DIRECT MEASUREMENT: FROM THE WAVEFUNCTION TO THE KIRKWOOD-DIRAC DISTRIBUTION

Jeff LUNDEEN
University of Ottawa, Nexus for Quantum Technologies
jlundeen@uottawa.ca

Quantum Tomography is indirect in the sense that it infers the wavefunction from a disparate set of measurements. In contrast, using the method of Direct Measurement one can observe the wavefunction in such a way that its real and imaginary components appear straight on our measurement apparatus. In turn, this method functions as a simple operational definition of the wavefunction. At the heart of the method is a joint measurement of complementary observables, such as position $X$ and momentum $P$. This is made possible using weak measurement. I will describe our original experiment in which we measured the transverse spatial wavefunction of a single photon. I will then review work from various labs around the world that built upon Direct Measurement and applied it to a high-dimensional systems, neutrons, nuclei, detectors, and quantum processes.