

# The Theory of Statistical Comparison in Quantum Information and Foundations

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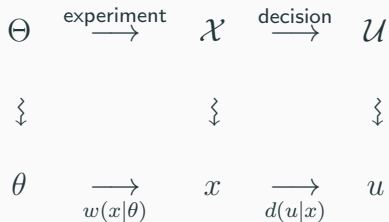
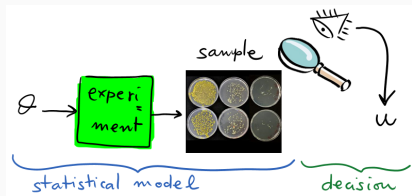
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# **The Birth in Mathematical Statistics**

# Statistical Decision Problems



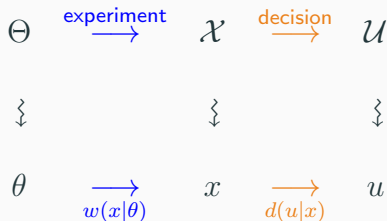
payoff is  $\ell(\theta, u) \in \mathbb{R}$

## Definition (Statistical Models and Decisions Problems)

A **statistical experiment** (i.e., statistical model) is a triple  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, w \rangle$ , a **statistical decision problem** (i.e., statistical game) is a triple  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle$ .

# How Much Is an Experiment Worth?

- the experiment *is given*,  
i.e., it is the “resource”
- the decision instead *can*  
*be optimized*



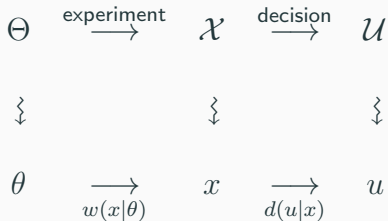
## Definition (Expected Payoff)

The **expected payoff of a statistical experiment**  $\mathbf{w} = \langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, w \rangle$  w.r.t. a **decision problem**  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle$  is given by

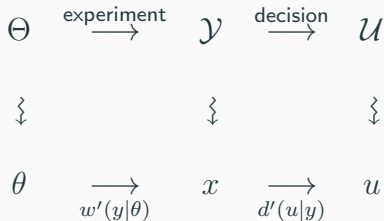
$$\mathbb{E}_{\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle}[\mathbf{w}] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_{d(u|x)} \sum_{u, x, \theta} \ell(\theta, u) d(u|x) w(x|\theta) |\Theta|^{-1} .$$

# Comparing Experiments 1/2

First experiment:  
 $\mathbf{w} = \langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, w(x|\theta) \rangle$



Second experiment:  
 $\mathbf{w}' = \langle \Theta, \mathcal{Y}, w'(y|\theta) \rangle$



If  $\mathbb{E}_{\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle}[\mathbf{w}] \geq \mathbb{E}_{\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle}[\mathbf{w}']$ , then experiment  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, w \rangle$  is better than experiment  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{Y}, w' \rangle$  for problem  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle$ .

# Comparing Experiments 2/2

## Definition (Information Preorder)

If the experiment  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, w \rangle$  is better than experiment  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{Y}, w' \rangle$  **for all decision problems**  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle$ , then we say that  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, w \rangle$  is *more informative* than  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{Y}, w' \rangle$ , and write

$$\langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, w \rangle \succeq \langle \Theta, \mathcal{Y}, w' \rangle .$$

**Problem.** The information preorder is operational, but not really “concrete”. Can we visualize this better?

# Blackwell's Theorem (1948-1953)

## Blackwell-Sherman-Stein Theorem

Given two experiments with the same parameter space,  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, w \rangle$  and  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{Y}, w' \rangle$ , **the condition**  $\langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, w \rangle \succeq \langle \Theta, \mathcal{Y}, w' \rangle$  **holds iff** there exists a conditional probability  $\varphi(y|x)$  such that  $w'(y|\theta) = \sum_x \varphi(y|x)w(x|\theta)$ .



David H. Blackwell  
(1919-2010)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \Theta & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{Y} & & \Theta & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{X} \xrightarrow{\text{noise}} \mathcal{Y} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & = & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \theta & \xrightarrow{w'(y|\theta)} & y & & \theta & \xrightarrow{w(x|\theta)} & x \xrightarrow{\varphi(y|x)} y \end{array}$$

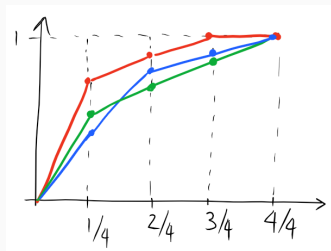
# **The Precursor: Majorization**



# Lorenz Curves and Majorization

- two probability distributions,  $\mathbf{p}$  and  $\mathbf{q}$ , of the same dimension  $n$
- truncated sums  $P(k) = \sum_{i=1}^k p_i^\downarrow$  and  $Q(k) = \sum_{i=1}^k q_i^\downarrow$ , for all  $k = 1, \dots, n$
- $\mathbf{p}$  majorizes  $\mathbf{q}$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{p} \succeq \mathbf{q}$ , whenever  $P(k) \geq Q(k)$ , for all  $k$
- minimal element: uniform distribution  $\mathbf{e} = n^{-1}(1, 1, \dots, 1)$

Lorenz curve for probability distribution  $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_n)$ :



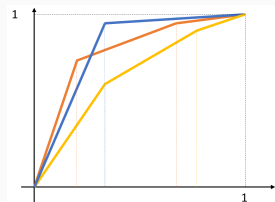
$$(x_k, y_k) = (k/n, P(k)), \quad 1 \leq k \leq n$$

## Hardy, Littlewood, and Pólya

$\mathbf{p} \succeq \mathbf{q} \iff \mathbf{q} = M\mathbf{p}$ , for some bistochastic matrix  $M$ .

# Generalization: Relative Lorenz Curves

- two pairs of probability distributions,  $(p_1, p_2)$  and  $(q_1, q_2)$ , of dimension  $m$  and  $n$ , respectively
- relabel entries such that ratios  $p_1^i/p_2^i$  and  $q_1^j/q_2^j$  are nonincreasing
- construct the truncated sums  $P_{1,2}(k) = \sum_{i=1}^k p_{1,2}^i$  and  $Q_{1,2}(k)$
- $(p_1, p_2) \succeq (q_1, q_2)$  iff the relative Lorenz curve of the former is never below that of the latter



Relative Lorenz curves:

$$(x_k, y_k) = (P_2(k), P_1(k))$$

## Blackwell (Theorem for Dichotomies)

$(p_1, p_2) \succeq (q_1, q_2) \iff q_i = Mp_i$ , for some stochastic matrix  $M$ .

## **Extension to the Quantum Case**

# Quantum Decision Theory

A.S. Holevo, *Statistical Decision Theory for Quantum Systems*, 1973.

classical case	quantum case
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• decision problems <math>\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle</math></li><li>• experiments <math>\mathbf{w} = \langle \Theta, \mathcal{X}, \{w(x \theta)\} \rangle</math></li><li>• decisions <math>d(u x)</math></li><li>• <math>p_c(u, \theta) = \sum_x d(u x)w(x \theta) \Theta ^{-1}</math></li><li>• <math>\mathbb{E}_{\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle}[\mathbf{w}] = \max_{d(u x)} \sum \ell(\theta, u)p_c(u, \theta)</math></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• decision problems <math>\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle</math></li><li>• quantum experiments <math>\mathcal{E} = \langle \Theta, \mathcal{H}_S, \{\rho_S^\theta\} \rangle</math></li><li>• POVMs <math>\{P_S^u : u \in \mathcal{U}\}</math></li><li>• <math>p_q(u, \theta) = \text{Tr}[\rho_S^\theta P_S^u]  \Theta ^{-1}</math></li><li>• <math>\mathbb{E}_{\langle \Theta, \mathcal{U}, \ell \rangle}[\mathcal{E}] = \max_{\{P_S^u\}} \sum \ell(\theta, u)p_q(u, \theta)</math></li></ul>

Hence, it is possible, for example, to **compare quantum experiments with classical experiments**, and **introduce the information preorder as done before**.

# Example: Semiquantum Blackwell Theorem

## Theorem (FB, 2012)

Consider two quantum experiments  $\mathcal{E} = \langle \Theta, \mathcal{H}_S, \{\rho_S^\theta\} \rangle$  and  $\mathcal{E}' = \langle \Theta, \mathcal{H}_{S'}, \{\sigma_{S'}^\theta\} \rangle$ , and **assume that the  $\sigma$ 's all commute**. Then,  **$\mathcal{E} \succeq \mathcal{E}'$  holds iff** there exists a quantum channel (CPTP map)  $\Phi : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_S) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_{S'})$  such that  $\Phi(\rho_S^\theta) = \sigma_{S'}^\theta$ , for all  $\theta \in \Theta$ .

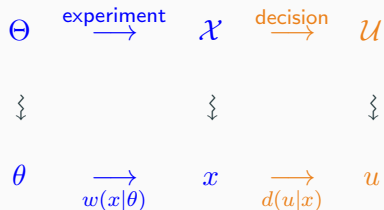
# Developments

- **fully quantum** information preorder
- quantum relative majorization
- statistical comparison of **quantum measurements** (**compatibility** preorder)
- statistical comparison of **quantum channels** (input-degradability preorder, output-degradability preorder, **coding** preorder, etc)
- **applications**: **quantum information theory**, quantum thermodynamics, open quantum systems dynamics, quantum resource theories, **quantum foundations**, ...

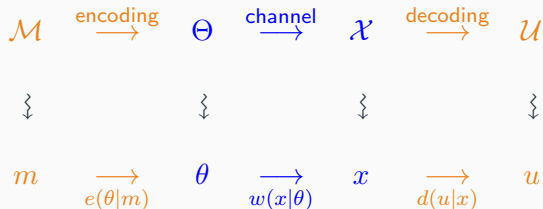
# **The Viewpoint of Communication Theory**

# Statistics vs Information Theory

**Statistical theory:** Nature does not bother with coding



**Communication theory:** a sender, instead, *does code*



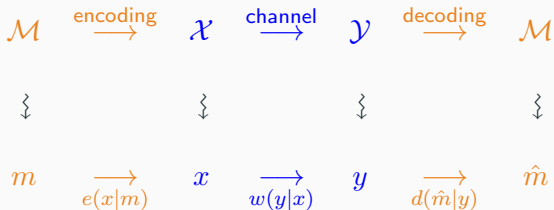


# From Decision Problems to Decoding Problems

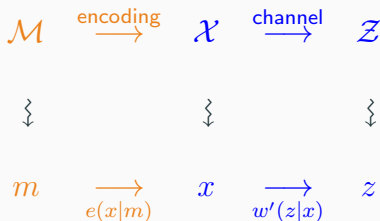
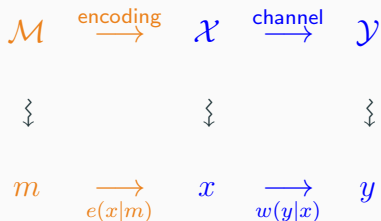
## Definition (Decoding Problems)

Given a channel  $\langle \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, w(y|x) \rangle$ , a **decoding problem** is defined by an **encoding**  $\langle \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{X}, e(x|m) \rangle$  and the payoff function is the **optimum guessing probability**:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\langle \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{X}, e(x|m) \rangle}[\langle \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, w(y|x) \rangle] &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_{d(m|y)} \sum_{m,x,y} d(m|y) w(y|x) e(x|m) |\mathcal{M}|^{-1} \\ &= 2^{-H_{\min}(M|Y)} \end{aligned}$$



# Comparison of Classical Noisy Channels



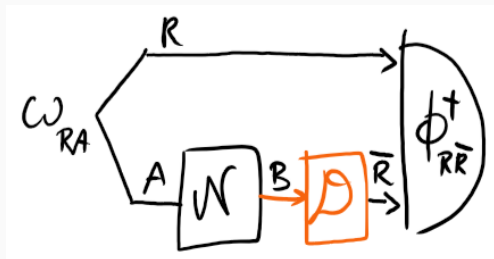
## Theorem (FB, 2016)

The following are equivalent:

1. there exists  $\varphi(z|y)$ :  $w'(x|z) = \sum_y \varphi(z|y)w(y|x)$   
(*stochastic degradability*);
2. for all codes  $\langle \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{X}, e(x|m) \rangle$ ,  $H_{\min}(M|Y) \leq H_{\min}(M|Z)$   
(*ambiguity preorder*).

The above strictly imply  $H(M|Y) \leq H(M|Z)$  (*Körner's and Marton's noisiness preorder*).

# Decoding Quantum Codes



## Definition (Quantum Decoding Problems)

Given a quantum channel  $\mathcal{N} : A \rightarrow B$ , a **quantum decoding problem** is defined by a **bipartite state**  $\omega_{RA}$  and the payoff function is the **optimum singlet fraction**:

$$\mathbb{E}_\omega[\mathcal{N}] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_{\mathcal{D}} \langle \Phi_{R\bar{R}}^+ | (\text{id}_R \otimes \mathcal{D}_{B \rightarrow \bar{R}} \circ \mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B})(\omega_{RA}) | \Phi_{R\bar{R}}^+ \rangle$$

# Comparison of Quantum Noisy Channels

## Theorem

Given two quantum channels  $\mathcal{N} : A \rightarrow B$  and  $\mathcal{N}' : A \rightarrow B'$ , the following are equivalent:

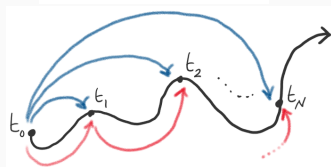
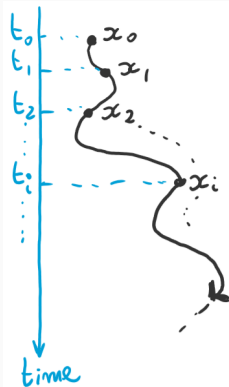
1. there exists CPTP map  $\mathcal{C} : \mathcal{N}' = \mathcal{C} \circ \mathcal{N}$  (*degradability preorder*);
2. for any bipartite state  $\omega_{RA}$ ,  $\mathbb{E}_\omega[\mathcal{N}] \geq \mathbb{E}_\omega[\mathcal{N}']$  (*coherence preorder*);
3. for any bipartite state  $\omega_{RA}$ ,  
$$H_{\min}(R|B)_{(\text{id} \otimes \mathcal{N})(\omega)} \leq H_{\min}(R|B')_{(\text{id} \otimes \mathcal{N}')(\omega)}.$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  by adding symmetry constraints, we have applications in **quantum thermodynamics**

# **Application to Open Quantum Systems Dynamics**

# Discrete-Time Stochastic Processes

- Let  $x_i$ , for  $i = 0, 1, \dots$ , index the **state of a system** at time  $t = t_i$
- **if the system can be initialized at time  $t = t_0$** , the process is fully described by the conditional distribution  $p(x_N, \dots, x_1 | x_0)$
- if the system evolving is quantum, we only have a **quantum dynamical mapping**  $\left\{ \mathcal{N}_{Q_0 \rightarrow Q_i}^{(i)} \right\}_{i=1, \dots, N}$
- the process is **divisible** if there exist channels  $\mathcal{D}^{(i)}$  such that  $\mathcal{N}^{(i+1)} = \mathcal{D}^{(i)} \circ \mathcal{N}^{(i)}$  for all  $i$

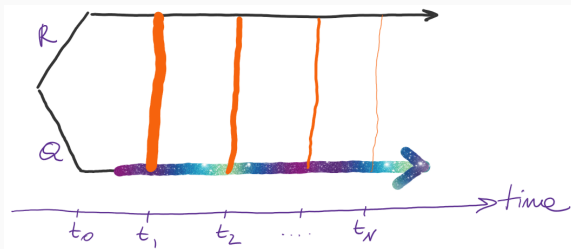


# Divisibility as “Entanglement Flow”

## Theorem (2016-2018)

Given an initial open quantum system  $Q_0$ , a quantum dynamical mapping  $\left\{ \mathcal{N}_{Q_0 \rightarrow Q_i}^{(i)} \right\}_{i \geq 1}$  is divisible if and only if, for any initial state  $\omega_{RQ_0}$ ,

$$H_{\min}(R|Q_1) \leq H_{\min}(R|Q_2) \leq \dots \leq H_{\min}(R|Q_N) .$$



# **Application to Quantum Foundations: Probing Quantum Correlations in Space-Time**

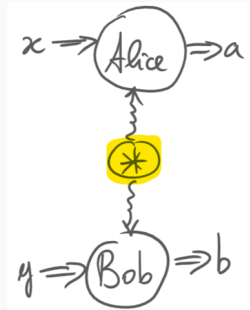


# Part One: Quantum Space-Like Correlations

- nonlocal games (Bell tests) can be seen as bipartite decision problems  $\langle \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}; \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}; \ell \rangle$  played “in parallel” by non-communicating players

- with a classical source,  $p_c(a, b|x, y) = \sum_{\lambda} \pi(\lambda) d_A(a|x, \lambda) d_B(b|y, \lambda)$

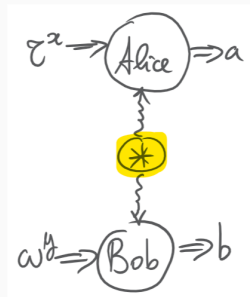
- with a quantum source,  $p_q(a, b|x, y) = \text{Tr}[\rho_{AB} (P_A^{a|x} \otimes Q_B^{b|y})]$



$$\mathbb{E}_{\langle \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}; \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}; \ell \rangle}[*] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_{x, y, a, b} \sum \ell(x, y; a, b) p_{c/q}(a, b|x, y) |\mathcal{X}|^{-1} |\mathcal{Y}|^{-1}$$

# Semiquantum Nonlocal Games

- **semiquantum nonlocal games** replace classical inputs with quantum inputs:  
 $\langle \{\tau^x\}, \{\omega^y\}; \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}; \ell \rangle$
- with a classical source,  $p_c(a, b|x, y) = \sum_{\lambda} \pi(\lambda) \text{Tr}[(\tau_X^x \otimes \omega_Y^y) (P_X^{a|\lambda} \otimes Q_Y^{b|\lambda})]$
- with a quantum source,  $p_q(a, b|x, y) = \text{Tr}[(\tau_X^x \otimes \rho_{AB} \otimes \omega_Y^y) (P_{XA}^a \otimes Q_{BY}^b)]$



$$\mathbb{E}_{\langle \{\tau^x\}, \{\omega^y\}; \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}; \ell \rangle}[*] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_{x, y, a, b} \sum \ell(x, y; a, b) p_{c/q}(a, b|x, y) |\mathcal{X}|^{-1} |\mathcal{Y}|^{-1}$$

# A Blackwell Theorem for Bipartite States

## Theorem (FB, 2012)

Given two bipartite states  $\rho_{AB}$  and  $\sigma_{A'B'}$ , the condition (i.e., “nonlocality preorder”)

$$\mathbb{E}_{\langle\{\tau^x\},\{\omega^y\};\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B};\ell\rangle}[\rho_{AB}] \geq \mathbb{E}_{\langle\{\tau^x\},\{\omega^y\};\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B};\ell\rangle}[\sigma_{A'B'}]$$

holds for all semiquantum nonlocal games, iff there exist CPTP maps  $\Phi_{A \rightarrow A'}^\lambda$ ,  $\Psi_{B \rightarrow B'}^\lambda$ , and distribution  $\pi(\lambda)$  such that

$$\sigma_{A'B'} = \sum_{\lambda} \pi(\lambda) (\Phi_{A \rightarrow A'}^\lambda \otimes \Psi_{B \rightarrow B'}^\lambda)(\rho_{AB}) .$$

# Corollaries

- For any separable state  $\rho_{AB}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}_{\langle\{\tau^x\},\{\omega^y\};\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B};\ell\rangle}[\rho_{AB}] &= \mathbb{E}_{\langle\{\tau^x\},\{\omega^y\};\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B};\ell\rangle}[\rho_A \otimes \rho_B] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\langle\{\tau^x\},\{\omega^y\};\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B};\ell\rangle}^{\text{sep}} ,\end{aligned}$$

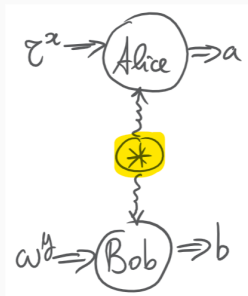
**for all** semiquantum nonlocal games.

- For any entangled state  $\rho_{AB}$ , **there exists** a semiquantum nonlocal game  $\langle\{\tau^x\},\{\omega^y\};\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B};\ell\rangle$  such that

$$\mathbb{E}_{\langle\{\tau^x\},\{\omega^y\};\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B};\ell\rangle}[\rho_{AB}] > \mathbb{E}_{\langle\{\tau^x\},\{\omega^y\};\mathcal{A},\mathcal{B};\ell\rangle}^{\text{sep}} .$$

# Other Properties of Semiquantum Nonlocal Games

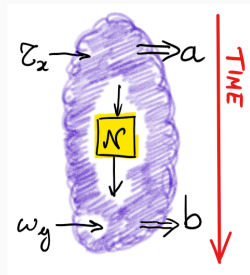
- can be considered as measurement device-independent entanglement witnesses (i.e., MDI-EW)
- can withstand losses in the detectors
- can withstand **any amount of classical communication exchanged between Alice and Bob** (not so conventional nonlocal games!)



**Part Two:**  
**Quantum Time-Like Correlations**

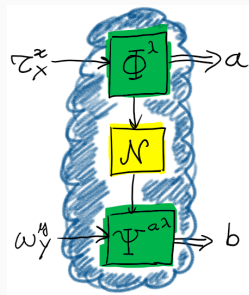
# Semiquantum Nonlocality “in Time”

- Alice–Bob becomes ‘Alice now’–‘Alice later’
- with unlimited classical memory,  
$$p_c(a, b|x, y) = \sum_{\lambda} \pi(\lambda) \text{Tr} \left[ \tau_X^x P_X^{a|\lambda} \right] \text{Tr} \left[ \omega_Y^y Q_Y^{b|a, \lambda} \right]$$
- if, moreover, a quantum memory  $\mathcal{N} : A \rightarrow B$  is available?



# Admissible Quantum Strategies

- $\tau_X^x$  is fed through an *instrument*  $\{\Phi_{X \rightarrow A}^{a|\lambda}\}$ , and outcome  $a$  is recorded
- the quantum output of the instrument is fed through the quantum memory  $\mathcal{N} : A \rightarrow B$
- the output of the memory, together with  $\omega_Y^y$ , are fed into a final measurement  $\{\Psi_{BY}^{b|a,\lambda}\}$ , and output  $b$  is recorded



$$p_q(a, b|x, y) = \sum_{\lambda} \pi(\lambda) \text{Tr} \left[ \left( \{(\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B} \circ \Phi_{X \rightarrow A}^{a|\lambda})(\tau_X^x)\} \otimes \omega_Y^y \right) \Psi_{BY}^{b|a,\lambda} \right]$$



# Classical vs Quantum Strategies

**Classical:**

$$p_c(a, b|x, y) = \sum_{\lambda} \pi(\lambda) \operatorname{Tr} \left[ \tau_X^x P_X^{a|\lambda} \right] \operatorname{Tr} \left[ \omega_Y^y Q_Y^{b|a,\lambda} \right]$$

**Quantum:**

$$p_q(a, b|x, y) = \sum_{\lambda} \pi(\lambda) \operatorname{Tr} \left[ \left( \{ (\mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B} \circ \Phi_{X \rightarrow A}^{a|\lambda}) (\tau_X^x) \} \otimes \omega_Y^y \right) \Psi_{BY}^{b|a,\lambda} \right]$$

## Classical vs Quantum

Classical strategies correspond to the case in which the channel  $\mathcal{N}$  is **entanglement-breaking** (i.e., “measure and prepare” form):  $\mathcal{N}(\cdot) = \sum_i \rho_i \operatorname{Tr}[\cdot P_i]$ .

# Statistical Comparison of Quantum Channels

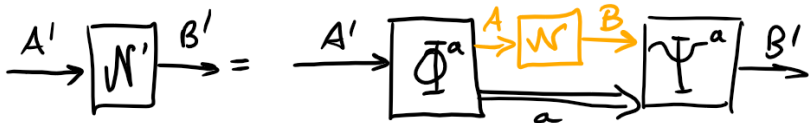
## Theorem (Rosset, FB, Liang, 2018)

Given two channels  $\mathcal{N} : A \rightarrow B$  and  $\mathcal{N}' : A' \rightarrow B'$ , the condition (i.e., “signaling preorder”)

$$\mathbb{E}_{\langle \{\tau^x\}, \{\omega^y\}; \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}; \ell \rangle} [\mathcal{N}] \geq \mathbb{E}_{\langle \{\tau^x\}, \{\omega^y\}; \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}; \ell \rangle} [\mathcal{N}']$$

holds for all semiquantum signaling games, iff there exist a quantum instrument  $\{\Phi_{A' \rightarrow A}^a\}$  and CPTP maps  $\Psi_{B \rightarrow B'}^a$  such that

$$\mathcal{N}'_{A' \rightarrow B'} = \sum_a \Psi_{B \rightarrow B'}^a \circ \mathcal{N}_{A \rightarrow B} \circ \Phi_{A' \rightarrow A}^a.$$



# Remarks

- formulation of a resource theory where all and only measure-and-prepare channels are “free”
- any non entanglement-breaking channel can be witnessed
- perfect analogy between separable states and entanglement-breaking channels
- relation with Leggett-Garg inequalities: the “clumsiness loophole” (time-like analogue of communication loophole) can be closed with semiquantum games
- semiquantum games can treat space-like and time-like correlations on an equal footing

# Conclusions

# Conclusions

- the theory of statistical comparison studies transformations of one “statistical structure”  $X$  into another “statistical structure”  $Y$
- equivalent conditions are given in terms of (finitely or infinitely many) *monotones*, e.g.,  $f_i(X) \geq f_i(Y)$
- such monotones shed light on the “resources” at stake in the operational framework at hand
- in a sense, *statistical comparison is complementary to SDP*, which instead searches for *efficiently computable* functions like  $f(X, Y)$
- however, SDP does not provide much insight into the resources at stake (and not all statistical comparisons are equivalent to SDP!)

**Thank you**