



## Quantum nonlocality: How does Nature do it? And what can we do with it?

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**Wednesday, 4 May – 4:30 p.m.**

Since our early childhood we know in our bones that in order to interact with an object we have either to go to it or to throw something at it. Yet, contrary to all our daily experience, Nature is nonlocal: there are spatially separated systems that exhibit nonlocal correlations. In recent years this led to new experiments, deeper understanding of the tension between quantum physics and relativity [1] and to proposals for disruptive technologies [2].

After an introduction to the modern view of the subject, I'll present recent experiments that test John Bell's intuition that 'there is something going on behind the scene' [3]. These experiments put stringent lower bounds on any hypothetical influence (e.g. spooky action at a distance in Einstein's terminology) propagating at speeds faster than light defined in a universal preferred reference frame [4,5]. Finally, I introduce the concept of 'Device-Independent Quantum Key Distribution', a sort of self-testing quantum device that exploits nonlocality [6]. An experimental proposal for DI-QKD will also be sketched [7].

[1] N. Gisin, *Science* 326, 1357 (2009)

[2] N. Gisin and R. Thew, *Electronics Lett.* 46, 965 (2010)

[3] J. S. Bell in *The Ghost in the Atom*, eds P. C. W. Davies and J. R. Brown, Cambridge University Press, pp 45-57 (1993)

[4] D. Salart et al., *Nature* 454, 861 (2008)

[5] B. Cocciaaro, S. Faetti and L. Fronzoni, arXiv: 1006.2697

[6] A. Acin, N. Gisin and L. Masanes, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 97, 120405 (2006)

[7] N. Gisin, S. Pironio and N. Sangouard, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 105, 070501 (2010)

# Quantum Nonlocality:

How does Nature do it? And what can we do with it?

Nicolas Gisin GAP, University of Geneva, Switzerland

1. The scene:  
what is nonlocality ?
2. How does Nature  
perform the trick ?
3. What can nonlocal  
correlations do for us ?



Bellevue Cornavin

Bernex





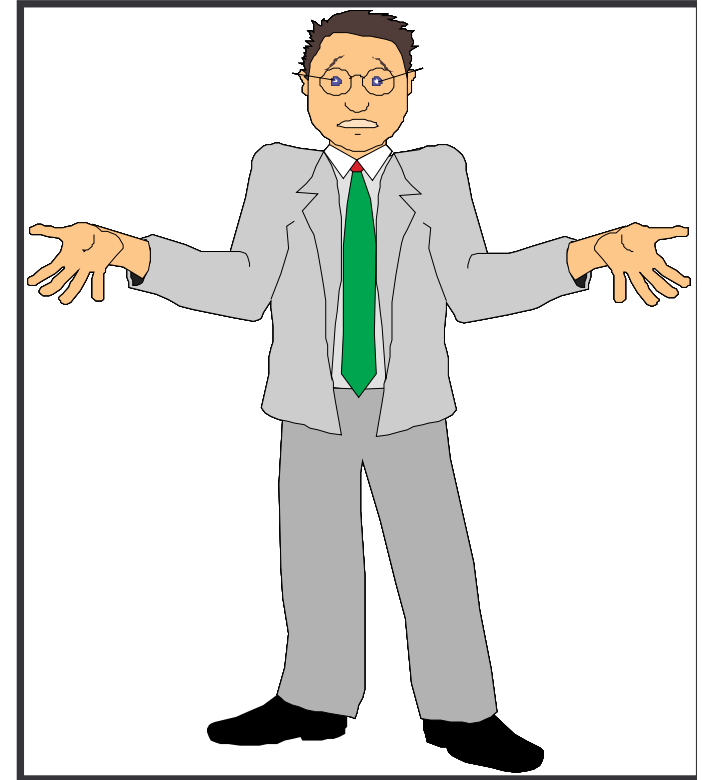
# Teleportation

The science-fiction

Transmitter



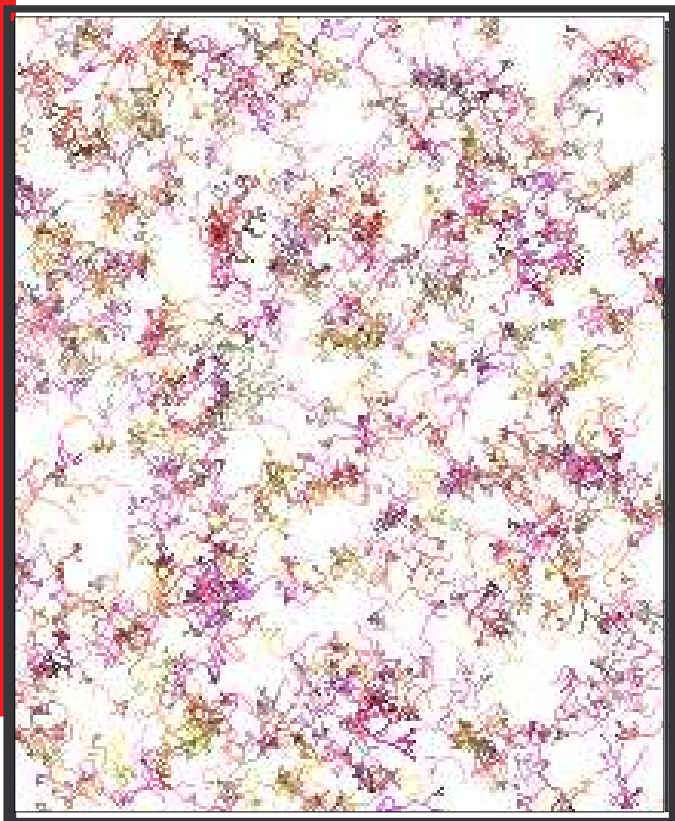
Receiver



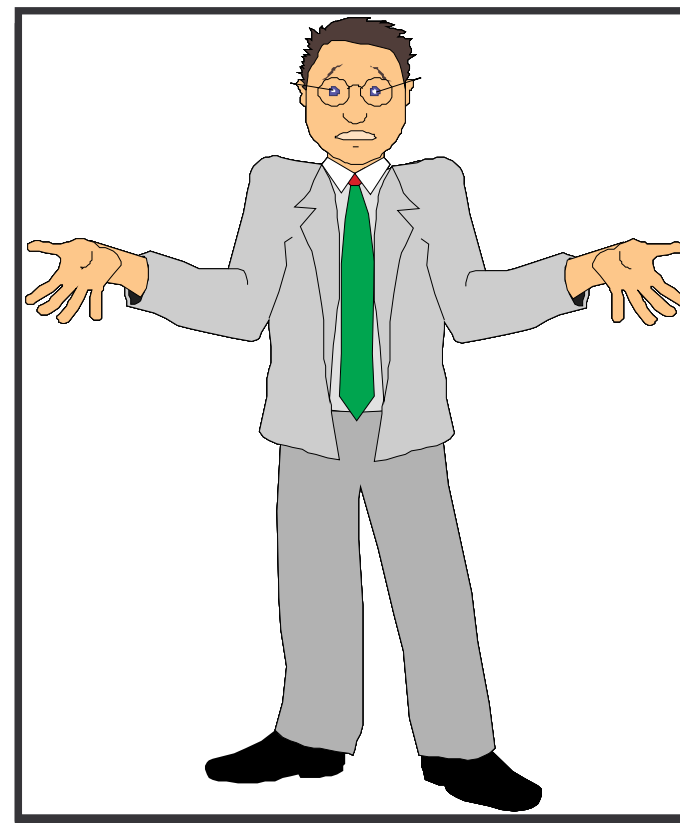


# Quantum Teleportation

Transmitter



Receiver



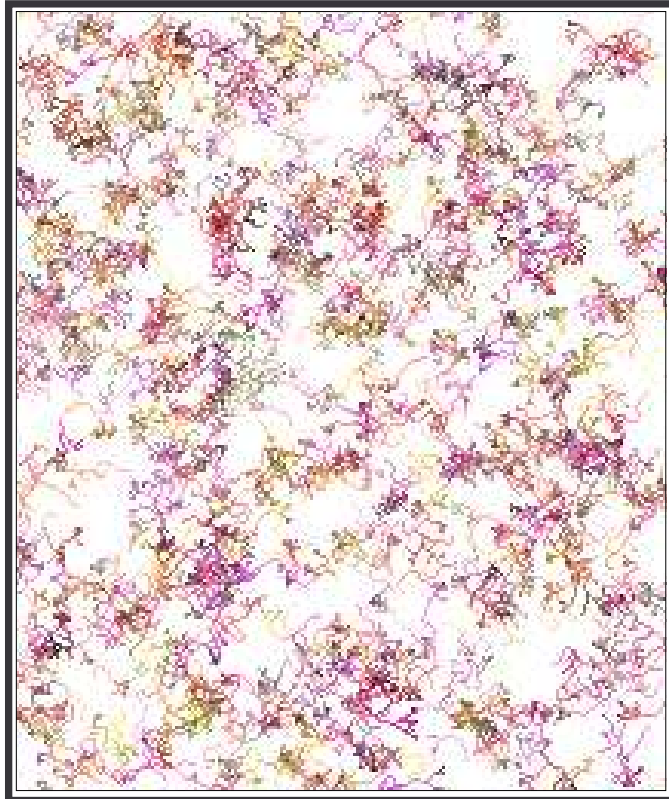




# Teleportation

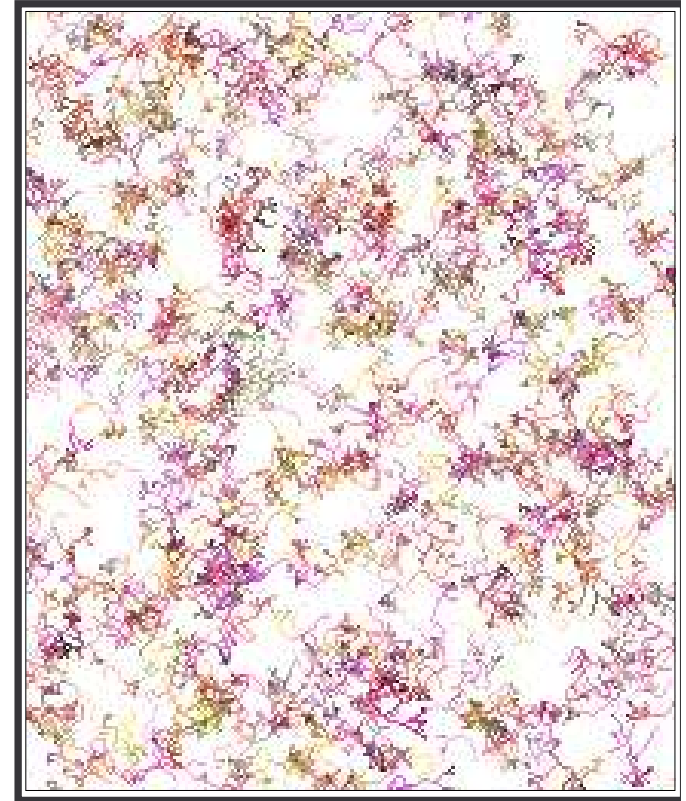
The science

Transmitter



The  
teleportation  
channel  
consists in  
entangled  
particles

Receiver



# Quantum Nonlocality and Entanglement

Entanglement is nonlocal randomness:  
a random event that manifests itself at several locations.



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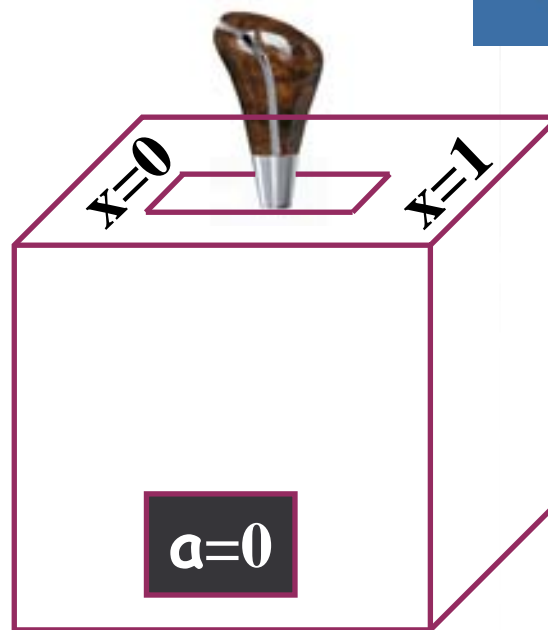


# The Bell Game

Alice

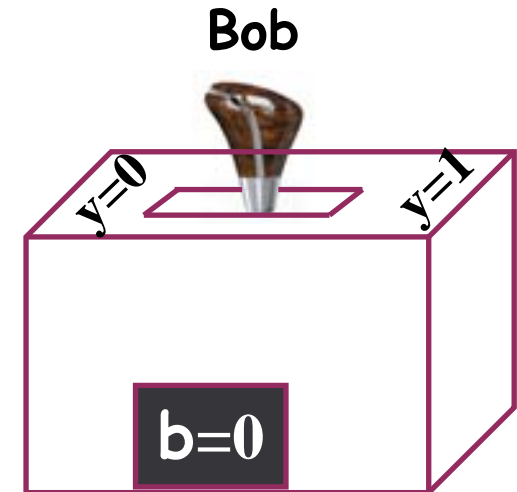
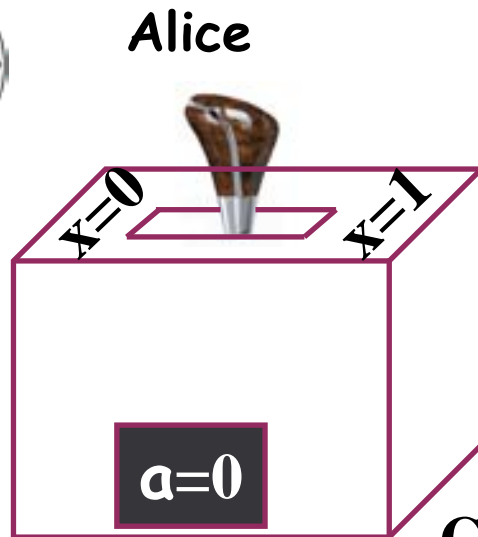


Heure	$x$	$a$
9h00	0	0
9h01	0	1
9h02	1	1
9h03	0	1
9h04	1	0
9h05	1	0
9h06 ...		





# The Bell Game



Goal of the game:

1. Whenever  $x=0$  or  $y=0$ ,  $a=b$
2. Whenever  $x=1$  and  $y=1$ ,  $a \neq b$

Note: only the correlation between the outcomes  $a$  and  $b$  is important, the individual values of  $a$  and of  $b$  are irrelevant.

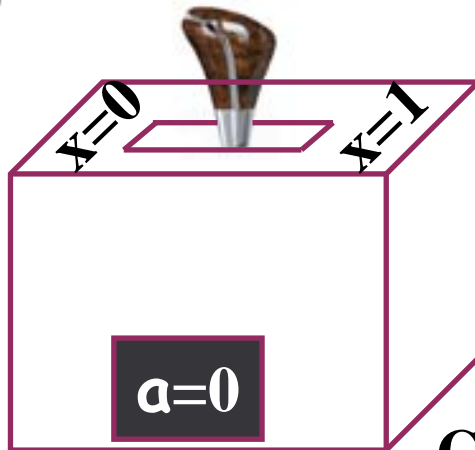
$\Rightarrow$  Only by comparing  $a$  and  $b$  can Alice and Bob know whether they achieved the goal or not.



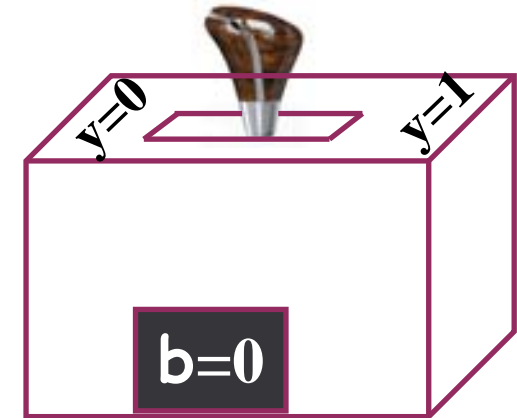


# The Bell Game

Alice



Bob



Goal of the game:

1. Whenever  $x=0$  or  $y=0$ ,  $a=b$
2. Whenever  $x=1$  and  $y=1$ ,  $a \neq b$

Note: The goal of the game can be summarized in an equation:

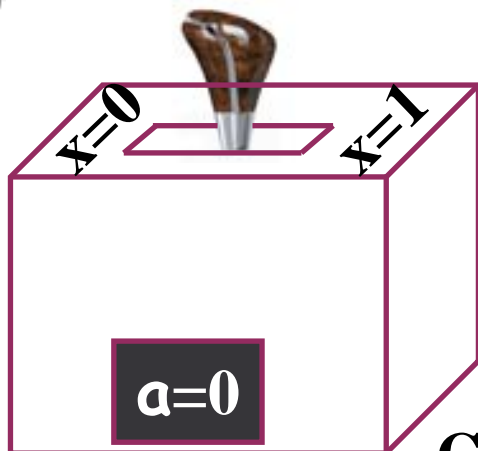
$$a + b = x \cdot y \quad (\text{modulo } 2)$$

$\Rightarrow$  The mathematics of the Bell game is trivial.

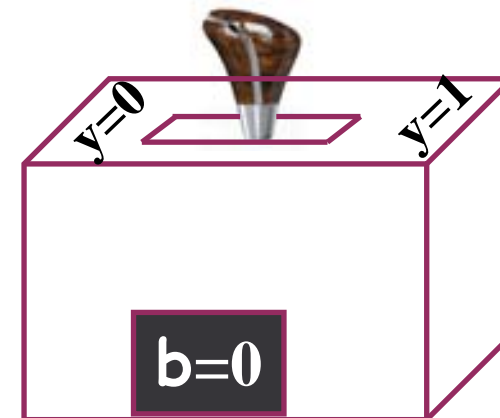


# The Bell Game

Alice



Bob



Goal of the game:

1. Whenever  $x=0$  or  $y=0$ ,  $a=b$
2. Whenever  $x=1$  and  $y=1$ ,  $a \neq b$

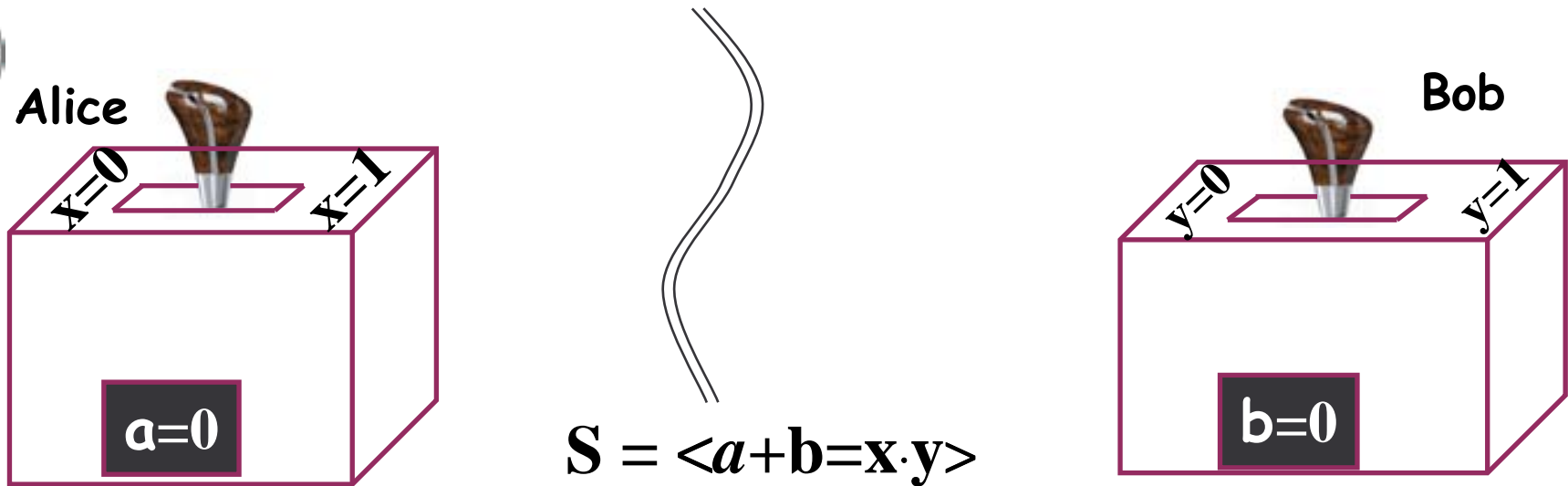
Score:

- Repeat the game very often choosing the  $x, y$  at random.
- Come together and compare the results.
- For all combinations of choices  $(x, y)$  compute the rate of success
- Add the 4 rates.

$$\Rightarrow 0 \leq S = \langle a + b - x \cdot y \rangle \leq 4$$



# How to win the Bell Game



~~1. Communication from Alice to Bob and/or from Bob to Alice.~~

2. Agree in advance on some strategy.

An example of a simple strategy is to decide to always produce the outcome 0. In this way  $S=3$

Another example is that Alice always produces  $a=0$ , while Bob  $b=y$ .

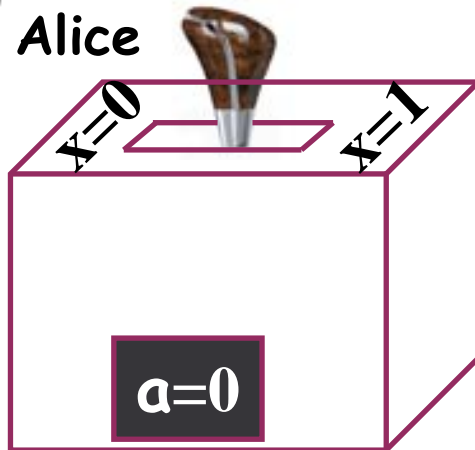
$\Rightarrow (x,y)=(0,0)$  ok,  $(x,y)=(0,1)$  no!,  $(x,y)=(1,0)$  ok,  $(x,y)=(1,1)$  ok

$\Rightarrow S = 3$

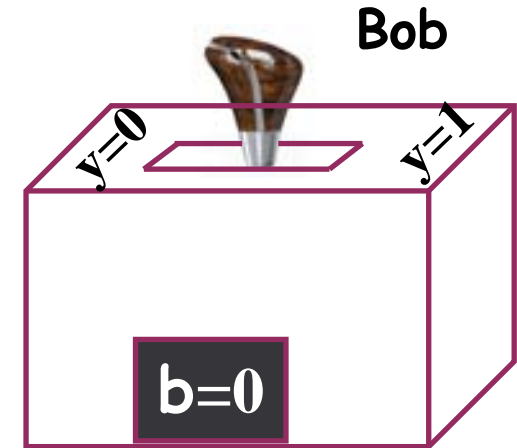


# How to win the Bell Game

Alice



Bob



$$S = \langle a+b=xy \rangle$$

Alice has only 4 possible strategies (2 inputs & 2 outcomes:  $2^2=4$ ):

1:  $a = 0$

2:  $a = 1$

3:  $a = x$

4:  $a = 1-x$

The strategy may change from minute to minute, but at each minute Alice uses one strategy.

Bob has also only 4 possible strategies. Hence, together they have  $4 \times 4 = 16$  combinations of strategies. All combinations give  $S=1$  or  $S=3$ .  $\Rightarrow$

$$S \leq 3$$

**Bell inequality**

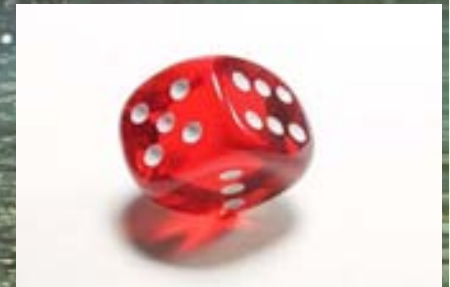


# Quantum entanglement allows one to win the Bell game with a score of 3.41

Entanglement is nonlocal randomness:  
a random event that manifests itself at several locations.

$$S = 2 + \sqrt{2} \approx 3.41$$

Violation of Bell inequality  
 $\Rightarrow$  Quantum correlations  
can be nonlocal !



Bellevue  
Cornavin

Bernex





During my early carrier as a physicist...  
when I was about 6 months old...  
I learned the hard way that in order  
to «interact» with an object I had either  
to crawl to it or to throw something at it.





## Assumptions:

### 1. locality:

$$P_{\lambda}(a,b|x,y) = P_{\lambda}(a|x) \cdot P_{\lambda}(b|y)$$

where  $\lambda$ =physical state of the systems according to any possible **future** theories.

2.a **Alice** can **freely choose** her input  $x$  and **read** the outcome  $a$ , similarly for **Bob**.

2.b  $x$  &  $y$  are independent of  $\lambda$   
 $I(x:\lambda)=I(y:\lambda)=0$

3.  $a$  and  $b$  are classical variables

## Conclusion: Bell inequalities

N. Gisin, Non-realism : deep thought or a soft option ? quant-ph/0901.4255,  
Found. Phys. 2010, DOI 10.1007/s10701-010-9508-1

Alice

$x$

$\lambda$

$a$

$y$

$\lambda$

$b$

Bob



# No signalling

Alice

$x$

$\lambda$

$a$

Bob's statistics are independent of Alice's input  $x$ .

Alice's statistics are independent of Bob's input  $x$ .

$y$

$\lambda$

$b$

Bob

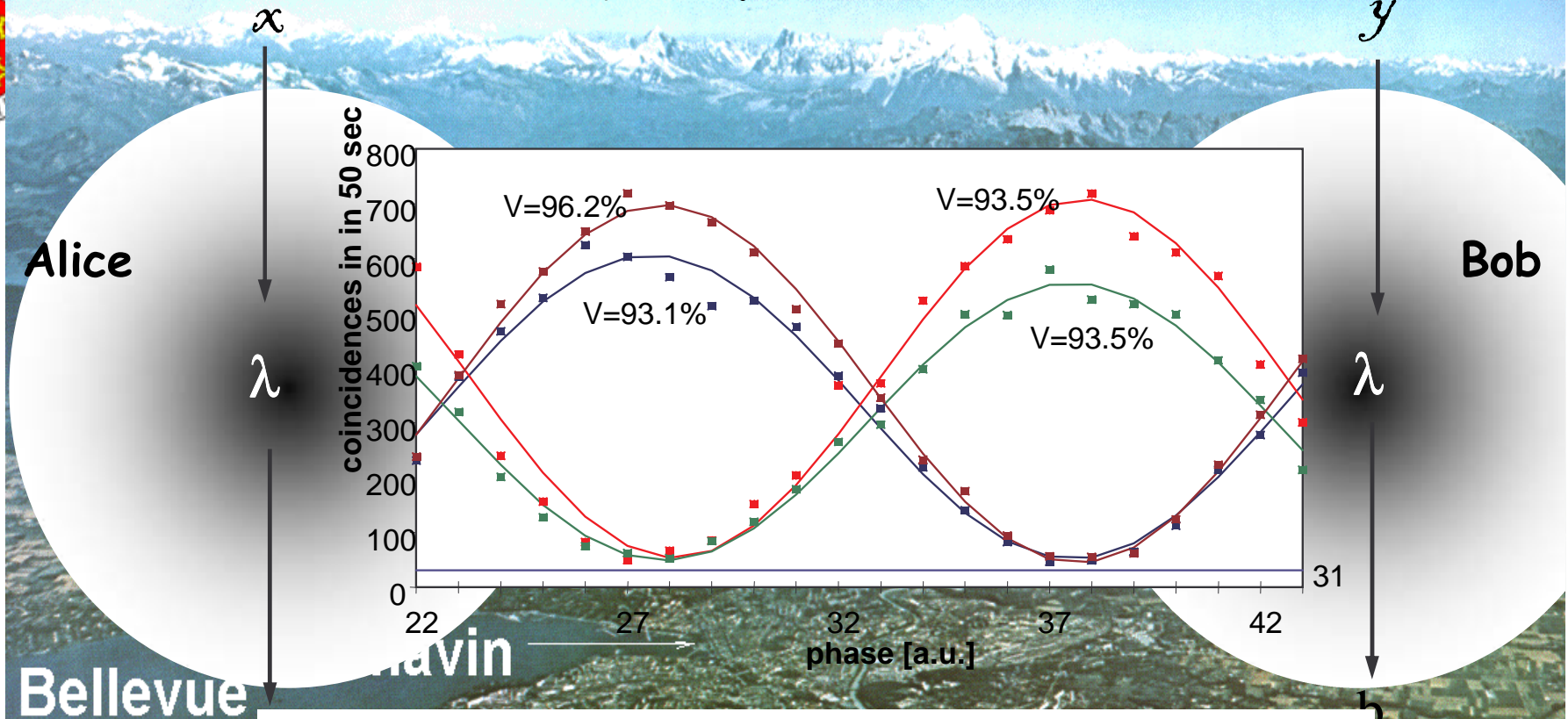
$$\sum_a P_\lambda(a, b | x, y) = P_\lambda(b | y)$$

N. Gisin, Non-realism : deep thought or a soft option ? [quant-ph/0901.4255](https://arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0901.4255),  
Found. Phys. 2010, DOI 10.1007/s10701-010-9508-1





# Violation of Bell inequality over 10 km, Geneva, 1997



**Conclusion: Nature violates the Bell inequality**  
**⇒ Nature is nonlocal**



# How does Nature perform the trick ?

- How can these two locations out there in space-time know about each other ?
- How does an event  $A$  know that it is nonlocally correlated to another event  $B$  ?
- Who keeps track of who is entangled with whom ?

NG, Quantum nonlocality : how does nature do it ?  
Science, 326, 1357, 2009; arXiv:0912.1475



# How does Nature perform the trick ?

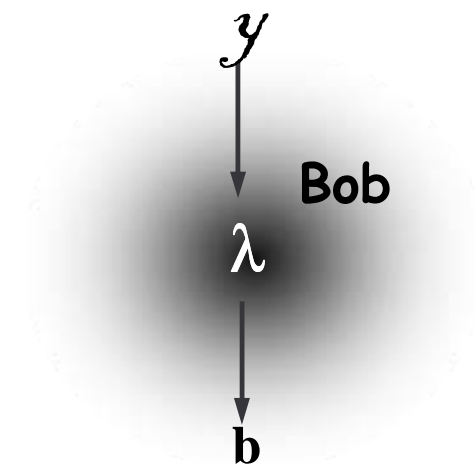
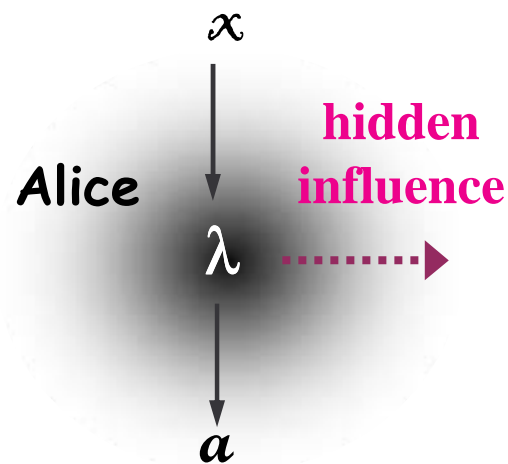
- $P(a,b | x,y) \neq P(a | x) \cdot P(b | y)$  strongly suggests that Alice influences Bob or vice-versa (as in most text books).
- This influence was termed by Einstein: “spooky action at a distance”.
- Toner and Bacon showed that a single bit of “influence” would suffice, [PRL 91, 187904 \(2003\)](#).

⇒ Let's consider this hypothetical influence seriously.

⇒ Let's test this hypothetical influence, assuming it propagates at finite speed.



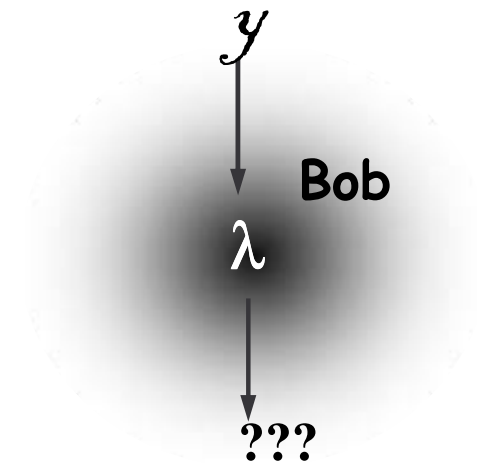
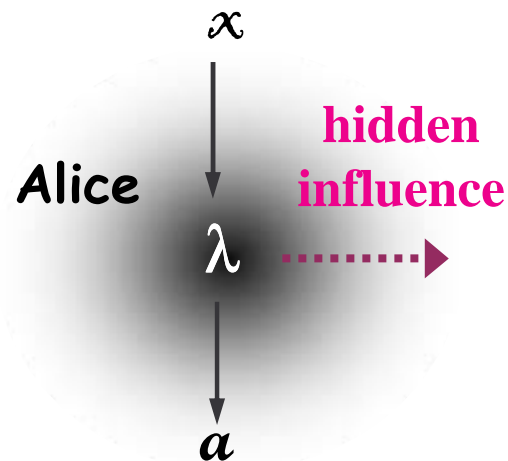
Assume a real influence propagating faster than light but with finite speed



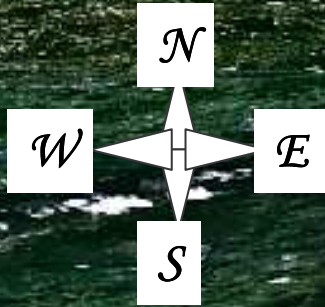




Assume a real influence propagating faster than light but with finite speed



# Satigny – Geneva – Jussy



Satigny



18.0 km

Jussy



Geneva

**In which frame should the events be simultaneous ?**

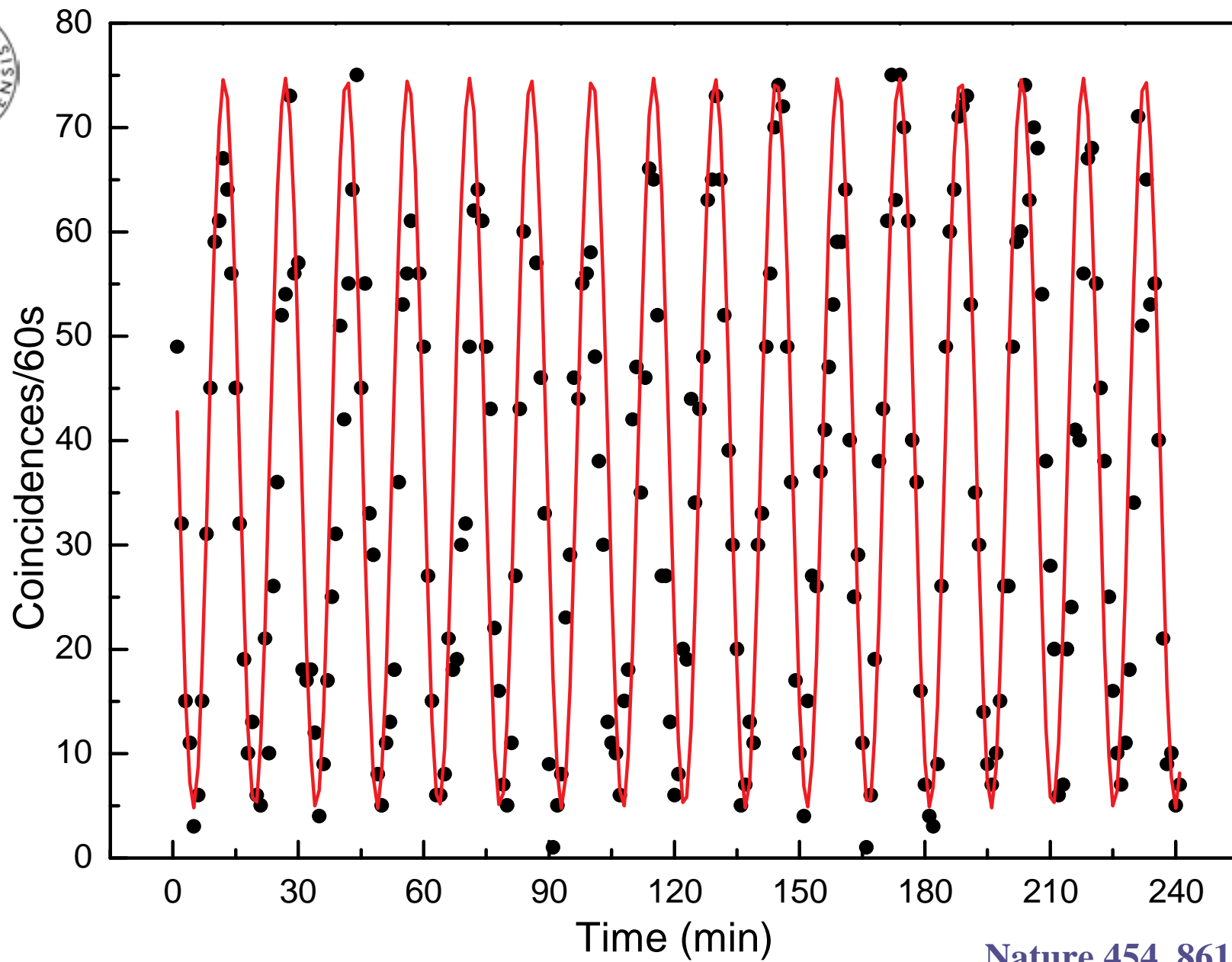


# Let's test this hypothetical preferred reference frame

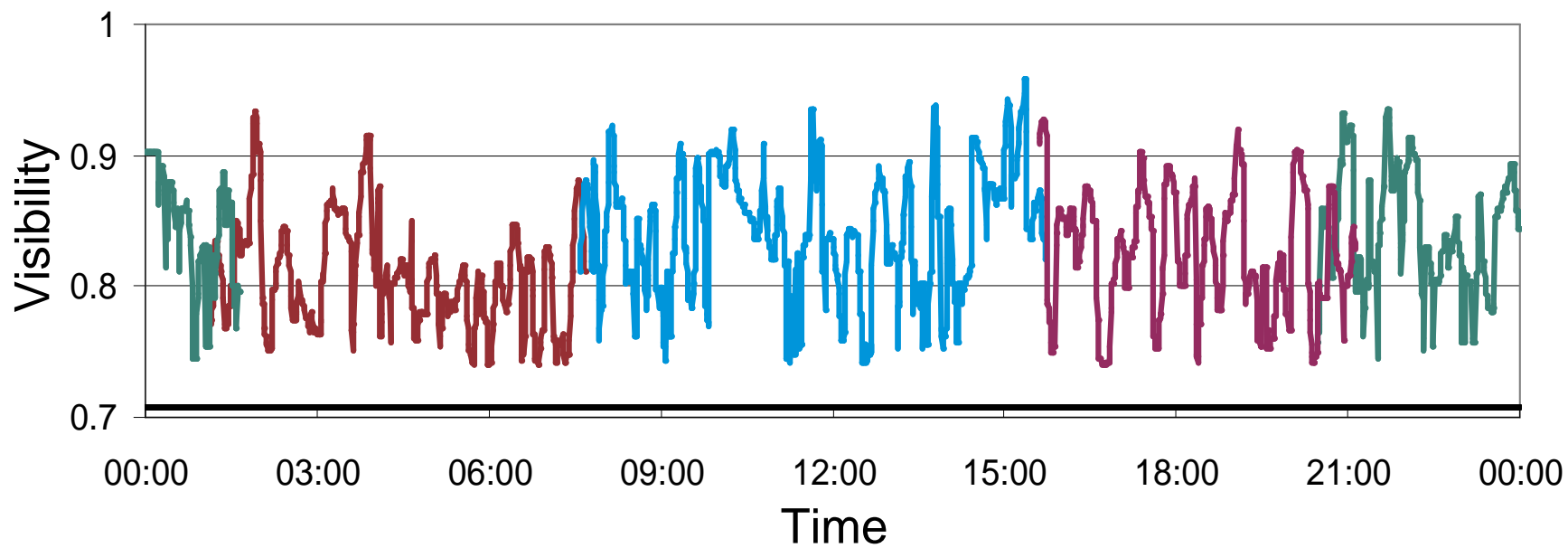
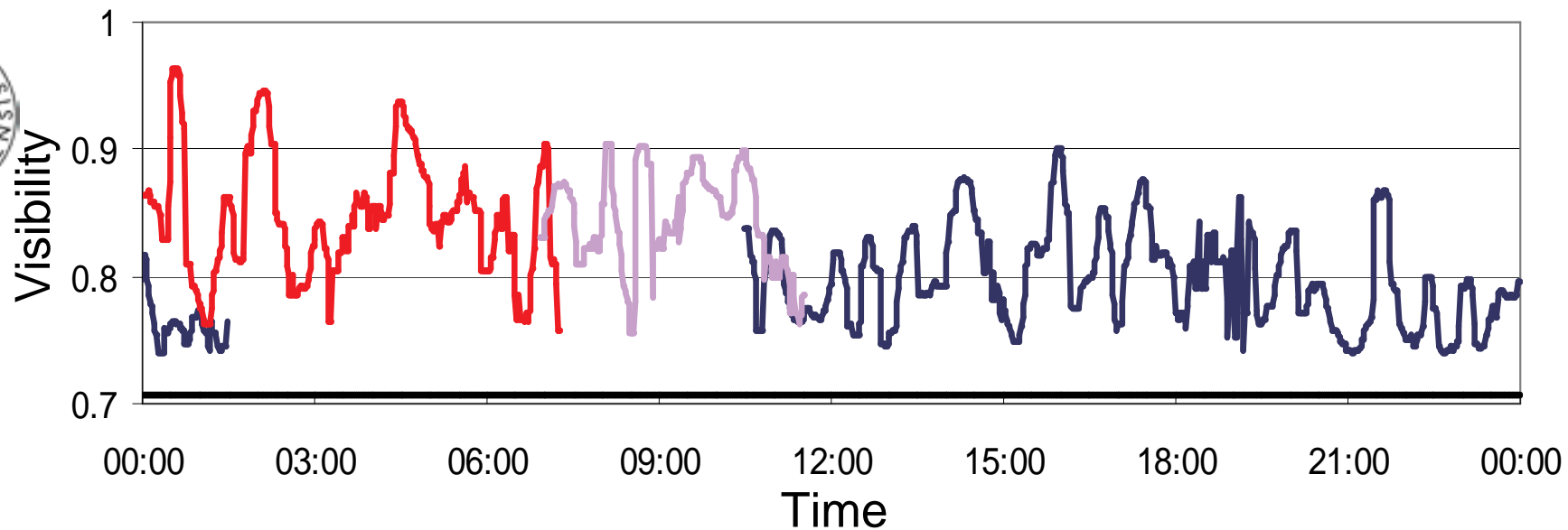


Alice and Bob,  
east-west orientation,  
perfect synchronization  
with respect to earth  
⇒ perfect synchronization  
w.r.t any frame moving  
perpendicular to the  
A-B axis  
⇒ in 12 hours all hypothe-  
tical privileged frames  
are scanned.

Ph. Eberhard, private communication









# Finite precision

- The «Speed of Quantum Information»  $V_{QI}$  is  $V_{QI} \geq \frac{\|\vec{r}'_B - \vec{r}'_A\|}{|t'_B - t'_A|}$
- After a Lorentz transformation, one finds

$$\left(\frac{V_{QI}}{c}\right)^2 \geq 1 + \frac{(1-\beta^2)(1-\rho^2)}{(\rho + \beta_{\parallel})^2} \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{if } |\rho| \leq \bar{\rho}}}{\geq} 1 + \frac{(1-\beta^2)(1-\bar{\rho}^2)}{(\bar{\rho} + |\beta_{\parallel}|)^2}$$

$\beta = v/c$  is the relative speed of the Earth frame in the privileged frame,

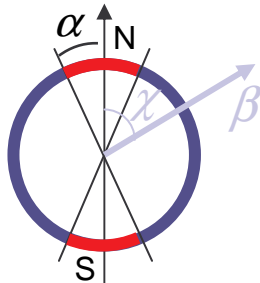
$\rho = ct_{AB}/r_{AB}$  defines the alignment of the 2 detections in the Earth frame

$$T = 360 \text{ seconds}$$

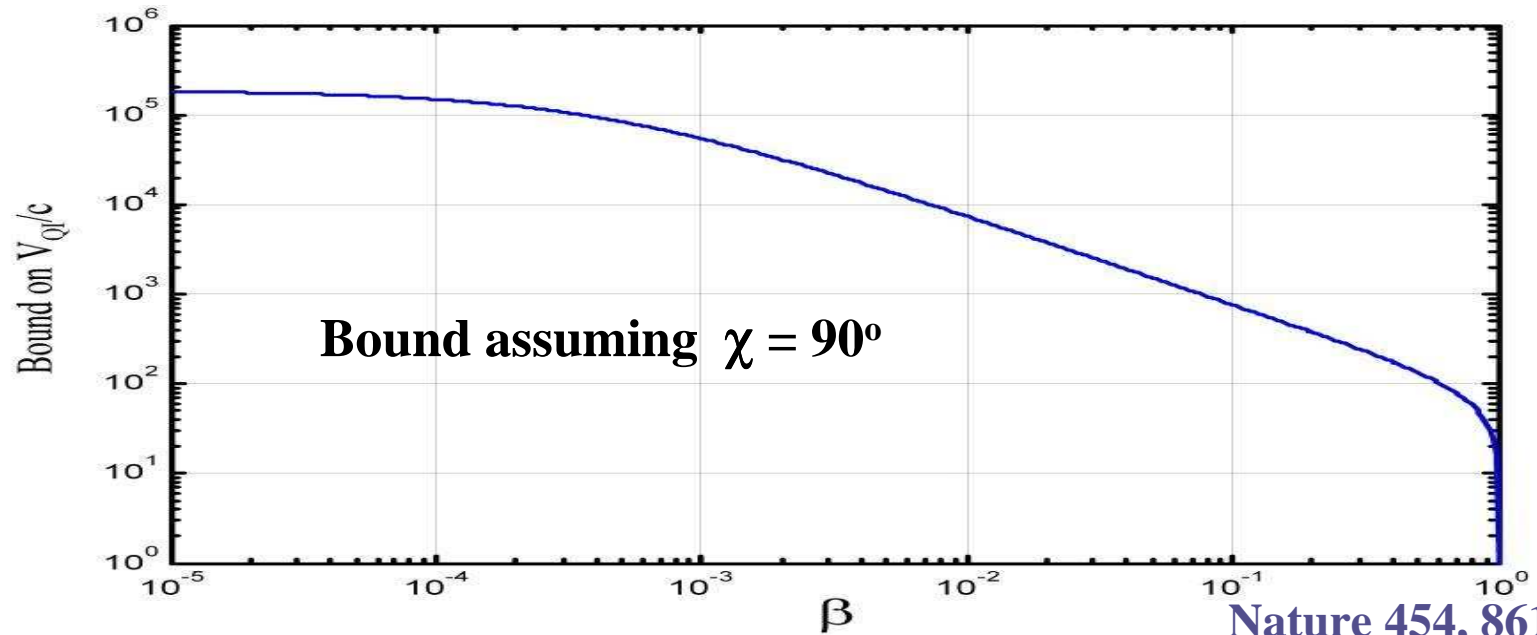
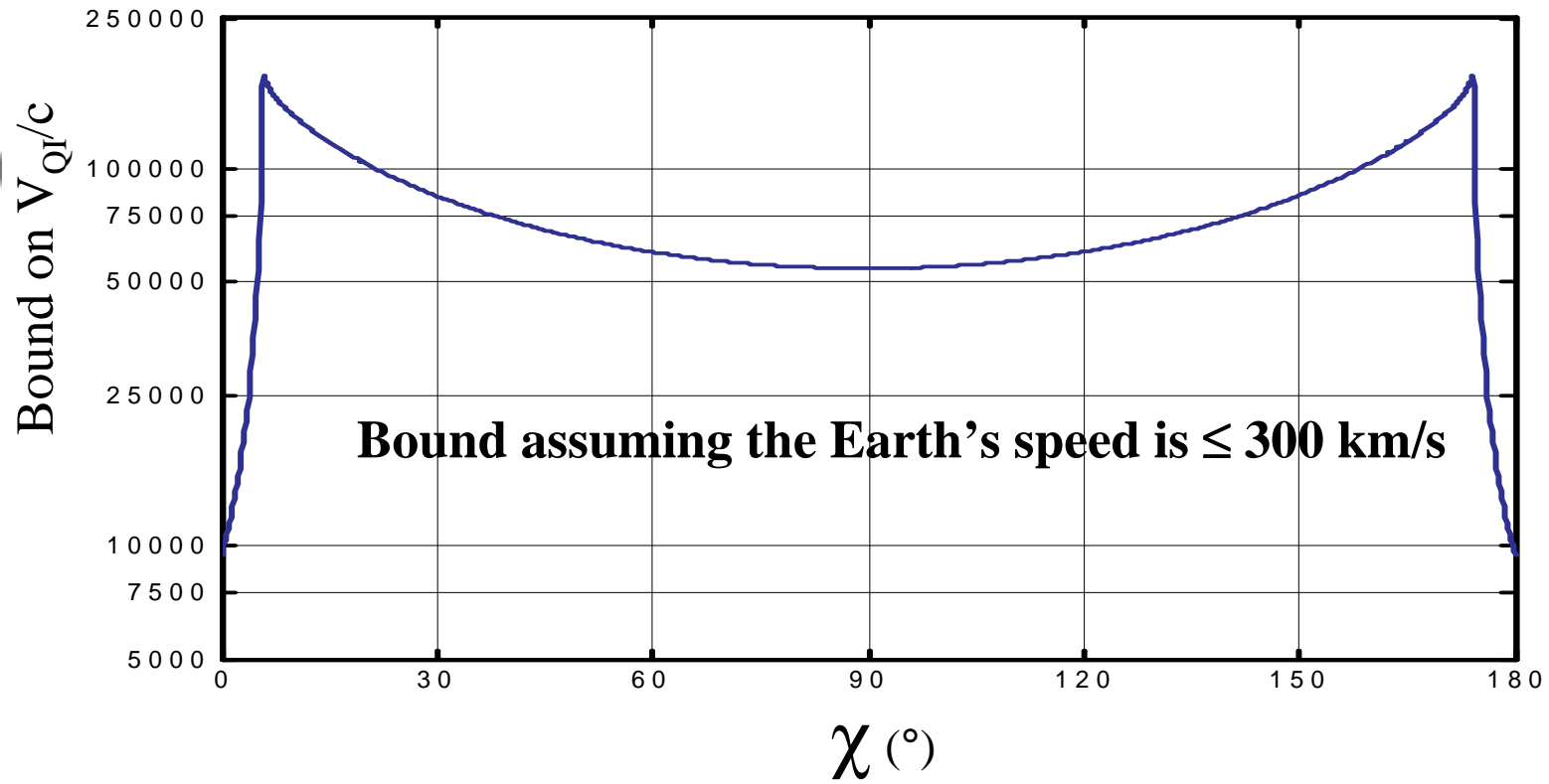
$$\bar{\delta} \cong 5.4 \cdot 10^{-6}$$

$$\alpha \cong 5.8^\circ$$

time  $T$ , during which  $|\beta_{\parallel}(t)|$  is upper-bounded by:



- $\tan \chi > \tan \alpha \Rightarrow |\beta_{\parallel}(t)| \leq |\beta| \sqrt{\sin^2 \chi \cos^2 \alpha - \cos^2 \chi \sin^2 \alpha} \frac{\omega T}{2}$
- $\tan \chi < \tan \alpha \Rightarrow |\beta_{\parallel}(t)| \leq |\beta| \left( |\cos \chi \sin \alpha| - |\sin \chi \cos \alpha| \cos \frac{\omega T}{2} \right)$



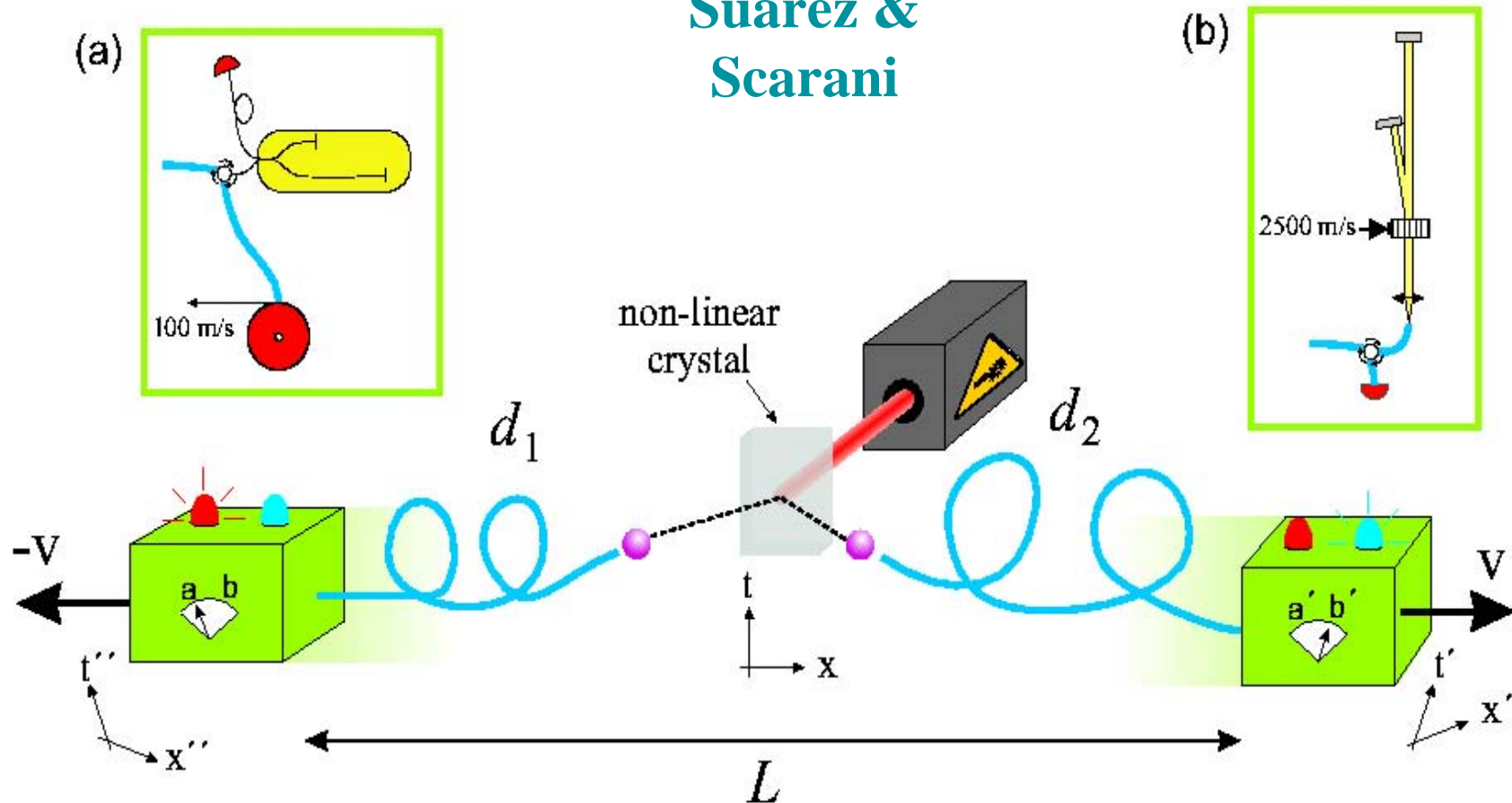


# Further experiments: before-before configurations

NG, Sundays in a quantum engineer's life, quant-ph/0104140

in *Quantum [Un]speakable*, pp 199-208, ed. R.A. Bertlmann and A. Zeilinger, Springer 2002

Suarez &  
Scarani



PRL 88,120404,2002; J.Phys.A 34,7103,2001; Phys.Lett.A 276,1,2000



## Mid-Conclusion

- ⇒ There is no spooky action at a distance: there is not a first event that influences a second event.
  - ⇒ Quantum correlation just happen, without any time-ordering, somehow from outside space-time !  
(there is no story in space-time that tells us how it happens)
- ... or ... the influences propagate at surprisingly large speeds





# Nonlocality in Newton's gravitation



**Signalling:** A stone moved on the moon would **immediately** affect our weight here on earth.

**Physics presented a nonlocal view of nature during all its history since Newton until today, except bw 1917-1927 !**



## Let's read Newton's words:

That Gravity should be innate, inherent and essential to Matter, so that one Body may act upon another at a Distance thro' a *Vacuum*, without the mediation of any thing else, by and through which their Action and Force may be conveyed from one to another, is to me so great an Absurdity, that I believe no Man who has in philosophical Matters a competent Faculty of thinking, can ever fall into it. Gravity must be caused by an Agent acting constantly according to certain Laws, but whether this Agent be material or immaterial, I have left to the Consideration of my Readers.

Isaac Newton

Papers & Letters on Natural Philosophy and related documents

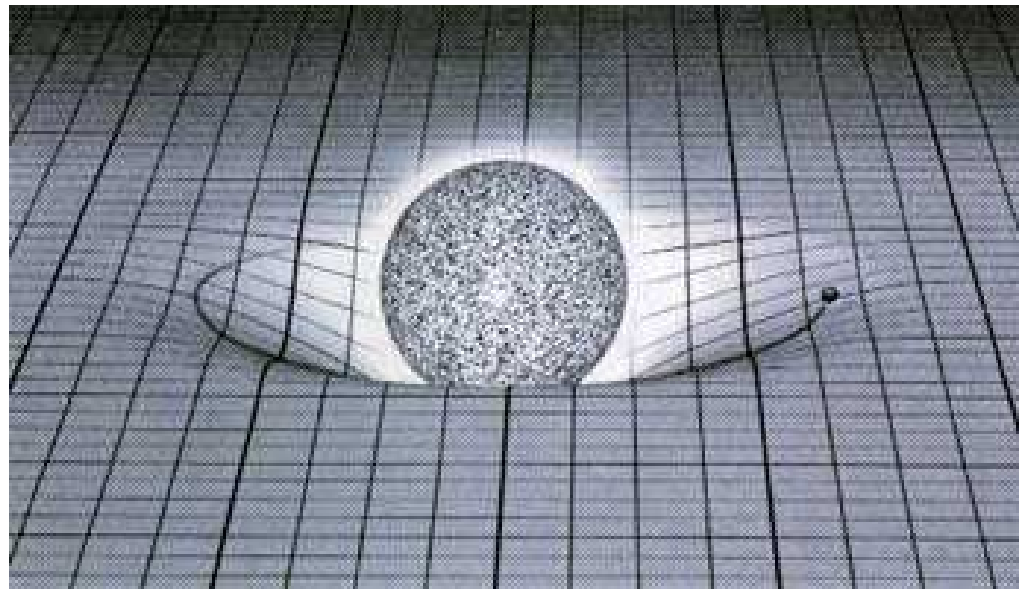
Edited by Bernard Cohen, assisted by Robert E. Schofield

Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1958



# Einstein, the greatest mechanical engineer

- Today, thanks to Einstein, gravitation is no longer considered as a kind of action at a distance. A moon-quake triggers a bunch of gravitons that propagate through space and « informs » Earth. The propagation is very fast, but at finite speed, the speed of light, i.e. about 1 second from the moon to our Earth.





# Is Quantum Nonlocality waiting for its Einstein ?

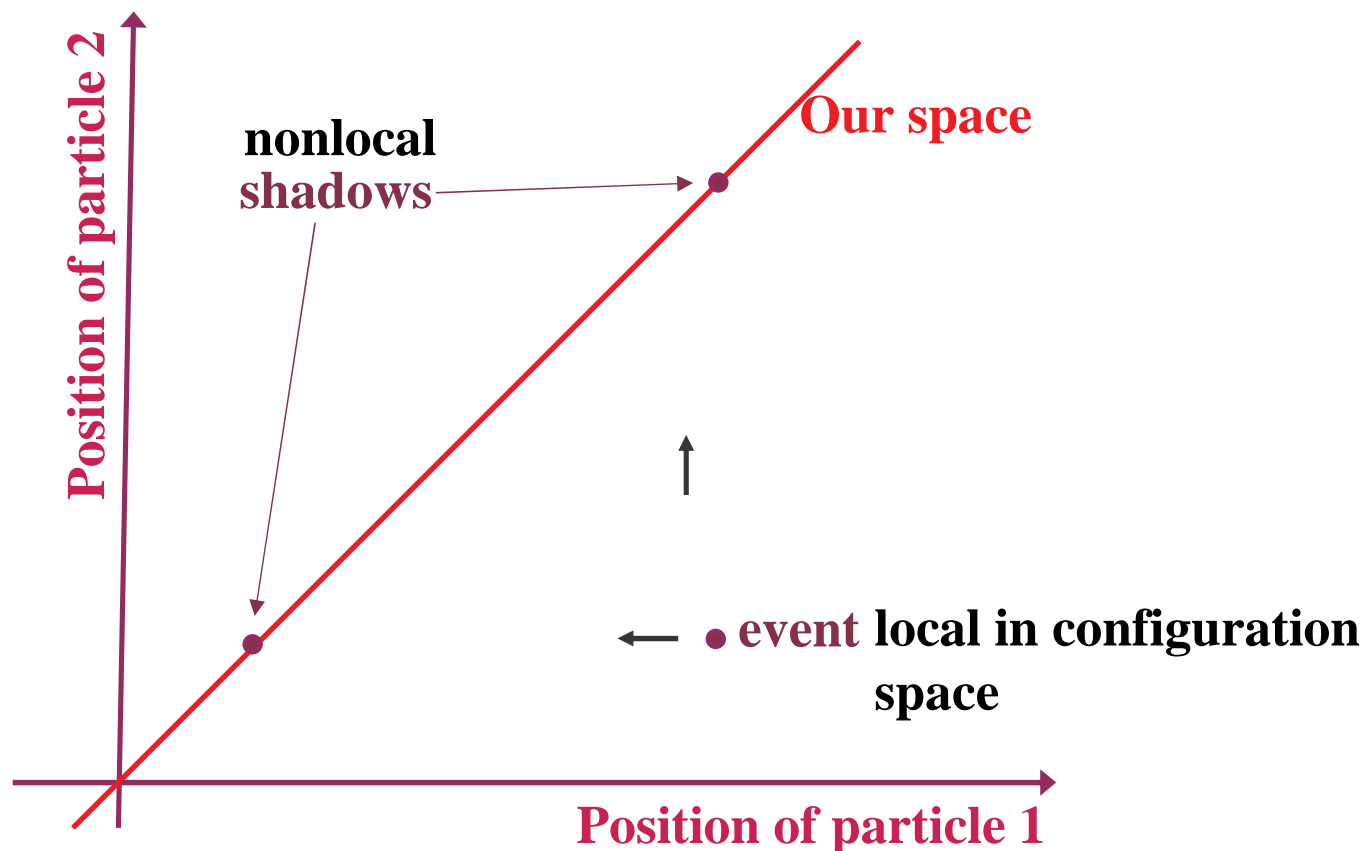
- Most probably : NO !  
If the experiments are correct, then no futur « Einstein » could ever restore locality in quantum correlations.
- So, how does Nature perform the trick ?!?



# From outside space-time

The real stuff happens in configuration space where the wavefunction propagates.

In our space we see only the shadows.

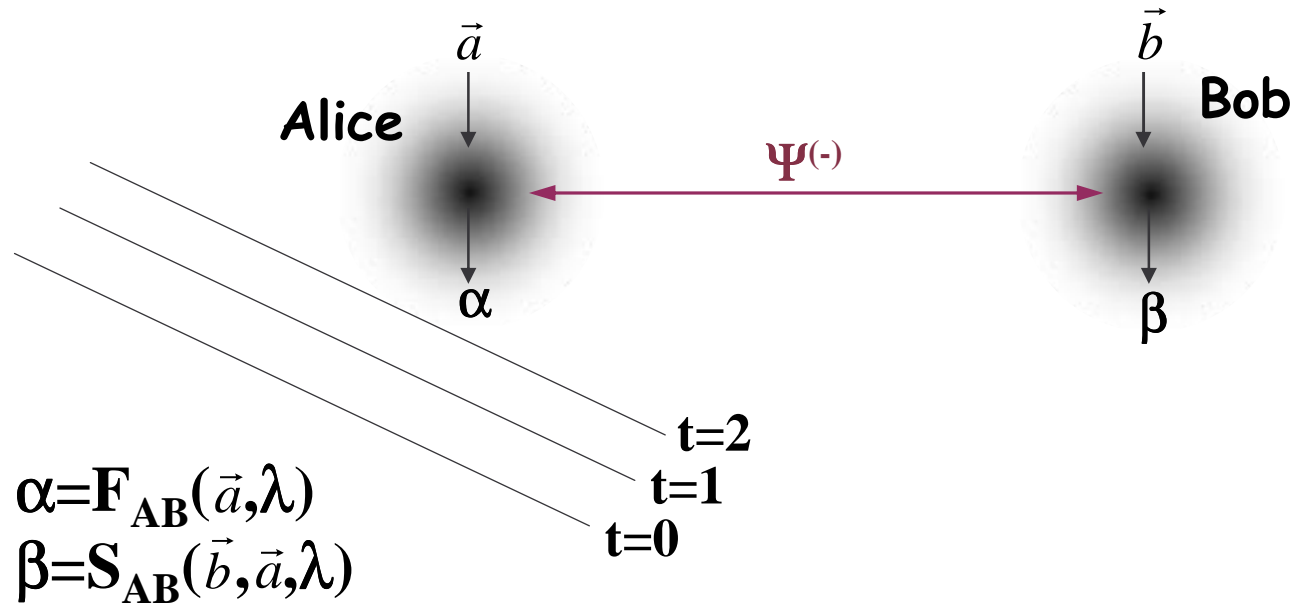






# Deterministic nonlocal hidden variables

Let's try to add randomness, given from the beginning, to turn stochastic events into deterministic ones:  $\lambda = \{\Psi, r_a, r_b\}$ .

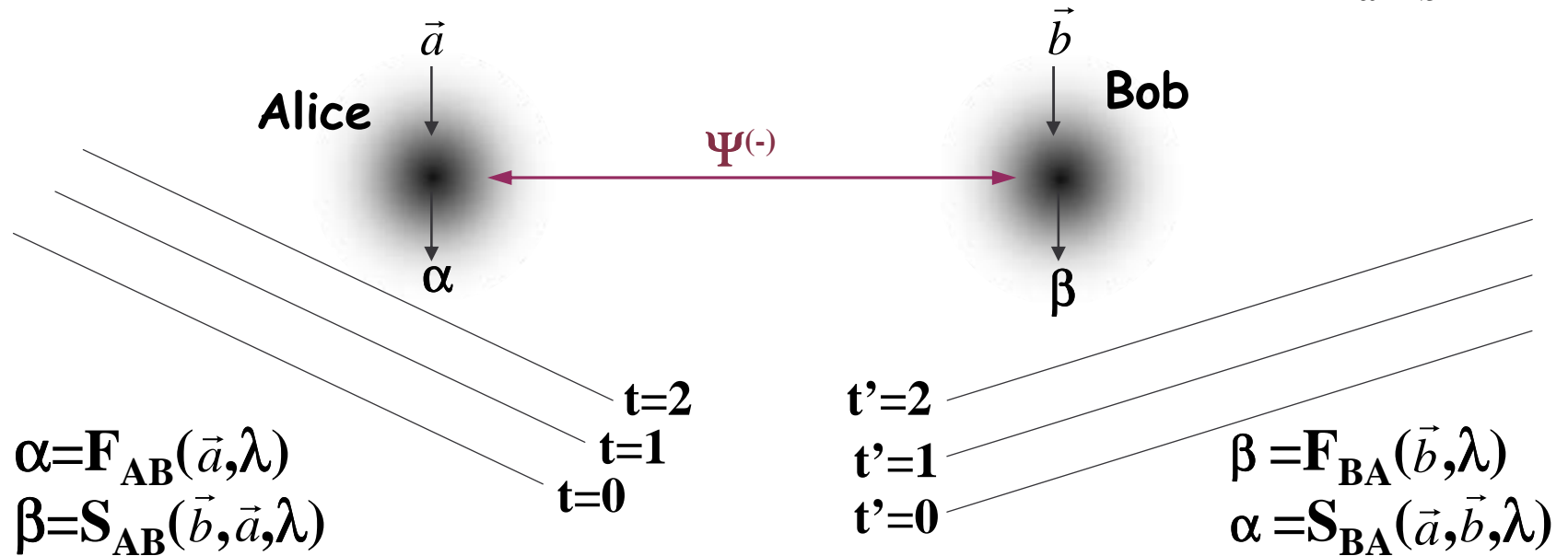


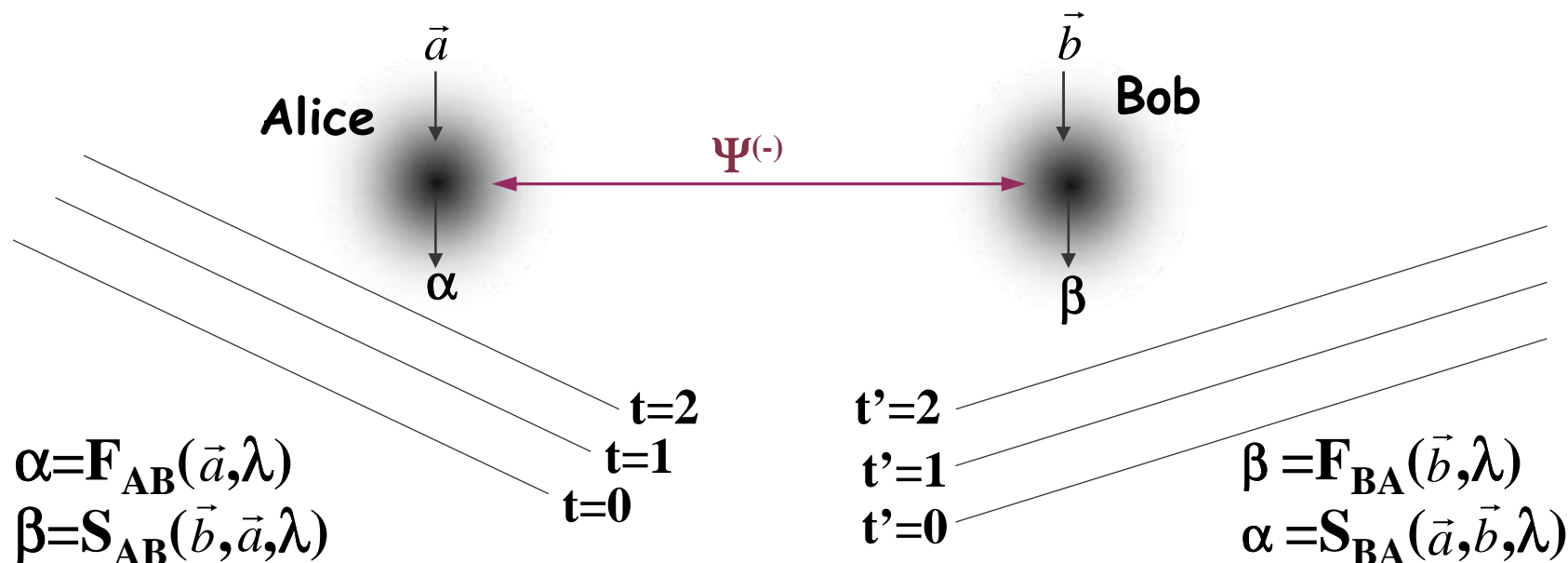
$$F_{AB}(\vec{a}, \lambda) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } r_a \leq 1/2 \\ -1 & \text{if } r_a > 1/2 \end{cases} \quad S_{AB}(\vec{b}, \vec{a}, \lambda) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } r_a \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{ \& } r_b \leq \frac{1 - \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{2} \\ & \text{or } r_a > \frac{1}{2} \text{ \& } r_b > \frac{1 + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{b}}{2} \\ -1 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$



# Deterministic nonlocal hidden variables

Let's try to add randomness, given from the beginning, to turn stochastic events into deterministic ones:  $\lambda = \{\Psi, r_a, r_b\}$ .





Could there be  $\lambda$ ,  $F_{AB}$ ,  $S_{AB}$ ,  $F_{BA}$  and  $S_{BA}$  s.t.  
 $F_{AB}(\vec{a}, \lambda) = S_{BA}(\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \lambda)$  ?

**Theorem: NO !**

**Proof:**  $S_{BA}$  would be independent of  $\vec{b}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  locality  $\Rightarrow$  Bell inequality.

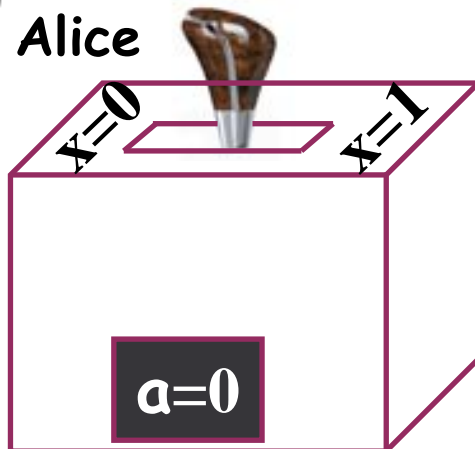
Impossibility of covariant deterministic nonlocal  
 hidden-variable extensions of quantum theory  
 NG, PRA 83, 020102, 2011

Quantum correlations can't be described with local  
 variables, nor can they be described with  
 deterministic nonlocal variables.



# Can one clone Bob's Q system ?

Alice



$$S_{AB} = \langle a+b=x \cdot y \rangle$$

$$S_{AC} = \langle a+c=x \cdot z \rangle$$

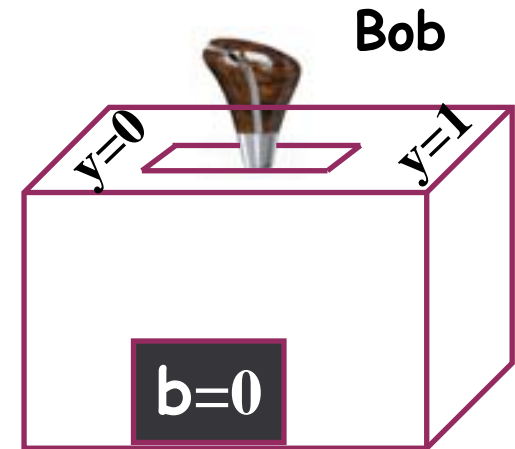
$$\begin{aligned} S_{AB} + S_{AC} &= a+b+a+c \\ &= b+c = x \cdot (y+z) \end{aligned}$$

⇒ If Bob and Charlie chose  $y=1, z=0$ ,  
then they can deduce Alice's choice  $x$   
from their outcomes  $b+c$ .

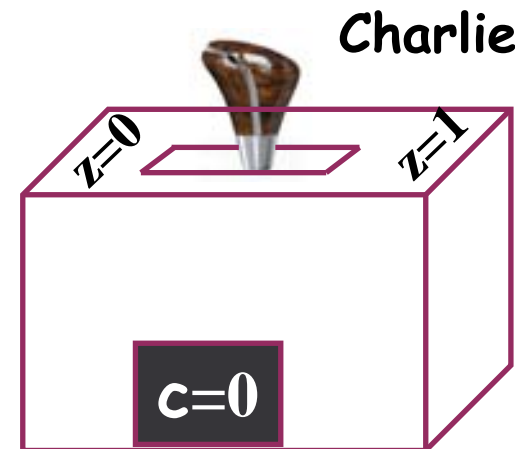
⇒ Signalling !!!

**No signalling ⇒ no cloning**

Bob



Charlie



**Optimal Quantum Cloning is at the limit of no-signalling !**

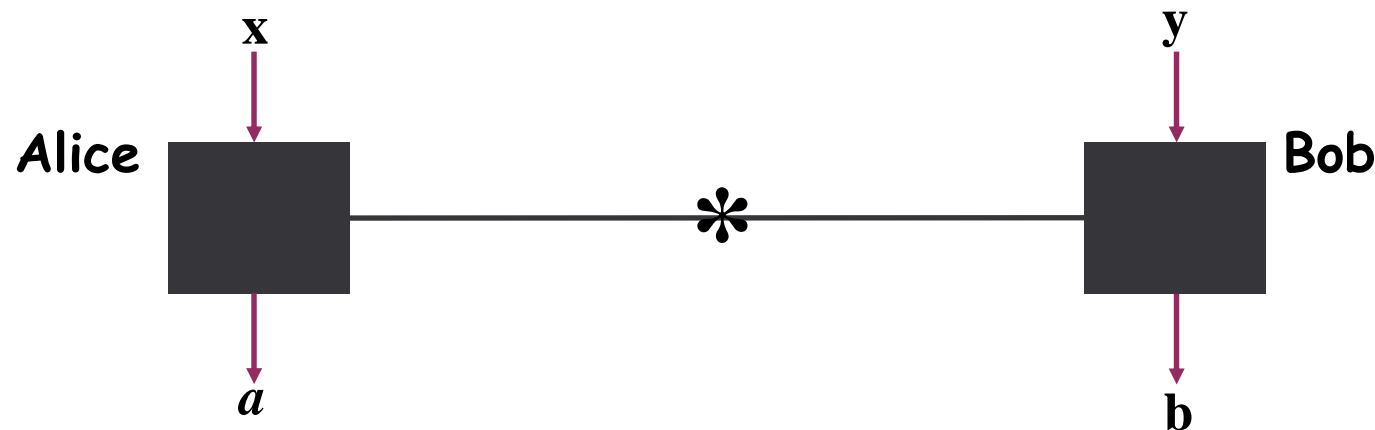
NG, Phys. Lett. A 242, 1 (1998)



# What can nonlocal correlations do for us ?

## Entanglement Based Quantum Crypto

Ekert's intuition, PRL 67, 661 (1991)



**If the entanglement is large enough to violate Bell, then  $a$  &  $b$  are random and secret w.r. to any adversary**





# Exploit quantum nonlocality for cryptography

Alice

Bob

$x=0$  or  $1$

$y=0$  or  $1$

If  $p(a,b|x,y)$  violates some Bell inequality,  
then  $p(a,b|x,y)$  contains secrecy  
irrespective of any detail of the  
implementation !

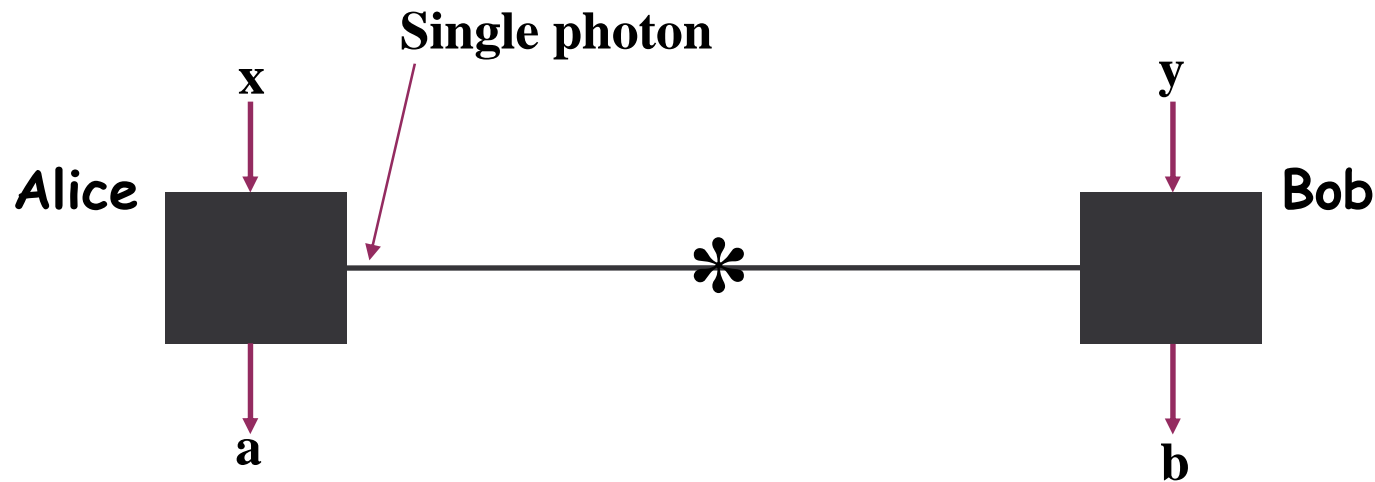
After publicly announcing a fair sample of their data,  
Alice and Bob's information is entirely contained  
in the conditional probability

$$\underline{\underline{p(a,b|x,y)}}$$



# Applied Physics

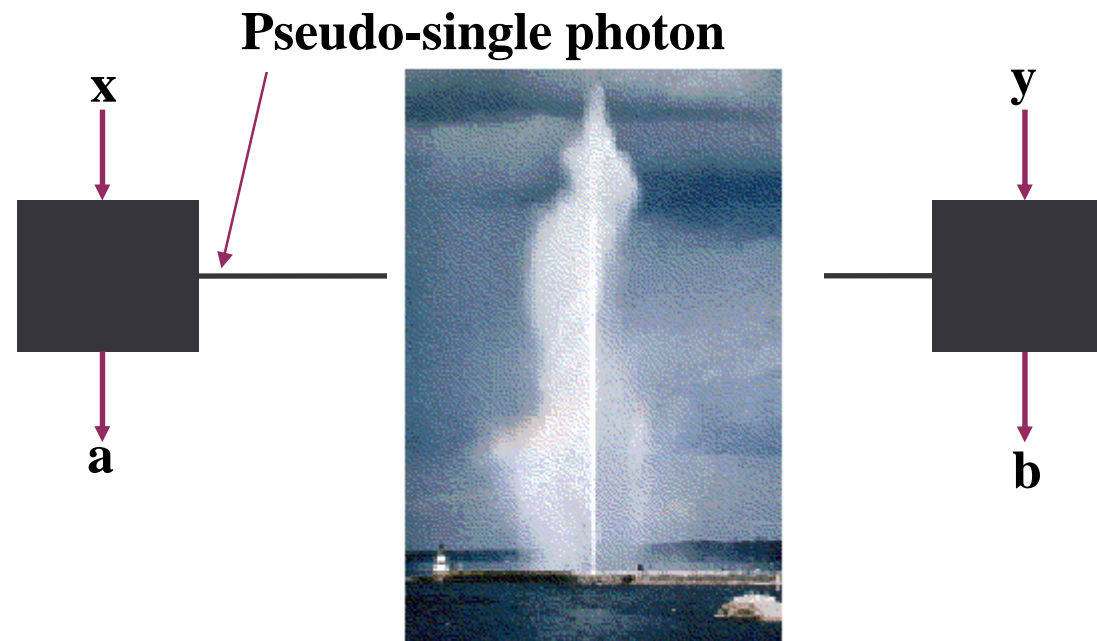
Bennett & Brassard (1984)



**Applied physics = the art of understanding physics well enough to simplify the implementation of a physical process until it is practical without losing the essence.**



# Weak pulse Quantum Crypto

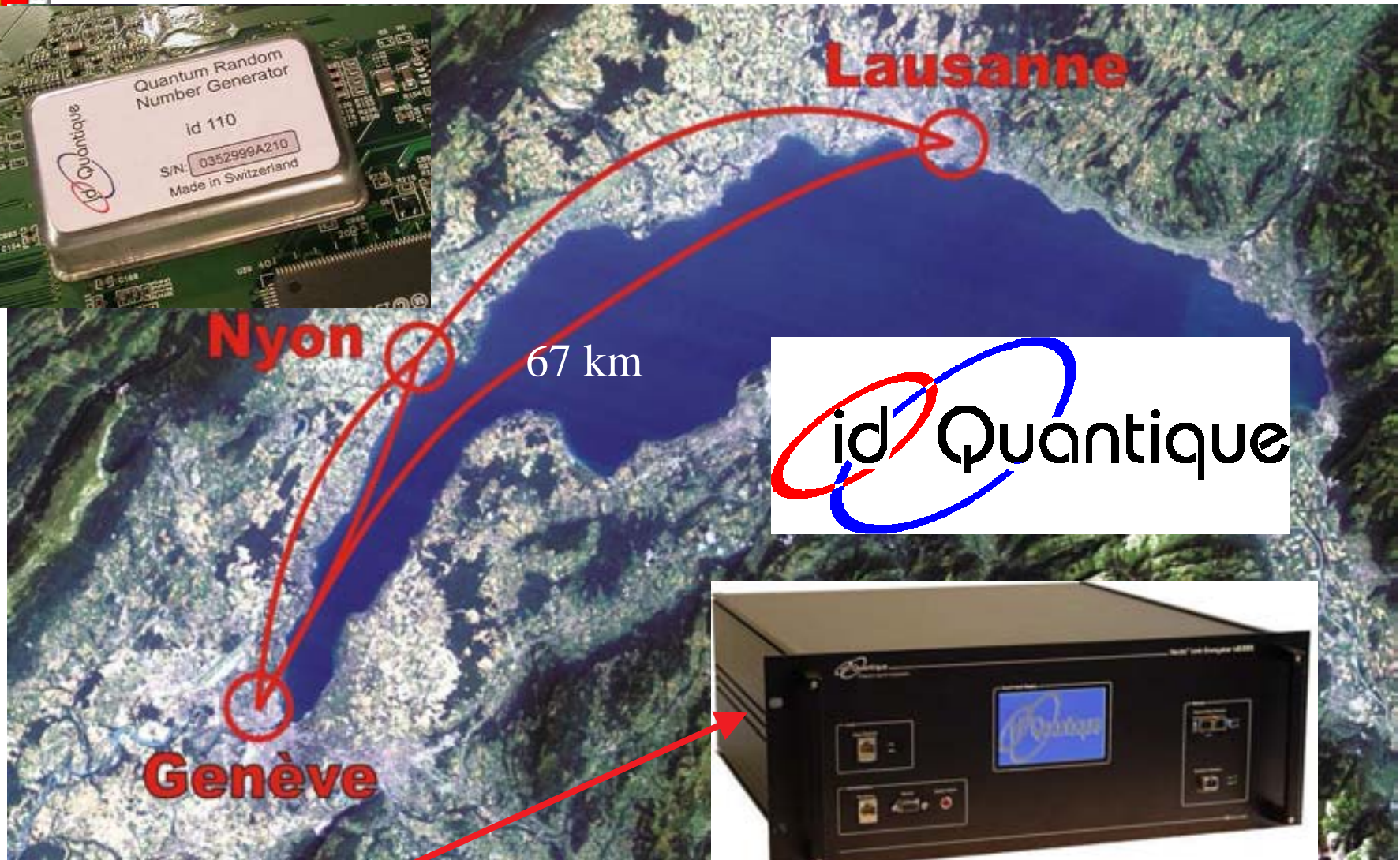


Quantum Cryptography under Lake Geneva,  
Nature 378, 449 (1995)  
EPL 33, 335 (1996)

# Spin-off from the University of Geneva, 2001



GAP Optique Geneva University

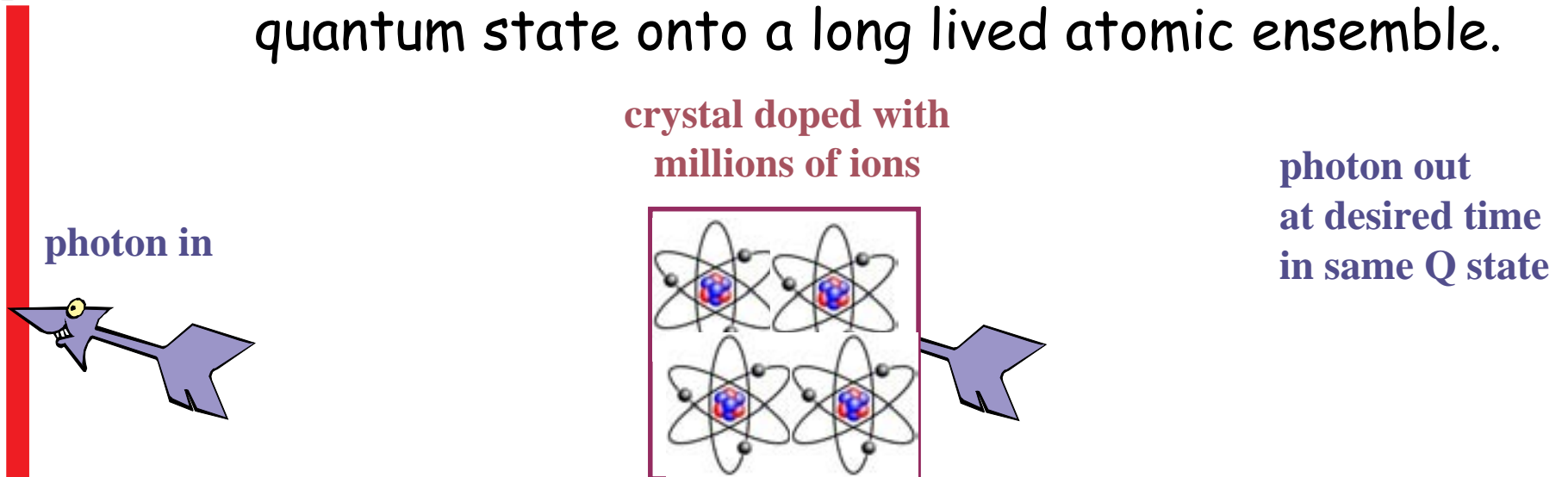


Used daily by some Swiss banks



# Quantum memory

Goal: controlled and reversible mapping of a photonic quantum state onto a long lived atomic ensemble.

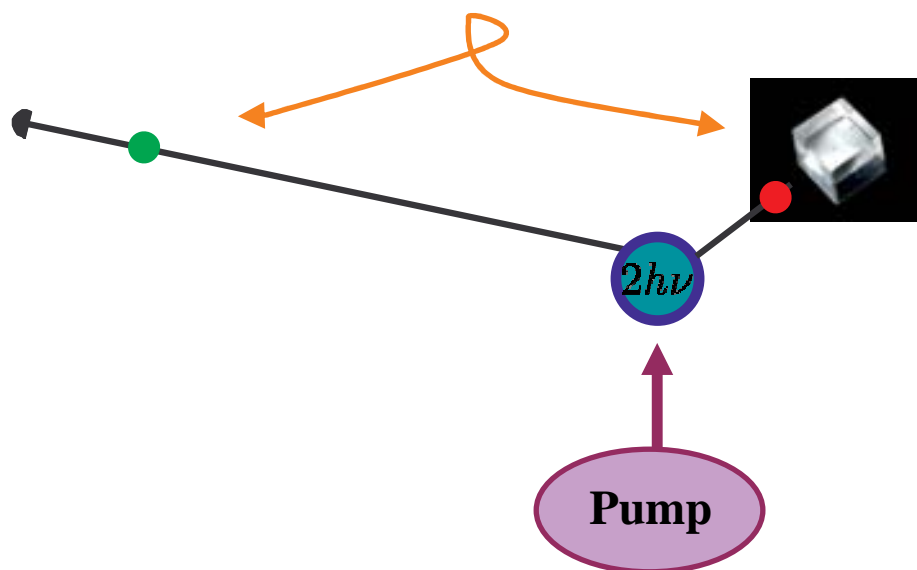


The quantum state of the photon  
is now coded in a huge entangled states  
of millions of « atoms »





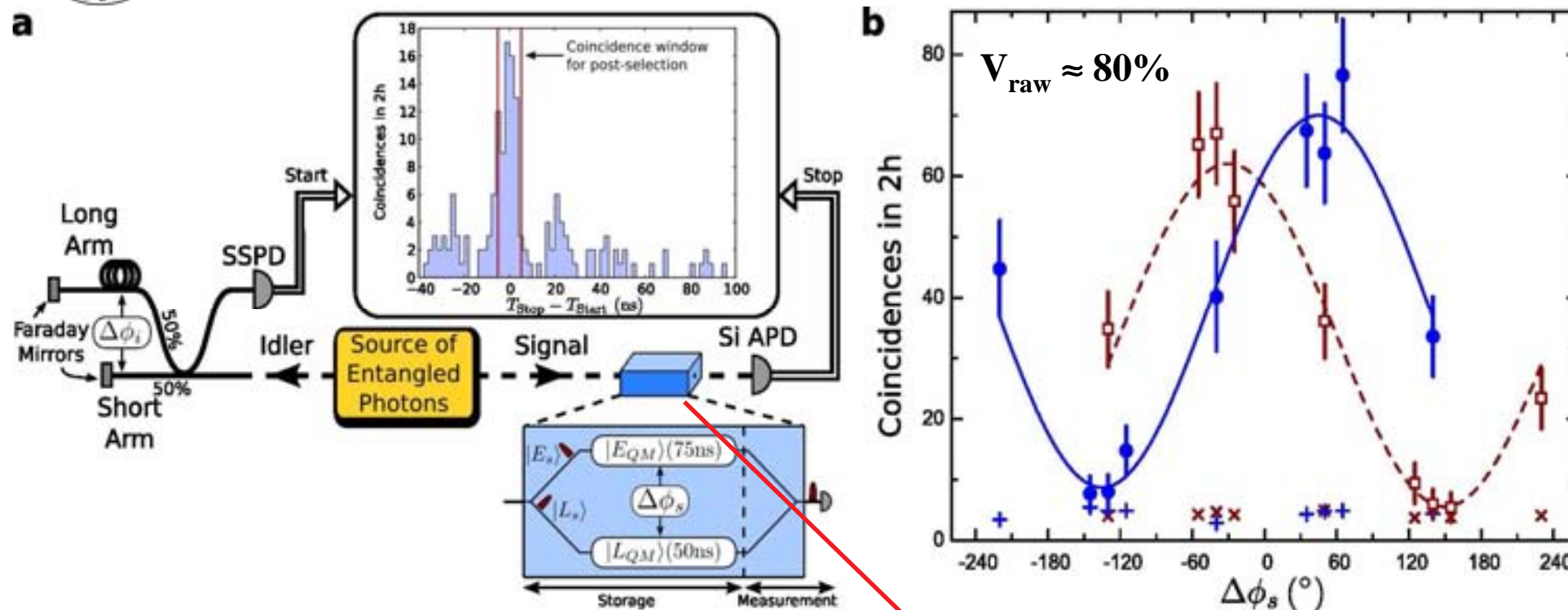
## Demonstration of entanglement between a telecom photon and an excitation stored in a crystal



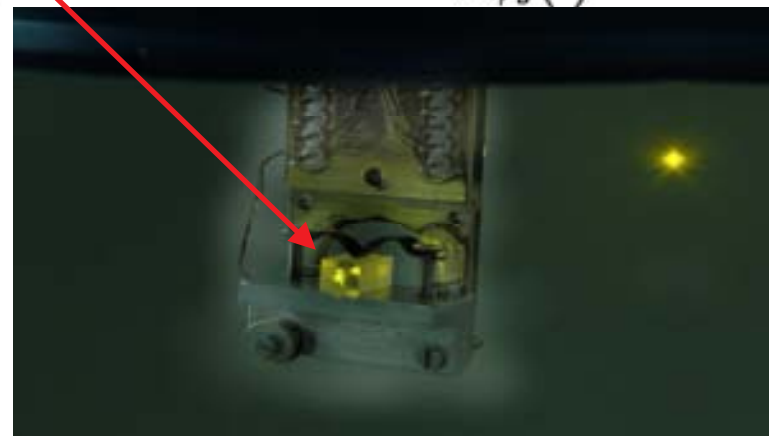


# Photon-Crystal 2-qubit interference

Clausen, Usmani et al, Nature 469, 508-511, 2011



Photon-Crystal entanglement with  
a violation of the CHSH-Bell  
inequality:  $S \approx 3.3 > 3$

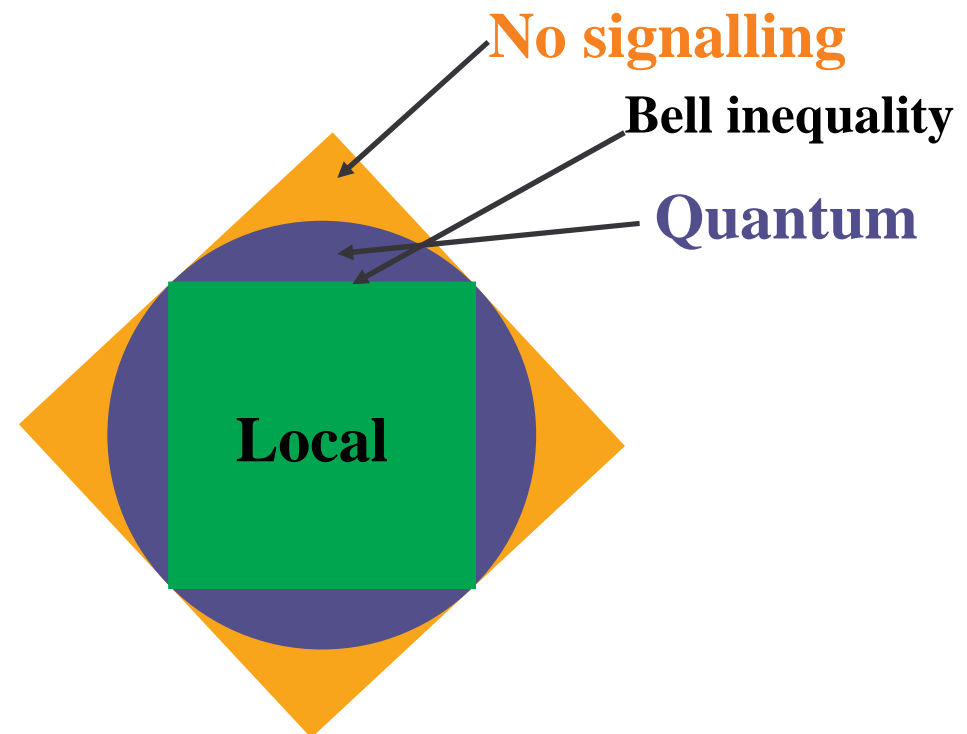




# Studying nonlocal correlations from outside the Hilbert space

$P(a,b|x,y)$  can be considered as a vector and represented as a point in a vector space:

New question:  
why are quantum correlations not more nonlocal ?





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Theory

# Conclusions

## Applications



Photonics



FET-IP



Experiments



## Non realism ?

Alice

$x$

$\lambda$

$a$

The only assumption in the derivation of Bell inequality, besides the locality assumption, is that  $x, y, a$  and  $b$  are classical variables. That is that one directly access them, copy, memories and broadcast them.

Bob

$y$

$\lambda$

$b$

Non realism seems to me not an alternative to nonlocality. And what could "local non realism" mean ?!?

N. Gisin, Non-realism : deep thought or a soft option ? [quant-ph/0901.4255](https://arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0901.4255),  
Found. Phys. 2010, DOI [10.1007/s10701-010-9508-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10701-010-9508-1)