Monogamy of Bell’s inequality violations in non-signaling theories

Marcin Pawłowski$^{1,2}$ and Časlav Brukner$^{2,3}$

$^1$ Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astrophysics, University of Gdańsk, PL-80-952 Gdańsk, Poland
$^2$ Institute of Quantum Optics and Quantum Information, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Boltzmanngasse 3, A-1090 Vienna, Austria
$^3$ Faculty of Physics, University of Vienna, Boltzmanngasse 5, A-1090 Vienna, Austria

We derive monogamy relations (tradeoffs) between strengths of violations of Bell’s inequalities from the non-signaling condition. Our result applies to general Bell inequalities with an arbitrary large number of partners, outcomes and measurement settings. The method is simple, efficient and does not require linear programming. The results are used to derive optimal fidelity for asymmetric cloning in non-signaling theories.

The non-signaling principle – the impossibility of sending information faster than the speed of light – is deeply rooted in our existing understanding of the physical world. It not only allows to consider current physical theories within a general framework of the non-signaling principle, but also to significantly restrict the structure of possible future theories. This principle implies that the correlations between distant partners cannot be used to send information, as is the case for quantum correlations. Mathematically, a correlation is defined as a joint probability distribution \(P(a, b|x, y)\), where \(a\) and \(b\) are outcomes of two separated parties, say Alice and Bob, given \(x\) and \(y\) are their free choices of measurement settings, respectively. The non-signaling condition implies that the marginals are independent of the partner’s choice: \(P(a|x) = \sum_y P(a, b|x, y) = P(a|x)\).

Quantum theory predicts correlations between space-like separated events, which are non-signaling but cannot be explained within local realism, i.e., within the framework in which all outcomes have pre-existing values for any possible measurement before the measurements are made (“realism”) and where these values are independent from any action at space-like separated regions (“locality”) [1]. This is signaled by the violation of Bell’s inequalities. Since the work of Popescu and Rohrlich [2] it is known that there are correlations violating Bell’s inequality stronger than the quantum mechanical correlations, but without contradicting the non-signaling principle. This opened up a possibility to investigate quantum correlations outside of the Hilbert space formalism as well as correlations in general probabilistic theories subject to the non-signaling constraints [3,4,5,6,7].

The general framework for considering non-signaling correlations is also important from the information-theoretical point of view. For example, protocols for a secret key distribution were recently proposed and their security proved solely using the non-signaling principle [8,9]. Furthermore, it was shown that every non-signaling theory that predicts the violation of Bell’s inequality implies the no-cloning theorem. The bound on the shrinking factor for the symmetric, phase-covariant cloning was derived from the non-signaling condition [3,10].

In this paper we will investigate monogamy properties of correlations in non-signaling theories. This property was first found for quantum entanglement. Consider, for example, three subsystems \(A, B\) and \(C\) of a composite quantum system. The theorem of Coffman, Kundu, and Wootters describes the tradeoff between the degree of entanglement between \(A\) and \(B\), and the degree of entanglement between \(A\) and \(C\), as measured by concurrence [11,12,13,14]. A similar trade-off exits between the violation of the Clauser-Horne-Shimony-Holt (CHSH) inequality for the pair \(A-B\) and the violation of the inequality for the pair \(A-C\) in \(n\) non-signaling theory [5,15] (For the trade-off derived within quantum theory see Ref. [16,17]). The questions arise: Is the monogamy relation a generic feature of every Bell inequality? What are constraints on quantum correlations imposed by the non-signaling condition? A general, but only qualitative result was found [5]: If \(A\) and \(B\) maximally violate some Bell inequality, then \(A\) and \(C\) are completely uncorrelated. Furthermore, a linear program was given for finding the non-signaling bounds on the quantum value of a general Bell expression [15].

Here we derive the monogamy relations for the violation of general Bell’s inequalities in any non-signaling theory. It applies for an arbitrary number of parties, measurement settings and outcomes. The method is simple, efficient and does not require linear programming. To illustrate its applicability we derive the optimal fidelity for generally asymmetric cloning from the non-signaling bounds. The latter generalizes the results of Ref. [5].

Consider a general linear, two-partite Bell inequality, for correlations of local outcomes observed at measurement stations of Alice (A) and Bob (B):

\[\mathcal{B}(A, B) \equiv \sum_{x,y} \sum_{a,b} \alpha(x, y, a, b)P(A_x = a, B_y = b) \leq R.\]  

Here \(x\) and \(y\) stand for the measurement settings chosen by Alice and Bob respectively, and \(a\) and \(b\) for the outcomes of their measurements. \(R\) is the local realistic bound and \(P(A_x = a, B_y = b) \equiv P(a, b|x, y)\) is the conditional probability (both notations will be used in the present work).

Throughout this Letter, we will assume that every Bell inequality is written in such a form that for all \(x, y, a, b\) one has \(\alpha(x, y, a, b) \geq 0\). This guarantees that \(\mathcal{B}(A, B) \geq 0\) and \(R \geq 0\). To see that every inequality can be brought in this form note that each inequality which has some negative \(\alpha\)’s can be rewritten by substituting probabilities which are next to negative \(\alpha\)’s by unity minus the probability of the opposite
events. The chosen form simplifies the formulas for Bell’s inequalities as no absolute values need to be involved.

We now give the main result of our paper. Consider $n + 1$ separate parties, a single Alice (A) and a set of $n$ Bobs ($B^{(1)},...,B^{(n)}$). Furthermore, consider a linear bipartite Bell’s inequality $\mathcal{B}(A,B^{(m)}) \leq R$ of type (1), for measurements of A and any single Bob $B^{(m)}$, $m \in \{1,...,n\}$. The number of outcomes at the two stations is arbitrary, as well as the number of measurement settings at A. The number of settings at each Bob $B^{(m)}$ is assumed to be $n$, which is also the total number of Bobs. The following monogamy relation must hold between the strengths of violations of bipartite Bell’s inequalities for $n$ pairs of observers, each pair consisting of Alice and single Bob:

$$\sum_{m=1}^{n} \mathcal{B}(A,B^{(m)}) \leq nR.$$  

(2)

This holds in every non-signaling theory, including these for which individual Bell’s inequalities $\mathcal{B}(A,B^{(m)}) \leq R$ can be violated, as it is the case in quantum theory (An analogous result of Eq. (2) within quantum theory was found in Ref. [18]).

The proof consists in showing that a violation of the monogamy relation (2) would imply signaling. The left-hand side of Ineq. (2) can be written as $\sum_{m=1}^{n} \mathcal{B}(A,B^{(m)}) = \sum_{m=1}^{n} \mathcal{B}_{m}$, where

$$\mathcal{B}_{m} \equiv \sum_{x,y,a,b} \alpha(x,y,a,b)P(A_{x} = a, B^{(y+m-1 \mod n)}_{y} = b)$$

(3)

involves a sum over all the settings of Alice and only one setting for each Bob (see Figure 1). Here $P(A_{x} = a, B^{(y+m-1 \mod n)}_{y} = b)$ is the probability that Alice observes $a$ and the $(y + m - 1 \mod n)$-th Bob observes $b$, when she chooses setting $x$ and he setting $y$. If Ineq. (2) is violated, then there exists at least one $m$ for which

$$\mathcal{B}_{m} \leq R$$

(4)

is violated. We show that violation of Ineq. (4) implies signaling. We prove it for $m = 1$, for other $m$ values the proof is analogous. The inequality (4) for $m = 1$ reads

$$\mathcal{B}_{1} \equiv \sum_{x,y,a,b} \alpha(x,y,a,b)P(A_{x} = a, B^{(y)}_{y} = b) \leq R$$

(5)

and is again a Bell’s inequality of type (1).

It is important to note that in the present set-up Bobs do not change their measurement settings during the Bell test and, furthermore, that they all can jointly perform their measurements. Thus, observer $B^{(1)}$ always performs measurement 1, and simultaneously $B^{(2)}$ performs measurement 2 and so on. Let us introduce the joint probability $P(A_{x} = a, B^{(1)}_{1} = b_{1},...,B^{(n)}_{n} = b_{n})$ that Alice observes the outcome $a$ when she chooses the setting $x$, and Bobs observe sequence of outcomes $b_{1},...,b_{n}$. We write $P(A_{x} = a, B^{(y)}_{y} = b) = \sum_{b_{y},...,b_{n}} P(A_{x} = a, B^{(1)}_{1} = b_{1},...,B^{(y)}_{y} = b, ..., B^{(n)}_{n} = b_{n})$, where $\sum_{b_{y},...,b_{n}}$ denotes the sum over all indices $b_{1},...,b_{n}$ except $b_{y}$. The Ineq. (5) can now be brought into the form:

$$\mathcal{B}_{1} = \sum_{x,a,b_{1},...,b_{n}} \alpha'(x,a,b_{1},...,b_{n}) \times P(A_{x} = a, B^{(1)}_{1} = b_{1},...,B^{(n)}_{n} = b_{n}) \leq R,$$

(6)

where $\alpha'(x,a,b_{1},...,b_{n}) = \sum_{y} \alpha(x,y,a,b_{y})$.

We introduce the short notation $\tilde{b} \equiv (b_{1},...,b_{n})$ for the set of all outcomes that are observed by Bobs and $P(a,\tilde{b}|x) \equiv P(A_{x} = a, B^{(1)}_{1} = b_{1},...,B^{(y)}_{y} = b, ..., B^{(n)}_{n} = b_{n})$ for the probability that Alice observes $a$ and Bobs $\tilde{b}$ conditional on her choice of setting $x$. Recall that these probabilities are not conditioned on the choice of the measurement settings of Bobs since in the set-up considered ($\mathcal{B}_{1}$) all settings $y$ are chosen simultaneously by different Bobs. We now can rewrite Ineq. (6) as

$$\mathcal{B}_{1} = \sum_{x,a,\tilde{b}} \alpha'(x,a,\tilde{b}) P(a,\tilde{b}|x) \leq R.$$

(7)

For every probability distribution it is valid that

$$P(a,\tilde{b}|x) = P(a|\tilde{b},x)P(\tilde{b}|x).$$

(8)

The non-signaling condition is the assumption that

$$P(\tilde{b}|x) = P(\tilde{b}),$$

(9)

which allows to write Eq. (8) as

$$P(a,\tilde{b}|x) = P(a|\tilde{b})P(\tilde{b}|x).$$

(10)

FIG. 1: Diagram of measurements involved in the Bell expression $\mathcal{B}(A,B^{(1)})$ (top) and $\mathcal{B}_{1}$ (bottom). The choices of the measurement settings are marked in red color (online) and by positions of the pointers (print). In the set-up for $\mathcal{B}(A,B^{(1)})$ both parties have a number of measurements to (freely [19]) choose from. In the set-up for $\mathcal{B}_{1}$ only Alice has such a choice whereas each $B^{(y)}$, $y \in \{1,...,n\}$ always performs the same measurement $y$. 

\[A\]
\[B^{(1)}\]
\[B^{(n)}\]
\[\text{settings}\]
\[\text{outcomes}\]
\[\text{settings}\]
\[\text{outcomes}\]
It is crucial to realize that a probability distribution that satisfies Eq. (10) is explainable within local realism. In a local realistic model the source sends particles carrying information about the vector $\vec{b}$ with the probability $P(\vec{b})$ to Alice and all Bobs. The measurement apparatuses of Bobs output $\vec{b}$ while the apparatus of Alice takes the input $x$ (the setting chosen freely by Alice) and outputs $a$ with the probability $P(a|b, x)$. This means that every value of the left-hand side of Ineq. (2), which is attainable by any non-signaling theory, is also attainable by a local realistic one. And since $R$ is the maximal attainable value of the left-hand side of Ineq. (2) this in turn means that a violation of Ineq. (2) would allow Alice to signal to Bobs.

The extension to multipartite Bell’s inequalities is straightforward. Consider Bell’s inequality

$$\mathcal{B}(P^{(1)}, \ldots, P^{(N)}) \leq R$$

(11)

where $N$ parties $P^{(i)}$, $i \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$, can choose between an arbitrary number of measurement settings. We can always divide the parties into two sets and name these sets $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$. We can now consider each of these two sets as one party in a corresponding two-partite Bell’s inequality and rewrite Ineq. (11) as $\mathcal{B}(\vec{A}, \vec{B}) \leq R$. Each setting of $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ corresponds to one of all the possible combinations of settings of individual parties that form the set. Following the proof given above we can conclude: For every $N$-partite Bell inequality $\mathcal{B}(P^{(1)}, \ldots, P^{(N)}) \leq R$ and any chosen division of the parties into two sets $\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$, the violation of

$$\sum_{m=1}^{n} \mathcal{B}(\vec{A}, \vec{B}^{(m)}) \leq nR,$$

(12)

where $n$ is the number of settings at each $\vec{B}^{(m)}$ (the number of the settings at $\vec{A}$ is arbitrary), implies signaling.

To illustrate the consequences of our result we will consider an asymmetric, state dependent cloning machine (see ref. [20] for a review on cloning) that takes a single system of arbitrary dimension and produces $n$ copies (1 → $n$ cloning machine). We will derive the optimal shrinking factor for the machine from our non-signaling inequalities [2]. Consider a composite system consisting of two subsystems belonging to A and B. The two subsystems can be measured locally giving rise to the probability distribution $P(A_{x} = a, B_{y} = b)$ (Figure 2, top). Alternatively, the subsystem of B can be sent to the cloning machine which takes it as an input and outputs $n$ “copies” that are further distributed to $n$ observers $B^{(m)}$, $m \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, and then measured locally in coincidence with the subsystem of A. The “cloned” probability distribution for local measurements on A and $B^{(m)}$ is denoted by $P(A_{x} = a, B_{y}^{(m)} = b)$. Given an initial probability distribution, which cloned probability distributions are in agreement with the non-signaling condition?

We now compare the strengths of the violation of Bell’s inequality on an arbitrarily dimensional composite system before and after the cloning procedure. Denote the Bell expression in the experiment without cloning by $\mathcal{B}(A, B)$. Alice is assumed to choose between an arbitrary number of measurement settings and Bob between $n$ of them. Denote, furthermore, the Bell expressions in the experiment with cloning by $\mathcal{B}(A, B^{(m)})$, $m \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$. Every such expression involves the cloned probability distribution between a pair of observers A and $B^{(m)}$, where A chooses among an arbitrary number of measurement settings, and each $B^{(m)}$ between $n$ of them. We define the mean value of the shrinking factor $\eta_m$ for each of the copies to be

$$\eta_m = \frac{\mathcal{B}(A, B^{(m)})}{\mathcal{B}(A, B)}.$$

(13)

The non-signaling inequality [2] implies

$$\sum_{m=1}^{n} \mathcal{B}(A, B^{(m)}) \leq nR,$$

(14)

which transforms into

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{m=1}^{n} \eta_m \leq \frac{R}{\mathcal{B}(A, B)}.$$

(15)

Therefore, the bound on the mean value of the shrinking factor for cloning is non-trivial, i.e. less than unity, only if the initial probability distribution violates Bell’s inequality. This generalizes the results of Ref. [3] obtained for the symmetric cloning and $n = 2$. 

![Diagram of measurements involved in a direct Bell test between Alice and Bob (top) or the one between Alice and $n$ Bobs after the cloning procedure (bottom). While Alice chooses between an arbitrary number of measurement settings, Bobs choose between $n$ of them. The non-signaling condition gives an upper bound of the shrinking factor for a general asymmetric cloning procedure employed by Bobs.](image-url)
The bound derived with the use of the CHSH inequality \((n = 2)\) is \(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\) and is, interestingly, shown to be saturated by quantum mechanics [5]. Using our result every two-party Bell’s inequality which provides an upper bound on the Grothendieck constant \(K_G(d)\) for \(d\)-dimensional systems and involves \(n\) settings at one of the parties (if the numbers are different for different parties, any number can be taken) gives a bound of \(\frac{1}{K_G(d)}\) on the shrinking factor of symmetric \(1 \to n\) cloning machine. For example, the recent result [21] provides us with stronger bounds on the shrinking factors for the symmetric cloning of qubits for cloning machines that make a very large number of copies (at least \(1 \to 465\)).

In conclusion, we derive monogamy constraints on correlations using only non-signaling condition. Our results can be applied to any Bell’s inequality and in each the case the constraints they give are easy to calculate. These constraints hold for every non-signaling theory, quantum mechanics being a special case. This generalizes previously known results which either were explicitly obtained for only the CHSH inequality or gave only qualitative description of monogamy. We also have shown an exemplary application of our results in finding a straightforward way to derive bounds on shrinking factors of cloning machines in any non-signaling theory.

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