

# Quantum Distributed Computing: Recent Results

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Simons Institute  
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Positive answers known in some models:

- ✓ anonymous networks: quantum leader election [Tani et al. 2007]
- ✓ faulty networks: quantum Byzantine agreement [Ben-Or, Hassidim 2005]
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CONGEST model

(limited bandwidth)

LOCAL model

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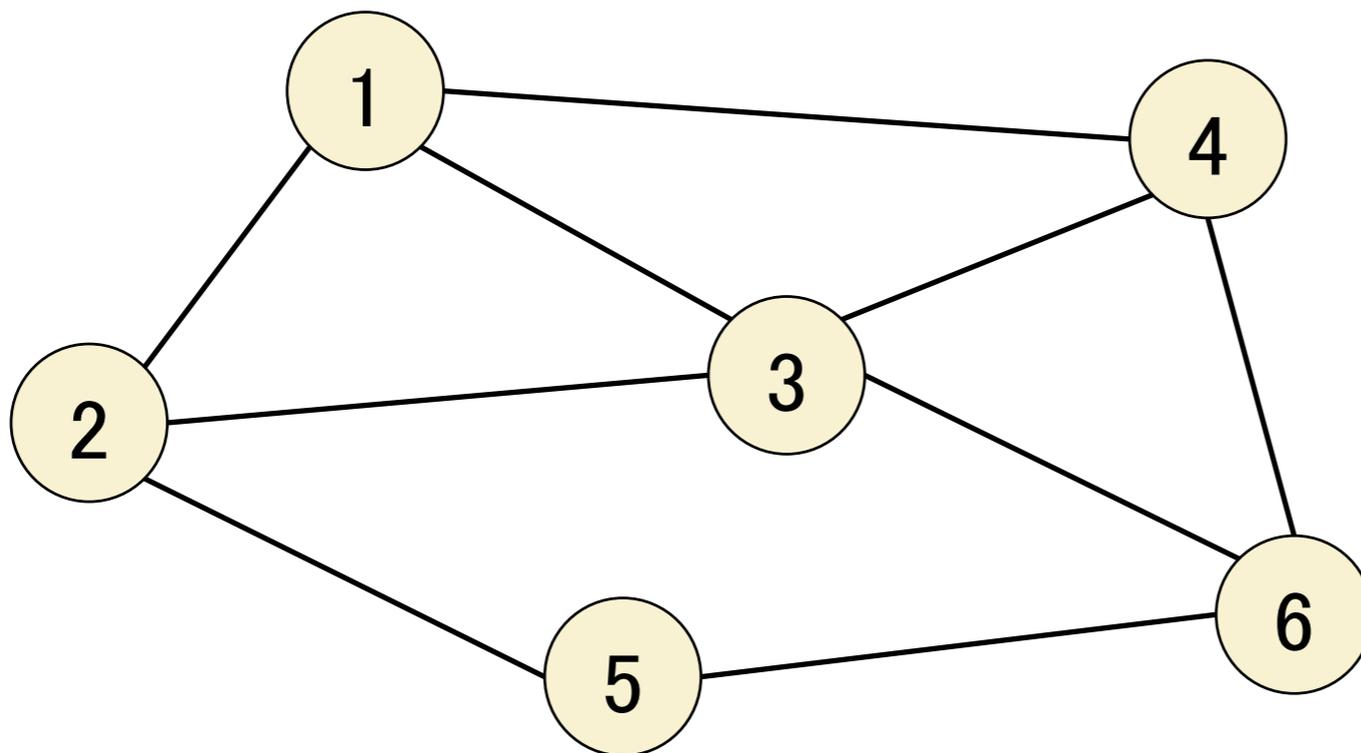
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[LG, Nishimura, Rosmanis 2019]

# Classical Distributed Computing: CONGEST and LOCAL

Basic setting: non-faulty, non-anonymous, synchronous

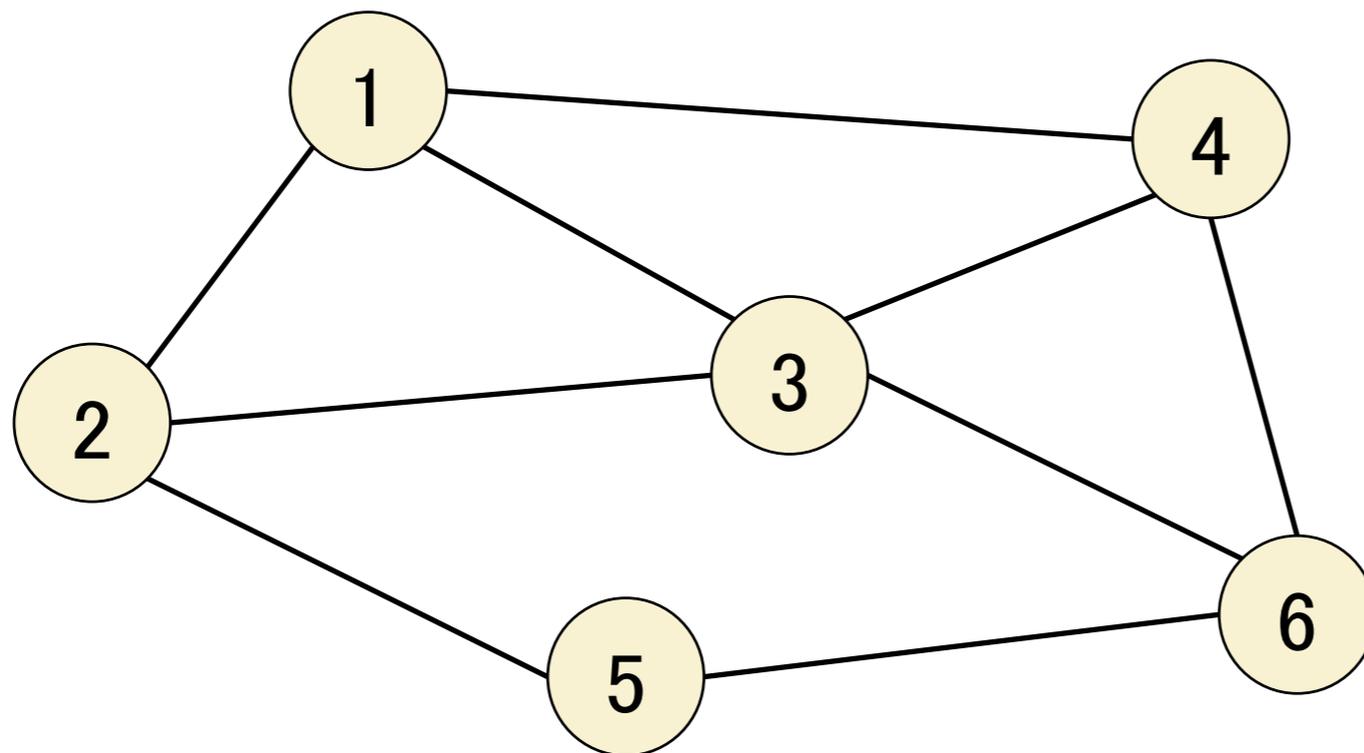
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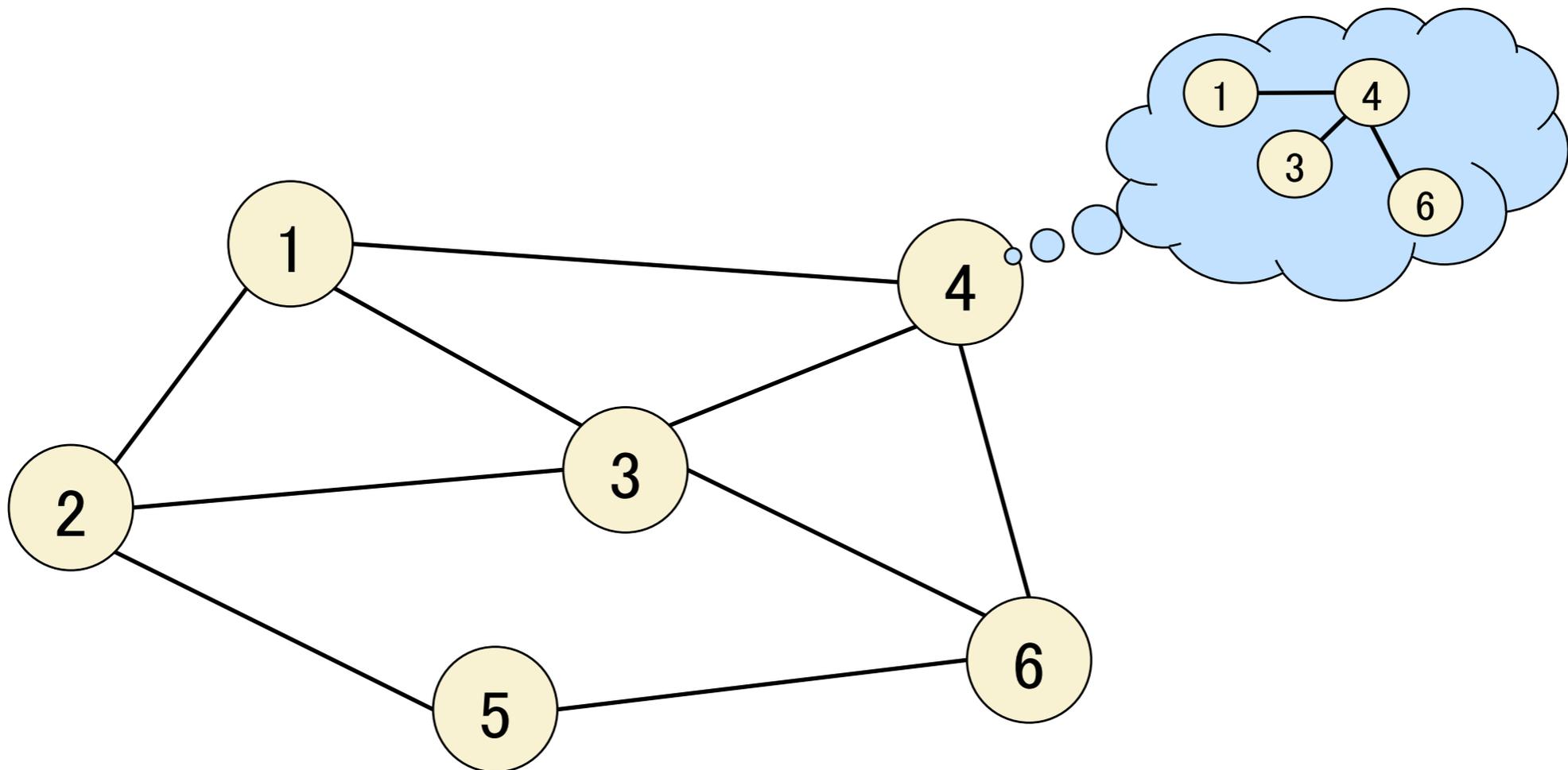
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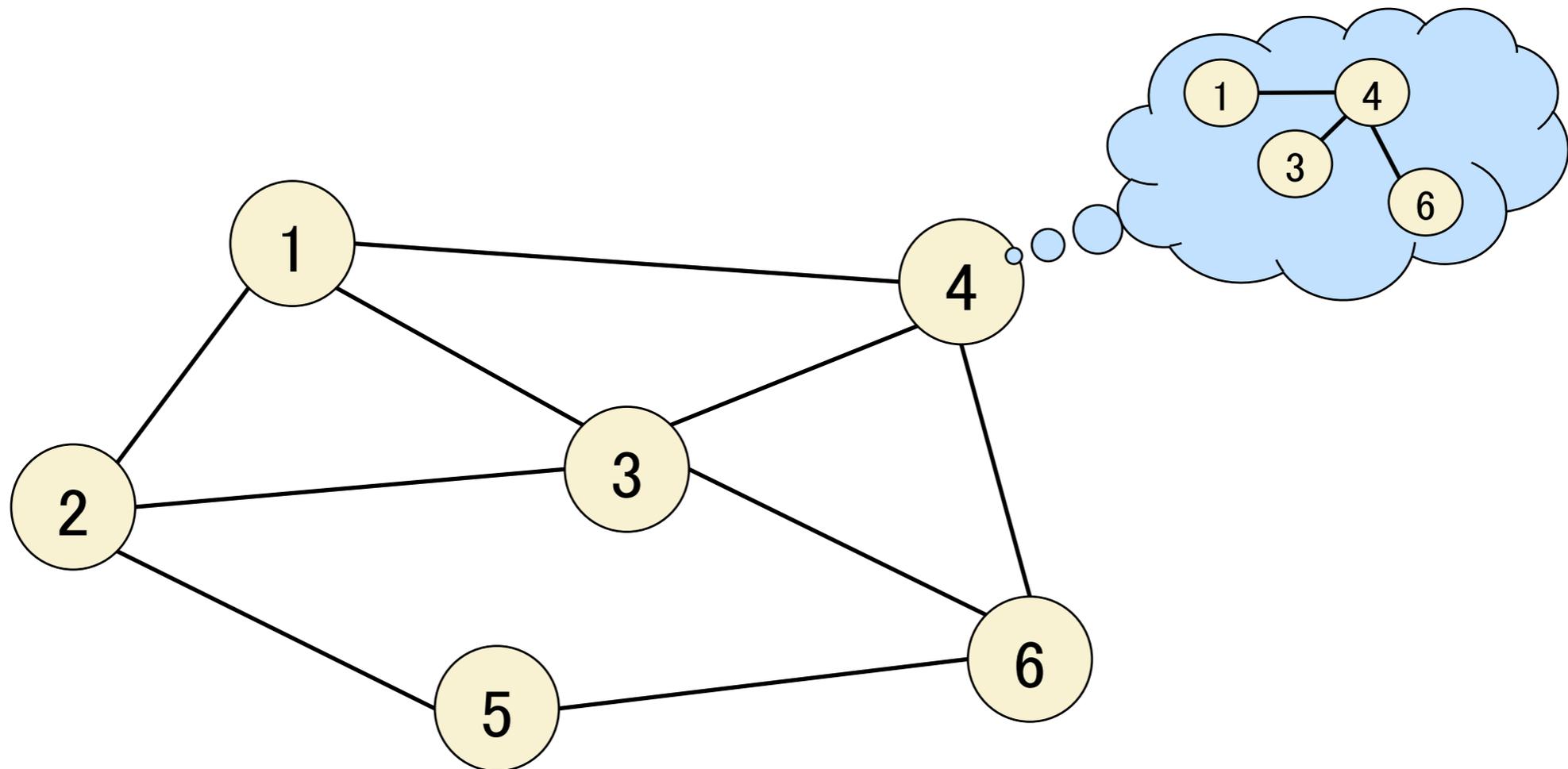
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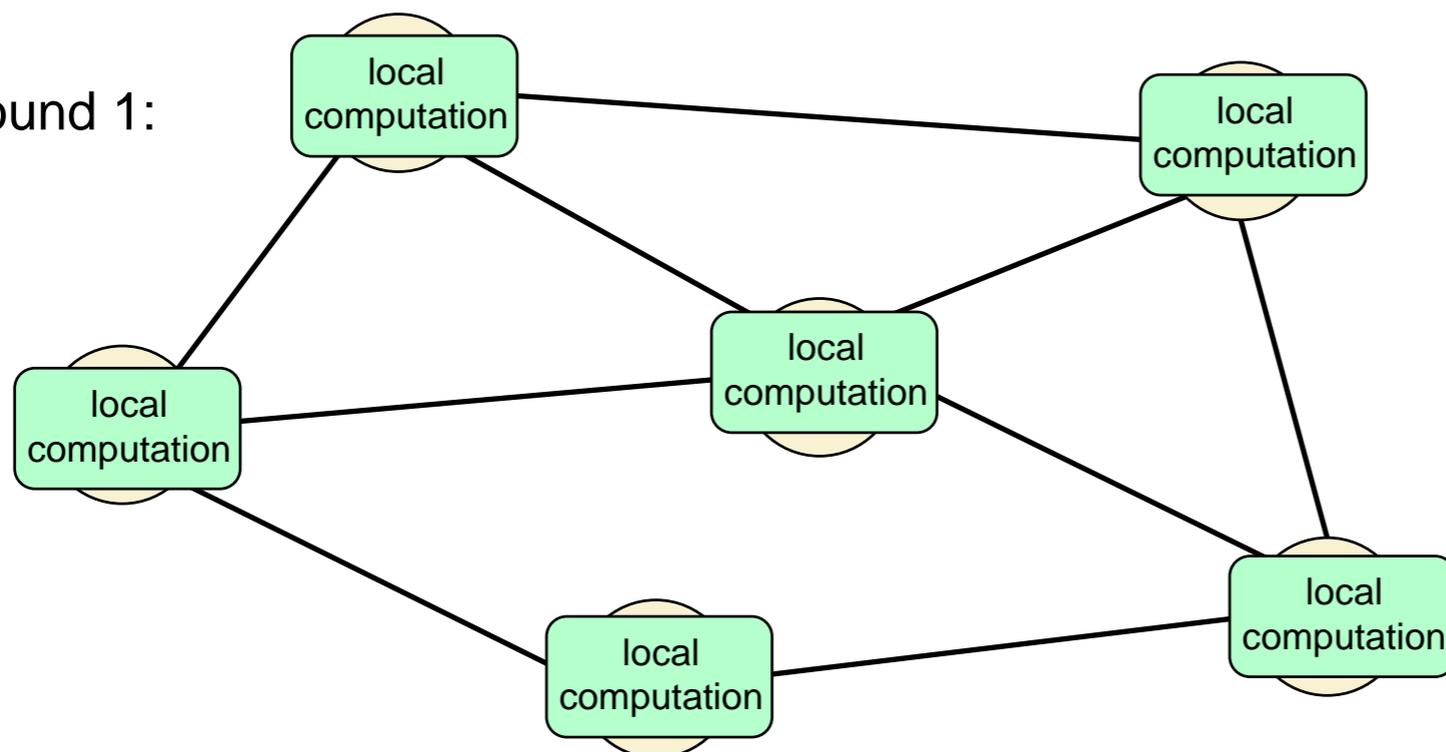


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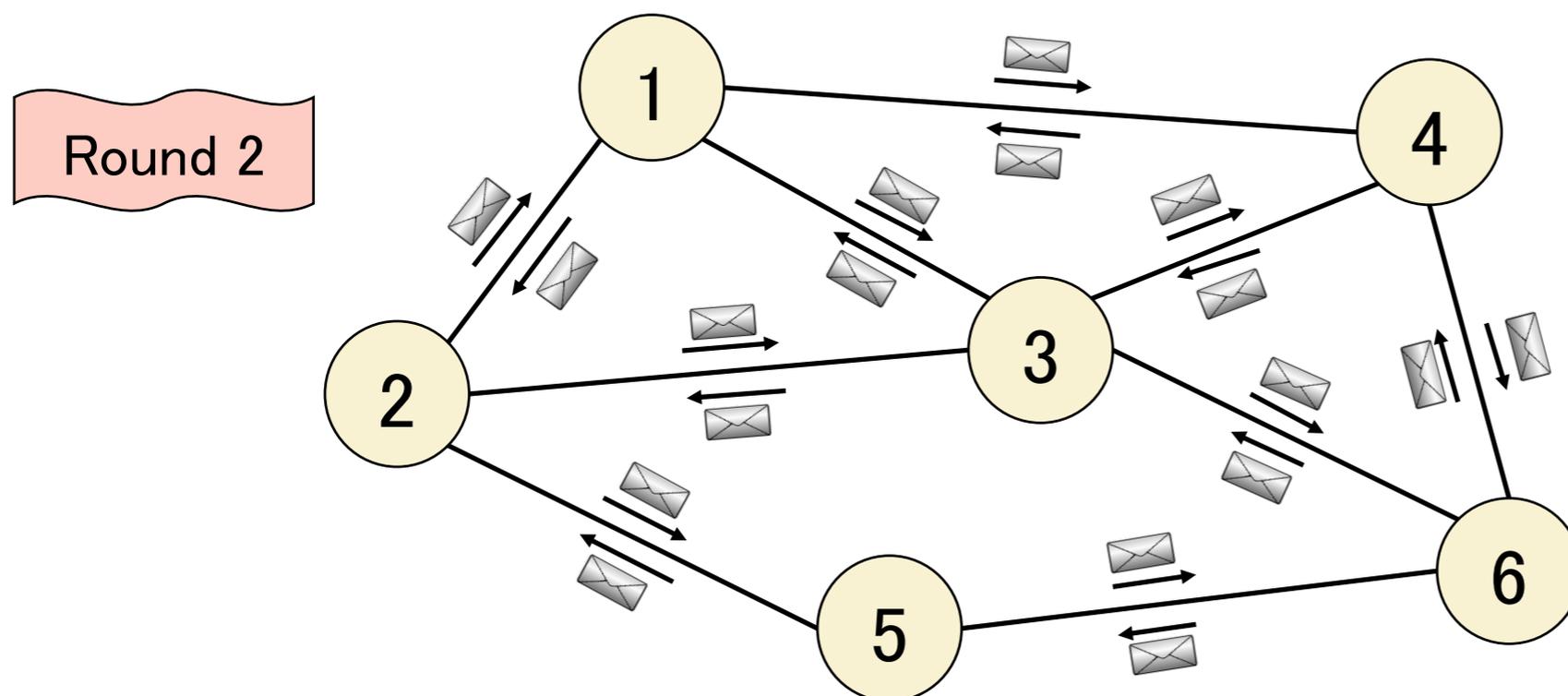
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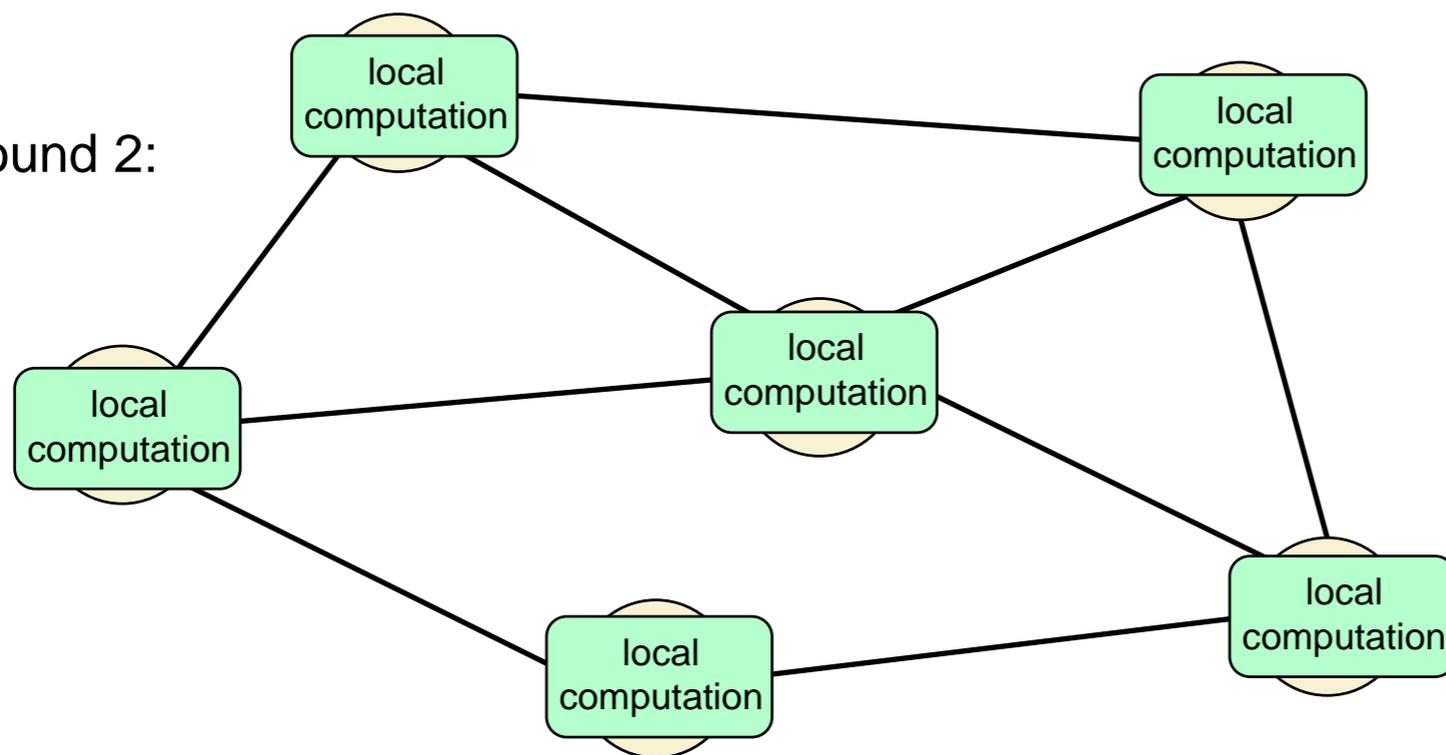


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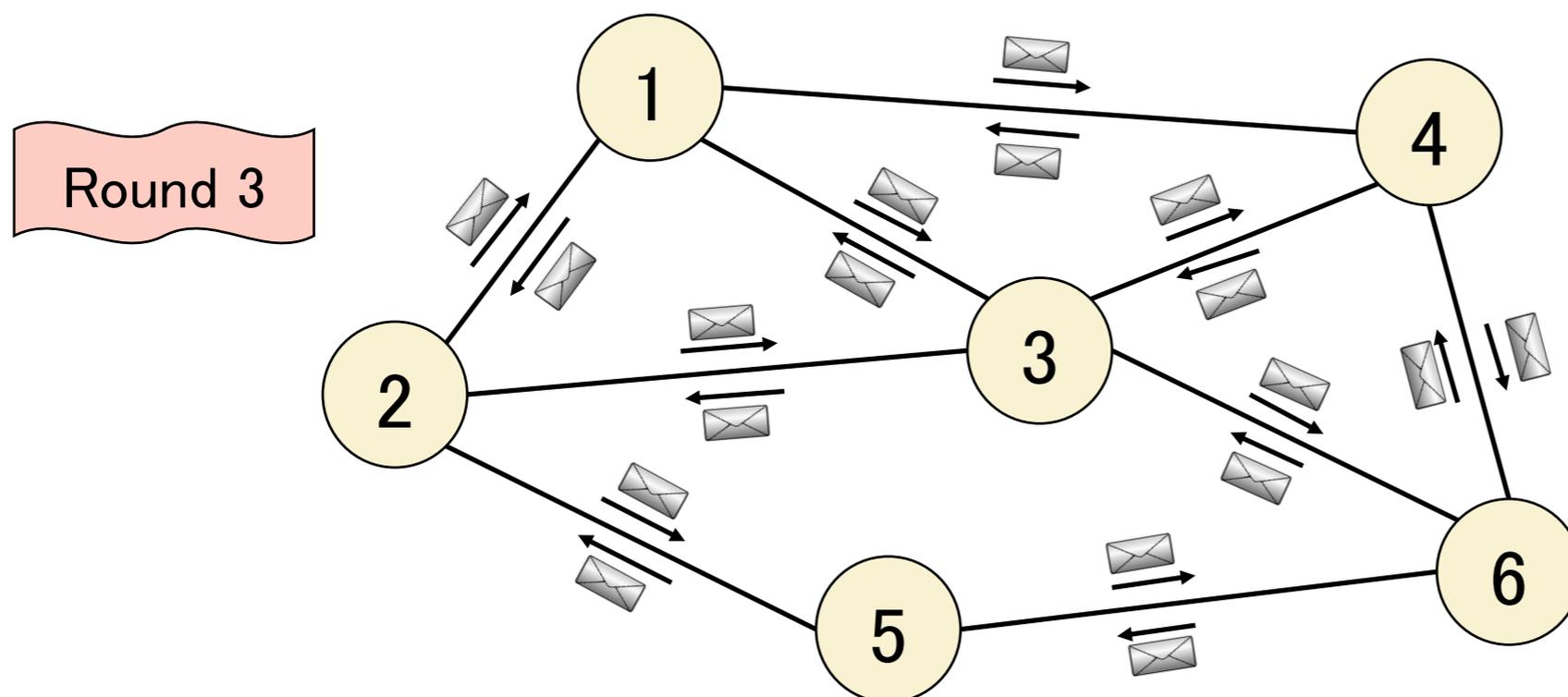
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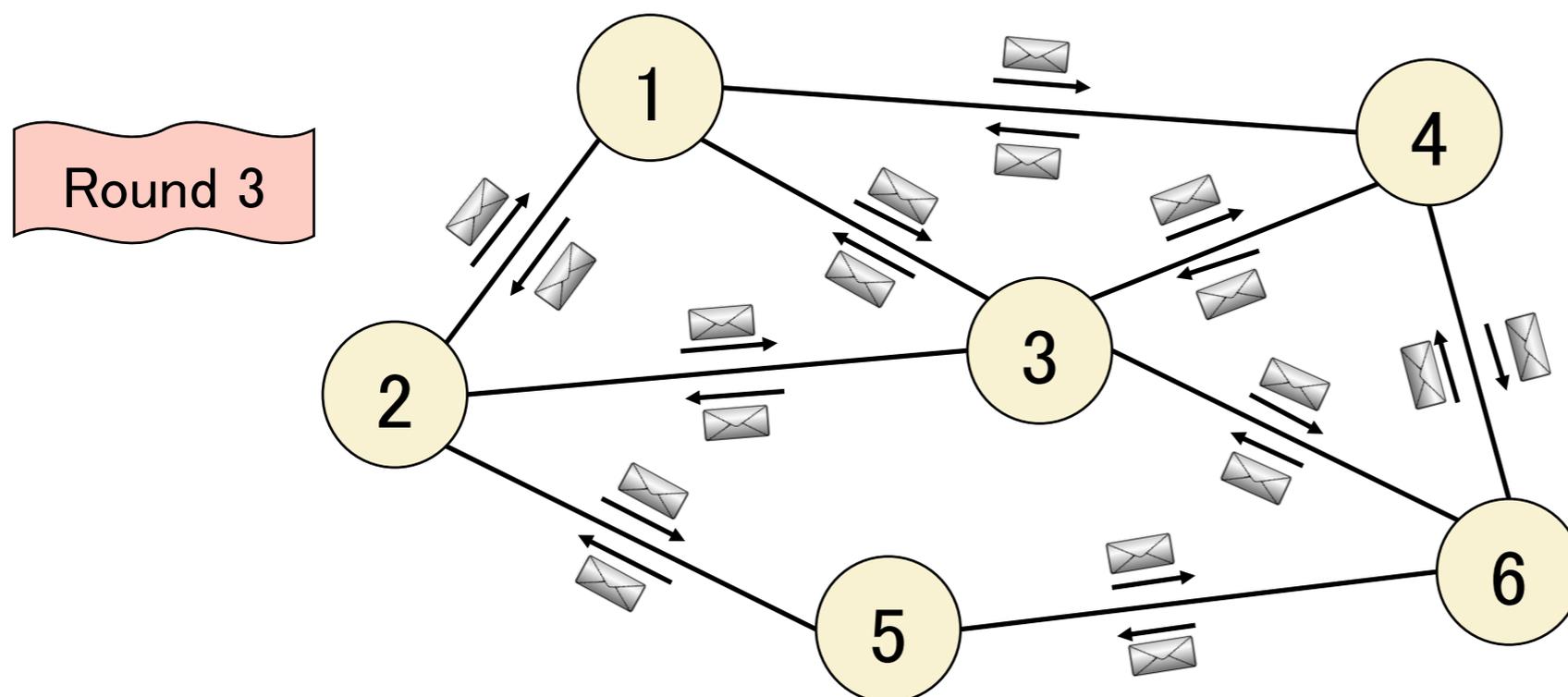


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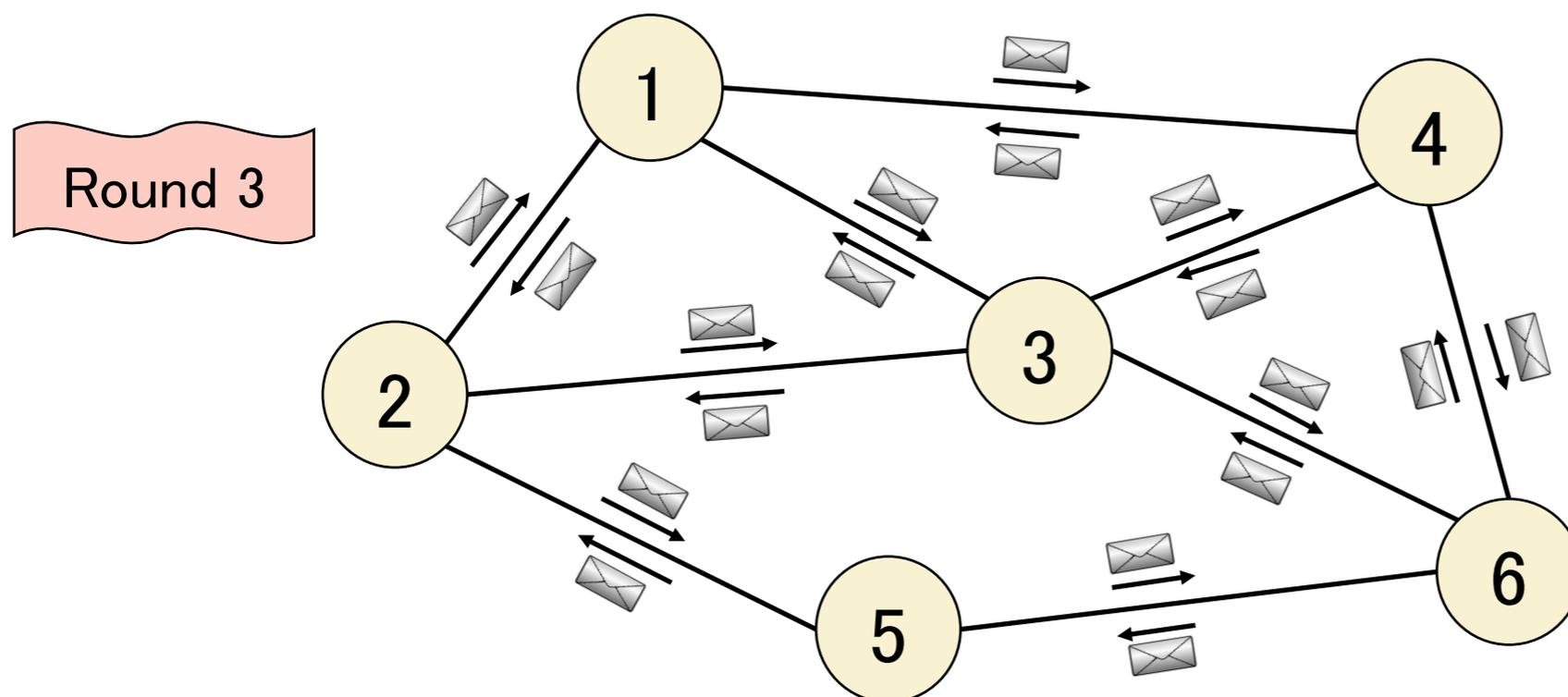


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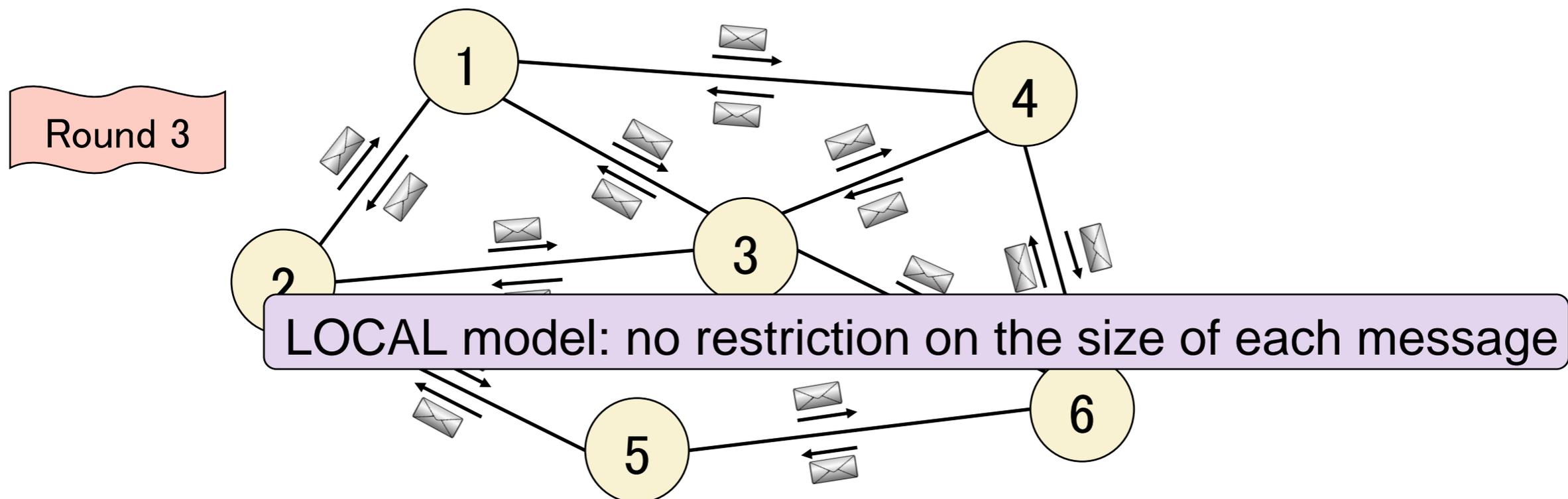
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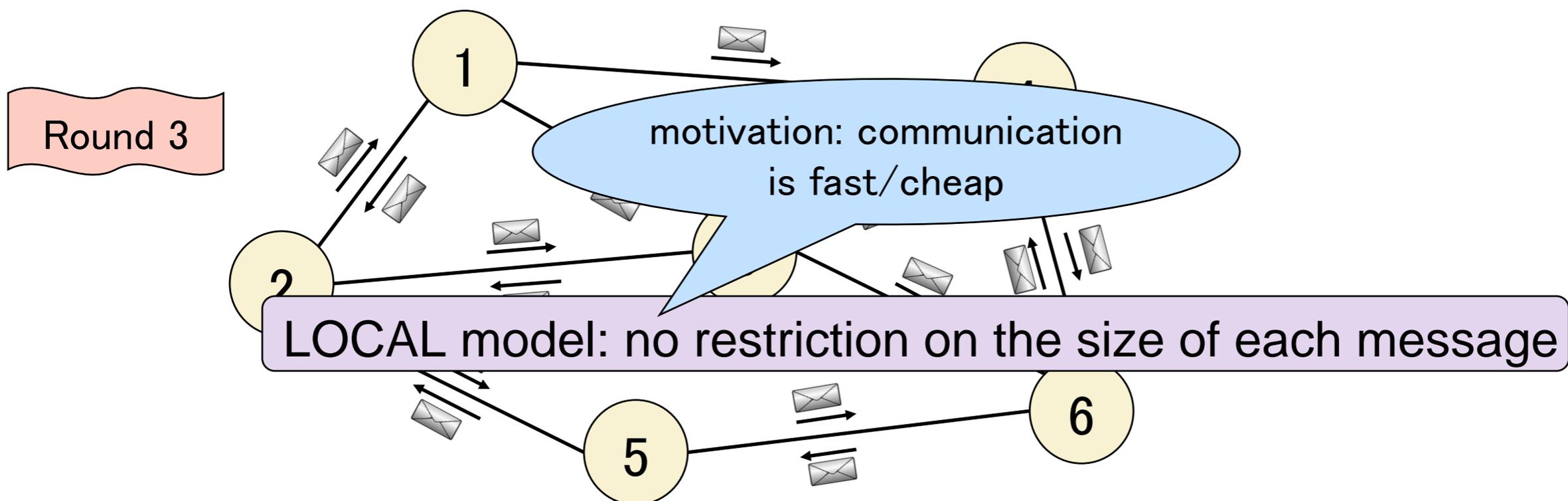
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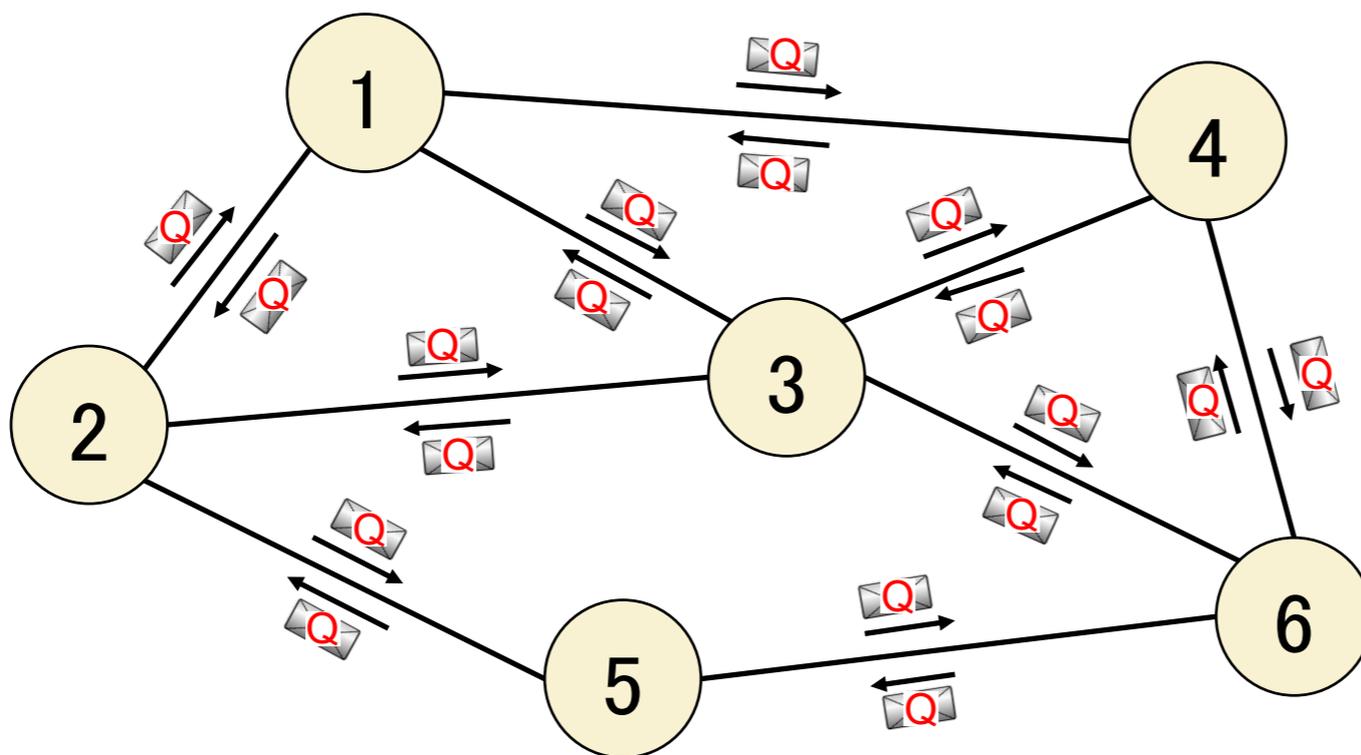


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Quantum distributed computing

Now **qubits** can be sent instead of bits

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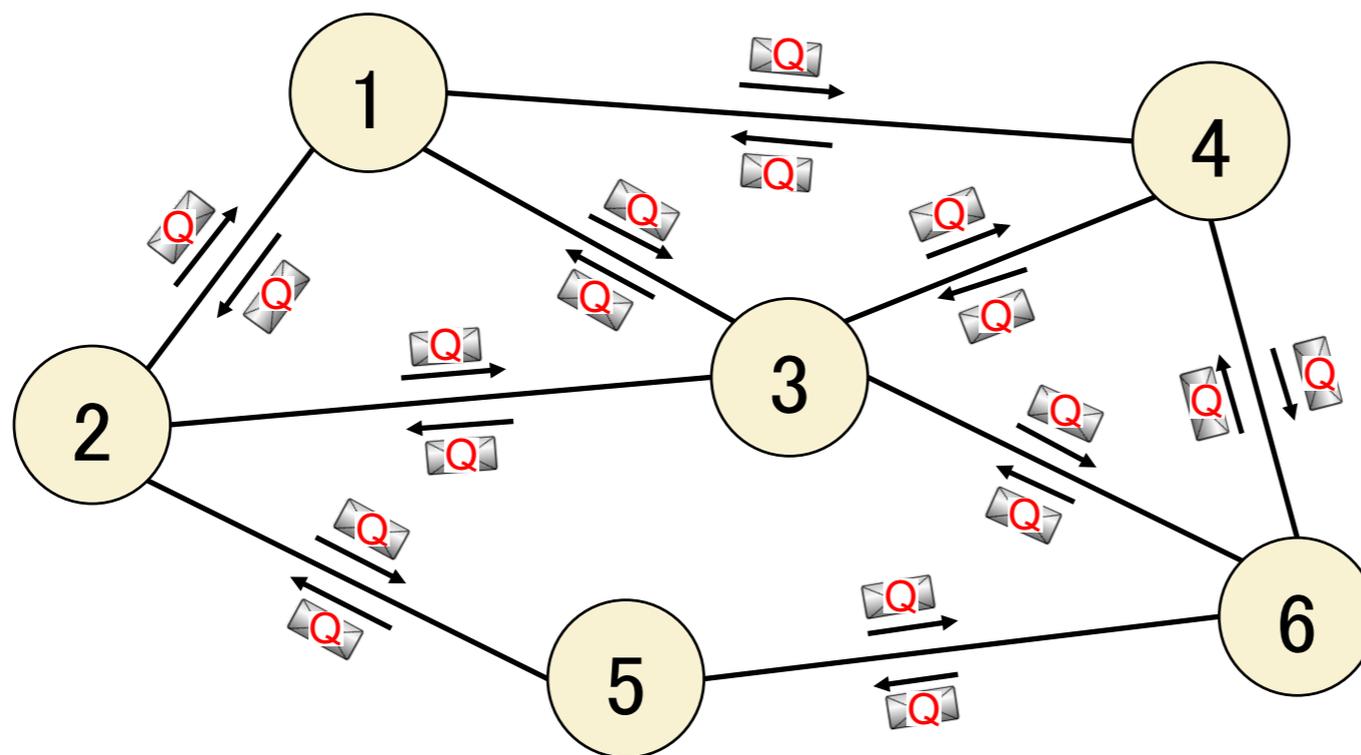
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more formally:

- ✓ network  $G=(V,E)$  of  $n$  nodes (all nodes have distinct identifiers)
- ✓ each node only knows the identifiers of all its neighbors (and knows  $n$ )
- ✓ synchronous communication between adjacent nodes:  
one message of **qubits** through each edge per round (in each direction)
- ✓ each node is a **quantum** processor

Complexity: the number of rounds needed for the computation



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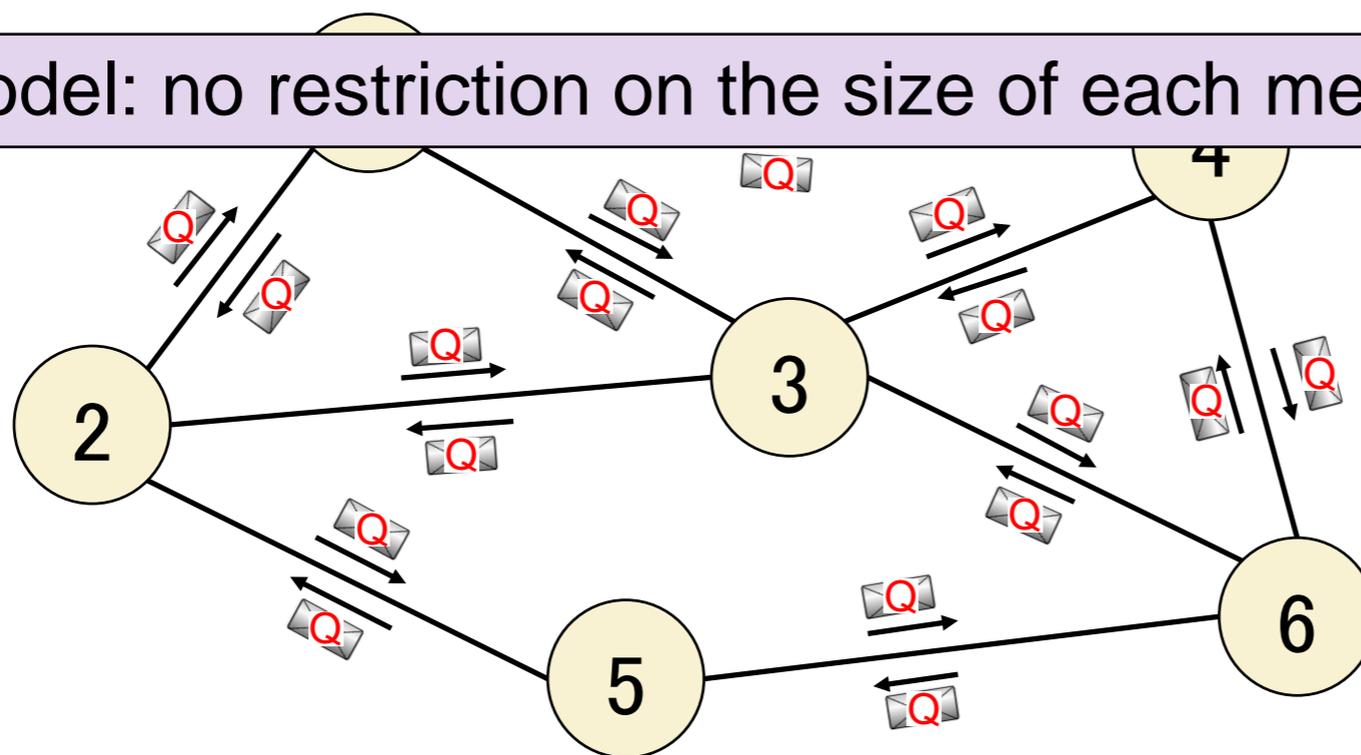
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**LOCAL model: no restriction on the size of each message**



# Quantum Advantage in the CONGEST model

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$n$ : number of nodes of the network

CONGEST model: only  $O(\log n)$  **qubits** per message

The diameter of the network can be computed in  $\Theta(\sqrt{n})$  rounds in the quantum CONGEST model but requires  $\Theta(n)$  rounds in the classical CONGEST model (when the diameter is constant)

[LG, Magniez 18]



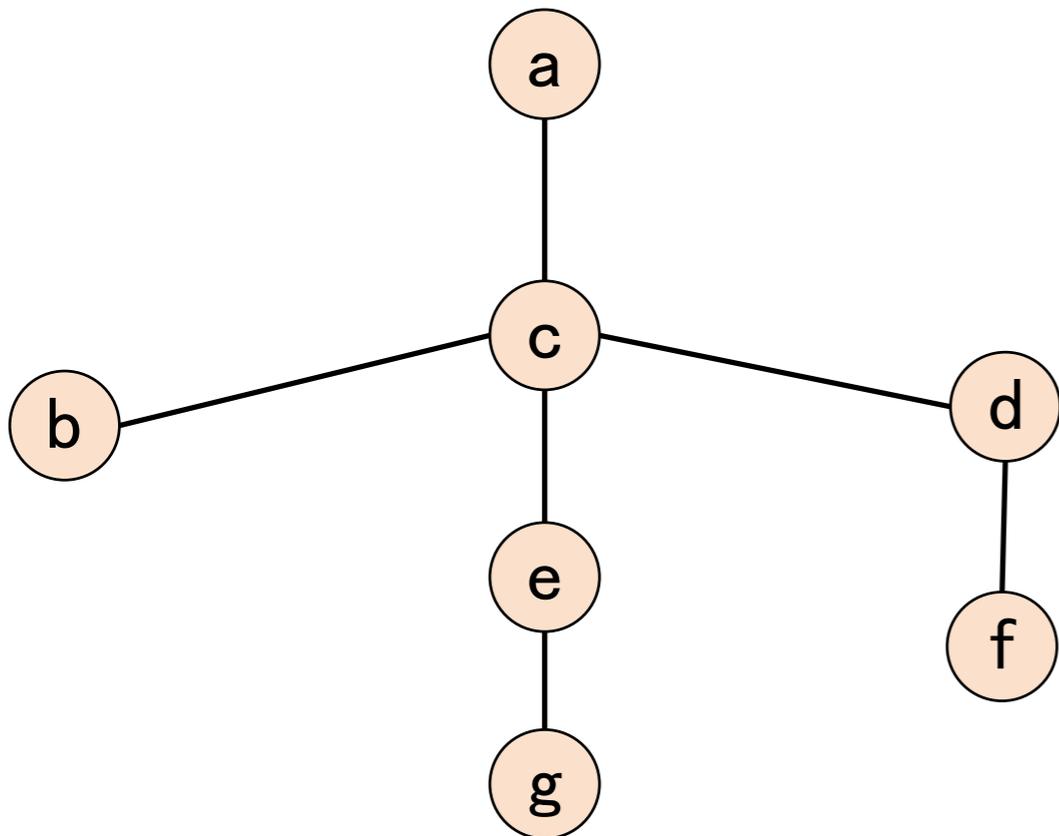
# Diameter and Eccentricity

Consider an undirected and unweighted graph  $G = (V, E)$

The diameter of the graph is the maximum distance between two nodes

$$D = \max_{u, v \in V} \{d(u, v)\}$$

$d(u, v)$  = distance between  $u$  and  $v$



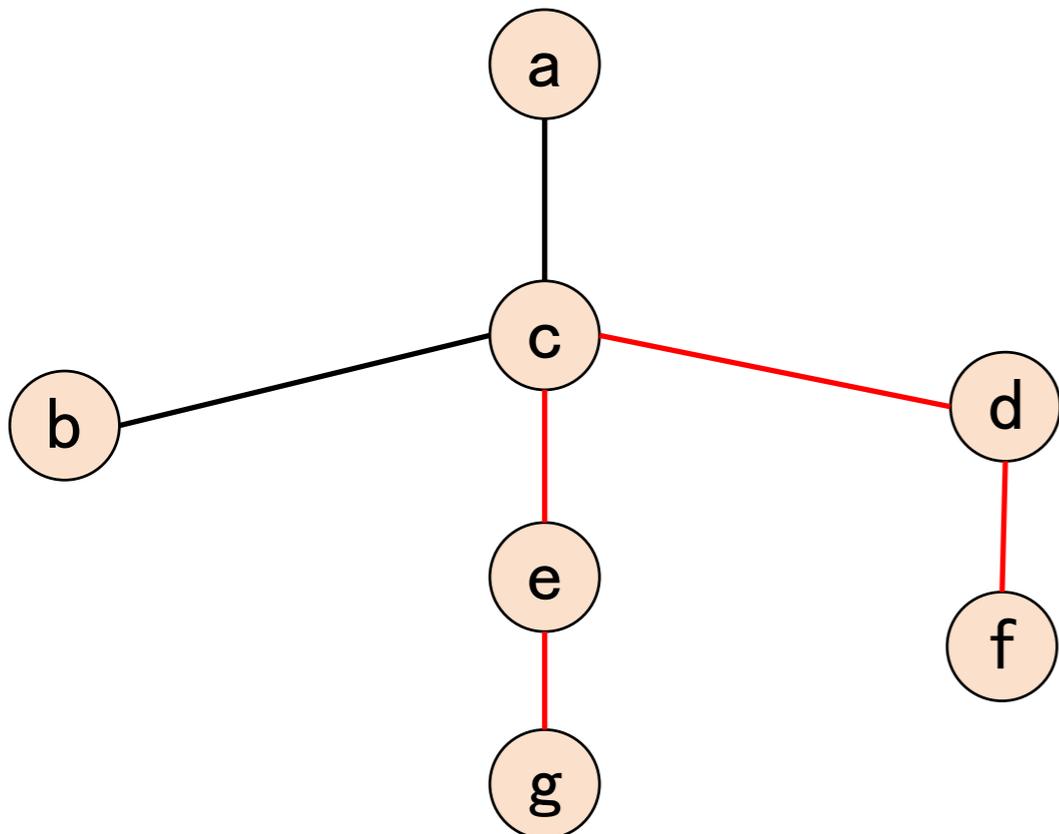
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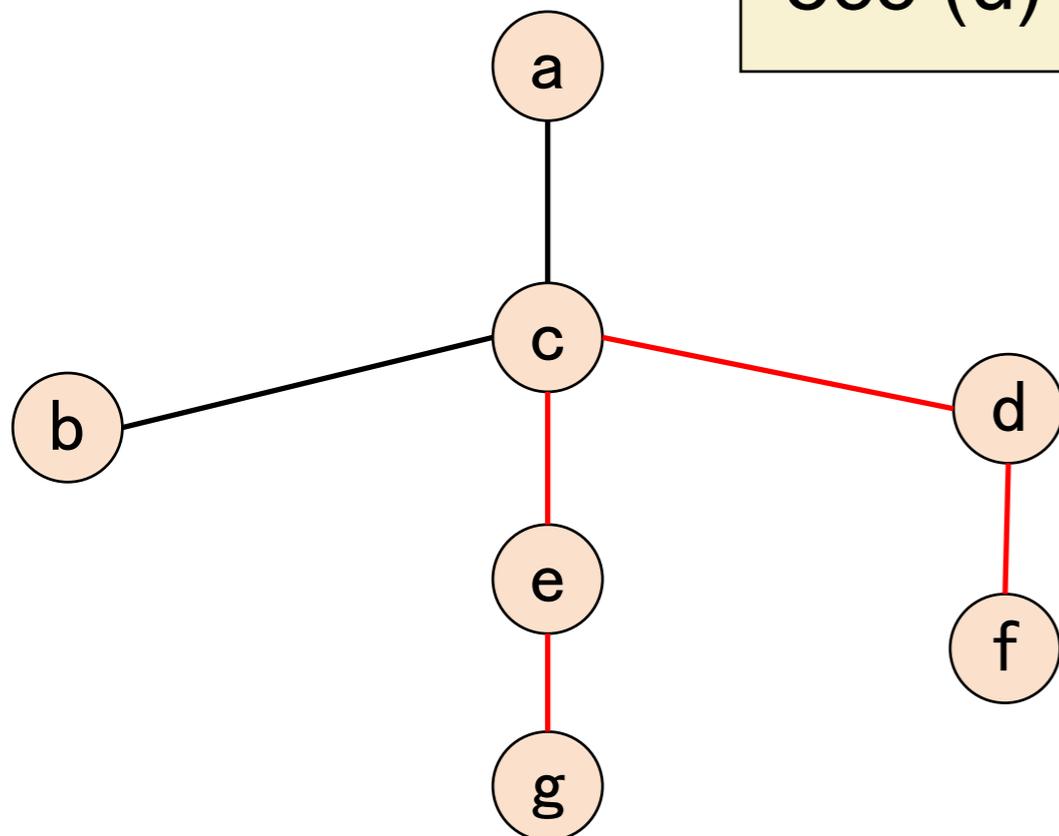
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$$D = \max_{u, v \in V} \{d(u, v)\}$$
$$= \max_{u \in V} \{\text{ecc}(u)\}$$

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The eccentricity of a node  $u$  is defined as

$$\text{ecc}(u) = \max_{v \in V} \{d(u, v)\}$$



$$\text{ecc}(a) = 3$$

$$\text{ecc}(b) = 3$$

$$\text{ecc}(c) = 2$$

$$\text{ecc}(d) = 3$$

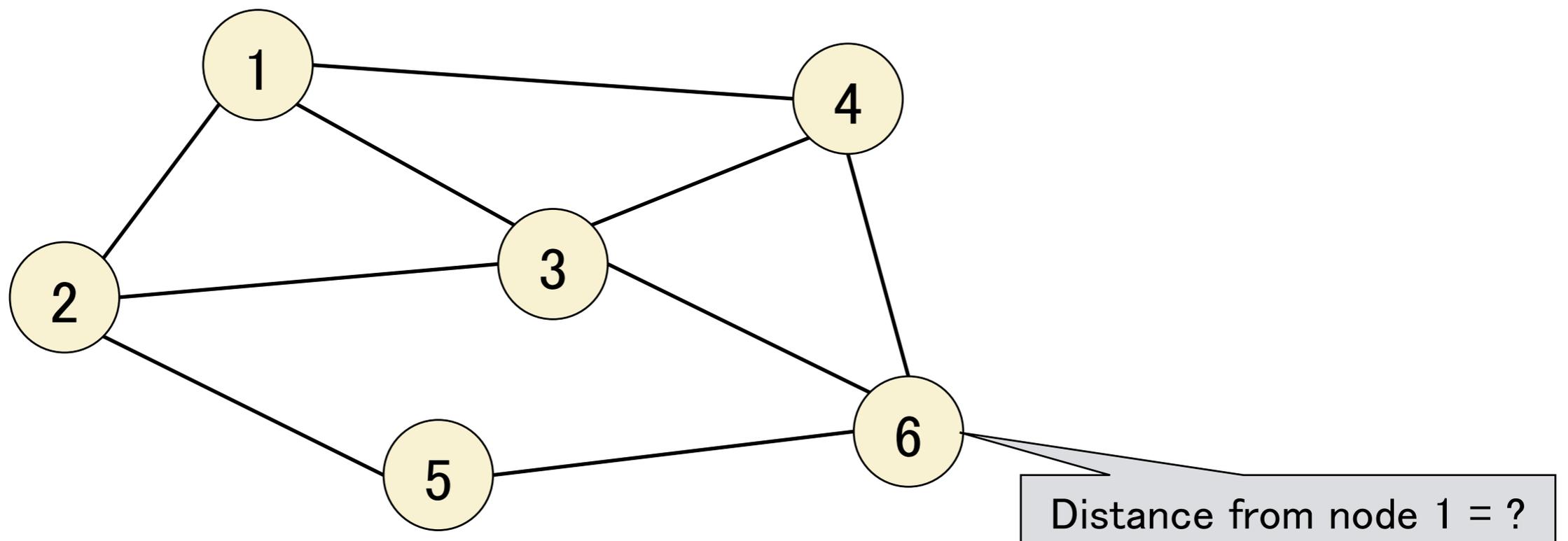
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$$\text{ecc}(g) = 4$$

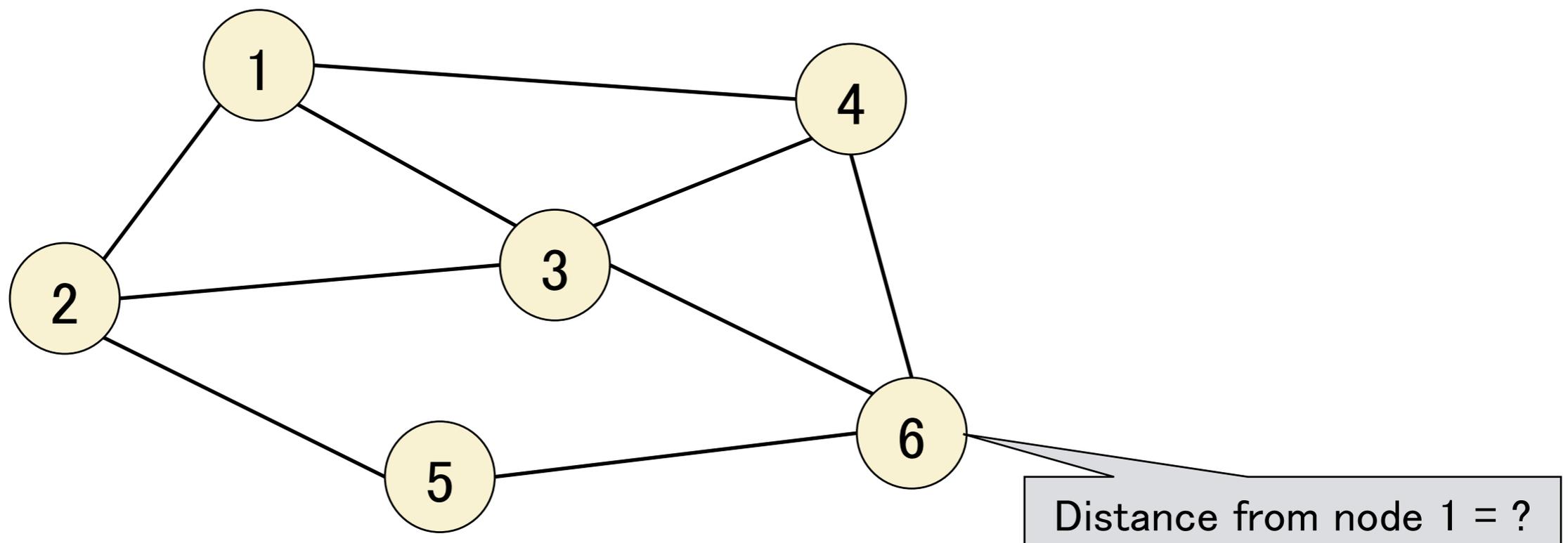
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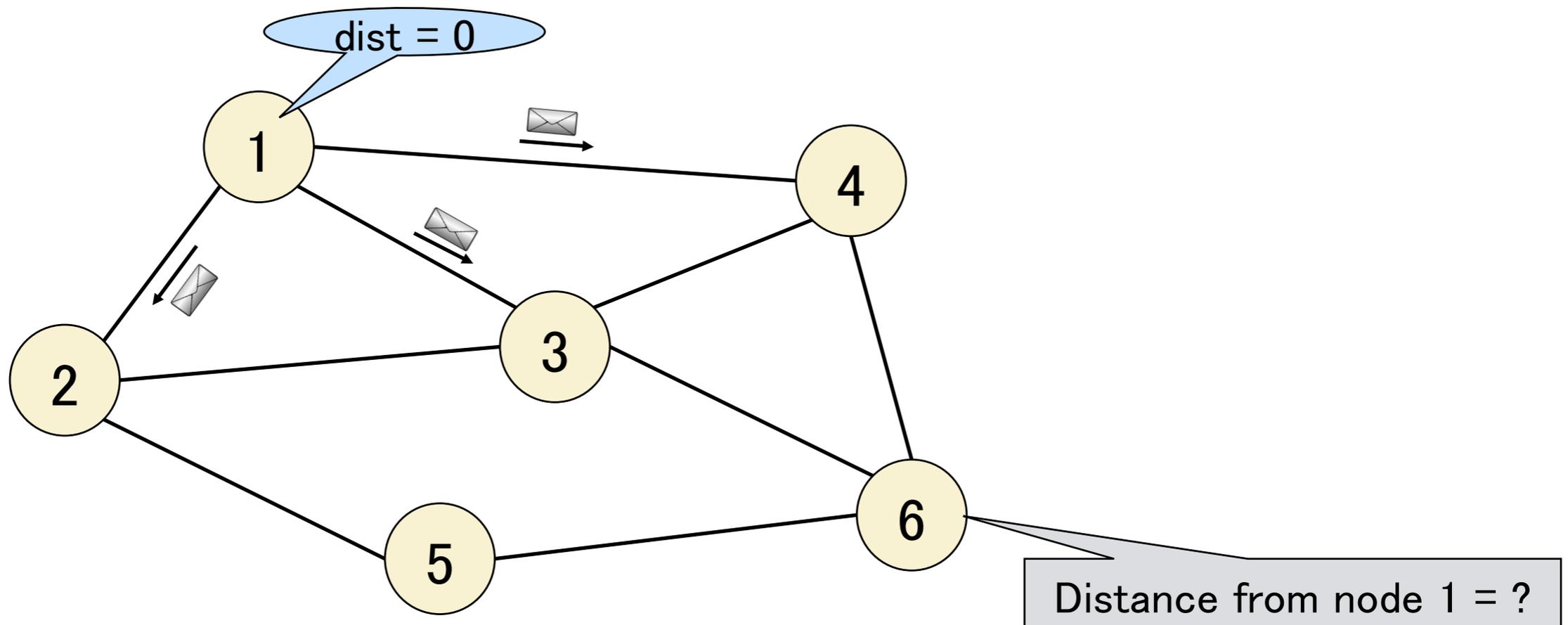


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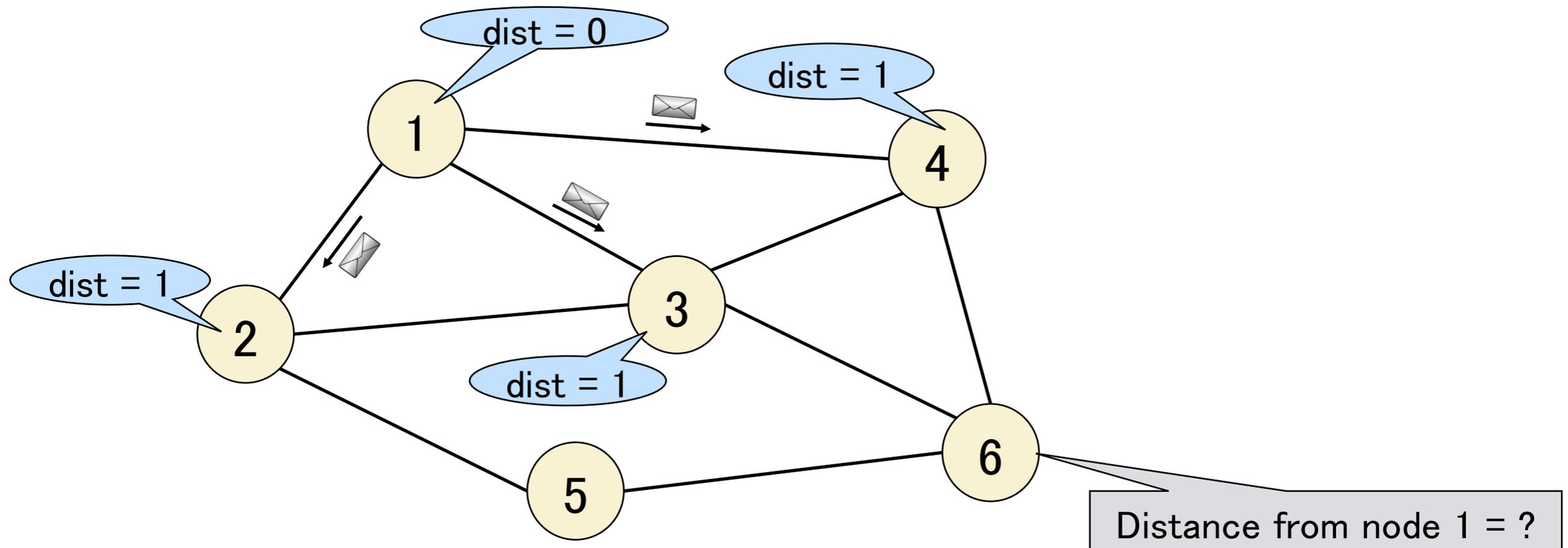
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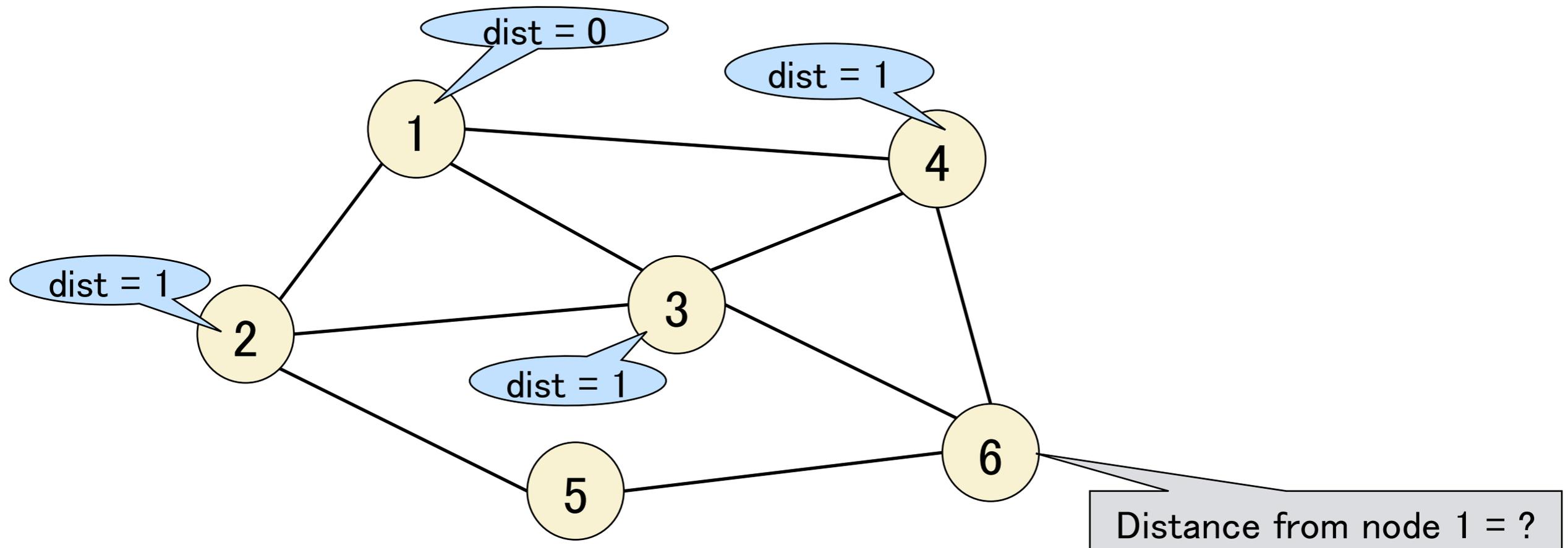
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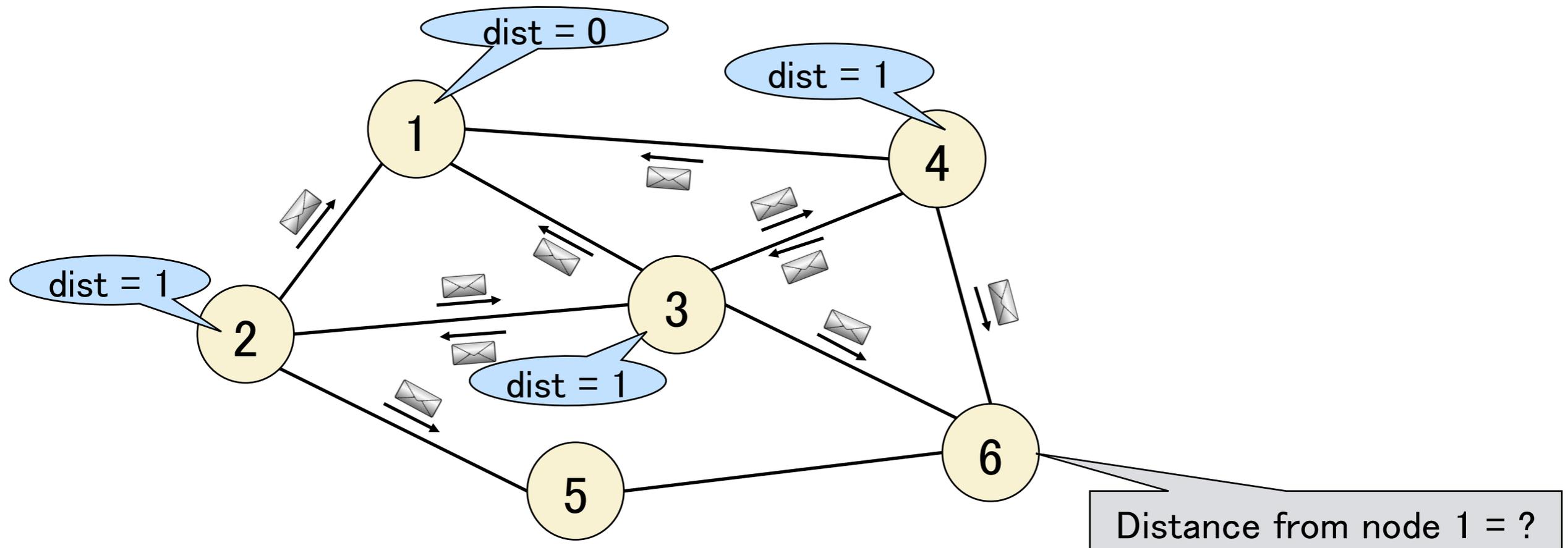
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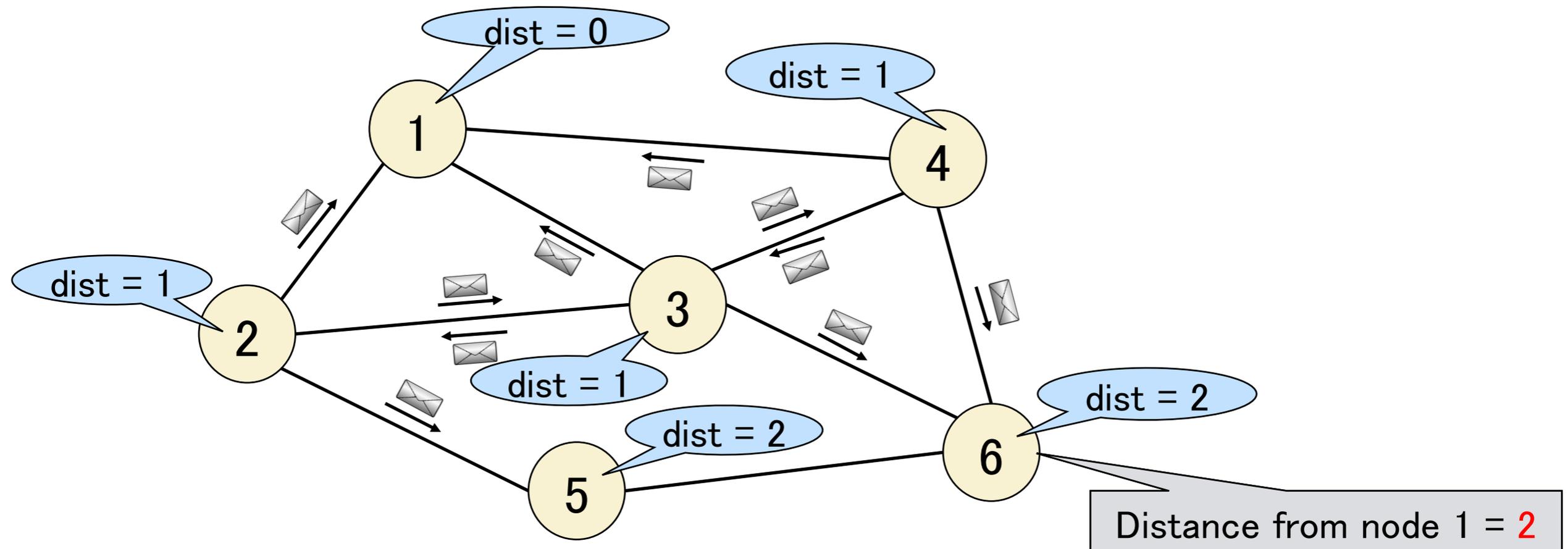
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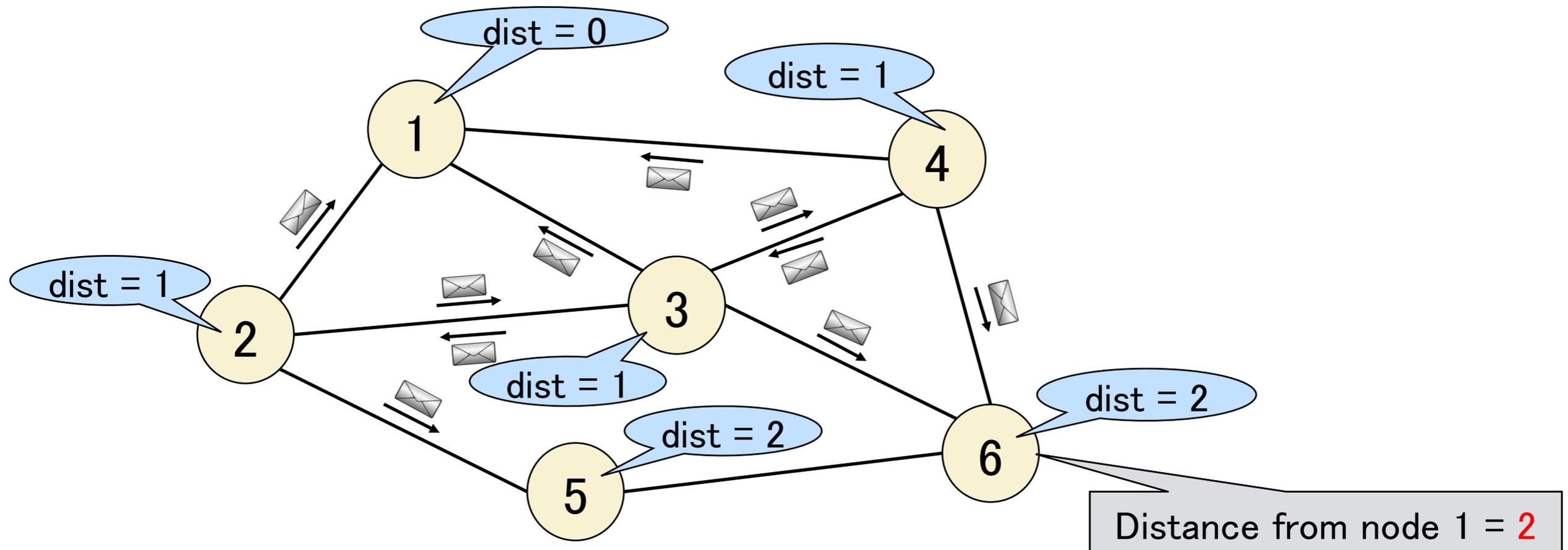
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We show that we can do better in the quantum setting

# Computation of the Diameter in the CONGEST model

Main result [LG, Magniez 2018]

sublinear-round quantum computation of the diameter whenever  $D=o(n)$

	Classical	Quantum
Exact computation (upper bounds)	$O(n)$ [Holzer+12, Peleg+12]	$O(\sqrt{nD})$
Exact computation (lower bounds)	$\tilde{\Omega}(n)$ [Frischknecht+12]	

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Define the function  $f: V \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  such that  $f(u) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \text{ecc}(u) \geq d \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

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There is a quantum algorithm for this search problem using  $O(\sqrt{n})$  calls to a black box evaluating  $f$

Quantum search  
[Grover 96]

$n = |V|$  (number of nodes)



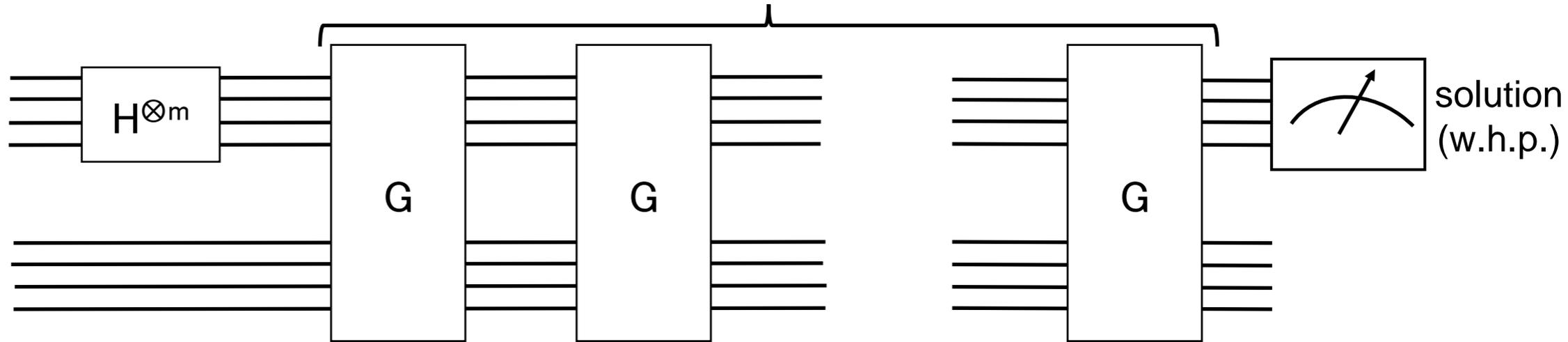
# Recap: Grover Algorithm

$m = O(\log n)$

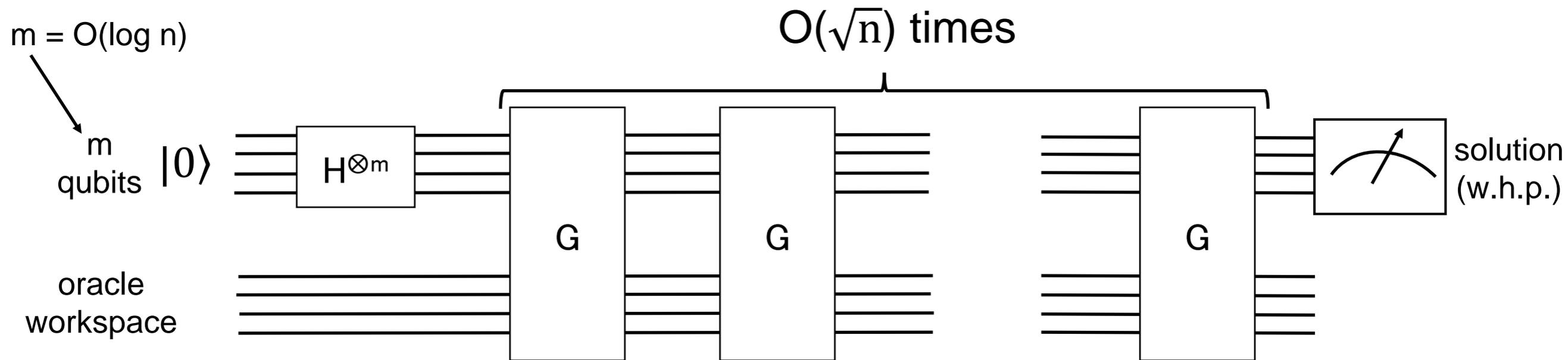
$m$   
qubits  $|0\rangle$

oracle  
workspace

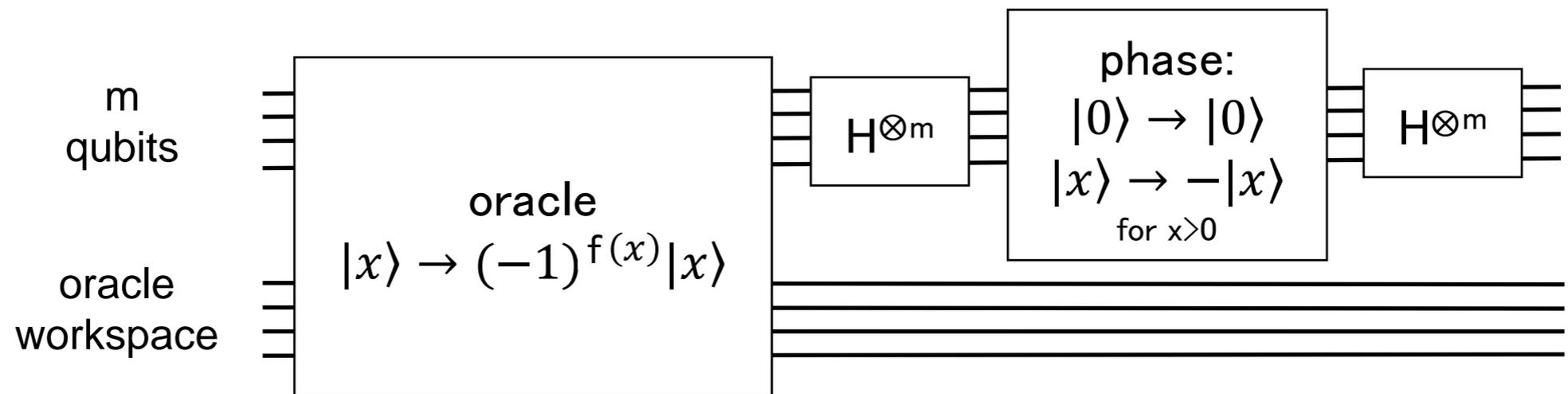
$O(\sqrt{n})$  times



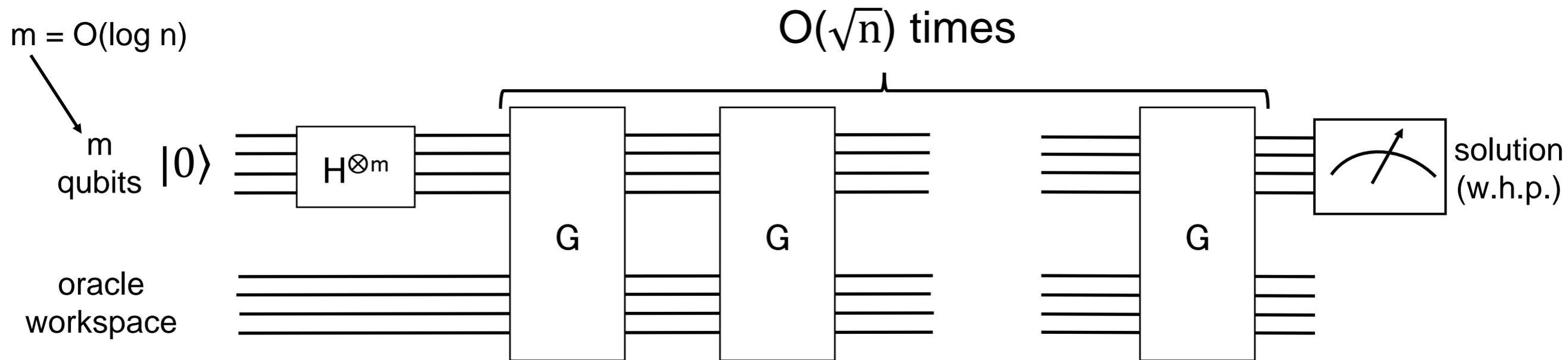
# Recap: Grover Algorithm



**G**  $\equiv$



# Recap: Grover Algorithm



depends on  $f$   
(depends on the network)

$G \equiv$

$m$  qubits

oracle workspace

oracle  
 $|x\rangle \rightarrow (-1)^{f(x)} |x\rangle$

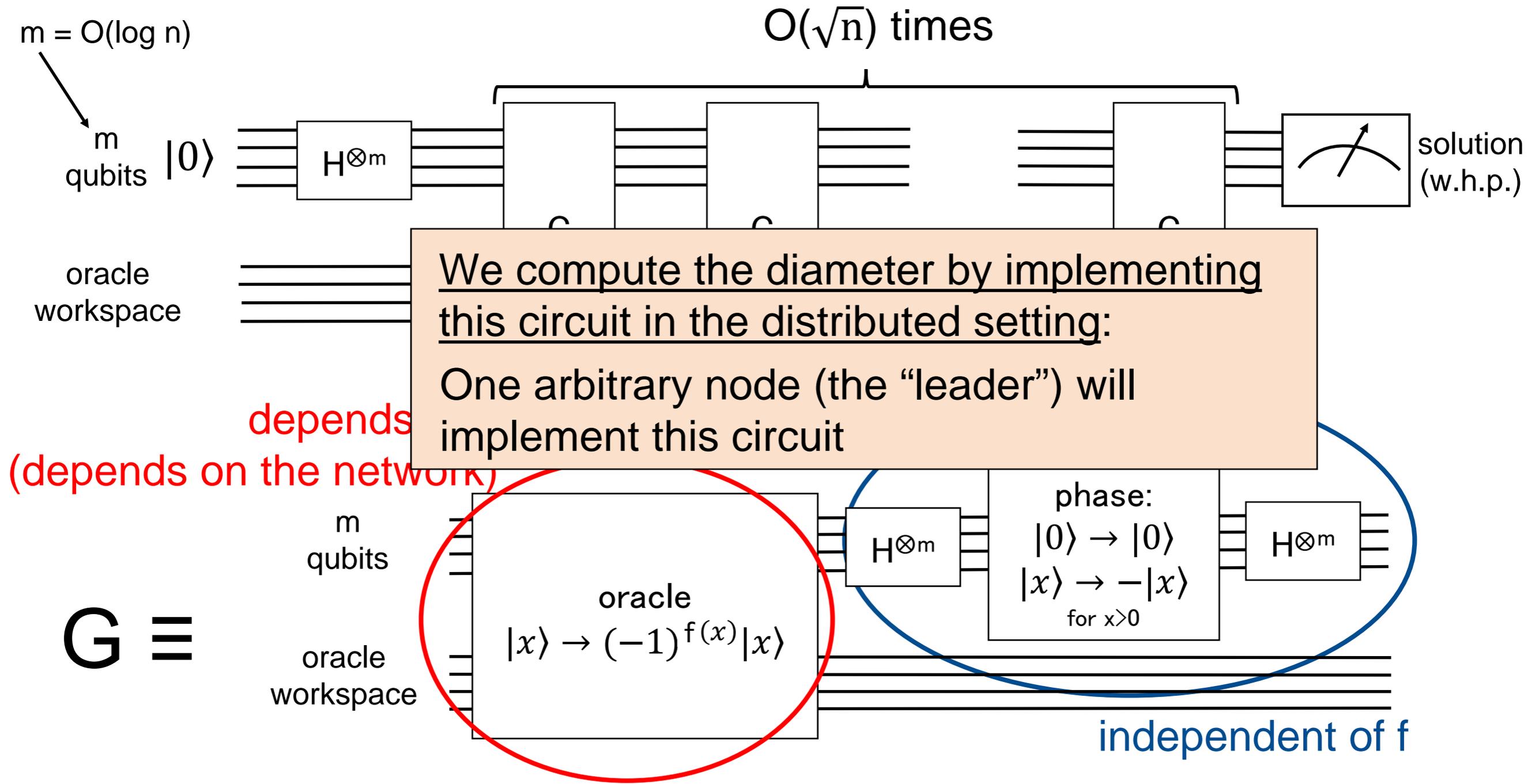
$H^{\otimes m}$

phase:  
 $|0\rangle \rightarrow |0\rangle$   
 $|x\rangle \rightarrow -|x\rangle$   
for  $x > 0$

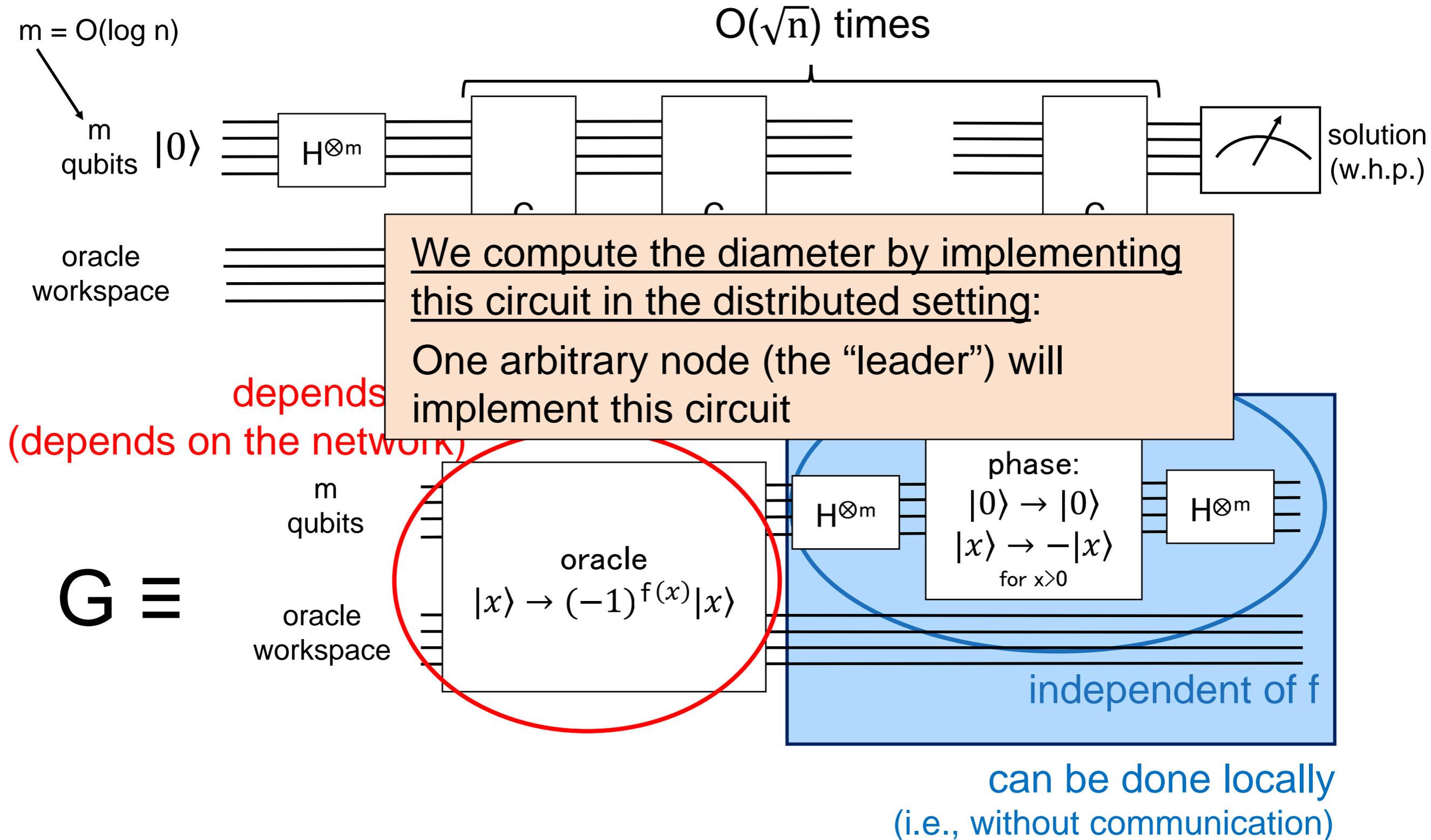
$H^{\otimes m}$

independent of  $f$

# Recap: Grover Algorithm



# Recap: Grover Algorithm

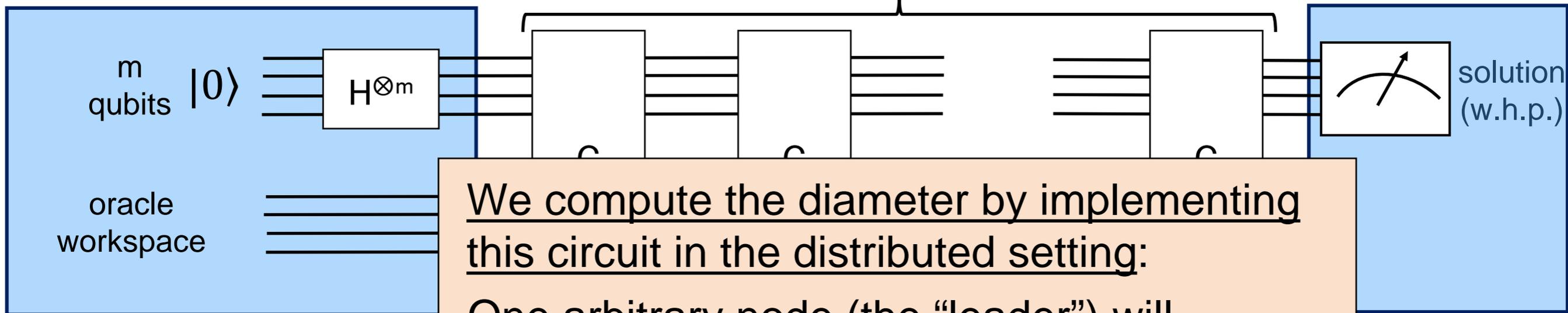


# Recap: Grover Algorithm

can be done locally  
(i.e., without communication)

$O(\sqrt{n})$  times

can be done locally  
(i.e., without communication)



We compute the diameter by implementing this circuit in the distributed setting:

One arbitrary node (the “leader”) will implement this circuit

depends  
(depends on the network)

**G**  $\equiv$

m qubits  
oracle workspace

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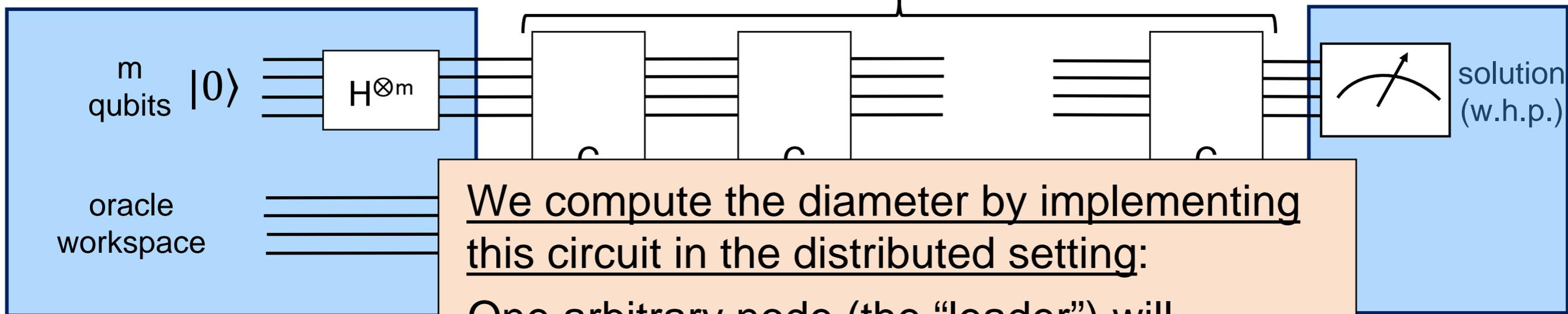
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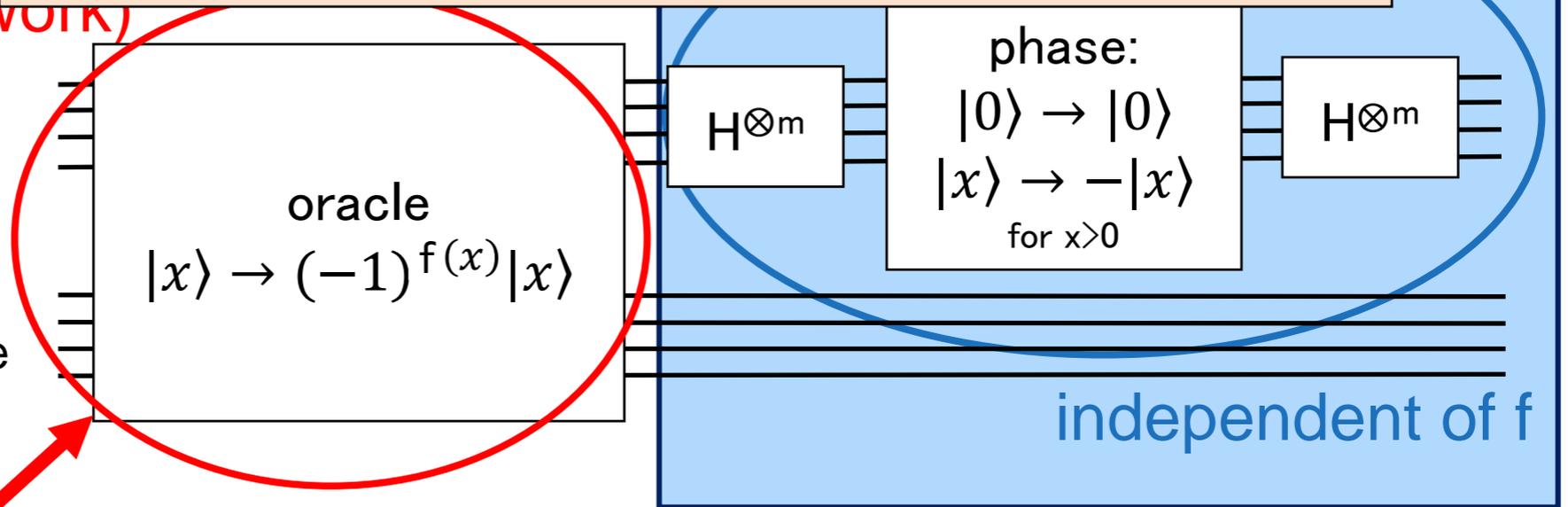
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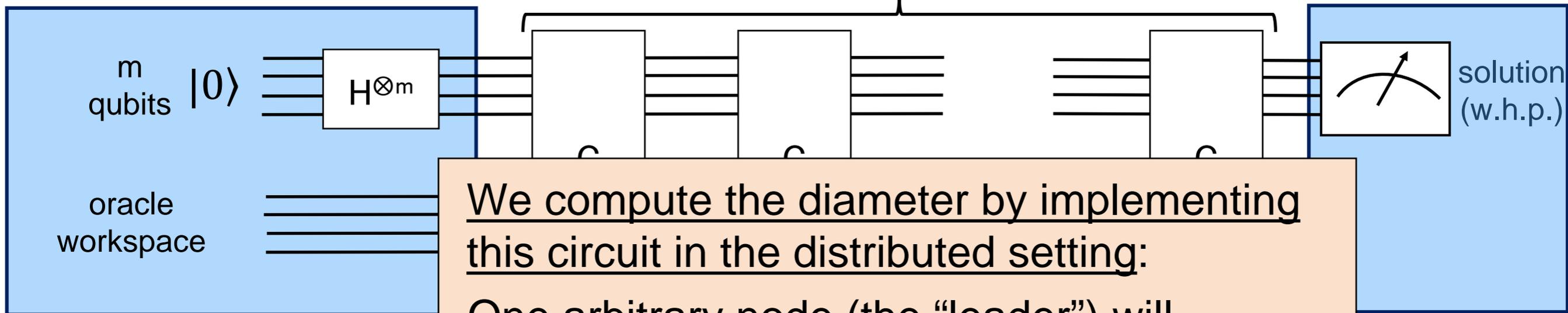
To implement the oracle, the leader node needs to communicate with the other nodes

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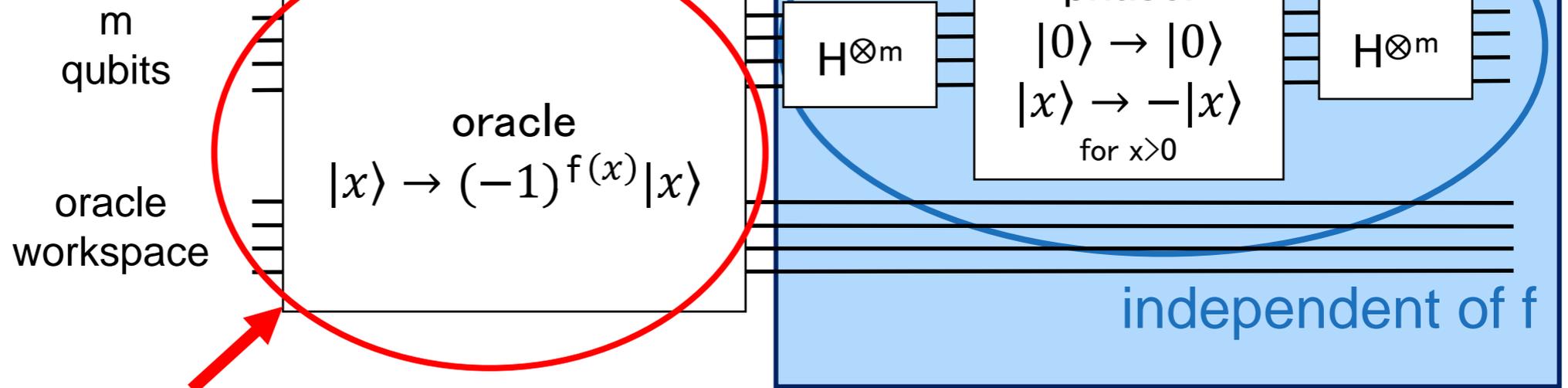


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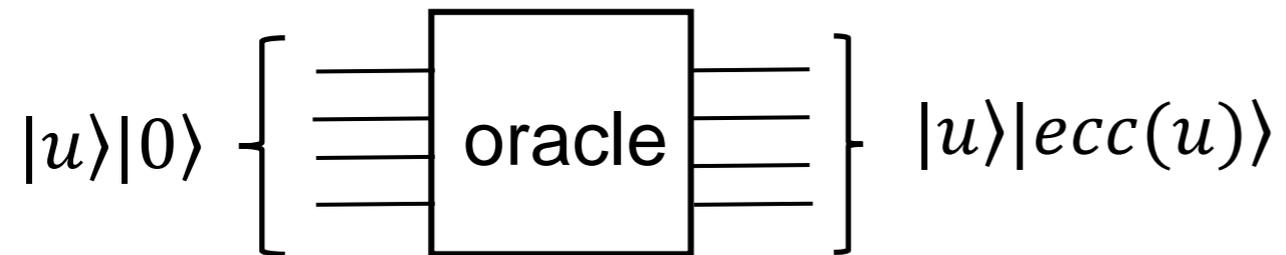
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To implement the oracle, the leader node needs to communicate with the other nodes

Total number of rounds of communication =  $O(\sqrt{n} \times \text{number of rounds to implement the oracle})$

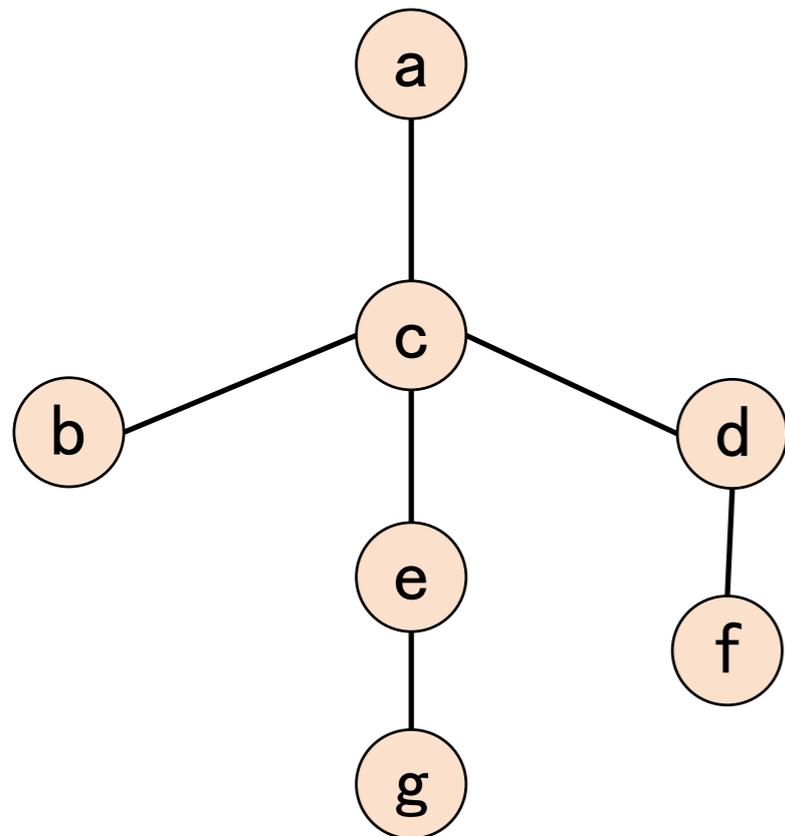
# Implementation of the Oracle in $O(D)$ rounds



Example:

$V=\{a,b,c,d,e,f,g\}$

here leader = node a



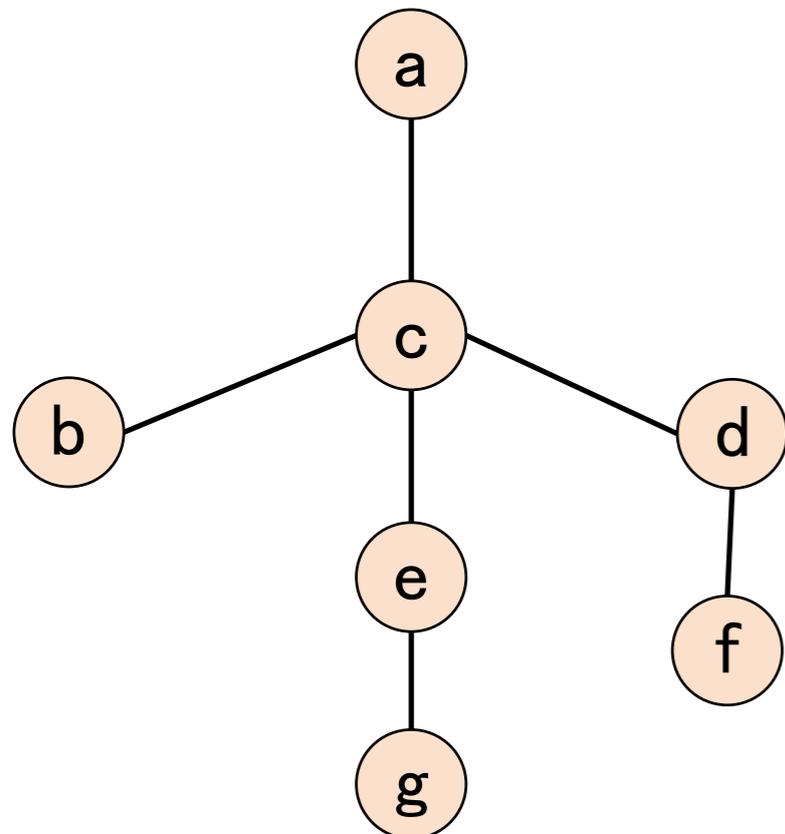
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$$\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle |0\rangle \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{oracle} \end{array} \right] \sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle |ecc(u)\rangle$$

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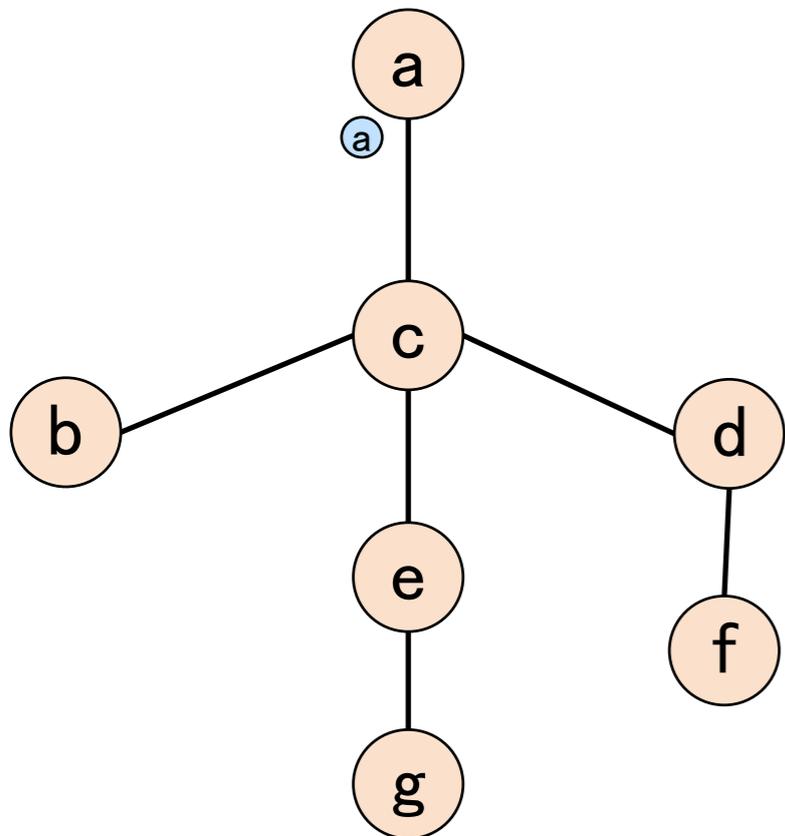
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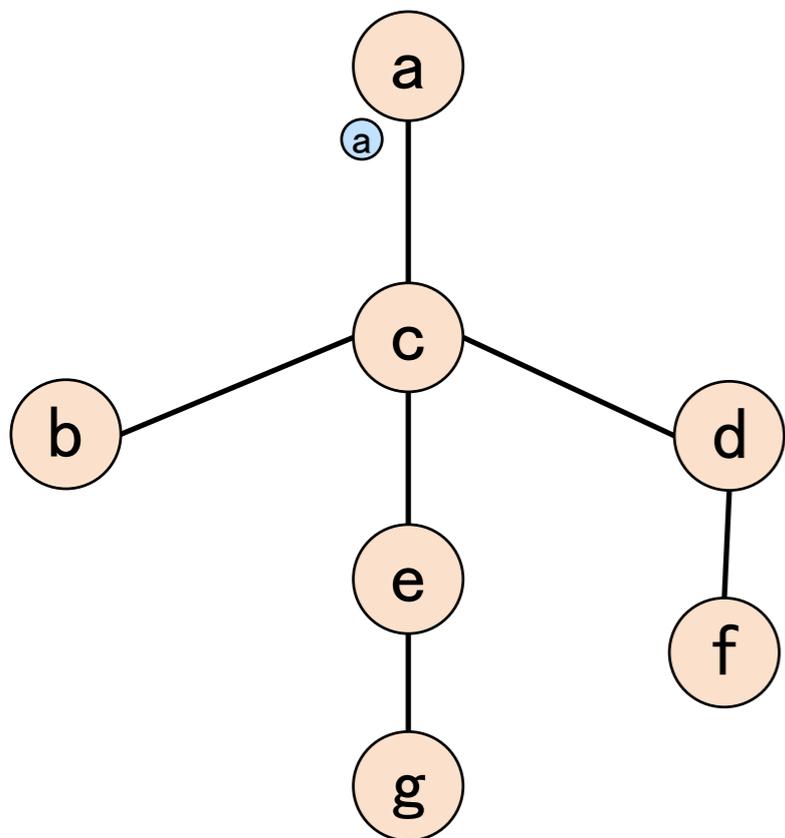
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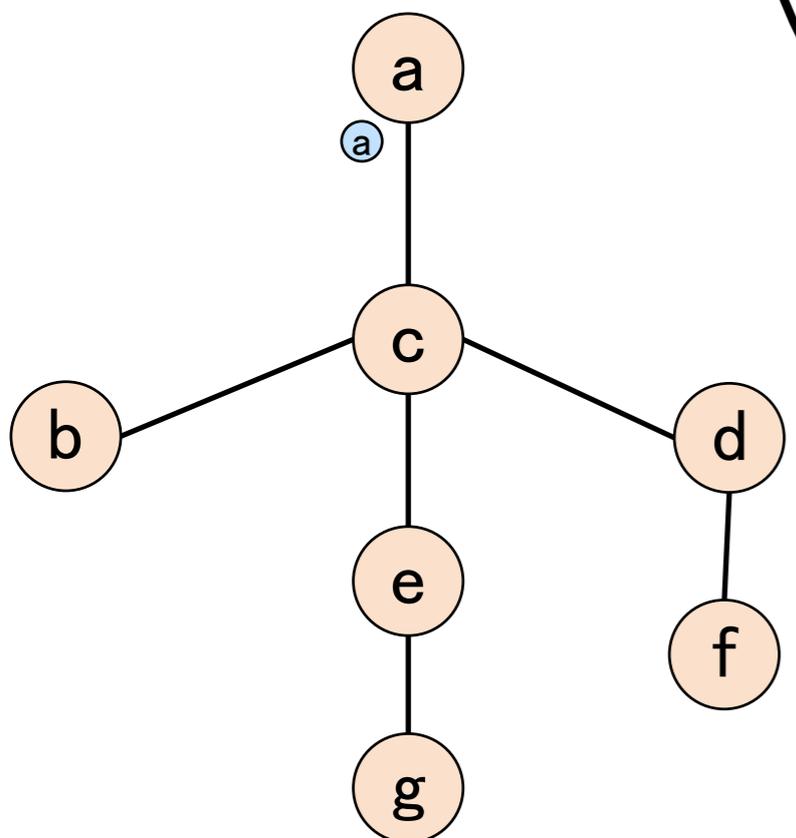
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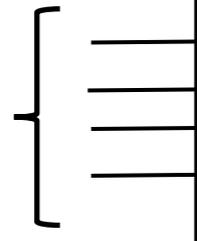
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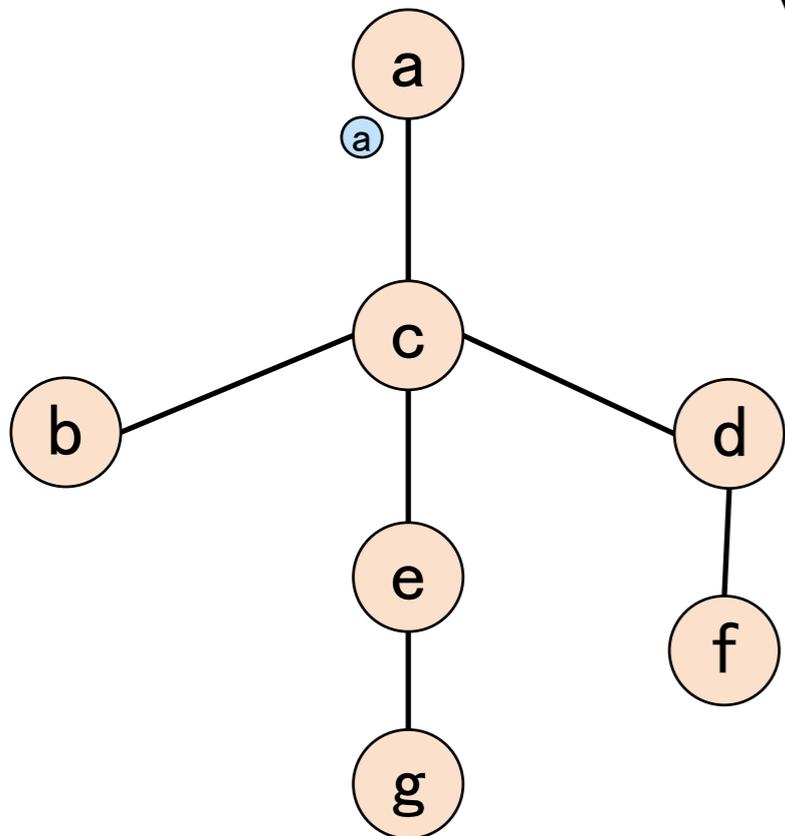
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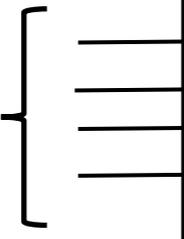
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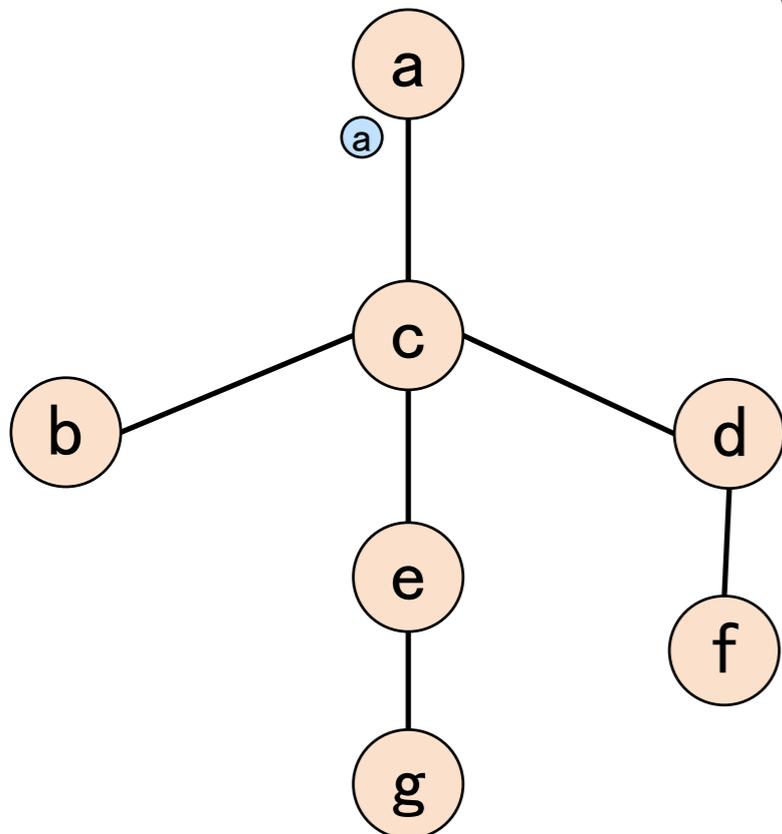
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A diagram showing a quantum state  $\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle |0\rangle$  on the left, followed by a large curly bracket on the right. From the right side of the bracket, three horizontal lines extend to the right, representing the distribution of the state to three separate nodes.

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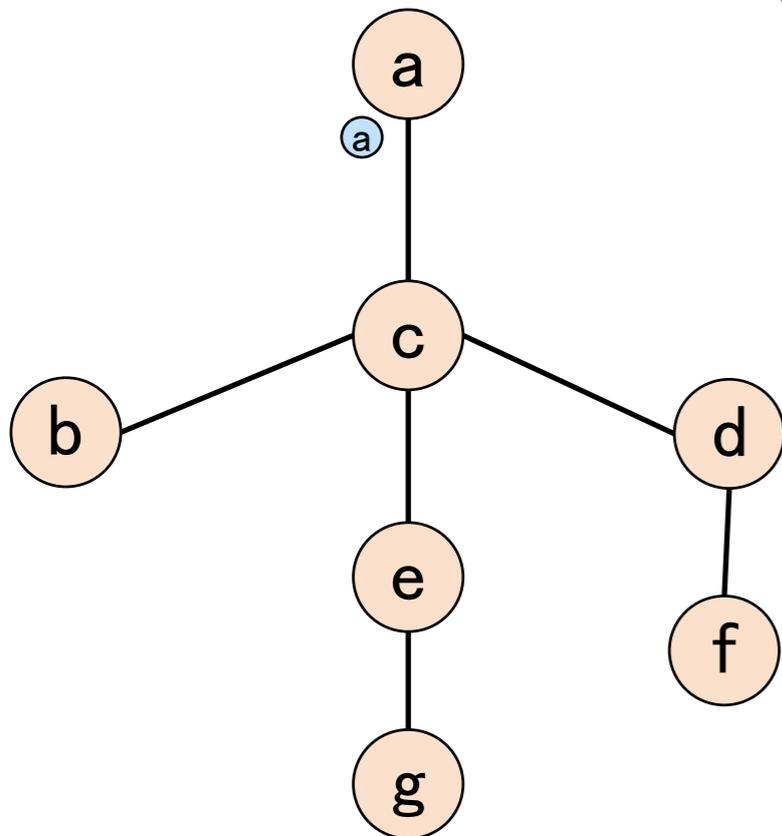
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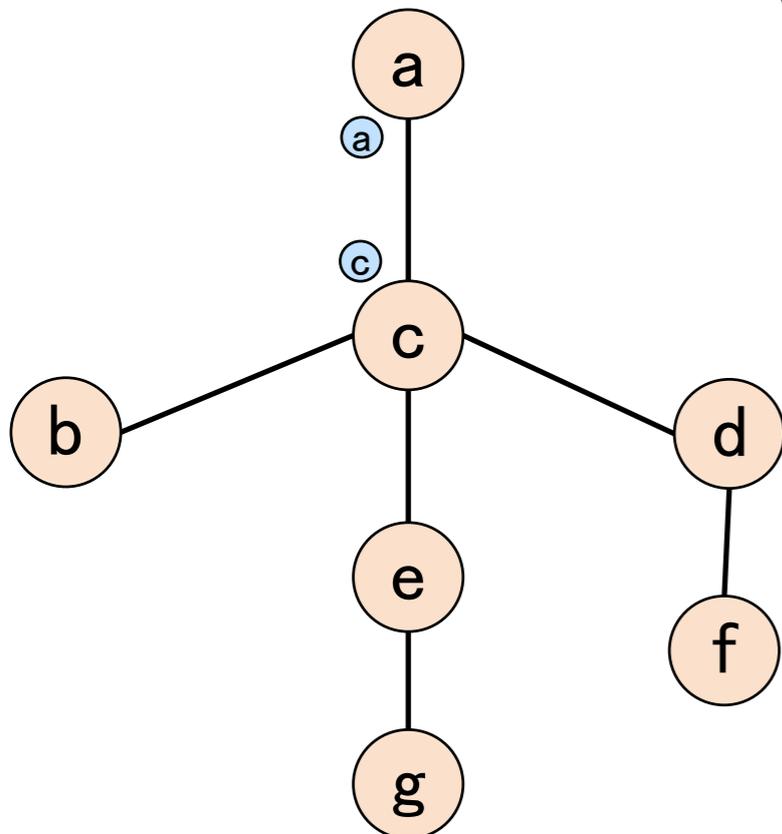
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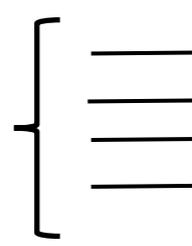


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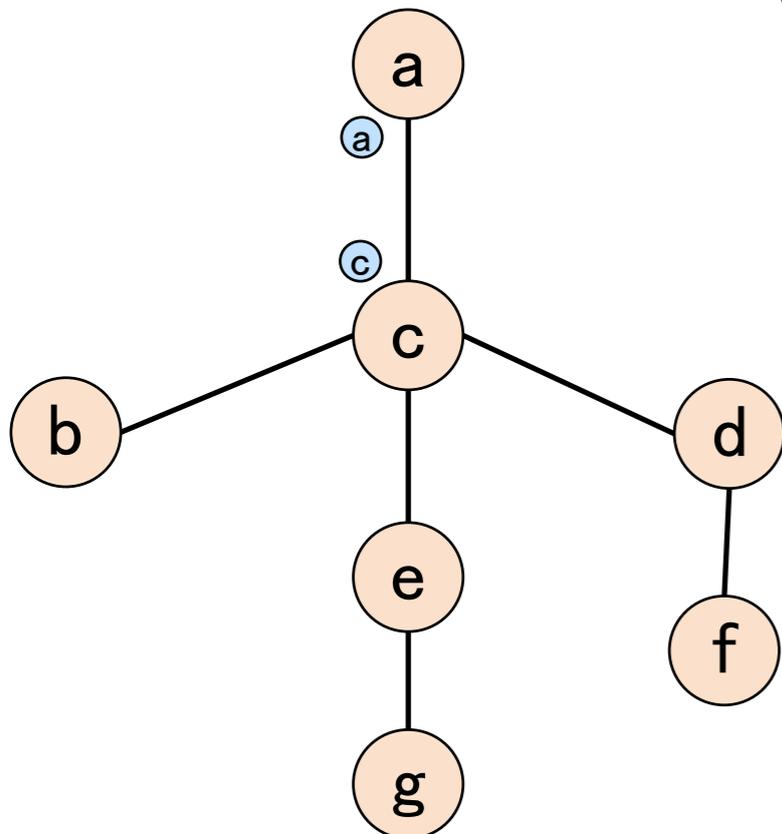
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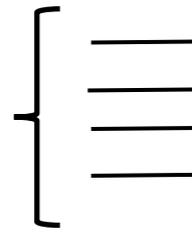
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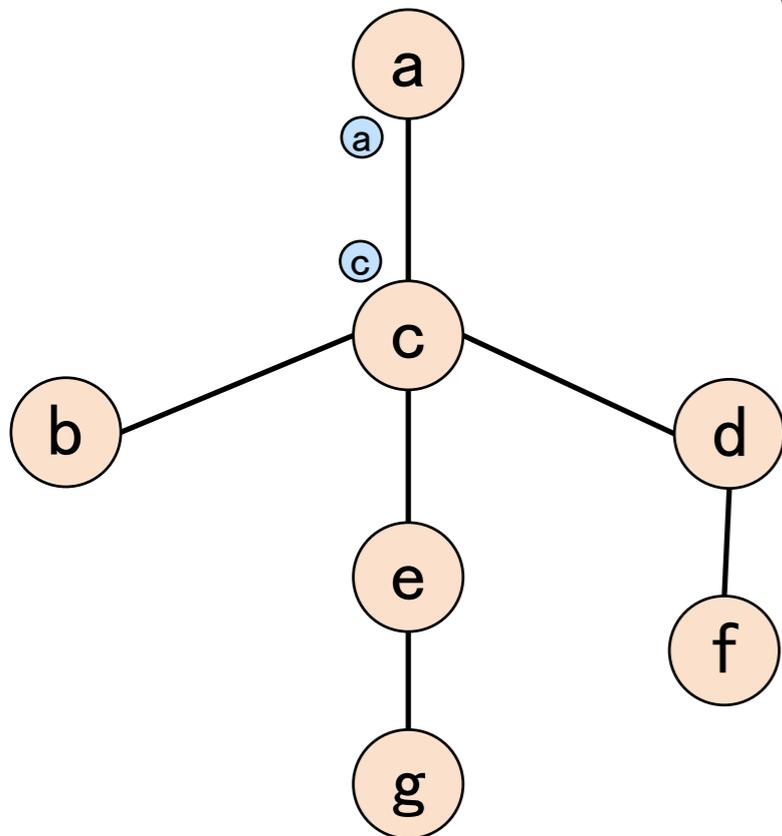
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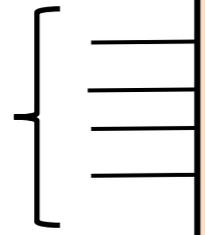
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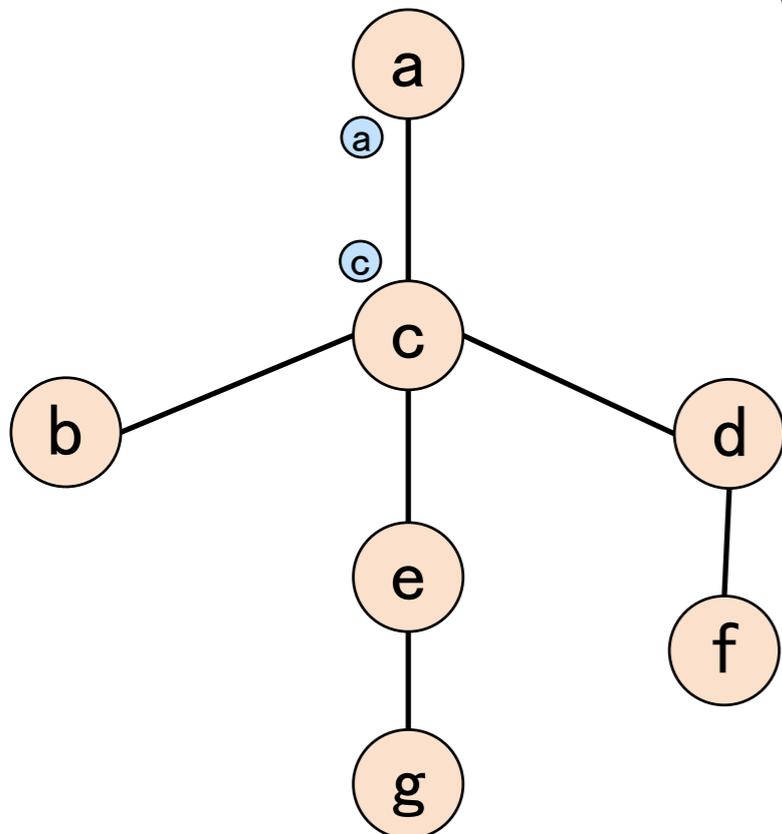
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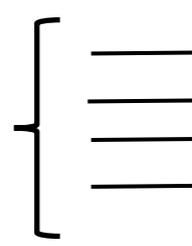
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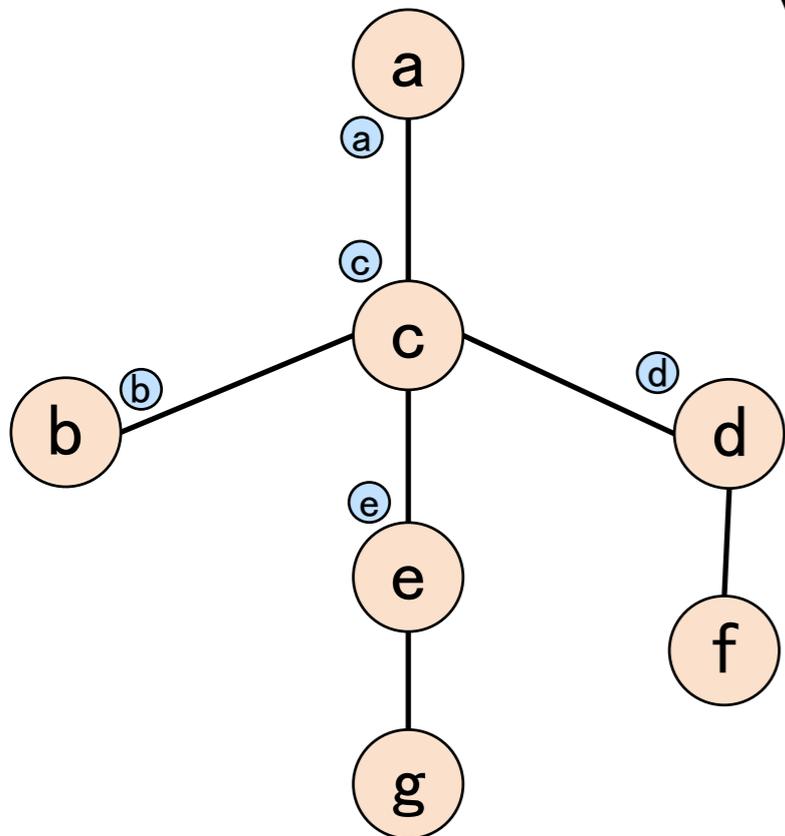
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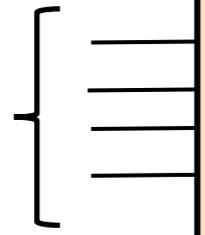
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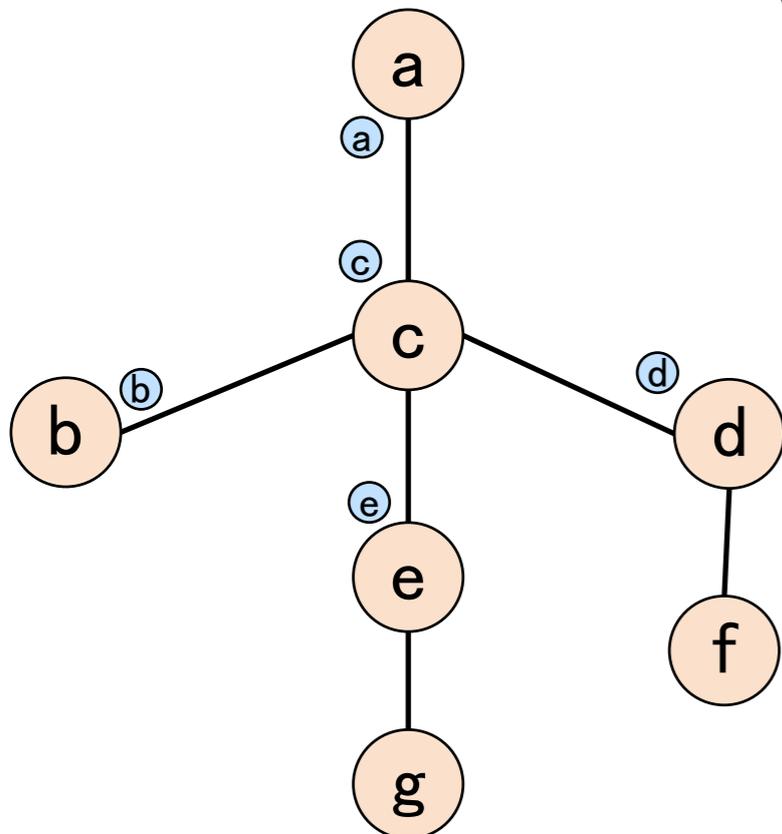
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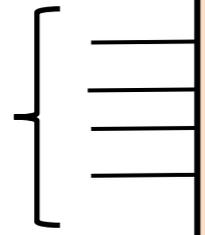
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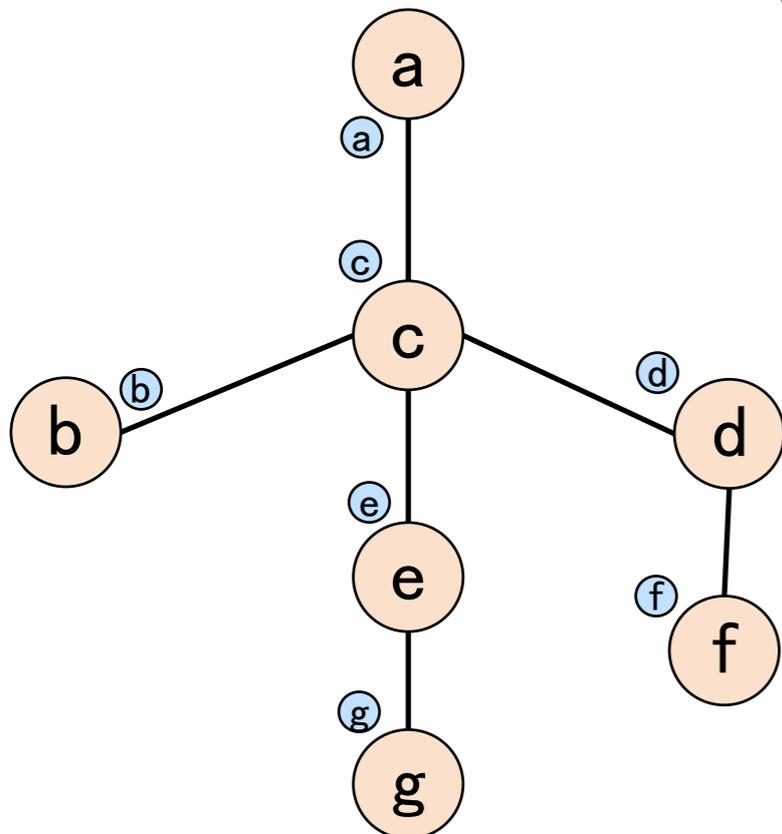
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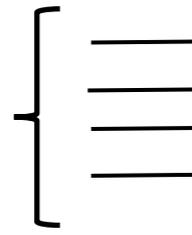
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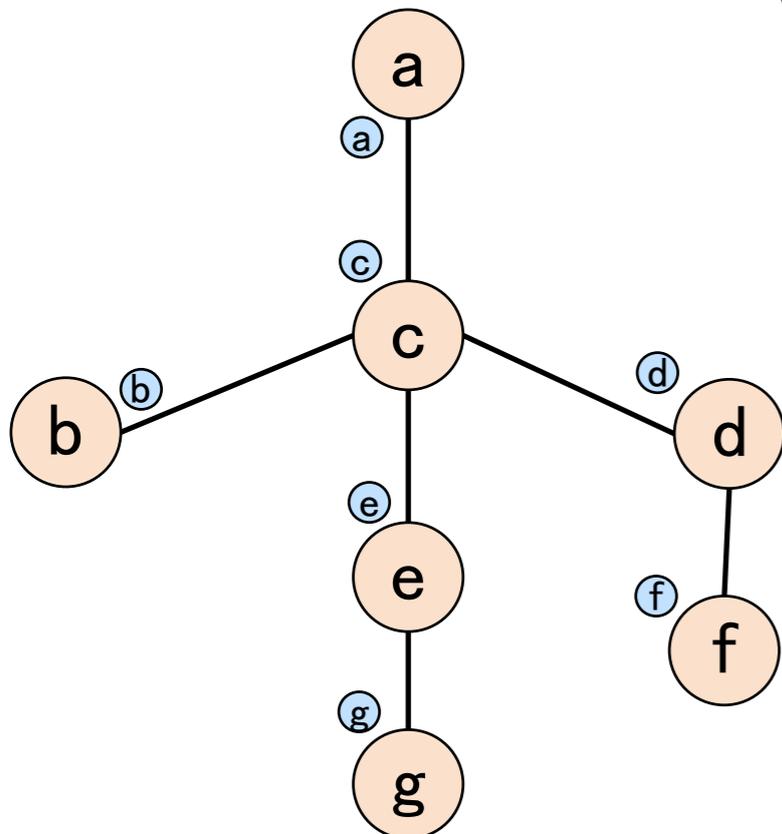
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.....

Example:

$V = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g\}$

here leader = node a



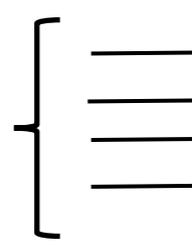
Initially node a owns  $\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle_a$

1. "Broadcast" this state, which gives [ecc(a) ≤ D rounds]

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# Implementati

$$\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle |0\rangle$$



Node a introduces 1 register

$$\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle_a |0\rangle$$

Node a applies CNOTS

$$\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle_a |u\rangle$$

Node a sends the second register to c

$$\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle_a |u\rangle_c$$

Node c introduces 3 registers

$$\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle_a |u\rangle_c |0\rangle |0\rangle |0\rangle$$

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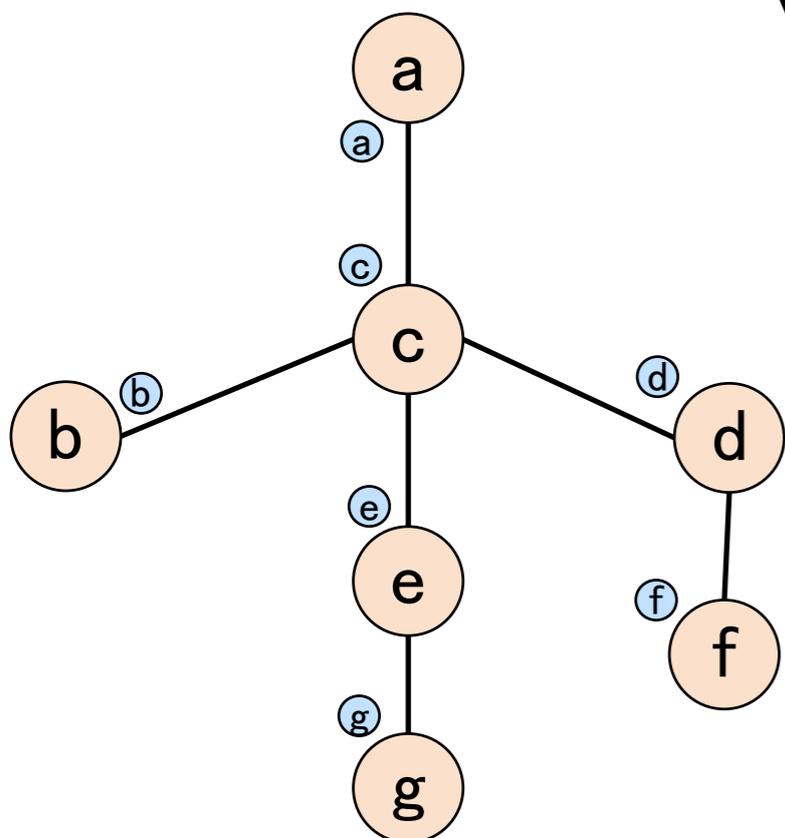
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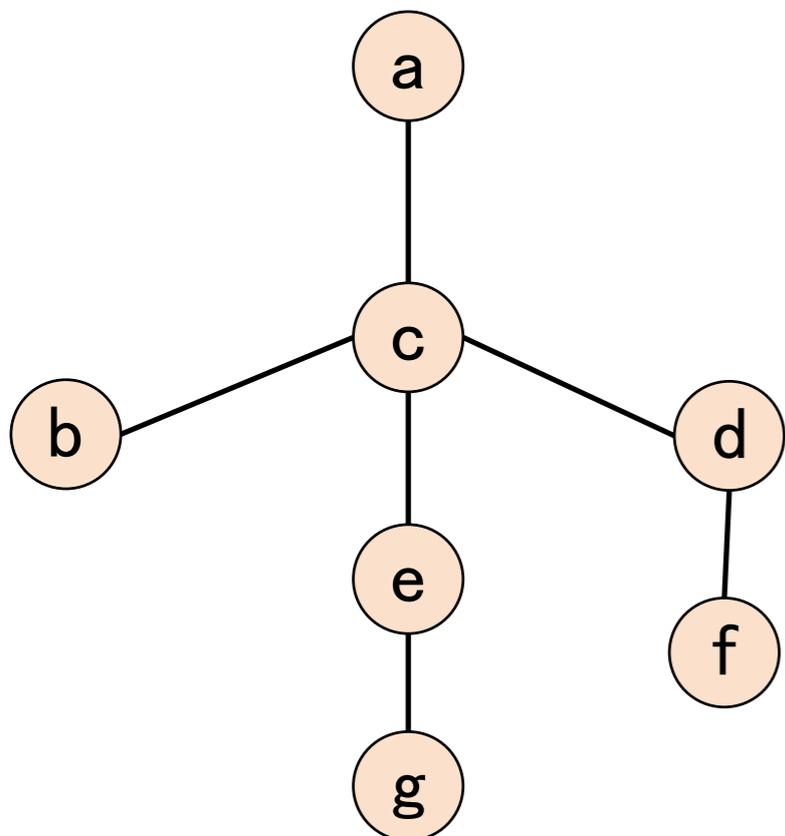
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$$\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle_a |u\rangle_b |u\rangle_c |u\rangle_d |u\rangle_e |u\rangle_f |u\rangle_g |ecc(u)\rangle_a$$

# Implementation of the Oracle in $O(D)$ rounds

$$\sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle_a |0\rangle_a \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{oracle} \end{array} \right\} \sum_{u \in V} \alpha_u |u\rangle_a |ecc(u)\rangle_a$$

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3. The nodes revert Step 1  $[ecc(a) \leq D \text{ rounds}]$

# Quantum Distributed Computation of the Diameter: Summary

Define the function  $f: V \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  such that  $f(u) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \text{ecc}(u) \geq d \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Goal: find  $u$  such that  $f(u) = 1$  (or report that no such vertex exist)

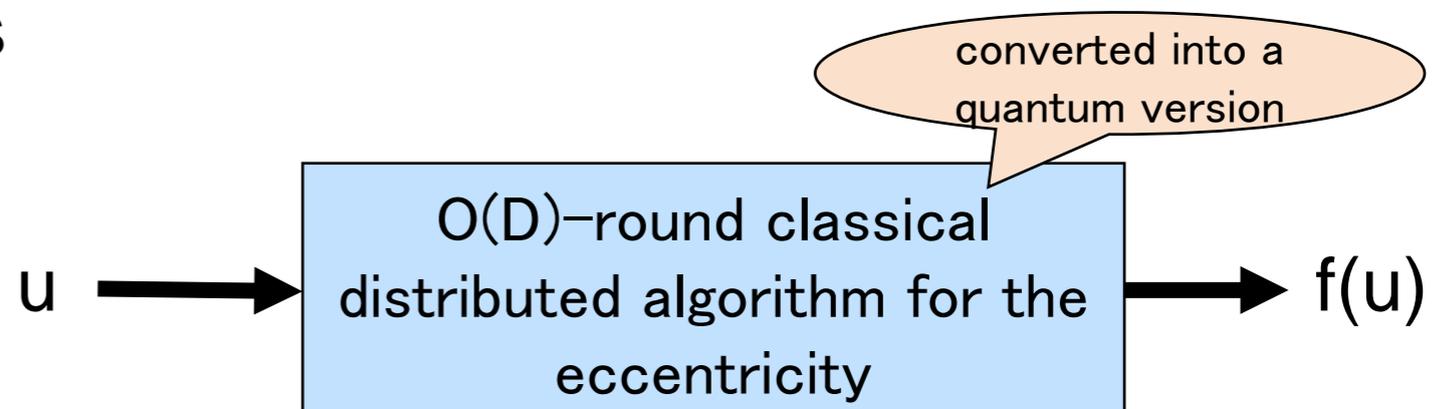
There is a quantum algorithm for this search problem using  $O(\sqrt{n})$  calls to a black box evaluating  $f$

Quantum search  
[Grover 96]

## Quantum distributed algorithm computing the diameter

- ✓ The network elects a leader
- ✓ The leader locally implements Grover algorithm. Each call to the black box is implemented by using the standard  $O(D)$ -round classical algorithm computing the eccentricity.

Complexity:  $O(\sqrt{n} \times D)$  rounds



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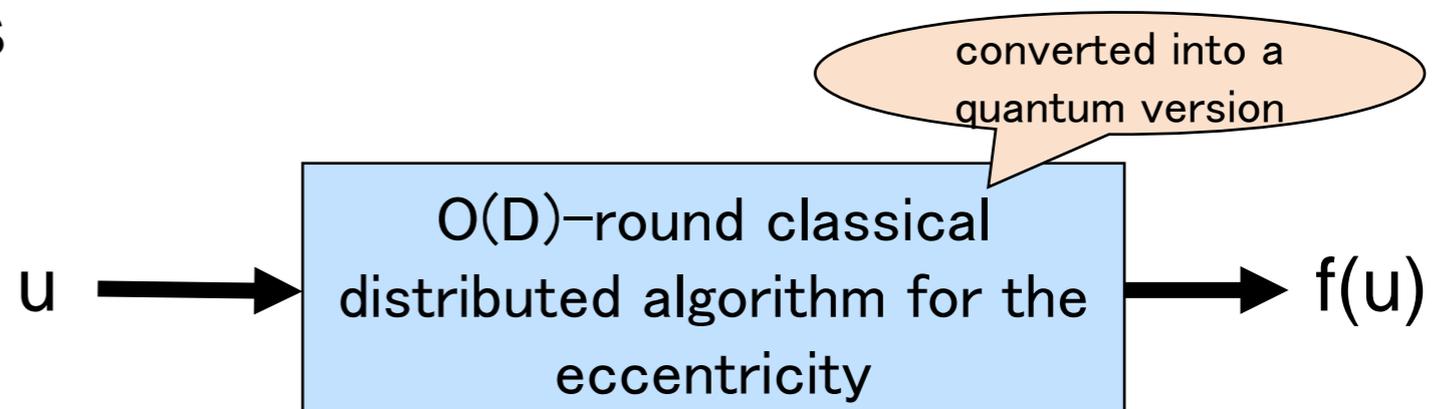
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With further work, the complexity can be reduced to  $O(\sqrt{nD})$  rounds



# Quantum Distributed Computation of the Diameter: Summary

Classically in  $O(D)$  rounds it is possible to simultaneously compute the eccentricities of  $D$  vertices [Peleg+12]

Thus we can instead do a Grover search over groups of  $D$  vertices (there are  $n/D$  groups) in

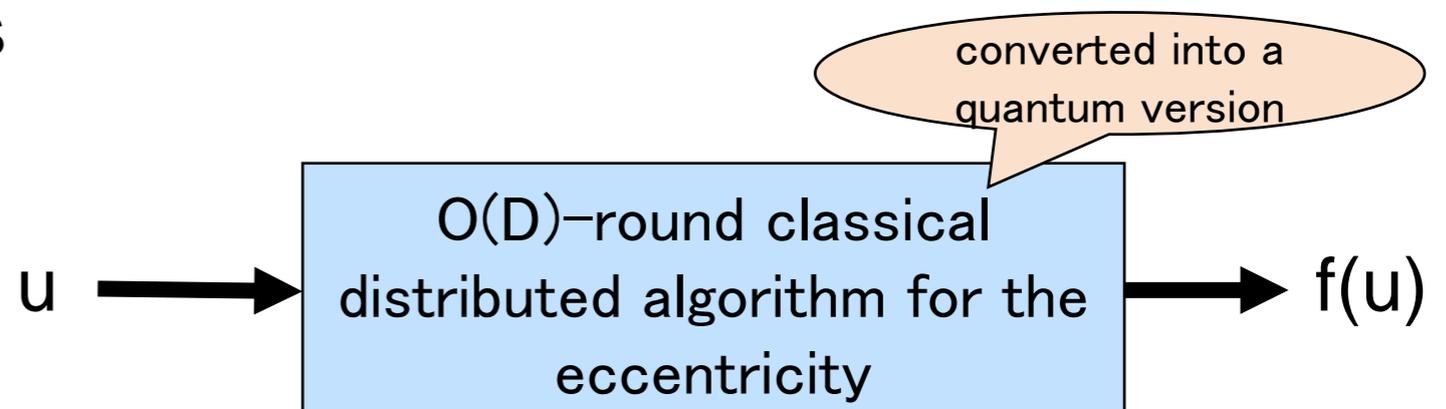
$$O(\sqrt{n/D} \times D) = O(\sqrt{nD}) \text{ rounds}$$

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# Summary of the first part

Main result [LG, Magniez 2018]

sublinear-round quantum computation of the diameter whenever  $D=o(n)$

	Classical	Quantum (our results)
Exact computation (upper bounds)	$O(n)$ [Holzer+12, Peleg+12]	$O(\sqrt{nD})$
Exact computation (lower bounds)	$\tilde{\Omega}(n)$ [Frischknecht+12]	$\tilde{\Omega}(\sqrt{n} + D)$ [unconditional] $\tilde{\Omega}(\sqrt{nD})$ [conditional]

number of rounds needed to compute the diameter (n: number of nodes, D: diameter)

OPEN PROBLEM:

✓ Prove an unconditional lower bound of  $\tilde{\Omega}(\sqrt{nD})$  rounds

very recent result [Magniez, Nayak 2020]

$$\tilde{\Omega}(\sqrt{n} + n^{1/3} D^{2/3}) \quad [\text{unconditional}]$$

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**PROMISING RESEARCH DIRECTION:** find other applications of this technique

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[Izumi, LG 2019]:

quantum distributed algorithm for the All-Pairs Shortest Paths Problem faster than the best classical algorithms

- ✓ idea: implement simultaneously  $\Theta(n^2)$  quantum distributed searches
- ✓ significant work needed to avoid congestions in the checking procedures

[Izumi, LG, Magniez 2020]:

quantum distributed algorithm for triangle finding faster than the best classical algorithms

# Quantum Distributed Computing

Quantum distributed computing

Now **qubits** can be sent instead of bits

(no prior entanglement between nodes)

$n$ : number of nodes of the network

CONGEST model: only  $O(\log n)$  qubits per message

Quantum can be useful for some problems  
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LOCAL model: no restriction on the size of each message

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unbounded amount of quantum communication  
vs.  
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Also used in some of the recent results on quantum shallow circuits  
[Bravyi, Gosset, König 2018]

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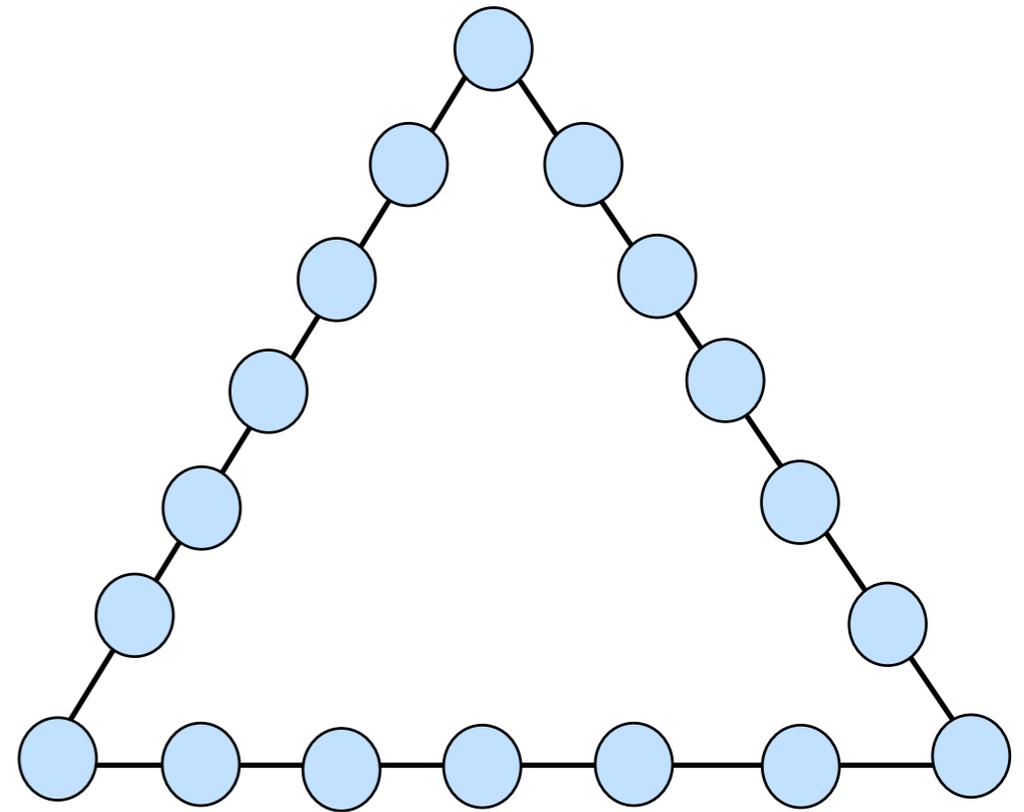
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Consider a ring of size  $n$  (seen as a triangle) ↙ multiple of 3

$n=18$



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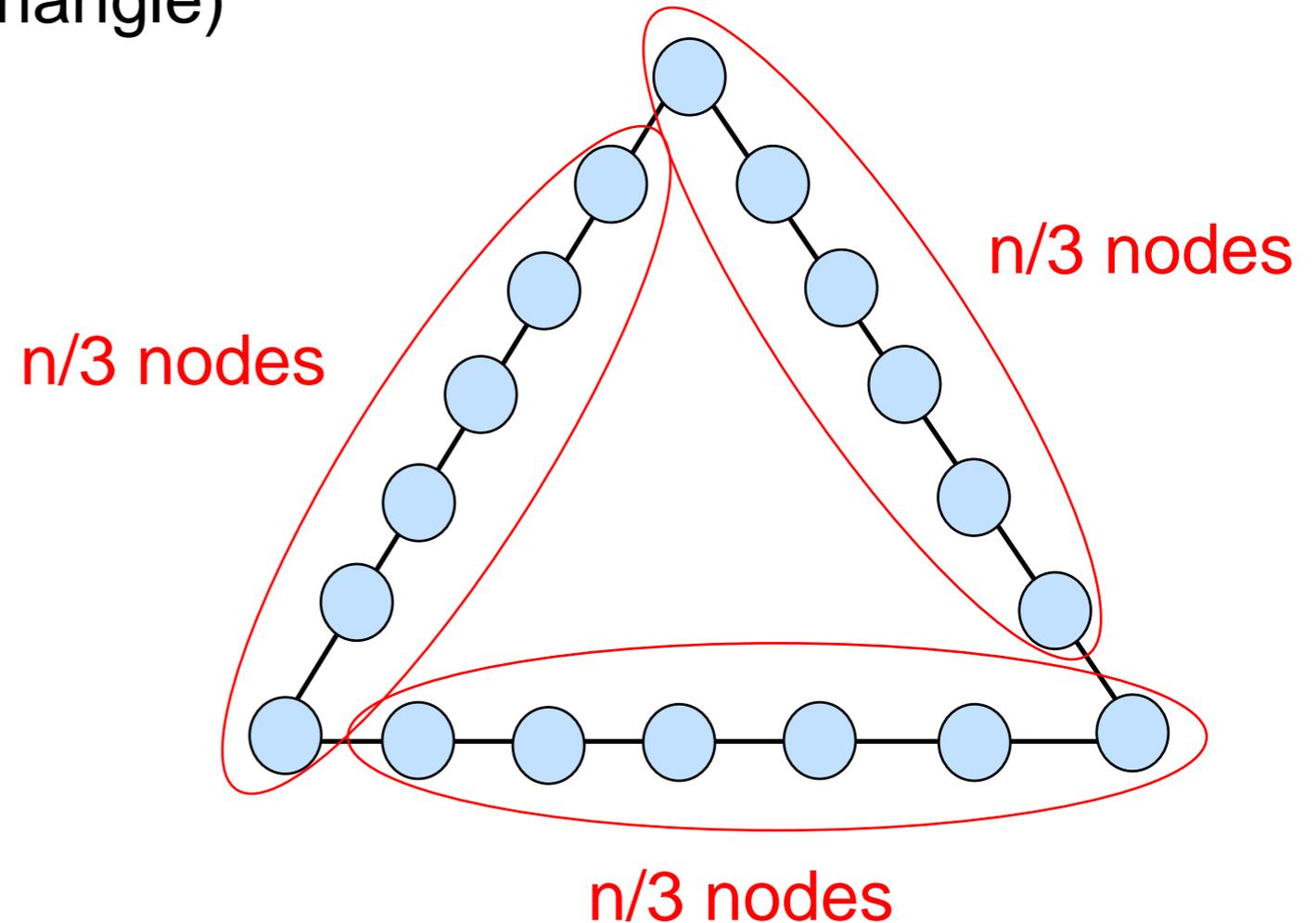
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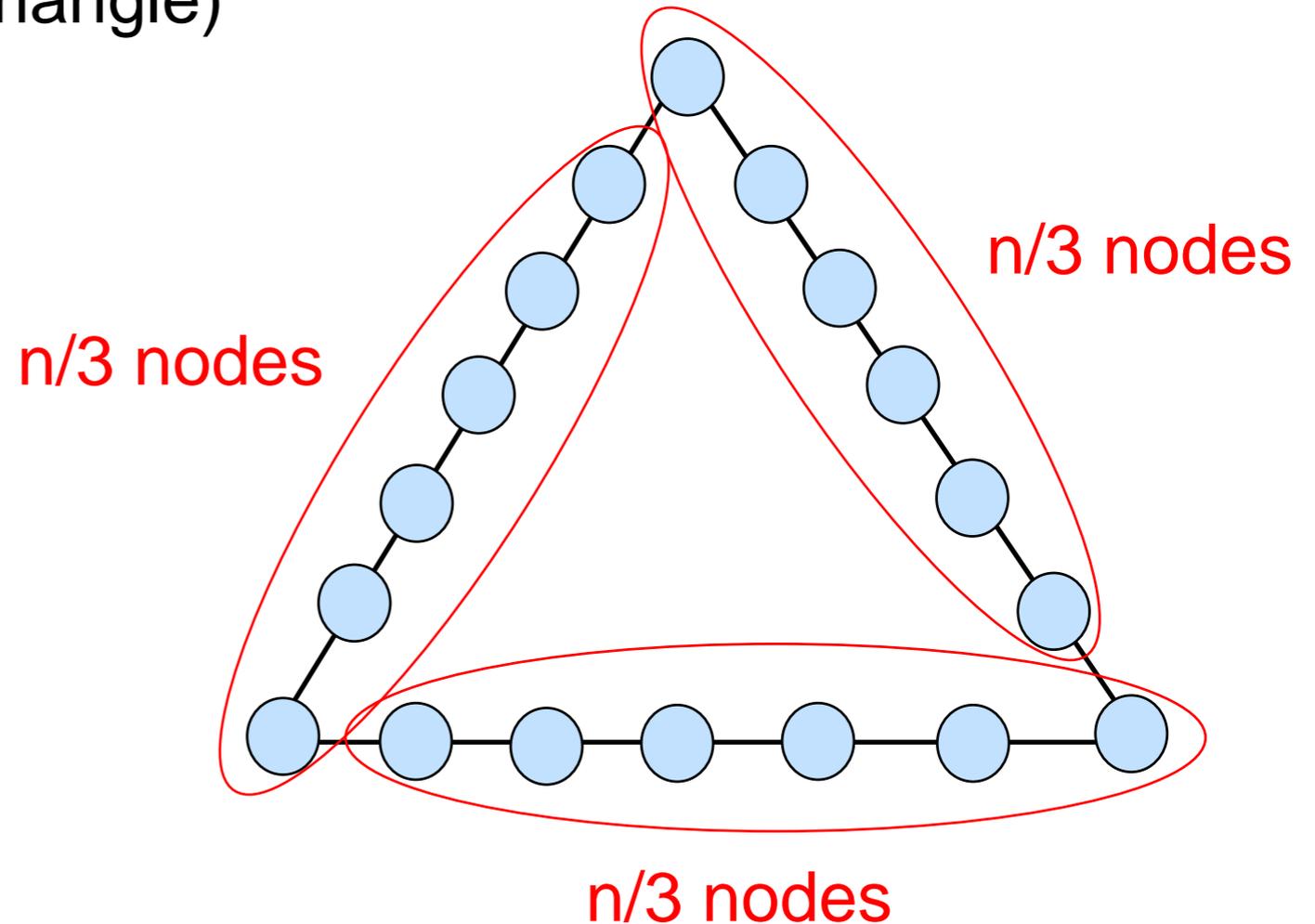
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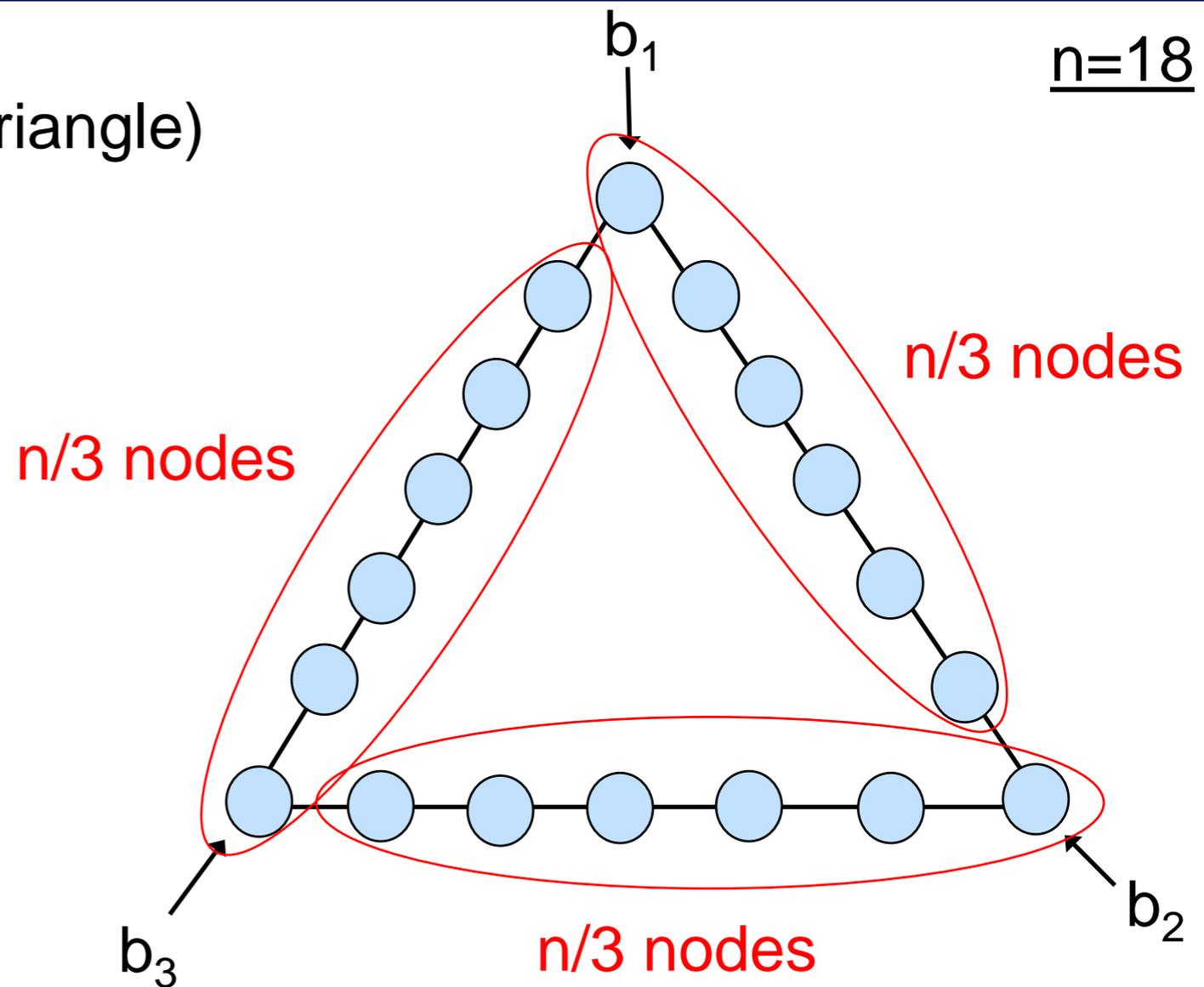
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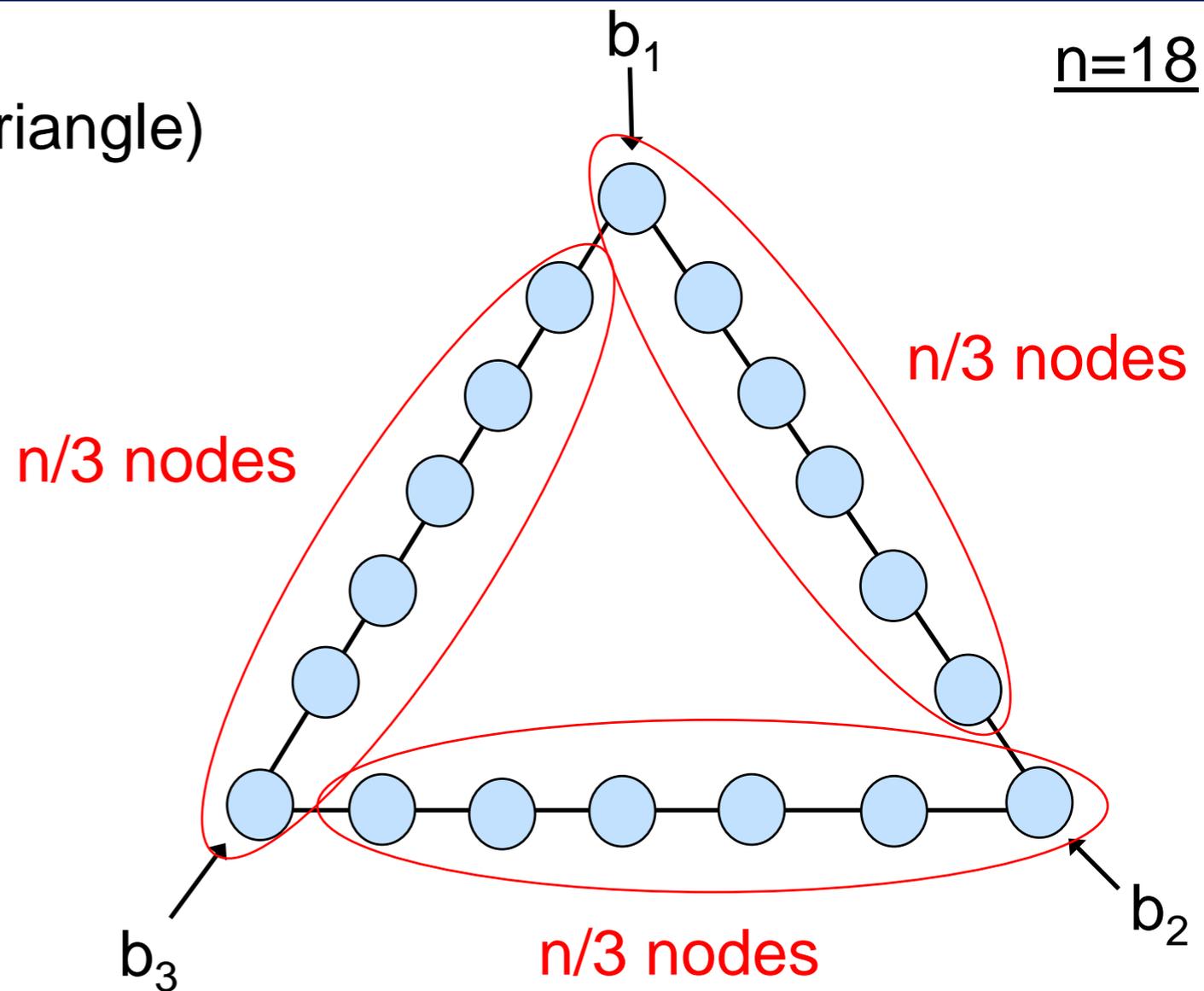
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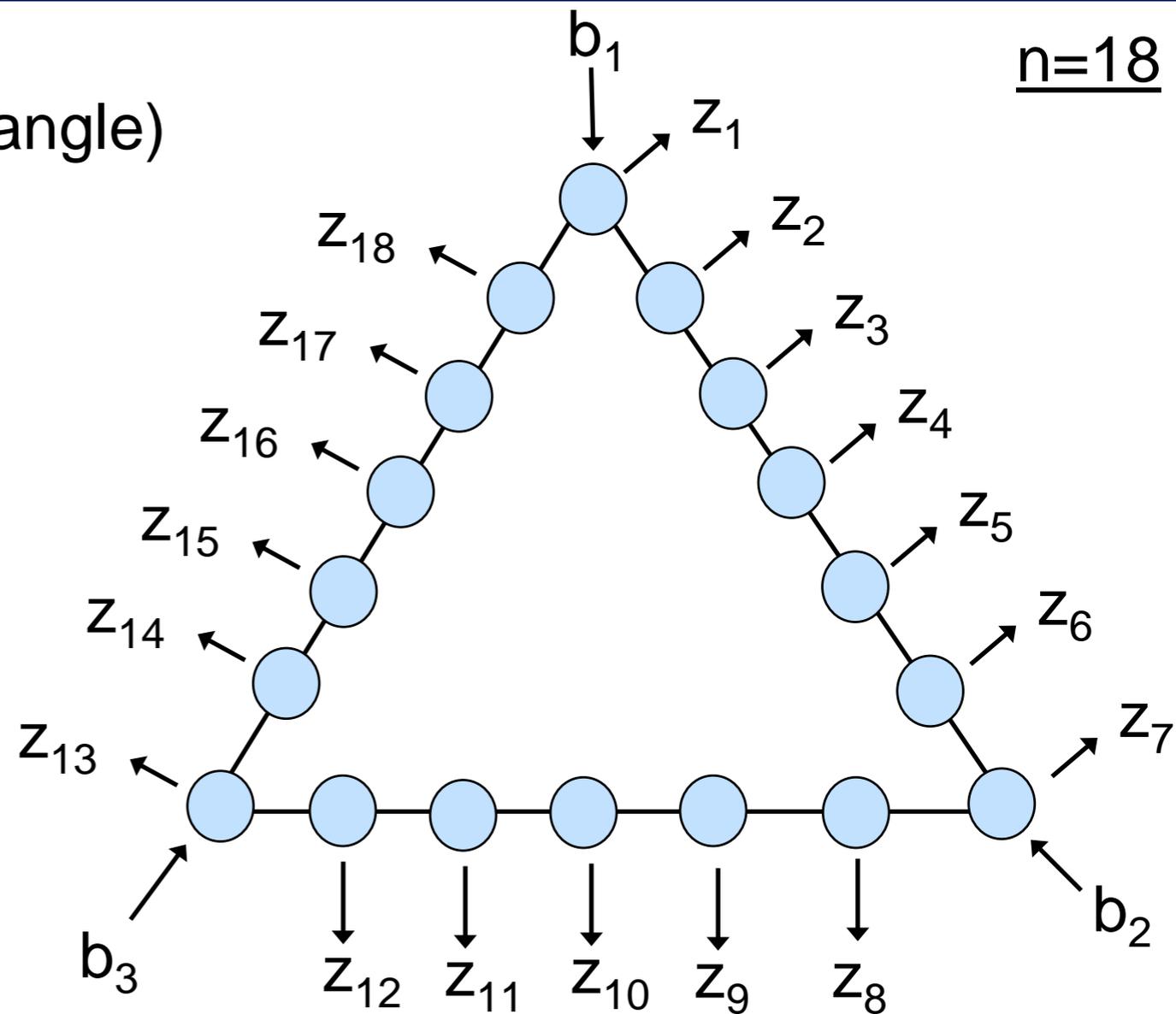
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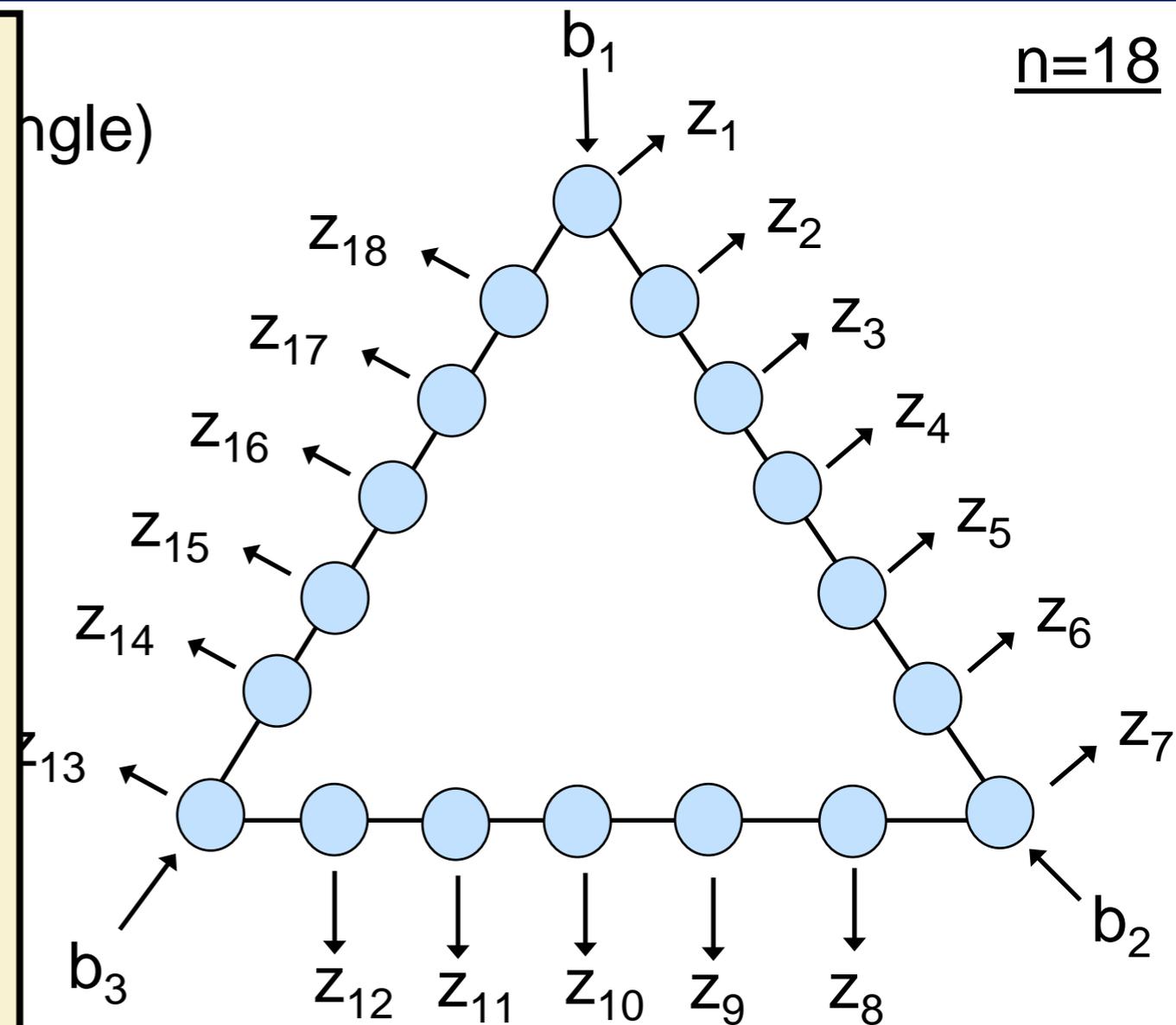
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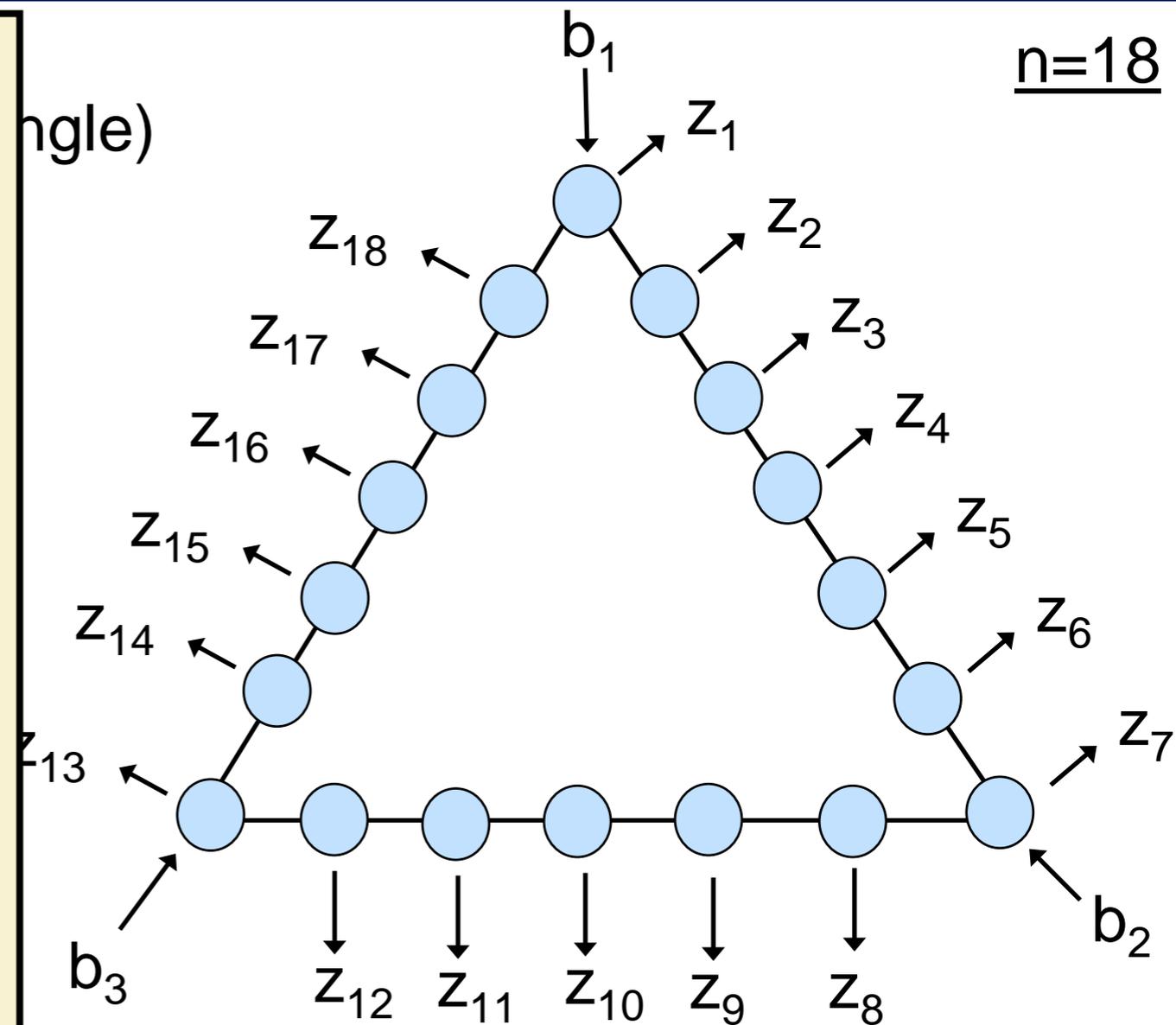
# Consider the following process:

1. The nodes prepare the graph state corresponding to the whole triangle
2. Each non-corner node measures its qubit in the X basis and then outputs the bit corresponding to the measurement outcome
3. Each corner node measures its qubit in the X basis if its input bit is 0, or measures it in the Y basis if its input bit is 1, and then outputs the bit corresponding to the measurement outcome



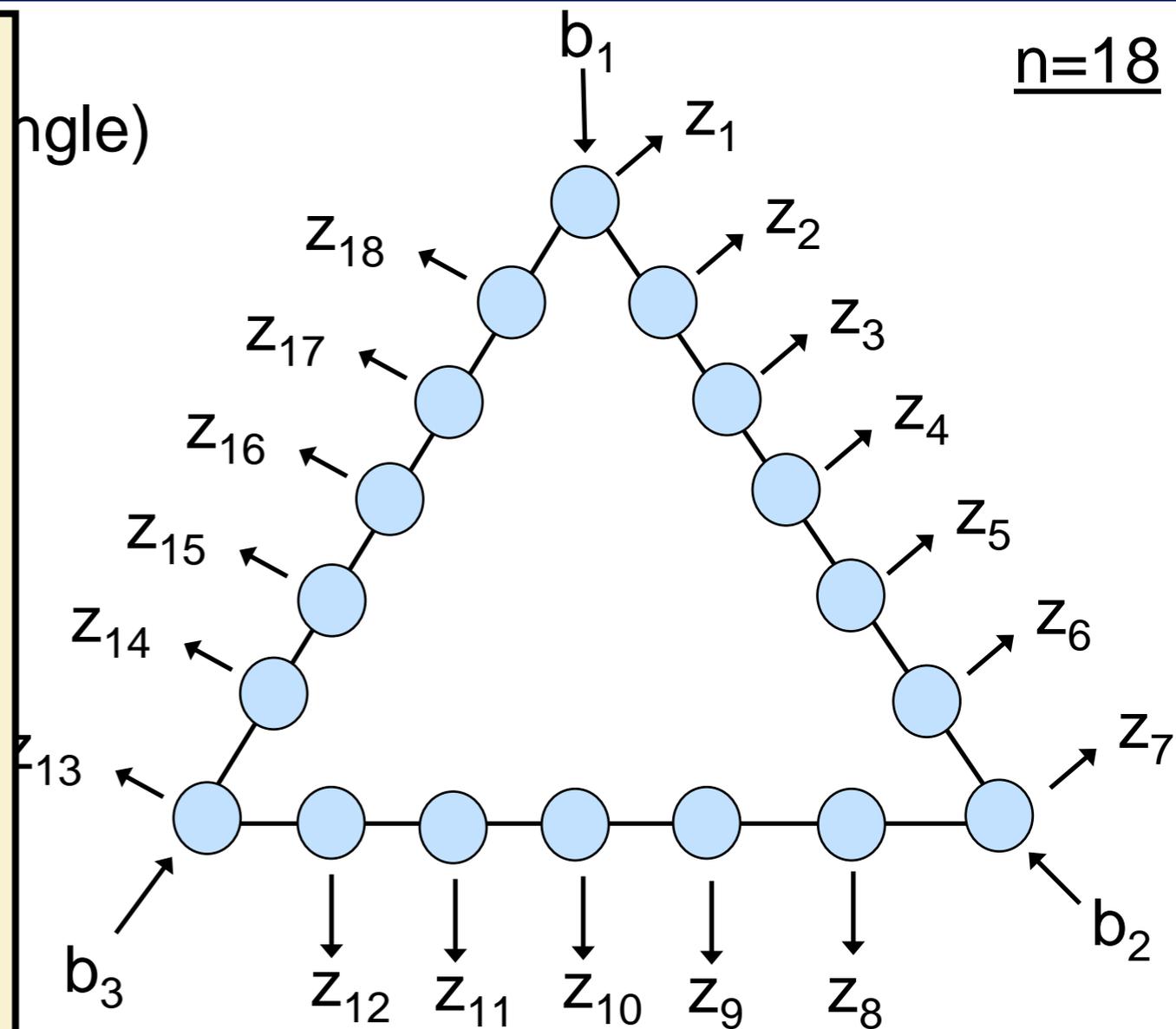
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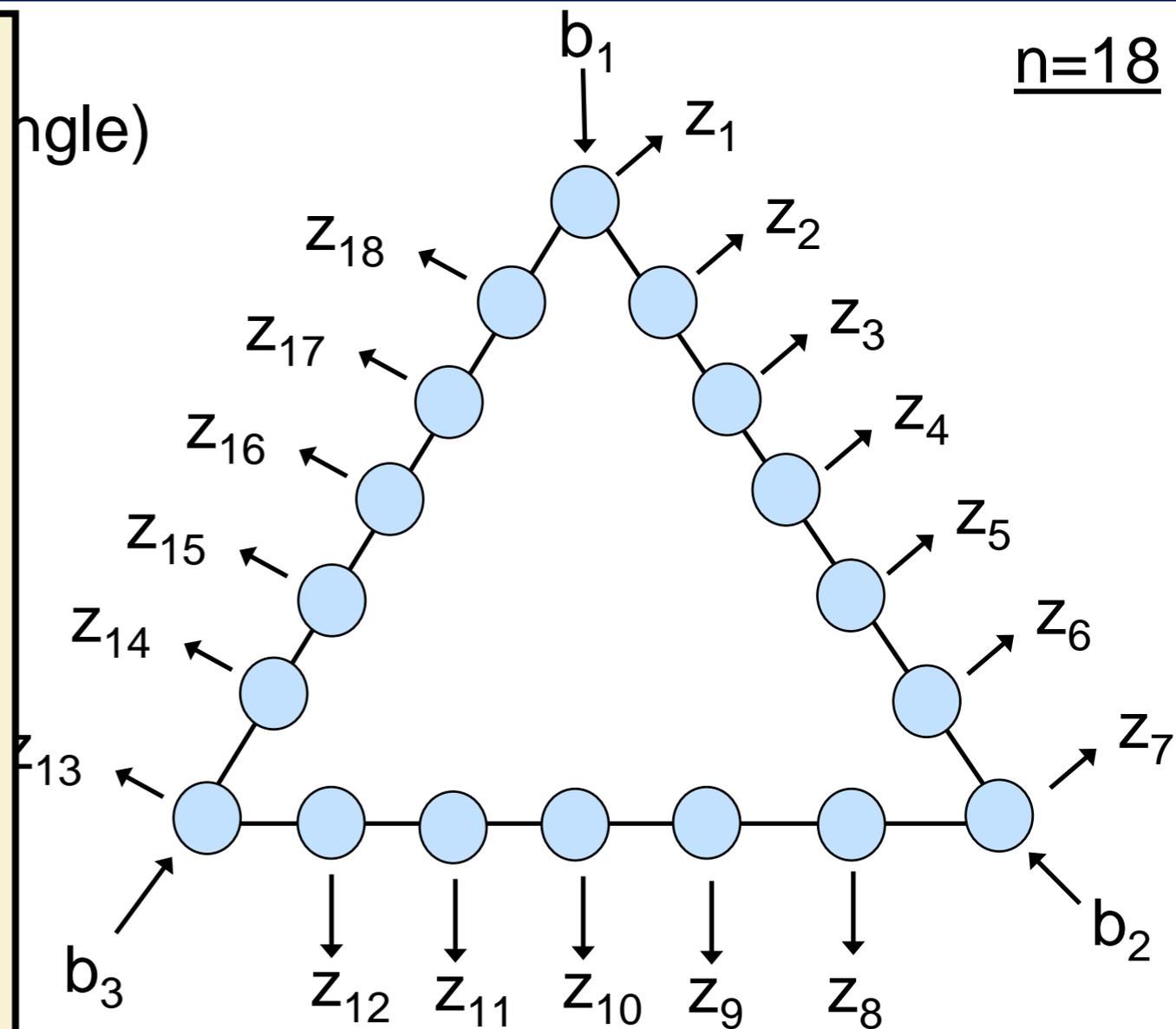
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[Barrett et al. 2007]

In the LOCAL model, any classical algorithm that samples (even approximately) from the same distribution must use at least  $n/6$  rounds.

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# Remarks

“simulate the outcome distribution of a measurement of the graph state”

[LG, Nishimura,  
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There is a computational problem that can be solved in 2 rounds in the quantum LOCAL model but requires  $\Omega(n)$  rounds in the classical LOCAL model.

# Remarks

- ✓ Since our quantum distributed algorithm only uses short messages (1 qubit in each message) we get the following stronger statement:

There is a computational problem that can be solved in 2 rounds in the quantum CONGEST model but requires  $\Omega(n)$  rounds in the classical LOCAL model.

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- ✓ A similar separation can also be shown for a sampling problem without any input (“simulate the outcome distribution of the measurement when the bits  $b_1$ ,  $b_2$  and  $b_3$  are taken uniformly at random”)

“simulate the outcome distribution of a measurement of the graph state”

[LG, Nishimura, Rosmanis 2019]



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# Conclusion

We now know that quantum distributed algorithms can be faster than classical distributed algorithms for several problems, in both the CONGEST model and the LOCAL model

## Interesting research directions:

- ✓ Construct other quantum distributed algorithms, for important problems

Designing quantum distributed algorithms in these models poses new algorithmic challenges since we have to focus on the round complexity (instead of time/query complexity or total communication complexity)

- ✓ Develop lower bounds techniques, especially in the quantum LOCAL model

Can we show a nontrivial lower bound for graph coloring?

- ✓ Prove the superiority of quantum distributed algorithms in other models

Recent result:  
[Fraigniaud, LG,  
Nishimura, Paz 2020]

advantage for distributed interactive proofs