The right kind of uncertainty principle. Fisher information and Quantum Cramér-Rao bounds

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Quantum Cramér-Rao Bound (QCRB)

Single-parameter estimation: Bound on the meansquare error in estimating a classical parameter that is coupled to a quantum system in terms of the inverse of the quantum Fisher information.

Multi-parameter estimation: Bound on the covariance matrix in estimating a set of classical parameters that are coupled to a quantum system in terms of the inverse of a quantum Fisher-information matrix.

We are only going to consider the single-parameter case. An important distinction is that the singleparameter QCRB is saturable—there is a measurement that achieves the bound—whereas the multi-parameter QCRB is generally not.

Fisher information

Estimating a probability *p* from *N* trials (random walk, polling)

Measuring the "distance" between neighboring probability distributions in units of their distinguishability

$$\frac{(\delta p)^2}{(\Delta f)^2} = N \frac{(\delta p)^2}{pq} = N \left(\frac{(\delta p)^2}{p} + \frac{(\delta q)^2}{q} \right) = N \left((\delta u)^2 + (\delta v)^2 \right)$$

Fisher information $u = \sqrt{p}, \quad v = \sqrt{q}$

Not $|\delta p| + |\delta q|$ or $(\delta p)^2 + (\delta q)^2$ or $(\delta p/p)^2 + (\delta q/q)^2$

(Classical) Cramér-Rao bound

For any parameter ϕ that affects a probability distribution $p_j(\phi)$,

$$\Delta \phi_{\text{est}} \ge \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{F}}$$

$$F(\phi) = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Fisher} \\ \text{information} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \sum_{j} \frac{1}{p_{j}(\phi)} \left(\frac{dp_{j}(\phi)}{d\phi} \right)^{2}$$

$$= \sum_{j} p_{j}(\phi) \left(\frac{d\ln p_{j}(\phi)}{d\phi} \right)^{2}$$

Proof of QCRB. Setting

 $H_{\gamma}(t) = \hbar \gamma h + \tilde{H}(t)$

Parameter γ Generator of parameter displacements, hEverything else, \tilde{H} , *including feedback* For a more traditional proof of the QCRB, including nonunitary parameter displacements, see S. L. Braunstein and C. M. Caves, PRL 72, 3439 (1994).



$$\rho_{\gamma}(t) = U_{\gamma}(t)\rho_{0}U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(t) \qquad i\hbar \frac{\partial U_{\gamma}(s)}{\partial s} = H_{\gamma}(s)U_{\gamma}(s)$$
$$p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma) = \text{tr}(E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}}\rho_{\gamma}(t)) \qquad \int d\gamma_{\text{est}}E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}} = I$$
Initial state ρ_{0}

Initial state ho_0 Intermediate times s, final time tEvolution operator $U_{\gamma}(s)$ Estimator POVM $E_{\gamma_{est}}$

Proof of QCRB. Classical CRB

$$\Delta \gamma_{\text{est}} \equiv \gamma_{\text{est}} - \langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle$$

$$\delta \gamma \equiv \frac{\gamma_{\text{est}}}{|d\langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle/d\gamma|} - \gamma \equiv \frac{\Delta \gamma_{\text{est}}}{|d\langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle/d\gamma|} + \langle \delta \gamma \rangle$$
Unbiased estimator:

$$\langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle = \gamma \text{ and } d\langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle/d\gamma = 1 \text{ and thus } \langle \delta \gamma \rangle = 0$$

$$1 = \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma) \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle = \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} \gamma_{\text{est}} p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma)$$
Differentiate with respect to γ

$$\frac{d\langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle}{d\gamma} = \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} (\gamma_{\text{est}} - \langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle) \frac{\partial p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma)}{\partial \gamma}$$

$$= \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} \Delta \gamma_{\text{est}} \frac{\partial p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma)}{\partial \gamma}$$

$$= \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma) \Delta \gamma_{\text{est}} \frac{\partial \ln p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma)}{\partial \gamma}$$

$$= \langle \Delta \gamma_{\text{est}} \frac{\partial \ln p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma)}{\partial \gamma} \rangle$$

Proof of QCRB. Classical CRB

$$\frac{d\langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle}{d\gamma} = \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} \Delta \gamma_{\text{est}} \frac{\partial p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma)}{\partial \gamma}$$
$$= \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma) \Delta \gamma_{\text{est}} \frac{\partial \ln p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma)}{\partial \gamma}$$
$$= \left\langle \Delta \gamma_{\text{est}} \frac{\partial \ln p(\gamma_{\text{est}} | \gamma)}{\partial \gamma} \right\rangle$$

$$\left(\frac{d\langle\gamma_{\rm est}\rangle}{d\gamma}\right)^2 \leq \left\langle (\Delta\gamma_{\rm est})^2 \right\rangle \left\langle \left(\frac{\partial \ln p(\gamma_{\rm est}|\gamma)}{\partial\gamma}\right)^2 \right\rangle = \left\langle (\Delta\gamma_{\rm est})^2 \right\rangle F(\gamma)$$

Schwarz inequality

Classical Fisher information $F(\gamma)$

$$\delta\gamma \equiv \frac{\gamma_{\rm est}}{|d\langle\gamma_{\rm est}\rangle/d\gamma|} - \gamma = \frac{\Delta\gamma_{\rm est}}{|d\langle\gamma_{\rm est}\rangle/d\gamma|} + \langle\delta\gamma\rangle$$
$$\langle(\delta\gamma)^2\rangle = \frac{\langle(\Delta\gamma_{\rm est})^2\rangle}{|d\langle\gamma_{\rm est}\rangle/d\gamma|^2} + \langle\delta\gamma\rangle^2 \ge \frac{1}{F(\gamma)} + \langle\delta\gamma\rangle^2 \ge \frac{1}{F(\gamma)}$$

For an unbiased estimator, which has $\langle \gamma_{\text{est}} \rangle = \gamma$, $\langle \delta \gamma \rangle = 0$.

Proof of QCRB. Classical Fisher information

$$\langle (\delta\gamma)^2 \rangle = \frac{(\Delta\gamma_{\rm est})^2}{|d\langle\gamma_{\rm est}\rangle/d\gamma|^2} + \langle\delta\gamma\rangle^2 \ge \frac{1}{F(\gamma)} + \langle\delta\gamma\rangle^2 \ge \frac{1}{F(\gamma)}$$

$$F(\gamma) \equiv \left\langle \left(\frac{\partial \ln p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma)}{\partial \gamma} \right)^2 \right\rangle$$
$$= \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma) \left(\frac{\partial \ln p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma)}{\partial \gamma} \right)^2$$
$$= \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} \frac{1}{p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma)} \left(\frac{\partial p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma)}{\partial \gamma} \right)^2$$

The Fisher bound $\langle (\delta \gamma)^2 \rangle \geq 1/F(\gamma)$ can be attained asympotically in many trials by using maximum-likelihood estimation.

Proof of QCRB. Quantum mechanics

$$H_{\gamma}(t) = \hbar\gamma h + \tilde{H}(t)$$

$$\rho_{\gamma}(t) = U_{\gamma}(t)\rho_{0}U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(t)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial U_{\gamma}(s)}{\partial s} = H_{\gamma}(s)U_{\gamma}(s)$$

$$p(\gamma_{est}|\gamma)) = tr(E_{\gamma_{est}}\rho_{\gamma}(t))$$

$$\frac{\partial p(\gamma_{est}|\gamma)}{\partial \gamma} = tr\left(E_{\gamma_{est}}\frac{\partial \rho_{\gamma}(t)}{\partial \gamma}\right)$$

$$F(\gamma) = \int d\gamma_{est}\frac{1}{p(\gamma_{est}|\gamma)} \left(\frac{\partial p(\gamma_{est}|\gamma)}{\partial \gamma}\right)^{2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}[tr(E_{\gamma_{est}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}) + tr(E_{\gamma_{est}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma})^{*}]$$

$$= Re[tr(E_{\gamma_{est}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}(t))]$$

$$tr(E_{\gamma_{est}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma})^{*} = tr(\rho_{\gamma}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}E_{\gamma_{est}})$$

$$= tr(E_{\gamma_{est}}\rho_{\gamma}C_{\gamma})$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_{\gamma}(t)}{\partial \gamma} = \frac{1}{2}[\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}(t) + \rho_{\gamma}(t)\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}] = -iU_{\gamma}(t)[K_{\gamma}(t),\rho_{0}]U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(t)$$

Symmetric logarithmic derivative \mathcal{L}_{γ} (Hermitian)

 γ -generator K_{γ} , referred to initial time

$$K_{\gamma}(t) = iU_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(t)\frac{\partial U_{\gamma}(t)}{\partial \gamma} = \int_{0}^{t} ds U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(s)hU_{\gamma}(s) \equiv t\overline{h}$$

If $\tilde{H} = 0$, $U_{\gamma}(t) = e^{-i\gamma ht}$, $K_{\gamma} = th$, and $\overline{h} = h$.

Proof of QCRB. Quantum mechanics

The symmetric logarithmic derivative \mathcal{L}_{γ} is natural for the QCRB. For pure state is directly related to the γ -generator K_{γ} , which turn out to be optimal.

There is a trick here. One might think that the natural way to define the $\gamma\text{-generator}$ is

$$\mathcal{J}_{\gamma}(t) = i \frac{\partial U_{\gamma}(t)}{\partial \gamma} U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(t) \,,$$

but we use instead

$$\mathcal{K}_{\gamma}(t) = i U^{\dagger}_{\gamma}(t) rac{\partial U_{\gamma}(t)}{\partial \gamma} = U^{\dagger}_{\gamma}(t) \mathcal{J}_{\gamma}(t) U_{\gamma}(t) \, ,$$

which refers the seeingly natural generator $\mathcal{J}_{\gamma}(t)$ to the initial time. We do this because

$$\mathcal{K}_{\gamma}(s) = i U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(s) \frac{\partial U_{\gamma}(s)}{\partial \gamma}$$

satisfies the temporal differential equation

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{K}_{\gamma}(s)}{\partial s} = -\frac{1}{\hbar} U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(s) H(s) \frac{\partial U_{\gamma}(s)}{\partial \gamma} + \frac{1}{\hbar} U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(s) \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial \gamma} [H(s)U_{\gamma}(s)]}_{= \hbar h U_{\gamma}(s) + H(s) \frac{\partial U_{\gamma}(s)}{\partial \gamma}}_{= U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(s) h U_{\gamma}(s),$$

which, since $\mathcal{K}_{\gamma}(0) = 0$, has the straightforward solution

$$\mathcal{K}_{\gamma}(t) = \int_{0}^{t} ds \, U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(s) h U_{\gamma}(s) \equiv t \overline{h}$$

Proof of QCRB. Quantum mechanics $F(\gamma) = \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} \frac{1}{p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma)} \left(\frac{\partial p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma)}{\partial \gamma}\right)^2$ $\frac{\partial p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma)}{\partial \gamma} = \text{tr}\left(E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}}\frac{\partial \rho_{\gamma}(t)}{\partial \gamma}\right) = \text{Re}[\text{tr}(E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}(t))]$ $\left(\frac{\partial p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma)}{\partial \gamma}\right)^{2} = \left(\text{Re}[\text{tr}(E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}(t))]\right)^{2}$ $< |\operatorname{tr}(E_{\gamma_{\operatorname{oct}}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma})|^2$ $= \left| \operatorname{tr} \left(\sqrt{\rho_{\gamma}} \sqrt{E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}}} \sqrt{E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}}} \mathcal{L}_{\gamma} \sqrt{\rho_{\gamma}} \right) \right|^{2}$ $\leq \operatorname{tr}(\sqrt{\rho_{\gamma}}E_{\gamma_{\mathrm{est}}}\sqrt{\rho_{\gamma}})\operatorname{tr}(\sqrt{\rho_{\gamma}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}E_{\gamma_{\mathrm{est}}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\sqrt{\rho_{\gamma}})$ Schwarz inequality $= \operatorname{tr}(E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}}\rho_{\gamma})\operatorname{tr}(E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma})$ $= p(\gamma_{\text{est}}|\gamma) \operatorname{tr}(E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma})$ $F(\gamma) \leq \int d\gamma_{\text{est}} \operatorname{tr}(E_{\gamma_{\text{est}}} \mathcal{L}_{\gamma} \rho_{\gamma} \mathcal{L}_{\gamma}) = \operatorname{tr}(\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}^{2} \rho_{\gamma}(t)) \equiv Q(\gamma)$ QCRB Quantum Fisher information $Q(\gamma) = \langle (\Delta \mathcal{L}_{\gamma})^2 \rangle$

Proof of QCRB. Summary before optimization

 $\langle (\delta\gamma)^2 \rangle = \geq \frac{1}{F(\gamma)} + \langle \delta\gamma \rangle^2 \geq \frac{1}{F(\gamma)}$ $\geq rac{1}{Q(\gamma)} = rac{1}{\langle (\Delta \mathcal{L}_{\gamma})^2
angle}$

Proof of QCRB. Optimizing the measurement $F(\gamma) \leq tr(\mathcal{L}^2_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}(t)) \equiv Q(\gamma)$ QCRB

Saturating the QCRB requires using a measurement that saturates the two inequalities that separate $F(\gamma)$ from $Q(\gamma)$:

 $\mathrm{tr}(E_{\gamma_{\mathrm{est}}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}
ho_{\gamma}(t)) ext{ real}, \ \sqrt{E_{\gamma_{\mathrm{est}}}}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\sqrt{
ho_{\gamma}} \propto \sqrt{E_{\gamma_{\mathrm{est}}}}\sqrt{
ho_{\gamma}} \,.$

Although this looks like a disaster, it is easy to see that measuring the symmetric logarithmic derivative, i.e., measuring in the eigenbasis of \mathcal{L}_{γ} ,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\gamma} = \sum_{j} \lambda_{j} |j\rangle \langle j|,$$

with

$$E_j = |j\rangle\langle j|,$$

does the job, because

$$\operatorname{tr}(E_j \mathcal{L}_{\gamma} \rho_{\gamma}(t)) = \lambda_j \langle j | \rho_{\gamma}(t) | j \rangle$$
 is real

and

$$\sqrt{E_j}\mathcal{L}_{\gamma} = \lambda_j |j\rangle\langle j| = \lambda_j \sqrt{E_j}.$$

It is up to you to figure out how to turn the measurement outcome j into an estimate of γ . Moreover, even though this is an optimal measurement, it might not be the only optimal measurent.

Proof of QCRB. Optimizing the state $F(\gamma) \leq \operatorname{tr}(\mathcal{L}^{2}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}(t)) \equiv Q(\gamma)$ $\frac{\partial \rho_{\gamma}(t)}{\partial \gamma} = \frac{1}{2} [\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}\rho_{\gamma}(t) + \rho_{\gamma}(t)\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}] = -iU_{\gamma}(t)[K_{\gamma},\rho_{0}]U^{\dagger}_{\gamma}(t)$ $K_{\gamma} = iU^{\dagger}_{\gamma}(t)\frac{\partial U_{\gamma}(t)}{\partial \gamma} = \int_{0}^{t} ds U^{\dagger}_{\gamma}(s)hU_{\gamma}(s) \equiv t\overline{h}$

Specialize to pure-state input: differentiating $\rho_{\gamma} = \rho_{\gamma}^2$ gives

$$\mathcal{L}_{\gamma} = 2 \frac{\partial \rho_{\gamma}(t)}{\partial \gamma} = -2iU_{\gamma}(t)[K_{\gamma}, \rho_{0}]U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(t) .$$

$$Q(\gamma) = -4\mathrm{tr}([K_{\gamma}, \rho_{0}]^{2}U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(t)\rho_{\gamma}(t)U_{\gamma}(t))$$

$$= -4\mathrm{tr}([K_{\gamma}, \rho_{0}]^{2}\rho_{0})$$

$$= 4[\mathrm{tr}(K_{\gamma}^{2}\rho_{0}) - \mathrm{tr}(K_{\gamma}\rho_{0})^{2}]$$

$$= 4\langle (\Delta K_{\gamma})^{2} \rangle$$

$$= 4t^{2}\langle (\Delta \overline{h})^{2} \rangle$$

If $\tilde{H} = 0$, $U_{\gamma}(t) = e^{-i\gamma ht}$, $K_{\gamma} = th$, $\overline{h} = h$, and $\mathcal{L}_{\gamma} = -2it[h, \rho_{\gamma}(t)]$.

Proof of QCRB. Optimizing the state $\langle (\delta\gamma)^2 \rangle \ge \frac{1}{F(\gamma)} \ge \frac{1}{Q(\gamma)}$ $Q(\gamma) = 4t^2 \langle (\Delta \overline{h})^2 \rangle$ $\overline{h} = \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t ds U_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(s) h U_{\gamma}(s)$

$$\frac{1}{\langle (\delta\gamma)^2 \rangle^{1/2}} \le \sqrt{F(\gamma)} \le \sqrt{Q(\gamma)} = 2t \langle (\Delta \overline{h})^2 \rangle^{1/2} \le t ||\overline{h}|| \le t ||h||$$

||h|| is the seminorm of h, i.e., the difference between largest and smallest eigenvalues of h.

Optimal state $\rho_0 = |\Psi_0\rangle\langle\Psi_0|$:

$$|\Psi_0
angle = rac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\Lambda
angle + |\lambda
angle)$$

 $|\Lambda\rangle$ is the largest-eigenvalue eigenstate of \overline{h} or h, and $|\lambda\rangle$ is the smallest-eigenvalue eigenstate. Triangle inequality:

 $||h_1 + h_2|| \le ||h_1|| + ||h_2||$

The bassackwardness of the QCRB. The final detail

$$\langle (\delta \gamma)^2 \rangle^{1/2} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{F(\gamma)}} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q(\gamma)}} = \frac{1}{2t \langle (\Delta \overline{h})^2 \rangle^{1/2}} \geq \frac{1}{t ||\overline{h}||} \geq \frac{1}{t ||h||}$$

Optimal state $\rho_0 = |\Psi_0\rangle\langle\Psi_0|$:

$$|\Psi_0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\Lambda\rangle + |\lambda\rangle)$$

 $|\Lambda\rangle$ is the largest-eigenvalue eigenstate of \overline{h} or h, and $|\lambda\rangle$ is the smallest-eigenvalue eigenstate. The bassackwardness of the QCRB is that to make the most sensitive measurement possible, you are instructed to make an observable, the generator \overline{h} or h, as noisy as possible.

What the QCRB only whispers to you—and most people don't even hear the whisper—is that for pure states, there is a very quiet (conjugate) observable, the symmetric logarithmic derivative \mathcal{L}_{γ} , and you are instructed to measure that.

When $\tilde{H}(t) = 0$, with the optimal input state $|\Psi_0\rangle$,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\gamma} = -2it[h, e^{-i\gamma ht} |\Psi_0\rangle \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\gamma ht}],$$

and this is the obvious observable to measure.

The bassackwardness of the QCRB. The final detail

When $\tilde{H}(t) = 0$, with the optimal input state $|\Psi_0\rangle = (|\Lambda\rangle + |\lambda\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\gamma} = -2it[h, e^{-i\gamma ht} |\Psi_0\rangle \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\gamma ht}],$$

and this is the obvious observable to measure *because this becomes* a *qubit problem*.

 $h = \Lambda |\Lambda\rangle \langle \Lambda | + \lambda |\lambda\rangle \langle \lambda | + (irrelevant orthogonal stuff)$ $= \frac{1}{2}(\Lambda + \lambda)I + \frac{1}{2}(\Lambda - \lambda)Z + (\text{irrelevant orthogonal stuff})$ $e^{-i\gamma ht}|\Psi_0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e^{-i\gamma\Lambda t}|\Lambda\rangle + e^{-i\gamma\lambda t}|\lambda\rangle) + 1$ eigenstate of qubit Pauli X_{rot} $e^{-i\gamma ht}|\Psi_{0}\rangle\langle\Psi_{0}|e^{i\gamma ht} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\underbrace{|\Lambda\rangle\langle\Lambda| + |\lambda\rangle\langle\lambda|}_{\text{Pauli }I} + \underbrace{e^{-i\gamma(\Lambda-\lambda)t}|\Lambda\rangle\langle\lambda| + e^{i\gamma(\Lambda-\lambda)t}|\lambda\rangle\langle\Lambda|}_{\text{Pauli }X_{\text{rot}}}\right)$ $\mathcal{L}_{\gamma} = -2it[h, e^{-i\gamma ht} |\Psi_0\rangle \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\gamma ht}]$ $= (\Lambda - \lambda)t \Big[-i \Big(e^{-i\gamma(\Lambda - \lambda)t} |\Lambda\rangle \langle \lambda| - e^{i\gamma(\Lambda - \lambda)t} |\lambda\rangle \langle \Lambda| \Big) \Big]$ = Pauli Y_{rot} The End