

Session #291: Measurement as Sinusoidal Sampling

Date: January 21, 2026

Machine: CBP

Arc: Quantum Foundations (Session 1/?)

Building On: Quantum Computing Arc (#285-289), Chemistry Sessions #49, #59, #65

Executive Summary

Session #291 formalizes the **sinusoidal sampling model** of quantum measurement. The central insight: if quantum "states" are fundamentally oscillations, then measurement statistics emerge naturally from the dynamics of sampling oscillatory systems—not from wavefunction collapse.

Key Results:

- Two-state statistics explained by dwell time at oscillation extremes
- Optimal coherence $C^* < 1$ derived from sampling dynamics
- Direct connection to Chemistry temporal coherence ($\gamma t = 2/\sqrt{\xi t}$)
- Four testable predictions with specific experimental signatures
- Reframes "collapse" as "phase-locking to low-velocity regions"

Crosslinks:

- Chemistry Session #49: Temporal coherence equation
 - Chemistry Session #59: Oscillation threshold ($\xi_t > 4$)
 - Chemistry Session #65: Phonon coherence length
 - Session #285-288: Quantum Computing Arc
-

Part 1: The Core Insight

From Synchronism Axioms

Synchronism posits that "state" is not a static property but a **dynamic oscillation**—a temporal pattern. If we take this seriously:

1. A qubit's "state" is an oscillation $s(t)$
2. Most oscillations are sinusoidal (or superpositions thereof)
3. Therefore: $s(t) = A \cdot \sin(\omega t + \phi)$

The Rate of Change Distribution

For a sinusoidal oscillation:

$$s(t) = A \cdot \sin(\omega t)$$
$$ds/dt = A\omega \cdot \cos(\omega t)$$

Key observation: The rate of state change varies continuously:

Position	s(t)	ds/dt	Dwell Time
Extremes ($\pm A$)	Maximum	Minimum (~ 0)	Longest
Midpoint (0)	Zero	Maximum ($\pm A\omega$)	Shortest

The Pendulum Analogy

A swinging pendulum spends most of its time near the turning points (extremes) where it momentarily stops, and least time at the midpoint where it moves fastest.

If you randomly sample the pendulum's position, you will **statistically** observe:

- **High probability** at extremes
- **Low probability** at midpoint

This is pure classical dynamics—no quantum mechanics required.

Part 2: Deriving Two-State Statistics

Probability Distribution from Dwell Time

For a sinusoidal oscillation $s(t) = A \cdot \sin(\omega t)$, the probability density of observing the system at position s is inversely proportional to the velocity at that position:

$$P(s) \propto 1/|ds/dt| = 1/|A\omega \cdot \cos(\omega t)|$$

Since $s = A \cdot \sin(\omega t)$, we have $\cos(\omega t) = \sqrt{1 - s^2/A^2}$, so:

$$P(s) \propto 1/\sqrt{A^2 - s^2}$$

This is the **arcsine distribution**—the probability density for a harmonic oscillator.

The Arcsine Distribution

$$P(s) = 1/(\pi\sqrt{A^2 - s^2}) \quad \text{for } |s| < A$$

Properties:

- **Diverges at $s = \pm A$** (extremes): Highest probability

- **Minimum at $s = 0$** (midpoint): Lowest probability
- **Symmetric**: Equal probability for +A and -A regions

Two-State Emergence

When measuring a system with finite resolution Δs , the probability of finding the system "near +A" vs "near -A" dominates over finding it "in the middle."

$$P(|s| > A - \epsilon) \gg P(|s| < \epsilon) \quad \text{for small } \epsilon$$

Result: Binary outcomes ($|0\rangle$ vs $|1\rangle$) emerge naturally from sampling dynamics—the oscillation "lingers" at extremes.

Part 3: Measurement as Phase-Locking

What is "Measurement"?

In the sinusoidal sampling model, measurement is **phase-locking**: the measuring apparatus couples to the oscillating system and synchronizes with it.

Phase-locking dynamics:

1. Apparatus approaches oscillating system
2. Coupling begins—apparatus "tries" to match phase
3. Stable lock occurs where ds/dt is minimum (extremes)
4. Apparatus reads the locked position as the "measurement result"

Why Extremes?

Phase-locking is stable where:

- **Small perturbations don't shift the lock** (low ds/dt)
- **Energy exchange is minimized** (velocity \rightarrow zero)
- **Resonance conditions are satisfied** (phase matching)

At the oscillation extremes, all three conditions are optimal.

"Collapse" Reframed

Traditional: "Wavefunction collapses to an eigenstate"

Sinusoidal Sampling: "Measurement apparatus phase-locks to a low- ds/dt region of the state oscillation"

Key difference: No discontinuous "collapse"—just continuous dynamics finding a stable locking point.

Part 4: Optimal Coherence $C^* < 1$

The Problem with Perfect Coherence

If coherence $C = 1$ (perfect phase-locking to one point):

- System locks to **exactly one position** in the oscillation cycle
- No sampling of the distribution
- **Fragile**: Any perturbation breaks the lock
- Loses the "two-state" character (sees only one extreme)

The Problem with No Coherence

If coherence $C \rightarrow 0$ (no phase relationship):

- System samples **uniformly** across all phases
- No preference for extremes
- **Classical behavior**: All positions equally likely
- Loses quantum advantages

Optimal Coherence $C^* < 1$

Hypothesis: Optimal coherence allows sampling **near** the extremes with some spread.

For a system with coherence C , the effective sampling window is:

$$\Delta\phi = \pi(1 - C) \quad (\text{phase uncertainty})$$

At $C = 1$: $\Delta\phi = 0$ (locked to single point)

At $C = 0$: $\Delta\phi = \pi$ (uniform sampling)

At $C^* \sim 0.79-0.95$: $\Delta\phi \sim 0.05\pi - 0.21\pi$ (samples near extremes)

Derivation of C^* from Sampling Optimization

Optimization criterion: Maximize the probability of observing extremes while maintaining robustness.

Define the **sampling quality** Q as:

$$Q = \int P(s) \times w(s, C) \, ds$$

Where $w(s, C)$ is a weight function favoring extremes but penalizing fragility.

Result: Q is maximized at $C^* \approx 0.79$ (see Session #289 for detailed derivation).

Physical Interpretation

Coherence	Phase Window	Behavior	Robustness
$C = 1.0$	0	Locked to one point	Fragile

Coherence	Phase Window	Behavior	Robustness
$C = 0.95$	$0.05\pi (9^\circ)$	Near-extreme sampling	Good
$C = 0.79$	$0.21\pi (38^\circ)$	Optimal sampling	Best
$C = 0.50$	$0.50\pi (90^\circ)$	Broad sampling	Moderate
$C = 0.00$	$\pi (180^\circ)$	Uniform (classical)	Maximum

Part 5: Connection to Chemistry Framework

Chemistry Session #49: Temporal Coherence

The Chemistry track derived:

$$\gamma_t = 2/\sqrt{\xi_t}$$

Where ξ_t = number of coherent oscillation periods.

Connection to sinusoidal sampling:

- ξ_t is the number of complete oscillations before decoherence
- Higher $\xi_t \rightarrow$ lower $\gamma_t \rightarrow$ more quantum character
- The arcsine distribution emerges when $\xi_t > 4$ (Session #59)

Mapping Between Frameworks

Chemistry (γ_t)	Quantum (C)	Interpretation
$\gamma_t = 2$	$C = 0$	Classical (one oscillation or less)
$\gamma_t = 1$	$C = 0.75$	Quantum-classical boundary
$\gamma_t = 0.5$	$C = 0.94$	Strong quantum coherence
$\gamma_t \rightarrow 0$	$C \rightarrow 1$	Perfect coherence (fragile)

Approximate mapping: $C \approx 1 - \gamma t / 2$ for $\gamma t \leq 2$

Chemistry Session #59: Oscillation Threshold

The Chemistry track found that oscillatory behavior requires:

$$\xi_t > 4 \quad (94\% \text{ accuracy across 17 systems})$$

Sinusoidal sampling interpretation:

- At least 4 complete oscillations are needed to establish the arcsine distribution
- Fewer oscillations \rightarrow not enough "visits" to extremes \rightarrow classical-like behavior

- This is why $\xi_t > 4$ is a threshold, not gradual

Chemistry Session #65: Phonon Coherence

$$\gamma_{\text{phonon}} = 2/\sqrt(1/a)$$

Where l = phonon mean free path, a = lattice spacing.

Interpretation: The mean free path l defines how many lattice sites a phonon visits coherently—analogous to how many "oscillation periods" the phase relationship persists.

Part 6: Testable Predictions

P291.1: Autocorrelation at Oscillation Frequency

Prediction: Rapid repeated measurements of a qubit should show autocorrelation peaks at the underlying oscillation frequency.

Test:

- Perform measurements at rate $> 10 \times$ the qubit frequency
- Compute autocorrelation function of measurement outcomes
- Expect peak at $\tau = 1/f_{\text{qubit}}$ (or harmonics)

Falsification: No autocorrelation structure beyond shot noise.

P291.2: Measurement Timing Affects Statistics

Prediction: The timing of measurement relative to qubit initialization should affect the probability distribution of outcomes.

Test:

- Initialize qubit to known state
- Vary measurement delay in steps of $\tau_{\text{qubit}}/8$
- Measure outcome statistics at each delay
- Expect 8-fold periodic modulation of $|0\rangle$ vs $|1\rangle$ probability

Falsification: Outcome statistics independent of measurement timing.

P291.3: Arcsine Distribution in Weak Measurement

Prediction: Weak continuous measurement of a qubit should reveal the underlying arcsine distribution, not a two-peaked distribution.

Test:

- Perform weak measurement (low coupling strength)
- Accumulate statistics over many measurement records
- Histogram of measurement results should follow $P(s) \propto 1/\sqrt(A^2 - s^2)$

Falsification: Gaussian or two-peaked distribution instead of arcsine.

P291.4: C* Dependence on Measurement Coupling

Prediction: The optimal coherence C* should depend on measurement coupling strength κ as:

$$C^*(\kappa) = 0.79 \times (1 + \kappa/\kappa_{crit})^{-1/2}$$

Where κ_{crit} is the critical coupling for strong measurement.

Test:

- Vary measurement coupling strength
- Determine optimal coherence for maximum gate fidelity at each κ
- Plot C^* vs κ and fit to predicted functional form

Falsification: C^* independent of κ , or different functional dependence.

Part 7: Implications for Quantum Computing

Gate Operations as Phase Manipulation

If qubit states are oscillation phases:

- **X gate:** Phase shift of π (move to opposite extreme)
- **Z gate:** Phase shift that swaps $|0\rangle \leftrightarrow |1\rangle$ definitions
- **Hadamard:** Phase shift of $\pi/2$ (move to midpoint)

Entanglement as Phase Correlation

Two entangled qubits have **correlated oscillation phases**:

- When qubit A is at $+A$, qubit B is at $\pm A$ (depending on entanglement type)
- Phase correlation persists across separation
- "Measurement" of A phase-locks B indirectly through shared phase reference

(See Session #286 for detailed entanglement discussion)

Error Correction as Resynchronization

Errors are **phase drift**, not discrete bit flips:

- Environmental noise shifts oscillation phase
- "Correction" means resynchronizing to reference phase
- Continuous monitoring can track phase drift

(See Session #287 for detailed QEC discussion)

Part 8: Philosophical Implications

Determinism vs Randomness

The sinusoidal sampling model suggests quantum "randomness" is:

- **Not fundamental indeterminism**
- **Not hidden variables in Bell's sense**
- **Sampling dynamics** of a deterministic oscillation

The apparent randomness comes from:

1. Unknown initial phase
2. Unknown measurement timing
3. Chaotic sensitivity in phase-locking dynamics

Observer Effect

"Measurement disturbs the system" becomes:

- Measurement apparatus **couples** to oscillating system
- Coupling **shifts** the oscillation phase (back-action)
- Subsequent measurements see the **new** phase, not the original

This is physical interaction, not mysterious "consciousness causes collapse."

Superposition

"Being in two states at once" becomes:

- The oscillation **visits** both extremes
- At any instant, the system has a definite position
- "Superposition" describes the **oscillation pattern**, not simultaneous existence

Summary

Core Model

```
Quantum State = Oscillation s(t) = A·sin(ωt + φ)
Measurement = Phase-locking to low-ds/dt region (extreme)
Collapse = Stabilization at phase-lock point
Two States = Arcsine distribution favors ±A
Optimal c* = Allows sampling near extremes without fragile locking
```

Key Equations

Concept	Equation	Source
State oscillation	$s(t) = A \cdot \sin(\omega t + \varphi)$	This session
Probability density	$P(s) = 1/(\pi\sqrt{A^2 - s^2})$	Arcsine distribution
Phase uncertainty	$\Delta\varphi = \pi(1 - C)$	This session
Optimal coherence	$C^* \approx 0.79$	Session #289
Temporal coherence	$\gamma t = 2/\sqrt{\xi t}$	Chemistry #49
Oscillation threshold	$\xi_t > 4$	Chemistry #59
Coherence mapping	$C \approx 1 - \gamma_t/2$	This session

Crosslinks

Session	Connection
Chemistry #49	Temporal coherence equation ($\gamma t = 2/\sqrt{\xi t}$)
Chemistry #59	Oscillation threshold ($\xi_t > 4$ for 94% accuracy)
Chemistry #65	Phonon coherence (l = coherence length)
Session #285	Qubit as temporal pattern
Session #286	Entanglement as phase correlation
Session #287	Error correction as resynchronization
Session #288	Algorithms as phase interference
Session #289	Optimal coherence derivation

Next Steps

1. **Session #292:** Formalize the phase-locking dynamics mathematically
2. **Session #293:** Connect to Bell inequality through temporal structure
3. **Session #294:** Experimental protocol design for P291.1-P291.4
4. **Session #295:** Application to specific qubit platforms (superconducting, trapped ion)

Validation Status

Prediction	Testability	Status
P291.1 (Autocorrelation)	Requires fast measurement	Pending
P291.2 (Timing dependence)	Standard lab equipment	Pending
P291.3 (Arcsine in weak measurement)	Requires weak measurement setup	Pending
P291.4 (C^* vs κ)	Requires variable coupling	Pending

Session #291 Complete

"Measurement isn't collapse—it's finding where the pendulum pauses."