

Bell Inequalities for Graph States

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We investigate the nonlocal properties of graph states. To this aim, we derive a family of Bell inequalities which require three measurement settings for each party and are maximally violated by graph states. In turn, for each graph state there is an inequality maximally violated only by that state. We show that for certain types of graph states the violation of these inequalities increases exponentially with the number of qubits. We also discuss connections to other entanglement properties such as the positivity of the partial transpose or the geometric measure of entanglement.

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Quantum theory predicts correlations which are stronger than the correlations of local hidden variable (LHV) models. By definition, LHV models have to obey the constraints of realism and locality: Any observable has a predetermined value, regardless of whether it is measured or not, and the choice of which observable to measure on one party of a multipartite system does not affect the results of the other parties. These constraints lead to the so-called Bell inequalities which put bounds on the correlations. These inequalities turn out to be violated by certain quantum mechanical states [1,2].

In this Letter we address the question of whether graph states allow a LHV description or not. Graph states form a family of multiqubit states which comprises many popular states such as the Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger (GHZ) states and the cluster states [3]. Graph states are also crucial for applications: All code words in the standard quantum error correcting codes correspond to graph states [4] and one-way quantum computation uses graph states as resources [5]. Recently, graph states have been produced in optical lattices [6] and the basic elements of one-way quantum computing have been demonstrated experimentally [7]. Also, general methods for the generation of graph states have been explored [8].

It is a natural and important question whether these tasks and experiments, including the effects of noise can be described by LHV models. To answer this question, we derive a class of Bell inequalities. Each graph state violates one of these inequalities in the GHZ sense, i.e., by saturating all correlation terms, and for certain types of graph states the violation of local realism increases exponentially with the number of qubits. In this way we show that tasks like measurement based quantum computing and quantum error correction are far from the realm of LHV theories. Note that the nonlocality of special examples of graph states has been shown recently [2].

Graph states are defined as follows. Let G be a *graph*, i.e., a set of n vertices and some edges connecting them. Some interesting graphs are shown in Fig. 1. For each vertex i the neighborhood $N(i)$ denotes the vertices which are connected with i . We can associate to each vertex i a *stabilizing operator* g_i by

$$g_i = X^{(i)} \bigotimes_{j \in N(i)} Z^{(j)}. \quad (1)$$

From now on, $X^{(i)}$, $Y^{(i)}$, $Z^{(i)}$ denote the Pauli matrices σ_x , σ_y , σ_z , acting on the i th qubit. For instance, for the fully connected three vertex graph, the stabilizing operators are $g_1 = X^{(1)}Z^{(2)}Z^{(3)}$, $g_2 = Z^{(1)}X^{(2)}Z^{(3)}$, and $g_3 = Z^{(1)}Z^{(2)}X^{(3)}$. The *graph state* $|G\rangle$ associated with the graph G is the unique n -qubit state fulfilling

$$g_i|G\rangle = |G\rangle, \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n. \quad (2)$$

Physically, the graph describes the perfect correlations in the state $|G\rangle$, since $\langle g_i \rangle = \langle X^{(i)} \bigotimes_{j \in N(i)} Z^{(j)} \rangle = 1$. At the same time, it denotes a possible interaction history leading to $|G\rangle$; i.e., $|G\rangle$ can be produced by an Ising type interaction acting between the connected qubits.

Given the stabilizing operators g_i , we can look at the group of their products, the so-called *stabilizer* [9],

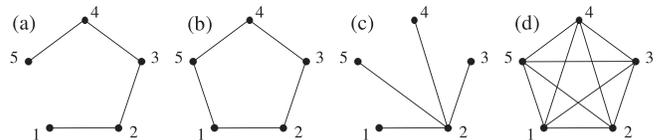


FIG. 1. Types of graphs for the case of five vertices: (a) The linear cluster graph LC_5 . (b) The ring cluster graph RC_5 . (c) The star (or GHZ) graph ST_5 . This describes a GHZ state. (d) The fully connected graph FC_5 . This graph can be obtained from ST_5 by local complementation on the second qubit (see Lemma 4). It also describes a GHZ state [3].

$$S(G) = \{s_j, j = 1, \dots, 2^n\}; \quad s_j = \prod_{i \in I_j(G)} g_i \quad (3)$$

where $I_j(G)$ denotes a subset of the vertices of G . If a certain generator g_k appears in the product in Eq. (3), [i.e., $k \in I_j(G)$], we say that s_j contains g_k . The group $S(G)$ is commutative and has 2^n elements. Of course, for all these elements $s_j|G\rangle = |G\rangle$ holds. A last property we have to mention is the fact that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{2^n} s_i = 2^n |G\rangle\langle G| \quad (4)$$

holds, as can be checked by direct calculation [3].

Now we present our idea for the derivation of Bell inequalities. Given a graph G all the stabilizing operators are of the form

$$s_i(G) = \bigotimes_{k=1}^n O_i^{(k)}, \quad (5)$$

where the single qubit observables are either the identity or one of the Pauli matrices: $O_i^{(k)} \in \{\mathbb{1}, \pm X^{(k)}, \pm Y^{(k)}, \pm Z^{(k)}\}$. We look at the operator

$$\mathcal{B}(G) = \sum_i s_i(G) = \sum_i \bigotimes_{k=1}^n O_i^{(k)}. \quad (6)$$

To give a simple example, this operator for the fully connected graph state for three qubits reads

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}(FC_3) = & \mathbb{1}^{(1)}\mathbb{1}^{(2)}\mathbb{1}^{(3)} + X^{(1)}Z^{(2)}Z^{(3)} + Z^{(1)}X^{(2)}Z^{(3)} \\ & + Z^{(1)}Z^{(2)}X^{(3)} + Y^{(1)}Y^{(2)}\mathbb{1}^{(3)} + Y^{(1)}\mathbb{1}^{(2)}Y^{(3)} \\ & + \mathbb{1}^{(1)}Y^{(2)}Y^{(3)} - X^{(1)}X^{(2)}X^{(3)}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

We take this \mathcal{B} as the Bell operator and compute a bound

$$C(G) \equiv C(\mathcal{B}) = \max_{\text{LHV}} |\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle|, \quad (8)$$

where the maximum of the absolute value of the mean value $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle$ is taken over all LHV models. Here, it suffices to look at deterministic LHV models which have to assign definite values $\{+1, -1\}$ to the observables $O_k^{(i)}$, whenever $O_k^{(i)} \neq \mathbb{1}$ [10]. This is due to the fact that nondeterministic LHV models can be viewed as deterministic LHV models where the hidden variables are not known. In principle, in the definition of \mathcal{B} the Pauli matrices can be replaced by arbitrary dichotomic observables. Since we are interested in graph states, we will, however, always use X, Y, Z .

If we can find for a given graph G a bound $C(G) < 2^n$, the nonlocality of the graph state $|G\rangle$ is detected. This is due to Eq. (4), which implies that for the graph state $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle = 2^n$ holds. Also, the graph state violates the Bell inequality maximally. In the example of Eq. (7) we will see later that $C(FC_3) = 6$. This gives rise to the Bell inequality $|\langle \mathcal{B}(FC_3) \rangle| \leq 6$ which is violated by the state $|FC_3\rangle$. In the following, it will also be useful to compare the strength

of the Bell inequalities by the normalized parameter $\mathcal{D}(G) =: C(G)/2^n$ or $1/\mathcal{D}$. Note that we have a valid Bell inequality whenever $\mathcal{D} < 1$.

So the main task is to find the value of $C(G)$ or $\mathcal{D}(G)$. An exact calculation is, in general, very demanding. However, as we will show, it is quite easy to obtain bounds on $\mathcal{D}(G)$ depending on the structure of the graph G , especially when we can identify some subgraphs where the bounds are already known. Together with the exact calculation of $\mathcal{D}(G)$ for graphs with a small number of qubits this allows us to derive some general results for arbitrary graphs. Let us first note two useful facts about the dependence of \mathcal{D} on the LHV models.

Lemma 1.—We can restrict our attention to LHV models which assign +1 to all Z measurements.

Proof.—In an element s_j of the stabilizer we have $O^{(i)} \in \{Y^{(i)}, Z^{(i)}\}$ iff the number of Y and X in $N(i)$ is odd. So if a LHV model assigns -1 to $Z^{(i)}$, we can, by changing the signs for $Z^{(i)}, Y^{(i)}$ and for all $X^{(k)}$ and all $Y^{(k)}$ with $k \in N(i)$, obtain a LHV model with the same mean value of \mathcal{B} and the desired property. \square

Lemma 2.—Let \mathcal{B} be a Bell operator for an arbitrary graph and let \mathcal{B}' be the Bell operator which is obtained from \mathcal{B} by making a permutation

$$P : \{\mathbb{1}^{(i)}, X^{(i)}, Y^{(i)}, Z^{(i)}\} \rightarrow \{\mathbb{1}^{(i)}, X^{(i)}, Y^{(i)}, Z^{(i)}\} \quad (9)$$

of the observables on one qubit. Then $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{B}) = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{B}')$.

Proof.—It suffices to show the Lemma for a transposition $O^{(i)} \leftrightarrow \tilde{O}^{(i)}$. Some transpositions are a renaming of variables, and the interesting transpositions are of the type $A^{(i)} \leftrightarrow \mathbb{1}^{(i)}$ with $A^{(i)} = X^{(i)}, Y^{(i)}, Z^{(i)}$, say $A^{(i)} = X^{(i)}$ for definiteness. If a given LHV model LHV₁ assigns +1 to $X^{(i)}$ the transposition $X^{(i)} \leftrightarrow \mathbb{1}^{(i)}$ does not change $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle$. If the LHV model assigns -1 to $X^{(i)}$ we can construct a new LHV model LHV₂ from LHV₁ by flipping the signs from $Y^{(i)}, Z^{(i)}$. This fulfills $\langle \mathcal{B}' \rangle_{\text{LHV}_1} = -\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle_{\text{LHV}_2}$. This proves the claim, since C is defined via the absolute value. \square

Now we derive an estimate for $\mathcal{D}(G)$, when G is built out of two other graphs G_1 and G_2 in a certain way.

Lemma 3.—Let G_1, G_2 be two graphs and let G be the graph which comprises G_1 and G_2 and one single connection between one vertex of G_1 and one of G_2 , i.e., $G = G_1 - G_2$. Then

$$\mathcal{D}(G) \leq \mathcal{D}(G_1)\mathcal{D}(G_2). \quad (10)$$

Proof.—The proof is given in the Appendix. \square

It is much more demanding to derive bounds on $\mathcal{D}(G)$ when G is made out of subgraphs in a more complicated way than the way above. However, it is easy to see that $\mathcal{D}(G) < 1$ whenever G contains a subgraph G_1 with $\mathcal{D}(G_1) < 1$. This is due to the fact that the stabilizer of G_1 is a subset of the stabilizer of G up to some extra Z terms which can be neglected due to Lemma 1.

Finally, we want to show the invariance of \mathcal{D} under the so-called *local complementation* of a graph. This trans-

formation acts as follows: One picks up a vertex i_0 and inverts the neighborhood $N(i_0)$; i.e., all connections between two vertices belonging to $N(i_0)$ are cut and vertices in $N(i_0)$ which were unconnected become connected. Connections between $N(i_0)$ and the rest of the graph are not affected. To give an example the graph ST_n can be transformed by a local complementation on the central qubit into the graph FC_n (see Fig. 1). The local complementation of a graph acts on the graph state as a local unitary transformation of the (local) Clifford group [3,11]. This means that it transforms on each qubit Pauli matrices into Pauli matrices. So we have:

Lemma 4.—Let G_1 be a graph and G_2 be a graph which arises from G_1 by local complementation. Then $\mathcal{D}(G_1) = \mathcal{D}(G_2)$.

Proof.—Since the local complementation maps Pauli matrices to Pauli matrices on each qubit, \mathcal{D} is not changed due to Lemma 2. \square

It is now time to calculate $\mathcal{D}(G)$ for small graphs (see Table I). This can be done by checking $\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle$ for all the 8^n LHV models by computer. Here, Lemma 1 reduces the effort significantly.

Let us shortly discuss these results. First, note that *all* of the states in the table violate a Bell inequality of the type $|\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle| \leq C(G)$ since for all states and n in Table I $\mathcal{D}(G) < 1$ holds. Then, it is remarkable, that long linear chains and large rings have a small \mathcal{D} (i.e., the violation of the Bell inequality is large), while the violation for the GHZ state is not so large. This in contrast to the usual Mermin inequality for several qubits. Because of Lemma 4, the values $\mathcal{D}(ST_n)$ and $\mathcal{D}(FC_n)$ always coincide. However, it is interesting that $\mathcal{D}(FC_6) \neq \mathcal{D}(FC_3)\mathcal{D}(FC_3)$, thus a generalization of Lemma 3 to arbitrary connections between the graphs is not true. In general, we have:

Theorem 1.—Any graph state violates local realism.

Proof.—If the graph consists only of two connected vertices, the graph state is equivalent to a two qubit singlet state, which violates the original Bell inequality [1]. Connected graphs with more vertices always contain a subgraph with three vertices. Because of Table I and the argumentation after Lemma 3 this implies that the graph state violates local realism. \square

Theorem 2.—Let G_1, G_2, G_3, \dots be a family of tree graphs (i.e., graphs which do not contain any closed rings) with an increasing number of vertices such that each G_i contains as a subgraph a linear chain of a size which increases linearly with i . Then violation of a Bell inequality

for $|G_i\rangle$ increases exponentially with i . Similar statements hold for other families of graphs.

Proof.—From Lemma 3 and Table I it follows that for linear cluster graphs LC_i the value $1/\mathcal{D}(LC_i)$ increases exponentially. For tree graphs Lemma 3 can be applied again to show that $\mathcal{D}(G_i)$ is smaller than the \mathcal{D} from the longest linear cluster in G_i . \square

Let us compare the Bell inequalities with other entanglement properties. Here, our restriction to the observables X, Y, Z becomes crucial. A Bell inequality $|\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle| \leq C(G)$ is equivalent to a witness of the type

$$\mathcal{W} = \mathcal{D}(G) - |G\rangle\langle G|; \quad (11)$$

i.e., a quantum mechanical state violates the Bell inequality iff $\langle \mathcal{W} \rangle < 0$ [10]. This has two consequences. First, since all fully separable states $|\psi\rangle = |a\rangle|b\rangle \dots |n\rangle$ admit a LHV description, here $\mathcal{D}(G) \geq \max_{|a\rangle|b\rangle \dots |n\rangle} |\langle a, b, \dots, n | G \rangle|^2$ has to hold. The quantity $1 - \max_{|a\rangle|b\rangle \dots |n\rangle} |\langle a, b, \dots, n | G \rangle|^2$ has been shown to be an entanglement monotone for multipartite systems, the so-called *geometric measure of entanglement* [12]. So our bounds on C also deliver lower bounds for this measure of entanglement for graph states. In turn, the fact that the geometric measure equals $1/2$ for all GHZ states implies that always $\mathcal{D}(ST_n) \geq 1/2$. Second, we can state:

Theorem 3.—If $\mathcal{D}(G) \geq 1/2$ then the Bell inequality $|\langle \mathcal{B} \rangle| \leq C(G)$ detects only states which have a negative partial transpose with respect to each partition.

Proof.—Let us fix a bipartite splitting for the multipartite system. The graph state has a Schmidt decomposition $|G\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i |ii\rangle$ with respect to this splitting. It is known that then $1/k \leq a_0^2 \leq 1/2$ if a_0 is the biggest Schmidt coefficient [13]. If we define $|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^k |ii\rangle/\sqrt{k}$ it is also known that the witness $\tilde{\mathcal{W}} = \mathbb{1}/k - |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ detects only states which have a nonpositive partial transpose with respect to this partition [14]. However, the witness \mathcal{W} detects even less states, since $\mathcal{W} - ka_0^2 \tilde{\mathcal{W}} = (\mathcal{D} - a_0^2) \mathbb{1} - |G\rangle\langle G| + ka_0^2 |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| \geq ka_0^2 |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| - |G\rangle\langle G| \geq 0$ which implies that $\langle \mathcal{W} \rangle < 0$ only if $\langle \tilde{\mathcal{W}} \rangle < 0$. \square

In conclusion, we have derived a family of Bell inequalities for multipartite systems based on the graph state formalism. These inequalities are maximally violated by graph states and allow the detection of the nonlocality of all graph states. Also, the inequalities can be related to other topics as the geometric measure of entanglement and the criterion of the partial transposition. The fact that graph states do not admit a LHV model strongly suggests that tasks like measurement based quantum computation and quantum error correction cannot be described within classical physics.

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TABLE I. Value for $\mathcal{D}(G)$ for different interesting graphs (see Fig. 1) and different numbers of qubits n .

n	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
LC_n	3/4	3/4	5/8	9/16	8/16	7/16	25/64	22/64
RC_n	3/4	3/4	5/8	7/16	7/16	6/16	21/64	19/64
ST_n	3/4	3/4	5/8	10/16	9/16	9/16	34/64	34/64
FC_n	3/4	3/4	5/8	10/16	9/16	9/16	34/64	34/64

Appendix.—Here we give the proof of Lemma 3. Let us consider a given LHV model and assume that the connection is between the vertices $i_0 \in G_1$ and $j_0 \in G_2$. We can write any stabilizing operator of G as $s_{ij}(G) = a_i b_j$ where a_i contains only g_k with $k \in G_1$ and b_j contains only g_k belonging to G_2 . We can arrange the set $\{a_i\} = \alpha_1 \cup \dots \cup \alpha_6$ into six disjoint subsets in the following way: α_1, α_2 contain the a_i where g_{i_0} is absent, α_3, α_4 have an $X^{(i_0)}$ at the vertex i_0 and α_5, α_6 have a $Y^{(i_0)}$. Note that this implies that $\alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5$, and α_6 comprise the a_i which contain g_{i_0} . For $a_i \in \alpha_1, \alpha_3, \alpha_5$ the LHV model gives $\langle a_i \rangle = +1$ while for the $a_i \in \alpha_2, \alpha_4$, or α_6 we have $\langle a_i \rangle = -1$. Let us denote the number of elements in the sets $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5$, and α_6 by p_a, q_a, r_a, s_a, t_a , and u_a . We can define $\gamma_a =: p_a - q_a$, $\delta_a =: r_a - s_a$, and $\varepsilon_a = t_a - u_a$. Then we have $|\langle \mathcal{B}(G_1) \rangle| = |\gamma_a + \delta_a + \varepsilon_a| \leq C(G_1)$. We can do the same ordering for the b_j , introducing b_1, \dots, b_6 and p_b, \dots, u_b and $\gamma_b, \delta_b, \varepsilon_b$, with $|\gamma_b + \delta_b + \varepsilon_b| \leq C(G_2)$.

Let us investigate the relationships between γ, δ , and ε in some more detail. By flipping the sign which is assigned to $X^{(i_0)}$ by the given LHV model we can construct a new LHV model with $|\langle \mathcal{B}(G_1) \rangle| = |\gamma_a - \delta_a + \varepsilon_a| \leq C(G_1)$. We can also flip the signs of $Y^{(i_0)}, X^{(j_0)}$, or $Y^{(j_0)}$ leading to new bounds of the type $|\gamma \pm \delta \pm \varepsilon| \leq C$. Thus, for all 16 combinations of signs

$$|(\gamma_a \pm \delta_a \pm \varepsilon_a)(\gamma_b \pm \delta_b \pm \varepsilon_b)| \leq C(G_1)C(G_2) \quad (\text{A1})$$

holds. Finally, note that the operators s_{ij} can be grouped into 36 groups according to $\tilde{s}_{ij} = \alpha_i b_j$. The mean values $\langle s_{ij} \rangle = \langle a_i b_j \rangle$ would factorize if there were no connection between the graphs. In this case, the Lemma is trivial.

What changes for the $\langle s_{ij} \rangle$ due to the extra connection? The $\langle s_{ij} \rangle$ can be written in a 6×6 block matrix according to the grouping into the \tilde{s}_{ij} , where each block bears the sign of the corresponding $\langle s_{ij} \rangle$. In the blocks \tilde{s}_{ij} with $i \leq 2$ or $j \leq 2$ the extra connection only introduces transformations of the type $Z \leftrightarrow \mathbb{1}$ at i_0 or j_0 , which can be neglected due to Lemma 1. More interesting is the 4×4 block matrix of the blocks \tilde{s}_{ij} with $3 \leq i, j \leq 6$. One can calculate that here the extra connection induces the transformation $\{X^{(i_0)}X^{(j_0)}, X^{(i_0)}Y^{(j_0)}, Y^{(i_0)}X^{(j_0)}, Y^{(i_0)}Y^{(j_0)}\} \mapsto \{Y^{(i_0)}Y^{(j_0)}, -Y^{(i_0)}X^{(j_0)}, -X^{(i_0)}Y^{(j_0)}, X^{(i_0)}X^{(j_0)}\}$ on the vertices i_0 and j_0 . So, depending on the LHV model, this results in this block matrix in two possible changes of signs. They can be written in the following way:

$$\begin{bmatrix} + & - & + & - \\ - & + & - & + \\ + & - & + & - \\ - & + & - & + \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} + & - & - & + \\ - & + & + & - \\ - & + & + & - \\ + & - & - & + \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{bmatrix} - & + & + & - \\ + & - & - & + \\ + & - & - & + \\ - & + & + & - \end{bmatrix}$$

For the first possible transformation we have to show that $|\sum_{ij} \langle s_{ij} \rangle| = |\gamma_a(\gamma_b + \delta_b + \varepsilon_b) + \delta_a(\gamma_b + \delta_b - \varepsilon_b) + \varepsilon_a(\gamma_b - \delta_b + \varepsilon_b)| \leq C(G_1)C(G_2)$. This can be derived from Eq. (A1), distinguishing 64 cases depending on the signs of $\gamma_a, \gamma_b, \delta_a, \delta_b, \varepsilon_a$ and ε_b . For instance, if $\gamma_a, \delta_a, \delta_b \geq 0$ and $\gamma_b, \varepsilon_a, \varepsilon_b < 0$ we use $(\gamma_a + \delta_a + \varepsilon_a) \times (\gamma_b + \delta_b + \varepsilon_b) \leq \gamma_a(\gamma_b + \delta_b + \varepsilon_b) + \delta_a(\gamma_b + \delta_b - \varepsilon_b) + \varepsilon_a(\gamma_b - \delta_b + \varepsilon_b) \equiv \sum_{ij} \langle s_{ij} \rangle \leq -(\gamma_a + \delta_a - \varepsilon_a)(\gamma_b - \delta_b + \varepsilon_b)$, yielding an upper and a lower bound for $\sum_{ij} \langle s_{ij} \rangle$. The proof of the other 63 cases and the second transformation is similar. \square

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