Process Theories and Graphical Language

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Picturing Quantum Processes





Picturing Quantum Processes

When two systems [...] enter into temporary physical interaction due to known forces between them, [...] then they can no longer be described in the same way as before, viz. by endowing each of them with a representative of its own. I would not call that one but rather the characteristic trait of quantum mechanics, the one that enforces its entire departure from classical lines of thought.

- Erwin Schrödinger, 1935.



Picturing Quantum Processes

When two systems [...] enter into temporary physical interaction due to known forces between them, [...] then they can no longer be described in the same way as before, viz. by endowing each of them with a representative of its own. I would not call that one but rather the characteristic trait of quantum mechanics, the one that enforces its entire departure from classical lines of thought.

- Erwin Schrödinger, 1935.

In quantum theory, *interaction* of systems is everything. **Diagrams** are the language of interaction.

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Picturing Quantum Processes

Q: How much of quantum theory can be understood just using diagrams and diagram transformation?

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Picturing Quantum Processes

Q: How much of quantum theory can be understood just using diagrams and diagram transformation?

A: Pretty much everything!



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Process theories and diagrams

Quantum processes

Classical and quantum interaction

Applications: a Hollywood-style trailer



Outline

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Process theories and diagrams

Quantum processes

Classical and quantum interaction

Applications: a Hollywood-style trailer







• A process is anything with zero or more *inputs* and zero or more *outputs*





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- For example, this function:

$$f(x,y) = x^2 + y$$





Processes

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...is a process when takes two real numbers as input, and produces a real number as output.



Processes

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• We could also write it like this:





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...is a process when takes two real numbers as input, and produces a real number as output.

• We could also write it like this:



• The labels on wires are called system-types or just types

More processes

• Similarly, computer programs are processes



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More processes

- Similarly, computer programs are processes
- For example, a program that sorts lists might look like this:



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More processes

- Similarly, computer programs are processes
- For example, a program that sorts lists might look like this:



• These are also perfectly good processes:









• We can combine simple processes to make more complicted ones, described by diagrams:







Diagrams

• We can combine simple processes to make more complicted ones, described by diagrams:



• The golden rule: only connectivity matters!





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• Connections are only allowed where the types match, e.g.:







• Connections are only allowed where the types match, e.g.:





Types

• Connections are only allowed where the types match, e.g.:



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Types

• Connections are only allowed where the types match, e.g.:



• Types tell us when it makes sense to plug processes together

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Types and Process Theories

• Ill-typed diagrams are undefined:



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Types and Process Theories

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In fact, these processes don't ever make sense to plug together



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Types and Process Theories

• Ill-typed diagrams are undefined:



- In fact, these processes don't ever make sense to plug together
- A family of processes which <u>do</u> make sense together is called a process theory

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Types and Process Theories

• Ill-typed diagrams are undefined:



- In fact, these processes don't ever make sense to plug together
- A family of processes which <u>do</u> make sense together is called a process theory, e.g.
 - functions
 - linear maps
 - optical devices
 - proofs, ...

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Special processes: states and effects

• Processes with no inputs are called states:







Special processes: states and effects

Processes with no inputs are called states:

Interpret as: preparing a system in a particular configuration, where we don't care what came before.



Special processes: states and effects

• Processes with no inputs are called states:

Interpret as: preparing a system in a particular configuration, where we don't care what came before.

• Processes with no outputs are called effects:





Special processes: states and effects

• Processes with no inputs are called states:

Interpret as: preparing a system in a particular configuration, where we don't care what came before.

• Processes with no outputs are called effects:



Interpret as: testing for a property π , where we don't care what happens after.





Numbers

• A number is a process with no inputs or outputs, written as:

 $\langle \lambda \rangle$ or just: λ





Numbers

• A number is a process with no inputs or outputs, written as:

 $\widehat{\lambda}$ or just: λ

• Numbers always form a commutative monoid:

$$\langle \lambda \rangle \cdot \langle \mu \rangle := \langle \lambda \rangle \langle \mu \rangle$$
 1 :=

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Numbers

• A number is a process with no inputs or outputs, written as:

 $\widehat{\lambda}$ or just: λ

• Numbers always form a commutative monoid:

$$\langle \hat{\lambda} \cdot \hat{\mu} \rangle := \langle \hat{\lambda} \rangle \langle \hat{\mu} \rangle$$
 1 :=

Interpret as: what happens when a state meets an effect

effect
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \\ \downarrow \\ state \\ \psi \end{array} \right\}$$
 number
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Numbers

• A number is a process with no inputs or outputs, written as:

 $\widehat{\lambda}$ or just: λ

• Numbers always form a commutative monoid:

$$\langle \hat{\lambda} \cdot \hat{\mu} \rangle := \langle \hat{\lambda} \rangle \langle \hat{\mu} \rangle$$
 1 :=

Interpret as: what happens when a state meets an effect, e.g.

effect
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \checkmark \pi \\ \downarrow \\ state \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \checkmark \psi \\ \psi \end{array} \right\}$$
 probability

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Numbers

• A number is a process with no inputs or outputs, written as:

 $\widehat{\lambda}$ or just: λ

• Numbers always form a commutative monoid:

$$\langle \lambda \rangle \cdot \langle \mu \rangle := \langle \lambda \rangle \langle \mu \rangle$$
 1 :=

Interpret as: what happens when a state meets an effect, e.g.

effect
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \\ \bot \\ \downarrow \\ \end{array} \right\}$$
 probability state $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \psi \\ \psi \end{array} \right\}$

This is called the (generalised) Born rule

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Process theories in general

Q: What kinds of behaviour can we study using just diagrams, and nothing else?

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Process theories in general

Q: What kinds of behaviour can we study using just diagrams, and nothing else?

A: (Non-)separability

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Separable states

• States can be on a single system, two systems, or many systems:



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Separable states

• States can be on a single system, two systems, or many systems:



 A state ψ on two systems is ⊗-separable if there exist ψ₁, ψ₂ such that:



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Separable states

• States can be on a single system, two systems, or many systems:



 A state ψ on two systems is ⊗-separable if there exist ψ₁, ψ₂ such that:



• **Intuitively:** the properties of the system on the left are *independent* from those on the right

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Separable states

• States can be on a single system, two systems, or many systems:



 A state ψ on two systems is ⊗-separable if there exist ψ₁, ψ₂ such that:



- **Intuitively:** the properties of the system on the left are *independent* from those on the right
- In classical (deterministic) world, we expect all states to ⊗-separate

Characterising non-separability

...which is why non-separable states are way more interesting!





Characterising non-separability

- ...which is why non-separable states are way more interesting!
- But, how do we know we've found one?



Characterising non-separability

- ...which is why non-separable states are way more interesting!
- But, how do we know we've found one?
- i.e. that there do not exist states ψ_1, ψ_2 such that:

$$\psi$$
 = ψ



Characterising non-separability

- ...which is why non-separable states are way more interesting!
- But, how do we know we've found one?
- i.e. that there do not exist states ψ_1, ψ_2 such that:

$$\psi$$
 = ψ_1 ψ_2

• Problem: Showing that something doesn't exist can be hard.



Characterising non-separability

Solution: Replace a negative property with a (stronger) postive one:



Characterising non-separability

Solution: Replace a negative property with a (stronger) postive one:

Definition

A state ψ is called *cup-state* if there exists an effect ϕ , called a *cap-effect*, such that:



Cup-states

• By introducing some clever notation:



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Cup-states

• By introducing some clever notation:



•



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:=

φ

 ψ

 ϕ

Cup-states

• By introducing some clever notation:





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Yank the wire!



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Yank the wire!





A no-go theorem for separability

Theorem

If a process theory (i) has cup-states for every type and (ii) every state separates, then it is trivial.





A no-go theorem for separability

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If a process theory (i) has cup-states for every type and (ii) every state separates, then it is trivial.

Proof. Suppose a cup-state separates:

$$\bigvee$$
 = $\psi_1 / \psi_2 / \psi_2 / \psi_1$



A no-go theorem for separability

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A no-go theorem for separability

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Proof. Suppose a cup-state separates:

Process theories and diagrams

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Transpose







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Transpose



i.e.

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Tranpose = rotation

A bit of a deformation:





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Tranpose = rotation

A bit of a deformation:

allows some clever notation:



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Tranpose = rotation

A bit of a deformation:

allows some clever notation:



f /





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Transpose = rotation



$\mathsf{Tranpose} = \mathsf{rotation}$

Specialised to states:

 $\widehat{\psi}$:= $\widehat{\psi}$



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Tranpose = rotation

Specialised to states:



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Tranpose = rotation

Specialised to states:



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State/effect correspondence


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State/effect correspondence



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State/effect correspondence



Adjoints



state ψ

testing for ψ

U



Adjoints





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state ψ

testing for ψ

Extends from states/effects to all processes:





Adjoints





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state ψ

testing for ψ

Extends from states/effects to all processes:





Adjoints





state ψ

testing for ψ

Extends from states/effects to all processes:







Normalised states and isometries

• Adjoints increase expressiveness, for instance can say when ψ is normalised:





Normalised states and isometries

• Adjoints increase expressiveness, for instance can say when ψ is normalised:

• *U* is an *isometry*:





Normalised states and isometries

• Adjoints increase expressiveness, for instance can say when ψ is normalised:

• *U* is an *isometry*:



...and unitary, self-adjoint, positive, etc.

Conjugates

If we:



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Conjugates

If we:





Conjugates

If we:



...we get horizontal reflection.

Conjugates

If we:



...we get horizontal reflection. The *conjugate*:



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4 kinds of box







conjugate

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Quantum teleportation: take 1

Can we fill in '?' to get this?





Quantum teleportation: take 1

Here's a simple solution:





Quantum teleportation: take 1

Here's a simple solution:



Problem: 'cap' can't be performed deterministically

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Bob's problem now!

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Quantum teleportation: take 1

Solution: Bob fixes the error.



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Outline

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Process theories and diagrams

Quantum processes

Classical and quantum interaction

Applications: a Hollywood-style trailer



Hilbert space

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The starting point for quantum theory is the process theory of **linear maps**

Hilbert space

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The starting point for quantum theory is the process theory of **linear maps**, which has:

- **1** systems: Hilbert spaces
- Ø processes: complex linear maps

Hilbert space

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The starting point for quantum theory is the process theory of **linear maps**, which has:

- **1** systems: Hilbert spaces
- Ø processes: complex linear maps
- ...in particular, numbers are complex numbers.

Hilbert space

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Looking at the 'Born rule' for linear maps, we have a problem:

Hilbert space

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Looking at the 'Born rule' for linear maps, we have a problem:



Hilbert space

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Looking at the 'Born rule' for linear maps, we have a problem:



Doubling

Solution: multiply by the conjugate:





Doubling

Solution: multiply by the conjugate:



Then, for normalised ψ, ϕ :





Doubling

Solution: multiply by the conjugate:



Then, for normalised ψ, ϕ :



(i.e. the 'usual' Born rule: $\overline{\langle \phi | \psi \rangle} \langle \phi | \psi \rangle = |\langle \phi | \psi \rangle|^2$)

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Doubling

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New problem: We lost this:



Doubling

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New problem: We lost this:



...which was the basis of our interpretation for states, effects, and numbers.

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Doubling

Solution: Make a new process theory with doubling 'baked in':
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Doubling

Solution: Make a new process theory with doubling 'baked in':



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Doubling

Solution: Make a new process theory with doubling 'baked in':







Doubling

The new process theory has doubled systems $\widehat{H} := H \otimes H$:

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Doubling

The new process theory has doubled systems $\widehat{H} := H \otimes H$:

:= |||

and processes:

double $\begin{pmatrix} f \\ f \end{pmatrix}$:= $\begin{bmatrix} f \\ f \\ f \end{bmatrix}$ = $\begin{bmatrix} f \\ f \\ f \\ f \end{bmatrix}$

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Doubling preserves diagrams



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...but kills global phases



(i.e. $\lambda = e^{i\alpha}$)



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...but kills global phases



Discarding

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Doubling also lets us do something we couldn't do before:





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Doubling also lets us do something we couldn't do before: throw stuff away!



Discarding

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Doubling also lets us do something we couldn't do before: throw stuff away!

How? Like this:

Discarding

For normalised ψ , the two copies annihilate:





Quantum maps

Definition

The process theory of **quantum maps** has as types (doubled) Hilbert spaces \hat{H} and as processes:





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Two characterisations of 'pure'

No discarding involved, i.e. for some f:

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Two characterisations of 'pure'

No discarding involved, i.e. for some f:



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Consequence: no-broadcasting

Theorem (No universal broadcasting)

There exists no quantum map Δ where:



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Consequence: no-broadcasting

Theorem (No universal broadcasting)

There exists no quantum map Δ where:

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Consequence: no-broadcasting

Theorem (No universal broadcasting)

There exists no quantum map Δ where:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} - & - & - \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} (1) \\ = \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} (1) \\ = \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} (1) \\ = \\ - \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{c} - \\ - \\ - \\ \end{array} \end{array}$$
Proof. From (1):

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Consequence: no-broadcasting

Theorem (No universal broadcasting)

There exists no quantum map Δ where:

Proof. From (I):
$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \Delta \\ 1 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ P \\ P \\ P \end{array}$$

From (r):

$$= \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \underline{-} \\ \underline{-} \\ 1 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \psi \\ \underline{-} \\ \underline{-} \\ \underline{-} \end{array}$$

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Consequence: no-broadcasting

Theorem (No universal broadcasting)

There exists no quantum map Δ where:

Proof. From (I):
$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \Delta \\ 1 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ P \\ P \\ P \end{array}$$

From (r):

$$=$$
 $\begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$ $=$ $\begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$

 \Rightarrow contradiction.







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Causality

A quantum map is called *causal* if:

$$\begin{bmatrix} - \\ T \\ 0 \\ T \end{bmatrix} = - T$$





Causality

A quantum map is called *causal* if:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \bar{\underline{-}} \\ \Phi \\ T \end{bmatrix} = \bar{\underline{-}}$$

If we discard the output of a process, it doesn't matter which process happened.





Causality

A quantum map is called *causal* if:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \bar{\underline{-}} \\ \Phi \\ T \end{bmatrix} = \bar{\underline{-}}$$

If we discard the output of a process, it doesn't matter which process happened.

 $\mathsf{causal} \iff \mathit{deterministically physically realisable}$



Consequence: no cap effect 🛞

Consequence: there is a unique causal effect, discarding:



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Consequence: no cap effect 🛞

Consequence: there is a unique causal effect, discarding:



Hence 'deterministic quantum teleportation' must fail:





Consequence: no cap effect 🛞

Consequence: there is a unique causal effect, discarding:



Hence 'deterministic quantum teleportation' must fail:





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Consequence: no signalling 🙂



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Outline

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Applications: a Hollywood-style trailer



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Double vs. single wires

 $\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{quantum} := \end{array} \right]$



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Double vs. single wires



Classical values

$$\downarrow$$
 := 'providing classical value *i*'

Classical values

$$\stackrel{\perp}{i}$$
 := 'providing classical value *i*'

$$\frac{i}{1}$$
 := 'testing for classical value *i*'


Classical values

$$i$$
 := 'providing classical value *i*'

$$\stackrel{i}{\downarrow}$$
 := 'testing for classical value *i*'

$$\begin{array}{c} \underbrace{j}\\ \hline \\ i \end{array} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

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Classical values

$$i$$
 := 'providing classical value *i*'

$$\stackrel{\frown}{i}$$
 := 'testing for classical value *i*'

$$\begin{array}{c} \overbrace{j}\\ \hline \\ \hline \\ i \end{array} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

$$(\Rightarrow \text{ONB})$$



Classical states

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General state of a classical system:

$$\bigvee_{p} := \sum_{i} p_{i} \bigvee_{i}$$

probability distributions

Classical states

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General state of a classical system:

 \bigvee_{i}^{p} := $\sum_{i} p_{i} \bigvee_{i}^{l} \leftarrow$ probability distributions

Hence:

$$\bigvee_{i}^{\perp}$$
 \leftarrow point distributions

Copy and delete

Unlike quantum states, classical values can be copied:





Copy and delete

Unlike quantum states, classical values can be copied:

and *deleted*:





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Copy and delete

These satisfy some equations you would expect:





Copy and delete

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These satisfy some equations you would expect:



Copy and delete

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These satisfy some equations you would expect:



Copy and delete

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Other classical maps

 $\overline{\vee}$ $:= \sum_{i} \bigvee_{i}^{i}$



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Other classical maps





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Other classical maps



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Other classical maps



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...satisfying lots of equations





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...satisfying lots of equations



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...satisfying lots of equations



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...satisfying lots of equations



When does it end???

Spiders





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Spiders

All of these are special cases of *spiders*:







Spiders

The only equation you need to remember is this one:







Spiders

The only equation you need to remember is this one:



When spiders meet, they fuse together.

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Spider reasoning



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Spider reasoning



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Spider reasoning \Rightarrow string diagram reasoning





How do we recognise spiders?

Suppose we have something that 'behaves like' a spider:





How do we recognise spiders?

Suppose we have something that 'behaves like' a spider:



Do we know it is one?

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Spiders = 'diagrammatic ONBs'

Yes!





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Spiders = 'diagrammatic ONBs'

Yes!





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Classical and quantum interaction





Classical and quantum interaction

Classical values can be encoded as quantum states, via doubling:



Classical and quantum interaction

Classical values can be encoded as quantum states, via doubling:

This is our first classical-quantum map, encode.



Classical and quantum interaction

Classical values can be encoded as quantum states, via doubling:

This is our first classical-quantum map, *encode*. It's a copy-spider in disguise:

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Measuring quantum states

The adjoint of *encode* is *measure*:



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Measuring quantum states

The adjoint of *encode* is *measure*:

quantum state $\langle \bigvee^{\text{probability distribution}} \rangle$

This represents measuring w.r.t.

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Measuring quantum states

The adjoint of *encode* is *measure*:

quantum state $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} & & \\$

This represents measuring w.r.t.

...where probabilities come from the Born rule:
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Measuring quantum states

The adjoint of *encode* is *measure*:

quantum state $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} & & \\$

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...where probabilities come from the Born rule:



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Measuring quantum states

The adjoint of *encode* is *measure*:

quantum state $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} & & \\$

This represents measuring w.r.t.

...where probabilities come from the Born rule:



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Classical-quantum maps

Definition

The process theory of **cq-maps** has as processes diagrams of quantum maps and encode/decode:



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Quantum processes

Causality generalises to cq-maps:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} = 0 \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

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Quantum processes

Causality generalises to cq-maps:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \phi & -\frac{1}{2} \\ \phi \\ \phi \end{bmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 &$$

quantum processes := causal cq-maps



Special case: quantum measurements

A *measurement* is any **quantum process** from a quantum system to a classical one:

$$\begin{array}{c} & & \\ & & \\ \hline \Phi \end{array} & \stackrel{\cong}{\longleftrightarrow} & \mathsf{POVMs} \end{array}$$



Special case: quantum measurements

A *measurement* is any **quantum process** from a quantum system to a classical one:



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Special case: controlled-operations

A **quantum process** with a classical input is a *controlled operation*:





Special case: controlled-operations

A controlled isometry furthermore satisfies:







Special case: controlled-operations

Suppose we can use a single \hat{U} to build a *controlled isometry*:





Special case: controlled-operations

Suppose we can use a single \hat{U} to build a *controlled isometry*:



...and an ONB measurement:



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Quantum teleportation: take 2



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Quantum teleportation: take 2



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Quantum teleportation: take 2



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Quantum teleportation: take 2



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Quantum teleportation: take 2



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Quantum teleportation: take 2



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Complementary bases





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Complementary bases



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Complementary bases



Complementarity



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Complementarity



Interpretation:

(encode in \bigcirc) THEN (measure in \bigcirc) = (no data flow)



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Consequence: Stern-Gerlach



Process Theories and Graphical Language

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Quantum computation

Doubling a classical spider gives a *quantum spider*:



Universality

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By decorating quantum spiders with phases:



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Universality

By decorating quantum spiders with phases:



and spider-diagrams become universal for quantum computation!



Soundness and completeness

Restricting the phase group to $\mathbb{Z}_4 \cong \{0, \frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\} \subset U(1)$ gives *stabiliser QT*.

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Soundness and completeness

Restricting the phase group to $\mathbb{Z}_4 \cong \{0, \frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\} \subset U(1)$ gives *stabiliser QT*.

Sound and complete presentation via the ZX-calculus:



Outline

Process theories and diagrams

Quantum processes

Classical and quantum interaction

Applications: a Hollywood-style trailer





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Quantum circuits and rewriting



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Quantum circuits and rewriting



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Measurement-based quantum computing





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Measurement-based quantum computing



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Quantum algorithms

Spiders can be used to build quantum oracles:



 \Rightarrow simple derivations of **Deutsch-Jozsa**, **quantum seach**, and **hidden subgroup** algorithms.

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GHZ/Mermin non-locality



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Multipartite entanglement

SLOCC-classification of 3 qubits:



Automation

Quantomatic:



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Thanks! Joint work with Bob Coecke (book):



...and many more!



Abramsky, Backens, Duncan, Edwards, Gogioso, Hadzihasanovic, Heunen, Lal, Merry, Pavlovic, Perdrix, Quick, Selinger, Vicary, Zamdzhiev, ...

http://quantomatic.github.io

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