

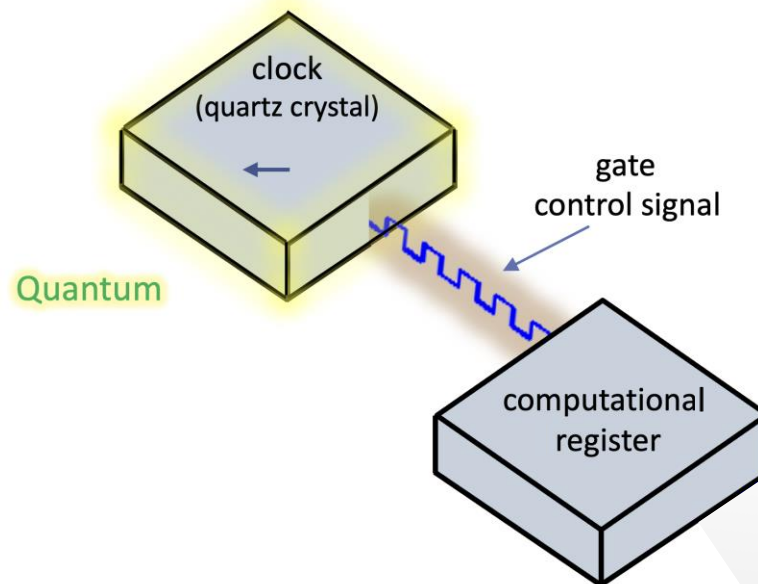
Quantum Frequential Computing: *a quadratic runtime advantage for computation*

ICNF, Crete. 29/07/2025

ArXiv: 2403.02389

Mischa Woods

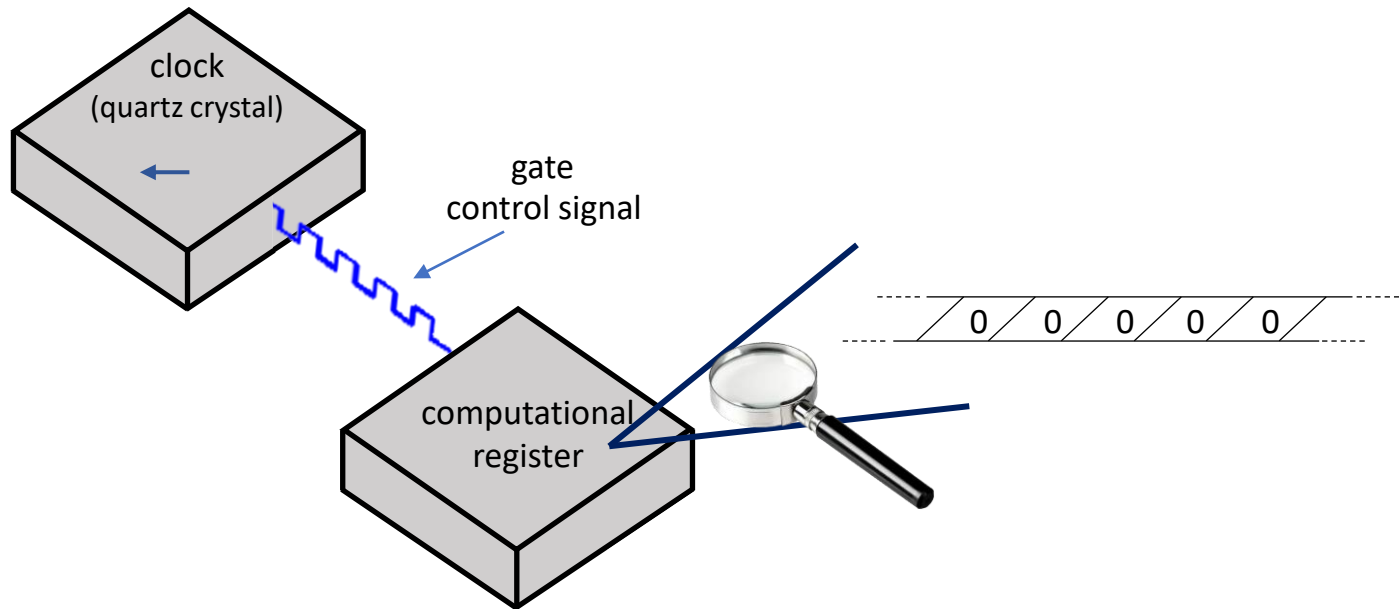
ENS Lyon, France



Inria

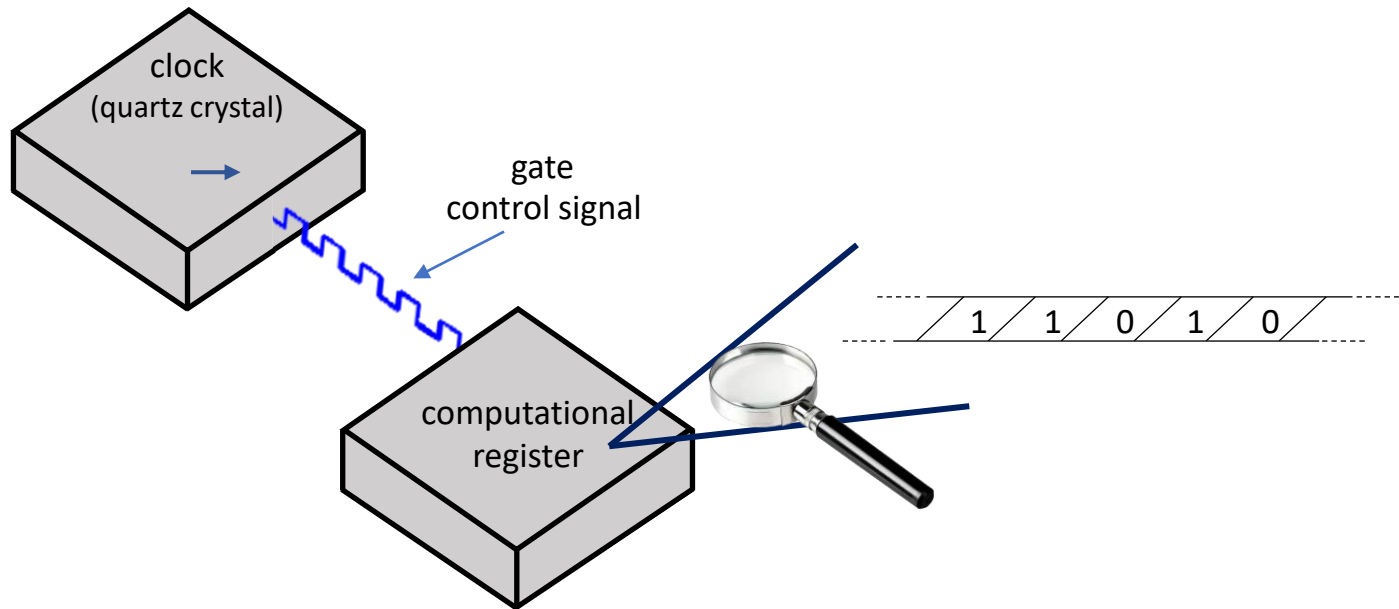
Motivation

Framework: classical & conventional quantum computers



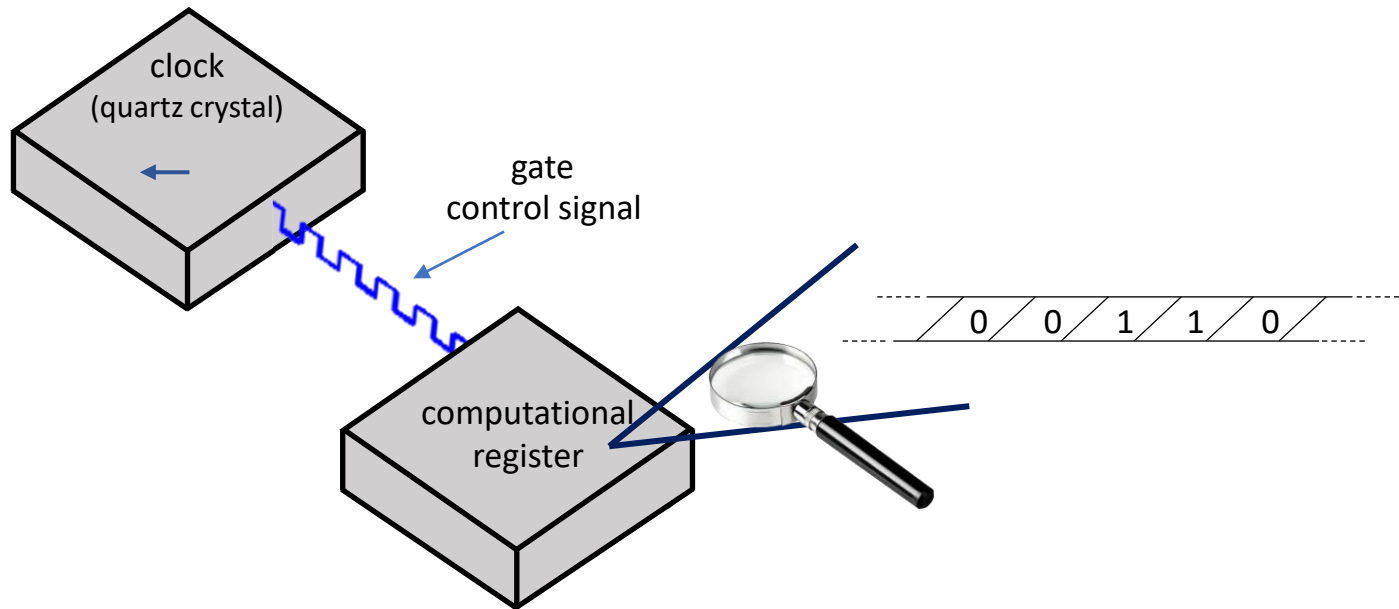
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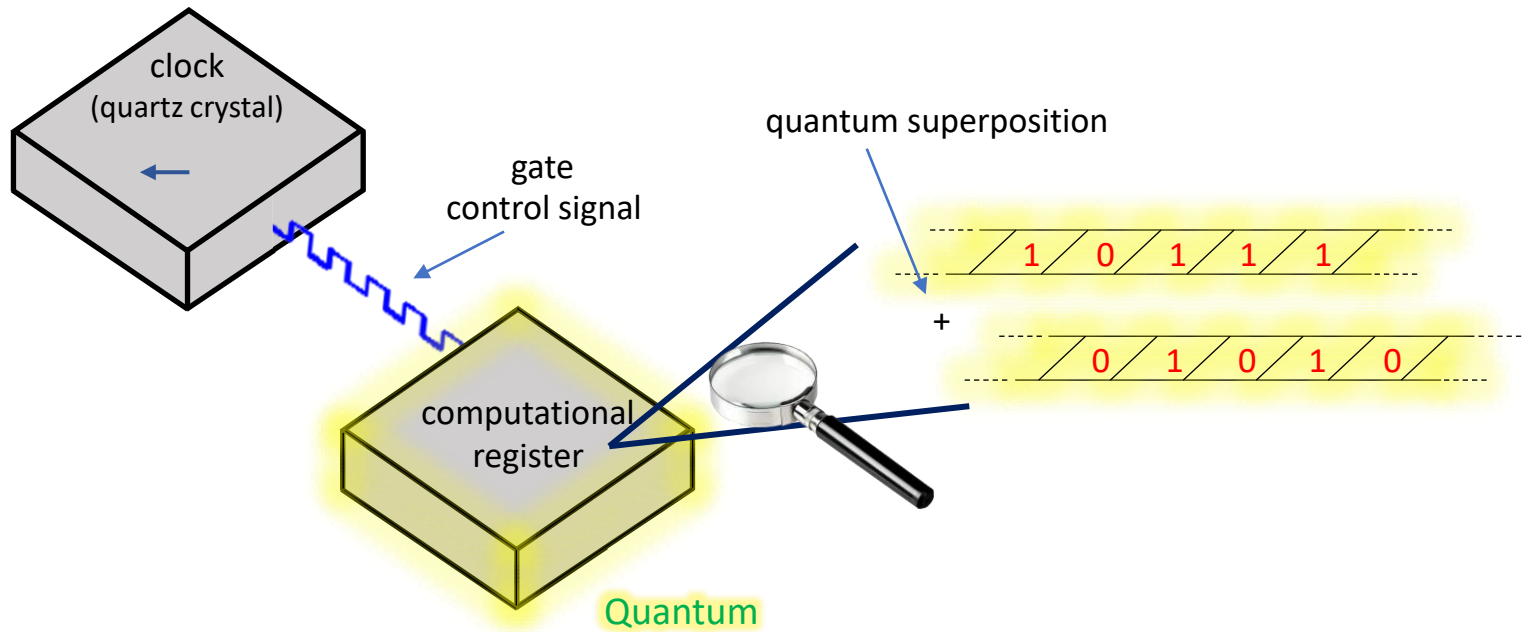
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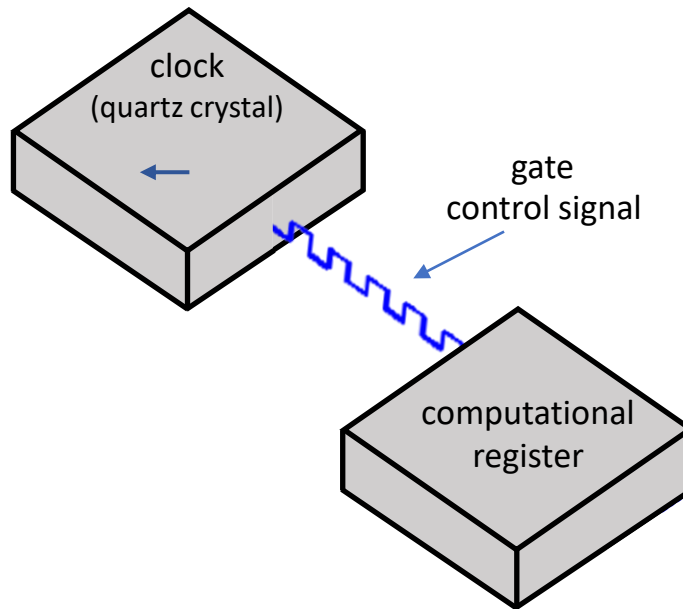
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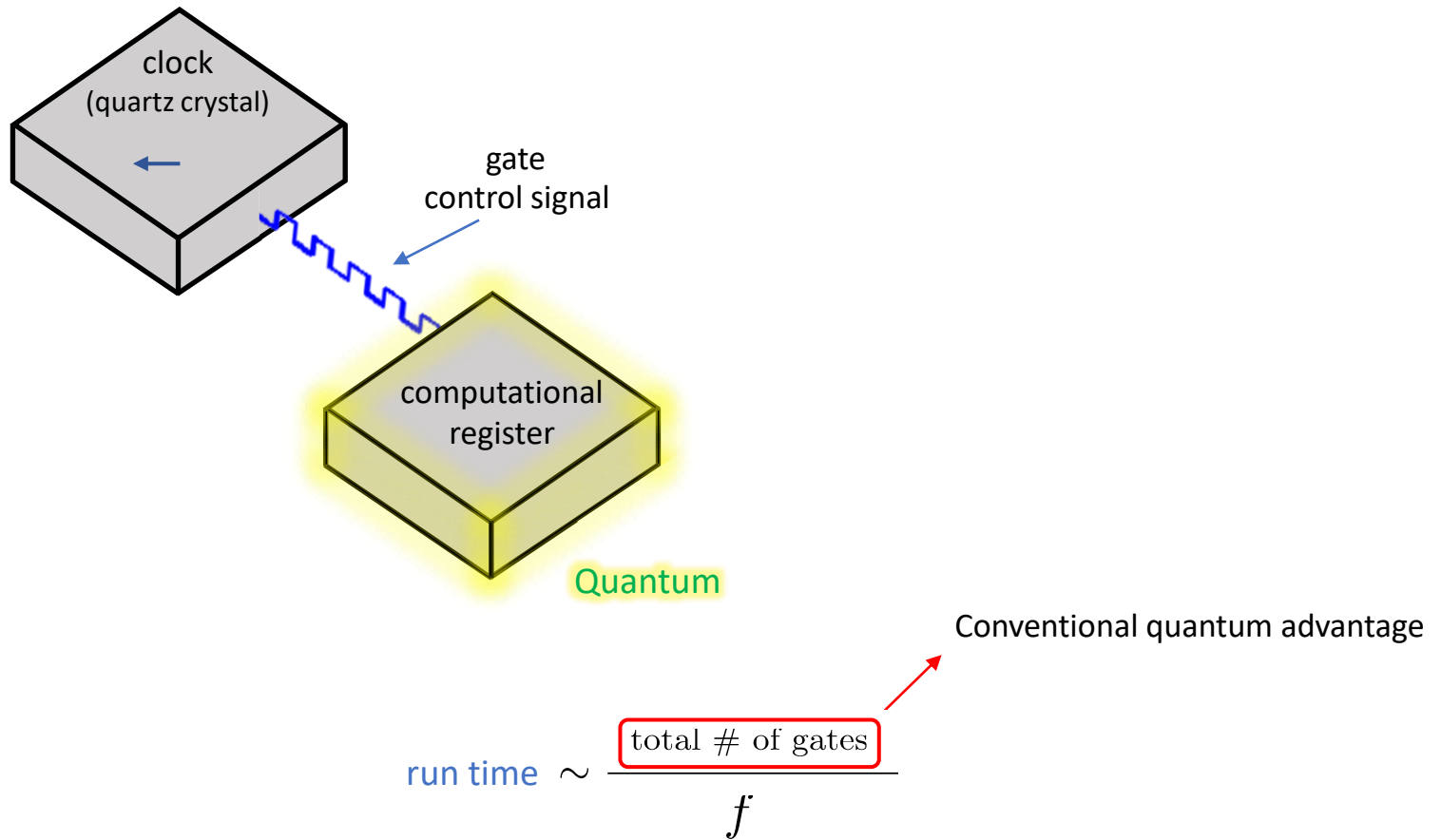


$$\text{run time} \sim \frac{\text{total \# of gates}}{f}$$

gate frequency

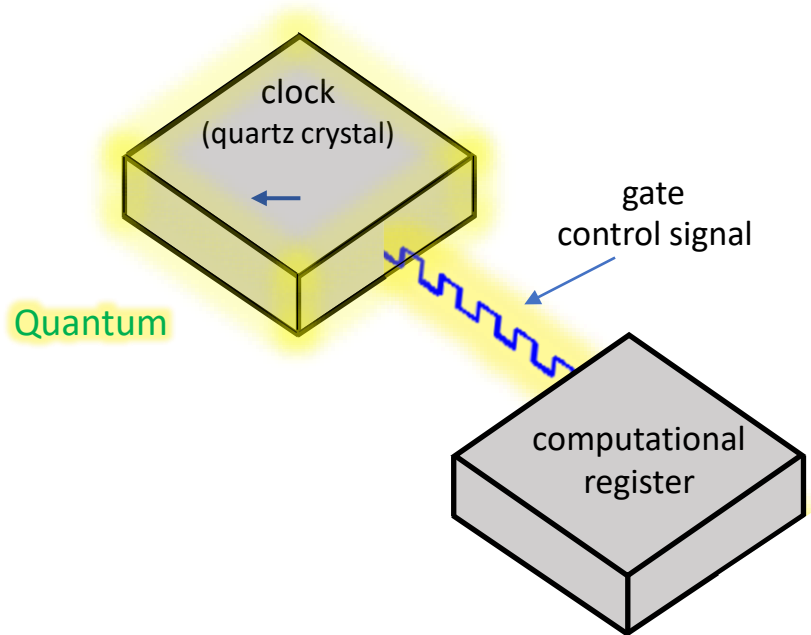
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Motivation

New Framework

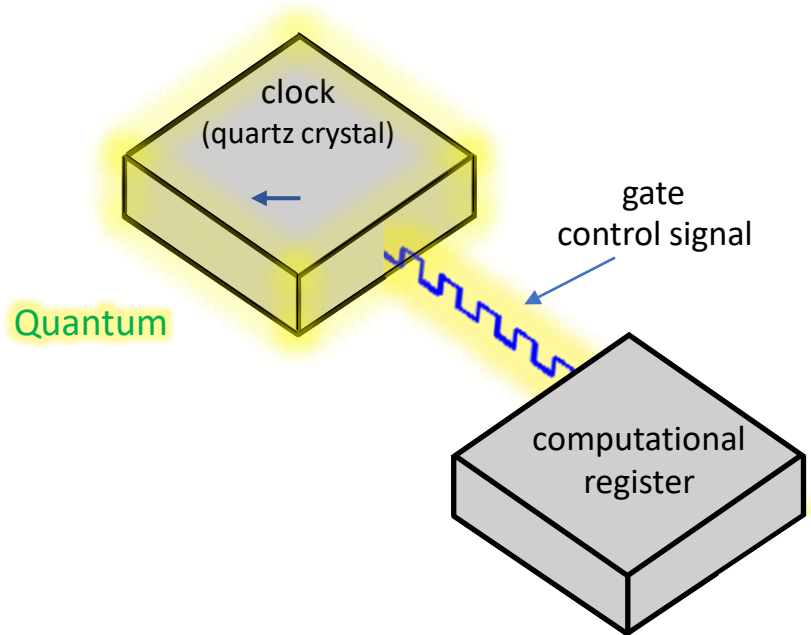


$$\text{run time} \sim \frac{\text{total \# of gates}}{f}$$

f → New quantum advantage?

Motivation

New Framework



Difficulties

The higher the clock frequency:

- 1: harder for gates to keep up
- 2: more heat generated

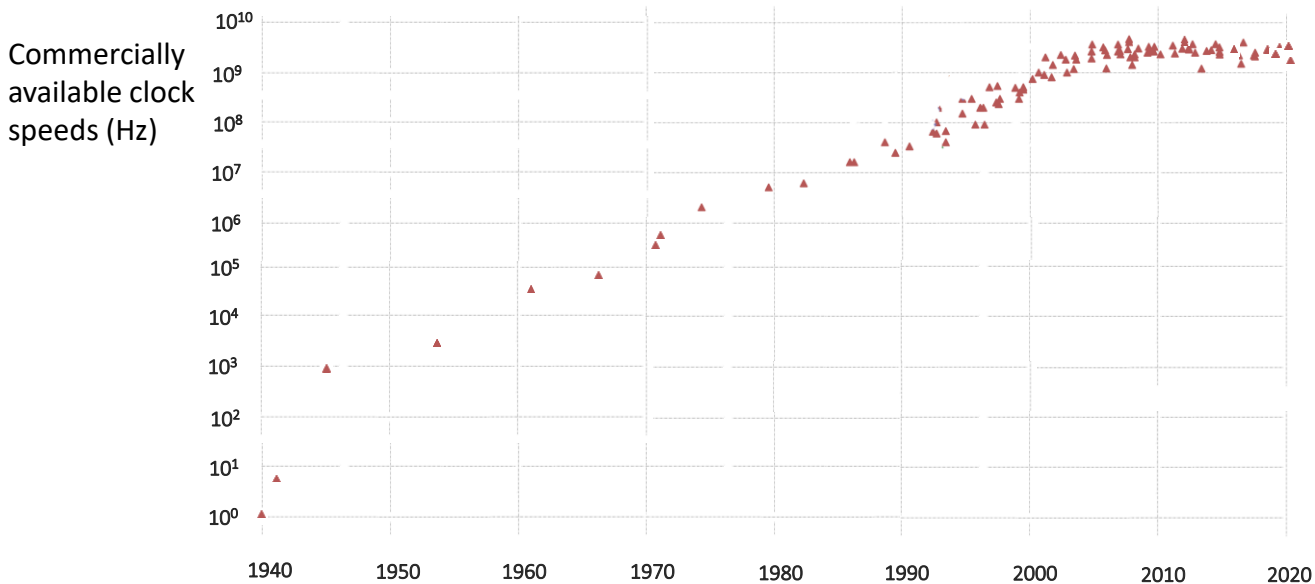
$$\text{run time} \sim \frac{\text{total \# of gates}}{f}$$

f

→ New quantum advantage?

Motivation

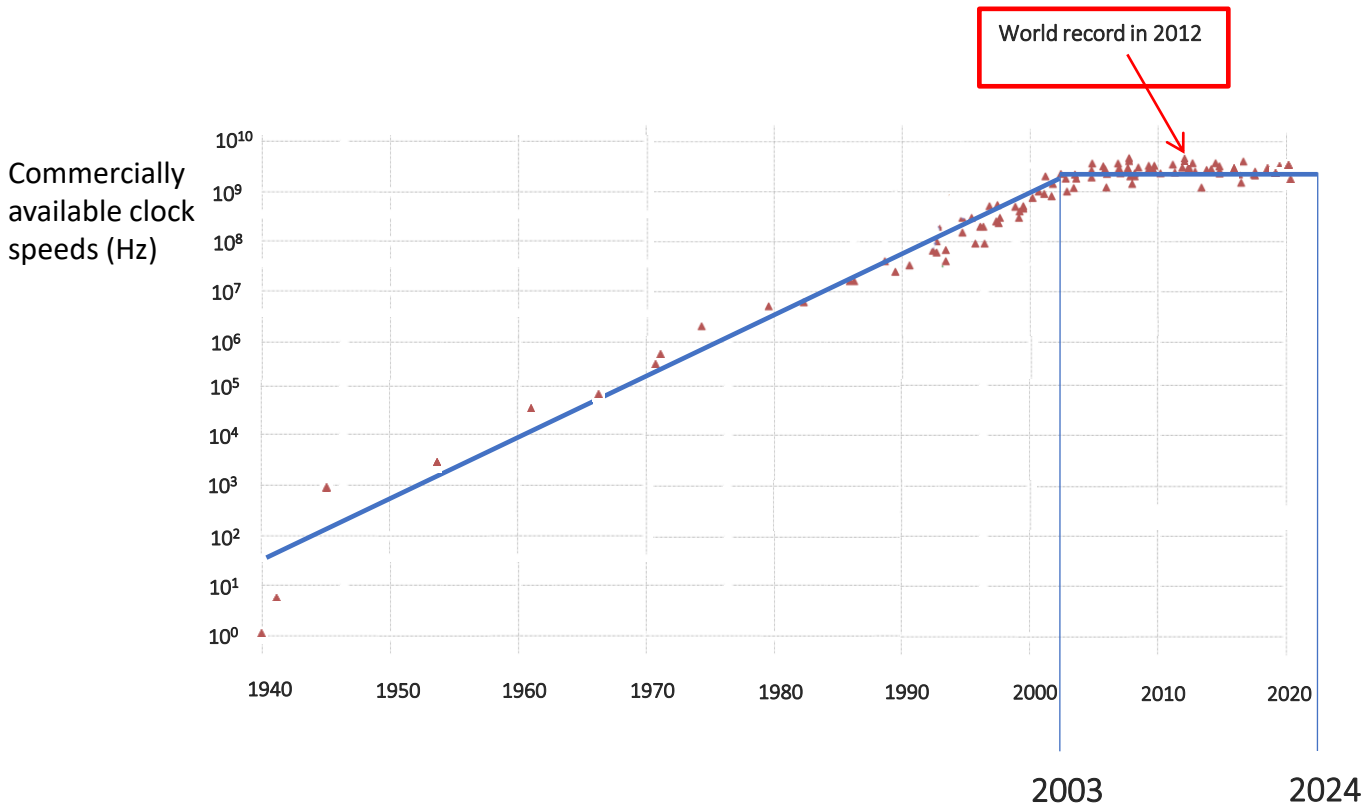
Why bother? Is frequency a bottleneck in the state of the art?



Source: The MosaicSim Simulator, O Matthews, *IEEE International Symposium on Performance Analysis of Systems and Software (2020)*
Disentangling Hype from Practicality: On Realistically Achieving Quantum Advantage, T. Hoefler, T. Häner, M. Troyer, *Commun. ACM*

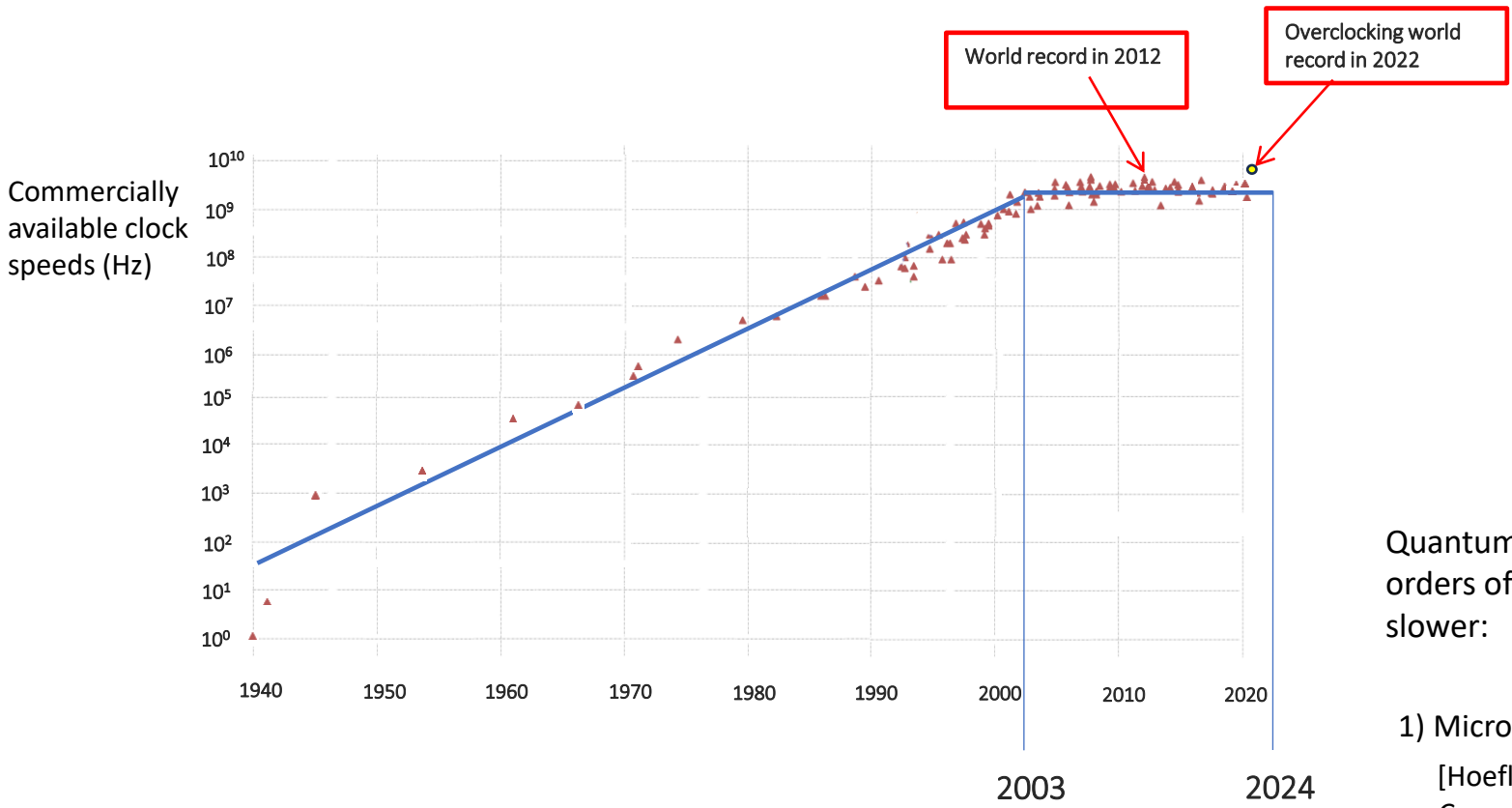
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Why bother? Is frequency a bottleneck in the state of the art? —YES!



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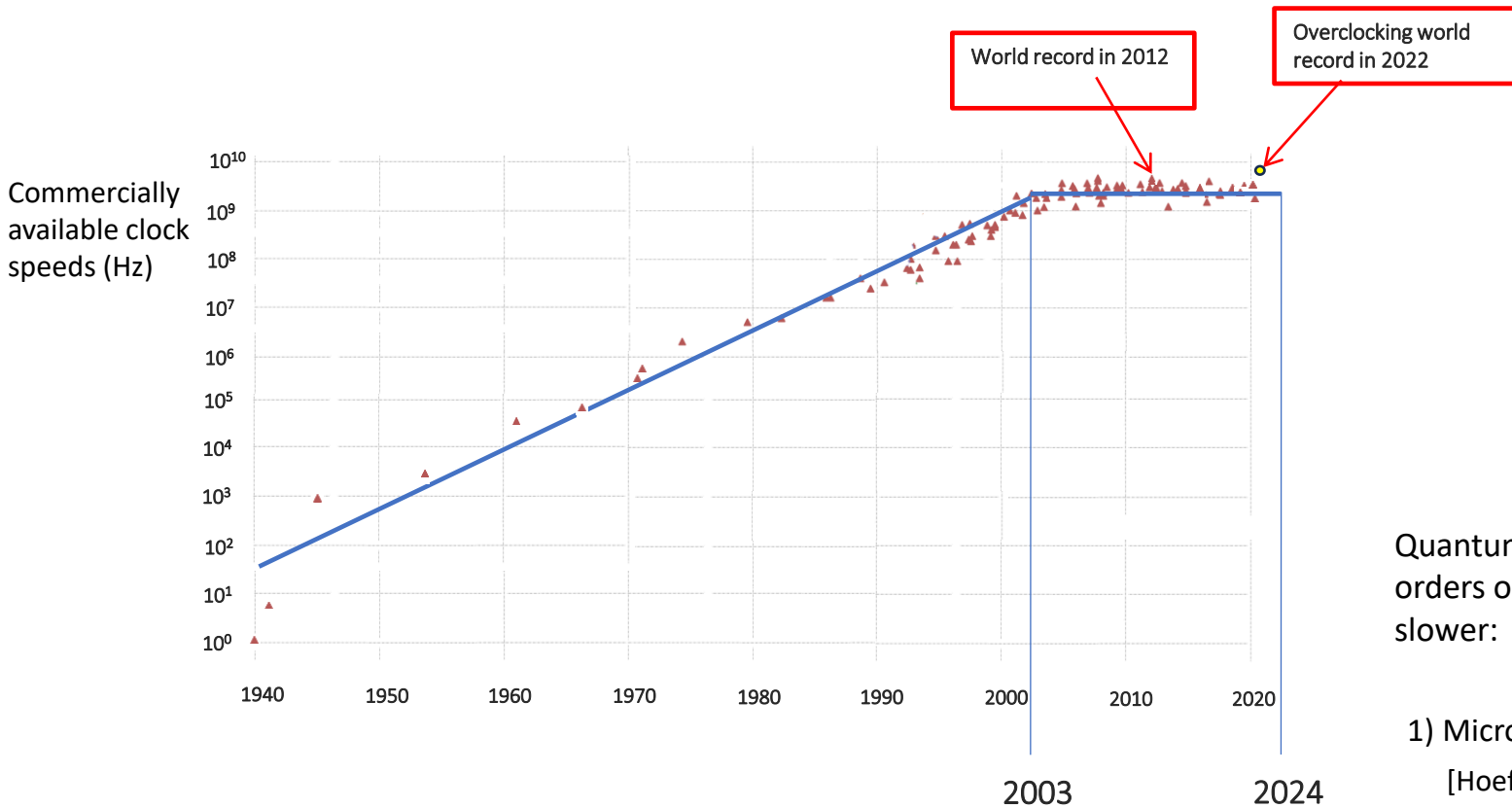
Quantum computers:
orders of magnitude
slower:



- 1) Microsoft Quantum
[Hoefler et al, *Comm. ACM* (2023)]
- 2) Google Quantum
[R. Babbush et al, PRX Quantum 2, 010103 (2021)]

Motivation

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[R. Babbush et al, PRX
Quantum 2, 010103 (2021)]

Why bother? Is power consumption an issue? —YES!

— computations consumes 3% global power production. Set to balloon with AI. 13

[IEA.org/energy]

- 1) What are the fundamental relationships between energy, power, & gate frequency?
- 2) What (if any) are the quantum advantages if the control is quantum rather than classical?

Previous full-computer/themo modeling:

- The computer as a physical system, (Benioff) *Journal of Statistical Physics.*, 1980
- Quantum mechanical Hamiltonian models of Turing machines, (Benioff) *Journal of Statistical Physics*, 1982
- Tight binding Hamiltonians and Quantum Turing Machines", (Benioff) *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 1997
- Feynman lectures on computation (Feynman) 1996
- Autonomous quantum machines and the finite sized Quasi-Ideal clock, (Woods et. al.) *Annales Henri Poincaré*, 2019
- Autonomous Quantum Devices (Woods et. al.) *Phys. Rev. X* (2023)
- Autonomous Quantum Processing Unit (Meier et. al.), *ArXiv:2402.00111*

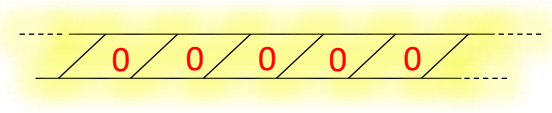
- **1st part:** Hamiltonian dynamics
 - Upper bounds on computational speed
 - Lower matching bounds
 - Only classical bus required
- **2nd part:** Open quantum system model
 - Power & dissipation required for optimal speed in steady-state model

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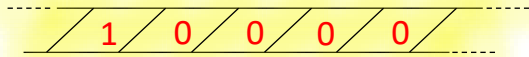
Upper bounds for classical and quantum computation

$$e^{-itH_{\text{Com}}} |0\rangle_{\text{Com}}$$



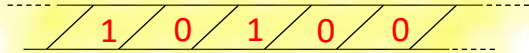
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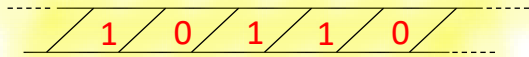
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1 0 1 0 0

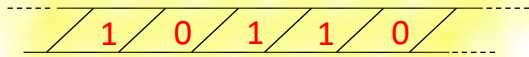
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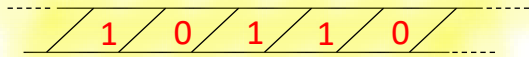


$$I \leq C_0 E$$

Quantum Speed limits:
Mandelstam–Tamm & Margolus, Levitin

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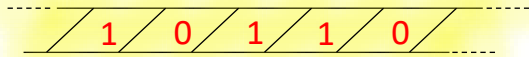
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Speed limits for semi-classical systems?

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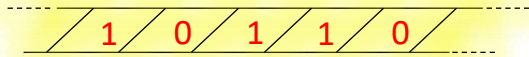
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Speed limits for semi-classical systems?

$$J \leq C'_0 \sqrt{E} \quad \text{If control not squeezed}$$

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Proof uses tools
from quantum
metrology

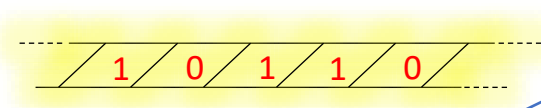


V. Giovannetti, S. Lloyd, L. Maccone, doi:
10.1103/PhysRevLett.108.260405 (12)

L. Maccone, A. Riccardi
doi: 10.22331/q-2020-07-09-292 (20)

Upper bounds for classical and quantum computation

$$e^{-itH_{\text{Com}}} |0\rangle_{\text{Com}}$$



$$J \leq C_0 E$$

“Heisenberg Limit”

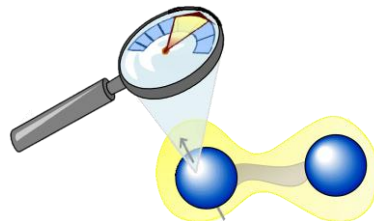
Quantum Speed limits:
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“Standard Quantum Limit”

Proof uses tools
from quantum
metrology

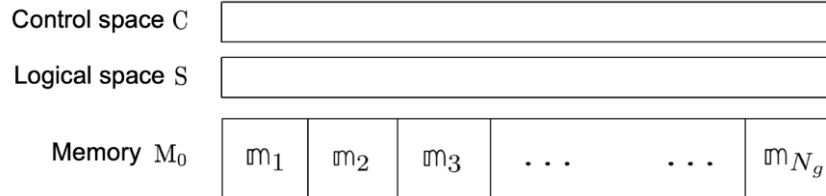


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Existence of Optimal classical and Quantum limits

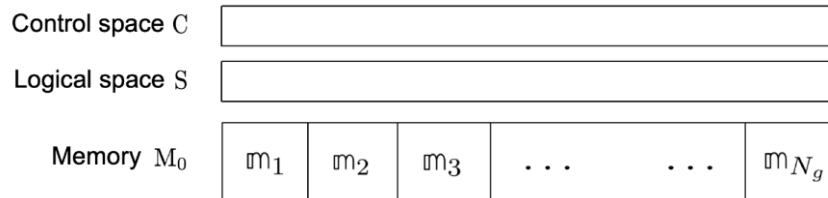
- Model:



- $$H_{M_0SC} = H_C + \sum_{l=1}^{N_g} I_{M_0,lS}^{(l)} \otimes I_C^{(l)}.$$

Existence of Optimal classical and Quantum limits

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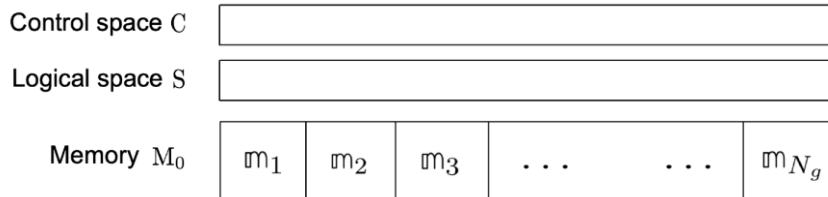
- Want $e^{-it_j H_{M_0SC}} |0\rangle_{M_0} |0\rangle_S |0\rangle_C \approx |0\rangle_{M_0} |t_j\rangle_S |t_j\rangle_C$

$t_j = jt_1$ $|t_j\rangle_S := U(m_j)U(m_{j-1}) \dots U(m_1) |0\rangle_S$

- What is max $f := 1/t_1$?

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$t_j = jt_1$ $|t_j\rangle_S := U(m_j)U(m_{j-1}) \dots U(m_1) |0\rangle_S$

- What is max $f := 1/t_1$?

- Answer: (theorem)

If $\{|t_j\rangle_C\}_j$ semi-classical (not squeezed):

$$f = \frac{1}{T_0} (T_0 E)^{1/2} \quad \text{as } E \rightarrow \infty$$

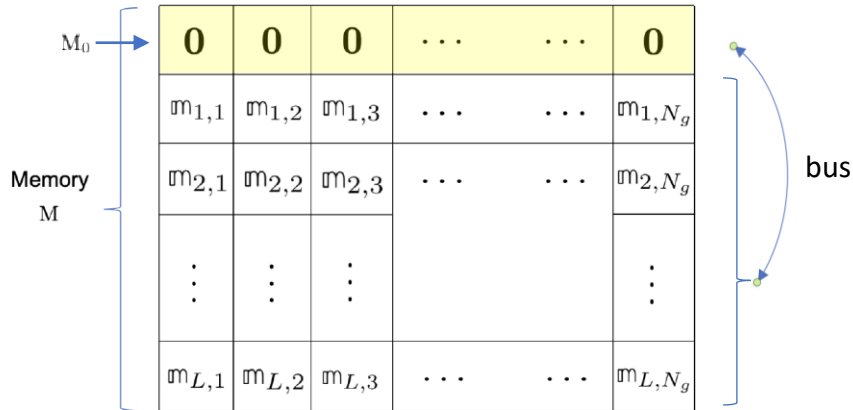
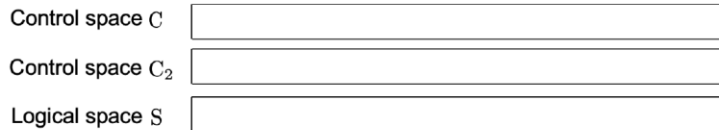
Otherwise:

$$f = E \quad \text{as } E \rightarrow \infty$$

Bad bits: $H_{M_0SC} = H_C + \sum_{l=1}^{N_g} I_{M_0,lS}^{(l)} \otimes I_C^{(l)}$

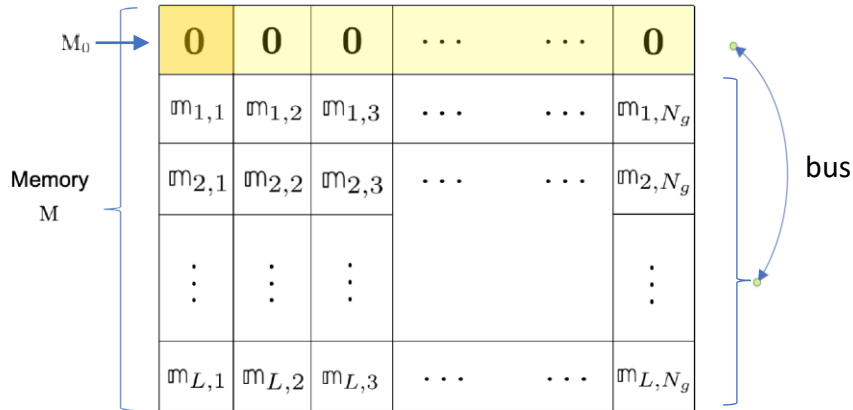
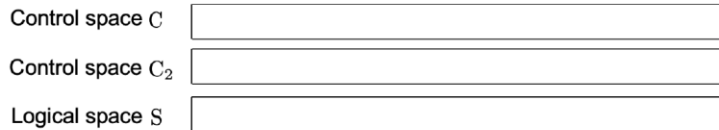
Optimal quantum limit only requires a classical internal bus

$$H_{MSCC_2} := H_{M_0SC} + H_{MC_2} \quad \left. \begin{array}{c} \text{bus} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right\} \text{Total number of interaction terms } N_g \cdot (\text{double})$$



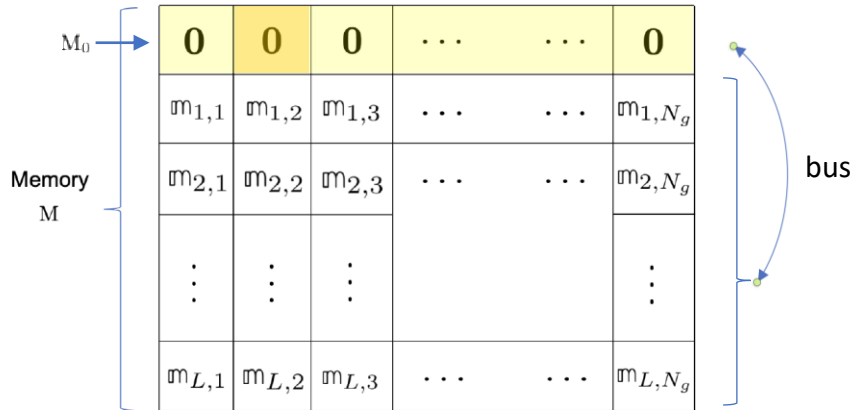
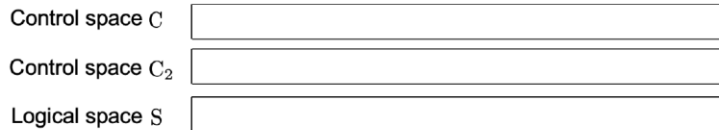
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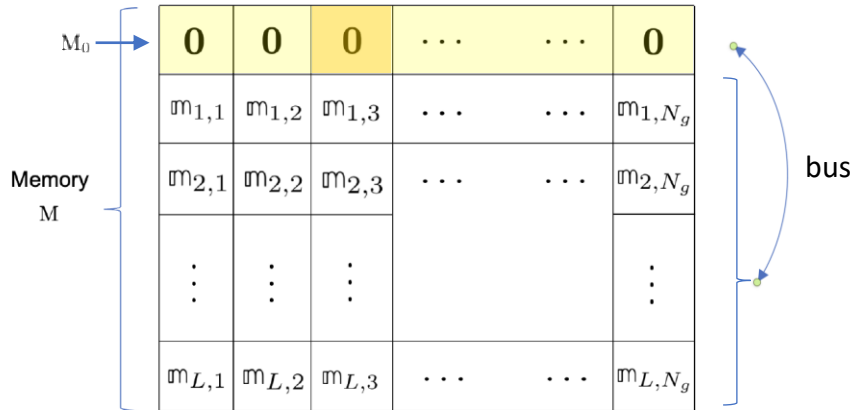
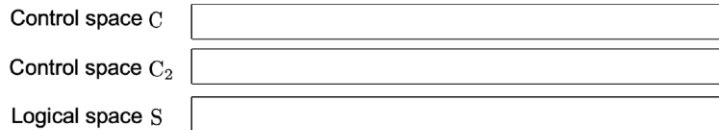
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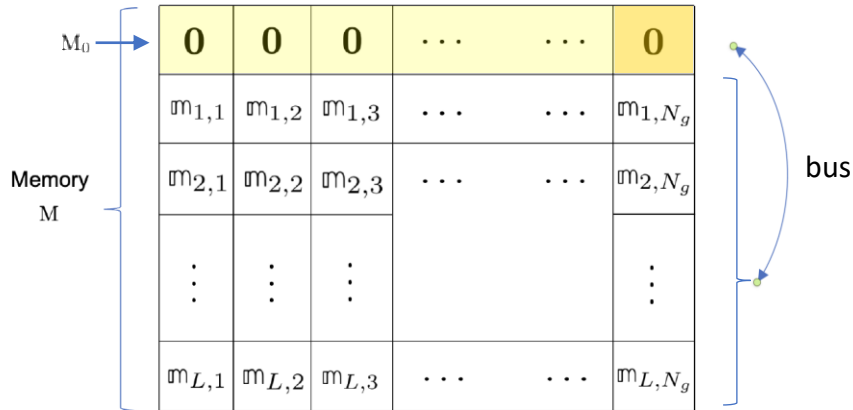
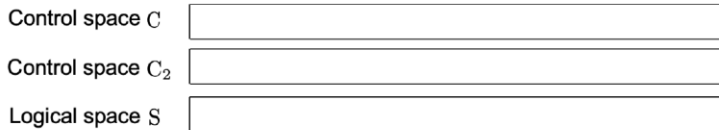
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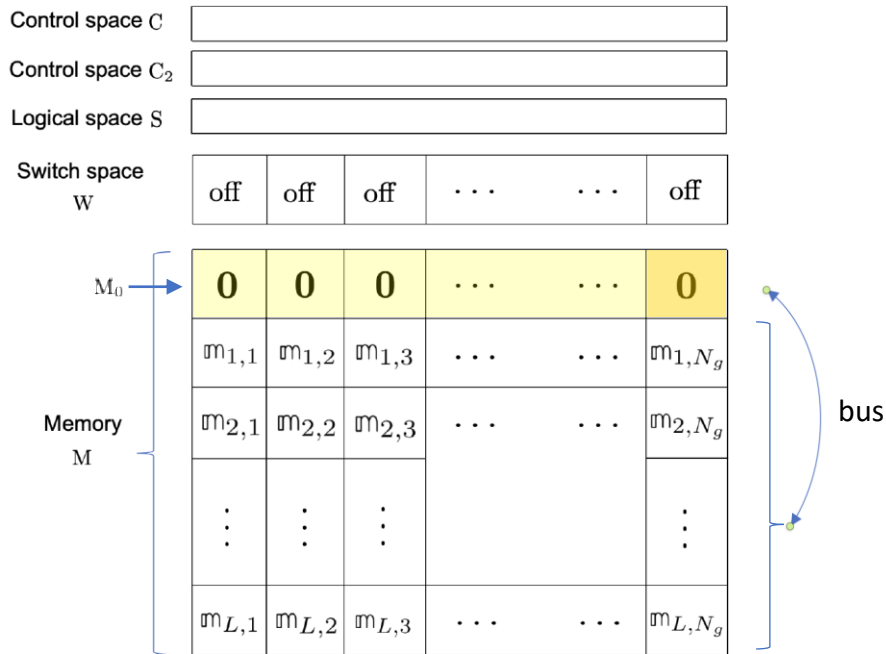
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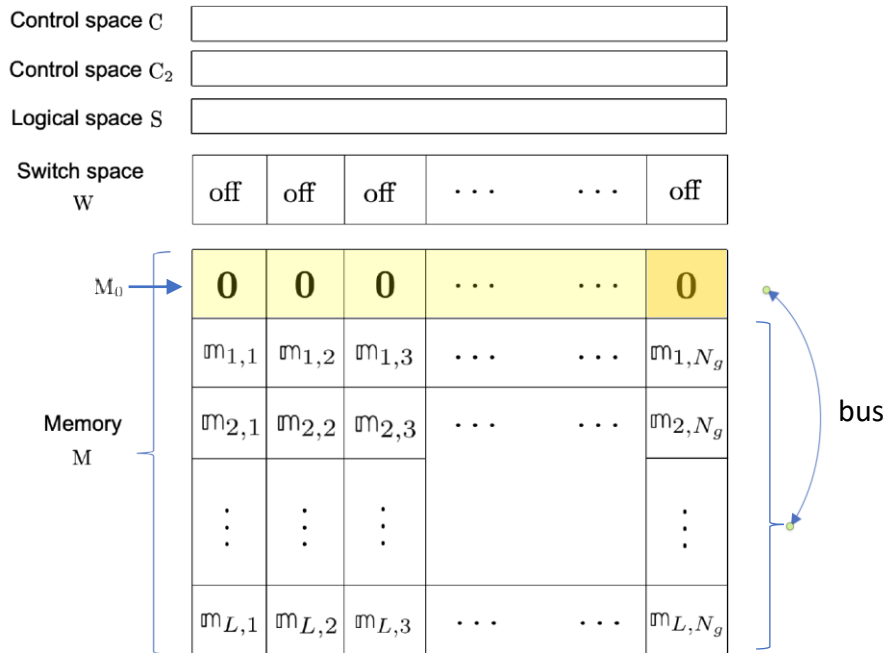


Optimal quantum limit only requires a classical internal bus

$$H_{MSCC_2} := H_{M_0SC} + H_{MC_2}$$

bus
↓

Total number of interaction terms $2N_g$. (double)



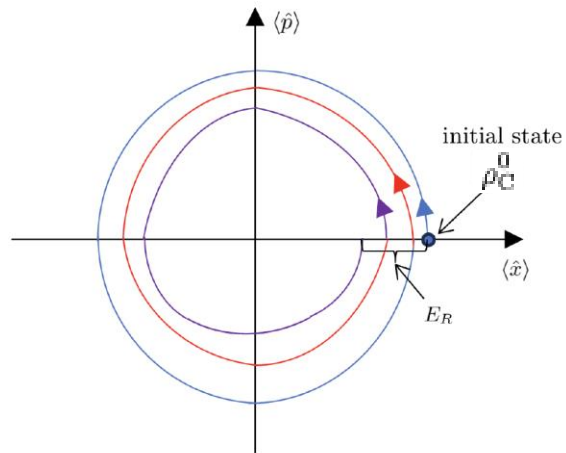
- (Theorem)

$$f = E \quad \text{as} \quad E \rightarrow \infty$$

and ρ_{C_2} not squeezed

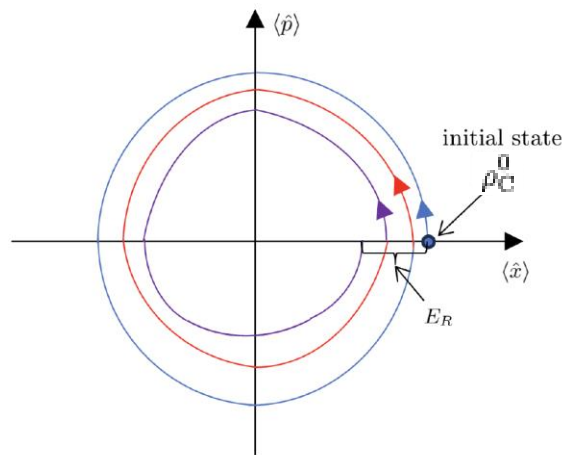
- Number of gates LN_g but only $2N_g$ interaction terms
- But still unstable to perturbations!

Nonequilibrium steady-state dynamics, power consumption and heat dissipation

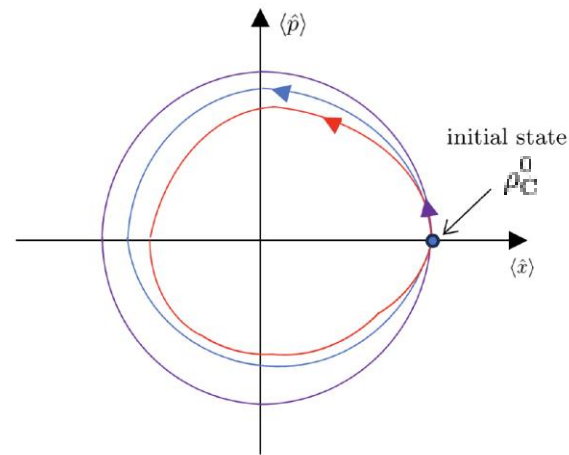


Oscillators in Theorem 2

Nonequilibrium steady-state dynamics, power consumption and heat dissipation



Oscillators in Theorem 2



A self-Oscillator (e.g. from clock in an actual computer), see review:

[A. Jenkins, Physics Reports, (2013)]

[Batchold et. Al, Rev. Mod. Phys. (2022)]

- self-oscillation: a form of error correction
- Well-studied for classical oscillators
- Relatively unknown in the quantum case
- Even if it works, will require power to run.



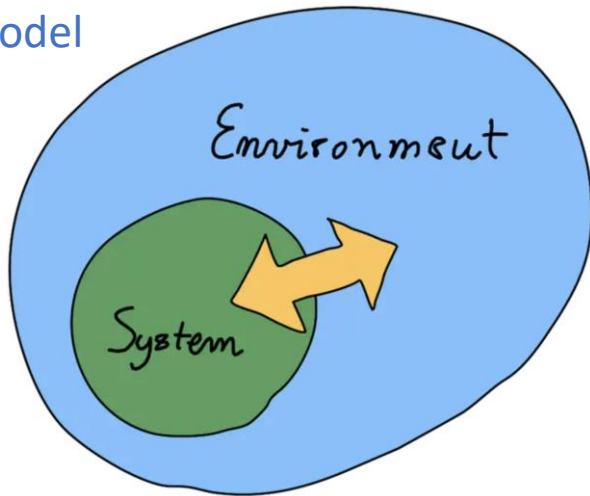
Maneki Neko



Crystal oscillator

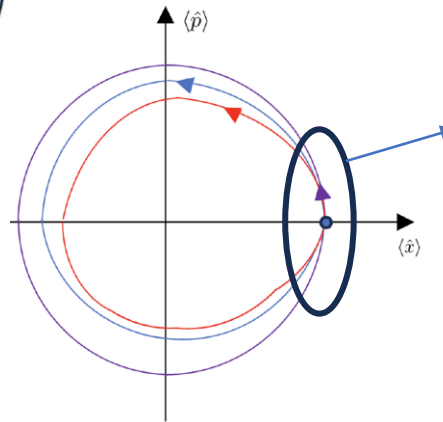
Nonequilibrium steady-state dynamics, power consumption and heat dissipation

- Model



$$\mathcal{L}_{M_0\text{SWC}}(\cdot) = -i[H_{M_0\text{SWC}}, \cdot] + \mathcal{D}_C(\cdot)$$

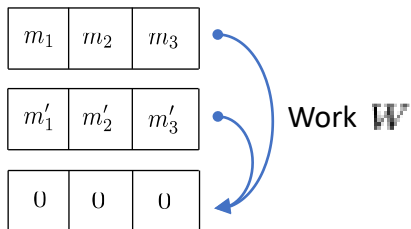
$$\mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{D}_C^{\text{re}} + \mathcal{D}_C^{\text{no re}} \quad \mathcal{D}_C^{\text{re}}(\rho_C) \propto \rho_C^0 \quad \forall \rho_C$$



Non isentropic regime

- Power consumption

Landauer Erasure/Charles Bennett (IBM)



Energy flow per cycle (two contributions)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} - p^{\text{in}} = \frac{W}{T_0} \\ - p^{\text{diss}} \approx -p^{\text{in}} \end{array} \right.$$

Nonequilibrium steady-state dynamics, power consumption and heat dissipation

- Upper bounds:

- (Theorem)

During isentropic regime:

$$f \leq c_0 T_0 P^{\text{in}}$$

$$f \leq c_0 \sqrt{P^{\text{in}}} \quad \text{if oscillator on } \rho_C \text{ semi-classical (not squeezed)}$$

- Lower bounds:

- (Theorem)

$$f = T_0 P^{\text{in}} \quad \text{as } P^{\text{in}} \rightarrow \infty$$

Re-scaling Hamiltonian

$$E \sim E_0/T_0 \quad (\text{e.g. } \omega = 2\pi/T_0)$$

Standard computer

$$f \sim \sqrt{\frac{E}{T_0}} = \frac{\sqrt{E_0}}{T_0}$$

Q. frequential computer

$$f \sim E = \frac{E_0}{T_0}$$

➤ Increasing $1/T_0$

• Linearly increases $f \sim 1/T_0$



• Requires linear increase in interaction strength



• Linear scaling with E implies more heat dissipation



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Often limiting factor!

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Often limiting factor!

➤ Quantum frequential computer

- No need to increase interaction strength! 
- Quadratic increase in frequency! 

- Conventional computers have classical/semi-classical gate control
- Using squeezed states in control can result in a quadratic runtime advantage without increasing thermal dissipation or energy consumption
- Inherently less noisy gates

Next steps

- Experimental proposals to realize proof-of-principle quantum frequential computers (superconducting circuits, take inspiration from Heisenberg laser¹)
 - Prove control-qubit interactions need to be non-linear
- Current/soon joining: Marek Winczewski (PostDoc), Pablo Alhambra (PhD)
- More Postdocs + PhDs available

[Bonus] Optimal quantum limit only requires a classical internal bus

Theorem 2. For all gate sets \mathcal{U}_G , initial memory states $|0\rangle_M \in \mathcal{C}_M$ and initial logical states $|0\rangle_S \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{H}_S)$, there exists $|0\rangle_C, |0\rangle_{C_2}, H_{M_0SC}$ parametrised by the energy $E > 0$, such that for all $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_g; l = 0, 1, 2, \dots, L$, the large- E scaling is as follows

$$\begin{aligned} & T \left(e^{-it_{j,l}H_{MWSCC_2}} |0\rangle_M |0\rangle_{C_2} |0\rangle_W |0\rangle_S |0\rangle_C, |t_{j,l}\rangle_{MC_2} |t_{j,l}\rangle_W |t_{j,l}\rangle_S |t_{j,l}\rangle_C \right) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{\text{SupPoly}(E)} \quad \text{as } E \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

where $|0\rangle\langle 0|_{C_2}, \text{tr}_M[|t_{j,l}\rangle\langle t_{j,l}|_{MC_2}] \in \mathcal{C}_{C_2}$ and

$$f = \frac{1}{T_0} (T_0 E) + \frac{1}{\text{SupPoly}(E)} \quad \text{as } E \rightarrow \infty.$$

- Number of gates LN_g but only $2N_g$ interaction terms
- Initial energy independent of total number of gates
- But still unstable to perturbations!

[bonus] Existence of Optimal classical and Quantum limits

Theorem 1. For all gate sets \mathcal{U}_G , initial memory states $|0\rangle_{M_0} \in \mathcal{C}_{M_0}$ and initial logical states $|0\rangle_S \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{H}_S)$, there exists triplets $\{|t_j\rangle_C\}_{j=0}^{N_g}$, N_g , H_{M_0SC} parametrised by energy $E > 0$, such that for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, N_g$ the large- E scaling is as follows

$$T\left(e^{-it_j H_{M_0SC}} |0\rangle_{M_0} |0\rangle_S |0\rangle_C, |0\rangle_{M_0} |t_j\rangle_S |t_j\rangle_C\right) \leq \frac{1}{\text{SupPoly}(E)} \quad \text{as } E \rightarrow \infty$$

for the following two cases:

Case 1):

$$f = \frac{1}{T_0} (T_0 E)^{1/2} + \frac{1}{\text{SupPoly}(E)} \quad \text{as } E \rightarrow \infty$$

and $|t_j\rangle_C \in \mathcal{C}_C$, $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N_g$.

Case 2):

$$f = E + \frac{1}{\text{SupPoly}(E)} \quad \text{as } E \rightarrow \infty$$

[Bonus] Optimal quantum limit only requires a classical internal bus

Proof outline:

Lemma C.1 (Quantum-control-and-bus error decoupling). *For $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_g$ and $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots, L$ we have*

$$\left\| e^{-it_{j,l} H_{\text{MWSC}C_2}} |0\rangle_{\text{M}} |0\rangle_{\text{W}} |0\rangle_{\text{S}} |0\rangle_{\text{C}} |0\rangle_{\text{C}_2} - |t_{j,l}\rangle_{\text{MC}_2} |t_{j,l}\rangle_{\text{W}} |t_{j,l}\rangle_{\text{S}} |t_{j,l}\rangle_{\text{C}} \right\|_2 \quad (\text{C.7})$$

$$\leq \sum_{r=0}^l \sum_{k=1}^j \left(\left\| |t_{k,r}\rangle_{\text{W}_k} |t_{k,r}\rangle_{\text{S}} |t_{k,r}\rangle_{\text{C}} - e^{-it_1 H_{\text{WSC}}^{(k, \mathfrak{m}_r, k)}} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\text{W}_k} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\text{S}} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\text{C}} \right\|_2 \right. \quad (\text{C.8})$$

$$\left. + \left\| |t_{k,r}\rangle_{\bar{\text{M}}_{0,k} \text{C}_2} |t_{k,r}\rangle_{\bar{\text{W}}_k} - e^{-it_1 \bar{H}_{\text{MWC}_2}^{(k)}} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\bar{\text{M}}_{0,k} \text{C}_2} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\bar{\text{W}}_k} \right\|_2 \right) \quad (\text{C.9})$$

$$+ t_1 \max_{x \in [0, t_1]} \max_{\{\mathfrak{m}_l \in \mathcal{G} \cup \{\mathbf{0}\}\}_{l=1}^{N_g}} \left\| \bar{H}_{\text{WSC}}^{(k, \vec{\mathfrak{m}})} e^{-ix H_{\text{WSC}}^{(k, \mathfrak{m}_k)}} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\text{W}} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\text{S}} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\text{C}} \right\|_2 \quad (\text{C.10})$$

$$\left. + t_1 \max_{y \in [0, t_1]} \left\| \left(I_{\text{MW}}^{(k)} \otimes I_{\text{C}_2}^{(k)} \right) e^{-iy \bar{H}_{\text{MWC}_2}^{(k)}} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\text{MC}_2} |t_{k-1,r}\rangle_{\text{W}} \right\|_2 \right) \quad (\text{C.11})$$

where

$$H_{\text{WSC}}^{(k, \mathfrak{m}_k)} := {}_{\text{M}_{0, \#}} \langle \vec{\mathfrak{m}} | H_{\text{M}_0 \text{WSC}}^{(k)} | \vec{\mathfrak{m}} \rangle_{\text{M}_{0, \#}} = H_{\text{C}} + I_{\text{S}}^{(k, \mathfrak{m}_k)} \otimes I_{\text{C}}^{(k)} + I_{\text{W}}^{(k, \mathfrak{m}_k)} \otimes I_{\text{C}}^{(k)} \quad (\text{C.12})$$

$$H_{\text{WSC}}^{(k, \mathfrak{m}_r, k)} := H_{\text{WSC}}^{(k, \mathfrak{m}_k)} \Big|_{\mathfrak{m}_k \mapsto \mathfrak{m}_r, k} \quad (\text{C.13})$$

$$\bar{H}_{\text{WSC}}^{(k, \vec{\mathfrak{m}})} := {}_{\text{M}_{0, \#}} \langle \vec{\mathfrak{m}} | \left(H_{\text{M}_0 \text{WSC}} - H_{\text{M}_0 \text{WSC}}^{(k)} \right) | \vec{\mathfrak{m}} \rangle_{\text{M}_{0, \#}} = \sum_{\substack{q=1 \\ q \neq k}}^{N_g} \left(I_{\text{S}}^{(q, \mathfrak{m}_q)} \otimes I_{\text{C}}^{(q)} + I_{\text{W}}^{(q, \mathfrak{m}_q)} \otimes I_{\text{C}}^{(q)} \right), \quad (\text{C.14})$$

where $\vec{\mathfrak{m}} = (\mathfrak{m}_1, \mathfrak{m}_2, \dots, \mathfrak{m}_{N_g})$, $|\vec{\mathfrak{m}}\rangle_{\text{M}_{0, \#}} := |\mathfrak{m}_1\rangle_{\text{M}_{0,1}} |\mathfrak{m}_2\rangle_{\text{M}_{0,2}} \dots |\mathfrak{m}_{N_g}\rangle_{\text{M}_{0,N_g}}$ with $\mathfrak{m}_l \in \mathcal{G} \cup \{\mathbf{0}\}$ and recall $I_{\text{S}}^{(q, \mathfrak{m}_q)}$ is defined in eq. (B.100) for $\mathfrak{m}_l \in \mathcal{G}$. For $\mathfrak{m}_l = \mathbf{0}$ we define $I_{\text{S}}^{(k, \mathbf{0})} := \hat{0}$ (with $\hat{0}$ the zero operator) and $I_{\text{W}}^{(k, \mathbf{0})} := I_{\text{W}_k}^{(k)}$ and $I_{\text{W}_k}^{(k, \mathfrak{m}_k)} := \hat{0}$ for all $\mathfrak{m}_l \in \mathcal{G}$.

[Bonus] Nonequilibrium steady-state dynamics, power consumption and heat dissipation

- Upper bounds:

Theorem 5 (Upper bounds on frequency in the nonequilibrium steady-state regime). *For all states in the l th isentropic regime, $\tilde{\rho}_{AC}(t + \tau_l | \tau_l) \in \mathcal{S}_l^{ISE}$ the gate frequency f_{ε_0} is upper bounded for all $\varepsilon_0 \in [0, 1/2]$ as follows:*

$$f_{\varepsilon_0} \leq \begin{cases} \frac{\sqrt{P_l^{\text{in}} + \varepsilon_{\text{H}}^0}}{(\lambda + 1)c_0}, & \text{if } \rho_{AC}(\tau_l | \tau_l) \in \mathcal{C}_{AC}^{\text{clas.}, l}, \\ \frac{P_l^{\text{in}} + \varepsilon_{\text{H}}^0}{T_0(\lambda + 1)\kappa}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (\text{VI.1})$$

Here $\lambda > 0, \kappa > 0, c_0 > 0$ are numerical constants, $\varepsilon_{\text{H}}^0 \geq 0$ is a small (or zero) quantity related to the quality of the self-oscillator and defined in appendix E 1.

- Lower bounds:

Theorem 3 (Nonequilibrium steady-state optimal quantum frequential computers exist). *For all gate sets \mathcal{U}_G , initial gate sequences $(\mathfrak{m}_{l,k})_{l,k}$ with elements in \mathcal{G} , and initial logical states $|0\rangle_{\text{S}} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{H}_{\text{S}})$, there exists states and $\mathcal{L}_{\text{M}_0\text{SWC}}$ parametrised by the power $P^{\text{in}} > 0$, such that for all $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N_g; l \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}$, the following large- P^{in} scaling holds simultaneously*

1) *The l th renewal event is well localised in time:*

$$\int_{\tau_l + T_0 - t_1}^{\tau_l + T_0} dt P(t, +1 | \tau_l) = 1 - \varepsilon_r, \quad 0 < \varepsilon_r \leq \frac{1}{\text{SupPoly}(P^{\text{in}})}$$

2) *The deviations in the state between renewals are small: For $j = 1, 2, \dots, N_g$,*

$$T\left(\rho_{\text{M}_0\text{SC}}(t_j | \tau_l), |[t_j | \tau_l]\rangle_{\text{M}_0\text{SWA}} |[t_j | \tau_l]\rangle_{\text{C}}\right) \leq \frac{1}{\text{SupPoly}(P^{\text{in}})}$$

3) *The gate frequency has the asymptotically optimal scaling in terms of power:*


$$f = T_0 P^{\text{in}} + \frac{1}{\text{SupPoly}(P^{\text{in}})} \quad \text{as } P^{\text{in}} \rightarrow \infty.$$

Summary of results


f = frequency
 p = power
 C_r = cooling rate

ArXiv: 2403.02389
M. Woods

- 1) Classical & semi-classical gate control:
All classical & conventional quantum computers satisfy

$$f \lesssim p^{1/2} \sim C_r^{1/2}$$


- 2) Optimal quantum control:
When control is fully quantum and optimal

$$f \sim p \sim C_r$$


- 3) Quantum frequential computers only need a classical bus:

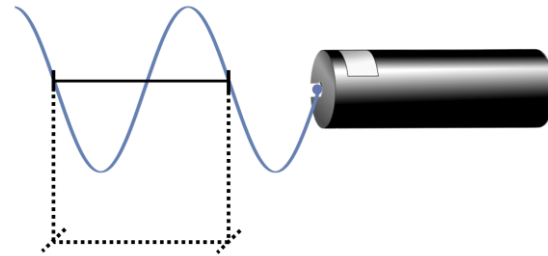
$$f \sim p \sim C_r$$


$$f_{\text{bus}} \sim \sqrt{p} \sim \sqrt{C_r}$$

Quantum Frequential Computers have a quadratic runtime advantage

No bandwidth issues

Proof of principle implementation: waveguides & quantum circuits?



- Lasers are self-oscillators

Q1: Can **conventional lasers** achieve $f \sim \sqrt{p}$ with control-qubit conventional coupling ?

- conventional laser = Schawlow-Townes limited: $\mathcal{E} \sim \mu^2$
- conventional coupling = $a^\dagger \otimes \sigma + h.c.$

Q2: Can **non-conventional lasers** achieve $f \sim p$ with control-qubits non-conventional coupling?

- **non-conventional laser** = Heisenberg limited: $\mathcal{E} \sim \mu^4$
- **non-conventional coupling**: $e^\dagger \otimes \sigma + h.c.$

↑
Non-linear in a, a^\dagger

[T. Baker et. al,
Nat. Phys. (2021)]

Benjamin Huard
&
Mazyar Mirrahimi
(Inria)

Bonus slide: Re-scaling time

- Consider Hamiltonians $H(\omega) = \omega H$, $\omega \in \mathbb{R}^+$ e.g. $H(\omega) = \omega a^\dagger a$
- Increasing ω leads to “trivial” squeezing. E.g.



$$(\Delta x)^2 = \frac{\hbar}{2m\omega} e^{-2\zeta} \quad (\Delta p)^2 = \frac{m\hbar\omega}{2} e^{2\zeta}$$

- Consider two states :

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Case 1: } |\text{not sqz. w.r.t. } \omega = 1\rangle, \quad f \leq C_1 \sqrt{E(\omega = 1)} \\ \text{Case 2: } |\text{sqz. w.r.t. } \omega = 1\rangle, \quad f \leq C_2 E(\omega = 1) \end{array} \right.$$

- Now apply “trivial” squeezing (i.e. evolution under $H(\omega)$, $\omega > 1$)

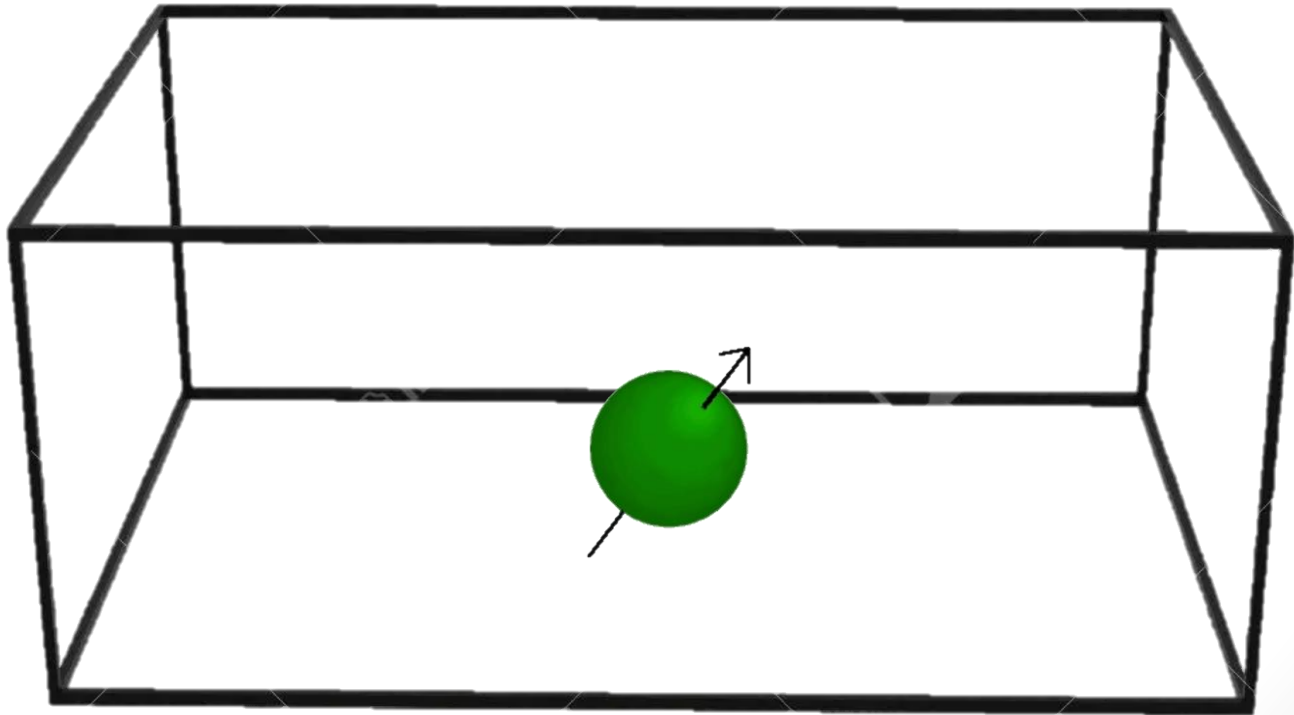
$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Case 1: } f \leq \omega C_1 \sqrt{E(\omega = 1)} \\ \text{Case 2: } f \leq \omega C_2 E(\omega = 1) \end{array} \right. \quad \text{Energy is } E(\omega) = \omega E(\omega = 1)$$

- Note:
 1. Increasing ω requires stronger interaction terms 
 2. For fixed ω , increasing $E(\omega)$ doesn't require stronger interaction terms. 

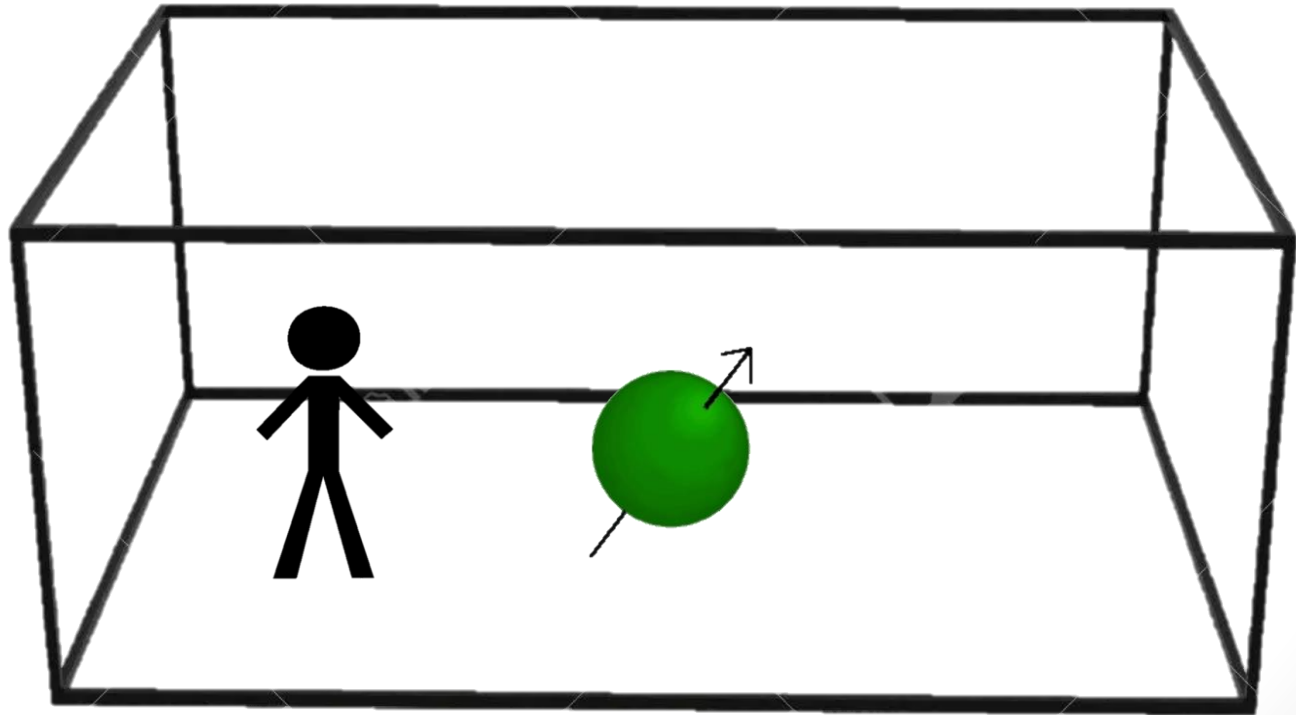
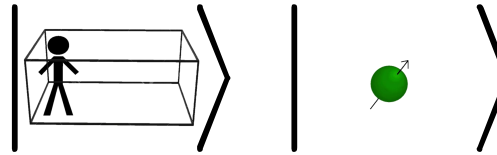
To do

- 1. backup for non constant Ham term
- 2. Have future slides: show connection to laser: self-oscillator. Embedding? Special coupling required?
- ---Draw area under slide. Intuition about why squeezed states help.

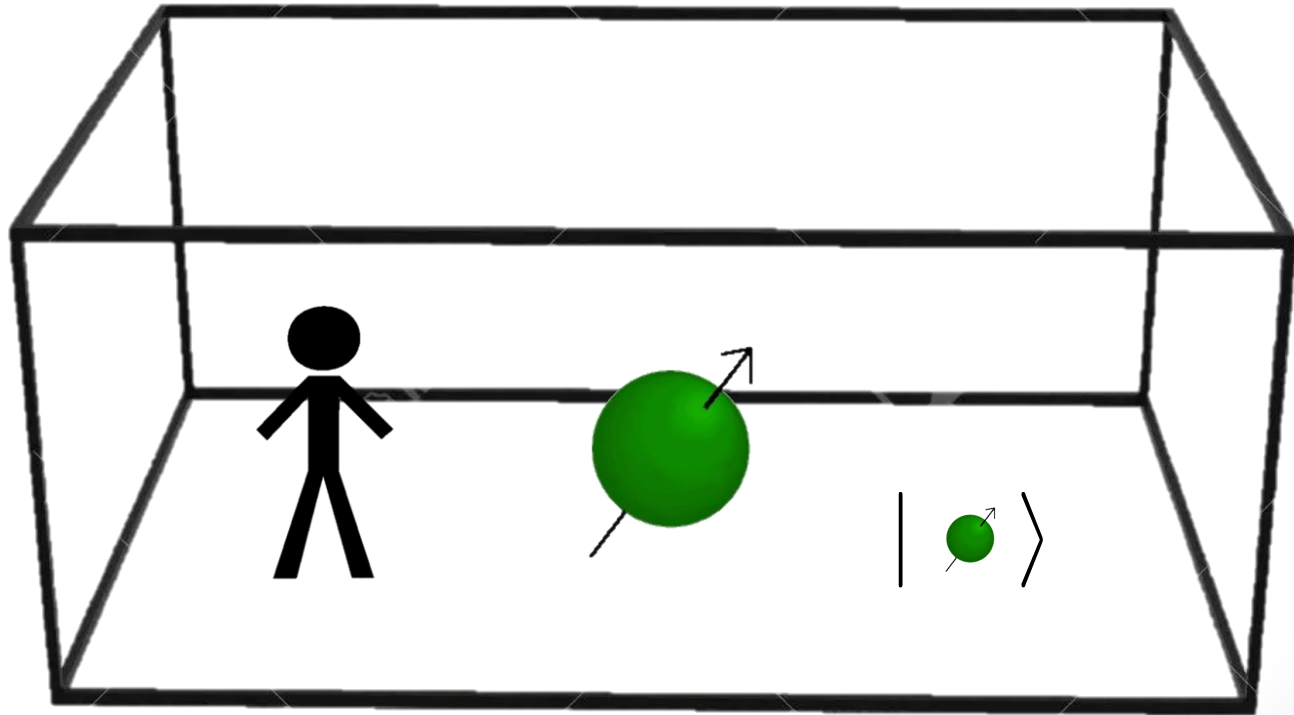
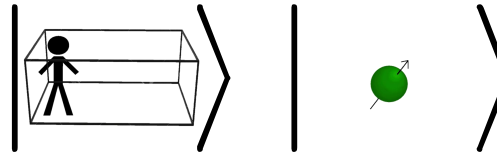
Wigner's Friend



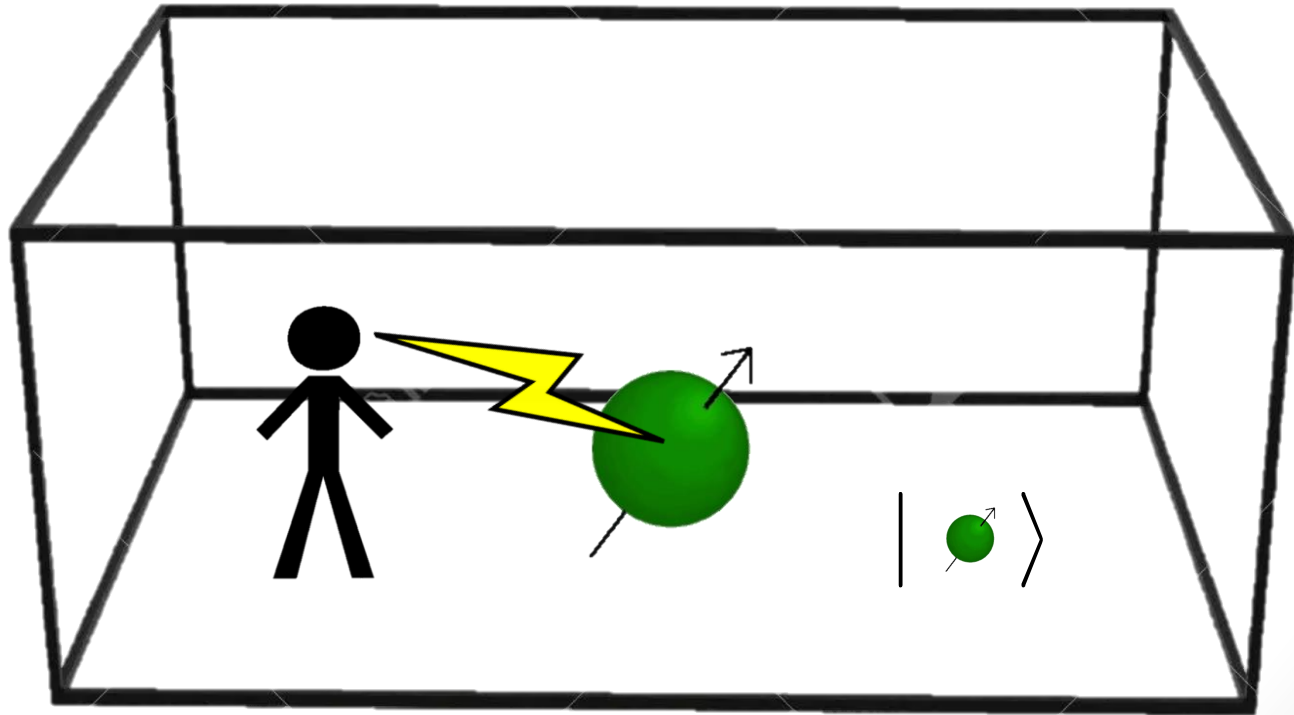
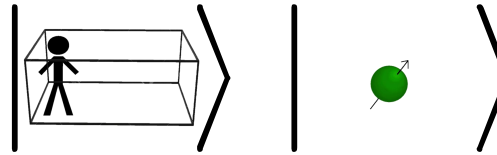
Wigner's Friend



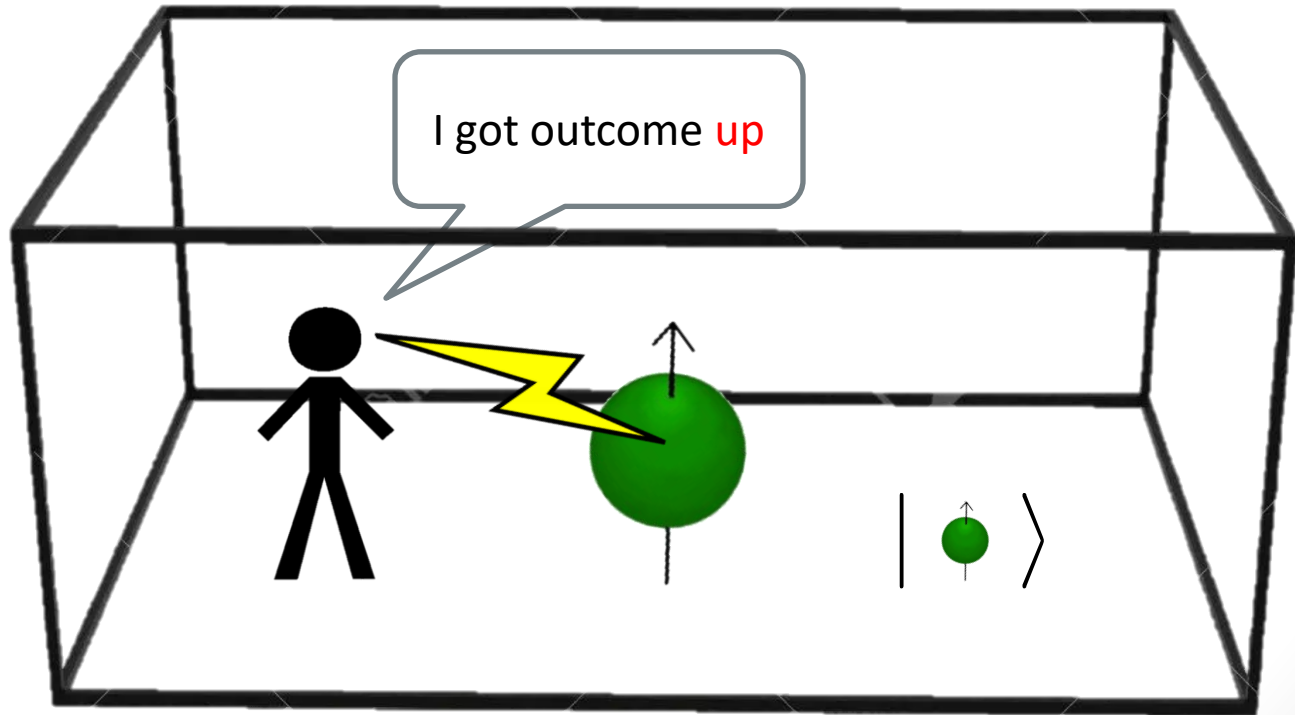
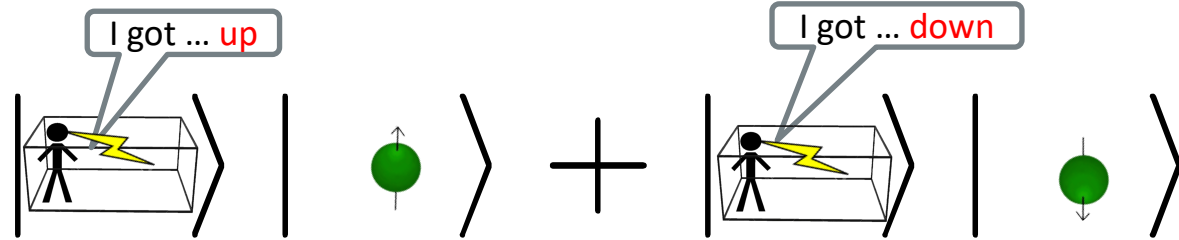
Wigner's Friend



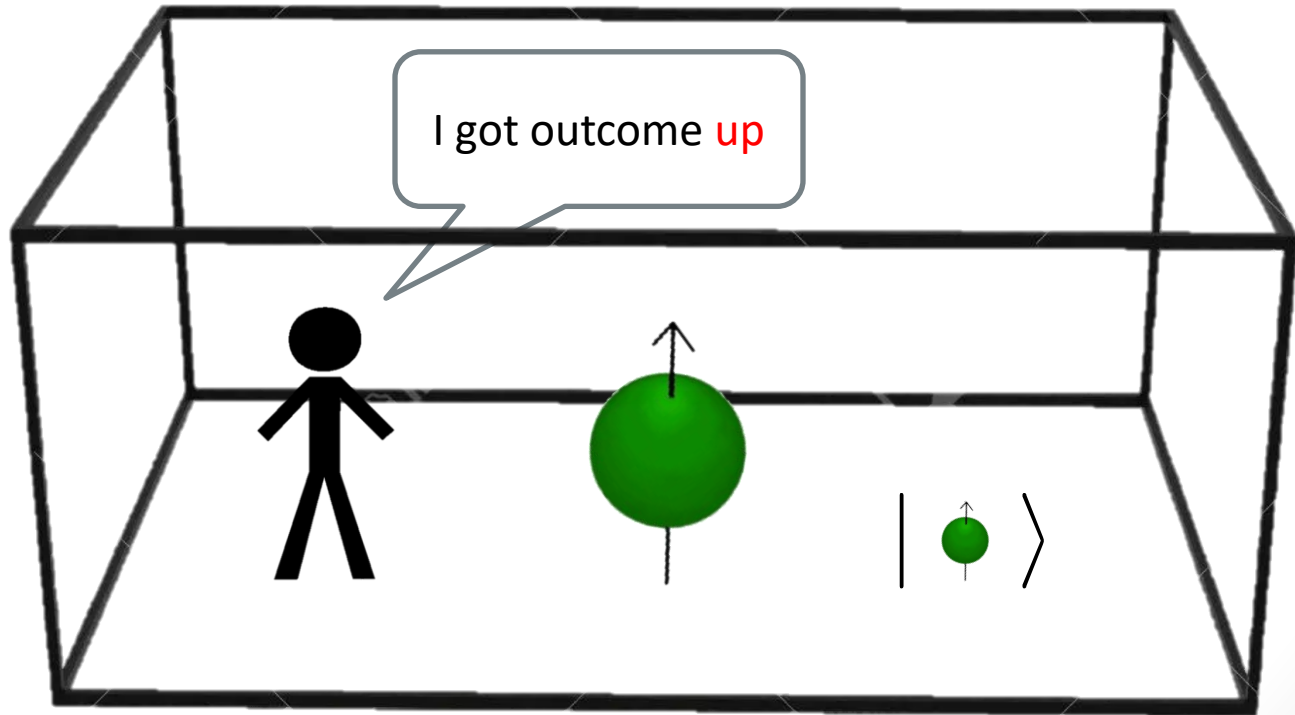
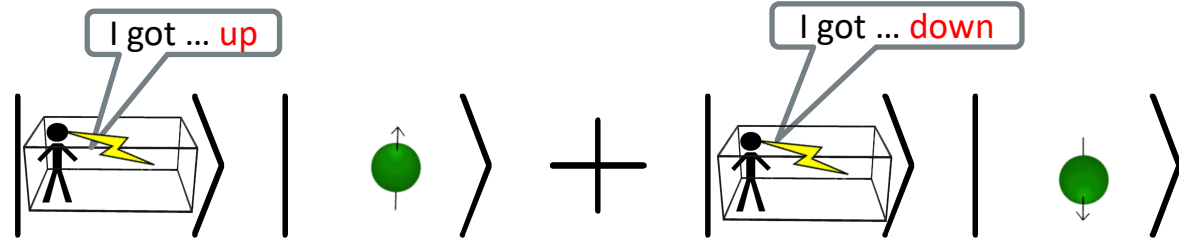
Wigner's Friend



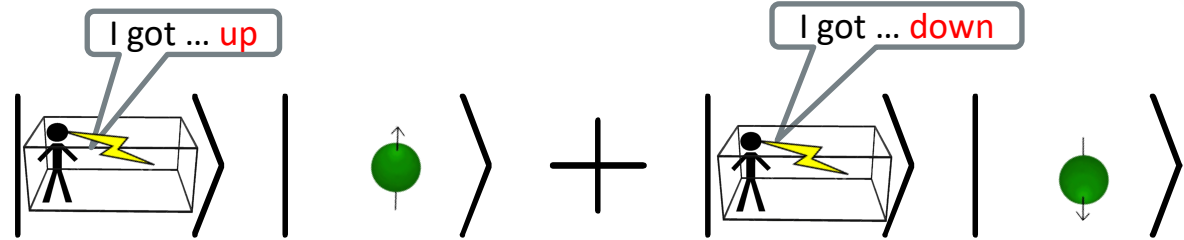
Wigner's Friend



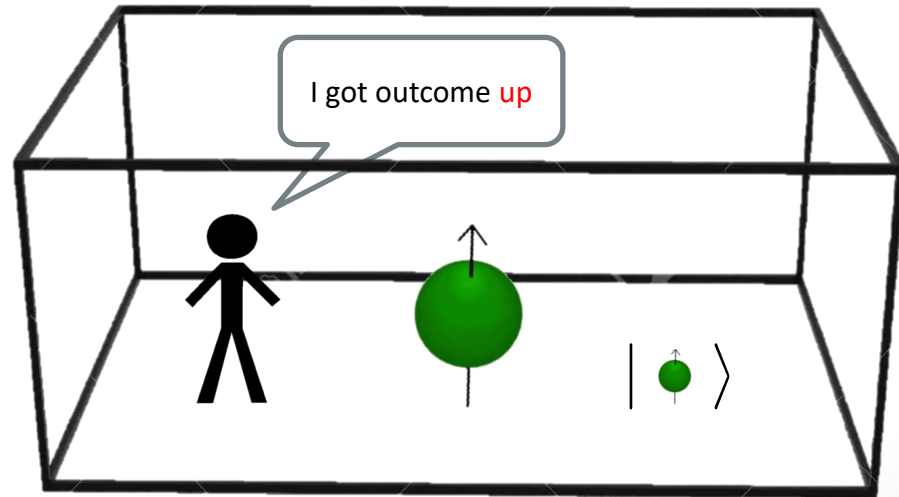
Wigner's Friend



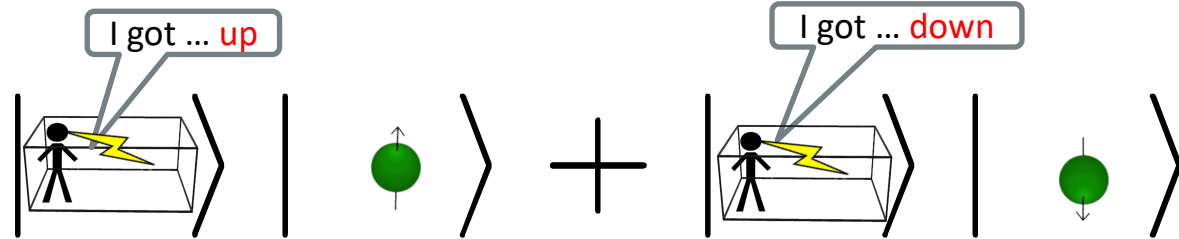
Wigner's Friend



$$\mathcal{P} \left(\left[\text{I got ... up} \right] \left| \uparrow \right. \right) + \mathcal{P} \left(\left[\text{I got ... down} \right] \left| \downarrow \right. \right)$$

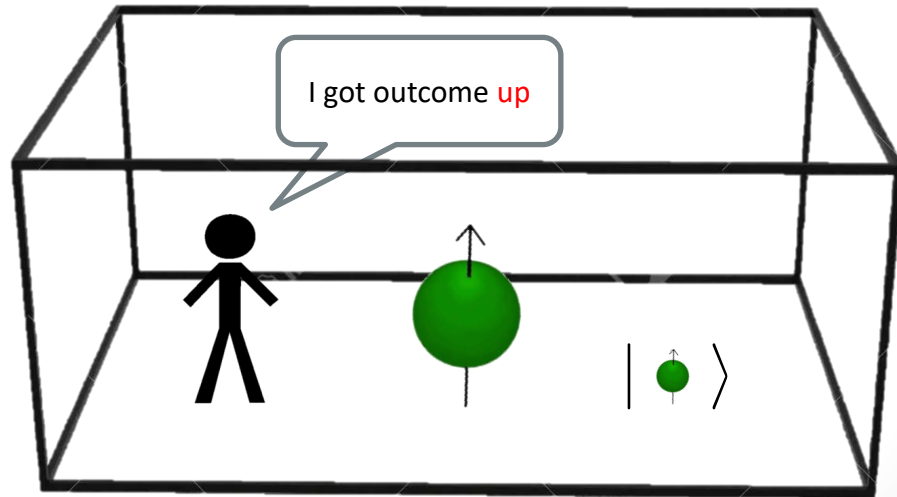


Wigner's Friend



$$\mathcal{P} \left(\left[\text{I got ... up} \right] \left| \cdot \right\rangle \right) + \mathcal{P} \left(\left[\text{I got ... down} \right] \left| \cdot \right\rangle \right)$$

Takeaway:
 Confusing? --- Yes!
 Logical contradiction? --- No!



FR Experiment

Renato Renner & Daniela Frauchiger
[Nat. Comms](#) **volume 9**, Article number: 3711 (2018)

In a Nutshell:

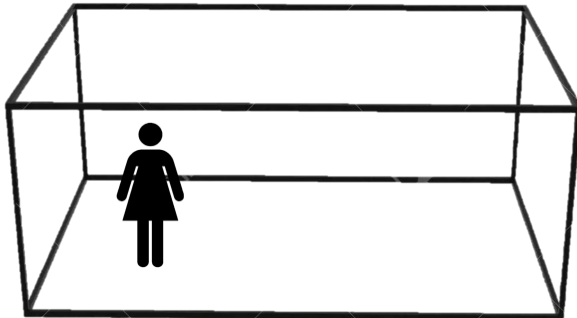
Can we get a logical contradiction
under reasonable assumptions?

Their claim --- yes!

FR Experiment: as viewed from the super observers

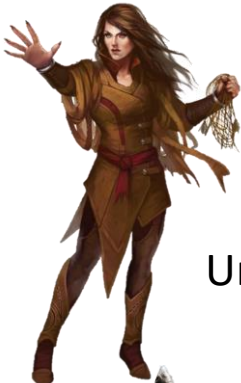
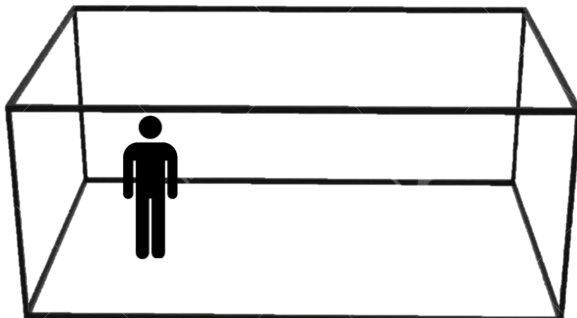
Lab A

$|0\rangle_A$



Lab B

$|0\rangle_B$

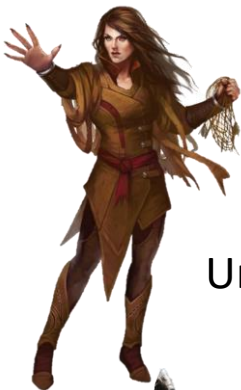
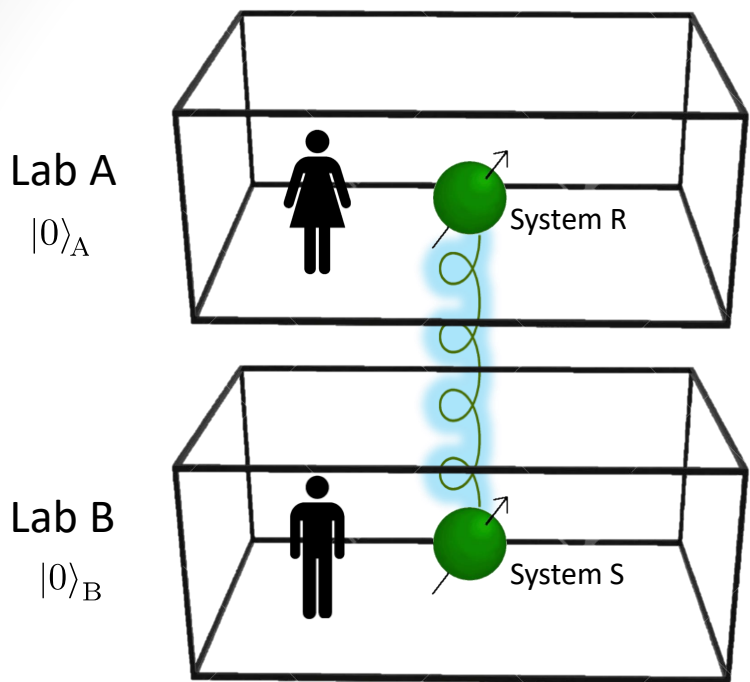


Ursula



Wigner

FR Experiment: as viewed from the super observers



Ursula

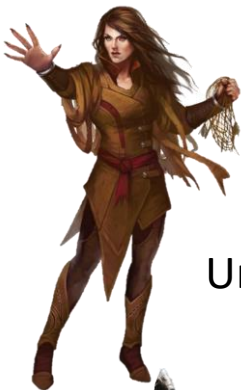
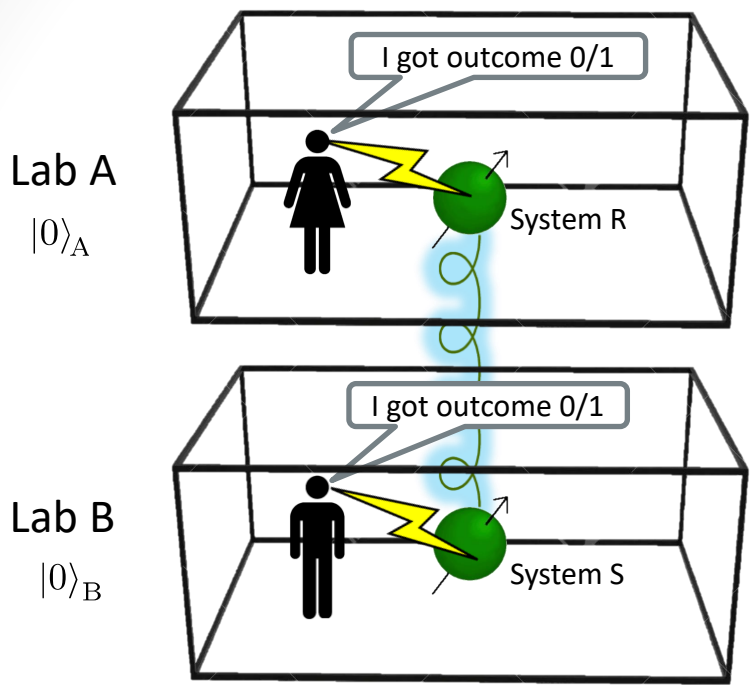


Wigner

At $t=1$

$$| \text{wigner} \rangle_{RS} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (|00\rangle_{RS} + |10\rangle_{RS} + |11\rangle_{RS})$$

FR Experiment: as viewed from the super observers



Ursula



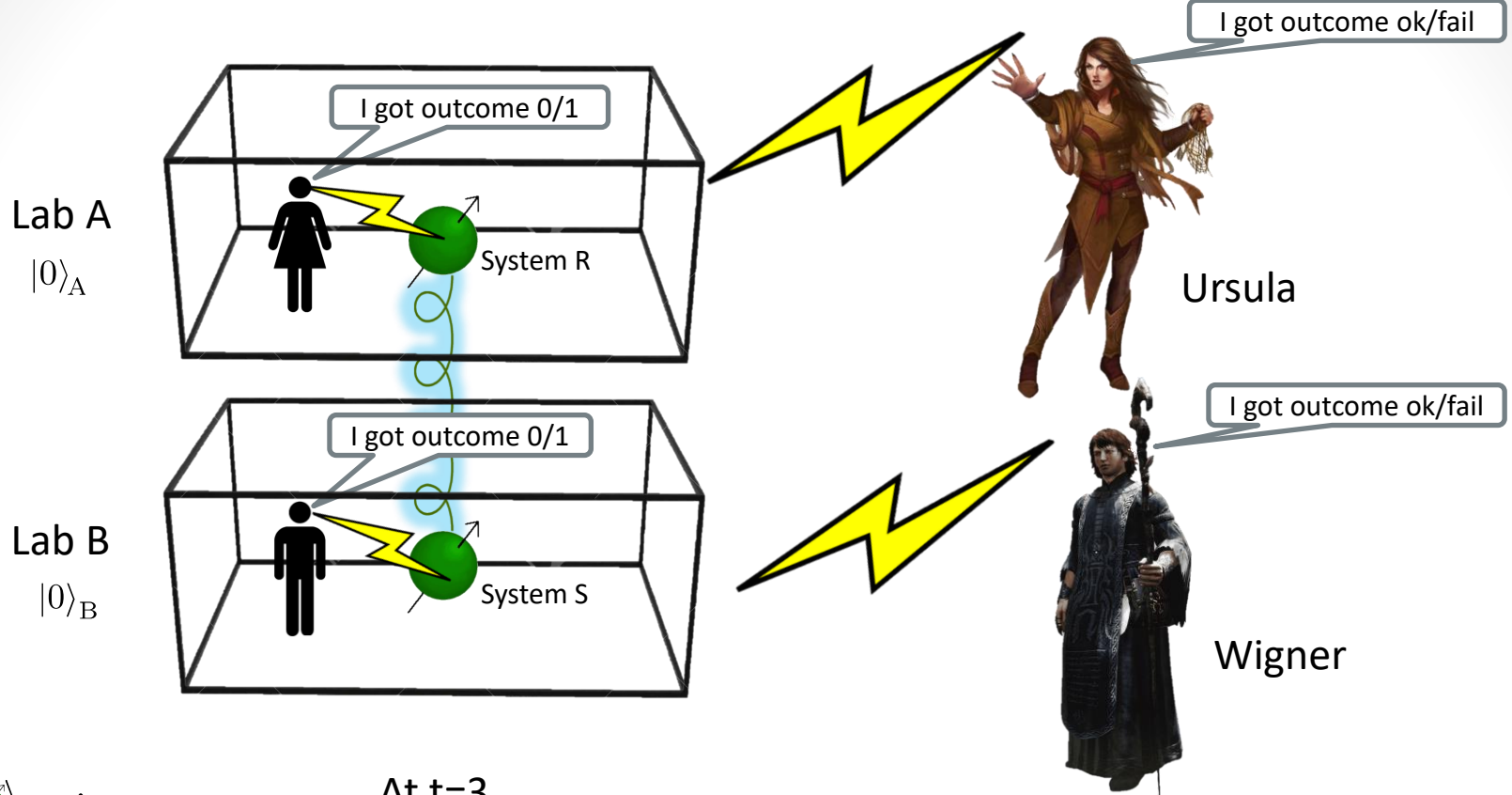
Wigner

$$|\psi\rangle_{RS} :=$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|00\rangle_{RS} + |10\rangle_{RS} + |11\rangle_{RS})$$

At $t=2$

FR Experiment: as viewed from the super observers



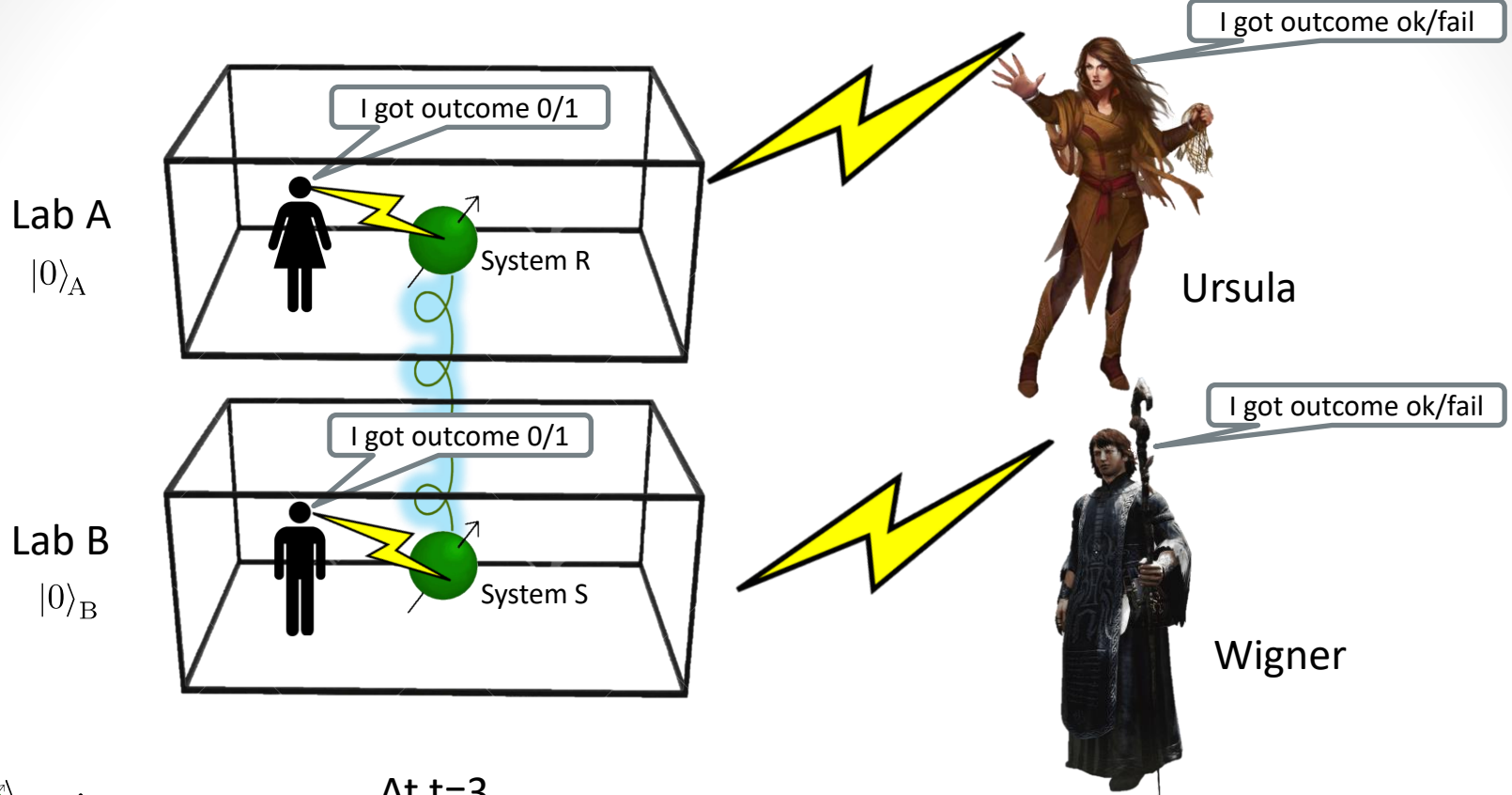
At $t=3$

$$|\text{entangled}\rangle_{RS} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|00\rangle_{RS} + |10\rangle_{RS} + |11\rangle_{RS})$$

$$\text{Ursula} \begin{cases} |\text{ok}\rangle_{AS} := (|00\rangle_{AS} - |11\rangle_{AS})/\sqrt{2} \\ |\text{fail}\rangle_{AS} := (|00\rangle_{AS} + |11\rangle_{AS})/\sqrt{2} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Wigner} \begin{cases} |\text{ok}\rangle_{BR} := \dots \\ |\text{fail}\rangle_{BR} := \dots \end{cases}$$

FR Experiment: as viewed from the super observers



$$|\bullet\bullet\rangle_{RS} :=$$

At $t=3$

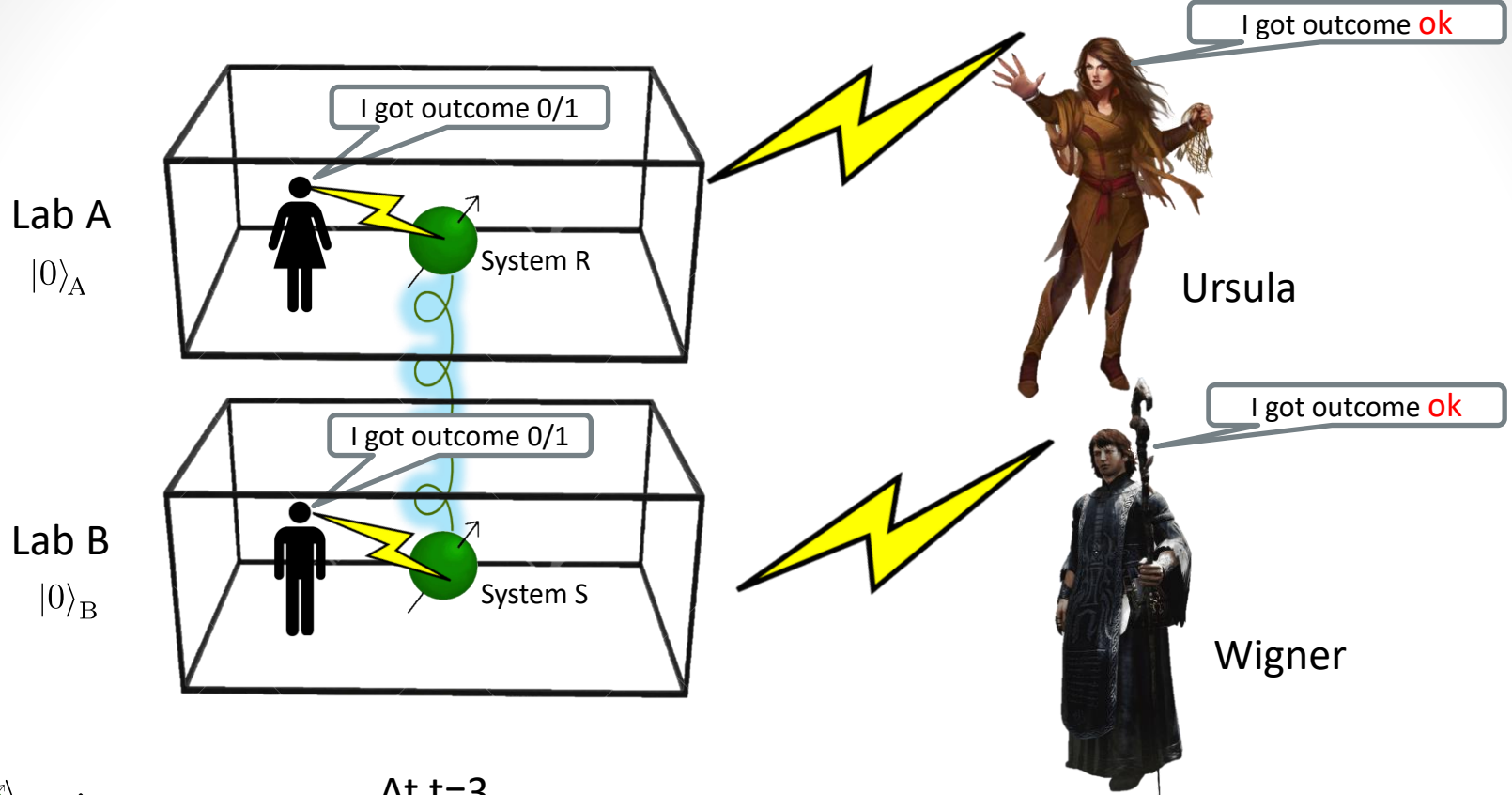
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|00\rangle_{RS} + |10\rangle_{RS} + |11\rangle_{RS})$$

$$\text{Ursula} \begin{cases} |ok\rangle_{AS} := (|00\rangle_{AS} - |11\rangle_{AS})/\sqrt{2} \\ |fail\rangle_{AS} := (|00\rangle_{AS} + |11\rangle_{AS})/\sqrt{2} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Wigner} \begin{cases} |ok\rangle_{BR} := \dots \\ |fail\rangle_{BR} := \dots \end{cases}$$

Repeat many times until ...

FR Experiment: as viewed from the super observers



At $t=3$

$$|\text{entangled}\rangle_{RS} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|00\rangle_{RS} + |10\rangle_{RS} + |11\rangle_{RS})$$

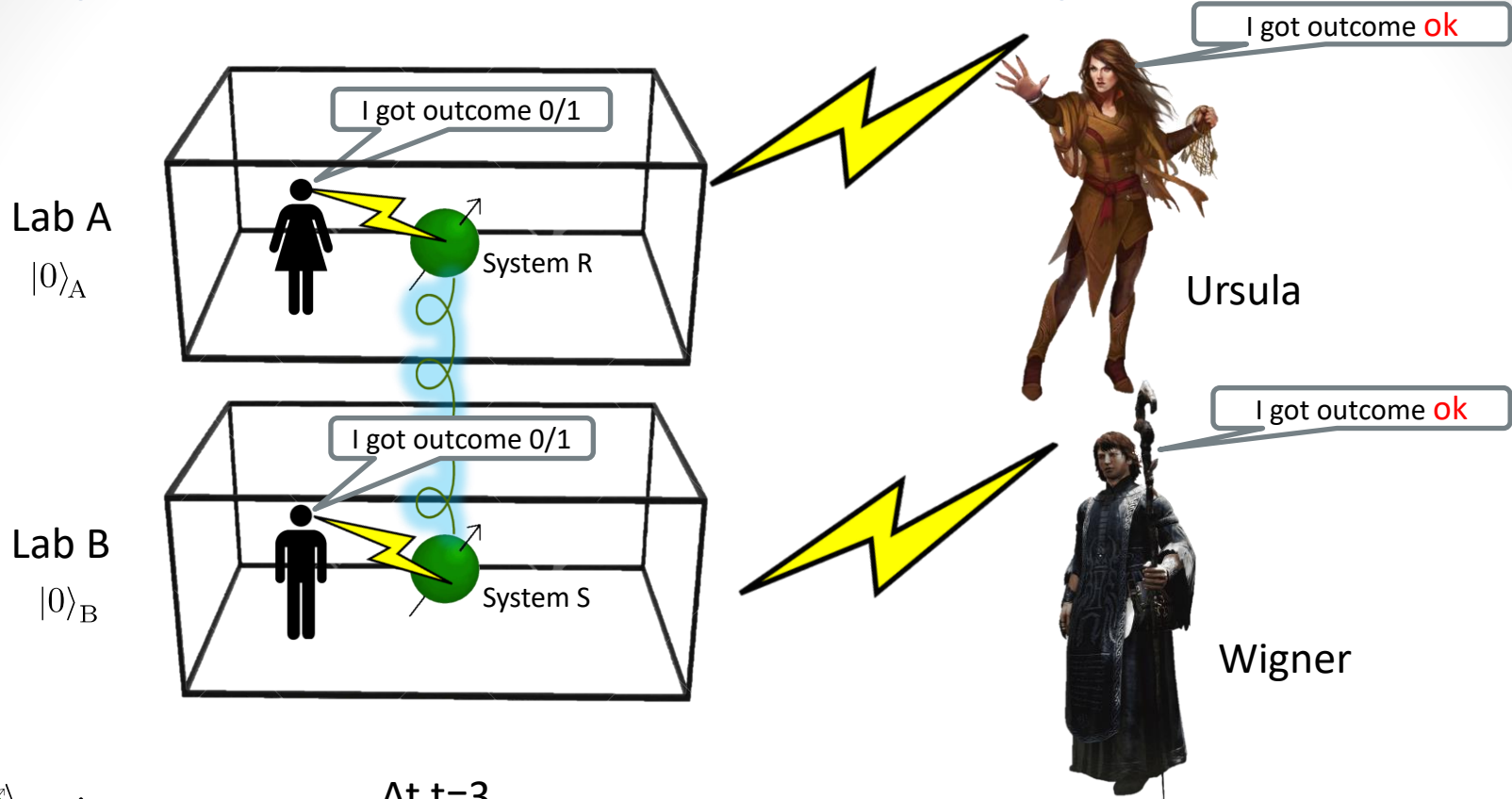
Ursula

$$\begin{cases} |\text{ok}\rangle_{AS} := (|00\rangle_{AS} - |11\rangle_{AS})/\sqrt{2} \\ |\text{fail}\rangle_{AS} := (|00\rangle_{AS} + |11\rangle_{AS})/\sqrt{2} \end{cases}$$

Wigner

$$\begin{cases} |\text{ok}\rangle_{BR} := \dots \\ |\text{fail}\rangle_{BR} := \dots \end{cases}$$

FR Experiment: as viewed from the super observers



At $t=3$

$$|\text{entangled}\rangle_{RS} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|00\rangle_{RS} + |10\rangle_{RS} + |11\rangle_{RS})$$

Ursula

$$\begin{cases} |\text{ok}\rangle_{AS} := (|00\rangle_{AS} - |11\rangle_{AS})/\sqrt{2} \\ |\text{fail}\rangle_{AS} := (|00\rangle_{AS} + |11\rangle_{AS})/\sqrt{2} \end{cases}$$

Wigner

$$\begin{cases} |\text{ok}\rangle_{BR} := \dots \\ |\text{fail}\rangle_{BR} := \dots \end{cases}$$

➤ All parties  know this protocol.

What can they deduce about each other's outcomes?

FR Experiment: as viewed from super observers

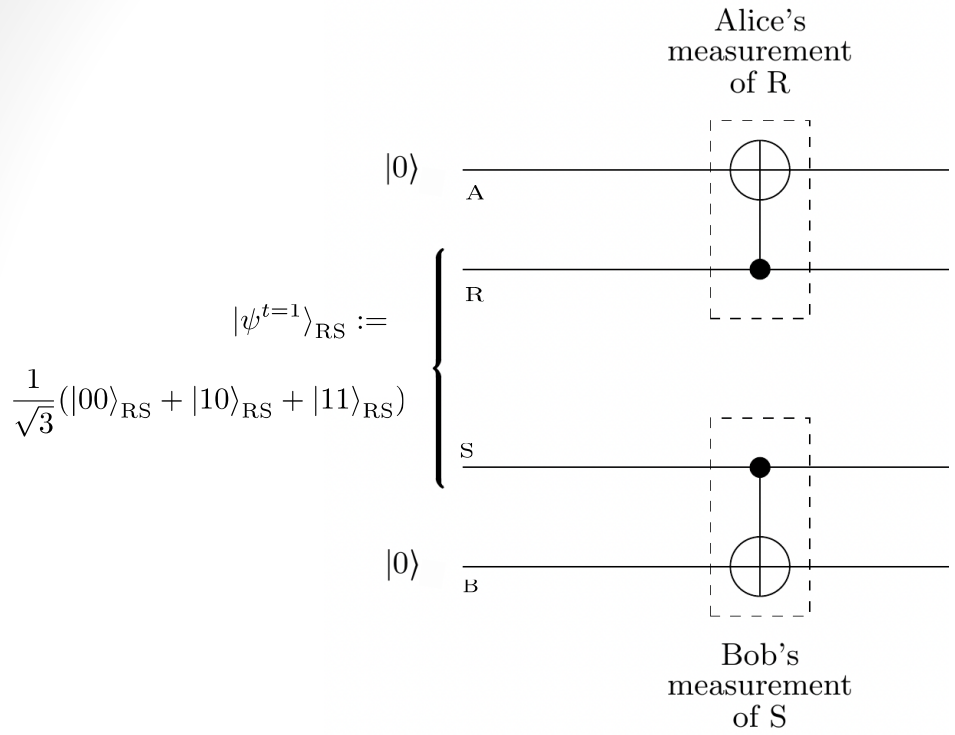


$$\begin{array}{c}
 |0\rangle \text{ ---} \\
 \text{A} \\
 \\
 |\psi^{t=1}\rangle_{RS} := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \\ \text{R} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{S} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right. \\
 \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|00\rangle_{RS} + |10\rangle_{RS} + |11\rangle_{RS}) \\
 \\
 |0\rangle \text{ ---} \\
 \text{B}
 \end{array}$$

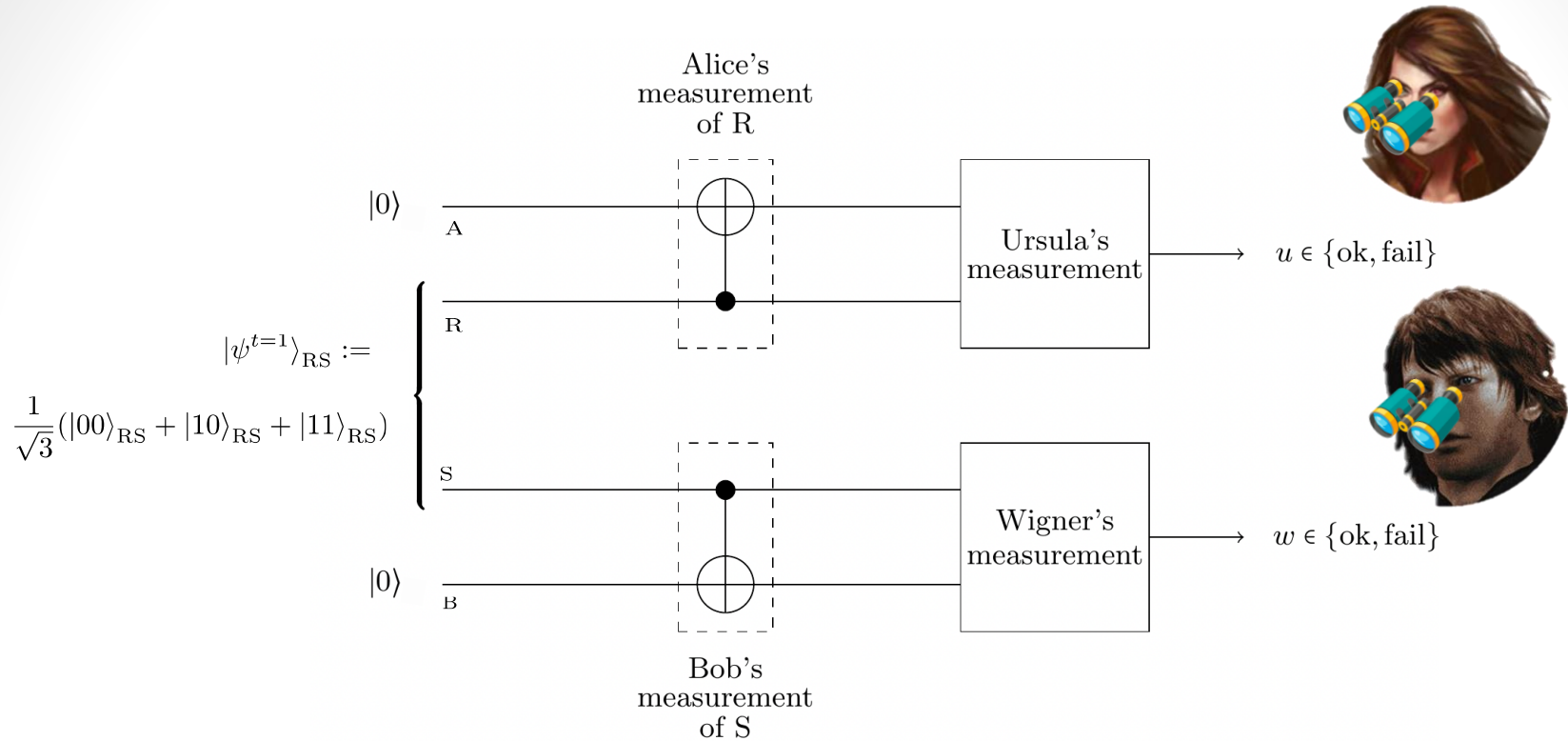
$t = 1$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 |\psi^{t=1}\rangle_{RASB} := \\
 \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|0000\rangle + |1000\rangle + |1010\rangle)_{RASB}
 \end{array}$$

FR Experiment: as viewed from super observers



FR Experiment: as viewed from super observers



$t = 1$ $t = 2$ $t = 3$

$$|\psi^{t=1}\rangle_{RASB} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|0000\rangle + |1000\rangle + |1010\rangle)_{RASB}$$

⋮

$$|\psi^{t=2}\rangle_{RASB} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|0000\rangle + |1100\rangle + |1111\rangle)_{RASB}$$

FR Reasoning assumptions

Q: Born rule:

Any agent A: I know I can apply the quantum mechanical Born rule

C: Knowledge inheritance

$$K_{A_i} K_{A_j}(s) \Rightarrow K_{A_i}(s)$$

U: Unitarity

Any agent A: I can model other Agent's labs unitarily

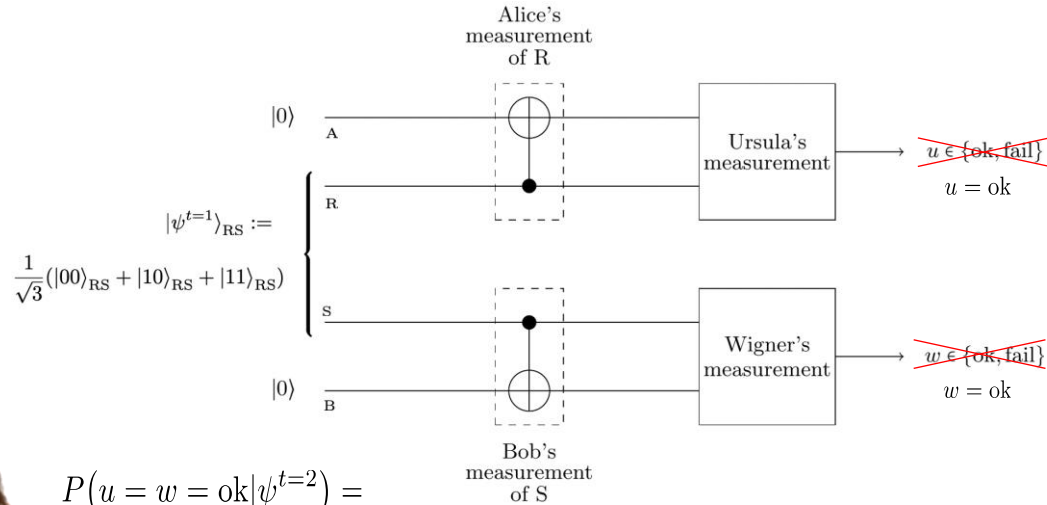
D: Distributive Axiom

$$K_{A_i}(s_1 \wedge (s_1 \Rightarrow s_2)) \\ \Rightarrow K_{A_i}(s_2)$$

S: Consistency

Any agent A: I know that a measurement outcome cannot take two distinct values

FR Experiment: Reasoning



$$P(u = w = \text{ok} | \psi^{t=2}) =$$

$$|\langle \text{ok} | \langle \text{ok} | |\psi^{t=2}\rangle|^2 = 1/12$$

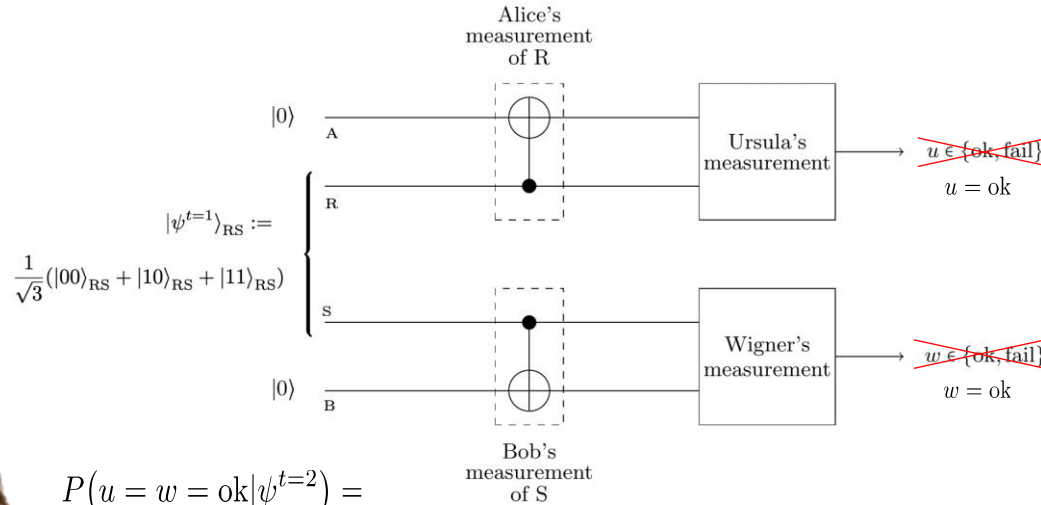
$$\therefore K_U(u = w = \text{ok})$$

$$\langle 00 |_{SB} \langle \text{ok} |_{RA} |\psi^{t=2}\rangle_{RASB} = 0$$

$$\implies K_U(u = \text{ok} \Rightarrow b = 1)$$

$$\therefore K_U(b = 1)$$

FR Experiment: Reasoning



$$P(u = w = \text{ok} | \psi^{t=2}) =$$

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$$\therefore K_U(b = 1)$$

What Bob must think if b=1:

$$\langle 00 |_{RA} \langle 11 |_{SB} |\psi^{t=2}\rangle_{RASB} = 0$$

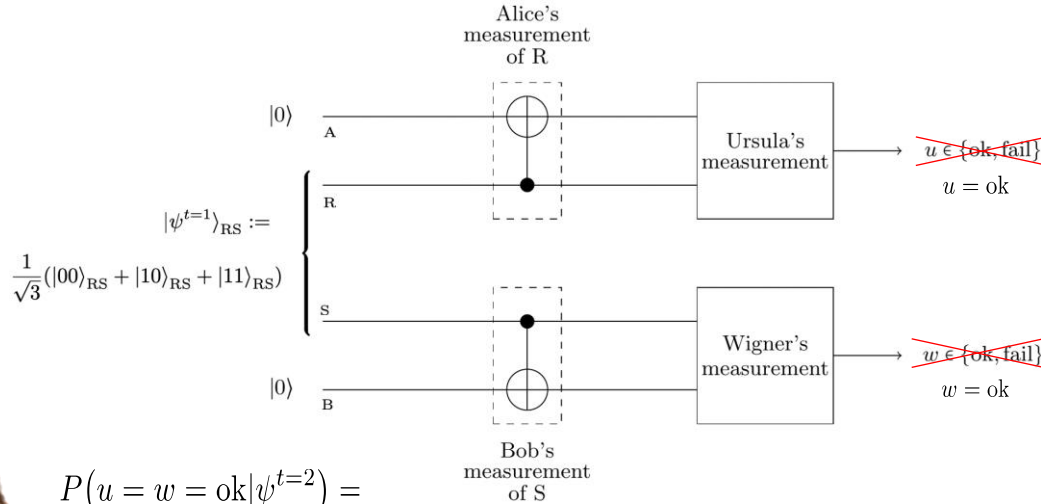
Prob. Alice sees a=1 given b=1

$$K_U K_B(b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1)$$

$$\therefore K_U(b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1)$$

$$\therefore K_U(a = 1)$$

FR Experiment: Reasoning



$$P(u = w = \text{ok} | \psi^{t=2}) =$$

$$|\langle \text{ok} | \langle \text{ok} | \psi^{t=2} \rangle|^2 = 1/12$$

$$\therefore K_U(u = w = \text{ok})$$

$$\langle 00 |_{SB} \langle \text{ok} |_{RA} | \psi^{t=2} \rangle_{RASB} = 0$$

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What Bob must think if b=1:

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$$K_U K_B(b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1)$$

$$\therefore K_U(b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1)$$

$$\therefore K_U(a = 1)$$

What Bob thinks Alice must think if a=1:

$$\langle \text{ok} |_{SB} \langle 11 |_{RA} | \psi^{t=2} \rangle_{RASB} = 0$$

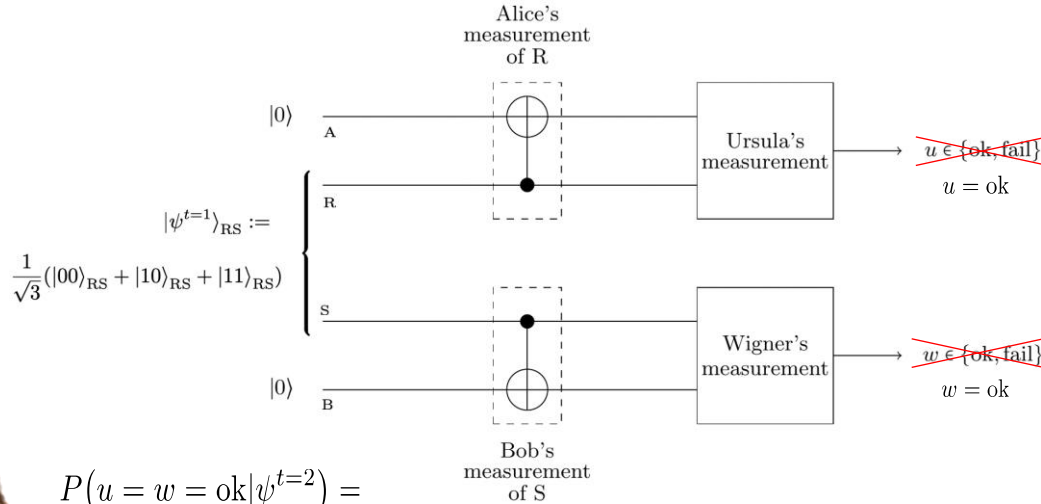
Prob. w=ok given a=1

$$K_U K_B K_A(a = 1 \Rightarrow w = \text{fail})$$

$$\therefore K_U(a = 1 \Rightarrow w = \text{fail})$$

$$\therefore K_U(w = \text{fail})$$

FR Experiment: Reasoning



$$P(u = w = \text{ok} | \psi^{t=2}) =$$

$$|\langle \text{ok} | \langle \text{ok} | \psi^{t=2} \rangle|^2 = 1/12$$

$$\therefore K_U(u = w = \text{ok})$$

$$\langle 00 |_{\text{SB}} \langle \text{ok} |_{\text{RA}} | \psi^{t=2} \rangle_{\text{RASB}} = 0$$

$$\implies K_U(u = \text{ok} \Rightarrow b = 1)$$

$$\therefore K_U(b = 1)$$

What Bob must think if b=1:

$$\langle 00 |_{\text{RA}} \langle 11 |_{\text{SB}} | \psi^{t=2} \rangle_{\text{RASB}} = 0$$

Prob. Alice sees a=1 given b=1

$$K_U K_B(b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1)$$

$$\therefore K_U(b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1)$$

$$\therefore K_U(a = 1)$$

What Bob thinks Alice must think if a=1:

$$\langle \text{ok} |_{\text{SB}} \langle 11 |_{\text{RA}} | \psi^{t=2} \rangle_{\text{RASB}} = 0$$

Prob. w=ok given a=1

$$K_U K_B K_A(a = 1 \Rightarrow w = \text{fail})$$

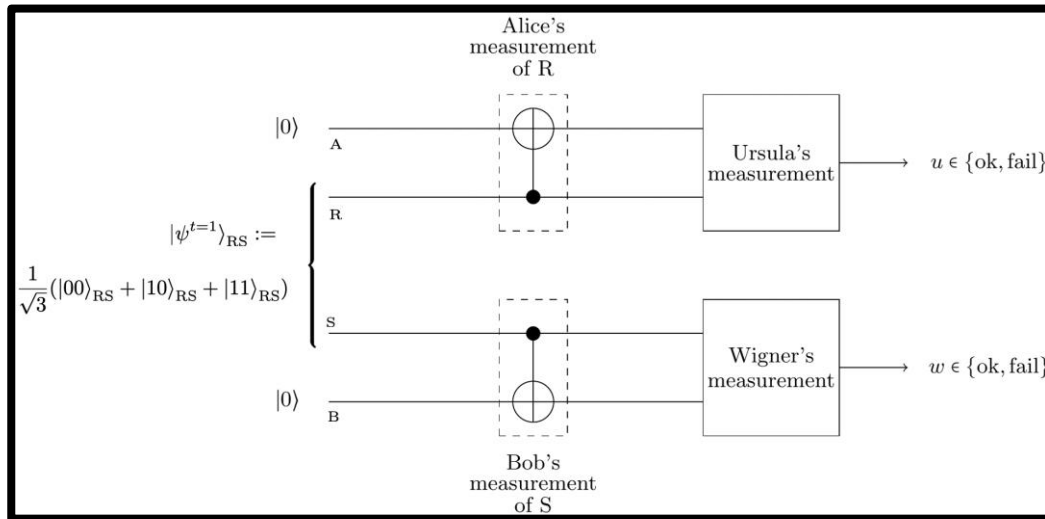
$$\therefore K_U(a = 1 \Rightarrow w = \text{fail})$$

$$\therefore K_U(w = \text{fail}) \quad \text{✗}$$

D. Frauchiger & R. Renner:

Thm: Q, U, C, D & S cannot simultaneously hold!

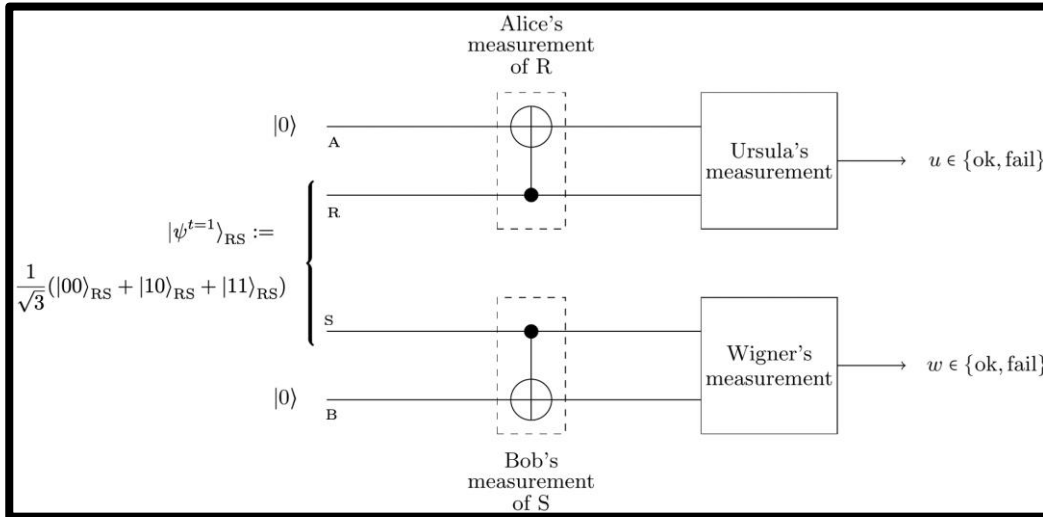
Our Resolution



V. Vilasini & M Woods:

Thm: Q, U, C, D & S cannot simultaneously hold!

Our Resolution



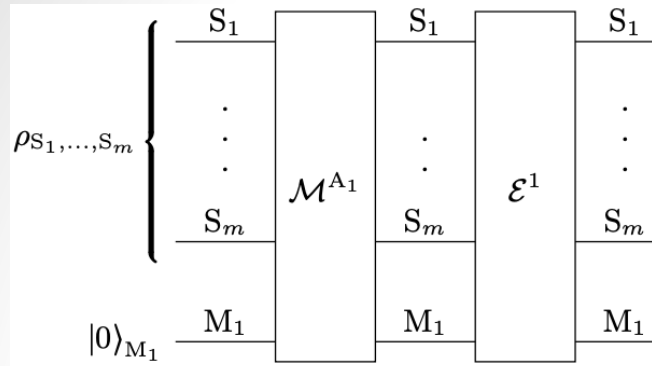
V. Vilasini & M Woods:

Thm: **Q, U, C, D & S** cannot simultaneously hold!



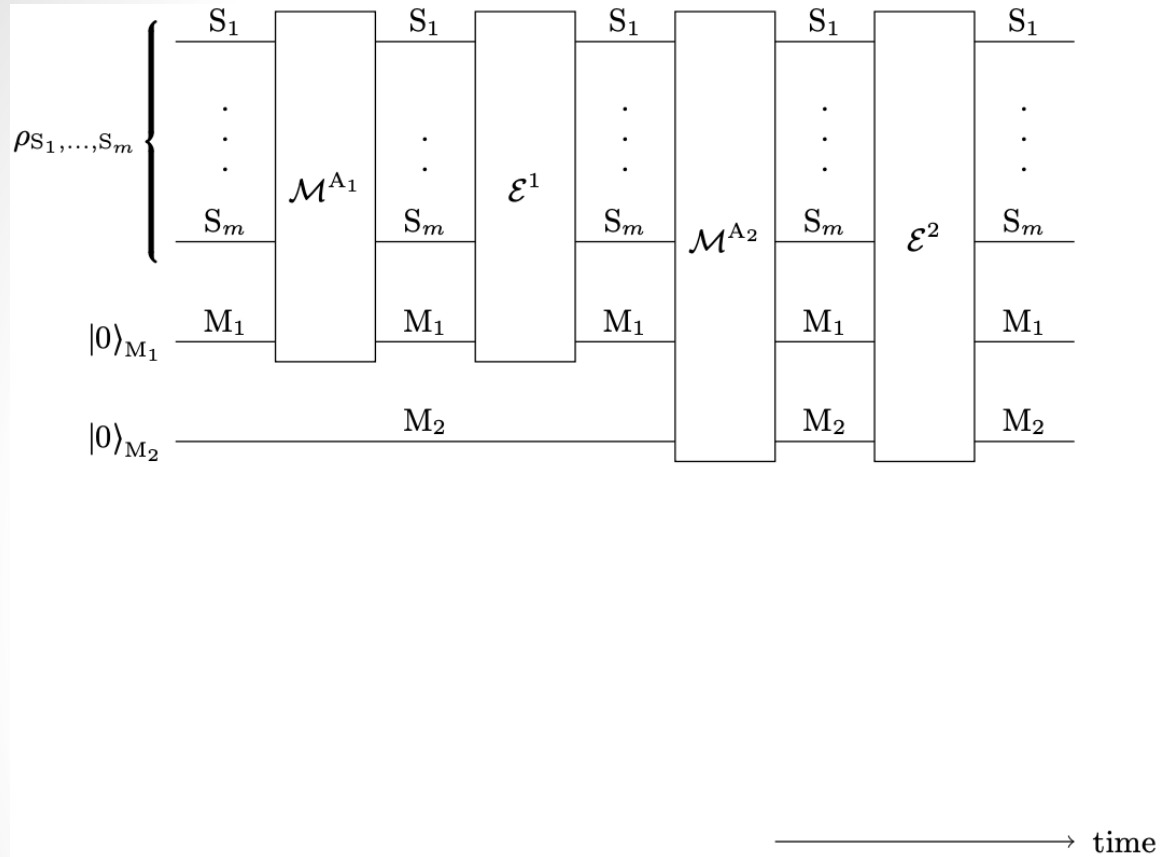
Be **more precise** in how they are applied: keep track of *who* is applying **Q** to *which* system

Our Resolution: LWFS general model

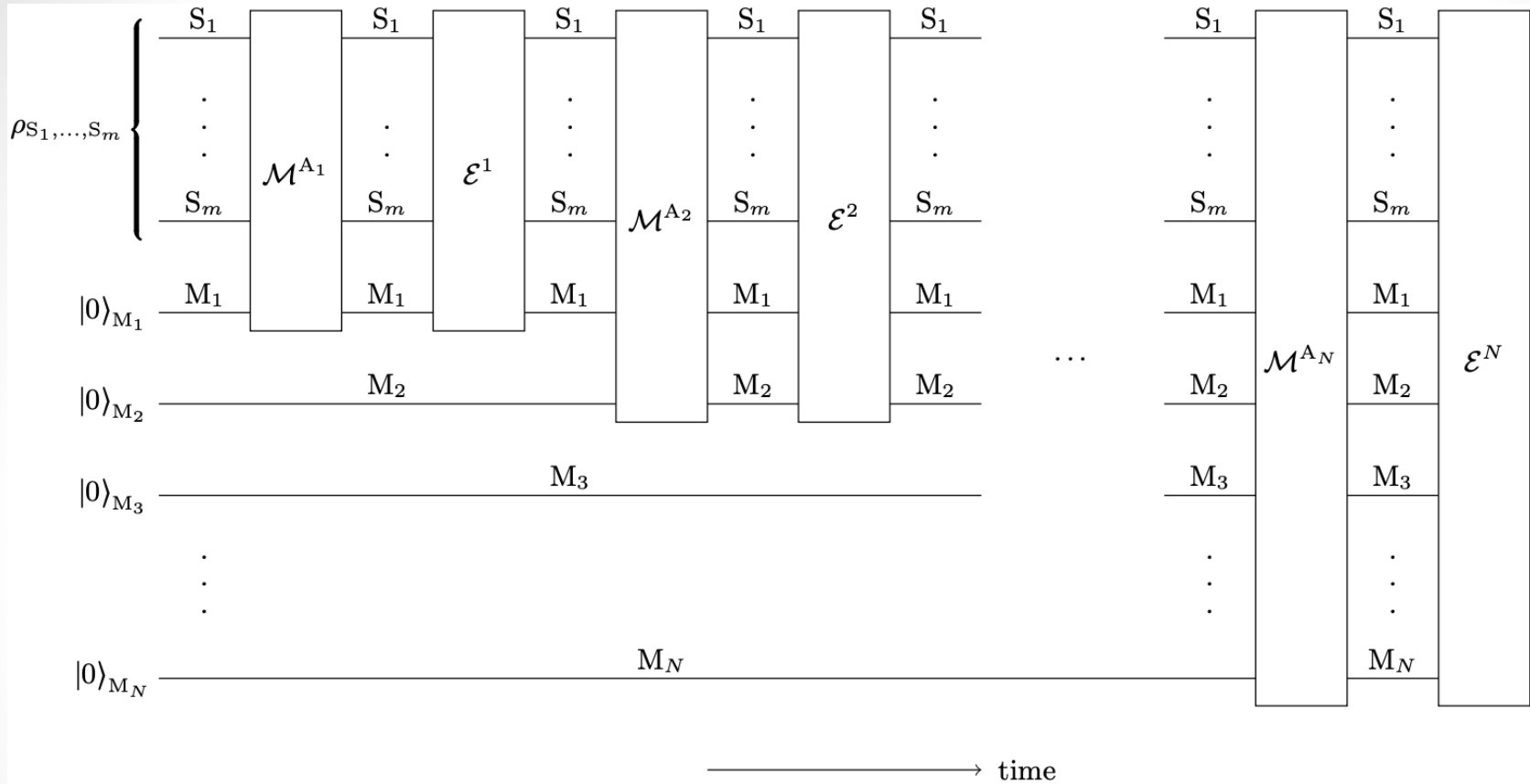


—————→ time

Our Resolution: LWFS general model

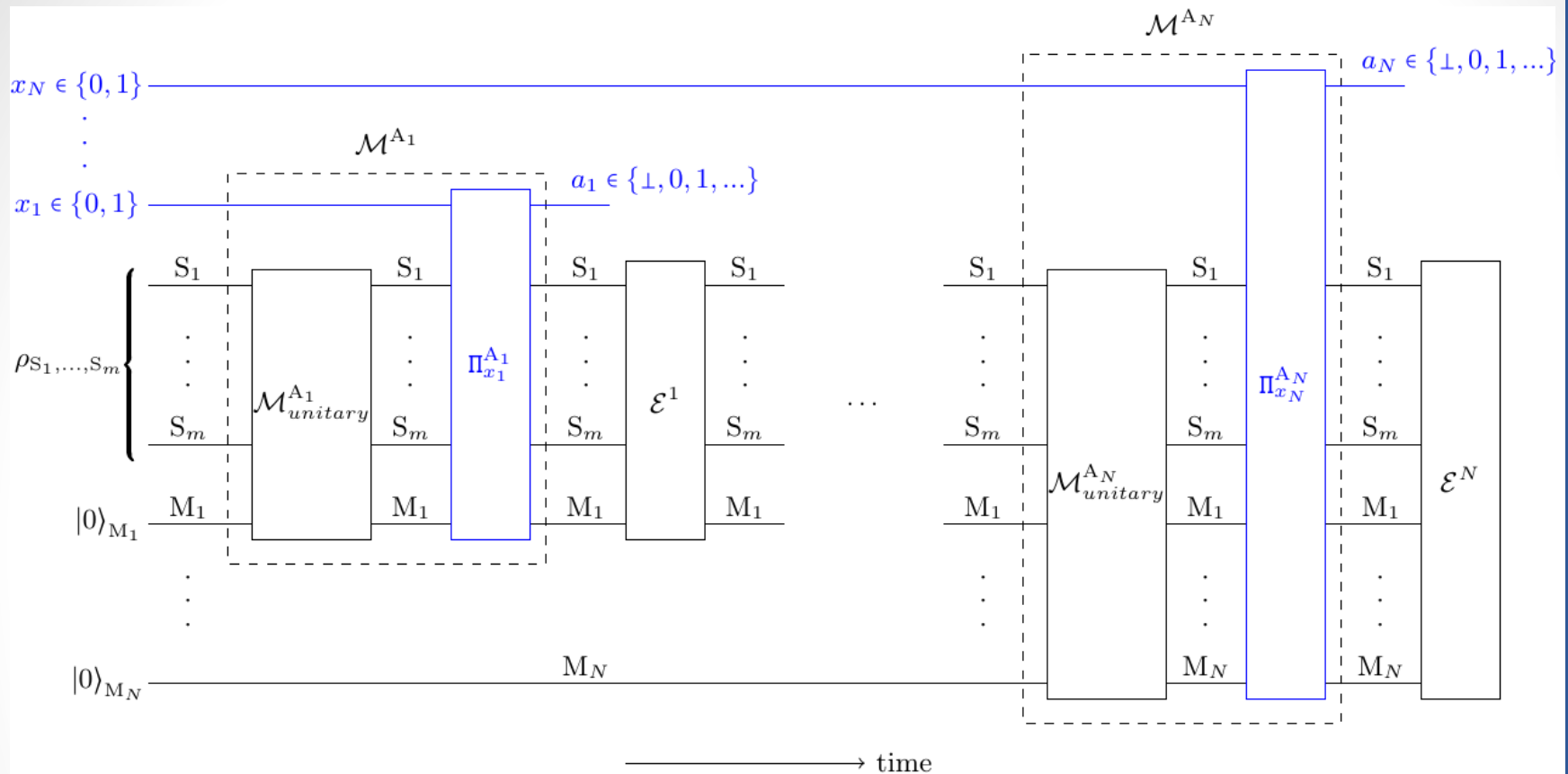


Our Resolution: LWFS general model



- Agents A_j will want to make *predictions*. Need *augmented* circuit.

Our Resolution: LWFS general model



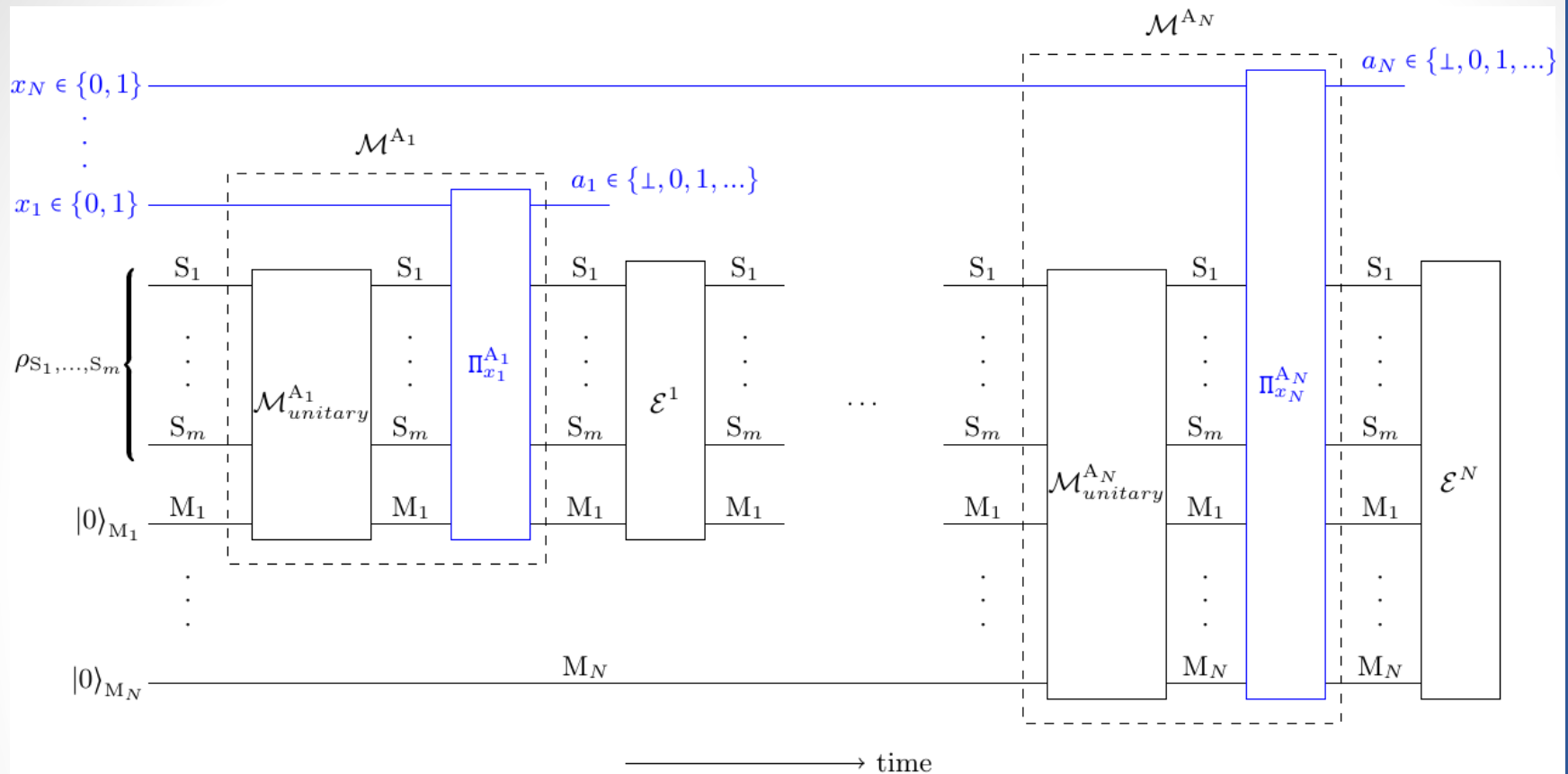
Sample space: $\Omega = \{a_1, x_1, a_2, x_2, \dots, a_N, x_N\} \{a_j, x_j\}_j$

Set of all events: power set of Ω

Predictions: $P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p}, \vec{x}) := P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p} | \vec{x}) P(\vec{x})$, $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$

$P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p} | a_{l_1}, \dots, a_{l_q}, \vec{x})$

Our Resolution: LWFS general model



Sample space: $\Omega = \{a_1, x_1, a_2, x_2, \dots, a_N, x_N\} \{a_j, x_j\}_j$

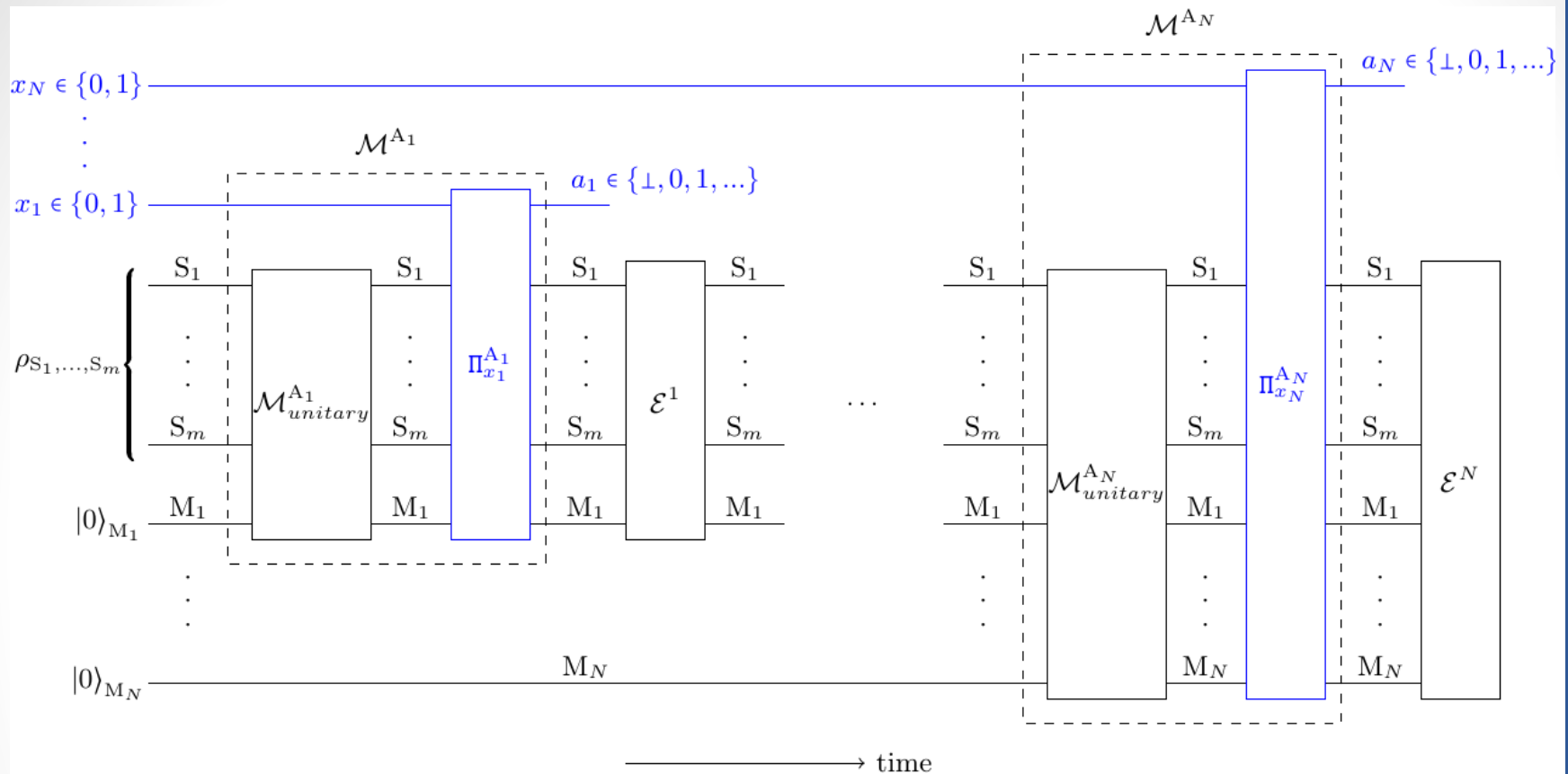
Set of all events: power set of Ω

Defined via Q
(Born rule)

Predictions: $P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p}, \vec{x}) := P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p} | \vec{x}) P(\vec{x})$, $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$

$P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p} | a_{l_1}, \dots, a_{l_q}, \vec{x})$

Our Resolution: LWFS general model



Sample space: $\Omega = \{a_1, x_1, a_2, x_2, \dots, a_N, x_N\} \{a_j, x_j\}_j$

Set of all events: power set of Ω

Defined via Q
(Born rule)

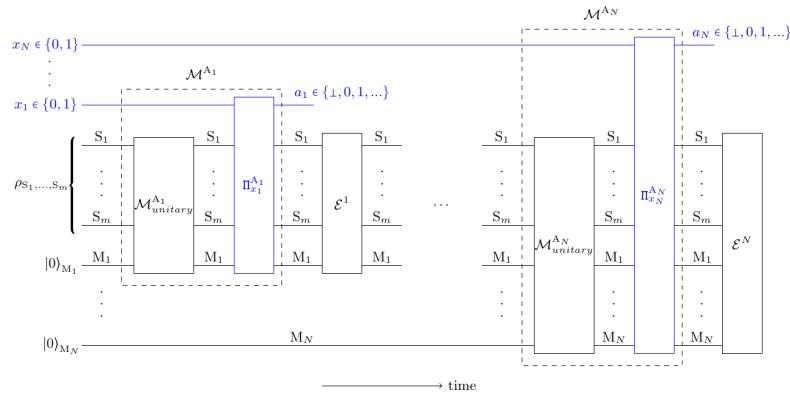
Predictions: $P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p}, \vec{x}) := P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p} | \vec{x}) P(\vec{x})$, $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$

$$P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p} | a_{l_1}, \dots, a_{l_q}, \vec{x})$$

$$x_{j_1} = x_{j_2} = \dots = x_{j_p} = x_{l_1} = \dots = x_{l_q} = 1$$

Other settings free to choose

Our Resolution: LWFS general model



In our model:

✓ Thm: **Q, U, C, D** and **S** are all self-consistent.

✓ Temporally consistency

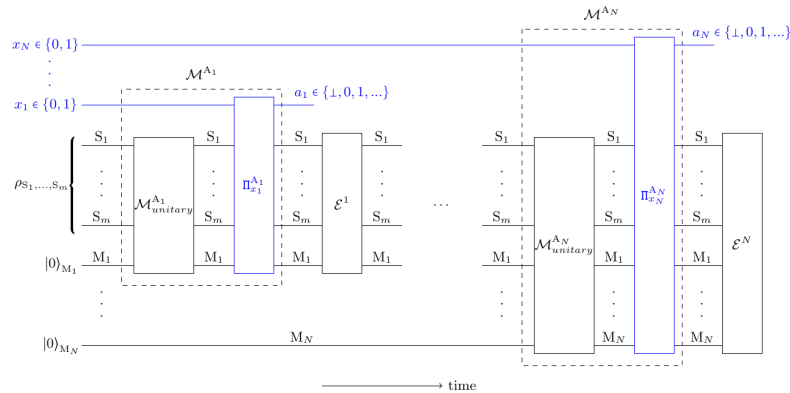
- Difference with FR experiment:

$$P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p} \mid a_{l_1}, \dots, a_{l_q}, \vec{x})$$

$$x_{j_1} = x_{j_2} = \dots = x_{j_p} = x_{l_1} = \dots = x_{l_q} = 1$$

Other settings ~~free to choose~~
chosen, but not stated

Our Resolution: LWFS general model



In our model:

✓ Thm: **Q, U, C, D** and **S** are all self-consistent.

✓ Temporally consistency

- Difference with FR experiment:

$$P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p} \mid a_{l_1}, \dots, a_{l_q}, \vec{x})$$

$$x_{j_1} = x_{j_2} = \dots = x_{j_p} = x_{l_1} = \dots = x_{l_q} = 1$$

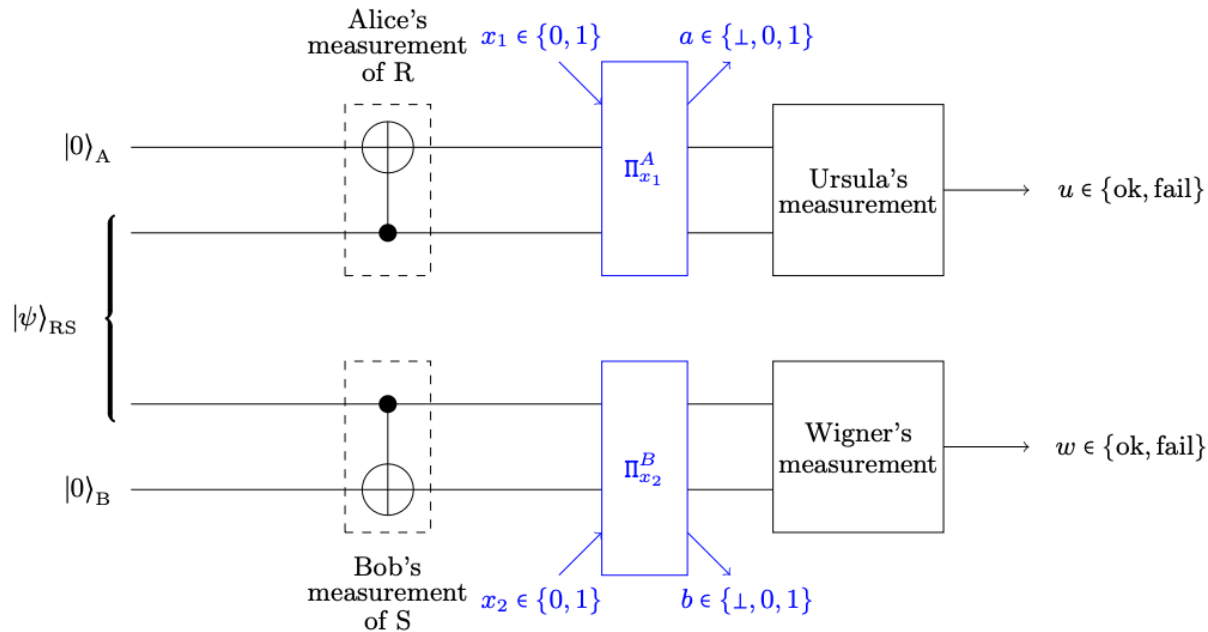
Other settings ~~free to choose~~
chosen, but not stated

- Formalize this difference:

Assumption I: if $P(a_{j_1}, a_{j_2}, \dots, a_{j_p} \mid a_{l_1}, \dots, a_{l_q}, \vec{x})$ is \vec{x} independent, it is said to be *setting independent*

- Thm: assumption I is *necessary* for at least one prediction in order to recover the FR paradox

Our Resolution: augmented circuit



original formulation

$$u = \text{ok} \Rightarrow b = 1$$

$$b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1$$

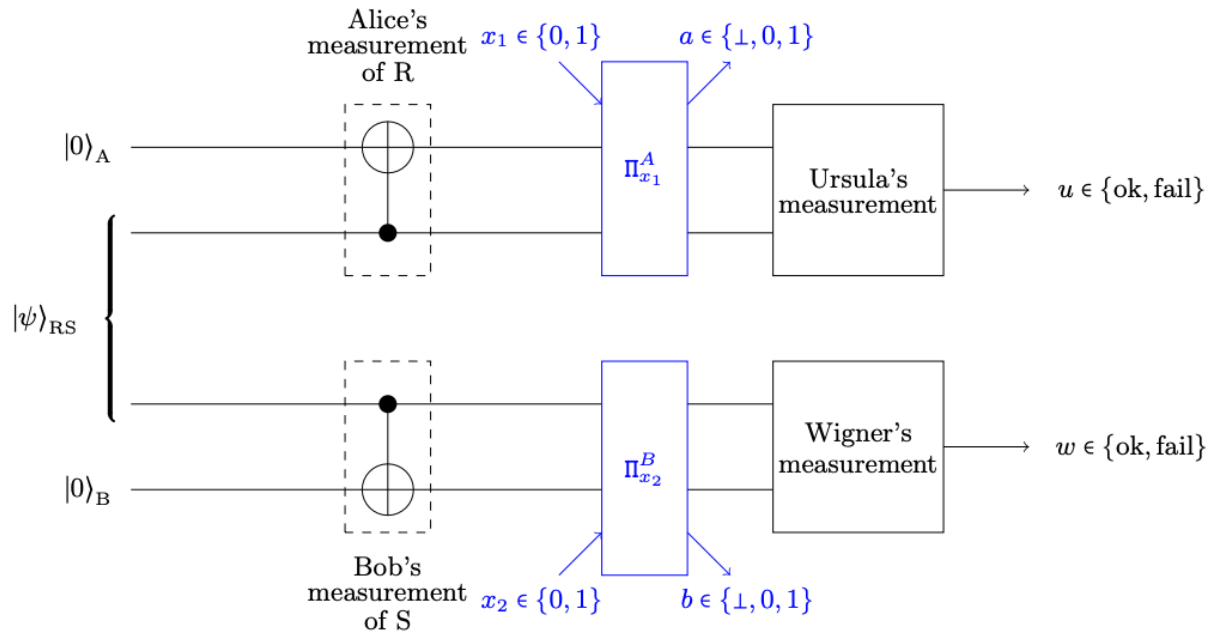
$$a = 1 \Rightarrow w = \text{fail}$$

$$\therefore u = \text{ok} \Rightarrow w = \text{fail}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} P(b = 1 | w = u = \text{ok}, (x_1, x_2) = (0, 1)) = |\langle 11 |_{RA} \langle 11 |_{SB} |\psi^{t=2}\rangle_{RASB}|^2 = 1 \\ P(b = 1 | w = u = \text{ok}, (x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)) = 1/3 \quad \therefore \cancel{(x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)} \end{array} \right.$$

$$P(a = 1, b = 1 | w = u = \text{ok}, (x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)) = 1/3$$

Our Resolution: augmented circuit



original formulation	our explicit formulation
$u = \text{ok} \Rightarrow b = 1$	$(x_1, x_2) = (0, 1) \wedge u = \text{ok} \Rightarrow b = 1$
$b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1$	$(x_1, x_2) = (1, 1) \wedge b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1$
$a = 1 \Rightarrow w = \text{fail}$	$(x_1, x_2) = (1, 0) \wedge a = 1 \Rightarrow w = \text{fail}$
$\therefore u = \text{ok} \Rightarrow w = \text{fail}$	$\therefore u = \text{ok} \Rightarrow w = \text{fail}$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} P(b = 1 | w = u = \text{ok}, (x_1, x_2) = (0, 1)) = |\langle 11 |_{\text{RA}} \langle 11 |_{\text{SB}} |\psi^{t=2}\rangle_{\text{RASB}}|^2 = 1 \\ P(b = 1 | w = u = \text{ok}, (x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)) = 1/3 \end{array} \right. \therefore \cancel{(x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)}$$

$$P(a = 1, b = 1 | w = u = \text{ok}, (x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)) = 1/3$$

Renato's challenge:

- The set of **rules must be unambiguous**. Using them should thus correspond to executing an algorithm, which could in principle be run on a machine.
- The set of rules should **not lead to contradictions**, e.g., when they are applied to the FR thought experiment.
- The rules should **be applicable to any experiment** that is realistic in principle (whereby building a universal quantum computer is considered realistic in principle), including multi-agent setups **where one agent may acquire information from another agent**. For such experiments, the predictions of standard quantum theory (without any additions such as hidden variables or a collapse mechanism) are unambiguous and should agree with those of the proposed set of rules.
- The set of rules should be **compatible with basic physical principles** (such as non-signalling to the past).

Our work: resolves the challenge!

Wigner's original mystery:

$$| \text{I got ... up} \rangle + | \text{I got ... down} \rangle \leftarrow x_1 = 0$$

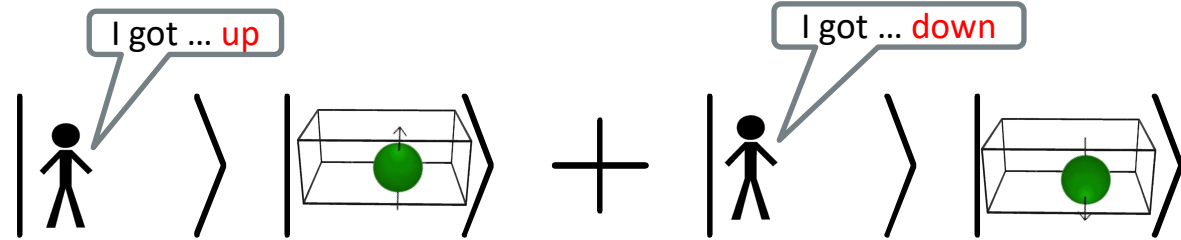
$$\mathcal{P}(\text{I got ... up}) + \mathcal{P}(\text{I got ... down}) \leftarrow x_1 = 1$$

- Still wide open
- But doesn't lead to a logical contradiction
- Need solution to the measurement "problem" to solve Wigner's mystery

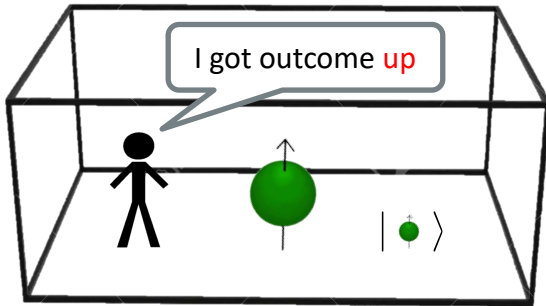
Related work and

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- [18] Nurgalieva, N. & Renner, R. Testing quantum theory with thought experiments. *Contemporary Physics* **61**, 193–216 (2020). URL <https://doi.org/10.1080/00107514.2021.1880075>.
- [19] Polychronakos, A. P. Quantum mechanical rules for observed observers and the consistency of quantum theory (2022). URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.04203>.

Wigner's original mystery



$$\mathcal{P} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{I got ... up} \\ \text{stick figure} \end{array} \right) + \mathcal{P} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{I got ... down} \\ \text{stick figure} \end{array} \right)$$



$x_1 = 1$

$x_1 = 0$

Wigner's original mystery:

- 1) still wide open
- 2) Impossible to make it a *logical* contradiction