From a loophole-free Bell test to a quantum Internet

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Bell's theorem



MAY 15, 1935

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 47

EPR 1935:

Can Quantum-Mechanical Description of Physical Reality Be Considered Complete?

A. EINSTEIN, B. PODOLSKY AND N. ROSEN, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey

Under local realism: entangled states violate Heisenberg uncertainty => "Quantum mechanics is incomplete"



Bell 1964 (1976):

1. Correlations between distant measurement outcomes under (local causality) are bounded

2. Quantum entangled states can violate this bound

Experimentally testable!



$$S = \langle x \cdot y \rangle_{(0,0)} + \langle x \cdot y \rangle_{(0,1)} + \langle x \cdot y \rangle_{(1,0)} - \langle x \cdot y \rangle_{(1,1)}$$

Assumptions:

- 1. local causality holds
- 2. Input bits *a*,*b* can be freely chosen
- 3. fixed outputs *x*, *y* exist (realism)

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

$$P(\lambda|a,b) = P(\lambda)$$

1'. Quantum theory holds

$$\implies S \leq 2\sqrt{2}$$

 $\Rightarrow S \leq 2$

From Bell's theorem to a Bell test



$$S = |\langle x \cdot y \rangle_{(0,0)} + \langle x \cdot y \rangle_{(0,1)} + \langle x \cdot y \rangle_{(1,0)} - \langle x \cdot y \rangle_{(1,1)}$$

Assumptions:

- 1. local causality holds
- 2. Input bits *a*,*b* can be freely chosen
- 3. fixed outputs *x*, *y* exist (realism)

$$\implies S \leq 2$$

4'. To be falsifiable, a theory should predict *when* the free input bits are created and *when* the output bits are final.

From Bell's theorem to a Bell test

Loophole-free Bell test =

experiment that can test theories with the minimal set of assumptions below

(i.e. without adding assumptions!)

Assumptions:

- 1. local causality holds
- 2. Input bits *a*,*b* can be freely chosen
- 3. fixed outputs *x*, *y* exist (realism)

 $\implies S \leq 2$

4'. To be falsifiable, a theory should predict *when* the free input bits are created and *when* the output bits are final.

Device-independent security protocols



Device-independent QKD, randomness generation: use loophole-free Bell test to guarantee security

"black-box approach": No assumption about the devices!

Acin, A. et al. PRL 98, 230501 (2007) Colbeck, R. PhD thesis (2007), arxiv. 0911.3814 Pironio, S. et al. Nature 464, 1021 (2010) For a recent review on Bell & privacy see Renner & Ekert, Nature 507, 443 (2014)

Experimental Bell inequality violations

Distant photons (assuming fair sampling)



Freedman & Clauser (1972), Aspect (1982), Zeilinger (1998), Gisin (1998)

Nearby ions, superc. qubits, photons (assuming no communication)



Wineland (2001), Monroe (2008), Martinis (2009), Weinfurter (2012), Zeilinger, Kwiat (2013)

Conflicting requirements for loophole-free test:

- Large separation
 - distance should ensure no communication during a trial
- Efficient state detection

ideally the boxes yield output values on each trial Delft, Vienna, NIST Nature 526, 682; ArXiv 1511.03190; ArXiv 1511.03189

Bell's own solution: an event-ready detector

J.S. Bell, Bertlmann's socks and the nature of reality (1981)



"We are only interested in the "yes"s, which confirm that everything has got off to a good start"

Bell's own solution: an event-ready detector

J.S. Bell, Bertlmann's socks and the nature of reality (1981)



Proposals using entanglement swapping: Zukowski et al., PRL (1993) Simon & Irvine, PRL (2003)

Nitrogen-Vacancy center: "Natures own trapped ion"



see e.g. Awschalom, Epstein & Hanson, Scientific American 297, 84 (2007)

Wiring up NV centers



Pioneering work by Stuttgart, Harvard, Chicago, Ulm,...

Initialization and readout by resonant excitation



L. Robledo et al. Projective readout of the register Nature 477, 574 (2011)

Entangling remote NV electron spins



Experiments with trapped atoms/ions: Monroe group, Nature 2007 Weinfurter group, Science 2012 Rempe group, Nature 2012

Recently also in QDs: Imamoglu group

we use the scheme proposed in: Barrett and Kok, PRA 71, 060310 (2005)

- locally entangle electron spin and photon
- project spins onto entangled state by joint photon measurement

entanglement is *heralded* by photon detection

Heralded remote entanglement



Heralded entanglement as a resource



W. Pfaff, et al. Science **345**, 532 (2014)

Minimum distance limited by the spin readout





Alice & Bob's labs

- 2013-11-25: Order Fiber Bundle
- 2014-01: First Cooldown Alice
- 2014-02: Bob Lab ready & Fiber arrives
- 2014-03: Fiber is put into the tunnel
- 2014-09: First Cooldown Bob & BS lab ready
- 2014-12: First entanglement measured between A & B







A loophole-free Bell test in Delft



Recording

















Actual experimental scheme





- Event-ready signal space-like separated from RNG
- A and B space-like separated during the trial (i.e. from RNG up to output recording)

Pushing the system to its limits...



- Various feedback loops to ensure setup stability over time (microseconds weeks)
- Microwave pulse shaping for spin control
- Spin dynamical decoupling protocols
- 2D d.c. Stark tuning to optimize readout fidelity
- Numerical optimization of readout angles
- •

... keeping it stable over days

- Daily calibrations and alignment
- Every 10 seconds, we check
 - Proper setup synchronisation
 - Lasers locked
 - NV transition frequency on resonance
 - NV crystal strain splitting sufficiently low
 - Excitation laser rejection sufficient
 - ...
 - If one of the above criteria is not met, a flag is recorded in the data marking the succeeding events invalid, until the fault is fixed (by automatic feedback or human interaction)

June 2015: correlation measurements



- state fidelity > $(83 \pm 5)\%$ (strict lower bound): proves entanglement
- best estimate for fidelity = 92%

 $\left|\Psi^{-}\right\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\left|\uparrow\downarrow\right\rangle - \left|\downarrow\uparrow\right\rangle\right)$

The results



The results



What does it mean?

- a Bell test is a null hypothesis test
- the result is a p-value =
 probability that the observed data (or more extreme) would result
 under the assumption that our experiment is ruled by a local realist model*
- A small p-value can be interpreted as strong evidence against the null hypothesis
- p-value is **not** the probability that our experiment is ruled by a local realistic model

*as defined on next slide

- "conventional" analysis: no memory, Gaussian distributed outcomes, perfectly random input bits: $S = 2.42 \pm 0.20$; p-value = 0.019
- "complete" analysis: memory allowed, no assumption on underlying distributions, partial predictability of input bits: p-value = 0.039

What theories are we testing?



FACTS:

- We can not prove that/when free input bits were generated.
- We can not prove that measurement outcomes are final at a certain time.

Scope of our test: all local realist theories that predict that free input bits were generated in time and that outcomes are final once recorded in our electronics

Violation remains for shorter read-out duration



Beyond the pre-set parameter range



Towards higher rates?



Outlook: towards quantum networks

















References



What is limiting the remote entangling rate?



Success probability per attempt = $0.5 * (\text{emission probability})^2 * (\text{detection probability})^2$



What is limiting the remote entangling rate?



Success probability per attempt = 0.5 * (emission probability)² *(detection probability)²

- Finite photon collection out of diamond
- Photon loss @637nm is about 8 dB/km (compare to 0.2 dB/km @1550nm)

Quantum superiority



Outlook: towards quantum networks



Entanglement of solid-state qubits over 1.3 km



Entangling distant NV centers: The protocol



Beyond the pre-set parameter range



Beyond the pre-set parameter range



Towards scalable quantum networks



Telecom wavelength conversion



NV centers in fiber-based Fabry-Perot cavities



- cavity can increase ZPL emission ≈20x => increases entangling rate 400x !
- entangling rate of >1 kHz appears feasible

pioneering experiments with NV centers in nanocrystals by Becher and Hunger groups



2014-09 First Cooldown Bob & BS lab ready



Bob's fate





Two good reasons to address the loopholes



... you have ruled out that objects in our world can be described by local variables.

 \rightarrow Bell test



...you can use it to send encrypted data, then even I cannot hack it.

→ Device independent quantum cryptography

Vadim Makarov (the quantum hacker)

For a recent review on Bell nonlocality see Brunner et al., RMP 86, 419 (2014)

Challenge 1: Resonant excitation + detection



- Time-filtering
- Cross-polarized excitation/detection scheme
- Yields signal-to-background of 70

Race for the first loophole-free Bell test



Photon pairs Zeilinger group, Vienna Kwiat group, Illinois Shalm group, NIST



Trapped atoms Weinfurter group, LMU

Stability

The rules of the game

Two players: Alice and Bob Two questions: 0? or 1? Two answers: +1 or -1 [] ? -#11 +1 1? 0? +1 +1 0? 0? -1 -1 1? 1? +1 -1 Questions **Correct answers** **A**, **B** A, B A, B Final score is 0, 0 +1,+1 or -1,-1 fraction of 0, 1 +1,+1 or -1,-1 correct answers 1, 0 +1,+1 or -1,-1 1, 1 +1,-1 or -1,+1

Competing teams



1, 0

1, 1

+1,+1 or -1,-1

+1,-1 or -1,+1

Cartoons by Martijn van Roovert

Unconditional remote quantum teleportation





Quantum entanglement



"Properties remain entangled irrespective of distance" "Instantaneous effect at a distance"



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A loophole-free Bell test with spin qubits in diamond



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