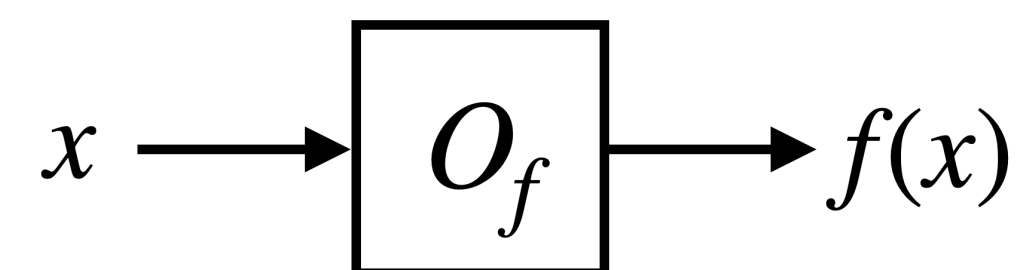


k -Collision problem

Given an oracle access to $f: \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$,



decide if there are k distinct x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k such that $f(x_1) = f(x_2) = \dots = f(x_k)$.

Query complexity

$$\begin{aligned} k = 2 &: \Theta(n^{2/3}), \\ k = 3 &: \Omega(n^{2/3}), O(n^{5/7}), \\ k = 4 &: \Omega(n^{11/16}), O(n^{11/15}). \end{aligned}$$

Importance

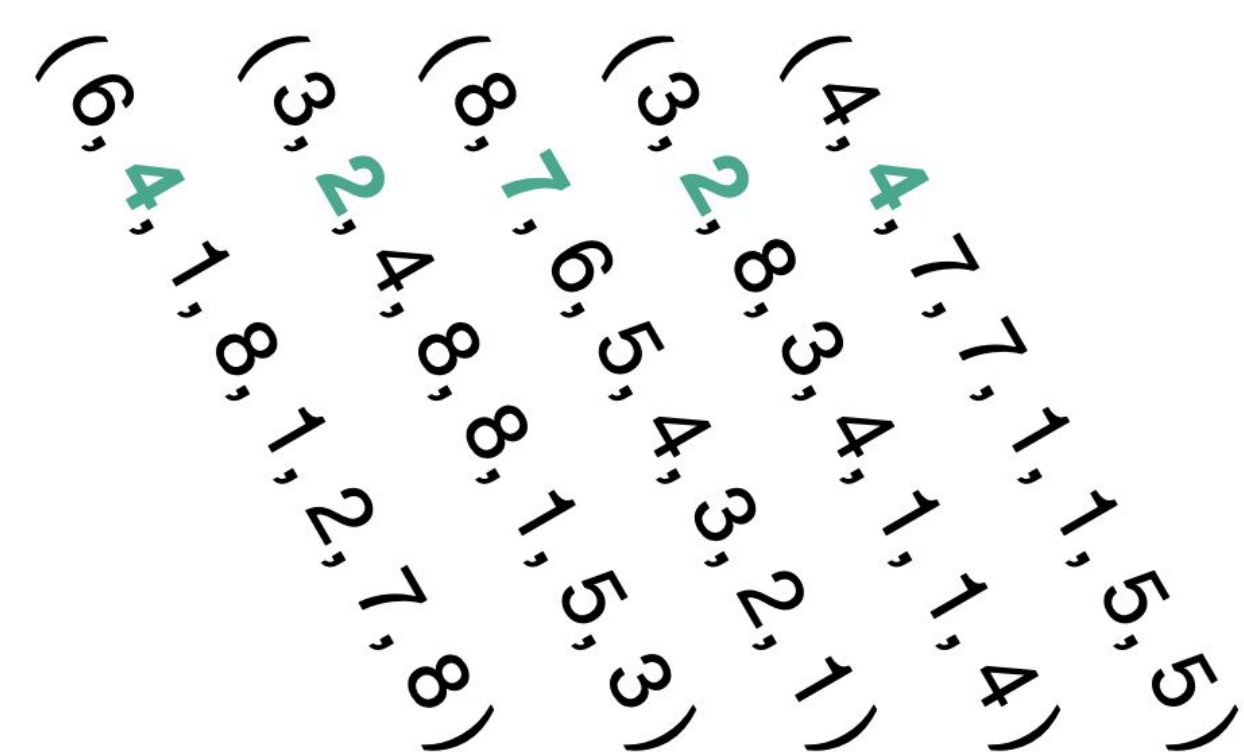
- New algorithmic techniques,
- New lower bound techniques,
- Cryptographic applications.

Quantum adversary method

For a decision problem P , one has to decide if $f \in \text{Yes}_P$ or $f \in \text{No}_P$.

$$f = (f(1), f(2), \dots, f(n))$$

Γ – any non-zero $\text{Yes}_P \times \text{No}_P$ matrix.



(1, 2, 2, 1, 3, 1, 5, 5)
(8, 2, 4, 4, 1, 3, 4, 5)
(7, 1, 1, 4, 5, 1, 3, 4)
(2, 2, 8, 7, 8, 2, 5, 8)
(4, 4, 7, 7, 1, 1, 1, 1)

For every input $x \in \{1, \dots, n\}$,

$$\Gamma_{f,g}^{(x)} := \begin{cases} \Gamma_{f,g} & \text{if } f(x) \neq g(x), \\ 0 & \text{if } f(x) = g(x). \end{cases}$$

Adversary bound

Bounded-error quantum query complexity

$$Q_\epsilon(P) = \Omega\left(\|\Gamma\| / \max_x \|\Gamma^{(x)}\|\right).$$

Challenges

1. Choosing a good Γ ,
2. Evaluating the norms.

Hardest instances for 3-Collision

No_{3C} : $\text{im}_{\text{mult}} f$ contains $n/2$ pairs;
 Yes_{3C} : $\text{im}_{\text{mult}} f$ contains $n/2 - 2$ pairs and a quadruple.

The structure makes constructing lower bounds for the $k = 3$ case more difficult than for the $k = 2$ case.

Assignment vectors

Assignment : partial function $\alpha: \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$.

Compatibility : f agrees with α if $\alpha(x) = f(x)$ for all $x \in \text{dom } \alpha$.

For every *Yes*-certificate α :

$$|w_\alpha\rangle \stackrel{\text{unit}}{:=} \sum_{\substack{f \in \text{Yes} \\ \alpha \subset f}} |f\rangle \quad \text{and} \quad |v_\alpha\rangle \stackrel{\text{unit}}{:=} \sum_{\substack{f \in \text{No} \\ \alpha \subset f}} |f\rangle.$$

We interpret the state of the adversary being in $|w_\alpha\rangle$ or $|v_\alpha\rangle$ as the algorithm having learnt that f agrees with α .

This is reminiscent of dual learning graphs.

Candidate adversary matrix

Inspired by lower bounds for dual adaptive learning graphs, I propose constructing the adversary matrix Γ as a linear combination of

$$L_{i,o} := \left(\sum_{\substack{\alpha \\ |\text{dom } \alpha| = i \\ |\text{im } \alpha| = o}} |w_\alpha\rangle \langle v_\alpha| \right) \Pi_{i,o}$$

where $\Pi_{i,o}$ is a certain projector related to the symmetries of the problem:

$$\Gamma := \sum_{i,o} (n^{5/7} - i - n^{1/7}(i - o)) L_{i,o}.$$