Title: One Hundred Years After Heisenberg: Discovering the World of Simultaneous Measurements of Noncommuting Observables

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Series: Quantum Foundations

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Abstract: One hundred years after Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, the question of how to make simultaneous measurements of noncommuting observables lingers. I will survey one hundred years of measurement theory, which brings us to the point where we can formulate how to measure any set observables weakly and simultaneously and then concatenate such measurements continuously to determine what is a strong measurement of the same observables. The description of the measurements is independent of quantum states---this we call instrument autonomy---and even independent of Hilbert space---this we call the universal Instrument Manifold Program. But what space, if not Hilbert space? It's a whole new world: the Kraus operators of an instrument live in a Lie-group manifold generated by the measured observables themselves. I will describe measuring position and momentum and measuring the three components of angular momentum, special cases where the instrument approaches asymptotically a phase-space boundary of the instrumental Lie-group manifold populated by coherent states; these special universal instruments structure any Hilbert space in which they are represented. In contrast, for almost all sets of observables other than these special cases, the universal instrument descends into chaos ... literally. This work was done with Christopher S. Jackson, whose genius and vision inform every aspect.

Zoom link https://pitp.zoom.us/j/94135518267?pwd=T2JOL21VaEcrY05KeG1SYTVYdHhxdz09

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One Hundred Years After Heisenberg: Discovering the World of Simultaneous Measurements of Noncommuting Observables

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"Well, why not say that all the things which should be handled in theory are just those things which we also can hope to observe somehow." ... I remember that when I first saw Einstein I had a talk with him about this. ... [H]e said, ``That may be so, but still it's the wrong principle in philosophy." And he explained that it is the theory finally which decides what can be observed and what can not and, therefore, one cannot before the theory, know what is observable and what not.

Werner Heisenberg, recalling a conversation with Einstein in 1926, interviewed by Thomas S. Kuhn, February 15, 1963

This work was carried out with Christopher S. Jackson, whose genius and vision inform every aspect.



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A brief glimpse into a whole new world

Examples

Any set of Hermitian observables,

$$\vec{X} = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\},\,$$

can be measured (differential) weakly and simultaneously in an infinitesimal increment dt, without regard to commutators.

Single observable X Position Q and momentum P Three components of angular momentum, J_x , J_y , and J_z

Two components of angular momentum, J_x and J_y Two squeezing symplectic generators, $K_x=\frac{1}{4}(Q^2+P^2)$ and $K_y=-\frac{1}{4}(QP+PQ)$

Concatenating these differential weak measurements continuously should tell one what it means to measure the same observables strongly and simultaneously. And so it does, except that it also leads to . . .

A magic carpet ride
Into a whole new world.
A new, fantastic point of view,
A thrilling chase,
A wondrous space,



And now we bring this whole new world to you.

Big-time apologies to Aladdin

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The details in three papers C. S. Jackson and C. M. Caves

"Simultaneous measurements of noncommuting observables: Positive transformations and instrumental Lie groups," Entropy 25, 1254 (2023). (a.k.a. 1-2-3), https://doi.org/10.3390/e25091254

"Simultaneous momentum and position measurement and the instrumental Weyl-Heisenberg group," Entropy 25, 1221 (2023). (a.k.a. SPQM), https://doi.org/10.3390/e25081221

"How to perform the coherent measurement of a curved phase space by continuous isotropic measurement. I. Spin and the Kraus-operator geometry of SL(2,C)," Quantum 7, 1085 (2023), arXiv:2107.12396v3. (a.k.a ISM), https://doi.org/10.22331/q-2023-08-16-1085

plus

C. S. Jackson, "The photodetector, the heterodyne instrument, and the principle of instrument autonomy," arXiv:2210.11100.

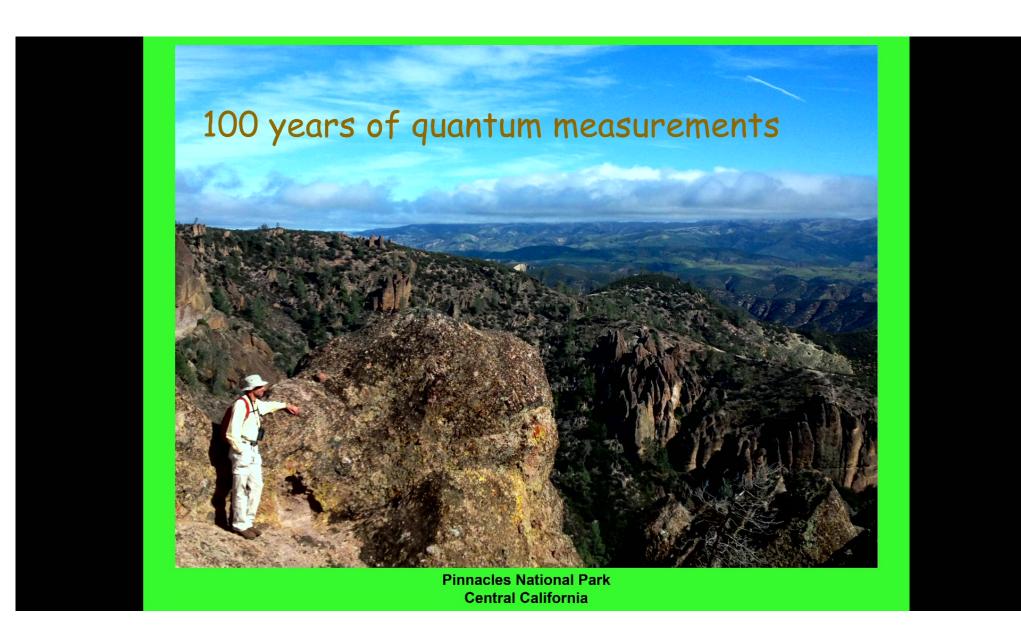


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A brief glimpse into a whole new world

- Any set of observables can be measured simultaneously if measured differential weakly. Commutators can be disregarded for differential weak measurements.
- Differential weak measurements define a fundamental incremental Kraus operator, a
 differential positive transformation, which is the positive-operator analogue of
 infinitesimal unitary transformations and equally fundamental.
- Instrument (Kraus-operator) evolution is autonomous, temporal, and stochastic.
- Instrument Manifold Program. The instrument evolves on the manifold of an instrumental Lie group, which is generated by the measured observables.
- Motion of the Kraus operators on the instrumental Lie group is described using the three faces of the stochastic trinity: Wiener path integrals, stochastic differential equations, and a diffusion equation for a Kraus-operator distribution function.
- *Universal instruments.* The instrumental Lie group is generated universally, detached from and independent of Hilbert space.
- Principal and chaotic instruments. Principal instruments (e.g., position and momentum, three components of spin) have a low-dimensional universal instrumental group: they limit to coherent-state POVMs—this is collapse within irrep—and thus define a phase space, which is connected to the identity across a symmetric space. Chaotic instruments (e.g., two components of spin, two squeezing symplectic generators) have an infinite-dimensional universal instrumental group: these are generic, evolve chaotically, and have no limiting strong measurement.

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100 years of quantum measurements. The founding (1925-32)

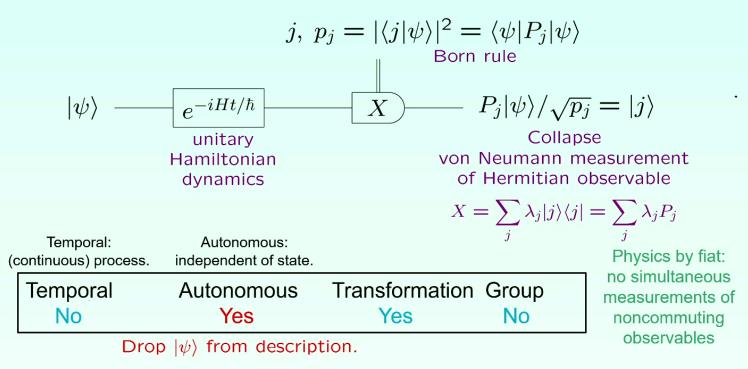
Matrix mechanics, commutators, and uncertainty principle

Wave mechanics (the Schrödinger equation)

Linear algebra of square-integrable functions Dirac-Jordan transformation theory

Born probability rule

von Neumann's synthesis: inner products and Hilbert space, unitary transformations (Hamiltonian dynamics), and measurements of Hermitian observables.



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100 years of quantum measurements. The desert (1932-60)

Quantum measurement theory withered under the desert sun, whereas the unitary side of quantum mechanics thrived with constant and well-deserved nurturing.

Everybody used the Born rule, though how to interpret its probabilities remains a source of discussion and debate today. Nobody used and next to nobody bought von Neumann's collapse, because there were no repeated measurements on the same system.

All measurements were actually von Neumann's indirect measurements and analyzed using the Born rule without using von Neumann measurements of Hermitian observables.

Mathematical developments

Unitary Lie groups: symmetry groups and representation theory

Functional and harmonic analysis

Functional (path) integration

Transformation groups

First three and a bit of the fourth fell on fertile soil in the unitary sector of quantum mechanics and quantum field theory.

Differential geometry of complex Lie groups

Measures and probability theory, stochastic processes, and stochastic calculus

None of this got into (or was needed in) the desiccated quantum measurement theory.

We use all these developments.

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100 years of quantum measurements. Generalized measurement theory (1960-85)

Overcomplete-basis measurements (measurements of noncommuting observables, coherent states, heterodyne)

Hint of repeated measurements

Generalized measurement theory. Taking advantage of von Neumann's indirect measurements

Wigner Davies Ludwig Kraus

Born rule
$$j, \ p_j = \operatorname{tr}_S(K_j | \psi \rangle \langle \psi | K_j^\dagger) = \operatorname{tr}_S(E_j | \psi \rangle \langle \psi |)$$

$$|\psi\rangle \qquad \qquad \langle j | U | 0 \rangle | \psi \rangle / \sqrt{p_j} = K_j | \psi \rangle / \sqrt{p_j}$$
 "Gentler" collapse

$$j, p_j = \langle \psi | E_j | \psi \rangle$$

$$\iff | \psi \rangle - K_j | K_j | K_j | K_j | K_j | \psi \rangle / \sqrt{p_j}$$

100 years of quantum measurements. Generalized measurement theory (1960-85)

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Generalized measurement theory. Taking advantage of von Neumann's indirect measurements

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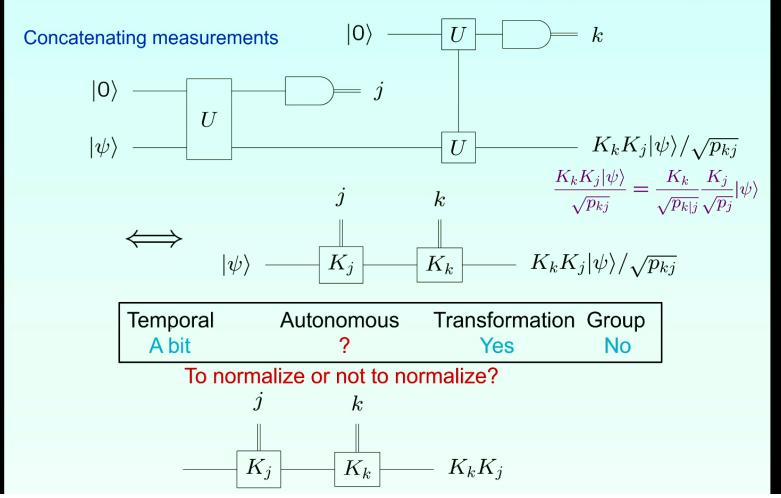
$$|\psi\rangle \qquad \qquad \langle j|U|0\rangle|\psi\rangle/\sqrt{p_j} = K_j|\psi\rangle/\sqrt{p_j}$$
 "Gentler" collapse
$$(\operatorname{Kraus\ operator}) = K_j = \langle j|U|0\rangle$$

$$(\operatorname{POVM\ element}) = E_j = K_j^\dagger K_j \geq 0$$

$$(\operatorname{Completeness}): \sum_j E_j = 1$$
 Positive
$$|\psi\rangle \qquad \qquad K_j = K_j|\psi\rangle/\sqrt{p_j}$$

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100 years of quantum measurements. Generalized measurement theory (1960-85)



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We are interested in differential weak measurements: Kraus operators close to the identity.

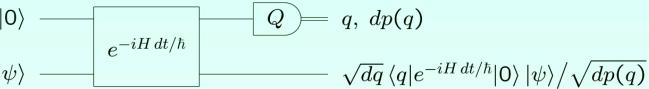
Differential weak measurement of X in increment dt

Davies Barchielli
Carmichael
Milburn
Wiseman
Goetsch/Graham

Doherty Mabuchi Jacobs Brun Steck

$$\langle q|0\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}}}e^{-q^2/2\sigma^2}$$

meter



 $H dt = 2\sqrt{\kappa dt} \, \sigma P \otimes X$ Controlled displacement of meter position Q by X

 $dW=q\sqrt{dt}/\sigma$ is a Wiener outcome increment. $d\mu(dW)=$ zero-mean Gaussian with $\langle dW^2\rangle=dt$

Kraus operator

$$\sqrt{dq} \langle q|e^{-iH\,dt/\hbar}|0\rangle = \sqrt{d\mu(dW)} \underbrace{e^{X\sqrt{\kappa}\,dW - X^2\kappa\,dt}}_{=L_X(dW)}$$

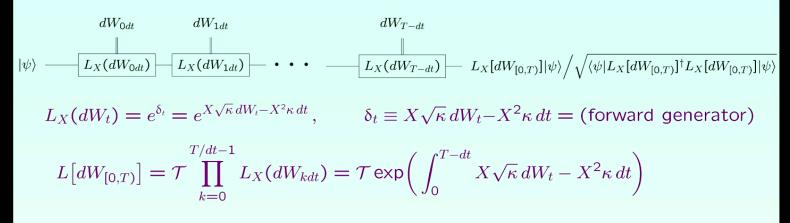
$$dW \qquad dp(q) = d\mu(dW)\langle\psi|L_X(dW)^{\dagger}L_X(dW)|\psi\rangle$$

$$|\psi\rangle \qquad L_X(dW)|\psi\rangle/\sqrt{\langle\psi|L_X(dW)^{\dagger}L_X(dW)|\psi\rangle}$$

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Concatenating

Continuous, differential weak measurement of *X* over finite time *T*.



Temporal Autonomous Transformation Group
Yes ? Yes ?

Normalizing at each increment gives a stochastic master equation for an evolving state. Not normalizing (sometimes called a linear quantum trajectory) gives autonomous instrument evolution.

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Concatenating

Continuous, differential weak measurement of *X* over finite time *T*.

Instrument evolution

$$dW_{0dt}$$
 dW_{1dt} dW_{T-dt} $oxed{L_X(dW_{0dt})}$ $oxed{L_X(dW_{1dt})}$ $oxed{L_X(dW_{T-dt})}$ $L_X[dW_{[0,T)}] \equiv L_T$

$$L_X(dW_t) = e^{\delta_t} = e^{X\sqrt{\kappa} dW_t - X^2\kappa dt}, \qquad \delta_t \equiv X\sqrt{\kappa} dW_t - X^2\kappa dt = \text{(forward generator)}$$

$$L[dW_{[0,T)}] = \mathcal{T} \prod_{k=0}^{T/dt-1} L_X(dW_{kdt}) = \mathcal{T} \exp\left(\int_0^{T-dt} X\sqrt{\kappa} \, dW_t - X^2 \kappa \, dt\right)$$

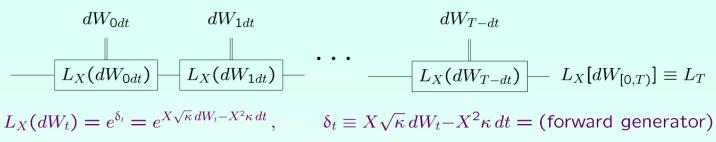
Temporal	Autonomous	Transformation	Group
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Concatenating

Continuous, differential weak measurement of *X* over finite time *T*.





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Temporal	Autonomous	Transformation	Group
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Continuous measurements of a single observable are trivial because everything commutes (time ordering is irrelevant; irreps are 1D). They limit to a strong measurement that is a von Neumann measurement (standard collapse between irreps).

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 $dec{W}_t$ \parallel $L_{ec{X}}(dec{W}_t)$ \parallel

The incremental Kraus operator for a differential weak measurement of the observables $\vec{X} = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$, beginning at time t for an increment dt, is

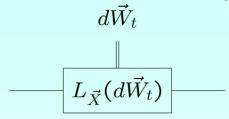
$$\sqrt{d\mu(d\vec{W}_t)} L_{\vec{X}}(d\vec{W}_t) = \sqrt{d(dW_t^1) \cdots d(dW_t^n) \frac{e^{-d\vec{W}_t \cdot d\vec{W}_t / 2dt}}{(2\pi dt)^{n/2}}} e^{\vec{X} \cdot \sqrt{\kappa} d\vec{W}_t - \vec{X}^2 \kappa dt},$$

where

$$L_{\vec{X}}(d\vec{W}_t) = e^{\delta_t}, \qquad \delta_t \equiv \vec{X} \cdot \sqrt{\kappa} \, d\vec{W}_t - \vec{X}^2 \kappa \, dt = \text{(forward generator)}$$

and

$$\vec{X} \cdot d\vec{W}_t = \sum_{\mu} X_{\mu} dW_t^{\mu}$$
, $dW_t^{\mu} =$ (Wiener outcome increment for X_{μ}).



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where

Commutators can be disregarded for differential weak measurements.

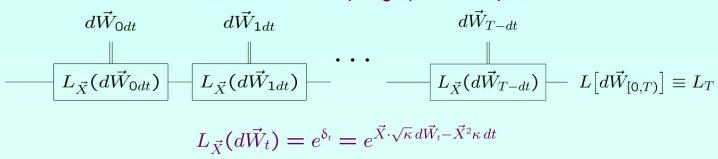
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and

Differential weak measurements define a fundamental incremental Kraus operator, a *differential positive transformation*, which is fundamental in the same way as infinitesimal unitary transformations.

$$\vec{X} \cdot d\vec{W}_t = \sum_{\mu} X_{\mu} dW_t^{\mu}$$
, $dW_t^{\mu} =$ (Wiener outcome increment for X_{μ}).

Instrument evolution: "piling up" Kraus operators



The differential positive transformations "pile up" as successive incremental measurements are performed; at time T the Kraus operator is

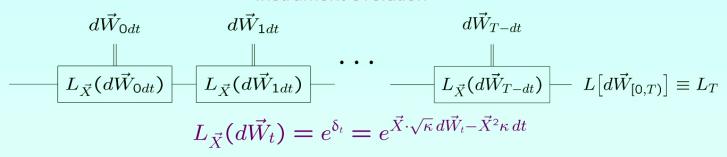
$$L_T = L[d\vec{W}_{[0,T)}] = \mathcal{T} \exp\left(\int_0^{T-dt} \delta_t\right) = \mathcal{T} \exp\left(\int_0^{T-dt} \vec{X} \cdot \sqrt{\kappa} \, d\vec{W}_t - \vec{X}^2 \kappa \, dt\right),$$

where $d\vec{W}_{[0,T)}$ is the Wiener outcome path and \mathcal{T} denotes a time-ordered exponential—commutators do count for finite T! The measuring *instrument* is the collection of these Kraus operators for all Wiener paths (more precisely, the collection of *instrument elements* $L_T \odot L_T^{\dagger}$).

Instrument evolution is an autonomous, temporal, stochastic process.

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Instrument evolution



The quantum circuit becomes a stochastic path on the instrumental Lie group manifold.



The Kraus operators $L_T = L\big[d\vec{W}_{[0,T)}\big]$ are elements of an *instrumental Lie group* G, which is the group generated by the measured observables, $\vec{X} = \{X_1, \ldots, X_n\}$, and the *quadratic term*, $\vec{X}^2 = \vec{X} \cdot \vec{X} = \sum_{\mu} X_{\mu}^2$. The instrument evolves stochastically in the manifold of the instrumental Lie group, which is the natural setting for the measurement.

The motion of the Kraus operators on the group manifold G is analyzed using the three faces of the stochastic trinity. The overall quantum operation is given by a Wiener-like path integral of the measurement record.

$$\mathcal{Z}_T = \int \mathcal{D}\mu[d\vec{W}_{[0,T)}] \ L[d\vec{W}_{[0,T)}] \odot L[d\vec{W}_{[0,T)}]^{\dagger};$$

it is the solution of a Lindblad equation in which the measured observables are the Lindblad operators. The Kraus-operator paths satisfy a stochastic differential equation (SDE),

Maurer-Cartan form (Stratonovich):
$$dL_t L_{t+dt/2}^{-1} = \delta_t = \vec{X} \cdot \sqrt{\kappa} \, d\vec{W} - \vec{X}^2 \kappa \, dt$$
,

Modified MC stochastic differential (Itô):
$$dL_t L_t^{-1} - \frac{1}{2} (dL_t L_t^{-1})^2 = \delta_t$$
.

A Kraus-operator distribution function (KOD) is defined by a Wiener path integral,

$$D_T(L) \equiv \int \mathcal{D}\mu[dec{W}_{[0,T)}] \; \deltaig(L, L[dec{W}_{[0,T)}]ig) \,,$$

where the δ -function is defined relative to the Haar measure of G. The KOD evolves according to a Fokker-Planck-Kolmogorov equation (FPKE).

$$\frac{1}{\kappa} \frac{\partial D_t(L)}{\partial t} = \Delta[D_t](L), \qquad \Delta \equiv \underbrace{\vec{X}^2}_{\mu} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mu} \underbrace{X_{\mu} X_{\mu}}_{\mu},$$

where the underarrows denote right-invariant derivatives,

$$\underbrace{X}[f](L) \equiv \frac{d}{dh} f(e^{hX}L) \bigg|_{h=0} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(e^{hX}L) - f(L)}{h},$$

these being the natural vector fields on the instrumental Lie-group manifold. Notice that \vec{X}^2 describes ballistic motion and

$$\nabla^2 \equiv \sum_{\mu} \underbrace{X_{\mu} X_{\mu}}_{\longleftarrow}$$

is a Laplacian that describes diffusion.

The motion of the Kraus operators on the group manifold G is analyzed using the three faces of the stochastic trinity. The overall quantum operation is given by a Wiener-like path integral of the measurement record.

$$\mathcal{Z}_T = \int \mathcal{D}\mu[d\vec{W}_{[0,T)}] \; L[d\vec{W}_{[0,T)}] \odot L[d\vec{W}_{[0,T)}]^\dagger;$$
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Stochastic differential equation

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 Wiener path integral

where the δ -function is defined relative to the Haar measure of G. The KOD evolves according to a Fokker-Planck-Kolmogorov equation (FPKE).

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where the underarrows denote right-invariant derivatives,

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Stochastic trinity

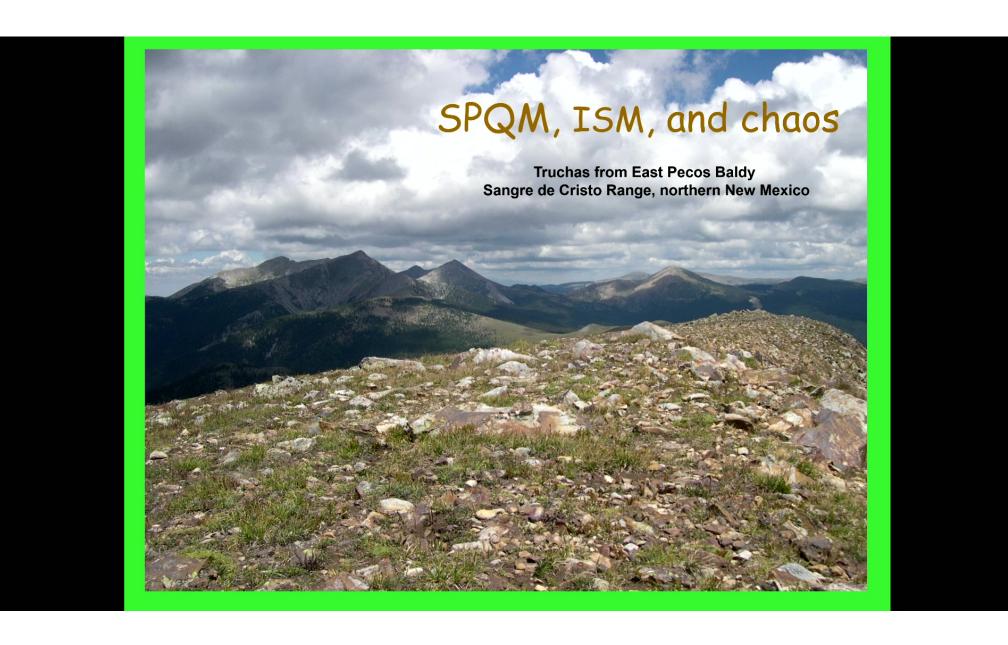
The Lie algebra for the instrumental Lie group can be processed using the matrices of a particular representation or processed *universally*, using only the commutators, within what is called the *universal enveloping algebra*. The *universal instrumental group* is detached from Hilbert space.

Universal instruments detached from Hilbert space.

Special measurements, such as simultaneous momentum and position measurement (SPQM) and isotropic measurement of the three spin components (ISM), have a low-dimensional universal instrumental group; the instrument's POVM approaches a boundary of coherent states at late times, which is the strong measurement of the observables (we call this collapse within irrep). These instruments we call *principal instruments*. They connect classical phase space to the identity and structure any Hilbert space in which they are represented.

Generic measurements—two components of spin, two squeezing symplectic generators—have an infinite-dimensional universal instrumental group; the instrument's evolution is chaotic, and there is no universal strong measurement of the observables. These instruments we call *chaotic instruments*.

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Simultaneous momentum and position measurement (SPQM): A principal instrument

Measure position Q and momentum P. Commutator: [Q, P] = i1

Quadratic term: $Q^2 + P^2 = 2H_0$

7D instrumental Lie algebra: span $\{1, i1, iQ, -iP, Q, P, H_o\}$

7D instrumental Lie group, the *Instrumental Weyl-Heisenberg Group*, ${\rm IWH} = \mathbb{C}{\rm WH} \rtimes e^{\mathbb{R}H_{\rm o}}\,.$

Coördinate manifold with Cartan-like decomposition, group-theoretic singular-value decomposition,

Kraus operator $L = (D_{\beta}e^{i1\phi})e^{-H_{\circ}r-1\ell}D_{\alpha}^{\dagger}$

 D_{β} and D_{α} are phase-plane displacement operators.

POVM element $E = L^{\dagger}L = e^{-2\ell \, 1} D_{\alpha} e^{-H_{\circ} 2r} D_{\alpha}^{\dagger}$

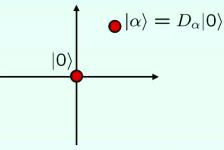
Base manifold of positive transformations

 $(\ell, \phi) = (\text{center normalization and phase})$

 $r = (ruler/purity), dr = 2\kappa dt, r = 2\kappa t$ is ballistic

 $\beta = (post-measurement phase-plane)$

 $\alpha = (POVM phase-plane)$



$$r = 0$$
: $E = L^{\dagger}L = e^{-2\ell}1$

$$r \to \infty$$
: $E = L^{\dagger}L = e^{-2\ell}|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|$

SPQM: A principal instrument

Kraus operator $L = (D_{\beta}e^{i1\phi})e^{-H_{o}r-1\ell}D_{\alpha}^{\dagger}$

POVM element $E=L^{\dagger}L=e^{-2\ell\,1}D_{\alpha}e^{-H_{\rm o}2r}D_{\alpha}^{\dagger}$

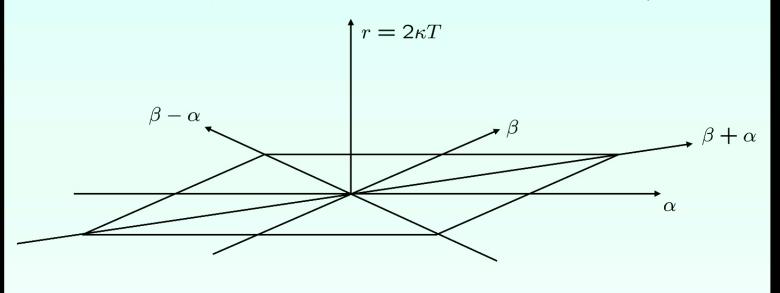
 $(\ell, \phi) = (\text{center normalization and phase})$

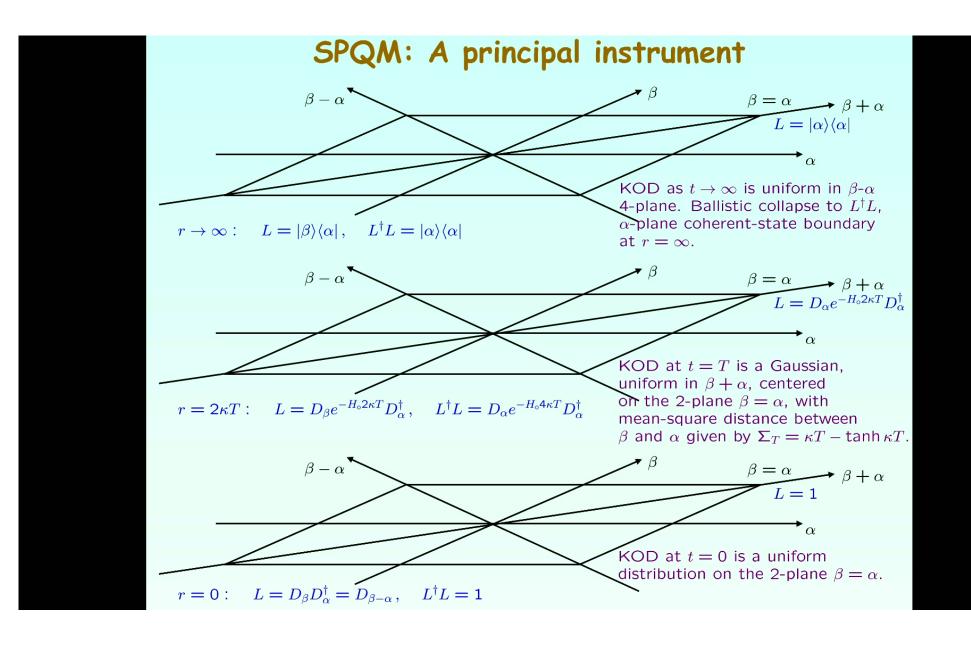
 $r = (ruler/purity), dr = 2\kappa dt, r = 2\kappa t$ is ballistic

 $\beta = (post-measurement phase-plane)$

 $\alpha = (POVM phase-plane)$

Work in the coset of the center $Z=\left\{e^{1(-\ell+i\phi)}\right\}$; i.e., identify points with different center coördinates ℓ and ϕ .





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Isotropic spin measurement (ISM): A principal instrument

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Measure } J_x,\ J_y,\ \text{and}\ J_z.\\ \text{Commutators:}\ [J_\mu,J_\nu]=i\epsilon_{\mu\nu\eta}J_\eta\\ \text{Quadratic term:}\ J_x^2+J_y^2+J_z^2=\vec{J}^2=\text{Casimir invariant}=\mathbf{1}_jj(j+1) \end{array}$

7D instrumental Lie algebra: span $\{-iJ_x, -iJ_y, -iJ_z, J_x, J_y, J_z, \vec{J}^2\}$

7D instrumental Lie group, the *Instrumental Spin Group*, ISpin(3) = $SL(2,\mathbb{C}) \times e^{\mathbb{R}\vec{J}^2}$

Coördinate manifold with Cartan decomposition, group-theoretic singular-value decomposition,

Kraus operator $L=(D_{\widehat{m}}e^{-iJ_z\psi})e^{-\vec{J}^2\ell+J_za}D_{\widehat{n}}^{\dagger}$

 $D_{\widehat{m}}$ and $D_{\widehat{n}}$ are spherical displacement operators.

POVM element $E=L^\dagger L=e^{-\vec{J}^22\ell}D_{\hat{n}}e^{J_z2a}D_{\hat{n}}^\dagger$ Base manifold (symmetric space) of positive transformations.

$$\ell = \text{(center normalization)}, \quad d\ell = \kappa \, dt$$

$$\ell = \kappa t$$
 is ballistic

$$a = 0: L^{\dagger}L = e^{-\vec{J}^2 2\kappa t}$$

 $|j,\widehat{z}\rangle$

$$a \to \infty$$
: $L^{\dagger}L \propto e^{-\vec{J}^2 2\kappa t} |j, \hat{n}\rangle\langle j, \hat{n}|$

 $|j,\hat{n}\rangle = D_{\hat{n}} |j,\hat{z}\rangle$

 $\psi = (\text{geodesic curvature between past and future})$

$$a = (\text{radial/purity}), \quad da_t = \kappa \, dt \, \coth a_t + \sqrt{\kappa} \, dY_t^z,$$

a is ballistic and diffusive

 $\hat{m} = (post-measurement Bloch sphere)$

 $\hat{n} = (POVM Bloch sphere)$

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ISM: A principal instrument

Coördinate manifold with Cartan decomposition, group-theoretic singular-value decomposition,

Kraus operator
$$L = (D_{\widehat{m}}e^{-iJ_z\psi})e^{-\vec{J}^2\ell + J_z a}D_{\widehat{n}}^{\dagger}$$

POVM element
$$E = L^{\dagger}L = e^{-\vec{J}^2 2\ell}D_{\hat{n}}e^{J_z 2a}D_{\hat{n}}^{\dagger}$$

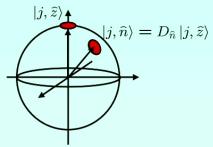
 $\ell = \text{(center normalization)}, \quad d\ell = \kappa \, dt \, ,$ $\ell = \kappa t \text{ is ballistic}$

 $\psi = (\text{geodesic curvature between past and future})$

 $a = \text{(radial/purity)}, \quad da_t = \kappa \, dt \, \coth a_t + \sqrt{\kappa} \, dY_t^z,$ a is ballistic and diffusive

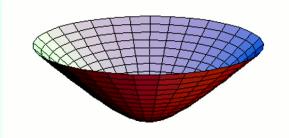
 $\hat{m} = (post-measurement Bloch sphere)$

 $\hat{n} = (POVM Bloch sphere)$



$$a=0$$
: $L^{\dagger}L=e^{-\vec{J}^22\kappa t}$

$$a \to \infty$$
: $L^{\dagger}L \propto e^{-\vec{J}^2 2\kappa t} |j, \hat{n}\rangle\langle j, \hat{n}|$

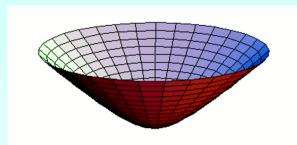


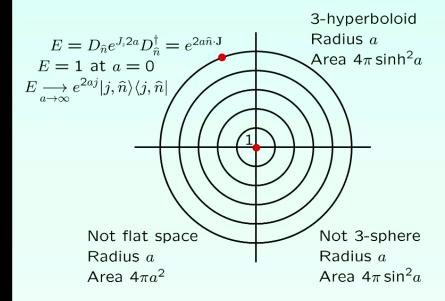
The base manifold of positive transformations (POVM elements) is a symmetric space, in this case a 3-hyperboloid of constant negative curvature, coördinated by a and \hat{n} .

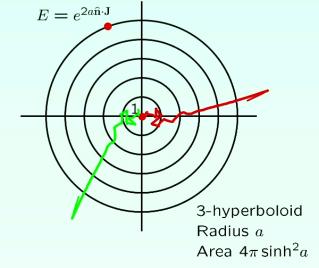
To get the induced geometry right, one must embed the hyperboloid in Minkowski space, not Euclidean space.

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ISM: A principal instrument







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Principal vs. chaotic instruments

SPQM and ISM are principal universal instruments, for which the universal instrumental group is finite-dimensional. Principal instruments are very special: they approach a strong measurement of coherent states asymptotically; they thus structure any Hilbert space in which they are represented.

Generic measurements—two components of spin, two squeezing symplectic generators—have an infinite-dimensional universal instrumental group because of the nonlinear quadratic term. They do not have a representation-independent strong measurement, and the evolution of the instrument devolves into

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