

# Processes without causal order as a model of computation

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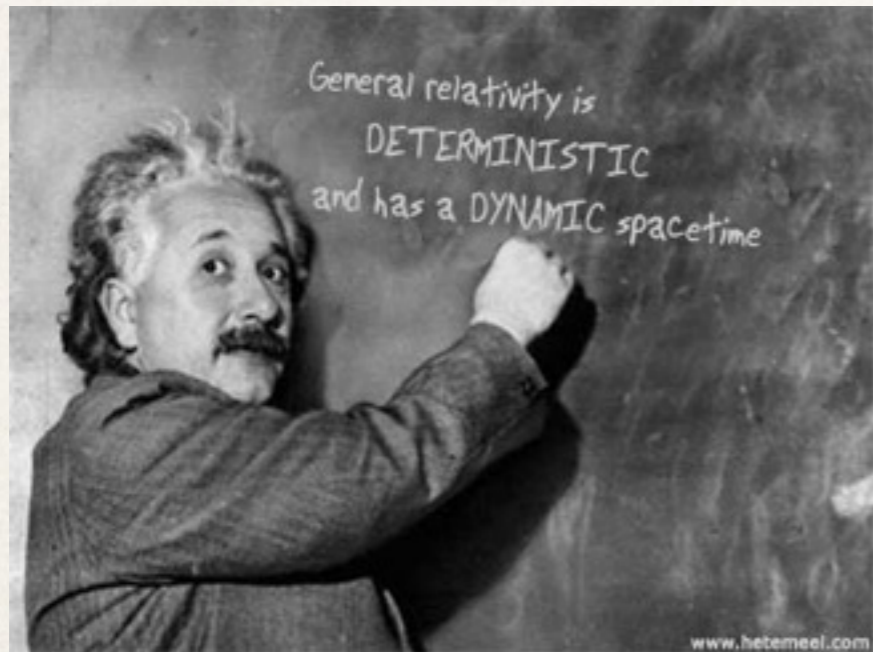
# Outline

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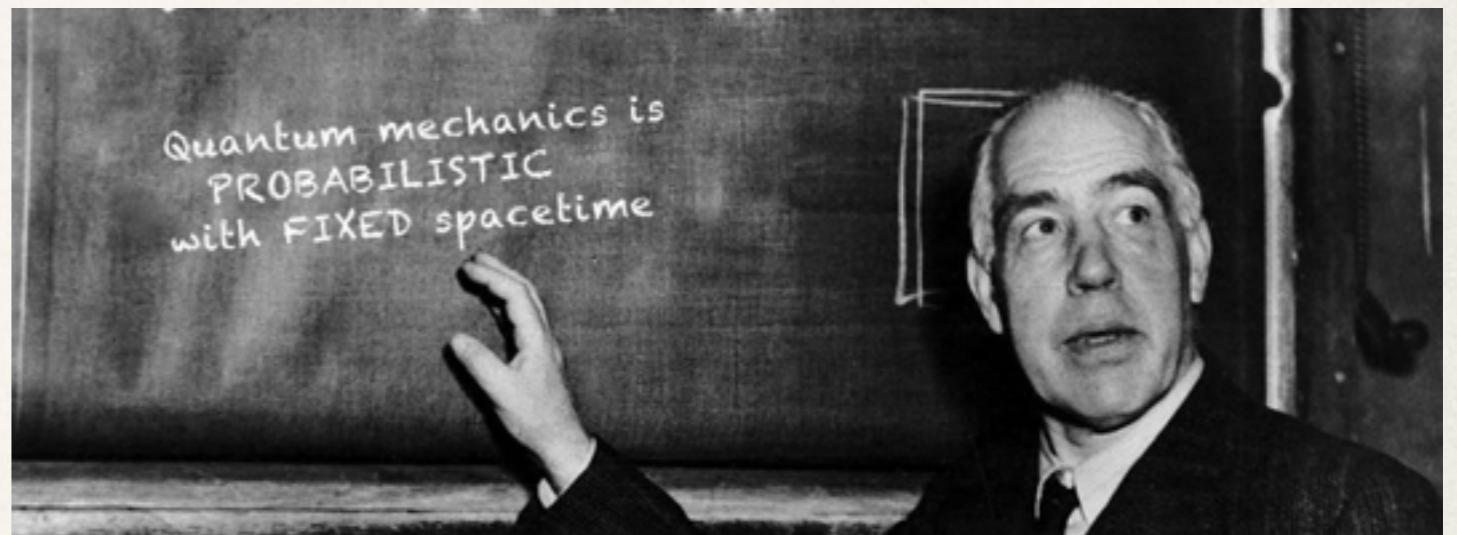
- ❖ **Motivation**
- ❖ Classical correlations without causal order
- ❖ Circuit model without causal order
- ❖ Examples
- ❖ Conclusion

# Motivation

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General relativity



Quantum physics

Quantum gravity

# Motivation

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General relativity: *dynamic* spacetime and *deterministic*

Quantum physics: *fixed* spacetime and *probabilistic*

- ❖ Quantum gravity: *probabilistic* theory with a *dynamic* spacetime?<sup>1</sup>

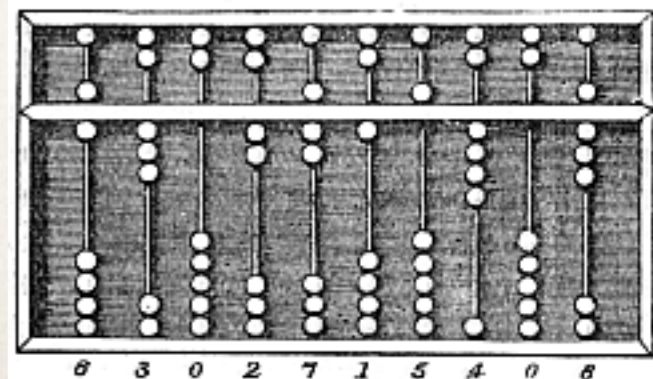
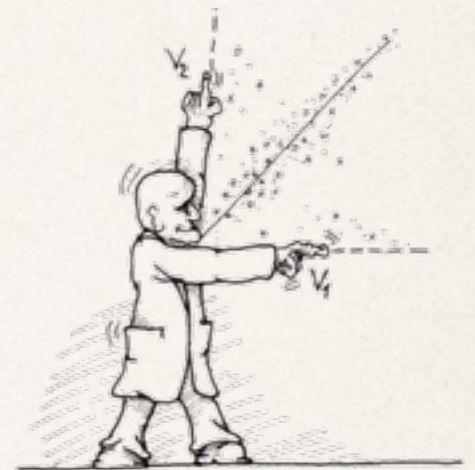


<sup>1</sup> L. Hardy, *arXiv:0509120 [gr-qc]* (2005).

# Motivation


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- ❖ Replace *background time* with weaker assumption of *logical consistency*.
- ❖ What correlations are possible in a world *without background time*?
- ❖ What computations are possible in world *without background time*?



# Correlations without predefined causal order

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- ❖ Work is mainly based on the  framework by Oreshkov, Costa, and Brukner.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> O. Oreshkov, F. Costa, Č. Brukner, *Nat. Commun.* **3**, 1092 (2012).

# Correlations without predefined causal order

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- ❖ Correlations that arise when we drop

*background time*

and assume

*local validity of a theory,*

*local time, and*

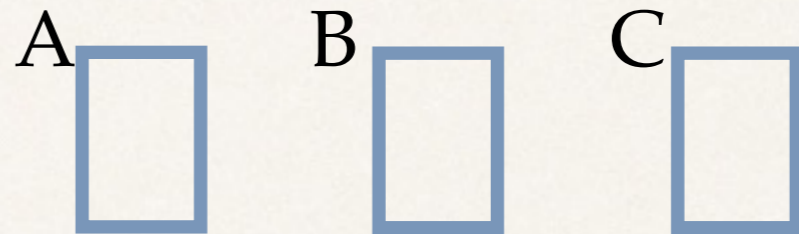
*logical consistency only.*

 *unique fixed point*

# Classical correlations without causal order

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- ❖ Operational approach:  
Parties: A, B, C (isolated)

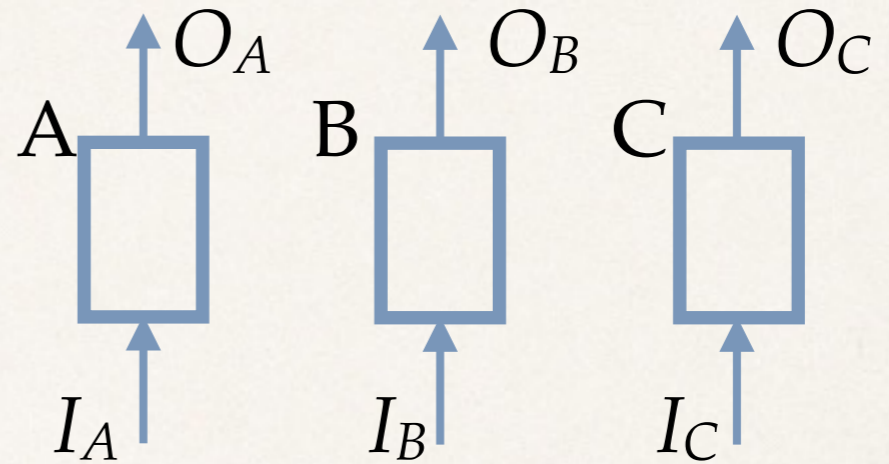




# Classical correlations without causal order

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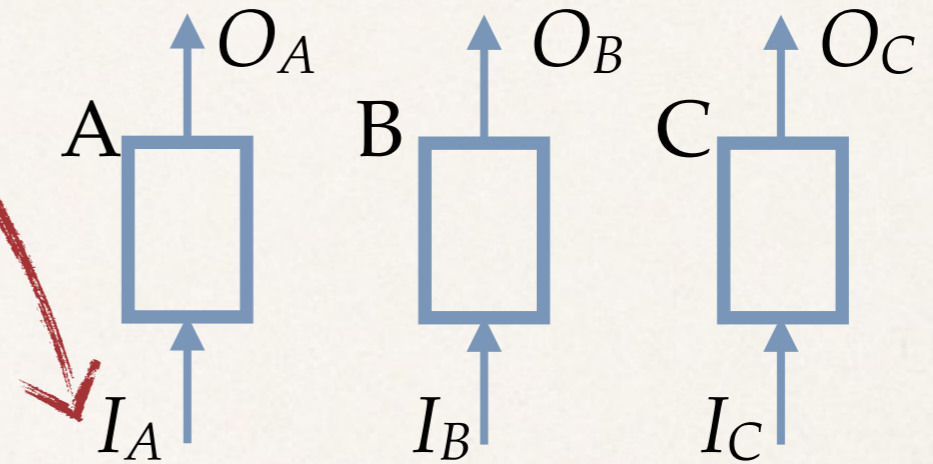


- ❖ Local time:  
A first receives random variable  $I_A$ , then sends random variable  $O_A$  (equivalently for B and C).

# Classical correlations without causal order

*random variable*

- ❖ Operational approach:  
Parties: A, B, C (isolated)



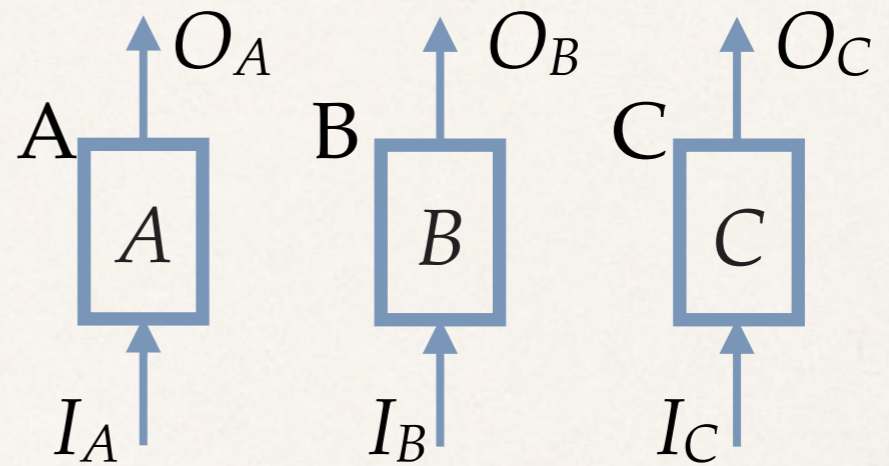
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# Classical correlations without causal order

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- ❖ Operational approach:  
Parties: A, B, C (isolated)



- ❖ Local time:

A first receives random variable  $I_A$ , then sends random variable  $O_A$  (equivalently for B and C).

- ❖ Local validity of probability theory:

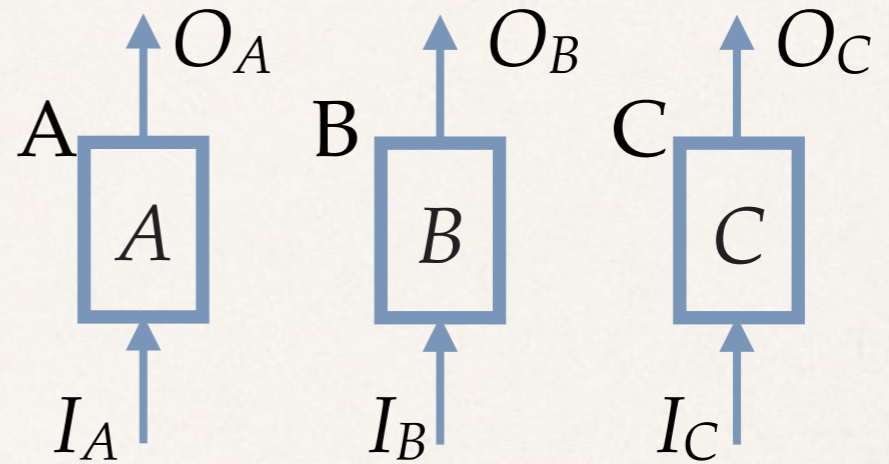
A's operation is a conditional probability distribution

$A = P_{O_A|I_A}$  (equivalently for B and C).

# Classical correlations without causal order

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- ❖ Operational approach:  
Probability  $P_{\mathbf{O},\mathbf{I}}$  is *linear* in the choice of operations of A, B, and C.

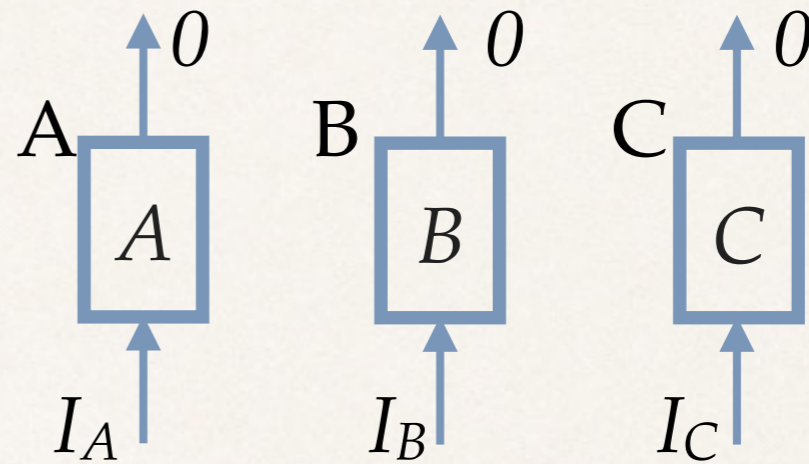


- ❖  $\mathbf{o} = (o_A, o_B, o_C), \quad \mathbf{i} = (i_A, i_B, i_C)$
- ❖  $P(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) = e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i})P(o_A|i_A)P(o_B|i_B)P(o_C|i_C)$
- ❖ Condition:  $\forall \mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i} : e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) \geq 0$

# Classical correlations without causal order

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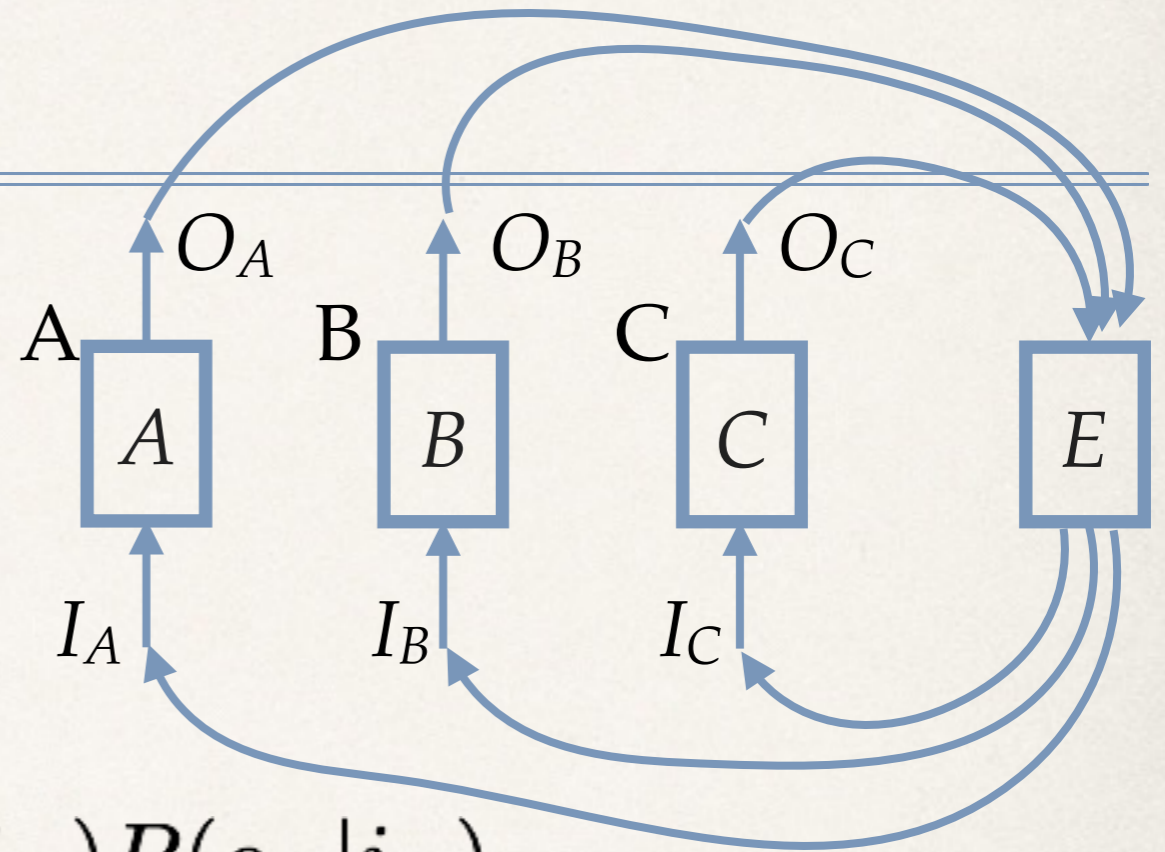
- ❖ Let  $P(o_A|i_A) = \delta_{0,o_A}$ ,  
 $P(o_B|i_B) = \delta_{0,o_B}$ ,  
 $P(o_C|i_C) = \delta_{0,o_C}$



- ❖  $P(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) = e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i})P(o_A|i_A)P(o_B|i_B)P(o_C|i_C)$
- ❖  $\sum_{\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}} P(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) = \sum_{\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}} e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i})\delta_{0,o_A}\delta_{0,o_B}\delta_{0,o_C} = \sum_{\mathbf{i}} e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) = 1$
- ❖  $\forall \mathbf{o} : \sum_{\mathbf{i}} e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) = 1$  : Conditional probability distribution  $E=P(\mathbf{i}|\mathbf{o}) = e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i})$

# Classical correlations without causal order

- ❖ Let  $P(o_A|i_A) = \delta_{0,o_A}$ ,  
 $P(o_B|i_B) = \delta_{0,o_B}$ ,  
 $P(o_C|i_C) = \delta_{0,o_C}$

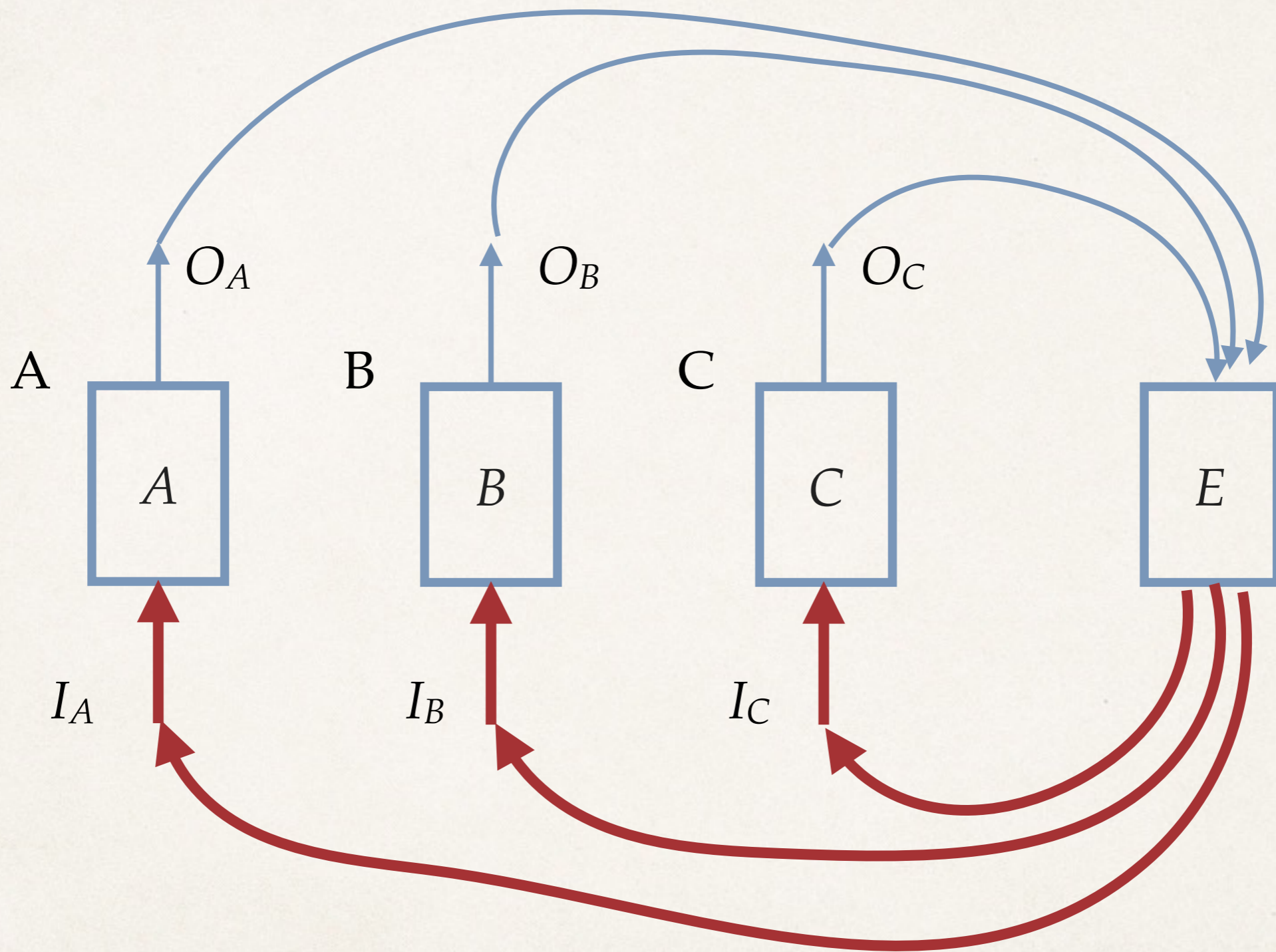


- ❖  $P(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) = e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i})P(o_A|i_A)P(o_B|i_B)P(o_C|i_C)$

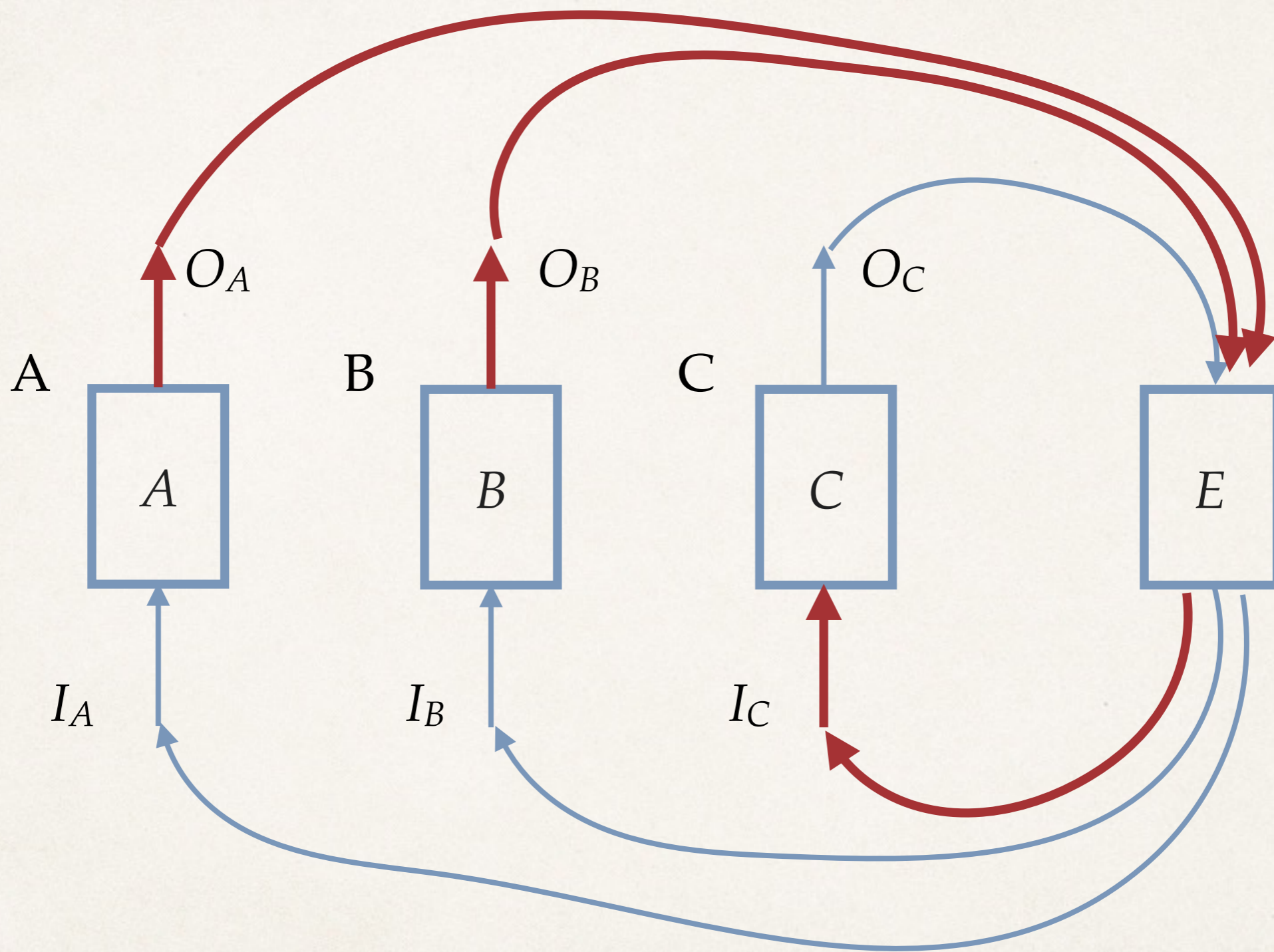
- ❖  $\sum_{\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}} P(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) = \sum_{\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}} e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i})\delta_{0,o_A}\delta_{0,o_B}\delta_{0,o_C} = \sum_{\mathbf{i}} e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) = 1$

- ❖  $\forall \mathbf{o} : \sum_{\mathbf{i}} e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}) = 1$  : Conditional probability distribution  $E=P(\mathbf{i}|\mathbf{o}) = e(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i})$

❖ State

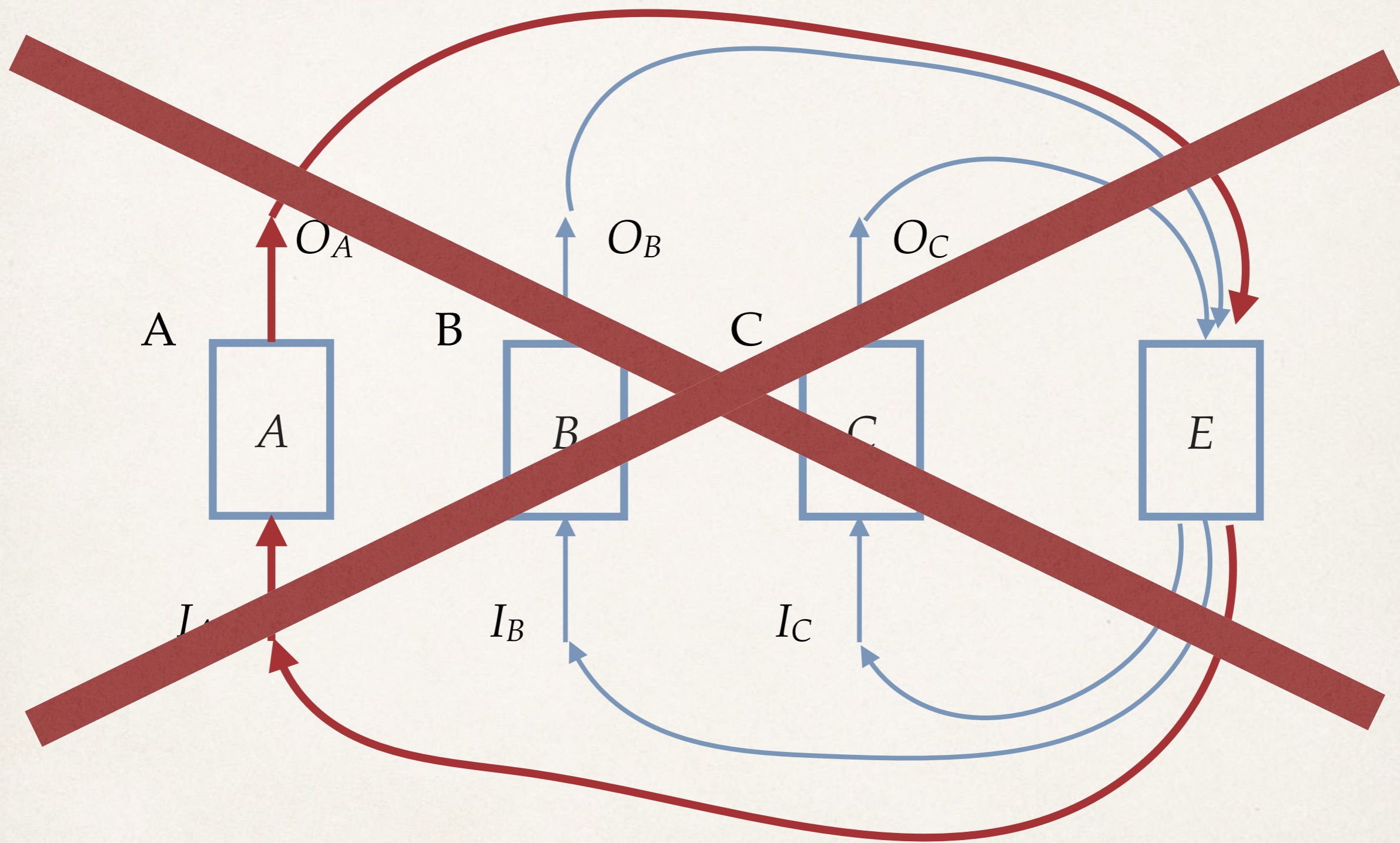


❖ Channel from A and B to C



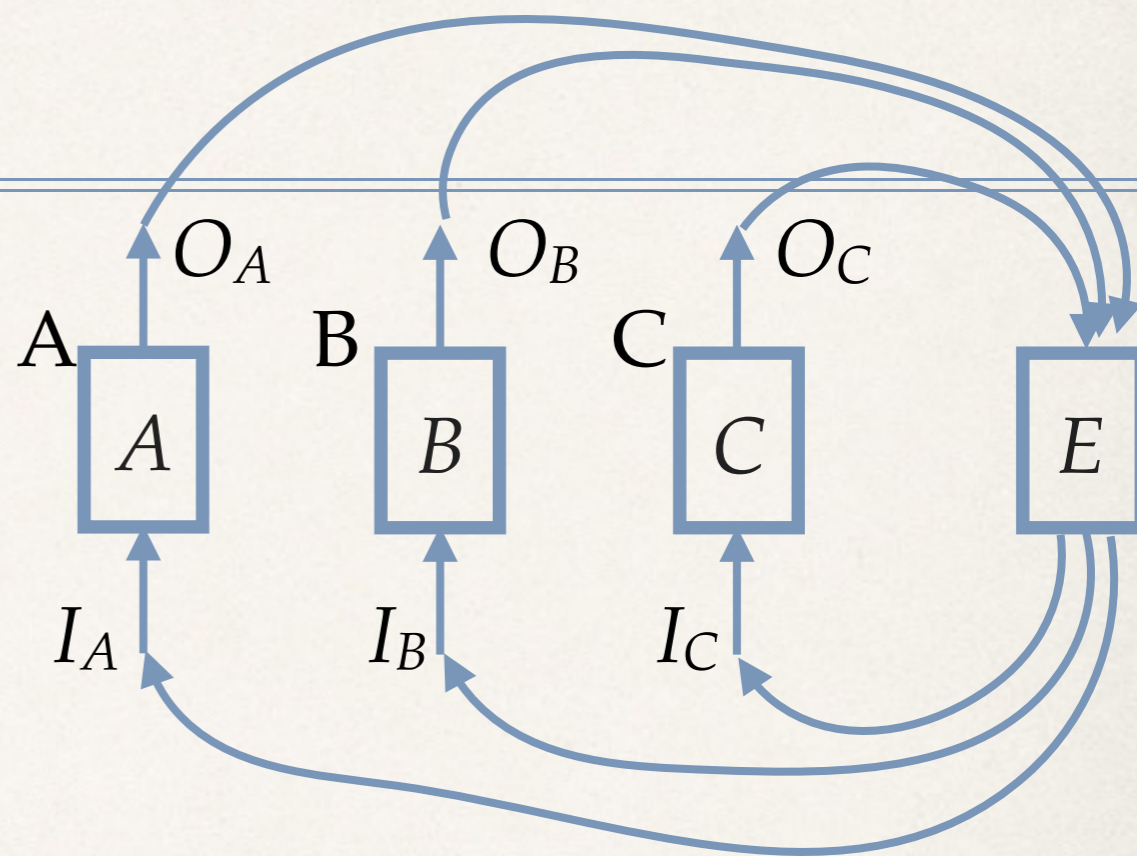


❖ Channel from A to A. Not allowed!



# Logical consistency

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❖ Logical consistency:

For every choice of

$P(o_A|i_A), P(o_B|i_B), P(o_C|i_C)$  :

$$\sum_{\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}} P(\mathbf{i}|\mathbf{o})P(o_A|i_A)P(o_B|i_B)P(o_C|i_C) = 1$$

# Logical consistency

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❖ Formulation of  $\sum_{\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}} P(\mathbf{i}|\mathbf{o})P(o_A|i_A)P(o_B|i_B)P(o_C|i_C) = 1$

with stochastic matrices.

❖ Define the stochastic matrices  $\hat{E}, \hat{A}, \hat{B}, \hat{C}$  as

$$\vec{i}^T \hat{E} \vec{o} = P(\mathbf{i}|\mathbf{o})$$

$$\vec{o}_A^T \hat{A} \vec{i}_A = P(o_A|i_A)$$

$$\vec{o}_B^T \hat{C} \vec{i}_B = P(o_B|i_B)$$

$$\vec{o}_C^T \hat{B} \vec{i}_C = P(o_C|i_C)$$

with

$$\vec{o} = \vec{o}_A \otimes \vec{o}_B \otimes \vec{o}_C$$

$$\vec{i} = \vec{i}_A \otimes \vec{i}_B \otimes \vec{i}_C$$

# Logical consistency

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$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{i}} P(\mathbf{i}|\mathbf{o})P(o_A|i_A)P(o_B|i_B)P(o_C|i_C) \\ &= \sum_{\vec{o}, \vec{i}} \left( \vec{i}^T \hat{E} \vec{o} \right) \left( \vec{o}_A^T \hat{A} \vec{i}_A \right) \left( \vec{o}_B^T \hat{C} \vec{i}_B \right) \left( \vec{o}_C^T \hat{B} \vec{i}_C \right) \\ &= \sum_{\vec{o}, \vec{i}} \left( \vec{i}^T \hat{E} \vec{o} \right) \left( \vec{o}^T (\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B} \otimes \hat{C}) \vec{i} \right) \\ &= \text{Tr} \left( \hat{E} (\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B} \otimes \hat{C}) \right) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

# Unique fixed point

*Set of deterministic  
local operations*

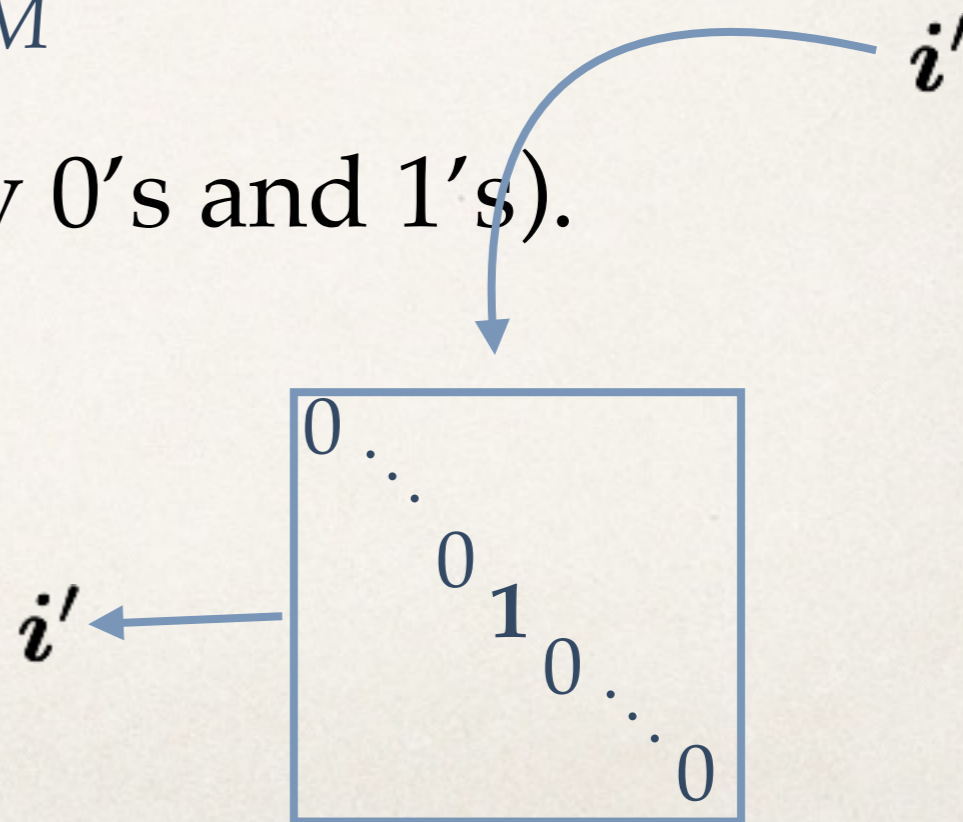
- ❖ Logical consistency:

$$\forall \hat{A}, \hat{B}, \hat{C} \in \mathcal{D} : \text{Tr} \left( \underbrace{\hat{E}(\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B} \otimes \hat{C})}_M \right) = 1$$

- ❖ Assume  $\hat{E}$  is deterministic (only 0's and 1's).

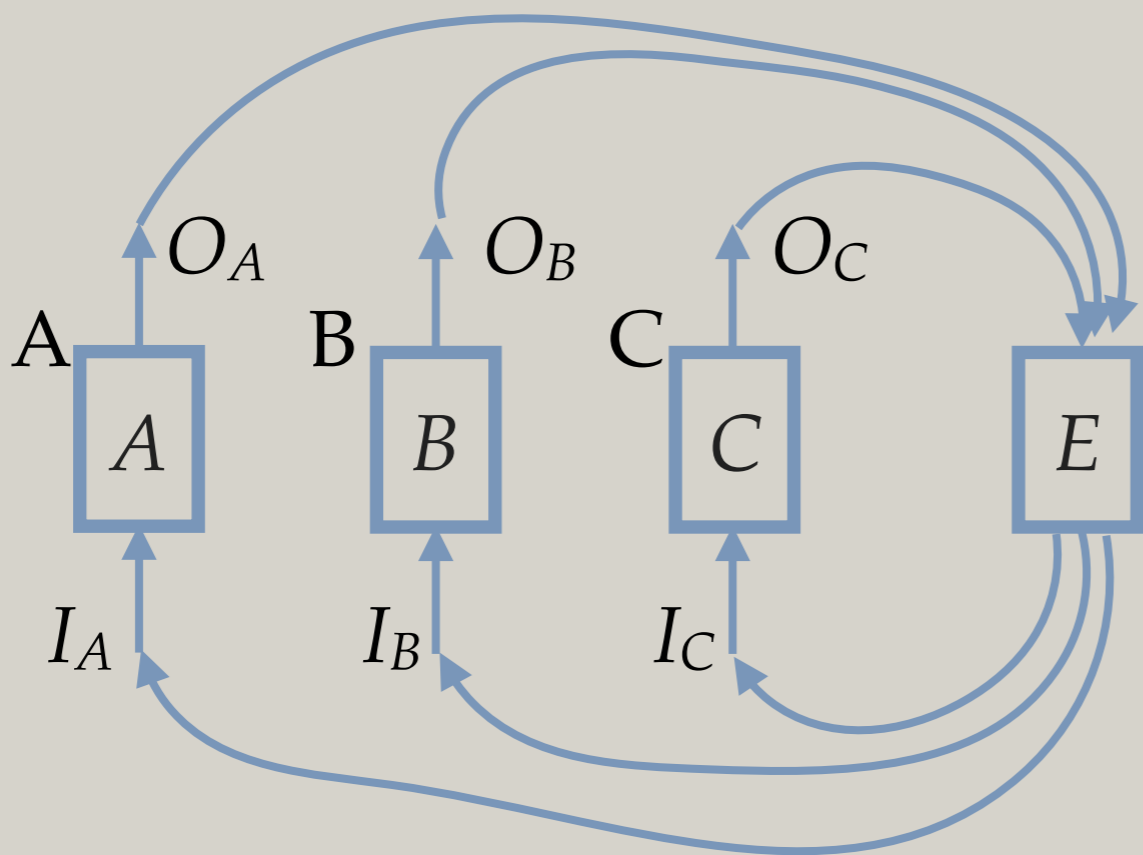
Diagonal of  $M$  has a single 1.

- ❖ For every choice of operations:  
unique fixed point



# Unique fixed point

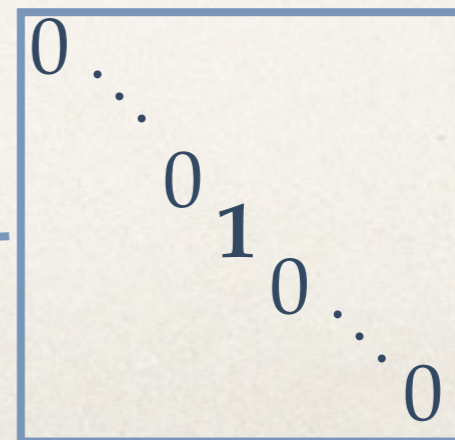
*Set of deterministic local operations*



$$\hat{C}) = 1$$

and 1's).

$i'$



- ❖ For every choice of operations: unique fixed point

# Unique fixed point

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*Set of deterministic  
local operations*

- ❖ Logical consistency:

$$\forall \hat{A}, \hat{B}, \hat{C} \in \mathcal{D} : \text{Tr} \left( \hat{E}(\hat{A} \otimes \hat{B} \otimes \hat{C}) \right) = 1$$

- ❖ Assume  $\hat{E}$  is not deterministic.

$$\hat{E} = \sum_i p(i) \hat{E}_i \quad \text{with } \hat{E}_i \in \mathcal{D}$$

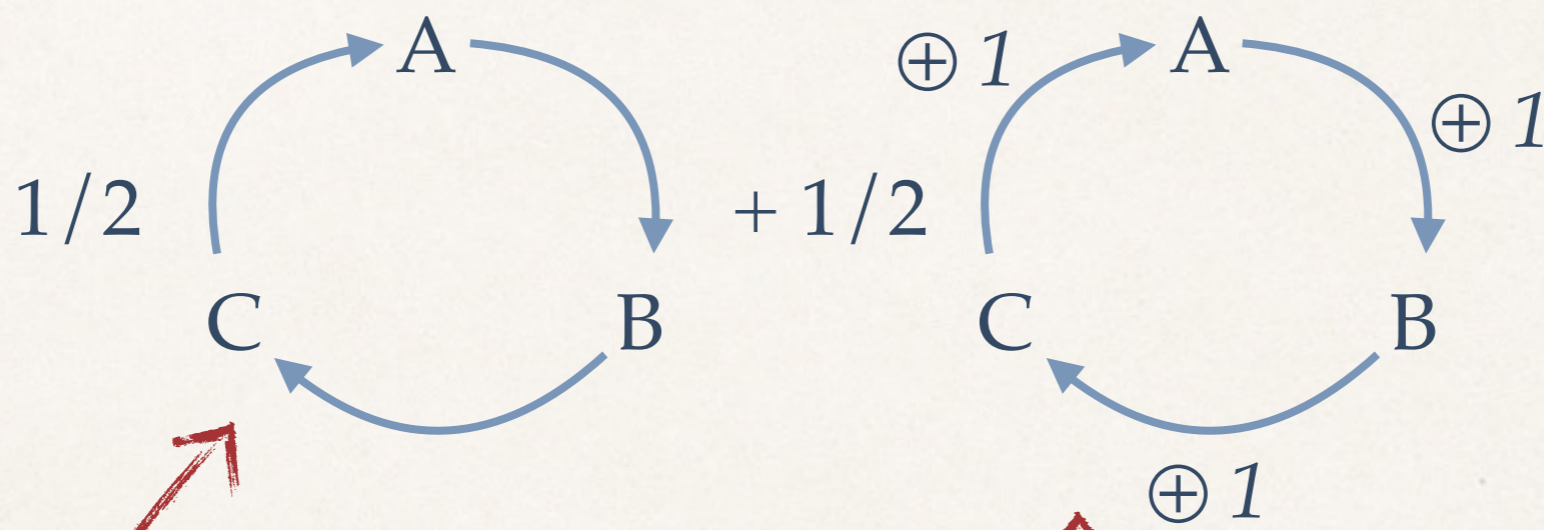
For every choice of operations:

$$\sum_i p(i) (\# \text{fixed points with } \hat{E}_i) = 1$$

# Unique fixed point



- ❖ Example (binary channels):



Local operation: identity  
2 fixed points

Local operation: identity  
0 fixed points



# Outline

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- ❖ Motivation
- ❖ Classical correlations without causal order
- ❖ **Circuit model without causal order** ([arXiv:1511.05444](https://arxiv.org/abs/1511.05444))
- ❖ Examples
- ❖ Conclusion

# Model of computation

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- ❖ Can we use this property to *find* fixed points?

Before:

- ❖ Parties
- ❖ Order not fixed
- ❖ Logical consistency:  
 $\forall \hat{A}, \hat{B}, \hat{C}$  unique F.P.

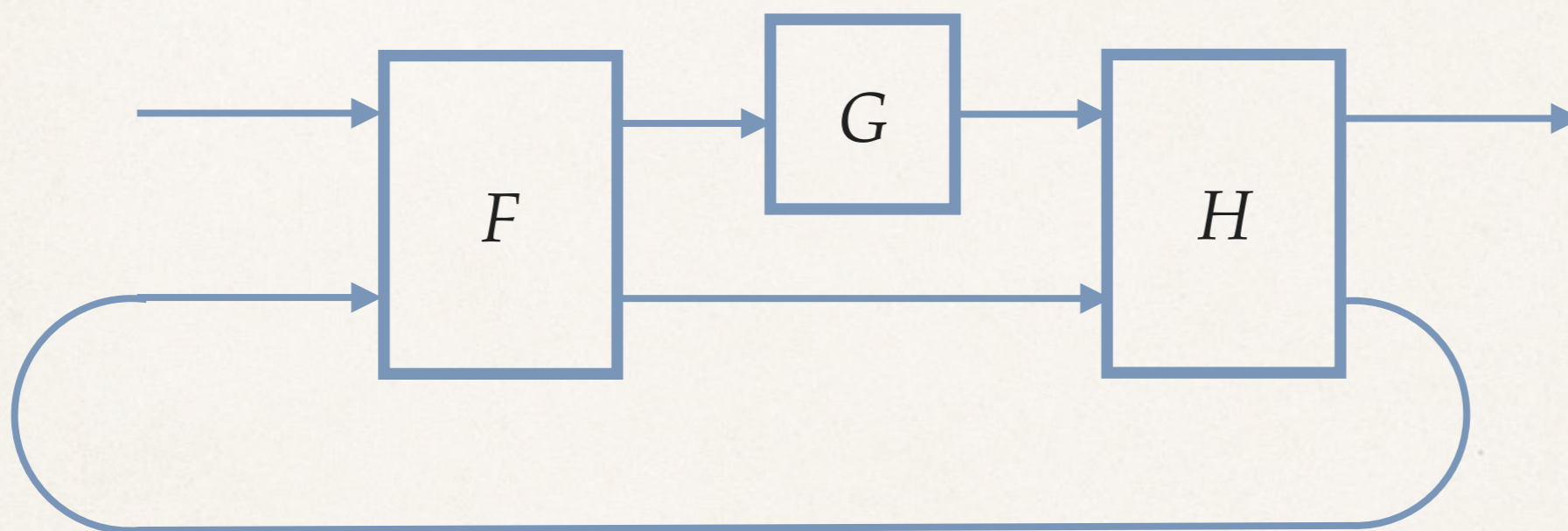
Model of computation:

- ❖ Gates
- ❖ Arbitrary wiring
- ❖ Logical consistency:  
for every input: loops in  
circuit have unique F.P.

# Model of computation

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- ❖ Arbitrary wiring of gates

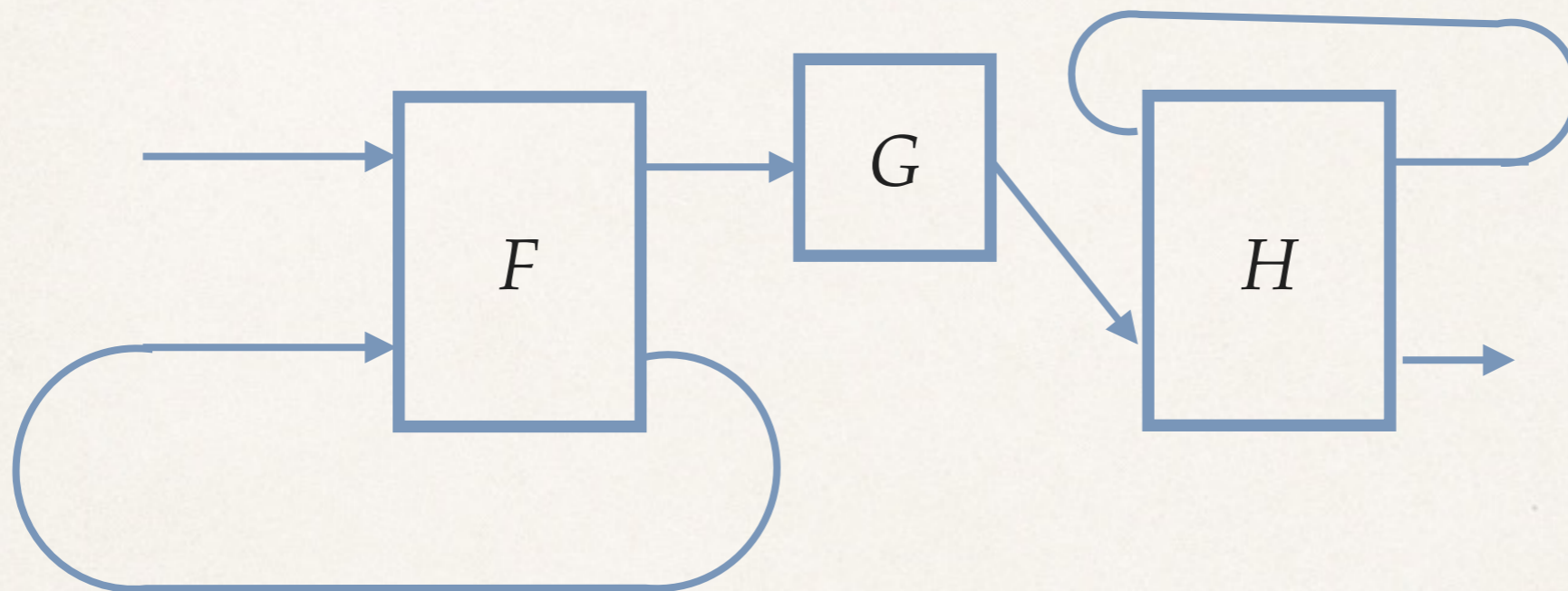


- ❖ Logical consistency:  
unique fixed point on loops for every input

# Model of computation

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- ❖ Arbitrary wiring of gates

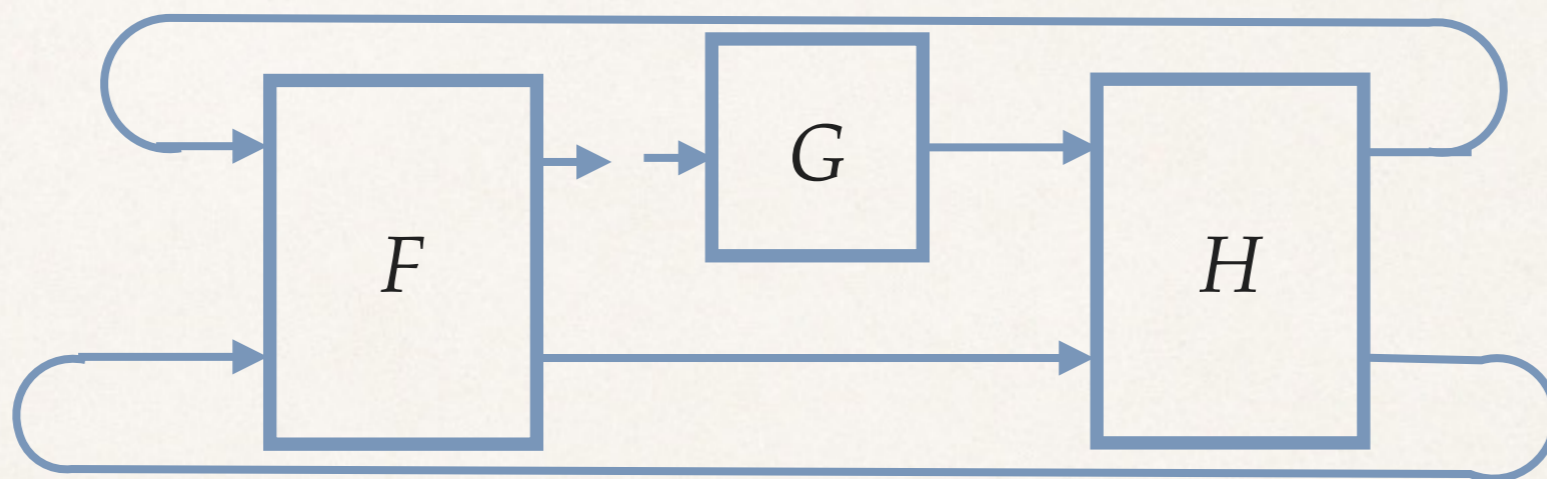


- ❖ Logical consistency:  
unique fixed point on loops for every input

# Model of computation

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- ❖ Arbitrary wiring of gates

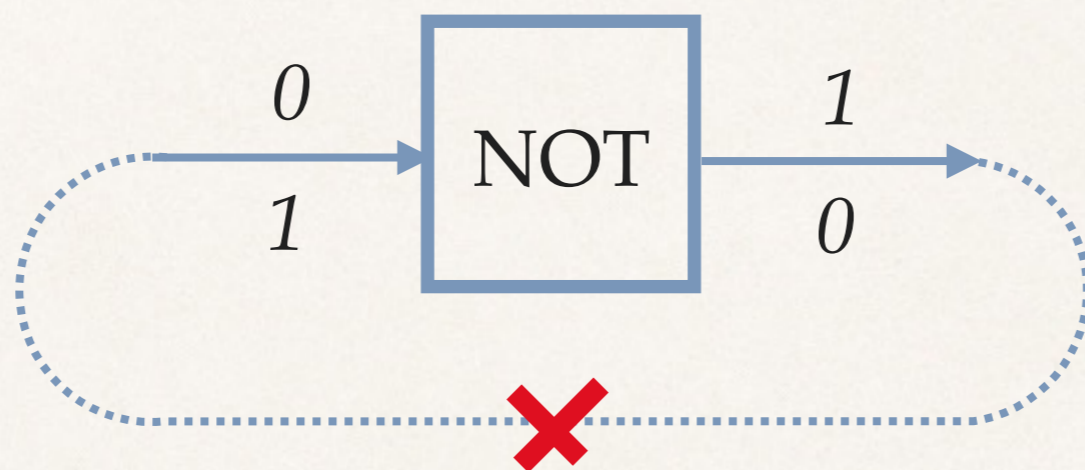


- ❖ Logical consistency:  
unique fixed point on loops for every input

# Model of computation

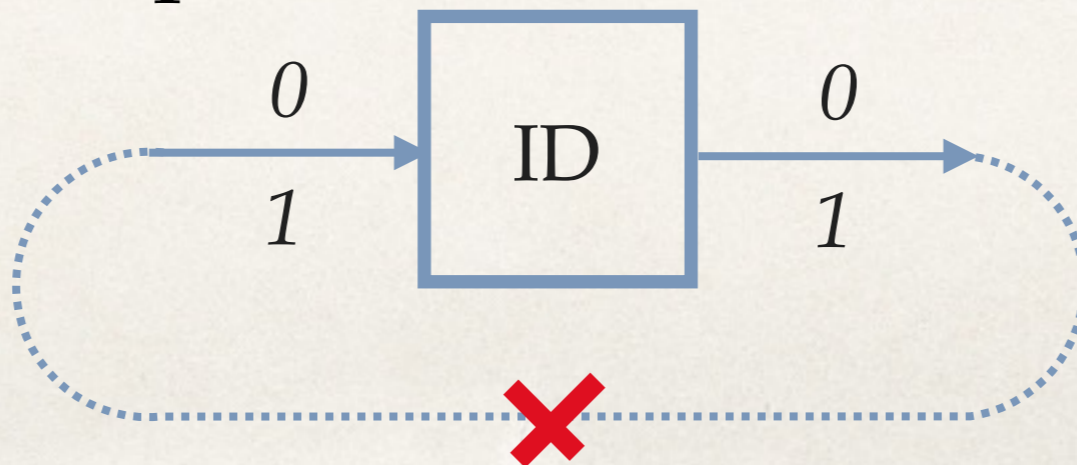
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- ❖ Not all wirings are logically consistent  
Example: Grandfathers paradox



# fixed-points: 0

Example: Causal paradox



# fixed-points: 2

# Outline

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- ❖ Motivation
- ❖ Classical correlations without causal order
- ❖ Circuit model without causal order
- ❖ **Examples**
- ❖ Conclusion

# Example: Fixed point search

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- ❖ Given a black box  $\mathbf{B}$ .

Promise:  $\mathbf{B}$  has *exactly one* fixed point.

$$\hat{B} = \sum_{i=1}^N \vec{e}_i \vec{i}^T, \quad \text{with } |\{i \mid \vec{i} = \vec{e}_i\}| = 1$$

What is the query complexity to find the fixed point ( $\vec{i} = \vec{e}_i$ ) ?

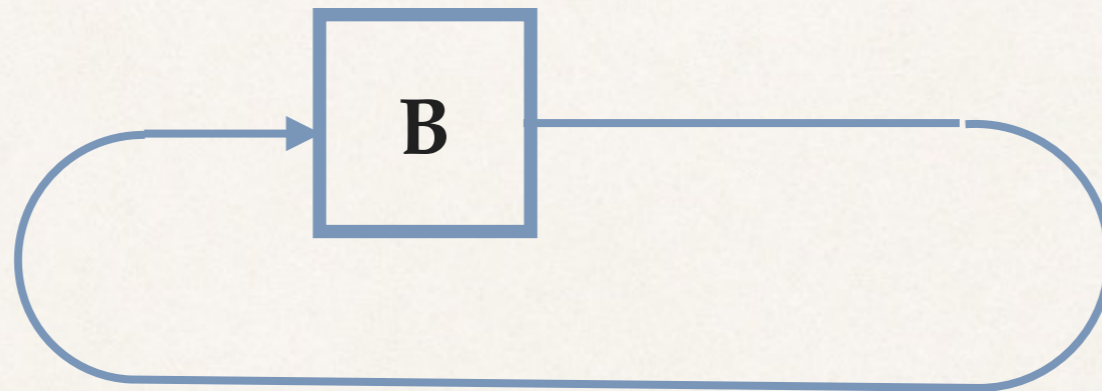
- ❖ Worst case:  $N-1$



# Example: Fixed point search

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- ❖ Circuit without causal order:

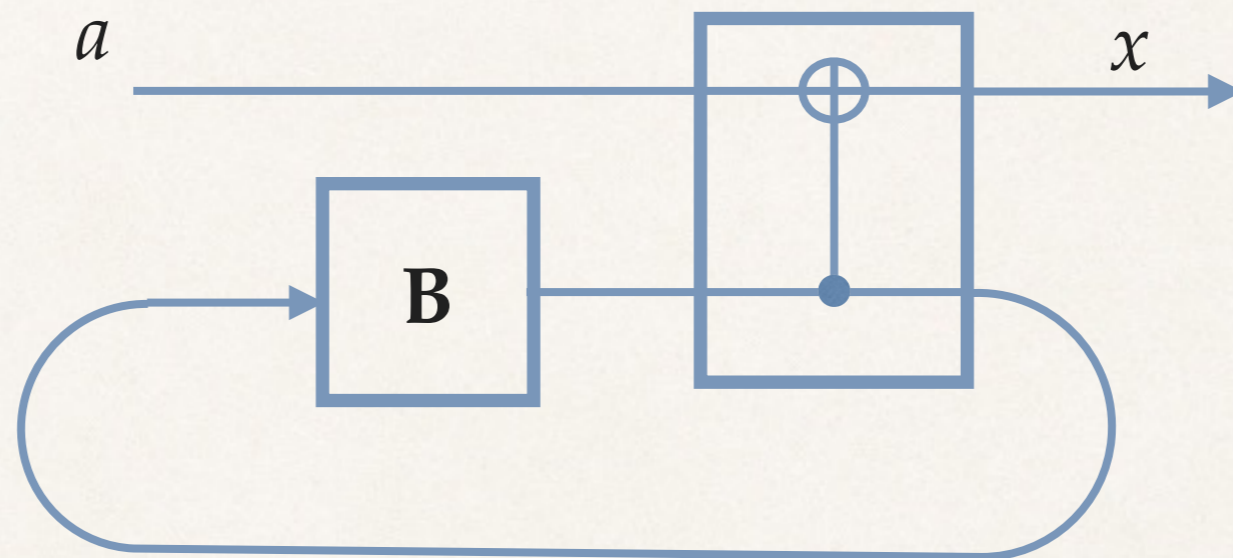


- ❖ Logically consistent: fixed point is unique

# Example: Fixed point search

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- ❖ Read out fixed point

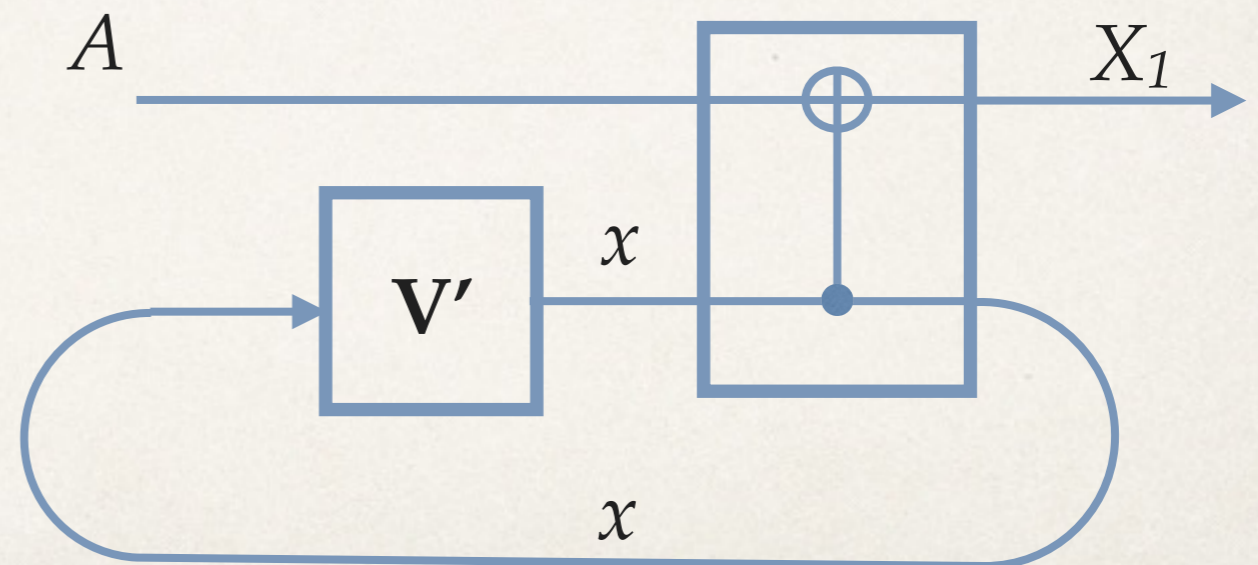


# Example: Finding solution to problem in NP with a unique solution

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- ❖ Let  $V$  be a poly-time verifier for a problem  $Q$  and we are guaranteed that  $Q$  has a unique solution  $x$ .
- ❖ We can find  $x$  in a polynomial number of steps.

- ❖  $V$  checks  $x$ ,  
if  $x$  is the solution,  
then output  $x$   
else output  $x+1$



# Conclusion

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- ❖ Logical consistency is a weaker assumption than global time.
- ❖ More general correlations (also classically).
- ❖ More powerful circuit model.

Thank you.

