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Generalized multi-mode bosonic realization of the SU(1, 1) algebra and its corresponding squeezing operator

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Abstract

By constructing a generalized multi-partite entangled state representation and introducing the ket-bra integral in this representation, we find a new set of generalized bosonic realization of the generators of the SU(1, 1)algebra, which can compose a generalized multi-mode squeezing operator. This operator squeezes the multi-partite entangled state in a natural way. Then the corresponding multi-mode squeezed vacuum states $|r\rangle$ is obtained. Based on this, the variances of the *n*-mode quadratures and the higher-order squeezing in $|r\rangle$ are evaluated. In addition, we examine the violation of the Bell inequality for $|r\rangle$ by using the formalism of Wigner representation.

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1. Introduction

It has long been known that the bosonic realizations of the SU(1, 1) algebra have applications in many branches of physics and group theory [1–4]. The generators of the SU(1, 1) algebra are given by K_0 and K_{\pm} with the commutative relations

$$[K_0, K_{\pm}] = \pm K_{\pm}, \qquad [K_-, K_+] = 2K_0. \tag{1}$$

The SU(1, 1) Casimir operator is

$$C = K_0^2 - \frac{1}{2}(K_+K_- + K_-K_+).$$
⁽²⁾

In particular, the SU(1, 1) Lie algebra was widely used in quantum optics [5–7]. For example, the SU(1, 1) coherent states, defined by Perelomov [8], have previously been discussed in connection with squeezed states of a single-mode field and are a special case of the two-photon

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coherent states of Yuen [9], namely the squeezed vacuum state [10]. The single-mode bosonic realization of SU(1, 1) is

$$K_+ \to \frac{a^{\dagger 2}}{2}, \qquad K_- \to \frac{a^2}{2}, \qquad K_0 \to \frac{1}{4}(2a^{\dagger}a+1),$$
 (3)

where a^{\dagger} and a are the bosonic creation and annihilation operators, respectively; in this case the Casimir operator is C = -3/16. The corresponding squeezing operator [10],

$$S_{1}(r) = \exp\left[\frac{r}{2}(a^{\dagger 2} - a^{2})\right]$$

= $\exp\left(\frac{a^{\dagger 2}}{2} \tanh r\right) \exp\left[\left(a^{\dagger}a + \frac{1}{2}\right)\ln \operatorname{sech} r\right] \exp\left(-\frac{a^{2}}{2} \tanh r\right),$ (4)

acting on the vacuum state $|0\rangle$ leads to the single-mode squeezed vacuum state

$$S_1(r)|0\rangle = (\operatorname{sech} r)^{1/2} \exp\left(\frac{a^{\dagger 2}}{2} \tanh r\right)|0\rangle,$$
(5)

where r is a real squeezing parameter. The two-mode bosonic realization for SU(1, 1) is

$$K_{+} \to a_{1}^{\dagger} a_{2}^{\dagger}, \qquad K_{-} \to a_{1} a_{2}, \qquad K_{0} \to \frac{1}{2} \left(a_{1}^{\dagger} a_{1} + a_{2}^{\dagger} a_{2} + 1 \right),$$
(6)

with the Casimir operator $C = \left[\left(a_1^{\dagger}a_1 - a_2^{\dagger}a_2\right)^2 - 1\right]/4$, the two-mode squeezing operator [11]

$$S_{2}(r) = \exp\left[r\left(a_{1}^{\dagger}a_{2}^{\dagger} - a_{1}a_{2}\right)\right]$$

= $\exp\left(a_{1}^{\dagger}a_{2}^{\dagger}\tanh r\right)\exp\left[\left(a_{1}^{\dagger}a_{1} + a_{2}^{\dagger}a_{2} + 1\right)\ln \operatorname{sech} r\right]\exp(-a_{1}a_{2}\tanh r)$ (7)

produces the two-mode squeezed vacuum state

$$S_2(r)|00\rangle = \operatorname{sech} r \exp\left(a_1^{\dagger} a_2^{\dagger} \tanh r\right)|00\rangle.$$
(8)

Similarly, for the *n*-mode case, the squeezing operator is given by [12, 13]

$$S_n(r) = \exp[r(W_+ - W_-)],$$
(9)

where

$$W_{+} = W_{-}^{\dagger} = \frac{2-n}{2n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{j}^{\dagger 2} + \frac{2}{n} \sum_{j>k=1}^{n} a_{j}^{\dagger} a_{k}^{\dagger},$$
(10)

satisfying a closed SU(1, 1) Lie algebra,

$$[W_{-}, W_{+}] = 2W_{0}, \qquad [W_{0}, W_{+}] = W_{+}, \qquad [W_{0}, W_{-}] = -W_{-}, \qquad (11)$$

with

$$W_0 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n a_j^{\dagger} a_j + \frac{n}{4}.$$
 (12)

These squeezing operators may be called SU(1, 1) operators and the corresponding squeezed vacuum states are named SU(1, 1) coherent states as well. Two interesting questions naturally arise. Are there more generalized bosonic operator realization of SU(1, 1) generators for generalized squeezing operators? If yes, how do we find them? To answer the second question we recall the relation of the two-mode squeezing operator and the bipartite entangled state representation, i.e. in [14] we have proved

$$S_2(r) = \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^2 \eta}{\mu \pi} \left| \frac{\eta}{\mu} \right\rangle \langle \eta |, \qquad \eta = \eta_1 + \mathrm{i}\eta_2, \qquad \mathrm{d}^2 \eta = \mathrm{d}\eta_1 \,\mathrm{d}\eta_2, \qquad (13)$$

 $|\eta\rangle$

where $\mu = e^r$, and

$$= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}|\eta|^{2} + \eta a_{1}^{\dagger} - \eta^{*}a_{2}^{\dagger} + a_{1}^{\dagger}a_{2}^{\dagger}\right)|00\rangle$$
(14)

is the common eigenvectors of the relative position $X_1 - X_2$ and the total momentum $P_1 + P_2$ of two particles, i.e.

$$(X_1 - X_2)|\eta\rangle = \sqrt{2\eta_1}|\eta\rangle, \qquad (P_1 + P_2)|\eta\rangle = \sqrt{2\eta_2}|\eta\rangle. \tag{15}$$

It is Einstein–Podolsky–Rosen who first used $[X_1 - X_2, P_1 + P_2] = 0$ to introduce the concept of quantum entanglement [15]. Directly performing the integration over the ket-bra $\left|\frac{\eta}{\mu}\right\rangle\langle\eta|$ by virtue of the technique of integration within an ordered product (IWOP) of operators [16] leads to the right-hand side of equation (7), which shows that the two-mode squeezing operator $S_2(r)$ has a natural representation in the entangled state $|\eta\rangle$. Equation (13) shows that by constructing generalized multi-partite entangled state representation we may find the generalized bosonic operator realization of SU(1, 1) generators.

The organization of this paper is as follows. In section 2, we briefly review multipartite entangled state representations $|\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle$ and $|\rho, \vec{\chi}\rangle$. In section 3, by constructing a ket-bra integral in the $|\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle$ representation and using the IWOP technique, we derive the generalized *n*-mode squeezing operator $U_n(r)$, which involves bosonic realization of the generalized SU(1, 1) generators. We then discuss the transformation properties of a_i^{\dagger} and a_i under the operation of $U_n(r)$ and give the interaction Hamiltonian generating such an $U_n(r)$. In section 4, we evaluate the variances of the *n*-mode quadratures and higher order squeezing for the generalized *n*-mode squeezed vacuum state $U_n(r)|\vec{0}\rangle \equiv |r\rangle$. Section 5 is devoted to deriving the expression of the Wigner function of $|r\rangle$ and examining its violation of the Bell inequality by using the formalism of Wigner representation in phase space.

2. Multi-partite entangled state representations

We begin with briefly introducing the multi-partite entangled state representations and listing some of their properties. For an *n*-partite system, let

$$X = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_j X_j \tag{16}$$

denote the center-of-mass coordinate, where $\varepsilon_j = m_j/M$ $\left(M = \sum_{j=1}^n m_j\right)$ is the ratio of each particle's mass to the total mass, $\sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j = 1$. *X* is permutable with the mass-weighted relative momentum $\frac{P_1}{\varepsilon_1} - \frac{P_j}{\varepsilon_j}$ (j = 2, 3, ..., n), i.e.

$$\left[X, \frac{P_1}{\varepsilon_1} - \frac{P_j}{\varepsilon_j}\right] = 0 \tag{17}$$

and

$$\left[\frac{P_1}{\varepsilon_1} - \frac{P_j}{\varepsilon_j}, \frac{P_1}{\varepsilon_1} - \frac{P_k}{\varepsilon_k}\right] = 0 \qquad (j \neq k),$$
(18)

where P_j is the momentum of particle *j*. In [17], we have derived the common eigenvector of *X* and $\frac{P_1}{\varepsilon_1} - \frac{P_j}{\varepsilon_j}$ (*j* = 2, 3, ..., *n*), in the *n*-mode Fock space expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} |\chi,\vec{\rho}\rangle &= D_1 \exp\left\{\frac{\sqrt{2}\chi}{\lambda} \sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j a_j^{\dagger} + \frac{i\sqrt{2}}{\lambda} \sum_{j=2}^n \varepsilon_j^2 \rho_j \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \varepsilon_k a_k^{\dagger} - \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon_j} a_j^{\dagger}\right) \right. \\ &+ \left. \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_j^2}{\lambda}\right) a_j^{\dagger 2} - \frac{2}{\lambda} \sum_{k>j=1}^n \varepsilon_k \varepsilon_j a_k^{\dagger} a_j^{\dagger} \right\} |\vec{0}\rangle, \end{aligned}$$
(19)

where $\vec{\rho} \equiv \rho_2, \rho_3, \dots, \rho_n, \lambda \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j^2$ and $|\vec{0}\rangle$ is the *n*-mode vacuum state

$$D_{1} \equiv \pi^{-n/4} \sqrt{\frac{\prod_{j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{j}}{\lambda}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\lambda} \left(\chi^{2} + \sum_{j=2}^{n} \varepsilon_{j}^{2} \rho_{j}^{2} (\lambda - \varepsilon_{j}^{2}) - 2 \sum_{k>j=2}^{n} \varepsilon_{k}^{2} \varepsilon_{j}^{2} \rho_{k} \rho_{j}\right)\right].$$
(20)

In fact, noting

$$X_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (a_j + a_j^{\dagger}), \qquad P_j = \frac{1}{i\sqrt{2}} (a_j - a_j^{\dagger}), \qquad (21)$$

one can check that $|\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle$ obeys the eigenvector equations

$$X|\chi,\vec{\rho}\rangle = \chi|\chi,\vec{\rho}\rangle \tag{22}$$

and

$$\left(\frac{P_1}{\varepsilon_1} - \frac{P_j}{\varepsilon_j}\right) |\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle = \rho_j |\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle, \qquad j = 2, 3, \dots, n.$$
(23)

Using $|\vec{0}\rangle\langle\vec{0}| =: \exp\left(-\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{j}^{\dagger} a_{j}\right)$: (:: denotes normal ordering), and the integration with an ordered product of operators (IWOP) technique [16], we can prove that $|\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle$ really spans an orthogonal and complete set, i.e.

$$\langle \chi', \vec{\rho}' | \chi, \vec{\rho} \rangle = \delta(\chi' - \chi)\delta(\rho_2' - \rho_2) \cdots \delta(\rho_n' - \rho_n)$$
(24)

and

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\chi \, d\vec{\rho} \, |\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle \, \langle\chi, \vec{\rho}| = 1,$$
(25)

where $d\vec{\rho} \equiv d\rho_2 d\rho_3 \cdots d\rho_n$. We may also introduce the common eigenvector $|\rho, \vec{\chi}\rangle$ of the operator $P = \sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j P_j$ and $\left(\frac{X_1}{\varepsilon_1}-\frac{X_j}{\varepsilon_j}\right)$,

$$P|\rho,\vec{\chi}\rangle = \rho|\rho,\vec{\chi}\rangle \tag{26}$$

and

$$\left(\frac{X_1}{\varepsilon_1} - \frac{X_j}{\varepsilon_j}\right)|\rho, \vec{\chi}\rangle = \chi_j |\rho, \vec{\chi}\rangle, \qquad j = 2, 3, \dots, n,$$
(27)

with $\vec{\chi} \equiv \chi_2, \chi_3, \ldots, \chi_n$ and

$$|\rho, \vec{\chi}\rangle = D_2 \exp\left\{\frac{i\sqrt{2}\rho}{\lambda} \sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j a_j^{\dagger} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\lambda} \sum_{j=2}^n \varepsilon_j^2 \chi_j \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \varepsilon_k a_k^{\dagger} - \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon_j} a_j^{\dagger}\right) - \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_j^2}{\lambda}\right) a_j^{\dagger 2} + \frac{2}{\lambda} \sum_{k>j=1}^n \varepsilon_k \varepsilon_j a_k^{\dagger} a_j^{\dagger}\right\} |\vec{0}\rangle,$$
(28)

where

$$D_{2} \equiv \pi^{-n/4} \sqrt{\frac{\prod_{j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{j}}{\lambda}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\lambda} \left(\rho^{2} + \sum_{j=2}^{n} \varepsilon_{j}^{2} \chi_{j}^{2} \left(\lambda - \varepsilon_{j}^{2}\right) - 2 \sum_{k>j=2}^{n} \varepsilon_{k}^{2} \varepsilon_{j}^{2} \chi_{k} \chi_{j}\right)\right], \quad (29)$$

which obeys the completeness relation $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\rho \, d\vec{\chi} \, |\rho, \vec{\chi}\rangle \langle \rho, \vec{\chi}| = 1$ with $d\vec{\chi} \equiv d\chi_2 \, d\chi_3 \cdots d\chi_n$ as well.

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3. Generalized multi-mode SU(1, 1) generators and squeezing operator

As we have seen, in the bipartite case the ket-bra integration $\int \frac{d^2\eta}{\mu\pi} |\frac{\eta}{\mu}\rangle\langle\eta|$ can produce two-mode SU(1, 1) generators and form the two-mode squeezing operator (see equations (6) and (7)), so we construct the following ket-bra integral in the $|\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle$ representation:

$$U_n(\mu) = \mu^{n/2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}\chi \, \mathrm{d}\vec{\rho} |\mu\chi, \,\mu\vec{\rho}\rangle\langle\chi, \,\vec{\rho}|.$$
(30)

3.1. Performing the above integration to find SU(1, 1) generators

Substituting equation (19) into equation (30) and considering $|\vec{0}\rangle\langle\vec{0}| =: \exp\left(-\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{j}^{\dagger}a_{j}\right)$; after some lengthy but straightforward calculation we arrive at the following result by virtue of the IWOP technique [16]:

$$\begin{split} U_{n}(\mu) &= \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{j}}{\lambda} \left(\frac{\mu}{\pi}\right)^{n/2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\chi \, d\vec{\rho} : \exp\left\{-\frac{\mu^{2}+1}{2\lambda} \left[\chi^{2} + \sum_{j=2}^{n} \varepsilon_{j}^{2} \rho_{j}^{2} (\lambda - \varepsilon_{j}^{2}) - 2\sum_{k>j=2}^{n} \varepsilon_{k}^{2} \varepsilon_{j}^{2} \rho_{j} \rho_{k}\right] + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\lambda} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{j} (\mu a_{j}^{\dagger} + a_{j}) \chi + \frac{i\sqrt{2}}{\lambda} \sum_{j=2}^{n} \varepsilon_{j}^{2} \rho_{j} \\ &\times \left[\sum_{k=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} (\mu a_{k}^{\dagger} - a_{k}) - \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon_{j}} (\mu a_{j}^{\dagger} - a_{j})\right] + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_{j}^{2}}{\lambda}\right) a_{j}^{\dagger 2} \\ &- \frac{2}{\lambda} \sum_{k>j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} \varepsilon_{j} a_{k}^{\dagger} a_{j}^{\dagger} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon_{j}^{2}}{\lambda}\right) a_{j}^{2} - \frac{2}{\lambda} \sum_{k>j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} \varepsilon_{j} a_{k} a_{j} - \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{j}^{\dagger} a_{j} \right\} : \\ &= \operatorname{sech}^{n/2} r : \exp\left\{\left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(1 - \frac{2\varepsilon_{j}^{2}}{\lambda}\right) a_{j}^{\dagger 2} + \frac{2}{\lambda} \sum_{k>j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} \varepsilon_{j} a_{k}^{\dagger} a_{j}^{\dagger}\right] \tanh r \\ &+ (\operatorname{sech} r - 1) \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{j}^{\dagger} a_{j} + \left[\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(1 - \frac{2\varepsilon_{j}^{2}}{\lambda}\right) a_{j}^{2} - \frac{2}{\lambda} \sum_{k>j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} \varepsilon_{j} a_{k} a_{j}\right] \tanh r \right\} : \\ &\equiv U_{n}(r), \end{split}$$

where $\mu \equiv e^r$, sech $r = 2\mu/(\mu^2 + 1)$, tanh $r = (\mu^2 - 1)/(\mu^2 + 1)$ and we have used the integral formula

$$\int dy \exp(-fy^2 + gy) = \left(\frac{\pi}{f}\right)^{1/2} \exp\left(\frac{g^2}{4f}\right), \qquad (f > 0).$$
(32)

Using the formula $\exp[(e^{\nu} - 1)a^{\dagger}a] := e^{\nu a^{\dagger}a}$ and letting

$$V_{+} = V_{-}^{\dagger} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(\frac{2\varepsilon_{j}^{2}}{\lambda} - 1 \right) a_{j}^{\dagger 2} + \frac{2}{\lambda} \sum_{k>j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{k} \varepsilon_{j} a_{k}^{\dagger} a_{j}^{\dagger}, \qquad (33)$$

we can simplify equation (31) as

$$U_{n}(r) = \exp(V_{+} \tanh r) \exp(2W_{0} \ln \operatorname{sech} r) \exp(-V_{-} \tanh r)$$

= $\exp[r(V_{+} - V_{-})],$ (34)

where V_+ and V_- are just the generalized multi-mode bosonic realization of the SU(1, 1) algebra,

$$[V_{-}, V_{+}] = 2W_{0}, \qquad [W_{0}, V_{+}] = V_{+}, \qquad [W_{0}, V_{-}] = -V_{-}; \tag{35}$$

here W_0 has been defined in equation (12). In particular, when $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \cdots = \varepsilon_n = \frac{1}{n}$ and $\lambda = \frac{1}{n}$,

$$V_{+} = W_{+} \tag{36}$$

and

$$U_n(r) \to S_n(r).$$
 (37)

Therefore, we can call $U_n(r)$ the generalized multi-mode SU(1, 1) squeezing operator. From equations (24) and (30), we see

$$U_n(\mu)|\chi,\vec{\rho}\rangle = \mu^{n/2}|\mu\chi,\mu\vec{\rho}\rangle; \tag{38}$$

thus $|\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle$ is a natural representation for the squeezing operator $U_n(r)$.

3.2. The behavior under $U_n(r)$ transformation

In order to simplify the form of V_+ in equation (33), we introduce the symmetric matrix G

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2\varepsilon_1^2}{\lambda} - 1 & \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_2 & \cdots & \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_n \\ \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_2\varepsilon_1 & \frac{2\varepsilon_2^2}{\lambda} - 1 & \cdots & \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_2\varepsilon_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_n\varepsilon_1 & \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_n\varepsilon_2 & \cdots & \frac{2\varepsilon_n^2}{\lambda} - 1 \end{pmatrix}_{n \times n},$$
(39)

which obeys

$$G^{2} = I, \qquad \sum_{j,k=1}^{n} G_{jk} = \frac{2}{\lambda} - n$$
 (40)

and

$$e^{rG} = I\cosh r + G\sinh r. \tag{41}$$

With the help of G, V_+ is re-expressed as

$$V_{+} = \frac{1}{2}a_{j}^{\dagger}G_{jk}a_{k}^{\dagger} \tag{42}$$

and

$$U_n(r) = \exp\left[\frac{r}{2}\left(a_j^{\dagger}G_{jk}a_k^{\dagger} - a_jG_{jk}a_k\right)\right];$$
(43)

here and henceforth the repeated indices imply the Einstein summation notation.

Therefore, due to equations (43) and (41), using the Baker–Hausdorff formula

$$e^{A}Be^{-A} = B + [A, B] + \frac{1}{2!}[A, [A, B]] + \frac{1}{3!}[A, [A, [A, B]]] + \cdots,$$
 (44)

and $\left[a_{j}, a_{k}^{\dagger}\right] = \delta_{jk}$, we have

$$U_n^{-1}(r)a_j U_n(r) = a_j \cosh r + a_k^{\dagger} G_{kj} \sinh r$$
(45)

and

$$U_n^{-1}(r)a_j^{\dagger}U_n(r) = a_j^{\dagger}\cosh r + a_k G_{kj}\sinh r.$$
 (46)

It then follows

$$U_n^{-1}(r)X_jU_n(r) = X_j\cosh r + X_kG_{kj}\sinh r = X_k(e^{rG})_{kj},$$
(47)

and

$$U_n^{-1}(r)P_jU_n(r) = P_j\cosh r - P_kG_{kj}\sinh r = P_k(e^{-rG})_{kj}.$$
(48)

We can further check

$$U_n^{-1}(r)XU_n(r) = \varepsilon_j X_j \cosh r + \varepsilon_j X_k G_{kj} \sinh r, \qquad (49)$$

where

$$\varepsilon_{j}X_{k}G_{kj} = \varepsilon_{j}G_{jk}X_{k}$$

$$= (\varepsilon_{1}, \varepsilon_{2}, \dots, \varepsilon_{n}) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2\varepsilon_{1}^{2}}{\lambda} - 1 & \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{1}\varepsilon_{2} & \cdots & \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{1}\varepsilon_{n} \\ \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{2}\varepsilon_{1} & \frac{2\varepsilon_{2}^{2}}{\lambda} - 1 & \cdots & \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{2}\varepsilon_{n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{n}\varepsilon_{1} & \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{n}\varepsilon_{2} & \cdots & \frac{2\varepsilon_{n}^{2}}{\lambda} - 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X_{1} \\ X_{2} \\ \vdots \\ X_{n} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \varepsilon_{1} \left[\left(\frac{2\varepsilon_{1}^{2}}{\lambda} - 1 \right) X_{1} + \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{1}\varepsilon_{2}X_{2} + \cdots + \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{1}\varepsilon_{n}X_{n} \right]$$

$$+ \varepsilon_{2} \left[\frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{2}\varepsilon_{1}X_{1} + \left(\frac{2\varepsilon_{2}^{2}}{\lambda} - 1 \right) X_{2} + \cdots + \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{2}\varepsilon_{n}X_{n} \right]$$

$$+ \cdots + \varepsilon_{n} \left[\frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{n}\varepsilon_{1}X_{1} + \frac{2}{\lambda}\varepsilon_{n}\varepsilon_{2}X_{2} + \cdots + \left(\frac{2\varepsilon_{n}^{2}}{\lambda} - 1 \right) X_{n} \right]$$

$$= (\varepsilon_{1}X_{1} + \varepsilon_{2}X_{2} + \cdots + \varepsilon_{n}X_{n}) \left(\frac{2\varepsilon_{1}^{2}}{\lambda} - 1 + \frac{2\varepsilon_{2}^{2}}{\lambda} + \cdots + \frac{2\varepsilon_{n}^{2}}{\lambda} \right)$$

$$= X;$$
(50)

in the last step we have used $\lambda \equiv \sum_{j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_j^2$. Thus $U_n^{-1}(r) X U_n(r) = \mu X$, as expected. In fact, considering equations (22), (24) and (25), we can prove that

$$U_{n}^{-1}(r)XU_{n}(r) = \mu^{n} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\chi \, d\vec{\rho} |\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle \langle \mu\chi, \mu\vec{\rho} | X \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\chi' \, d\vec{\rho}' |\mu\chi', \mu\vec{\rho}'\rangle \langle \chi', \vec{\rho}'|$$

$$= \mu^{n} \mu\chi \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\chi \, d\vec{\rho} |\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle \langle \mu\chi, \mu\vec{\rho} | \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\chi' \, d\vec{\rho}' |\mu\chi', \mu\vec{\rho}'\rangle \langle \chi', \vec{\rho}'|$$

$$= \mu \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\chi \, d\vec{\rho} |\chi, \vec{\rho}\rangle \langle \chi, \vec{\rho} | \chi$$

$$= \mu X.$$
(51)

3.3. The interaction Hamiltonian

Next, we seek the interaction Hamiltonian which can generate such a $U_n(r)$. For this purpose, we differentiate the two sides of equation (43) with respect to *t* and obtain

$$\mathbf{i}\frac{\partial U_n(r)}{\partial t} = \frac{\mathbf{i}}{2} \left(a_j^{\dagger} G_{jk} a_k^{\dagger} - a_j G_{jk} a_k \right) \frac{\partial r}{\partial t} U_n(r), \tag{52}$$

with $U_n(r)|_{t=0} = 1$, so the interaction Hamiltonian is

$$H_I(t) = \frac{\mathrm{i}}{2} \Big[a_j^{\dagger} G_{jk} a_k^{\dagger} - a_j G_{jk} a_k \Big] \frac{\partial r}{\partial t}.$$
(53)

Such a dynamic process may happen in some 2n-wave mixing processes; for the four-wave mixing we refer to the pioneering paper of Yuen and Shapiro [18].

4. Generalized multi-mode SU(1, 1) squeezed vacuum states

Acting the operator $U_n(r)$ in equation (31) on the *n*-mode vacuum state $|\vec{0}\rangle$ and using $: F(a_i^{\dagger}, a_j) : |\vec{0}\rangle = F(a_i^{\dagger}, 0)|\vec{0}\rangle$, we obtain the *n*-mode squeezed vacuum state

$$|r\rangle \equiv U_n(r)|0\rangle = \operatorname{sech}^{n/2} r \exp(V_+ \tanh r)|0\rangle,$$
(54)

where V_+ has been defined in equation (33). Now we evaluate the variances of two *n*-mode quadratures which are defined as [10]

$$X_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2n}} \sum_{j=1}^n X_j, \qquad P_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2n}} \sum_{j=1}^n P_j,$$
(55)

which obey the relations

$$[X_0, P_0] = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{i} \tag{56}$$

and

$$\langle (\Delta X_0)^2 \rangle \langle (\Delta P_0)^2 \rangle \ge \frac{1}{16},\tag{57}$$

where $\langle (\Delta X_0)^2 \rangle \equiv \langle X_0^2 \rangle - \langle X_0 \rangle^2$. Due to equations (47) and (48), we know that the expectation values of X_0 and P_0 in $|r\rangle$, $\langle r|X_0|r\rangle = \langle r|P_0|r\rangle = 0$, so their variances are

$$\langle (\Delta X_0)^2 \rangle = \langle r | X_0^2 | r \rangle = \langle \vec{0} | U_n^{-1}(r) X_0 U_n(r) U_n^{-1}(r) X_0 U_n(r) | \vec{0} \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{j=1}^n (e^{rG})_{kj} \sum_{i=1}^n (e^{rG})_{li} \langle \vec{0} | X_k X_l | \vec{0} \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{4n} \sum_{i,j=1}^n (e^{2rG})_{ij}$$
(58)

and

$$\langle (\Delta P_0)^2 \rangle = \langle r | P_0^2 | r \rangle = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{j=1}^n (e^{-rG})_{kj} \sum_{i=1}^n (e^{-rG})_{li} \langle \vec{0} | P_k P_l | \vec{0} \rangle$$

= $\frac{1}{4n} \sum_{i,j=1}^n (e^{-2rG})_{ij}.$ (59)

According to equation (40),

$$\sum_{j,k=1}^{n} (e^{2rG})_{jk} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2r)^l}{l!} \sum_{j,k=1}^{n} (G^l)_{jk}$$

= $n \cosh 2r + (\frac{2}{\lambda} - n) \sinh 2r$
= $\frac{1}{\lambda} e^{2r} + \left(n - \frac{1}{\lambda}\right) e^{-2r},$ (60)

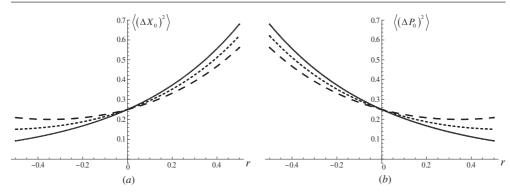


Figure 1. Variances of quadratures in the two-mode state $|r\rangle$ (n = 2) as a function of *r* for different parameters ε_i and λ as follows: $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \frac{1}{2}, \lambda = \frac{1}{2}$ (solid line); $\varepsilon_1 = \frac{1}{3}, \varepsilon_2 = \frac{2}{3}, \lambda = \frac{5}{9}$ (dashed line) and $\varepsilon_1 = \frac{1}{4}, \varepsilon_2 = \frac{3}{4}, \lambda = \frac{5}{8}$ (dotted line).

so

$$\langle (\Delta X_0)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4n\lambda} e^{2r} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4n\lambda}\right) e^{-2r},$$
 (61)

and

$$\langle (\Delta P_0)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4n\lambda} e^{-2r} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4n\lambda}\right) e^{2r}.$$
 (62)

Because $\lambda \equiv \sum_{j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_j^2$, $\varepsilon_j = m_j/M < 1$, $\sum_{j=1}^{n} \varepsilon_j = 1$, according to the well-known inequality $\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{j=0}^{n} \varepsilon_j}{n}} \ge \frac{\sum_{j=0}^{n} \varepsilon_j}{n}$, i.e. $\frac{1}{n} \le \lambda < 1$, we have

$$\langle (\Delta X_0)^2 \rangle \langle (\Delta P_0)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{16} - \frac{1}{8n\lambda} + \frac{1}{8n^2\lambda^2} + \left(\frac{1}{8n\lambda} - \frac{1}{8n^2\lambda^2}\right) \cosh 4r$$

$$\geqslant \frac{1}{16}, \tag{63}$$

which agrees with equation (57). Especially, when $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \cdots = \varepsilon_n = \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{1}{n}$, both equations (61) and (62) recover as the standard form

$$\langle (\Delta X_0)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4} e^{2r}, \qquad \langle (\Delta P_0)^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{4} e^{-2r}.$$
 (64)

In figures 1 and 2, we plot the graph of the variances $\langle (\Delta X_0)^2 \rangle$ and $\langle (\Delta P_0)^2 \rangle$ in the state $|r\rangle$ for the n = 2 and n = 3 cases, respectively. It is shown from figures 1 and 2 that the variances are sensitive to the different parameters ε_i and λ and for r > 0, $\langle (\Delta X_0)^2 \rangle$ is always more than $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\langle (\Delta P_0)^2 \rangle$ is always less than $\frac{1}{4}$, while for r < 0 the case is quite the contrary. Thus, for the generalized states $|r\rangle$, there exists a squeezing effect.

The concept of higher-order squeezing [19] is another aspect for revealing nonclassical characters of a quantum state. When the 2m-th moment in a state is less than that in the vacuum state, this state is said to be squeezed to order 2m. Using equation (55), we now calculate the 2m-th moment of the *n*-mode quadrature X_0 in the state $|r\rangle$,

$$\langle (\Delta X_0)^{2m} \rangle = \langle r | (\Delta X_0)^{2m} | r \rangle = \langle 0 | U_n^{-1}(r) (\Delta X_0)^{2m} U_n(r) | 0 \rangle$$
$$= \left(\frac{1}{4n} \right)^m \langle \vec{0} | \left\{ \Delta \sum_{j=1}^n \left[(e^{rG})_{jk} (a_k + a_k^{\dagger}) \right] \right\}^{2m} | \vec{0} \rangle.$$
(65)

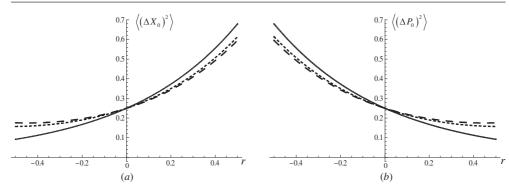


Figure 2. Variances of quadratures in the three-mode state $|r\rangle$ (n = 3) as a function of r for different parameters ε_i and λ as follows: $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon_3 = \frac{1}{3}$, $\lambda = \frac{1}{3}$ (solid line); $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \frac{1}{4}$, $\varepsilon_3 = \frac{1}{2}$, $\lambda = \frac{3}{8}$ (dashed line) and $\varepsilon_1 = \frac{1}{6}$, $\varepsilon_2 = \frac{1}{3}$, $\varepsilon_3 = \frac{1}{2}$, $\lambda = \frac{7}{18}$ (dotted line).

Note that the formula [20]

$$(\Delta F)^{2m} = \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{(2m)!}{(2m-2k)!k!} : (\Delta F)^{2m-2k} : \left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \xi_j \zeta_j}{2}\right)^k, \tag{66}$$

where $\Delta F \equiv F - \langle F \rangle$ with $F = \sum_{j=1}^{n} (\xi_j a_j + \zeta_j a_j^{\dagger})$. Letting $Q = \sum_{j=1}^{n} [(e^{rG})_{jk} (a_k + a_k^{\dagger})]$ and using equation (60), we obtain

$$(\Delta Q)^{2m} = \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{(2m)!}{(2m-2k)!k!} : (\Delta Q)^{2m-2k} : \left(\frac{\frac{1}{\lambda}e^{2r} + \left(n - \frac{1}{\lambda}\right)e^{-2r}}{2}\right)^{k}.$$
 (67)

By substituting equation (67) into equation (65), and using $\langle \vec{0} | (\Delta Q)^{2m-2k} | \vec{0} \rangle = \delta_{mk}$, equation (67) becomes

$$\langle (\Delta X_0)^{2m} \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^m (2m-1)!! \left(\frac{1}{n\lambda} e^{2r} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{n\lambda}\right) e^{-2r}\right)^m, \tag{68}$$

where $(2m - 1)!! = 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots (2m - 1)$. Similarly, we have

$$\langle (\Delta P_0)^{2m} \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^m (2m-1)!! \left(\frac{1}{n\lambda} e^{-2r} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{n\lambda}\right) e^{2r}\right)^m.$$
 (69)

It is clear that when m = 1, equations (68) and (69) reduce to equations (61) and (62), respectively. In order to see clearly the variations of the 2m-th moment of quadratures in $|r\rangle$, the figures are plotted in figure 3 for several different m values, respectively, where we only consider the three-mode case, namely, n = 3. From figure 3, for the 4th moment of quadratures, when r > 0 (r < 0), $(\Delta X_0)^4 > \frac{3}{16} ((\Delta X_0)^4 < \frac{3}{16})$ and $(\Delta P_0)^4 < \frac{3}{16} ((\Delta P_0)^4 > \frac{3}{16})$, which implies that $|r\rangle$ is squeezed to ordered 4. In fact, for the other case, the results are similar, so $|r\rangle$ is squeezed not merely to the second order but to all higher orders.

5. Violation of the Bell inequality for the state $|r\rangle$

In this section, we examine the violation of the Bell inequality for the state $|r\rangle$ by using the formalism of the Wigner representation in phase space based on the parity operator and

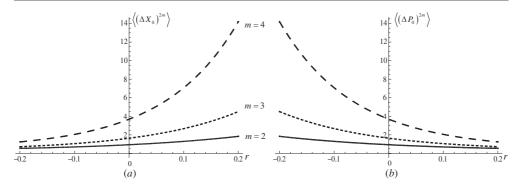


Figure 3. 2*m*-th moment of quadratures in the three-mode state $|r\rangle$ (*n* = 3) as a function of *r* for several different *m* = 2, 3, 4 values, respectively.

the displacement operation. Wigner function representation of the Bell inequality has been developed using a parity operator as a quantum observable [21–23].

For the multi-mode system, the correlation function is the expectation of the operator

$$\Pi(\vec{\alpha}) = \bigotimes_{j=1}^{n} \Pi_j(\alpha_j) = \bigotimes_{j=1}^{n} D_j(\alpha_j) (-1)^{N_j} D_j^{\dagger}(\alpha_j),$$
(70)

which is an equivalent definition of the Wigner operator [21-24]; the corresponding Wigner function is

$$W(\vec{x}, \vec{p}) = W(\vec{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{\pi^n} \langle \Pi(\vec{\alpha}) \rangle, \tag{71}$$

where $\vec{x} \equiv (x_1, x_2, ..., x_n)$, $\vec{p} \equiv (p_1, p_2, ..., p_n)$, $\vec{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\vec{x} + i\vec{p}) \equiv (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, ..., \alpha_n)$ and $D_j(\alpha_j) = \exp(\alpha_j a_j^{\dagger} - \alpha_j^* a_j)$ is a displacement operator. $(-1)^{N_j}$ corresponds to the measurement of an even (+1) or an odd (-1) number of photons in mode *j*. Within the framework of local realistic theories, the Wigner representation of the Bell inequality is of the form [25–27]

$$|B(n)| \leqslant 2,\tag{72}$$

where B(n) is a combination of $W(\vec{\alpha})$. For example, for the two-mode case, i.e. n = 2, the Bell inequality is expressed as

$$B(2) = \pi^{2} [W(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}) + W(\alpha'_{1}, \alpha_{2}) + W(\alpha_{1}, \alpha'_{2}) - W(\alpha'_{1}, \alpha'_{2})],$$
(73)

while for n = 3,

$$B(3) = \pi^{3} [W(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{3}') + W(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}', \alpha_{3}) + W(\alpha_{1}', \alpha_{2}, \alpha_{3}) - W(\alpha_{1}', \alpha_{2}', \alpha_{3}')].$$
(74)

In order to examine the violation of the Bell inequality for the state $|r\rangle$, we first calculate the Wigner function of the state $|r\rangle$. Remember that the Weyl ordered form of the *n*-mode Wigner operator is expressed as [28]

$$\Delta(\vec{x}, \vec{p}) = \bigotimes_{j=1}^{n} \Delta_j(x_j, p_j) = \left[\delta(\vec{x} - \vec{X})\delta(\vec{p} - \vec{P}) \right]$$
(75)

where $\vec{X} \equiv (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$, $\vec{P} \equiv (P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n)$ and $\overset{\cdots}{\underset{i:}{\ldots}}$ denotes the Weyl ordering. The normally ordered form of $\Delta(\vec{x}, \vec{p})$ is [24]

$$\Delta(\vec{x}, \vec{p}) = \frac{1}{\pi^n} : \exp[-(\vec{x} - \vec{X})^2 - (\vec{p} - \vec{P})^2] : .$$
(76)

Then according to the Weyl ordering invariance under similar transformations [29] and the Weyl quantization rule, using equations (47) and (48), we have

$$U_{n}^{-1}(r)\Delta(\vec{x},\vec{p})U_{n}(r) = \begin{cases} \delta[\vec{x} - U_{n}^{-1}(r)\vec{X}U_{n}(r)]\delta[\vec{p} - U_{n}^{-1}(r)\vec{P}U_{n}(r)] \\ \\ = \\ \delta(\vec{x} - e^{rG}\vec{X})\delta(\vec{p} - e^{-rG}\vec{P}) \\ \\ = \\ \delta(e^{-rG}\vec{x} - \vec{X})\delta(e^{rG}\vec{p} - \vec{P}) \\ \\ \\ = \\ \Delta(e^{-rG}\vec{x}, e^{rG}\vec{p}). \end{cases}$$
(77)

Thus using equations (76) and (77), the Wigner function of $|r\rangle$ is

$$W(\vec{x}, \vec{p}) = \langle \vec{0} | U_n^{-1}(r) \Delta(\vec{x}, \vec{p}) U_n(r) | \vec{0} \rangle$$

= $\frac{1}{\pi^n} \langle \vec{0} | : \exp[-(e^{-rG}\vec{x} - \vec{X})^2 - (e^{rG}\vec{p} - \vec{P})^2] : | \vec{0} \rangle$
= $\frac{1}{\pi^n} \exp[-x_j(e^{-2rG})_{jk}x_k - p_j(e^{2rG})_{jk}p_k].$ (78)

Considering equations (39) and (41) and $x_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\alpha_j + \alpha_j^*)$, $p_j = \frac{1}{i\sqrt{2}}(\alpha_j - \alpha_j^*)$, equation (78) can be rewritten as

$$W(\vec{x}, \vec{p}) = \frac{1}{\pi^n} \exp\left[-\sum_{j=1}^n \left(x_j^2 + p_j^2\right) \cosh 2r + \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{2\varepsilon_j^2}{\lambda} - 1\right) \left(x_j^2 - p_j^2\right) \sinh 2r + \frac{4}{\lambda} \sum_{j>k=1}^n \varepsilon_j \varepsilon_k (x_j x_k - p_j p_k) \sinh 2r\right]$$
$$= \frac{1}{\pi^n} \exp\left[-2\sum_{j=1}^n |\alpha_j|^2 \cosh 2r + \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\frac{2\varepsilon_j^2}{\lambda} - 1\right) \left(\alpha_j^2 + \alpha_j^{*2}\right) \sinh 2r + \frac{4}{\lambda} \sum_{j>k=1}^n \varepsilon_j \varepsilon_k \left(\alpha_j \alpha_k + \alpha_j^* \alpha_k^*\right) \sinh 2r\right] \equiv W(\vec{\alpha}).$$
(79)

Especially, when $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \cdots = \varepsilon_n = \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{1}{n}$,

$$W_{n}(\vec{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{\pi^{n}} \exp\left[-2\sum_{j=1}^{n} |\alpha_{j}|^{2} \cosh 2r + \frac{4}{n} \sum_{j>k=1}^{n} (\alpha_{j}\alpha_{k} + \alpha_{j}^{*}\alpha_{k}^{*}) \sinh 2r + \left(\frac{2}{n} - 1\right) \sum_{j=1}^{n} (\alpha_{j}^{2} + \alpha_{j}^{*2}) \sinh 2r\right],$$
(80)

which is the same as the result of equation (16) given in [12].

For the n = 2 case, we examine the violation of the Bell inequality where $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0$ and $\alpha'_1 = -\alpha'_2 = b$ (*b* is a positive constant associated with the displacement magnitude). From these quantities, considering equations (73) and (80) and in the limit of large *r* ($\cosh 2r \simeq e^{-2r}/2$) as well as small *b*, we obtain the following equation:

$$B(2) = \pi^{2} [W(0, 0) + W(b, 0) + W(0, -b) - W(b, -b)]$$

= 1 + 2 exp(-2b² cosh 2r) - exp(-4b² e^{2r})
\approx 1 + 2 exp(-b² e^{2r}) - exp(-4b² e^{2r}), (81)

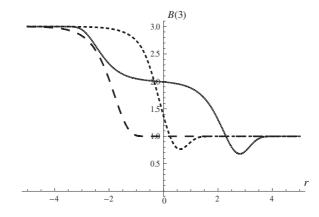


Figure 4. Violation of the Bell inequality *B*(3) for the three-mode state $|r\rangle$ (n = 3) by using parity measurements with $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon_3 = \frac{1}{3}$, $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha'_3 = 0$, $\alpha_3 = -b$ and $\alpha'_1 = \alpha'_2 = b$, where b = 0.05 (solid line), b = 0.5 (dashed line) and b = 3 (dotted line).

which is maximized for $b^2 e^{2r} = \frac{1}{3} \ln 2$: $B(2)_{\text{max}} = 2.19$. This is a clear violation of the inequality $|B(2)| \leq 2$.

Taking n = 3 as another example, from equation (74) the Bell inequality equation has 12 variables, and it is highly nontrivial to find the global maximum values of B(3) for all 12 variables. Fortunately, some local maximum values which violate the Bell inequality can be found numerically using the method of steepest descent. For this purpose, in figure 4 we plot the maximal Bell violation as a function of r, where $\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon_3 = \frac{1}{3}$, $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha'_3 = 0$, $\alpha_3 = -b$ and $\alpha'_1 = \alpha'_2 = b$. It is clear from figure 4 that the maximal-Bell violation increases with the squeezing parameter |r| with r < 0 and the maximal value of B(3) reaches 3, which implies that the Bell inequality for the three-mode case is violated. These results can be confirmed analytically. In fact, we put the above-chosen combinations into equation (74). For large |r| with r < 0, $\cosh 2r \rightarrow e^{-2r}/2$ and $\sinh 2r \rightarrow -e^{-2r}/2$. After some calculation, B(3) equals $3 - \exp\left(-\frac{8}{3}e^{-2r}b^2\right)$. When $e^{-2r}b^2$ is large enough, $B(3) \rightarrow 3$.

6. Conclusions

In summary, by constructing the generalized multi-partite entangled state representation and introducing the ket-bra integral in this representation, we find a new set of generalized bosonic realization of the SU(1, 1) algebra, which can compose the generalized multi-mode squeezing operator $U_n(r)$. The intrinsic relation between the multi-mode entangled states of continuum variables and squeezing operator is clearly shown. The explicit multi-mode squeezed vacuum state $|r\rangle$ is obtained; the variances of the *n*-mode quadratures and higher-order squeezing for $|r\rangle$ are examined; the violation of the Bell inequality of $|r\rangle$ is examined. Finally, we mention that the new squeezing operator may be applied to the quantum theory of multi-photon absorption and emission in nonlinear optical processes, or tackling Bose–Einstein condensation in dilute gases, or deriving the ground state of trapped bosons, or obtaining collective modes in nuclear physics.

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