

# Generalized quantum asymptotic equipartition and applications

Kun FANG

Joint work with Hamza Fawzi and Omar Fawzi

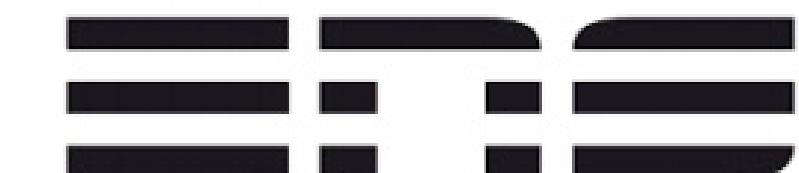


香港中文大學(深圳)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



ENS DE LYON

arXiv: 2411.04035 & 2502.15659

Quantum Resources 2025 @ Jeju, March 2025

# What is “asymptotic equipartition”?

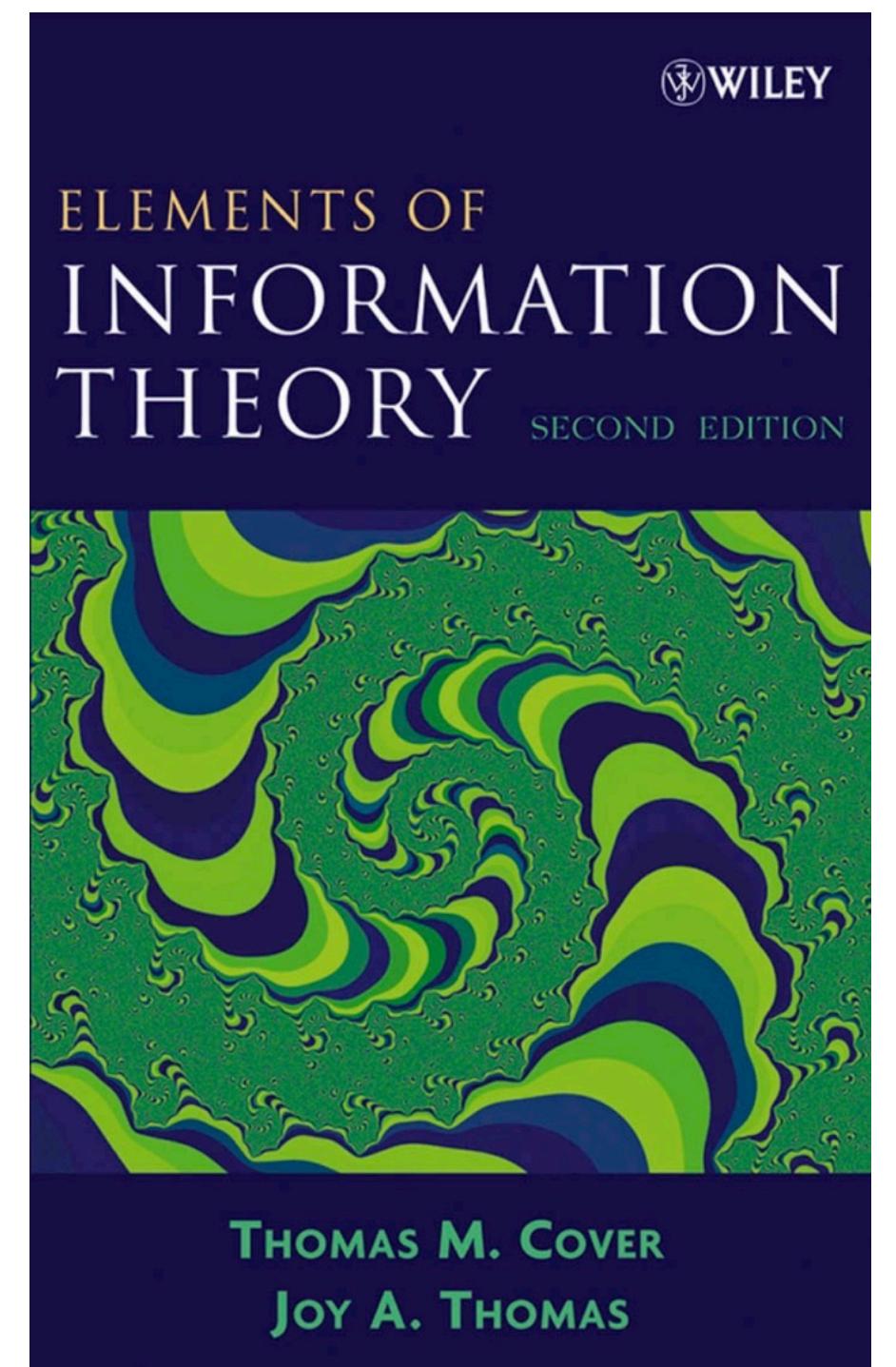
## Asymptotic equipartition property (AEP)

A form of the law of large numbers in information theory

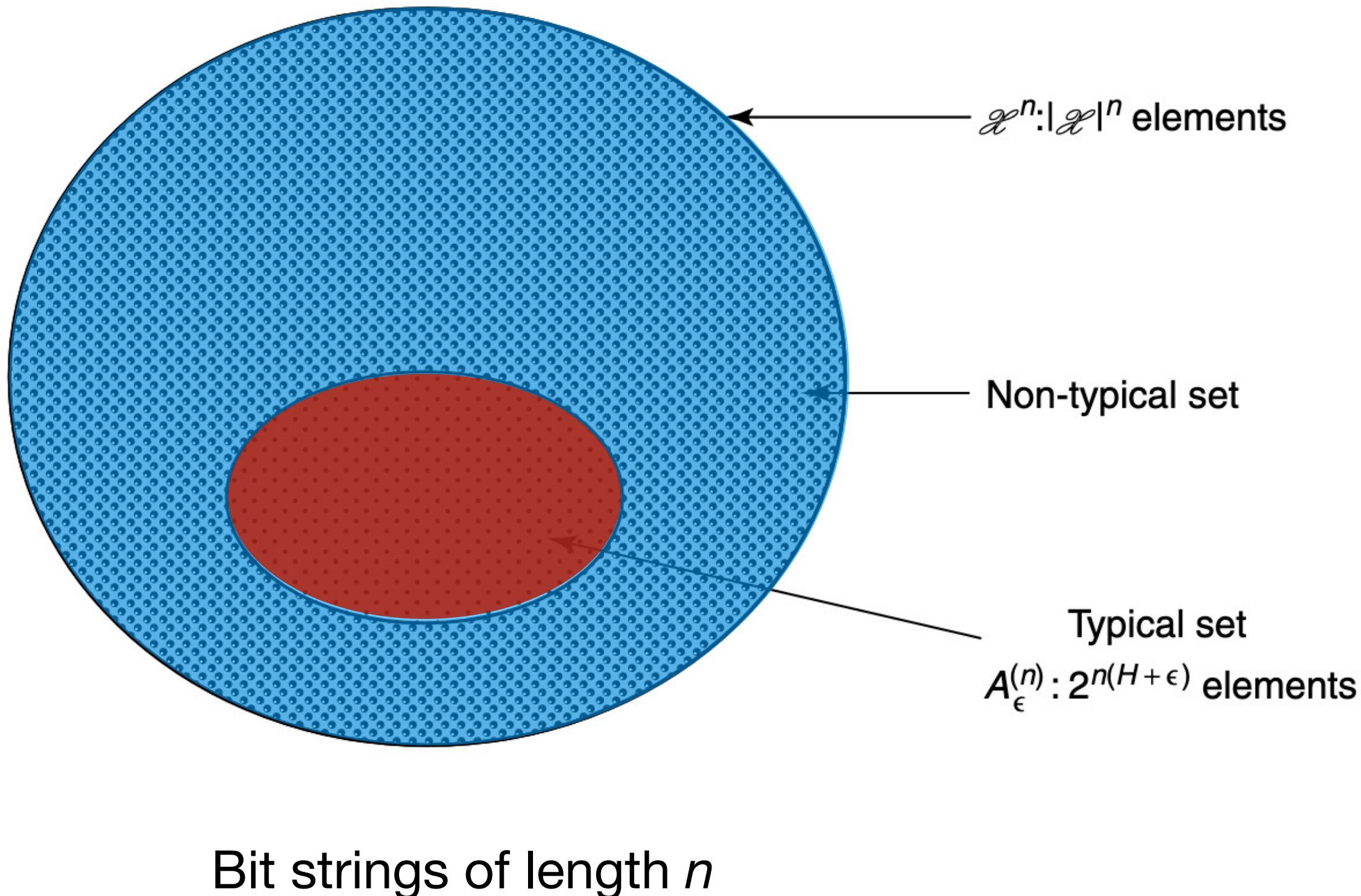
AEP or Shannon-MacMillan-Breiman theorem

Given i.i.d. random variables  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$ , the probability  $p(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  satisfies

$$-\frac{1}{n} \log p(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \rightarrow H(X) \quad \text{in probability}$$



# What is “asymptotic equipartition”?



## Typical set v.s. Non-typical set

Size of the typical set is nearly  $2^{nH(X)}$

The typical set has probability nearly 1

Elements in the typical set are nearly **equiprobable**

**Lie in the heart of information theory:**  
data compression, channel coding, cryptography...

# More generic form of AEP in divergences

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(P^{\otimes n} \| Q^{\otimes n}) = D(P \| Q)$$

Divergence of interest      Probability distribution  
Smoothing parameter      KL divergence (relative entropy)  
nonnegative function

# More generic form of AEP in divergences

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(P^{\otimes n} \| Q^{\otimes n}) = D(P \| Q)$$

**Shannon-McMillan-Breiman theorem:**

$\mathbb{D} = H_{\min}$  or  $H_{\max}$ ,  $Q = 1$  constant function e.g. [Tomamichel, Colbeck, Renner 2009]

$H_{\max}$ : the size of the typical set &  $H_{\min}$ : the distribution is uniform on the typical set

**Chernoff-Stein Lemma:**

$\mathbb{D} = D_H$  hypothesis testing relative entropy

**Generalization to quantum AEP?**

# Generalization to quantum AEP?

The diagram illustrates the relationship between several concepts in quantum information theory:

- Quantum divergence** (pink text) is at the top left.
- Density matrix** (red text) is at the top right.
- PSD operator** (blue text) is at the top right, below Density matrix.
- Smoothing parameter** (pink text) is at the bottom left.
- Umegaki (quantum) relative entropy** (pink text) is at the bottom right.

A central equation is framed in red:

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\rho^{\otimes n} \parallel \sigma^{\otimes n}) = D(\rho \parallel \sigma)$$

Arrows point from the terms in the equation to their corresponding labels: an upward arrow from  $\mathbb{D}_\varepsilon$  to Quantum divergence, a downward arrow from  $n$  to Smoothing parameter, and two upward arrows from  $\rho^{\otimes n}$  and  $\sigma^{\otimes n}$  to Density matrix, with one also pointing to PSD operator.

# Generalization to quantum AEP?

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\rho^{\otimes n} \parallel \sigma^{\otimes n}) = D(\rho \parallel \sigma)$$

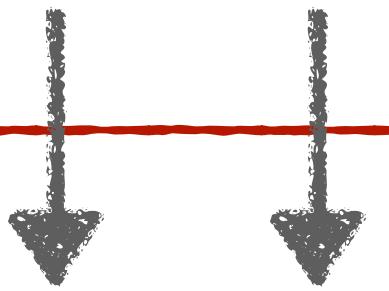
- **Hiai and Petz 1991:**  $\mathbb{D} = D_H$
- **Ogawa and Nagaoka 2000:** remove  $\varepsilon$ -dependence in the outer limit
- **Tomamichel, Colbeck, Renner 2009:**  $\sigma_{AB} = I_A \otimes \rho_B$ ,  $H_{\min}(A \mid B)$  and  $H_{\max}(A \mid B)$
- **Tomamichel, Hayashi 2013:**  $\mathbb{D} = D_{\max}$  .....

Quantum  
Stein's lemma

**Many applications:** quantum data compression, quantum state merging, quantum channel coding, quantum cryptography, and quantum resource theory...

# Generalization to quantum AEP?

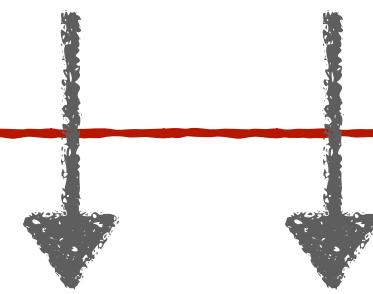
$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\rho^{\otimes n} \parallel \sigma^{\otimes n}) = D(\rho \parallel \sigma)$$



**Limited to singleton and i.i.d. structure**

# Generalization to quantum AEP?

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} D_\varepsilon(\rho^{\otimes n} || \sigma^{\otimes n}) = D(\rho || \sigma)$$

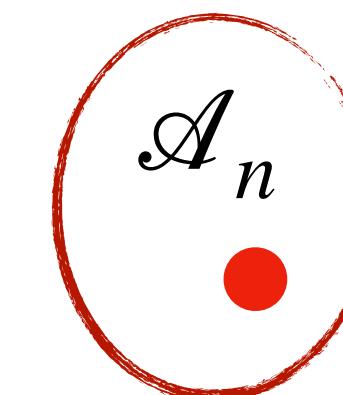


Limited to singleton and i.i.d. structure

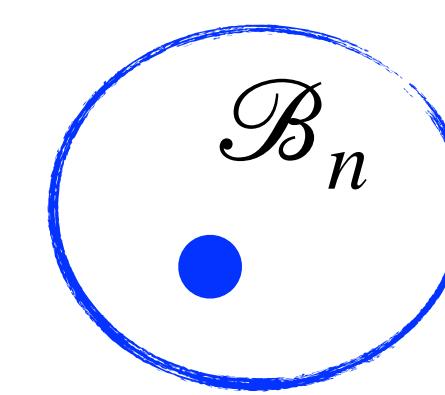
What if?

Correlation: beyond i.i.d. source  $\rho_n \neq \rho^{\otimes n}$ ,  $\sigma_n \neq \sigma^{\otimes n}$

Uncertainty: not singleton  $\rho_n \in \mathcal{A}_n$  and  $\sigma_n \in \mathcal{B}_n$



v.s.



e.g. composite hypothesis

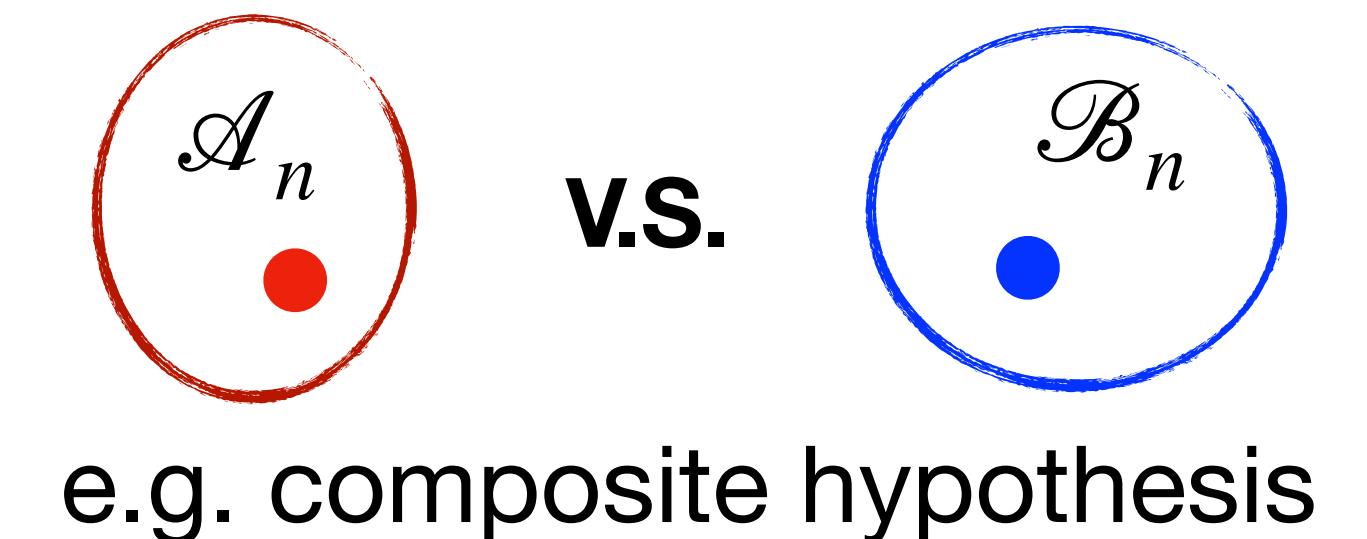
# Generalization to quantum AEP?

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\rho^{\otimes n} \parallel \sigma^{\otimes n}) = D(\rho \parallel \sigma)$$

**What if?**

**Correlation:** beyond i.i.d. source  $\rho_n \neq \rho^{\otimes n}$ ,  $\sigma_n \neq \sigma^{\otimes n}$

**Uncertainty:** not singleton  $\rho_n \in \mathcal{A}_n$  and  $\sigma_n \in \mathcal{B}_n$



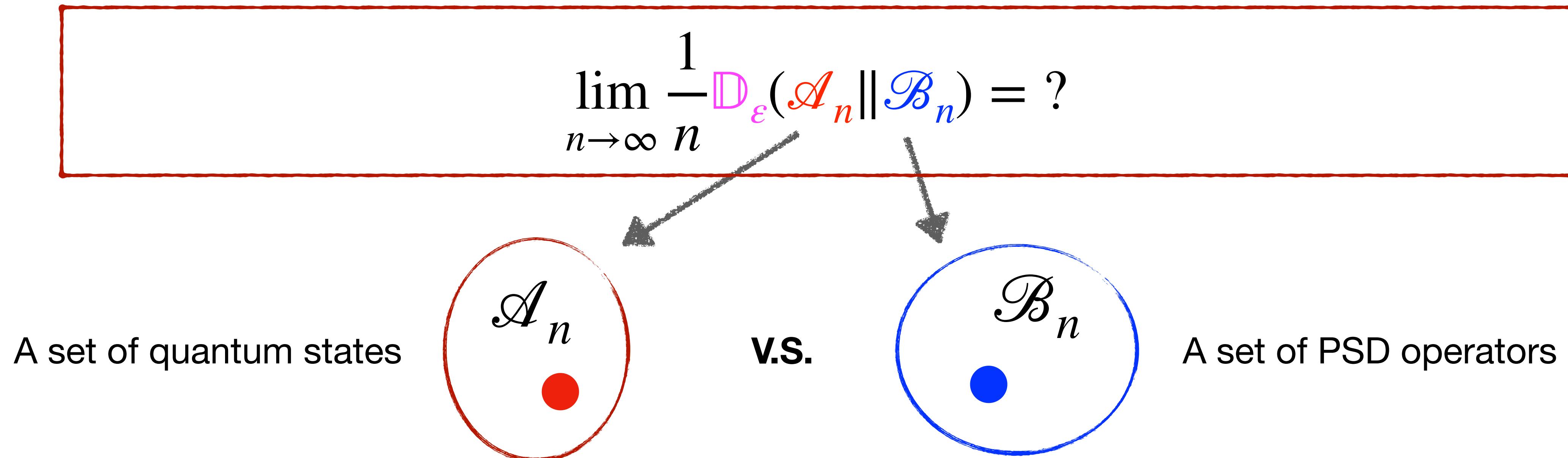
**Practical motivations in the classical setting** e.g. [Levitin and Nerhav 2002, TIT]

Classification with training sequences (e.g. speech recognition, signal detection)

Detection of messages via unknown channels (e.g. radar target detection, watermark detection)

# Generalization to quantum AEP beyond i.i.d. and singleton

# Generalization to quantum AEP beyond i.i.d. and singleton



$$\mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) := \inf_{\rho_n \in \mathcal{A}_n, \sigma_n \in \mathcal{B}_n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\rho_n \parallel \sigma_n)$$

# Generalization to quantum AEP beyond i.i.d. and singleton

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) = ?$$

A very **general framework** that contains almost all existing quantum AEP in the literature  
Including the *generalized quantum Stein's lemma*,  
where  $\mathcal{A}_n = \{\rho^{\otimes n}\}$  and  $\mathcal{B}_n$  a set of quantum states

Talk by Lami on Tuesday & Talk by Hayashi on Wednesday

# Generalization to quantum AEP beyond i.i.d. and singleton

Our answer

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) = D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B})$$

$$\mathbb{D} \in \{D_H, D_{\max}\}$$

$$D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B}) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} D(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n)$$

# Generalization to quantum AEP beyond i.i.d. and singleton

Our answer

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) = D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B})$$

**Generality (divergence):**

**two extreme cases**  $\mathbb{D} \in \{D_H, D_{\max}\}$

any divergence in between or equivalent, yield the same result

## Our answer

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) = D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B})$$

## Generality (sets):

(A.1) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is convex and compact;

(A.2) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is permutation-invariant;

(A.3)  $\mathcal{A}_m \otimes \mathcal{A}_k \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{m+k}$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

(A.4)  $(\mathcal{A}_m)_+^\circ \otimes (\mathcal{A}_k)_+^\circ \subseteq (\mathcal{A}_{m+k})_+^\circ$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

Polar set  $\mathcal{C}^\circ := \{X : \langle X, Y \rangle \leq 1, \forall Y \in \mathcal{C}\}$

## Our answer

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \| \mathcal{B}_n) = D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \| \mathcal{B})$$

## Generality (sets):

Polar set  $\mathcal{C}^\circ := \{X : \langle X, Y \rangle \leq 1, \forall Y \in \mathcal{C}\}$

(A.1) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is convex and compact;

(A.3)  $\mathcal{A}_m \otimes \mathcal{A}_k \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{m+k}$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

(A.2) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is permutation-invariant;

(A.4)  $(\mathcal{A}_m)_+^\circ \otimes (\mathcal{A}_k)_+^\circ \subseteq (\mathcal{A}_{m+k})_+^\circ$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

Sets	Mathematical descriptions
Singleton	$\{\rho^{\otimes n}\}$ with $\rho \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{H})$
Conditional states	$\{I_n \otimes \rho_n : \rho_n \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{H}^{\otimes n})\}$
Channel image	$\{\mathcal{N}^{\otimes n}(\rho_n) : \rho_n \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{H}^n)\}$ with a quantum channel $\mathcal{N}$
Recovery set	$\{\mathcal{N}_{B^n \rightarrow C^n}(\rho_{AB}^{\otimes n}) : \mathcal{N} \in \text{CPTP}(B^n : C^n)\}$ with $\rho \in \mathcal{D}(AB)$
Extensions set	$\{\omega_n \in \mathcal{D}(A^n B^n) : \text{Tr}_{B^n} \omega_n = \rho_A^{\otimes n}\}$ with $\rho_A \in \mathcal{D}(A)$
Incoherent states	$\{\rho_n \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{H}^{\otimes n}) : \rho_n = \Delta(\rho_n)\}$ with the completely dephasing channel $\Delta$
Rains set	$\{\rho_n \in \mathcal{H}_+(A^n B^n) : \ \rho_n^{\top_{B_1 \cdots B_n}}\ _1 \leq 1\}$ with the partial transpose $\top_{B_i}$
Nonpositive mana	$\{\rho_n \in \mathcal{H}_+(\mathcal{H}^{\otimes n}) : \ \rho_n\ _{W,1} \leq 1\}$ with the Wigner trace norm $\ \cdot\ _{W,1}$

## Our answer

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) = D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B})$$

## Generality (sets):

(A.1) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is convex and compact;

(A.2) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is permutation-invariant;

(A.3)  $\mathcal{A}_m \otimes \mathcal{A}_k \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{m+k}$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

(A.4)  $(\mathcal{A}_m)_+^\circ \otimes (\mathcal{A}_k)_+^\circ \subseteq (\mathcal{A}_{m+k})_+^\circ$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

Polar set  $\mathcal{C}^\circ := \{X : \langle X, Y \rangle \leq 1, \forall Y \in \mathcal{C}\}$

More importantly, **without (A.4)**, the AEP does not hold in general.

Counterexamples e.g.

arXiv: 2501.09303v2 by Hayashi & arXiv: 2408.07067 by Lami, Berta, Regula

## Our answer

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) = D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B})$$

## ★ Efficiency:

Regularization instead of single-letter formula. But it can be estimated by

$$\frac{1}{m} D_M(\mathcal{A}_m \parallel \mathcal{B}_m) \leq D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B}) \leq \frac{1}{m} D(\mathcal{A}_m \parallel \mathcal{B}_m)$$

with explicit convergence guarantees,

$$\frac{1}{m} D(\mathcal{A}_m \parallel \mathcal{B}_m) - \frac{1}{m} D_M(\mathcal{A}_m \parallel \mathcal{B}_m) \leq \frac{1}{m} 2(d^2 + d) \log(m + d)$$

**Efficiently approximate  $D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B})$  within an additive error by a quantum relative entropy program of polynomial size. [arXiv: 2502.15659]**

Our answer

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) = D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B})$$

★ **Explicit finite  $n$  estimate:**

$$nD^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B}) - O(n^{2/3} \log n) \leq \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) \leq nD^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B}) + O(n^{2/3} \log n)$$

Leading term is regularized, but **still provide an explicit estimate** for finite  $n$ , making its **convergence controllable; a rare case in QIT**

Leading term independent of  $\varepsilon$  (strong converse property)

The second order in  $O(n^{2/3} \log n)$  instead of  $O(\sqrt{n})$ , potential improvement exists

# Key technical tools

Measured relative entropy  $D_M(\rho\|\sigma) := \sup_M D(P_{\rho,M}\|P_{\sigma,M})$

Superadditivity  $D_M(\rho_1 \otimes \rho_2\|\sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_2) \geq D_M(\rho_1\|\sigma_1) + D_M(\rho_2\|\sigma_2)$

$$D(\rho\|\sigma) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} D_M(\rho^{\otimes n}\|\sigma^{\otimes n})$$

## Subadditivity

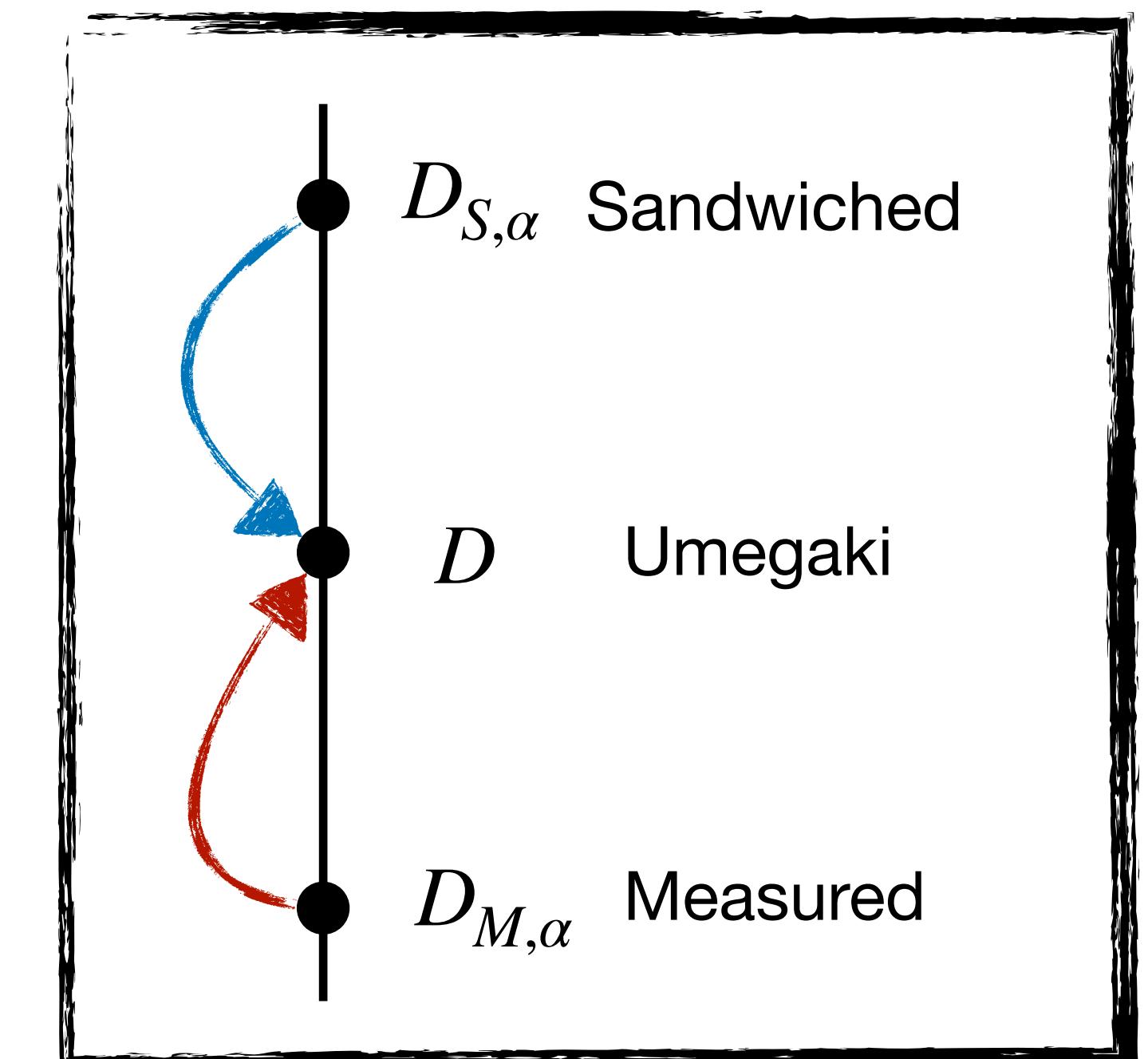
Suppose  $\mathcal{A}_1 \otimes \mathcal{A}_2 \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{12}$  and  $\mathcal{B}_1 \otimes \mathcal{B}_2 \subseteq \mathcal{B}_{12}$

$$D_{S,\alpha}(\mathcal{A}_{12}\|\mathcal{B}_{12}) \leq D_{S,\alpha}(\mathcal{A}_1\|\mathcal{B}_1) + D_{S,\alpha}(\mathcal{A}_2\|\mathcal{B}_2) \quad \forall \alpha > 1$$

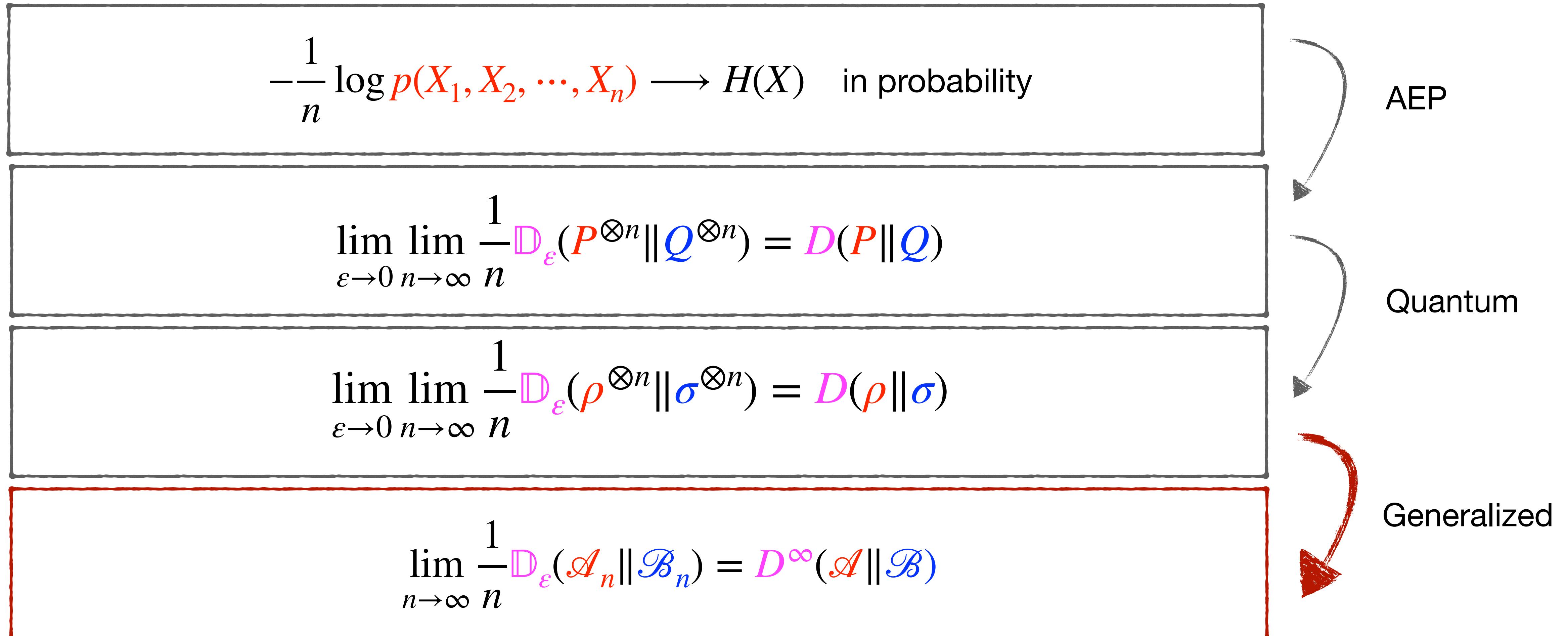
## Superadditivity

Suppose  $(\mathcal{A}_1)_+^\circ \otimes (\mathcal{A}_2)_+^\circ \subseteq (\mathcal{A}_{12})_+^\circ$  and  $(\mathcal{B}_1)_+^\circ \otimes (\mathcal{B}_2)_+^\circ \subseteq (\mathcal{B}_{12})_+^\circ$

$$D_{M,\alpha}(\mathcal{A}_{12}\|\mathcal{B}_{12}) \geq D_{M,\alpha}(\mathcal{A}_1\|\mathcal{B}_1) + D_{M,\alpha}(\mathcal{A}_2\|\mathcal{B}_2) \quad \forall 0 < \alpha < 1$$



# Recap: from AEP to generalized quantum AEP

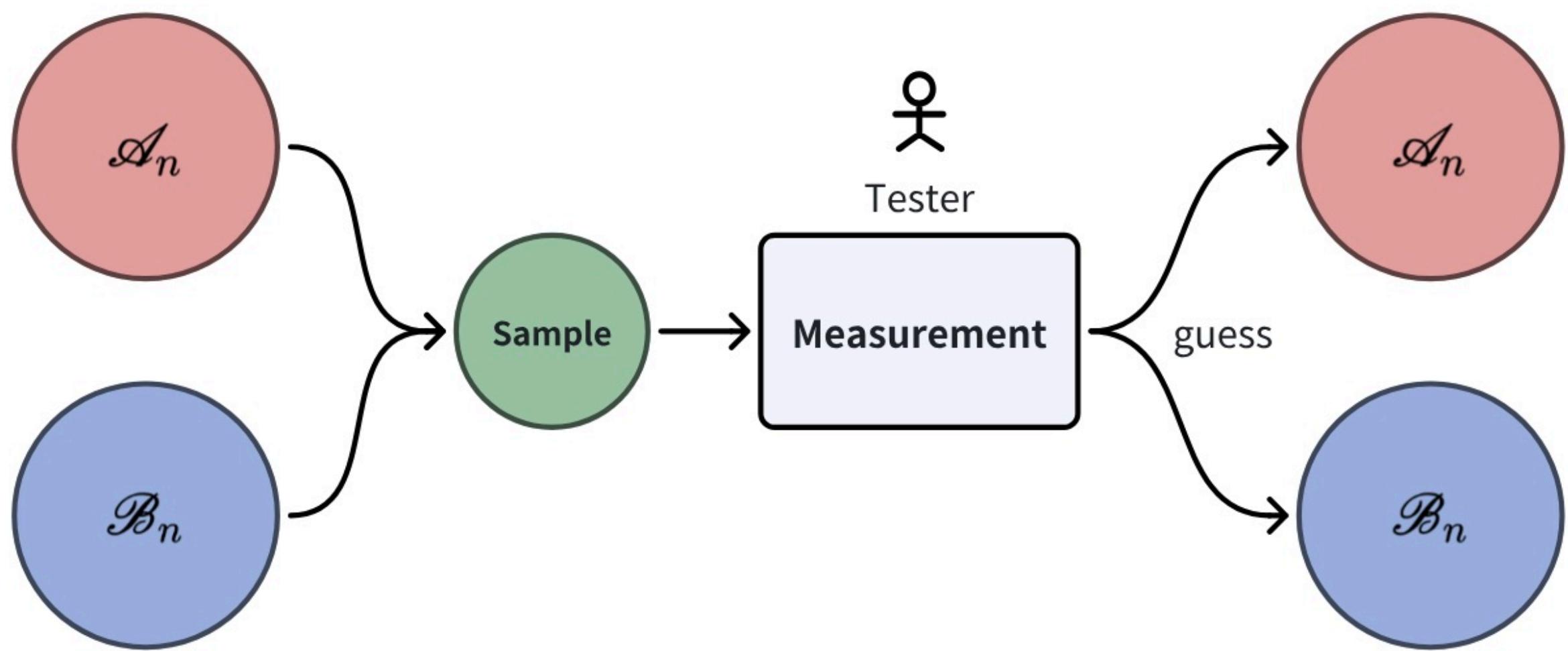


# Applications

- 1. Quantum hypothesis testing between two sets of states**
- 2. Adversarial quantum channel discrimination**
3. A relative entropy accumulation theorem
4. Efficient bounds for quantum resource theory

# Application 1: Quantum hypothesis testing between two sets of states

A tester draws samples from *two sets of quantum states*, and performs measurements to determine which set the sample belongs to.



**Type-I error**

$$\alpha(\mathcal{A}_n, M_n) := \sup_{\rho_n \in \mathcal{A}_n} \text{Tr} [\rho_n(I - M_n)]$$

**Type-II error**

$$\beta(\mathcal{B}_n, M_n) := \sup_{\sigma_n \in \mathcal{B}_n} \text{Tr} [\sigma_n M_n]$$

Worst-case

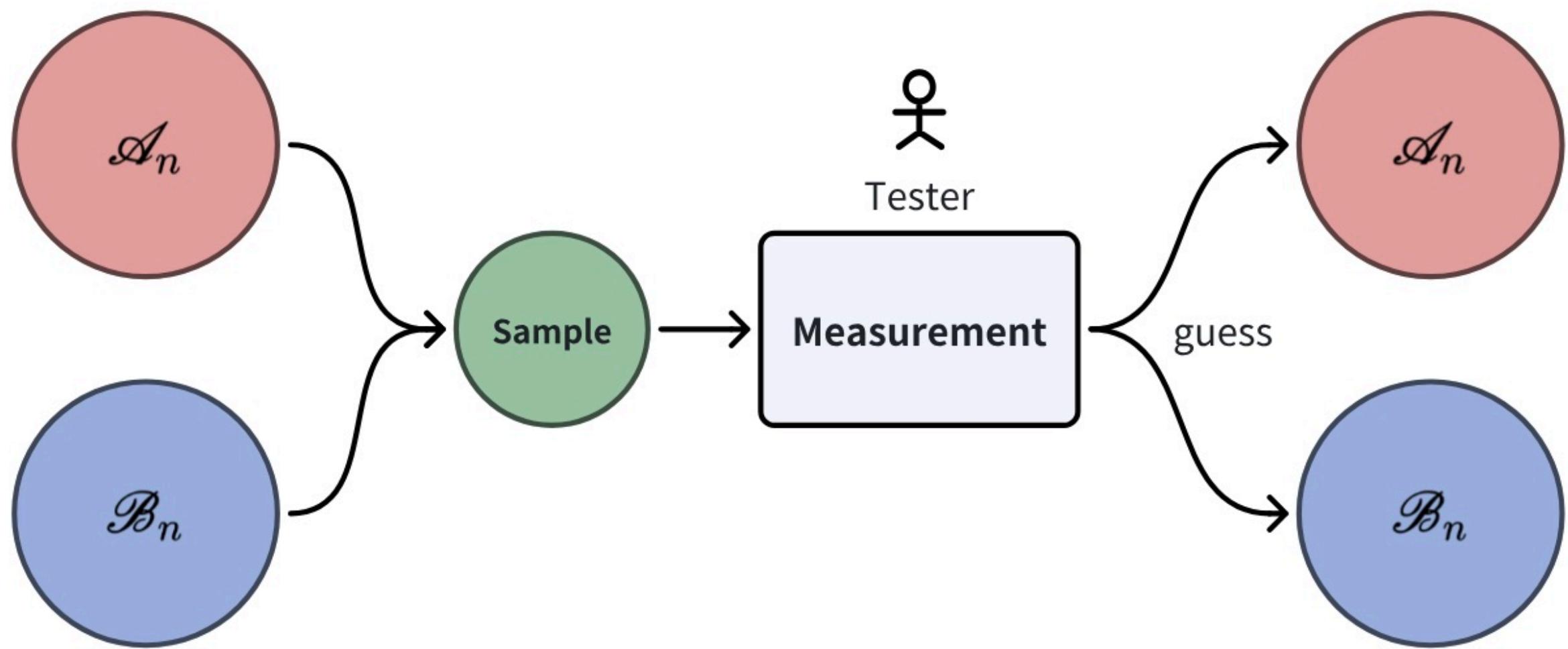
As in standard hypothesis testing, the tester will make two types of errors:

**Type-I error:** sample from  $\mathcal{A}_n$ , but classified as from  $\mathcal{B}_n$ ,

**Type-II error:** sample from  $\mathcal{B}_n$ , but classified as from  $\mathcal{A}_n$ .

# Application 1: Quantum hypothesis testing between two sets of states

A tester draws samples from *two sets of quantum states*, and performs measurements to determine which set the sample belongs to.



**Type-I error**

$$\alpha(\mathcal{A}_n, M_n) := \sup_{\rho_n \in \mathcal{A}_n} \text{Tr} [\rho_n(I - M_n)]$$

**Type-II error**

$$\beta(\mathcal{B}_n, M_n) := \sup_{\sigma_n \in \mathcal{B}_n} \text{Tr} [\sigma_n M_n]$$

Worst-case

**Goal:** Determine the optimal exponent at which the type-II error probability decays, while keeping the type-I error within a fixed threshold  $\varepsilon$  (to control over false positives)

e.g. COVID-19: healthy people get a positive test

$$\beta_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \| \mathcal{B}_n) := \inf_{0 \leq M_n \leq I} \{ \beta(\mathcal{B}_n, M_n) : \alpha(\mathcal{A}_n, M_n) \leq \varepsilon \}$$

$$\beta_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \| \mathcal{B}_n) \approx ?$$

# Application 1: Quantum hypothesis testing between two sets of states

Our answer

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} \log \beta_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) = D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B}) \quad \forall \varepsilon \in (0,1)$$

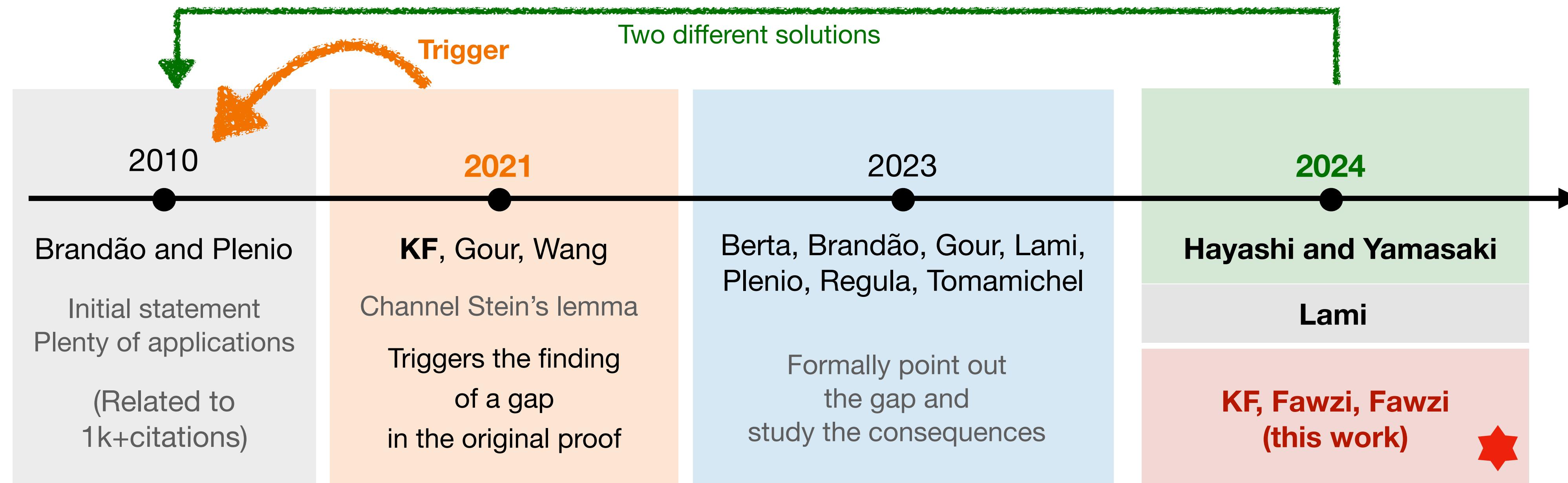
- ✓ Classical Chernoff-Stein Lemma
- ✓ Quantum Stein's Lemma [Hiai, Petz 1991; Ogawa, Nagaoka]

Let  $\mathcal{A}_n = \{\rho^{\otimes n}\}$  and  $\mathcal{B}_n = \{\sigma^{\otimes n}\}$  be two singletons.

**Generalized Quantum Stein's Lemma ( $\mathcal{A}_n = \{\rho^{\otimes n}\}$ )**

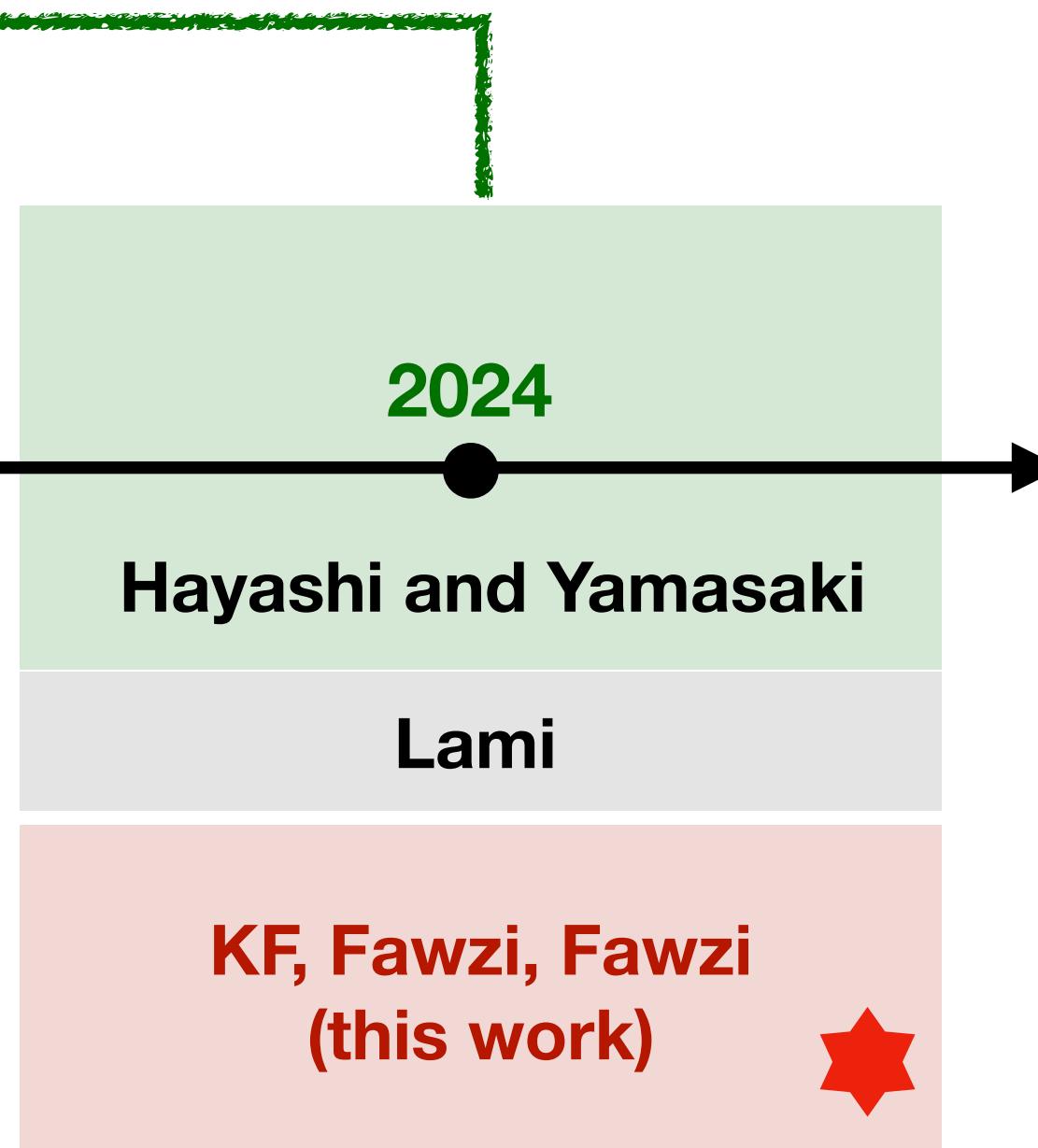
Talk by Lami on Tuesday & Talk by Hayashi on Wednesday

# Story: Generalized Quantum Stein's Lemma ( $\mathcal{A}_n = \{\rho^{\otimes n}\}$ )



However, an issue has recently been found in the claimed proof of the generalised quantum Stein's lemma in [BP10a]. Specifically, after the appearance of the first version of the preprint [FGW21] that studied a related setting using the methods of [BP10a], one of us identified a mistake in [FGW21, Lemma 16], which then led to the discovery that the original result [BP10a, Lemma III.9] is incorrect. This means that the main claims of [BP10a], and in particular the generalised quantum Stein's lemma introduced therein, are not known to be correct, and the validity of a number of results that build on those findings is thus directly put into question.

# Story: Generalized Quantum Stein's Lemma ( $\mathcal{A}_n = \{\rho^{\otimes n}\}$ )

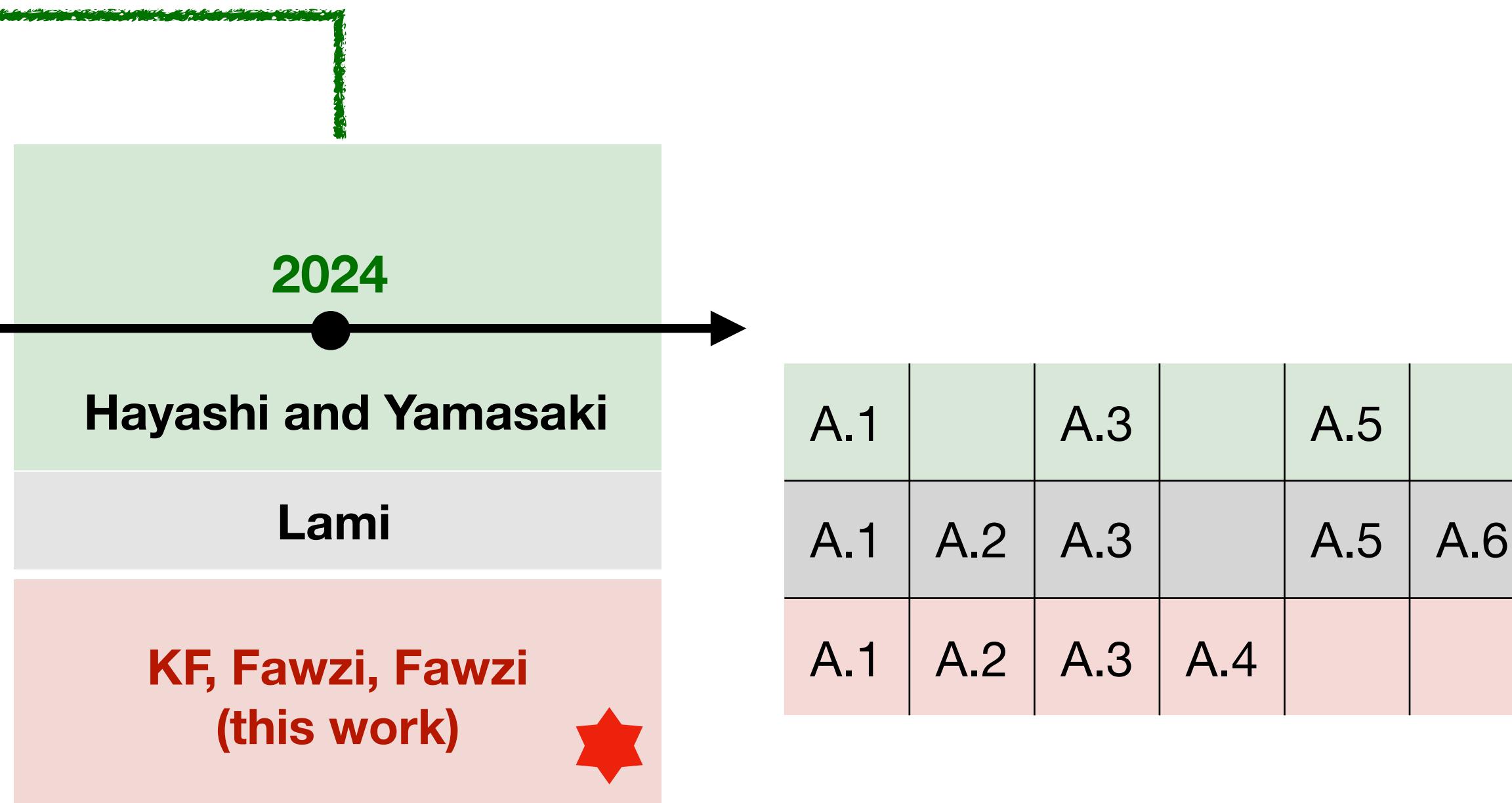


A.1		A.3		A.5	
A.1	A.2	A.3		A.5	A.6
A.1	A.2	A.3	A.4		

- (A.1) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is convex and compact;
- (A.2) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is permutation-invariant;
- (A.3)  $\mathcal{A}_m \otimes \mathcal{A}_k \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{m+k}$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;
- (A.5)  $\mathcal{A}_1$  contains a full-rank state
- (A.6) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is closed under partial traces
- (A.4)  $(\mathcal{A}_m)_+^\circ \otimes (\mathcal{A}_k)_+^\circ \subseteq (\mathcal{A}_{m+k})_+^\circ$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

Proof of the generalised quantum Stein's lemma. In the proof of the first version of the lemma [BP10a], one of us identified a mistake in the proof of the original result [BP10a, Theorem 1], and in particular the generalisation was shown to be correct, and the validity of the proof put into question.

# Story: Generalized Quantum Stein's Lemma ( $\mathcal{A}_n = \{\rho^{\otimes n}\}$ )



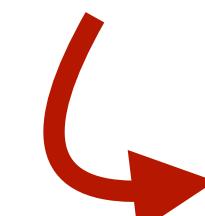
- (A.1) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is convex and compact;
- (A.2) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is permutation-invariant;
- (A.3)  $\mathcal{A}_m \otimes \mathcal{A}_k \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{m+k}$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;
- (A.5)  $\mathcal{A}_1$  contains a full-rank state
- (A.6) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is closed under partial traces
- (A.4)  $(\mathcal{A}_m)_+^\circ \otimes (\mathcal{A}_k)_+^\circ \subseteq (\mathcal{A}_{m+k})_+^\circ$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

Our result is incomparable to the previous generalized quantum Stein lemma.

**Weaker:** assume (A.4) for  $\mathcal{B}_n$

**Stronger:** 1. composite null hypothesis  $\mathcal{A}_n$  instead of  $\rho^{\otimes n}$

2. efficient and controlled approximations of the Stein's exponent  $D^\infty(\mathcal{A} || \mathcal{B})$

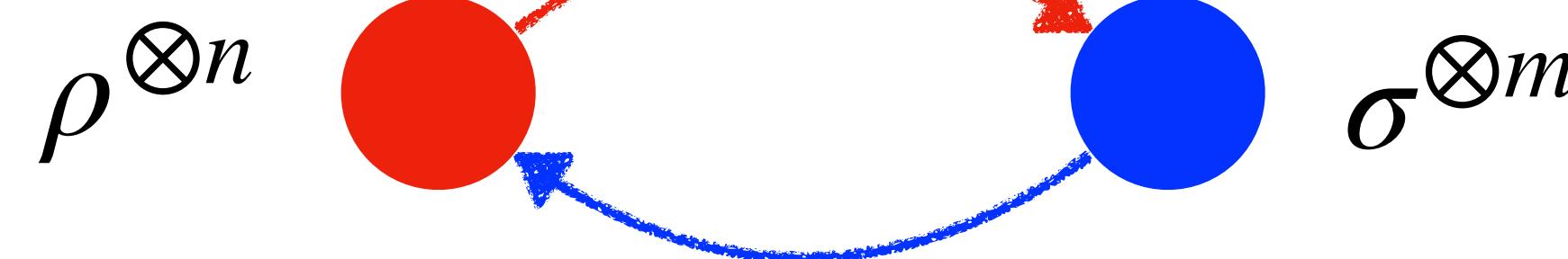


solves open problems

in [Brandão, Harrow, Lee, Peres, 2020, TIT] and [Mosonyi, Szilagyi, Weiner, 2022, TIT]

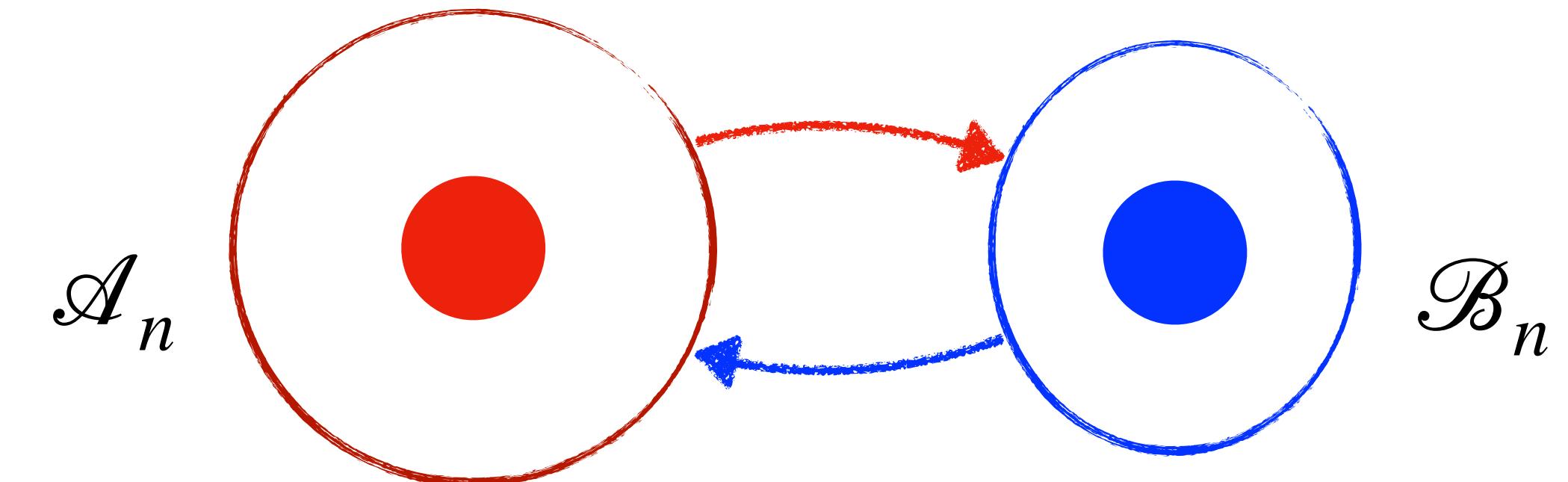
# Application 1': Quantum resource theory and its reversibility

a.k.a, second law



**Standard resource manipulation**

Asymptotic resource nongenerating operations  
[Brandão and Plenio, 2010]



**Resource manipulation with partial information**

Lack of knowledge of the states  
Different copies of the sources  
can exhibit correlation in nature

**Our answer**

Optimal transformation rate

$$r \left( \mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\text{RNG}} \mathcal{B} \right) = \frac{D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{F})}{D^\infty(\mathcal{B} \parallel \mathcal{F})}$$

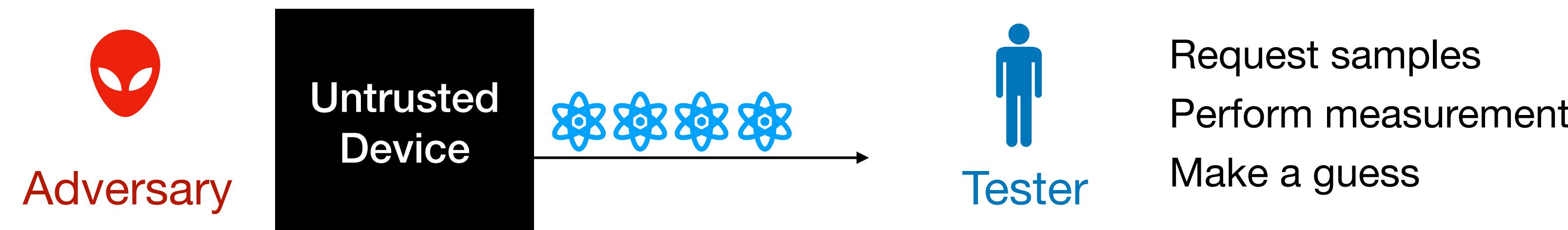
$\mathcal{F}$  is the set of free states

# Application 2: adversarial quantum channel discrimination

## Operational setting:

A tester is working with an **untrusted** quantum device that generates a quantum state upon request

Guarantee: either  $\mathcal{N}$  (the bad case) or  $\mathcal{M}$  (the good case)

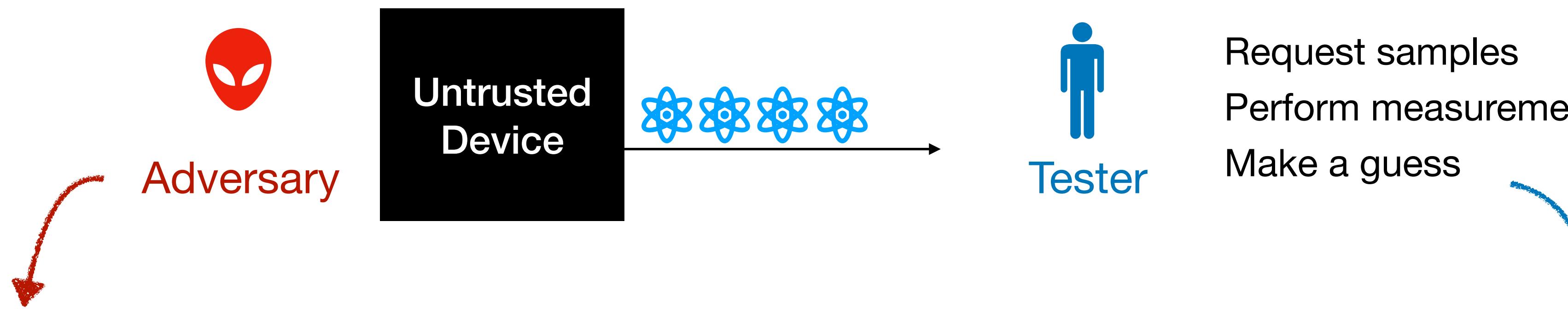


# Application 2: adversarial quantum channel discrimination

## Operational setting:

A tester is working with an **untrusted** quantum device that generates a quantum state upon request

Guarantee: either  $\mathcal{N}$  (the bad case) or  $\mathcal{M}$  (the good case)



Environmental system of the channel

Internal memory correlates with the generated samples

Actively misleading the tester to correctly identify the channel

**How effectively can the tester  
distinguish between the two cases  
while playing against the adversary?**

Classical setting refers to [Brandão, Harrow, Lee, Peres, 2020, TIT]

# Application 2: adversarial quantum channel discrimination

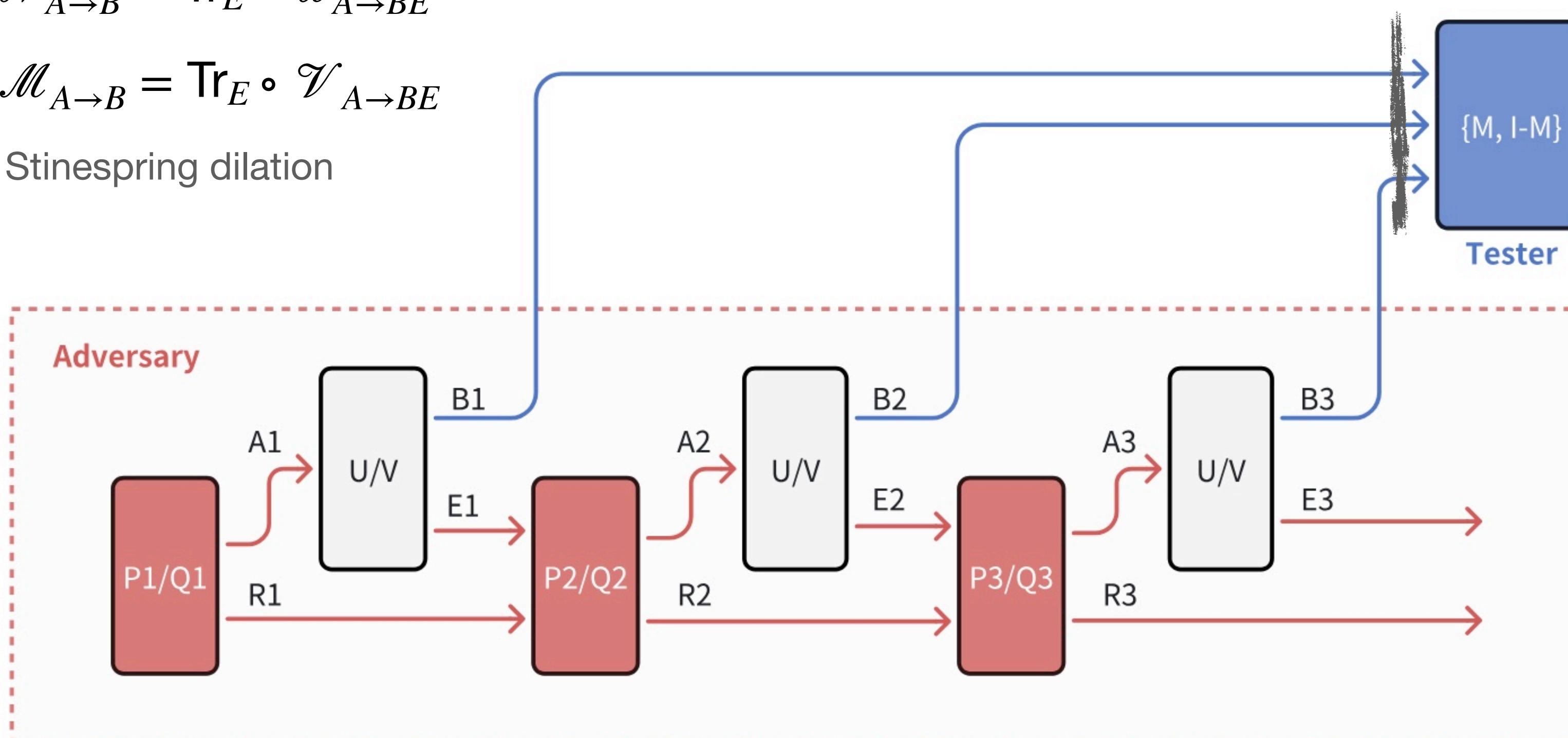
## Operational setting:

A tester is working with an **untrusted** quantum device that generates a quantum state upon request

$$\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B} = \text{Tr}_E \circ \mathcal{U}_{A \rightarrow BE}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{A \rightarrow B} = \text{Tr}_E \circ \mathcal{V}_{A \rightarrow BE}$$

Stinespring dilation



$E_i$  environmental systems,  $R_i$  internal memories,  $P_i/Q_i$  internal operations by adversary

Due to the lack of knowledge of what the adversary do:

- $\mathcal{A}_n$  if device is  $\mathcal{N}$ ;
- $\mathcal{B}_n$  if device is  $\mathcal{M}$

**Adaptive strategies by adversary**

# Application 2: adversarial quantum channel discrimination

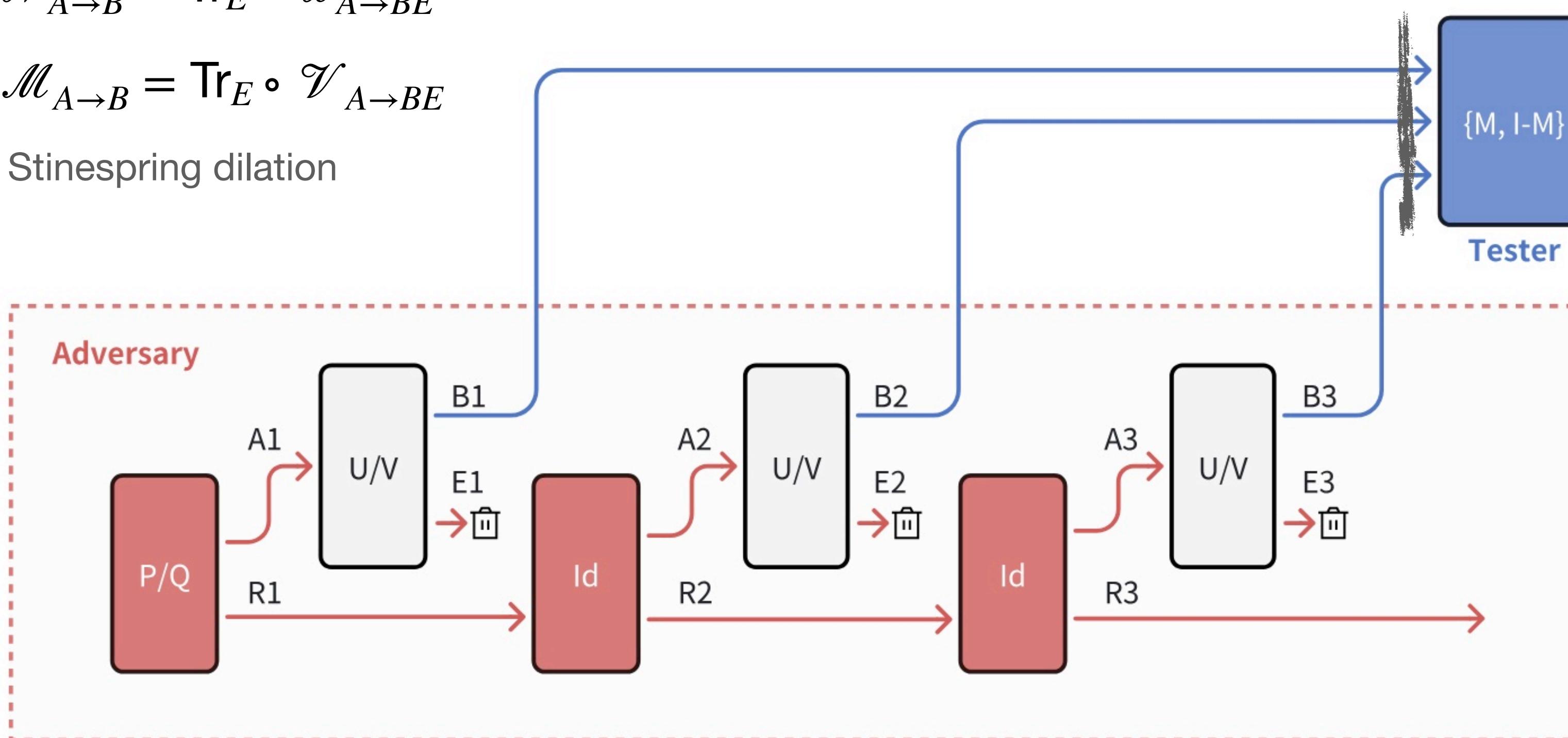
## Operational setting:

A tester is working with an **untrusted** quantum device that generates a quantum state upon request

$$\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B} = \text{Tr}_E \circ \mathcal{U}_{A \rightarrow BE}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{A \rightarrow B} = \text{Tr}_E \circ \mathcal{V}_{A \rightarrow BE}$$

Stinespring dilation



Due to the lack of knowledge of what the adversary do:

- $\mathcal{A}'_n$  if device is  $\mathcal{N}$ ;
- $\mathcal{B}'_n$  if device is  $\mathcal{M}$

**Non-adaptive strategies by adversary**

$E_i$  environmental systems,  $R_i$  internal memories,  $P_i/Q_i$  internal operations by adversary

# Application 2: adversarial quantum channel discrimination

The best performance of the tester playing against the adversary is given by:

Our answer

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} \log \beta_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \| \mathcal{B}_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} \log \beta_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}'_n \| \mathcal{B}'_n) = D^{\inf, \infty}(\mathcal{N} \| \mathcal{M})$$

Adaptive strategies  
by adversary

Non-adaptive strategies  
by adversary

Minimum output  
quantum channel divergence

$$D^{\inf}(\mathcal{N} \| \mathcal{M}) := \inf_{\rho, \sigma \in \mathcal{D}} D(\mathcal{N}(\rho) \| \mathcal{M}(\sigma))$$

$$D^{\inf, \infty}(\mathcal{N} \| \mathcal{M}) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} D^{\inf}(\mathcal{N}^{\otimes n} \| \mathcal{M}^{\otimes n})$$

Adaptive strategies offer **no advantage** over non-adaptive ones  
in adversarial quantum channel discrimination.

Good news for the tester!

## Application 2: adversarial quantum channel discrimination

The best performance of the tester playing against the adversary is given by:

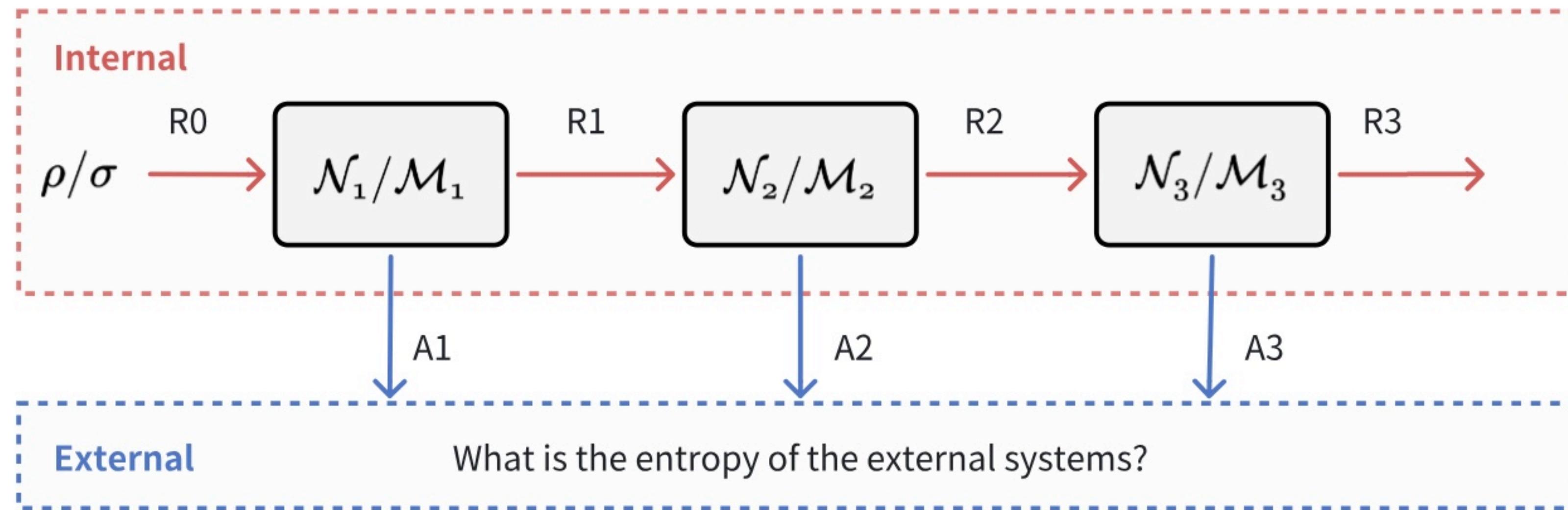
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} \log \beta_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \| \mathcal{B}_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{n} \log \beta_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}'_n \| \mathcal{B}'_n) = D^{\inf, \infty}(\mathcal{N} \| \mathcal{M})$$

Key technical tool (chain rule):

$$D_{M,\alpha}(\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B}(\rho_{RA}) \| \mathcal{M}_{A \rightarrow B}(\sigma_{RA})) \geq D_{M,\alpha}(\rho_R \| \sigma_R) + D_{M,\alpha}^{\inf}(\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B} \| \mathcal{M}_{A \rightarrow B})$$

$$D_{S,\alpha}(\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B}(\rho_{RA}) \| \mathcal{M}_{A \rightarrow B}(\sigma_{RA})) \geq D_{S,\alpha}(\rho_R \| \sigma_R) + D_{S,\alpha}^{\inf, \infty}(\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B} \| \mathcal{M}_{A \rightarrow B})$$

# Application 3: a relative entropy accumulation theorem



**How entropy accumulate for sequential operations on a state?**

[Dupuis, Fawzi, Renner, 2020, CMP] Find plenty of applications in quantum cryptography

$$H_{\max}^\epsilon(B_1 \dots B_n | C_1 \dots C_n)_{\mathcal{N}_n \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{N}_1(\rho_{R_0})} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sup_{\omega_{R_{i-1}}} H(B_i | C_i)_{\mathcal{N}_i(\omega)} + O(\sqrt{n})$$

**How to generalize from conditional entropy to relative entropy?**

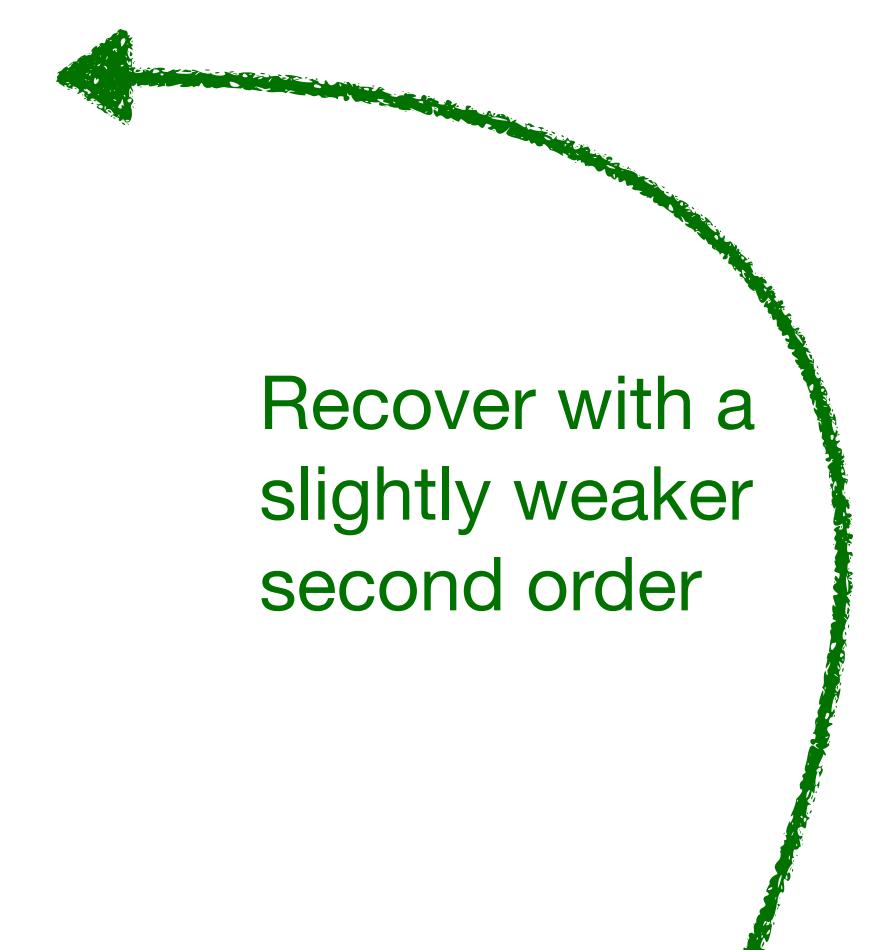
Open question in [Metger, Fawzi, Sutter, Renner, 2022, FOCS] for  $D_{\max, \epsilon}$

# Application 3: a relative entropy accumulation theorem

**How entropy accumulate for sequential operations on a state?**

[Dupuis, Fawzi, Renner, 2020, CMP] Find plenty of applications in quantum cryptography

$$H_{\max}^\varepsilon(B_1 \dots B_n | C_1 \dots C_n)_{\mathcal{N}_n \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{N}_1(\rho_{R_0})} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sup_{\omega_{R_{i-1}}} H(B_i | C_i)_{\mathcal{N}_i(\omega)} + O(\sqrt{n})$$



**How to generalize from conditional entropy to relative entropy?**

Open question in [Metger, Fawzi, Sutter, Renner, 2022, FOCS] for  $D_{\max, \varepsilon}$

Our answer

$$D_{H, \varepsilon} \left( \text{Tr}_{R_n} \circ \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{N}_i(\rho_{R_0}) \middle\| \text{Tr}_{R_n} \circ \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{M}_i(\sigma_{R_0}) \right) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n D^{\inf, \infty}(\text{Tr}_{R_i} \circ \mathcal{N}_i \| \text{Tr}_{R_i} \circ \mathcal{M}_i) - O(n^{2/3} \log n)$$

# Application 4: efficient bounds for quantum resource theory

(A.1) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is convex and compact;

(A.2) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is permutation-invariant;

(A.3)  $\mathcal{A}_m \otimes \mathcal{A}_k \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{m+k}$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

(A.4)  $(\mathcal{A}_m)_+^\circ \otimes (\mathcal{A}_k)_+^\circ \subseteq (\mathcal{A}_{m+k})_+^\circ$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

**If (A.4) is not directly satisfied, we do relaxation!!!**

Note that  $D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B}) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} D(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n)$  is efficiently computable

**Improvement (even for the first level of approximation)**

- Entanglement cost of quantum states and channels
- Entanglement distillation
- Magic state distillation

Refer to arXiv: 2502.15659 for more details

# Application 4: efficient bounds for quantum resource theory

## Entanglement cost for quantum states and channels

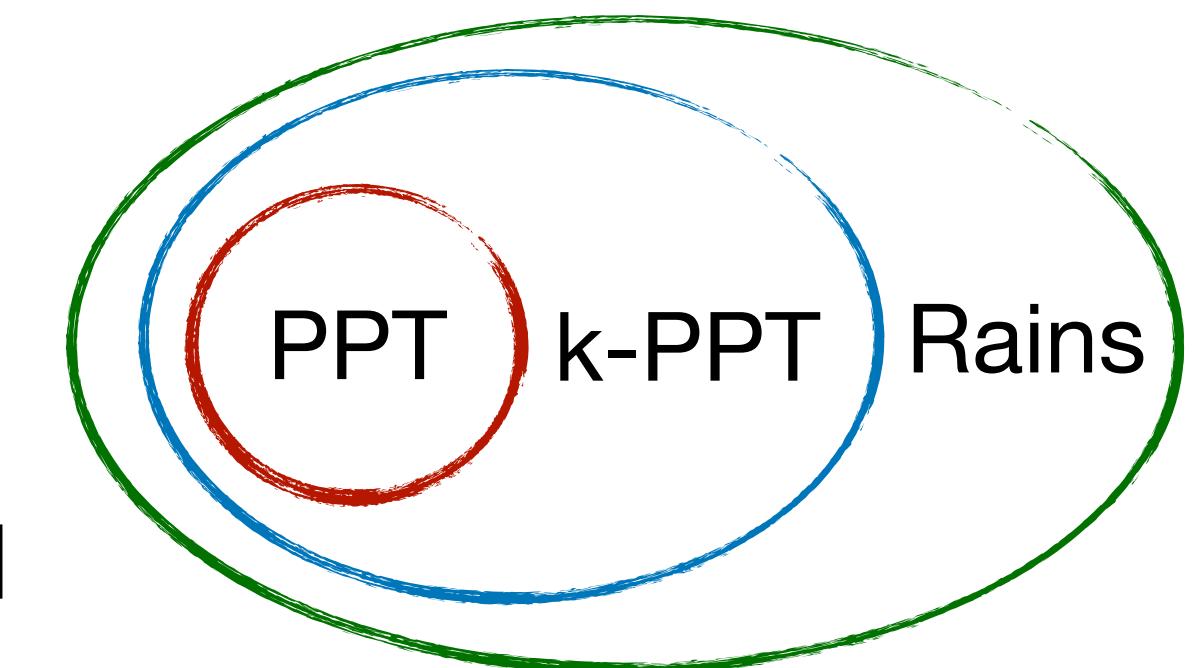
Using the minimum number of Bell states to prepare one copy of a state under LOCC operations

$$E_{C,\text{LOCC}}(\rho) \geq D^\infty(\rho \parallel \text{PPT}) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} D(\rho^{\otimes n} \parallel \text{PPT}(A^n : B^n))$$

Hard to evaluate in general

SDP lower bounds [Wang, Duan, 2017, PRL; Wang, Duan, 2017, PRA; Wang, Jing, Zhu, 2023]

$$E_{C,\text{LOCC}}(\rho) \geq D^\infty(\rho \parallel \text{PPT}) \geq \max \{E_{\text{WD},1}(\rho), E_{\text{WD},2}(\rho), E_{\text{WJZ}}(\rho)\}$$



$$E_{C,\text{LOCC}}(\rho) \geq D^\infty(\rho \parallel \text{PPT}) \geq D^\infty(\rho \parallel \text{PPT}_k) \geq D_M(\rho \parallel \text{PPT}_k) \geq (*)$$

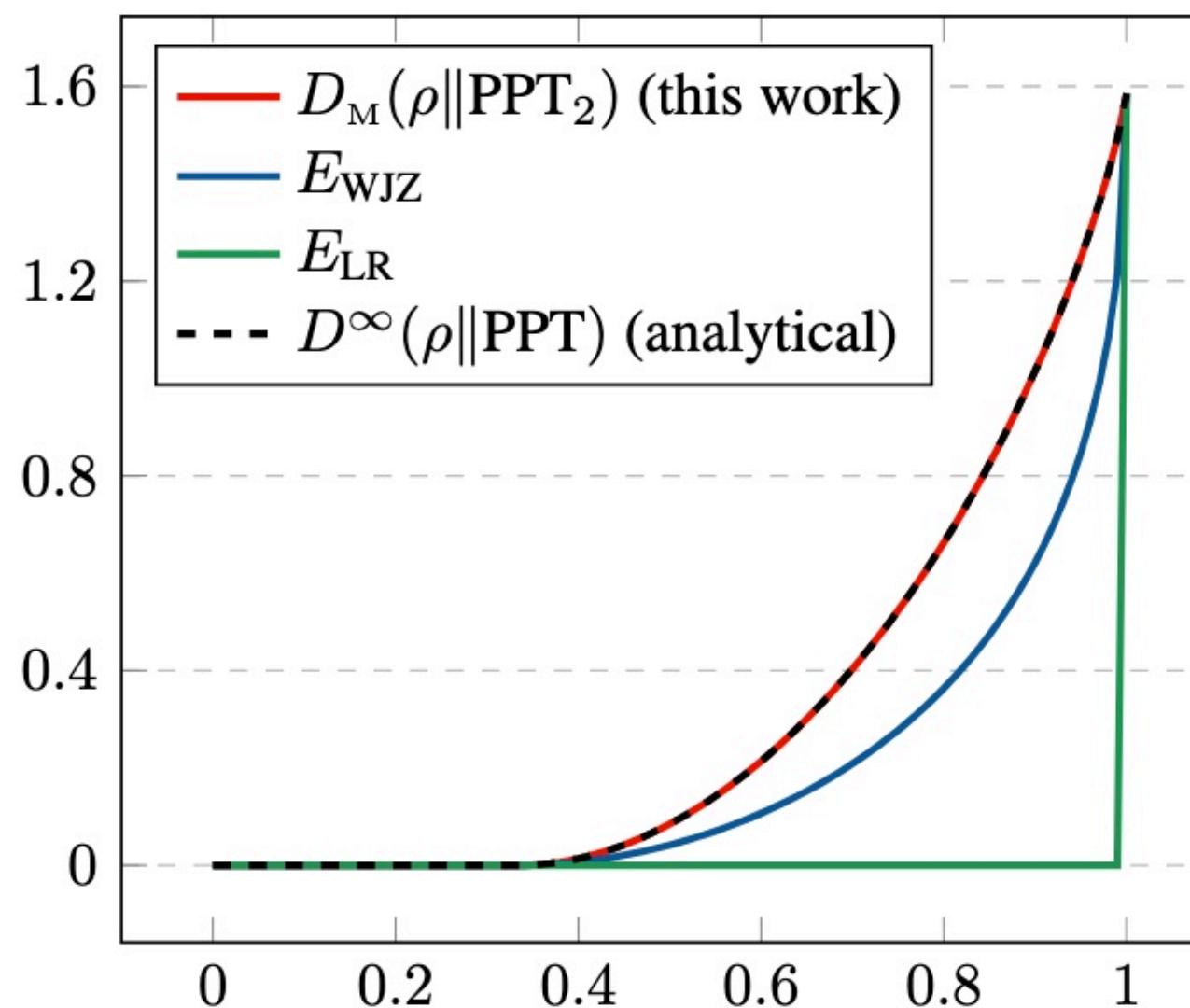
Improved bounds and still efficiently computable via convex programs

\*Similar result holds for entanglement cost of quantum channels

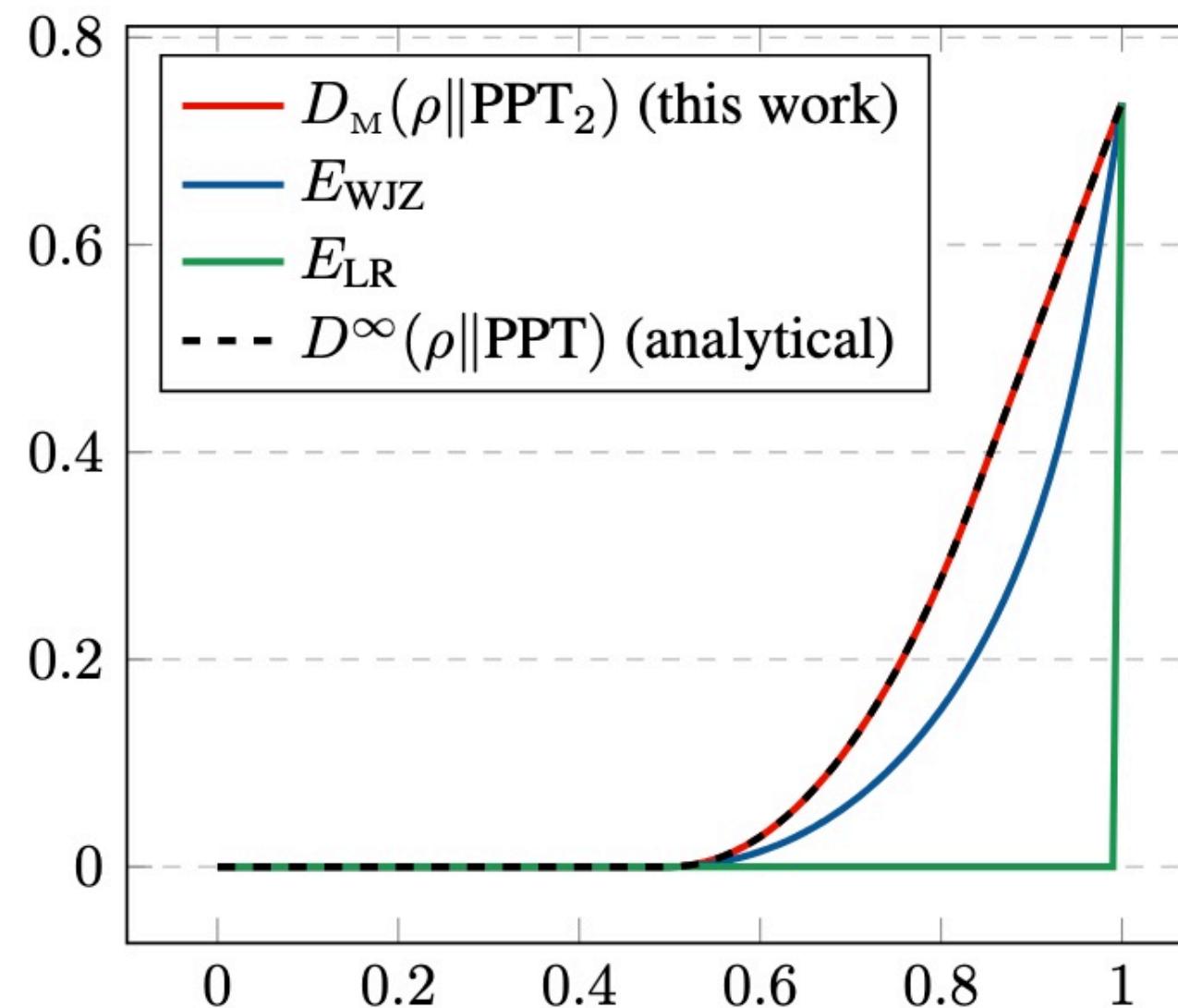
# Application 4: efficient bounds for quantum resource theory

## Entanglement cost for quantum states and channels

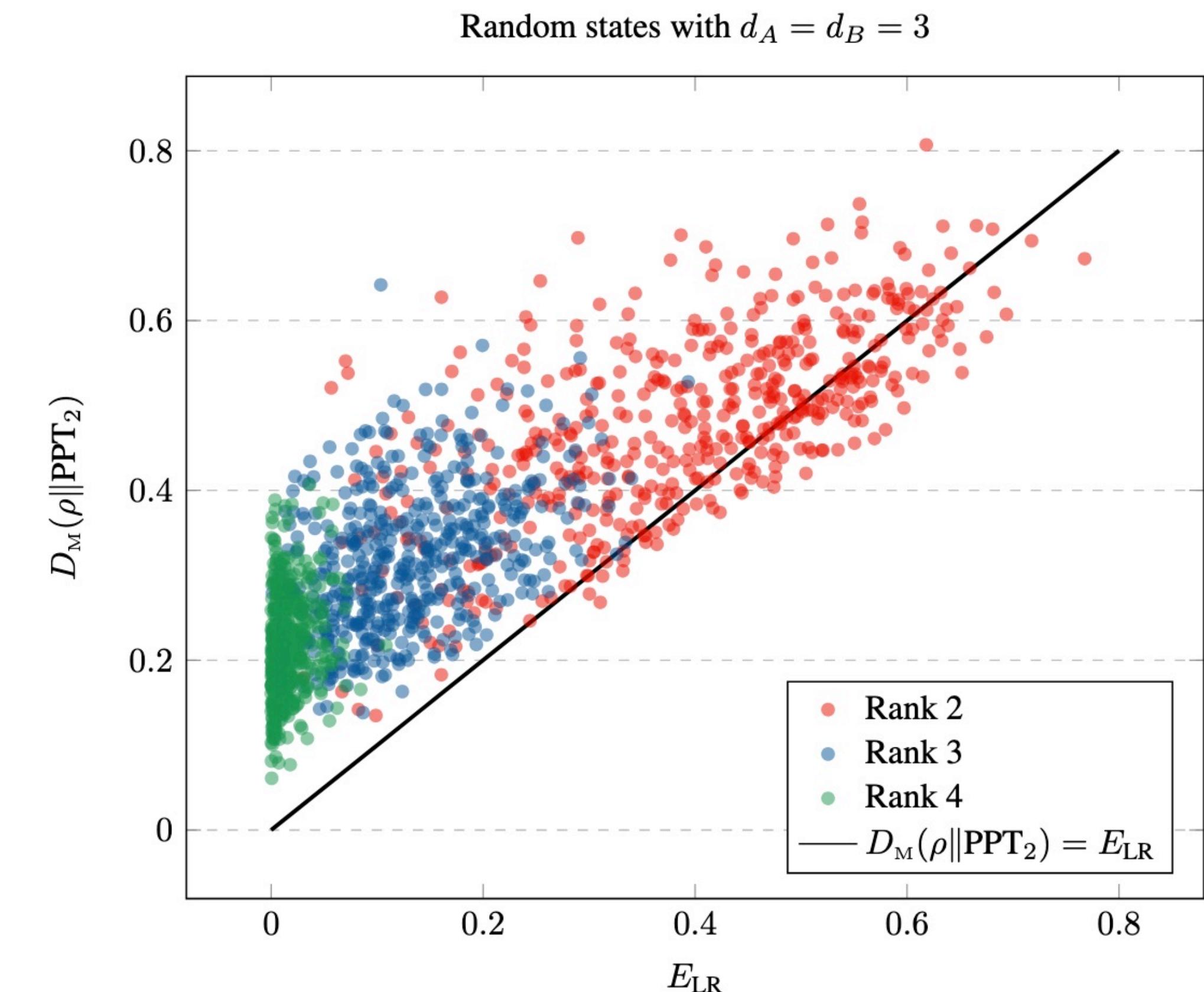
(a) Isotropic state  $\rho_{I,p}$  with  $d = 3$



(b) Werner state  $\rho_{W,p}$  with  $d = 3$



$E_{C,LOCC}(\rho) \geq E_{LR}(\rho)$  SDP lower bound by [Lami, Regula, 2023, NP]



**Quantitative improvement, even at the first level**

Match the analytical result for isotropic and Werner states

Outperform [Lami, Regula, 2023, NP] in most random cases

# Application 4: efficient bounds for quantum resource theory

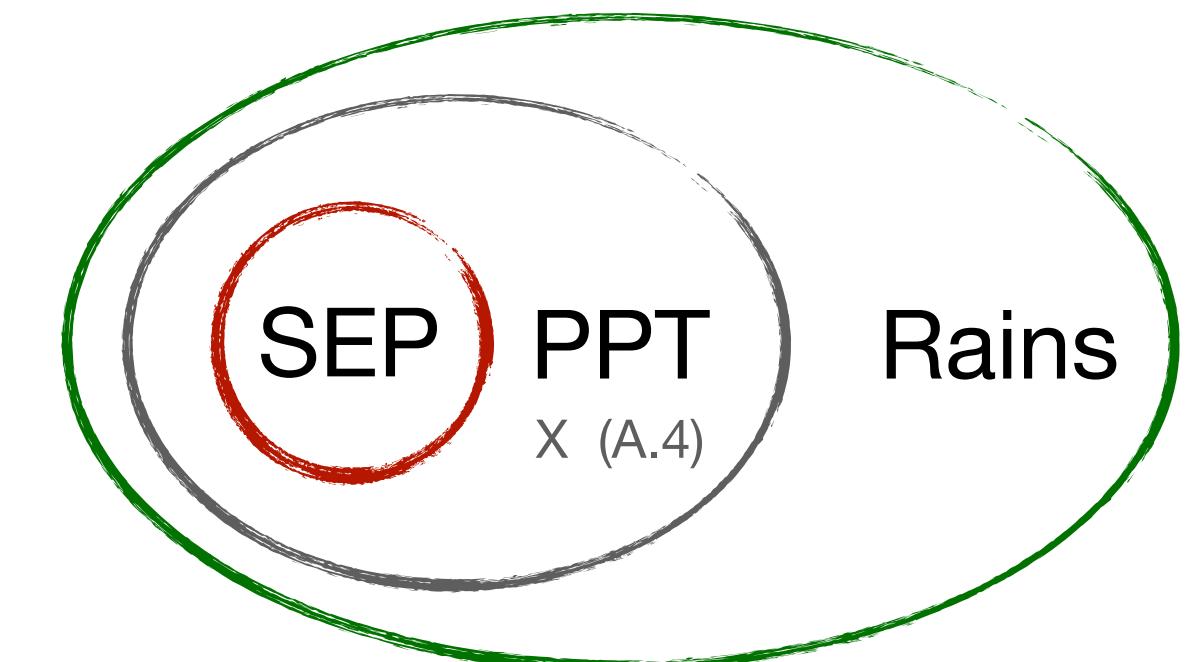
## Entanglement distillation

The maximum number of Bell states that can be extracted from the given state with asymptotically vanishing error under the asymptotically non-entanglement generating operations (ANE) [Brandão, Plenio, 2010]

$$E_{D,\text{ANE}}(\rho_{AB}) = D^\infty(\rho_{AB} \parallel \text{SEP}) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} D(\rho_{AB}^{\otimes n} \parallel \text{SEP}(A^n : B^n))$$

**Hard to evaluate in general**

Separable states



As  $D(\rho \parallel \text{SEP})$  is minimization problem, any feasible solution gives an upper bound

$$D^\infty(\rho_{AB} \parallel \text{SEP}) \geq D^\infty(\rho_{AB} \parallel \text{Rains})$$

$$\text{Rains}(A : B) := \{\sigma \geq 0 : \|\sigma^{T_B}\|_1 \leq 1\}$$

[Rains, 2001; Audenaert et.al 2002]

Can be **efficiently computed**

**Operational meaning:** distillable entanglement  
under *Rains-preserving operations*

[Regula, KF, Wang, Gu, 2019, NJP]

# Application 4: efficient bounds for quantum resource theory

## Magic state distillation

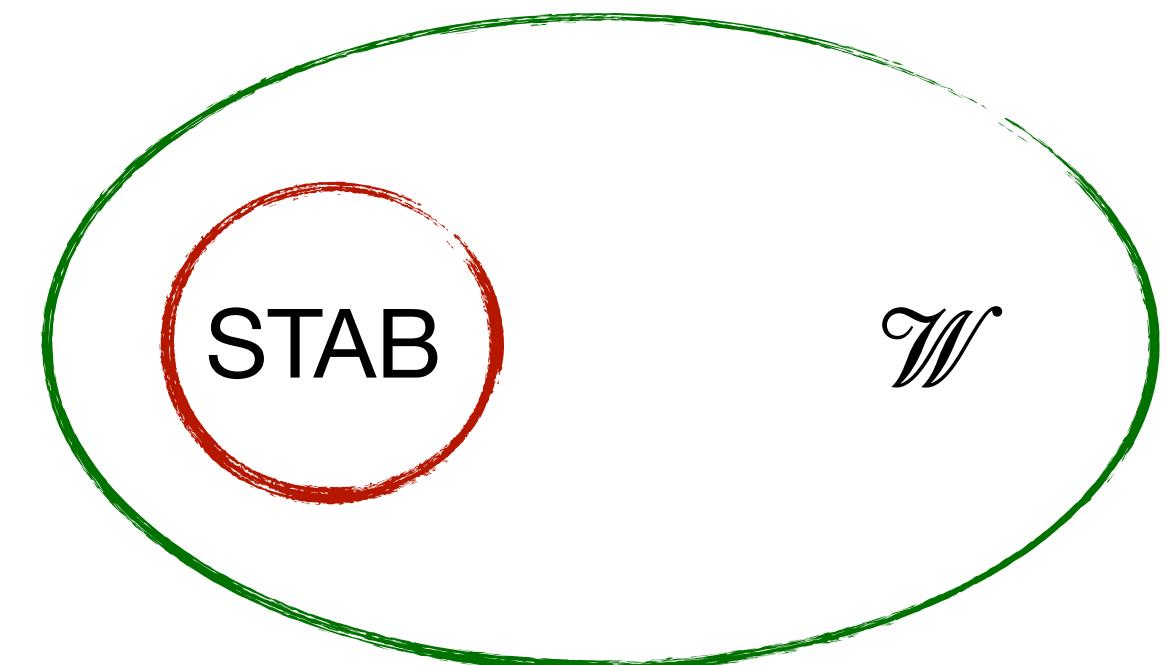
Extract as many copies of the target magic state as possible using stabilizer operations (STAB)

**Thauma measure:** [Wang, Wilde, Su, 2020, PRL]

Hard to evaluate in general

$$M_{D,\text{STAB}}(\rho) \leq D(\rho \parallel \mathcal{W})c(T)$$

constant



**Regularized Thauma measure, but remains efficiently computable**

$$M_{D,\text{STAB}}(\rho) \leq D^\infty(\rho \parallel \mathcal{W})c(T) \leq D(\rho \parallel \mathcal{W})c(T)$$

$$\mathcal{W} := \{\sigma \geq 0 : \|\sigma\|_{W,1} \leq 1\}$$

Sub-normalized states  
with non-positive mana

# Summary

## Generalized quantum AEP

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{D}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{A}_n \parallel \mathcal{B}_n) = D^\infty(\mathcal{A} \parallel \mathcal{B})$$

**Generality/efficiency/finite  $n$  estimate**

(A.1) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is convex and compact;

(A.2) Each  $\mathcal{A}_n$  is permutation-invariant;

(A.3)  $\mathcal{A}_m \otimes \mathcal{A}_k \subseteq \mathcal{A}_{m+k}$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

(A.4)  $(\mathcal{A}_m)_+^\circ \otimes (\mathcal{A}_k)_+^\circ \subseteq (\mathcal{A}_{m+k})_+^\circ$ , for all  $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ ;

**Technical tools (superadditivity & chain rule):**

$$D_{M,\alpha}(\mathcal{A}_{12} \parallel \mathcal{B}_{12}) \geq D_{M,\alpha}(\mathcal{A}_1 \parallel \mathcal{B}_1) + D_{M,\alpha}(\mathcal{A}_2 \parallel \mathcal{B}_2)$$

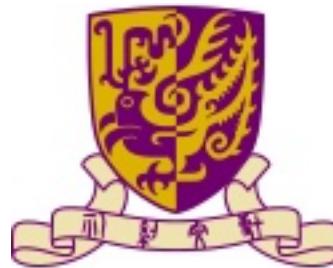
$$D_{M,\alpha}(\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B}(\rho_{RA}) \parallel \mathcal{M}_{A \rightarrow B}(\sigma_{RA})) \geq D_{M,\alpha}(\rho_R \parallel \sigma_R) + D_{M,\alpha}^{\inf}(\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B} \parallel \mathcal{M}_{A \rightarrow B})$$

**As AEP is in the heart of information theory, we expect further studies and applications.**

Already been used in [2502.02563] by Arqand and Tan for quantum cryptography

# I am hiring

## One Brand, Two Campuses



香港中文大學

The Chinese University of Hong Kong



香港中文大學(深圳)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

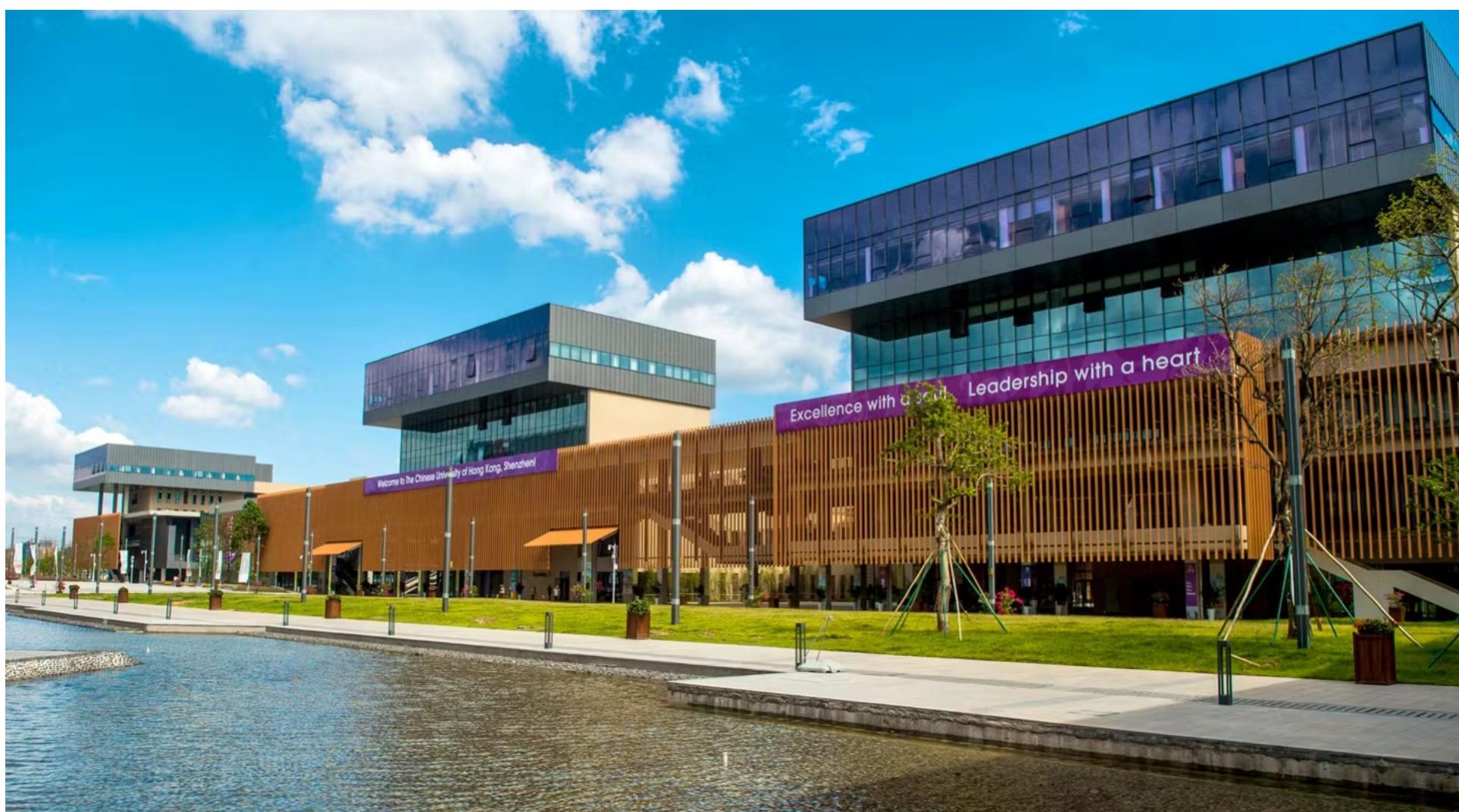


**Looking for postdocs, PhDs, research assistants...**

Quantum Information Theory, Quantum Computation

[kunfang.info](http://kunfang.info)

 [kunfang@cuhk.edu.cn](mailto:kunfang@cuhk.edu.cn)



# Thanks for your attention!

arXiv: 2411.04035 & 2502.15659

