### NONLOCAL GAMES

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We introduce definitions associated with nonlocal games and strategies that will be used throughout.

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### 1. Games and strategies

- 0008 **Definition 1.1** (Two-player one-round games). A two-player one-round game  $\mathfrak{G}$  is specified by a tuple  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mu, D)$  where
  - (1)  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$  are finite sets (called the question alphabets),
  - (2)  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are finite sets (called the answer alphabets),
  - (3)  $\mu$  is a probability distribution over  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  (called the question distribution),
  - (4)  $D: \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \times \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B} \to \{0,1\}$  is a function (called the decision predicate).
- 0009 **Definition 1.2** (Tensor product strategies). A tensor product strategy S for a game  $\mathfrak{G} = (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mu, D)$  is a tuple  $(|\psi\rangle, A, B)$  where
  - $|\psi\rangle$  is a pure quantum state in  $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$  for finite dimensional complex Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}_A, \mathcal{H}_B$ ,
  - A is a set  $\{A^x\}$  such that for every  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $A^x = \{A^x_a\}_{a \in \mathcal{A}}$  is a POVM over  $\mathcal{H}_A$ , and
  - B is a set  $\{B^y\}$  such that for every  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ ,  $B^y = \{B_b^y\}_{b \in \mathcal{B}}$  is a POVM over  $\mathcal{H}_B$ .
- 000A **Definition 1.3** (Tensor product value). The tensor product value of a tensor product strategy  $S = (|\psi\rangle, A, B)$  with respect to a game  $\mathfrak{G} = (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mu, D)$  is defined as

$$\operatorname{val}^*(\mathfrak{G}, S) = \sum_{x, y, a, b} \mu(x, y) D(x, y, a, b) \langle \psi | A_a^x \otimes B_b^y | \psi \rangle.$$

For  $v \in [0,1]$  we say that the strategy S passes (or wins)  $\mathfrak{G}$  with probability v if  $val^*(\mathfrak{G},S) \geq v$ . The tensor product value of  $\mathfrak{G}$  is defined as

$$\operatorname{val}^*(\mathfrak{G}) = \sup_{S} \operatorname{val}^*(\mathfrak{G}, S)$$
,

where the supremum is taken over all tensor product strategies S for  $\mathfrak{G}$ .

Remark 1.4. Unless specified otherwise, all strategies considered in this paper are tensor product strategies, and we simply call them *strategies*. Similarly, we refer to  $val^*(\mathfrak{G})$  as the *value* of the game  $\mathfrak{G}$ .

**Definition 1.5** (Projective strategies). We say that a strategy  $S = (|\psi\rangle, A, B)$  is 000B projective if all the measurements  $\{A_a^x\}_a$  and  $\{B_b^y\}_b$  are projective.

Remark 1.6. A game  $\mathfrak{G}=(\mathcal{X},\mathcal{Y},\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B},\mu,D)$  is symmetric if the question and answer alphabets are the same for both players (i.e.  $\mathcal{X}=\mathcal{Y}$  and  $\mathcal{A}=\mathcal{B}$ ), the distribution  $\mu$  is symmetric (i.e.  $\mu(x,y)=\mu(y,x)$ ), and the decision predicate D treats both players symmetrically (i.e. for all x,y,a,b,D(x,y,a,b)=D(y,x,b,a)). Furthermore, we call a strategy  $S=(|\psi\rangle,A,B)$  symmetric if  $|\psi\rangle$  is a state in  $\mathcal{H}\otimes\mathcal{H}$ , for some Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , that is invariant under permutation of the two factors, and the measurement operators of both players are identical. We specify symmetric games  $\mathfrak{G}$  and symmetric strategies S using a more compact notation: we write  $\mathfrak{G}=(\mathcal{X},\mathcal{A},\mu,D)$  and  $S=(|\psi\rangle,M)$  where M denotes the set of measurement operators for both players.

**Lemma 1.7.** Let  $\mathfrak{G} = (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mu, D)$  be a symmetric game such that  $\mathrm{val}^*(\mathfrak{G}) = 000\mathrm{D}$   $1 - \varepsilon$  for some  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ . Then there exists a symmetric and projective strategy  $S = (|\psi\rangle, M)$  such that  $\mathrm{val}^*(\mathfrak{G}, S) \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon$ .

*Proof.* By definition there exists a strategy  $S' = (|\psi'\rangle, A, B)$  such that  $\operatorname{val}^*(\mathfrak{G}, S') \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon$ . Using Naimark's theorem (for example as formulated in [?, Theorem 4.2]) we can assume without loss of generality that  $|\psi'\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^d_{A'} \otimes \mathbb{C}^d_{B'}$  for some integer d and that for every x and y,  $A^x$  and  $B^y$  is a projective measurement. Let

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle_A |1\rangle_B |\psi'\rangle_{A'B'} + |1\rangle_A |0\rangle_B |\psi'_\tau\rangle_{A'B'}) \in (\mathbb{C}_A^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}_{A'}^d) \otimes (\mathbb{C}_B^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}_{B'}^d) ,$$

where  $|\psi'_{\tau}\rangle$  is obtained from  $|\psi\rangle$  by permuting the two players' registers. Observe that  $|\psi\rangle$  is invariant under permutation of AA' and BB'.

For any question  $x \in \mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y}$ , define the measurement  $M^x = \{M_a^x\}_{a \in \mathcal{A}}$  acting on the Hilbert space  $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^d$  as follows:

$$M_a^x = |0\rangle\langle 0| \otimes A_a^x + |1\rangle\langle 1| \otimes B_a^x$$
.

When Alice receives question x, she measures  $M^x$  on registers AA', and when Bob receives question y, he measures  $M^y$  on registers BB'. Using that by assumption the decision predicate D for  $\mathfrak{G}$  is symmetric, it is not hard to verify that  $\operatorname{val}^*(\mathfrak{G}, S) = \operatorname{val}^*(\mathfrak{G}, S')$ .

**Definition 1.8.** Let  $\mathfrak{G} = (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mu, D)$  be a game, and let  $S = (|\psi\rangle, A, B)$  000E be a strategy for  $\mathfrak{G}$  such that the spaces  $\mathcal{H}_A \simeq \mathcal{H}_B$  canonically. Let  $S \subseteq \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  denote the support of the question distribution  $\mu$ , i.e. the set of (x, y) such that  $\mu(x, y) > 0$ . We say that S is a *commuting strategy for*  $\mathfrak{G}$  if for all question pairs  $(x, y) \in S$ , we have  $[A_a^x, B_b^y] = 0$  for all  $a \in \mathcal{A}, b \in \mathcal{B}$ , where [A, B] = AB - BA denotes the commutator.

**Definition 1.9** (Consistent measurements). Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a finite set, let  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$  000F a state, and  $\{M_a\}_{a\in\mathcal{A}}$  a projective measurement on  $\mathcal{H}$ . We say that  $\{M_a\}_{a\in\mathcal{A}}$  is consistent on  $|\psi\rangle$  if and only if

$$\forall a \in \mathcal{A} , \quad M_a \otimes \mathrm{Id}_B \mid \psi \rangle = \mathrm{Id}_A \otimes M_a \mid \psi \rangle .$$

- 000G **Definition 1.10** (Consistent strategies). Let  $S = (|\psi\rangle, A, B)$  be a projective strategy with state  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$ , for some Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , which is defined on question alphabets  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$  and answer alphabets  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$ , respectively. We say that the strategy S is consistent if for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , the measurement  $\{A_a^x\}_{a \in \mathcal{A}}$  is consistent on  $|\psi\rangle$  and if for all  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ , the measurement  $\{B_b^y\}_{b \in \mathcal{B}}$  is consistent on  $|\psi\rangle$ .
- 000H **Definition 1.11.** We say that a strategy S for a game  $\mathfrak{G}$  is PCC if it is projective, consistent, and commuting for  $\mathfrak{G}$ . Additionally, we say that a PCC strategy S is SPCC if it is furthermore symmetric.

Remark 1.12. A strategy  $S = (|\psi\rangle, A, B)$  for a symmetric game  $\mathfrak{G} = (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}, \mu, D)$  is called *synchronous* if it holds that for every  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $a \neq b \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\langle \psi | A_a^x \otimes B_b^x | \psi \rangle = 0$ ; in other words, the players never return different answers when simultaneously asked the same question. As shown in [?] the condition for a finite-dimensional strategy of being synchronous is equivalent to the condition that it is projective, consistent, and moreover  $|\psi\rangle$  is a maximally entangled state. (The equivalence is extended to infinite-dimensional strategies, as well as correlations induced by limits of finite-dimensional strategies, in [?].)

**Definition 1.13** (Entanglement requirements of a game). For all games  $\mathfrak{G}$  and  $\nu \in [0,1]$ , let  $\mathcal{E}(\mathfrak{G},\nu)$  denote the minimum integer d such that there exists a finite dimensional tensor product strategy S that achieves success probability at least  $\nu$  in the game  $\mathfrak{G}$  with a state  $|\psi\rangle$  whose Schmidt rank is at most d. If there is no finite dimensional strategy that achieves success probability  $\nu$ , then define  $\mathcal{E}(\mathfrak{G},\nu)$  to be  $\infty$ .

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## 2. Distance measures

We introduce several distance measures that are used throughout.

000L **Definition 2.1** (Distance between states).

Let  $\{|\psi_n\rangle\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$  and  $\{|\psi'_n\rangle\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$  be two families of states in the same space  $\mathcal{H}$ . For some function  $\delta: \mathbb{N} \to [0,1]$  we say that  $\{|\psi_n\rangle\}$  and  $\{|\psi'_n\rangle\}$  are  $\delta$ -close, denoted as  $|\psi\rangle \approx_{\delta} |\psi'\rangle$ , if  $|||\psi_n\rangle - |\psi'_n\rangle||^2 = O(\delta(n))$ . (For convenience we generally leave the dependence of the states and  $\delta$  on the indexing parameter n implicit.)

000M **Definition 2.2** (Consistency between POVMs). Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a finite set and  $\mu$  a distribution on  $\mathcal{X}$ . Let  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$  be a quantum state, and for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $\{A_a^x\}$  and  $\{B_a^x\}$  POVMs. We write

$$A_a^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\delta} I_A \otimes B_a^x$$

on state  $|\psi\rangle$  and distribution  $\mu$  if

$$\underset{x \sim \mu}{\mathbb{E}} \sum_{a \neq b} \langle \psi | A_a^x \otimes B_b^x | \psi \rangle \leq O(\delta) \ .$$

In this case, we say that  $\{A_a^x\}$  and  $\{B_a^x\}$  are  $\delta$ -consistent on  $|\psi\rangle$ .

Note that a consistent measurement according to Definition 1.9 is 0-consistent with itself, under the singleton distribution, according to Definition 2.2 (and viceversa).

**Definition 2.3** (Distance between POVMs). Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a finite set and  $\mu$  a distribution on  $\mathcal{X}$ . Let  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}$  be a quantum state, and for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $\{M_a^x\}$ and  $\{N_a^x\}$  two POVMs on  $\mathcal{H}$ . We say that  $\{M_a^x\}$  and  $\{N_a^x\}$  are  $\delta$ -close on state  $|\psi\rangle$  and under distribution  $\mu$  if

$$\mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu} \sum_{a} \left\| (M_a^x - N_a^x) |\psi\rangle \right\|^2 \le O(\delta) ,$$

and we write  $M_a^x \approx_{\delta} N_a^x$  to denote this when the state  $|\psi\rangle$  and distribution  $\mu$  are clear from context. This distance is referred to as the *state-dependent* distance.

**Definition 2.4** (Distance between strategies). Let  $\mathfrak{G} = (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mu, D)$  be a nonlocal game and let  $S = (\psi, A, B), S' = (\psi', A', B')$  be strategies for  $\mathfrak{G}$ . For  $\delta \in [0,1]$  we say that S is  $\delta$ -close to S' if the following conditions hold.

- (1) The states  $|\psi\rangle, |\psi'\rangle$  are states in the same Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$  and are
- (2) For all  $x \in \mathcal{X}, y \in \mathcal{Y}$ , we have  $A_a^x \approx_{\delta} (A')_a^x$  and  $B_b^y \approx_{\delta} (B')_b^y$ , with the approximations holding under the distribution  $\mu$ , and on either  $|\psi\rangle$  or  $|\psi'\rangle$ .

We record several useful facts about the consistency measure and the statedependent distance without proof. Readers are referred to Sections 4.4 and 4.5 in [?] for additional discussion and proofs.

Fact 2.5 (Fact 4.13 and Fact 4.14 in [?]). For POVMs  $\{A_a^x\}$  and  $\{B_a^x\}$ , the 000Qfollowing hold.

- 000R
- (1) If  $A_a^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\delta} I_A \otimes B_a^x$  then  $A_a^x \otimes I_B \approx_{\delta} I_A \otimes B_a^x$ . (2) If  $A_a^x \otimes I_B \approx_{\delta} I_A \otimes B_a^x$  and  $\{A_a^x\}$  and  $\{B_a^x\}$  are projective measurements, 000S
- then  $A_a^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\delta} I_A \otimes B_a^x$ . (3) If  $A_a^x \otimes I_B \approx_{\delta} I_A \otimes B_a^x$  and either  $\{A_a^x\}$  or  $\{B_a^x\}$  is a projective measurement, then  $A_a^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\delta^{1/2}} I_A \otimes B_a^x$ . 000T

Fact 2.6 (Fact 4.20 in [?]). Let  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$  be finite sets, and let D be a distribution 000Uover question pairs (x,y). Let  $\{A_{a,b}^x\}$  and  $\{B_{a,b}^x\}$  be operators whose outcomes range over the product set  $A \times B$ . Suppose a set of operators  $\{C_{a,c}^y\}$ , whose outcomes range over the product set  $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{C}$ , satisfies the condition  $\sum_{a,c} (C_{a,c}^y)^{\dagger} C_{a,c}^y \leq \text{Id}$  for all y. If  $A_{a,b}^x \approx_{\delta} B_{a,b}^x$  on average over x sampled from the corresponding marginal of distribution D, then  $C_{a,c}^y A_{a,b}^x \approx_{\delta} C_{a,c}^y B_{a,b}^x$  on average over (x,y) sampled from D.

*Proof.* Fix questions x, y and answers  $a \in \mathcal{A}, b \in \mathcal{B}$ . We have then that

$$\sum_{c} \left\| (C_{a,c}^{y} A_{a,b}^{x} - C_{a,c}^{y} B_{a,b}^{x}) |\psi\rangle \right\|^{2} = \sum_{c} \langle \psi | (A_{a,b}^{x} - B_{a,b}^{x})^{\dagger} (C_{a,c}^{y})^{\dagger} (C_{a,c}^{y}) (A_{a,b}^{x} - B_{a,b}^{x}) |\psi\rangle$$

$$(2.6.2) \leq \langle \psi | (A_{a,b}^x - B_{a,b}^x)^{\dagger} (A_{a,b}^x - B_{a,b}^x) | \psi \rangle$$

(2.6.3) 
$$= \|(A_{a,b}^x - B_{a,b}^x)|\psi\rangle\|^2$$

where the inequality follows from the fact that  $\sum_c (C_{a,c}^y)^{\dagger} C_{a,c}^y \leq \sum_{a,c} (C_{a,c}^y)^$ Id. Thus we obtain the desired conclusion

$$\mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim D} \sum_{a,b,c} \left\| (C^y_{a,c} A^x_{a,b} - C^y_{a,c} B^x_{a,b}) |\psi\rangle \right\|^2 \leq \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim D} \sum_{a,b} \left\| (A^x_{a,b} - B^x_{a,b}) |\psi\rangle \right\|^2 \leq \delta.$$

000V Fact 2.7. Let  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  denote finite sets, and let  $\mathcal{G}$  denote a set of functions  $g: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{A}$ . Let  $\{A_a^x\}$ ,  $\{B_a^x\}$  be POVMs indexed by  $\mathcal{X}$  and outcomes in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $\{S_g^x\}$  denote a set of operators such that for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $\sum_g (S_g^x)^{\dagger} S_g^x \leq \operatorname{Id}$ . If  $A_a^x \approx_{\delta} B_a^x$  on average over x, then  $S_g^x A_{q(x)}^x \approx_{\delta} S_g^x B_{q(x)}^x$ .

*Proof.* We expand:

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}_{x} \sum_{g} \left\| S_{g}^{x} (A_{g(x)}^{x} - B_{g(x)}^{x}) |\psi\rangle \right\|^{2} &= \mathbb{E}_{x} \sum_{g} \langle \psi | (A_{g(x)}^{x} - B_{g(x)}^{x})^{\dagger} (S_{g}^{x})^{\dagger} S_{g}^{x} (A_{g(x)}^{x} - B_{g(x)}^{x}) |\psi\rangle \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{x} \sum_{a} \langle \psi | (A_{a}^{x} - B_{a}^{x})^{\dagger} \left( \sum_{g:g(x)=a} (S_{g}^{x})^{\dagger} S_{g}^{x} \right) (A_{a}^{x} - B_{a}^{x}) |\psi\rangle \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}_{x} \sum_{a} \langle \psi | (A_{a}^{x} - B_{a}^{x})^{\dagger} (A_{a}^{x} - B_{a}^{x}) |\psi\rangle \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{x} \sum_{g} \left\| (A_{a}^{x} - B_{a}^{x}) |\psi\rangle \right\|^{2}. \end{split}$$

The inequality follows from the fact that  $\sum_{g:g(x)=a} (S_g^x)^{\dagger} S_g^x \leq \sum_g (S_g^x)^{\dagger} (S_g^x) \leq \text{Id.}$  The last line is at most  $\delta$  by assumption, and we obtain the desired conclusion.  $\square$ 

000W **Lemma 2.8.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a finite set. Let  $\{A_a^x\}_{a\in\mathcal{A}}$  be a projective measurement and let  $\{B_a^x\}_{a\in\mathcal{A}}$  be a set of matrices. If  $A_a^x \approx_{\delta} B_a^x$ , then for all subsets  $S \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ , we have

$$\sum_{a \in S} A_a^x \approx_{\delta} \sum_{a \in S} A_a^x \cdot B_a^x.$$

*Proof.* We expand:

$$\mathbb{E}_{x} \left\| \sum_{a \in S} \left( A_{a}^{x} - A_{a}^{x} \cdot B_{a}^{x} \right) |\psi\rangle \right\|^{2} = \mathbb{E}_{x} \left\| \sum_{a \in S} A_{a}^{x} \cdot \left( A_{a}^{x} - B_{a}^{x} \right) |\psi\rangle \right\|^{2}$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{x} \sum_{a \in S} \langle \psi | (A_{a}^{x} - B_{a}^{x})^{\dagger} A_{a}^{x} (A_{a}^{x} - B_{a}^{x}) |\psi\rangle$$

$$\leq \mathbb{E}_{x} \sum_{a} \left\| (A_{a}^{x} - B_{a}^{x}) |\psi\rangle \right\|^{2}.$$

In the second line we used the projectivity of  $\{A_a^x\}$ , and in the third line we used that  $A_a^x \leq \operatorname{Id}$ .

- 000X Fact 2.9 (Triangle inequality, Fact 4.28 in [?]). If  $A_a^x \approx_{\delta} B_a^x$  and  $B_a^x \approx_{\epsilon} C_a^x$ , then  $A_a^x \approx_{\delta+\epsilon} C_a^x$ .
- 000Y **Fact 2.10** (Triangle inequality for "\sigma", Proposition 4.29 in [?]). If  $A_a^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\varepsilon} I_A \otimes B_a^x$ ,  $C_a^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\delta} I_A \otimes B_a^x$ , and  $C_a^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\gamma} I_A \otimes D_a^x$ , then  $A_a^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\varepsilon+2\sqrt{\delta+\gamma}} I_A \otimes D_a^x$ .
- 000Z **Fact 2.11** (Data processing, Fact 4.26 in [?]). Suppose  $A_a^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\delta} I_A \otimes B_a^x$ . Then  $A_{[f(\cdot)=b]}^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\delta} I_A \otimes B_{[f(\cdot)=b]}^x$ .

The state-dependent distance is the right tool for reasoning about the closeness of measurement operators in a strategy. The following lemma ensures that, when two families of measurements are close on a state, changing from one family of measurement to the other only introduces a small error to the value of the strategy.

**Lemma 2.12.** Let  $\{A_{a,\,b}^x\}$ ,  $\{B_{a,\,b,\,c}^x\}$ ,  $\{C_{a,\,c}^x\}$  be POVMs. Suppose  $\{B_{a,\,b,\,c}^x\}$  is 0010 projective, and

$$A_{a,b}^x \otimes \operatorname{Id}_B \approx_{\delta} \operatorname{Id}_A \otimes B_{a,b}^x$$
,  $C_{a,c}^x \otimes \operatorname{Id}_B \approx_{\delta} \operatorname{Id}_A \otimes B_{a,c}^x$ .

Then the following approximate commutation relation holds:

$$[A_{a,b}^x, C_{a,c}^x] \otimes I_B \approx_{\delta} 0$$
.

*Proof.* Applying Fact 2.6 to  $C_{a,c}^x \otimes \operatorname{Id}_B \approx_{\delta} \operatorname{Id}_A \otimes B_{a,c}^x$  and  $\{A_{a,b}^x \otimes \operatorname{Id}_B\}$ , we have

$$(2.12.1) A_{a,b}^x C_{a,c}^x \otimes \operatorname{Id}_B \approx_{\delta} A_{a,b}^x \otimes B_{a,c}^x. 0011$$

Similarly, applying Fact 2.6 to  $A_{a,b}^x \otimes \operatorname{Id}_B \approx_{\delta} \operatorname{Id}_A \otimes B_{a,b}^x$  and  $\{\operatorname{Id}_A \otimes B_{a,c}^x\}$ , and using the fact that  $\{B_{a,b,c}^x\}$  is projective, we have

$$(2.12.2) A_{a,b}^x \otimes B_{a,c}^x \approx_{\delta} \operatorname{Id}_A \otimes B_{a,c}^x B_{a,b}^x$$

$$= \operatorname{Id}_A \otimes B_{a,b,c}^x. 0012$$

Combining Equations (2.12.1) and (2.12.2), we have

$$(2.12.3) A_{a,b}^x C_{a,c}^x \otimes \operatorname{Id}_B \approx_{\delta} \operatorname{Id}_A \otimes B_{a,b,c}^x. 0013$$

A similar argument gives

$$(2.12.4) C_{a,c}^x A_{a,b}^x \otimes \operatorname{Id}_B \approx_{\delta} \operatorname{Id}_A \otimes B_{a,b,c}^x. 0014$$

The claim follows from Equations (2.12.3) and (2.12.4).

The following lemma is a slightly modified version of [?, Fact 4.34].

**Lemma 2.13.** Let  $k \geq 0$  be an integer and let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a finite set and  $\mu$  0015 a distribution over  $\mathcal{X}$ . For each  $1 \leq i \leq k$  let  $\mathcal{G}_i$  be a set of functions  $g_i : \mathcal{Y} \to \mathcal{R}_i$  and for each  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  let  $\{G_g^{i,x}\}_{g \in \mathcal{G}_i}$  be a projective measurement. Suppose that for all  $i \in \{1,\ldots,k\}$ ,  $\mathcal{G}_i$  satisfies the following property: for any two  $g_i \neq g_i' \in \mathcal{G}_i$ , the probability that  $g_i(y) = g_i'(y)$  over a uniformly random  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$  is at most  $\varepsilon$ .

Let  $\{A_{g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_k}^x\}$  be a projective measurement with outcomes  $(g_1, \ldots, g_k) \in \mathcal{G}_1 \times \cdots \times \mathcal{G}_k$ . For each  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , suppose that on average over  $x \sim \mu$  and  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$  sampled uniformly at random,

$$(2.13.1) A_{[\operatorname{eval}_y(\cdot)_i=a_i]}^x \otimes I_B \simeq_{\delta} I_A \otimes G_{[\operatorname{eval}_y(\cdot)=a_i]}^{i,x}. 0016$$

Define the POVM family  $\{C_{q_1,q_2,\ldots,q_k}^x\}$ , for  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , by

$$C^x_{g_1,\,g_2,\,\ldots,\,g_k} = G^{k,\,x}_{g_k} \cdots G^{2,\,x}_{g_2}\,G^{1,\,x}_{g_1}\,G^{2,\,x}_{g_2} \cdots G^{k,\,x}_{g_k}\;.$$

Then on average over  $x \sim \mu$  and  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$  sampled uniformly at random,

$$(2.13.2) A_{[\text{eval}_{y}(\cdot) = (a_{1}, a_{2}, \dots, a_{k})]}^{x} \otimes I_{B} \simeq_{k(\delta + \varepsilon)^{1/2}} I_{A} \otimes C_{[\text{eval}_{y}(\cdot) = (a_{1}, a_{2}, \dots, a_{k})]}^{x}. 0017$$

*Proof.* The proof is identical to the one given in [?, Fact 4.34], with the only modification needed to insert the dependence on x for all measurements considered.

**Lemma 2.14** (Fact 4.35 in [?]). Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a distribution on  $(x, y_1, y_2) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}_1 \times \mathcal{Y}_2$ . 0018 For  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  let  $\mathcal{G}_i$  be a collection of functions  $g_i : \mathcal{Y}_i \to \mathcal{R}_i$  and let  $\{(G_i)_g^x\}_{g \in \mathcal{G}_i}$  be families of measurements such that  $\{(G_2)_g^x\}_g$  is projective for every x. Suppose further that for every  $(x, y_1)$  it holds that for  $g_2 \neq g_2' \in \mathcal{G}_2$  the probability, on average over  $y_2$  chosen from  $\mathcal{D}$  conditioned on  $(x, y_1)$ , that  $g_2(y_2) = g_2'(y_2)$  is at most  $\eta$ . Let

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 $\{A_{a_1,a_2}^{x,y_1,y_2}\}\$  be a family of projective measurements with outcomes  $(a_1,a_2)\in\mathcal{R}_1\times\mathcal{R}_2$  such that for  $i\in\{1,2\}$ ,

0019 (2.14.1) 
$$A_{a_i}^{x,y_1,y_2} \otimes \operatorname{Id} \simeq_{\delta} \operatorname{Id} \otimes (G_i)_{[\operatorname{eval}_{y_i}(\cdot)=a_i]}^x$$

and

001A (2.14.2) 
$$A^{x,y_1,y_2}_{a_1,a_2} \otimes \operatorname{Id} \simeq_{\delta} \operatorname{Id} \otimes A^{x,y_1,y_2}_{a_1,a_2} \ .$$

Define a family of measurements  $\{J^x_{g_1,g_2}\}$  as

001B (2.14.3) 
$$J_{g_1,g_2}^x = (G_2)_{g_2}^x (G_1)_{g_1}^x (G_2)_{g_2}^x.$$

Then there is a

001C (2.14.4) 
$$\delta_{pasting} = \delta_{pasting}(\eta, \delta) = \text{poly}(\eta, \delta)$$

such that  $001\text{D} \quad (2.14.5) \qquad \qquad A^{x,y_1,y_2}_{a_1,a_2} \otimes \text{Id} \simeq_{\delta_p} \text{Id} \otimes J^x_{[\text{eval}_{y_1}(\cdot)=a_1,\text{eval}_{y_2}(\cdot)=a_2]} \ .$ 

# 3. Chapters

Preliminaries

(1) Introduction

Background

- (2) Nonlocal games
- (3) Complexity theory
- (4) Operator algebras

Warm-up

(5) Pauli braiding

Overview

(6) The argument

(7) Question reduction

(8) Answer reduction

(9) Recursive compression

Building blocks

(10) Classical low-degree test

(11) Quantum low-degree test

Related tools

(12) Parallel repetition

Extensions

(13) TBD