

# QUANTUM PROBABILITY: A NEW METHOD FOR MODELLING TRAVEL CHOICES

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**1 ABSTRACT**

2 There has been an increasing effort to increase the behavioural realism of the mathematical models  
3 of choice, resulting in efforts to move away from random utility maximisation (RUM) models.  
4 Some new insights have been generated with, for example, models based random regret minimi-  
5 sation (RRM). However, many of the alternatives to RUM tested on real-world data, have looked  
6 at only modest departures from RUM, and differences in results have consequently been small.  
7 In this paper, we address this research gap by investigating the applicability of models based on  
8 quantum theory - which are substantially different from the state-of-the-art choice modelling tech-  
9 niques. These models emphasise the importance of contextual effects, state dependence and the  
10 impact of choice or question order. As a result, quantum probability models have had some success  
11 in better explaining several phenomena in cognitive psychology. In this paper, we consider how to  
12 best operationalise quantum probability into a choice model. Two of our specifications find good  
13 model fit across three route choice datasets. Additionally, we test the quantum model frameworks  
14 on a best/worst route choice dataset and demonstrate that they find useful transformations to cap-  
15 ture differences between the attributes important in a favourite alternative compared to that of the  
16 least favourite alternative. Similar transformations can also be used to efficiently capture contex-  
17 tual effects in a dataset where the order of the attributes and alternatives are manipulated. Overall,  
18 it appears that models incorporating quantum concepts hold significant promise in improving the  
19 state-of-the-art travel choice modelling paradigm through their adaptability and efficient modelling  
20 of contextual changes.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Random utility maximisation (RUM) framework has dominated the travel choice modelling field for many decades. More recently, RUM has been criticised as being inadequate in explaining the full range of behavioural complexity [Chorus et al., 2008, Guevara and Fukushi, 2016]. This has resulted in many attempts to better incorporate behavioural concepts into travel behaviour models, including regret [Chorus et al., 2008, Chorus, 2010], contextual relative advantages [Leong and Hensher, 2014] and prospect theory [Avineri and Bovy, 2008]. However, none of these developments have yet rivalled RUM as the preferred model in real-world applications. This is due to difficulties that quickly arise once a modeller departs from the firm economic foundations of RUM [Hess et al., 2018]. Consequently, caution is required if we are to step away from random utility models. Departures to models with similar underlying structure, such as random regret minimisation [Chorus et al., 2008, Chorus, 2010], which have the same error structure, result in only small differences whilst facing the same key fault of all departures from RUM, the loss of the ability to calculate welfare measures. Departures to more different models, such as decision field theory [Busemeyer and Townsend, 1992], whilst sometimes finding improvements in model fit, additionally result in models that become computationally infeasible for large-scale datasets [Hancock et al., 2018]. Thus, if we are to move away from RUM, we need to investigate alternative approaches that are computationally simpler - yet, better reflect behavioural realism. This leads us to explore ideas from other disciplines which are further away from the tried and tested. Given the success of using ideas from quantum physics in cognitive psychology, one possible alternative is to see if quantum physics can make a similar step into travel behaviour modelling.

Quantum physics, first considered in the early 20th century, was originally created to explain phenomena and results that could not be explained by classical theories of probability and physics. In particular, physicists noticed that the measurement of one variable could impact the measurement of another. The most famous example of this relates to measuring the position and momentum (mass multiplied by velocity) of a particle. Physicists found that they could not measure both accurately at the same time. This led to ‘Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle’ [Heisenberg, 1927]. Formally, this could be written [Kennard, 1927] as:

$$\sigma_x \cdot \sigma_p \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_p$  are the standard deviations of position and momentum respectively, which multiplied together give the uncertainty, and  $\hbar$  is the reduced Planck constant,  $\frac{h}{2\pi}$  (with  $h$  the Planck constant, a physical constant first used by Planck [1901] that relates the energy carried by a photon to its frequency). To illustrate how this led to the breakdown of classical probability, we first imagine that we have three possible propositional variables:

A : ‘the particle has momentum in the interval  $[\rho_1, \rho_2]$ ’

B : ‘the particle is in the interval  $[x_1, x_2]$ ’

C : ‘the particle is in the interval  $[x_2, x_3]$ .’

If we have a system where  $\hbar = 1$ , the minimum allowed uncertainty by Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle (Equation 1) is  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Under this system, we might observe a particle such that the propositional variables (A) and (B or C) are true (where total uncertainty is greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). Simultaneously,

1 it is possible that both ( $A$  and  $B$ ) and ( $A$  and  $C$ ) each have total uncertainties of less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  and are  
 2 thus false. Consequently, the distributivity law of classical probability ( $A(B + C) = AB + AC$ ) fails  
 3 to hold.

4 This resulted in the creation of a new theory of probability, known as quantum logic [Birkhoff  
 5 and Von Neumann, 1936]. Under quantum logic (which is also known as quantum probability), a  
 6 new set of probability rules were defined, which crucially did not include the axiom of distributiv-  
 7 ity. This new theory of probability has subsequently made the transition into cognitive psychology  
 8 [Bruza et al., 2015] and has also been introduced into transport behaviour modelling. For example,  
 9 Vitetta [2016] introduced a quantum model based on random utility models with the addition of  
 10 an interference term for route choice problems. Additionally, Yu and Jayakrishnan [2018] demon-  
 11 strated that quantum cognition models can efficiently be used to capture the difference in state of  
 12 mind between choices made under stated preference and revealed preference settings. However,  
 13 thus far, as far as the authors are aware, there has not been a choice model developed with quan-  
 14 tum concepts that incorporates attribute values for individual alternatives and can work for general  
 15 choices as well as ‘changes in perspective’. Thus the focus of this paper is to explore ways to  
 16 develop a choice modelling framework based on quantum logic that can be used for choices in  
 17 general, as well as efficiently capturing effects caused by ordering, some form of interference or  
 18 some change in ‘state of mind’.

19 The rest of this paper is organised as follows. First, we introduce quantum logic and discuss  
 20 the relative benefits of using such a system. We then mathematically describe quantum logic,  
 21 giving detailed graphical examples. Next, we discuss how it can be incorporated into a choice  
 22 model, detailing two different formulations for new models. We then test the performance of our  
 23 proposed models against typical choice models such as multinomial logit and also random regret  
 24 minimisation in the context of travel decisions. Finally, we test the models on best-worst and  
 25 contextual choice data, before drawing some conclusions.

## 26 **2. QUANTUM LOGIC**

27 In this section, we first give a general overview of quantum logic. We then give the mathematical  
 28 definitions for how quantum logic works for basic choices. We conclude by describing how it  
 29 works for a series of related choices. It is in the transformation from one choice task to another that  
 30 a modelling framework based on quantum logic looks very different to traditional choice models.

### 31 **2.1. Overview of quantum logic**

32 A simple example of how quantum logic works is given in Figure 1. Initially, a decision-maker  
 33 might be making a single choice between two alternatives, travelling by car or by train. Each of  
 34 these alternatives are represented by vectors,  $|T\rangle$  and  $|C\rangle$  respectively (the axes in the Figure 1).  
 35 Under quantum logic, the decision-maker has some initial state, denoted  $|z\rangle$ , regarding whether  
 36 they will choose car or train.

37 The action of making a choice (or equivalently making a judgement or coming to some result)  
 38 results in a ‘change of state’. This can be represented graphically by moving from the initial state  
 39 vector and ‘projecting’ onto the vector corresponding to the chosen alternative. In this example,  
 40  $\rho T$ , represents the scalar projection of  $|z\rangle$  onto a straight line parallel to  $|T\rangle$ . The length of this  
 41 projection is then denoted  $|\rho T|$ . In Figure 1, these projections are directly over the corresponding  
 42 vectors. The arrows from the initial state to these vectors are not the projections themselves, but  
 43 help to determine the length of the projections, which are the distances from the origin to the points

SINGLE QUESTION

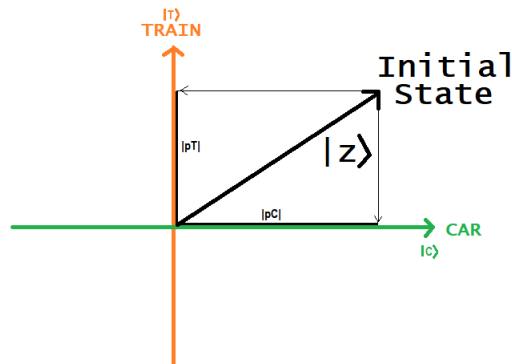


FIGURE 1 : A single question under quantum probability

1 where the arrows meet the vector. When the state vector is at 45 degrees, the projections are of  
 2 equal length and the probabilities are thus 50% each. In the example in Figure 1, the car alternative  
 3 has a higher probability. The full mathematical description for this is given in the following section  
 4 on a basic choice under quantum logic, which also gives a 3-dimensional example. The longer the  
 5 projection onto the vector for an alternative, the more likely that alternative is chosen. The crucial  
 6 difference in using such a system is how an additional question or nudge can then impact the  
 7 decision-maker’s choice for the first question (car or train). If, for example, the decision-maker  
 8 was asked ‘are you environmentally friendly?’ before they had made up their mind between the  
 9 choice of car or train, they would then be initially answering a different question and making a  
 10 different choice (see Figure 2).

ADDITIONAL QUESTION

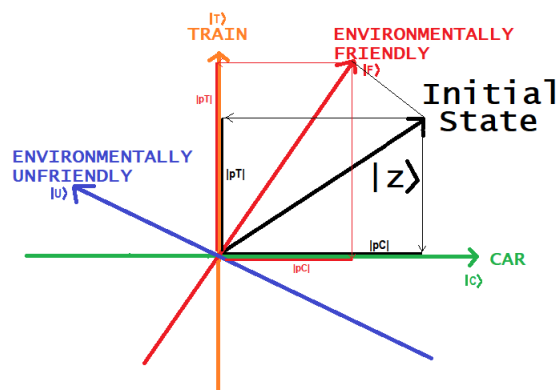


FIGURE 2 : Making two choices under quantum logic

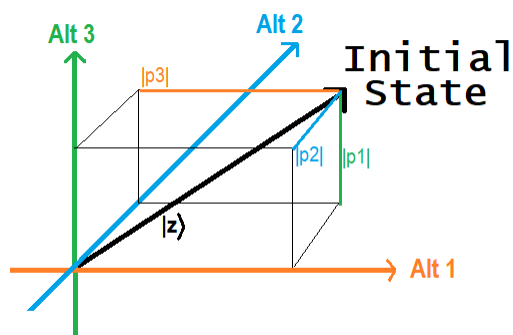
11 As a result of the decision-maker deciding ‘I am environmentally friendly’, the decision-  
 12 maker’s state moves from the initial starting state and is projected onto the vector representing

1 ‘environmentally friendly’ and vice versa if they decide ‘I am not environmentally friendly’ (see  
2 Figure 2). This results in making the choice between car and train from a different state. Con-  
3 sequently the length of the projections ( $|\rho_C|$  and  $|\rho_T|$ ) onto the vectors for car and train have  
4 changed. This is graphically represented in Figure 2, with the projection length for  $|\rho_T|$  longer if  
5 the initial state is first projected onto the environmentally friendly vector before being projected  
6 onto the train vector, relative to the projection length if train is chosen directly from the initial state.  
7 Consequently, the probabilities for choosing car and train are altered.

8 Cognitive psychologists have many key reasons for using quantum logic [Busemeyer et al.,  
9 2011] that are also relevant for transport behaviour modelling. Firstly, a behavioural state is ini-  
10 tially ‘indefinite’ and is often created rather than just recorded by an attempt to measure it. For  
11 example, a decision-maker might only start considering how environmentally friendly they are  
12 after they have been asked (or reminded) about how environmentally friendly they are. For this  
13 reason, it is essential that surveys including both choice tasks and attitudinal questions require the  
14 respondent to complete the choice tasks first, if the researcher wishes to avoid bias in the choice  
15 task [Ben-Akiva et al., 2019]. However, conversely, a decision-maker may try to ‘justify’ their  
16 choices with their responses to the attitudinal questions [Cunha-e Sá et al., 2012]. Consequently,  
17 it is often difficult to measure a decision-maker’s *true* attitudes, opinions and preference without  
18 some form of bias. It is easy to see how this relates to issues for choice modellers with, for ex-  
19 ample, analysts often having concerns about the biases or truthfulness within stated preference  
20 data [Mahieu et al., 2016]. Secondly, psychologists have put forward the argument that cognition  
21 behaves like a wave rather than a particle [Trueblood and Busemeyer, 2012]. A decision-maker  
22 might consider the advantages of getting the train but then also consider the advantages of driving.  
23 Indeed, many models developed in mathematical psychology assume preferences for alternatives  
24 that update stochastically [Busemeyer and Townsend, 1993, Krajbich et al., 2012]. Under quan-  
25 tum logic, their preference over time ‘behaves like a wave’ and consequently fluctuates over time.  
26 It is only when a decision-maker makes up their mind that their preference exists as some mea-  
27 surable definite state. Before an action or choice is made, an observer does not know what the  
28 decision-maker will do. There are many preference states within travel behaviour that could sim-  
29 ilarly be described as ‘wave-like’, such as anticipating merging onto a new lane when driving,  
30 changing travel mode when weather worsens, or choosing which route to take depending on traffic  
31 conditions. One of the most crucial quantum concepts, however, is the idea of interferences or  
32 nudges (such as the previous example of being asked about the environment whilst in the process  
33 of making a mode choice). After the development of quantum physics to explain ordering effects  
34 of observed variables [Birkhoff and Von Neumann, 1936], a wide range of quantum models, often  
35 based on the idea of quantum interference, have been put forward in cognitive psychology [Bruza  
36 et al., 2015]. These include a quantum model to explain ordering effects [Trueblood and Buse-  
37 meyer, 2011], a quantum similarity model [Pothos et al., 2013] and a quantum judgement model  
38 [Busemeyer et al., 2011]. These models perform a similar function to choice models that include  
39 state dependence, where a number of different models [Seetharaman, 2003] have been applied to  
40 capture the temporal correlation of choices over time. Given the success of quantum models at  
41 explaining ordering effects within cognitive psychology, there is ample scope for quantum logic  
42 and quantum ideas within travel behaviour modelling and choice modelling in general.

## 1 2.2. A basic choice under quantum logic

2 Under quantum logic, a measurement (or choice scenario),  $X$ , can be represented geometrically as a  
 3 subspace  $L_x$  in a multidimensional Hilbert space [Trueblood et al., 2014b]. For each measurement,  
 4 a number of discrete ‘events’ are possible. These events, if mutually exclusive, are represented  
 5 by orthonormal vectors, which are denoted  $|x_1\rangle, |x_2\rangle, \dots |x_J\rangle$  (with  $J$  the number of alternatives).  
 6 For these vectors, we use bra-ket notation in keeping with the standard notation used in quantum  
 7 mechanics and quantum cognition (c.f. Trueblood and Busemeyer 2011). Under bra-ket notation,  
 8 a column vector in a Hilbert space is represented by a ‘ket’ vector,  $|\cdot\rangle$ , with the corresponding  
 9 row vector (with each element being complex conjugated) a ‘bra’ vector,  $\langle\cdot|$  [Yu and Jayakrishnan,  
 10 2018]. These orthonormal vectors then form a basis for the subspace  $L_x$ . Consequently, the Hilbert  
 11 space for a choice task with  $J$  alternatives can be represented by a  $J$ -dimensional space. This means  
 12 that for a choice set where there are three alternatives, the Hilbert space is a 3-dimensional space  
 13 and can be represented as shown in Figure 3.



**FIGURE 3 :** A basic example of 3-dimensional Hilbert probability space

14 Under quantum logic, a decision-maker has some opinion, initial state or ‘indefinite state’,  
 15 denoted  $|z\rangle$ , which can be represented by a vector of unit length (see Figure 3). When a decision-  
 16 maker makes a choice, their state goes from ‘indefinite’ to ‘definite’, by projecting onto the vector  
 17 representing the chosen alternative. This means that for each event alternative  $L_{x_i}$ , there is a corre-  
 18 sponding projection operator  $\rho_{x_i}$  that projects  $|z\rangle$  onto the vector  $|x_i\rangle$ .

19 As the indefinite state vector is of unit length and the subspace is represented by a set of  
 20 orthonormal vectors, the sum of the squared length of the projections must sum to 1:

$$\sum_{i=1}^J |\rho_{x_i}|^2 = 1. \quad (2)$$

21 A visual proof of this fact is given in Figure 3. The lengths of the three projections can be visualised  
 22 as the three sides of the cuboid in 3-dimensional space. By Pythagoras’ theorem, the fact that the  
 23 vector of unit length cuts diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner of the cuboid means  
 24 that the squared lengths of the projections must sum to one.

## 25 2.3. A sequence of choices

26 If a decision-maker makes a second choice across a different set of alternatives, this choice may be  
 27 influenced by the first. Quantum logic captures this by representing the two events by two separate

1 subspaces within the Hilbert space,  $L_x$  and  $L_y$ . Each subspace is separately defined by the set of  
 2 orthonormal vectors representing the alternatives for each event. This means that  $L_x$  is spanned by  
 3  $|x_1\rangle, |x_2\rangle, \dots |x_J\rangle$  and  $L_y$  is spanned by  $|y_1\rangle, |y_2\rangle, \dots |y_K\rangle$ , where there are J alternatives for choice  
 4 scenario X and K alternatives for scenario Y.

5 Revisiting the example presented in Figure 2, a decision-maker might be initially making a  
 6 choice, X, between commuting by car or train. Under quantum logic, the decision-maker has some  
 7 initial state (which could be based on past experiences) regarding whether they will choose car or  
 8 train. All possible states are spanned by the basis vectors  $|x_{car}\rangle, |x_{train}\rangle$ . The closer the vector  
 9 representing the decision-maker's state is to the vector representing an alternative, the more likely  
 10 that alternative will be chosen. However, the decision-maker could first be asked some a different  
 11 question (Y) about whether they consider themselves to be environmentally friendly or not. Un-  
 12 der quantum logic, the 'indefinite state' does not change. This means that if the probabilities for  
 13 alternatives being chosen in question Y are to be different from the probabilities for alternatives  
 14 being chosen in question X, we need choice Y to be represented<sup>1</sup> by a different set of basis vec-  
 15 tors,  $|y_{env-friendly}\rangle, |y_{env-unfriendly}\rangle$ . Consequently, if the decision-maker makes the choice 'I am  
 16 environmentally friendly', they move through the Hilbert space and their state is projected onto the  
 17 environmentally friendly vector,  $|y_{env-friendly}\rangle$  (see Figure 2). This means that their new state is  
 18 the vector  $|y_{env-friendly}\rangle$  itself. By making choice (Y) first, the original choice X between car and  
 19 train is made from a different state (or perspective).

20 Crucially, by moving state (and making what we define a 'quantum rotation'), the squared  
 21 lengths of the projections onto the vectors for train and for car have changed<sup>2</sup>. As a result, in this  
 22 example, the decision-maker is more likely to choose to commute by train if they first decide that  
 23 they are environmentally friendly. This is graphically represented in Figure 2, where the length of  
 24 the projection onto the vector representing train being chosen has increased (which results in the  
 25 probability of choosing train increasing relative to the probability of choosing car).

### 26 3. BUILDING A CHOICE MODEL FROM QUANTUM LOGIC

27 Whilst Lipovetsky [2018] has applied quantum models to consumer recall tasks with multi-  
 28 alternative, multi-attribute alternatives, quantum probability has not ever been applied to multi-  
 29 alternative, multi-attribute choice scenarios (as far as the authors are aware). In this section, we  
 30 look at how we can use ideas from quantum probability within a choice model. We do this by  
 31 first considering what the requirements are for a quantum choice model. We then explore the use  
 32 of sine and cosine functions, a method which was previously found to be effective for multialter-  
 33 native scenarios [Lipovetsky, 2018]. Next, we consider ideas from two different existing choice  
 34 models to use within a quantum model framework: regret functions from random regret minimi-  
 35 sation [Chorus, 2010] and drift rate functions from the multi-attribute linear ballistic accumulator  
 36 model [Trueblood et al., 2014a]. Finally, we consider how similar or related choices could be  
 37 mathematically explained by a 'quantum rotation'.

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<sup>1</sup>It is important here to not visualise the state as a point  $(a, b)$ . It is a vector,  $\left| \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle$ , meaning that the projection lengths from this state to the set of basis vectors will change if we use a different set of basis vectors.

<sup>2</sup>Two choices that require a different set of basis vectors are known as 'incompatible'. If the choices are in fact compatible and can be represented by the same set of basis vectors, then the order in which the choices are made has no impact on the probabilities of each alternative being chosen. Consequently, quantum probability collapses back into classical probability [Hughes, 1992].



### 1 3.1. Requirements

2 For our choice model to use quantum logic, we need to define a method for calculating an indefinite  
 3 state vector. If this state vector is of unit length and we take projections from it to a set of orthonor-  
 4 mal basis vectors (with one vector for each discrete alternative), then the sum of the squared length  
 5 of these projections will equal one. Consequently, for each alternative, we need to find the length  
 6 of the projection, as the square of this length equals the probability with which the alternative is  
 7 chosen (see Figure 3). This means that if we are to use quantum logic to understand multi-attribute,  
 8 multi-alternative choices, we must first consider how best to represent the state vector,  $|z\rangle$ . If, for  
 9 example, we imagine that we are making a route choice between a cheap and slow alternative and  
 10 a fast and expensive alternative, the development of a state could be represented by Figure 4.

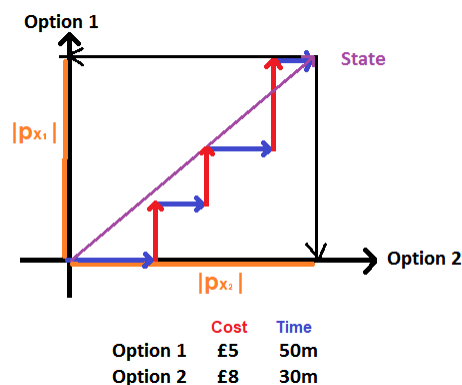


FIGURE 4 : The development of a ‘state’

11 When the decision-maker considers travel time, the second option is better, and consequently  
 12 the state vector extends in the direction of the vector representing option 2 (and hence increasing  
 13 the length of the projection onto option 2 whilst not increasing the length of the projection onto  
 14 option 1). If the decision-maker considers cost, the state vector instead extends in the direction of  
 15 the vector for alternative 1. At some point the decision-maker makes the choice when they reach  
 16 some state. To generate this state, we need to know the relative importance of the attributes. This  
 17 means that one option is to calculate ‘utilities’ or ‘preference values’ for each alternative. How-  
 18 ever, if we used a utility specification from multinomial logit,  $U_j = \beta'x_j$ , where  $\beta$  is a vector of  
 19 coefficients and  $x_j$  is a vector of observed variables relating to alternative  $j$ , then some alterna-  
 20 tives could have positive utilities and others might have negative utilities. As the probability of an  
 21 alternative is the squared length of the projection from the state vector onto the vector for the al-  
 22 ternative, positive and negative values would lead to the same result. This means that we require a  
 23 method for comparing attributes across alternatives that always results in positive (or always nega-  
 24 tive) values. Additionally, a quantum choice model could have parameters equivalent to alternative  
 25 specific constants, which would estimate the starting point for the state (which may not necessarily  
 26 be zero). This in effect acts as an initial preference state in the multidimensional space. Finally,  
 27 some alternatives may be compared more than others, so weights could be defined for each pair of  
 28 alternatives (with one fixed for normalisation purposes).

### 1 3.2. Cosine and sine functions

2 It is easy to see from Figure 5 that cosine and sine functions provide one possibility for quantum models. As  $\sin^2(\theta) + \cos^2(\theta) = 1$ , one possible method for defining quantum probabilities is to

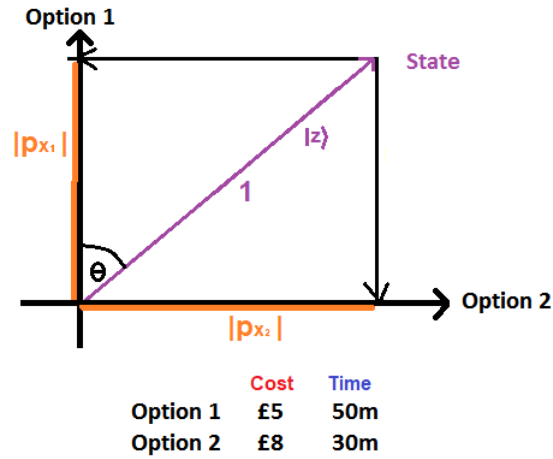


FIGURE 5 : Using geometry within a quantum model

3  
4 find the angle  $\theta$  between the state vector  $|z\rangle$  and the projection onto the chosen alternative,  $\rho_{x_j}$ . For  
5 a choice scenario with two alternatives as defined in Figure 5,  $\cos(\theta) = |\rho_{x_1}|$  and  $\sin(\theta) = |\rho_{x_2}|$ .  
6 Consequently, finding the angle  $\theta$  will give us the probabilities of both alternatives. We thus need  
7 to define the angle  $\theta$  as a weighted sum of the differences between the attributes of the alternatives.  
8 This angles can then be used to calculate projections ( $\rho$ ):

$$\theta = \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k (x_{k_1} - x_{k_2}),$$

$$\rho(Alt_1) = \sin(\theta), \quad (3)$$

$$\rho(Alt_2) = \cos(\theta),$$

$$\rightarrow \rho(Alt_1)^2 + \rho(Alt_2)^2 = 1,$$

9 where  $k = 1, \dots, K$  is an index across the attributes,  $\beta_k$  is a coefficient for attribute  $k$  and  $x_{k_i}$  is  
10 the value of attribute  $k$  for alternative  $i$ . This approach is used by Lipovetsky [2018] to predict  
11 which pizza brands participants remember. He demonstrates that for more than two alternatives,  
12 we simply need to find additional angles:

$$[\sin^2(\theta_A)] + [\cos^2(\theta_A)] = 1$$

$$\rightarrow \sin^2(\theta_A) + \cos^2(\theta_A)(\sin^2(\theta_B) + \cos^2(\theta_B)) = 1$$

$$\rightarrow [\sin^2(\theta_A)] + [\cos^2(\theta_A) \cdot \sin^2(\theta_B)] + [\cos^2(\theta_A) \cdot \cos^2(\theta_B)] = 1 \quad (4)$$

$$\rightarrow [\sin^2(\theta_A)] + [\cos^2(\theta_A) \cdot \sin^2(\theta_B)] +$$

$$[\cos^2(\theta_A) \cdot \cos^2(\theta_B) \cdot \sin^2(\theta_C)] + [\cos^2(\theta_A) \cdot \cos^2(\theta_B) \cdot \cos^2(\theta_C)] = 1.$$

13 However, when there are more than two choice alternatives, complications arise. Firstly, it is not  
14 clear which differences between alternatives should be used, as we only require  $J - 1$  differences

1 where  $J$  is the number of alternatives. Crucially, under this system, a small increase in the attribute  
 2 of one alternative may not have the equivalent impact as a small increase in the attribute of a  
 different alternative. An example of this is given in Table 1. In this set of examples, we have three

**TABLE 1** : Examples of probabilities under various coefficients for sine and cosine models

	Parameter/Attribute	Ex. 1 coefs.	Ex. 2 coefs.	Ex. 3 coefs.
Constant A:	$x$	0.615	0.615	0.615
Constant B:	$y$	0.785	0.785	0.785
Attribute for Alt A:	$Z_A$	3	3.1	3
Attribute for Alt B:	$Z_B$	3	3	3.1
Attribute for Alt C:	$Z_C$	3	3	3
Alternative	Projection length	Ex. 1 prob.	Ex. 2 prob.	Ex. 3 prob.
A	$\sin(\theta_A)$	0.333	0.430	0.243
B	$\cos(\theta_A) \cdot \sin(\theta_B)$	0.333	0.285	0.454
C	$\cos(\theta_A) \cdot \cos(\theta_B)$	0.333	0.285	0.304

3  
 4 alternatives  $\{A,B,C\}$  and just a single attribute,  $Z$ . We set the relative importance weights  $\beta_k = 1$ ,  
 5  $\theta_A = x + Z_A - Z_B$  and  $\theta_B = y + Z_B - Z_C$ . For the first example, we demonstrate that precise constants  
 6 of  $x = 0.615$  and  $y = 0.785$  are required to allow for the probability of the three alternatives to be  
 7 identical if the alternatives have matching value of 3 for attribute  $Z$ . If, in example 2, we imagine  
 8 that the value for attribute  $Z_A$  increases to 3.1, then the probabilities adjust appropriately (the  
 9 probability of alternative B remains the same as the probability of alternative C). This is not the  
 10 case in example 3, where an equivalent increase in attribute  $Z_B$  does not result in alternatives A and  
 11 C having the same probability. Consequently, we must look for alternative model frameworks for  
 12 multi-alternative settings.

### 13 3.3. Quantum pairwise comparison framework A (QPCA)

14 We will now show that an alternative possibility for a quantum model framework is to use regret  
 15 functions from random regret minimisation (RRM) as the key component for the definition of  
 16 projection lengths for each alternative. The deterministic regret [Chorus, 2010] for respondent  $n$ ,  
 17 for alternative  $i$ , in choice task  $t$ , is given by:

$$R_{int} = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j \neq i} \ln(1 + e^{\beta_k(x_{jntk} - x_{intk})}) \quad (5)$$

18 with  $k = 1, \dots, K$  an index across attributes and  $\beta_k$  a coefficient for the relative importance of at-  
 19 tribute  $k$ . This has the potential to work for a quantum model as the logarithm guarantees that  
 20 only positive values are generated from the pairwise comparisons between the alternatives. We  
 21 can therefore make the following definition for ‘quantum pairwise comparison version A (QPCA)’  
 22 to calculate the length of projection for alternative  $i$  (with  $n$  the respondent and  $t$  the choice task):

$$|\rho_{int}| = \delta_{QPCA,i} + I_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j \neq i} w_{ij} \cdot \ln(1 + e^{\beta_k(x_{intk} - x_{jntk})}), \quad (6)$$

23 where  $\delta_{QPCA,i}$  are alternative-specific constants and  $I_0$  is a constant that has the same value across  
 24 all alternatives<sup>3</sup>. Together, these are used to define the starting point for the state vector in the

<sup>3</sup>Note that  $x_{jntk}$  and  $x_{intk}$  in Equation 6 compared to Equation 5 are reversed, as using negative regret as in RRM models will be ineffective given the projection lengths are later squared.

1 Hilbert space.  $wt_{ij}$  is a weight for the relative importance of the comparison between alternatives  
 2  $i$  and  $j$ , meaning that it is constant across attributes as it is at the alternative level. Once these  
 3 projection lengths have been calculated, the probability for each alternative can be defined simply  
 4 as:

$$P_{QPCA,jnt} = \frac{|\rho_{jnt}|^2}{\sum_{i=1}^J (|\rho_{int}|^2)}, \quad (7)$$

5 where  $i = 1, \dots, J$  is an index across the possible alternatives. This means that to estimate this  
 6 model, we require  $K$  attribute coefficients,  $\frac{(J)(J-1)}{2} - 1$  weights,  $wt$ , for the relative importance of  
 7 comparisons between the different alternatives (where the use of logistic transformations ensures  
 8 that these weights will sum to one) and  $J$  constants to estimate the initial starting state. Whereas  
 9 adding a constant to the utility of every alternative does not have an impact in random utility  
 10 models, it is multiplying all of the length of projections by a constant that does not impact the  
 11 choice probabilities of alternatives under a quantum system (see Equation 2). Consequently, we  
 12 can have  $J$  parameters for  $J$  alternatives to define the starting state (either by normalising one  
 13 attribute specific constant or by not using  $I_0$ , the constant that is added to all alternatives). The  
 14 greater the magnitude of these constants, the less deterministic the choices become.

#### 15 3.4. Quantum pairwise comparison framework B (QPCB)

16 The final possibility we consider for a quantum model framework in this paper is the use of drift  
 17 rate functions from the multi-attribute linear ballistic accumulator model [Trueblood et al., 2014a].  
 18 The linear ballistic accumulator (LBA), was originally designed within mathematical psychology,  
 19 and is a model designed to capture both choices and response times [Brown and Heathcote, 2008].  
 20 Under LBA, a decision-maker starts with a random amount of evidence for each alternative. The  
 21 evidence for each alternative then grows linearly according to a set of drift rates (with one rate for  
 22 each alternative). The first to reach some threshold is then the chosen alternative. This model was  
 23 then adjusted for alternatives with multiple attributes (MLBA) and has been used successfully to  
 24 explain choices between ratings for eyewitness testimony [Trueblood et al., 2014a], consumer and  
 25 perceptual choices [Turner et al., 2018] and gambling and accommodation choices [Cohen et al.,  
 26 2017]. Under MLBA, the drift rates are generated from a normal distribution where the mean drift  
 27 rates are a function of the attributes of the alternatives. Crucially, the mean drift rates are often  
 28 defined such that they are guaranteed to be positive, meaning that they could be used within a  
 29 quantum probability framework. The mean drift rate is defined as:

$$d_i = I_0 + \sum_{j \neq i} \sum_{k=1}^K (w_{x_{k,i,j}} \cdot \beta_k \cdot (x_{k,i} - x_{k,j})), \quad (8)$$

30 where  $I_0$  is a constant, which can be defined such that  $d_j \geq 0$  for all  $j$ . Then additionally  $K$  is the  
 31 number of attributes,  $w_{x_{k,i,j}}$  is a similarity weighting,  $\beta_k$  is an attribute-specific scaling coefficient  
 32 for attribute  $k$  and  $x_{k,i}$  and  $x_{k,j}$  are the values for alternatives  $i$  and  $j$  for attribute  $k$ . Whilst similar in  
 33 appearance to regret functions, rather than using a logarithm, we instead use similarity weightings,  
 34 which are defined such that they are an exponentially decaying function of distance:

$$w_{x_{k,i,j}} = \exp\left(-(\lambda_1 \cdot [x_{k,i} \geq x_{k,j}] + \lambda_2 [x_{k,i} < x_{k,j}]) \cdot \beta_k \cdot |x_{k,i} - x_{k,j}|\right). \quad (9)$$

35 Under MLBA, two different values,  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ , are used to capture Tversky [1977]'s findings that  
 36 the subjective similarity between A and B and the subjective similarity between B and A may

1 not be equal. Given that differences between losses and gains have regularly been shown to be  
 2 important in a transport context [Hess et al., 2008, Masiero and Hensher, 2010, Stathopoulos and  
 3 Hess, 2012], this is a useful feature for this quantum model as well. Both  $\lambda$  values should be greater  
 4 than zero to ensure that attributes that are more similar have a higher similarity value  $w_{x_{k,i,j}}$ . This  
 5 results in weights that are between 0 and 1. Finally, we adjust the drift rate specification as before  
 6 to include weights for the relative importance of comparisons between pairs of alternatives, and to  
 7 include constants to adjust the initial state vector. Consequently, the length of the projection for an  
 8 alternative  $j$  for decision-maker  $n$  in choice task  $t$  in our quantum pairwise comparison version B  
 9 (QPCB) model is:

$$|\rho_{int}| = \delta_{QPCB,i} + I_0 + \sum_{j \neq i} \sum_{k=1}^K wt_{i,j} \cdot (w_{x_{k,i,j}} \cdot \beta_k \cdot (x_{k,i} - x_{k,j})), \quad (10)$$

10 where again  $\delta_{QPCB,i}$  is used to define the starting point for the state vector and  $wt_{ij}$  is a weight  
 11 for the relative importance of the comparison between alternatives  $i$  and  $j$ . Once these projection  
 12 lengths have been calculated, we can use Equation 7 again to calculate the probability of alterna-  
 13 tives under this model.

### 14 3.5. Quantum rotation

15 We also look at how quantum models can explain a pair of related choices through a ‘quantum  
 16 rotation’. Under quantum logic, a separate set of basis vectors is required for a different choice.  
 17 For example, if a decision-maker is selecting their favourite of three alternatives, then the set of  
 18 basis vectors could be  $|Alt1_{best}\rangle$ ,  $|Alt2_{best}\rangle$  and  $|Alt3_{best}\rangle$  (see Figure 6 Graph A).

19 The decision-maker could choose any of the three alternatives and therefore there are three  
 20 possible projections from the state vector  $|z\rangle$  onto the three alternatives (with the correspond-  
 21 ing projection lengths labelled  $|\rho1|_{best}$ ,  $|\rho2|_{best}$  and  $|\rho3|_{best}$  in Figure 6 Graph A). Now suppose  
 22 the decision-maker chooses alternative 2. Under quantum logic, the state changes from  $|z\rangle$  to  
 23  $|Alt2_{best}\rangle$ . However, if the decision-maker was then asked to make a 2nd choice to pick their least  
 24 favourite, then the projection lengths from  $|Alt2_{best}\rangle$  to  $|Alt1_{best}\rangle$  or  $|Alt3_{best}\rangle$  are both zero, as  
 25 these are orthogonal vectors. Consequently, to calculate probabilities for the 2nd choice, we must  
 26 instead assume that the the initial state can still accurately capture the difference between the 2nd  
 27 and 3rd favoured alternatives. This means the probabilities for the 2nd choice can be found by  
 28 reducing the dimensionality (moving from the initial state to the new state,  $|z_2\rangle$ , in Figure 6 Graph  
 29 B).

30 Under a typical MNL, the utility (or equivalently regret in RRM) of picking alternative  $i$  can  
 31 easily be adapted to a corresponding utility for not picking alternative  $i$ :

$$U(alt_{i-worst}) = -U(alt_{i-best}). \quad (11)$$

32 For quantum models, however, this translation is not as simple. This is a consequence of using the  
 33 squared length of the projections to calculate the probability of alternatives (see Equation 7), as  
 34 using ‘negative lengths’ for each projection will result in the same probabilities for each alternative.  
 35 However, when there are only three alternatives (a regular setting for many surveys), there exists  
 36 a simple transformation. Given that there are two alternatives left, the probability of picking one  
 37 option as the second best (or second most preferred) equals the probability of picking the other as

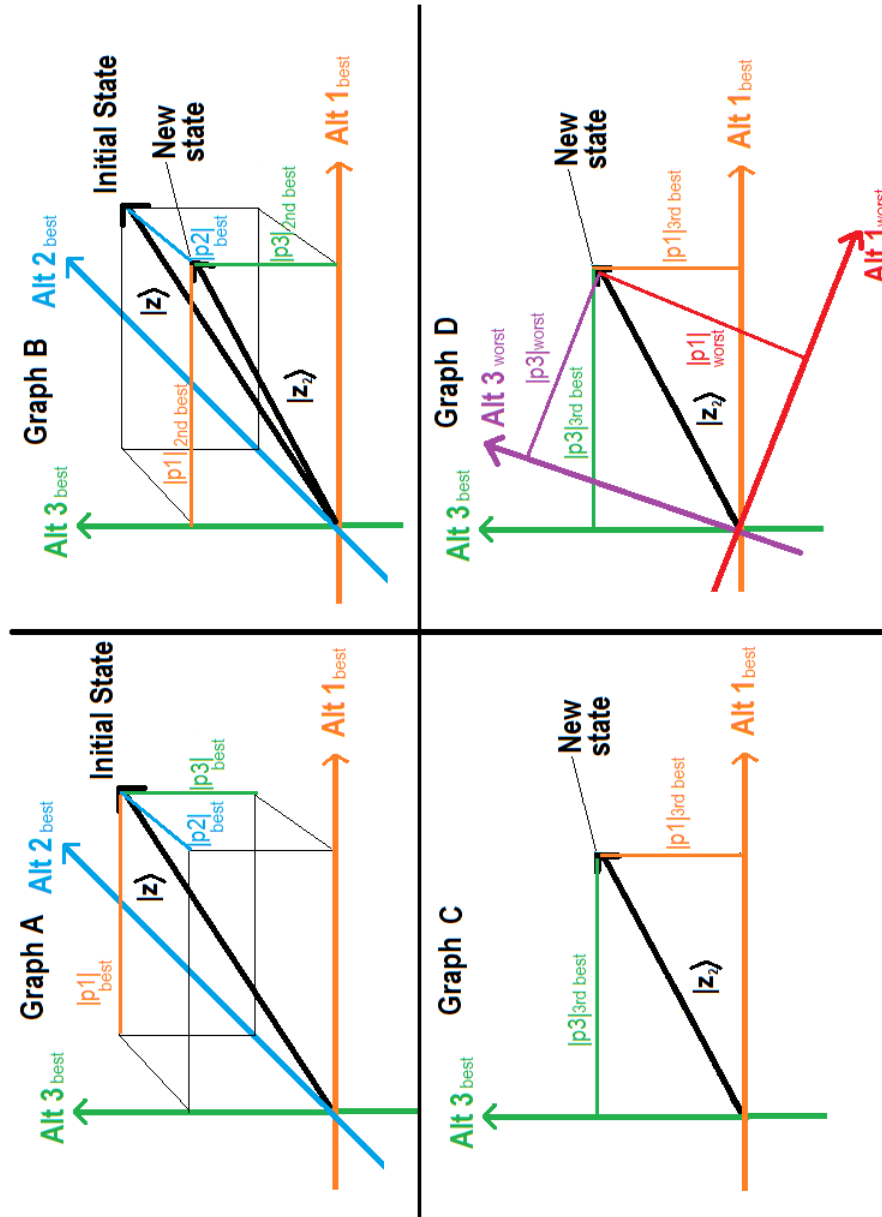


FIGURE 6 : Making best-worst choices under quantum logic

1 the worst. Consequently given alternatives  $i$  and  $j$ , we can define the length of the projection for  
2 alternative  $i$  being the worst as:

$$|\rho_{i_{worst}}| = |\rho_{j_{best}}|. \quad (12)$$

3 This can be represented graphically by moving from Figure 6 Graph B to Graph C. A different  
4 translation would be required if there were more than two alternatives left. For example, one  
5 could simply use differences in favour of the alternative rather than against the alternative in the  
6 definitions of the projection length for each alternative. For example, Equation 6 would become:

$$|\rho_{int}| = \delta_{QPCA,i} + \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{j \neq i} w_{t_{ij}} \cdot \ln(1 + e^{\beta_k(x_{jnk} - x_{ink})}). \quad (13)$$

7 Equivalently, using  $x_{k,j} - x_{k,i}$  instead of  $x_{k,i} - x_{k,j}$  in Equation 10 would result in an appropriate  
8 translation for QPCB:

$$|\rho_{int}| = \delta_{QPCB,i} + I_0 + \sum_{j \neq i} \sum_{k=1}^K w_{t_{ij}} \cdot (w_{x_{k,i,j}} \cdot \beta_k \cdot (x_{k,j} - x_{k,i})), \quad (14)$$

9 However, Equations 11-14 only work under the assumption that ‘worst’ is considered directly  
10 opposite to ‘best’ and the sensitivities to attributes is identical when picking favoured and least  
11 favoured alternatives.

12 It is possible that the attributes which are important for a best choice are not necessarily the  
13 attributes which are important for a worst choice [Giergiczny et al., 2017]. The simplest way for  
14 taking this into account would be to estimate a completely separate set of parameters for worst  
15 choices compared to best choices. A different possibility under quantum logic is to instead have a  
16 new set of basis vectors,  $|Alt1_{worst}\rangle$ ,  $|Alt2_{worst}\rangle$  and  $|Alt3_{worst}\rangle$  representing the choice of the worst  
17 alternative. This means that if a decision-maker chose alternative 2 as the best alternative, then the  
18 probability for choosing, for example, alternative 3 as the worst, is now the squared length of the  
19 projection from  $|z_2\rangle$  onto  $|Alt3_{worst}\rangle$  (rather than  $|Alt1_{best}\rangle$ ), as would be the case under Equation  
20 12). This means that the length of the projection has changed (see Figure 6 Graph D). To calculate  
21 the new length of the projection, we would need to know how to make the change of basis from  
22 the Hilbert space represented by  $|Alt1_{best}\rangle$ ,  $|Alt2_{best}\rangle$  and  $|Alt3_{best}\rangle$  to the space represented by  
23  $|Alt1_{worst}\rangle$ ,  $|Alt2_{worst}\rangle$  and  $|Alt3_{worst}\rangle$ . Thus we must estimate a change of basis matrix,  $M^*$  that  
24 appropriately adjusts the lengths of the projections (with the matrix being of size  $n$ , which is the  
25 number of alternatives in the initial choice scenario). For all models, this matrix maps original  
26 utilities/lengths,  $p$ , to new ones,  $q$ , simply through matrix multiplication:

$$q_j = \sum_{i=1}^n M_{j,i}^* \cdot v_i \quad (15)$$

27 Mathematically, this is effectively simultaneously a change in both underlying preferences towards  
28 alternatives and a change in scale. In our empirical application, we test this idea of a ‘quantum  
29 rotation’ for MNL, RRM, QPCA and QPCB to see whether the rotation can capture as much of a  
30 difference in the different sensitivities as a different set of parameters would.

## 1 4. EMPIRICAL APPLICATION

2 In this section, we test our different specifications of quantum models on a number of route choice  
3 datasets. First, we describe the five different datasets that we use. Three of these are basic route  
4 choice datasets, with the final two providing examples under which we can test ‘quantum rota-  
5 tions’. We apply the models to the three basic datasets first, whilst also considering parameter  
6 estimates and out-of-sample validation for the most complex of these datasets. Next, we consider  
7 a best-worst dataset where we test the ability of our quantum models to capture both best and worst  
8 choices. We then also test quantum rotation on a dataset where the order of the alternatives and the  
9 attributes is manipulated, thus testing whether this rotation can capture ordering effects. Finally,  
10 we consider out of sample validation for quantum rotations. For all models, we use R packages  
11 maxLik [Henningsen and Toomet, 2011] and apollo [Hess and Palma, 2019] for estimation of the  
12 log-likelihood functions.

### 13 4.1. Datasets

#### 14 4.1.1. Danish dataset

15 The first dataset we use comes from the Danish value of travel time study [Fosgerau, 2006]. 545  
16 participants completed a total of 4,214 choice tasks. Each task involved a simple choice between  
17 two routes, where each task has a cheap but slow alternative and a fast but expensive alternative.

#### 18 4.1.2. Swiss dataset

19 The second dataset we use comes from the Swiss value of time study [Axhausen et al., 2008]. 389  
20 participants each make 9 binary route choice tasks. The two alternatives are described by travel  
21 cost, travel time, headway and the number of interchanges required to complete the trip.

#### 22 4.1.3. UK dataset 1

23 The third dataset that we use is a survey asking public transport commuters living in the UK to  
24 make a set of ten choices between three route alternatives in a stated preference survey. A total  
25 of 368 participants completed the survey resulting in 3,680 choices. Each choice task involves an  
26 invariant reference trip and two hypothetical alternatives. Each alternative is described by seven  
27 attributes: travel time (in minutes), fare (£), rate of crowded trips, rate of delays (both out of 10  
28 trips), the average length of delays (across delayed trips) and the availability and cost of a provision  
29 of an information service (£). Full details of the dataset are given by Hess and Stathopoulos [2013].

#### 30 4.1.4. Best-worst dataset

31 The best-worst dataset we use is similar to our UK dataset involving public transport commuters.  
32 A total of 391 participants complete 10 choice tasks described by three alternatives with the same  
33 set of attributes as before in the previous UK dataset. As participants choose a best and a worst  
34 alternative in each choice task, we have a total of 7,820 choices. For full details of the dataset,  
35 readers should refer to Stathopoulos and Hess [2012].

#### 36 4.1.5. UK dataset 2

37 The final dataset that we use in this paper comes from the most recent value of travel time study  
38 conducted in the UK [Batley et al., 2017]. This dataset comprises of 15,045 choices between two  
39 alternatives, one of which is cheaper and the other faster (SP1 in Batley et al. 2017). The advan-  
40 tage of this dataset is that the cheaper alternative is sometimes first and sometimes second, and



1 additionally the order in which the attributes are displayed is also manipulated across respondents.  
 2 These ordering effects have previously been found to be significant [Hess et al., 2017], making this  
 3 an appropriate dataset to test quantum rotations on.

#### 4 **4.2. Basic models**

5 For basic tests of our quantum models, we use the Danish, Swiss and first UK datasets. We test  
 6 the models on all three datasets before testing out-of-sample performance of the models on the UK  
 7 dataset.

##### 8 *4.2.1. Estimation results*

9 For all datasets, we compare the quantum models against multinomial logit (MNL). We addition-  
 10 ally test the models against random regret minimisation (RRM) for our dataset with more than two  
 11 alternatives. For all of our models we use an initial parameter search algorithm, based on Bierlaire  
 12 et al. [2010]’s heuristic for non-linear global optimisation. This reduces the risk of models con-  
 13 verging to poor local optima. We test all three quantum specifications. Results for these models  
 14 are given in Table 2.

15 For the quantum pairwise comparison version A (QPCA) model, we find that for the Danish  
 16 dataset, there is no significant difference in model fit by including a number of different starting  
 17 state vector parameters corresponding to the number of alternatives. Consequently,  $I_0$  and  $\delta_1$  are  
 18 fixed to zero. Additionally, fixing one of the attribute scaling coefficients,  $\beta_1$ , has no impact on  
 19 model fit either. This is also the case for the Swiss dataset, but not for the UK dataset, which  
 20 requires a full set of attribute scaling coefficients. Whilst the Swiss model improves with a full  
 21 sets of constants, there is no significant impact on model fit for the UK dataset when all constants  
 22 are removed, as the alternative comparison weights,  $w_t$ , more effectively capture the underlying  
 23 baseline preferences towards the different alternatives (with worse model fit obtained if alternatives  
 24 specific weights are used instead of alternative comparison weights).

25 We observe similar results for quantum pairwise comparison version B (QPCB), which also  
 26 only requires one parameter to calculate the initial starting state ( $\delta_1$  for the Danish and Swiss  
 27 datasets,  $I_0$  for the UK dataset). For identification purposes, we fix one  $\lambda$  parameter to a value of 1,  
 28 as dividing  $\lambda$  by some value  $x$  and multiplying the  $\beta$  parameters by  $x$  results in projection lengths  
 29 that are also multiplied by  $x$  (hence not changing the probability with which each alternative is  
 30 chosen, see Equation 10). For the Danish dataset, the second  $\lambda$  coefficient can also be fixed to zero  
 31 without impacting model fit.

32 Finally, we also test our trigonometric quantum model (TQ) based on the use of sines and  
 33 cosines. As discussed previously, the TQ model would not work well for more than two alterna-  
 34 tives, therefore we only test it on the Danish and Swiss datasets.

35 Most significantly, the QPCA and QPCB models have better model fit than both MNL and  
 36 RRM across all three datasets, with a large improvement in particular for the Danish and Swiss  
 37 datasets. The trigonometric quantum model does not perform as well, having worse fit than MNL  
 38 for both the Danish and Swiss datasets. This is perhaps unsurprising given that sine and cosine  
 39 function oscillate. Consequently, there is a restricted range of values that the estimated parameters  
 40 can take such that the largest difference in attribute value still results in the largest value after a  
 41 sine or cosine function is applied.

42 In Table 3, we also give some parameter estimates for models run on the UK data. Whilst  
 43 the outputs from a quantum model cannot be translated into measures such as the value of travel

**TABLE 2** : Results from applying quantum models to the three initial stated preference datasets

Danish				
Model	pars	LL	AIC	BIC
MNL	3	-2,301.25	4,608.50	4,627.54
QPCA	2	-2,012.25	4,028.50	4,041.19
QPCB	3	-2,010.85	4,027.70	4,046.74
TQ	3	-2,490.46	4,986.92	5,005.96
Swiss				
Model	pars	LL	AIC	BIC
MNL	5	-1,667.97	3,345.94	3,376.74
QPCA	5	-1,587.67	3,185.33	3,216.13
QPCB	6	-1,569.46	3,150.92	3,187.88
TQ	5	-1,699.16	3,408.33	3,439.13
UK				
Model	pars	LL	AIC	BIC
MNL	10	-3,360.43	6,740.86	6,802.97
RRM	10	-3,363.91	6,747.82	6,809.93
QPCA	10	-3,339.00	6,698.00	6,760.11
QPCB	12	-3,327.63	6,679.25	6,753.78

1 time, we can get an indication of the relative importance of the attributes by dividing the parameter  
2 estimates by the sum of the absolute value of all eight attribute coefficients<sup>4</sup>. We find that MNL and  
3 RRM have near identical relative importances, again suggesting that they are very similar models.  
4 QPCA finds relative importances which are largely similar to their respective values under RRM,  
5 with the exception of the values for average delay and rate of delays, both of which are more  
6 important under QPCA. Under QPCB, rather different values are found. In particular, the relative  
7 importance of the fare is higher under QPCB. It is notable that under both quantum models, the  
8 comparison of alternatives 1 and 2 is most important, followed by the comparison between 1  
9 and 3. As alternative 1 is the reference alternative, this suggests that decision-makers give more  
10 importance to their current alternative. This implies that if they are to choose a new alternative (2  
11 or 3) then it is more important that this alternative is better than the reference alternative than the  
12 other new alternative.

#### 13 4.2.2. Validation results

14 We also try forecasting for the quantum models to test whether they perform well in out-of-sample  
15 validation. In this case, we split the UK dataset into five subsamples. For each subsample, we  
16 first estimate the parameters for the MNL, RRM, QPCA and QPCB models on the first 80% of  
17 the data before finding the log-likelihood of the remaining 20% validation set under the estimated  
18 parameters found for the initial set. For four and three out of five subsets respectively we observe

<sup>4</sup>Note that we use a logarithmic transformation of fare as we find non-linear sensitivities in this data. In line with Hess et al. [2012], a term for reliability is also added by calculating the expected length of delay (rate of delays multiplied by average delay time).

TABLE 3 : Parameter estimates for the models ran on the UK data

UK dataset	MNL	RRM	QPCA	QPCB	
Log-likelihood	-3,360.43	-3,363.91	-3,339.03	-3,327.63	
AIC	6,740.86	6,747.82	6,698.05	6,679.25	
BIC	6,802.97	6,809.93	6,760.16	6,753.78	
$\beta_{TT}$	estimate	-0.05	-0.03	-0.39	-0.03
	robust t-ratio	-9.50	-9.58	-5.58	-2.64
	rel. importance	0.72%	0.63%	0.68%	0.48%
$\beta_{LFare}$	estimate	-6.00	-4.11	-50.29	-6.54
	robust t-ratio	-18.87	-17.66	-7.27	-2.59
	rel. importance	86.08%	86.71%	87.17%	92.70%
$\beta_{Crowd}$	estimate	-0.22	-0.15	-1.32	-0.18
	robust t-ratio	-8.58	-8.59	-4.36	-2.60
	rel. importance	3.16%	3.16%	2.29%	2.60%
$\beta_{Delay}$	estimate	-0.03	-0.02	-0.82	-0.08
	robust t-ratio	-3.25	-3.06	-2.92	-2.25
	rel. importance	0.43%	0.42%	1.42%	1.12%
$\beta_{Rate}$	estimate	-0.19	-0.12	-2.08	-0.07
	robust t-ratio	-5.96	-5.82	-5.38	-1.97
	rel. importance	2.73%	2.53%	3.60%	0.97%
$\beta_{Rel}$	estimate	-0.06	-0.04	-0.22	-0.01
	robust t-ratio	-2.64	-2.71	-2.81	-1.82
	rel. importance	0.86%	0.84%	0.38%	0.18%
$\beta_{Inf}$	estimate	-0.09	-0.05	-0.36	-0.01
	robust t-ratio	-1.13	-0.95	-0.59	-0.32
	rel. importance	1.29%	1.05%	0.62%	0.13%
$\beta_{InfF}$	estimate	0.33	0.22	2.22	0.13
	robust t-ratio	4.95	4.85	4.57	2.67
	rel. importance	4.73%	4.64%	3.84%	1.81%
$asc_{alt1}$	estimate	0.39	0.27	0.00	0.00
	robust t-ratio	5.85	4.17	<b>fixed</b>	<b>fixed</b>
$asc_{alt2}$	estimate	0.16	0.17	0.00	0.00
	robust t-ratio	3.3	3.38	<b>fixed</b>	<b>fixed</b>
$w_{PC12}$	estimate			40.58%	43.66%
	robust t-ratio			28.90	14.14
$w_{PC13}$	estimate			36.59%	36.09%
	robust t-ratio			25.29	13.31
$I_0$	estimate			0.00	0.24
	robust t-ratio			<b>fixed</b>	3.01
$\lambda_2$	estimate				16.17
	robust t-ratio				2.09

1 that QPCA and QPCB have better out-of-sample log-likelihoods than MNL or RRM (see Table  
 2 4) assuring that the improved goodness-of-fit observed in the estimation results are not due to  
 3 overfitting the data.

**TABLE 4** : Results from holdout samples for the different models for the UK dataset

UK dataset		MNL	RRM	QPCA	QPCB
Full Dataset	Estimate	-3,360	-3,364	-3,339	-3,328
Subset 1	Estimate	-2,651	-2,653	-2,633	-2,627
	Forecast	-713	-714	-709	-706
Subset 2	Estimate	-2,721	-2,725	-2,701	-2,688
	Forecast	-642	-641	-639	-642
Subset 3	Estimate	-2,694	-2,697	-2,670	-2,658
	Forecast	-667	-668	-670	-671
Subset 4	Estimate	-2,682	-2,685	-2,672	-2,663
	Forecast	-681	-682	-670	-668
Subset 5	Estimate	-2,684	-2,685	-2,672	-2,662
	Forecast	-679	-680	-670	-668

#### 4 4.3. Models with quantum rotation

5 Given that quantum logic can explain ordering effects, it is also important that any quantum choice  
 6 model retains this property. We therefore also look at the ability of our models to incorporate  
 7 ‘quantum rotations’, as defined in Section 3.5.

##### 8 4.3.1. Best-worst data findings

9 For our best-worst data, we try five different variations of each model, including three different  
 10 versions of ‘quantum rotations’:

- 11 1. A basic structure for each model where a ‘single’ set of parameters are estimated for pre-  
 12 dicting both best and worst choices, where we simply take negative values (as described in  
 13 Section 3.5) to translate from describing a best alternative to describing a worst alternative  
 14 for MNL and RRM. For the quantum models, we try two adjustments for picking the worst  
 15 alternative as oppose to the best alternative. The first method follows the rotation defined by  
 16 Equation 12, such that the probability of choosing an alternative as second best is simply the  
 17 probability that the other unchosen alternative is chosen as the worst. The second method we  
 18 test is to use different projection lengths as defined by Equations 13 and 14, which uses dif-  
 19 ferences in attributes in favour of the alternative in question (rather than differences against).
- 20 2. Allowing for a completely ‘separate’ set of parameters for the best choices compared to the  
 21 worst. This is equivalent to running two separate models where the dataset is split into two  
 22 subsets: one with the only the best alternative choice tasks and one with only the worst  
 23 alternative choice tasks.
- 24 3. A quantum rotation model with a diagonal rotation matrix  $M_1^*$  (with zeros off the diagonal).  
 25 This results in 3 additional parameters for MNL and RRM, and 2 for the quantum models

- 1 (as one needs to be fixed for identification purposes, as Equation 7 means that changing  
 2 all projection lengths by the same constant results in the same probability with which each  
 3 alternative is chosen).
- 4 4. A quantum rotation model with a symmetric rotation matrix  $M_2^*$ . This results in 5 additional  
 5 parameters for all models, as one must now also be fixed for identification purposes for  
 6 MNL and RRM (increasing all entries of a column of  $M^*$  has no impact on the probabilities  
 7 of choosing an alternative).
- 8 5. A quantum rotation model with a fully flexible rotation matrix  $M_3^*$ . This results in 6 extra  
 9 parameters for MNL and RRM and 8 extra parameters for the quantum models.

10 The results of these models are given in Table 5. For each model, the equation that is used to  
 11 adjust utilities/lengths for best alternatives to utilities/lengths for worst alternatives is given by the  
 12 best-worst adjustment equations<sup>5</sup> at the top of Table 5.

13 Unsurprisingly, every model finds a significant improvement in model fit by having a separate  
 14 set of parameters for the best alternatives compared to the worst alternatives (in line with the results  
 15 of [Giergiczny et al. 2017](#)). This suggests that the relative sensitivities to the different attributes for  
 16 a best alternative are not necessarily the same as the relative sensitivities to the different attributes  
 17 for a worst alternative. Additionally, we also observe that the quantum models that use Equations  
 18 13 and 14 for best-worst rotations result in better model fit than models that use Equation 12. This  
 19 is convenient in that rotations based on Equation 12 are inflexible and cannot be simply expanded  
 20 for best-worst choice scenarios involving more than three alternatives.

21 Table 5 also gives log-likelihood gains (LL Gains) for the models using a quantum rotation  
 22 as a percentage of the improvement gained by using a ‘separate’ set of parameters compared to a  
 23 ‘single’ set. Crucially, we find that both quantum models (and RRM) make vast improvements by  
 24 incorporating a quantum rotation, compared to models with a single set of parameters. Addition-  
 25 ally, models with symmetric or fully flexible rotation matrices (Quantum rotation 2 and 3 in Table  
 26 5) provide better model fit for the second version of each quantum model than their respective  
 27 ‘separate’ counterparts. Notably, even simple rotations work well for these models, with only two  
 28 additional parameters required for QPCA and QPCB (2nd versions) to achieve 99% and 95% log-  
 29 likelihood gains with respect to the improvement of using separate sets of parameters compared  
 30 to a single set. This suggests that the concept of a ‘quantum rotation’ is particularly valid for a  
 31 quantum model. It also demonstrates that the projection onto a basis vector for a best alternative is  
 32 not equivalent to the projection onto a basis vector for a worst alternative. Consequently, we find  
 33 that best-worst choices in this dataset are incompatible: a quantum rotation is required to move  
 34 from a set of basis vectors for best choices to a different set of basis vectors for worst choices.

35 The impact of the ‘quantum rotation’ is that the probabilities of each alternative being chosen  
 36 is altered. For the QPCA and QPCB (2nd version) quantum rotation models, the corresponding  
 37 (fully flexible matrix) rotation matrices that are estimated are:

$$M_{QPCA} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.000 & -0.018 & -0.004 \\ -0.117 & 2.058 & 0.132 \\ -0.159 & 0.166 & 1.826 \end{bmatrix}, M_{QPCB} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.000 & 0.270 & 0.192 \\ -0.009 & 2.270 & 0.484 \\ -0.396 & 0.416 & 2.393 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (16)$$

<sup>5</sup>Note that these adjustments are not applied to the ‘separate’ models, for which a completely separate set of parameters is estimated for the best choice compared to the worst choice.

**TABLE 5** : Results from models for the best-worst dataset

	models	MNL Eq. 11	RRM Eq. 11	QPCA Eq. 12 Eq. 13	QPCB Eq. 12 Eq. 14
	best-worst adjustment				
Single	parameters	10	10	11 11	12 12
	Log-likelihood	-5,802.67	-5,803.97	-5,805.38 -5,802.48	-5,943.13 -5,772.78
	BIC	11,695	11,698	11,709 11,704	11,994 11,653
Separate	parameters	20	20	22 22	24 24
	Log-likelihood	-5,666.81	-5,667.24	-5,617.67 -5,617.67	-5,606.92 -5,606.92
	BIC	11,513	11,514	11,433 11,433	11,429 11,429
Quantum Rotation 1	parameters	13	13	13 13	14 14
	Log-likelihood	-5,752.51	-5,681.13	-5,681.86 -5,619.15	-5,692.32 -5,615.13
	BIC	11,622	11,479	11,480 11,355	11,510 11,356
	LL Gain	36.9%	89.8%	65.8% 99.2%	74.6% 95.1%
Quantum Rotation 2	parameters	15	15	16 16	17 17
	Log-likelihood	-5,731.11	-5,671.29	-5,672.43 -5,614.50	-5,662.90 -5,593.01
	BIC	11,597	11,477	11,488 11,372	11,478 11,338
	LL Gain	52.7%	97.0%	70.8% 101.7%	83.3% 108.4%
Quantum Rotation 3	parameters	16	16	19 19	20 20
	Log-likelihood	-5,730.17	-5,671.00	-5,672.43 -5,610.95	-5,662.29 -5,590.82
	BIC	11,604	11,485	11,515 11,392	11,504 11,361
	LL Gain	53.4%	97.3%	70.8% 103.6%	83.5% 109.7%

1 The impact of these matrices on the probability with which each alternative is chosen is demon-  
 2 strated in Table 6. We start with a base scenario of two alternatives having a length of projection  
 3 of 3 and one alternative having a length of 5, and consider how the probability of each alternative  
 4 changes after a quantum rotation.

**TABLE 6** : The impact on the probability of alternatives being chosen after quantum rotations

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	Length of projection		
Alternative 1	5	3	3
Alternative 2	3	5	3
Alternative 3	3	3	5
	Initial Probability		
Alternative 1	58.1%	20.9%	20.9%
Alternative 2	20.9%	58.1%	20.9%
Alternative 3	20.9%	20.9%	58.1%
	New probability under QPCA		
Alternative 1	28.0%	5.6%	6.4%
Alternative 2	41.2%	71.6%	31.3%
Alternative 3	30.9%	22.8%	62.3%
	New probability under QPCB		
Alternative 1	27.2%	9.6%	9.0%
Alternative 2	45.1%	64.6%	33.6%
Alternative 3	27.7%	25.8%	57.4%

5 For both models, a key change is that the probability of choosing alternative 1 decreases. As  
 6 alternative 1 is the status quo alternative in this dataset, this suggests that an individual is more  
 7 likely to choose the status quo as a best choice than a worst choice. Additionally, alternative 2 is  
 8 more likely to be chosen than alternative 3 (as the worst). The higher values for elements  $M_{2,3}$  and  
 9  $M_{3,2}$  for  $M_{QPCB}$  compared to  $M_{QPCA}$  results in scenarios 2 and 3 being less deterministic after a  
 10 rotation for QPCB compared to QPCA.

#### 11 4.3.2. Contextual and ordering effects

12 Our next test of quantum rotation is to investigate its ability to capture contextual effects. For  
 13 example, our second UK dataset has some choice sets with the cheaper alternative shown first,  
 14 and some with the faster alternative shown first. Additionally, cost is sometimes on the left and  
 15 sometimes on the right. Whilst we could again use a full set of different parameters for the four  
 16 different scenarios, quantum rotations could also be used. Two different quantum rotations are  
 17 required, one for the order of the alternatives and the other for the order of the attributes. If  
 18 a quantum rotation improves the model, it implies that the choice scenarios cannot be treated  
 19 as equivalent if the context in which the choice is presented changes. We again test single and  
 20 separate sets of parameters as well as a two versions of quantum rotations. The basic MNL and

1 RRM models use parameters for cost and time as well as having one alternative specific constant<sup>6</sup>.  
 2 QPCA and QPCB additionally have a second alternative specific constant<sup>7</sup> and QPCB additionally  
 3 has two sensitivity parameters. The separate parameter models simply have four times as many  
 4 parameters (a set of parameters for each combination of attribute and alternative order). The first  
 5 set of rotations use diagonal matrices, resulting in one extra parameter per rotation for the quantum  
 6 models and two extra per rotation for MNL and RRM. The second set uses matrix rotations with  
 7 full sets of free parameters. The results of these models are given in Table 7.

**TABLE 7** : Results from applying quantum rotations to models for UK dataset 2

	models	MNL	RRM	QPCA	QPCB
Single	parameters	3		4	5
	Log-likelihood	-9,603.17		-9,369.61	-9,210.60
	BIC	19,235		18,778	18,469
Separate	parameters	12		16	20
	Log-likelihood	-9,584.18		-9,353.15	-9,189.43
	BIC	19,284		18,860	18,571
Quantum Rotation 1	parameters	7	7	6	7
	Log-likelihood	-9,593.83	-9,591.44	-9,359.81	-9,201.74
	BIC	19,255	19,250	18,777	18,471
	LL Gain	49.2%	61.8%	59.6%	41.9%
Quantum Rotation 2	parameters	11	11	10	11
	Log-likelihood	-9,592.17	-9,588.88	-9,355.14	-9,198.82
	BIC	19,290	19,284	18,806	18,503
	LL Gain	57.9%	75.3%	87.9%	55.7%

8 For all models, it appears that using separate sets of parameters results in an improvement  
 9 in model fit. Whilst the quantum rotation models are not as successful as capturing the differ-  
 10 ence between the contextual situations, full matrix rotations for QPCA result in a model that is  
 11 only 2 log-likelihood units worse than a model with a full set of separate parameters, which has  
 12 6 additional parameters. Consequently, the quantum rotation models achieve the best BIC values.  
 13 Notably, both quantum models significantly outperform the MNL and RRM models. The param-  
 14 eter estimates for the quantum rotation matrices for changing from having the cheaper alternative  
 15 on the left (first) to on the right (second) are:

$$M_{QPCA} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.000 & 0.029 \\ -0.014 & 1.130 \end{bmatrix}, M_{QPCB} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.000 & -0.053 \\ 0.102 & 1.225 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (17)$$

16 The estimates for the quantum rotation matrices for changing from having the travel time first to  
 17 having the travel cost first are:

$$M_{QPCA} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.000 & 0.101 \\ -0.001 & 1.097 \end{bmatrix}, M_{QPCB} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.000 & 0.043 \\ -0.008 & 0.898 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (18)$$

<sup>6</sup>Note that whilst these models perform identically when there are only two alternatives, this is not the case when a quantum rotation is applied. This is a result of differing levels of impact on the difference in utility of the two alternatives.

<sup>7</sup>This does not cause identification issues as increasing both values here simply results in a less deterministic choice. As a contrast to the previous models in this paper, the 2nd alternative specific constant results in a significant improvement for both quantum models for this dataset.



1 We use similar scenarios before to test the impact of these rotations on the probabilities of picking  
 2 the first or second alternatives. Using lengths of 3 and 5 for the base case (with the cheaper  
 3 alternative first and the travel time first), the respective probabilities for choosing the alternatives  
 4 are 27% for the alternative with length 3 and 73% for the alternative with length 5 (See Table 8).  
 5 For all scenarios and all models, alternative 2 is always more likely to be chosen if it is the cheaper  
 6 alternative, demonstrating that there is a bias towards picking the cheaper alternative. Whilst there  
 7 is little change in the probabilities under QPCA for having the travel cost or travel time first, QPCB  
 8 rotation parameters results in alternative 1 being picked more often if travel cost is listed first. This  
 9 is a result of having a value lower than 1 in matrix element  $M_{QPCB_{2,2}}$ .

**TABLE 8** : Probabilities of picking alternatives after quantum rotations under both QPCA and QPCB

	QPCA		QPCB	
	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
	Length of projection			
Slow & cheap	3	5	3	5
Fast & expensive	5	3	5	3
	Cheaper alternative first, travel time first			
Slow & cheap	26.5%	73.5%	26.5%	73.5%
Fast & expensive	73.5%	26.5%	73.5%	26.5%
	Cheaper alternative second, travel time first			
Slow & cheap	23.9%	70.1%	15.3%	57.2%
Fast & expensive	76.1%	29.9%	84.7%	42.8%
	Cheaper alternative first, travel cost first			
Slow & cheap	29.0%	72.3%	34.1%	78.9%
Fast & expensive	71.0%	27.7%	65.9%	21.1%
	Cheaper alternative second, travel cost first			
Slow & cheap	26.7%	69.0%	21.5%	64.6%
Fast & expensive	73.3%	31.0%	78.5%	35.4%

#### 10 4.3.3. Validation results for quantum rotations

11 Finally, we again test for overfitting, this time for models for which full quantum rotations have  
 12 been applied. We test both the quantum rotations from best to worst choice for our best-worst  
 13 dataset and both rotations for the 2nd UK dataset. In all cases, the first 80% of the dataset is used  
 14 for model estimation, with the remaining 20% used for validation. The results of these models are  
 15 given in Table 9. Crucially, it appears that for both datasets, neither QPCA or QPCB overfits the  
 16 data. It is in these models that we see more of a difference between the two quantum models, with  
 17 QPCB outperforming QPCA in 7 out of 10 validation subsets.

**TABLE 9** : Results from holdout samples for the different models under a full quantum rotation for the best-worst and 2nd UK datasets

Best-worst dataset					
Model		MNL	RRM	QPCA	QPCB
Full Dataset	Estimate	-5,730	-5,671	-5,611	-5,591
Subset 1	Estimate	-4,563	-4,515	-4,457	-4,439
	Forecast	-1,172	-1,157	-1,157	-1,156
Subset 2	Estimate	-4,606	-4,573	-4,520	-4,505
	Forecast	-1,129	-1,103	-1,096	-1,091
Subset 3	Estimate	-4,534	-4,480	-4,430	-4,431
	Forecast	-1,203	-1,198	-1,186	-1,188
Subset 4	Estimate	-4,628	-4,578	-4,536	-4,519
	Forecast	-1,105	-1,095	-1,078	-1,074
Subset 5	Estimate	-4,570	-4,522	-4,485	-4,473
	Forecast	-1,165	-1,154	-1,131	-1,122
UK dataset 2					
Model		MNL	RRM	QPCA	QPCB
Full Dataset	Estimate	-9,592	-9,589	-9,355	-9,199
Subset 1	Estimate	-7,722	-7,721	-7,491	-7,386
	Forecast	-1,873	-1,871	-1,866	-1,816
Subset 2	Estimate	-7,667	-7,665	-7,475	-7,337
	Forecast	-1,928	-1,927	-1,882	-1,864
Subset 3	Estimate	-7,546	-7,544	-7,445	-7,374
	Forecast	-2,079	-2,077	-1,914	-1,827
Subset 4	Estimate	-7,671	-7,668	-7,484	-7,397
	Forecast	-1,924	-1,924	-1,873	-1,903
Subset 5	Estimate	-7,728	-7,724	-7,516	-7,451
	Forecast	-1,869	-1,870	-1,841	-1,845

## 1 5. CONCLUSIONS

2 In this paper, we move away from the tried and tested alternatives to random utility maximisation by considering ideas first developed in quantum physics. With the probability framework developed in quantum physics having made a successful transition to cognitive psychology, we look at whether it can be operationalised into a choice model framework. Under quantum logic, a decision-maker has some ‘indefinite state’ regarding their preferences over alternatives, from which the probabilities of each alternative can be inferred. Thus a key component of this paper is the development of specifications for the indefinite state.

9 We find two possible suitable specifications for the ‘indefinite state’ which allow us to incorporate quantum logic within a choice model. The first uses an adapted specification based on random regret minimisation. The second uses a variation of the specification of the mean drift rates within a multi-attribute linear ballistic accumulator model. We find that our quantum pairwise comparison version A (QPCA) model provides good model fit and outperforms multinomial logit (MNL) and random regret minimisation (RRM) across three simple route choice datasets as well as providing good out-of-sample fit for the most complex of these datasets. Additionally, the quantum pairwise comparison version B (QPCB) model also provides good fit for all three datasets. Whilst QPCB has better model fit, QPCA provides more robust parameter estimates. The third quantum framework possibility, based on sines and cosines, appears unsuitable. This is due to a restricted range of attribute values allowed for two alternatives, and basic probability issues for three or more alternatives. Nevertheless, the positive results from our initial tests on the QPCA and QPCB models suggest that there is ample scope for models with a quantum framework to be used within travel behaviour modelling. They are simple to run and estimate, meaning that they could be applied to a wide range of choice scenarios. However, for these models to make a transition into large-scale modelling, an alternative specification would need to be defined to avoid the same pitfall of random regret minimisation for large numbers of alternatives: a comparison between every pair of alternatives quickly becomes computationally infeasible.

27 Another issue with the current specifications of the models is that it could be argued that there is no real ‘quantum insight’ in the model structure. QPCA is in essence a random regret minimisation model with a different error structure. However, results from our quantum rotation models suggest that there are benefits of bringing quantum logic into choice models. Crucially, our best performing models for the best-worst dataset and the contextual choice dataset, after allowing for model complexity to be taken into account, are the rotated QPCA and rotated QPCB models. This suggests that there is some merit in the concept of quantum rotation, which suggests a different set of basis vectors are required for different choice situations. For example, the rotation works well for capturing the difference between best and worst choice. Despite the fact that the best-worst choices are related, quantum rotation suggests that these choices are in fact incompatible: the choices cannot be made at the same time and consequently they may not follow the classical probability law of distributivity. This means that different choices may be observed depending on whether the decision-maker chooses the best or worst alternative first.

40 While the quantum rotation findings here are just illustrative examples, these results demonstrate that there is a large amount of scope for future work within travel behaviour modelling. For example, large-scale models frequently aim to understand a series of related, sequential choices. Given the ability of quantum rotation to capture the translation between best and worst choices, it theoretically should also work for a larger sequence of related choices where continuously adding on separate sets of parameters may not be possible. Thus ordering effects and state dependence

1 may be well captured by models within a quantum framework. Furthermore, it may be possible  
2 to mitigate the impacts of contextual effects by applying the appropriate quantum rotation from  
3 other models that account for the same effect. Future efforts could also compare quantum frame-  
4 works against other models that are specifically designed to deal with contextual effects, such as  
5 prospect theory. These future possibilities combined with the positive results in our route choice  
6 datasets mean that this paper serves as a proof-of-concept that quantum ideas can be incorporated  
7 into choice models aiming to understand travel behaviour.

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