB is the spectrum $E'$ plotted as a function of $h$ ($0\leq h\leq 2\pi\nu$) at fixed $\mu$. The dependence of some general HB features on $x_c$ can be understood on the basis of an expression for $\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(x_c)$ which we now derive. We first note that the arguments of the exponents in Eq. (3) involve simple operators $\exp(\pm i\hat{u})$ and $\exp(\pm i\hat{v})$.
exp(±i\hat{v}), giving just translations by ±\hbar in the \((u,v)\) phase plane. Using then the known formula \[ \exp(\pm ih) \]
valid for arbitrary operators \(A\) and \(B\), one can verify by tedious but straightforward algebra that \(\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(x_c)\) can be expressed as a power expansion in a parameter \(\epsilon\),
\[
\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(x_c) = \sum_{\epsilon=0}^{\infty} \epsilon^n \hat{H}_n(x_c), \quad \epsilon = \mu \sin(h/2) = \frac{K \sin(h/2)}{2h/2}.
\]
(5)
The zero-order coefficient in Eq. (5) is
\[
\hat{H}_0(x_c) = -2 \cos(x_c) [\cos(u) + \cos(\hat{v})] + \epsilon = \mu \sin(h/2).
\]
(6)
The operator (6) is a Harper Hamiltonian and if \(\epsilon\) is sufficiently small, \(2\cos(x_c)/\epsilon \gg 1\), is the dominant term in the expansion (5) for most values of \(x_c\). For general \(\mu, \epsilon\) is small provided \(\hbar/(2\pi)\) is sufficiently close to an integer. In a weak-chaos (small \(\mu\) or \(K\)) regime, on which we shall focus, \(\epsilon\) is globally small for all \(\hbar\). Then, for \(2\cos(x_c)/\epsilon \gg 1\), the HB is essentially the standard one for the Harper model [6], see Fig. 2(a). For \(2\cos(x_c)/\epsilon \ll 1\), higher-order coefficients in Eq. (5) become significant, especially for \(\hbar = \pi\) (largest \(\epsilon\) at fixed \(\mu\)), leading to a clearly nonstandard HB with a visible reflection-symmetry breaking; see Fig. 2(b).

For \(x_c = \pi/2\), \(\hat{H}_0\) vanishes. If also \(\hbar/(2\pi)\) is integer, \(\epsilon = 0\) and thus \(\hat{H}_{\text{eff}} = 0\), implying \(\hat{U}(\pi/2) = 1\) (QAR). Small values of \(\epsilon\) for \(x_c = \pi/2\) define a QAR vicinity; thus, a weak-chaos regime at \(x_c = \pi/2\) corresponds to a QAR vicinity for arbitrary \(\hbar\). Now, \(\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(\pi/2) = \epsilon \hat{H}_1 + \epsilon^2 \hat{H}_2 + \cdots\), and we find that
\[
\hat{H}_1(\pi/2) = -[\cos(\hat{u}) + \cos(\hat{v})].
\]
(7)
Since the operators \(\hat{u}' = \hat{u} + \hat{v}\) and \(\hat{v}' = \hat{v} - \hat{u}\) are clearly conjugate, \([\hat{u}', \hat{v}'] = i \hbar\) with \(\hbar' = 2\hbar\), we see that \(\hat{H}_1\) in Eq. (7) is again a Harper Hamiltonian. When \(\hbar\) varies from 0 to \(2\pi\), \(\hbar' = 2\hbar\) varies from 0 to \(4\pi\). Then, the HB for \(\hat{H}_{\text{eff}} = \epsilon \hat{H}_1 + \epsilon^2 \hat{H}_2 + \cdots\) is a perturbed doubled version of the standard HB, see Fig. 3. A simple measure of the perturbation of this HB is \(P = |1 - \Delta E'(\pi)/\Delta E'(2\pi)|\), where \(\Delta E'(\hbar)\) is the width of the spectrum of \(\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}/\epsilon\). The exact result \(P = 1 - \mu^{-2} \arcsin[\sin^2(\mu)] = \mu^{-2}/3 + \cdots\) is easily derived (see note [27]). As \(\hbar\) approaches its QAR value of \(2\pi\) (or 0 at fixed \(\mu\)), the width \(\Delta E(h) = \mu \sin(h/2) \Delta E'(2\pi)\) of the QE spectrum vanishes almost linearly in \(\hbar\), see Fig. 2(c).

A simple consequence of the approximately doubled structure of the HB for \(\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(\pi/2)/\epsilon\) is that if \(\hbar = 2\pi q/p\) and \(p\) is even, \(p = 2p'\), the \(p\) bands in this HB actually form \(p'\) pairs of overlapping bands. This is because the spectrum of the Harper Hamiltonian (7) for \(\hbar' = 2\pi h = 2\pi q/p'\) always consists of \(p'\) nonoverlapping bands [6]. Each such band must then correspond to a pair of overlapping bands of \(\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}\) for sufficiently small \(\epsilon\). Thus, the number of gaps in the spectrum for even \(p\) is more than halved when \(x_c\) is varied from 0 to \(\pi/2\).

III. CLASSICAL LIMITS AND ANALOGS

In this section, we consider classical limits and analogs of some of the results above. The classical one-period map for the system (2) in the case of \(\alpha = \pi/2\) is [22]
\[ M: u_{t+1} = v_t, \quad v_{t+1} = -u_t + K \sin(x_c - v_t). \]  

The fourth iterate \( M^4 \) of \( M \) is the classical map corresponding to the evolution operator \( U(x) \) in Eq. (3). One can easily show that \( M^4 \) is a near-intensity map for small \( K \) [23], i.e., \( u_{t+1} = u_t + O(K), \ v_{t+1} = v_t + O(K) \), where \( t \) denotes now an integer time index counting iterations of \( M^4 \). It is then clear from the expression \( U(x) = \exp[-iK\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(x)/h] \) that the classical limit \( (h \to 0, \epsilon \to K/2) \) of \( \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(x) \) is an integrable Hamiltonian \( H_{\text{eff}}(u, v; x_c) \) generating, in a continuous time denoted here by \( t' \), a phase-space flow which approximates the near-integrable map \( M^4 \) at times \( t' = Kt \):

\[
\frac{\partial \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}}{\partial v} = \frac{du}{dt'} = \frac{u_{t+1} - u_t}{K}, \quad \frac{\partial \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}}{\partial u} = \frac{dv}{dt'} = \frac{v_{t+1} - v_t}{K}.
\]

Expressions for \( KH_{\text{eff}}/4 \) as power expansions in \( K \) are given in Ref. [23]. Like \( U(x) \), \( M^4 \) and \( H_{\text{eff}}(u, v; x_c) \) are generally periodic in the phase space \((u, v)\) with a unit cell of area \( 4\pi^2 \), so that the orbit structure of \( M^4 \) or the flow (9) feature the same periodicity, as is clearly shown in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b). For \( x_c = \pi/2 \), however, the dominant term in \( H_{\text{eff}}(u, v; \pi/2) \) is the classical analog \( H_1 \) of (7), which is periodic with a unit cell of area \( 2\pi^2 \), half the size of the usual unit cell; this periodicity is then approximately exhibited by the corresponding orbit structure, compare Fig. 1(c) with Fig. 1(a). This is the classical fingerprint in the approximate doubling of the HB for \( x_c = \pi/2 \) (see previous section and Fig. 3).

The hyperbolic fixed points of \( M^4 \) form a periodic domain connected by the stochastic web, see Fig. 1. As shown in Ref. [23], the width of the web for small \( K \) is proportional to \( \exp[-\pi^2/\ln(\lambda)] \), where \( \lambda \) is the largest eigenvalue of the linearization of \( M^4 \) at a hyperbolic fixed point and is given by \( \lambda = 1 + 2K \cos(x_c) \) for \( \cos(x_c) \gg K/4 \) and by \( \lambda = 1 + K^2 \) for \( x_c = \pi/2 \). Thus, the latter case is characterized by a significantly small web width and slow chaotic diffusion relative to those for most values of \( x_c \) [23]. These features may be viewed as classical analogs of the QAR phenomenon, including some quantum behaviors in a QAR vicinity (see Sec. IV C and Sec. V).

**IV. QUANTUM DIFFUSION FOR GENERAL \( x_c \)**

In this section, we study the quantum diffusion exhibited by wave packets evolving under the operator (3) and its effective-Hamiltonian approximations.

**A. General quantum evolution and periodic wave packets**

A general wave packet \( \Phi(x) \) for the original 2D problem (1) can be naturally expressed in a representation based on the two degrees of freedom (conjugate pairs) \((\hat{u}, \hat{v})\) and \((\hat{x}_c, \hat{y}_c)\), for example, in the \((u, x_c)\) representation, \((u, x_c)\Phi = \Phi(u, x_c)\). The time evolution of \( \Phi(u, x_c) \) can be decomposed into the independent evolutions for the separate, conserved \( x_c \) values,
For sufficiently small $\hbar$, a classical quantity analogous to the expectation value $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle$, in the wave packet (15) is the average $\langle u^2 \rangle$ of $u^2$ over an ensemble of initial conditions $(u_0, v_0)$ uniformly distributed in a disk centered on $(\bar{u}, \bar{v})$ and of radius $\sqrt{2\hbar}$; $(u, v)$ is the $r$th iterate of $(u_0, v_0)$ under the map $M^4$ (see Sec. III). Figure 4 shows log-log plots of $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle$ and $\langle u^2 \rangle$ for $h/(2\pi)=[51+(\sqrt{5}-1)/2]^{-1}$, $K=0.157$, and $0 < t \leq 10^5$ in the three cases of $x_c$ considered in Figs. 1 and 2; in each case, $(\bar{u}, \bar{v})$ was chosen as a hyperbolic fixed point of the corresponding map $M^4$. We see that $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle$ and $\langle u^2 \rangle$ essentially coincide up to some time $t=\tau(x_c)$, after which $\langle u^2 \rangle$ stops spreading and there occurs a crossover of $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle$ to an approximate quantum diffusion, $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle \approx 2D(x_c)t$. In the case of $x_c = \pi/2$, this diffusion is shown more clearly by the normal plot of $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle$, in the inset of Fig. 4.

These results can be understood as follows. The irrational value of $h/(2\pi)$ chosen above represents a semiclassical regime in which $h=2\pi\hbar$ is small relative to the area $4\pi a^2$ of a unit cell but large relative to the width $\sim \exp[-\pi^2/\ln(\lambda)]$ of the stochastic web for $K=0.157$ (see classical details in Sec. III). Thus, classical chaos leaves almost no fingerprints in the quantum properties which should then resemble those of the integrable approximation of the system given by the effective Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(x)$, with the stochastic web replaced by its separatrix “skeleton” [21,23]. A classical ensemble of width $\sim \sqrt{2\hbar}$ centered on a hyperbolic fixed point will lie mostly in the stable regions within the unit cells and will spread to its maximal extent (of the order of the size of one unit cell) in a time $t=\tau(x_c)$ roughly proportional to $\ln(1/\hbar)/\ln(\lambda(x_c))$; this agrees with numerical estimates of $\tau(x_c)$ in all cases considered, including those shown in Fig. 4. The quantum wave packet, however, will continue to spread due to tunneling between neighboring unit cells, leading to quantum diffusion [8,9].

Assuming the asymptotic quantum-diffusion behavior of $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle_t$, $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle_t \approx 2D(x_c)t$, to hold approximately for all $x_c$, one finds from Eqs. (13) and (14) that the 2D wave packet (12) can be characterized by a more realistic quantity, its global diffusion coefficient $\overline{D}$, given by a weighted average of $D(x_c)$ over $x_c$:

$$\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle_t = 2D_t, \quad \overline{D} = \int N(x_c)D(x_c)dx_c,$$

where $N(x_c)$ is defined in Eq. (13). The global diffusion (16) will be briefly considered at the end of this section.

C. $x_c$ dependence of the quantum-diffusion coefficient for simple wave packets

We now consider the $x_c$ dependence of the quantum-diffusion coefficient $D$. It is clear from Eq. (12) that this dependence is generally due to that of both $\hat{U}(x_c)$ and the initial wave packet $\varphi(n, x_c)$. For simplicity, we shall restrict ourselves from now on to the class of wave packets for which one has a separation of the $(n, x_c)$ variables, $\varphi(n, x_c) = \chi(x_c)\varphi(n)$, $\chi(x_c)$ and $\varphi(n)$ are assumed to be normalized.

Then, $\varphi(n, x_c) = \chi(x_c)\hat{U}(x_c)/\varphi(n)$, so that $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle_t$ in Eq. (13) is independent of $\chi(x_c)$ and the $x_c$ dependence of $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle_t$ for fixed $\varphi(n)$ is completely due to that of $\hat{U}(x_c)$. This allows one to derive an approximate formula for $D(x_c)$ in the case of $2|\cos(x_c)/\epsilon| \gg 1$. In this case, which covers most values of $x_c$, the effective Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_{\text{eff}} = \hat{H}_0$, where $\hat{H}_0$ is given by Eq. (6). The $t$th power of the approximate evolution operator $\hat{U}_0 = \exp(-i\mu\hat{H}_0)$ can be written as follows:

$$\hat{U}_t^n(x_c) = \exp[2iK\cos(x_c)t(\cos(\dot{u}) + \cos(\ddot{u}))/\hbar].$$

Relation (17) implies that the wave packet $\varphi(n, x_c; t)$ is $\chi(x_c)\varphi(n)$ depends on $K$, $x_c$, and $t$ only through the combination $K\cos(x_c)t$. Thus, if one assumes an asymptotic quantum-diffusive behavior, $\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle_t \approx 2D(x_c)t$, accurately described by $\hat{U}_0$, $D(x_c)$ must be approximately linear in $K\cos(x_c)$:

$$D(x_c) = 2D_{\hbar}^H K\cos(x_c), \quad 2|\cos(x_c)/\epsilon| \gg 1.$$
FIG. 5. Diamonds: numerical results for the quantum-diffusion coefficient $D(x_c)$ (see text for more details). Solid line: least-square fit of formula (18) to the numerical data, $D_H^{(s)}=0.224$.

As a check of formula (18), we have calculated $D(x_c)$ for $\hbar/(2\pi)=[51+\sqrt{(5-1)/2}]^{-1}$, $K=0.157$, and $x_c=k\pi/40$, $k=0,1,\ldots,18$ by a linear fit to $\langle \hat{\varphi}^2 \rangle_t$ ($0<t\leq 10^4$), evolving under the exact operator $\hat{U}(x_c)$. The $u$ representation of the initial wave packet $\psi(n)$ is given by the right-hand side of Eq. (15) with $(\vec{u},\vec{v})=(\pi,0)$, a hyperbolic fixed point for $x_c=0$ [see Fig. 1(a)]. The results, shown in Fig. 5, agree satisfactorily with a least-square fit of the function (18) to the data.

Consider now the case of $x_c=\pi/2$. From the fact that $\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}(\pi/2)=e\hat{H}_1(\pi/2)=O(1)$, one expects, using arguments similar to those leading to formula (18), that $D(\pi/2)$ should be approximately quadratic in $K$. In Table I, we present results concerning the $K$ dependence of $D(0)/K$ and $D(\pi/2)/K^2$. The values of $D(0)$ and $D(\pi/2)$ were calculated by a linear fit to $\langle \hat{\varphi}^2 \rangle_t$ ($0< t \leq 10^4$ for $x_c=0$ and $0< t \leq 10^5$ for $x_c=\pi/2$), evolving under the exact operator (3); for both $x_c=0$ and $x_c=\pi/2$, the initial wave packet is given by the right-hand side of Eq. (15) with $(\vec{u},\vec{v})$ chosen as a hyperbolic fixed point of the corresponding map $M^t$. The results for $D(0)/K$ agree very well with the approximate linearity in $K$ predicted by formula (18). On the other hand, $D(\pi/2)$ appears to decrease faster than $K^2$ as $K$ decreases, which may indicate that high-order corrections to $\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}$ for $x_c=\pi/2$ have a stronger impact than for $x_c=0$. In any case, Table I provides evidence that as $K$ decreases $D(\pi/2)$ becomes significantly smaller than typical values of $D(x_c)$.

We end this section by a brief consideration of the global quantum diffusion (16) in the case of the initial wave packets $\varphi(n,x_c)=\chi(x_c)\psi(n)$. For such a wave packet, formula (18) can be used to calculate approximately the global diffusion coefficient $\bar{D}$, with $N(x_c)=|\chi(x_c)|^2$ in Eqs. (13) and (16). Choosing $N(x_c)$ uniform, $N(x_c)=2/\pi$, for $0 \leq x_c < \pi/2$ and vanishing outside this interval, one finds from Eqs. (16) and (18) that $\bar{D}=4D_H^{(s)}/K^2$.

Much smaller values of $\bar{D}$ are obtained if $N(x_c)$ is strongly localized around $x_c=\pi/2$. Figure 6 shows the time evolution of $\langle \hat{\varphi}^2 \rangle_t$ for $x_c=0$ and $x_c=2\pi/5$ (see Table I). As expected, averaging over $x_c$ removes from $\langle \hat{\varphi}^2 \rangle_t$, much of the fluctuations exhibited by $\langle \hat{\varphi}^2 \rangle_t$ at fixed $x_c$.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Our study of the quantized system (2) for general $x_c$ has revealed the significant impact of the transition $x_c \rightarrow \pi/2$ to a QAR vicinity on the spectral and quantum-diffusion properties in a weak-chaos (small $K$) regime. In this transition, the dominant term in the effective-Hamiltonian expansion (5) changes from $\hat{H}_0$ to $e\hat{H}_1$ in a $x_c$ window of width $\sim \epsilon$ around $x_c=\pi/2$, where $\hat{H}_0$ vanishes. Both $\hat{H}_0(x_c)$ and $\hat{H}_1(\pi/2)$ are Harper Hamiltonians, but $\hat{H}_1(\pi/2)$ is periodic in phase space with a unit cell half the size of that of $\hat{H}_0(x_c)$. As a consequence, the HB for $x_c=\pi/2$ is essentially a perturbed doubled version of the standard HB for the Harper model (see Fig. 3). Thus, as $x_c$ is varied from $0$ to $\pi/2$, there must occur strong changes in the HB structure and the spectral properties (see Fig. 2 and the end of Sec. II), reflecting corresponding changes in the classical web structure due to bifurcations [23] (see Fig. 1). A more detailed investigation of the fingerprints of these bifurcations in the quantum properties is planned for a future work.

The quantum diffusion of wave packets for the system (2) was characterized by a coefficient $D(x_c)$ fixed $x_c$ and by a global coefficient $\bar{D}$. Formula (18) for $D(x_c)$ was derived on the basis of the approximate effective Hamiltonian $\bar{H}_0(x_c)$ and it agrees reasonably well with numerical results for sufficiently small $K$ (see Fig. 5 and Table I). This formula and numerical evidence indicate that $D(x_c)$ is strongly reduced as $x_c \rightarrow \pi/2$: $D(\pi/2)$ appears to be not larger than $O(\epsilon)$ relative to typical values of $D(x_c)$. This phenomenon is of a purely quantum nature but it is analogous to the relatively slow

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
$K$ & 0.15 & 0.157 & 0.17 & 0.18 & 0.19 & 0.2 \\
\hline
$D(0)/K$ & 0.458 & 0.459 & 0.461 & 0.461 & 0.460 & 0.459 \\
$D(\pi/2)/K^2$ & 0.219 & 0.226 & 0.237 & 0.243 & 0.244 & 0.243 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Values of $D(0)/K$ and $D(\pi/2)/K^2$ for several values of $K$.}
\end{table}
classical chaotic diffusion for $x_c = \pi/2$ in a weak-chaos regime [23]. An interesting but apparently difficult problem is to obtain a refined formula for $D(x_c)$, extending the zero-order result (18) to the small $x_c$ window around $x_c = \pi/2$ where higher-order terms in the expansion (5) must be taken into account.

The strong variation of $D(x_c)$ with $x_c$ is exhibited in practice by the global quantum diffusion of a 2D wave packet for all $x_c$. If the potential $\cos(x)$ in Eq. (1) is replaced by $\cos(x - \theta)$, where $\theta$ is an adjustable phase, one can “filter” the wave-packet component associated with an arbitrary value of $x_c = \theta + \pi/2$ as the component having the smallest quantum-diffusion rate. The new quantum phenomena predicted by the realistic, general-$x_c$ approach to (1) may be observed in possible experimental realizations of this system.

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APPENDIX

1. Exact relation between system (2) and KHM and relevant $x_c$ range

The evolution operator (3) for the system (2) in the case of $\alpha = \pi/2$ is equivalent to $\hat{U}'(x_c) = \exp[-i\mu W(\hat{u})] \hat{U}(x_c) \exp[i\mu W(\hat{u})]$, where $W(\hat{u}) = -\cos(x_c - \hat{u})$. One has

$$\hat{U}'(x_c) = \hat{U}_{\text{KHM}}^{(+)} \hat{U}_{\text{KHM}}^{(-)}, \quad (A1)$$

where

$$\hat{U}_{\text{KHM}}^{(+)} = \exp[-i\mu W(\hat{u})] \exp[-i\mu W(\hat{u})]$$

is the one-period evolution operator for the generalized KHM. The Hamiltonian $H = W(x) + W(z) \frac{\sin(x)}{x}$ reduces to the usual KHM Hamiltonian, with $W(\hat{u}) = \cos(\hat{u})$ (up to a sign), only for $x = 0, \pi$. Then, $\hat{U}_{\text{KHM}}^{(+)} = \hat{U}_{\text{KHM}}^{(-)} = \hat{U}_{\text{KHM}}$ and the exact relation $\hat{U}'(x_c) = \hat{U}_{\text{KHM}}^{2}$ follows from Eq. (A1).

The evolution operator (3) satisfies also the similarity relations

$$\hat{U}(x_c + \pi) = \hat{D} \hat{U}(x_c) \hat{D}^{-1}, \quad \hat{U}(x_c) = \hat{S} \hat{U}(x_c) \hat{S}^{-1}, \quad (A2)$$

where

$$\hat{D} = \exp(\pi i \hat{u} / h) \exp(\pi i \hat{u} / h),$$

$$\hat{S} = \exp[-i\mu \cos(x_c + \hat{v})] \exp[-\phi \cos(x_c - \hat{v})].$$

Since $\hat{U}(x_c)$ is $2\pi$-periodic in $x_c$, relations (A2) imply that the range of $x_c$ can be restricted to $[0, \pi/2]$ without loss of generality.

2. Quasienergy band spectrum and some of its basic properties

Using relation (A1), the results in Ref. [17] concerning the quasienergy (QE) band spectra of generalized KHMs can be straightforwardly extended to the operator $\hat{U}'(x_c)$, which is equivalent to the evolution operator $\hat{U}(x_c)$ in Eq. (3) and thus has the same QE spectra as those of $\hat{U}(x_c)$. For $h = 2\pi q/p$ and $p$ are coprime integers, $\hat{U}'(x_c)$ and the phase-space translations $\hat{D}_1 = \exp(2\pi i \hat{u}/h)$ and $\hat{D}_2 = \exp(i\phi \hat{u})$ form a complete set of commuting operators. Their simultaneous eigenstates are given in the $\nu$ representation, by

$$\Psi_{\nu, w, x_c}(v) = \sum_{m=0}^{p-1} \phi_m(m; w; x_c) \exp[in(w_1 + mh)/q] \times \delta(v - w_2 + 2\pi n/p).$$

Here the index $b = 1, \ldots, p$ labels $p$ QE bands; $w = (w_1, w_2)$ is a Bloch wave vector spanning a band and ranging in the “Brillouin zone” $0 \leq w_1 < \nu$, $0 \leq w_2 < 2\pi/p$, and $\{\phi_m(m; w; x_c)\}_{m=0}^{p-1}$, $b = 1, \ldots, p$, are independent vectors of coefficients. The corresponding eigenvalues of $\hat{U}'(x_c)$ are $\exp[-i\mu \nu \exp(i\phi w_1)]$, where $\nu \exp(i\phi w_1)$ is a QE band. It is easy to see that $\hat{U}'(x_c)$ commutes with $\hat{D} = \exp(2\pi i \hat{u}/h)$ and also that $\hat{D}^{-1}_1 = \hat{D}_2$. Then, the $q$ states $\Psi^{(d)}_{\nu, w, x_c} = \hat{D}^{d} \Psi_{\nu, w, x_c}$, $d = 0, \ldots, q-1$, are different eigenstates of $\hat{U}'(x_c)$, all associated with the same eigenvalue. Therefore, each band is $q$-fold degenerate.

The $p$ vectors $\{\exp(i\mu w_2) \phi_m(m; w; x_c)\}_{m=0}^{p-1}$, $b = 1, \ldots, p$, are the eigenvectors of a $p \times p$ w-dependent matrix $M(w; x_c)$,

$$M(w; x_c) = M^{(+)}(w; x_c) M^{(-)}(w; x_c), \quad (A3)$$

where $M^{(+)}(w; x_c)$ and $M^{(-)}(w; x_c)$ are matrices corresponding to the operators $\hat{U}_{\text{KHM}}^{(+)}$ in relation (A1) and whose elements can be explicitly written using the results in Ref. [17]:

$$M_{m,m'}^{(+)}(w; x_c) = \exp[i \mu \cos(x_c + w_1 + m'h)] \times \sum_{p=-\infty}^{\infty} J_{m}(p(m'+m' \pm m'h)) \exp(igpw_2), \quad (A4)$$

where $m, m' = 0, \ldots, p-1$ and $J_m(x)$ is the Bessel function of the first kind. The matrix (A3), and therefore the QE spectrum, is $2\pi$-periodic in $h$ at fixed $\mu$. In addition, the matrix (A3) is invariant under the “reflection” $h \rightarrow 2\pi - h$ at fixed $\mu$ provided $x_c$ and $w_1$ satisfy the two relations

$$x_c + w_1 = x_c + w_1 + 2\pi j, \quad (A5)$$

for some integers $j$. The solution of Eq. (A5) for $x_c$ is $x_c = \pi (j + f)/2$. Since $x_c$ can be restricted to $[0, \pi/2]$ (see Sec. A1), we see that the QE spectrum is invariant under $h \rightarrow 2\pi - h$ at fixed $\mu$ only if $x_c = 0, \pi/2$. 

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3. General quantum evolution in terms of periodic-wave-packet evolutions

Following Ref. [4], let us express the momentum \( v \) in the form \( v = (n + \beta)\hbar \), where \( n \) and \( \beta \) are, respectively, the integer and fractional parts of \( v/\hbar \). The \((v,x)\) representation of a general 2D wave packet \( |\Phi\rangle \) for the system (1) will be then denoted by \( \varphi(n + \beta,x) \). From the relation between the \((u,x)\) and the \((v,x)\) representations, one finds that

\[
\Phi(u,x) = \frac{1}{\hbar} \int \varphi(v/\hbar,x) \exp(iuv/\hbar) dv = \int_0^1 d\beta \exp(\text{i} \beta u) \Phi_\beta(u,x), \quad (A6)
\]

where \( \Phi(u,x) \) is the \((u,x)\) representation of \(|\Phi\rangle \) and

\[
\Phi_\beta(u,x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi(n + \beta,x) \exp(\text{i}nu). \quad (A7)
\]

Clearly, \( \Phi_\beta(u,x) \) is 2\( \pi \)-periodic in \( u \), so that relation (A6) provides the decomposition of \( \Phi(u,x) \) into Bloch functions \( \exp(\text{i}nu) \Phi_\beta(u,x) \) with quasimomentum \( \beta \). Now, since the evolution operator \( \hat{U}(\hat{u},\hat{v};x) \) in Eq. (3) is 2\( \pi \)-periodic in both \( \hat{u} \) and \( \hat{v} \), its application to such a Bloch function must "conserve" \( \beta \); in fact, it is easy to see that

\[
\hat{U}(\hat{u},\hat{v};x)[\exp(\text{i}nu) \Phi_\beta(u,x)] = \exp(\text{i}nu) \Phi'_\beta(u,x), \quad (A8)
\]

where

\[
\Phi'_\beta(u,x) = \hat{U}(\hat{u} = u,\hat{v} = h\beta - \text{i}\hbar \frac{d}{du};x) \Phi_\beta(u,x). \quad (A9)
\]

The right-hand side of Eq. (A8) is also a Bloch function with quasimomentum \( \beta \), since \( \Phi'_\beta(u,x) \) is 2\( \pi \)-periodic in \( u \) due to Eq. (A9). Relation (A6) then implies that the evolution of a general wave packet \( \Phi(u,x) \) under \( \hat{U}(x) \) can be decomposed or "fibrated" [4] into independent evolutions at fixed \( \beta \),

\[
\hat{U}(x) \Phi(u,x) = \int_0^1 d\beta \exp(\text{i}nu) \hat{U}_\beta(x) \Phi_\beta(u,x), \quad (A10)
\]

where \( \hat{U}_\beta(x) \) is the operator appearing on the right-hand side of Eq. (A9). Relation (A10) shows that the quantum dynamics (10) can be fully reproduced from that of periodic wave packets (A7) under the corresponding operators \( \hat{U}_\beta(x) \).

We denote by \( \varphi(v/\hbar,x;\beta,t) = \hat{U}_\beta(x) \varphi(v/\hbar,x) \) the wave packet at time \( t \) in the \((v,x)\) representation and restrict our attention, as in Sec. IV C, to the case in which one has a separation of the \((v,x)\) variables, \( \varphi(v/\hbar,x) = \chi(x) \psi(v/\hbar) \), with normalized \( \chi \) and \( \psi \). The expectation value \( \langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle \), of \( \hat{v}^2 \) in \( \varphi(v/\hbar,x;\beta,t) \) can then be expressed as follows:

\[
\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle = \int v^2 |\psi(v/\hbar,x;\beta,t)|^2 dv = \int_0^1 d\beta N_\beta \langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle_{\beta,t}, \quad (A11)
\]

where \( \psi(v/\hbar,x;\beta,t) = \hat{U}_\beta(x) \psi(v/\hbar) \),

\[
\langle \hat{v}^2 \rangle_{\beta,t} = \frac{\hbar^2}{N_\beta} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (n + \beta)^2 |\varphi(n + \beta,x;\beta,t)|^2, \quad (A12)
\]

and \( \varphi(n + \beta,x;\beta,t) = \hat{U}_\beta(x) \varphi(n + \beta) \). We notice that the expressions (A11) and (A12) are independent of \( \chi(x) \) and their \( x \) dependence is completely due to that of \( \hat{U}(x) \) or \( \hat{U}_\beta(x) \).

Fully analogous expressions can be written for the expectation values \( \langle \hat{v}_x^2 \rangle \) and \( \langle \hat{v}_y^2 \rangle \), where \( y \) is the quasimomentum characterizing Bloch functions 2\( \pi \)-quasiperiodic in the \( v \) direction. Let us now assume approximate quantum diffusions of \( \langle \hat{v}_x^2 \rangle_{\beta,t} \) and \( \langle \hat{v}_y^2 \rangle_{\gamma,t} \) for all \( (\beta,x) \), \( (\gamma,x) \), and for sufficiently large \( t \), i.e., \( \langle \hat{v}_x^2 \rangle_{\beta,t} \approx 2D_{\beta,x}(x) t \) and \( \langle \hat{v}_y^2 \rangle_{\gamma,t} \approx 2D_{\gamma,x}(x) t \). The expectation value of the kinetic energy then exhibits the approximate diffusive behavior \( \langle \omega^2 (\hat{u}^2 + \hat{v}^2)/2 \rangle = 2D_{\text{KE}}(x) t \), where

\[
D_{\text{KE}}(x) = (\omega^2/2) \left[ \int_0^1 d\beta N_\beta D_{\beta,x} + \int_0^1 d\gamma N_\gamma D_{\gamma,x} \right].
\]

Following the same reasoning as in the case of \( \beta = 0 \) considered in Sec. IV C, the diffusion coefficients \( D_{\beta,x}(x) \), \( D_{\gamma,x}(x) \), and \( D_{\text{KE}}(x) \) for sufficiently small \( K \) are expected to satisfy approximately formula (18) with \( D^{(a)}_{\beta,x} \) replaced by corresponding proportionality constants \( D^{(a)}_{\beta,x} \) and

\[
D^{(a)}_{\text{KE}} = (\omega^2/2) \left[ \int_0^1 d\beta N_\beta D^{(a)}_{\beta,x} + \int_0^1 d\gamma N_\gamma D^{(a)}_{\gamma,x} \right].
\]

4. Cases in which \( D^{(a)}_{\beta,x} = D^{(a)}_{\gamma,x} \)

We show here that there are cases in which \( D^{(a)}_{\beta,x} = D^{(a)}_{\gamma,x} \) (similarly, one can show that there are cases in which \( D^{(a)}_{\beta,y} = D^{(a)}_{\gamma,y} \)). The constants \( D^{(a)}_{\beta,x} \) and \( D^{(a)}_{\gamma,x} \) are the diffusion coefficients for \( \langle \hat{v}_x^2 \rangle_{\beta,t} \) under the standard Harper evolution operator \( \hat{U}_\beta = \exp(\text{i}[\cos(\hat{u}) + \cos(\hat{v})]/\hbar) \) and its inverse \( \hat{U}_\beta^{-1} \), respectively. In the \( u \) representation,

\[
\hat{U}_\beta(u) = \exp\left(\frac{\text{i}}{\hbar} \left[ \cos(u) + \cos\left(\hbar \frac{d}{du} \right) \right] \right). \quad (A13)
\]

Consider the Bloch state \( \Lambda_\beta(u) = \exp(\text{i}\beta u) \Phi(u) \), where \( \Phi(u) \) is given by the right-hand side of Eq. (15), and define the variable \( u' = 2u - u \). It is easy to see that
\[ \Lambda_{\beta}(u) = C \Lambda_{\beta}^{*}(u'), \quad (A14) \]

where \( C = \exp[2i\bar{u}(\bar{u} + \beta)/\hbar] \) is a constant phase factor. Choosing now \( \bar{u} = j\pi, j \text{ integer} \), and using relations (A13) and (A14), we find that

\[ \Lambda_{\beta}(u; -t) = \hat{U}_{H}^{t}(u) \Lambda_{\beta}(u) = C \left[ \hat{U}_{H}(u) \Lambda_{\beta}(u') \right]^{*} = C \Lambda_{\beta}^{*}(u'; t). \quad (A15) \]

It follows from relation (A15) that

\[ \langle \dot{\phi}^{2} \rangle_{\beta, t} = -\hbar^{2} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \frac{d^{2}}{du^{2}} \Lambda_{\beta}(u; -t) du. \]

\[ = \langle \dot{\phi}^{2} \rangle_{\beta, t} = \langle \dot{\phi}^{2} \rangle_{\beta, t}, \quad (A16) \]

since \( \langle \dot{\phi}^{2} \rangle_{\beta, t} \) must be real (and positive). The equality \( D_{H, \beta}^{(+)} = |D_{H, \beta}^{(-)}| \) is an immediate consequence of relation (A16).


[27] The spectral width \( \Delta E'(\pi) \) of \( \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}/\epsilon \) can be calculated exactly by diagonalizing a simple 2 \times 2 matrix (A3) with (A4), while \( \Delta E'(2\pi) \) is the width of the single band of \( \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}/\epsilon = \hat{H}_{1} + \epsilon \hat{H}_{2} + \cdots \) for \( h=2\pi \). Since \( \epsilon = 0 \) for \( h=2\pi \), \( \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}/\epsilon \) is exactly equal to \( \hat{H}_{1} \), the Harper Hamiltonian (7) for which \( \Delta E'(2\pi) = 4 \), independent of \( \mu \).