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Continuous measurement of solid-state qubits

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Outline:

- Short introduction (QM philosophy)
- Quantum Bayesian theory for continuous measurement of a qubit
- Short review of first experiments
- Correlators in simultaneous measurement of non-commuting observables of a qubit
- Arrow of time in continuous measurement of a qubit

“Orthodox” (Copenhagen) quantum mechanics

Schrödinger equation
+
collapse postulate

1) Fundamentally random measurement result r
(out of allowed set of eigenvalues). Probability: $p_r = |\langle\psi|\psi_r\rangle|^2$

2) State after measurement corresponds to result: $|\psi_r\rangle$

- Instantaneous, single quantum system (not ensemble)
- Contradicts Schröd. Eq., but **comes from common sense**
- Needs “observer”, **reality follows observer’s knowledge**

Why so strange (unobjective)?

- “Shut up and calculate”
- May be QM founders were stupid?
- Use proper philosophy?

Werner Heisenberg

Books:

Physics and Philosophy: The Revolution in Modern Science

Philosophical Problems of Quantum Physics

The Physicist's Conception of Nature

Across the Frontiers

Niels Bohr

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), German philosopher

Critique of pure reason (materialism, but not naive materialism)

Nature - “Thing-in-itself” (noumenon, not phenomenon)

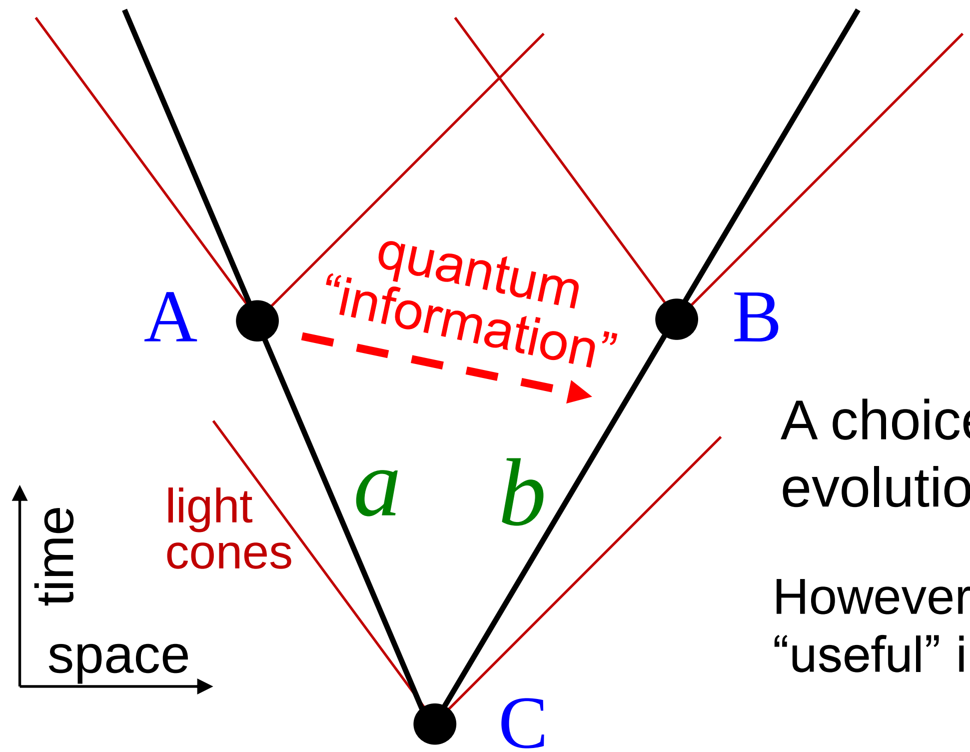
Humans use “concepts (categories) of understanding”;
make sense of phenomena, but never know noumena directly

A priori: space, time, causality

A naïve philosophy should not be a roadblock for good physics,
quantum mechanics requires a non-naïve philosophy

Wavefunction is not a reality, it is only our description of reality

Causality principle in quantum mechanics



objects *a* and *b*

observers A and B (and C)

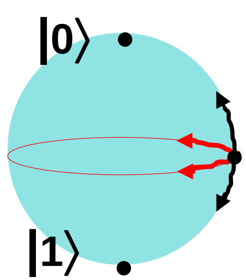
observers have “free will”;
they can choose an action

A choice made by observer A <u>can</u> affect evolution of object *b* “back in time”

However, this retroactive control cannot pass “useful” information to B (no signaling)

Randomness saves causality (even C cannot predict result of A measurement)

Our focus: continuous collapse



<u>Ensemble-averaged</u> evolution of object *b* cannot depend on actions of observer A

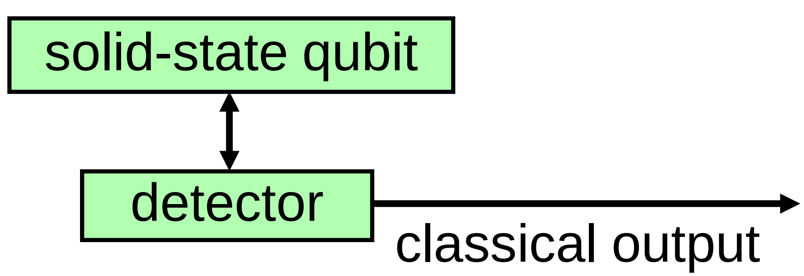
What is "inside" collapse?
What if collapse is stopped half-way?

Various approaches to non-projective (weak, continuous, partial, generalized, etc.) quantum measurements

Names: Davies, Kraus, Holevo, Mensky, Caves, Diosi, Carmichael, Milburn, Wiseman, Aharonov, Vaidman, Molmer, Gisin, Percival, Belavkin, … (very incomplete list)

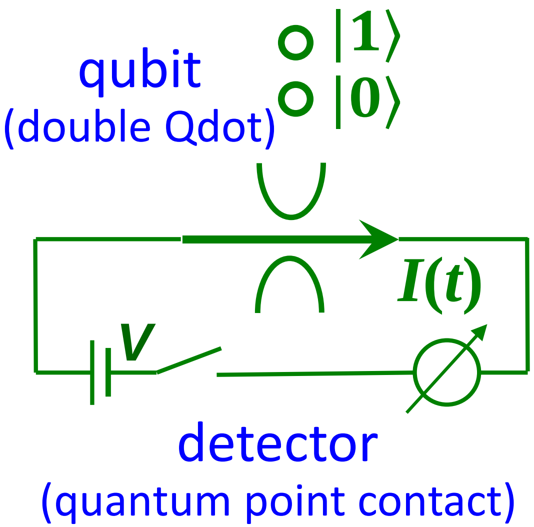
Key words: POVM, restricted path integral, quantum trajectories, quantum filtering, quantum jumps, stochastic master equation, etc.

We consider:



Quantum Bayesian approach

Quantum Bayesian formalism for qubit meas.



Qubit evolution due to measurement
(informational back-action)

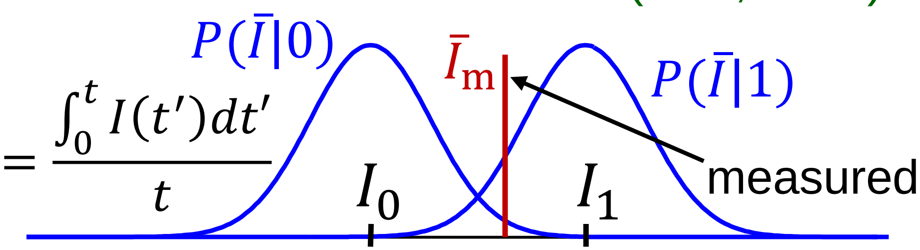
$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \alpha(t)\,|0\rangle + \beta(t)\,|1\rangle \quad \text{or} \quad \rho_{ij}(t)$$

1) $|\alpha(t)|^2$ and $|\beta(t)|^2$ evolve as probabilities,
i.e. according to the Bayes rule (same for ρ_{ii})

2) phases of $\alpha(t)$ and $\beta(t)$ do not change
(no dephasing!), $\rho_{ij}/\sqrt{\rho_{ii}\rho_{jj}} = \text{const}$

(A.K., 1998)

$$\bar{I}_{\rm m} = \frac{\int_0^t I(t')dt'}{t}$$



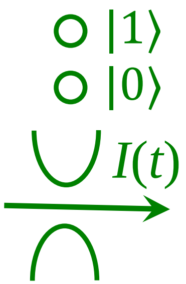
$$P(\bar{I}) = \rho_{00}(0)\,P(\bar{I}|0) + \rho_{11}(0)\,P(\bar{I}|1)$$

Bayes rule (1763, Laplace-1812):

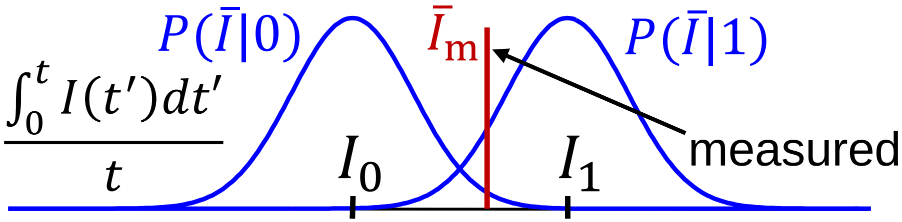
$$\underbrace{P(A_i|\text{res})}_{\text{posterior probability}} = \frac{\underbrace{P(A_i)}_{\text{prior probab.}}\;\underbrace{P(\text{res}|A_i)}_{\text{likelihood}}}{\text{norm}}$$

So simple because:
1) no entanglement at large QPC voltage
2) QPC is ideal detector
3) no other evolution of qubit ($H_{\rm qb} = 0$)

Further steps in quantum Bayesian formalism



$$\bar{I}_{\rm m} = \frac{\int_0^t I(t')dt'}{t}$$



$$\alpha(t)\,|0\rangle + \beta(t)\,|1\rangle$$

$$\rho_{ij}(t)$$

1. Informational back-action (“spooky”, no mechanism), $\times \sqrt{\text{likelihood}}$

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \frac{\sqrt{P(\bar{I}_{\rm m}|0)}\,\alpha(0)\,|0\rangle + \sqrt{P(\bar{I}_{\rm m}|1)}\,\beta(0)\,|1\rangle}{\text{norm}}$$

2. Add unitary (phase) back-action, physical mechanisms for QPC and cQED

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \frac{\sqrt{P(\bar{I}_{\rm m}|0)}\,\exp\left[iK\left(\bar{I}_{\rm m} - \frac{I_0+I_1}{2}\right)\right]\alpha(0)\,|0\rangle + \sqrt{P(\bar{I}_{\rm m}|1)}\,\beta(0)\,|1\rangle}{\text{norm}}$$

3. Add detector non-ideality (equivalent to dephasing) $\gamma = \Gamma - \frac{(\Delta I)^2}{4S_I} - \frac{K^2 S_I}{4}$

$$\rho_{ii}(t) = \frac{P(\bar{I}_{\rm m}|i)\,\rho_{ii}(0)}{\text{norm}}, \quad \frac{\rho_{01}(t)}{\sqrt{\rho_{00}(t)\,\rho_{11}(t)}} = \frac{e^{iK(\bar{I}_{\rm m} - \frac{I_0+I_1}{2})}\rho_{01}(0)}{\sqrt{\rho_{00}(0)\,\rho_{11}(0)}}\,\exp(-\gamma t)$$

Further steps in quantum Bayesian formalism

4. Take derivative over time (if differential equation is desired)

Simple, but be careful about definition of derivative

$$\frac{df(t)}{dt} = \frac{f(t+dt/2) - f(t-dt/2)}{dt}$$

Stratonovich form
preserves usual calculus

$$\frac{df(t)}{dt} = \frac{f(t+dt) - f(t)}{dt}$$

Ito form

requires special calculus,
but keeps averages

5. Add Hamiltonian evolution (if any) and additional decoherence (if any)

Standard terms

Steps 1–5 form the quantum Bayesian approach to qubit measurement

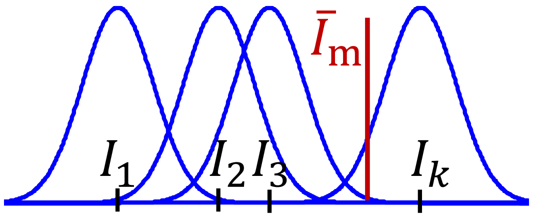
(A.K., 1998—2001)

Generalization: measurement of operator *A*

"Informational" quantum Bayesian evolution in differential (Ito) form:

$$\dot{\rho} = \frac{A\rho A - (A^2\rho + \rho A^2)/2}{2\eta S} + \frac{A\rho + \rho A - 2\rho \mathrm{Tr}\,(A\rho)}{\sqrt{2S}}\ \xi(t)$$

$I(t) = \mathrm{Tr}(A\rho) + \sqrt{S/2}\ \xi(t)$ noisy detector output



S: spectral density of the output noise

$\langle \xi(t)\, \xi(t')\rangle = \delta(t-t')$ normalized white noise

η: quantum efficiency

With additional unitary (Hamiltonian) back-action B and additional evolution

$$\dot{\rho} = \mathcal{L}[\rho] + \frac{A\rho + \rho A - 2\rho \mathrm{Tr}\,(A\rho)}{\sqrt{2S}}\ \xi(t) - i[B,\rho]\,\frac{1}{\sqrt{2S}}\ \xi(t)$$

$\mathcal{L}[\rho]$: ensemble-averaged (Lindblad) evolution

The same as in the Quantum Trajectory theory (Wiseman, Milburn, …)

Nowadays "quantum trajectory" often means Q.Bayesian real-time monitoring

Quantum trajectory theory

H. J. Carmichael, 1993
H. M. Wiseman and G. J. Milburn, 1993

optics

H.-S. Goan and G. J. Milburn, 2001
H.-S. Goan, G. J. Milburn, H. M. Wiseman, and H. B. Sun, 2001

solid-state, quantum point contact

J. Gambetta, A. Blais, M. Boissonneault, A. A. Houck, D. I. Schuster, and S. M. Girvin, 2008

circuit QED

Relation between Quantum Trajectory and Quantum Bayesian formalisms

Essentially the same thing, but look different

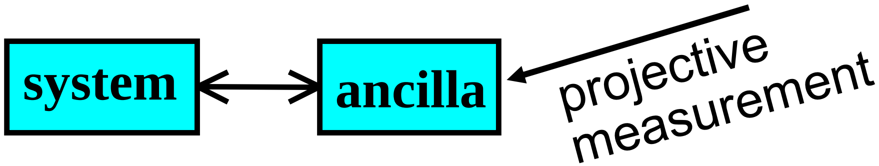
Quantum trajectory theory uses mathematical language (superoperators), quantum Bayesian theory uses simple physical approach (undergraduate-level)

Computationally, Bayesian theory is usually better (more than first-order)

Another meaning of “quantum trajectories“: real-time monitoring of evolution (often done by quantum Bayesian theory)

Quantum measurement in POVM formalism

Davies, Kraus, Holevo, etc.



Measurement (Kraus) operator
M_r (any linear operator in H.S.) : $\psi \to \dfrac{M_r\psi}{||M_r\psi||}$ or $\rho \to \dfrac{M_r\rho M_r^\dagger}{\mathrm{Tr}(M_r^\dagger M_r \rho)}$

Probability : $P_r = ||M_r\psi||^2$ or $P_r = \mathrm{Tr}(M_r^\dagger M_r \rho)$

Completeness : $\sum_r M_r^\dagger M_r = 1$

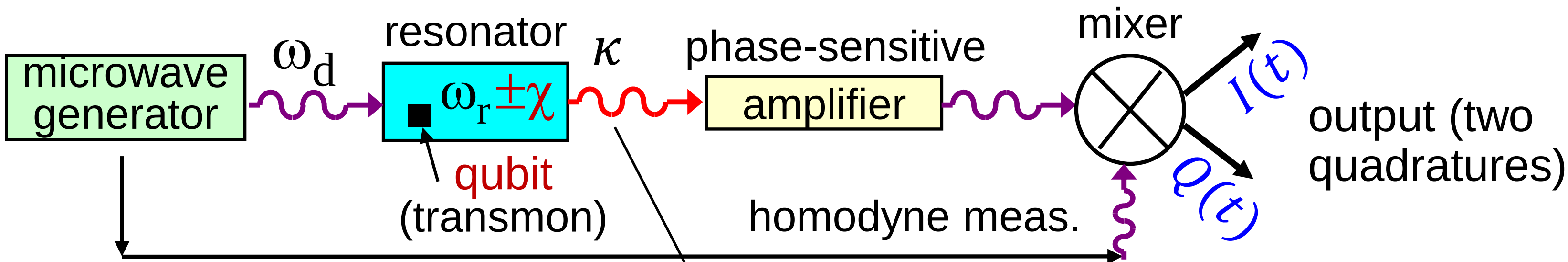
(People often prefer linear evolution and non-normalized states)

Relation between POVM and quantum Bayesian formalism

polar decomposition: $M_r = U_r \sqrt{M_r^\dagger M_r}$

unitary — Bayes (steps 1 and 2 above)

Quantum Bayesian theory for circuit QED setup

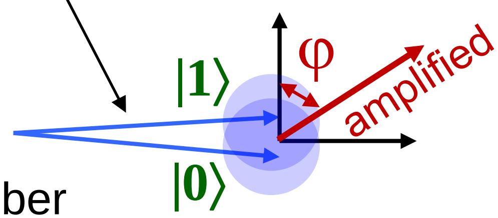


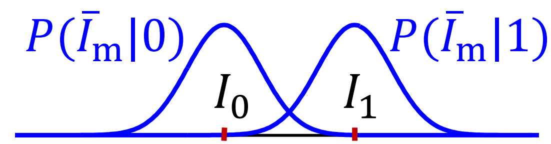
A. Blais et al., PRA 2004
A. Wallraff et al., Nature 2004
J. Gambetta et al., PRA 2008

Two quadratures:

1) information on qubit state
⇒ informational back-action

2) information on fluct. photon number
⇒ unitary (phase) back-action





$$\begin{cases} \dfrac{\rho_{11}(\tau)}{\rho_{00}(\tau)} = \dfrac{\rho_{11}(0)\exp[-(\bar{I}_m - I_1)^2/2D]}{\rho_{00}(0)\exp[-(\bar{I}_m - I_0)^2/2D]} \\ \rho_{01}(\tau) = \rho_{01}(0)\sqrt{\dfrac{\rho_{00}(\tau)\rho_{11}(\tau)}{\rho_{00}(0)\rho_{11}(0)}}\exp(iK\bar{I}_m\tau) \end{cases}$$

Bayes unitary

$$P(\bar{I}_m) = \rho_{00}(0)\,P(\bar{I}_m|0) + \rho_{11}(0)\,P(\bar{I}_m|1)$$

$$\bar{I}_m = \tau^{-1}\int_0^\tau I(t)dt \qquad D = S_I/2\tau$$

$$I_0 - I_1 = \Delta I\cos\varphi \qquad K = \Delta I\sin\varphi/S_I$$

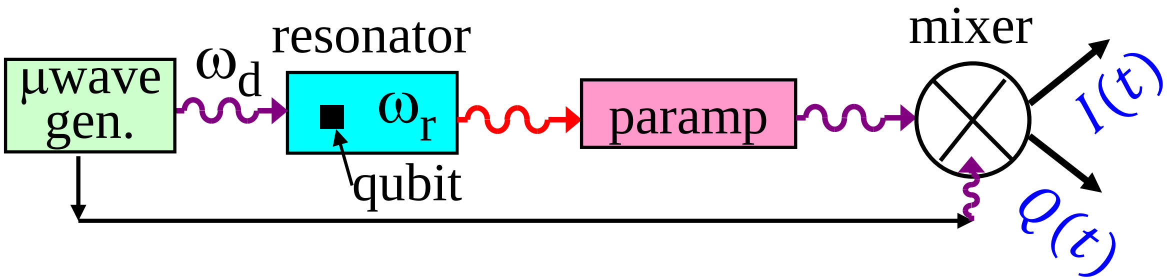
$$\Gamma = \frac{(\Delta I\cos\varphi)^2}{4S_I} + K^2\frac{S_I}{4} = \frac{\Delta I^2}{4S_I} = \frac{8\chi^2\bar{n}}{\kappa}$$

Amplified phase φ controls trade-off between informational and phase back-actions (we choose if photon number fluctuates or not)

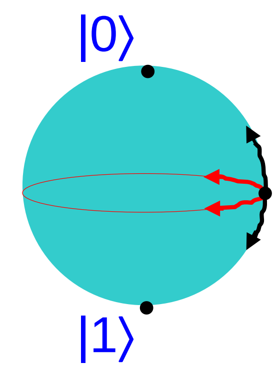
A.K., arXiv:1111.4016

Causality in quantum mechanics

Ensemble-averaged evolution
cannot be affected back in time
(single realization can be affected)



We can choose direction of qubit evolution
to be either along parallel or along meridian
or in between (delayed choice)

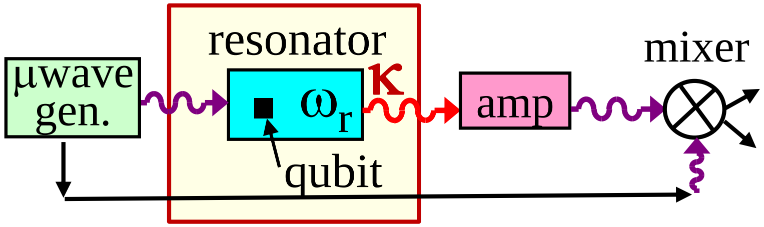


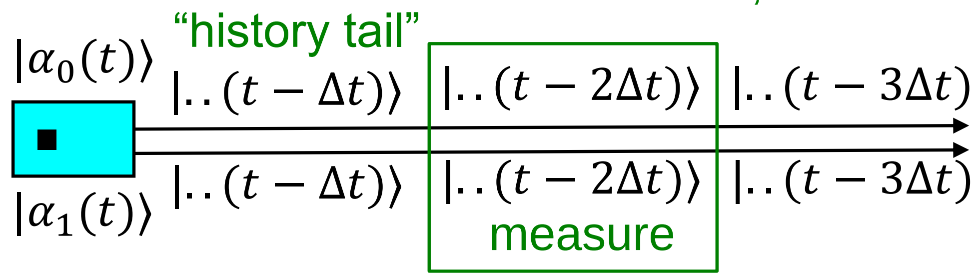
A.K., arXiv:1111.4016

Expt. confirmation: K. Murch et al., Nature 2013

Beyond the "bad-cavity" limit

A.K., PRA 2016





The same quantum Bayesian approach, now applied to entangled qubit-resonator system (arbitrary κ, classical equations for $\alpha_j(t)$)

$$\hat{\rho}(t) = \sum_{j,k=0,1} \rho_{jk}(t)\, |j\rangle\langle k| \otimes |\alpha_j(t)\rangle\langle\alpha_k(t)|$$

$$\frac{\rho_{11}(t+\Delta t)}{\rho_{00}(t+\Delta t)} = \frac{\rho_{11}(t)}{\rho_{00}(t)} \exp(I_m \cos\phi_d\, \Delta I_{\max}/D)$$

$\Delta I_{\max}$: max response
D: noise variance
ϕ_d: angle from optimal quadrature

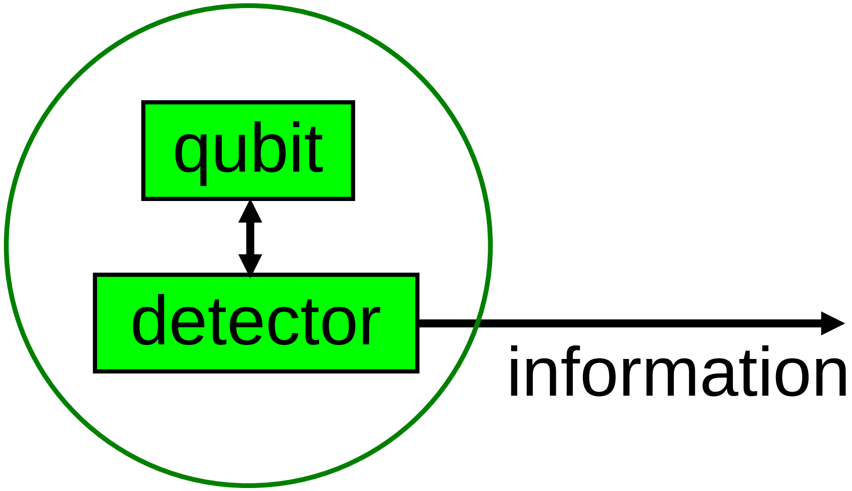
$$\frac{\rho_{10}(t+\Delta t)}{\rho_{10}(t)} = \frac{\sqrt{\rho_{11}(t+\Delta t)\rho_{00}(t+\Delta t)}}{\sqrt{\rho_{11}(t)\rho_{00}(t)}} \exp(-\gamma\Delta t)$$
$$\times \exp(-i\delta\omega_{\text{ac Stark}}\Delta t) \exp(-iI_m \sin\phi_d\, \Delta I_{\max}/2D)$$

$$\Gamma = (\kappa/2)\, |\alpha_1 - \alpha_0|^2$$
$$\gamma = \Gamma - \Delta I_{\max}^2/8D\Delta t$$
$$\eta = (\Gamma - \gamma)/\Gamma$$

$$\delta\omega_{\text{ac Stark}} = \kappa\, \text{Im}(\alpha_1^*\alpha_0) + \text{Re}[\varepsilon^*(\alpha_1 - \alpha_0)] = 2\chi \text{Re}(\alpha_1^*\alpha_0) - \frac{d}{dt}\text{Im}(\alpha_1^*\alpha_0)$$

Equivalent to "polaron" approach in quantum trajectories, but undergraduate-level derivation and possibly faster computationally

Why not just use Schrödinger equation for the whole system?



Impossible in principle!

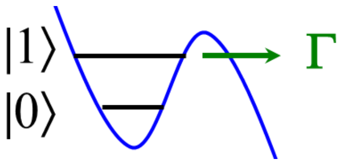
Technical reason: Leaking information makes it an open system

Logical reason: Random measurement result, but deterministic Schrödinger equation

Heisenberg: unavoidable quantum-classical boundary
Einstein: God does not play dice (actually plays!)

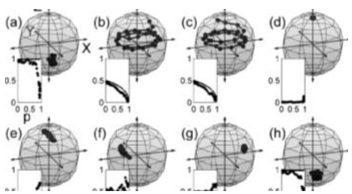
First experiments (superconducting qubits)

1. N. Katz, M. Ansmann, R. Bialczak, E. Lucero, R. McDermott, M. Neeley, M. Steffen, E. Weig, A. Cleland, J. Martinis, and A. Korotkov, Science 2006



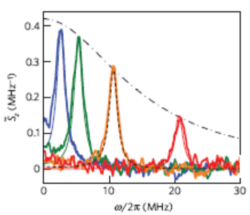
Partial collapse of phase qubit: the state remains pure, but evolves in accordance with acquired information

2. N. Katz, M. Neeley, M. Ansmann, R. Bialzak, E. Lucero, A. O'Connell, H. Wang, A. Cleland, J. Martinis, and A. Korotkov, PRL 2008



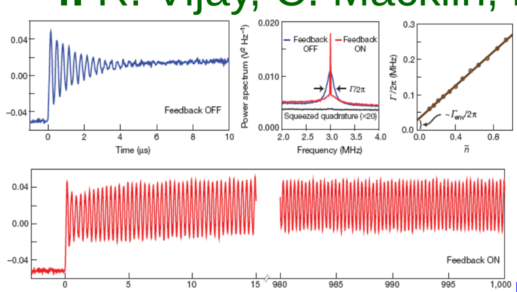
Uncollapse: qubit state is restored if classical information is erased (two POVMs cancel each other). Phase qubit

3. A. Palacios-Laloy, F. Mallet, F. Nguyen, P. Bertet, D. Vion, D. Esteve, and A. Korotkov, Nature Phys. 2010



Continuous monitoring of Rabi oscillations (Rabi oscillations do not decay in time). Transmon, circuit QED

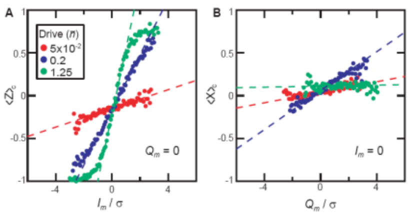
4. R. Vijay, C. Macklin, D. Slichter, S. Weber, K. Murch, R. Naik, A. Korotkov, and I. Siddiqi, Nature 2012



Quantum feedback of Rabi oscillations: maintaining desired phase forever. Transmon, phase-sensitive amp.

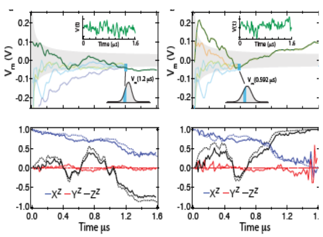
First experiments (cont.)

5. M. Hatridge, S. Shankar, M. Mirrahimi, F. Schackert, K. Geerlings, T. Brecht, K. Sliwa, B. Abdo, L. Frunzio, S. Girvin, R. Schoelkopf, M. Devoret, Science 2013



Direct check of quantum back-action for measurement of a qubit. Phase-preserving amplifier.

6. K. Murch, S. Weber, C. Macklin, and I. Siddiqi, Nature 2013



Direct check of individual quantum trajectories against quantum Bayesian theory.
Phase-sensitive amplifier.

Many more experiments since then, including 2-qubit entanglement by continuous measurement (in one resonator and in remote resonators), qubit lifetime increase by uncollapse, phase feedback, and simultaneous measurement of non-commuting observables

Practicaly all our proposals have been realized

Still no experiments with semiconductors. Who will be the first?

Possible applications of continuous quantum measurement

- Quantum feedback
- Continuous quantum error correction
- Better readout fidelity (continuous cQED measurement)
- Understanding of actual measurement (neighbors, etc.)
- Entanglement (even remote) by measurement
- Parameter monitoring
- Less disturbance from strong on/off controls

Simultaneous measurement of non-commuting observables of a qubit

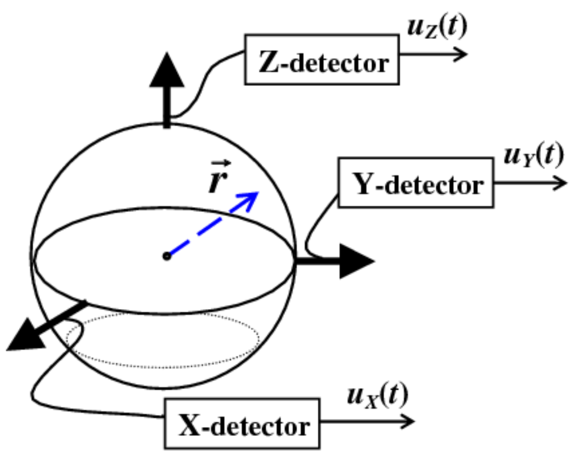
Nothing forbids simultaneous continuous measurement of non-commuting observables

Very simple quantum Bayesian description: just add terms for evolution

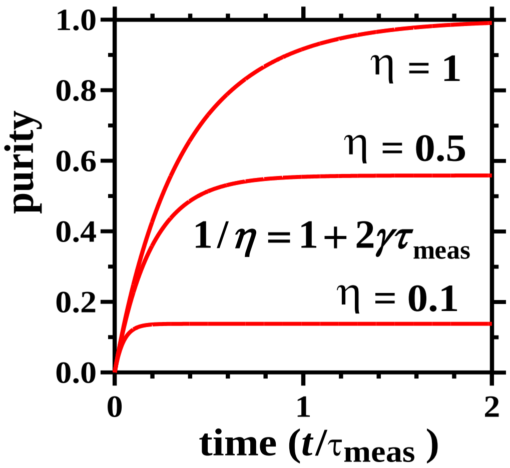
Measurement of three complementary observables for a qubit

Ruskov, A.K., Molmer, PRL 2010

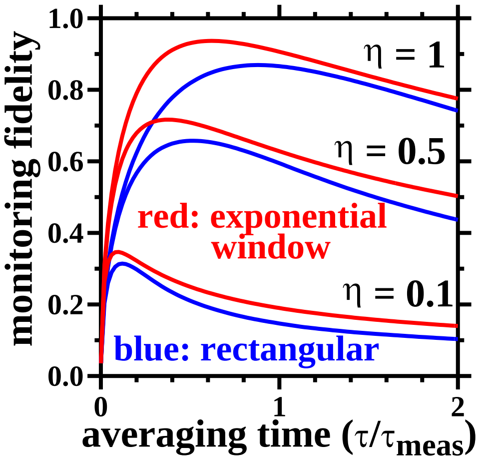
Evolution: $\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = -2\gamma\vec{r} + a\{\vec{u}(t)\left(1-r^2\right) - \left[\vec{r}\times[\vec{r}\times\vec{u}(t)]\right]\}$ diffusion over Bloch sphere



state purification



simple monitoring

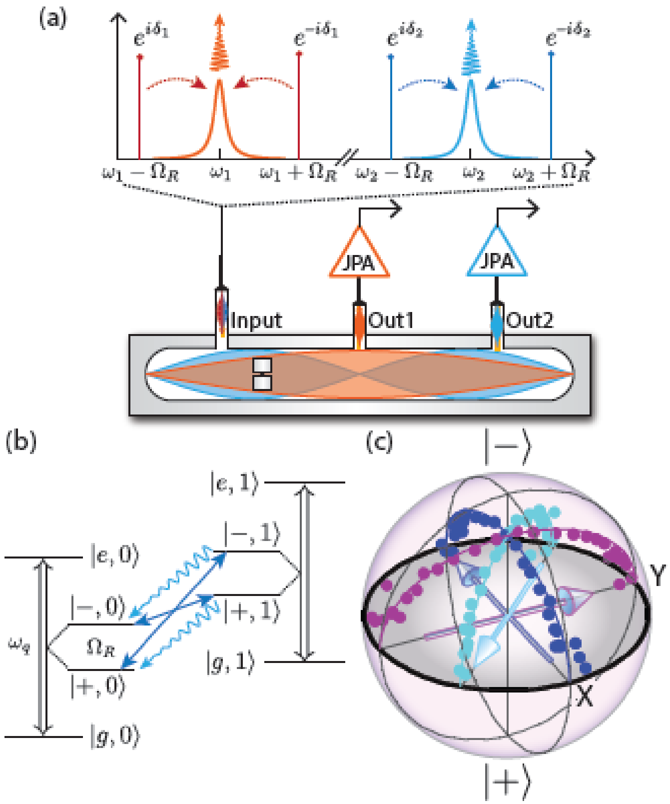


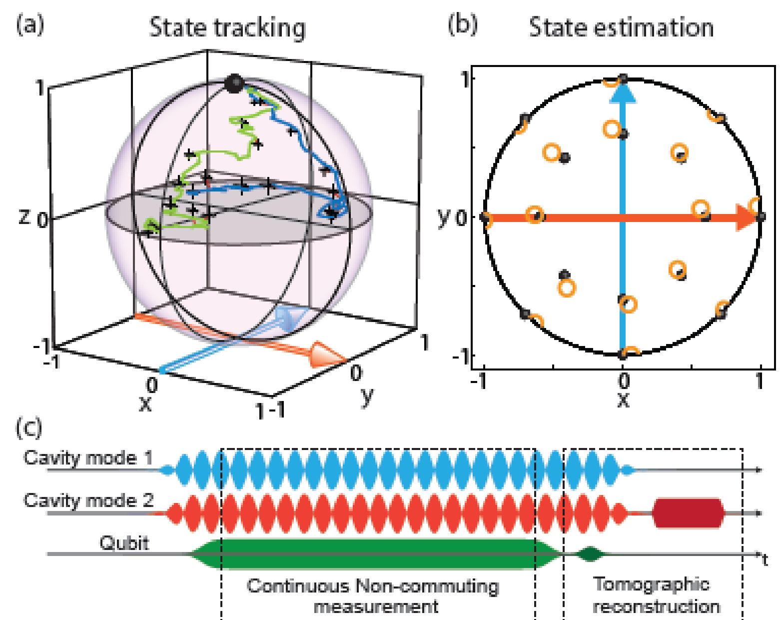
Until recently it was unclear how to realize experimentally

Simultaneous measurement of σ_x and σ_z

Actually, any $\sigma_z \cos\varphi + \sigma_x \sin\varphi$

S. Hacohen-Gourgy, L. Martin, E. Flurin, V. Ramasesh, B. Whaley, and I. Siddiqi, Nature 2016





- Measurement in rotating frame of fast Rabi oscillations (40 MHz)
- Double-sideband rf wave modulation with the same frequency
- Two resonator modes for two channels

quantum trajectory theory for simulations

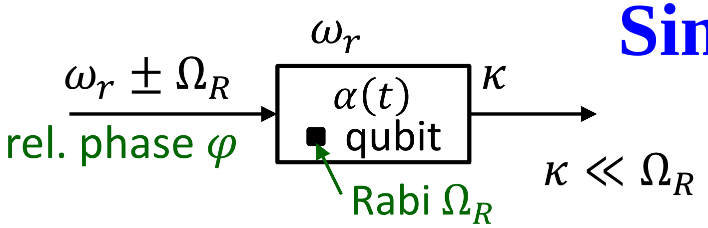
$$\Omega_{\rm Rabi} = \Omega_{\rm SB} = 2\pi \times 40\ {\rm MHz}$$

$$\kappa/2\pi = 4.3 \text{ and } 7.2\ {\rm MHz}$$

$$\Gamma_1^{-1} = \Gamma_2^{-1} = 1.3\ \mu{\rm s}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Gamma \ll \kappa \ll \Omega_{\rm Rabi}}$$

Simple physical picture



Physical qubit (Rabi Ω_R)

$$z_{\rm ph}(t) = r_0 \cos(\Omega_R t + \phi_0)$$
$$x_{\rm ph}(t) = r_0 \sin(\Omega_R t + \phi_0)$$
$$y_{\rm ph}(t) = y_0$$

This modulates resonator frequency

$$\omega_r(t) = \omega_r^b + \chi r_0 \cos(\Omega_R t + \phi_0)$$

Drive with modulated amplitude

$$A(t) = \varepsilon \sin(\Omega_R t + \varphi)$$

Then evolution of field $\alpha(t)$ is

$$\dot{\alpha} = -i\chi r_0 \cos(\Omega_R t + \phi_0)\,\alpha - i\varepsilon \sin(\Omega_R t + \varphi) - \frac{\kappa}{2}\alpha$$

Now solve this differential equation

Fast oscillations (neglect κ)

$$\Delta\alpha(t) = i\,\frac{\varepsilon}{\Omega_R}\cos(\Omega_R t + \varphi)$$

Insert, then slow evolution is

$$\dot{\alpha}_s = \frac{\chi\varepsilon}{2\Omega_R}\underbrace{r_0\cos(\phi_0 - \varphi)} - \frac{\kappa}{2}\alpha_s$$

Thus, slow evolution is determined by effective qubit (in rotating frame),

$$z = r_0\cos(\phi_0),\; x = r_0\sin(\phi_0),\; y = y_0,$$

measured along axis φ (basis $|1_\varphi\rangle, |0_\varphi\rangle$)

$$r_0 \cos(\phi_0 - \varphi) = {\rm Tr}[\sigma_\varphi \rho]$$
$$\sigma_\varphi = \sigma_z \cos\varphi + \sigma_x \sin\varphi$$

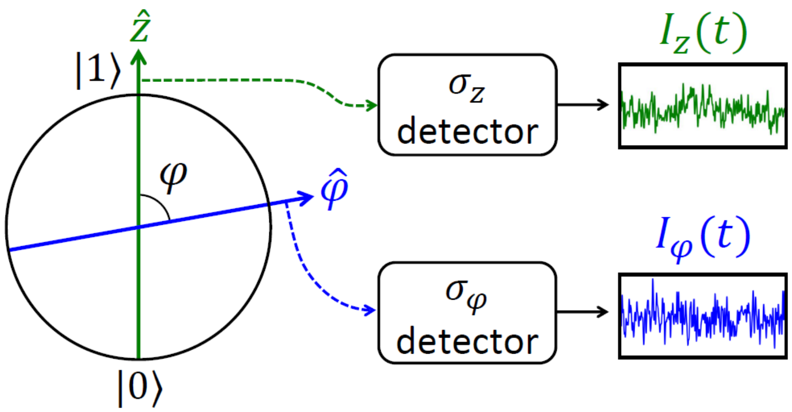
Stationary state $\quad \alpha_{\rm st,1} = -\alpha_{\rm st,0} = \dfrac{\chi\varepsilon}{\Omega_R \kappa}$

From this point, usual Bayesian theory

More accurately, $\varphi \to \varphi + \kappa/2\Omega_R$

J. Atalaya, S. Hacohen-Gourgy, L. Martin, I. Siddiqi, and A.K., npj Quant.Info.-2018

Correlators in simultaneous measurement of non-commuting qubit observables



J. Atalaya, S. Hacohen-Gourgy, L. Martin, I. Siddiqi, and A.K., npj Quant.Info.-2018

$$I_z(t) = \mathrm{Tr}[\sigma_z \rho(t)] + \sqrt{\tau_z}\, \xi_z(t)$$

$$I_\varphi(t) = \mathrm{Tr}\big[\sigma_\varphi \rho(t)\big] + \sqrt{\tau_\varphi}\, \xi_\varphi(t)$$

$$\sigma_\varphi = \sigma_z \cos\varphi + \sigma_x \sin\varphi$$

$$K_{ij}(\tau) = \langle I_j(t+\tau)\, I_i(t)\rangle$$

$\tau_{z,\varphi}$: "measurement time" (SNR=1)

"Collapse recipe" (no phase back-action): replace continuous meas. with projective meas. at time moments t and $t+\tau$, use ensemble-averaged evolution in between

(proof via Bayesian equations)

self-correlator

$$K_{zz}(\tau) = \frac{1}{2}\left[1 + \frac{\Gamma_z + \cos(2\varphi)\Gamma_\varphi}{\Gamma_+ - \Gamma_-}\right] e^{-\Gamma_- \tau} + \frac{1}{2}\left[1 - \frac{\Gamma_z + \cos(2\varphi)\Gamma_\varphi}{\Gamma_+ - \Gamma_-}\right] e^{-\Gamma_+ \tau}$$

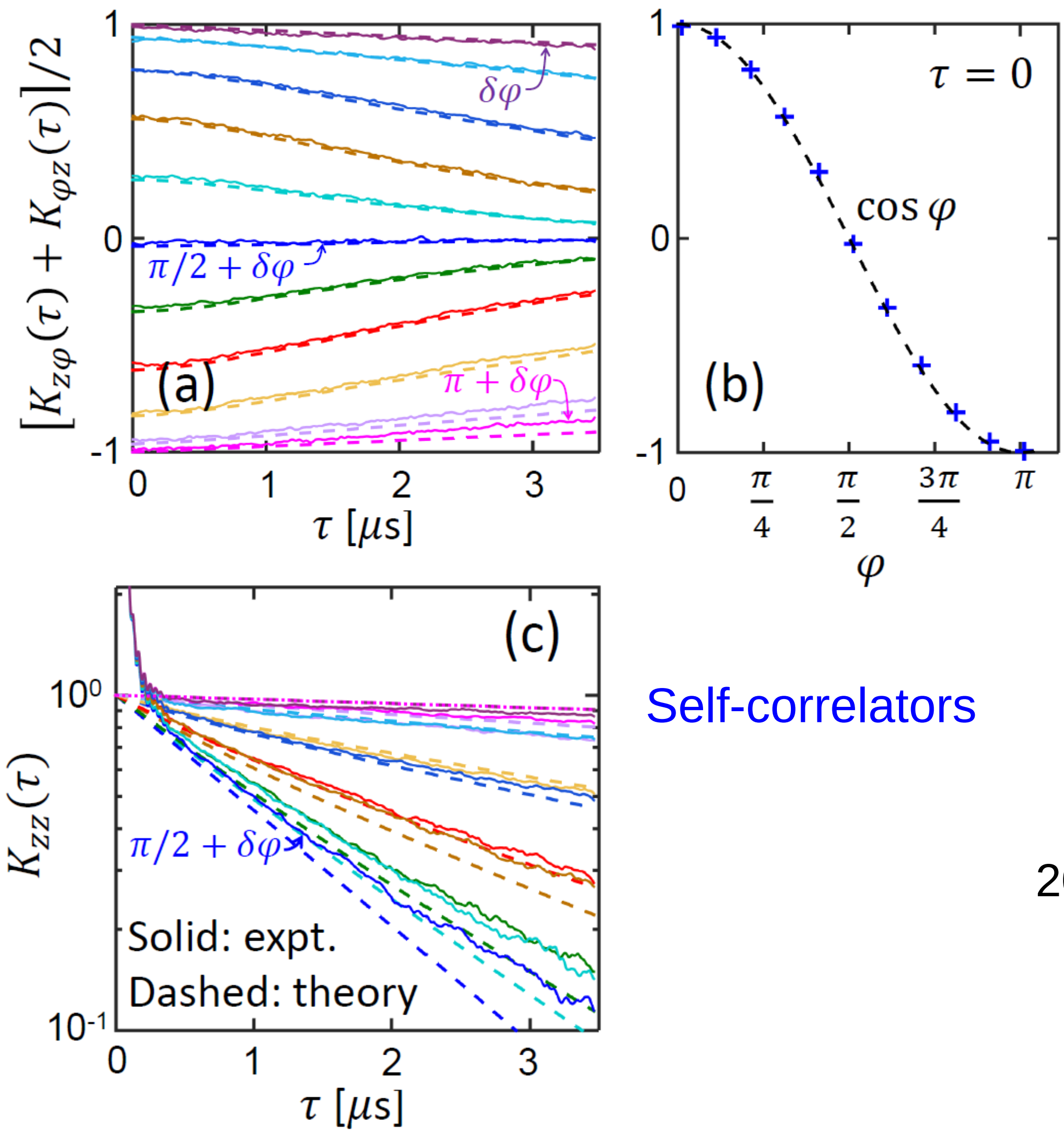
cross-correlator

no dependence on initial state

$$K_{z\varphi}(\tau) = \frac{(\Gamma_z + \Gamma_\varphi)\cos\varphi + 2\tilde{\Omega}_R \sin\varphi}{\Gamma_+ - \Gamma_-}\left(e^{-\Gamma_- \tau} - e^{-\Gamma_+ \tau}\right) + \frac{\cos\varphi}{2}\left(e^{-\Gamma_- \tau} + e^{-\Gamma_+ \tau}\right)$$

$$\Gamma_\pm = \frac{1}{2}\left(\Gamma_z + \Gamma_\varphi \pm \left[\Gamma_z^2 + \Gamma_\varphi^2 + 2\Gamma_z\Gamma_\varphi\cos(2\varphi) - 4\tilde{\Omega}_R^2\right]^{1/2}\right) + 1/2T_1 + 1/2T_2$$

Comparison with experiment



Cross-correlators for 11 values of φ between 0 and π

Maximally non-commuting:
$\varphi = \pi/2$

Correction to angle:

$$\delta\varphi = \frac{\kappa_\varphi - \kappa_z}{2\Omega_R}$$

Self-correlators

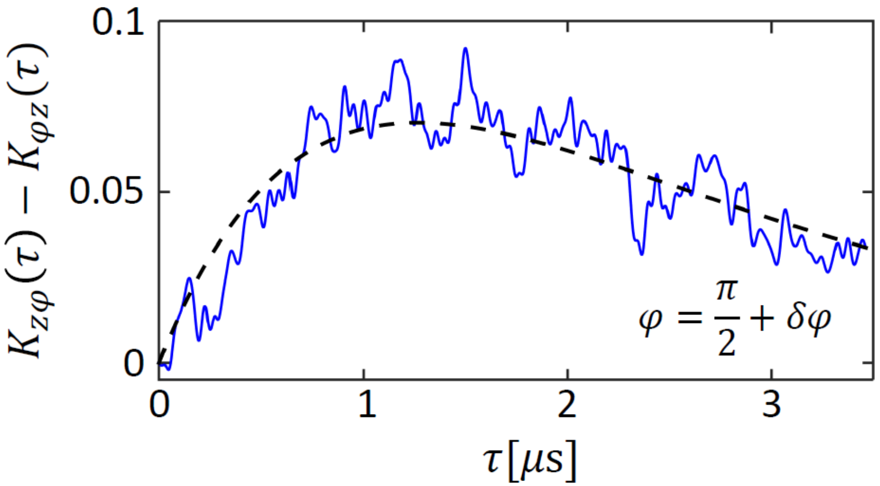
200,000 experimental traces

Good agreement

Parameter estimation via correlators

Rabi frequency mismatch: $\widetilde{\Omega}_R = \Omega_R - \Omega_{\rm sideband}$

$$K_{z\varphi}(\tau) - K_{\varphi z}(\tau) = \frac{\widetilde{\Omega}_R \sin\varphi}{\Gamma_+ - \Gamma_-}\left(e^{-\Gamma_+\tau} - e^{-\Gamma_-\tau}\right)$$



Fitting: $\widetilde{\Omega}_{\rm R} = \Omega_R - \Omega_{\rm sideband} \approx 2\pi \times 12$ kHz

Very sensitive technique

$(\Omega_R/2\pi = 40$ MHz$)$

J. Atalaya, S. Hacohen-Gourgy, L. Martin, I. Siddiqi, and A.K., npj Quant.Info.-2018

Generalization to N-time correlators

Many detectors, N time moments

J. Atalaya, S. Hacohen-Gourgy, L. Martin, I. Siddiqi, and A.K., PRA-2018

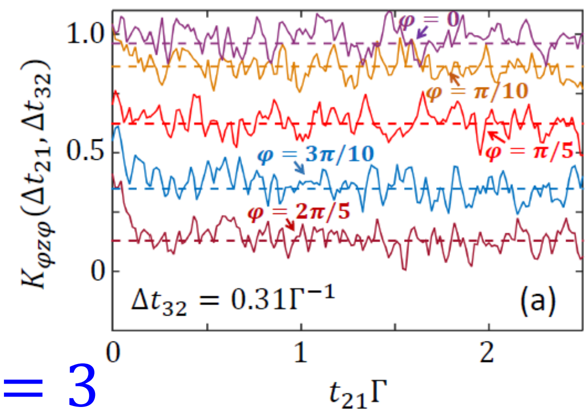
$$K_{l_1 \dots l_N}(t_1, \dots t_N) = \langle I_{l_N}(t_N) \dots I_{l_2}(t_2)\, I_{l_1}(t_1)\rangle$$

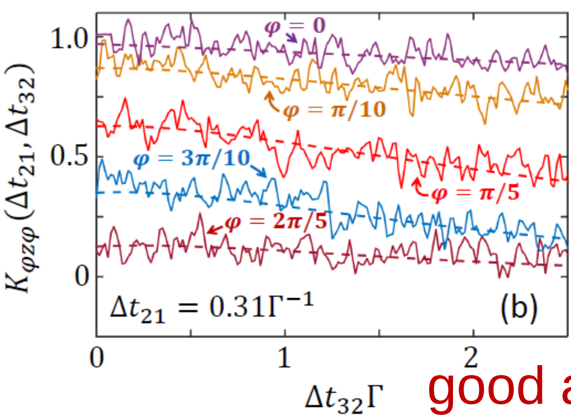
The same collapse recipe works OK

Surprising factorization: $\langle I_{l_3}(t_3)\, I_{l_2}(t_2)\, I_{l_1}(t_1)\rangle = \langle I_{l_3}(t_3)\, I_{l_2}(t_2\,)\rangle \times \langle I_{l_1}(t_1)\rangle,$

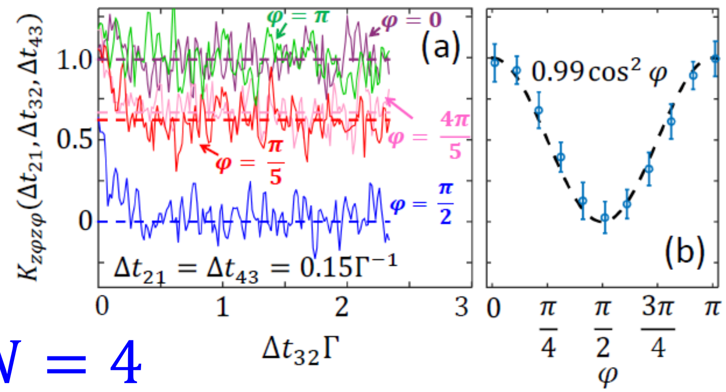
(unital case) $\langle I_{l_4}(t_4) I_{l_3}(t_3)\, I_{l_2}(t_2)\, I(t_1)\rangle = \langle I_{l_4}(t_4)\, I_{l_3}(t_3)\rangle \times \langle I_{l_2}(t_2)\, I_{l_1}(t_1)\rangle,$ etc.

$N = 3$

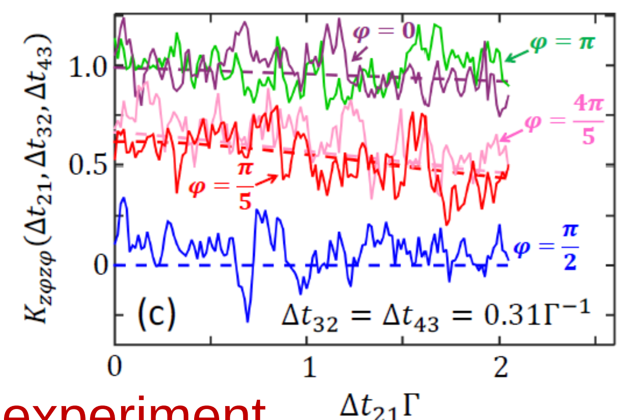




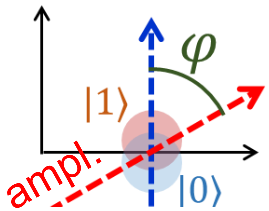
$N = 4$



non-commuting observables



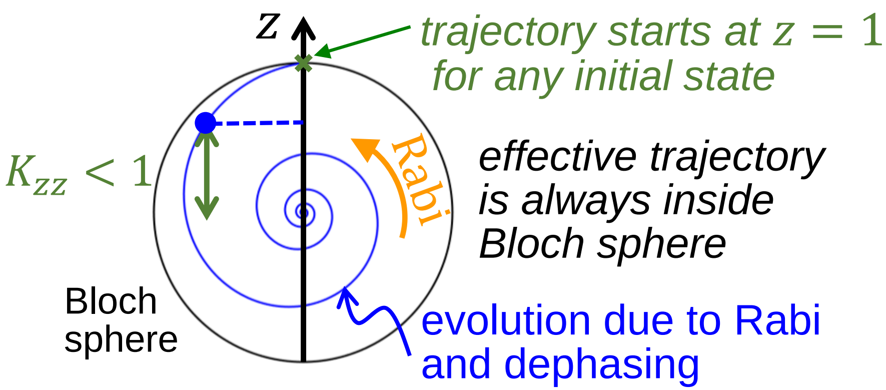
good agreement with experiment



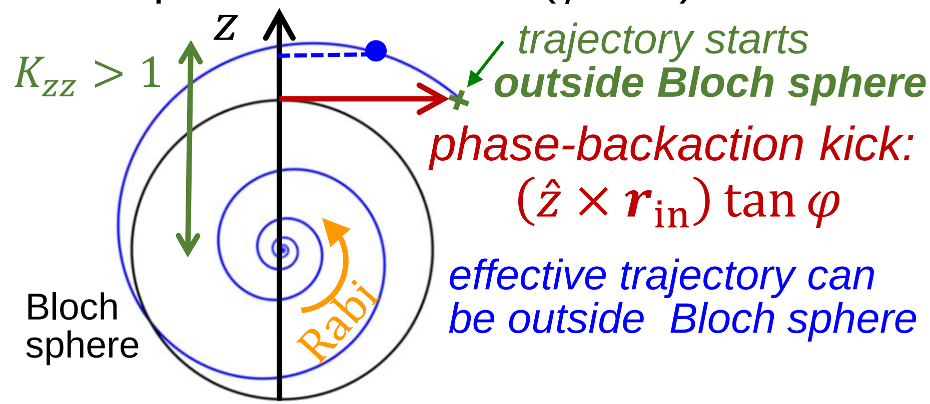
Correlators with phase backaction

J. Atalaya, S. Hacohen-Gourgy, I. Siddiqi, and A.K., arXiv:1809.04222

Only informational backaction ($\varphi = 0$)



With phase backaction ($\varphi \neq 0$)

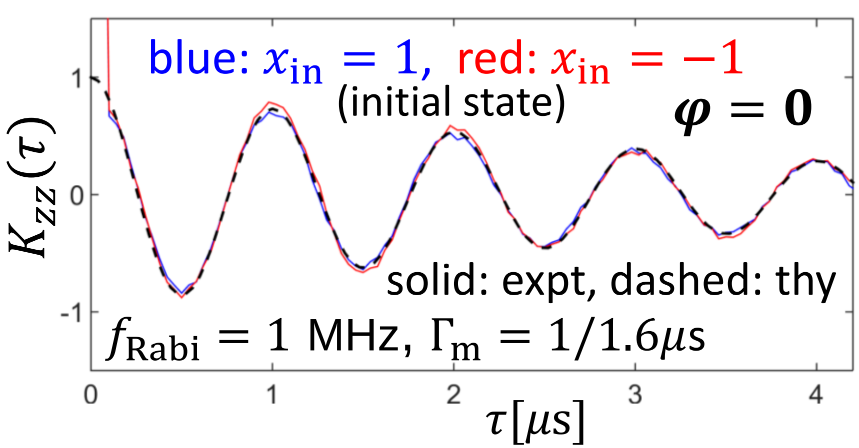


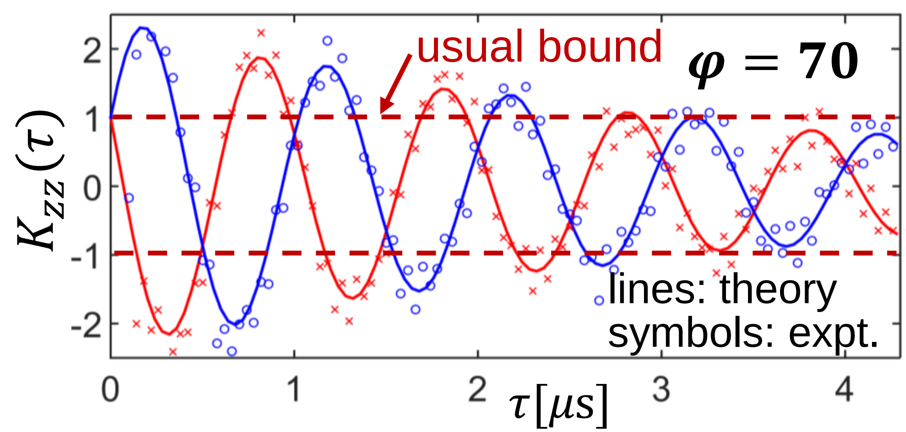
$$K_{zz}(\tau) = \langle I_z(\tau)\, I_z(0)\rangle$$

$$I(t) = {\rm Tr}[\sigma_z \rho(t)] + \xi(t)$$

With phase backaction and Rabi oscillations, correlators may exceed 1

Similar to weak values, but no post-selection





Arrow of time for continuous measurement

J. Dressel. A. Chantasri, A. Jordan, and A. Korotkov, PRL 2017

Unitary evolution is time-reversible.

Is continuous quantum measurement time-reversible?

If yes, can we distinguish forward and backward evolutions?

Classical mechanics

Dynamics is time-reversible. However, for more than a few degrees of freedom, one time direction is much more probable than the other.

Posing of quantum problem: a game

We are given a "movie", showing quantum evolution $|\psi(t)\rangle$ of a qubit due to continuous measurement and Hamiltonian, together with "soundtrack", representing noisy measurement record. We need to tell if the movie is played forward of backward.

Reversing qubit evolution

Hamiltonian: $H = \hbar\Omega\sigma_y/2$

Measurement output: $r(t) = z(t) + \sqrt{\tau}\,\xi(t)$,

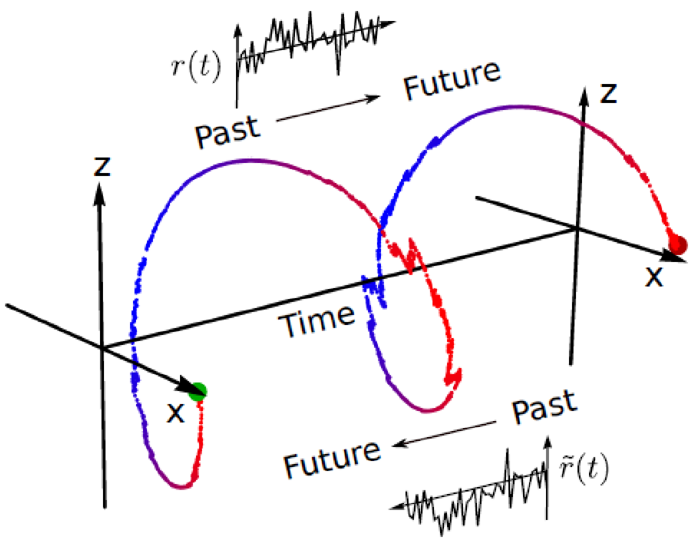
"measurement" (collapse) time τ, white noise $\langle\xi(t)\,\xi(0)\rangle = \delta(t)$

Quantum Bayesian equations (Stratonovich form, quantum-limited detector)

$$\dot{x} = -\Omega z - xzr/\tau, \quad \dot{y} = -yz\,r/\tau, \quad \dot{z} = \Omega x + (1-z^2)\,r/\tau$$

Time-reversal symmetry: $t \to -t, \ \Omega \to -\Omega, \ r \to -r$

(so, need to flip Rabi direction and measurement record)



This quantum movie, played backwards, is fully legitimate (soundtrack is flipped)

Is there a way to distinguish forward from backward?

Emergence of an arrow of time

Use classical Bayes rule to distinguish forward from backward movie

$$R = \frac{P_{\text{Forward}}[r(t)]}{P_{\text{Backward}}[r(t)]}$$

Since the measurement record ("soundtrack") is flipped, the particular noise realization becomes less probable (usually)

$$\left.\begin{aligned} r(t) &= z(t) + \sqrt{\tau}\,\xi(t) \\ -r(t) &= z(t) + \sqrt{\tau}\,\xi_B(t) \end{aligned}\right\} \Rightarrow \quad \xi_B(t) = -\xi(t) - \frac{2z(t)}{\sqrt{\tau}}$$

$\xi_B(t)$ is less probable than $\xi(t)$

$$\boxed{\ln R = \frac{2}{\tau}\int_0^T r(t)\, z(t)\, dt}$$

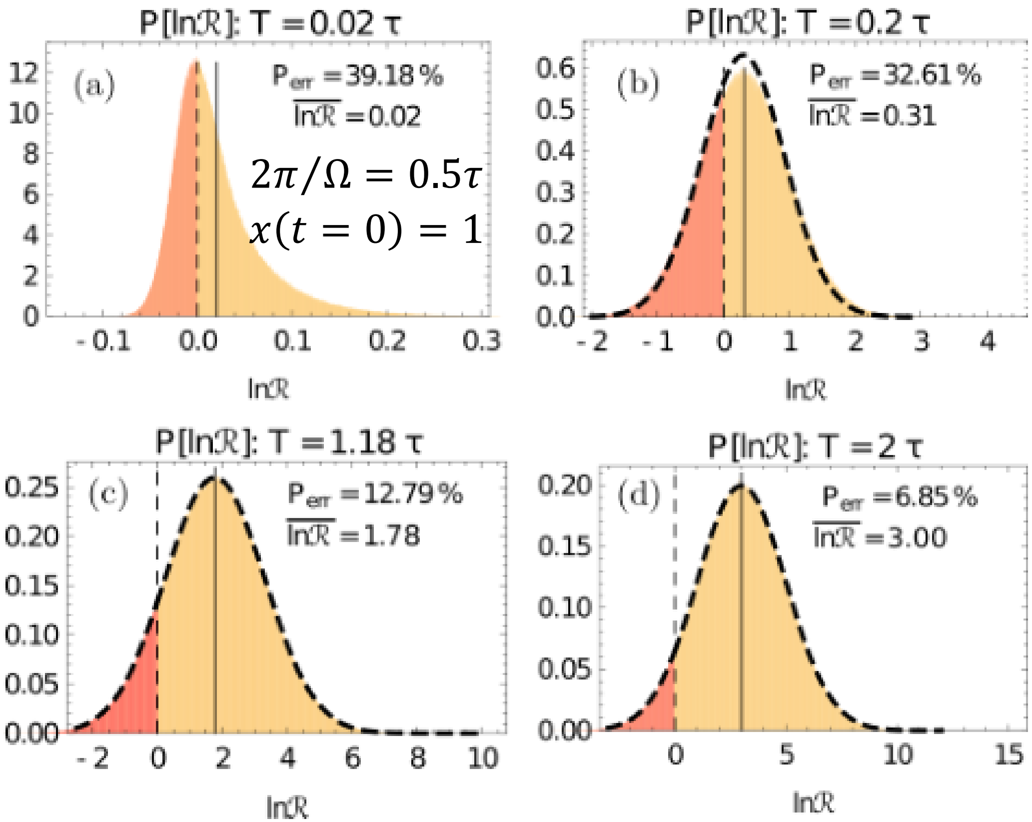
Relative log-likelihood, distinguishing time running forward or backward

For a long movie time T, almost certainly $\ln R > 0$, so we will know the direction of time. For a short T, we will often make a mistake in guessing the time direction.

Numerical results

$$R = \frac{P_F[r(t)]}{P_B[r(t)]}$$

Probability distribution for $\ln R$



$$\ln R = \frac{2}{\tau}\int_0^T r(t)\, z(t)\, dt$$

Asymptotic behavior (long *T*)

$$R \approx \frac{3T}{2\tau} \pm \sqrt{\frac{2T}{\tau}}$$

Probability of guessing the direction of time incorrectly:

$$P_{\rm err} \approx \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{\frac{\tau}{\pi T}}\, \exp\left(-\frac{9\,T}{16\,\tau}\right)$$

(decreases exponentially with the ratio T/τ)

Statistical arrow of time emerges at timescale of "measurement time" τ

Similar to classical entropy increase, but opposite direction: from more to less random

J. Dressel. A. Chantasri, A. Jordan, and A. Korotkov, PRL 2017

Conclusions

- Quantum Bayesian approach is based on **common sense and simple (undergraduate-level) physics**; it is similar to Quantum Trajectory theory, though looks different
- **Measurement back-action necessarily has "spooky" part** (informational, **without physical mechanism**); it may also have unitary part (with physical mechanism)
- Many experiments demonstrated evolution "inside" collapse (most of our proposals already realized)
- Simultaneous measurement of non-commuting observables has become possible experimentally
- Continuous measurement of a qubit is time-reversible (with flipped record), but the arrow of time emerges statistically

Thank you!