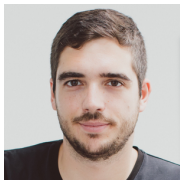


# Free transformations in the resource theory of contextuality



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Shane Mansfield



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QCQMB colloquium  
20th October 2021

# This talk

- Pre-print available at [arXiv:2104.11241](https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.11241) [quant-ph].

## Quantum Physics

*[Submitted on 22 Apr 2021]*

### Closing Bell: Boxing black box simulations in the resource theory of contextuality

[Rui Soares Barbosa](#), [Martti Karvonen](#), [Shane Mansfield](#)

This chapter contains an exposition of the sheaf-theoretic framework for contextuality emphasising resource-theoretic aspects, as well as some original results on this topic. In particular, we consider functions that transform empirical models on a scenario  $S$  to empirical models on another scenario  $T$ , and characterise those that are induced by classical procedures between  $S$  and  $T$  corresponding to 'free' operations in the (non-adaptive) resource theory of contextuality. We proceed by expressing such functions as empirical models themselves, on a new scenario built from  $S$  and  $T$ . Our characterisation then boils down to the non-contextuality of these models. We also show that this construction on scenarios provides a closed structure in the category of measurement scenarios.

Comments: 36 pages. To appear as part of a volume dedicated to Samson Abramsky in Springer's Outstanding Contributions to Logic series

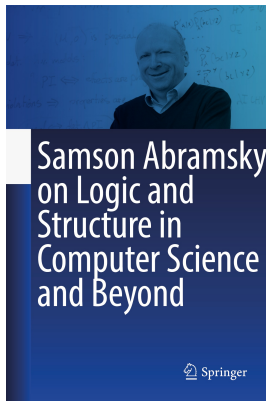
Subjects: **Quantum Physics (quant-ph)**; Logic in Computer Science (cs.LO); Category Theory (math.CT)

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(or [arXiv:2104.11241v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.11241v1) [quant-ph] for this version)

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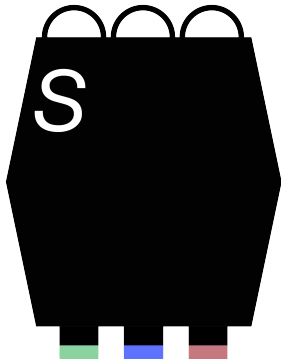
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Contextuality

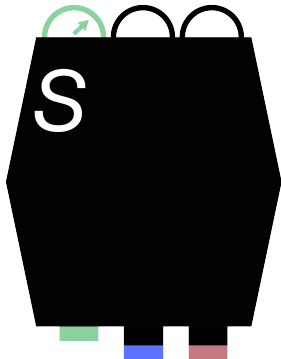
## Type or interface: measurement scenario

- Interaction with system: perform measurements and observe respective outcomes

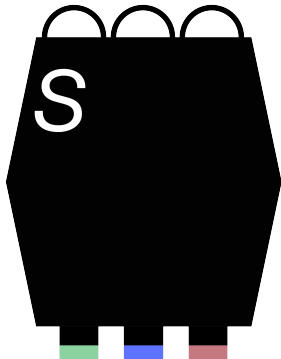


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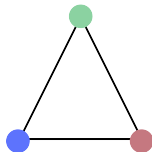


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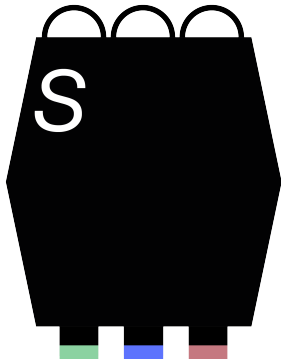
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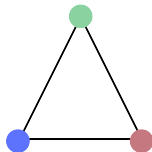


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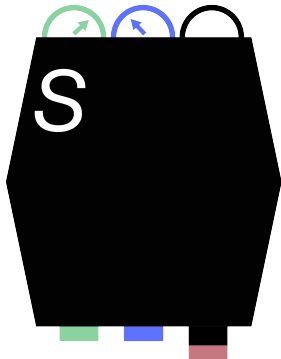
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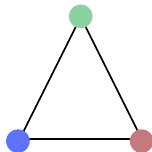
- Some subsets of measurements can be performed together ...

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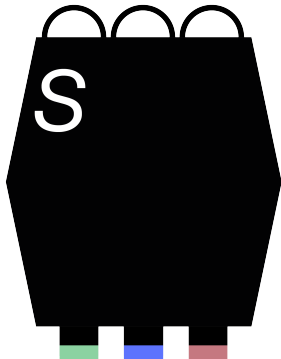
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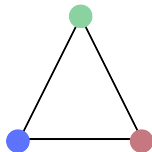
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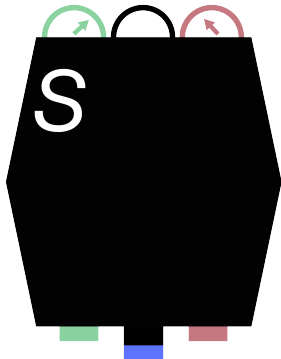
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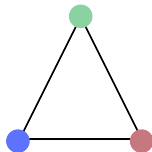
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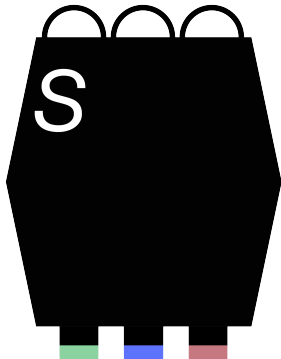
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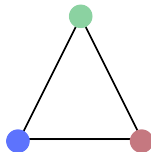
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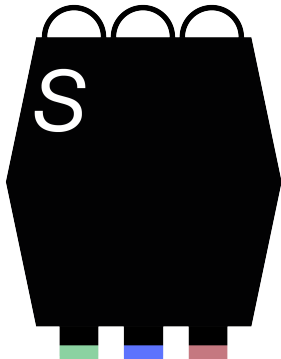
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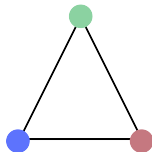
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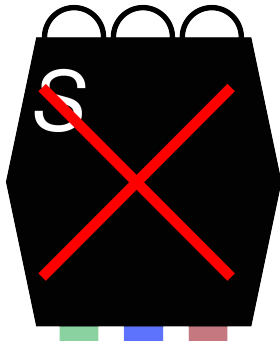
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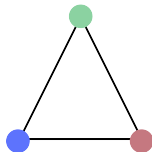
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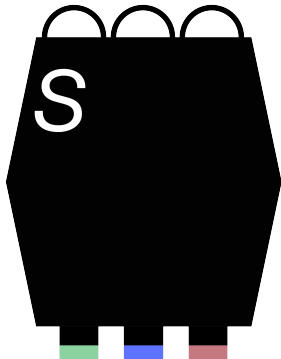
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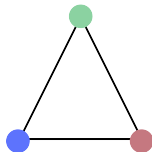
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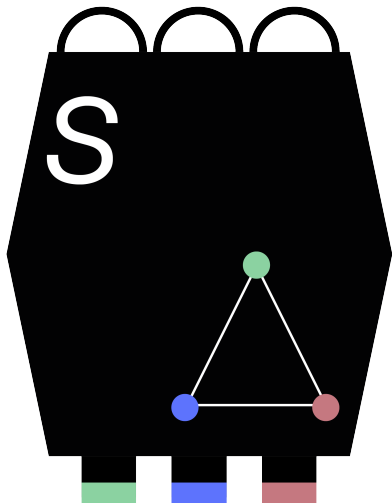
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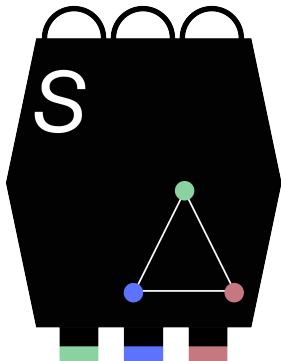


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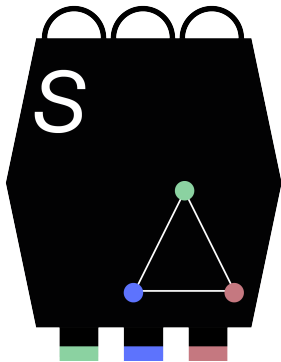


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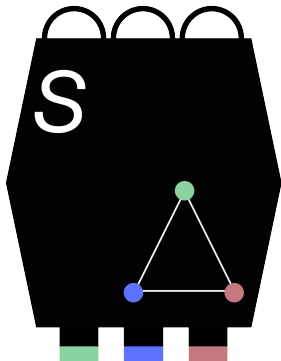


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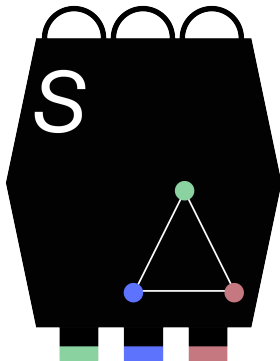


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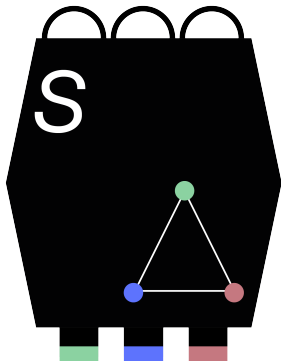


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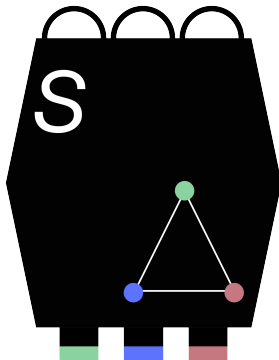


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  - ▶ is downwards closed:  
 $\sigma \in \Sigma_S$  and  $\tau \subset \sigma$  implies  $\tau \in \Sigma_S$ .

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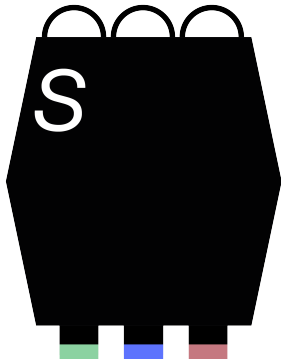


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## Behaviour: empirical model

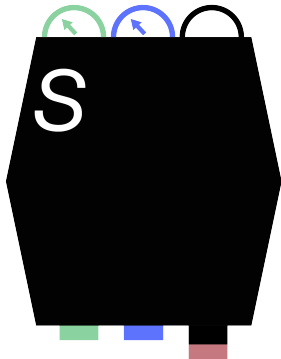


- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y				
y	z				
x	z				



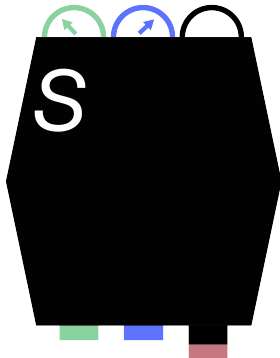
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y	z				
x	z				

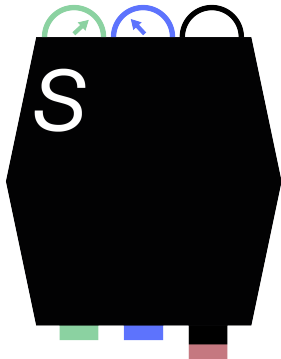
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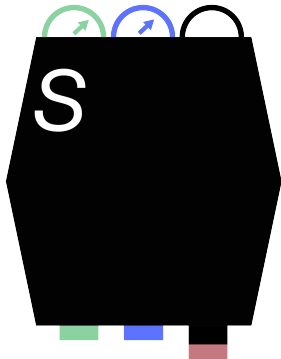
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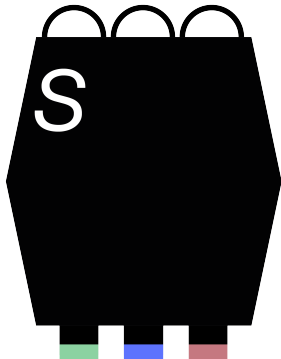
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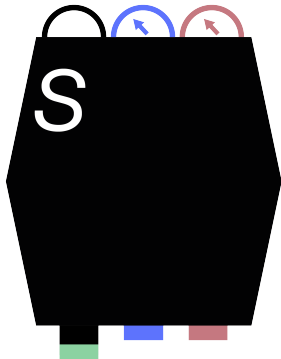
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		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$
y	z				
x	z				

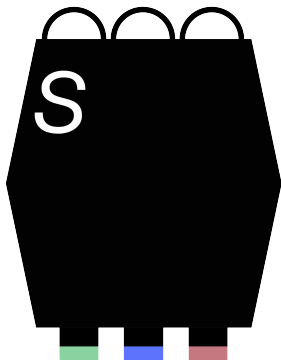
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		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$
y	z	$\frac{3}{8}$			
x	z				

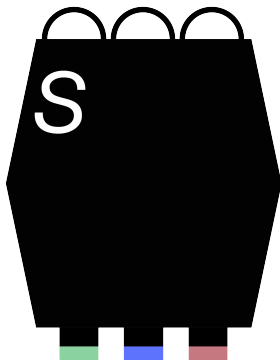
## Behaviour: empirical model



- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	$3/8$	$1/8$	$1/8$	$3/8$
y	z	$3/8$	$1/8$	$1/8$	$3/8$
x	z	$1/8$	$3/8$	$3/8$	$1/8$

## Behaviour: empirical model



- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

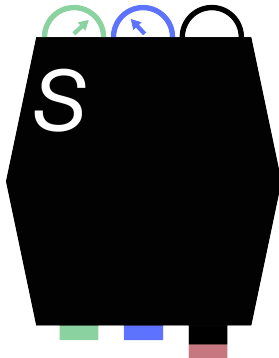
		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	$3/8$	$1/8$	$1/8$	$3/8$
y	z	$3/8$	$1/8$	$1/8$	$3/8$
x	z	$1/8$	$3/8$	$3/8$	$1/8$

### No-signalling / no-disturbance

- Marginal distributions agree



## Behaviour: empirical model



- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

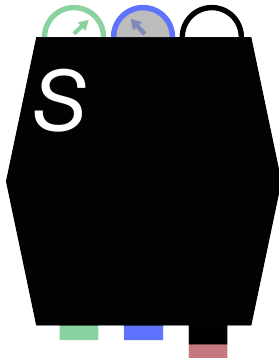
		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
y	z	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
x	z	1/8	3/8	3/8	1/8

### No-signalling / no-disturbance

- Marginal distributions agree

$$P(x, y \mapsto a, b)$$

## Behaviour: empirical model



- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

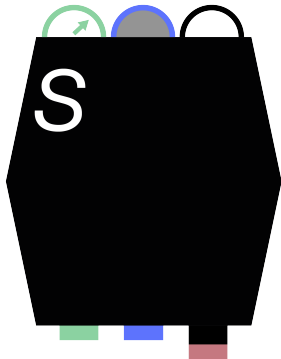
		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
y	z	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
x	z	1/8	3/8	3/8	1/8

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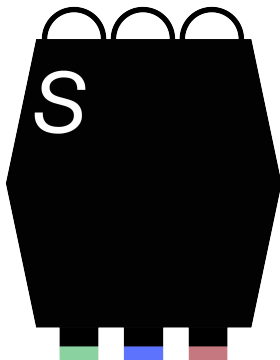
		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
y	z	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
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### No-signalling / no-disturbance

- Marginal distributions agree

$$\sum_b P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \mapsto \mathbf{a}, b)$$

## Behaviour: empirical model



- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

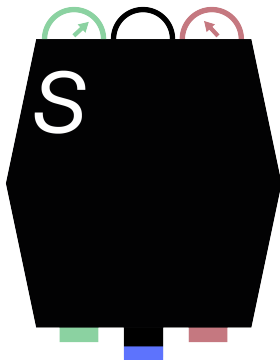
		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
y	z	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
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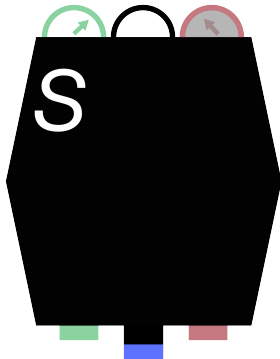
		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
y	z	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
x	z	1/8	3/8	3/8	1/8

### No-signalling / no-disturbance

- Marginal distributions agree

$$\sum_b P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \mapsto \mathbf{a}, b) \qquad P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \mapsto \mathbf{a}, c)$$

## Behaviour: empirical model



- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

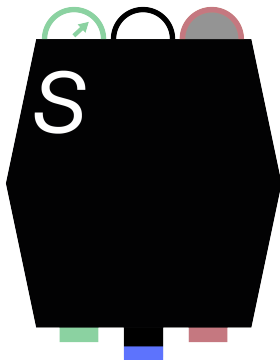
		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
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y	z	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
x	z	1/8	3/8	3/8	1/8

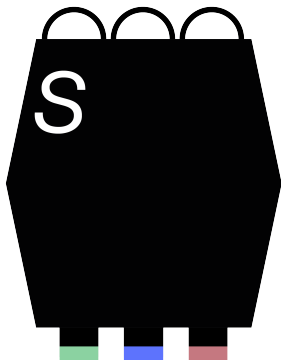
### No-signalling / no-disturbance

- Marginal distributions agree

$$\sum_b P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \mapsto a, b)$$

$$\sum_c P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \mapsto a, c)$$

## Behaviour: empirical model



- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
y	z	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
x	z	1/8	3/8	3/8	1/8

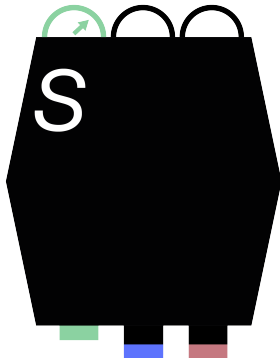
### No-signalling / no-disturbance

- Marginal distributions agree

$$\sum_b P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \mapsto a, b) = \sum_c P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \mapsto a, c)$$



## Behaviour: empirical model



- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

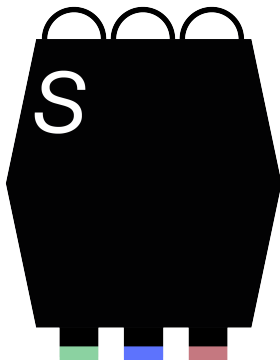
		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
y	z	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
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## Behaviour: empirical model



- Behaviour of system is described by measurement statistics

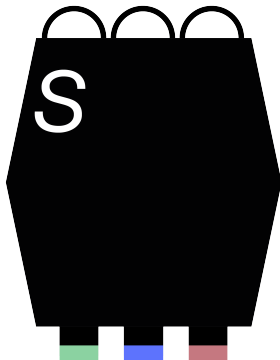
		(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)
x	y	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
y	z	3/8	1/8	1/8	3/8
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### No-signalling / no-disturbance

- Marginal distributions agree

$$\sum_b P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \mapsto a, b) = \sum_c P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \mapsto a, c) = P(\mathbf{x} \mapsto a)$$

## Behaviour: empirical model

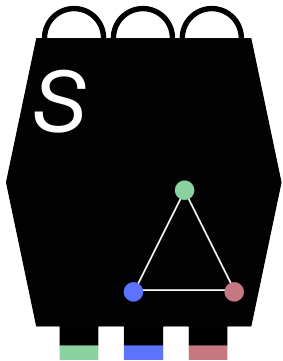


**Empirical model**  $e : S$  is a family  $\{e_\sigma\}_{\sigma \in \Sigma_S}$  where:

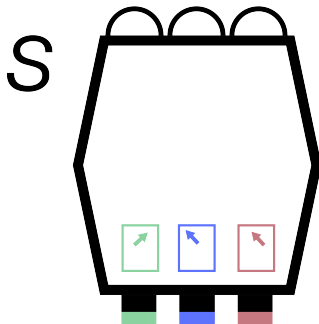
- ▶  $e_\sigma$  is a probability distribution on the set of joint outcomes  $\mathbf{O}_{S,\sigma} := \prod_{x \in \sigma} O_{S,x}$
- ▶ These satisfy **no-disturbance**:  
if  $\tau \subset \sigma$ , then  $e_\sigma|_\tau = e_\tau$ .

# Contextuality

Deterministic model

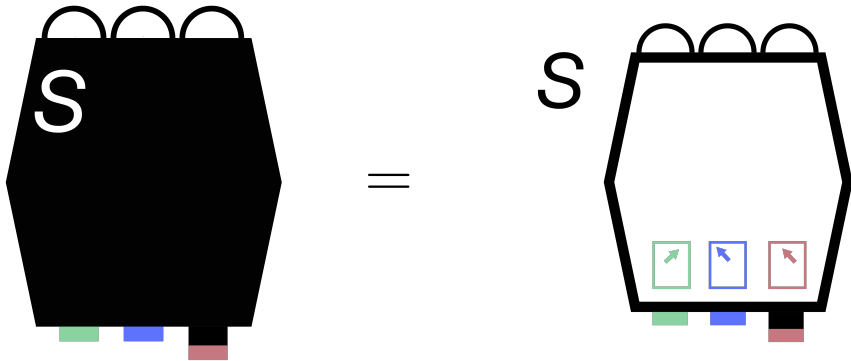


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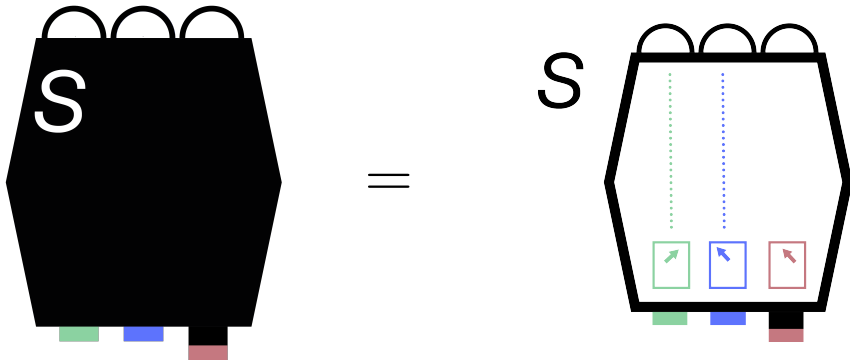
# Contextuality

Deterministic model



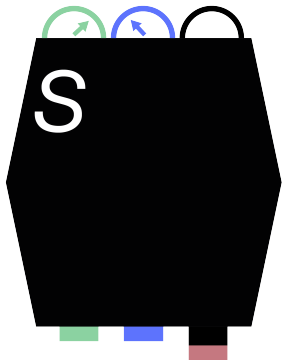
# Contextuality

Deterministic model

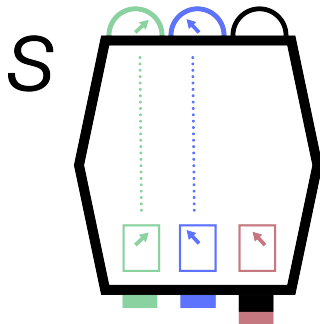


# Contextuality

Deterministic model

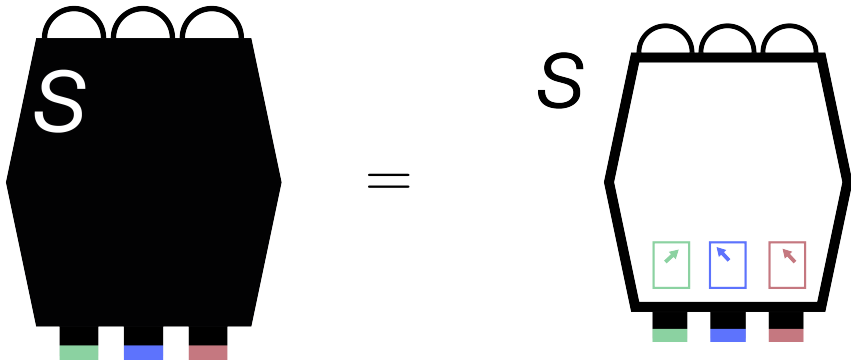


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## Contextuality

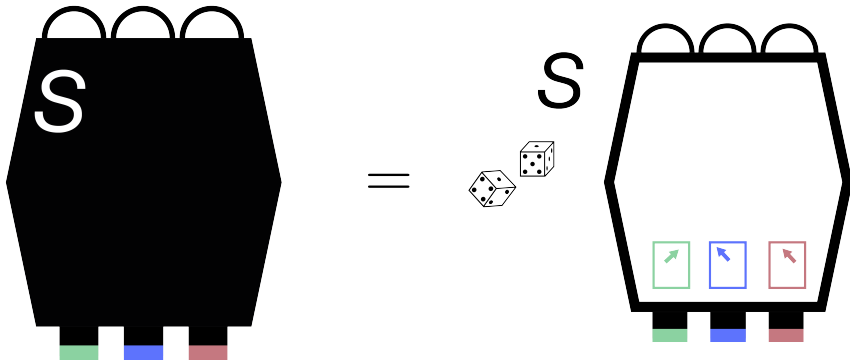
Deterministic model



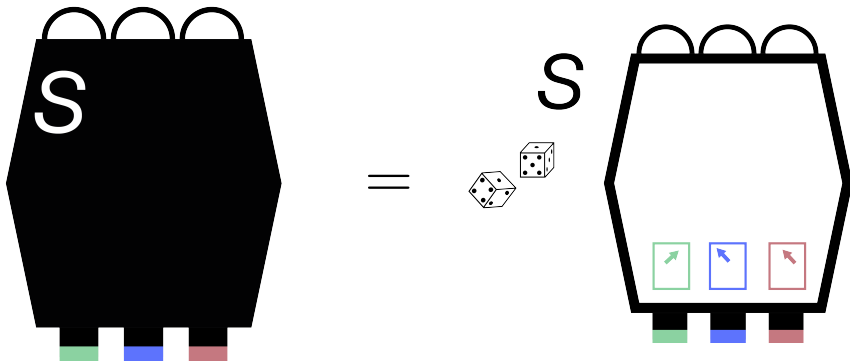


# Contextuality

Non-contextual model

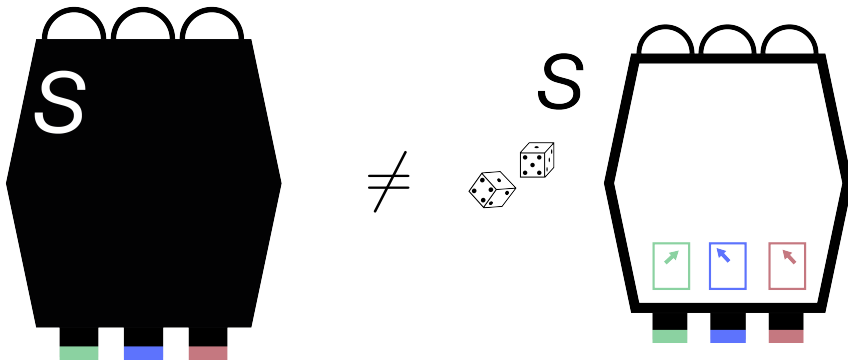


Non-contextual model



$\exists$  probability distribution  $d$  on  $\mathbf{O}_{S, X_S} = \prod_{x \in X_S} O_{S, x}$  such that  $d|_{\sigma} = e_{\sigma}$  for all  $\sigma \in \Sigma_S$ .

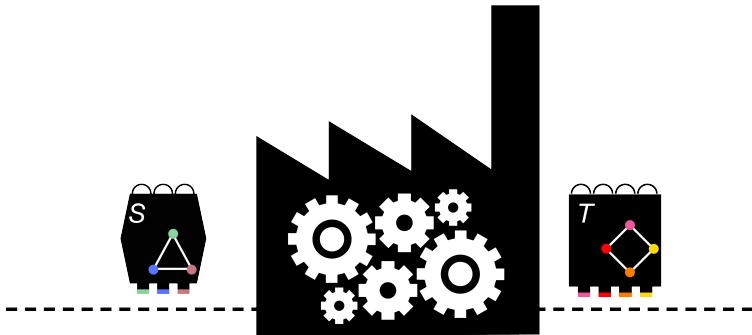
## Contextual model



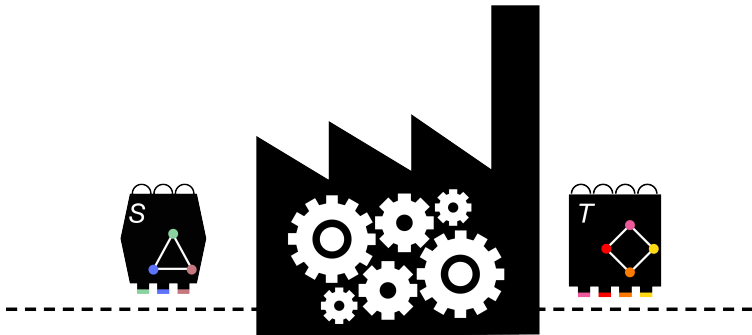
$\nexists$  probability distribution  $d$  on  $\mathbf{O}_{S, X_S} = \prod_{x \in X_S} O_{S, x}$  such that  $d|_{\sigma} = e_{\sigma}$  for all  $\sigma \in \Sigma_S$ .

# Resource theory of contextuality

## Resource theories

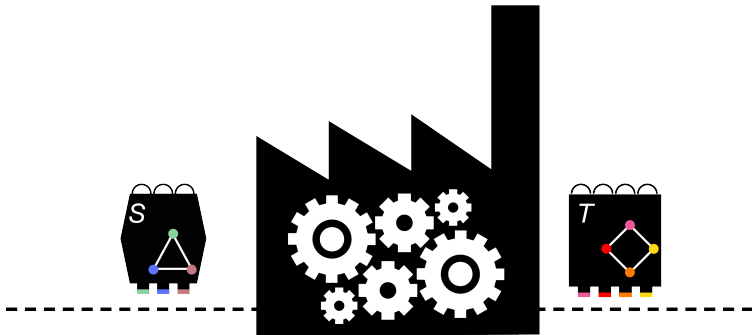


## Resource theories



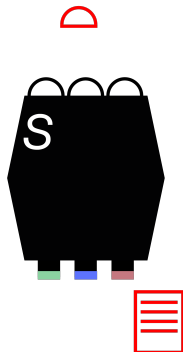
- Consider 'free' (i.e. classical) operations:

## Resource theories



- Consider 'free' (i.e. classical) operations:  
(classical) procedures that use a box of type  $S$  to simulate a box of type  $T$

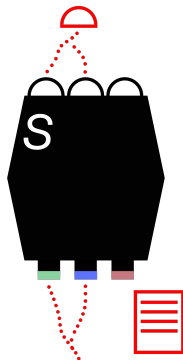
# Experiments and procedures



- ▶ An  $O$ -valued  $S$ -**experiment** is a protocol for an interaction with the box  $S$  producing a value in  $O$ :
  - ▶ which measurements to perform;
  - ▶ how to interpret their joint outcome into an outcome in  $O$ .

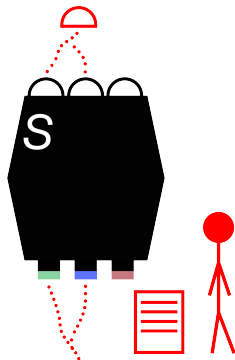


# Experiments and procedures



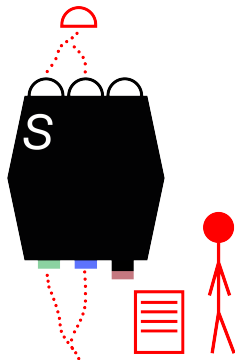
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# Experiments and procedures



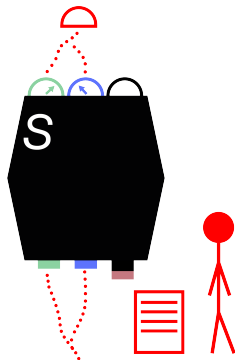
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# Experiments and procedures



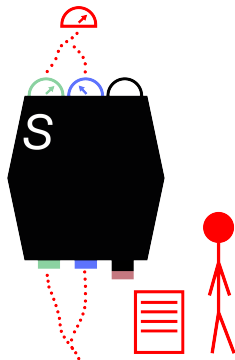
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# Experiments and procedures



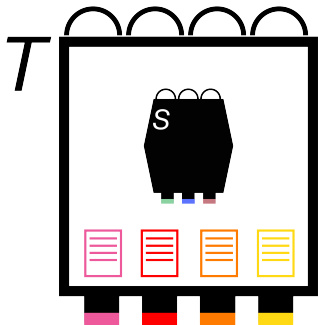
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# Experiments and procedures



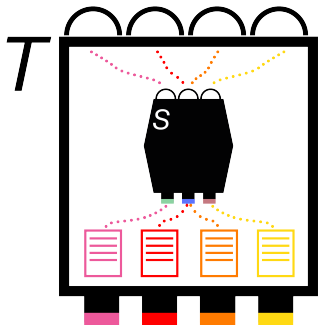
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# Experiments and procedures



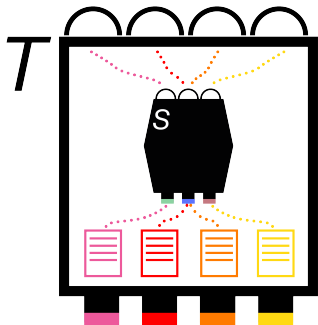
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- ▶ A **deterministic procedure**  $S \longrightarrow T$  specifies an  $S$ -experiment ( $O_{T,x}$ -valued) for each measurement  $x$  of  $T$ .

# Experiments and procedures



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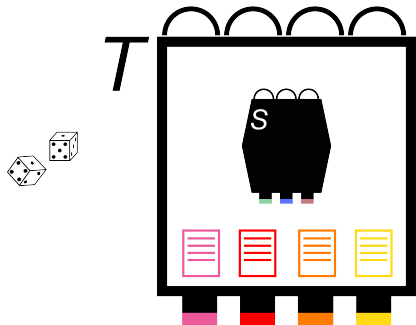
# Experiments and procedures



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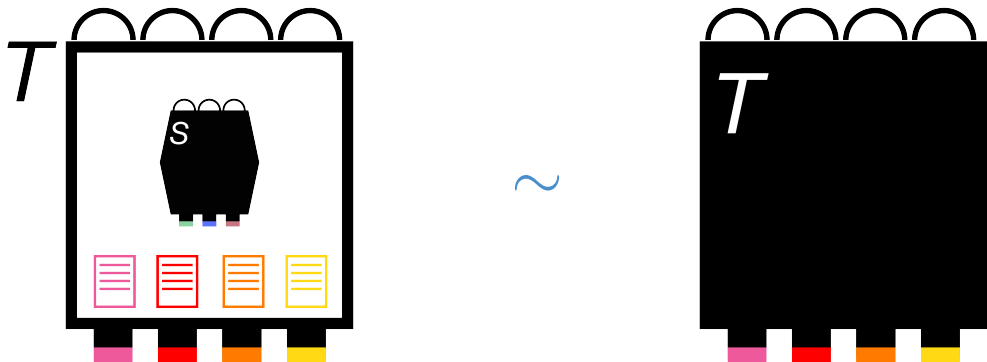


# Experiments and procedures

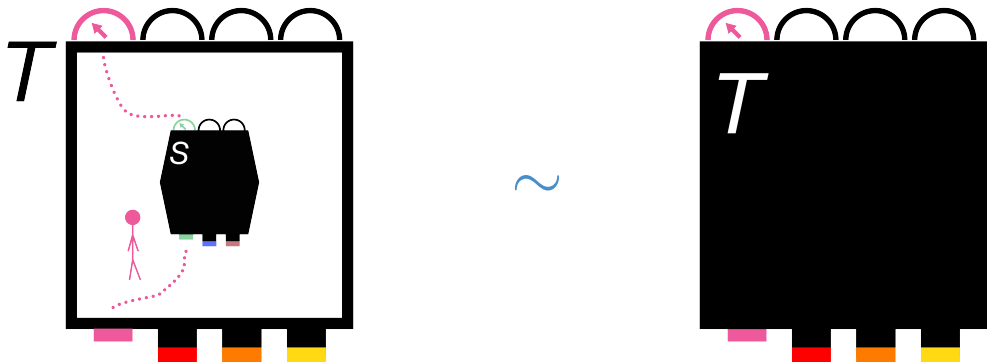


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- ▶ A **deterministic procedure**  $S \longrightarrow T$  specifies an  $S$ -experiment ( $O_{T,x}$ -valued) for each measurement  $x$  of  $T$ . (subject to compatibility conditions)
- ▶ A **classical procedure** is a probabilistic mixture of deterministic procedures.

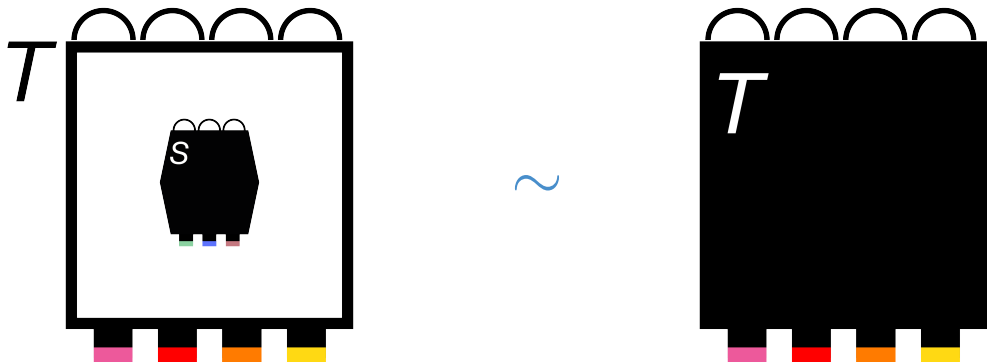
## Classical procedures and simulations



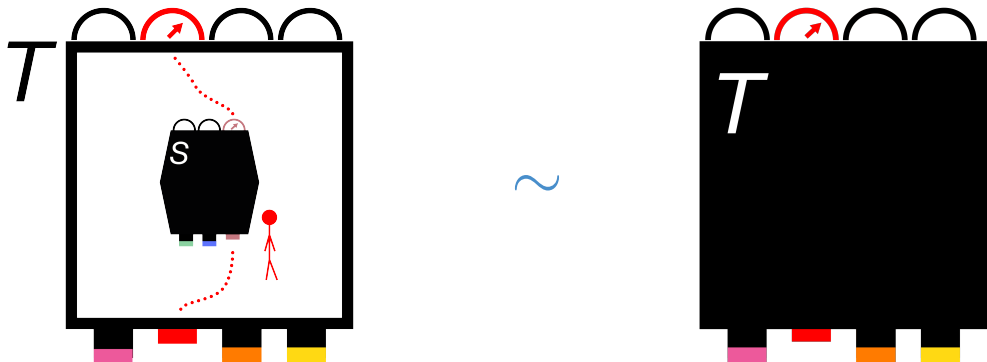
## Classical procedures and simulations



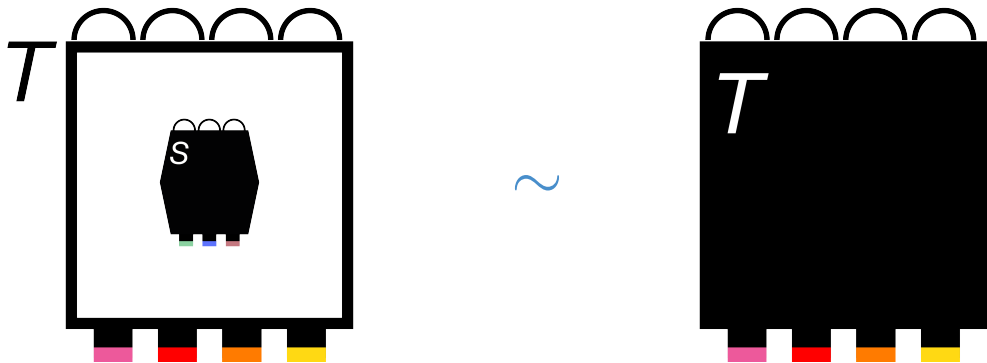
## Classical procedures and simulations



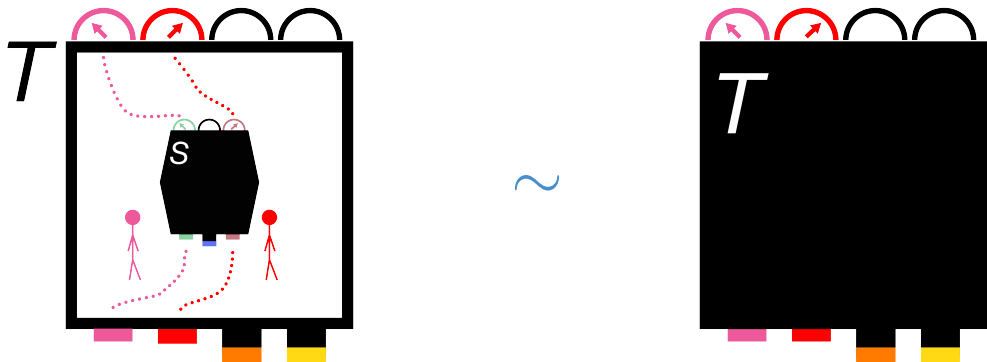
## Classical procedures and simulations



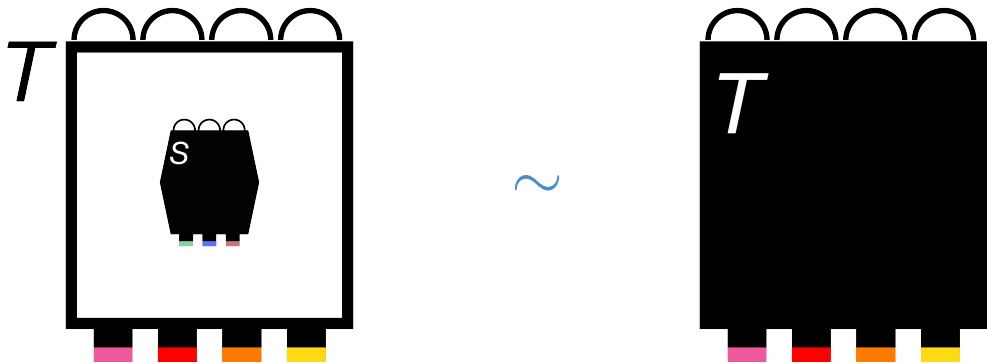
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## Classical procedures and simulations

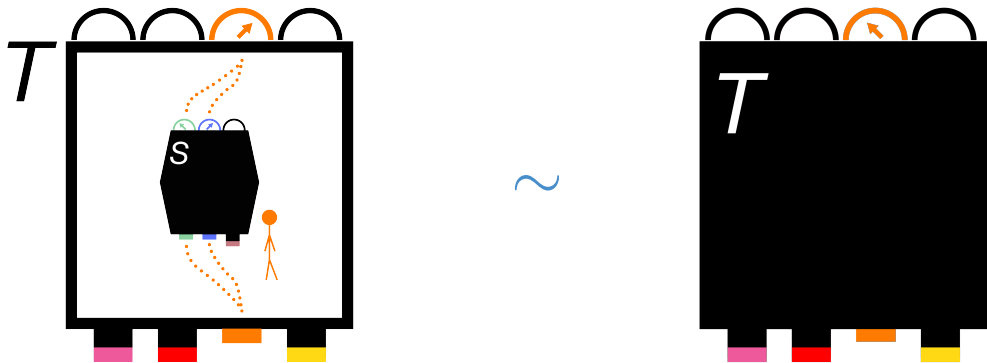


## Classical procedures and simulations

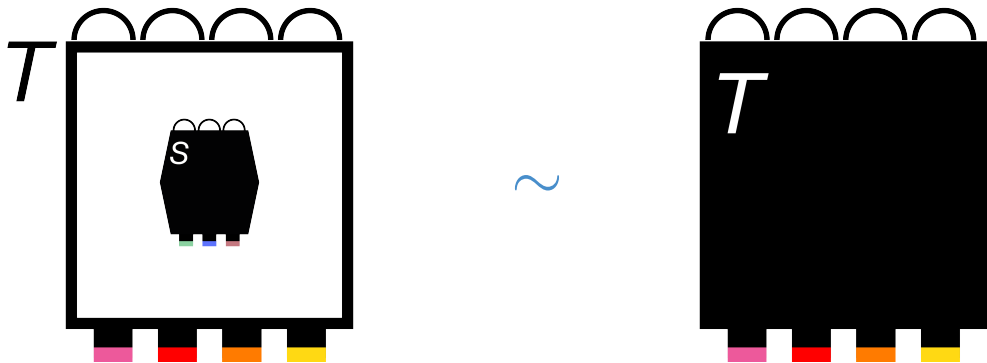




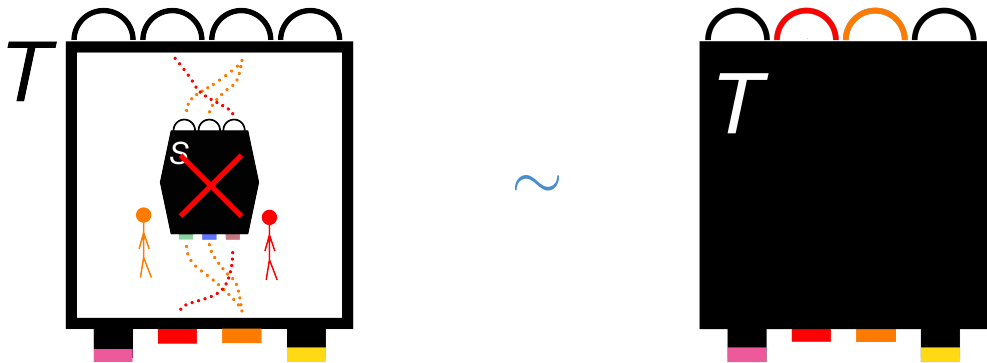
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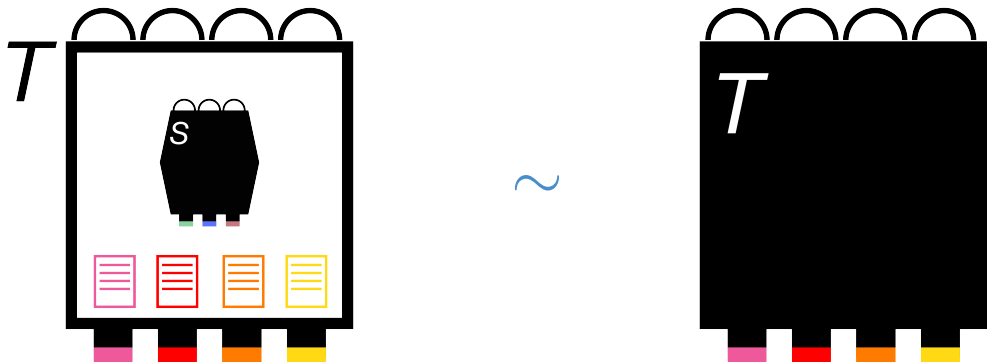
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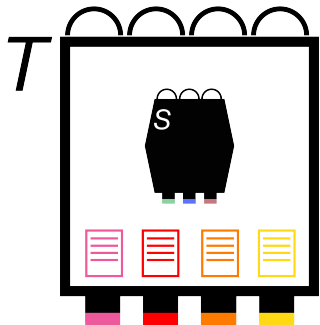
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## Classical procedures and simulations

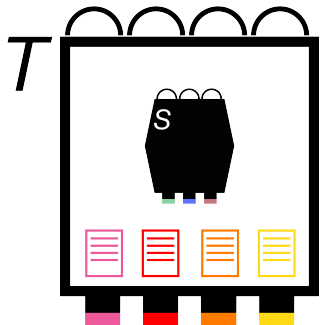


# Classical procedures



**Deterministic procedure**  $f : S \longrightarrow T$  is  $\langle \pi_f, \alpha_f \rangle$ :

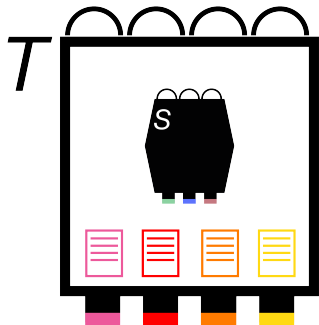
# Classical procedures



**Deterministic procedure**  $f : S \longrightarrow T$  is  $\langle \pi_f, \alpha_f \rangle$ :

- ▶  $\pi_f : \Sigma_T \longrightarrow \Sigma_S$  is a simplicial relation:

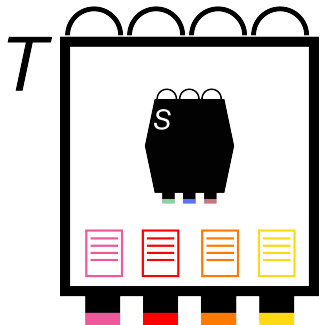
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**Deterministic procedure**  $f : S \longrightarrow T$  is  $\langle \pi_f, \alpha_f \rangle$ :

- ▶  $\pi_f : \Sigma_T \longrightarrow \Sigma_S$  is a simplicial relation:
  - ▶ for each  $x \in X_T$  specifies  $\pi_f(x) \subset X_S$

# Classical procedures

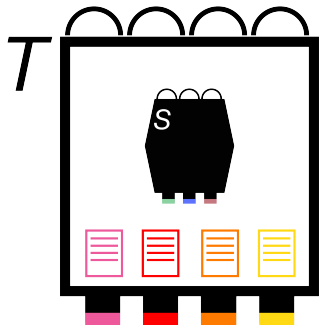


**Deterministic procedure**  $f : S \longrightarrow T$  is  $\langle \pi_f, \alpha_f \rangle$ :

- ▶  $\pi_f : \Sigma_T \longrightarrow \Sigma_S$  is a simplicial relation:
  - ▶ for each  $x \in X_T$  specifies  $\pi_f(x) \subset X_S$
  - ▶ If  $\sigma \in \Sigma_T$  then  $\pi_f(\sigma) \in \Sigma_S$ , where  $\pi_f(\sigma) = \bigcup_{x \in \sigma} \pi_f(x)$ .



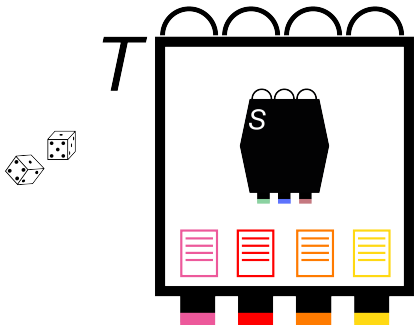
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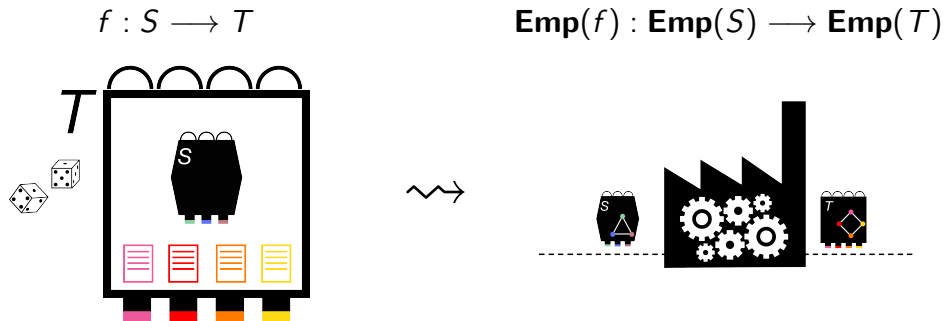
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**Probabilistic procedure**  $f : S \longrightarrow T$  is  $f = \sum_i r_i f_i$  where  $r_i \geq 0$ ,  $\sum_i r_i = 1$ , and  $f_i : S \longrightarrow T$  deterministic procedures.

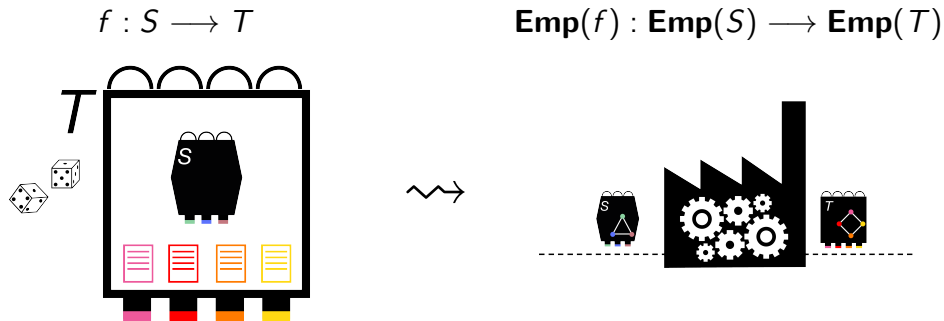
# Classical simulations

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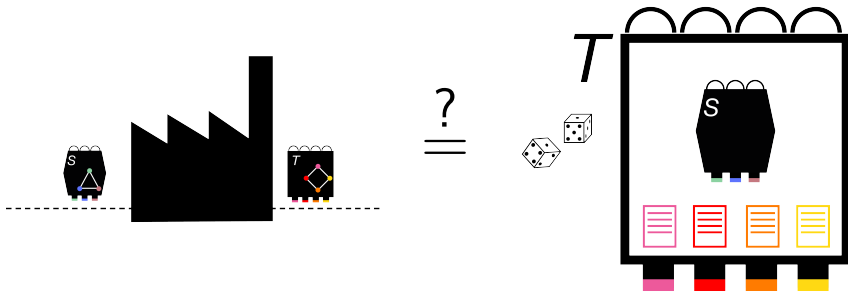
- ▶ Which black-box transformations arise in this fashion?

# Characterising free transformations

Main question and sketch of the answer

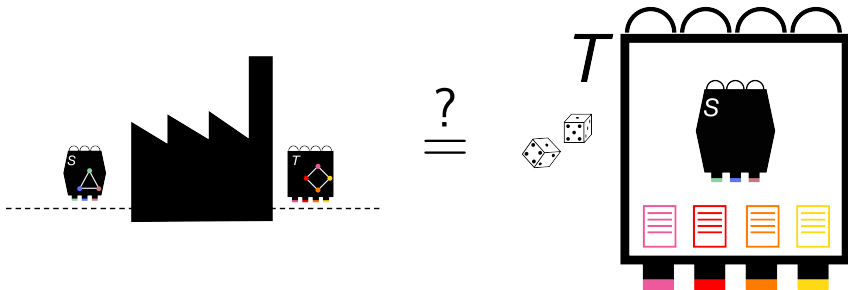
## Main question

Given  $F : \mathbf{Emp}(S) \rightarrow \mathbf{Emp}(T)$ , can it be realised by a classical procedure?  
I.e. is there a procedure  $f : S \rightarrow T$  s.t.  $F = \mathbf{Emp}(f)$ ?



## Relativising contextuality

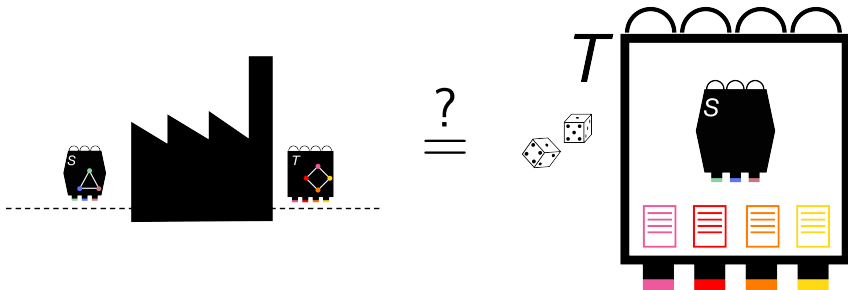
Given  $F : \mathbf{Emp}(S) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Emp}(T)$ , can it be realised by an experimental procedure? I.e. is there a procedure  $f : S \longrightarrow T$  s.t.  $F = \mathbf{Emp}(f)$ ?



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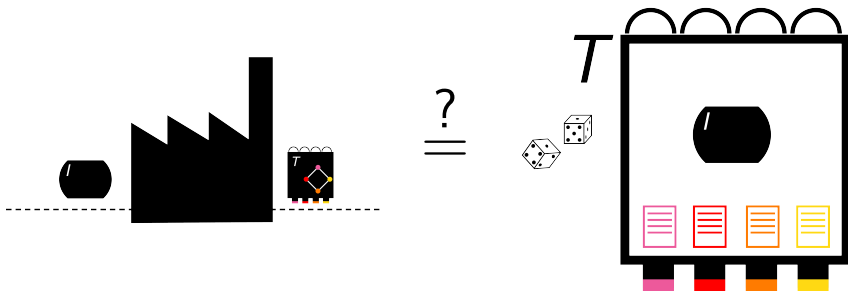


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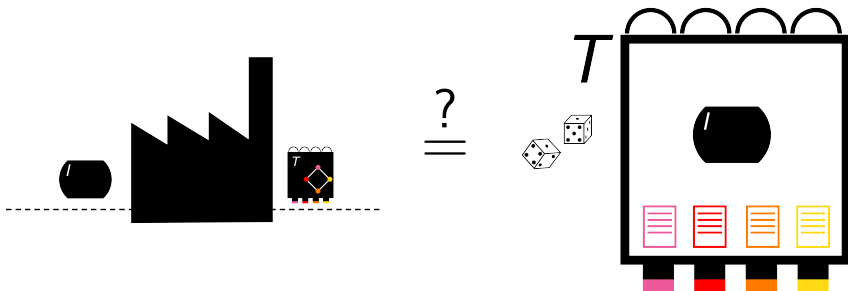


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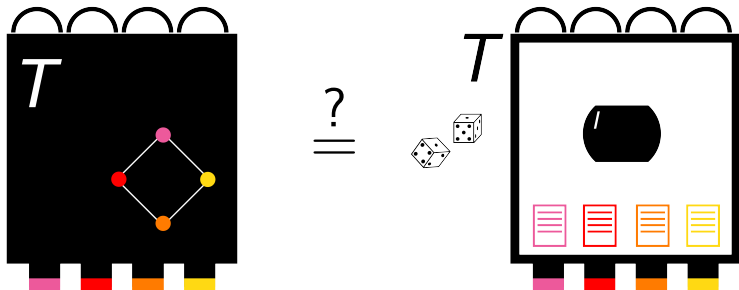


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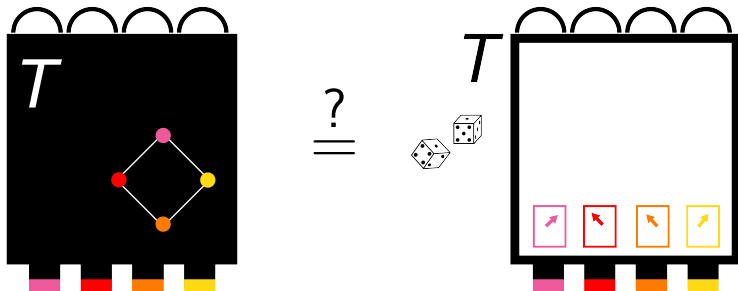


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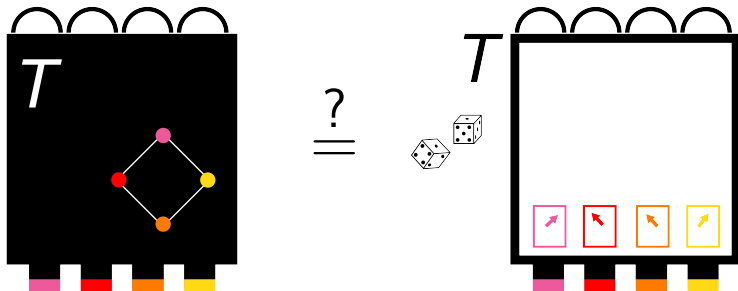


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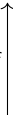
Given an empirical model  $e \in \mathbf{Emp}(T)$ , is it noncontextual?  
(Non-contextual models are those which can be simulated from nothing.)



## From objects to morphisms ...

Given  $F : \mathbf{Emp}(S) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Emp}(T)$ , can it be realised by an classical procedure?  
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## From objects to morphisms ... and back!

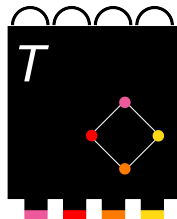
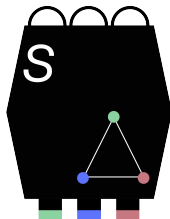
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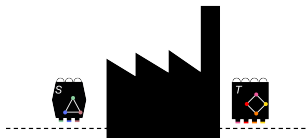
## Answering the question by internalisation



From two scenarios  $S$  and  $T$ , we build a new scenario  $[S, T]$ .

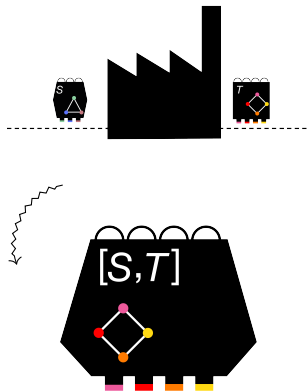


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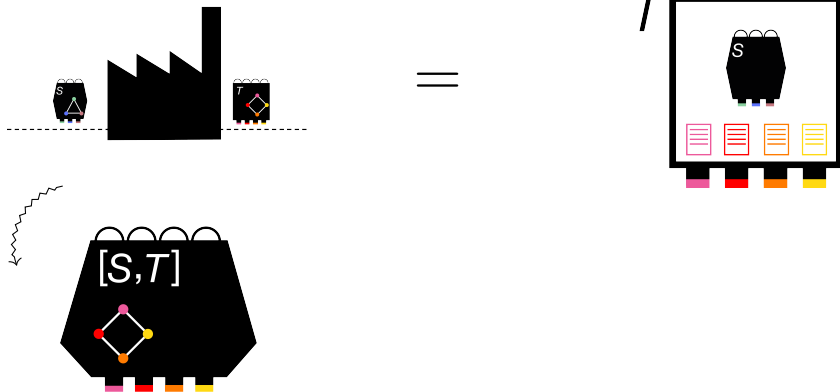
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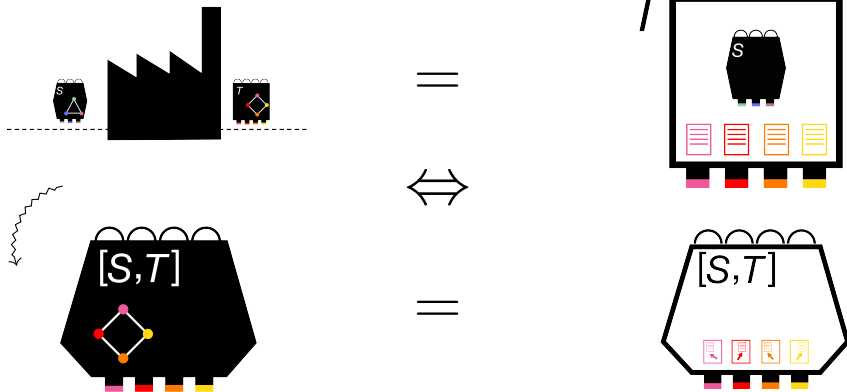
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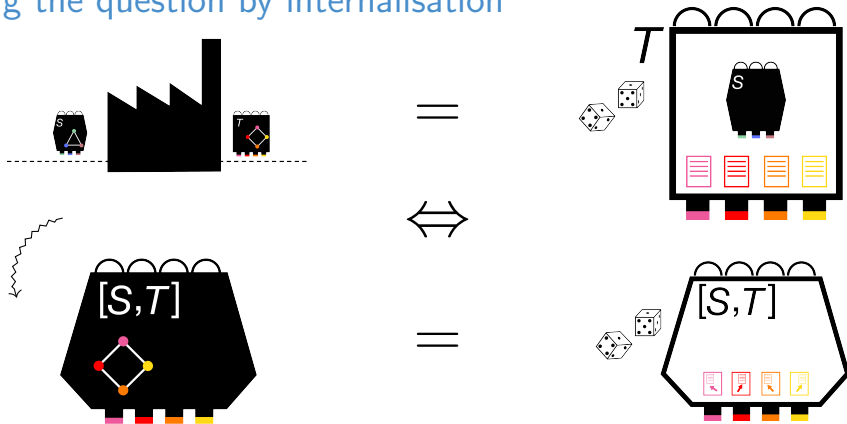
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 $F$  is realised by a **deterministic procedure** iff  $e_F$  is **deterministic**.

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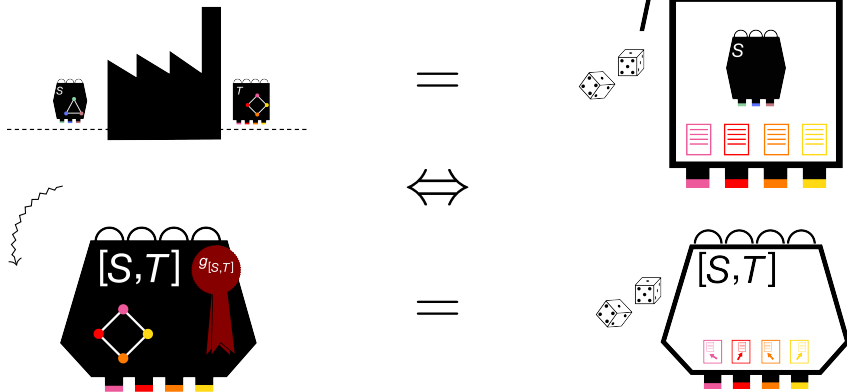


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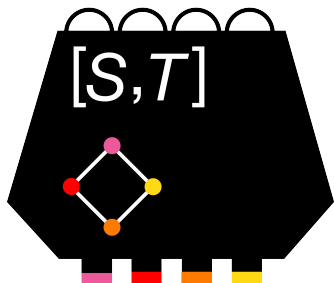


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 $F$  is realised by a deterministic procedure iff  $e_F$  is deterministic and satisfies  $g_{[S, T]}$ .  
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Further details

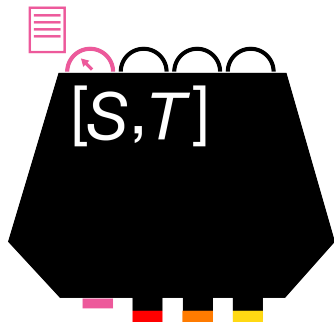
## The hom scenario $[S, T]$

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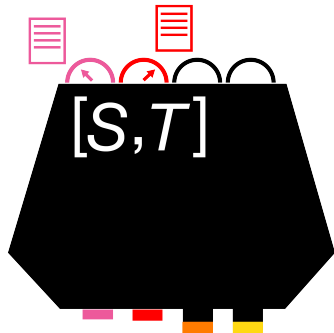


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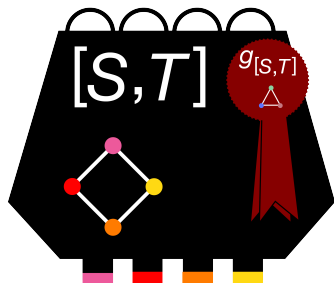
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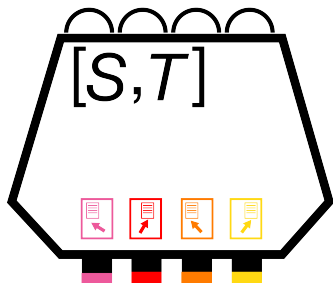
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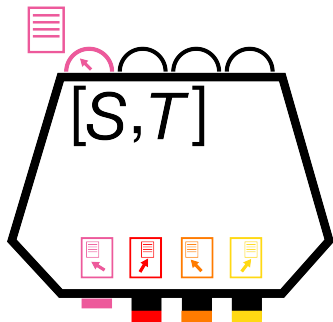
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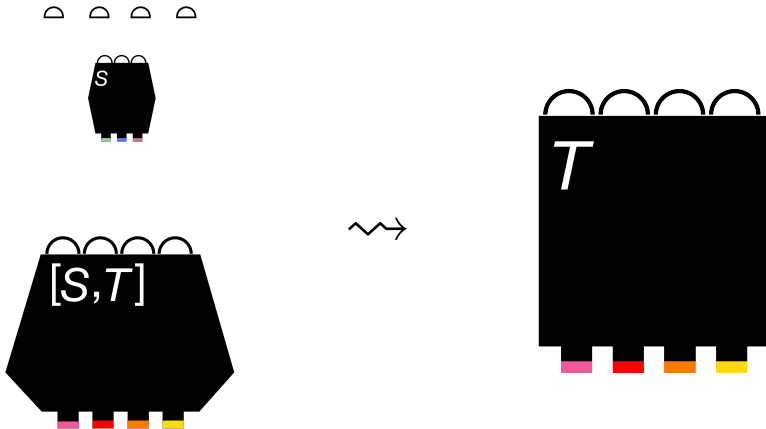
## Evaluation map

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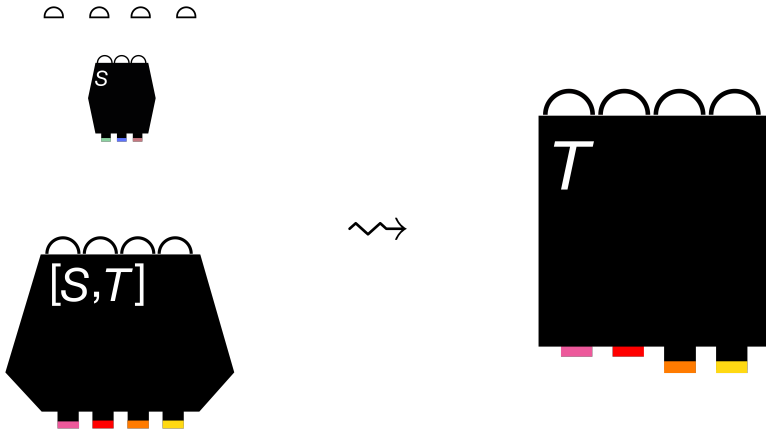
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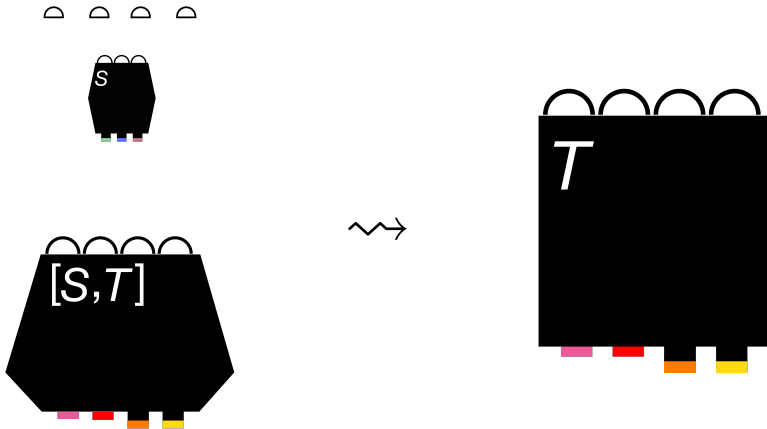
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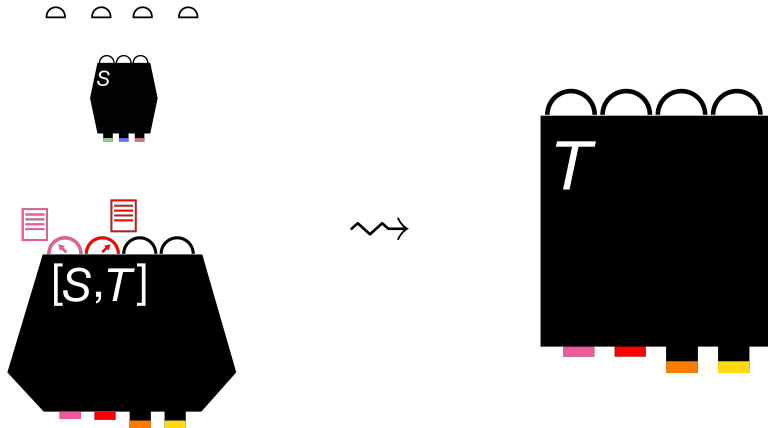
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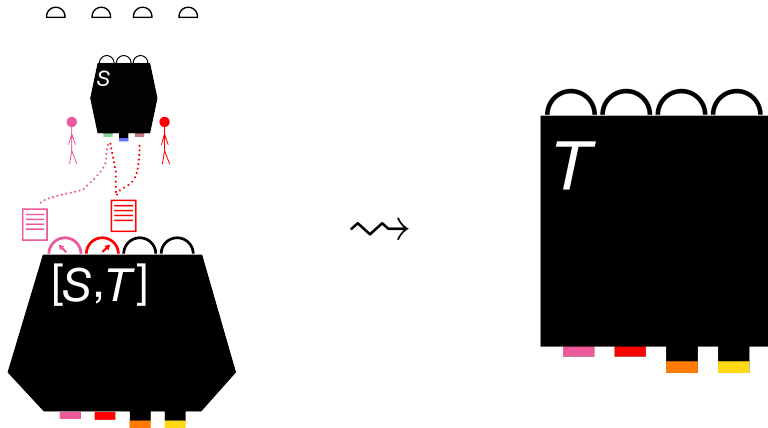
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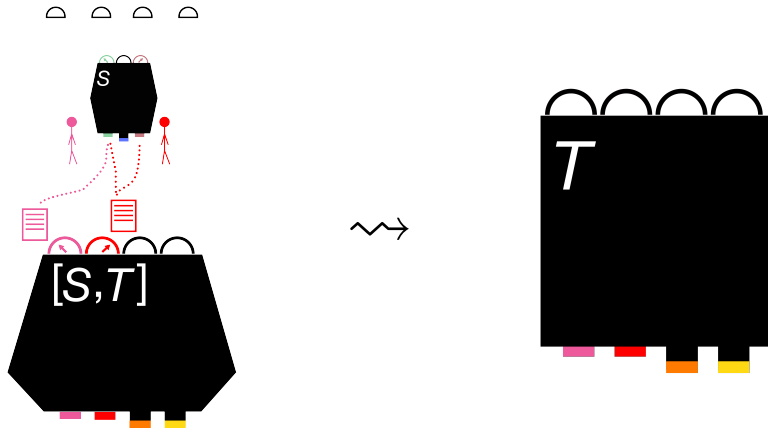
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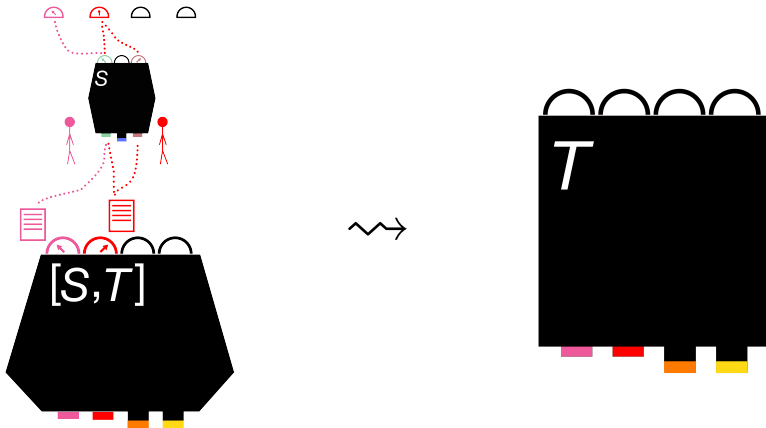
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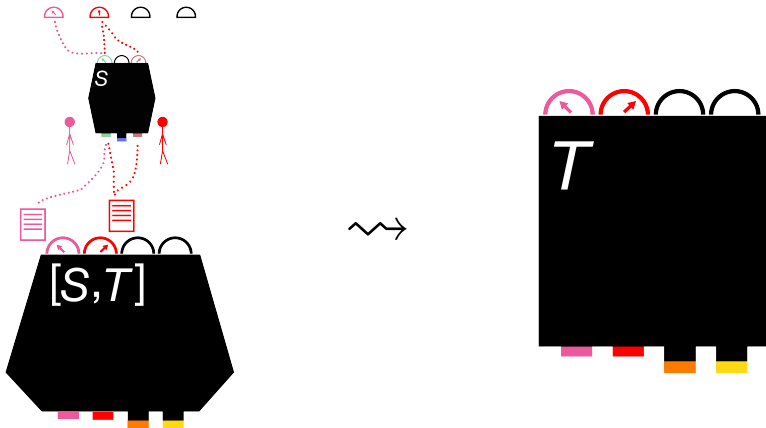
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Therefore, a convex-preserving function  $\mathbf{Emp}(S) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Emp}(T)$  is determined by its action on deterministic models,  $\mathbf{Det}(S)$ .



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An  $S$ -experiment valued in  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  is a classical procedure  $S \longrightarrow \mathbf{n}$ .

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Similarly,  $\sum r_i f_i$  is induced by an experiment if each  $U_{f_i}$  is a compatible set of measurements.

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This in turn amounts to giving, for each context, some probabilistic data – an empirical model?

## Answering the question III: internalisation

A convex-preserving map  $F : \mathbf{Emp}(S) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Emp}(T)$  is determined by its action on  $\mathbf{Det}(S)$ .

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### Lemma

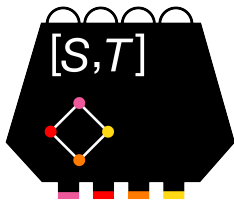
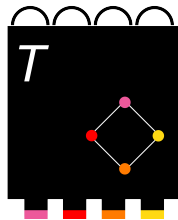
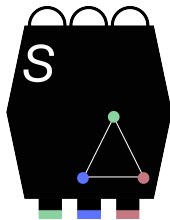
*A convex-preserving function  $F : \mathbf{Emp}(S) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Emp}(T)$  induces a canonical no-signalling empirical model  $e_F : [S, T]$ .*

# Main results

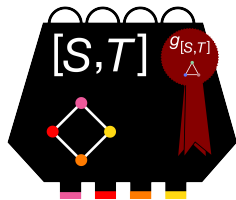
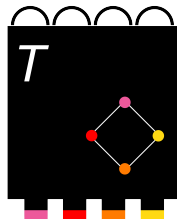
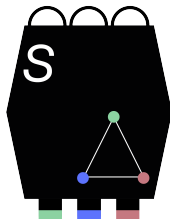
## Theorem

*$F$  is induced by a classical procedure iff  $e_F$  is non-contextual and satisfies  $g_{[S, T]}$ .*

## Caveat: adding predicates

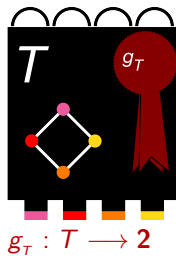
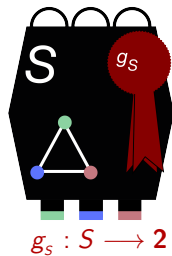


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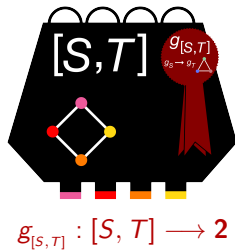
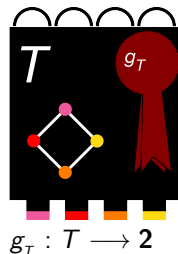
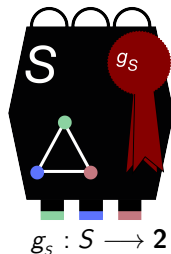


$$g_{[S,T]} : [S, T] \longrightarrow 2$$

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## Theorem

*$[-, -]$  (appropriately modified) makes this category into a closed category.*

Closed structure

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$$\boxed{L_{S,T}^R : [S, T] \longrightarrow [[R, S], [R, T]]}$$



# Getting closure

## Closed category

$$[-, -] : \mathbf{Scen}^{\text{op}} \times \mathbf{Scen} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Scen}$$

- ▶  $i_S : S \xrightarrow{\cong} [I, S]$  natural in  $S$
- ▶  $j_S : I \longrightarrow [S, S]$  extranatural in  $S$  (identity transformations)
- ▶  $L_{S,T}^R : [S, T] \longrightarrow [[R, S], [R, T]]$  natural in  $S, T$ , extranatural in  $R$  (curried composition)
- ▶ + reasonable coherence axioms

# Outlook

## Further questions

- ▶ External characterisation of adaptive procedures?

Note that  $[S, T]$  can be defined in the adaptive case, but there is no obvious way of building a canonical adaptive empirical model out of a convex-preserving function  $\mathbf{Emp}(S) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Emp}(T)$ .

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- ▶ Doing the same possibilistically?

- ▶ Does the set of all predicates on  $S$  generalise partial Boolean algebras to arbitrary measurement compatibility structures?

- ▶ Examining the closed structure?

Note that it's not monoidal wrt. the usual monoidal structure, but seems closed wrt a 'directed' tensor product.

Questions...

?