

Quantum Theory is an Information Theory


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Gorini-Kossakowski-Lindblad-Sudarshan Master Equation - 40 Years After

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Quantum Theory is an Information Theory



 Selected for a [Viewpoint](#) in *Physics*
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Informational derivation of quantum theory

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We derive quantum theory from purely informational principles. Five elementary axioms—causality, perfect distinguishability, ideal compression, local distinguishability, and pure conditioning—define a broad class of theories of information processing that can be regarded as standard. One postulate—purification—singles out quantum theory within this class.

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QUANTUM THEORY FROM FIRST PRINCIPLES



Giacomo M. D'Ariano, Giulio Chiribella, Paolo Perinotti

Operational Probabilistic Theory

The framework

Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

joint probabilities + connectivity

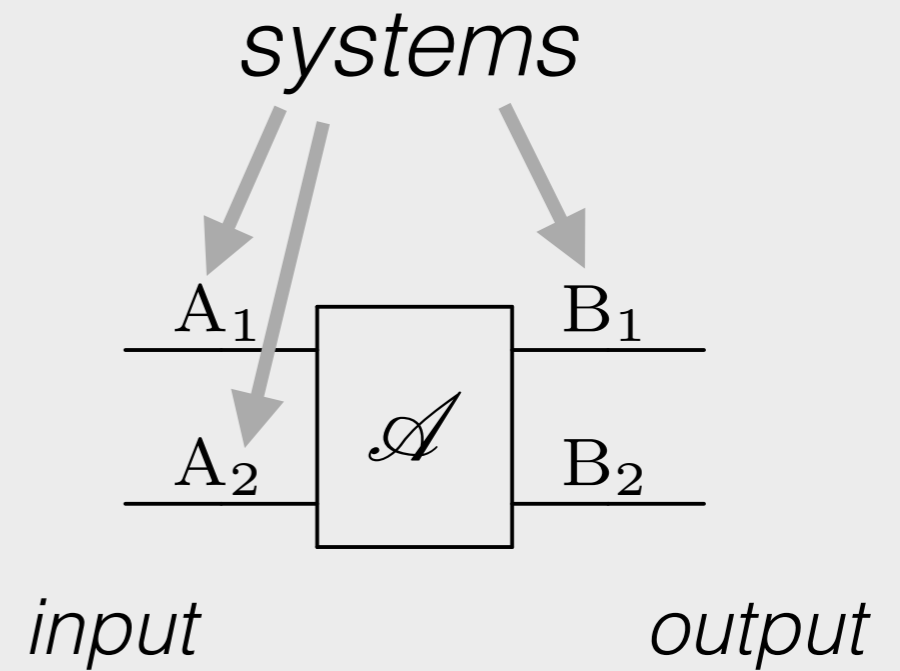
$$p(i, j, k, \dots | \text{circuit})$$

Marginal probability

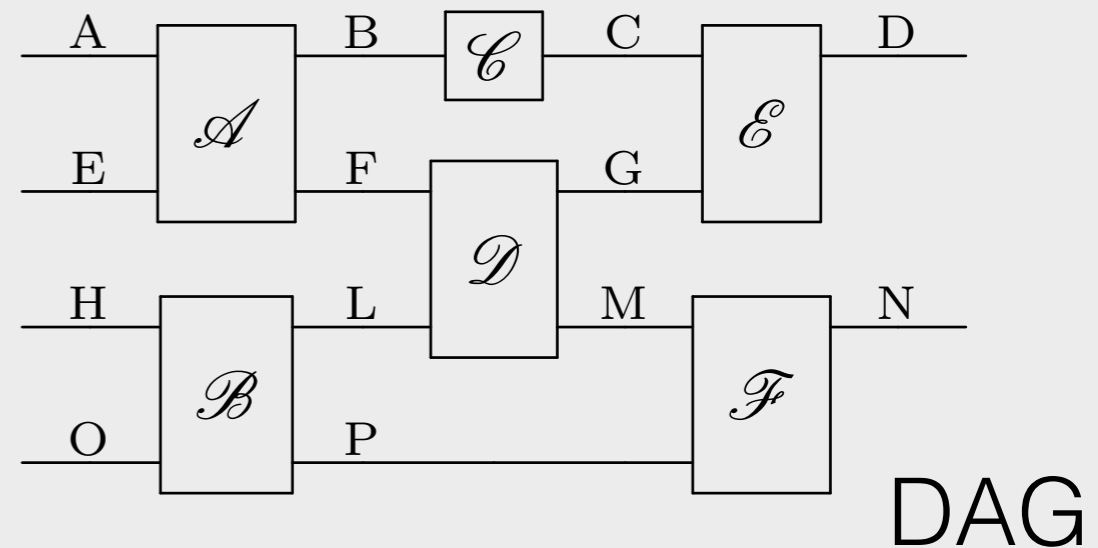
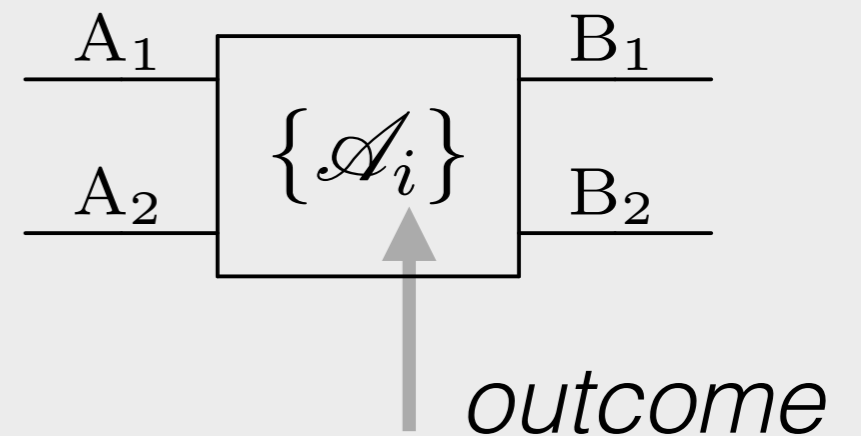
$$\sum_{i, k, \dots} p(i, j, k, \dots | \text{circuit}) =$$

$$p(j | \text{circuit})$$

Event



Test



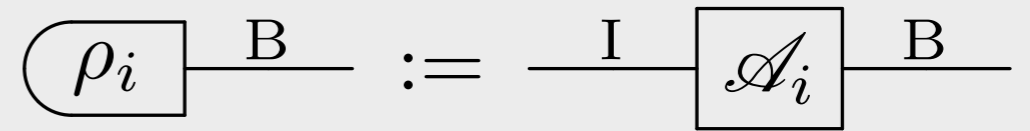
Operational Probabilistic Theory

The framework

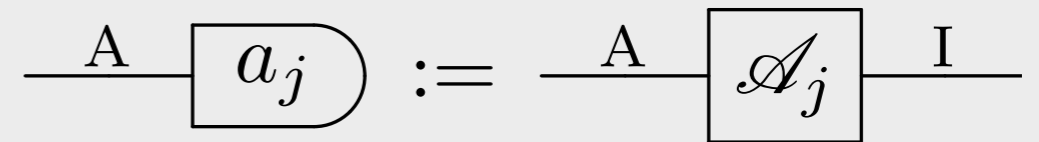
Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

joint probabilities + connectivity

$p(i, j, k, \dots | \text{circuit})$

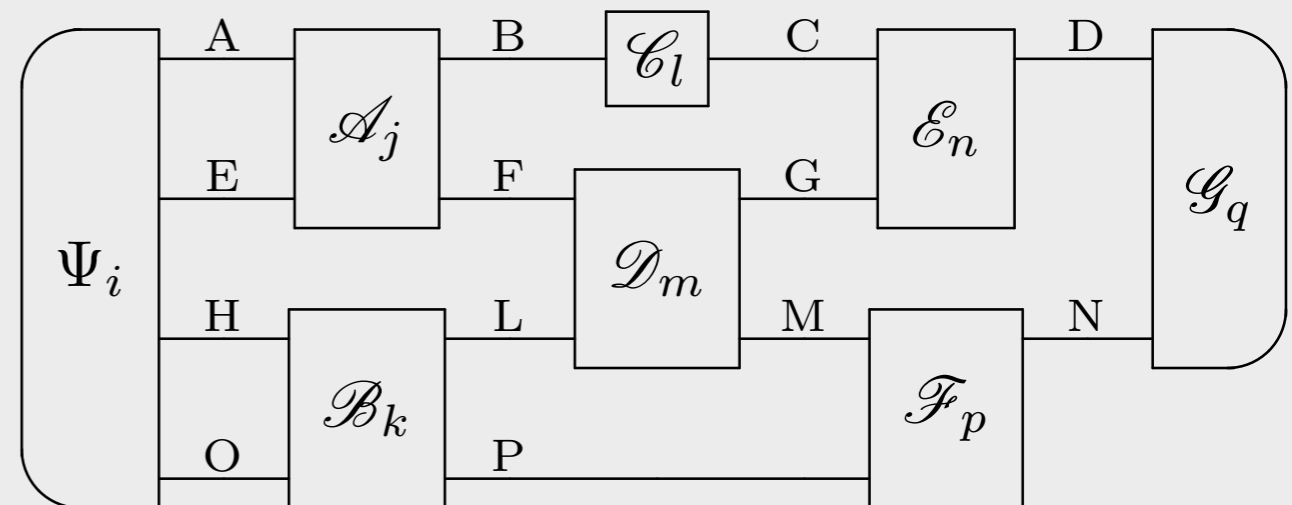


preparation



observation

$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

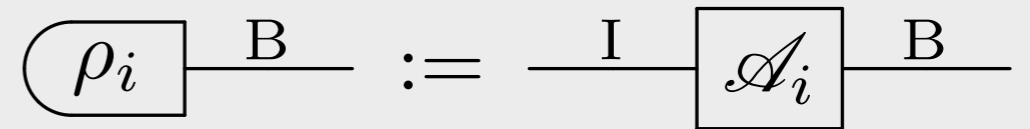
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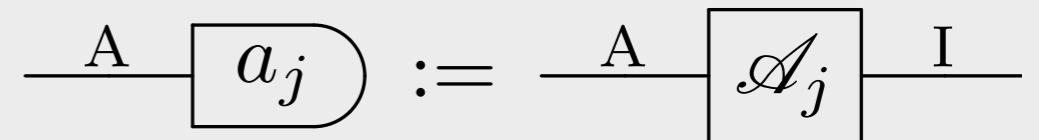
joint probabilities + connectivity

$p(i, j, k, \dots | \text{circuit})$

Notice: the probability of a “preparation” generally depends on the circuit at its output.

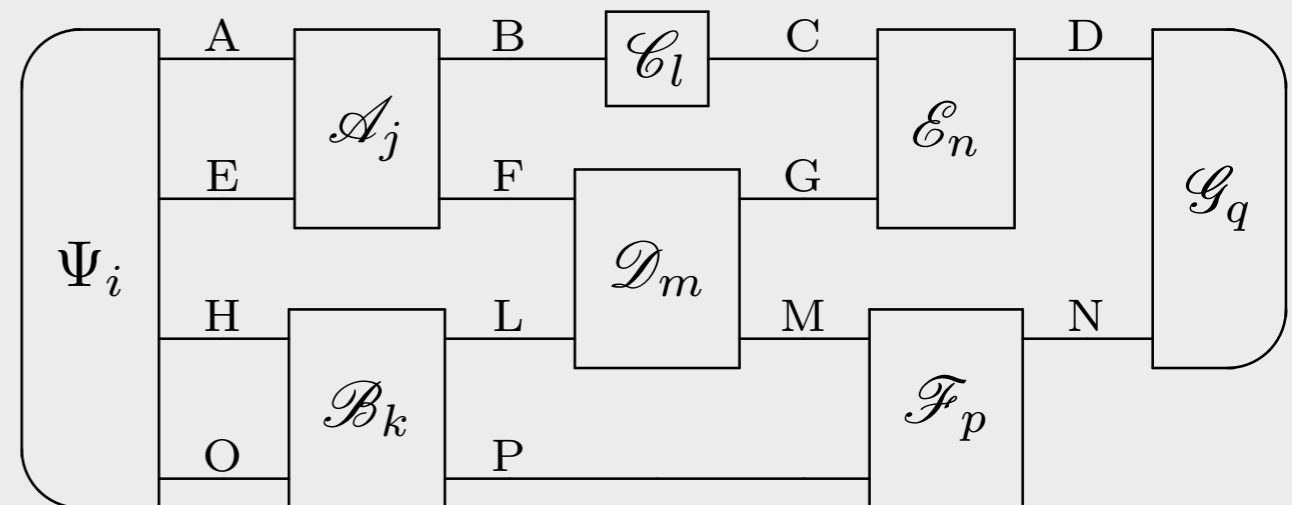


preparation



observation

$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$



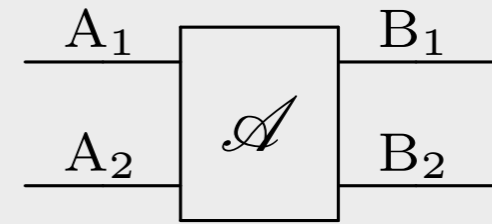
Operational Probabilistic Theory

The framework

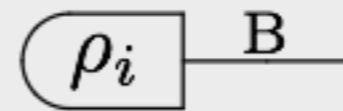
Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

joint probabilities + connectivity

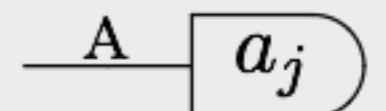
Probabilistic equivalence classes



transformation

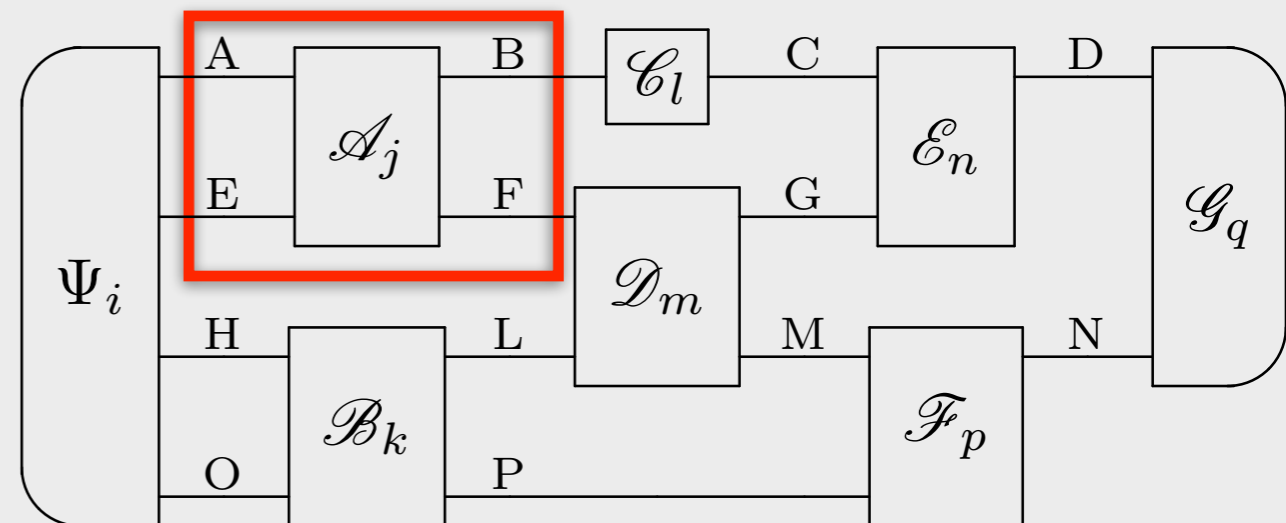


state



effect

$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

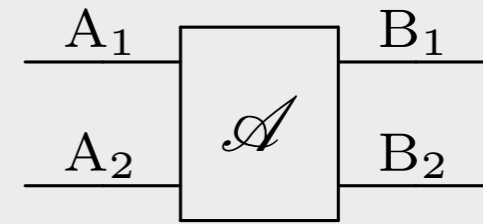
The framework

Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

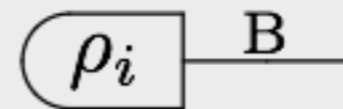
joint probabilities + connectivity

Probabilistic equivalence classes

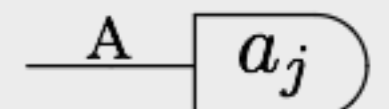
Notice: the probability of a transformation generally depends on the circuit at its output!!



transformation

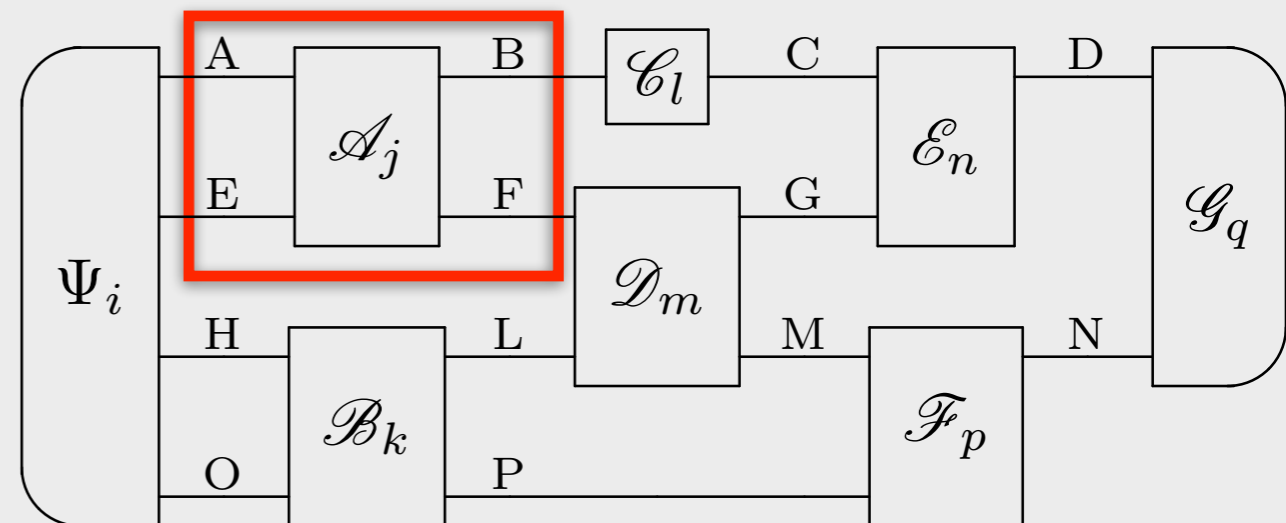


state



effect

$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

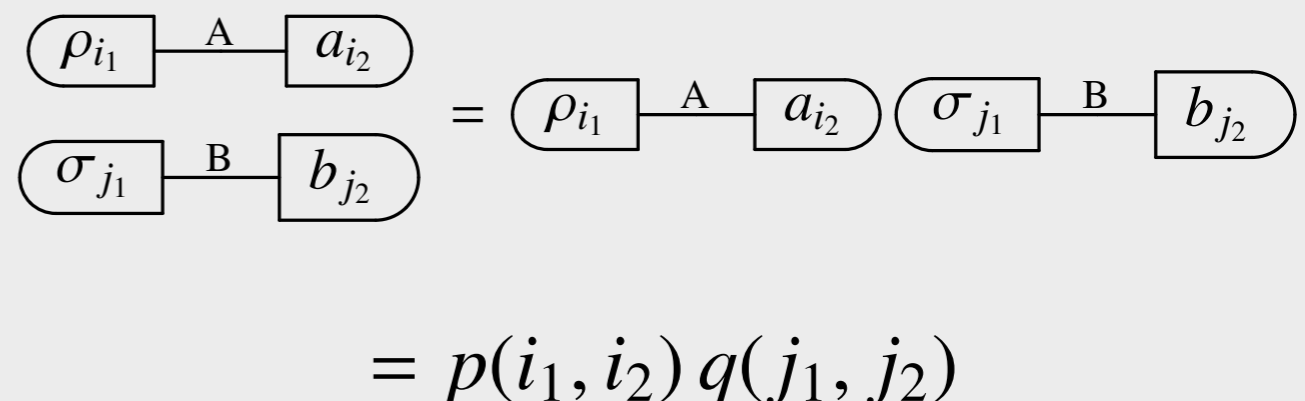
The framework

Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

joint probabilities + connectivity

Probabilistic equivalence
classes

Multiplication of closed circuits


$$\begin{array}{c} \rho_{i_1} \text{---} A \text{---} a_{i_2} \\ \sigma_{j_1} \text{---} B \text{---} b_{j_2} \end{array} = \rho_{i_1} \text{---} A \text{---} a_{i_2} \text{---} \sigma_{j_1} \text{---} B \text{---} b_{j_2}$$
$$= p(i_1, i_2) q(j_1, j_2)$$

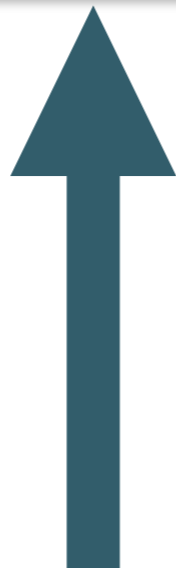
Operational Probabilistic Theory

The framework

Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

joint probabilities + **connectivity**

Probabilistic equivalence classes



monoidal category theory

Multiplication of closed circuits

$$\begin{array}{c} \rho_{i_1} \text{---} A \text{---} a_{i_2} \\ \sigma_{j_1} \text{---} B \text{---} b_{j_2} \end{array} = \rho_{i_1} \text{---} A \text{---} a_{i_2} \sigma_{j_1} \text{---} B \text{---} b_{j_2}$$
$$= p(i_1, i_2) q(j_1, j_2)$$

Operational Probabilistic Theory

Sequential composition (associative)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\{\mathcal{A}_x\}_{x \in X}} \begin{array}{c} \text{B} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\{\mathcal{B}_y\}_{y \in Y}} \begin{array}{c} \text{C} \\ \text{---} \end{array} =: \begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\{\mathcal{B}_x \circ \mathcal{A}_y\}_{(x,y) \in X \times Y}} \begin{array}{c} \text{C} \\ \text{---} \end{array}$$

Operational Probabilistic Theory

Sequential composition (associative)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\{\mathcal{A}_x\}_{x \in X}} \begin{array}{c} \text{B} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\{\mathcal{B}_y\}_{y \in Y}} \begin{array}{c} \text{C} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \quad =: \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\{\mathcal{B}_x \circ \mathcal{A}_y\}_{(x,y) \in X \times Y}} \begin{array}{c} \text{C} \\ \text{---} \end{array}$$

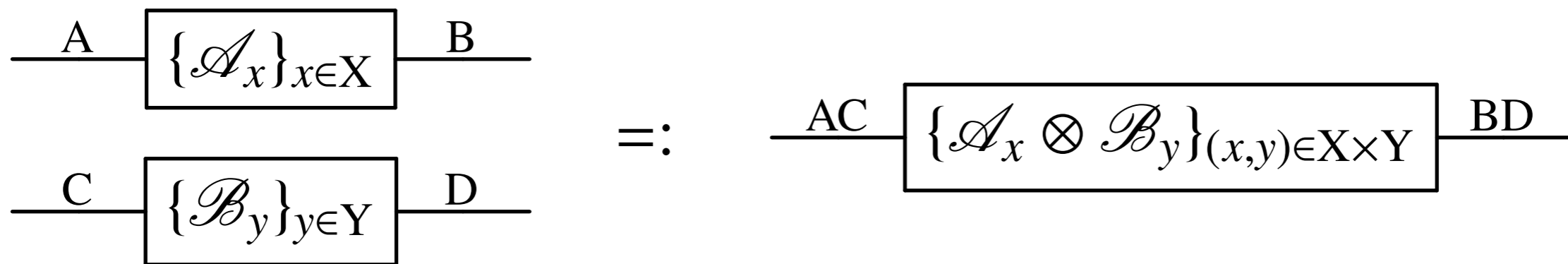
Identity test

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\mathcal{I}_A} \begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\mathcal{C}} \begin{array}{c} \text{B} \\ \text{---} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\mathcal{C}} \begin{array}{c} \text{B} \\ \text{---} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{B} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\mathcal{D}} \begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\mathcal{I}_A} \begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{B} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \boxed{\mathcal{D}} \begin{array}{c} \text{A} \\ \text{---} \end{array}$$

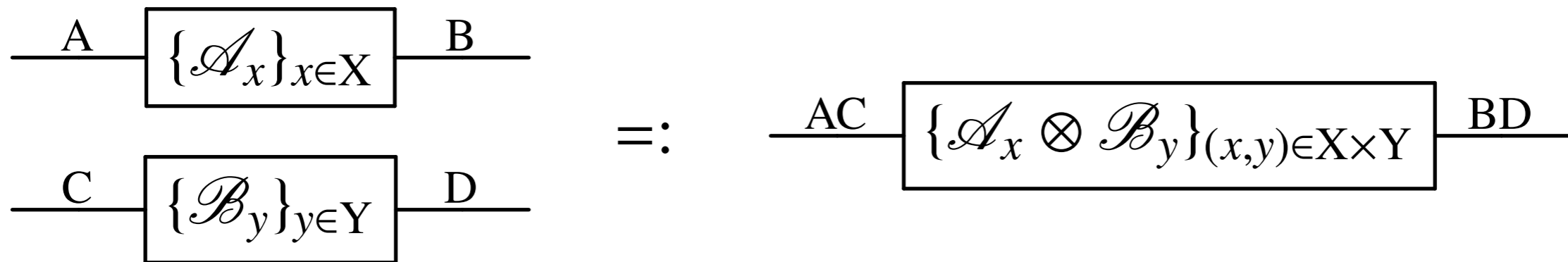
Operational Probabilistic Theory

Parallel composition (associative)



Operational Probabilistic Theory

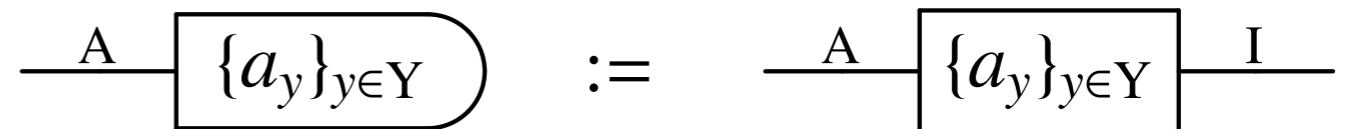
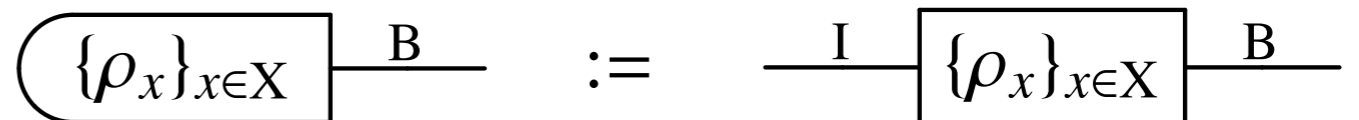
Parallel composition (associative)



$$AB = BA$$

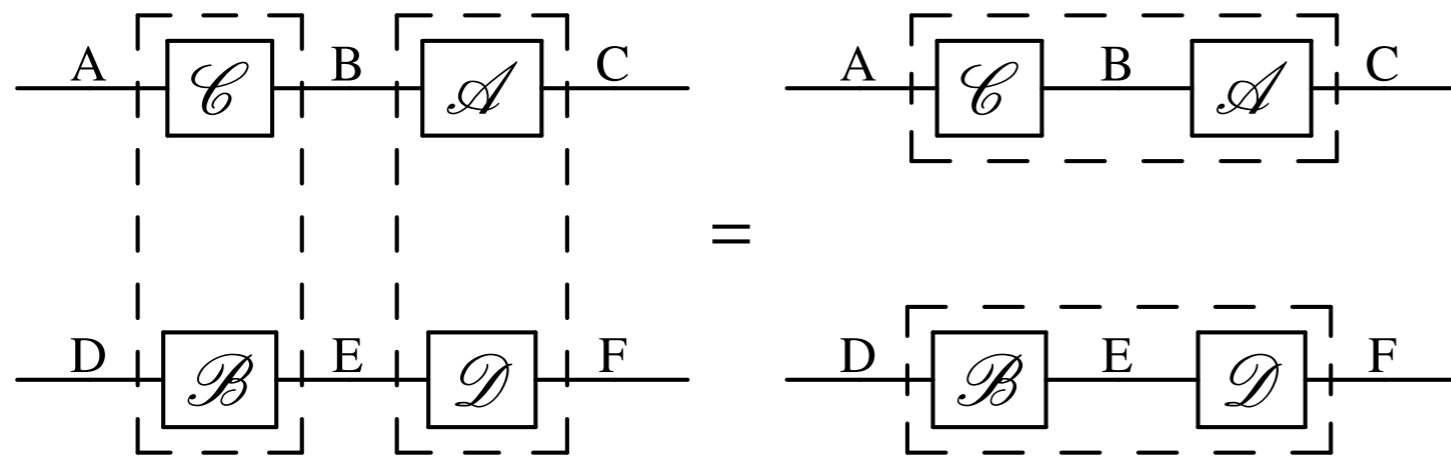
$$AI = IA = A$$

$$A(BC) = (AB)C$$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

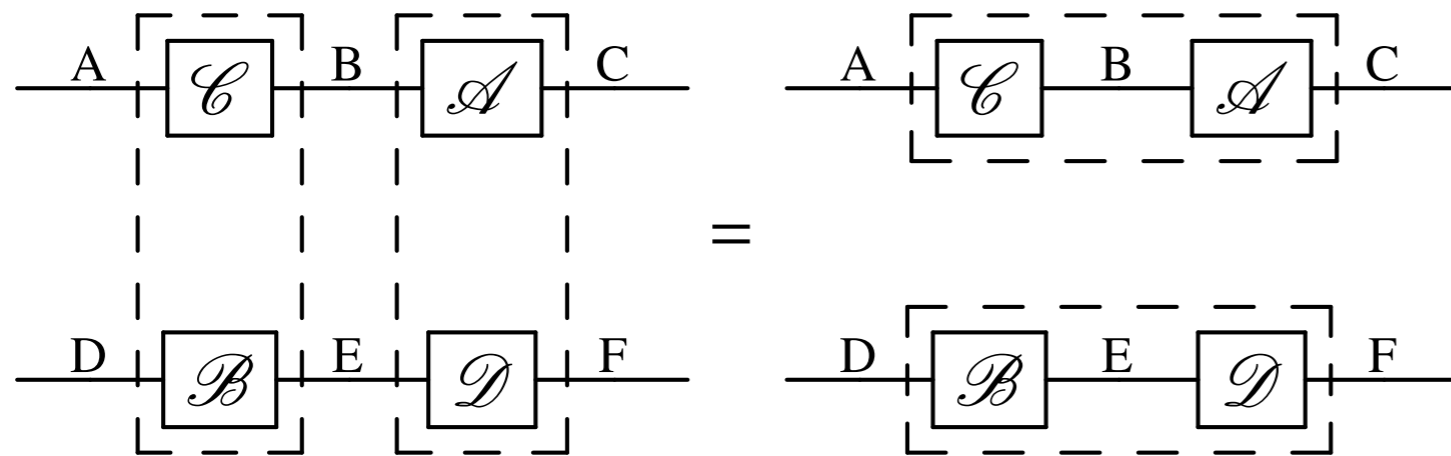
Sequential and parallel compositions commute



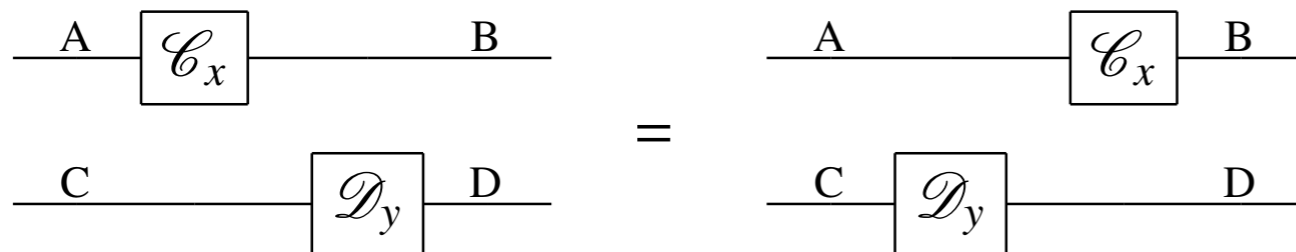
$$(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{D}) \circ (\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathcal{B}) = (\mathcal{A} \circ \mathcal{C}) \otimes (\mathcal{D} \circ \mathcal{B})$$

Operational Probabilistic Theory

Sequential and parallel compositions commute



$$(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{D}) \circ (\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathcal{B}) = (\mathcal{A} \circ \mathcal{C}) \otimes (\mathcal{D} \circ \mathcal{B})$$



wire-stretching
(foliations)

Operational Probabilistic Theory

The framework

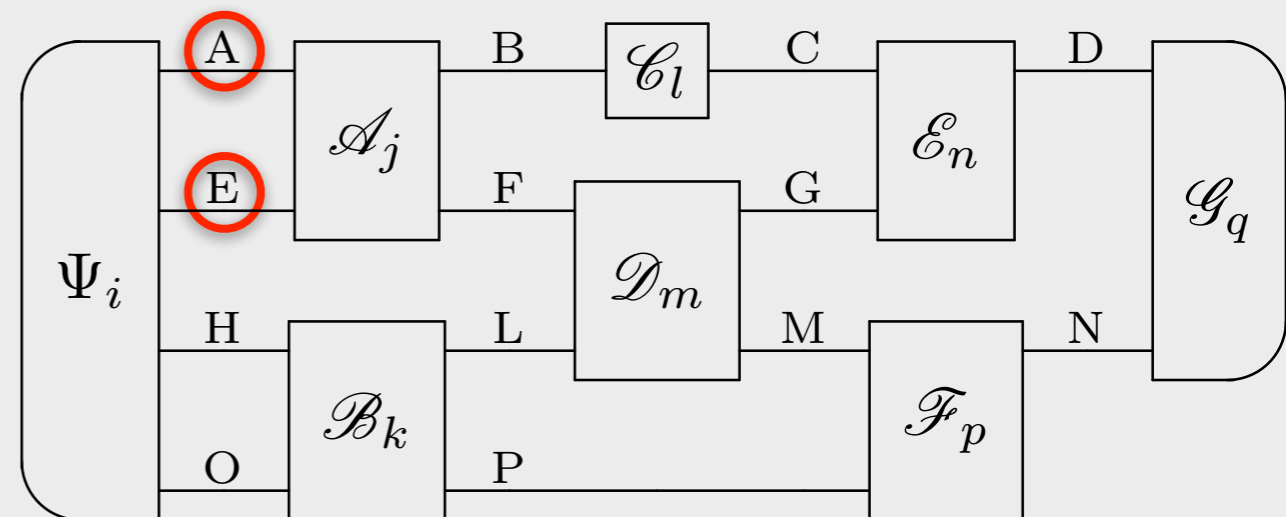
Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

joint probabilities + connectivity

$p(i, j, k, \dots | \text{circuit})$

independent systems

$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

The framework

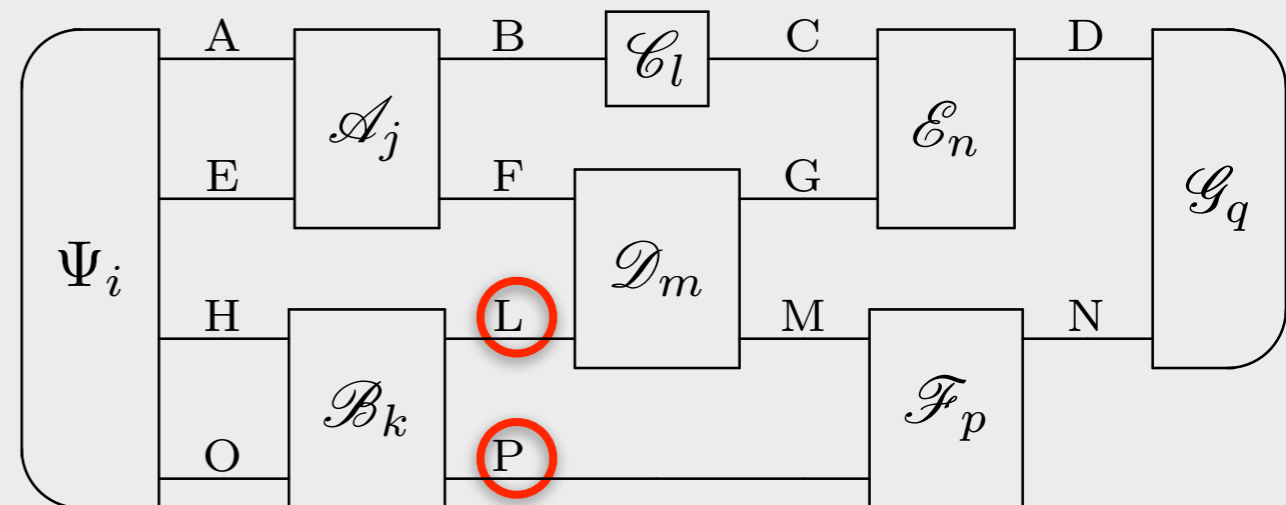
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Operational Probabilistic Theory

The framework

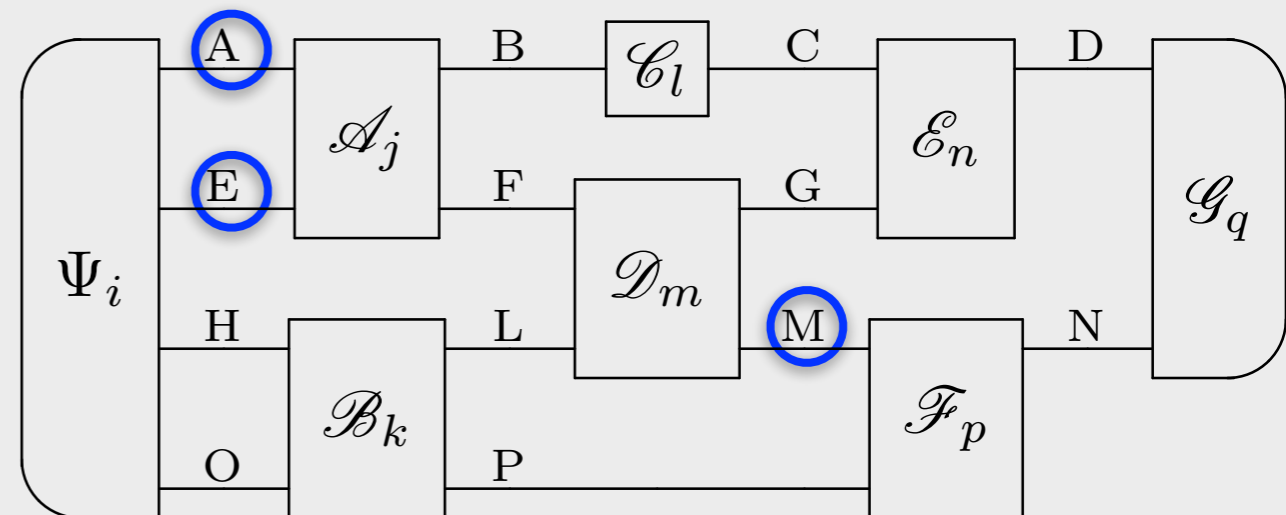
Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

joint probabilities + connectivity

$p(i, j, k, \dots | \text{circuit})$

NOT independent systems

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Operational Probabilistic Theory

The framework

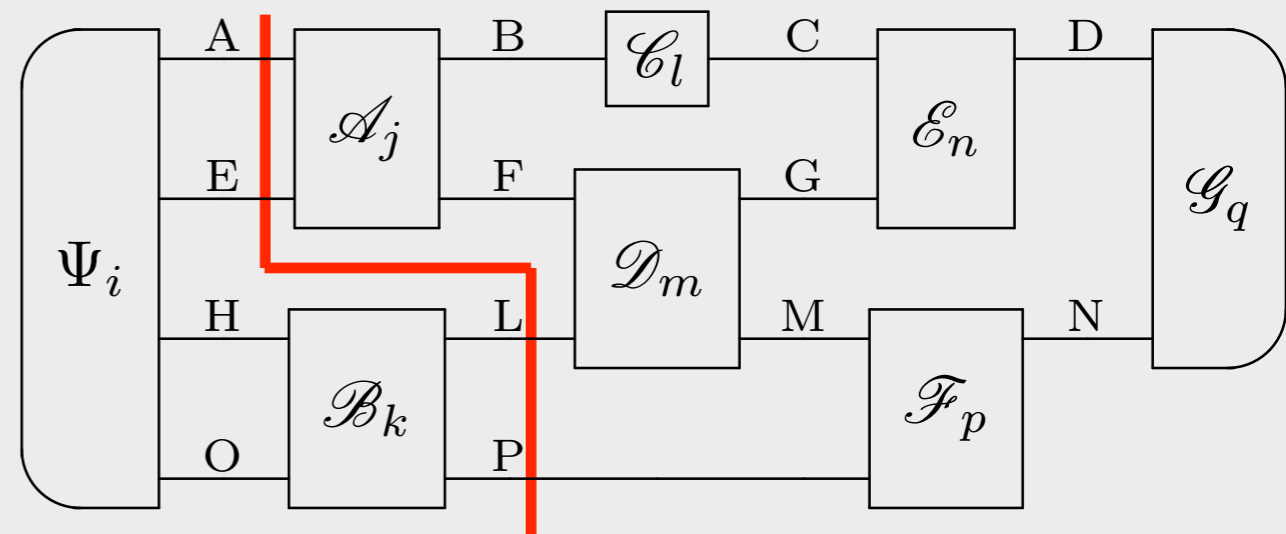
Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

joint probabilities + connectivity

$p(i, j, k, \dots | \text{circuit})$

Maximal set of independent systems
= “leaf”

$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

The framework

Logic \subset Probability \subset OPT

joint probabilities + connectivity

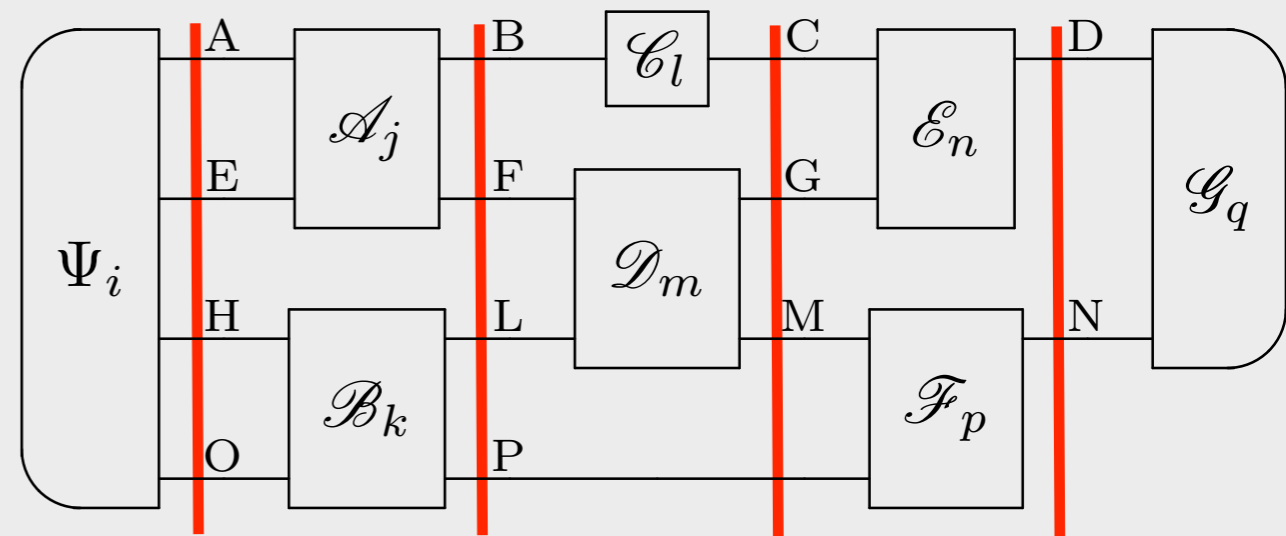
$$p(i, j, k, \dots | \text{circuit})$$

Maximal set of independent systems
= "leaf"



Foliation

$$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

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joint probabilities + connectivity

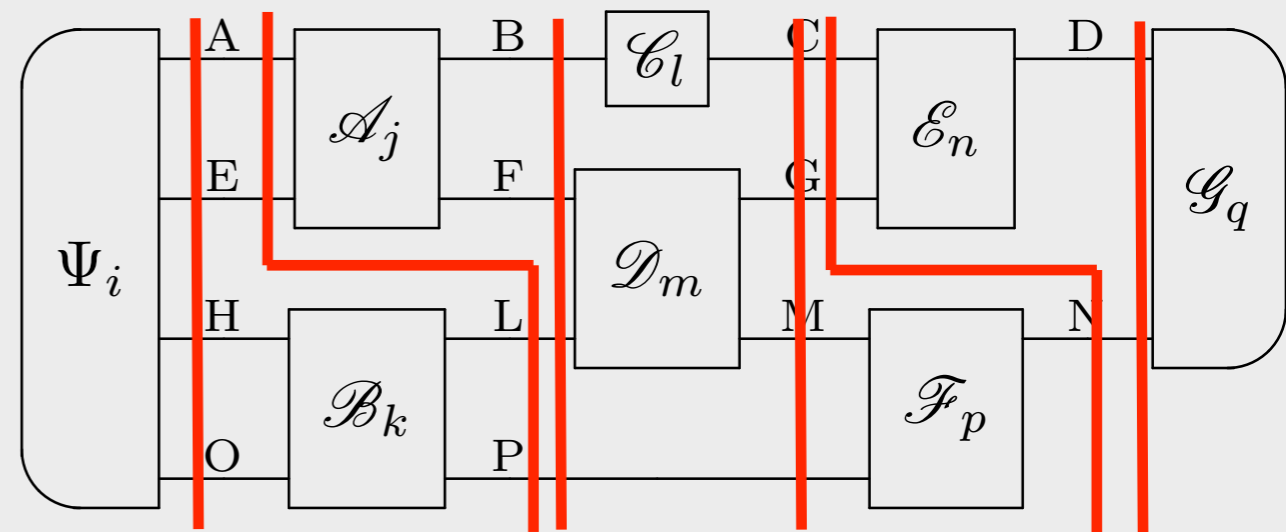
$$p(i, j, k, \dots | \text{circuit})$$

Maximal set of independent systems = "leaf"

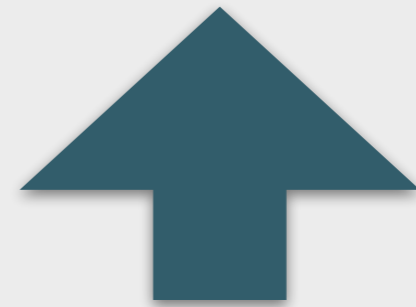
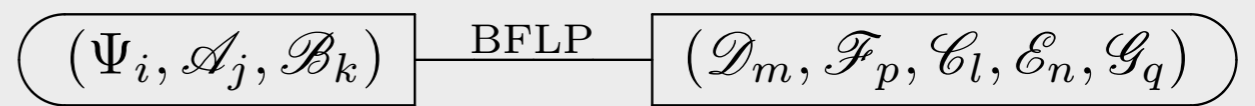


Foliation

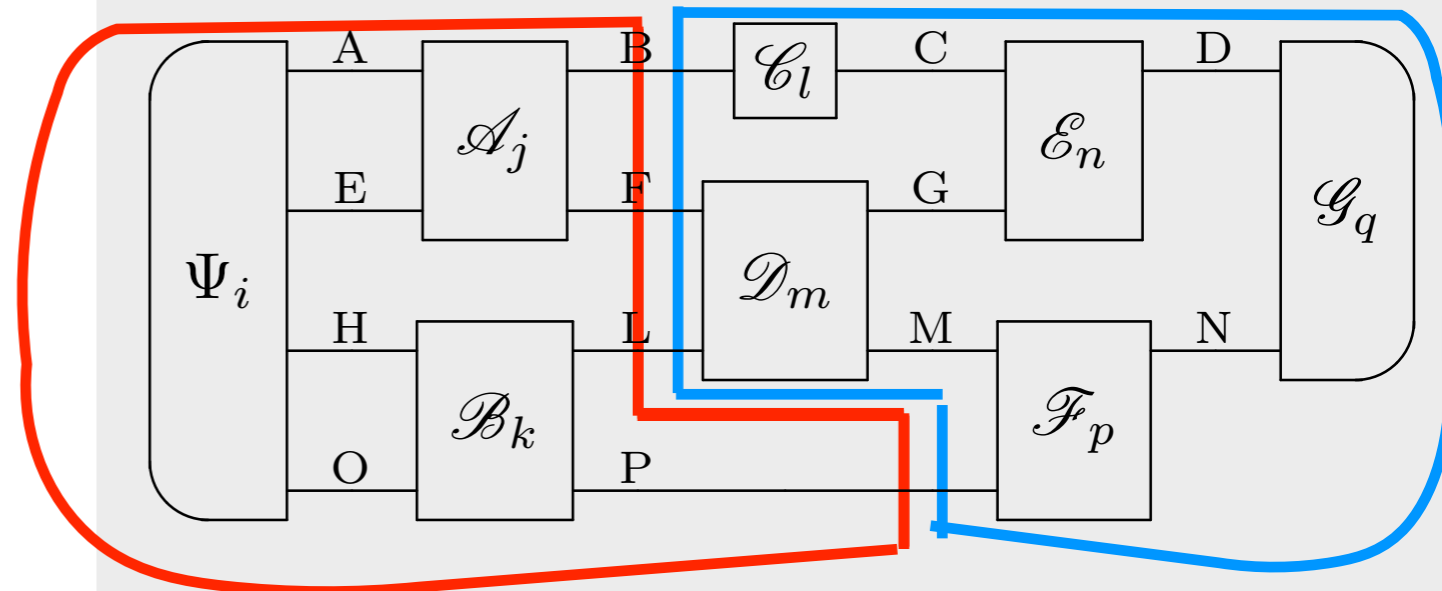
$$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$$



Operational Probabilistic Theory



$$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

States are functionals for effects

States are separating for effects

Effects are functionals on states

Effects are separating for states

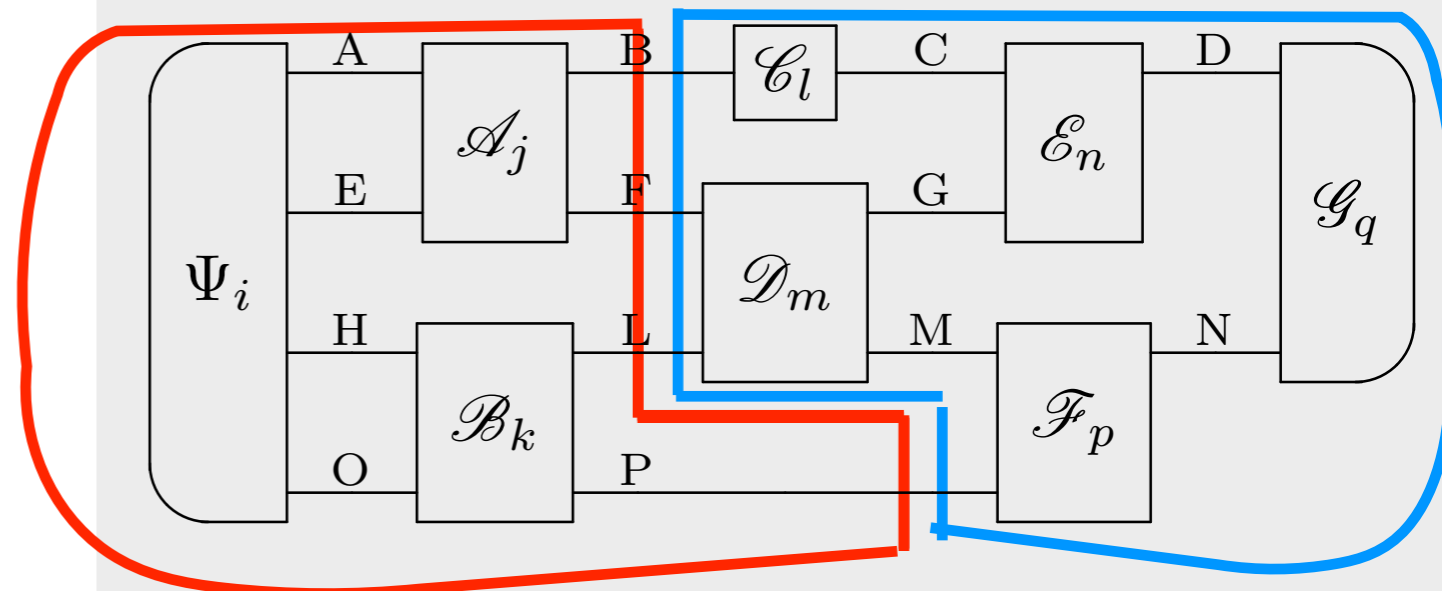
Paring notation:

$$\rho \in \text{St}(A), a \in \text{Eff}(A), \quad \boxed{\rho} \xrightarrow{A} \boxed{a} = (a|\rho)$$

$$\boxed{(\Psi_i, \mathcal{A}_j, \mathcal{B}_k)} \xrightarrow{\text{BFLP}} \boxed{(\mathcal{D}_m, \mathcal{F}_p, \mathcal{C}_l, \mathcal{E}_n, \mathcal{G}_q)}$$



$$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

States are functionals for effects

States are separating for effects

Effects are functionals on states

Effects are separating for states

Embedding in real vector spaces

$\text{St}(A)$, $\text{St}_1(A)$, $\text{St}_{\mathbb{R}}(A)$

$\text{Eff}(A)$, $\text{Eff}_1(A)$, $\text{Eff}_{\mathbb{R}}(A)$

Dimension D_A

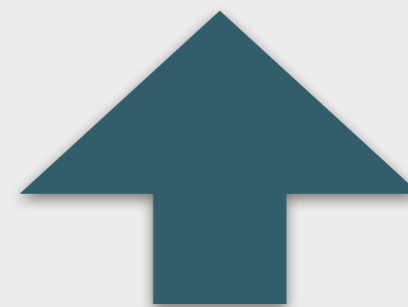
$$\text{Eff}_{\mathbb{R}}(A) = \text{St}_{\mathbb{R}}(A)^{\vee}$$

$$\text{St}_{\mathbb{R}}(A) = \text{Eff}_{\mathbb{R}}(A)^{\vee}$$

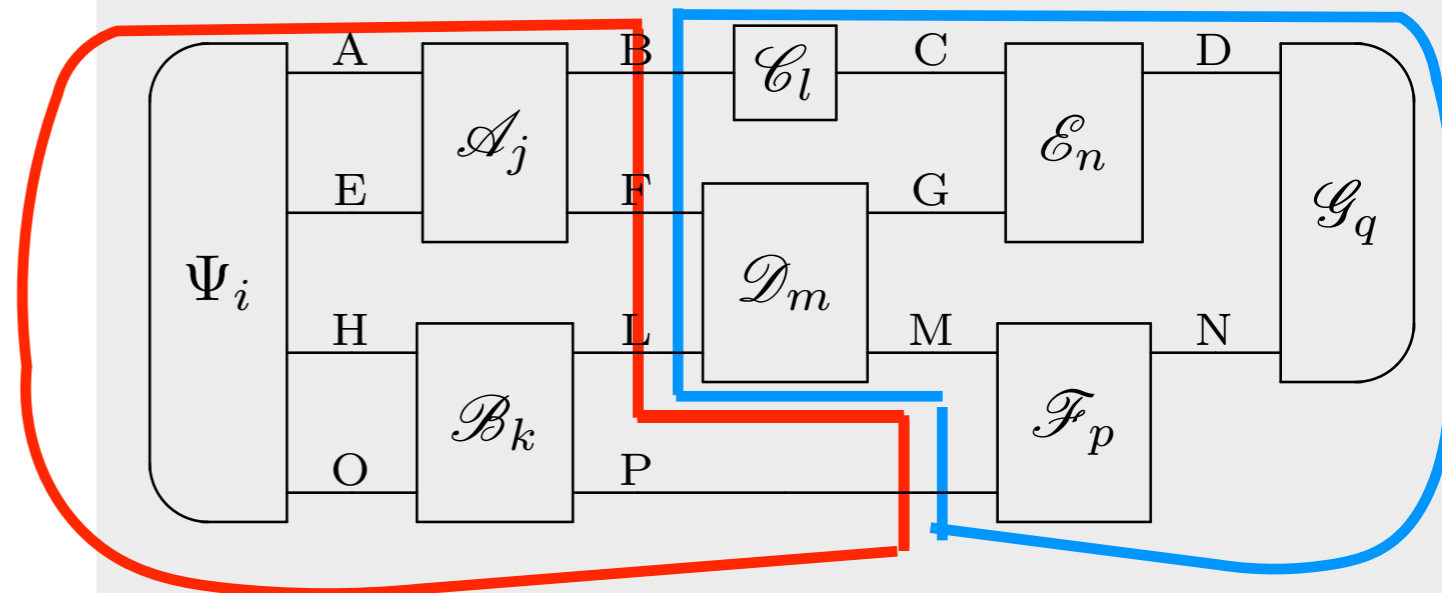
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$$p(i, j, k, l, m, n, p, q | \text{circuit})$$



Operational Probabilistic Theory

$$\{\mathcal{T}_i\}_{i \in \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n, i_{n+1}, i_{n+2}, \dots, \dots\}}$$

$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{j_1} \qquad \underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{j_2} \qquad \dots$

Coarse-graining \downarrow \uparrow Refinement

$$\{\hat{\mathcal{T}}_j\}_{j \in \{j_1, j_2, \dots\}}$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{T}}_S = \sum_{i \in S} \mathcal{T}_i$$

Partial ordering

Conditioned test (needs causality)

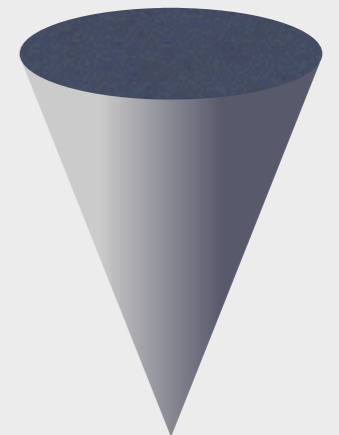
$$A \text{---} \boxed{\mathcal{C}_i} \text{---} B \text{---} \boxed{\mathcal{D}_{j_i}^{(i)}} \text{---} C \quad := \quad A \text{---} \boxed{\mathcal{D}_{j_i}^{(i)} \circ \mathcal{C}_i} \text{---} C$$

Circuit multiplication: randomize tests

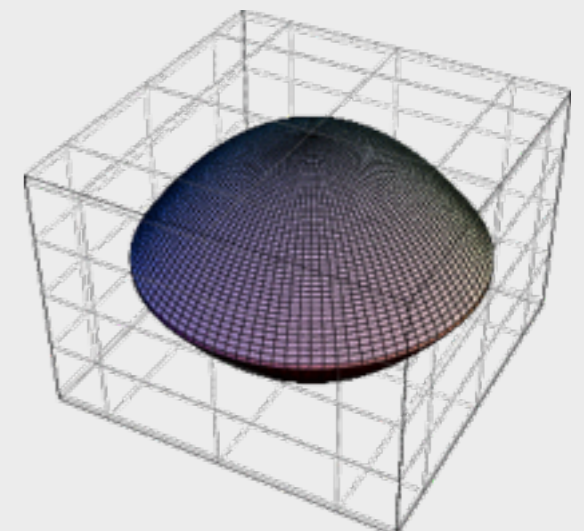
$$p_i \text{---} A \text{---} \boxed{\mathcal{C}_{j_i}^{(i)}} \text{---} B \quad := \quad \begin{array}{c} A \text{---} \boxed{\mathcal{C}_{j_i}^{(i)}} \text{---} B \\ \text{---} I \text{---} \boxed{p_i} \text{---} I \end{array}$$



Cone structure



Convex structure



Principles for Quantum Theory

$\{\rho_0, \rho_1\} \subseteq \text{St}(A)$ preparation test

$\{a_0, a_1\}$ observation test

success probability of discrimination

$$\begin{aligned} p_{\text{succ}} &= (a_0|\rho_0) + (a_1|\rho_1) \\ &= (a|\rho_0) + (a_1|\rho_1 - \rho_0) \\ &= (a|\rho_1) + (a_0|\rho_0 - \rho_1) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}[1 + (a_1 - a_0|\rho_1 - \rho_0)] \end{aligned}$$

$$a := a_0 + a_1$$

Metric

$$p_{\text{succ}}^{(\text{opt})} = \frac{1}{2}[1 + \|\rho_1 - \rho_0\|]$$

$$\|\delta\| := \sup_{\{a_0, a_1\}} (a_0 - a_1|\delta),$$

$$\|\delta\| = \sup_{a_0 \in \text{Eff}(A)} (a_0|\delta) - \inf_{a_1 \in \text{Eff}(A)} (a_1|\delta)$$

monotonicity

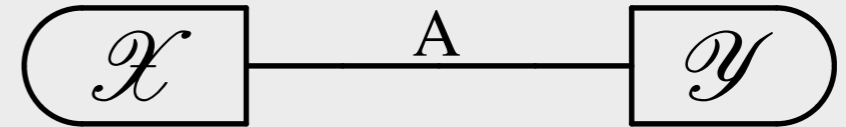
$$\mathcal{C} \in \text{Transf}_1(A, B)$$

$$\|\mathcal{C}\delta\|_B \leq \|\delta\|_A$$

Principles for Quantum Theory

- P1. Causality
- P2. Local discriminability
- P3. Purification
- P4. Atomicity of composition
- P5. Perfect distinguishability
- P6. Lossless Compressibility

The probability of preparations is independent of the choice of observations



$$p(i, j | \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) := (a_j | \rho_i)$$



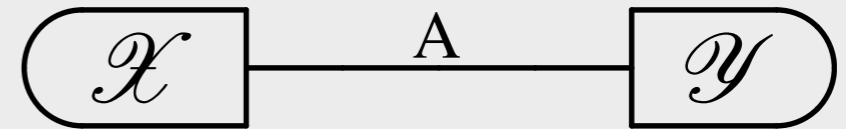
$$p(i | \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) = p(i | \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}') = p(i | \mathcal{X})$$

Iff conditions: a) the deterministic effect is unique; b) states are “normalizable”

Principles for Quantum Theory

- P1. Causality
- P2. Local discriminability
- P3. Purification
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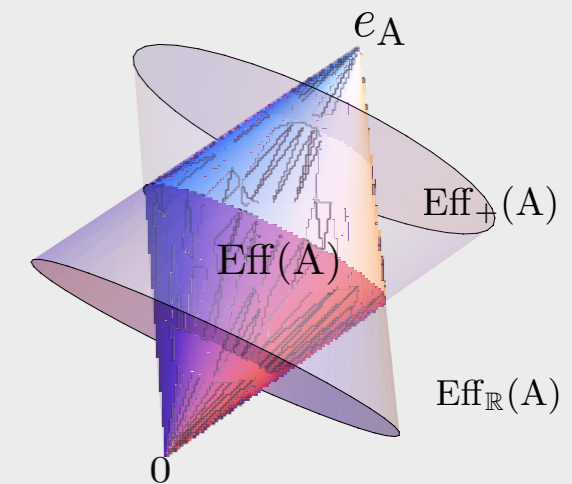
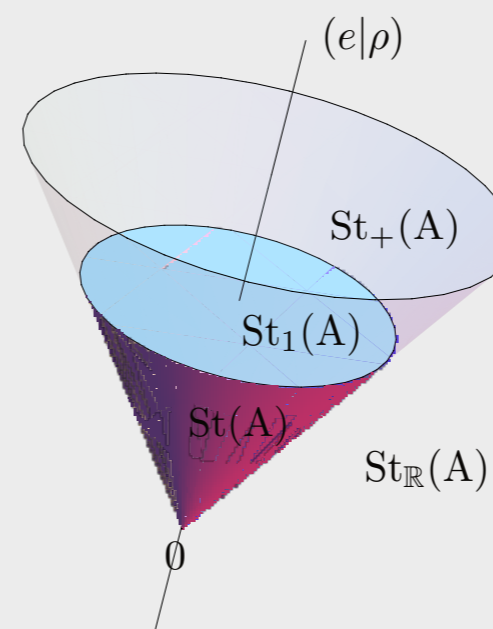


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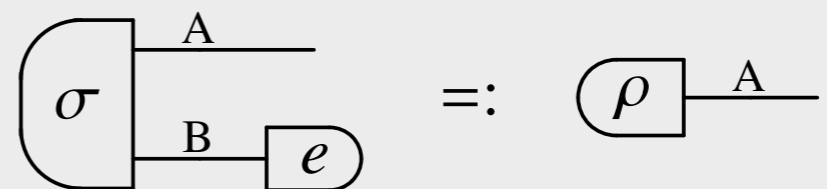


$$p(i | \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) = p(i | \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}') = p(i | \mathcal{X})$$

Iff conditions: a) the deterministic effect is unique; b) states are “normalizable”



marginal state

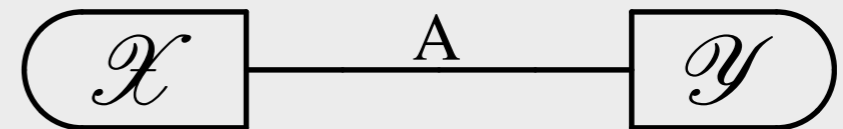
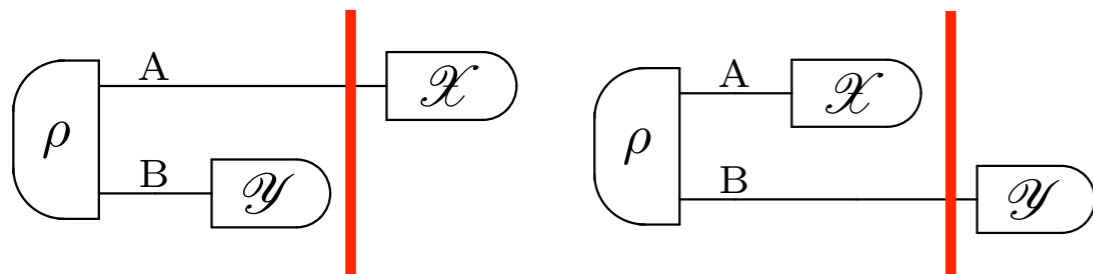


Principles for Quantum Theory

- P1. Causality
- P2. Local discriminability
- P3. Purification
- P4. Atomicity of composition
- P5. Perfect distinguishability
- P6. Lossless Compressibility

The probability of preparations is independent of the choice of observations

no signaling without interaction

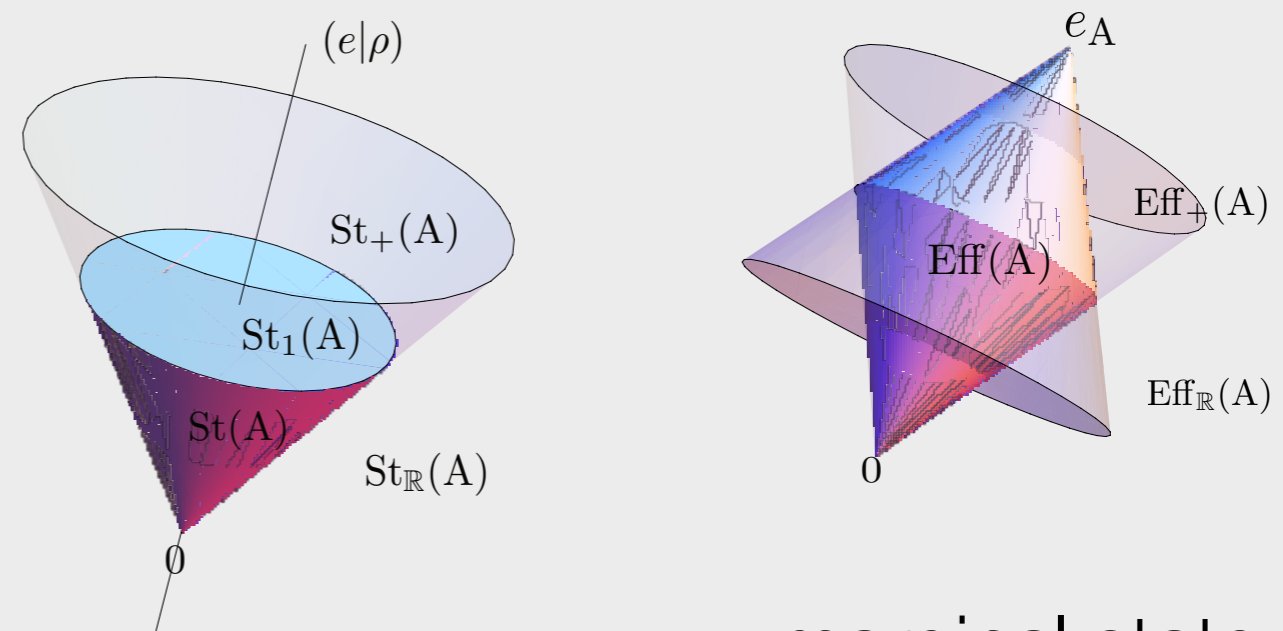


$$p(i, j | \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) := (a_j | \rho_i)$$

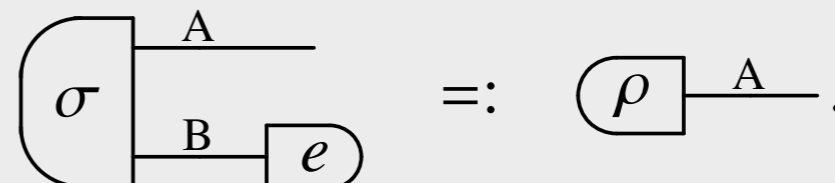


$$p(i | \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) = p(i | \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}') = p(i | \mathcal{X})$$

Iff conditions: a) the deterministic effect is unique; b) states are "normalizable"



marginal state



Principles for Quantum Theory

P1. Causality

P2. Local discriminability

P3. Purification

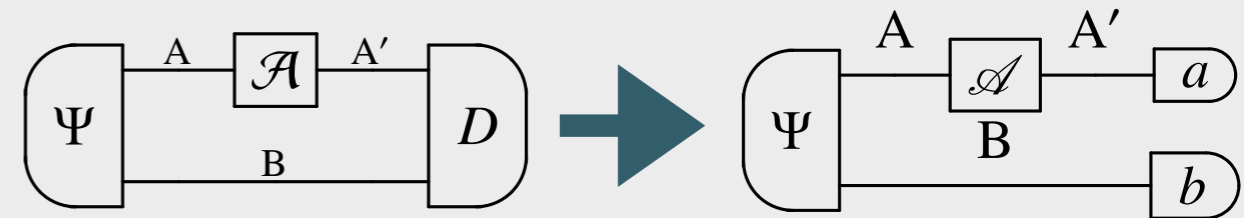
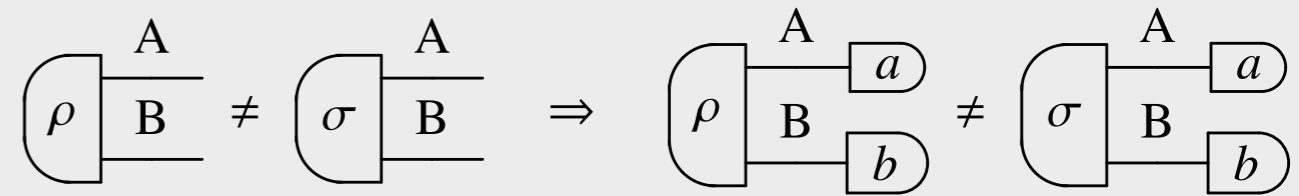
P4. Atomicity of composition

P5. Perfect distinguishability

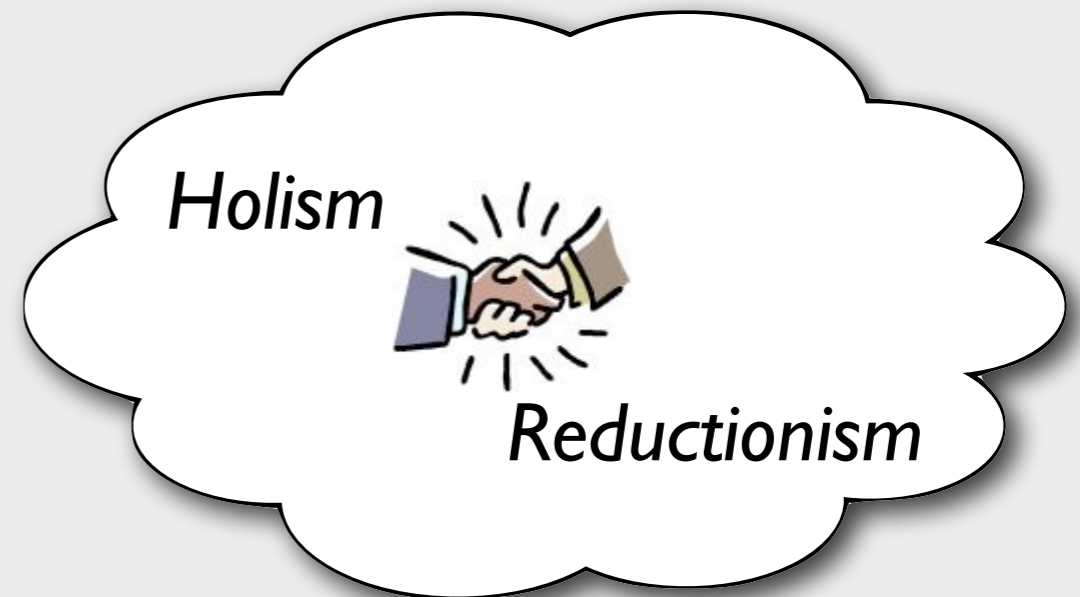
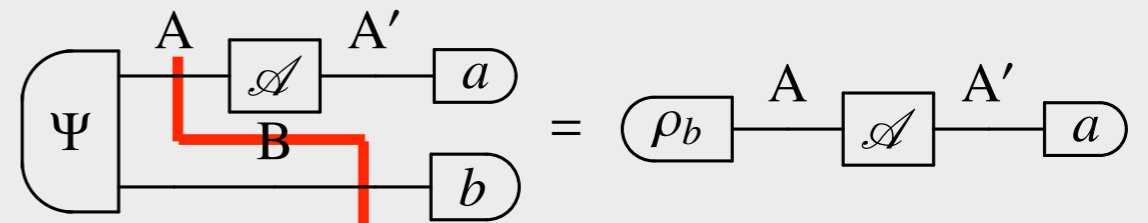
P6. Lossless Compressibility

It is possible to discriminate any pair of states of composite systems using only local measurements.

Origin of the complex tensor product



Local characterization of transformations



Principles for Quantum Theory

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It is possible to discriminate any pair of states of composite systems using only local measurements.

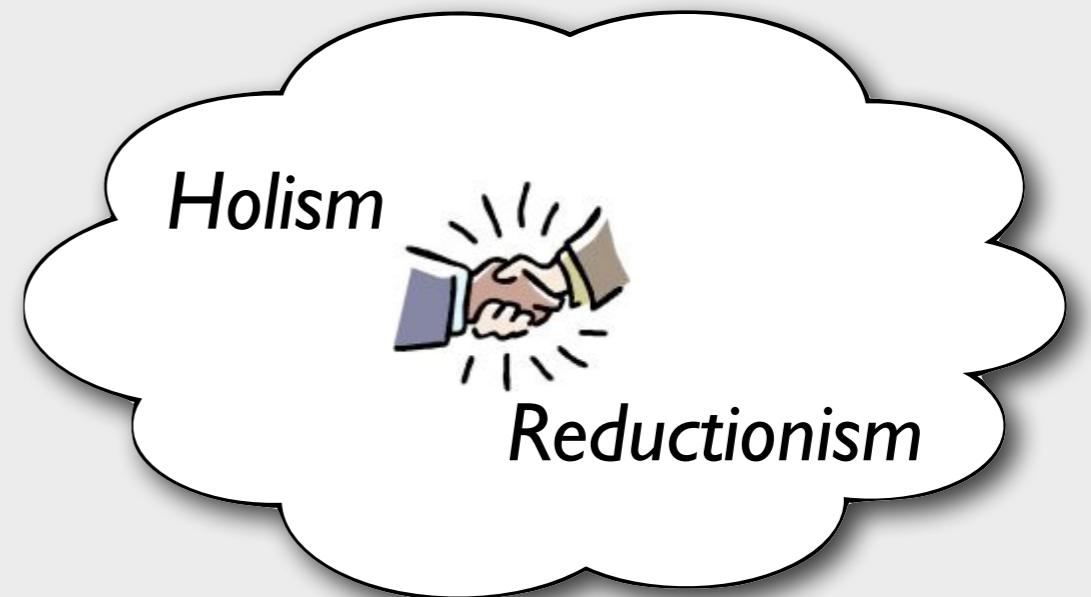
Origin of the complex tensor product

$$\left(\rho \begin{array}{c} A \\ B \end{array} \right) \neq \left(\sigma \begin{array}{c} A \\ B \end{array} \right) \Rightarrow \left(\rho \begin{array}{c} A \\ B \\ a \\ b \end{array} \right) \neq \left(\sigma \begin{array}{c} A \\ B \\ a \\ b \end{array} \right)$$



Local characterization of transformations

$$\left(\Psi \begin{array}{c} A \\ B \end{array} \right) \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{A} \\ B \end{array} \begin{array}{c} A' \\ a \\ b \end{array} = \left(\rho_b \begin{array}{c} A \\ B \end{array} \right) \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{A} \\ B \end{array} \begin{array}{c} A' \\ a \end{array}$$



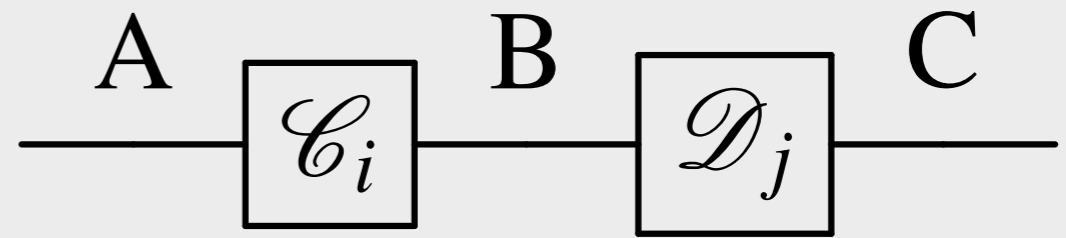
Principles for Quantum Theory

- P1. Causality
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The composition of two atomic transformations is atomic



Complete information can be accessed on a step-by-step basis



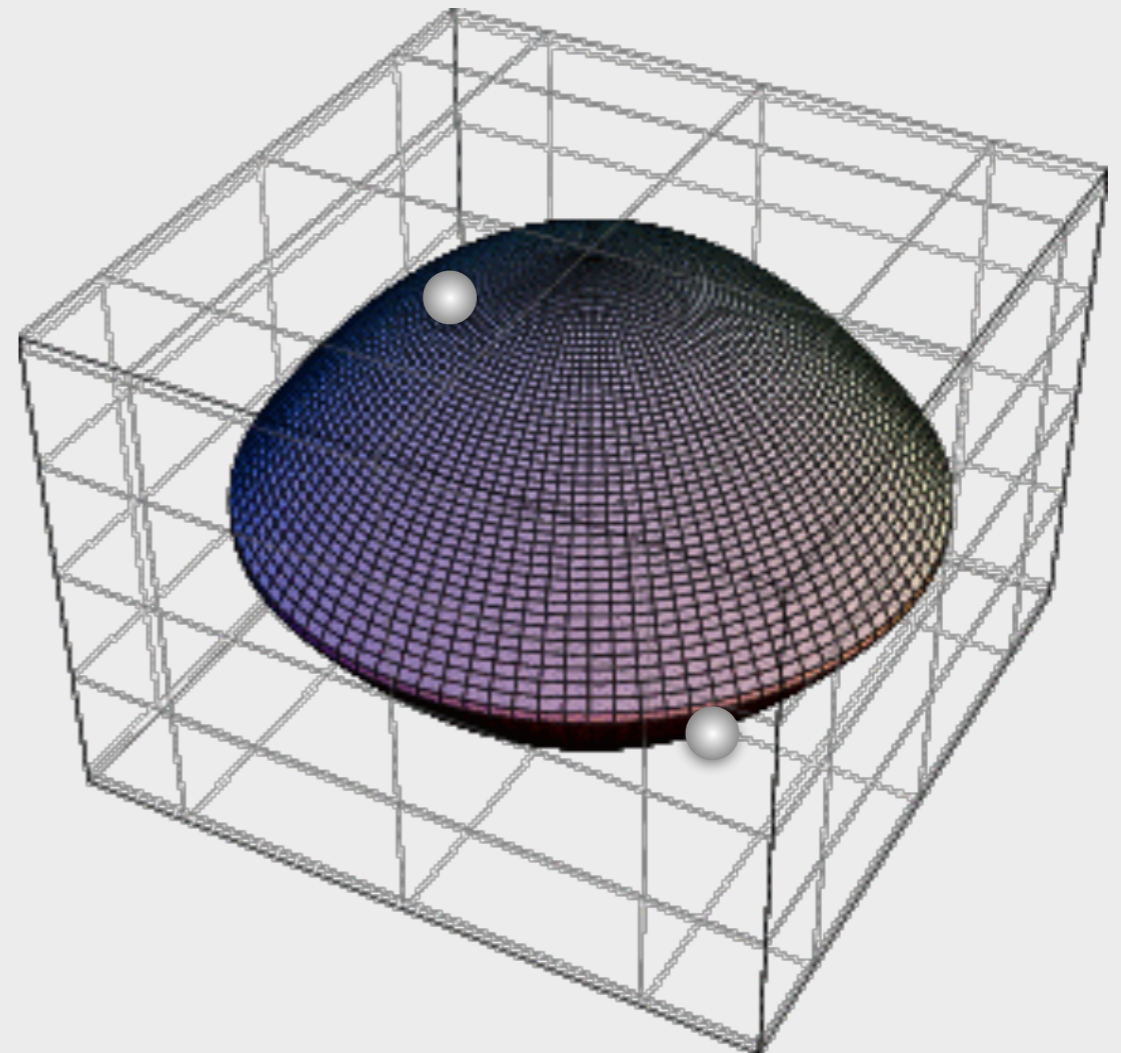
Principles for Quantum Theory

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Every state that is not completely mixed (i.e. on the boundary of the convex) can be perfectly distinguished from some other state.



Falsifiability of the theory

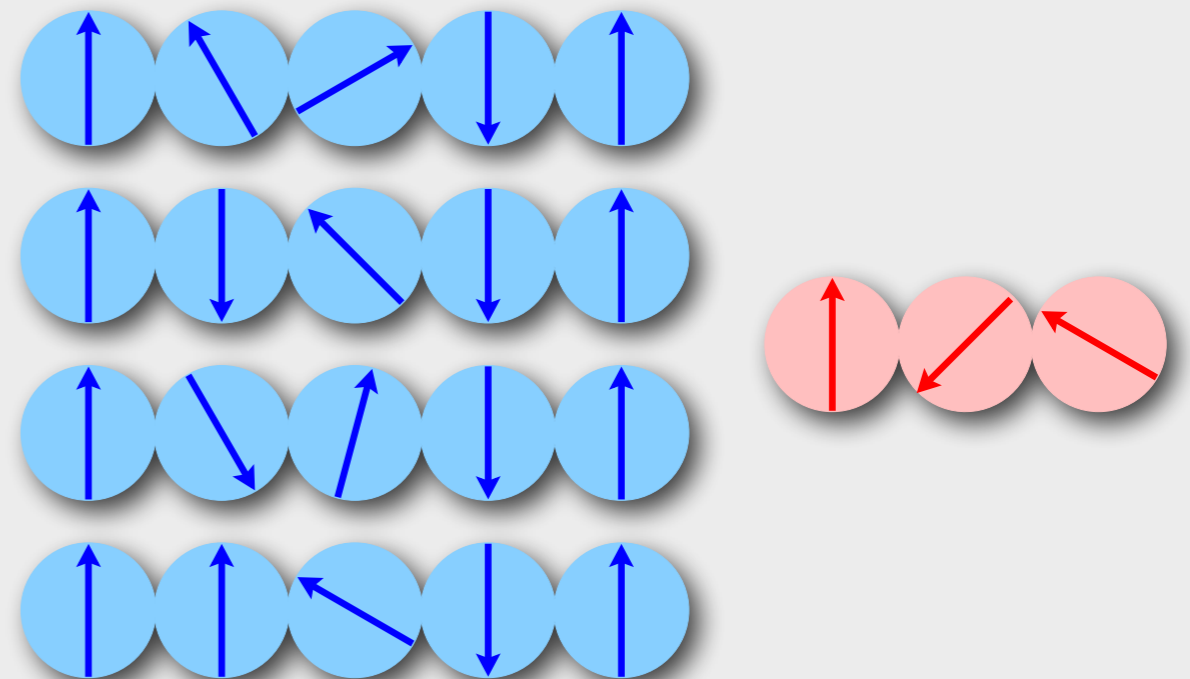
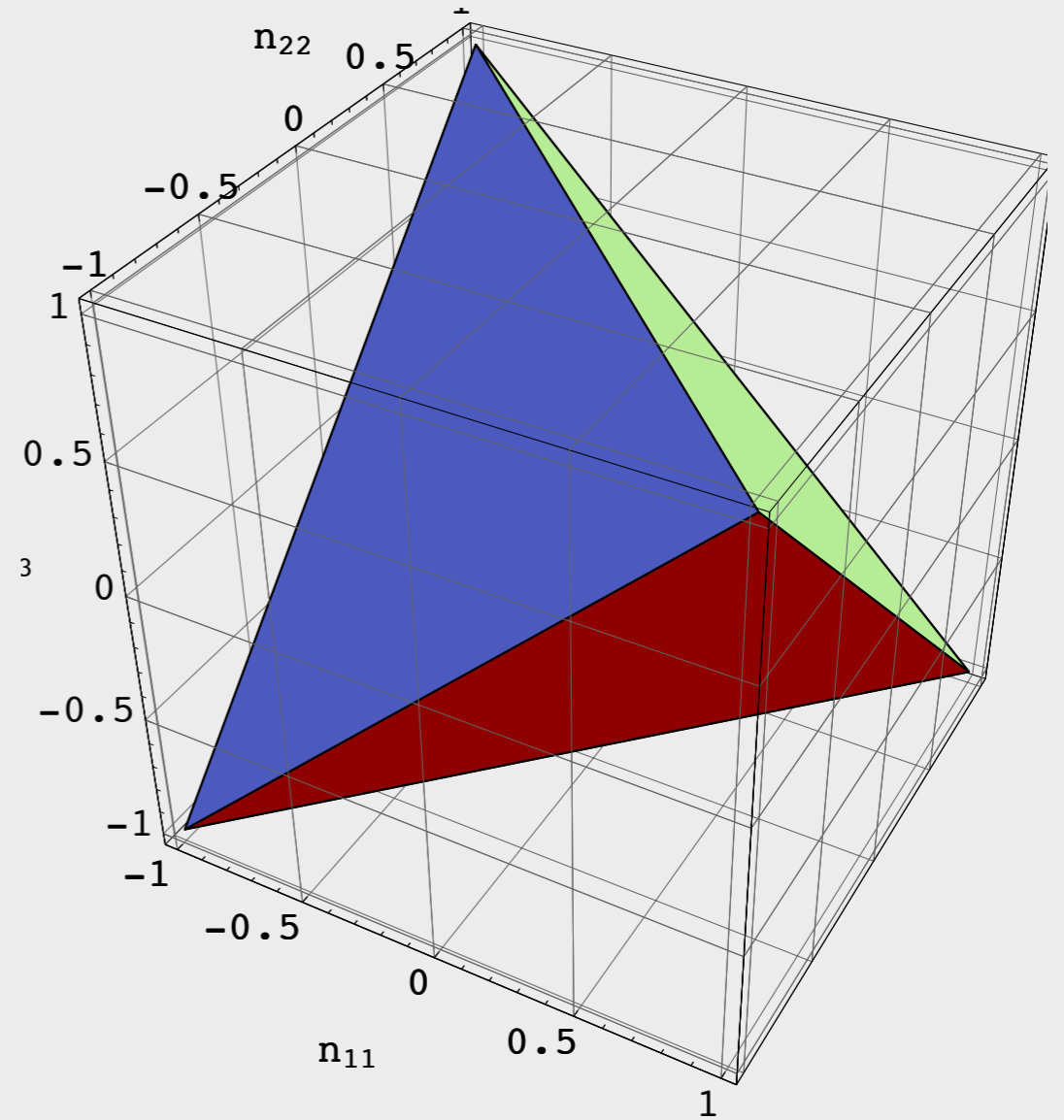


Principles for Quantum Theory

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For states that are not completely mixed there exists an ideal compression scheme

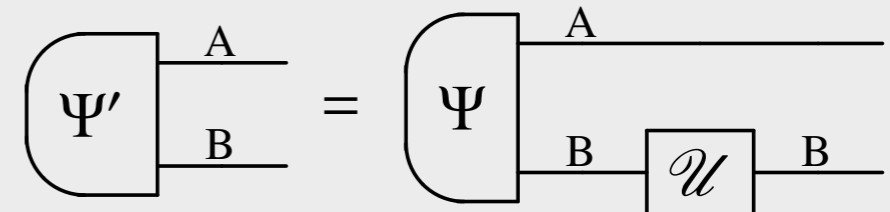
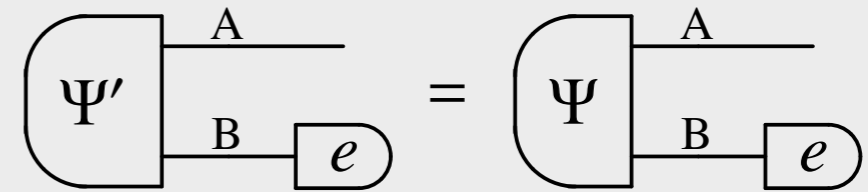
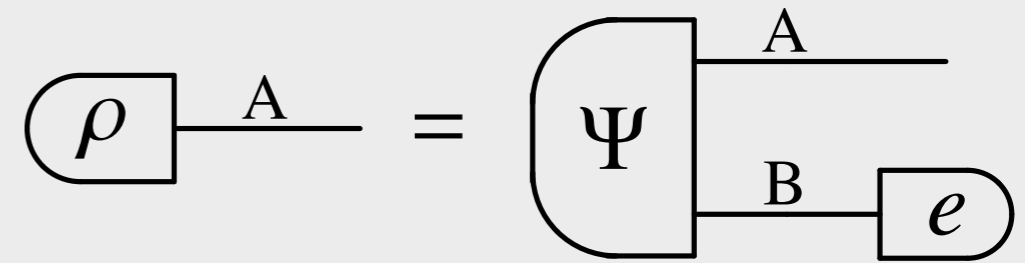
Any face of the convex set of states is the convex set of states of some other system



Principles for Quantum Theory

- P1. Causality
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Every state has a purification. For fixed purifying system, every two purifications of the same state are connected by a reversible transformation on the purifying system



Principles for Quantum Theory

P1. Causality

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Every state has a purification. For fixed purifying system, every two purifications of the same state are connected by a reversible transformation on the purifying system

Consequences

1. **Existence of entangled states:**

the purification of a mixed state is an entangled state;
the marginal of a pure entangled state is a mixed state;

2. *Every two normalized pure states of the same system are connected by a reversible transformation*

$$\boxed{\psi'} \text{---} \text{B} = \boxed{\psi} \text{---} \text{B} \text{---} \mathcal{U} \text{---} \text{B}$$

3. **Steering:** Let Ψ purification of ρ . Then for every ensemble decomposition $\rho = \sum_x p_x \alpha_x$ there exists a measurement $\{b_x\}$, such that

$$\boxed{\Psi} \begin{array}{l} \text{A} \\ \text{B} \end{array} \text{---} \boxed{b_x} = p_x \boxed{\alpha_x} \text{---} \text{A} \quad \forall x \in X$$

4. **Process tomography (faithful state):**

$$\boxed{\Psi} \begin{array}{l} \text{A} \\ \text{B} \end{array} \text{---} \mathcal{A} \text{---} \text{A}' = \boxed{\Psi} \begin{array}{l} \text{A} \\ \text{B} \end{array} \text{---} \mathcal{A}' \text{---} \text{A}' \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{A} \rho = \mathcal{A}' \rho \quad \forall \rho$$

5. **No information without disturbance**

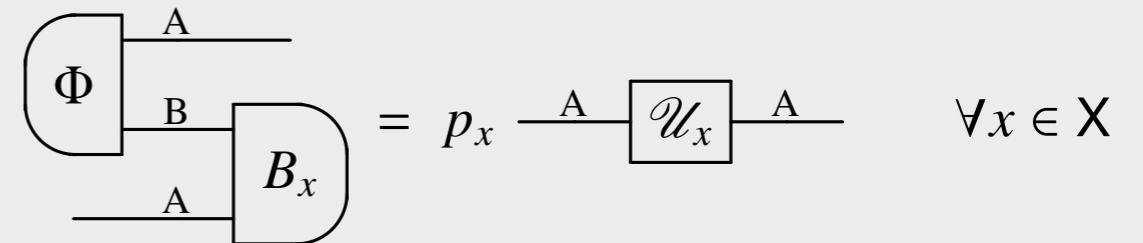
Principles for Quantum Theory

- P1. Causality
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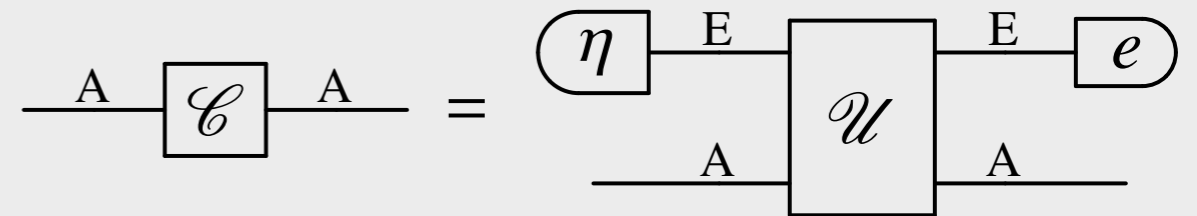
Every state has a purification. For fixed purifying system, every two purifications of the same state are connected by a reversible transformation on the purifying system

Consequences

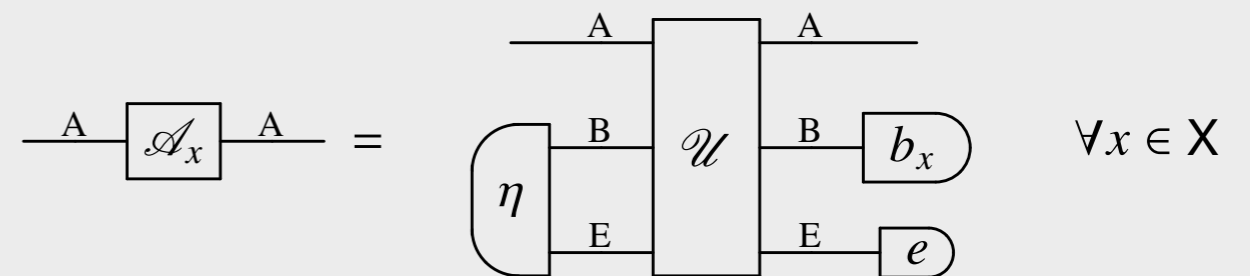
6. Teleportation



7. Reversible dilation of “channels”



8. Reversible dilation of “instruments”



9. State-transformation cone isomorphism

10. Rev. transform. for a system make a compact Lie group

This is more or less what I wanted to say

Thank you for your attention