Geometrical method of decoupling

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The computation of tunes and matched beam distributions are essential steps in the analysis of circular accelerators. If certain symmetries—like midplane symmetry—are present, then it is possible to treat the betatron motion in the horizontal, the vertical plane, and (under certain circumstances) the longitudinal motion separately using the well-known Courant-Snyder theory, or to apply transformations that have been described previously as, for instance, the method of Teng and Edwards. In a preceding paper, it has been shown that this method requires a modification for the treatment of isochronous cyclotrons with non-negligible space charge forces. Unfortunately, the modification was numerically not as stable as desired and it was still unclear, if the extension would work for all conceivable cases. Hence, a systematic derivation of a more general treatment seemed advisable. In a second paper, the author suggested the use of real Dirac matrices as basic tools for coupled linear optics and gave a straightforward recipe to decouple positive definite Hamiltonians with imaginary eigenvalues. In this article this method is generalized and simplified in order to formulate a straightforward method to decouple Hamiltonian matrices with eigenvalues on the real and the imaginary axis. The decoupling of symplectic matrices which are exponenitals of such Hamiltonian matrices can be deduced from this in a few steps. It is shown that this algebraic decoupling is closely related to a geometric “decoupling” by the orthogonalization of the vectors $\hat{E}$, $\hat{B}$, and $\hat{P}$, which were introduced with the so-called “electromechanical equivalence.” A mathematical analysis of the problem can be traced down to the task of finding a structure-preserving block diagonalization of symplectic or Hamiltonian matrices. Structure preservation means in this context that the sequences of transformations must be symplectic and hence canonical. When used iteratively, the decoupling algorithm can also be applied to $n$-dimensional systems and requires $O(n^2)$ iterations to converge to a given precision.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The significance of the symplectic groups in Hamiltonian dynamics has been emphasized for instance by Dragt [1], and it has long been known [2] that the Dirac matrices are generators of the symplectic group $Sp(4,R)$. In Ref. [3] the author presented a toolbox for the treatment of two coupled harmonic oscillators that is based on the use of the real Dirac matrices (RDMs) as generators of the symplectic group $Sp(4,R)$ and a systematic survey of symplectic transformations in two dimensions. This toolbox enabled the development of a straightforward recipe for the decoupling of positive definite two-dimensional harmonic oscillators. Here we present an improvement of the method that is based on geometric arguments, i.e., on the orthogonalization of three-dimensional vectors associated via the electromechanical equivalence (EMEQ) to certain linear combinations of matrix elements.

There is a long history of publications covering the diagonalization (and related) problems in linear algebra as well as in linear coupled optics, linear Hamiltonian dynamics, and control theory. A (nonexhaustive) list is given in the bibliography (see Refs. [4–20], but also Refs. [3,21] and references therein). However, none of the previous works (known to the author) takes full advantage of the group structure of the generators of $Sp(4)$. The conceptually closest approach uses “quaternions,” the representations of which seem to be identical to the RDMs [22], but seem to be limited to orthogonal symplectic transformations. The decoupling method of Teng and Edwards has been the starting point for this work, as it turned out to fail in some special cases (see Ref. [21] and Appendix D).

The method that we present here is based on a survey of all symplectic similarity transformations. We do not make specific assumptions about the Hamiltonian other than that it is a symmetric quadratic form and we present a geometric interpretation via the EMEQ, which provides a physical notation of otherwise complicated and nondescriptive algebraic expressions.¹ Furthermore, we believe that the use of the EMEQ is an interesting example of how elements of

¹Compare for instance Ref. [23].
classical physics, quantum mechanics, special relativity, electrodynamics, group theory, geometric algebra, statistics [24], and last but not least symplectic theory fit together and allow one to use a common formalism.

The simplest classical linear dynamical system with interaction (coupling) has 2 degrees of freedom and, hence, a four-dimensional phase space. It can be considered as “fundamental” and a detailed analysis of its properties will likely be instructive also for $n > 2$. Indeed it turns out that the decoupling technique of a two-dimensional system can be iteratively applied to systems with more than 2 degrees of freedom. A Jacobi-like iteration with pivot search is sketched in Sec. V C.

From the viewpoint of coupled linear optics, the problem is solved if a symplectic transformation is derived that transforms (constant) Hamiltonian matrices to $2 \times 2$-block-diagonal form (see below). It has been shown in Ref. [3] that the same transformation method can be applied to symplectic matrices as well. The arguments will be briefly reported below. When applied to symplectic matrices, the method is equivalent to the computation of the matrix logarithm. A solution for the counterpart, i.e., the computation of the matrix exponential with emphasis on the use of Dirac matrices, has been presented by Barut, Zeni, and Laufer in 1994 [25].

If $2 \times 2$-block-diagonal form has been achieved, the remaining task is completely analogous to the application of the Courant-Snyder theory for 1 degree of freedom. Nevertheless some arguments require awareness of the eigenvalues and their relation to the properties of the Dirac matrices so that a reference to a complete diagonalization seemed appropriate.

II. COUPLED LINEAR OPTICS

The Hamiltonian of an $n$-dimensional harmonic oscillator with arbitrary coupling terms can be written in the form

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \psi^T A \psi,$$

where $A$ is a symmetric matrix and $\psi$ is a state vector or “spinor” of the form $\psi = (q_1, p_1, q_2, p_2, \ldots, q_n, p_n)^T$. Even though the matrix $A$ is time dependent in the general case, it is well-known practice to use the Floquet transformation to reduce it to a constant matrix for the treatment of periodic systems (see Appendix B in Ref. [3]). The symplectic unit matrix (usually labeled $J$ or $S$) is a skew-symmetric matrix that squares to the identity matrix. For $n = 2$ it is identified with the real Dirac matrix $\gamma_0$. As described in Ref. [3], it is possible to freely choose the order of the variables in the state vector. However, the order of the variables fixes the form of the symplectic unit matrix $\gamma_0$. For $n = 2$, this also follows from the fundamental theorem of the Dirac matrices (see for instance Refs. [2,28]).

ordering system in which the phase space coordinates $(q_i, p_i)$ are grouped as pairs of canonical conjugate variables, so that $\gamma_0$ has the form

$$\gamma_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \ldots & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$  (2)

Using the overdot to indicate the derivative with respect to time (or path length), the equations of motion have the familiar form,

$$\dot{q}_i = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_i}, \quad \dot{p}_i = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q_i},$$

or in vector notation,

$$\dot{\psi} = \gamma_0 \nabla_{\psi} H = F \psi,$$

where the force matrix $F$ is given as

$$F = \gamma_0 A.$$  (5)

From the definition of $F$, one quickly finds that [26,27]

$$F^T = \gamma_0 F \gamma_0,$$  (6)

where the superscript “$T$” denotes the transposed matrix. Matrices that obey Eq. (6) are usually called “infinitesimally symplectic” or “Hamiltonian” [26]. Both terms are—in the opinion of the author—misleading: the former because $F$ is neither symplectic nor is it infinitesimal, the latter since $F$ does not appear in the Hamiltonian while the symmetric matrix $A$ does. In addition $A$ and not $F$ is in the view of the author the classical counterpart of the Hamiltonian operator (see Appendix A in Ref. [3]). Furthermore, Eq. (6) is a purely formal property and not necessarily connected to a Hamiltonian. Therefore the author decided to use the term “symplex” (plural “symplexes”) when referring to its formal definition [i.e., Eq. (6)] and its relation to the symplectic transfer matrix and to call it “force matrix” when referring to its physical content—especially with respect to the EMEQ (see Ref. [3] and below). Accordingly we speak of an antisymplex or co-symplex (i.e., “skew-Hamiltonian” matrix), if a matrix $C$ fulfills the equation

$$C^T = -\gamma_0 C \gamma_0.$$  (7)

If we write $S$ ($C$) for (co)symplexes, respectively, optionally with a subscript, then it is easy to prove that

$$S_1 S_2 - S_2 S_1 \quad C_1 C_2 = C_2 C_1 \quad \Rightarrow \text{symplex}$$

$$C S = SC,$$

and
A. Dirac matrices

In the following we focus on 2 degrees of freedom \((n = 2)\), i.e., to a four-dimensional phase space and the use of the real Dirac matrices to describe its dynamics and transformation properties. Often the term “Dirac matrices” is used more restrictively and designates only four matrices, namely \(\gamma_k\), \(k \in \{0 \ldots 3\}\). Here we consider the four basic Dirac matrices as the four basic elements of a Clifford algebra \(Cl(3, 1)\) with 16 elements derived from the basic matrices (see Appendix A). For further details, see for instance Refs. [29–31].

Any real \(4 \times 4\) matrix \(M\) can be written as a linear combination of the RDMs:

\[
M = \sum_{k=0}^{15} m_k \gamma_k. 
\]

The RDM coefficients \(m_k\) are given by \(^3\)

\[
m_k = \text{Tr}(\gamma_k^2)\text{Tr}\left(\frac{M\gamma_k + \gamma_k M}{32}\right), \tag{11}
\]

where \(\text{Tr}(X)\) is the trace of the matrix \(X\). Only the first ten RDMs are symplices and since symplices obey the superposition principle \([1,3,27]\), any force matrix (symplex) can be written as

\[
F = \sum_{k=0}^{9} f_k \gamma_k. \tag{12}
\]

The solution of Eq. (4) is known to be

\[
\psi(s) = \exp(Fs)\psi(0), \tag{13}
\]

where the matrix

\[
M = \exp(Fs) \tag{14}
\]

is called transfer matrix, which can be shown to fulfill the symplectic condition, if \(F\) is a symplex \([1,3,27]\):

\[
M\gamma_0 M^T = \gamma_0. \tag{15}
\]

Vice versa it is known that symplectic matrices can be written in the form of Eq. (14) \([26,27]\).

Transfer matrices can be split into two parts, one \((M_x)\) being a symplex, the other \((M_c)\) being a cosymplex \([3,32]\):

\[
M_c = (M - \gamma_0 M^T \gamma_0)/2, \quad M_s = (M + \gamma_0 M^T \gamma_0)/2, \tag{16}
\]

which is in case of a symplectic matrix \(M\) identical to \(M = (M + M^{-1})/2\). \(M_s\) is in case of imaginary eigenvalues, the corresponding degree of freedom \([i.e., \text{pair } (q_i, p_i)]\) is stable (or focused), while a pair of real eigenvalues belongs to an unstable (nonfocused) degree of freedom. The corresponding betatron motion is unstable in the sense that no sufficient focusing is present.

However, in the general coupled case without further assumptions, \(F\) is a general \(4 \times 4\) symplex (or larger). Using the RDMs it is relatively easy to construct matrices with complex eigenvalues. An example is

\[
F = E_x \gamma_4 + B_x \gamma_7, \tag{19}
\]

which has the complex eigenvalues \(\pm i(B_x \pm iE_x)\). Since the eigenvalues are complex, also the \(2 \times 2\) blocks are complex. They can be block diagonalized, but the generalization to the \(2n \times 2n\) case requires a general treatment of the complex case, which goes beyond the scope of this paper.

\[^3\]Equation (11) is based on the fact that all RDMs except the unit matrix have zero trace.
As in Ref. [3] the author speaks of regular or massive systems, if the Hamiltonian is positive definite and of irregular or magnetic systems in the case of indefinite Hamiltonian, respectively. Both types may be stable or unstable and this distinction should not be confused with the question of stability. A detailed discussion of stability would go beyond the scope of this paper and we refer the reader for instance to Ref. [27] or Ref. [22] and references therein.

A. The S matrix

The matrix of second moments $\sigma$ of a charged particle distribution,

$$\sigma = \langle \psi \psi^T \rangle,$$

(20)

has the time derivative

$$\dot{\sigma} = F \sigma + \sigma F^T.$$  

(21)

Multiplication from the left with $S$ leads to

$$\dot{S} = FS - SF,$$  

(22)

where the matrix $S$ is defined by

$$S = \sigma \gamma_0.$$  

(23)

If Eq. (23) is compared to Eq. (5), then it is obvious that $S$ is also a symplex as it is also the product of a symmetric and a skew-symmetric matrix and obeys Eq. (6). From Eqs. (13), (14), and (20) it follows that

$$\sigma(s) = M(s)\sigma(0)M^T(s).$$  

(24)

The second moments of a matched distribution are unchanged after one turn (or sector) of period $L$ so that $\sigma(L) = \sigma(0)$ so that one obtains in a few steps:\footnote{See common textbooks on linear Hamiltonian dynamics or Ref. [3].}

$$MS - SM = 0.$$  

(25)

B. The eigensystems and matching

Hence, one finds that the matrices $M$, $F$, and $S$ have the same eigenvectors—but in general different eigenvalues [33,34]:

$$F = E \Lambda E^{-1} \quad M = E \Lambda E^{-1} \quad S = E \Lambda \gamma E^{-1},$$  

(26)

where [34]

$$\lambda = \text{Diag}(i\omega_1, -i\omega_1, i\omega_2, -i\omega_2),$$

$$\Lambda = \text{Diag}(e^{i\omega_1}, e^{-i\omega_1}, e^{i\omega_2}, e^{-i\omega_2}),$$

$$D = \text{Diag}(-ie_1, ie_1, -ie_2, ie_2).$$  

(27)

$\omega_i$ are the oscillation frequencies and $\epsilon_i$ the emittances. If $E$ is known, the second moments of the matched distribution can be computed by replacing the eigenfrequencies by the emittances. If a symplectic transformation $R$ is known, that brings $F$ (and hence $S$ and $M$) to block-diagonal form, then one can simply use the usual Courant-Snyder theory for one-dimensional systems [35]. In this case an explicit computation of the eigenvectors is not required.

IV. THE ELECTROMECHANICAL EQUIVALENCE

It was shown in Ref. [3] that the ten coefficients of the force matrix $F$ or the $S$ matrix can be identified with energy $E$ and momentum $\tilde{P}$ of a particle and with electric and magnetic field ($\tilde{E}$ and $\tilde{B}$, respectively) seen by a charged particle in external fields. The meaning of this identification is that the corresponding coefficients of $F$ or $S$ transform under symplectic transformations in the exact same way as the fields and the momentum transform under the corresponding boosts and rotations.

It was also shown that the envelope equations of coupled linear optics are isomorphic to the Lorentz force equation. The Lorentz group was found to be a subset of the two-dimensional symplectic group. The so-defined “fields” ($\tilde{E}$ and $\tilde{B}$) of the EMEQ should not be confused with the real fields of the beam line elements or accelerator components.

This isomorphism has been named electromechanical equivalence (EMEQ). The ten possible symplectic transformations are identified with spatial and phase rotations, Lorentz boosts, and so-called “phase boosts.” The transformation properties are analogous to those in Minkowski space-time.

This structural analogy is the basic idea behind the electromechanical equivalence (EMEQ). Naturally, $\gamma_0$ is associated with the timelike components of 4-vectors (i.e. energy), the spatial matrices $\tilde{\gamma} = (\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3)^T$ are associated with the momentum, the matrices $\gamma_0 \tilde{\gamma}$ with the electric field, and $\gamma_1 \gamma_0 \gamma_2 \gamma_3$ with the magnetic field. The pseudoscalar has been named $\gamma_{14} = \gamma_0 \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \gamma_3$ (instead of $\gamma_5$, as convention in QED). The remaining six matrices are $\gamma_{10}$, which is the time component of the pseudovector, $\gamma_{11}, \gamma_{12}, \gamma_{13} = \gamma_{14} \tilde{\gamma}$ are the spatial components of the pseudovector and $\gamma_{15} = 1$ is the unit matrix. A complete list is given in Appendix A; further details in Ref. [3] and in textbooks on quantum electrodynamics.

The EMEQ is given by the following nomenclature:

$$E = f_0, \quad \tilde{P} = (f_1, f_2, f_3)^T,$$

$$\tilde{E} = (f_4, f_5, f_6)^T, \quad \tilde{B} = (f_7, f_8, f_9)^T,$$

with the $f_k$ given by Eq. (12). Using the EMEQ, the eigenvalues of $F$ [Eqs. (26) and (27)] can be expressed by
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\[ K_1 = \varepsilon^2 + \vec{B}^2 - \vec{E}^2 - \vec{P}^2, \]
\[ K_2 = -2\varepsilon\vec{P} \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{B}) + \varepsilon^2\vec{B}^2 + \vec{E}^2\vec{P}^2 - (\vec{E} \cdot \vec{P})^2 - (\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B})^2 - (\vec{P} \cdot \vec{B})^2 \]
\[ = (\varepsilon\vec{B} + \vec{E} \times \vec{P})^2 - (\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B})^2 - (\vec{P} \cdot \vec{B})^2, \]
\[ \omega_1 = \sqrt{K_1 + 2\sqrt{K_2}}, \quad \omega_2 = \sqrt{K_1 - 2\sqrt{K_2}}, \]
\[ \text{Det} (\mathbf{F}) = K_1^2 - 4K_2. \]

Force matrices of stable systems have purely imaginary eigenvalues [36], so that for stable systems one has \( K_2 > 0 \) and \( K_1 > 2\sqrt{K_2} \).

Using the notation of the EMEQ a general symplex \( \mathbf{F} \) is given explicitly by
\[
\mathbf{F} = \begin{pmatrix}
-E_x & E_z + B_y & E_y - B_z & B_x \\
E_z - B_y & E_x & -B_x & -E_z - B_y \\
E_y + B_z & B_x & E_z & -E_y - B_z \\
-B_y & -E_z + B_x & E_z + B_y & -E_y
\end{pmatrix}
\]
\[ + \begin{pmatrix}
-P_z & -E - P_x & 0 & P_y \\
-E - P_x & P_z & P_y & 0 \\
0 & P_y & -P_z & E + P_x \\
P_y & 0 & -E + P_x & P_z
\end{pmatrix}. \]

Note that \( \mathbf{F} \) is block diagonal, if \( B_x = B_z = E_y = P_y = 0 \).

V. DECOUPLING OF TWO-DIMENSIONAL SYSTEMS

A. The geometrical approach

In the following we describe a geometrical approach of decoupling that is inspired by the observation, that in the decoupled force matrix, the scalar products \( \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \) and \( \vec{P} \cdot \vec{B} \) vanish [3]. In Hamiltonian form [see Eq. (38) below], also the product \( \vec{P} \cdot \vec{E} \) is zero and only the components \( \varepsilon, P_x, E_z, \) and \( B_y \) remain. It is therefore instructive to analyze the symplectic transformation properties of these scalar products. The product \( \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \) is known to be invariant under rotations and Lorentz boosts. Formally it is a pseudoscalar in contrast to the scalar component representing the mass. Hence, one might loosely speak of “mass components” and use the abbreviations:
\[ M_r = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}, \quad M_g = \vec{B} \cdot \vec{P}, \quad M_b = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{P}. \]

The mass components are invariant under spatial rotations. We may therefore proceed with phase rotations and boosts. We introduce the following auxiliary vectors:
\[ \vec{\gamma} = \varepsilon \vec{P} + \vec{B} \times \vec{E}, \quad \vec{g} = \varepsilon \vec{E} + \vec{P} \times \vec{B}, \]
\[ \vec{b} = \varepsilon \vec{B} + \vec{E} \times \vec{P}, \]
so that \( K_2 \) from Eq. (29) can be written as
\[ K_2 = \vec{b}^2 - M_r^2 - M_g^2. \]

It is easy to see that \( \vec{g}, \vec{r}, \) and \( \vec{b} \) transform under spatial rotations just like usual vectors. It is also quite obvious that the vector \( \vec{g} \) equals the usual Lorentz force and the vector \( \vec{b} \) equals the “Lorentz force” of a particle with magnetic charge, as the role of \( \vec{E} \) and \( \vec{B} \) is exchanged compared to \( \vec{g} \) in the algebraic way that corresponds to a duality rotation through an angle of \( \frac{\pi}{2} \) [3].

One finds the following products:
\[ \vec{g}^2 = -2\varepsilon\vec{P} \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{B}) + \varepsilon^2\vec{E}^2 + \vec{B}^2\vec{P}^2 - M_g^2, \]
\[ \vec{r}^2 = -2\varepsilon\vec{P} \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{B}) + \varepsilon^2\vec{P}^2 + \vec{B}^2\vec{E}^2 - M_r^2, \]
\[ \vec{b}^2 = -2\varepsilon\vec{P} \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{B}) + \varepsilon^2\vec{B}^2 + \vec{E}^2\vec{P}^2 - M_b^2. \]

We introduce the following abbreviations for a better readability:
\[ c = \cos (\varepsilon), \quad s = \sin (\varepsilon), \quad c_2 = \cos (2\varepsilon), \]
\[ s_2 = \sin (2\varepsilon), \quad C = \cosh (\varepsilon), \quad S = \sinh (\varepsilon), \quad (35) \]
\[ C_2 = \cosh (2\varepsilon), \quad S_2 = \sinh (2\varepsilon). \]

The phase rotation generated by \( \gamma_0 \) yields
\[ \vec{g}' = \vec{g}c + \vec{r}s, \quad \vec{r}' = \vec{r}c - \vec{g}s, \quad \vec{b}' = \vec{b}. \]

The transformation of the mass components is listed in Table I. From the discussion of the normal form of the force matrix in Ref. [3] it follows that decoupling to block-diagonal form is done by a transformation that makes \( P_x = E_y = B_z = 0. \) Geometrically this means that \( \vec{B} \) has to be aligned along the \( y \) axis and the vectors \( \vec{P} \) and \( \vec{E} \) should be in the plane perpendicular to \( \vec{B}. \) In a first step, the decoupling of a two-dimensional harmonic oscillator requires the (partial) orthogonalization of the (three-dimensional) “vectors” \( \vec{E}, \vec{B}, \) and \( \vec{P}: \)

| \( M_r' \) | \( M_g' \) | \( M_b' \) |
|---|---|---|
| \( M_r \gamma_0 + M_g \gamma_1 + M_b \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 + \gamma_4 + \gamma_5 + \gamma_6 \) | \( M_g \gamma_0 - M_r \gamma_1 + M_b \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 + \gamma_4 + \gamma_5 + \gamma_6 \) | \( M_b \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 + \gamma_4 + \gamma_5 + \gamma_6 \) |

| \( \gamma_0 \) | \( \gamma_1 \) | \( \gamma_2 \) | \( \gamma_3 \) | \( \gamma_4 \) | \( \gamma_5 \) | \( \gamma_6 \) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| \( M_r \) | \( M_g \) | \( M_b \) | \( \gamma_0 \) | \( \gamma_1 \) | \( \gamma_2 \) | \( \gamma_3 \) |
| \( M_r \gamma_0 + M_g \gamma_1 + M_b \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 + \gamma_4 + \gamma_5 + \gamma_6 \) | \( M_g \gamma_0 - M_r \gamma_1 + M_b \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 + \gamma_4 + \gamma_5 + \gamma_6 \) | \( M_b \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 + \gamma_4 + \gamma_5 + \gamma_6 \) |
\[ M_r = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \to 0, \quad M_g = \vec{P} \cdot \vec{B} \to 0, \quad (37) \]

which can be interpreted as a geometrical “decoupling.” The alignment of \( \vec{B} \) along the y axis in a second step is simple. A transformation to what we call Hamiltonian form,

\[ F_d = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \alpha & 0 & 0 \\ -\beta & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \gamma \\ 0 & 0 & -\delta & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (38) \]

requires additionally to make \( E_x = P_z = 0 \), which can again be done in two steps, orthogonalization

\[ M_b = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{P} \to 0, \quad (39) \]

and subsequent alignment of \( \vec{E} \) and \( \vec{P} \). The general form of symplectic transformations has been described in some detail in Ref. [3]; here we give only a brief summary. A symplectic transformation matrix \( R_b \) is generated by a basic symplex \( \gamma_b \) with \( b \in \{0 \ldots 9\} \) and controlled by a parameter \( \varepsilon \):

\[ R_b = \exp \left( \gamma_b \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right), \quad R_b^{-1} = \exp \left( -\gamma_b \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right), \quad (40) \]

The effect of a basic symplex \( \gamma_b \) depends on its “signature,” which is positive for symmetric and negative for skew symmetric \( \gamma_b \):

\[ R_b = \begin{cases} 1 \cos(\varepsilon/2) + \gamma_b \sin(\varepsilon/2) & \text{for } \gamma_b^2 = -1 \\ 1 \cosh(\varepsilon/2) + \gamma_b \sinh(\varepsilon/2) & \text{for } \gamma_b^2 = 1, \end{cases} \quad (41) \]

where the bold printed 1 is the unit matrix. Note that transformations with \( \gamma_b^2 = -1 \) are called rotations (boosts), respectively. Explicitly, \( \gamma_b \) is the generator of a “phase rotation,” \( \gamma_b \) with \( b \in \{7, 8, 9\} \) are “spatial rotations” with respect to the x, y, and z axis, and \( \gamma_b \) with \( b \in \{4, 5, 6\} \) generate “Lorentz boosts” with respect to the x, y, and z axes. The “phase boosts” generated by \( \gamma_b \) with \( b \in \{1, 2, 3\} \) are combinations of phase rotations and Lorentz boosts. The parameter \( \varepsilon \) is called “angle” in case of rotations and “rapidity” in case of boosts. As the decoupling requires a sequence of transformations, we emphasize that the RDM coefficients have to be updated according to Eq. (11) after each transformation.

Inspection of Table I shows that a straightforward strategy is the following: (i) \( M_g \to 0 \): make a phase rotation generated by \( \gamma_0 \) with angle \( \varepsilon = \arctan(M_g/M_r) \)—this will always work independent on the size of \( M_g \); (ii) \( \vec{b} \to \vec{b} \varepsilon_y \): align the vector \( \vec{b} \) along the y axis by the spatial rotations with \( R_y \) and an angle of \( \varepsilon = \arctan(b_y/b_z) \) with \( R_0 \) through an angle of \( \varepsilon = -\arctan(b_y/b_z) \)—such rotations can always be done; (iii) \( M_r \to 0 \): boost using \( \gamma_2 \) and angle \( \varepsilon = \arctan(M_r/M_g) \).

The last transformation is only possible if \( |M_r| < |b| = |\vec{b}| \):

\[ (\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B})^2 \leq -2\varepsilon \vec{P} \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{B}) + \varepsilon^2 \vec{B}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \vec{P}^2 - (\vec{E} \cdot \vec{P})^2. \quad (42) \]

The first transformations result in \( \vec{P} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \), so that Eq. (42) is identical to the requirement that \( K_2 \geq 0 \) [see Eq. (29)]. This means that the eigenvalues are either located on the real or imaginary axis, but not off axis in the complex plane. If this condition is fulfilled, then the vector components \( (\vec{g})_y, (\vec{g})_z, (\vec{b})_x, \) and \( (\vec{b})_y \) are zero after the decoupling transformations have been applied.

That is, we found a symplectic decoupling algorithm for both systems with purely imaginary eigenvalues, which are called “strongly” stable [36], and unfocused systems with purely real eigenvalues. That the algorithm works in both cases equally well, is important for instance in the case of transverse-longitudinal coupling with space charge in cyclotrons [21].

We continue the discussion of force matrices with eigenvalues off axis in the complex plane in Sec. V B and assume for now that \( K_2 > 0 \). Using the abbreviations,

\[ M_x = \sqrt{M_r^2 + M_g^2}, \quad b_{yz} = \sqrt{b_x^2 + b_z^2}, \quad (43) \]

the RDM coefficients of the block-diagonal (decoupled) force matrix are given by

\[ \varepsilon' = \varepsilon \sqrt{1 - \frac{M_x^2}{b_{yz}}, \quad (44) \]

\[ P_x' = \frac{P_x M_x - E_1 M_g \sqrt{b_{yz}^2 - M_g^2}}{b_{yz}}, \quad (45) \]

\[ P_z' = \sqrt{b_{yz}^2 - M_g^2} \left( M_g (b_z E_x - b_y E_z) + M_x (b_y P_z - b_x P_y) \right), \quad (46) \]

\[ E_x' = \frac{b_y (M_x E_x + M_g P_y) - \varepsilon b_x M_g}{M_x b_{yz}}, \quad (47) \]

\[ E_y' = \frac{M_x (b_x E_x - b_y E_z) + M_g (b_y P_z - b_x P_y)}{M_x b_{yz}}, \quad (48) \]

\[ B_y' = \frac{\varepsilon b_z B_z - \vec{P} \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{B})}{|\vec{b}|}, \quad B_x' = B_x = E_y' = P_y' = 0. \quad (49) \]

In order to bring the block-diagonal force matrix to Hamiltonian form, one may apply the following transformations: (i) \( M_b \to 0 \): use another phase rotation with \( \gamma_0 \) with \( \varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \arctan(2M_b/E \pm \vec{P}) \); (ii) \( P_z \to 0 \): use rotation about the y axis with \( \gamma_8 \) with \( \varepsilon = -\arctan(P_z/E) \).

After these two rotations, the matrix has Hamiltonian form, if \( K_2 > 0 \) holds. In charged particle optics this is
usually the case and therefore we consider this method as a generally applicable decoupling algorithm.

**B. Complex eigenvalues**

Even though the problem of complex eigenvalues has not yet been solved for the general $2n \times 2n$ case, it is possible to give a solution for the $4 \times 4$ case as we are going to describe here. The more general case of arbitrary $2n \times 2n$ sympliﬁcs with arbitrary (complex) eigenvalues can presumably be solved by a block diagonalization with $4 \times 4$ blocks for each set of complex conjugate eigenvalues and $2 \times 2$ blocks for each pair of real or imaginary eigenvalues.

If $K_2 < 0$ the eigenvalues are complex and a block diagonalization with $2 \times 2$ blocks is not possible (within the reals). However, a simpliﬁcation of the matrix is possible with the aim that the RDM coefﬁcients of the transformed matrix have the following structure:

\[
P_x = 0, \quad P_y = 0, \quad P_z = 0, \quad E_x = 0,
\]

\[
B_x = 0, \quad B_y = 0, \quad E \neq 0, \quad E_y \neq 0, \quad (45)
\]

\[
B_y \neq 0, \quad E = 0, \quad M = 0, \quad M_b = 0,
\]

so that one ﬁnds $\vec{g} = 0$ and $\vec{b} = 0$ and the auxiliary vector $\vec{r}$ has only a single nonvanishing component $r_x$. We distinguish two cases, the ﬁrst with $\mathcal{E}^2 > \text{Max}(\vec{P}^2, \vec{E}^2)$ and the second with $\mathcal{E}^2 > \text{Min}(\vec{P}^2, \vec{E}^2)$. In both cases the goal is to let “energy” and “momentum” vanish by appropriate Lorentz or phase boosts. Then one may align $\vec{B}$ along the $y$ axis and rotate about the $y$ axis to make $E_x = 0$. Then the conditions of Eq. (45) are fulﬁlled.

1. The low energy case

The decoupling strategy for the ﬁrst case, i.e., for $\mathcal{E}^2 < \text{Max}(\vec{P}^2, \vec{E}^2)$ is as follows.

(i) $M_s \to 0$.—Apply a phase rotation $R_0$ with angle $\epsilon_1 = \frac{1}{2} \arctan(\frac{2M_s}{E^2})$. Note that this maximizes $M_r = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}$.

(ii) $\vec{E} \to |\vec{E}|e_y$.—Align the vector $\vec{E}$ along the $y$ axis by the spatial rotations with $R_7$ and an angle of $\epsilon_2 = \arctan(\frac{E_y}{E^2})$ and (after an update of the RDM coefﬁcients and a recomputation of the auxiliary vector and mass components) with $R_9$ about an angle of $\epsilon_3 = - \arctan(\frac{E_y}{E^2})$.

(iii) $\vec{E} \to 0$.—Boost using $R_2$ and rapidity $\epsilon_4 = \arctanh(\frac{E_y}{E^2})$. According to the assumptions, this is possible and does not change $E_y = 0$ or $E_x = 0$.

(iv) $P_x \to 0$.—Boost using $R_3$ and rapidity $\epsilon_5 = - \arctanh(\frac{E_x}{E^2})$.

(v) $P_y \to 0$.—Boost using $R_1$ and rapidity $\epsilon_6 = \arctanh(\frac{E_y}{E^2})$. Since $E = E_z = E_x = 0$, the energy $E$ as well as $\vec{E}$ are unchanged by the boost.

2. The intermediate energy case

The case where $\mathcal{E}^2 > \text{Min}(\vec{P}^2, \vec{E}^2)$ but $K_2 < 0$ might be called “intermediate,” since the energy is large compared to the “low energy” case, but not large enough to make $K_2 > 0$. The following procedure leads to the state described by Eq. (45).

(i) $M_b \to 0$.—Apply a phase rotation $R_0$ with angle $\epsilon_1 = \frac{1}{2} \arctan(\frac{2M_b}{E^2})$. Note that this transformation minimizes $\vec{P}^2$.

(ii) $\vec{P} \to |\vec{P}|e_y$.—Align the vector $\vec{P}$ along the $y$ axis by the spatial rotations with $R_7$ and an angle of $\epsilon_2 = \arctan(\frac{P_y}{P^2})$ and (after an update of the RDM coefﬁcients and a recomputation of the auxiliary vector and mass components) with $R_9$ about an angle of $\epsilon_3 = - \arctan(\frac{P_y}{P^2})$. Since $M_b = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{P} = 0$ one also has now $E_y = 0$.

(iii) $P_y \to 0$.—Lorentz boost using $R_5$ and rapidity $\epsilon_4 = \arctanh(\frac{P_y}{P^2})$.

(iv) $\vec{B} \to |\vec{B}|e_y$.—Align the vector $\vec{B}$ along the $y$ axis by the spatial rotations with $R_7$ and an angle of $\epsilon_5 = \arctan(\frac{B_y}{B^2})$ and (after an update of the RDM coefﬁcients and a recomputation of the auxiliary vector and mass components) with $R_9$ about an angle of $\epsilon_6 = - \arctan(\frac{B_y}{B^2})$.

(v) $E_x \to 0$.—Boost using $R_2$ and rapidity $\epsilon_7 = \arctanh(\frac{E_x}{E^2})$.

In both cases the transformed matrix $F$ then has the form

\[
F = E_y \gamma_5 + E_z \gamma_y + B_z \gamma_8. \tag{46}
\]

In order to bring it to Hamiltonian form, one applies the transformation $R_2$ with an angle of $i \pi/2$:

\[
R = \exp(i \pi/4 \gamma_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1 + i \gamma_2), \tag{47}
\]

so that $F \to R F R^{-1}$ is

\[
F = -i E_y \gamma_0 + E_z \gamma_6 + B_z \gamma_8. \tag{48}
\]
Note that the complex eigenvalues of a force matrix with \( K_2 < 0 \) all lie on a circle of radius \( \rho = (K_2^2 + 4|K_2|)^{1/4} \) in the complex plane.

**C. Decoupling \( n \)-dimensional symplexes**

The general eigenvalue problem of symplexes (Hamiltonian matrices) is an area of intense research. The algorithm presented above is based on a physical and geometrical analysis of two-dimensional linear symplectic systems. As described before, the algorithm is limited to symplexes that have real or imaginary eigenvalues, but a generalization to include complex eigenvalues might be possible—even though not urgently required in charged particle optics.\(^5\)

In order to decouple symplectic systems with more than 2 degrees of freedom, the described algorithm can be used in an iterative scheme analogous to the Jacobi method for symmetric matrices.\(^6\) If all eigenvalues are real or imaginary, it is possible to avoid computations using complex numbers. The \( 2n \times 2n \) symplex is then regarded as an \( n \times n \) matrix of \( 2 \times 2 \) blocks. We tested a pivot search that picks the maximum average square amplitude of all nondiagonal blocks \( B_{ij} \). The blocks \( B_{ii}, B_{ij}, B_{ji}, \) and \( B_{jj} \) are then analyzed as \( 4 \times 4 \) symplexes and the symplectic similarity transformation that block diagonalizes this submatrix is applied, so that \( B_{ij} = B_{ji} = 0 \) holds. This iterative scheme allows one to compute simultaneously the symplectic transformation matrix and the resulting block-diagonal or Hamiltonian form symplex with high precision.

Given \( \{x\} \) is a sequence of random numbers between zero and one, then one may construct random symmetric \( 2n \times 2n \) matrices \( A \) according to the rule

\[
A_{ij} = A_{ji} = \begin{cases} x - \frac{1}{2} & \text{for } i \neq j, \\ n + x & \text{for } i = j. \end{cases}
\]

The increase of the diagonal terms helps to avoid complex eigenvalues. The symplex to decouple is then given by \( F = \gamma_0 A \). We tested the algorithm with these random matrices up to \( n = 12 \) and logged the number of \( 4 \times 4 \)-diagonalization steps. Figure 1 shows the average number of iterations that is required to compute the transformation that brings a \( 2n \times 2n \) symplex to Hamiltonian form, i.e., into the form

\[
\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \beta_1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\
-\gamma_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \beta_n \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & -\gamma_n & 0 \end{pmatrix}
\]

**D. Diagonalization**

In order to proceed from Eq. (38) towards diagonalization, the matrix is scaled using the generators \( \gamma_3 \) and \( \gamma_4 \):

\[
R = \exp\left[(\gamma_3 + \gamma_4)\frac{s}{2} + (\gamma_3 - \gamma_4)\frac{t}{2}\right] = \text{Diag}[\exp(-s), \exp(s), \exp(-t), \exp(t)].
\]

\[
s = \exp\left[\log\left(\left|\frac{\alpha}{\beta}\right|\right)/4\right],
\]

\[
t = \exp\left[\log\left(\left|\frac{\gamma}{\delta}\right|\right)/4\right],
\]

so that one obtains (for stable systems) what we call “normal” form:

\[
F \rightarrow RFR^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \omega_1 & 0 & 0 \\
-\omega_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \omega_2 \\
0 & 0 & -\omega_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix},
\]

where the signs of the frequencies \( \omega_1 \) and \( \omega_2 \) can both be positive and negative, depending on the signs of \( \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \)
and $\delta$. At this stage, all components of $\vec{g}$ and $\vec{r}$ as well as $(\hat{b})_s$ and $(\hat{b})_z$ are zero. Only $(\hat{b})_x$ is nonzero:

$$
\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{E} \text{diag}(i\omega_1, -i\omega_1, i\omega_2, -i\omega_2) \mathbf{E}^{-1},
$$

$$
\mathbf{E}_0 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix}
1 - i & -1 + i & 0 & 0 \\
1 + i & 1 + i & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 - i & -1 + i \\
0 & 0 & 1 + i & 1 + i
\end{pmatrix}
$$

(53)

$$
\mathbf{E}_0 \gamma_0 \mathbf{E}_0^{T} = \gamma_0, \quad \mathbf{E}_0^{-1} = \mathbf{E}_0^{\dagger}.
$$

That is, the last transformation matrix that is required for diagonalization is not only symplectic—it is also unitary.

**E. Example**

A simplified and idealized cyclotron model with space charge was described, which served as an example for an irregular system [3,21]. Without repeating all details, the constant force matrix has the following form:

$$
\mathbf{F} = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
-k_x + K_x & 0 & 0 & h \\
-h & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \\
0 & 0 & 0 & K_z \gamma^2
\end{pmatrix}.
$$

(54)

The RDM coefficients are then given by

$$
\mathcal{E} = \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 + k_x - K_x + \frac{1}{\gamma^2} - \gamma^2 K_z \right),
$$

$$
P_x = \frac{1}{4} \left( -1 + k_x - K_x + \frac{1}{\gamma^2} + \gamma^2 K_z \right),
$$

$$
P_y = P_z = 0, \quad E_x = B_x = 0, \quad E_y = B_z = -\frac{h}{2},
$$

$$
P_z = \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 - k_x + K_x + \frac{1}{\gamma^2} + \gamma^2 K_z \right),
$$

$$
P_y = \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 + k_x - K_x - \frac{1}{\gamma^2} + \gamma^2 K_z \right).
$$

(55)

From this, one finds for the “mass” terms and the vectors $\vec{g}$, $\vec{r}$, and $\vec{b}$:

$$
M_r = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} = -\frac{h}{4} (1 + K_x \gamma^2),
$$

$$
M_s = \vec{P} \cdot \vec{B} = 0, \quad M_b = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{P} = 0,
$$

$$
\vec{g} = \left( \frac{h}{4} (K_z \gamma^2 - 1), \frac{1 + \gamma^2 (k_x - K_x) K_z}{4 \gamma^2} \right)^T,
$$

$$
\vec{r} = \left( \frac{k_x - K_x + \gamma^2 (K_z - h^2)}{4 \gamma^2}, 0, 0 \right)^T,
$$

$$
\vec{b} = \left( \frac{K_z + k_x - K_x}{4}, \frac{h (\gamma^2 K_z - 1)}{4} \right)^T.
$$

(56)

According to the geometrical approach, the first transformation can be omitted, since the mass $M_z$ is zero. The second transformation using $\gamma_1$ aligns $\vec{b}$ along the y axis. The second rotation may again be omitted, since the vector $\vec{r}$ is already aligned along the x axis. The last transformation is a phase boost using $\gamma_2$ and is sufficient to bring $\mathbf{F}$ into block-diagonal form. This transformation would usually change the value of $M_y$, but here it does not, since $M_y = \langle \vec{r} \rangle_y = 0$ as can be seen from Table I. Hence, $M_y$ remains zero—$M_y$ is invariant under both transformations. Hence, all “mass terms” are then zero after the described two transformations so that the system is decoupled.

**F. Operators, expectation values, and Lax pairs**

Coupled linear optics is in its essence (as quantum mechanics) a statistical theory. Since the reference trajectory is fixed, the coordinates are always taken relative to the local reference frame and the geometry is (only) locally Euclidean. Even though the starting point is the description of single-particle motion, the orbits of single particles are usually both, hard to access experimentally and of low practical value. The description of the beam by average values in contrast is both measurable and of high value. The use of symplectic transformations leaves the expectation values unchanged. We can therefore evaluate the expectation values of any operator $\mathbf{O}$ in an arbitrary reference frame:

$$
\langle \mathbf{O} \rangle = \langle \hat{\psi} \mathbf{O} \hat{\psi} \rangle = \langle \psi^T \gamma_0 \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{O} \mathbf{R} \gamma_0 \psi \rangle
$$

$$
= \langle \psi^T \gamma_0 \mathbf{R}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{O}} \hat{\psi} \rangle = \langle \psi^T \mathbf{R}^T \gamma_0 \hat{\mathbf{O}} \hat{\psi} \rangle = \langle \hat{\psi} \hat{\mathbf{O}} \hat{\psi} \rangle,
$$

(57)

since for symplectic $\mathbf{R}$ we have

$$
\mathbf{R}^T \gamma_0 = \gamma_0 \mathbf{R}^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{R}^T \gamma_0 \mathbf{R} = \gamma_0.
$$

(58)

The time derivative of the expectation value of an arbitrary operator $\mathbf{O}$, which does not explicitly depend on time, is

$$
\frac{d}{dt} \langle \hat{\psi} \mathbf{O} \hat{\psi} \rangle = \hat{\psi} \mathbf{F} \hat{\psi} + \hat{\psi} \mathbf{F} \hat{\psi} = \psi^T \mathbf{F}^T \gamma_0 \mathbf{O} \psi + \hat{\psi} \mathbf{F} \hat{\psi}
$$

$$
= \hat{\psi} (\mathbf{O}^T - \mathbf{F} \mathbf{O}) \hat{\psi}.
$$

(59)

Equations of the form (here $\mathbf{S} = \sigma \gamma_0$)

$$
\dot{\mathbf{S}} = \mathbf{FS} - \mathbf{SF}
$$

(60)

appear frequently in the theory of coupled linear optics and it is worth mentioning that Eq. (60) is a so-called Lax representation and the operators $\mathbf{S}$ and $\mathbf{F}$ are a so-called Lax pair [38,39]. As a consequence, the expressions

$$
I_k = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{S}^k)
$$

(61)
are first integrals of motion, where \( \text{Tr}(\cdot) \) is the trace. Using again the EMEQ to express the elements of \( \mathbf{S} \), one finds

\[
I_1 = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{S}) = 0, \\
I_2 = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{S}^2) = -4(\varepsilon^2 - \bar{F}^2 + \bar{B}^2 - \bar{E}^2) = -4K_1, \\
I_3 = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{S}^3) = 0, \\
I_4 = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{S}^4) = 4(K_1^2 + 4K_2).
\]

The values of \( K_1 \) and \( K_2 \) are (as expected) first integrals and constants of motion. The complete expression for \( \mathbf{S}^4 \) is

\[
\mathbf{S}^4 = (K_1^2 + 4K_2)\mathbf{I} - 4K_1(M_{1r}\gamma_{10} + M_{1r}\gamma_{14} + \bar{b}\gamma_{14}^{\bar{\gamma}}).
\]

Another derivation of Eq. (61) has been given in [40].

VI. SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

A powerful method for symplectic decoupling of the \( n \)-dimensional nondissipative harmonic oscillator has been developed. The method apparently is stable, of the order \( O(n^2) \), and works with purely real or purely imaginary eigenvalues, for which a Hamiltonian Schur form does not always exist [14]. The resulting block-diagonal symplex can be used to compute the \( \sigma \) matrix of matched beam ellipsoids of linear coupled systems in charged particle optics [3,21,34]. Another application is the production of multivariate Gaussian distributions for a given covariance matrix [24].

The presented parametrization gives deep insight into the general nature of coupling and might be instructive also in other areas of physics. The algebraic problem of finding the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a two-dimensional symplectic system was solved using geometrical arguments based on the use of the real Dirac matrices and the electromechanical equivalence.

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We would like to mention the work of D. Hestenes, who emphasized the geometrical significance of the Dirac algebra that he called space-time algebra [29]. The idea to introduce the EMEQ is inspired by his work. MATHEMATICA® has been used for some of the symbolic calculations. Additional software has been written in "C" and been compiled with the GNU®-C++ compiler 3.4.6 on Scientific Linux. The CERN library (PAW) was used to generate the figure.

APPENDIX A: THE \( \gamma \) MATRICES

To complete the list of the real \( \gamma \) matrices used throughout this paper,

\[
\begin{align*}
\gamma_0 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & \gamma_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\
\gamma_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & \gamma_3 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\
\gamma_{14} &= \gamma_0\gamma_1\gamma_2\gamma_3, & \gamma_{15} &= \mathbf{1}, & \gamma_4 &= \gamma_0\gamma_1; \\
\gamma_7 &= \gamma_4\gamma_0\gamma_1 = \gamma_2\gamma_3, & \gamma_5 &= \gamma_0\gamma_2; \\
\gamma_8 &= \gamma_4\gamma_0\gamma_2 = \gamma_3\gamma_1, & \gamma_6 &= \gamma_0\gamma_3; \\
\gamma_9 &= \gamma_4\gamma_0\gamma_3 = \gamma_1\gamma_2, & \gamma_{10} &= \gamma_4\gamma_0 = \gamma_1\gamma_2\gamma_3; \\
\gamma_{11} &= \gamma_4\gamma_1 = \gamma_0\gamma_2\gamma_3, & \gamma_{12} &= \gamma_4\gamma_2 = \gamma_0\gamma_3\gamma_1; \\
\gamma_{13} &= \gamma_4\gamma_3 = \gamma_0\gamma_1\gamma_2.
\end{align*}
\]

APPENDIX B: FLOQUET THEOREM

If the matrix \( \mathbf{A} \) in Eq. (1) and hence the forces are not constant, but periodic \( \mathbf{F}(t + T) = \mathbf{F}(t) \), then Floquet’s theorem can be applied and the solution has the general form [26,27]

\[
\mathbf{M}(t) = \mathbf{K}(t) \exp(\mathbf{F}t), \tag{B1}
\]

where \( \mathbf{K}(t) \) is symplectic and periodic with period \( T \):

\[
\mathbf{M}(0) = \mathbf{1} \Rightarrow \mathbf{K}(0) = \mathbf{1},
\]

\[
\mathbf{K}(t + T) = \mathbf{K}(t) \Rightarrow \mathbf{K}(T) = \mathbf{1}. \tag{B2}
\]

The transfer matrix of one period of length \( T \) (“one-turn-transfer-matrix”),

\[
\mathbf{M}(T) = \mathbf{M}_T = \exp(\mathbf{F}T), \tag{B3}
\]

is identical to the transfer matrix for a system with the constant force matrix \( \mathbf{F} \) and length \( T \). In this sense \( \mathbf{F} \) is the “average” or “effective” force matrix with respect to one turn and can formally be written as [26]

\[
\mathbf{F} = \frac{1}{T} \ln(\mathbf{M}_T). \tag{B4}
\]

From Eq. (B1), one derives in a few steps [26,41]

\[
\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{K} - \mathbf{K} \mathbf{F}. \tag{B5}
\]

If the canonical transformation represented by \( \mathbf{K} \) has been applied to the state vector, then with \( \mathbf{K}(0) = \mathbf{1} \) it follows:

\[
\tilde{\psi}(t) = \mathbf{K}^{-1}\psi(t) = \exp(\mathbf{F}t)\tilde{\psi}(0) = \tilde{\mathbf{M}}\tilde{\psi}(0). \tag{B6}
\]

Note that the knowledge of \( \mathbf{K} \) is not required to solve the decoupling problem, as long as the one-turn-transfer matrix \( \mathbf{M}_T \) is known. \( \mathbf{M}_T \) can either be obtained as a product of the transfer matrices of all beam line elements or simply
by numerical integration. If the matched beam distribution has been found at an arbitrary (known) position \( s = 0 \) along the closed reference orbit, then the matched distribution can be computed for any position \( s \) using
\[
\sigma(s) = M(s)\sigma(0)M^T(s). \quad (B7)
\]

**APPENDIX C: QUICK GUIDE TO DECOUPLING**

To start with, it is required to have either the average or constant force matrix \( F \) or the symplectic transfer matrix \( M \) that represents a complete turn or (cyclotron) sector. In the latter case, one computes an auxiliary force matrix by
\[
M_s = \frac{1}{2}(M + \gamma_0 M^T \gamma_0), \quad (C1)
\]
while the usual (effective) force matrix has the form
\[
F = E \text{Diag}(i\omega_1, -i\omega_1, i\omega_2, -i\omega_2)E^{-1}, \quad (C2)
\]
\( \omega_i \) being the betatron frequencies. The auxiliary matrix has the same structure
\[
M_s = E \text{Diag}(is_1, -is_1, is_2, -is_2)E^{-1}, \quad (C3)
\]
but different eigenvalues \( s_i = \sin(\omega_i \tau) \), where \( \omega_i \tau = 2\pi Q_i \) with the betatron tunes \( Q_i \).

Now compute the RDM coefficients according to
\[
\mathcal{E} = -\text{Tr}(F \gamma_0 + \gamma_0 F)/8, \quad P_x = \text{Tr}(F \gamma_1 + \gamma_1 F)/8, \quad P_y = \text{Tr}(F \gamma_2 + \gamma_2 F)/8, \quad P_z = \text{Tr}(F \gamma_3 + \gamma_3 F)/8,
\]
\[
E_x = \text{Tr}(F \gamma_4 + \gamma_4 F)/8, \quad E_y = \text{Tr}(F \gamma_5 + \gamma_5 F)/8, \quad E_z = \text{Tr}(F \gamma_6 + \gamma_6 F)/8, \quad B_x = -\text{Tr}(F \gamma_7 + \gamma_7 F)/8, \quad B_y = -\text{Tr}(F \gamma_8 + \gamma_8 F)/8, \quad B_z = -\text{Tr}(F \gamma_9 + \gamma_9 F)/8. \quad (C4)
\]

Note that the coefficients for \( \gamma_k \) with \( k \in \{10, \ldots, 15\} \) must be zero—otherwise the system is not symplectic. Then compute the eigenvalues and auxiliary vectors \( \tilde{r}, \tilde{g}, \tilde{b} \) according to Eqs. (29), (31), and (32). Construct the transformation matrices \( R_b \) according to
\[
R_b = \begin{cases}
\cos(\varepsilon/2) + \gamma_b \sin(\varepsilon/2) & \text{for } b \in [0, 7, 8, 9] \\
\cos(\varepsilon/2) + \gamma_b \sinh(\varepsilon/2) & \text{for } b \in [1, \ldots, 6].
\end{cases}
\]
\[
R_b^{-1} = \begin{cases}
\cos(\varepsilon/2) - \gamma_b \sin(\varepsilon/2) & \text{for } b \in [0, 7, 8, 9] \\
\cos(\varepsilon/2) - \gamma_b \sinh(\varepsilon/2) & \text{for } b \in [1, \ldots, 6].
\end{cases}
\]

Transform with \( \gamma_0 \) and \( \varepsilon = \arctan(M/M^*) \):
\[
F \rightarrow R_b F R_b^{-1}. \quad (C6)
\]
Recompute RDM coefficients, then transform using \( \gamma_7 \) with \( \varepsilon = \arctan(b/b^*) \). Recompute RDM coefficients, then transform using \( \gamma_9 \) with \( \varepsilon = -\arctan(b^*) \). Recompute RDM coefficients, then transform using \( \gamma_2 \) with \( \varepsilon = \arctanh(M/M^*) \). The (auxiliary) force matrix should now be block diagonal. Recompute RDM coefficients, then transform with \( \gamma_0 \) and \( \varepsilon = \arctan(M/M^*) \). Recompute RDM coefficients, then transform with \( \gamma_8 \) and \( \varepsilon = -\arctan(b^*) \). Now the (auxiliary) force matrix should have normal form, so that the frequencies (or their sines) are given by
\[
\omega_1 = \sqrt{-F_{1,2}^2 F_{2,1}}, \quad \omega_2 = \sqrt{-F_{3,4}^2 F_{4,3}}. \quad (C7)
\]
The complete transformation is given by
\[
R^{-1} = R_0^{-1} \cdot R_1^{-1} \ldots R_n^{-1}, \quad R = R_n \cdot R_{n-1} \ldots R_0.
\]
\[
F_d = R F R^{-1}. \quad (C8)
\]
If the auxiliary matrix has been used, then compute the matrix \( \tilde{M}_c \) according to
\[
\tilde{M}_c = \frac{1}{2}(M - \gamma_0 M^T \gamma_0)R^{-1}. \quad (C9)
\]
The cosines of the tunes are then given by
\[
\cos(\omega_1 \tau) + \cos(\omega_2 \tau) = \text{Tr}(\tilde{M}), \quad \cos(\omega_1 \tau) - \cos(\omega_2 \tau) = \text{Tr}(\tilde{M} \gamma_{12} + \gamma_{12} \tilde{M})/4. \quad (C10)
\]

**APPENDIX D: THE TENG AND EDWARDS ANSÄTZ**

Assume that we have an even number of DOF, so that a \( 4n \times 4n \) symplectic matrix \( R \) can be written in block form according to \([42,43]\)
\[
R = \begin{pmatrix} A & a \\ b & B \end{pmatrix} \quad (D1)
\]
where all quadratic submatrices are of size \( 2n \times 2n \), then the matrix \( R \) is symplectic if
\[
\gamma_0 = \begin{pmatrix} A & a \\ b & B \end{pmatrix} \gamma_0 \begin{pmatrix} A^T & b^T \\ a^T & B^T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A \gamma_0 A^T + a \gamma_0 a^T & A \gamma_0 b^T + a \gamma_0 B^T \\ b \gamma_0 a^T + B \gamma_0 a^T & B \gamma_0 b^T + B \gamma_0 B^T \end{pmatrix} \quad (D2)
\]
which yields
\[
\gamma_0 = A \gamma_0 A^T + a \gamma_0 a^T, \quad \gamma_0 = b \gamma_0 b^T + B \gamma_0 B^T, \quad 0 = A \gamma_0 b^T + a \gamma_0 B^T, \quad (D3)
\]
where \( \gamma_0 \) has—in dependence of the context—to be taken as \( 2n \times 2n \) or \( 4n \times 4n \). If one now assumes that \( A = B = C \), then it follows that
\[
\gamma_0(1 - C^2) = a \gamma_0 a^T, \quad \gamma_0(1 - C^2) = b \gamma_0 b^T, \quad (D4)
\]
If one assumes with Teng and Edwards that \( C = \cos(\phi) \), then one may define \( a = \sin(\phi) a \) and \( b = \sin(\phi) b \), with symplectic matrices \( a \) and \( b \), respectively:
\[ \gamma_0 = a_0 \gamma_0 a_0^T, \quad \gamma_0 = b_0 \gamma_0 b_0^T. \]  

It has been shown in Ref. [21] that \( C = \cos(\phi) \) is not the general case, since one might also choose \( C = \cosh(\phi) \). Let \( a = \sinh(\phi) a_0 \), and \( b = \sinh(\phi) b_0 \). In this case, one finds

\[ -\gamma_0 = a_0 \gamma_0 a_0^T, \quad -\gamma_0 = b_0 \gamma_0 b_0^T, \]  
i.e., the matrices \( a \) and \( b \) can also be antisymplectic (symplectic with multiplier \(-1\)). Still the matrix \( R \) remains symplectic. Hence, Teng and Edwards limited their treatment in two ways: First, they assumed that \( C = \cos(\phi) \) such that \( R \) must be a rotation matrix and, secondly, they considered only the case that \( a \) and \( b \) are symplectic.

**APPENDIX E: COSYMPLECTICS**

The geometric approach is based on the second order terms, i.e., products of the RDM coefficients. It is therefore instructive to see where else these terms appear. For instance, one quickly finds the mass terms and vectors \( \tilde{g}, \tilde{r}, \tilde{b} \) in the following products:

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F} &= -(\tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2 + \tilde{B}^2 + \tilde{E}^2)\mathbf{1} + 2M_{\gamma_14} \gamma_14 \\
\mathbf{F} \gamma_0 \mathbf{F} &= (3\tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2 - \tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2)\gamma_0 - 4\epsilon \mathbf{F} \\
&+ 2\tilde{r} \tilde{y} + 2\tilde{g} \gamma_0 + 2\tilde{b} \gamma_14 \gamma_0 \tilde{y}, \\
\mathbf{F} \gamma_14 \mathbf{F} &= 2M_b \gamma_10 - 2M_b \mathbf{1} + (\tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2 + \tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2) \gamma_14 \\
&+ 2\tilde{g} \gamma_14 \tilde{y}, \\
\mathbf{F} \gamma_10 \mathbf{F} &= 2M_b \gamma_14 - 2M_b \mathbf{1} + (\tilde{E}^2 + \tilde{B}^2 - \tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2) \gamma_10 \\
&+ 2\tilde{r} \gamma_14 \tilde{y}.
\end{align*}
\]

So in the decoupled and normalized case [see Eq. (52)], these products are

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{F}\mathbf{F} &= -(\tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2 + \tilde{B}^2 + \tilde{E}^2)\mathbf{1} + 2(\tilde{b})_y \gamma_12, \\
\mathbf{F} \gamma_0 \mathbf{F} &= (3\tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2 - \tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2)\gamma_0 - 4\epsilon \mathbf{F} + 2(\tilde{b})_y \gamma_8, \\
\mathbf{F} \gamma_14 \mathbf{F} &= (\tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2 + \tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2) \gamma_14, \\
\mathbf{F} \gamma_10 \mathbf{F} &= (\tilde{E}^2 + \tilde{B}^2 - \tilde{E}^2 - \tilde{B}^2) \gamma_10.
\end{align*}
\]

**APPENDIX F: EXPECTATION VALUES (COMPLEMENT)**

In Ref. [3] it has been shown that the expectation values of the RDMs, \( f_k \), defined by

\[ f_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\gamma}} g_k \gamma_k \psi, \]

vanish for all cosmplectics, i.e., for \( \gamma_k \) with \( k \in [10, \ldots, 15] \). It was also shown that for all symplectic (i.e. \( \gamma_k \) with \( k \in [0, \ldots, 9] \) or linear combinations thereof) the expectation values \( g_k \equiv \tilde{\psi}(\gamma_k \mathbf{F} + \Gamma \gamma_k) \psi \) vanish. Nevertheless nothing was mentioned about the \( g_k \) for

\[ k \in [10, \ldots, 15]. \]  

The complement is given in the following:

\[
\begin{align*}
g_{10} &= 2(P_s f_1 + P_s f_8 + P_s f_0 - B_s f_1 - B_s f_2 + B_s f_3), \\
g_{11} &= 2(-E f_1 + B_s f_0 + P_s f_5 + E x f_3 - P_s f_6 - E x f_2), \\
g_{12} &= 2(-E f_8 + B_s f_0 + P_s f_6 + E x f_1 - P_s f_4 - E x f_3), \\
g_{13} &= 2(-E f_9 + B_s f_0 + P_s f_4 + E x f_2 - P_s f_5 - E x f_1), \\
g_{14} &= 2(E_{x} f_7 + E_{x} f_6 + E_{x} f_0 - B_s f_4 - B_s f_5 + B_s f_6), \\
g_{15} &= 2(P_1). \\
\end{align*}
\]

According to Eq. (59) the expectation values of the operators \( g_k \) are

\[ g_k = \tilde{\psi}(\gamma_k \mathbf{F}^2 - \mathbf{F}^2 \gamma_k) \psi. \]

The square of the force matrix is given in Eq. (E1). Now we insert this into Eq. (F3). The scalar part commutes with all \( \gamma_k \) and hence contributes nothing. Since all commutators of sympleics with cosmplectics result in cosmplectics, we obtain \( g_k = 0 \) for all sympleics. This had to be expected as for all sympleics we had \( g_k = 0 \). Hence, the remaining terms are

\[
\begin{align*}
g_{10} &= 4 \tilde{\psi}(M_{r} \gamma_0 + \tilde{b} \gamma_0 \tilde{y}) \psi \\
&= 4(M_{r} f_0 + b_s f_4 + b_s f_5 + b_s f_6), \\
g_{11} &= 2(4M_{r} f_1 - 4M_{g} f_8 + b_s f_9 - b_s f_8), \\
g_{12} &= 2(4M_{r} f_2 - 4M_{g} f_5 + b_s f_7 - b_s f_9), \\
g_{13} &= 2(4M_{r} f_3 - 4M_{g} f_6 + b_s f_8 - b_s f_7), \\
g_{14} &= -4 \tilde{\psi}(M_{g} \gamma_0 + \tilde{b} \tilde{y}) \psi \\
&= -4(M_{g} f_0 + b_s f_1 + b_s f_2 + b_s f_3).
\end{align*}
\]

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