



MAX PLANCK RESEARCH GROUP



Institute of Optics,  
Information and Photonics  
University Erlangen-Nuremberg



# Quantum Correlations as Necessary Precondition for Secure Communication

Phys. Rev. Lett. **92**, 217903 (2004)  
quant-ph/0307151

**Marcos Curty<sup>1</sup>, Maciej Lewenstein<sup>2</sup>, Norbert Lütkenhaus<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Institut für Theoretische Physik  
and  
Max Planck Research Group  
Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

<sup>2</sup> Institut für Theoretische Physik  
Universität Hannover



# Overview

- **Interface Physics – Computer Science in Quantum Communication**
  - Physics provides correlations with a promise
  - Computer Science uses correlations within complex communication task
- **Classical and Quantum Correlations**
  - If Physics is to add something, then we need correlations with quantum features
- **‘Entanglement’ as necessary conditions for quantum communication**
- **Exploitation of conditions**
  - entanglement witnesses
  - application to 6-state, 4-state and 2-state protocol (QKD)
- **Conclusions**



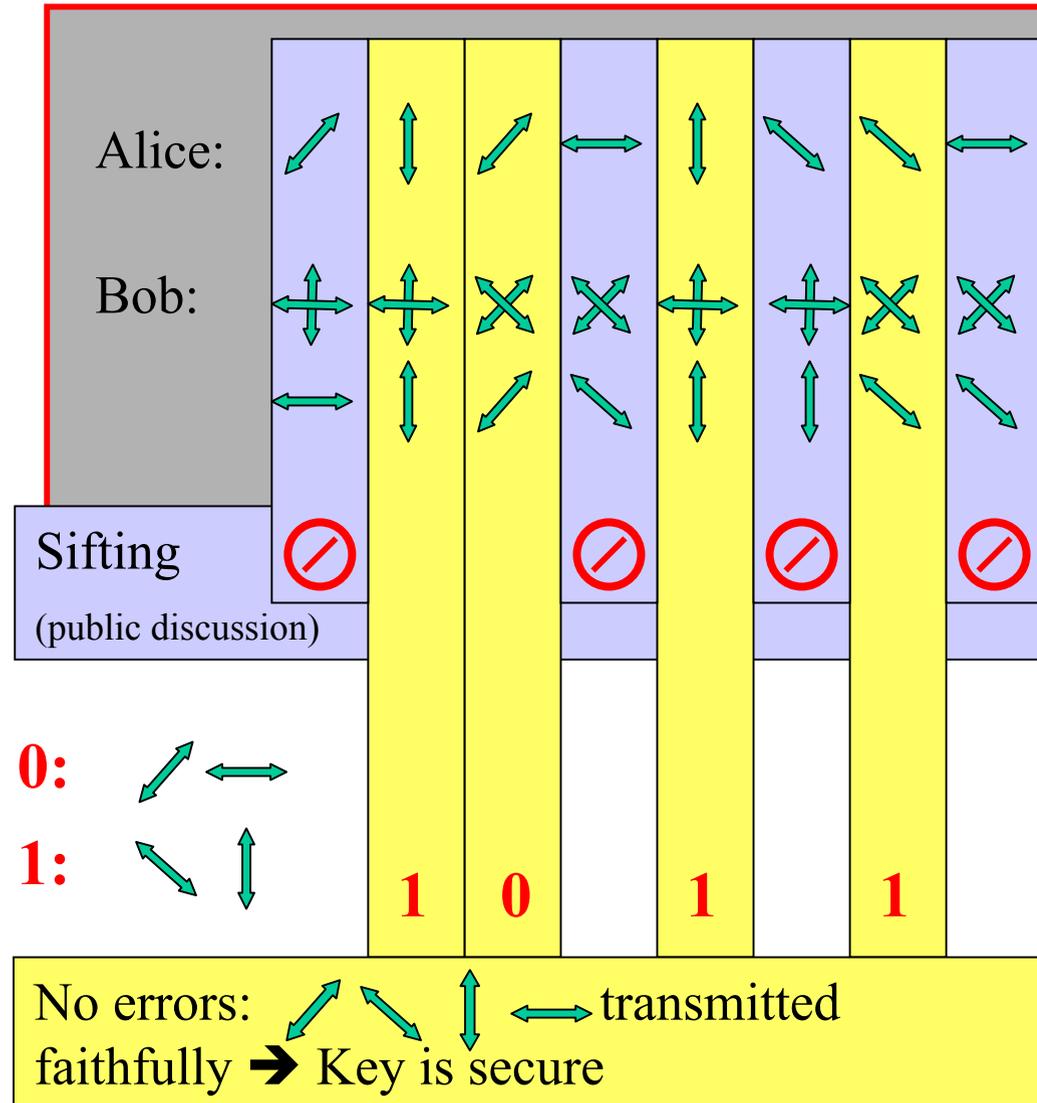
# Bennett Brassard Protocol

## Quantum Part:

Create random key:



**Public discussion** over faithful classical channel: distinguish **deterministic** from **random processes**





# Quantum Communication and Correlations

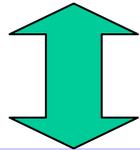
## Phase I: Physical Set-Up

Generation of correlations between Alice and Bob

→ possibly containing hidden correlations with Eve

### Physics:

correlated data with a promise.



**Which type of correlations are useful for Quantum Communication?**

### (Classical) Computer Science:

Solve Communication Problem with classically correlated data ...

## Phase II: Classical Communication Protocol

Advantage distillation (e.g. announcement of bases in BB84 protocol)

Error Correction (→ Alice and Bob share the same key)

Privacy Amplification (→ generates secret key shared by Alice and Bob)

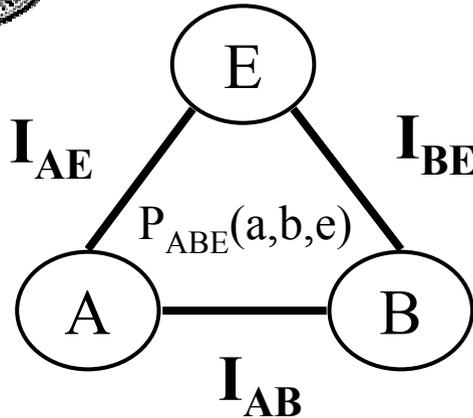
**Note:** classical communication for QKD can be improved:

e.g. in QKD with weak light pulses [Acín, Gisin, and Scarani, Phys. Rev. A 69, 012309 (2004) ]

or two-way communication [Lo, Gottesman, quant-ph/0105121]



# Key extraction from correlated classical data



**Lower bound on secrecy capacity  $C_S$ :**  
 (rate of secret communication between Alice and Bob)  
 - Csiszar, Körner, IEEE, IT 24, 339 (1978).

$$C_S > \max \{ I_{AB} - I_{AE}, I_{AB} - I_{BE} \}$$

! Derived for classical three-party correlations  
 Eve: quantum system!  
 - I. Devetak, A. Winter, quant-ph/0307053.

## Upper Bounds on secrecy capacity $C_S$ :

- U. M. Maurer, IEEE Trans. Inf.Theo. 39, 1733 (1993);  
 -U. Maurer and S. Wolf, IEEE T. I. T. 45, 499 (1999).

$$C_S \leq I(A; B \downarrow E)$$

• Intrinsic Information:  $I(A; B \downarrow E)$

$$I(A; B \downarrow E) = \min_{E \rightarrow \underline{E}} I(A; B | \underline{E}) \quad \text{with } I(A; B | E) = H(A, E) + H(B, E) - H(A, B, E) - H(E)$$

### Quantum

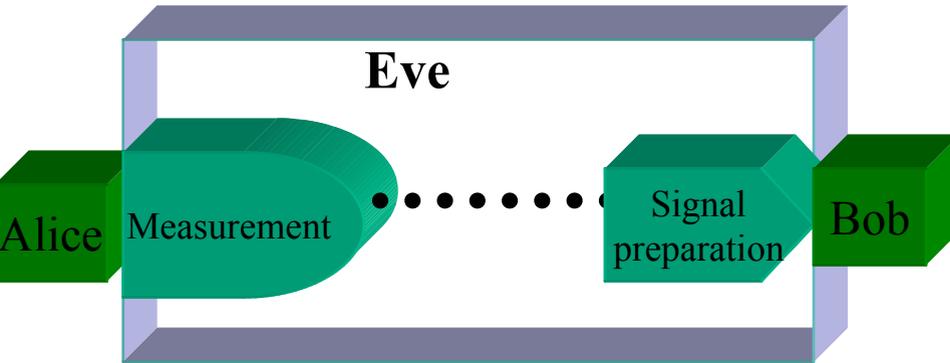
$$P_F(A, B, E) = P(a, b) \text{Tr} (\rho_E(a, b) F_E)$$

$$I(A; B \downarrow E) = \inf_F I_F(A, B | E)$$

‘Information’ Bob can gain about Alice’s data by looking at his own data, whatever Eve told him about Alice’s data.



# Intercept/Resend attack

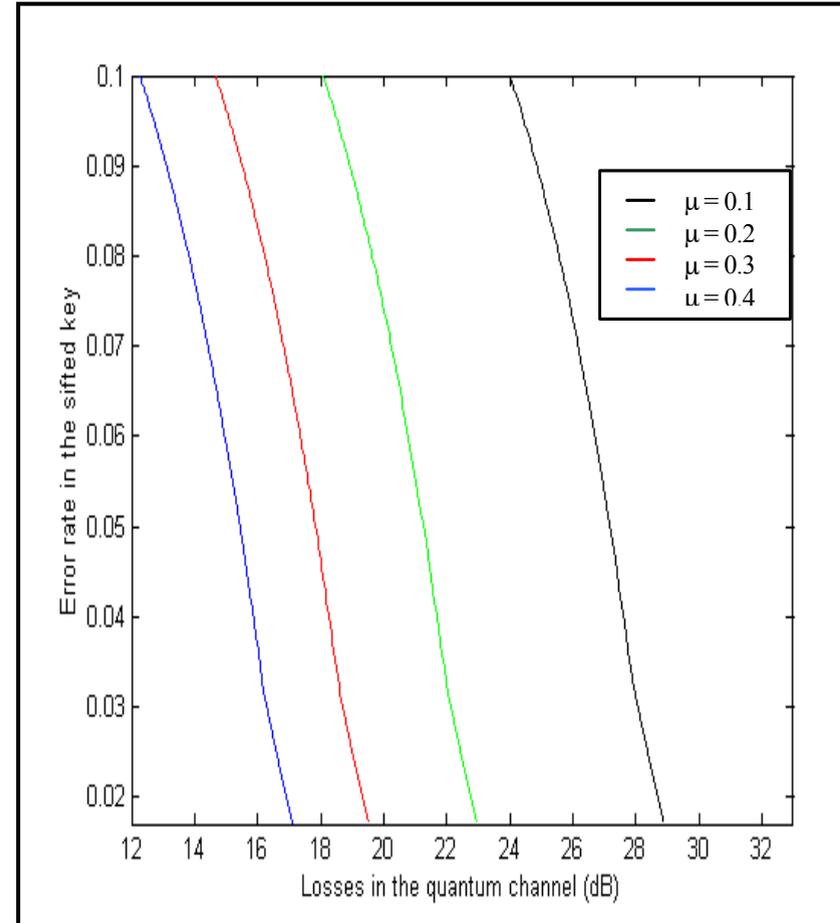


→  $P(a,b,e) = p(a,e) p(b|e)$  (Markov Chain)  
→ Intrinsic information vanishes,  
no secret communication possible!

## Example:

BB84 with

- Poissonian photon number distribution
- losses in the quantum channel
- symmetric error rate in signals
- implementing **specific** intercept/resend



[M.Curty, N.L, in preparation ]

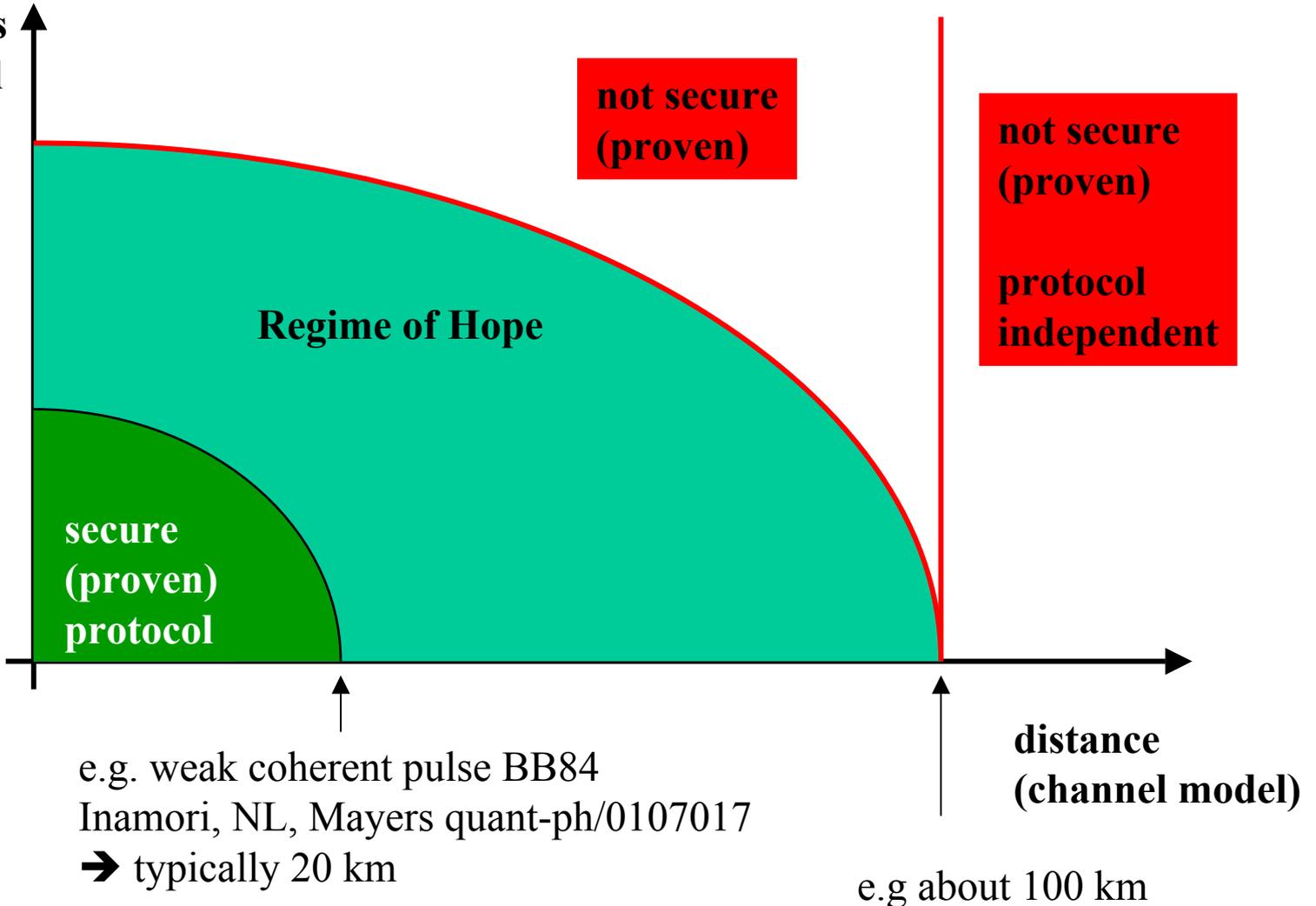
(for vanishing error rate:

[Jahma, Dusek, NL, Phys. Rev. A 62, 022306 (2000)]



# Potential for correlations

secret bits  
per signal





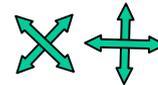
# Are these correlations useful?

## Assumptions:

trusted ideal source of ideal BB84 protocol



trusted ideal detector of ideal BB84 protocol



## Probability Distribution $P(A,B)$

	0	1	+	-
0	0.07987	0.04516	0.00913	0.11591
1	0.04508	0.07986	0.11593	0.00901
+	0.11599	0.00909	0.08001	0.04507
-	0.00897	0.11593	0.04505	0.07985

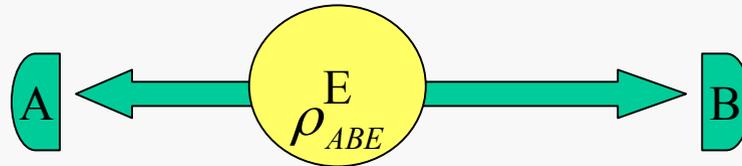
Error Rate: 36%



# Entanglement behind the scene

How to generate correlated classical data:

## Entanglement based QKD:

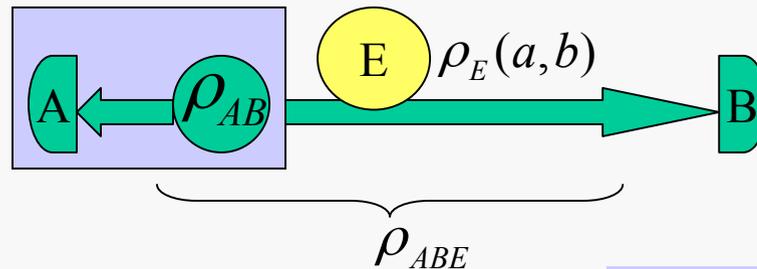


## Prepare & Measure Schemes:

orthonormal states

$$|\psi\rangle_{AB} = \sum_i \sqrt{p_i} |a_i\rangle_A |\varphi_i\rangle_B$$

effective signal states



Bennett, Brassard, Mermin Phys. Rev. Lett. **68** 557, 1992.

This scheme  
fixes  $\rho_A$  !

→ Entanglement based schemes and P&M schemes  
can be based on three-party entangled states!



# Necessary condition for secure communication

## Knowledge available to Alice and Bob:

- measurement POVM  $\{A_i\}_i, \{B_j\}_j$   
(may contain imperfections!)
- observed joint probability distribution  $P(A,B)$
- [red. density matrix  $\rho_A$  (P&M schemes)]

## Theorem (Entanglement Based and P&M):

- If  $P(A,B)$  together with  $\{A_i\}_i, \{B_j\}_j$  [and  $\rho_A$  for P&M schemes] allows interpretation as separable state then  $I(A;B|E) = 0$ , and therefore  $C_S = 0$ .

M. Curty., M. Lewenstein and N. L., [quant-ph/0307151](#).

## Theorem: (converse)

- $I(A;B|E) > 0$   
iff  $P(A,B)$  together with  $\{A_i\}_i, \{B_j\}_j$  cannot be interpreted as coming from a separable state.

-A. Acin and N. Gisin, [quant-ph/0310054](#).

NOTE: does *not* guarantee a secret key ...

Observation of quantum correlation  
excludes intercept/resend attack!

## Approach allows for realistic implementations!

- detection inefficiency goes into  $\{B_j\}_j$
- full mode description of sender and receiver



# Entanglement verification

## Problem structure:

- Unknown density matrix  $\rho_{AB}$
- constraints via observed correlations (data)  $P(A,B)$   
[for P&M schemes: fixed  $\rho_A$ ]
- **Question:** any separable  $\rho_{AB}$  compatible with constraints?

## Specific experiment and data:

search for entanglement proof (sufficient, not necessary)

- rule out separability e.g. via Bell inequality
- violation of local uncertainty relations [[Hofmann, Takeuchi, PRA 68 032103 \(2003\)](#)]
- numerical optimisation via entanglement witnesses [[Eisert, Hyllus, Gühne, Curty, quant-ph/040713](#)]

## Specific experiment:

- general efficient numerical method for any possible data?
- find analytic complete necessary and sufficient condition for any possible data  
→ approach in following part for simple qubit protocols



# Entanglement Witnesses

## Entangled States:

$\rho_{AB}$  is entangled iff  $\rho_{AB} \neq \sum_i p_i |a_i\rangle\langle a_i|_A \otimes |b_i\rangle\langle b_i|_B$

## Entanglement Witnesses (EW):

- $\rho_{AB}$  is entangled iff  $\exists W$  hermitian such that:

$$\text{Tr}\{W \cdot \rho_{AB}\} < 0$$

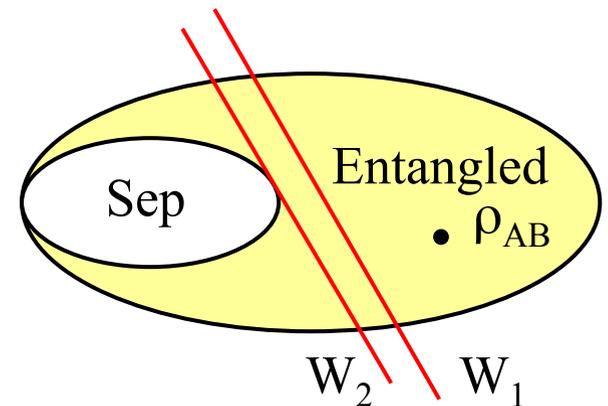
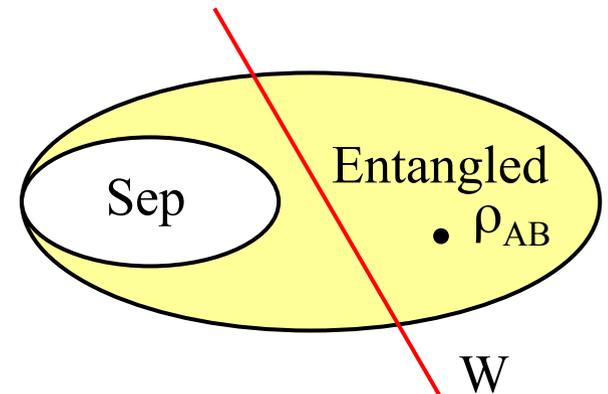
$$\text{Tr}\{W \cdot \sigma_{AB}\} \geq 0 \quad \forall \sigma_{AB} \text{ separable}$$

-M. Horodecki, P. Horodecki and R. Horodecki, Phys. Lett. A **223**, 1 (1996).

-M.B. Terhal, Phys. Lett. A **271**, 319 (2000).

## Optimal EW (OEW):

-M. Lewenstein, B. Kraus, J.I. Cirac and P. Horodecki, PRA **62**, 052310 (2000).





# Local Measurement of Entanglement Witnesses

## Decomposition of Witnesses in Local Measurements:

Any bipartite hermitian operator  $W$  can be decomposed as a *pseudo-mixture*:

$$W = \sum_{ij} c_{ij} A_i \otimes B_j \quad \text{with} \quad c_{ij} \in \mathfrak{R}, \quad \sum_{ij} c_{ij} = 1$$

where  $A_i \otimes B_j$  forms a POVM operator basis.

→  $\{A_i\}_i, \{B_j\}_j$  describe measurements (positive, add up to identity)

## Evaluation:

Then:

$$\text{Tr}\{W \cdot \rho_{AB}\} = \sum_{ij} c_{ij} \text{Tr}\{A_i \otimes B_j \rho_{AB}\} = \sum_{ij} c_{ij} P(a_i, b_j)$$

-A. Sanpera, R. Tarrach and G. Vidal, PRA **58**, 826 (1997).

-O. Gühne, P. Hyllus, D. Bruss, A. Ekert, M. Lewenstein, C. Macchiavello and A. Sanpera, PRA **66**, 062305 (2002).

-O. Gühne, P. Hyllus, D. Bruss, A. Ekert, M. Lewenstein, C. Macchiavello and A. Sanpera, J. Mod. Opt. **50** (6-7), 1079 (2003).



# Necessary condition based on entanglement witnesses

## Theorem:

- Given a set of local operations with POVM elements  $A_i \otimes B_j$  together with the probability distribution of their occurrence,  $P(A,B)$ , then the correlations  $P(A,B)$  cannot lead to a secret key via public communication unless one can prove the presence of entanglement in the (effectively) distributed state via an entanglement witnesses  $W = \sum_{ij} c_{ij} A_i \otimes B_j$  with  $c_{ij}$  real such that  $\text{Tr}\{W\sigma_{AB}\} \geq 0$  for all separable states  $\sigma_{AB}$  and  $\sum_{ij} c_{ij} P(i,j) < 0$ .

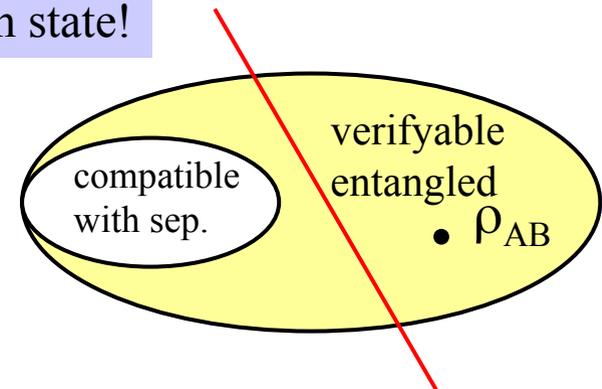
-M. Curty, M. Lewenstein and N. L., Phys. Rev. Lett. **92**, 217903 (2004).

## Important point:

entanglement witness criterion is necessary and sufficient even for restricted knowledge about the shared quantum state!

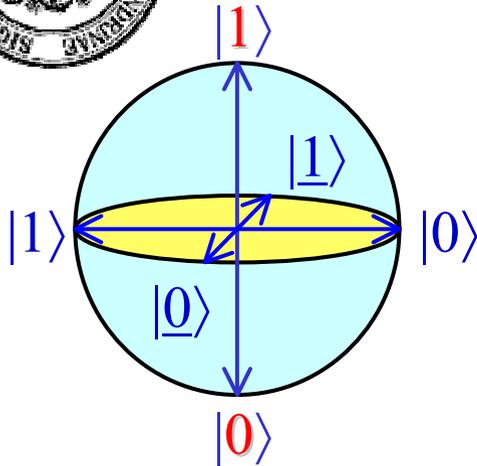
## Idea:

states with verifiable entanglement form a convex set  
→ restricted class of witnesses can testify the verifiable entanglement





# 6-State QKD protocol



Use three mutually unbiased bases:  
e.g. X,Y,Z direction in Bloch sphere

- Bruß, Phys. Rev. **81**, 3018 (1998);
- Bechmann-Pasquinucci et al, PRA **59**, 4238 (1999) .

## 6-State (EBS and P&M) EW:

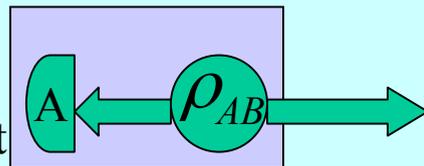
$$W_6 = \sum_{ij} c_{ij} \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_j$$

with  $i,j = \{0,x,z,y\}$ , and  $\sigma_0 = 1$ .

- Include all Optimal DEW:  $W = |\psi_e\rangle\langle\psi_e|^{TB}$
- All entangled states can be detected.

Simplified thought experiment:  
use two-qubit state:

X, Y or Z  
measurement



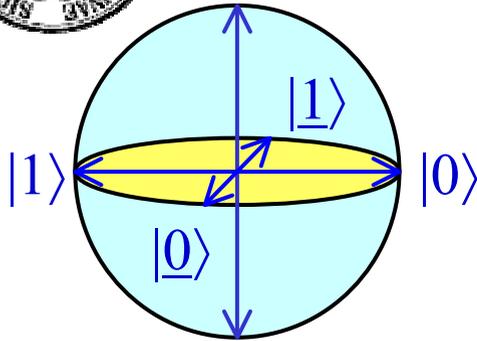
max. ent. 2x2 state

## Searching for quantum correlations:

- parametrize  $|\psi_e\rangle$
- evaluate locally  $\text{Tr}[\rho |\psi_e\rangle\langle\psi_e|^{TB}]$
- search for negative expectation values



# 4-State QKD protocol



Use two mutually unbiased bases:  
e.g. X,Z direction in Bloch sphere

-C.H. Bennett and G. Brassard, Proc. IEEE Int. Conf.  
On Computers, System and Signal Processing, 175  
(1984).

## 4-State (EBS) EW:

$$W_4^{\text{EBS}} = \sum_{ij} c_{ij} \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_j$$

with  $i, j = \{0, x, z\}$ , and  $\sigma_0 = 1$ .

→ restricted class of witnesses

## Observation:

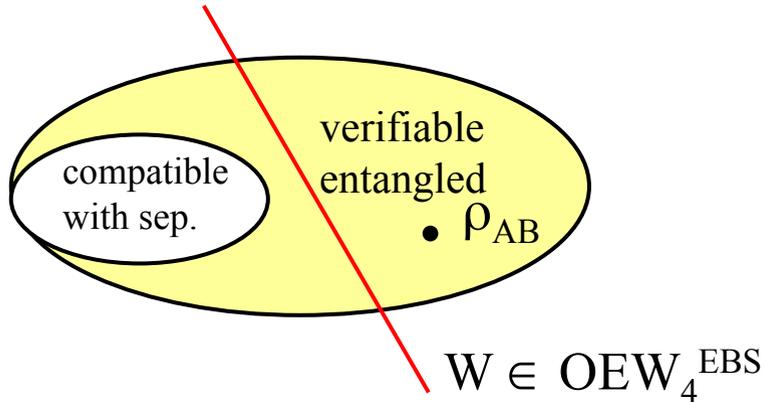
$$W \in W_4^{\text{EBS}} \text{ iff } W = W^T = W^{T_B}$$

- Alice and Bob cannot evaluate Optimal DEW.
- Not all entangled states can be detected.



# 4-State QKD protocol

## Optimal $W_4^{\text{EBS}}$ ( $\text{OE}W_4$ )



## Observation:

Given  $W \in W_4^{\text{EBS}}$  necessary to detect entanglement in state  $\rho_{AB}$  is that the operator

$$\Omega = \rho_{AB} + \rho_{AB}^T + \rho_{AB}^{T_B} + \rho_{AB}^{T_A}$$
 is a non-positive operator.

**Theorem:** The EW that are optimal within the four-state protocol are given by

$$\text{OE}W_4^{\text{EBS}} = \frac{1}{2}(Q + Q^{T_B})$$

with  $Q = |\psi_e\rangle\langle\psi_e|$  such that  $Q = Q^T$

-M. Curty., M. Lewenstein and N. L., quant-ph/0307151.

- $\text{OE}W_4^{\text{EBS}}$  provides necessary and sufficient conditions for detection of quantum correlations in  $P(A,B)$ .
- For P&M schemes we find  $\text{OE}W_4^{\text{P\&M}} = \text{OE}W_4^{\text{EBS}}$



# Quantum Correlations? (II)

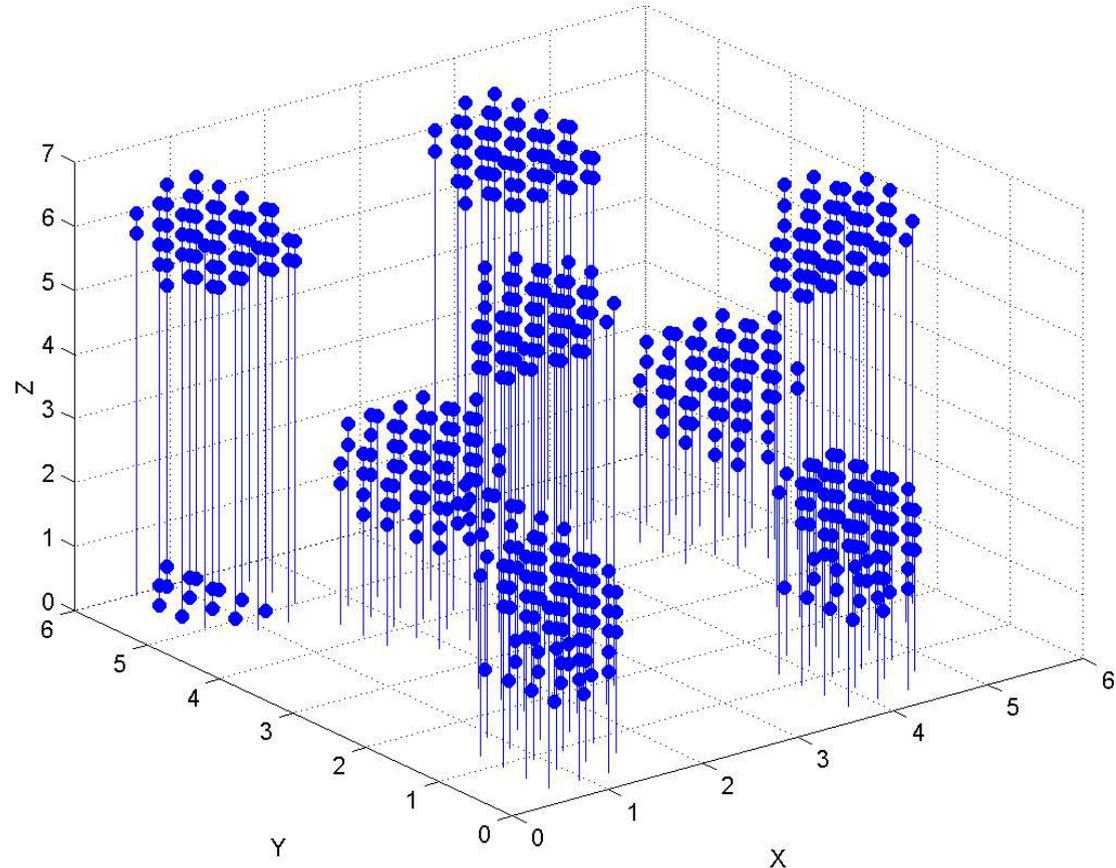
## Assumptions: (BB84 setup)

trusted ideal source  
 trusted ideal detector

## Probability Distribution P(A,B)

A \ B	0	1	+	-
0	0.07987	0.04516	0.00913	0.11591
1	0.04508	0.07986	0.11593	0.00901
+	0.11599	0.00909	0.08001	0.04507
-	0.00897	0.11593	0.04505	0.07985

Error Rate: 36 %



(only parameter combinations  
 leading to negative expectation  
 values are marked)

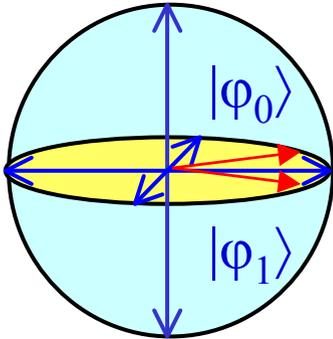
## Witness Class:

$$OE W_4^{EBS} = \frac{1}{2}(|\psi_e\rangle\langle\psi_e| + |\psi_e\rangle\langle\psi_e|^{T_B})$$

$$|\psi_e\rangle = \cos(X)|00\rangle + \sin(X)(\cos(Y)|01\rangle + \sin(Y)(\cos(Z)|10\rangle + \sin(Z)|11\rangle))$$



# 2-State QKD protocol



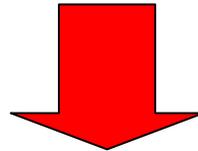
Use two non-orthogonal states,  
e.g.,  $|\varphi_0\rangle$  and  $|\varphi_1\rangle$

-C.H. Bennett, Phys. Rev. Lett. **68**, 3121 (1992).

2-State EW:

$$W_2 = \sum_i c_i \sigma_0 \otimes \sigma_i + \sum_j c_j \sigma_z \otimes \sigma_j + \sum_k c_k \sigma_k \otimes \sigma_0$$

with  $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} = \{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}\}$ ,  $\mathbf{k} = \{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}\}$ , and  $\sigma_0 = \mathbf{1}$ .



→ restricted class of witnesses

Theorem: The family

$$W_2 = |0\rangle\langle 0| \otimes A + |1\rangle\langle 1| \otimes B + x C(\theta)$$

with  $A = A^T$ ,  $B = B^T$ ,  $A \geq 0$ ,  $B \geq 0$ ,  $\text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(B) = 2$ ,  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ , and

$$x = \min_{|\phi\rangle} (\langle \phi | A | \phi \rangle \langle \phi | B | \phi \rangle)^{1/2}$$

is sufficient to detect all entangled states that are detectable in the 2-state protocol.

-M. Curty., O. Gühne, M. Lewenstein and N. L., (in preparation).



# Conclusion

## Interface Physics – Computer Science:

### Classical Correlated Data with a Promise

**Necessary condition for secure QKD** is the proof of presence of quantum correlations

**Quantum correlations:** for entanglement based and prepare&measure schemes.

► **For experiments:** show the presence of such entanglement

- no need to enter details of classical communication protocols
- prevents oversights in preliminary analyses
- one properly constructed entanglement proof (e.g. entanglement witness) suffices

► **For theory:**

- show in which situation quantum correlations are **sufficient** to generate secret key
- develop **figure of merit** (secrecy capacity) to measure secrecy potential of correlations.
- develop proper **entanglement proofs** for realistic experiments (for given measurements)
- develop **compact description for restricted class of entanglement witnesses**  
(allows effective search of quantum correlations)
- include **detection inefficiencies** into the witness construction