

# Weak measurement and quantum interference

— from a geometrical point of view

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- The basics of geometric phases
  - Berry's phase (1984) — cyclic adiabatic change
    - A neglected player in 60 year history of quantum theory
  - Pancharatnam's phase (1956) — polarization optics
  - Geometric phase is now recognized as an important concept in quantum and classical physics. — Now in textbooks of QM!
- Geometric phase in quantum eraser
  - Geometric phase as fringe shift
  - Nonlinear behavior of fringe shift
- Weak measurement
  - Quantum eraser and weak measurement
  - Geometric phase in weak measurement
  - Anomaly of weak values

Collaborators: H. Kobayashi, S. Tamate, Y. Ikeda, K. Ogawa, and T. Nakanishi

# Absolute phase of wavefunction

- Freedom of choice of the phase of wavefunction
  - choice of gauge

$$|\psi'\rangle = e^{i\phi}|\psi\rangle$$

- $|\psi'\rangle$  and  $|\psi\rangle$  represent a same physical state.
- Gauge-independent quantities (N.B.  $\langle\psi'| = e^{-i\phi}\langle\psi|$ )
  - Probability

$$P = \langle\psi'|\psi'\rangle = \langle\psi|\psi\rangle$$

- Expectation value of an operator  $A$

$$\langle\hat{A}\rangle = \langle\psi'|\hat{A}|\psi'\rangle = \langle\psi|\hat{A}|\psi\rangle$$

- Density matrix operator

$$\hat{\rho} = |\psi'\rangle\langle\psi'| = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$$

# Relative phase

- Superposition of two states  $|\psi_1\rangle$  and  $|\psi_2\rangle$

$$|\psi(\alpha)\rangle := |\psi_1\rangle + e^{i\alpha}|\psi_2\rangle$$

$\alpha$ : relative phase for superposition

- Probability  $P(\alpha) = \langle\psi(\alpha)|\psi(\alpha)\rangle$  gives interference pattern.

$$P(\alpha) = \langle\psi_1|\psi_1\rangle + \langle\psi_2|\psi_2\rangle + e^{i\alpha}\langle\psi_1|\psi_2\rangle + \text{c.c.}$$

- Gauge dependence of the interference terms

$$e^{i\alpha}\langle\psi_1|\psi_2\rangle = e^{i(\alpha+\phi_1-\phi_2)}\langle\psi'_1|\psi'_2\rangle$$

- The relative phase  $\alpha$  is **gauge-dependent** and depends on the difference of absolute phases.

$$\alpha' = \alpha + (\phi_1 - \phi_2)$$

# In-phase relation

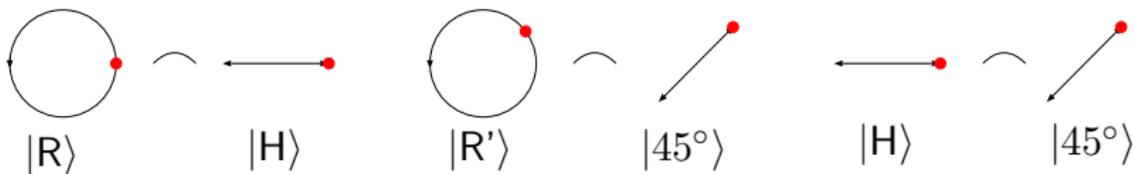
- We can adjust the phase difference ( $\phi_1 - \phi_2$ ) so that  $\langle \psi'_2 | \psi'_1 \rangle$  becomes real, i.e.,

$$0 = \arg \langle \psi'_1 | \psi'_2 \rangle = \arg \langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle - \phi_1 + \phi_2$$

- Such two (non-orthogonal) states  $|\psi'_1\rangle$  and  $|\psi'_2\rangle$  are considered *in-phase* and written as

$$|\psi'_1\rangle \sim |\psi'_2\rangle$$

- Example — In-phase relations between photon polarizations



# Non transitivity of in-phase relation

Pancharatnam, Proc. Indian Acad. Sci. A **44**, 247 (1956)

- In-phase relation is not transitive;

$$|\psi_1\rangle \sim |\psi_2\rangle \quad \text{and} \quad |\psi_2\rangle \sim |\psi_3\rangle$$

does not imply  $|\psi_1\rangle \sim |\psi_3\rangle$

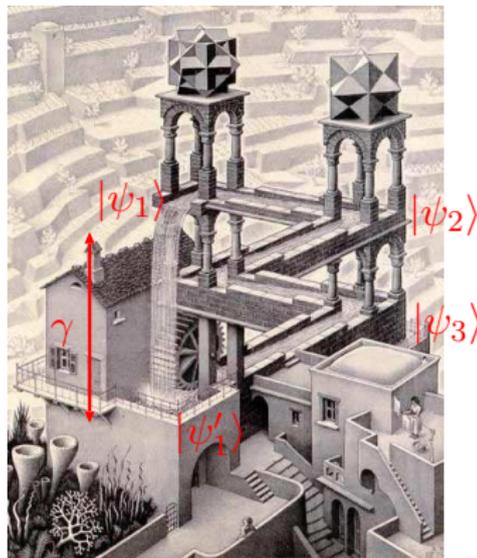
- Comparing  $|\psi'_1\rangle$  ( $\sim |\psi_3\rangle$ ) and  $|\psi_1\rangle$ , we have

$$|\psi'_1\rangle = e^{i\gamma} |\psi_1\rangle$$

where

$$\gamma = \arg\langle\psi_1|\psi_3\rangle\langle\psi_3|\psi_2\rangle\langle\psi_2|\psi_1\rangle$$

$\gamma$  is *gauge-independently* determined by the three states  $|\psi_1\rangle$ ,  $|\psi_2\rangle$ , and  $|\psi_3\rangle$ . — Geometric (Berry, Pancharatnam) phase



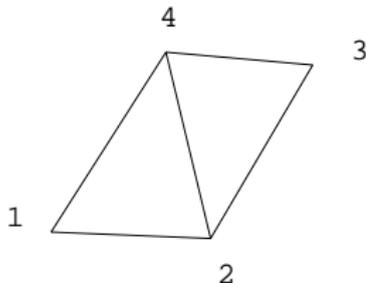
In-phase relations

- $\langle 1|3\rangle\langle 3|2\rangle\langle 2|1\rangle$  is the minimal gauge-independent complex number

$\langle 1 1\rangle$	real
$\langle 1 2\rangle\langle 2 1\rangle$	real
$\langle 1 3\rangle\langle 3 2\rangle\langle 2 1\rangle$	complex

- $\gamma = \arg\langle 1|3\rangle\langle 3|2\rangle\langle 2|1\rangle$  is the minimal non-trivial phase
- Cases of higher number are reduced to the case of three

$$\begin{aligned} & \arg\langle 1|4\rangle\langle 4|3\rangle\langle 3|2\rangle\langle 2|1\rangle \\ &= \arg\langle 1|4\rangle\langle 4|2\rangle\langle 2|1\rangle + \arg\langle 2|4\rangle\langle 4|3\rangle\langle 3|2\rangle \end{aligned}$$



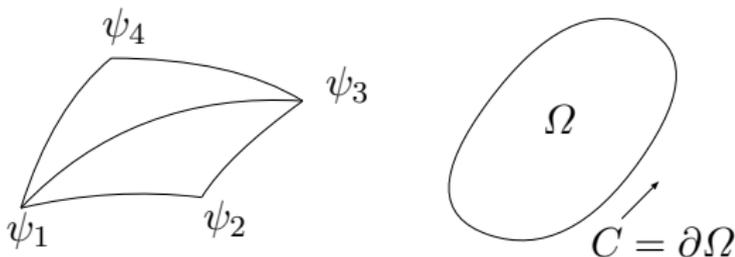
# Integration of geometric phase

- Geometric phase for four states (geodesic quadrangle)

$$\gamma(\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3, \psi_4) = \gamma(\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3) + \gamma(\psi_1, \psi_3, \psi_4)$$

- Geometric phase for continuous closed loop  $C$

$$\gamma(C) = \oint_C \gamma = \int_{\Omega} d\gamma, \quad C = \partial\Omega$$



$\gamma(\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3)$  is a building block of geometric phase.

# Two-level system — Poincaré sphere

- Two-state system (basis kets:  $|e_1\rangle, |e_2\rangle$ )

$$|\psi\rangle = a_1|e_1\rangle + a_2|e_2\rangle \in \mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^2$$

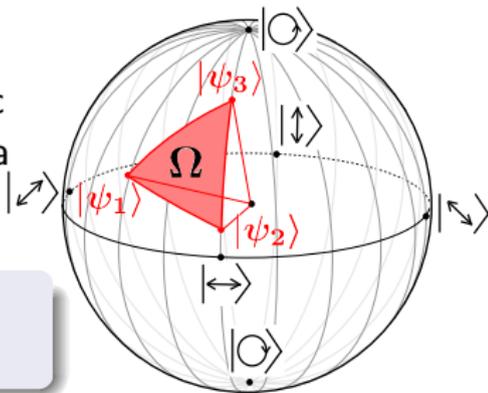
- One-to-one correspondence between states  $\rho$  and 3-D unit vectors  $\mathbf{s}$

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{1} + \mathbf{s} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}), \quad \boldsymbol{\sigma} : \text{Pauli matrices}$$

— Poincaré sphere

- It is easy to show that the geometric phase  $\gamma$  is related to the surface area  $\Omega$ .

$$\gamma(\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3) = -\frac{\Omega}{2}$$

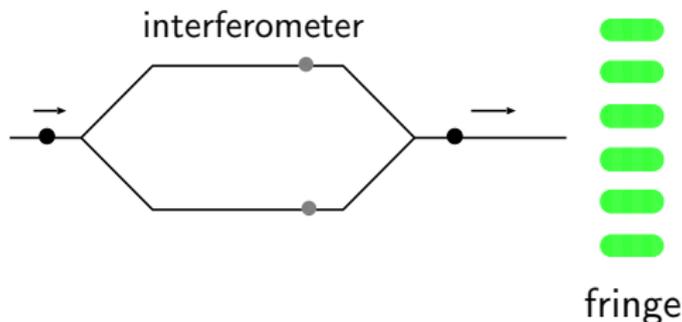


Scully and Drühl: Phys. Rev. **25**, 2208 (1982)

- Complementarity (wave-particle duality)

Interference fringe (wave)  $\leftrightarrow$  Which-path information (particle)

- In interferometry, an attempt to obtain the which-path information by marking (or whatever) destroys the interference fringe.
- However, if the information is lost somehow, the fringe is recovered. — Quantum eraser (due to post selection)



(cf) Wheeler's delayed choice experiment

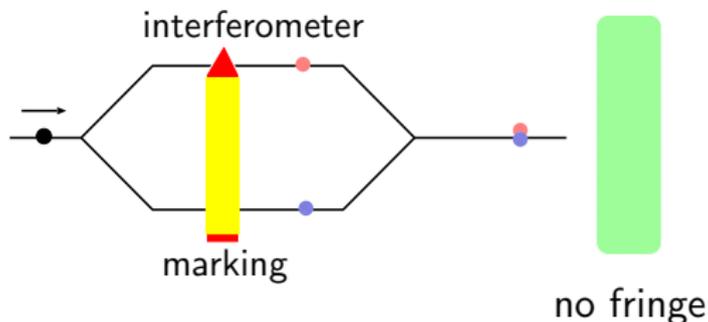
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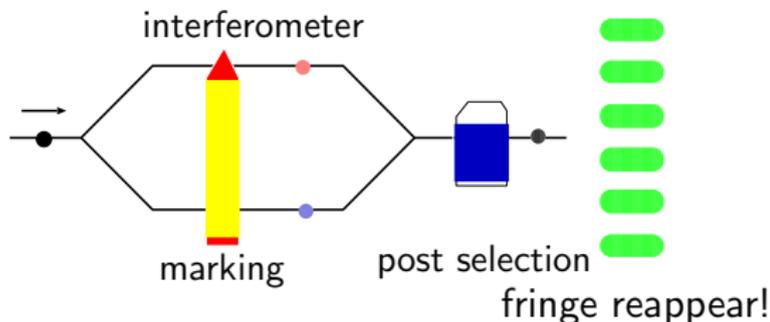
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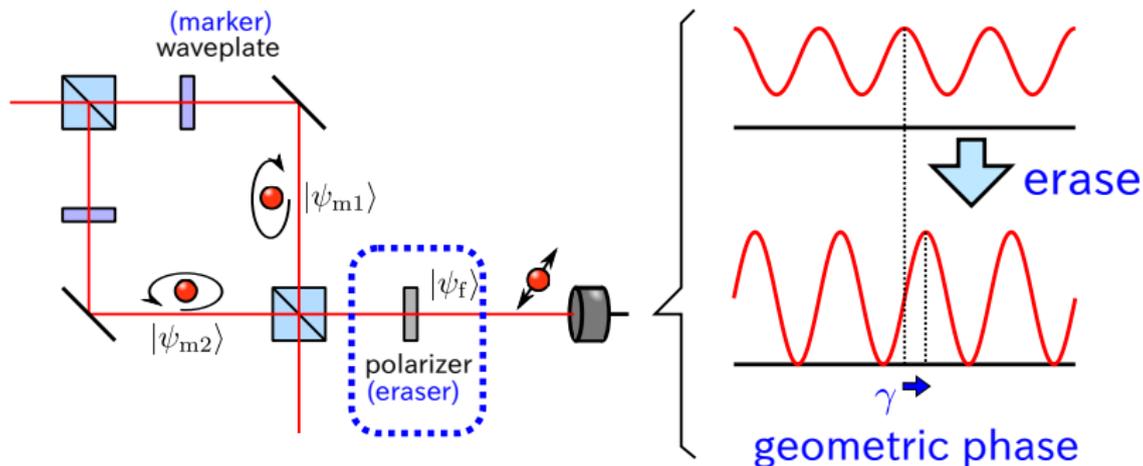
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# Geometric phase in quantum eraser

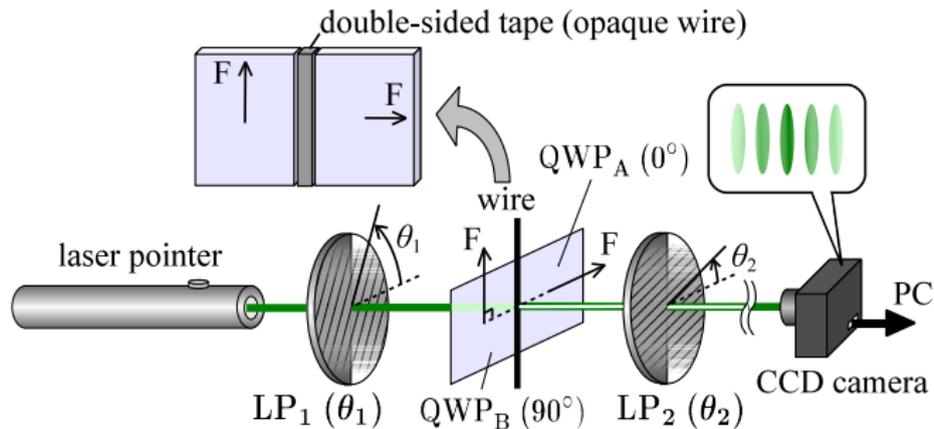


- Polarization marking:  $|\psi_{m1}\rangle, |\psi_{m2}\rangle$
- Erasing marker with  $|\psi\rangle_f \Rightarrow$  geometric phase:

$$\gamma = \arg\langle\psi_{m1}|\psi_f\rangle\langle\psi_f|\psi_{m2}\rangle\langle\psi_{m2}|\psi_{m1}\rangle$$

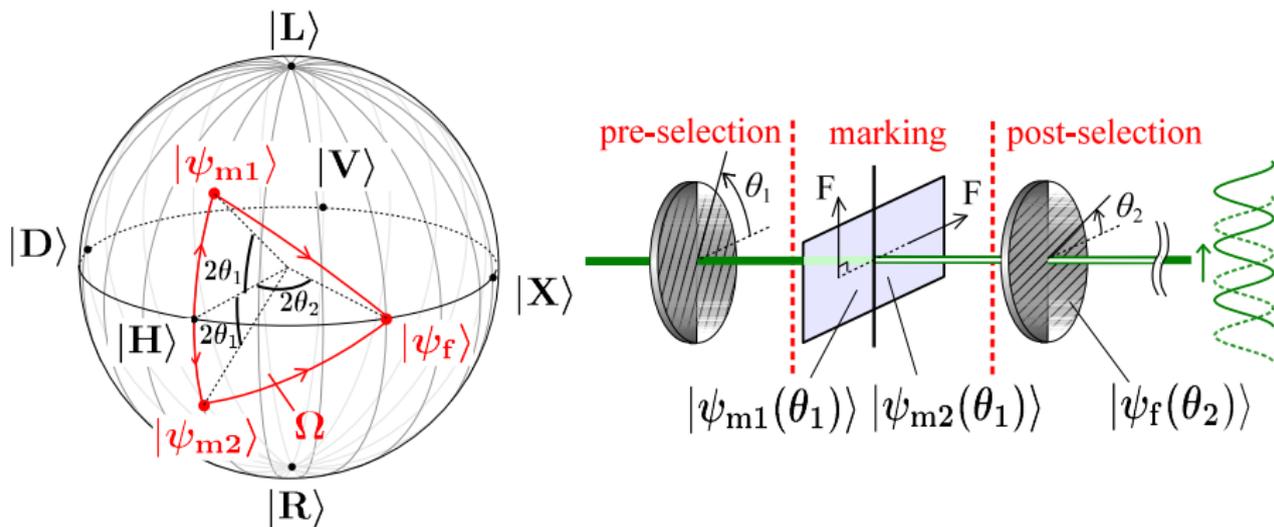
# Experimental demonstration

- Measurement of geometric phase in quantum eraser



- Very easy setup
- H. Kobayashi, MK *et al.*, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **80**, 034401 (2011)

# State change on the Bloch sphere



- State parameter :  $\theta_1, \theta_2$
- Polarization states :  $|\psi_{m1}(\theta_1)\rangle, |\psi_{m2}(\theta_1)\rangle, |\psi_f(\theta_2)\rangle$

# Nonlinear geometric phases

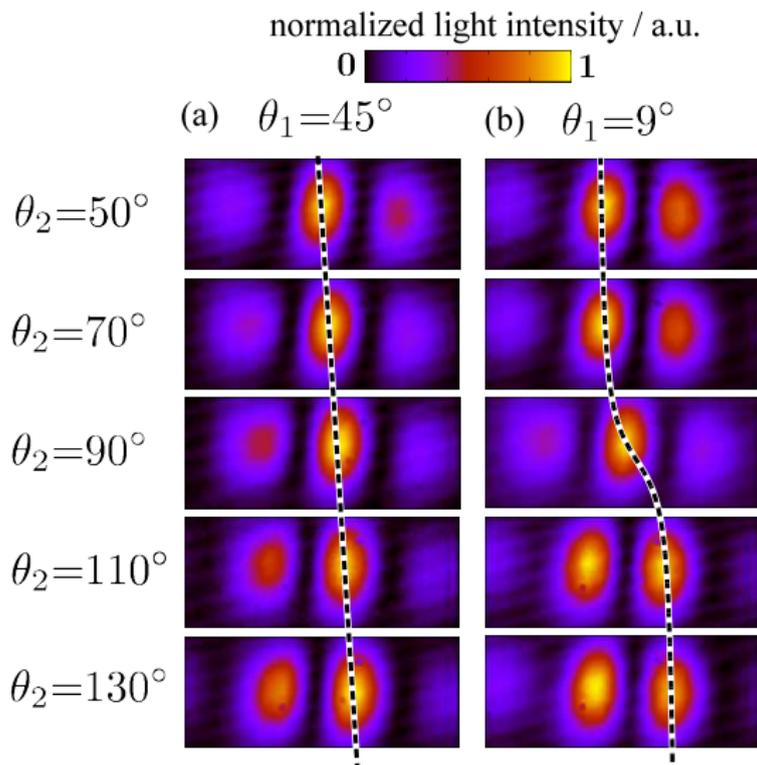
- For  $\theta_1 = \pi/4$

$$\Omega \propto \theta_2$$

- For  $\theta_1 \ll 1$

$\Omega$  varies rapidly around  
 $\theta_2 = \pi/2$

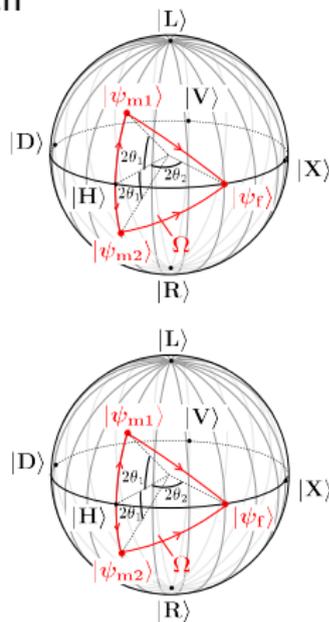
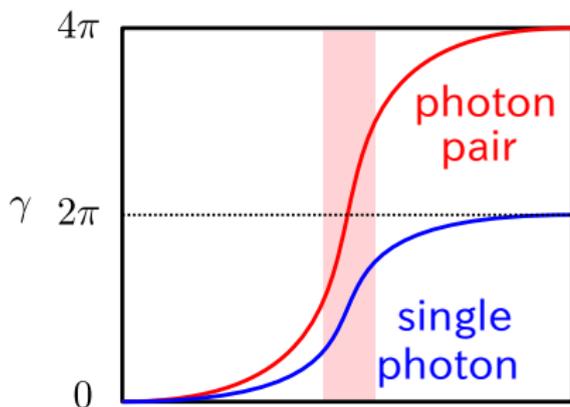
# Interference images on CCD



# Nonlinear geometric phases for photon pairs

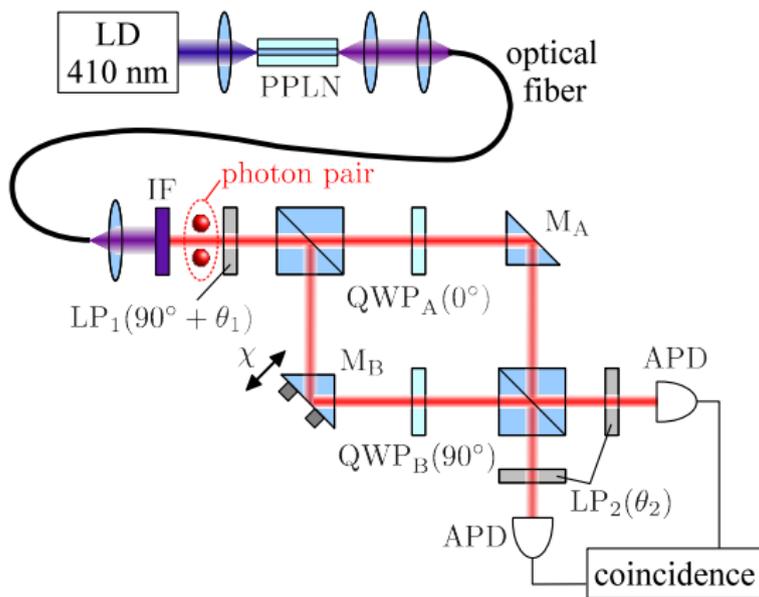
- Identically polarized Photon pairs  $\Rightarrow$  Twice the geometric phase
- $|\Psi_i\rangle = |\psi_i\rangle|\psi_i\rangle$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ )  

$$\arg\langle\Psi_1|\Psi_3\rangle\langle\Psi_3|\Psi_2\rangle\langle\Psi_2|\Psi_1\rangle = 2 \arg\langle\psi_1|\psi_3\rangle\langle\psi_3|\psi_2\rangle\langle\psi_2|\psi_1\rangle$$
- Twice the amplification for same bandwidth



# Observation of two-photon geometric phases

- H. Kobayashi, MK *et al.*, Phys. Rev. A **83**, 063808 (2011)

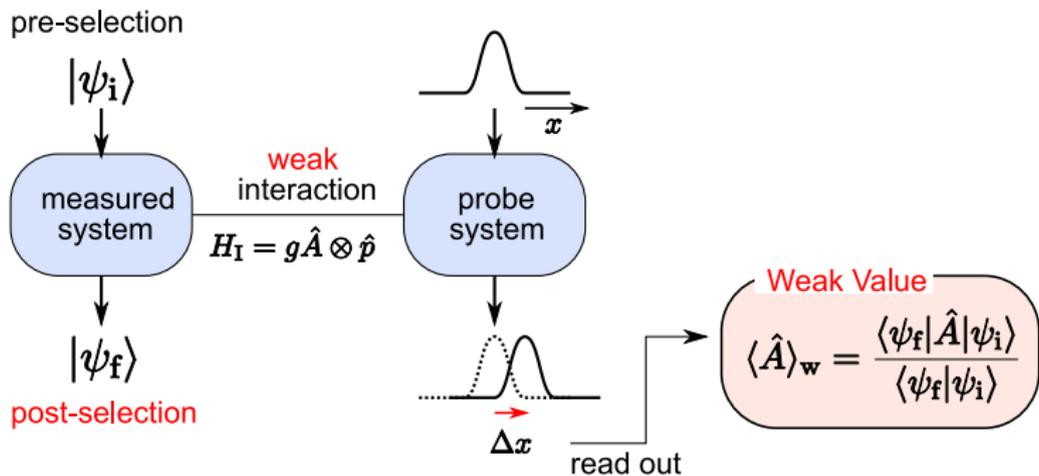


- Photon pairs are generated by parametric down conversion
- Geometric phases are observed in two-photon interference

# Weak measurement

Aharonov *et al.*, PRL **60**, 1351 (1988)

- Quantum measurement with *weak interaction* and *post selection*
- The measured value could be much larger than in the ordinary measurement — weak value
- Probability of success is sacrificed.

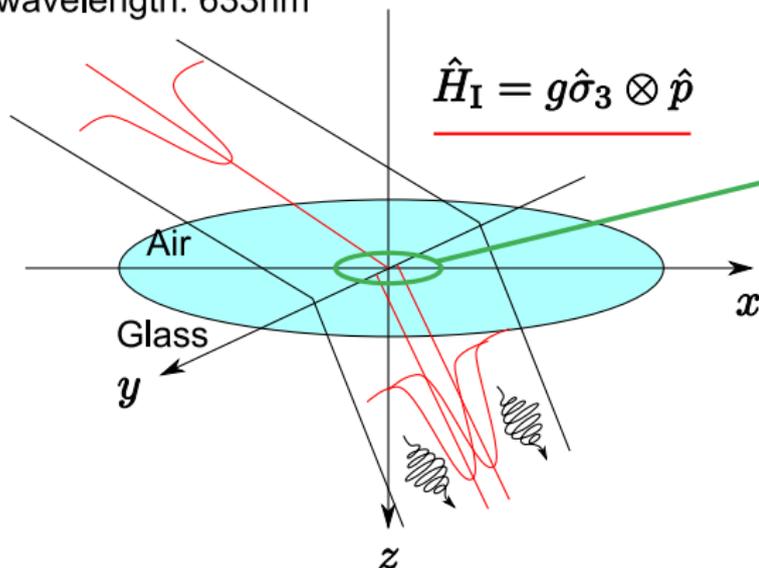


# Application of weak measurement

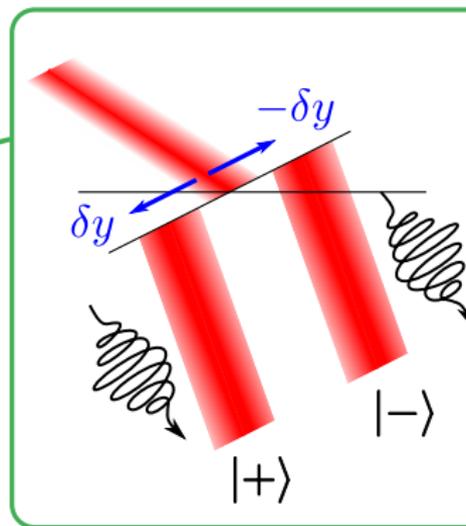
Hosten *et al.*, Science **319**, 787 (2008).

- Detection of optical spin Hall effect

wavelength: 633nm



$\delta y \sim 10 \text{ nm}$



- Tiny amount of beam shifts  $\sim 0.1 \text{ nm}$  can be measured.

Enhancement factor:  $\sim 10^4$

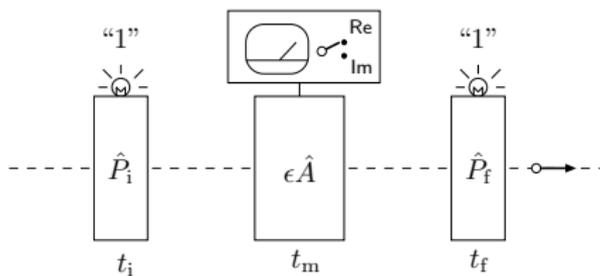
# Weak value and probe shift

- Utilizing the indirect measurement model, we can easily find the probe shift as

$$\langle \Delta x \rangle \propto \epsilon \operatorname{Re} \langle \hat{A} \rangle_w = \epsilon \operatorname{Re} \frac{\langle \psi_f | \hat{A} | \psi_i \rangle}{\langle \psi_f | \psi_i \rangle}$$

for the interaction Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}_I = \epsilon \hat{A} \otimes \hat{p}$

- The coupling  $\epsilon$  must be small (weak) but by setting  $\langle \psi_f | \psi_i \rangle$  small enough, we can have a large probe shift.
- We can measure the imaginary part by using different interaction Hamiltonian.



# Relationship between quantum eraser and weak measurement

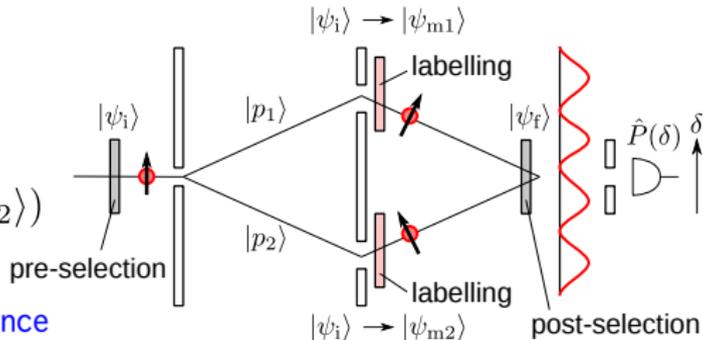
- S. Tamate, MK *et al.*, *New J. Phys.* **11**, 093025 (2009)

## quantum eraser

$$\hat{P}(\delta) = |\phi(\delta)\rangle\langle\phi(\delta)|$$

$$|\phi(\delta)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|p_1\rangle + e^{i\delta}|p_2\rangle)$$

measurement of phase difference

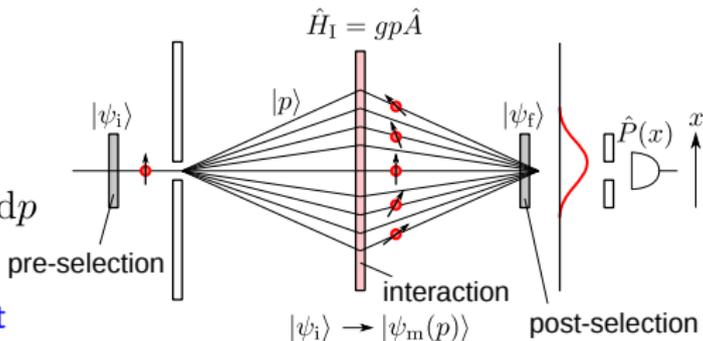


## weak measurement

$$\hat{P}(x) = |x\rangle\langle x|$$

$$|x\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hbar}} \int e^{-ixp/\hbar} |p\rangle dp$$

measurement of phase gradient



# Weak operator — two-state operator

- Initial state  $|i\rangle$  (Pre-selection), Final state  $|f\rangle$  (Post-selection)
- Weak operator (for  $\langle i|f\rangle \neq 0$ )

$$\hat{W} := \frac{|i\rangle\langle f|}{\langle f|i\rangle} \quad (= \hat{W}_{if})$$

**Gauge independent** (cf.  $|i\rangle\langle f|$  : gauge dependent)

- $\hat{W}$  characterizes the pre- and post-selected ensemble
- For  $|i\rangle = |f\rangle$ ,  $\hat{W}$  reduces to the density operator  $\hat{\rho} = |i\rangle\langle i|$ .
- Normalized,  $\text{Tr } \hat{W} = 1$ .

# Weak value by weak operator

- With weak operator  $\hat{W}$ , the weak value for a quantity  $\hat{A}$  is represented as

$$\langle \hat{A} \rangle_w = \text{Tr} \hat{A} \hat{W} = \frac{\langle f | \hat{A} | i \rangle}{\langle f | i \rangle} \quad (= \langle \hat{A} \rangle_{w;f,i})$$

(cf)  $\langle \hat{A} \rangle = \text{Tr} \hat{A} \hat{\rho} = \langle i | \hat{A} | i \rangle$

- Unlike density operators, weak operators are not Hermite nor normal;  $\hat{W}^\dagger \neq \hat{W}$ ,  $[\hat{W}^\dagger, \hat{W}] \neq 0$ .
  - No spectral decomposition
- Real and imaginary parts (Hermite):

$$\hat{W}_R := (\hat{W} + \hat{W}^\dagger)/2$$

$$\hat{W}_I := (\hat{W} - \hat{W}^\dagger)/2i$$

# Physical meaning of the pre- and post selected ensemble

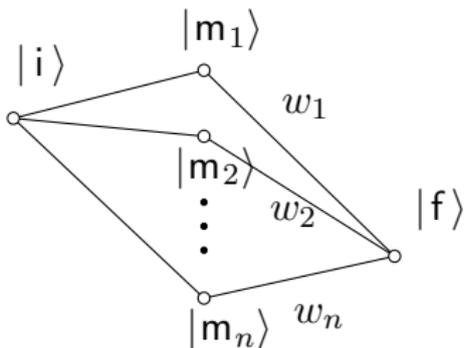
- Density operator  $\rho_i$ : preselected ensemble
- Weak operator  $\hat{W}_{if}$ : ensemble filtered with preselection (i) and postselection (f).
- Analogy — a group of student of high school (i) who successfully entered university (f).
  - The ensemble is determined after high school.
  - The measurements have to be done in the high school.
  - The measurements have to be weak. (Hard tests destroy students!)

# Weak values for projection operators

- The weak values  $w_k$  for projection operators  $\hat{P}_k = |m_k\rangle\langle m_k|$  for an orthonormal basis  $|m_k\rangle$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ).

$$w_k = \langle \hat{P}_k \rangle_w = \text{Tr} \hat{P}_k \hat{W} = \frac{\langle m_k | i \rangle \langle f | m_k \rangle}{\langle f | i \rangle}$$

- Due to the completeness  $\hat{P}_1 + \hat{P}_2 + \dots + \hat{P}_n = \hat{1}$ , we have  $w_1 + w_2 + \dots + w_n = 1$ .



# Complex probability measure

- $w_k$  seems to represent the probability that the initial state  $|i\rangle$  is transferred to the final state  $|f\rangle$ , through the intermediate states  $|m_k\rangle$ .
- However, the *probabilities*  $w_k$  take complex values.
- Despite of the fact that the eigenvalue of  $\hat{P}_k$  are in  $\{0, 1\}$ , the weak value  $w_k = \langle \hat{P}_k \rangle_w$  can take a value outside of  $[0, 1]$  and even be complex.
- When you think of a probability for quantum paths, you must allow it to be negative, larger than one, or even complex.

R.P. Feynman: "QED — The strange theory of light and matter",  
Princeton University Press (1985).

# Three-box paradox

- An example of negative probability  
Aharonov and Vaidman: *Lecture Notes in Physics* **M72**, 369 (2002)
- Three-state system  $\{|m_1\rangle, |m_2\rangle, |m_3\rangle\}$ .

$$|i\rangle = (|m_1\rangle + (|m_2\rangle + |m_3\rangle))/\sqrt{3} = (|m_2\rangle + (|m_1\rangle + |m_3\rangle))/\sqrt{3}$$

$$|f\rangle = (|m_1\rangle + (|m_2\rangle - |m_3\rangle))/\sqrt{3} = (|m_2\rangle + (|m_1\rangle - |m_3\rangle))/\sqrt{3}$$

- The probabilities (weak values) are

$$w_1 = 1, \quad , w_2 = 1, \quad w_3 = -1$$

$$w(\{1, 2\}) = 2, \quad w(\{2, 3\}) = 0, \quad w(\{3, 1\}) = 0$$

$$w(\{1, 2, 3\}) = 1$$

- For the (pre- and post-selected) sub-ensemble  $\hat{W}_{if}$ , the probabilities for paths  $\hat{P}_i = |i\rangle\langle i|$  and  $\hat{P}_f = |f\rangle\langle f|$  are

$$\langle |i\rangle\langle i| \rangle_w = \langle |f\rangle\langle f| \rangle_w = 1$$

where  $\langle i|f\rangle \neq 0$ .

- A system that belongs to this sub-ensemble considered to have been in the state  $|i\rangle$  for sure and in the state  $|f\rangle$  for sure as well.
- Even though  $[\hat{P}_i, \hat{P}_f] \neq 0$  (incompatible), each of  $\hat{P}_i$  and  $\hat{P}_f$  have a definite value for the sub-ensemble  $\hat{W}_{if}$ .

# Weak value and geometric phase

- For the spectral decomposition  $\hat{A} = \sum_k a_k \hat{P}_k$  of a physical quantity  $\hat{A}$ , its weak value is

$$\langle \hat{A} \rangle_w = \sum_k a_k w_k$$

- Anomaly of weak value has root in the complex probability measure  $\{w_k\}$ .
- The phase of  $w_k$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \arg w_k &= \arg \frac{\langle f | m_k \rangle \langle m_k | i \rangle}{\langle f | i \rangle} \\ &= \arg \langle i | f \rangle \langle f | m_k \rangle \langle m_k | i \rangle = \gamma_3(i, m_k, f) \end{aligned}$$

= the geometric phase determined by  $|i\rangle, |m_k\rangle, |f\rangle$

## Weak value and geometric phase (2)

- In typical situation of weak measurements,  $|i\rangle$  and  $|f\rangle$  are almost orthogonal.
- On the Poincare sphere, they are located almost conjugate positions. The phase (the area of spherical triangle) is strongly dependent on the choice of the intermediate state  $|m_k\rangle$ .
- In cases of  $|i\rangle = |f\rangle$ , the geometric phase vanishes and  $w_k$  becomes real:

$$w_k = \frac{\langle i|m_k\rangle\langle m_k|i\rangle}{\langle i|i\rangle} = |\langle i|m_k\rangle|^2$$

which reduces to the normal probability of finding.

The weak value, determined by three states, is closely related to the geometric phase.

- The weak operator for pre- and post-selection with mixed state can be defined as

$$\hat{W} = \frac{\hat{\rho}_i \hat{\rho}_f}{\text{Tr} \hat{\rho}_f \hat{\rho}_i}$$

where  $\hat{\rho}_i$  and  $\hat{\rho}_f$  are the density operators of pre- and post-selection states.

- The pure state case can be recovered by  $\hat{\rho}_f = |f\rangle\langle f|$ ,  $\hat{\rho}_i = |i\rangle\langle i|$ .
- The post-selection with completely mixed state,  $\hat{\rho}_f = \hat{1}/n$  yields

$$\hat{W} = \hat{\rho}_i, \quad \langle \hat{A} \rangle_w = \text{Tr} \hat{A} \hat{\rho}_i = \langle \hat{A} \rangle,$$

which corresponds to no post-selection cases.

## Weighted sum — fragility of weak value

- Post-selection with the mixed state composed of two states  $|f_1\rangle, |f_2\rangle$  weighted by  $p_1, p_2$  ( $\geq 0$ ),  $p_1 + p_2 = 1$ ;

$$\hat{\rho}_f = p_1|f_1\rangle\langle f_1| + p_2|f_2\rangle\langle f_2|$$

- Weak value for  $|i\rangle$  and  $\rho_f$ :

$$\langle \hat{A} \rangle_w = \frac{p_1 |\langle i | f_1 \rangle|^2 \langle \hat{A} \rangle_{w1} + p_2 |\langle i | f_2 \rangle|^2 \langle \hat{A} \rangle_{w2}}{p_1 |\langle i | f_1 \rangle|^2 + p_2 |\langle i | f_2 \rangle|^2}$$

where  $\langle \hat{A} \rangle_{wj} = \langle i | \hat{A} | f_j \rangle / \langle i | f_j \rangle$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ).

- Weak values with large absolute value (or small  $|\langle i | f_j \rangle|$ ) are added with small weights.
- Large weak values are fragile against mixing.

# Determination of wavefunction with weak measurement

- An orthonormal basis vectors:  $|m_k\rangle$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ )
- An arbitrary initial state  $|\psi\rangle = |i\rangle$ .  
The state for the post selection:  $|f\rangle = (1/\sqrt{n}) \sum_{k=1}^n |m_k\rangle$ .
- The weak value for the projector  $\hat{P}_k = |m_k\rangle\langle m_k|$  is

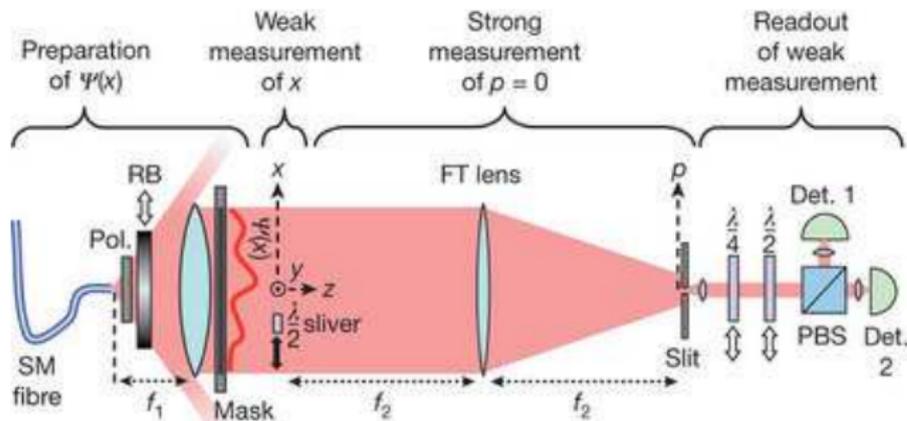
$$\langle \hat{P}_k \rangle_w = \psi_k / \sum_{k=1}^n \psi_k$$

where  $\psi_k = \langle m_k | \psi \rangle$  is the probability amplitude or the wave function.

- By repeating weak measurement for all  $k$ , we can measure the wave function  $\psi_k$ .
- The gauge is fixed with the choice of phases of basis vectors  $|m_k\rangle$ .
- It is believed that the wavefunction cannot be measured because it is complex and gauge-dependent.

# Experimental determination of wavefunction

- Continuous 1D basis:  $\{|x\rangle \mid -\infty < x < \infty\}$
- Photon beam spread 1-dimensionally  $\Psi(x)$



J.S. Lundeen *et al.*, Nature **474** 188 (2011).

- Simple experiment for measuring geometric phases in quantum eraser  
Kobayashi *et al.*, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **80**, 034401 (2011)
- Relationship between nonlinear geometric phases and weak value  
Tamate *et al.*, *New J. Phys.* **11**, 093025 (2009)
- Observation of two-photon geometric phase and its nonlinearity  
Kobayashi *et al.*, Phys. Rev. A **83**, 063808 (2011)
- Bloch sphere representation of three-vertex geometrical phases  
Tamate *et al.*, Phys. Rev. A **84**, 052114 (2011)
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