

## Weaknesses of Quantum Mechanics from the Islamic Perspectives Based on its Quantization Methods

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**Abstract:** This study highlights almost all the weaknesses of the Quantum Mechanics mentioned by several original contributors of the subject such as Einstein, Schroedinger, Feynman and many others. We also present almost all weaknesses of the existing quantization methods by Heisenberg, Schroedinger Dirac, Feynman and a few others including the latest method, the geometric quantization. The weaknesses are also presented from the Christian and Islamic perspectives.

**Key words:** Quantum Mechanics • Quantization Methods • General Critiques on Quantum Mechanics • Religious Perspectives of Quantum Mechanics

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### INTRODUCTION

Quantum mechanics was invented in the middle of the twentieth century because the classical mechanics and the earlier quantum theory later known as the Old Quantum Theory fails to or unsatisfactorily explain the black body radiation found at the end of the nineteenth century, the energy level of the hydrogen atom and the behaviour of an atomic particle known in the early twentieth century. It was first successfully formulated by Heisenberg [1] in 1925 and completed by Born and Jordan in the same year [2] and Born, Heisenberg and Jordan a year later [3]. The theory was referred to as the *matrix mechanics* (originally in German *matrixmechanik*) because all classical quantities, such as the position, the momentum and the Hamiltonian of a dynamical system transform into matrices (infinite matrices). The theory was not easily understood and accepted by the physicist's community at the time and hoping for a better and user friendly formulation. Then a year later came such a formulation by Schroedinger in his series of six papers [4-9] and his theory was referred to as the *wave mechanics* (originally in German, *wellenmechanik*), since everything becomes a kind of wave equation but with imaginary coefficients. It is the interpretations of the Schroedinger wave function which is equivalent to the eigenfunction of the Hamiltonian in the Heisenberg matrix mechanics that create interesting development and controversies in the two theories until today. About five

year later the two theories popularly known as *quantum mechanics* (originally in German, *Quantenmechanik*) even though Born and Jordan [2] first used the term in 1925 for the matrix mechanics and a year earlier Born himself [10] had already used the term but for describing the Old Quantum Theory. The first English book containing the term quantum mechanics is written by the German immigrant physicist, Heitler [11] in 1928 but quantum mechanics became a prestigious field in the English speaking world after the publication of Dirac's book [12] in 1930, a product of his research in Germany in 1925-1928.

The earliest contributions in the interpretation of the wave function is Born [13, 14] in 1926 followed by Pauli [15] and Bohr [16]. These works spark the controversies in quantum mechanics. Einstein was the earliest proponent against the quantum mechanics and in 1927 there was a great debate between Einstein and Bohr (the great defender of quantum mechanics since the beginning) at the prestigious Solvay Conference [17, 18]. However the earliest strong and deep critique on quantum mechanics (QM) came from Albert Einstein (together with his students, Boris Podolsky and Nathan Rosen) through their famous thought experiment referred to as the EPR *gedanken* in which a strange situation could arise now known as the EPR paradox [19] after strengthening Einstein *et al.* [20]. This *gedanken* experiment generated a well-known deep unending debate between Albert Einstein [21-24] and Neil Bohr [25-27] which lead to the standard interpretation of quantum mechanics known as

the Copenhagen interpretation, Copenhagenism or Bohrism. However Bohr's replies on many issues in this debate have never satisfied many physicists which in turn produced many schools of thought (interpretations) of QM which most of them are reviewed here from the Islamic perspectives which has never been done before.

Meanwhile there were many well-known founders of QM who gave some indications on the weaknesses of QM not only including the three pioneers, Werner Heisenberg, Erwin Schroedinger and Max Born, but some great scholars after them namely Richard Feynman, John Bell, David Bohm, Gell-Mann, Penrose and others mentioned appropriately later, presented in the first section of this article. Then we briefly describe the salient features of almost all quantization methods in QM and highlight almost all of their weaknesses. Most of the weaknesses have already been known long time ago but have not been presented to the "public" except perhaps in this millennium because QM has been overwhelmingly portrayed as the most successful physical science ever invented, as if QM is the ultimate theory of physics. Only since 1990, as described by Green [28], the essential features of the weaknesses of QM (and Relativity Theory) have been presented, but even that only known to those who have been following the development of the unification of QM and Relativity Theory. They believe that those "weak" elements in QM (and Relativity) have prevented the progress in the unification of the two theories and consequently a new paradigm in QM known as the "string theory" had emerged but we will not discuss this new paradigm here. However the "string theory" is not yet fully developed so that QM is still dominant and stands tall in physics curriculum throughout the world.

As far as the books on weaknesses/criticism/critique of/on QM are concerned, there is only a single book in English by Penrose [26] in 2016, one Polish book by Gryzinski [30] written 15 years earlier and a book by the author, Shaharir [31] written in Malay five years earlier than the above Penrose famous book. All criticisms so far are not viewed from a religious perspective which we are most interested in here in this paper except in the book by Shaharir [31] where it does contain some references to elements of Islamic belief which we extend them further here. Even in recent papers in 2014-2023 by Leifer [32] and Wolchover [33] both in 2014, Spencer [34] in 2018 and Hobson [35] in 2019, Ananthaswamy [36] and Miloš [37] both are in 2020, Matarese [38] in 2021 and Gleiser [39] in 2023, the criticisms are all on philosophical nature of

quantum mechanics specifically on realism (or ontic interpretation) and instrumentalism (epistemic philosophy) and none touches on perennial philosophy which interest us here. This is of course natural consequence of the secularism in science even though Criticism on knowledge or the existence of different nature of knowledge from perspective of a different culture (world view, cosmology, philosophy, ideology, religion, values and language) is not new especially in humanities and social sciences since 1960s. Thus, the concept of society itself is shown to be different within English, French and Arabic languages [40], the recognition of the role of a language in a conflict resolution [41], the difference of the concept of sustainability from the Islamic and non-Islamic (Western) perspectives [42] and similarly with the different understanding of the microfinance among female Islamic entrepreneurs and others [43, 44], the difference in the rate of return in Islamic finance and non-Islamic finance [45], the difference in Islamic and non-islamic ethics practice in banking system [46], the difference in the American and Russian planning policies [47] and the need for incorporating even traditional religious values in an environmental policy [48].

In this article, we focus on the weaknesses of QM as indirectly mentioned by great scholars in this field and in the methods of quantization. A new feature in this critique is the evaluation of those two items above also based on their compatibility-incompatibility with religious values, especially in the Christian and Islamic cosmological doctrines (similar to the approach taken by the author [31, 49]).

**Indications of the Weaknesses of the Quantum Theory from Various Scholars:** Other than the occasion where Einstein *et al.*[19] had indicated the weaknesses of QM and hope that a new better theory would emerge, there were at many other occasions Einstein said something which imply the limitations or weaknesses of QM. For examples Wick [50] quoted Einstein's words that "QM does not bring newer the secret of old things". In Einstein's letter to Max Born 1919 quoted in Barrow [51], Einstein said that one should feel embarass by the success of QM because the theory is just like a Jesuit maxim "let the left hand does not know what the right hand gives" and in Einstein's letter to Lipkin 1952 quoted again in Barrow [52], Einstein said that QM reminds him to "a bit of delusion from a very intelligent paranoic who mixed elements of incoherent thought". Einstein also had commented the standard QM as "the Heisenberg-Bohr

tranquilizing philosophy - or religious? - is so delicately contrived that, for the time being it provides a gentle pillow for the true believer from which he cannot very easily be aroused" (quoted in Crease [53]). Feynman [54] said essentially that QM cannot explain the well-known light behaviour known as the interference phenomenon; Max Born (quoted in Wick [50]) said QM is "not yet the real thing" and "not able to bring us nearer to the secret of the old thing"; John Bell said that "QM does not explain things" and he believes that QM is "a simple and only temporary way and a better theory would emerge"(quoted in Davies and Brown [55]) and QM is "only a temporary story" (quoted in Davies and Brown [56]). Bohm, quoted in Davies and Brown [57], implicates that QM is value-laden when he said that QM "answered satisfactorily only to certain kind of questions and mathematical questions and therefore we should not trap in it just like many due to wrong assumptions on the nature of truth about mathematics" and Bohm further said that QM "especially could not answer many philosophical questions which are related to insight of the issues" in QM. Oskar Kline, quoted in Friedman [58], well known for a pioneer in introducing 5 dimensional space-time for the first time in his bold effort to unify QM and Relativity Theory was sceptical about QM after his failure in uniting the two theories.

More recent, Peres and Zurek [59] and Malin [60] said that QM is not a valid universal knowledge. Even though this type of statement applies to all sciences but for QM it is significant since its image has been regarded as the last theory in physics even though presently there is a public noise that physicists have found "the theory of everything" not through QM but the string theory [28]. Kaku [61] showed "among stupid theories proposed in USA, quantum mechanics is the most stupid because there is yet an object to be reached by this theory and has never been questioned". Penrose [62], Hawking [63] and Smolin [64], are hoping for a better theory than the present QM. In fact, Penrose, in a recent interview by Kruglinski and Chanarin [65], said that QM is wrong!

There are more recent criticisms from the well-known physicists including a few Nobel laureates. Weinberg, a Noble laureate 1979 in the unification of the weak force and the electromagnetic interaction between elementary particles, through his article [66] in 2017 expresses his unsatisfactory feeling on the nature of probability, problem of measurement and the nonlocality in quantum mechanics. He think that the present theory of quantum mechanics needs some modifications or corrections if not

a replacement even though in the later suggestion he quoted Shakespeare in his *Twelfth Night*: Act 2, Scene 2. Viola: "O time, thou must untangle this, not I. (It is too hard a knot for me to untie)." Another Noble laureate 1999 in the quantum structure of electroweak interaction, 't Hooft, quoted in Wolchover [33] in 2014, believes the quantum mechanics is incomplete but not due to its probabilistic nature and the famous reasons given by Einstein *et al.* [19] thus he also claimed to be dislike an alternative theory of quantum mechanics based on hidden variables such as the pilot wave theory by Bohm [67]. Wilczek, a Nobel laureate 2004 in the behaviour of quarks, believes that the standard model in quantum atomic theory is incomplete and suggests a new theory which he called the Core Theory (Quoted in Wolchover [33]). Leggett, a Nobel laureate 2003 in low temperature and superfluidity, believes in the possible replacement of the standard quantum mechanics by the pilot wave theory [67] (Quoted in Wolchover [33]). Goldstein, a professor of mathematics, physics and philosophy at Rutgers University, also dislikes the standard quantum mechanics but a supporter of pilot-wave theory and blames the noncritical attitudes of the physicists towards the quantum mechanics is due to "decades of indoctrination." He believes that at this stage, those researchers in derailing the standard quantum mechanics risk their careers [33].

There was a discussion on the direction of new development in QM in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by a group of respected scholars in QM whereby the group shows the weaknesses of the present MQ [68]. More explicitly, Brannen [69] produces a list of six items of weaknessess of QM which he expressed it as "a difficulty in comprehending reality", namely the duality of wave-particles; the nature of time (proper time versus strange time), linearity versus nonlinearity, randomness versus predictability, causality versus entanglement and wave mechanics versus operator formalism. More recent, Helrich [70], Laszlo [71] and Schafer [72, 73] present the limitations of the present quantum theory whereas Klein [74] and Schafer [75] present *conflicts between quantum theory and religion in general* as such, naturally, it is not as specific as we are going to discuss this issue here. Grinbaum [76] and Laszlo [71] discuss the need for a reconstructing quantum theory and a new paradigm in quantum theory respectively. Perhaps Lewis [77] reveals a much more interesting and startling weakness of QM compared with others when he exposes the presence of conspiracy theories in quantum mechanics.

**A Brief on Quantization Methods:** The earliest quantization method is a product of German physicist, Heisenberg [1] and completed by Born and Jordan [12] and Born *et al.* [13], known as the “matrix mechanics”, followed by another German physicist, Schroedinger [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7], with a method known as the “wave mechanics” and interpreted by Born [14], Pauli [15] and Bohr [17]. At the earlier stages of these two methods of quantization, there were strong criticisms not only to each other and their respective followers, but from the physicists community in general, regarding what they term as the *anachaulich* or *unanchaulich* (visualisable or unvisualisable) of each of the theories [53] but Bohr was able to mediate the two through his well known interpretation of QM, the Copenhagen interpretation [16, 25-27]. Then came a few more methods of quantization, partly to improve the two methods so that the quantization is more *anchaulich* (visualisable), more natural, more practical and more applicable to wider cases which correspond to a wider class of classical dynamical systems. The methods are by Dirac [11] via a homomorphism of the Poisson’s brackets in classical mechanics onto commutation relations operators in a Hilbert space, Feynman [78] via a hypothesis of a “path integral” which is analogous to the stochastic integral for a classical diffusion, Schwinger in 1950s and 1960s works found in his anthology [79] via a hypothesis of a quantal action integral analogous to the “action integral” in the classical mechanics, Nelson [80, 81] and DeWitt-Morette and Elworthy [82, 83] via their own different stochastic processes analogous to the equation for a classical diffusion process, Kostant [84] and Soriau [85] via a geometric method as an extension of classical mechanics on a symplectic manifold and quite differently via fully axiomatization method pioneered by von Neumann [86] and its improvements notably by Birkhoff and von Neumann [87] and others [88-93].

**Weaknesses of the Axiomatic Quantization Method:** The main weakness of the fully axiomatic method is of course its dependency on the non-axiomatic methods listed above notably the Heisenberg, Schroedinger and Dirac quantization methods and hence could not produce a new finding or a more powerful method than those non-axiomatic quantization methods. This is besides the fact that the axiomatic method is restricted by the well known Godel’s Proof.

It is true that the axiomatic approaches manage to make a significant leap ahead due to the establishment of the biquaternion method by Conte [93] and another

axiomatic approach by Bub [91] who makes use of lattices and operators. But the “Godel proof” is shown to manifest itself in QM as described by Aerts [94, 95]. In these writings also, he shows that in the present mathematical structure of QM, it is impossible to describe two separated quantum systems, but occur conversely if a more general theory which includes the present QM and classical mechanics can be formulated. He shows that the axioms of QM cause the impossibility of description of the separated system.

Regarding the approach in Quantum field theory (QFT) axiomatically, the first approach was formulated by Wightman in 1950s (but published in Streater and Wightman [96]). The progress up to the first half of 1970s is in Streater [97] and up to 1998 is available in Buchholz [98] in which both authors highlight the difficulty of axiomatization on the gauge-field and the curve space-time. Besides similar problem occurs as in the axiomatic approach of QM, Buchholz [98] also made a survey on this matter and shows future direction of development which at the same time shows the weaknesses of the QFT. For example, one of the weaknesses of the axioms of the present QFT is that the theory does not produce the classical field theory but the QFT is developed based on the classical field theory; even though the classical field theory is well known for its weaknesses! Actually almost every method of quantization is developed based on classical mechanics which is known for its shortcomings! This is one of the general weaknesses of quantization as discussed by Smolin [64] and more recently by Bokulich [99]. A latest development in the axiomatization of the QFT is found in Hollands and Wald [100] where some of the problems mentioned above have been addressed partially and naturally they have suggested further direction of research for overcoming the problems.

**The Weaknesses of the Feynman’s Method of Quantization:** The main problem with each of those non-axiomatic quantization methods is its *range of applicability*. The most successful method is no doubt the Feynman’s method but it is well known for its controversy of maneuvering the infinities via so called renormalisation procedure which is unsatisfied by many (see for examples, Anselmi [101] and Teller [102, 103]). Furthermore, its “success” in a quantization of a hydrogen atom is not only relatively new as shown by Ho and Inomata [104], but still not final as shown by Shaharir [105], whereas its “improvements” by Steiner [106] and Junker and Inomata [107] are shown by Kleinert [108-110] to have flaws and inconsistencies.

Another fundamental quantity in the Feynman's method of quantization which is most unsatisfactory is "time" because the most popular and pragmatic assumption taken by physicists in this field is that "time" is a complex number. Thus "time" is no longer a well ordered quantities (numbers) contrary to what we have been accustomed to; and hence past, present and future are no longer meaningful. This is incompatible with the Christian and Islamic concept of time as discussed by Whitehead [111], Bergson [112], Iqbal [113] and Shaharir [49]. However this may be celebrated by some especially among atheists or areligious people and they even more excited when Stephen Hawking reveals their model of universe [114] in a stylistic way through his renowned historical bestselling book [115]. Using "time" as a complex number (more precisely, an analytic continuation of time) he shows that our universe is finite but without boundary in the 4-dimensional space-time (analogous to a sphere in our 3-dimensional space) so that the question of the starting point of the Big Bang (the beginning of this universe) does not exist, i.e. there was no beginning of the creation of this universe! This is of course not acceptable by many believers, the *ahl al-Kitab* (Christians and Jews) and Muslims. Incidentally, Penrose [62] and Smolin [64] point out that Hartle and Hawking [114] theory mentioned above is mathematically unacceptable (wrong). It is not known whether these criticisms were recognized by Hawking or not but Hawking did announce his mistakes in his theory of Black Holes at the General Relativity Conference in Belfast [116] in 2004 and this effects his controversial models of universe and he had modified the model a few times since then.

Actually earlier, perhaps there was a happier period not only for areligious cosmologists but also for religious scientists in general when Hawking and Ellis [117] produced a theorem and improved by Hawking and Penrose [118] which would eliminate the earliest implausible hypothesis of an infinite density of a material point in order for the occurrence of the Big Bang (the well known controversial phenomenon invented to explain the beginning of of this universe using quantum theory); and the theorem (which is also discussed by Barrow [51] which says that this universe begins by chance without any reason and without anything. The hypotheses of the theorem are the Relativity Theory is correct, but the time travel is impossible and "the gravity always attracts and the matter and radiations are sufficient". It is the last part of the conclusion of the above theorem that could pacify a religious person but the first two part of the hypothesis of the theorem, "universe begins by chance without any

reason" are obviously incompatible with the Christian and Islamic cosmological doctrines. But since 1978 there was strong evidence that two of the hypotheses of the theorem do not hold, namely the Relativity Theory itself and the existence of repulsive gravity (Barrow [52]). Perhaps this is the main reason for Hartle and Hawking produced their blasphemous theorem in 1983 discussed earlier [114]. Therefore there is a big challenge for a religious cosmologists (Christianists and Islamists) to produce a similar but much better theorem. Until then the present cosmology is certainly incompatible with the religious teachings and values and hence appropriately regarded by serious islamist and *ahlil Kitabis* as a big weakness of the current quantum cosmology.

The existence of the "path integral" in the Feynman's method of quantization has long been a subject of concerned by many mathematicians. One of the more recent attempts to improve the situation were formulated by Shaharir and his coresearchers [119-127] but their success is still limited. We believe the problem is unsolved until today. In this relation, we also believe that it is the Feynman's hypothesis on his path integral itself that must be modified or replaced since the present hypothesis is not fully in accordance with the Christian-Islamic cosmological doctrine which should be internalized in any law of physics, namely the hypothesis that the God executes His law with a least effort of action (as stated in the "al-Haytham-Maupertuis-Hamilton least action principle" in classical mechanics). This principle is not fully realized in the Feynman's integral hypothesis as discussed in Shaharir [128-131].

There is an interpretation of the Feynman's quantization method in which the infinite paths of a particle under consideration means the particle can be anywhere simultaneously. This interpretation is used to explain the interference phenomenon [28]. We have not seen this interpretation is being used to explain or reason out the self-cloning phenomenon among *shufists* (or *sufists*), unlike the Many World Interpretation of QM. Even if there is, we believe that the identification is hasty and improper. In fact we regard this as another weakness of the Feynman's quantization method.

**The Weaknesses of the Schroedinger's Method of Quantization:** In the Schroedinger's method of quantization, the assumption of wave-particle dualism is taken from the de Broglie formula. This is the actual origin of many paradoxes in QM which have not been resolved till today. Bohr [16, 25-27] just simply introduced his "Complementarity Principle" to cover the problem.

Thus Brannen [70] reveals that he keeps his feeling of uneasiness toward this situation and hope that some day he or some one else could rectify it and we believe he represents a significant number of other physicists. Some others may well strongly support Tisza [132] who suggests that one should abandon the duality principle and adopt what he called “wave simplex”. Tegmark and Wheeler [133] suggest to reconstruct QM which could maintain the determinism of the wave function and make those discrete particles in a more localized wave states so that interferences and interactions are abolished by the decoherence which become all superpositions of wave functions dissipated by interactions with their environments. Most recent discussion on the “divergent views” on the complementarity principle is found in Camilleri [134].

There is another indication of the weakness of the Schroedinger quantization method, namely its assumption that the wave function represents all the behavior and properties of an atom. This assumption is said [135-137] to be influenced by Hinduism and celebrated by many popular writers, notably Capra [138]. Thus it is just a coincident if anything at all if the Schroedinger’s quantization method (“wave mechanic”) happens to be compatible with other religions, in particular Islam or Christian teachings. Thus, even though some implications of the Schroedinger’ quantization seems to be compatible with the Islamic or Christian teachings/values [139-141], these should not be factors for the Islamists or Christianists to be passive or not critical towards “wave mechanics”. Therefore, for an Islamist or a Christianist theoretical physicist to simply agree and more inappropriate to justify religiously, towards the validity of “the wave collapse”, “the Copenhagen interpretation”, “the complementarity principle”, “the non-classical probability laws in the wave mechanics”, “the entanglement” and “the Schroedinger’s cat”, just to mention some of phenomena arise from the “wave mechanics”, or to ignore the EPR (Einstein-Padolsky-Rosen) [19] *gedanken* paradox. These phenomena are regarded by many theoretical physicists to be the weaknesses of the “wave mechanics” but their arguments are not based on any religious teachings or values. Another specific weakness of the “wave mechanics” is discussed below.

#### **The Imbalanced Role of Wave Functions and Operators:**

In Schrodinger method of quantization also, the focus is on the “wave function”; whereas in Heisenberg, Dirac and

axiomatic methods of quantization the focus are on operators on a Hilbert space and thus the methods are known as operator formalisms<sup>(1)</sup>. From calculational perspective, operator formalisms seem to have an upper hand than the wave mechanics formulation, even though the wave approach seems to be more realistic (*anchaulich*) in describing this universe. In fact Penrose [62] regards the “wave function” is the only reality in QM which is just the opposite of Bohr position. Brannen [70] raises this imbalanced situation between the operator and wave formulation methods of QM. He is also not happy that the wave function is more useful in Dirac’s electron theory whereby the new quantities involve known as spinors come into play which acts on this physical space without the aether; the role of operators are minimal. All these state of affairs can be considered as weaknesses of quantization methods.

#### **The Weaknesses of the Geometric Quantization:**

Meanwhile the most sophisticated method of quantization, the Kostant-Souriau geometric quantization [85-86] is still lag behind in its range of applicability [106]. Certainly other methods of quantization are ahead of the geometric method, even relative to the axiomatic method discussed in first subsection above. The weaknesses of the geometric quantization, besides it makes use of the geometry, the symplectic geometry, which underlies the classical mechanics, are just like the Relativity Theory, lies in the quantization theory which is materialistic and physicalistic value-laden, the values which are incompatible with Christianity and Islam. This is due to the fact that the symplectic geometry is dictated or determined by matter and physical phenomena only (materialism and physicalism). Thus the Islamic and Christianic physicists naturally should not be happy with this method of quantization.

**General Weaknesses:** The other weaknesses of the QM, similar to the other scientific theories from the West is that the QM inherits values which are foreign (incompatible, unsuitable or in contradiction with nonwestern values, in particular Islam). Peres and Zurek [59] and Malin [60] indeed raise an analogous problem even though its scope does not include any value system. We have shown this feature in the Feynman’s, Schroedinger’s and the geometric methods of quantization and this of needs another separate discussion regarding the weaknesses of all known school of thoughts in QM.

## CONCLUSION

We have highlighted almost all known weaknesses of quantization methods based on internal structure of each method; and new weaknesses based on external cosmological doctrines derived from Christianity and Islam.

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