

# Generalizing Inflation:

Constraining Correlations in General Causal Structures  
for Various Physical Theories

Elie Wolfe

**Causality in a Quantum World**

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causality workshop funded by [John Templeton Foundation grant #61084](#)

# Collaborators (Quantum Specific)

<b>Miguel Navascués</b>	<b>Antonio Acín</b>	<b>Alejandro Pozas Kerstjens</b>	<b>Matan Grinberg</b>	<b>Denis Rosset</b>
<b>IQOQI</b>	<b>ICFO</b>	<b>ICFO</b>	<b>Princeton</b>	<b>Perimeter</b>
Vienna, Austria	Castelldefels, Spain	Castelldefels, Spain	Princeton, NJ USA	Waterloo, ON Canada
				

# Collaborators (GPT results)

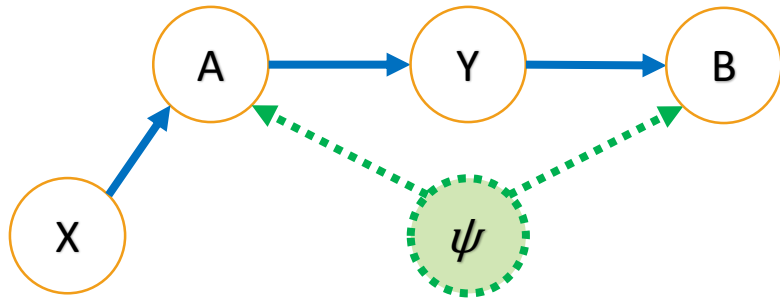
Miguel Navascués	Stefano Pironio	Ilya Shpitser
<b>IQOQI</b>	<b>U. Libre Brussels</b>	<b>John Hopkins</b>
Vienna, Austria	Brussels, Belgium	Baltimore, MD USA
		

# Part One

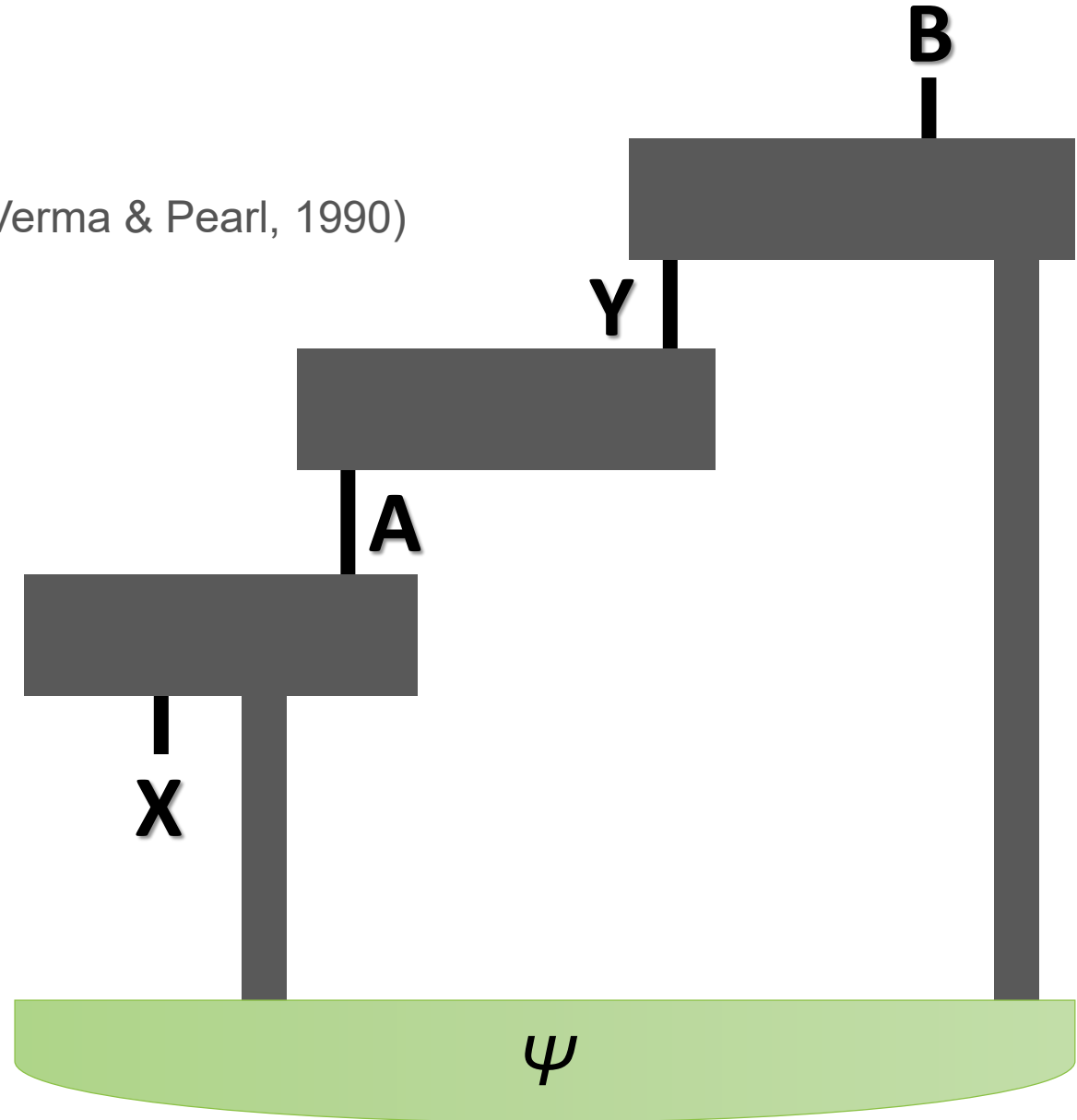
Quantum Instrumental Inequalities, etc.

# Verma Scenario

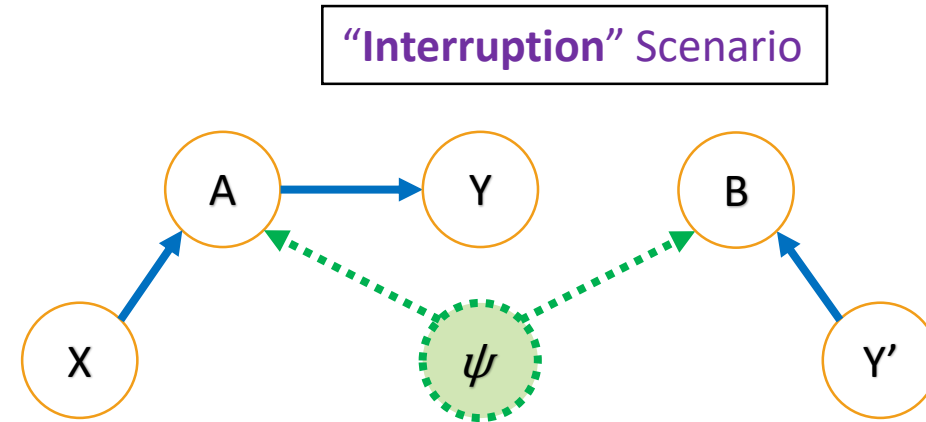
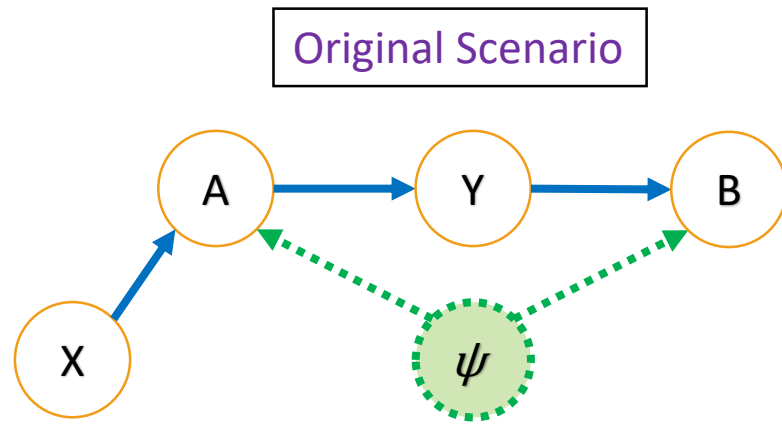
[“Equivalence and Synthesis of Causal Models”](#) (Verma & Pearl, 1990)



Seems like should be able to isolate the nonclassical (Bell-like) part through knowing how  $Y$  classically depends on  $A$ ...

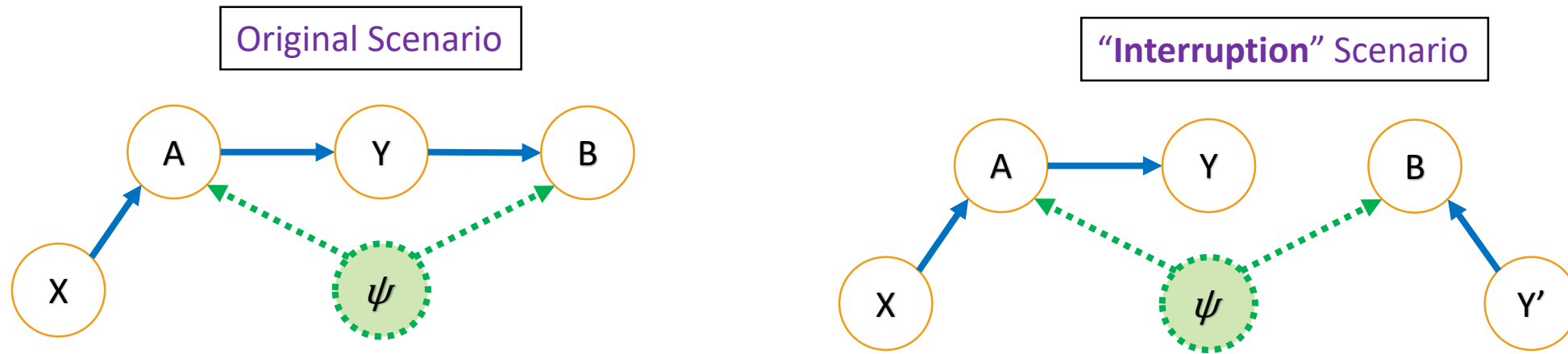


# Verma Scenario



$$\begin{aligned}
 &P_{Orig}(A=a, B=b, Y=y|X=x) \sim G_{Original} \quad \text{iff} \\
 &\exists P_{Interruption}(A=a, B=b, Y=y|X=x, Y'=y') \sim G_{Interruption} \\
 &P_{Orig}(A=a, B=b, Y=y|X=x) = P_{Interruption}(A=a, B=b, Y=y|X=x, Y'=y)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Verma Scenario

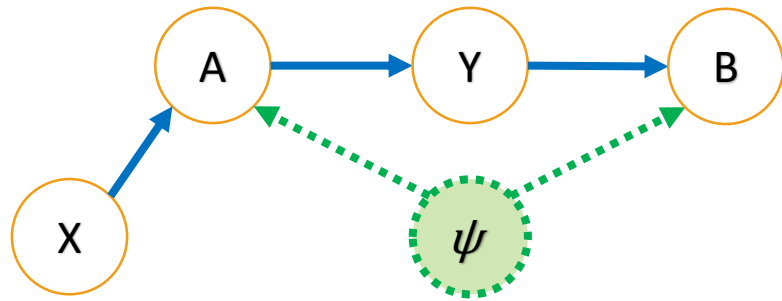


$$\begin{aligned}
 &P_{Orig}(A=a, B=b, Y=y|X=x) \sim G_{Original} \quad \text{iff} \\
 &\exists P_{Interruption}(A=a, B=b, Y=y|X=x, Y'=y') \sim G_{Interruption} \\
 &P_{Orig}(A=a, B=b, Y=y|X=x) = P_{Interruption}(A=a, B=b, Y=y|X=x, Y'=y)
 \end{aligned}$$

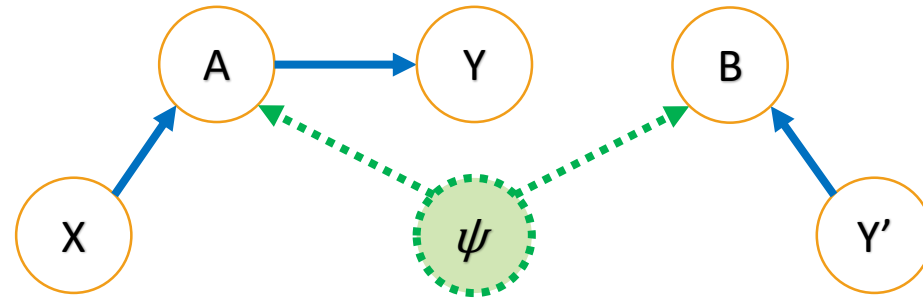
$P_{Interruption}(A, B, Y|X, Y')$  is **unique**, and identified as

$$P_{Interruption}(A, B, Y|X, Y') \equiv \frac{P_{Orig}(A, B, Y=y'|X)}{P_{Orig}(Y=y'|A)} P_{Orig}(Y=y|A)$$

# Verma Scenario



What??



We are exploiting **truncated factorization** to isolate the elementary **functional constituents** of a causal model. Basically,

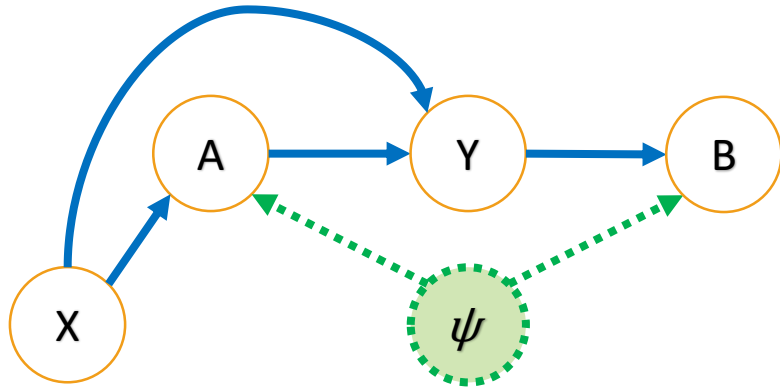
$$P_{Orig}(A, B, X, Y) = P_{Orig}(X)P_{Orig}(Y|do(A))P_{Orig}(A, B|do(XY)) \quad \text{where } P_{Orig}(Y|do(A)) = P_{Orig}(Y|A) \\ \&$$

$$P_{Interruption}(A, B, X, Y, Y') = P_{Orig}(X)P_{Orig}(Y|do(A))P_{Orig}(A, B|do(XY'))$$

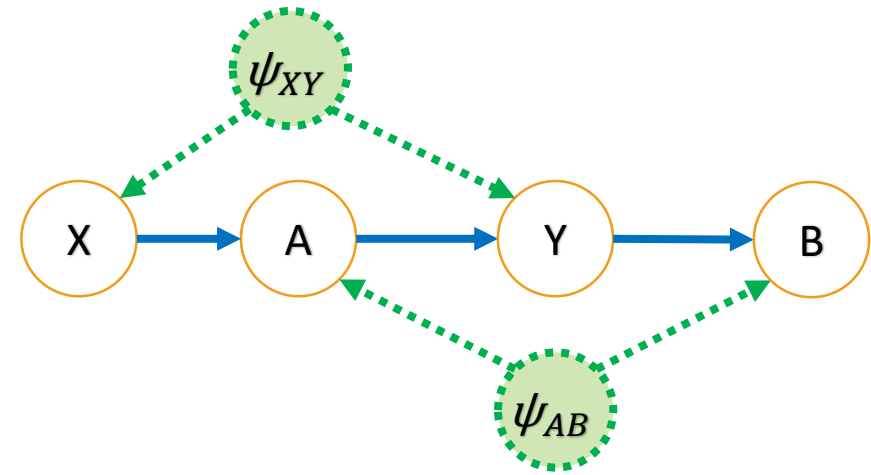
See "[Identification of Conditional Interventional Distributions](#)" (Shpitser & Pearl 2006)  
"[Introduction to Nested Markov Models](#)" (Shpitser et. al. 2014)



# Other Verma Scenarios



$$P_{orig}(AB|do(XY)) = \frac{P_{orig}(ABY|X)}{P_{orig}(Y|AB)}$$

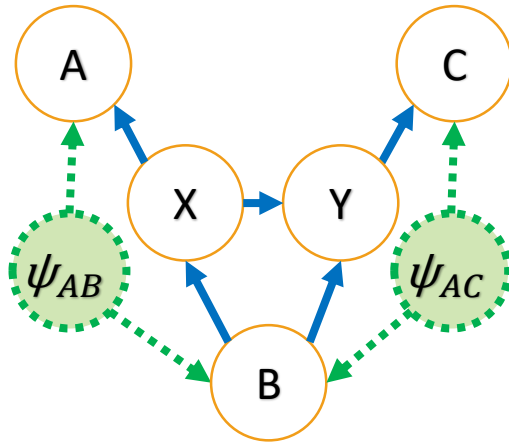


$$P_{orig}(AB|do(XY)) = \frac{P_{orig}(ABXY)P_{orig}(A|X)}{P_{orig}(AXY)}$$

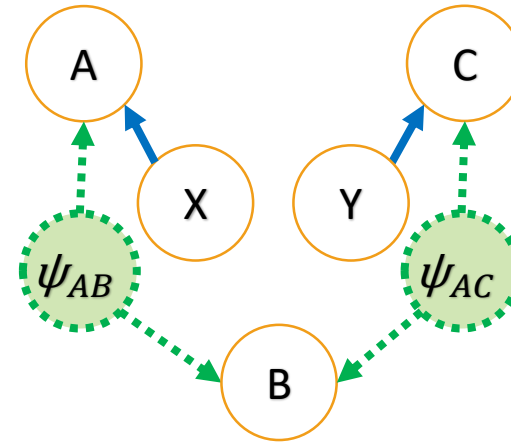
In both these cases  $P_{orig}(AB|do(XY))$  is **identifiable**,  
and must be compatible with quantum Bell scenario.

# Bilocality Kernel

Original Scenario



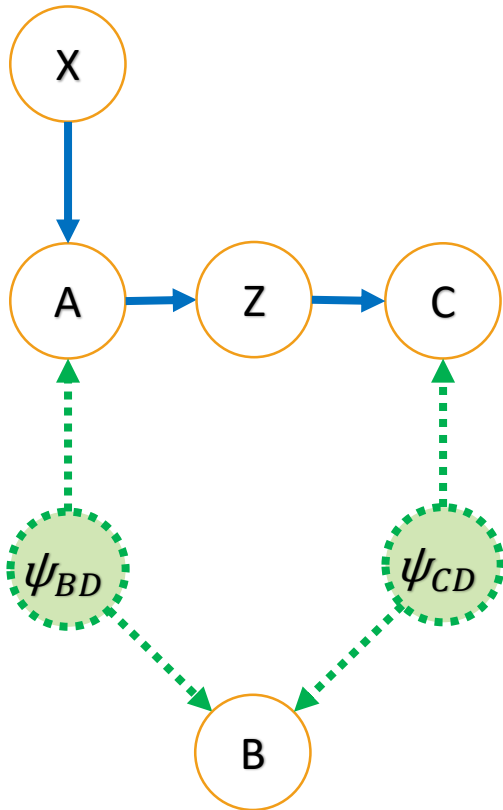
“Interruption” Scenario



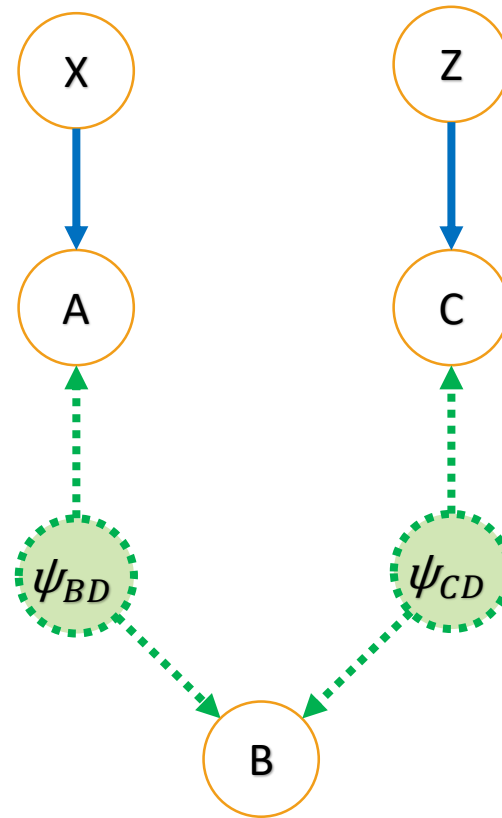
$$P_{orig}(ABC|do(XY)) = \frac{P_{orig}(ABCXY)}{P_{orig}(X|B)P_{orig}(Y|XB)}$$

# Another Bilocality Kernel

Original Scenario

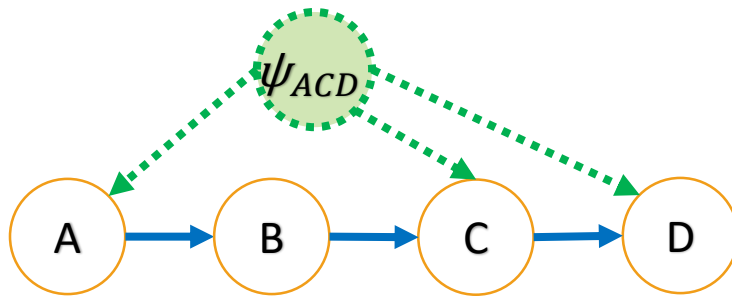


"Interruption" Scenario

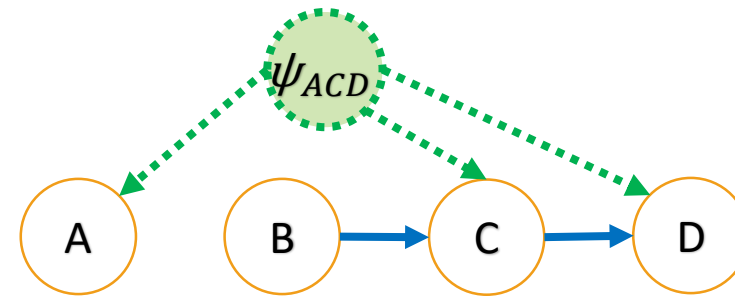


...and another...

Original Scenario

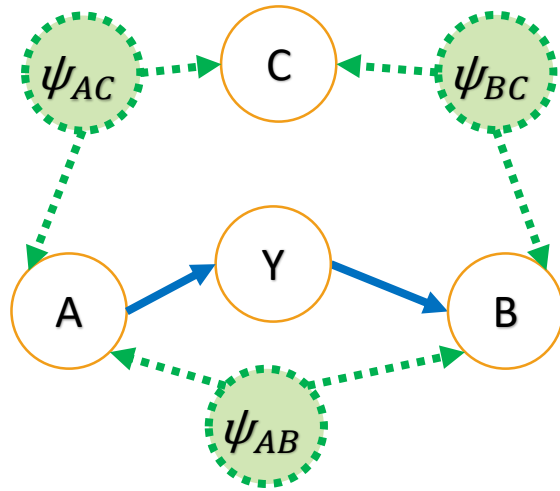


"Interruption" Scenario

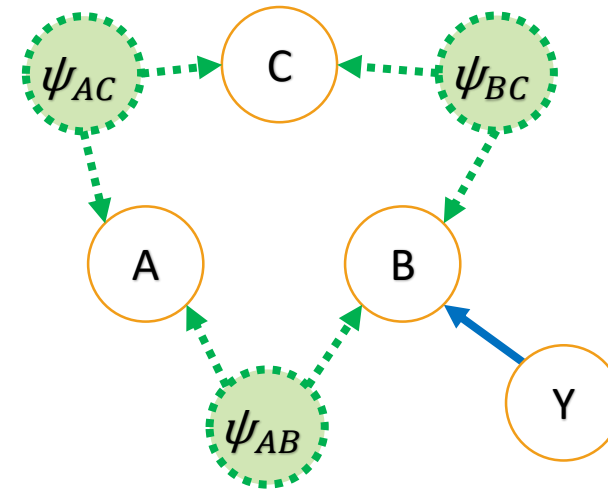


# Triangle Kernel

Original Scenario



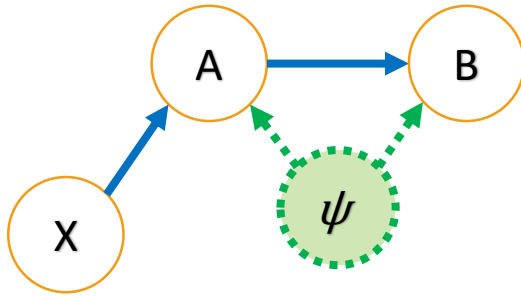
“Interruption” Scenario



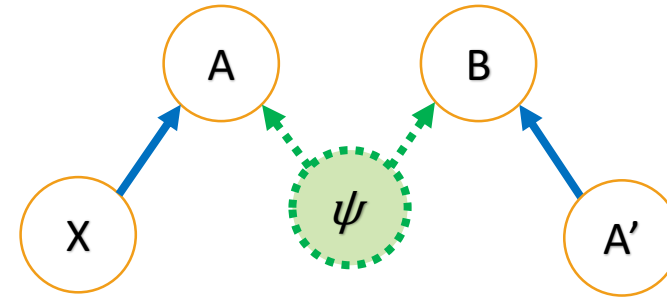
$$P_{orig}(ABC|do(Y)) = \frac{P_{orig}(ABCY)}{P_{orig}(Y|B)}$$

# Instrumental Scenario

Original Scenario



"Interruption" Scenario



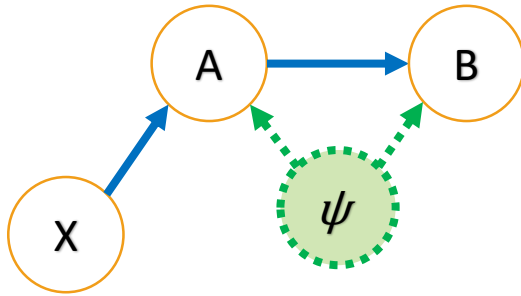
Here,  $P_{orig}(B|do(A))$  is not identified, but it is **constrained** via

$\exists P_{Interruption}(A=a, B=b|X=x, A'=a') \sim G_{Interruption}$   
such that

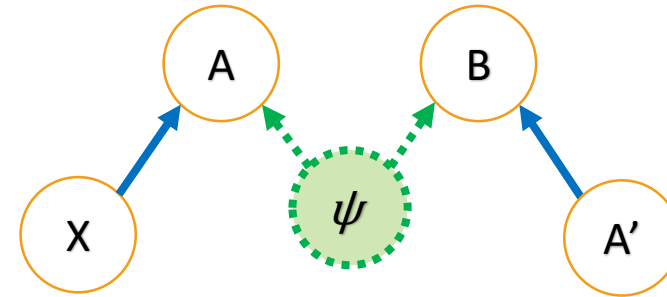
1.  $P_{orig}(A=a, B=b|X=x) = P_{Interruption}(A=a, B=b|X=x, A'=a)$
2.  $P_{orig}(B|do(A=a)) = P_{Interruption}(B|A'=a)$

# Instrumental Scenario

Original Scenario



"Interruption" Scenario



Thus one can **constrain** classical, quantum, or GPT do-conditionals. **Different** effect bounds!

Do-conditional effect bounds can be converted into compatibility inequalities, e.g.

$$\text{LowerBound} \left( P_{\text{orig}}(B=b | \text{do}(A=a)) \right) \leq \text{UpperBound} \left( P_{\text{orig}}(B=b | \text{do}(A=a)) \right)$$

(Note that GPT compatibility **equalities** in the interruption scenario translate to **inequalities** in the original scenario.)

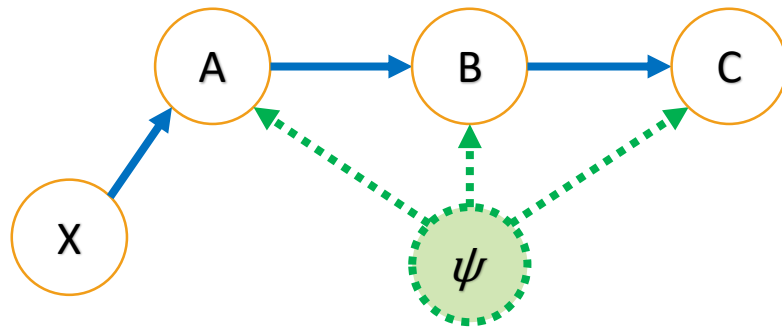
# References:

- Quantum instrumental effect estimation:  
[“Quantum violation of an instrumental test”](#) (Chaves et. al. 2017)
- Relating Instrumental to Bell Scenario:  
[“Quantum violations in the Instrumental scenario and their relations to the Bell scenario”](#) (Van Himbeeck et. al. 2018)
- Compatibility inequalities from do-conditional bounds:  
[“Bounds on treatment effects from studies with imperfect compliance”](#)  
(Balke & Pearl, 1997)
- Do-conditional constraints from No-Signalling alone:  
[“Inequality Constraints in Causal Models with Hidden Variables”](#)  
(Kang & Tian, 2006)

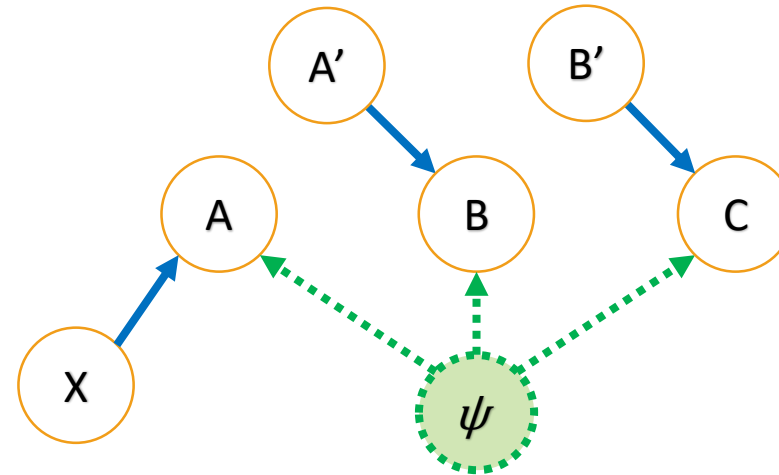


# Multipartite Bell for constraining do-conditionals

Original Scenario



"Interruption" Scenario



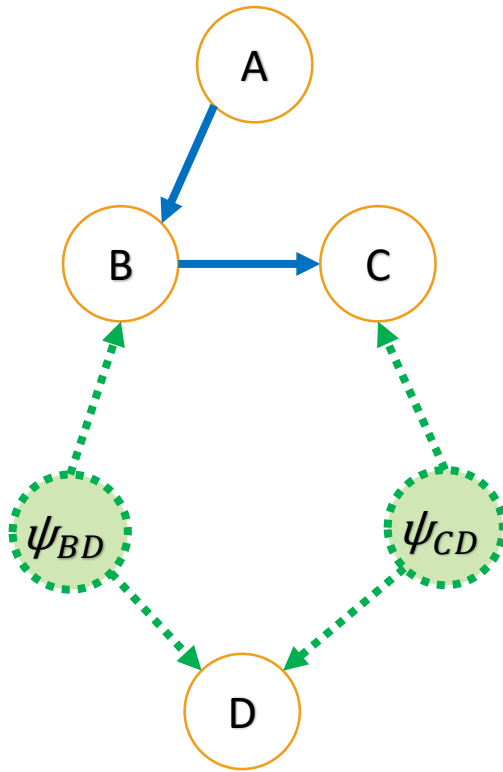
Here,  $P_{Orig}(B|do(A))$  and  $P_{Orig}(C|do(B))$  are not identified, but are **constrained** via

$\exists P_{Interruption}(A=a, B=b, C=c|X=x, A'=a', B'=b') \sim G_{Interruption}$   
such that

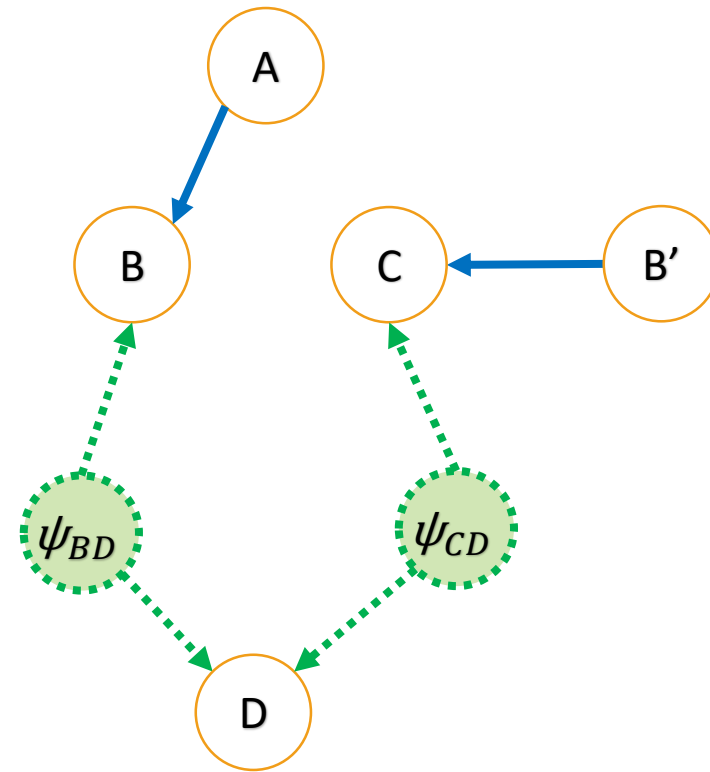
1.  $P_{Orig}(A=a, B=b, C=c|X=x) = P_{Interruption}(A=a, B=b, C=c|X=x, A'=a, B'=b')$
2.  $P_{Orig}(B|do(A=a)) = P_{Interruption}(B|A'=a)$
3.  $P_{Orig}(C|do(B=b)) = P_{Interruption}(C|B'=b)$

# Bilocality for constraining do-conditionals #1

Original Scenario



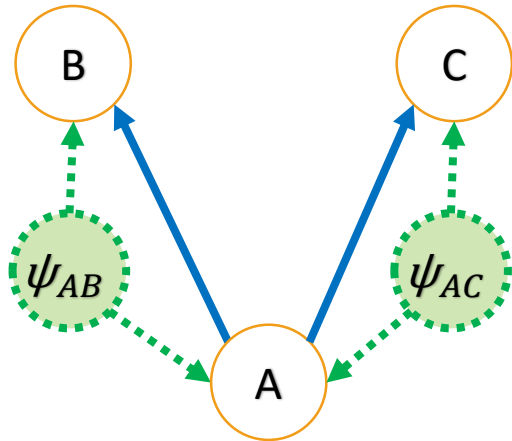
"Interruption" Scenario



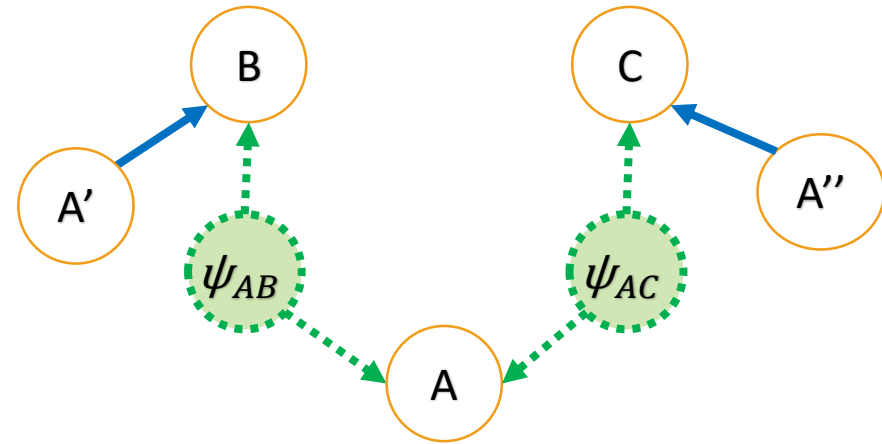
$$D \perp\!\!\!\perp_{do(B)} A \mid C$$

# Bilocality for constraining do-conditionals #2

Original Scenario

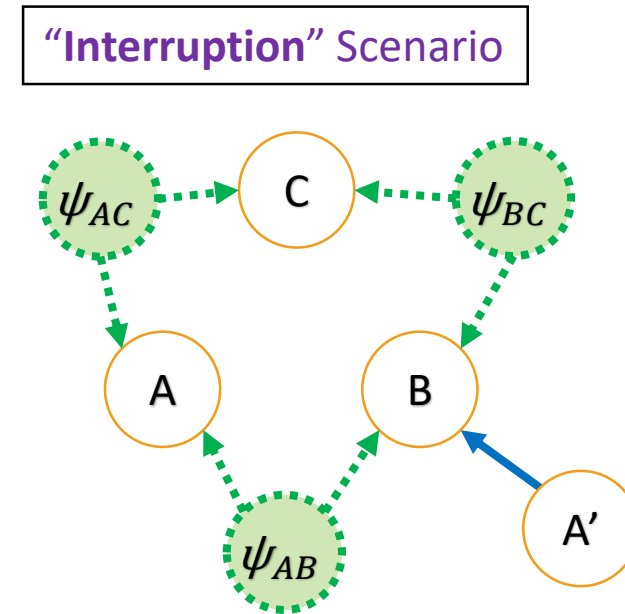
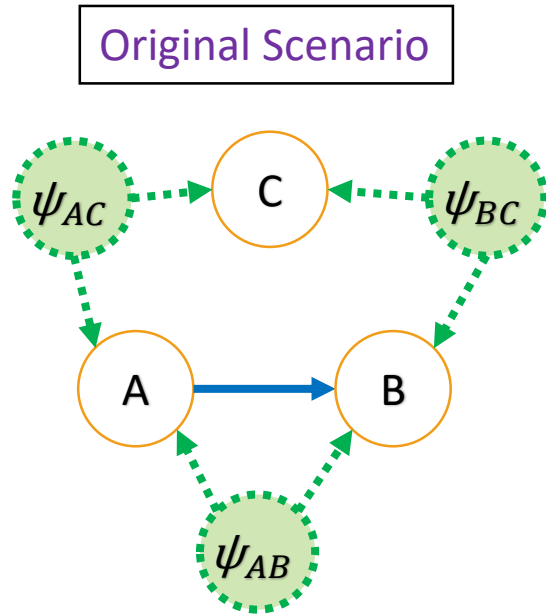


"Interruption" Scenario



$$B \perp\!\!\!\perp_{do(A)} C$$

# Effect Estimation (no constraint implied)

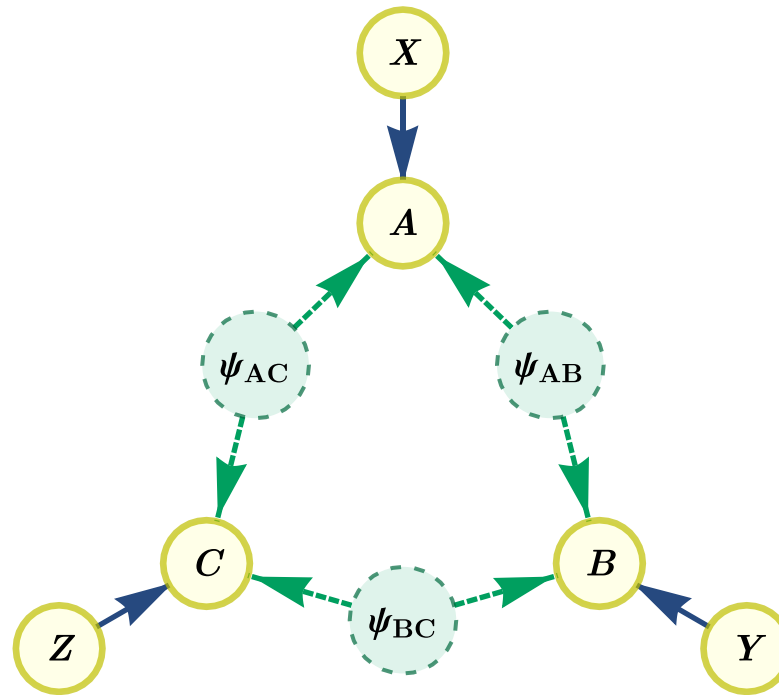


This graph is **saturated** (no inequality constraints). Still, if we observe  $P_{orig}(ABC) = \frac{[000] + [111]}{2}$  then we can conclude that  $P_{orig}(B=0|do(A=0)) \gg P_{orig}(B=0)$  in **any physical theory**.

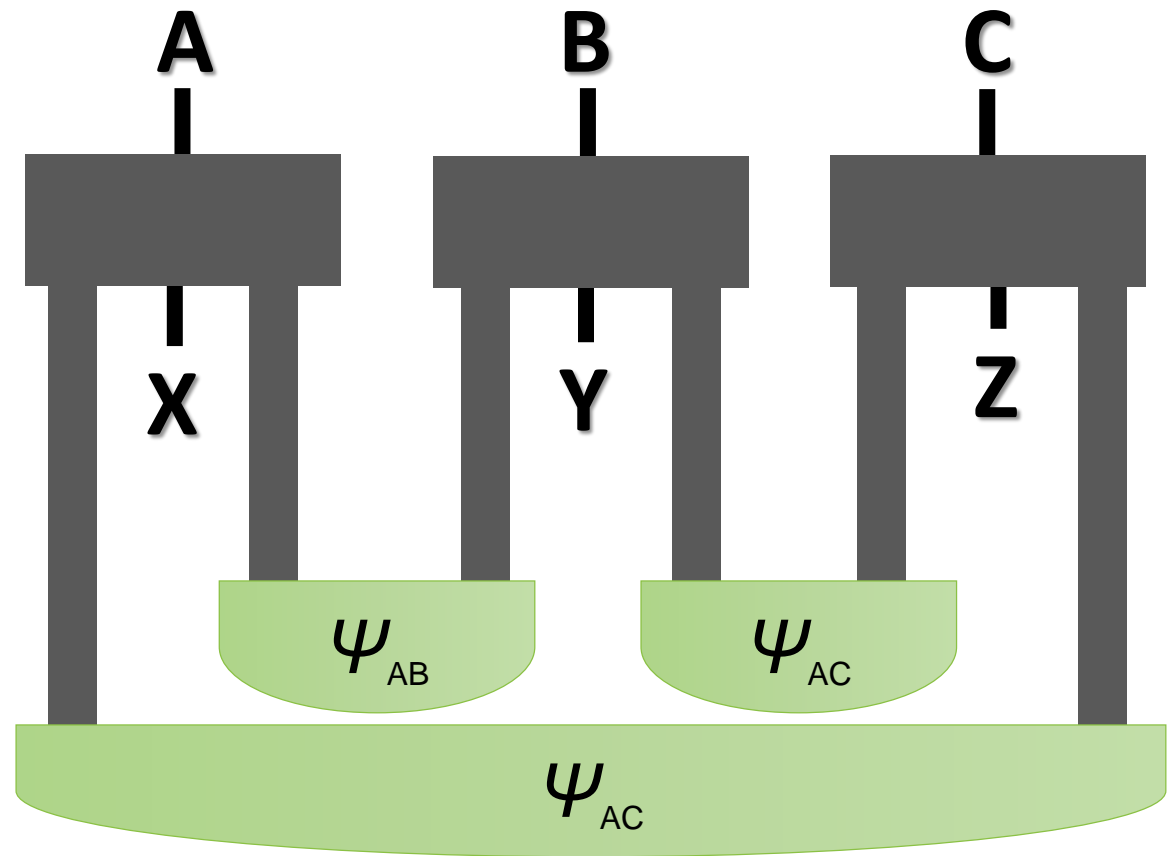
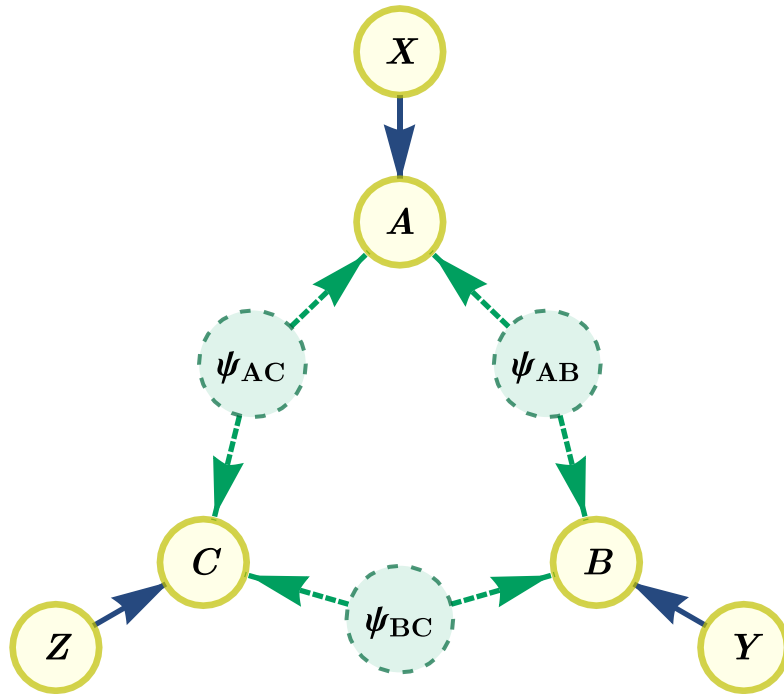
# Part Two

## Motivating Quantum Inflation

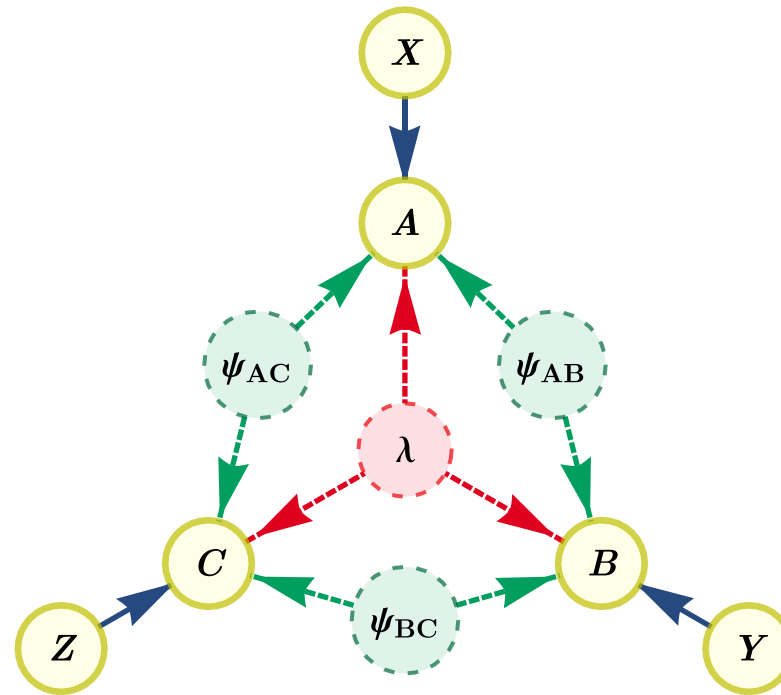
# Quantum Triangle Scenario with Settings



# Quantum Channels Picture

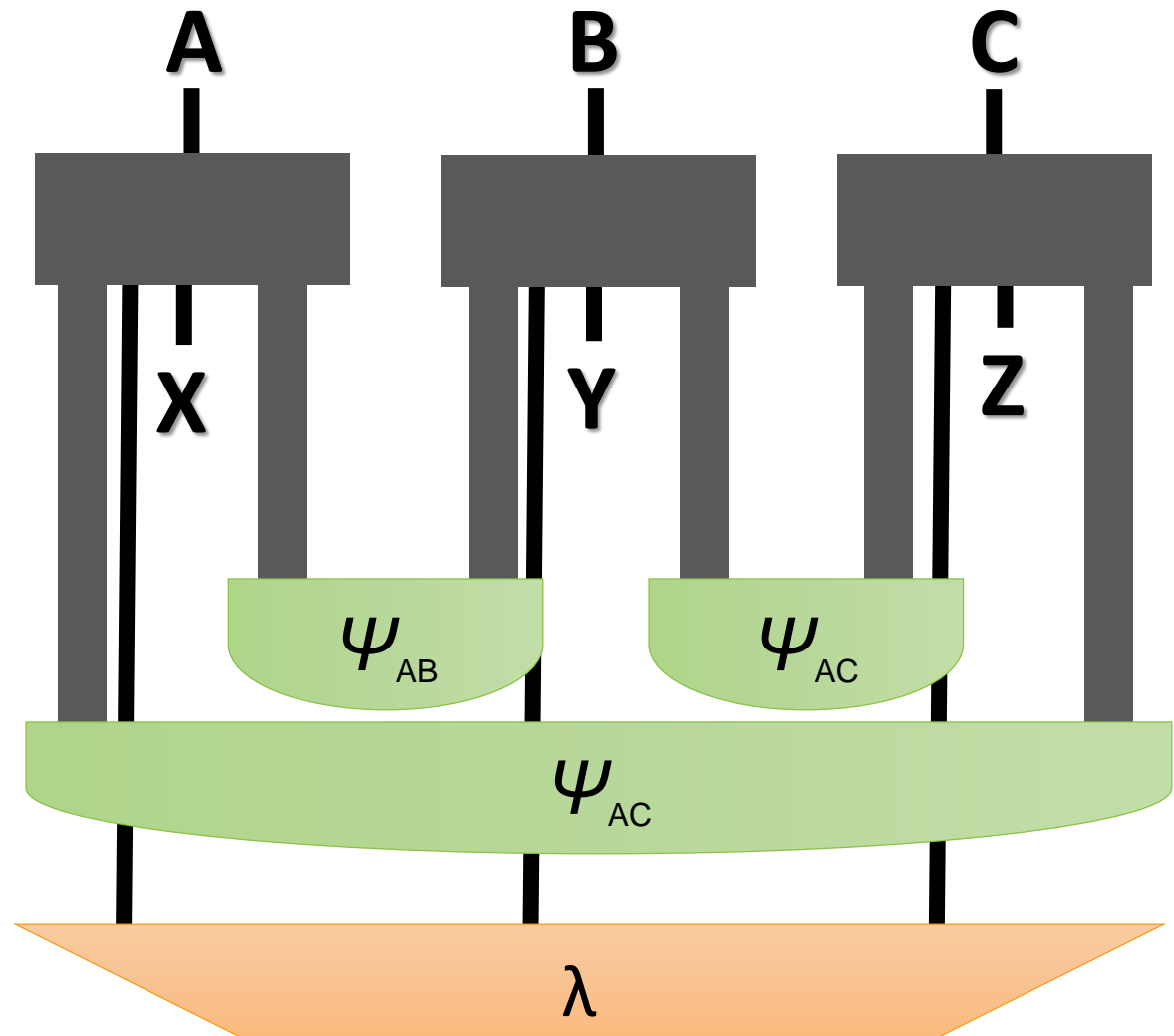
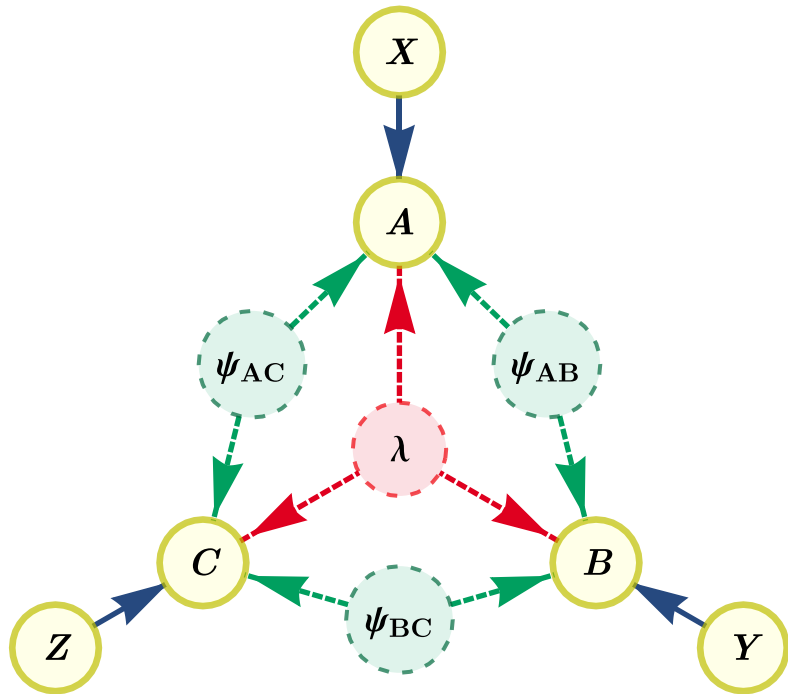


# Hybrid Network: (global shared randomness)

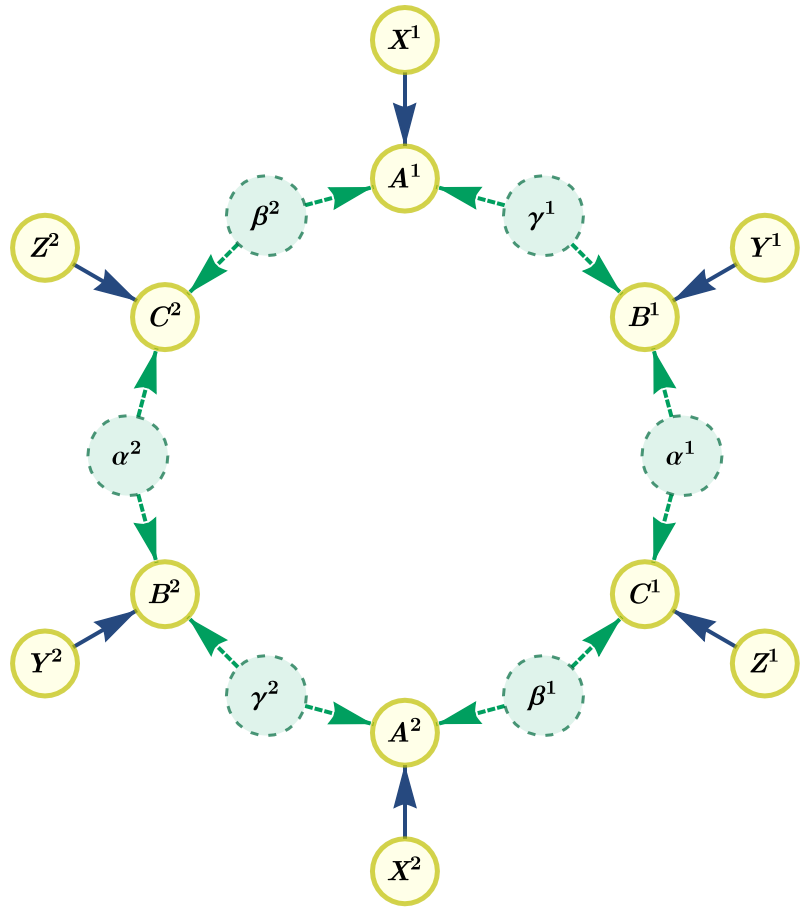




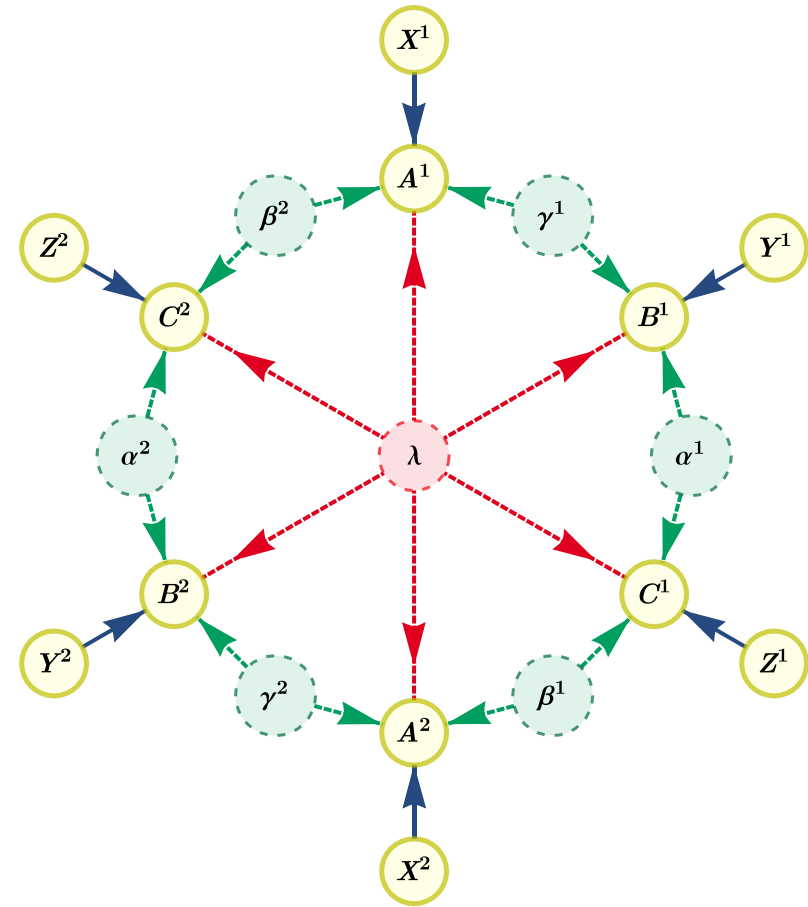
# Quantum Channels Picture



# Why Shared Randomness is **HARDER**



$$P(A^1 B^1 A^2 B^2 | X^1 Y^1 X^2 Y^2) = P(A^1 B^1 | X^1 Y^1) P(A^2 B^2 | X^2 Y^2)$$



$$P(A^1 B^1 A^2 B^2 | X^1 Y^1 X^2 Y^2) \neq P(A^1 B^1 | X^1 Y^1) P(A^2 B^2 | X^2 Y^2)$$

# Non-Fanout Inflation References:

- [“Theory-independent limits on correlations from generalised Bayesian networks”](#) (Henson, Lal, & Pusey, 2014)  
*See Section 4: “Beyond conditional independence: quantitative bounds on correlations”*
- [“The Inflation Technique for Causal Inference with Latent Variables”](#) (EW, Spekkens, & Fritz, 2016)  
*See Section V-D: “Implications of the Inflation Technique for Quantum Physics and Generalized Probabilistic Theories”*
- [“Constraints on nonlocality in networks from no-signaling and independence”](#) (Gisin et. al., 2019)

# A Tale of 3 Boxes and 2 Physical Theories

- Box #8: Not possible in GPT triangle scenario.
- Box #4: Apparently possible in the GPT triangle scenario, but **obviously** not quantum.
- Mermin-GHZ Pseudotelepathy game: Apparently possible in the GPT triangle scenario, but (not obviously!!) not quantum.

["Extremal correlations of the tripartite no-signaling polytope"](#)  
(Pironio, Bancal, & Scarani, 2011)

## Box #8

$$\langle A_0 B_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_0 C_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_0 C_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle B_0 C_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle B_0 C_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_1 B_1 C_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_1 B_1 C_1 \rangle = -1$$

Postquantum, no-signalling  
tripartite box.

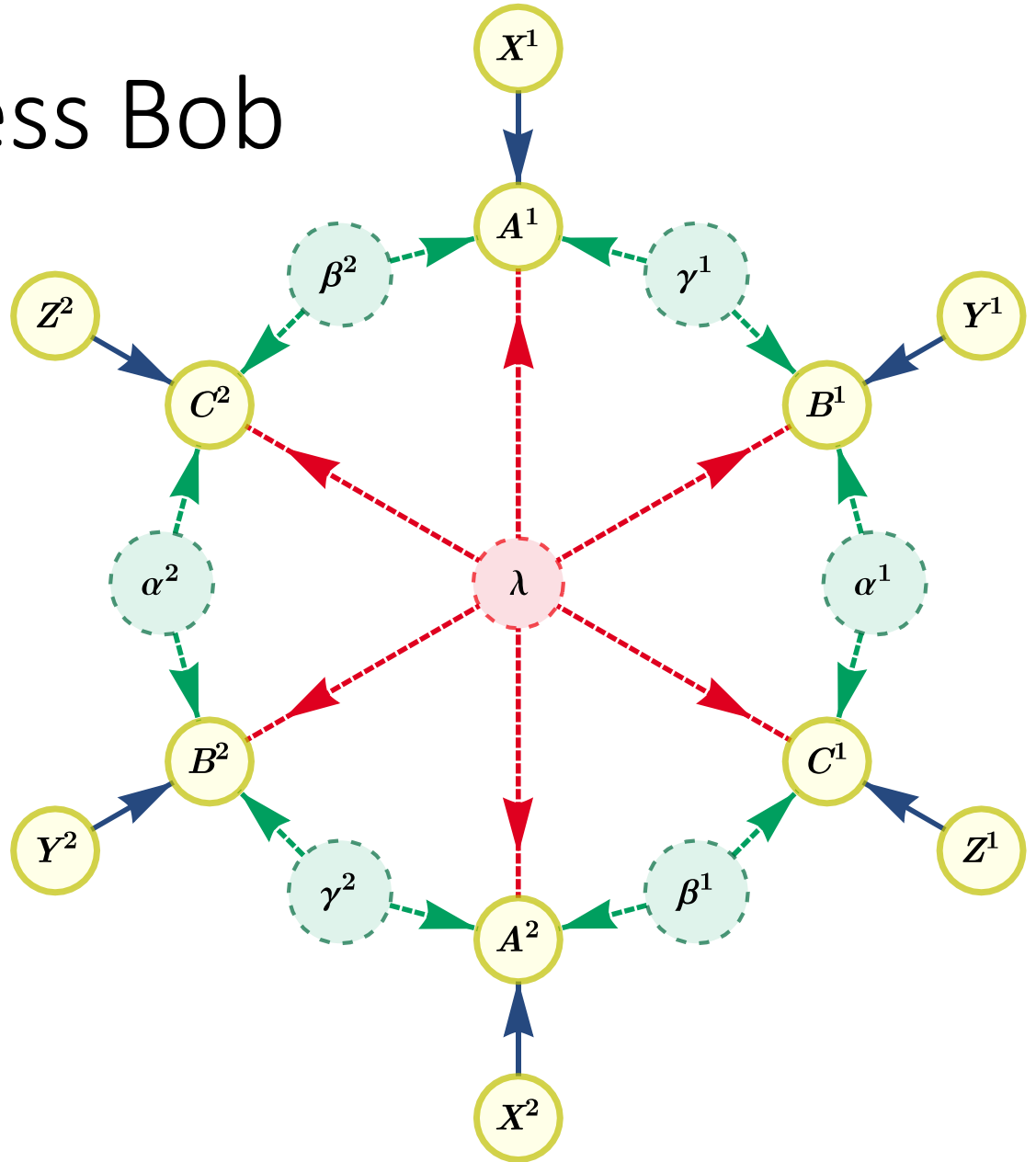
# Box #8: Charlie can guess Bob

$$\langle A_{x=0} B_{y=0} \rangle = +1$$

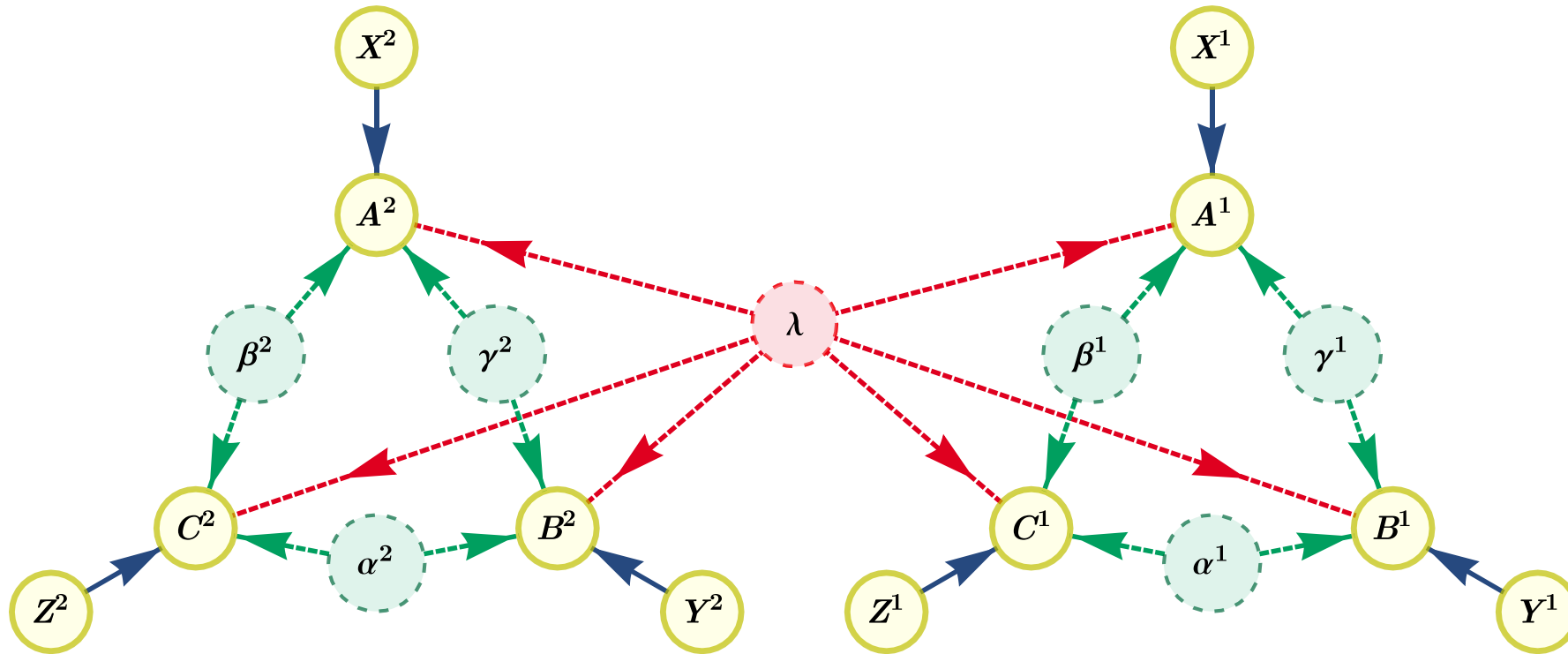
$$\langle A_{x=0} C_{z=0} \rangle = +1$$

...

$C_{z=0}^2$  can **correctly guess**  $B_{y=0}^1$   
via  $B_{y=0}^1$  being correlated with  $A_{x=0}^1$   
and  $A_{x=0}^1$  being correlated with  $C_{z=0}^2$



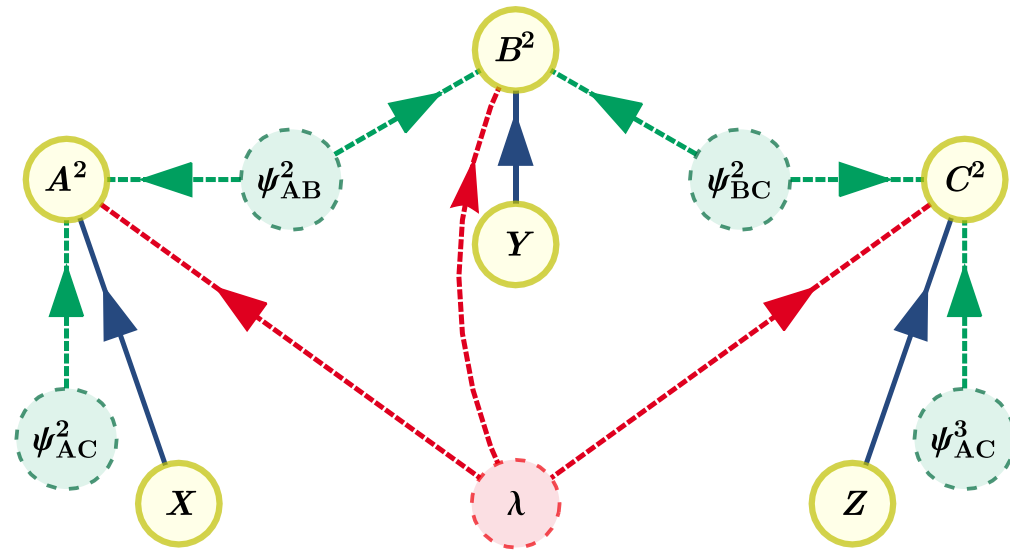
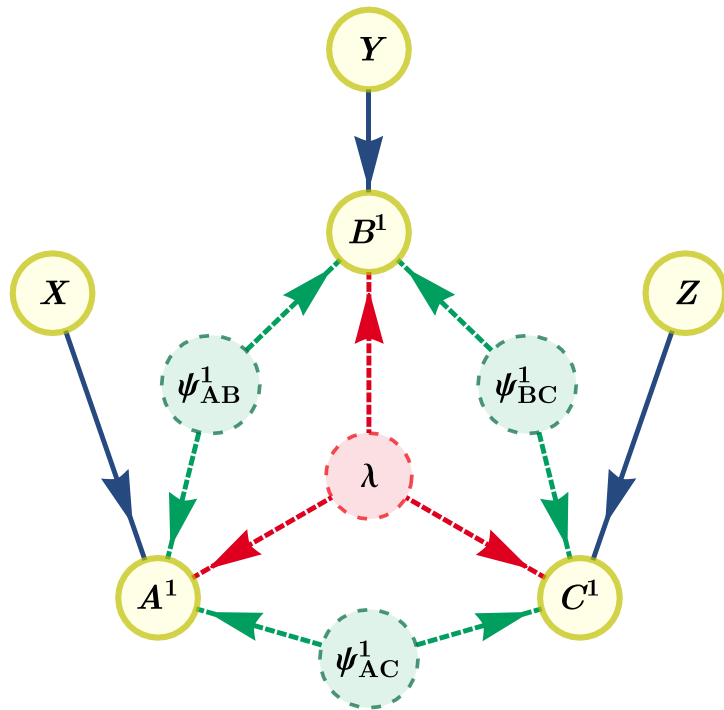
# Extremality prohibits 4<sup>th</sup> party guessing...



$B_{1|y=0} C_{2|z=0}$  must be a **product distribution**  
 if  $A_{1|x=0} B_{1|y=0} C_{2|z=0}$  is an extremal tripartite NS box.

**CONTRADICTION.**

# Box #8: Alternative Argument



$$P(A^1 B^1 | XY) = P(A^2 B^2 | XY)$$

$$P(B^1 C^1 | YZ) = P(B^2 C^2 | YZ)$$



# Box #8: Alternative Argument

$$\langle A_{x=0} B_{y=0} \rangle = +1$$

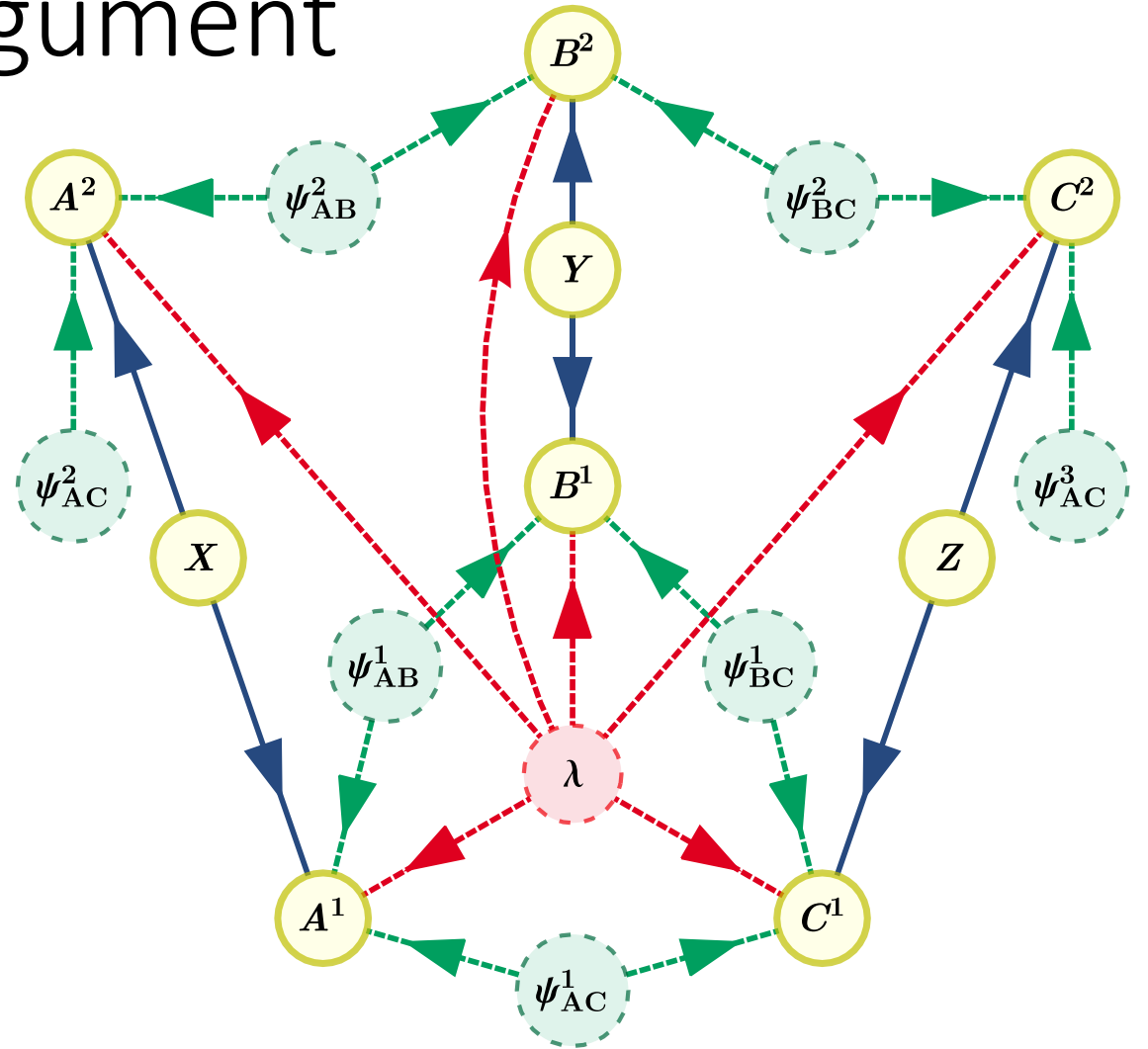
$$\langle B_{y=0} C_{z=0} \rangle = +1$$

...

$$P(A^1 B^1 | XY) = P(A^2 B^2 | XY)$$

$$P(B^1 C^1 | YZ) = P(B^2 C^2 | YZ)$$

$$P(A^2 C^2 | XZ) = P(A^1 C^2 | XZ)$$



# $n$ -way extremality vs. $(n-1)$ -way correlation

- Many tripartite extremal NS boxes are evidently incompatible with the (GPT) triangle scenario.
- Quantum version: Extremality of a box in the 3-way **quantum** correlations set **conflicts** with two-pairs of bipartite correlation
- FYI: There exists a **noisy variant** of Box #8 which is **GPT-triangle incompatible** but admits quantum realization using **3-way entanglement**.

# Non PR-ness Proofs:

- “[Popescu-Rohrlich Correlations as a Unit of Nonlocality](#)”  
(Barrett & Pironio, 2005)  
*See Theorem 2: (5-cycle graph-state correlations cannot be simulated via PR boxes)*
- “[Test to separate quantum theory from non-signaling theories](#)”  
(Chao & Reichardt, 2017)
- “[Separating pseudo-telepathy games and two-local theories](#)”  
(Mathieu & Mhalla, 2018)

## Box #4

$$\langle A_0 B_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle B_0 C_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle C_0 A_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_0 B_0 C_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_1 B_1 C_1 \rangle = -1$$

Postquantum, no-signalling  
tripartite box.

No **chain** of bipartite  
correlation terms!

## Box #4

$$\langle A_0 B_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle B_0 C_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle C_0 A_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_0 B_0 C_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_1 B_1 C_1 \rangle = -1$$

Box #4 appears to be **GPT-realizable** in the triangle scenario!

This, despite the fact that it **cannot be realized via any wiring of PR boxes**\*.

(Obviously quantum incompatible.)

\*Per "[Feats, Features and Failures of the PR-box](#)" (Scarani, 2005)

# Does Box #4 admit a Triangle GPT realization?

- Stefano thinks so, but still an open question!
- Wirings are weaker than GPT entangled measurements. See:  
    [“Couplers for non-locality swapping”](#) (Linden & Brunner, 2009) and  
    [“Generalizations of Boxworld”](#) (Janotta, 2012)
- See also: [“Information-Causality and Extremal Tripartite Correlations”](#)  
    (Yang et. al. 2012)  
    See Section IV: “Class #4: Extremal No-Signalling Correlations Satisfying and Bipartite Criterion”

# Example: Mermin-GHZ Pseudotelepathy

$$\langle A_0 B_0 C_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_0 B_1 C_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_1 B_0 C_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_1 B_1 C_1 \rangle = -1$$

$$|\psi_{ABC}\rangle = \frac{|000\rangle - |111\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Setting “0” =  $\sigma_Y$

Setting “1” =  $\sigma_X$

Mermin-GHZ success w/ 3-way entanglement

# Mermin-GHZ can be simulated with a PR box

$$\langle A_0 B_0 C_1 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_0 B_1 C_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_1 B_0 C_0 \rangle = +1$$

$$\langle A_1 B_1 C_1 \rangle = -1$$

(Just have Charlie output +1  
deterministically for both settings.)



# Mermin-GHZ **failure** w/ 2-way **entanglement**

$$P_{\text{Mermin}, \mathbf{v}}(abc|xyz) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{8} & x + y + z = 0 \pmod{2} \\ (1 + \mathbf{v}(-1)^{a+b+c})/8 & x + y + z = 1 \\ (1 - \mathbf{v}(-1)^{a+b+c})/8 & x + y + z = 3 \end{cases}, \quad \mathbf{v} \leq \sqrt{5/8}$$

$$\langle A_0 B_0 C_1 \rangle + \langle A_0 B_1 C_0 \rangle + \langle A_1 B_0 C_0 \rangle - \langle A_1 B_1 C_1 \rangle \leq \sqrt{10}$$

See **Quantum Inflation** technique – talk by Toni Acin, poster of Alex Pozas-Kerstjens

# Mermin-GHZ References:

- “[Quantum mysteries revisited](#)” (Mermin, 1990)
- “[Recasting Mermin's multi-player game into the framework of pseudo-telepathy](#)” (Brassard et. al., 2005)
- “[On the power of non-local boxes](#)” (Broadbent & Méthot, 2006)

# Review of Motivating Questions

**QUESTION:** What is a tripartite **quantum correlation** which **cannot** be realized if the parties share **2-way GPT resources** (and 3-way classical shared randomness?)

**TECHNIQUE:** No-signalling inequalities (from hexagon ring inflation of the triangle).

**SOLUTION:** Noisy version of tripartite extremal NS Box #8.

**QUESTION:** What is a tripartite quantum correlations which **could** be realized if the parties share **2-way GPT resources** but **not** if they only share **2-way quantum resources**?

**TECHNIQUE:** **Quantum Inflation.**

**SOLUTION:** The Mermin-GHZ nonlocal box (psuedotelepathy, GHZ-state self-test.)

# Previous relevant (but incomplete) ideas

- *“The Inflation Technique for Causal Inference with Latent Variables”*

EW, Robert W. Spekkens, Tobias Fritz [arXiv:1609.00672](https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.00672)

**Deficiency:** Cannot distinguish quantum from GPT.

- *“Information-theoretic implications of quantum causal structures”*

Rafael Chaves, Christian Majenz, David Gross [arXiv:1407.3800](https://arxiv.org/abs/1407.3800)

See also *“Analysing causal structures in generalised probabilistic theories”*

Mirjam Weilenmann, Roger Colbeck [arXiv:1812.04327](https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.04327)

**Deficiency:** Insensitive. Does not rule out W in quantum triangle.

- *“Bounding the sets of classical and quantum correlations in networks”*

Alejandro Pozas-Kerstjens, Rafael Rabelo, Łukasz Rudnicki, Rafael Chaves, Daniel Cavalcanti, Miguel Navascues, Antonio Acín [arXiv:1904.08943](https://arxiv.org/abs/1904.08943)

**Deficiency:** Leverages independence, so not applicable to quantum triangle.

# Summary

- Edges originating from non-root observed variables:  
**INTERRUPTION**  
(followed by traditional quantum constraining)
- Multiple root quantum nodes:  
**NON-FANOUT INFLATION**  
(holds for any physical theory)  
followed by  
**QUANTUM INFLATION**  
(if need be)

Thank You