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Quantum Probability and Contextuality

The complete description of the state of a quantum system involves a collection of incompatible measurement contexts [1]. Each context can be seen as a classical random variable, defined by a complete set of commuting observables [2]. But contexts are intertwined: quantum probabilistic models can be described as very specific pastings of Boolean algebras, which are globally non-Boolean and determine a non-Kolmogorovian probability calculus [3, 4]. States are represented by density operators and give place to classical probabilities when restricted to the maximal Boolean subalgebras associated to measurement contexts. Related to the peculiar properties of quantum probabilities, *contextuality* is one of the characteristic traits of quantum theory [5, 6]. Understanding this quantum feature is central for a deeper understanding of the foundations of the theory and the development of quantum information technologies [7, 8]. In this talk we give an introductory exposition of quantum probabilities and contextuality, and analyze these notions under the light of different interpretations of quantum mechanics.

References

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