A Royal Road to Quantum Theory (or thereabouts)

Alex Wilce Susquehanna University

(Parts joint work with Howard Barnum and Matthew Graydon)

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Outline

I Recent (and older) reconstructions of QL

- II (Generalized) pobability Theory
- III Conjugates and filters
- IV Categories of Jordan models

I. Reconstructing QM

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An ordered vector space is a real vector space **E** (for our purposes, finite-dimensional) with a designated **positive cone** $K \subseteq E$:

•
$$a, b \in K \Rightarrow a + b \in K;$$

- $a \in K \Rightarrow ta \in K$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$;
- $K \cap -K = \{0\};$
- $\operatorname{span}(K) = K K = \mathbf{E}.$

Define $a \leq b$ iff $b - a \in K$ (so $a \geq 0$ iff $a \in K$).

Notation: $K = \mathbf{E}_+$.

Quantum Probability in a Nutshell

 \mathcal{H} a finite-dimensional complex Hilbert space; $\mathsf{E}(\mathcal{H}) :=$ space of hermitian operators on \mathcal{H} , ordered by the cone $\mathsf{E}_+(\mathcal{H})$ of positive operators.

- observables with values in a set $S \leftrightarrow$ mapping $a: S \rightarrow \mathbf{E}(\mathcal{H})_+$ with $\sum_{s \in S} a(s) = 1$;
- states \leftrightarrow positive normalized linear functional α on $\mathbf{E}(\mathcal{H})$.
- *composite systems*: Given systems represented by \mathcal{H}_1 , \mathcal{H}_2 , composite system corresponds to $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$.

• Also allowed: direct sums, e.g., $E(\mathcal{H}_1) \oplus E(\mathcal{H}_2)$. etc.

Nature takes this seriously — it works!

...But WHY?

Can we motivate this structure?

A Strategy:

- 1. Start with a very general (and conceptually simple) version of probability theory
- 2. Identify quantum probability theory as a special case
- 3. Add (simple?) constraints in hopes of singling out QM

Success will depend on one's view of the plausibility and simplicity of the constraints. (This is part of the fun!)

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- Quantum logic: Birkhoff-von Neumann (1936), Mackey (1957), Piron-Araki-Amemiya-Soler (1964-1995);
- And lots more!
- Strong (sometimes flagrantly *ad hoc*) axioms \Rightarrow QM.

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- And lots more!
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This century: lots of new work, mainly from the QIT community (Hardy (2000), Dakič-Brukner(2008), Masanes-Mueller(2010), CDP (2010), ...)

- Focus on *finite-dimensional* QM + properties of *composite* (entangled) systems
- Weaker (and less *ad hoc*) axioms \Rightarrow *finite-dimensional* QM.



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But Real + quaternionic QM *is a reasonable theory!*

(2) Even with these assumptions, derivation of QM still seems rather involved.

Widening the target

(Baez, 2012): Real/quaternionic Hilbert space = pair (\mathcal{H}, J) : \mathcal{H} a complex Hilbert space, J anti-unitary with $J^2 = +1$ (\mathbb{R}) or -1 (\mathcal{H}). Set

$$(\mathcal{H}_1, J_1) \otimes (\mathcal{H}_2, J_2) = (\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2, J_1 \otimes J_2)$$
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Goal: a simple axiomatic framework allowing for finite-dimensional \mathbb{C} , \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{H} -QM (and not too much more) — ideally, without working too hard.

This was almost done in 1934!

A euclidean Jordan algebra is a finite-dimensional real inner product space **E** with a commutative bilinear product $x, y \mapsto x \cdot y$ satisfying

- $x \cdot (x^2 \cdot y) = x^2 \cdot (x \cdot y);$
- $\exists u \in \mathbf{E}, u \cdot x = x \ \forall x \in \mathbf{E};$
- $\langle x \cdot y, z \rangle = \langle y, x \cdot y \rangle$

Euclidean Jordan Algebras

Theorem [Jordan, von Neumann, Wigner, 1934] All euclidean Jordan algebras are direct sums of the following types:

- Hermitian parts of real, complex, quaternionic matrix algebras: H_n(ℝ), H_n(ℂ), H_n(ℍ), with a ⋅ b = ½(ab + ba)
- Spin Factors: V_n = the euclidean space $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$, with Jordan product

$$(t, \mathbf{x}) \cdot (s, \mathbf{y}) = (ts + \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle, t\mathbf{y} + s\mathbf{x}).$$

(Note: can be embedded in $H_{2^n}(\mathbb{C})$).

• The exceptional Jordan algebra $H_3(\mathbb{O})$; $a \cdot b = \frac{1}{2}(ab + ba)$.

The Koecher-Vinberg Theorem

The Jordan product is hard to interpret. Fortunately, we don't need it!

Any EJA **E** is also an ordered real vector space with cone $\mathbf{E}_+ = \{a^2 | a \in \mathbf{E}\}$. An ordered space **E** is

- self-dual with respect to an inner product ⟨, ⟩ iff a ∈ E₊ iff ⟨a, b⟩ ≥ 0 for all b ∈ E₊.
- homogeneous if the group of order-automorphisms of E acts transitively on the *interior* of the positive cone E₊.

Theorem [Koecher, 1958; Vinberg, 1961] *Euclidean Jordan Algebras* ⇔ *HSD ordered vector spaces.*

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Theorem [Koecher, 1958; Vinberg, 1961]

Euclidean Jordan Algebras ⇔ HSD ordered vector spaces.

Goal (revised): Simple axioms leading to a representation of physical systems in terms of HSD ordered vector spaces.

II. (General) Probability Theory

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Probabilistic models

A test space is a pair (X, \mathcal{M}) : X a space of *outcomes*, \mathcal{M} a covering of X by non-empty finite sets called tests, representing outcome-sets of various possible measurements, experiments, etc.

A probability weight on (X, \mathcal{M}) : a function $\alpha : X \to [0, 1]$ with $\sum_{x \in E} \alpha(x) = 1$ for every $E \in \mathcal{M}$.

A probabilistic model is a structure $A = (X, \mathcal{M}, \Omega)$:

• (X, \mathcal{M}) a test space,

• Ω a closed, convex set of probability weights on \mathcal{M} . Notation: $\mathcal{M}(A)$, X(A) and $\Omega(A)$...

The spaces $\mathbf{E}(A)$ and $\mathbf{V}(A)$

A probabilistic model A generates a pair of ordered vector spaces:

• $\mathbf{V}(A) = \text{span of } \Omega(A) \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^{X(A)}$, with positive cone

$$\mathbf{V}(A)_{+} := \{ t\alpha | \alpha \in \Omega, \ t \ge 0 \}$$

E(A) = span of evaluation functionals x̂ ∈ V(A)*, x ∈ X(A), with cone

$$\mathbf{E}(A)_{+} := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{k} t_{i} \widehat{x}_{i} \middle| x_{i} \in X(A), \ t_{i} \geq 0 \right\}$$

We assume dim $\mathbf{V}(A) < \infty$. Then dim $\mathbf{E}(A) = \dim \mathbf{V}(A)$. Note that $\forall E \in \mathcal{M}(A)$,

$$\sum_{x\in E}\widehat{x}=u_{A}\in \mathbf{E}(A)$$
 where $u_{A}(lpha)=1$ $orall lpha\in \Omega(A)$

Examples

Classical models: *E* a finite set: $A(E) = (E, \{E\}, \Delta(E))$, where $\Delta(E) =$ simplex of prob. weights on *E*. Then

$$\mathbf{V}(A) \simeq \mathbb{R}^E \simeq \mathbf{E}(A).$$

Quantum models: \mathcal{H} a f.d. Hilbert space: Let $A(\mathcal{H}) = (X(\mathcal{H}), \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{H}), \Omega(\mathcal{H}))$ where $X(\mathcal{H}) =$ unit sphere, $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{H}) =$ all orthonormal bases of \mathcal{H} , $\Omega(\mathcal{H})$ all prob. weights induced by density operators on \mathcal{H} . Then

 $\mathbf{V}(A)\simeq \mathbf{E}(\mathcal{H})\simeq \mathbf{E}(A).$

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Goal (updated again): Conditions guaranteeing

- **E**(A) self-dual,
- $\mathbf{E}(A)_+ \simeq \mathbf{V}(A)_+$, and
- **V**(*A*) homogeneous.

Composite systems

A non-signaling composite of models A and B: a model AB, plus a mapping

$$X(A) \times X(B) \rightarrow \mathbf{E}_+(AB) : (x, y) \mapsto xy$$

such that

(a)
$$(E, F) \in \mathcal{M}(A) \times \mathcal{M}(B) \Longrightarrow \sum_{x \in E, y \in F} xy = u_{AB}$$

(b) $\omega \in \Omega(AB) \Longrightarrow \omega(x \cdot) \in \mathbf{V}_{+}(B)$ and $\omega(\cdot y) \in \mathbf{V}_{+}(A)$

By (a), $\omega \in \Omega(AB)$ pulls back to a joint probability weight:

$$\omega(x,y) := \omega(xy); \quad \sum_{x \in E, y \in F} \omega(x,y) = 1.$$

AB is locally tomographic iff every state is uniquely determined by its corresponding joint probability weight.

By (b), $\omega \in \Omega(AB)$ has well-defined marginal and conditional states:

$$\omega_1(x) := \sum_{y \in F} \omega(\cdot, y) \text{ and } \omega_{2|x}(y) := rac{\omega(x,y)}{\omega_1(x)}.$$

both in $\Omega(A)$, and similarly for $\omega_2(y), \omega_{1|y} \in \Omega(B)$. This gives a Law of total probability: $\forall E \in \mathcal{M}(A), F \in \mathcal{M}(B)$,

$$\omega_2 = \sum_{x \in E} \omega_1(x) \omega_{2|x}$$
 and $\omega_1 = \sum_{y \in F} \omega_2(y) \omega_{1|y}$

Lemma: $\omega \in \Omega(AB) \Rightarrow \exists !$ positive linear mapping $\widehat{\omega} : \mathbf{E}(A) \rightarrow \mathbf{V}(B), \ \widehat{\omega}(x)(y) = \omega(x, y) \ \forall \ x \in X(A), \ y \in X(B).$

Processes and categories

A process from A to B: is a positive linear mapping $\tau : \mathbf{V}(A) \rightarrow \mathbf{V}(B)$ such that

 $u_B(\tau(\alpha)) \leq 1$

 $\forall \alpha \in \Omega(A)$. τ is reversible iff invertible with ϕ^{-1} positive (so for some scalar t > 0, $t\phi^{-1}$ is a process.)

A monoidal probabilistic theory: a category C of probabilistic models and processes, symmetric-monoidal w.r.t. an operation $A, B \mapsto AB$ forming non-signaling composites.

From now, on, we work in a fixed monoidal theory C.

(Mainly for convenience).

III. Conjugates and Filters

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Conjugate quantum systems

Let \mathcal{H} be a complex Hilbert space of dimension *n*. Consider the "EPR" state on $\mathcal{H} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{H}}$:

$$\Psi := \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{x \in E} x \otimes \overline{x}$$

where *E* is *any* orthonormal basis for \mathcal{H} (ψ 's independent of the choice!) For $a, b \in \mathbf{E}(\mathcal{H})$, one has

$$\mathsf{Tr}(ab) = \langle (a \otimes \overline{b})\psi, \psi \rangle.$$

So ψ encodes the trace inner product on $\mathbf{E}(\mathcal{H})$ as a STATE on $\mathcal{H} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{H}}$ — which perfectly and uniformly correlates every test $E \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{A})$ with its counterpart $\overline{\mathbf{E}} \in \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{H})$: $\forall x \in X(\mathcal{H})$,

$$|\langle \Psi, x \otimes \overline{x} \rangle|^2 = \frac{1}{n}.$$

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Conjugates abstractly

Suppose all tests in $\mathcal{M}(A)$ have *n* outcomes.

A conjugate for A is a triple $(\overline{A}, \gamma_A, \eta_A)$ where $\gamma_A : A \simeq \overline{A}$ is an isomorphism and η_A is a non-signaling state on $A \otimes \overline{A}$ such that

(a)
$$\eta(x, \gamma_A(y)) = \eta(y, \gamma_A(x))$$
 and

(b)
$$\eta_A(x, \gamma_A(x)) = 1/n$$
 for every $x, y \in X(A)$.

Note that $(\eta_A)_1 = \rho$, the maximally mixed state $\rho(x) \equiv 1/n$.

Notation: From now on, $\gamma_A(x) = \overline{x}$.

Filters

Let A be a probabilistic model. A filter for a test E is a process $\phi : \mathbf{V}(A) \to \mathbf{V}(A)$ such that, for every $x \in E$ and every state $\alpha \in \Omega(A)$,

$$\phi(\alpha)(x) = t_x \alpha(x)$$

for some constant $0 \le t_x \le 1$. Call ϕ symmetric iff

$$(\phi \otimes \operatorname{id}_{\overline{A}})(\eta_A) = (\operatorname{id}_A \otimes \overline{\phi})(\eta_A).$$

Example: Let *E* be an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{H} : for any choice of $0 \le t_x \le 1$, $x \in E$, let $V = \sum_{x \in E} t_x P_x$. Set

$$\phi(a) = V^{1/2} a V^{1/2}$$

for $a \in \mathbf{E}(\mathcal{H})$. This is a filter, symmetric with respect to η described above. Since $\phi(\mathbf{1}) = V$, any density operator V can be prepared from the maximally mixed state, up to normalization, by such a filter — reversibly, if V is non-singular.

Conjugates and Filters

Theorem: Suppose that, for every $A \in C$,

• A has a conjugate, $\overline{A} \in C$.

• Any non-singular state $\alpha \in \Omega(A)$ can be prepared from ρ (up to normalization) by a (reversible) symmetric filter.

Then, for every $A \in C$, **E**(A) is HSD with respect to the inner product $\langle a, b \rangle = \eta_A(a, \overline{b})$.

Proof: Conspicuously easy, using the KV theorem! See arXiv: 1206.2897.

Sketch of Proof (arXiv:1206:2897):

Homogeneity is clear.

Let $\alpha = \phi(\rho)$, ϕ a symmetric filter for $E \in \mathcal{M}(A)$. Set $\omega = (\phi \otimes \operatorname{id}_{\overline{A}})(\eta)$. Then $\omega_1 = \phi(\rho) = \alpha$. For $x \in E$, set $\delta_x := \frac{1}{n}\eta(\cdot, \overline{x})$. As ϕ is symmetric,

$$\omega_{1|\overline{x}}(x)\omega_{2}(\overline{x}) = \eta(\cdot,\phi(\overline{x})) = t_{x}\eta(\cdot,\overline{x}) = t_{x}n\delta_{x}$$

The LOTP now gives us a kind of "spectral decomposition":

$$\alpha = \sum_{\overline{x}\in\overline{E}} t_x \delta_x \tag{1}$$

Thus, $\mathbf{V}(A)_+$ is generated by δ_x -s. So $\hat{\eta} : \mathbf{E}(A) \to \mathbf{V}(A)$, given by $\hat{\eta}(a)(x) = \eta(x, \overline{a})$, takes $\mathbf{E}(A)_+$ onto $\mathbf{V}(A)_+$. By dimensionality, $\hat{\eta}$ is injective, so $\hat{\eta} : \mathbf{E}(A) \simeq \mathbf{V}(A)$ (as ordered spaces).

Use this to pull the decomposition (1) back to one for elements of $\mathbf{E}(A)$. Use *this* to show $\eta(a, \overline{b})$ is positive-semidefinite. IV. Categories of Jordan models

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The Hanche-Olsen tensor product

One can show that the only *locally tomographic* monoidal probabilistic theory satisfying these conditions is standard finite-dimensional \mathbb{C} -QM (Barnum, AW 2012)

Are there any other, non-LT probabilistic theories of this kind?

Let **E** be any euclidean Jordan algebra. There's a universal C^* -algebra $C^*(\mathbf{E})$ (jordan homomorphisms $\phi : \mathbf{E} \to \mathcal{A}_h$, $\mathcal{A} \neq C^*$ algebra, factor uniquely through *-homomorphisms $C^*(\mathbf{E}) \to \mathcal{A}$).

(*Note:* **E** exceptional implies $C^*(\mathbf{E}) = \mathbf{0}$.)

Definition [Hanche-Olsen]: If **E** and **F** are EJAs, let $\mathbf{E} \otimes \mathbf{F}$ = Jordan subalgebra of $[C^*(\mathbf{E}) \otimes C^*(\mathbf{F})]_h$ generated by $\mathbf{E} \otimes \mathbf{F}$.

A Sample Theory

Let C be the category having objects = euclidean Jordan models, morphisms $\mathbf{E} \to \mathbf{F}$ = restrictions of CP maps $C^*(\mathbf{E}) \to C^*(\mathbf{F})$, and composites given by $A(\mathbf{E})A(\mathbf{F}) = A(\mathbf{E} \otimes \mathbf{F})$. (This is a non-signaling composite.)

One can show that all Jordan models $A(\mathbf{E})$ satisfies hypothesis (b) of the Theorem. What about conjugates? Define

$$\gamma: C^*(\mathsf{E}) \to C^*(\mathsf{E})^{\mathsf{op}}$$
 and $a \mapsto (a^{op})^* := \overline{a}$.

Setting $\overline{\mathbf{E}} = \gamma(\mathbf{E}) \leq C^*(\mathbf{E})^{\text{op}}$, we have $C^*(\overline{\mathbf{E}}) = C^*(\mathbf{E})^{\text{op}}$. The mapping $a, \overline{b} \mapsto \text{Tr}(ab^*)$ defines a state

 $\widehat{\eta}: C^*(\mathsf{E}) \otimes C^*(\overline{\mathsf{E}}) \to \mathbb{C}$

which restricts to a non-signaling state on $\mathbf{E} \otimes \overline{\mathbf{E}}$ making $(A(\overline{\mathbf{E}}), \gamma_A, \eta_A)$ a conjugate for $A(\mathbf{E})$.

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