



Exploring the Boundaries of Quantum Mechanics

Hans-Thomas Elze

Università di Pisa

Ontological states with deterministic dynamics ?

→ CellularAutomaton picture of QM

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PROLOGUE for Nikola Buric (1959–2016)



Three questions leading to **quantum-classical hybrids (QCH)**:

- *Nikola:*

What happens if a **Hamiltonian, nonlinear, chaotic, or complex** system has strictly classical and quantum mechanical parts?

- *Nikola & Thomas:*

Can this help with the measurement problem in QM?

- *Thomas:*

Can a quantum system in contact with a classical one act as a seed spreading quantum features in a classical environment?

⇒ We need a consistent description of **QCH** !!

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Statistical ensembles in the Hamiltonian formulation of hybrid quantum-classical systems

N. Burić,^{*} I. Mendaš, D. B. Popović, M. Radonjić, and S. Prvanović
Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Pregrevica 118, 11080 Belgrade, Serbia
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Hybrid quantum-classical models as constrained quantum systems

M. Radonjić, S. Prvanović, and N. Burić^{*}
Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Pregrevica 118, 11080 Belgrade, Serbia
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Linear dynamics of quantum-classical hybrids

Hans-Thomas Elze^{*}
Dipartimento di Fisica "Enrico Fermi," Largo Pontecorvo 3, I-56127 Pisa, Italia
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On Thu, 11 Jul 2013 18:07:13 +0200 Nikola Buric <buric@ipb.ac.rs> wrote:

Dear Thomas, Yes, I still think that we have proposed a good project. The people that got grants in Serbia all work experimentally on nano-technologies (or at least sell their work as such).

[...]

It is also very hot in Belgrade but...

All the best,

Nikola.

Linearity ...

- Def.: **linearity** $\iff$ dynamics maps states linearly on states.

- Theorem: **QM is linear**.

proofs: E.P. Wigner, V. Bargmann

– assumption: **dynamics does not change** $|\langle\psi'|\psi\rangle|$

proof: T.F. Jordan

– assumption: **no influences without interactions**

“ ... that the system we are considering can be described as part of a larger system without interaction with the rest of the larger system.”

- **Experiments testing linearity, test also these assumptions!**

3 – INTRODUCTION

... reasoning about the *linearity of QM* has led us to CA models

based on three ingredients ...

- **deterministic discrete mechanics** – T.D. Lee *et al.*
→ ex. **minimal time** t and **discrete updating rules**
- **sampling theory** for discrete structures – A. Kempf *et al.*
→ ex. **map**: $CA \leftrightarrow \text{continuum QM} + \text{corrections}$
- **“oscillator representation”** of QM – A. Heslot
→ set $\psi \equiv x + ip$

... the CA models of a particular class show

these quantum features ...

- evolution by **continuous time Schrödinger equation** modified by **l -dependent higher-order derivatives** w.r.t. time
- **l -dependent dispersion relation** for stationary states
- **l -dependent conservation laws** in 1-to-1 corresp. with QM
- **multipartite CA** obeying **Superposition Principle**

quantum features ... (cont.)

- if **space discrete** as well: **Generalized Uncertainty Principle**
based on Robertson's inequality, $\Delta A \Delta B \geq |\langle [A, B] \rangle|/2$

define $X_{mn} := \hbar m \delta_{mn}$, $P_{mn} := -i(\delta_{m,n-1} - \delta_{m,n+1})/2\hbar$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta X \Delta P \geq \left| 1 + \frac{\hbar^2}{2} \langle P^2 \rangle \right|, \quad \Delta P^2 := \langle P^2 \rangle - \langle P \rangle^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{minimal uncertainty } \Delta X_{\min} = \hbar / \sqrt{2}. \quad [\text{David Gigli}]$$

$\Rightarrow$ QM results can be obtained in **continuum limit**, $\hbar \rightarrow 0$.

Hamiltonian Cellular Automata (CA) – “bit machines”

- classical CA with **denumerable** degrees of freedom
- state described by **integer valued** coordinates x_n^α, τ_n and momenta p_n^α, π_n
 $\alpha \in \mathbf{N}_0$: different degrees of freedom
 $n \in \mathbf{Z}$: successive states
- finite differences, $\Delta f_n := f_n - f_{n-1}$
→ **no infinitesimals**!

The CA Action Principle $\triangleleft \bullet = \bullet \triangleright$ Phys. Rev. A 89, 012111 (2014) .

- $\mathcal{A}_n := \Delta\tau_n(H_n + H_{n-1}) + c_n\pi_n$,

$$H_n := \frac{1}{2} S_{\alpha\beta}(p_n^\alpha p_n^\beta + x_n^\alpha x_n^\beta) + A_{\alpha\beta} p_n^\alpha x_n^\beta + R_n(x, p) ,$$

const. c_n , sym. $\hat{S} \equiv \{S_{\alpha\beta}\}$, antisym. $\hat{A} \equiv \{A_{\alpha\beta}\}$, remainder R_n .

- integer valued action:

$$\mathcal{S} := \sum_n [(p_n^\alpha + p_{n-1}^\alpha)\Delta x_n^\alpha + (\pi_n + \pi_{n-1})\Delta\tau_n - \mathcal{A}_n] .$$

- Action Principle: $\delta\mathcal{S} \stackrel{!}{=} 0 \Rightarrow$ CA updating rules,

for $\delta g(f_n) := [g(f_n + \delta f_n) - g(f_n - \delta f_n)]/2$, $\delta f_n \in \mathbb{Z}$, arbitrary

Remarks ... $\Rightarrow R_n \equiv 0$, only harmonic CA consistent . ??

CA equations of motion

- $\delta S \stackrel{!}{=} 0 \Rightarrow$ **finite differences** e.o.m.:

$$\dot{x}_n^\alpha = \dot{\tau}_n (S_{\alpha\beta} p_n^\beta + A_{\alpha\beta} x_n^\beta),$$

$$\dot{p}_n^\alpha = -\dot{\tau}_n (S_{\alpha\beta} x_n^\beta - A_{\alpha\beta} p_n^\beta),$$

$$\dot{\tau}_n = c_n, \quad \dot{\pi}_n = \dot{H}_n, \quad \text{with } \dot{O}_n := O_{n+1} - O_{n-1}.$$

- e.o.m. time reversal invariant, $(n \mp 1, n) \rightarrow (n \pm 1)$
- $\Rightarrow \dot{\psi}_n^\alpha = -i\dot{\tau}_n H_{\alpha\beta} \psi_n^\beta$, **discrete “Schrödinger equation”**
with $\hat{H} := \hat{S} + i\hat{A}$, self-adjoint, $\psi_n^\alpha := x_n^\alpha + ip_n^\alpha$, CA “**time**” n

CA conservation laws

■ Theorem:

For any $\hat{G}$ with $[\hat{G}, \hat{H}] = 0$, ex. **discrete conservation law**:

$$\psi_n^{*\alpha} G_{\alpha\beta} \dot{\psi}_n^\beta + \dot{\psi}_n^{*\alpha} G_{\alpha\beta} \psi_n^\beta = 0 \quad .$$

For $\hat{G} = \hat{G}^\dagger$ (complex integer) $\rightarrow$ **n -indep. two-point fct.:**

$$\Re[\psi_n^{*\alpha} G_{\alpha\beta} \psi_{n+1}^\beta] = \text{const} \in \mathbf{Z} \quad .$$

For $\hat{G} = \hat{1}$: $\Re[\psi_n^{*\alpha} \psi_{n+1}^\alpha] = \text{const}$. [cf. $\psi^{*\alpha} \psi^\alpha = 1$] **Born ?**

■ Ex. **1-to-1 correspondence CA $\leftrightarrow$ QM conservation laws** .

Consistent anharmonic CA $\Leftarrow \bullet = \bullet \Rightarrow$ JPCS 631, 012069 (2015) .

- action with **anharmonic polynomial** terms – e.g., $(x_n^\alpha x_n^\alpha)^2$
 $\Rightarrow$ consistent CA e.o.m., provided

$$\delta g_f(f) := [g(f + \delta f) - g(f - \delta f)]/2\delta f, \quad \delta f \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ arbitrary}$$

generalized by

$$\delta_f g^{(N)}(f) := \sum_k \gamma_k [g^{(N)}(f + m_k \delta f) - g^{(N)}(f - m_k \delta f)]/2\delta f,$$

- such that $\delta_f \hat{=} d/df$:

$$\delta_f g^{(N)}(f) = \bar{g}^{(N-1)}(f), \text{ terms } \propto (\delta f)^j, j > 0 \text{ cancel.}$$

$\Rightarrow$ **discrete nonlinear “Schrödinger equation”** . ??

Towards continuum QM ...

- recall $\psi_n^\alpha := x_n^\alpha + ip_n^\alpha$, CA “time” n
introduce minimal time $l \rightarrow n \cdot l$, physical time?
 $\Rightarrow$ continuum limit, $l \rightarrow 0$, does not work
– integer valuedness $\Rightarrow$ time derivatives diverge!
- construct invertible map:
discrete (integer valued) $\longleftrightarrow$ continuous (differentiable)
– G. 't Hooft
- simultaneously continuous & discrete information
– C.E. Shannon

The Sampling Theorem

- Consider square integrable **bandlimited functions** f :

$$f(t) = (2\pi)^{-1} \int_{-\omega_{\max}}^{\omega_{\max}} d\omega e^{-i\omega t} \tilde{f}(\omega) , \text{ bandwidth } \omega_{\max} .$$

- Shannon's Theorem:

Given $\{f(t_n)\}$ for set $\{t_n\}$ of equidistantly spaced times (spacing $\pi/\omega_{\max}$), function f is obtained for all t by:

$$f(t) = \sum_n f(t_n) \cdot \frac{\sin[\omega_{\max}(t-t_n)]}{\omega_{\max}(t-t_n)} \quad (\text{reconstruction formula}) .$$

- CA “time” $n \sim$ discrete time $t_n := n/$ $\rightarrow$ continuous time t
bandwidth $\omega_{\max} := \pi/$ (Nyquist rate)

Map: discrete CA $\leftrightarrow$ continuous QM

- by Shannon's *reconstruction formula* ...

discrete e.o.m., $\dot{\psi}_n^\alpha = -i\hat{H}_{\alpha\beta}\psi_n^\beta$,

$\longleftrightarrow$ continuous time “Schrödinger equation”:

$$(\hat{D}_l - \hat{D}_{-l})\psi^\alpha(t) = 2\sinh(l\partial_t)\psi^\alpha(t) = -iH_{\alpha\beta}\psi^\beta(t),$$

with $\hat{D}_T f(t) := f(t + T)$.

- $\Rightarrow$ *l-dependent* dispersion relation & conservation laws.*
- $\Rightarrow$ $l \rightarrow 0$ reproduces corresponding QM results.
- $\Rightarrow$ different linear reconstructions $\longrightarrow$ same e.o.m. & conservation laws – wave fct. “cut-off” changes.

Note: l -dependence (continuous description)

- l -dependent constants of motion:

from Theorem on **discrete conservation laws**,

for any $\hat{G}$ with $[\hat{G}, \hat{H}] = 0$ and $\hat{G} = \hat{G}^\dagger$ (complex integer),

$$\Rightarrow \Re[\psi^{*\alpha}(t) G_{\alpha\beta} \psi^\beta(t + l)] = \text{const} \in \mathbf{Z}.$$

- l -dependent dispersion relation:

$$\Rightarrow |E_\alpha| = \arcsin\left(\frac{l\epsilon_\alpha}{2}\right) = \frac{l\epsilon_\alpha}{2} \left[1 + \left(\frac{l\epsilon_\alpha}{2}\right)^2/6 + O((l\epsilon_\alpha)^4)\right],$$

where $\hat{H} \rightarrow \{l\epsilon_\alpha\}$ and, thus, $|E_\alpha| \leq \pi/2l = \omega_{\max}/2$.

What goes wrong with anharmonic CA ...

- by Shannon's *reconstruction formula* ...

discrete $\psi_n \longleftrightarrow \psi(t)$, bandlimited $\sim \pi/l$

discrete anharmonic, e.g., $(\psi_n)^2 \longleftrightarrow \psi_{(2)}(t) = ??$

- $\psi_n = l^{-1} \int dt s_n(t) \psi(t)$, $s_n(t) := \text{sinc}[\pi(t/l - n)]$

- $\psi_{(2)}(t) = l^{-2} \iint dt' dt'' \left[\sum_n s_n(t) s_n(t') s_n(t'') \right] \psi(t') \psi(t'')$,

→ correctly bandlimited, but nonlocal in time.

- $\Rightarrow$ anharmonic CA not describable in a local continuous way
- $\Rightarrow$ no l -dep. CA based nonlinear Schrödinger equation.

The formal solution of discrete CA e.o.m.:

■ recall: $\partial_t \psi(t) = -i\hat{H}\psi(t) \Rightarrow \psi(t) = e^{-i\hat{H}t}\psi(0)$.

■ here: $\dot{\psi}_n = \psi_{n+1} - \psi_{n-1} = -i\hat{H}\psi_n \Rightarrow$

$$\psi_n = \frac{1}{2 \cos \hat{\phi}} \left(e^{-in\hat{\phi}} [e^{i\hat{\phi}}\psi_0 + \psi_1] + (-1)^n e^{in\hat{\phi}} [e^{-i\hat{\phi}}\psi_0 - \psi_1] \right),$$

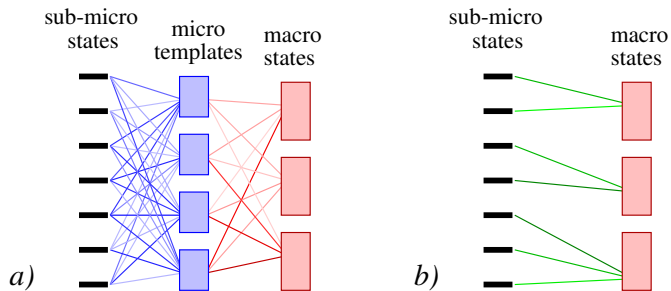
where $2 \sin \hat{\phi} := \hat{H} \Rightarrow -2 \leq l\epsilon_\alpha \leq 2$. !

→ Ex. (in)finite sets of such symmetric integer $\hat{H}$'s.

■ note: solutions **exponential** for $n \rightarrow \infty$, iff $\psi_1 \equiv \psi_0$, ??

$$\Rightarrow \psi_n = (e^{-in\phi} + O(1/n))\psi_0.$$

Let $l \equiv t_{\text{Planck}}$, even for $n \sim 10^{10}$: $t \equiv n t_{\text{Planck}} \sim 10^{-34} \text{ s}$.



G 't Hooft *The Cellular Automaton Interpretation of QM* arXiv:1405.1548

Two-state systems:

- note: $1/l = t_{Planck}^{-1}$ sets **energy scale** for Hamiltonians bounded by $-2/l \leq \epsilon_\alpha \leq 2/l$.
- **now**: $\psi_n = (e^{-in\phi} + O(1/n))\psi_0$, with

$$\phi = \arcsin \frac{\hat{H}}{2} := \arcsin \frac{\vec{m} \cdot \vec{\sigma}}{2}, \quad \vec{m} \in \mathbf{Z}_3, \quad \vec{\sigma}: \text{Pauli's } \sigma_{1,2,3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{H}^2 = |\vec{m}|^2, \text{ eigenvalues } \pm |\vec{m}|, \text{ bounded by } |\vec{m}| \stackrel{!}{\leq} 2$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi = |\vec{m}|^{-1} \arcsin \frac{|\vec{m}|}{2} \cdot \hat{H} =: \hat{H}' = O(1).$$
- with $t \equiv n t_{Planck}$: $\exp(-in\phi) = \exp(-it[\hat{H}'/t_{Planck}])$ **!?**

Magnons (cf. Peierls '56, Feynman '74):

- Consider “ferromagnet” of N two-state components,
e.g., $\uparrow_1 \uparrow_2 \downarrow_3 \dots \downarrow_{N-1} \uparrow_N$, periodic b.c. (1-d, ..., 3-d c.l.)
- $\hat{H} + N := -\sum_{n=1}^N \vec{\sigma}_n \cdot \vec{\sigma}_{n+1} + N = -2 \sum_n (\hat{P}_{n,n+1} - 1)$
 $\longrightarrow$ totally symm. groundstate, $E_0 = \langle c.s. | \hat{H} | c.s. \rangle = -N$.
- lowest exc. state, $\psi = \sum_n a_n \uparrow_1 \uparrow_2 \dots \downarrow_n \dots \uparrow_N$,
i.e., “superposition + dephasing”, $a_n \equiv e^{i\delta n}$, $a_{N+1} \stackrel{!}{=} a_1$
 $\longrightarrow \delta = 2\pi j/N$, $j \in \mathbf{Z}$, $-N/2 \leq j \leq N/2$.

Magnons ... (cont.)

- dispersion relation from $Ea_n = -2(a_{n+1} + a_{n-1} - 2a_n)$,
 $\implies$ energy band: $E = 4(1 - \cos \delta)$, $\delta = 2\pi j/N$.
- set $\delta \equiv kl$, momentum of plane wave, $k = \frac{2\pi j}{Nl}$
 $\longrightarrow$ long wavelength limit: $E \approx 2k^2 l^2 \equiv \frac{k^2}{2\mu} = 2\left(\frac{2\pi j}{N}\right)^2$
- note: dimensionfull energy is $E_j := E/l = 2\frac{(2\pi j)^2}{lN^2}$.
- $\implies$ “coherent superposition + dephasing” (NR model!)
 reduce Planck scale energies $\propto N^{-2}$.

- Common I -dependent aspects of natural CA & QM:
eqs. of motion, conservation laws; observables, admiss. $\hat{H}$
multipartite CA $\leq \bullet = \bullet =$ Int.J.Quant.Info. 14(4), 1640001 (2016)
- Map: CA $\leftrightarrow$ QM based on linear Sampling Theory
... fails for nonlinear CA $\longrightarrow$ alternatives ?
- *Desiderata*:
random / nonunitary aspects ? better: ontological models !!
relativistic / QFT extension ??

Discrete Poisson brackets & CA observables:

- recall: only **variational derivatives** for discrete variables
 $\delta g(f) := [g(f + \delta f) - g(f - \delta f)]/2$, $f, \delta f \in \mathbf{Z}$.
- $\rightarrow$ **define**: $\{A, B\} := \delta_{x^\alpha} A \delta_{p^\alpha} B - \delta_{x^\alpha} B \delta_{p^\alpha} A$.
- for **constant, linear, or quadratic polynomials** A, B , variational derivatives independent of δ_x, δ_p and bracket corresponds to ordinary Poisson bracket, in all respects.
- $\Rightarrow$ CA **observables** can be chosen as **real quadratic forms** in
 $\psi_n^\alpha := x_n^\alpha + i p_n^\alpha$; a closed algebra endowed with $\{ , \}$.
 E.g., $\dot{\psi}^\alpha = \{ \psi^\alpha, \mathcal{H} \}$, with $\mathcal{H} := \psi^{*\alpha} H_{\alpha\beta} \psi^\beta / 2$.