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A quantum particle in a high-symmetry two-dimensional box
MAXIMILLIAAN KOOPMAN, ANDREW DAVIS, QING WANG, ANTONETT NUNEZDELPRADO, CONSTANCE DOTY, TRISTAN REYNOSO, RICHARD KLEMM, Univ of Central Florida — We present contour-plot representations of the low-energy wave functions for a quantum particle in a two-dimensional infinite well potential exhibiting perfect C_∞ (disk), C_{2v} , (rectangular), C_{3v} (equilateral triangular), or C_{4v} (square) point group symmetry. The rotationally-invariant C_∞ -allowed wave functions have the integer quantum numbers $n \geq 1$. For the rectangular box, all wave functions with $n, n' \geq 1$ are allowed, and each one is an allowed representation of the C_{2v} point group. However, for the equilateral-triangular and square boxes, some quantum numbers have to be eliminated, as the wave functions to which they correspond cannot be made into representations of the respective C_{3v} or C_{4v} point groups. For the equilateral triangular box, only $|n - n'| = 3p$ are allowed, where $p \geq 0$ for the wave functions even about the three mirror planes, and $p \geq 1$ for wave functions odd about the three mirror planes. For the square box, $|n - n'| = 2p$ are allowed, where for $p \neq 0$, only the sum and difference of the two degenerate wave functions are representations of the C_{4v} point group.

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