

# Quantum algorithms through composition of graphs

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October 8th, 2025



# Quantum algorithms

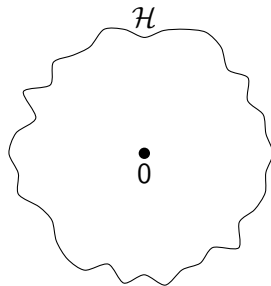
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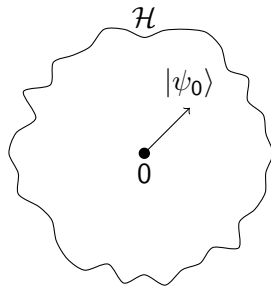
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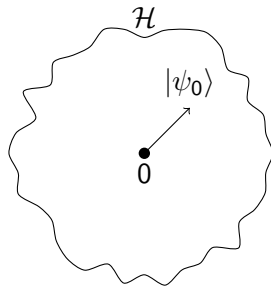
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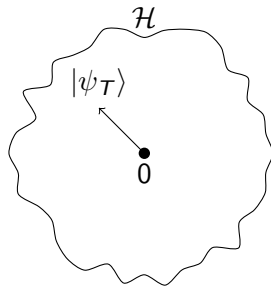
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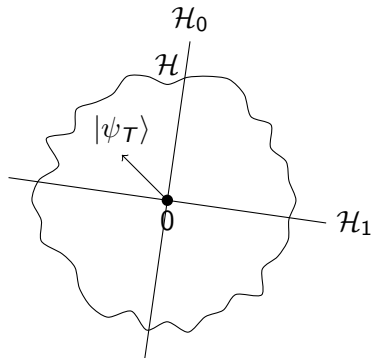
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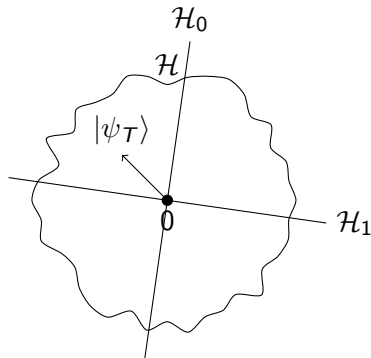
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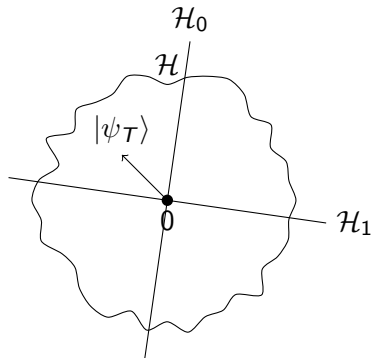
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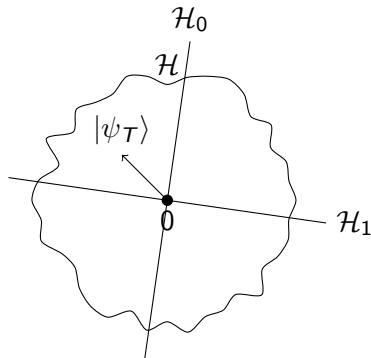
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## Quantum query complexity: $Q(f; O_x)$ :

- 1 Minimum number of oracle calls.



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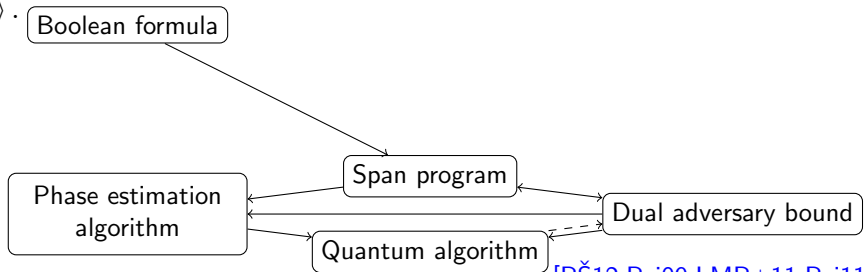
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[RŠ12, Rei09, LMR+11, Rei11]



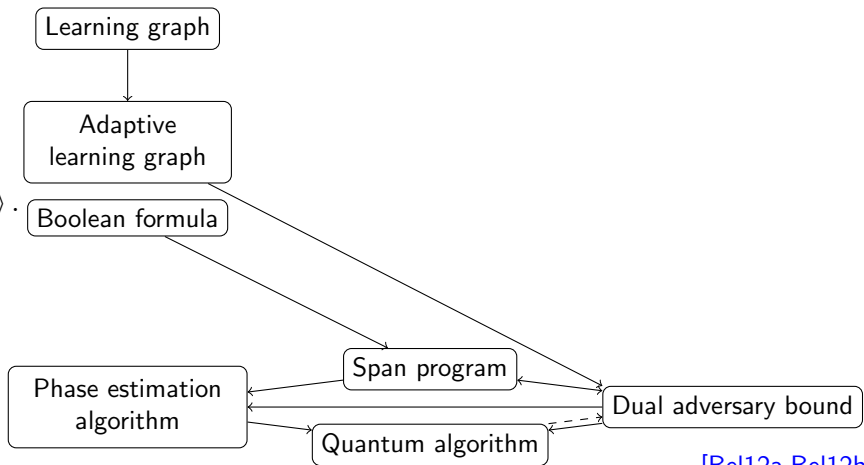
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[Bel12a,Bel12b]

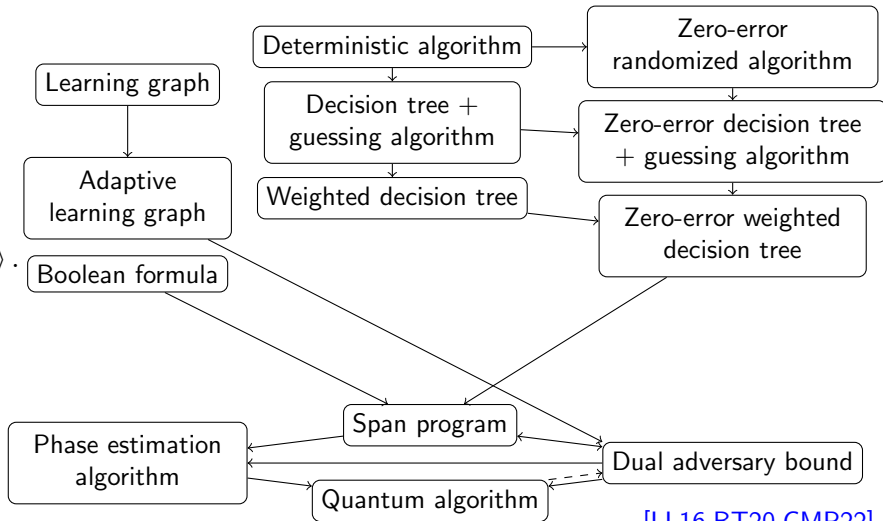
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[LL16,BT20,CMP22]

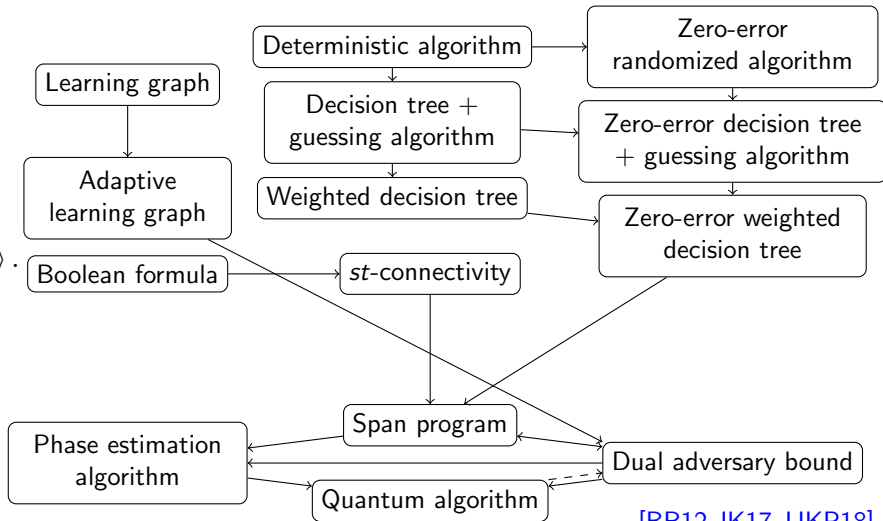
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[BR12,JK17,JJKP18]

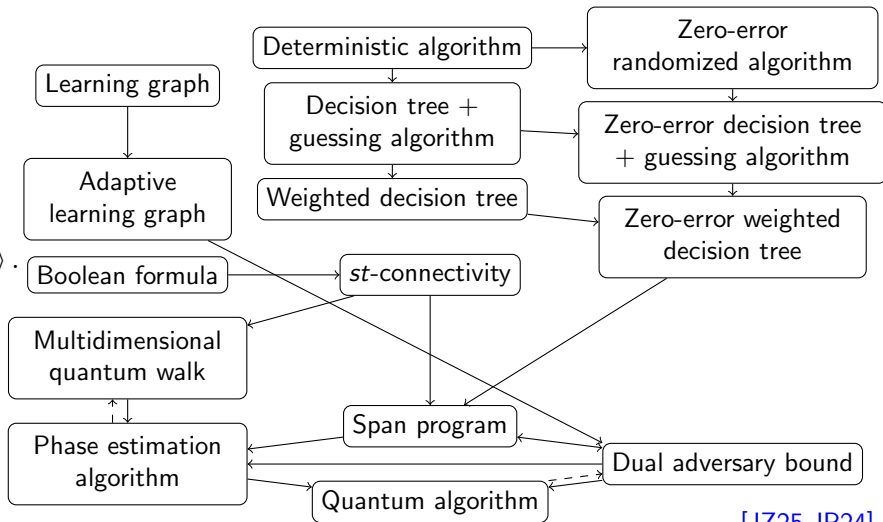
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[JZ25,JP24]

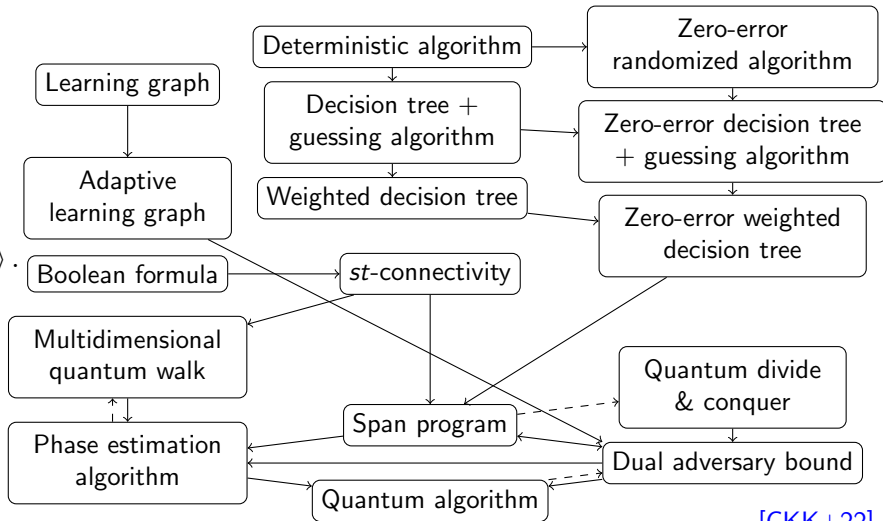
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[CKK+22]

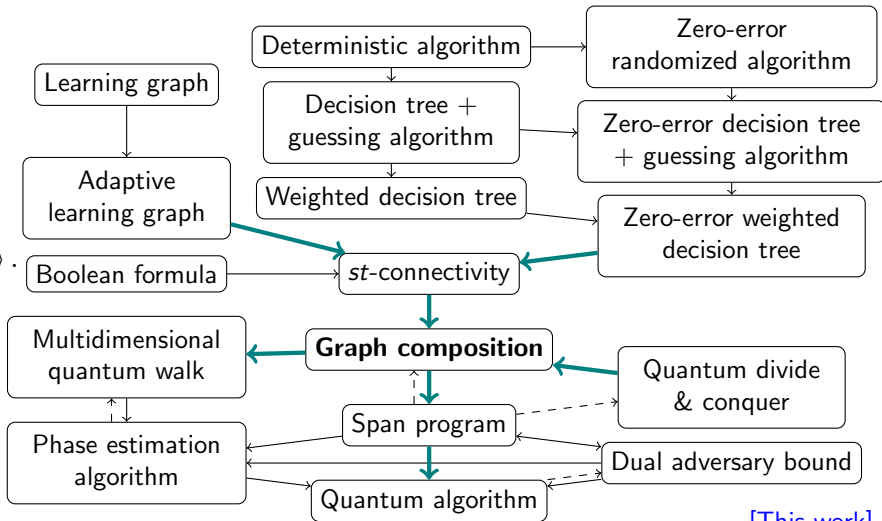
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[This work]

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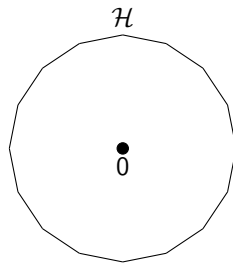
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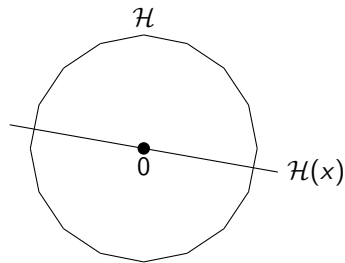
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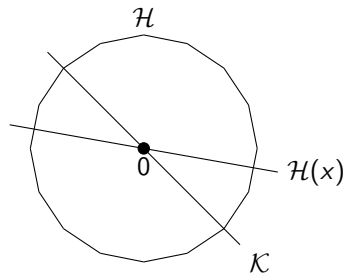
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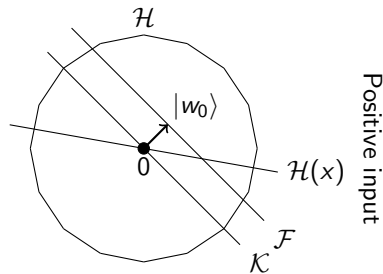
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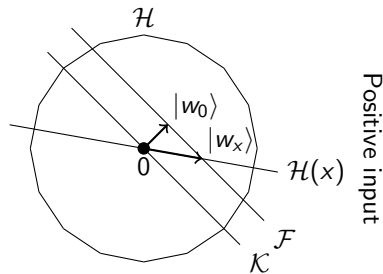
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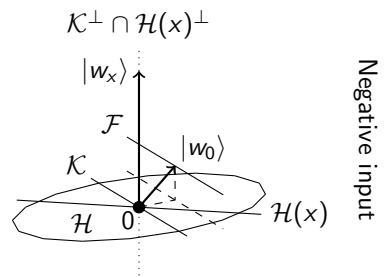
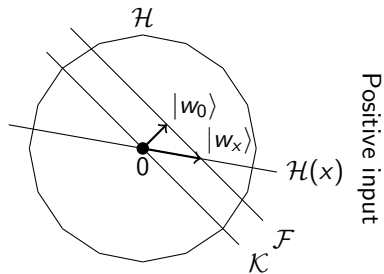
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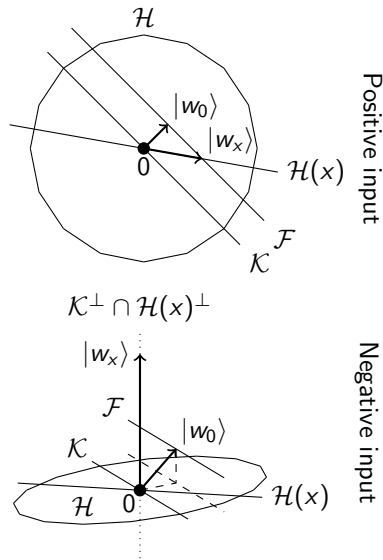
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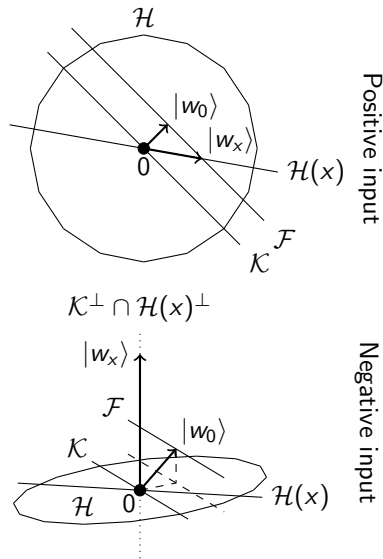
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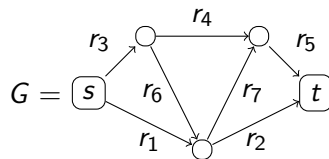
*Thm:*  $Q(f; 2\Pi_{\mathcal{H}(x)} - I) = O(C(\mathcal{P}))$  [Rei11].



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Graph  $G = (V, E)$ , resistances  $r : E \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ ,  $s, t \in V$ .



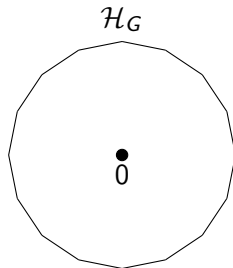
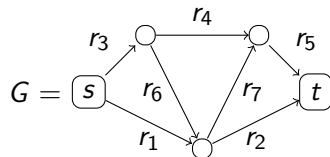
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① *Flow*:  $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ .

*Flow space*:  $\mathcal{H}_G = \text{Span}\{|e\rangle : e \in E\}$ ,

$f \mapsto |f_{G,r}\rangle = \sum_{e \in E} f_e \sqrt{r_e} |e\rangle$ .



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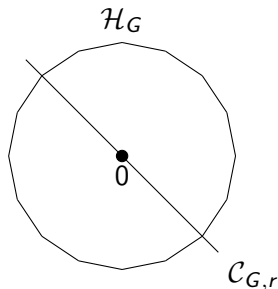
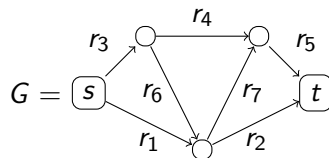
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② **Circulation:** flow  $f$  with  $\forall v \in V$ ,

$\sum_{v \in N^+(v)} f_e - \sum_{v \in N^-(v)} f_e = 0$ .

**Circulation space:**  $\mathcal{C}_{G,r} \subseteq \mathcal{H}_G$ .



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① **Flow:**  $f : E \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ .

**Flow space:**  $\mathcal{H}_G = \text{Span}\{|e\rangle : e \in E\}$ ,

$f \mapsto |f_{G,r}\rangle = \sum_{e \in E} f_e \sqrt{r_e} |e\rangle$ .

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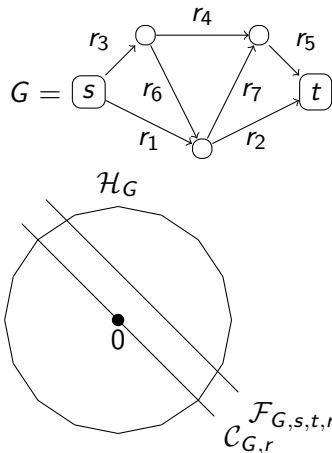
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**Circulation space:**  $\mathcal{C}_{G,r} \subseteq \mathcal{H}_G$ .

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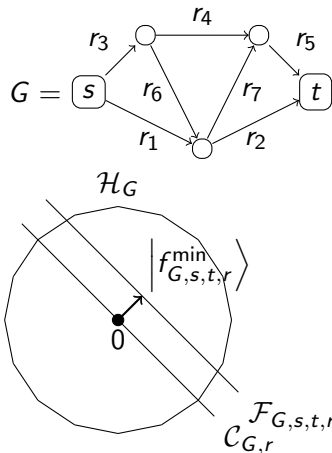
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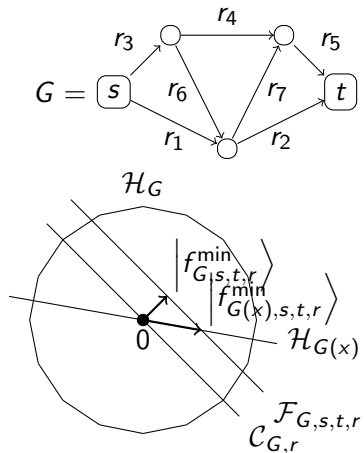
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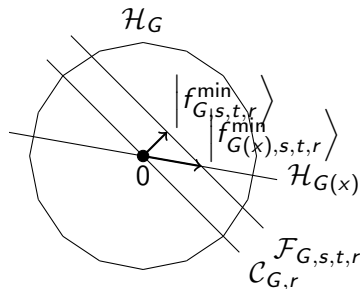
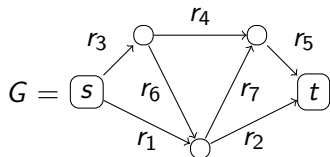
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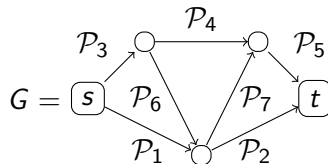
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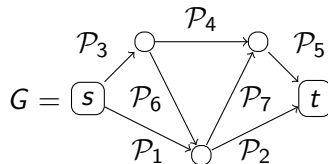
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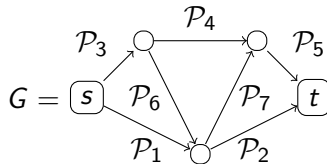
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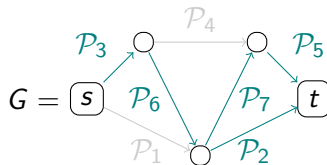
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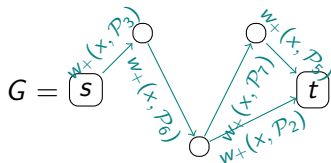
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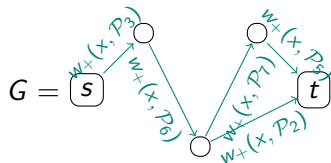
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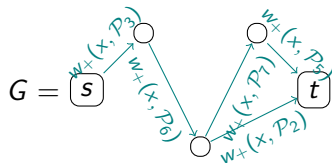
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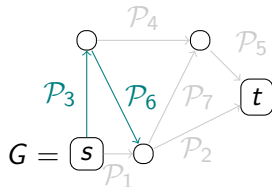
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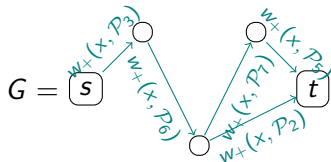
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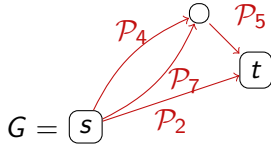
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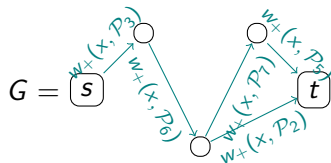
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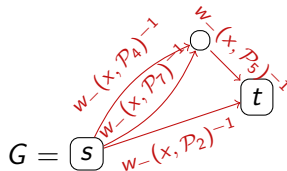
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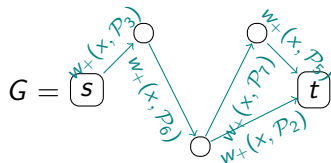
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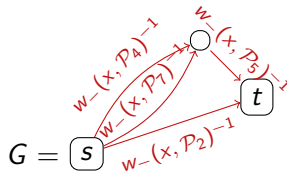
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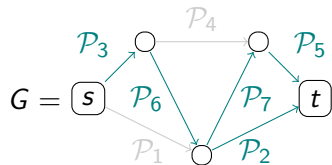
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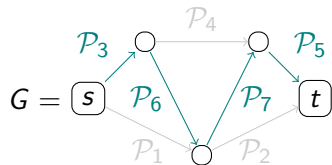


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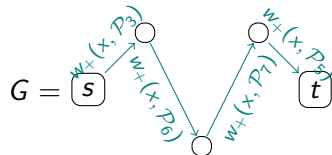


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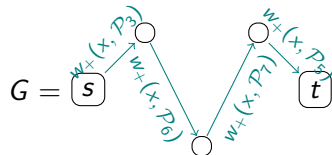


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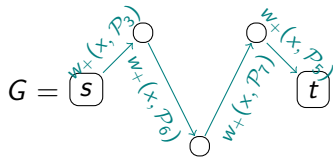
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# Path-cut theorem

**Theorem:** For all  $x \in \mathcal{D}$ ,

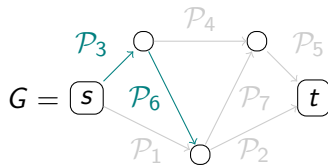
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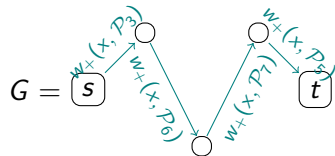


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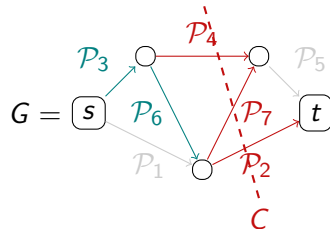
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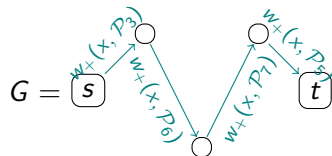


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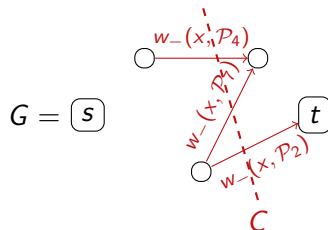
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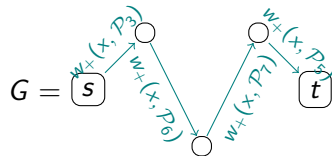


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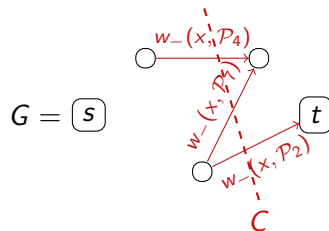
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# Path-cut theorem

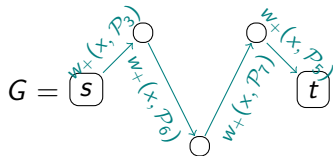
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**Properties:**

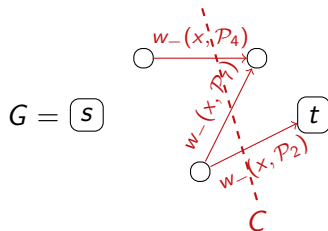
- 1 Simpler (less-powerful) version.
- 2 Still powerful enough for many applications.

*Positive input:*



$$w_+(x, P) \leq \sum_{e \in P} w_+(x, P_e).$$

*Negative input:*



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## Example: OR-function

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*Trivial span program:*  $(\alpha > 0)$

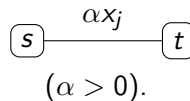
- 1  $x_j : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}, x \mapsto x_j.$
- 2  $w_+(x, x_j) = \alpha, \text{ if } x_j = 1.$
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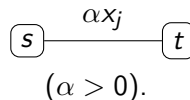
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- ①  $\text{OR}_n : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$   
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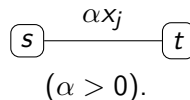
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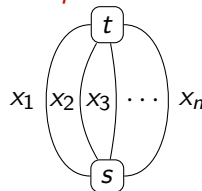
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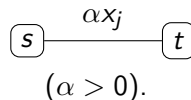
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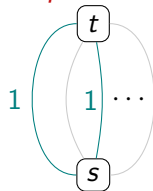
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$$x = 1010 \cdots 0 \Rightarrow w_+(x) = \frac{1}{2}$$

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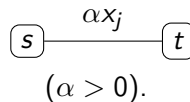
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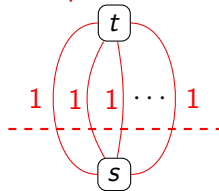
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*Graph composition for  $\text{OR}_n$ :*



$$x = 0000 \cdots 0 \Rightarrow w_-(x) = n$$

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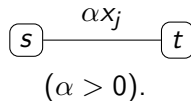
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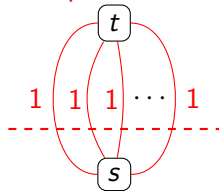
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## Example: OR-function

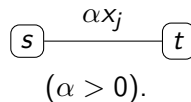
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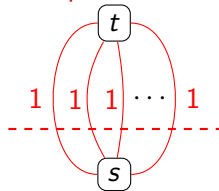
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## Example: OR-function

*Trivial span program:* ( $\alpha > 0$ )

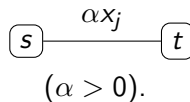
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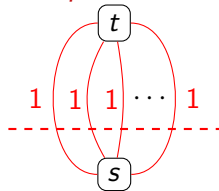
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Quadratic speed-up for search.

*Trivial span program for  $x_j$ :*



*Graph composition for  $\text{OR}_n$ :*



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## Example: Threshold function

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*The threshold function:* ( $k \in [n]$ )

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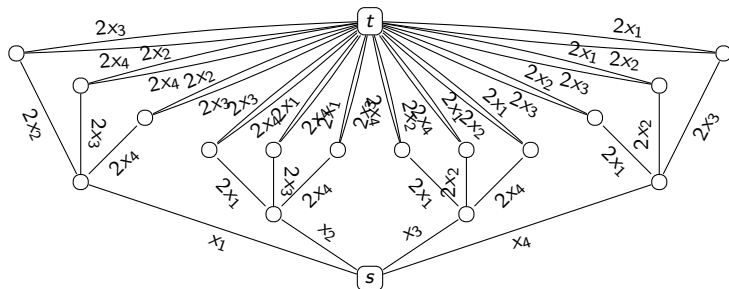
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*Graph composition for  $\text{Th}_4^3$ :*

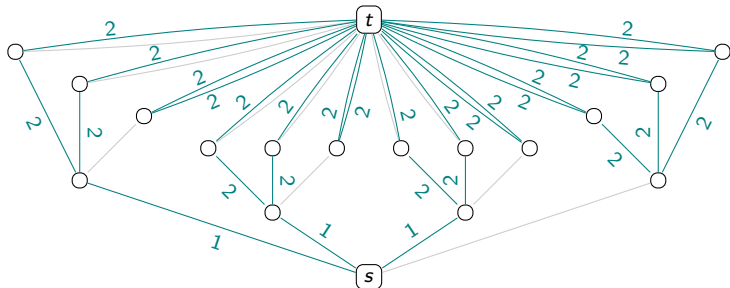


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*Graph composition for  $\text{Th}_4^3$ :*



$$x = 1110 \Rightarrow w_+(x) = 1$$

# Example: Threshold function

The threshold function: ( $k \in [n]$ )

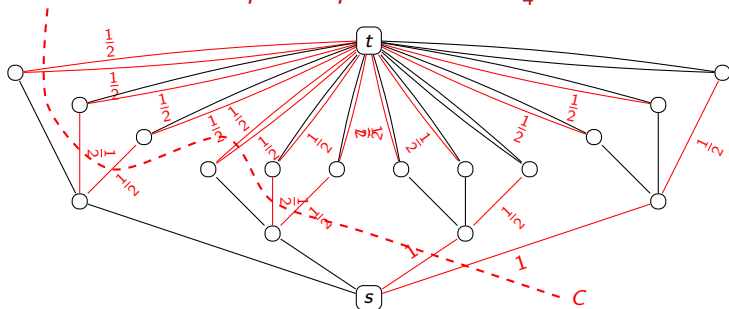
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Graph composition for  $\text{Th}_4^3$ :



$x = 1100 \Rightarrow w_-(x) = 6$

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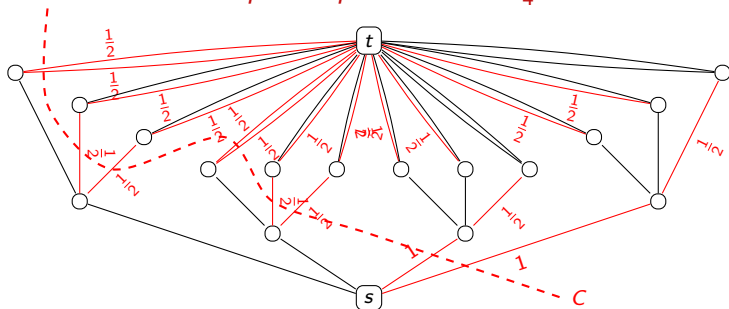
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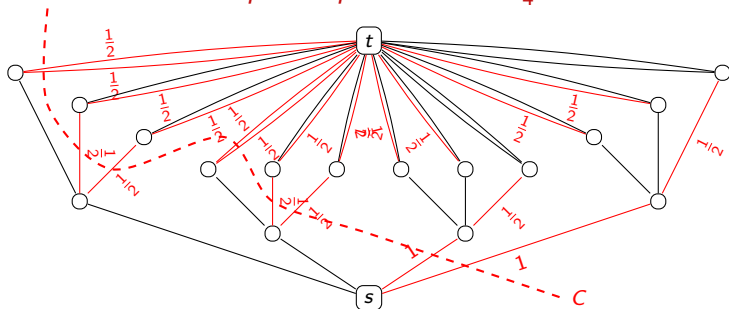
$$\textcircled{2} w_+(x) = \frac{1}{|x| - k + 1}$$

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$$\textcircled{4} C(\mathcal{P}) = \sqrt{k(n - k + 1)}.$$

$$\textcircled{5} \Rightarrow Q(\text{Th}_n^k) \in O(\sqrt{k(n - k + 1)}).$$

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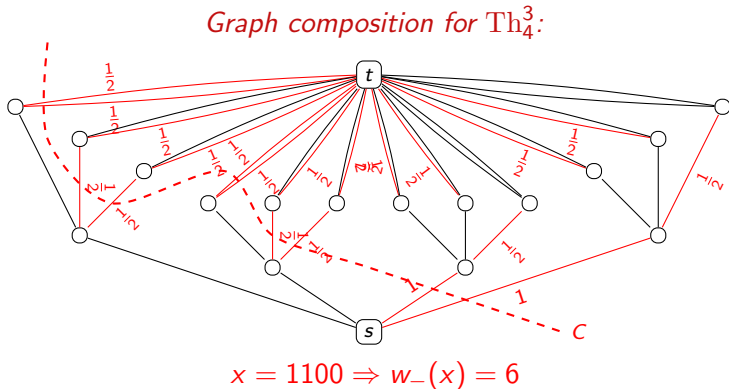
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Known to be optimal!



## Example: the $\Sigma^*20^*2\Sigma^*$ -problem

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$$\Sigma = \{0, 1, 2\}, f : \Sigma^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}.$$

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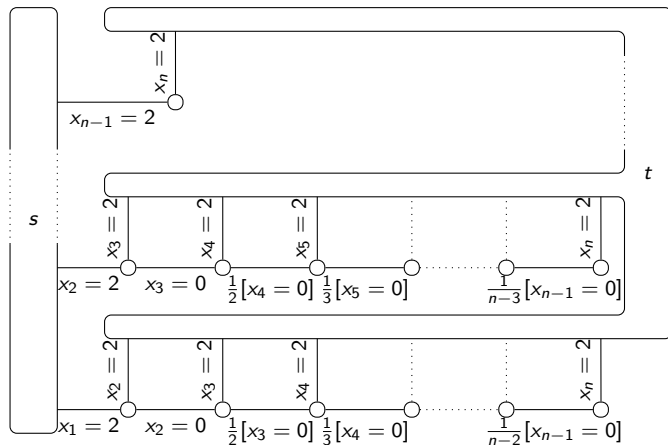
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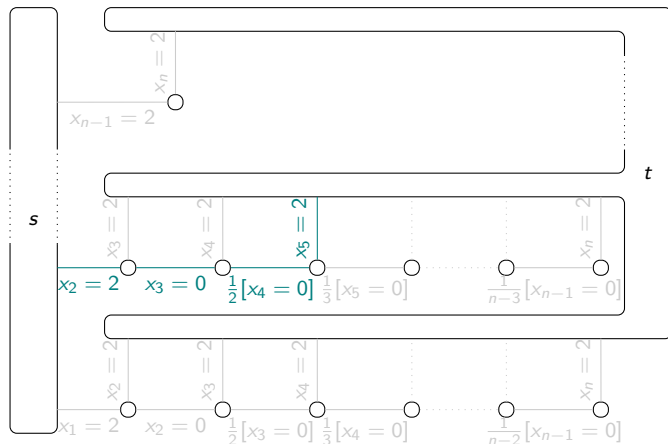
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①  $f(x) = [x \in \Sigma^*20^*2\Sigma^*]$ .

② Let  $x$  be a positive instance.

$x = \dots 0102 \underbrace{000000}_{\text{length } \ell} 2100 \dots$

$\Rightarrow w_+(x, \mathcal{P}) \leq$   
 $1 + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{j} + 1 \in O(\log(n)).$



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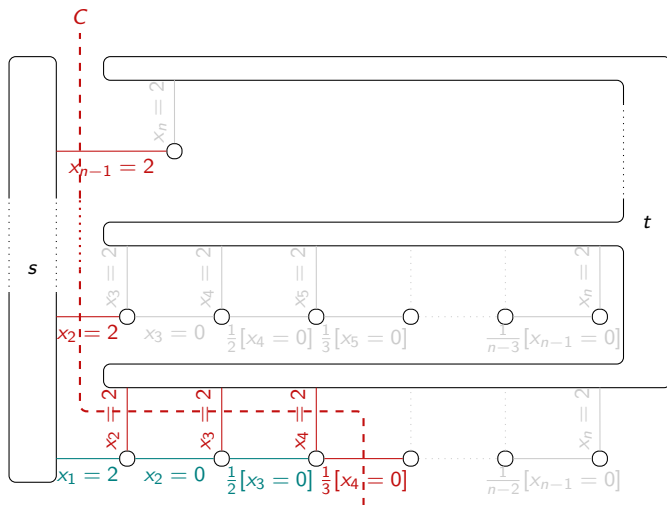
$x = \dots 0102 \underbrace{000000}_{\text{length } \ell} 2100 \dots$

$\Rightarrow w_+(x, \mathcal{P}) \leq 1 + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{j} + 1 \in O(\log(n)).$

③ Let  $x$  be a negative instance.

$x = 2 \underbrace{001}_{\ell_1=3} 102 \underbrace{0001}_{\ell_2=4} 002 \underbrace{001}_{\ell_3=3} \dots$

$\Rightarrow w_-(x, \mathcal{P}) \leq n + \sum_{j=1}^k 2\ell_j \in O(n).$





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$\Sigma = \{0, 1, 2\}$ ,  $f : \Sigma^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ .

①  $f(x) = [x \in \Sigma^*20^*2\Sigma^*]$ .

② Let  $x$  be a positive instance.

$x = \dots 0102 \underbrace{000000}_{\text{length } \ell} 2100 \dots$

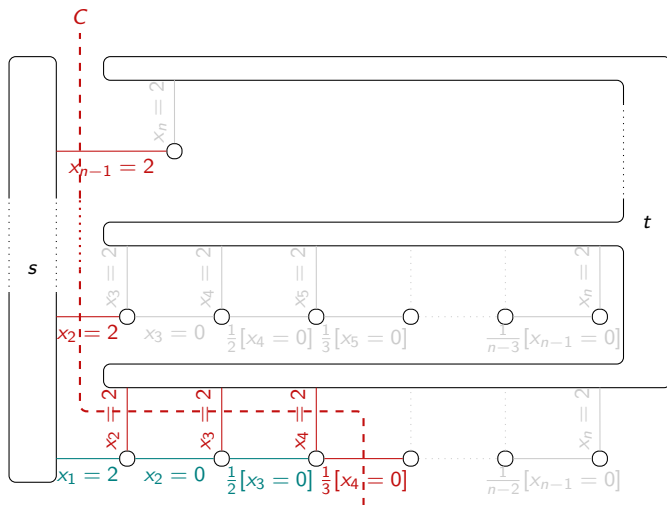
$\Rightarrow w_+(x, \mathcal{P}) \leq 1 + \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \frac{1}{j} + 1 \in O(\log(n)).$

③ Let  $x$  be a negative instance.

$x = 2 \underbrace{001}_{\ell_1=3} 102 \underbrace{0001}_{\ell_2=4} 002 \underbrace{001}_{\ell_3=3} \dots$

$\Rightarrow w_-(x, \mathcal{P}) \leq n + \sum_{j=1}^k 2\ell_j \in O(n).$

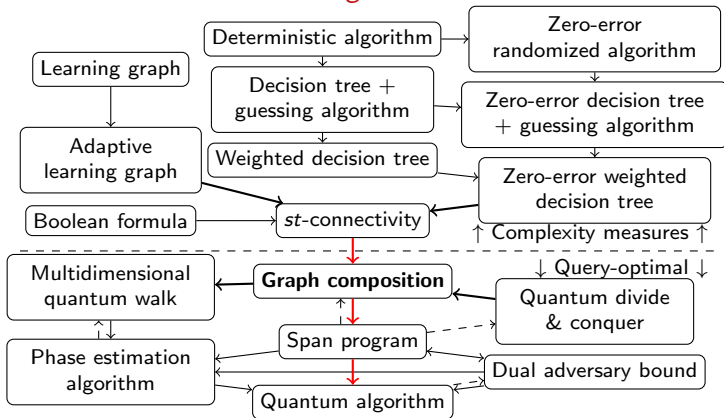
④  $C(\mathcal{P}) \in O(\sqrt{n \log(n)}).$



# Summary (I/II)

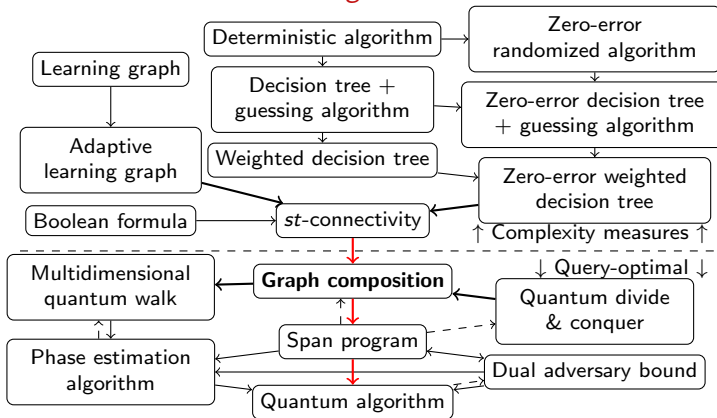
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## *Relations between algorithmic frameworks*

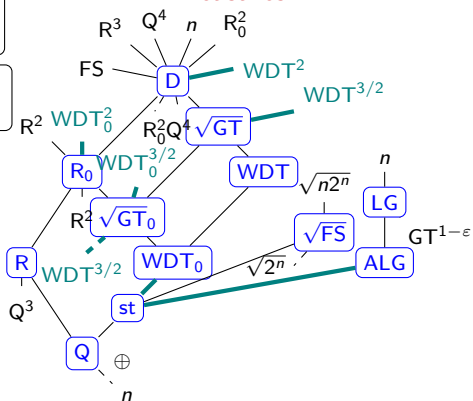


# Summary (I/II)

## Relations between algorithmic frameworks



## Relations between complexity measures



# Summary (II/II)

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*Graph composition:*

# Summary (II/II)

## *Graph composition:*

### ① *Definition:*

- ① *st*-connectivity with edge span programs.

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- ① Exact witness characterization using effective resistances.
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Thanks for your attention!  
ajcornelissen@outlook.com



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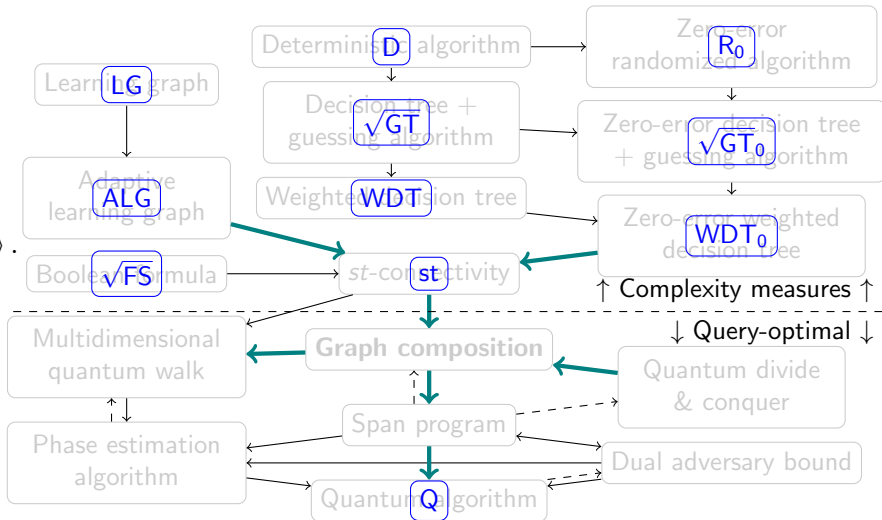
# Quantum algorithmic frameworks (for boolean functions)

**Goal:** Design algorithm for boolean function  $f$ :

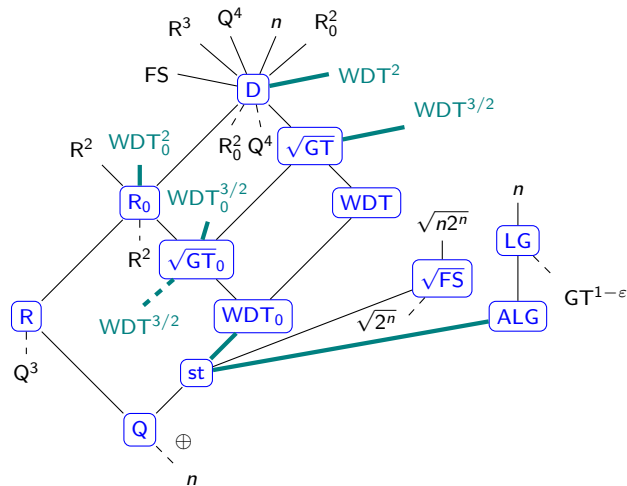
- 1  $f : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ .
- 2  $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \{0, 1\}^n$ .
- 3  $O_x : |j\rangle \mapsto (-1)^{x_j} |j\rangle$ .

**Framework:**

- 1 Define object  $L$ .
- 2 Convert object into quantum algorithm.



# Complexity measure relations for total boolean functions



*Legend:*

