

Atomic clocks

Martin Fraas

Avronfest, July 2013



Relativistic Invariance and Quantum Phenomena*

EUGENE P. WIGNER

" For example, a clock, with a running time of a day and an accuracy of 10^{-8} second, must weigh almost a gram—for reasons stemming solely from uncertainty principles and similar considerations."

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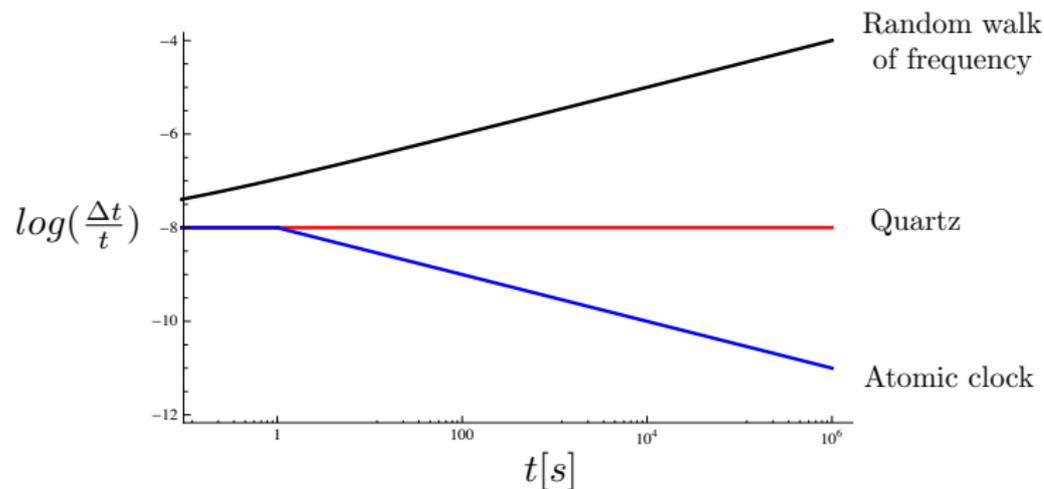
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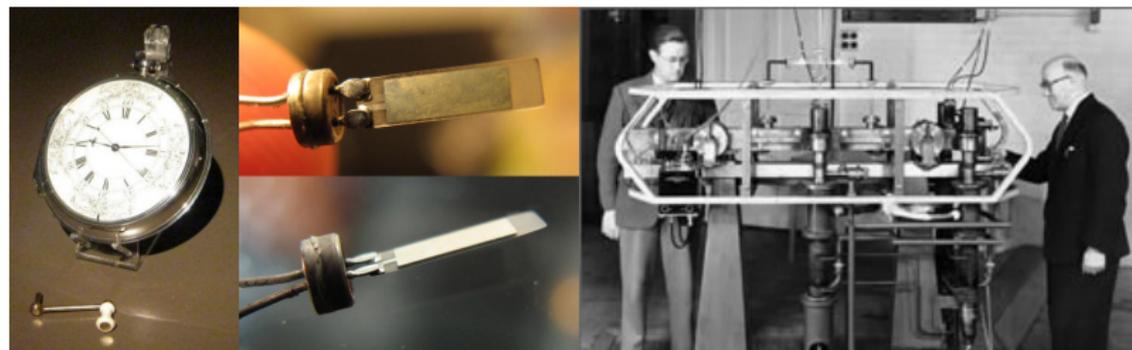
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Brief history of man made clocks

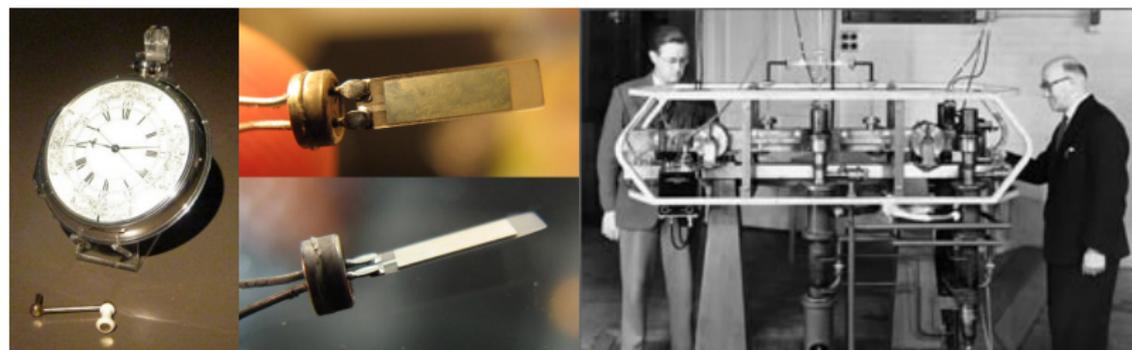


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Clock

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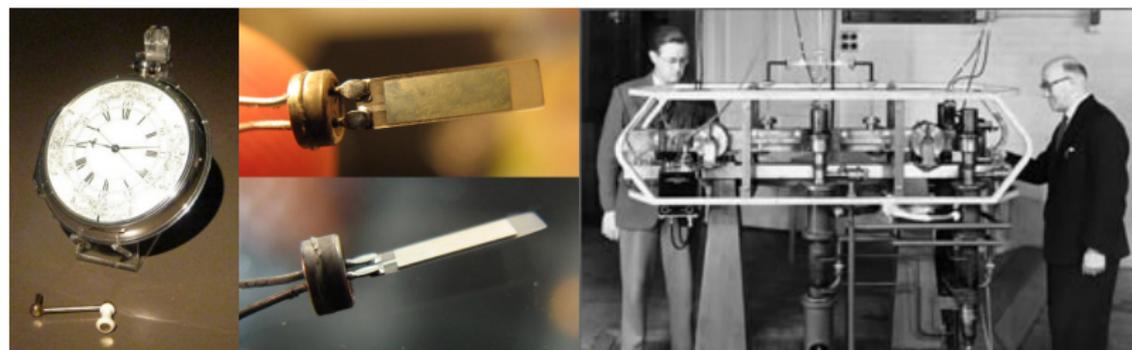
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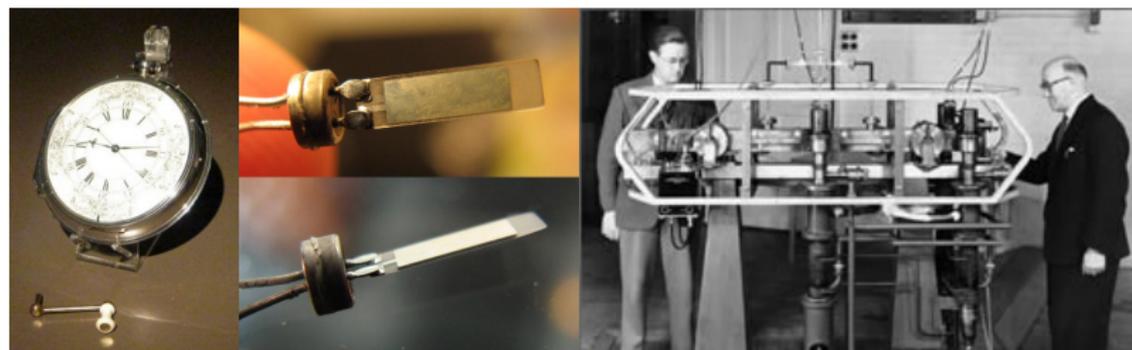
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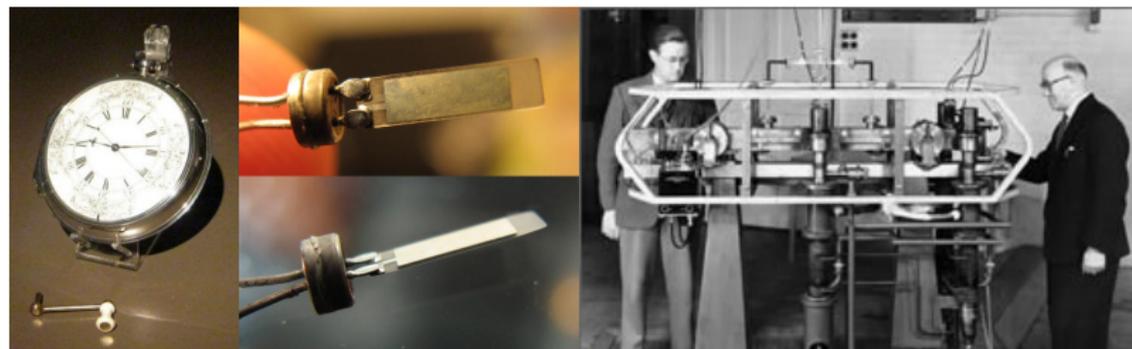
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2010	Al ⁺ Optical Clock	10 ⁻⁶ μs

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- ▶ Limits on size, mass, power, etc.

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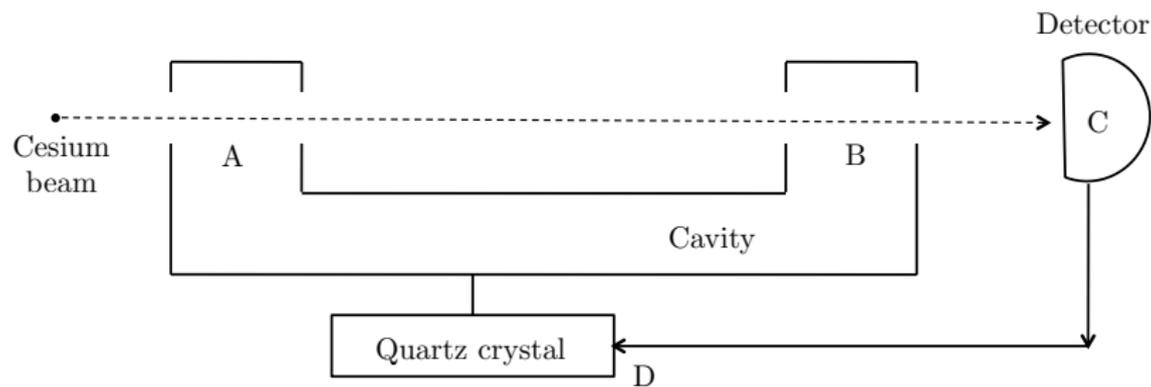
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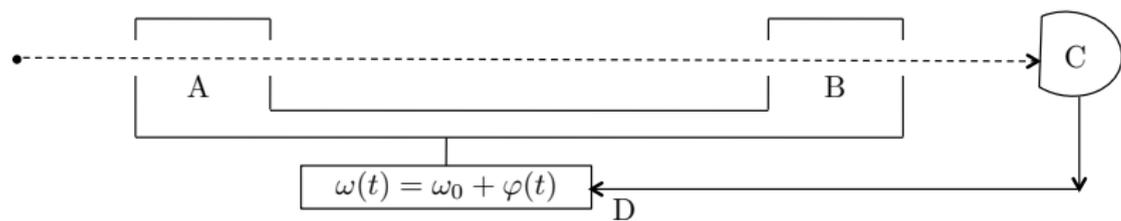
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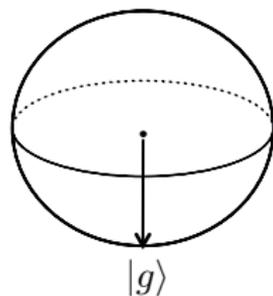
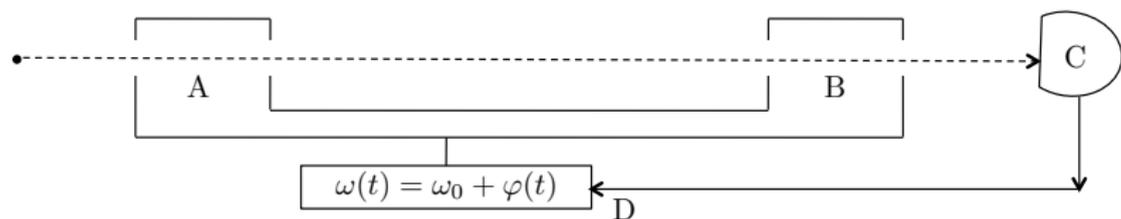


Ramsey interferometry

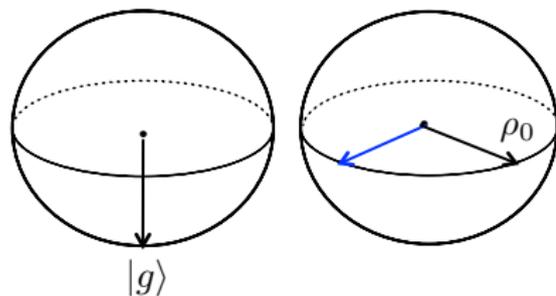
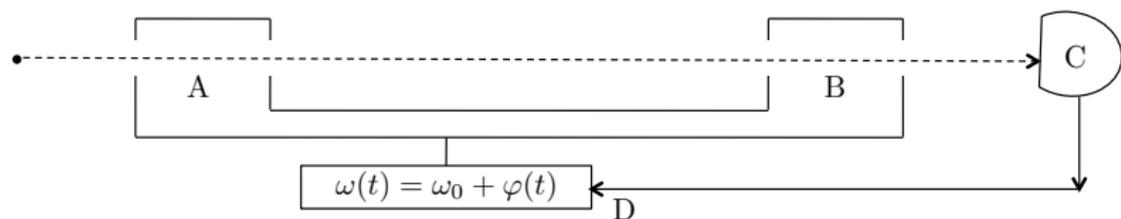
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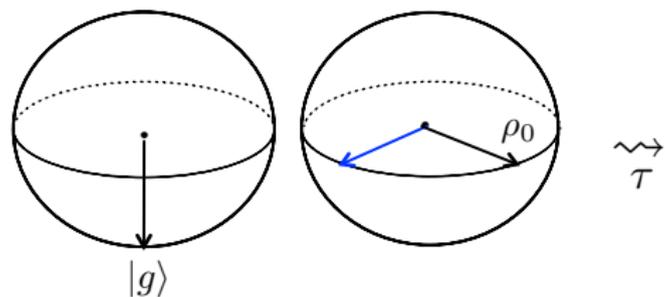
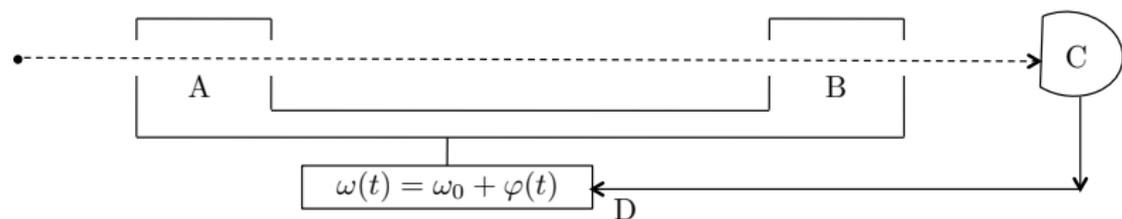
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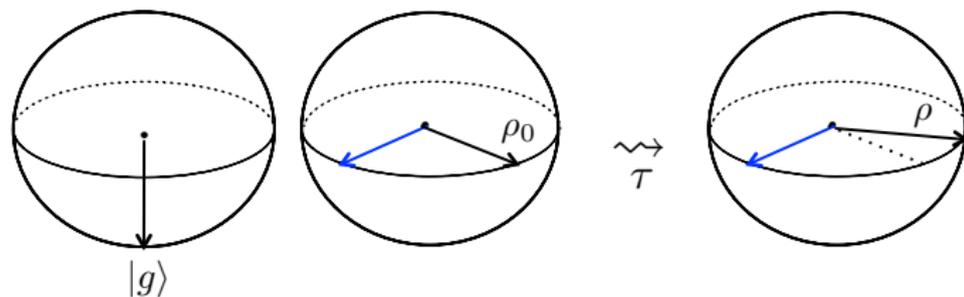
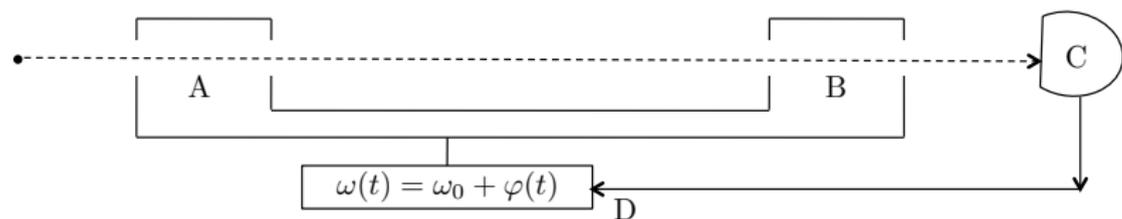
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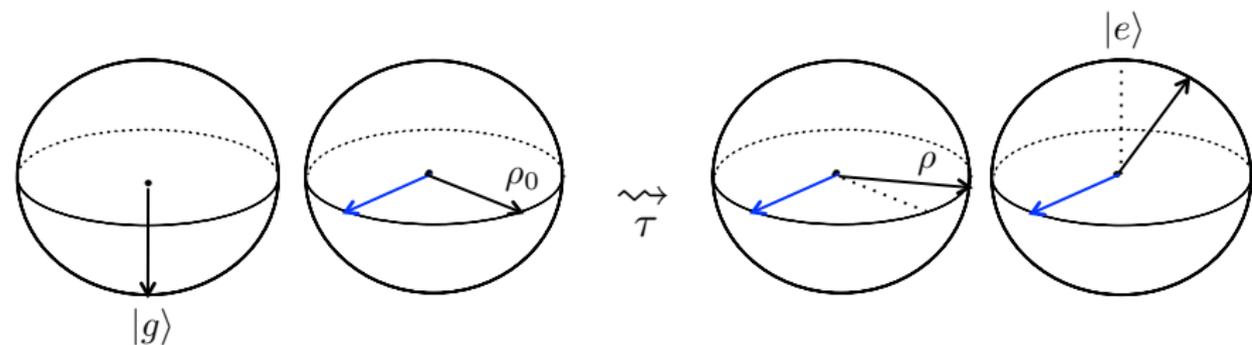
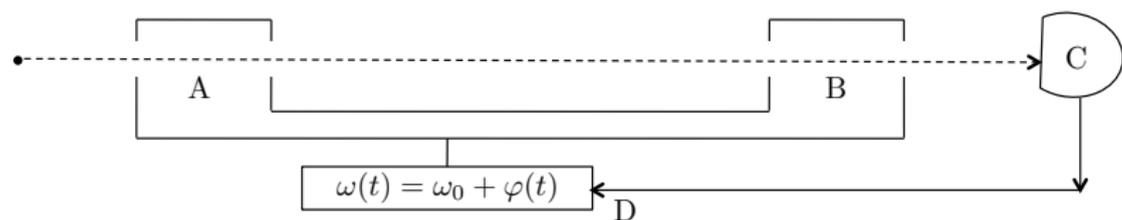
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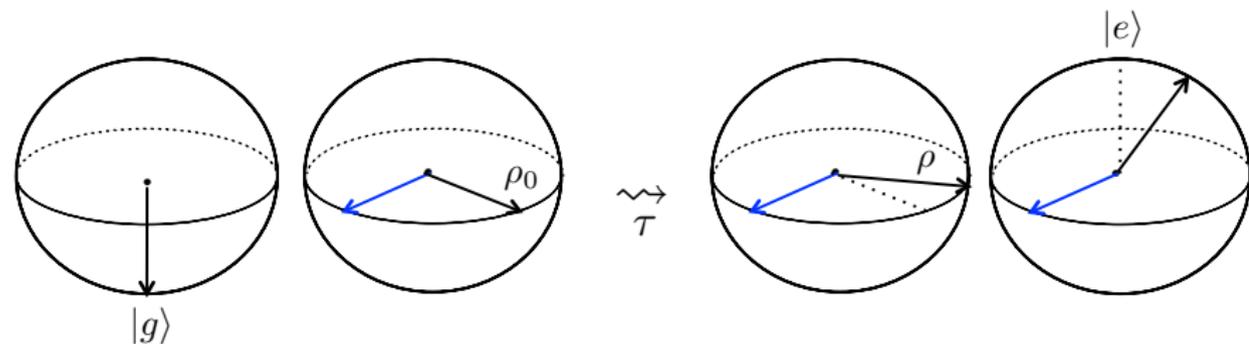
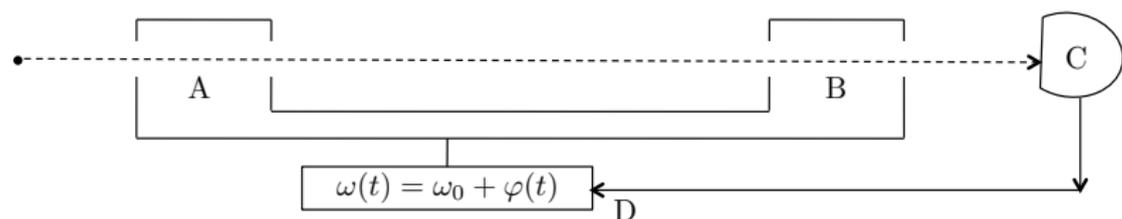
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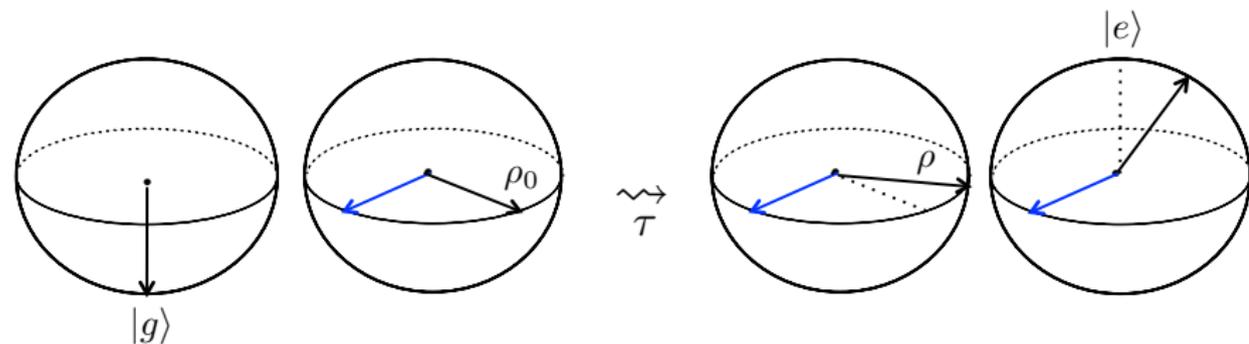
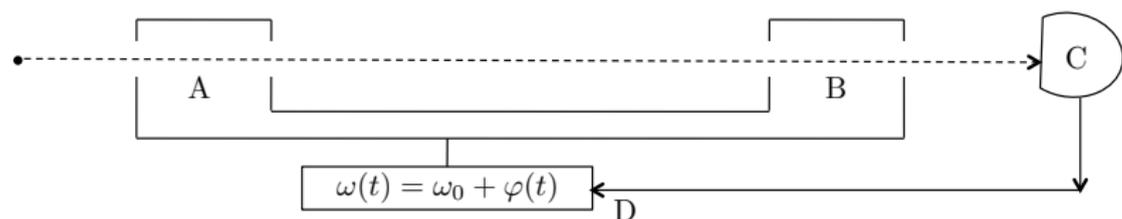


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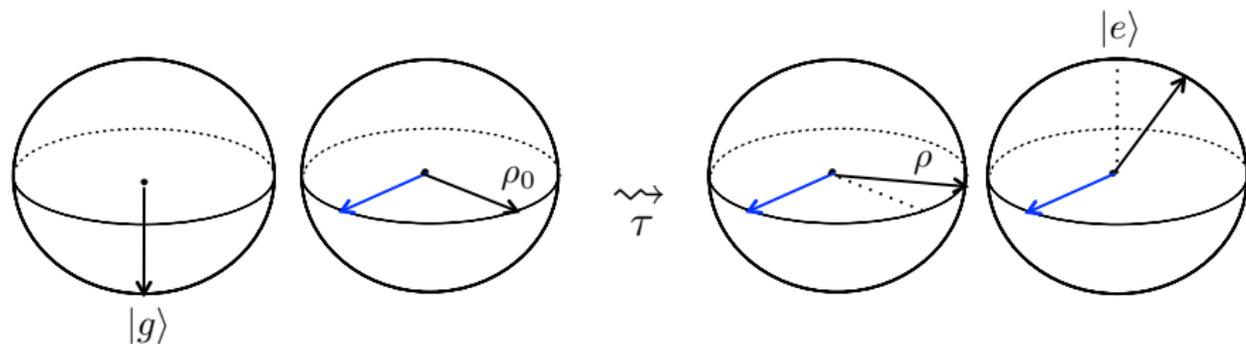
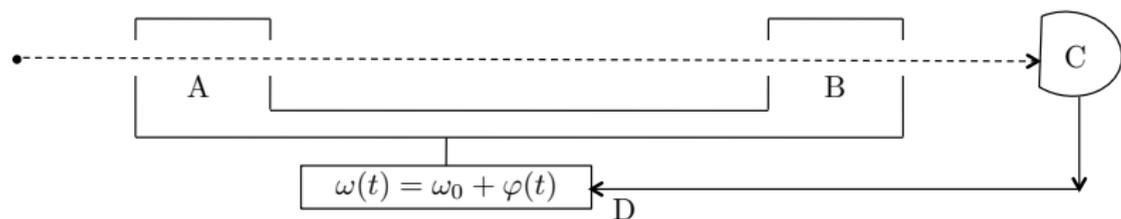
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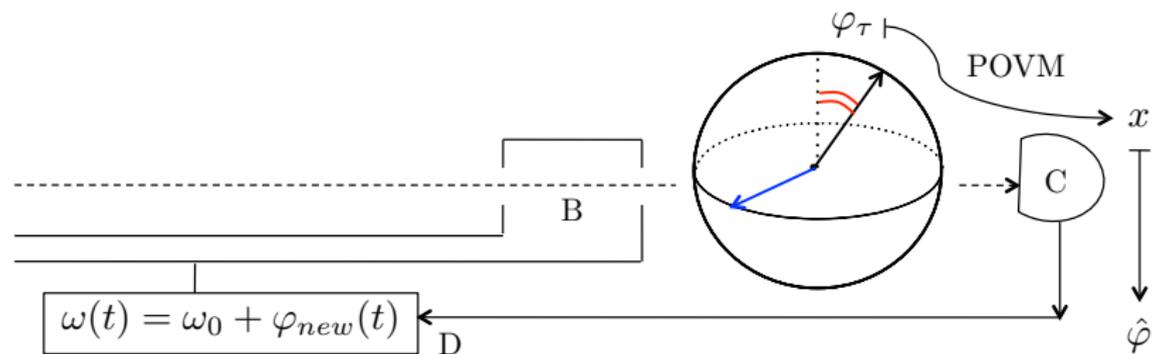


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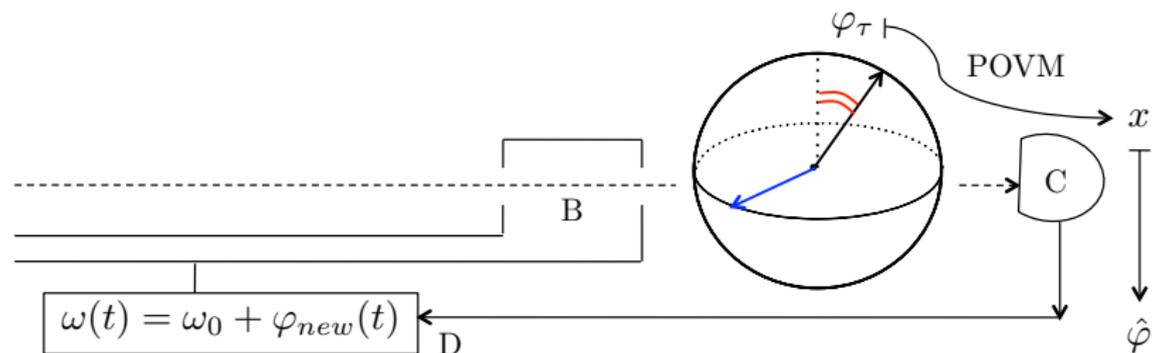
$$\rho_0 \rightarrow \rho(\varphi_\tau) := e^{-i\varphi_\tau H} \rho_0 e^{i\varphi_\tau H}$$

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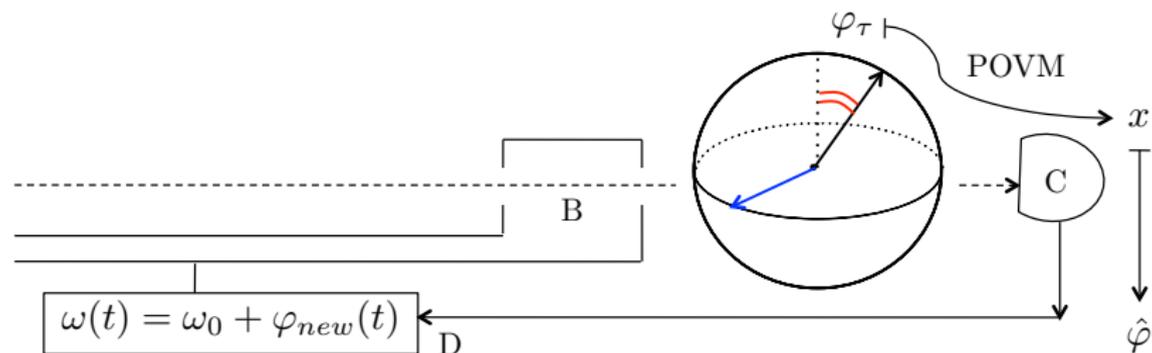


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A **POVM** measurement on the final state $R_{\frac{\pi}{2}}\rho$ assigns a **measurement outcome** x to the **accumulated frequency error** φ_T .

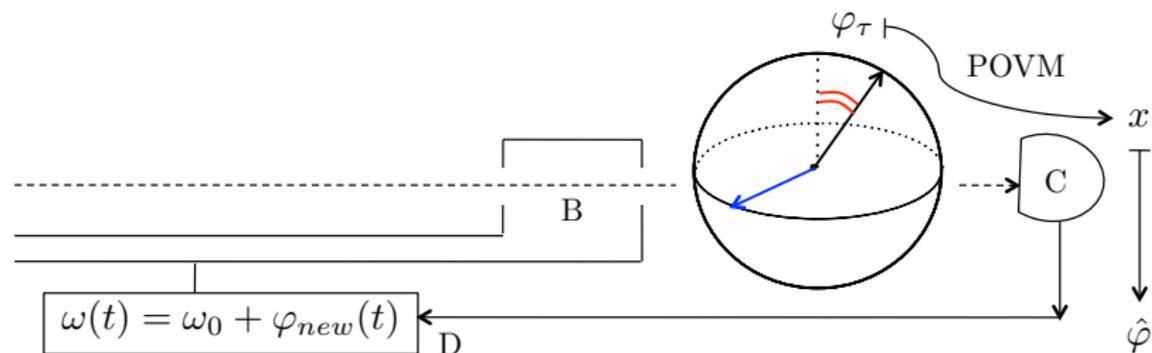
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A **feedback** uses $\hat{\varphi}$ to adjust the original frequency error φ .

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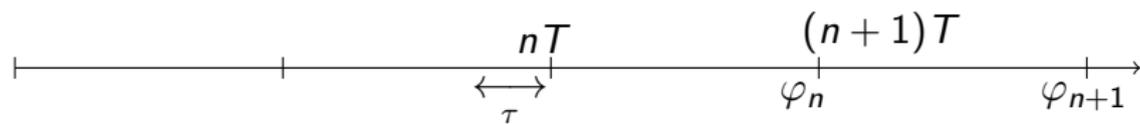
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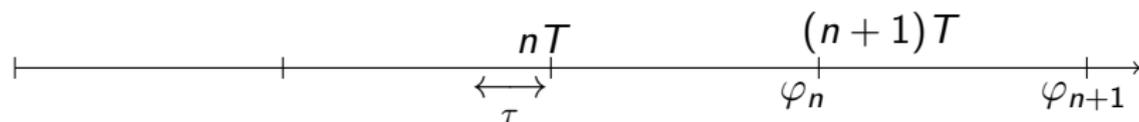
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- ▶ A **linear feedback** $\varphi(t) \mapsto \varphi(t) - \hat{\varphi}$.

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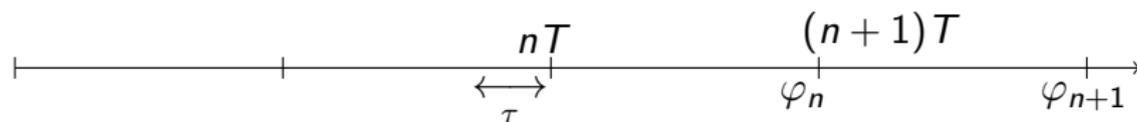


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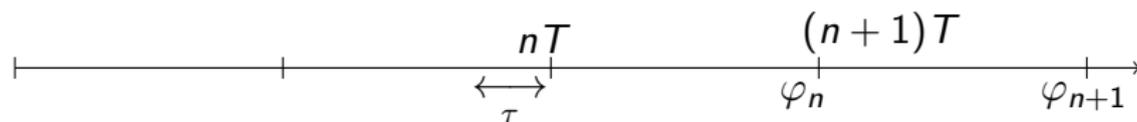


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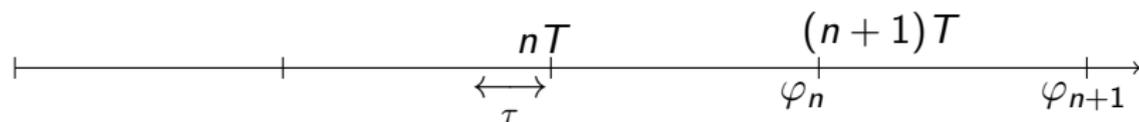
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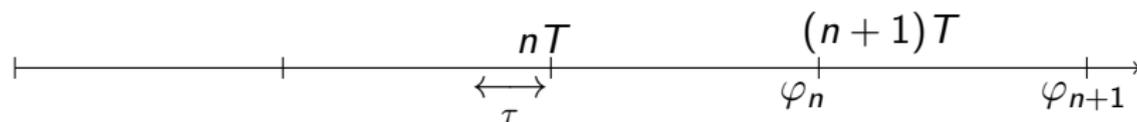
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- ▶ φ_n provides $\varphi(t)$, which gives the clock time;

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Definition (ζ -unbiased clock)

The clock is ζ -unbiased if the estimation procedure satisfies

$$\mathbb{E}[\varphi - \hat{\varphi}|\varphi] = \zeta\varphi, \quad |\zeta| < 1.$$

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Fisher information is inversely proportional to the **width** .

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where

$$g(\zeta, x) = \zeta^2 + \frac{1 + \zeta - 2\zeta^2}{3} x,$$

$$f(\zeta, x) = 1 + \zeta + \zeta^2 + (1 + 2\zeta)(1 - \zeta)x + (1 - \zeta)^2 x^2,$$

$$\frac{1}{F} = \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{F(\tau\varphi_n)} \right].$$

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Quantitative analysis, the case $T = \tau$:

- ▶ The optimal interrogation time is determined by a balance of the dissipation and estimation precision. For fixed ζ :

$$4DT = (1 - \zeta)^2 \frac{1}{FT^2}.$$

- ▶ For the optimal time, $\zeta \approx 0.35$ minimize the variance of the stationary state;

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Local CR, $\zeta = 0 \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad$ Global CR, $\inf_{\zeta} = 1/(F + \mathbb{E}[\varphi^2])^{-1}$

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Local CR, $\zeta = 0 \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad$ Global CR, $\inf_{\zeta} = 1/(F + \mathbb{E}[\varphi^2])^{-1}$

- ▶ Compute covariance of $\varphi(t)$, e.g. $\mathbb{E}[\varphi_{n+h}\varphi_n] = \zeta^h \mathbb{E}[\varphi_n^2]$.

Pieces of the Proof

- ▶ φ_n is a supermartingale \implies existence of a stationary state;
- ▶ Cramer-Rao type inequality: Suppose $\mathbb{E}[\varphi\hat{\varphi}] = \zeta\mathbb{E}[\varphi^2]$ then

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- ▶ Compute covariance of $\varphi(t)$, e.g. $\mathbb{E}[\varphi_{n+h}\varphi_n] = \zeta^h \mathbb{E}[\varphi_n^2]$.
Integration gives variance of the clock time.

Conclusions & Outlooks

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- ▶ Mathematically minded model of atomic clocks;
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- ▶ Mathematically minded model of atomic clocks;
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Outlooks:

- ▶ "Central limit theorem";
- ▶ Beyond unbiased clock, unbiased stationary state;
- ▶ Entropy production;

Happy Birthday
Yosi!