

Probability in the Plato's Cave

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What am I doing here?

... because of Philippe





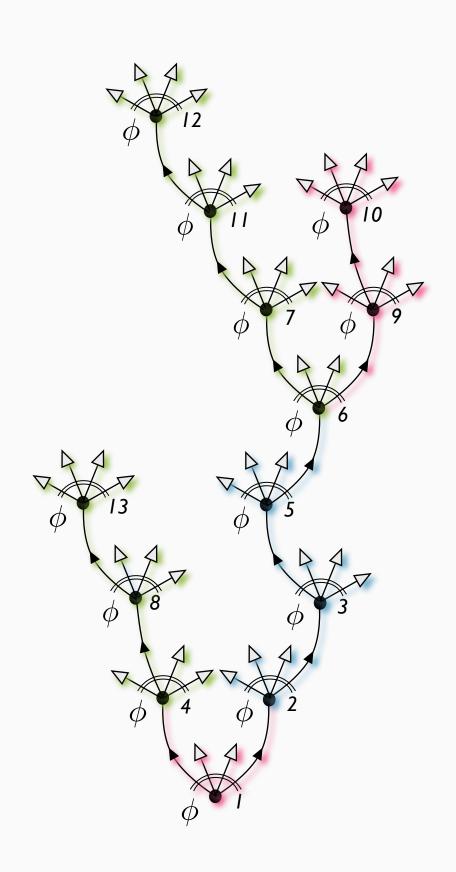
Philippe FLAJOLET (1948 - 2011)

Séminaire Lotharingien de Combinatoire 65 (2011), Article B65c

COMBINATORIAL MODELS OF CREATION-ANNIHILATION

PAWEL BLASIAK AND PHILIPPE FLAJOLET

ABSTRACT. Quantum physics has revealed many interesting formal properties associated with the algebra of two operators, A and B, satisfying the partial commutation relation AB - BA = 1. This study surveys the relationships between classical combinatorial structures and the reduction to normal form of operator polynomials in such an algebra. The connection is achieved through suitable labelled graphs, or "diagrams", that are composed of elementary "gates". In this way, many normal form evaluations can be systematically obtained, thanks to models that involve set partitions, permutations, increasing trees, as well as weighted lattice paths. Extensions to q-analogues, multivariate frameworks, and urn models are also briefly discussed.



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PAPER

Local model of a qubit in the interferometric setup

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Pawel Blasiak

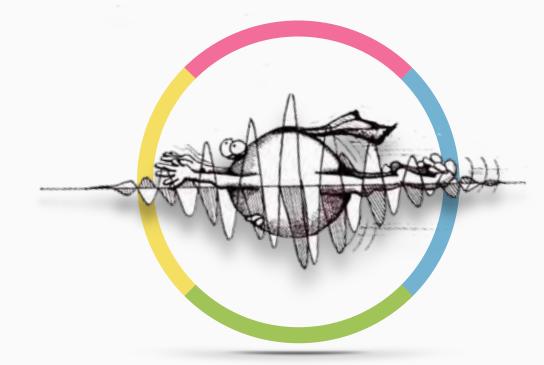
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Keywords: locality, quantum interferometry, ontological models, epistemic restrictions

Abstract

We consider a typical realization of a qubit as a single particle in two-path interferometric circuits built from phase shifters, beam splitters and detectors. This framework is often taken as a standard example illustrating various paradoxes and quantum effects, including non-locality. In this paper we show that it is possible to simulate the behaviour of such circuits in a classical manner using stochastic gates and two kinds of particles, real ones and ghosts, which interact only locally. The model has built-in limited information gain and state disturbance in measurements which are blind to *ghosts*. We demonstrate that predictions of the model are operationally indistinguishable from the quantum case of a qubit, and allegedly 'non-local' effects arise only on the epistemic level of description by the agent whose knowledge is incomplete due to the restricted means of investigating the system.



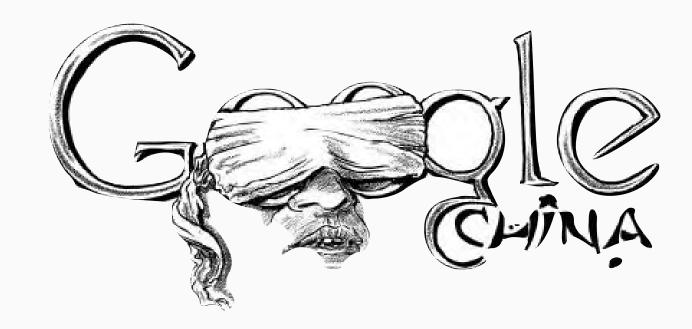
AofA'16, Kraków 2016

Allegory of the Cave ... are we living in a MATRIX?









Reaching further Flammarion engraving





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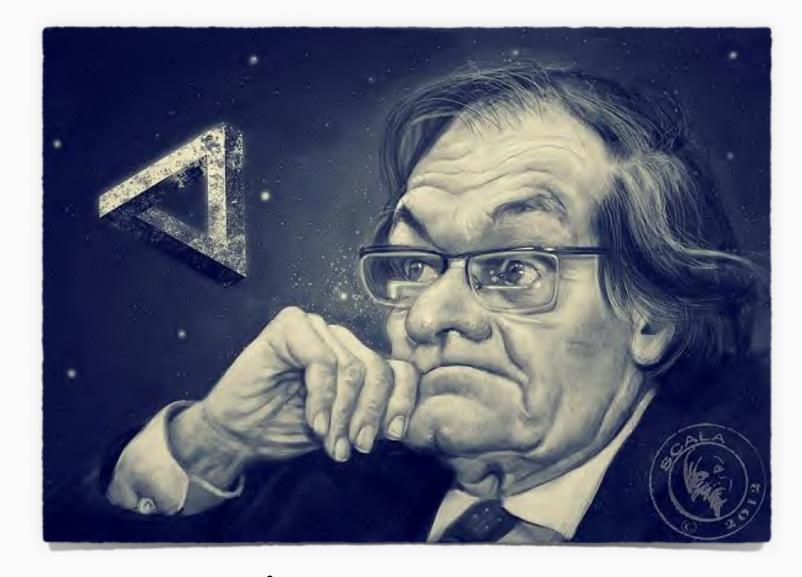
## Quantum mechanics

Best theory we've ever had ...



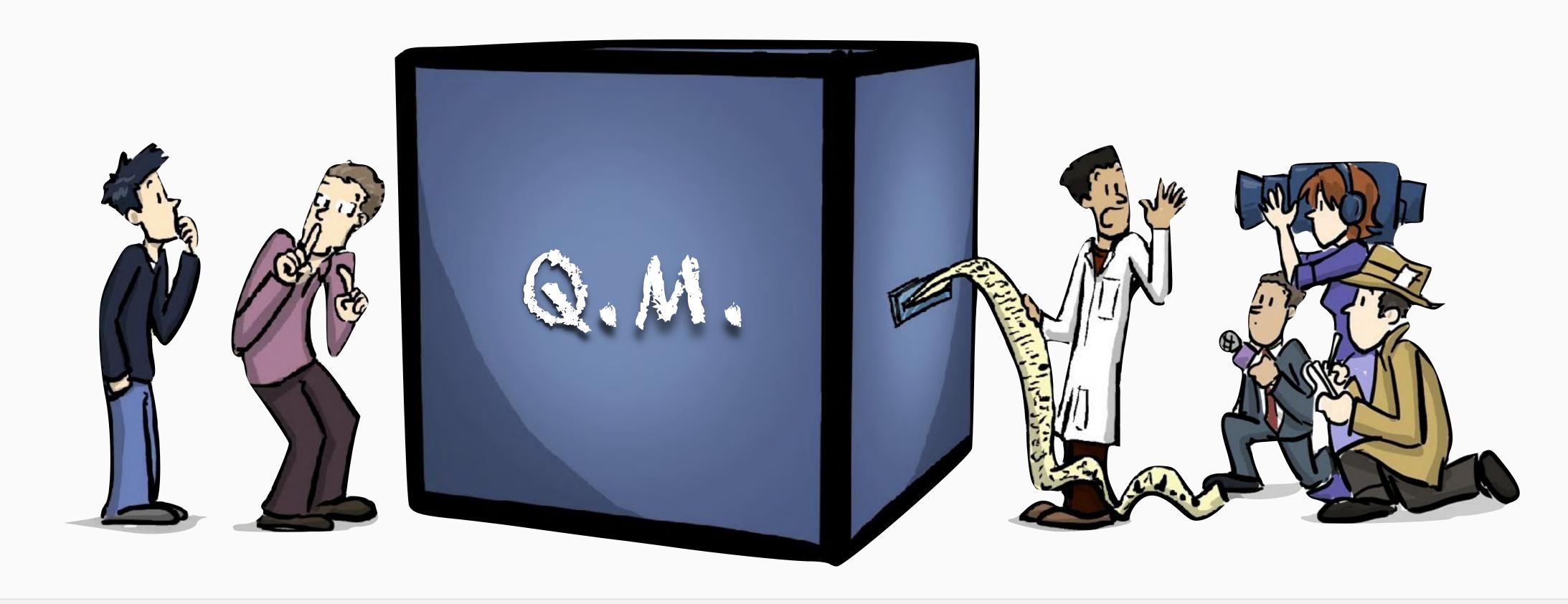
I should begin by expressing my general attitude to present-day quantum theory, by which I mean standard non-relativistic quantum mechanics. The theory has, indeed, two powerful bodies of fact in its favour, and only one thing against it. First, in its favour are all the marvellous agreements that the theory has had with every experimental result to date. Second, and to me almost as important, it is a theory of astonishing and profound mathematical beauty. The one thing that can be said against it is that it makes absolutely no sense!

Roger Penrose
"Gravity and State Vector Reduction"
in: "Quantum Concepts in Space and Time" (1986)



Sir Roger Penrose (1931)



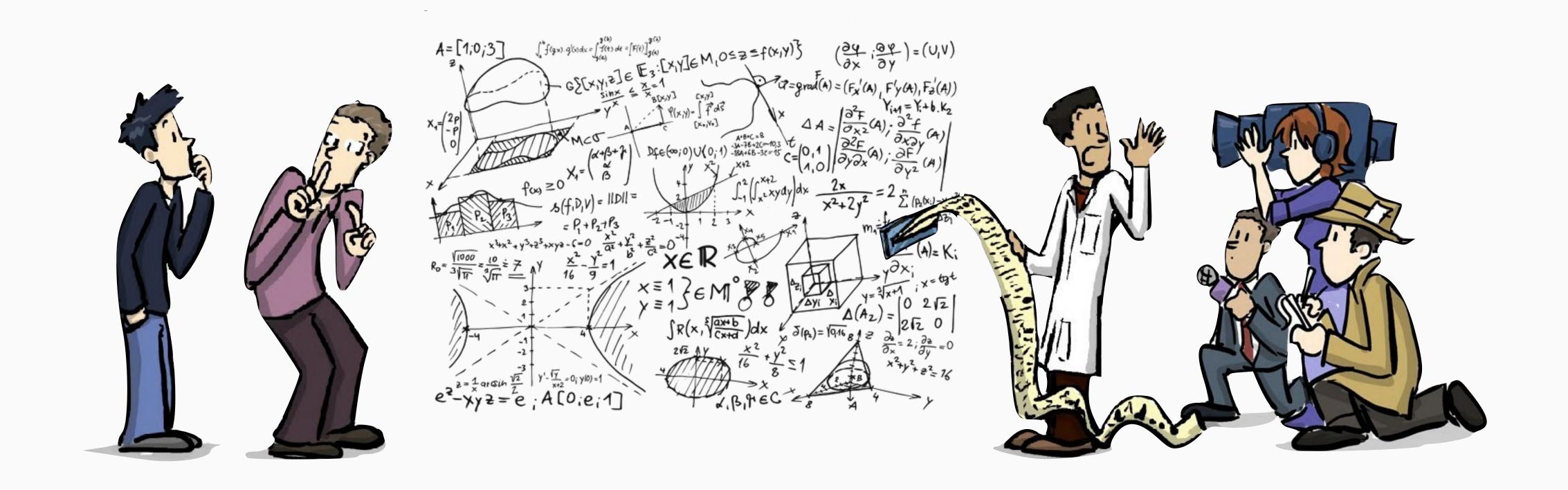


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Mathematical formalism





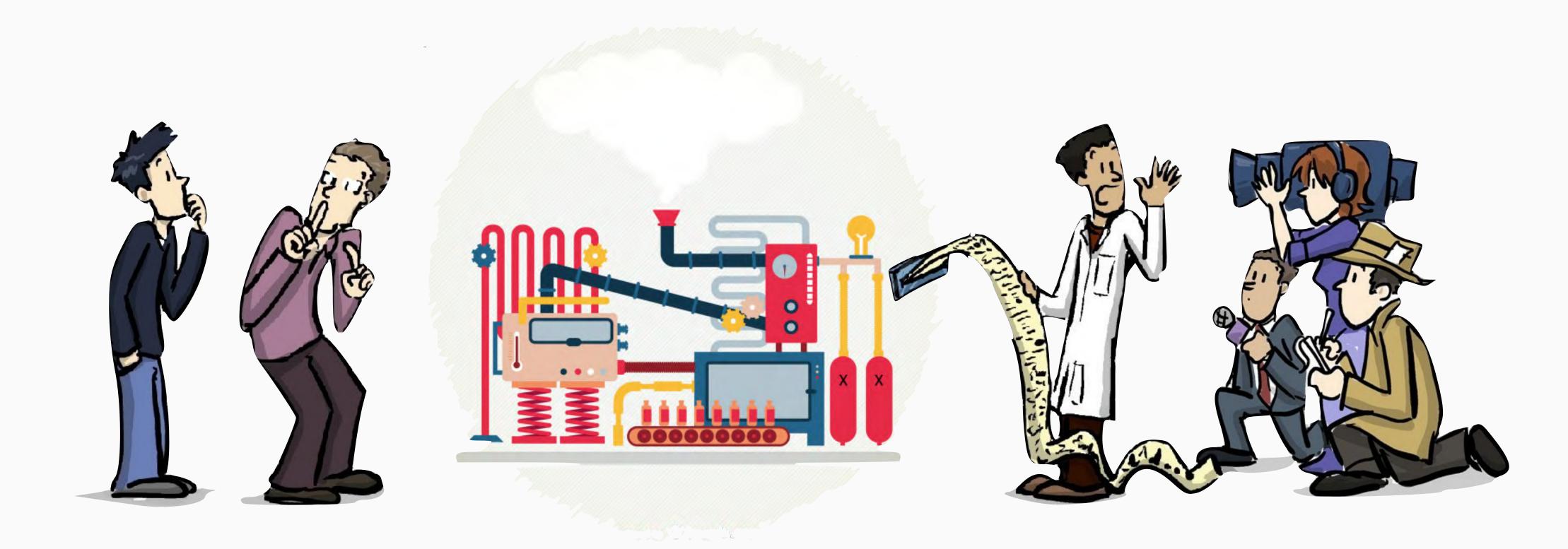


Mathematical formalism



Operational description







Mathematical formalism ~

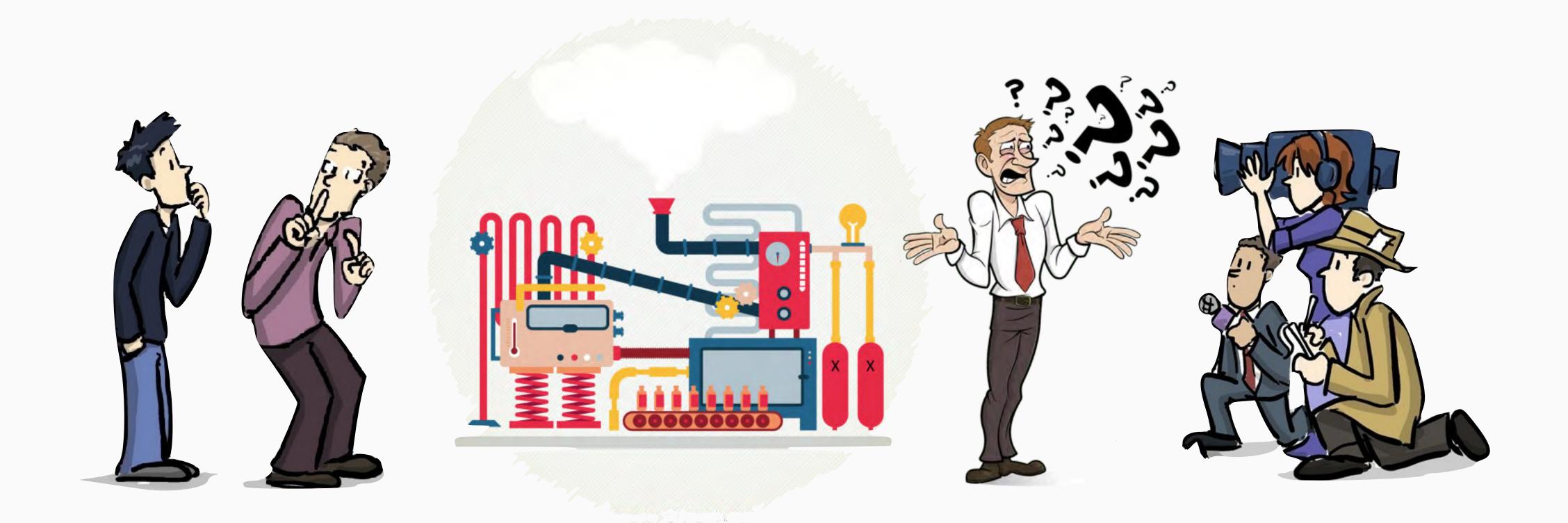


Operational description



... but what is the ontology ?





Quantum mechanics

... as we have it ...



Mathematical formalism



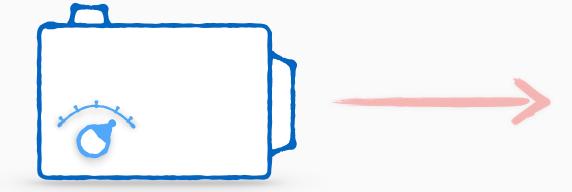
Operational description



... but what is the ontology ?



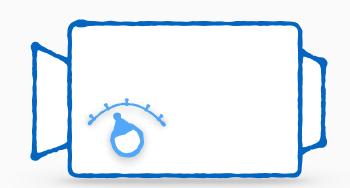
Preparation



$$|\psi\rangle\in\mathcal{H}$$

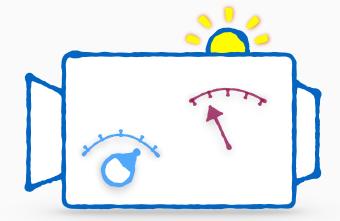
$$|\psi\rangle\in\mathcal{H}_A\otimes\mathcal{H}_B$$

Transformation



$$|\psi\rangle \longrightarrow |\psi'\rangle = U |\psi\rangle$$

Measurement



$$\hat{A} = \sum_{k} a_k P_k$$

$$\Pr(k|\psi) = \langle \psi | P_k | \psi \rangle$$

$$|\psi\rangle \xrightarrow{k} \frac{P_k |\psi\rangle}{\sqrt{\langle\psi|\,P_k |\psi\rangle}}$$

Where am I...?

Or what is my momentum..? Oh hell..! Why worry about

Or where am I..?

Or where am I..?

onot even sure if I'm a wave or a particle!

PHOTON SELF-IDENTITY PROBLEMS =

non-locality, contextuality,
weird superposition states,
entanglement (non-local correlations),
waves or particles (both),
what is the role of observer,
no values prior to measurement,
etc...

In a strict sense, quantum theory is a **set of rules allowing the computation of probabilities** for the outcomes of tests which follow specified preparations.

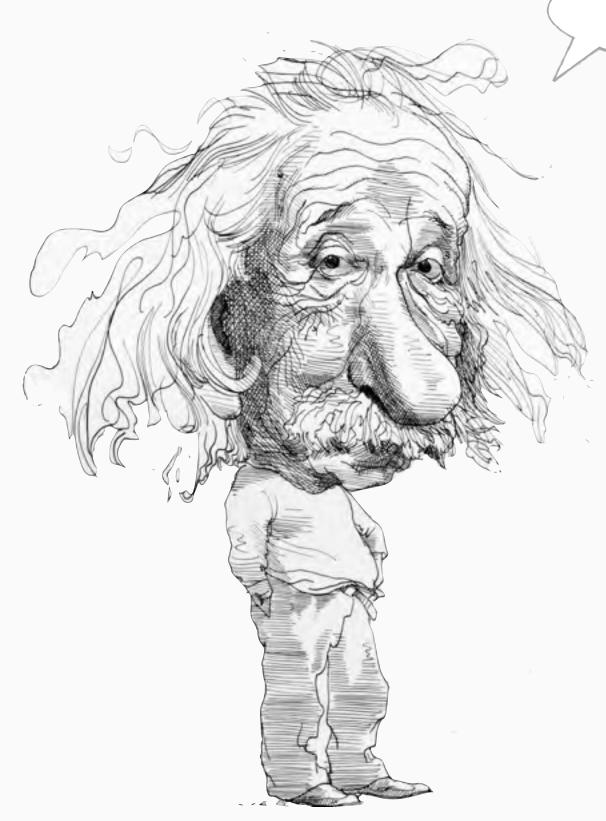
Asher Peres in Quantum Theory: Concepts and methods (1995)

Copenhagen (non-)interpretation Einstein - Bohr debate





Albert ... look around ... it's all Unreal!!!



Albert EINSTEIN (1879 - 1955)



What is the reality/story above the math? Is it a 'shadow' of something more concrete?



Niels BOHR (1885 - 1962)

Occupation number representation

Creation—Annihilation paradigm



Occupation number representation (Fock space)

▶ *Hilbert space H with a fixed basis:*

$$|n\rangle$$
 - the number states

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha_n |n\rangle$$

Creation & annihilation operators:

$$a^{\dagger} | n \rangle = \sqrt{n+1} | n+1 \rangle$$

$$a \mid n \rangle = \sqrt{n} \mid n - 1 \rangle$$

Commutator:

$$[a, a^{\dagger}] = 1$$

 \blacktriangleright Evolution operators: $U=e^{itH(a,a^{\dagger})}$

$$|\psi_0\rangle \stackrel{U}{\longrightarrow} |\psi_t\rangle = e^{itH(a,a^{\dagger})} |\psi_0\rangle$$

Differential operator representation

Formal power series in one variable $\mathbb{C}[[x]]$:

$$x^n$$
 - polynomials

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n x^n$$

Multiplication & derivative operators:

$$X x^n = x^{n+1}$$

$$D x^n = n x^{n-1}$$

Commutator:

$$[D, X] = 1$$

 \triangleright Evolution operators: $\mathfrak{O} = e^{itH(D,X)}$

$$F_0(x) \stackrel{\mathfrak{O}}{\longrightarrow} F_t(x) = e^{itH(D,X)} F_0(x)$$

Heisenberg-Weyl algebra

Normal forms



Heisenberg-Weal algebra

AAU with two generators:

X - creation (multiplication)

D - annihilation (derivative)

with the relation: DX - XD = 1

$$\mathfrak{H} = \mathbb{C}\langle D, X \rangle / [D, X] = 1$$

i.e. algebra of words with rewrite rule:

$$DX \longrightarrow XD + 1$$

 \triangleright *Elements of the algebra* $\mathfrak{h} \in \mathfrak{H}$:

$$\mathfrak{h} = \sum_{\substack{r_1, \dots, r_k \\ s_1, \dots s_k}} \alpha \prod_{\substack{r_1, \dots, r_k \\ s_1, \dots, s_k}} X^{r_1} D^{s_1} \dots X^{r_k} D^{s_k}$$
ambiguous

 \mathfrak{h} basis in \mathfrak{H} $\mathfrak{h}=\sum_{r,s}lpha_{r,s}\ X^rD^s$ unique

 D^s

(Graphs)

ALGEBRASC
STRUCTURES
(Heisenberg-Weyl algebra)

COMBINATORIAL

Structure constants of the algebra:

$$X^p D^q X^k D^l = \sum_{i} \binom{q}{i} \binom{k}{i} i! \quad X^{p+k-i} D^{q+l-i}$$

Heisenberg-Weyl algebra

Normal ordering problem

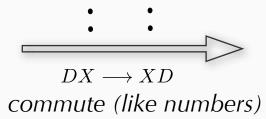


Normal ordering and **normal form**:

$$\int DX \longrightarrow XD + 1$$

$$X^2D^4 + 4 \ XD^3 + 2 \ D^2$$

Change of "functional" form !!!



$$X^2D^4$$

Operator identity:

$$F(D,X) = \mathcal{N}(F(D,X))$$

$$F(D,X) \neq : F(D,X) :$$

Normal ordering problem

$$\mathfrak{h} = \sum_{r,s} \alpha_{r,s} X^r D^s$$



$$\mathfrak{h}^n = \mathcal{N}(\mathfrak{h}^n) = \sum_{r,s} \beta_{r,s}^{(n)} X^r D^s$$

$$e^{z\mathfrak{h}} = \mathcal{N}(e^{z\mathfrak{h}}) = \sum_{n,r,s} \beta_{r,s}^{(n)} X^r D^s$$

COMBRIATORBAL MODELS (Graphs)



ALGEBRASC STRUCTURES (Heisenberg-Weyl algebra)

Heisenberg-Weyl algebra

Wick's theorem



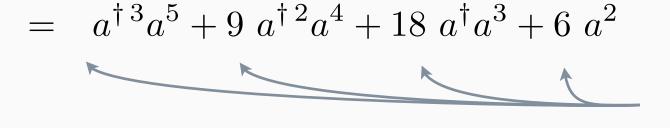
Find all possible contractions:

$$aa^{\dagger}aaa^{\dagger}aaa^{\dagger} = \sum : \{ \text{ all contractions } \} :$$

 $= :aa^{\dagger}aaa^{\dagger}aaa^{\dagger}:$

- $+ : aa^{\dagger}a \not a \not a^{\dagger}a \not a \not a^{\dagger} + aa^{\dagger} \not a a \not a^{\dagger}a \not a \not a^{\dagger} + aa^{\dagger}a a \not a^{\dagger}a \not a \not a^{\dagger} + aa^{\dagger}a \not a \not a^{\dagger}a \not a \not a^{\dagger} + aa^{\dagger}a \not a \not a^{\dagger}a \not a^{\dagger}$

$$\not a \not a^{\dagger} \not a a \not a^{\dagger} \not a a \not a^{\dagger} + \not a \not a^{\dagger} \not a \not a \not a^{\dagger} a a \not a^{\dagger} + \not a \not a^{\dagger} \not a \not a \not a^{\dagger} a a \not a^{\dagger}$$
:





Integers

Combinatorics ...

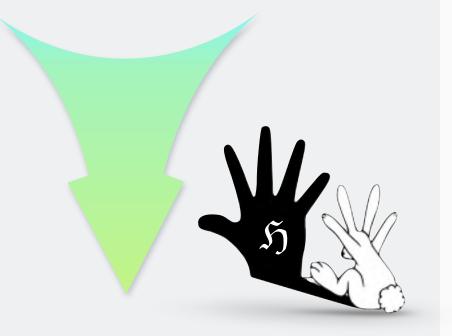
GOOD for computer algebra ...

Problematic for infinite series ...

!! NOT CONSTRUCTIVE !!

for analytical calculations ...

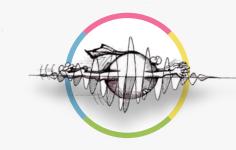
COMBRIATORIAL
MODELS
(Graphs)



ALGEBRAIC STRUCTURES

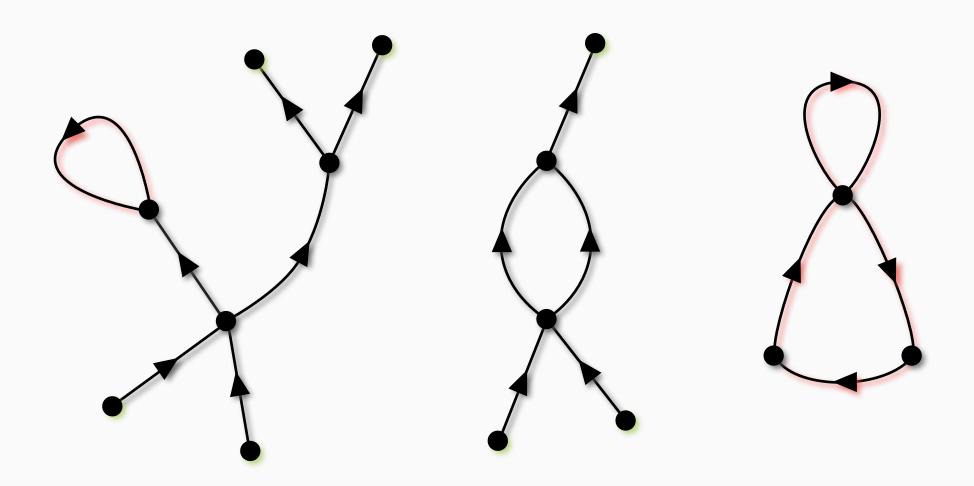
(Heisenberg-Weyl algebra)





A directed graph is a collection of edges E and vertices V together with two mappings $h, t: E \longrightarrow V$ prescribing how the **head** and **tail** of each edge is attached to vertices.

Example:



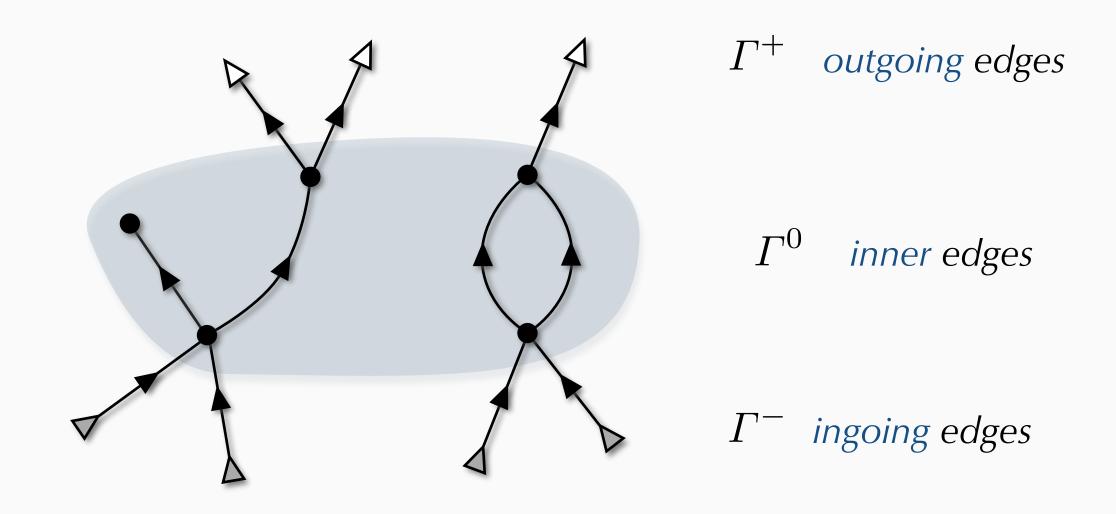
- We shall consider **classes of graphs** up to isomorphism, i.e. simply pictures.
- ▶ Take plane graphs (not planar), i.e. lines going in/out of a vertex are ordered !!!
- Following a cycle in a graph one ends at the starting point.





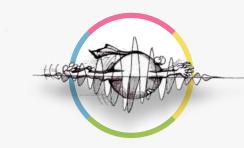
Definition:

Combinatorial class of **Heisenberg - Weyl graphs** consists of **plane directed** graphs Γ which **do not have cycles** and may be **partially-defined**.



- ▶ Edges in a graph may have one of the ends free (but not both)
- ▶ It has three sorts of edges: inner, ingoing and outgoing ones
- Size of a graph: $d(\Gamma) = 2|\Gamma^0| + |\Gamma^+| + |\Gamma^-|$





We define \mathcal{G} as a **vector space** over \mathbb{C} spanned by the basis set consisting of all Heisenberg - Weyl graphs, i.e.

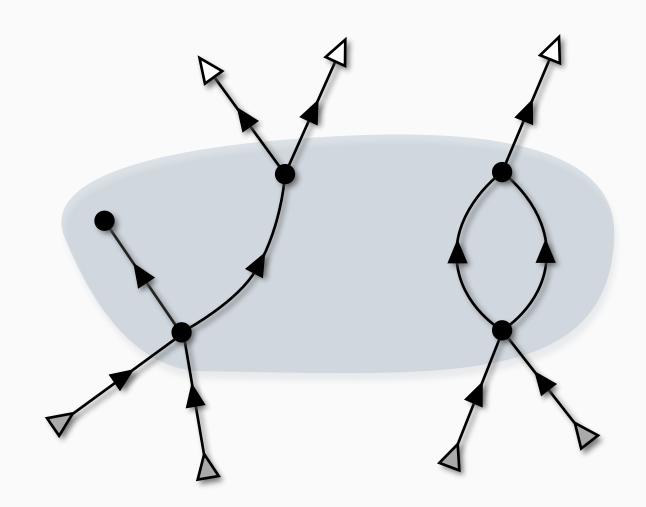
$$\mathcal{G} = \left\{ \sum_{i} \alpha_i \ \Gamma_i : \ \alpha_i \in \mathbb{C}, \ \Gamma_i \text{ - Heisenberg-Weyl graph} \right\}$$

Addition in \mathcal{G} has the usual form:

$$\sum_{i} \alpha_{i} \Gamma_{i} + \sum_{i} \beta_{i} \Gamma_{i} = \sum_{i} (\alpha_{i} + \beta_{i}) \Gamma_{i}$$

What about the **multiplication**?

$$\sum_{i} \alpha_{i} \Gamma_{i} * \sum_{j} \beta_{j} \Gamma_{j} = \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{i} \beta_{j} \Gamma_{i} * \Gamma_{j}$$



Heisenberg - Weyl graph

Graph model

Composition and multiplication



Definition:

For two graphs Γ_2 and Γ_1 and a matching $m \in \Gamma_2^- \iff \Gamma_1^+$ the composite graph, denoted as $\Gamma_2 \notin \Gamma_1$, is constructed by joining the edges coupled by the matching m.

Definition:

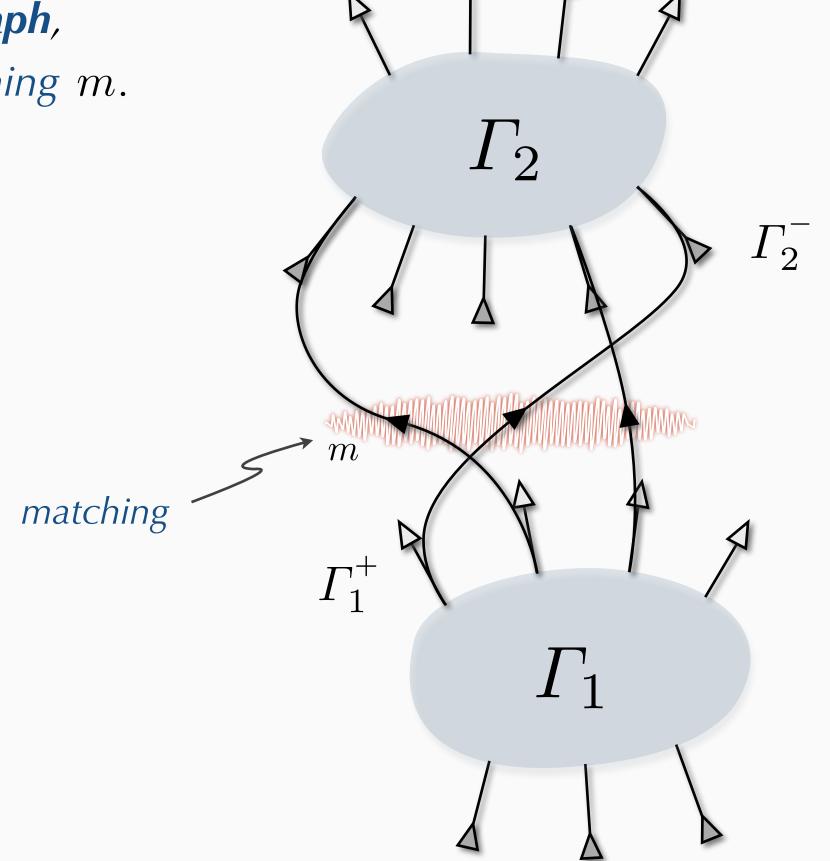
Multiplication of two graphs Γ_2 and Γ_1 in \mathcal{G} is just a sum over all possible compositions:

$$\Gamma_2 * \Gamma_1 = \sum_{m \in \Gamma_2^- \ll 1} \Gamma_2 \stackrel{m}{\blacktriangleleft} \Gamma_1$$

Proposition:

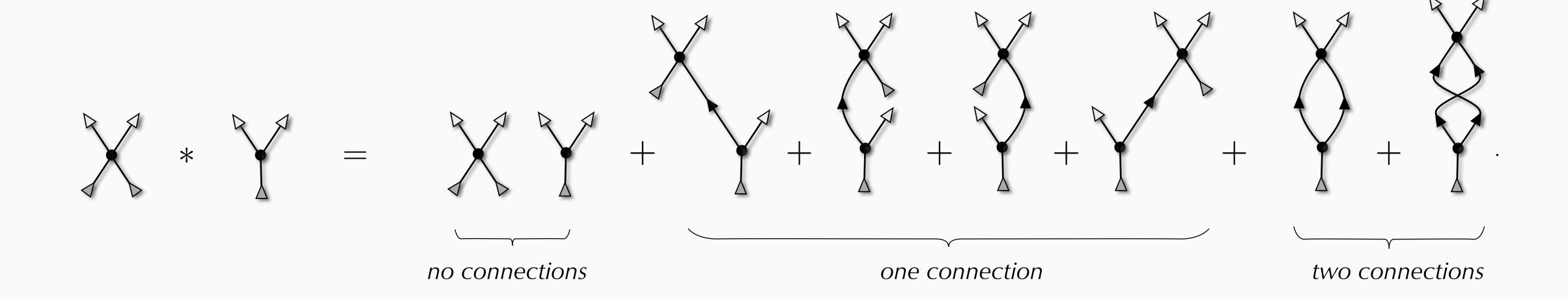
Heisenberg - Weyl graphs form an associative algebra with unit $(\mathcal{G}, +, *, \emptyset)$. It is non-commutative!!

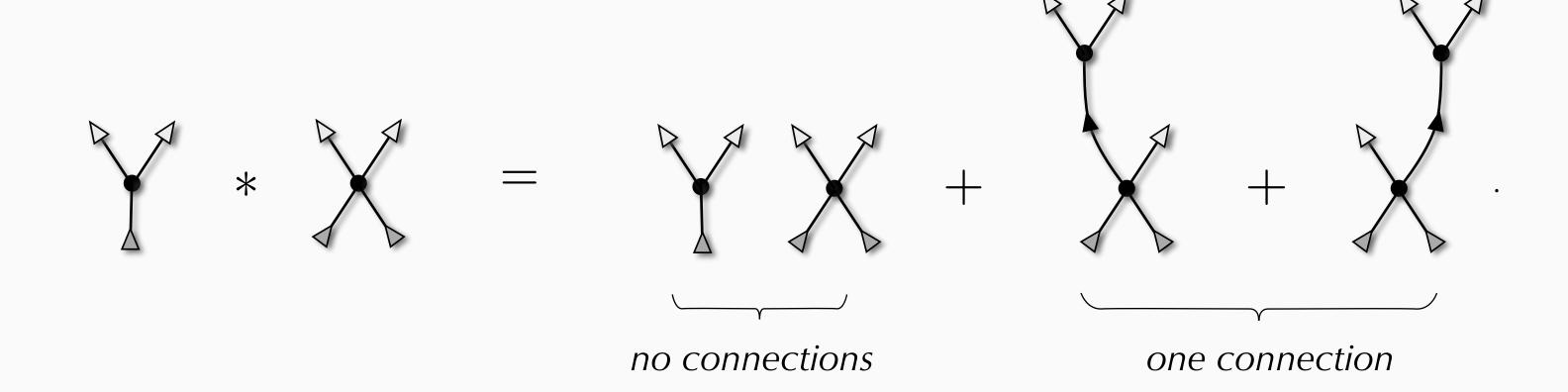
▶ The number of possible compositions with i connections: $\# \Gamma_2^- \stackrel{i}{\lessdot} \Gamma_1^+ = \binom{|\Gamma_2^-|}{i} \binom{|\Gamma_1^+|}{i} i!$



Graph model Example







Graph model Model of the Heisenberg-Weyl algebra

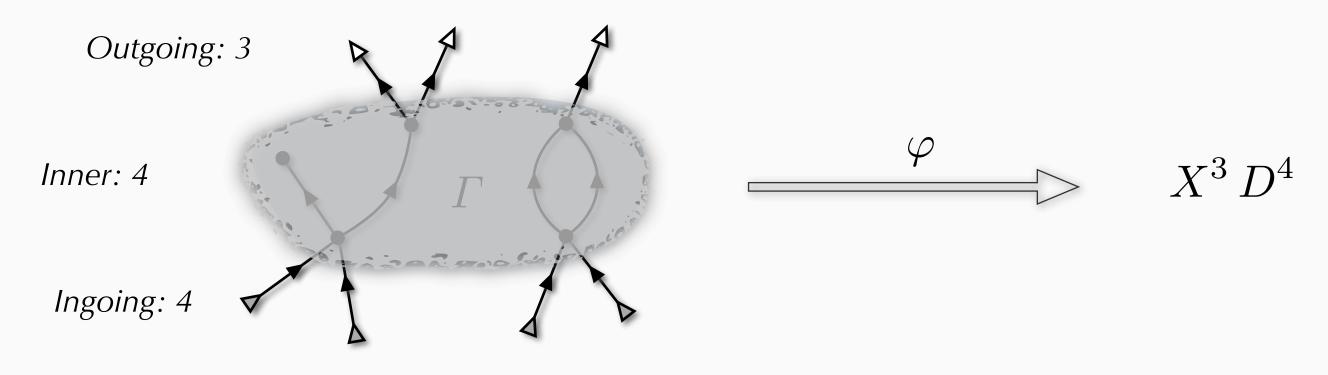


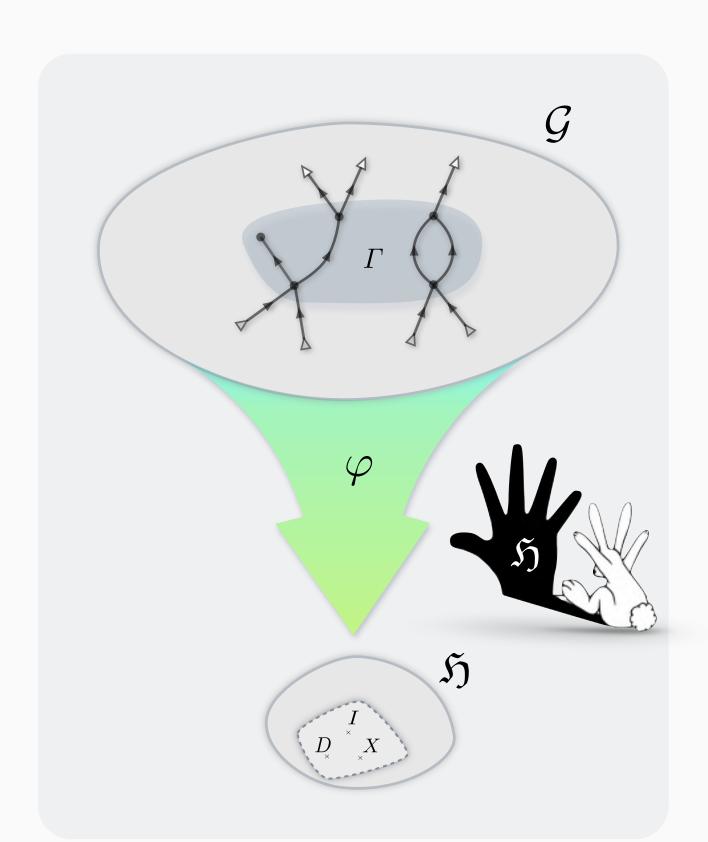
Definition:

We define a linear mapping $\varphi: \mathcal{G} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{H}$ which **erases all inner structure** of a graph, given on the basis elements as:

$$\varphi\left(\Gamma\right) = X^{\,|\Gamma\,^{\,+}\!|}\,D^{\,|\Gamma^{\,-}\!|}$$

Example:



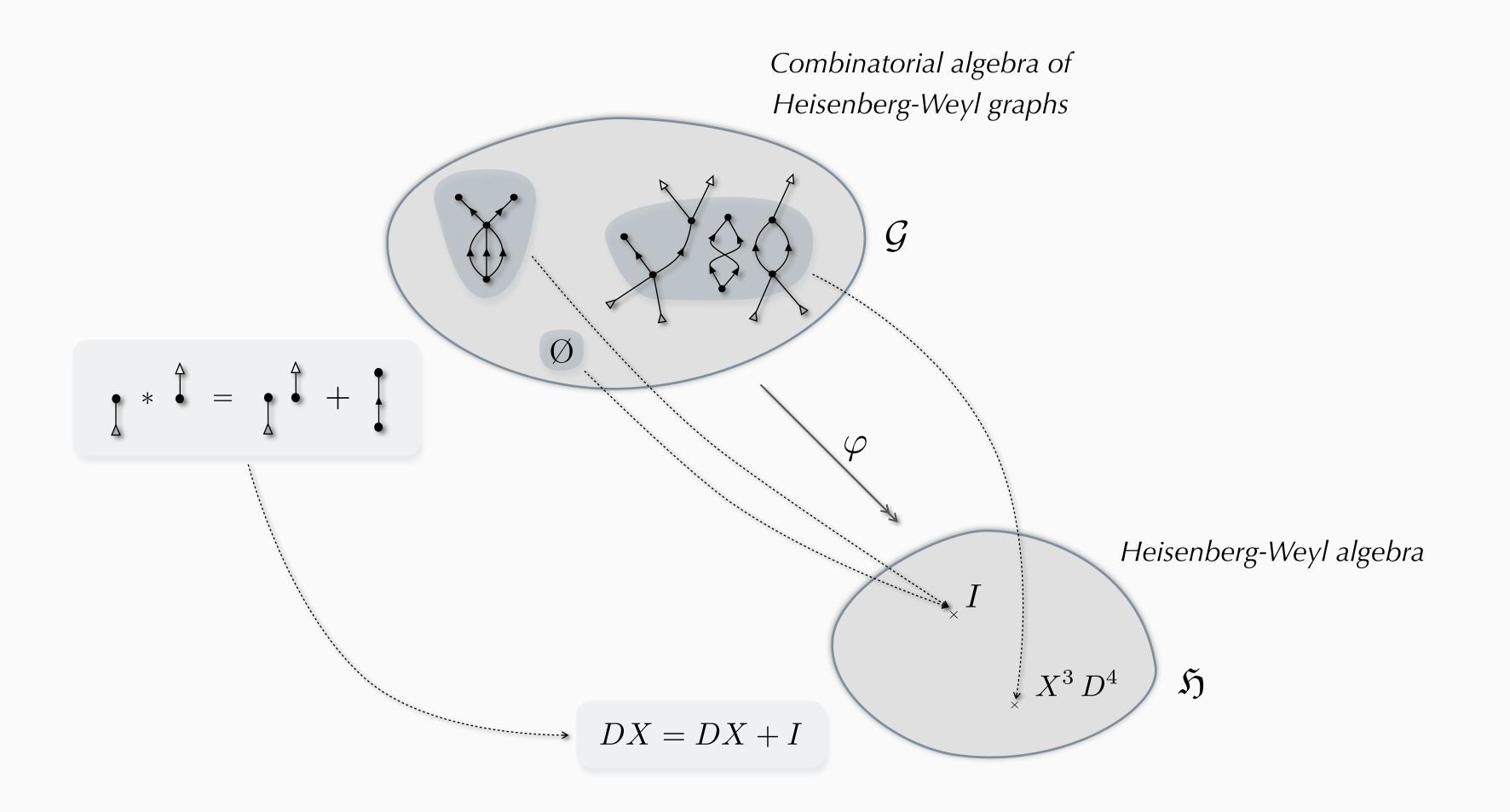


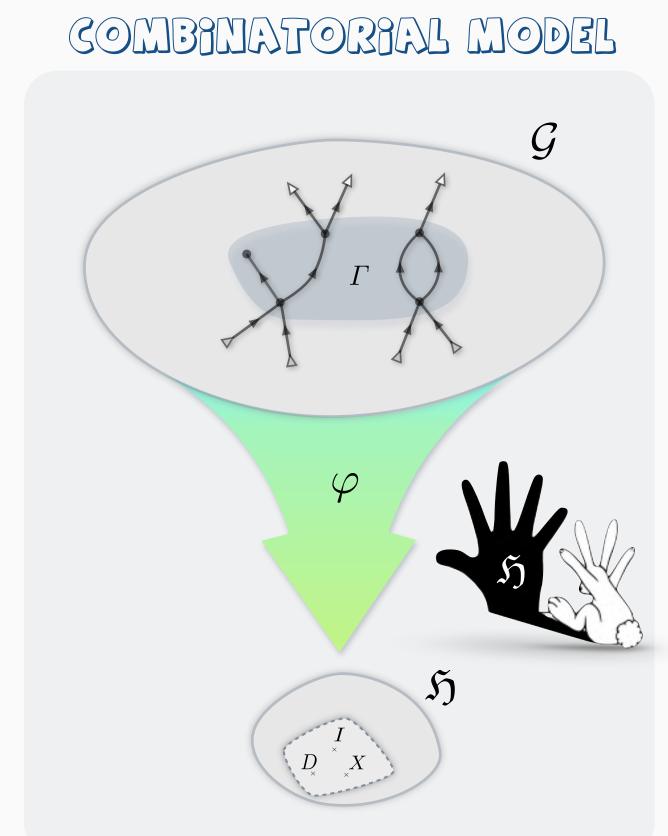
Theorem:

Forgetful mapping $\varphi: \mathcal{G} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{H}$ is a surjective AAU **algebra morphism**.

Graph model Example







ALGEBRAIC STRUCTURE

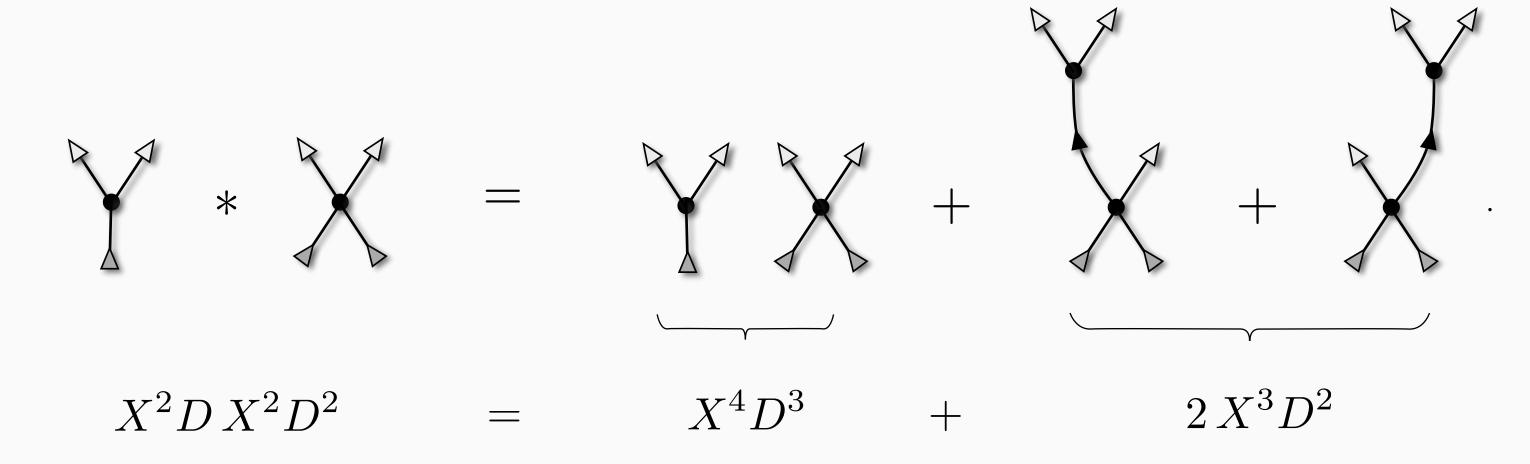
Morphism $\varphi: \mathcal{G} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{H}$ erases all inner structure of a graph, and preserves all relations.

P. Blasiak, G. H. E. Duchamp, A. I. Solomon, A. Horzela, and K. A. Penson. Combinatorial Algebra for second-quantized Quantum Theory. Adv. Theor. Math. Phys., 14(4):1209–1243, 2010

Graph model



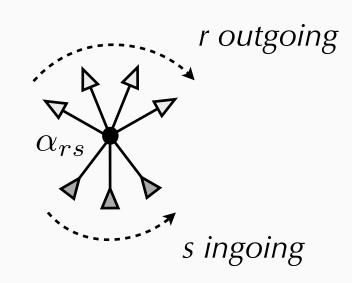




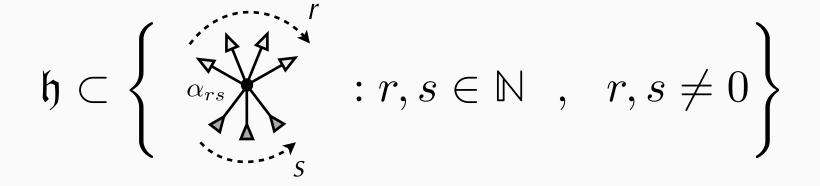
Building a graph Gates and graph labeling



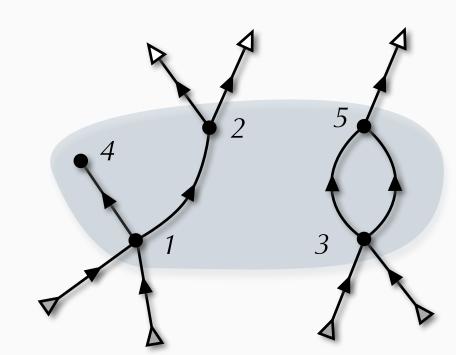
Building blocks of a graph (gates):



Each choice of gates ("basis" set):



generates a combinatorial class of graphs which have all vertices of type \mathfrak{h} .



- \bullet atoms z
- Δ marker u
- Δ marker v

Additional structure:

- \triangleright Can attach multiplicative weights α_{rs} to vertices.
- ▶ Increasing labelling is an additional structure on graphs introduced by labelling vertices with 1,2,3,... such that labels are increasing along each directed path.

Enumeration of Graphs

and normal ordering



For
$$\Gamma = \sum_{r,s} \alpha_{r,s}$$

For $\Gamma = \sum_{r,s} \alpha_{r,s}$ $\alpha_{r,s}$ consider the associated "basis" set: $\mathfrak{h} = \{\alpha_{r,s} \neq 0\}$

ightharpoonup On the level of graphs G:

$$\Gamma^{n} = \sum_{i=1}^{n}$$

 $\Gamma^{n} = \sum_{\substack{\text{increasingly labelled graphs}\\ \text{built of } n \text{ vertices of types } \mathfrak{h}}}$

ightharpoonup On the level of algebra \mathfrak{H} :

$$\beta_{n,k,l}$$

$$\left(\sum_{r,s} \alpha_{r,s} X^r D^s\right)^{n} = \sum_{k,l} \# \begin{array}{c} \text{increasingly labelled graphs} \\ \text{built of } n \text{ vertices of types } \mathfrak{h} \\ \text{with } k \text{ outgoing and } l \text{ ingoing lines} \end{array}$$

$$\Delta$$
 - marker u

$$\exp\left(z\sum_{r,s}\alpha_{r,s} X^r D^s\right) = \sum_{n,k,l} \beta_{n,k,l} u^k v^l \frac{z^n}{n!} = G(z;u,v)$$

n,k,l

 $u \to X$ $v \to D$

Normal form !!!

 $X^{k}D^{l}$

Equivalence principle

Symbolic Methods & Generating Functions

Constructive approach to normal ordering

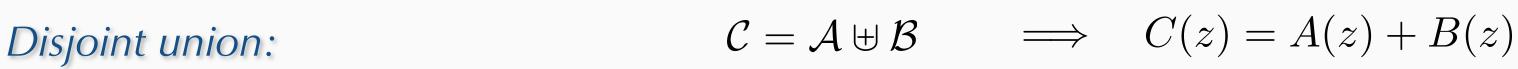


 \mathcal{C} - combinatorial class (collection of objects with the notion of size)

$$C_n = \#$$
 objects of size n in class \mathcal{C}

$$C(z) = \sum_{n} C_n \frac{z^n}{n!}$$
 - exponential generating function of class C





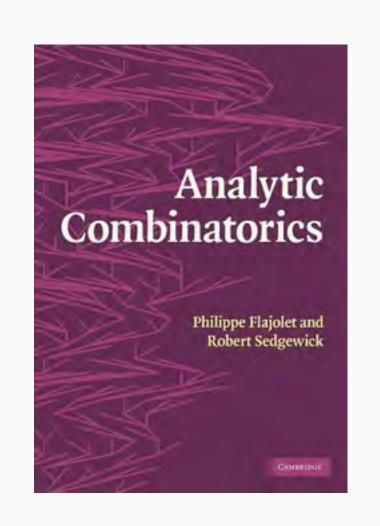
Cartesian product: $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B} \implies C(z) = A(z) \cdot B(z)$

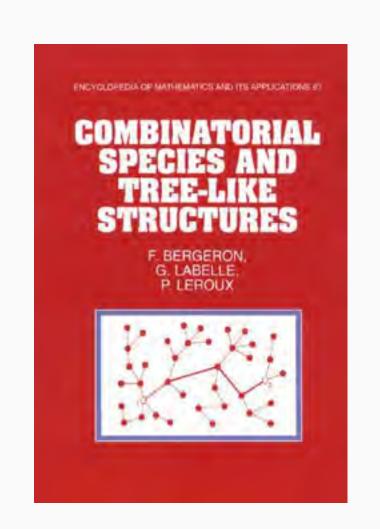
Set construction: $C = \operatorname{SET}(A) \implies C(z) = e^{A(z)}$

Substitution: $C = A \circ B \implies C(z) = A(B(z))$

Appending min/max element: $C = Z^{\square} \star A \implies C(z) = \int_0^z A(t) dt$

..... and many others, e.g. SEQ, CYC, D, Θ , ...





Example: Set partitions



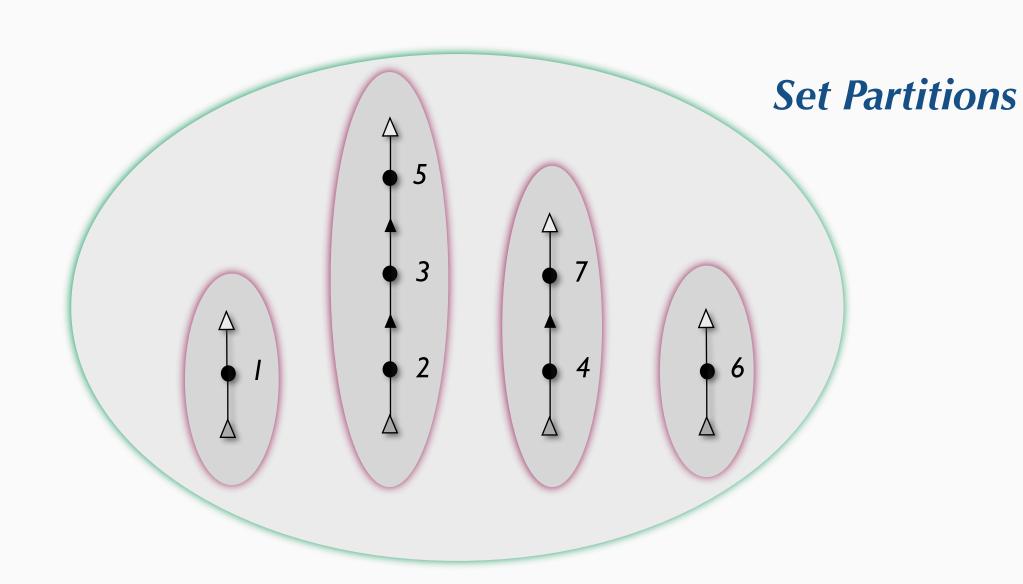
ullet - atoms z

 Δ - marker u

 Δ - marker v

Let us take $\begin{cases} \Delta \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{cases}$, i.e. XD.

Generic graph:



Combinatorial specification:

$$\mathcal{C} = \operatorname{Set}\left(uv\operatorname{Set}_{\geqslant 1}(\mathcal{Z})
ight)$$

Generating function:

$$G = e^{uv(e^z - 1)}$$

On the algebraic level:

$$\mathfrak{N}(e^{z\,XD}) = :e^{XD\,(e^z-1)}:$$

Example: Involutions



Let us take
$$+$$
 , i.e. $X + D$.

Generic graph:

 ullet - atoms z

 Δ - marker u

 $f \Delta$ - marker v

Combinatorial specification:

Generating function:

On the algebraic level:

$$C = \operatorname{Set}(uZ + vZ + \operatorname{Set}_2(Z))$$

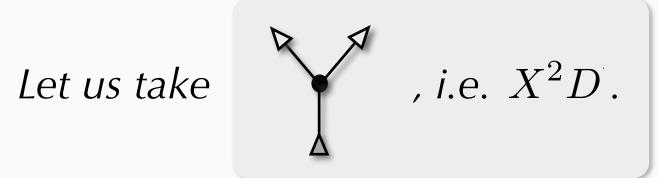
$$G = e^{(u+v)z+z^2/2}$$

$$\mathfrak{N}(e^{z(X+D)}) = :e^{(X+D)z+z^2/2} := e^{z^2/2} \cdot e^{zX} \cdot e^{zD}$$

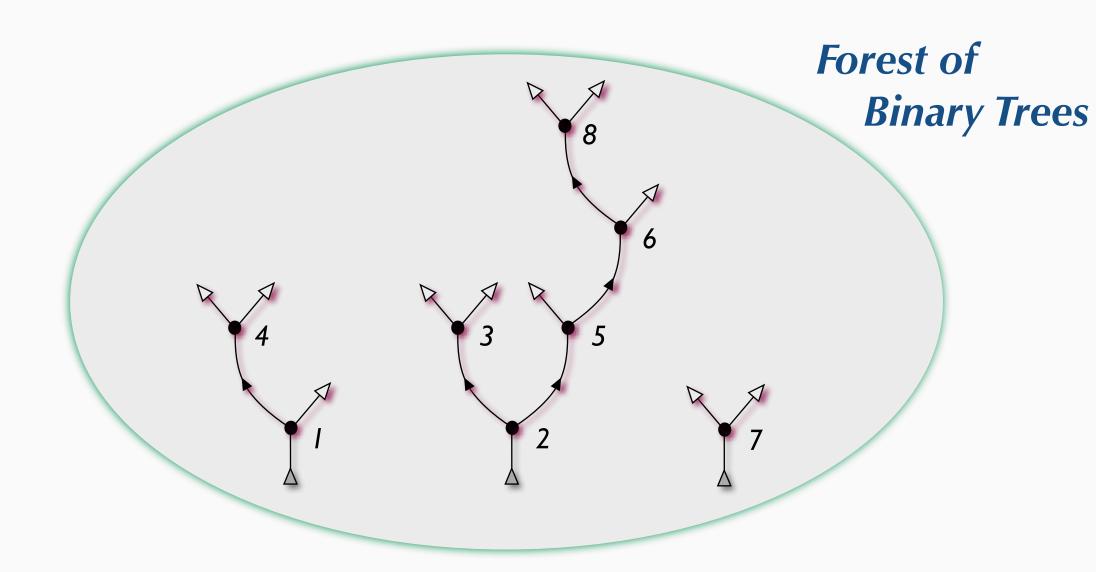
!! BCH formula !!

Example: Binary trees





Generic graph:

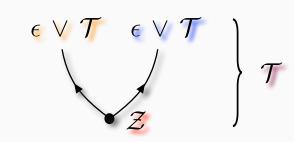


ullet - atoms z

 Δ - marker u

 Δ - marker v

Construction of a Tree:



Combinatorial specification:

Generating function:

On the algebraic level:

$$\mathcal{C} = \operatorname{Set}(v \, \mathcal{T})$$

$$G = \exp\left(\frac{v u^2 z}{1 - u z}\right)$$

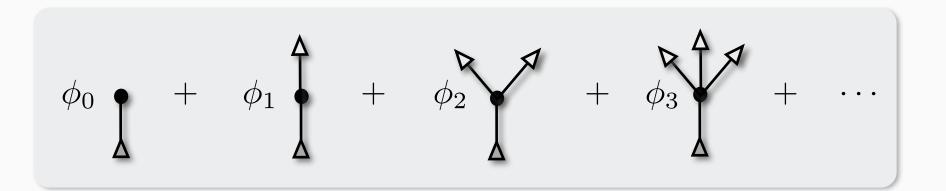
$$\mathfrak{N}(e^{zX^2D}) = : \exp\left(\frac{X^2Dz}{1-Xz}\right):$$

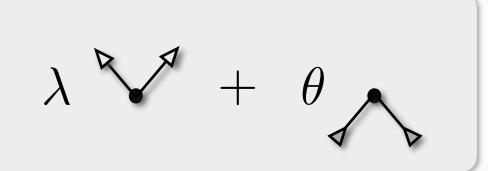
$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{T} = (\mathbf{u} + \mathcal{T}) \star \mathcal{Z}^{\square} \star (\mathbf{u} + \mathcal{T}) \\ \mathcal{T}(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$T(u,z) = \int_0^z (u + T(u,t))^2 dt$$

and much more ...

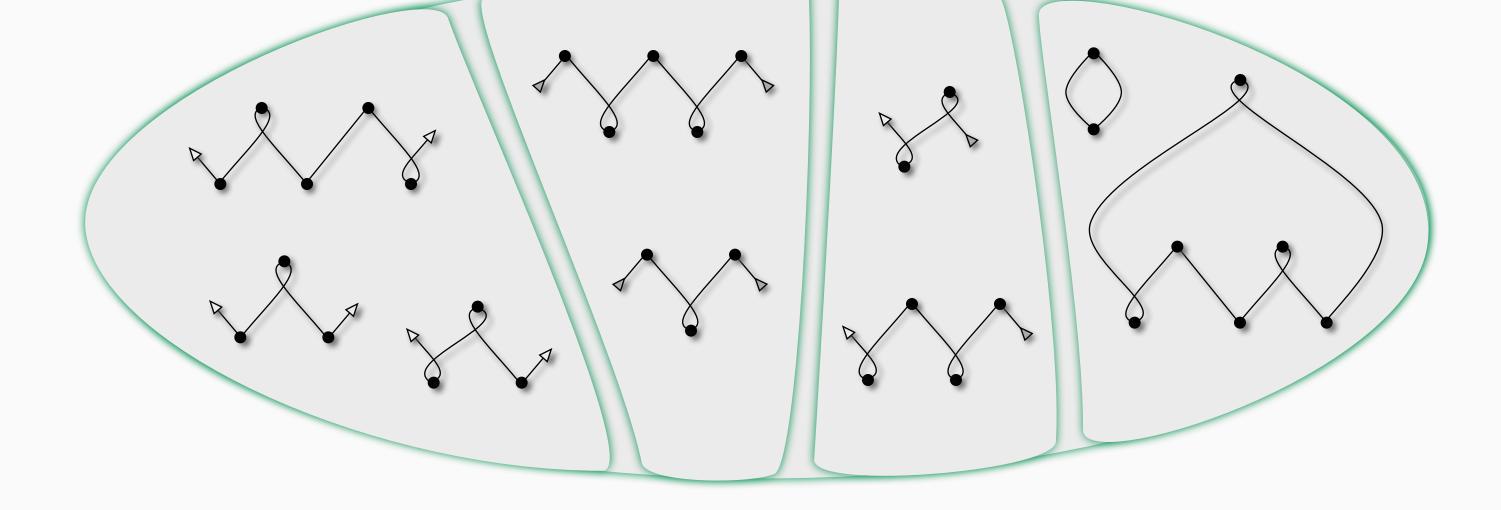






Tree varieties





$$\mathfrak{N}\left(e^{z\,\phi(X)D}\right) = e^{\,v\,T^{\phi}(u,z)}$$

$$\mathfrak{N}\left(e^{\lambda X^2 + \theta D^2}\right) = \sqrt{\sec(\sqrt{4\lambda\theta})} \ e^{\sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{4\theta}} \tan(\sqrt{4\lambda\theta}) X^2} : e^{\left(\sec(\sqrt{4\lambda\theta}) - 1\right) XD} : e^{\sqrt{\frac{\theta}{4\lambda}} \tan(\sqrt{4\lambda\theta}) D^2}$$

Back to Quantum Foundations

A naive attempt at interpretation



Some insight into quantum evolution (Schrödinger equation)

$$|\Psi_0\rangle \longrightarrow |\Psi_t\rangle = e^{itH(a,a^{\dagger})} |\Psi_0\rangle$$

where:
$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{n} \alpha_n |n\rangle$$

$$\Psi_0(x) \longrightarrow \Psi_t(x) = e^{itH(\partial_x,x)} \Psi_0(x)$$

where:
$$\Psi(x) = \sum_{n} \alpha_n x^n$$

$$\mathcal{C}_0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}_t = e^{itH(D,X)} \mathcal{C}_0$$

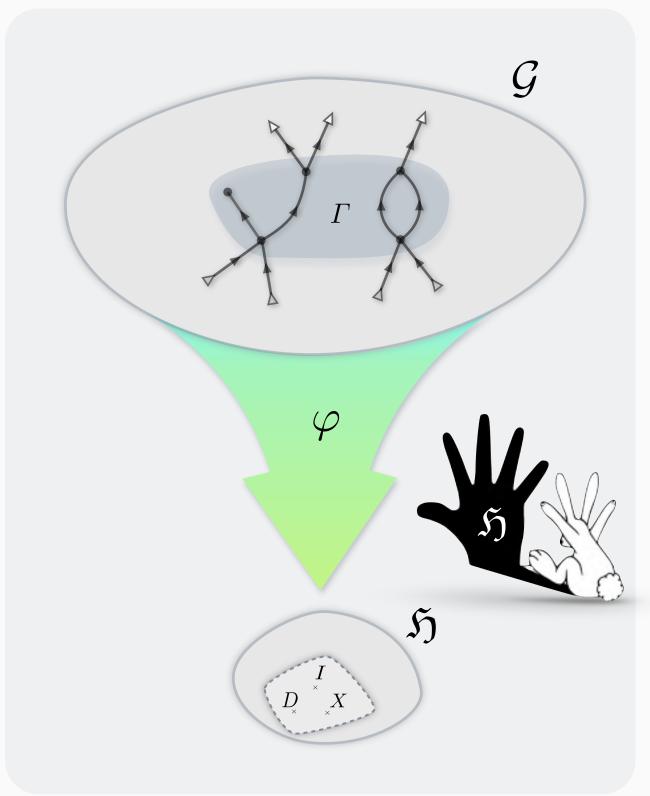
where: C - combinatorial class

Can think as constructors acting on generating functions of combinatorial classes?

Problematic:

- What is the meaning of g.f. evaluated at a point?
- ▶ How to derive/understand the **Born's rule**?
- What is the meaning of complex weights (interference phenomena)?
- Action on whole classes (no interpretation in terms of action on single objects)

COMBINATORIAL MODEL

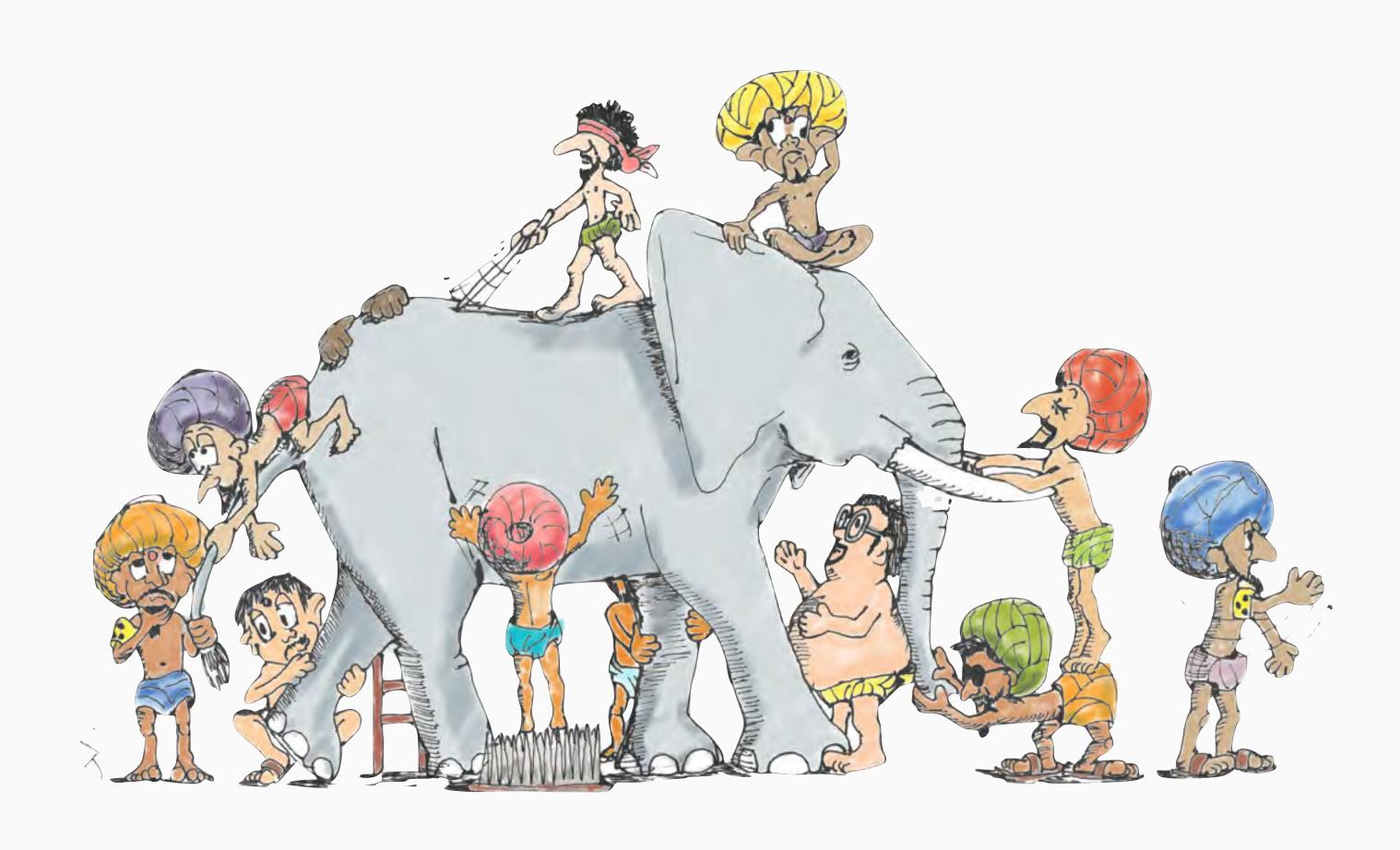


ALGEBRAIC STRUCTURE

Blind man and an elephant

Information is physical





"We have to remember that what we observe is not nature in itself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning."

Werner Heisenberg



AofA'16, Kraków 2016

Quantum formalism

Qubit and the Bloch ball representation



- Representation of a qubit: $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^2$
 - **Pure** states:

$$|\psi\rangle = \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)|0\rangle + e^{i\phi}\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)|1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\\ e^{i\phi}\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \end{pmatrix}$$

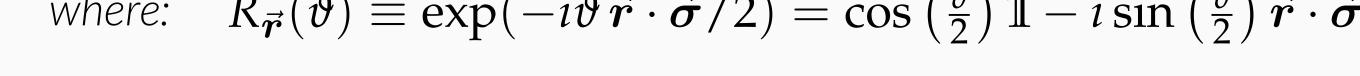
Mixed states:

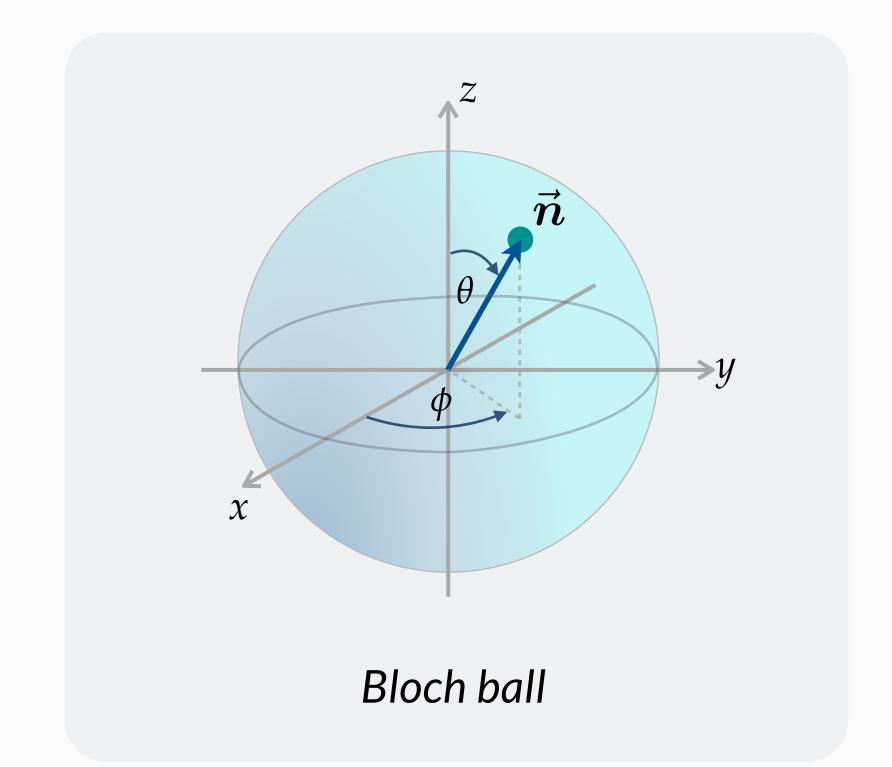
$$ho = rac{1}{2} ig(\mathbb{1} + ec{m{n}} \cdot ec{m{\sigma}} ig)$$
 s.t.: $|ec{m{n}}| \leqslant 1$

 $ho \longrightarrow U
ho U^{\dagger}$ **Unitary** transformations:

 $U = e^{i\alpha} R_{\vec{r}}(\vartheta)$ Each unitary has representation:

where: $R_{\vec{r}}(\vartheta) \equiv \exp(-i\vartheta\,\vec{r}\cdot\vec{\sigma}/2) = \cos\left(\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right)\mathbb{1} - i\sin\left(\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right)\vec{r}\cdot\vec{\sigma}$





Measurement in basis
$$\{P_i\} = \{ |\xi\rangle\langle\xi|, |\xi^{\perp}\rangle\langle\xi^{\perp}| \}: \qquad |\psi\rangle \longrightarrow \begin{cases} |\xi\rangle & \text{with: } P_0 = |\langle\xi|\psi\rangle|^2 \\ |\xi^{\perp}\rangle & \text{with: } P_1 = |\langle\xi^{\perp}|\psi\rangle|^2 \end{cases}$$

von Neumann projection + Born's rule

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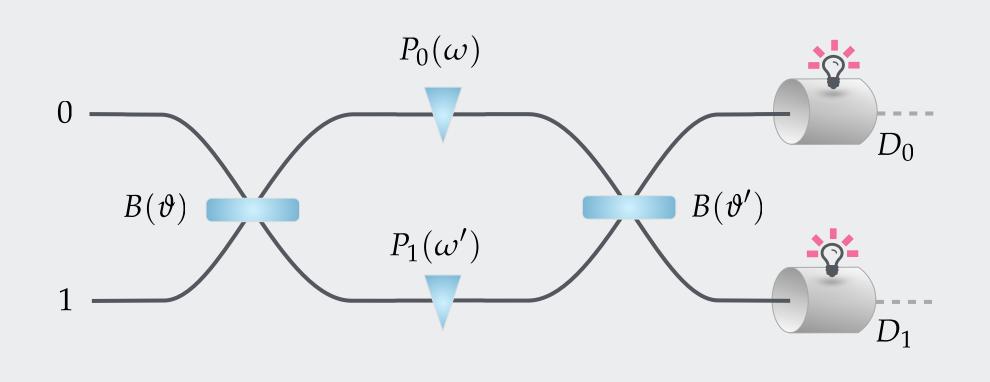


Quantum interferometry

Basic toolkit



- Typical interferometric circuit:
 - single-mode and one-particle framework
 - **two paths** (spatially separated)



$$|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 – particle in path "0"

$$|1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 – particle in path "1"

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

Phase shifters:

$$|\psi\rangle \xrightarrow{P_0(\omega)} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\omega} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|\psi\rangle \xrightarrow{P_1(\omega)} \qquad \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\omega} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

Beam splitters:

$$|\psi\rangle \xrightarrow{B(\vartheta)} \begin{cases} i\cos\left(\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right) & \sin\left(\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right) \\ \sin\left(\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right) & i\cos\left(\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right) \end{cases} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

Detectors:

$$|\psi\rangle$$
 $\xrightarrow{D_i}$ $\begin{cases} |0\rangle \text{ with: } P_0 = |\alpha|^2 \\ |1\rangle \text{ with: } P_1 = |\beta|^2 \end{cases}$

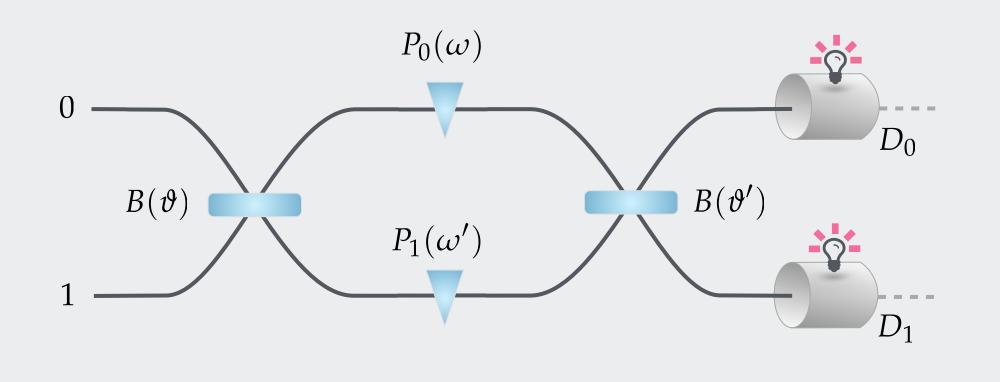
(*) Mirror = phase shifter, path blocker = detector + post-selection

Quantum interferometry

Basic toolkit



- Typical interferometric circuit:
 - single-mode and one-particle framework
 - **two paths** (spatially separated)



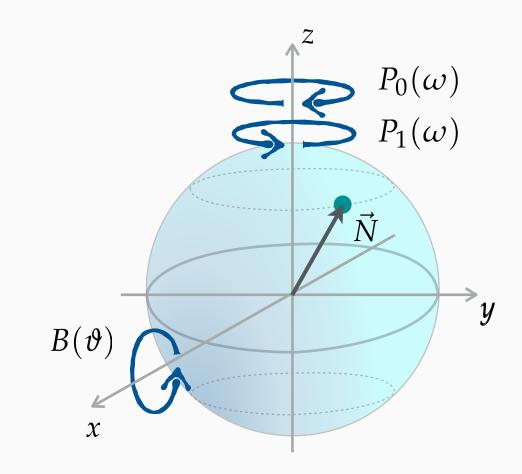
$$|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 - particle in path "0"

$$|1
angle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 – particle in path "1"

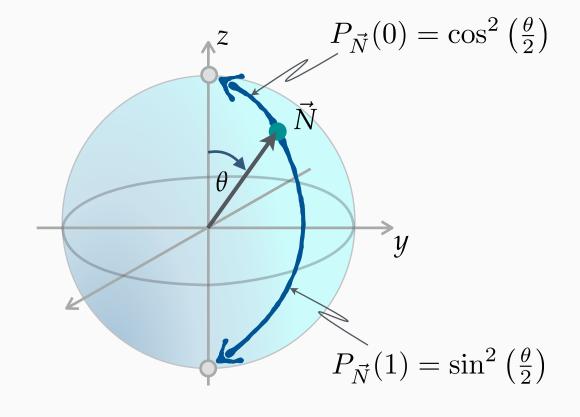
$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

Phase shifters:





Detectors:



(*) Mirror = phase shifter, path blocker = detector + post-selection

Problems with the ontology

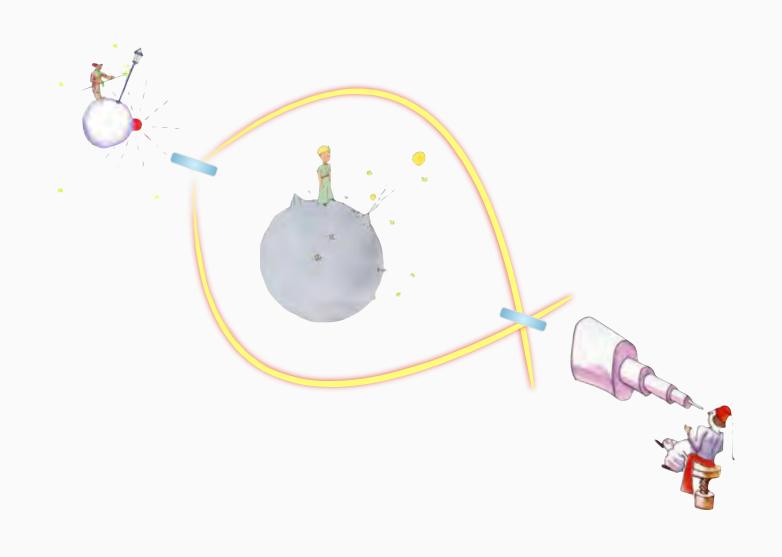
A few paradoxes for a qubit

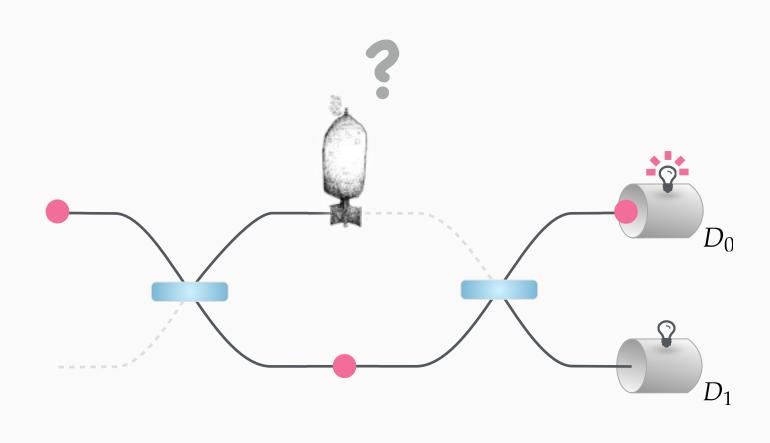


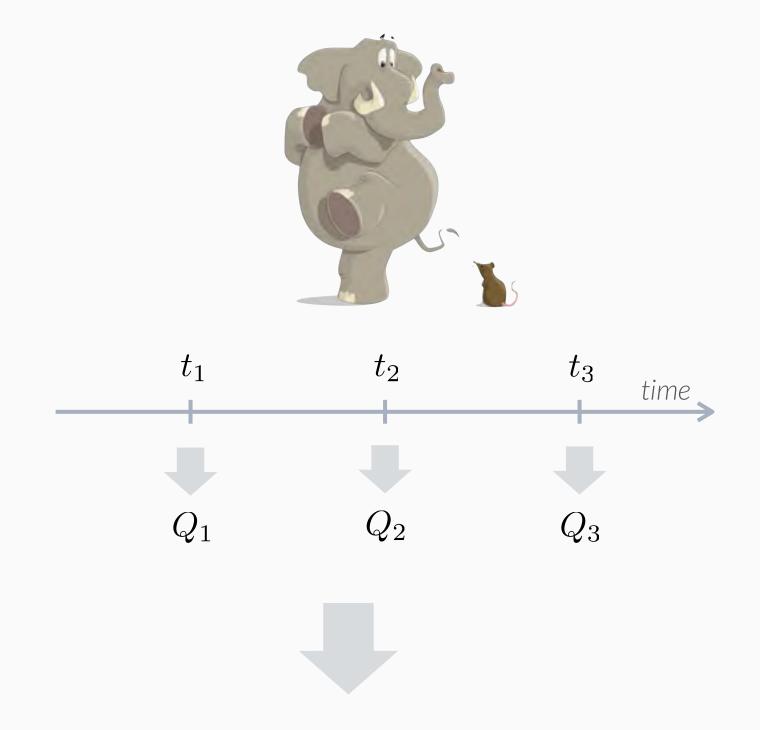
Wave-particle duality Wheeler's delayed-choice experiment

Non-locality and interaction-free measurements Elitzur-Vaidman bomb testing problem

Micro vs. macroscopic realism Leggett-Garg inequalities









How the world becomes 'macro'?

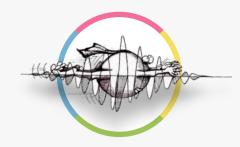
How the particle 'feels' the other path?

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Problems with the ontology

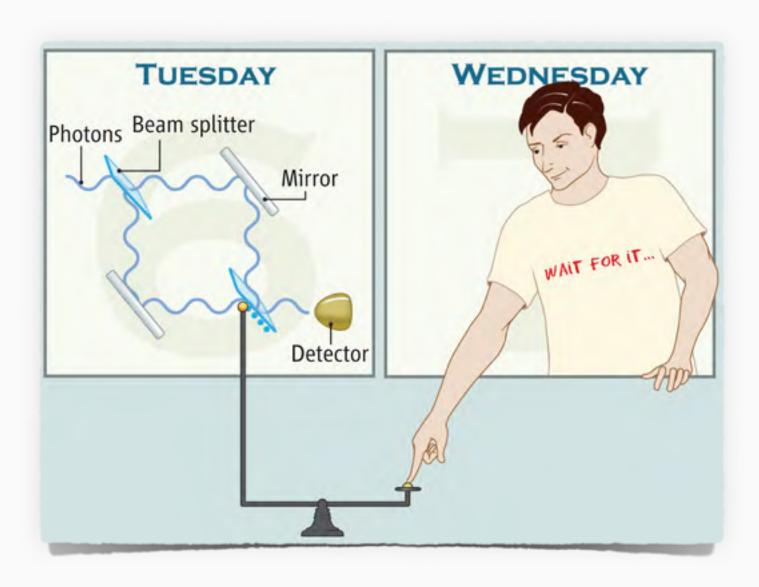
A few paradoxes for a qubit

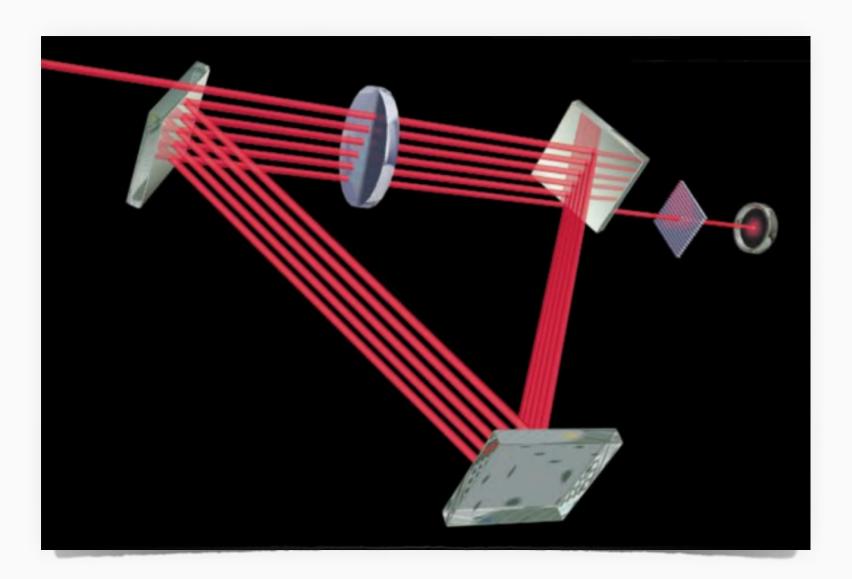


Wave-particle duality
Wheeler's delayed-choice experiment

Non-locality and interaction-free measurements

Elitzur-Vaidman bomb testing problem







Science **338** 621 (2012)

Quantum Seeing in the Dark

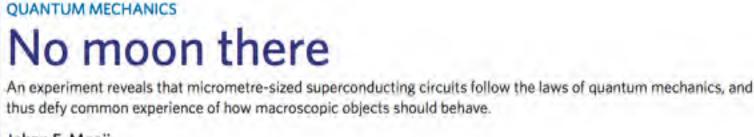
Quantum optics demonstrates the existence of interaction-free
measurements: the detection of objects without light—or
anything else—ever hitting them

by Paul Kwiat, Harald Weinfurter and Anton Zeilinger

Scientific American **275** 72 (1996)

Micro vs. macroscopic realism
Leggett-Garg inequalities





Johan E. Mooij

Nature Physics **6** 401 (2010)

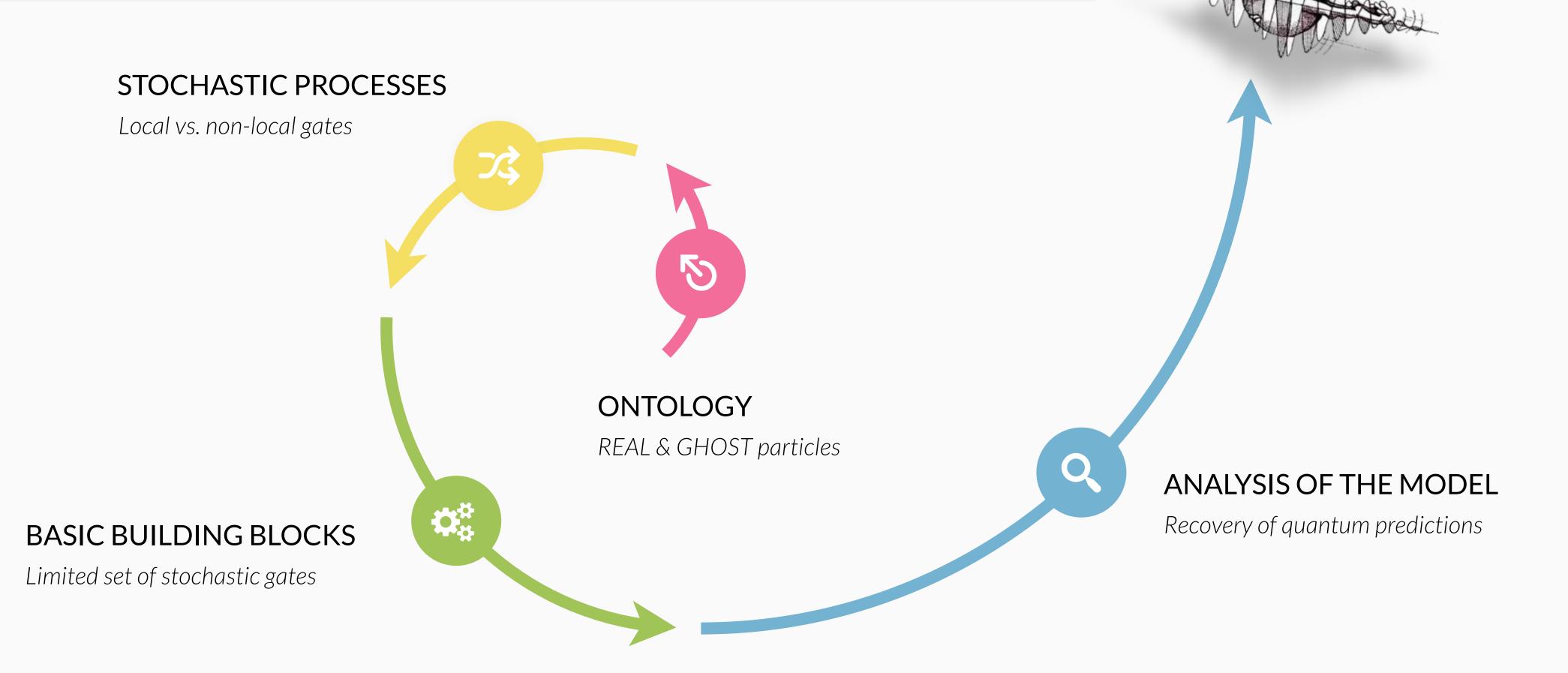
AofA'16, Kraków 2016

Building the model

Plan of action



Is it possible to make sense of interferometric experiments with a qubit in 'classical' terms? Can you see it as a stochastic process? Do correlations help? What about locality?



Reminder I

Probabilistic set-up

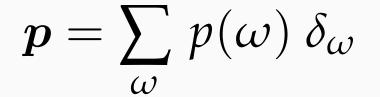


Ontic state space:

Probabilistic description:
$$\mathcal{P}(\Omega) = \left\{ m{p}: \Omega \longrightarrow [0,1] : \sum_{\omega} p(\omega) = 1
ight\}$$

 $\omega \iff \boldsymbol{p} = \delta_{\omega}$ Ontic states:

In general:
$$oldsymbol{p} = \sum_{\omega} p(\omega) \; \delta_{\omega}$$



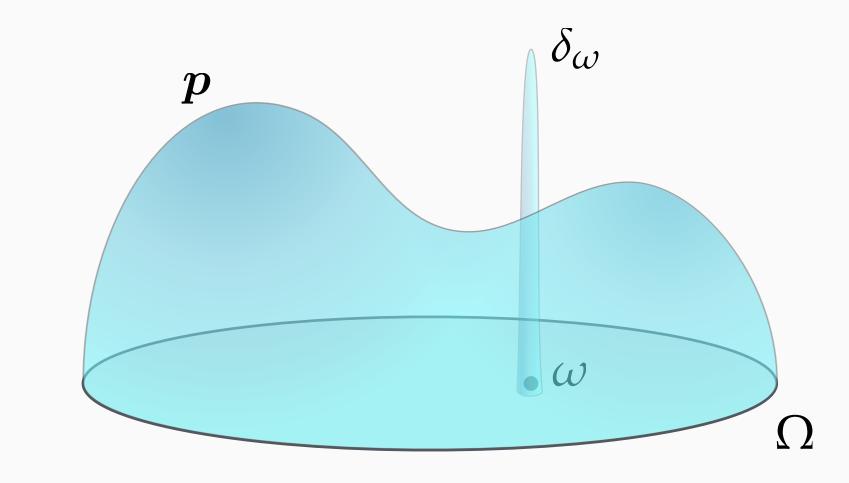


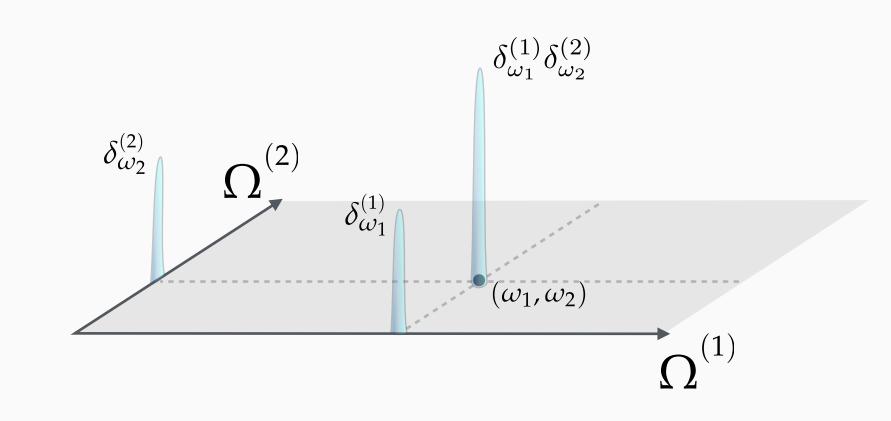
 $\mathcal{P}(\Omega) = \mathcal{P}igl(\Omega^{(1)}igr) \otimes \mathcal{P}igl(\Omega^{(2)}igr)$ Probabilistic description:

 Ω

 $(\omega_1,\omega_2) \iff \boldsymbol{p} = \delta_{\omega_1}^{(1)} \otimes \delta_{\omega_1}^{(2)} = \delta_{\omega_1}^{(1)} \delta_{\omega_2}^{(2)}$ Ontic states:

 $\boldsymbol{p} = \sum p(\omega_1, \omega_2) \, \delta_{\omega_1}^{(1)} \, \delta_{\omega_2}^{(2)}$ In general: ω_1,ω_2





Reminder II

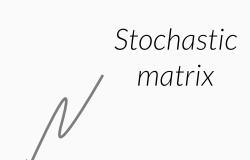
Stochastic transformations



 \triangleright Deterministic: $T:\Omega\longrightarrow\Omega$

$$lack Probabilistic^{(*)}: T:\Omega\longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$$

Conditional probabilities:



$$T(i)(k) = \text{Prob}(\omega = k | \omega = i) = \mathbb{T}_{ki}$$

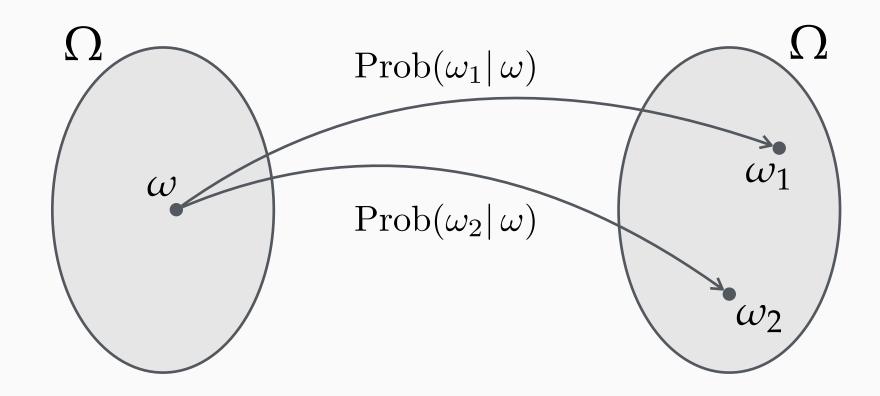
Then:
$$m{p} \stackrel{T}{\longrightarrow} m{p}' = \mathbb{T}m{p}$$

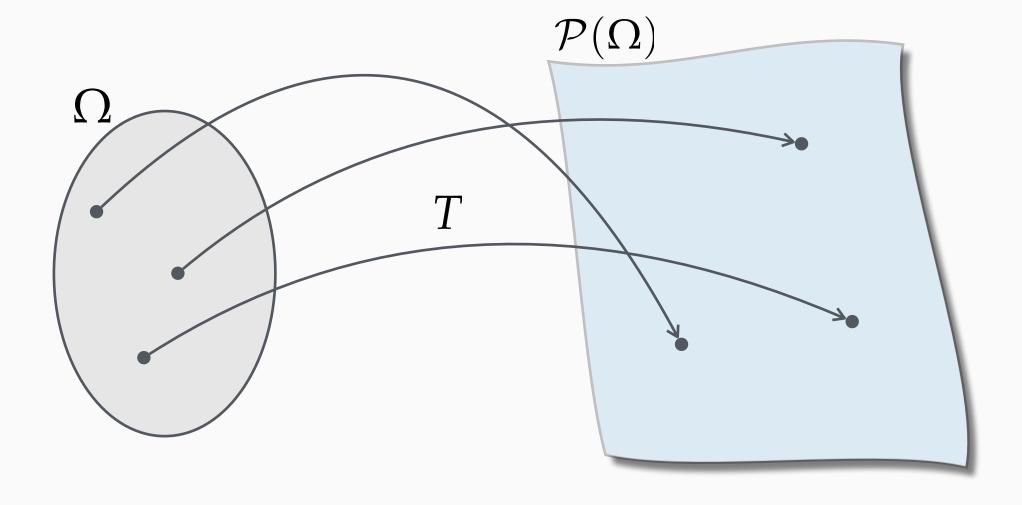
$$p'(k) = \sum_{i} \text{Prob}(\omega = k | \omega = i) \ p(i)$$

For a sequence:
$$p_0 \xrightarrow{T_1} p_1 \xrightarrow{T_2} p_2 \xrightarrow{T_3} p_3$$

we have:
$$\boldsymbol{p}_3 = \mathbb{T}_3 \, \mathbb{T}_2 \, \mathbb{T}_1 \, \boldsymbol{p}_0$$

Probabilistic





(*) Compare with: $T:\mathcal{P}(\Omega)\longrightarrow\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$

Ontology of the Model

General set-up: Ontic state space



Two paths:

$$i = 0, 1$$

Two kinds of particles:

REAL particles: $\vec{n} = (\theta, \phi) \in S^2$

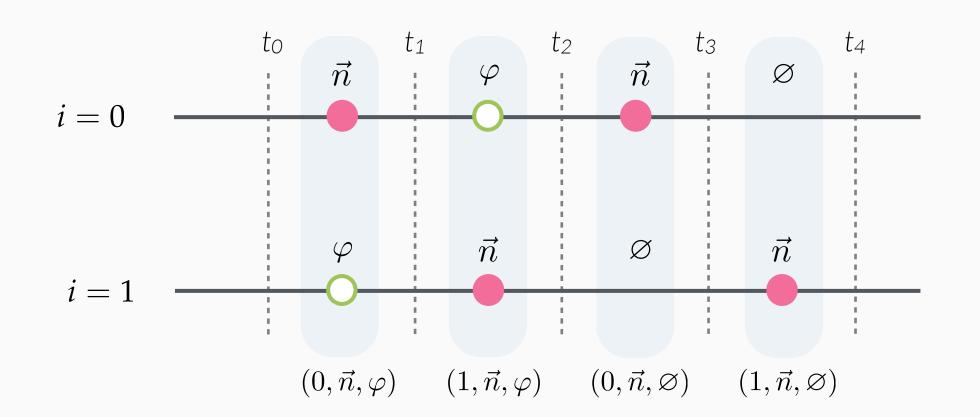
GHOST particles: $\varphi \in S^1$

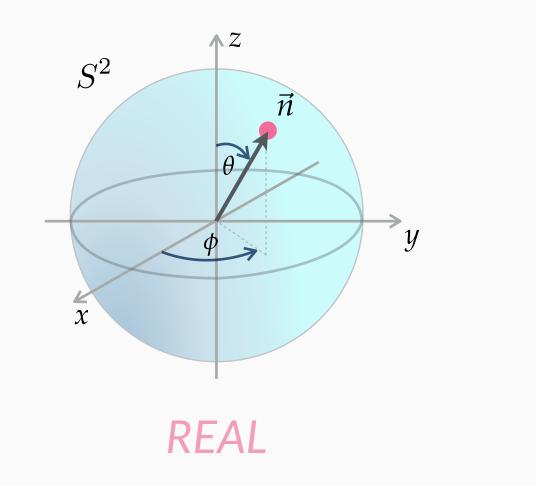
Key assumption:

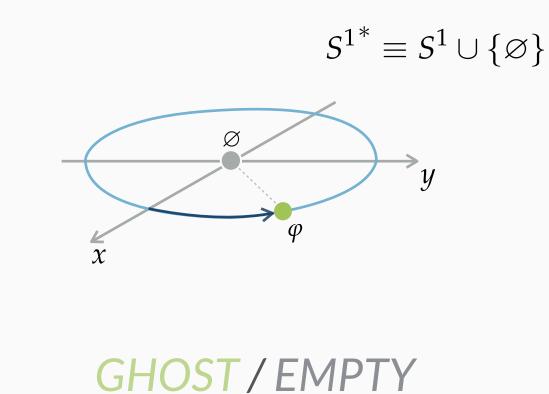
Only **single REAL** particle present in the circuit, with a **GHOST** in the **other** path or the path is **EMPTY**.

Hence, the **ontic state** space:

$$\Omega \equiv \{0,1\} \times S^2 \times S^{1^*} \ni (i,\vec{n},\varphi) \text{ or } (i,\vec{n},\varnothing)$$
 where is represent the inner state of the state







Building Blocks of the Model

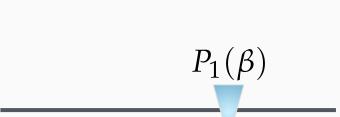
Limited set of stochastic gates



• We will consider **stochastic circuits** that are built from a few **building blocks**:

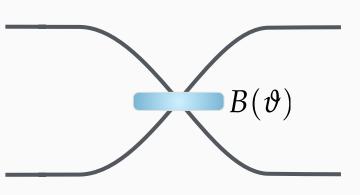


Phase shifters:

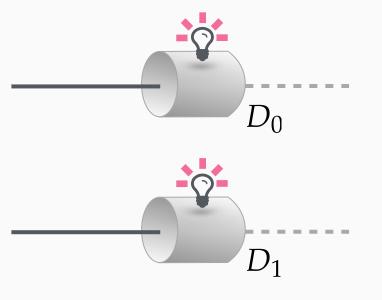


 $P_0(\alpha)$

Beam splitters:



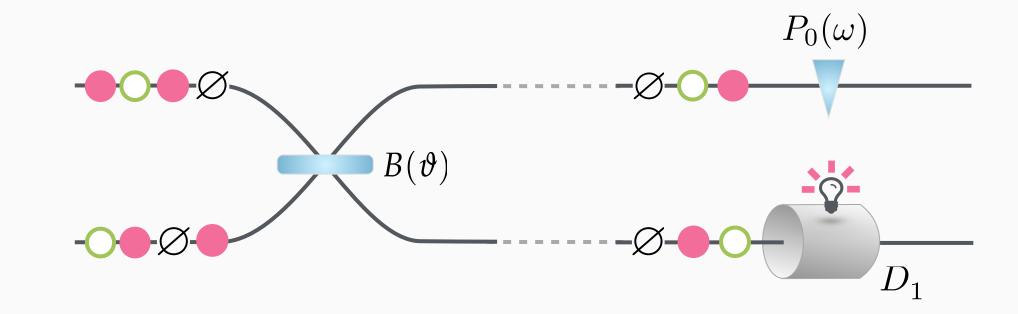
Detectors:



- Need to specify how they act the **ontic states**.
- Make sure that **phase shifters** and **detectors** act <u>locally</u> and only **beam splitter** has access to <u>both</u> paths.

REAL & **GHOST**: $(i, \vec{n}, \varphi) \longrightarrow p \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$

REAL & EMPTY: $(i, \vec{n}, \varnothing) \longrightarrow p \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$



Phase shifter

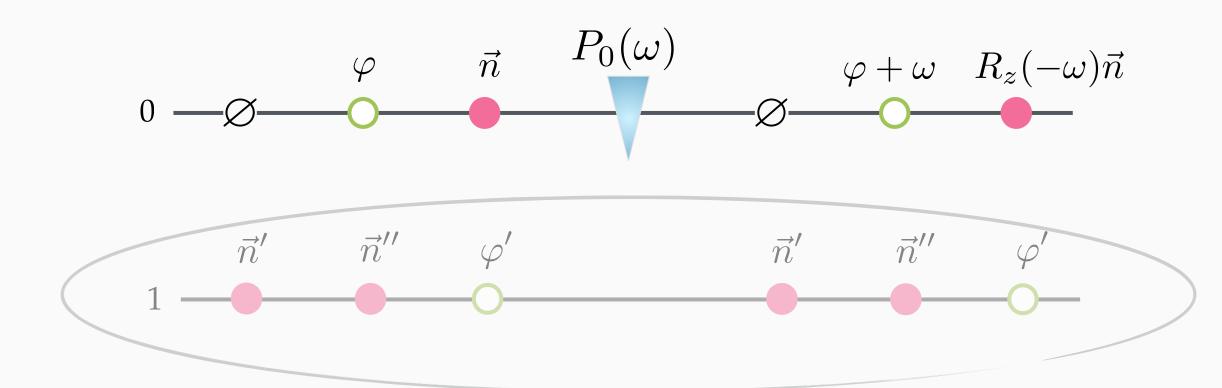


Phase shifter

Action of **phase shifter** $P_0(\omega)$ in the 0-th path:

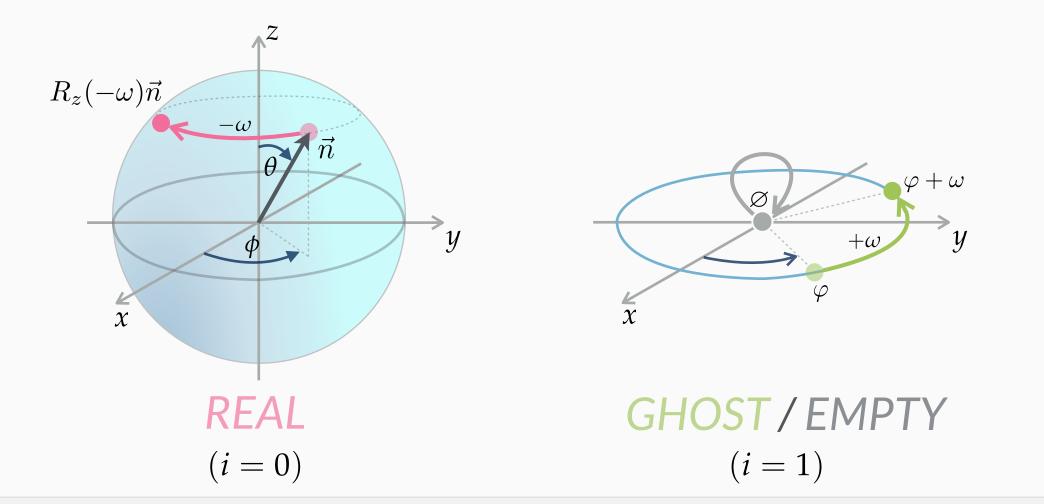
- lacktriangle rotates REAL particle around \hat{z} axis by $-\omega$,
- lacktriangledown rotates GHOST particle around \hat{z} axis by $+\omega$,
- **I** for **EMPTY** \varnothing does nothing.

Local deterministic gate!!



$$(i, \vec{n}, \varphi) \xrightarrow{P_0(\omega)} \begin{cases} \delta_0 \, \delta_{R_z(-\omega)\,\vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varphi} & \text{if } i = 0, \\ \delta_1 \, \delta_{\vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varphi+\omega} & \text{if } i = 1. \end{cases}$$

$$(i, \vec{n}, \varnothing) \xrightarrow{P_0(\omega)} \begin{cases} \delta_0 \, \delta_{R_z(-\omega) \, \vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varnothing} & \text{if } i = 0, \\ \delta_1 \, \delta_{\vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varnothing} & \text{if } i = 1. \end{cases}$$



Phase shifter



Phase shifter

Action of **phase shifter** $P_1(\omega)$ in the 1-th path:

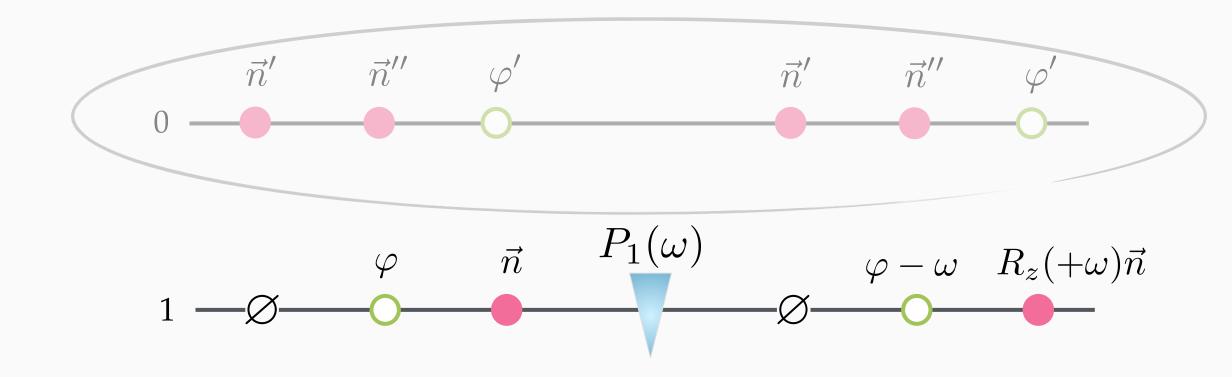
- rotates REAL particle around \hat{z} axis by $+\omega$,
- lacktriangledown rotates GHOST particle around \hat{z} axis by $-\omega$,
- for **EMPTY** Ø does nothing.

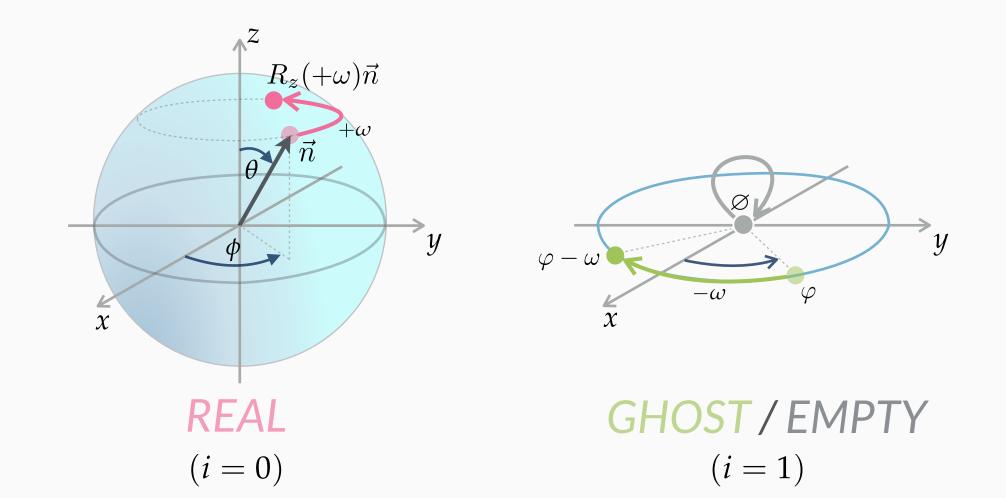
$(i, \vec{n}, \varphi) \xrightarrow{P_1(\omega)} \begin{cases} \delta_0 \, \delta_{\vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varphi - \omega} & \text{if } i = 0, \\ \delta_1 \, \delta_{R_z(\omega) \, \vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varphi} & \text{if } i = 1. \end{cases}$

$$(i, \vec{n}, \varnothing) \xrightarrow{P_1(\omega)} \begin{cases} \delta_0 \, \delta_{\vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varnothing} & \text{if } i = 0, \\ \delta_1 \, \delta_{R_z(\omega) \, \vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varnothing} & \text{if } i = 1. \end{cases}$$

 \sim \sim \sim

Local deterministic gate!!





Detector

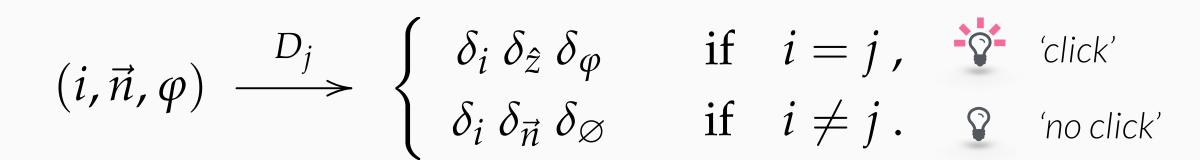


(Detector)

Action of **detector** D_j in the j-th path:

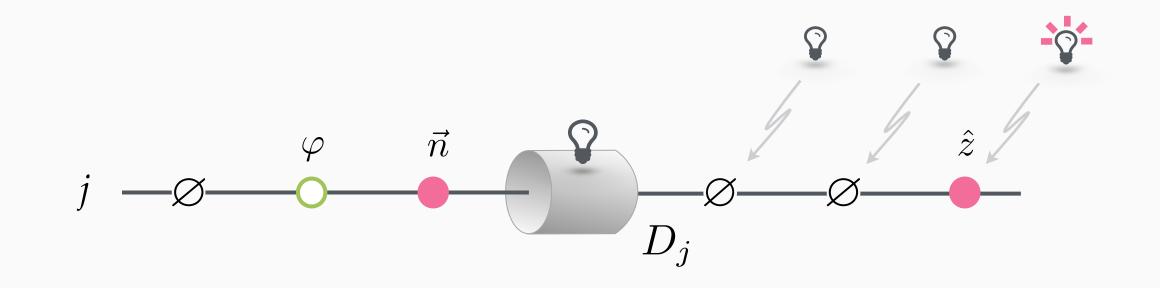
 $m{j}$ reveals ('clicks') whether REAL particle is in $m{j}$ -th path and if **yes** leaves it in state $m{\vec{n}}
ightarrow \hat{z}$,

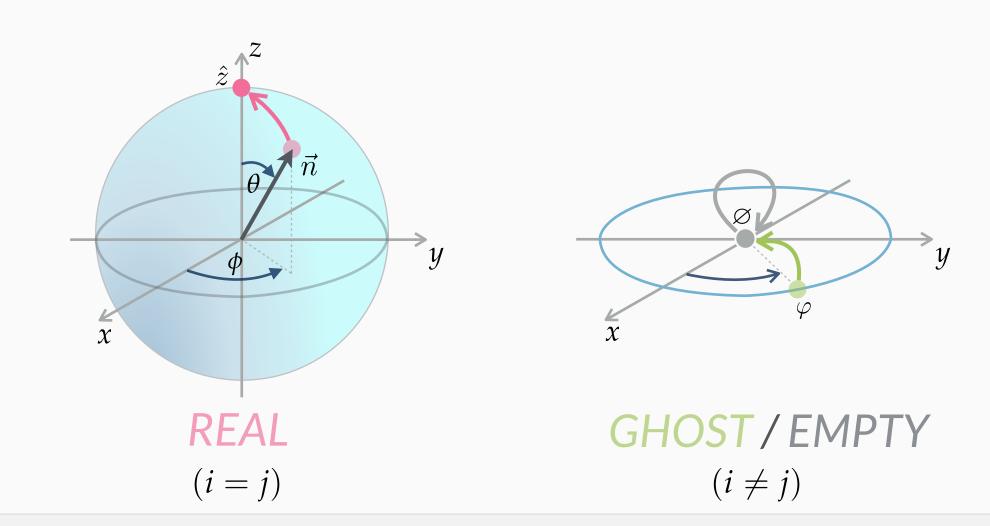
- remains **silent** ('no click') about the **GHOST** and **removes** it from the channel,
- **●** for **EMPTY** Ø does nothing ('no click').



$$(i, \vec{n}, \varnothing) \xrightarrow{D_j} \begin{cases} \delta_i \, \delta_{\hat{z}} \, \delta_{\varnothing} & \text{if } i = j, & \text{`click'} \\ \delta_i \, \delta_{\vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varnothing} & \text{if } i \neq j. & \text{`no click'} \end{cases}$$

Local deterministic gate!!





Beam splitter



Beam splitter

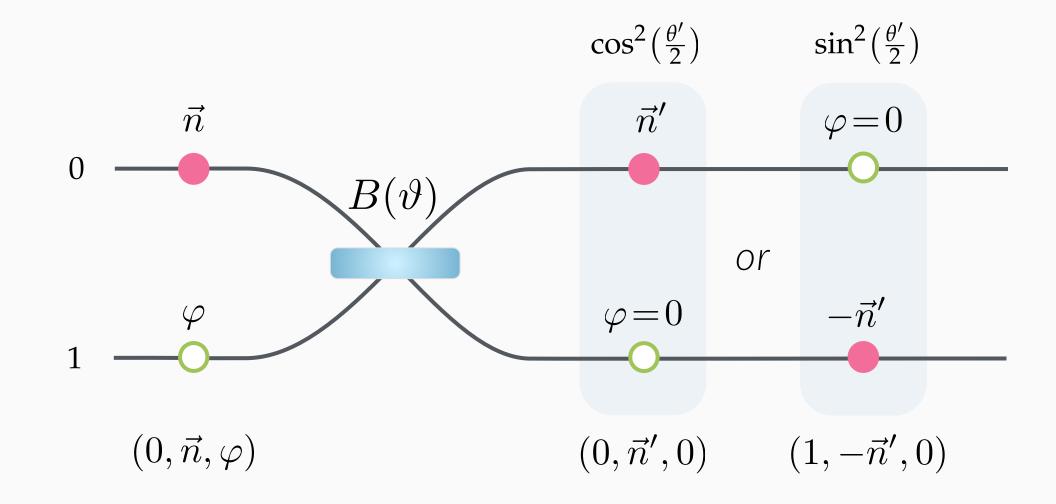
Action of **beam splitter** $B(\vartheta)$:

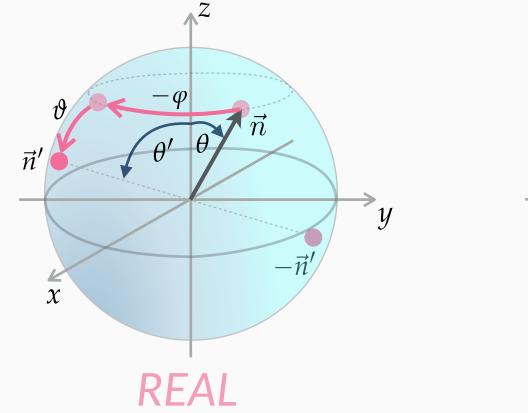
- The gate takes **both** particles (**REAL** & **GHOST**) and depending on their inner states $\vec{n} = (\theta, \phi)$ and ϕ produces probabilistic **mixture** of **two** situations:
 - particles **remain** in their respective channels,
 - particles are **swapped**,

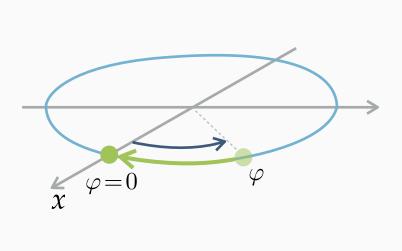
changing $\vec{n} \to \vec{n}'$ and $\varphi \to 0$.

$$(i, \vec{n}, \varphi) \xrightarrow{B(\vartheta)} \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta'}{2}\right) \delta_i \, \delta_{\vec{n}'} \, \delta_0 + \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta'}{2}\right) \, \delta_{\vec{i}} \, \delta_{-\vec{n}'} \, \delta_0$$
where: $\vec{n}' = (\theta', \phi') = R_x(\vartheta) \, R_z(-\varphi) \, \vec{n}$.

Local stochastic gate !!







GHOST

Beam splitter



Beam splitter

Action of **beam splitter** $B(\vartheta)$:

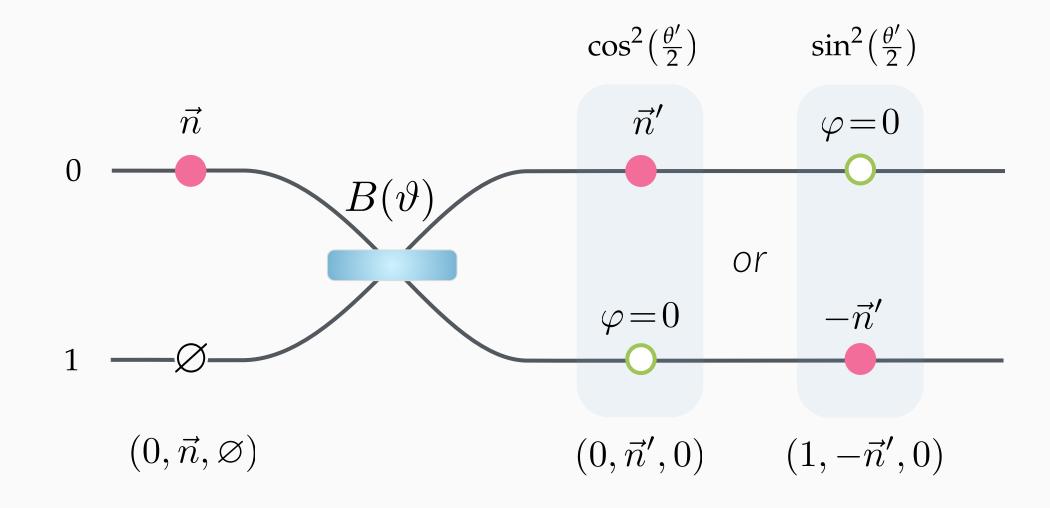
- 1 The gate sets $\vec{n} \to \hat{z}$ for the REAL particle creates a GHOST in the EMPTY channel $\varnothing \to \varphi = 0$ and acts accordingly, i.e.:
 - particles **remain** in their respective channels,
 - particles are swapped,

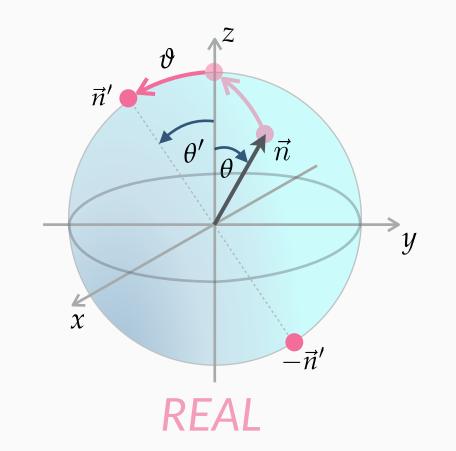
changing $\vec{n} \to \vec{n}'$ and $\varphi \to 0$.

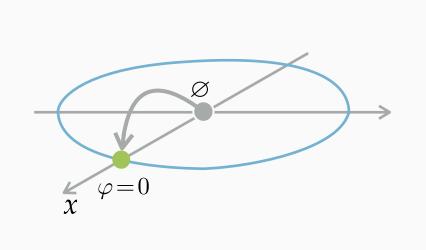
$$(i, \vec{n}, \varnothing) \xrightarrow{B(\vartheta)} \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta'}{2}\right) \delta_i \delta_{\vec{n}'} \delta_0 + \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta'}{2}\right) \delta_{\bar{i}} \delta_{-\vec{n}'} \delta_0$$

where:
$$\vec{n}' = (\theta', \phi') = (\vartheta, \pm \frac{\pi}{2}) = R_{\chi}(\vartheta) \hat{z}$$
.

Local stochastic gate!!







GHOST / EMPTY

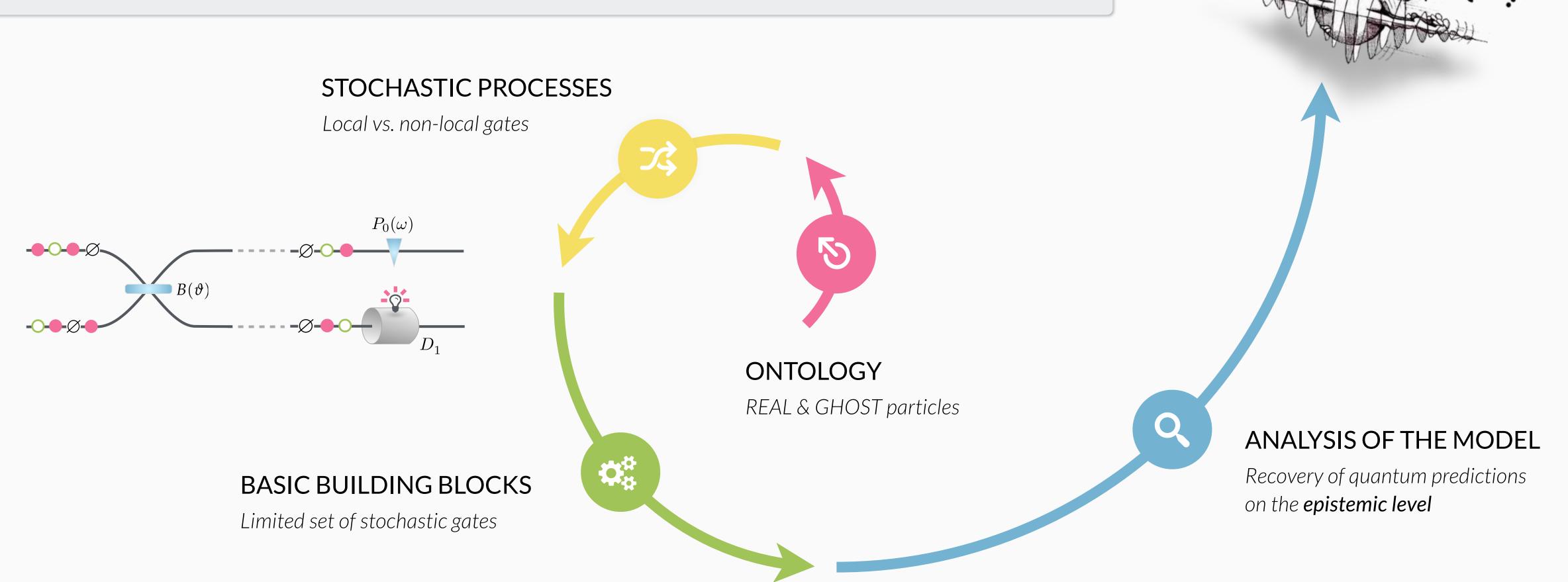
Building the model

Plan of action



Indeed, the stochastic model 'resembles' interferometric circuits (locality !!).

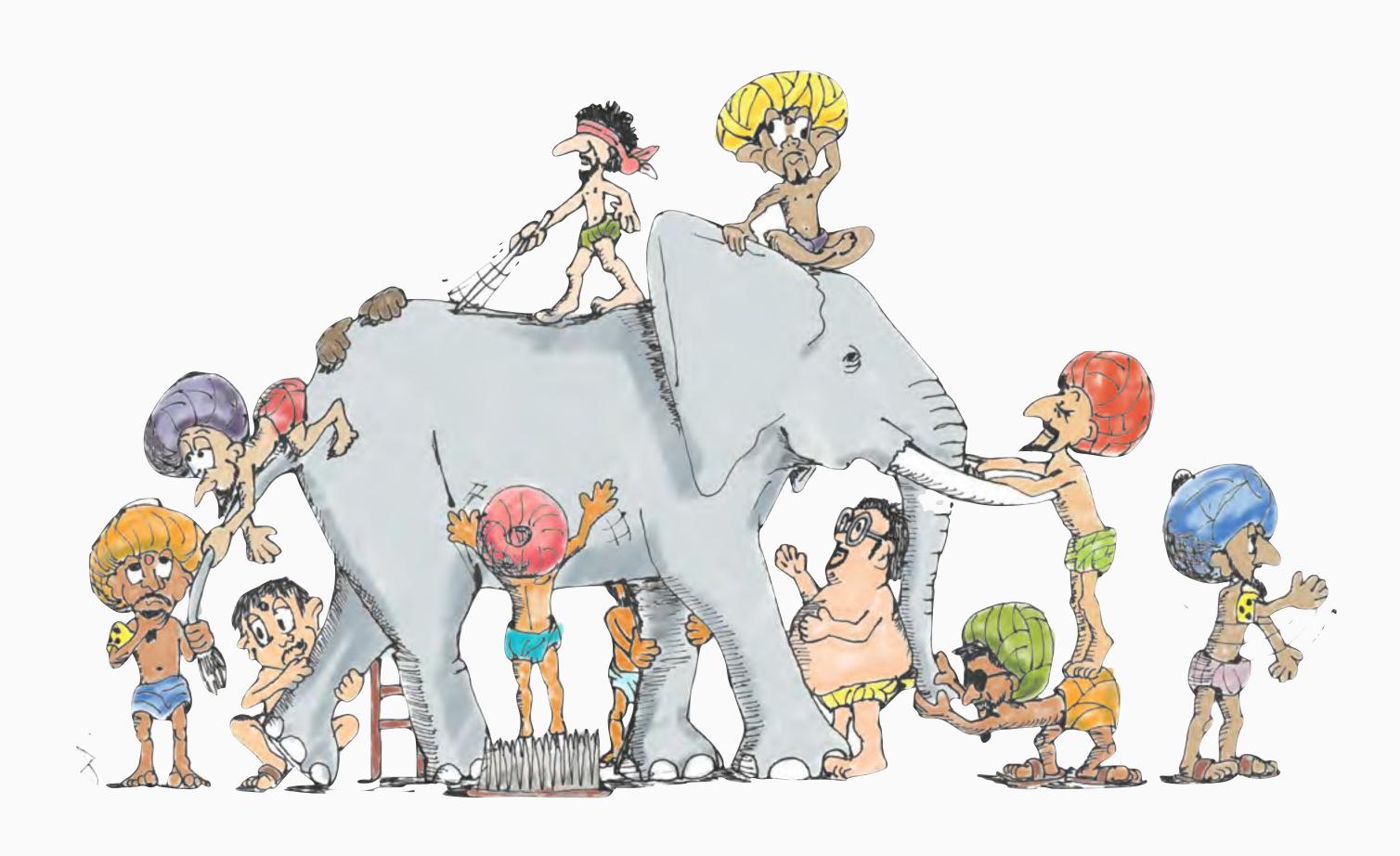
How does it compare with quantum predictions? Where is the wave function?



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Ontic vs. Epistemic Blind man and an elephant





"We have to remember that what we observe is not nature in itself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning."

Werner Heisenberg

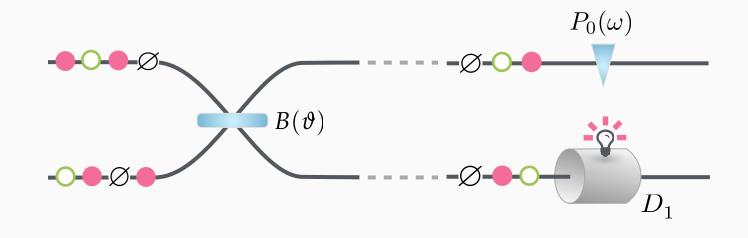


Epistemic desideratum

Agent under constraints



Ontic perspective



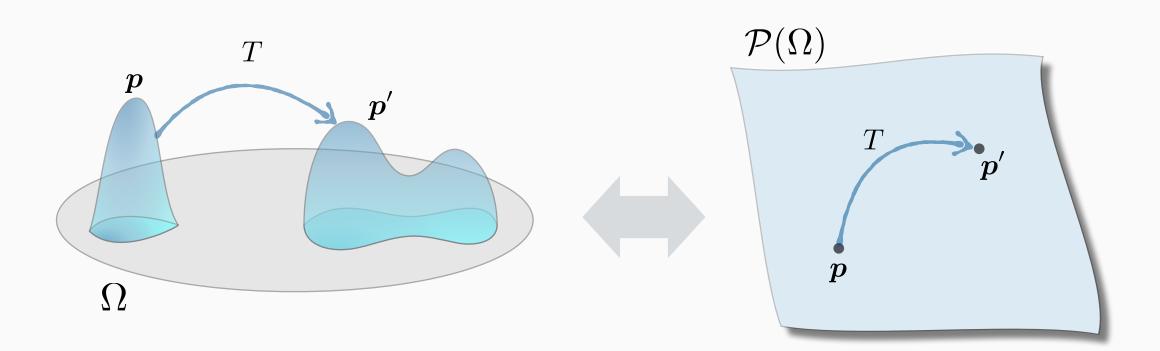
$$\Omega \equiv \{0,1\} \times S^2 \times S^{1*} \ni (i,\vec{n},\varphi) \text{ or } (i,\vec{n},\varnothing)$$
where is

REAL particle

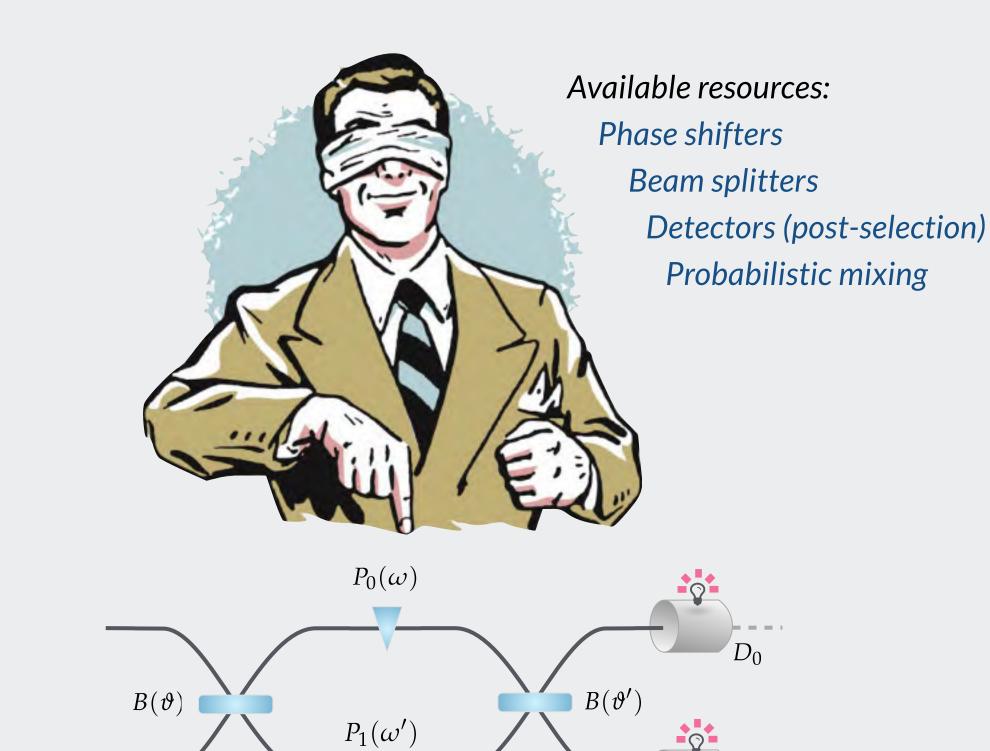
inner state of

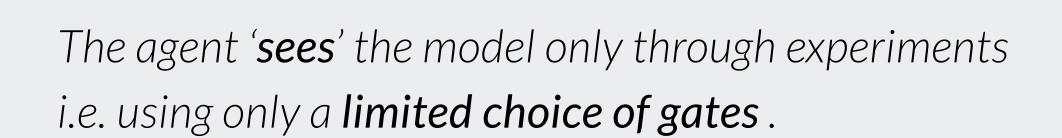
GHOST particle

or EMPTY









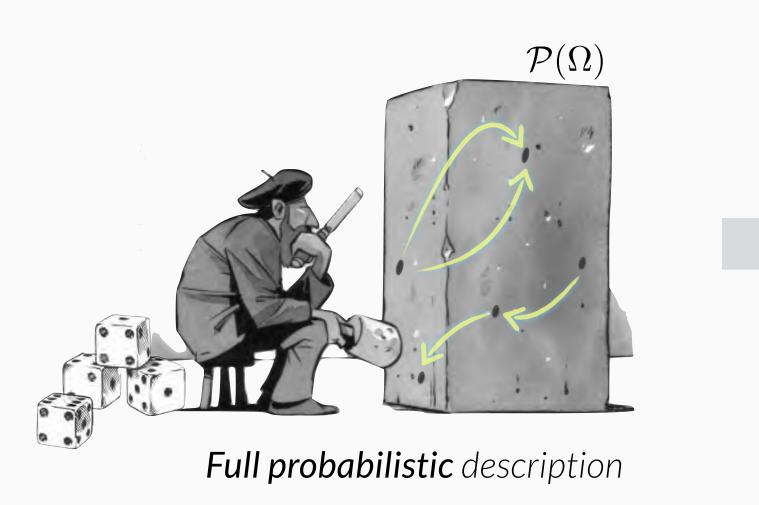
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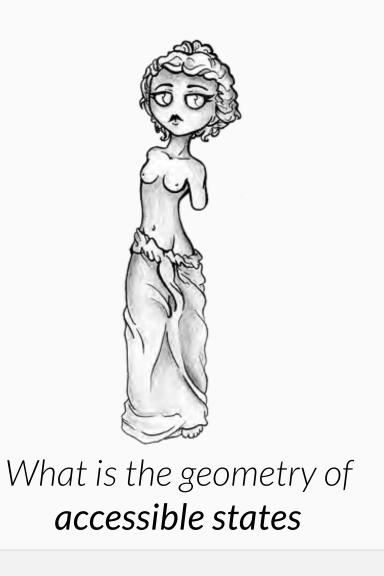
Epistemic desideratum

Agent under constraints



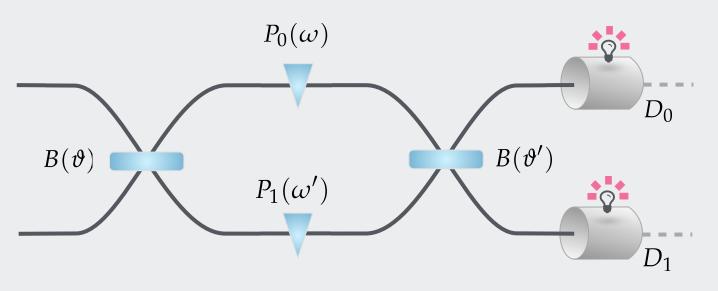
- Operational description of the model
 - **Which distributions** in $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ can be prepared by the agent according to the rules of the model?
 - How do they transform and what information can be learned under the action of conceivable circuits?
 - What is the **minimal description** which is enough to predict behaviour of the system as '**seen**' by the agent?





Epistemic perspective





The agent 'sees' the model only through experiments i.e. using only a limited choice of gates.

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Initialisation

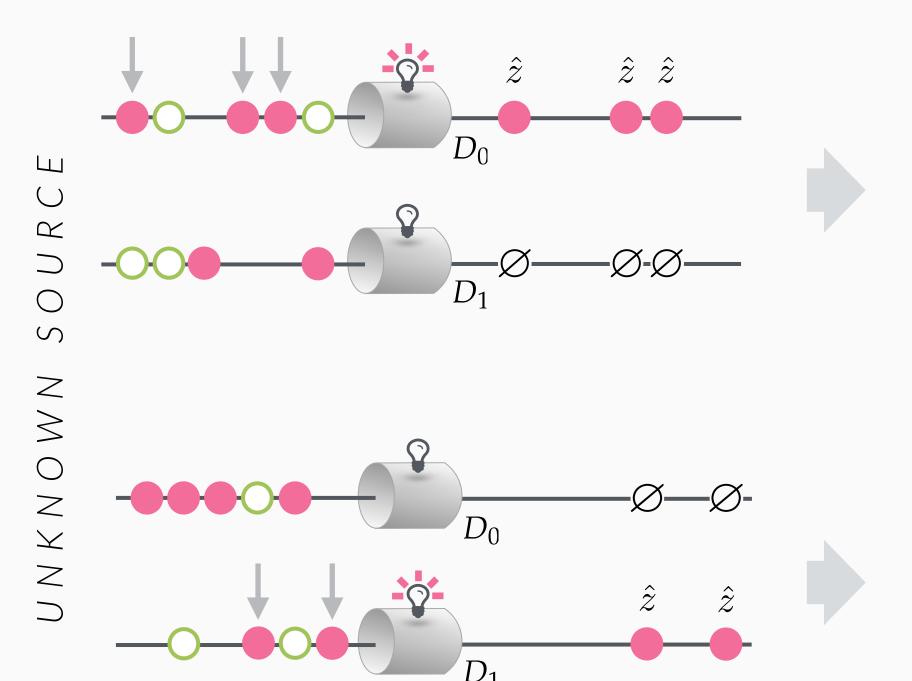


How to make a circuit work, i.e. INITIALISE?

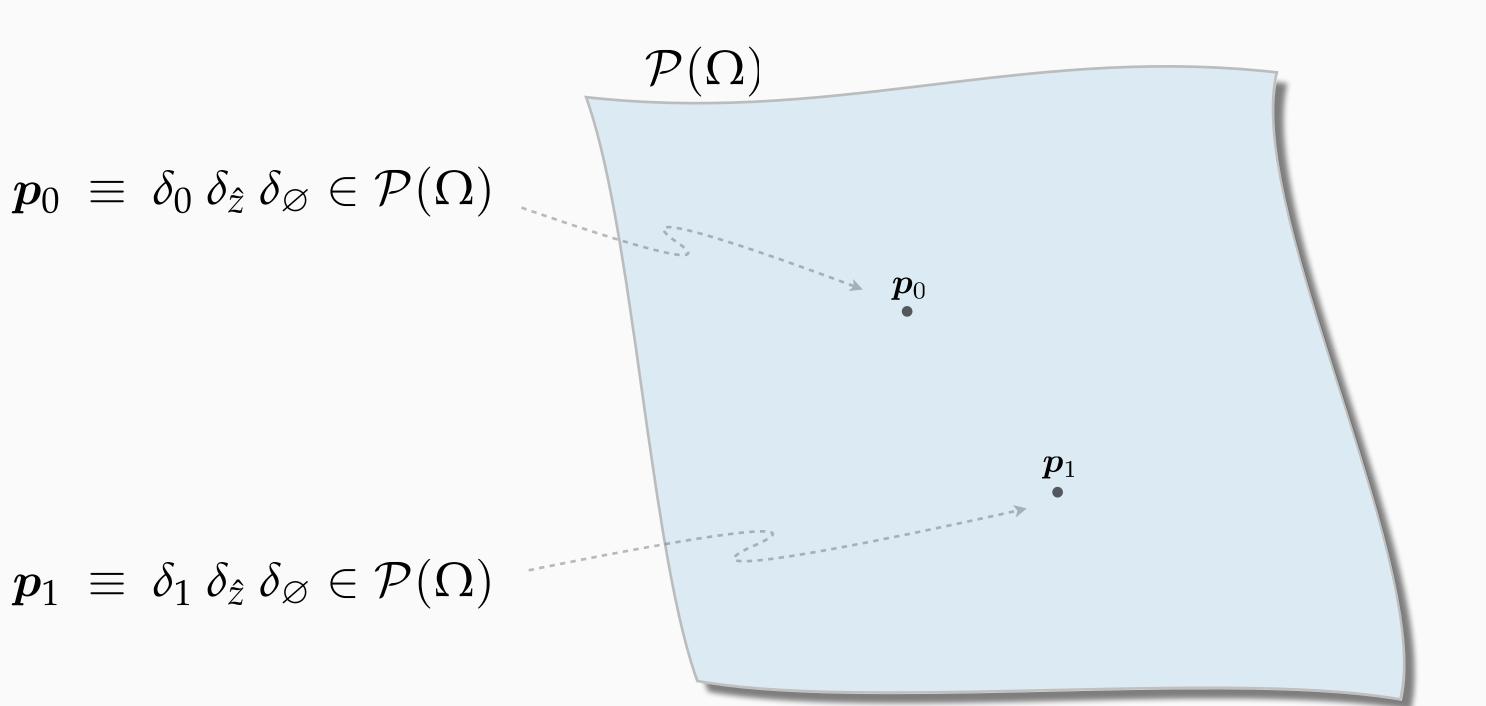
Make sure there is only **one REAL** particle in the circuit, with a **GHOST** / **EMPTY** in **another** channel.

• Key assumption:

Only **single REAL** particle present in the circuit, **possibly** accompanied by a **GHOST** in another channel.



(*) One can use two detectors or detector and blocker.



Some states of interest

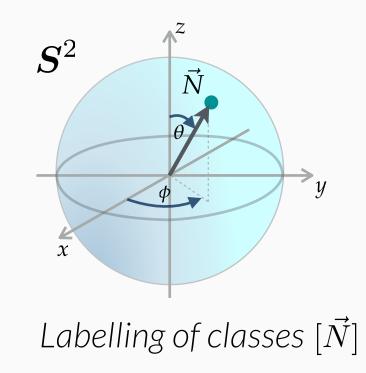


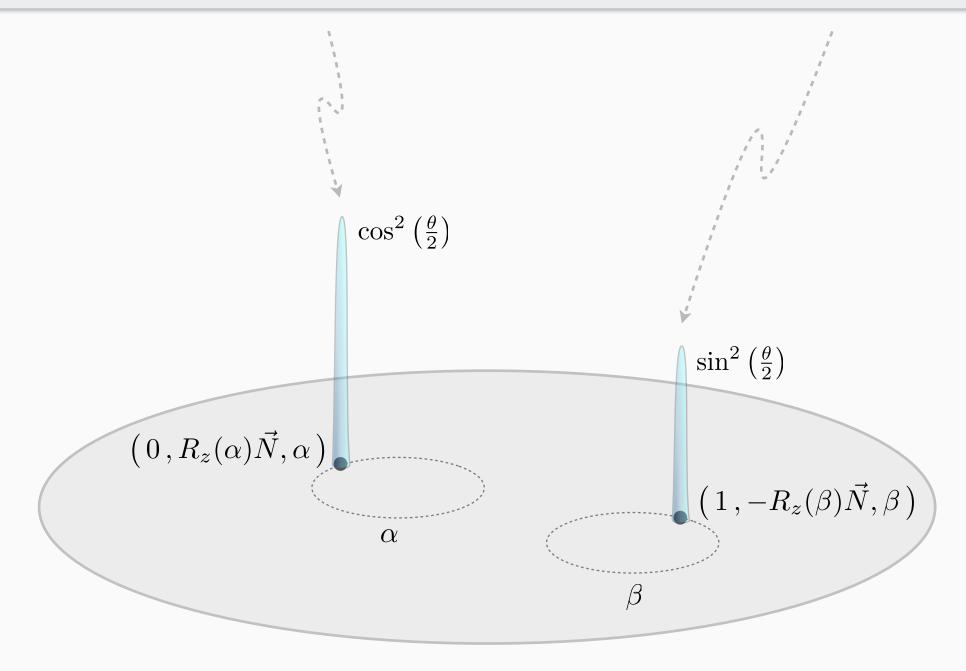
Definition.

For each $\vec{N}=(\theta,\phi)\in \mathbf{S}^2$, we define a class of distributions:

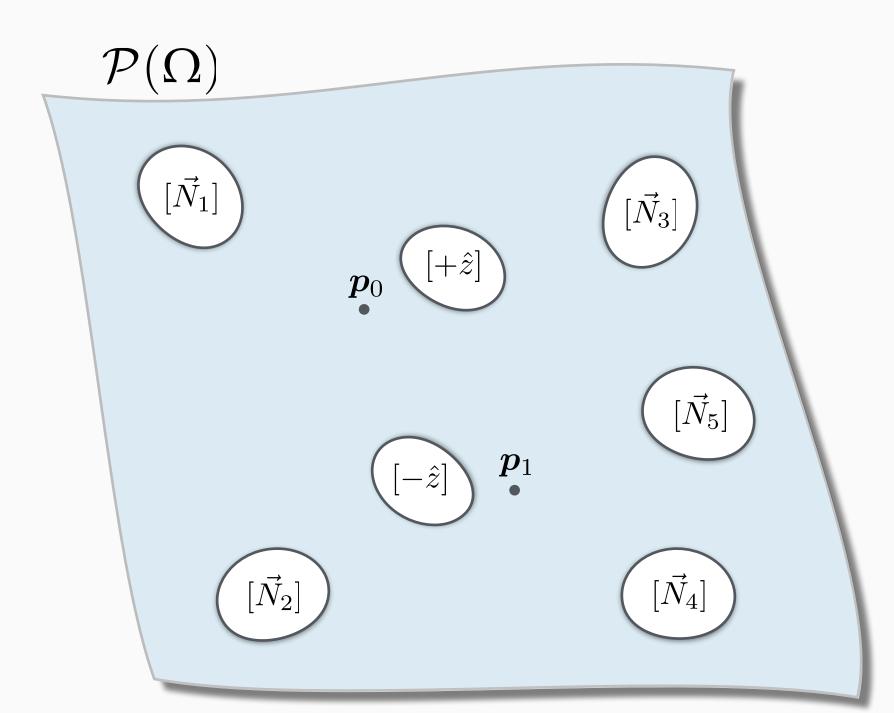
$$[\vec{N}] \equiv \left\{ \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \delta_0 \, \delta_{R_z(\alpha) \, \vec{N}} \, \delta_{\alpha} \, + \, \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \delta_1 \, \delta_{-R_z(\beta) \, \vec{N}} \, \delta_{\beta} \, : \, \alpha, \beta \in [0, 2\pi) \, \right\} \subset \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$$

~~~





$$\Omega \equiv \{0,1\} \times S^2 \times S^{1*}$$



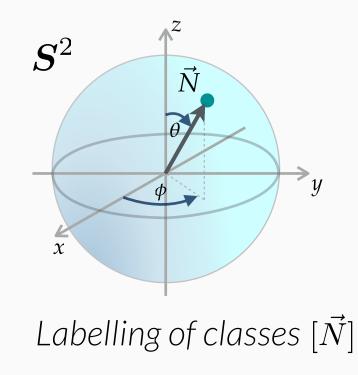
Some states of interest



#### Definition.

For each  $\vec{N}=(\theta,\phi)\in \mathbf{S}^2$  , we define a class of distributions:

$$[\vec{N}] \ \equiv \ \left\{ \ \cos^2\left(\tfrac{\theta}{2}\right) \, \delta_0 \, \delta_{R_z(\alpha) \, \vec{N}} \, \delta_\alpha \ + \ \sin^2\left(\tfrac{\theta}{2}\right) \, \delta_1 \, \delta_{-R_z(\beta) \, \vec{N}} \, \delta_\beta \ : \ \alpha, \beta \in [0, 2\pi) \ \right\} \subset \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$$

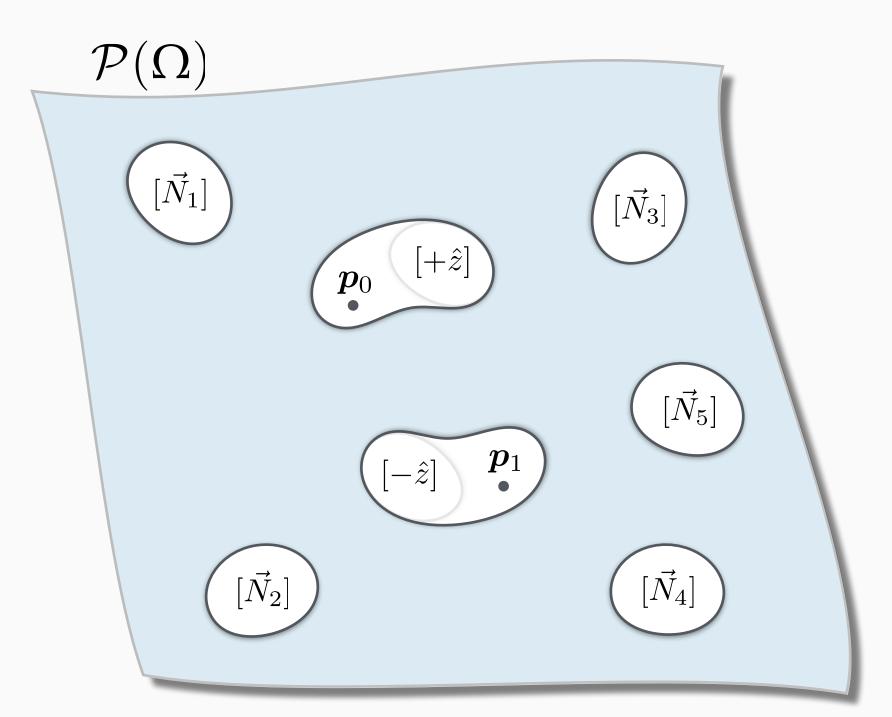


In particular:

$$[+\hat{z}] \equiv \left\{ \delta_0 \, \delta_{\hat{z}} \, \delta_{\alpha} : \alpha \in [0, 2\pi) \right\}$$
$$[-\hat{z}] \equiv \left\{ \delta_1 \, \delta_{\hat{z}} \, \delta_{\beta} : \beta \in [0, 2\pi) \right\}$$

For  $\vec{N}=\pm\hat{z}$  , we augment  $[\pm\hat{z}]$  to account for the **EMPTY** path:

$$[+\hat{z}] \longrightarrow [+\hat{z}] \cup \left\{ \delta_0 \, \delta_{\vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varnothing} : \vec{n} \in S^2 \,, \, \vec{n} \neq -\hat{z} \, \right\}$$
$$[-\hat{z}] \longrightarrow [-\hat{z}] \cup \left\{ \delta_1 \, \delta_{\vec{n}} \, \delta_{\varnothing} : \vec{n} \in S^2 \,, \, \vec{n} \neq -\hat{z} \, \right\}$$



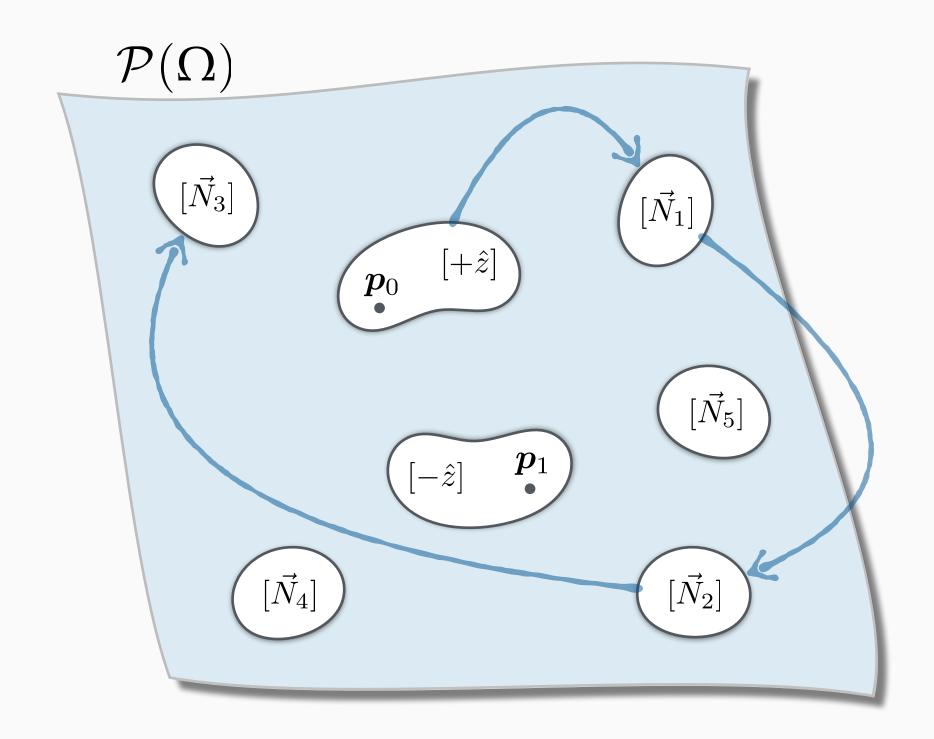
Transformation of classes





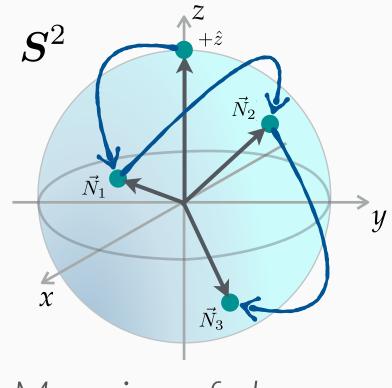
#### Lemma 1.

Phase shifters  $P_i(\omega)$  and beam splitters  $B(\vartheta)$  do not leave outside the set  $\mathcal{E} \equiv \bigcup_{\vec{N} \in S^2} [\vec{N}] \subsetneq \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  and classes map in a **congruent** manner, i.e.  $[\vec{N}] \ni p \xrightarrow{T} p' \in [\vec{N}_T]$ .



For any sequence of **phase shifters** and **beam splitters** 

Equivalent



Mapping of classes

Transformation of classes



#### **1** Lemma 1.

Phase shifters  $P_i(\omega)$  and beam splitters  $B(\vartheta)$  do not leave outside the set  $\mathcal{E} \equiv \bigcup_{\vec{N} \in S^2} [\vec{N}] \subsetneq \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  and classes map in a **congruent** manner, i.e.  $[\vec{N}] \ni p \xrightarrow{T} p' \in [\vec{N}_T]$ .

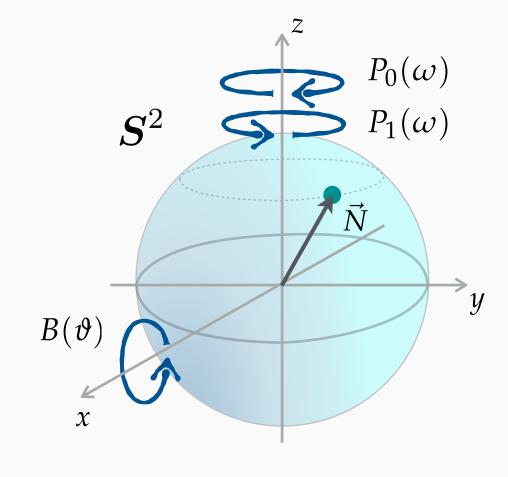
#### More specifically:

$$[\vec{N}] \xrightarrow{P_0(\omega)} [R_z(-\omega)\vec{N}]$$

$$[\vec{N}] \xrightarrow{P_1(\omega)} [R_z(\omega)\vec{N}]$$

$$[\vec{N}] \xrightarrow{B(\vartheta)} [R_{\chi}(\vartheta) \vec{N}]$$





Mapping of classes

Transformation of classes



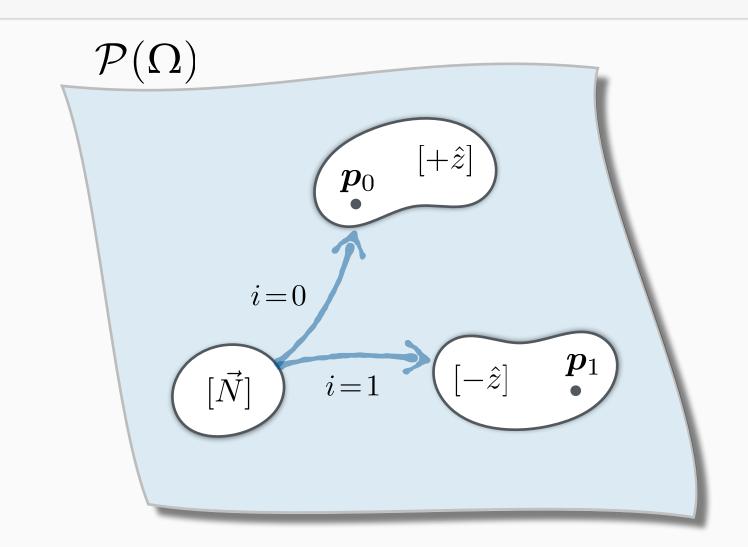
#### 1 Lemi

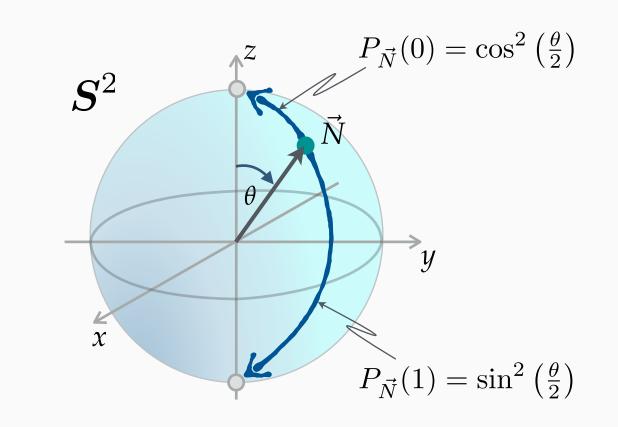
#### Lemma 2.

Detectors  $D_j$  reveal position of the REAL particle i=0,1 (by a 'CLICK' / 'No CLICK') and depending on the outcome yield a state in the respective class  $[+\hat{z}]$  or  $[-\hat{z}]$ .

More specifically:

$$[\vec{N}] \xrightarrow{D_j} \begin{cases} [+\hat{z}] & \text{for outcome } i = 0 \text{ with } P_{\vec{N}}(0) = \cos^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \\ [-\hat{z}] & \text{for outcome } i = 1 \text{ with } P_{\vec{N}}(1) = \sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \end{cases}$$





Mapping of classes

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Accessible states & Bloch sphere



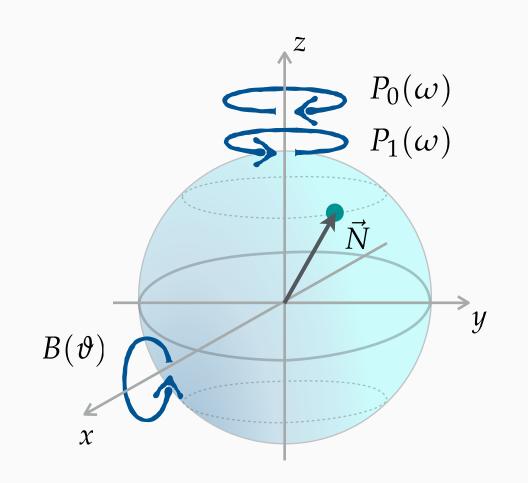
Phase shifters, beam splitters
& detectors with post-selection

Range of **accessible states**:

$$\mathcal{E} \equiv \bigcup_{\vec{N} \in \mathbf{S}^2} [\vec{N}] \subsetneq \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$$

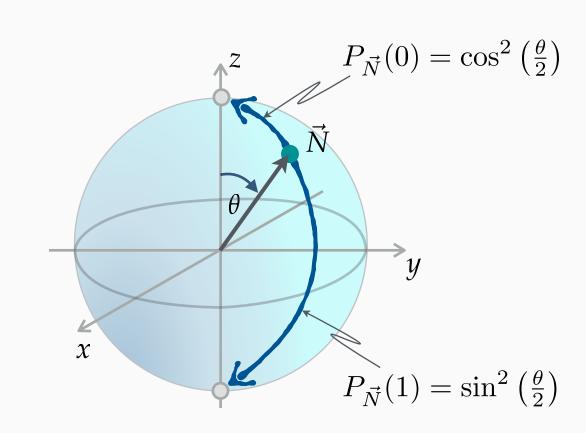
Indistinguishability of distributions in  $[\vec{N}]$ 

**Transformation** rules on  $oldsymbol{S}^2$  :



Equivalent

Phase shifters & Beam splitters

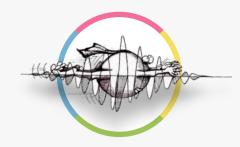


Detectors with post-selection

Equivalent to **Bloch sphere** representation!!!



# **Summary**Agent under epistemic constraints



**REAL** & **GHOST** particle ontology

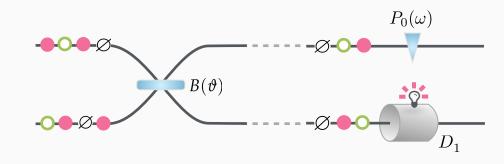
+ **limited** set of **stochastic gates**.

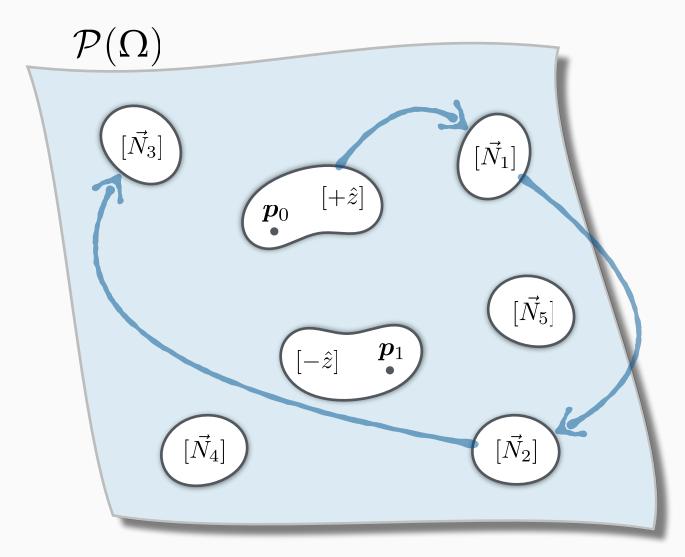


**Restricted** and **well structured** set of distributions and their transformations.

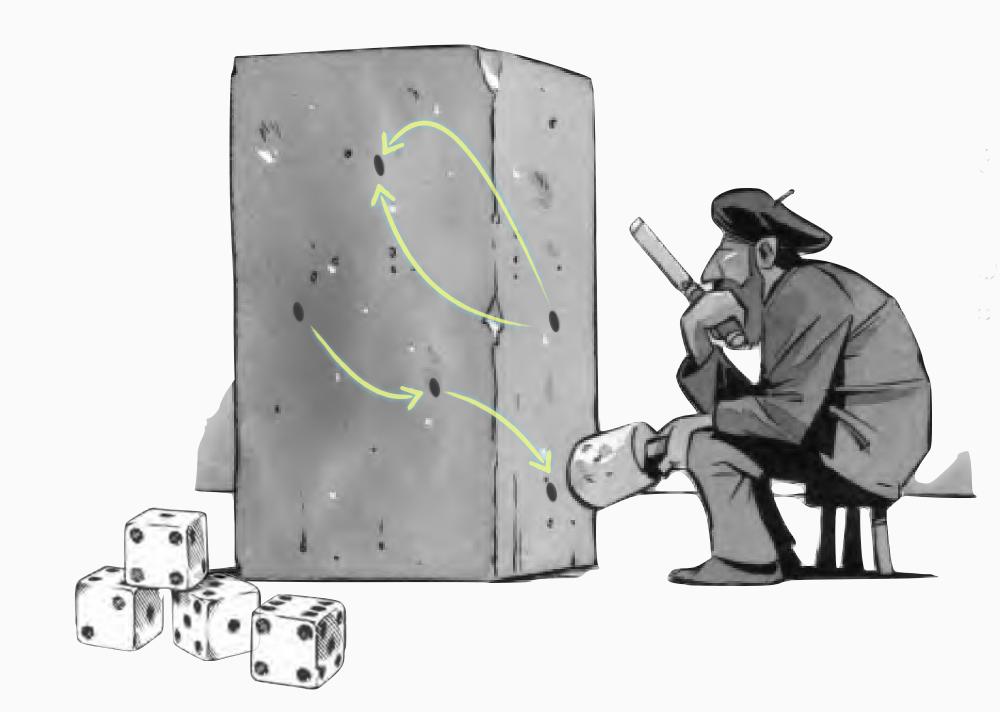


Agent subject to such constraints is **confined** in a very specific world.





Mapping of classes



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#### Summary Agent under epistemic constraints



**REAL** & **GHOST** particle ontology

+ **limited** set of **stochastic gates**.



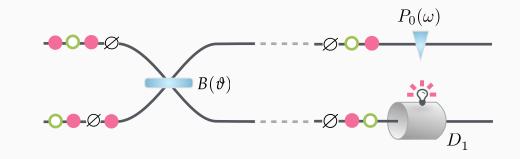
Equivalent

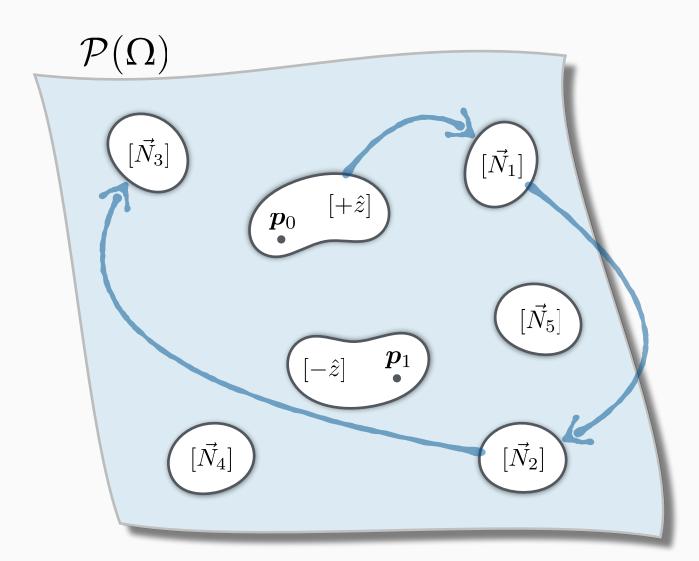
**Restricted** and **well structured** set of distributions and their transformations.



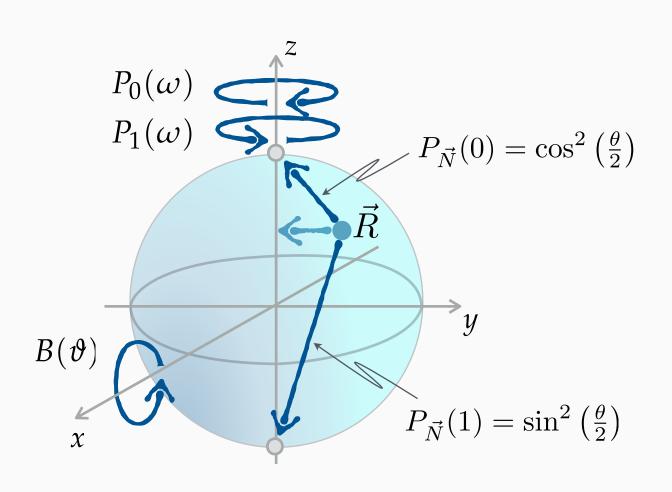
Agent subject to such constraints is confined in a very specific world.

> Well-defined local ontology. Non-locality an epistemic effect.





Mapping of classes



Bloch ball representation



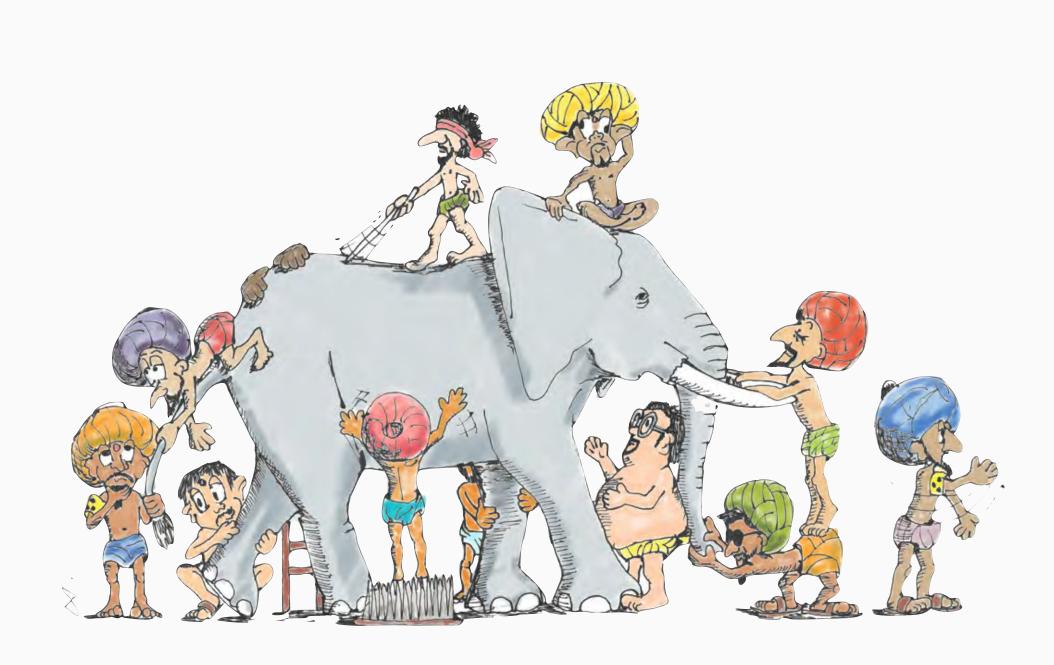
Geometry of accessible states

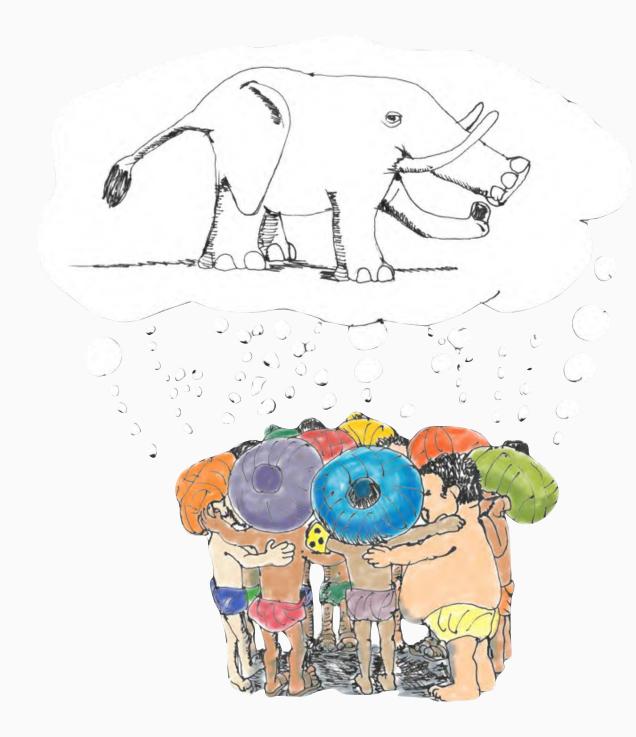




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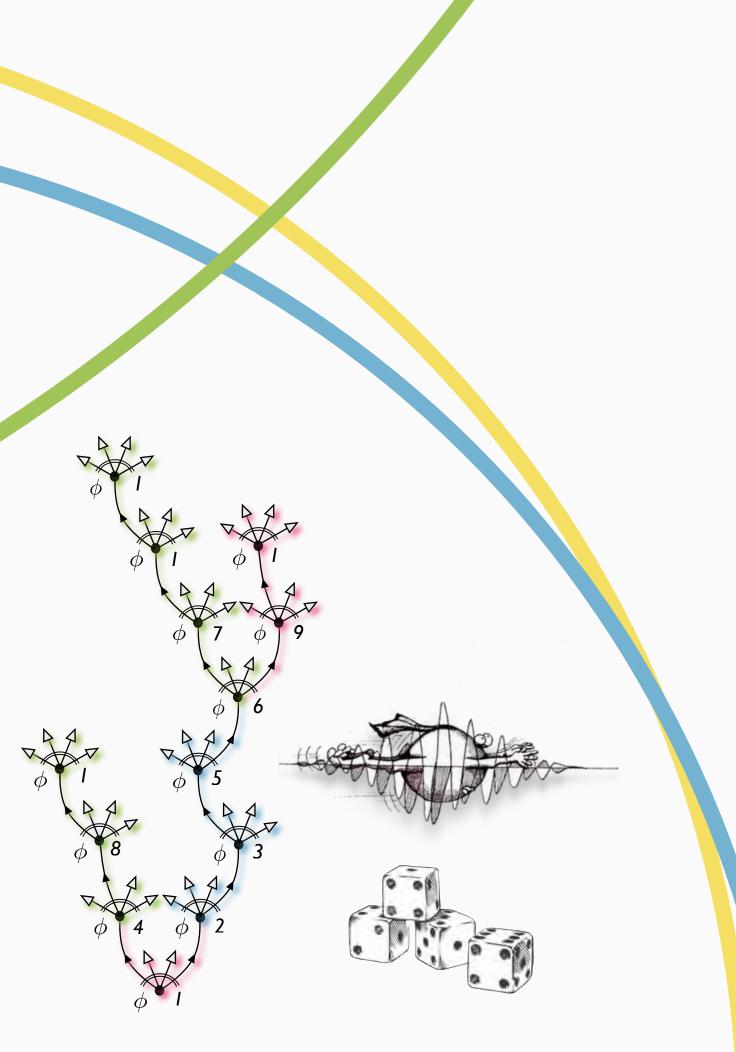
# Thank you





P. Blasiak and P. Flajolet "Combinatorial Models of Creation-Annihilation" Séminaire Lotharingien de Combinatoire **65** Art. B65c (2011)

P. Blasiak "Local model of a qubit in the interferometric setup" New Journal of Physics **17** 113043 (2015)



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