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Entanglement Properties of Quantum Complex Networks

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- Network Theory in a nutshell
- Statistical Mechanics Approach to Network Theory
 - Erdős - Renyi graph model
- Quantum Networks
 - Entanglement Distance
 - Non-local couplings: Katz Centrality
 - Quantum Random Networks
- Toward a full Quantum Graph

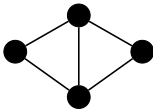
Defining a Complex Network

A simple graph is defined as $G = (V, L)$, where

V is the set of vertices, $|V| = M$,

$L \subseteq \{(a, b) \mid a, b \in V, a \neq b\}$ is the set of edges.

The graph is completely specified by its adjacency matrix A , whose entries are:

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i, j) \in L, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad \text{E.g., } A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \implies \text{Diagram}$$


The local influence of a vertex i is measured by its degree $d_i = \sum_j A_{ij}$.

More generally, centrality measures can be constructed from powers of A , e.g. Katz centrality.

Statistical–Mechanical Description of Graphs

Once the adjacency matrix A is specified, a graph is completely determined. For fixed M , the number of possible simple graphs is:

$$|\mathcal{G}_M| = 2^{\frac{M(M-1)}{2}},$$

since each pair of vertices can either be connected or not.

Therefore, it is natural to **describe graphs statistically**, by introducing a probability measure $P(G)$ over the configuration space \mathcal{G}_M .

Following the maximum entropy principle, we maximise Park and Newman (2004):

$$S = - \sum_G P(G) \log P(G),$$

subject to constraints on the observables of the graph $x_i(G)$.

This yields the canonical form:

$$P(G) = \frac{e^{-H(G)}}{Z}, \quad H(G) = \sum_i \theta_i x_i(G).$$

Erdős–Rényi Ensemble

Consider the constraint on the expected number of edges:

$$x(G) = |L(G)| \equiv \sum_{i < j} A_{ij}(G).$$

Choosing the Hamiltonian $H(G) = \lambda x(G)$, the canonical ensemble becomes

$$P(G) = p^{x(G)}(1-p)^{\binom{M}{2}-x(G)}, \quad p \equiv \frac{1}{e^\lambda + 1},$$

that is, a Bernoulli distribution with p interpreted as the probability of linking.

Basic properties:

$$\langle x \rangle = p \binom{M}{2}, \quad \langle k \rangle = p(M-1).$$

Let S_k denote the size of the k -th largest connected component of the graph. In the sparse scaling $p = c/M$, we have

$$\begin{cases} c < 1: & S_1 \sim O(\log M), \\ c = 1: & S_1 \sim O(M^{2/3}), \\ c > 1: & S_1 \sim O(M). \end{cases}$$

From Classical to Quantum Graphs

We now associate a Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_i \simeq \mathbb{C}^2$ to each vertex $i \in V$.

We associate to each node a generic state $|\phi\rangle$ and to each edge $(i, j) \in L$ a two-body unitary operator U_{ij} .

We assume commuting pairwise interactions: Hein et al. (2006)

$$[U_{ij}, U_{jk}] = 0, \quad \forall i, j, k \in V. \quad (1)$$

This natural condition alone implies also that the graph is undirected, that is $U_{ij} \equiv U_{ji}$. Indeed, the condition (1) implies an Ising hamiltonian of the kind:

$$H = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i < j} \theta_{ij} \sigma_z^{(i)} \sigma_z^{(j)}$$

up to local $\sigma_z^{(i)}$ unitary operation. Viewed as a quantum circuit, the pairwise operator takes the form

$$U_{ij} = \Pi_0^{(i)} e^{i\frac{\theta_{ij}}{2} \sigma_z^{(j)}} + \Pi_1^{(i)} e^{-i\frac{\theta_{ij}}{2} \sigma_z^{(j)}} \equiv \begin{array}{c} i \\ \text{---} \bullet \text{---} \\ | \\ j \\ \oplus \end{array} \boxed{R_z(-\theta_{ij})} \begin{array}{c} \oplus \\ \text{---} \end{array}$$

Entanglement Distance

As an Entanglement Quantifier, we use the Entanglement Distance (ED) given by Cocchiarella et al. (2020); Vesperini et al. (2023a,b, 2024):

$$E(|G\rangle) = M - \sum_i [\langle G | \sigma^{(i)} | G \rangle]^2, \quad \sigma^{(i)} = (\sigma_1^{(i)}, \sigma_2^{(i)}, \sigma_3^{(i)}) \quad (2)$$

where the graph state $|G\rangle$ is given by:

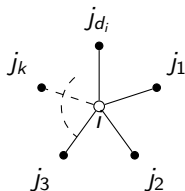
$$|G\rangle = \left[\prod_{(i,j) \in L} U_{ij} \right] |\phi\rangle^{\otimes M}.$$

From (2), we see that the contribution of the single node i to the ED is $E^{(i)} = 1 - [\langle G | \sigma^{(i)} | G \rangle]^2$. However, denoting with $\mathcal{N}(i)$ the set of vertices adjacent to the vertex i , the particular form of U_{ij} allows us to write:

$$U^{(i)} = \prod_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} U_{ij} = \Pi_0^{(i)} \prod_{k=1}^{d_i} R_z^{jk}(-\theta_{ij_k}) + \Pi_1^{(i)} \prod_{k=1}^{d_i} R_z^{jk}(\theta_{ij_k}) \quad (3)$$

Computing the Entanglement Distance

The operator $U^{(i)}$ in (3), hence, denotes the subgraph associated to the neighbourhood of node i , as a star graph:



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

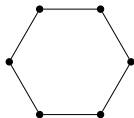
Then, denoting by $m = \langle \phi | \sigma_z | \phi \rangle$, the computation of $E^{(i)}$ with the operator in (3) yields De Simone and Franzosi (2025a,b):

$$E^{(i)} = (1 - m^2) \left(1 - \prod_{k=1}^{d_i} r_{ij_k}^2 \right), \quad r_{ij_k}^2 = 1 - (1 - m^2) \sin^2 \theta_{ij_k} \quad (4)$$

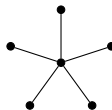
In the framework of direct linking via A_{ij} , the network structure enters via $\theta_{ij} \rightarrow \theta_{ij} A_{ij}$

Topology dependence: Ring vs Star

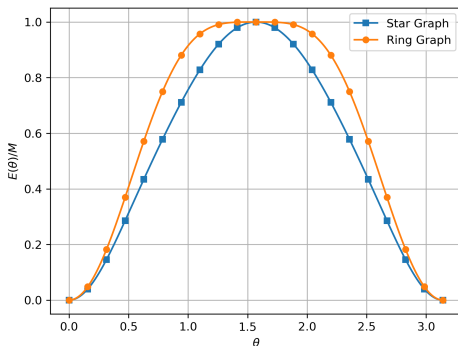
Ring graph C_M



Star Graph S_M



$$E_{C_M}(\theta)/M = (1 - m^2)(1 - r^4) \quad E_{S_M}(\theta)/M = (1 - m^2)\left(1 - \frac{1}{6}r^2(5 + r^8)\right)$$

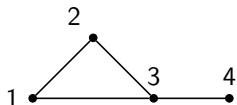


Katz-weighted interactions

So far, interactions were purely local, $\theta_{ij} \propto A_{ij}$. Recall that:

$(A^k)_{ij}$ = number of walks of length k between i and j .

Example: Consider the following graph



$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Nodes 1 and 4 are not adjacent, yet they are connected by a path. Should their interaction vanish?

Katz's idea: a node influences another if it can be reached through walks of any length. Therefore, we define an effective coupling:

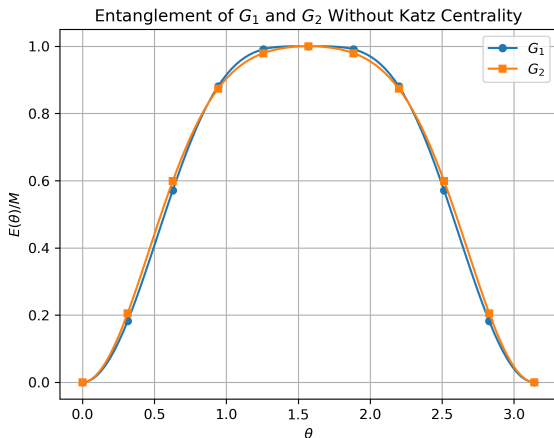
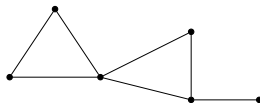
$$\theta_{ij} = \theta \left(A_{ij} + \sum_{k=2}^K \beta^{k-1} (A^k)_{ij} \right).$$

Example **without** Katz Centrality

Graph G_1



Graph G_2

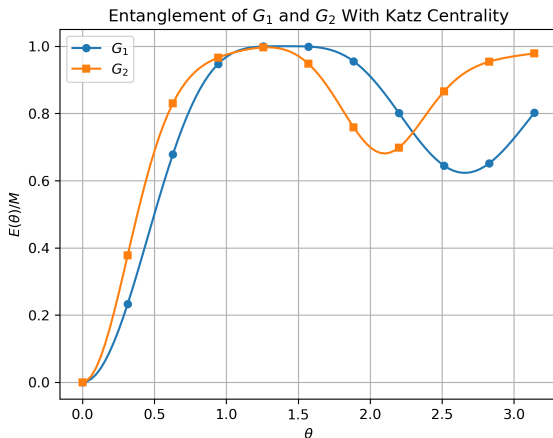
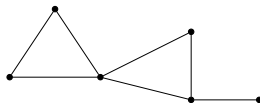


Example with Katz Centrality

Graph G_1



Graph G_2



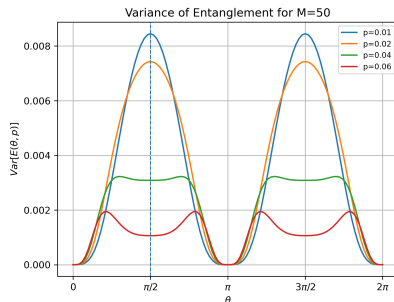
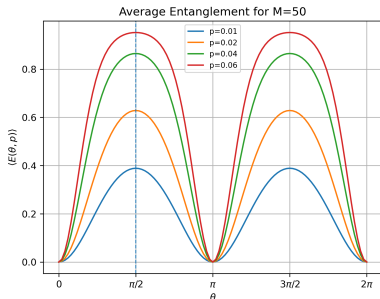
What about Erdős–Rényi Ensemble?

In a graph ensemble \mathcal{G}_M , each realization G occurs with probability $\mathbb{P}(G)$. In this framework, we can calculate averaged quantities. In the simplest case $\theta_{ij} = \theta A_{ij}$ and $m = 0$, for the Erdős–Rényi ensemble mean and fluctuations of $E(G)$ read:

$$\langle E(\theta, p) \rangle = 1 - \beta^{M-1}.$$

$$\text{Var}[E(\theta, p)] = \frac{1}{M} \alpha^{M-1} + \frac{M-1}{M} \alpha \beta^{2(M-2)} - \beta^{2(M-1)}$$

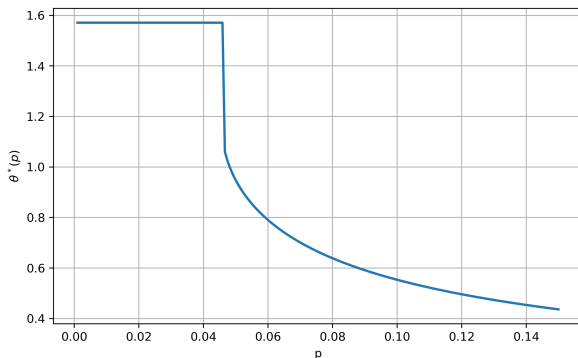
with $\alpha = 1 - p + pt^2$, $\beta = 1 - p + pt$ and $t = \cos^2 \theta$.



Entanglement transition?

Curiously, the maximum in the variance, $\theta^*(p) = \arg \max_{\theta \in [0, \pi]} \text{Var}[E(\theta, p)]$, changes as a function of p . In particular:

$$\begin{cases} \theta^* = \frac{\pi}{2} & \text{for } p < p_{lim}(M) \\ \theta^* < \frac{\pi}{2} & \text{for } p > p_{lim}(M) \end{cases} \quad p_{lim} \simeq \frac{1.83}{M}$$



Toward a full quantum graph?

Above we saw the exact hamiltonian of Erdős–Rényi model, that is $H(G) = \lambda m(G)$. What if we add some more term? The hamiltonian

$$H(G) = -J \sum_i d_i^2(G) - B \sum_i d_i(G)$$

is known as 2-star model Park and Newman (2004).

Erdős–Rényi ensemble arises as the mean field description of this model. What if we quantize the graph itself? Namely, by introducing basis states $|s_{ij}\rangle$ such that $A_{ij}|s_{ij}\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(1 + s_{ij})|s_{ij}\rangle$, with $s_{ij} = \pm 1$. Equivalently, $A_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \tau_{ij}^{(z)})$, with $\tau_{ij}^{(z)}$ acting as a σ_z matrix for the link-qubit ij .

However, this hamiltonian is diagonal on this basis \rightarrow we introduce a transverse field acting on the link degrees of freedom

Toward a full quantum graph?

The full hamiltonian takes the form:

$$H = -J \sum_i d_i^2 - B \sum_i d_i - \Gamma \sum_{i < j} \tau_{ij}^{(x)} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i < j} \theta_{ij} \sigma_z^{(i)} \sigma_z^{(j)}.$$

Now, many calculations...

Goal: we want averaged quantities. We need the partition function. Important steps: 1) Suzuki-Trotter, 2) Hubbard–Stratonovich ϕ , 3) Mean-field approximation.

Recall that, in a Bernoulli approximation, the mean entanglement is still:

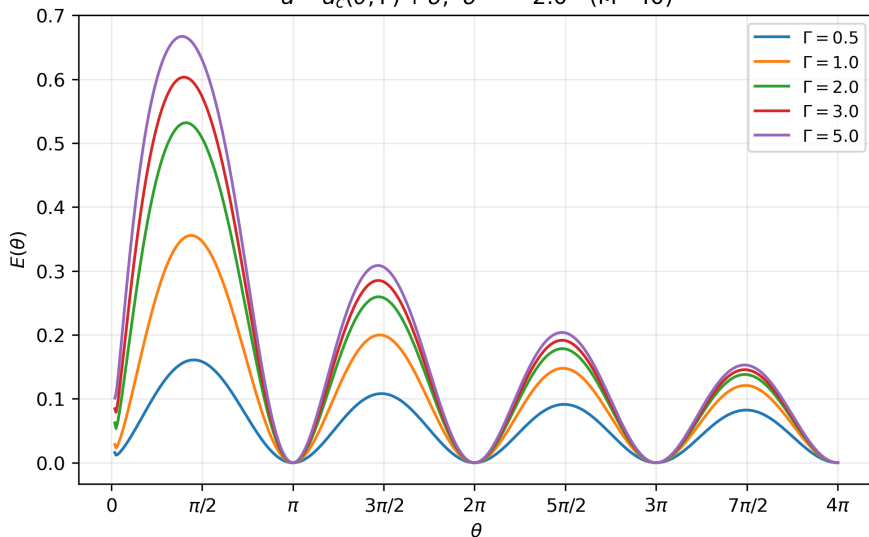
$$\langle E \rangle = (1 - m^2) \left[1 - (1 - p + p r^2)^{M-1} \right]$$

but, now, $m = m(\Gamma, \theta, a)$ and $p = p(\Gamma, \theta, a)$ with $a \equiv J\phi + B$.

There are 3 different regimes!

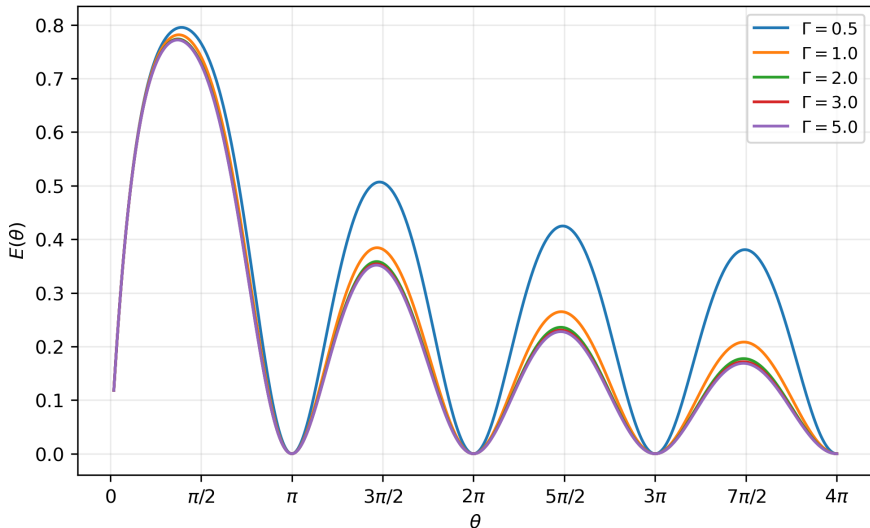
Case $a < 1$

$$a = a_c(\theta; \Gamma) + \delta, \quad \delta = -2.0 \quad (M=40)$$



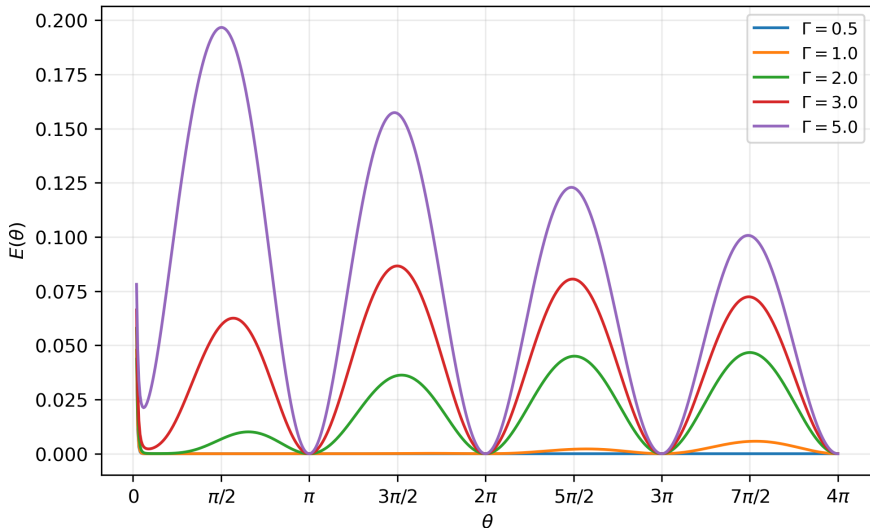
Case $a = 1$

$$a = a_c(\theta; \Gamma) + \delta, \quad \delta = 0.0 \quad (M=40)$$



Case $a > 1$

$$a = a_c(\theta; \Gamma) + \delta, \quad \delta = 2.0 \quad (M=40)$$





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“Always more questions than answers, there are.” - Yoda



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Thank you for your attention!

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