

Input, Output, Insight: Inference from Black Boxes – Contextuality, Bell Inequalities, and Beyond

871. WE-Heraeus-Seminar

**14 Oct - 17 Oct 2026
at the Physikzentrum Bad Honnef, Germany**

**WILHELM UND ELSE
HERAEUS-STIFTUNG**



Introduction

The Wilhelm und Else Heraeus-Stiftung is a private foundation that supports research and education in science with an emphasis on physics. It is recognized as Germany's most important private institution funding physics. Some of the activities of the foundation are carried out in close cooperation with the German Physical Society (Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft). For detailed information see <https://www.we-heraeus-stiftung.de>

Aims and scope of the 871. WE-Heraeus-Seminar:

System-agnostic black box methods in quantum information include contextuality, communication matrices, device-independent cryptography, and any other approach to quantum information where quantum devices are described as uncharacterized black boxes with inputs and outputs. Some of these approaches, such as contextuality, were developed to address problems in foundations of quantum theory and they are currently finding their way towards applications in quantum information. Others were already developed with applications in mind.

This seminar will bring together the experts in various flavors of system-agnostic methods from both academia and industry, together with early-career researchers and PhD students. The goal is to discuss and compare the various methods, and to encourage cross-pollination of ideas, as well as to discuss recent theoretical progress and applications of these methods in quantum computing, quantum key distribution, and others.

Scientific Organizers:

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Introduction

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Registration:

Martina Albert (WE Heraeus Foundation)
at the Physikzentrum, reception office
Wednesday (16:00 h – 20:00 h) and Thursday
morning

Program

Program

Wednesday, 14 October 2026

16:00 – 20:00	Registration	
18:00 – 19:45	<i>BUFFET SUPPER</i>	
19:45 – 20:00	Organizers	Opening remarks
20:00 – 21:00	Adán Cabello	Understanding Quantum Theory through Non-locality and Contextuality

Thursday, 15 October 2026

08:00	<i>BREAKFAST</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Péter Frenkel	Classical simulations of quantum channels
10:00 – 10:30	Jan-Åke Larsson	Oracles, Contextuality, and the advantage of Quantum Computation
10:30 – 11:00	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
11:00 – 12:00	Mariami Gachechiladze	Quantum Bell Inequalities from Physical Principles
12:00 – 12:30	Flavien Hirsch	Bell nonlocality without labels
12:30 – 12:40	Conference Photo	
12:40 – 14:00	<i>LUNCH</i>	

Program

Thursday, 15 October 2026

14:00 – 14:30	Oskari Kerppo	Minimizing entanglement entropy for enhanced quantum state preparation
14:30 – 15:00	Leevi Leppäjärvi	Communication matrices: overview and applications
15:00 – 15:30	Teiko Heinosaari	Minimal communication tests revealing quantum benefit
15:30 – 16:00	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
16:00 – 18:00	Discussions	
18:00 – 19:00	<i>HERAEUS DINNER</i> (social event with cold & warm buffet and complimentary drinks)	
19:00 – 19:30	Poster Flash I	
19:30 – 21:00	Poster Session I	

Program

Friday, 16 October 2026

08:00	<i>BREAKFAST</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Zhen Peng Xu	Optimal strategies for shadow tomography with limited resources
10:00 – 10:30	Markus Frembs	Against the observable axiom of quantum mechanics
10:30 – 11:00	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
11:00 – 12:00	Markus Müller	How can probabilities of events depend on spatial rotations in any physical theory?
12:00 – 12:30	Mehdi Mhalla	Interrupting the link between correlations and probabilities
12:30 – 14:00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
14:00 – 14:30	Mirjam Weilenmann	Timed demolition measurements
14:30 – 15:00	Miguel Navascues	Causality and realizability of local operations in quantum field theory
15:00 – 15:30	Fatemeh Moradi Kalarde	Fermions are fundamentally more non local than Bosons.
15:30 – 16:00	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
16:00 – 16:15	Video	About the WE-Heraeus Foundation
16:15 – 18:00	Discussions	

Program

Friday, 16 October 2026

18:00 – 19:00	<i>DINNER</i>
19:00 – 19:30	Poster Flash II
19:30 – 21:00	Poster Session II

Saturday, 17 October 2026

08:00	<i>BREAKFAST</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Stefano Pironio	An EPR principle for quantum correlations
10:00 – 10:30	Lidya Law	Family of Bell inequalities suited for the (robust) self-testing of n-qubit W states alongside trine measurements
10:30 – 11:00	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
11:00 – 12:00	Sixia Yu	TBA
12:00 – 12:30	Monika Mothsara	Robust One-Sided Device-Independent Quantum Key Distribution via High-Dimensional Steering
12:30 – 12:45	Organizers	Closing Remarks
12:45 – 14:00	<i>LUNCH</i>	

End of the seminar and departure

Posters

Posters I

Ieline Ahmed	Multipartite Bell inequalities with interferometric multiports
Patrick Andriolo	Witnessing nonstabilizerness with Bell inequalities
Alexander Bernal	Absolute CHSH-locality and maximally CHSH-nonlocal states
Some Sankar Bhattacharya	Quantum Advantage in Multi-Party Conflict-of-Interest Bayesian Games & Interferometric Optical Routing
Enrico Bozzetto	Warring contextualities - Provably classical vs provably nonclassical
Lorenzo Catani	Bell's Go theorem: regaining local causality with a new notion of realism
Raman Choudhary	Exploring Bell Nonlocality with Extremal Non-Signaling Boxes
Ozgur Cildiroglu	Geometric Control of Bell Correlations
Lorenzo Coccia	Systematic derivation of Tsirelson bounds in arbitrary dimensions
Juan Diego Diaz Martinez	Modal Logic and No-Go Theorems in GHZ-Frauchiger-Renner Scenarios
Hippolyte Dourdent	Paradox-free classical non-causality and unambiguous non-locality without entanglement are equivalent
Reyhan Durucu Hamzaogullari	Necessity of fine-tuning in classical causal models reproducing KCBS inequality violations
Ricardo Faleiro	Bell nonlocality does not imply violation of nonlocal games

Posters I

Tomás
Fernández Martos

**Deterministic randomness extraction for quantum
random number generation with partial trust**

Denis
Freudenheim Moraes

**Communication-based operational principles bounding
nonlocal correlations**

Subhendu Bikash
Ghosh

Strong Inequivalence of Quantum Nonlocal Resources

Tamal Guha

**Optimal Unlocking of Encoding Strength: Assistance from
Environment**

Joel Huber

**Consistent Dynamics in Phase Space: Quantum States
Require Quantum Time Evolution**

Kartik Kakade

Maximum Entropy Principle for Quantum Channels

Posters II

Robin Krebs	Polynomial optimization of the parallel repetition of classical nonlocal games
Luca Mariani	Quantum Key Distribution over Complex Networks
Nikolai Miklin	Universal method for optimized robustness in self-testing of quantum resources
Aurora Mugnai	Certifying randomness in a semi-device-independent scenario via Probability Estimation
Bitá Olamaei	Genuine linear-optical test of quantum contextuality with sequential measurements
Lucas Porto	CABIPARA.jl: A user-friendly Julia package for two-qubit steering and Bell nonlocality
Samgeeth Puliyl	Predictive and retrodictive power of operational theories
Martin J. Renner	All pure entangled states can lead to fully nonlocal correlations
Albert Rico	Robust certification of high-dimensional quantum devices
Abhyoudai Sajeedkumar Shaleena	Communication complexity games and Continuous variable Bell inequalities
Oxana Shaya	Certifying measurement incompatibility under bounded classical communication
Ritesh Kumar Singh	Multipartite Device-Independent Quantum Key Distribution using Genuinely nonlocal correlations
Shawn Skelton	On the relationship between quantum adiabatic evolution and quantum signal processing

Posters II

Adrian Solymos	No-local-broadcasting theorem for nonsignaling behaviors and assemblages
Carlos Vieira	Non-signaling assistance in prepare-and-measure scenarios with classical communication
Kannan Vijayadharan	Towards rigorous tests of Bell nonlocality with time-bin entanglement
Sujan Vijayaraj	Improving device-independent quantum key distribution protocols through multiple routed Bell tests
Kläre Wienecke	Field Test of Entanglement Assisted Classical Communication

Abstracts of Lectures

(in alphabetical order)

Understanding Quantum Theory through Non-locality and Contextuality

Adán Cabello

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(Dated: July 6, 2026)

By establishing a connection between three foundational programs—the search for the principle that shapes the sets of quantum correlations in Bell scenarios, the reconstruction of quantum theory within general probabilistic theories, and Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen’s program for a complete physical theory beyond quantum mechanics—, we obtain a simple answer to the question of what is the principle that singles out quantum theory.

Against the observable axiom of quantum mechanics

Markus Frembs

Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

The 'unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics in the natural sciences' may at times give the impression that natural science, especially modern theoretical physics, is all but a formal apparatus. However, a key challenge of physics remains to align everyday notions of experience -- be it directly or mediated through instruments of arbitrary sophistication -- with their mathematical formalisation. This applies in particular to quantum theory, arguably the most successful theory of physics ever invented. One of its core assumptions postulates: Observables correspond with self-adjoint operators.

Here, we argue that already this most basic premise about the quantum formalism falls apart under careful scrutiny, at least when understood for all observables at once. In other words, we challenge the role of the noncommutative algebra of bounded operators as an adequate formalisation of the 'algebra of observables', understood as (equivalence classes of) measurement procedures that admit a coherent empirical interpretation.

CLASSICAL SIMULATIONS OF QUANTUM CHANNELS

PÉTER E. FRENKEL

A communication protocol with l possible inputs and k possible outputs can be described by a *transition matrix* $A = (a_{ij}) \in [0, 1]^{k \times l}$, where a_{ij} is the conditional probability of output i if the input is j . A *communication channel* can be described by the set of transition matrices that it affords. Channel Q *can be simulated* by channel C if all transition matrices afforded by Q are convex combinations of transition matrices afforded by C . Such convex combinations occur naturally in information theory; they correspond to the sender and receiver having access to (unlimited) shared randomness.

The *classical channel with n states* affords column-stochastic 0-1 matrices with at most n nonzero rows. The *quantum channel of level n* affords matrices of the form $(\text{tr } E_i \rho_j)$, where $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_l \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ are *density matrices*, and $E_1, \dots, E_k \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ is a *positive operator valued measure*. It is easy to see that the classical channel with n states can be simulated by the quantum channel of level n . By [1], the converse also holds. I will sketch the proof of this theorem and its generalization to noisy quantum channels, where the mathematical model of noise, rather than the usual CPTP map framework, is the following.

In quantum communication, information is encoded by quantum states. Mathematically, a quantum state is described by a density operator on a Hilbert space which, for us, will have a fixed finite dimension n . Communication is most efficient if we use pure states. To model noise, however, we consider a quantum channel where each state used for the encoding is mixed “to at least a certain extent”. If shared randomness is available to the sender and the receiver, then any such channel can be simulated by an n -state classical channel using classical states that are “at least as mixed” as the corresponding quantum states [2].

REFERENCES

- [1] P. E. Frenkel and M. Weiner: Classical information storage in an n -level quantum system, *Communications in Mathematical Physics* 340 (2015), 563–574.
- [2] P. E. Frenkel: Classical simulations of communication channels. *Quantum* 6, 751 (2022).

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EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY, PÁZMÁNY PÉTER SÉTÁNY 1/C, BUDAPEST, 1117 HUNGARY

N. Minklin¹, P. Jain¹, C. Smaczny¹, C. Budroni², M. Gachechiladze¹

¹TU Garmstadt, Darmstadt, Germany, ²University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Information Causality was introduced as a physical principle for constraining nonlocal correlations. We present a series of developments that broaden its scope beyond the standard random access code setting. Allowing correlations among Alice's inputs connects the principle to general one-way communication complexity and yields tighter constraints, in some cases recovering parts of the quantum boundary. We also extend the method to more general Bell scenarios and derive new bounds for entanglement-assisted communication tasks. Finally, we discuss a new multi-copy activation phenomenon, in which correlations satisfying all relevant single-copy constraints violate Information Causality when two copies are combined through an adaptive local wiring. This suggests a hierarchy of increasingly strong Information Causality constraints.

References

- [1] P Jain, N Miklin, M Gachechiladze, arXiv:2606.02416 (2026)*
- [2] N Miklin, P Jain, M Gachechiladze, arXiv:2602.10206 (2026)*
- [3] P Jain, M Gachechiladze, N Miklin, Physical Review Letters 133 (16), 160201(2024)*
- [4] M Gachechiladze, B Bæk, M Pawłowski, N Miklin, Quantum 6, 717 (2022)*
- [5] N Miklin, M Pawłowski, Physical Review Letters 126 (22), 220403 (2021)*
- [6] M Pawłowski, T Paterek, D Kaszlikowski, V Scarani, A Winter, M Żukowski, Nature 461, 1101–1104 (2009)*

Minimal communication tests revealing quantum benefit

Teiko Heinosaari

A black-box test is characterized by an analysis based solely on input–output statistics. Communication tests form a particular subclass of such tests, in which the sender is allowed to transmit a physical system to the receiver in addition to the shared inputs. Quantum random access coding provides a paradigmatic example of this setting. In this contribution, I present a classification of a certain class of simple communication tests. These tests are divided into three groups according to the resources they reveal: those compatible with no communication, those requiring classical bit communication, and those requiring qubit communication. The two qubit-based tests identified in this framework are minimal in the sense that they involve the smallest possible input structure for the communicating parties.

Bell nonlocality without labels

Flavien Hirsch and Ricardo Faleiro and Emmanuel Zambrini Cruzeiro

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We consider a minimal Bell scenario, where Alice and Bob cannot reliably assign labels to their outcomes. Instead, in each round, they only receive a single global bit of information.

In this minimal scenario, we show that one can still certify Bell nonlocality, without any further assumptions than the usual ones of Bell's theorem. That is, minimal received information can be enough to violate locality, without knowing anything about the underlying "real" outcomes, or even assuming anything about the outcome structure.

We construct Bell-like inequalities for these minimal scenarios, and display several examples of quantum violations. We also apply these inequalities to a scenario where the outcomes are themselves quantum states - a case where they are thus inherently "unlabelizable".

We also show how these new families of inequalities are relevant and useful in and of themselves, and how our scenario can naturally appear in realistic experiments where outcomes are hard to label.

Minimizing entanglement entropy for enhanced quantum state preparation

Oskari Kerppo¹, William Steadman², Ossi Niemimäki³, and Valtteri Lahtinen⁴

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State preparation is a crucial component of modern quantum algorithms. To process classical data on a quantum device, it must first be encoded into a quantum state. While bit and angle encodings are straightforward to implement, amplitude encoding offers exponential memory savings by mapping 2^n classical data points into n qubits. However, preparing an arbitrary amplitude-encoded state generally requires exponential circuit complexity. To overcome this computational bottleneck, approximate state preparation techniques using variational methods and Matrix Product States (MPS) have become vital.

In this presentation, I will discuss quantum state preparation in the context of designing quantum algorithms at an industrially meaningful scale. Drawing on results from our recent work [1], I will examine why state preparation is challenging in general and present possible pathways toward preparing states on larger numbers of qubits. Specifically, I will show how the entanglement entropy of a quantum state directly dictates its MPS representation and the resulting algorithmic preparation cost. This analysis demonstrates how minimizing entanglement entropy can enable enhanced quantum state preparation with high output fidelity at a low gate cost.

References

- [1] O. Kerppo, W. Steadman, O. Niemimäki, V. Lahtinen, arXiv:2507.22562 (2026).

Oracles, Contextuality, and the advantage of Quantum Computation

Jan-Åke Larsson

Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

The usual explanation of the quantum computing speedup is parallel calculation, inserting a superposition of all possible input values to be processed in parallel, perhaps in multiple parallel worlds, and then combined by interference to obtain the desired answer.

Unfortunately, this does not give any guidance on how to identify new mathematical problems that could be solved. This presentation will introduce an alternative approach: tracing the calculation in phase space. We will see that a function oracle with phase space inputs and outputs that realizes the phase space map promised by quantum mechanics, will reproduce the quantum advantage. This happens even if the constituent information-bearing systems are classical, but have a (discrete) phase space structure. This indicates that the quantum speedup is a consequence of the phase space structure of the information-bearing systems, and not a consequence of the quantum nature of the systems themselves, nor of quantum parallelism. It rather is a consequence of limitations to the amount of information that can be extracted from the output of a black-box classical oracle, a limitation that is not present if the outputs have the richer structure of a (discrete) phase space. It may therefore be useful to avoid the oracle paradigm. This presentation will therefore also introduce a positive-distribution phase space description of a restriction of quantum mechanics, that still reproduces the contextual behavior of quantum systems, and exhibits nonlocality. The description is Einstein-complete, but distinct from Bohmian mechanics. We will briefly see how this can be used to describe one particular quantum algorithm, the Shallow Circuit Algorithm, proven to give a non-oracular advantage. In conclusion, the phase space approach to quantum algorithms together with new phase space descriptions of the kind presented here will provide a better understanding of the origin of the quantum speedup.

Family of Bell inequalities suited for the (robust) self-testing of n -qubit W states alongside trine measurements

Lidya Law¹, Ranendu Adhikary^{1,*}, and Yeong-Cherng Liang^{1,†}

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In device-independent quantum information, self-testing [1] provides the strongest form of certification, allowing quantum states and measurements to be identified solely from observed correlations, without assumptions about the internal workings of the devices. Extending this approach to multipartite systems is particularly challenging because multipartite entanglement exhibits a much richer structure than the bipartite [2]. Among multipartite states, the N -qubit W state, $|W_N\rangle$, is particularly interesting because its entanglement can survive particle losses [3]. Nevertheless, Bell inequalities capable of self-testing multipartite states for an arbitrary number of parties remain scarce, and no Bell-inequality construction was previously known to self-test the N -qubit W state beyond $N \leq 3$.

We introduce a family of Bell inequalities, defined for every $N \geq 3$, whose maximal quantum violations self-test $|W_N\rangle$ together with a set of *trine* measurements for each party. These measurements correspond to three equally spaced observables in the real ZX -plane of the Bloch sphere. Since an exact maximal violation cannot be attained in a realistic experiment, we further investigate the robustness. For the three-qubit case, we derive an explicit robustness bound showing that any observed near-maximal violation certifies a physical realization whose extracted state and measurements are $O(\sqrt{\epsilon})$ -close to the ideal realizations. Further experimental imperfections are examined under white-noise and detector-inefficiency models. The white-noise tolerance is evaluated as a function of the number of parties. On the other hand, the detector-loss analysis demonstrates improved robustness over previous constructions with a comparable number of measurement settings. Finally, the proposed inequalities also certifies genuine multipartite entanglement from small Bell violations.

Our results thus provide a scalable family of Bell-inequalities for self-testing N -qubit W state with experimental robustness and certification of genuine multipartite entanglement via an appropriate amount of quantum violation.

References

- [1] I. Šupić and J. Bowles, *Quantum* **4**, 337 (2020).
- [2] A. Acín, D. Bruß, M. Lewenstein, and A. Sanpera, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **87**, 040401 (2001).
- [3] T. J. Barnea *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. A* **91**, 032108 (2015).

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Communication matrices: overview and applications

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Communication scenarios between two parties can be implemented in prepare-and-measure set-ups by first encoding messages into some states of a physical system which acts as the physical medium of communication and then decoding the messages by measuring the state of the system (see Fig. 1.). These types of scenarios can be described by collecting the measurement outcome probabilities for the different states into a row-stochastic matrix called the communication matrix. By looking at the properties of the communication matrices, we can say a lot not only about the specific communication tasks that they describe but also about the underlying physical system which was used to implement the communication. In this talk I will review some of the recent results on communication matrices including how can we show an unbounded quantum advantage over classical communication [1] and how we can use communication matrices for semi-device-independent identification of quantum channels/gates [2].

References:

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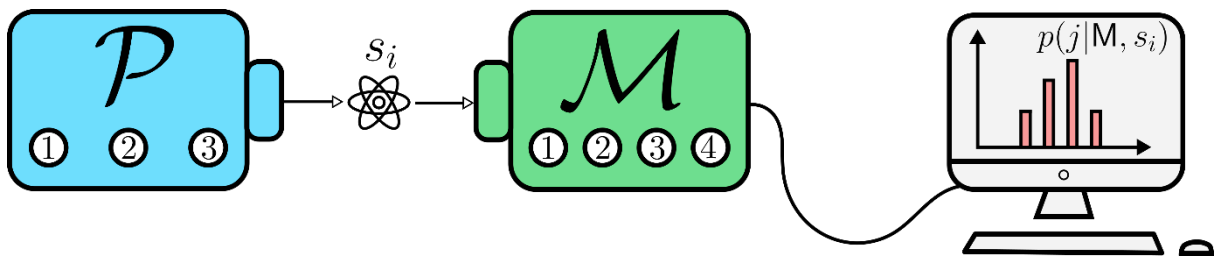


Fig. 1. Basic one-way communication setup between two parties. On each round of communication the sender receives a random variable and prepares a state from their state ensemble. The receiver performs a measurement and receives and registers an outcome. Communication matrix represents the measurement outcome probabilities for all states in the state ensemble.

Interrupting the Link between Correlations and Probabilities: Contextuality from Open Dynamical Processes

M. Mhalla¹ and L. Triouleyre²

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Recent advances in the study of contextuality have provided increasingly refined quantitative characterizations of non-classical correlations. In particular, our work on the multipartiteness width of contextuality naturally raises a more fundamental question: what should count as a “part” in a physical or informational process? More generally, within an explanatory framework, what are the minimal representational structures that the theory does not exclude *a priori* and that may therefore be considered, at the meta-language level, as observers, subsystems, or simply parts?

Motivated by this question, we initiated, through Louis Triouleyre’s Master’s project, a study of contextuality from a dynamical perspective. Instead of taking measurement scenarios as primitive, we study contextual behaviours generated by interacting open automata, whose observable behaviours emerge through their interactions. The underlying idea is that a probabilistic description of observed correlations need not be the primitive level of description: it may arise by forgetting part of the dynamical structure that produces the observations.

The ongoing work, *Contextuality as Automata: Open Generators and the Dynamics of Quantum Phenomena* [1], develops a process-oriented interpretation of contextuality. We show how the contextual fraction can be recovered when lifting the description from observed states to execution paths generated by open automata. In this sense, the dynamical description provides an intermediate level between the processes that generate observations and the probabilistic correlations extracted from them.

Finally, I will briefly discuss the broader research program suggested by this perspective. Rather than taking observers, subsystems, and representations as primitive notions, we aim to investigate how they may emerge collectively as localized perspectives within interruptible interaction processes. This suggests a longer-term framework in which contextuality, distributed computation, and information processing can be viewed as different aspects of a common dynamics of representation.

References

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Fermions are fundamentally more nonlocal than Bosons

Fatemeh Moradi Kalarde^{1†}, Sadra Boreiri², Xiangling Xu¹, Lucas Tendick¹, Salman Beigi³, Paolo Perinotti^{4,5}, Tommaso Guaita⁶, Marc-Olivier Renou¹

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Abstract

Bell's theorem shows that entangled quantum particles can exhibit correlations that classical particles cannot reproduce without an additional nonlocal resource, such as communication. In this sense, quantum particles are fundamentally more nonlocal than classical ones, and entanglement becomes unavoidable in physics. Here we prove the analogous result within quantum theory itself: indistinguishable fermions transmitted through a quantum network can generate correlations that distinguishable particles or indistinguishable bosons cannot reproduce without additional communication. In the same sense, fermions are fundamentally more nonlocal than bosons or distinguishable particles, motivating fermionic anticommutation and indistinguishability as unavoidable operational resources. Our result further implies that fermions can strictly surpass all qubit-based protocols for certain distributed computing tasks, demonstrating that a complete understanding of information processing requires going beyond qubits to fermionic information carriers—*febits*.

Robust One-Sided Device-Independent Quantum Key Distribution via High-Dimensional Steering

Monika Mothsara¹, Suraj Goel², Bohnishikha Ghosh², Vatshal Srivastav²,
Will McCutcheon², Mehul Malik², Gláucia Murta¹

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Abstract

Quantum key distribution (QKD) brings the promise of communication with information-theoretic security but is limited in practice due to its susceptibility to noise, losses, and device imperfections. To address these challenges, we propose a robust high-dimensional (HD) *one-sided* device-independent QKD (1sDI-QKD) protocol and present a proof-of-principle experimental implementation using photons entangled in the transverse-spatial degree-of-freedom. We develop a systematic security analysis of HD 1sDI-QKD protocols, leveraging quantum steering to certify security, and evaluate achievable secret key rates for different measurement configurations and system dimensions using reverse reconciliation. Our analysis shows that increasing the dimension enhances robustness against both noise and loss. We then demonstrate the key experimental building blocks required for implementing the protocol: (a) a high-quality source of high-dimensional photonic entanglement, and (b) a fully programmable, high-dimensional multi-outcome measurement device operating in up to dimension 11. Using these components, we obtain positive key rates for all investigated dimensions under the fair-sampling assumption, with the highest key rates achieved for dimension $d = 7$. Finally, we discuss the steps required for a practical, loophole-free implementation of 1sDI-QKD in realistic regimes of loss and noise.

How can probabilities of events depend on spatial rotations in any physical theory?

Markus Müller

Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information, Vienna

In the device-independent approach to quantum information theory, one considers protocols performed with untrusted devices, i.e. "black boxes" with certain inputs and outputs, but completely unknown inner workings. In this talk, I describe an approach to "put those boxes into physical space": what if the box can be rotated around a fixed axis, and the outcomes may depend on the corresponding angle? I present a thorough mathematical analysis of this in general probabilistic theories, leading to quantum and more general "rotation boxes". Like in quantum theory, these boxes are described by half-integers J that can be interpreted as a generalized notion of spin. I prove that quantum theory admits the most general rotational correlations for spins 0, $1/2$, and 1, but describe a metrological game where beyond-quantum resources of spin $3/2$ outperform all quantum resources of the same spin. I present several fundamental results about these correlations, including an exact convex characterization of the spin-1 correlations, a Tsirelson-type inequality for spins $3/2$ and higher, an SPD characterizations of the various correlation sets, and an exact characterization of the quantum (2,2,2) Bell correlations as those that are locally spin- $1/2$ and locally unbiased. In addition to conceivable applications (such as the generation of certified private randomness), there are interesting relations to mathematical structures such as entanglement witnesses, spectrahedra, and orbitopes. Mainly based on [1], but see also [2].

[1] Albert Aloy, Thomas D. Galley, Caroline L. Jones, Stefan L. Ludescher, and Markus P. Müller, Spin-bounded correlations: rotation boxes within and beyond quantum theory, *Commun. Math. Phys.* 405, 292 (2024).

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Causality and realizability of local operations in quantum field theory

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As noted by Sorkin, identifying the operations accessible within some spacetime region with quantum instruments whose Kraus operators are localizable therein leads to superluminal communication. This so-called Sorkin paradox can be resolved by further constraining the set of allowed local operations in quantum field theory (QFT). In this spirit, Fewster and Verch proposed a framework for local QFT operations that generalizes non-relativistic quantum measurement theory and does not lead to Sorkin-like paradoxes. Shortly afterwards, Jubb (and later Oeckl) identified the minimal conditions that QFT instruments must satisfy to be compatible with Einstein's causality. In this work, we study both approaches in the quantum field theory of the free scalar field. First, we prove that a very wide class of causal instruments is FV-realizable: namely, those whose measurement channels are random displacements of the field operators. As we show, those allow implementing arbitrary instruments in a heralded, probabilistic way, as well as non-demolition measurements deterministically. Second, we construct examples of causal channels that do not admit an approximate FV realization. Some of such causal, not FV-realizable channels violate basic physical principles, so they should not be part of any future measurement theory for QFT. Third, we investigate the difficulty of characterizing the set of QFT channels that can be generated through the composition of several FV schemes. In this regard, we find a countable family of QFT channels for which no Turing machine can discriminate between channels within or far away from the implementable set.

An EPR principle for quantum correlations

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Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen argued that a quantity which can be predicted with certainty, without disturbing a system, must have a definite value. Bell showed that such pre-existing local values cannot reproduce quantum correlations. We show that EPR's intuition nevertheless survives once the predicting system is discarded: all reliably predictable measurements on a system have a joint probability distribution, which reproduces their statistics and their correlations with every other system except the one used for the prediction. Quantum theory satisfies this property, and we propose it as a physical principle, the EPR principle, for theories beyond quantum mechanics.

The EPR principle forbids bound randomness: a single external system cannot perfectly predict both outcomes of a nonlocal Bell experiment for every pair of measurement choices. We construct explicit tripartite correlations showing that the almost quantum set, which satisfies nearly every previously proposed principle, permits precisely this phenomenon of bound randomness and hence violates the principle. The construction extends to every finite level of the Navascués–Pironio–Acín hierarchy. The EPR principle also implies both standard and generalized information causality, using information measures only for classical data, and with them every limit on correlations known to follow from these conditions. Finally, it excludes the tripartite time-ordered bilocal correlations of Gallego et al., which satisfy every bipartite information principle compatible with classical correlations. The principle thus passes two tests that have resisted previous proposals.

Timed demolition measurements

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Imagine an experimental scenario where a closed quantum system, evolving through a time-independent Hamiltonian, is subject to a demolition measurement at a chosen time. The Hamiltonian, the measured observables, the initial state of the physical system and even its Hilbert space dimension are unknown; we nonetheless assume a promise or constraint on the energy distribution of the state. What can we infer about the underlying system from measurement data collected at few different times?

We find that, for many natural energy constraints, the set of feasible time series or datasets can be characterized efficiently. Furthermore, under the assumption of a bounded energy spectrum, we prove that there exist “self-testing” datasets, whose approximate realization singles out specific states and Hamiltonians and measurement operators on their support. Investigating to what extent the extrapolation of past measurement data is possible in this framework, we identify energy-constrained physical systems for which a non-trivial prediction at time τ requires a precision in the measurement data superexponential in τ . We also discover two extrapolation phenomena: “aha! datasets”, which drastically increase the predictability of the future statistics of an unrelated measurement; and “fog banks”: fairly simple datasets that exhibit complete unpredictability at some future time τ , but full predictability at a later time $\tau' > \tau$. Besides their relevance for quantum foundations, our results have applications in semi-device independent quantum communication, the simulation of complex quantum systems, and the design of optimal atomic clocks.

Optimal strategies for shadow tomography with limited resources

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Shadow tomography addresses the task of efficiently predicting many expectation values of an unknown quantum state from randomized measurements on comparatively few copies. Existing analyses promise large scaling advantages, but the optimal strategies realizing these guarantees are not always known, and the required measurements are potentially challenging to implement on current hardware. We address this gap for Pauli observables by computing optimal sample-complexity parameters and constructing optimal measurement strategies under realistic resource constraints. We focus on memoryless protocols, where each copy is measured only once, and on measurements with bounded interaction range. Our approach reduces the problem to the analysis of graph parameters of the frustration graph encoding the Pauli anticommutation relations. We provide efficient numerical methods for the general case and analytically prove that Clifford measurements are optimal in many situations. This includes all perfect graphs, all single-qubit, all two-qubit measurement scenarios, and more. Applied to Hamiltonian energy estimation, our framework yields constructive strategies and improved variance bounds.

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Abstracts of Posters

(in alphabetical order)

Multipartite Bell inequalities with interferometric multiports

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Bell inequalities are difficult to construct systematically when the number of parties, measurement settings, or outcomes becomes large. In this work, we use a characteristic-function representation to describe such Bell scenarios in a compact way. We encode d -valued outcomes as roots of unity, so that Bell functionals can be written as linear combinations of Fourier-type correlators. This representation is especially natural for interferometric multiport measurements, where local settings are implemented by phase shifts followed by a fixed Fourier multiport. We first show that well-known inequalities such as CHSH, CGLMP, and MABK can be recovered within this formalism by choosing suitable functionals, a.k.a. probes, in the space of characteristic correlators. We then study a fixed family of Fourier-generated probes for more general N players, m settings with d outcomes (N, m, d) scenarios. By optimizing over the shared quantum state and the local multiport phases, we find several numerical violations, including cases involving non-maximally entangled states. These results should be understood as structured, multiport-compatible Bell tests rather than globally optimal or facet-defining inequalities. The framework provides a practical route for exploring Bell inequalities adapted to interferometric implementations and suggests a natural path toward future optimized-probe constructions.

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Witnessing Non-stabilizerness with Bell Inequalities

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Non-stabilizerness is a fundamental resource for quantum computation, enabling quantum algorithms to surpass classical capabilities. Despite its importance, characterizing this resource remains challenging due to the intricate geometry of stabilizer polytopes and the difficulty of simulating non-stabilizer states. In this work, through device-independent considerations, we reveal an unexpected connection between non-stabilizerness and Bell inequalities. Although certain stabilizer states can already achieve maximal violations of specific Bell inequalities, we demonstrate that appropriately constructed Bell inequalities can nevertheless serve as witnesses of non-stabilizerness, revealing when a state lies beyond the stabilizer set. This result bridges two key quantum resources, uncovering a novel relationship between the device-independent framework and resource-theoretic properties of quantum computation.

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Absolute CHSH-locality and maximally CHSH-nonlocal states

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Abstract

In this poster, we consider the problem of determining, for a fixed spectrum of a density matrix, the largest attainable CHSH violation. We give a complete characterization for the qubit-qudit and qutrit-qudit case and provide the explicit form of a maximizing state for arbitrary local dimensions (d_A, d_B) . In addition, motivated by the general problem, we introduce the notion of absolutely CHSH-local states, i.e., states that are unable to violate the CHSH inequality after arbitrary unitary transformations. Using this definition together with the qubit-qudit criterion, we characterize all $(2, d)$ -dimensional states that are entangled in some basis (i.e., are not absolutely separable) but nevertheless cannot exhibit a CHSH-Bell violation under any unitary transformation. Finally, we analyze the infinite-dimensional asymptotic behavior as well as we explore some further multipartite scenarios.

Quantum Advantage in Multi-Party Conflict-of-Interest Bayesian Games & Interferometric Optical Routing

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We formalize a multi-party conflict-of-interest Bayesian game framework to investigate quantum advantage in non-cooperative strategic scenarios under incomplete information. Under classical local realistic constraints, spatially separated agents face a fundamental trade-off between individual payoff optimization and global social efficiency, forcing the system into inefficient, asymmetric Nash equilibria where socially optimal outcomes are structurally unstable. By equipping players with a shared Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger (GHZ) state and local Pauli measurements, we demonstrate that genuine multipartite nonlocality resolves strategic friction, establishing a symmetric quantum equilibrium that strictly Pareto-dominates all classical correlated Nash equilibria. We also prove that this quantum advantage is structurally universal across a generalized utility space, resilient against isotropic state depolarization up to 27.2% noise, and scales to arbitrary n-player setting where classical coordination decays exponentially. As a physical application, we map this strategic framework onto a highly constrained instance of a multi-port optical interferometric network, where nonlocal phase alignment deterministically eliminates modal crosstalk penalties without inter-node communication.

Warring Contextualities - Provably Classical vs Provably Nonclassical

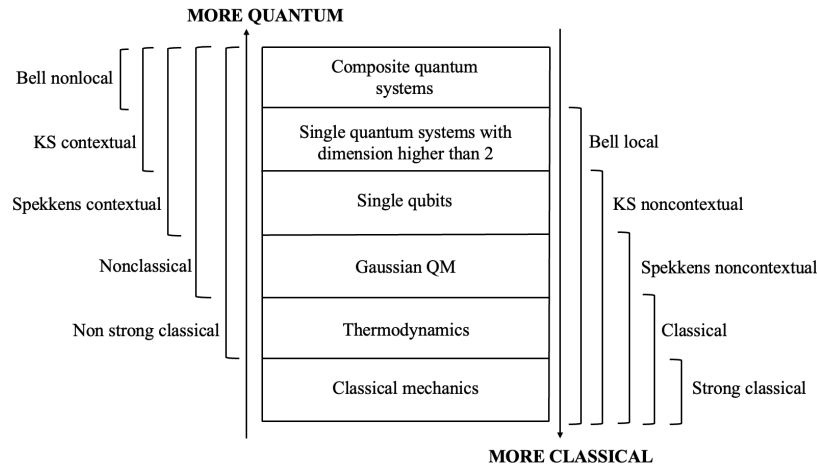
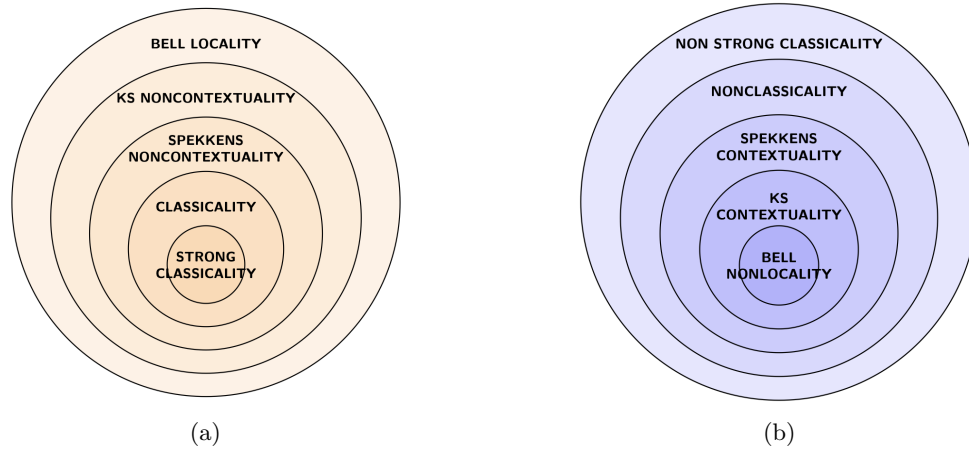
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In the literature, there are two differing definitions of contextuality: Kochen and Specker's, and Spekkens' (or "generalised"). However, researchers using one of these definitions rarely consider the other, meaning comparative analysis of these two notions is rare. In this paper, we advance the idea that Kochen-Specker contextuality provides a generalisation of the idea of system being fundamentally *nonclassical*, while Spekkens' noncontextuality provides a generalisation of the idea of a system being *classical*. This allows us to reconcile the two approaches, as different stages in a hierarchy of classicality/nonclassicality.



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Bell’s *go* theorem: regaining local causality with a new notion of realism

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Bell’s theorem is popularly stated as the inconsistency of quantum theory with local realism. More precisely, realism here is mathematically described by the ontological models framework, where the elements of reality are represented by points in a measurable space, and probabilities obey the Kolmogorov axioms. In the Bell scenario, such models amount to a common cause supporting a global valuation—a joint assignment of outcomes to all measurements at once, across mutually incompatible contexts. Within this notion of realism, Bell’s theorem implies that any realist explanation of the quantum predictions must be conspiratorial: any underlying mechanism, whether superluminal, superdeterministic, or retrocausal, must be finely tuned so as never to manifest at the operational level. In this work, we redefine realism by developing a new ontological framework that generalizes the standard one and takes the incompatibility of measurement contexts seriously. The elements of reality are no longer points but regions of a point-free topological space (sublocales of a locale). These regions are primitive and inherently relational: they act as records that establish the sameness of a measurement across two incompatible contexts, without these pairwise identities composing into a global assignment across all of them. The common cause becomes a network of such records rather than a global valuation. Within this framework, Bell’s no-go theorem becomes a go theorem: local causality is no longer at odds with the statistics of quantum theory. This is possible because, with no global valuation to preserve, the underlying probability theory generalizes Kolmogorov’s, modularity being no longer required across incompatible contexts. We exhibit an explicit family of models in the new framework, reproducing several quantum strategies, including the optimal CHSH violation. More broadly, locally causal models of this kind attain every Bell–CHSH value up to the algebraic maximum. ^a

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^a A preprint will be posted on arXiv prior to the conference.

Exploring Bell Nonlocality with Extremal Non-Signaling Boxes

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Extremal non-signaling (ENS) boxes are the vertices of the non-signaling polytope and generalize the Popescu-Rohrlich box to arbitrary Bell scenarios. Although nonlocal ENS boxes are excluded by quantum theory and by theories of ideal measurements, they provide natural extremal resources for probing the boundary between quantum and post-quantum correlations. We develop a systematic approach to ENS boxes in bipartite Bell scenarios by combining explicit constructions with computational polytope methods. This yields complete and partial classifications in several previously unexplored scenarios, including vertices beyond PR-box-based constructions. We then use these boxes to address three foundational questions. First, we show that the magic-square correlation admits a minimal decomposition into exactly two ENS boxes. Second, every nonlocal ENS box found in the scenarios analyzed violates local orthogonality at the two-copy level, supporting the conjecture that this is a generic property of bipartite nonlocal ENS boxes. Third, we quantify their one-way classical-communication simulation cost and identify examples requiring messages ranging from one bit up to a five-level message; the largest cost found occurs in the (6,4,2,2) scenario. These results show that ENS boxes beyond the PR-box paradigm form a useful resource-theoretic toolkit for turning qualitative questions about Bell nonlocality into concrete problems involving decomposition, physical principles, and simulation cost.

Geometric Control of Bell Correlations

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Here, we analyze spatially correlated two-quanton systems within single and double beam splitter Mach-Zehnder configurations. By evaluating these pure spatial correlations, we identify a critical particle production angle of 24.97 degrees. This specific angle fundamentally serves as the geometric analog of Bell inequalities. Building upon this foundational geometry, we then introduce adiabatic cyclic evolution into the system. This reveals that geometric and topological phases act as additional independent degrees of freedom to actively tune Bell correlations. Finally, we present a comprehensive fidelity analysis across these interferometric architectures to capture the dynamics of entanglement under phase manipulations. Our findings demonstrate that while single beam splitter configurations exhibit a decrease in fidelity with increasing concurrence, the double beam splitter setup robustly maintains maximum fidelity for maximally entangled states through precise retarder phase tuning.

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Systematic derivation of Tsirelson bounds in arbitrary dimensions

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The study of Bell nonlocality and the bounds of quantum correlations, the so-called Tsirelson bounds, is fundamental to quantum information science and the exploration of the limits of quantum theory. While quantum bounds for qubit systems have been extensively characterized, determining tight quantum bounds for correlations attainable with high-dimensional quantum states and measurements remains a significant challenge. In this work, we propose a systematic derivation of bipartite Tsirelson and local bounds written in terms of sum-of-squares decompositions. Using this method, we discover novel bounds and recover established results for maximally entangled states of qubits and qudits.

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Modal Logic and No-Go Theorems in GHZ-Frauchiger–Renner Scenarios

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Quantum foundations has advanced from Bell’s theorem to the Local-Friendliness (LF) no-go theorem [1], which adopts weaker assumptions by treating observers themselves as quantum systems. Extensions of this kind lead to the Frauchiger–Renner (FR) paradox [2] and raise further questions related to the measurement problem. Underlying these arguments is contextuality: combining Born-rule predictions across different measurement contexts effectively imposes a non-contextuality assumption.

We examine a recent GHZ-based refinement of FR-type paradoxes by Wallegghem et al [3]. By formalising its assumptions in modal logic, we show that the claimed paradox does not follow from the assumptions stated. We then formulate further no-go theorems within the same scenario. These recover an inconsistency between modal interpretations and Lorentz invariance, establish a new relational no-go theorem for theories allowing second-order absolute facts and composite observers, and identify the missing assumption needed to obtain a genuine GHZ-FR paradox, yielding a contradiction within a single experimental run.

Our framework makes explicit which inferences an agent is physically licensed to perform given the information accessible to them, distinguishing such inferences from those that implicitly rely on inaccessible knowledge. More speculatively, this provides a way to characterise the physical limits of reasoning for agents described quantum mechanically, potentially informing future implementations of Wigner’s-friend scenarios with quantum computers and AI agents on quantum hardware.

These results clarify the logical structure, physical motivation, and consequences of the assumptions underlying FR-type and related quantum no-go arguments.

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**Paradox-free classical non-causality
and unambiguous non-locality without entanglement are equivalent**

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Closed timelike curves (CTCs) challenge our conception of causality by allowing information to loop back into its own past. Any consistent description of such scenarios must avoid time-travel paradoxes while respecting the no-new-physics principle, which requires that the set of operations available within any local spacetime region remain unchanged, irrespective of whether CTCs exist elsewhere. Within an information-theoretic framework, this leads to process functions: deterministic classical communication structures that remain logically consistent under arbitrary local operations, yet can exhibit correlations incompatible with any definite causal order - a phenomenon known as non-causality. In this work, we establish a correspondence between process functions and unambiguous complete product bases, i.e. product bases in which every local state belongs to a unique local basis. This equivalence implies that non-causality of process functions is exactly mirrored by quantum nonlocality without entanglement (QNLWE) - the impossibility of perfectly distinguishing separable states using local operations and causal classical communication - for such bases. Our results generalize previous special cases to arbitrary local dimensions and any number of parties, enable systematic constructions of non-causal process functions and unambiguous QNLWE bases, and implies, inter alia, that bipartite unambiguous QNLWE bases do not exist. Finally, this work reveals an unexpected connection between causal and non-signaling inequalities: every process function both maximally violates an associated causal inequality and yields a corresponding Bell inequality that admits no violation.

Paper: arXiv:2512.23599

NECESSITY OF FINE-TUNING IN CLASSICAL CAUSAL MODELS REPRODUCING KCBS INEQUALITY VIOLATIONS

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Quantum contextuality demonstrates that the predictions of quantum mechanics cannot, in general, be reproduced by noncontextual hidden-variable models. From the perspective of classical causal modelling, this raises a further question: whether contextual quantum correlations can be explained by introducing additional causal relations while preserving the principle of no fine-tuning. This thesis investigates this question in the Klyachko–Can–Binicioğlu–Shumovsky (KCBS) scenario, a state-dependent test of contextuality in a local spin-1 system. After reviewing Bell inequalities, contextuality, noncontextual ontological models, and the causal-model framework, the KCBS inequalities and their quantum violations are derived. The KCBS scenario is then formulated as a causal model in terms of two measurement settings and their corresponding outcomes. Five physically motivated extensions of this causal structure are examined to explain the quantum correlations: causal influence between the outcomes, cross-setting influence on an outcome, outcome-dependent selection of a measurement setting, hidden-variable influence of a measurement setting, and dependence of the hidden variable on a measurement setting. Although these additional causal relations can provide mechanisms for correlations beyond the noncontextual bound, their parameters are shown to be fine-tuned, violating faithfulness. Thus, this work demonstrates the general result that classical causal models reproducing Bell–Kochen–Specker inequality violations in no-disturbance phenomena cannot do so faithfully.

Bell nonlocality does not imply violation of nonlocal games

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Nonlocal games provide a clear operational language to talk about Bell inequalities, framed as win-or-lose games mediated by an impartial Referee [1]. However, we show that without allowing for probabilistic-predicate games, this language is inadequate for detecting all possible nonlocal quantum behaviors. In a fixed Bell scenario, let L be the local polytope and Q the quantum set [2]. Furthermore, define G to be the set of nonsignaling behaviours that provide no advantage over the optimal classical strategy in any deterministic-predicate nonlocal game. We prove that G is a polytope, where each of its facets admits a game representation, strictly containing L . We then exhibit quantum-violated facets of the local polytope that admit no such representation. It follows geometrically that $Q \cap (G \setminus L)$ is nonempty. In words, there are Bell nonlocal quantum behaviours that give no advantage in any deterministic-predicate, in a fixed scenario. Thus, the existence of such points proves the inequivalence between proper Bell inequalities and nonlocal games as witnesses for nonlocality. This inequivalence occurs already in $(4,4,2,2)$ and, through lifting-stable facets, in every bipartite scenario (X, Y, A, B) with $X, Y \geq 2$ and $A, B \geq 4$.

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Deterministic randomness extraction for quantum random number generation with partial trust

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The basic structure of a quantum random number generator consists of two main building blocks: an *entropy source* and a *randomness extractor*. The entropy source produces raw bit strings containing some amount of private randomness, usually quantified by the conditional min-entropy [1]. The randomness extractor then converts the raw string into a shorter one that is ϵ -close to perfectly random, i.e., uniform and independent of any eavesdropper's side information.

It is widely known that no deterministic procedure can extract randomness from the class of all entropy sources with a given min-entropy lower bound, instead requiring a seed or the combination of several weak sources [2]. Santha and Vazirani famously showed that this impossibility persists even for a restricted but natural class of sources with arbitrarily high min-entropy [3]. In a remarkable result [4], the first quantum random number generation protocol with deterministic extraction was constructed. Focusing on a device-independent (DI) setting, the authors prove that the violation of a Bell inequality can replace a min-entropy lower bound as the extractor's promise.

In this work, we extend the framework from [4] to multiple prepare-and-measure settings with *partial trust*, either in the state generation or in the measurement. In our main result, we show that the role played by a Bell functional in the DI construction can be played by a solution to the dual of the guessing probability in any of these partial trust settings. This generalization is of relevance since most current commercial devices operate in a device-dependent setting, with the technology slowly shifting towards semi-DI protocols, while fully DI randomness expansion has not yet proven to be practical beyond laboratory settings [5-7].

In the finite-size regime, we observe that positive key rates can be achieved with multi-bit extraction for as low as 7×10^3 rounds. Furthermore, in the asymptotic limit of infinitely many rounds, we find that successful extraction can be achieved using the single-bit XOR extractor from arbitrarily close to deterministic behaviors and a vanishing fraction of estimating rounds.

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Communication-based operational principles bounding nonlocal correlations

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The principle of *nonsignaling* (NS) is insufficient to single out the set of quantum correlations in Bell scenarios [1]. Further communication-based principles, such as *information causality* (IC) [2], exclude part of nonsignaling correlations beyond quantum theory. These principles, however, rely on arbitrary classical protocols to transform Bell correlations into behaviors of specific communication tasks. In this work, we extend the communication-based approach by introducing the framework of *general communication* (GC) scenarios [3]. We systematically identify novel classes of communication tasks exhibiting quantum-NS separations not captured by existing IC formulations, and overcome protocol-dependance by considering correlation sets directly embedded in the communication scenario. By adapting the geometric information-theoretic framework [4] to GC scenarios, we derive operational constraints that rule out stronger-than-quantum performances missed by previous formulations.

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Strong Inequivalence of Quantum Nonlocal Resources

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In this work¹ we present instances of quantum nonlocal correlations that are incomparable in the strongest sense. Specifically, when starting with an arbitrary many copies of one nonlocal correlation, it becomes impossible to obtain even a single copy of the other correlation, and this incomparability holds in both directions. Such incomparable quantum correlations can be obtained even in the simplest Bell scenario, which involves two parties, each having two dichotomic measurements setups. Notably, there exist an uncountable number of such incomparable correlations. Our result challenges the notion of a ‘unique gold coin’, often referred to as the ‘maximally resourceful state’, within the framework of the resource theory of quantum nonlocality. To this end, we provide examples of isotropic quantum correlations that cannot be distilled up-to Tsirelson point, and thus partially answer a long standing open question in nonlocality distillation.

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Optimal Unlocking of Encoding Strength: Assistance from Environment

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Noise in quantum transmission lines typically prevents a quantum channel from achieving its maximal classical information encoding strength, i.e., the full dimension of its input system. While auxiliary resources such as pre-shared correlations or environmental access can mitigate noise, standard communication models fail to capture their full operational potential. Here, we introduce the notion of *unlocking encoding strength*, providing a framework that extends beyond the conventional characterization of classical communication through quantum channels [1]. In particular, we investigate how limited access to the environment can unlock otherwise inaccessible encoding strength and reveal operational features that remain hidden within standard paradigms. Remarkably, channels known to exhibit a strict gap between their conventional environment-assisted classical capacity and optimal communication strength [2,3] can nevertheless achieve full optimality under the proposed framework. Moreover, minimal assistance from the environment strictly outperforms the assistance provided by sharing the strongest 2-2-2 nonlocal boxes. These results demonstrate that encoding strength captures a broader operational potential of quantum channels and offers a unified perspective on how auxiliary resources unlock their information-processing capabilities.

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Consistent Dynamics in Phase Space: Quantum States Require Quantum Time Evolution

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Within the Hilbert space formulation of quantum mechanics, reversible dynamics is described by unitary time evolution. We investigate whether and how reversible quantum dynamics can be modified while still yielding a consistent theory. For this, we use a phase-space formulation of quantum mechanics, in which time evolution is governed by the Moyal bracket. To study deviations from quantum dynamics, we consider time evolutions that allow for linear phase-space transformations, which essentially enable phase-space state tomography. This can also be regarded as equipping generalized probabilistic theories (GPTs) with an additional phase-space structure that introduces a notion of dynamics. We find that dynamics in phase space is strongly operationally constrained, and that knowledge of just a few states of a theory can be used to make statements about its time evolution. Notably, the mere existence of the first excited state of the harmonic oscillator necessitates quantum time evolution. We demonstrate this to leading order in $\hbar^2$ by showing that time evolution in a cubic potential results in negative probabilities of observable quantities if it differs from quantum dynamics. This motivates high-precision Wigner tomography of mechanical systems to substantiate our finding in experiments.

Maximum Entropy Principle for Quantum Channels

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Many quantum information tasks rely on characterizing quantum devices from incomplete operational data, motivating inference methods that remain as unbiased as possible while respecting the available observations. This is the goal of the maximum entropy (MaxEnt) principle developed by Jaynes [1], justified by the information-theoretic uniqueness of the Shannon entropy [2, 3] and later extended to quantum state estimation [4, 5]. Extending MaxEnt to quantum *processes*, however, is not straightforward: unlike states, quantum channels lack an intrinsic notion of entropy.

Here we study a channel entropy defined via the Choi–Jamiołkowski isomorphism, taking the von Neumann entropy of the associated Choi state as the channel’s entropy [6, 7]. We then ask: given partial knowledge of a channel, expressed as expectation values from projective measurements on input and output states, which channel has maximal entropy consistent with these observations? This is the process-level analogue of the least-biased state in tomography; our approach differs from the recently proposed microcanonical formulation of channel entropy [8].

We report three preliminary results for qubit channels. First, for input and output states aligned along a common axis, the maximum-entropy channel consistent with a single input–output pair has a diagonal Choi matrix, and we derive the algebraic condition on the channel parameters characterizing this optimum. Second, for arbitrary states on the Bloch sphere, the maximum-entropy channel follows by rotating input and output to a common axis, applying this extremal channel, and rotating back, giving a closed-form expression for its Bloch-vector action. Third, entropy increases as the input approaches the pure state on a fixed line segment mapped to a given output, and, dually, as the output approaches the maximally mixed state for a fixed input. Together, these results show that the maximum-entropy channels compatible with partial input–output data are precisely those whose image on the Bloch ball collapses onto a line segment.

These results give an information-theoretic notion of channel entropy and a MaxEnt inference procedure for quantum processes, identifying the least-committal device description compatible with limited data, and point toward a systematic MaxEnt theory of channels beyond the qubit case.

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Polynomial optimization of the parallel repetition of classical nonlocal games

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Motivation Bipartite XOR games are a crucial tool in device-independent quantum applications such as Bell nonlocality and quantum cryptography. In these settings, it is particularly attractive that the quantum value of XOR games is determined by a simple SDP corresponding to the lowest level of the NPA hierarchy, which immediately allows constructing optimal quantum strategies, which can be self-tested. In these games, a verifier poses questions $x, y \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ drawn from a probability distribution $p(x, y)$ to two parties, Alice and Bob, respectively. The players proceed to output one bit each, $a(x)$ and $b(y)$, which they proceed to send to the verifier. The verifier compares the value $a \oplus b$ to a pre-agreed winning condition $f(x, y)$, deciding if the game is won.

While the quantum value can be computed efficiently here, no such simplification occurs in the classical case, which is NP-hard [1] to compute for general XOR games, with few analytical methods. This disparity is explained by the fact that every quantum XOR game can be associated to a non-commutative sum-of-squares (SOS) polynomial. In the analogue classical case, we are forced to rely on SOS hierarchies, applicable to any polynomial optimization problem. We discuss the simplification of mapping XOR games to bilinear polynomials $\sum_{xy} B_{xy} s_x t_y$ on the hypercube defined by the equations $s_x^2 = 1$ ($\forall x$), $t_y^2 = 1$ ($\forall y$). We analyze the SOS decomposition of an XOR game by considering its SOS matrix as equivalent to an enlarged symmetric XOR game, which satisfies a simple geometric condition from [2]. This condition ensures that no quantum advantage exists in the enlarged game. Reintroducing communication constraints to the larger game simplifies it to the original game. Additionally, we discuss methods of splitting the set of questions into subsets, which can be jointly played optimally, permitting further simplification of problems.

We discuss a possible connection between these observations and the values of games under parallel repetition. Furthermore, we present group-theoretical methods for XOR games of the form $B = B_0^{\otimes n}$, simultaneously utilizing symmetries of a single copy, and the overall permutation symmetry between copies, discussed here on the example of the CHSH game. We hope to discuss whether similar methods are either known or useful in other areas of the wide field of device independent quantum theory:

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Quantum Key Distribution over Complex Networks

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There exist several initiatives worldwide to deploy quantum key distribution (QKD) over existing fibre networks and achieve quantum-safe security at large scales. To understand the overall QKD network performance, it is required to transition from the analysis of individual links, as done so far, to the characterization of the network as a whole. In this work, we undertake this study by embedding QKD protocols on complex networks, which correctly model the existing fibre networks. We focus on networks with trusted nodes and on continuous-variable (CV) schemes, which have much higher key rates than their discrete-variable (DV) counterparts. In the effective CV network, however, many of the unique properties of complex networks, such as small-worldness and the presence of hubs, are lost due to the fast decay of the key rate with physical distance for CV systems. These properties can be restored when considering a hybrid network consisting of both CV and DV protocols, achieving at the same time high average rate and inter-connectivity. Our work opens the path to the study of QKD complex networks in existing infrastructures [1].

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Universal method for optimized robustness in self-testing of quantum resources

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Self-testing is a phenomenon where the use of specific quantum states or measurements can be inferred solely from the correlations they generate [1]. We introduce a universal method for conducting robustness analysis in the self-testing of various quantum resources. Unlike previous numerical approaches, which rely on selecting specific isometries, our method optimizes over equivalence transformations, thereby leading to tighter robustness bounds. This optimization employs the well-established technique of semidefinite programming relaxations for non-commuting polynomial optimization [2]. Our method can be universally applied to diverse self-testing settings, including steerable assemblages in the Bell scenario, constellations of quantum states in the prepare-and-measure scenario, and entangled states in the steering scenario. We demonstrate the method's capability to surpass previously reported robustness bounds across a range of concrete examples.

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Certifying randomness in a semi-device-independent scenario via Probability Estimation

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We study randomness certification in the semi-device-independent *overlap scenario* of [1], in which the measurement device is uncharacterised and untrusted, while the source is constrained only by a lower bound δ on the overlap (fidelity) between the states it may emit. In this setting, the Entropy Accumulation Theorem (EAT) was shown to certify positive smooth min-entropy only after approximately 7×10^4 rounds for a security parameter $\varepsilon = 10^{-10}$ [2].

We show that probability estimation (PE) [3] can substantially improve finite-size performance. By adapting recent polytope-approximation techniques [4], we construct computable outer approximations to the set of behaviours compatible with the overlap constraint, allowing the entropy generated over multiple rounds to be efficiently optimised and certified using PE. Our current PE analysis certifies positive smooth min-entropy after approximately 8×10^2 rounds at the same ε .

This certificate assumes classical side information, whereas the EAT result is secure against quantum side information, and we are therefore extending the construction to the quantum case following [5]. In the scenario studied in [6], the rates certified against quantum side information matched those obtained under the classical assumption, so that nothing was lost in passing to quantum adversaries. Should the same hold here, our construction would improve on the EAT threshold by nearly two orders of magnitude while retaining security against quantum side information.

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Genuine linear-optical test of quantum contextuality with sequential measurements

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Abstract

Quantum contextuality provides a fundamental signature of nonclassical behavior that cannot be explained by noncontextual hidden-variable models. We propose and experimentally implement a linear-optical setup for demonstrating Kochen–Specker contextuality via a violation of the KCBS inequality using single photons. Our scheme employs sequential measurements realized with linear-optical networks and on–off photodetectors. The construction ensures that each co-measured observable is implemented by the same physical operation across different contexts. Our experimental results demonstrate a clear violation of the KCBS inequality and robustness against photon loss. Beyond fundamental investigations, the proposed setup provides a practical tool for probing non-classicality and photon-number statistics of quantum states, which in turn enables the verification of single-photon sources.

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CABIPARA.jl: A user-friendly Julia package for two-qubit steering and Bell nonlocality

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Entanglement, steering, and Bell nonlocality are distinct forms of quantum correlations that underpin our current understanding of quantum theory. A central problem is to characterise and identify the quantum states capable of exhibiting these correlations, which is in general a very difficult task. Even for the simplest case of two qubits, while entanglement is easily characterised by partial transposition, deciding whether a given two-qubit state can manifest Bell nonlocality or steering is considerably more challenging. In this work, we gather, refine, and implement in a user-friendly way the current best computational methods that either certify the existence of local hidden-state (LHS) and local hidden-variable (LHV) models or demonstrate violations of steering and Bell inequalities for two-qubit states under projective measurements. Our code is freely available as a Julia package called CABIPARA.jl. We apply these methods to estimate, with respect to the Hilbert-Schmidt measure, the relative volumes of two-qubit states that are unsteerable, one-way steerable, and Bell local, values we contrast with the volume of separable qubit pairs. Moreover, we obtain new LHV models for several classes of states, improving the bounds previously known in the literature.

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PREDICTIVE AND RETRODICTIVE POWER OF OPERATIONAL THEORIES

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We study prepare-and-measure tasks from two perspectives: the forward picture, where the statistics are given by the output probabilities conditioned on the input probabilities; and the reverse picture, where the statistics are given by the input probabilities conditioned on the output probabilities. The forward picture is connected to the information storability of the setup, related to minimum error discrimination tasks and an indicator of the predictive power of a theory; while the reverse picture is connected to the total confidence of the setup, related to maximum confidence discrimination and an indicator of the retrodictive power of a theory. Although the predictive and retrodictive powers are equal in quantum and classical theories, we show that this is generally not the case. There exist theories in which the maximum total confidence is strictly greater than the information storability of the theory. We also show that the total confidence of a theory is bounded above by the linear dimension of the theory. Together with the bounds on information storability, this indicates that the reverse picture can outperform the forward picture depending on the theory one chooses to work with.

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All pure entangled states can lead to fully nonlocal correlations

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It is a well-established fact that some quantum correlations are nonlocal, meaning they cannot be described by a local hidden variable model. Certain quantum correlations are so strong that they cannot be reproduced even if one allows only a small fraction of the rounds to admit a local hidden variable description. These correlations are called fully nonlocal and they lead to Bell inequalities in which the quantum bound saturates the non-signaling bound. A famous and well-known example is the Peres-Mermin square in which the underlying state is a four dimensional maximally entangled state. Surprisingly, examples of full nonlocality are so far only known for maximally entangled states. In this work, we show that in every local Hilbert space dimension $d \geq 3$ there are non-maximally entangled states that are fully nonlocal. In fact, we derive simple criteria to ensure full nonlocality that are only based on the smallest and largest Schmidt coefficient. Furthermore, we show that all pure entangled states can be activated to show full nonlocality in the many-copy scenario.

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Robust certification of high-dimensional quantum devices

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(Dated: 10 September 2026)

Probing quantum behavior from classically accessible correlations is essential for secure communication and scalable quantum technologies. While powerful certification methods using nonlocal correlations, their experimental demonstrations remain largely confined to low-dimensional systems. Here we establish noise-tolerant quantum certification in high dimensions with minimal setups. We propose, design, and experimentally implement a protocol that certifies quantumness between two distant parties without the need of expensive resources like entanglement, nonlocality and even measurement incompatibility. The experiments are carried out using the orbital angular momentum degrees of freedom of single photons, chosen for providing increased dimensionality that is scalable. Our results provide a practical route to validating high-dimensional quantum communication systems and open new possibilities for secure and dimension-efficient quantum information processing.

Quantum mechanics enables correlations and information-processing capabilities that cannot be explained within a classical framework, forming the foundation of emerging quantum technologies such as secure communication, quantum simulation, and quantum computation^{1–5}. A central challenge in quantum information science is therefore to identify and certify genuinely quantum behaviour using only classically accessible data, without relying on detailed assumptions about the underlying devices^{6–8}. This task, known as *quantum certification*, exploits the fact that classical theories cannot reproduce the full range of correlations achievable in quantum systems. Prominent manifestations include Bell nonlocality^{1,6}, quantum steering^{7,9}, and contextuality^{8,10}, each revealing fundamental departures from classical hidden-variable descriptions. More recently, related approaches have explored quantum signatures encoded in correlations between state preparations and measurement outcomes, where incompatibility of quantum measurements provides an operational resource^{11–15}.

Certifying quantum properties is particularly important for establishing security in quantum communication protocols, which typically involve only three ingredients in the following structure: Alice encodes an input, transmits it to Bob, and Bob performs a decoding measurement without any external inputs^{16–22}. This contrasts with more standard certification in other prepare-measure scenarios with additional structure, for example preshared entanglement or conditional measurement choices. In the absence of these resources, quantum behavior reduces to the ability to prepare and measure superposition states, making certification considerably more challenging.

However, existing quantum certification proposals for communication setups are largely confined to theoretical models and low-dimensional systems. *Here we overcome this current limitation by proposing a theoretical method, design its encoding into physical photons, and experimentally implement*

it successfully. In turn, we establish a robust high-dimensional prepare-measurement protocol to certify the ability of remote parties to prepare and measure quantum superpositions. We use orbital angular momentum (OAM) degree of freedom of light, which offers access to a discrete and in principle unbounded Hilbert space, and demonstrate robust certification of quantum devices of dimension up to seven. The proposed protocol with OAM of single photons enables compact implementations of quantum communications protocols with increased channel capacity²³, security²⁴, and robustness to noise²⁵. This proposal is particularly applicable to quantum communication setups with limited carrier system size, in free space links and few-mode optical fibers for future long-distance communication networks.

Table I. Results: robust quantum certification. We compare the Hilbert space dimension d_Q used in our protocol with the operational dimension d_C that would be needed in order to reproduce the correlations by classical preparations and measurements. We report robustness in the tolerance at the certification bound $\sigma_{d_{\text{exp}}}(P)$ and the next singular value $\sigma_{d_{\text{exp}}+1}(P)$. Robustness is reported for dimensions $d_C = d_{\text{exp}}$ where $\sigma_{d_{\text{exp}}}(P) \leq \|E\|_2$.

n	d_Q	d_{exp}	$\sigma_{d_{\text{exp}}}(P)$	$\ E\ _2$	$\sigma_{d_{\text{exp}}+1}(P)$
9	3	6	2.00×10^{-1}	$(6.57 \pm 0.29) \times 10^{-2}$	9×10^{-17}
15	5	8	1.24×10^{-1}	$(5.87 \pm 0.13) \times 10^{-2}$	4.00×10^{-2}
21	7	12	8.10×10^{-2}	$(6.41 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-2}$	2.00×10^{-2}
9	3	6	6.67×10^{-2}	$(2.21 \pm 0.09) \times 10^{-2}$	2×10^{-17}
25	5	15	1.44×10^{-2}	$(1.22 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-2}$	2×10^{-17}
49	7	28	1.061×10^{-2}	$(1.045 \pm 0.007) \times 10^{-2}$	2×10^{-17}

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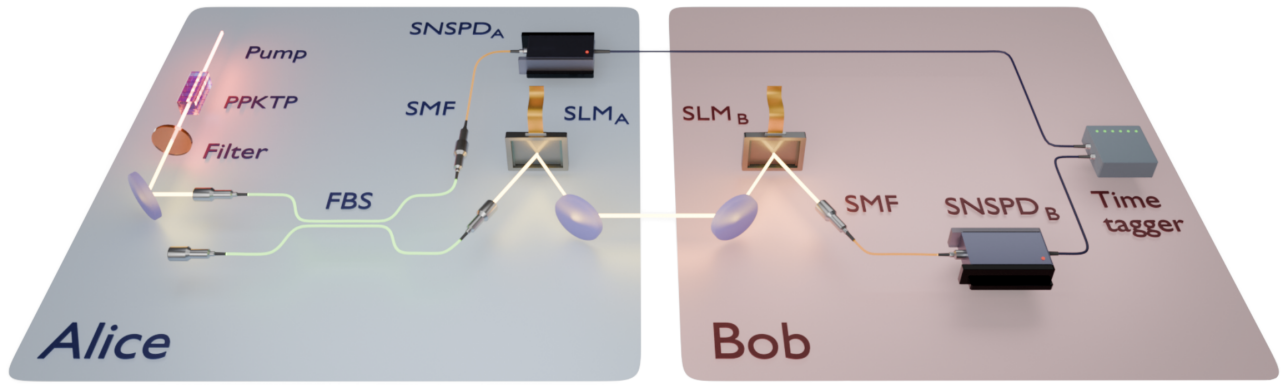


Fig. 1. **Simplified scheme of the experimental setup.** Alice encodes a message in the orbital angular momentum (OAM) of a photon prepared in the spatial light modulator (SLM_A). She sends this photon to Bob, who decodes it in his system (SLM_B) and detects it at the superconducting nanowire single-photon detector ($SNSPD_B$). Although the conceptual protocol occurs in these two devices, further components are needed for the experiment. We use a fiber beam splitter (FBS) to create two entangled photons. This entanglement is not used to certify quantumness, but we use it in the experiment to verify the calibration rounds via coincidence counting at the Time tagger.

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Communication complexity games and Continuous variable Bell inequalities

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Beyond its foundational significance, Bell nonlocality is being harnessed as a powerful resource for quantum information processing tasks, such as device-independent quantum key distribution, randomness certification, and self-testing of quantum devices, etc. Moreover, in the communication complexity scenario, quantum correlations can reduce the amount of classical communication required to solve distributed computational tasks. There have been works that have given insight into the relationship between Bell inequality violations and communication complexity advantages.

What could be the possible significance if we were to allow a continuous spectrum? In this work, we develop a framework that provides insight into continuous-variable Bell inequalities in terms of a corresponding communication-complexity task.

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Certifying measurement incompatibility under bounded classical communication

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Can an experiment certify that an untrusted device carries out incompatible measurements? Bell tests offer one route, but exclude communication between the devices. We propose a test that instead allows a public one-way message of at most k bits, sent before an independent readout choice. A finite linear program computes a prior-independent score, the exponentiated union maximal leakage, from the observed probabilities. This score quantifies the guessing information required by a common classical simulation of all readouts, connecting maximal leakage [1] to informationally restricted correlations [2]. Jointly measurable readouts score at most 2^k in any nonsignalling operational theory. A violation certifies incompatibility and, in quantum theory, shared entanglement, without calibrated preparations or a Hilbert-space dimension bound. It also shows that reproducing the observed probabilities with shared randomness requires more classical communication. We characterize when a fixed shared state and receiver measurements permit detection through Bell nonlocality with binary measurements at the sender. As an application, a delayed-readout experiment certifies quantum storage without restricting the amount of classical data retained.

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Maximum randomness and perfect key generation from a Genuine Nonlocal Bell Inequality

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The secure generation and distribution of cryptographic keys is a foundational problem in cryptography. Quantum mechanics offers a solution through Device-Independent Quantum Key Distribution (DIQKD), which requires minimal assumptions about the underlying devices by relying on nonlocal correlations. While the maximal violation of Bell inequalities has been successfully utilized to generate secure keys in bipartite scenarios, extending this to multipartite systems remains challenging due to the complex landscape of possible multipartite correlations. The strongest nonlocality among these are correlations exhibiting genuine multipartite nonlocality. While key distribution based on genuinely nonlocal correlations has been demonstrated using Mermin-Ardehali-Belinskii-Klyshko (MABK) Bell functionals, certifying genuineness with these functionals is typically restricted to scenarios with an even number of parties. In this work, we propose an n -partite Bell functional where correlations achieving the maximal quantum violation are genuinely nonlocal and yield a perfect key for any arbitrary number of parties. Furthermore, we demonstrate that achieving the maximal quantum value of this proposed functional self-tests the n -qubit GHZ state along with the appropriate observables acting on local two-dimensional Hilbert spaces. We establish this self-testing result by explicitly constructing a SWAP isometry.

On the relationship between quantum adiabatic evolution and quantum signal processing

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Quantum signal processing (QSP) is a template for designing algorithms in the quantum circuit model, becoming increasingly popular in recent years. It is well-known that the circuit model of quantum computation can be related to adiabatic quantum computing with polynomial resource overhead.

Quantum adiabatic computing is inspired by the quantum adiabatic theorem (QAT), which gives conditions for when the physical time evolution of some Hamiltonian $H(s)$ is close to the evolution of some eigenstate, up to a geometric phase. When it holds, then we can approximate the physical evolution with an adiabatically evolved state, $|\psi_{adia}(s)\rangle$.

In QSP circuits, a "black-box" oracle and a set of rotation gate parameters ("phase-factors") fully determines the circuits, in QAT the evolution is determined by a choice of scheduler and delay time. We consider cases where a specific formal connection can be made between the adiabatic scheduler of a QAT evolution and a QSP circuit.

Specifically, we show that in the high-degree and small-signal limit, when the chosen adiabatic schedule is Lipschitz continuous, the quantum adiabatic evolution of a scheduler eigenstate is close to a QSP circuit applied to the same eigenstate. Crucially, our formalism establishes a direct functional relationship between the adiabatic schedule and the set of phase factors that determine the QSP circuit.

Our work can provide intuition for QSP, which is more accessible to physics researchers outside of quantum algorithms than the QSP formalism. The adiabatic scheduler we have proposed is itself quite amenable to analysis; it has an eigenspectrum that naturally encodes two-dimensional subspaces for each eigenvalue of the oracle. This behavior is also the key feature that allows QSP to succeed.

No-local-broadcasting theorem for non-signalling behaviours and assemblages

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Abstract

The no-broadcasting theorem is a fundamental result in quantum information theory. It guarantees that a class of attacks on quantum protocols, based on eavesdropping and indiscriminate copying of quantum information, are impossible. Due to its fundamental importance, it is natural to ask whether it is an intrinsic quantum property or whether it also holds for a broader class of non-classical theories. To address this question, one could use the framework of correlation scenarios. Under this standpoint, Joshi, Grudka, and Horodecki^{⊗4} conjectured that one cannot locally broadcast nonlocal behaviours [1]. In this poster, we present the result of our article [2], which proves their conjecture based on the monotonicity of the relative entropy for behaviours. Additionally, following a similar reasoning, we obtain an analogous no-go theorem for steerable assemblages.

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Non-signaling assistance in prepare-and-measure scenarios with classical communication

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Prepare-and-measure scenarios provide a natural black-box framework for studying communication under minimal assumptions [1]. A sender encodes an input into a bounded message; a receiver selects a setting and produces an output. I will discuss classical communication assisted by arbitrary non-signaling (NS) correlations [2]. Non-adaptive receivers query the shared resource independently of the message and use it only in classical post-processing. Adaptive receivers can choose their query based on the message, enabling advantages [3].

We characterize both forms of assistance in arbitrary prepare-and-measure scenarios. Non-adaptive realizability reduces to classical realizability in each fixed-setting subscenario. Combined with Frenkel and Weiner's theorem [4], this implies that non-adaptive non-signaling assistance simulates qudit transmission using a classical dit of the same alphabet size, even with multiple receiver settings. Adaptive behaviours are exactly those satisfying a family of input-discrimination inequalities, connecting the problem to channel simulation.

Comparing the models, we identify all scenarios exhibiting an adaptive advantage and prove that any such advantage must already appear at a single receiver setting. Thus, unlike entanglement-assisted protocols [3], arbitrary non-signaling assistance yields no genuinely multi-setting adaptive advantages. These results distinguish consequences of non-signaling alone from restrictions specific to quantum resources.

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Towards rigorous tests of Bell nonlocality with time-bin entanglement

Bell tests provide an experimental way to identify correlations that cannot be explained by local realistic theories. Given measurement choices (x, y) and outcomes (a, b) , correlations $P(a, b|x, y)$ that violate a Bell inequality cannot be reproduced by a local hidden-variable model, provided that the assumptions underlying the test are satisfied. In practical experiments, however, apparent violations may arise when these assumptions are weakened by experimental *loopholes*. Closing such loopholes is therefore essential for strengthening the validity of the Bell test.

Here we demonstrate a fiber-compatible platform for a Clauser–Horne–Shimony–Holt (CHSH) Bell test using time-bin entangled photons that simultaneously addresses the locality, freedom-of-choice, and postselection loopholes.

Time-bin encoding is particularly attractive for quantum networks because it is naturally compatible with optical fiber transmission and can be extended beyond two-dimensional encoding. Conventional time-bin measurements, however, generally use passive unbalanced interferometers. Only the temporally indistinguishable events are then retained, introducing a postselection loophole through which local hidden-variable models can reproduce correlations that would otherwise appear nonlocal [1]. We eliminate this temporal postselection by replacing the passive input beamsplitter of each receiver interferometer with a fast electro-optic switch. The switch deterministically routes the early and late time bins through complementary paths so that the interfering alternatives arrive in the same temporal mode. Independent quantum random-number generators determine Alice’s and Bob’s settings at 125 MHz.

The experiment is arranged such that the relevant measurement-setting and detection events at Alice and Bob satisfy the required spacelike-separation conditions. The two stations are separated by only 49.0 ± 0.7 m, demonstrating that the locality and freedom-of-choice constraints can be simultaneously satisfied within a compact architecture. All detected coincidences are included without temporal filtering, and we obtain

$$S = 2.583 \pm 0.002,$$

corresponding to a violation of the local-realistic CHSH bound $S \leq 2$ by more than 265 standard deviations. Tests of marginal statistics using the complete detection records are also consistent with the no-signalling conditions within statistical uncertainty.

Beyond its foundational relevance, the results provide a route toward more rigorous Bell experiments in fiber networks. Active, postselection-free time-bin measurements are compatible with high-speed operation and, unlike polarization encoding, can naturally be generalized to high-dimensional systems. Such systems offer an interesting platform for exploring how higher-dimensional state and measurement spaces, together with stronger experimental constraints, can improve the certification of nonclassical correlations and ultimately enable device-independent quantum information protocols.

Improving device-independent quantum key distribution protocols through multiple routed Bell tests

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Device-independent quantum key distribution (DI-QKD) is known for being provably secure with a minimal set of assumptions. However, a practical demonstration of DI-QKD has remained elusive. First, long-range Bell tests, which have been crucial for most DI-QKD protocols, are very hard to implement. Otherwise, in current demonstrations using event-ready setups, quantum memories have remained difficult to implement [1]. Routed Bell tests with a distant Bell state measurement (BSM) unit (for entanglement swapping) was recently proposed as a promising alternative, and it was suggested that strong local Bell tests may be sufficient for security [2]. However, non-ideal violations come up with critical efficiency requirements at the long-range BSM. Overlooking this can lead to overestimation of the secret key rate. We propose a modified DI-QKD protocol based on multiple sources and measurement devices where, in each round, routed tests are performed on randomly selected local devices. The violation of local Bell tests is thereby checked even when a successful BSM projection is achieved. By requiring that such conditional tests remain consistent with the overall one, we achieve improvements in the long-range BSM critical efficiencies of about 4 - 12% for high visibilities. Our approach enables long-distance DI-QKD, with access to a highly efficient loophole-free routing setup, and multiple local tests (possibly imperfect) with very high local detection efficiencies. It importantly avoids the requirement for long-range Bell tests.

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Field Test of Entanglement Assisted Classical Communication

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Recent theoretical studies [1–3] have demonstrated quantum advantage in entanglement-assisted classical multiple access channels (EA-MACs). Using non-local games, these approaches quantify the advantage in transmission rates when the senders share entanglement.

We present an ansatz relating EA-MAC protocols to Bell inequalities and discuss how an experimental implementation of the protocol in [1–3] requires a loophole-free Bell test. Since loophole-free Bell tests are experimentally challenging, we also investigate other EA-MAC protocols that are more feasible to implement. These protocols bypass the need for loophole-free Bell tests, making it possible to experimentally demonstrate a quantum advantage in EA-MACs.

Our aim is to bridge the gap between theoretical proposals and practical implementations, providing a pathway toward experimental demonstration of entanglement-assisted communication protocols.

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