Designing Quantum Experiments via Graph Theory

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Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger (GHZ) state

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- ▶ They also established the violation of Bell inequalities, as predicted by theory

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Scientific Background on the Nobel Prize in Physics 2022

"FOR EXPERIMENTS WITH ENTANGLED PHOTONS, ESTABLISHING THE VIOLATION OF BELL INEQUALITIES AND PIONEERING QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE"

The Nobel Committee for Physics

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♦ Photonic technology is one of the main players in this game

- Can high-dimensional GHZ states be created in quantum optical experiments with probabilistic photon sources and linear optics?
- Part I of the talk: How does this question translate to graph theory?
- Part II of the talk: How to approach this graph theoretic question?





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- Vertices correspond to photon detectors in the output of some photon path.
- Edges correspond to photon pairs that emerge from two photon paths.
- Perfect matchings correspond to a multi-photon event where each single photon detector detects a photon.





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- Therefore, we are interested in finding a colouring and weight assignment for a given graph, satisfying **certain properties**.



(a) An edge coloured edge-weighted graph G_c^w



(b) $\mathcal{F}(G_c^w, vc)$, where vc(i) is green for $i \in [1, 2, 3, 6]$ and red for $i \in [4, 5]$





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•
$$|\text{GHZ}_{6,2}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|000000\rangle + |111111\rangle)$$

One dimensional GHZ state



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Three dimensional GHZ state



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Three dimensional GHZ state



There are three inherited vertex colourings which are monochromatic and their weights sum up to one.

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$$|\operatorname{GHZ}_{4,3}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left(|0000\rangle + |1111\rangle + |2222\rangle \right)$$

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Question 1

Are there graphs for with a high matching index? If yes, we can design experiments to generate a high-dimensional Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger state!

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So far, no graphs other than K_4 is known with a matching index at least 3.

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(unweighted) GHZ graphs



Figure: A couloured graph C_8



(unweighted) GHZ graphs



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Figure: First perfect matching

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(unweighted) GHZ graphs



Figure: A couloured graph C_8

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Figure: Second perfect matching

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Figure: 6 vertex graph with four perfect matchings

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Figure: PM 1

Figure: 6 vertex graph with four perfect matchings



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Figure: PMFigure: PMFigure: PM1234

Figure: 6 vertex graph with four perfect matchings

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Bounding (unweighted) matching index

Theorem 2 (Bogdanov17, Thomason78)

If G is not isomorphic to K_4 , then $\mu(G) \leq 2$ and $\mu(K_4) = 3$.

• **Proof idea:** Assume there is GHZ graph with three colours (say red, blue, green) towards a contradiction.

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▶ Therefore, union of any two perfect matchings is a Hamiltonian cycle











Therefore, all blue edges split the Hamiltonian cycle into two odd parts

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Therefore, the (unweighted) matching index is at most 2 when graph is not isomorphic to K_4 .

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It is sufficient to consider the matching covered graphs of Type 2 graphs.


Structure of Type 2 graphs



Drum is a cycle in the order (i, i + 1, j, j - 1), where i, j are of different parity.

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- Drum is a cycle in the order (i, i + 1, j, j 1), where i, j are of different parity.
- All non-cycle edges must be part of exactly one drum
- ▶ These drums don't intersect each other.

Theorem 3

If $\mu(G) \neq 1$, then $\bar{\mu}(G) = \mu(G)$. There are graphs with $\mu(G) = 1$ and $\bar{\mu}(G) \neq \mu(G)$

We can only expect high dimensional GHZ graphs when $\mu(G) = 1$



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Krenn-Gu Conjecture

Question 4

Are there graphs with a higher matching index?

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Conjecture 5 (Krenn and Gu)

There are no graphs other than K_4 with a matching index at least 3

▶ If true, we save huge computational efforts and get insights into quantum resource theory

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- ▶ If true, we save huge computational efforts and get insights into quantum resource theory
- ▶ If false, we can find a high-dimensional Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger state!

KG Conjecture for Sparse Graphs

Theorem 6 (CGI, MFCS 2024)

Krenn-Gu conjecture is true for (sub-)cubic graphs and graphs with vertex connectivity at most 2.

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Useful for automated GHZ graph searches using tools like PyTheus.

Proof Ideas

Scaling lemma:

▶ Reformulation of the conjecture in more general terms

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Graph reduction:

- ▶ Capture all weights on smaller components:
- Requires very delicate constructions adjusting weights such that GHZ property is retained



But do we have any bounds on the dimension?

Conjecture 8 (CKA, Quantum 2022)

It is not possible to generate a n>4 vertex GHZ experiment graph (without multi-edges) with dimension >n/2

▶ True for graphs with ≤ 8 vertices [CKA2022]

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Theorem 9 (CG, Quantum 2024)

It is not possible to generate a n > 4 vertex simple GHZ experiment graph with dimension $\ge n/\sqrt{2}$

Bounds on the dimension

We find a list of contradicting forbidden structures which are unavoidable in high dimensional GHZ graphs (if they exist).



However, high-dimensional GHZ graphs also require a lot of intricate structures to be present in them.





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Destructive	Multi	Bichromatic	Dimension	Status
Interfer	Edges	Edges		
X	1	1	$n \ge 4, d \le 3$	Proved in
				[KGZ17]
X	1	1	$n \ge 4, d \le 3$	Characterized
				in [C G 23]
1	1	X	n = 6, d < 3	[CKA22]
v			n = 8, d < 4	
1	1	X	$n > 1 d < \frac{n}{2}$	CKA conjec-
•			n > 4, u < 2	ture
1	X	1	$n > 4$. $d < \frac{n}{-}$	[CG24]
			$\sqrt{2}$	
1	1	1	$n > 4, d \le 2$	KG conjec-
				ture
1	1	1	$n = 4, d \leq 3$	[Mantey24]
1	1	1	$n > 4, d \le 2$	For sparse
				graphs [CGI24]

Table: Current state-of-the-art results, conjectures and our results