

Abstract Submitted  
for the DAMOP16 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**Convex Decompositions of Thermal Equilibrium for Non-interacting Non-relativistic Particles** AURELIA CHENU, Massachusetts Inst of Tech-MIT, AGATA BRANCZYK, Perimeter Institute, JOHN SIPE, University of Toronto — We provide convex decompositions of thermal equilibrium for non-interacting non-relativistic particles in terms of localized wave packets. These quantum representations offer a new tool and provide insights that can help relate to the classical picture. Considering that thermal states are ubiquitous in a wide diversity of fields, studying different convex decompositions of the canonical ensemble is an interesting problem by itself. The usual classical and quantum pictures of thermal equilibrium of  $N$  non-interacting, non-relativistic particles in a box of volume  $V$  are quite different. The picture in classical statistical mechanics is about (localized) particles with a range of positions and velocities; in quantum statistical mechanics, one considers the particles (bosons or fermions) associated with energy eigenstates that are delocalized through the whole box. Here we provide a representation of thermal equilibrium in quantum statistical mechanics involving wave packets with a localized coordinate representation and an expectation value of velocity. In addition to derive a formalism that may help simplify particular calculations, our results can be expected to provide insights into the transition from quantum to classical features of the fully quantum thermal state.

Aurelia Chenu  
Massachusetts Inst of Tech-MIT

Date submitted: 31 Jan 2016

Electronic form version 1.4