

Title: How Quantum are the Cosmological Correlations?

Date: Nov 04, 2014 11:00 AM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/14110003>

Abstract: Cosmological perturbations are sourced by quantum fluctuations of the vacuum during inflation. In contrast, our observations of the Cosmic Microwave Background are classical. Can we test for the quantum origins of the perturbations? How much quantum information is lost when we make these observations? Have we totally screwed up by building PLANCK, and measured the correlations in the wrong basis and hence losing the primordial quantum information for good? I will talk about all these!

How Quantum are the cosmological perturbations?

Eugene A. Lim

arXiv 1410.5508



University of London

Perimeter Institute 2014

Preamble: Why do we care?

Primordial perturbations have a **quantum** origin : correlations are quantum.

Our observations are **classical** : we got a set of classical *probability distribution functions* pdf

e.g. CMB anisotropies power spectrum, the variance of gaussian pdf labeled by l is $P_l = \langle a_{lm} a_{lm}^* \rangle$

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Is there a way to test for the quantum origin of perturbations?

How much of the primordial quantum information is accessible to us?

Preamble: Why do we care?

Example : 2 entangled qubits store 2 classical bits of info. Separate observations on qubits can recover at most 1 bit of info : “lost quantum information”.

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David Tong's Nightmare : The CMB has quantum correlations containing a Message from God but Humanity recklessly built Planck and made measurements which loses this information.



Preamble: Why do we care?

All is not lost! If a system has quantum correlations, then it doesn't obey classical correlation statistics -- we can check! (e.g. **Bell's Inequality**.)

CHSH inequality (**Clauser-Horne-Shimony-Holt**) :

Quantum information cannot be represented by a local joint prob. distribution function.

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Quantum information cannot be represented by a local joint prob. distribution function.

*Entanglement is **not** the only measure of quantumness!*

To construct such a statistic, we need to know the nature of the quantum correlations.

Outline

- How do we tell the difference between Quantum and Classical states?
- Starobinsky-Polarski-Kiefer decoherence model in inflation.
- *Quantum Discord* as a measure of “quantumness”
- Modeling joint primordial perturbations-environment bipartite system
- How Quantum are the perturbations?

Classical vs Quantum States

Classical States : described by *joint probability distribution functions* (pdf) of observables $P(x, p)$ and obey *Einstein Locality*.

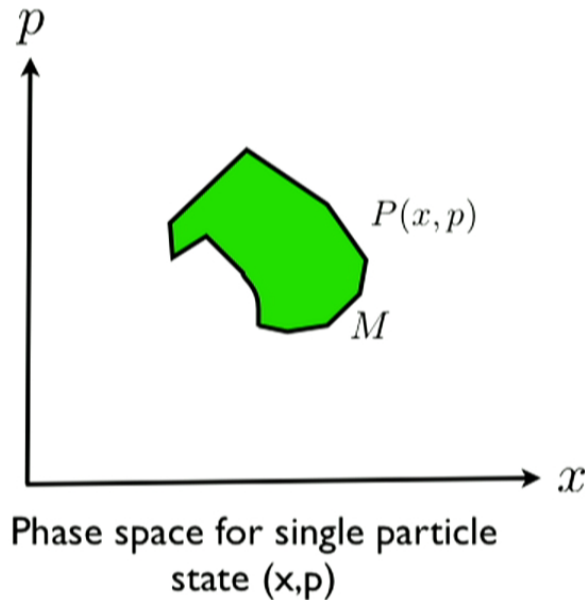
Einstein Locality : If A and B are spacelike separated systems, then in a complete **description** of reality an action on A must not modify the **description** of B .

Classical vs Quantum States

Classical States : described by *joint probability distribution functions* (pdf) of observables $P(x, p)$ and obey *Einstein Locality*.

Probability of finding particle in region M

$$\text{Prob} = \int_M dx \, dp \, P(x, p)$$



Classical vs Quantum States

Quantum States : described by *density matrices* ρ

A state vector $|u_i\rangle$ describes a *pure state*.

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We can “mix” different pure states to make a *mixed state*.

$$\rho = \sum_i p_i |u_i\rangle \langle u_i| \quad \sum_i p_i = 1 \quad \text{A mixture of pure states } |u_i\rangle$$

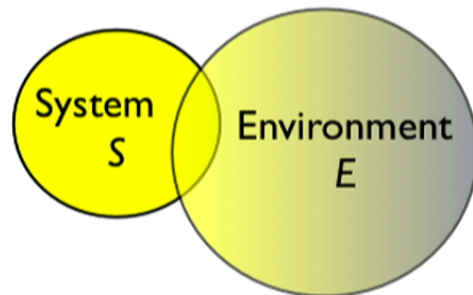
Note that there is an additional layer of “probability vector” p_i on top of the usual quantum prob. amplitude.

This makes things really complicated and much more interesting.

Classical vs Quantum States

Quantum States : described by *density matrices* ρ

Pure states $\rho = |u\rangle\langle u|$ can evolve into *mixed states* under *non-unitary* operations in Open systems.



Combined “Bipartite” ρ_{SE}

Access only to S : $\rho_S = \text{Tr}_E \rho_{SE}$

“Trace over inaccessible d.o.f.”

“Ambiguity” = Von Neumann Entropy $S(\rho_S) = -\text{Tr}(\rho_S \log \rho_S)$
(Zero for pure states.)

Classical vs Quantum States

What about Entanglement?

Given bipartite system, it is *separable* if

$$\rho = \sum_i p_i |u_i\rangle_S |e_i\rangle_E \langle e_i|_S \langle u_i|_E$$

example $\rho = \frac{1}{2} |0_S\rangle |0_E\rangle \langle 0_S| \langle 0_E| + \frac{1}{2} |1_S\rangle |1_E\rangle \langle 1_S| \langle 1_E|$

Pure states :

separability = non-entanglement = classical pdf.

Mixed states :

separability = non-entanglement \neq classical pdf

Classical vs Quantum States

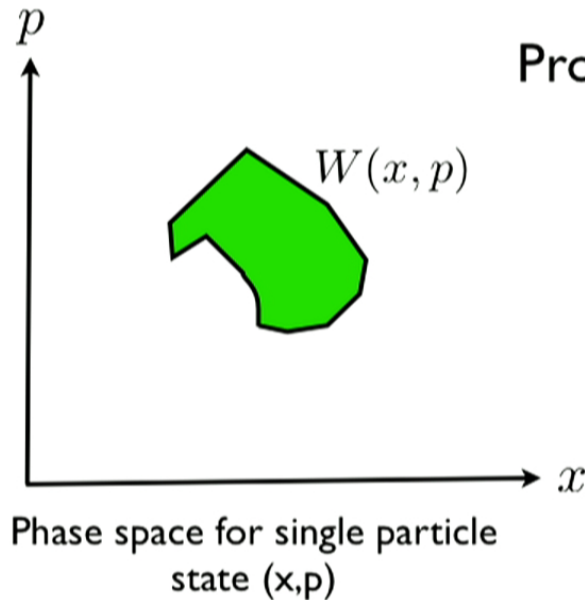
Instead of density matrices --

Equivalent “quasi-pdf” picture : **Wigner distribution**

$$W(x, p) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2ipy} \langle x - \frac{y}{2} | \rho | x + \frac{y}{2} \rangle$$

Prob density of x is then

$$\langle x | \rho | x \rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dp W(x, p)$$



Classical vs Quantum States

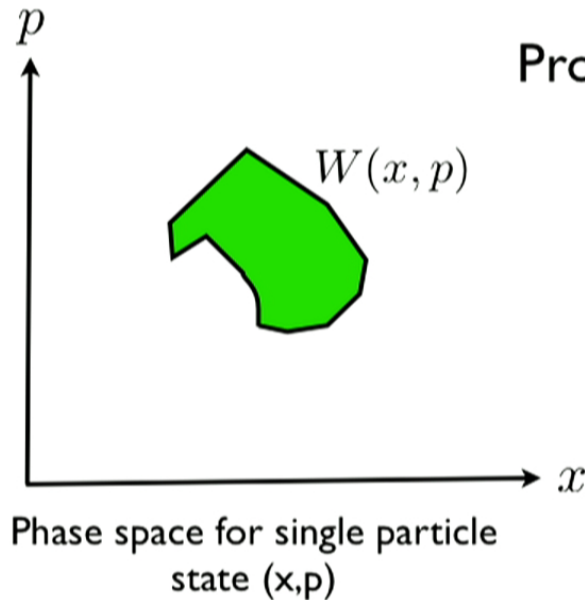
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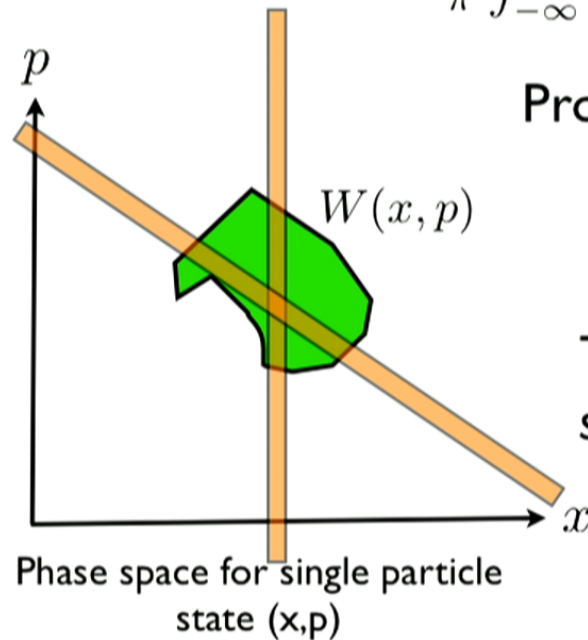


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This is an integration over *an infinite strip of p* (uncertainty principle).

Bertrand and Bertrand's theorem :
any infinite strip would do.

Classical vs Quantum States

All states are quantum.

They are considered “classical” if you can represent them as classical joint pdfs.

Is it Quantum? Is it Classical? Just check the statistics of the state!

Decoherence in a nutshell

Consider *pure state* $|S\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$

Coherence = quantum phase of α and β preserved.

$$\begin{aligned}\rho = |S\rangle\langle S| &= |\alpha|^2|0\rangle\langle 0| + |\beta|^2|1\rangle\langle 1| + \alpha\beta^*|0\rangle\langle 1| + \alpha^*\beta|1\rangle\langle 0| \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} |\alpha|^2 & \alpha\beta^* \\ \alpha^*\beta & |\beta|^2 \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

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Decoherence : couple S to environment E .

$$|S\rangle \otimes |E\rangle = (\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle)|E\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{couplings}} \alpha|0\rangle|E(0)\rangle + \beta|1\rangle|E(1)\rangle$$

If we have only access to S , then

$$\rho_S = \text{Tr}_E \rho_{SE} = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{00} & \rho_{01} \rightarrow 0 \\ \rho_{10} \rightarrow 0 & \rho_{11} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} |\alpha|^2 & 0 \\ 0 & |\beta|^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Final matrix is *mixed* and phase info is lost.

Decoherence basis is crucial

Consider pure state $|S\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$

Coherence is a quantum phase occurred in pure basis.

$$\rho = |S\rangle\langle S| = |\alpha|^2|0\rangle\langle 0| + |\beta|^2|1\rangle\langle 1| + \alpha\beta^*|0\rangle\langle 1| + \alpha^*\beta|1\rangle\langle 0|$$

Decoherence can occurs at rotated basis

$$= \begin{pmatrix} |\alpha|^2 & \alpha\beta^* \\ \alpha^*\beta & |\beta|^2 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{rotated basis}} \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -e^{-i\phi}\sin\theta \\ e^{i\phi}\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix}$$

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Secret assumption : decoherence occurred in $\{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$ basis.

Decoherence can occurs at rotated basis

$$\{\cos \theta |0\rangle + e^{i\phi} \sin \theta |1\rangle, -e^{-i\phi} \sin \theta |0\rangle - \cos \theta |1\rangle\}$$

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What about inflation?

Starobinsky, Polarski (1998)
Grischuk, Sidorov (1990)

Single mode Hamiltonian for cosmological perturbations

$$\hat{H}_k = \frac{1}{2} \left(p_k^2 + k^2 y_k^2 + \frac{2a'}{a'} y_k p_k \right)$$
$$\delta\phi_k \equiv y_k, \quad p_k = \frac{\partial L(y_k, y'_k)}{\partial y'_k} = y'_k - a'/a y_k$$

\hat{H}_k is a unitary evolution operator.

Schrodinger's equation of wave function $\psi(y, \eta)$ (drop k)

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi(y, \eta)}{\partial \eta} = \hat{H}_k \psi(y, \eta).$$

with solution $\psi(y, \eta) = \left(\frac{2\Omega_R(\eta)}{\pi} \right)^{1/4} \exp(-(\Omega_R + i\Omega_I)y^2)$

for inflation background $\Omega_R \rightarrow ke^{-2r}$, $\Omega_I \rightarrow -ke^{-r}$

$r = \# \text{efolds}$

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Cosmological “Squeezed states”

Construct density matrix

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So far unitary evolution : *no decoherence so still pure state.*

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$$| \gamma \rangle = \sum_{i,j} c_{ij} | n; \gamma_k \otimes | n; \gamma_{-k}$$

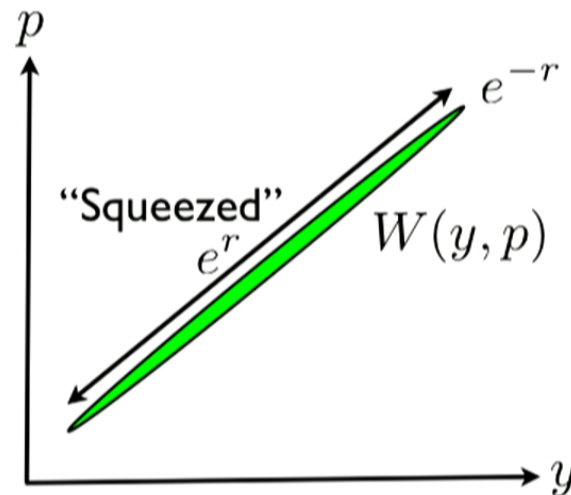
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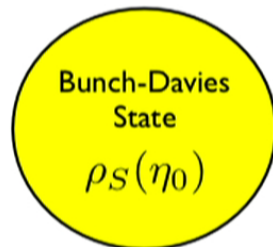


Wigner function is a *gaussian* with ellipsoid axes (e^{-r}, e^r)

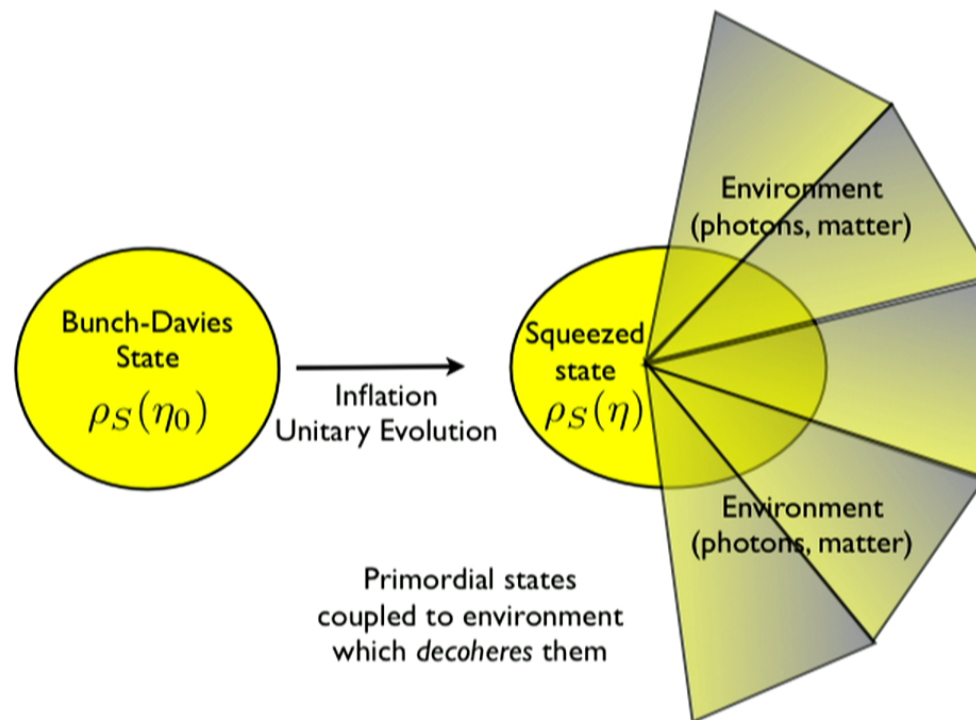
$$W(y, p) = \frac{1}{\pi} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x} \sigma_S^{-1} \mathbf{x}^T \right]$$

$$\mathbf{x} = (x, p)$$

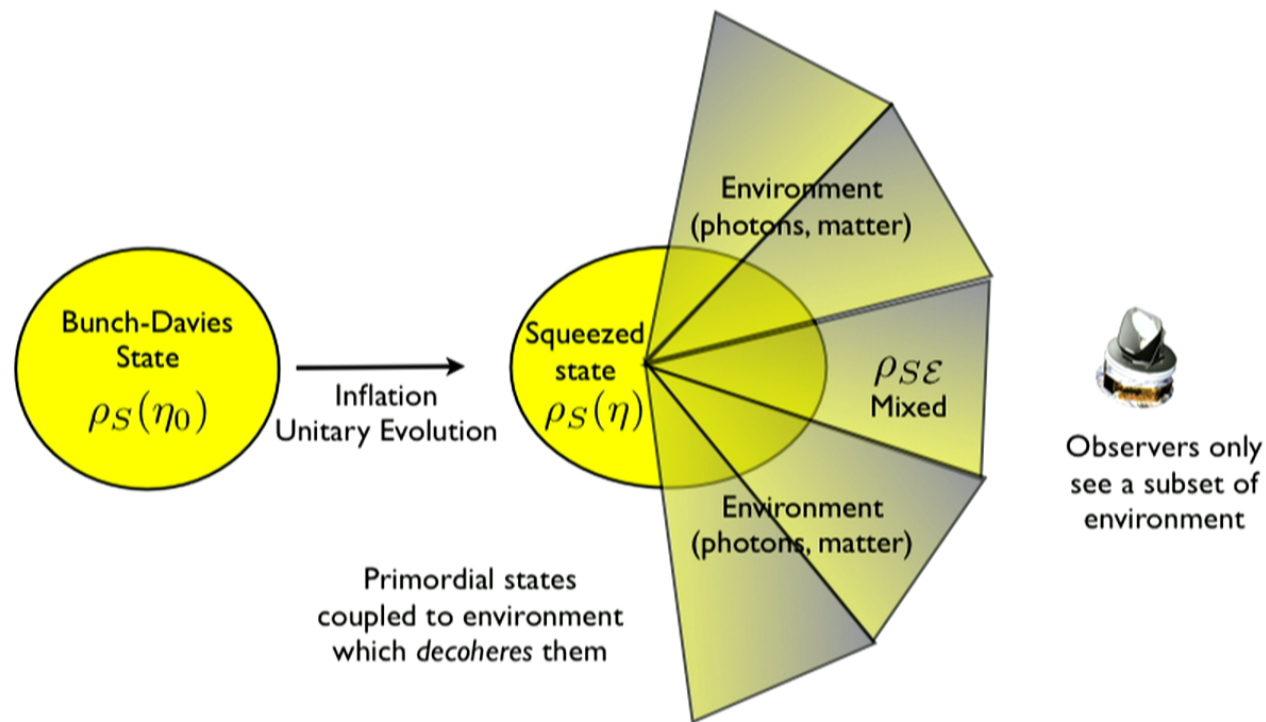
The environment as a quantum channel



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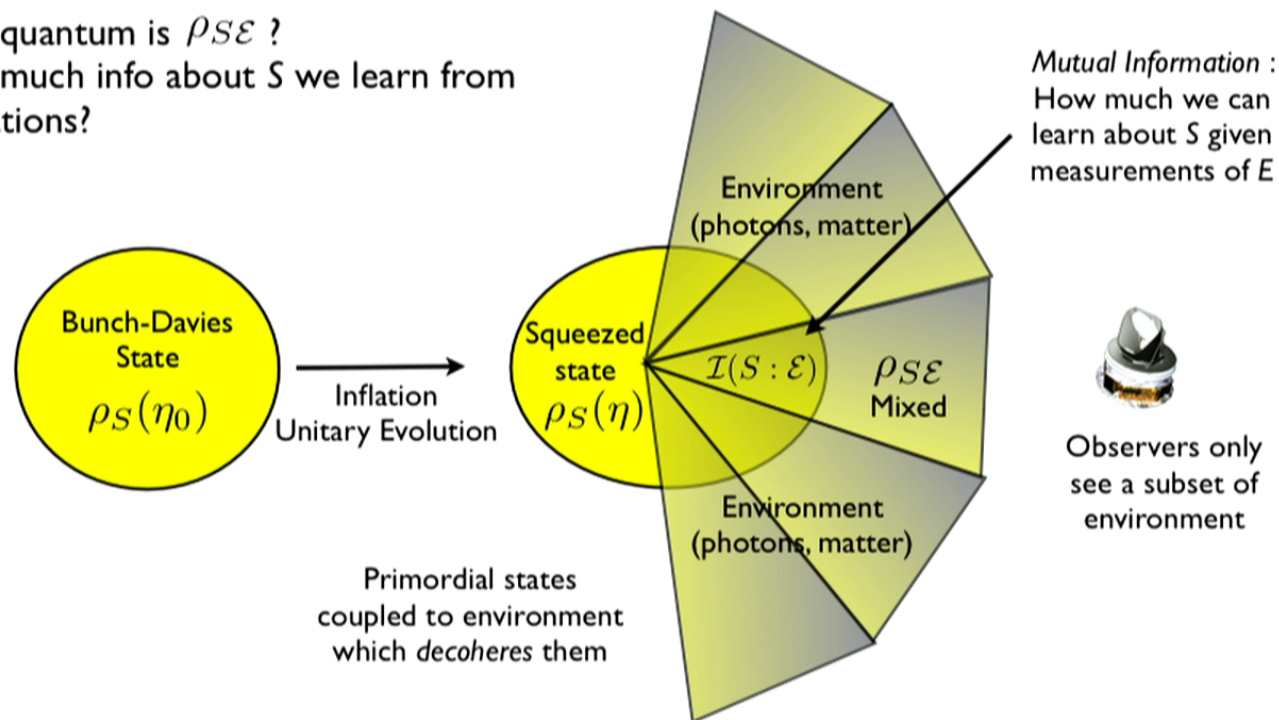
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Want to know:

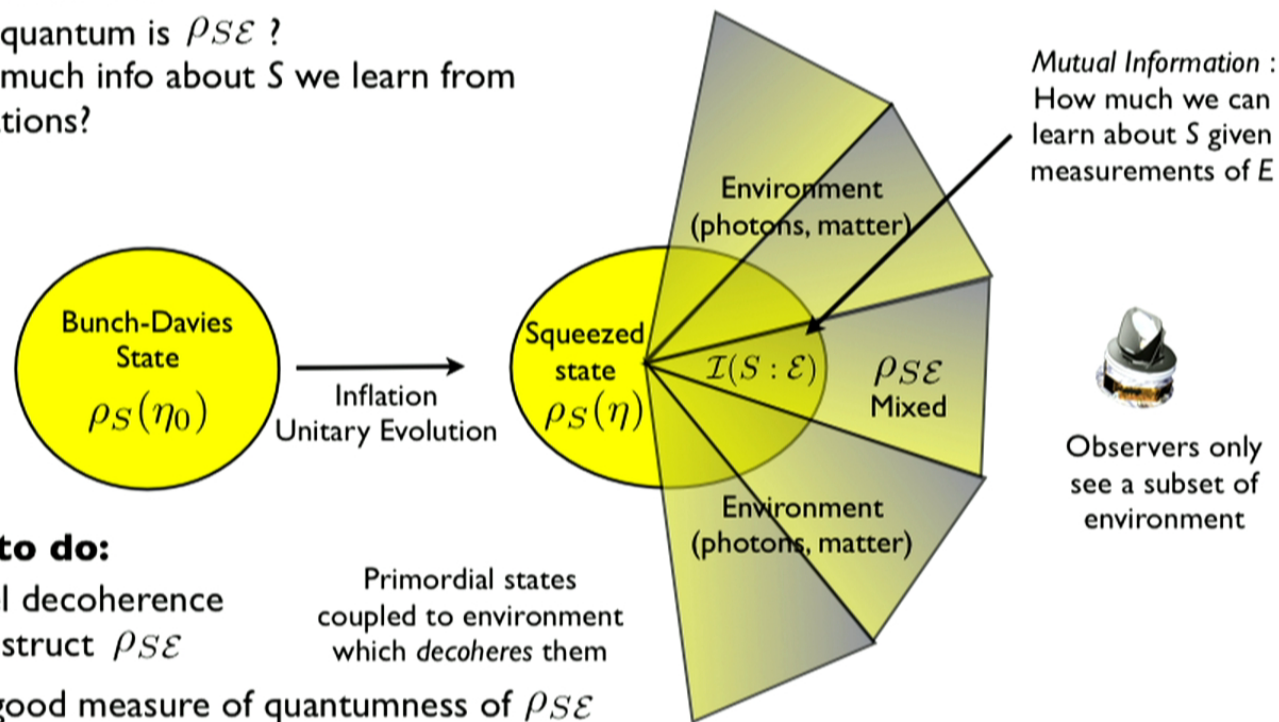
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2. How much info about S we learn from observations?



The environment as a quantum channel

Want to know:

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Need to do:

1. Model decoherence and construct ρ_{SE}
 2. Find good measure of quantumness of ρ_{SE}
 3. Calculate $I(S : E)$
- Primordial states coupled to environment which decoheres them

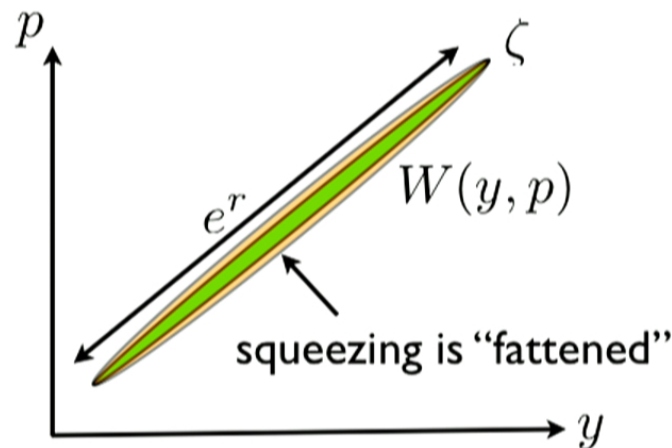
Starobinsky-Kiefer-Polarski decoherence ansatz (1998)

Assumption : environment scatters off primordial states
large number of times. (Joos + Zeh, 1985)

Couple to environment ρ_{SE} , we add a decoherence term

$$\rho'_S = \text{Tr}_E \rho_{SE} = \rho_S \times \exp\left[-\frac{\zeta}{2}(y - y')^2\right] \quad \zeta \gg \Omega_R$$

New *mixed state* is still a gaussian but with axes (e^r, ζ)



Other models of decoherence :
use high frequency modes as
environment to low frequency
"observed" modes.
(Burgess et. al. 2006, 2014)

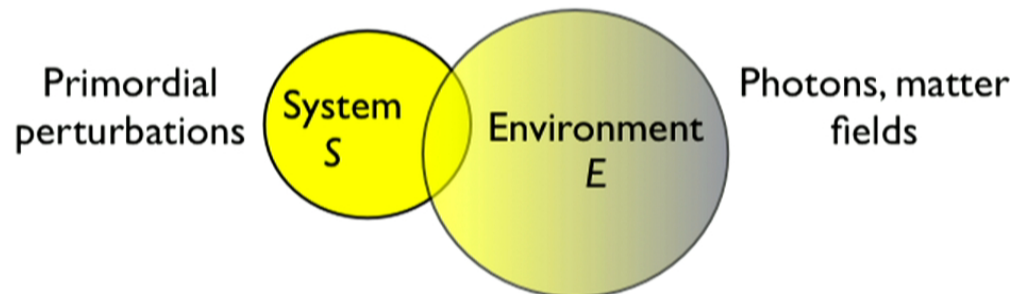
How to model system-environment?

Start with Starobinsky-Polarski-Kiefer (SPK) Gaussian ansatz

$$\rho'_S \rightarrow W(y, p) = \frac{1}{\pi} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x} \sigma_S^{-1} \mathbf{x}^T \right], \quad \sigma_S(\Omega_R, \Omega_I, \zeta)$$

We want to find a joint density matrix ρ_{SE} such that

$$\rho_S = \text{Tr}_E(\rho_{SE})$$



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Central Limit
Theorem



How to model system-environment?

A **unique** pure 2 mode Gaussian ρ_{SE} can be constructed (“gaussian purification” of ρ_S).

$$W(y_1, y_2, p_1, p_2) = \frac{1}{\pi} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x} \sigma_{SE}^{-1} \mathbf{x}^T \right] \quad \mathbf{x} = (y_1, p_1, y_2, p_2)$$

Parameterized around pure Gaussian state to get a mixed Gaussian state.

Many possibilities of parameterization. We choose a two parameter model to illustrate basis dependence of discord.

How to model system-environment?

Two parameter model ($\beta \geq 1, \tau$)

$$\sigma_{SE} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\lambda} & \frac{\alpha}{\lambda} & \sqrt{\frac{\xi}{\lambda}} \left(1 + \frac{\xi}{\lambda}\right)^{-1/4} & 0 \\ \frac{\alpha}{\lambda} & \xi + \frac{\alpha^2}{\lambda} + \lambda & \alpha \sqrt{\frac{\xi}{\lambda}} \left(1 + \frac{\xi}{\lambda}\right)^{-1/4} & -\sqrt{-1 + \left(1 + \frac{\xi}{\lambda}\right) \tau^2 (\lambda(\xi + \lambda))^{1/4}} \\ \sqrt{\frac{\xi}{\lambda}} \left(1 + \frac{\xi}{\lambda}\right)^{-1/4} & \alpha \sqrt{\frac{\xi}{\lambda}} \left(1 + \frac{\xi}{\lambda}\right)^{-1/4} & \beta \sqrt{1 + \frac{\xi}{\lambda}} & 0 \\ 0 & -\sqrt{-1 + \left(1 + \frac{\xi}{\lambda}\right) \tau^2 (\lambda(\xi + \lambda))^{1/4}} & 0 & \beta \sqrt{1 + \frac{\xi}{\lambda}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$a = -\Omega_I/k, \quad \lambda = \Omega_R/k, \quad \xi = \zeta/k$$

Physicality of state: $\beta^2, \tau^2 \geq \left(1 + \frac{\xi}{\lambda}\right)^{-1}$ and $\tau^2 \leq \beta$

State is pure when $\beta = \tau = 1$

State is also *entangled* for $\xi > 0$, i.e. SPK decoherence
SPK ansatz always generates entanglement with E

What is a good measure of “Quantumness”

Joint perturbations-environment state ρ_{SE} is *mixed*,
so entanglement measures are insufficient.

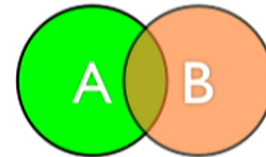
More robust measure is *quantum discord* which
captures quantumness beyond entanglement for
mixed states.

Ollivier and Zurek (2001)
Henderson and Vedral (2001)

Quantum Discord

Classical Mutual Information

$$J(A : B) = H(A) - H(A|B)$$



Ollivier and Zurek (2001)
Henderson and Vedral (2001)

A and B correlated, mutual info is how much we learn more about A when B is found out.

Classical pdf, **Bayes Theorem** $H(A|B) = H(A, B) - H(B)$

Get equivalent expression

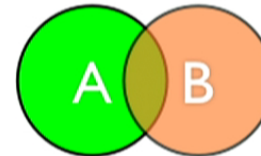
$$I(A : B) = H(A) + H(B) - H(A, B)$$

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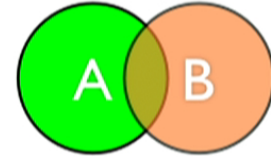
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Quantum generalization: replace Shannon with Von Neumann $H(A) \rightarrow S(A)$

$$I(A : B) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}(A : B) = S(A) + S(B) - S(A, B)$$

$$J(A : B) \rightarrow \mathcal{J}(A : B) = S(A) - S(A|B)$$

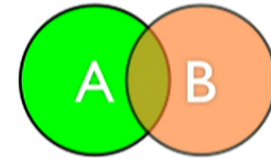
Quantum Discord



What is the quantum version of $S(A|B)$?

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Ollivier and Zurek (2001) propose the following:

1. Given some basis of measurements (POVM) on B $\{\Pi_k^B\}$
2. Each Π_k^B measurement occurs with prob. P_k and

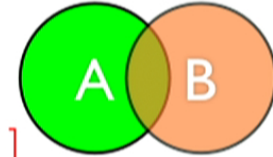
$$\rho_{AB} \rightarrow \frac{\rho_{AB}\Pi_k^B}{P_k}, \quad \rho_{A|B=\Pi_k^B} = \text{Tr}_B \frac{\rho_{AB}\Pi_k^B}{P_k}$$

3. Define $S(A|B = \{\Pi_k^B\}) = \sum_k P_k S(\rho_{A|B=\Pi_k^B})$

4. Quantum Discord is then

$$\delta(A : B)_{\Pi_k^B} = \mathcal{I}(A : B) - \mathcal{J}(A : B)_{\Pi_k^B} > 0$$

Quantum Discord



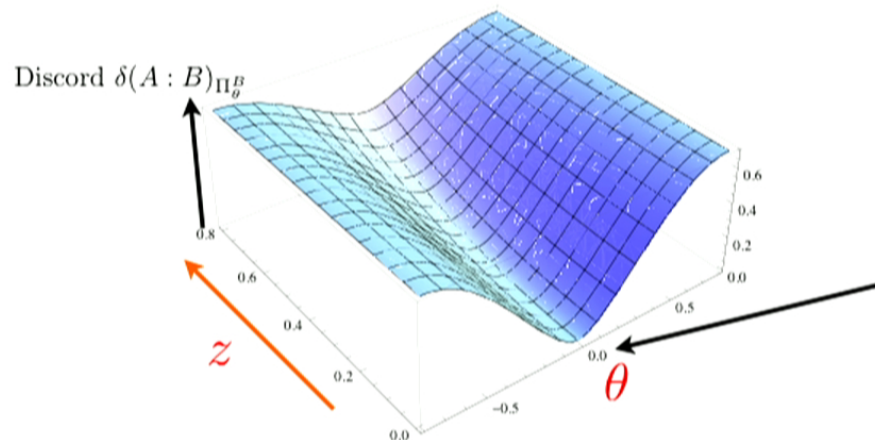
Consider mixed state parameterized by $z = [0, 1]$

$$\rho_{AB} = \frac{1}{2} (|00\rangle\langle 00| + |11\rangle\langle 11|) + \frac{z}{2} (|00\rangle\langle 11| + |11\rangle\langle 00|)$$

When $z = 0$, B is aligned with A's pointer basis.

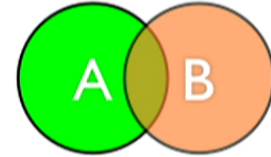
We choose measurement basis on system B to be parameterized by θ

$$\Pi_{\theta}^B = \{\cos \theta |0\rangle + e^{i\phi} \sin \theta |1\rangle, -e^{-i\phi} \sin \theta |0\rangle - \cos \theta |1\rangle\}$$



at $z = 0$ discord is zero only if $\theta = 0$
i.e. the measurement basis is $\{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$

Quantum Discord

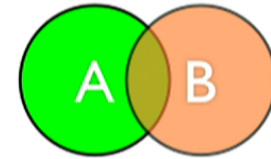


Some facts on Discord :

1. Zero discord $\delta(A : B)_{\Pi_k^B} = 0$ means decoherence occurred in “pointer basis” and no entanglement. Can define to be “Classical”.
2. Mixed Separable state can have non-zero discord. *No entanglement \neq no quantum correlations!*
3. Discord is basis dependent.
4. Recently shown a (particular) quantum circuit with discord (but zero entanglement) is better than a classical circuit.

Datta, Shaji, Caves (2007)

Quantum Discord



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Cosmological Discord

Discord

$$\delta(S : \mathcal{E})_{\Pi_k^\mathcal{E}} = \mathcal{I}(S : \mathcal{E}) - \mathcal{J}(S : \mathcal{E})_{\Pi_k^\mathcal{E}}$$

$$= S(\mathcal{E}) - S(S, \mathcal{E}) + \sum_k P_k S(\rho_{S|\mathcal{E}} \circ \Pi_k^\mathcal{E})$$


Depends on choice of decoherence basis picked up by the environment

Again, in principle many different bases possible. Choose Gaussian POVMs generated by a Gaussian state with covariance matrix

$$\sigma_0 = R(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\gamma} \end{pmatrix} R^T(\theta)$$

γ is the squeezing and θ the *alignment* of the Gaussian with respect to the environment.

The environment choose (γ, θ) to decohere to.

Cosmological Discord

Case I : Pure State $\beta = \tau = 1$ bipartite ρ_{SE}

Discord of pure state = entanglement entropy

$$\delta(A : B) = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + \chi}}{2} \log \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + \chi}}{2} \right) - \frac{\sqrt{1 + \chi} + 1}{2} \log \left(\frac{\sqrt{1 + \chi} - 1}{2} \right), \quad \chi = \frac{\zeta}{\Omega_R} \gg 1$$

$$= S(\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{E}} \rho_{SE})$$

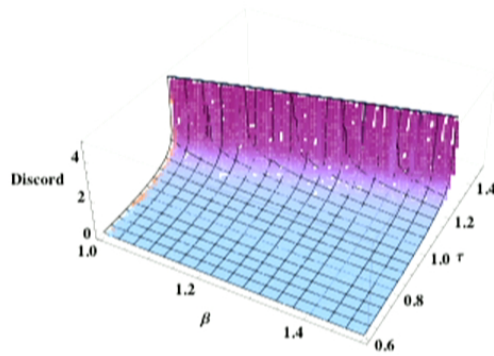
(Kiefer, Starobinsky and Polarski 1999)

Zero when $\zeta = 0$ so the non-decohered perturbations has classical statistics.

Unrealistic : it means we have access to the entire Universe.

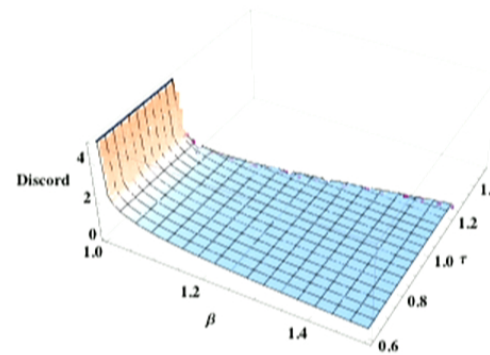
Cosmological Discord

Case 2 : Mixed State $\beta > 1$, $\tau^2 < \beta$ bipartite ρ_{SE}



$$\gamma = 10^5, \theta = \pi/2$$

measurement maximally unaligned
with squeezed state



$$\gamma = 10^5, \theta = 0$$

measurement aligned
with squeezed state

“Quantumness” of the cosmological correlations
depend on the decoherence basis.

How much primordial info is accessible?

Conservation Equation Zwolak + Zurek (2013)

$$\mathcal{I}(S : \mathcal{E}) = \delta(S : \mathcal{E})_{\Pi_k^\mathcal{E}} + \chi(P_k, \rho_{S|\Pi_k^\mathcal{E}})$$

Quantum
Mutual Info.

How correlated are
S and E

Quantum
Discord

Holevo Information

upper bound of classical information P_k transmittable by a
quantum channel constructed out of POVM $\{\rho_{S|\Pi_k^\mathcal{E}}\}$

Summary

- Unitary evolution in inflation drives primordial perturbations into classicality
- Primordial perturbations entangle with environment, and decohere. We observe environment to infer what the primordial perturbations are.
- This decoherence process “restores” the quantumness of the primordial perturbations (ironically) -- may allow Bell’s inequality type tests.
- State is mixed, so robust measure of non-classicality is quantum discord.