



Max Planck - University of Ottawa Centre
for Extreme and Quantum Photonics



Direct Measurement: from the wavefunction to the Kirkwood-Dirac distribution

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QuiDiQua 2023 (Lille)



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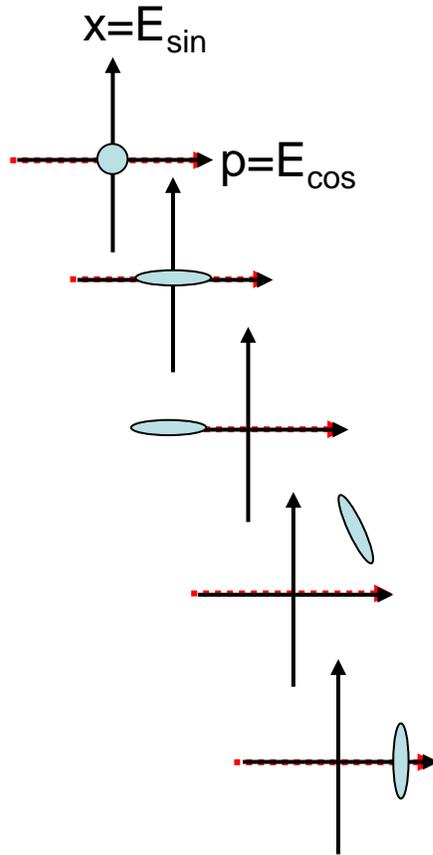


Lambert Giner

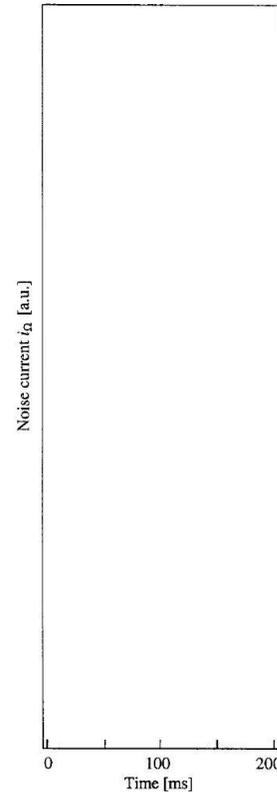


Quantum State Tomography

Wavefunction of an Electric Field

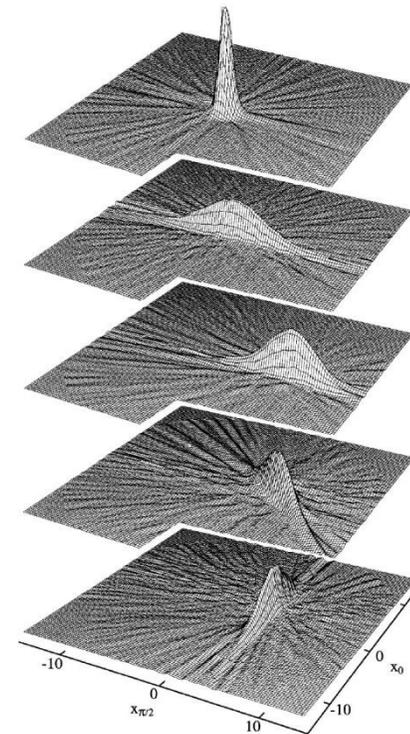


Homodyne Detection



Gerd Breitenbach, Science (2000)

Find the Wavefunction (or Wigner Function) most compatible with those measurements.

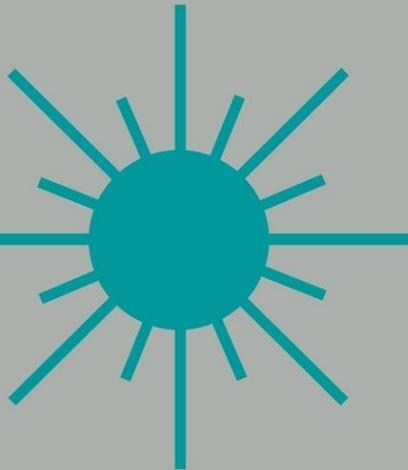


- Proposed by K. Vogel. and H. Risken, Phys. Rev. A 40: 2487 (1989).
- Demonstrated by Mike Raymer: Phys. Rev. Lett. 70, 1244 (1993).
- Reconstruction is effective and well developed but indirect.

Cambridge Studies in Modern Optics

Measuring the Quantum State of Light

Ulf Leonhardt



p 8 - “we cannot measure position and momentum simultaneously and precisely... What we do see are only the different aspects of a quantum object, the "quantum shadows" in the sense of Plato's famous parable”

p 98. - “Consequently, we can not see quantum states directly...”

Joint measurements of x and p

- A classical particle's state is given by its position x and momentum p



XKCD

- Heisenberg's measurement-disturbance relation:

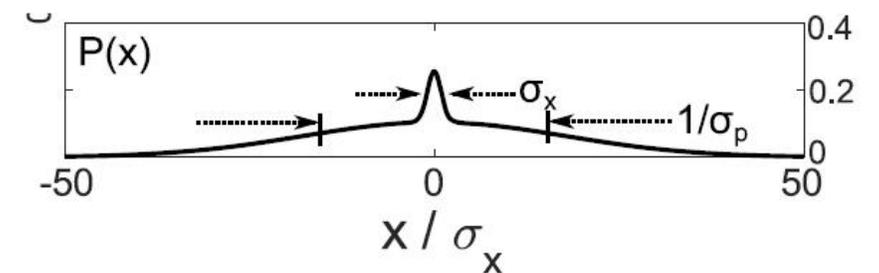
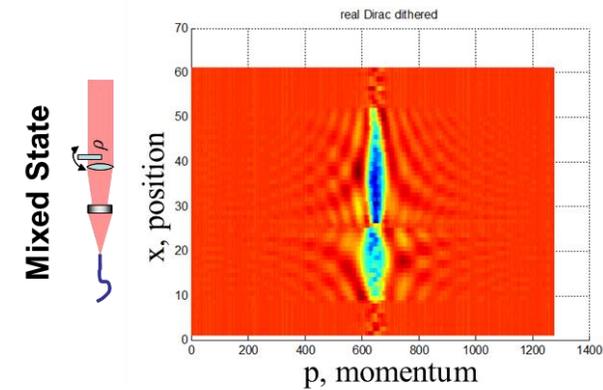
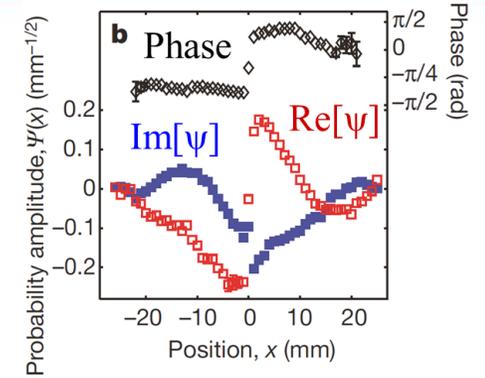
$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \hbar/2$$

Cannot directly observe a quantum particle's state

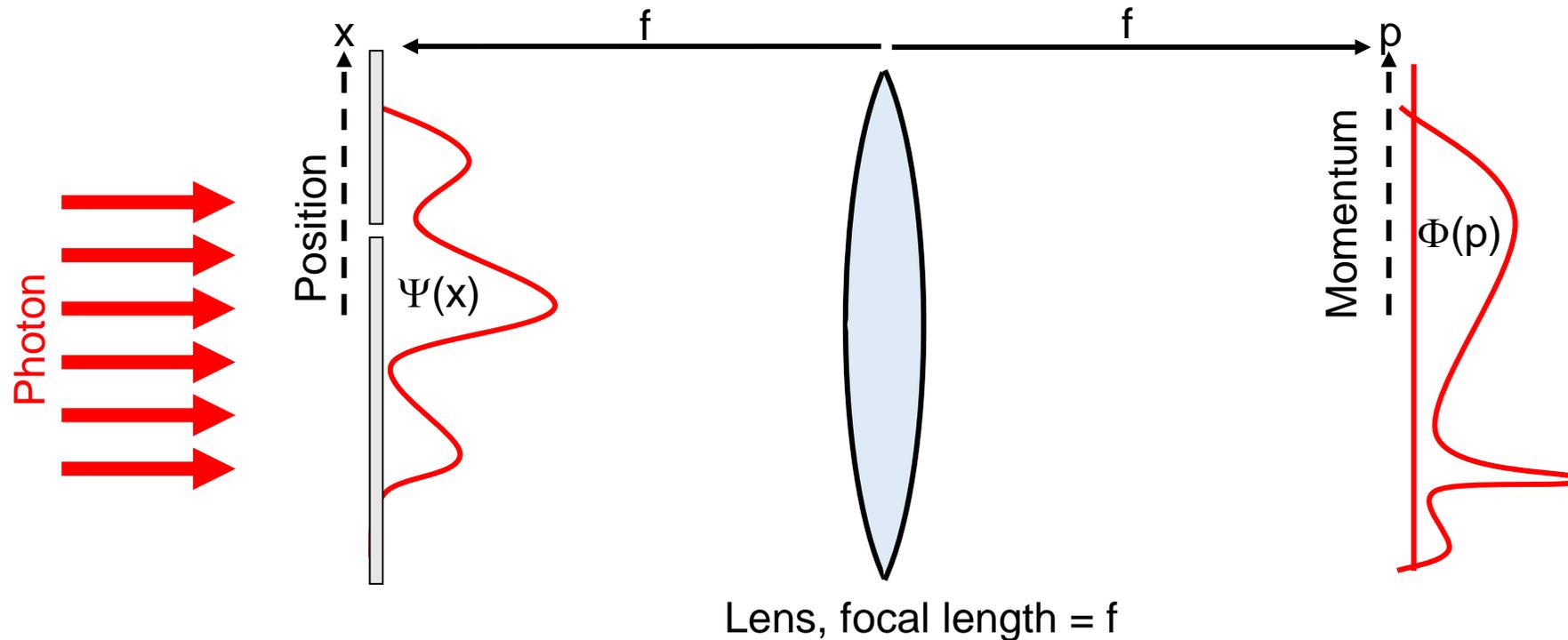
Are there strategies to get around this?

Outline

1. Direct Measurement of the wavefunction using weak measurement
2. Generalizations: Kirkwood-Dirac, Entangled States,...
3. Other direct measurement methods: Cloning
4. Understanding what is happening in direct measurement



Example of the Heisenberg measurement-disturbance relation



- Measure x precisely and we cause $\Delta p \rightarrow \infty$
 - Can not know x and p perfectly at the same time

What if we decrease our certainty of x ?

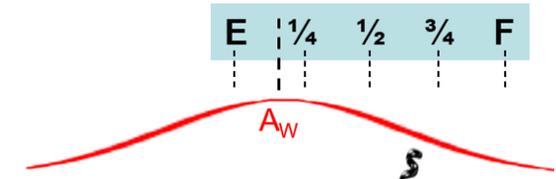
Gently measure X so that you don't disturb P

- What if we do a weak measurement of X , and then make a strong measurement of P ?

i.e. $\mathbf{A} = |x\rangle\langle x| = \pi$, Initial state = $|\psi\rangle$, Strong measurement result $P=p$

Average shift of the pointer:

$$A_w = \frac{\langle b | A | \psi \rangle}{\langle b | \psi \rangle}$$



$$\pi_w = \frac{\langle p | x \rangle \langle x | \psi \rangle}{\langle p | \psi \rangle}$$

And if $p=0$,

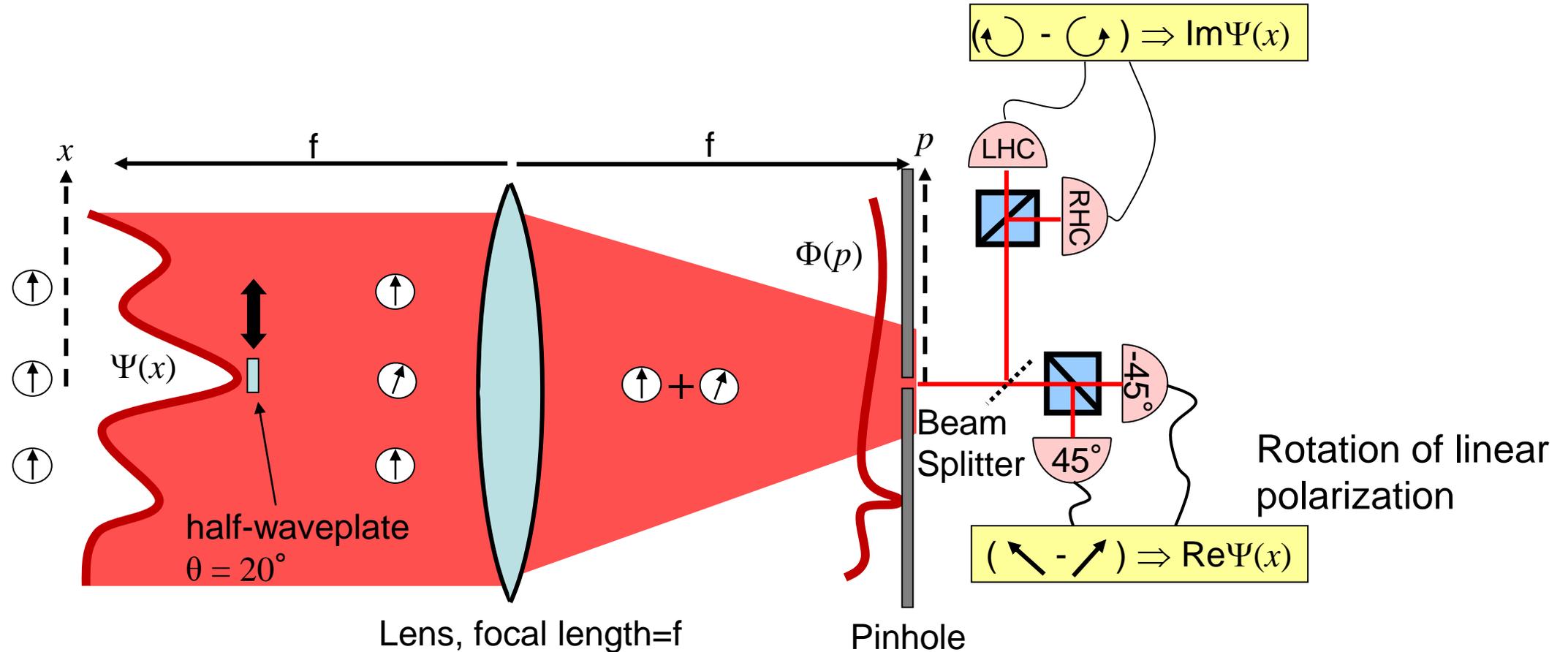
$$\pi_w = \frac{1/\sqrt{2\pi} \cdot \langle x | \psi \rangle}{\sqrt{\text{Prob}(p=0)}} = \boxed{k \cdot \psi(x)}$$

- The average shift of the pointer (i.e. rotation of the polarization) is proportional to the wavefunction

Direct Measurement of the Wavefunction

- Weakly measure $|x\rangle\langle x|$ then strongly measure p
- Keep only the photons found with $p=0$ (post-selection!)

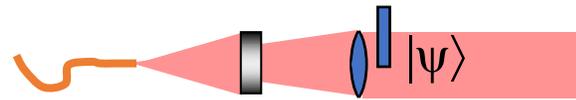
Imbalance in circular polarizations



- The average result of the weak measurement is the real and imaginary components of the wavefunction

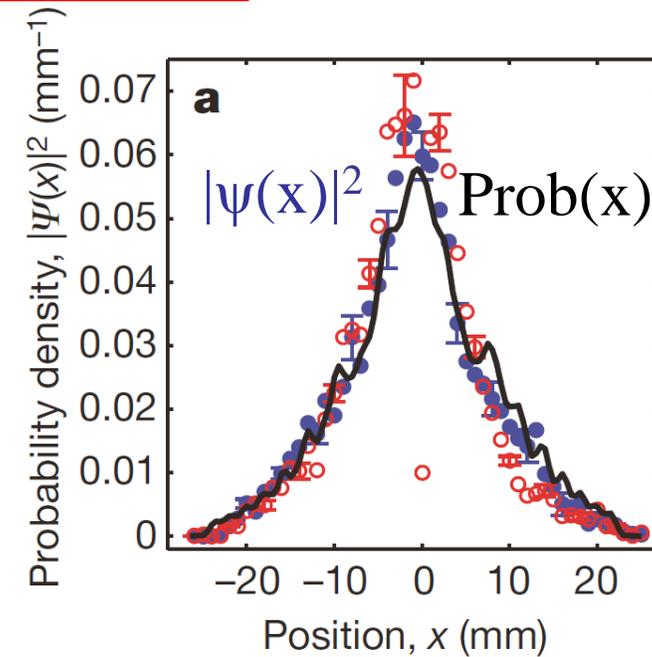
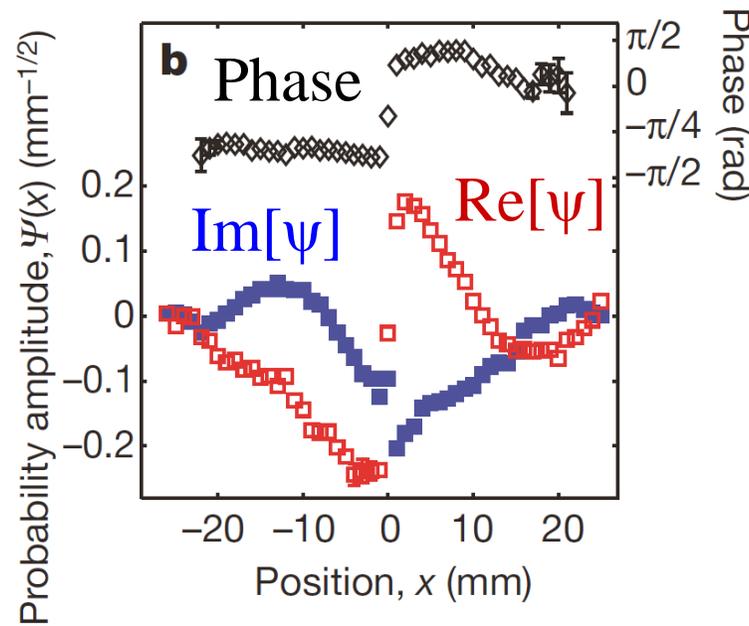
Direct Measurement of the Wavefunction

- Demonstrate method with $\Psi(x)$ of photons exiting a single-mode fibre



$$(\text{↺}) - (\text{↻}) \Rightarrow \text{Im}\Psi(x)$$

$$(\text{↙}) - (\text{↘}) \Rightarrow \text{Re}\Psi(x)$$

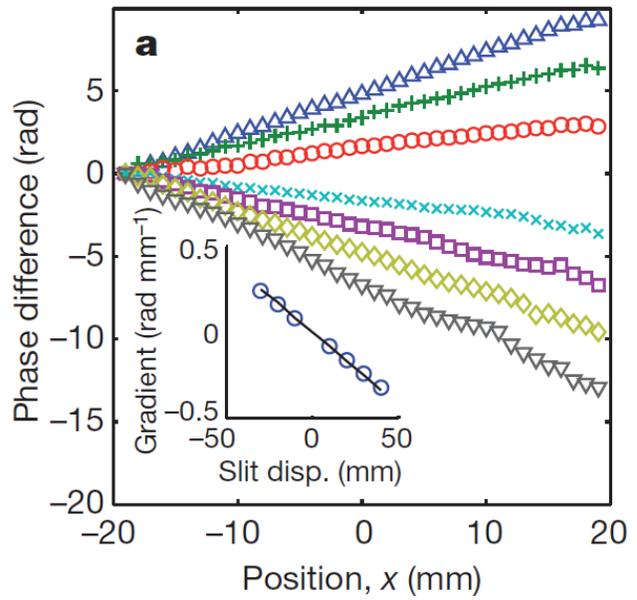
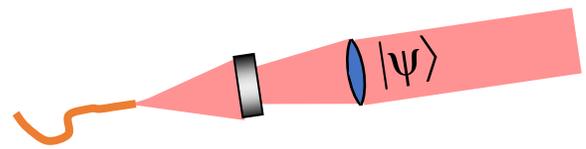


Lundeen Nature, 474, 188 (2011)

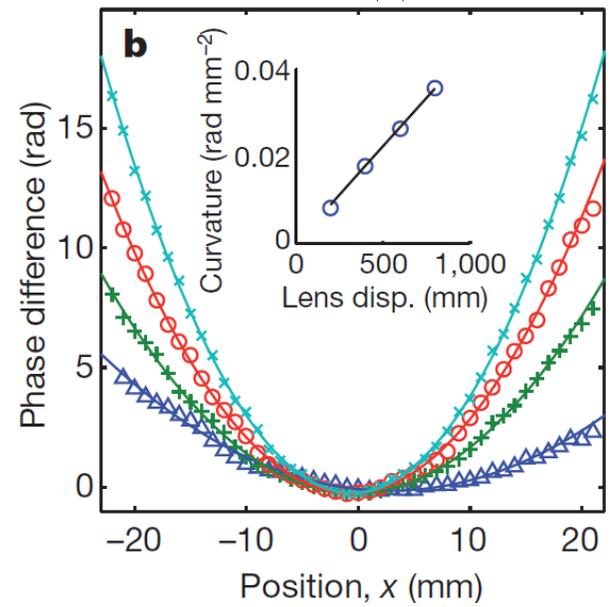
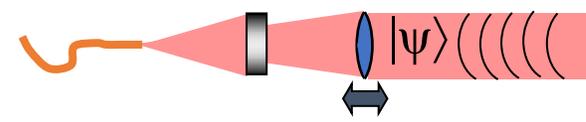
- The two signals directly give $\text{Im}[\psi]$ and $\text{Re}[\psi]$.
- Direct measurement accurately shows phase and magnitude of $\psi(x)$

profiles

Phase Gradient

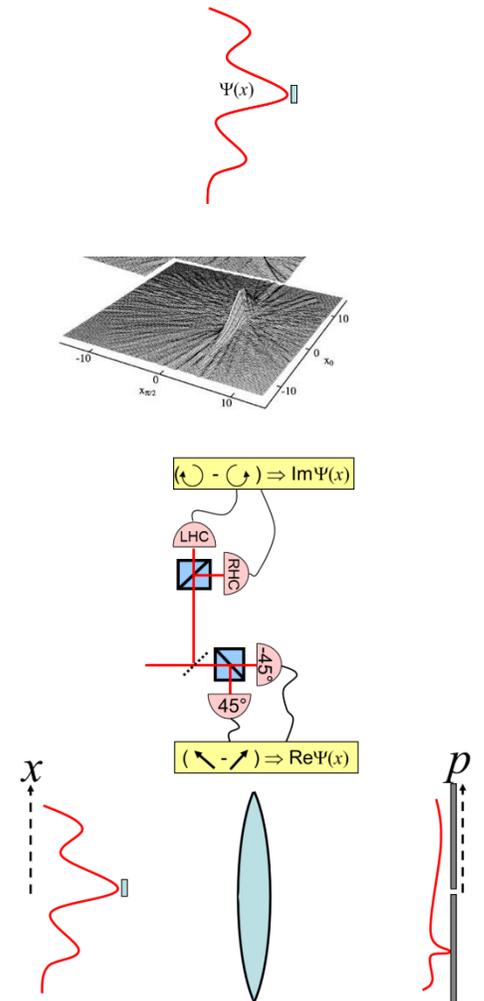


Phase Curvature



Why it is Direct

1. It is local - measures $\psi(x)$ at x
2. No complicated mathematical reconstruction
3. The value of $\psi(x)$ appears right on our measurement apparatus
4. The procedure is simple and general - measure x and then p

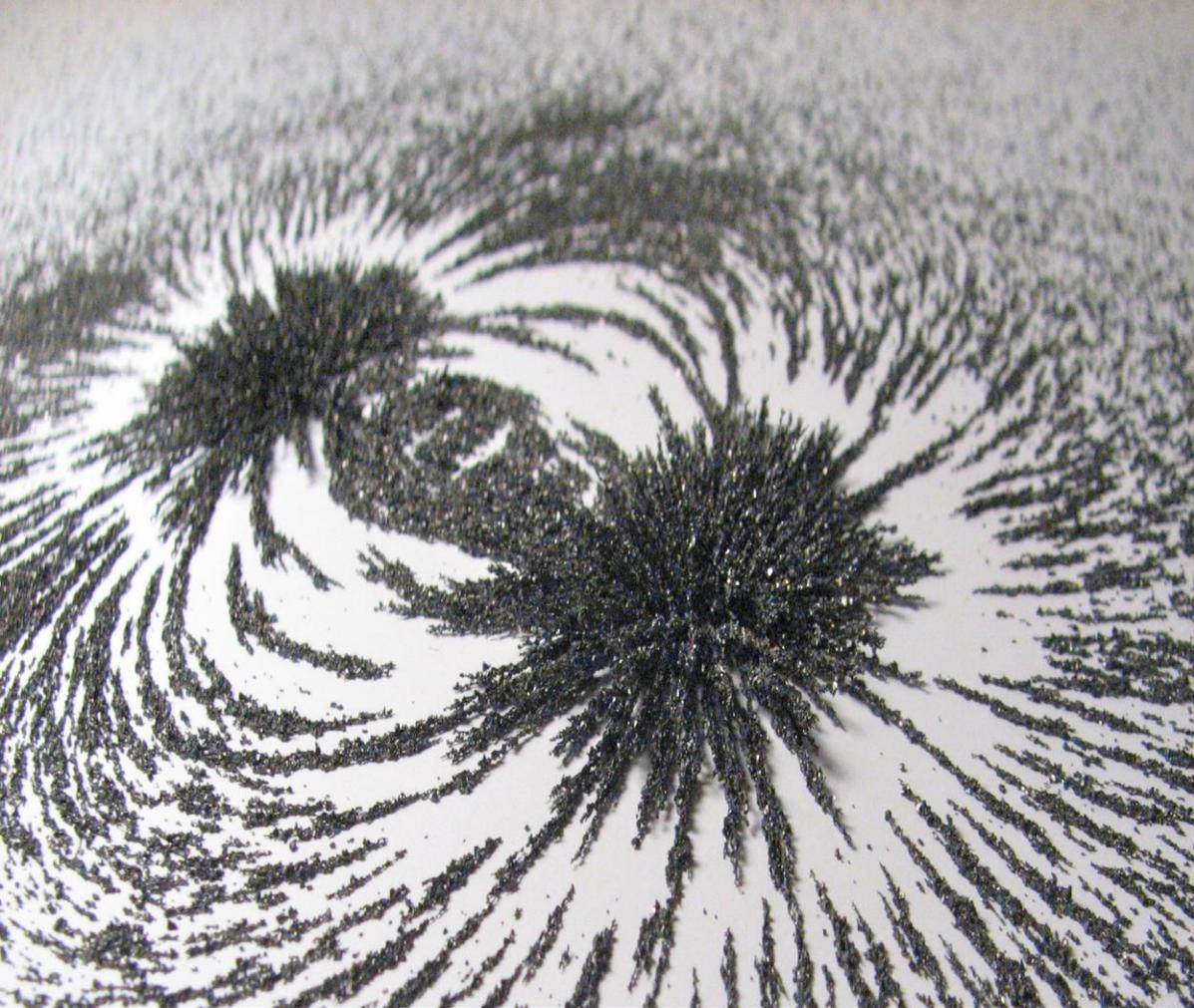


An operational definition of the wavefunction

- Currently there is no definition of the wavefunction.
- Clarity can come from “Operational” definitions of physical concepts.
 - i.e. the set of operations used in the lab to observe something.

Bridgman, P. The Logic of Modern Physics (1927).

“The wavefunction is the average result of a weak measurement of a variable followed by a strong measurement of the complementary variable”



- Test Particles (i.e. $m \rightarrow 0$, $C \rightarrow 0$) helped establish the existence of Electric and Magnetic Fields.
- Test measurement (i.e. weak measurement) might be similarly useful.

- Standard tomography: Measurement bases scale with dimension
- Direct Measurement: Measurements in only two bases always



Full characterization of polarization states of light via direct measurement

Jeff Z. Salvail^{1*}, Megan Agnew¹, Allan S. Johnson¹, Eliot Bolduc¹, Jonathan Leach¹ and Robert W. Boyd^{1,2}



Scan-free direct measurement of an extremely high-dimensional photonic state

ZHIMIN SHI,^{1,*} MOHAMMAD MIRHOSSEINI,² JESSICA MARGIEWICZ,¹ MEHUL MALIK,^{2,3} FREIDA RIVERA,¹ ZIYI ZHU,¹ AND ROBERT W. BOYD^{2,4}



ARTICLE

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DOI: 10.1038/ncomms4115

Direct measurement of a 27-dimensional orbital-angular-momentum state vector

Mehul Malik^{1,2}, Mohammad Mirhosseini¹, Martin P.J. Lavery³, Jonathan Leach^{4,5}, Miles J. Padgett³ & Robert W. Boyd^{1,5}

PRL 113, 090402 (2014)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

29 AUGUST 2014

Compressive Direct Measurement of the Quantum Wave Function

Mohammad Mirhosseini,^{1,*} Omar S. Magaña-Loaiza,¹ Seyed Mohammad Hashemi Rafsanjani,² and Robert W. Boyd^{1,3}

Directly Measuring Entangled States

- Weakly measure where the particle pair is in Hardy's paradox

measure e.g. $\pi_{IO} = \langle \Pi_- |$

Direct measurement of the wavefunction

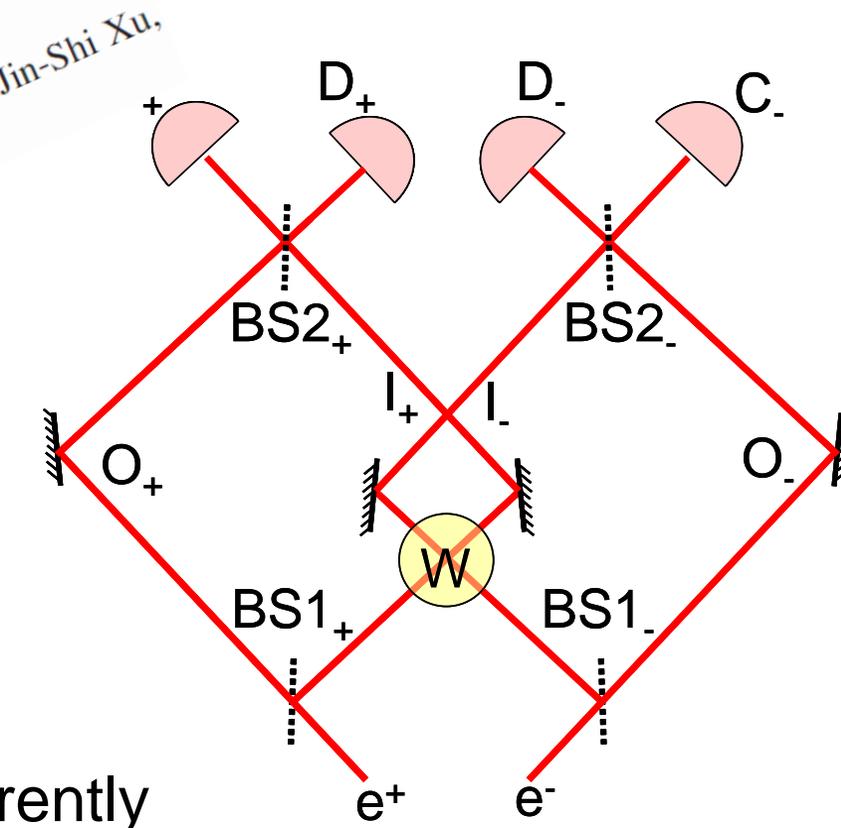
$$|\psi\rangle = \langle \pi_{IO} | \psi \rangle |IO\rangle$$

Theorem:

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 123, 150402 (2019)
 Featured in Physics
 Editors' Suggestion
Direct Measurement of a Nonlocal Entangled Quantum State
 Wei-Wei Pan,^{1,2} Xiao-Ye Xu,^{1,2} Yaron Kedem,^{3,*} Qin-Qin Wang,^{1,2} Zhe Chen,^{1,2} Munsif Jan,^{1,2} Kai Sun,^{1,2} Jin-Shi Xu,^{1,2} Yong-Jian Han,^{1,2} Chuan-Feng Li,^{1,2,†} and Guang-Can Guo^{1,2}

$$|OO\rangle + |II\rangle$$

$$+ 0.721 |OI\rangle - 0.758 |OO\rangle + 0.243 |II\rangle$$

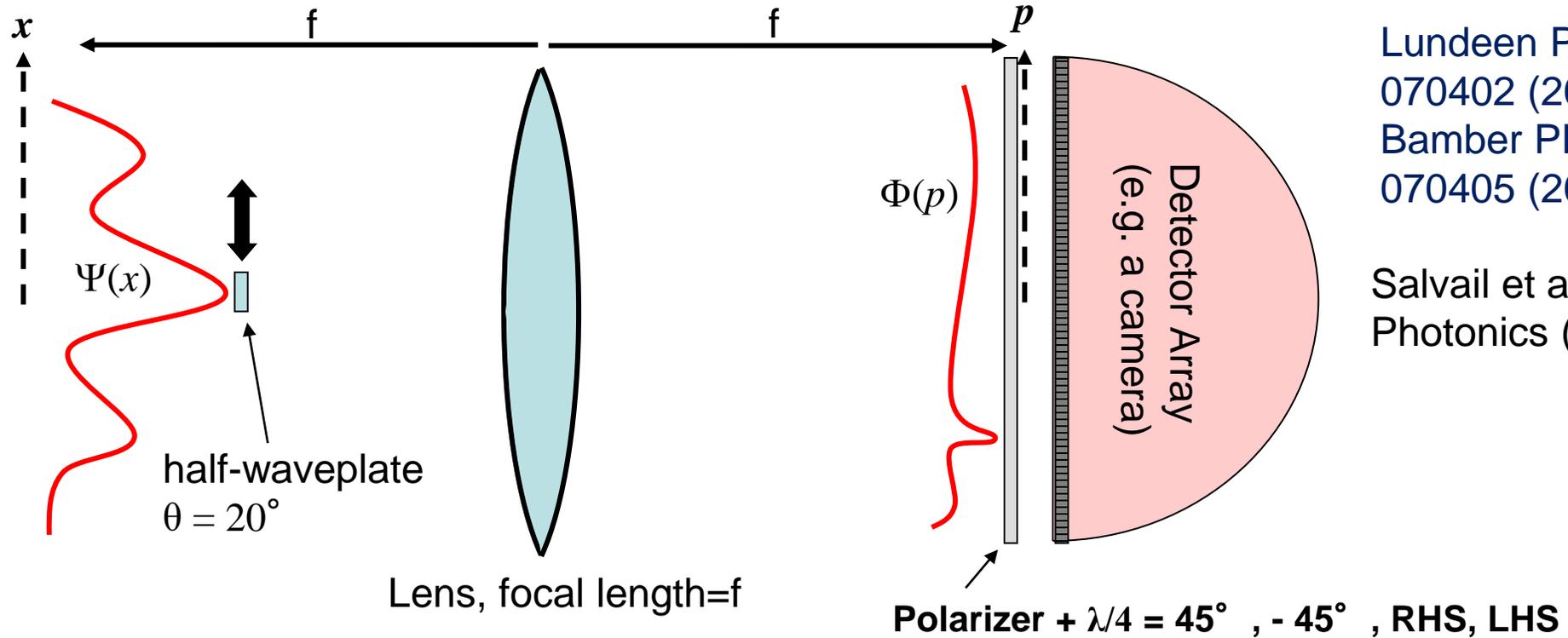


- Direct measurement of the wavefunction works for inherently quantum systems (i.e. entangled particles).

Joint measurement of X and every P

Weak measurement of $|x\rangle\langle x|$

Strong measurement of p (all values)



Lundeen PRL 108, 070402 (2012),
Bamber PRL 112, 070405 (2014)

Salvail et al. Nature Photonics (2013)

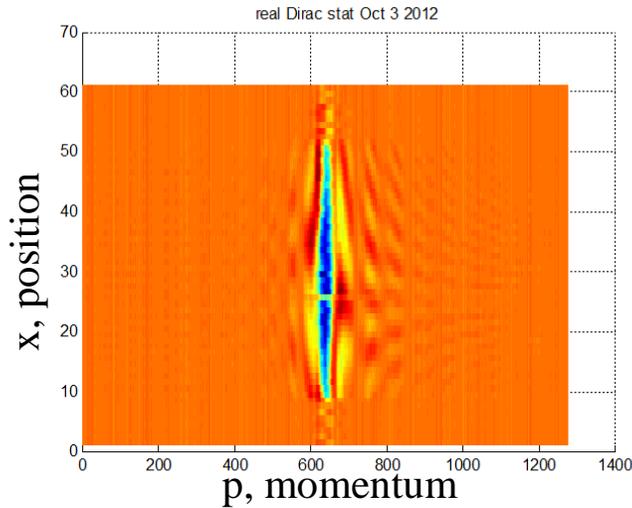
• Joint measurement of $\pi_x = |x\rangle\langle x|$ and $\pi_p = |p\rangle\langle p|$ gives the Kirkwood-Dirac Distribution:

$$D(x, p) = \langle \pi_x \pi_p \rangle = \text{Tr}[\pi_x \pi_p \rho]$$

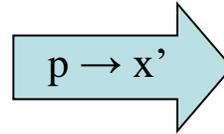
Direct Measurement of Mixed States: The Dirac Distribution

Dirac Distribution, $D(x, p) = \text{Tr}[\pi_x \pi_p \rho]$

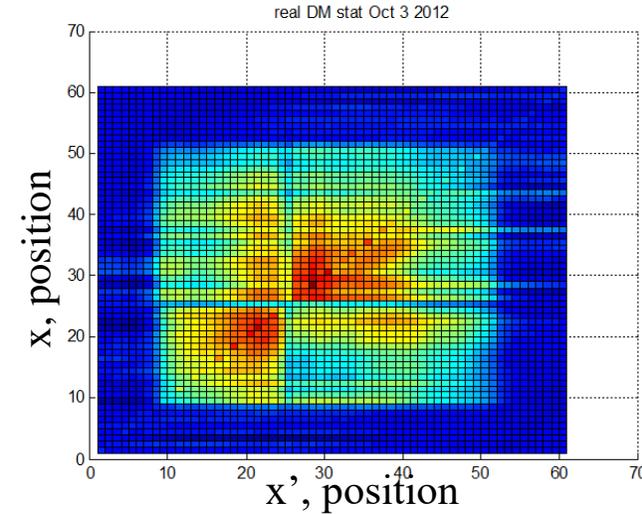
Pure State



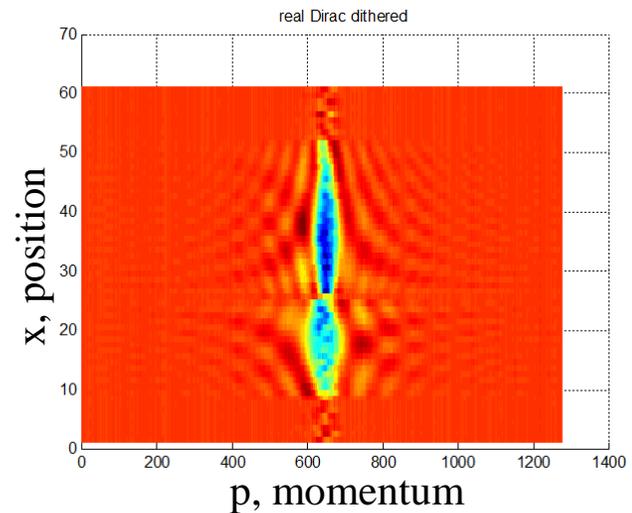
Fourier Transform



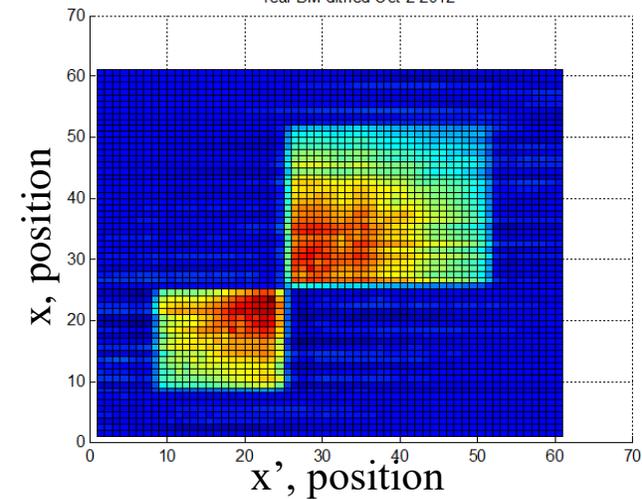
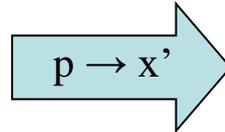
Density Matrix $\rho(x, x')$



Mixed State



Fourier Transform



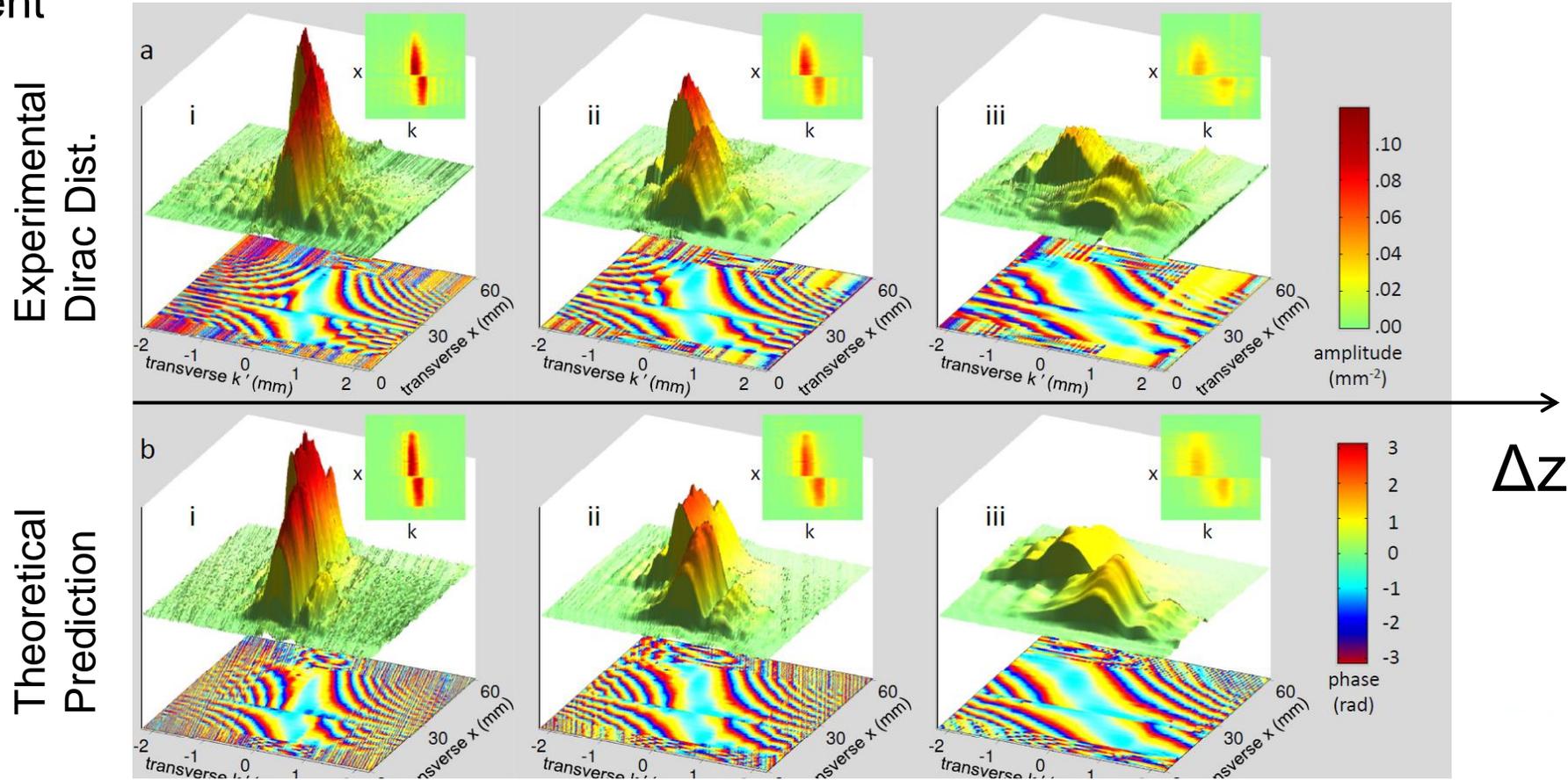
- Simple generalization allows us to completely measure mixed states

Lundeen PRL 108, 070402 (2012),
Bamber PRL 112, 070405 (2014),

Bayesian Propagation of the Dirac Distribution

H. F. Hofmann, New Journal of Physics, 14, 043031 (2012):
 Use Baye's law to propagate the Dirac Distribution

Move camera by Δz to allow the Dirac Distribution to evolve under free propagation before the strong measurement



- The experiment confirms that the Dirac Distribution evolves in much the same way that a classical probability distribution evolves

Bayes' Law and Weak Measurement

A. M. Steinberg, Phys. Rev. A, 52, 32 (1995):

Weakly measured probabilities (e.g. Dirac Dist.) satisfy Bayes' Law.

H. F. Hofmann, New Journal of Physics, 14, 043031 (2012):

Use Baye's law to propagate the Dirac Distribution (like in classical physics!)

1. Generalize Dirac Distribution (no longer anti-standard ordered):

$$P_{QD}(x, q, k, p) = \langle \delta(\mathbf{P} - p) \delta(\mathbf{K} - k) \delta(\mathbf{Q} - q) \delta(\mathbf{X} - x) \rangle$$

2. Use Baye's Law to propagate the Dirac Dist:

$$\begin{aligned} P_{QAS}(x, k) &= \sum_{x,p} P_{QD}(x, q, k, p) \\ &= \sum_{x,p} P_{QD}(q, k|x, p) \cdot P_{QAS}(x, p) \end{aligned}$$

3. Use Eq 1 and the formula for the Dirac Dist to find the propagator:

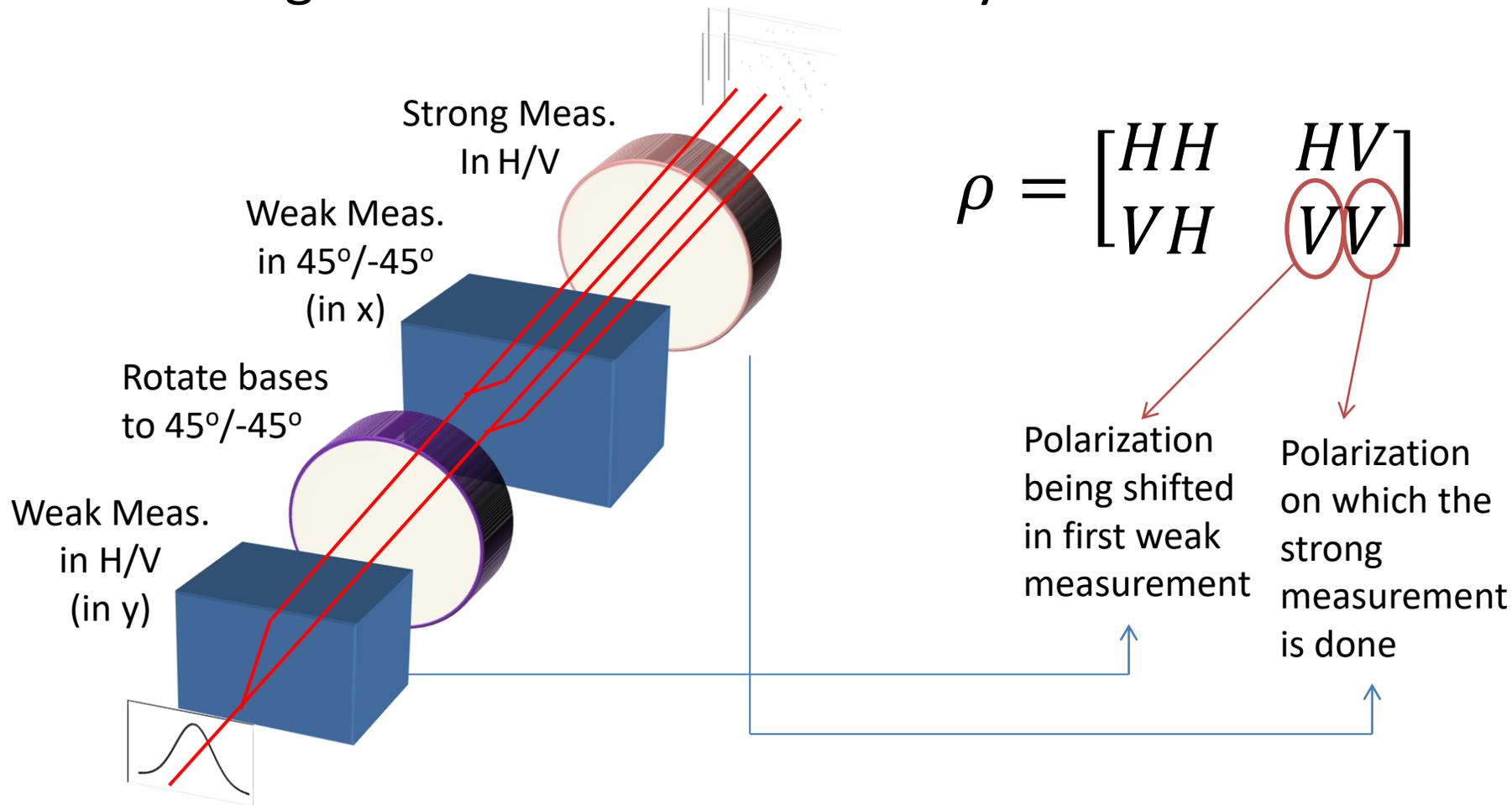
$$P_{QD}(q, k|x, p) = \frac{P_{QD}(x, q, k, p)}{P_{QAS}(x, p)} = \frac{\langle p|k \rangle \langle k|q \rangle \langle q|x \rangle}{\langle p|x \rangle}$$

- The propagator is a weak conditional probability, made up of state overlaps



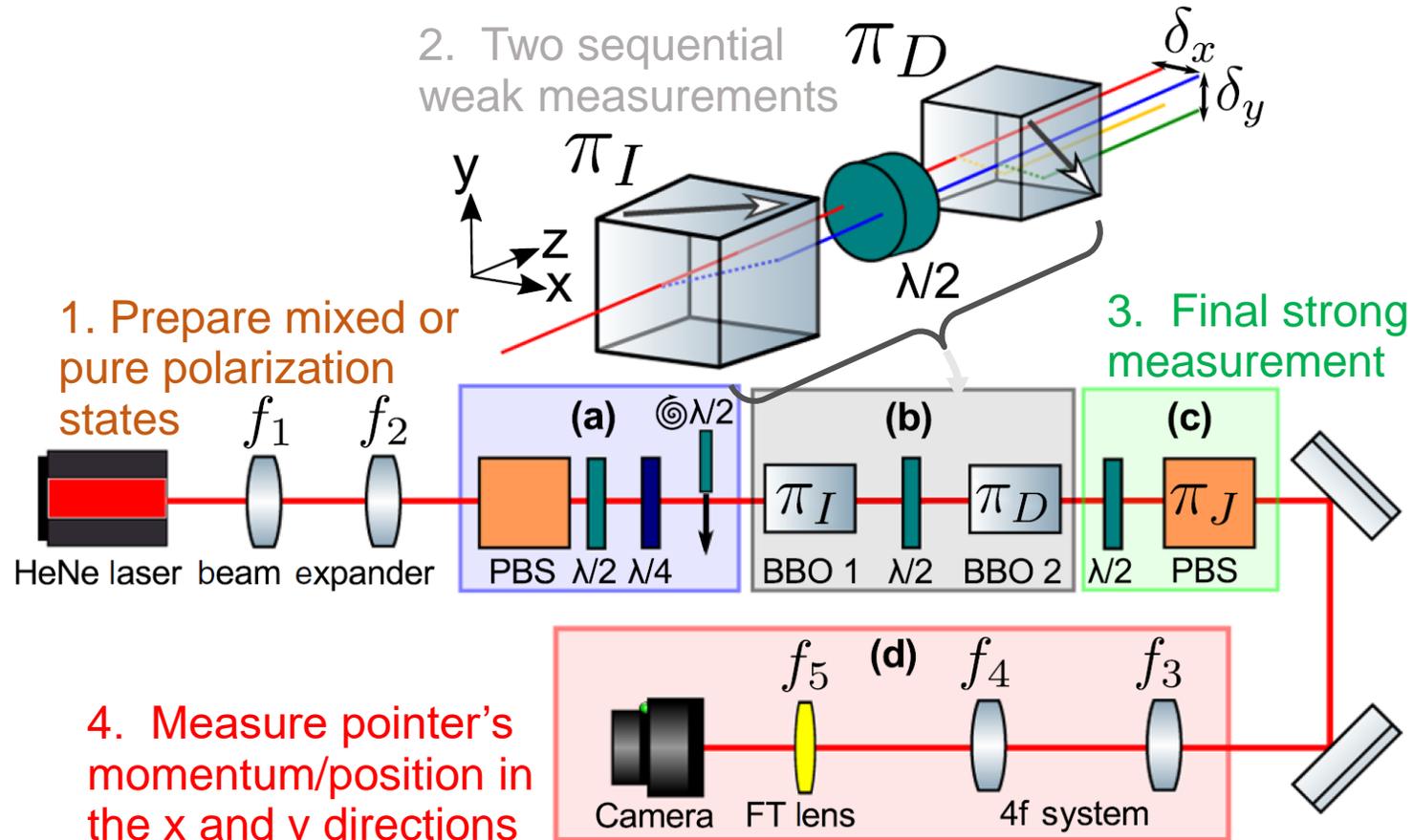
Direct Measurement of the Density Matrix

Use two sequential weak measurements and then a strong one to obtain each density matrix element





Experimental Setup



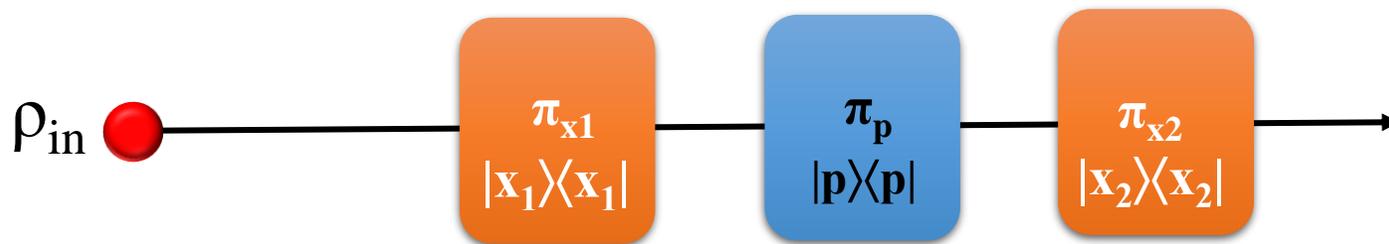
$$\rho(I, J) = \langle \mathbf{a}_x \mathbf{a}_y \pi_J \rangle / 2, \text{ where } \mathbf{a} \text{ is the lowering operator}$$

Lundeen & Resch, Phys. Lett. A, 334, 337 (2005)

- Any element of the density matrix is given by this expectation value on the pointers and system

Directly Measuring the Density Matrix

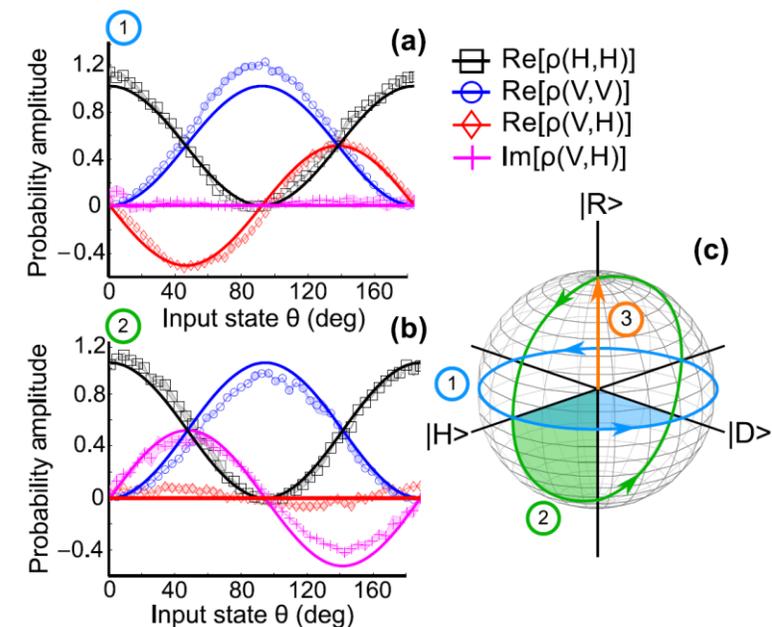
- Jointly weakly measure X then P then X again



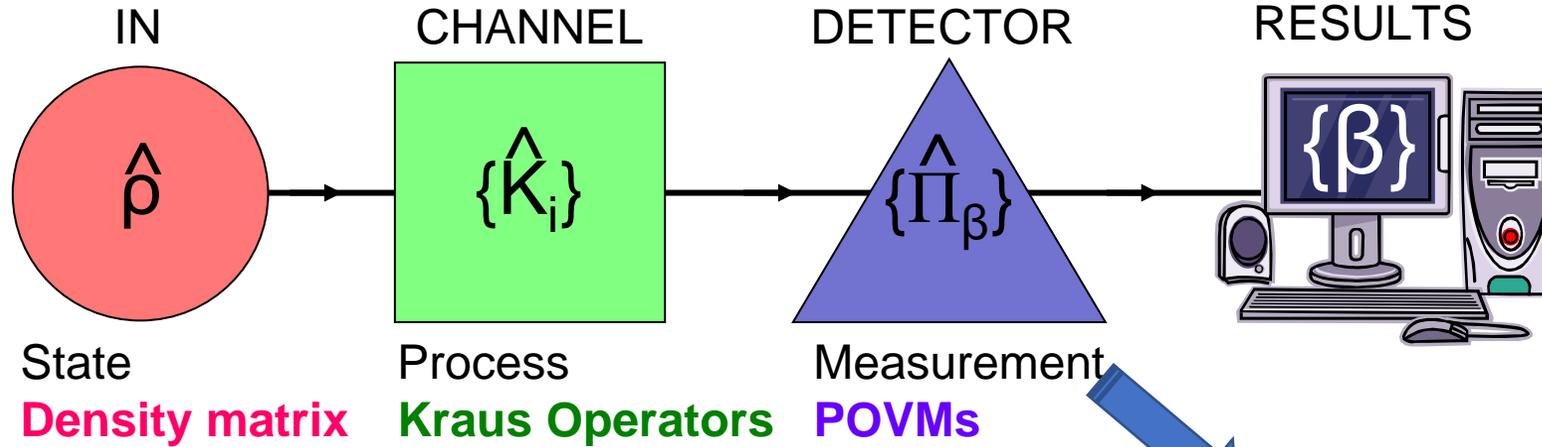
Average result is $\text{Tr}[\pi_{x_1} \pi_p \pi_{x_2} \rho_{\text{in}}] = \rho_{\text{in}}(x_1, x_2)$

Theory: Lundeen & Bamber PRL 108, 070402 (2012).

- We can know any chosen element $\rho_{\text{in}}(x_1, x_2)$ of the density matrix e.g. a particular coherence, entanglement witnesses, etc.



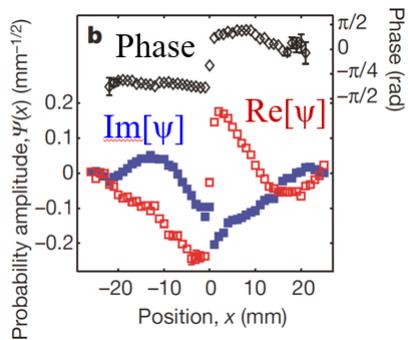
Experiment: GS
Thekkadath, ..., JS
Lundeen, PRL 117,
120401 (2016)



PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 127, 180401 (2021)

Direct Characterization of Quantum Measurements Using Weak Values

Liang Xu,^{1,2} Huichao Xu,^{1,3} Tao Jiang,¹ Feixiang Xu,¹ Kaimin Zheng,¹ Ben Wang,¹ Anon Zhang,¹ and Lijian Zhang^{1,*}



Lundeen Nature, 474, 188 (2011)



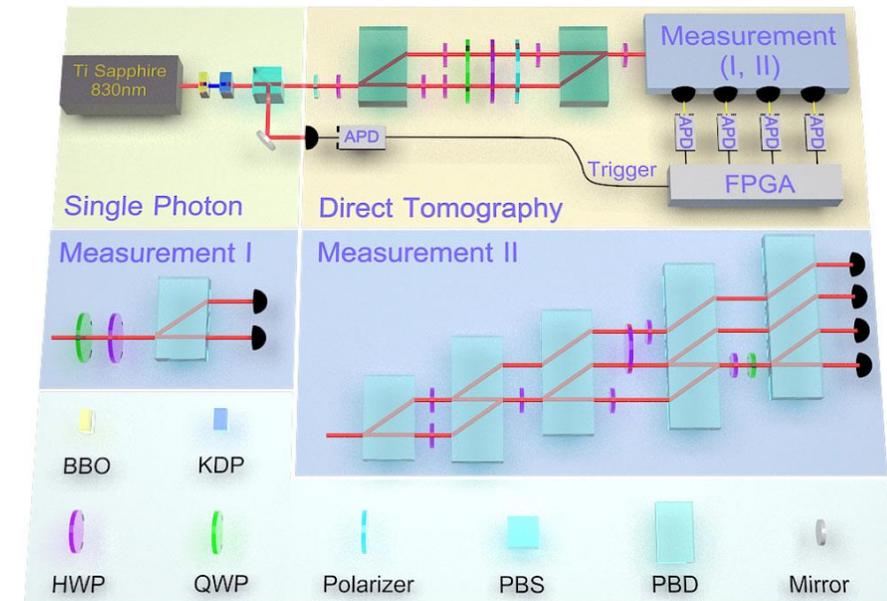
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DOI: 10.1038/s41467-017-02511-2 OPEN

Corrected: Publisher correction

Direct quantum process tomography via measuring sequential weak values of incompatible observables

Yosep Kim¹, Yong-Su Kim², Sang-Yun Lee², Sang-Wook Han², Sung Moon², Yoon-Ho Kim¹ & Young-Wook Cho²



Another strategy to measure x and p

- Measure X on first copy of a particle and P on the second copy.



$$|\Psi\rangle_1 \rightarrow |\Psi\rangle_1 |\Psi\rangle_2$$

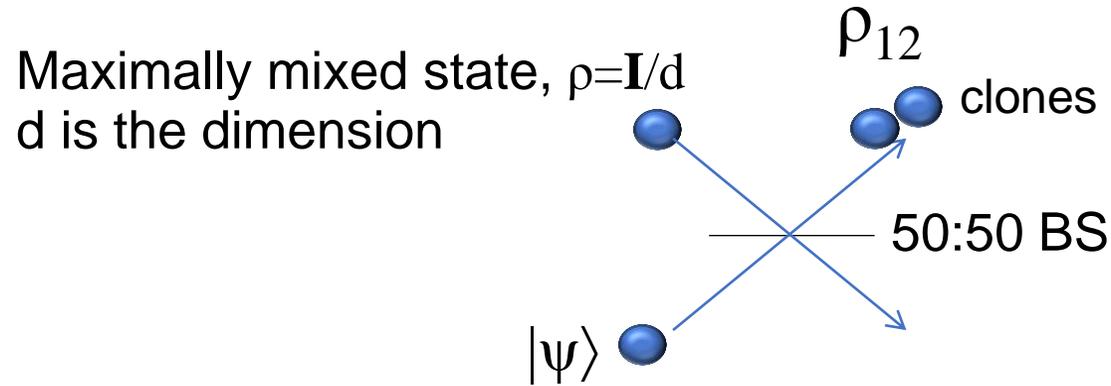


- Perfect copying forbidden by the *No cloning theorem*

Optimal Cloning: Quantum Mechanics only allows imperfect copies.

X and P Measurements using optimal copies

Optimal Cloning Device: the beamsplitter



Irvine, ..., 92, 047902,
 Bouwmeester, PRL (2004)

- Consider two photons entering opposite ports of a beamsplitter
- When alike they always bunch, exiting one port together

Mixed state $\rho = \mathbf{I}/2$ is $|\psi\rangle$
 50% of the time
 (perfect cloning)

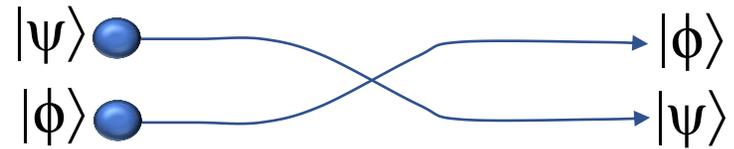


And $|\psi^\perp\rangle$ 50% of the time
 (imperfection!)



Cloning and the SWAP Gate

- The SWAP gate S exchanges the state of two particles



- SWAP, S can be written in terms of symmetric projector (an **optimal cloner!**)

$$\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{S}) = \Pi^+$$

- Square root SWAP is $\sqrt{\mathbf{S}} = 1/\sqrt{2} (\mathbf{I} \pm i \mathbf{S}) = \Pi^{\pm i}$

$$\text{or } \Pi^{\pm i} = \Pi^+ \pm i \Pi^-$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Re}(D(x,p)) &= \text{Prob}(x_1, p_2 | \Pi^+) - \text{Prob}(x_1, p_2 | \Pi^-) \\ \text{Im}(D(x,p)) &= \text{Prob}(x_1, p_2 | \Pi^{+i}) - \text{Prob}(x_1, p_2 | \Pi^{-i}) \end{aligned}$$

- The Dirac Distribution is intimately related to symmetries in optimal cloning

Joint Measurements on Optimal Clones

- We **strongly** measure X_a & P_b simultaneously on clones in modes a and b

Case 1: Optimal Cloning. Measure X and P on optimal clones

$$\text{Prob}_1 (X_a = x, P_b = p) = C + \text{Re}(\text{Tr}[\pi_x \pi_p \rho])$$

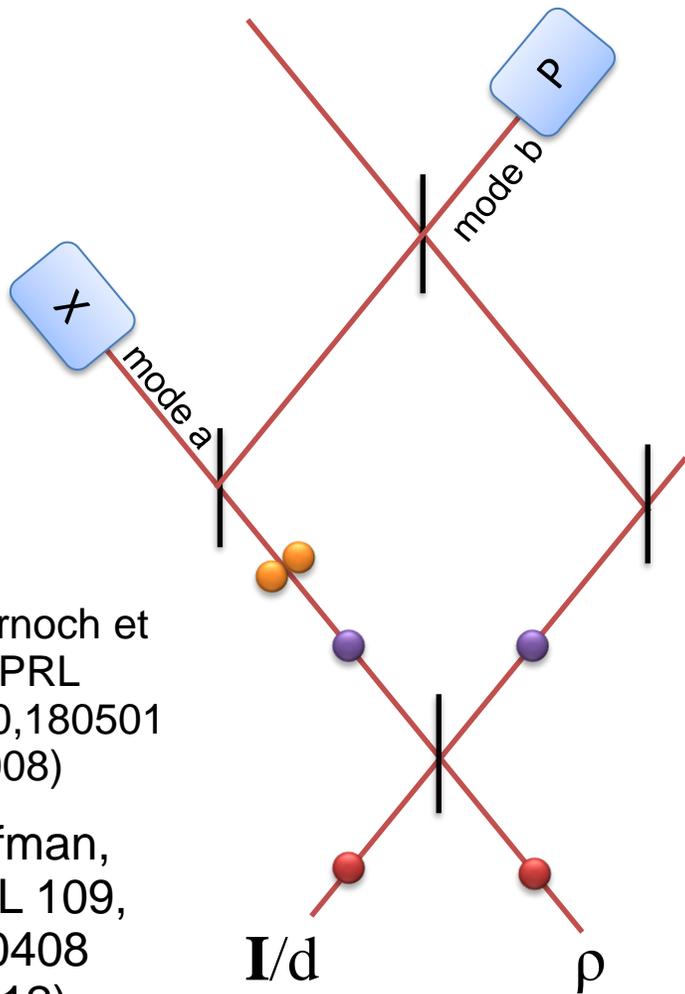
Case 2: Mix cloning (Π^+ projection) with Π^- projection:

$$\Pi^- + i\Pi^+ = \sqrt{\text{SWAP}} \text{ gate}$$

$$\text{Prob}_2 (X_a = x, P_b = p) = C - \text{Im}(\text{Tr}[\pi_x \pi_p \rho])$$

$$\text{Prob}_1 - \text{Prob}_2 = \text{Tr}[\pi_x \pi_p \rho] = D(x, p)$$

The Dirac Distribution



Cernoich et al. PRL 100,180501 (2008)

Hofman, PRL 109, 020408 (2012)

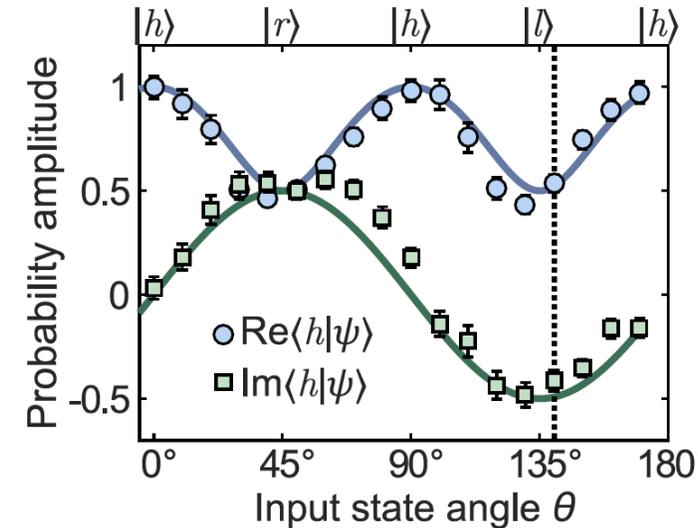
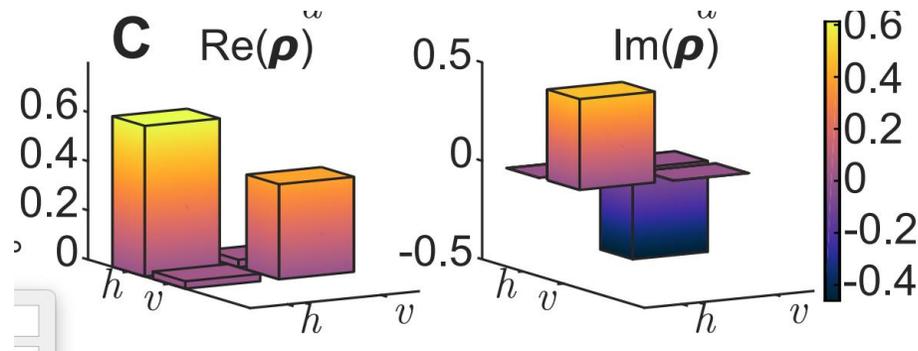
Joint Measurements on Optimal Clones

- We do optimal cloning on polarization states

Measure S_z on one clone and S_x on its partner

- Result is a complex 2d distribution (the Dirac distribution) that is rigorously equivalent to quantum state.

- A cross-section of the 2d distribution is the input quantum state:



G. S. Thekkadath et al.
PRL **119**, 050405 (2017)

- The Fourier transform is the density matrix
- Just like in classical physics jointly measuring complementary observables gives the system state

Learn a bit about both X and P

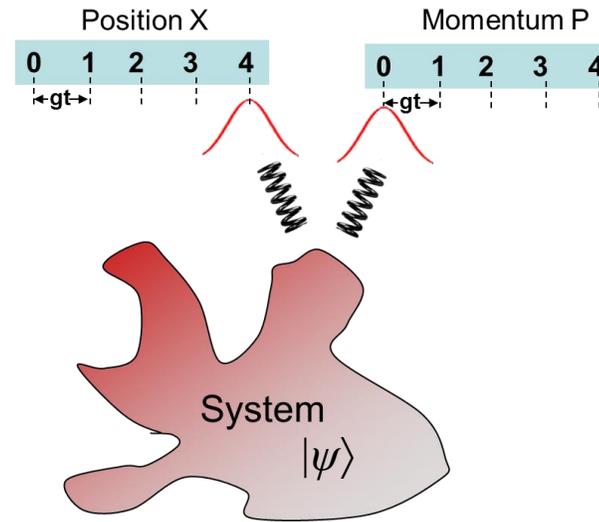
Balance coupling strength to two pointers for simultaneous measurement of X and P

- Uncertainty in x and p are equal: $\Delta x = \Delta p$

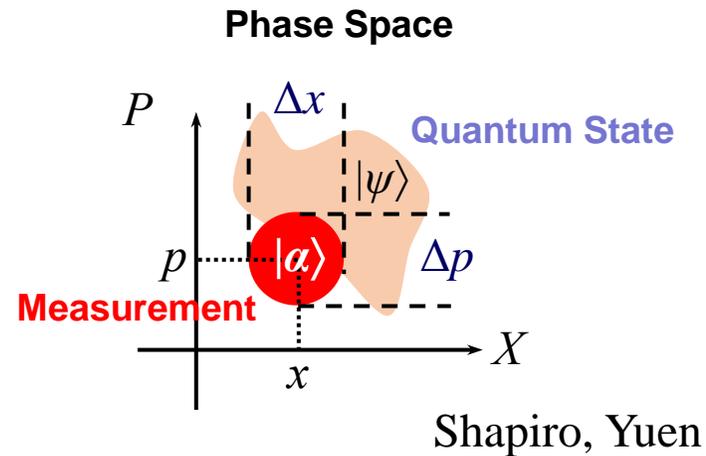
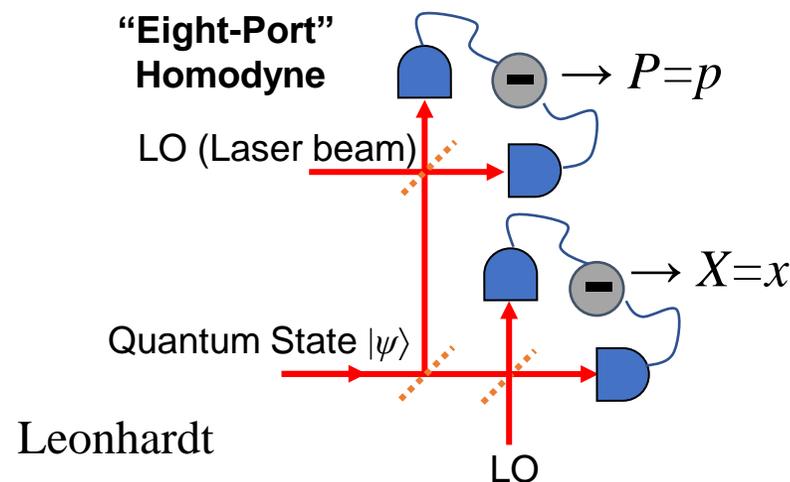
B.S.T.J. BRIEFS

On the Simultaneous Measurement of a Pair of Conjugate Observables

By E. ARTHURS and J. L. KELLY, JR.
(Manuscript received December 16, 1964)



Same as measurement of Q-function of a quantum state: $Q(\alpha=x+iP) = |\langle \psi | \alpha \rangle|^2$

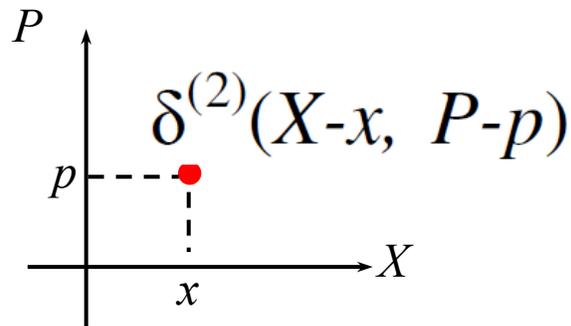


Balanced measurement of X and P determines quantum state by its Q-function

Direct Measurements of Quasi Probability distributions

- Classical measurement of a phase-space point is a Dirac delta
- How does one translate this to a quantum measurement?

Classical

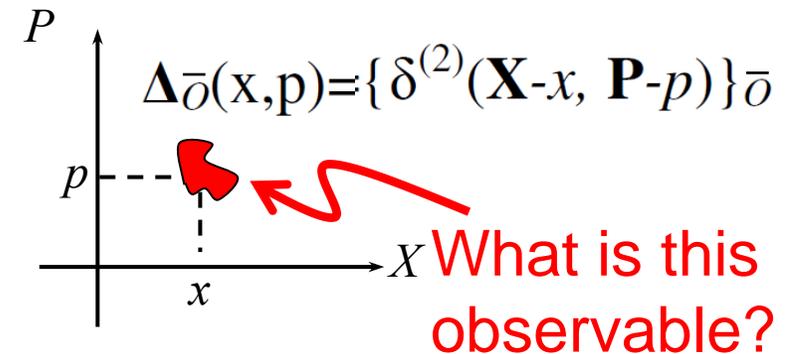


Operator anti-ordering \bar{O}



$$Pq_o(x,p) = \text{Tr}[\Delta_{\bar{O}}(x,p) \rho]$$

Quantum



G. S. Agarwal and E. Wolf, *Phys. Rev. D*, **2** (1970) pp. 2161–2186.

Quasi-Prob, Pq_o	Ordering O	Dirac Delta, $\Delta_{\bar{O}}(x,p)$	Experiments & Theory
Q	Normal, N	$\Delta_{AN}(x,p) = \alpha\rangle\langle\alpha $	Shapiro, Yuen, Leonhardt
Wigner	Symmetric, W	$\Delta_W(x,p) = \Pi(x,p)$ the parity about point (x,p)	Banaszek, Haroche, Silberhorn, Smith
P	Anti-N, AN	$\Delta_N(x,p) \neq \text{observable}$	
Kirkwood-Dirac	Anti-standard	$\Delta_{AS}(x,p) = p\rangle\langle p x\rangle\langle x $	Lundeen, Boyd, ...

X-P ordered Quasi-Prob Distributions

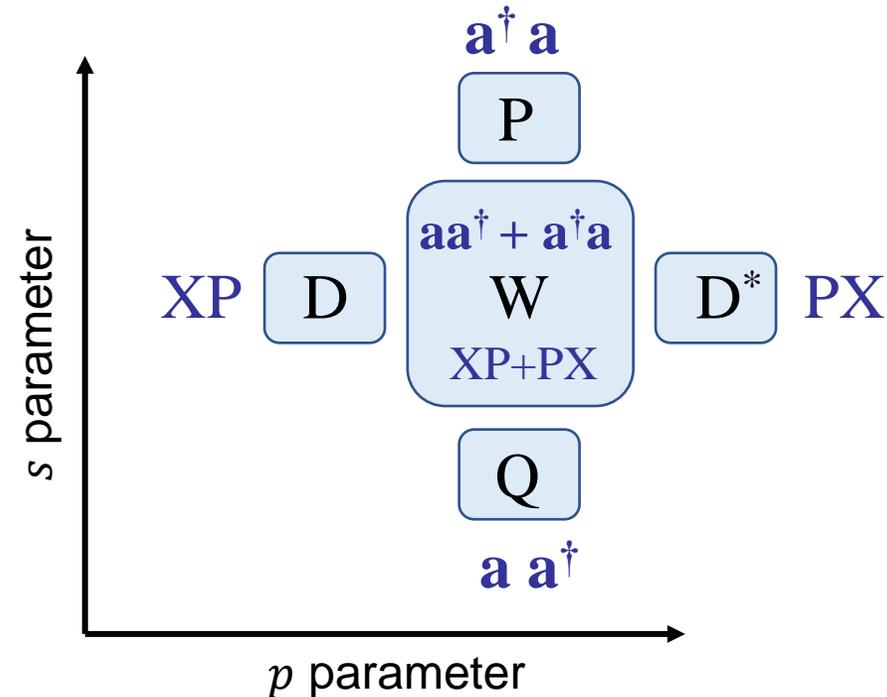
Standard S: **X** to the left of **P**

Anti-Standard AS: **P** to the left of **X**

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{AS}(x,p) &= \{\delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{X}-x, \mathbf{P}-p)\}_S \\ &= \delta(\mathbf{P}-p)\delta(\mathbf{X}-x) \\ &= |p\rangle\langle p||x\rangle\langle x| \end{aligned}$$

$$Pq_S(x,p) = \text{Tr}[|p\rangle\langle p|x\rangle\langle x|\rho] = \langle p|x\rangle\langle x|\rho|p\rangle = D_\rho(x,p)$$

Constellation of Quasi-Prob Distributions



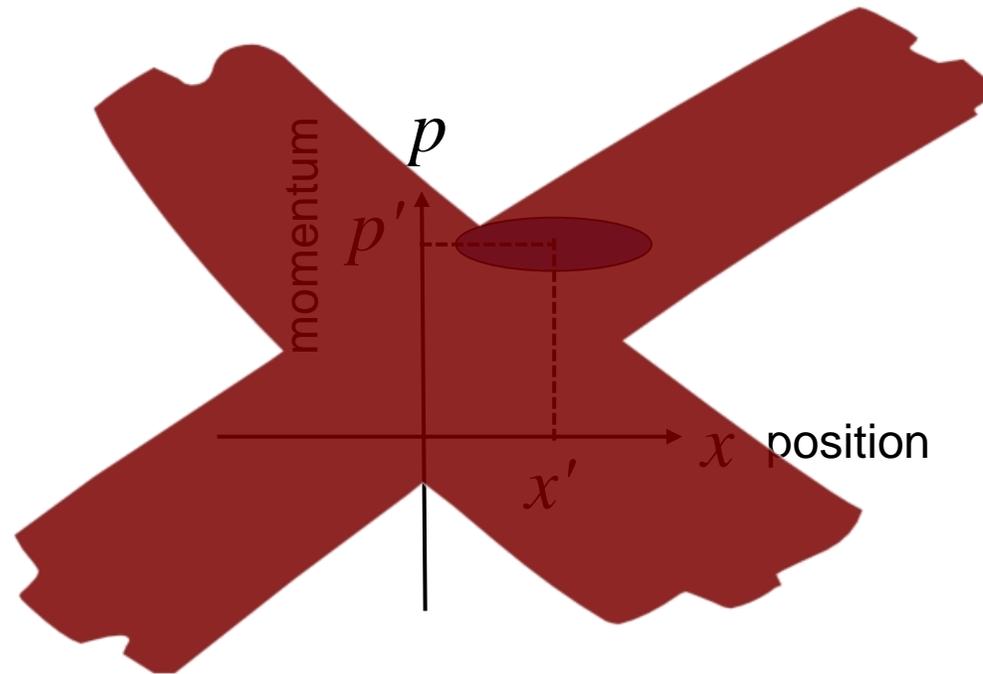
$q \equiv s + ip$ is a complex parameter that moves between all orderings continuously

G. S. Agarwal and E. Wolf, *Phys. Rev. D*, **2** (1970) pp. 2161–2186.

R.F. O’Connell and Lipo Wang, *Physics Letters*, 107A, p 9 (1985).

Compatibility with the Heisenberg Uncertainty Relation

- Weak measurements reduce disturbance at the expense of certainty.
- Do they trade precision in Δp for imprecision in Δx ?
- What does the POVM Π of the measurement look like in phase-space?



GS Thekkadath, F
 Hufnagel, JS Lundeen, New
 J Phys 20, 113034 (2018)

The POVM of Direct Measurement

- What observable is a “direct measurement” measuring?
- On any given trial, it projects on superposition of a position eigenstate and a momentum eigenstate

Weak measurement
of $|x'\rangle\langle x'|$

Strong
measurement
of $|p'\rangle\langle p'|$

$$|\delta\rangle = |x\rangle + c_{q,x,p} |p\rangle$$

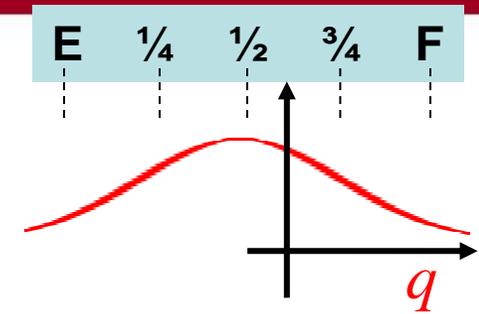
Measured pointer
position, q

GS Thekkadath, F Hufnagel,
JS Lundeen, New J Phys 20,
113034 (2018)

- Measurement is sharp in x and p ! What about the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle?

Uncertainty and Weak Measurement

- The weak measurement POVM Π is a projector, $|\pi(q)\rangle$.
 - Superposition of sharp states in x and p



Measured pointer position, q

Weak measurement of $|x'\rangle\langle x'|$

Strong measurement of $|p'\rangle\langle p'|$

$$|\pi(q)\rangle = |x'\rangle + \mathcal{P}(q)e^{ix'p'} |p'\rangle$$

Predictability $\mathcal{P}(q)$ is our ability to predict whether the particle had x' given outcome q .

- In the double-slit experiment, predictability \mathcal{P} and visibility \mathcal{V} obey an uncertainty relation:

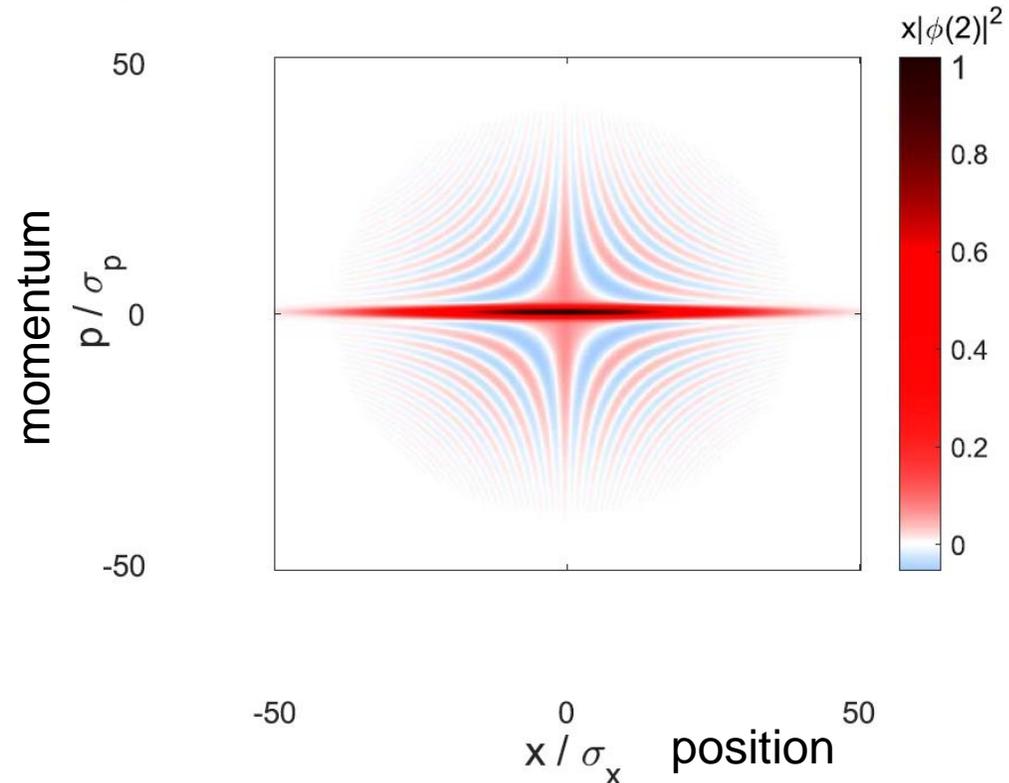
$$\mathcal{P}^2 + \mathcal{V}^2 \leq 1$$

- Weak measurement trades away predictability to reduce disturbance to the quantum coherence (i.e. visibility)

Compatibility with the Heisenberg Uncertainty Relation

- What does the POVM Π of the measurement look like in phase-space?

Wigner Function of Π for measurement at $x'=p'=0$



GS Thekkadath, F Hufnagel,
 JS Lundeen, New J Phys 20,
 113034 (2018)

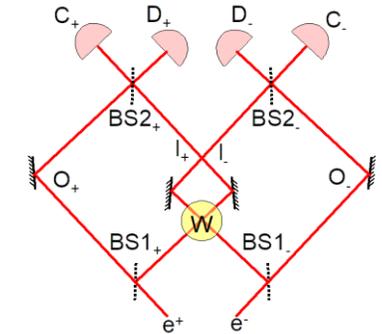
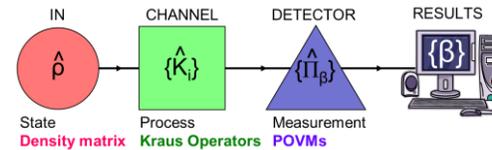
- A single direct measurement trial does contain sharp features in both x and p while keeping $\Delta x \Delta p \geq \hbar/2$

Conclusions

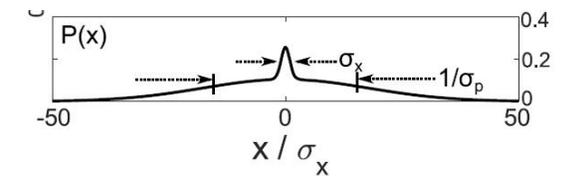
1. Measurements of complementary variables by weak measurement or optimal cloning will directly give the system state.



2. Only requires two bases and works with other photonic degrees of freedom (e.g. OAM, frequency, etc.) and systems (e.g. entangled, electrons, atoms), detectors POVMs, and processes.



3. Cloning and weak x-p measurements project onto superpositions of sharp states: $|\pi(q)\rangle = |x'\rangle + \mathcal{P}(q)e^{ix'p'} |p'\rangle$.



4. What other strategies could give ψ ? What uncertainties can we trade-off in joint measurements of x and p? What information do we gain?

Wavefunction: Lundeen Nature, 474, 188 (2011)

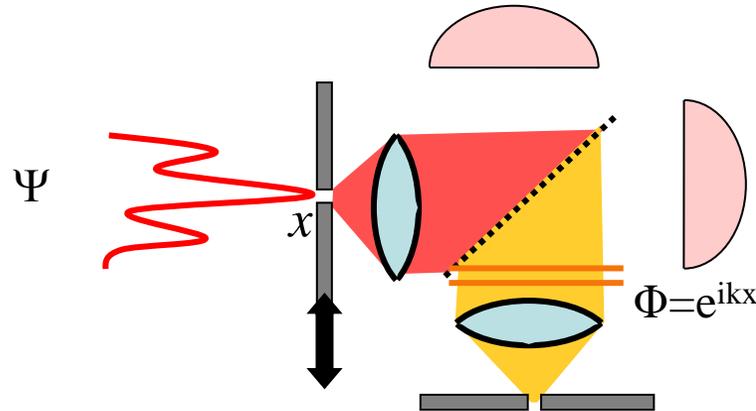
Mixed States: Lundeen PRL 108, 070402 (2012), Bamber PRL 112, 070405

(2014), Thekkadath PRL 117, 120401 (2016), Thekkadath PRL 119, 050405 (2017)

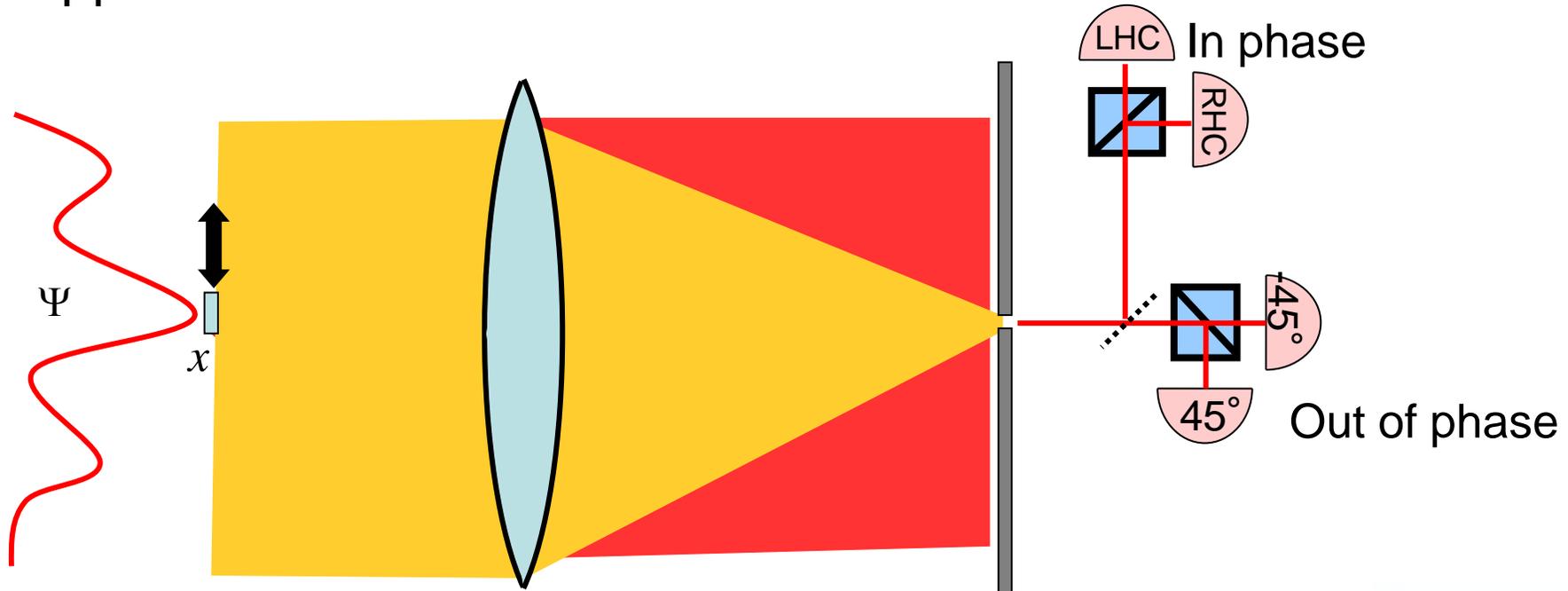
Heisenberg: Thekkadath NJP 20, 113034 (2018)

An Optical Explanation of the Measurement

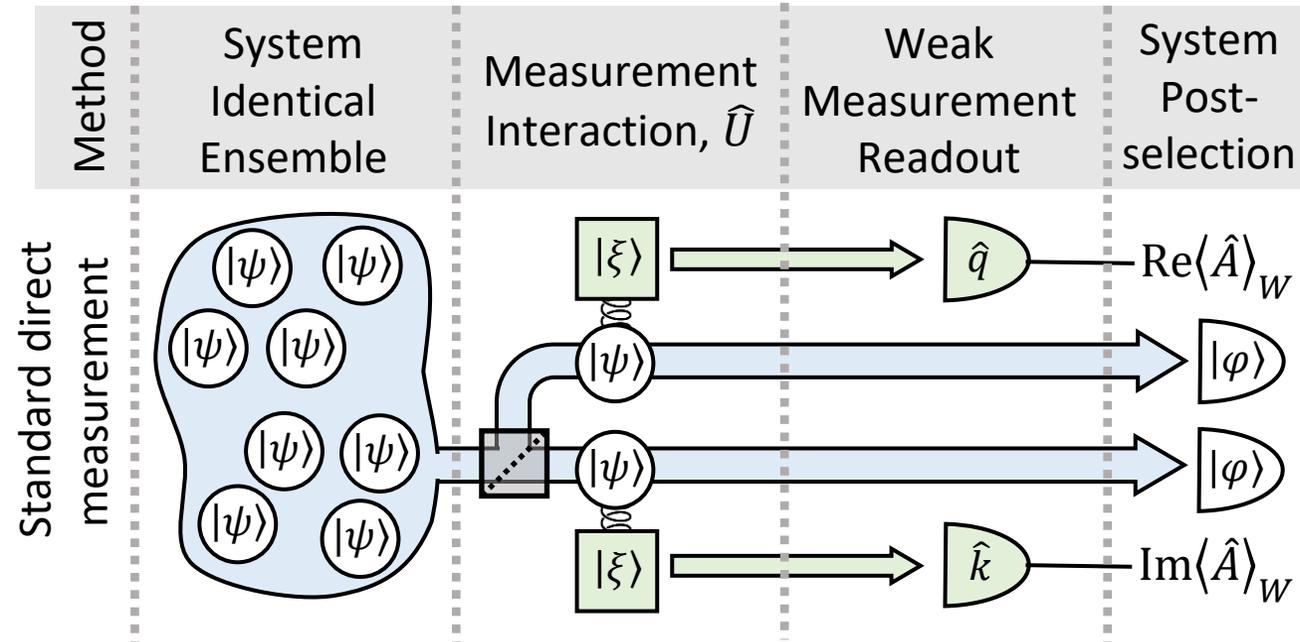
- From interference with a flat reference wavefront one can also determine the wavefunction.



- Look at the apparatus as a self-referenced interferometer



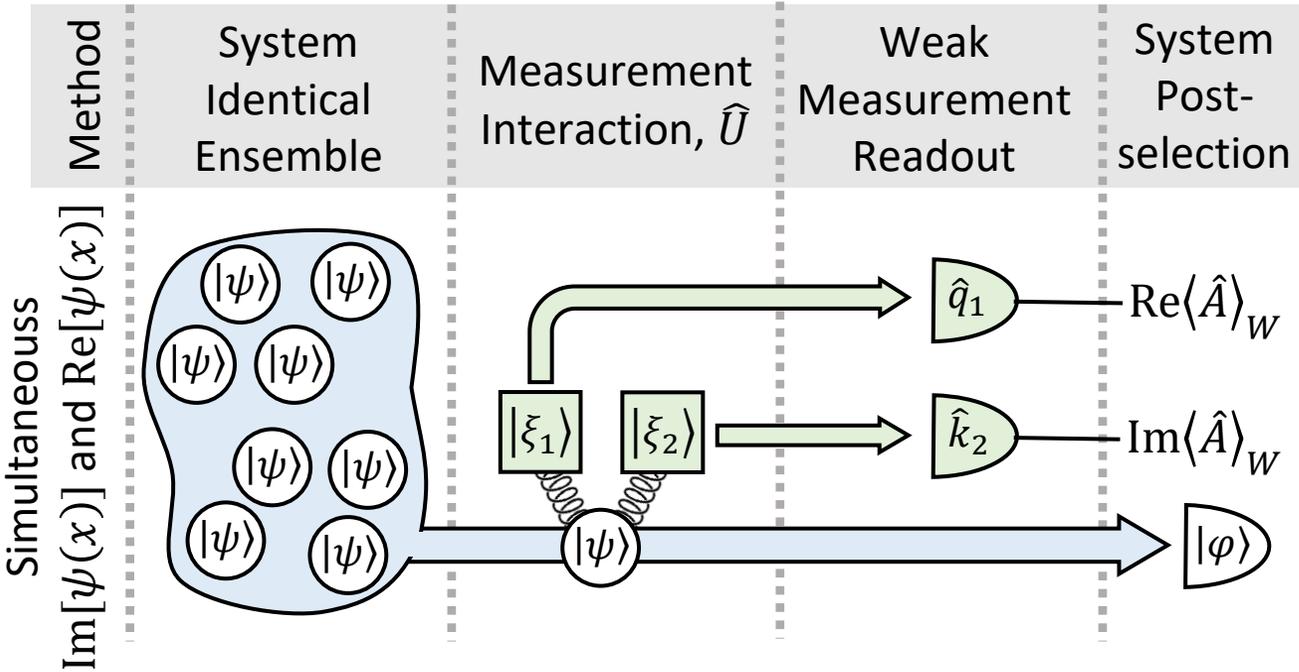
Even more direct?



- We switch back and forth between measuring $\text{Im}[\psi(x)]$ and $\text{Re}[\psi(x)]$
- Can we measure both in each trial?

Even more direct: Simultaneous readout

- Solution: Weak measurements do not disturb each other
 ∴ Weakly measure twice in row, once for $\text{Im}[\psi(x)]$ and once $\text{Re}[\psi(x)]$
- Need two readouts (i.e. 'pointers') or a two-dimensional readout.



PHYSICAL REVIEW A **100**, 032119 (2019)

Experimental simultaneous readout of the real and imaginary parts of the weak value

A. Hariri, D. Curic, L. Giner, and J. S. Lundeen

HARIRI, CURIC, GINER, AND LUNDEEN

PHYSICAL REVIEW A **100**, 032119 (2019)

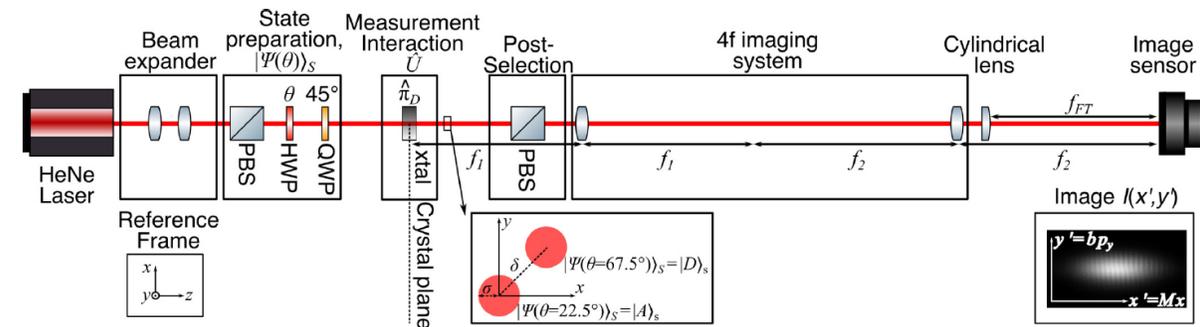
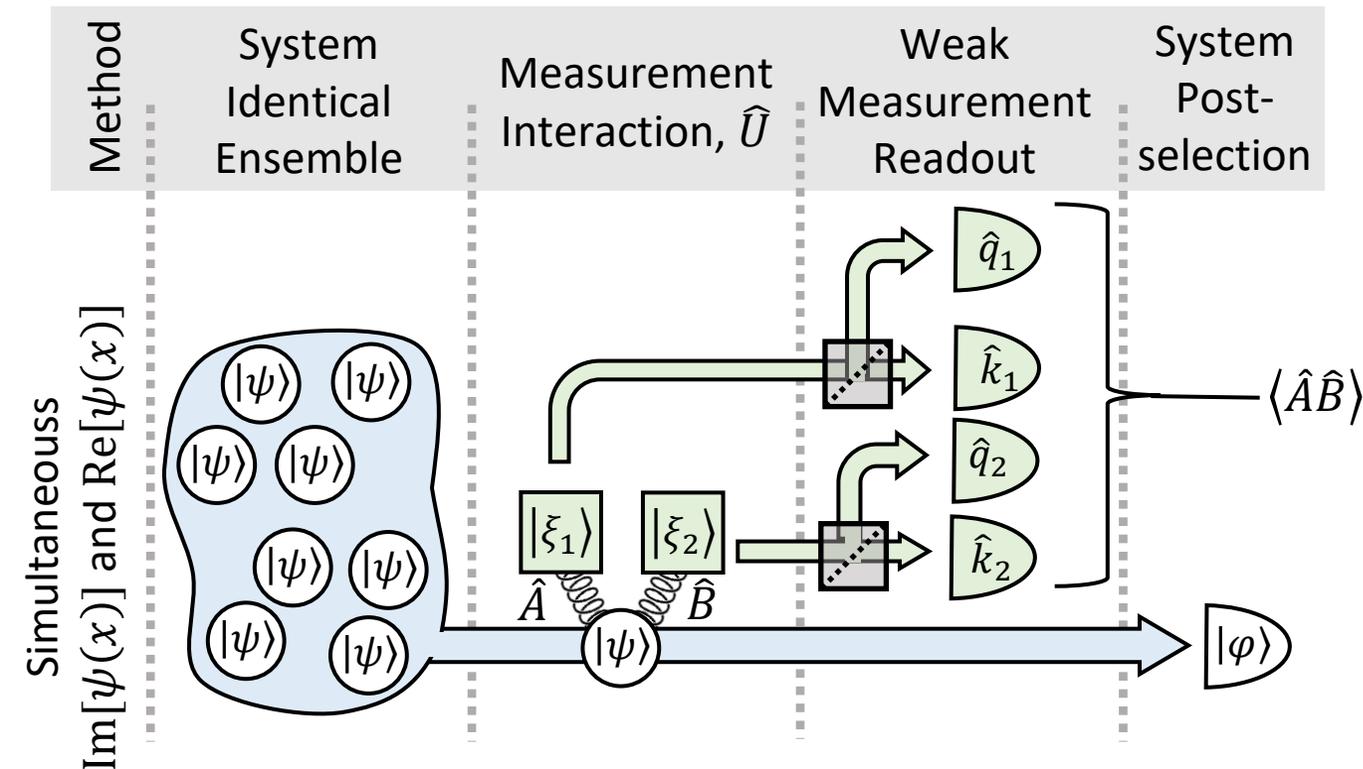


FIG. 2. Experimental setup for simultaneous readout of the real and imaginary parts of the weak value. This setup implements method C in

Joint measurements of AB

- Measurements of the product of observables AB are used to measure the density matrix
- Normally, this would require a three-system interaction
- Instead, measure A and B separately and look at correlations in the readouts



A and B are observables on two particles:
 Theory: Lundeen, Resch, Physics Letters A, 334, 337-344 (2005)

Experiment: Lundeen, Steinberg, PRL 102, 020404 (2009)

A and B are observables on the same particle, potentially non-commuting:

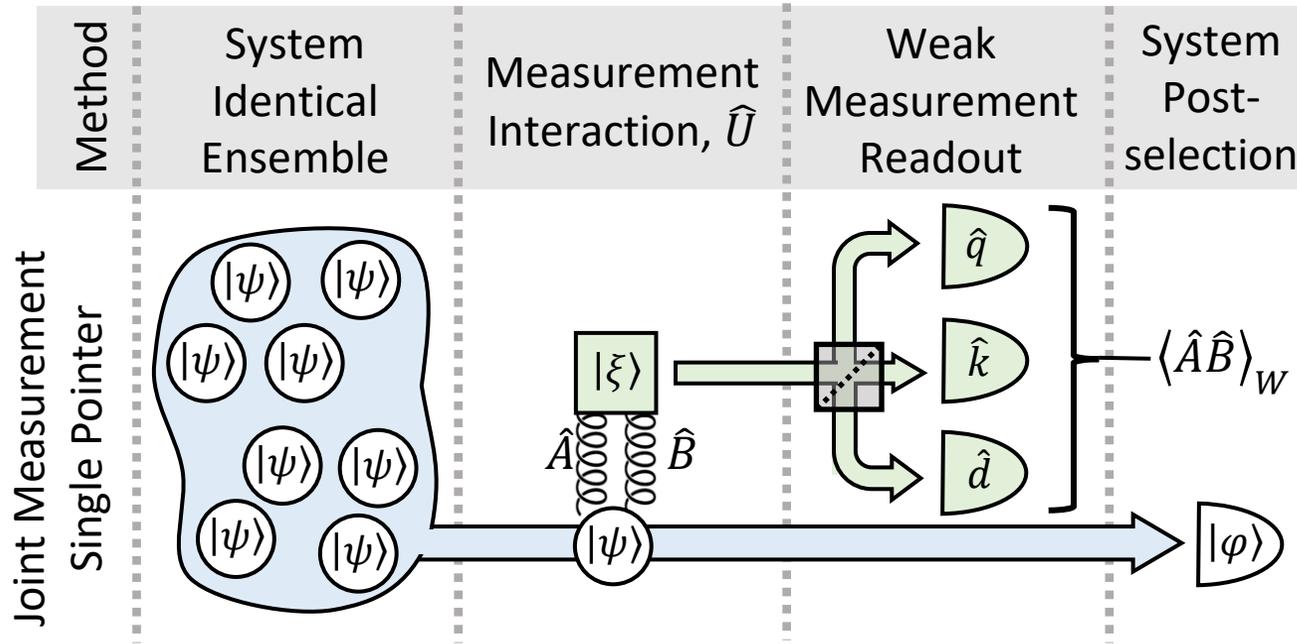
Theory: Lundeen, Bamber, PRL 108, 070402 (2012)

Experiment: GS Thekkadath, ..., JS Lundeen, PRL 117, 120401 (2016)

- We can measure the average value of two non-commuting observables $\langle \hat{A}\hat{B} \rangle$

Better Joint Measurements of AB

- Needed one readout system ('pointer') per observable
- Here, only need a single readout system for multiple projectors, $|a\rangle\langle a|, |b\rangle\langle b|$
- But, need to measure more readout system observables



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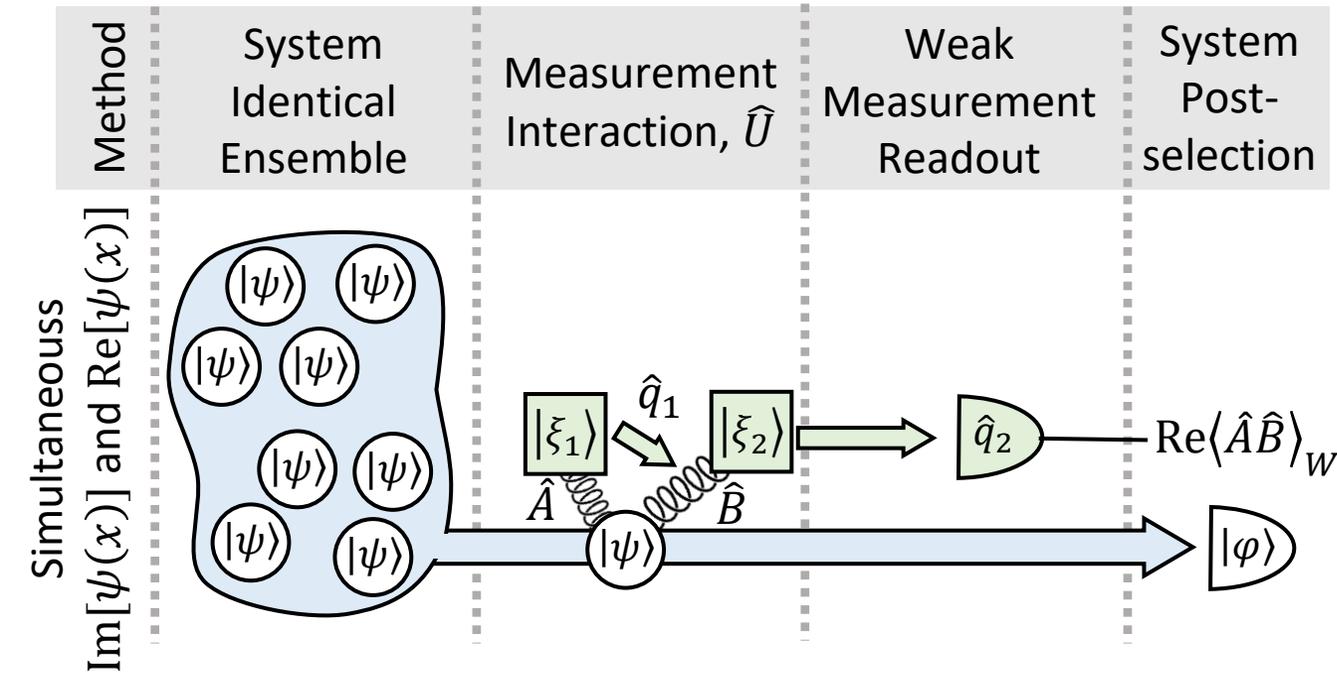
Quantum 5, 599 (2021).

Theory and experiment for resource-efficient joint weak-measurement

Aldo C. Martinez-Becerril¹, Gabriel Bussi eres¹, Davor Curic², Lambert Giner^{1,3}, Raphael A. Abrahao^{1,4}, and Jeff S. Lundeen^{1,4}

Even more direct: Simultaneous readout

- Want simple (i.e. 'direct') readout of a single pointer system
- Solution: Measure B scaled by the outcome of the measurement of A
- Condition the strength of the measurement of B on the outcome of A.



Theory: Lundeen, Bamber, PRL 108, 070402 (2012)
 Experiment in progress by Thomas Bailey