


Article

Superposition Principle and Born's Rule in the Probability Representation of Quantum States [†]

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Abstract: The basic notion of physical system states is different in classical statistical mechanics and in quantum mechanics. In classical mechanics, the particle system state is determined by its position and momentum; in the case of fluctuations, due to the motion in environment, it is determined by the probability density in the particle phase space. In quantum mechanics, the particle state is determined either by the wave function (state vector in the Hilbert space) or by the density operator. Recently, the tomographic-probability representation of quantum states was proposed, where the quantum system states were identified with fair probability distributions (tomograms). In view of the probability-distribution formalism of quantum mechanics, we formulate the superposition principle of wave functions as interference of qubit states expressed in terms of the nonlinear addition rule for the probabilities identified with the states. Additionally, we formulate the probability given by Born's rule in terms of symplectic tomographic probability distribution determining the photon states.

Keywords: entanglement; interference phenomenon; superposition of quantum states; quantum tomograms

1. Introduction

The superposition principle of quantum states, identified with the wave functions introduced by Schrödinger [1], is the fundamental property of quantum systems. Its formulation provides the possibility to associate with two wave functions corresponding to the two pure states of the system, the third function which is an arbitrary linear combination of the two wave functions. A property of the quantum world is that this combination also corresponds to a physical state of the system. An analogous formulation takes place for two state vectors in a Hilbert space and the linear combination of these vectors [2]. The foundation of quantum mechanics and the role of superposition principle were also discussed for quantum states [3,4], which are associated with the density matrices of density operators acting in the Hilbert space, introduced in [5,6]. The foundations of quantum optics were developed in connection with coherence properties of the electromagnetic-field states in [7,8] as well as in [9].

The aim of this paper is to demonstrate how such a phenomenon as interference of quantum states, described by the superposition principle of complex wave functions, is considered in the probability representation of quantum mechanics [10–21]. In the probability picture, the interference is described by the nonlinear addition rule of the probabilities describing the superposed states; the rule provides the probabilities describing the superposition state, and this corresponds to the nonlinear addition rule of the projectors. We demonstrate this rule on an example of the superposition of qubit states.

The superposition principle describes the interference phenomenon in quantum mechanics. Since the density operators $\hat{\rho}_{\psi_1} = |\psi_1\rangle\langle\psi_1|$ and $\hat{\rho}_{\psi_2} = |\psi_2\rangle\langle\psi_2|$ provide the expression for the density

operator of superposition state $|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$, where vector $|\psi\rangle$ is a linear combination of vectors $|\psi_1\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle$, the superposition principle can be formulated as an addition rule of the probabilities (quantum-state tomograms). We provide explicitly an example of such addition rule for a particular system, namely, for the spin-1/2 particle or the two-level atom.

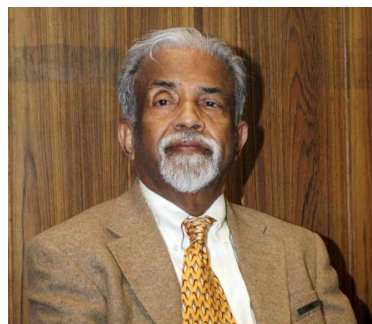
The other goal of this paper is to formulate Born's rule for probabilities given by an overlap of two state wave functions in the form of expression providing the probability $P_\psi(\varphi) = |\langle\psi|\varphi\rangle|^2$ as a function of probabilities determining the states given by the density operators $\hat{\rho}_\psi$ and $\hat{\rho}_\varphi$. The result obtained shows that such a complete quantum phenomenon as the interference of wave functions can be formulated by applying only classical tools like probabilities used in classical statistics.

This paper is organized as follows:

Section 2 is ad memoriam of Roy Glauber and George Sudarshan, where we give a short review of their fundamental results in quantum physics. In Section 3, we provide a brief review of the scientific results of our colleague Viktor Dodonov, in connection with his 70th anniversary. In Section 4, we discuss the qubit-state density matrix in the probability representation using classical-like probability distributions of dichotomic variables [22]. Section 5 is devoted to the superposition principle in the probability representation, while the quantum suprematism picture of qubit states is presented in Section 6 and Born's rule is formulated as a nonlinear addition rule of probabilities in Section 7. We discuss quantum tomography of continuous variables and quantum tomography of coherent states in Sections 8 and 9, respectively. Born's rule for oscillator states are considered in Section 10. Finally, our results and prospectives are given in Section 11.

2. Ad Memoriam of Roy Glauber and George Sudarshan

Last year we suffered great losses. Professor Roy J. Glauber and Professor E. C. George Sudarshan, founders of quantum optics, passed away in 2018. We are extremely sad about this. (Ad Memoriam of Roy Glauber and George Sudarshan was also presented in the talks of Margarita A. Man'ko at the 26th Central European Workshop on Quantum Optics {CEWQO} (Paderborn University, Germany, 3–7 June 2019) [23] and the 18th International Symposium "Symmetries in Sciences" (Gasthof Hotel Lamm, Bregenz, Vorarlberg, Austria, 4–9 August 2019) [24] and will be published in the *Journal of Russian Laser Research* (2019) and the *Journal of Physics: Conference Series* (2020), respectively.)



**Ennackal Chandy George
Sudarshan (Texas University)
1931–2018**

These distinguished scientists made famous discoveries in the foundations of quantum physics that provide the possibility today to raise quantum optics and quantum mechanics to a level of understanding such that quantum technologies can now be developed. The operation of such devices as lasers is based on understanding the coherence properties of radiation and realizing how to achieve the conditions for obtaining such properties.



Roy Jay Glauber
(Harvard University)
1925–2018

In 1963, the notion of the coherent state of electromagnetic-field oscillations as well as the terminology “coherent state” of an arbitrary oscillator were introduced. Roy Glauber and George Sudarshan simultaneously published the papers [7,8] where the properties of coherent states were discussed. These publications are cited in the majority of papers where quantum optics and quantum information technologies are discussed.

The general linear positive map of the density matrix to the other density matrices for finite-dimensional systems was presented in the form [25], which later on was generalized in [26] for arbitrary systems. In addition, we should point out that the new evolution equation for open quantum systems, which generalizes the Schrödinger equation for the wave function and the von Neumann equation for the density matrix considered in the case of unitary evolution to the case of nonunitary evolution, was obtained in [27,28] and called the GKSL equation.

The pioneer scientific results obtained by these distinguished researchers play an important role in developing quantum optics. Studies of the properties of quantum states, especially the coherence and squeezing phenomena, correlations, unitary evolution, and the evolution of the electromagnetic fields in the presence of dissipation are based on the original results of Glauber and Sudarshan. All applications of quantum optics discussed in connection with the development of quantum technologies, motivated by the attempts to construct quantum computers and quantum information devices, are based on the theoretical notion and foundations of quantum mechanics associated with the results obtained by Glauber and Sudarshan.

A specific phase-space quasidistribution representation of quantum states, which employs the basis of coherent states, was introduced independently by Glauber and Sudarshan—it is called the Glauber–Sudarshan P -representation. This representation plays an important role in discussing the properties of quantum systems analogously to the Wigner quasidistribution function [29] and the Husimi–Kano quasidistribution [30,31]. These famous contributions play an important role in the foundations of quantum optics and quantum information, and in developing future quantum technologies.

Substantial developments in laser physics were made at the Lebedev Physical Institute in Moscow by Nikolay G. Basov, who won the Nobel Prize in 1964 together with Aleksandr M. Prokhorov and Charles H. Townes due to their revolutionary work in the invention of masers and lasers (as well as laser physics based on quantum mechanics and quantum optics). The official formulation reads that the Nobel Prize was given “for fundamental work in the field of quantum electronics, which has led to the construction of oscillators and amplifiers based on the maser–laser principle”.

Roy J. Glauber received the Nobel Prize in 2005 “for his contribution to the quantum theory of optical coherence”, along with John L. Hall and Theodor W. Hansch who received the Nobel Prize “for their contributions to the development of laser-based precision spectroscopy, including the optical frequency comb technique”. Roy Glauber made an important contribution to the nuclear physics

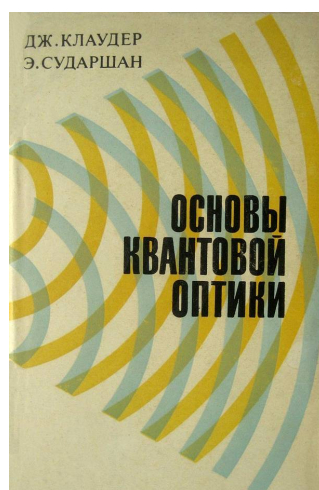
providing a rigorous analysis of the scattering theory. Additionally, the important results were obtained by Glauber in the theory of correlation functions in quantum optics. The correlation functions play a substantial role on the analysis of classical and quantum phenomena in radiation fields.

Professor Glauber exercised substantial influence on the development of quantum optics in European Scientific Centers—he would invite young researchers to Harvard University for collaborations, among which we can list Fritz Haake from Germany, Paolo Tombesi from Italy, Vladimir Man'ko from the Soviet Union, and Stig Stenholm from Finland.

Since the entire scientific life of M. A. Man'ko was connected with the Lebedev Physical Institute, she was a witness and participant in the collaboration of Roy Glauber with Lebedev scientists. The results of these collaborations were published in such series as the Proceedings of the Lebedev Institute [32] and Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Physics [33]. Among the four Nobel-prize papers, there was a paper by G. Schrade, V. I. Man'ko, W. P. Schleich, and R. Glauber [34], where the collaboration of Harvard University, the Lebedev Institute (Moscow), and University of Ulm was mentioned.

As for George Sudarshan, the great scientist, we are happy to recall that he was in Moscow many times due to the International Workshops on Squeezed States, Group Theoretical Colloquium, and the International Conference on Squeezed States and Uncertainty Relations. Particular mention should be made of the University Federico II of Naples and especially Professor Giuseppe Marmo who enabled many European scientists to collaborate with Professor Sudarshan in Italy.

There exist other representations, like the probability representation of quantum states [35–39], where states are identified with fair probability distributions. The state superposition is expressed in this representation using the addition rule for the probabilities. We are happy to let the readers of the Journal of Russian Laser Research know that famous results concerning the study of entanglement phenomenon, quantum tomography, and superposition principle in terms of density operators were published by Sudarshan with coauthors in [3,4,40,41].



Foundations of Quantum Optics – Russian edition.

The famous book—*Foundations of Quantum Optics* [9], written by John Klauder and George Sudarshan and translated into Russian—is an excellent textbook on the foundation of quantum theory; it is used in all universities of the world, including universities in Russia, by students and professors to obtain basic knowledge in developing new quantum technologies in the future.

The results of Glauber and Sudarshan mentioned above provided the theoretical basis in studies of the evolution of open quantum systems, theory of quantum channels, and applications of these approaches in future quantum technologies. Therefore, we are extremely pleased to be able to witness these deep international connections today, and we show below a kaleidoscope of pictures taken

recently and a long time ago connected with participants of the ICSSUR series (with Professor Young Suh Kim, the Founder) and the CEWQO series (with Professor Jozsef Janszky, the Founder), as well as some other meetings.

3. Professor Viktor V. Dodonov: On the Occasion of His 70th Birthday

On 26 November 2018, Viktor V. Dodonov, a recognized Russian physicist and current professor at the National University of Brazil (Brazilia), turned 70. In addition to his University academic activity, Professor Dodonov is an Editorial board member of our Journal of Russian Laser Research published by Springer in New York, and we celebrate this date with all our friends and colleagues, see also [42].



Professor Viktor V. Dodonov—in addition to his scientific activity and obtaining many interesting results in foundations and applications of quantum theory—participated together with us during all his scientific life in organizing conferences, workshops, and publications of the Proceedings of the conferences, and is the Editorial Board member of Journal of Russian Laser Research. Together with Vladimir Man'ko, he has issued the book *Invariants and the Evolution of Nonstationary Quantum Systems*, published by Nauka in Moscow as volume No. 183 of the *Lebedev Institute Proceedings* and translated into English by Nova Science Publishers, Commack, New York in 1983 [43], where many of his results on time-dependent integrals of motion, parametric oscillators, even and odd coherent states, and general theory of uncertainty relations were presented.

Professor Dodonov is the coauthor of the paper [44] where developing the approach of Glauber and Sudarshan for describing the superposition of coherent states modeling Schrödinger cat states, and where the even and odd coherent states were introduced. He is also the coauthor of papers [45,46], where the idea of experimental checking of the *nonstationary Casimir effect* (later on called in the literature the *dynamical Casimir effect*) using the devices based on Josephson junctions was suggested. The photons created due to the dynamical Casimir effect were predicted to be in squeezed states. Experimental results demonstrating the existence of this effect were obtained in [47].

A substantial contribution of foundations of quantum mechanics was done by Professor Dodonov, who extended the approach for analyzing the uncertainty relations [48,49]. The new kinds of uncertainty relations for different physical observables including the position and momentum, spin variables, as well as entropic inequalities play an important role in discussing quantum-information devices and quantum-channel technique.

In times of the Soviet Union, Viktor Dodonov together with the Lebedev people organized several international meetings in Moscow, Moscow Region (Zvenigorod), Urmala (Latvia), Baky (Azerbaijan), Tambov (his native place), and so on. Scientific Programs of the conferences and publication of the Proceedings were always a prerogative of Dodonov—he did this job perfectly.

We are absolutely happy to have Professor Dodonov as the Editorial Board Member of Journal of Russian Laser Research, as permanent referee of Physica Scripta, and hope that he will help us to produce referee's estimation of contributions to Quantum Reports, where we announced to publish the Proceedings of the 16th ICSSUR.

We wish Viktor V. Dodonov long scientific activity and continuation of his work with us!



G. Sudarshan (1), Y. S. Kim (2), F. Haake (3), and M. Nieto (4) among the participants of ICSSUR 1992 in Moscow.



P. Tombesi, M. A. Man'ko, R. J. Glauber, Y. S. Kim, and D. Han at ICSSUR 1992 in Moscow.



M. A. Man'ko and V. I. Man'ko visited E. Wigner in his house in Princeton, New Jersey in 1990.



Y. S. Kim, M. A. Man'ko, Mrs. Kim, and V. I. Man'ko at ICSSUR 1991 in College Park, Maryland.



E.S. Fradkin, V.I. Man'ko, F. Gürsey, M.A. Markov, F. Iachello, and A. Bohm at Group Theory Colloquium 1990 in Moscow.



V. I. Man'ko, M. A. Man'ko, and Y. S. Kim at ICSSUR 1992 in Moscow.



V. A. Isakov, M. A. Man'ko, O. V. Man'ko, and A. S. Chirkin at ICSSUR 2001 in Boston, Massachusetts.



J. Janszky, J. Klauder, and M. A. Man'ko at ICSSUR 2003 in Puebla, Mexico.



M. A. Man'ko and O. V. Man'ko at Harmonic Oscillators Workshop 1992 in College Park, Maryland.



V. I. Man'ko (1), M. A. Man'ko (2), R. Kerner (3), and A. Solomon (4) at Quantum Theory and Symmetries 2011 in Prague.



O.V. Man'ko (1), S. Biedenharn (2), Mrs. Kim (3), M.A. Man'ko (4), and E. Moshinsky (5) at ICSSUR 1992 in Moscow.



Y. S. Kim, V. I. Man'ko, and M. A. Man'ko at Group Theory Colloquium 1992 in Salamanca, Spain.



E. Giacobino and V. I. Man'ko
at Group Theory Colloquium 2002 in Paris.



Y. S. Kim (1), J. Janszky (2), and V. I. Man'ko (3)
at ICSSUR 2003 in Puebla, Mexico.



ICSSUR 2003 in Puebla, Mexico.



M. A. Man'ko and R. Glauber
at ICSSUR 2003 in Puebla, Mexico.



S. Mizrahi, L. Dodonova, V. V. Dodonov, and M. A. Man'ko
at ICSSUR 2005 in Besancon, France.



ICSSUR 2005 in Besancon, France.



W. Schleich (1), T. Kramer (2), M. Kleber (3), P. Kramer (4), M.A. Man'ko (5), V.I. Man'ko (6), V.V. Dodonov (7), and M. Scully (8) among the participants of Quantum Nonstationary Systems 2007 in Blaubeuren, Germany.



W. Vogel and V. I. Man'ko among the participants of ICSSUR 2009 in Olomouc, Czech Republic.



A. Messina, M. A. Man'ko, V. V. Dodonov, V. I. Man'ko, Y. S. Kim, D. M. Gitman, and B. Militello at ICSSUR 2011 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.



V. I. Man'ko and V. V. Dodonov at ICSSUR 2011 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.



ICSSUR 2011 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.



V. I. Man'ko, M. A. Man'ko, and S. Mizrahi at ICSSUR 2011 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.



A. Solomon, V. V. Dodonov, Mrs. Kim, and Y. S. Kim at ICSSUR 2011 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.



A. Vourdas and A. Solomon at ICSSUR 2011 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.



A. Messina, L. Dodonova, V. I. Man'ko, and B. Militello at ICSSUR 2011 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.



O. V. Man'ko (1), Y. S. Kim (2), and S. Mizrahi (3) with the participants of ICSSUR 2011 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.



R. J. Glauber and M. A. Man'ko at ICSSUR 1992 in Moscow.



O. V. Man'ko and V. I. Man'ko at ICSSUR 2003 in Puebla, Mexico.



A. Zeilinger, H. Rauch, and S. Stenholm
at CEWQO 2009 in Turku, Finland.



M. A. Man'ko and G. Marmo
at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid in 2008.



T. Seligman, V. I. Man'ko, M. A. Man'ko, and G. Marmo
at *Problems of Mathematical and Quantum Physics*
(75 + 75 years of Margarita and Vladimir Man'ko),
Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, 2015.



V. V. Dodonov, L. Dodonova, V. I. Man'ko, M. A. Man'ko,
M. K. Atakishiyeva, and N. M. Atakishiyev
at *Problems of Mathematical and Quantum Physics*
(75 + 75 years of Margarita and Vladimir Man'ko),
Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, 2015.

4. Qubit States in the Probability Representation

The density matrix of the spin-1/2 state is 2×2 matrix $\rho_{mm'}$; for spin projections on the z axis $m, m' = \pm 1/2$, it reads

$$\rho = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_{1/2,1/2} & \rho_{1/2,-1/2} \\ \rho_{-1/2,1/2} & \rho_{-1/2,-1/2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

where $1 \geq \rho_{1/2,1/2}, \rho_{-1/2,-1/2} \geq 0$ are probabilities to have spin projections $+1/2$ and $-1/2$ on the z axis. Off-diagonal matrix elements $\rho_{1/2,-1/2} = \rho_{-1/2,1/2}^*$ provide the condition of hermiticity of the density matrix $\rho^\dagger = \rho$. The non-negativity of the eigenvalues of this matrix gives $\det \rho \geq 0$, i.e., $\rho_{1/2,1/2} \cdot \rho_{-1/2,-1/2} - |\rho_{1/2,-1/2}|^2 \geq 0$.

Recently [50,51], the probability representation of the density matrix was found to be

$$\rho = \begin{pmatrix} p_3 & p_1 - (1/2) - i(p_2 - 1/2) \\ p_1 - (1/2) + i(p_2 - 1/2) & 1 - p_3 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2)$$

One can check that the number $p_3 = \rho_{11}, 1 \geq p_3 \geq 0$, is the probability to have the spin projection on the z axis equal to $+1/2$ in the state with the density matrix ρ . This means that, in view of Born's rule, the probability p_3 reads

$$p_3 = \text{Tr} \left[\begin{pmatrix} \rho_{1/2,1/2} & \rho_{1/2,-1/2} \\ \rho_{-1/2,1/2} & \rho_{-1/2,-1/2} \end{pmatrix} \rho_3 \right]. \tag{3}$$

The state with the density matrix $\rho_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is the pure state $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} (1\ 0) = \rho_3$ with the state vector $|+1/2\rangle_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, which is the eigenstate of the Pauli matrix $\sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ determining the spin-projection operator $s_z = \sigma_z/2$ on the z -axis.

The number p_1 is given by an analogous relation

$$p_1 = \text{Tr} \left[\begin{pmatrix} \rho_{1/2,1/2} & \rho_{1/2,-1/2} \\ \rho_{-1/2,1/2} & \rho_{-1/2,-1/2} \end{pmatrix} \rho_1 \right], \tag{4}$$

where the density matrix $\rho_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} (1/\sqrt{2}\ 1/\sqrt{2})$, with the state vector $|+1/2\rangle_x = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$. It is the eigenvector of the Pauli matrix $\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ determining the spin-projection operator $s_x = \sigma_x/2$ on the x -axis.

One can easily check that, due to Born's rule, the number

$$p_2 = \text{Tr} \left[\begin{pmatrix} \rho_{1/2,1/2} & \rho_{1/2,-1/2} \\ \rho_{-1/2,1/2} & \rho_{-1/2,-1/2} \end{pmatrix} \rho_2 \right] \tag{5}$$

is the probability to have the spin projection on the y -axis equal to $+1/2$ in the state with the density matrix $\rho_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & -i/2 \\ i/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$, since $\begin{pmatrix} 1/2 & -i/2 \\ i/2 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ i/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} (1/\sqrt{2}\ -i/\sqrt{2})$, and the state vector $|+1/2\rangle_y = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} \\ i/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$ is the eigenvector of the Pauli matrix $\sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ determining the spin-projection operator $s_y = \sigma_y/2$ on the y -axis.

The state of spin equal to $1/2$ can be determined by three probability distributions $(p_1, 1 - p_1)$, $(p_2, 1 - p_2)$, and $(p_3, 1 - p_3)$, which can be considered as probabilities for three different nonideal classical coins in such a game as coin flipping, coin tossing, or heads or tails, which is the practice of throwing a coin in the air and checking which side is showing when it lands, in order to choose between two alternatives p_k or $(1 - p_k)$; $k = 1, 2, 3$.

For quantum states, there exist quantum correlations given by the condition $\det \rho \geq 0$ or

$$(p_1 - 1/2)^2 + (p_2 - 1/2)^2 + (p_3 - 1/2)^2 \leq 1/4.$$

This condition does not take place for classical coins.

5. Pure States of Qubits and Their Superposition

The classical condition for these probabilities, e.g., if $p_1 = p_2 = p_3 = 1$, reads

$$(p_1 - 1/2)^2 + (p_2 - 1/2)^2 + (p_3 - 1/2)^2 \leq 3/4. \tag{6}$$

One can check that the density matrix of the pure state $|\psi\rangle$, providing the density matrix

$$\rho_\psi = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| \tag{7}$$

of the form (2), where

$$|\psi\rangle = \left(\begin{array}{c} \frac{p_1 - 1/2}{\sqrt{p_3}} + i \frac{p_2 - 1/2}{\sqrt{p_3}} \\ \sqrt{p_3} \end{array} \right) \tag{8}$$

represents a pure state if and only if

$$(p_1 - 1/2)^2 + (p_2 - 1/2)^2 + (p_3 - 1/2)^2 = 1/4. \tag{9}$$

The inequalities

$$1/4 < (p_1 - 1/2)^2 + (p_2 - 1/2)^2 + (p_3 - 1/2)^2 \leq 3/4 \tag{10}$$

are forbidden for “quantum” coins or for spin-1/2 projection probabilities in the state with any density matrix ρ .

Thus, we show that the pure state of spin equal to 1/2 is determined by three probabilities $0 \leq p_1, p_2, p_3 \leq 1$ to have spin projection +1/2 on the three directions $x, y,$ and $z,$ respectively. This means that all properties of spin-1/2 states, including the superposition principle, can be formulated in terms of these probabilities.

In view of gauge invariance of wave functions, we assume the first component of the Pauli spinor $|\psi\rangle$ to be a real and non-negative number; the second component can be given as a complex number $\sqrt{1 - p_3} e^{i\varphi}$, where the phase φ is the function of the probabilities, i.e.,

$$\cos \varphi = \frac{p_1 - 1/2}{\sqrt{p_3(1 - p_3)}}, \quad \sin \varphi = \frac{p_2 - 1/2}{\sqrt{p_3(1 - p_3)}}. \tag{11}$$

We point out that new trigonometric formulas (11) are expressed in terms of probabilities [50] describing dichotomic random variables.

Thus, for two arbitrary pure spin states $|\psi_1\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle$, the superposition principle means the following:

The Pauli spinors $|\psi\rangle = C_1 |\psi_1\rangle + C_2 |\psi_2\rangle$, such that $\langle\psi|\psi\rangle = 1$ and $\langle\psi_1|\psi_2\rangle = 0$, the numbers $C_1 = \sqrt{\Pi_3}$ and $C_2 = \frac{\Pi_1 - 1/2}{\sqrt{\Pi_3}} + \frac{i(\Pi_2 - 1/2)}{\sqrt{\Pi_3}}$ are expressed in terms of probabilities $0 \leq \Pi_1, \Pi_2, \Pi_3 \leq 1$ satisfying the equality $(\Pi_1 - 1/2)^2 + (\Pi_2 - 1/2)^2 = \Pi_3(1 - \Pi_3)$; they also have the form

$$|\psi\rangle = \left(\begin{array}{c} \frac{P_1 - 1/2}{\sqrt{P_3}} + \frac{i(P_2 - 1/2)}{\sqrt{P_3}} \\ \sqrt{P_3} \end{array} \right) e^{i\varphi}. \tag{12}$$

Due to gauge invariance of quantum-state vectors, these spinors are determined up to the phase factors by the three probabilities $P_1, P_2,$ and P_3 . The density matrix $\rho_\psi = \frac{|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|}{\langle\psi|\psi\rangle}$ expressed in terms of the numbers $P_1, P_2,$ and P_3 , provides the addition rule of the probabilities p_1, p_2, p_3 and $\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{P}_3$, determining the nonorthogonal vectors $|\psi_1\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle$ yielding the explicit relations

$$P_3 = (1/\mathcal{T}) \left\{ \Pi_3 p_3 + (1 - \Pi_3) \mathcal{P}_3 + 2\sqrt{p_3 \mathcal{P}_3} (\Pi_1 - 1/2) \right\}, \tag{13}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 - 1/2 &= (1/\mathcal{T}) \left\{ \Pi_3 (p_1 - 1/2) + (\mathcal{P}_1 - 1/2) (1 - \Pi_3) \right. \\ &+ [(\Pi_1 - 1/2)(p_1 - 1/2) + (\Pi_2 - 1/2)(p_2 - 1/2)] \sqrt{\mathcal{P}_3/p_3} \\ &\left. + [(\Pi_1 - 1/2)(\mathcal{P}_1 - 1/2) - (\Pi_2 - 1/2)(\mathcal{P}_2 - 1/2)] \sqrt{p_3/\mathcal{P}_3} \right\}, \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

where

$$\mathcal{T} = 1 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{p_3 \mathcal{P}_3}} \{ (\Pi_1 - 1/2) [(p_1 - 1/2)(\mathcal{P}_1 - 1/2) + (\mathcal{P}_2 - 1/2)(p_2 - 1/2) + p_3 \mathcal{P}_3] + (\Pi_2 - 1/2) [(p_2 - 1/2)(\mathcal{P}_1 - 1/2) - (p_1 - 1/2)(\mathcal{P}_2 - 1/2)] \}. \quad (15)$$

Equations (13)–(15) provide the addition rule for probabilities determining the pure states $|\psi_1\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle$ in the general case where these states are not orthogonal. Here, we use the same parameters Π_1, Π_2 , and Π_3 defining the complex numbers C_1 and C_2 .

At $\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle = 0$, the above number $\mathcal{T} = 1$. The relative phase χ in the superposition of states $|\psi_1\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle$ is determined by the phase of the complex number C_2 , $\cos \chi = \frac{\Pi_1 - 1/2}{\sqrt{\Pi_3(1 - \Pi_3)}}$. The obtained rule of probability addition corresponds to the formula for superposition principle obtained in [3]—for $\hat{\rho}_{\psi_1} \hat{\rho}_{\psi_2} = 0$, it reads

$$\hat{\rho}_\psi = \lambda_1 \hat{\rho}_{\psi_1} + \lambda_2 \hat{\rho}_{\psi_2} + \frac{\sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} (\hat{\rho}_{\psi_1} \hat{\rho}_0 \hat{\rho}_{\psi_2} + \hat{\rho}_{\psi_2} \hat{\rho}_0 \hat{\rho}_{\psi_1})}{\sqrt{\text{Tr} \rho_{\psi_1} \rho_0 \rho_{\psi_2} \rho_0}}, \quad (16)$$

where $\hat{\rho}_0$ is an arbitrary projector, and $0 \geq \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \geq 1$ are the probabilities such that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 1$.

Taking the trace of Equation (16) yields

$$\text{Tr} \{ \hat{\rho}_{\psi_1} \hat{\rho}_0 \hat{\rho}_{\psi_2} + \hat{\rho}_{\psi_2} \hat{\rho}_0 \hat{\rho}_{\psi_1} \} = 0, \quad (17)$$

which does not hold in general, but holds if $\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle = 0$.

Thus, we see that pure and mixed states of the spin-1/2 system can be identified with three probability distributions $(p_1, 1 - p_1)$, $(p_2, 1 - p_2)$, and $(p_3, 1 - p_3)$.

Assume that we have three nonideal classical coins in such a game as coin flipping, coin tossing, or heads (“UP”) or tails (“DOWN”), which is the practice of throwing a coin in the air and checking which side is showing when it lands, in order to choose between three alternatives p_k or $(1 - p_k)$; $k = 1, 2, 3$. We interpret the numbers p_1, p_2 , and p_3 as “coin” probabilities to be in the position “UP” for each coin, and $(1 - p_1), (1 - p_2)$, and $(1 - p_3)$, to be in the position “DOWN”.

For pure states, there is the rule of nonlinear addition of the distributions that is equivalent to the superposition of Pauli spinors. This rule can be illustrated by addition of two Triadas of Malevich’s squares determined by “coin” probabilities $p_1, p_2, p_3, \mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{P}_3$, and Π_1, Π_2, Π_3 , and providing the probabilities P_1, P_2, P_3 as a result. This rule can be illustrated by the formula for adding the probabilities

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \\ p_3 \end{pmatrix} \oplus_{\Pi} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{P}_1 \\ \mathcal{P}_2 \\ \mathcal{P}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} P_1 \\ P_2 \\ P_3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (18)$$

where symbol \oplus_{Π} of the addition means that we use the probabilities Π_1, Π_2 , and Π_3 associated with complex numbers C_1 and C_2 determining the superposition $|\psi\rangle = C_1 |\psi_1\rangle + C_2 |\psi_2\rangle$ of states $|\psi_1\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle$.

6. Illustration of the Qubit State by Triada of Malevich’s Squares

Now, we explain how to illustrate qubit states by Triada of Malevich’s squares [50,52–56].

Given the triangle $A_1 A_2 A_3$ with sides y_k ; $k = 1, 2, 3$,

$$y_k = \left(2 + 2p_k^2 - 6p_k + 2p_{k+1}^2 + 2p_k p_{k+1} \right)^{1/2}; \quad (19)$$

in the above equation, the $k + 1$ addition is modulo 3. We construct three squares with sides y_k associated with triangle $A_1 A_2 A_3$ as shown in Figure 1 and called *Triada of Malevich’s squares*. The sum of the areas of these three squares is expressed in terms of the three probabilities p_k as

$$S = y_1^2 + y_2^2 + y_3^2 = 2 \left[3(1 - p_1 - p_2 - p_3) + 2p_1^2 + 2p_2^2 + 2p_3^2 + p_1p_2 + p_2p_3 + p_3p_1 \right]. \quad (20)$$

The three squares constructed, using the sides of the triangle, are analogs of the *Triada of Malevich's squares* in art. The properties of area S associated with the triada, given by Equation (20), are different for the classical system states and for the quantum system states, namely, for three classical coins and for qubit states.

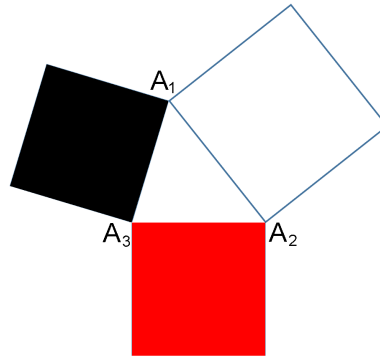


Figure 1. *Triada of Malevich's squares* corresponding to the spin-1/2 state and determined by the triangle $A_1A_2A_3$.

For classical coins, the numbers $p_1, p_2,$ and p_3 take any values in the domains $0 \leq p_k \leq 1$ —this means that for statistics of classical coins the area of the *Triada of Malevich's squares* satisfies the inequality $3/2 \leq S \leq 6$.

For qubit states, the probabilities $0 \leq p_k \leq 1$ to have spin projections $m = +1/2$ along three orthogonal directions satisfy the non-negativity condition of the density matrix—this provides the maximum value of the sum of areas of three Malevich's squares $S = 3$.

The formulas obtained correspond to the addition rule for two *Triadas of Malevich's squares*, illustrated by Figure 2.

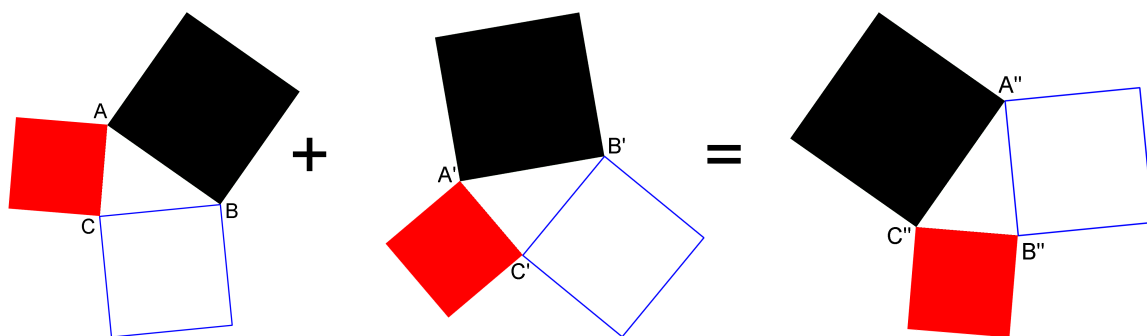


Figure 2. The superposition principle for two pure spin-1/2 states as a result of addition of two *Triadas of Malevich's squares*, which yields the *Triada of Malevich's squares* associated with the addition rule.

7. Born's Rule for Qubits as a Quadratic Form of Probabilities

Born's rule provides the probability w_{12} to obtain the properties of the state with the density matrix ρ_2

$$\rho_2 = \begin{pmatrix} p_3^{(2)} & p_1^{(2)} - (1/2) - i(p_2^{(2)} - 1/2) \\ p_1^{(2)} - (1/2) + i(p_2^{(2)} - 1/2) & 1 - p_3^{(2)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (21)$$

if one measures these properties in the state with the density matrix ρ_1

$$\rho_1 = \begin{pmatrix} p_3^{(1)} & p_1^{(1)} - (1/2) - i(p_2^{(1)} - 1/2) \\ p_1^{(1)} - (1/2) + i(p_2^{(1)} - 1/2) & 1 - p_3^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (22)$$

According to Born's rule $w_{12} = \text{Tr}(\rho_2 \rho_1)$, we have the equality $w_{12} = w_{21}$.

Thus, the probabilities $p_1^{(k)}, p_2^{(k)}, p_3^{(k)}$; $k = 1, 2, 3$, due to Born's rule, provide the probability w_{12} which, as the function of probabilities $p_1^{(1)}, p_2^{(1)}, p_3^{(1)}, p_1^{(2)}, p_2^{(2)}$, and $p_3^{(2)}$, reads

$$w_{12} = p_3^{(1)} p_3^{(2)} + (1 - p_3^{(1)}) (1 - p_3^{(2)}) + 2 \left[(p_1^{(1)} - 1/2) (p_1^{(2)} - 1/2) + (p_2^{(1)} - 1/2) (p_2^{(2)} - 1/2) \right],$$

i.e., we expressed the probability w_{12} given by Born's rule in terms of probabilities determining two states of qubit. It is worth noting that the above formula provides the probability given by a quadratic form of other probabilities; such quadratic forms were not considered in the literature related to probability theory. Such expression of Born's probability w_{12} is a generic property of qubit and qudit states, which can be given by the quadratic form, we will prove this in a future publication.

8. Probability in Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Optics for States with Continuous Variables

Now, we formulate, for continuous variables, the superposition principle of quantum-state wave functions in the probability representation of quantum mechanics, where the states are identified with probability distributions.

In standard formulation of quantum mechanics, the pure states are associated with complex wave functions $\psi(x) = |\psi(x)| \exp[i\varphi(x)]$. The mixed states are associated with density matrices $\rho(x, x')$, which are Hermitian matrices $\rho = \rho^\dagger$ with unit trace $\text{Tr} \rho = 1$ and non-negative eigenvalues.

Recently [35,37,38,57], the probability representation of quantum states for both continuous variables like quantum-oscillator states and for discrete variables, like spin states or N -level atom states, was introduced. The review and development of the tomographic-probability distribution of quantum states are given in [39,51,58,59]. On the other hand, the classical-particle states are determined either by their position and momentum (if there is no fluctuations) or by the probability-distribution functions $f(q, p) \geq 0$, such that $\int f(p, q) dp dq = 1$ in the case of presence of fluctuations like, e.g., thermal fluctuations.

In quantum mechanics, there exist different quasiprobability distribution representations of quantum states like the Wigner function $W(q, p)$ [29], which is similar to the classical probability distribution $f(q, p)$ in the phase space, but it can take negative values and, due to this fact, it is not the probability distribution.

Nevertheless, there exists the bijective map of the density matrices (density operators $\hat{\rho}$) onto fair probability distributions both for continuous variables [37] given by the Radon transform of the Wigner function and determined by the trace of the product of operator $\hat{\rho}$ and Dirac delta-function of a specific operator, it is

$$w(X, \mu, \nu) = \text{Tr} [\hat{\rho} \delta (X\hat{1} - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p})]. \tag{23}$$

Operators \hat{q} and \hat{p} are the position and momentum operators; $\hat{1}$ is the identity operator. Here, the Dirac delta-function of operator $(X\hat{1} - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p})$ is given by $\delta (X\hat{1} - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int e^{ik(X\hat{1} - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p})} dk$, the Fourier transform with $-\infty \leq X \leq \infty$ being photon quadrature (oscillator's position) and μ and ν , real parameters determining the reference frame in the phase space where the oscillator's position X is considered.

For $\mu = \cos \theta$ and $\nu = \sin \theta$, the probability distribution of variable X is called the optical tomogram of quantum radiation state. The inverse transform reads

$$\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int w(X, \mu, \nu) \exp [i (X\hat{1} - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p})] dX d\mu d\nu. \tag{24}$$

Thus, the state (photon state, oscillator's state) can be described either by the density operator $\hat{\rho}$ or by the tomographic-probability distribution $w(X, \mu, \nu)$, since they contain the same information on the state.

The superposition principle of the wave functions means that, for two given wave functions $\psi_1(x)$ and $\psi_2(x)$ describing two different pure states $|\psi_1\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle$, the wave function reads $\psi(x) = C_1\psi_1(x) + C_2\psi_2(x)$ and the state vector is $|\psi\rangle = C_1|\psi_1\rangle + C_2|\psi_2\rangle$, where C_1 and C_2 are complex coefficients, also describes the physical system state.

9. Coherent State Superposition

We consider nonlinear addition of tomographic-probability distributions corresponding to the superposition of coherent states $|\alpha\rangle$, i.e., normalized eigenstates of the oscillator annihilation operator \hat{a} , ($\hat{a}|\alpha\rangle = \alpha|\alpha\rangle$) introduced and studied in quantum optics by Roy Glauber and George Sudarshan [7,8]. The wave function of the coherent state in the position representation reads

$$\psi_\alpha(x) = \pi^{-1/4} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{|\alpha|^2}{2} - \frac{\alpha^2}{2} + \sqrt{2}\alpha x\right); \quad \text{we assume} \quad \hbar = m = \omega = 1. \quad (25)$$

The tomogram of the state with the wave function $\psi(y)$ is given by its fractional Fourier transform [60]

$$w(X, \mu, \nu) = \frac{1}{2\pi|\nu|} \left| \int \psi(y) \exp\left[\frac{i\mu}{2\nu}y^2 - \frac{iXy}{\nu}\right] dy \right|^2. \quad (26)$$

This formula provides tomogram of the coherent state in the form of Gaussian distribution

$$w_\alpha(X, \mu, \nu) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(X - \bar{X})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), \quad (27)$$

where $\sigma^2 = (\mu^2 + \nu^2)/2$ and $\bar{X} = \mu\sqrt{2}\text{Re } \alpha + \nu\sqrt{2}\text{Im } \alpha$.

The superposition of states $|\alpha\rangle_\pm = N_\pm (|\alpha\rangle \pm |-\alpha\rangle)$ introduced and called even and odd coherent states in [44] provides the addition rule for tomographic-probability distributions $w_\alpha(X, \mu, \nu)$ and $w_{-\alpha}(X, \mu, \nu)$, it is given by the formula

$$w_{\alpha\pm}(X, \mu, \nu) = \frac{N_\pm^2}{2\pi|\nu|} \left| \int [\psi_\alpha(y) \pm \psi_{-\alpha}(y)] \exp\left[\frac{i\mu}{2\nu}y^2 - \frac{iXy}{\nu}\right] dy \right|^2.$$

Thus, the first two terms of the tomographic-probability distributions are contributions of states $|\alpha\rangle$ and $|-\alpha\rangle$, while the other two terms describe the contribution of the interference term into the tomographic-probability distribution.

In terms of state vectors $|\alpha\rangle$ and $|-\alpha\rangle$, we have the addition rule of the form

$$w_{\alpha\pm}(X, \mu, \nu) = N_\pm^2 \text{Tr} [\delta(X - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p}) (|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha| + |-\alpha\rangle\langle-\alpha| \pm |\alpha\rangle\langle-\alpha| \pm |-\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|)]. \quad (28)$$

Thus, we can formulate the addition rule of the tomographic-probability distributions as follows:

$$w_{\alpha\pm}(X, \mu, \nu) = N_\pm^2 [w_\alpha(X, \mu, \nu) + w_{-\alpha}(X, \mu, \nu) + F(X, \mu, \nu)], \quad (29)$$

where

$$F(X, \mu, \nu) = \text{Tr} [\delta(X - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p}) (\pm |\alpha\rangle\langle-\alpha| \pm |-\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|)]. \quad (30)$$

10. Born's Rule for Continuous Variables

In the general case, Born's rule provides the probability W_{12} to have the properties of a system state with density operator $\hat{\rho}_1$ if these properties are measured in the system with the density operator $\hat{\rho}_2$, given as $W_{12} = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}_1\hat{\rho}_2)$. If one has the operator $\hat{U}(x)$ and the operator $\hat{D}(x)$, such that one maps an operator \hat{A} onto the function $f_A(x) = \text{Tr} \hat{A}\hat{U}(x)$, and the function $f_A(x)$ is mapped onto the operator $\hat{A} = \int f_A(x)\hat{D}_A(x) dx$, the generic formula for Born's rule reads

$$W_{12} = \int K_B(x_1 x_2) f_{A_1}(x_1) f_{A_2}(x_2) dx_1 dx_2, \quad (31)$$

where $K_B(x_1 x_2) = \text{Tr}(\hat{D}(x_1)\hat{D}(x_2))$ is the kernel providing the probability W_{12} in the formalism of the used operators $\hat{U}(x)$ and $\hat{D}(x)$.

As we discussed for symplectic-tomography scheme, $x = (X, \mu, \nu)$, we have that

$$\hat{U}(X, \mu, \nu) = \delta(X\hat{1} - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p}), \quad \hat{D}(X, \mu, \nu) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \exp i(X\hat{1} - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p}).$$

Thus, the kernel $K_B(x_1, x_2) = K_B(X_1, \mu_1, \nu_1, X_2, \mu_2, \nu_2)$ is given by the formula

$$K_B(X_1, \mu_1, \nu_1, X_2, \mu_2, \nu_2) = \frac{e^{i(X_1+X_2)}}{4\pi^2} \text{Tr} \left(e^{i(\mu_1\hat{q}+\nu_1\hat{p})} \cdot e^{i(\mu_2\hat{q}+\nu_2\hat{p})} \right). \quad (32)$$

As operator \hat{A} , we used the density operators $\hat{\rho}_1$ and $\hat{\rho}_2$. Applying this kernel, we obtain Born's rule for symplectic tomograms.

In fact, one has the relation for probabilities $|\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle|^2 = W_{12}$ (Born's rule) in terms of tomograms $w_1(X, \mu\nu)$ and $w_2(X, \mu\nu)$, where

$$w_k(X, \mu, \nu) = \text{Tr} \hat{\rho}_k \delta(X\mathbf{1} - \mu\hat{q} - \nu\hat{p}), \quad k = 1, 2, \quad (33)$$

i.e.,

$$W_{12} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int w_1(X_1, \mu, \nu) w_2(X_2, -\mu, -\nu) e^{i(X_1+X_2)} dX_1 dX_2 d\mu d\nu. \quad (34)$$

Thus, the tomographic-probability distributions determining the oscillator states $|\psi_1\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle$ provide the probability W_{12} to have the properties of the pure state $|\psi_2\rangle$ if they are measured in the pure state $|\psi_1\rangle$.

We expressed the probability given by Born's rule in terms of tomographic-probability distributions determining the photon states. It is worth noting that Born's rule (34) is given by functional quadratic form of tomographic probabilities determined by the parameters μ and ν , characterizing the reference frames analogous to the qubit case.

11. Conclusions

On an example of spin - 1/2, we showed that for quantum systems considered in the probability representation of quantum mechanics, the superposition principle can be expressed as a specific nonlinear addition rule of the probabilities determining pure quantum states. From the viewpoint of simplex theory, the new nonlinear expressions obtained in the form of polynomials of several variables (probabilities), which again yield the probabilities, can be obtained using the discussed qubit-system properties.

We found an explicit expression for the probability determined by Born's rule in terms of the probabilities determining the quantum states.

Additionally, we considered the superposition principle of quantum system states with continuous variables, like oscillator's ones, and discussed the addition rule of the tomographic-probability distributions on the example of even and odd coherent states, which demonstrate that generic properties of addition of probabilities for arbitrary state vectors for both discrete (spin) variables and continuous variables (oscillator) can be formulated as the nonlinear addition rule of probability distributions describing the states.

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