



## Non-WKB variational theory of self-focusing of an elliptically Gaussian laser beam in a plasma

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### Abstract

[en] This paper presents a non-WKB variational treatment of the self-focusing of an elliptically Gaussian laser beam in an axially-inhomogeneous plasma. Six coupled second-order ordinary differential equations have been obtained for the axial amplitude, beam width parameters and coefficients. These equations have been compared with the WKB Akhmanov-approach equations. It is shown that the concept of a wave number is not strictly valid in the overdense region where the electric field of the laser beam varies highly nonsinusoidally. (author)

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