

# Causal Inference: Classical and Quantum

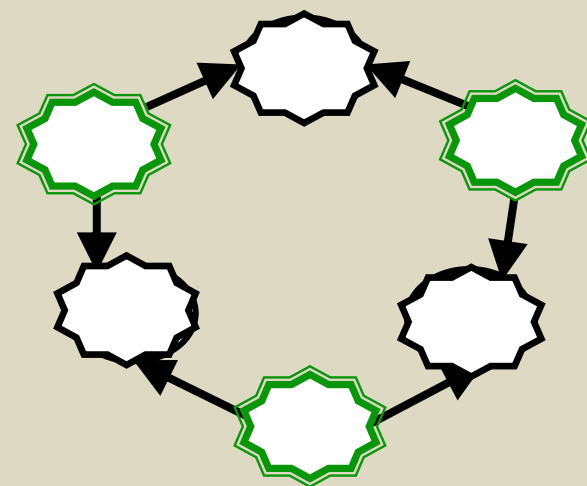
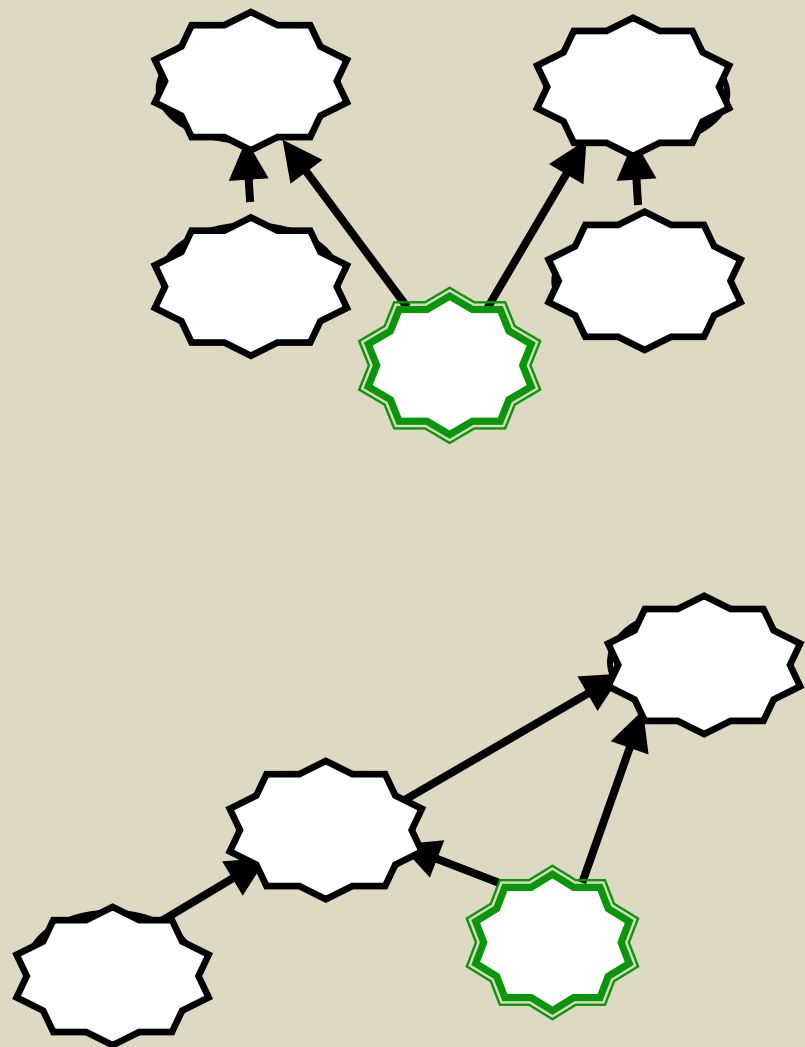
Lecturer: Robert Spekkens  
July 6, 2026

Journeys,  
SAIFR, ICTP, Brazil



Causarum Investigatio  
“Investigate the causes”

# Fully quantum causal models

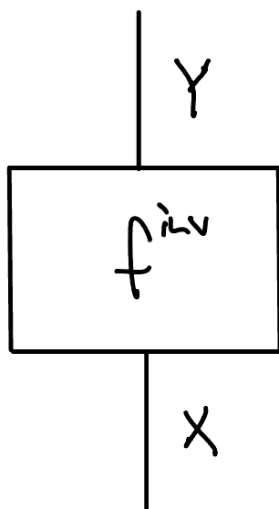


# The causal theory

Focus on deterministic and reversible  
evolution in closed systems:

Unitary evolution

invertible function



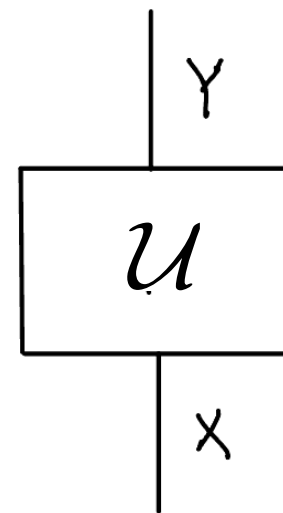
For  $|X| = |Y|$

$$f^{\text{inv}} : X \rightarrow Y$$

$$\because x \mapsto f^{\text{inv}}(x)$$

where  $f^{\text{inv}}$  is an invertible function

Unitary channel



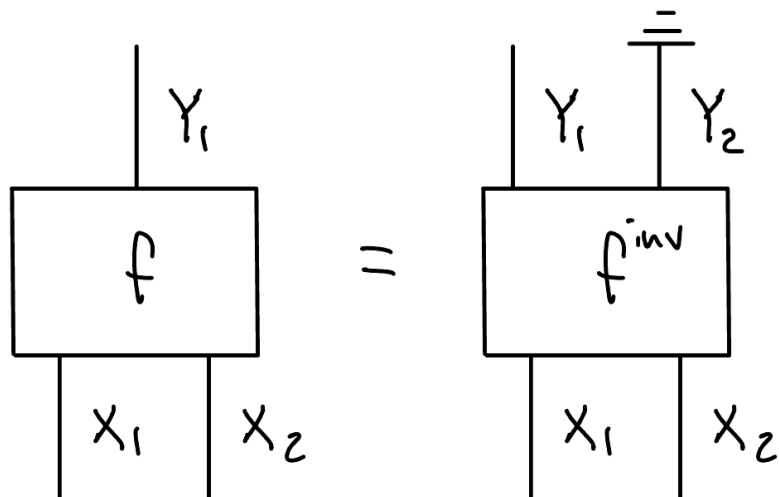
For  $\dim(\mathcal{H}_X) = \dim(\mathcal{H}_Y)$

$$\mathcal{U} : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_X) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_Y)$$

$$\because A \mapsto \mathcal{U}(A) := UAU^\dagger$$

where  $U$  is a unitary operator

general function



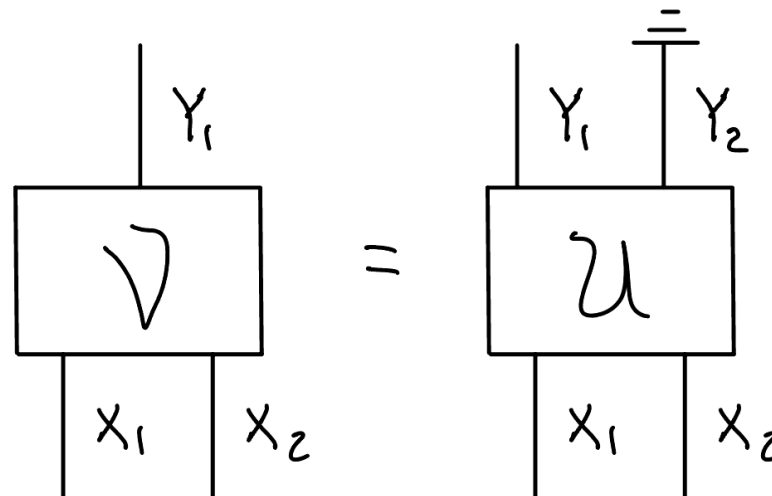
For  $|X_1||X_2| = |Y_1||Y_2|$

$$f : X_1 \times X_2 \rightarrow Y_1$$

$$f := f^{\text{inv}}|_{Y_1}$$

where  $f^{\text{inv}}$  is an invertible function

Reduced unitary



For  $\dim(\mathcal{H}_{X_1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{X_2}) = \dim(\mathcal{H}_{Y_1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{Y_2})$

$$\mathcal{V} : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_{X_1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{X_2}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_{Y_1})$$

$$\mathcal{V} := \text{Tr}_{Y_2} \circ \mathcal{U}$$

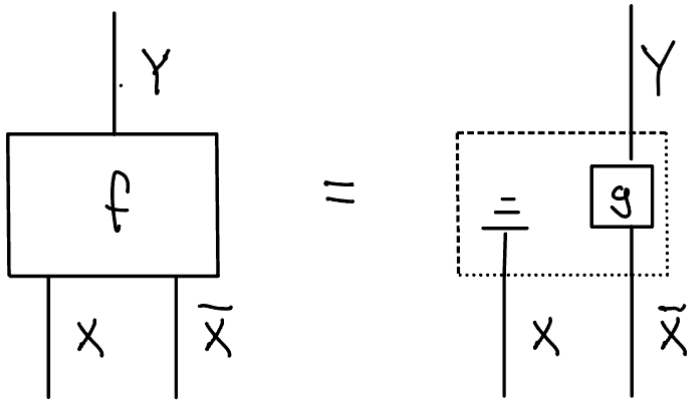
where  $\mathcal{U}$  is a unitary channel

What is the definition of  
causal influence  
quantumly?

## Classical

variable  $X$  has **no influence** on variable  $Y$  if  $Y$  has a **trivial** dependence on  $X$

**for a general function  $f$**

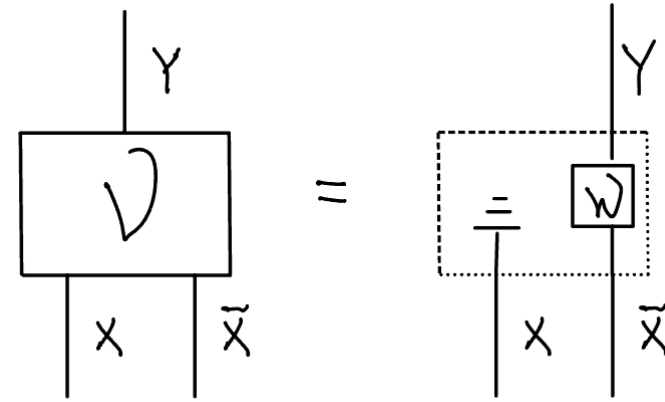


$$f(X, \bar{X}) = g(\bar{X})$$

## Quantum

system  $X$  has **no influence** on system  $Y$  if  $Y$  has a **trivial** dependence on  $X$

**for a reduced unitary channel  $V$**



$$\mathcal{V}_{Y|X\bar{X}} = \text{Tr}_X \otimes \mathcal{W}_{Y|\bar{X}}$$

# The inferential theory

Joint states for systems that are common-  
cause connected

|                    | Classical             | Quantum                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| State of knowledge | $P_A$                 | $\rho_A$                          |
| Normalization      | $\sum_A P_A = 1$      | $\text{Tr}_A(\rho_A) = 1$         |
| Joint state        | $P_{AB}$              | $\rho_{AB}$                       |
| Marginalization    | $P_B = \sum_A P_{AB}$ | $\rho_B = \text{Tr}_A(\rho_{AB})$ |

# Marginal independence of A and B

$$\rho_{AB} = \rho_A \otimes \rho_B$$

Denote this  
( $A \perp B$ )

Conditional states for systems that are  
cause-effect connected

Classical belief propagation

$$P_B = \Gamma_{B|A}[P_A]$$

Stochastic map preserving  
positivity and normalization

In terms of a conditional

$$P_B = \sum_A P_{B|A} P_A$$

$$\sum_B P_{B|A} = 1$$

$$P_{B|A} \geq 0$$

Quantum belief propagation

$$\rho_B = \mathcal{E}_{B|A}(\rho_A)$$

Completely positive trace-  
preserving map

In terms of a conditional

$$\rho_B = \text{Tr}_A(\rho_{B|A} \rho_A)$$

$$\text{Tr}_B(\rho_{B|A}) = I_A$$

$$\rho_{B|A}^{T_A} \geq 0$$

## The Choi-Jamiołkowski isomorphism

$$\rho_{B|A} := (\Phi_{B|A'} \otimes \text{id}_A)(\sum_{j,k} |j\rangle\langle k|_{A'} \otimes |k\rangle\langle j|_A)$$

$$\Phi_{B|A}(\cdot) = \text{Tr}_A(\rho_{B|A}\cdot)$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Tr}_A(\rho_{B|A}\rho_A) &= \sum_{j,k} \Phi_{B|A'}(|j\rangle\langle k|_{A'}) \langle j|\rho_A|k\rangle \\ &= \Phi_{B|A}(\sum_{j,k} |j\rangle\langle j|_A \rho_A|k\rangle\langle k|_A) \\ &= \Phi_{B|A}(\rho_A) \quad \text{QED}\end{aligned}$$

## The Choi-Jamiołkowski isomorphism

$$\rho_{B|A} := (\Phi_{B|A'} \otimes \text{id}_A) \left( \sum_{j,k} |j\rangle\langle k|_{A'} \otimes |k\rangle\langle j|_A \right)$$

$$\Phi_{B|A}(\cdot) = \text{Tr}_A(\rho_{B|A} \cdot)$$

$$\Phi_{B|A'} \text{ is trace-preserving} \iff \text{Tr}_B(\rho_{B|A}) = I_A$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}_B(\rho_{B|A}) &= \text{Tr}_B \left[ (\Phi_{B|A'} \otimes \text{id}_A) \left( \sum_{j,k} |j\rangle\langle k|_{A'} \otimes |k\rangle\langle j|_A \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{j,k} \text{Tr}_B \circ \Phi_{B|A'} (|j\rangle\langle k|_{A'}) |k\rangle\langle j|_A \\ &= \sum_{j,k} \text{Tr}_{A'} (|j\rangle\langle k|_{A'}) |k\rangle\langle j|_A \\ &= \sum_{j,k} \delta_{j,k} |k\rangle\langle j|_A \\ &= I_A \quad \text{QED} \end{aligned}$$

## The Choi-Jamiołkowski isomorphism

$$\rho_{B|A} := (\Phi_{B|A'} \otimes \text{id}_A) \left( \sum_{j,k} |j\rangle\langle k|_{A'} \otimes |k\rangle\langle j|_A \right)$$

$$\Phi_{B|A}(\cdot) = \text{Tr}_A(\rho_{B|A} \cdot)$$

$$\Phi_{B|A} \text{ is completely positive} \iff \rho_{B|A}^{T_A} \geq 0$$

$$\rho_{B|A} \text{ is PPT}$$

Proof: 
$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{B|A} &= (\Phi_{B|A'} \otimes \text{id}_A) \left[ \left( \sum_{j,k} |j\rangle\langle k|_{A'} \otimes |j\rangle\langle k|_A \right)^{T_A} \right] \\ &= [(\Phi_{B|A'} \otimes \text{id}_A)(d_A |\Psi^+\rangle_{A'A} \langle \Psi^+|)]^{T_A} \end{aligned}$$

QED

Classical belief propagation

$$P_B = \Gamma_{B|A}[P_A]$$

Stochastic map preserving  
positivity and normalization

In terms of a conditional

$$P_B = \sum_A P_{B|A} P_A$$

$$\sum_B P_{B|A} = 1$$

$$P_{B|A} \geq 0$$

Quantum belief propagation

$$\rho_B = \mathcal{E}_{B|A}(\rho_A)$$

Completely positive trace-  
preserving map

In terms of a conditional

$$\rho_B = \text{Tr}_A(\rho_{B|A} \rho_A)$$

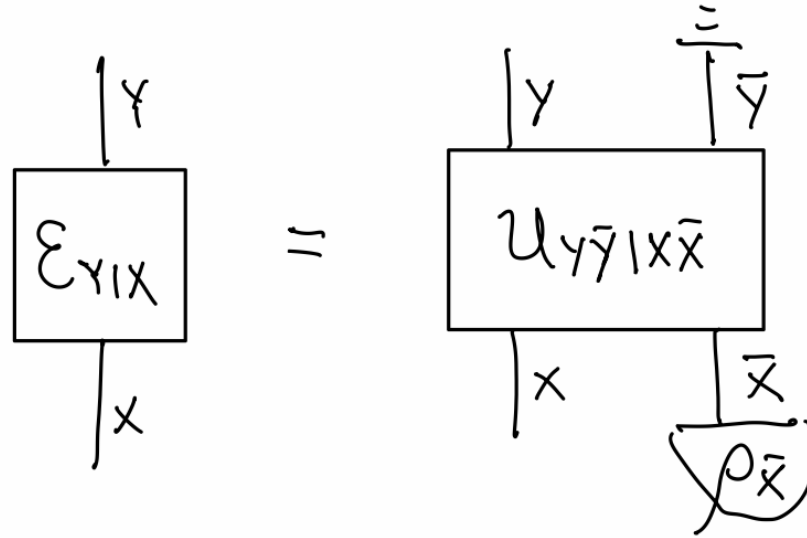
$$\text{Tr}_B(\rho_{B|A}) = I_A$$

$$\rho_{B|A}^{T_A} \geq 0$$

The quantum analogue of the difference  
between deterministic dependence and  
probabilistic dependence

# The Stinespring dilation theorem

Completely positive  
trace-preserving map



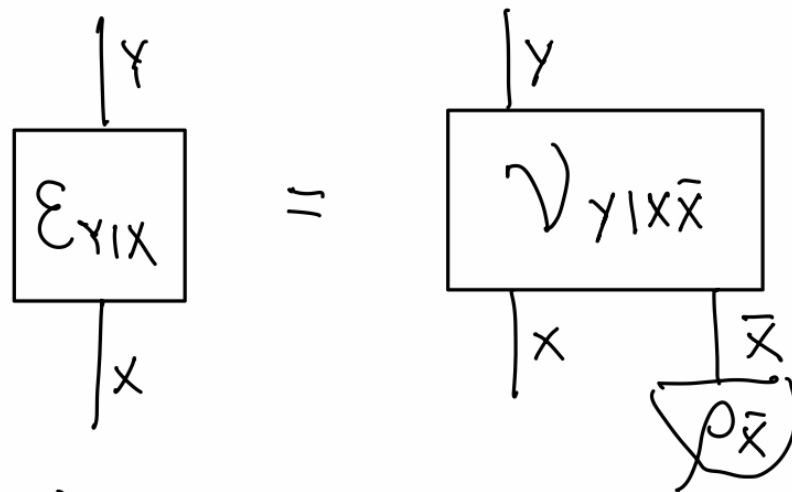
Unitary map

$$\mathcal{U}(\cdot) = U \cdot U^\dagger$$

$$\exists U_{Y\bar{Y}|X\bar{X}}, \rho_{\bar{x}}:$$

$$E_{Y|X}(\cdot) = \text{Tr}_{\bar{x}}(U_{Y\bar{Y}|X\bar{X}}(\cdot \otimes \rho_{\bar{x}}))$$

Completely positive  
trace-preserving map



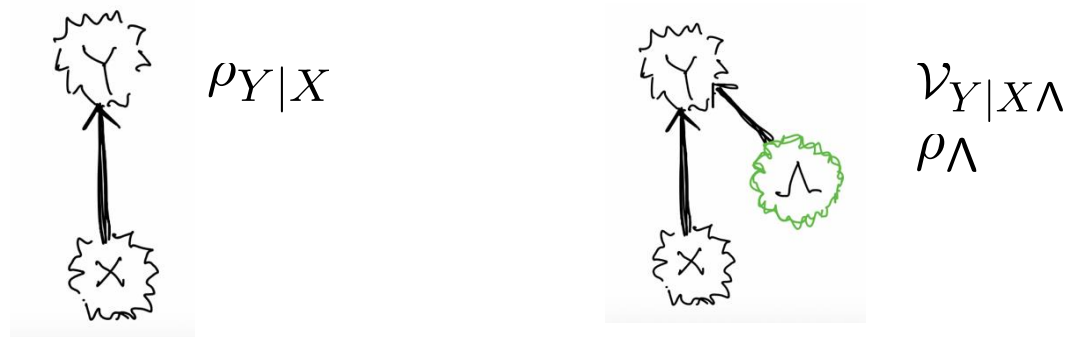
Reduced unitary  
map

$$\exists \mathcal{V}_{Y|X\bar{X}}, \rho_{\bar{X}}:$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{Y|X}(\cdot) = \text{Tr}_{\bar{X}}(\mathcal{V}_{Y|X\bar{X}}(\cdot \otimes \rho_{\bar{X}}))$$

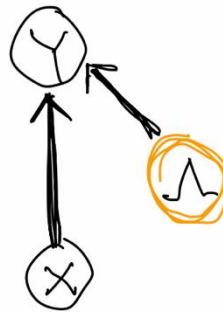
$$\rho_{Y|X} = \text{Tr}_{\bar{X}}(\overset{\text{det}}{\rho_{Y|X\bar{X}}} \rho_{\bar{X}})$$

where  $\overset{\text{det}}{\rho_{Y|X\bar{X}}}$  is CPTP  
for  $\mathcal{V}_{Y|X\bar{X}}$



$$\rho_{Y|X} = \text{Tr}_\Lambda \left( \rho_{Y|X\Lambda}^{\text{det}} \rho_\Lambda \right)$$

where  $\rho_{Y|X\Lambda}^{\text{det}}$  is CJ-isomorphic to  $\mathcal{V}_{Y|X\Lambda}$

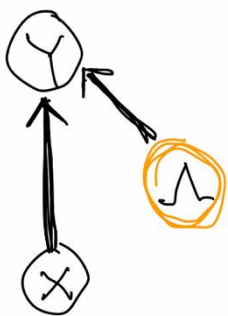

 $P_{Y|X}$ 

 $Y = f(X, \Lambda)$ 
 $P_{\Lambda}$ 

$$P_{Y|X} = \sum_{\Lambda} P_{Y|X\Lambda}^{\text{det}} P_{\Lambda}$$

where  $P_{Y|X\Lambda}^{\text{det}} = \delta_{Y, f(X, \Lambda)}$



$$P_{Y|X}$$



$$Y = f(X, \Lambda)$$

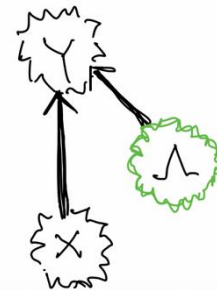
$$P_{\Lambda}$$

$$P_{Y|X} = \sum_{\Lambda} P_{Y|X\Lambda}^{\text{det}} P_{\Lambda}$$

where  $P_{Y|X\Lambda}^{\text{det}} = \delta_{Y, f(X, \Lambda)}$



$$\rho_{Y|X}$$



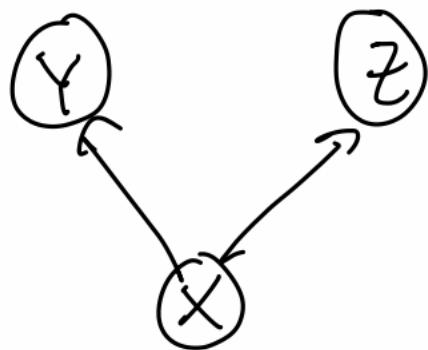
$$\mathcal{V}_{Y|X\Lambda}$$

$$\rho_{\Lambda}$$

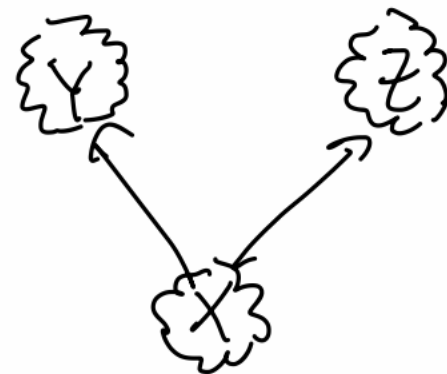
$$\rho_{Y|X} = \text{Tr}_{\Lambda} \left( \rho_{Y|X\Lambda}^{\text{det}} \rho_{\Lambda} \right)$$

where  $\rho_{Y|X\Lambda}^{\text{det}}$  is CJ-isomorphic to  $\mathcal{V}_{Y|X\Lambda}$

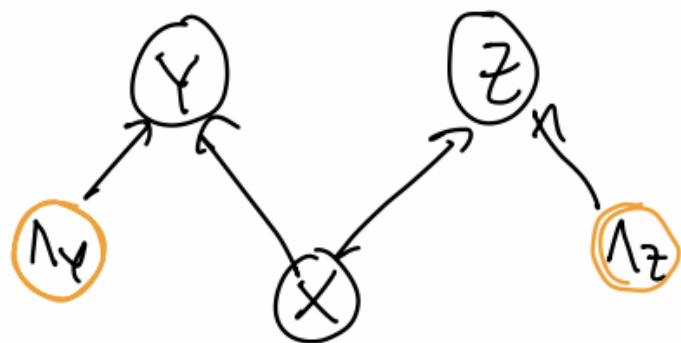
One system a complete common cause of  
two others



$$P_{YZ|X} = P_{Y|X} P_{Z|X}$$

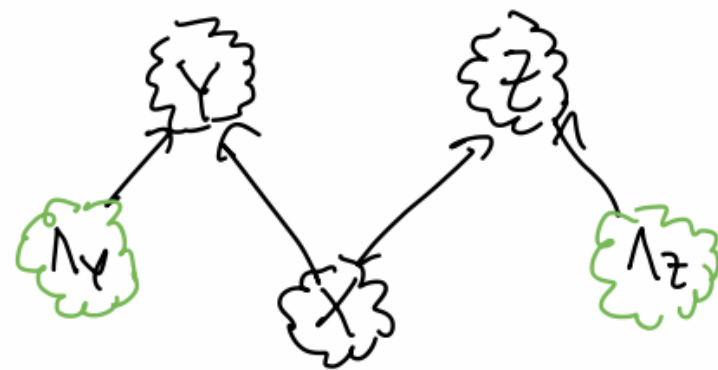


$$\beta_{YZ|X} = \beta_{Y|X} \beta_{Z|X}$$



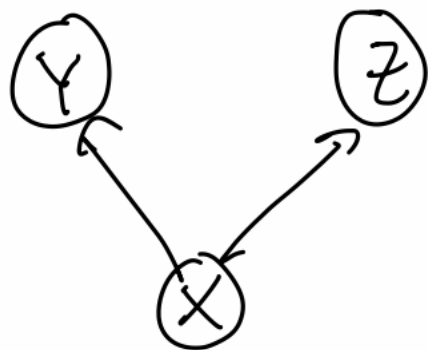
$$P_{YZ|X}^{\text{det}} = P_{Y|X}^{\text{det}} P_{Z|X}^{\text{det}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_{YZ|X} &= \sum_{\Lambda_Y \Lambda_Z} P_{YZ|\Lambda_Y \Lambda_Z}^{\text{det}} P_{\Lambda_Y} P_{\Lambda_Z} \\ &= \left( \sum_{\Lambda_Y} P_{Y|\Lambda_Y X}^{\text{det}} P_{\Lambda_Y} \right) \left( \sum_{\Lambda_Z} P_{Z|\Lambda_Z X}^{\text{det}} P_{\Lambda_Z} \right) \\ &= P_{Y|X} P_{Z|X} \end{aligned}$$

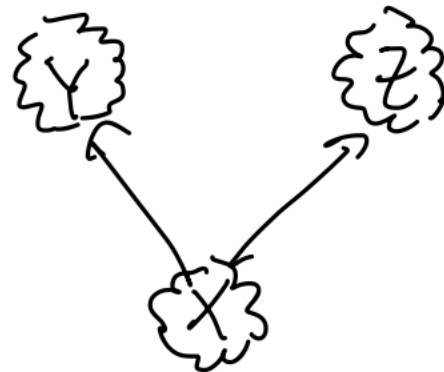


$$P_{YZ|X}^{\text{det}} = P_{Y|X}^{\text{det}} P_{Z|X}^{\text{det}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{YZ|X} &= \text{Tr}_{\Lambda_Y \Lambda_Z} (P_{YZ|\Lambda_Y \Lambda_Z X}^{\text{det}} \rho_{\Lambda_Y} \otimes \rho_{\Lambda_Z}) \\ &= \text{Tr}_{\Lambda_Y} (P_{Y|\Lambda_Y X}^{\text{det}} \rho_{\Lambda_Y}) \text{Tr}_{\Lambda_Z} (P_{Z|\Lambda_Z X}^{\text{det}} \rho_{\Lambda_Z}) \\ &= \rho_{Y|X} \rho_{Z|X} \end{aligned}$$



$$P_{YZ|X} = P_{Y|X} P_{Z|X}$$



$$\rho_{YZ|X} = \rho_{Y|X} \rho_{Z|X}$$

B and C are conditionally independent given A

$$\rho_{BC|A} = \rho_{B|A}\rho_{C|A}$$

Denote this  
( $B \perp C|A$ )

Note: Hermiticity of  $\rho_{BC|A}, \rho_{B|A}, \rho_{C|A}$

$$\text{implies } [\rho_{B|A}, \rho_{C|A}] = 0$$

There is also a quantum analogue of the  
causal Markov condition

If  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  have causal relations described by a DAG  $G$ , then the set of compatible quantum processes are those of the form:

$$\rho_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n} = \prod_i \rho_{X_i | \text{Parents}_G(X_i)}$$

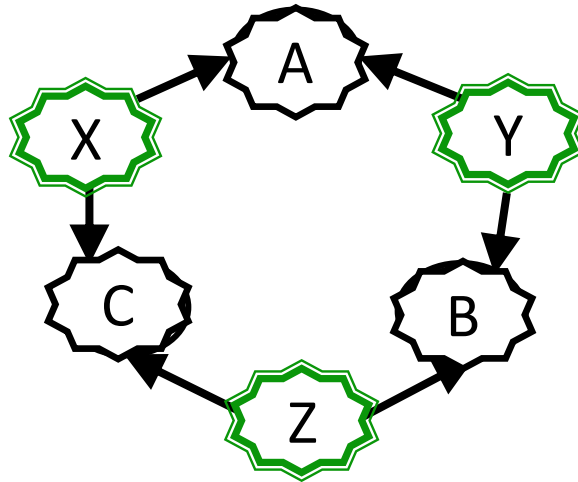
(but I won't be able to explain how it is different)

The fully quantum causal compatibility  
problem:

What quantum states/processes are  
compatible with a given causal structure?

Conventional assumption:  
**dimension** of latent quantum systems are  
arbitrary

# Triangle scenario



$$\rho_{A|XY}$$

$$\rho_{B|YZ}$$

$$\rho_{C|XZ}$$

$$\rho_X$$

$$\rho_Y$$

$$\rho_Z$$

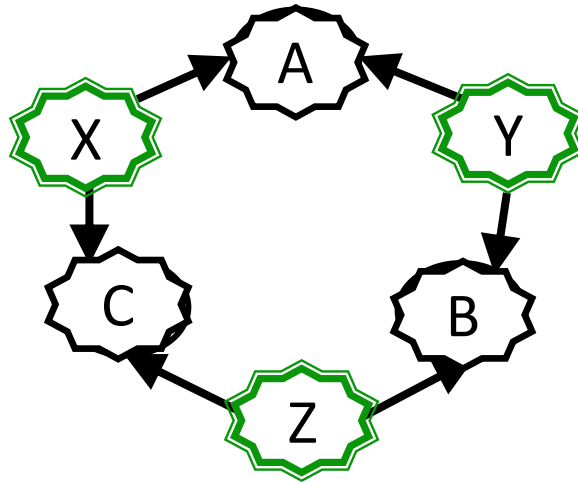
$$[\rho_{A|XY}, \rho_{B|YZ}] = 0$$

$$[\rho_{B|YZ}, \rho_{C|XZ}] = 0$$

$$[\rho_{A|XY}, \rho_{C|XZ}] = 0$$

$$\rho_{ABC} = \text{Tr}_{XYZ} (\rho_{A|XY} \rho_{B|YZ} \rho_{C|XZ} \rho_X \rho_Y \rho_Z)$$

# Triangle scenario



$$\rho_{A|X_A Y_A}$$

$$\rho_{B|Y_B Z_B}$$

$$\rho_{C|X_C Z_C}$$

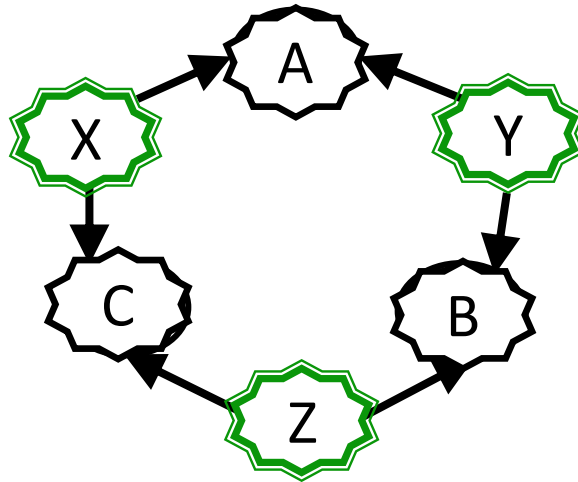
$$\rho_{X_A X_C}$$

$$\rho_{Y_A Y_B}$$

$$\rho_{Z_B Z_C}$$

$$\rho_{ABC} = \text{Tr}_{X_A X_C Y_A Y_B Z_C Z_B} \left( \rho_{A|X_A Y_A} \rho_{B|Y_B Z_B} \rho_{C|X_C Z_C} \rho_{X_A X_C} \rho_{Y_A Y_B} \rho_{Z_B Z_C} \right)$$

# Triangle scenario



$$\mathcal{E}_{A|X_A Y_A}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{B|Y_B Z_B}$$

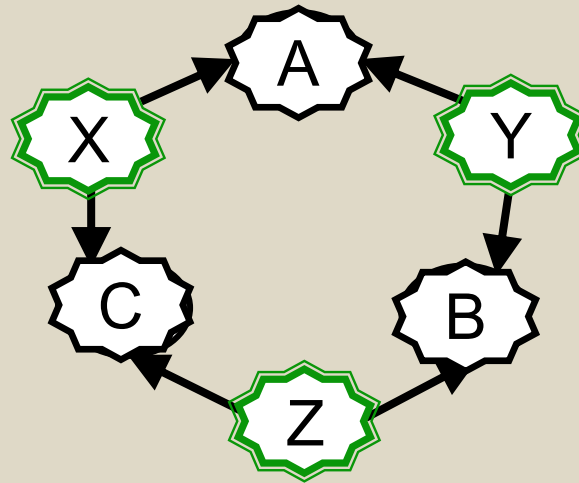
$$\mathcal{E}_{C|X_C Z_C}$$

$$\rho_{X_A X_C}$$

$$\rho_{Y_A Y_B}$$

$$\rho_{Z_B Z_C}$$

$$\rho_{ABC} = \mathcal{E}_{A|X_A Y_A} \otimes \mathcal{E}_{B|Y_B Z_B} \otimes \mathcal{E}_{C|X_C Z_C} (\rho_{X_A X_C} \rho_{Y_A Y_B} \rho_{Z_B Z_C})$$

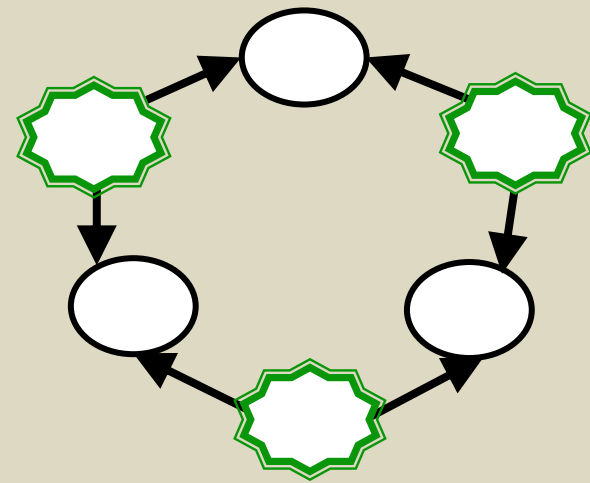
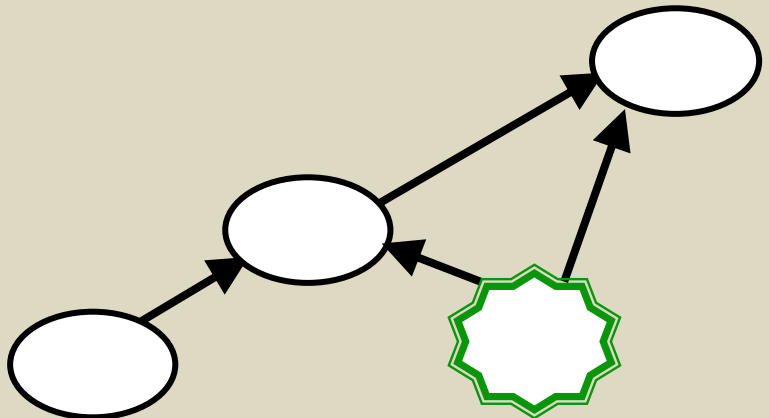
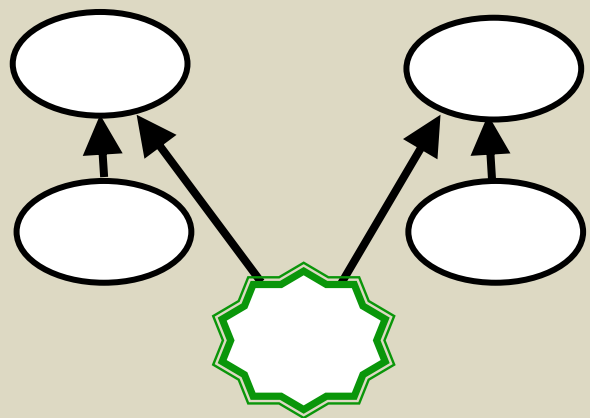


A, B and C  
qubits

$$I - \rho_A - \rho_B - \rho_C + \rho_A \otimes \rho_B + \rho_B \otimes \rho_C + \rho_A \otimes \rho_C \geq 0$$

where identity operators are implicit

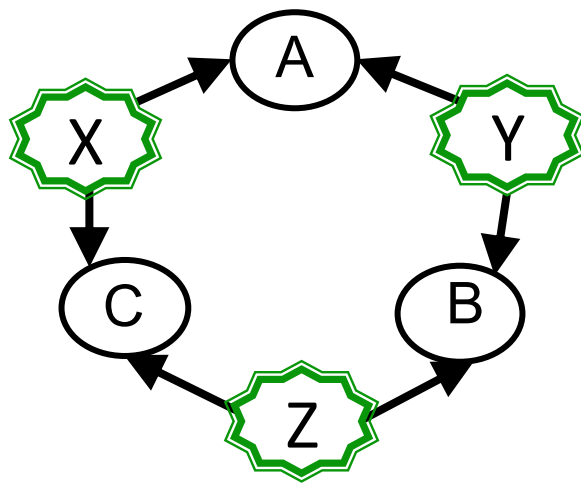
Causal models where  
only the latents can be  
quantum



The causal compatibility problem in this context:

What probability distributions over classical variables are compatible with a given causal structure when the latent systems can be quantum?

Conventional assumption:  
**dimension** of latent quantum system is  
arbitrary



$$\rho_{A|XY}$$

$$\rho_{B|YZ}$$

$$\rho_{C|XZ}$$

$$\rho_X$$

$$\rho_Y$$

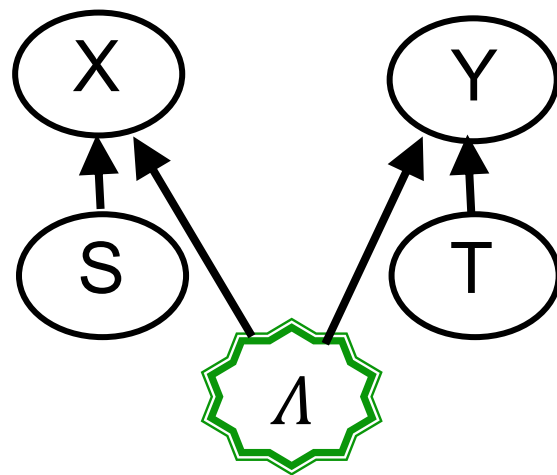
$$\rho_Z$$

$$[\rho_{A|XY}, \rho_{B|YZ}] = 0$$

$$[\rho_{B|YZ}, \rho_{C|XZ}] = 0$$

$$[\rho_{A|XY}, \rho_{C|XZ}] = 0$$

$$P_{ABC} = \text{Tr}_{XYZ} (\rho_{A|XY} \rho_{B|YZ} \rho_{C|XZ} \rho_X \rho_Y \rho_Z)$$



$$\rho_{X|S\Lambda}$$

$$\rho_{Y|T\Lambda}$$

$$\rho_{\Lambda}$$

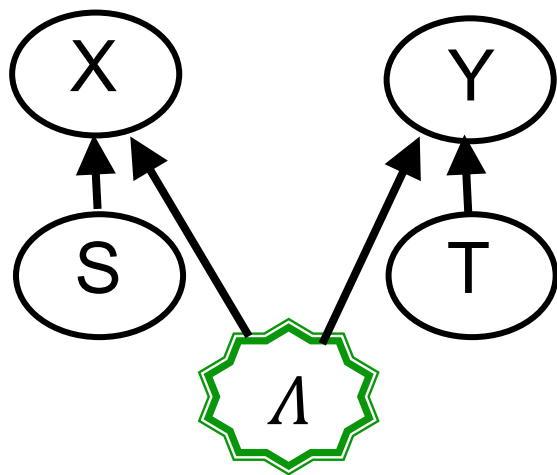
$$[\rho_{X|S\Lambda}, \rho_{Y|T\Lambda}] = 0$$

$$P_{XY|ST} = \text{Tr}_{\Lambda}(\rho_{X|S\Lambda} \rho_{Y|T\Lambda} \rho_{\Lambda})$$

Quantum causal models  
include  
classical causal models  
as a special case

(when all conditional states are diagonal in some product basis)

Bell scenario



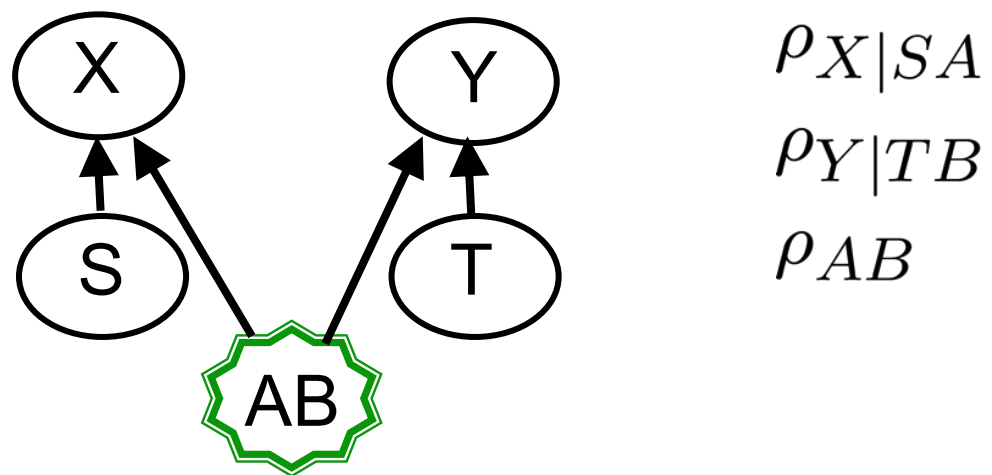
$$\rho_{X|S\Lambda}$$

$$\rho_{Y|T\Lambda}$$

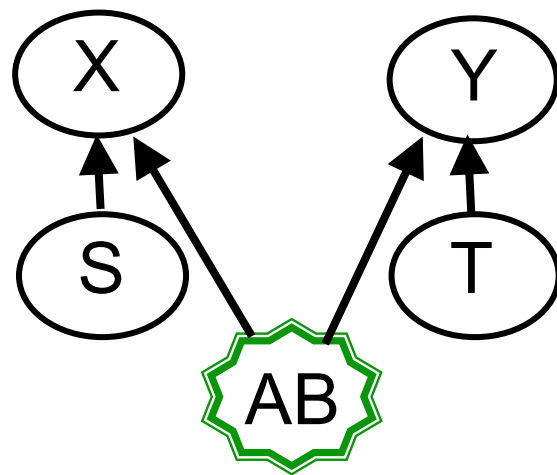
$$\rho_{\Lambda}$$

$$[\rho_{X|S\Lambda}, \rho_{Y|T\Lambda}] = 0$$

$$P_{XY|ST} = \text{Tr}_{\Lambda}(\rho_{X|S\Lambda} \rho_{Y|T\Lambda} \rho_{\Lambda})$$



$$P_{XY|ST} = \text{Tr}_{AB}(\rho_{X|SA}\rho_{Y|TB}\rho_{AB})$$

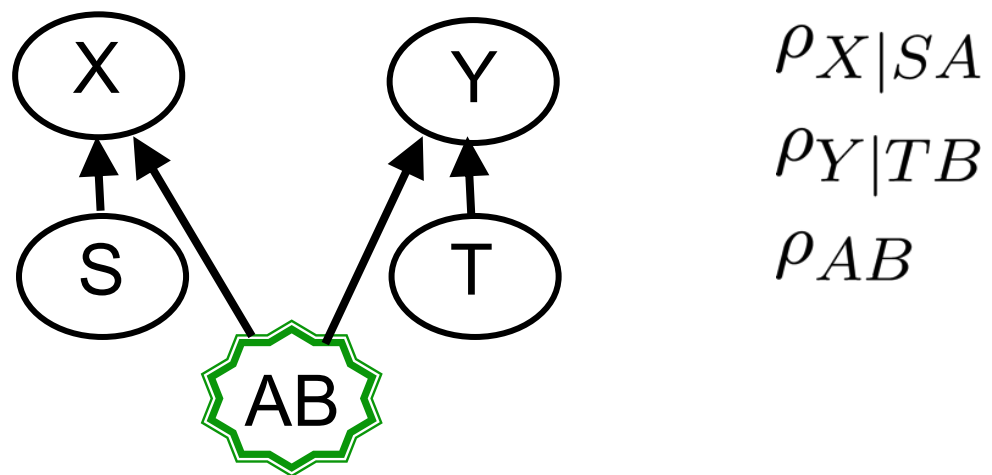


$\{E_{x|s}^A\}_x$  for each  $s$

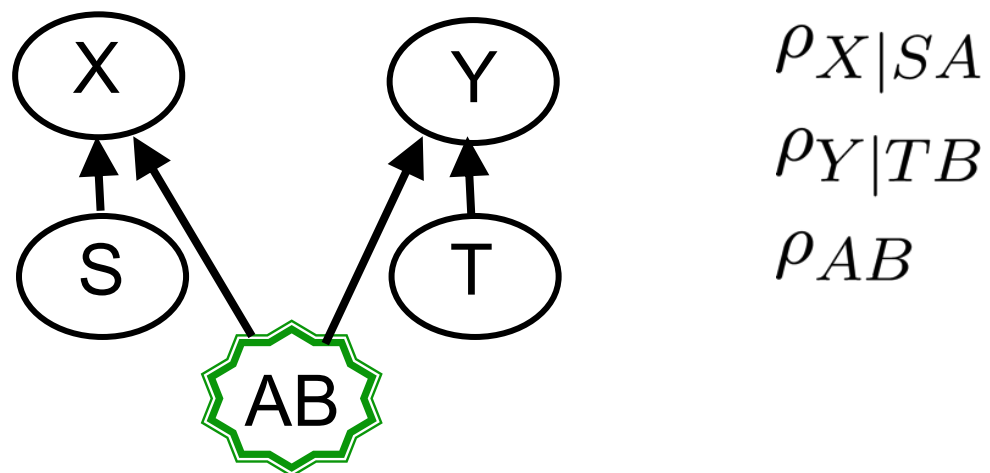
$\{E_{y|t}^B\}_y$  for each  $t$

$\rho_{AB}$

$$P_{XY|ST}(xy|st) = \text{Tr}_{AB}((E_{x|s}^A \otimes E_{y|t}^B)\rho_{AB})$$



$$P_{XY|ST} = \text{Tr}_{AB}(\rho_{X|SA}\rho_{Y|TB}\rho_{AB})$$



$$P_{XY|ST} = \text{Tr}_{AB}(\rho_{X|SA}\rho_{Y|TB}\rho_{AB})$$

Causal compatibility constraints:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{X|ST} &= P_{X|S} \\
 P_{Y|ST} &= P_{Y|T}
 \end{aligned}$$

# The d-separation theorem:

Consider a causal structure  $G$  and three disjoint subsets of variables  $\mathbf{X}$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}$ .

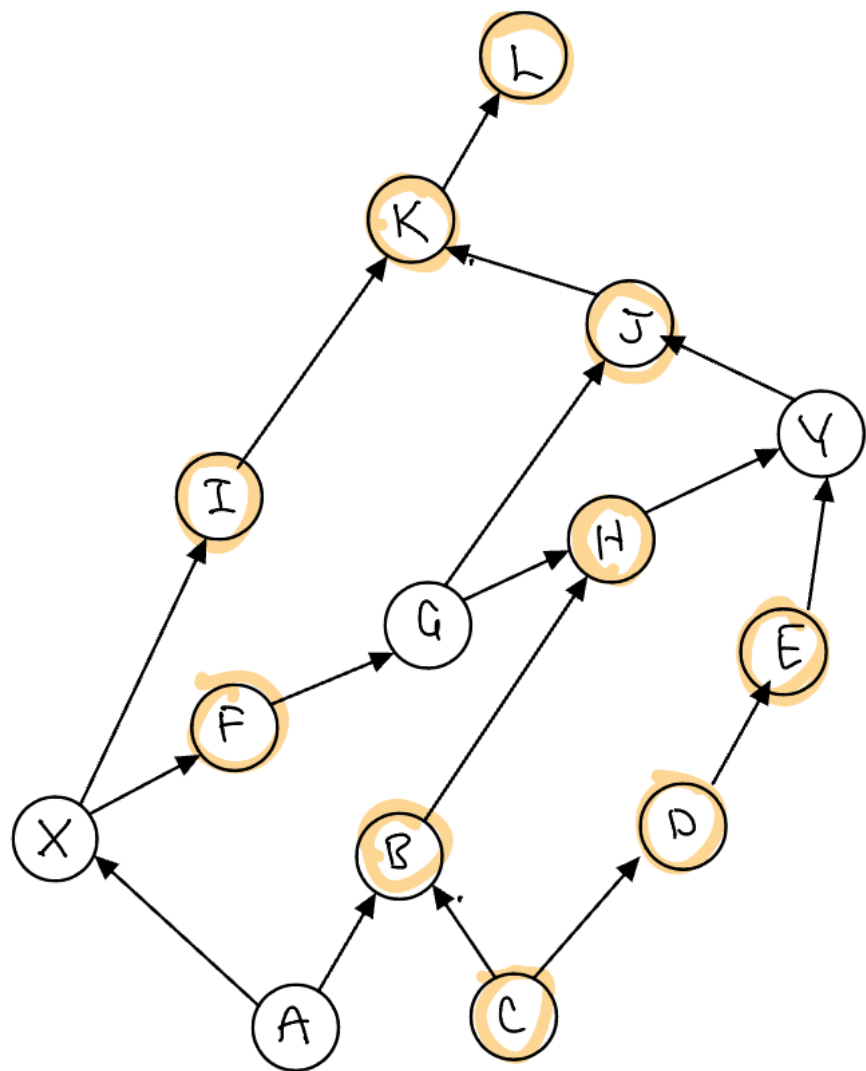
## Soundness

d-separation between  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$  given  $\mathbf{Z}$  in  $G$   
implies  $\mathbf{X} \perp\!\!\!\perp \mathbf{Y} \mid \mathbf{Z}$  in all distributions  $P$  compatible with  $G$

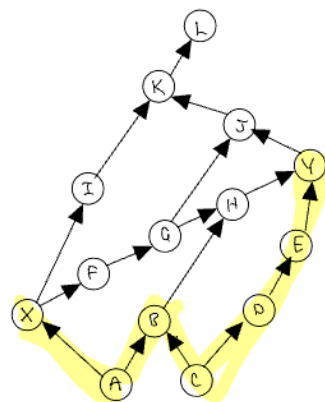
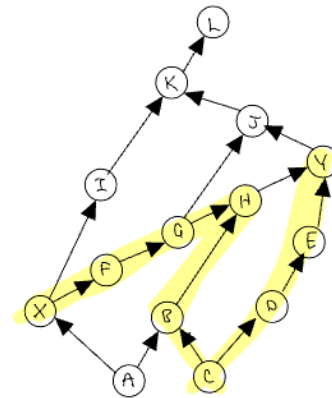
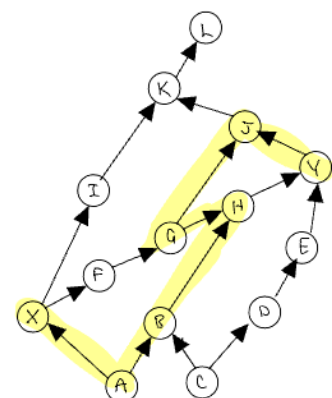
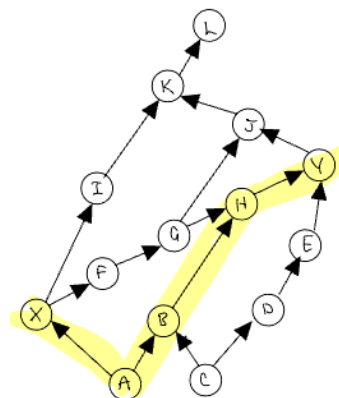
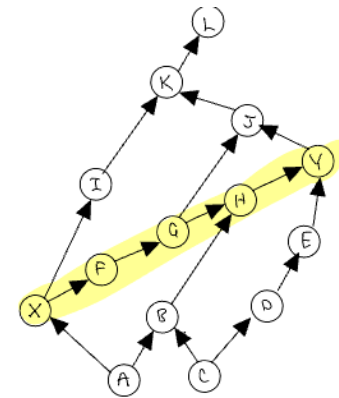
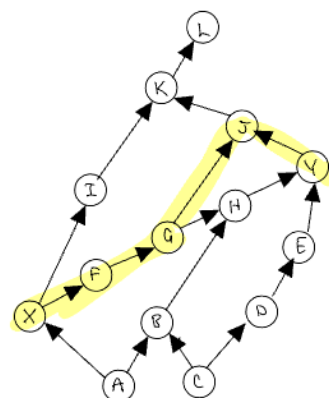
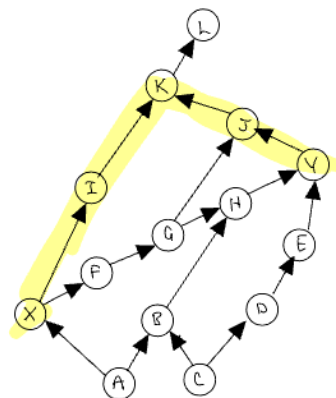
## Completeness

$\mathbf{X} \perp\!\!\!\perp \mathbf{Y} \mid \mathbf{Z}$  in all distributions  $P$  compatible with  $G$   
implies d-separation between  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{Y}$  given  $\mathbf{Z}$  in  $G$

For classical sets of variables  $\mathbf{X}$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}$  in the DAG, this still holds, even if some or all of the latent nodes are quantum



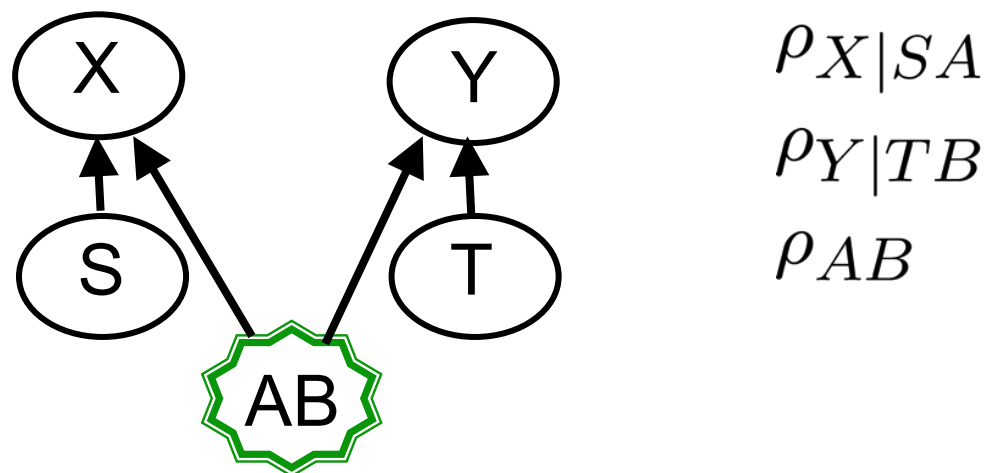
$$X \perp Y | GA$$



Intuition for proof: path blocking removes correlations, regardless of whether the latent variables are classical or quantum

Conditioning on a classical noncollider in the path from  $X$  to  $Y$  still makes  $X$  and  $Y$  independent

Marginalizing on a classical or quantum collider in the path from  $X$  to  $Y$ , still makes  $X$  and  $Y$  independent

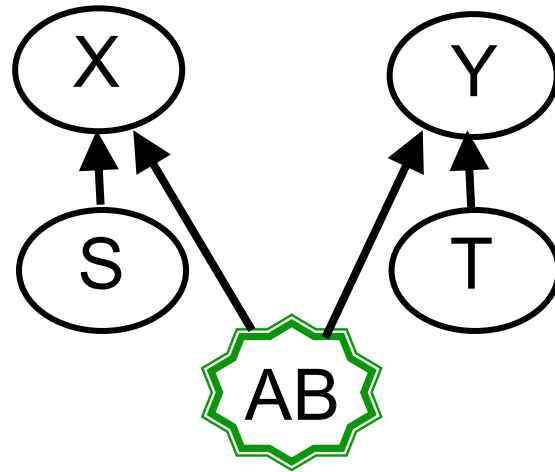


$$P_{XY|ST} = \text{Tr}_{AB}(\rho_{X|SA}\rho_{Y|TB}\rho_{AB})$$

Causal compatibility constraints:

$$P_{X|ST} = P_{X|S}$$

$$P_{Y|ST} = P_{Y|T}$$



$$\rho_{X|SA}$$

$$\rho_{Y|TB}$$

$$\rho_{AB}$$

$$P_{XY|ST} = \text{Tr}_{AB}(\rho_{X|SA}\rho_{Y|TB}\rho_{AB})$$

Causal compatibility constraints:

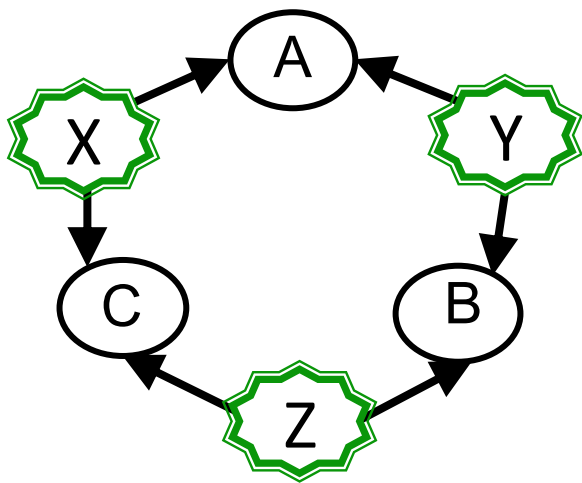
$$\begin{aligned} P_{X|ST} &= P_{X|S} \\ P_{Y|ST} &= P_{Y|T} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|00) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|01) \\ &\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x=y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|10) + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \neq y} P_{XY|ST}(xy|11) \leq \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \end{aligned}$$

In Bell scenario, quantum bounds can be derived from  
The NPA semidefinite programming hierarchy  
Navascués, Pironio, and Acín, New J. Phys. 10, 073013 (2008)

For other causal structures, one needs a new tool:  
inflation technique with quantum latent nodes

Triangle scenario



$$\rho_{A|XY}$$

$$\rho_{B|YZ}$$

$$\rho_{C|XZ}$$

$$\rho_X$$

$$\rho_Y$$

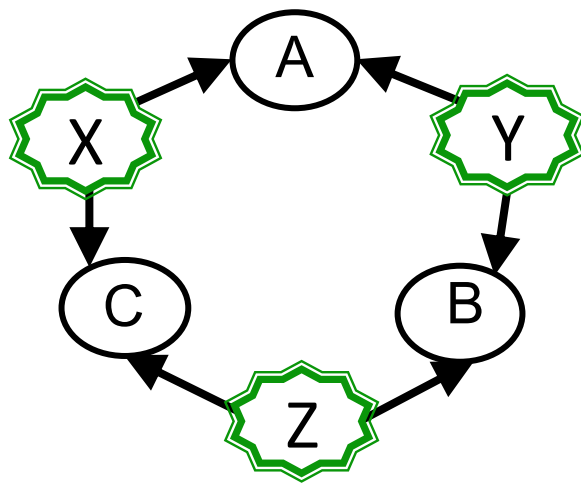
$$\rho_Z$$

$$[\rho_{A|XY}, \rho_{B|YZ}] = 0$$

$$[\rho_{B|YZ}, \rho_{C|XZ}] = 0$$

$$[\rho_{A|XY}, \rho_{C|XZ}] = 0$$

$$P_{ABC} = \text{Tr}_{XYZ} (\rho_{A|XY} \rho_{B|YZ} \rho_{C|XZ} \rho_X \rho_Y \rho_Z)$$



$$\rho_{A|X_A Y_A}$$

$$\rho_{B|Y_B Z_B}$$

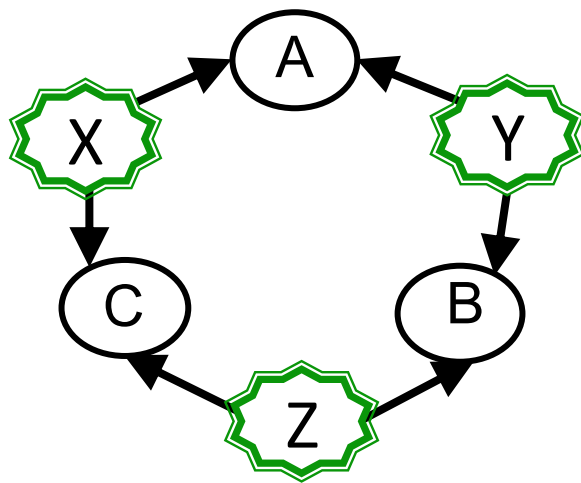
$$\rho_{C|X_C Z_C}$$

$$\rho_{X_A X_C}$$

$$\rho_{Y_A Y_B}$$

$$\rho_{Z_B Z_C}$$

$$P_{ABC} = \text{Tr}_{X_A X_C Y_A Y_B Z_C Z_B} \left( \rho_{A|X_A Y_A} \rho_{B|Y_B Z_B} \rho_{C|X_C Z_C} \rho_{X_A X_C} \rho_{Y_A Y_B} \rho_{Z_B Z_C} \right)$$



$$\{E_a^{X_A Y_A}\}_a$$

$$\{E_b^{Y_B Z_B}\}_b$$

$$\{E_c^{X_C Z_C}\}_c$$

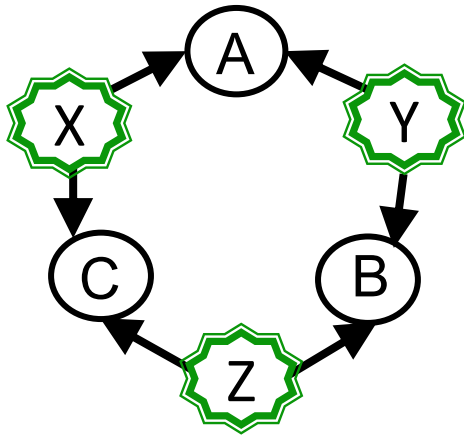
$$\rho_{X_A X_C}$$

$$\rho_{Y_A Y_B}$$

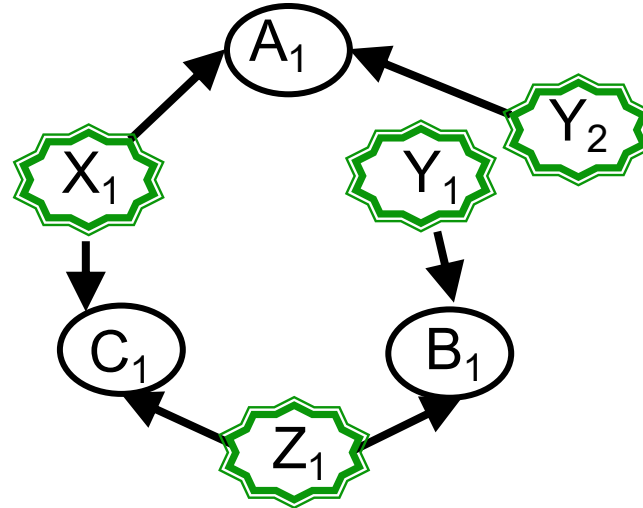
$$\rho_{Z_B Z_C}$$

$$P_{ABC}(abc) = \text{Tr}_{X_A X_C Y_A Y_B Z_A Z_C} \left( E_a^{X_A Y_A} E_b^{Y_B Z_B} E_c^{X_C Z_C} \rho_{X_A X_C} \rho_{Y_A Y_B} \rho_{Z_B Z_C} \right)$$

No symmetry of dependence (e.g.,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  on  $X_1$ )  
because of **no-cloning**

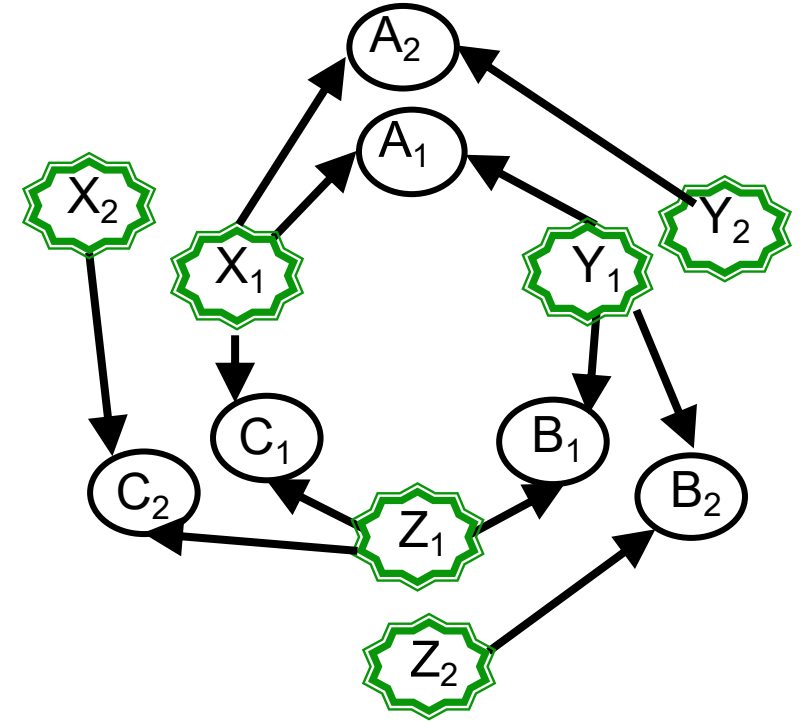


Triangle



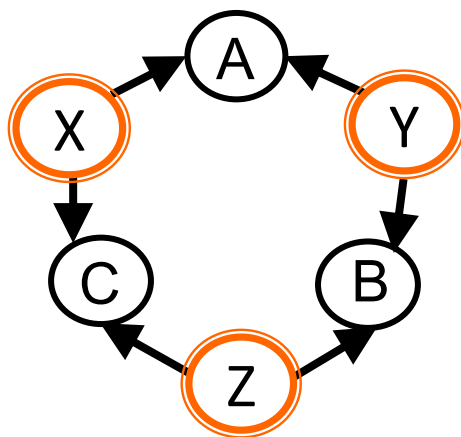
Cut inflation of  
Triangle

**Nonfanout**

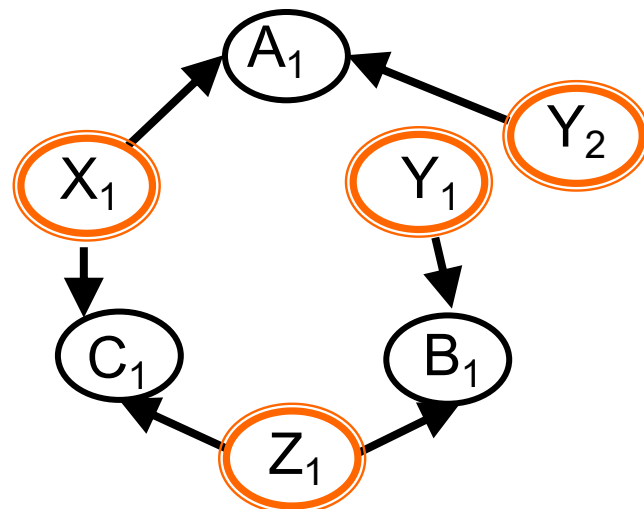


Spiral inflation of  
Triangle

**Fanout**

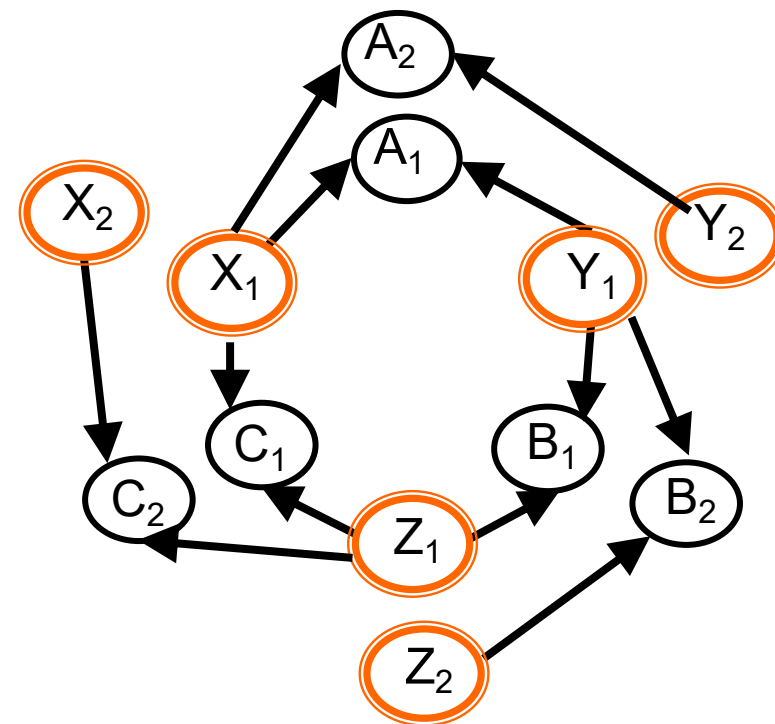


Triangle



Cut inflation of  
Triangle

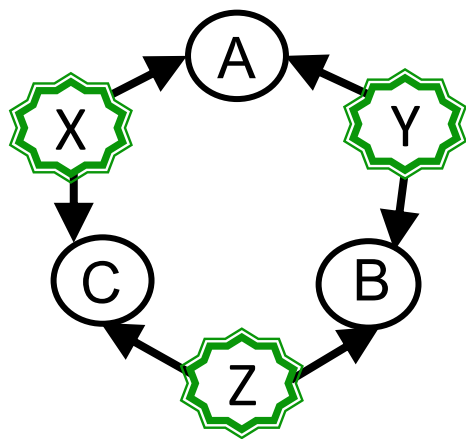
Nonfanout



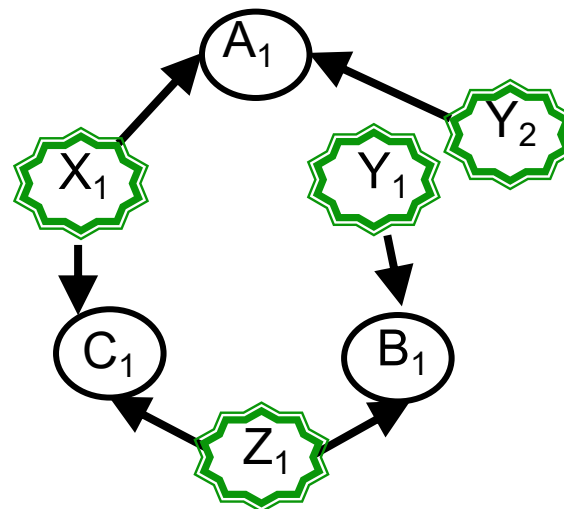
Spiral inflation of  
Triangle

Fanout

Nonfanout inflations



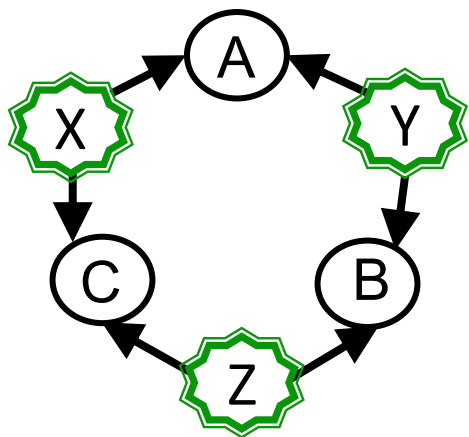
Triangle



Cut inflation of  
Triangle

Nonfanout

## Quantum model M on DAG G



$$\rho_{A|XY}$$

$$\rho_{B|YZ}$$

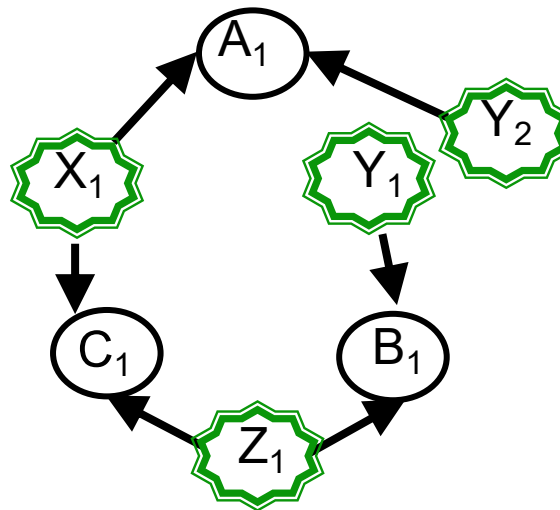
$$\rho_{C|XZ}$$

$$\rho_X$$

$$\rho_Y$$

$$\rho_Z$$

## Quantum model $M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



$$\rho_{A_1|X_1Y_2}$$

$$\rho_{B_1|Y_1Z_1}$$

$$\rho_{C_1|X_1Z_1}$$

$$\rho_{X_1}$$

$$\rho_{Y_1}$$

$$\rho_{Y_2}$$

$$\rho_{Z_1}$$

with  
symmetry  
constraint:

$$\rho_{Y_1} = \rho_{Y_2}$$

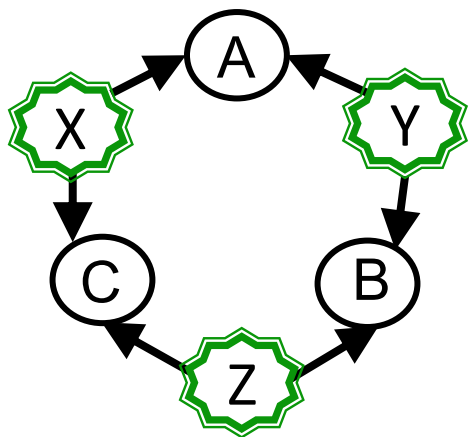
$\{A_1C_1\}$  is an injectable set

$$P_{A_1C_1} = \text{Tr}_{X_1Y_2Z_1} (\rho_{A_1|X_1Y_2} \rho_{C_1|X_1Z_1} \rho_{X_1} \rho_{Y_2} \rho_{Z_1})$$

$$P_{AC} = \text{Tr}_{XYZ} (\rho_{A|XY} \rho_{C|XZ} \rho_X \rho_Y \rho_Z)$$

$$P_{AC} \text{ compatible with } M \implies P_{A_1C_1} = P_{AC} \text{ compatible with } M'$$

## Quantum model M on DAG G



$$\rho_{A|XY}$$

$$\rho_{B|YZ}$$

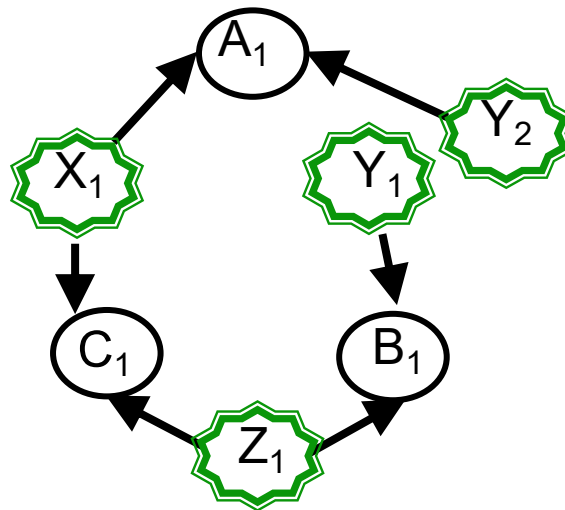
$$\rho_{C|XZ}$$

$$\rho_X$$

$$\rho_Y$$

$$\rho_Z$$

## Quantum model M' = G → G' Inflation of M



$$\rho_{A_1|X_1Y_2}$$

$$\rho_{B_1|Y_1Z_1}$$

$$\rho_{C_1|X_1Z_1}$$

$$\rho_{X_1}$$

$$\rho_{Y_1}$$

$$\rho_{Y_2}$$

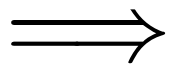
$$\rho_{Z_1}$$

with  
symmetry  
constraint:

$$\rho_{Y_1} = \rho_{Y_2}$$

Injectable sets:  $\{A_1\}, \{B_1\}, \{C_1\}, \{A_1C_1\}, \{B_1C_1\}$

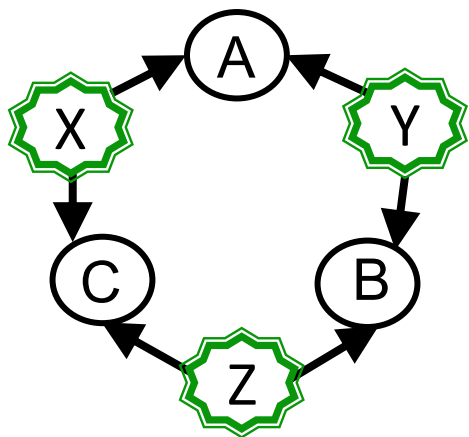
$(P_A, P_B, P_C, P_{AC}, P_{BC})$   
is compatible with M



$(P_{A_1}, P_{B_1}, P_{C_1}, P_{A_1C_1}, P_{B_1C_1})$   
where  $P_{A_1} = P_A$      $P_{A_1C_1} = P_{AC}$   
 $P_{B_1} = P_B$      $P_{B_1C_1} = P_{BC}$   
 $P_{C_1} = P_C$

is compatible with M'

## Quantum model M on DAG G



$$\rho_{A|XY}$$

$$\rho_{B|YZ}$$

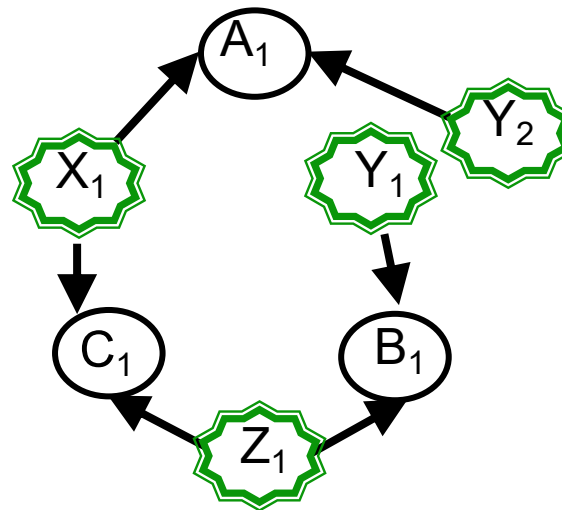
$$\rho_{C|XZ}$$

$$\rho_X$$

$$\rho_Y$$

$$\rho_Z$$

## Quantum model $M' = G \rightarrow G'$ Inflation of M



$$\rho_{A_1|X_1Y_2}$$

$$\rho_{B_1|Y_1Z_1}$$

$$\rho_{C_1|X_1Z_1}$$

$$\rho_{X_1}$$

$$\rho_{Y_1}$$

$$\rho_{Y_2}$$

$$\rho_{Z_1}$$

with  
symmetry  
constraint:

$$\rho_{Y_1} = \rho_{Y_2}$$

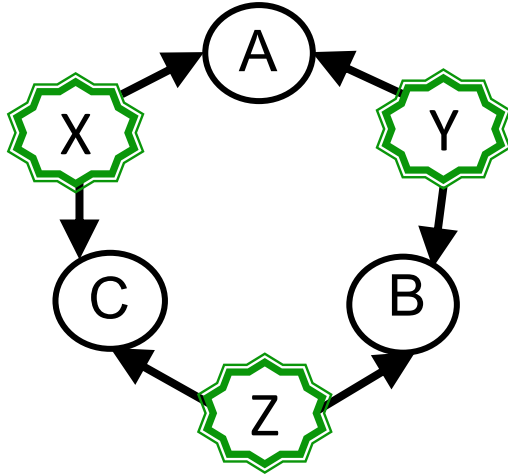
Injectable sets:  $\{A_1\}, \{B_1\}, \{C_1\}, \{A_1C_1\}, \{B_1C_1\}$

$(P_A, P_B, P_C, P_{AC}, P_{BC})$   
is **not** compatible with  $M$

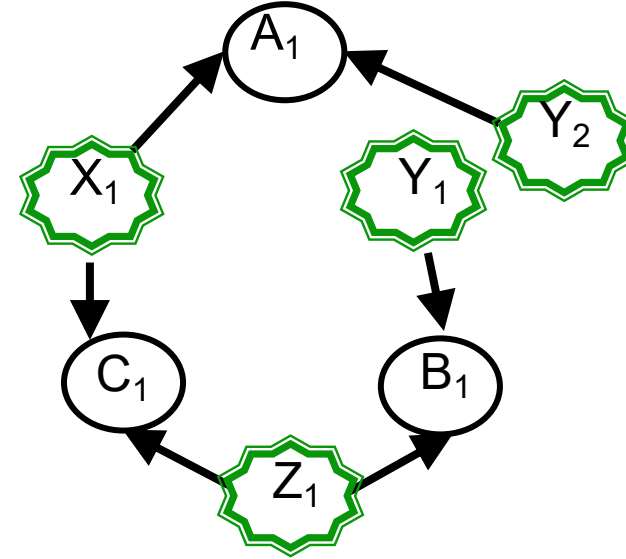


$(P_{A_1}, P_{B_1}, P_{C_1}, P_{A_1C_1}, P_{B_1C_1})$   
where  $P_{A_1} = P_A$      $P_{A_1C_1} = P_{AC}$   
 $P_{B_1} = P_B$      $P_{B_1C_1} = P_{BC}$   
 $P_{C_1} = P_C$

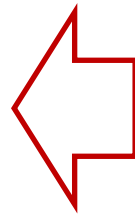
is **not** compatible with  $M'$



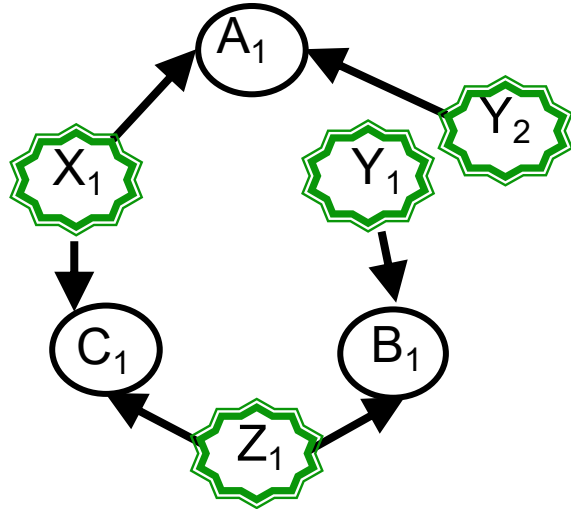
$P_A + P_B + P_C - P_A P_B - P_{BC} - P_{AC} \leq 1$   
 is a causal compatibility  
 inequality for  $M$



$P_{A_1} + P_{B_1} + P_{C_1} - P_{A_1} P_{B_1} - P_{B_1 C_1} - P_{A_1 C_1} \leq 1$   
 is a causal compatibility  
 inequality for  $M'$



$$\begin{aligned} (P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1}) \text{ is a valid set of marginals} &\implies (P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1}) \text{ satisfy} \\ &P_{A_1} + P_{B_1} + P_{C_1} - P_{A_1 B_1} - P_{B_1 C_1} - P_{A_1 C_1} \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$



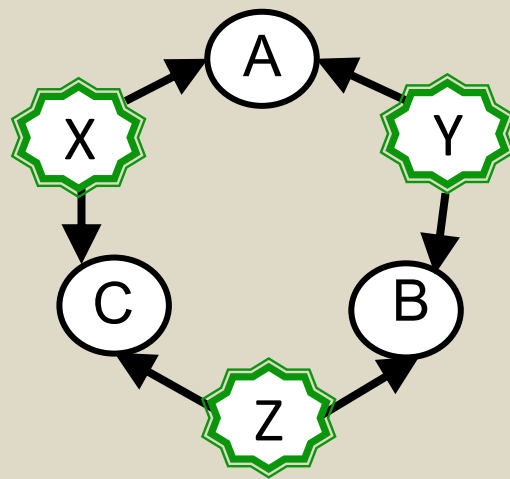
$(P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1})$   
is compatible with  $M'$

$$A_1 \perp_d B_1 \implies P_{A_1 B_1} = P_{A_1} P_{B_1}$$

Implications from  
d-separation to  
conditional  
independences  
hold in quantum  
causal models

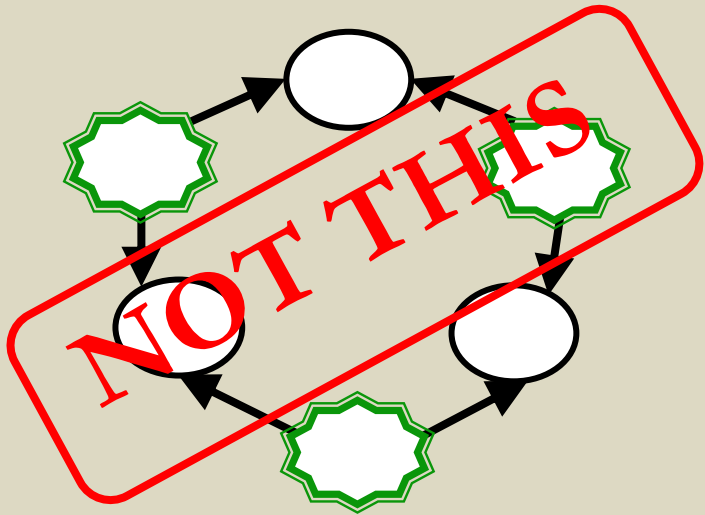
$$\begin{aligned} (P_{A_1 C_1}, P_{B_1 C_1}, P_{A_1 B_1}) \text{ is compatible with } M' &\implies P_{A_1} + P_{B_1} + P_{C_1} - P_{A_1} P_{B_1} - P_{B_1 C_1} - P_{A_1 C_1} \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$P_{A_1} + P_{B_1} + P_{C_1} - P_{A_1} P_{B_1} - P_{B_1 C_1} - P_{A_1 C_1} \leq 1 \quad \text{is a causal compatibility inequality for } M'$$

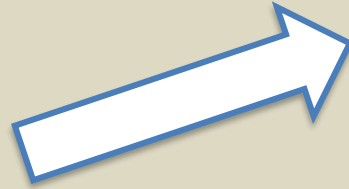


$$P_A + P_B + P_C - P_A P_B - P_{BC} - P_{AC} \leq 1$$

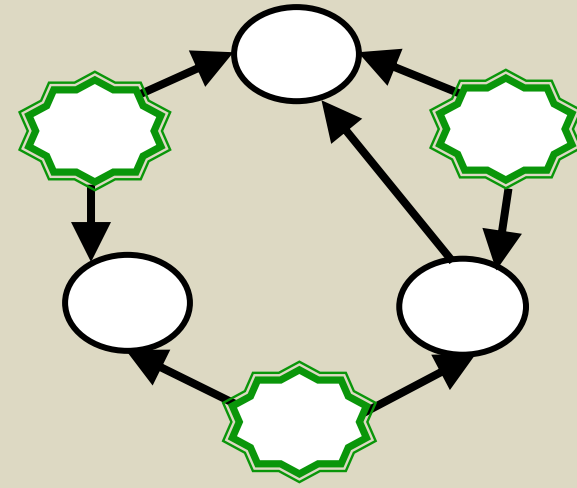
Violation of causal  
compatibility  
inequalities from  
**nonfanout** inflations



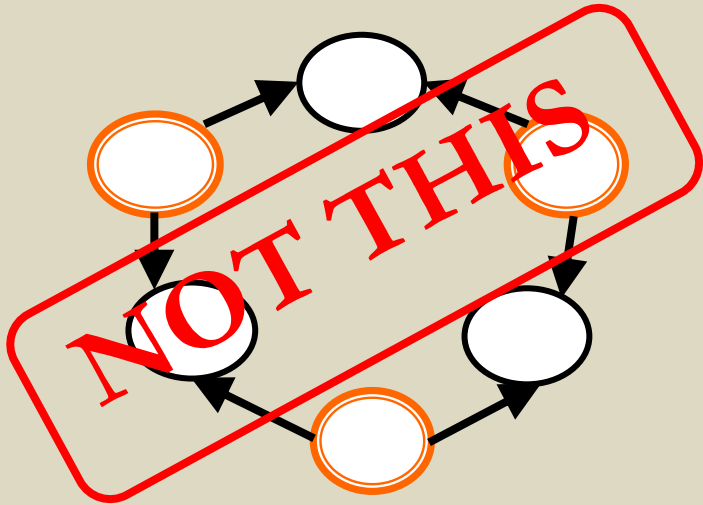
$$P_A + P_B + P_C - P_A P_B - P_{BC} - P_{AC} \leq 1$$



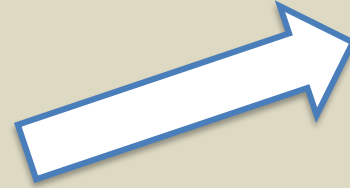
Witnessing need for  
different structure



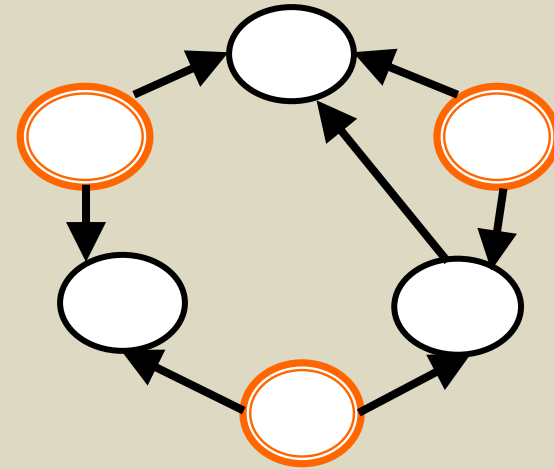
Violation of causal  
compatibility  
inequalities from  
**nonfanout** inflations



$$P_A + P_B + P_C - P_A P_B - P_{BC} - P_{AC} \leq 1$$



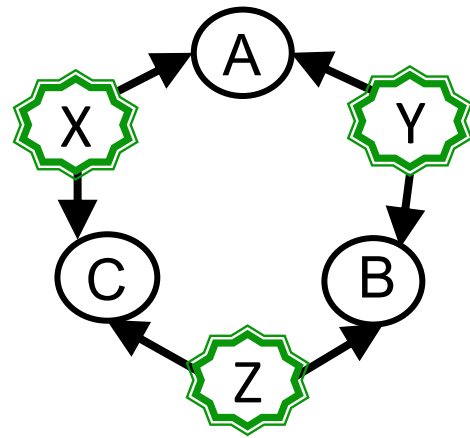
Witnessing need for  
different structure



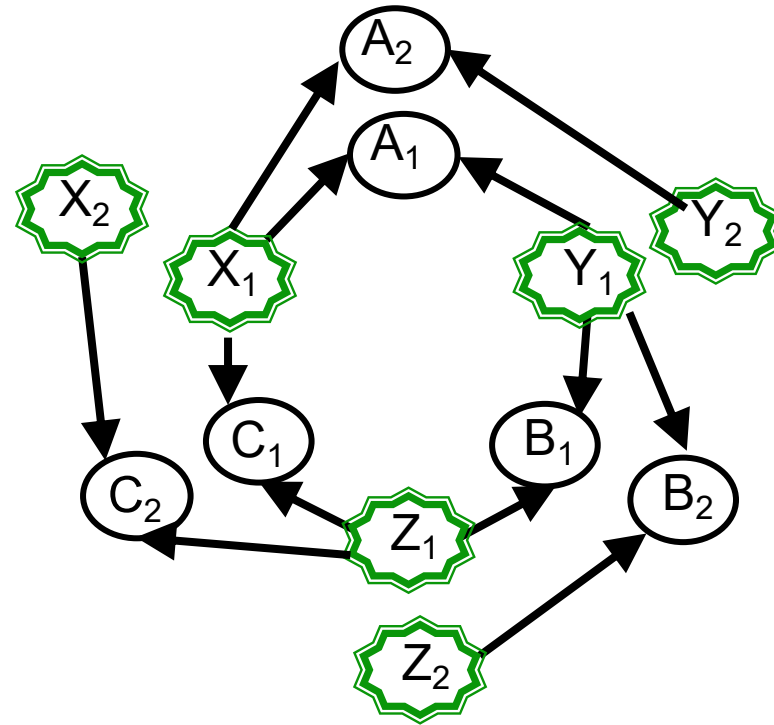
Inequalities derived from nonfanout inflations are  
causal compatibility constraints that hold  
*for any theory*

Consequently, the only inequality constraints that  
can serve to prove gaps between theories (e.g.,  
quantum-classical gaps or postquantum-quantum  
gaps) are those derived from fanout inflations

Fanout inflations



Triangle



Spiral inflation of  
Triangle

Fan-out

## **Quantum inflation technique**

Wolfe, Pozas-Kerstjens, Grinberg, Rosset, Acín, Navascués,  
Phys. Rev. X **11**, 021043 (2021)

Generalization of NPA semidefinite programming hierarchy from  
the Bell scenario

Navascués, Pironio, and Acín, New J. Phys. 10, 073013 (2008)



# Potential Applications in Modern Physics

# Quantum Foundations

Quantum  
Causation and Inference

---

Classical  
Causation and Inference

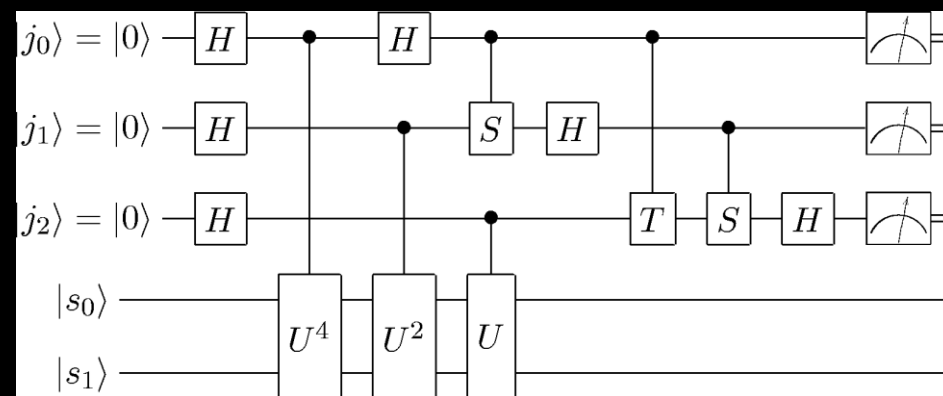
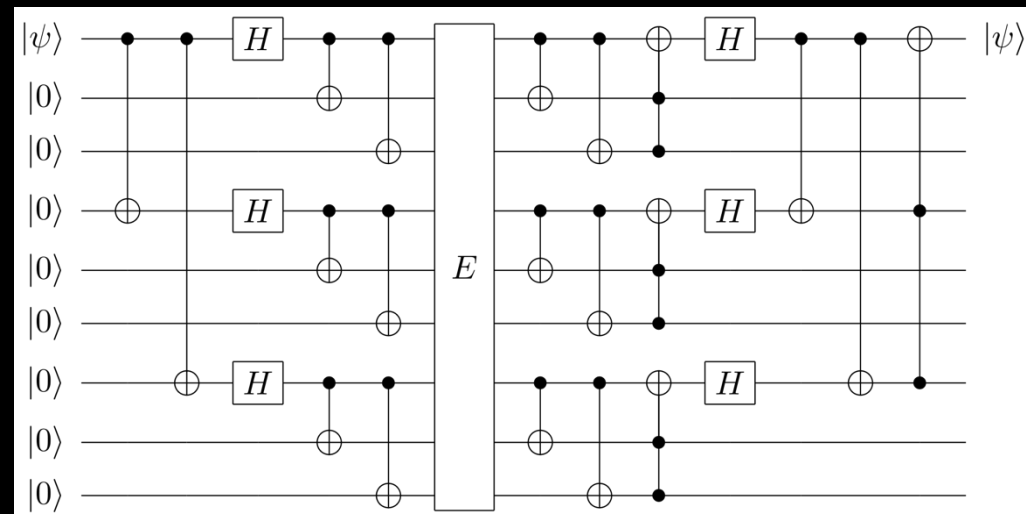
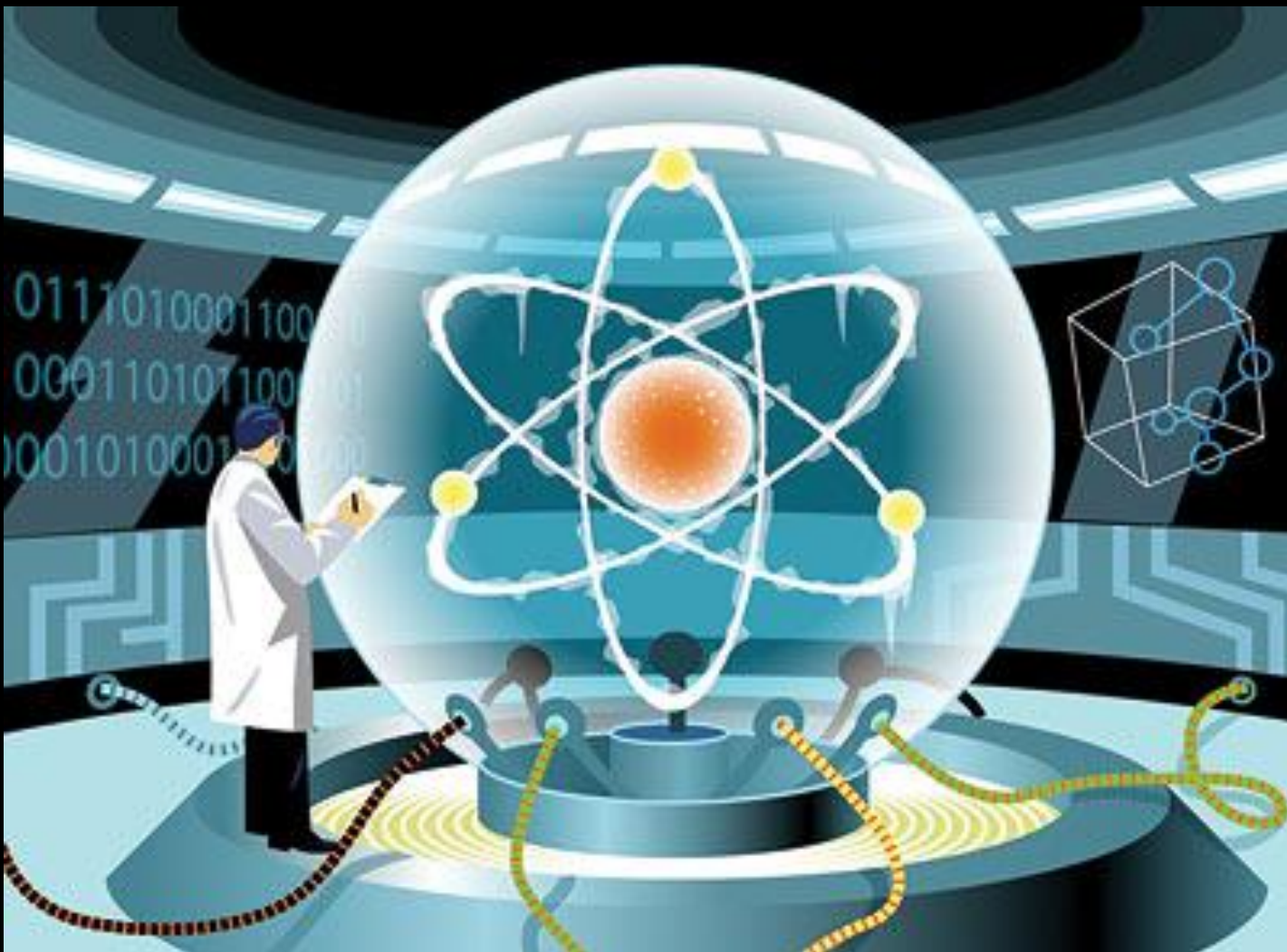


Relativistic  
Notions of Space  
and Time

---

PreRelativistic  
Notions of Space  
and Time

# Quantum Computation

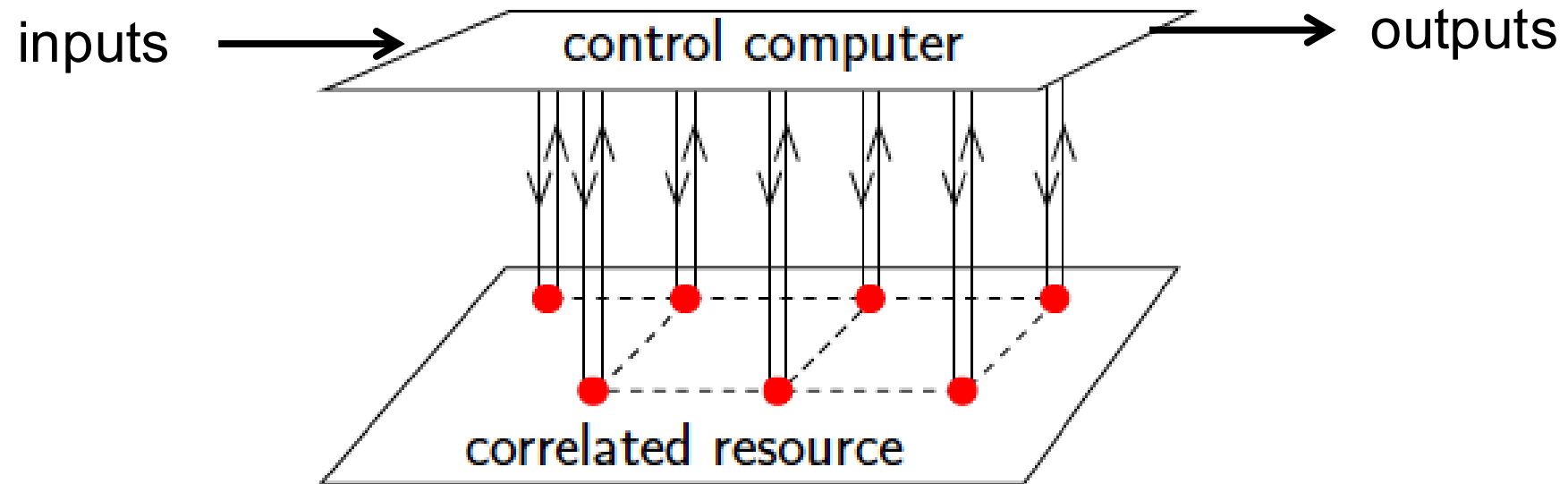


Quantum advantage for shallow circuits  
Bravyi, Gosset, Koenig, Science **362**, 308 (2018)

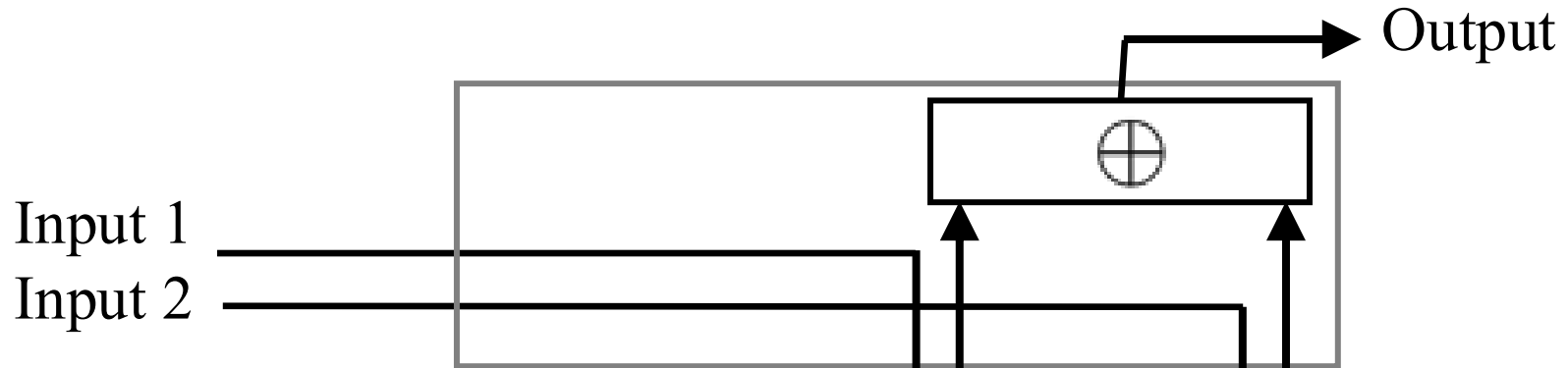
Quantum advantages in measurement-based models of computation  
Browne and Anders, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 050502 (2009)  
Raussendorf, Phys. Rev. A 88, 022322 (2013)

# Measurement-based computation

Raussendorf & Briegel PRL 86, 5188 (2001)



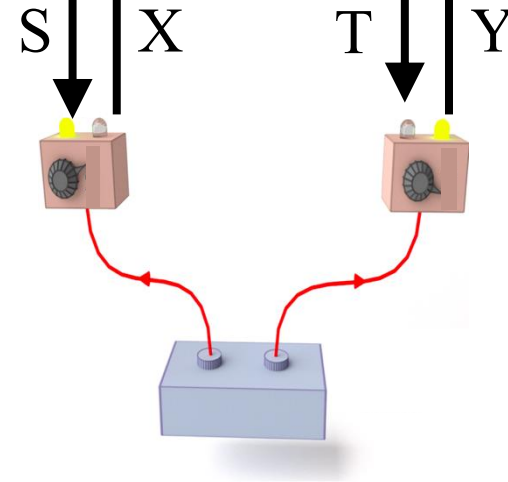
Browne and Anders, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 050502 (2009)  
 Raussendorf, Phys. Rev. A 88, 022322 (2013)



$$P_{XY|ST}$$

|          | X=0, Y=0 | X=0, Y=1 | X=1, Y=0 | X=1, Y=1 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| S=0, T=0 | 0.5      | 0        | 0        | 0.5      |
| S=0, T=1 | 0.5      | 0        | 0        | 0.5      |
| S=1, T=0 | 0.5      | 0        | 0        | 0.5      |
| S=1, T=1 | 0        | 0.5      | 0.5      | 0        |

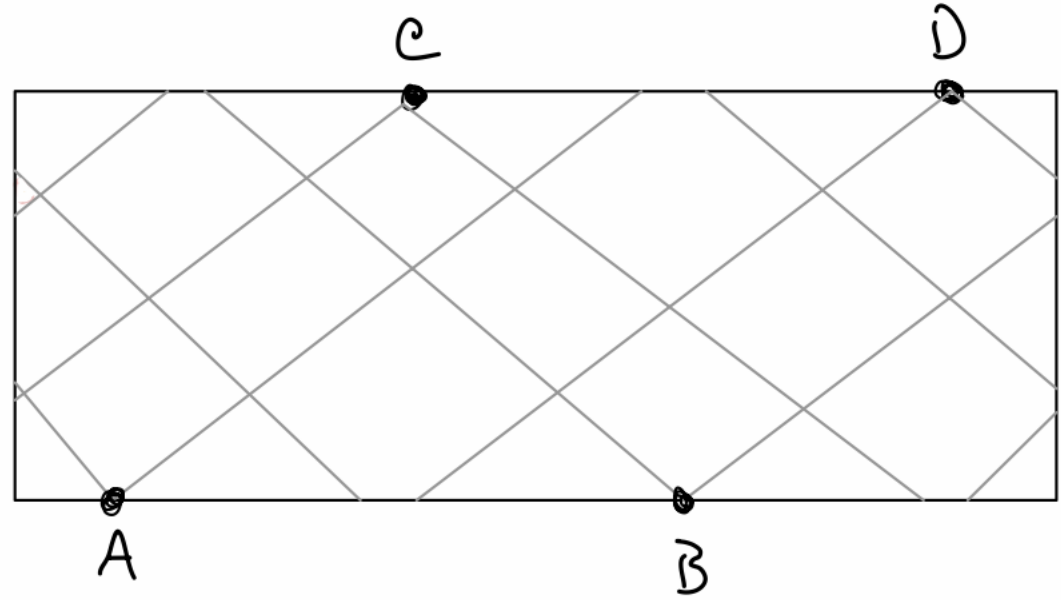
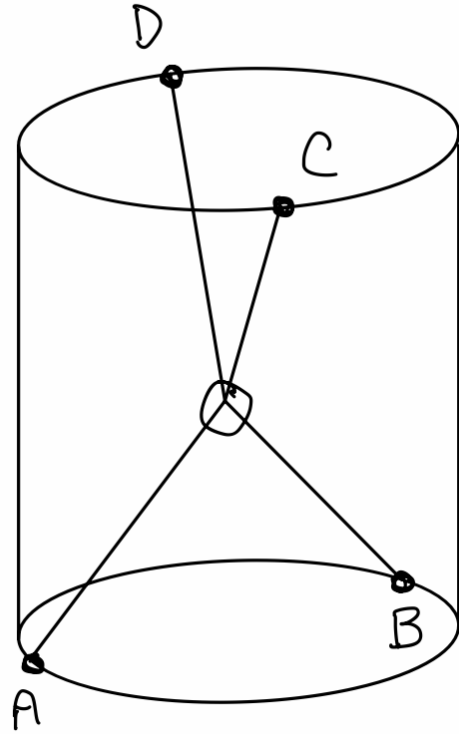
Popescu-  
Rohrlich  
(PR) box



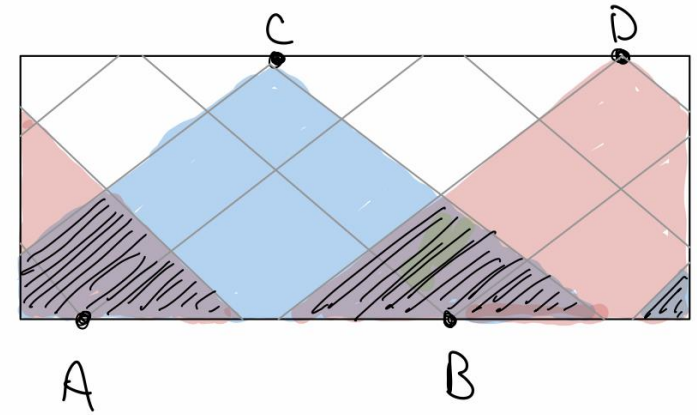
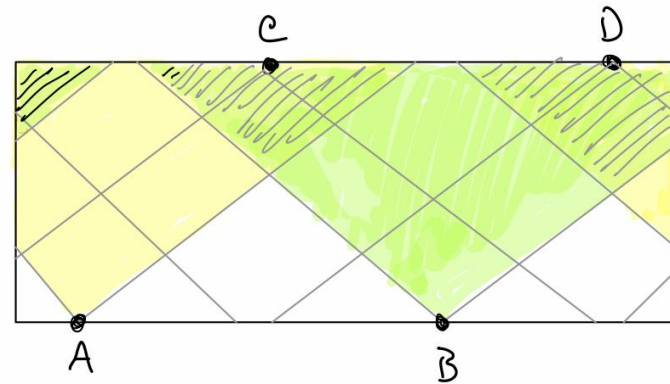
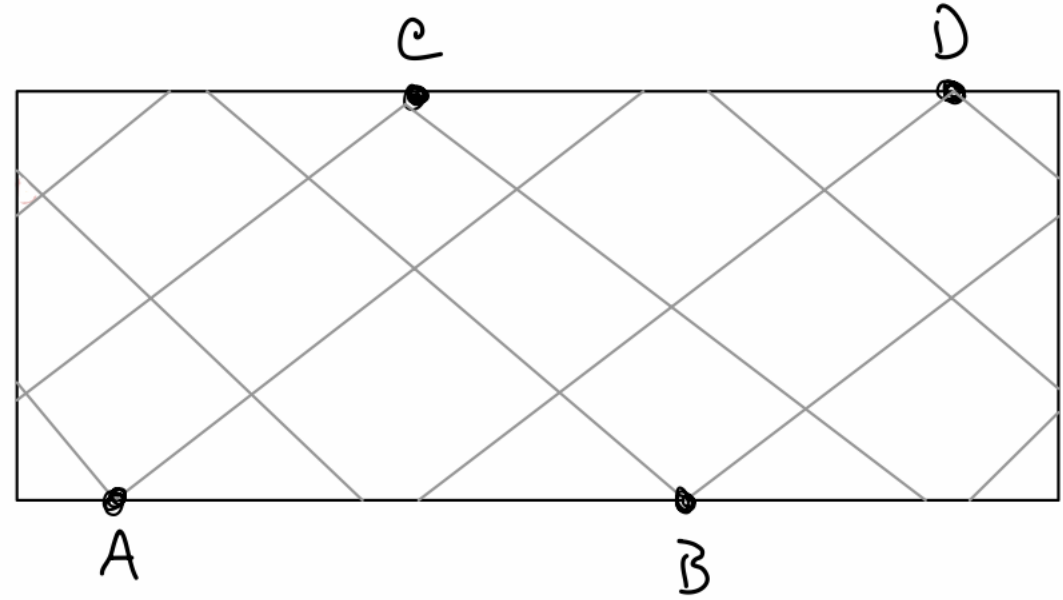
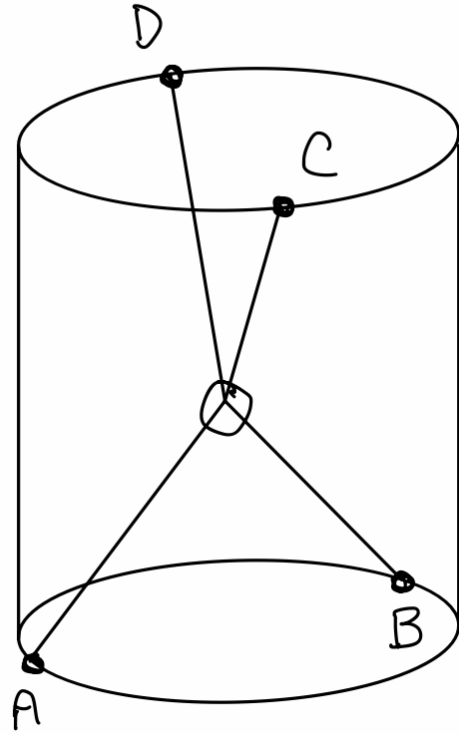
$$X \oplus Y = ST$$

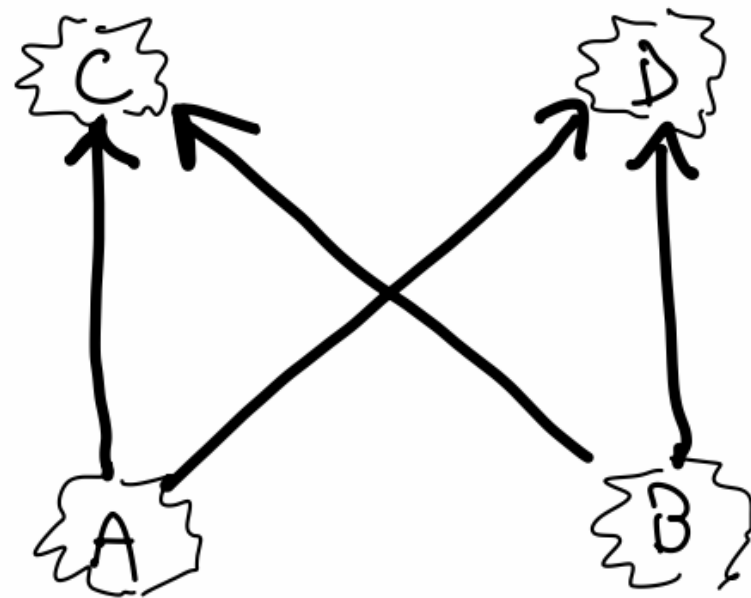
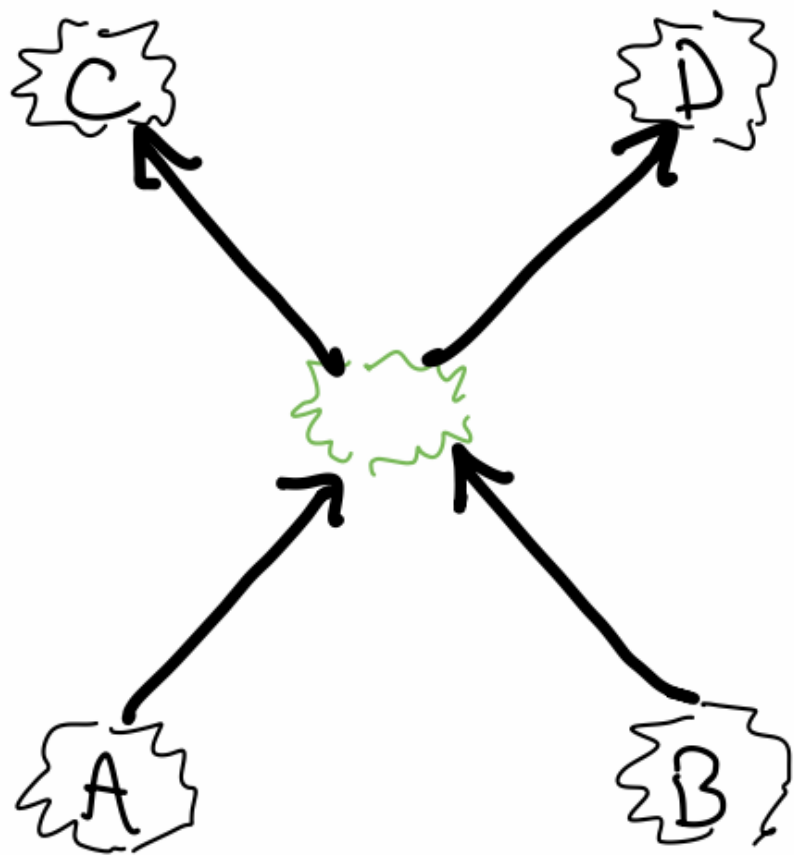
# Holography

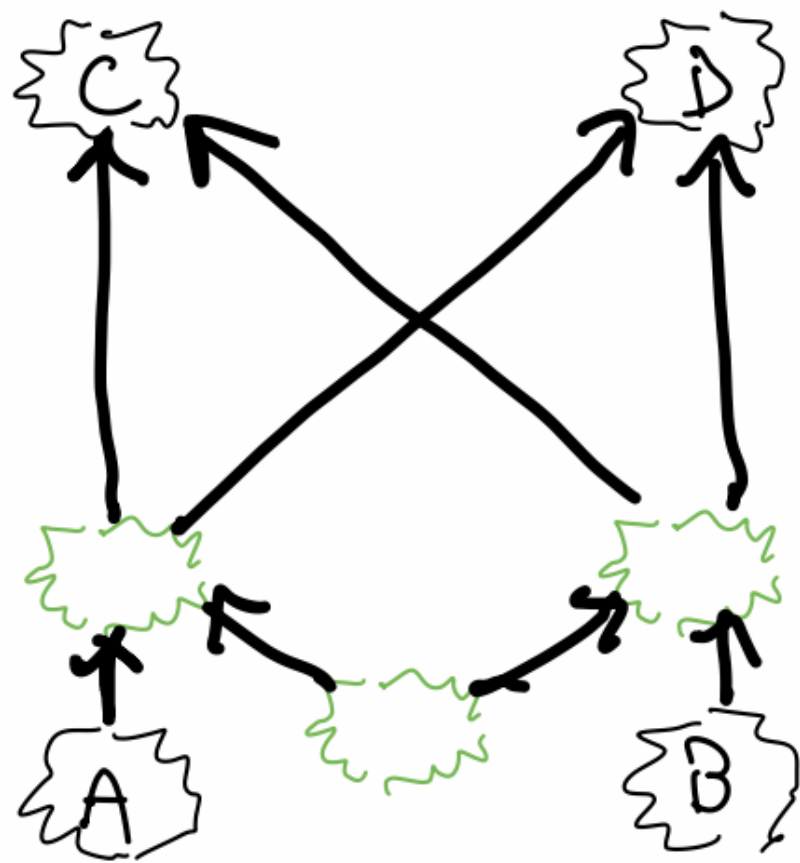
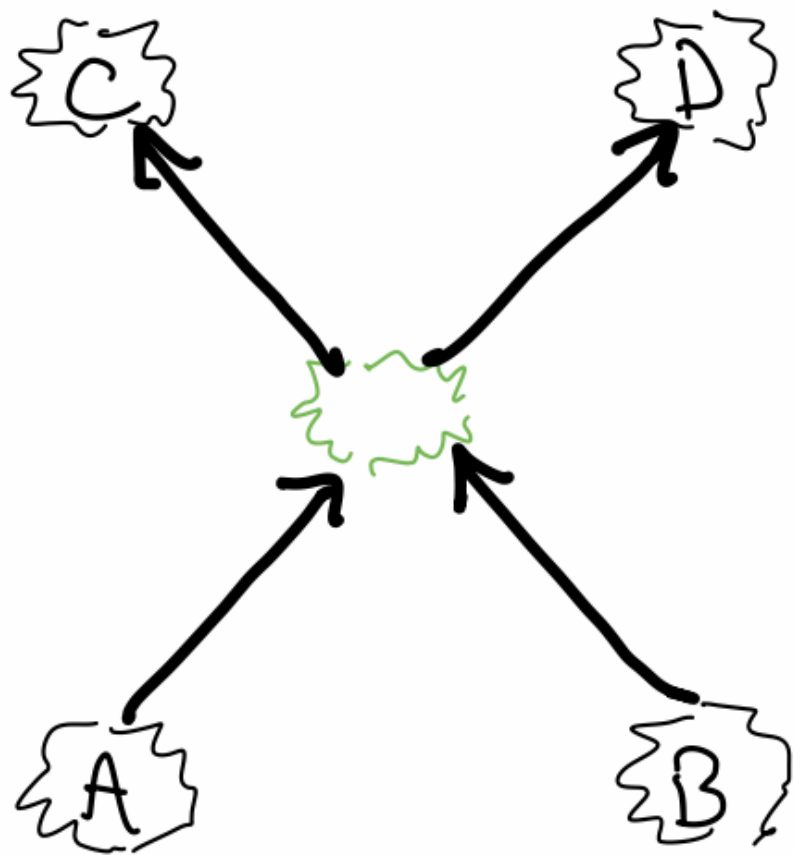
Alex May, Geoff Penington, and Jonathan Sorce.  
J. High Energy Physics, 2020(8):1–34, 2020



Alex May, Geoff Penington, and Jonathan Sorce.  
J. High Energy Physics, 2020(8):1–34, 2020

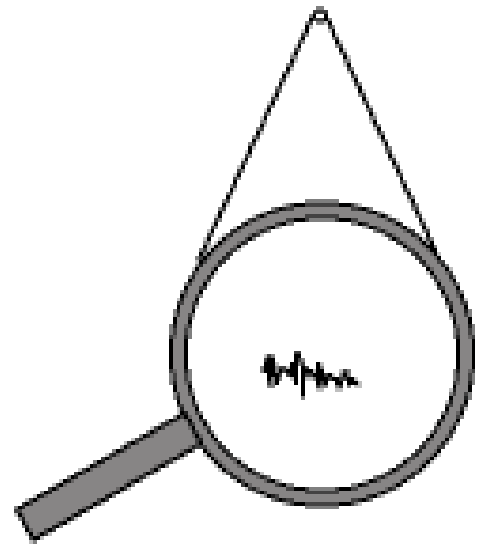






# Cosmology

## Making the “galaxy seeds” with inflation



ultra-tiny  
quantum  
fluctuations

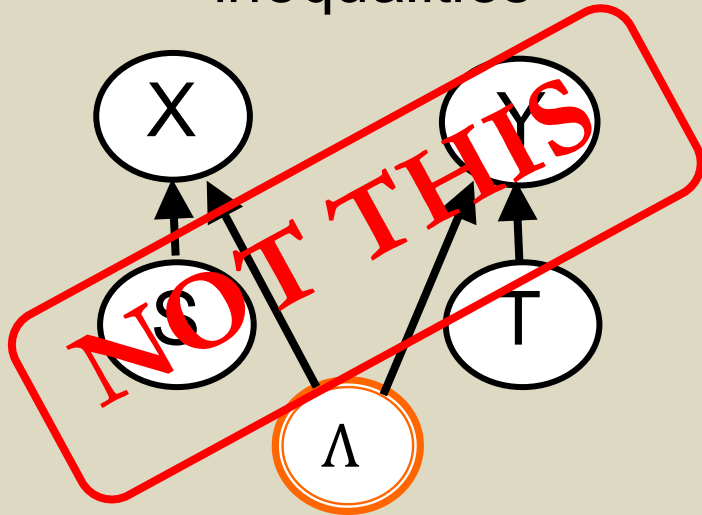
Time  
→

become...



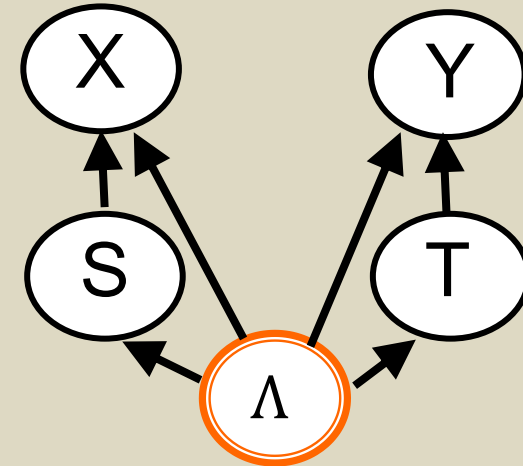
large lumps seen in cosmic  
microwave background

Violation of Bell  
inequalities

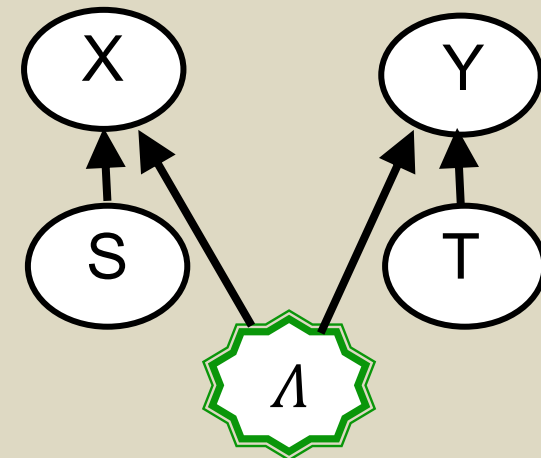


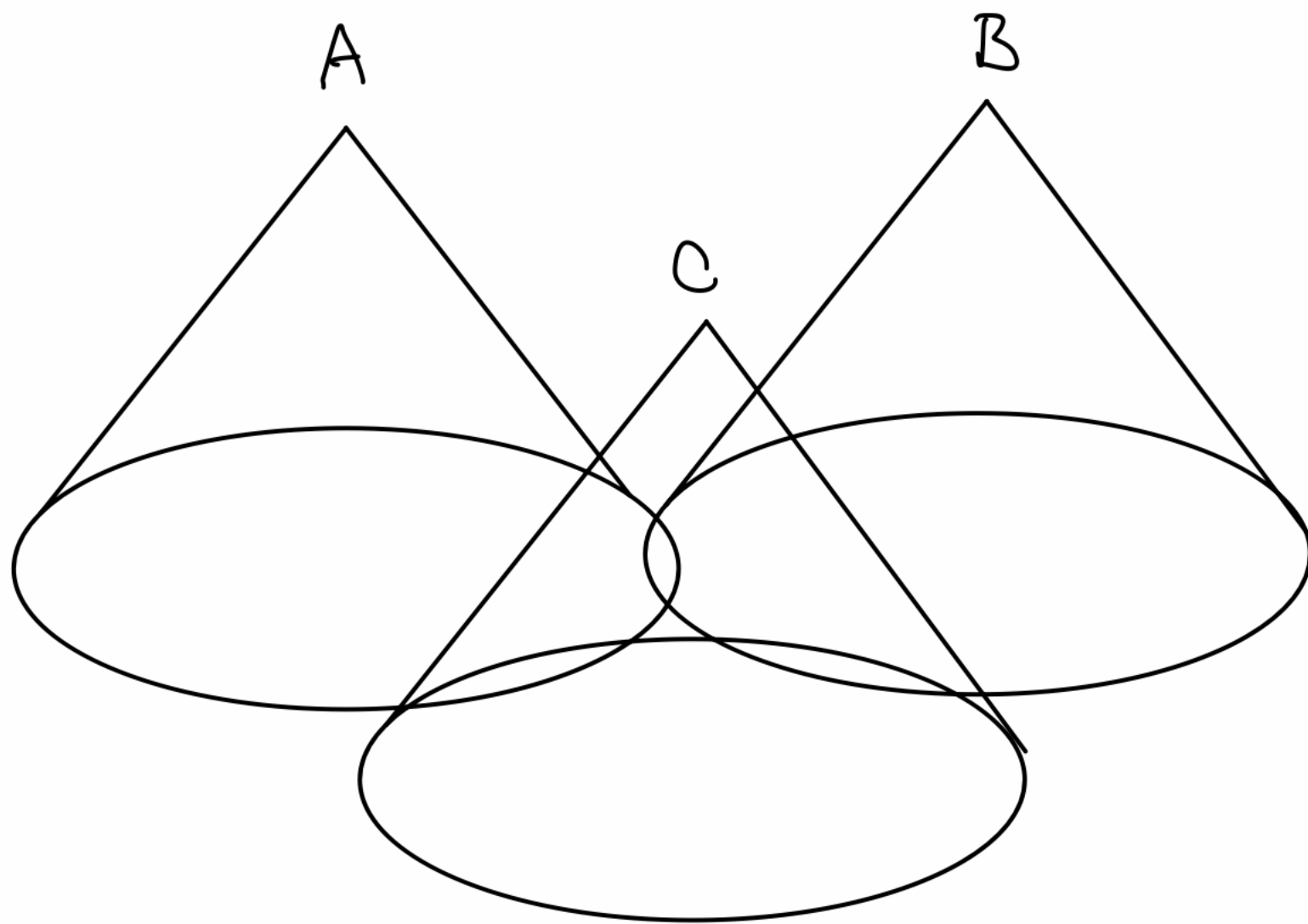
or

Witnessing need for  
different structure

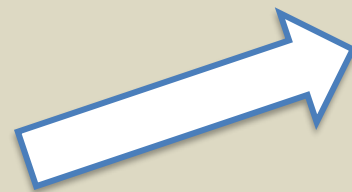
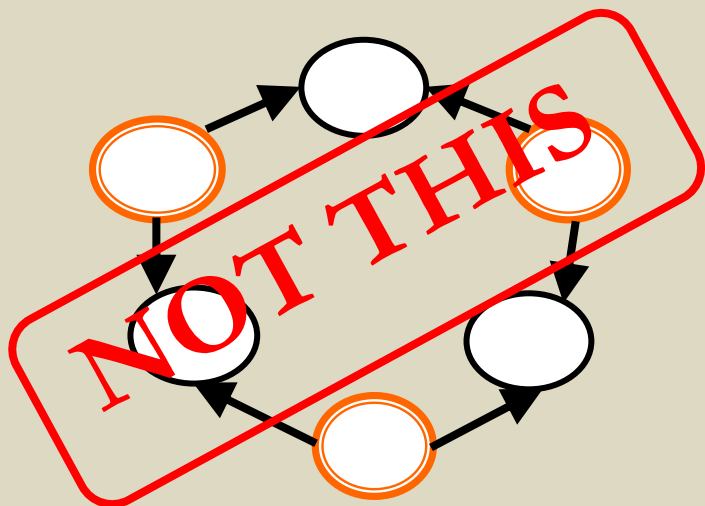


Witnessing  
quantumness

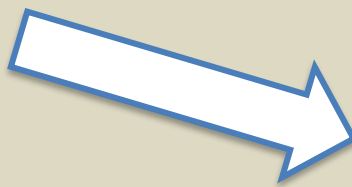




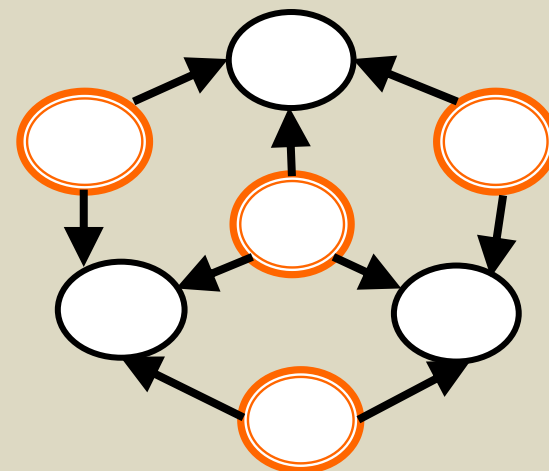
Violation of certain  
causal compatibility  
inequalities



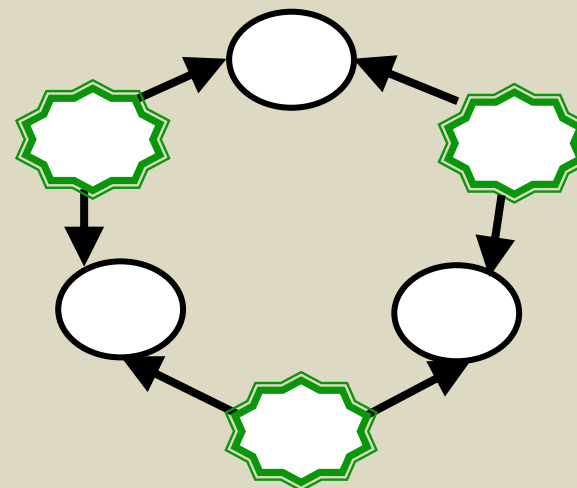
or



Witnessing need for  
different structure



Witnessing  
quantumness



# Causal Inference: Classical and Quantum

PHYS 777-007

Lecturer: Robert Spekkens

TA: Marina Ansanelli

March 6, 2023



Causarum Investigatio  
“Investigate the causes”

15 hours of lectures

Available online at <https://pirsa.org/c23016>



Thanks!