



## Bell's theorem simplified (GHZ state)

Consider the following entangled state of three spins

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - |\downarrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle). \quad (1)$$

We will consider the observables  $A_i = \sigma_x^{(i)}$  and  $B_i = \sigma_y^{(i)}$ , where  $i = 1, 2, 3$  refers to the  $i$ 'th spin. Note that  $\sigma_x = \sigma^+ + \sigma^-$  and  $\sigma_y = -i(\sigma^+ - \sigma^-)$ . This implies

$$A_1 B_2 B_3 |\psi\rangle = -(\sigma^+ + \sigma^-)^{(1)} (\sigma^+ - \sigma^-)^{(2)} (\sigma^+ - \sigma^-)^{(3)} |\psi\rangle = -|\psi\rangle. \quad (2)$$

Analogously,  $|\psi\rangle$  is an eigenstate of any product of one  $A$  and two  $B$ 's (with different indices, but in any order) with eigenvalue  $-1$ . We also find that  $|\psi\rangle$  is an eigenstate of  $A_1 A_2 A_3$  with eigenvalue  $+1$ .

To a "realist"  $A_i = \pm 1$  and  $B_i = \pm 1$  are real properties of the system. A realist will explain the fact that measurements of  $A_i$  and  $B_i$  have probabilistic outcomes by appealing to the possibility that the initial state of the system is not uniquely determined, but contains "hidden variables" that are randomly distributed.

When informed that a measurement of a randomly chosen  $A_i B_j B_k$  (with  $i, j, k$  all different) always yields  $+1$  a realist will conclude that

$$A_1 A_2 A_3 = (A_1 B_2 B_3)(A_2 B_1 B_3)(A_3 B_1 B_2) = +1, \quad (3)$$

because  $B_i^2 = +1$ . The realist will then conclude that  $A_1 A_2 A_3 = +1$  always. But this prediction is always wrong, a measurement of  $A_1 A_2 A_3$  yields  $-1$ .