Self-testing using only marginal information

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The partial states of a multipartite quantum state may carry a lot of information: in some cases, they determine the global state uniquely. This result is known for tomographic information, that is for fully characterized measurements. We extend it to the device-independent framework by exhibiting sets of two-party correlations that self-test pure three-qubit states.

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the most basic tasks in quantum information processing is to describe the state in the experiment, also known as state tomography. In the usual tomographic scenario, one would have access to a set of well characterized set of measurement devices. By repeating the experiment, expectation values of an informationally complete set of measurements allows us to reconstruct the density operator that describes the quantum state. In a multipartite scenario, it is sometimes possible to reconstruct the state with only marginal statistics [1,4]. For example, the three-qubit W state

\[ |W⟩ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (|001⟩ + |010⟩ + |100⟩) \]

is the only state, pure or mixed, with partial states \( \rho_{AB} = \rho_{AC} = Tr_B |W⟩⟨W| \). Thus, given those partial states, the global state can be inferred.

Remarkably, even when the devices are completely uncharacterized, an analog of tomography may be possible in the presence of Bell nonlocality: device-independent (DI) self-testing [5]. Indeed, some nonlocal statistics identify one pure state and one set of measurements, up to local isometries; and if the observed statistics deviate from the ideal ones, one can estimate how far the actual state and measurements are from the ideal ones. Among several recent results, it was proved that every pure bipartite entangled state can be self-tested [6]. For multipartite pure states, such a general result cannot hold. Only examples are known: the self-testing of the W state was first reported in Ref. [7, 8]; for an updated list, see Ref. [9] and references therein. All these examples exploit correlations involving all the parties. In this paper, we show that, as it happens for tomography, it is possible to self-test some multipartite states using only marginal information.

The possibility of obtaining relevant information from partial correlations is paramount in many-body physics, where usually even three-body correlators are hard to measure. In this context, Bell inequalities that use only few-body correlators have recently attracted a lot of attention [11, 12]. At a more fundamental level: the proof that, if one were to simulate quantum entanglement with communication, this communication should travel at infinite speed, also relies on finding Bell inequalities using only marginal information [13, 14]. Our work makes DI self-testing relevant for such studies.

Before presenting our three specific results of self-testing using only marginal information, we review the so-called SWAP method, developed in [15, 16] and based on a semi-definite optimisation, that we are going to use.

II. TOOL: THE SWAP METHOD

Let us consider a Bell-type experiment involving a number of non-communicating parties – for definiteness and for the sake of our specific results, we stay with three parties. Each has access to a black box with inputs \( x, y, z \in \{0,1,\ldots,M-1\} \) and outputs \( a, b, c \in \{0,1,\ldots,m-1\} \). Assuming quantum mechanics, one could model these boxes with an underlying state, \( |Ψ⟩_{A,B,C} \) and measurement projectors \( \{M_{x}^{a}\}_{x,a} \), \( \{M_{y}^{b}\}_{y,b} \), \( \{M_{z}^{c}\}_{z,c} \) which commute for different parties. The state can be taken pure and the measurement projective without loss of generality, because the dimension of the Hilbert space is not fixed and the possible purification and/or auxiliary systems can be given to any of the parties. After sufficiently many repetitions of the experiment one can estimate the joint conditional statistics, a.k.a. the behaviour, \( p(a,b,c|x,y,z) = ⟨Ψ| M_{x}^{a} M_{y}^{b} M_{z}^{c} |Ψ⟩ \).

A device-independent certification is one that extracts non-trivial information on the state and the measurements from the behavior, without assumptions on the underlying degrees of freedom. In the case of device-independent self-testing, one wants to quantify the closeness of the unknown state used in the experiment \( |Ψ⟩ \) to a desired target state \( |Φ⟩ \). The idea of the SWAP method is to "swap" out the essential information on to auxiliary systems with the same dimensionality as the local systems of the target state (here, we assume qubits). Specifically, the virtual protocol that one considers is:

1. Distribute the state \( |Ψ⟩_{ABC} \), which produces the
observed behaviour, to Alice, Bob and Charlie;

2. Alice, Bob and Charlie also have access to an auxiliary qubit, initialized in the state $|000\rangle_{A'B'C'}$;

3. Alice, Bob and Charlie applies a local unitary, $U = U_{AA} \otimes U_{BB} \otimes U_{CC}$, between their part of the unknown system and their auxiliary qubit.

The closeness of the unknown resource to the target state can be then captured by the fidelity

$$f = \langle \psi | \rho_{\text{swap}} | \psi \rangle ,$$

where

$$\rho_{\text{swap}} = \text{Tr}_{ABC}(U |\Psi\rangle\langle \Psi|_{ABC} \otimes |000\rangle\langle 000|_{A'B'C'}U^\dagger).$$

The unitaries $U_{AA}$ must be formally constructed with the unknown measurement operators. Then, $f$ becomes a linear combination of two types of terms: some that enter the observed behaviour, and some non-observable correlations which involve different measurements on the same party, for example $\langle \Psi | M^a_i M^b_j | \Psi \rangle$ with $x \neq x'$ and which are left as variables. Finally, with the aid of the Navascués-Pironio-Acin (NPA) hierarchy characterization of the quantum behaviours [17], a lower bound on $f$ can be computed as a semidefinite program (SDP):

$$\begin{align*}
\min & \quad f = \langle \psi | \rho_{\text{swap}} | \psi \rangle \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad \Gamma(i \Gamma) = \delta_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots K \\
& \quad \text{Tr}(\alpha_i \Gamma) = \delta_i,
\end{align*}$$

where $\Gamma$ is the moment matrix of a certain level and matrices $\alpha_i$ and real number $\delta_i$ specifies the observed behaviour. In self-testing by marginals, only marginal information on the behavior is specified in the constraints: all terms involving three or more measurements, including observable ones, are left as SDP variables.

### III. THREE RESULTS

**Result 1.** The $W$ state [1] can be self-tested using only two-party statistics, with three measurements per party. Moreover, the self-testing is robust.

We consider the scenario in which each party (Alice, Bob and Charlie) performs three dichotomic measurements denoted $Z$, $X$ and $D$, with outcomes denoted as $\pm 1$. Suppose that the observed behavior exhibits the following one- and two-body statistics:

$$\begin{align*}
(Z_m) &= \frac{1}{3}, & (X_m) &= 0, & (D_m) &= \frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} \\
(Z_m Z_n) &= -\frac{1}{3}, & (Z_m X_n) &= \frac{2}{3}, & (Z_m D_n) &= -\frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}} \\
(X_m X_n) &= \frac{2}{3}, & (X_m D_n) &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}, & (D_m D_n) &= \frac{1}{6},
\end{align*}$$

where $m, n \in \{A, B, C\}$ and $m \neq n$ [18]. These are the statistics that one would obtain for the $W$ state if $Z \equiv \sigma_z$, $X \equiv \sigma_x$ and $D \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\sigma_z + \sigma_x)$. To investigate the robustness of self-testing induced by these statistics, we shall consider mixing them with white noise, that is by multiplying each term by $(1 - \varepsilon)$.

We consider the same isometry as Ref. [1] as shown in Fig. 1. After this isometry, the trusted auxiliary systems will be left in the state

$$\rho_{\text{swap}} = \text{Tr}_{ABC}[U \rho_{ABC} \otimes |000\rangle\langle 000|_{A'B'C'}U^\dagger] = \sum C_{ijklst} |i \rangle \langle j| \langle k | \langle l | \otimes | s \rangle \langle t|$$

where

$$C_{ijklst} = \frac{1}{64}\text{Tr}_{ABC}[M^A_{(i,j)} \otimes M^B_{(l,k)} \otimes M^C_{(t,s)} \rho_{ABC}]$$

and $M^A_{(i,j)} = (I + Z_A)^{i+1}(X_A - X_A Z_A)^j(I + Z_A)^{i+1}(X_A - X_A Z_A)^j$ for $i, j \in \{0, 1\}$, and the expressions for $B$ and $C$ are analogous. Finally, we shall be able to express the fidelity $f = \langle W | \rho_{\text{swap}} | W \rangle$ as a linear function of correlators.

Due to the symmetry present in $|W\rangle$, the measurements as well as the SWAP operation, the constraints and the objective function are also symmetric. Hence we can reduce the number of variable in the SDP by solving it in a symmetric space. Let $G = \{g_i\}_{i=0, \ldots 5} = \{((),(ab),(ac),(bc),(acb),(abc))\}$ be the permutation group of three elements. The effect of $g$ on the operators are as expected: for example, $g_5[f(Z_A, X_B, Z_C)] = f(X_A, D_B, Z_C)$. The effect of the operator is overloaded to the matrix $\Gamma$ as permutations of rows and columns. So now one can solve the SDP with a symmetrized NPA matrix:

$$\bar{\Gamma} = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{i=0}^5 g_i[\Gamma].$$

![FIG. 1. The SWAP circuit. The local isometry used to self-test the $W$ state. $H$ is the standard Hadamard gate, $Z$ and $X$ are controlled by the auxiliary qubit. The trusted ancillaries are prepared in the state $|0\rangle$.](image)
For all real \( \varepsilon \) \( \varepsilon \) represents the deviation of the observed behaviour from the ideal values. Notice that although the SWAP circuit does not contain the measurements \( D_A, D_B \) and \( D_C \), their appearance in the NPA matrix is crucial for the bound on the fidelity.

Then we solve the following SDP:

\[
\begin{align*}
\min \ f &= \langle W | \rho_{\text{swap}} | W \rangle \\
\text{s.t.} \quad &\hat{f} \geq 0, \\
&[\text{equations (2)}] \times (1 - \varepsilon),
\end{align*}
\]

where \( \Gamma \) is a \( 125 \times 125 \) NPA matrix of so-called local level one and augmented by necessary terms to express the fidelity. The fidelity is 99.991% when \( \varepsilon = 0 \) and for other \( \varepsilon \) up to 0.01 is shown in Fig. 2.

From the dual of the SDP in the ideal case \( \varepsilon = 0 \), we can extract a permutationally-invariant Bell inequality \( B \) with three measurements and two outputs per party that achieves its maximal value for the observed correlations. The generic form of such an inequality is

\[
B = \alpha S_0 + \beta S_1 + \gamma S_2 + \lambda_0 T_{00} + \lambda_1 T_{11}
\]

\[
+ \lambda_2 T_{22} + \omega_0 T_{01} + \omega_1 T_{02} + \omega_2 T_{12},
\]

where \( S_i = \langle M^A_i \rangle + \langle M^B_i \rangle + \langle M^C_i \rangle \), \( T_{ij} = \langle M^A_i M^B_j \rangle + \langle M^C_i M^A_j \rangle + \langle M^C_i M^B_j \rangle + \langle M^C_i M^C_j \rangle \) and \( T_{ij} = \langle M^A_i M^B_j \rangle + \langle M^B_i M^C_j \rangle + \langle M^C_i M^B_j \rangle + \langle M^C_i M^C_j \rangle \) for \( i, j \in \{0,1,2\} \) and \( i \neq j \). By inspection, the dual yields \( \alpha \approx \lambda_0 \) and much smaller values for all the other coefficients. The resulting guess \( B \approx S_0 - T_{00} \) defines a positivity facet, hinting that the correlation is a non-exposed extremal point of the quantum set.

We strengthen the evidence in favor of this conjecture by plotting (Fig. 3) the quantum set on a slice of the no-signalling polytope. We take the slice defined by \( P(q_0, q_1) = q_0 P_{\text{local}} + q_1 P_W + (1 - q_0 - q_1) P_{\text{noise}} \), where \( P_W \) are the marginal statistics and \( P_{\text{noise}} \) is the maximally mixed behaviour, and \( P_{\text{local}} \) is the one obtained by taking the local deterministic point \( Z_A = X_A = D_A = -Z_B = X_B = D_B = -Z_C = X_C = D_C = -1 \) and applying all the six permutations of the parties. This plot provides graphical evidence that the self-testing of that behavior cannot be associated to the maximal violation of a single inequality.

**Result 2.** For all real \( \lambda \in (0,1] \), the three-qubit state

\[
|\psi_\lambda\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 + \lambda^2}} (|100\rangle + |010\rangle + \lambda|001\rangle)
\]

can be self-tested with only two-body correlators with three measurements per party.

Self-testing of these states with three-body correlators was proved in Ref. [2] using two measurements per party. To self-test them with only one- and two-body marginals, we consider the statistics associated to the measurements \( (Z, X, D) \) as above; the explicit expressions are written in the Appendix. As before, the fidelity function is written as linear combination of observables and SDP variables. Notice that since the target state depends on \( \lambda \), the fidelity is also a function of \( \lambda \). Then we minimize the fidelity for various \( \lambda \in (0,1] \) using a moment matrix \( \Gamma \) of size 83 \times 83. For all \( \lambda \), the SDP returns \( f > 99.8\% \) (Fig. 4): we believe that the deviation from 1 is due to the limitation of the SDP relaxation.

**Result 3.** For three parties with two dichotomic measurements, Ref. [24] proved that only one non-trivial translationally invariant Bell inequality can be built on one- and two-party statistics. We prove that the maximal violation of that inequality self-tests a three-qubit state. Moreover, the self-testing is robust.
The three-partite Bell inequality proposed under study reads $B \leq 9$ with

$$B = -S_0 - 3S_1 - T_{00} + 3T_{11} + T_{01} + 2T_{10}, \quad (6)$$

where $T_{ij} = \langle M_i^A M_j^B \rangle + \langle M_i^B M_j^C \rangle + \langle M_i^C M_j^A \rangle$, so that the inequality is translationally but not permutationally invariant. Since each party has only two dichotomic measurements, the maximal quantum violation can be achieved with projective measurements on qubits [22]; which of course does not mean a priori that it could not be achieved also by other resources: this is what we set out to prove. Writing the qubit measurements as

$$M_j^{(i)} = \cos \theta_j^{(i)} \sigma_z + \sin \theta_j^{(i)} \sigma_x$$

where $j \in \{0, 1\}$, $i \in \{A, B, C\}$ and $\theta_j^{(i)} \in [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$, for $\theta_0^i \approx -1.1946$ and $\theta_1^i \approx 0.0957$ one obtains the maximal violation $B \approx 10.02$. We are going to prove that this self-tests the corresponding eigenvector

$$|\psi\rangle \approx -0.08(|000\rangle + |111\rangle)$$

$$- 0.5628(|001\rangle + |010\rangle + |100\rangle)$$

$$+ 0.1108(|011\rangle + |110\rangle + |101\rangle). \quad (7)$$

Let us first look at the ideal quantum realization to design our SWAP circuit. We can rotate the local bases so that $M_i = \sigma_x$ for Alice, Bob and Charlie. This sets $M_0 = \sin(\theta_0 + \theta_1) \sigma_z + \cos(\theta_0 + \theta_1) \sigma_x$ In order to construct the SWAP circuit, we’d rather need $\sigma_z$, which in the ideal case is $[M_0 - \cos(\theta_0 + \theta_1)M_1]/\sin(\theta_0 + \theta_1)$. However, written with the unknown measurement operators, this expression may not define a unitary operator. A method to circumvent this obstacle has been presented in previous works [6, 13, 10] one defines a third dichotomic operator $M_2$ such that

$$\frac{M_2 M_0 - \cos(\theta_0 + \theta_1)M_1}{\sin(\theta_0 + \theta_1)} \geq 0. \quad (8)$$

Since this equation is not a SDP constraint, one relaxes it to the positivity of a “localizing matrix”.

We ran the SDP, with matrix size $88 \times 88$ and augmented by three localizing matrices (one per party), minimizing the fidelity with the maximal violation states for different magnitude of violation of the inequality [6]. The result is summarized in Fig. 5.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

In a multipartite entangled state, a lot of information may be encoded in the partial state – at times, all of it. This observation was known in the context of entanglement theory for characterized degrees of freedom. We have shown that it carries over to the device-independent framework of uncharacterized devices.

The examples we presented all deal with the three-party scenario and end up self-testing states of three qubits. Our work calls for generalisation both in local dimensionality and in number of parties. In the tomographic scenario, it it known that $N$-qubit $W$ states can be determined by their bipartite marginals [23] and multipartite $W$-type state is determined by its single-particle reduced density matrices among all $W$-type states [24]. A question that may be asked is: up to which number of parties $N$ can one find states that can be self-tested with only marginal information on 2-party correlators? This would be important in the context of many-body physics, where the quantities that are routinely measured don’t go beyond functions of 2-body correlations.
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[18] Some marginal statistics were also proved only at the level of the SDP.
[19] The outcome of our program is

\[
\begin{align*}
\langle \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \lambda_0, \lambda_1, \omega_0, \omega_1, \omega_2 \rangle &= (3.7701225, -0.00000713, 0.00083364, \\
&\quad -3.76273900, 0.00004938, 0.00060403, \\
&\quad -0.00020047, -0.00227982, 0.0027316) \times 10^{4}.
\end{align*}
\]

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APPENDIX

This appendix provides the details of two-body correlations of the state \( |\psi\rangle \) with three dichotomic measurements for each party for \( \lambda \in (0, 1] \).

The state being symmetric in \( A \) and \( B \), it is convenient to list the correlators in three sets:

**Set 1.** For the parties \( A \) and \( B \), with \( m, n = \{ A, B \} \) and \( m \neq n \):

\[
\begin{align*}
\langle Z_m \rangle &= \frac{\lambda^2}{\lambda^2 + 2}, \\
\langle Z_m Z_n \rangle &= \frac{\lambda^2 - 2}{\lambda^2 + 2}, \\
\langle Z_m D_n \rangle &= \frac{\lambda^2 - 2}{\sqrt{2}(\lambda^2 + 2)}, \\
\langle X_m X_n \rangle &= \frac{2}{\lambda^2 + 2}, \\
\langle D_m D_n \rangle &= \frac{\lambda^2}{2(\lambda^2 + 2)}.
\end{align*}
\]

**Set 2.** For either \( A \) or \( B \) together with \( C \), i.e. with
\( m \in \{A, B\} : \)

\[
\langle Z_C \rangle = \frac{2 - \lambda^2}{\lambda^2 + 2},
\]
\[
\langle Z_mZ_C \rangle = \frac{-\lambda^2}{\lambda^2 + 2},
\]
\[
\langle Z_mD_C \rangle = -\frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda^2}{2(\lambda^2 + 2)},
\]
\[
\langle X_mC \rangle = \frac{2\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 2},
\]
\[
\langle X_mD_C \rangle = \frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 2},
\]
\[
\langle D_mD_C \rangle = -\frac{\sqrt{2}\lambda^2}{2(\lambda^2 + 2)}.
\]

**Set 3.** For any two parties, i.e. \( m, n \in \{A, B, C\} \) and \( m \neq n \):

\[
\langle X_m \rangle = 0,
\]
\[
\langle D_m \rangle = \frac{\langle Z_m \rangle}{\sqrt{2}},
\]
\[
\langle D_mD_n \rangle = \frac{\langle Z_mZ_n \rangle}{\sqrt{2}},
\]
\[
\langle D_mD_n \rangle = \frac{\langle Z_mZ_n \rangle + \langle X_mX_n \rangle}{2}.
\]