

# Three-dimensionality of space and the quantum bit: an information-theoretic approach

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Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo (Canada)

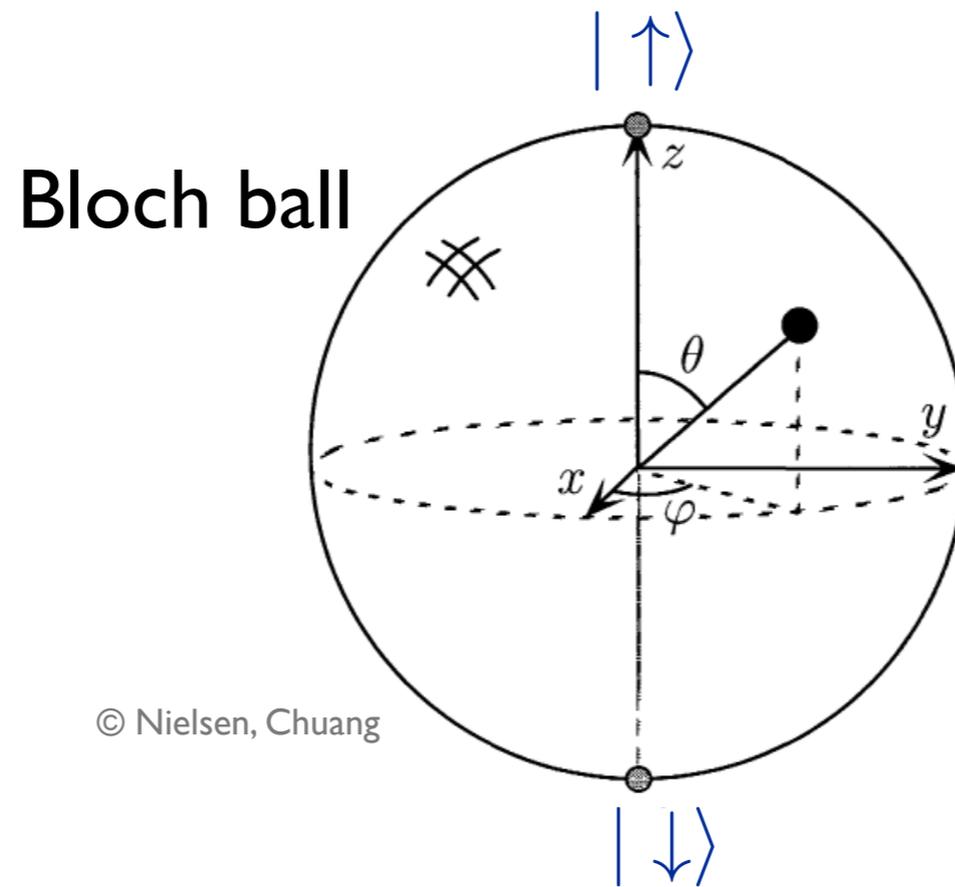
joint work with Lluís Masanes

ICFO-Institut de Ciències Fotòniques, Barcelona



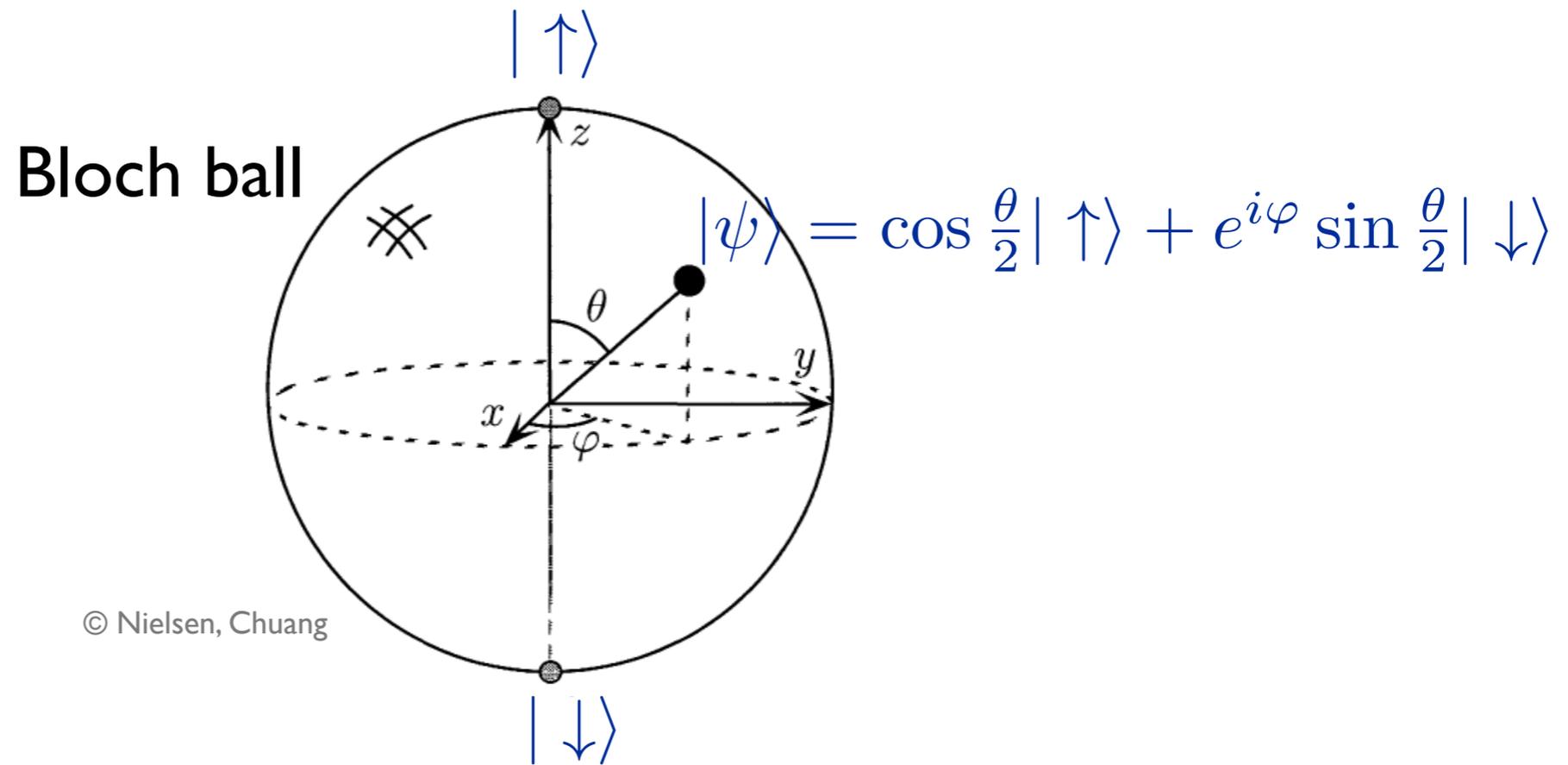
# A surprising coincidence

State space of quantum 2-level system is a **3D Euclidean ball**:



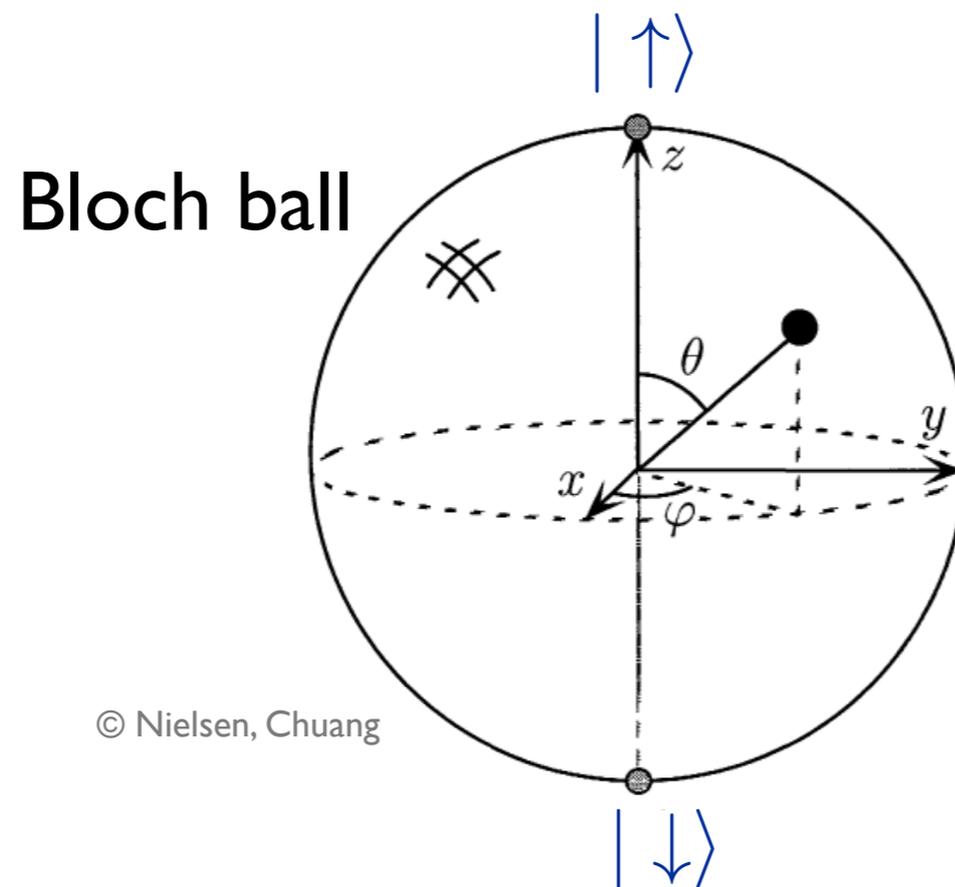
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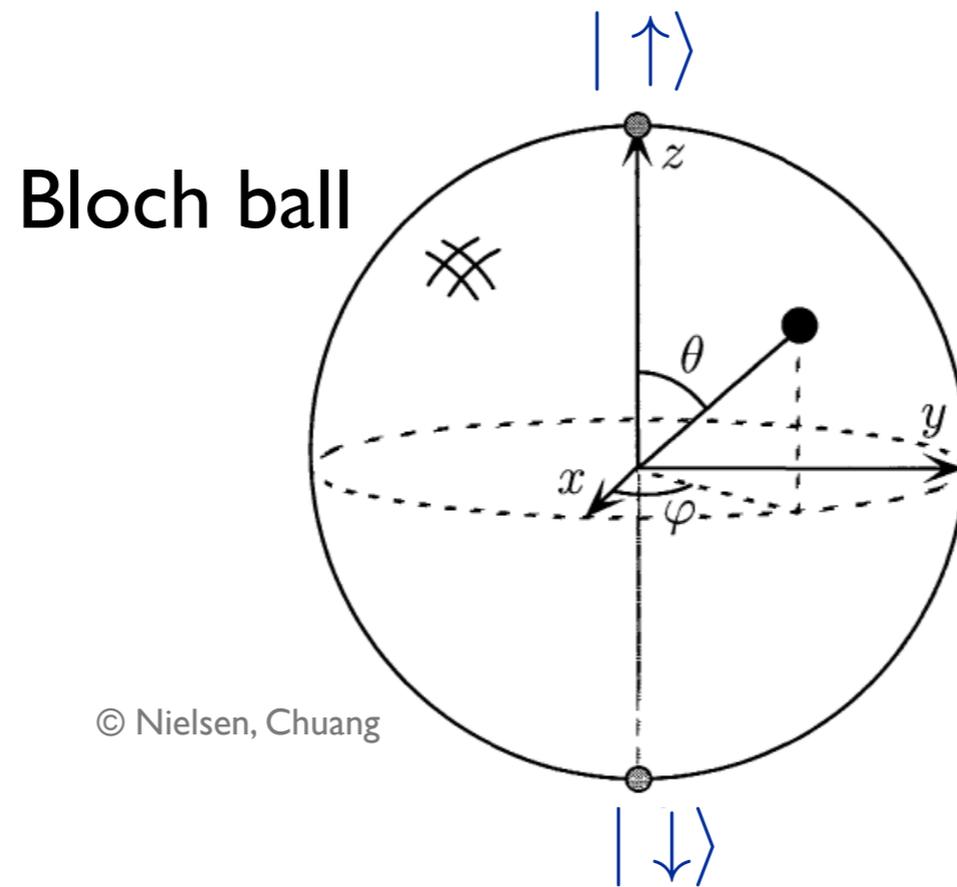
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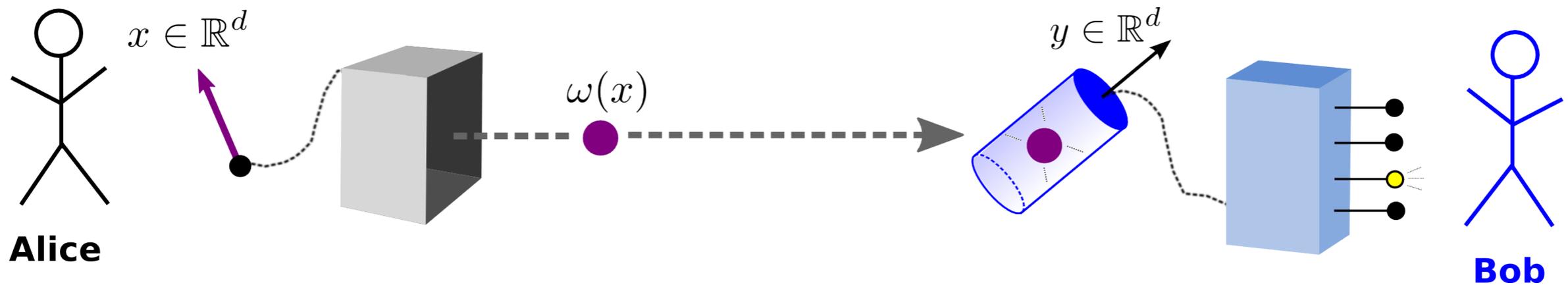
Space is also **3-dimensional!** Is there some deeper reason for this?

**Probability**  $\longleftrightarrow$  **(Spacetime) geometry**

# Our approach

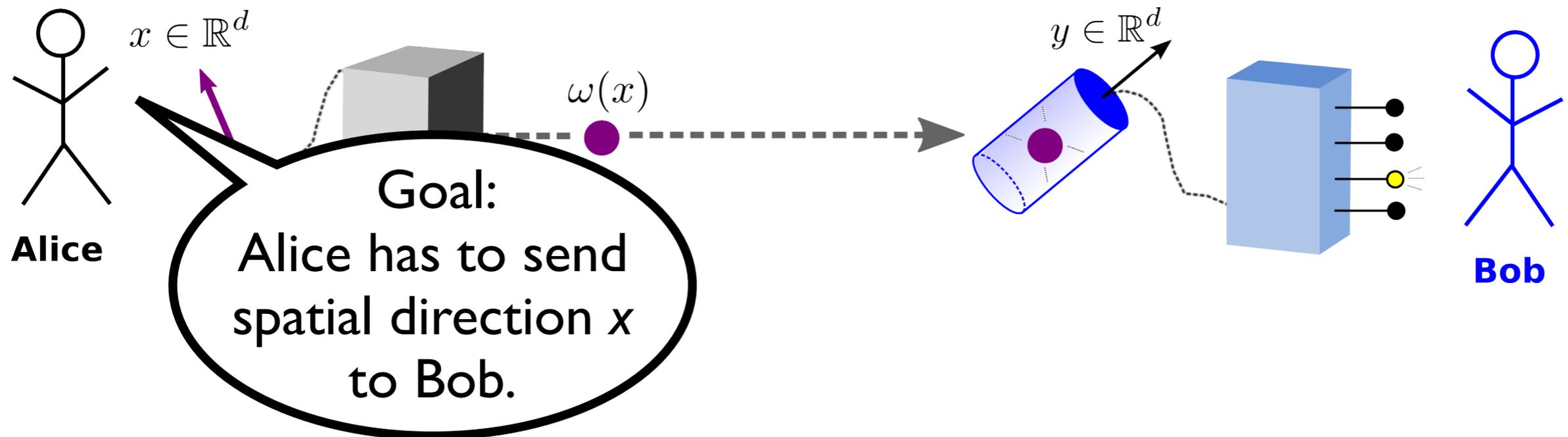
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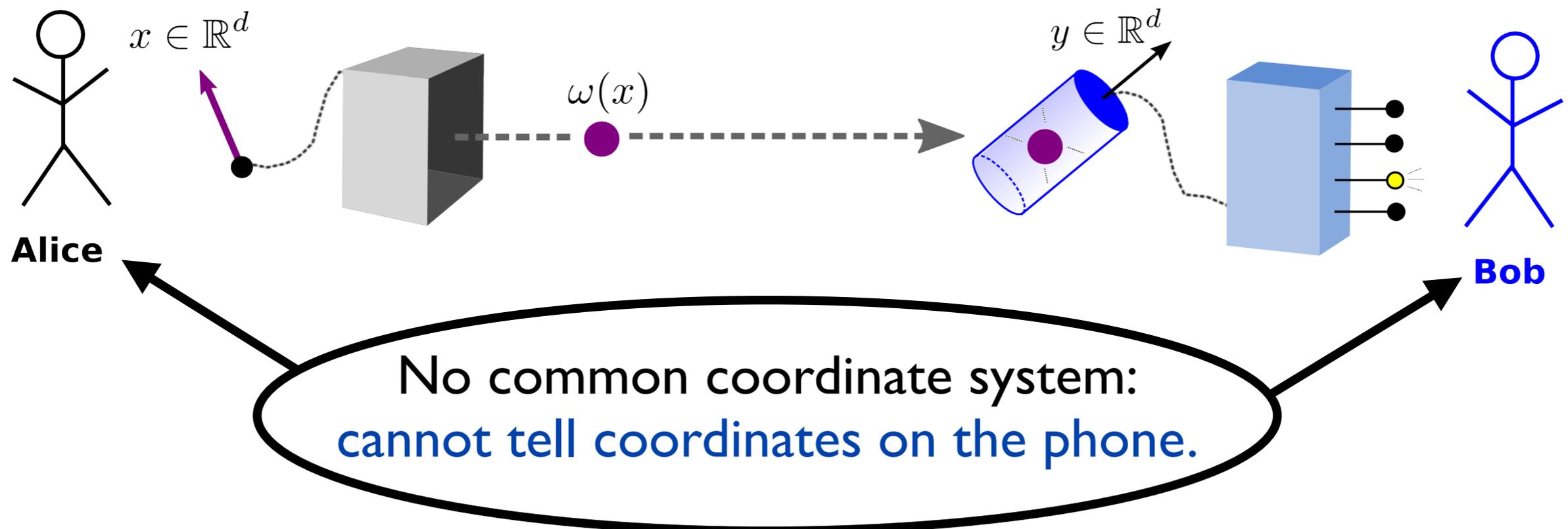
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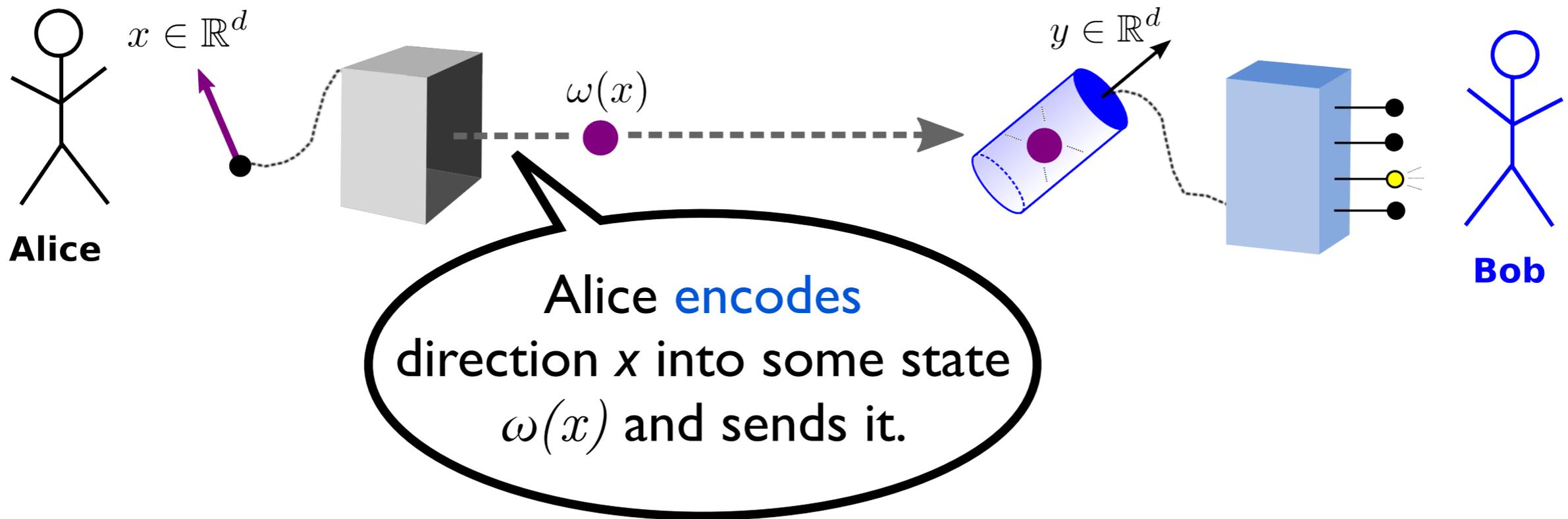
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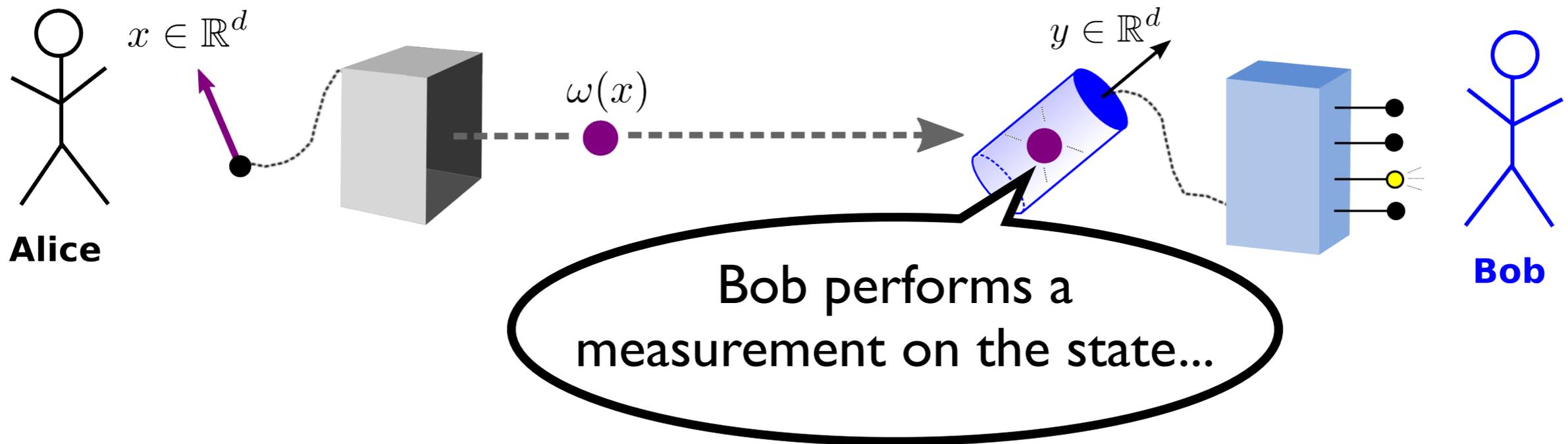
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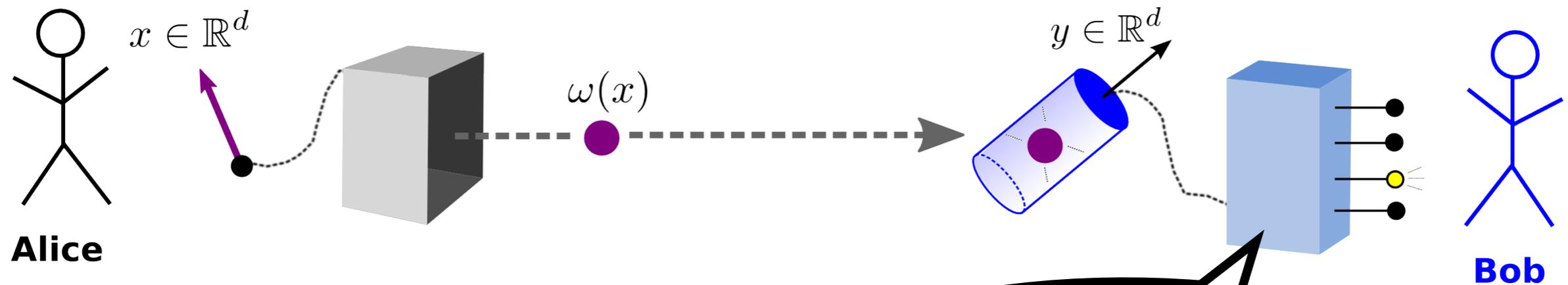
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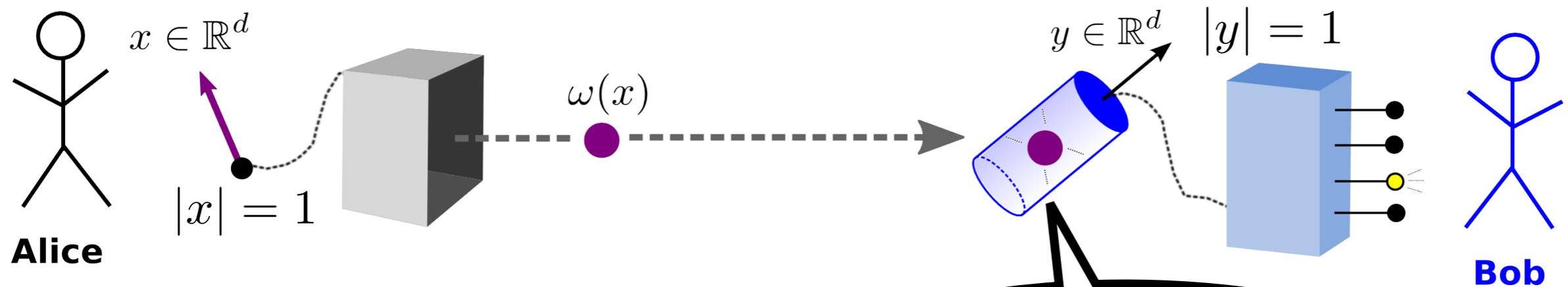
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... and obtains one of several outcomes with some probability.

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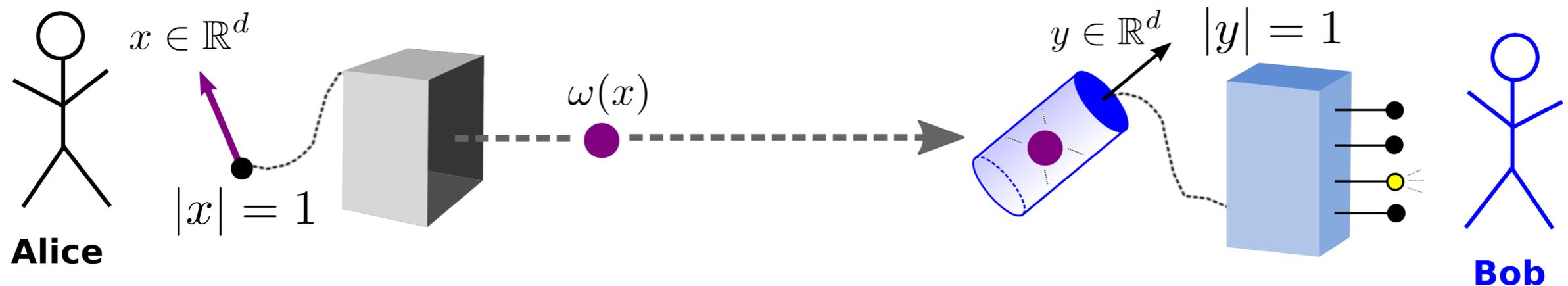
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Bob may rotate his device into different directions  $y$ .

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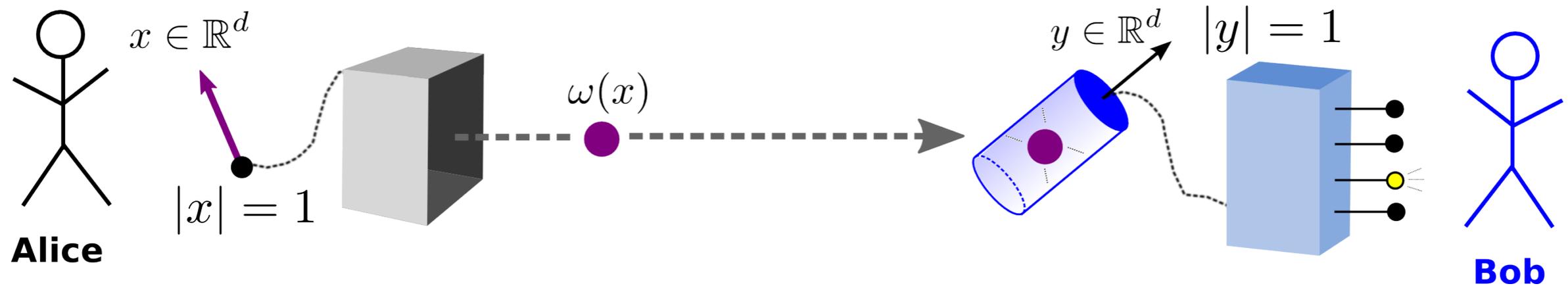


Example within quantum theory:

- spin-1/2 particle with "spin up" in  $x$ -direction,
- Stern-Gerlach measurement device.

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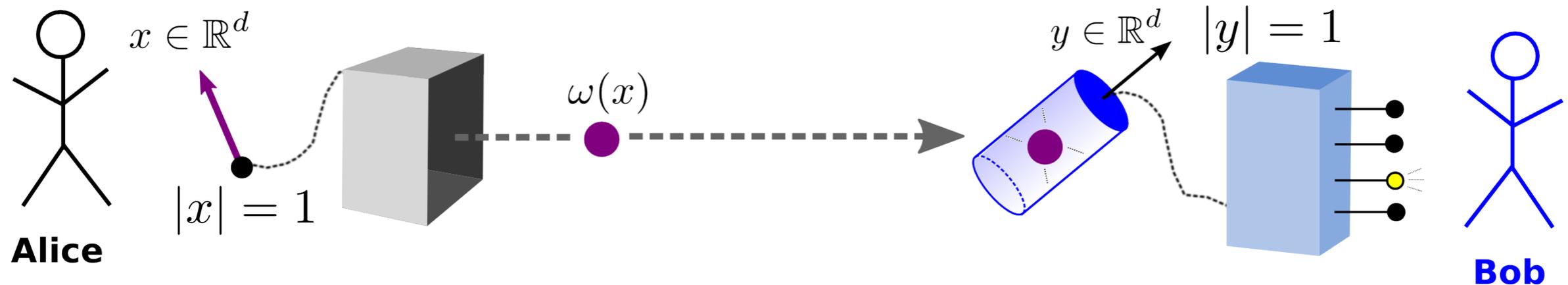
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Here we do **not** assume quantum theory.

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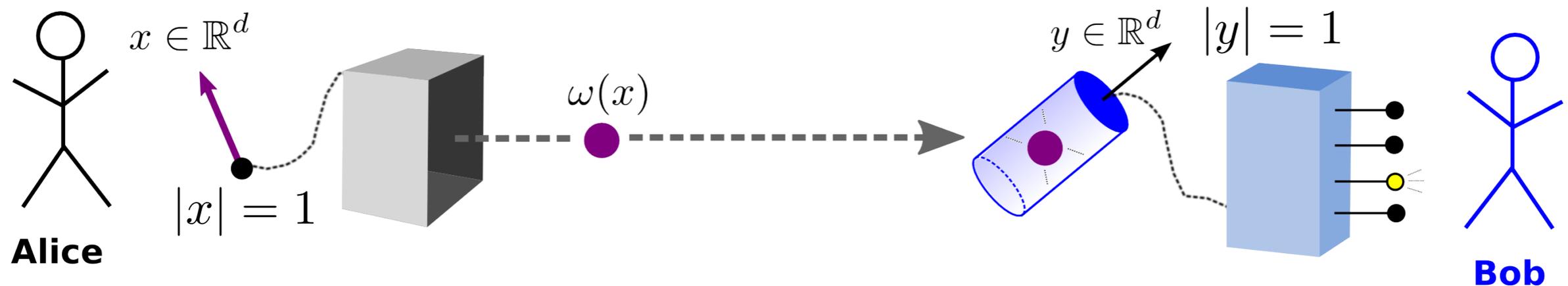


IF

- Bob can determine  $x$  in the limit of many copies, but
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**IF**

- Bob can **determine  $x$**  in the limit of many copies, but
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- the **information carriers** can interact continuously and reversibly in time,

**THEN**

- necessarily  **$d=3$**  and
- **quantum theory** holds for **information carriers** (we get unitary time evolution, entanglement, QT state space).

# Overview

1. Overview

2. Convex state spaces

3. The postulates

4. Deriving  $d=3$  and quantum theory

5. What does all this tell us?

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 2. Convex state spaces

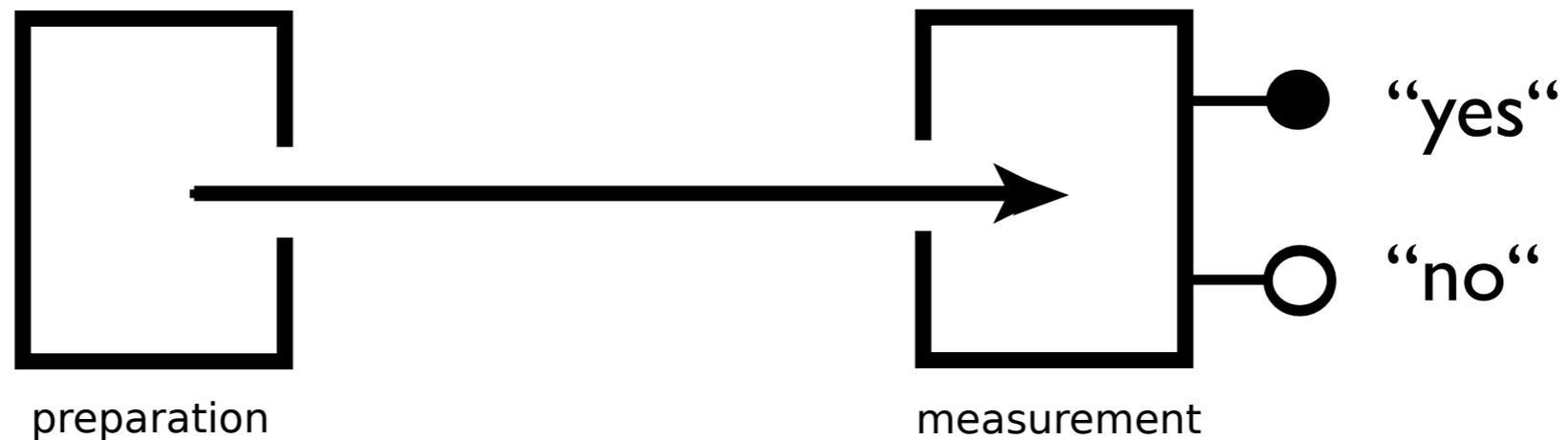
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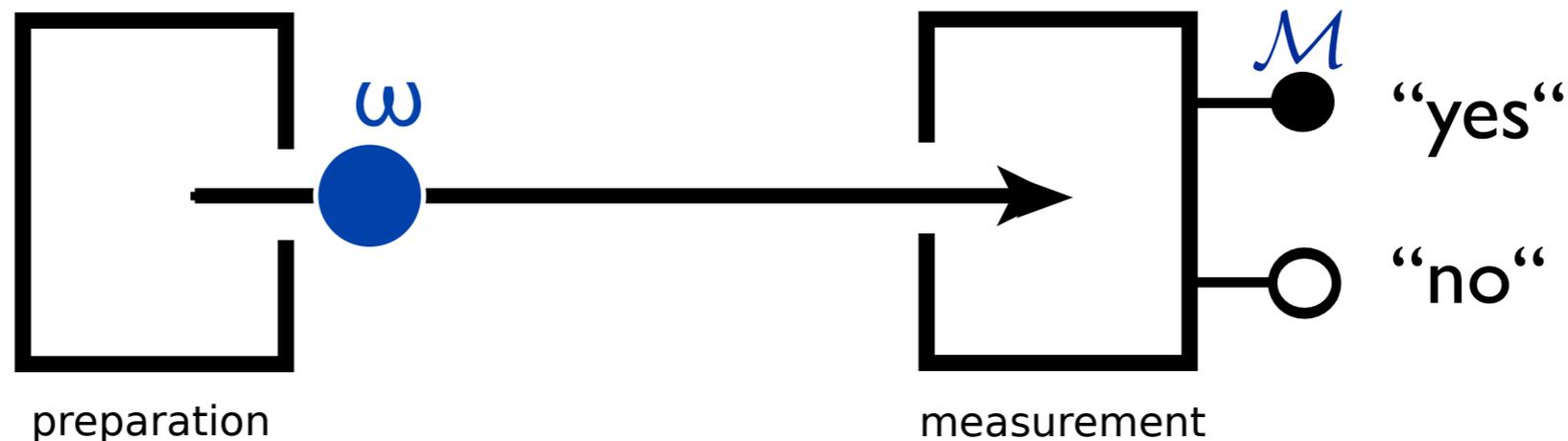
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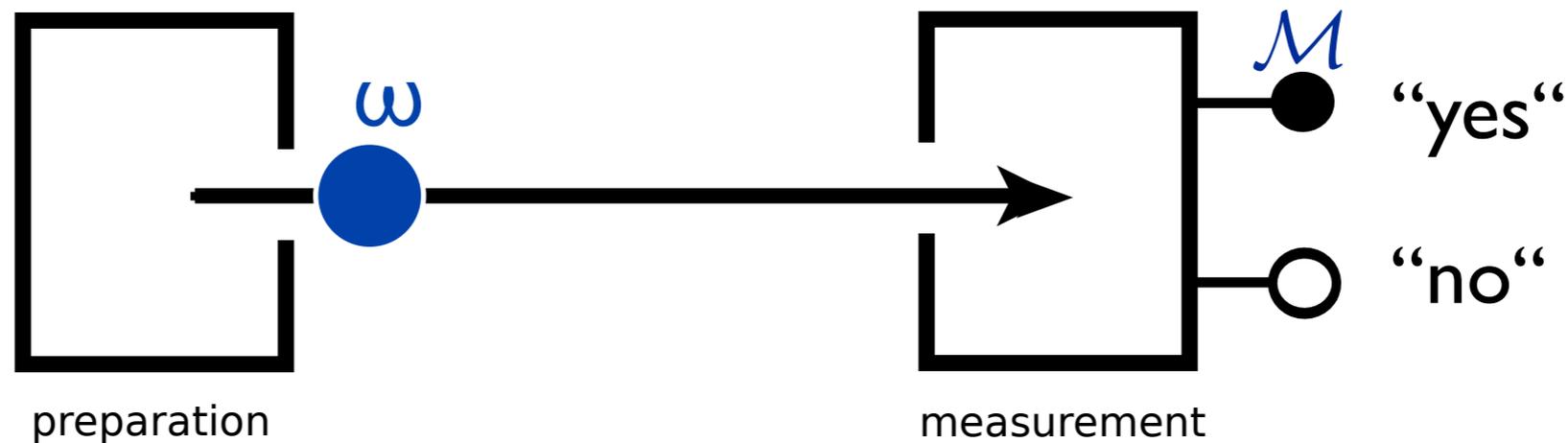


- Physical systems can be in some **state  $\omega$** . From this, probabilities of outcomes of all possible measurements can be computed:

$\text{Prob}(\text{outcome "yes" in this measurement} \mid \text{input state } \omega) =: \mathcal{M}(\omega).$

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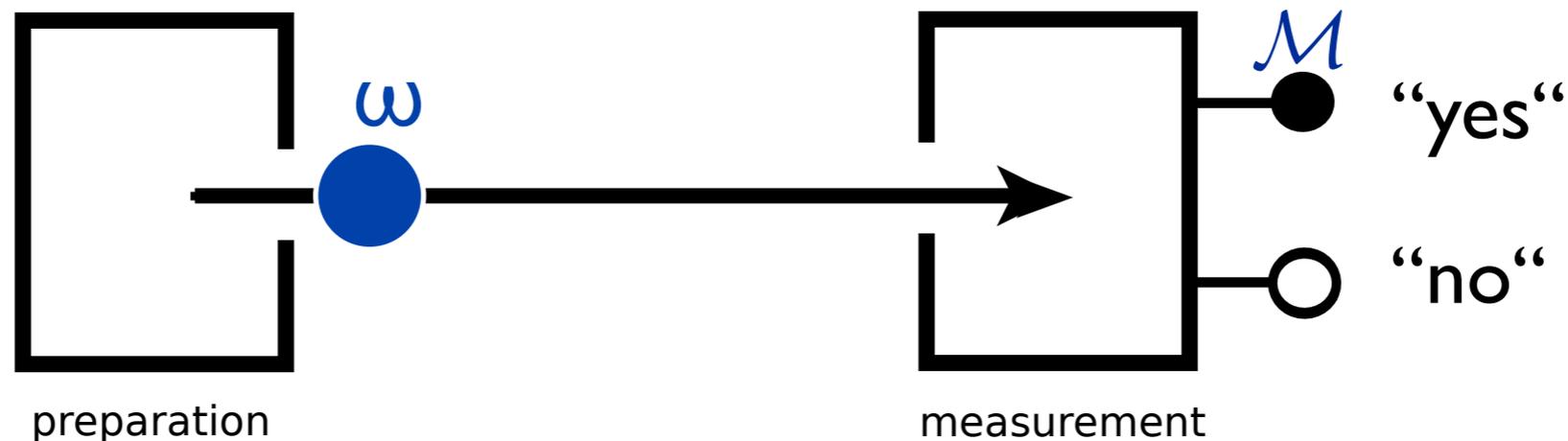


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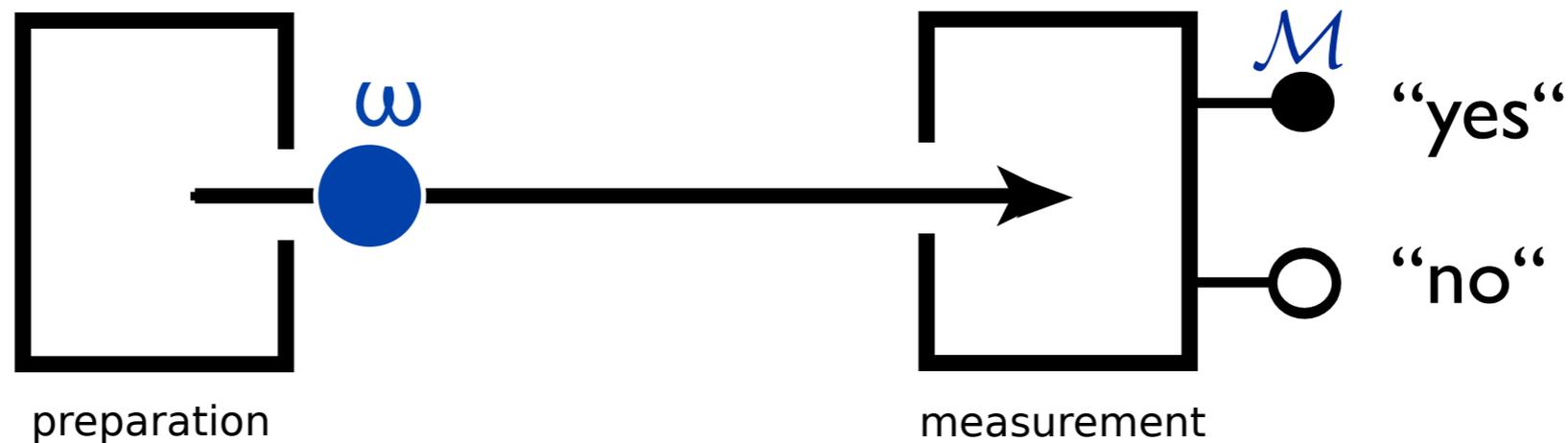
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- Statistical mixtures are described by **convex combinations**: prepare  $\omega$  with prob.  $p$  and state  $\varphi$  with prob.  $(1-p)$ , result:

$$p\omega + (1-p)\varphi$$

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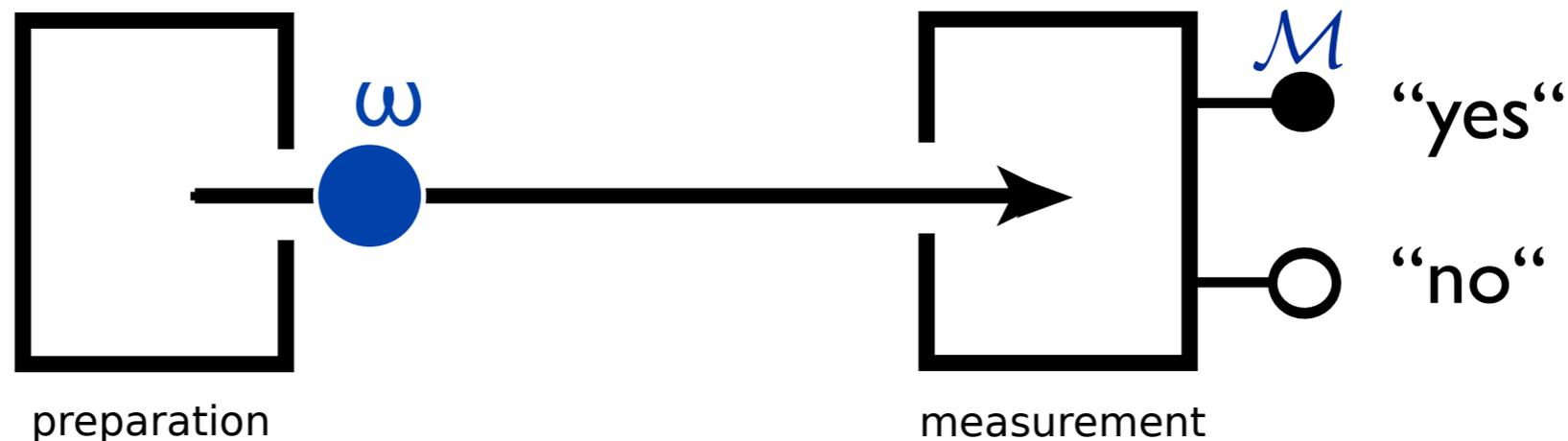


- Consequence: events  $\mathcal{M}$  are affine-linear maps:

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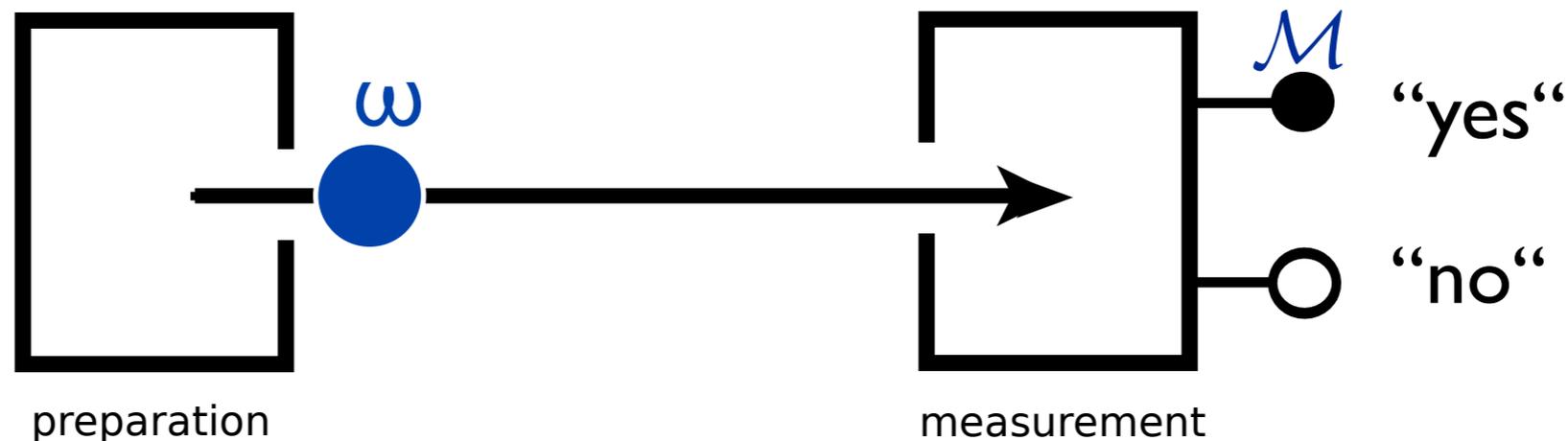
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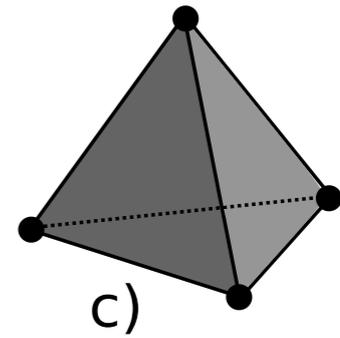
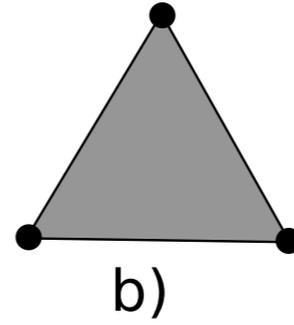
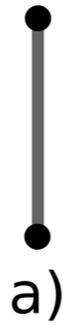
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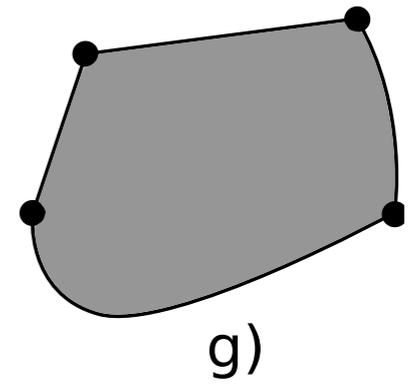
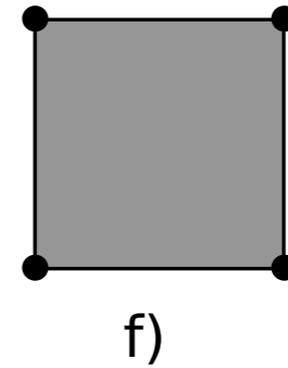
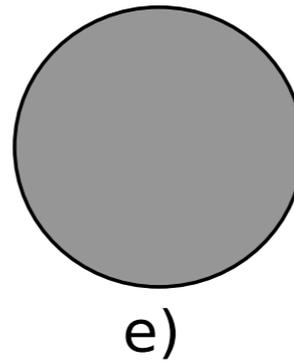
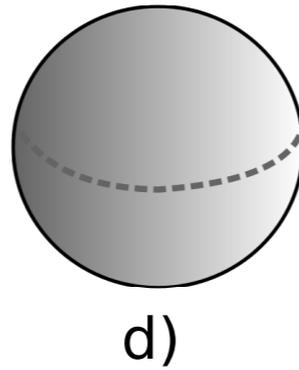
Extremal points are **pure states**, others mixed.



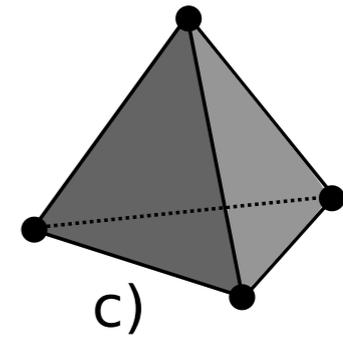
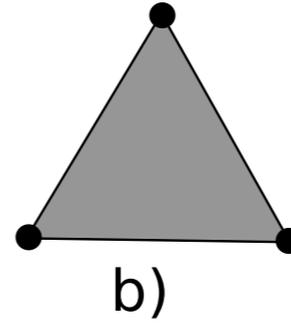
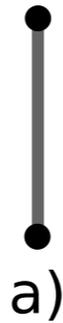
## 2. Convex state spaces



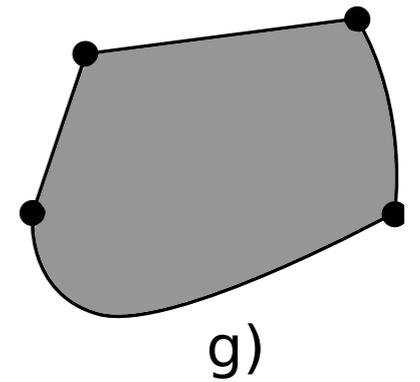
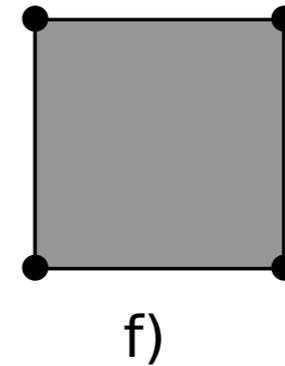
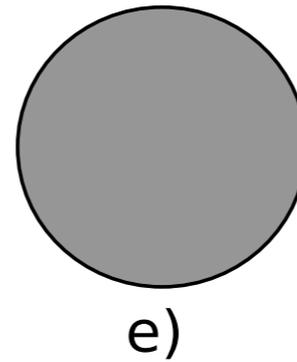
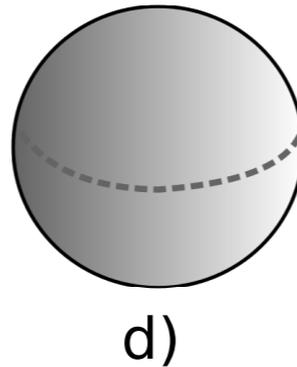
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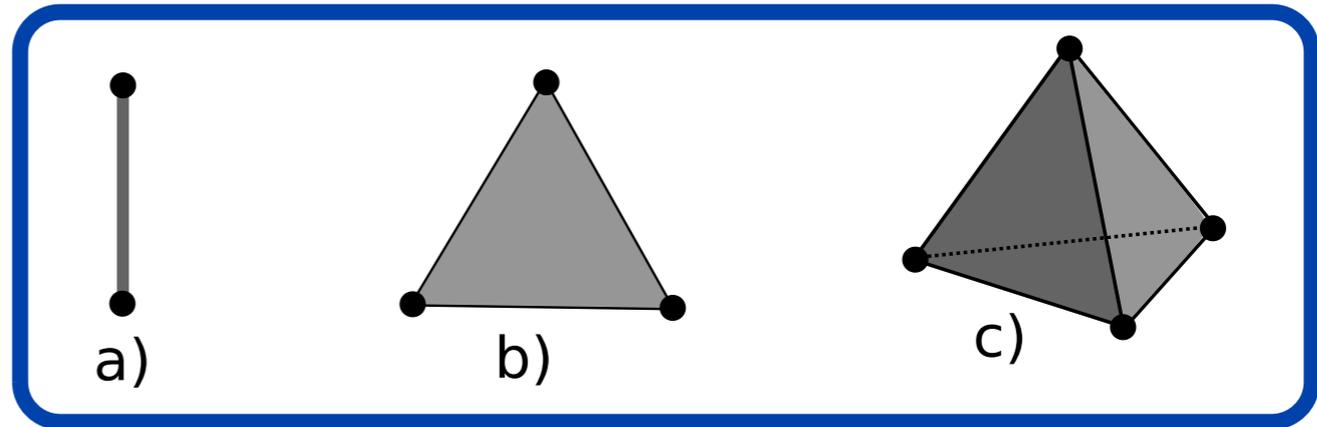


- Classical  $n$ -level system:

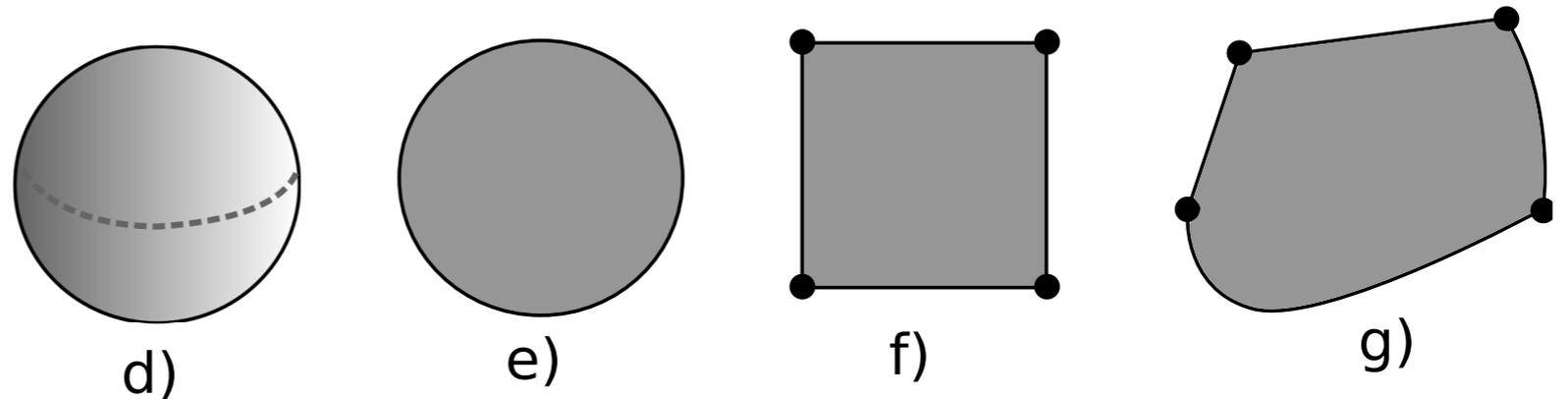
$$\Omega = \{ \omega = (p_1, \dots, p_n) \mid p_i \geq 0, \sum_i p_i = 1 \}.$$

$n$  pure states:  $\omega_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, \omega_n = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$ .

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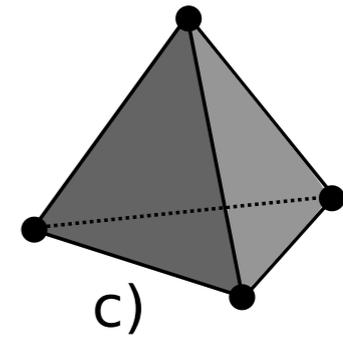
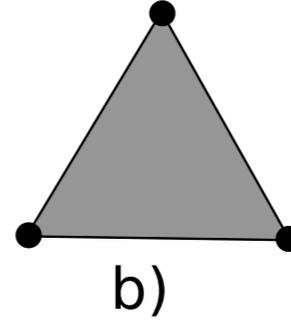
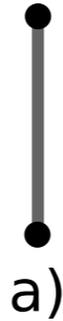
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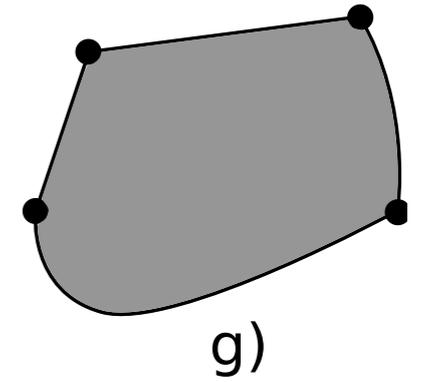
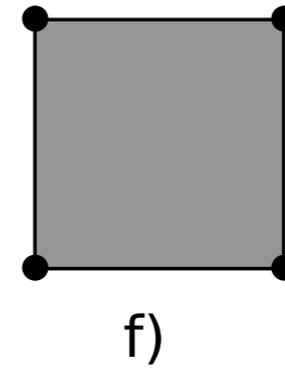
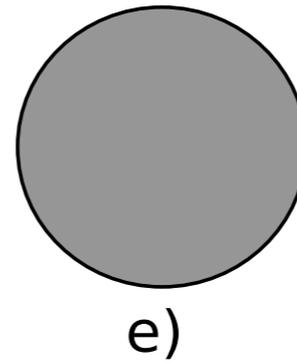
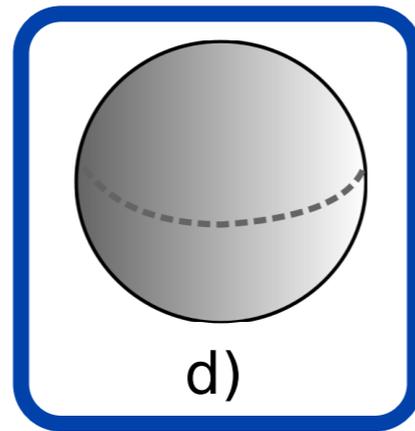
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a), b), c): classical 2-, 3-, 4-level systems.

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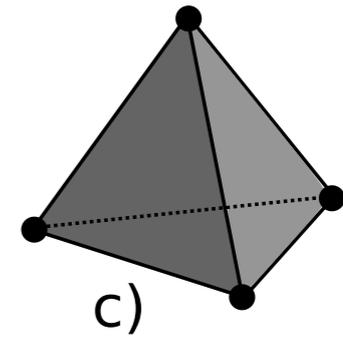
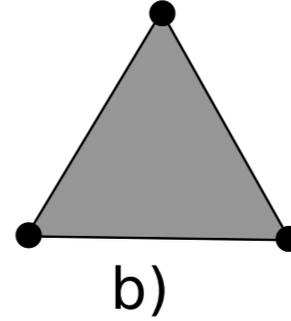
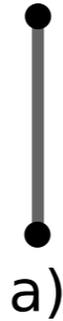


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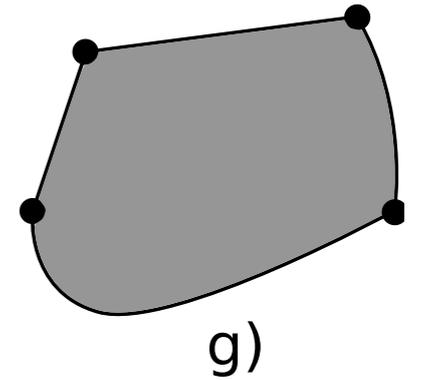
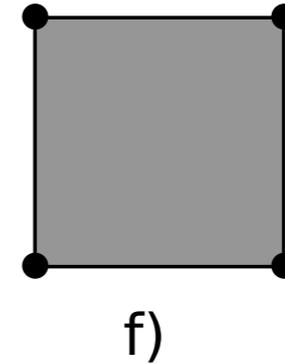
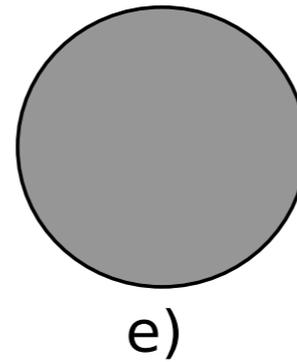
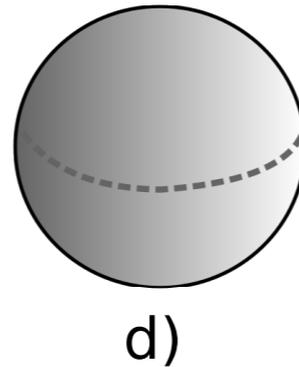


- d): quantum 2-level system (qubit)

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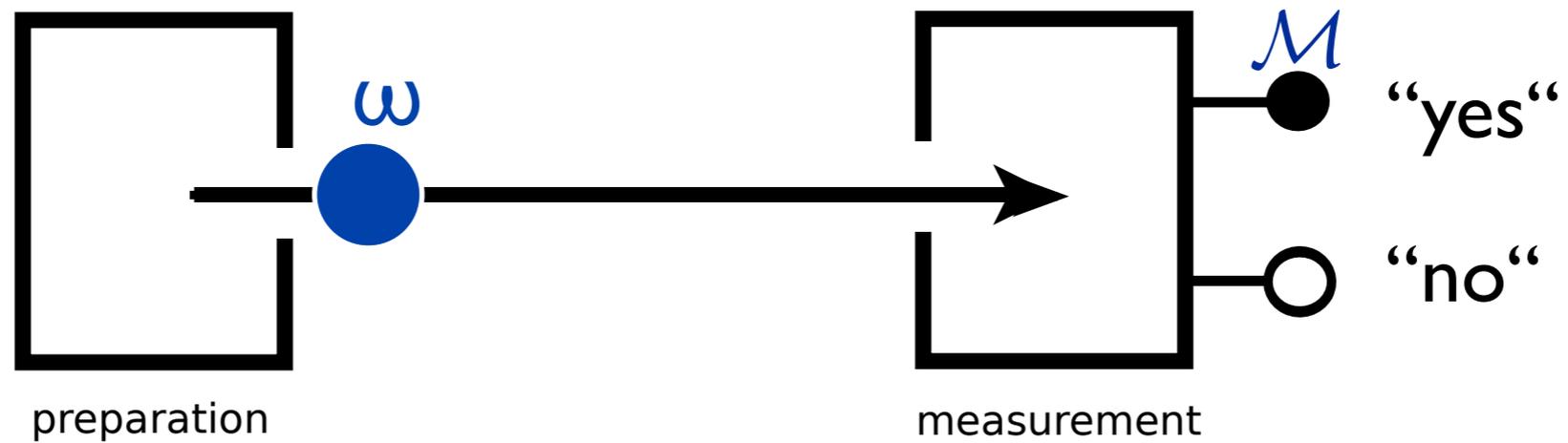


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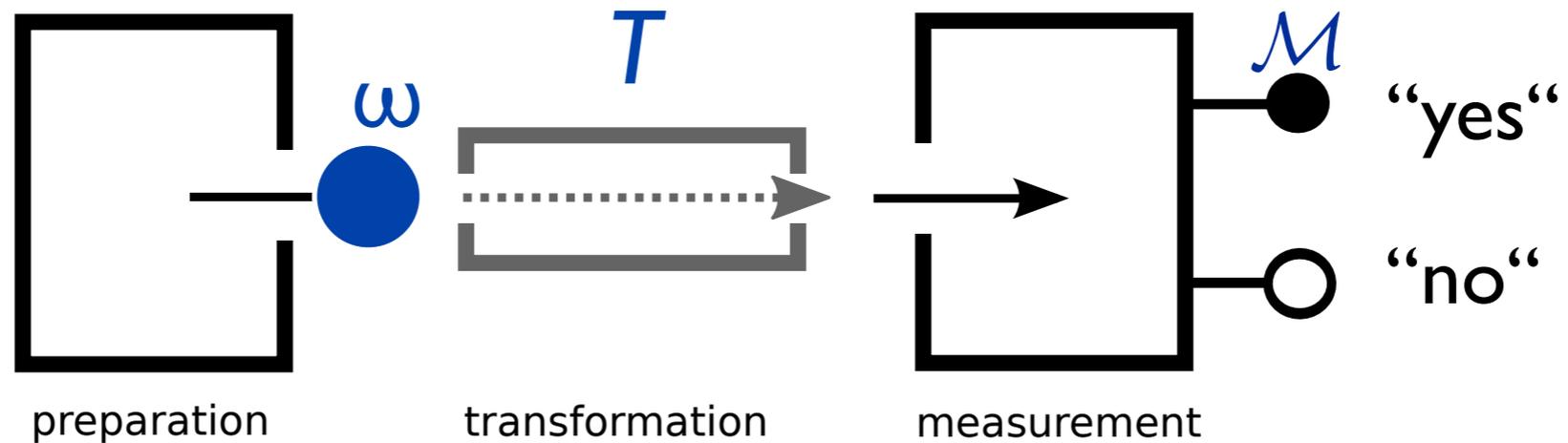


- d): quantum 2-level system (qubit)
- e), f), g): neither classical nor quantum.

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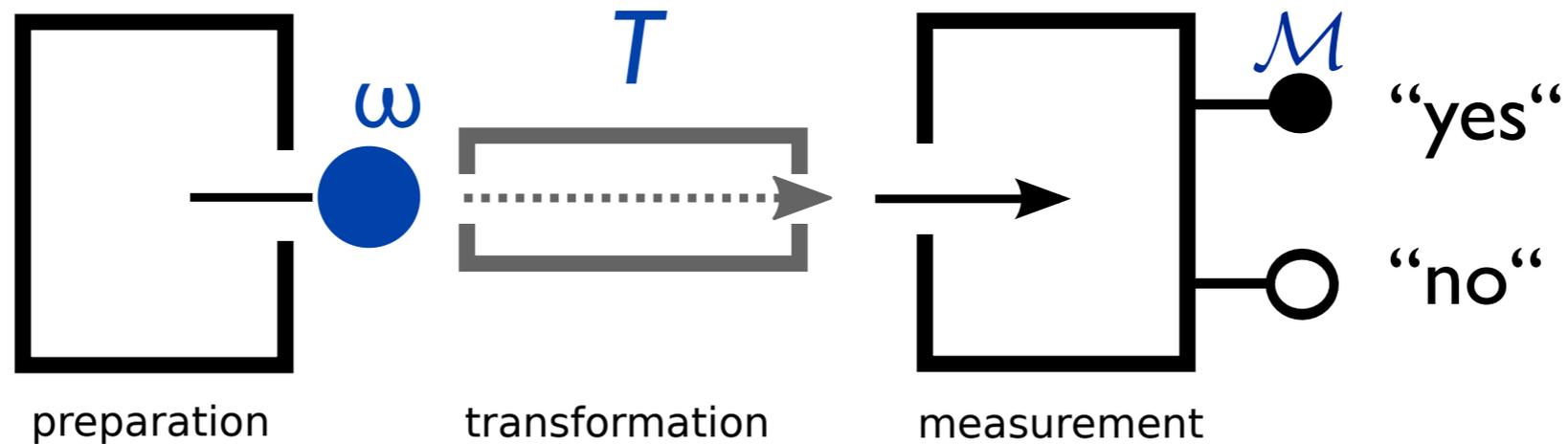


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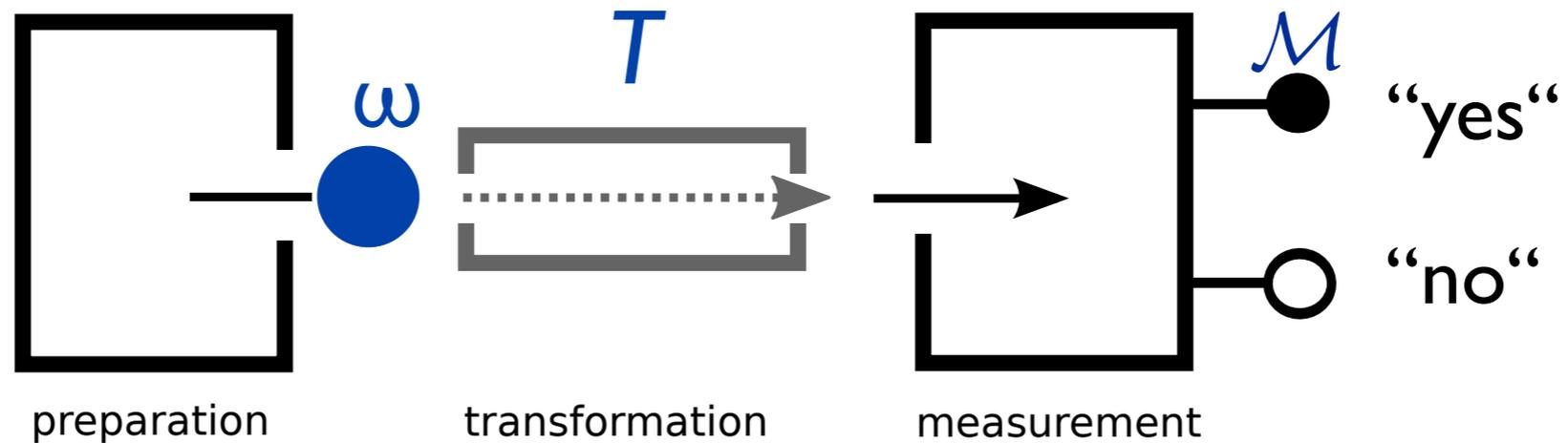


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- They form a group  $\mathcal{G}$ .
- In quantum theory, these are the unitaries:

$$\rho \mapsto U \rho U^\dagger.$$

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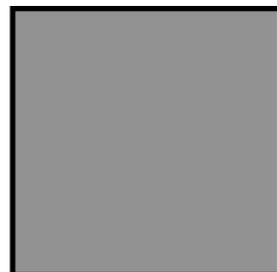


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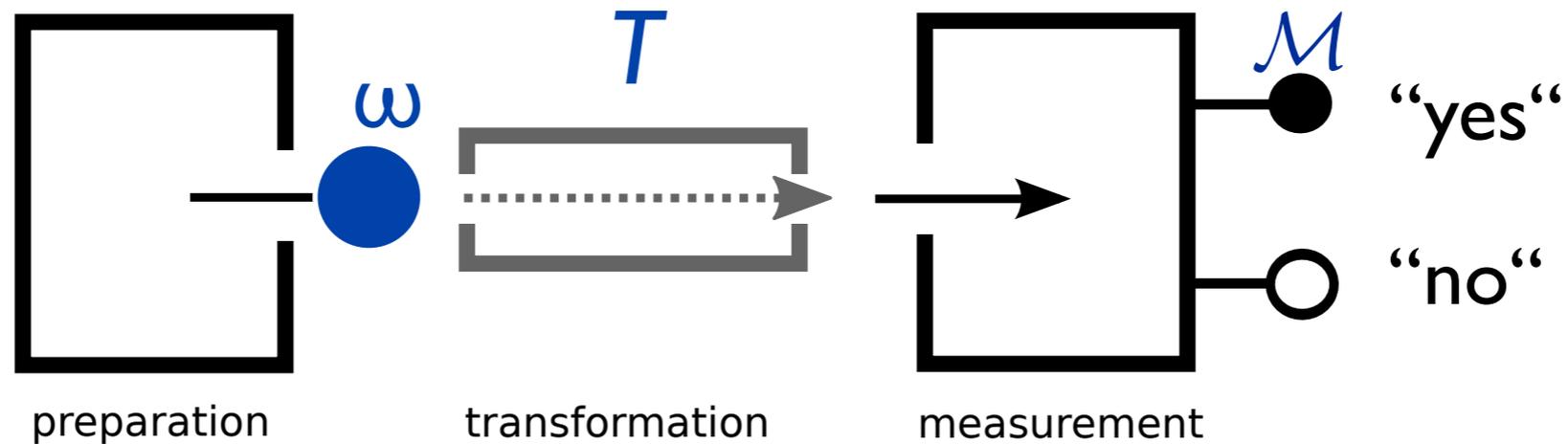
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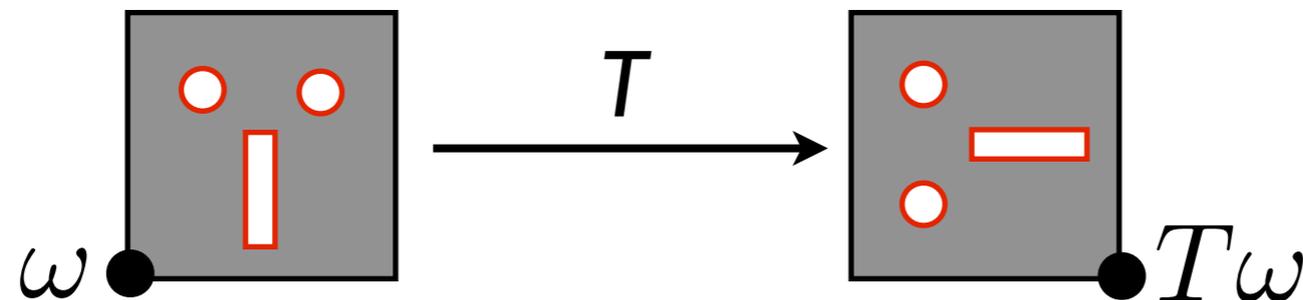


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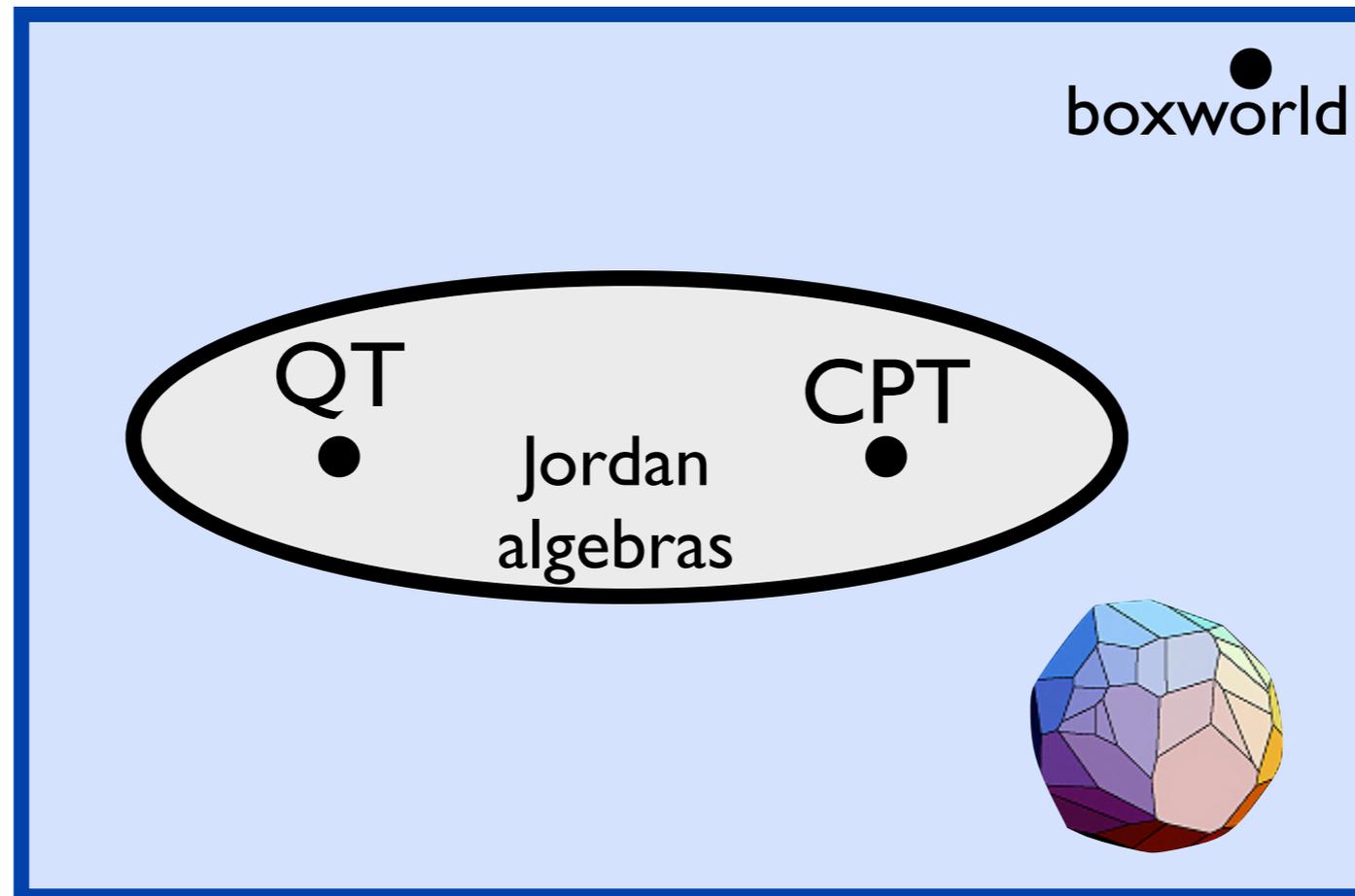
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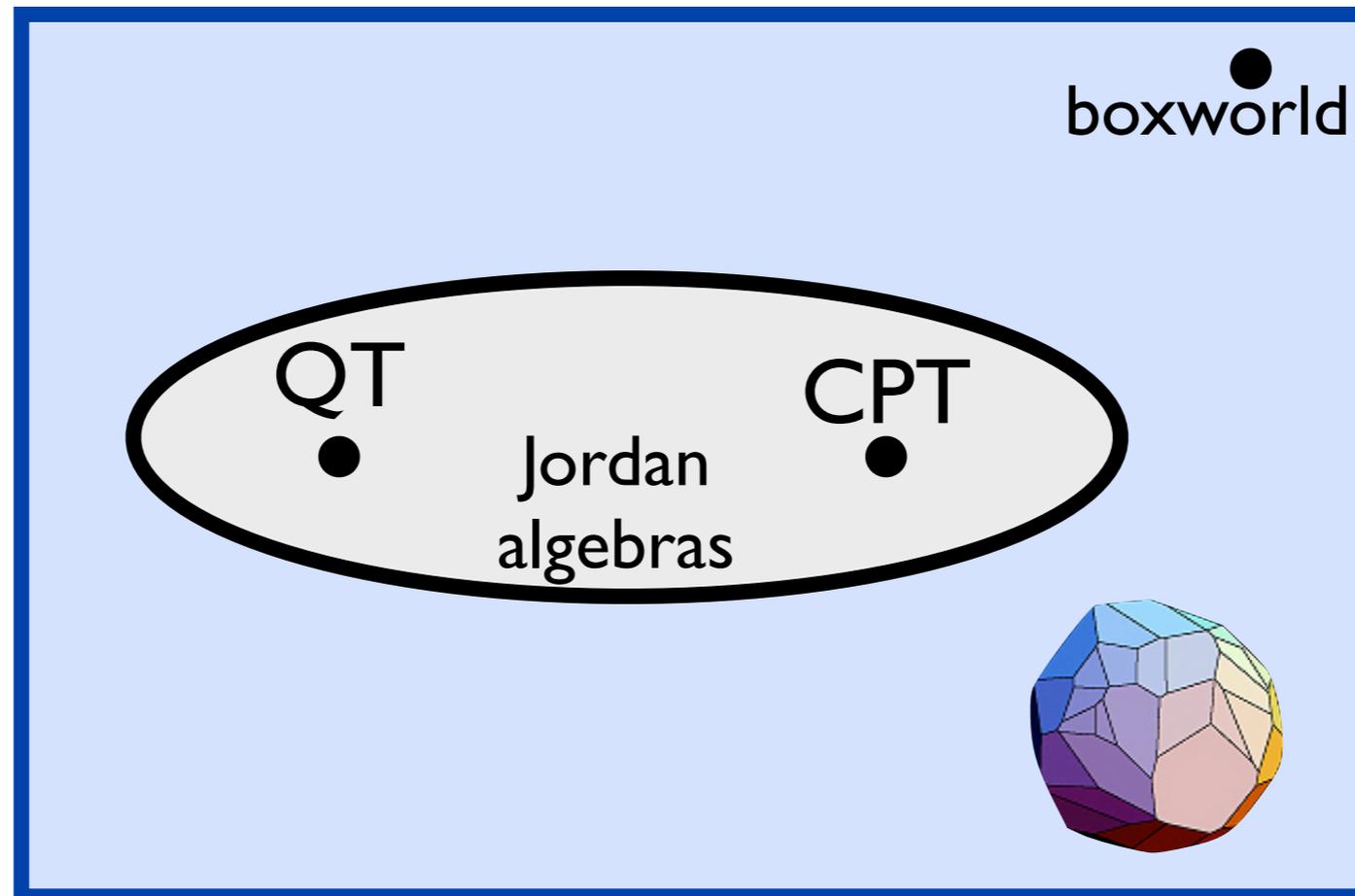
## 2. Convex state spaces

Contains **vast landscape** of all possible "probabilistic theories".



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Many physical properties **different from QT**: superstrong non-locality etc.

# Overview

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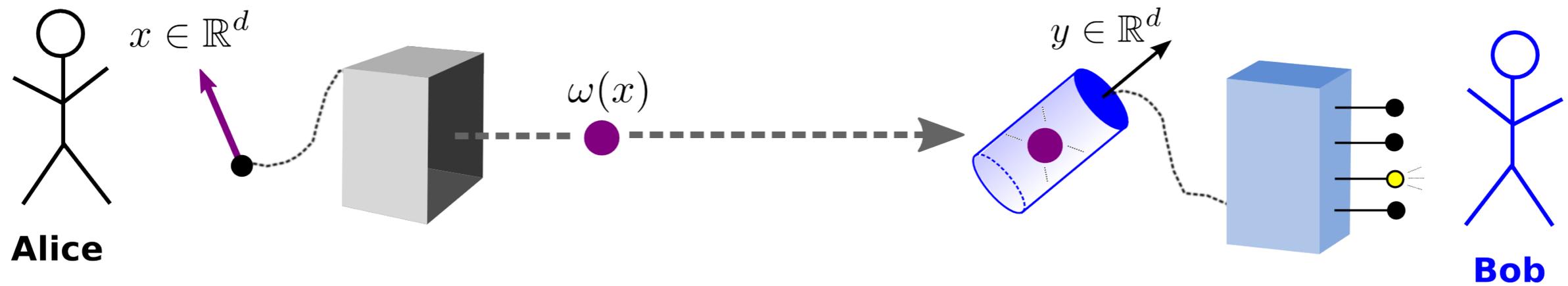
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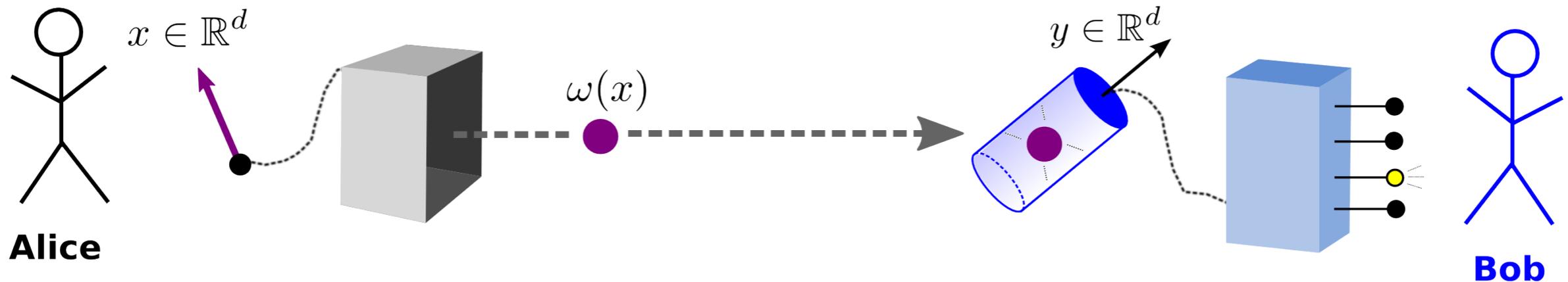
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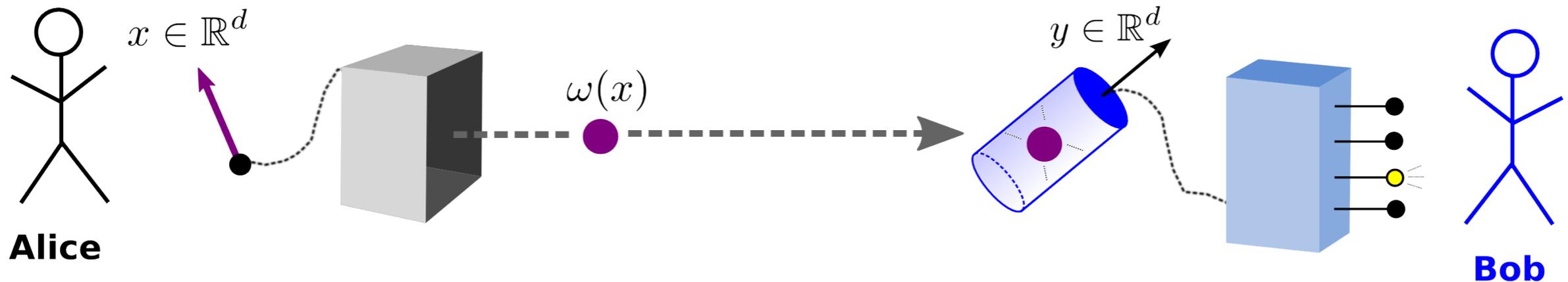


# 3. The postulates



**Postulate 1 (Achievability).** There is a protocol which allows Alice to encode any spatial direction  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $|x| = 1$ , into a state  $\omega(x)$ , such that Bob is able to retrieve  $x$  in the limit of many copies.

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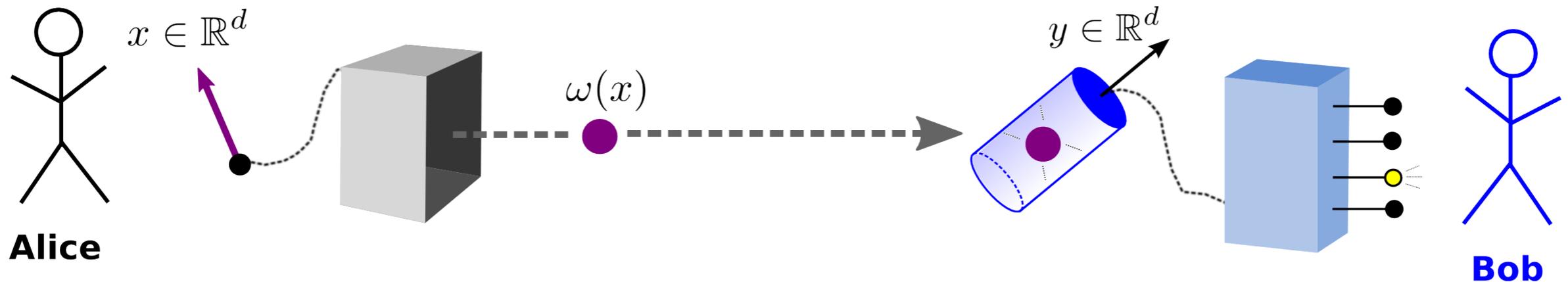


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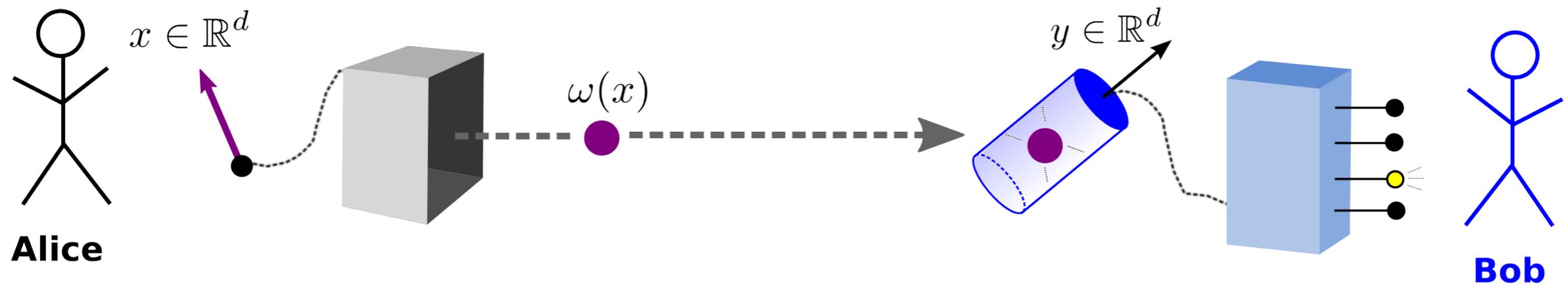


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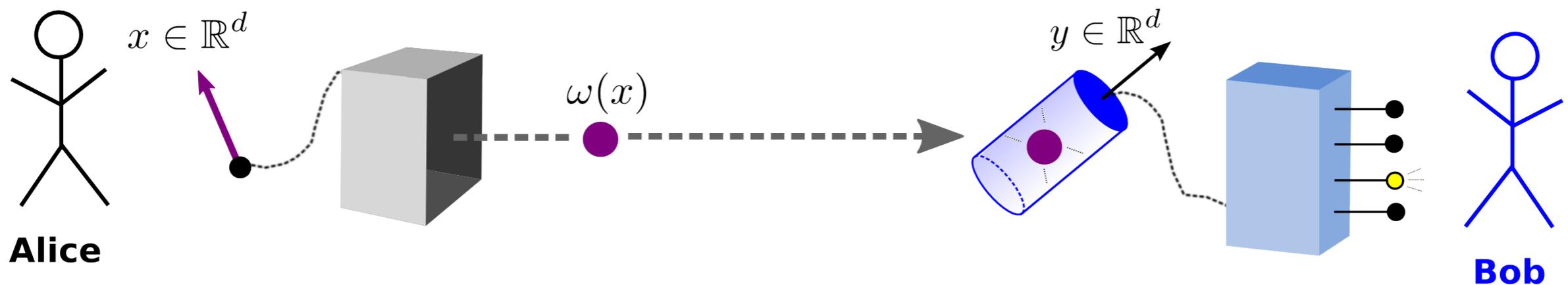


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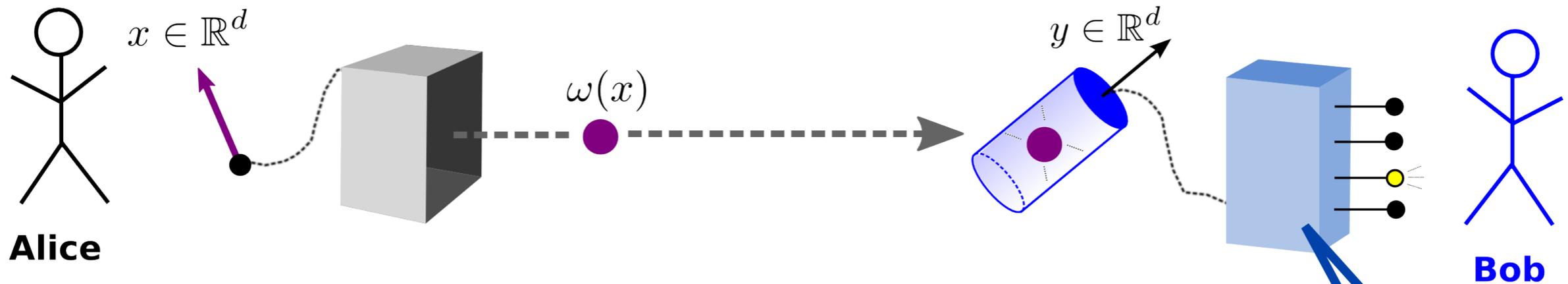
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Suppose  $\omega$  and  $\varphi$  encode *same direction*  $x$

→ by choosing to send  $\omega$  or  $\varphi$ ,

**Alice can encode an additional bit**

# 3. The postulates



**Postulate 2 (Minimality).** No protocol allows Alice to encode any further information into the state without adding noise to the directional information.

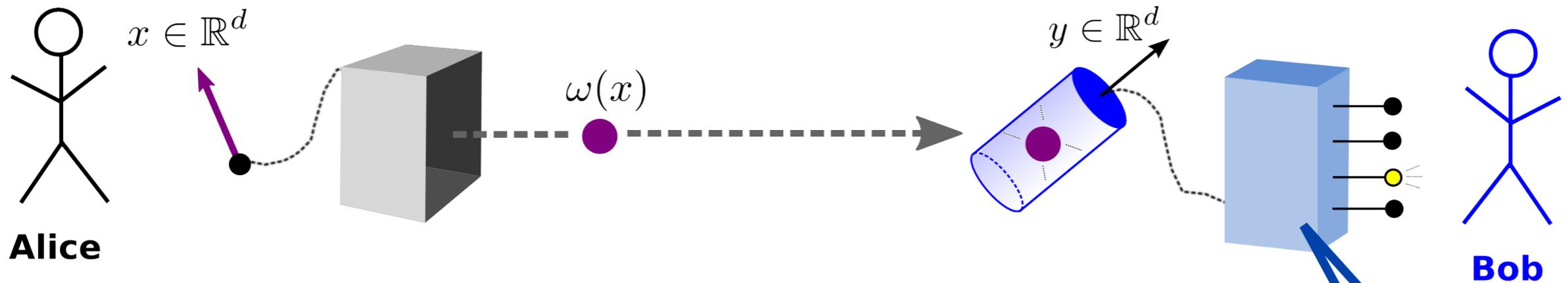
probability of  $i$ -th outcome:  $\mathcal{M}_y^{(i)}(\omega)$

Suppose  $\omega$  and  $\varphi$  encode *same direction*  $x$

→ by choosing to send  $\omega$  or  $\varphi$ ,

Alice can encode an additional bit

# 3. The postulates



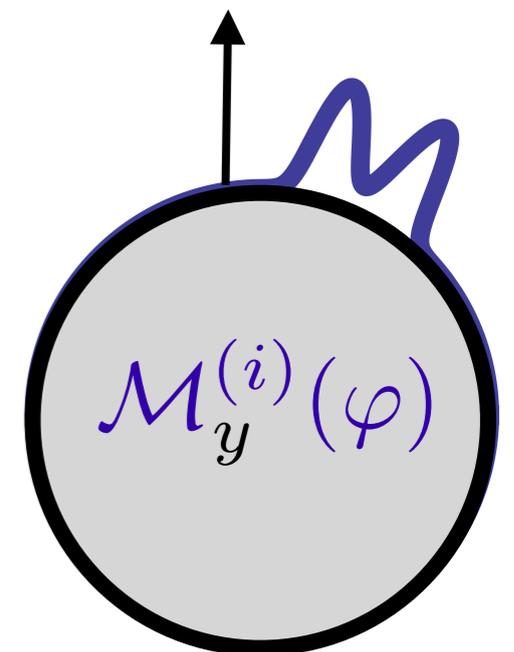
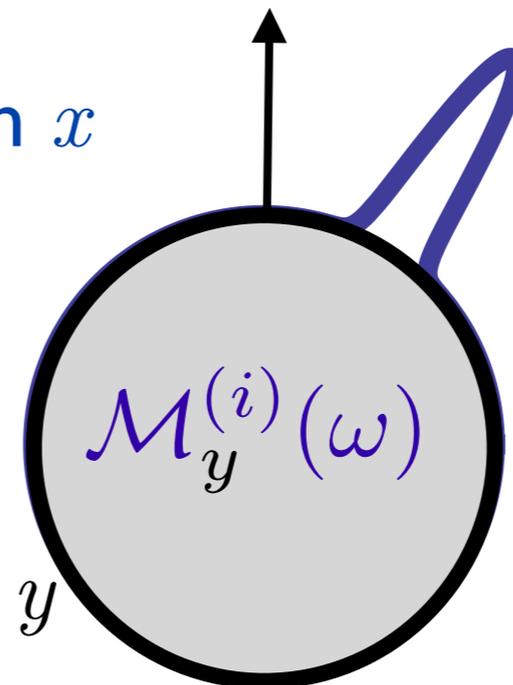
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Suppose  $\omega$  and  $\varphi$  encode *same direction*  $x$

→ by choosing to send  $\omega$  or  $\varphi$ ,

**Alice can encode an additional bit**

→ one directional profile **more noisy** than the other



# 3. The postulates

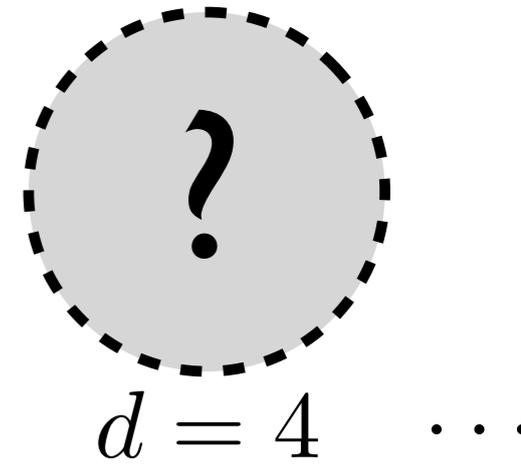
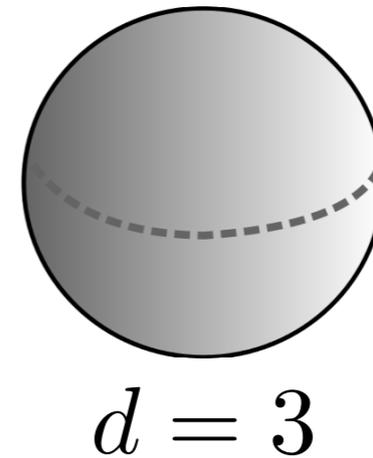
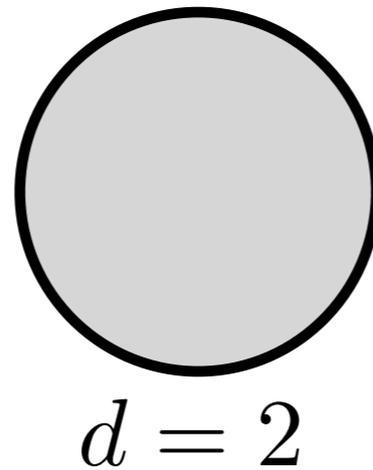
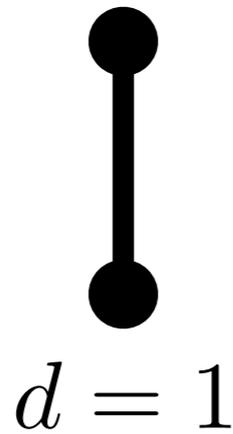
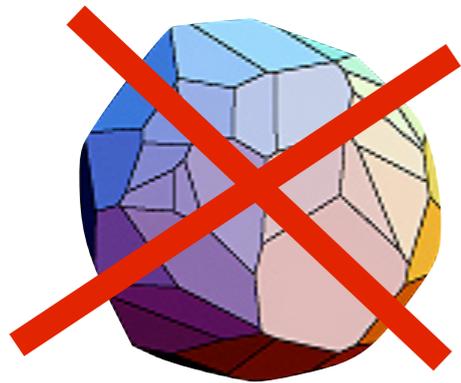
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**Theorem 1.** The state space (into which Alice encodes) is a  $d$ -dimensional unit ball.

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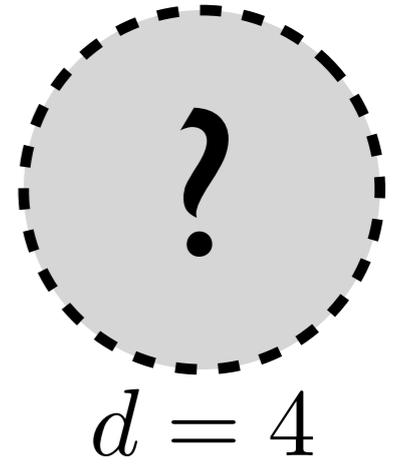
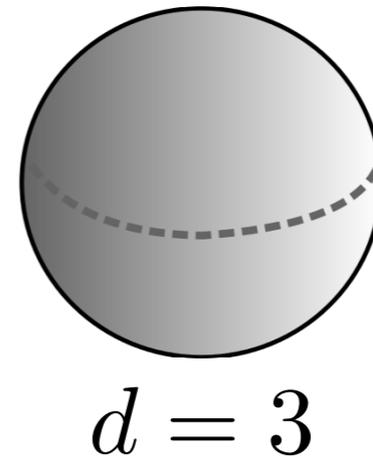
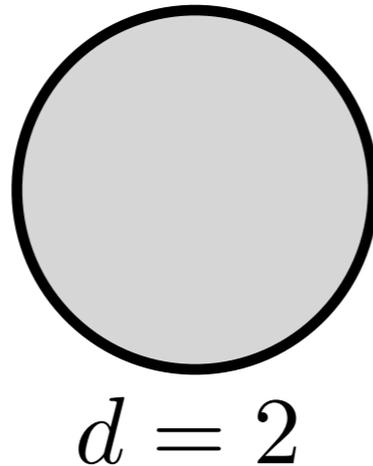
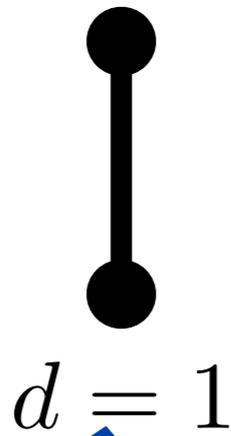
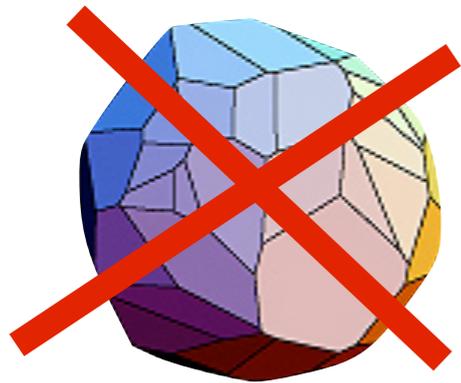
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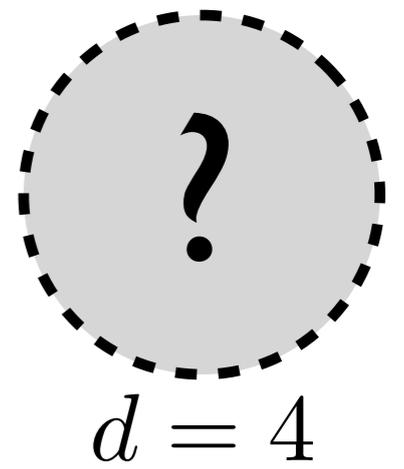
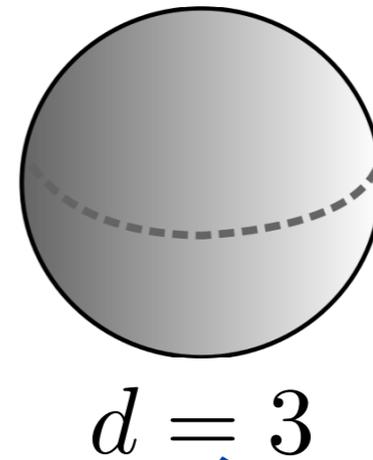
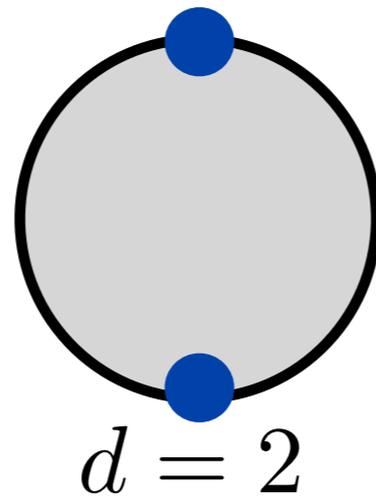
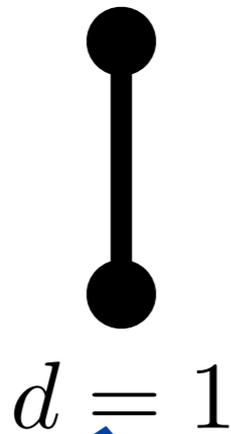
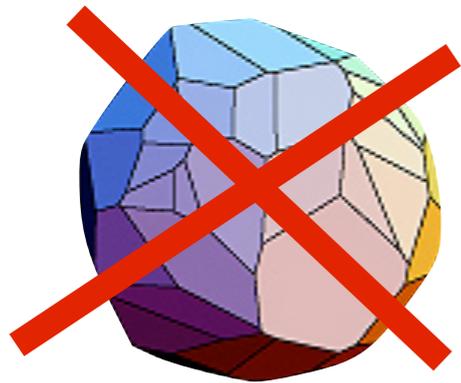
classical bit

quantum bit

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classical bit

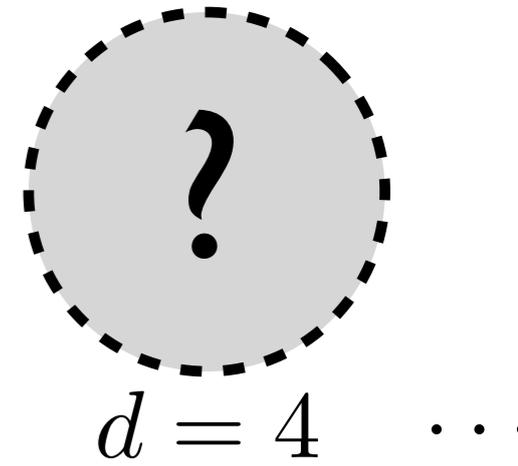
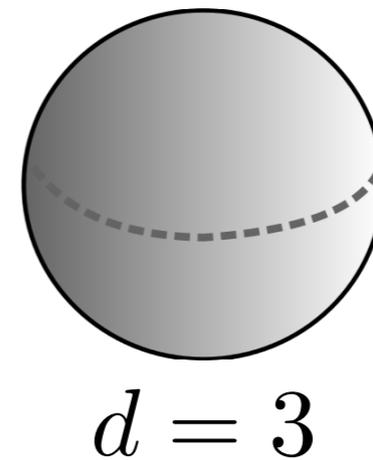
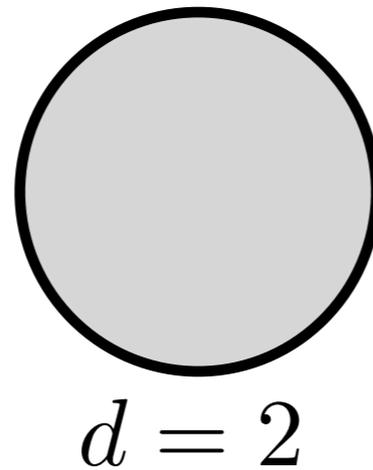
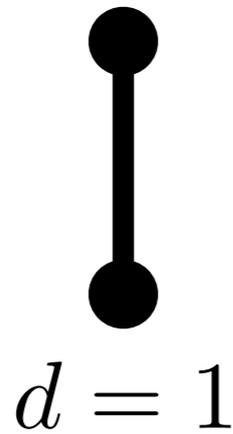
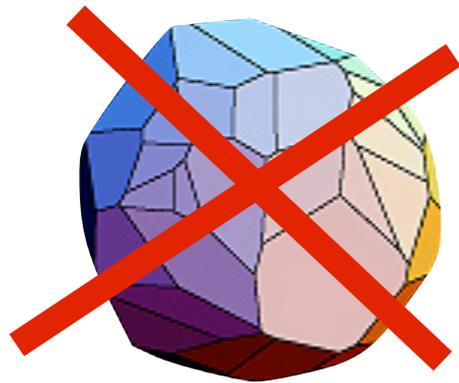
all balls are  
2-level systems.

quantum bit

# 3. The postulates

With some effort, one can prove from Postulates 1+2:

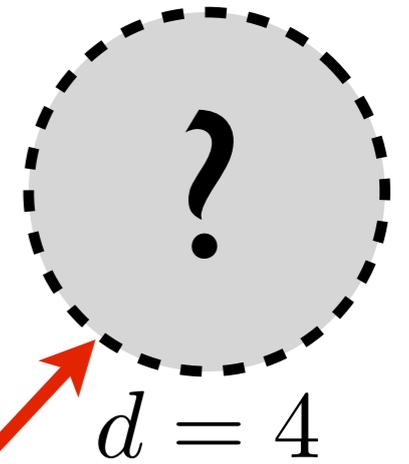
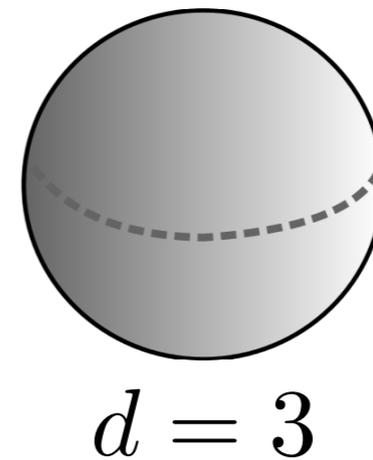
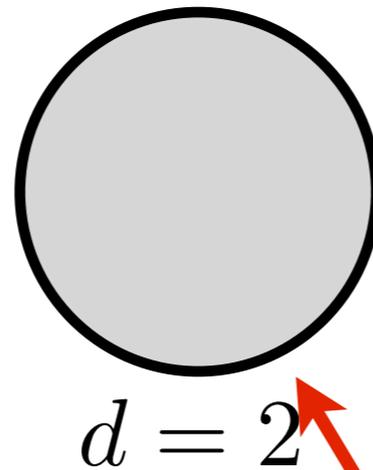
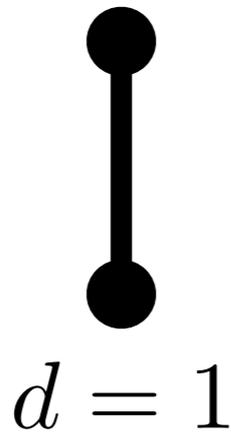
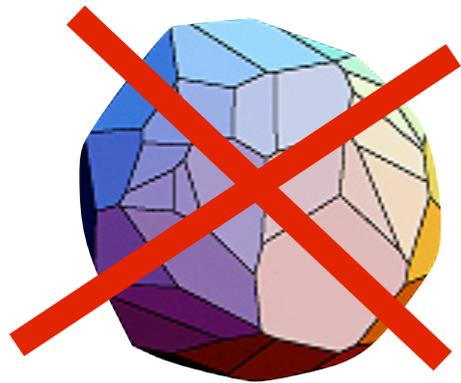
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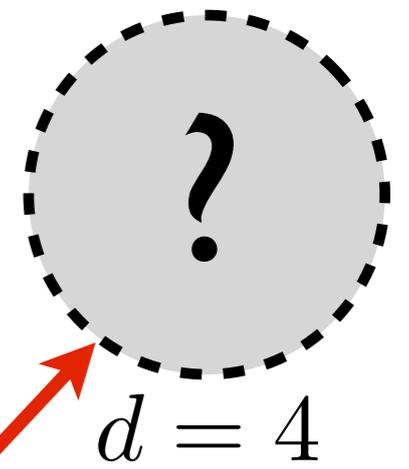
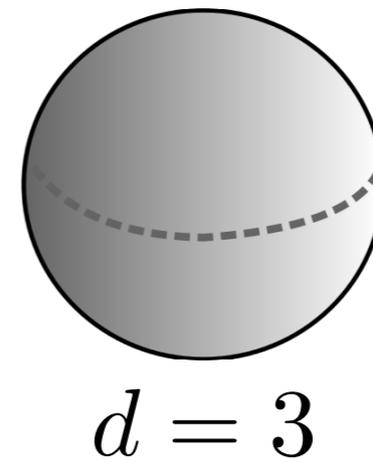
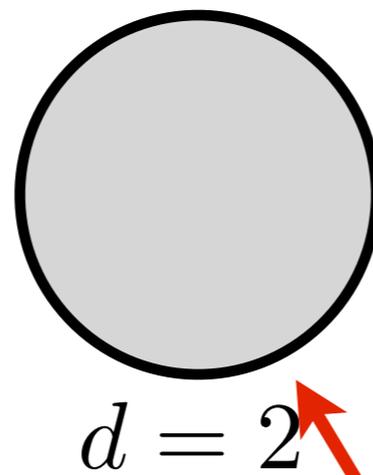
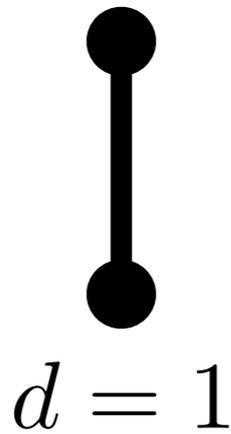
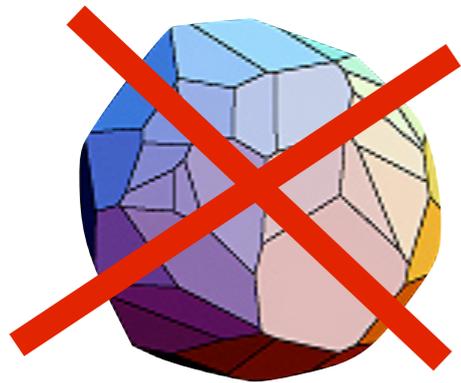


NOT quantum!

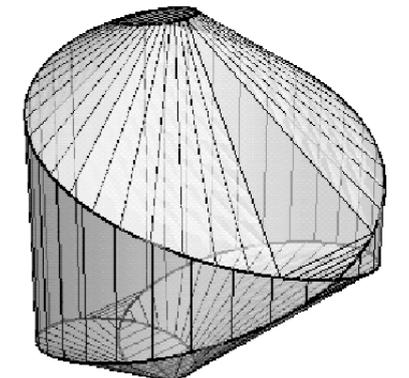
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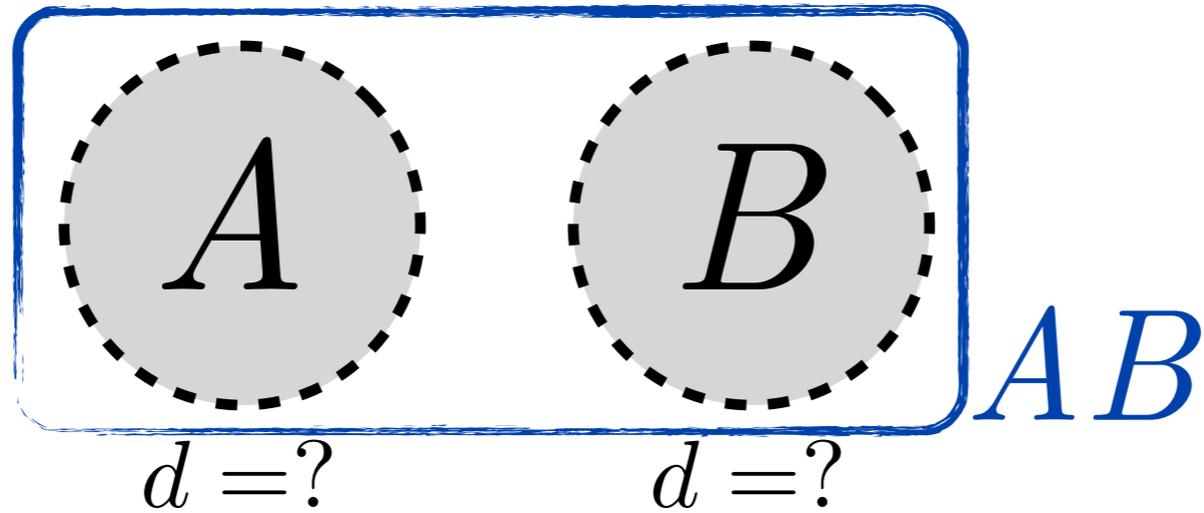


Quantum 3-level state space looks more like this:

Bengtsson, Weis, Zyczkowski, "Geometry of the set of mixed quantum states: An apophatic approach", arXiv:1112.2347

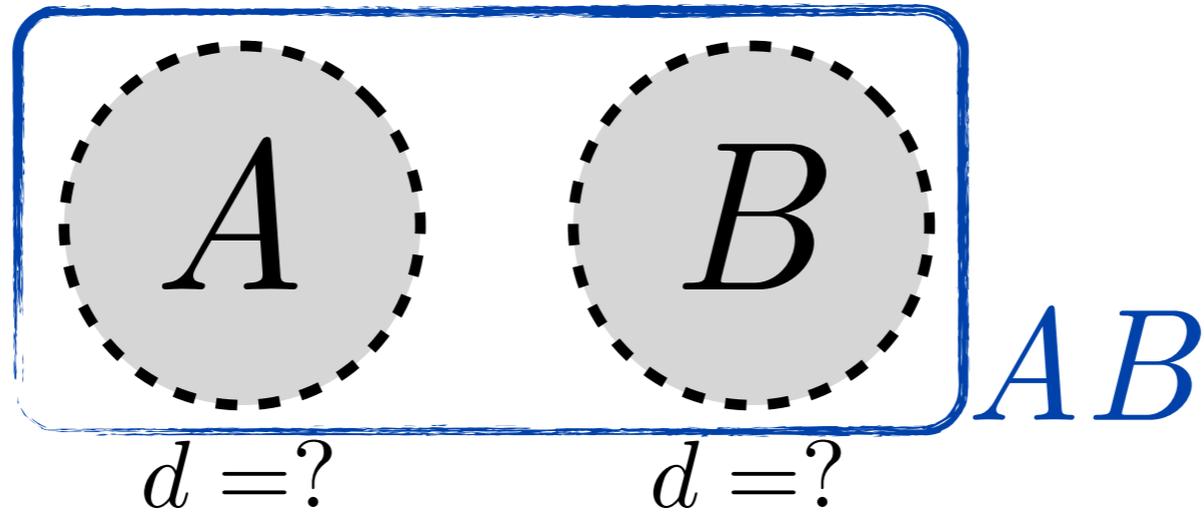
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To single out  $d=3$ : consider pairs of direction bits.



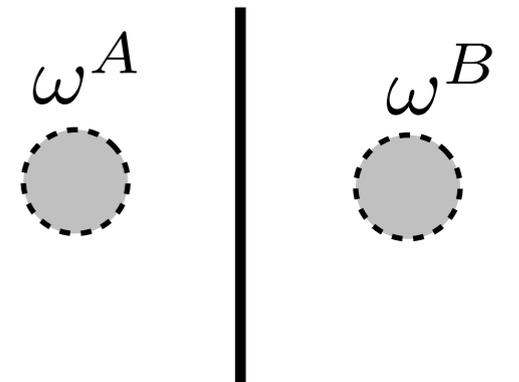
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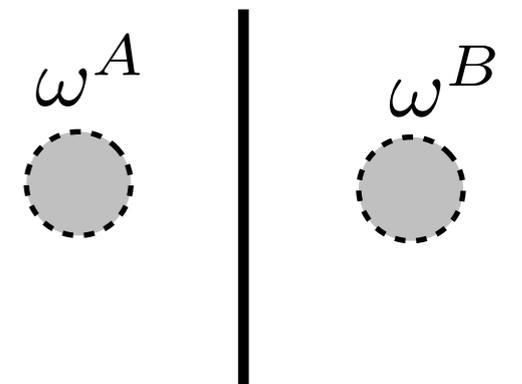


Basic assumptions on composite state space  $AB$ :

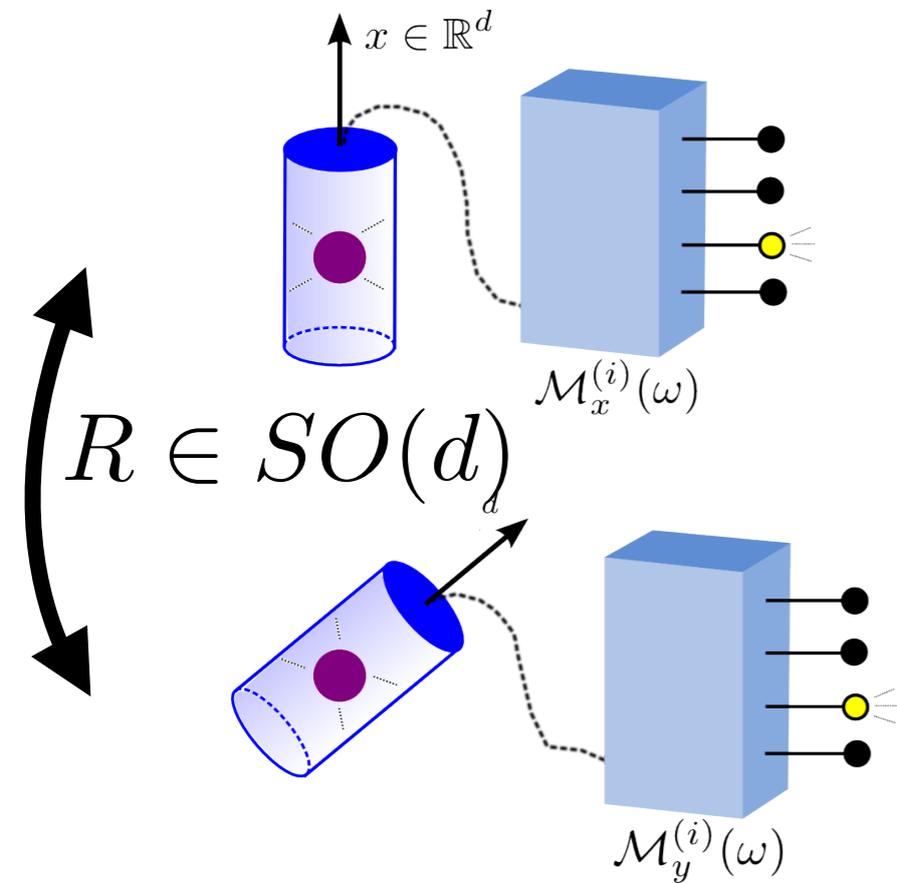
- Contains “product states”  $\omega^A \omega^B$ .
- Allows for “product measurements”  $\mathcal{M}^A \mathcal{M}^B$  :  
$$\mathcal{M}^A \mathcal{M}^B (\omega^A \omega^B) = \mathcal{M}^A (\omega^A) \cdot \mathcal{M}^B (\omega^B).$$



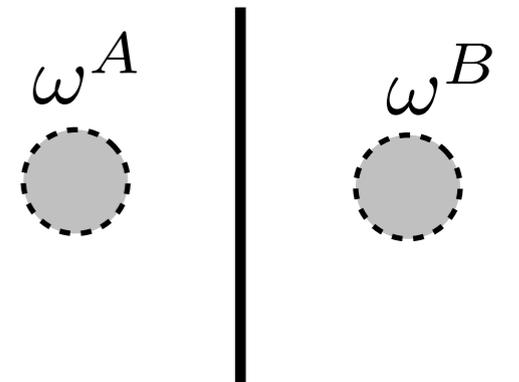
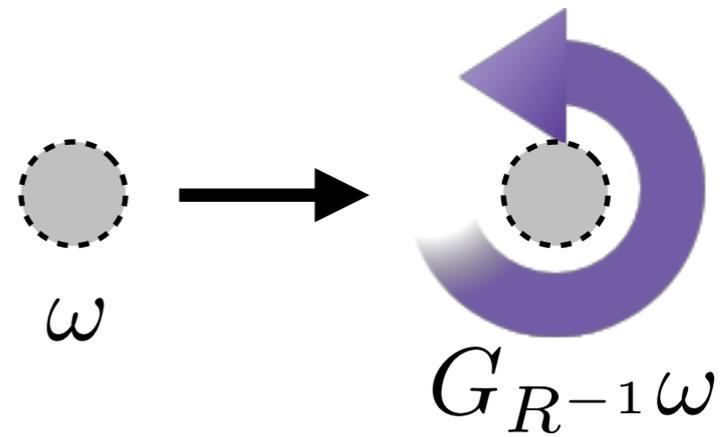
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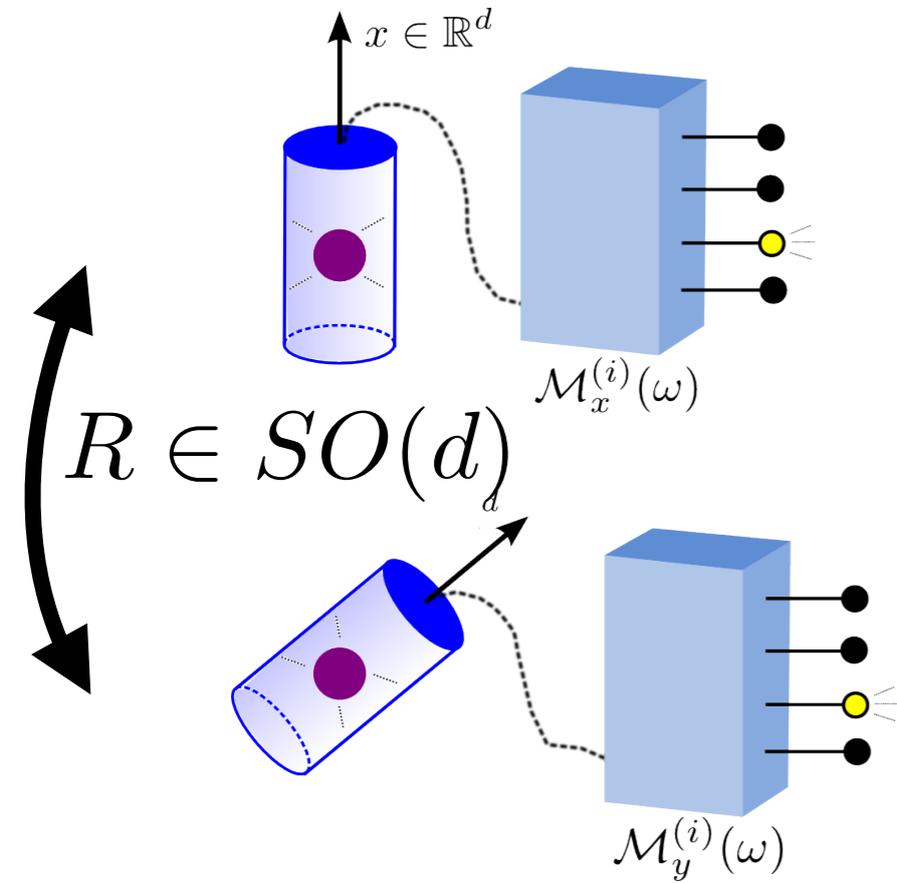
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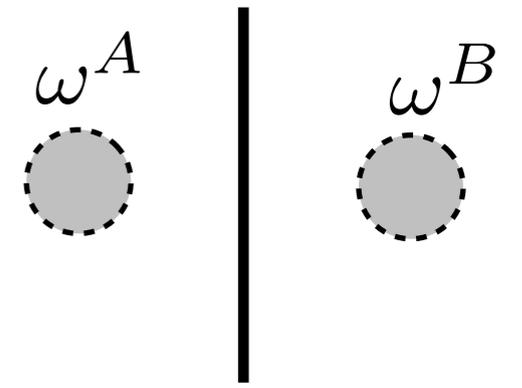
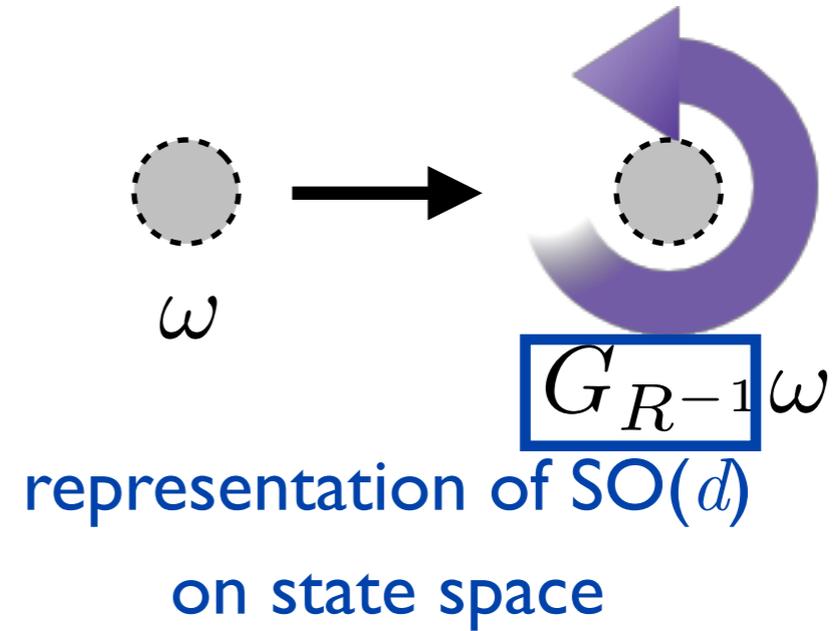
is the same as



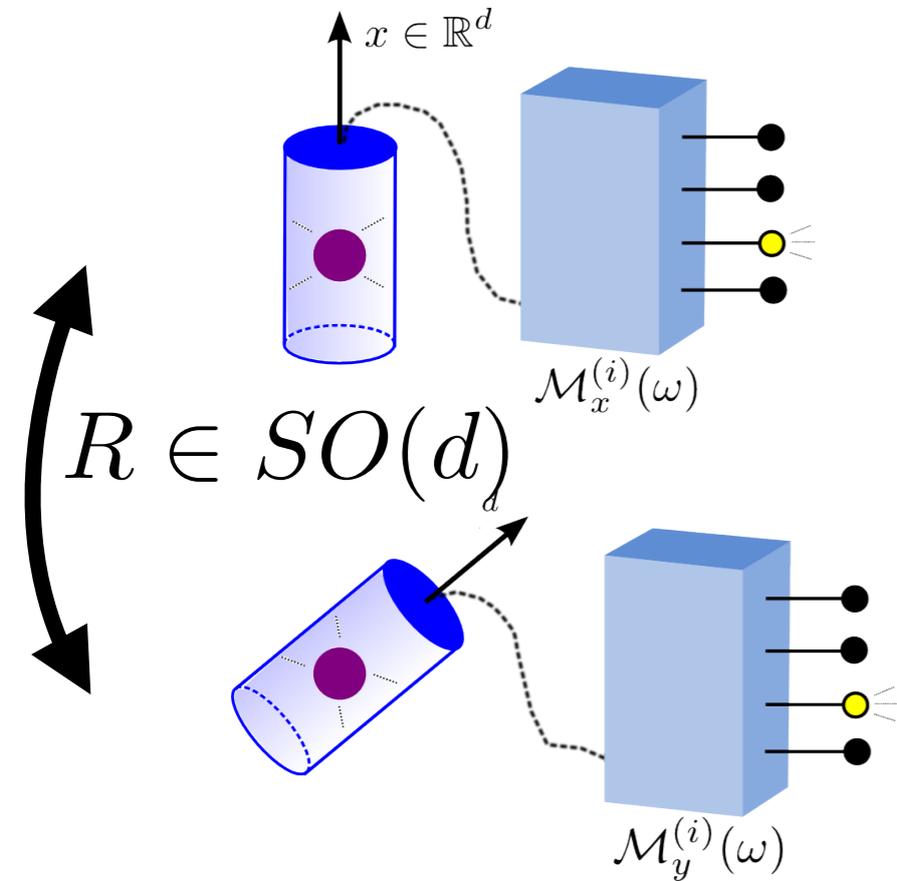
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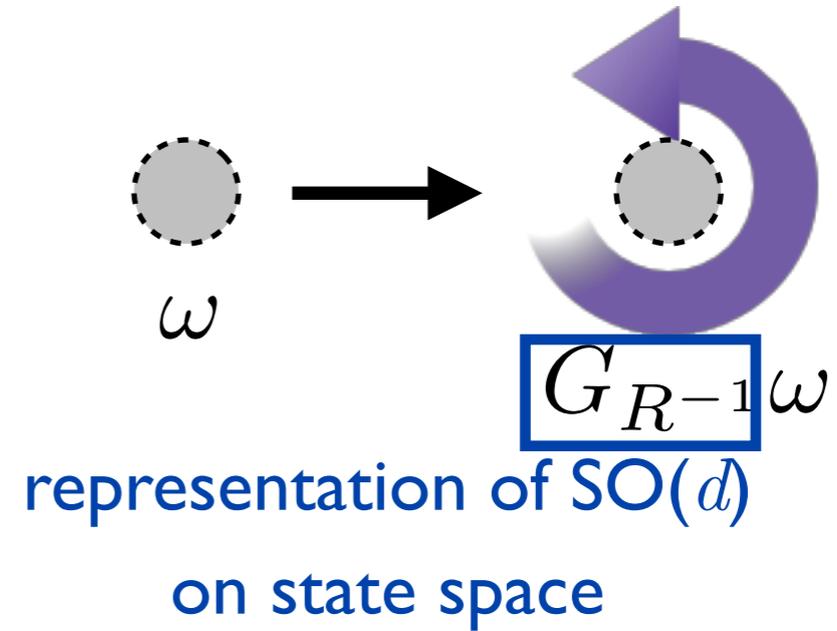
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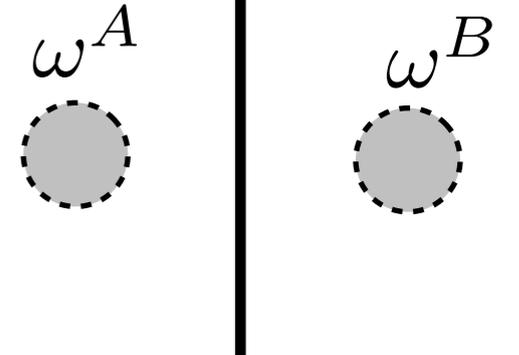
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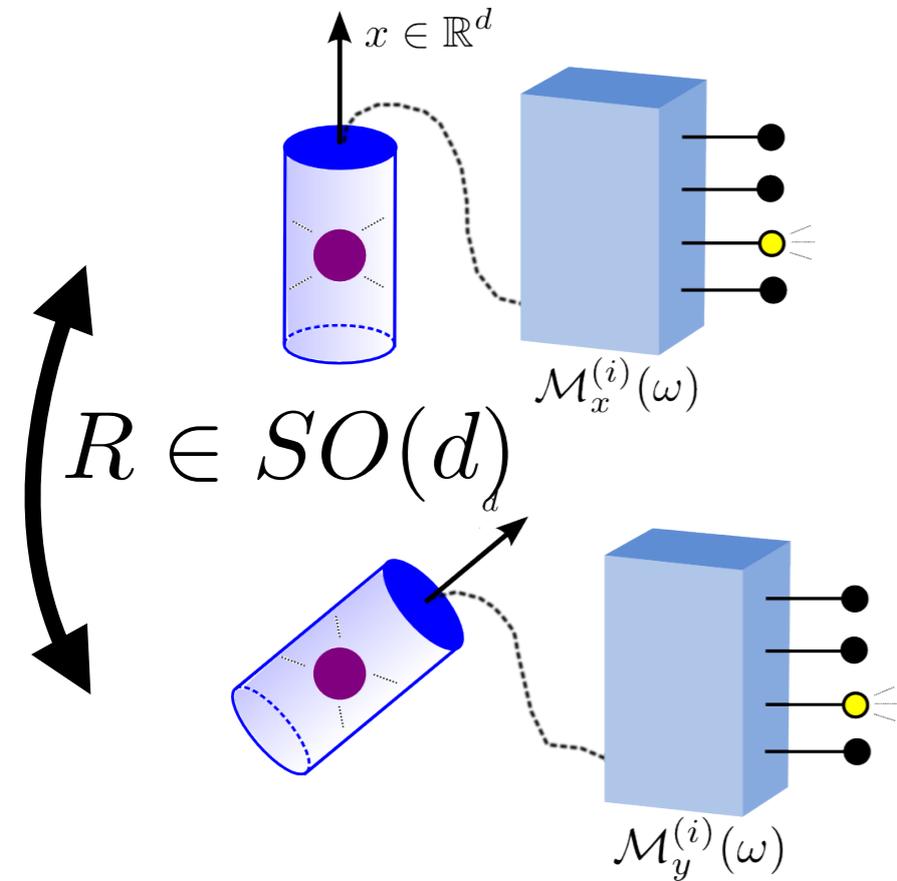
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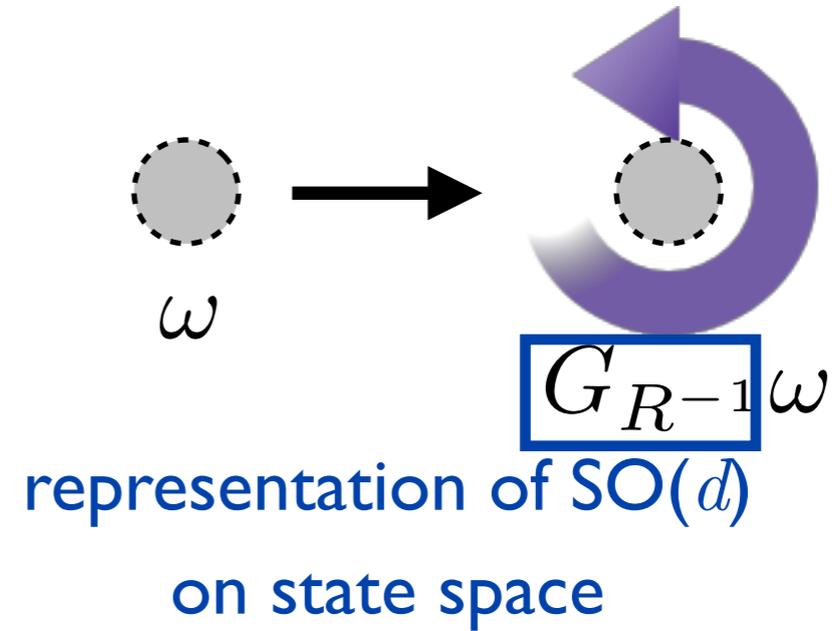
**Postulate 3 (Global coordinate transformation).**  
 For any rotation  $R \in SO(d)$ , there is a *unique* linear map on  $AB$  which acts as  $R$  on both subsystems individually.



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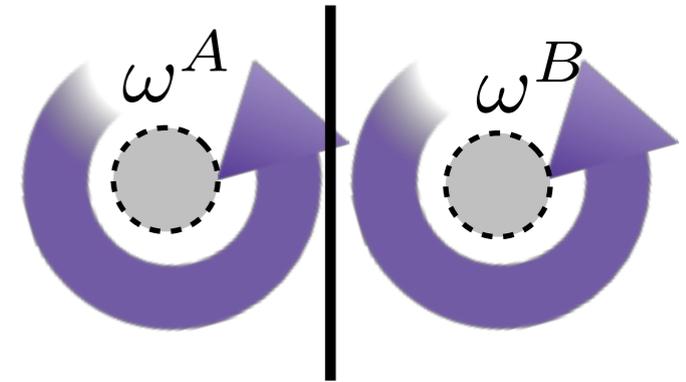


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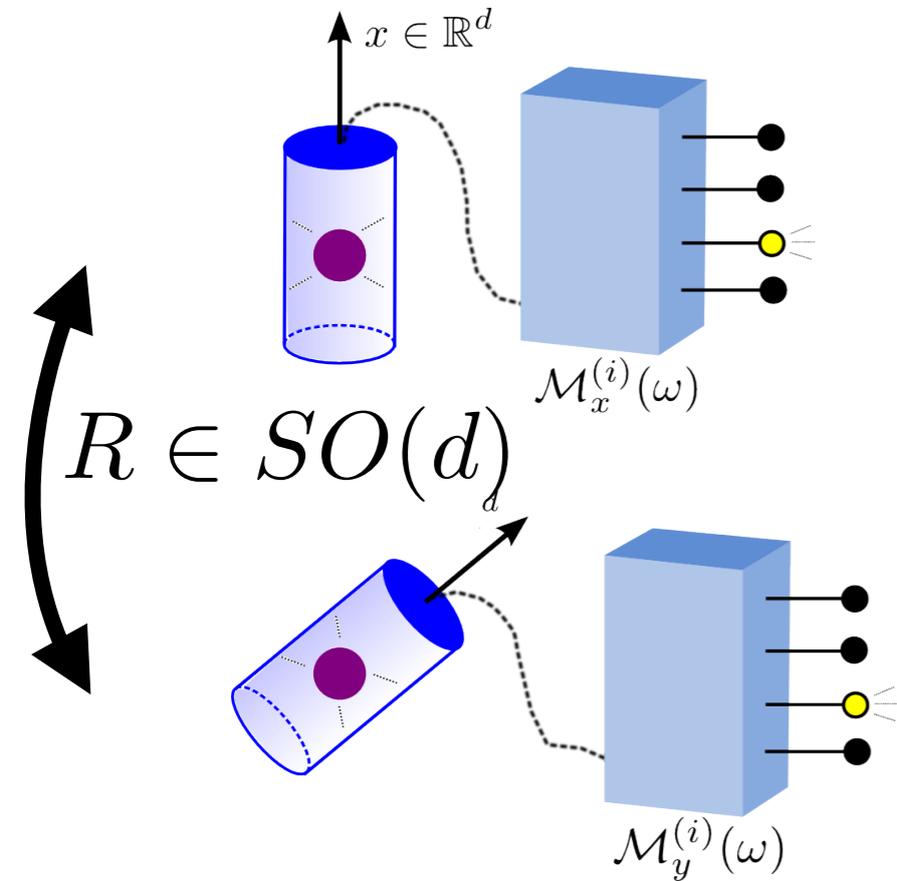


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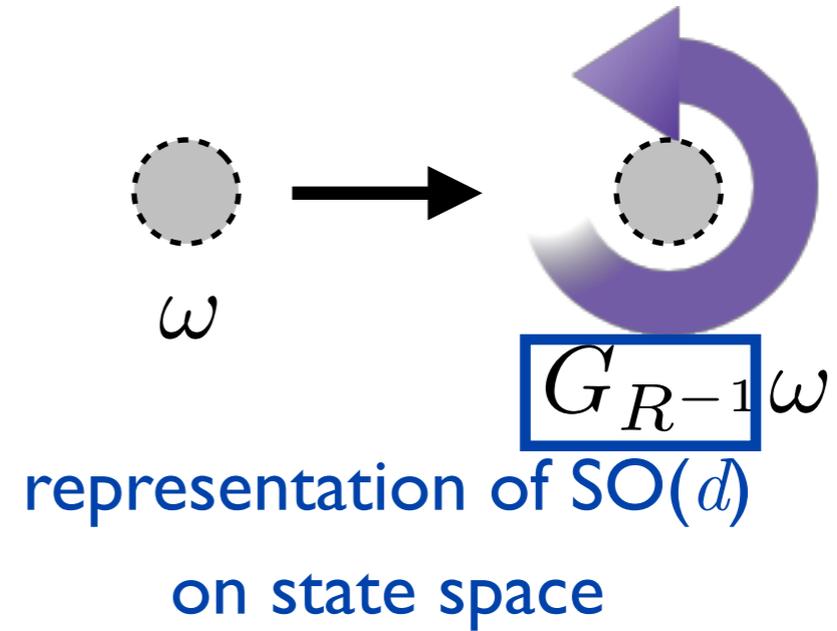
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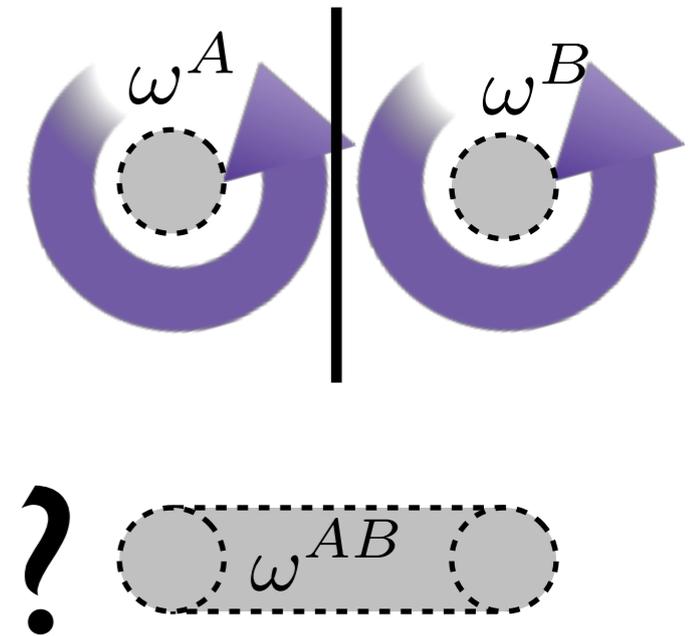


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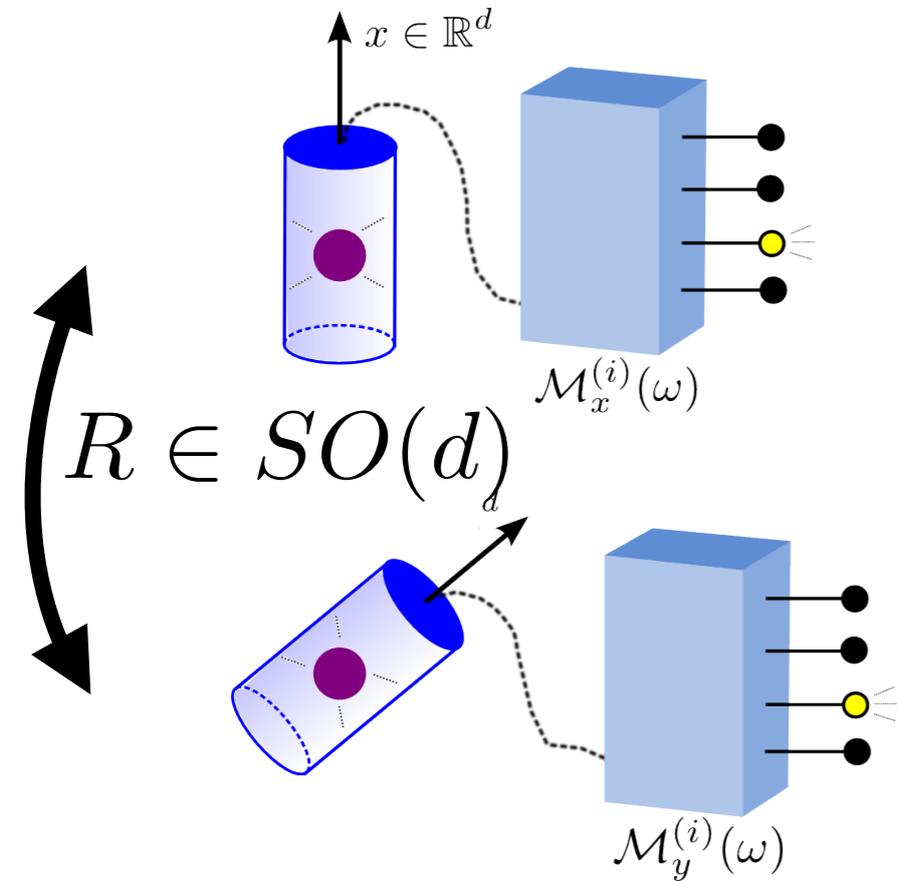


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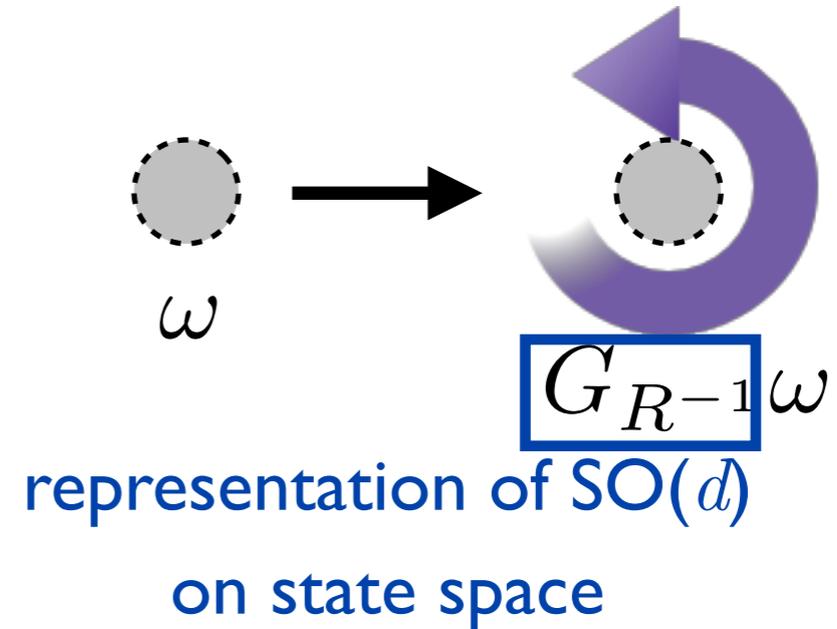
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# 3. The postulates



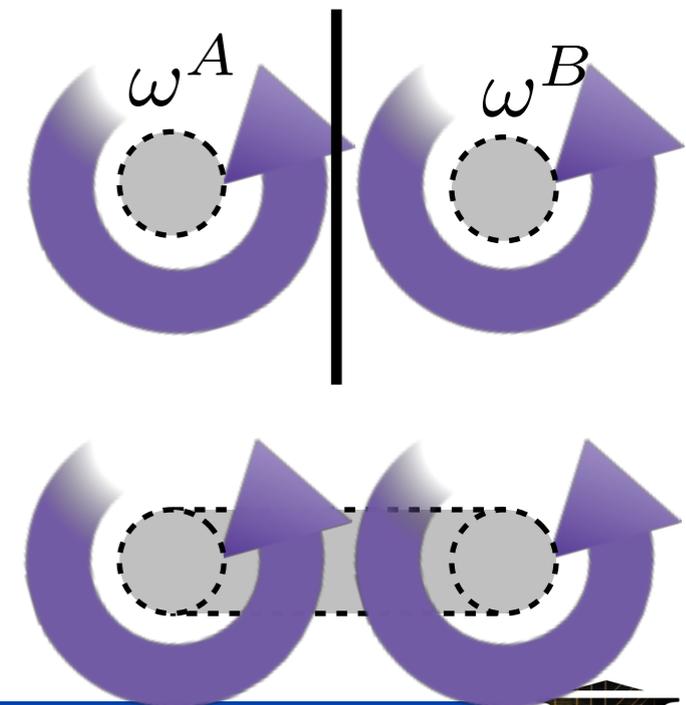
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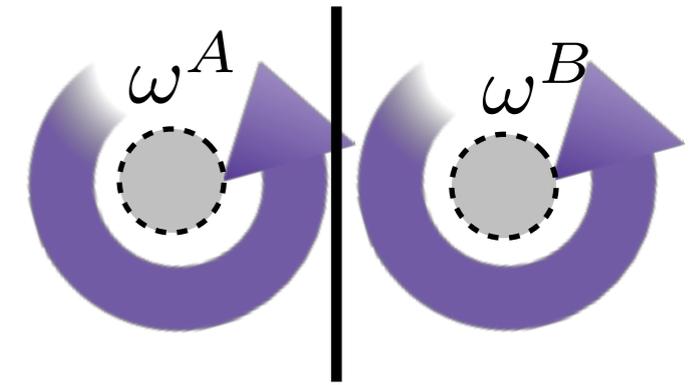
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hence  $\omega^{AB} \mapsto (G_R G_R) \omega^{AB}$ .



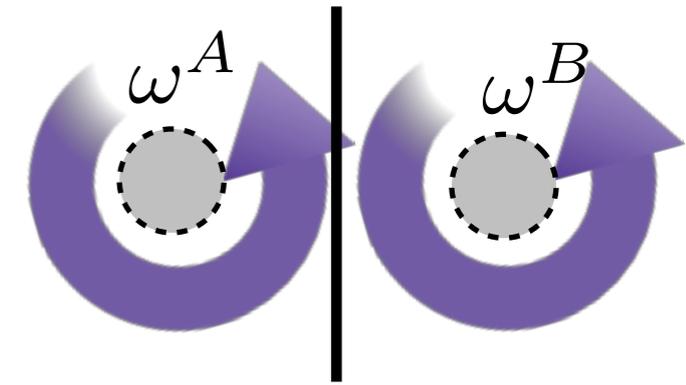
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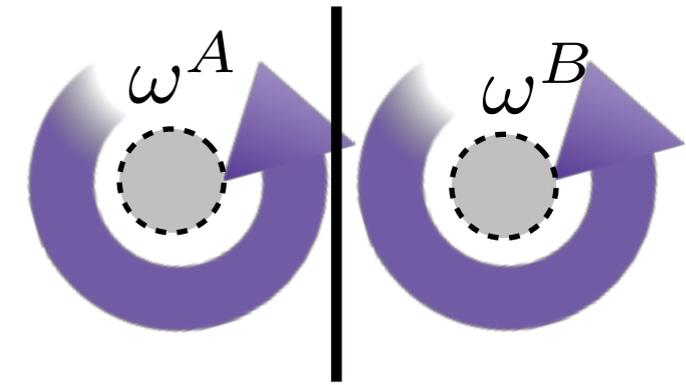


Equivalent: "The product states span  $AB$ ".

"Local tomography"

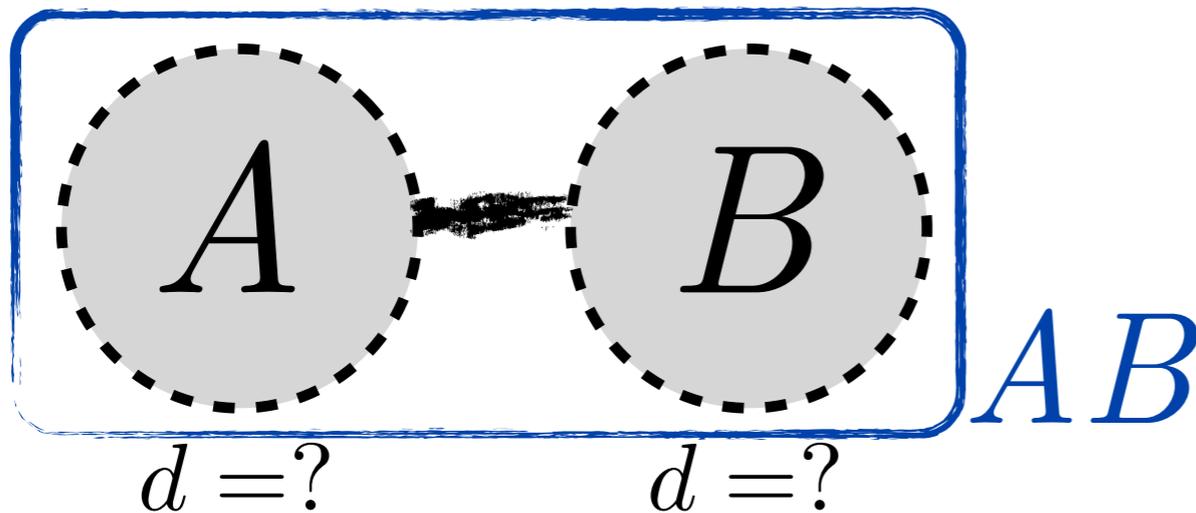
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Still many possibilities  
in all dimensions  $d$ .

# 3. The postulates

Two direction bits should be able to **interact**  
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# 3. The postulates

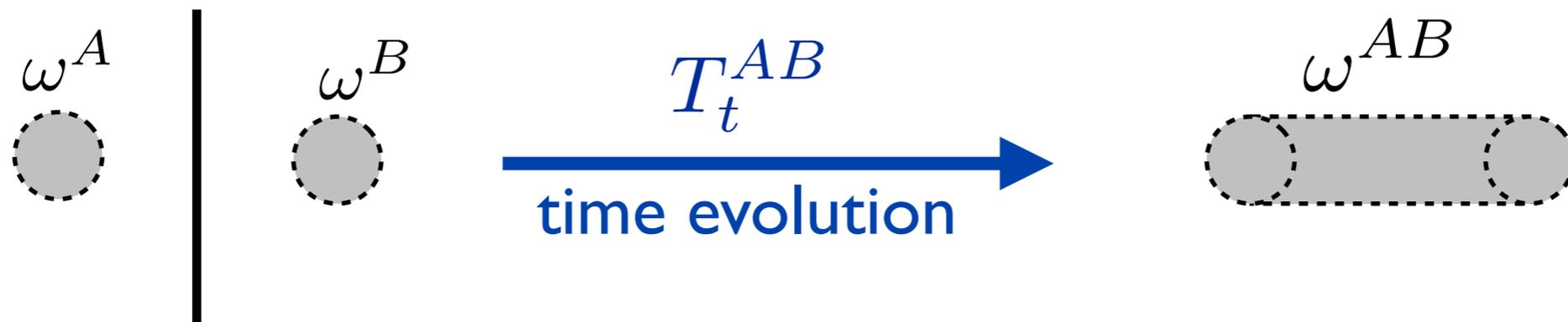
Two direction bits should be able to **interact**  
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**Postulate 4 (Interaction).** On  $AB$ , there is a continuous one-parameter group of transformations  $\{T_t^{AB}\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  which is not a product of local transformations,  $T_t^{AB} \neq T_t^A T_t^B$ .

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Otherwise **no interaction, never!**

# Overview

1. Overview

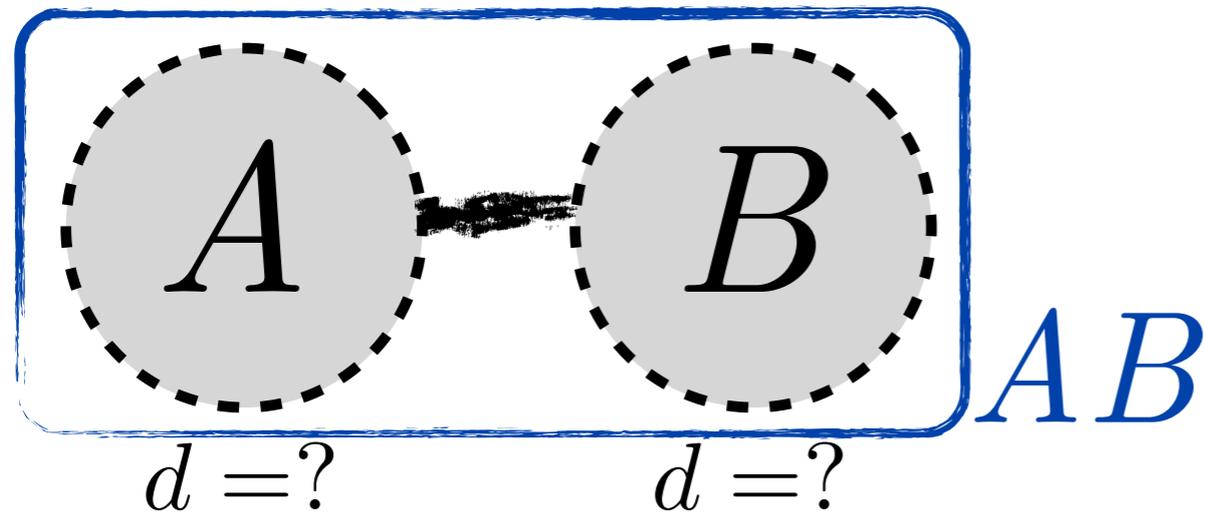
2. Convex state spaces

3. The postulates

 4. Deriving  $d=3$  and quantum theory

5. What does all this tell us?

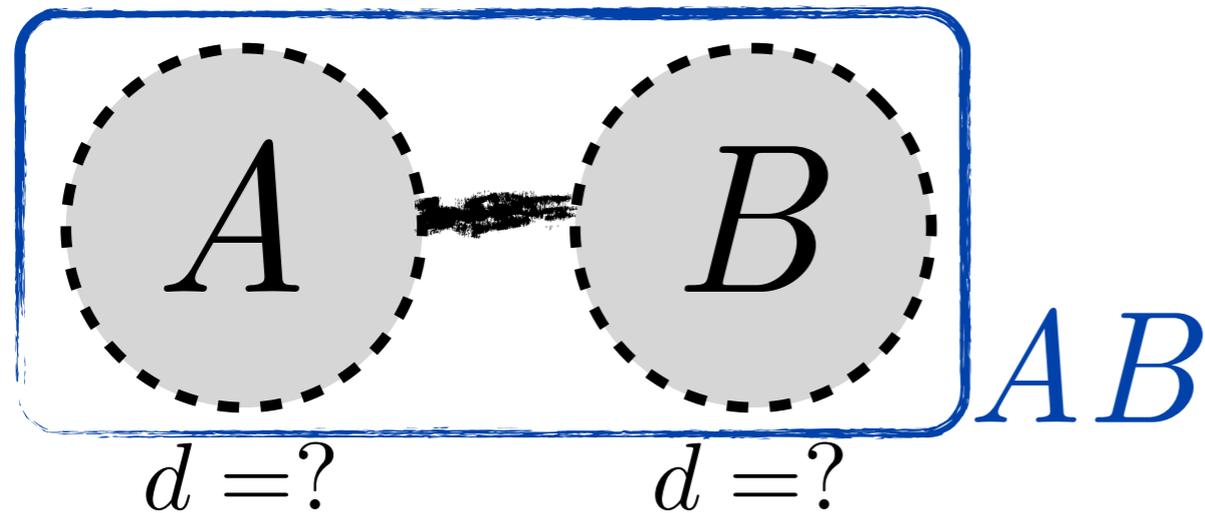
## 4. Deriving $d=3$ and QT



Only **3D**-balls can  
"talk to each other":

Ll. Masanes, MM, R. Augusiak, and D. Pérez-García, arXiv:1111.4060

## 4. Deriving $d=3$ and QT

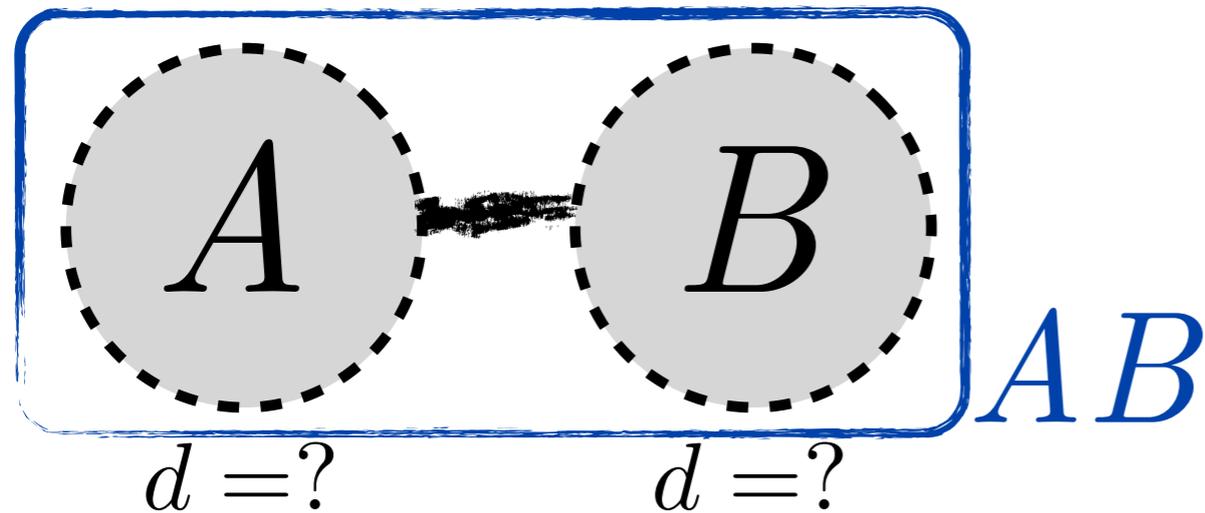


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LI. Masanes, MM, R. Augusiak, and D. Pérez-García, arXiv:1111.4060

- (Unknown) Lie group  $\mathcal{G}^{AB}$  generated by  $\{T_t^{AB}\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  and local rotations
- Lie algebra element  $X \in \mathfrak{g}^{AB}$

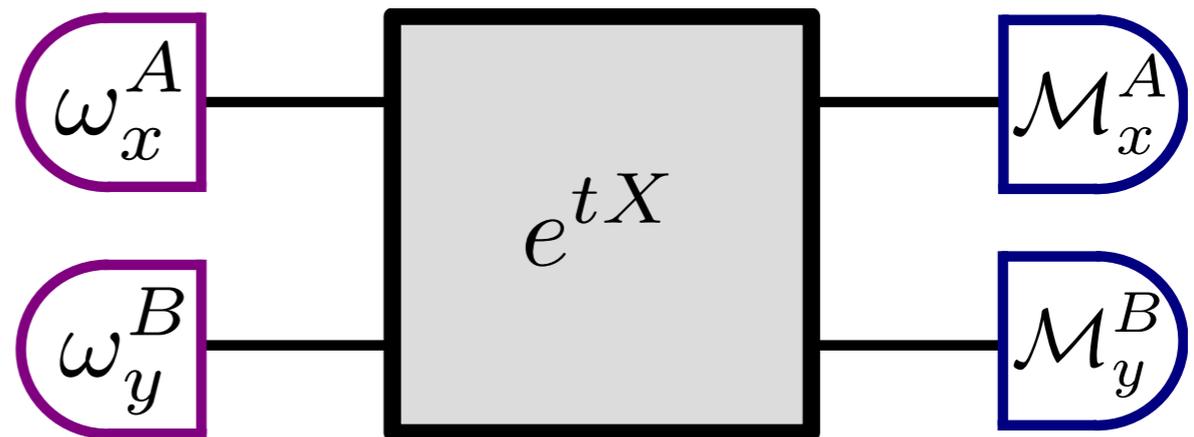
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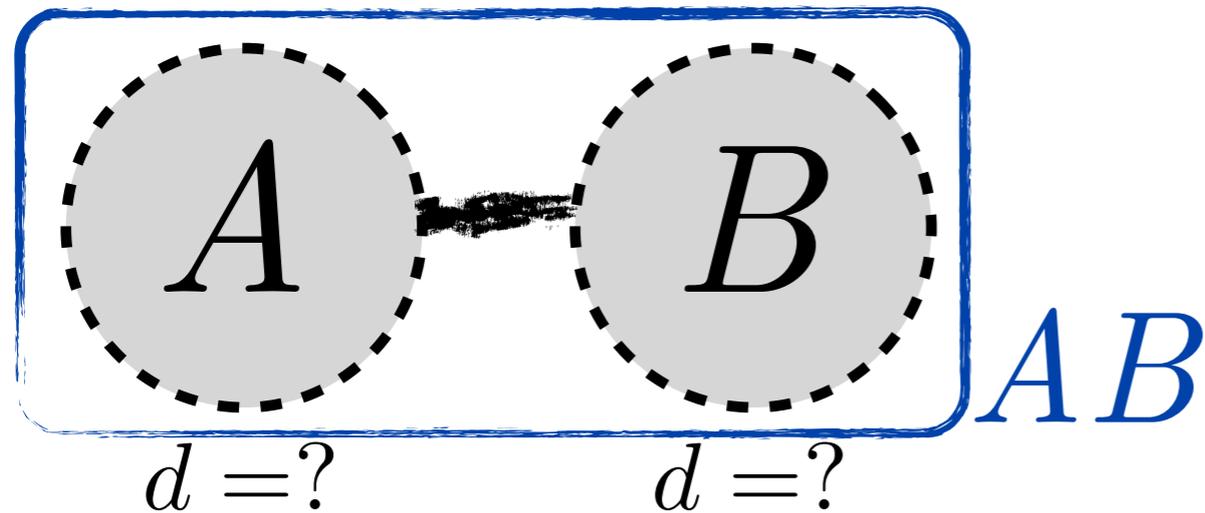
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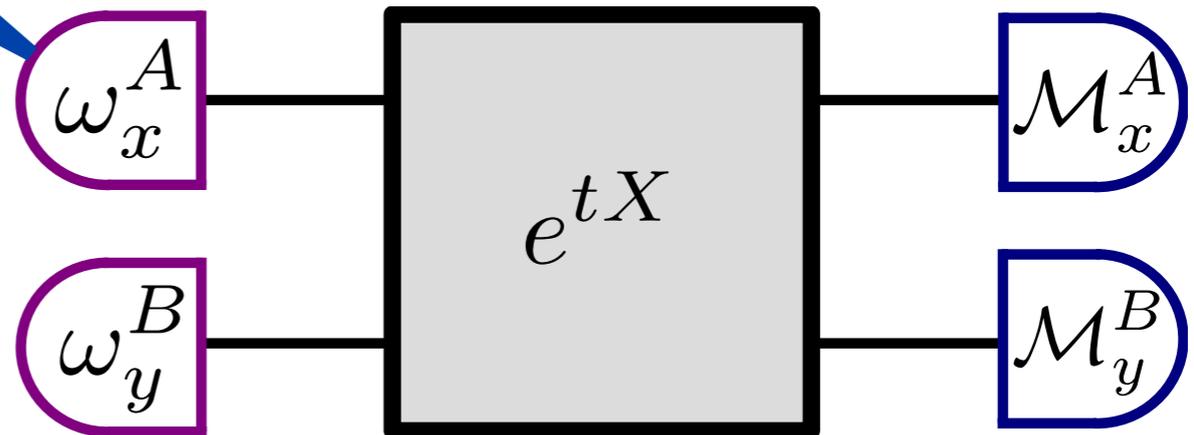


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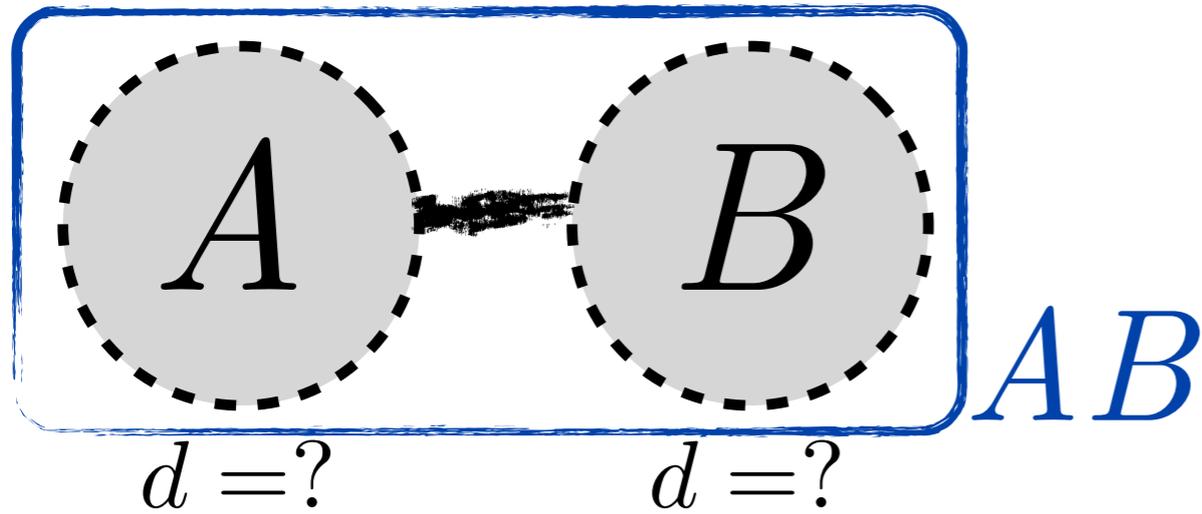
Prepare pure state on  $A$  with "Bloch vector"  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d \dots$

García, arXiv:1111.4060

- (Unitary) evolution by  $\{T_t^{AB}\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  and local rotations
- Lie algebra element  $X \in \mathfrak{g}^{AB}$



# 4. Deriving $d=3$ and QT

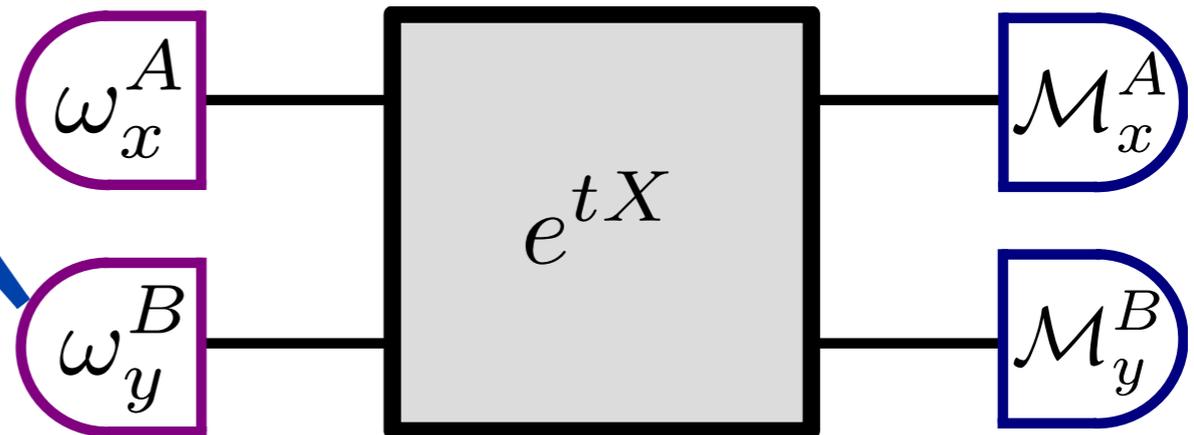


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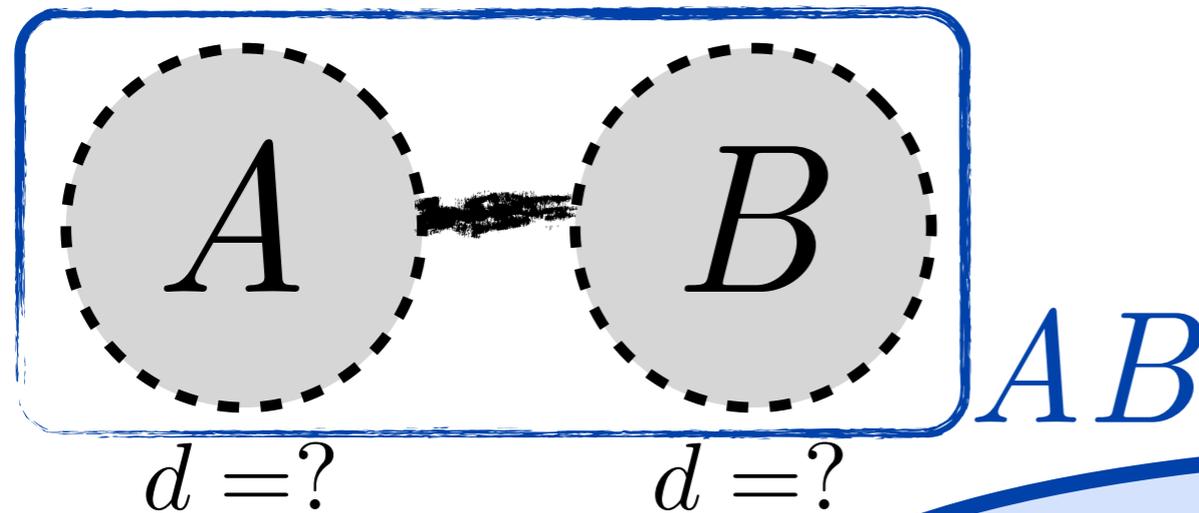
... similarly on  $B$ ...

García, arXiv:1111.4060

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- Lie algebra element  $X \in \mathfrak{g}^B$



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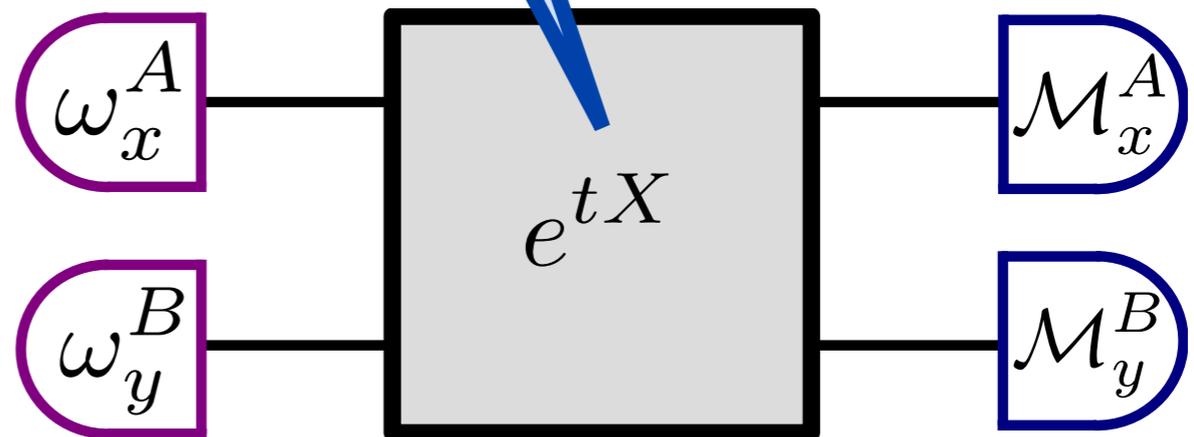


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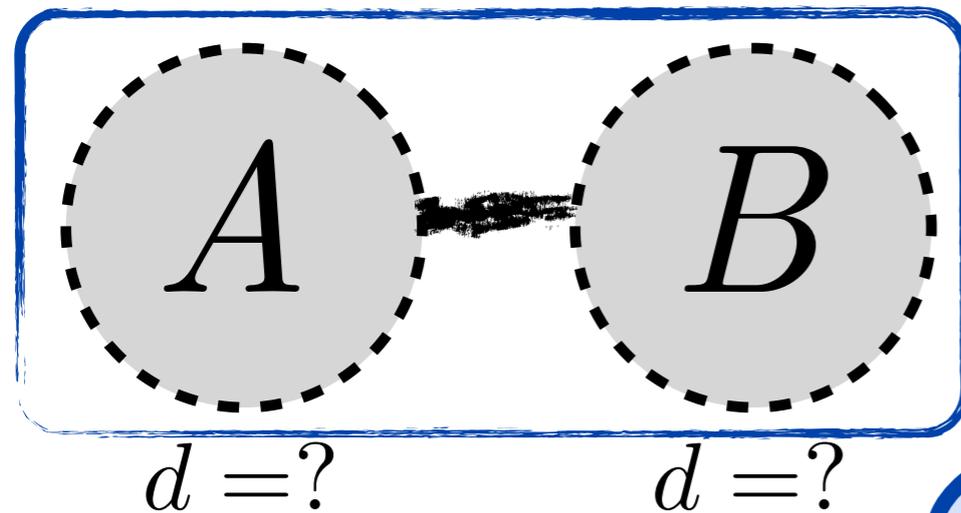
... then perform a global transformation generated by  $X...$

LI. Masanes, MM, R. August

- (Unknown) Lie group  $\mathcal{G}^{AB}$  generated by  $\{T_t^A\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  and local rotations
- Lie algebra element  $X \in \mathfrak{g}^{AB}$



# 4. Deriving $d=3$ and QT



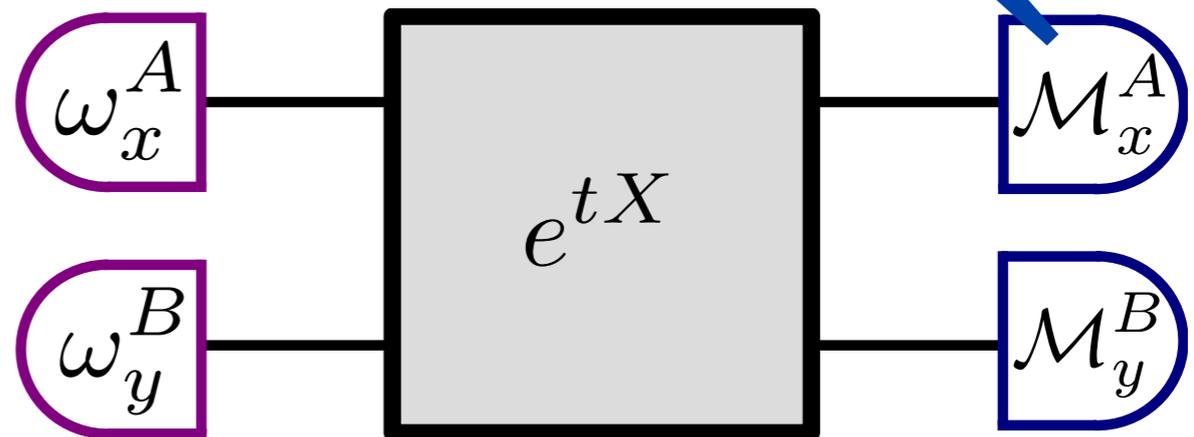
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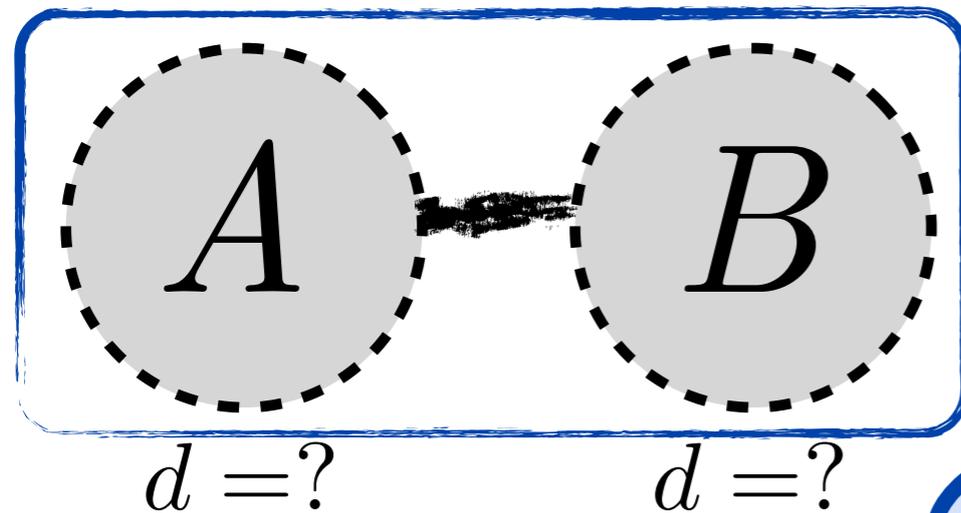
... and finally measure if the local state still points in direction  $x$ .

LI. Masanes, MM, R. Augusiak, and D. Perez-Garcia, arXiv:1206.0630

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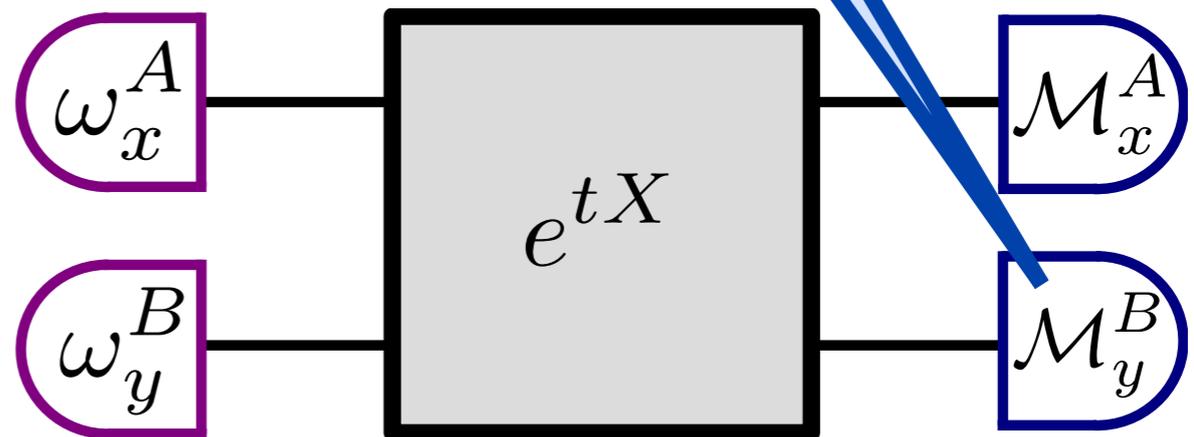


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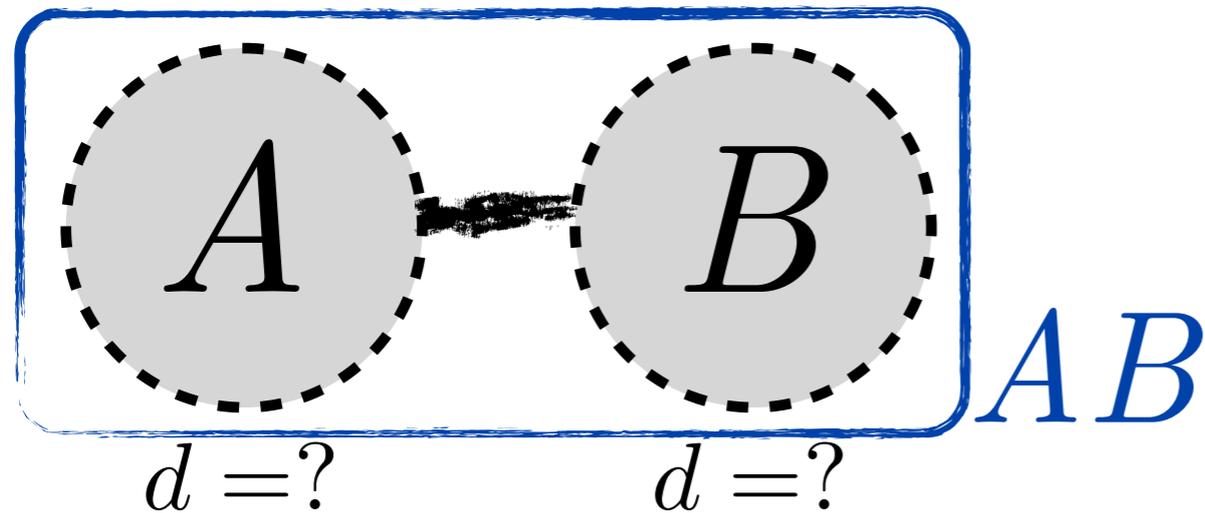
*AB*  
Same on system *B*.

LI. Masanes, MM, R. Augusiak, and D. Perez-Garcia, arXiv:1111.4060

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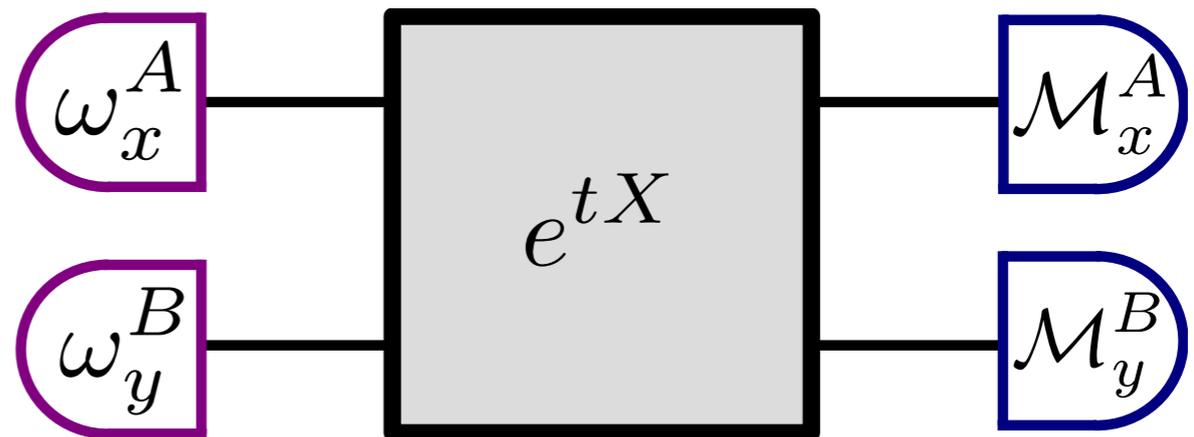
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LI. Masanes, MM, R. Augusiak, and D. Pérez-García, arXiv:1111.4060

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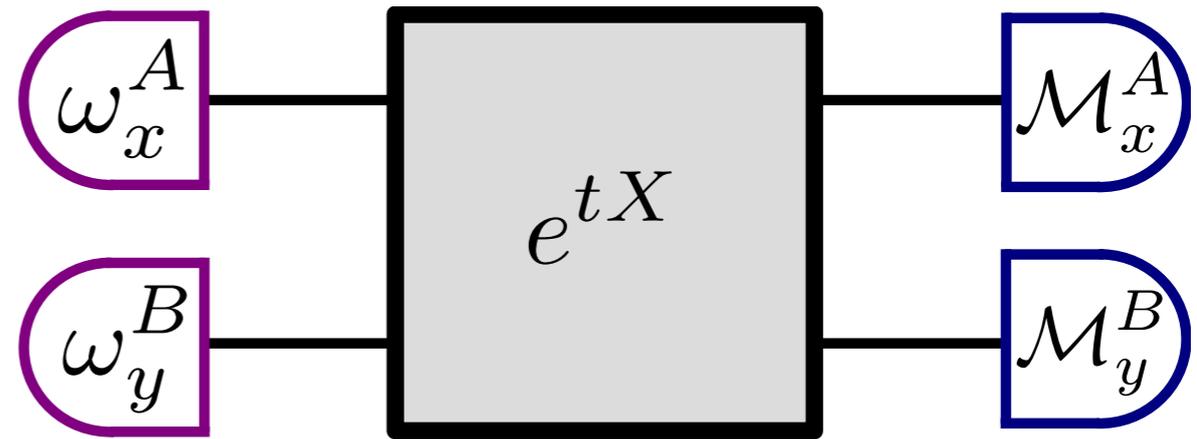
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# 4. Deriving $d=3$ and QT

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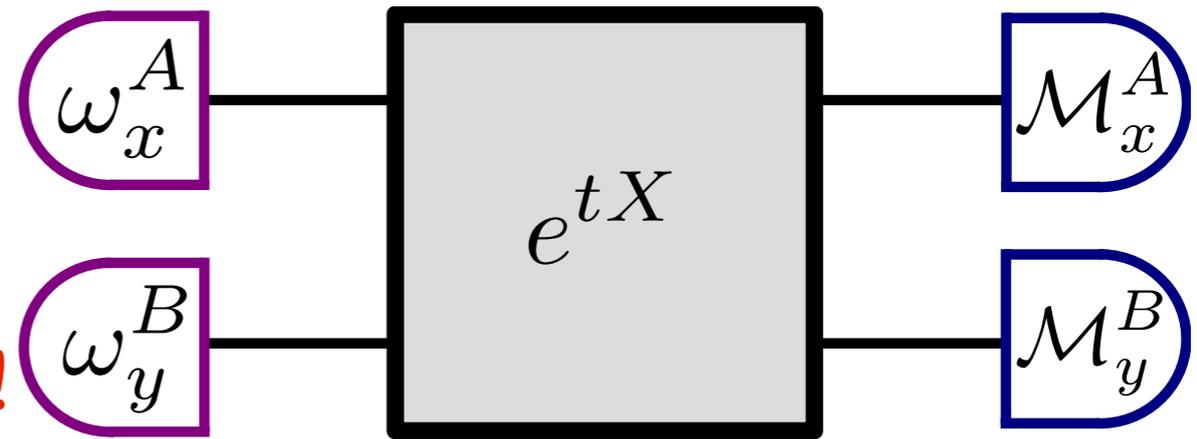
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Probability for  $t=0$  is

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local maximum!

$$\Rightarrow p'(0) = 0, \quad p''(0) \leq 0.$$



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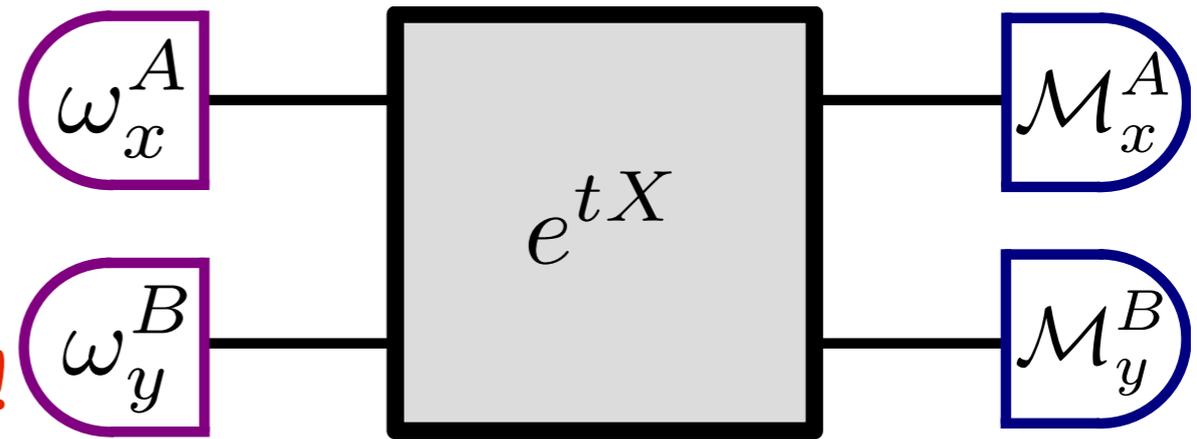
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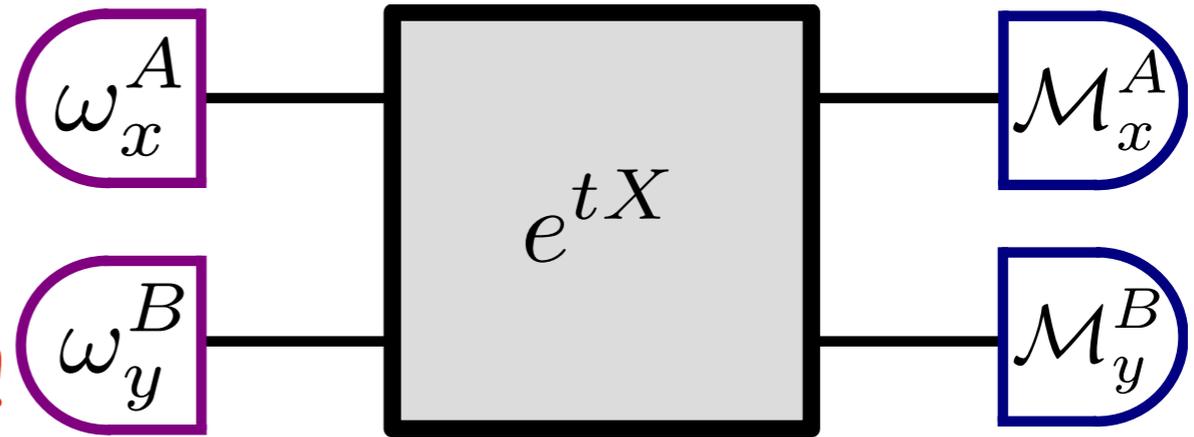
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$\Rightarrow$  Constraints on  $X$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_x^A \mathcal{M}_y^B X \omega_x^A \omega_y^B &= 0, \\ \mathcal{M}_x^A \mathcal{M}_y^B X^2 \omega_x^A \omega_y^B &\leq 0. \end{aligned}$$



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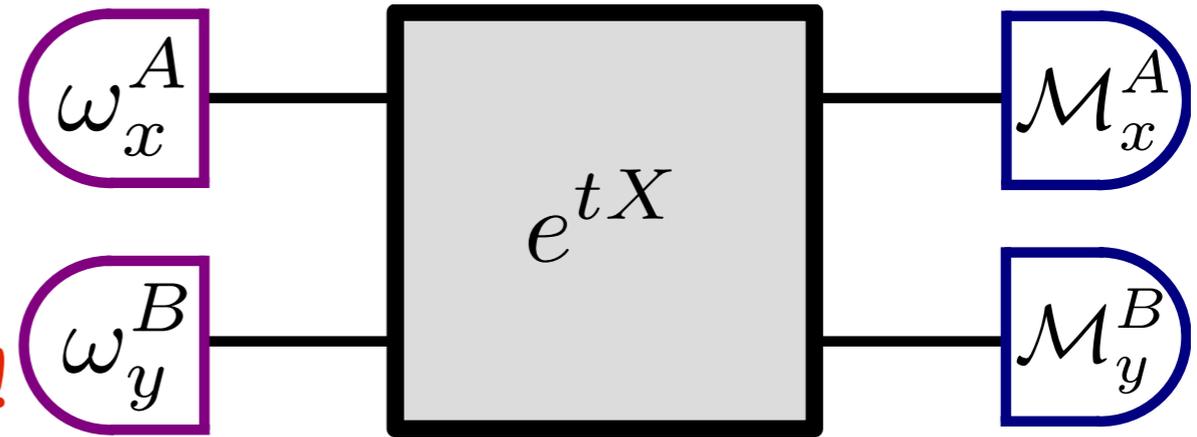
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With some effort, one proves:

- If  $d \neq 3$ ,  $X$  satisfies all constraints only if  $X = X^A + X^B$  (non-interacting).

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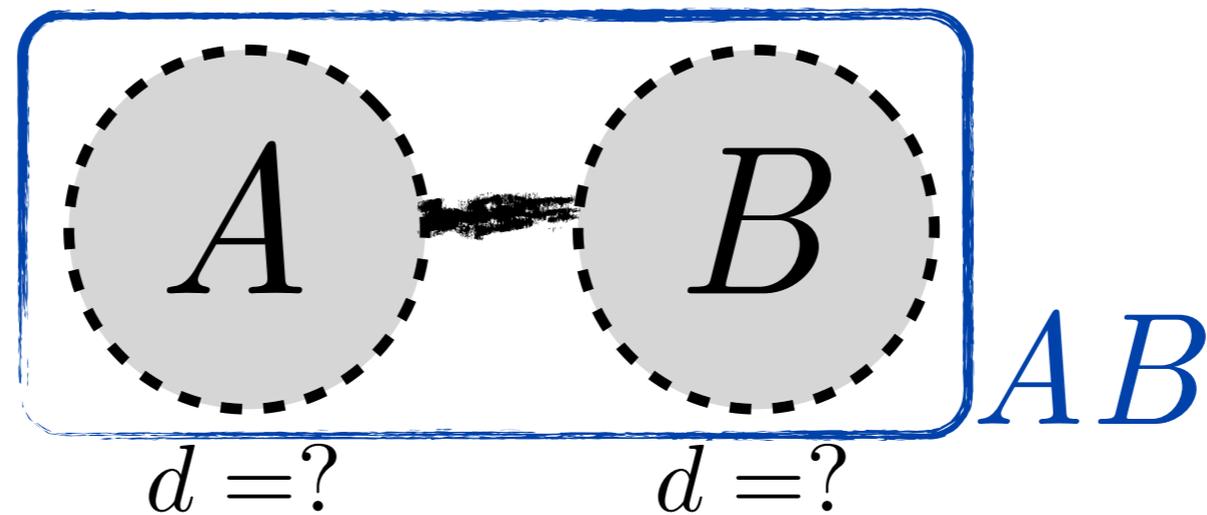
With some effort, one proves:

- If  $d \neq 3$ ,  $X$  satisfies all constraints only if  $X = X^A + X^B$  (non-interacting).
- If  $d=3$ , states  $\omega$  can be parametrized as 4x4 Hermitian matrices, and  $X$  satisfies all constraints iff it generates conjugation by unitaries,

$$\rho \mapsto U \rho U^\dagger.$$

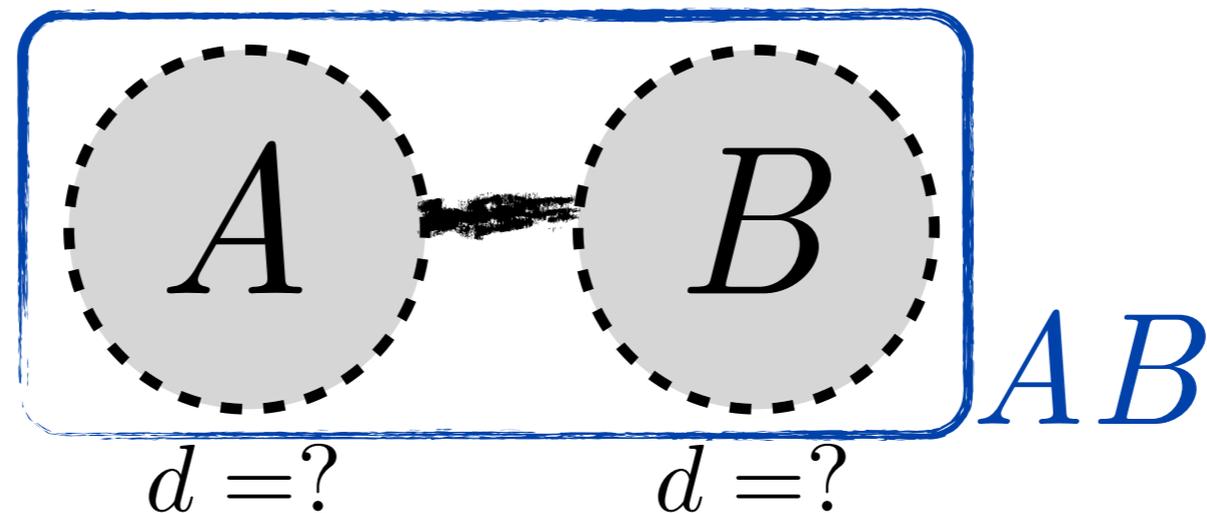
## 4. Deriving $d=3$ and QT

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**Theorem 3:** From Postulates 1–4, it follows that the state space of two direction bits is two-qubit quantum state space (i.e. the set of  $4 \times 4$  density matrices), and time evolution is given by a one-parameter group of unitaries,  $\rho \mapsto U(t)\rho U(t)^\dagger$ .

# Overview

1. Overview

2. Convex state spaces

3. The postulates

4. Deriving  $d=3$  and quantum theory

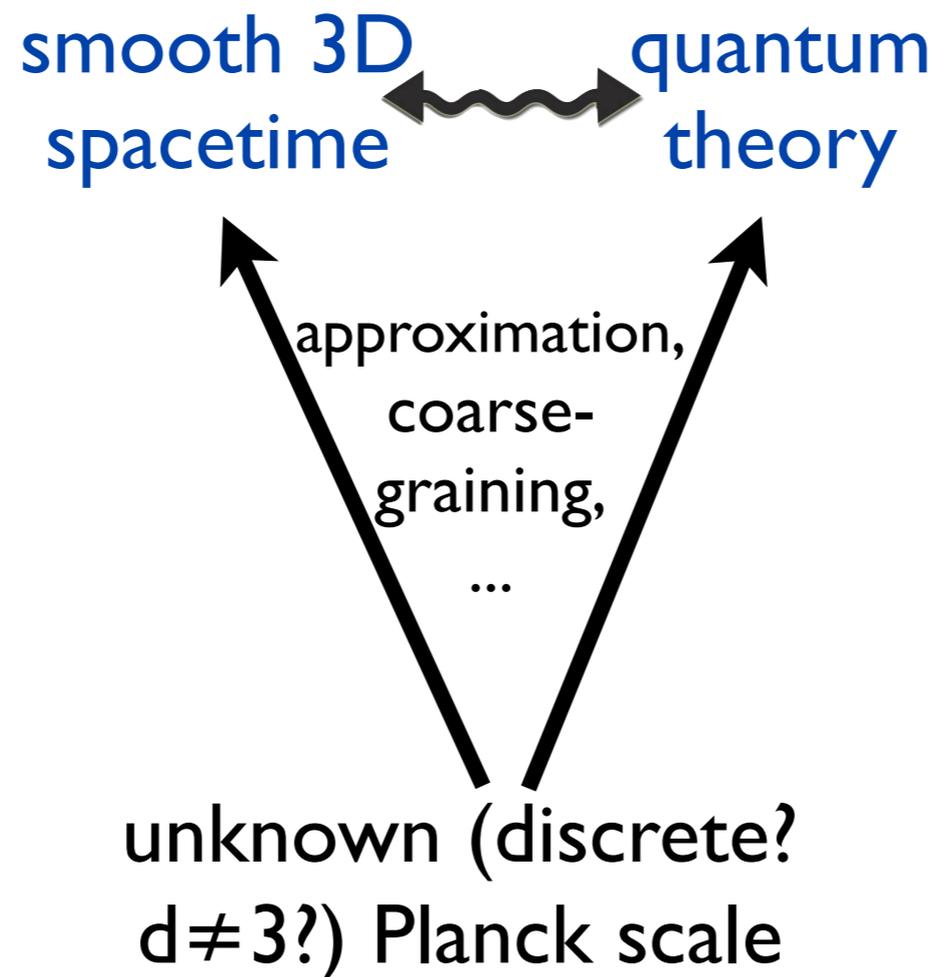
 5. What does all this tell us?

# Conclusions

- We proved: natural interplay between space + probability is **only possible if space is 3-dimensional, and quantum theory holds.**

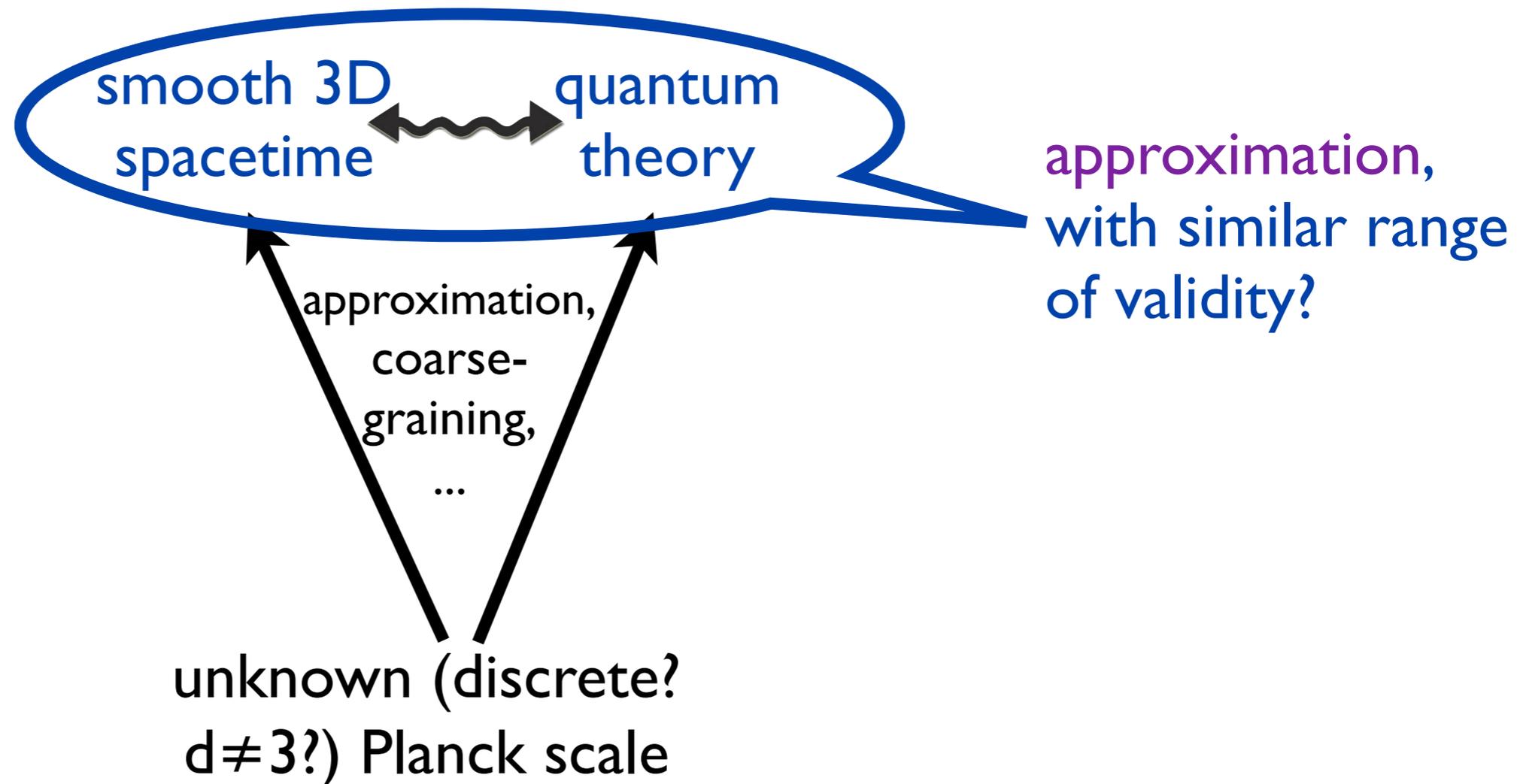
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# 5. Conclusions

ruling out  $d \neq 3$ :

LI. Masanes, MM, D. Pérez-García, R. Augusiak, arXiv:1111.4060

$d=3$  implies quantum theory:

G. de la Torre, LI. Masanes, T. Short, MM, Phys. Rev. Lett. **109**, 090403 (2012)  
arXiv:1110.5482

this talk:

MM, LI. Masanes, arXiv:1206.0630

# Thank you!

Thanks to: Lucien Hardy, Lee Smolin, Cozmin Ududec, Rob Spekkens, Tobias Fritz, ...