

Contextuality and Wigner negativity are equivalent for continuous-variable quantum measurements

Robert I. Booth, Ulysse Chabaud, Pierre-Emmanuel Emeriau

Physical Review Letters 129 (23), 230401 (2022)

arXiv: 2111.13218

Outline of the talk

I. Context

II. **Wigner negativity** and **CV contextuality**

III. The equivalence

[EPR 1935]

EPR
paradox

Wigner function

[Wigner 1932]

[EPR 1935]

EPR
paradox

Quantum mechanics has **nonlocal effects**
and needs hidden variables

Wigner function

The statistical description of quantum mechanics
has **negative probabilities**

[Wigner 1932]

It's not a bug...

[EPR 1935]

EPR
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Bell's
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Quantum mechanics is incompatible
with hidden variable theories without:

Non-locality

and even

Contextuality

[Bell 1966]

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... It's a **feature**

[Veitch *et al* 2012]

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Otherwise, we could
simulate it efficiently
classically

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DV Wigner negativity
 \Leftrightarrow
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What about the original Wigner function?

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What about the original Wigner function? \longrightarrow this work

Wigner negativity and CV contextuality

Discrete (DV)

Continuous (CV)

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Continuous (CV)

Finite-dimensional
Hilbert spaces

Separable, infinite-dimensional
Hilbert spaces

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$$

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \psi_n |n\rangle$$

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Qubits/qudits
(spin, polarization, ...)

Qumodes or modes
(position, momentum, particle number, ...)

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Discrete phase space

Continuous phase space

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Discrete phase space

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Wigner negativity

Quadrature operators

Position-like and momentum-like operators (quadrature operators):

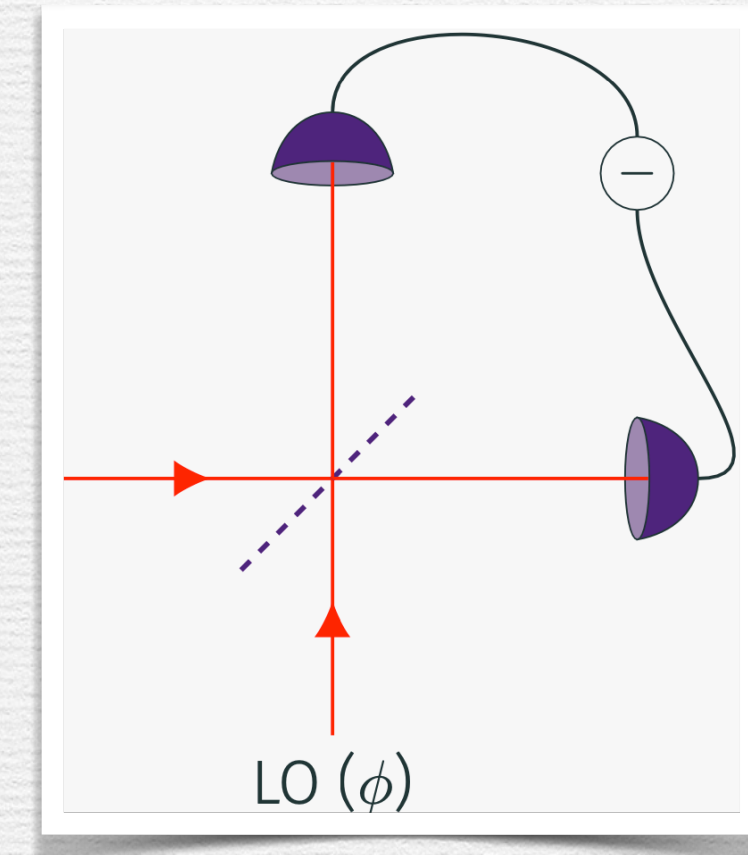
$$[\hat{q}_k, \hat{p}_k] = i\hbar \hat{I} \quad k = 1, \dots, M$$

Quadrature operators

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Homodyne

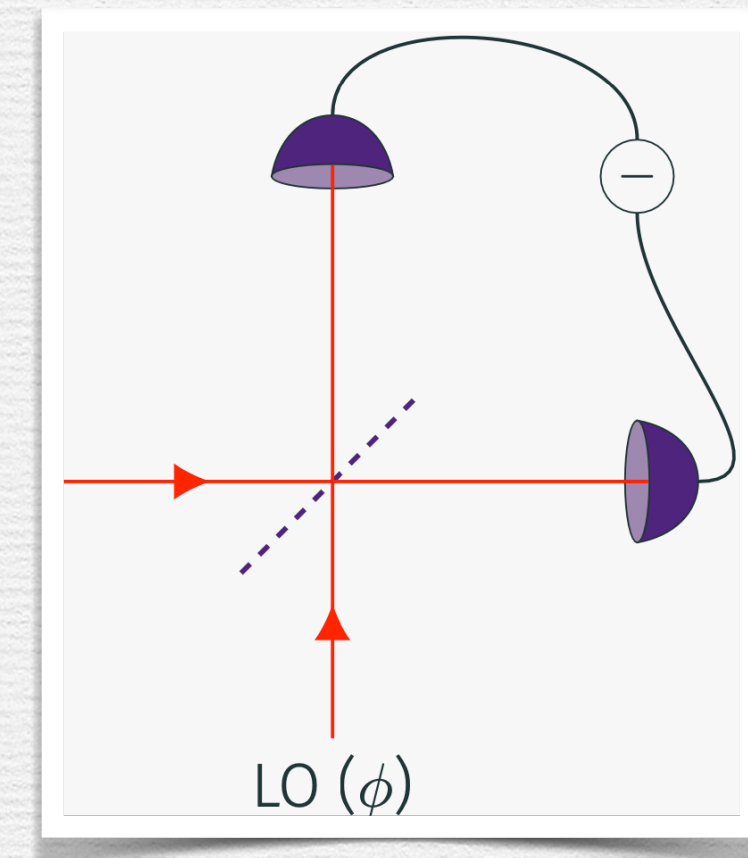
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Multimode quadrature operators:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} := \sum_{k=1}^M x_k \hat{q}_k + x_{M+k} \hat{p}_k \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{2M}$$

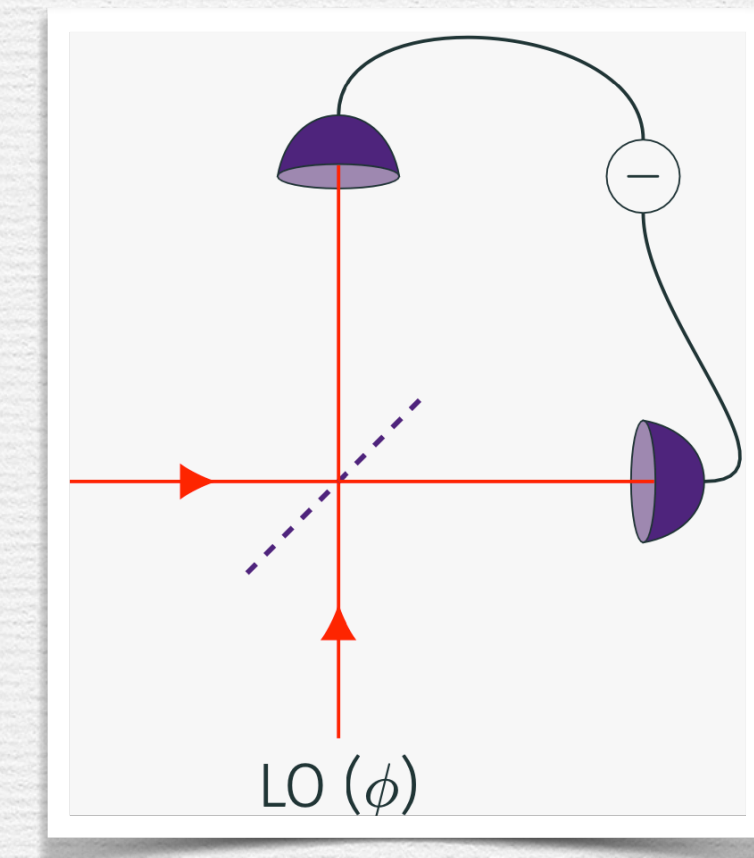


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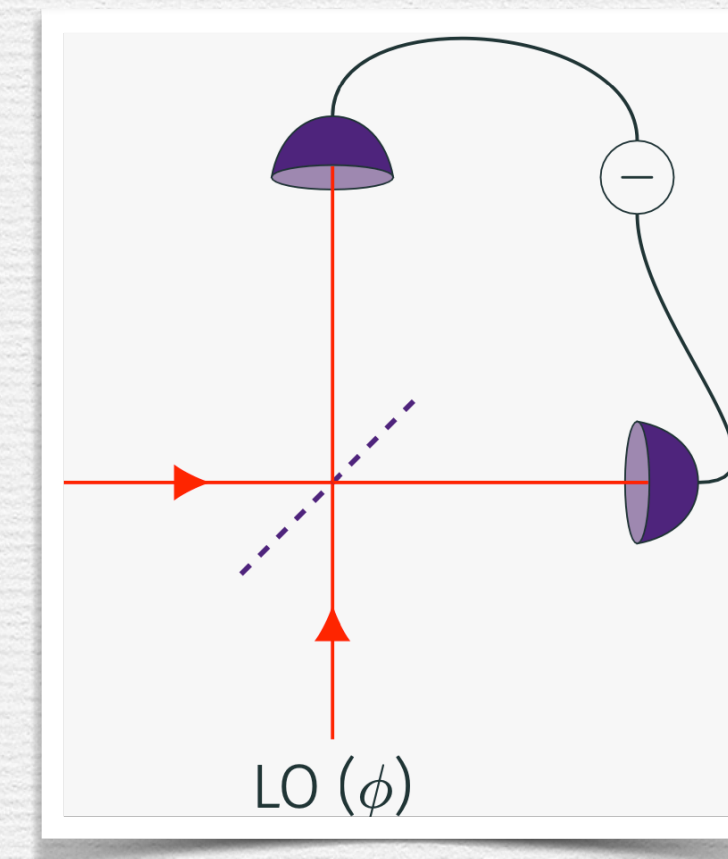
$$[\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}] = i\hbar \Omega(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \hat{I} \quad \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{2M}$$

Symplectic form: $\Omega(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) := \mathbf{x}^T J \mathbf{y}$ $J = \begin{pmatrix} 0_M & I_M \\ -I_M & 0_M \end{pmatrix}$

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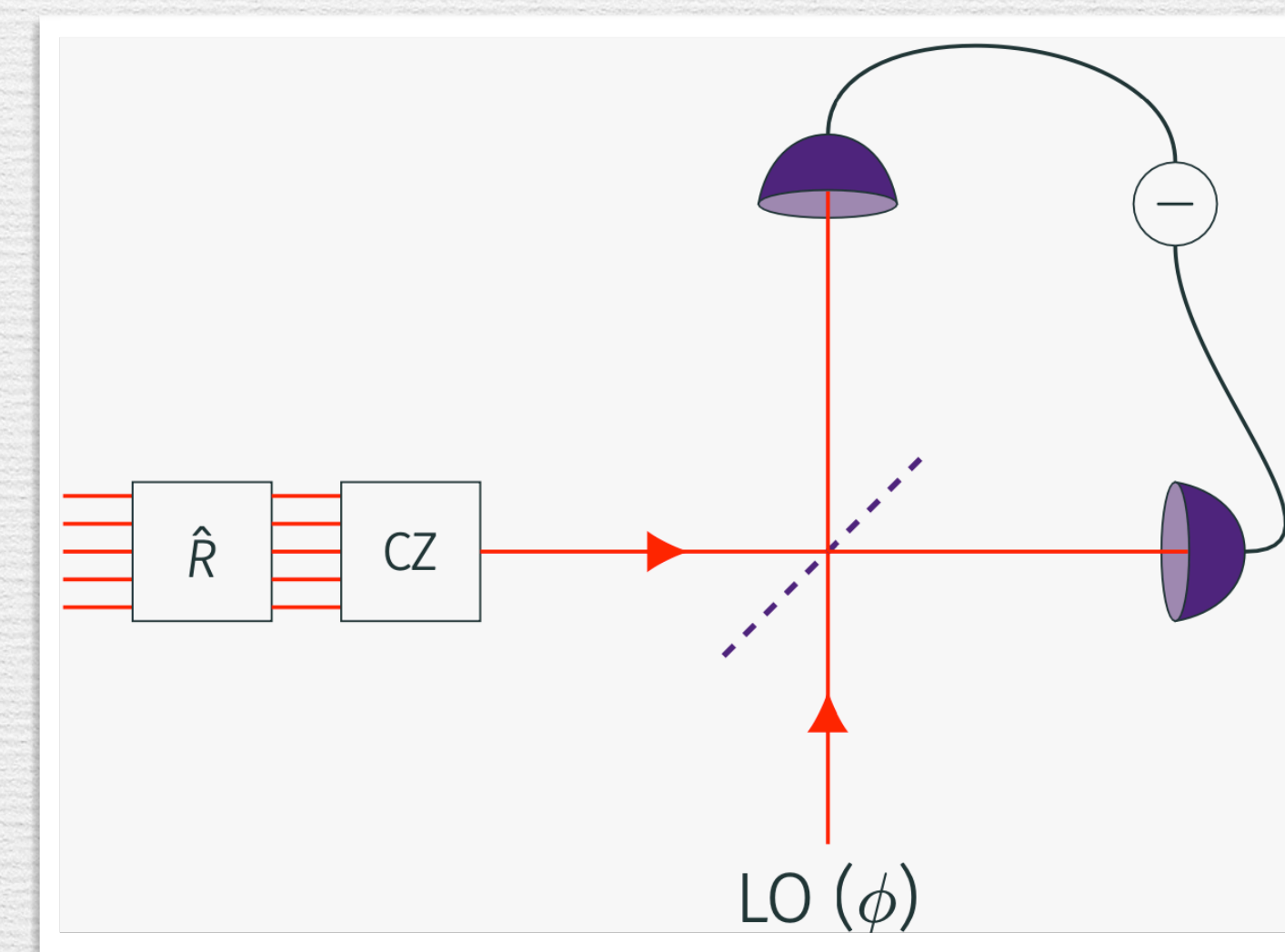
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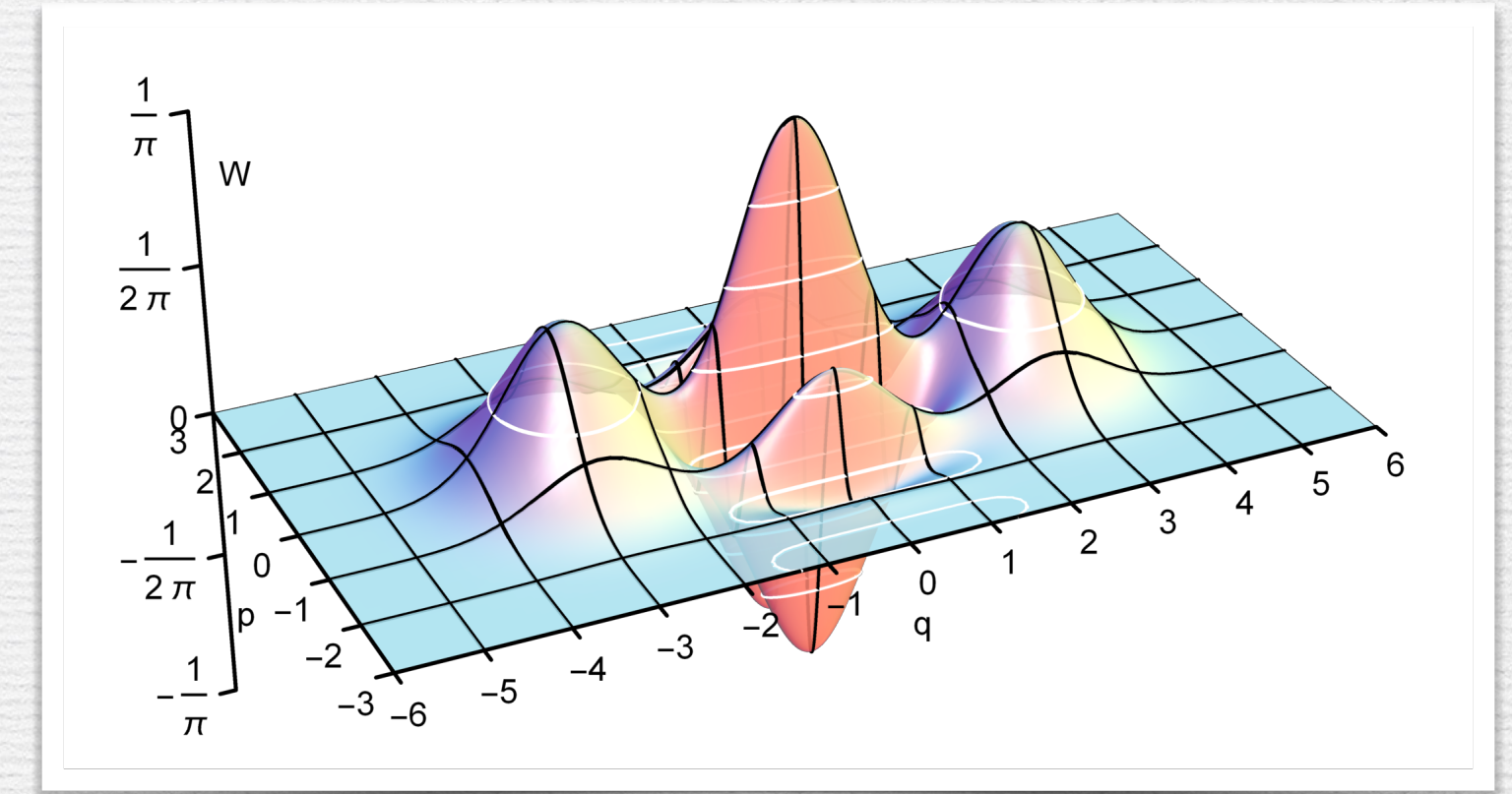


Generalised homodyne

Wigner negativity

The Wigner function:

$$W_{\rho}(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi \hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \hat{q} \langle q+x | \rho | q-x \rangle_{\hat{q}} e^{2ipx/\hbar} dx$$



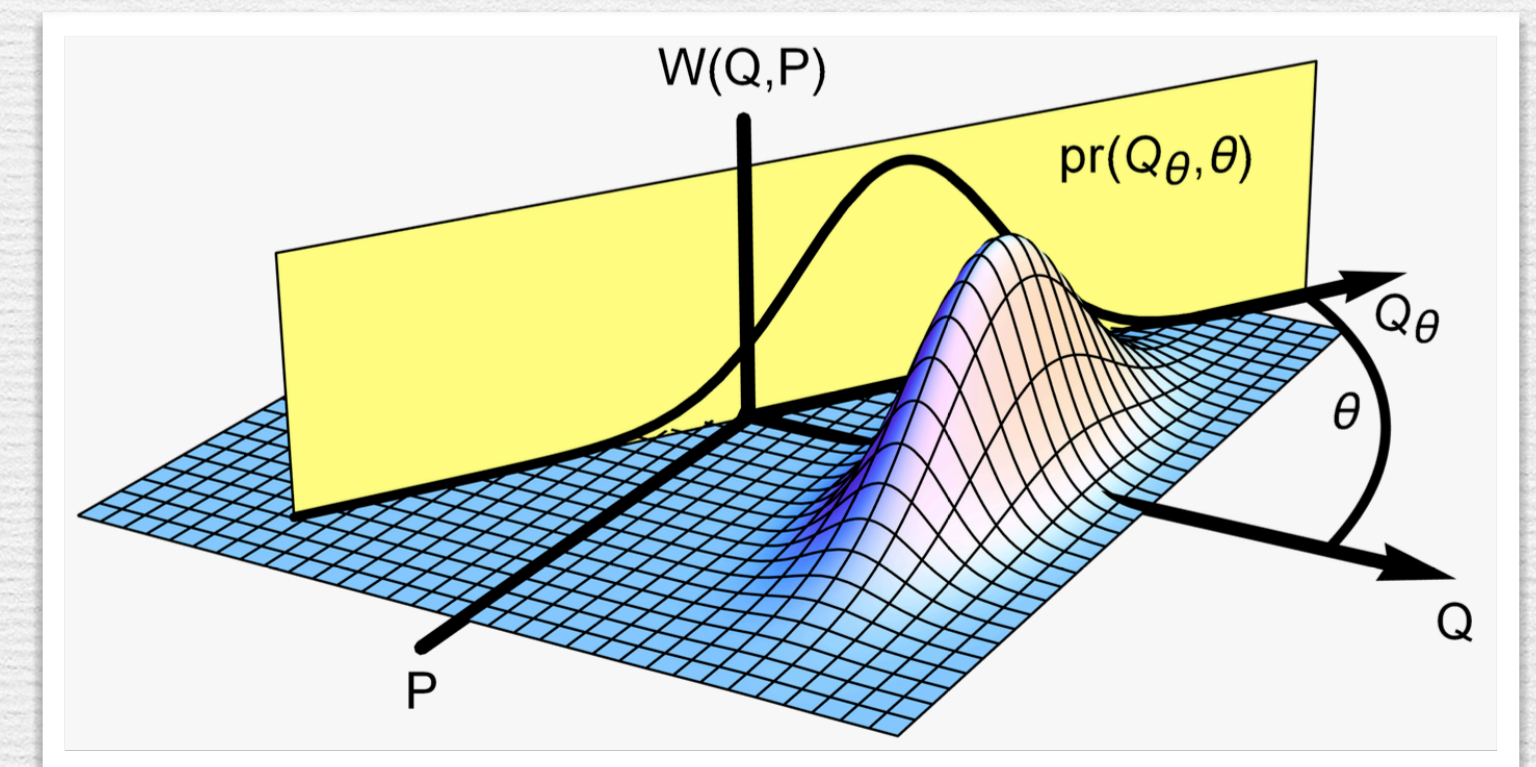
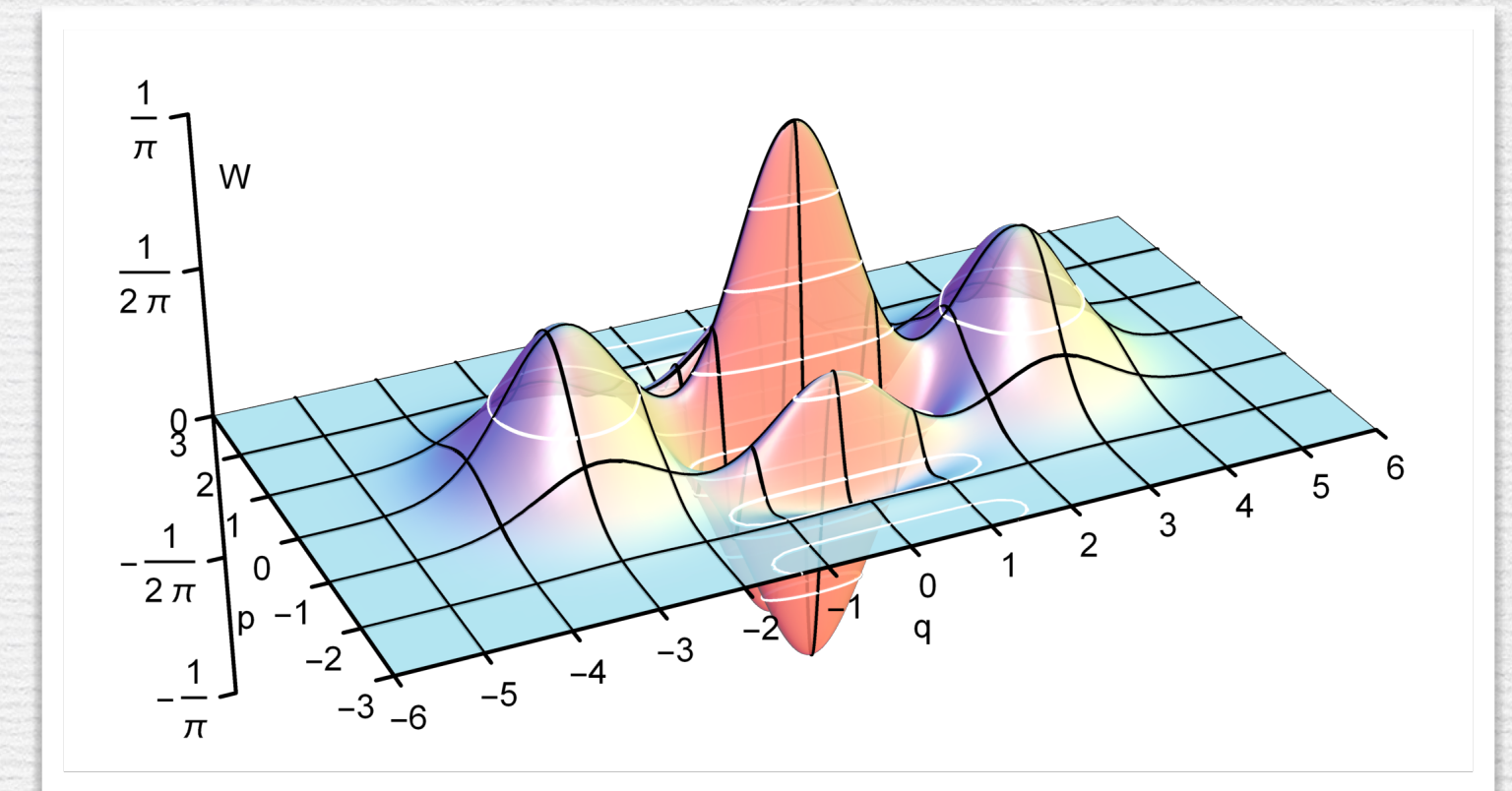
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The marginals of the Wigner function are the quadrature probability distributions:

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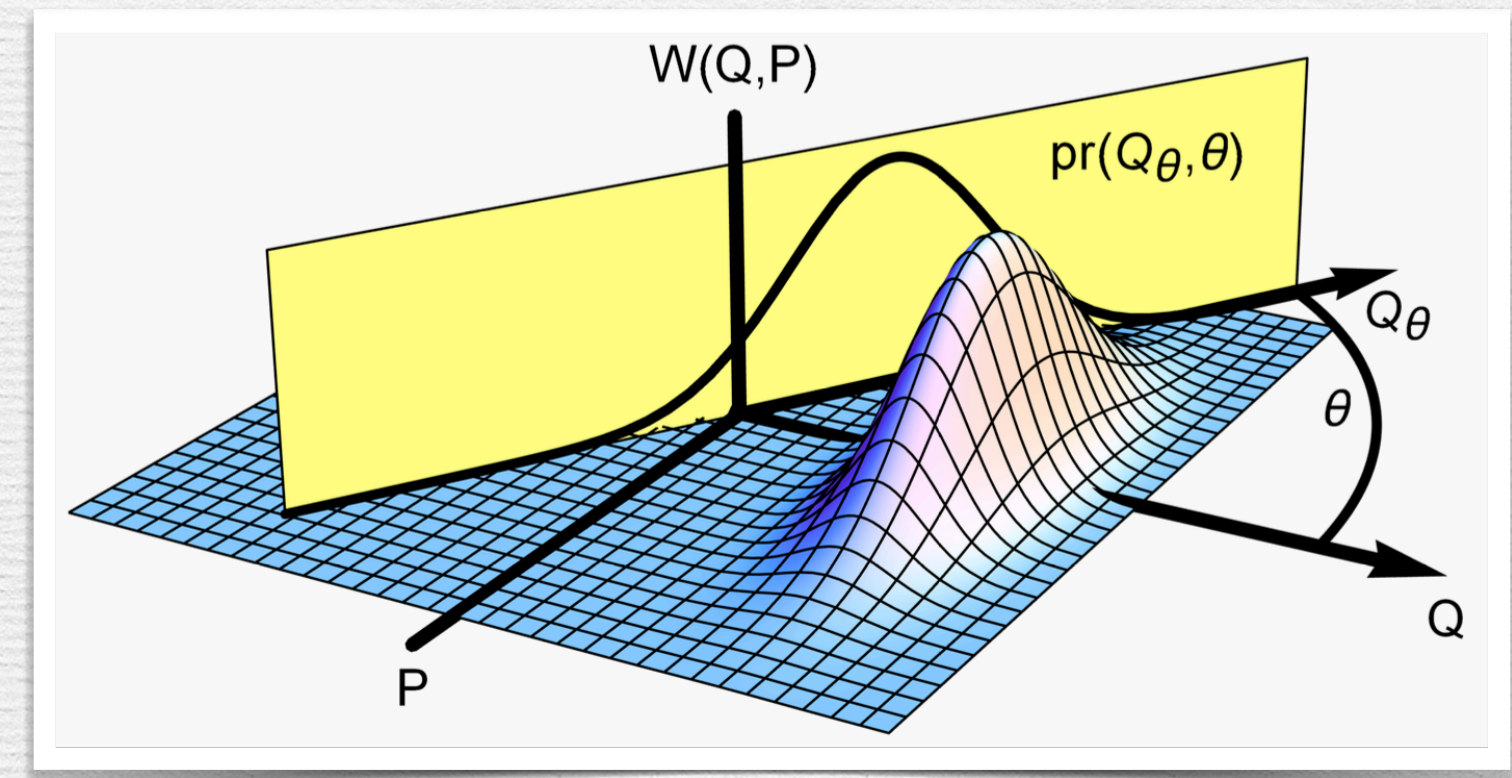
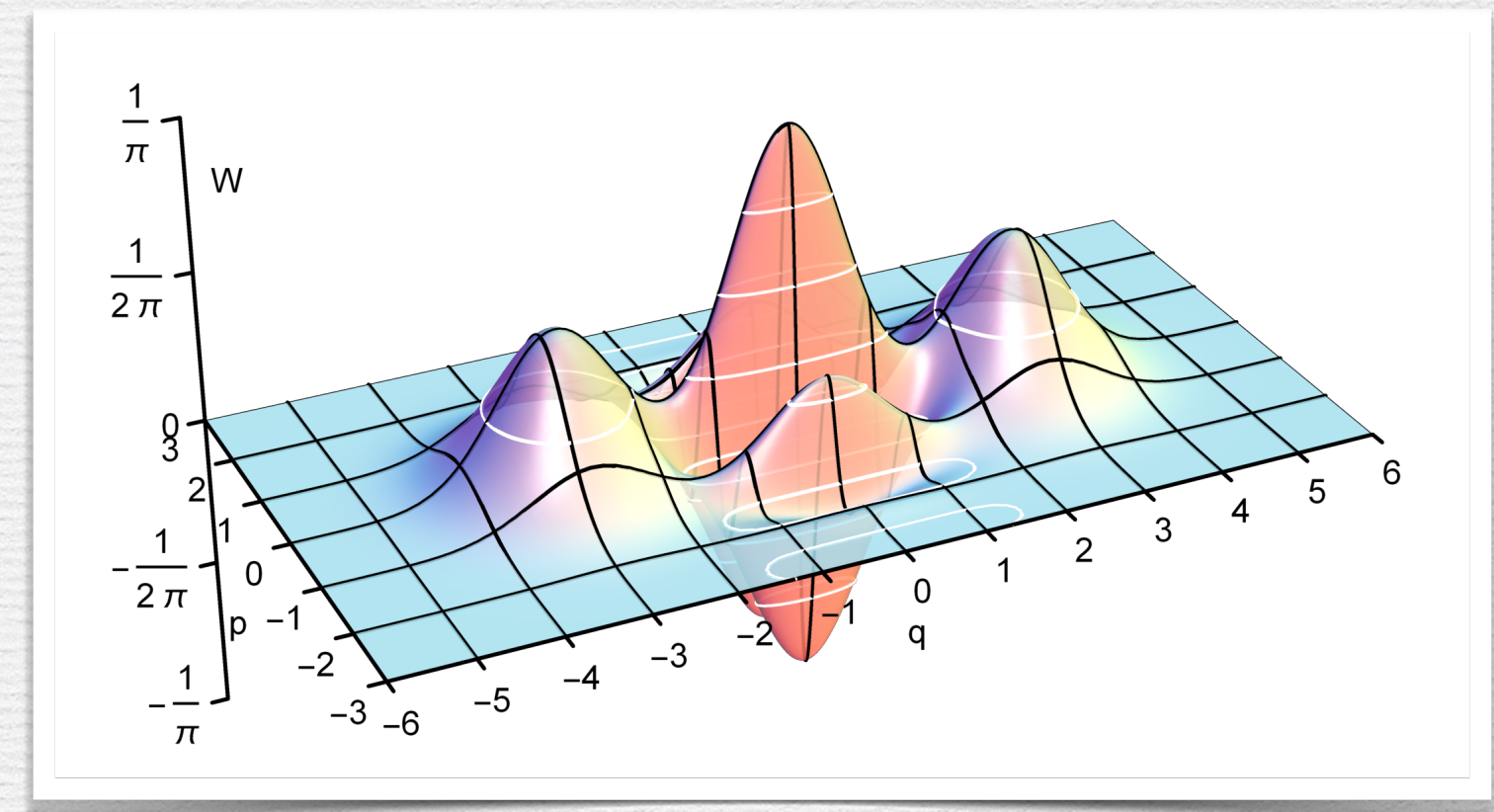
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Wigner negativity



Nonexistence of a joint probability distribution

Contextuality

Correlations are consistent within all contexts,
but cannot be explained globally

Contextuality



Contextuality



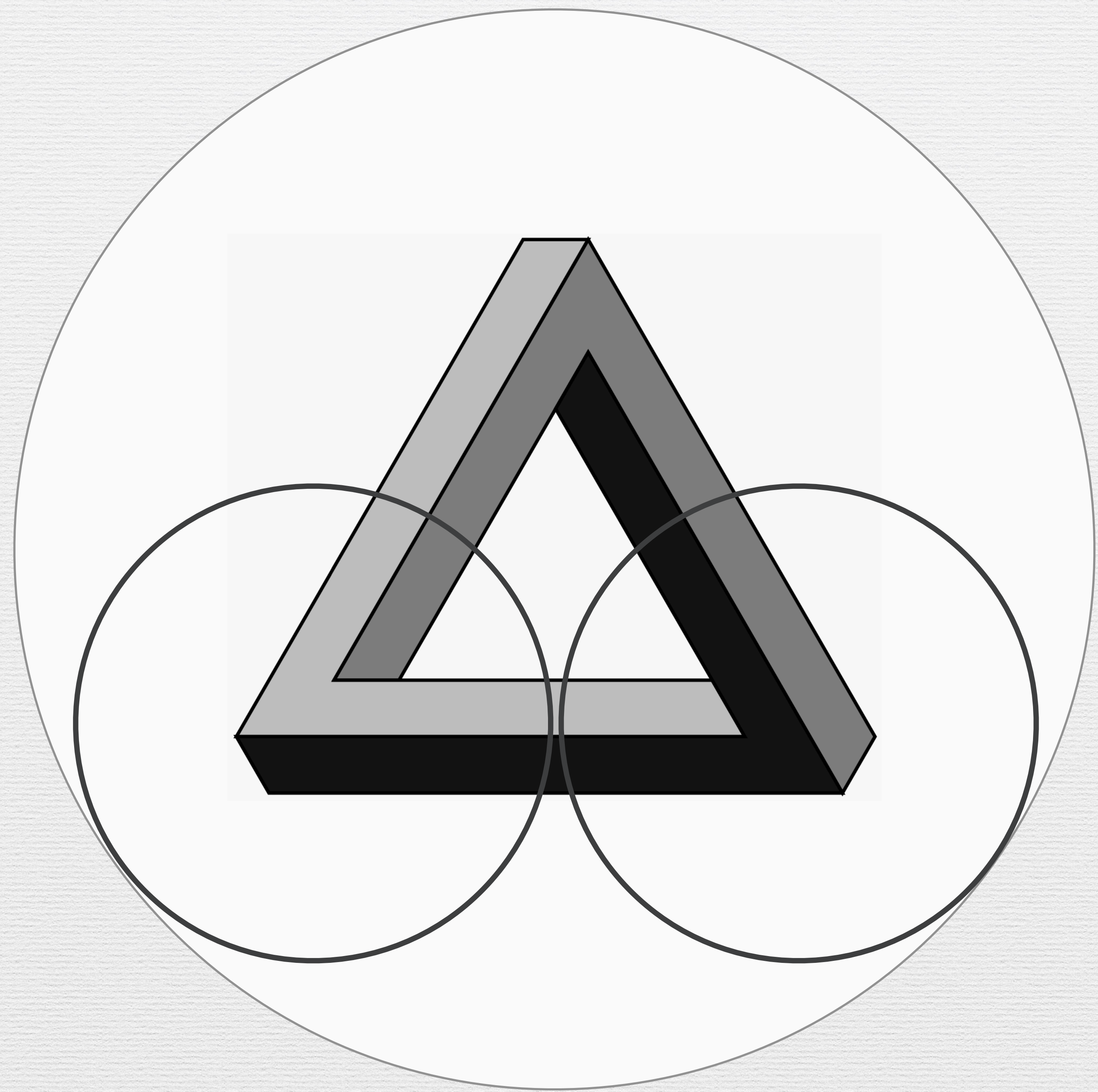
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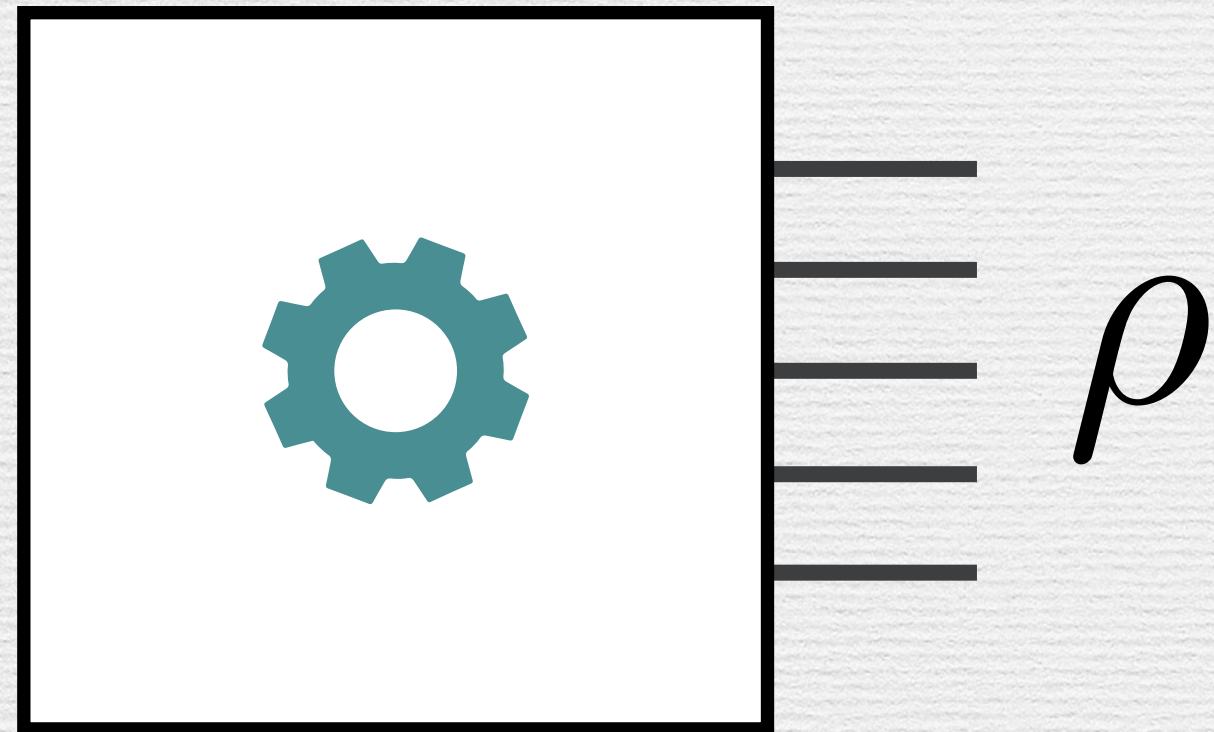


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Quantum (CV) setting

State:

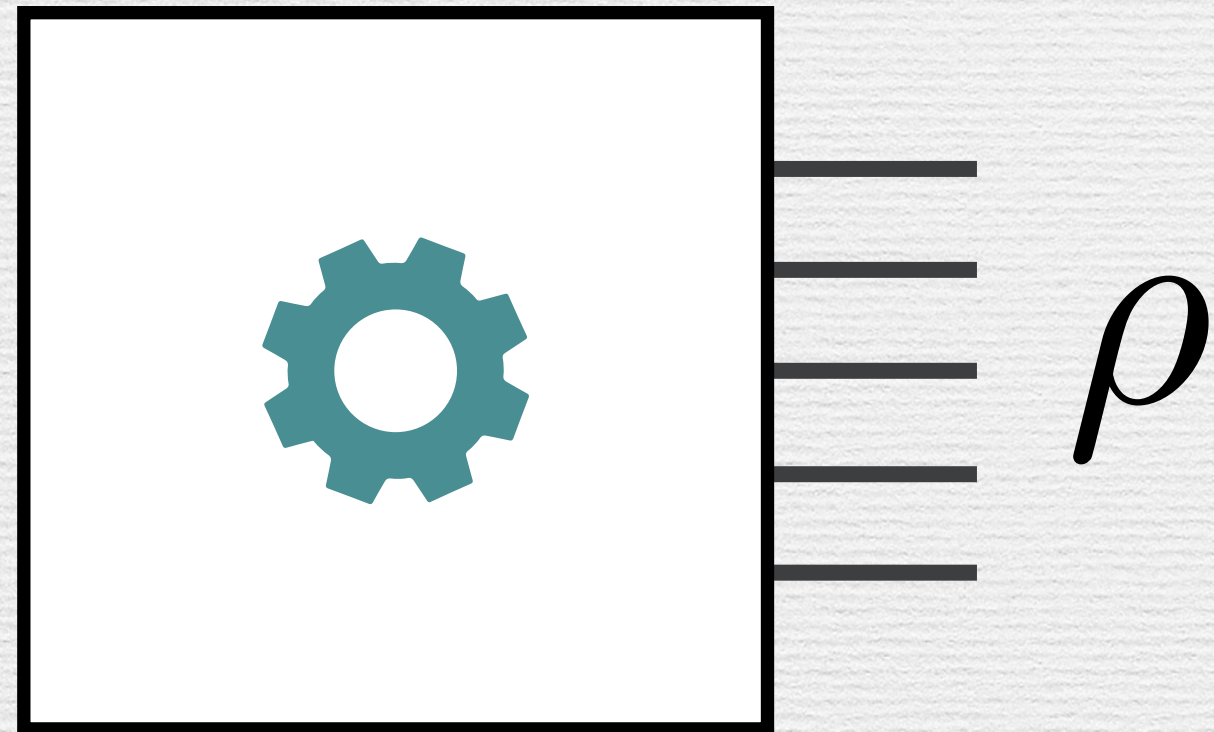
A physical system
with multiple subsystems



Quantum (CV) setting

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Measurement scenario:

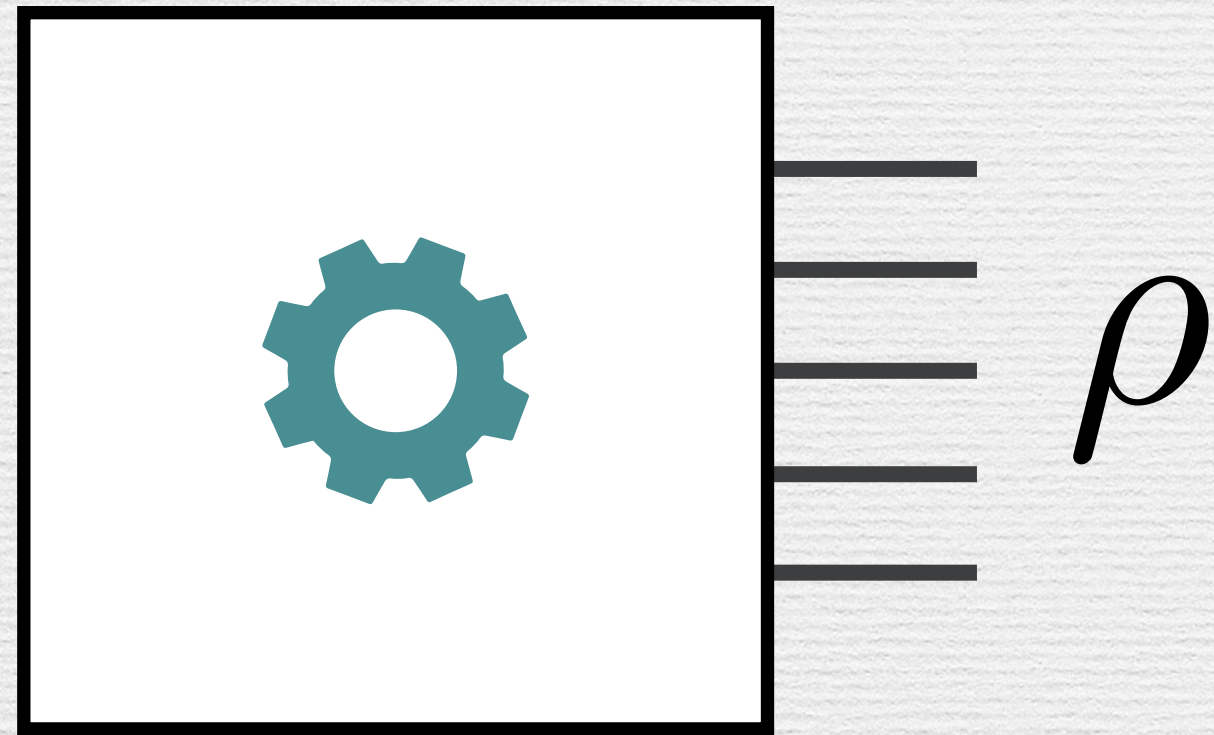
A set of (CV) observables,
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$$\hat{q}_1 \quad \hat{q}_2 \quad \hat{p}_1 \quad \hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_3 \quad \dots$$

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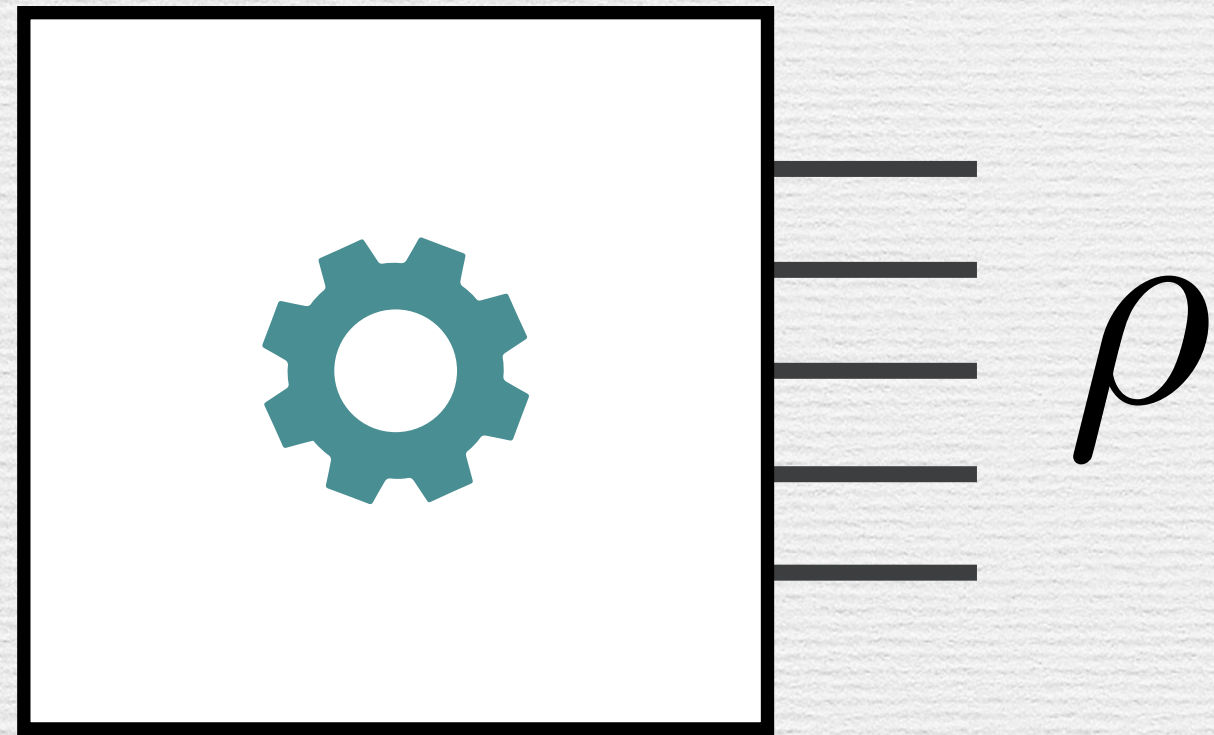
Contexts: subsets of
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$$\{\hat{p}_1\} \quad \{\hat{q}_2, \hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_3\} \quad \{\hat{q}_1, \hat{q}_2\} \quad \dots$$

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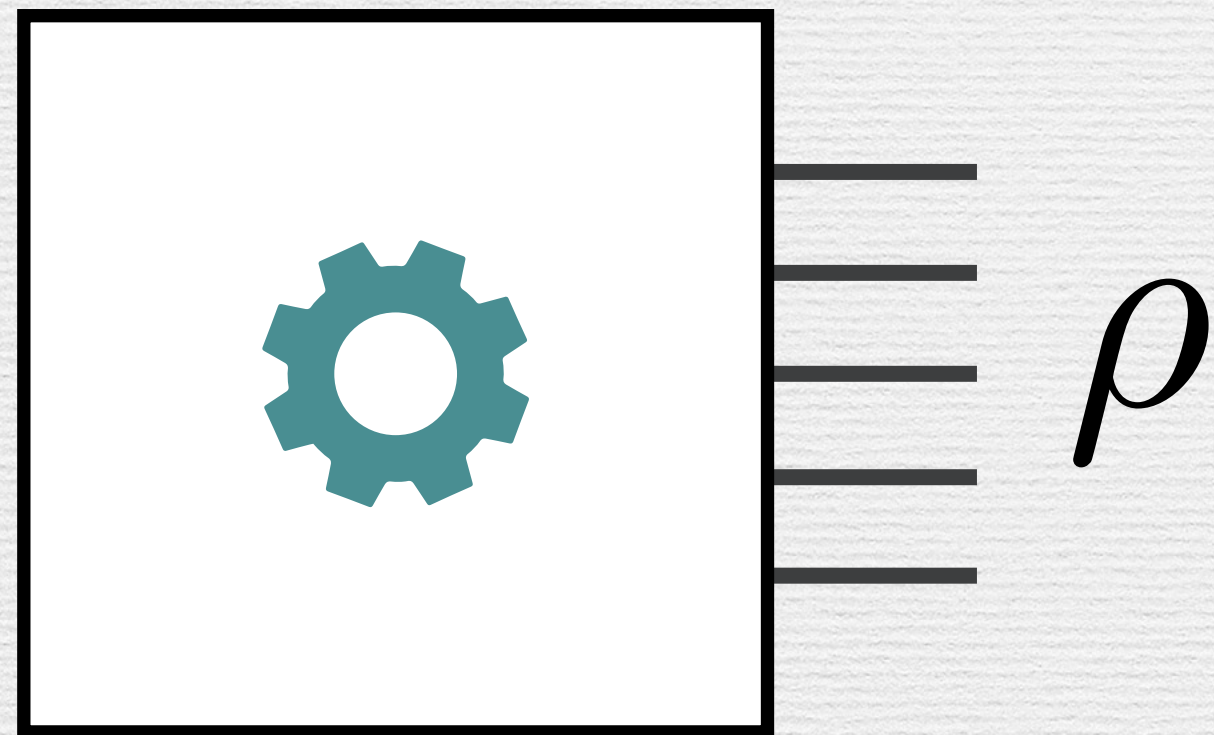
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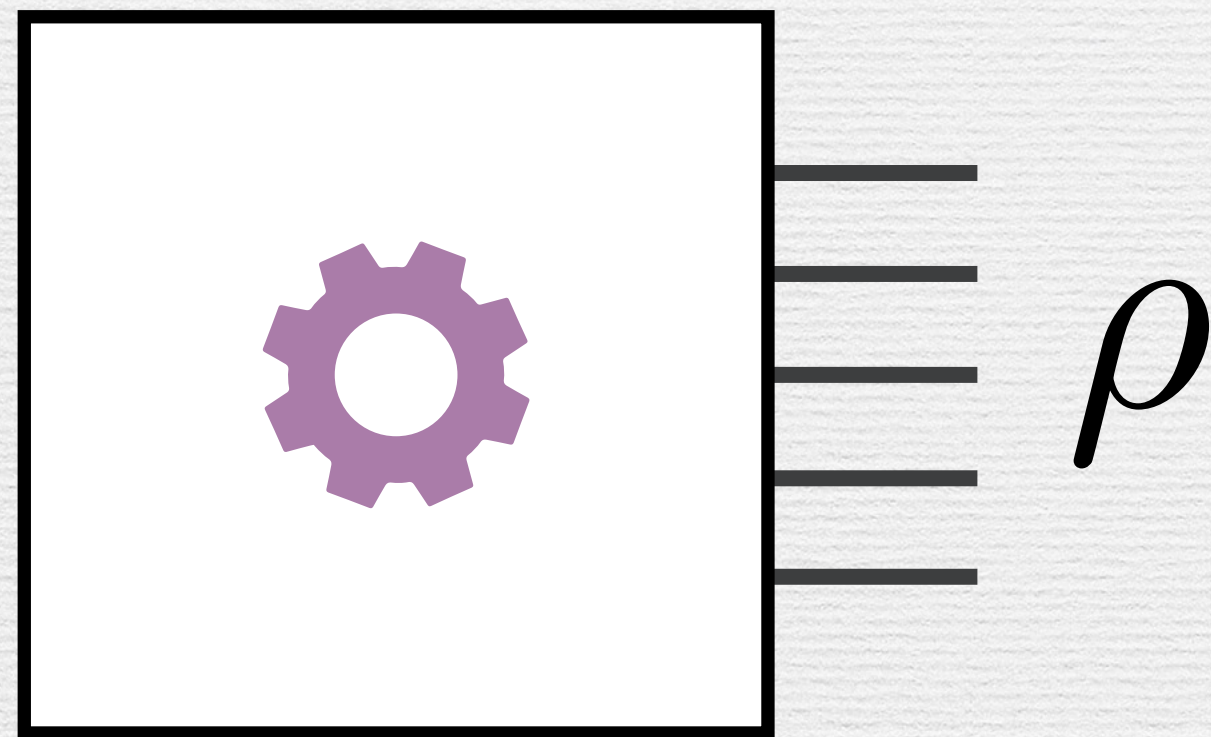
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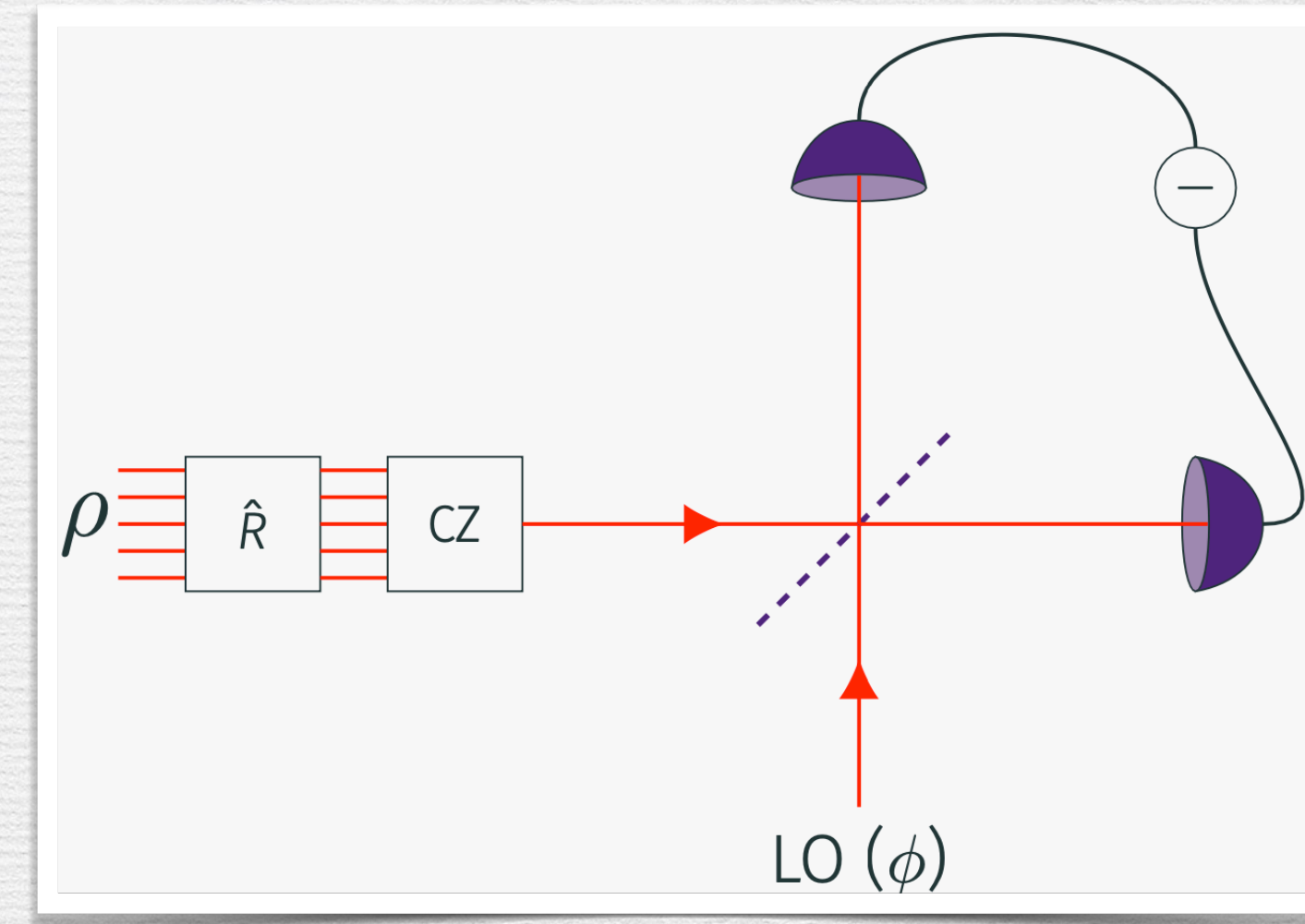
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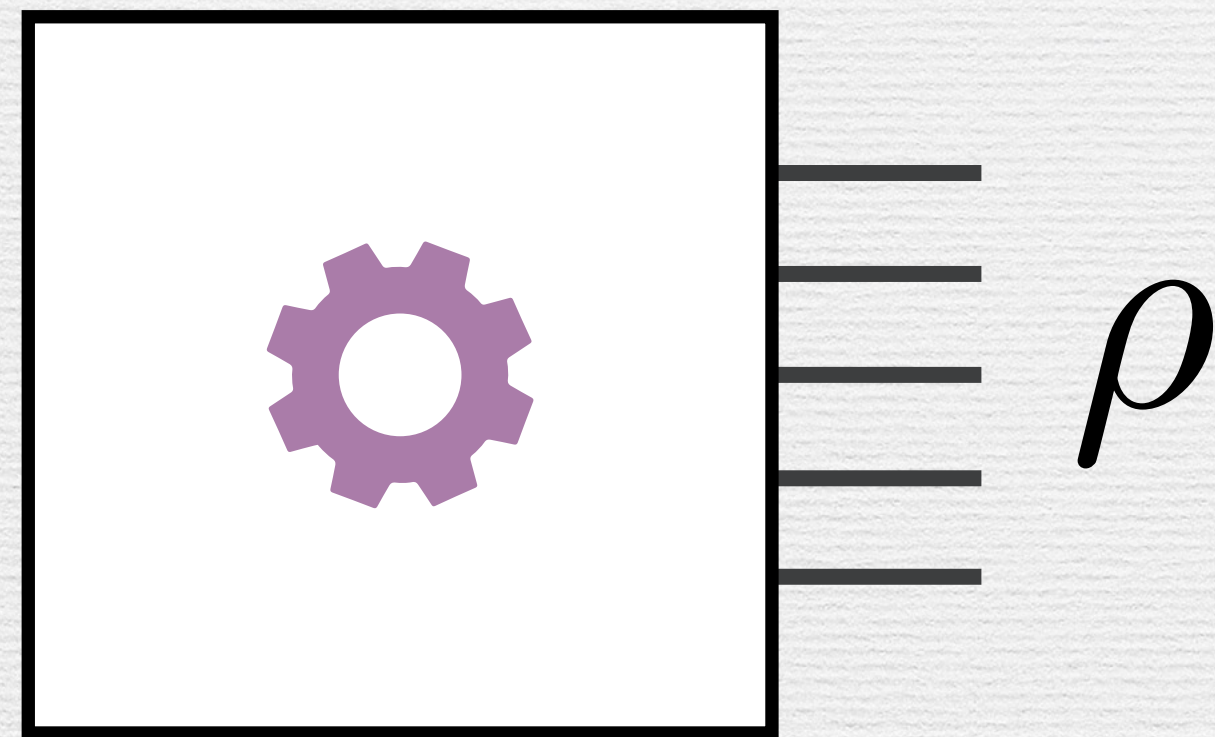
All generalised quadrature measurements



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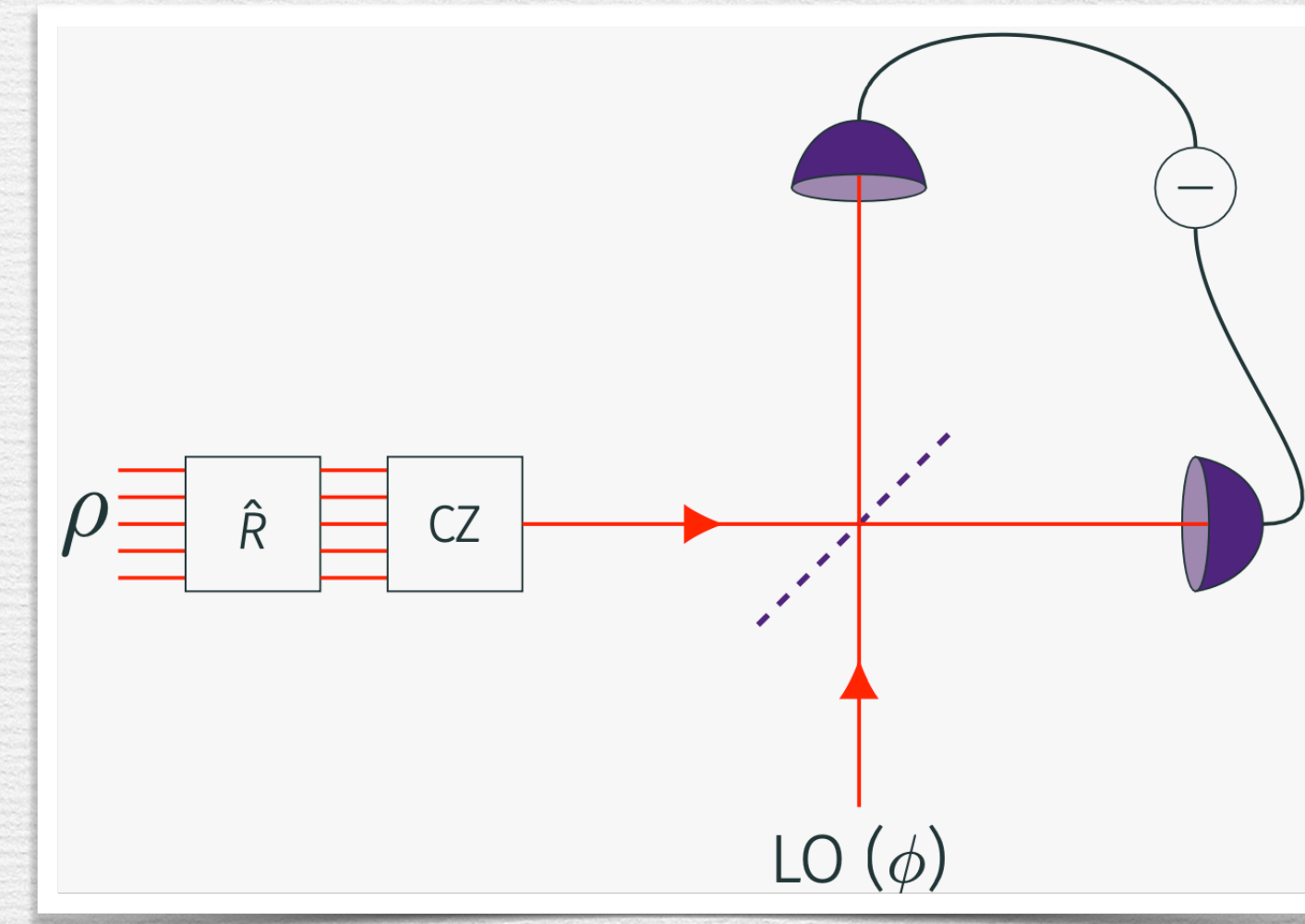
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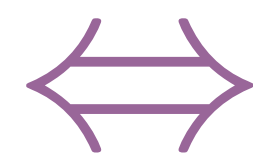
Measurement scenario:

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Main result

$$W_{\rho} < 0$$



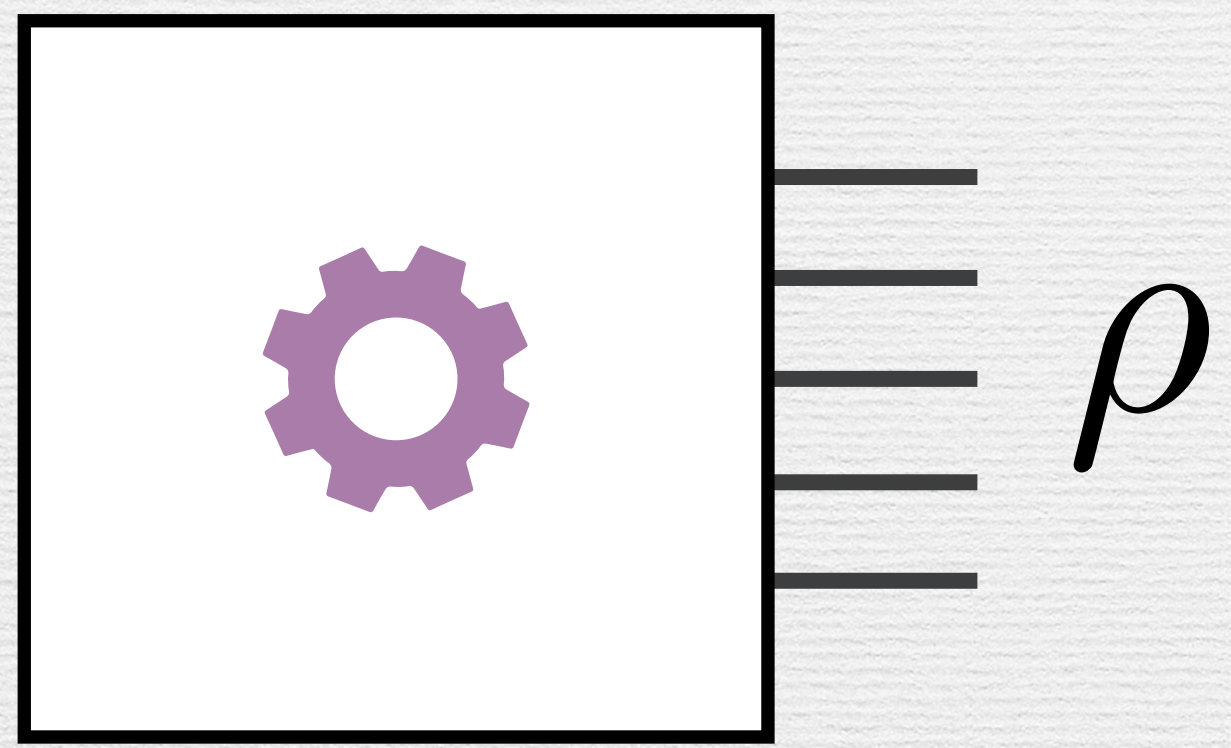
contextuality

- Measure-theoretic tools
- Wigner function is the unique function which provides the right marginals
- Main technicality: Wigner is a probability distribution over phase space, hidden-variables are distributed over contexts
 - Resolved using the linearity of value assignments

The equivalence

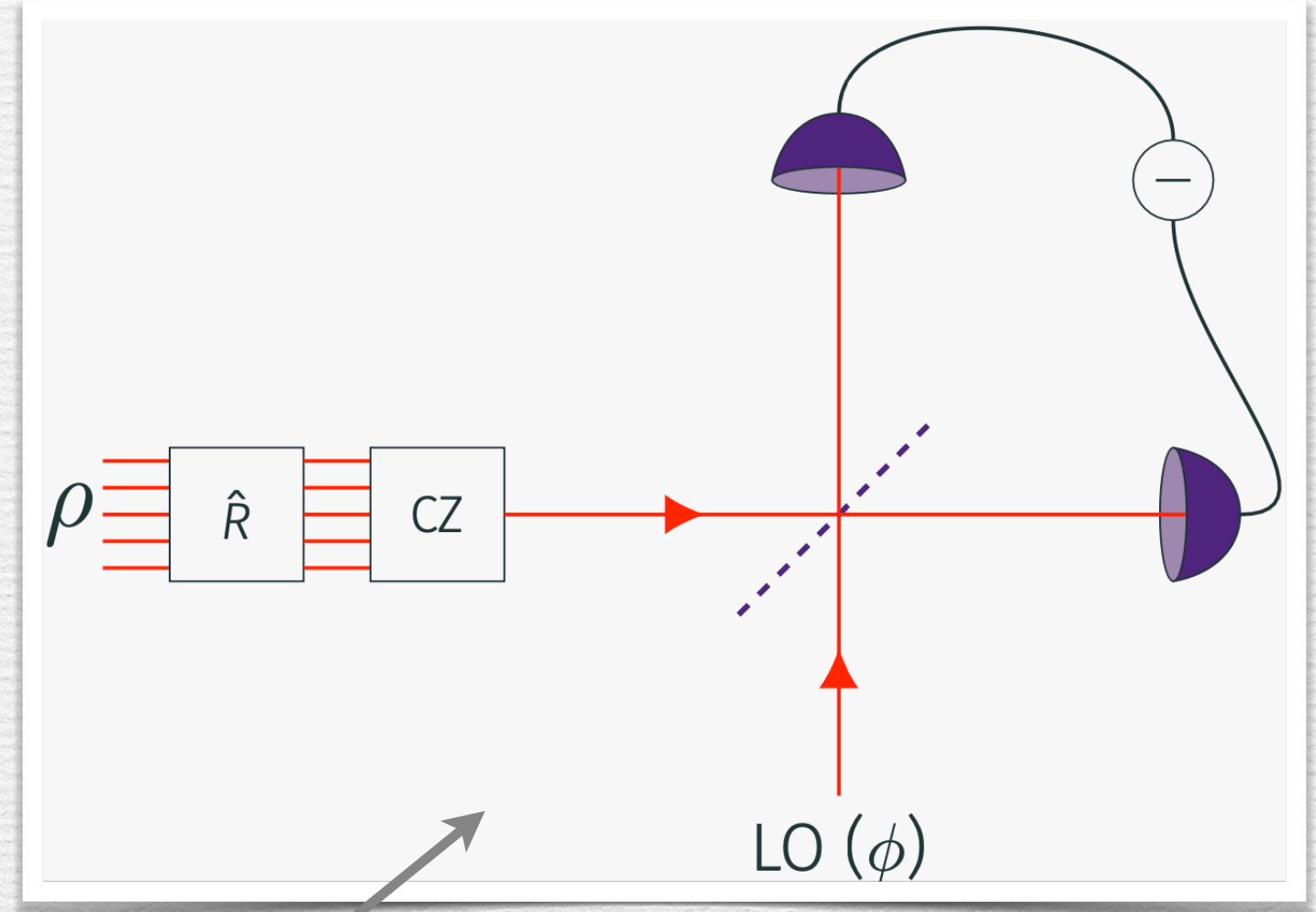
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Measurement scenario:

All generalised quadrature measurements



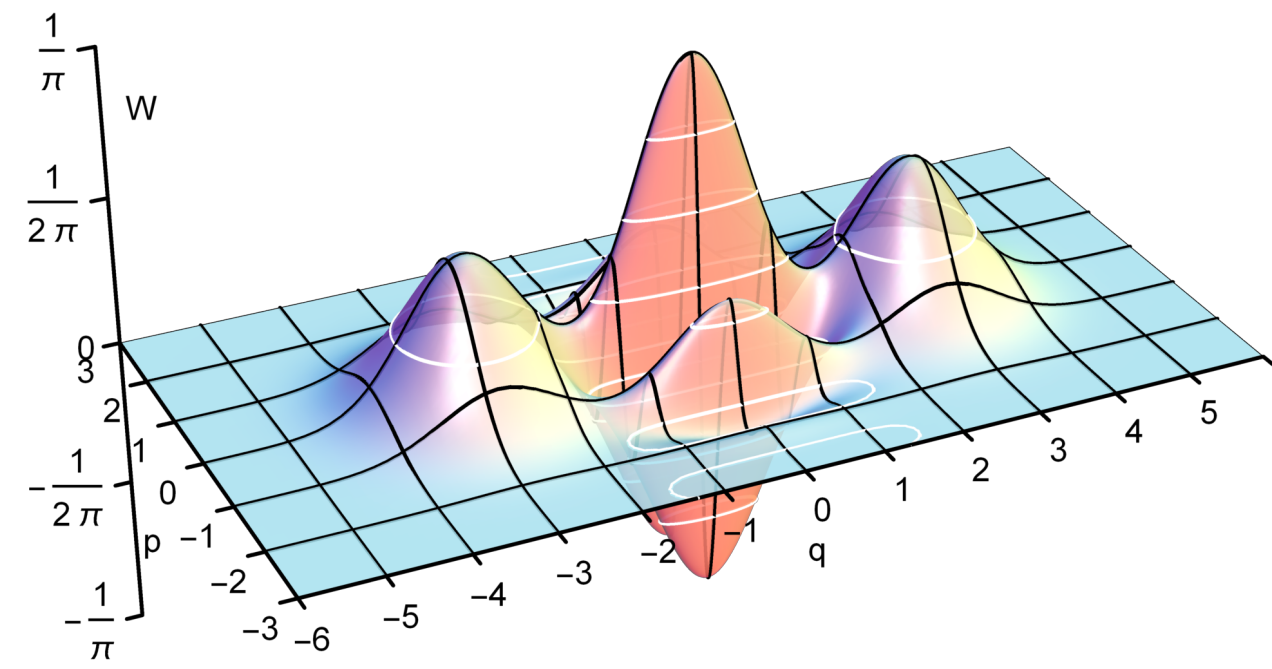
Main result

for this measurement scenario

$$W_\rho < 0 \iff \text{contextuality}$$

Open questions

- Quantitative version of the theorem: Contextuality Fraction ν Negativity Volume
- Minimal number of quadratures such that the result holds?
- Genuine CV Bell inequalities and CV contextuality inequalities: finding the simplest measurement scenarios using SDPs



Thank you!

Wigner positivity sometimes implies non-contextuality

- Konrad Banaszek and Krzysztof Wódkiewicz. “*Nonlocality of the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen State in the Wigner Representation*”. In: Physical Review A 58.6, pp. 4345–4347 (Dec. 1998)
- Zeng-Bing Chen et al. “*Maximal Violation of Bell’s Inequalities for Continuous Variable Systems*”. In: Physical Review Letters 88.4, p. 040406 (Jan. 2002)
- Robert W Spekkens. “*Negativity and contextuality are equivalent notions of nonclassicality*”. In: Physical Review Letters 101.2, p. 020401 (July 2008)

Equivalence results in DV

- Mark Howard et al. “*Contextuality Supplies the Magic for Quantum Computation*”. In: Nature 510.7505, pp. 351–355 (June 2014)
- Robert Raussendorf et al. “*Contextuality and Wigner Function Negativity in Qubit Quantum Computation*”. In: Physical Review A 95.5, p. 052334 (May 2017)
- Nicolas Delfosse et al. “*Equivalence between Contextuality and Negativity of the Wigner Function for Qudits*”. en. In: New Journal of Physics 19.12, p. 123024 (Dec. 2017)

Equivalence results in CV

- Robert I. Booth, Ulysse Chabaud and Pierre-Emmanuel Emeriau. “*Contextuality and Wigner negativity are equivalent for continuous-variable quantum measurements*”. In: PRL 129 (23), p. 230401 (Nov. 2021)
- Jonas Haferkamp and Juani Bermejo-Vega, “*Equivalence of contextuality and Wigner function negativity in continuous-variable quantum optics*”. In: arXiv:2112.14788 (Dec. 2021)