

Consider the three events $C1$, $C2$, and $C3$, which can each take the values 0 and 1 (corresponding to the perceived orientation of the Necker cube, say). If at each point in time, there is a definite value to all three, then each run of the experiment must traverse one of eight possible histories with a certain probability $P = p_i$. The table below lists all possibilities.

$C1$	$C1$	$C1$	P
0	0	0	$p1$
0	0	1	$p2$
0	1	0	$p3$
0	1	1	$p4$
1	0	0	$p5$
1	0	1	$p6$
1	1	0	$p7$
1	1	1	$p8$

Table 1. Possible ‘histories’ of the system weighted by their respective probabilities of occurrence.

Now define

$$\langle C_1 C_2 \rangle = P(C_1 = C_2) - P(C_1 \neq C_2) = p_1 + p_2 - p_3 - p_4 - p_5 - p_6 + p_7 + p_8,$$

and analogously

$$\langle C_2 C_3 \rangle = p_1 - p_2 - p_3 + p_4 + p_5 - p_6 - p_7 + p_8, \langle C_1 C_3 \rangle = p_1 - p_2 + p_3 - p_4 - p_5 + p_6 - p_7 + p_8.$$

The sum of these is then

$$\langle C_1 C_2 \rangle + \langle C_2 C_3 \rangle + \langle C_1 C_3 \rangle = 3p_1 - p_2 - p_3 - p_4 - p_5 - p_6 - p_7 + 3p_8 = 4(p_1 + p_8) - 1,$$

where we have used that the sum of all probabilities must be equal to 1. Now, since probabilities are always nonnegative, this entails directly

$$\langle C_1 C_2 \rangle + \langle C_2 C_3 \rangle + \langle C_1 C_3 \rangle \geq -1,$$

which is what we set out to show. Thus, the hypothesis that all of $C1$, $C2$, and $C3$ have definite values during the experiment directly entails the above inequality. By analogous reasoning, one also shows that

$$-\langle C_1 C_2 \rangle - \langle C_2 C_3 \rangle + \langle C_1 C_3 \rangle \geq -1, -\langle C_1 C_2 \rangle + \langle C_2 C_3 \rangle - \langle C_1 C_3 \rangle \geq -1, \langle C_1 C_2 \rangle - \langle C_2 C_3 \rangle - \langle C_1 C_3 \rangle \geq -1.$$

These form a complete set of Boole’s conditions for the setting at hand. There is a nice geometric representation of this: each inequality represents a plane separating a three dimensional space into two half-spaces. Taken together, they delineate a tetrahedron with the property that for each of the points on its inside (or boundary), there exists a version of Table 1 with all the p_i taking on definite values (see Fig. 3).

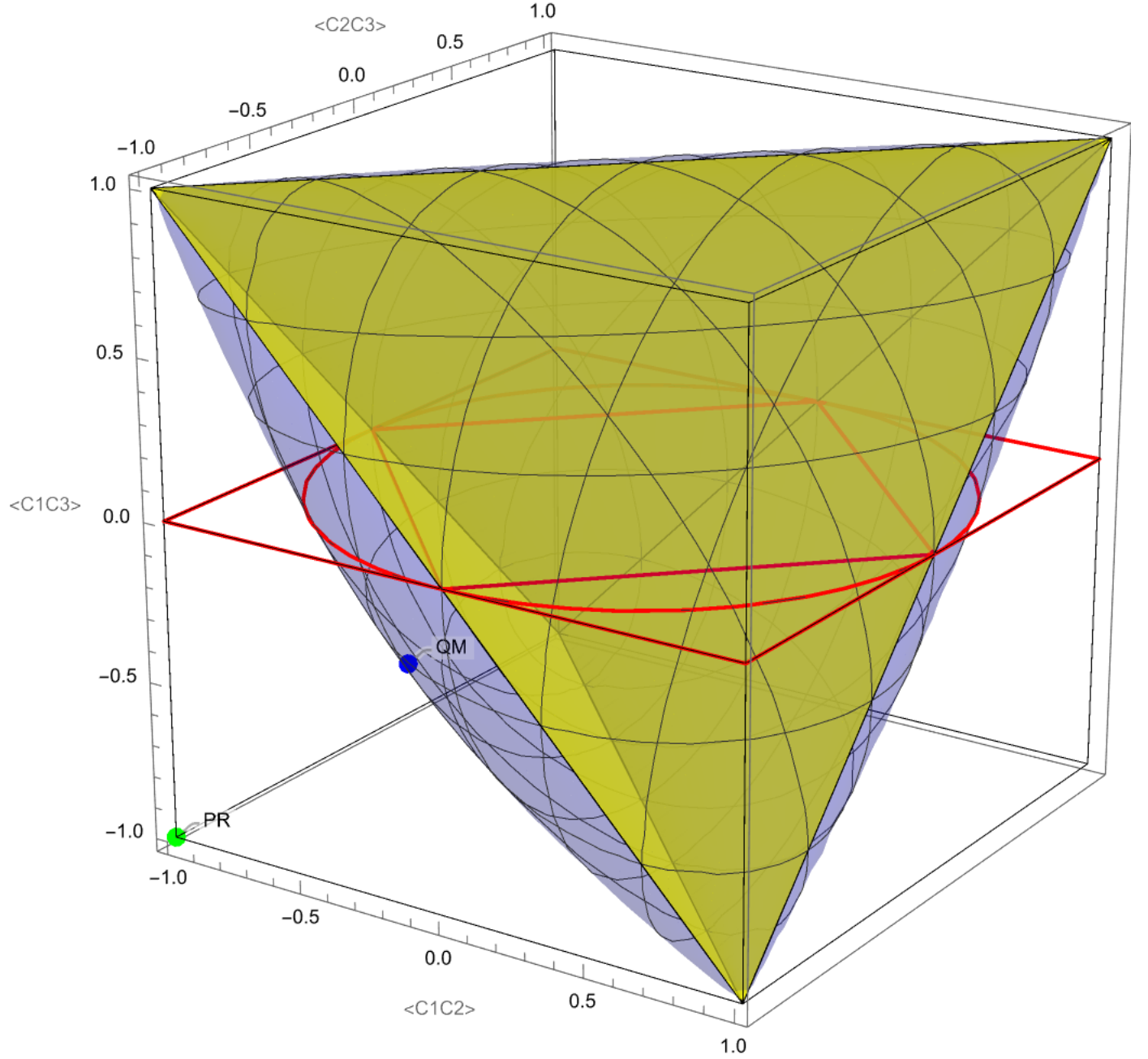


Figure 3. The set of classical (yellow) and quantum (blue) correlations for the discussed scenario with three observables. Indicated is also a reference point for a particular choice of observables in quantum mechanics (QM), as well as the point where all correlations are equal to -1 (PR, after the Popescu-Rohrlich ‘boxes’ [18] satisfying this limit). The cut through the middle highlights a particularly simple form of the sets, where the classically realizable correlations lie in a square, and the quantum correlations in the enclosing circle. After an example from [19].