Title: Reassessing claims of nonclassicality for quantum interference phenomena

Date: Jun 16, 2016 02:00 PM

URL: http://pirsa.org/16060102

Abstract:

Methodological desiderata for understanding nonclassicality

Bad form	Good form
I can't see how to make sense of this observable phenomenon in a classical theory	I've proven a **theorem** showing that a formal notion of classicality is inconsistent with the observable phenomenon

Methodological desiderata for understanding nonclassicality

Bad form	Good form
I can't see how to make sense of this observable phenomenon in a classical theory	I've proven a **theorem** showing that a formal notion of classicality is inconsistent with the observable phenomenon
I can't explain the phenomenon using a classical system with the expected classical phase space and Hamiltonian; this quantum system has no classical counterpart	I've allowed **arbitrary** classical state spaces and dynamics (i.e., been liberal in what counts as classical)

What was the point of Werner's local hidden variable model establishing the impossibility of violating certain Bell inequalities with certain entangled states?

An attempt to clarify what is the precise quantum phenomenology that is in tension with a local explanation when one is maximally permissive about the form of such an explanation

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Appropriate response: we need to identify the precise quantum phenomena that *are* in tension with locality

This talk has the same sort of objective:

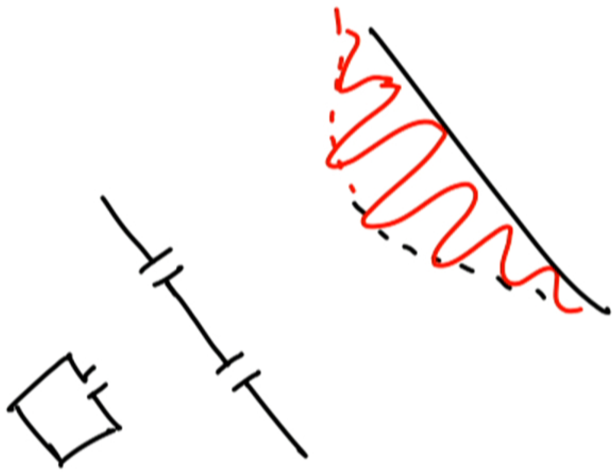
An attempt to clarify what is the precise quantum phenomenology that is in tension with a classical and local explanation

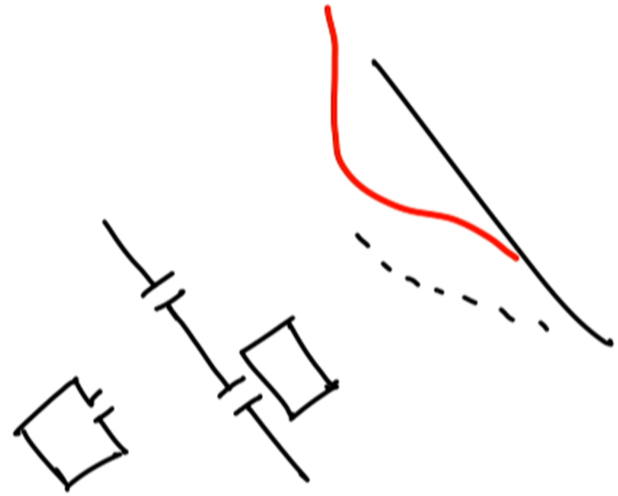
The conclusion:

The "core" phenomenology of wave-particle duality, Elitzur-Vaidman bomb-testing, Wheeler's delayed choice, reality of the empty wave, and others can be understood in a local and classical way

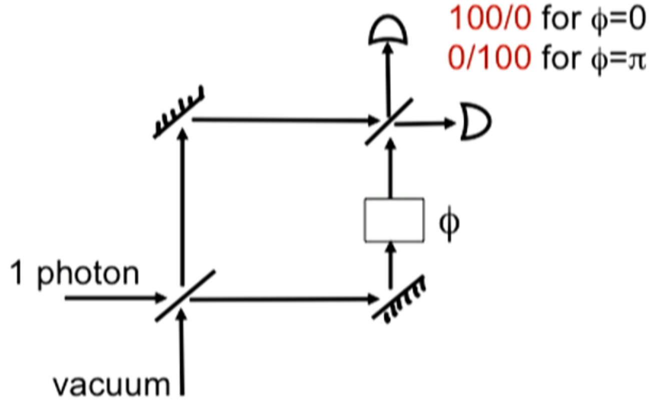
Appropriate response: we need to identify the precise quantum phenomena that *are* in tension with classicality and locality

Wave-particle duality





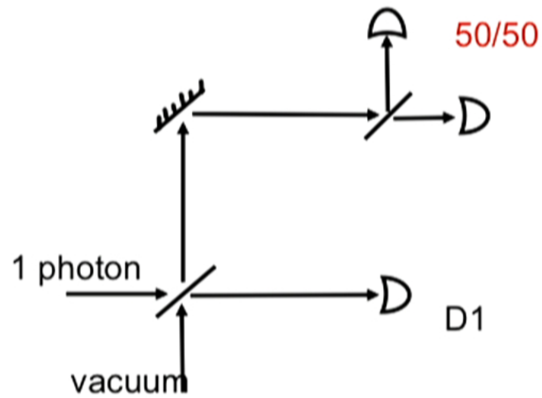
Mach-Zehnder Interferometer



$$|1\rangle|0\rangle \overset{BS}{\Longrightarrow} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \overset{\phi = 0}{\Longrightarrow} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \overset{BS}{\Longrightarrow} |1\rangle|0\rangle$$

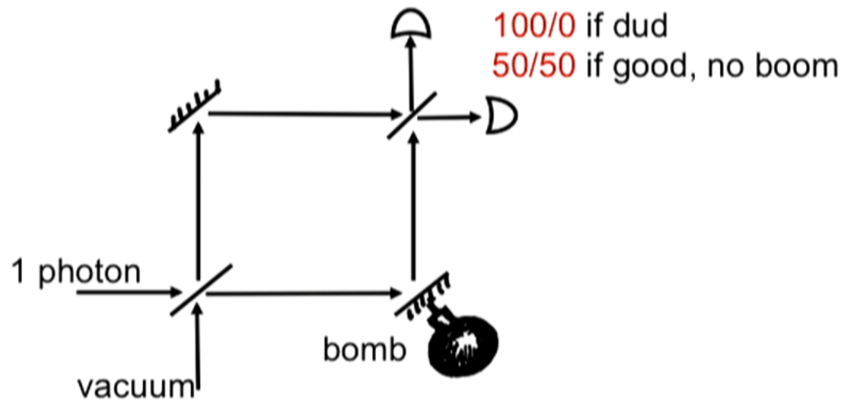
$$|1\rangle|0\rangle \overset{BS}{\Longrightarrow} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \overset{\phi = \pi}{\Longrightarrow} |1\rangle|0\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle \overset{BS}{\Longrightarrow} |0\rangle|1\rangle$$

Mach-Zehnder Interferometer



$$|1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{No click at D1}} |1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle$$

Elitzur-Vaidman bomb-testing



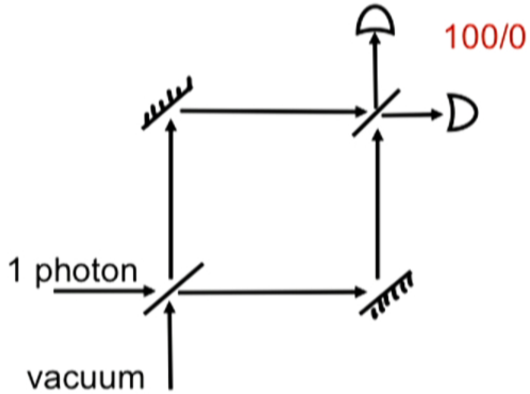
$$|1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{Dud}} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle$$

$$|1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{Good, no boom}} |1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle$$

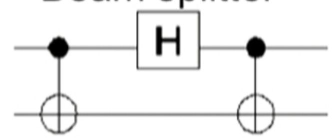
Again, but in the Hamiltonian picture

Mach-Zehnder Interferometer

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},\ Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix},\ Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Beam splitter

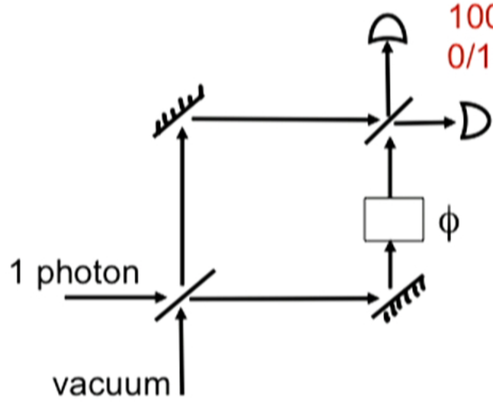


ZI → -XX
XI → -XZ
IZ → YY
IX → IX

$|1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle$

<ZI,-IZ>   <-XX,-ZZ>   <ZI,-IZ>

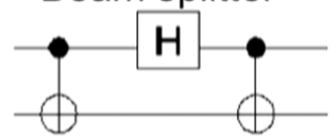
Mach-Zehnder Interferometer



100/0 for φ=0
0/100 for φ=π

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},\ Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix},\ Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Beam splitter



ZI → -XX
XI → -XZ
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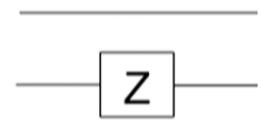
IX → IX

π phase shift



ZI → ZI
XI → XI
IZ → IZ
IX → -IX

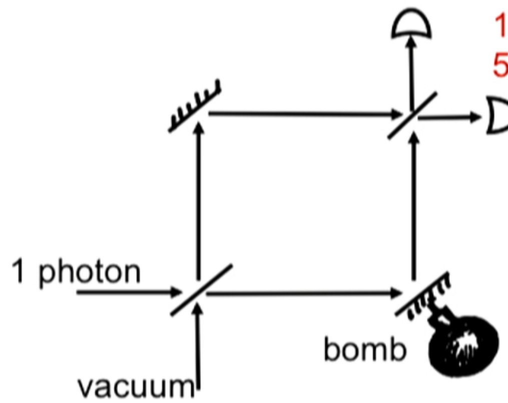
$$|1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \xrightarrow{\phi = 0} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle$$

<ZI,-IZ>   <-XX,-ZZ>   <-XX,-ZZ>   <ZI,-IZ>

$$|1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle \xrightarrow{\phi = \pi} |1\rangle|0\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} |0\rangle|1\rangle$$

<ZI,-IZ>   <-XX,-ZZ>   <XX,-ZZ>   <ZI,-IZ>

Elitzur-Vaidman bomb-testing



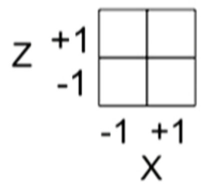
100/0 if dud
50/50 if good, no boom

	BS		Dud		BS	
$\|1\rangle\|0\rangle$	$\Longrightarrow$	$\|1\rangle\|0\rangle - \|0\rangle\|1\rangle$	$\Longrightarrow$	$\|1\rangle\|0\rangle - \|0\rangle\|1\rangle$	$\Longrightarrow$	$\|1\rangle\|0\rangle$
<ZI,-IZ>		<-XX,-ZZ>		<-XX,-ZZ>		<ZI,-IZ>

	BS		Good, no boom		BS	
$\|1\rangle\|0\rangle$	$\Longrightarrow$	$\|1\rangle\|0\rangle - \|0\rangle\|1\rangle$	$\Longrightarrow$	$\|1\rangle\|0\rangle$	$\Longrightarrow$	$\|1\rangle\|0\rangle - \|0\rangle\|1\rangle$
<ZI,-IZ>		<-XX,-ZZ>		<ZI,-IZ>		<-XX,-ZZ>

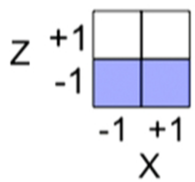
A classical model using discrete fields

Joint work with Elliot Martin and Matt Leifer

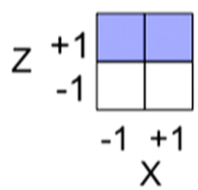


Z and X are well-defined for each mode, but one cannot be certain about both

Z known

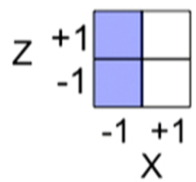


$|0\rangle$

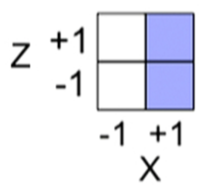


$|1\rangle$

X known



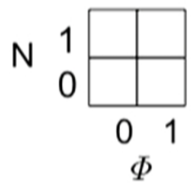
$|+\rangle$



$|-\rangle$

$$|\pm\rangle = \sqrt{2}^{-1}(|0\rangle \pm |1\rangle)$$

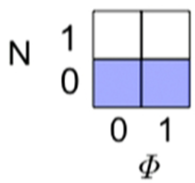
Occupation number



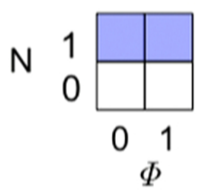
Discrete phase

Occupation number and discrete phase are well-defined for each mode, but one cannot be certain about both

N known

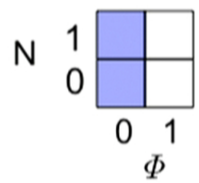


$|0\rangle$

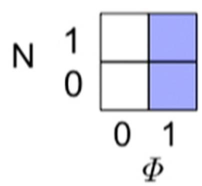


$|1\rangle$

Φ known

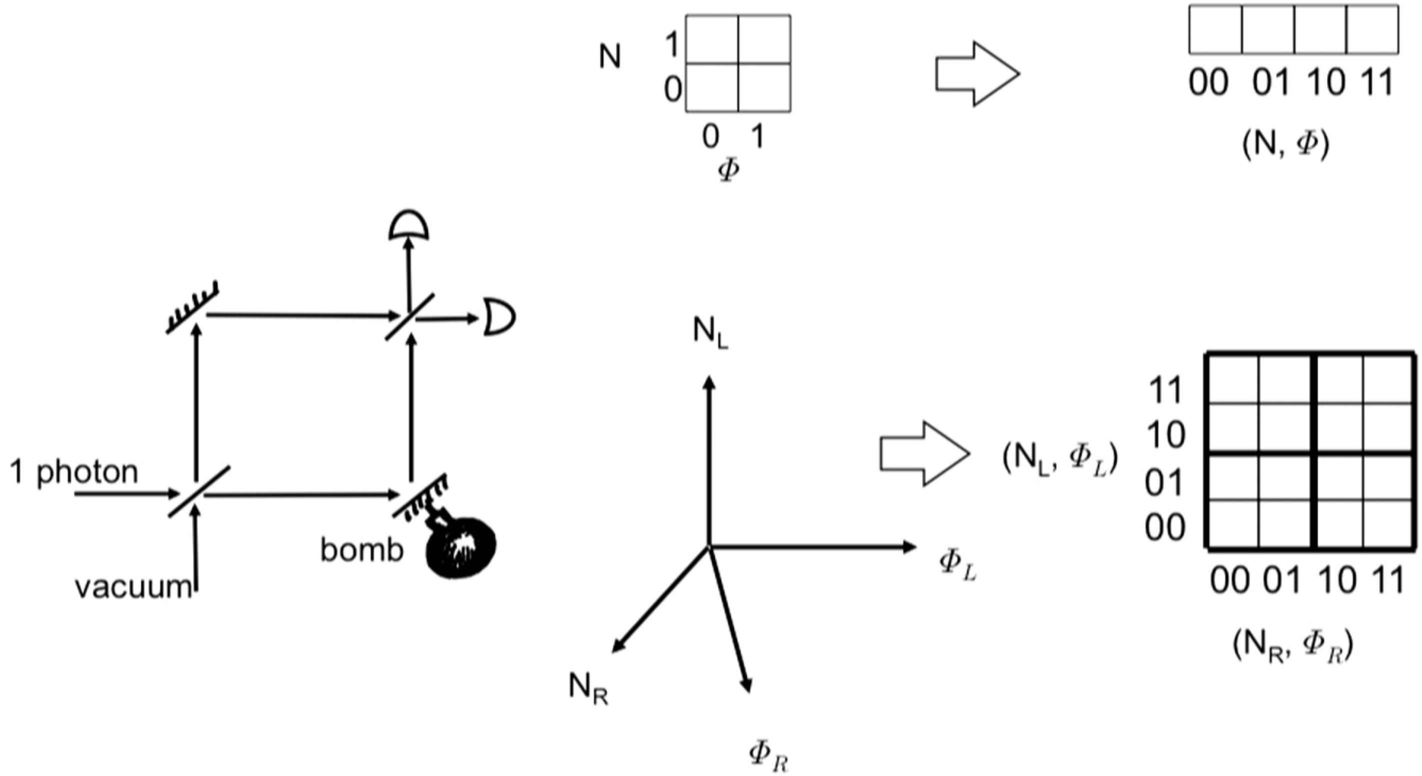


$|+\rangle$

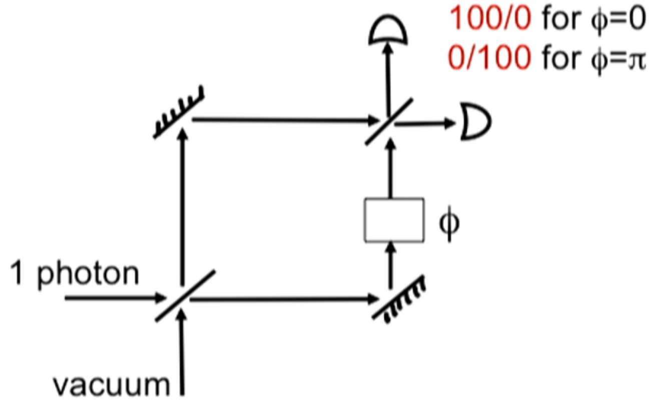


$|-\rangle$

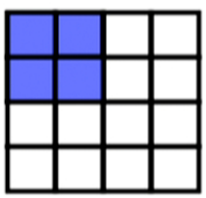
$$|\pm\rangle = \sqrt{2}^{-1}(|0\rangle \pm |1\rangle)$$


N
1
0
0 1
Φ
00 01 10 11
(N, Φ)
1 photon
vacuum
bomb
N_L
Φ_L
N_R
Φ_R
(N_L, Φ_L)
11
10
01
00
00 01 10 11
(N_R, Φ_R)

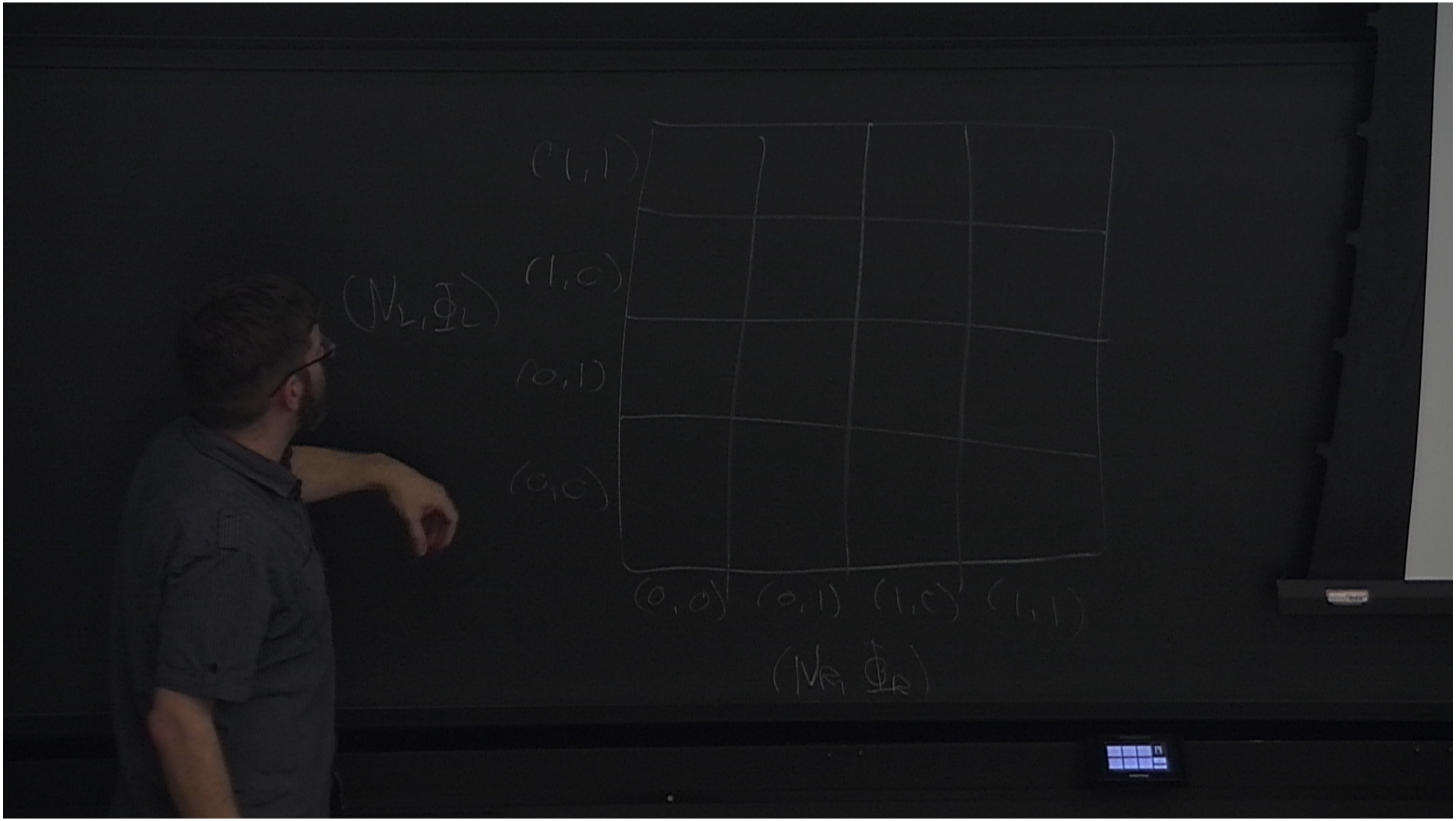
Mach-Zehnder Interferometer



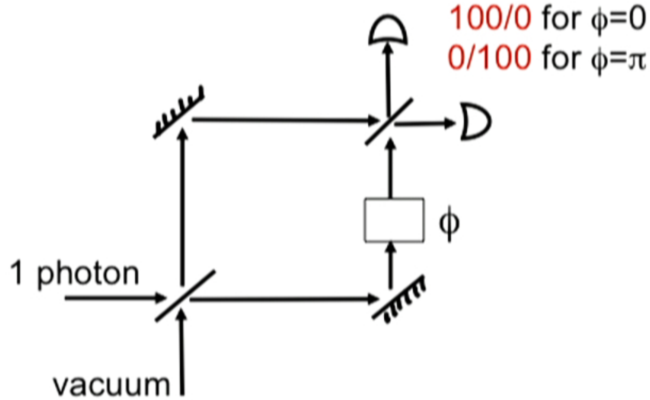
$|1\rangle|0\rangle$



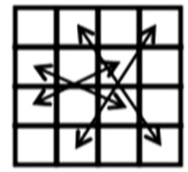
N_L =1,
N_R =0


(1,1)
(1,0)
(0,1)
(0,0)
(N_L, Φ_L)
(0,0) (0,1) (1,0) (1,1)
(N_R, Φ_R)

Mach-Zehnder Interferometer

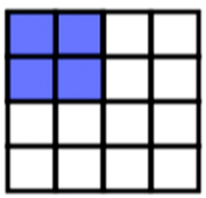


Beam splitter



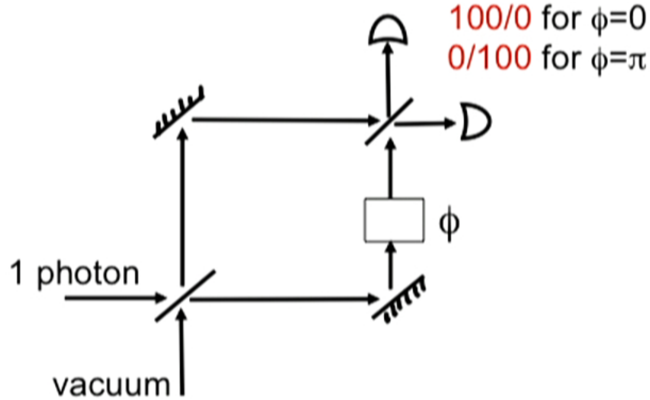
$N_L \rightarrow \Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R$
$\Phi_L \rightarrow N_L \oplus \Phi_R$
$N_R \rightarrow (N_L \oplus \Phi_L) \oplus (N_R \oplus \Phi_R)$
$\Phi_R \rightarrow \Phi_R$

$|1\rangle|0\rangle$

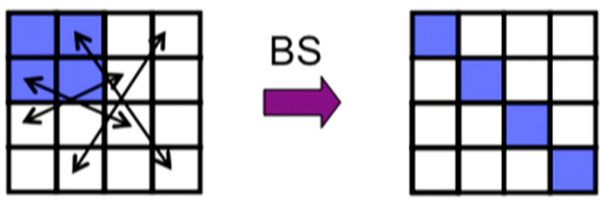


$N_L = 1$,
$N_R = 0$

Mach-Zehnder Interferometer



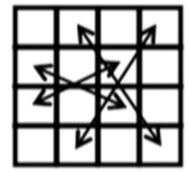
$|1\rangle|0\rangle$ $\quad$ $|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle$



$N_L = 1,$
$N_R = 0$

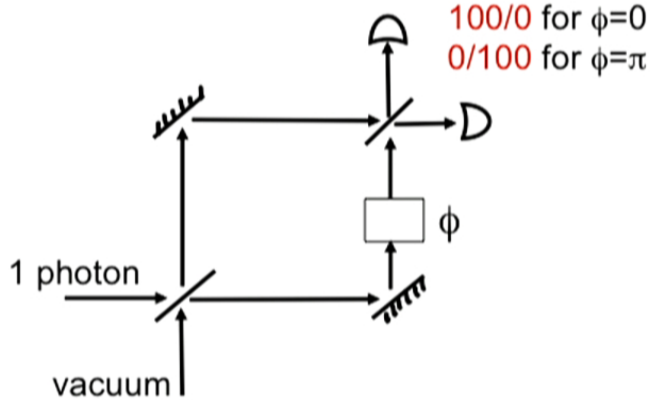
$N_L \oplus N_R = 1,$
$\Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R = 1$

Beam splitter

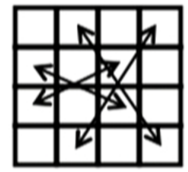


$N_L \rightarrow \Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R$
$\Phi_L \rightarrow N_L \oplus \Phi_R$
$N_R \rightarrow (N_L \oplus \Phi_L) \oplus (N_R \oplus \Phi_R)$
$\Phi_R \rightarrow \Phi_R$

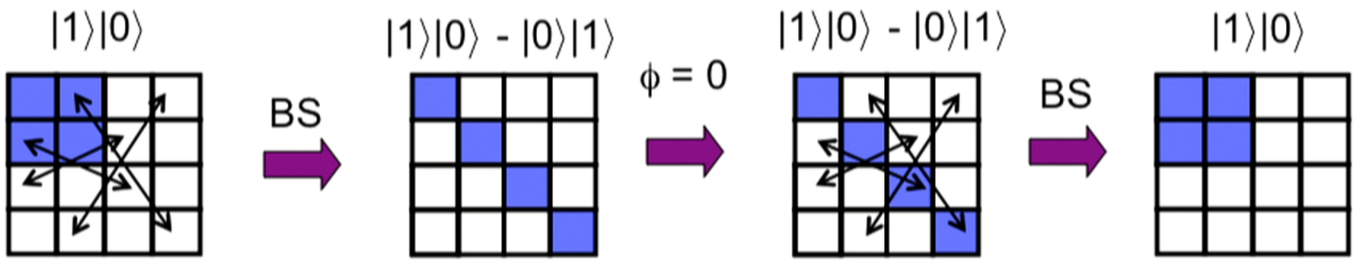
Mach-Zehnder Interferometer



Beam splitter



$N_L \rightarrow \Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R$
$\Phi_L \rightarrow N_L \oplus \Phi_R$
$N_R \rightarrow (N_L \oplus \Phi_L) \oplus (N_R \oplus \Phi_R)$
$\Phi_R \rightarrow \Phi_R$



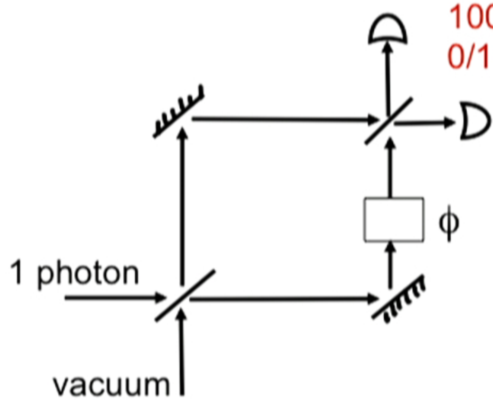
$N_L = 1$, $N_R = 0$

$N_L \oplus N_R = 1$, $\Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R = 1$

$N_L \oplus N_R = 1$, $\Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R = 1$

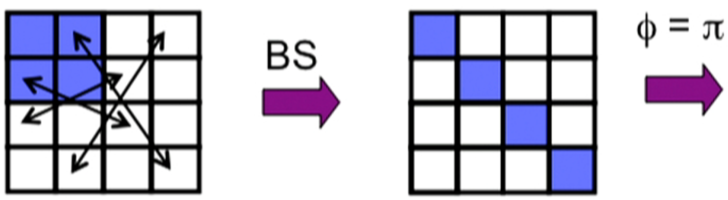
$N_L = 1$, $N_R = 0$

Mach-Zehnder Interferometer



100/0 for ϕ=0
0/100 for ϕ=π

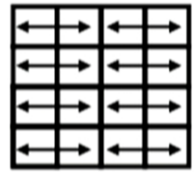
|1⟩|0⟩ — |1⟩|0⟩ - |0⟩|1⟩



N_L =1,
N_R =0

$N_L \oplus N_R$ =1,
$\Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R$ =1

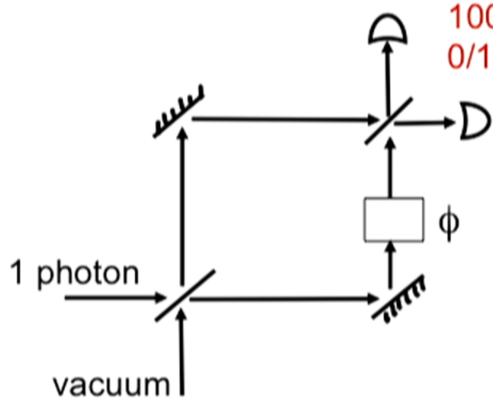
π phase shift



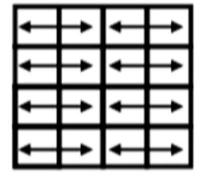
$N_L \rightarrow N_L$
$\Phi_L \rightarrow \Phi_L$
$N_R \rightarrow N_R$
$\Phi_R \rightarrow \Phi_R \oplus 1$

Mach-Zehnder Interferometer

100/0 for $\phi=0$
0/100 for $\phi=\pi$

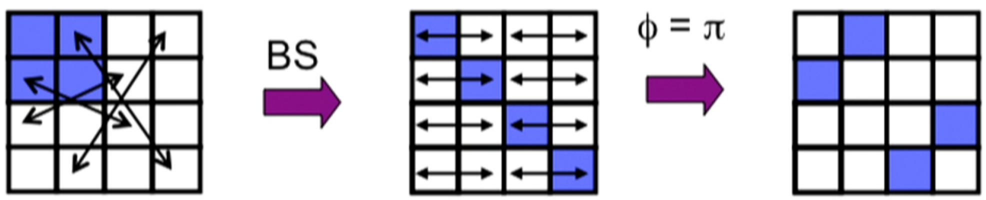


π phase shift



$N_L \rightarrow N_L$
$\Phi_L \rightarrow \Phi_L$
$N_R \rightarrow N_R$
$\Phi_R \rightarrow \Phi_R \oplus 1$

$|1\rangle|0\rangle$ $\quad$ $|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle$ $\quad$ $|1\rangle|0\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle$

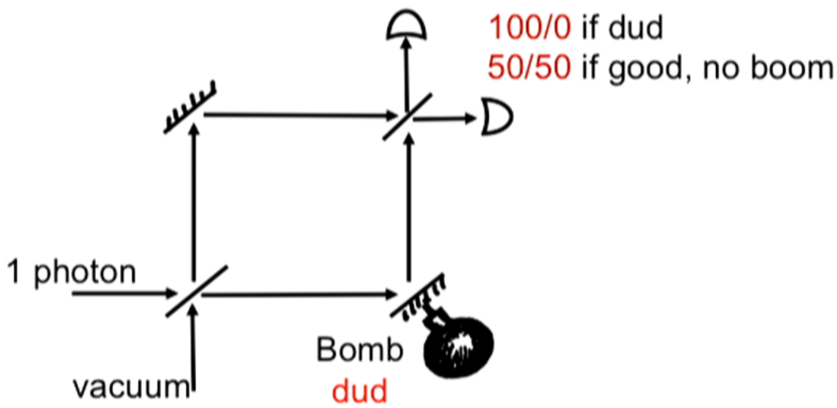


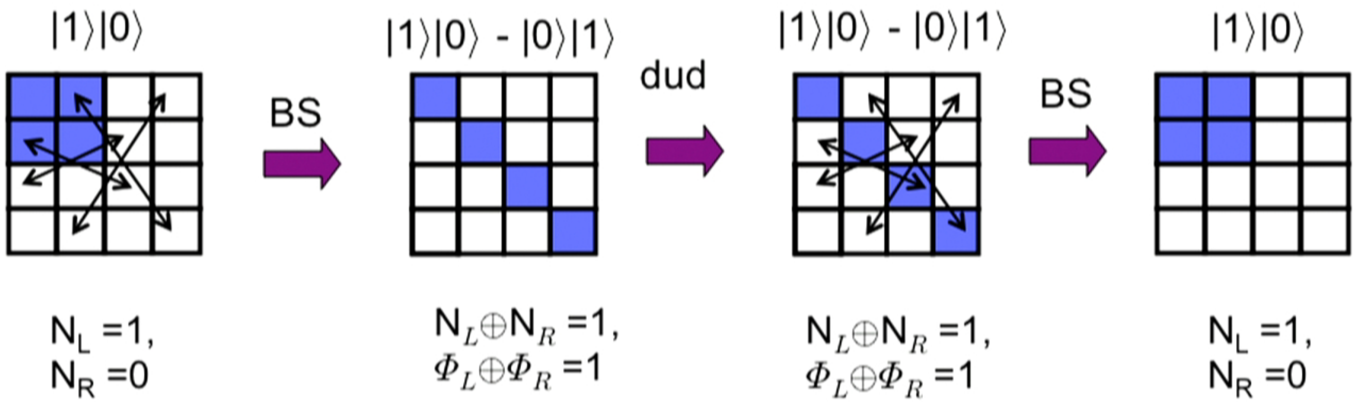
$N_L = 1$,
$N_R = 0$

$N_L \oplus N_R = 1$,
$\Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R = 1$

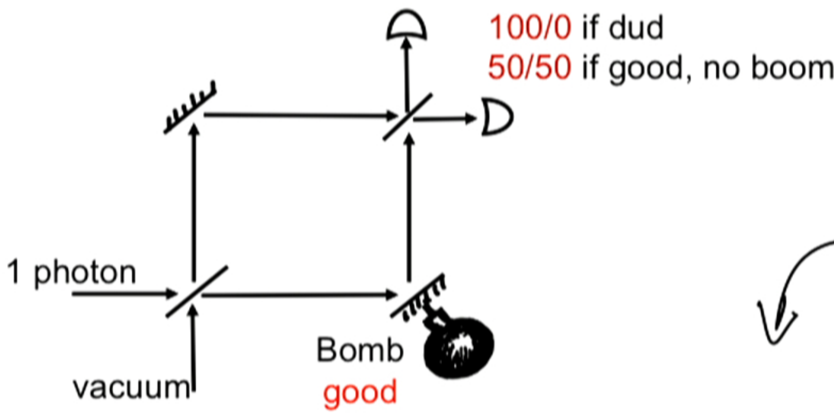
$N_L \oplus N_R = 1$,
$\Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R = 0$

Elitzur-Vaidman bomb-testing

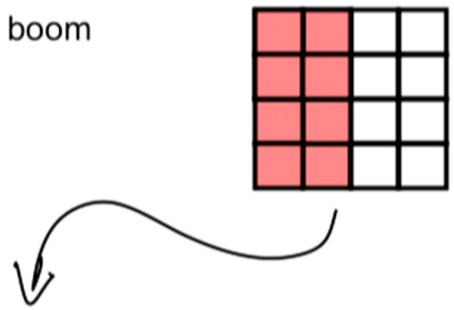




Elitzur-Vaidman bomb-testing

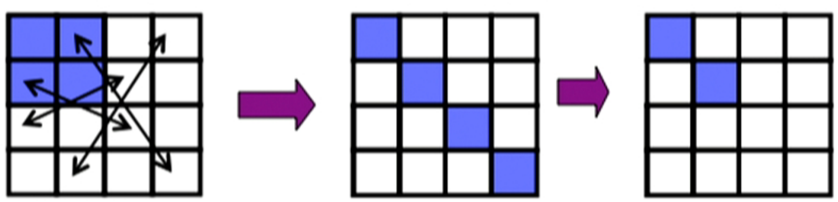


Finding vacuum
on right mode



$N_R = 0$

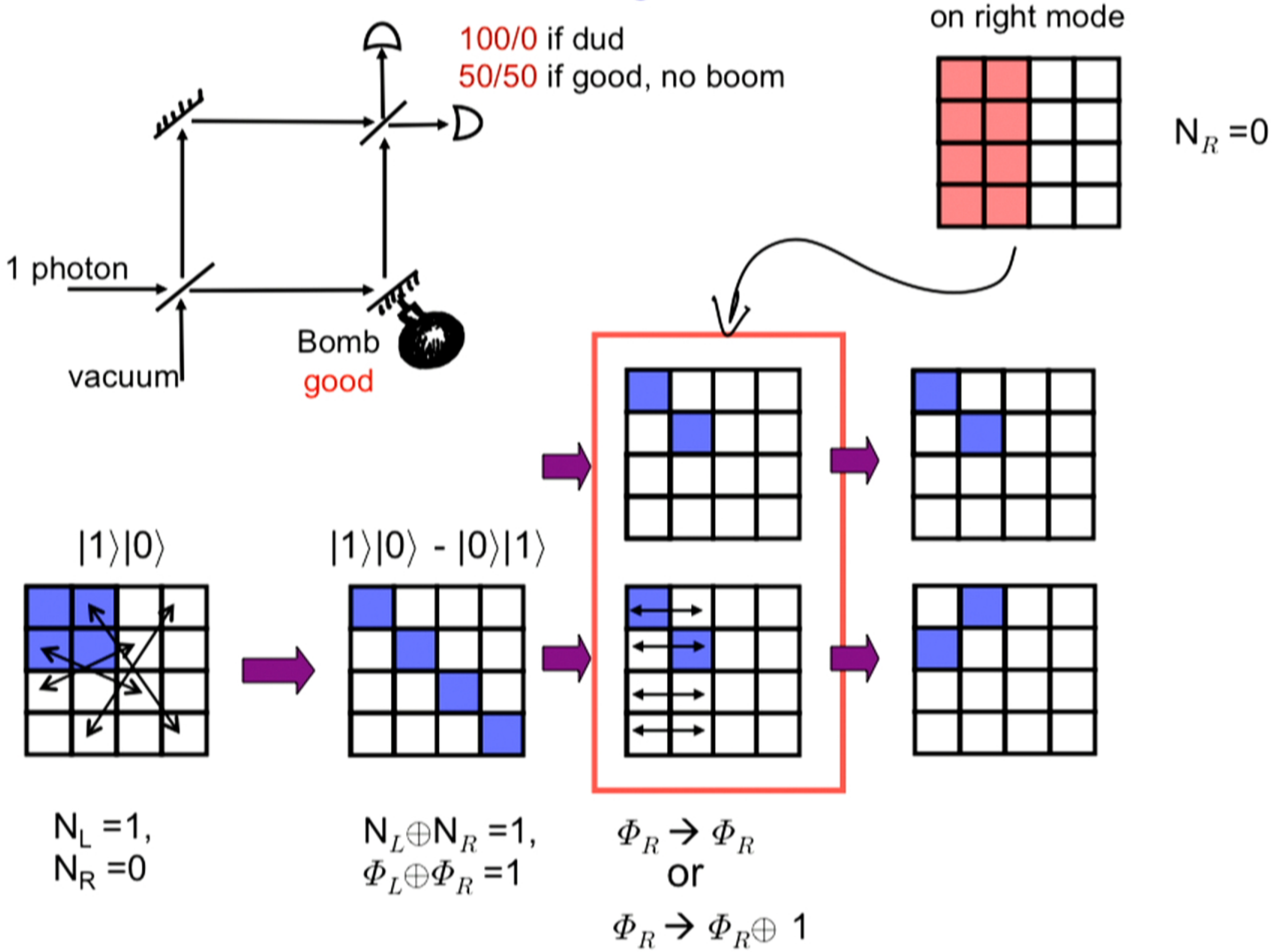
$|1\rangle|0\rangle$ $\qquad$ $|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle$



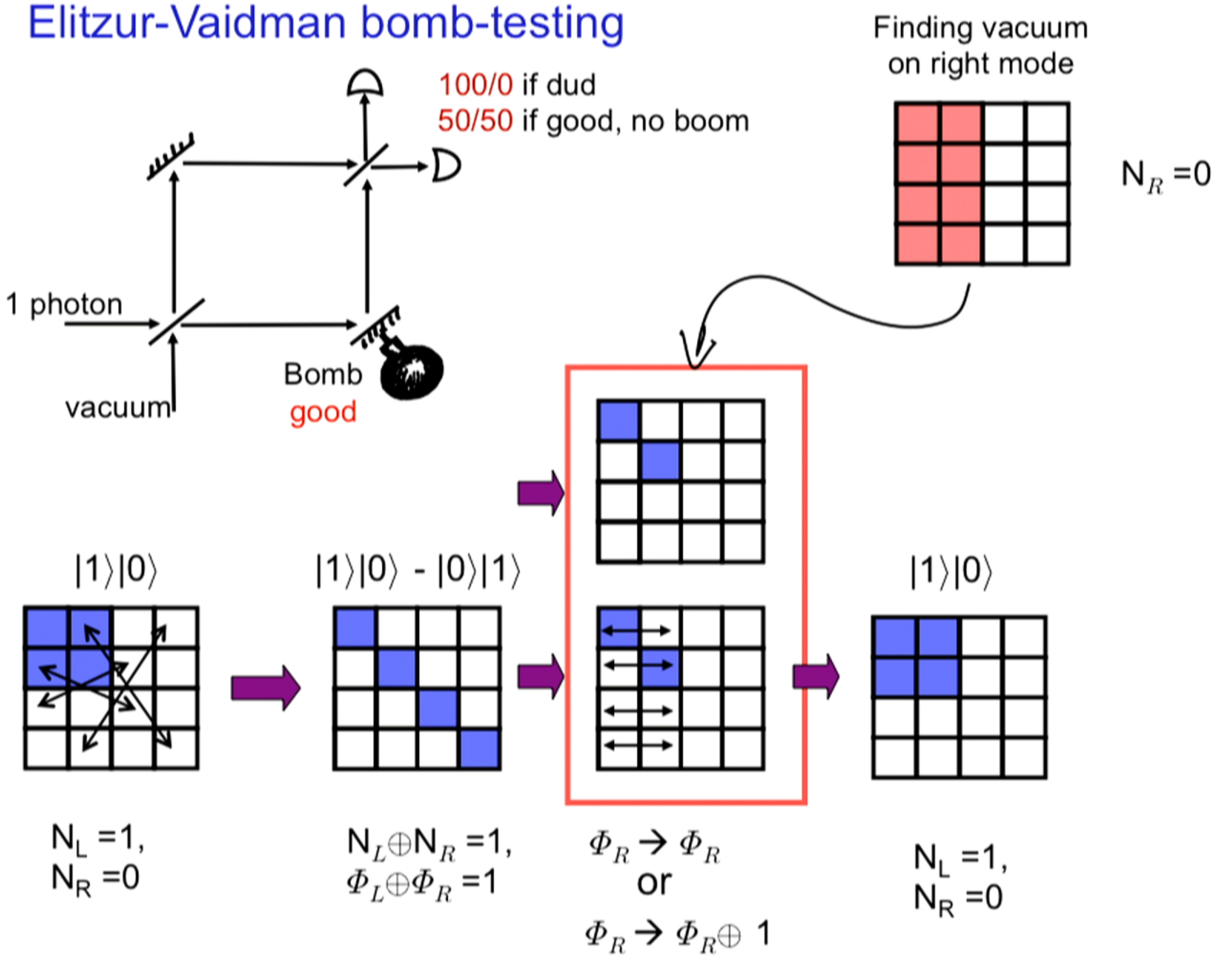
$N_L = 1$,
$N_R = 0$

$N_L \oplus N_R = 1$,
$\Phi_L \oplus \Phi_R = 1$

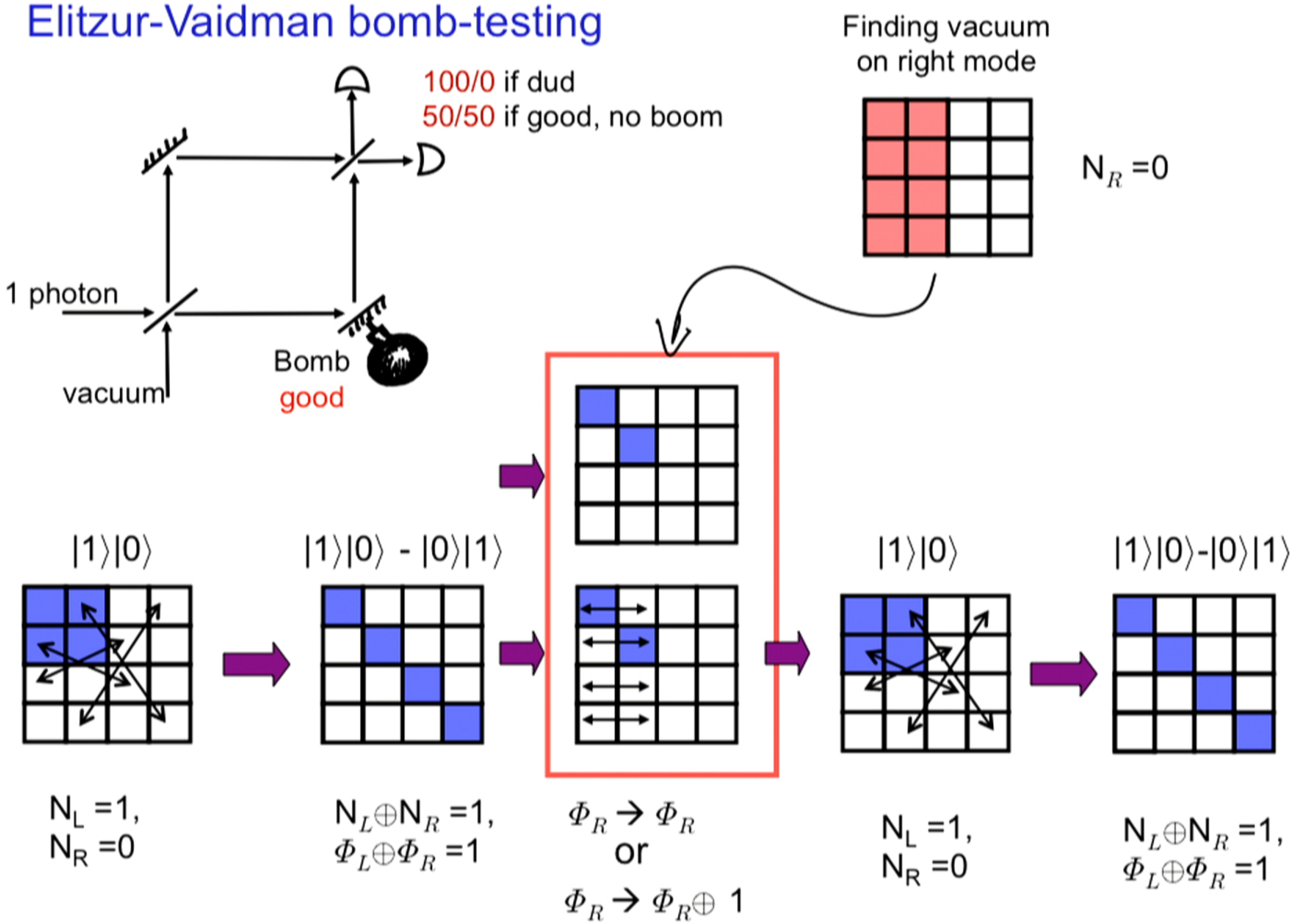
Elitzur-Vaidman bomb-testing



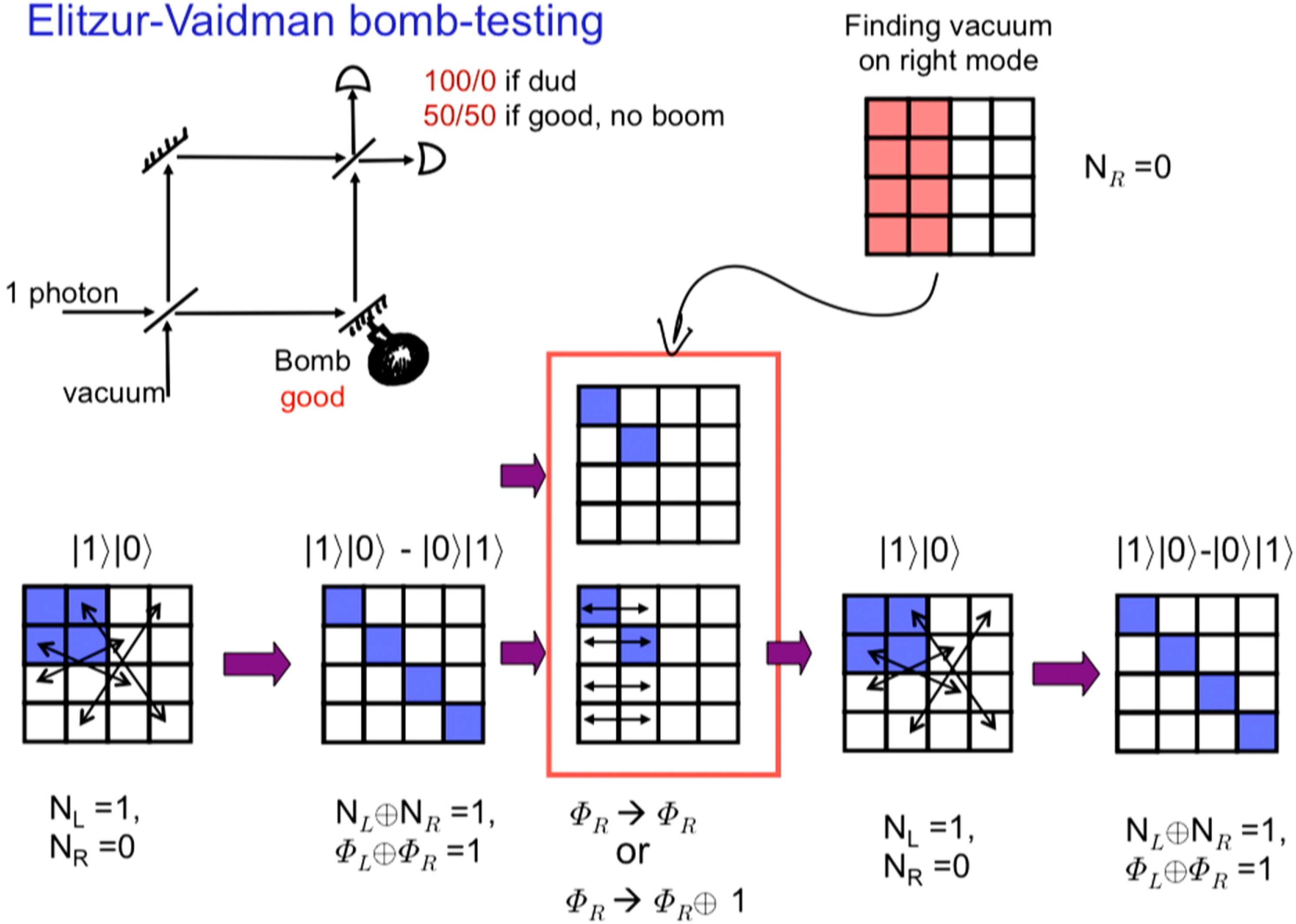
Elitzur-Vaidman bomb-testing

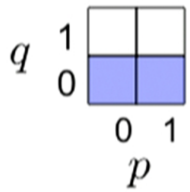


Elitzur-Vaidman bomb-testing



Elitzur-Vaidman bomb-testing



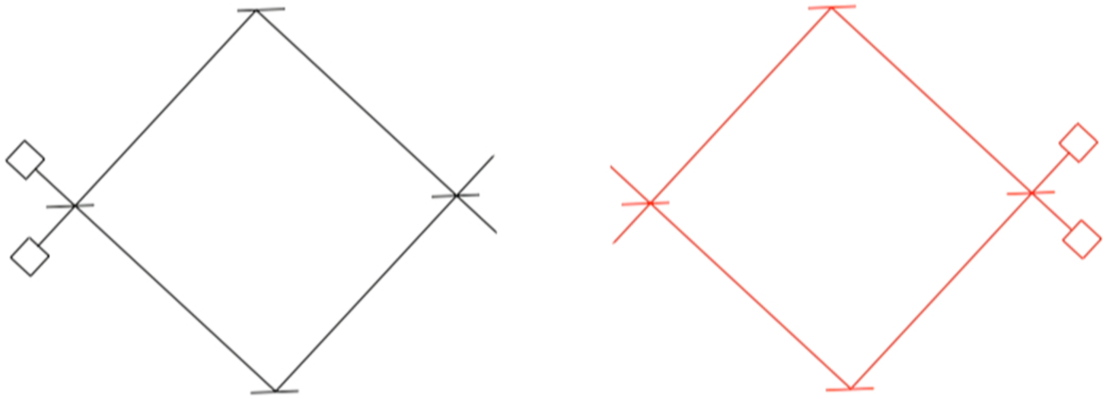


$|0\rangle$ -- vacuum

In this model, the quantum vacuum state is a stastical distribution over physical states with different phases

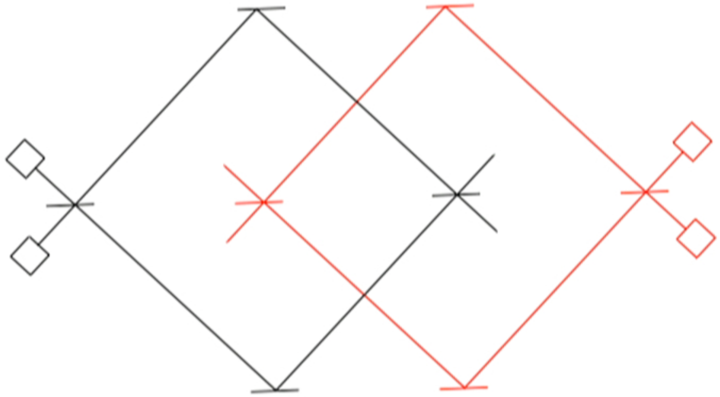
In this model, the vacuum mode can carry information

Hardy's reality of empty waves argument



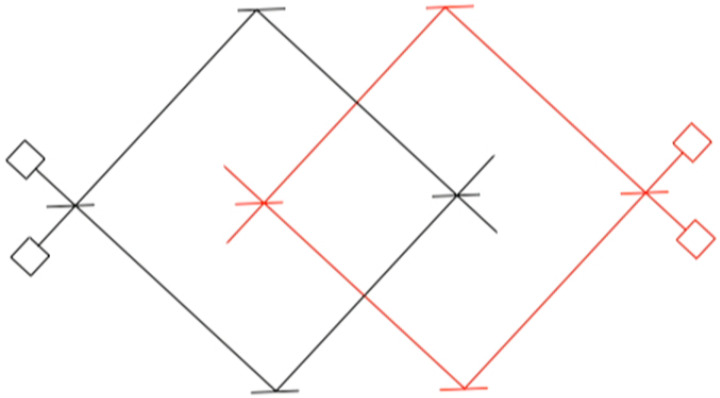
$$|1\rangle|0\rangle\ |1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BSs}} (|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle)\ (|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{BSs}} |1\rangle|0\rangle\ |1\rangle|0\rangle$$

Hardy's reality of empty waves argument



$$|1\rangle|0\rangle\ |1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} (|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle)\,(|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{no gammas}} |1\rangle|0\rangle\ |0\rangle|1\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle\ |1\rangle|0\rangle$$

Hardy's reality of empty waves argument

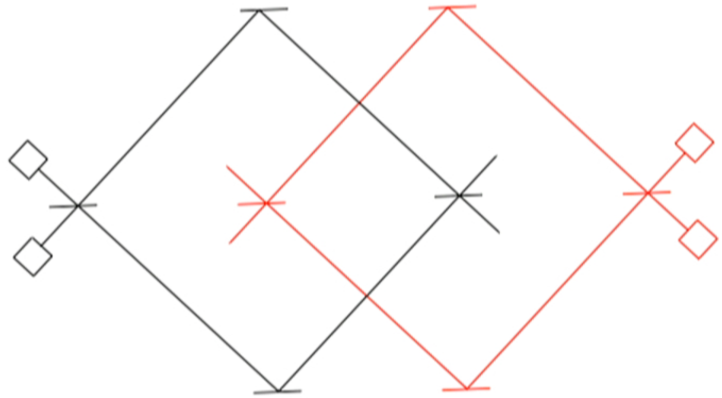


$$|1\rangle|0\rangle\ |1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} (|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle)\ (|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{no gammas}} |1\rangle|0\rangle\ |0\rangle|1\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle\ |1\rangle|0\rangle$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{BS}} (|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle)\ (|1\rangle|0\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle) + (|1\rangle|0\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle)\ (|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle)$$

$$= |1\rangle|0\rangle\ |0\rangle|1\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle\ |1\rangle|0\rangle$$

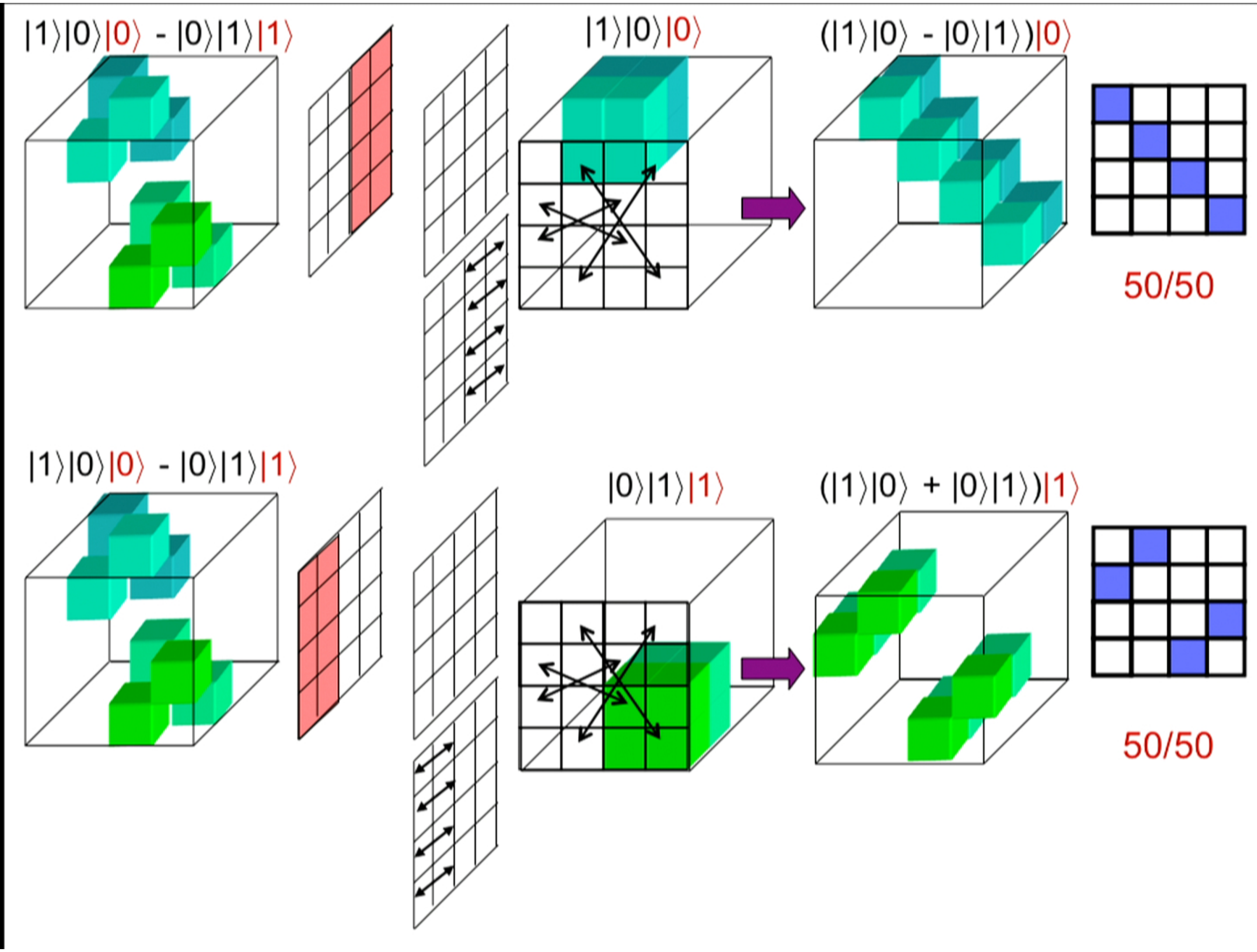
Hardy's reality of empty waves argument



$$|1\rangle|0\rangle\;|1\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{BS}} (|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle)\,(|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{no gammas}} |1\rangle|0\rangle\;|0\rangle|1\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle\;|1\rangle|0\rangle$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{BS}} (|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle)\,(|1\rangle|0\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle) + (|1\rangle|0\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle)\,(|1\rangle|0\rangle - |0\rangle|1\rangle)$$

$$= |1\rangle|0\rangle\;|0\rangle|1\rangle + |0\rangle|1\rangle\;|1\rangle|0\rangle$$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50/50
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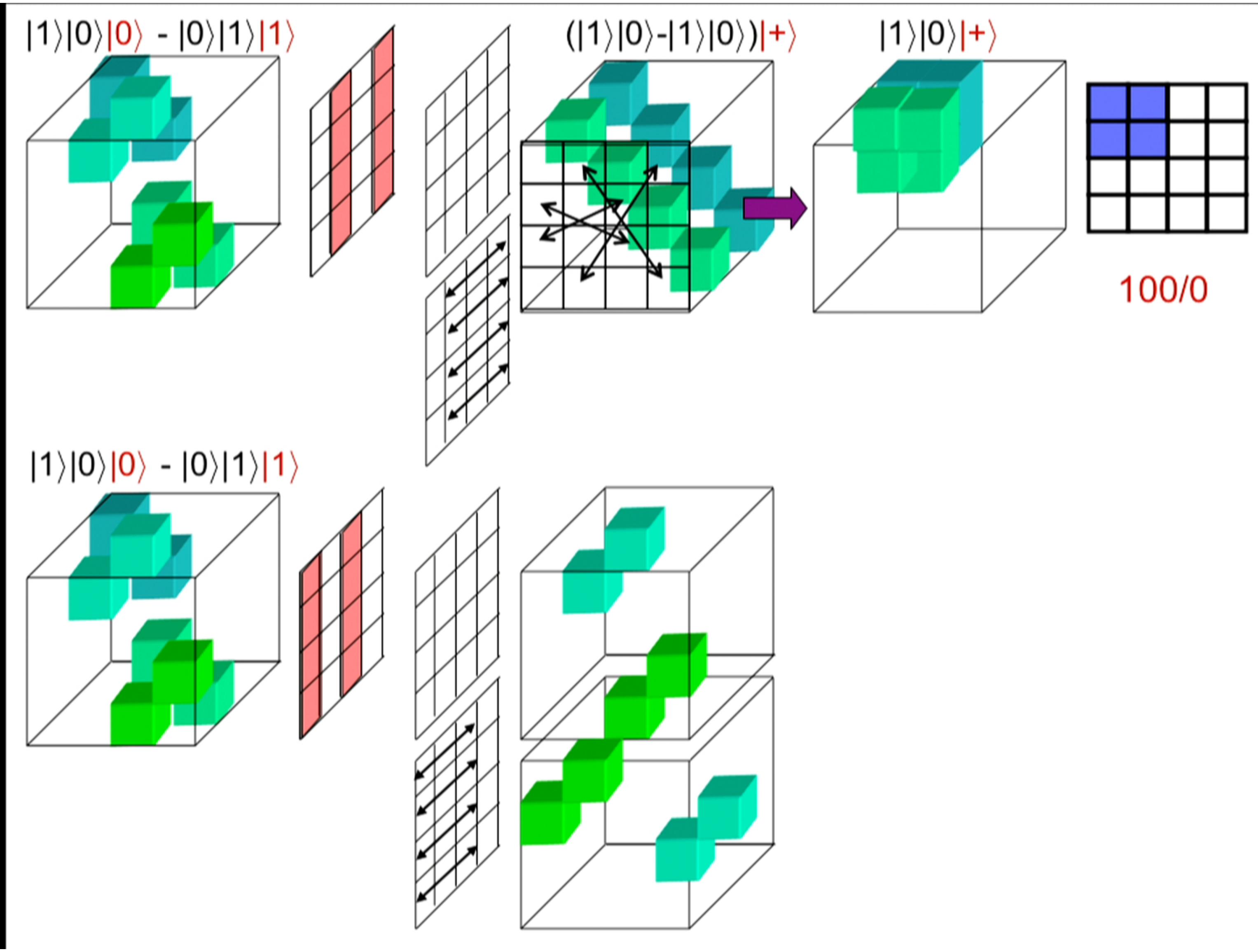
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100/0
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Methodological desiderata for understanding nonclassicality

Bad form	Good form
I can't see how to make sense of this experimental data in a classical theory	I've proven a **theorem** showing that a formal notion of classicality is inconsistent with the experimental data
I can't explain the data using a classical system with the expected classical phase space and Hamiltonian; this quantum system has no classical counterpart	I've allowed **arbitrary** classical state spaces and dynamics (i.e., been liberal in what counts as classical)

Categorizing nonclassical phenomena

Those arising in noncontextual models

Interference
Noncommutativity
Entanglement
Collapse
No perfect state discrimination
No cloning
Steering
Teleportation
Tunneling
Improvements in metrology
Pre and post-selection effects
Key distribution
Others…

Weakly nonclassical

Those not arising in noncontextual models

Noncontextuality inequality violations
Bell inequality violations
Computational speed-up
Certain aspects of items on the left

Strongly nonclassical

Weakly nonclassical	Strongly nonclassical
Remote steering Einstein 1935; Caves-Fuchs-Schack 2000; Harrigan-RWS 2010	Failure of preparation noncontextuality = BI violation Bell 1964; Barrett 2006 unpublished; Liang-RWS-Wiseman 2010
Pre and post selection effects Leifer-RWS 2004	Pre and post selection effects with nonorthogonal pre and post selections Leifer-Pusey 2015
Weak values Karanjai-Cavalcanti-Bartlett-Rudolph 2015	Anomalous weak values Pusey 2015
Quantum multiplexing RWS 2004	Probability of success in parity-oblivious multiplexing RWS-Buzacott-Kheenn-Pryde-Toner 2008
No error-free discrimination of nonorthogonal states RWS 2004	Precise tradeoff of probability of discrimination with nonorthogonality RWS-Wolfe (work in progress)
Nonzero probability of wavepacket tunneling through a barrier Bartlett-Rowe 1999	Precise dependence of tunneling probability on wavepacket width RWS (work in progress)

References

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Published in "Quantum Theory: Informational foundations and foils", eds. G. Chiribella and R. W. Spekkens
[arXiv:1409.5041 (quant-ph)]

M. Leifer, E. Martin, RWS, in preparation