Noisy Quantum Measurements: a nuisance or fundamental physics?

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Conference on Quantum Measurement: Fundamentals, Twists, and Applications ICTP Triest, 2019







Content

- Quantum measurement: projection and weak measurements
- Quantum dynamics: Keldysh contour
- Facets of weak quantum measurements
 - 1. Time-resolved counting statistics and quantum transport
 - 2. Keldysh-ordered expectations are quasiprobabilities
 - 3. Time-reversal symmetry breaking
 - 4. General non-markovian weak measurement

$$\langle a(t)b(s) \rangle \stackrel{?}{\rightarrow} \begin{cases} i\langle [\hat{B}(s), \hat{A}(t)] \rangle / 2 \\ \langle \hat{B}(s) \hat{A}(t) \rangle \\ \langle \hat{A}(t) \hat{B}(s) \rangle \\ \langle \{\hat{B}(s), \hat{A}(t)\} \rangle / 2 \end{cases}$$

Textbook (LL Vol. V):

The operators $\hat{x}(t)$ and $\hat{x}(t')$ relating to different instants do not in general commute, and the correlation function must now be defined as

$$\phi(t'-t) = \frac{1}{2} [\hat{x}(t)\hat{x}(t') + \hat{x}(t')\hat{x}(t)], \qquad (121.9)$$

Quantum optics:

photodetector measures ,normal ordered' expectations (one click) homodyning and heterodyning are highly specific

Von Neumann measurement: from strong to weak
Idea: couple system
$$(\hat{A})$$
 to a
pointer wavefunction $\sqrt{P(x)}$
 $|\psi_i\rangle \otimes \sqrt{P(x)}$
 $|\psi_i\rangle = \alpha_1 |A_1\rangle + \alpha_2 |A_2\rangle$
 $\hat{U}_{int} = e^{ig\hat{p}\hat{A}} \Rightarrow \alpha_1 |A_1\rangle \sqrt{P(x + gA_1)} + \alpha_2 |A_2\rangle \sqrt{P(x + gA_2)}$
Strong measurement (large g): projective
measurement on well separated pointer positions
implies projection of system state
 $|\psi_f\rangle = |A_1\rangle$ or $|\psi_f\rangle = |A_2\rangle$
Weak measurement (small g): projective measurement of
pointer state gives almost no information, but correct average.
The system state in one measurement is almost unchanged!
After reading the pointer
 $|\psi_f\rangle \approx \alpha_1 |A_1\rangle + \alpha_2 |A_2\rangle + O(g^2)$
Price to pay for non-invasiveness: large uncertainty of the detection

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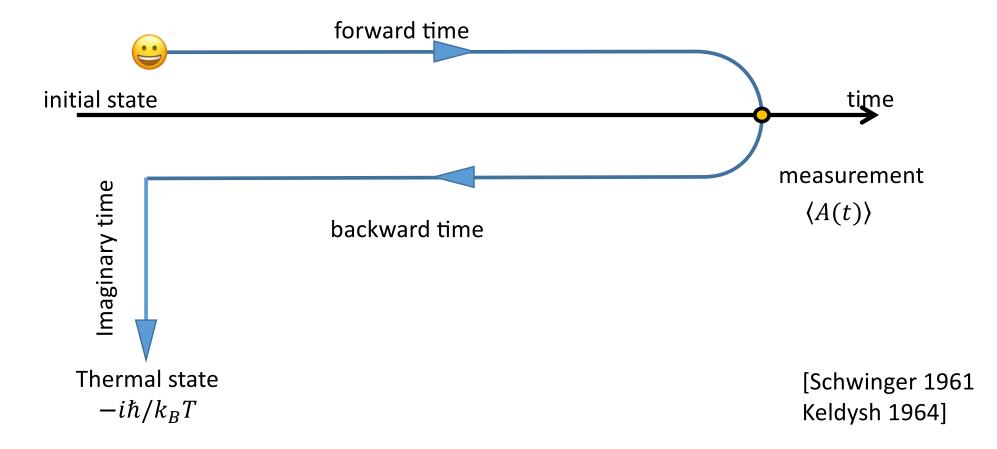
Quantum dynamics: time evolution of a quantum system

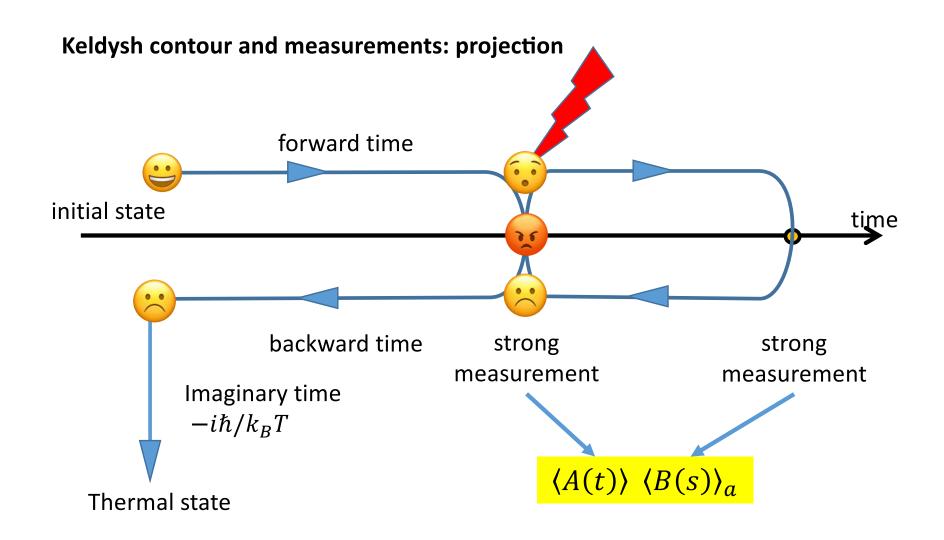
Physical expectations

 $\langle A(t) \rangle = \langle \Psi(t) | \hat{A} | \Psi(t) \rangle = \langle \Psi(0) | U_{\leftarrow}(t) \hat{A} U_{\rightarrow}(t) | \Psi(0) \rangle$ **Backward** and **Forward**time-evolution

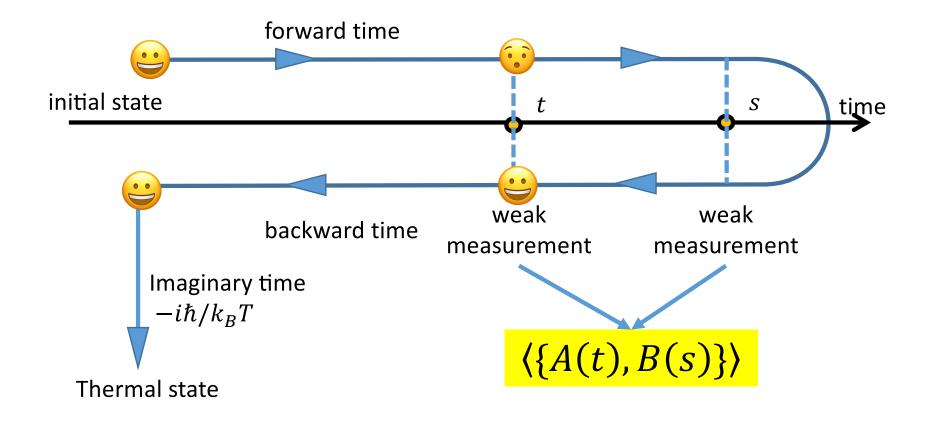
Quantum dynamics requires Forward and Backward time-evolution -> Keldysh contour



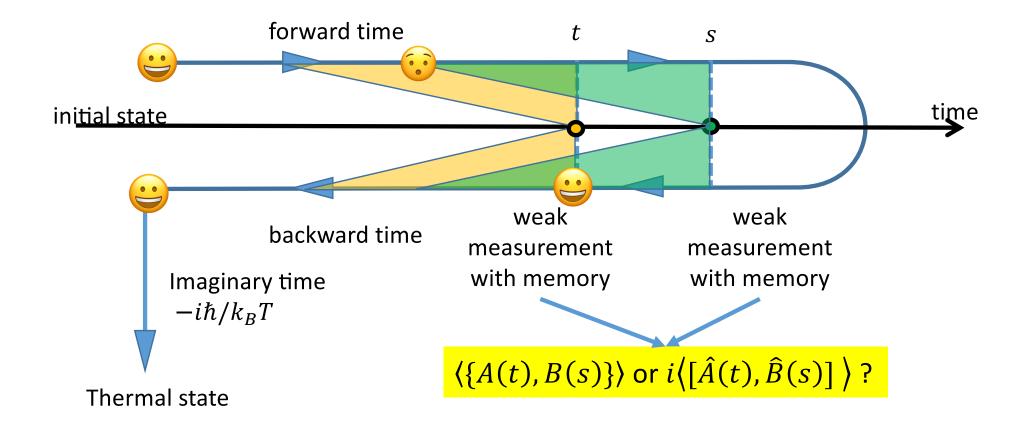




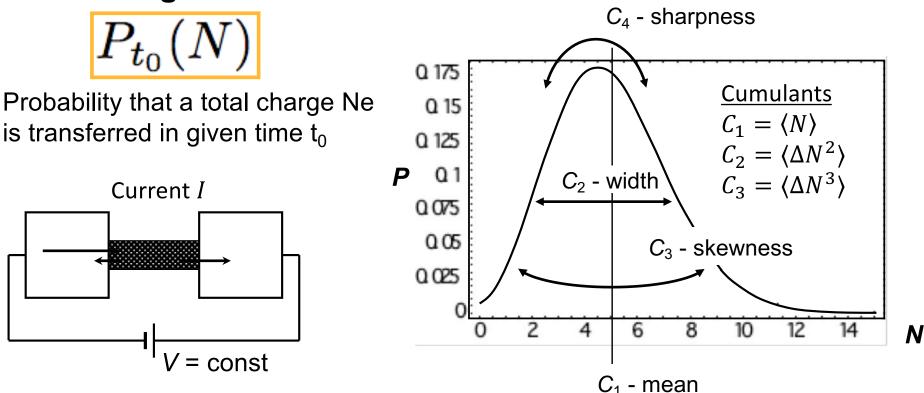
Keldysh contour and measurments: weak and markovian (instantaneous)



Keldysh contour and measurements: weak and continuous



1) Full Counting Statistics:



(Quantum) definition $N = \int dt I(t)$

Definition through Cumulant Generating function (CGF):

$$P(N) = \int d\chi e^{iN\chi} e^{-S(\chi)}$$
$$e^{-S(\chi)} = \langle e^{i\hat{N}\chi} \rangle = \langle e^{i\chi\int dt \,\hat{I}(t)} \rangle$$

Is this correct in the quantum case?

Levitov, Lesovik, JETPL (1993/94)

How to calculate the CGF quantum mechanically?

Quantum mechanical current detection has to account for non-commuting current operators!

 $\hat{I}(t), \hat{I}(t')$

 $e^{S(\chi)} = \operatorname{Tr}\left[\hat{\rho}\tilde{\mathcal{T}}e^{i\frac{\chi}{2}\int_{0}^{t_{0}}\hat{I}(t)dt}\mathcal{T}e^{i\frac{\chi}{2}\int_{0}^{t_{0}}\hat{I}(t)dt}\right]$

Belzig, Nazarov, PRL 2001

Microscopic justification: time evolution of **ideal current detecto**r and **projective measurement** [Levitov et al. 1997; Kindermann, Nazarov 2003]. (Projection can be problematic for superconductors, due to charge-phase uncertainty [Belzig, Nazarov, PRL 2001])

Important difference to classical definition (see also Levitov, Lesovik 93)

$$e^{S_{cl}(\chi)} = \left\langle e^{i\chi \int_0^{t_0} \hat{I}(t)dt} \right\rangle$$

Generalization of FCS to Time-Dependent Counting:

"Probability" density functional for given current profile I(t):

$$\varrho[I] = \int \mathcal{D}\chi \ e^{S[\chi] - \frac{i}{e} \int dt \chi(t) I(t)}$$

Inverse transformation

$$e^{S[\chi]} = \int \mathcal{D}I \ \varrho[I] e^{\frac{i}{e} \int dt \chi(t)I(t)} \equiv \left\langle e^{\frac{i}{e} \int dt \chi(t)I(t)} \right\rangle_{\varrho}$$

$$(a)$$

$$(a)$$

$$(a)$$

$$(a)$$

$$(b)$$

$$(b)$$

$$(c)$$

$$(c$$

[c.f. stochastic path integral Sukhorukov, Jordan, et al. 2003]

Quantum definition of CGF for time-independent FCS

$$e^{S(\chi)} = \operatorname{Tr}\left[\hat{\rho}\tilde{\mathcal{T}}e^{i\frac{\chi}{2}}\int_{0}^{t_{0}}\hat{I}(t)dt}\mathcal{T}e^{i\frac{\chi}{2}}\int_{0}^{t_{0}}\hat{I}(t)dt}\right]$$

Generalization of standard Keldysh functional to time dependent counting

$$e^{S[\chi]} = \operatorname{Tr}\left[\hat{\rho}\tilde{\mathcal{T}}e^{\frac{i}{2e}\int dt\chi(t)\hat{I}(t)}\mathcal{T}e^{\frac{i}{2e}\int dt\chi(t)\hat{I}(t)}\right]$$

[see also e.g. Nazarov and Kindermann, PRL 2004]

Can we interpret this as probability density generating functional?

No! Analogous to Wigner function we can have negative probabilities

Problem: current operators at different times do **not commute** The current cannot be measured at all times, but only up to some uncertainty

Handling non-projective (weak) measurements:

Orthogonal measurements

$$\{\hat{P}_A = |A\rangle\langle A|\} \sum_A \hat{P}_A = \hat{1}$$

 $\hat{P}_A \hat{P}_B = \hat{P}_A \delta_{A,B}$

Probability to find A

$$p_A = \mathrm{Tr}\hat{\rho}\hat{P}_A$$

State after measurement

 $\hat{\rho}_A = \hat{P}_A \hat{\rho} \hat{P}_A / p_A$

Non-projective measurements: Kraus operators $\{\hat{K}_A\}$ $\hat{F}_A = \hat{K}_A^{\dagger}\hat{K}_A$ $\sum_A \hat{K}_A \hat{K}_A^{\dagger} = \hat{1}$ $\hat{F}_A \hat{F}_B \neq \hat{F}_A \delta_{A,B}$ Positive Operator Valued Measure

$$p_A = \mathrm{Tr}\hat{
ho}\hat{K}_A^{\dagger}\hat{K}_A$$

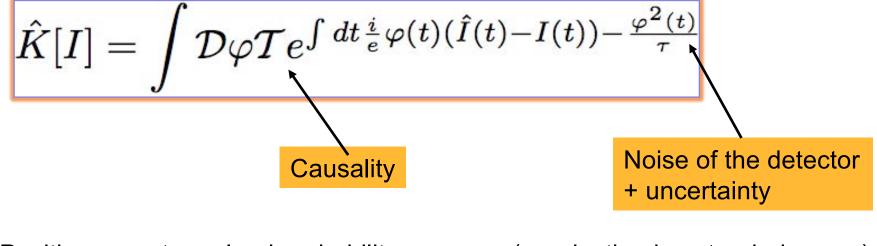
$$\hat{
ho}_A = \hat{K}_A \hat{
ho} \hat{K}_A^\dagger / p_A$$

Neumarks Theorem: Every POVM corresponds to a projective measurement in some extended Hilbert space

See e.g. Milburn & Wiseman, Quantum Measurement and Control (Cambridge, 2009)

Proposed solution: weak Markovian measurement a la POVM

Kraus operator (instead of projection operator) for Markovian measurement



Positive operator valued probability measure (=projection in extended space)

Neumarks theorem

Positive definite probability distribution:

$$ho[I] = ext{Tr} \left[\hat{
ho} \hat{K}^{\dagger}[I] \hat{K}[I]
ight]$$

A. Bednorz and W. Belzig, Phys. Rev. Lett. 101, 206803 (2008)

Final result for current generating functional

Generalized Keldysh functional

$$\varphi(\varphi^\dagger) = \phi \pm \chi/2$$

$$e^{S[\chi,\phi]} = \operatorname{Tr}\left[\hat{\rho}\tilde{\mathcal{T}}e^{\frac{i}{e}\int dt(\chi(t)/2 + \phi(t))\hat{I}(t)}\mathcal{T}e^{\frac{i}{e}\int dt(\chi(t)/2 - \phi(t))\hat{I}(t)}\right]$$

Current generating functional with additional backaction and noise due to detector

$$e^{S[\chi]} = \int \mathcal{D}\phi e^{S[\chi,\phi]} e^{-\int dt (2\phi^2(t) + \chi^2(t)/2)/\tau}$$

Gaussian noise of the detector
Limiting cases:
 $\tau \to \infty$ full projection \longrightarrow Strong backaction
 $\tau \to 0$ large detector noise \longrightarrow Weak measurement
 $e[I] = \int \mathcal{D}\chi e^{-i\int dt\chi(t)I(t)}\Phi[\chi]$ with $\Phi[\chi] = e^{S[\chi,0] + \int dt\chi^2(t)/2\tau}$ $\tau \to 0$: Large Gaussian
noise substracted!

WB and Y. V. Nazarov, Phys. Rev. Lett. **87**, 197006 (2001) Phys. Rev. Lett. **87**, 067006 (2001) A. Bednorz and WB, PRL (2008,2010)

The generating function of a markovian quantum measurement is Keldysh-ordered:

$$\Phi[\chi] = e^{S[\chi,0] - S_{det}} = \langle \tilde{\mathcal{T}} \left[e^{i \int dt \chi(t) \hat{A}(t)} \right] \mathcal{T} \left[e^{i \int dt \chi(t) \hat{A}(t)} \right] \rangle$$

Quasiprobability density generating functional! Analogously to Wigner function we can have **negative probabilities**

The generating function of a **non-markovian** quantum measurement is (even) more complicated

The **answer** to the question of operator order: $C \sim \delta^2 \Phi[\chi] / \delta \chi(t) \delta \chi(s)$

Markovian:

Higher order Markovian:

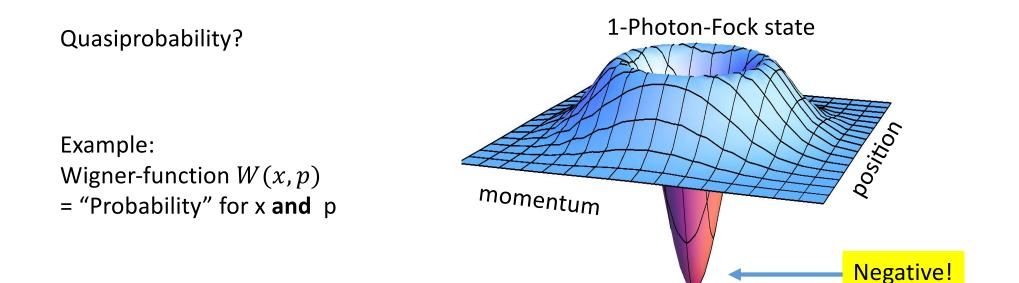
Non-Markovian:

$$\langle a(t)a(s) \rangle \to \left\langle \left\{ \hat{A}(s), \hat{A}(t) \right\} \right\rangle / 2 \\ \langle abc \rangle \to \frac{1}{4} \left\langle \left\{ \hat{A}, \left\{ \hat{B}, \hat{C} \right\} \right\} \right\rangle$$

 $\left\langle a(t)a(s)\right\rangle \rightarrow g\otimes \left\langle \left\{ \hat{A}(t),\hat{A}(s)\right\} \right\rangle +f\otimes \left\langle [\hat{A}(t),\hat{A}(s)]\right\rangle$

g, f depend on the detector, but arbitrary ordering possible (\rightarrow engineering)

2) Keldysh-ordered expectations are quasiprobabilities



Cannot be measured directly, but through a noisy and weak measurement

Signatures of negativity (=non-classicality)? Violation of classical inequalities, e.g. Bell, CHSH, Leggett-Garg, weak values....

Bednorz and WB, Phys. Rev. Lett. 2008

Weak positivity of the Wigner-Keldysh quasiprobability

Weak markovian measurement scheme:

[Bednorz & Belzig, PRB 2011]

$$C_{ij} = \langle A_i A_j \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle \{ \hat{A}_i, \hat{A}_j \} \rangle$$
 = positive definite correlation matrix

C can be simulated by classical probability distribution, e.g.

$$p(A_1, A_2, ...) \sim e^{-\sum_{ij} A_i C_{ij}^{-1} A_j/2} \ge 0$$

With symmetrized **second order** correlation functions a violation of classical inequalities is impossible → the corresponding quasiprobability is **weakly positive**

Note: does not assume dichotomy, corresponding e.g. to
$$\langle (A^2 - 1)^2 \rangle = 0$$

Possible inequality \rightarrow Cauchy-Bunyakowski-Schwarz (CBS) inequality

 $\langle X^2 \rangle \langle Y^2 \rangle \ge \langle XY \rangle^2$

 \rightarrow Fullfilled for all **positive** probabilities P(X, Y)

Test of CBS with Wigner functional for current fluctuations

Current operator in frequency space: $\hat{I}_{\omega} = \int dt e^{i\omega t} \hat{I}(t)$

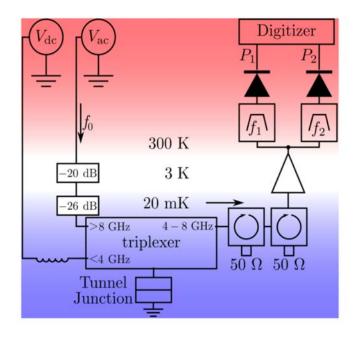
We choose:
$$\hat{X} = \int_{\omega_X - \Delta_X/2}^{\omega_X + \Delta_X/2} d\omega \delta \hat{I}_{\omega} \delta \hat{I}_{-\omega}$$
 and $\hat{Y} = \cdots$.
 \rightarrow measurement bandwidth $\Delta_{X/Y}$ centered at $\omega_{X/Y}$

$$\langle XY \rangle = \Delta_X \Delta_y \left\langle \delta \hat{I}_{\omega_X} \delta \hat{I}_{-\omega_X} \delta \hat{I}_{\omega_Y} \delta \hat{I}_{-\omega_Y} \right\rangle \langle X^2 \rangle = \Delta_X^2 \left\langle \left(\delta \hat{I}_{\omega_X} \delta \hat{I}_{-\omega_X} \right)^2 \right\rangle + \Delta_X \left\langle \delta \hat{I}_{\omega_X} \delta \hat{I}_{-\omega_X} \right\rangle^2$$

2nd and 4th-order correlators from tunnel Hamiltonian

$$H_T = \sum_{kq} t_{kq} c_{kL}^+ c_{qR} + h.c.$$

Typical experimental setup



Forgues, Lupien, Reulet, PRL (2014) See also Zakka-Bajjani et al. PRL (2010)

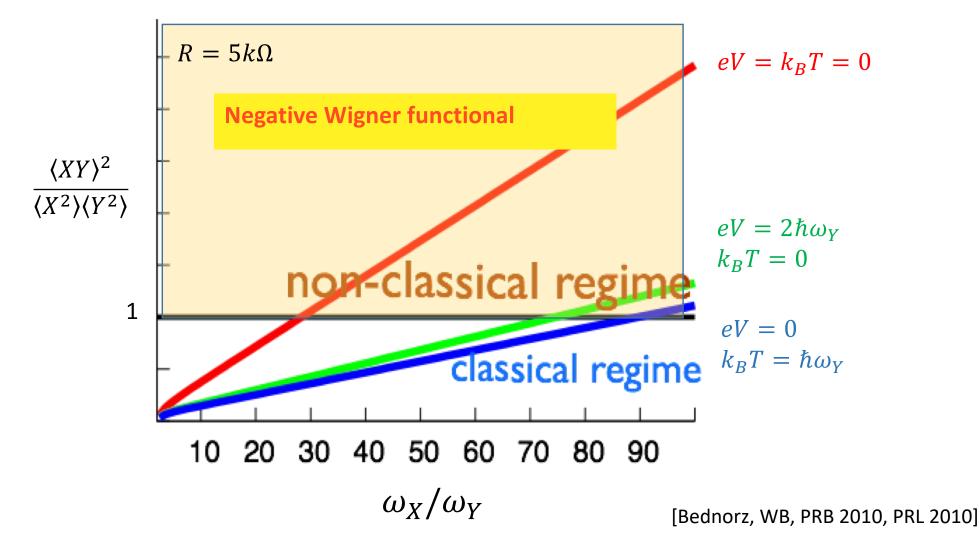
Violation of CBS would be a proof of <u>negativity</u> of Wigner functional!

?
$$\langle X^2 \rangle \langle Y^2 \rangle \ge \langle XY \rangle^2$$
 ?

Bednorz and WB, Phys. Rev. Lett. **105**, (2010) Phys. Rev. B **81**, 125112 (2010)

Violation of CBS for a tunnel junction

Maximally extended non-overlapping frequency intervals $\omega_X \approx 2\Delta_Y + \Delta_X$, $\omega_Y \approx \Delta_Y$



Violation: Quantum many-body entanglement of electrons in different dynamical modes

E.g. nonequilibrium many-body wave function, Vanevic, Gabelli, Belzig, Reulet, PRB 2016

3) Time-reversal symmetry breaking

Does the observation of a system in thermal equilibrium show time-reversal symmetry (*T*)?

Measurement	Classical	Quantum
strong (invasive)	<i>T</i> is broken (order of disturbances influences the dynamics)	<i>T</i> is broken (order of projections influences the state)
weak (non invasive)	<i>T</i> is observed (measurement is completely independent of the dynamics)	?

Bednorz, Franke, WB, New J. Phys. (2013)

Time-resolved weak measurements

Quantum prediction for three measurements?

Opposite order:

$$A \to B \to C \longrightarrow \langle \{A, \{B, C\}\} \rangle$$

$$\neq$$

$$C \to B \to A \longrightarrow \langle \{C, \{B, A\}\} \rangle$$

Three point correlator for t', t > 0 (e.g. thermal equilibrium)

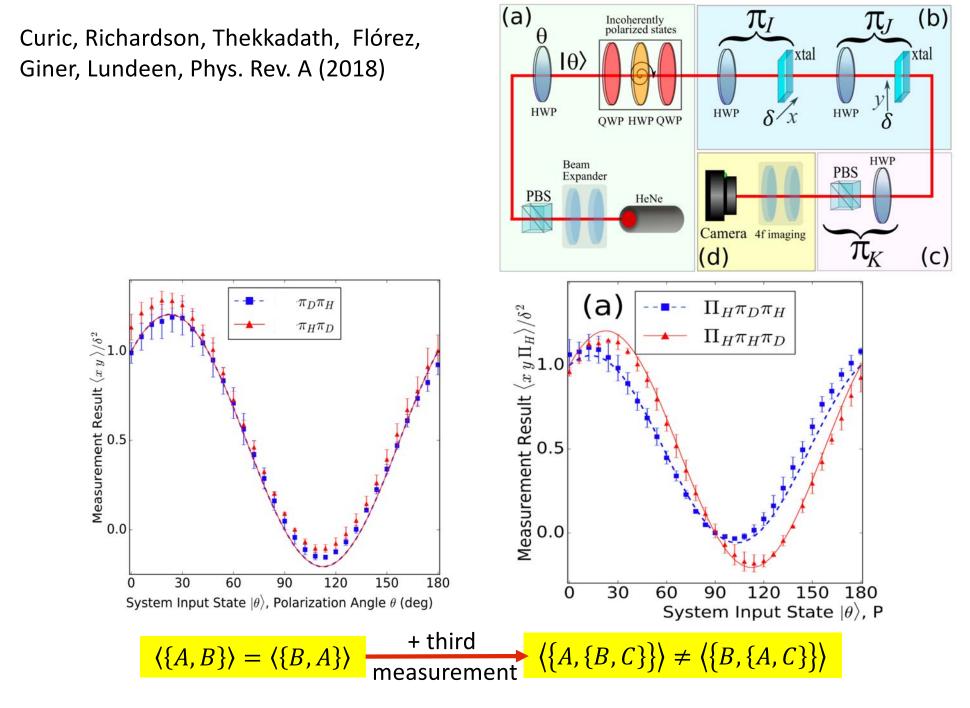
$$\left\langle \left\{ A, \left\{ A(t), A(t+t') \right\} \right\} \right\rangle \neq \left\langle \left\{ A, \left\{ A(t'), A(t+t') \right\} \right\} \right\rangle$$

time-reversal (and shift by t + t')

Classical expectation is not matched: A quantum system observed weakly in equilibrium seemingly breaks time-reversal symmetry

Bednorz, Franke, WB, New J. Phys. (2013)

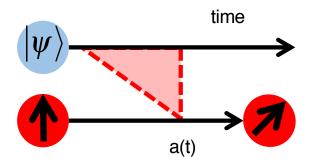
Experimental confirmation that time-ordering matters in third order weak measurements



4) General non-markovian weak measurement

The measured observable depends on the history! <u>A single measurement (of A):</u>

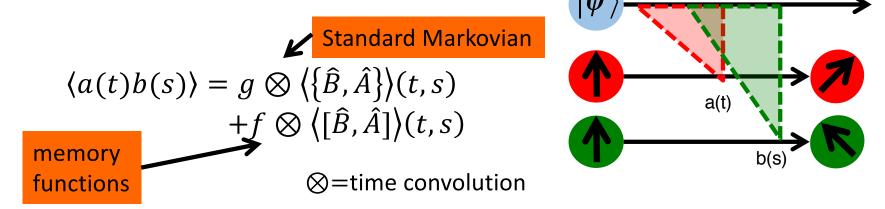
$$\langle a(t) \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{t} dt' g(t-t') \langle \hat{A}(t') \rangle$$



time

Two measurements (first A, then B)

Derived using time-non-local Kraus operators



Result: Introducing memory function allows measurement of the commutator \rightarrow non-Markovian scheme

Bednorz, Bruder, Reulet, WB, PRL 2013

Microscopic picture of non-Markovian weak measurments

- One system, two detectors weakly coupled: $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_{sys} + \hat{H}_a + \hat{H}_b + \hat{H}_{int}$
- Initial product state of the density matrices
- Unitary time evolution, interrupted by readout of the detectors (Kraus operators → taken as weak measurements)
- Expansion of the time evolution to 2nd order in the coupling constant
- Final density matrix provides probability for the correlation function

Non-Markovian: $\langle a(t)b(s) \rangle \rightarrow g \otimes \langle \{\hat{A}, \hat{B}\} \rangle (t, s) + f \otimes \langle [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \rangle (t, s)$

Result: Separation into three processes $C = \langle a(t)b(s) \rangle = C^{sym} + C_a^{det} + C_b^{det}$

J. Bülte, A. Bednorz, C. Bruder, and WB, Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 140407 (2018).

Interaction Hamiltonian

MEASURED SYSTEM

DETECTOR A A B DETECTOR B

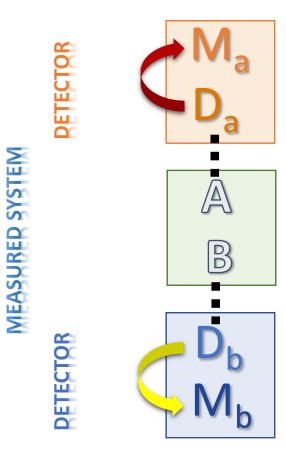
Interaction:

 $\widehat{H}_{int} = \lambda_a \widehat{D}_a \widehat{A} + \lambda_b \widehat{D}_b \widehat{B}$

The meter variables are $\widehat{M}_a(\widehat{M}_b)$:

$$C = \langle a(t)b(s) \rangle = \frac{1}{\lambda_a \lambda_b} \left\langle \{ \widehat{M}_a(t), \widehat{M}_b(s) \} \right\rangle$$

Decomposition into elementary processes



$$C = C^{\text{sym}} + C_a^{\text{det}} + C_b^{\text{det}}$$

All contributions are expressed by ($\alpha = a, b, sys$)

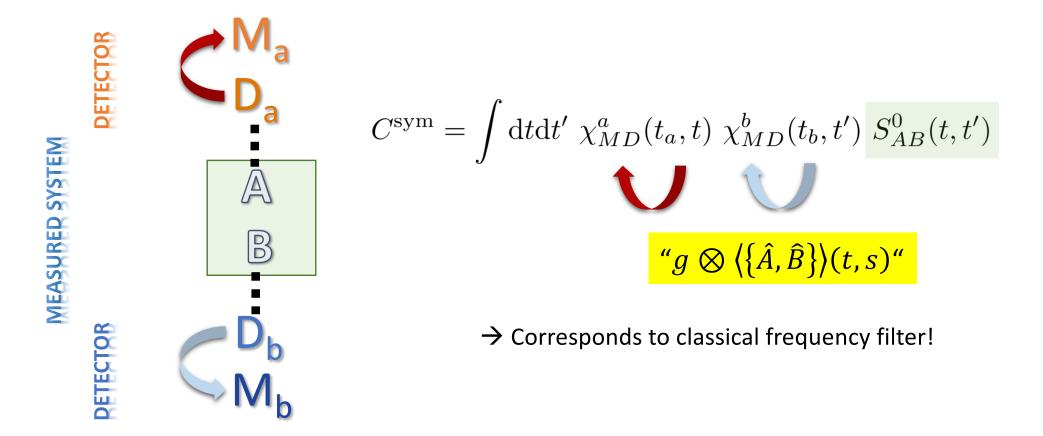
• Symmetrized noise

$$S^{\alpha}_{XY}(t,t') = \frac{1}{2} \langle \{ \hat{X}_{\alpha}(t), \hat{Y}_{\alpha}(t') \} \rangle$$

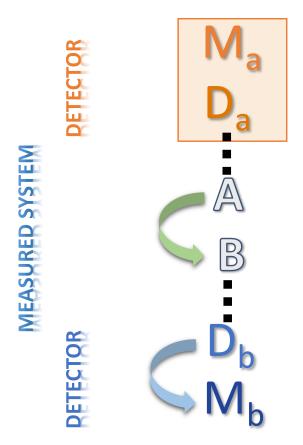
• Response function

$$\chi^{\alpha}_{XY}(t,t') = -\frac{i}{\hbar}\theta(t-t')\langle [\hat{X}_{\alpha}(t), \hat{Y}_{\alpha}(t')] \rangle$$

The markovian (symmetrized) contribution



The non-markovian (non-symmetrized) contribution



$$C_{a}^{\text{det}} = \int dt dt' S_{MD}^{a}(t_{a}, t) \chi_{MD}^{b}(t_{b}, t') \chi_{BA}^{0}(t', t)$$

$$\langle a(t)b(s) \rangle \sim f \otimes \langle [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \rangle(t, s)$$

System-mediated detector-detector interaction: The noise of detector a measured by the response of the system seen by detector b.

DETECTOR MEASURED SYSTEM DD DETECTOR

System-mediated detector-detector interaction:

of the system seen by detector a The noise of detector b measured by the response of

The other way round.....

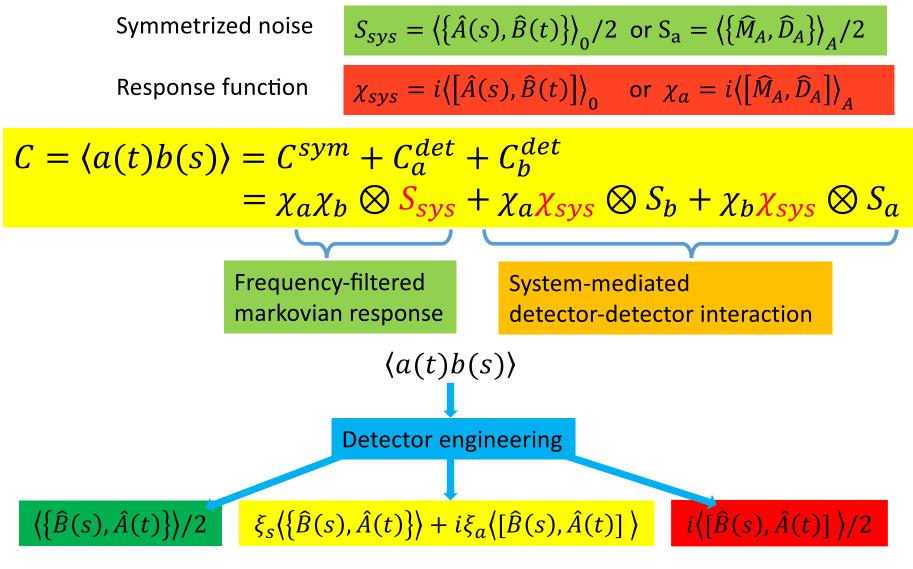
$$C_{b}^{\text{det}} = \int dt dt' \chi_{MD}^{a}(t_{a}, t) S_{MD}^{b}(t_{b}, t') \chi_{AB}^{0}(t, t')$$

$$\langle a(t)b(s) \rangle \sim f \otimes \langle [\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \rangle (t, s)$$

The non-markovian (non-symmetrized) contribution (part II)

Result of microscopic treatment

Expressed by **noises** and **responses** of the **system** <u>and</u> the **detectors**:

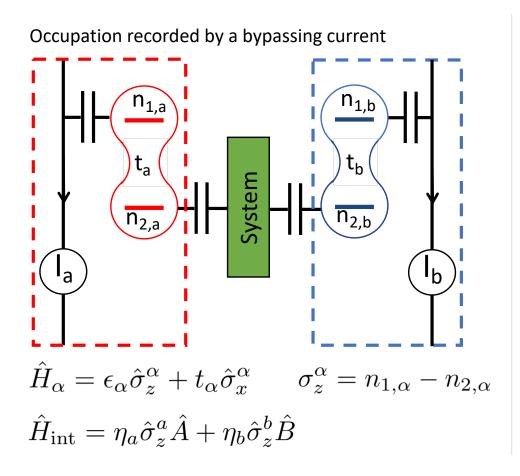


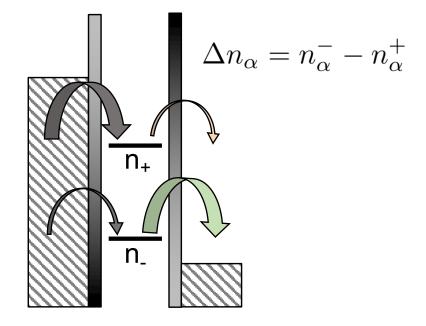
Corresponds to a family of quasiprobabilities (Wigner, Q, P,....)

J. Bülte, A. Bednorz, C. Bruder, and WB, Phys. Rev. Lett. **120**, 140407 (2018).

Proposed implementation:

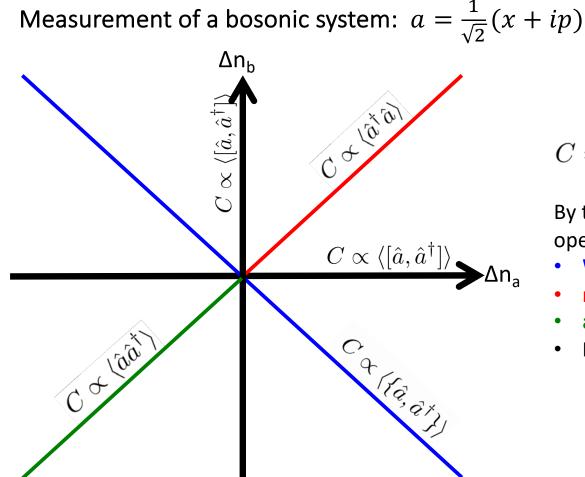
Two double-dot detectors measuring a single quantum system





- Double dot characterized by occupation difference of the energy eigen levels
- Tuning Δn_{α} from positive to negative switches the detector from absorption to emission mode

c.f. double dot detectors Aguado, Kouwenhoven



 $C = C^{\text{sym}} + C_a^{\text{det}} + C_b^{\text{det}}$

By tuning Δn_a and Δn_b different system operator orders are obtained

- Wigner
- normal
- antinormal
- Kubo

J. Bülte, A. Bednorz, C. Bruder, and W. Belzig, Phys. Rev. Lett. **120**, 140407 (2018). Follow us on twitter: @QtUkon

qt.uni.kn

The Quantum Transport Group with guests





C. Bruder (Basel)

WB and Y. V. Nazarov, Phys. Rev. Lett. 87, 197006 (2001)
WB and Y. V. Nazarov, Phys. Rev. Lett. 87, 067006 (2001)
A. Bednorz and WB, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2008)
A. Bednorz, WB, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2010)
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A. Bednorz, K. Franke, WB, New J. Phys. (2013)
A. Novelli, WB, A. Nitzan, New J Phys (2015)
J. Bülte, A. Bednorz, C. Bruder, and WB, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2018)

A. Nitzan (Tel Aviv/Phil.)

> B. Reulet (Sherbrooke)

Yu. Nazarov (Delft)

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Summary of Noisy Quantum Measurements: a nuisance or fundamental physics?

- Quantum measurement: projection vs. weak measurements
 - (Noisy) non-invasive measurements offer another (new) perspective on the quantum measurement problem
- Quantum dynamics: Keldysh contour
- Generalized Keldysh-ordered functional
- Keldysh-ordered expectations are quasiprobabilities
 - Weakly measured non-commuting variables violate classicality (in the forth order)
- Keldysh-ordered third cumulant
 - Time-reversal symmetry
 - Violation of conservation laws
- General non-markovian weak measurement
 - System mediated detector-detector interaction
 - Detector engineering allows tailored operator order
 - Unusual third-order correlators

THE END