

No-signalling assisted zero-  
error communication via  
quantum channels  
and the Lovász  $\vartheta$  number

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[arXiv:1409.3426](https://arxiv.org/abs/1409.3426)



*If you've been partying...*



# Hungover Summary

1.  $C_0(G) \leq \log \vartheta(G)$

2.  $C_{0E}(G) \leq \log \vartheta(G)$

3.-5.  $C_{ONS}(G) = \log \vartheta(G)$

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Zero-error capacity  
of the graph  $G$

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Can be  $<$

3.-5.  $C_{ONS}(G) = \log \vartheta(G)$

Might be  $<$

Yes, it's equality!

# 1. Channels & graphs

Channel  $\mathcal{N} : X \rightarrow Y$ , i.e. stochastic map



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$\mathcal{N}(y|x)$  : transition probabilities

Want to send information (in  $x$ ), such that receiver (seeing  $y$ ) can be certain about it.

1) Transition graph  $\Gamma$ : bipartite graph on  $X \times Y$  with adjacency matrix

$$\Gamma(y|x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } N(y|x) > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } N(y|x) = 0. \end{cases}$$



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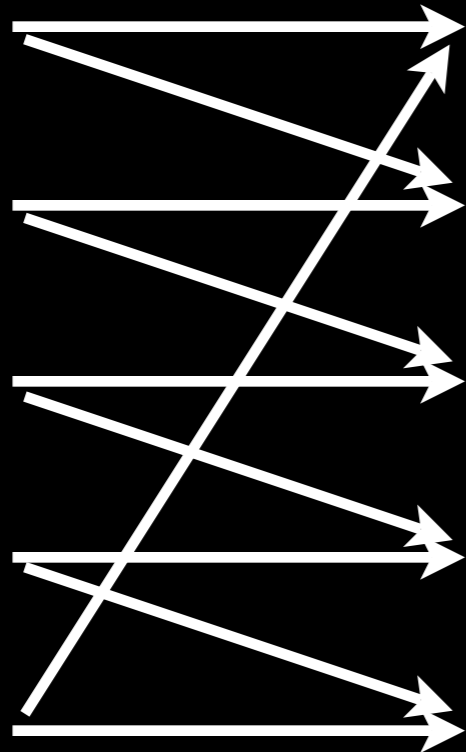
Lovász convention:

$x \sim x'$  iff  $x = x'$  or  $xx'$  edge

*Example?*

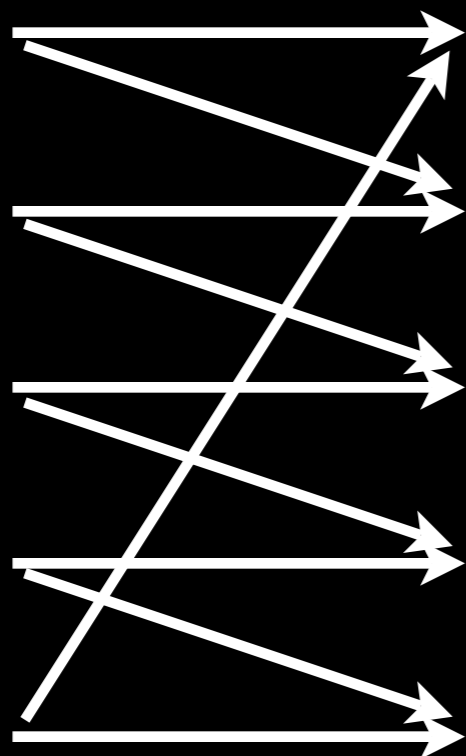


$$\Gamma = \mathcal{T}_5$$



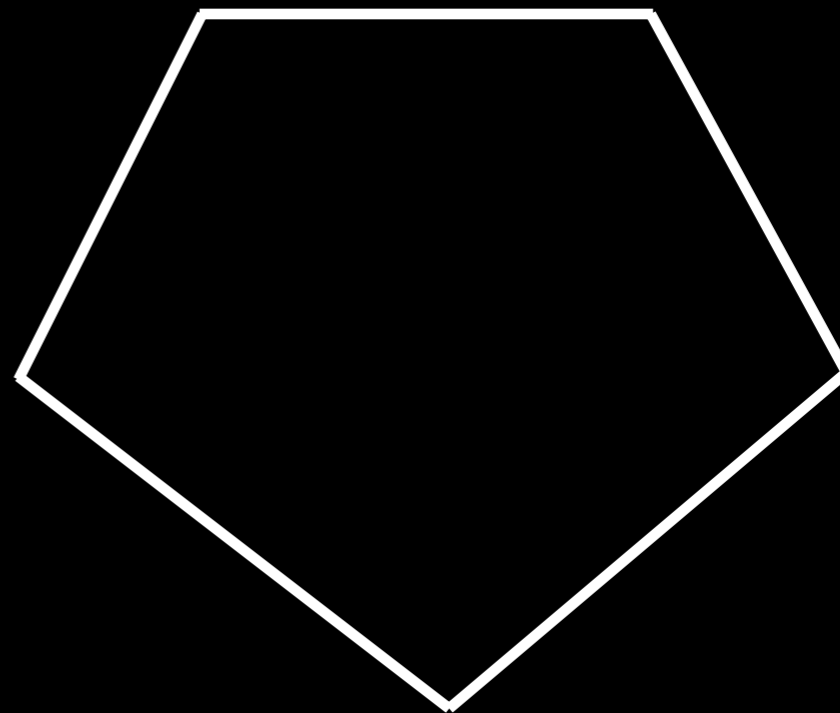
*typewriter  
channel*

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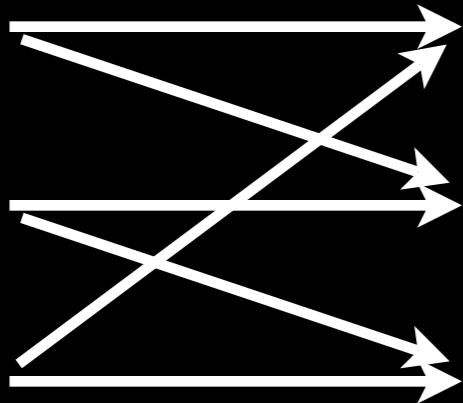
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$$G = C_5$$

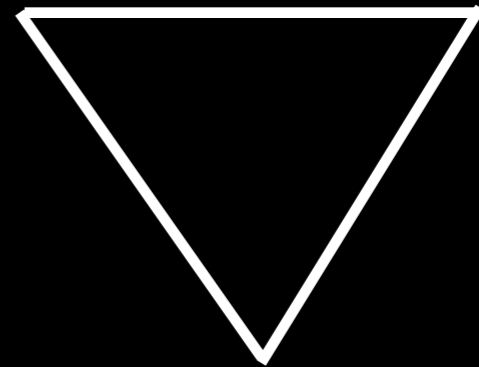


*pentagon*

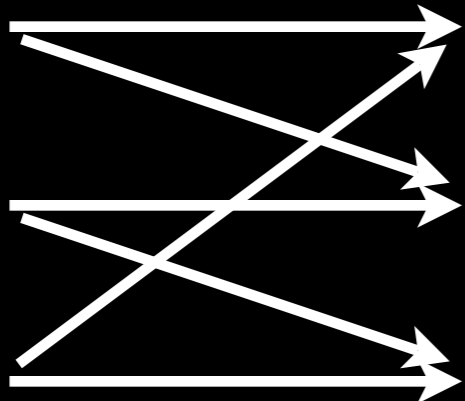
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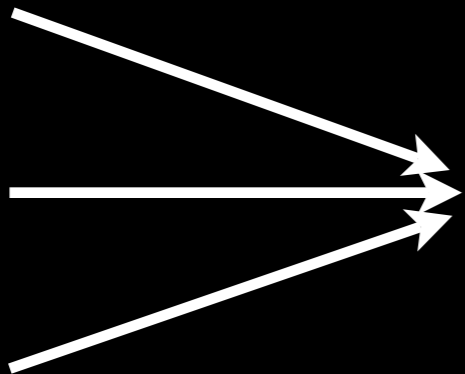
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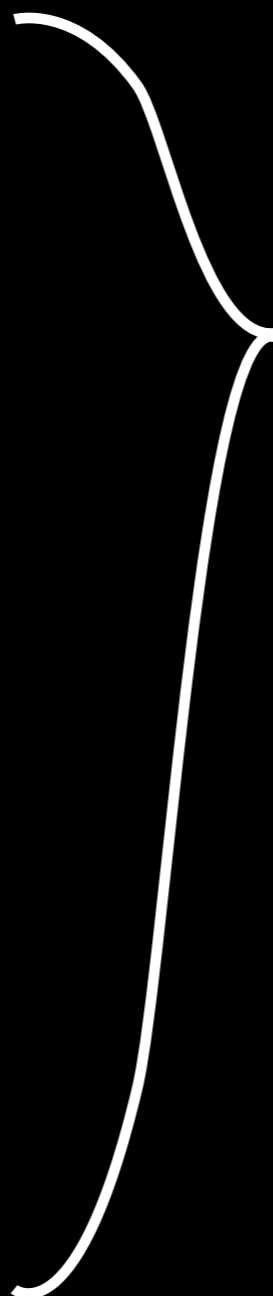
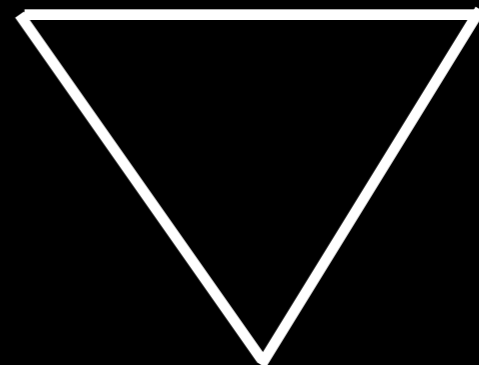
$\Gamma = \mathcal{T}_3$



$\Gamma = *$

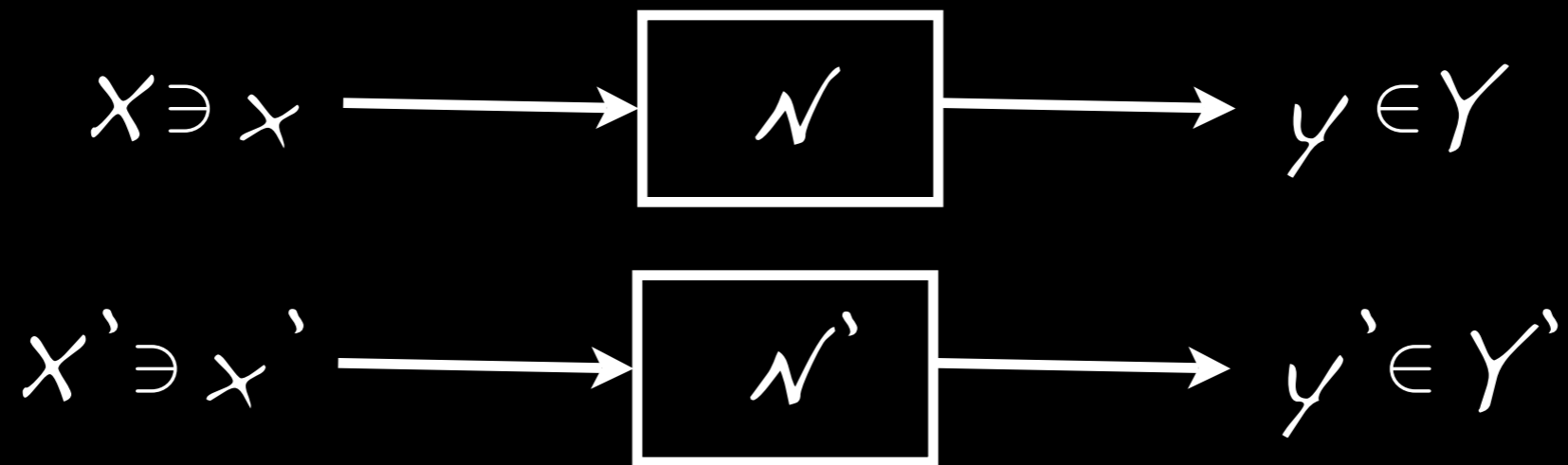


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Product channels:

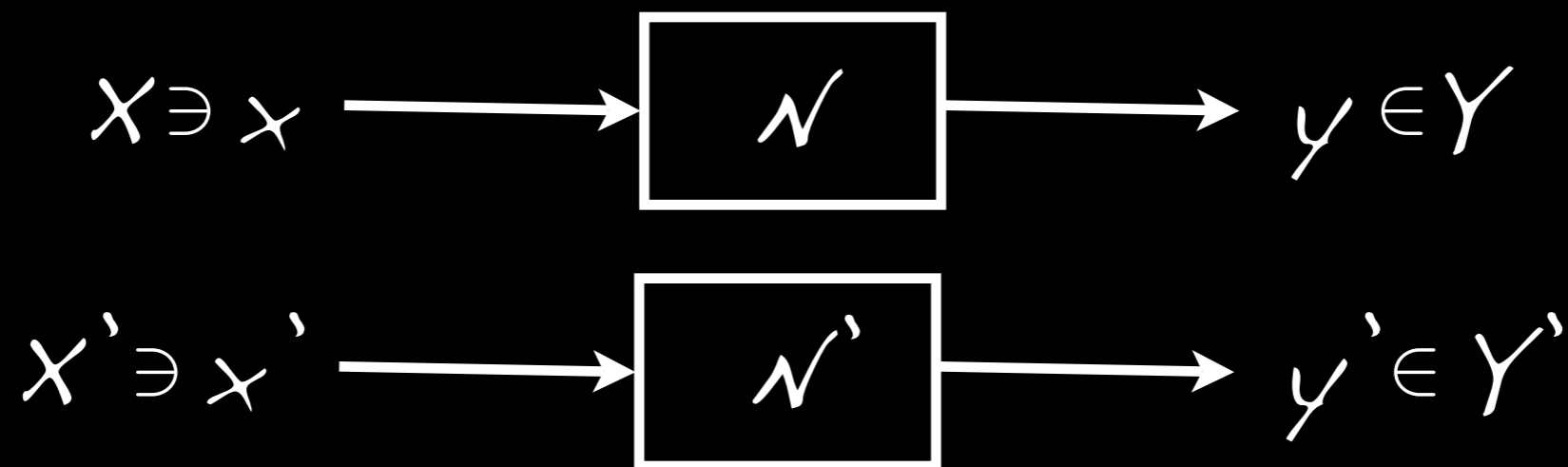
$$\mathcal{N}_X \mathcal{N}'(Y|Y'|X|X') = \mathcal{N}(Y|X) \mathcal{N}'(Y'|X')$$





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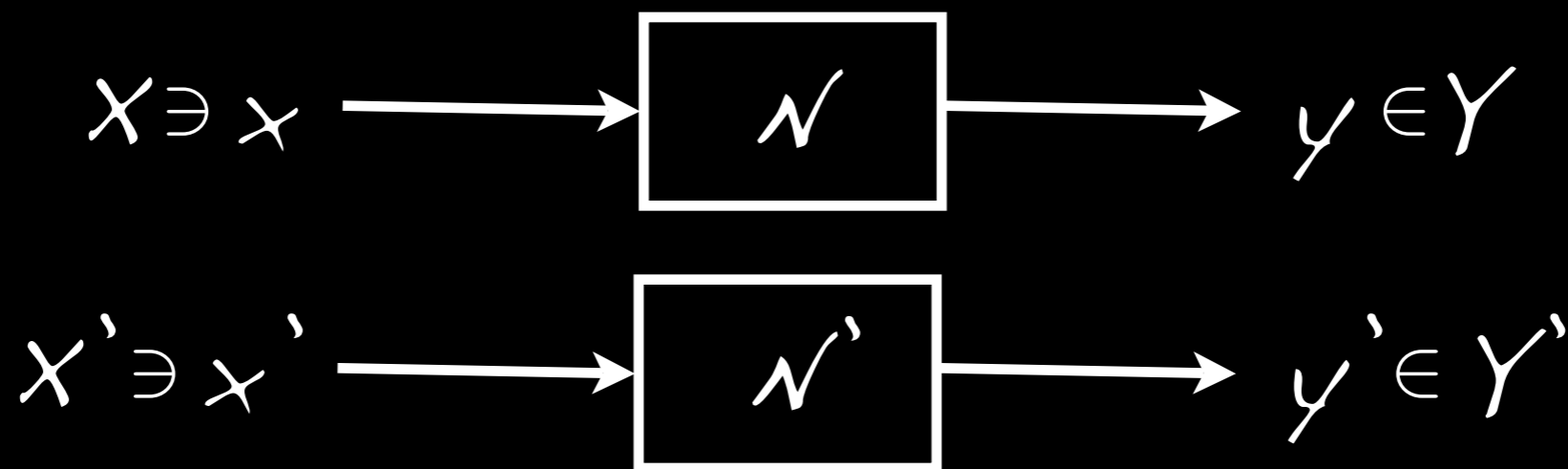
Graphs via Kronecker/tensor product:

$$\Gamma(\mathcal{N}_X \mathcal{N}') = \Gamma \otimes \Gamma'$$

$$\mathbb{1} + \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{N}_X \mathcal{N}') = (\mathbb{1} + \mathcal{A}) \otimes (\mathbb{1} + \mathcal{A}')$$

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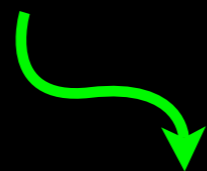
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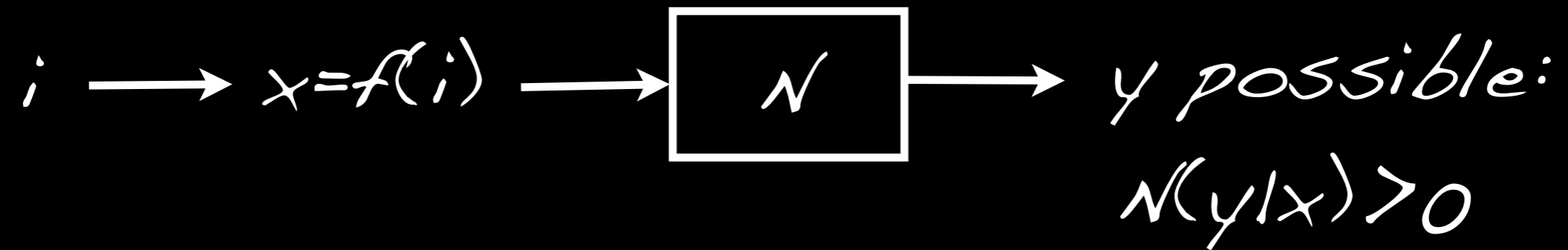
$$\Gamma(\mathcal{N} \times \mathcal{N}') = \Gamma \otimes \Gamma'$$

$$\mathbb{1} + A(\mathcal{N} \times \mathcal{N}') = (\mathbb{1} + A) \otimes (\mathbb{1} + A')$$

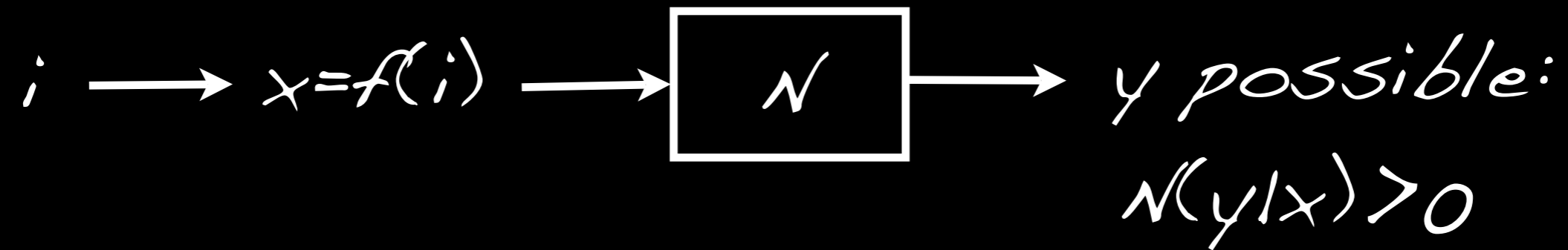


Strong graph product  $G \times G'$

# $\frac{1}{2}$ . Zero-error transmission



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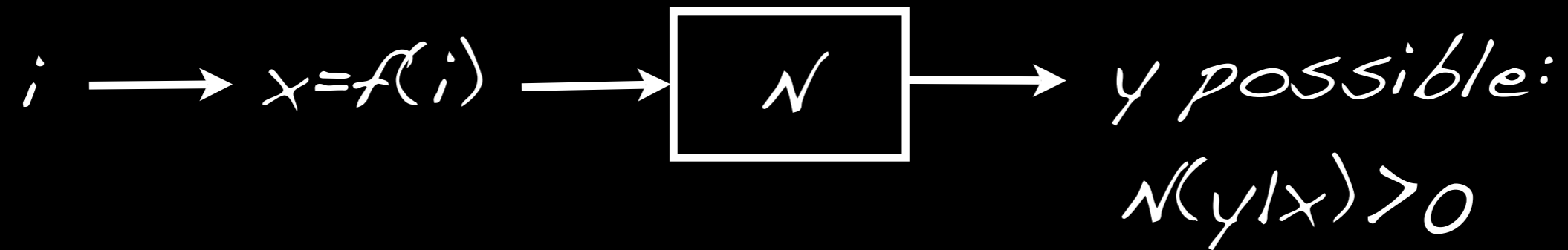


Hence: codebook  $\{f(i)\} \subset X$  must be an independent set in  $G$ .

Maximum size:

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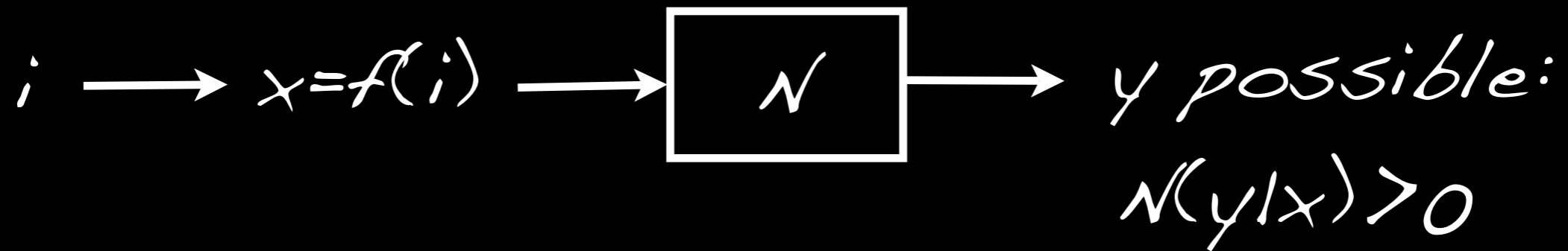
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Upper bounds!?

$$\alpha(G) \leq \vartheta(G) = \max \text{Tr } BJ \text{ s.t. } B \geq 0, \text{Tr } B = 1, \\ B_{xy} = 0 \quad \forall xy \in G.$$

[L. Lovász, IEEE-IT 25(1):1-7, 1979]

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$$\leq \alpha^*(\Gamma) = \max \sum_x w_x \text{ s.t. } w_x \geq 0 \text{ \& } \\ \forall y \sum_x \Gamma(y|x) w_x \leq 1.$$

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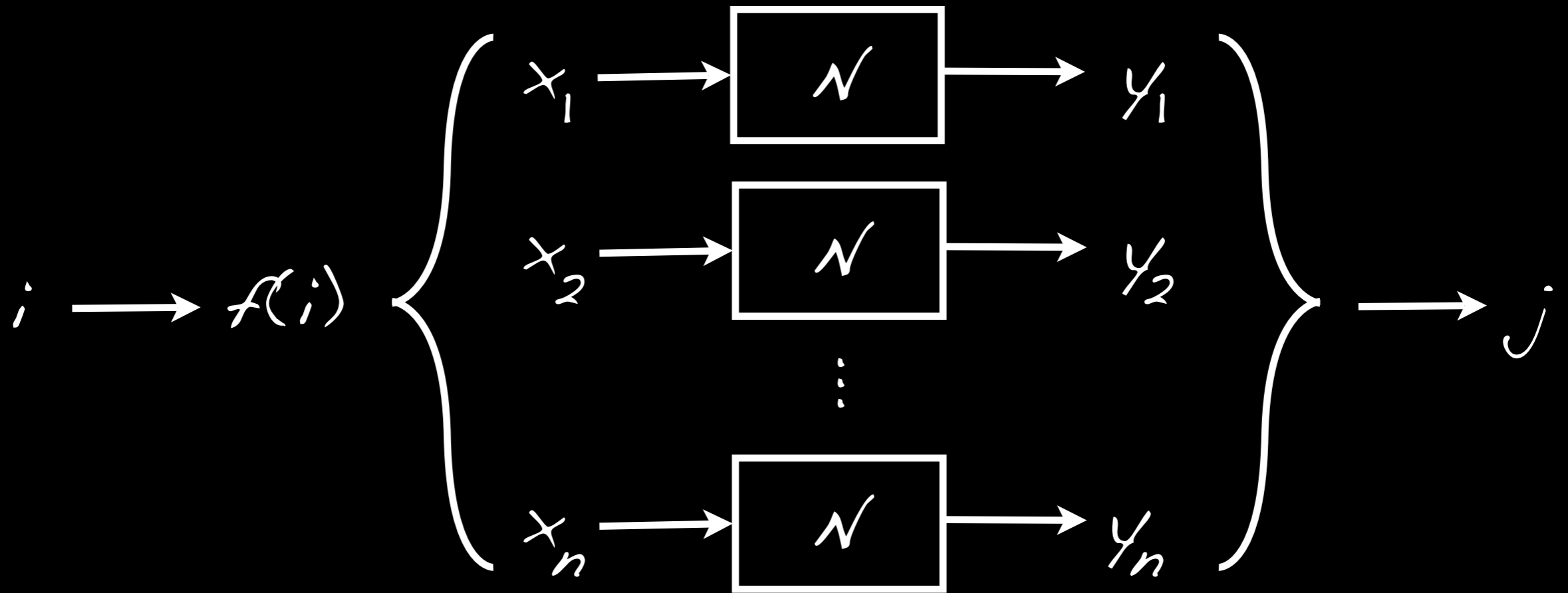
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(Attained at  $\Gamma$  that has an output for every maximal clique of  $G$ :  $\Gamma(C|x) = 1$  iff  $x \in C$ .)

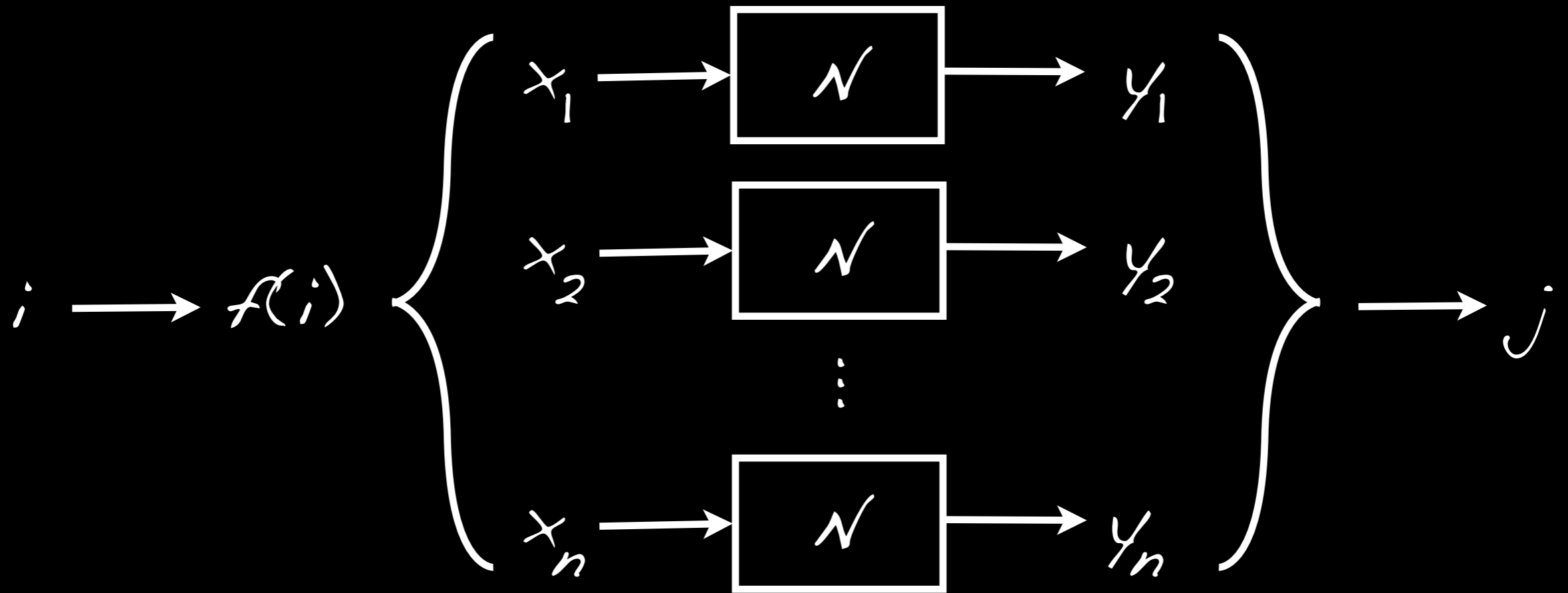
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Asymptotically many channel uses - capacity:



$$C_0(G) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \alpha(G^{x_n})$$

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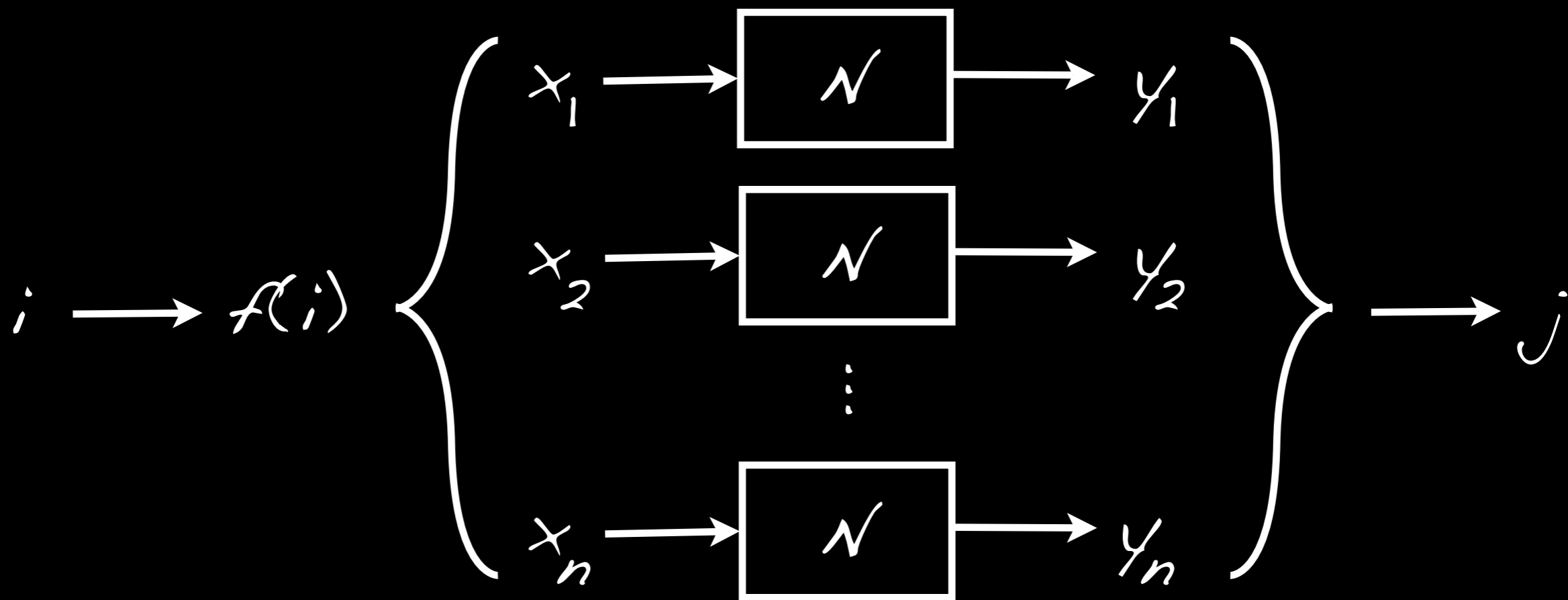
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= sup because

$$\alpha(G \times H) \geq \alpha(G) \alpha(H)$$

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$$C_0(G) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \alpha(G^{x^n}) \leq \log \vartheta(G)$$

= sup because

$$\alpha(G \times \mathcal{H}) \geq \alpha(G) \alpha(\mathcal{H})$$

$$\vartheta(G \times \mathcal{H}) = \vartheta(G) \vartheta(\mathcal{H})!$$

[L. Lovász, IEEE-IT 25(1):1-7, 1979]

$$\log \alpha(G) \leq C_0(G) \leq \log \vartheta(G) \leq \log \alpha^*(\Gamma)$$

Also fractional packing  
number multiplicative:

$$\alpha^*(\Gamma \otimes \Gamma') = \alpha^*(\Gamma) \alpha^*(\Gamma'),$$

$$\alpha^*(G \times H) = \alpha^*(G) \alpha^*(H)!$$

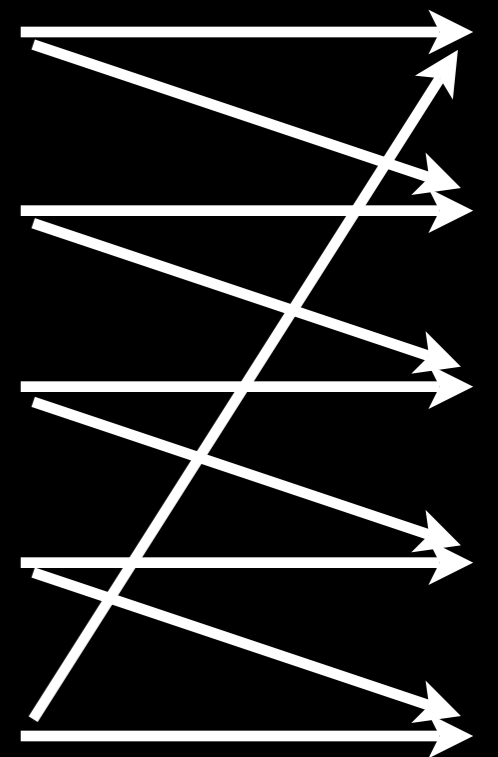
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All inequalities can be strict; first and last:

Ex. Typewriter channel/pentagon

$$\alpha(C_5) = 2, \quad \alpha(C_5 \times C_5) = 5 > 4,$$

$$\text{but } \vartheta(C_5) = \sqrt{5}, \quad \text{and } \alpha^*(T_5) = 5/2.$$



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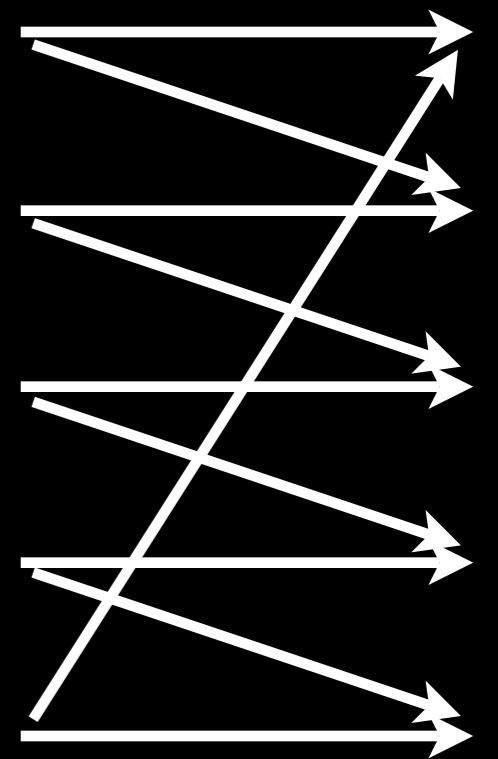
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$$\text{Note: } \alpha^*(T_3) = 3/2, \quad \text{but } \alpha^*(*) = 1!$$





$$\log \alpha(G) \leq C_0(G) \leq \log \vartheta(G) \leq \log \alpha^*(G)$$

All inequalities can be strict; first and last:

Random graphs  $G \sim G(n, 1/2)$  have, whp,

$$\alpha(G) \approx \log n, \quad \vartheta(G) \approx \sqrt{n}, \quad \alpha^*(G) \approx n/(\log n)$$

$$\log \alpha(G) \leq C_0(G) \leq \log \vartheta(G) \leq \log \alpha^*(\Gamma)$$

All inequalities can be strict; middle due to W. Haemers [IEEE-IT 25(2); 231-232, 1979], via a different algebraic and multiplicative bound on  $\alpha$  which sometimes(!) is better than  $\vartheta$ .

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However: w/o sacrificing multiplicativity,  $\vartheta$  cannot be improved [Acín/Duan/Sainz/AW, 2014].

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Determination of  $C_0(G)$  open, not even known to be computable...

[N. Alon/E. Lubetzky, IEEE-IT 52(5):2172-2176, 2006]

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+ feedback [C.E. Shannon, IRE-IT 2(3):8-19, 1956]

$$C_{0F}(\Gamma) = \log \alpha^*(\Gamma), \text{ with constant}$$

activating noiseless bits.

$$C_0(G) \leq \log \vartheta(G)$$

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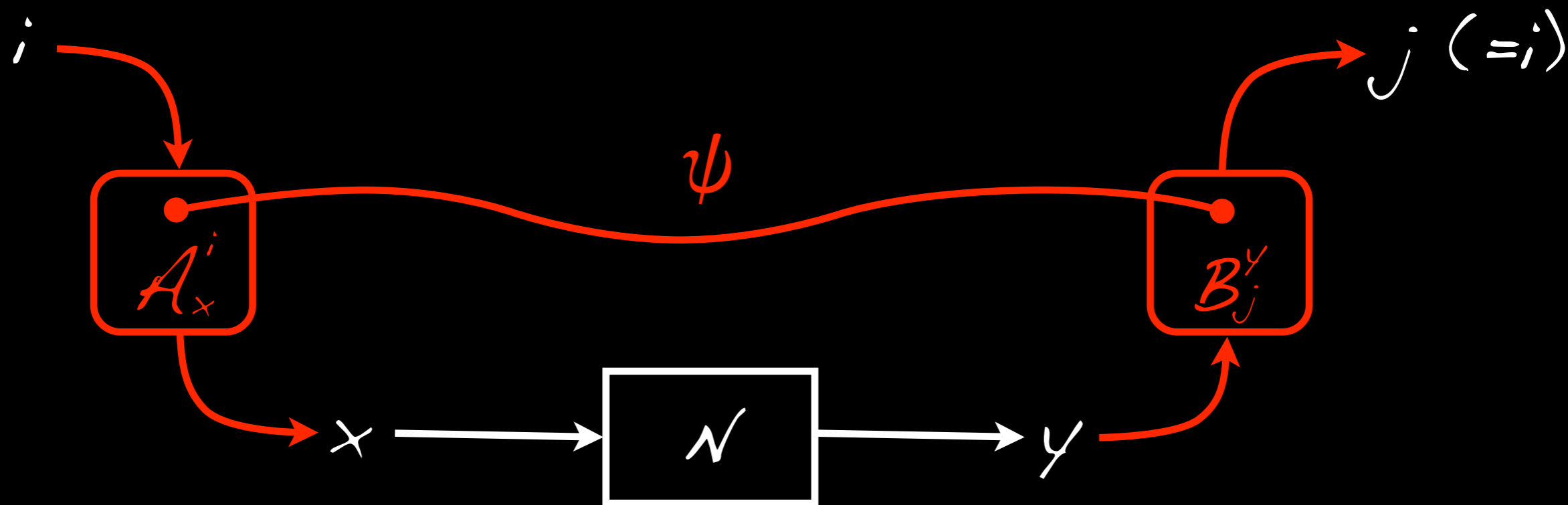
- + feedback [C.E. Shannon, IRE-IT 2(3):8-19, 1956]
- + entanglement (quantum correlations)
- + no-signalling correlations

## 2. Free non-local resources





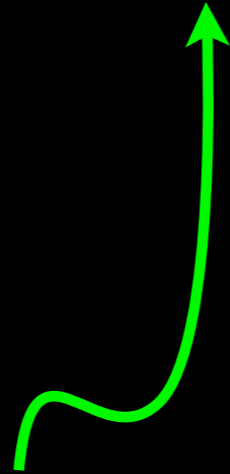
For instance, with free entanglement:



Maximum # messages  $:: \tilde{\alpha}(G)$

Can show that this depends only on  $G$ ;  
furthermore can be  $> \alpha(G)$ ...

Known:  $\alpha(G) \leq \tilde{\alpha}(G) \leq \vartheta(G)$



[S. Beigi, PRA 82:010303, 2010;  
R. Duan/S. Severini/AW,  
IEEE-IT 59(2):1164-1174, 2013.]

Known:  $\alpha(G) \leq \tilde{\alpha}(G) \leq \vartheta(G)$

Since  $\vartheta$  is multiplicative under strong graph product,  $\vartheta(G \times H) = \vartheta(G)\vartheta(H)$ , get:

$$C_0(G) \leq C_{0E}(G) = \lim \frac{1}{n} \log \tilde{\alpha}(G^{\times n}) \leq \log \vartheta(G)$$

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Known examples of separation

[D. Leung/L. Mancinska/W. Matthews/+2, CMP 311:97-111, 2012;

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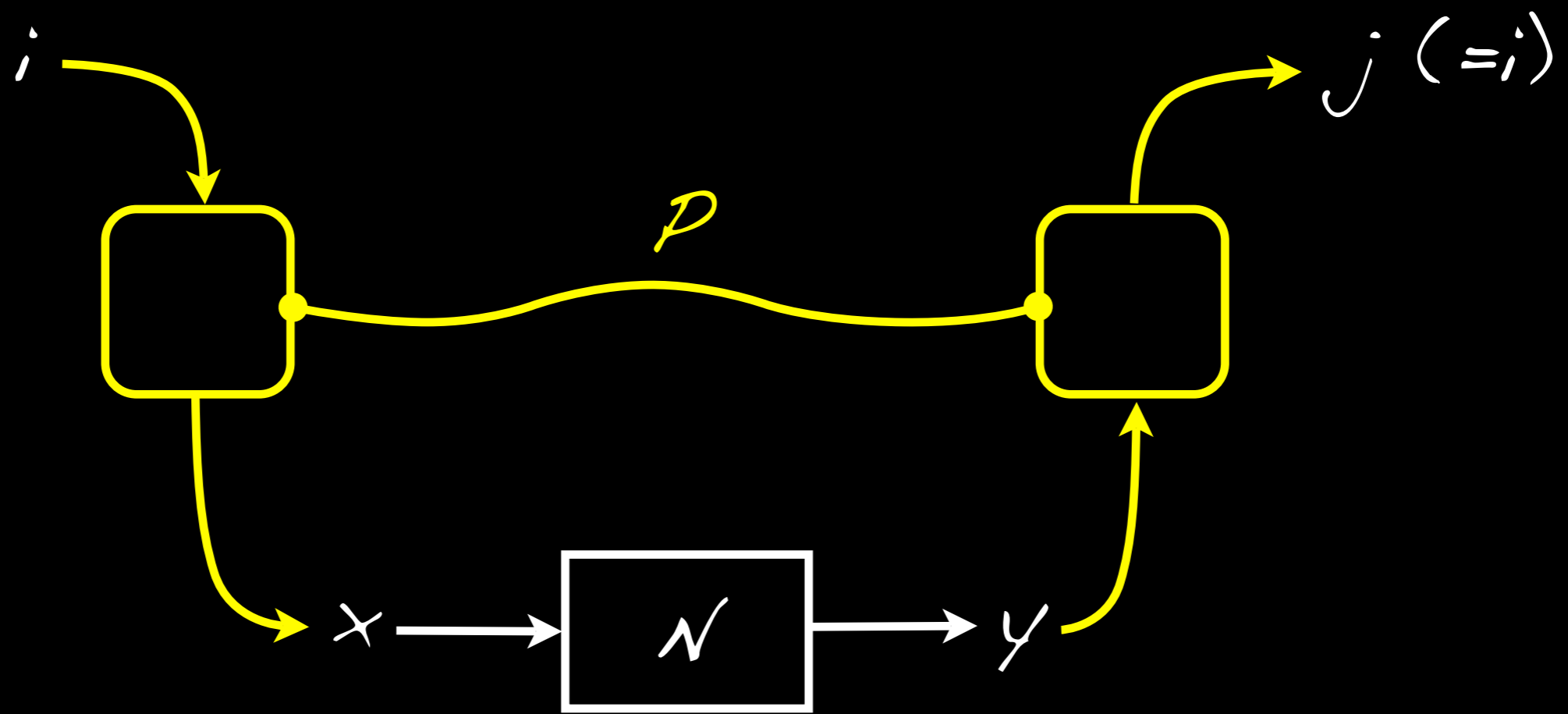
Unknown whether = or < !

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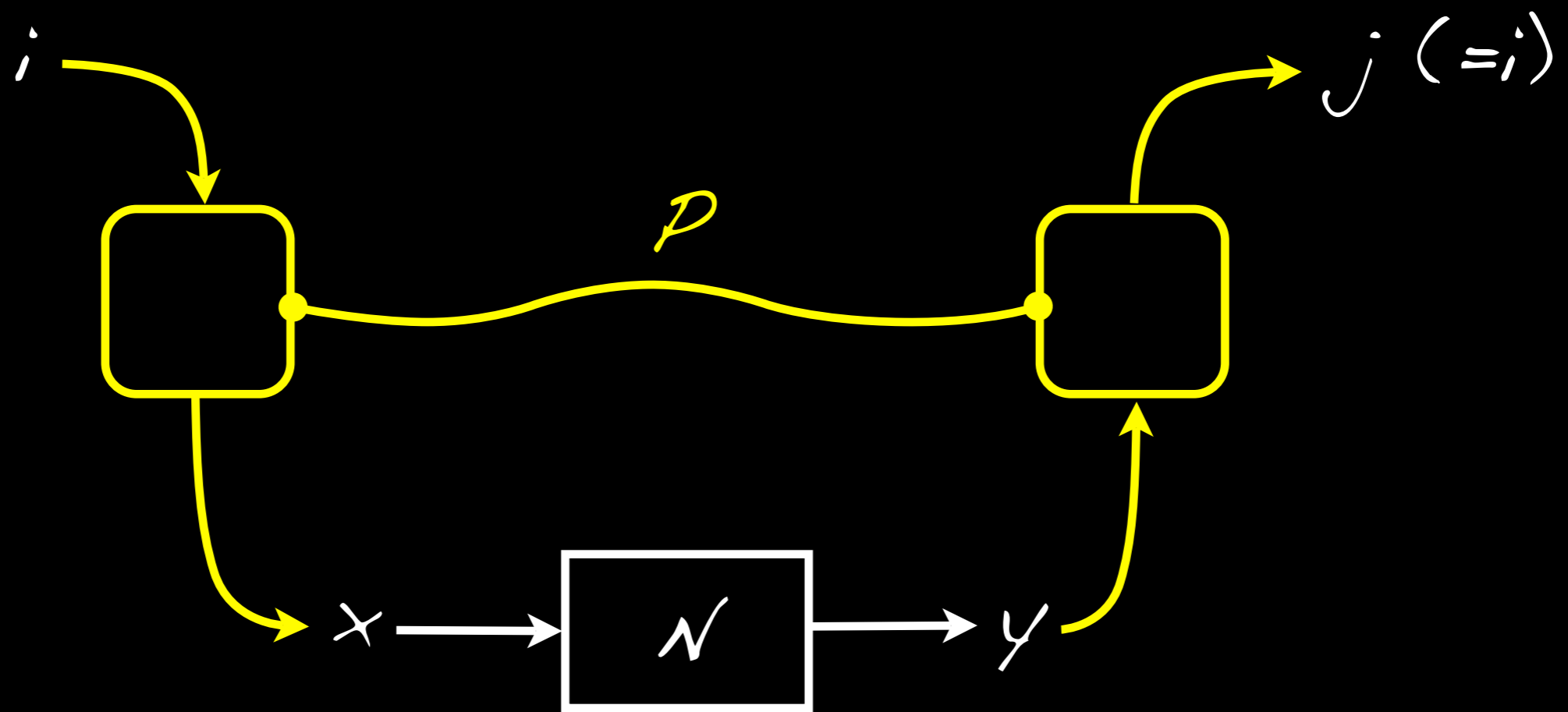
Allowing general no-signalling correlation:



This is no-signalling assisted zero-error code if  $j=i$  with probability 1.

I.e., for all  $j \neq i$  & edges  $xy$  in  $\Gamma$ ,  $P(x_j | i_y) = 0$

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Maximum #msg. with  $\mathcal{P} \in \text{NS} =: \bar{\alpha}(\Gamma)$

$$\bar{\alpha}(\Gamma) = \max m \text{ s.t. } \mathcal{A}(x_j | i) \in \mathcal{NS}, ij=1\dots m,$$
$$\forall i \neq j \forall x, y \in \Gamma \quad \mathcal{A}(x_j | i) = 0.$$



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Clear: Can test given  $m$  efficiently by  
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Thm.  $\bar{\alpha}(\Gamma) = \lfloor \alpha^*(\Gamma) \rfloor$ , with  $\alpha^*$  the fractional packing number of  $\Gamma$ :

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[T.S. Cubitt et al., IEEE-IT 57(8):5509-5523, 2011]

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Cor. Due to multiplicativity of  $\alpha^*$ ,

$$C_{\text{ONS}}(\Gamma) = \lim \frac{1}{n} \log \bar{\alpha}(\Gamma^{\otimes n}) = \log \alpha^*(\Gamma).$$

[C.E. Shannon, 1956: Same answer for feedback-assisted capacity!]

...so this is too big - what now?!

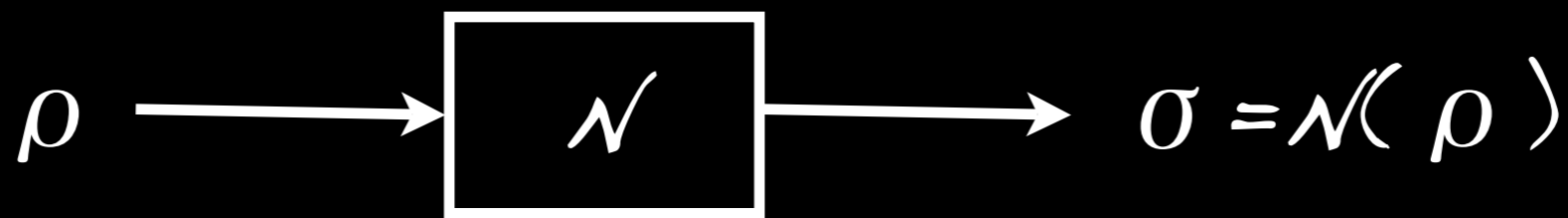
### 3. Quantum version...



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Should really consider quantum channels

$\mathcal{N}: \mathcal{B}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(B)$ , cptp map on states:



Kraus form:  $\mathcal{N}(\rho) = \sum_i E_i \rho E_i^\dagger, \sum_i E_i^\dagger E_i = \mathbb{1}$

For quantum channel (cptp map)

$N: B(A) \rightarrow B(B)$ , with Kraus op's  $E_i$ :

Define  $K = \text{span}\{E_i\} \subset B(A \rightarrow B)$  and

$S = K^\dagger K = \text{span}\{E_i^\dagger E_j\} \subset B(A)$  as natural

analogues of the transition and

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[R. Duan/S. Severini/AW, IEEE-IT 59(2):1164-1174, 2013;

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( $S = S^\dagger \ni \mathbb{1}$ , so  $S$  is an operator system)

[R. Duan/S. Severini/AW, IEEE-IT 59(2):1164-1174, 2013;

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Define  $K = \text{span}\{E_i\} \subset B(A \rightarrow B)$  and

$$S = K^\dagger K = \text{span}\{E_i^\dagger E_j\} \subset B(A).$$

For classical channel, Kraus operators are  $\propto \Gamma(y|x) |y\rangle\langle x|$ , so:

$$K = \text{span}\{\Gamma(y|x) |y\rangle\langle x|\} \leftrightarrow \Gamma,$$

$$S = \text{span}\{|x'\rangle\langle x| \text{ s.t. } x \sim x'\} \leftrightarrow G.$$

...hence  $S, K$  extend  $G, \Gamma$  to quantum...

[R. Duan/S. Severini/AW, IEEE-IT 59(2):1164-1174, 2013;  
R. Duan/AW, arXiv:1409.3426]



Define  $K = \text{span}\{E_i\} \subset B(A \rightarrow B)$  and

$$S = K^\dagger K = \text{span}\{E_i^\dagger E_j\} \subset B(A).$$

Can show: Zero-error transmission assisted by entanglement (or without) depends only on  $S$ .

Below treat assistance by quantum non-signalling correlations, which will turn out to depend only on  $K$ .

[R. Duan/S. Severini/AW, IEEE-IT 59(2):1164-1174, 2013;  
R. Duan/AW, arXiv:1409.3426]

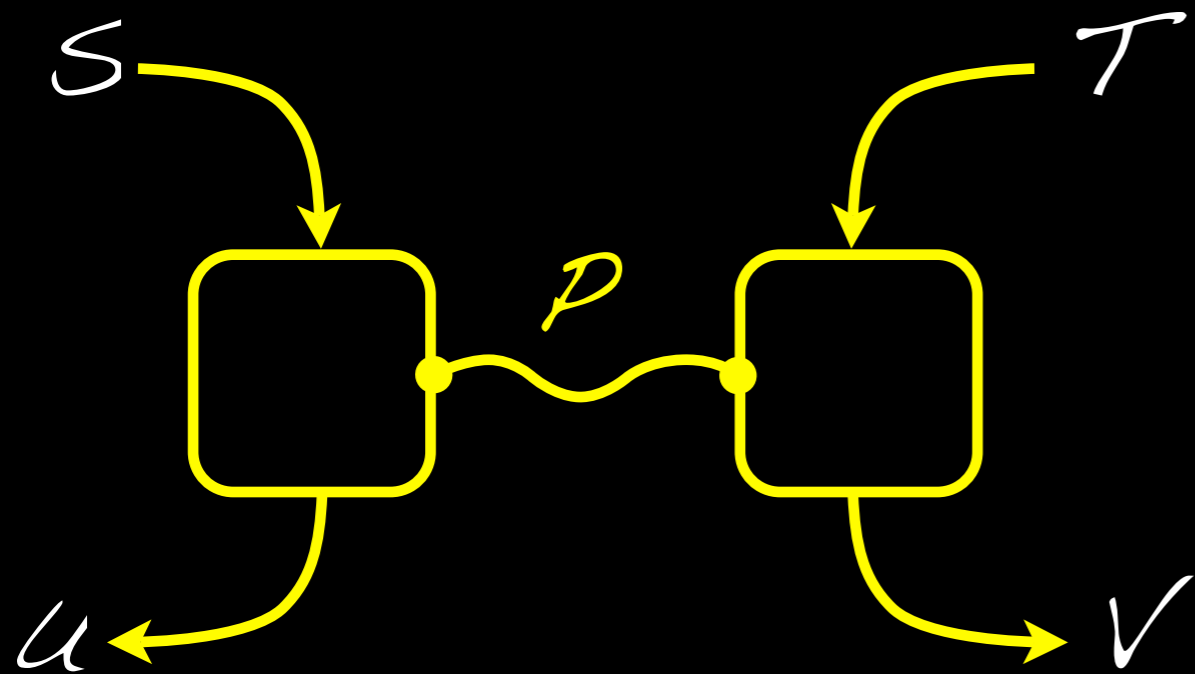
Cf. W. Matthews'

# Quantum no-signalling: talk on Wed!

Alice

Bob

$$P: S \otimes T \rightarrow U \otimes V \text{ cptp}$$



No-signalling means:

$$\text{Tr}_U P(\sigma \otimes \tau) = B(\tau),$$

$$\text{Tr}_V P(\sigma \otimes \tau) = A(\sigma).$$

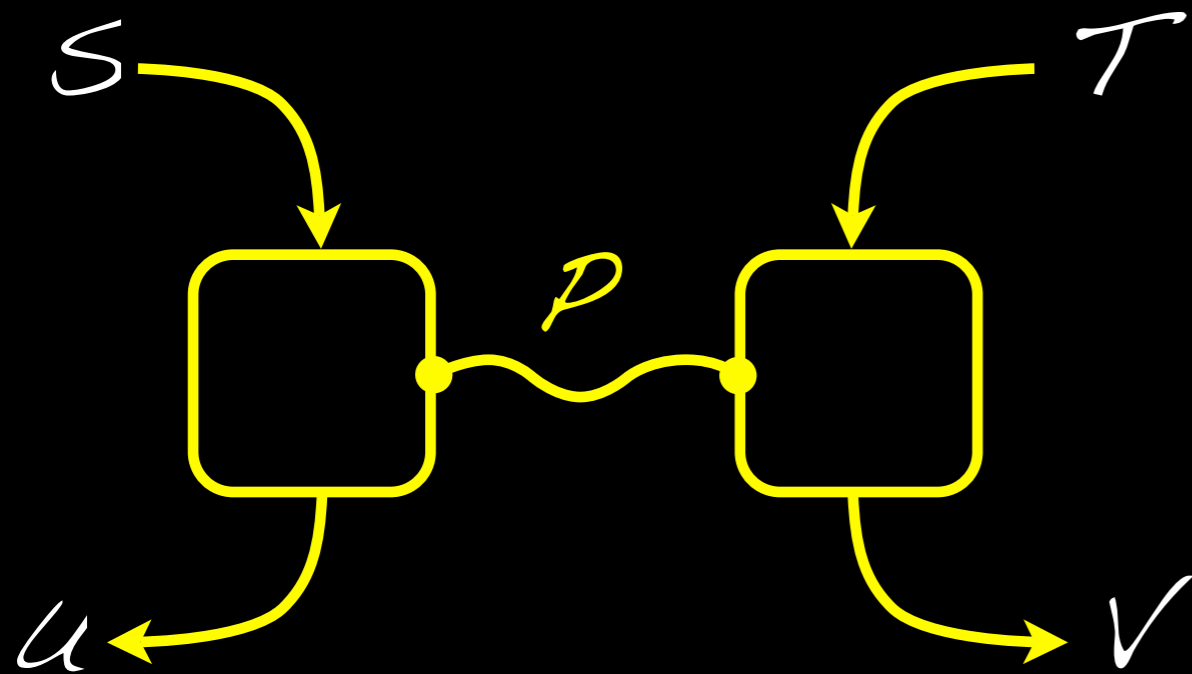
[D. Beckman et al., PRA 64:052309, 2001; T. Eggeling et al., Europhy. Lett. 57(6):782-788, 2002; M. Piani et al., PRA 74:012305, 2006]

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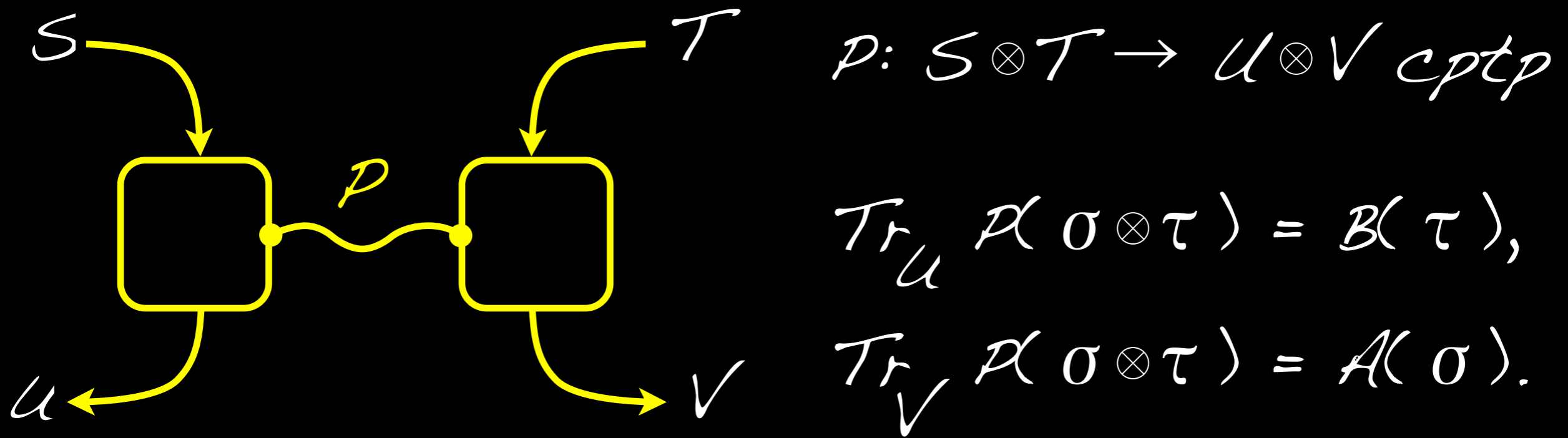
$$\text{Tr}_V P(\sigma \otimes \tau) = A(\sigma).$$

Equiv.:  $P$  linear combination of  $A_i \otimes B_j$  plus semidef. constraint for "cptp"

[D. Beckman et al., PRA 64:052309, 2001; T. Eggeling et al., Europhy. Lett. 57(6):782-788, 2002; M. Piani et al., PRA 74:012305, 2006]

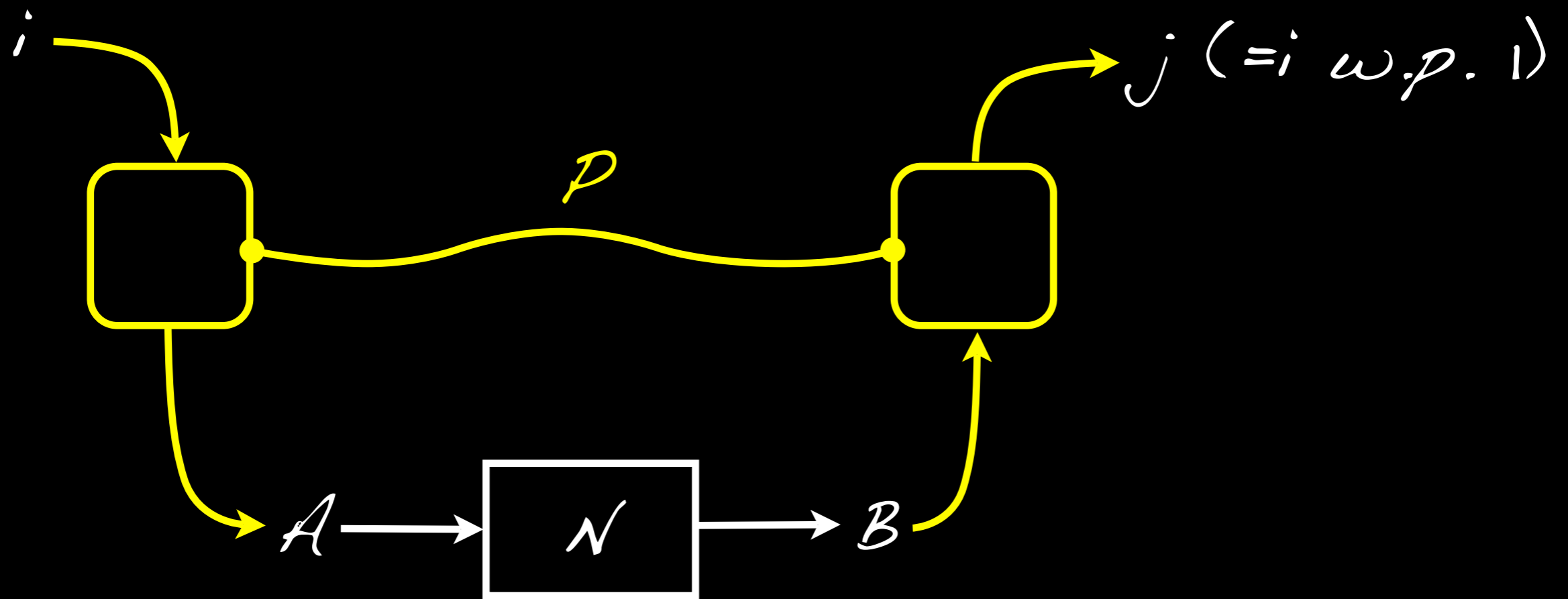
Cf. W. Matthews'

# Quantum no-signalling: talk on Wed!

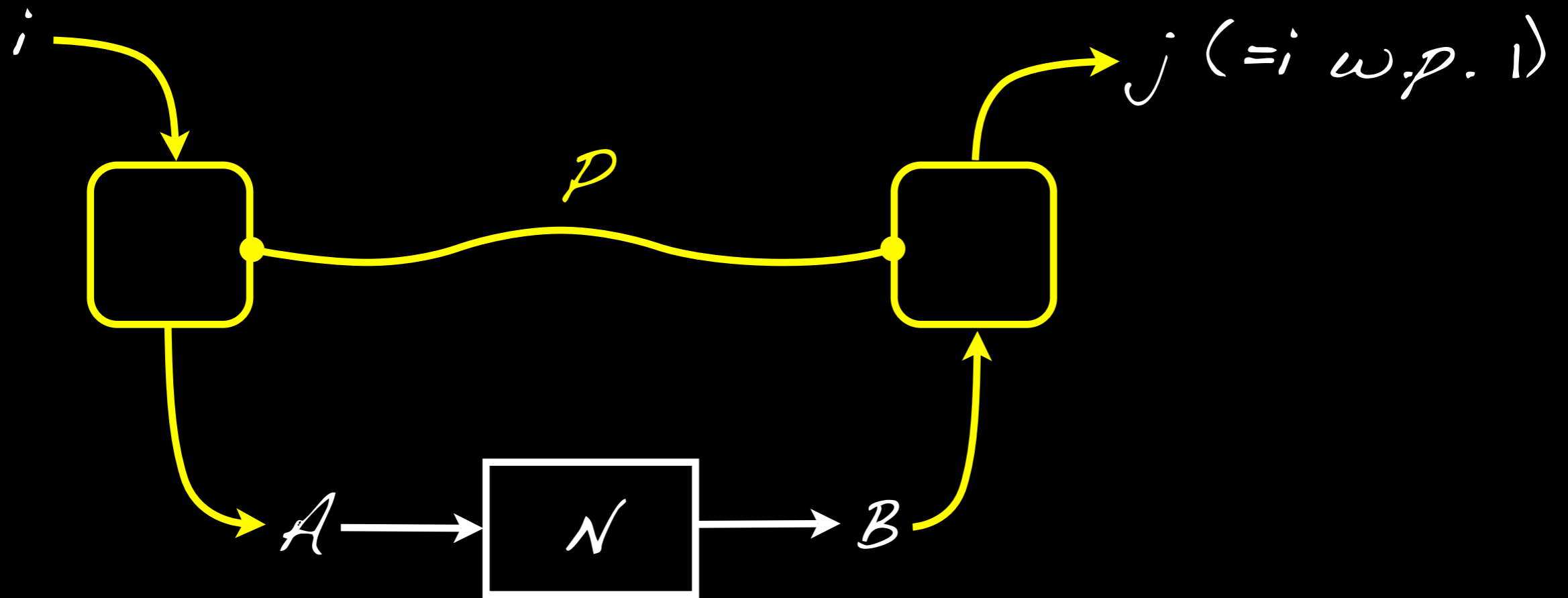


Although formally a channel with two simultaneous inputs, the no-signalling condition ensures that Alice can use her "box" without waiting. Bob is left with a conditional channel...

No-signalling assisted communication:

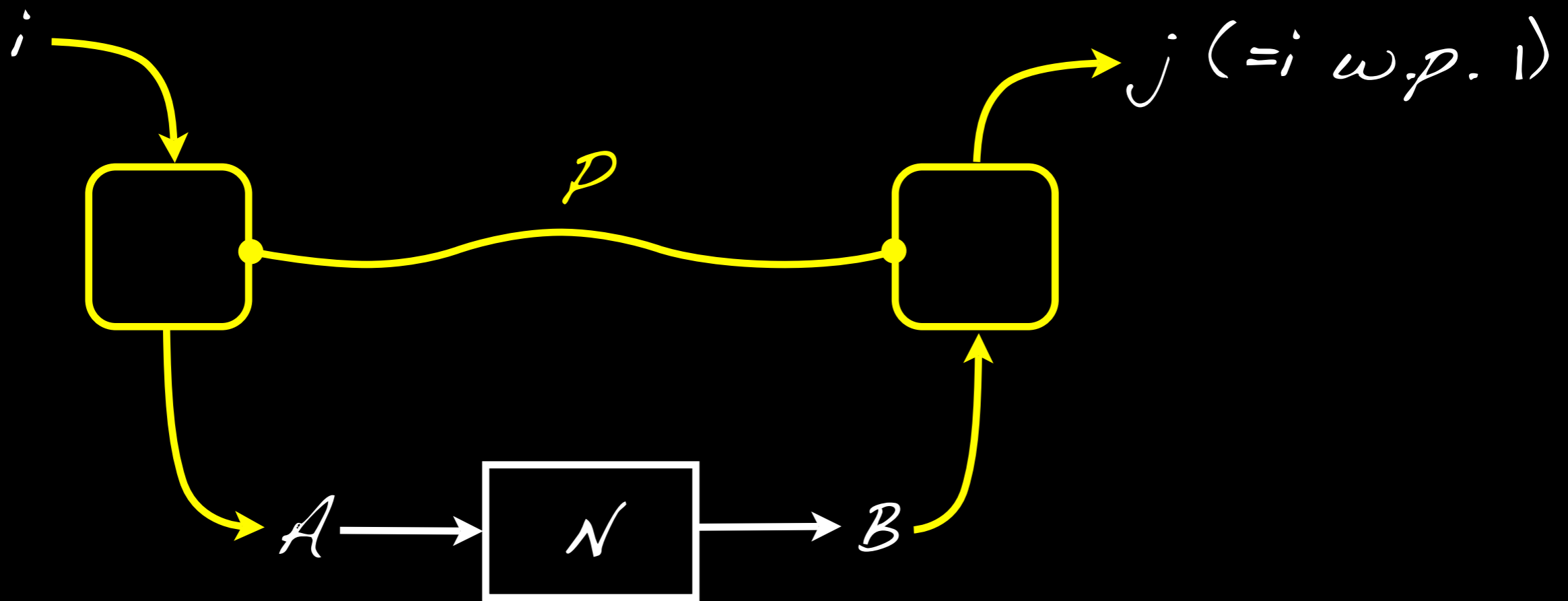


No-signalling assisted communication:



Maximum #msg. with  $\mathcal{P} \in \mathcal{NS} =: \bar{\alpha}(K)$

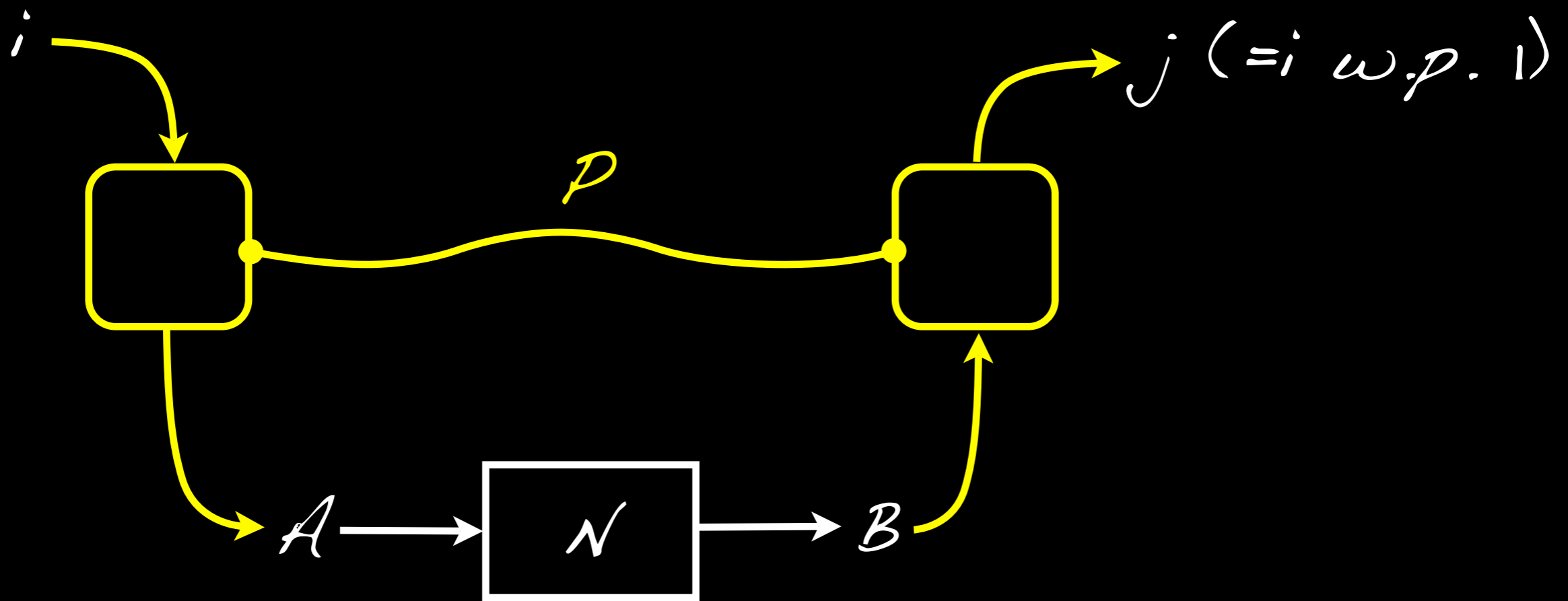
No-signalling assisted communication:



Maximum #msg. with  $P \in NS =: \bar{\alpha}(K)$

Similar definitions of  $\alpha(S)$  and  $\tilde{\alpha}(S)$  via max. # of messages; all reducing to previous notions for classical channels.

No-signalling assisted communication:



Thm. [RD/AW]  $\bar{\alpha}(K) = \lfloor \Upsilon(K) \rfloor$ , where

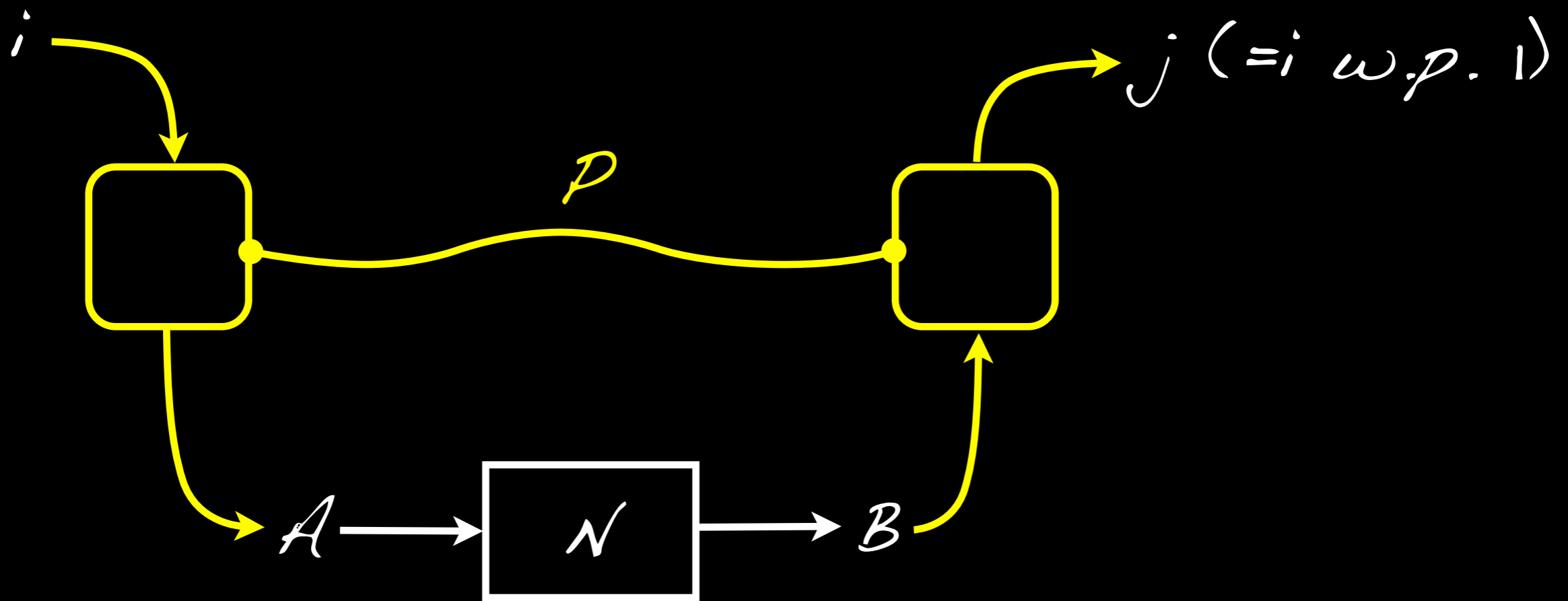
$$\Upsilon(K) = \max \text{Tr } S \text{ s.t. } 0 \leq U^{AB} \leq S \otimes \mathbb{1},$$

$$\text{Tr}_A U = \mathbb{1}^B,$$

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$\Pi$ : support projection of Choi matrix of  $N$

$$\text{Tr}_A U = \mathbb{1}^B,$$

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...reduces to classical fractional packing number for classical channel.

[T.S. Cubitt et al., IEEE-IT 57(8):5509-5523, 2011]

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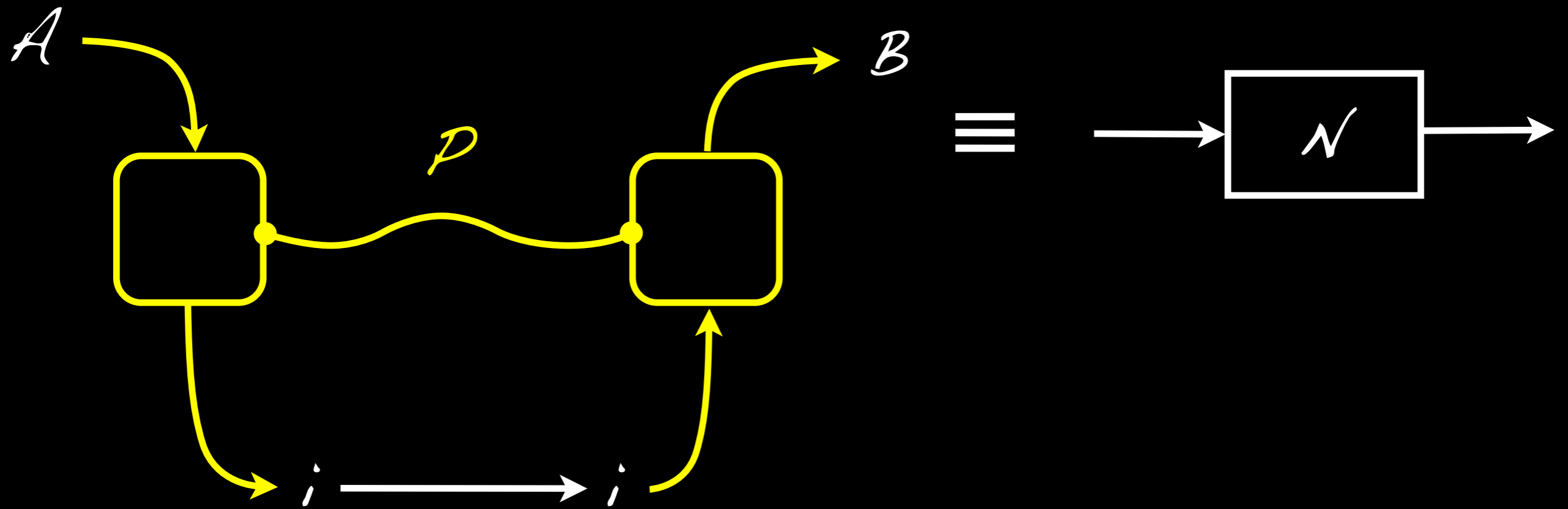
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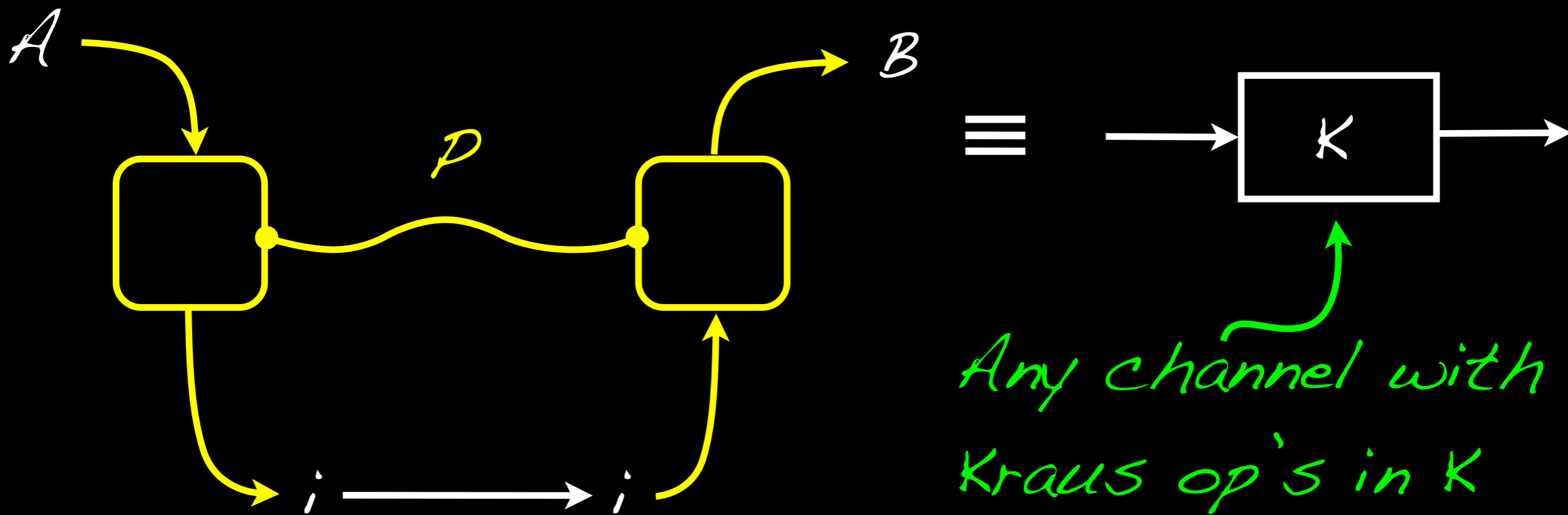
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What is  $C_{\text{ONS}}(K) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \Upsilon(K^{\otimes n})$ ?

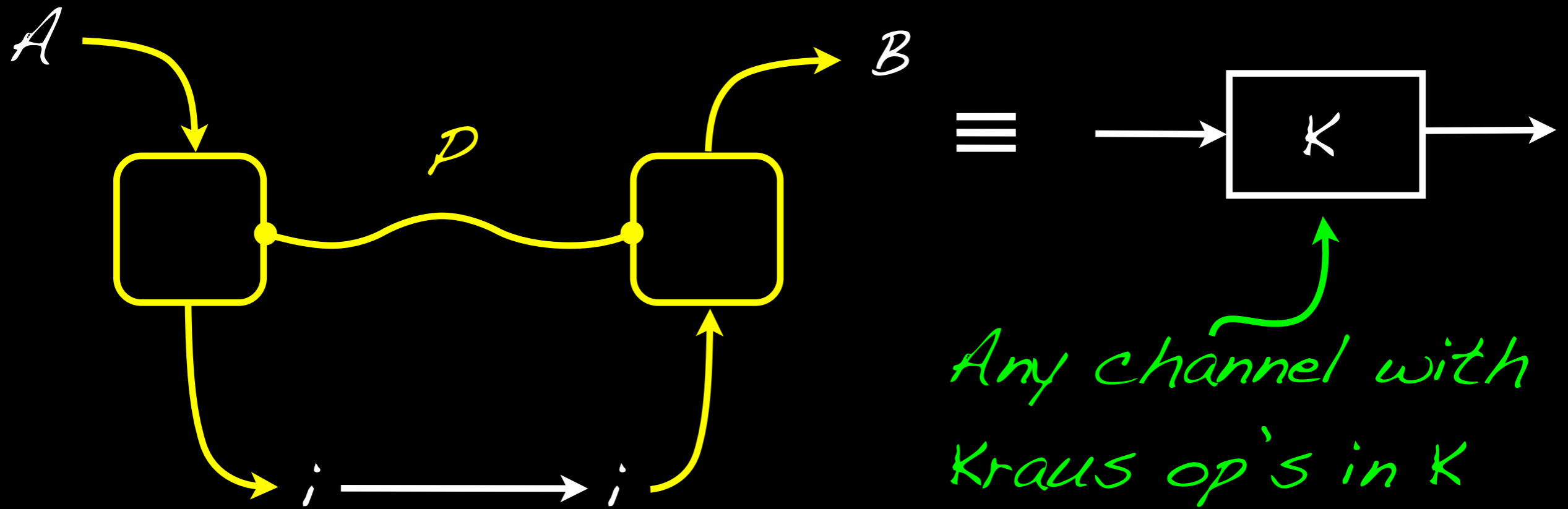
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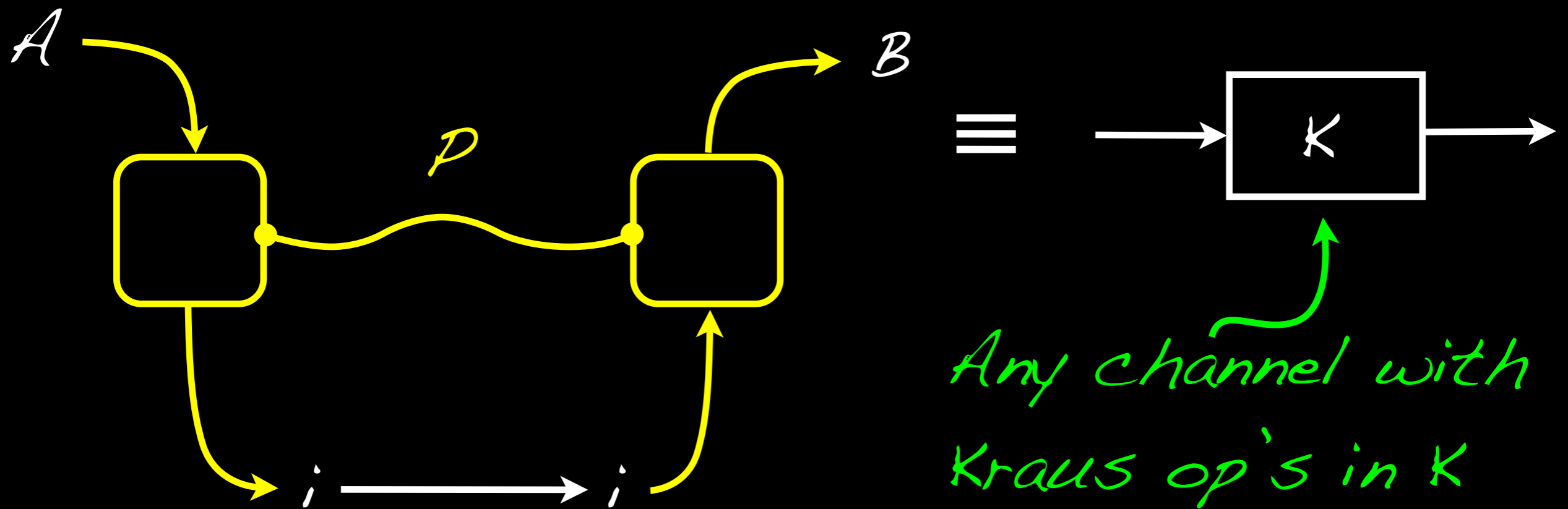


No-signalling assisted channel simulation:



Thm. [RD/AW] Min #msg =  $\lceil \Sigma(\mathcal{K}) \rceil$ , w/  
 $\Sigma(\mathcal{K}) = \min \text{Tr } T$  s.t.  $0 \leq V^{AB} \leq \mathbb{1} \otimes T$ ,  
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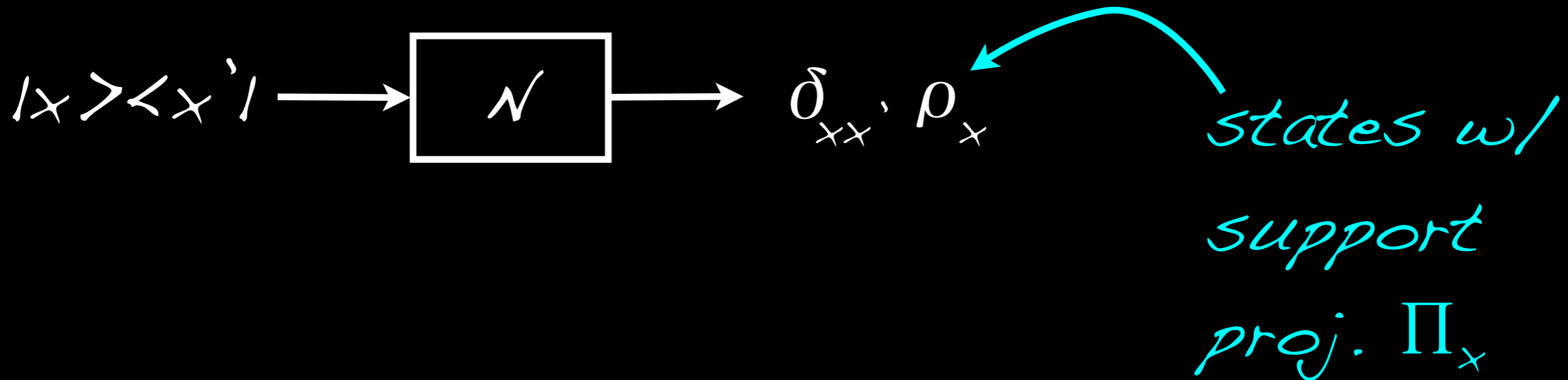


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...reduces to  $\alpha^*(\Gamma)$  for classical channels.

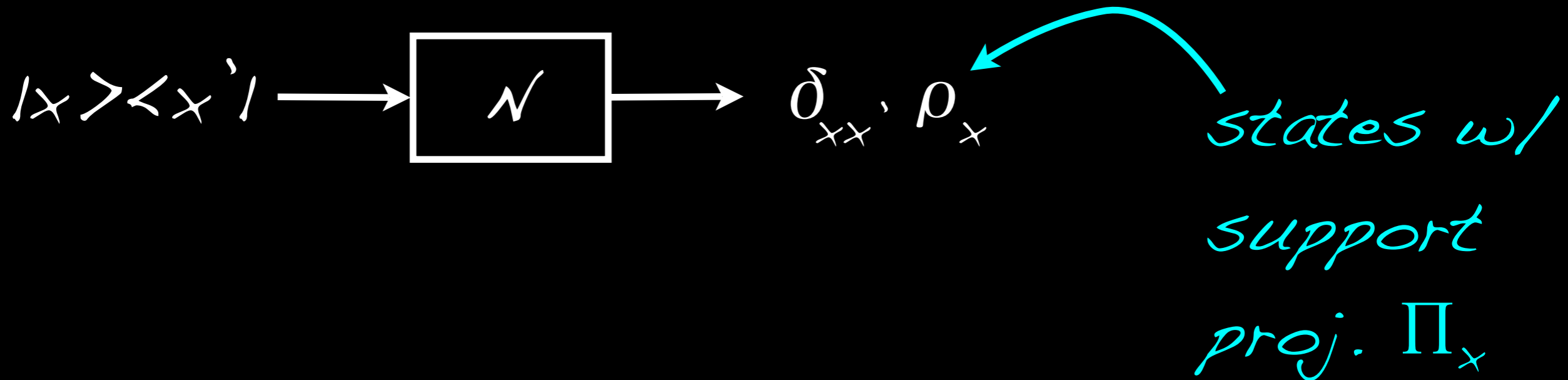


## 4. Cg-channels



These are still "very classical", e.g. have confusability graph  $G$ ,  $x \sim x'$  iff  $\Pi_x \Pi_{x'} \neq 0$ .

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These are still "very classical", e.g. have confusability graph  $G$ ,  $x \sim x'$  iff  $\Pi_x \Pi_{x'} \neq 0$ .

$\Pi = \sum_x |x\rangle\langle x| \otimes \Pi_x$  Choi matrix support projection, simplifies SDP  $\Upsilon(K)$ ...

$$\begin{aligned} \Upsilon(K) = \max \operatorname{Tr} S \quad \text{s.t.} \quad & 0 \leq U^{AB} \leq S \otimes \mathbb{1}, \\ & \operatorname{Tr}_A U = \mathbb{1}^B, \\ & \Pi(S \otimes \mathbb{1} - U) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\gamma(\mathbf{K}) = \max \sum_x s_x \text{ s.t. } 0 \leq R_x \leq s_x \Pi_x^\perp,$$
$$\sum_x (R_x + s_x \Pi_x) = \mathbf{1}.$$

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*Semidefinite packing number; also reduces to fractional packing no. in classical case, but is multiplicative:  $\mathbf{A}(\mathcal{K} \otimes \mathcal{K}') = \mathbf{A}(\mathcal{K}) \mathbf{A}(\mathcal{K}')$ .*

$$\begin{aligned} \Upsilon(\mathcal{K}) &= \max \sum_x s_x \text{ s.t. } 0 \leq R_x \leq s_x \Pi_x^\perp, \\ &\quad \sum_x (R_x + s_x \Pi_x) = \mathbb{1}. \\ &\leq \mathbf{A}(\mathcal{K}) := \max \sum_x s_x \text{ s.t. } 0 \leq s_x, \\ &\quad \sum_x s_x \Pi_x \leq \mathbb{1}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thm. } C_{\text{ONS}}(\mathcal{K}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \Upsilon(\mathcal{K}^{\otimes n}) = \log \mathbf{A}(\mathcal{K}).$$

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$$\text{Thm. } C_{\text{ONS}}(K) = \lim \frac{1}{n} \log \Upsilon(K^{\otimes n}) = \log A(K).$$

Show actually  $\Upsilon(K^{\otimes n}) \geq n^{-c} A(K)^n$ , starting from an optimal solution for  $A(K)$ ; then by group (permutation) symmetry that we can satisfy the extra constraints loosing little..



$$\Upsilon(\mathbf{K}) = \max \sum_x s_x \text{ s.t. } 0 \leq R_x \leq s_x \Pi_x^\perp,$$

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Thm.  $C_{\text{ONS}}(\mathbf{K}) = \lim \frac{1}{n} \log \Upsilon(\mathbf{K}^{\otimes n}) = \log \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{K}).$

Thm.  $G_{\text{ONS}}(\mathbf{K}) = \log \Sigma(\mathbf{K})$  asympt. simul. cost

$$\Sigma(\mathbf{K}) = \min \text{Tr } T \text{ s.t. } 0 \leq V_x \leq T,$$

$$\text{Tr } V_x = 1, V_x \leq \Pi_x.$$

Example: Two-pure-state cq-channel

$0 \rightarrow |\psi_0\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$        $\mathcal{K} = \text{span}\{|\psi_0\rangle, |0\rangle, |\psi_1\rangle, |1\rangle\}$   
 $1 \rightarrow |\psi_1\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle - \beta |1\rangle$

$(\alpha > \beta > 0; \alpha^2 + \beta^2 = 1)$

Example: Two-pure-state cq-channel

$$\begin{array}{l} 0 \rightarrow |\psi_0\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle \\ 1 \rightarrow |\psi_1\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle - \beta|1\rangle \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{K} = \text{span}\{|\psi_0\rangle, |\psi_1\rangle\} \\ \langle 0|, \\ \langle 1| \end{array}$$

$$(\alpha > \beta > 0; \alpha^2 + \beta^2 = 1)$$

$\Upsilon(\mathcal{K}) = 1$ , but  $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K} \otimes \mathcal{K}) \geq 1/(\alpha^4 + \beta^4)$ , and for  $n$  large enough,  $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K}^{\otimes n}) \geq 1/(\alpha^{2n} + \beta^{2n})$ .

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$$(1) \alpha > \beta > 0; \alpha^2 + \beta^2 = 1$$

$\Upsilon(\mathcal{K}) = 1$ , but  $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K} \otimes \mathcal{K}) \geq 1/(\alpha^4 + \beta^4)$ , and for  $n$  large enough,  $\Upsilon(\mathcal{K}^{\otimes n}) \geq 1/(\alpha^{2n} + \beta^{2n})$ .

Easy:  $A(\mathcal{K}) = 1/\alpha^2$ ,  $\Sigma(\mathcal{K}) = 1 + 2\alpha\beta$ .

## 5. Lovász number encore

Now the best: Minimize  $A(K)$  over all cq-channels with the same confusability graph  $G(x \sim x' \text{ iff } \Pi_x \perp \Pi_{x'})$ .



## 5. Lovász number encore

Now the best: Minimize  $A(K)$  over all cq-channels with the same confusability graph  $G$  ( $x \sim x'$  iff  $\Pi_x \perp \Pi_{x'}$ ).

*Thm.*  $\min A(K) = \vartheta(G)$ ;  $\min C_{\text{ONS}}(K) = \log \vartheta(G)$ .

In words: Lovász' number gives the no-signalling assisted capacity of the worst cq-channel with confusability graph  $G$ .

First capacity interpretation of  $\vartheta(G)$  :-)

## 6. Last words:

- SDP formulas for assisted capacity and simulation cost (one-shot)
- SDP can regularize to a relaxed SDP :-)
- Capacity interpretation of Lovász number
- Gap between  $C_{0\epsilon}(G)$  and  $\log \vartheta(G)$ ?
- Regularization necessary? There could be  $K$  such that  $\chi(K) = \vartheta(G)$  - cf. Ching-Yi Lai's poster on Monday!
- $\Sigma(G) := \min \{ \Sigma(K) : G \supset K^\dagger K \} = ??$   
Know only: between  $\vartheta(G)$  and  $\alpha^*(G)$