



From quantum measurement and estimation  
towards quantum tomography and back I:  
Quantum Tomography

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# Full Program

## Lecture 1 : General Concepts of MaxLik estimation

- Introduction: inverse problems, quantum measurement and estimation
- MaxLik estimation and implementation in QM
- Fisher information for quantification of noises and diagnostics
- Information principles and MLME estimation
- Full scheme for MaxLik tomography

## Lecture 2: Exercise on MaxLik problems

- Radon and Inverse Radon transformation
- Statistical interpretation of measurement
- Fisher information and diffraction on the slit
- MaxLik solution
- Normalization of the likelihood
- Resource analysis for tomography of 5 qbits
- Fisher info in quantum interferometry

# Linear inverse problems

ML estimation is excellent tool for solving linear inverse problems with constraints (= tomography)

$$I_j = \sum_k c_{jk} \mu_k$$

detected mean values  $I_j, j= 1,2,\dots,M$   
reconstructed signal  $\mu_k k= 1,2,\dots,N$

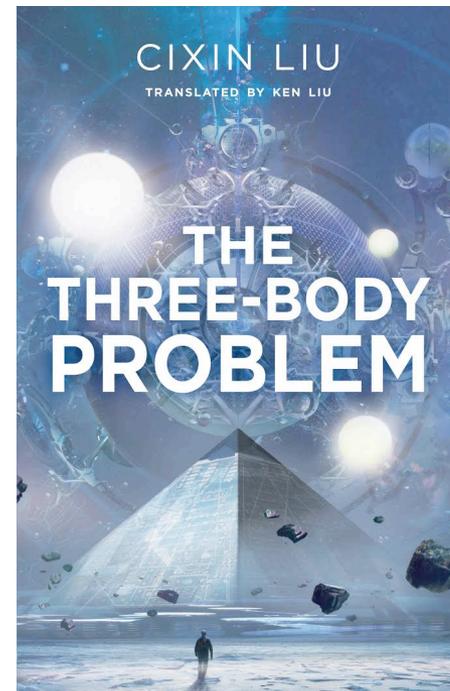
**Over-determined problems**  $M > N$   
**Well defined problems**  $M = N$   
**Under-determined problems**  $M < N$

If "direct problem" is not solvable?

Probably intractable ... follow the sci-fi

知子 \*

\*according to our secretary  
Petra Cabišová 韓思夢, she has  
MA in Chinese 😊



# Tomography and Inverse Radon Transformation

## Radon transformation

$$g(s, \theta) = \int dx dy f(x, y) \delta(x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta - s)$$

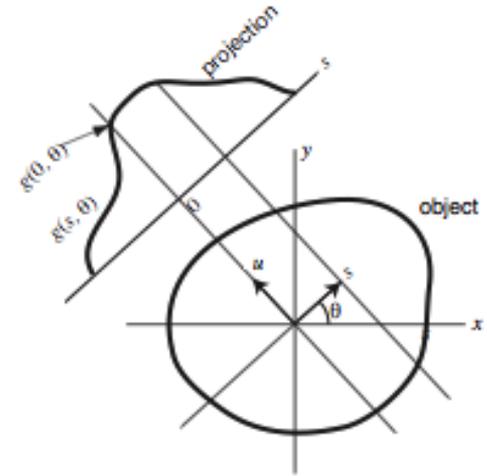
## Projection theorem (ray sum)

$$g(s, \theta) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(s \cos \theta - u \sin \theta, s \sin \theta + u \cos \theta) du$$

## Inverse Radon transformation- Fourier transformation method

$$G_{\theta}(\xi) = F(\xi \cos \theta, \xi \sin \theta)$$

$$f(x, y) = F^{-1} G_{\theta}$$



# Elements of quantum theory

Probability in Quantum Mechanics:

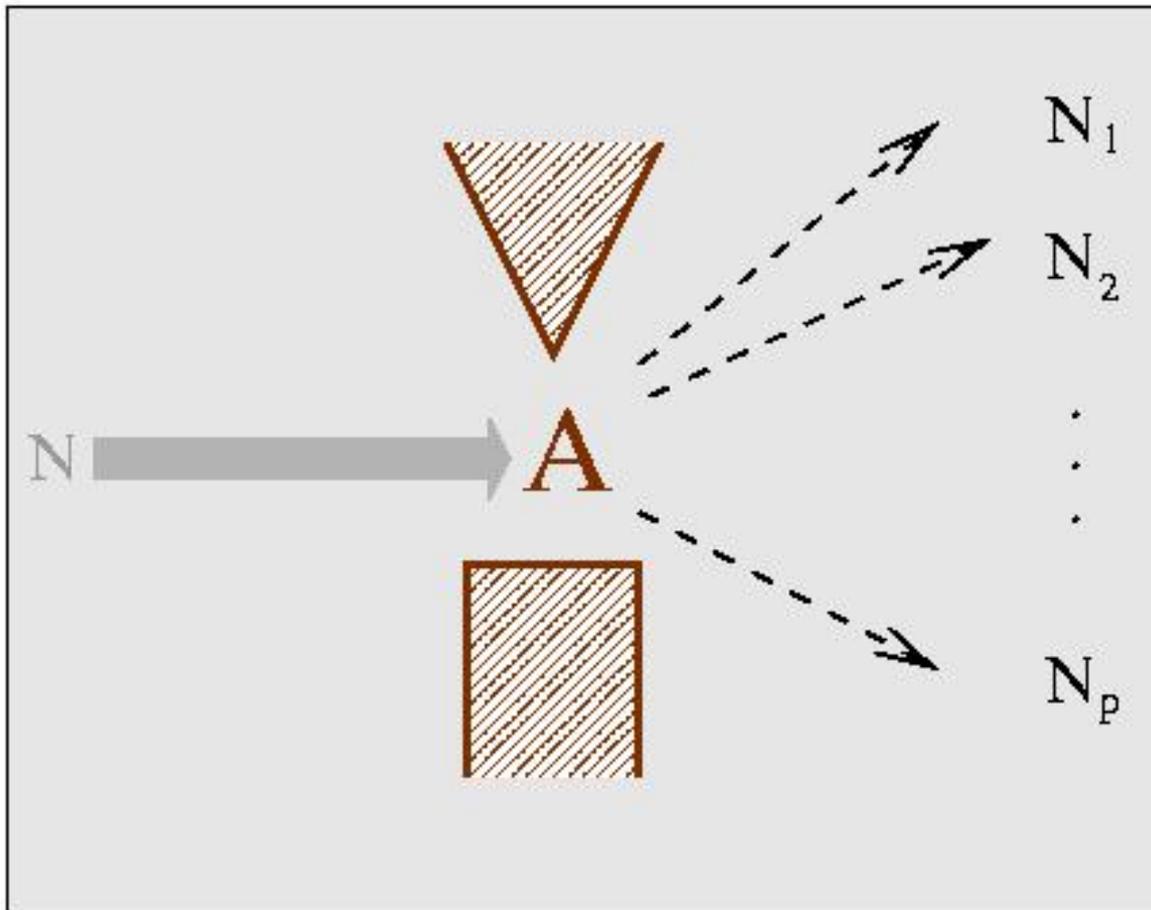
$$p_j = \text{Tr}(\rho A_j)$$

Measurement: elements of positive-valued operator measure (POVM)  $A_j \geq 0$

Relation of completeness  $\sum_j A_j = 1$

Signal: density matrix  $\rho \geq 0$

# Von Neumann Measurement



# Estimation Theory in Words

- Variable of interest is a **c-number**  $\theta_{\text{true}}$
- This variable cannot be addressed directly
- Only some variable-dependent **data**  $D$  can be detected
- Presence of variable  $\theta_{\text{true}}$  is manifested by **conditional probability distribution**  $p(D | \theta_{\text{true}})$
- **Estimator**  $\theta = \theta(D)$  relates the data to the variable of interest
- Due to the stochastic nature of data there is no unique and deterministic mapping between  $D$  and  $\theta$ .
- The inversion can be formulated just in statistical sense by Bayes theorem

$$p(\theta|D) = p(D|\theta) p(\theta) p(D)^{-1},$$

prior distribution

$p(\theta)$

normalization

$$p(D) = \int d\theta p(D|\theta) p(\theta)$$

# Estimation Theory in Words...

• The quality of estimation should be assessed by the **cost function**

$C(\theta, \theta_{\text{true}})$

-least square fit  $C(\theta, \theta_{\text{true}}) = (\theta - \theta_{\text{true}})^2$

-maximum likelihood fit  $C(\theta, \theta_{\text{true}}) = -\delta(\theta - \theta_{\text{true}})$

• The **risk function**

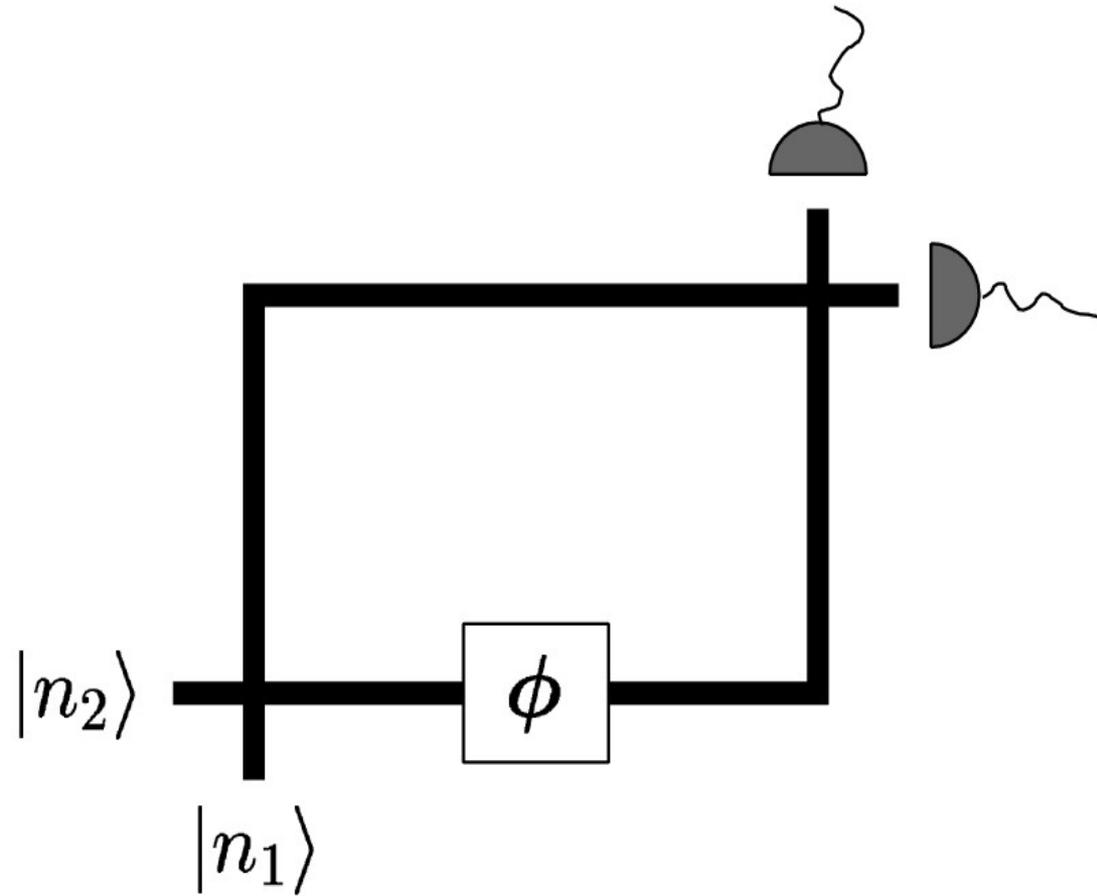
$$R(\theta|D) = \int d\theta_{\text{true}} C(\theta, \theta_{\text{true}}) p(\theta_{\text{true}}|D)$$

• Optimal strategy minimizes the risk taking into account all prior probabilities and costs

• **Conclusion:** for the choice of no prior and delta peaked cost function to minimize risk means to maximize the likelihood

$$L \sim p(D|\theta) \sim p(\theta|D)$$

# Estimation Theory in Drawings



Necessary ingredients:

- Input signal
- Controllable transformation
- Feasible detection

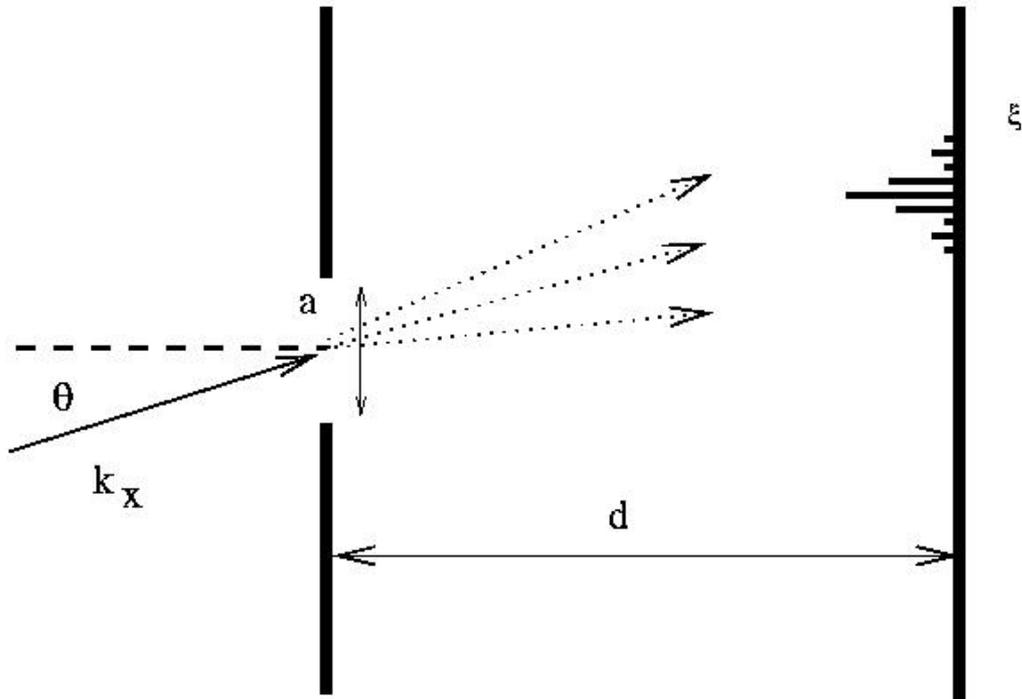
# Quantum Estimation Theory

Quantum Estimation Theory  
= Quantum Theory + Estimation Theory

Some peculiarities:

- Quantum state  $\rho$  plays the role of c-number (matrix) with special constraints ( $\rho \geq 0$ )
- Quantum measurement must obey uncertainty principle

# Motivation: Diffraction on the slit



Detection on the screen may be used as geometrical estimate for impulse since  $\theta = \xi/d$  and  $p_x = h \sin\theta/\lambda$

# Diffraction continues 1 ...

•The uncertainty is given by wave theory

$$P(\mu|v) = \pi^{-1} \text{sinc}^2(\mu - v); \quad \mu = \xi (\pi a / \lambda d), \quad v = p_x a / 2\hbar$$

•Straightforward but wrong argumentation based on the first minimum of sinc function gives

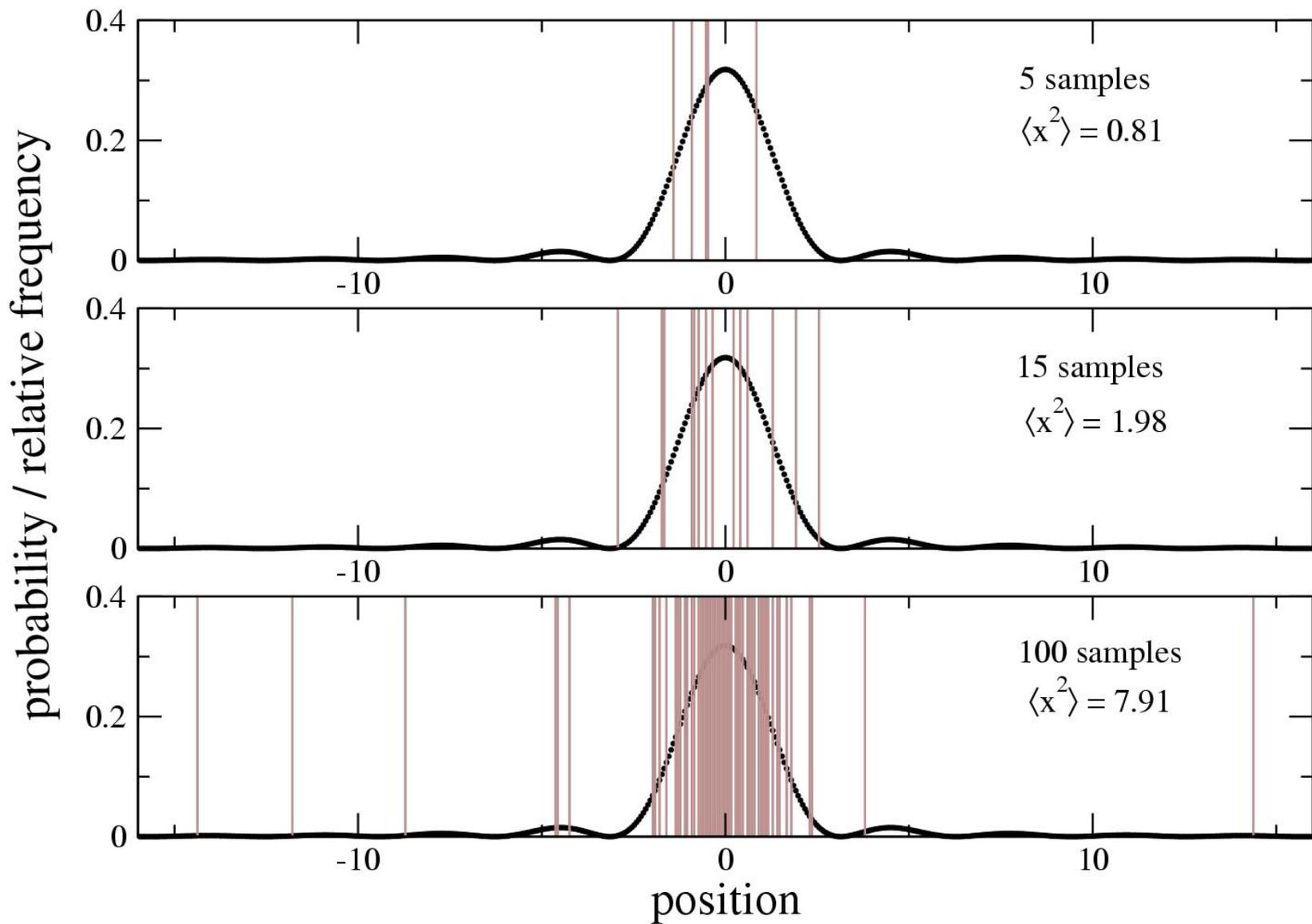
$$\Delta x = a/2, \quad \Delta p_x = (h/a) \quad \text{and therefore} \quad \Delta x \Delta p_x \sim h/2 !$$

•But the correctly calculated variance of  $\text{sinc}^2$  function gives the infinite width !!

•The estimate of  $p_x$  based on single event will be very uncertain !!!

•The remedy is to accumulate the events and relate the estimate to some collective variable (=centre of mass of the interference pattern)

•Proper estimation theory should be formulated with the mathematical statistics.



## Diffraction continues 2 ...

- The prediction should be based on some posterior distribution

$$P(v)_{\text{post}} = \prod_{\mu} p(\mu|v)^{N_{\mu}} = \exp[\sum_{\mu} N_{\mu} \log p(\mu|v)].$$

Here  $v$  is our estimate of some true value  $v_{\text{true}}$ , which is hidden in detected data  $\mu$

- Note: product of detected probabilities is denoted as likelihood  $L$  and its logarithm in exponential is called log-likelihood  $\log L$

- Significant sampling ( $N$  large)  $N_{\mu} = N p(\mu|v_{\text{true}})$

- Gaussian approximation of  $\log L$  as the expansion near  $v_{\text{true}}$  :

$$\sum_{\mu} N_{\mu} \log p(\mu|v) \sim N \sum_{\mu} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) \log p(\mu|v) \sim$$

$$(1^{\text{st}} \text{ term}) \quad N \sum_{\mu} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) \log p(\mu|v_{\text{true}})$$

$$(2^{\text{nd}} \text{ term}) \quad + N \sum_{\mu} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) \partial_v \log p(\mu|v) \Big|_{\text{true}} (v - v_{\text{true}})$$

$$(3^{\text{rd}} \text{ term}) \quad + \frac{1}{2} N \sum_{\mu} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) \partial_v^2 \log p(\mu|v) \Big|_{\text{true}} (v - v_{\text{true}})^2$$

## Diffraction continues 3 ...

1<sup>st</sup> term is entropy  $S = \sum_{\mu} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) \log p(\mu|v_{\text{true}})$

2<sup>nd</sup> term is zero since  $\sum_{\mu} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) \partial_v \log p(\mu|v)|_{\text{true}} =$   
 $\sum_{\mu} \partial_v p(\mu|v)|_{\text{true}} (v-v_{\text{true}}) = (v-v_{\text{true}}) \partial_v 1 = 0$

3<sup>rd</sup> term similarly gives the only nonzero contribution

$$F = N \sum_{\mu} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) [ \partial_v \log p(\mu|v)|_{\text{true}} ]^2$$

$$= N \sum_{\mu} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}})^{-1} [ \partial_v p(\mu|v)|_{\text{true}} ]^2$$

F = Fisher information

$$L \sim \exp(S) \exp[ -\frac{1}{2} F (v-v_{\text{true}})^2 ]$$

This means that parameter estimation is done with the precision  $1/F$  !

## Diffraction continues 4 ...

Believe or not Fisher information is remedy for uncertainty relations on the slit!

$$(\Delta x)^2 = a^2/12$$

$$(\Delta v)^2 = (a/2\hbar)^2 (\Delta p_x)^2 \text{ and } F = 4\pi^{-1} \int d\mu [\partial_\mu \text{sinc } \mu]^2 = 4/3$$

and therefore  $\Delta x \Delta p_x = \hbar/2$  !

This is not an accident but a consequence of Cramer-Rao inequalities (N=1):

$$\text{Unbiased estimator : } \sum_\mu p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) (v - v_{\text{true}}) = 0 \quad / \partial v_{\text{true}}$$

$$\sum_\mu \partial v_{\text{true}} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) (v - v_{\text{true}}) = 1 \quad / \text{Cauchy-Schwarz inequality}$$

$$\sum_\mu [p(\mu|v_{\text{true}})]^{-1/2} \partial v_{\text{true}} p(\mu|v_{\text{true}}) [p(\mu|v_{\text{true}})]^{1/2} (v - v_{\text{true}}) = 1$$

$$(\Delta v)^2 F \geq 1$$

## Some pedagogical remarks ...

$$\Delta A \Delta B \geq \frac{1}{2} |[A, B]|$$

- The meaning of Heisenberg uncertainty principle is pedagogically confusing. Does it mean the constraints on measurement? Which one? Both?
- No, this is the constraint on possible quantum states (see the derivation or see the condition for covariance matrix).
- Heisenberg uncertainty is weaker than Cramer-Rao inequality

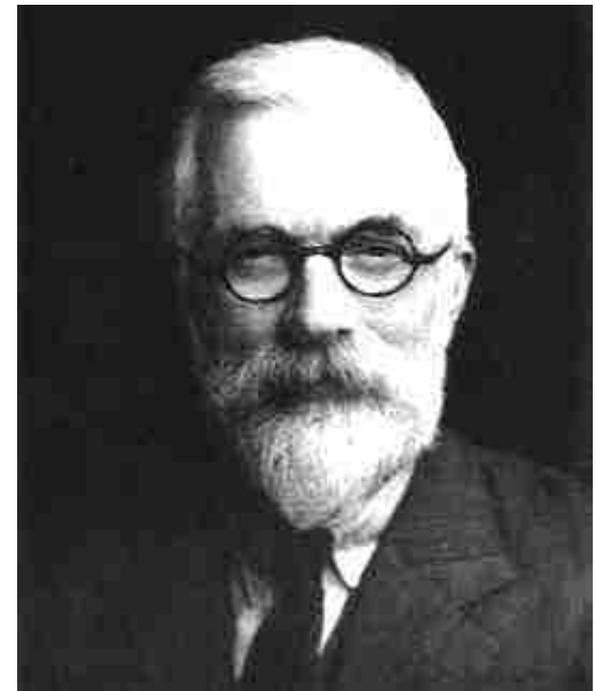
$$(\Delta v)^2 F \geq 1$$

- Cramer-Rao can be formulated even for simultaneous estimation (measurement) of several parameters.

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation (1922)

Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher, [FRS](#) (17 February 1890 - 29 July 1962)  
<http://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/coll/special/fisher/papers.html>

- Maximum Likelihood (MaxLik) principle is not a rule that requires justification: Bet Always On the Highest Chance!
- Numerous applications in signal analysis, optics, geophysics, nuclear physics, ...
- A. Witten, The application of ML estimator to tunnel detection, *Inverse Problems* 7(1991), 49.
- MaxLik analysis = pea plant experiment of G. Mendel was contrived (too good to be true, statistically 😊 )



# Fisher information

• B. Roy Frieden, *Physics from Fisher information: A Unification*, Cambridge University Press, 1999

• Fisher information for shift invariant distributions  $p(x)$

$$p(x|\theta) = p(x-\theta)$$

Amplitude  $q(x)$  as generalized coordinate  $p(x) = q(x)^2$

$$F = \int dx (dp/dx)^2 / p(x) = \int dx (dq/dx)^2$$

Fisher information measures the gradient content of the field  $q(x)$  and the "square gradient term" is a part of all Lagrangians, see the second order Lagrange-Euler equations, e.g. classical mechanics  $L = \frac{1}{2} m (dq/dt)^2 - V(q)$

# Maximum Likelihood Tomography

- Likelihood  $L$  quantifies the degree of belief in certain hypothesis under the condition of the given data.
- MaxLik principle selects the most likely configuration
- Information is updated according to the Bayes rule  
prior probability  $\rightarrow$  posterior probability

$$P(\rho|D) = P(D|\rho) p(\rho) [p(D)]^{-1}$$

# ML reconstruction: Complete measurement

Log-likelihood for generic measurement  $p_i = \text{Tr}(\rho A_i)$

$$L(\rho) = \prod_i p_i^{N_i}$$

Normalization  $\text{Tr}(\rho) = 1$

Constraint  $\rho \geq 0$

Maximize the likelihood !!!

Jensen inequality (inequality between geometric and arithmetic means)  $\prod_i (x_i/a_i)^{f_i} \leq \sum_i f_i x_i/a_i$

$$L(\rho)^{1/N} = \prod_i p_i^{f_i} \leq (\prod_i a_i^{f_i}) \text{Tr}(R \rho)$$

$$R = \sum_i (f_i/a_i) A_i$$

Let us chose for extreme  $a_i = \text{Tr}(\rho A_i)$

Extremal equation  $R \rho = \rho$

# Easy derivation

Differentiate formally the Log-likelihood with the constraint

$$\begin{aligned} \log L(\rho) &= \sum_i N_i \log p_j(\rho) - \lambda \text{Tr}(\rho) && / \partial \rho_{kl} \\ \sum_i N_i / p_j(\rho) (A_i)_{kl} |k\rangle\langle l| - \lambda \delta_{kl} |k\rangle\langle l| &= 0 && / \rho \\ \sum_i N_i / p_j(\rho) A_i \rho &= \lambda \rho && / \text{Tr} \rho = 1 \\ R \rho &= \rho \end{aligned}$$

Other hints:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &= \sum_i \lambda_i |\varphi_i\rangle\langle\varphi_i|, \quad \partial \langle\varphi_i| [ \langle\varphi_i| A_j |\varphi_i\rangle ] = A_j |\varphi_i\rangle ; \\ \rho &= \Omega \Omega^\dagger \quad \partial \Omega^\dagger \text{Tr}(A_j \Omega \Omega^\dagger) = A_j \Omega \end{aligned}$$

(Log)-likelihood is convex functional over the convex manifold of density matrices = convex optimization



**Likelihood is convex functional defined on the convex manifold of density matrices**

# MaxLik interpretation

Linear inversion

$$\sum_k A_k \equiv 1$$

$$\text{Tr}(\rho A_k) = f_k$$

MaxLik inversion

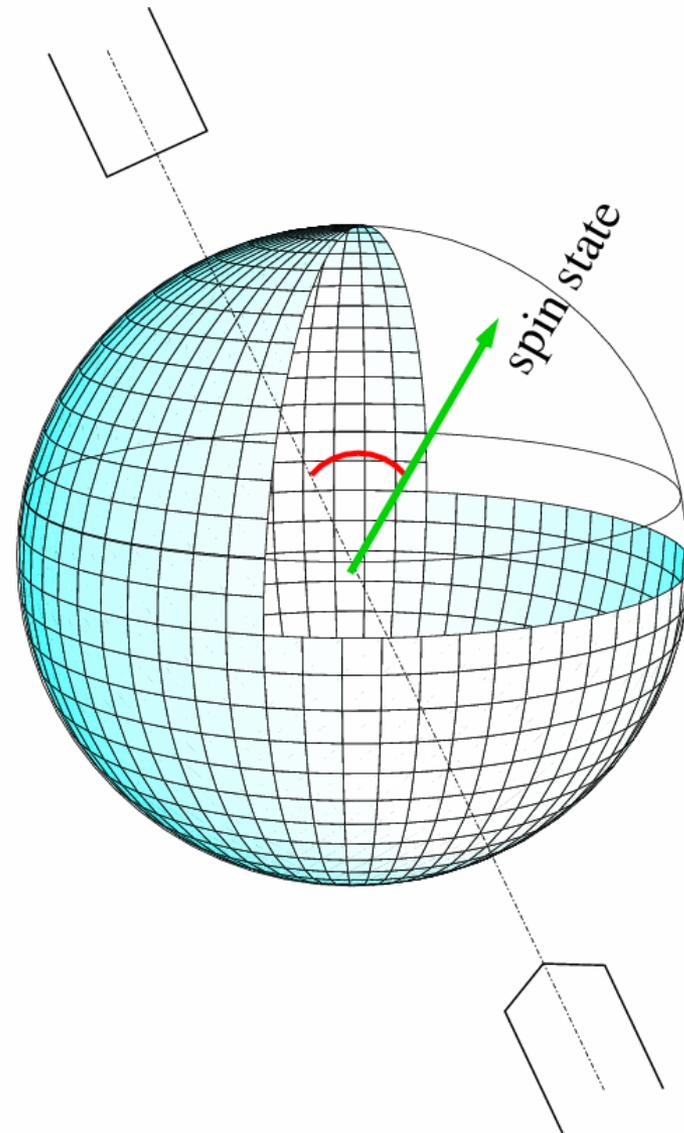
$$\sum_k A'_k = 1_G$$

$$\text{Tr}(\rho A'_k) \equiv f_k$$

$$\text{where } A'_k = (f_k/p_k) A_k$$

## Why the optimal estimation must be nonlinear:

- Various projections are counted with different accuracy.
- Accuracy depends on the unknown quantum state.
- Optimal estimation strategy must re-interpret the registered data and estimate the state simultaneously.
- Optimal estimation should be nonlinear. MaxLik is doing this.



# Objective (Biased) Tomography

• Reconstruction is not equally good in the full Hilbert space:  
Field of view defines the visible part of the Hilbert space

• How to reconstruct and where to reconstruct are NOT independent tasks in generic tomography schemes

Hradil, Mogilevtsev, Rehacek, Biased tomography schemes: an objective approach, PRL 96, 230401 (2006).

Generic over-complete / un-complete measurements

$$\sum_j A_j = G \geq 0$$

may always be cast in the form of POVM

$$G^{-1/2} / \dots\dots\dots / G^{-1/2}$$
$$\sum_j G^{-1/2} A_j G^{-1/2} = 1_G$$

Every measurement is complete...somewhere !!!

# Generic reconstruction scheme

Log-likelihood for generic measurement

$$\log L = \sum_i N_j \log p_j / (\sum_k p_k)$$

(probabilities are mutually normalized)

Equivalent formulation: estimation of parameters with Poissonian probabilities and unknown mean  $\lambda$   
(constrained MaxLik by Fermi)

$$\log L = \sum_j N_j \log (\lambda p_j) - \lambda \sum_j p_j$$

# Extremal equation

$$R \rho = G \rho$$

$$R = (\sum_j p_i) / (\sum_j N_i) \sum_k (N_k / p_k) A_k$$

$$G = \sum_i A_i$$

$$R_G \rho_G = \rho_G$$

$$R_G = G^{-1/2} R G^{-1/2}, \rho_G = G^{1/2} \rho G^{1/2}$$

Solution in the iterative form

$$\rho_G = R_G \rho_G R_G$$

# Tomography for quantum diagnostics

- The most likely state does not surely tell everything.
- The result of MaxLik reconstruction is not a single state but a family of states with some posterior distribution.
- MaxLik reconstruction characterizes the estimated state as random variable.
- Any prediction based on tomography e.g. fidelity, Wigner function at origin, etc. is uncertain

$$Q = \langle Q \rangle_{ML} \pm \Delta Q$$

- Quantum state = set of  $M = d^2 - 1$  parameters
- $\Omega_i$  ... generator basis

$$\rho = \Omega_0/d + \sum_I \rho_i \Omega_i, \quad \rho^{ML} = \Omega_0/d + \sum_I \rho_i^{ML} \Omega_i,$$

- Relative coordinate  $r_i = \rho - \rho^{ML}$ ,  $\mathbf{r} = (r_0, r_1, \dots, r_{M-1})$
- Posterior (multi-normal) distribution

$$P^p(\mathbf{r}) = (2\pi)^{-M/2} (\det F)^{1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{r} F \mathbf{r}\right)$$

Fisher information matrix,  $P = \sum_i p_i$

$$F_{jk} = N^2 \sum_i \frac{1}{N_i} \partial r_j [p_i/P] \partial r_k [p_j/P]$$

- Performance measure linear in quantum state

$$z = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{Z}\rho)$$

- Wigner function at origin  $\mathbf{Z} = \sum_n (-1)^n |n\rangle\langle n|$

- Fidelity  $\mathbf{Z} = |\psi_{\text{true}}\rangle\langle \psi_{\text{true}}|$

- Expansion in fixed operator basis

$$Z = \sum_i z_i \Omega_i; |\mathbf{z}\rangle = (z_0, z_1, \dots, z_{M-1})$$

- Experimental uncertainty

$$(\Delta z)^2 = \langle \mathbf{z} | \mathbf{F}^{-1} | \mathbf{z} \rangle$$

- Experimental uncertainty relations

$$(\Delta a)^2 (\Delta b)^2 = |\langle \mathbf{a} | \mathbf{F}^{-1} | \mathbf{b} \rangle|^2$$

- Self-consistency check:

measured data  $f_k$  should be compared with the mean values  $\text{Tr}(\rho A_k)$  within the error  $\langle \mathbf{a} | \mathbf{F}^{-1} | \mathbf{a} \rangle$

- Diagnostics inferred from quantum tomography should be always related to statistical prediction

$$z = \text{Tr}(Z\rho_{ML}) \pm \{\langle z|F^{-1}|z\rangle\}^{1/2}$$

$F$  ... Fisher information matrix

$|z\rangle$ ... vector with components of  $Z$  in the fixed operator basis

- Any tomography scheme should be tailored to a particular purpose, it cannot be universally optimal !!!
- The mean value of the effect  $\text{Tr}(Z\rho_{ML})$  and its variance  $\langle z|F^{-1}|z\rangle$  are equally important for diagnostic purposes
- The variance term scales with the dimension and depends strongly on the measurement! Indeed, one cannot do any prediction about quantities which have not been measured!



**All models are wrong, some are useful  
(George E. P. Box)**

# Entropy and quantification of ignorance

Yong Siah Teo, Huangjun Zhu, B-G Englert, J. Řeháček, Z. Hradil,  
*Quantum-State Reconstruction by Maximizing Likelihood and Entropy*, **Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 020404 (2011)**

# MLME estimation

Likelihood  $L(\rho)$  quantifies the knowledge

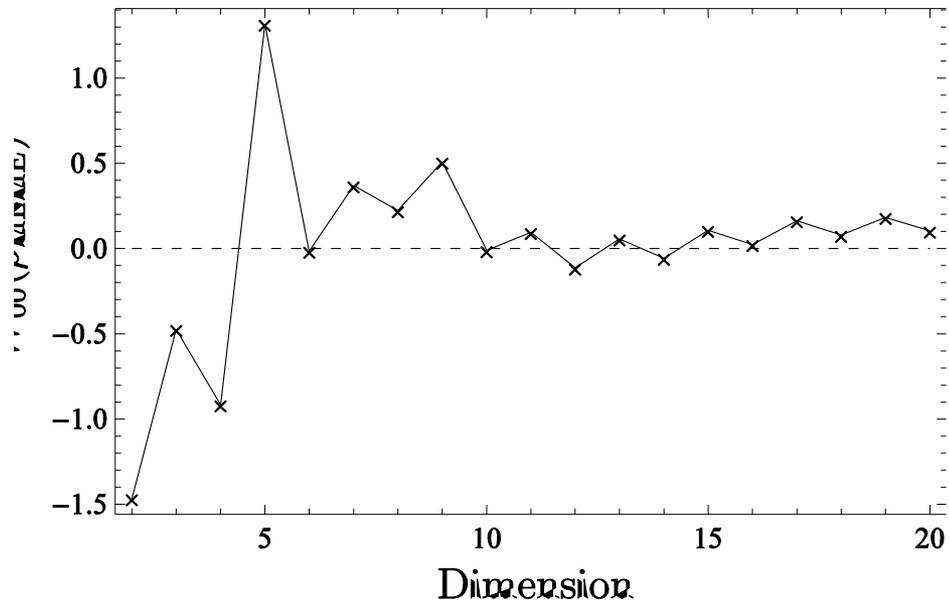
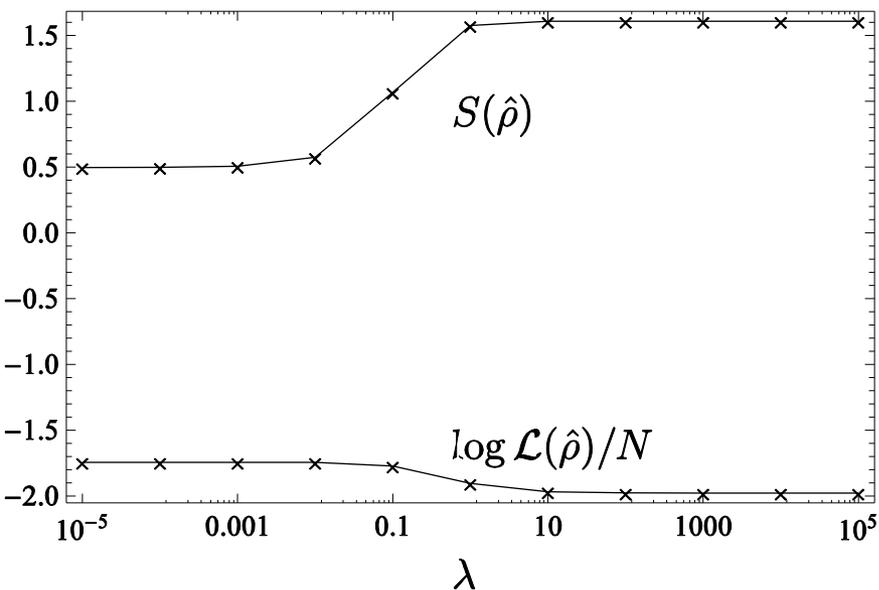
Entropy  $S = -\text{Tr}(\rho \log \rho)$  quantifies the ignorance

$$I(\lambda, \rho) = \lambda S(\rho) + 1/N \log L(\rho)$$

In the limit  $\lambda = 0$  we are searching for the most likely states with the highest entropy.

MLME is robust and always selects the single solution.

# Some MLME results



**Left panel:** As lambda decreases entropy and likelihood sets their optimal values;  
**Right panel:** State with positive value of Wigner function in 20 dim Hilbert space is estimated as non classical with mild negativity in low dimensional spaces.

# Resource analysis

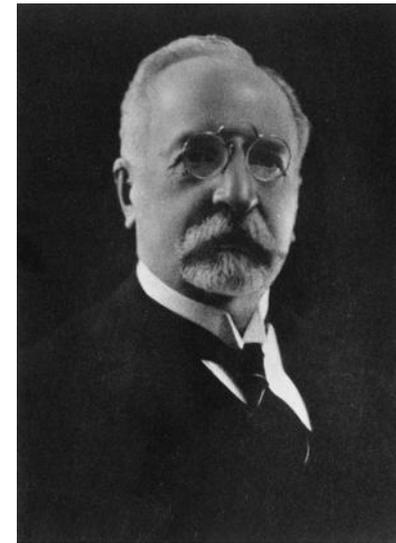
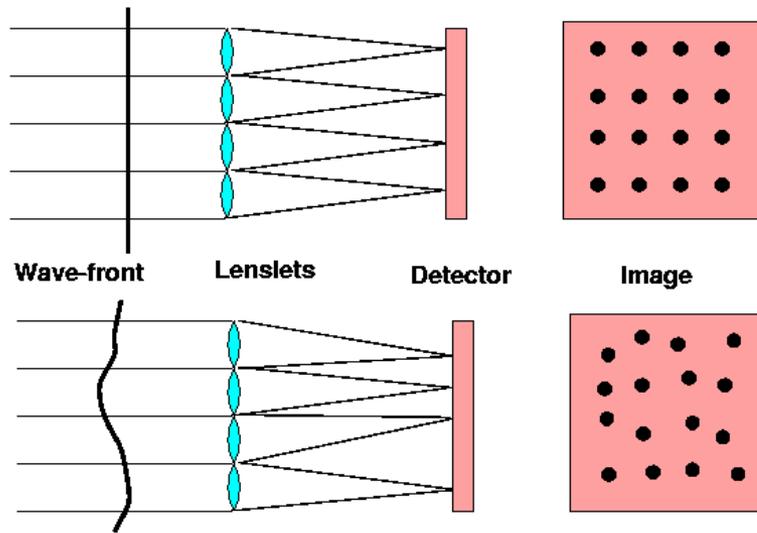
- To control the quantum system means to control all relevant errors...
  - Pure state in dimension  $d$ :  $2d - 1$  real parameters  
Estimation is not a convex problem...
  - Density matrix  $d^2 - 1$  real parameters  
Fisher info matrix:  $\frac{1}{2}(d^2 - 1)(d^2 - 2)$  real parameters
  - CP maps:  $d^2(d^2 - 1)$  real parameters  
Fisher info matrix for CP maps:  $\frac{1}{2}d^2(d^2 - 1)(d^4 - d^2 - 1)$  real parameters
- Quantum computation with 5 qbits:  $d = 2^5 = 32$   
Quantum state:  $\sim 10^3$  parameters  
Fisher info:  $\sim 10^6$  parameters  
CP maps:  $\sim 10^6$  parameters  
Fisher info of CP maps:  $\sim 10^{12}$  parameters

**End of General concepts**

# Several examples

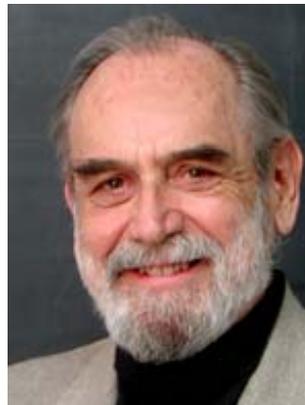
- Phase estimation
- Transmission tomography
- Tomography of CP maps
- Reconstruction of photocount statistics
- Image reconstruction
- Vortex beam analysis
- Quantification of entanglement
- Reconstruction of neutron wave packet
- Reconstruction based on homodyne detection
- Full reconstruction based on on/off detection
- Reconstruction of coherent matrix

# Scanning of the optical field: Hartmann-Shack sensor

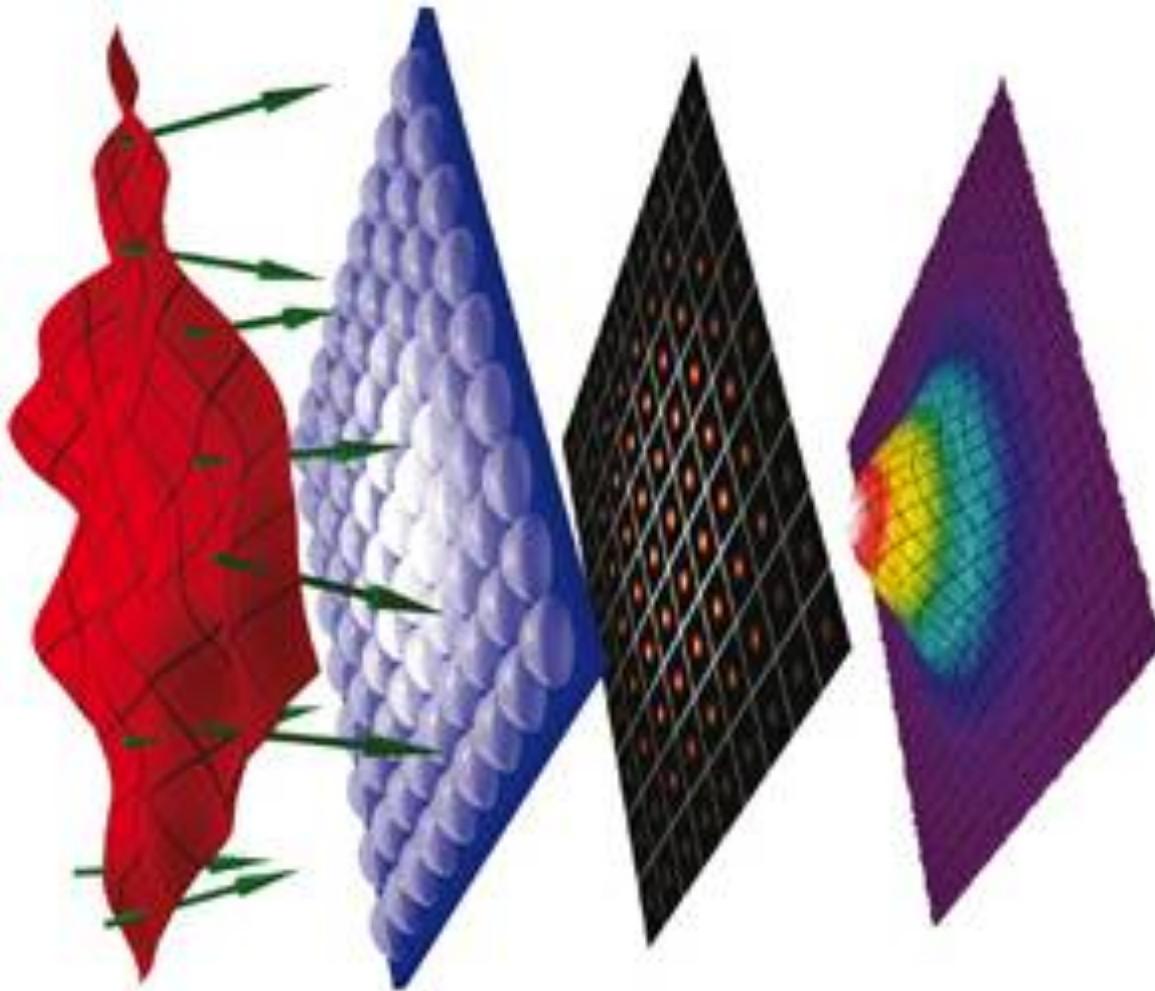


Johannes Hartmann  
(1865-1936)

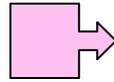
Roland Shack  
(1970's)



# Scheme of the wave-front reconstruction



# Wave theory for HS sensor



$A_i$

- Detected amplitude:

$$\varphi_{\text{det}}(\xi) = \int dx' dq' \varphi(x') h(x'-q') A_i(q') \exp(i k \xi q' / f)$$

- Detected signal:

$$S_i(\xi) = \langle |\varphi_{\text{det}}(\xi)|^2 \rangle_{\text{average}}$$

$$= \int dx' dx'' \int dq' dq'' Q(x', x'') h(x'-q') a(q', \xi) h^*(x''-q'') a^*(q'', \xi)$$

where  $Q...$  function of mutual coherence

$$a_i(q', \xi) = A_i(q') \exp(i k \xi q' / f)$$

- Quantum formulation in  $x$ -representation

$$S_i(\xi) = \langle a_{i\xi} | U^\dagger Q U | a_{i\xi} \rangle$$

$$Q(x', x'') = \langle x' | Q | x'' \rangle, \quad h(x'-q') = \langle q' | U | x' \rangle, \quad \langle x' | a_{i\xi} \rangle = a_i(q', \xi)$$

## HS sensor: Quantum Consequences

- Smooth Gaussian approximation of aperture function:

$$A_i(q') \approx \exp[-(q' - x_i)^2 / 4 (\Delta x)^2]$$

- Detection= Projection into the minimum uncertainty states

$$\alpha_{i,\xi} = \exp[-(q' - x_i)^2 / 4 (\Delta x)^2 + i k \xi q' / f]$$

- Heisenberg uncertainty relations

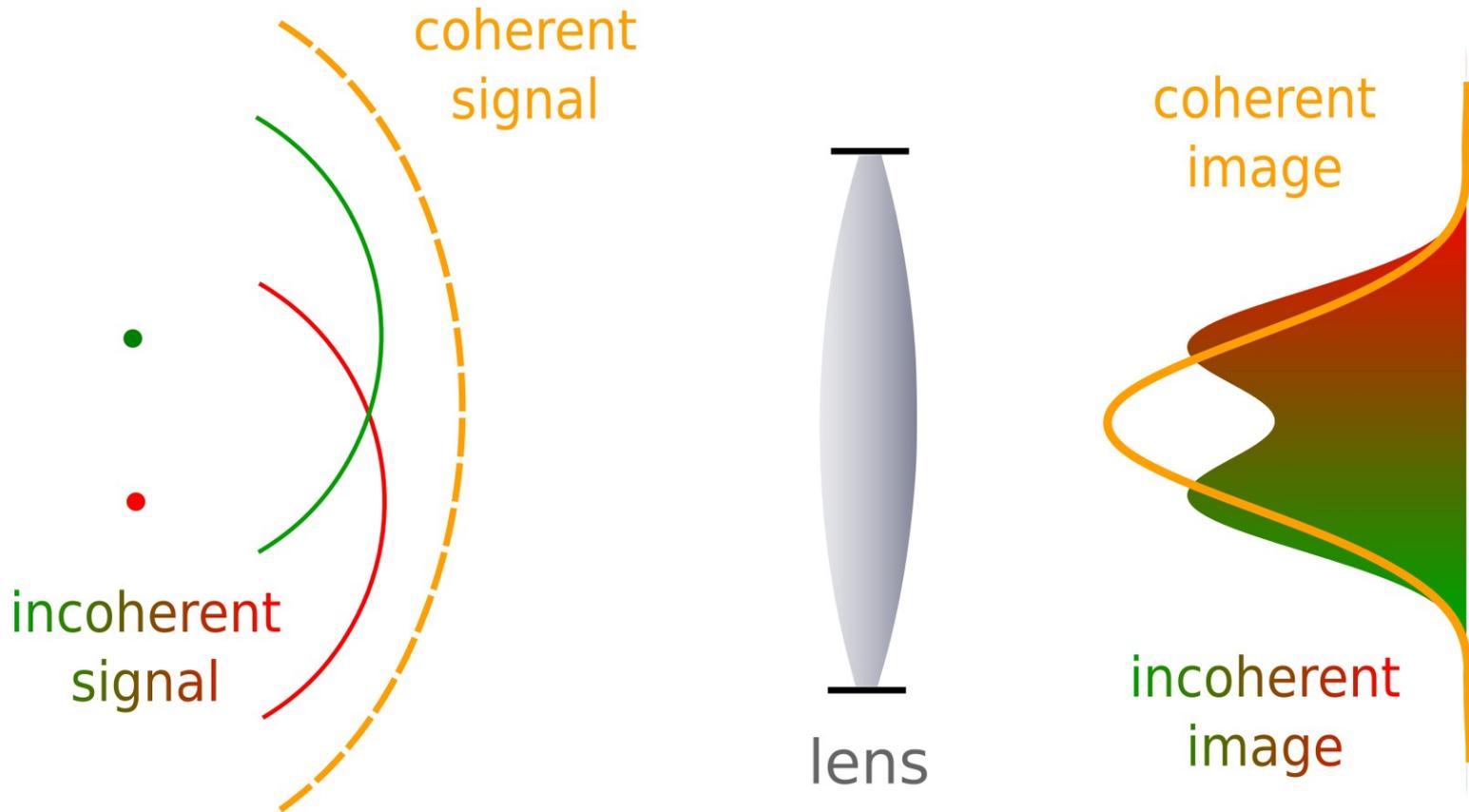
$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \hbar/2$$

- Generalized measurement of non-commuting variables  $x$  and  $p$ , (Arthurs, Kelly 1964)

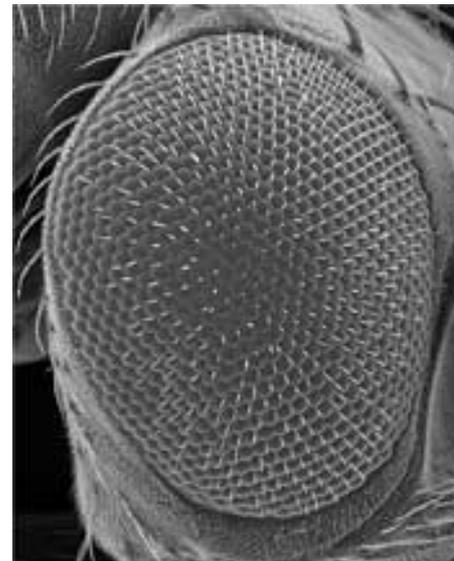
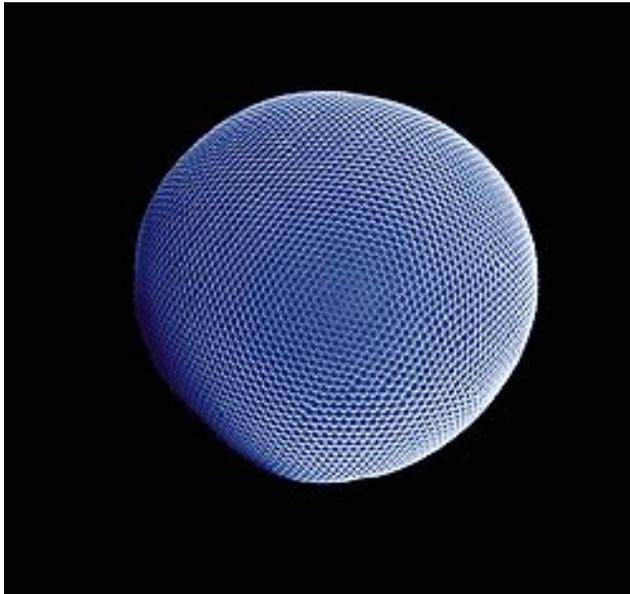
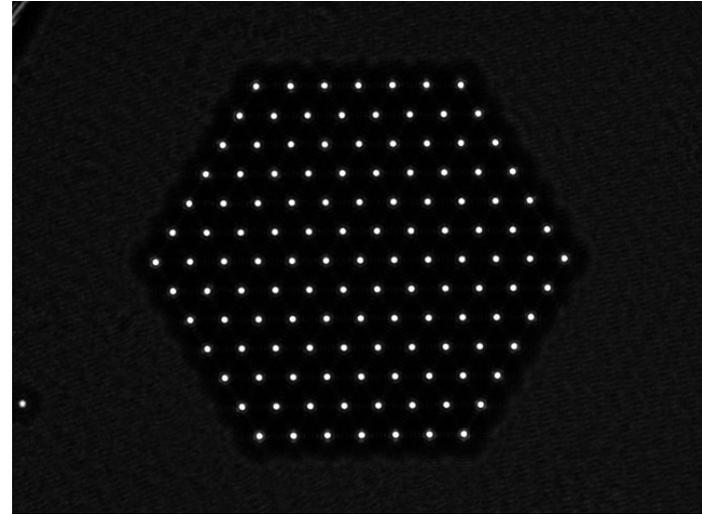
$$\Delta X \Delta P \geq \hbar$$

See the excellent paper: S. Stenholm, *Simultaneous measurement of conjugate variables*, *Annals of Physics* 218, 233-254 (1992).

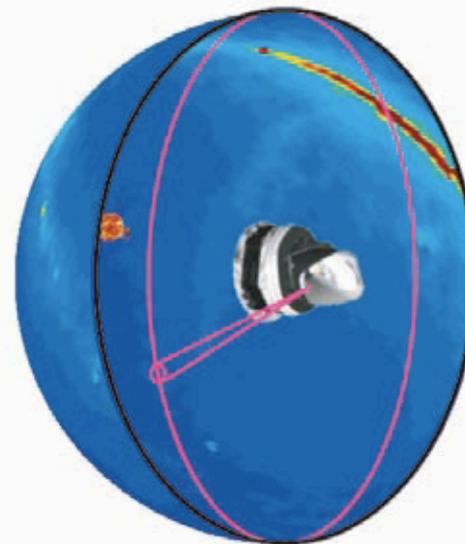
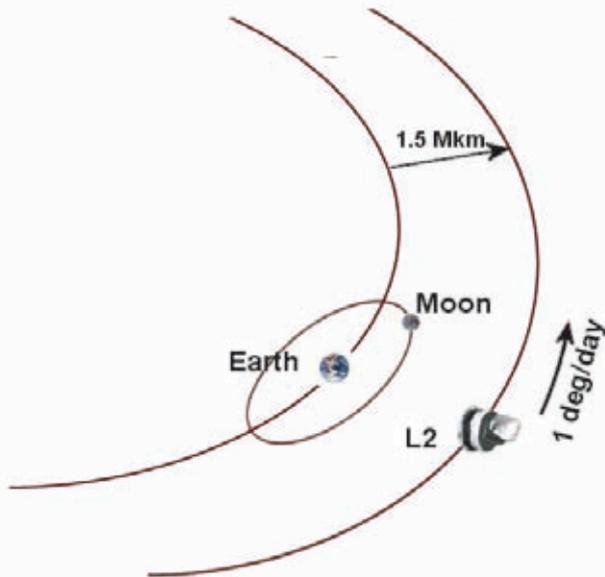
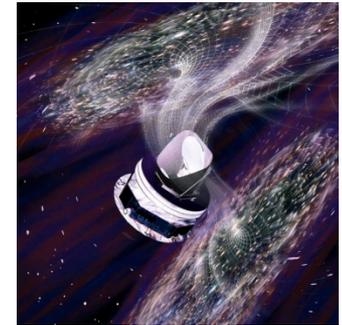
# Detection of partially coherent signal



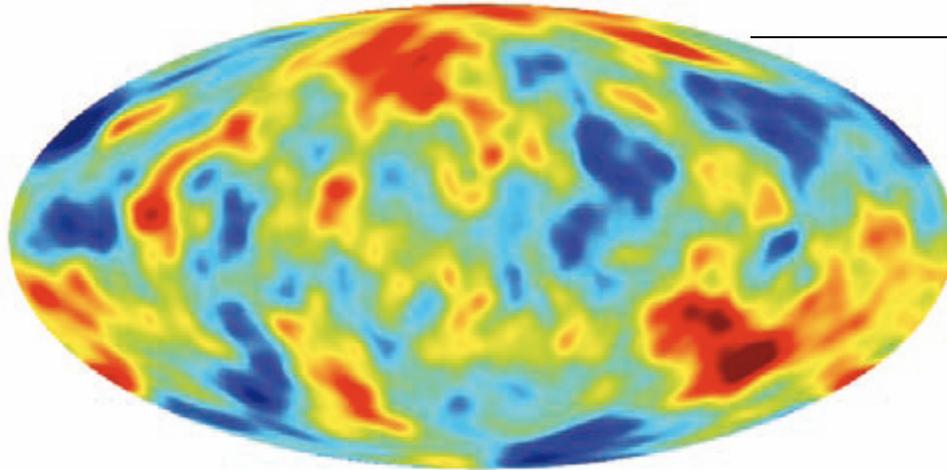
# Hartmann-Shack sensor of the wavefront?



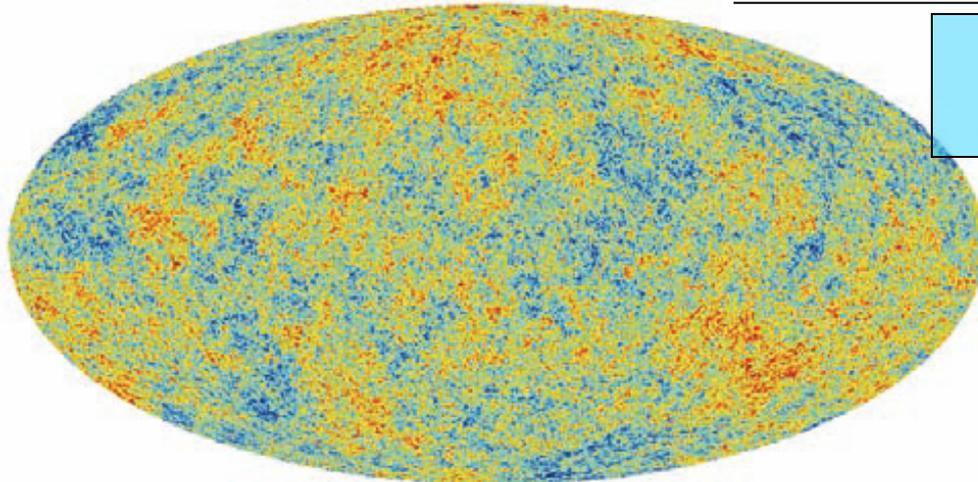
# Planck mission of ESA: scanning of cosmic background radiation



# Temperature anisotropies



COBE-DMR resolution



Planck resolution

