Explaining duality, the "only mystery" of quantum mechanics, without complementarity or "which way" (*welcher-weg*)

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Abstract

Wave-particle duality has been extensively debated from the earliest days of quantum mechanics, for example the historic discussions between Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr [1], to the present. Richard Feynman [2] called it the "only mystery" in quantum mechanics, long after Neils Bohr had offered his widely accepted explanation based on complementarity involving the observation also. Following John A. Wheeler's ingenious delayed choice thought experiment [3] to test observer involvement in interference, it was implemented, with and without entanglement by experimenters, eg [4], [5] and [6] who confirmed observation involvement as predicted by Niels Bohr, but they also revealed the phenomenon of *retro-causality* which begs proper explanation. The criterion of "which way" (*welcher-weg*) that captures the observation involvement is currently widely used in all single photon interference systems.

In this paper a break-through Axiom is presented and justified which (a) Explains duality in interference, *with particle always remaining particle and wave always remaining wave throughout, without wave-particle complementarity or "which way" (welcher-weg) observation* that is the currently accepted mystifying view (b) Shows the equivalence: Coherence and alignment ≡ Interference ≡ No "which way" observation; No coherence or alignment ≡ No interference ≡ "which way" observation (c) Explains Wheeler's delayed choice thought experiment (d) Explains results of experimental implementations of Wheeler's thought experiment which show retro-causality with and without entanglement (e) Explains non-local action at a distance, and (f) Rephrases Albert Einstein's unanswered question "Is quantum mechanics complete?" at a more fundamental level than just duality and non-locality. The new explanation given does not require that the particle (photon) somehow "know" about the test setup or "which way" observation or change its behavior from particle to wave and vice versa as required by currently accepted explanation based on Niels Bohr's complementarity principle and observation involvement. No new assumptions are made, only *a new complete interpretation* of probability which is already a fundamental assumption of quantum mechanics.

The proposed Axiom not only explains duality without complementarity or "which way", it does so with substantial objective clarity that removes unwarranted mysticism that goes beyond physical objectivity. It avoids metaphysical subjectivity that seems to surround certain current perceptions of quantum mechanics. New terms "partial causality" and "total causality" are suggested to properly understand "retro-causality" and "quantum erasure".

Key words: Quantum Mechanics, New Axiom of quantum mechanics, Duality, Interference, Complementarity, Observer, Which-way, Entanglement, Locality, Partial Causality, Total Causality, Retro-Causality, Quantum Erasure.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Though wave-particle duality has been discussed from the earliest days of quantum mechanics, questions remain. For example, recent single photon interference experiments conducted to investigate duality have revealed the weirder phenomenon of *retro-causality* and *quantum erasure* [4], [5], [6] which stretches the understanding of duality which is currently in terms of Niels Bohr's complementarity principle ("which way" particle-like observation destroys wave-like interference pattern), complicated further but still used when entangled photon pairs are involved, and so a better explanation is desired. Proposed by Niels Bohr and refined through many discussions with Albert Einstein [1], the current widely accepted explanation of duality is as follows: Experiments can observe either one or the other of a complementary pair of observables *at a time, not both at the same time*; wave and particle nature of photon (particle) is one such complementary pair. That is, (a) if the experimental setup is for detecting particle, such as with detectors or in some other way in either path, then wave nature (interference) cannot be observed and the particle (photon) travels through the sensed path ("which way" observation), and (b) if the setup is for detecting interference (wave nature), that is, without paths being sensed by detectors or in any other way (no "which way" observation), then particle nature does not hold, and *the particle (photon) travels as a wave through both paths*. Using entanglement, ingenious experimenters have shown that observation at a future time can have retrospective effect (“retro-causality”, “quantum erasure”), but still hold that observation of “which way” destroys interference.

Albert Einstein felt that *the experimental setup to measure a quantity can in principle be independent of the measured quantity and so cannot determine something as fundamental* as *the wave or particle nature of the measured quantity*. Note that here we are talking about not merely the inclusion of states of measuring instrument in the states of overall quantum system comprised of the measured quantity plus the measuring instrument (analogous to the loading or termination effect of measuring instrument in classical networks and systems) which is of course required, but also a more fundamental *wave versus particle behavior of measured object being determined by the measurement system*. All experiments to date confirm Bohr’s point of view. In a multi-path interferometer, the act of observing which path the photon took (*which way*) is thus believed today *to cause the disappearance of the interference pattern*, and so “*which way*” (“*welcher-weg”* in German) has become an accepted analysis and design consideration in multi-path quantum systems. Nevertheless, the notion that somehow the inanimate photon is *cognizant* of the experimental setup, that too in a dynamic way, and indeed in a retro-causal way, is rather unsettling and unconvincing, and so it is worth finding out if there is an explanation without such unbelievable intelligence required of the photon (particle). This mystery has given rise to metaphysical conjectures that somehow the very *intent* of the experimenter (*his or her conscience*) influences the particle’s behavior, some even postulating supernatural influence *from outside space-time itself* (for example see [7]). More generally, early on, Erwin Schrodinger had considered interpreting the probabilistic nature of quantum mechanics to imply that the many trials underlying probability *actually occur simultaneously in multiple universes*, giving rise to the metaphysical concept of *multi-verse* which has been seriously considered by eminent scientists including Stephen Hawking, and discussed by philosophers.

The Axiom proposed and justified in this paper does not use any metaphysical “multiverse” or “conscience” of observer, and offers and substantiates an explanation for duality behavior, *without complementarity or requiring* “*which way*” consideration or any “*knowledge*” on the part of photon (particle) about the experimental setup, and incidentally redeems Albert Einstein’s view that measurement may not necessarily influence wave-particle behavior.

Some of the more remarkable experiments reported on the question of “which way” use entanglement as a carrier of “which way” information, and so our discussions involve entanglement also, which must be understood. Albert Einstein, troubled by the statistical nature of quantum mechanics, suggested a thought experiment in the famous E.P.R. paper [8] (1935) which he co-authored, which predicted *action at a distance* violating the *locality constraint* imposed by the relativistic speed limit of velocity of light, and therefore expressed the doubt: *Is quantum mechanics complete*? Erwin Schrodinger immediately responded [9] affirming that the phenomenon described *necessarily follows from the wave function concept*, and coined for it the term *entanglement*. A hypothesis of non-verifiable *hidden random variables* (as the name implies) to explain entanglement was rendered verifiable by experiment by the landmark inequality test developed by J.S. Bell [10] (1964), improved upon by others for example [11], and studied by experimenters gradually eliminating loop holes, to finally confirm recently [12] (2015) that *there are no hidden variables,* thus confirming action at a distance.

Schrodinger’s wave equation, which defines the evolution of wave function $\psi(\underline{r}, t)$ in space $\underline{r}$ and in time t, is central to the relationship (duality) between the particle and its wave function. In particular we note that
(a) *The operator interpretation of physical quantities links non-physical wave function with physical quantities*.
(b) *The wave function evolves* ***causally*** *with time from initial conditions.*
These observations are true in general. For electron with mass m in potential field V ($\underline{\mathbf{r}}$) Schrodinger’s equation is

$$i\cdot\hbar\cdot\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\,\psi(\underline{\mathbf{r}}, t) = H\cdot\psi(\underline{\mathbf{r}}, t) \qquad (1a)$$

where $H = (\underline{\mathbf{p}}\cdot\underline{\mathbf{p}}/(2\cdot m) + V)$ is the Hamiltonian = total energy E, $\underline{\mathbf{p}}$ is momentum, $i = \sqrt{(-1)}$ and $\hbar$ $(=\frac{h}{2\cdot\Pi})$ is the reduced Planck’s constant. With *operator interpretation* of $\underline{\mathbf{p}}$ as $\underline{\mathbf{p}} = -i\cdot\hbar\cdot\nabla_r$ where $\nabla_r = (\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\cdot\underline{u}_x + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}\cdot\underline{u}_y + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\cdot\underline{u}_z)$, $\underline{u}_x$, $\underline{u}_y$, $\underline{u}_z$ spatial unit vectors, and with *operator interpretation* of energy E as $i\cdot\hbar\cdot\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$, from $E = (\underline{\mathbf{p}}\cdot\underline{\mathbf{p}}/(2\cdot m) + V)$ we get

$$i\cdot\hbar\cdot\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\,\psi = -(\hbar^2/2m)\cdot\nabla_r^2\,\psi + V\psi \qquad (1b)$$

This *operator assumption* is implied in “derivation” of Schrodinger’s equation starting with $\psi = e^{-i\cdot(E\cdot t - \underline{r}\cdot\underline{p})}$ as can be readily seen from partial derivative of ψ with respect to time and space variables.

For photon m = 0 and so (1b) is not applicable. Using relativistic relationship $E^2 = m(0)^2 \cdot c^4 + \underline{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{p}} \cdot c^2$ where rest mass m(0) does not appear in the denominator, with m(0) = 0, the *operator interpretation* results in

$$\delta^2\psi/\delta t^2 = c^2 \cdot \nabla^2{}_r\psi \qquad (2)$$

which is the quantum mechanical wave equation for photon, whose mathematical form is same as that of electromagnetic wave equation of classical electrodynamics, and so has similar solutions that propagate in space. Note that mathematically either (1) or (2) results in *causal evolution* of ψ in space-time, *from initial conditions of forward motion* which result in ψ *evolving only forward in time* from the initial time of *creation* (components of backward propagation cancel out due to initial condition of forward motion, as in any wave motion) until *annihilation*.

As discussed in the next section, complex wave function ψ represents a probability amplitude, with $|\psi|^2$ a probability density, and so it is a *non-physical* purely mathematical entity. H or E and **p** in (1) or parameter c in (2) contain the *physical parameters* of the system (medium), and therefore ψ propagates in space and time with velocity determined by the physical parameters. *That is, non-physical wave function ψ propagates in space and time as per physical parameters, obeying locality constraint of speed limit of velocity of light*. Why this is so (*why Schrodinger's equation works*) has not yet been explained satisfactorily by anyone, though the fact that it works has been confirmed by all experiments to date. *This is the real unanswered question of quantum mechanics*, also the one that often stumps students newly introduced to quantum mechanics before they get used to the fact that it works. We shall refer to this question as the real unanswered question of Albert Einstein, to be discussed later in section X.

II OUR APPROACH

Any approach to explain duality requires the understanding of the relationship between the particle and its wave function. Louis De Broglie and Erwin Schrodinger initially thought that the wave function was actually a physical wave associated with the particle, which led to problems because wave function is *inherently* complex and not real. This difficulty was removed by Max Born in 1926 by *interpreting* the physical wave as *complex probability amplitude* ψ, *the wave function*. Born states in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech [13] (italics by author) "… an idea of Einstein's gave me the lead. He had tried to make the duality of particles - light quanta or photons - and waves comprehensible by *interpreting* the square of the optical wave amplitudes as probability density for the occurrence of photons. This concept could at once be carried over to the ψ-function: $|\psi|^2$ ought to represent the probability density for electrons (or other particles)". Note that though the wave function is thus recognized as non-physical complex probability amplitude, it is viewed as *an interpretation of a physical wave*, especially for photon whose wave nature is more evident as physical electromagnetic wave, while for electron, particle nature is more evident as non-zero physical rest mass. This view of non-physical wave function as somehow connected to some physical wave entity has persisted to this day, *requiring co-location (coincidence) of particle and its wave function,* changing from particle to wave and vice-versa depending on measurement, and *this is at the bottom of the duality issue mystery*. The proposed justified Axiom *removes this co-location (coincidence)* and thereby explains, as shown in this paper, duality without complementarity or "which way". For this new development, we make and justify the following key observation.

Given that the wave function $\psi(\underline{\mathbf{r}}, t)$ of the particle is the complex probability amplitude for the particle to be located at space-time point ($\underline{\mathbf{r}}$, t), it follows that if $|\psi(\underline{\mathbf{r}}_1, t_1)|^2 < 1$, then ($\underline{\mathbf{r}}_1$, t_1) is only one of many space-time points where the particle may be located, which means that *the physical particle cannot be co-located (coincident) with its wave function unless* $|\psi(\underline{\mathbf{r}}_1, t_1)|^2 = \delta(\underline{\mathbf{r}} - \underline{\mathbf{r}}_1, t - t_1)$, *the unit Dirac delta function at* ($\underline{\mathbf{r}}_1$, t_1). It may be noted that this condition is usually satisfied only at the instant of creation of the particle-wave function such as when a photon is emitted by an atom, and at the instant of annihilation of the particle-wave function such as at total absorption of photon at detection. Here, *the point* $\underline{\mathbf{r}}_1$ representing the position of the particle may be taken as the centroid of its physical interaction cross section, which is exceedingly small compared to the extent and separation of the paths along which wave function propagates in various interference configurations discussed in connection with the duality issue. This key observation holds in general, illustrated in Figure 1 for a few typical basic configurations:

(a) Reflection or transmission of a single photon at a surface:

Given the physical parameters which determine probability of reflection (r) and transmission (t), when $|r| < 1$ ($|t| < 1$), photon's location prior to measurement cannot be assumed to be only along one or the other path, but wave function propagates along *both paths* defining the probabilities for the physical photon.

(b) Emission of a single nuclear radiation particle from an atomic nucleus:

Probability of detection for uniform conditions in all directions is $\Omega/(4\pi)$, where Ω is solid angle subtended by detector aperture at the nucleus. Until detection, the particle can be anywhere on the spherical wave function, not at any particular point.

(c) Single photon two slit interferometer with beam splitters which may be dynamically changed:

For a single photon passing through the slits, knowing the reflection/transmission characteristics of the beam splitters and the geometry of the interferometer arrangement, the probability of detection at a detector in array D (interference pattern), and probability of detection by D_1 and D_2 are all known, even when configuration is changed dynamically at some time t_1 when either beam splitter (or both) is inserted in or taken out. Until detection, it cannot be assumed that the path of the particle (*which reaches only one detector*) is to D_1, D_2 or to a detector in array D, whereas *the path of (non-co-located, non-coincident) wave function is always through both slits and to all detectors, defining various probabilities.*

NOTE: The widely accepted definition of probability is the Von Mises definition as the $\mathrm{Lim}_{N\to\infty}$ (n/N) where n is the number of times the outcome occurs in N *hypothetical trials*, see [14] p 8-9. Thus the propagation of wave function along all possible paths is *hypothetical*, corresponding to various hypothetical trials.

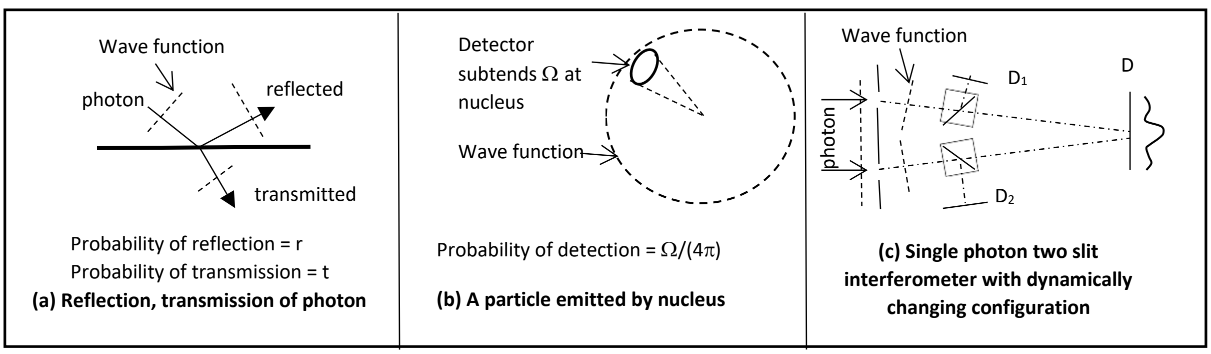


Figure 1. Co-location (coincidence) of particle and its wave function not possible when $|\psi| < 1$ until detection.

Because propagation of wave function is determined by physical parameters as pointed out earlier, the phenomenon of reflection or refraction of wave function at physical surfaces is governed by interactions with atoms defining the surface and the media. See for example [15] R.P. Feynman "QED the strange theory of light and matter" for the geometrical construction of resultant wave function amplitude as due to wavelets from each point (atom) of the surface (medium). Note that as long as there is no absorption, that is, as long as the amplitudes of wave function components in such reflections and refractions (or in general in any medium of propagation or scattering phenomena) remain non-zero, the wave function continues to propagate. However, the state of the wave function, such as the state of polarization of photons, or of spin of electrons, may be altered due to such interactions with the medium. Thus the wave function, which is non-physical probability amplitude, *carries with it the probability of the state of the particle due to probable interactions of the physical particle with the physical medium*.

Because probability is defined axiomatically as a frequency measure based on *hypothetical trials* (see for example Papoulis [14] page 7), for any given configuration which may vary with time, the wave function ψ can be propagated *hypothetically* along all possible paths to determine various probabilities, *without actual propagations*. *Which probable path / outcome actually occurs is found by the measurement*. In the classical picture the selection of outcome is usually associated with some random variable prior to measurement. However, in the quantum picture, in the context of entanglement it has been demonstrated that there is no random variable selection prior to measurement (no hidden variable), and *it is only the measurement that finds the outcome*. A pair of particles are entangled if their joint probability density is not factorable as product of individual probability densities, and there is thus a *constraint* of conditional probability, such as a constraint of polarization between two polarization-entangled photons. In such cases, the outcome found by measurement *which must satisfy the entanglement constraint between the two, must necessarily involve measurement of both particles, which may occur at different space-time points, regardless of temporal sequence of the two measurements.* For clarity, let us call the measurement of the two entangled particles as *one joint measurement*, completed only when the last one is measured (to satisfy entanglement constraint). Note that for an entangled pair, *one* joint measurement finds *an* outcome *for both in the pair* out of many probable pair-outcomes. There are *no* two separate pair-measurements, and so there is really no "erasure" of a prior measurement.

Joint measurement and the co-location (coincidence) of entangled particle pair with joint wave function is illustrated in Figure 2. Joint wave function magnitude squared is a unit Dirac delta function at Source S at creation time t_0, and Dirac delta function at detector D_1 at time t_1 and at detector D_2 at time t_T, overall integral of both being 1.

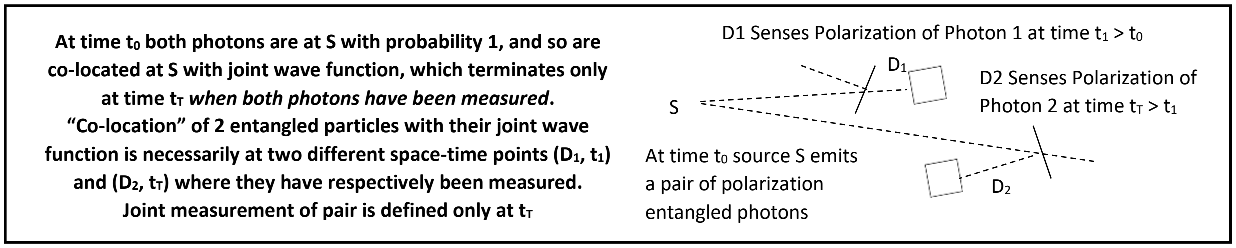


Figure 2. Joint measurement of entangled pair is defined only when both particles have been measured. Co-location (coincidence) with joint wave function only at source S and detectors D_1 and D_2, not elsewhere.

There is another interesting consequence of entanglement: Because of conditional probability of the entangled pair, interference between *two pairs* of entangled photons (particles in general), *must necessarily involve both pairs fully, not just one particle from each pair*. This gives rise to the phenomenon of so-called *retro-causality* as illustrated in Figure 3. See [5] for details of an experiment. Referring to Figure 3, two high energy photons from a coherent source S are converted by adjacent atomic systems S_1 and S_2 in a nonlinear medium into two pairs of entangled low energy photons [p_{11}, p_{12}] and [p_{21}, p_{22}], the nature of conversion being such that there is angular separation between paths of p_{11} and p_{12}, and same angular separation between paths of p_{21} and p_{22}. Photons p_{11} and p_{21} are thus spatially aligned so that they have temporal and spatial coherence needed for interference when they are detected at detector array D_1 at time t_1. At time $t_2 > t_1$, beam splitter BS sends photons p_{12} and p_{22} randomly and separately to either array D_{21} or array D_{22}. At time $t_3 > t_2$, photons p_{12} and p_{22} are accordingly detected at either array D_{21} or D_{22}. If *both* p_{12} and p_{22} arrive at D_{21} or at D_{22} there is interference between them because of temporal coherence and spatial alignment. But if one arrives at D_{21} and the other at D_{22}, then, due to lack of spatial alignment there can be no interference. Because of joint probability due to entanglement, interference at D_1 at time t_1 is *possible only when there is also interference between the counterparts at D_{21} or at D_{22}*, and is not possible when there is no interference at D_{21} or at D_{22}. *That is, an event at $t_2 > t_1$ seems to influence the event at t_1. Retro-causality!* After we formulate our Axiom, we shall show as its consequence that the observed retro-causality is apparent (partial), not real (total).

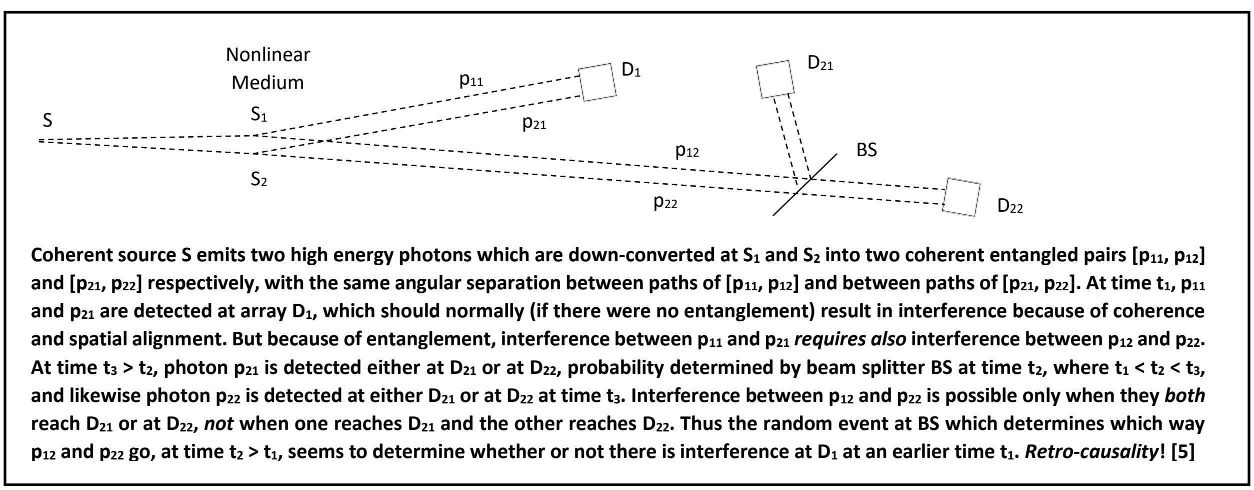


Figure 3 Interference between two pairs of entangled photons – apparent retro-causality.

Because wave function is non-physical, its state can *potentially* change instantaneously without being constrained by laws of physics such as the speed limit (speed of light) imposed by theory of relativity. This results in action at a distance to be discussed later. However, the *physical process* that alters the state due to some interaction takes non-zero time. It appears that the duration of physical interaction of a photon with an electron can be as short as 100 atto-seconds (10^{-16} second) [18]. Thus physical change from one polarization state of photon to another due to electron interaction is not exactly instantaneous, but merely delineates stages in the evolution of wave functions ψ according to (1) or (2). *But its propagation determined by Schrodinger's wave equation (which contains physical parameters as discussed earlier) is at speed less than or equal to speed of light*. Thus we need to distinguish between *propagation of wave function (according to (1) or (2) for example) which satisfies locality constraint,* and *its state changing almost instantly everywhere (including "collapsing" at detection) without locality constraint*.

With the above background and justification, we now state the Axiom, followed by applications to explain duality, retro-causality with and without entanglement, quantum erasure and non-local action at a distance. *Its novelty lies in that it completely does away with complementarity and "which way" (welcher-weg) criterion, and also does not require any "observer" in a measurement process or any "intelligence" on the part of the particle*.

III. THE AXIOM ((a), (b) and (c) are already well known, (d) is NEW)

(a) Wave function ψ is not a physical entity, it is a purely mathematical probability construct whose probability basis must necessarily include all possible paths from the time it is generated (t_0) until it is terminated (t_T), propagation along all possible paths governed by the physical parameters in the (Schrodinger's) wave equation.
(b) Measurement finds the particular state of the system out of the many probable states, *undefined until measurement*, potentially instantly changing wave function everywhere (action at a distance), limited by the particle's measurement interaction time which is exceedingly small.
(c) For an N-entangled system (N entangled particles, N is usually 2) t_0 is the earliest time when the joint wave function is generated and t_T is the last termination time when the last particle is fully measured, and joint wave function fully "collapses" to a particular end state. The particular measured N-entangled state is defined only when all N-entangled particles are fully detected, until which time it remains essentially undefined, due to pending entanglement constraint.
(d) (NEW) *Wave function ψ can be co-located (coincident) with its particle only at space-time points where probability (wave function magnitude squared) is 1* ($|\psi|^2 = 1$)*, that is, a unit Dirac delta function. At all other space-time points where* $|\psi|^2 < 1$ *wave function cannot be co-located (coincident) with its particle. In N-entangled system co-location (coincidence) applies to each entangled particle with its part of the joint wave function, possible only at respective space-time points where magnitude squared is respective delta function, the overall integral being unity.*

This Axiom suggests the following steps to simplify the explanation and accommodation of duality in quantum systems, without complementarity or "which way" observation criteria:
Step1: By inspection, locate space-time points (usually source at instant of creation and detectors at instant of termination) where $|\psi|$ is unity, Dirac delta function. For entangled system termination is when all entangled particles are detected fully. At all other space-time points co-location of wave function ψ and its particle is not possible, and so wave function ψ can be propagated hypothetically along multiple paths *independent of particular path of the particle*.
Step2: Propagate ψ along all possible paths, without "which way" observation or complementarity considerations, taking into account any entanglement constraints, and determine probabilities for various possible measurement outcomes for the particle. For each outcome, the particle follows that particular path, with that particular probability. Because wave function is propagated along all possible paths including any dynamical changes, *there always exists a particular path* for the particle from the source all the way to the particular detector for the particular measurement outcome. For entangled system, measurement must be consistent with entanglement constraint regardless of time sequence of the measurements of individual particles. That is, the outcome defined by measurement is *one particular entangled set (pair for N=2)* out of many probable sets (pairs for N=2) satisfying the entanglement constraint.

For applications of the Axiom we begin with Young's double slit experiment with single photons, because it has been the center of discussion for a long time, and to review the well-established requirement of temporal coherence and spatial alignment for interference. We shall show the following equivalence in all experiments discussed below:

Coherence and spatial alignment ≡ Interference ≡ indistinguishable paths, no "which way"
No coherence or spatial alignment ≡ No interference ≡ distinguishable paths, "which way"

Here “spatial alignment” means not only alignment of paths, but also alignment of polarizations. That is, traditional coherence and alignment suffice, “which way” criterion is *not necessary*, better avoided as it opens the door to unwarranted metaphysical conjectures, considerable confusion and mystery.

In each example, we shall first discuss duality, which is the main topic of this paper, rendered simple and straight forward by our new Axiom, followed by causality (such as retro-causality) when relevant. Though causality is secondary to the main topic of this paper, nevertheless it arises in the configurations, and so must be discussed.

IV YOUNG’S DOUBLE SLIT EXPERIMENT WITH SINGLE PHOTONS

Already introduced earlier, we shall discuss this important experiment in some more detail regarding coherence, alignment and the “which way” question. Referring to Figure 4 which shows a functional set up for purpose of discussion (can be implemented in many ways to sense the path) fringes are observed only when the *coherence* length (= $c \cdot T_c$ where T_c is *coherence time* of the source and c is velocity of light for the medium of the paths) is longer than the optical path difference between the two paths, and the angle between the two paths at detector array is sufficiently small, to ensure *well aligned* superposition. When there is polarization, alignment must include also the alignment of polarizations. In the quantum mechanical picture coherence and spatial alignment is that of the wave function associated with the photon (particle).

A single photon generates just one data point on the interference pattern. Successive single photons overlay successive points on successive interference patterns. For this overlay not to be smeared, the wave functions of successive single photons must have *mutual coherence* (with time delay adjusted), for which the coherence time of the source must be longer than the frame time over which interference is recorded. This condition is usually readily met with laser sources and mechanically stable configurations. Using functionally similar set ups it has been experimentally confirmed (using polarizers to identify paths instead of beam splitter / detector) that *either* D_A *or* D_B *or one* of EMCCD detectors goes off per pulse (single photon per pulse reaching detector). EMCCD data collected over a number of pulses (for those pulses when neither D_A nor D_B goes off) shows interference pattern.

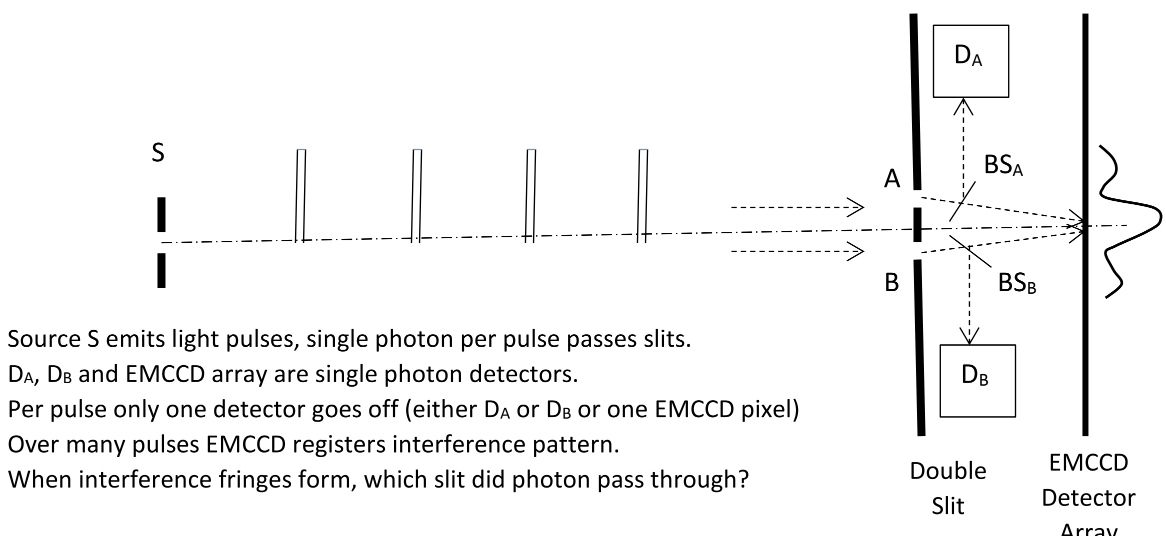


Figure 4. Young’s double slit experiment with single photons; “which way?” question

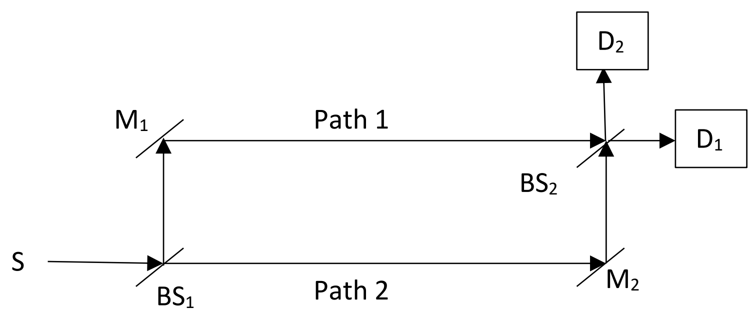
The “which way” question is: When interference fringes form (by superposition of both paths) which path did the single photon take? This question consumed Bohr and Einstein [1], who considered various ways to sense “which way” without affecting the interference pattern, such as using mechanical recoil of hypothetical free-moving slits placed before the physical slits (instead of detectors D_A and D_B), but failed due to the uncertainty principle that precludes sufficiently accurate sensing of both energy (frequency, wavelength) and momentum (direction) of photon. The end result was Bohr’s complementarity principle that both interference and “which way” cannot be measured at the same time. Many experiments and implementations of Wheeler’s thought experiment (discussed later) used polarization to sense the path to avoid the problem of uncertainty principle. Note that when a polarizer is used to mark the path, say horizontal for path A and vertical for path B, the orthogonality (*lack of alignment*) destroys interference.

This "which way" question does not arise if we accept our axiom which breaks the co-location (coincidence) of wave and particle at points where probability is not 1, which is true for either path, and so wave function and particle cannot be co-located on either path. The non-physical wave function goes through both slits defining various probabilities, the physical photon goes through only one slit, its path *always* leading to the detector that goes off.

Note that: "which way" ≡ no alignment of the paths to (D_A and EMCCD) or (D_B and EMCCD) ≡ No interference
No "which way" ≡ alignment of the two paths at EMCCD ≡ Interference.

V. WHEELER'S DELAYED CHOICE THOUGHT EXPERIMENT

In 1982, J.A. Wheeler proposed an ingenious *delayed choice* thought experiment [3] to test Bohr's explanation of duality, by *dynamically changing the setup after the photon committed to a path*. Referring to Figure 5, when BS_2 is in place there is interference, D_1 (constructive interference) registers counts and D_2 (destructive interference) does not. When BS_2 is removed, there is no interference, both D_1 and D_2 register counts. That is, according to complementarity / "which way" observation, BS_2 in place ≡ interference, photon travels as a *wave* through *both* paths. BS_2 removed ≡ *particle*, photon travels *either* through path1 *or* path2. What happens in the case of delayed choice, by which BS_2 is present (absent) when photon passes BS_1 so that photon is committed to both paths as wave (one path as particle), but is then removed (inserted) before it reaches the detectors?



S: Source; M_1, M_2: Ideal mirrors.
BS_1, BS_2: 50% ideal beam splitters.
D_1, D_2: Ideal single photon detectors.
Paths are such that constructive interference occurs at D_1, destructive interference at D_2.
But BS_2 is inserted or removed *after* photon has passed BS_1.

Figure 5 Wheeler's delayed choice thought experiment

By our Axiom, co-location (coincidence) of wave function and particle is not possible in either path 1 or path 2 because probability at output of BS_1 is not 1 for either path, and so wave function goes through both paths, defining various probabilities of outcomes, while particle photon goes through only one path, a particular outcome selected by measurement out of many probable outcomes. Probabilities defined by wave function indicate that there is interference when BS_2 is in place and no interference when BS_2 is not in place *at the instant of measurement, regardless of which path the photon took and when*, agreeing with experimental results discussed below.

Note: BS_2 in place ≡ alignment of both paths at D_1 and D_2 ≡ constructive / destructive interference ≡ no "which way";
BS_2 removed ≡ no alignment of paths ≡ no interference ≡ "which way".

Using orthogonal polarizations as path identifiers for the two paths, and with the availability of extremely fast electro-optic modulator (EOM) devices, it became possible to electro-optically implement the role of insertion or removal of beam splitter BS_2 or its equivalent in Wheeler's delayed choice thought experiment. Among several remarkably ingenious experimental realizations of Wheeler's thought experiment, we shall discuss Roch et al [4] (without entanglement) and Yoon-Ho Kim et al [5] and Ma et al [6] (with entanglement) which as reported confirm current explanation (complementarity, that "which way" observation destroys interference) and we shall explain the same results by our Axiom, totally without using complementarity principle or "which way" observation criterion.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF WHEELER'S DELAYED CHOICE THOUGHT EXPERIMENT BY ROCH [4]

Referring to the simplified schematic in Figure 6 (see [4] for details) source S is a single N-V (Nitrogen-Vacancy) color center in a diamond nanocrystal, which when excited by a laser pulse emits a single linearly polarized photon within 45 ns of the narrow 800 ps excitation pulse, enabling precision timing of the photon emission. The photon goes through a polarizing beam splitter PBS in BS_1, whose H and V orthogonal polarization outputs (single indivisible photon goes to *either* H *or* V channel) are separated into two 48 meter long paths, path1 for H and path2 for V. After 48 meters these two paths enter BS_2 consisting of a half wave plate followed by a polarization beam splitter PBS which combines the two (V and H) paths, followed by an electro-optic-modulator (EOM) which when turned on rotates plane of polarization by $\pi/4$, followed by a Wollaston Prism (WP) which separates *its* H and V polarizations which then terminate in single photon counting detectors D_1 (count N_1) and D_2 (count N_2) respectively. N_c is coincidence count. Phase difference ϕ is introduced between the paths to D_1 and D_2 by tilting PBS in BS_2, by varying which interference pattern can be scanned. The transit time of 160 ns to traverse 48m allows practical implementation of dynamic change at EOM while photon is in midflight (in path1 or path2), ensured by the timing and 48m separation. EOM is turned on or off by Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG) close to BS_2, so that there is no chance of its random output being "known" to the photon when it passes through BS_1 where path1 or path2 is selected (randomly according to reflection / transmission probabilities in PBS in BS_1).

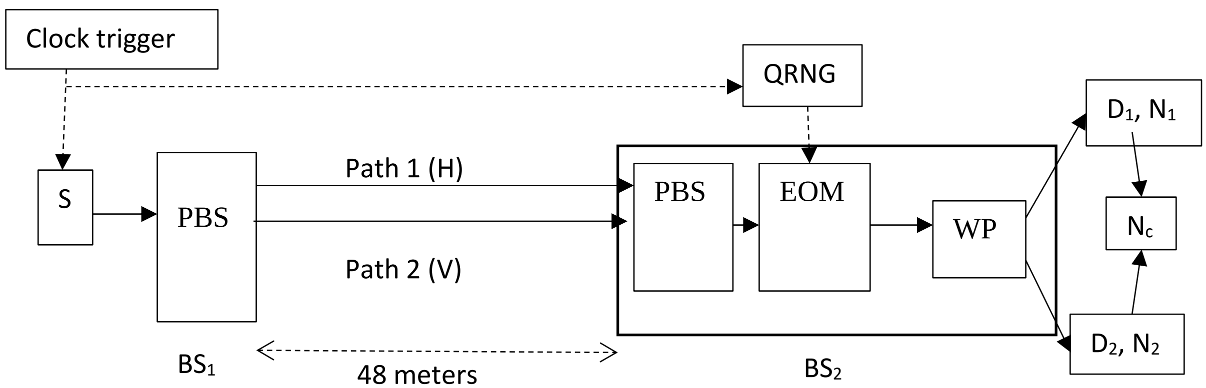


Figure 6. Simplified schematic of
Implementation of Wheeler's delayed choice thought experiment by Roch et al [4]
(with permission from OSA)

EOM off: H and V go to D_1 and D_2 respectively (verified by blocking one channel in the 48m path), "which way" is known, D_1 and D_2 counts are same, do not vary with ϕ, no interference.
EOM on: No "which way", rotated H and V are mixed by WP, with $\phi = 0$ polarization planes aligned in D_2 (counts) and counter-aligned in D_1 (no counts), that is, interference. Counts vary sinusoidally with ϕ, D_2 out of phase with D_1.

When EOM is turned on or off when photon is in midflight, according to complementarity principle it must change from particle to wave or from wave to particle retrospectively, that is, *there is retro-causality*.

We can readily explain these results using our axiom, without complementarity or "which way" observation. By inspection we see that until detection $|\psi| < 1$ for either path, and so wave function and particle cannot be co-located. The non-physical probability amplitude wave function travels along both H and V channels till it terminates upon detection either by D_1 or D_2. Let the photon be on one channel, say H channel, inside the interferometer (about 12 to 25m from BS_1) when EOM is switched, say from off to on. When the wave function (and photon) reach EOM, say with ϕ =0, the probability amplitude is accordingly 1 for D_2 and 0 for D_1, and so the photon goes to D_2. Note that there is path for the single photon to go from the H channel to D_2 because of the projection in PBS in BS_2 when EOM is on (equivalent to inserting BS_2 in Wheeler experiment in Figure 2). If, on the other hand EOM were switched from on to off, when the wave function (and photon) reach EOM, the wave function accordingly sets probability of 0.5 for D_1

and 0.5 for D_2, and the photon goes to D_1 (if it were on V channel it would go to D_2). Thus the physical photon does not change its behavior particle to wave or vice versa in midflight, it simply follows the probability density determined by the non-physical wave function which travels on both paths *at all times*. Photon follows only one path. Note that because (due to removal of assumption of co-location of wave function and particle at all times) photon remains particle all along. Also, by this Axiom *there is no retro-causality*.

Note that: EOM on ≡ *alignment* of both planes of polarizations ≡ interference ≡ no "which way";
EOM off ≡ *no alignment* of the two planes of polarizations ≡ no interference ≡ "which way".

VII. DELAYED CHOICE "QUANTUM ERASURE" EXPERIMENT WITH ENTANGLED PHOTON PAIRS BY YOON-HO-KIM [5]

This ingenious experiment by Yoon-Ho Kim et al (see [5] for details) dramatically demonstrates "quantum erasure" using two entangled photon pairs, each pair denoted by "signal" photon and its entangled companion "idler" photon, with idler photons used to "erase" the "memory" of signal photons regardless of the time sequence. Figure 7 shows (simplified) this implementation of Wheeler's delayed choice thought experiment using entangled photon pairs.

Each pump laser pulse excites close-by atoms say A and B in BBO crystal, each of which emits by cascade decay a pair of entangled photons 1 and 2 in two different specific directions, that is, entangled pair 1_A and 2_A from atom A, and entangled pair 1_B and 2_B from atom B. Excitation is such that 1_A and 1_B are mutually coherent, and by entanglement so are 2_A and 2_B. Photons 1_A and 1_B are focused by lens on single photon counting detector D_0, which is on a stage that can be moved laterally, introducing path difference between 1_A and 1_B at the detector. Because of coherence and alignment, interference pattern is observed as the stage is moved, *conditional on what happens to their entangled partners 2_A and 2_B*, because as explained earlier an entangled pair of particles share the same non-factorable joint wave function, and because interference here is between the two joint wave functions of A and B pairs, the interference of entangled pairs A and B *requires* interference of 1_A and 1_B *as well as* interference of 2_A and 2_B.

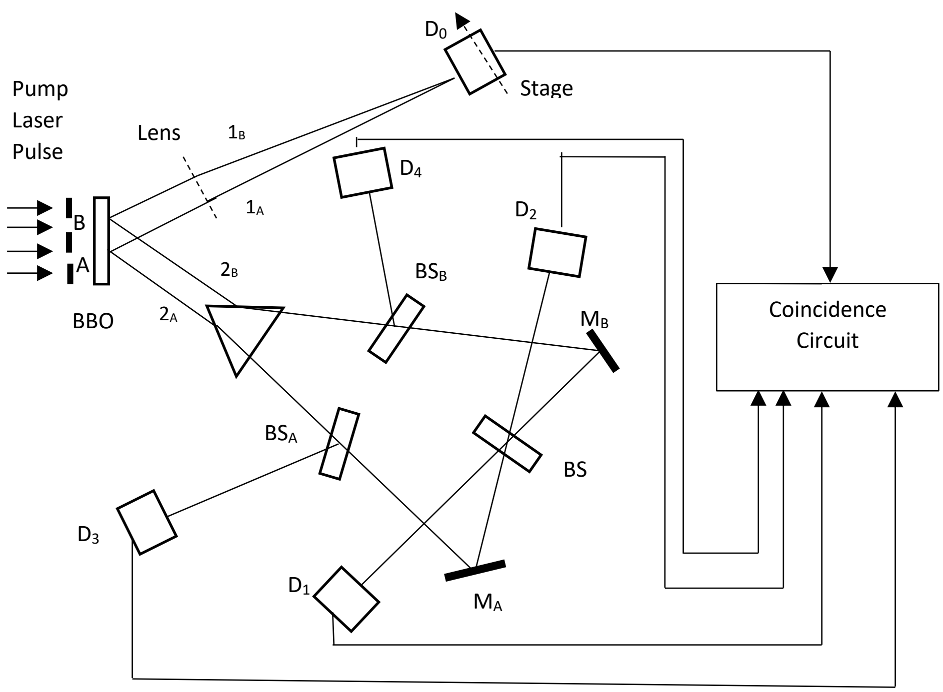


Figure 7. Schematic of Wheeler's Delayed Choice Thought Experiment Implemented using entangled photon pairs by Yoon-Ho Kim et al [5]
(with permission from APS)

Beam splitter (50%) BS_A sends 2_A either to detector D_3 or towards mirror M_A each with 50% probability. Likewise, 2_B is sent by BS_B either to detector D_4 or to mirror M_B each with 50% probability. After reflection from M_A and M_B, photons 2_A and 2_B are combined in beam splitter BS and sent to detectors D_1 and D_2, where they can interfere.

D_3 and D_4 unambiguously provide the "which way" information (path A or path B) whereas detections at D_0, D_1 and D_2 do not provide "which way" information. When 2_A goes to D_3 or when 2_B goes to D_4, clearly there is no spatial alignment between 2_A and 2_B and so there can be no interference, whereas at D_1 and D_2 there is spatial alignment between 2_A and 2_B and so there can be interference. The path length to D_0 is much shorter than path lengths to D_1, D_2, D_3 and D_4, so that detection at D_0 occurs much earlier than at D_1, D_2, D_3 and D_4. With time stamps adjusted for this difference, the coincidence circuit measures coincidences between (D_0, D_1), (D_0, D_2), (D_0, D_3) and (D_0, D_4) for each position of the stage on which D_0 is mounted. Plotted versus stage position, coincidences (D_0, D_1) and (D_0, D_2) show interference, while coincidences (D_0, D_3) and (D_0, D_4) do not show interference. Thus when "which way" is sensed by D_3 or D_4 there is no interference, and when "which way" is not sensed (by D_0, D_1 and D_2) there is interference, confirming Bohr's complementarity view of duality and "which way" observation. Moreover, because detection at D_0 occurs much earlier than at D_1, D_2, D_3 or D_4, interference (or not) is determined *retrospectively*. In this experiment, both "which way" and interference are sensed at every time sample, but as ("which way", no interference) and (interference, no "which way") pairs. This experiment thus dramatically demonstrates what appears to be *retro-causality*. It is as if past "memory" of 1_A and 1_B is *erased*, and so this is called a "*quantum eraser"* experiment.

We now apply our Axiom to explain the results of this experiment without "which way" complementarity consideration or any "erasure" of photons' "memory". Because $|\psi| < 1$ for the paths, wave function and particle cannot be co-located (coincident) on the paths; wave functions travel all possible paths defining various probabilities for detections at D_0, D_1, D_2, D_3 and D_4, with interference of the two joint wave functions for (D_0, D_1) and (D_0, D_2) combinations due to path alignments at D_0, D_1 and D_2, and no interference of the two joint wave functions for (D_0, D_3) and (D_0, D_4) combinations due to lack of path alignment at D_3 and D_4. Photons remain particles throughout and wave functions travel all possible paths at all times, there is no wave-particle dynamic change. This explains experimental results without complementarity or "which way" observation.

Note that: Alignment at (D_0, D_1) and (D_0, D_2) ≡ interference ≡ no "which way"
No alignment (at D_3 and D_4) ≡ no interference ≡ "which way"

Note that for a given entangled pair, measurements of the two particles, say of 1_A at D_0 at time t_1 and of 2_A at D_1, D_2 or D_3 at time t_2, with $t_2 > t_1$, are done only once, that is, measurement at time t_1 at D_0 for this sample is *not repeated again such as at time t_2*. Therefore there is really no erasure of the value measured at time t_1 at D_0. What is observed is the entanglement constraint of a *single pair-measurement*, not erasure and redefining. Thus "erasure" is a bit misleading. However, there is what appears to be retro-causality *if* we take the measurement at time t_2 as the defining measurement, but which itself is questionable because in the *correlation* of the two measurements at times t_1 and t_2, there is no justification to consider one or the other as the defining measurement, as this pair of measurements constitutes *one* measurement of the entangled pair. We shall discuss this causality issue further later on.

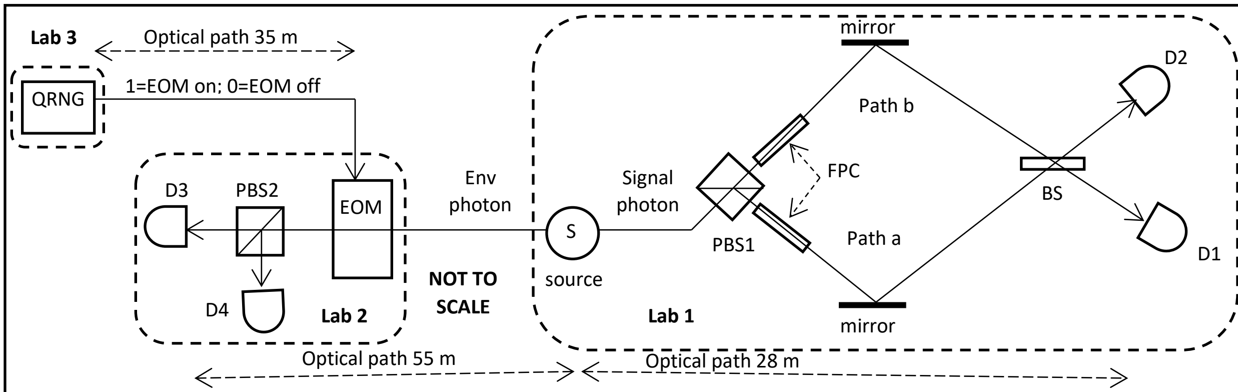
VIII. CAUSALLY DISCONNECTED CHOICE "QUANTUM ERASURE" EXPERIMENT BY XIAO-SONG MA [6]

In recent years, experimenters have conducted and reported many increasingly complex ingenious experiments, sparing no efforts to explore "which way" complementarity and "retro-causality" or "erasure" in single photon interference phenomena. Xiang Song Ma et al (see [6] for details) used a space link to dramatically increase the time difference between the two measurements of an entangled pair of photons to "causally disconnect" the two measurements. As explained in Figure 8 with a simplified schematic, this impressive experiment (repeated successfully with separation of Labs 1 and 2 increased to 144 km using free space link) clearly demonstrated that (a) "which way" knowledge does influence the particle vs wave duality behavior confirming Bohr's complementarity explanation (b) the effect is retrospective as time t_I when interference is measured is much earlier than time t_P of polarization projection of environment photon whose state carries the "which way" information (linear polarization =

"which way" versus circular polarization = no "which way"), and also the so-called "quantum erasure" is shown. We shall now explain the same experimental results without using "which way" or complementarity considerations.

By inspection we see that wave function amplitude (probability) is less than 1 for either path (path a or path b), and so physical signal photon (particle) *cannot be co-located (coincident)* with its probabilistic non-physical wave function at any point in either path. Physical particle (single photon) travels only one path for any given measurement sample, while probabilistic wave function travels both paths a and b to cover all probabilities, demonstrating interference if there is coherent superposition *with alignment of polarization* when combined at beam splitter BS.

When environment photon is linearly polarized, due to spatial orthogonality of $|H>_e$ and $|V>_e$ there is no interference when wave function components via paths a and b are superposed at D_1 or D_2. However, when environment photon is circularly polarized, there is alignment of polarization in the superposition at D_1 or D_2, and so there is interference, whose pattern is observed by varying the optical path difference between paths a and b by tilting polarizing beam splitter PBS_1.



At time t_E source S in "Lab1" emits a pair of polarization-entangled photons, "signal" photon and "environment" photon.
Entangled polarization state $(|H>_s|V>_e + |V>_s|H>_e)/\sqrt{2}$ is converted by polarization beam splitter PBS1 and fiber polarization controllers FPC into two different interferometer path states $|a>_s$ and $|b>_s$ and recombined by beam splitter BS and sent to detector D1 in phase and out of phase to detector D2, the polarization state hybridized as $|\psi>_{se} = (|b>_s|V>_e + |a>_s|H>_e)/\sqrt{2}$, path $|a>_s$ thus identified with $|H>_e$ and path $|b>_s$ identified with $|V>_e$. Thus, when environment photon is linearly polarized, its state (measured by D3/D4) provides "which way" information, and orthogonality of $H>_e$ in path a and $V>_e$ in path b, does not permit interference at D_1 and D_2 due to lack of alignment. However, if the polarization state of environment photon were changed from linear $|H>_e$, $|V>_e$ to right circular $|R>_e = (|H>_e + i\,|V>_2)/\sqrt{2}$ and left circular $|L>_e = (|H>_e - i\,|V>_e)/\sqrt{2}$ where $i = \sqrt{(-1)}$, brought about by turning on EOM (electro-optic-modulator) in Lab2 which introduces the necessary phase difference between $|H>_e$ and $|V>_e$), then $|\psi>_{se} = ((|a>_s + i\,|b>_s)|L>_e + |a>_s - i\,|b>_s)|R>_e))/2$, and "which way" is no longer known from the polarization state of environment photon (measured by D4 and D3), while the transmitted and reflected circular polarizations at BS align, resulting in interference at D1 and D2, scanned by varying the path difference between a and b by adjusting PBS1. This confirms the role of "which way" in complementarity explanation of duality.
Moreover, the path length from S to detectors D3 and D4 in Lab2 is much shorter than the path length to detectors D1 and D2 in Lab1, and so it appears that there is "quantum erasure" (retro-causality), with EOM controlled by random numbers generated by QRNG (quantum random number generator), arranged such that there is no possibility of communication of its information to D1 and D2.
The timings satisfy $t_E < t_I < t_P$, where t_E is the time of emission (entanglement) at S, t_I is the interference measurement time at D1 and D2, t_P is the polarization projection time of environment photon (when its polarization either remains H/V or changes to R/L state).
This impressive experiment was successfully repeated with the separation of Labs 1 and 2 increased to 144 km using free space link.

Figure 8. Simplified schematic of "Quantum erasure with causally disconnected choice" by Xiao-Song Ma [6]
(with permission from PNAS)

For elliptical polarization there is partial interference, ranging from theoretical zero for plane polarization to theoretical 100% for circular polarization, varied by varying EOM voltage (see Figure 4 in [6]), which is interpreted in [6] as a complementarity inequality,

$$I^2 + V^2 \leq 1 \qquad (3)$$

where I (range 0 to 1) is a measure of particle nature and V (range 0 to 1) is a measure of fringe visibility, wave nature. Our approach explains (3) entirely on the basis of alignment of polarization of the wave function components at D_1 or D_2, without resorting to complementarity principle or "which way" considerations.

Note that there is *only one* measurement at D1 / D2 at time t_I corresponding to the *one* measurement at D3 / D4 at time t_P, and *together they constitute only one measurement of the entangled pair*; it is not as if measurement at D1 / D2 changes from its measured value at time t_I to some other value at time $t_P > t_I$. Therefore, there is really no "erasure". One may regard the measurement at t_P to be the defining one and so propose *retro-causality* at t_I, but there is no justification to take one or the other as the defining measurement; *both together* constitute *one* measurement of the entangled pair which satisfies the entanglement constraint. The state of quantum system *remains undefined until measurement, in this case the one measurement of the entangled pair completed only at time t_P*. We shall discuss this causality issue further in section IX.

Note also that: Alignment of polarization (at D_1 or D_2) ≡ interference ≡ no "which way"
No alignment of polarization (at D_1 or D_2) ≡ no interference ≡ "which way"

Thus, "which way" is *not necessary* to determine whether or not there is interference, it suffices to analyze the propagation of wave function along all possible paths for all possible (random) parameters of the system, very similar to classical analysis using coherence and alignment requirements for interference.

IX. E.P.R. NON-LOCAL "ACTION AT A DISTANCE", ENTANGLEMENT AND CAUSALITY

We have established above that contrary to current thinking, observation of "which way" *does not cause* particle to change to wave, and that interference can be explained without "which way" considerations. The experiments discussed raised very interesting *other* causality questions of "retro-causality" and "quantum erasure". To shed some light on this, we shall review causality in entanglement in a basic well known configuration.

As shown in Figure 9, a pair of polarization-entangled photons *a* and *b* generated by source S at time t_0 travel in two different spatial directions, and the state of polarization **a** of *a* and **b** of *b* are measured by respective instruments, at A at time $t_A > t_0$ corresponding to distance $L_{SA} = c_A \cdot t_A$ where c_A is velocity of light in channel SA and at B at time $t_B > t_A$ corresponding to distance $L_{SB} = c_B \cdot t_B$. Because there are no hidden variables [10, 11 and 12], we know that polarizations of *a* and *b* remain *undefined* until measurement. The question now is: *what constitutes measurement of an entangled pair?*

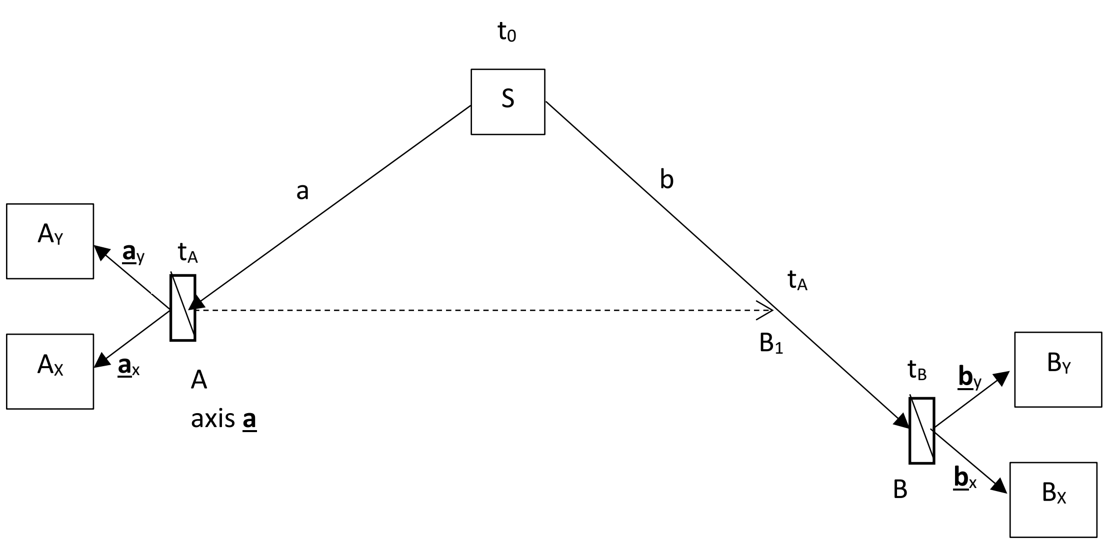


Figure 9: E.P.R. thought experiment using polarization-entangled photons

Early on, *it was assumed* that the first measurement at time t_A defined the whole measurement, at which time *b* was *thought* to become *instantly* polarized consistent with **a**, at point B_1 at distance L_{SB1} from S, $L_{SB1} = c_B \cdot t_A < L_{SB}$. Treating the measurement **a** at A as the *cause* and **b** as its *instantaneous effect* at B_1 and noting that distance from A to B_1 is greater than zero and no information was passed via S (no hidden variables) and moreover experimenters had made sure that distances AB and AB_1 are so large as to put B_1 and B outside the light cone of A (light cone defines points reachable at speed of light), it was seen that the effect is *non-local* with respect to A, *faster than speed of light* (hence the EPR paradox). However, there is no justification for assuming that polarization **b** is *defined* at time t_A, because **b** is *measured* only at time t_B, and so *there may be a possibility that its measurement is incomplete at time* t_A.

The only correct (experimentally verified) statement we can make is that the measured *pair* of polarizations **a** and **b** satisfy the entanglement constraint. Thus we may need to regard the *pair* of entanglement-consistent measurements at times t_A and t_B as *one* measurement. It is not as if measurement at time t_A is the cause (its effect on *b* non-local), nor as if measurement at time t_B is the cause (its effect on *a* non-local and retro-causal with erasure of its value at time t_A). Because **a** is measured *only once* (at time t_A), there is really no "*erasure*" of prior measured value.

Neither measurement (at t_A or t_B) *is the cause of the other*; *both are part of the same measurement pair*, their constraint caused by entanglement at time t_0. In this view the *real cause* of all observed data *is the entanglement* at time t_0. In this *larger picture* which is substantiated by results of all reported experiments, locality and causality are satisfied because from the source S which *causes* entanglement at time t_0 the joint wave function travels at speed of light to A reaching at time t_A and also at speed of light to B reaching it at time t_B.

On the other hand, if one (conventionally) *chooses* measurement **a** at time t_A to be the cause and **b** as its instantaneous effect, then locality is clearly violated, or if one (unconventionally) *chooses* measurement **b** at time t_B as the cause, then there is retro-causality, and also non-locality. We may call these scenarios of causality as *partial causality* because entanglement at t_0 is totally ignored as an additional, indeed original, cause. If however entanglement at t_0 is also recognized as a cause, then we have a two-input (entanglement at t_0 AND measurement **a** or **b**) single output (**b** or **a**) causality, which we may call *total causality*. A better total causality picture may be to consider *entanglement* at time t_0 as the cause and measurement of the *entangled pair* (**a** at time t_A and **b** at time t_B) as its effect.

It is clear that entanglement certainly *changes* the classical view of causality as events arranged along a time axis with cause always preceding its effect, and *replaces* it with the quantum mechanical view of causality with the effect of entanglement at time t_0 felt at *two different future time points* t_A and t_B which need to be regarded as a *single effect*, the underlying mechanism being conditional joint probability density created at the time of entanglement. Entanglement thus *changes* the causal order (effect at *two future* instants of time instead of one), but *does not totally eliminate causal order*. There are other interesting discussions of quantum causality (see for example [18], [19]).

ENTANGLEMENT SWAPPING

It has been demonstrated (see for example [20]) that: Given a pair of particles (A_1, A_2) entangled at time t_0, then at time $t_1 > t_0$ if one of them (say A_1) and a third particle B are brought together *to the same space-time point with full coherence and alignment*, then there exists a *non-zero probability* that the pair (A_1, B) gets entangled, in which case A_2 gets un-entangled. This phenomenon is called *entanglement swapping*. In such cases also our method (Axiom) can be applied, taking into account the change in the entanglement constraint at time t_1.

X THE UNANSWERED FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

The fundamental assumption of quantum mechanics, that physical reality is explained in terms of complex mathematical probability amplitudes which are recognized by all to be non-physical, which the proposed Axiom interprets in a more complete way, leaves the following *single* fundamental question unanswered:

Why is physical reality explainable in terms of non-physical purely mathematical probability amplitudes?

That it explains reality is not sufficient, the question is "*why?*" This question, which existed from the earliest days of quantum mechanics, rephrases at a more general fundamental level (not just action at a distance or duality discussions with Bohr) Albert Einstein's question in the EPR paper: *Can quantum mechanical description of physical reality be considered complete?* Until this fundamental question (assumption) of quantum mechanics is satisfactorily explained, we have to agree with Albert Einstein and regard quantum mechanics as incomplete. Even if we agree that the universe is fundamentally probabilistic and not deterministic, the question remains as to why this probability comes about from complex probability amplitudes in Schrodinger's wave equation that relates non-physical mathematical probability amplitudes to real physical quantities – an inexplicable combination of non-physical with physical.

XI CONCLUSIONS, DISCUSSION

1. We have demonstrated, to the best of our knowledge for the first time, that duality can be explained without invoking complementarity or the effect of observation ("which way").
2. We have achieved this remarkable result by proposing and justifying a more complete statement of the probability that is fundamental to quantum mechanics, making no new assumptions, in the form of a new justified Axiom:
Particle and its wave function $\psi(\underline{\mathbf{r}}, t)$ cannot be co-located at space-time points $(\underline{\mathbf{r}}_k, t_k)$ where $|\psi(\underline{\mathbf{r}}_k, t_k)| < 1$, and can be co-located only at space-time points where $|\psi(\underline{\mathbf{r}}_k, t_k)| = \delta(\underline{\mathbf{r}} - \underline{\mathbf{r}}_k, t - t_k)$, the Dirac delta function.
This decouples the particle from its wave function propagating on multiple paths, as it must, to define all possible probabilistic outcomes, while particle always travels along only one path, one of the many probable measurement outcomes in a given configuration which may change dynamically.
3. We have shown that in interference experiments reported to demonstrate the effect of "which way" observation,

Coherence and alignment (including alignment of polarization) ≡ interference ≡ no "which way"

No coherence or alignment (including alignment of polarization) ≡ no interference ≡ "which way"

Thus, "which way" observation is redundant and unnecessary. Traditional analysis of coherence and alignment applied to wave function suffices. This greatly simplifies analysis and design of multi-path quantum systems and also avoids unnecessary confusion involving "conscience" of observer and other misleading mystical metaphysical conjectures.
4. We have noted that the inequality $U^2 + V^2 \leq 1$ where V is a measure of "wave nature" and U is a measure of "particle nature" is explainable as due to orthogonality of alignment (interference) and no alignment (no interference).
5. We have suggested a clearer understanding of causality in entanglement by (a) correctly including the act of entanglement itself as a cause (not to be confused with hidden variable because the variable is still undefined until measurement) which *always precedes its effect* on the *pair* of measurements which *together* must always be regarded as *a single measurement* in spite of space-time separation, because entanglement constraint *links them together*, and we distinguish this as "*total causality*" that obeys conventional causality and (b) regard currently viewed retro-causality as "*partial causality"* (because it excludes the act of entanglement) that may not obey conventional causality.
6. By doing away with complementarity and "which way" observation to explain duality, this paper redeems the view of Albert Einstein that measuring instruments cannot influence the fundamental wave – particle behavior (not to be confused with the requirement that the states of measuring system must be included in the states of the overall quantum system, analogous to the loading effect of measuring instruments in classical analyses): Wave always remains wave, and particle always remains particle.
7. All issues are reduced to a single unanswered question that already existed from the beginnings of quantum mechanics: "*Why (not how) physical reality is correctly described by non-physical purely mathematical probability amplitudes?"* which, until answered, justifies Albert Einstein's question: *"Is quantum mechanics complete?"*

This unanswered question is inherent in the *interpretation* of physical quantities as "operators" in Schrodinger's wave equation (and equivalently in Heisenberg's algebraic formalism), operating on the non-physical purely mathematical wave function, the complex probability amplitude. That the universe is fundamentally probabilistic and not deterministic is not the issue, because there is no justification for it to be deterministic, and in fact it makes better sense that it is probabilistic, because allowing many probable outcomes is more general than insisting on only one outcome. Also, when a measurement is made, it is not as if the measurement has *caused* the outcome, it is simply (and correctly) that the measurement has *measured* the outcome as the name itself implies. A single single-photon measurement does not shed much light, as multiple single-photon measurements are needed to establish the correlations that define the relationships; multiple single-photon measurements yield the same result only when there is no other probable outcome possible.

As explained in this paper, the conventional view of causality, that the cause always precedes its effect on the axis of time, remains valid in the quantum picture if we (correctly) regard entanglement as the cause and the subsequent *pair* of measurements (linked together by entanglement constraint but separated in space-time) as its *single* effect, as both measurements *always* have to be considered together, and as there is no repeat of either measurement. This remains true even when entanglement is swapped at some point in time, after which the entanglement constraint simply changes as between the new pair of particles.

XIII REFERENCES

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