## Supplementary Information - Quantum Advantage in Postselected Metrology

David R. M. Arvidsson-Shukur, Nicole Yunger Halpern, Hugo V.

Lepage, Aleksander A. Lasek, Crispin H. W. Barnes, and Seth Lloyd
(Dated: July 4, 2020)

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## Supplementary Note 1 - Expressing the postselected quantum Fisher information in terms of the KD distribution

As shown in the Results section of our main paper, the postselected quantum Fisher information is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)=4\left\langle\dot{\psi}_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \mid \dot{\psi}_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right\rangle \frac{1}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}}-4\left|\left\langle\dot{\psi}_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \mid \psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right\rangle\right|^{2} \frac{1}{\left(p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)^{2}}, \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where nonrenormalized postselected quantum state is $\left|\psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right\rangle=\hat{F} \hat{U}(\theta)\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle$, where $\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle\left\langle\Psi_{0}\right| \equiv \hat{\rho}_{0} \cdot p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}=\operatorname{Tr}\left(\hat{F} \hat{\rho}_{\theta}\right)$ is the probability of postselection.

In this supplementary note, we show that Supplementary Equation 1 can be expressed in terms of the doublyextended KD distribution:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)=4 \sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime}, f \in \mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{ps}}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} a a^{\prime}-4\left|\sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime}, f \in \mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{ps}}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} a\right|^{2}, \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

The first term of the quantum Fisher information (Supplementary Equation 1) is

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{4}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}}\left\langle\dot{\psi}_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \mid \dot{\psi}_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right\rangle & =\frac{4}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} \operatorname{Tr}\left(\hat{F} \dot{\hat{U}}(\theta) \hat{\rho}_{0} \dot{\hat{U}}^{\dagger}(\theta) \hat{F}^{\dagger}\right)=\frac{4}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} \operatorname{Tr}\left(\hat{F} \hat{A} \hat{\rho}_{\theta} \hat{A}\right)  \tag{3}\\
& =\frac{4}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} \operatorname{Tr}\left(\sum_{a}|a\rangle\langle a| a \hat{\rho}_{\theta} \sum_{a^{\prime}}\left|a^{\prime}\right\rangle\left\langle a^{\prime}\right| a^{\prime} \sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathrm{ps}}}|f\rangle\langle f|\right), \tag{4}
\end{align*}
$$

where, in Supplementary Equation 4, we have expressed $\hat{A}$ and $\hat{F}$ in their corresponding eigendecompositions. This expression can be rewritten in terms of the doubly extended Kirkwood-Dirac quasiprobability distribution $\left(q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}}=\right.$ $\left.\langle f \mid a\rangle\langle a| \hat{\rho}\left|a^{\prime}\right\rangle\left\langle a^{\prime} \mid f\right\rangle\right)$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{4}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} \sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime} \\ f \in \mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{ps}}}} \operatorname{Tr}\left(a a^{\prime} q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} \frac{|a\rangle\langle f|}{\langle f \mid a\rangle}\right)=\frac{4}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} \sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime}, f \in \mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{ps}}}} q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} a a^{\prime} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Similarly, the second term of Supplementary Equation 1 is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{4}{\left(p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)^{2}}\left|\left\langle\psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \mid \dot{\psi}_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right\rangle\right|^{2}=\frac{4}{\left(p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)^{2}}\left|\operatorname{Tr}\left(\hat{F} \hat{\rho}_{\theta} \hat{A}\right)\right|^{2}=\frac{4}{\left(p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)^{2}}\left|\sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime} \\ f \in \mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{ps}}}} q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} a\right|^{2} \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Combining the expressions above gives Supplementary Equation 2 ,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)=4 \sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime}, f \in \mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{ps}}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} a a^{\prime}-4\left|\sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime}, f \in \mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{ps}}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} a\right|^{2} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

## Supplementary Note 2 - Proof of Theorem 2

Here, we prove Theorem 2. First, we upper-bound the right-hand side of Supplementary Equation 2, assuming that all $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} / p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \in[0,1]$. We label the $M$ eigenvalues of $\hat{A}$ and arrange them in increasing order: $a_{1}, a_{2}, \ldots, a_{M}$, such that $a_{1} \equiv a_{\min }$ and $a_{M} \equiv a_{\max }$. Initially, we assume that the 0 -point of the eigenvalue axis is set such that $a_{1}=0$ and $a_{M}=\Delta a$. In this scenario, all the components of the first term of Supplementary Equation 2 are nonnegative. We temporarily ignore the form of $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} / p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}$, and treat this ratio as a general quasiprobability distribution. Then, $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$ maximizes when $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} / p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}$ vanishes at all $a^{\prime}$ values except $a^{\prime}=a_{\max }$. We define $q_{a} \equiv \sum_{a^{\prime}, f \in \mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{ps}}} q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} / p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}$,
such that all $q_{a} \in[0,1]$ and $\sum_{a} q_{a}=1$. If $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} / p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}$ is nonzero only when $a^{\prime}=a_{\max }$, Supplementary Equation 2 becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)=4 a_{M} \sum_{a} q_{a} a-4\left(\sum_{a} q_{a} a\right)^{2} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Expanding each sum, we obtain

$$
\begin{align*}
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) & =4 a_{M}\left(q_{a_{1}} a_{1}+K+q_{a_{M}} a_{M}\right)-4\left(q_{a_{1}} a_{1}+K+q_{a_{M}} a_{M}\right)^{2}  \tag{9}\\
& =4 a_{M}\left(K+q_{a_{M}} a_{M}\right)-4\left(K+q_{a_{M}} a_{M}\right)^{2} \tag{10}
\end{align*}
$$

where we used $q_{a_{1}} a_{1}=0$ and defined $K \equiv \sum_{a \in\left\{a_{2}, \ldots, a_{M-1}\right\}} q_{a} a \leq a_{M}$. As $\hat{A}$ is not totally degenerate, $a_{M} \neq 0$, and Supplementary Equation 10 is maximized when $q_{a_{M}}=\left(a_{M}-2 K\right) /\left(2 a_{M}\right)$. This yields

$$
\begin{equation*}
\max \left\{\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)\right\}=a_{M}^{2}=(\Delta a)^{2} \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

where we have recalled that $a_{M}=\Delta a$.
We are left with proving that we can always set $a_{1}=0$ and $a_{M}=\Delta a$. We continue to assume that $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} / p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \in[0,1]$, and we shift all the eigenvalues by a constant real value $\delta_{a}$. The effect on $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$ is

$$
\begin{gather*}
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) \rightarrow 4 \sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime} \\
f \in \mathcal{F}^{\text {ps }}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}^{\mathrm{ps}}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}}\left(a+\delta_{a}\right)\left(a^{\prime}+\delta_{a}\right)-4\left[\sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime}, f \in \mathcal{F}^{\mathrm{ps}}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}}\left(a+\delta_{a}\right)\right]^{2}  \tag{12}\\
=4 \sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime} \\
f \in \mathcal{F}^{\text {ps }}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}^{\mathrm{ps}}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} a a^{\prime}-4\left[\sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime}, f \in \mathcal{F}^{\text {ps }}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} a\right]^{2}+4 \delta_{a}\left(\sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime} \\
f \in \mathcal{F}^{\text {ps }}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} a-\sum_{\substack{a, a^{\prime}, f \in \mathcal{F}^{\text {ps }}}} \frac{q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}^{\mathrm{ps}}}}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} a^{\prime}\right)=\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) . \tag{13}
\end{gather*}
$$

The last equality holds because $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}}=\left(q_{a^{\prime}, a, f}^{\hat{\rho}}\right)^{*}$ generally and we are assuming that $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}} \in \mathbb{R}$. Consequently, if all $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}} / p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \in[0,1]$, then $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) \leq(\Delta a)^{2}$. The second term of Supplementary Equation 2 cannot be decreased by imaginary values in $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}$. Moreover, the first term is necessarily real and nonnegative. Thus imaginary elements $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}$ cannot increase $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$. If $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)>(\Delta a)^{2}$, then $q_{a, a^{\prime}, f}^{\hat{\rho}_{\theta}}$ must have negative entries.

## Supplementary Note 3 - Infinite postselected quantum Fisher information

Here, we show that the postselected quantum Fisher information $\mathcal{I}_{Q}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$ can approach infinity. The proof is by example; other examples might exist.

We assume that the generator $\hat{A}$ has $M \geq 3$ eigenvalues that are not all identical. We also assume that we possess an estimate $\theta_{0}$ that lies close to the true value of $\theta: \delta_{\theta} \equiv \theta-\theta_{0}$, with $\left|\delta_{\theta}\right| \ll 1$. (The derivation of the quantum Fisher information also rests on the assumption that one has access to such an estimate [1].)

By Supplementary Equations 1, 3 and 6 ,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)=\frac{4}{p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}} \operatorname{Tr}\left(\hat{F} \hat{A} \hat{U}(\theta) \hat{\rho}_{0} \hat{U}(\theta)^{\dagger} \hat{A}\right)-\frac{4}{\left(p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)^{2}}\left|\operatorname{Tr}\left(\hat{F} \hat{U}(\theta) \hat{\rho}_{0} \hat{U}(\theta)^{\dagger} \hat{A}\right)\right|^{2} \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

We now choose $\hat{F}$ and $\hat{\rho}_{0}$ such that $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$ approaches infinity. Crudely, $p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}$ must approach 0 while $\operatorname{Tr}\left(\hat{F} \hat{A} \hat{U}(\theta) \hat{\rho}_{0} \hat{U}(\theta)^{\dagger} \hat{A}\right)$ either stays constant or approaches 0 more slowly. We label the $M$ eigenvalues of $\hat{A}$ and arrange them in increasing order: $a_{1}, a_{2}, \ldots, a_{M}$, such that $a_{1} \equiv a_{\text {min }}$ and $a_{M} \equiv a_{\max }$.

First, we choose $\hat{F}=\left|f_{1}\right\rangle\left\langle f_{1}\right|+\left|f_{2}\right\rangle\left\langle f_{2}\right|$, where

$$
\begin{align*}
\left|f_{1}\right\rangle & \equiv \frac{\left|a_{\max }\right\rangle+\left|a_{\min }\right\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}  \tag{15}\\
\left|f_{2}\right\rangle & \equiv \frac{\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\left|a_{\max }\right\rangle-\left|a_{\min }\right\rangle\right)+\left|a_{k}\right\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \tag{16}
\end{align*}
$$

and $\left|a_{k}\right\rangle \neq\left|a_{\max }\right\rangle,\left|a_{\min }\right\rangle$. We also choose $\hat{\rho}_{0}=\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle\left\langle\Psi_{0}\right|$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle \equiv\left|\Psi_{0}\left(\theta_{0}, \phi\right)\right\rangle=\hat{U}^{\dagger}\left(\theta_{0}\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left\{[\cos (\phi)-\sin (\phi)] \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\left|a_{\min }\right\rangle-\left|a_{\max }\right\rangle\right)+[\cos (\phi)+\sin (\phi)]\left|a_{k}\right\rangle\right\} . \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

$\phi \approx 0$ is a parameter that can be tuned to maximize the postselected Fisher information for a given approximation accuracy $\delta_{\theta}$. As $\phi$ is a parameter of the input state, variations in the Fisher information with $\phi$ will reflect the effects of disturbances to the input state. Substituting the expressions for $\hat{F}$ and $\hat{\rho}_{0}$ into Supplementary Equation 14 , we find

$$
\begin{align*}
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)= & 8\left\{5-2 \cos (2 \phi)\left(\cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{k}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]+\cos \left[\left(a_{k}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]\right)+\cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right][\sin (2 \phi)-1]-\sin (2 \phi)\right\}^{-2} \\
& \times\left\{2 a_{M}^{2}-a_{M} a_{k}+a_{k}^{2}+2 a_{1}^{2}-\left(3 a_{M}+a_{k}\right) a_{1}+\left(a_{M}-a_{k}\right)\left(a_{k}-a_{1}\right) \cos (4 \phi)\left(\cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]-1\right)\right. \\
& +\left(a_{M}-a_{k}\right)\left(a_{k}-a_{1}\right) \cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]+2\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right) \cos (2 \phi)\left(\left(a_{1}-a_{k}\right) \cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{k}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]\right. \\
& \left.+\left(a_{k}-a_{M}\right) \cos \left[\left(a_{k}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]\right)-2\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right)^{2} \sin (2 \phi)+\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right)\left(\left(a_{k}-a_{1}\right) \cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{k}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]\right. \\
& \left.\left.+\left(a_{M}-a_{k}\right) \cos \left[\left(a_{k}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]\right) \sin (4 \phi)\right\} . \tag{18}
\end{align*}
$$

The postselection probability is

$$
\begin{equation*}
p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}=\frac{1}{8}\left\{5-2 \cos (2 \phi)\left(\cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{k}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]+\cos \left[\left(a_{k}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]\right)+\cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right][\sin (2 \phi)-1]-\sin (2 \phi)\right\} . \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

In the limit as our estimate $\theta_{0}$ approaches the true value of $\theta$, such that $\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0$,

$$
\begin{align*}
\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} & =\sin ^{2}(\phi)  \tag{20}\\
\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) & =\frac{(\cot (\phi)-1)^{2}}{2}(\Delta a)^{2}, \text { and }  \tag{21}\\
\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \times \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) & =\frac{1}{2}[1-\sin (2 \phi)](\Delta a)^{2} \tag{22}
\end{align*}
$$

In the limit as $\phi \rightarrow 0$,

$$
\begin{align*}
\lim _{\phi \rightarrow 0}\left[\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right] & =0,  \tag{23}\\
\lim _{\phi \rightarrow 0}\left[\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)\right] & =\infty, \text { and }  \tag{24}\\
\lim _{\phi \rightarrow 0}\left[\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \times \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)\right] & =\frac{1}{2}(\Delta a)^{2} . \tag{25}
\end{align*}
$$

According to Supplementary Equation 24 , if first $\delta_{\theta}$ and then $\phi$ approaches 0 in Supplementary Equation $18, \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$ approaches infinity.

There are a few points to note. First, $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$ diverges in the two ordered limits. In any real experiment, one could not blindly set $\phi=0$, but would have to choose $\phi$ based on an estimate of $\theta$. Second, if $\delta_{\theta} \approx 0$, then $\theta_{0} \approx \theta$, and the pre-experiment variance of our initial estimate $\theta_{0}, \operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)$, must be small. That is, we begin the experiment with much information about $\theta$. Guided by the Cramér-Rao bound, we expect that, in a useful experiment, $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$ would grow large, while $1 / \operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)<\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$. Supplementary Figure 1 shows $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) \times \operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)$ as a function of $\phi$ and $\delta_{\theta}$ for an experiment where $a_{1}=-1, a_{k}=1, a_{M}=3$ and $\operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)=10^{-6}$. If $\theta_{0}$ is within a few $\sigma_{\theta_{0}} \equiv \sqrt{\operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)}$ of $\theta$, then $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) \times \operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right) \gg 1$. Supplementary Figure 1 shows that large values of $1 / \delta_{\theta}$ can result in even larger values of $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$. Supplementary Figure 1 also illustrates the effect of input-state disturbances of $\phi$ on $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) \times \operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)$. Third, while the theoretical strategy investigated in this appendix achieves an infinite postselected quantum Fisher information, the postselection also "wastes" information as $\lim _{\phi \rightarrow 0}\left[\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \times \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)\right]<(\Delta a)^{2}$. If $\hat{A}$ possesses certain properties, it is possible to avoid wasting information through the postselection; we show how in the following appendix.

## Supplementary Note 4 - Infinite postselected quantum Fisher information without loss of information

If the generator $\hat{A}$ has $M \geq 4$ eigenvalues, and the minimum and maximum eigenvalues are both at least doubly degenerate, then $\mathcal{I}_{Q}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$ can approach infinity without information's being lost in the events discarded by postselection. We show how below.


Supplementary Figure 1. Scaled postselected quantum Fisher information. The figure shows the postselected quantum Fisher information (Supplementary Equation 18) multiplied by the pre-experiment variance $\operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)$ as a function of $\phi$ and $\delta_{\theta}$. For small values of $\delta_{\theta}$ and $\phi$, the value of $\mathcal{I}_{Q}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) \times \operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)$ diverges. The eigenvalues $a_{1}, a_{k}$ and $a_{M}$ are set to $-1,1$ and 3 , respectively. $\operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)$ was set to $1 \times 10^{-6}$.

First, we assign the orthonormal eigenvectors $\left|a_{\min _{1}}\right\rangle$ and $\left|a_{\min _{2}}\right\rangle$ to the eigenvalues $a_{1}=a_{\min }$ and $a_{2}=a_{\min }$, respectively. Here, we have reused the eigenvalue notation from Supp. Mat. . Similarly, we assign the orthonormal eigenvectors $\left|a_{\max _{1}}\right\rangle$ and $\left|a_{\max _{2}}\right\rangle$ to the eigenvalues $a_{M}=a_{\max }$ and $a_{M-1}=a_{\max }$, respectively. Second, we set $\hat{F}=\left|f_{1}\right\rangle\left\langle f_{1}\right|+\left|f_{2}\right\rangle\left\langle f_{2}\right|$, where

$$
\begin{align*}
\left|f_{1}\right\rangle & \equiv \frac{\left|a_{\max _{2}}\right\rangle-\left|a_{\min _{1}}\right\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}  \tag{26}\\
\left|f_{2}\right\rangle & \equiv \frac{\left|a_{\min _{2}}\right\rangle-\left|a_{\max _{1}}\right\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \tag{27}
\end{align*}
$$

We also choose $\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle$ such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\Psi_{0}\left(\theta_{0}, \phi\right)\right\rangle=\hat{U}^{\dagger}\left(\theta_{0}\right) \frac{1}{2}\left\{[\cos (\phi)-\sin (\phi)]\left(\left|a_{\max _{2}}\right\rangle+\left|a_{\min _{2}}\right\rangle\right)+[\sin (\phi)+\cos (\phi)]\left(\left|a_{\max _{1}}\right\rangle+\left|a_{\min _{1}}\right\rangle\right)\right\} . \tag{28}
\end{equation*}
$$

As in App., $\phi \approx 0$ is a parameter that can be tuned to maximize $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$ for a given approximation accuracy of $\delta_{\theta}$.

Substituting the expressions for $\hat{F}$ and $\hat{\rho}_{0}$ into Supplementary Equation 14 we find

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)=\frac{\sin ^{2}(2 \phi)\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right)^{2}}{\left(1-\cos (2 \phi) \cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]\right)^{2}} \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

The postselection probability is

$$
\begin{equation*}
p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}=\frac{1}{2}\left\{1-\cos (2 \phi) \cos \left[\left(a_{M}-a_{1}\right) \delta_{\theta}\right]\right\} . \tag{30}
\end{equation*}
$$

Again, we investigate the limit as our estimate $\theta_{0}$ approaches the true value of $\theta$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}=\sin ^{2}(\phi) \tag{31}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{align*}
\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) & =\cot ^{2}(\phi)(\Delta a)^{2}, \text { and }  \tag{32}\\
\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \times \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) & =\cos ^{2}(\phi)(\Delta a)^{2} \tag{33}
\end{align*}
$$

In the limit as $\phi \rightarrow 0$,

$$
\begin{align*}
\lim _{\phi \rightarrow 0}\left[\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right] & =0,  \tag{34}\\
\lim _{\phi \rightarrow 0}\left[\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)\right] & =\infty, \text { and }  \tag{35}\\
\lim _{\phi \rightarrow 0}\left[\lim _{\delta_{\theta} \rightarrow 0} p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \times \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)\right] & =(\Delta a)^{2} . \tag{36}
\end{align*}
$$

In conclusion, the above strategy allows us to obtain an infinite value for $\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)$, while $p_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}} \times \mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right)=(\Delta a)^{2}$. No information is lost in the postselection. As in Supplementary Note 3, the results hold for the two ordered limits.

$$
\mathcal{I}_{\mathrm{Q}}\left(\theta \mid \Psi_{\theta}^{\mathrm{ps}}\right) \times \operatorname{Var}\left(\theta_{0}\right)
$$

## Supplementary references

[1] Samuel L. Braunstein and Carlton M. Caves, "Statistical distance and the geometry of quantum states," Phys. Rev. Lett. 72, 3439-3443 (1994).

