

Quantum graphs where back-scattering is prohibited

Brian Winn

School of Mathematics
Loughborough University

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Joint work with



Jon Harrison
and Uzy Smilansky



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A puzzle

Find an $n \times n$ unitary matrix σ :

- with diagonal entries 0, and
- off-diagonal entries with absolute value $(n-1)^{-1/2}$.

For example (2×2)

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

HINT: $n = 3$ is impossible...



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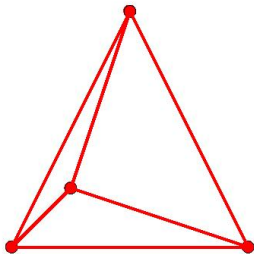
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What is a quantum graph?

A *metric graph* has bonds that have lengths $L_1, \dots, L_v > 0$.



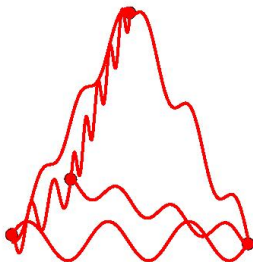
Standing waves satisfy

$$-\frac{d^2\psi_j}{dx^2} = k^2\psi_j \quad + \quad \text{Boundary conditions} \quad j = 1, \dots, v.$$

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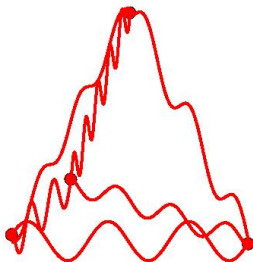
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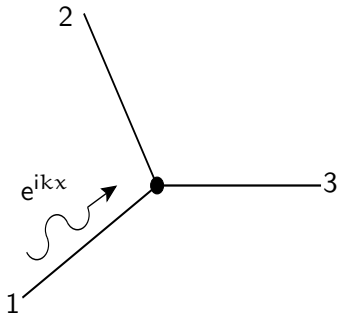
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Scattering at a vertex

(Boundary conditions for the differential equation)

An incoming wave is scattered at a vertex



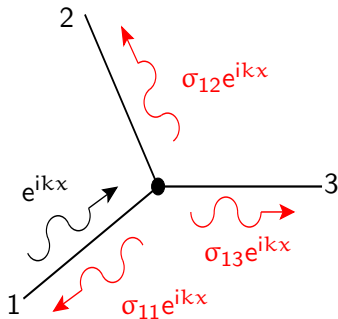
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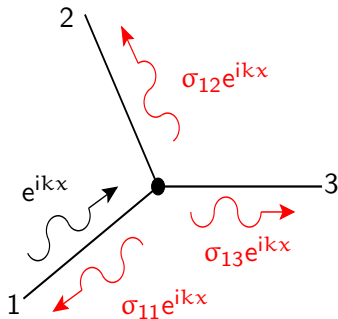
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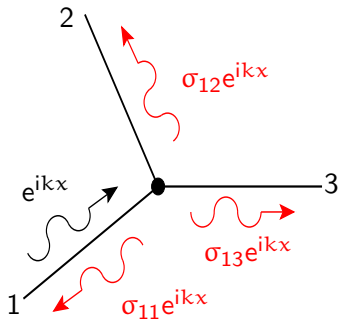
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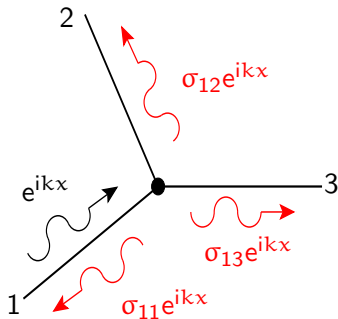
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The quantum evolution operator

- Collect all entries of vertex scattering matrices σ in a $2v \times 2v$ matrix S .
- Indexing is by *directed* bonds.

In this example

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{13} & \sigma_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{22} & \sigma_{23} & \sigma_{21} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{32} & \sigma_{33} & \sigma_{31} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$



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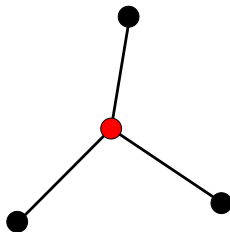
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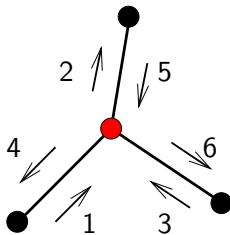


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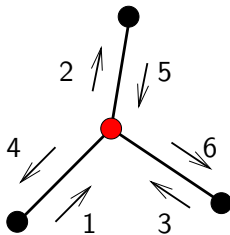
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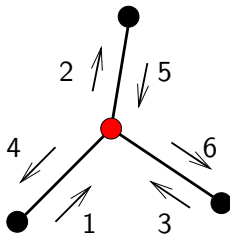
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- Waves travelling along a bond of length L acquire a phase e^{ikL} .
- Put these phases into a $2v \times 2v$ diagonal matrix $D(k)$.
- Define the *quantum evolution operator* $U(k) = D(k)S$.

The spectrum

There is a standing wave of energy k^2 iff

$$\det(I - U(k)) = 0.$$

A sequence $(k_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ of “eigenvalues”.

Alternatively: Use the von Neumann theory to construct self-adjoint extensions of the Laplace operator... (Kostykin & Schrader approach.)



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A classical evolution operator

- Classical dynamics is a Markov process on the directed bonds, with matrix of transition probabilities M , where

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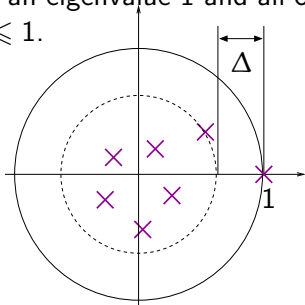


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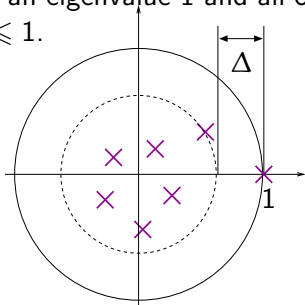


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Denote by Δ the spectral gap.

Conjecture (Tanner)

For a sequence of quantum graphs with $v \rightarrow \infty$, the statistics of eigenvalues converge to random matrix theory if $v\Delta \rightarrow \infty$.

- Gnuzmann & Altland approach. True if $\sqrt{v}\Delta \rightarrow \infty$. (Not a periodic orbit theory).
- Are there “nicer” choices of vertex scattering matrix?
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Possible vertex scattering matrices

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$$\sigma_{jk}^{[N]} = \frac{2}{d} - \delta_{jk}.$$

Back-scattering strongly favoured.

- Fourier transform

$$\sigma_{jk}^{[F]} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} e^{-2\pi i j k / d}.$$

All amplitudes equal.



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- Equi-transmitting 

$$|\sigma_{jk}|^2 = \frac{1 - \delta_{jk}}{d - 1}.$$

All forward amplitudes equal; back-scattering weighted zero.



Examples

Partial solution to puzzle

- $d = 3$, no examples (impossible).

- $d = 4$, $\sigma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

- $d = 5$, $\sigma = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & \omega & \omega^2 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & \omega^2 & \omega \\ 1 & \omega & \omega^2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & \omega^2 & \omega & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, where $\omega = e^{2\pi i/3}$.

- Examples for d any multiple of 4, up to 184, related to existence of *skew Hadamard matrices*.
- Examples for $d = p + 1$, for all odd primes p .
- Examples for $d = 2^n$.



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The trace formula

For suitable test functions h ,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h(k_n) = \frac{\sum_b L_b}{\pi} \hat{h}(0) + \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_p \frac{A_p \ell_p}{r_p} \hat{h}(\ell_p),$$

where ℓ_p are (metric) lengths of periodic orbits, r_p is repetition number and

$$A_p = S_{b_1, b_2} S_{b_2, b_3} \cdots S_{b_n, b_1}$$

is product of elements of S accumulated on the orbit.

- With equi-transmitting scattering matrices, back-tracking orbits are eliminated.
- c.f. Ihara-Selberg zeta function.



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Further Ihara connections

In a regular graph all vertices have the same degree.

Theorem 1 (Harrison, Smilansky, W.)

For a regular quantum graph with equi-transmitting vertex scattering matrices the eigenvalues of M are (up to scaling) at the positions of the poles of the Ihara-Selberg zeta function.

This allows us to prove:

Theorem 2 (Harrison, Smilansky, W.)

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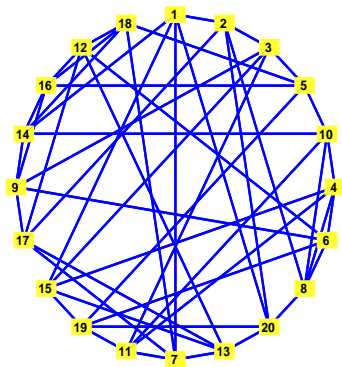
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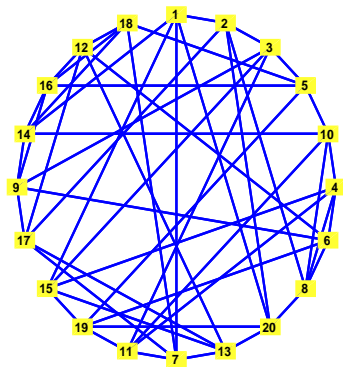
Spectral statistics for an example

We considered the 5-regular graph



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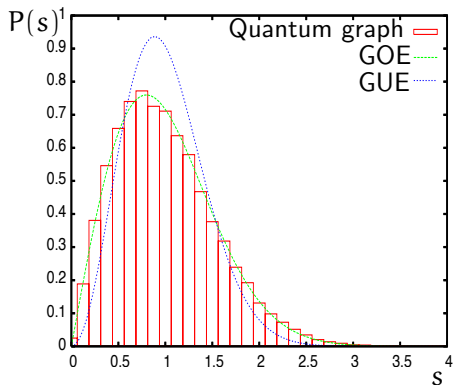
with vertex scattering matrix

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & \omega & \omega^2 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & \omega^2 & \omega \\ 1 & \omega & \omega^2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & \omega^2 & \omega & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

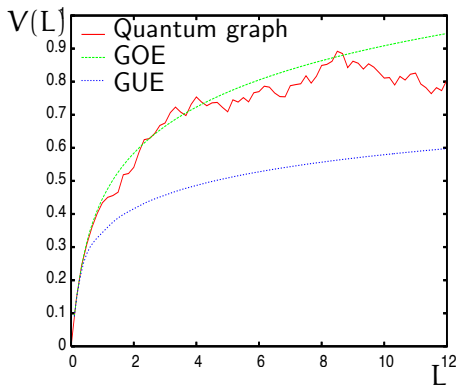
at each vertex.

Spectral statistics for an example

continued



Nearest neighbour spacing



Number variance



Lies

To simplify the exposition

- Specifying vertex scattering matrix is not equivalent to self-adjoint extension of the Laplace operator.
- I omitted a technical condition from Theorem 2.
- I did not compute eigenvalues to draw the figures—instead I averaged statistics of eigenphases of $U(k)$ over bond lengths.

There are no lies in the article.

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