

Title: Unsharp reality and the quantum-classical contrast

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Abstract:

unsharp reality
and the
quantum-classical contrast
(some observations)

Paul Busch

Workshop at Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics
Operational Quantum Physics and the Quantum-Classical Contrast
4-7 June, 2007



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OVERVIEW

- I *Quantum-classical contrast: the problem (as I see it)*
- II *Classical description for quantum system*
- III *Quantum description for classical system*



DISCLAIMER

- *NOT* a *systematic* account or solution
- *patchy picture* of where (I think) we are
- some pointers

*“Elucidating the role of **unsharpness**”*

*In the language of the relativity theory, the content of the relations (2) [the uncertainty relations] may be summarized in the statement that according to the quantum theory a general reciprocal relation exists between the maximum sharpness of definition of the space-time and energy-momentum vectors associated with the individuals. This circumstance may be regarded as a simple symbolical expression for the complementary nature of the space-time description and claims of causality. At the same time, however, the general character of this relation makes it possible to a certain extent to reconcile the conservation laws with the space-time co-ordination of observations, the idea of a coincidence of well-defined events in a space-time point being replaced by that of **unsharply** defined individuals within finite space-time regions.*

Niels Bohr, 1928

I Quantum-Classical Contrast

Dilemma (for some) / Tension (for all):

- (a) Quantum Theory (QT) *supersedes and contradicts* Classical Physical Theory
 - hidden-variables problem, Kochen-Specker & Bell Theorems
- (b) Quantum measurement *requires* Classical apparatus
 - measurement problem: from *indeterminacy* to *definite outcomes*
 - *concrete* quantum mechanics builds on Galilei *spacetime*

Options on offer

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| (1) Quantum-classical theory hierarchy
...plus “fancy” interpretation? | (a); \neg (b) |
| (2) Theory pluralism/network? | (b); \neg (a) |
| (3) Modification of quantum mechanics? | \neg (a), \neg (b) |



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(a); $\neg(b)$

(2) Theory pluralism/network?

(b); $\neg(a)$

(3) Modification of quantum mechanics?

$\neg(a)$, $\neg(b)$



So, *where* is that Quantum-Classical Border?!

And what about the Measurement Problem

potentiality → *actuality*

Ad (1): universality of quantum mechanics

(“We live in a Quantum World.”)



- Many Worlds / Many Minds / Relational / ... interpretations
- nonlocal/contextual hidden variables (e.g., Bohm)
- Consistent histories formulations
- Other no-collapse interpretations (e.g. Modal interpretations)
- Epistemic probability instrumentalism

Bub-Clifton Uniqueness Theorem: **Weakening realism**

J. Bub, *Interpreting the Quantum World*, CUP 1997

Ad (2): theory network



Against (1): *Bohr according to Ludwig*

Before further discussions let us again expound this sharply: The author's opinion is that the notion of quantum mechanics as the "most comprehensive" theory is wrong. The "axiomatic basis" presented in this book reflects precisely the conception and the idea espoused at the beginning of quantum mechanics with an astoundingly clear intuitive view by N. Bohr. The axiomatic basis ... does not allow us to regard the objectivating description of macroscopic systems ... as some approximation to quantum mechanics.

G. Ludwig, An Axiomatic Basis for Quantum Mechanics, Vol. 2, 1987, p. 12.

Classical theories are *pretheories* to quantum mechanics.

Embedding of \mathfrak{PT}_m into $\mathfrak{PT}_{q\text{exp}}$ can only be *approximate*.

Ludwig (1987): approximate embedding shown to work at the level of simple model cases...

...program is still alive and well, see, e.g.:

L. Lanz, B. Vacchini, O. Melsheimer,

Quantum theory: the role of microsystems and macrosystems

quant-ph/0701178 / J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 40 (2007)
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BUT NOTE: criterion for recovering dynamics comes from macro-theory →
notion of *relevant observables*;
embedding is only meant to demonstrate *consistency*.

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Ad (3): modifying quantum mechanics



- spontaneous collapse / dynamical reduction models
- gravity-induced collapse conjecture
- some *histories* extensions of quantum theory

Maintaining **STRONG REALISM** and **UNIVERSALITY** whilst
incorporating new modality of **POTENTIALITY**



Game still wide open ...

... so where to take it?

→ *structural/conceptual comparison*

→ *the role of unsharpness*

Quantumness vs Classicality

Focus here:

operational

formal

disturbance/
limit of joint measurability } \longleftrightarrow noncommutativity

indeterminacy \longleftrightarrow superposition



II Classical description of a quantum system

Uniqueness Theorem:

There is (essentially) only one “good” classical representation of a quantum probabilistic theory.



Operational point of view

quantum and classical statistical models (dualities)

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{S} - \text{set of } \textit{states} \\ \mathcal{E} - \text{set of } \textit{effects} \end{array} \right\} \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{E} \ni (\rho, E) \mapsto p_{\rho}(E)$$

classical:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{S}_c = M(\Omega, \mathcal{B}(\Omega))_1^+ \\ \mathcal{E}_c = \{f : \Omega \rightarrow [0, 1] : f \text{ measurable}\} \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{p}_\mu(f) = \int_\Omega f \, d\mu$$

– follows from **compatibility** of all sharp effects

quantum:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{S}_q = \{\text{density operators}\} \\ \mathcal{E}_q = \{\text{quantum effects}\} \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{p}_\rho(E) = \text{tr} [\rho E]$$

– follows from **complementarity postulate** and existence of **ideal measurements**.

(Bugajski & Lahti 1985)

classical embedding

$$\Phi : \mathcal{S}_q \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_c \text{ (affine); } \Phi' : \mathcal{E}_c \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_q \text{ ("quantization")}$$

Want: coverage of *all* quantum effects \Rightarrow need: Φ injective.

Unique family of solutions: **informationally complete observables**

$$A : \mathcal{B}(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_q$$

$$\mathcal{S}_q \ni \rho \mapsto \Phi_A(\rho) \equiv p_\rho^A \in M(\Omega, \mathcal{B})_1^+ = \mathcal{S}_c$$

$$p_\rho^A(X) = \int_{\Omega} \chi_X(\omega) dp_\rho^A(\omega) = \text{tr} [\rho A(X)]$$

$$\mathcal{E}_c \ni \chi_X \mapsto \Phi'(\chi_X) := A(X) \in \mathcal{E}_q$$

However: representation is **partial**: Φ' is *not* surjective.

(Cf. Wigner function.)

classical extension

$$\Psi : \mathcal{S}_c \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_q \text{ (affine "reduction" map)}; \Psi' : \mathcal{E}_q \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_c$$

Want: coverage of *all* quantum states \Rightarrow need: Ψ surjective.

Solution: Misra-Bugajski map

Ω = subset of pure states ω of \mathcal{S}_q

$$\mathcal{S}_c = M(\Omega, \mathcal{B}(\Omega))_1^+$$

$$M(\Omega, \mathcal{B}(\Omega))_1^+ \ni \mu = \int_{\Omega} \delta_{\omega} d\mu(\omega) \mapsto \Psi(\mu) := \int_{\Omega} \omega d\mu(\omega) \equiv \rho_{\mu} \in \mathcal{S}_q$$

$$\text{tr} [\rho_{\mu} E] = \int_{\Omega} \text{tr} [\omega E] d\mu(\omega) = \int_{\Omega} f_E(\omega) d\mu(\omega)$$

$$\mathcal{E}_q \ni E \mapsto \Psi'(E) = f_E \in \mathcal{E}_c$$

This is the (essentially) unique *non-redundant* solution.

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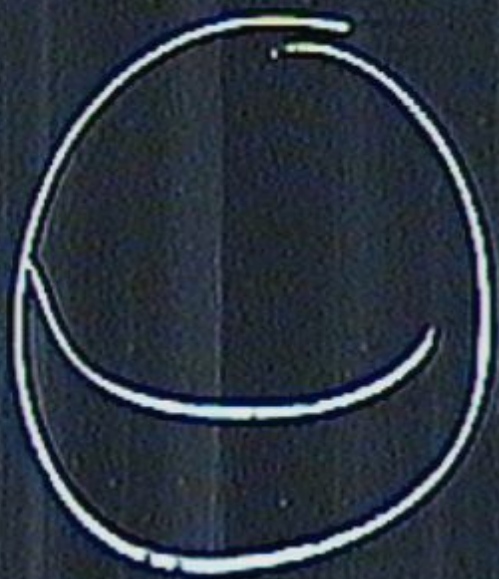
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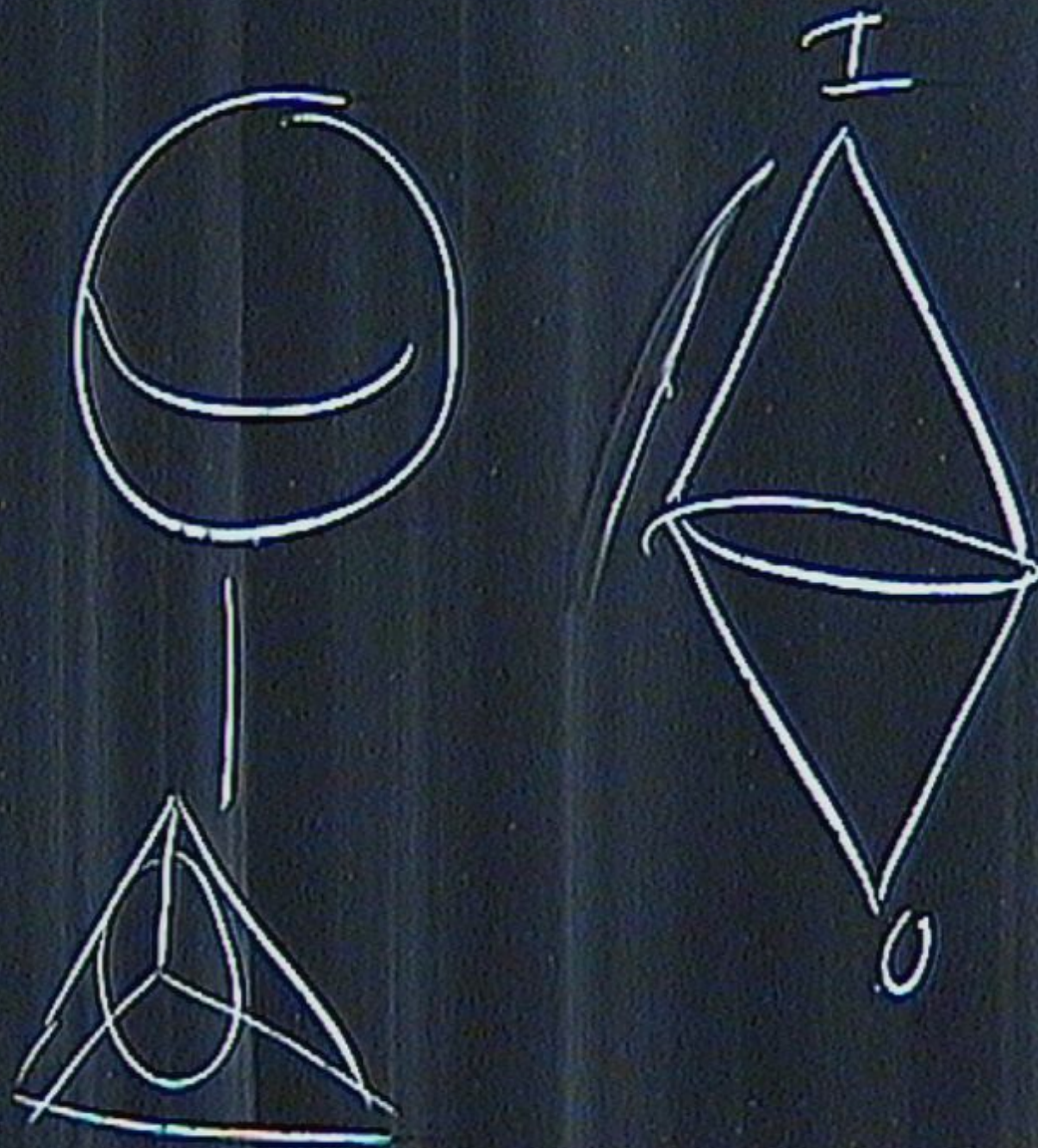
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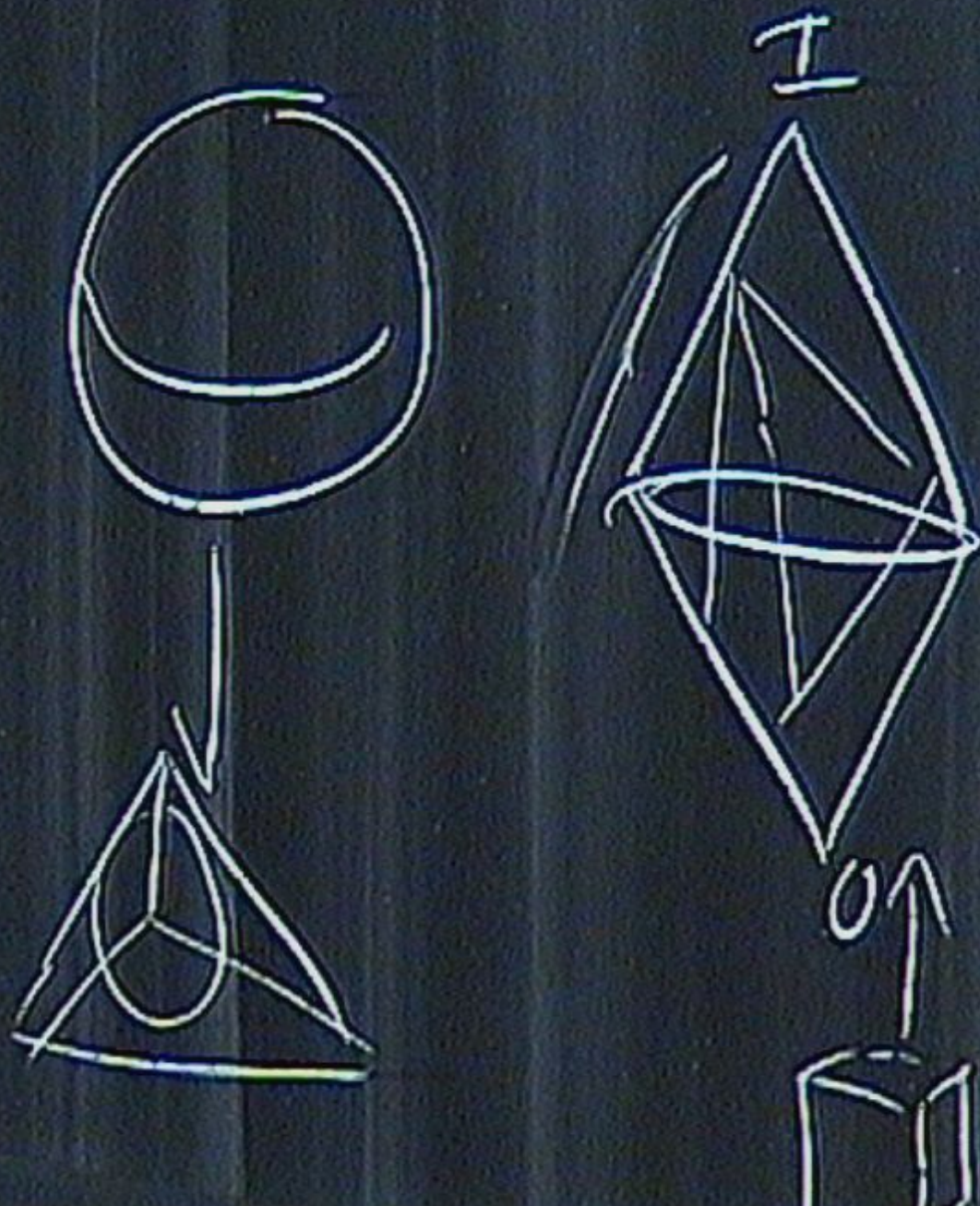
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THEOREM (PB & W. Stulpe 2007):

Any reduction map Ψ with the property $\mathcal{S}_{q,\text{pure}} = \{\Psi\delta_\omega : \omega \in \Omega\}$ can be represented according to

$$\text{tr} [\Psi(\mu)E] = \int_{\Omega} \text{tr} [\omega E] (\mu \circ i^{-1})(d\omega)$$

where $\mu \in \mathcal{S}_c$, $E \in \mathcal{E}_q$, $i: \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{q,\text{pure}}$ is the mapping $\omega \mapsto i(\omega) = \Psi\delta_\omega$, and $\mu \circ i^{-1}$ the image measure.



Implication:

All quantum effects are fuzzy classical effects.



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III Quantum description of a classical system

Unsharpness helps to restore (some – but not all) classicality.

- (1) (approximate) joint measurability
- (2) noninvasive measurability

Ad (1): joint measurability

Example: position Q and momentum P

minimal operational requirement: *joint probability*

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^2) \ni X \times Y \mapsto p_\rho(X \times Y) = \text{tr}[\rho G(X \times Y)]$$

von Neumann (1932): *joint measurability* \Leftrightarrow *commutativity*; discrete approximate solution: phase space lattice of coherent states

Wigner (1932): requires $G(X \times \mathbb{R}) = Q(X)$, $G(\mathbb{R} \times Y) = P(Y)$; finds “Wigner function”, i.e., $G(X \times Y)$ *not* positive.

Husimi (1939): discovers coherent-state based phase space observable

$$(q, p) \mapsto \frac{\text{tr} [g | m_{qp} \rangle \langle m_{qp} |]}{2\pi\hbar}$$

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General phase space observable

Requirements: $G : \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_q$ is an *observable* (POVM) *covariant* under translations and boosts:

$$W(q, p)G(Z)W(q, p)^* = G(Z + (q, p))$$

Unique class of solutions:

$$\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^2) \ni Z \mapsto G^T(Z) = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} W(q, p)TW(q, p)^* dqdp,$$

(T = a positive operator of trace 1)

Davies 1976; Ali, Prugovecki 1978; Holevo 1982; Werner 1984; Cassinelli et al 2004;
Kiukas, Lahti, Ylinen 2006



Marginal observables

$$G^T(X \times \mathbb{R}) = Q_\mu(X) = (\mu * Q)(X), \quad G^T(\mathbb{R} \times Y) = P_\nu(Y) = (\nu * P)(Y).$$

$$\mu = \mu_T = p_{\Pi T \Pi^*}^Q \quad \nu = \nu_T = p_{\Pi T \Pi^*}^P \quad \Pi = \text{parity operator}$$

joint measurability \Rightarrow unsharpness

Ad (2): noninvasive measurability

We are just *learning* to quantify the *disturbance vs inaccuracy* trade-off!

Example of particle: model of phase-space measurement

von Neumann 1932; Arthurs & Kelly 1965

$$U = \exp \left(-\frac{i\lambda}{\hbar} \hat{Q} \otimes \hat{P}_1 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 + \frac{i\kappa}{\hbar} \hat{P} \otimes \mathbb{1}_1 \otimes \hat{Q}_2 \right).$$

$$\langle \psi | G^T(X \times Y) | \psi \rangle := \langle U\psi \otimes \Psi_1 \otimes \Psi_2 | \mathbb{1} \otimes Q_1(\lambda X) \otimes P_2(\kappa Y) | U\psi \otimes \Psi_1 \otimes \Psi_2 \rangle.$$

$$\Delta(\mu)^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \Delta(\hat{Q}_1, \Psi_1)^2 + \frac{\kappa^2}{4} \Delta(\hat{Q}_2, \Psi_2)^2,$$

$$\Delta(\nu)^2 = \frac{1}{\kappa^2} \Delta(\hat{P}_2, \Psi_2)^2 + \frac{\lambda^2}{4} \Delta(\hat{P}_1, \Psi_1)^2.$$

$$\mathcal{I}_X(P[\psi]) = \text{tr}_{1,2}[\mathbb{1} \otimes Q_1(\lambda X) \otimes P_2(\kappa Y) P[U\psi \otimes \Psi_1 \otimes \Psi_2]]$$

nondisturbance \Rightarrow macroscopic inaccuracy



Objective description – definite values

criterion of physical reality:

If, without in any way disturbing a system, we can predict with certainty (i.e., with probability equal to unity) the value of a physical quantity, then there exists an element of physical reality corresponding to that physical quantity.

Einstein, Podolsky, Rosen (1935)

$$\exists \mathcal{I} : \text{tr} [\mathcal{I}_X(\rho)] = 1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{I}_X(\rho) = \rho$$

Realization for sharp observable ($E(X) = P$ projection): $\mathcal{I}_X(\rho) = P\rho P$
→ ideal measurements; these are also *repeatable* (undesirable!)

Approximate realization: $E(X) = E$ effect, $\mathcal{I}_X(\rho) = E^{1/2}\rho E^{1/2}$
→ *approximate* ideality; lose repeatability!

more unsharpness \Rightarrow less disturbance (and less information)



So, what's missing?

“definite values”:

- rules out ‘lots of’ states → loss of *superposition principle*
- can only be realized for ‘a few’ (relevant macroscopic) observables at a time
- will, in any case, have to be ‘unsharp’ for typical observables (phase space)

measurement – actualization of potentialities:

→ insolubility of the measurement problem (Wigner, Shimony, Fine) extends to unsharp object and pointer observables (PB & A. Shimony 1996; Bassi & Ghirardi 2000/2003; Grubl 2003)



Conclusion

- understanding of *quantum-classical contrast* and *border* is inextricably linked with decision on interpretational stance on quantum mechanics
- quantum probabilistic theory can be presented in only one *non-redundant* way as a *restricted classical theory*; the restriction being that all quantum observables *are* fuzzy classical observables
- *kinematic* aspects of a classical system can be approximated in quantum mechanical terms; but this requires the representation of classical observables by *unsharp* quantum observables
- problem of quantum modeling of classical *dynamics* not addressed; but see the *Insolubility Theorem* of quantum measurement theory: unsharpness is *not* sufficient

$$0 \leq E \leq 1$$

$$S(E) = W(E) - W(EE')$$

$$E' = 1 - E$$

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$$E' = 1 - E$$

$$E E' \leq E, E'$$

$$0 \leq E \leq 1$$

$$E \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$S(E) = W(E) - W(EE')$$

$$E' = 1 - E$$

$$S(E) = 1 \Leftrightarrow E = E^2$$

$$S(E) = 0 \Leftrightarrow E = \lambda 1 \quad \lambda > 0$$