Translating proofs of the Kochen-Specker theorem into noise-robust noncontextuality inequalities

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Operational theory



Operational theory



Ontological model of an operational theory

 $\lambda \in \Lambda$ Ontic state space

causally mediates between P and M

Operational theory



Ontological model of an operational theory



 $p(X|M,P) = \sum_{\lambda} \xi(X|M,\lambda) \mu(\lambda|P)$

An ontological model of an operational theory is noncontextual if

Operational equivalence of two experimental procedures Equivalent representations in the ontological model

RWS, Phys. Rev. A 71, 052108 (2005)

Preparation Noncontextuality



















Measurement Noncontextuality

















The best explanation of context-independence at the operational level is context-independence at the ontological level

KS noncontextuality versus Measurement noncontextuality

KS noncontextuality:



This is equivalent to assuming:



 $\{|\psi_1\rangle\langle\psi_1|, \ I-|\psi_1\rangle\langle\psi_1|\}$

By what grounds do we justify representing two measurement devices by the same set of projectors?









Compatibility of measurements in terms of joint simulatability





Difference of context



Sources that are operationally equivalent after marginalization over outcome


$$\mu(\lambda, s|S) = \mu(\lambda|s, S) \operatorname{Pr}(s)$$
$$= \mu(\lambda|P_s) \operatorname{Pr}(s)$$



$$\sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \xi(m|M,\lambda) \mu(\lambda,s|S) = \operatorname{pr}(m,s|M,S).$$



$$\mu(\lambda, s|S) = \mu(\lambda|s, S) \operatorname{Pr}(s)$$
$$= \mu(\lambda|P_s) \operatorname{Pr}(s)$$









Robust noncontextuality inequality from state-independent proof of KS theorem

Kunjwal and RWS, PRL 115, 110403 (2015)

State-independent proof of no-go

18 ray proof in 4d Cabello, Estebaranz, Garcia-Alcaine, Phys. Lett. A 212, 183 (1996)













No KS noncontextual assignments





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Operational equivalences in the set of mmts





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Operational equivalences in the set of mmts

Contradiction

measurement noncontextuality + KS-noncontextuality outcome determinism



In face of contradiction, we could give up outcome determinism

Justifying outcome determinism

















 $\forall i : \operatorname{pr}(m_i, s_i | M_i, S_i) = 1$

Operational grounds for assuming outcome determinism



1. Preparation noncontextuality

$$P_S^{\text{ave}} \simeq P_{S'}^{\text{ave}} \implies \mu(\lambda|S) = \mu(\lambda|S')$$

2. Operational equivalences in the set of sources

$$\forall i, i' : P_{S_i}^{\mathsf{ave}} \simeq P_{S_{i'}}^{\mathsf{ave}}$$

(1) and (2)
$$\longrightarrow \forall i, i' : \mu(\lambda | S_i) = \mu(\lambda | S_{i'}) \equiv \nu(\lambda)$$

$$pr(m_i, s_i | M_i, S_i) = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \xi(m_i | M_i, \lambda) \mu(s_i, \lambda | S_i)$$
$$= \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \xi(m_i | M_i, \lambda) \mu(s_i | \lambda, S_i) \mu(\lambda | S_i)$$
$$= \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \xi(m_i | M_i, \lambda) \mu(s_i | \lambda, S_i) \nu(\lambda)$$

$$\operatorname{pr}(m_i, s_i | M_i, S_i) = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \xi(m_i | M_i, \lambda) \mu(s_i | \lambda, S_i) \nu(\lambda)$$

3. Perfect Correlation between outcomes of S_i and M_i for all i

$$\forall i : \operatorname{pr}(m_i = s_i | M_i, S_i) = 1$$

$$\longrightarrow \quad \forall \lambda \in \operatorname{supp}(\nu) : \xi(m_i | M_i, \lambda) \in \{0, 1\}$$

Outcome determinism

Note: precisely parallel to Bell's argument for outcome determinism from perfect correlations and local causality

Justifying outcome determinism

Preparation noncontextuality Operational equivalences in the set of sources **Perfect Correlation** between outcomes of S_i and M_i for all i. Outcome determinism

measurement noncontextuality

> + outcome determinism

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Operational equivalences in the sets of mmts

Contradiction

Justifying outcome determinism

Preparation noncontextuality Operational equivalences in the set of sources **Perfect Correlation** between outcomes of S_i and M_i for all i. Outcome determinism





Contradiction w/ universal noncontextuality

Note: the no-go isn't state independent anymore

Translating this state-independent no-go result into a noncontextuality inequality







Proof: Corr
$$\equiv \frac{1}{9} \sum_{i=1}^{9} \text{pr}(m_i = s_i | M_i, S_i)$$

$$\operatorname{pr}(m_i = s_i | M_i, S_i) = \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \sum_{m_i, s_i} \delta_{m_i, s_i} \xi(m_i | M_i, \lambda) \mu(s_i | \lambda, S_i) \nu(\lambda)$$



$$\operatorname{Corr} \equiv \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \operatorname{Corr}(\lambda) \nu(\lambda)$$
$$\operatorname{Corr}(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{9} \sum_{m_i, s_i} \delta_{m_i, s_i} \xi(m_i | M_i, \lambda) \mu(s_i | \lambda, S_i)$$

The polytope of indeterministic NC assignments is 9d with 146 vertices

$$Corr \leq \frac{5}{6}$$





Robust noncontextuality inequality from state-dependent proof of KS theorem

Kunjwal and RWS, forthcoming

State-dependent proof of no-go
Klyachko, Can, Biniciolu, Shumovsky, PRL 101, 020403 (2008)



Special preparation

 $|\psi
angle\langle\psi|$



Measurements

R = average over mmts of probability of obtaining outer outcomes

$$R \leq \frac{4}{5}$$
 KS inequality



 $|\psi
angle\langle\psi|$



Measurements

R = average over mmts of probability of obtaining outer outcomes

$$R = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \simeq 0.89$$
 Quantum

Special preparation



 P_*

 M_1 \square M_5 Ο 0 0 (()Ο С M_2 0 Ο Ο Ο M_4 M_3

$$R \equiv \frac{1}{5} \sum_{i=1}^{5} \operatorname{pr}(m_i \in \{0, 2\} | M_i, P_*)$$

Measurements

Special preparation



 P_*

 M_1 \square M_5 Ο 0 / \int ()Ο С M_2 Ο \cap M_4 M_3

Measurements

$$R\equivrac{1}{5}\sum_{i=1}^5 \mathrm{pr}(m_i\in\{0,2\}|M_i,P_*)$$

 $R\leqrac{4}{5}$ KS inequality





Justifying outcome determinism Preparation noncontextuality Operational equivalences in the set of sources +**Perfect Correlation** between outcomes of S_i and M_i for all i. Outcome determinism





measurement noncontextuality Outcome determinism **Operational equivalences** in the set of mmts Violation of KS-inequality by statistics of mmts on special preparation Nonzero prob. of special preparation

 \Rightarrow Contradiction

Justifying outcome determinism

Preparation noncontextuality Operational equivalences in the set of sources **Perfect Correlation** between outcomes of S_i and M_i for all i.





 $\forall i, i' : P_{S_i}^{\mathsf{ave}} \simeq P_{S_{i'}}^{\mathsf{ave}} \simeq P_{S_*}^{\mathsf{ave}}$ S_1 S5 S_2 Ο 0 0 Δ Ο \cap Ο Ο S₄ Ο 0 S_3





$$\operatorname{Corr} \leq 1 - p_* \frac{5}{2} \left(R - \frac{4}{5} \right)$$

Noncontextuality inequality

Proof:

$$\lambda \in \Lambda_{d} \qquad \lambda \in \Lambda_{i}$$

$$Corr = p_{*}C_{*} + (1 - p_{*})$$

$$C_{*} = \sum_{\lambda} Corr(\lambda)\mu(\lambda|P_{*})$$

$$(1 - \frac{5}{2}\left(R - \frac{4}{5}\right))$$

$$\mu_{d/i} \equiv \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda_{d/i}} \mu(\lambda|P_{*})$$

$$\mu_{d} + \mu_{i} = 1$$

$$R = \frac{4}{5}\mu_{d} + \mu_{i}$$

$$C_{*} = \mu_{d} + \frac{1}{2}\mu_{i}$$

 $\forall i, i' : P_{S_i}^{\mathsf{ave}} \simeq P_{S_{i'}}^{\mathsf{ave}} \simeq P_{S_*}^{\mathsf{ave}}$ S_1 S5 S_2 Ο 0 0 Δ Ο \cap Ο Ο S₄ Ο 0 S_3





$$\operatorname{Corr} \leq 1 - p_* \frac{5}{2} \left(R - \frac{4}{5} \right)$$

Noncontextuality inequality

$$\forall i, i' : P_{S_i}^{\mathsf{ave}} \simeq P_{S_{i'}}^{\mathsf{ave}} \simeq P_{S_*}^{\mathsf{ave}}$$



Conclusions

We have a general technique for inferring NC inequalities from state-independent and state-dependent proofs of KS theorem.

These are applicable to unsharp (i.e., noisy) measurements and mixed states and can be tested on experimental data

Contending with noise is critical if one hopes to use contextuality as a resource for information processing

One can leverage graph-theoretic results to derive inequalities for arbitrary proofs (forthcoming by Kunjwal)

It is possible to extend these techniques to derive **all** NC inequalities (see Krishna, RWS, Wolfe, arXiv:1704.01153)

References

Contextuality for preparations, transformations and unsharp measurements RWS, Phys. Rev. A 71, 052108 (2005)

From the Kochen-Specker theorem to noncontextuality inequalities without assuming determinism Kunjwal and RWS, PRL 115, 110403 (2015)

Robust noncontextuality inequalities from state-dependent proofs of the Kochen-Specker theorem Kunjwal and RWS, forthcoming