

Composable simultaneous purification: when all communication scenarios reduce to spatial correlations

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arXiv:2601.05158 (2026)

Outline

- ▶ Bell nonlocality (spacial correlations)

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Invertible Map between Bell Nonlocal and Contextuality Scenarios (Wright, Farkas, PRL **131**, 220202, 2023)

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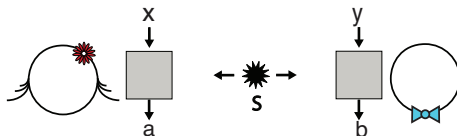
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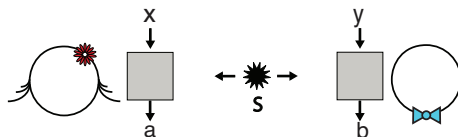
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- ▶ Two-way communication? Indefinite casual order? GPTs?

Motivation

Bipartite Bell nonlocality

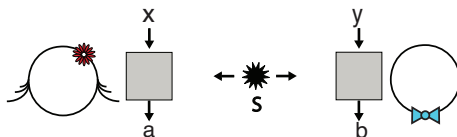


Bipartite Bell nonlocality



$$p(ab|xy) = \text{tr}(\rho_{AB} A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y})$$

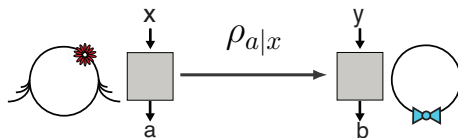
Bipartite Bell nonlocality



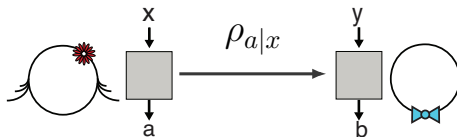
$$p(ab|xy) = \text{tr}(\rho_{AB} A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y})$$

$$p(ab|xy) \neq \sum_{\lambda} \pi(\lambda) p_A(a|x, \lambda) p_B(b|y, \lambda)$$

Prepare-and-measure scenario (temporal correlations)



Prepare-and-measure scenario (temporal correlations)



$$p(ab|xy) = \text{tr}(\rho_{a|x} B_{b|y})$$

Spatial vs temporal correlations

Spatial correlations
can always be obtained via
temporal correlations

Spatial vs temporal correlations

$$\rho_{AB}, \{A_{a|x}\}, \{B_{b|y}\}$$

spatial strategy

$$\{\rho_{a|x}\}, \{B_{b|y}\}$$

temporal assemblage

$$\rho_{a|x} := \text{tr}_A[(A_{a|x} \otimes \mathbb{1}_B)\rho_{AB}]$$

Spatial vs temporal correlations

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$$\rho_{a|x} := \text{tr}_A[(A_{a|x} \otimes \mathbb{1}_B)\rho_{AB}]$$

$$\text{tr}(\rho_{a|x} B_{b|y}) = \text{tr}[\rho_{AB} (A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y})]$$

Every spatial behaviour is therefore a temporal behaviour.

Spatial vs temporal correlations 2

temporal correlations
cannot be obtained via
spatial correlations

Spatial vs temporal correlations 2

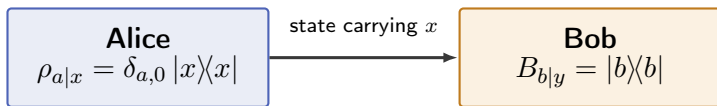
In a temporal scenario, Alice can simply
send her input x to Bob.

Spatial vs temporal correlations 2

In a temporal scenario, Alice can simply
send her input x to Bob.

This produces a signalling behaviour,
which is impossible in a non-signalling
spatial scenario.

Spatial vs temporal correlations 2



Spatial

$$\sum_a \rho_{a|x} = \rho_B$$

a independent of x

$\neq$

This example

$$\sum_a \rho_{a|x} = |x\rangle\langle x|$$

a depends on x

$$p(a, b|x, y) = \delta_{a,0} \delta_{b,x} \implies b = x$$

Alice can signal to Bob; no spatial Bell strategy can.

The bipartite question

When does a temporal behaviour admit a spatial realisation?

Temporal

$$= \text{tr}(\rho_{a|x} B_{b|y})$$

The bipartite question

When does a temporal behaviour admit a spatial realisation?

Temporal

$$= \text{tr} \left(\rho_{a|x} B_{b|y} \right)$$

Spatial

$$= \text{tr} \left[\rho_{AB} \left(A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y} \right) \right]$$

The bipartite question

When does a temporal behaviour admit a spatial realisation?

Temporal

$$= \text{tr}(\rho_{a|x} B_{b|y})$$

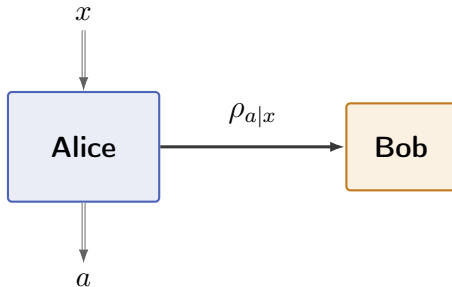
Spatial

$$= \text{tr}[\rho_{AB} (A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y})]$$

For which state assemblages $\{\rho_{a|x}\}$ is this possible for every measurement performed by Bob?

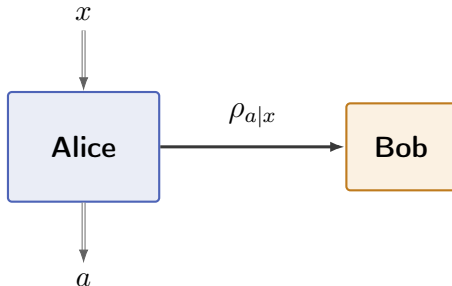
Proof method

Non-signalling assemblages



After Alice's outcome a is forgotten,
Bob's state contains **no information about x** .

Non-signalling assemblages



After Alice's outcome a is forgotten,
Bob's state contains **no information about x** .

$$\sum_a \rho_{a|x} = \rho \quad \forall x$$

The same marginal state for every setting.

The SGHJW theorem

Schrödinger–Gisin–Hughston–Jozsa–Wootters– ∞

Non-signalling assemblage

$$\sum_a \rho_{a|x} = \rho_B \quad \forall x$$

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Non-signalling assemblage

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Spatial realisation

There exist a pure state $|\psi\rangle_{AB}$
and POVMs $\{A_{a|x}\}_a$ such that

$$\rho_{a|x} = \text{Tr}_A[(A_{a|x} \otimes \mathbb{1}_B) |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|_{AB}] .$$

The SGHJW theorem

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Purification

$$|\psi\rangle_{AB} = \sum_i \sqrt{\lambda_i} |i\rangle_A |i\rangle_B$$

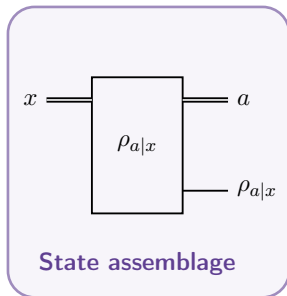
(the inverse is taken on the support of ρ_B)

Alice's POVMs

$$A_{a|x} = \rho_B^{-1/2} \rho_{a|x}^T \rho_B^{-1/2}$$

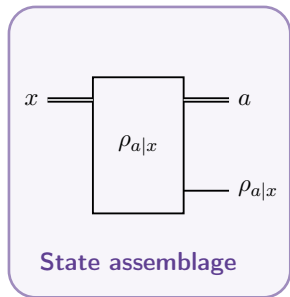
SGHJW in circuit notation

$$\sum_a \rho_{a|x} = \rho_B \quad \forall x \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \exists |\psi\rangle_{AB}, \{A_{a|x}\}_a$$

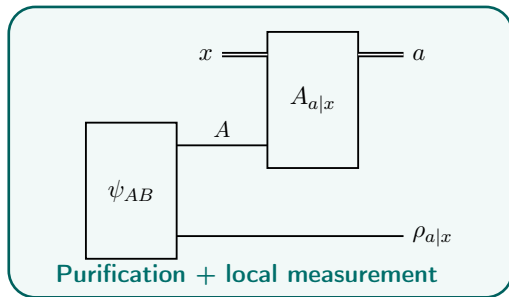


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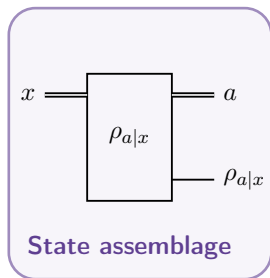


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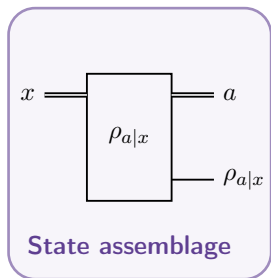
A realisation for every state assemblage

No non-signalling assumption is required.

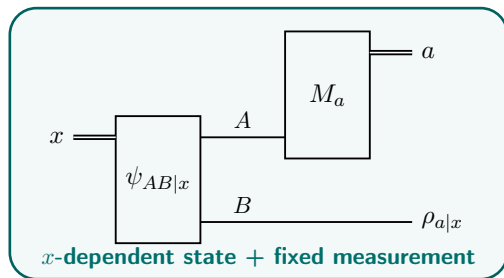


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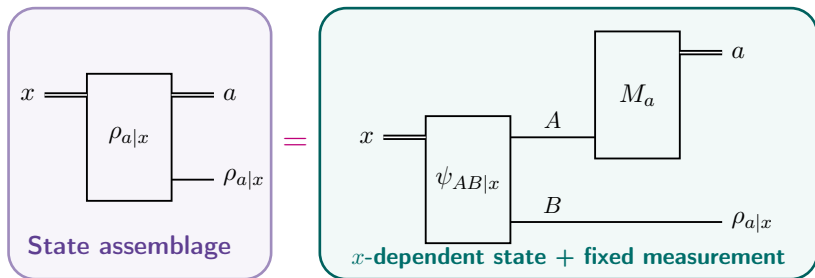


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A realisation for every state assemblage

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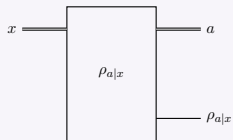


$$\rho_{a|x} = \text{Tr}_A[(M_a \otimes \mathbb{1}_B)\psi_{AB|x}]$$

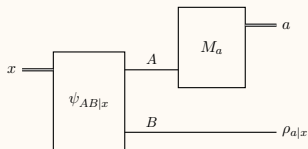
for every assemblage $\{\rho_{a|x}\}_{a,x}$.

Three state-assemblage circuits

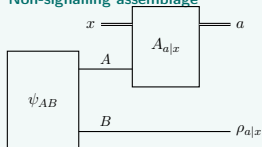
State assemblage



Every assemblage

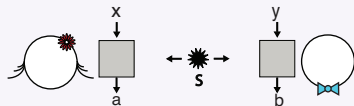


Non-signalling assemblage



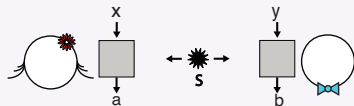
Notation and diagrammatic conventions

Bell: top to bottom

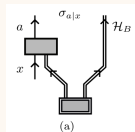


Notation and diagrammatic conventions

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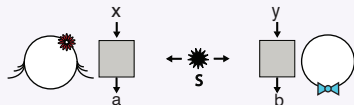
QPL: bottom to top



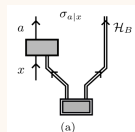
Zjawin et al., *Activation of post-quantumness in bipartite generalised EPR scenarios*, PRA 110, 042212 (2024)

Notation and diagrammatic conventions

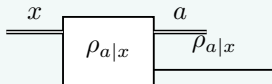
Bell: top to bottom



QPL: bottom to top



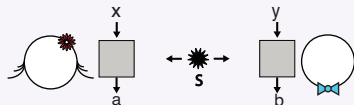
Quantum circuits



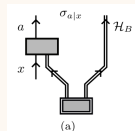
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Notation and diagrammatic conventions

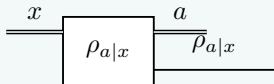
Bell: top to bottom



QPL: bottom to top



Quantum circuits



Mathematical composition

$$f \circ g$$

Zjawin et al., *Activation of post-quantumness in bipartite generalised EPR scenarios*, PRA 110, 042212 (2024)

Notation and diagrammatic conventions

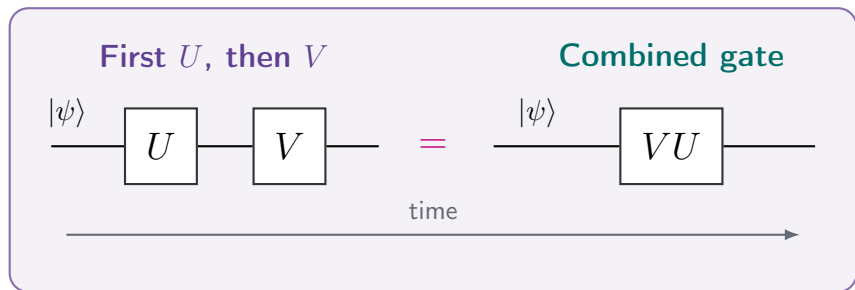
First U , then V



time



Notation and diagrammatic conventions



$$V(U |\psi\rangle) = (VU) |\psi\rangle$$

A small digression

Circuits from right to left?

A small digression

Circuits from right to left?

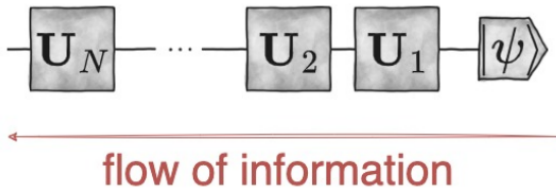
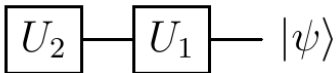


Figure from Richard Kueng's quantum-computing book.

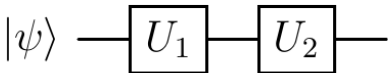
THE WORLD IF

$$U_2 U_1 |\psi\rangle$$

WAS DEPICTED AS

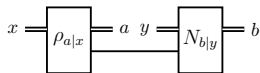


INSTEAD OF



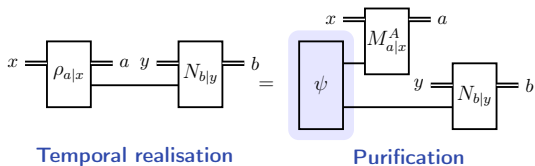
Now, back to our
problem

NS temporal scenarios and spatial scenarios (bipartite case)

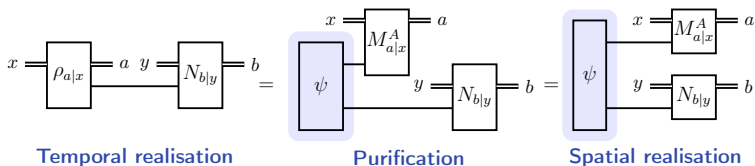


Temporal realisation

NS temporal scenarios and spatial scenarios (bipartite case)



NS temporal scenarios and spatial scenarios (bipartite case)



The classical bipartite question

When does a
quantum temporal correlation
admit a classical spatial
realisation (Bell-local)?

The classical bipartite question

When does a
quantum temporal correlation
admit a classical spatial
realisation (Bell-local)?



**We delay the
classical input!**

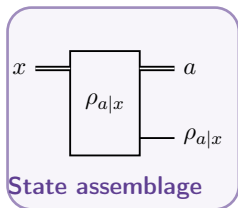
Unsteerable state assemblages

$$\rho_{a|x} = \sum_{\lambda} p(\lambda) p(a|x, \lambda) \rho_{\lambda}$$

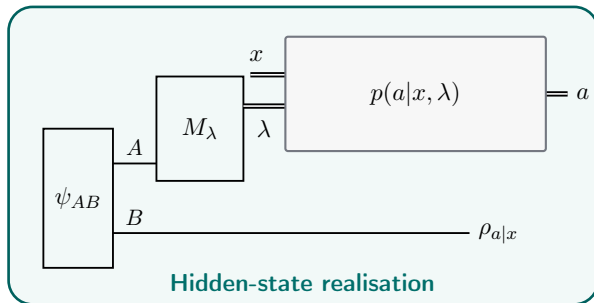
Wiseman, Jones, and Doherty, *Steering, Entanglement, Nonlocality, and the EPR Paradox*, PRL 98, 140402 (2007).

Unsteerable state assemblages

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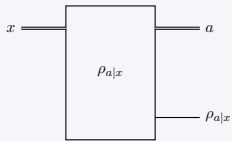
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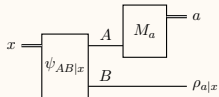
Wiseman, Jones, and Doherty, *Steering, Entanglement, Nonlocality, and the EPR Paradox*, PRL 98, 140402 (2007).

Four state-assemblage circuits

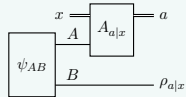
State assemblage



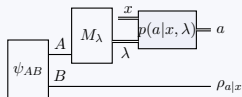
Every assemblage



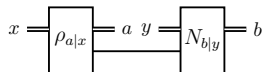
Non-signalling assemblage



Hidden-state realisation

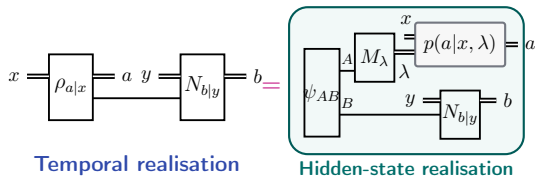


Unsteerable temporal correlations are Bell-local

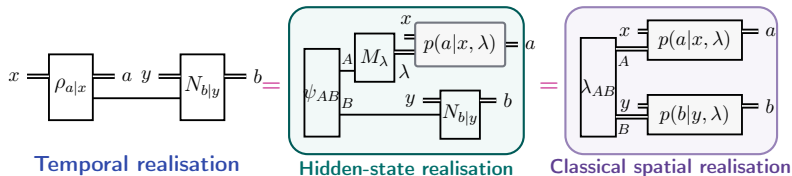


Temporal realisation

Unsteerable temporal correlations are Bell-local



Unsteerable temporal correlations are Bell-local



Fine, *Hidden Variables, Joint Probability, and the Bell Inequalities*, PRL 48, 291 (1982).

Tripartite Bell nonlocality

The bipartite construction works!

Wright, S Farkas, *Invertible Map between Bell Nonlocal and Contextuality Scenarios*, PRL (2023).

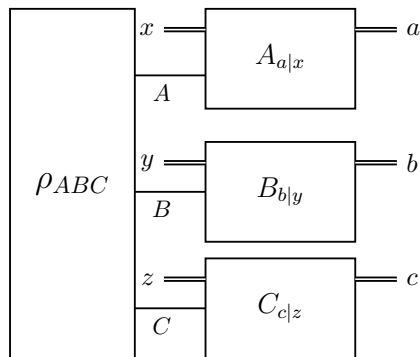
Tripartite Bell nonlocality

The bipartite construction works!

Does it extend to three parties?

Wright, S Farkas, *Invertible Map between Bell Nonlocal and Contextuality Scenarios*, PRL (2023).

Tripartite Bell nonlocality



$$p(abc|xyz) = \text{tr}[\rho_{ABC} (A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y} \otimes C_{c|z})]$$

Tripartite Bell nonlocality NOW

Bipartite

NS assemblage



quantum realisation

SGHJW ✓

Tripartite Bell nonlocality NOW

Bipartite

NS assemblage



quantum realisation

SGHJW ✓

Tripartite

NS assemblage



quantum realisation

post-quantum steering

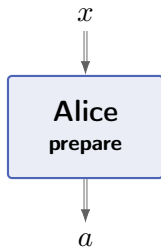
*“Lastly, one might attempt to generalise our map to multipartite Bell scenarios.”
“Whether this map also preserves quantumness remains unknown, with the existence of post-quantum steering [17] posing an obstacle to generalising our argument.”*

Wright, Farkas (2023)

A. B. Sainz et al., *Postquantum steering*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **115**, 190403 (2015).

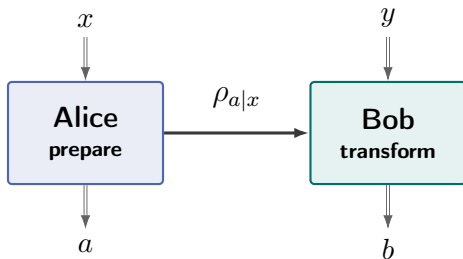
Tripartite Bell nonlocality

Prepare-transform-and-measure



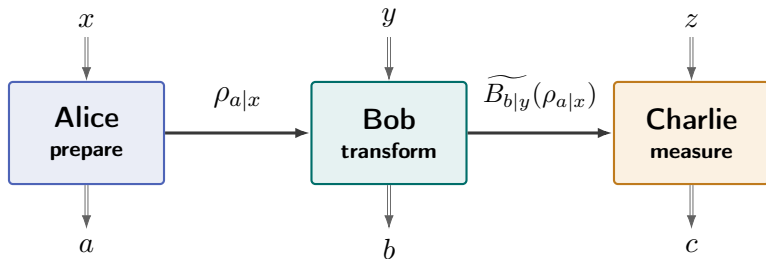
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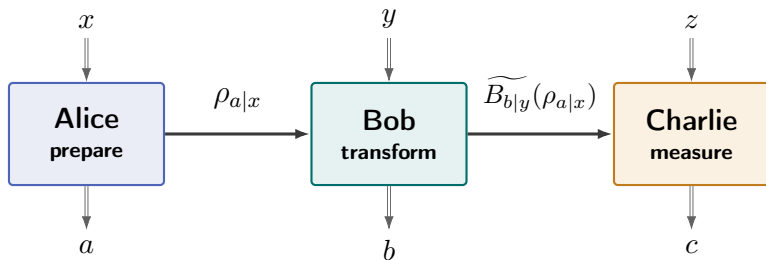
Tripartite Bell nonlocality

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Tripartite Bell nonlocality

Prepare–transform–and–measure



$$p(abc|xyz) = \text{tr}\left(\widetilde{B}_{b|y}(\rho_{a|x})C_{c|z}\right)$$

Quantum instrument

For every setting y , the family $\{\widetilde{B}_{b|y}\}_b$ is a quantum instrument when

Instrument element is CP

$$\widetilde{B}_{b|y} \in \text{CP}$$

Quantum instrument

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$$\widetilde{B}_{b|y} \in \text{CP}$$

It adds to a CPTP map

$$\sum_b \widetilde{B}_{b|y} =: \widetilde{B}_y \in \text{CPTP}$$

Quantum instrument

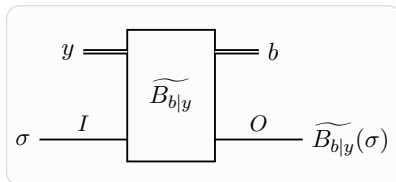
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Instrument element is CP

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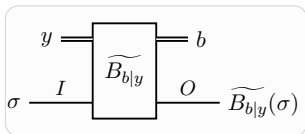
It adds to a CPTP map

$$\sum_b \widetilde{B}_{b|y} =: \widetilde{B}_y \in \text{CPTP}$$



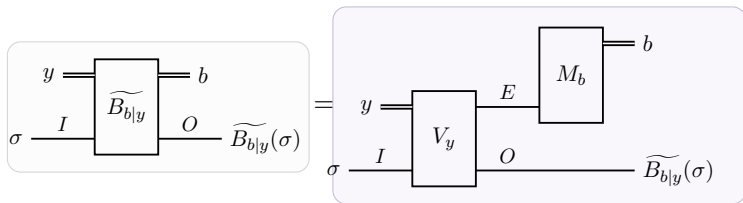
Stinespring dilation

Every quantum instrument admits an **isometric realisation**.



Stinespring dilation

Every quantum instrument admits an **isometric realisation**.



NS quantum instrument

A set of instruments $\{\widetilde{B}_{b|y}\}_{b,y}$ is **no-signalling** when

Definition

$$\sum_b \widetilde{B}_{b|y} = \widetilde{B} \quad \forall y$$

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Changing y does not change the unconditional channel.

NS quantum instrument

Theorem

A family $\{\widetilde{B}_{b|y}\}_{b,y}$ is no-signalling if and only if it admits a common dilation.

No-signalling

$$\sum_b \widetilde{B}_{b|y} = \widetilde{B} \\ \forall y$$

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Theorem

A family $\{\widetilde{B}_{b|y}\}_{b,y}$ is no-signalling if and only if it admits a common dilation.

No-signalling

$$\sum_b \widetilde{B}_{b|y} = \widetilde{B} \\ \forall y$$



Common dilation

$$\exists \widetilde{V}, \{B_{b|y}\}_b \text{ such that} \\ \widetilde{B}_{b|y}(\sigma) = \text{Tr}_A \left[(B_{b|y} \otimes \mathbb{1}_O) \widetilde{V}(\sigma) \right]$$

M. Raginsky, *Radon–Nikodym derivatives of quantum operations*, J. Math. Phys. 44, 5003–5020 (2003).

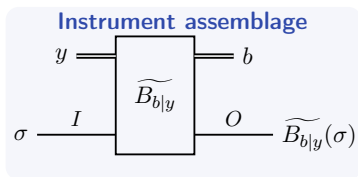
V. P. Belavkin and P. Staszewski, *A Radon–Nikodym theorem for completely positive maps*, Rep. Math. Phys. 24, 49–55 (1986).

R. Uola, F. Lever, O. Gühne, and J.-P. Pellonpää, *Unified picture for spatial, temporal, and channel steering*, Phys. Rev. A 97, 032301 (2018).

NS instruments

Theorem

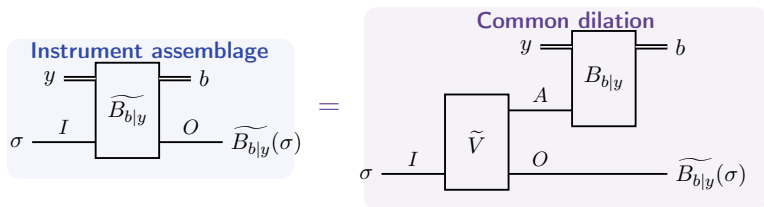
If the instrument assemblage is no-signalling, then



NS instruments

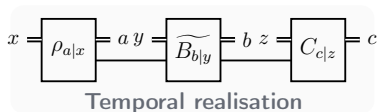
Theorem

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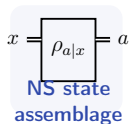


The dilation $\widetilde{V}$ is independent of the setting y .

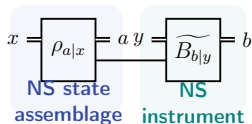
From temporal components to a spatial realisation



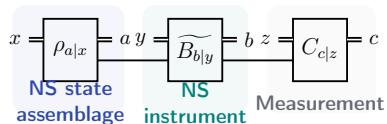
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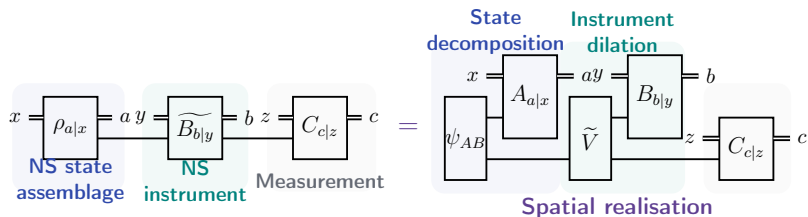
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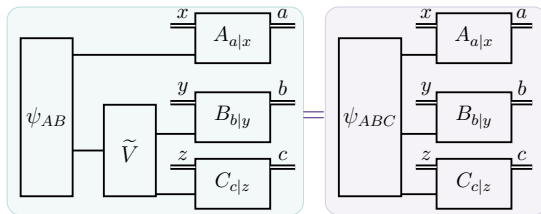
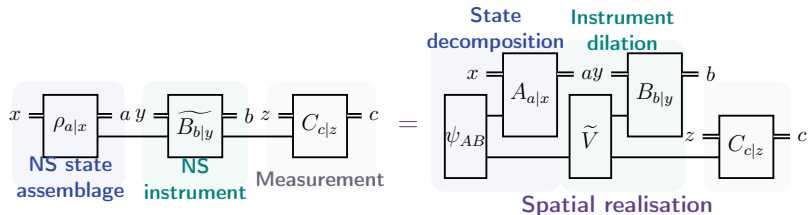
From temporal components to a spatial realisation



From temporal components to a spatial realisation



From temporal components to a spatial realisation



Two NS constraints recover spatial correlations

Prepare–transform–and–measure correlation

$$p(a, b, c|x, y, z) = \text{Tr} \left[C_{c|z} \widetilde{B_{b|y}} (\rho_{a|x}) \right]$$

NS preparation

$$\sum_a \rho_{a|x} = \rho \quad \forall x$$

NS transformation

$$\sum_b \widetilde{B_{b|y}} = \widetilde{B} \quad \forall y$$

Two NS constraints recover spatial correlations

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Tripartite spatial realisation

$$p(a, b, c|x, y, z) = \text{Tr} \left[(A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y} \otimes C_{c|z}) \psi_{ABC} \right]$$

$$\mathcal{Q}_{\text{PTM}}^{\text{NS}} = \mathcal{Q}_{\text{spatial}}^{(3)}$$

The classical case: unsteerable instruments

Unsteerable instrument assemblages

An instrument assemblage $\{\widetilde{B}_{b|y}\}_{b,y}$ is **unsteerable** when it admits the decomposition

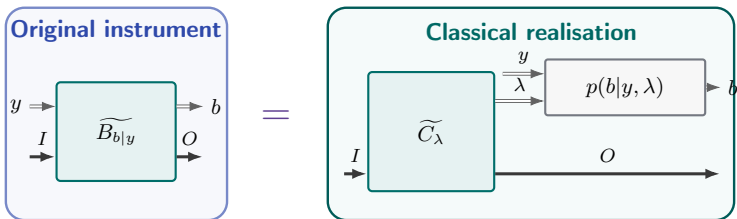
$$\widetilde{B}_{b|y} = \sum_{\lambda} p(\lambda) p(b|y, \lambda) \widetilde{C}_{\lambda}$$

where $p(\lambda)$ is a probability distribution, $p(b|y, \lambda)$ a response function, and each $\widetilde{C}_{\lambda}$ a channel.

Piani, JOSA B 32, A1 (2015); Uola et al., PRA 97, 032301 (2018); Baroni et al., arXiv:2601.05158 (2026)

The classical case: unsteerable instruments

$$\text{Unsteerable} \iff \widetilde{B}_{b|y} = \sum_{\lambda} p(\lambda) p(b|y, \lambda) \widetilde{C}_{\lambda}$$



The setting y changes only the classical response;
 λ selects the channel independently of y .

Unsteerable instruments lead to classical behaviours

Prepare–transform–and–measure behaviour

$$p(a, b, c|x, y, z) = \text{Tr} \left[C_{c|z} \widetilde{B_{b|y}} (\rho_{a|x}) \right]$$

Unsteerable preparation

$$\rho_{a|x} = \sum_{\mu} p(\mu) p(a|x, \mu) \rho_{\mu}$$

Unsteerable instrument

$$\widetilde{B_{b|y}} = \sum_{\lambda} p(\lambda) p(b|y, \lambda) \widetilde{C_{\lambda}}$$

Unsteerable instruments lead to classical behaviours

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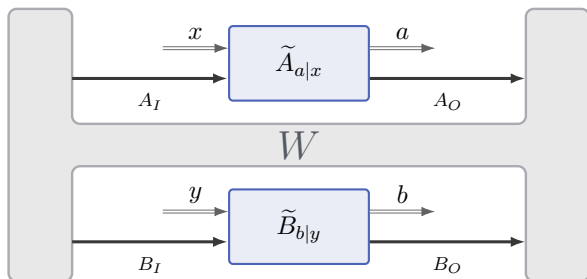
Classical spatial realisation

$$p(a, b, c|x, y, z) = \sum_{\mu, \lambda} p(\mu) p(\lambda) p(a|x, \mu) p(b|y, \lambda) p(c|z, \mu, \lambda)$$

$$p(c|z, \mu, \lambda) := \text{Tr} \left[C_{c|z} \widetilde{C_{\lambda}} (\rho_{\mu}) \right]$$

Process matrices and indefinite causal order

A process matrix does not presuppose $A \prec B$ or $B \prec A$.



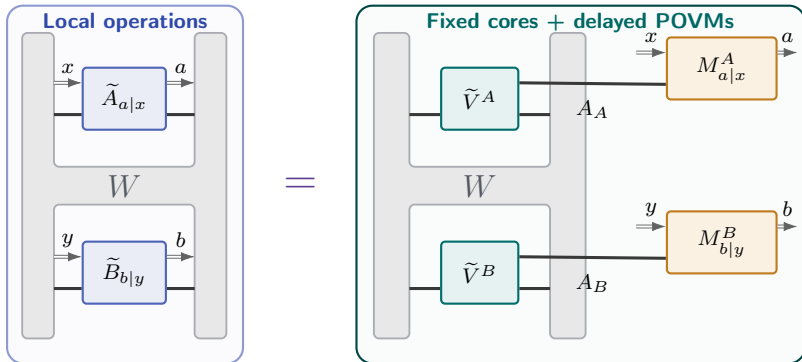
Generalised Born rule

$$p(a, b|x, y) = \text{Tr}[W (A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y})]$$

$A_{a|x}, B_{b|y}$ are Choi operators of $\widetilde{A}_{a|x}, \widetilde{B}_{b|y}$;

Non-signalling local operations become spatial

$$\sum_a \widetilde{A}_{a|x} = \widetilde{A} \quad \forall x \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_b \widetilde{B}_{b|y} = \widetilde{B} \quad \forall y$$



Spatial realisation $p(a, b|x, y) = \text{Tr} \left[\rho_{A_A A_B} \left(M^A_{a|x} \otimes M^B_{b|y} \right) \right]$

Back-and-forth quantum communication

What if quantum systems are
exchanged over many rounds?

Back-and-forth quantum communication

What if quantum systems are exchanged over many rounds?

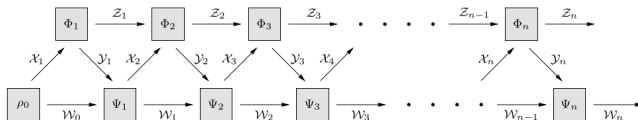


Figure 2: An interaction between an n -turn strategy and co-strategy.

Interactive games
players alternate
quantum messages

Gutoski, Watrous, STOC 2007

Back-and-forth quantum communication

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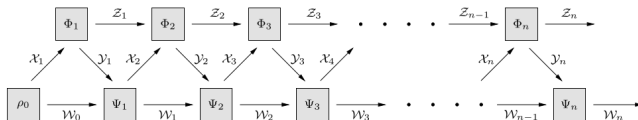


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**Channels
with memory**
memory links
successive uses

Kretschmann, Werner,
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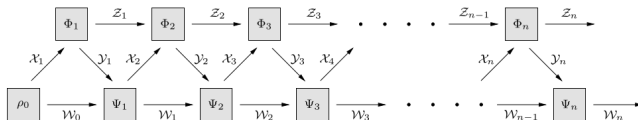


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Quantum combs
open slots for
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Chiribella et al.,
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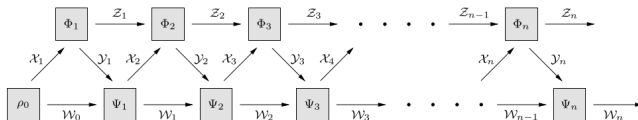


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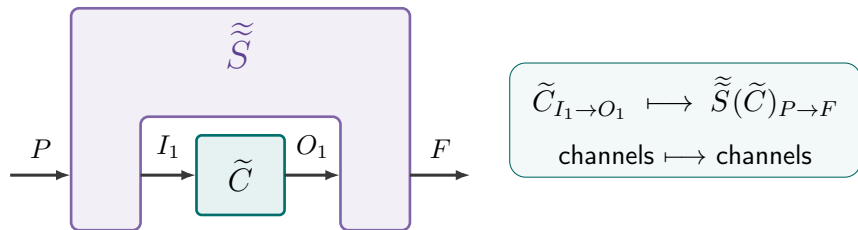
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Back-and-forth communication is formalised by **superchannels**.

Quantum superchannels

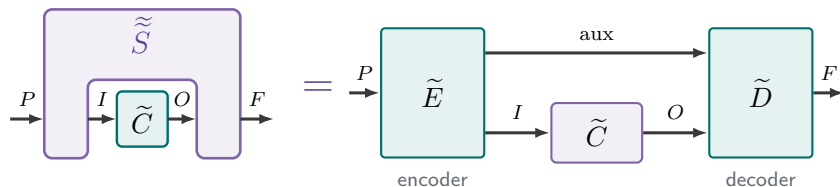
A superchannel transforms a channel into another channel.



The open slot accepts an arbitrary channel $\tilde{C}$; the surrounding higher-order map $\tilde{\tilde{S}}$ has no classical setting or outcome wires.

Circuit realisation of a superchannel

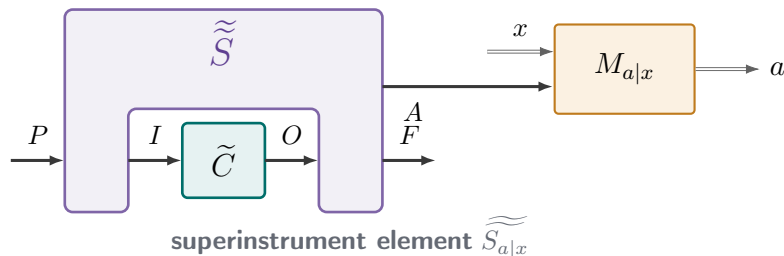
Every superchannel is an encoder–memory–decoder circuit.



$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{S}(\tilde{C}) &= \tilde{D} \circ (\tilde{C} \otimes \text{id}_{\text{aux}}) \circ \tilde{E} & \tilde{E} : \\ P &\rightarrow I \otimes \text{aux}, \tilde{D} : O \otimes \text{aux} \rightarrow F \end{aligned}$$

Quantum superinstruments

A superinstrument is a superchannel followed by a measurement.



$$\begin{aligned}\widetilde{\widetilde{S}}_{a|x}(\widetilde{C}) &= \text{Tr}_A \left[(M_{a|x} \otimes \mathbf{1}_F) \widetilde{\widetilde{S}}(\widetilde{C}) \right] \\ \sum_a M_{a|x} &= \mathbf{1}_A \implies \sum_a \widetilde{\widetilde{S}}_{a|x} = \widetilde{\widetilde{S}}\end{aligned}$$

NS quantum superinstrument

A superinstrument assemblage $\{\widetilde{S}_{a|x}\}_{a,x}$ is **no-signalling** when

Definition

$$\sum_a \widetilde{S}_{a|x} = \widetilde{S} \quad \forall x$$

NS quantum superinstrument

A superinstrument assemblage $\{\widetilde{S}_{a|x}\}_{a,x}$ is **no-signalling** when

Definition

$$\sum_a \widetilde{S}_{a|x} = \widetilde{S} \quad \forall x$$

Changing x does not change the unconditional superchannel.

Each $\widetilde{S}_{a|x}$ probabilistically transforms an inserted channel $\widetilde{C}$.

NS quantum superinstrument

Theorem

$\{\widetilde{S}_{a|x}\}_{a,x}$ is no-signalling iff it admits a common dilation.

No-signalling

$$\sum_a \widetilde{S}_{a|x} = \widetilde{S} \quad \forall x$$



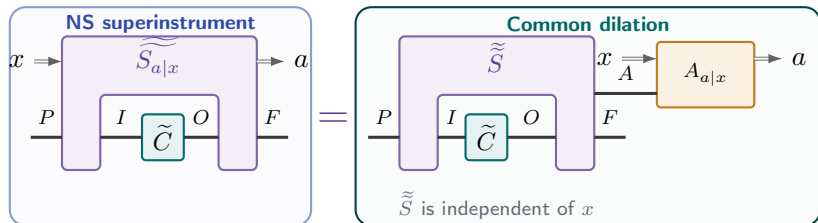
Common dilation

$$\exists \widetilde{\widetilde{S}}, \{A_{a|x}\}_a \text{ such that}$$
$$\widetilde{S}_{a|x}(\widetilde{C}) = \text{Tr}_A \left[(A_{a|x} \otimes \mathbb{1}) \widetilde{\widetilde{S}}(\widetilde{C}) \right]$$

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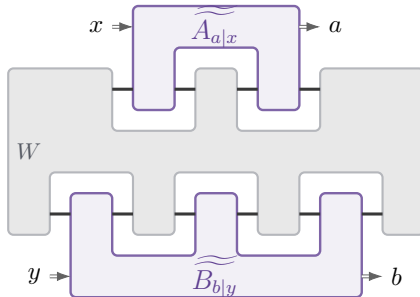


Arbitrary NS compositions are spatial

Theorem

Composition of k no-signalling quantum assemblages produces a k -partite Spatial (Bell) quantum correlation.

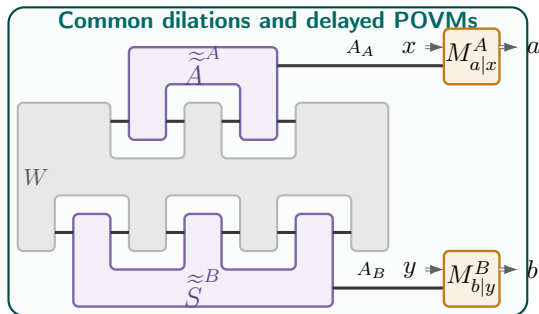
Two NS superinstruments in a multi-round network



Arbitrary NS compositions are spatial

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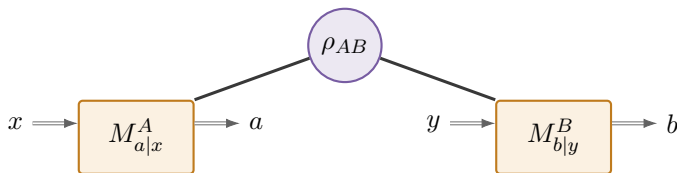


Arbitrary NS compositions are spatial

Theorem

Composition of k no-signalling quantum assemblages produces a k -partite Spatial (Bell) quantum correlation.

The network and fixed cores form a shared state;
only the delayed POVMs depend on x and y .



Spatial realisation

$$p(a, b|x, y) = \text{Tr} \left[\rho_{AB} \left(M_{a|x}^A \otimes M_{b|y}^B \right) \right]$$

Unsteerable compositions are Bell-local

Theorem

k unsteerable
quantum assemblages



k -partite spatial
Bell-local correlation

Unsteerable compositions are Bell-local

Theorem

k unsteerable
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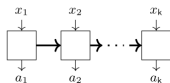
Classical factorisation

$$p(\mathbf{a}|\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} p(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \prod_{i=1}^k p(a_i|x_i, \lambda_i)$$

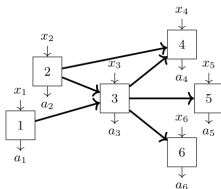
$$\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_k), \mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k), \boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$$

The quantum composition induces only shared randomness $p(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$;
each setting x_i is processed locally.

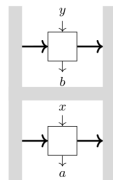
Scenarios covered by our methods



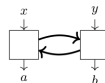
(a) k -sequential.



(b) Directed acyclic graph.



(c) Indefinite causal order.



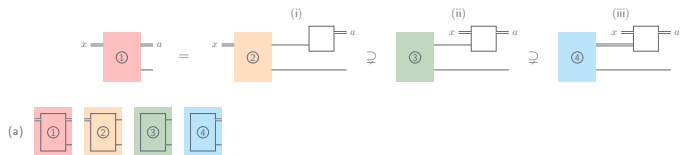
(d) The simplest loop.

SGHJW beyond states

One simultaneous-purification theorem for every quantum process type

SGHJW beyond states

One simultaneous-purification theorem for every quantum process type

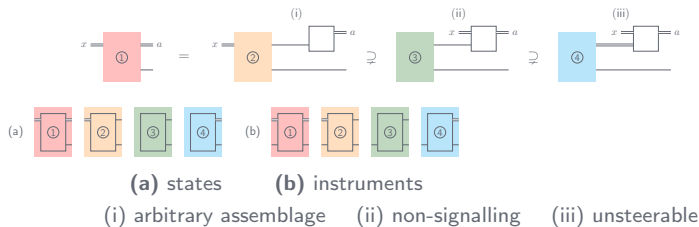


(a) states

(i) arbitrary assemblage (ii) non-signalling (iii) unsteerable

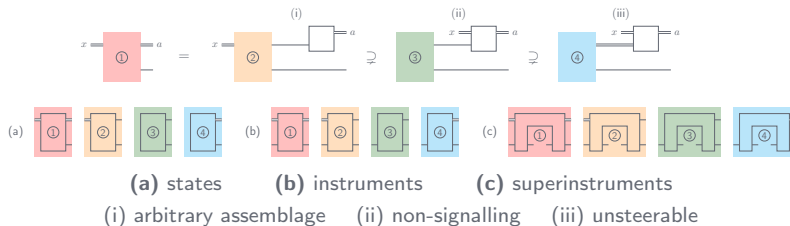
SGHJW beyond states

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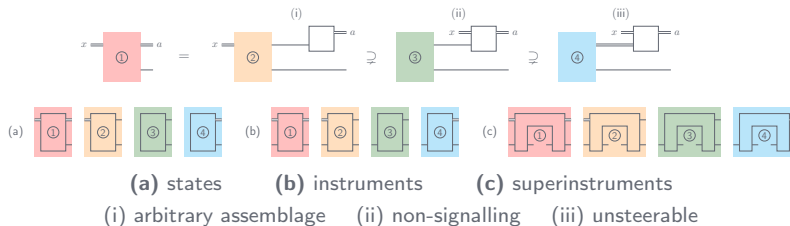
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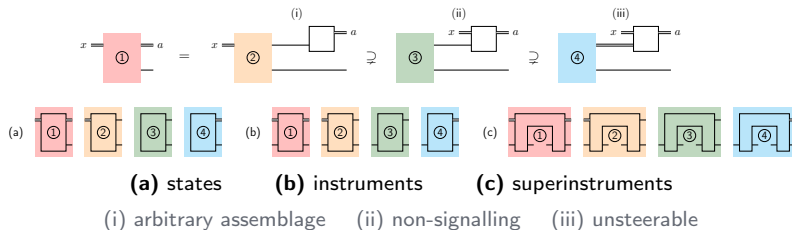


For *any* quantum object O —state, channel, instrument, comb, process matrix, or higher-order map—

$$\sum_a O_{a|x} = O \quad \forall x \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad O_{a|x} = \text{Tr}_A [(A_{a|x} \otimes \mathbb{1}) \Omega_{AO}] ,$$

where Ω_{AO} is a single pure dilation of the *same process type* and only the POVM depends on x .

Non-signalling in OPTs and GPTs



$$\sum_a O_{a|x} = O \quad \forall x$$

Outlook

What we showed

- ✓ SGHJW extends from states to instruments, combs, and arbitrary quantum objects.
- ✓ NS is exactly what makes temporal correlations spatial.
- ✓ Generalises the bipartite result of [Wright, Farkas, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **131**, 220202 \(2023\)](#) to multipartite scenarios.
- ✓ Simple and practical.

Consequence: leaving the spatial quantum set requires **internal signalling somewhere**.

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What we showed

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- ✓ Simple and practical.

Next?

- ▷ A robust theorem for *approximately* non-signalling assemblages.
- ▷ Quantify how much signalling is needed to leave the spatial quantum set—and where it must occur.
- ▷ Infinite-dimensional case?
- ▷ Composable purification in GPTs and OPTs.

Consequence: leaving the spatial quantum set requires **internal signalling somewhere**.

The team behind this work

Thank you to my co-authors!



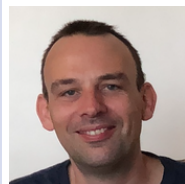
**Matilde
Baroni**



**Dominik
Leichtle**



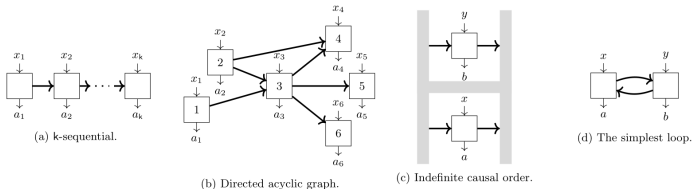
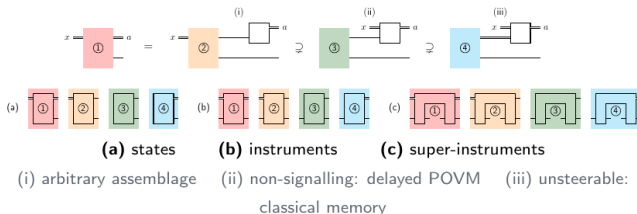
Ivan Šupić



**Damian
Markham**

Thank you!

One simultaneous-purification theorem for every quantum process type



Local non-signalling



spatial correlations

Local unsteerability



classical spatial correlations