

Understanding Quantum Mechanics by Sequential Stern-Gerlach Experiments (Outline)

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Abstract

In this essay, we apply the quantum measure theory to interpret the results of sequential Stern-Gerlach (SG) experiments, which deepens our understanding of the quantum mechanics.

1 Introduction

The original SG experiment was given by A and B in some years, which proved the existence of spin. The experimental setup is as shown in Fig. 1. A beam of Silver is heated in the oven and then passes through..., Surprisingly, the beams on the screen are not continuous as predicted by classical physics, but discretely separated into two branches. The result also can be viewed as one of the simplest quantum systems, a two-level energy system.

J.J. Sakurai extended the original SG experiment to the sequential ones to illustrate the essentials of quantum mechanics. Here we follow the Sakurai's discussion in [1] to demonstrate and understand the quantum mechanics itself.

2 Methods

2.1 Sequential SG experiments

2.2 Quantum measurement theory

Now let us apply the quantum measurement theory to calculate the outcomes from the sequential SG experiments. ...

3 Results

The calculation is consistent with the results from SG experiments. ...

4 Conclusion

The result shows that the results of SG can be calculated and predicted in the framework of quantum mechanics. The quantum mechanics analysis of the SG Experiments enhances our belief in the theory.



Figure 1: Sunrise, Claude Monet, 1872

5 Appendix

5.1 Details about the original SG experiment

5.2 Analogy with light polarization

5.3 Hilbert space and Dirac notation

References

- [1] J. J. Sakurai. *Modern quantum mechanics*. Addison-Wesley Pub. Co, Reading, Mass, 1994.