

# Nonlocality

Solstice of Foundations, ETH Zurich

June 2022

Pawł Skrzypczyk

## Introduction

- (One of the most) fascinating predictions of quantum mechanics
  - Correlations that can arise between measurement outcomes on entangled particles defy any 'reasonable' (aka 'local') explanation
- More general than quantum theory → phrase phenomenon abstractly
- Experiments have confirmed that nature is fundamentally nonlocal

## Structure

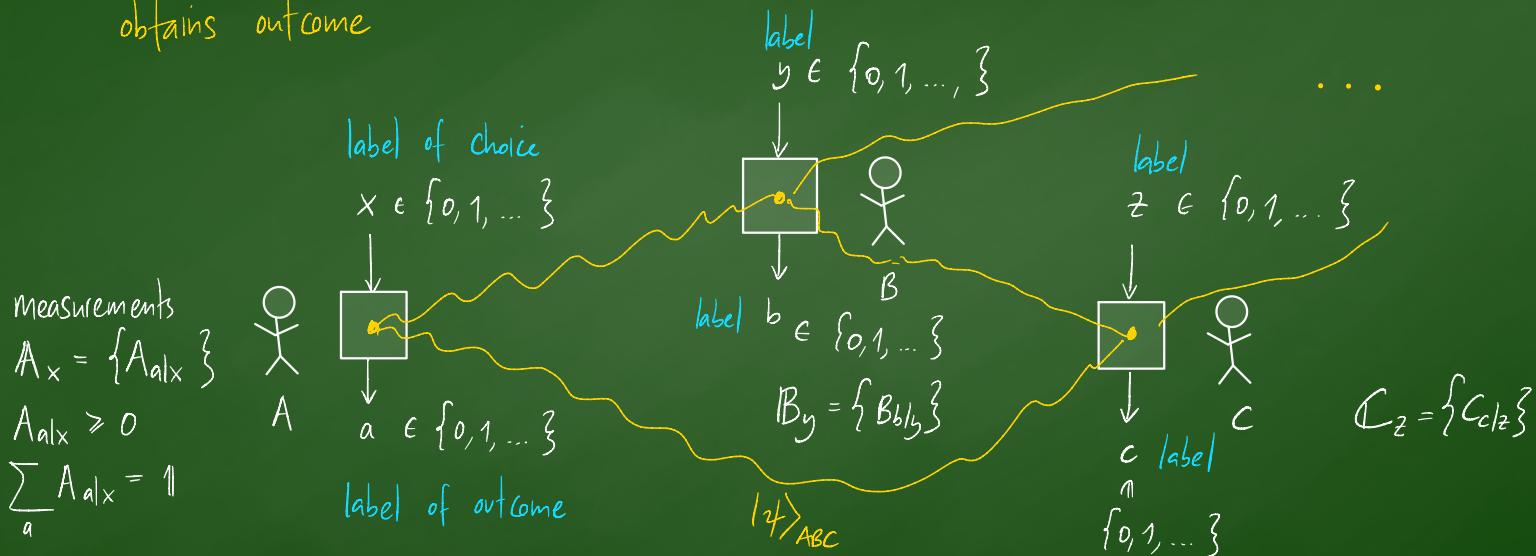
1. Bell scenarios & local correlations
2. Nonlocal games, quantum nonlocality & 'loopholes'
3. Nonlocality beyond quantum mechanics & non-signalling polytope.

Part I : Bell scenarios

& local correlations

## Bell Scenarios

- Multiple parties / agents spatially separated holding quantum particle
- In each round / run, each party chooses a measurement to perform & obtains outcome



- Collect statistics  $P(a, b, c, \dots | x, y, z, \dots)$  by repeating experiments many times.

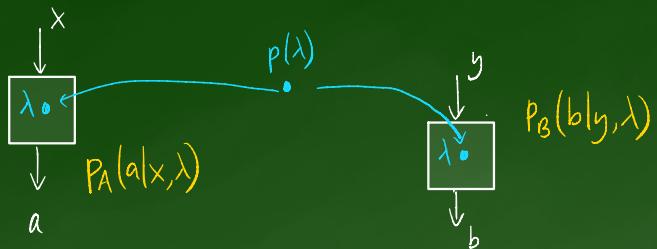
Question what correlations are possible to produce?

## Caveats

- very particular scenario, but surprisingly rich phenomena
- conclusions only on labels & NOT on specific properties of measurements/states.
- Often referred to as device independent scenario
  - reason why Bell nonlocality can be viewed as a powerful resource in QIS.  
e.g. DI
    - crypto
    - randomness generation
    - certification ...

## 'Local' correlations & Local Hidden Variable (LHV) models (2 parties from now on)

- In order to see that entanglement leads to interesting correlations, first need to identify what is 'uninteresting'.
- Forget about QM, & study correlations in classical setting involving only Random Variables.



- Each party might hold a 'hidden (random) variable'  $\lambda$  distributed as  $p_\lambda(\lambda)$
- Given  $\lambda$  & measurement label, probabilistically produce result according to some response function

statistics  $P(a, b | x, y) = \sum_{\lambda} p_\lambda(\lambda) P_A(a|x, \lambda) P_B(b|y, \lambda)$  (\*)

(could take measure/  
integrate)  $\xrightarrow{\lambda}$   $\uparrow$  average over hidden variable

- (\*) is called a local (hidden variable) model (LHV)
- Captures the correlations obtainable classically. (e.g. you could model this on a computer) / play tonight at dinner by rolling dice / flipping coins.

## Two other ways of arriving at local correlations

1. Measure **separable** quantum state:  $\rho_{AB} = \sum_{\mu} p(\mu) \rho_{\mu}^A \otimes \rho_{\mu}^B$

Born rule:  $p(a, b | x, y) = \text{tr} \left[ (A_{ax} \otimes B_{by}) \rho_{AB} \right]$

$$= \text{tr} \left[ (A_{ax} \otimes B_{by}) \sum_{\mu} p(\mu) \rho_{\mu}^A \otimes \rho_{\mu}^B \right]$$

$$= \sum_{\mu} p(\mu) \underbrace{\text{tr} \left[ A_{ax} \rho_{\mu}^A \right]}_{\text{local response}} \underbrace{\text{tr} \left[ B_{by} \rho_{\mu}^B \right]}_{P_B(b|y, \mu)}$$

$$= \sum_{\mu} p(\mu) P_A(a|x, \mu) P_B(b|y, \mu) \quad \text{local form} \quad \checkmark$$

$\Rightarrow$  correlations that arise from measurements on separable states are always local.

## 2. Make Compatible measurements

For POVMs operational notion of compatibility is joint measurability:

(i) Perform single parent measurement  $G = \{G_\lambda\}$

(ii) Prob. post-process parent result to give child result using  $p(a|x, \lambda)$

mathematically:  $\{A_x\}$  jointly measurable if  $A_{a|x} = \sum_\lambda p(a|x, \lambda) G_\lambda$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{In Bell scenario: } p(a, b|x, y) &= \text{tr} \left[ (A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y}) \overline{\sigma_{AB}} \right] \\
 &= \sum_\lambda p(a|x, \lambda) \underbrace{\text{tr} \left[ (G_\lambda \otimes B_{b|y}) \overline{\sigma_{AB}} \right]}_{p(b, \lambda|y)} = p(b|y, \lambda) p(\lambda|x) \\
 &= \sum_\lambda p(\lambda) p(a|x, \lambda) p(b|y, \lambda) \text{ local}
 \end{aligned}$$

→ if either party uses compatible measurements → local correlations again.

## Structure of local set of correlations

- Because  $p_\lambda(\lambda)$ ,  $p_A(a|x, \lambda)$  &  $p_B(b|y, \lambda)$  all arbitrary, local correlations appear 'complex'
- In fact, have a simple form in terms of deterministic response functions  
(interesting conceptually & useful in calculations!)
- Basic idea: can push all randomness into  $p_\lambda(\lambda)$

Let  $\lambda = (a_0, a_1, \dots, b_0, b_1, \dots)$  list of fictitious measurement results.

w.l.o.g assume  $p_A(a|x, \lambda) = \delta_{a, a_x} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a = a_x \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$   
(i.e. deterministically set  $a = a_x$  when input is  $x$ )

$$p_B(b|y, \lambda) = \delta_{b, b_y}$$

$$\rightarrow p(a, b|x, y) = \sum_{\substack{a_0, a_1, \dots \\ b_0, b_1, \dots}} \underbrace{p(a_0, a_1, \dots, b_0, b_1, \dots)}_{\text{average/mixture}} \underbrace{\delta_{a, a_x} \delta_{b, b_y}}_{D_{ab}(a, b|x, y)} \quad \text{deterministic correlations}$$

i.e. All local correlations are mixtures of deterministic behaviours.

→ A performs  $m_A$  meas, B performs  $m_B$  meas,  
 $O_A$  outcomes each                       $O_B$  outcomes each

→  $O_A^{m_A}$  deterministic correlations for A

$O_B^{m_B}$      $\xrightarrow{\text{---}}$  for B

&  $O_A^{m_A} O_B^{m_B}$  correlations  $D_{ab}(a, b | x, y)$

[later: local polytope].

Summary : - Bell scenario  
- Seen def<sup>n</sup> of local correlations + properties.

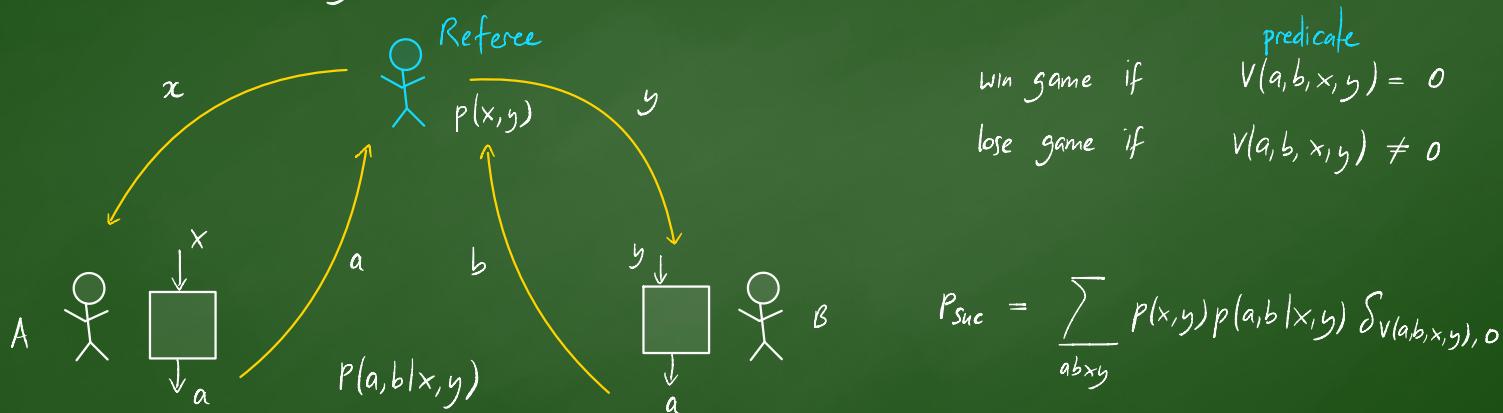
key Question: How to see that local correlations are limited?

Part II : Nonlocal games,  
quantum nonlocality & 'loopholes'

## Nonlocal Games & Bell Inequalities

- Limitations of local correlations can be witnessed by use of nonlocal games (or Bell inequalities)
  - Co-operative game / task played by separated, non-communicating parties
  - Can analyse best strategy of players given access to classical or quantum resources

Quantum nonlocality / Bell's Theorem: Quantum strategies outperform classical strategies.



Example: CHSH game

$$x, y, a, b \in \{0, 1\}$$

simplest possible non-trivial game

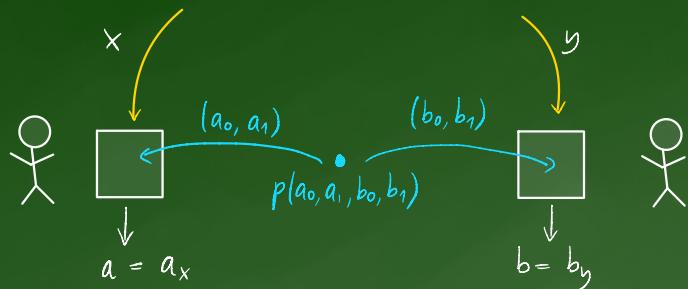
most important game.

workhorse of field!  $p(x,y) = \frac{1}{4}$

win if  $a \oplus b = xy$   
 lose if  $a \oplus b \neq xy$

Reminder:  $0 \oplus 0 = 1 \oplus 1 = 0$   
 $0 \oplus 1 = 1 \oplus 0 = 1$

- Using a classical strategy (LHV)  $P_{\text{succ}}^{\text{local}} \leq \frac{3}{4}$



$(x, y)$	$a$	$b$	$a \oplus b$	$xy$	win ?
$(0, 0)$	$a_0$	$b_0$	$a_0 \oplus b_0$	0	$a_0 \oplus b_0 = 0$
$(0, 1)$	$a_0$	$b_1$	$a_0 \oplus b_1$	0	$a_0 \oplus b_1 = 0$
$(1, 0)$	$a_1$	$b_0$	$a_1 \oplus b_0$	0	$a_1 \oplus b_0 = 0$
$(1, 1)$	$a_1$	$b_1$	$a_1 \oplus b_1$	1	$a_1 \oplus b_1 = 1$

- No solution to all 4 equations simultaneously.

i) contradiction:  $(a_0 \oplus b_0) \oplus (a_0 \oplus b_1) \oplus (a_1 \oplus b_0) \oplus (a_1 \oplus b_1) = \underbrace{0 \oplus 0 \oplus 0 \oplus 1}_1$

$\cancel{0}$        $\cancel{0}$        $\cancel{0}$        $\cancel{0}$

ii) 'frustration'

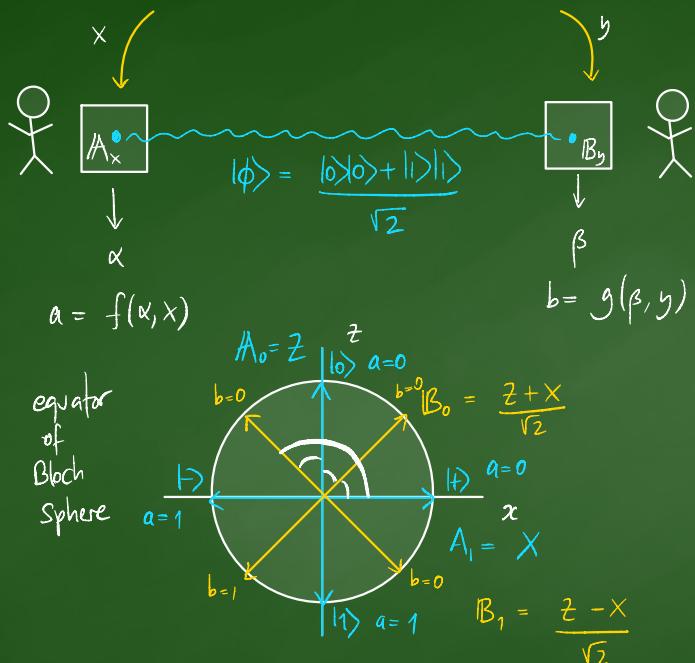
$$\begin{array}{ccc} a_0 & = & b_0 \\ \cancel{a_1} & = & \cancel{b_1} \\ & \neq & \end{array}$$

3 relations are consistent  
4th always contradicts.

- This analysis is for deterministic strategies. General strategy mix/average over det. strats

→ this clearly can't help you win better  $\Rightarrow$  CHSH game has  $P_{\text{succ}}^{\text{LHV}} \leq \frac{3}{4}$ .

### Quantum strategy for CHSH game



- pre-share entangled state between players.
- Upon receiving  $x, y \rightarrow$  choose which measurement to make.
- Process meas. outcomes into answers.

$$S(\theta) = \cos \theta Z + \sin \theta X$$

$$\langle \phi | S(\theta) \otimes S(\phi) | \phi \rangle = \cos(\theta - \phi)$$

$$P(a=\beta | \theta, \phi) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos(\theta - \phi))$$

$$P_{\text{succ}}^Q = \frac{1}{2}\left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \approx 0.85$$

→ Quantum strategy outperforms best classical strategy by  $\approx 10\%$  !

Correlations arising from measurements on entangled states are stronger than those that can arise from LHV models!

- Alice & Bob coordinate much better given quantum resources compared to classical.

## Experiments & 'loopholes'

- Long history of experimental demonstrations of quantum nonlocality
- Since prediction of nonlocality is so remarkable  $\rightarrow$  demanded remarkable evidence.
- Imperfections in experimental realisation of theoretical setup open up 'loopholes'
- two major loopholes:
  1. 'detection' loophole: photonic experiments  $\rightarrow$  photons go missing  
 ↳ make 'fair sampling' assumption ignore rounds with no results  
 \* Smart / malicious LHV model can use this to fake  $P_{\text{Suc}}^{\text{LHV}} > \frac{3}{4}$ .

e.g.	$a_0$	$a_1$	$b_0$	$b_1$	
	0	no click	0	0	50% rounds discarded ( $x=1$ ) in non-discarded rounds $\rightarrow$ win 100%

- mix such strategies (to match experimental obs)

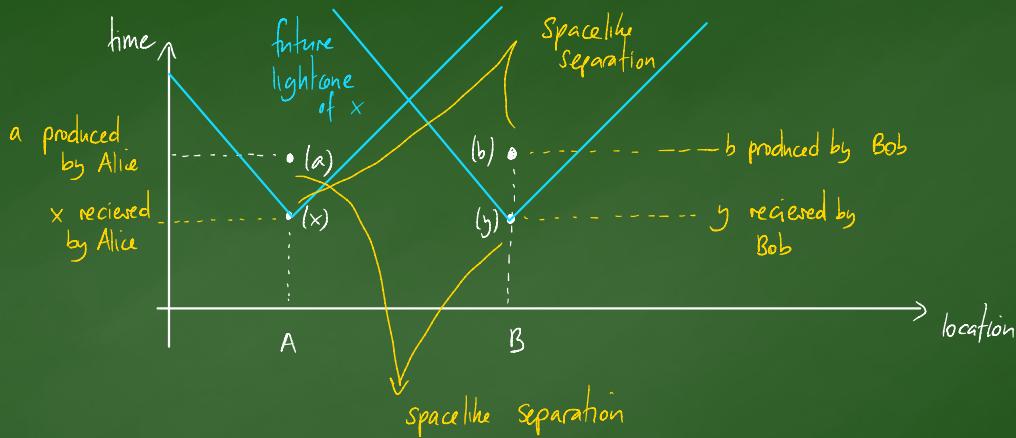
Resolution:

- set no-click = 0  $P_{\text{Suc}}^{\text{LHV}} \leq \frac{3}{4}$
- set no-click = 2 nonlocal game with 3 outcomes

2. 'locality' loophole: hidden communication can easily win all time

↳ e.g. if Bob knows  $x$ ,  $a = \lambda$      $b = \lambda \oplus xy$      $p(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2}$

Resolution: rule out communication based upon relativity



- In practice: requires large distances & fast measurements

Only in 2015 did 3 landmark experiments close both detection & locality loopholes in same experiment. 'Conclusive' (even if very skeptical!) demonstration of nonlocality.

Part III : Nonlocality beyond  
quantum mechanics & non-signalling polytope

## Nonlocality beyond quantum mechanics

- $p_{\text{suc}}^{\text{QM}} = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$  provably best possible win probability for CHSH game in QM.  
question: why can't we win the game all time?
- Crucial property of quantum correlations: non-signalling
  - Impossible for one party to signal to another.

$$\begin{aligned} P(a, b|x, y) &= \text{tr} \left[ \rho_{AB} (A_{a|x} \otimes B_{b|y}) \right] \\ \rightarrow \sum_a P(a, b|x, y) &= \text{tr} \left[ \rho_{AB} \left( \underbrace{\sum_a A_{a|x}}_{\parallel \text{ to be valid POVM for all } x} \otimes B_{b|y} \right) \right] \\ &= P(b|y) \text{ independent of } x. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly:  $\sum_b P(a, b|x, y) = P(a|x)$  independent of  $y$ .

These conditions are called NON-SIGNALING conditions.

- Must be satisfied by ANY REASONABLE THEORY,

Question: What correlations  $P(a,b|x,y)$  are consistent with no-signalling?

Conditions:  $P(a,b|x,y) \geq 0 \quad \forall a,b,x,y$       probs. non-negative

$$\sum_{a,b} P(a,b|x,y) = 1 \quad \forall x,y \quad \text{probs. normalised} \quad m_A m_B$$

$$\sum_a P(a,b|x,y) = P(b|y) \quad \text{no-signalling } A \rightarrow B \quad o_B(m_A - 1)m_B$$

$$\sum_b P(a,b|x,y) = P(a|x) \quad \text{no-signalling } B \rightarrow A \quad o_A(m_B - 1)m_A$$

Can collect  $p(a,b|x,y)$  together into a vector  $p \in \mathbb{R}^d$        $d = o_A o_B m_A m_B$       CHSH: 16

- Linear equality constraints constrain  $p$  to lie in lower dimensional hypersurface

$$[d' = m_A(o_A - 1) + m_B(o_B - 1) + (o_A - 1)(o_B - 1)m_A m_B]$$

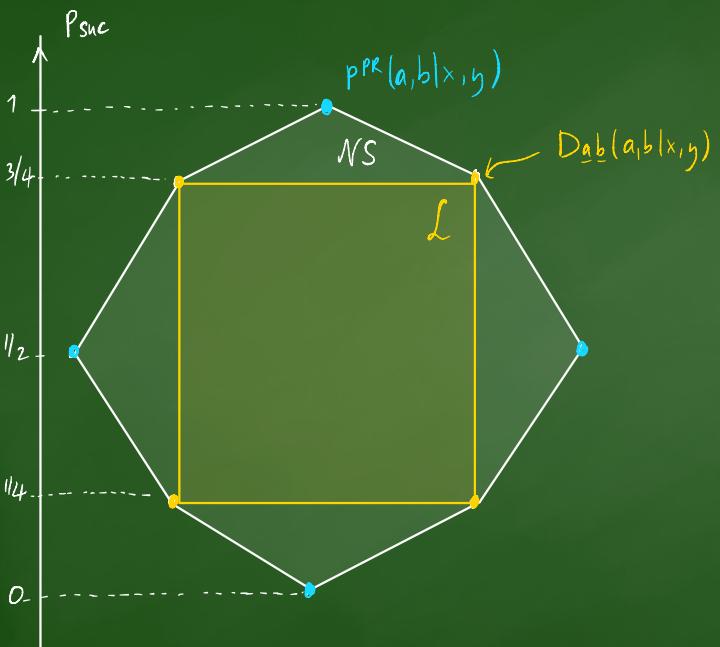
CHSH: 8

- Linear inequality constraints constrain  $p$  to lie in non-negative orthant

→ Geometrically set of non-signalling correlations lie in a convex polytope

- called Non-signalling polytope

CHSH 'cartoon':



↑ generalisation of polygon

- finite number of vertices / extreme points
- all faces are flat

24 vertices

- 16 local deterministic strategies  $D_{ab}(a,b|x,y)$

→ these vertices define a polytope too - local polytope

Recall: local correlations are mixtures of det. stats.

- this is geometrical perspective / understanding

- 8 nonlocal 'Popescu-Rohrlich boxes' (PR boxes)

'maximally' nonlocal & win CHSH game + symmetries perfectly

$$P_{PR}(a,b|x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } a \oplus b = xy \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \text{winning condition}$$

e.g.  $P(0,0|0,0) = \frac{1}{2}, P(0,1|0,1) = 0$  etc 3

Symmetries of CHSH: Change winning condition:  $a \oplus b = (x \oplus \alpha)(y \oplus \beta) \oplus \gamma$

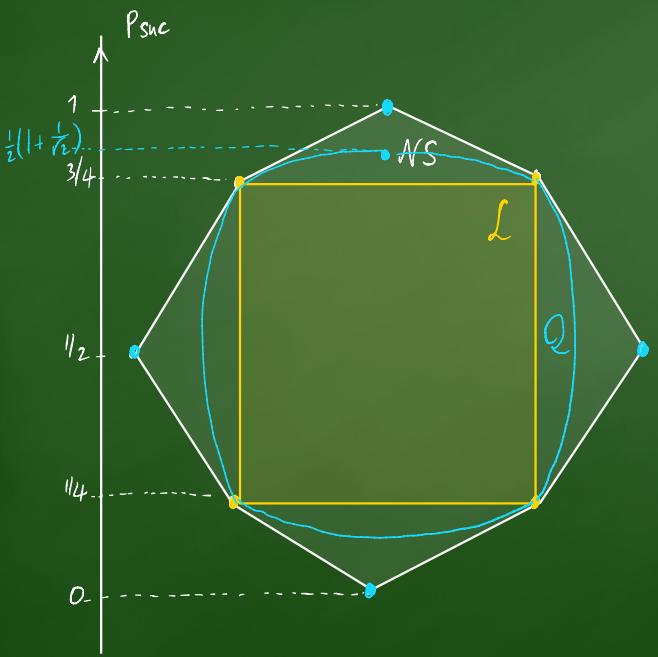
$\uparrow$                $\uparrow$                $\uparrow$   
 flip  $x$     flip  $y$     flips winning  
 condition

- 8 unique symmetries  $\rightarrow 1 \times$  PR box perfectly winning each strat.

- PR box correlations cannot arise in QM.

↳ Question: What can arise?

Answer: Complicated!



Intuitive explanation:  $P(a,b|x,y)$  can arise from measuring arbitrary dimensional quantum system (even CV system, like  $x, p$ )

-  $Q$  is union of correlations that can arise from every single quantum state!

- No closed-form expression for set  $Q$   
 In fact ... (uncomputable?)

## Approximating Quantum Correlations

- In many device-independent applications want to restrict to quantum nonlocality
  - Often good enough to have bounds: "best case cannot be better than ..."  
"worst case cannot be worse than ..."

→ For this we need outer approximation to set  $\mathcal{Q}$ .

\* Fortunately we have a sequence of approximations  $\mathcal{Q}^{(1)} \supseteq \mathcal{Q}^{(2)} \dots \supseteq \mathcal{Q}$   
each of which is "Simple" = feasible set of semidefinite program (of increasing size)

Called Navascués-Pironio-Acin (NPA) hierarchy.

## Principles for quantum Correlations

- Realisation that nonlocality beyond QM that is still consistent with principle of no-signalling lead to important question: Is there a physical or information theoretic reason why nonlocality should be limited?

lead to search for principles satisfied by quantum nonlocality but violated by post-QM NL

Candidates:

- communication complexity should be non-trivial
- macroscopic world should be local
- 'information causality'
- 'local orthogonality' none known to single out quantum NL  
(ask me for me info if interested!)