Bigalois extensions and the graph isomorphism game

Michael Brannan, Alex Chirvasitu, Kari Eifler, Sam Harris, Vern Paulsen, Xiaoyu Su, Mateusz Wasilewski

January 1, 2019

Abstract

We study the graph isomorphism game that arises in quantum information theory from the perspective of bigalois extensions of compact quantum groups. We show that every algebraic quantum isomorphism between a pair of (quantum) graphs $X$ and $Y$ arises as a quotient of a certain measured bigalois extension for the quantum automorphism groups $G_X$ and $G_Y$ of the graphs $X$ and $Y$. In particular, this implies that the quantum groups $G_X$ and $G_Y$ are monoidally equivalent. We also establish a converse to this result, which says that every compact quantum group $G$ monoidally equivalent to $G_X$ is of the form $G_Y$ for a suitably chosen quantum graph $Y$ that is quantum isomorphic to $X$. As an application of these results, we deduce that the $*$-algebraic, $C^*$-algebraic, and quantum commuting (qc) notions of a quantum isomorphism between classical graphs $X$ and $Y$ all coincide. Using the notion of equivalence for non-local games, we deduce the same result for other synchronous non-local games, including the synBCS game and certain related graph homomorphism games.

Key words: quantum automorphism group, graph, non-local game, entanglement, monoidal equivalence, bigalois extension, representation category

MSC 2010: 20G42; 46L52; 16T20

1 Introduction

Finite input-output games have received considerable attention in the quantum information theory literature as tools for investigating the structure of quantum correlations. The latter are meant to model the following setup (in one of several ways, depending on the specific chosen model [26]):

The perennial experimenters Alice and Bob, share an entangled quantum state, each performs one of $n$ quantum experiments and returns one of $k$ outputs. The respective quantum correlation is then defined as the collection of conditional probabilities $(p(a, b|x, y))$ of obtaining a given pair of outputs $a, b$ for a given pair of inputs, $x, y$.

To recast this in game theoretic terms one typically proceeds as follows. Alice (A) and Bob (B) are regarded as cooperating players trying to supply “correct” answers to a referee (R) who

*Department of Mathematics, Texas A&M University, mbrannan@math.tamu.edu
†Department of Mathematics, University at Buffalo, achirvas@buffalo.edu
‡Department of Mathematics, Texas A&M University, keifler@math.tamu.edu
§Department of Pure Mathematics, University of Waterloo, sj2harri@uwaterloo.ca
¶Department of Pure Mathematics & The Institute for Quantum Computing, University of Waterloo, vpaulsen@uwaterloo.ca
∥Department of Mathematics, Texas A&M University, xiaoyuegongzi@math.tamu.edu
∗∗Department of Mathematics, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, mateusz.wasilewski@kuleuven.be
communicates with A/B via sets of questions (inputs) $I_A, I_B$. Alice and Bob then reply with answers from their respective sets of outputs $O_A, O_B$. The game rules, which are known to A, B, and R, are embodied by a function $\lambda : O_A \times O_B \times I_A \times I_B \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$, such that A and B win a round of the game if their respective replies $a$ and $b$ to the questions $x$ and $y$ satisfy $\lambda(a, b|x, y) = 1$, and they lose the round otherwise. Prior to the round, A and B can cooperate to develop a winning strategy, but are not allowed to communicate once the game begins. Cooperation consists of a pre-arranged strategy, which can be deterministic or random. We identify probabilistic strategies with the collection of conditional probability densities $(p(a, b|x, y))$ that they produce.

A probabilistic strategy is called **perfect** or **winning**, if the probability that they give an incorrect pair of answers is 0, i.e., $\lambda(x, y, a, b) = 0 \implies p(a, b|x, y) = 0$. The key point is that the set of such conditional probability densities $(p(a, b|x, y))$ that can be obtained via quantum experiments in an entangled state is larger than the set of densities that can be obtained from classical shared randomness. For this reason winning quantum strategies can often be shown to exist when classical ones do not exist.

Our starting point in this context is the graph isomorphism game introduced in [1]. Given two finite graphs $X$ and $Y$ this game has inputs that are the disjoint union of the vertices of $X$ and the vertices of $Y$ and outputs that are the same set. The referee sends A, B each a vertex $x_A, x_B \in V(X) \cup V(Y)$ and receives respective answers $y_A, y_B \in V(X) \cup V(Y)$. Winning conditions require that

- $x_A$ and $y_A$ belong to different graphs;
- ditto for $x_B$ and $y_B$;
- the “relatedness” of the inputs is reflected by that of the outputs: $x_A = x_B$, or are distinct and connected by an edge, or distinct and disconnected if and only if the same holds for the $y$ vertices.

It turns out that the game has a perfect deterministic strategy if and only if the two graphs are isomorphic. This observation motivates the authors of [18] to introduce a notion of quantum isomorphism between finite graphs, relating to the existence of less constrained, random strategies for the graph isomorphism game. Whether or not two finite graphs $X$ and $Y$ are quantum-isomorphic is governed by a $*$-algebra $\mathcal{A}(Iso(X, Y))$, a non-commutative counterpart to the function algebra of the space of isomorphisms $X \rightarrow Y$. More precisely, the algebra of continuous functions on the space of isomorphisms $X \rightarrow Y$ can be recovered as the abelianization of $\mathcal{A}(Iso(X, Y))$.

One is thus prompted to consider “quantum spaces” in the sense of non-commutative geometry: $*$-algebras or $C^*$-algebras, thought of as function algebras on the otherwise non-existent spaces. In the same spirit we will work with quantum graphs (finite-dimensional $C^*$-algebras equipped with some additional structure mimicking an “adjacency matrix” §3.1) and quantum groups i.e. non-commutative $*$-algebras with enough structure to resemble algebras of representative functions on compact groups (§2.5).

As is the case classically, every quantum graph $X$ has a quantum automorphism group $G_X$. The recent papers [18, 19, 20] uncover further remarkable connections between graph isomorphism games and quantum automorphism groups. Moreover, while [18] focuses on classical graphs, [19, 20] consider a more general categorical quantum mechanical framework which leads naturally to the notion of a quantum graphs and the generalization of the graph isomorphism game to that framework.

In particular, [20] obtains a characterization of (finite-dimensional) quantum isomorphic quantum graphs $X, Y$ in terms of simple dagger Frobenius monoids in the category of finite dimensional
representations of the Hopf $\ast$-algebra $\mathcal{O}(G_X)$ of the corresponding quantum automorphism group $G_X$. On the other hand, [18] uses ideas from quantum group theory to establish the equivalence between the existence of $C^*$-quantum isomorphisms for graphs and the existence of perfect strategies for the isomorphism game within the so-called quantum commuting framework.

Here, we continue in the same vein investigating connections between quantum automorphism groups of graphs and the graph isomorphism game, taking a somewhat dual approach to the one in [19, 20]:

We regard the game $\ast$-algebra $\mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y))$ as indicated above, as a non-commutative analogue of the space of isomorphisms $X \to Y$. In particular, we say that $X$ and $Y$ are algebraically quantum isomorphic, and simply write $X \cong_{A^\ast} Y$, if $\mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y)) \neq 0$. Classically, the space of isomorphisms between two graphs is a principal homogeneous bundle over the automorphism groups of both graphs. In other words, if $\text{Iso}_c(X,Y)$ denotes the space of graph isomorphisms $X \to Y$ and $\text{Aut}(X)$ (resp. $\text{Aut}(Y)$) denotes the automorphism group of $X$ (resp. $Y$), then the canonical left/right actions $\text{Aut}(Y) \curvearrowright \text{Iso}_c(X,Y) \curvearrowleft \text{Aut}(X)$ are free and transitive. One of our main results is the quantum analogue of this remark; it is Theorem 4.5 below, and can be paraphrased as follows:

**Theorem** Let $X$ and $Y$ be two quantum graphs. If the quantum isomorphism space $\mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y))$ is non-trivial then it is a quantum principal bi-bundle (bogalos extension) over the quantum automorphism groups $G_X$ and $G_Y$ of $X$ and $Y$ respectively.

This (non-commutative) bundle-theoretic perspective on $\mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y))$ has advantages: Although the construction of $\mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y))$ is purely algebraic and does not assume the existence of any $C^*$-representations of this object, we use the above result to show that this algebra always admits a faithful invariant state whenever it is non-zero (cf. Theorem 4.7), leading to connections with the notion of monoidal equivalence between quantum automorphism groups. Loosely speaking, we say that two compact quantum groups are monoidally equivalent if their categories of finite-dimensional unitary representations are equivalent as rigid $C^*$-tensor categories. Our main result here is an amalgamation of Theorem 4.7 and Theorem 4.11, and says:

**Theorem** Let $X$ be a quantum graph and $G_X$ its quantum automorphism group. Then the following hold:

1. If $Y$ is another quantum graph such that $X \cong_{A^\ast} Y$, then $\mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y))$ admits a faithful state and $G_X$ is monoidally equivalent to the quantum automorphism group $G_Y$. If both $X$ and $Y$ are moreover classical graphs, then $\mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y))$ admits a faithful tracial state.

2. Conversely, for any compact quantum group $G$ monoidally equivalent to $G_X$, one can construct from this monoidal equivalence a quantum graph $Y$, an isomorphism of quantum groups $G \cong G_Y$, and an algebraic quantum isomorphism $X \cong_{A^\ast} Y$.

Recasting all of the above in the context of the (classical) graph isomorphism game, our results show that the condition $\mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y)) \neq 0$ is sufficient to ensure the existence of perfect quantum strategies for this game (Corollary 4.8 and Theorem 4.9):

**Theorem** Two classical graphs $X$ and $Y$ are algebraically quantum isomorphic if and only if the graph isomorphism game has a perfect quantum-commuting (qc)-strategy.

We mention that a weaker version of the above theorem (that assumed the existence of a non-zero $C^*$-algebra representation of $\mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y))$) was recently proved in [18].
Using a notion of $*$-equivalence for non-local games, we also use the above result to deduce the existence of perfect $qc$-strategies from purely algebraic data for synchronous binary constraint system (syncBCS) games and certain related graph homomorphism games (Corollary 5.6 and Corollary 5.7). We find all these results very striking because for generic synchronous games (e.g. the graph homomorphism game) the $*$-algebra $A(G)$ governing the game may be non-zero even if this algebra has no $C^*$-representations (and hence no perfect quantum strategies) [16].

We note also that the above results could be recast in a much broader context – rather than quantum graphs, we could consider arbitrary finite quantum structures: quantum sets (i.e. finite-dimensional $C^*$-algebras with a fixed state) equipped with arbitrary tensors. Input-output isomorphism games could then be constructed as in the case of graphs, and the discussion replicated in that general framework. Our focus on (quantum) graphs is motivated by the contingent fact that the latter have received considerable interest in the literature.

After recalling some preliminary material in Section 2 and generalities on quantum sets and Galois extensions in Section 3 we prove our main results in Section 4. Finally, Section 5 contains further applications to finite input-output games.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Some notation

If $n$ is a natural number, we sometimes write $[n]$ for the ordered set $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$. All vector spaces considered here are over the complex field. We use the standard leg numbering notation for linear operators on tensor products of vector spaces. For example, if $X, Y, Z$ are vector spaces and $T : X \otimes Y \to X \otimes Y$ is a linear map, then $T_{13} : X \otimes Z \otimes Y \to X \otimes Z \otimes Y$ is the linear map which acts as $T$ on the first and third leg of the triple tensor product, and as the identity on the second leg. We also typically denote the identity map on a vector space by $\iota$.

2.2 Games and strategies

We lay out some definitions and a few basic properties of games and strategies. We will primarily be concerned with the graph isomorphism game, the graph homomorphism game and two versions of a game based on solving systems of linear equations over the binary field.

By a two-person finite input-output game we mean a tuple $G = (I_A, I_B, O_A, O_B, \lambda)$ where $I_A, I_B, O_A, O_B$ are finite sets and

$$\lambda : I_A \times I_B \times O_A \times O_B \to \{0, 1\}$$

is a function that represents the rules of the game, sometimes called the predicate. The sets $I_A$ and $I_B$ represent the inputs that the players Alice and Bob can receive, and the sets $O_A$ and $O_B$, represent the outputs that Alice and Bob can produce, respectively. A referee selects a pair $(v, w) \in I_A \times I_B$, gives Alice $v$ and Bob $w$, and they then produce outputs (answers), $a \in O_A$ and $b \in O_B$, respectively. They win the game if $\lambda(v, w, a, b) = 1$ and loose otherwise. Alice and Bob are allowed to know the sets and the function $\lambda$ and cooperate before the game to produce a strategy for providing outputs, but while producing outputs, Alice and Bob only know their own inputs and are not allowed to know the other person’s input. Each time that they are given an input and produce an output is referred to as a round of the game.

We call such a game synchronous provided that: (i) Alice and Bob have the same input sets
and the same output sets, which we denote by $I$ and $O$, respectively, and (ii) $\lambda$ satisfies:

$$\forall v \in I, \lambda(v, v, a, b) = \begin{cases} 0 & a \neq b \\ 1 & a = b \end{cases},$$

that is, whenever Alice and Bob receive the same inputs then they must produce the same outputs. To simplify notation we write a synchronous game as $G = (I, O, \lambda)$.

A deterministic strategy for a game is a pair of functions, $h : I_A \to O_A$ and $k : I_B \to O_B$ such that if Alice and Bob receive inputs $(v, w)$ then they produce outputs $(h(v), k(w))$. A deterministic strategy wins every round of the game if and only if

$$\forall (v, w) \in I_A \times I_B, \quad \lambda(v, w, h(v), k(w)) = 1.$$ 

Such a strategy is called a perfect deterministic strategy. It is not hard to see that for a synchronous game, any perfect deterministic strategy must satisfy, $h = k$.

On the other hand, a strategy for a game is called random if it can happen that for different rounds of the game, when Alice and Bob receive the input pair $(v, w)$ they may produce different output pairs. A random strategy thus yields a conditional probability density $p(a, b|v, w)$, which represents the probability that, given inputs $(v, w) \in I_A \times I_B$, Alice and Bob produce outputs $(a, b) \in O_A \times O_B$. Thus, $p(a, b|v, w) \geq 0$ and for each $(v, w)$,

$$\sum_{a \in O_A, b \in O_B} p(a, b|v, w) = 1.$$

In this paper we identify random strategies with their conditional probability densities, so that a random strategy will simply be a conditional probability density $p(a, b|v, w)$.

A random strategy is called perfect if

$$\lambda(v, w, a, b) = 0 \implies p(a, b|v, w) = 0, \forall (v, w, a, b) \in I_A \times I_B \times O_A \times O_B.$$

Thus, for each round of the game, a perfect strategy gives a winning output with probability 1.

Given a particular set of conditional probability densities, one can ask if the game not only has a perfect random strategy, but has one that belongs to a particular set of densities. The different kinds of probability densities that are studied in this context generally fall into two types: There are the local (loc) densities, also called the classical densities, which arise from ordinary random variables defined on probability spaces, and then there are the quantum densities that arise from the random outcomes of, especially, entangled quantum experiments. However, there are several different mathematical models for describing the densities obtained from quantum experiments. These models lead to sets of conditional probability densities know variously as the quantum (q), quantum spatial (qs) (or sometimes quantum tensor), quantum approximate (qa), and quantum commuting (qc) models.

Rather than go into a long explanation of the definitions of each of these sets, which is done many other places, we refer the reader to [17], for their definitions and merely summarize some of their basic relations below. Given $n$ inputs and $k$ outputs, we denote the set of conditional probability densities $p(a, b|v, w)$ that belong to each of these sets by $C_t(n, k)$, where $t$ can be loc, q, qs, qa or qc. The following containments are known:

$$C_{\text{loc}}(n, k) \subseteq C_q(n, k) \subseteq C_{\text{qs}}(n, k) \subseteq C_{\text{qa}}(n, k) \subseteq C_{\text{qc}}(n, k).$$

Moreover, for $n, k \geq 2$, it is known that $C_{\text{loc}}(n, k) \neq C_q(n, k)$. While for $n \geq 5, k \geq 2$, we have $C_{\text{qs}}(n, k) \neq C_{\text{qa}}(n, k)$ by [14], and for $n \geq 5, k \geq 3$, we have $C_q(n, k) \neq C_{\text{qs}}(n, k)$ [10]. The most
famous question is whether or not \( C_{qa}(n,k) = C_{qc}(n,k) \), \( \forall n,k \geq 2 \), since this is known to be equivalent to Connes’ embedding conjecture \([23]\).

We shall say that a game has a \textit{perfect t-strategy} provided that it has a perfect random strategy that belongs to one of these sets, where \( t \) can be either \( \text{loc}, q, qs, qa \) or \( qc \). Moreover, we work with even broader classes of strategies we term \( C^* \) and \( A^* \) (the latter being the broadest, i.e. weakest class; see Definition 2.2).

### 2.3 The \(*\)-algebra of a synchronous game

In \([22]\) a \(*\)-algebra was affiliated with the graph homomorphism game, \( \text{Hom}(X,Y) \), whose representation theory determined whether or not a perfect t-strategy existed (see Section 2.4 for definitions). Later in \([24]\) and \([16, 17]\) these ideas were extended to any synchronous game. We begin by recalling the \(*\)-algebra of a synchronous game and summarizing these results. This \(*\)-algebra is defined by generators and relations arising from the rule function of the game.

Let \( G = (I, O, \lambda) \) be a synchronous game and assume that the cardinality of \( I \) is \( |I| = n \) while the cardinality of \( O \) is \( |O| = m \). We will often identify \( I \) with \( \{0, ..., n-1\} \) and \( O \) with \( \{0, ..., m-1\} \).

We let \( F(n,m) \) denote the free product of \( n \) copies of the cyclic group of order \( m \) and let \( C[F(n,m)] \) denote the complex \(*\)-algebra of the group. We regard the group algebra as a \(*\)-algebra, where for each group element \( g \) we have \( g^* = g^{-1} \).

For each \( v \in I \) we have a unitary generator \( u_v \in C[F(n,m)] \) such that \( u_v^m = 1 \). If we set \( \omega = e^{2\pi i/m} \) then the eigenvalues of each \( u_v \) is the set \( \{\omega^a : 0 \leq a \leq m-1\} \). The “orthogonal projection” onto the eigenspace corresponding to \( \omega^a \) is given by

\[
e_{v,a} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} (\omega^{-a} u_v)^k,
\]

and these satisfy

\[
1 = \sum_{a=0}^{m-1} e_{v,a} \ \text{and} \ u_v = \sum_{a=0}^{m-1} \omega^a e_{v,a}.
\]

The set \( \{e_{v,a} : v \in I, 0 \leq a \leq m-1\} \) is another set of generators for \( C[F(n,m)] \).

We let \( \mathcal{I}(G) \) denote the 2-sided \(*\)-ideal in \( C[F(n,m)] \) generated by the set

\[
\{e_{v,a}e_{w,b} \ | \ \lambda(v,w,a,b) = 0\}
\]

and refer to it as \textit{the ideal of the game G}. We define the \(*\)-algebra of \( G \) to be the quotient

\[A(G) = C[F(n,m)]/\mathcal{I}(G)\].

Note that since \( \lambda(v,v,a,b) = 0, \forall v, a \neq b \), in the quotient we will have that \( e_{v,a}e_{v,b} = 0 \).

It is not hard to see that if we, alternatively, started with the free \(*\)-algebra generated by \( \{e_{v,a} : v \in I, 0 \leq a \leq m-1\} \) and formed the quotient by the two-sided ideal generated by:

- \( e_{v,a} - e_{v,a}^* \), \( \forall v, a \),
- \( e_{v,a} - e_{v,a}^2 \), \( \forall v, a \),
- \( 1 - \sum_a e_{v,a} \), \( \forall v \)
- \( e_{v,a}e_{w,b} \), \( \forall v, w, a, b \) such that \( \lambda(v,w,a,b) = 0 \),
then we obtain the same $*$-algebra. We are not asserting that this algebra is non-zero. In fact, it can be the case that the identity belongs to the ideal, in which case the algebra is zero.

The following is a summary of the results obtained in [16] and [17] and illustrates the importance of this algebra.

**Theorem 2.1** ([16, 17]) Let $G = (I, O, \lambda)$ be a synchronous game.

1. $G$ has a perfect deterministic strategy if and only if $G$ has a perfect loc-strategy if and only if there exists a unital $*$-homomorphism from $A(G)$ to $C$.

2. $G$ has a perfect q-strategy if and only if $G$ has a perfect qs-strategy if and only if there exists a unital $*$-homomorphism from $A(G)$ to $B(H)$ for some non-zero finite dimensional Hilbert space.

3. $G$ has a perfect qa-strategy if and only if there exists a unital $*$-homomorphism of $A(G)$ into an ultrapower of the hyperfinite $II_1$-factor,

4. $G$ has a perfect qc-strategy if and only if there exists a unital $C^*$-algebra $C$ with a faithful trace and a unital $*$-homomorphism $\pi : A(G) \to C$.

This theorem motivates the following definitions.

**Definition 2.2** Let $G$ be a synchronous game. We say that $G$ has a perfect $A^*$-strategy provided $A(G)$ is non-zero, and we say that $G$ has a perfect $C^*$-strategy provided that there is a unital $*$-homomorphism from $A(G)$ into $B(H)$ for some non-zero Hilbert space $H$.

### 2.4 Graphs and related games

A graph $X$ is specified by a vertex set $V(G)$ and an edge set $E(X) \subseteq V(X) \times V(X)$, satisfying $(v, v) \notin E(X)$ and $(v, w) \in E(X) \implies (w, v) \in E(X)$. Given two graphs $X$ and $Y$, a graph homomorphism from $X$ to $Y$ is a function $f : V(X) \to V(Y)$ with the property that $(v, w) \in E(X) \implies (f(v), f(w)) \in E(Y)$. We write $X \to Y$ to indicate that there exists a graph homomorphisms from $X$ to $Y$. Graph homomorphisms encapsulate many familiar graph theoretic parameters. If we let $K_c$ denote the complete graph on $c$ vertices, i.e., the graph where every pair of vertices is connected by an edge, then

- the chromatic number of $X$ is $\chi(X) = \min\{c : \exists X \to K_c\}$,
- the clique number of $X$ is $\omega(X) = \max\{c : \exists K_c \to X\}$,
- the independence number of $X$ is $\alpha(X) = \max\{c : \exists K_c \to \overline{X}\}$,

where $\overline{X}$ denotes the graph complement of $X$, i.e., the graph whose edge set is the complement of $X$’s.

The graph homomorphism game from $X$ to $Y$, which we shall denote by $Hom(X,Y)$, is a synchronous game with inputs $I_A = I_B = V(X)$ and outputs $O_A = O_B = V(Y)$. Alice and Bob win a round provided that whenever they receive inputs that are an edge in $X$, then their outputs are an edge in $Y$ and that whenever Alice and Bob receive the same vertex in $X$ they produce the same vertex in $Y$. This is also a synchronous game.

Note that a perfect deterministic strategy for the graph homomorphism game from $X$ to $Y$ is a function $h : V(X) \to V(Y)$ that is a graph homomorphism. In particular, a perfect deterministic strategy exists if and only if $\exists X \to Y$. Similarly, we say that there is a $t$-homomorphism from $X$ to $Y$ and write $X \overset{t}{\to} Y$ if and only if there exists a perfect $t$-strategy for the graph homomorphism game from $X$ to $Y$ for $t = q, qs$, etc.
2.4.1 The graph isomorphism game

Two graphs $X$ and $Y$ are isomorphic if and only if there exists a one-to-one onto function $f : V(X) \to V(Y)$ such that $(v, w)$ is an edge in $X$ if and only if $(f(v), f(w))$ is an edge in $Y$. We write $X \simeq Y$ to indicate that $X$ and $Y$ are isomorphic. If we let $A_X$ denote the adjacency matrix of $X$ and analogously for $A_Y$, then it is well-known and easy to check that $X \simeq Y$ if and only if there is a permutation matrix $P$ such that $A_X P = P A_Y$.

The graph isomorphism game, $Iso(X,Y)$ between $X$ and $Y$ is a game with the property that two graphs are isomorphic if and only if there exists a perfect deterministic strategy for $Iso(X,Y)$. It was introduced by Atserias et al. [1].

The easiest way to describe the rules for this game is in terms of the relation between a pair of vertices. Formally, the relation on a graph is a function $rel : V(X) \times V(X) \to \{0,1,-1\}$ with

- $rel(v,w) = 0 \iff v = w$,
- $rel(v,w) = -1 \iff (v,w) \in E(X)$,
- $rel(v,w) = +1 \iff v \neq w$ and $(v,w) \notin E(X)$.

We remark that the matrix $S_X := (rel(v, w))_{v,w \in V(X)}$ is known as the Seidel adjacency matrix of the graph.

The rules for this game can be stated loosely as requiring that to win, outputs must come from different graphs than inputs, outputs must have the same relations as inputs, and whenever one player’s output is the same as the other player’s input, then the same must hold for the other player. This final rule makes a deterministic strategy be a function and its inverse, instead of just a pair of functions. The input set and output set for this game is the disjoint union of $V(X)$ with $V(Y)$ and

$$\lambda : (V(X) \cup V(Y)) \times (V(X) \cup V(Y)) \to \{0,1\},$$

satisfies $\lambda(v,w,x,y) = 1$ if and only if the following conditions are met:

- $x$ belongs to a different graph than $v$ and $y$ belongs to a different graph than $w$,
- if $v$ and $w$ are both vertices of the same graph, then $rel(v,w) = rel(x,y)$,
- if $v$ and $w$ are from different graphs and $x = w$, then $y = v$,
- if $v$ and $w$ are from different graphs and $y = v$, then $x = w$.

Now it is not hard to see that this game is synchronous and it has a perfect deterministic strategy if and only if $X \simeq Y$. Indeed, if it has a perfect deterministic strategy, then there must be a function $f : V(X) \cup V(Y) \to V(X) \cup V(Y)$ and the rules force $v \in V(X) \implies f(v) \in V(Y)$ and $x \in V(Y) \implies f(x) \in V(X)$. Denoting the restrictions of $f$ to $V(X)$ and $V(Y)$ by $f_1 : V(X) \to V(Y)$ and $f_2 : V(Y) \to V(X)$. The fact that $rel(v,w) = rel(f_1(v), f_1(w))$ tells us that $f_1$ is one-to-one and preserves the edge relationships, since $f_2$ is also one-to-one, $card(V(X)) = card(V(Y))$ and so both $f_1$ and $f_2$ define graph isomorphisms. However, note that the rules of the game do not require that $f_1$ and $f_2$ be mutual inverses.

We will write $X \simeq_t Y$ if and only if this game has a perfect $t$-strategy for $t \in \{loc,q,qa,qc,C^*, A^*\}$.

The following result characterizes $\mathcal{A}(Iso(X,Y))$.

**Proposition 2.3** Let $X = (V(X), E(X))$ and $Y = (V(Y), E(Y))$ be graphs on $n$ vertices. Then $\mathcal{A}(Iso(X,Y))$ is generated by $4n^2$ self-adjoint idempotents $\{e_{v,w} : v, w \in V(X) \cup V(Y)\}$ satisfying:
1. \( e_{g,g'} = 0, \forall g, g' \in V(X) \) and \( e_{h,h'} = 0, \forall h, h' \in V(Y) \).
2. \( e_{g,h}^2 = e_{g,h}^* = e_{g,h}, \forall g \in V(X), h \in V(Y) \).
3. for \( g \in V(X) \) and \( h \in V(Y) \), \( e_{g,h} = e_{h,g} \).
4. \( \sum_{h \in V(Y)} e_{g,h} = 1, \forall g \in V(X) \),
5. \( \sum_{g \in V(X)} e_{g,h} = 1, \forall h \in V(Y) \),
6. \( e_{g,h}e_{h,h'} = 0, \forall h \neq h' \),
7. \( e_{g,h}e_{g',h} = 0, \forall g \neq g' \),
8. \( \sum_{g' : (g,g') \in E(X)} e_{g',h} = \sum_{h' : (h,h') \in E(Y)} e_{g,h'} \), \( \forall g, h \).

**Proof** Recall that for any game, we will have generators, \( e_{x,y}, x, y \in V(X) \cup V(Y) \) with \( e_{x,y}^2 = e_{x,y}^* = e_{x,y}, \sum_y e_{x,y} = 1 \), and \( e_{x,y} e_{x,w} = 0 \) for \( y \neq w \). So (2) and (6) are automatically met.

To see (1), note that if \( g, g' \in V(X) \), then \( \lambda(g, x, g', y) = 0 \), for all \( x, y \). Hence for and fixed \( x \) we have that

\[
e_{g,g'} = e_{g,g'} \left( \sum_y e_{x,y} \right) = \sum_y e_{g,g'} e_{x,y} = 0.
\]

The case that \( h, h' \in V(Y) \) is identical.

Note that (4) follows from (1).

To see (3), note that

\[
e_{h,g} = e_{h,g} \left( \sum_{k \in V(Y)} e_{g,k} \right) = \sum_{k \in V(Y)} e_{h,g} e_{g,k}.
\]

Now \( \lambda(h, g, g, k) = 0 \) unless \( h = k \), so we have that \( e_{h,g} = e_{h,g} e_{g,h} \). A similar calculation shows that \( e_{g,h} = e_{g,h} e_{h,g} \). Hence, \( e_{g,h} = e_{g,h}^* = (e_{g,h} e_{h,g})^* = e_{h,g} e_{g,h} = e_{h,g} \).

Now (5) follows from (3) and (4). Similarly, (7) follows from (3) and (6).

Finally to see (8), we have that

\[
\sum_{g' : (g,g') \in E(X)} e_{g',h} = \left( \sum_{g' : (g,g') \in E(X)} e_{g',h} \right) \left( \sum_{h' \in V(Y)} e_{g,h'} \right) = \sum_{g' : (g,g') \in E(X), h' \in V(Y)} e_{g',h} e_{g,h'} = \sum_{g' : (g,g') \in E(X), (h,h') \in E(Y)} e_{g',h'} e_{g,h'},
\]

since \( \lambda(g', g, h, h') = 0 \) unless \( (h, h') \in E(Y) \). Similarly, one shows that \( \sum_{h' : (h,h') \in E(Y)} e_{g,h'} \) is equal to this latter sum and (8) follows.

**Remark 2.4** A nice compact way to represent the above relations is to consider the \( n \times n \) matrix \( U = \{ e_{g,h} \}_{g \in V(X), h \in V(Y)} \). Then by (2) every entry is a self-adjoint idempotent, while (4) and (5) imply that \( U^* U = UU^* \) is the identity matrix, i.e., that \( U \) is a unitary. We also, by (6) and (7), have that entries in each row and column are pairwise “orthogonal”, i.e., have pairwise 0 product. Such a matrix \( U \) will be referred to as a quantum permutation over the \( * \)-algebra \( A(Iso(X,Y)) \).

Equation (8) implies that \( (1 \otimes A_X)U = U(1 \otimes A_Y) \) where \( A_X \) and \( A_Y \) denote the adjacency matrices of the graphs, and 1 is the unit of the algebra. Thus, Proposition 2.3 can be summarized as saying that \( A(Iso(X,Y)) \) is the \( * \)-algebra generated by \( \{ e_{g,h} : g \in V(X), h \in V(Y) \} \) subject to the relations that \( U = \{ e_{g,h} \} \) is a quantum permutation with \( (1 \otimes A_X)U = U(1 \otimes A_Y) \). We have that \( X \simeq_A Y \) if and only if a non-trivial \( * \)-algebra exists satisfying these relations. ♦
Remark 2.5 Combining Proposition 2.3 with Theorem 2.1, we see that given two graphs $X$ and $Y$ on $n$ vertices:

- $X \simeq q Y$ if and only if there exist a $d$ and projections $E_{g,h} \in M_d$ such that $U = (E_{g,h})$ is a unitary in $M_n(M_d)$ and $(1 \otimes A_X)U = U(1 \otimes A_Y)$,
- $X \simeq_{qa} Y$ if and only if there exist projections $E_{g,h} \in R^\omega$ such that $U = (E_{g,h}) \in M_n(R^\omega)$ is a unitary and $(1 \otimes A_X)U = U(1 \otimes A_Y)$,
- $X \sim_{qc} Y$ if and only if there exists projections $E_{g,h}$ in some C*-algebra $A$ with a trace such that $U = (E_{g,h}) \in M_n(A)$ is a unitary and $(1 \otimes A_X)U = U(1 \otimes A_Y)$,
- $X \simeq_{C^*} Y$ if and only if there exists projections $E_{g,h}$ on a Hilbert space $H$ such that $U = (E_{g,h}) \in M_n(B(H))$ is a unitary and $(1 \otimes A_X)U = U(1 \otimes A_Y)$.

Also, if there exists a unital ∗-homomorphism from $\pi : A(Iso(X,Y)) \rightarrow C$, then $(\pi(e_{g,h})) \in M_n$ will be a permutation matrix, satisfying $A_X(\pi(e_{g,h})) = (\pi(e_{g,h}))A_Y$, which is the classical notion of isomorphism for graphs.

Note that we have the following obvious implications.

$$X \cong Y \implies X \cong_{q} Y \implies X \cong_{qa} Y \implies X \cong_{qc} Y \implies X \cong_{C^*} Y \implies X \cong_{A^*} Y.$$ 

Moreover, it is known that the first two implications are not reversible [1, 17]. The question of whether the third implication holds is still open. The question whether the implications $X \cong_{A^*} Y \implies X \cong_{C^*} Y \implies X \cong_{qc} Y$ hold for generic $X$ and $Y$ had remained open for quite some time. Only very recently the implication $C^* \implies qc$ was obtained in [18]. One of our main results is that the implication $A^* \implies qc$ holds. In other words, $A(Iso(X,Y)) \neq 0$ if and only if $A(Iso(X,Y))$ admits a tracial state. This is somehow surprising, because the same conclusion cannot be made for the algebras $A(Hom(X,Y))$ [16].

2.5 Compact quantum groups

We follow the references [29, 13, 25, 21] for the basics on (C*-algebraic) compact quantum groups.

We begin by recalling that a Hopf algebra is a quadruple $(A, \Delta, S, \epsilon)$ where $A$ is a unital associative algebra with multiplication map $m$, and $\Delta : A \rightarrow A \otimes A$, $S : A \rightarrow A^{op}$, $\epsilon : A \rightarrow C$ are unital algebra morphisms satisfying

1. $(\iota \otimes \Delta)\Delta = (\Delta \otimes \iota)\Delta$ (co-associativity).
2. $m(\iota \otimes S)\Delta = \epsilon(\cdot)1 = m(S \otimes \iota)\Delta$
3. $(\epsilon \otimes \iota)\Delta = (\iota \otimes \epsilon)\Delta = \iota$.

The maps $\Delta, S, \epsilon$ given above are called the comultiplication, counit, and antipode, respectively. We typically just refer to a Hopf algebra with the symbol $A$ if the other structure maps $m, \Delta, S, \epsilon$ are understood and there is no danger of confusion. A Hopf ∗-algebra is a Hopf algebra $A$ where $A$ is a ∗-algebra and the comultiplication and counit are ∗-homomorphisms.

The following definition is (essentially) taken from [13, 6] and is one of many equivalent ones.

Definition 2.6 A compact quantum group (CQG) is a Hopf ∗-algebra $A$ for which there exists a C∗-norm $\| \cdot \|$ on $A$ making the comultiplication $\Delta : A \rightarrow A \otimes A$ continuous with respect to the minimal C∗-tensor norm $\otimes_{\text{min}}$ (in short, we say that $\| \cdot \|$ is $\Delta$-compatible).
The motivating example of a CQG is given by the Hopf \(*\)-algebra \(\mathcal{O}(G)\) of representative functions on a compact group \(G\). Here, \(\Delta: \mathcal{O}(G) \to \mathcal{O}(G \times G) = \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G)\) is the map \(\Delta(f)(s,t) = f(st)\), and \(\epsilon(f) = f(e)\), where \(e\) is the unit. Here the \(C^*\)-norm on \(\mathcal{O}(G)\) is the uniform norm coming from \(\mathcal{C}(G)\), and it is relatively easy to see that this is the unique \(C^*\)-norm making the comultiplication \(\Delta \otimes_{\min} \) continuous.

Motivated by the above example, it is customary to use the symbol \(G\) to denote an arbitrary CQG and write \(A = \mathcal{O}(G)\) for the Hopf \(*\)-algebra associated to \(G\). Here we are viewing \(A\) as a non-commutative algebra of “representative functions” on some “quantum space” \(G\), which comes equipped with a group structure.

Another example of a CQG is given by the Pontryagin dual \(\hat{\Gamma}\) of a discrete group \(\Gamma\). Here \(\mathcal{O}(\hat{\Gamma}) = \mathbb{C} \Gamma\), \(\Delta(\gamma) = \gamma \otimes \gamma\), \(S\gamma = \gamma^{-1}\), and \(\epsilon(\gamma) = 1\) for each \(\gamma \in \Gamma\). In this case, one can in general choose from a variety of \(\Delta\)-compatible \(C^*\)-norms. The two most common ones are the maximal \(C^*\)-norm on \(\mathcal{C} \Gamma\) and the reduced \(C^*\)-norm, the latter being induced by the left regular representation of \(\mathcal{C} \Gamma\) on \(\ell^2\Gamma\).

A few "purely quantum" examples follow.

**Example 2.7** Wang and Van Daele’s universal unitary quantum group \(U^+_F\) [27] associated to a matrix \(F \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})\) is given by
\[
\mathcal{O}(U^+_F) = \text{\(*\)-algebra}(u_{ij}, 1 \leq i, j \leq n \mid u = [u_{ij}] \quad \& \quad (1 \otimes F)[u^*_{ij}](1 \otimes F^{-1}) \text{ are unitary in } M_n(\mathcal{O}(U^+_F)))
\]

together with Hopf-\(*\)-algebra maps \(\Delta(u_{ij}) = \sum_k u_{ik} \otimes u_{kj}, S(u_{ij}) = u^*_{ji}\) and \(\epsilon(u_{ij}) = \delta_{ij}\).

The term universal in the above definition will be made precise in the paragraph following Remark 2.11. For the time being, now we suffice it to say that the quantum groups play the analogous universal role for compact matrix quantum groups that the ordinary compact matrix groups: Any compact matrix group \(G\) arises as a closed quantum subgroup of some \(U^+_F\). That is, there exists a surjective Hopf \(*\)-algebra morphism \(\mathcal{O}(U^+_F) \to \mathcal{O}(G)\).

**Example 2.8** The quantum permutation group \(S_n^+\) on \(n\) points [28] is given by underlying Hopf \(*\)-algebra \(A = \mathcal{O}(S_n^+)\) which is the universal \(*\)-algebra generated by the entries of an \(n \times n\) magic unitary: a matrix \([u_{ij}]_{i,j} \in M_n(A)\) consisting of self-adjoint projections summing up to 1 across all rows and columns, and satisfying the orthogonality relations \(u_{ij}u_{ik} = \delta_{jk}u_{ij}\) and \(u_{kj}u_{ij} = \delta_{ki}u_{ij}\). The Hopf \(*\)-algebra maps \(\Delta, S, \epsilon\) are defined exactly as for \(U^+_F\).

Every compact quantum group \(G\) comes equipped with a unique Haar state, which is a faithful state \(h : \mathcal{O}(G) \to \mathbb{C}\) satisfying the left and right invariance conditions
\[(\iota \otimes h)\Delta = h(\cdot)1 = (h \otimes \iota)\Delta.
\]
The norm on \(\mathcal{O}(G)\) induced by the GNS construction with respect to \(h\) is always a \(\Delta\)-compatible norm, and it is the minimal such \(C^*\)-norm. We denote by \(\mathcal{C}_r(G)\), the corresponding \(C^*\)-algebra (the reduced \(C^*\)-algebra of \(G\)). The universal \(C^*\)-algebra of \(G\), \(\mathcal{C}u(G)\), is the enveloping \(C^*\)-algebra of \(\mathcal{O}(G)\). By universality, this \(C^*\)-norm is also \(\Delta\)-compatible.

**Remark 2.9** Often in the literature compact quantum groups are defined in terms of a pair \((A, \Delta)\) where \(A\) is a unital \(C^*\)-algebra and \(\Delta : A \to A \otimes_{\min} A\) is a co-associative unital \(*\)-homomorphism such that \(\Delta(A)(1 \otimes A)\) and \(\Delta(A)(A \otimes 1)\) are linearly dense in \(A \otimes_{\min} A\). One then obtains the Hopf \(*\)-algebra \(\mathcal{O}(G)\) as a certain dense \(*\)-subalgebra (spanned by coefficients of unitary representations of \(G\), which we describe below).
Let $G$ be a CQG and $H$ a finite dimensional Hilbert space. A representation of $G$ on $H$ is an invertible element $v \in \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes B(H)$ such that 

$$(\Delta \otimes \iota)v = v_{13}v_{23}.$$ 

A representation of $G$ is called unitary if $v \in \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes B(H)$ is unitary. Note that if we fix an orthonormal basis $(e_i^d)_{i=1}^d$ for $H$, then a representation $v \in \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes B(H)$ corresponds to an invertible matrix $v = [v_{ij}] \in M_n(\mathcal{O}(G))$ such that

$$\Delta(v_{ij}) = \sum_{k=1}^d v_{ik} \otimes v_{kj} \quad (1 \leq i, j \leq d).$$

For any CQG, we always have the trivial representation on $\mathbb{C}$ given by $v = 1 \in \mathcal{O}(G) = \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes B(\mathbb{C})$. Given two representations $u \in \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes B(H)$ and $v \in \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes B(H)$, we can always form the direct sum $u \oplus v \in \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes B(H \oplus K)$, tensor product $u \otimes v := u_{12}v_{13} \in \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes B(H \otimes K)$, and conjugate representation $\bar{u} \in \mathcal{O}(G) \otimes B(\bar{H})$ given by $\bar{u} = [u^*_{ij}]$ (if $u = [u_{ij}]$). A morphism between $u$ and $v$ is a linear map $T : H \to K$ such that $u(1 \otimes T) = (1 \otimes T)v$. The Banach space of all morphisms between $u$ and $v$ is denoted by $\text{Mor}(u, v)$. If $u$ and $v$ are unitary representations, then $T \in \text{Mor}(u, v) \iff T^* \in \text{Mor}(v, u)$. We say that two representations $u$ and $v$ are equivalent if there exists an invertible element $T \in \text{Mor}(u, v)$. We say that $u$ is irreducible if $\text{Mor}(u, u) = \mathbb{C}1$.

The fundamental theorem on finite dimensional representations of CQGs is stated as follows.

**Theorem 2.10 ([29])** Let $G$ be a CQG. Every finite dimensional representation of $G$ is equivalent to a unitary representation, and every finite dimensional unitary representation of $G$ is equivalent to a direct sum of irreducible representations. Moreover, $\mathcal{O}(G)$ is linearly spanned by the matrix elements of irreducible unitary representations of $G$.

**Remark 2.11** In the language of Hopf algebras, a (unitary) representation of $G$ is typically called a (unitary) comodule over $\mathcal{O}(G)$. These notions obviously make sense for general Hopf $*$-algebras.

We end this section by recalling that a matrix Hopf $*$-algebra is a Hopf $*$-algebra that is generated by the coefficients of some corepresentation $w = [w_{ij}] \in M_n(A)$ of $A$. A useful fact in this regard from [13] is that if a matrix Hopf $*$-algebra $A$ is generated by a corepresentation $w$ that is equivalent to a unitary one, then $A = \mathcal{O}(G)$ is the Hopf $*$-algebra of some compact quantum group $G$. In this case, we call $G$ a compact matrix quantum group and we call $w$ a fundamental representation of $G$.

By replacing $w$ with an equivalent unitary representation $v$, note that $\mathcal{O}(G)$ is still generated by the matrix elements of $v \in M_n(\mathcal{O}(G))$, and $\bar{v}$ is a unitarizable representation. Hence there exists some $F \in GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ so that $(1 \otimes F)\bar{v}(1 \otimes F^{-1})$ is a unitary representation. This means that there is a surjective morphism of Hopf $*$-algebras $\pi : \mathcal{O}(U^+_F) \to \mathcal{O}(G)$ defined by $(\pi \otimes \iota)u = v$, where $u$ is the fundamental representation of $U^+_F$ given in its definition. In particular, $G$ is a so-called closed quantum subgroup of $U^+_F$ (written $G < U^+_F$).

### 3 Quantum sets, graphs and their quantum automorphism groups

The examples of CQGs that feature in this paper are the quantum automorphism groups of certain finite structures, such as sets, graphs, and their quantizations. In order to describe these objects, we first quantize the notion of a (measured) finite set, then proceed to quantum graphs. All of the definitions that follow are quite standard in the operator algebra literature [28, 2, 3, 11]. The idea of a quantum set or a quantum graph also appears in [19, 20] using the language of special symmetric dagger Frobenius algebras.
3.1 Quantum sets and graphs

**Definition 3.1** A (finite, measured) quantum set is a pair \( X = (\mathcal{O}(X), \psi_X) \), where \( \mathcal{O}(X) \) is a finite dimensional C*-algebra and \( \psi_X : \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathbb{C} \) is a faithful state.

We write \(|X|\) for \( \dim \mathcal{O}(X) \), and refer to this value as the cardinality or size of \( X \).

The reason for our choice of notation is that when \( \mathcal{O}(X) \) is commutative, Gelfand theory tells us that we are really just talking about a finite set \( X \) (the spectrum of \( \mathcal{O}(X) \)) equipped with a probability measure \( \mu_X \) defined \( \psi_X(f) = \int_X f(x) d\mu_X(x) \) for each \( f \in \mathcal{O}(X) \).

Let \( X = (\mathcal{O}(X), \psi_X) \) be a quantum set. Let \( m_X : \mathcal{O}(X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(X) \) and \( \eta_X : \mathbb{C} \to \mathcal{O}(X) \) be the multiplication and unit maps, respectively. In what follows, we will generally only be interested in a special class of finite quantum sets – namely those that are measured by a \( \delta \)-form \( \psi_X \), which we now define:

**Definition 3.2** ([3]) Let \( \delta > 0 \). A state \( \psi_X : \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathbb{C} \) is called a \( \delta \)-form [3] if

\[
m_X m_X^* = \delta^2 \iota,
\]

where the adjoint is taken with respect to the Hilbert space structure on \( \mathcal{O}(X) \) coming from the GNS construction with respect to \( \psi_X \).

For purposes of distinguishing between the Hilbert and C*-structures on \( \mathcal{O}(X) \), we denote this Hilbert space by \( L^2(X) \).

The most basic examples of \( \delta \)-forms are given by the uniform measure on the \( n \)-point set \( X = [n] \) and the canonical normalized trace on \( M_n(\mathbb{C}) \). In the first case, a simple calculation shows that \( m^*(e_i) = n e_i \otimes e_i \), where \( (e_i) \) is the standard basis of projections for \( \mathcal{O}(X) \), and so we have \( \delta = \sqrt{n} \). In the second case, one can show that \( m^*(e_{ij}) = n \sum_{k=1}^n e_{ik} \otimes e_{kj} \), where \( (e_{ij})_{1 \leq i,j \leq n} \) are the matrix units for \( M_n(\mathbb{C}) \). So in this case we have \( \delta = n \). More generally, if we have a multilinear decomposition \( \mathcal{O}(X) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^s M_{n(i)}(\mathbb{C}) \) and \( \psi_X = \bigoplus_{i=1}^s \text{Tr}(Q_i \cdot) \) is a faithful state (so \( 0 < Q_i \in M_{n(i)}(\mathbb{C}) \) and \( \sum_i \text{Tr}(Q_i) = 1 \)), then \( \psi_X \) is a \( \delta \)-form if and only if \( \text{Tr}(Q_i^{-1}) = \delta^2 \) for all \( 1 \leq i \leq s \). In particular, \( \mathcal{O}(X) \) admits a unique tracial \( \delta \)-form with \( \delta^2 = \dim \mathcal{O}(X) \) given by \( \psi_X = \bigoplus_{i=1}^s \frac{n(i)}{|X|} \text{Tr}(\cdot) \).

**Convention 3.3** Unless otherwise stated, we assume from now on that the quantum sets we consider equipped with \( \delta \)-forms.

We now endow quantum sets with an additional structure of a quantum adjacency matrix, turning them into quantum graphs. The following definition is a straightforward translation from [19, Definition 5.1] to our framework.

**Definition 3.4** Let \( X \) be a quantum set equipped with a \( \delta \)-form \( \psi_X \). A self-adjoint linear map \( A_X : L^2(X) \to L^2(X) \) is called a quantum adjacency matrix if it has the following properties:

1. \( m_X(A_X \otimes A_X)m_X^* = \delta^2 A_X \).
2. \( (\iota \otimes \eta_X m_X)(\iota \otimes A_X \otimes \iota)(m_X^* \eta_X \otimes \iota) = A_X \)
3. \( m_X(A_X \otimes \iota)m_X^* = \delta^2 \iota \)

We call the triple \( X = (\mathcal{O}(X), \psi_X, A_X) \) a quantum graph.
**Remark 3.5** In the special case where $O(X)$ is equipped its unique tracial $\delta$-form, then the definition of a quantum graph given here is equivalent to the one given in [19]. In addition, as explained in [19], a quantum graph $X = (O(X), \psi_X, A_X)$, where $O(X)$ is a commutative $C^*$-algebra, captures precisely the notion of a classical graph. Indeed, in this case the spectrum $X$ of $O(X)$ is a finite set and $\psi_X$ is the uniform probability measure on $X$. If we write $A_X$ as a matrix $A_X = [a_{ij}]_{i,j \in X}$ with respect to the canonical orthonormal basis of normalized projections $(\sqrt{n}e_i)_{i=1}^n \subseteq L^2(X)$, then conditions (1), (2) and (3) say, respectively, that

$$a_{ij}^2 = a_{ij}, \quad a_{ij} = a_{ji}, \quad a_{ii} = 1 \quad (i,j \in X).$$

In other words, $X$ is the vertex set of a classical graph (as defined in Section 2.4) with adjacency matrix $A_X - I_n$. Thus, in the quantum definition of a graph, we choose to work with reflexive graphs $((v,v) \in E(X) \forall v \in V(X))$. This choice is purely cosmetic from the perspective of (quantum) symmetries of graphs, in the sense that we have a bijection between (quantum) symmetries of reflexive graphs and those of their irreflexive versions. ♦

**Remark 3.6** Note that any quantum set $X$ equipped with a $\delta$-form $\psi_X$ can be trivially upgraded to a quantum graph in two ways. The first way is by declaring $A_X = \delta^2 \psi_X(\cdot)1$. The second is by declaring $A_X = 1$. In the case of classical finite sets $X$, these constructions correspond to the complete graph $K_{|X|}$ and its (reflexive) complement $\overline{K}_{|X|}$, respectively. For general quantum sets $X$ equipped with the quantum adjacency matrix $A_X = \delta^2 \psi_X(\cdot)1$, we will call these graphs quantum complete graphs. For a general quantum graph $X$, we can also talk about its (reflexive) complement $\overline{X}$, which is given by $\overline{X} = (O(X), \psi_X, A_{\overline{X}})$ with $A_{\overline{X}} = \delta^2 \psi_X(\cdot)1 + 1 - A_X$. With this definition we have that the complement of a quantum complete graph $X$ is the “edgeless” quantum graph $\overline{X} = (O(X), \psi_X, 1)$. ♦

We now introduce the quantum automorphism groups of quantum graphs. The definition of these quantum automorphism groups follows along the same lines as for the quantum automorphism groups of classical graphs [4] and also the quantum automorphism groups of quantum sets [28, 2, 3].

**Definition 3.7** Let $X = (O(X), \psi_X, A_X)$ be a quantum graph with $n = |X|$ and fix an orthonormal basis $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^n$ for $L^2(X)$. Define $O(G_X)$ to be the universal unital $*$-algebra generated by the coefficients $u_{ij}$ of a unitary matrix $u = [u_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n \in M_n(O(G_X))$ subject to the relations making the map

$$\rho_X : O(X) \to O(X) \otimes O(G_X); \quad \rho_X(e_i) = \sum_k e_j \otimes u_{ji}$$

a unital $*$-homomorphism satisfying the $A_X$-covariance condition $\rho_X(A_X \cdot) = (A_X \otimes 1)\rho_X$. ♦

The notation $O(G_X)$ is meant to convey the notion that the algebra consists of representative functions on a CQG $G_X$. Specifically, it is the “largest” CQG acting on $X$ so as to preserve the measure $\psi_X$ and graph structure $A_X$. This is formalized in the following result, whose proof is a straightforward application of the universality implicit in Definition 3.7.

**Proposition 3.8** The $*$-algebra $A = O(G_X)$ admits a Hopf $*$-algebra structure defined by

$$\Delta u_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n u_{ik} \otimes u_{kj}, \quad S(u_{ij}) = u_{ji}^*, \quad \epsilon(u_{ij}) = \delta_{ij} \quad (1 \leq i,j \leq n).$$

Furthermore, the action of $G_X$ on $X$ given by $\rho_X$ preserves $\psi_X$ in the sense that

$$(\psi_X \otimes 1)\rho_X = \psi_X(\cdot)1 : O(X) \to O(G_X).$$

We call $G_X$ the quantum automorphism group of the quantum graph $X$. 14
Proof This is a direct computation that we leave to the reader. In fact a proof of this result will also follow as special case of the more general arguments presented following Remark 4.3.

Remark 3.9 Quantum automorphism groups are natural quantum analogues of their classical counterparts. Indeed, the abelianization of the enveloping $C^*$-algebra $C^*(G_X)$ of $O(G_X)$ is exactly $C(Aut(X))$, the algebra of complex-valued functions on the group of automorphisms of the graph $X$.

Example 3.10 When $X$ is a quantum complete graph, then $G_X$ is none other than Wang’s quantum automorphism group of the finite space $(O(X), \psi_X)$ [28, 3]. In particular, the quantum automorphism group of the classical complete graph $K_n$ is precisely the quantum symmetric group $S_n^+$ of Example 2.8.

3.2 Monoidal equivalence and bigalois extensions

For a CQG $G$, we define the representation category of $G$, $\text{Rep}(G)$, to be the category whose objects are (equivalence classes of) finite dimensional representations of $G$, and whose morphisms are given by the intertwiner spaces $\{\text{Mor}(u,v)\}$. The category $\text{Rep}(G)$ has a lot of nice structure, in particular it is an example of a so called strict $C^*$-tensor category with conjugates. See [21] for more details.

We now come to a notion of central importance in this work: monoidal equivalence of compact quantum groups. Let $G$ be a CQG. Denote by $\text{Irr}(G)$ the set of equivalence classes of irreducible objects in $\text{Rep}(G)$.

Definition 3.11 ([6, 8]) Let $G_1, G_2$ be two compact quantum groups. We say that $G_1$ and $G_2$ are monoidally equivalent, and write $G_1 \sim_{\text{mon}} G_2$, if there exists a bijection

$$\varphi : \text{Irr}(G_1) \to \text{Irr}(G_2)$$

together with linear isomorphisms

$$\varphi : \text{Mor}(u_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes u_n, v_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes v_m) \to \text{Mor}(\varphi(u_1) \otimes \ldots \otimes \varphi(u_n), \varphi(v_1) \otimes \ldots \otimes \varphi(v_m))$$

such that $\varphi(1_{G_1}) = 1_{G_2}$ ($1_{G_i}$ being the trivial representation of $G_i$), and such that for any morphisms $S, T$,

$$\varphi(S \circ T) = \varphi(S) \circ \varphi(T) \quad \text{(whenever } S \circ T \text{ is well-defined)}$$

$$\varphi(S^*) = \varphi(S)^*$$

$$\varphi(S \otimes T) = \varphi(S) \otimes \varphi(T).$$

A monoidal equivalence between $G_1$ and $G_2$ means that the strict $C^*$-tensor categories $\text{Rep}(G_i)$ are unitarily monoidally equivalent. More precisely, the maps $\varphi$ defined above canonically extend to a unitary tensor functor $\varphi : \text{Rep}(G_1) \to \text{Rep}(G_2)$ that is fully faithful (i.e., $\varphi$ defines an isomorphism between $\text{Mor}(u, v)$ and $\text{Mor}(\varphi(u), \varphi(v))$ for any objects $u, v \in \text{Rep}(G_1)$) and is essentially surjective (i.e., every object in $\text{Rep}(G_2)$ is of the form $\varphi(u)$ for some $u \in \text{Rep}(G_1)$). Note that for general unitary tensor functors $\varphi : \text{Rep}(G_1) \to \text{Rep}(G_2)$, the equalities $\varphi(\otimes_i u_i) = \otimes_i \varphi(u_i)$ for $u_i \in \text{Rep}(G_1)$ do not necessarily hold, and we only require that $\varphi$ come with compatible natural unitary isomorphisms $E : \varphi(\otimes_i u_i) \to \otimes_i \varphi(u_i)$. However in our case the fiber functors $\varphi$ arising from the bijection in Definition 3.11 always has this additional symmetry. See [21, Chapter 2] for more details.
3.2.1 Bigalois extensions

We now discuss an equivalent, but somewhat more concrete, way to think about monoidal equivalence of compact quantum groups. The key object is that of a bigalois extension, which has its origins in Hopf algebra theory, but is adapted here to the analytic setting of CQGs.

Let \( A = O(G) \) be a Hopf \( * \)-algebra of representative functions on a CQG \( G \). A left \( A \)-comodule algebra is a unital \( * \)-algebra \( Z \) equipped with a unital \( * \)-homomorphism \( \alpha : Z \to A \otimes Z \) satisfying \((\iota \otimes \alpha)\alpha = (\Delta \otimes \iota)\alpha \) and \((\epsilon \otimes \iota)\alpha = \iota\). Similarly, a right \( A \)-comodule algebra is a unital \( * \)-algebra \( Z \) equipped with a unital \( * \)-homomorphism \( \beta : Z \to Z \otimes A \) satisfying \((\beta \otimes \iota)\beta = (\iota \otimes \Delta)\beta \) and \((\iota \otimes \epsilon)\beta = \iota\).

A left \( A \)-comodule algebra \((Z, \alpha)\) is called a left \( A \) Galois extension if the linear map

\[
k_l : Z \otimes Z \to A \otimes Z ; \quad k_l(x \otimes y) = \alpha(x)(1 \otimes y)
\]

is bijective. Similarly, a right \( A \)-comodule algebra \((Z, \beta)\) is called a right \( A \) Galois extension if the linear map

\[
k_r : Z \otimes Z \to Z \otimes A ; \quad k_r(x \otimes y) = (x \otimes 1)\beta(y)
\]

is bijective. Finally, let \( A \) and \( B \) be Hopf \( * \)-algebras. A unital \( * \)-algebra \( Z \) is called an \( A - B \) bigalois extension if it is both a left \( A \) Galois extension and a right \( B \) Galois extension, and \( Z \) is an \( A - B \)-bicomodule algebra. I.e., if \( \alpha, \beta \) denote the left and right comodule maps, respectively, then we have the equality of maps

\[
(\iota \otimes \beta)\alpha = (\alpha \otimes \iota)\beta : Z \to A \otimes Z \otimes B.
\]

Remark 3.12 The notion of a (bi)galois extension should be regarded as a quantum analogue of the familiar notion of a (bi)torsor (or principle homogeneous (bi)bundle) in the context of group actions: If \( G \) is a (finite) group and \( G \curvearrowright X \) is an action of \( G \) on a finite space \( X \), we call \( X \) a (left) \( G \)-torsor if the action is free and transitive. This is equivalent to saying that the canonical map

\[
G \times X \to X \times X ; \quad (g, t) \mapsto (g \cdot t, t)
\]

is bijective. Letting \( O(X) \) denote the \( * \)-algebra of functions on \( X \), then \( O(X) \) is a left \( O(G) \) \( * \)-comodule algebra with the map

\[
\alpha : O(X) \to O(G) \otimes O(X) \cong O(G \times X) ; \quad \alpha(f)(g, t) = f(g \cdot t).
\]

With these definitions, it is clear that \( G \curvearrowright X \) is free and transitive if and only if

\[
k_l : O(X) \otimes O(X) \to O(G) \otimes O(X) ; \quad k_l(x \otimes y)(g, t) = \alpha(x)(1 \otimes y)(g, t) = x(g \cdot t) y(t)
\]

is bijective, i.e., if and only if \( O(X) \) is a left \( O(G) \)-galois extension. Similar statements hold for right \( G \)-spaces and left-right \( G_1 \cdot G_2 \)-spaces.

In the following, we will be interested in bigalois extensions which admit non-zero \( C^* \)-envelopes. The main way in which this is achieved is by considering necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of invariant states on bigalois extensions. In what follows, a state on a unital \( * \)-algebra \( Z \) is a linear functional \( \omega : Z \to \mathbb{C} \) such that \( \omega(1) = 1 \) and \( \omega(z^* z) \geq 0 \) for all \( z \in Z \).

**Definition 3.13** Let \( Z \) be an \( A - B \)-bigalois extension. A state \( \omega : Z \to \mathbb{C} \) is called left-invariant if \((\iota \otimes \omega)(z) = \omega(z)1_A\) for each \( z \in Z \), and it is called right-invariant if \((\omega \otimes \iota)(z) = \omega(z)1_B\) for each \( z \in Z \). We call \( \omega \) bi-invariant if it is both left and right-invariant.
Example 3.14 The Hopf ∗-algebra $A = \mathcal{O}(G)$ of representative functions on a compact quantum group $G$ is a natural example of an $A - A$-bigalois extension admitting a bi-invariant state. Indeed, just take $\omega = h$, the Haar state on $A$.

The following theorem summarizes some useful properties of bi-invariant states on bigalois extensions. It is an amalgamation of various results in [6, 8, 12].

Theorem 3.15 Let $G_1, G_2$ be compact quantum groups with $A = \mathcal{O}(G_1)$ and $B = \mathcal{O}(G_2)$. Let $Z$ be an $A - B$-bigalois extension. Then we have the following.

1. Any left/right/bi-invariant state $\omega : Z \to \mathbb{C}$ is unique and faithful (if it exists).

2. The following are equivalent:
   
   (a) $Z$ admits a non-zero ∗-representation as bounded linear operators on a Hilbert space.
   (b) $Z$ admits a state.
   (c) $Z$ admits a bi-invariant state.
   (d) $Z$ admits a left (resp. right)-invariant state.

3. If $Z$ admits a bi-invariant state $\omega$, denote by $B^u(G_1, G_2) \neq 0$ the universal $C^*$-algebra generated by $Z$ and by $B_\omega = \pi_\omega(Z)$, the $C^*$-algebra generated by the GNS representation with respect to $\omega$. Then $\omega$ extends to a KMS state on both $B^u$ and $B_\omega$. Moreover, $\omega$ is a tracial state if and only if both $G_1$ and $G_2$ are of Kac type. (I.e., the Haar states on both $\mathcal{O}(G_i)$ are tracial)

Theorem 3.16 ([6, 8]) Let $G_1, G_2$ be compact quantum groups. Then $G_1$ and $G_2$ are monoidally equivalent if and only if there exists an $\mathcal{O}(G_1) - \mathcal{O}(G_2)$-bigalois extension $Z$ equipped with a bi-invariant state $\omega$.

We refer the reader to [21, Theorem 2.3.11] or [8, Theorem 3.9 and Proposition 3.13] for a precise description of the the bigalois extension $(Z, \omega)$ induced by the monoidal equivalence in Theorem 3.16.

We end this section by stating a simple criterion due to Bichon [6] (for compact matrix quantum groups) for a bigalois extension to admit an invariant state $\omega$. First we need some definitions. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $F_i \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$. We define $\mathcal{O}(U_F^+, U_F^+)$ to be the unital ∗-algebra generated by the coefficients $z_{ij}$ of a $n_1 \times n_2$ matrix $z = [z_{ij}]_{1 \leq i \leq n_1, 1 \leq j \leq n_2} \in M_{n_1, n_2}(\mathcal{O}(U_{F_1}^+, U_{F_2}^+))$ satisfying the relations making both $z$ and $F_1 z F_2^{-1}$ unitary, where $z = [z_{ij}^+]$. When $F_1 = F_2 = F$, note that $\mathcal{O}(U_F^+, U_F^+) = \mathcal{O}(U_F^+)$ is the Hopf ∗-algebra of representative functions on the universal unitary quantum group $U_F^+$ introduced earlier. We also note that if $\mathcal{O}(U_{F_1}^+, U_{F_2}^+) \neq 0$ then $\mathcal{O}(U_{F_1}^+, U_{F_2}^+)$ is an $\mathcal{O}(U_{F_1}^+) - \mathcal{O}(U_{F_2}^+)$-bigalois extension with respect to the bicomodule structure given by

$$\alpha_{F_1, F_2} : \mathcal{O}(U_{F_1}^+, U_{F_2}^+) \to \mathcal{O}(U_{F_1}^+) \otimes \mathcal{O}(U_{F_2}^+); \quad \alpha_{F_1, F_2}(z_{ij}) = \sum_{k=1}^{n_1} u_{ik} \otimes z_{kj}$$

$$\beta_{F_1, F_2} : \mathcal{O}(U_{F_1}^+, U_{F_2}^+ \to \mathcal{O}(U_{F_1}^+) \otimes \mathcal{O}(U_{F_2}^+); \quad \beta_{F_1, F_2}(z_{ij}) = \sum_{l=1}^{n_2} z_{il} \otimes v_{lj},$$

where $u = [u_{ij}], v = [v_{ij}]$ are the fundamental representations of $U_{F_1}^+, U_{F_2}^+$, respectively.
Theorem 3.17 (Proposition 6.2.6 in [6]) Let \( G \) be a compact matrix quantum group and \((Z, \alpha)\) a left \( \mathcal{O}(G)\)-Galois extension. Let \( F \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}) \) be such that \( G < U^+_F \) (with corresponding surjective morphism \( \pi : \mathcal{O}(U^+_F) \to \mathcal{O}(G) \)). If there exists \( F_1 \in \text{GL}_{n_1}(\mathbb{C}) \) and a surjective *-homomorphism \( \sigma : \mathcal{O}(U^+_F, U^+_F) \to Z \) satisfying \( \pi \circ \sigma = (\pi \circ \sigma) \alpha_{F,F_1} \), then \( Z \) admits a left-invariant state \( \omega : Z \to \mathbb{C} \).

4 Quantum isomorphisms of graphs and bigalois extensions

The aim of this section is to show that a quantum isomorphism between two graphs \( X \) and \( Y \) is nothing other than a (quotient of a) \( \mathcal{O}(G_Y)\)-\( \mathcal{O}(G_X) \)-bigalois extension in disguise. We begin by extending the definition of the graph isomorphism game \( \mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(X,Y)) \) to include quantum graphs.

Definition 4.1 Let \( X = (\mathcal{O}(X), \psi_X, A_X) \) and \( Y = (\mathcal{O}(Y), \psi_Y, A_Y) \) be quantum graphs with \( |X| = n \) and \( |Y| = m \), and fix orthonormal bases \( \{e_j\} \) and \( \{f_i\} \) for \( \mathcal{O}(X) \) and \( \mathcal{O}(Y) \) relative to \( \psi_X \) and \( \psi_Y \) respectively. Let \( \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \) be the universal *-algebra generated by the entries \( p_{ij} \) of a unitary matrix

\[
p = [p_{ij}]_{ij} \in \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \otimes B(L^2(X), L^2(Y))
\]

with relations ensuring that

\[
\rho_{Y,X} : \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X); \quad e_j \mapsto \sum_i f_i \otimes p_{ij}
\]

is a unital *-homomorphism satisfying

\[
\rho_{Y,X}(A_X) = (A_Y \otimes \iota)\rho_{Y,X}.
\]

Our first observation is that the above morphism \( \rho_{Y,X} \), if it exists, is automatically state-preserving.

Lemma 4.2 Assume \( \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \neq 0 \). Then the morphism \( \rho_{Y,X} : \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \) is state-preserving in the sense that

\[
(\psi_Y \otimes \iota)\rho_{Y,X} = \psi_X(\cdot)1 : \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X).
\]

Proof Consider the matrix \( p = [p_{ij}]_{ij} \in \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \otimes B(L^2(X), L^2(Y)) \), viewed canonically as a linear map

\[
p : L^2(X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \to L^2(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X); \quad p(\xi \otimes a) = \sum_{i,j} [f_i] \langle e_i, \xi \rangle \otimes p_{ij} a.
\]

It then follows that \( \rho_{Y,X}(\xi) = p(\xi \otimes 1) \) for each \( \xi \in L^2(X) \) (here and below we are identifying \( L^2(X) \) and \( L^2(Y) \) with \( \mathcal{O}(X) \) and \( \mathcal{O}(Y) \)). Consider now the \( \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \)-valued sesquilinear forms on \( L^2(X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \) and \( L^2(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \) given by

\[
\langle \xi_1 \otimes a | \xi_2 \otimes b \rangle_{L^2(X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)} = b^* a \psi_X(\xi_2^* \xi_1) \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \eta_1 \otimes a | \eta_2 \otimes b \rangle_{L^2(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)} = b^* a \psi_Y(\eta_2^* \eta_1).
\]

Then a simple calculation using the fact that \( p^* p = 1 \) and \( p(1 \otimes 1) = \rho_{Y,X}(1) = 1 \otimes 1 \) gives

\[
(\psi_Y \otimes \iota)\rho_{Y,X}(\xi) = (\psi_Y \otimes \iota)p(\xi \otimes 1)
\]

\[
= p(\xi \otimes 1)1 \otimes 1 \in L^2(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)
\]

\[
= p(p(\xi \otimes 1)1 \otimes 1) \in L^2(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)
\]

\[
= p^* p(\xi \otimes 1)1 \otimes 1 \in L^2(X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)
\]

\[
= p(\xi_1 \otimes 1)1 \otimes 1 \in L^2(X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)
\]

\[
= \psi_X(\xi)1.
\]
Remark 4.3 When the two quantum graphs coincide we have $\mathcal{O}(G_X, G_X) = \mathcal{O}(G_X)$ (the Hopf $*$-algebra of polynomial functions on the quantum automorphism group $G_X$) and $\rho_{X,X} = \rho_X$. For classical graphs $X, Y$, we have $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) = \mathcal{A}(\text{Iso}(Y, X))$. Indeed, the fact that $\rho_{Y,X}$ is a unital $*$-homomorphism intertwining the quantum adjacency matrices $A_X$ and $A_Y$ says exactly that the unitary matrix $p = [p_{ij}]$ satisfies $(1 \otimes A_Y)p = p(1 \otimes A_X)$ and has entries which are self-adjoint projections satisfying $\sum_i p_{ji} = 1 = \sum_j p_{ji}$, $p_{ji} p_{ji} = \delta_{di} p_{ji}$, and $p_{ij} p_{ij} = \delta_{ip_{ij}}$. Compare with Proposition 2.3 and Remark 2.4. See also [1, 18].

With the above in mind, we now provide a natural extension of the notion of quantum isomorphism to our quantum graphs. Compare with [19].

Definition 4.4 Let $X, Y$ be quantum graphs. We say that $X$ is *algebraically quantum isomorphic* to $Y$ if $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \neq 0$, and write $X \cong_{A^*} Y$. If $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ admits a non-zero C*-representation, then we say that $X$ is $C^*$-algebraically quantum isomorphic to $Y$, and write $X \cong_{A^*} Y$. Finally, we say $X \cong_{qc} Y$ if $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ admits a tracial state (following the existent notation for classical graphs).

For the remainder of the present discussion we fix two quantum graphs $X, Y$ as above and assume that the $*$-algebra $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ is non-zero. Our aim is to show that $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ admits a natural structure as a $\mathcal{O}(G_Y) - \mathcal{O}(G_X)$ bigalois extension.

Consider the comodule-algebra structure map

$$\rho_Y : \mathcal{O}(Y) \to \mathcal{O}(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y).$$

By the universality of $\rho_{Y,X}$, the composition

$$(\rho_Y \otimes \text{id}) \circ \rho_{Y,X} : \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$$

must factor as $(\text{id} \otimes \alpha) \circ \rho_{Y,X}$ for a unique $*$-algebra morphism

$$\alpha : \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$$

given simply by

$$\alpha(p_{ij}) = \sum_k u_{ik} \otimes p_{kj},$$

where $u = [u_{ij}]$ is the fundamental representation of $\mathcal{O}(G_Y)$.

Similarly, $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ has a right $\mathcal{O}(G_X)$ $*$-comodule algebra structure given by

$$\beta : \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_X); \quad \beta(p_{ij}) = \sum_k p_{ik} \otimes v_{kj},$$

where $v = [v_{ij}]$ is the fundamental representation of $\mathcal{O}(G_X)$. It is also clear that $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ is an $\mathcal{O}(G_Y) - \mathcal{O}(G_X)$ bicomodule with respect to $\alpha$ and $\beta$.

Continuing in the same vein, we can define “cocomposition” $*$-morphisms

$$\gamma_Y : \mathcal{O}(G_Y) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X); \quad \gamma_Y(u_{ij}) = \sum_k p_{ik} \otimes q_{ki}$$

$$\gamma_X : \mathcal{O}(G_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y); \quad \gamma_X(v_{ij}) = \sum_k q_{ik} \otimes p_{kj}$$

19
where \( q = [q_{ij}] \) is the matrix of generators of \( \mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y) \). For example, to construct \( \gamma_Y \), we consider the morphism

\[
(p_{Y,X} \otimes \iota) \rho_{X,Y} : \mathcal{O}(Y) \to \mathcal{O}(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y).
\]

By universality of \( \rho_Y \), there exists a unique morphism \( \gamma_Y : \mathcal{O}(G_Y) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y) \) so that

\[
(p_{Y,X} \otimes \iota) \rho_{X,Y} = (\iota \otimes \gamma_Y) \rho_{X,Y}.
\]

This map is readily seen to be given by the proposed formula above.

Thus far, the algebras \( \mathcal{O}(G_X), \mathcal{O}(G_Y), \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \) and \( \mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y) \) together with the maps \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \), their analogues for \( \mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y) \), and \( \gamma_X, \gamma_Y \) constitute a two-object cocategory \( C \) in the sense of [7, Definition 2.1]: the four algebras are to be thought of as dual to “spaces of morphisms” between two objects \( (x \to x) \) for \( \mathcal{O}(G_X) \), \( (x \to y) \) for \( \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \), etc., and the \( \gamma \) maps are dual to morphism composition.

Next, we make \( C \) into a cogroupoid in the sense of [7, Definitions 2.3 and 2.4]: this entails defining “coinversion” maps

\[
S_{X,Y} : \mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \tag{3}
\]

\[
S_{Y,X} : \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y) \tag{4}
\]

which will require some preparation.

Let \( F = F_X \in M_n \) and \( G = F_Y \in M_m \) be matrices with the property that \( Fe_i = e_i^* \) and similarly for \( G \), so that \( \overline{F} = F^{-1} \) and \( \overline{G} = G^{-1} \). Note that the involutivity of the morphisms

\[
\rho_X : \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(X) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_X) \\
\rho_Y : \mathcal{O}(Y) \to \mathcal{O}(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y) \\
\rho_{Y,X} : \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)
\]

is equivalent, respectively, to the equalities

\[
(1 \otimes F)\overline{u} = u(1 \otimes F) \\
(1 \otimes G)\overline{v} = v(1 \otimes G) \\
(1 \otimes G)\overline{p} = p(1 \otimes F)
\]  

(5)

We will henceforth abuse notation and write \( uF \) for \( u(1 \otimes F) \), etc. Taking this into account, we have

\[
G^{-1}pF = \overline{p} \quad \text{and similarly} \quad F^{-1}qG = \overline{q}.
\]

It is now a simple check to see that

\[
f_i \mapsto \sum_j e_j \otimes p_{ij}^*
\]  

(6)

defines a unital algebra homomorphism

\[
\mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(Y) \otimes \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)^{op}.
\]  

(7)

Applying \( G \) to both sides of (6), writing \( e_j = FF^{-1}e_j \) and using

\[
Fe_j = e_j^*, \quad Gf_i = f_i^*,
\]
it follows that (6) is involutive with respect to the modified \(*\)-structure \(*\) on \(\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)^{op}\) given by

\[(p^*)^* = (F^{-1}p^*G)^t\]

(the ‘\(t\)’ superscript denoting the transpose). The defining universality property of \(\mathcal{O}(G_X, G_Y)\) then implies that the morphism (7) given by (6) factors as

\[(\iota \otimes S_{X,Y})\rho_X\]

for a conjugate-linear anti-morphism (3). \(S_{Y,X}\) is defined similarly, and in summary we have

\[
\begin{align*}
S_{X,Y} : & \quad q \mapsto p^*, \quad q^* \mapsto G^t F^{-t} \\
S_{Y,X} : & \quad p \mapsto q^*, \quad p^* \mapsto F^t p G^{-t}
\end{align*}
\]

where the ‘\(t\)’ superscript means ‘transpose’ while ‘\(-t\)’ denotes ‘transpose inverse’.

The morphisms (3) and (4) enrich the above-mentioned cocategory \(\mathcal{C}\) to a connected \textit{cogroupoid}

in the sense of [7, Definitions 2.3 and 2.4].

We are now ready for the main result of this section.

**Theorem 4.5** If \(\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)\) is non-zero, then \((\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X), \alpha, \beta)\) is a \(\mathcal{O}(G_Y)-\mathcal{O}(G_X)\)-bigalois extension.

**Proof** By [7, Proposition 2.8] this is an immediate consequence of \(\mathcal{C}\) being a connected cogroupoid. More precisely, the arguments therein show that the relevant linear maps

\[
\begin{align*}
\kappa_l : & \quad \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)^{\otimes} \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y)^{\otimes} \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X); \quad \kappa_l(x \otimes y) = \alpha(x)(1 \otimes y) \\
\kappa_r : & \quad \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)^{\otimes} \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)^{\otimes} \mathcal{O}(G_X); \quad \kappa_r(x \otimes y) = (x \otimes 1)\beta(y)
\end{align*}
\]

are bijective with explicit inverses given by

\[
\begin{align*}
\eta_l : & \quad \mathcal{O}(G_Y)^{\otimes} \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)^{\otimes} \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X); \quad \eta_l = (\iota \otimes m)(\iota \otimes S_{X,Y} \otimes \iota)(\gamma_Y \otimes \iota) \\
\eta_r : & \quad \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)^{\otimes} \mathcal{O}(G_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)^{\otimes} \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X); \quad \eta_r = (m \otimes \iota)(\iota \otimes S_{X,Y} \otimes \iota)(\iota \otimes \gamma_X)
\end{align*}
\]

where \(m\) denotes the multiplication map in the appropriate algebra. \(\blacksquare\)

**Theorem 4.5** puts some of the material in [18] in a category-theoretic perspective. To make sense of this, we need to recall

**Definition 4.6** The \textit{quantum orbital algebra} of a (quantum) graph \(X\) is the endomorphism algebra of \(\mathcal{O}(X)\) as a comodule over \(\mathcal{O}(G_X)\). I.e., the algebra of intertwiners \(\text{Mor}(u, u) \subset B(L^2(X))\), where \(u\) denotes the fundamental representation of \(G_X\). \(\blacklozenge\)

In the case of classical graphs, this is not quite [18, Definition 3.10], but is equivalent to it by [18, Theorem 3.11]. Note that [18, Theorem 4.2] follows from Theorem 4.5: the former says that a quantum isomorphism between two (classical) graphs entails an isomorphism between their quantum orbital algebras that identifies the respective adjacency matrices. Since by Theorem 4.5 we have a category equivalence

\[
\text{Rep}(G_X) \simeq \text{Rep}(G_Y)
\]

identifying \(\mathcal{O}(X)\) on the left to \(\mathcal{O}(Y)\) on the right, this implements an isomorphism between the endomorphism algebras of these two objects in the respective categories (i.e. the quantum orbital algebras). Furthermore, the fact that this isomorphism identifies \(A_X\) and \(A_Y\) follows from (1).
4.1 Existence of states on $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$

Our next result shows that $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ always admits a faithful bi-invariant state (and hence a $C^*$-completion) whenever this algebra is non-zero.

**Theorem 4.7** Let $X, Y$ be quantum graphs. If $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \neq 0$, then there exists a faithful bi-invariant state $\omega : \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \to \mathbb{C}$, and therefore we have a monoidal equivalence of compact quantum groups $G_X \sim^\text{mon} G_Y$. Moreover, $\omega$ is tracial if and only if both $G_X$ and $G_Y$ are of Kac type.

**Proof** Recall the matrices $F = F_X$ and $G = F_Y$ from the preceding discussion. The equations (5) imply that we have surjective $\ast$-homomorphisms $\pi : \mathcal{O}(U_Y \oplus F_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y)$ and $\sigma : \mathcal{O}(U_Y \oplus F_X, U_Y \oplus F_X) \to \mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ satisfying $\alpha \circ \sigma = (\pi \otimes \sigma)\alpha_{F_X, F_Y}$. By Theorems 3.15 and 3.17 $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ then admits a $\mathcal{O}(G_Y)\mathcal{O}(G_X)$-invariant state (which is tracial precisely when $G_Y, G_X$ are both of Kac type). By Theorem 3.16, $G_X \sim^\text{mon} G_Y$. ■

**Corollary 4.8** Let $X$ and $Y$ be quantum graphs. Then the following are equivalent.

1. $X \cong_A^\ast Y$.
2. $X \cong_{C^*} Y$.

Moreover, if both $X$ and $Y$ are equipped with tracial $\delta$-forms, then $X \cong_{qc} Y$.

**Proof** (2) $\implies$ (1) by definition, while the converse follows from Theorem 4.7. The same theorem also shows that when $G_X$ and $G_Y$ are Kac (as is the case if $X$ and $Y$ are equipped with tracial $\delta$-forms) $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ is equipped with a trace. This proves the last claim. ■

Restricting our attention to classical graphs $X$, and $Y$ we arrive at one of the main results of the paper.

**Theorem 4.9** Let $X$ and $Y$ be classical graphs. Then the following conditions are equivalent.

1. $X \cong_A^\ast Y$.
2. $X \cong_{qc} Y$.
3. $X \cong_{C^*} Y$.

**Proof** This is an immediate consequence of Corollary 4.8. ■

**Remark 4.10** The above theorems show that the algebras $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ are non-zero in the category of $\ast$-algebras if and only if $\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)$ admits a non-zero representation as bounded operators on Hilbert space. In other words, the $\ast$-algebra and $C^*$-algebra worlds coincide for this class of examples.

One illustration of the distinction between $\ast$-algebras and $C^*$-algebras is in the behavior of projections (i.e. self-adjoint idempotents). In a $C^*$-algebra, if one has self-adjoint idempotents $\{p_1, \ldots, p_N\}$ satisfying $p_1 + \cdots + p_N = 1$, then necessarily $p_i p_j = 0$, $\forall i \neq j$.

The situation is very different for $\ast$-algebras, however. While triples of projections with sum 1 still commute, quadruples need not. This can be seen, for instance, from [5, §2.1]. There, the ring generated by three idempotents $a, b$ and $c$ whose sum is also idempotent ($d = 1 - (a + b + c)$ thus being idempotent as well) is shown to have a basis as a free abelian group consisting of those monomials in $a, b$ and $c$ such that
• no letter appears twice in succession;
• $b$ never appears to the left of $a$.

This makes it clear that $ab \neq 0$. One can simply reprise this example over $\mathbb{C}$ (i.e. working with complex algebras rather than rings) and superimpose a $*$-structure by requiring that $a$, $b$ and $c$ be self-adjoint. The result is a complex $*$-algebra with four non-orthogonal projections adding up to 1.

In fact, even more pathological examples exist. In [16] a machine-assisted proof is given that the $*$-algebra $A(\text{Hom}(K_5, K_4))$ is non-trivial. This is a $*$-algebra with generators

$$\{e_{x,a}: 1 \leq x \leq 5, 1 \leq a \leq 4\}$$

satisfying the usual relations, $e_{x,a}^* = e_{x,a}^2 = e_{x,a}$, $e_{x,a}e_{x,b} = 0$, when $a \neq b$, $\sum_{a=1}^4 e_{x,a} = 1$, $\forall x$, and the relations, $e_{x,a}e_{y,a} = 0$, $x \neq y$, prescribed by the graphs.

If one sets $p_a = \sum_x e_{x,a}$, then $p_a^2 = p_a = p_a^*$, for $1 \leq a \leq 4$. Hence, $q_a = 1 - p_a$ are also self-adjoint idempotents. However,

$$\sum_{a=1}^4 q_a = 4 \cdot 1 - \sum_{a=1}^4 p_a = 4 \cdot 1 - \sum_{a=1}^5 \sum_{b=1}^4 e_{x,a} = 4 \cdot 1 - 5 \cdot 1 = -1.$$

Thus, it is possible to have 4 self-adjoint idempotents sum to $-1$ in a $*$-algebra. ♦

### 4.2 From monoidal equivalence to quantum isomorphism

Theorem 4.7 and corollary 4.8 show that for a pair of quantum graphs $X, Y$ the condition $X \cong_{A^*} Y$ implies that the corresponding quantum automorphism groups $G_X$ and $G_Y$ are monoidally equivalent. Based on this connection between quantum isomorphism and monoidal equivalence, it is natural to ask whether the converse holds, namely: Does $G_X \cong^{mon} G_Y \implies X \cong_{A^*} Y$?

The answer to this question turns out to be ‘no’ in general. For example, take $X = K_n$ and $Y = \overline{K_n}$. In this case we have $G_X = G_Y = S_n^+$ (so $G_X$ and $G_Y$ are in particular monoidally equivalent as compact quantum groups), but it is clear from the definitions that $A(\text{Iso}(X,Y)) = O(G_X,G_Y) = 0$.

The intuitive reason for this is that the trivial monoidal equivalence taking $\text{Rep}(S_n^+)$ to itself does not map the adjacency matrix $A_X$ to $A_Y$. In fact, there cannot exist any monoidal equivalence $\varphi : \text{Rep}(S_n^+) \to \text{Rep}(S_n^+)$ satisfying $\varphi(A_X) = A_Y$. This is because such a monoidal equivalence would force $A_X$ and $\varphi(A_X) = A_Y$ to be isospectral.

On the other hand, the following theorem shows that whenever we have a quantum group $G$ monoidally equivalent to $G_X$, it is possible to find a quantum graph $Y$ so that $G = G_Y$ and $X \cong_{A^*} Y$.

**Theorem 4.11** Let $X = (\mathcal{O}(X), \psi_X, A_X)$ be a quantum graph and $G_X$ its quantum automorphism group. Let $G$ be another compact quantum group that is monoidally equivalent to $G_X$. Then there exists a quantum graph $Y = (\mathcal{O}(Y), \psi_Y, A_Y)$ so that $G = G_Y$, and we have a quantum isomorphism $X \cong_{A^*} Y$.

**Proof** When $X$ is a quantum complete graph, this result is already known [12, Theorem 3.6.5]. The proof in the case of arbitrary $X$ follows almost verbatim, so we just sketch the main ideas.

Let $\varphi : \text{Rep}(G_X) \to \text{Rep}(G)$ be the unitary fiber functor implementing the monoidal equivalence as in Definition 3.11. Put $L^2(Y) = \varphi(L^2(X))$, $d_Y = \text{dim}(L^2(Y))$ and let $v = \varphi(u) \in M_{d_Y}(\mathcal{O}(G))$ be the corresponding unitary representation of $G$ on $L^2(Y)$. Put $m_Y = \varphi(m_X) \in \text{Mor}(v \otimes v, v)$.
\(\eta_Y = \varphi(\eta_X) \in \text{Mor}(1, v)\) and \(\psi_Y = \eta_Y^* \in \text{Mor}(v, 1)\) and \(A_Y = \varphi(A_X) \in \text{Mor}(v, v)\). Then exactly as in the proof of [12, Theorem 3.6.5], \(L^2(Y)\) is a unital \(C^*\)-algebra with multiplication \(m_Y\), unit \(\eta_Y\), involution \(\xi : \xi \mapsto \xi^\dagger = (I \otimes \xi^*)(m_Y^* \eta_Y)\), and \(\psi_Y : L^2(Y) \to \mathbb{C}\) is a \(\delta\)-form. We denote this \(C^*\)-algebra by \(\mathcal{O}(Y)\). Finally, consider the map \(A_Y : L^2(Y) \to L^2(Y)\). Then by definition of \(\varphi\), we have

\[
\begin{align*}
A_Y^* &= \varphi(A_X)^* = \varphi(A_X^*) = \varphi(A_X) = A_Y, \\
m_Y(A_Y \otimes A_Y)m_Y^* &= \varphi(m_X(\varphi(A_X) \otimes A_X)m_Y^*) = \varphi(\delta^2 A_X) = \delta^2 A_Y, \\
(\iota \otimes \eta_Y^*)m_Y &= \varphi((\iota \otimes \eta_Y^*)m_X(\iota \otimes A_X \otimes \iota)(m_Y^* \eta_Y \otimes \iota)) = \varphi(A_X) = A_Y, \\
m_Y(A_Y \otimes \iota)m_Y^* &= \varphi(m_X(\varphi(\iota) \otimes \iota)m_Y^*) = \varphi(\delta^2 \iota) = \delta^2 \iota,
\end{align*}
\]
so \(A_Y\) is a quantum adjacency matrix and \(Y = (\mathcal{O}(Y), \psi_Y, A_Y)\) is a quantum graph.

Now let \(G_Y\) be the quantum automorphism group of \(Y\), with fundamental representation \(w \in M_{dy}(\mathcal{O}(G_Y))\). Then by Definition 3.4 and the construction of the morphisms \(m_Y, \eta_Y, \varphi_Y, A_Y\) using the monoidal equivalence \(\varphi\), there is a surjective Hopf \(\ast\)-homomorphism \(\sigma : \mathcal{O}(G_Y) \to \mathcal{O}(G)\) given by \((\sigma \otimes \iota)w = v\). In particular, \(G < G_Y\) is a quantum subgroup, which implies that for any \(m, n \in \mathbb{N}_0\), we have \(\text{Mor}(w^\otimes m, w^\otimes n) \subseteq \text{Mor}(v^\otimes m, v^\otimes n)\). To prove that in fact \(G = G_Y\), it suffices to check equality in the above containments for each \(m, n\) (see for example [9, Proposition 3.5]). To this end, recall that by our monoidal equivalence, we have isomorphisms \(\varphi : \text{Mor}(u^\otimes m, u^\otimes n) \cong \text{Mor}(v^\otimes m, v^\otimes n)\). Moreover, since (by universality of \(G_X\)) the space \(\text{Mor}(u^\otimes m, u^\otimes n)\) is generated (in the \(C^*\)-tensor categorical sense) by the maps \(\{I, m_X, \eta_X, A_X\}\), it follows that \(\text{Mor}(v^\otimes m, v^\otimes n)\) is also generated by the images \(\{\varphi(I), \varphi(m_X), \varphi(\eta_X), \varphi(A_X)\} = \{I, m_Y, \eta_Y, A_Y\}\) by the same universal reasoning, \(\text{Mor}(w^\otimes m, w^\otimes n)\) is generated by \(\{I, m_Y, \eta_Y, A_Y\}\), so we conclude that \(\text{Mor}(v^\otimes m, v^\otimes n) = \varphi(\text{Mor}(u^\otimes m, u^\otimes n)) \subseteq \text{Mor}(w^\otimes m, w^\otimes n)\).

Finally, it remains to show that \(X \cong_{A^-} Y\). Since we have a monoidal equivalence \(\varphi : \text{Rep}(G_X) \to \text{Rep}(G_Y)\), Theorem 3.16 guarantees the existence of an \(\mathcal{O}(G_Y)\)-\(\mathcal{O}(G_X)\)-bigalois extension \(Z\). Moreover, from [21, Theorem 2.3.11], one can construct a unitary operator \(z \in Z \otimes B(L^2(X), L^2(Y))\) satisfying the relations

1. \((1 \otimes A_Y)z = (1 \otimes \varphi(A_X))z = z(1 \otimes A_X)\).
2. \((1 \otimes \iota \eta_Y) = 1 \otimes \varphi(\eta_X) = z(1 \otimes \eta_X)\).
3. \((1 \otimes m_Y)z_{12}z_{13} = (1 \otimes \varphi(m_X))z_{12}z_{13} = z(1 \otimes m_X)\).
4. \((z^*)_{12}(1 \otimes m_Y^* \eta_Y \otimes 1) = (z^*)_{12}(1 \otimes \varphi(m_Y^* \eta_Y) \otimes 1) = z_{13}(1 \otimes m_Y^* \eta_X)\).

These four relations say precisely that the map \(e_i \mapsto \sum_j f_j \otimes z_{ji}\) defines a unital \(\ast\)-homomorphism \(\mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(Y) \otimes Z\) (where \((e_i)\) and \((f_j)\) are ONBs for \(L^2(X)\) and \(L^2(Y)\)). In particular, we obtain a non-zero \(\ast\)-homomorphism \(\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \to Z\) given by \(p \mapsto z\) (where \(p\) denotes the matrix of generators of \(\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X)\)). I.e., \(\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \not\cong 0\).

**Remark 4.12** With a little more work one can show that in fact \(\mathcal{O}(G_Y, G_X) \cong Z\) via the above homomorphism.

**Example 4.13** Let \(\delta > 0\) and let \(X\) and \(Y\) be quantum sets each equipped with \(\delta\)-forms. Then it follows from [11, Theorem 4.7] that the quantum automorphism groups of the spaces \(X\) and \(Y\) are monoidally equivalent. In view of Theorem 4.11, this is equivalent to saying that the quantum complete graphs \(K_X\) and \(K_Y\) are \(C^*\)-quantum isomorphic. In particular,
• For each \( n \geq 4 \), we have \( K_{n2} \cong_{q_e} K_{X_n} \), where \( K_{X_n} \) is the quantum complete graph associated to the quantum set \( X_n = (M_n(\mathbb{C}), n^{-1}\text{Tr}(\cdot)) \).

• Let \( Q \in M_n(\mathbb{C}) \) with \( Q > 0 \), \( \text{Tr}(Q) = 1 \), \( \text{Tr}(Q^{-1}) = \delta^2 > 0 \), and consider the quantum set \( Y = (M_n(\mathbb{C}), \psi_Y = \text{Tr}(Q), \delta^2\psi_Y(\cdot)1) \). Then \( K_Y \cong_{C^*} K_X \) for any quantum set \( X \) equipped with a \( \delta \)-form.

In particular, quantum isomorphic quantum graphs need not have the same dimension.

Let \( X \) and \( Y \) be two quantum graphs. We noted above, in the discussion preceding Theorem 4.11, that a monoidal equivalence between \( G_X \) and \( G_Y \) sending \( A_X \) to \( A_Y \) would by necessity force the graphs to be isospectral. In particular, they must be so if they are quantum isomorphic. We end this section with an example of a pair of non-quantum-isomorphic, isospectral graphs with trivial quantum automorphism groups.

We will use the Frucht graph \( X \), which is a 3-regular graph on 12 vertices and has trivial automorphism group. Moreover, its adjacency matrix has no repeated eigenvalues; as we will see, this will eventually help show that \( X \) has no quantum automorphisms.

Before delving into the statement and proof of the next result we fix some notation and terminology. \( X \) will be a (classical) graph on \( n \) vertices, and we denote by \( p_i \), \( 1 \leq i \leq n \) the minimal projections of \( \mathcal{O}(X) \). The support of an element \( f \in \mathcal{O}(X) \) is the set of \( p_i \) that have non-zero coefficients in a decomposition of \( f \) as a linear combination

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i p_i.
\]

Lemma 4.14 Let \( X \) be a graph on \( n \) vertices whose adjacency matrix \( A = A_X \) has only simple eigenvalues with no two eigenvectors having disjoint supports. Then the quantum automorphism group \( G_X \) is classical.

Proof As a consequence of [18, Theorem 3.11], \( A \) is contained in the space of endomorphisms of \( \mathcal{O}(X) \) regarded as an \( \mathcal{O}(G_X) \)-comodule. In particular the elements \( e_i \), \( 1 \leq i \leq n \) of an \( A \)-eigenbasis of \( \mathcal{O}(X) \) span lines invariant under \( \mathcal{O}(G_X) \), meaning that the coaction takes the form

\[
\rho_X : e_i \mapsto e_i \otimes g_i
\]

for elements \( g_i \in \mathcal{O}(G_X) \). It follows from this that the elements \( g_i \) are grouplike, i.e.

\[
\Delta(g_i) = g_i \otimes g_i, \quad \varepsilon(g_i) = 1.
\]

Since \( \mathcal{O}(G_X) \) is generated as an algebra by the right hand tensorands of \( \rho_X(e_i) \), it follows that \( \mathcal{O}(G_X) \) is the group algebra \( \mathbb{C} \Gamma \) of a group \( \Gamma \) (generated by \( g_i \)) and \( \rho_X \) is nothing but a \( \Gamma \)-graded algebra structure on \( \mathcal{O}(X) \). In order to conclude it remains to argue that the grading group \( \Gamma \) is commutative, for it will then follow that \( G_X \) is the (classical) Pontryagin dual of \( \Gamma \).

Now, since no two \( e_i \) have disjoint supports, \( e_i e_j = e_j e_i \) are all non-zero and homogeneous of degree \( g_i g_j \) as well as \( g_j g_i \). It follows that the generators \( g_i \) of \( \Gamma \) all commute, and we are done.

Corollary 4.15 The Frucht graph has trivial quantum automorphism group.

Proof The graph meets the requirements of Lemma 4.14: we have verified the no-disjoint-supports condition by direct examination, having computed the entries of the eigenvectors to three decimals using a CAS.

It follows from Lemma 4.14 that the quantum automorphism group is classical. On the other hand, we know that the Frucht graph has no non-trivial classical automorphisms.
We also need the following simple remark

\textbf{Lemma 4.16} Let \( X_i, i = 1, 2 \) be graphs with the vertex set \( \{1, \ldots, n\} \) and respective adjacency matrices \( A_i \). Suppose that \( P = (p_{ij}) \) is a magic unitary such that \( A_1 P = P A_2 \). If \( p_{ij} \neq 0 \) then \( \deg(i) = \deg(j) \).

\textbf{Proof} The \((i, j)\) entries of both sides are equal, so \( \sum_k a_{ik} b_{kj} = \sum_k p_{ik} b_{kj} \). We can sum both sides of equality, getting \( \sum_k (\sum_i a_{ik}) p_{kj} = (\sum_k b_{kj}) \text{Id} \). Since \((p_{kj})_k\) is a partition of unity, this can only happen if \( \sum_i a_{ik} = \sum_k b_{kj} \), whenever \( p_{kj} \) is non-zero. But the left-hand side is \( \deg_A(k) \) and the right-hand side is \( \deg_B(j) \), so we are done.

We now need the following consequence of [15, Theorem 2.2].

\textbf{Theorem 4.17} Suppose that \( \Gamma \) is a regular graph with \( 2m \) vertices. Form \( \Gamma' \) by adding a vertex \( 2m + 1 \), which is joined to exactly \( m \) vertices. If \( \Gamma'' \) is the switch of \( \Gamma' \), i.e. the graph formed by connecting \( 2m + 1 \) to the other \( m \) vertices of \( \Gamma \), then \( \Gamma' \) and \( \Gamma'' \) are isospectral.

\textbf{Example 4.18} We construct the pair \( X_i, i = 1, 2 \) of graphs alluded to above as follows.

Start with the Frucht graph \( X \), which is 3-regular and has 12 vertices. Its adjacency matrix has simple eigenvalues, hence its quantum automorphism group is trivial by Corollary 4.15. Next, form the 13-vertex graph \( X_1 \) obtained by adding a vertex connected to exactly 6 vertices of the Frucht graph. Note first that \( X_1 \) once more has a trivial quantum automorphism group. Indeed, the degrees of the vertices of \( X \) are all 3 while the additional vertex has degree 6. By Lemma 4.16 any the magic unitary commuting with the adjacency matrix would be block-diagonal, consisting of a \( 12 \times 12 \) block and the unit in position \((13, 13)\). The former block would however constitute a quantum automorphism of the Frucht graph itself, so that block must be trivial.

The same reasoning shows that the graph \( X_2 \) obtained by connecting the 13th vertex of \( X_1 \) to the other 6 vertices of \( X \) cannot be quantum isomorphic to \( X_1 \). As claimed before, \( X_i \) are isospectral, non-quantum-isomorphic, and have trivial quantum automorphism groups.

Incidentally, Example 4.18 also also answers a question posed implicitly in [18]. As mentioned before in the discussion preceding §4.1, [18, Theorem 4.2] proves that for quantum isomorphic graphs \( X_i, i = 1, 2 \) there is an isomorphism between their respective quantum orbital algebras that identifies the adjacency matrices \( A_i, i = 1, 2 \). The discussion following that result mentions that while the converse is not expected to hold, the authors do not have a counterexample. The graphs \( X_i \) constructed above provide that counterexample:

Since the quantum automorphism groups \( G_i, i = 1, 2 \) are trivial the quantum orbital algebras are simply the matrix algebras \( \text{End}(\mathcal{O}(X_i)) \). Since \( A_i \) are isospectral self-adjoint matrices, there is an isomorphism

\[ \text{End}(\mathcal{O}(X_1)) \cong \text{End}(\mathcal{O}(X_2)) \]

identifying them.

\section{Applications to other synchronous games}

Theorem 4.8 can be extended to a broader family of games. The key concept that we need to accomplish this is a notion of equivalence for games.

\textbf{Definition 5.1} Let \( \mathcal{G}_1 \) and \( \mathcal{G}_2 \) be two synchronous games. We say that \( \mathcal{G}_1 \) and \( \mathcal{G}_2 \) are \( \ast \)-equivalent if there exist unital \( \ast \)-homomorphisms, \( \pi : \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G}_1) \to \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G}_2) \) and \( \rho : \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G}_2) \to \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G}_1) \).
Note that we do not require \( \pi \) and \( \rho \) to be mutual inverses or even one-to-one, just unital. The reason for examining this relation is given below.

**Proposition 5.2** Let \( t \in \{ \text{loc, q, qa, qc, } C^*, A^* \} \). If \( \mathcal{G}_1, \mathcal{G}_2 \) are synchronous games that are \( * \)-equivalent, then \( \mathcal{G}_1 \) has a perfect \( t \)-strategy if and only if \( \mathcal{G}_2 \) has a perfect \( t \)-strategy.

**Proof** We do the case \( t = q \), the rest are similar. If \( \mathcal{G}_2 \) has a perfect \( q \)-strategy, then there is a unital \( * \)-morphism \( \gamma : A(\mathcal{G}_2) \to M_d \) for some \( d \). Composing with \( \pi \) yields a \( * \)-homomorphism from \( A(\mathcal{G}_1) \) into \( M_d \), and so, \( \mathcal{G}_1 \) has a perfect \( q \)-strategy. The converse is clear, as are the remaining cases. \( \square \)

We now introduce another game which we will show is \( * \)-equivalent to a graph isomorphism game.

### 5.1 The syncBCS game

This game was first introduced in [17] and is a synchronous version of what is classically known as the BCS game.

Given an \( m \times n \) matrix \( A = (a_{i,j}) \) over the field of two elements, \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \) and a vector \( b \), we introduce a game denoted \( \text{syncBCS}(A, b) \), that is intended to convince a referee that Alice and Bob have a solution \( x \) to the equation \( Ax = b \).

For \( i = 1, \ldots, m \), let \( V_i = \{ j : a_{i,j} \neq 0 \} \). Note that to solve the \( i \)-th equation in \( Ax = b \), we only need

\[
\sum_{j \in V_i} a_{i,j} x_j = b_i,
\]

since the remaining terms are irrelevant. Set

\[
S^b_i = \{ x \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n : \sum_{j \in V_i} a_{i,j} x_j = b_i \text{ and } x_j = 0 \text{ for } j \notin V_i \}.
\]

We associate a synchronous game to \( Ax = b \) as follows:

**Definition 5.3** Suppose \( Ax = b \) is an \( m \times n \) linear system over \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \) and \( b \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n \). The synchronous BCS game associated to \( Ax = b \), denoted \( \text{synBCS}(A, b) \), is given as follows:

1. the input set is \( I = \{ 1, \ldots, m \} \);
2. the output set is \( O = \mathbb{Z}_2^n \);
3. given input \((i, j)\), Alice and Bob win on output \((x, y)\) if and only if \( x \in S^b_i, y \in S^b_j \), and for all \( k \in V_i \cap V_j, x_k = y_k \).

Next let us recall from [1, Section 6] the graph \( G_{A,b} \) defined for a linear system \( Ax = b \) over \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \).

**Definition 5.4** Suppose \( Ax = b \) is an \( m \times n \) linear system over \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \) and \( b \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n \). Define a graph \( G_{A,b} \) with the following data:

1. the vertices of \( G_{A,b} \) are pairs \((i, x)\) where \( i \in \{1, \ldots, m\} \) and \( x \in S^b_i \);
2. there is an edge between distinct vertices \((i, x)\) and \((j, y)\) if and only if there exists some \( k \in V_i \cap V_j \) for which \( x_k \neq y_k \); that is, \( x \) and \( y \) are inconsistent solutions.
We are now ready to state the main theorem of this section.

**Theorem 5.5** Let \( A = (a_{i,j}) \) be an \( m \times n \) matrix over \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \) and let \( b \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n \). Then the following three synchronous games:

1. \( \text{syncBCS}(A,b) \),
2. \( \text{Iso}(G_{A,b},G_{A,0}) \),
3. \( \text{Hom}(K_m,G_{A,b}) \),

are \(*\)-equivalent.

Before proving this theorem, we state some corollaries. Combining the above theorem with Theorem 4.8 yields the following consequences.

**Corollary 5.6** Let \( A = (a_{i,j}) \) be an \( m \times n \) matrix over \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \) and let \( b \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n \). The following are equivalent:

1. \( \text{syncBCS}(A,b) \) has a perfect \( A^* \)-strategy,
2. \( \text{syncBCS}(A,b) \) has a perfect \( C^* \)-strategy,
3. \( \text{syncBCS}(A,b) \) has a perfect \( qc \)-strategy.

**Corollary 5.7** Let \( A = (a_{i,j}) \) be an \( m \times n \) matrix over \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \) and let \( b \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n \). The following are equivalent:

1. \( \text{Hom}(K_m,G_{A,b}) \) has a perfect \( A^* \)-strategy,
2. \( \text{Hom}(K_m,G_{A,b}) \) has a perfect \( C^* \)-strategy,
3. \( \text{Hom}(K_m,G_{A,b}) \) has a perfect \( qc \)-strategy.

The proof of the theorem borrows some ideas from the proof of [17, Theorem 5.4].

**Proof of Theorem:**

We begin by constructing a unital \(*\)-homomorphism from \( A(Iso(G_{A,b},G_{A,0})) \) to \( A(\text{syncBCS}(A,b)) \).

The algebra \( A(\text{syncBCS}(A,b)) \) is generated by projections \( e_{i,x} \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, m \) and \( x \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n \) satisfying \( \sum_x e_{i,x} = 1 \) for all \( i \), \( e_{i,x}e_{i,y} = 0 \) if \( x \neq y \). Moreover, given input \( i \), if \( x \notin S^b_i \), then they lose for all \( (j,y) \), from this it follows that \( e_{i,x} = 0 \) if \( x \notin S^b_i \). Also, if \( x \in S^b_i \) and \( y \in S^b_j \), then \( e_{i,x}e_{j,y} = 0 \) if there is a \( k \in V_i \cap V_j \) with \( x_k \neq y_k \).

Let \( S^0_i \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_2^n \) denote the set of solutions to the \( i \)th equation of the linear system \( Ax = 0 \) and let \( S^b_i \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_2^n \) denote the set of solutions to the \( i \)th equation of the linear system \( Ax = b \). Note that if \( y \in S^0_i \) and \( x \in S^b_i \), then \( x + y \in S^b_i \). Moreover, for \( x \in S^b_i \), the map \( S^0_i \rightarrow S^b_i \) given by \( y \mapsto x + y \) is a bijection.

The algebra \( A(Iso(G_{A,b},G_{A,0})) \) is generated by projections \( e_{(i,x),(j,y)} \) with \( (i,x) \in V(G_{A,b}) \) and \( (j,y) \in V(G_{A,0}) \), satisfying certain relations. For \( (i,x) \in V(G_{A,b}) \) and \( (j,y) \in V(G_{A,0}) \), define

\[
q_{(i,x),(j,y)} = \begin{cases} 
eq j \\ e_{i,x+y} & i = j \\ 0 & i \neq j \end{cases}
\]
and note that each \( q_{(i,x),(j,y)} \) is a projection. For \((i, x) \in V(G_{A,b})\), we have

\[
\sum_{(j,y) \in V(G_{A,0})} q_{(i,x),(j,y)} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{y \in S_j^0} q_{(i,x),(j,y)} = \sum_{y \in S_i^0} e_{i,x+y} = \sum_{z \in S_i^b} e_{i,z} = 1.
\]

A similar computation shows that for all \((j, y) \in V(G_{A,0})\), we have

\[
\sum_{(i,x) \in V(G_{A,b})} q_{(i,x),(j,y)} = 1.
\]

We need to show that for all \((i, x), (i', x') \in V(G_{A,0})\) and \((j, y), (j', y') \in V(G_{A,0})\), the implication

\[
q_{(i,x),(j,y)} q_{(i',x'),(j',y')} \neq 0 \implies \text{rel}((i,x),(i',x')) = \text{rel}((j,y),(j',y'))
\]

holds. To this end, suppose \(q_{(i,x),(j,y)} q_{(i',x'),(j',y')} \neq 0\). Then \(i = j, i' = j',\) and \(e_{i,x+y} e_{i',x'+y'} \neq 0\). We consider several cases.

Suppose first \(i = i'\). Then we have \(x + y = x' + y'\). If \(x = x'\), then \(y = y'\) and we have both \((i, x) = (i', x')\) and \((j, y) = (j', y')\) so the right hand side of the implication holds in this case. Conversely, if \(x \neq x'\) and \(y \neq y'\), then \((i, x) \neq (i', x')\) and \((j, y) \neq (j', y')\). Note also that since \(i = i'\), \(x\) and \(x'\) are necessarily inconsistent solutions so that \((i, x)\) and \((i', x')\) are adjacent. Similar reasoning shows \((j, y)\) and \((j', y')\) are adjacent. Hence the right hand side of the implication holds.

Now assume \(i \neq i'\) so that, in particular, \((i, x) \neq (i', x')\). If \((i, x)\) and \((i', x')\) are adjacent, there is a \(k \in V_i \cap V_{i'}\) such that \(x_k \neq x_k'\). On the other hand, as \(e_{i,x+y} e_{i',x'+y'} \neq 0\), we know \(x_k + y_k = x_k' + y_k'\). Therefore, \(y_k \neq y_k'\) so that \((i, y)\) and \((i', y')\) are adjacent. Finally, suppose \((i, x)\) and \((i', x')\) are not adjacent. Then \(x_k = x_k'\) for all \(i \in V_i \cap V_{i'}\). Again since \(e_{i,x+y} e_{i',x'+y'} \neq 0\), we also know \(x_k + y_k = x_k' + y_k'\) for all \(k \in V_i \cap V_{i'}\) and therefore \(y_k = y_k'\) for all \(k \in V_i \cap V_{i'}\) so that \((j, y)\) and \((j', y')\) are not adjacent. This covers all cases.

Now, by the fact that \(A(Iso(G_{A,b}, G_{A,0}))\) is the universal \(*\)-algebra with projections satisfying these properties, we have that the map \(e_{(i,x),(j,y)} \rightarrow q_{(i,x),(j,y)} \in A(syncBCS(A,b))\) defines the desired unital \(*\)-homomorphism.

Now we prove that there is a unital \(*\)-homomorphism from \(A(Hom(K_m, \overline{G_{A,b}}))\) to \(A(Iso(G_{A,b}, G_{A,0}))\).

Note that for any graph \(X\) we have that \(A(Hom(K_m, X))\) is generated by projections, \(e_{i,x}, 1 \leq i \leq m, x \in V(X)\) satisfying \(\sum_x e_{i,x} = 1, e_{i,x} e_{i,y} = 0, x \neq y\) and \(i \neq j, (x, y) \notin E(X) \implies e_{i,x} e_{j,y} = 0\). Since we are interested in \(Hom(K_m, \overline{H})\), this last relation changes to \(i \neq j, (x, y) \in E(X) \implies e_{i,x} e_{j,y} = 0\).

For each \((i, x) \in V(G_{A,b})\) and \(1 \leq j \leq m\) we define an element \(p_{j,(i,x)} \in A(Iso(G_{A,b}, G_{A,0}))\) by setting \(p_{j,(i,x)} = e_{(i,x),(j,0)}\).

We have that \(\sum_{(i,x)} e_{i,(i,x)} = 1\) and \(p_{j,(i,x)} p_{j,(i',x')} = 0\) when \((i, x) \neq (i', x')\) by the magic permutation relations.

Finally, if \(j \neq l\) and \(((i, x), (i', x')) \in E(G_{A,b})\) then \(rel((j, 0), (l, 0)) = +1\) while \(rel((i, x), (i', x')) = -1\). Hence,

\[
p_{j,(i,x)} p_{l,(i',x')} = e_{(i,x),(j,0)} e_{(i',x'),(l,0)} = 0.
\]

This shows that the map from \(A(Hom(K_m, \overline{G_{A,b}}))\) to \(A(Iso(G_{A,b}, G_{A,0}))\) given by \(e_{j,(i,x)} \rightarrow p_{j,(i,x)}\) defines a unital \(*\)-homomorphism.

Finally, we must exhibit a unital \(*\)-homomorphism from \(A(syncBCS(A,b))\) into \(A(Hom(K_m, G_{A,b}))\).

This latter algebra is generated by projections \(e_{i,(j,x)}, 1 \leq i \leq m, (j, x) \in V(G_{A,b})\), i.e., \(x \in S_j^b\). These satisfy \(\sum_x e_{i,(j,x)} = 1\), \(e_{i,(j,x)} e_{i,(k,y)} = 0\), when \((i, x) \neq (k, y)\). Also, we have that when
Substituting \( x_0 \) moreover, when \( v \) is a self-adjoint idempotent. Also, \( v_{i,j} \) and \( v_{i,k} \) commute for all \( i,j,k = 1, \ldots, m \).

For all \( i,k \) and \( j \in V_i \cap V_k \),

\[
v_{i,j}v_{k,j} = \sum_{p=1}^{m} \sum_{x \in S_k} x_j e_{i,(p,x)} v_{k,j} = \sum_{p=1}^{m} \sum_{x \in S_k} x_j y_j e_{i,(p,x)} e_{k,(q,y)}.
\]

Note that when \( x_j \neq y_j \), there is an edge between \((p,x)\) and \((q,y)\) in \( G_{A,b} \) and hence \( e_{i,(p,x)} e_{k,(q,y)} = 0 \). Moreover, when \( x_j = y_j \), \( x_j y_j = x_j \). Hence we have

\[
v_{i,j}v_{k,j} = \sum_{p,q=1}^{m} \sum_{x \in S_k} x_j e_{i,(p,x)} e_{k,(q,y)} = \sum_{p=1}^{m} \sum_{x \in S_k} x_j \left( \sum_{q=1}^{m} e_{k,(q,y)} \right) e_{i,(p,x)} = \sum_{p=1}^{m} \sum_{x \in S_k} x_j e_{i,(p,x)} = v_{i,j}.
\]

Substituting \( x_j y_j = y_j \) instead yields, \( v_{i,j} = v_{i,j}^2 \), for any \( j \in V_i \cap V_k \).

Given \( j = 1, \ldots, n \), define \( w_j = 1 - 2v_{i,j} \) if \( j \in V_i \) for some \( i = 1, \ldots, m \) and \( w_j = 1 \) otherwise. Then each \( w_j \) is a well-defined, self-adjoint unitary. For \( j \in V_i \), we have

\[
w_j = \sum_{k=1}^{m} \sum_{x \in S_k} (-1)^{x_k} e_{i,k,x}.
\]

If \( j, k \in V_i \) for some \( i \), then \( w_j = 1 - 2v_{i,j} \) and \( w_k = 1 - 2v_{i,k} \) commute. For each \( i = 1, \ldots, m \),

\[
\prod_{j \in V_i} w_j = \sum_{k=1}^{m} \sum_{x \in S_k} \prod_{j \in V_i} (-1)^{x_k} e_{i,k,x} = (-1)^{b_i}.
\]

For \( 1 \leq i \leq m \) and \( x \in \mathbb{Z}_2^n \), define an element \( a_{i,x} \) of \( \mathcal{A}(\text{Hom}(K_m, \overline{G_{A,b}})) \) by

\[
a_{i,x} = \prod_{j \in V_i} \prod_{k \in V_i} (1 - v_{i,k}) \prod_{x_j = 0} v_{i,j} \prod_{x_k = 1} (1 - v_{i,k}).
\]

Since \( v_{i,j}v_{i,k} = v_{i,k}v_{i,j} \) for all \( i,j,k \) and each \( v_{i,k} \) and \( 1 - v_{i,j} \) are self-adjoint idempotents, it follows that \( a_{i,x} \) is a self-adjoint idempotent. Moreover, for each \( 1 \leq i \leq m \),

\[
\sum_{x \in S_i} a_{i,x} = \sum_{x \in S_i} \prod_{j \in V_i} x_{j=0} (1 - v_{i,k}) \prod_{x_k = 1} (-1)^{x_k} \sum_{x \in S_i} \prod_{j \in V_i} (-1)^{x_j} \chi_{\{-1\}(x_j)}(w_j),
\]

where

\[
\chi_{\{-1\}(x_j)}(w_j) = \begin{cases} 
\frac{1 + w_j}{2} & \text{if } x_j = 0 \\
\frac{1 - w_j}{2} & \text{if } x_j = 1.
\end{cases}
\]

In order to show that \( \sum_{x \in S_i} a_{i,x} = 1 \), we must show that

\[
\sum_{x \in S_i} \prod_{j \in V_i} (-1)^{x_j} \chi_{\{-1\}(x_j)}(w_j) = (-1)^{b_i}.
\]
To this end, we observe that
\[ (-1)^{(b_i)} = \prod_{j \in V_i} w_j = \prod_{j \in V_i} (\chi_{+1}(w_j) - \chi_{-1}(w_j)) = \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^V} \prod_{j \in V_i} (-1)^{(x_j)} \chi_{-1}^{(x_j)}(w_j), \]
where \( \{0,1\}^V_i = \{ x \in \{0,1\}^n : x_k = 0 \text{ for } k \notin V_i \} \). Now, if \( x \in \{0,1\}^V_i \) and \( x \not\in S^b_i \), then \( \prod_{j \in V_i} (-1)^{x_j} \neq (-1)^{(b_i)} \). We obtain
\[ \prod_{j \in V_i} (-1)^{(x_j)} \chi_{-1}^{(x_j)}(w_j) = - \prod_{j \in V_i} w_j \chi_{-1}^{(x_j)}(w_j) = - \prod_{j \in V_i} (-1)^{(x_j)} \chi_{-1}^{(x_j)}(w_j). \]
In particular, \( \prod_{j \in V_i} (-1)^{(x_j)} \chi_{-1}^{(x_j)}(w_j) = 0 \) whenever \( x \in \{0,1\}^V_i \setminus S^b_i \). It follows that
\[ \sum_{x \in S^b_i} \prod_{j \in V_i} (-1)^{(x_j)} \chi_{-1}^{(x_j)}(w_j) = (-1)^{(b_i)}, \]
from which we obtain the fact that \( \sum_{x \in S^b_i} a_{i,x} = 1 \), as desired.

Finally, we show that \( a_{i,x} a_{j,y} = 0 \) whenever \( x_k \neq y_k \) for some \( k \in V_i \cap V_j \). We may assume that \( x_k = 0 \) and \( y_k = 1 \); the argument for \( x_k = 1 \) and \( y_k = 0 \) is similar. Since \( k \in V_i \cap V_j \), we have that \( v_{ik} v_{jk} = v_{jk} \). Thus, \( v_{ik} (1 - v_{jk}) = 0 \). Since all the terms in the product defining \( a_{i,x} \) commute, and since \( v_{ik} \) appears in the product defining \( a_{i,x} \) and \( 1 - v_{jk} \) appears in the product defining \( a_{j,y} \), we have \( a_{i,x} a_{j,y} = 0 \). Therefore, the projections \( \{ a_{i,x} : 1 \leq i \leq m, x \in S^b_i \} \) satisfy the properties of the generators of \( \mathcal{A}(\text{syncBCS}(A, b)) \). It follows that there is a unital \( * \)-homomorphism \( \mathcal{A}(\text{syncBCS}(A, b)) \to \mathcal{A}(\text{Hom}(K_m, \overline{G_{A,b}})) \) given by \( e_{i,x} \mapsto a_{i,x} \), which completes the proof.

Acknowledgements

MB, KE and XS were supported by NSF grant DMS-1700267. AC was supported by NSF grant DMS-1801011. VP and SH were supported by NSERC. MW was supported by the National Science Centre (NCN) grant 2016/21/N/ST1/02499. Parts of this work were completed during the 2017 CMS Winter Meeting at the University of Waterloo, a research visit of MW to Texas A&M University (supported by National Science Centre (NCN) scholarship 2017/24/T/ST1/00391) and during the Fall 2018 Workshop on “Cohomology of quantum groups and quantum automorphism groups of finite graphs” at the University of Saarbrücken. The authors thank the Universities and their respective hosts for the very stimulating research environments.

References

[1] A. Atserias, L. Mančinska, D. E. Roberson, R. Šámal, S. Severini, and A. Varvitsiotis. Quantum and non-signalling graph isomorphisms. ArXiv e-prints, November 2016.
[2] Teodor Banica. Symmetries of a generic coaction. Math. Ann., 314(4):763–780, 1999.
[3] Teodor Banica. Quantum groups and Fuss-Catalan algebras. Comm. Math. Phys., 226(1):221–232, 2002.
[4] Teodor Banica. Quantum automorphism groups of small metric spaces. Pacific J. Math., 219(1):27–51, 2005.
[5] George M. Bergman. The diamond lemma for ring theory. Adv. in Math., 29(2):178–218, 1978.
[6] Julien Bichon. Galois extension for a compact quantum group. Preprint, arXiv:math/9902031, 1999.

[7] Julien Bichon. Hopf-Galois objects and cogroupoids. Rev. Un. Mat. Argentina, 55(2):11–69, 2014.

[8] Julien Bichon, An De Rijdt, and Stefaan Vaes. Ergodic coactions with large multiplicity and monoidal equivalence of quantum groups. Comm. Math. Phys., 262(3):703–728, 2006.

[9] Michael Brannan, Benoît Collins, and Roland Vergnioux. The Connes embedding property for quantum group von Neumann algebras. Trans. Amer. Math. Soc., 369(6):3799–3819, 2017.

[10] Andrea Coladangelo and Jalex Stark. Unconditional separation of finite and infinite-dimensional quantum correlations. Preprint, arXiv:1804.05116, 2018.

[11] An De Rijdt and Nikolas Vander Vennet. Actions of monoidally equivalent compact quantum groups and applications to probabilistic boundaries. Ann. Inst. Fourier (Grenoble), 60(1):169–216, 2010.

[12] Ann De Rijdt. Monoidal equivalence of compact quantum groups. Ph.D. Thesis, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 2007.

[13] Mathijs S. Dijkhuizen and Tom H. Koornwinder. CQG algebras: a direct algebraic approach to compact quantum groups. Lett. Math. Phys., 32(4):315–330, 1994.

[14] Ken Dykema, Vern I. Paulsen, and Jitendra Prakash. Non-closure of the set of quantum correlations via graphs. Preprint, arXiv:1709.05032, 2017.

[15] C. D. Godsil and B. D. McKay. Constructing cospectral graphs. Aequationes Math., 25(2-3):257–268, 1982.

[16] W. Helton, K. P. Meyer, V. I. Paulsen, and M. Satriano. Algebras, Synchronous Games and Chromatic Numbers of Graphs. ArXiv e-prints, March 2017.

[17] Se-Jin Kim, Vern Paulsen, and Christopher Schafhauser. A synchronous game for binary constraint systems. J. Math. Phys., 59(3):032201, 17, 2018.

[18] M. Lupini, L. Mancinska, and D.E. Roberson. Nonlocal games and quantum permutation groups. Preprint, arXiv:1712.01820, 2017.

[19] Benjamin Musto, David Reutter, and Dominic Verdon. A compositional approach to quantum functions. J. Math. Phys., 59(8):081706, 42, 2018.

[20] Benjamin Musto, David Reutter, and Dominic Verdon. The Morita theory of quantum graph isomorphisms. Preprint, arXiv:1801.09705, 2018.

[21] Sergey Neshveyev and Lars Tuset. Compact quantum groups and their representation categories, volume 20 of Cours Spécialisés [Specialized Courses]. Société Mathématique de France, Paris, 2013.

[22] Carlos M. Ortiz and Vern I. Paulsen. Quantum graph homomorphisms via operator systems. Linear Algebra Appl., 497:23–43, 2016.
[23] Narutaka Ozawa. About the connes’ embedding conjecture. *Japanese Journal of Mathematics*, 8, no. 1:147–183, 2013.

[24] Vern I. Paulsen. Entanglement and non-locality. Course Lecture Notes, 2016.

[25] Thomas Timmermann. *An invitation to quantum groups and duality*. EMS Textbooks in Mathematics. European Mathematical Society (EMS), Zürich, 2008. From Hopf algebras to multiplicative unitaries and beyond.

[26] B. S. Tsirelson. Some results and problems on quantum Bell-type inequalities. *Hadronic J. Suppl.*, 8(4):329–345, 1993.

[27] Alfons Van Daele and Shuzhou Wang. Universal quantum groups. *Internat. J. Math.*, 7(2):255–263, 1996.

[28] Shuzhou Wang. Quantum symmetry groups of finite spaces. *Comm. Math. Phys.*, 195(1):195–211, 1998.

[29] S. L. Woronowicz. Compact quantum groups. In *Symétries quantiques (Les Houches, 1995)*, pages 845–884. North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1998.