Contextualities: from Foundations to Applications

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Contextuality in the early days From von Neumann to Kochen-Specker Problems in contextuality New noncontextuality proposals Lesson: contextuality is not a quantum property Lesson: "solution to some loopholes" but not to all

Contextuality-by-Default Careful with names, definitions, etc.



Generalized Contextuality

Operational-Probabilistic Theory Ontological Models Ontological models vs hidden variables Noncontextuality hypothesis Negativity

Applying contextuality

- Oblivious communication
- Isomorphisms between scenarios: simplest and CHSH Isomorphisms between Bell scenarios and PM scenarios Quantum set
- Lesson about showing contextual advantages



Contextuality in the early days



As we could learn from Michael's presentation [9]¹: the early days of quantum theory were confusing.

- 1. "Spooky action at a distance".
- 2. Two seemingly different formalisms for quantum theory: Heisenberg's and Schrödinger's.
- 3. No good ideas for what the quantum states represented.
- 4. What are the possible interpretations that can be draw from particle-wave duality.
- 5. Can hidden variables "complete" quantum theory?



We suppose that we can complete the set of observables ${\mathfrak A}$ with a set of hidden-variables $\Lambda.$

 $\mathfrak{A} \to \mathfrak{A} \times \Lambda$



The hidden-variables $\lambda \in \Lambda$ are such that they "present" the value of the observables. Calling the value of observable $a \in \mathfrak{A}$ by $\lambda(a)$ we have that we can define a valuation function by $v(a, \lambda) := \lambda(a)$.



Let $\mathfrak{A} := \operatorname{Mat}(\mathbb{C}, n)^{\mathbb{R}}$. A noncontextual hidden-variable is a map $v : \mathfrak{A} \times \Lambda \to \mathbb{R}$, such that $v(a, \lambda) \in \sigma(a)$,²

1.
$$v(a^2, \lambda) = v(a, \lambda)^2, \forall a \forall \lambda.$$

$$2. \ v(\mathbb{1}_n, \lambda) = 1, \, \forall \lambda$$

Recall from [5, 6] that a quantum context is a set of compatible (comutative) quantum operators.

Letting (Λ,Σ,μ) be a probability space, we recover the statistics of quantum theory with

$$\mathbb{E}[a] = \int_{\Lambda} v(a, \lambda) \mathrm{d}\mu(\lambda) \tag{1}$$



Theorem For $n \ge 2$ there exists no linear noncontextual hidden variable model for quantum theory.³



³Originally in [44], great discussion in [15].

$$a = \alpha a_1 + \beta a_2 \implies v(a, \lambda) = \alpha v(a_1, \lambda) + \beta v(a_2, \lambda)$$

$$\sigma_r := \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} (\sigma_z + \sigma_y)$$

 $v(\sigma_z,\lambda), v(\sigma_y,\lambda), v(\sigma_r,\lambda) \in \{-1,1\} \implies \pm 1 = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} (\pm 1 \pm 1)$



Theorem

For n = 2 there exists a quasi-linear noncontextual hidden variable model for quantum theory. For $n \ge 3$ there exists no quasi-linear noncontextual hidden variable model for quantum theory.⁴



- (a) If every observable \mathscr{A} is associated with a self-adjoint operator a, then for every function f the observable $f(\mathscr{A})$ is associated with the operator f(a).
- (b) $v(f(a), \lambda) = f(v(a, \lambda)).$
- (c) The conditions above imply quasi-linearity, i.e., linearity for compatible observables. If $[a_1, a_2] = 0$, $a = \alpha a_1 + \beta a_2$ imply $v(a, \lambda) = \alpha v(a_1, \lambda) + \beta v(a_2, \lambda)$.⁵
 - Measurements review the properties of states λ .
 - ▶ The valuations v do not depend in the contexts that they are being considered. In other words, this can be described as outcome noncontextual.



$${}^{5}[a_{1}, a_{2}] = 0 \Rightarrow \exists h, g, c : a_{1} = g(c), a_{2} = h(c).$$
 [17]

Since we are assuming QT we can supose the existence of observables that are described by projective operators.

For any valuation v, or equivalently any hidden-variable λ we have that the value assignments onto projections must satisfy⁶

$$v(P_1 + \dots + P_n, \lambda) = v(P_1, \lambda) + \dots + v(P_n, \lambda)$$
(2)



Since valuations return values in the spectrum, these can be understood as yes/no questions. Each valuation result can be described by two colors (we will later construct graphs with respect to compatible measurements)



Every columns is a basis for \mathbb{C}^4 . Each of these vectors define a 1-dimensional projection, so that to each columns we can assign a value one for only one vector: $v(P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4, \lambda) = v(P_1, \lambda) + v(P_2, \lambda) + v(P_3, \lambda) + v(P_4, \lambda) = v(\mathbb{1}, \lambda) = 1.^7$

(0, 0, 0, 1)	(0, 0, 0, 1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(0, 0, 1, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)
(0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)
(1, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, -1, 0)	(1, 0, 0, 1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 0, 0, 1)
(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)



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⁷Original article [8].

(0, 0, 0, 1)	(0, 0, 0, 1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(0, 0, 1, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)
(0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)
(1, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, -1, 0)	(1, 0, 0, 1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 0, 0, 1)
(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)



(0, 0, 0, 1)	(0, 0, 0, 1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(0, 0, 1, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)
(0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)
(1, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, -1, 0)	(1, 0, 0, 1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 0, 0, 1)
(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)



(0, 0, 0, 1)	(0, 0, 0, 1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(0, 0, 1, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)
(0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)
(1, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, -1, 0)	(1, 0, 0, 1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 0, 0, 1)
(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)



Since every vector appear in pair and we have 18 there must be an even number of 1 assignments, but since we have 9 columns this is a contradiction. 8

(0, 0, 0, 1)	(0, 0, 0, 1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(1, -1, 1, -1)	(0, 0, 1, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)
(0, 0, 1, 0)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, -1, -1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(1, 1, 1, -1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)	(-1, 1, 1, 1)
(1, 1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 1, 0, 0)		(1, 0, 0, 1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, 1, 0)	(1, 0, 0, 1)
(1, -1, 0, 0)	(1, 0, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(1, 0, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)	(0, 0, 1, 1)	(0, 1, 0, -1)	(0, 1, -1, 0)



⁸See for instance [2] for other proofs of KS-theorem.

KS proof with 117 vectors





- ▶ It assumes Quantum Theory.
- It considers projective measurements and not generalized (noisy) ones.
- It assumes that we can describe and measure a set of perfectly compatible measurements.
- ▶ It does not treat different procedures of the quantum formalism (preparations and transformations).



- ▶ It assumes Quantum Theory. CA, Sheaf, GPT, CbD
- ▶ It considers projective measurements and not generalized (noisy) ones. Criticising MKC models, GC
- ▶ It assumes that we can describe and measure a set of perfectly compatible measurements. CbD
- ▶ It does not treat different procedures of the quantum formalism (preparations and transformations). GC



CbD Extended Maximal CbD multimax M-noncontextual Kochen-Specker Sheaf Logic Hypergraph Exclusivity

Generalized, Simplex Embeddable Broad Leibnizianity PM scenarios GPT+Processes



Local consistency may imply global inconsistency



Contextuality is not a quantum property. 9



⁹PR boxes.

Recall Rui's presentations [5, 6].

$$(X, \mathscr{C}, O) \tag{3}$$

The formalism of the compatibility hypergraph-approach and the sheaf theoretic approach¹⁰ make no reference to quantum theory in their definitions.



¹⁰And all other recent notions.

We can build robust noncontextuality inequalities that don't assume quantum theory.



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Solving the problem of ruling out experimental loopholes is still an important problem [41]. I will discuss two attempts: Contextuality-by-Default and Generalized contextuality.





Idea: We keep using ideal measurement procedures but relax the use of perfect correlations.



KCBS: $\mathbb{E}(A_1A_2) + \mathbb{E}(A_2A_3) + \mathbb{E}(A_3A_4) + \mathbb{E}(A_4A_5) + \mathbb{E}(A_5A_1) \ge -3^{11}$





¹¹Taken from [25].

Note that since there is the need for a large statistical analysis to show that $A_1 = A'_1$, a possibility is to consider these errors non-essential. Using CbD it is possible to relax these bounds.



Every measurement in a different context corresponds essentially to a different property: random variables M_a^c .

We then impose noncontextuality by existing a global distribution that maximize the probability that random variables in the same connection are equal. 12



Many approaches differ only by name and objects of study, and do not change essentially. (e.g., CbD and extended noncontextuality). One focus in random variables (CbD) and the other on behaviors (Extended).

Sometimes different descriptions go by the same name (e.g., transformation contextuality). These 3 papers [30, 27, 38] have different descriptions of the what should be transformation noncontextuality.



Let's now maintain perfect correlations but allow for imperfect procedures.



Generalized Contextuality


An operational theory is described by set of possible laboratory instructions (processes/primitives), and a rule for assigning probabilities. 13



 $^{13}\mathrm{See}$ [45] and references therein.

Prepare-and-measure experiment







$B:=\{p(k|M,T,P)\}$



Quantum Theory as an Operational Theory

 $P \rightarrow \rho$

$M \to \text{POVM's}$

$T \to \mathrm{CPTP}$



Given $\mathbb{P} := \{P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4\}$, for any [k|M] possible, we have, $p(k|M, P_1) + p(k|M, P_2) = p(k|M, P_3) + p(k|M, P_4)$





$\forall [k|M], \forall T, p(k|M, T, P) = p(k|M, T, P') \quad (5)$



Operational Equivalences

$\mathbb{B} = (\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{M}, \mathbb{O}_M, \mathbb{E}_P, \mathbb{E}_M)$ (6)







$\mathbb{P} = \{P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4\}$ (7)

 $\mathbb{M} = \{M_1, M_2\}\tag{8}$

$$\mathbb{O}_M = \{0, 1\} \tag{9}$$

$$\mathbb{E}_M = \emptyset \tag{10}$$

$$\mathbb{E}_P : \iff \frac{1}{2}P_1 + \frac{1}{2}P_2 \simeq \frac{1}{2}P_3 + \frac{1}{2}P_4$$
 (11)



Prepare-and-measure polytope

$$B \to \begin{pmatrix} p(1|M_1, P_1) \\ \vdots \\ p(k|M_I, P_J) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{|K| \times |I| \times |J|}$$



Prepare-and-measure polytope

$p(k|M_i, P_j) \ge 0$

$$\sum_{k} p(k|M_i, P_j) = 1$$

 $p(k|M_i, P_1) + p(k|M_i, P_2) = p(k|M_i, P_3) + p(k|M_I, P_4)$



The operational theory does not explain "why" the probabilities arising are the way they are.





$\lambda \in \Lambda$



Each preparation P_j is actually preparing an ontic state λ . For each preparation P_j we associate a probability distribution μ_{P_j} over Λ .¹⁴



 $^{14}\mathrm{We}$ can generalize this to measures.

Each measurement M is associated to a probability distribution $\xi_{[\cdot|M]}(\lambda)^{15}$ over K, the set of outcomes, given a prepared $\lambda \in \Lambda$.



 $^{15}\mathrm{We}$ can generalize this to Markov kernels.

Any behavior $B := \{p(k|M_i, P_j)\}$ is explained at the ontological model as,

$$p(k|M_i, P_j) = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \xi_{[k|M_i]}(\lambda) \mu_{P_j}(\lambda)$$



The name is different because of the philosophical purposes. But many times, they refer to the same thing (and other times they don't!).



$$\sum_{j} \alpha_{j} P_{j} \simeq \sum_{j} \beta_{j} P_{j} \implies \sum_{j} \alpha_{j} \mu_{P_{j}} = \sum_{j} \beta_{j} \mu_{P_{j}}$$
$$\sum_{k,i} \alpha_{[k|M_{i}]}[k|M_{i}] \simeq \sum_{k,i} \beta_{[k|M_{i}]}[k|M_{i}] \implies$$
$$\sum_{k,i} \alpha_{[k|M_{i}]} \xi_{[k|M_{i}]} = \sum_{k,i} \beta_{[k|M_{i}]} \xi_{[k|M_{i}]}$$



Theorem Quantum theory is contextual for preparations, transformations and unsharp measurements, for any dimension of Hilbert space larger then, or equal to 2.



- 1. Outcome determinism for sharp measurements. This means that any time we have a measurement procedure that is sharp the functions $\xi_{[\cdot|M]}(\lambda)$ answer yes/no questions.
- 2. Two preparation procedures that are distinguishable with a one-shot measurement must have a non-overlapping epistemic description in the ontological model.
- 3. Convex combinations of procedures are again valid procedures in the operational theory and they are mapped to the same ontological quantities.



Proof





Why not talk about phase space? 1932 [47]

W(p,q)



Recall that our descriptions captures phase space representations in terms of the space Λ . In quantum terms, ¹⁶

$$\operatorname{Tr}(\rho E_k) = p(k|M, P) = \int_{\Lambda} \xi_{[k|M]}(\lambda) \mu_P(\lambda) d\lambda \qquad (12)$$

A generalized noncontextual model exists iff any attempt of describing quantum physics in phase space imply in a quasi-probabilistic necessity.



Theorem

A quasi-probability representation of quantum theory must have negativity in either its representation of states or measurements (or both). 17



Applying contextuality



- (a) Weak values. (Introduced in [1], Critics [11], Noncontextuality [32, 22])
- (b) Quantum Thermodynamic Machines. [28]
- (c) Two state discrimination. [37]
- (d) Quantum cloning. [29]
- (e) MBQC. [12, 34, 7]



- (f) Quantum Metrology. [28, 4]
- (g) Magic $States^{18}$

Theorem

Quantum computation with magic states can have a quantum speedup only if the Wigner function of the initial magic state is negative. [43].



- (h) Communication protocols $[31,\,35,\,36,\,48,\,14]...$
- (i) Quantum thermodynamic measurements of Heat/Work substituting TPM (negativity again). [26]
- (j) HVM for computation???, $[49]^{19}$...



¹⁹This is a very recent work, interesting!

For reasons of being in the group of Galvão, who first proposed the use of quantum contextuality for communication advantages [13, 40] I will discuss the Parity-Oblivious Multiplexing (POM) game:



Alice generates a random string of bits,

$$x = (1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0)$$



Bob generates a random number associated with the bit position of Alice's string.

$$y \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$$





The goal of Bob is to guess correctly the y-th bit in the string x generated by Alice.

 x_y



Alice does not send any information about any parity of the string x.



Par :=
$$\left\{ r \middle| r \in \{0,1\}^n, \sum_i r_i \ge 2 \right\}$$
 (13)



We call the procedures that Alice sends to Bob as,

 P_x



The generalized restriction of the POM game is,

$$\forall r \in \operatorname{Par}, \forall [k|M] : \sum_{x|x \cdot r=0} p(k|M, P_x) = \sum_{x|x \cdot r=1} p(k|M, P_x)$$

where $x \cdot r$ means sum module 2 of the bit scalar products. $x \cdot r = \bigoplus_i x_i r_i.$




$x = (x_0, x_1) \in \{0, 1\}^2$



POM task: example

$\operatorname{Par} = \{(1,1)\}$





$(1,1) \cdot (0,0) = 0 \oplus 0 = 0$ $(1,1) \cdot (1,0) = 1 \oplus 0 = 1$ $(1,1) \cdot (0,1) = 0 \oplus 1 = 1$ $(1,1) \cdot (1,1) = 1 \oplus 1 = 0$





$p(k|M,P_{(0,0)}) + p(k|M,P_{(1,1)}) = p(k|M,P_{(0,1)}) + p(k|M,P_{(1,0)}).$



$$p(g = x_y) = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2^2} \sum_{y \in \{0,1\}} \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^2} p(g = x_y | M_y, P_x)$$
(14)



$$1/2 = p(y), 1/2^2 = 1/4 = p(x)$$

POM task: simplest scenario

2-bit POM $\equiv \mathbb{B}_{si}$





n-bit POM $\equiv \mathbb{B}$



Theorem

The optimal bound for the probability of Bob finding the correct value of x_y , in any noncontextual ontological model, is

$$p(g = x_y) \le \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right) \tag{15}$$



From [40]

Probability of winning: classical vs quantum theory²⁰ $_{81}$

$$p^Q(g = x_y) = 0.85$$

 $p^{NC}(g = x_y) = 0.75$



 $^{20}\mathrm{See}$ [46] and references for simplest scenario.

n-POM: classical vs quantum theory





The simplest scenario we have presented is isomorphic to a Bell scenario with two parties, each with two binary outcome measurements. [37]



The simplest scenario again [33]

$$\mathbb{P} = \{P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4\}$$
(16)

$$\mathbb{M} = \{M_1, M_2\} \tag{17}$$

$$\mathbb{O}_M = \{0, 1\} \tag{18}$$

$$\mathbb{E}_M = \emptyset \tag{19}$$

$$\mathbb{E}_P : \iff \frac{1}{2}P_1 + \frac{1}{2}P_2 \simeq \frac{1}{2}P_3 + \frac{1}{2}P_4$$



(20)

Instead of preparations P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4 we let two sources S_0, S_1 be such that, each source S_i chooses between two settings $s_i \in \{0, 1\}$ with equal probability.²¹

We then associate these events of a source choosing a setting $[0|S_0]$ as a preparation procedure $P_1 \equiv P_{[0|S_0]}$ etc, $\forall s: p(s|S) = 1/2.$

$$\frac{1}{2}[0|S_0] + \frac{1}{2}[1|S_0] \simeq \frac{1}{2}[0|S_1] + \frac{1}{2}[1|S_1]$$



 21 For sources framework see [23, 24, 20, 21].

$p(k,s|M,S) = p(k|M,P_{[s|S]})p(s|S)$



$$\sum_{k,s} p(k,s|M,S) = \sum_{k,s} p(k|M,P_{[s|S]})p(s|S) = \sum_{s} p(s|S) = 1$$



 $\mathscr{C} := \{\{M_0, S_0\}, \{M_0, S_1\}, \{M_1, S_0\}, \{M_1, S_1\}\}$

$$\sum_{s} p(k, s|M_{0}, S_{0}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s} p(k|M_{0}, P_{[s|S_{0}]})$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(p(k|M_{0}, P_{[0|S_{0}]}) + p(k|M_{0}, P_{[1|S_{0}]}) \right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(p(k|M_{0}, P_{[0|S_{1}]}) + p(k|M_{0}, P_{[1|S_{1}]}) \right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s} p(k|M_{0}, P_{[s|S_{1}]})$$
$$= \sum_{s} p(k, s|M_{0}, S_{1})$$



Preparation noncontextuality will imply the existence of an ontological model such that

$$p(k, s|M, S) = \int_{\lambda} \xi(k|\lambda, M) p(s|S) \mu(\lambda|s, S) d\lambda$$
(21)

But noticing that $\mu(\lambda|s, S)p(s|S) = \mu(\lambda, s|S) = \mu(s|\lambda, S)\mu(\lambda)$ we get a locally causal model for the behaviour, by letting "Alice" and "Bob" correspond to the devices M and S.²²

$$p(k, s|M, S) = \int_{\lambda} \xi_A(k|\lambda, M) p(s|S) \mu_B(s|\lambda, S) \mu(\lambda) d\lambda \qquad (22)$$



 $^{22}\mathrm{See}$ [33] for the other direction of the proof.

Every scenario that has a no measurement equivalences, and that has preparation equivalences that generate one procedure is isomorphic to a Bell scenario.



There are behaviours that are maximally contextual without being described by pure states and sharp measurements.







- Describe you experimental scenario, that represents an important problem.
- Try to obtain a bound, or a no-go result that represents a constraint into noncontextual models.
- ▶ Show that quantum theory overcomes these constraints.



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