

Title: Quantum Walks and algorithmic speedup

Date: Nov 24, 2004 02:00 PM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/04110038>

Abstract:

# Quantum Walks and Algorithmic Speedup

**Richard Cleve (Waterloo)**

Joint work with: Andrew Childs (MIT)  
Enrico Deotto (MIT)  
Eddie Farhi (MIT)  
Sam Gutmann (Northeastern)  
Dan Spielman (MIT)

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# Motivation

**Find new quantum algorithms**

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Shor's algorithms:

based on the *Quantum Fourier Transform*

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based on *Amplitude Amplification*

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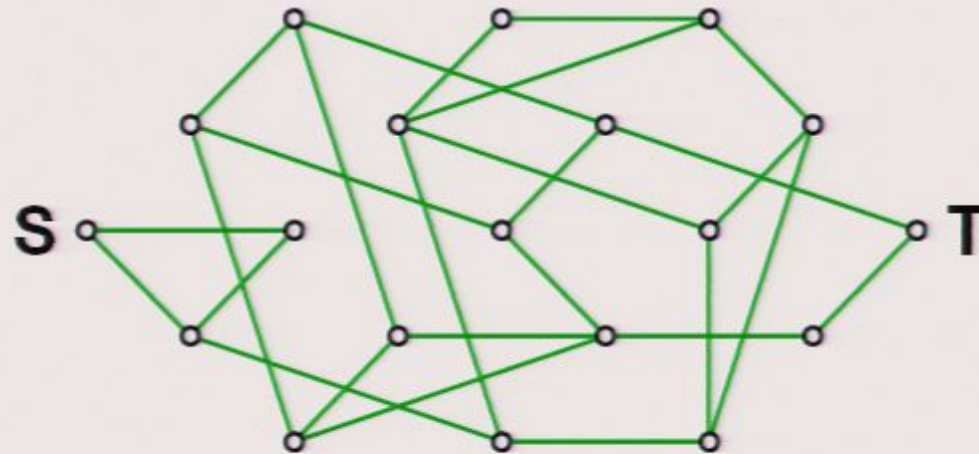
based on the *Quantum Fourier Transform*

Grover's algorithm:

based on *Amplitude Amplification*

Are there other useful algorithmic techniques?

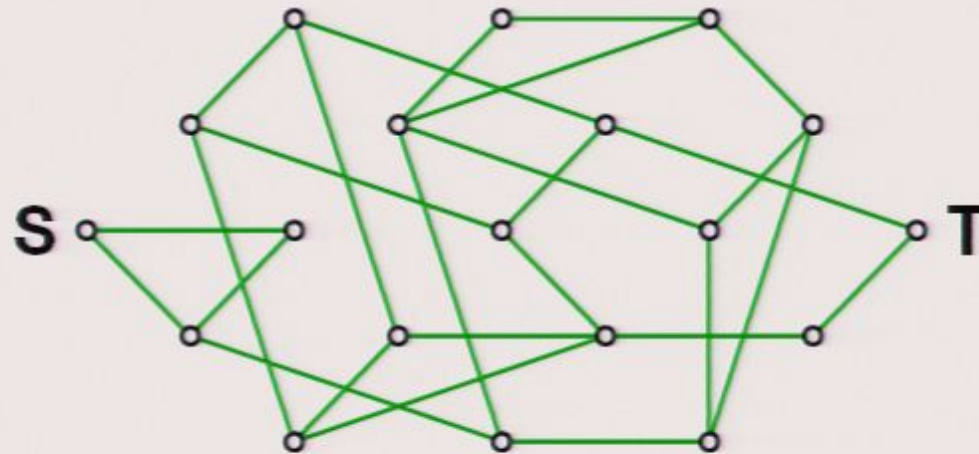
# Classical random walks



Algorithmic tools for searching and sampling



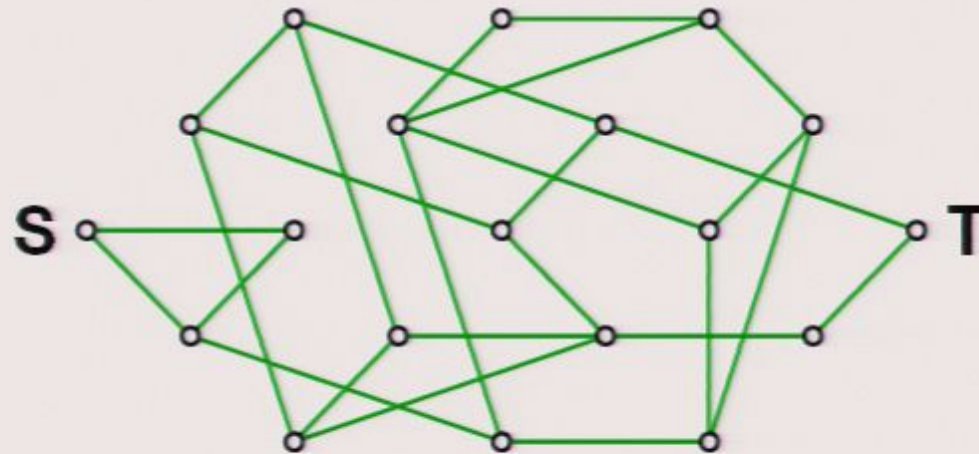
# Classical random walks



Algorithmic tools for searching and sampling

**Example 1: ST-connectivity** (undirected graphs)

# Classical random walks



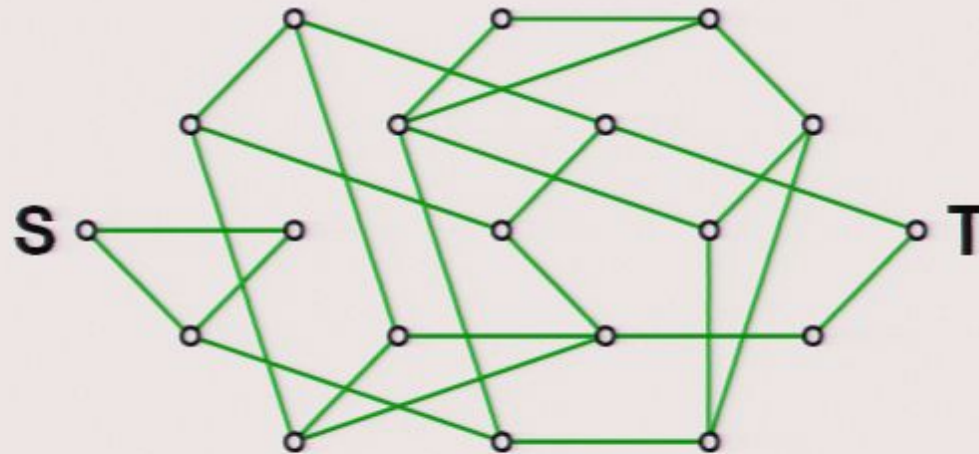
Algorithmic tools for searching and sampling

**Example 1: ST-connectivity** (undirected graphs)

A very space efficient algorithm:

1. perform a random walk starting from **S**
2. if **T** is ever reached then **YES**, else **NO**

# Classical random walks



Algorithmic tools for searching and sampling

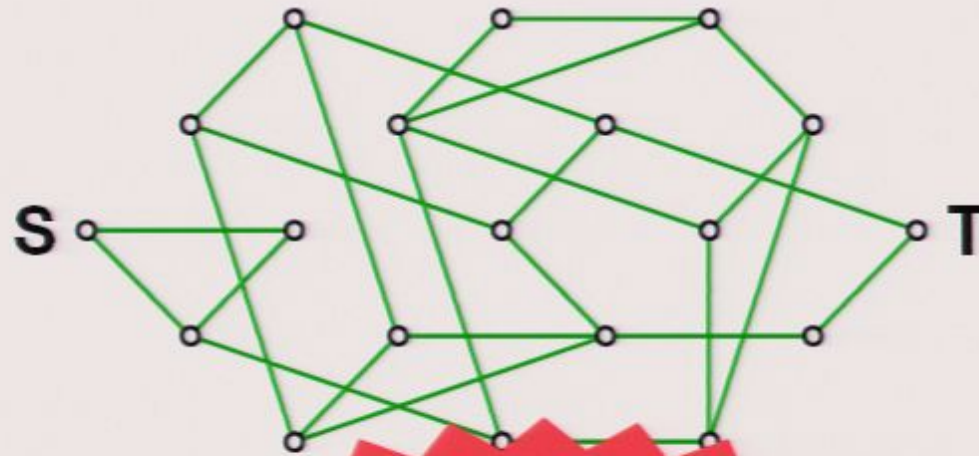
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Space  $O(\log n)$  and time  $O(n^3)$  for **any**  $n$ -vertex graph,

# Classical random walks



Algorithmic tools for

**Example 1: ST-cut** (November 8, 2004: *deterministic* algorithm using similar space/time)

A very space efficient

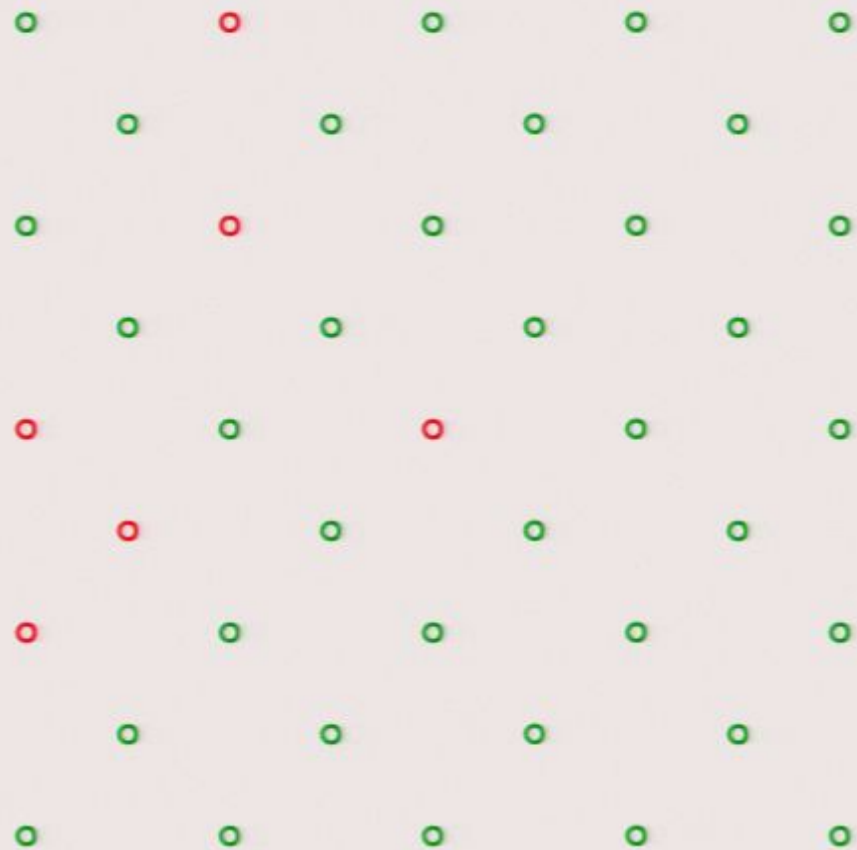
1. perform a random

2. if T is ever reached

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# Random walks as algorithmic tools

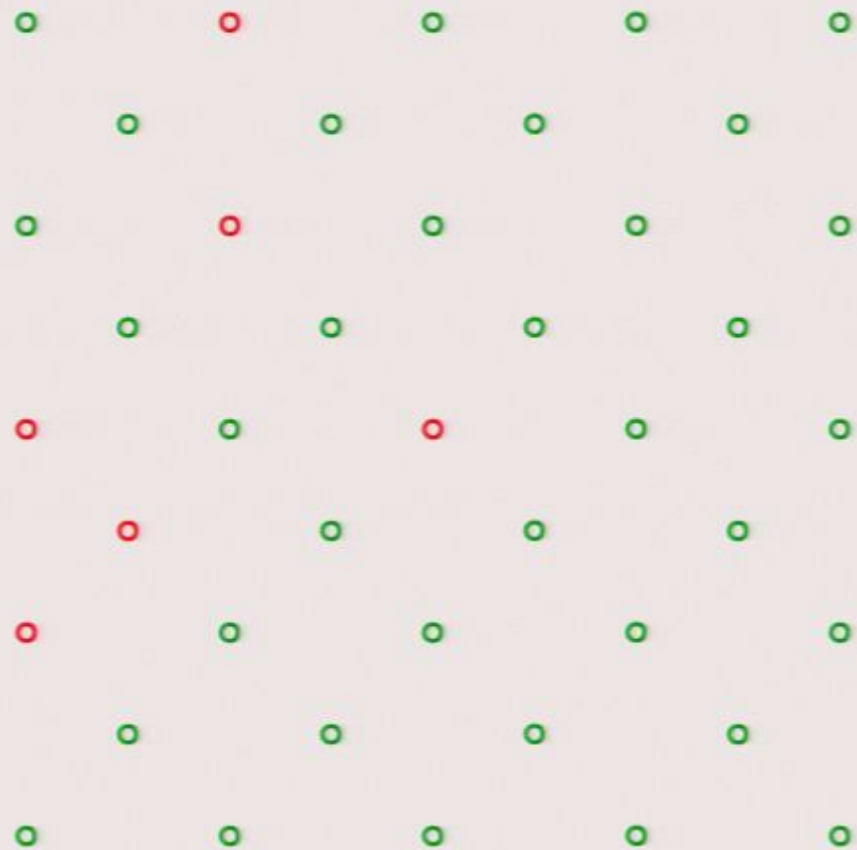
**Example 2:** uniform sampling on a subset



# Random walks as algorithmic tools

**Example 2:** uniform sampling on a subset

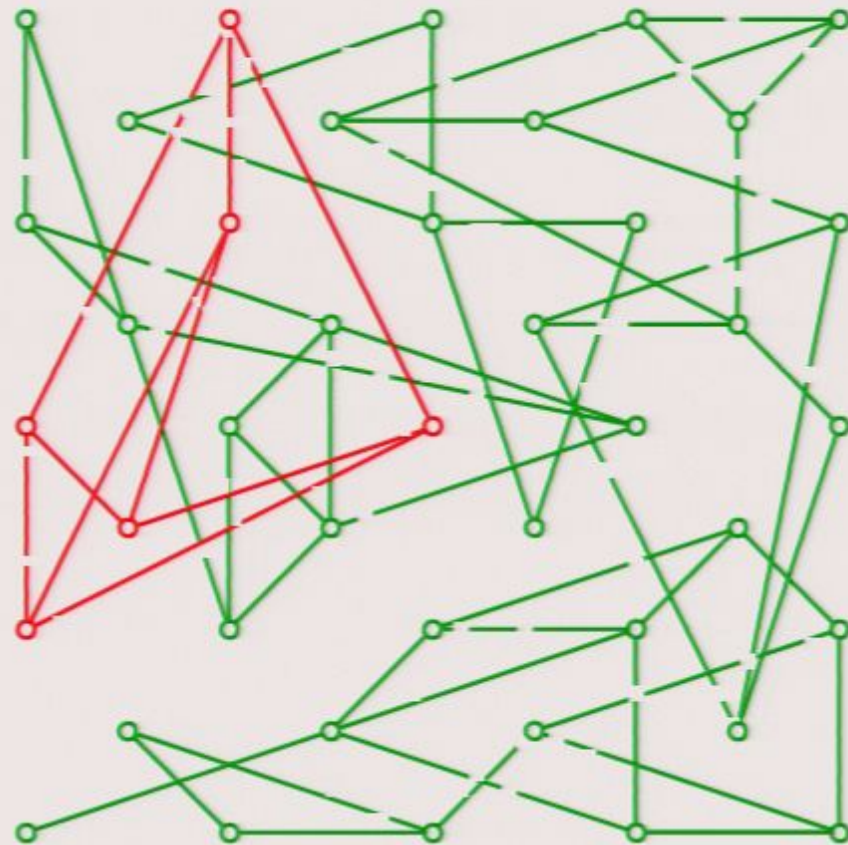
Execute random walk on a related graph that quickly approaches uniform distribution



# Random walks as algorithmic tools

**Example 2:** uniform sampling on a subset

Execute random walk on a related graph that quickly approaches uniform distribution

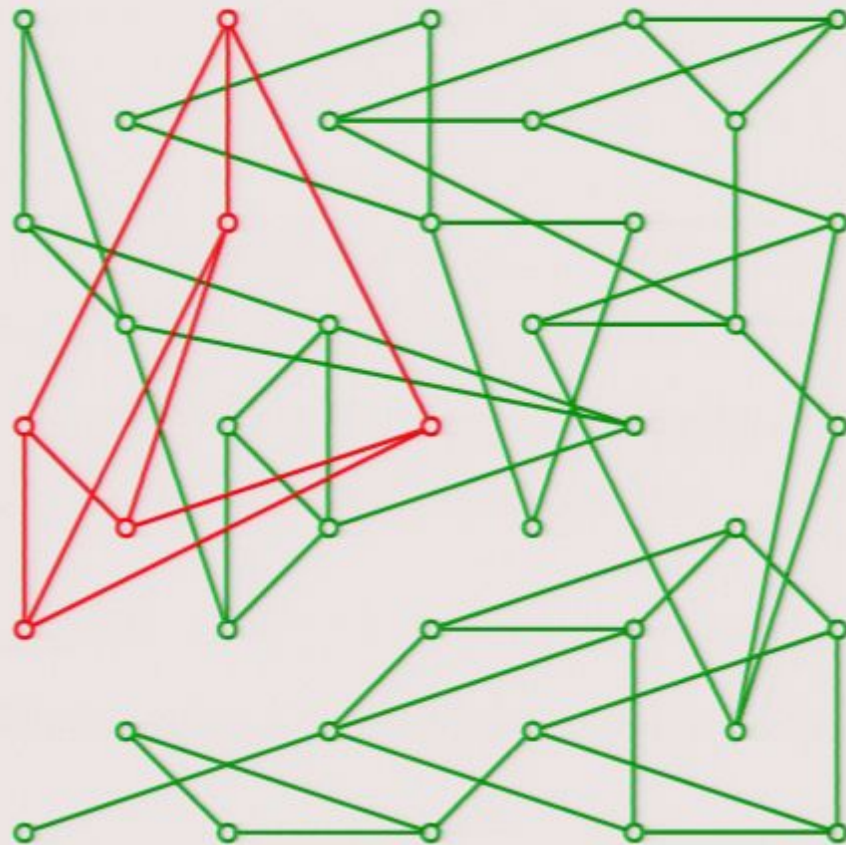


# Random walks as algorithmic tools

**Example 2:** uniform sampling on a subset

Execute random walk on a related graph that quickly approaches uniform distribution

Basis of some very good approximation algorithms





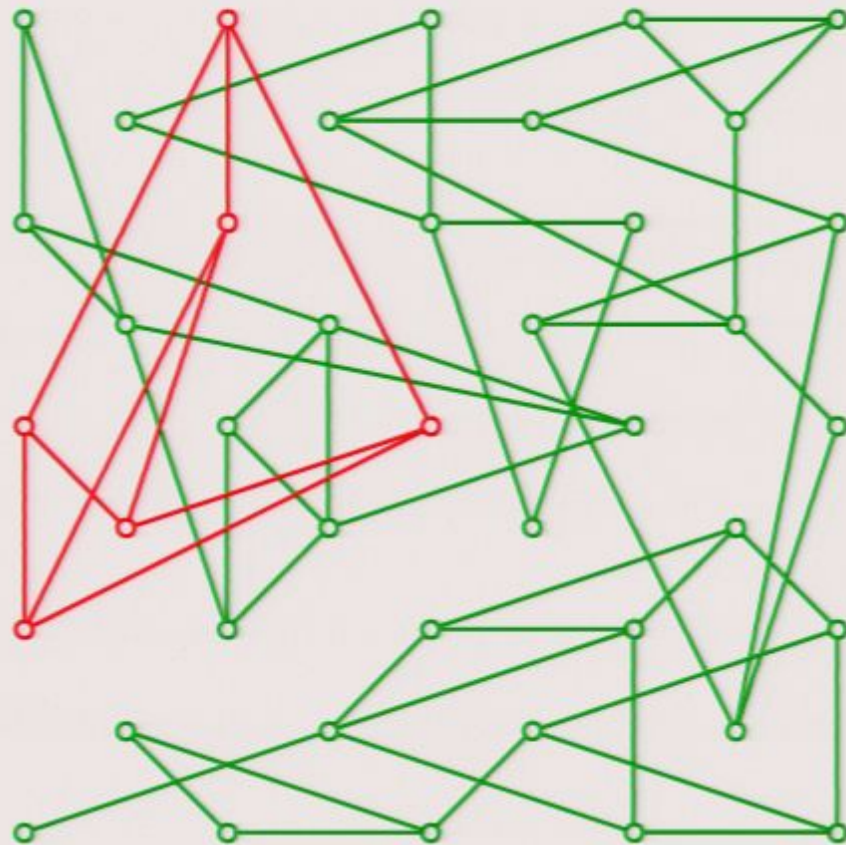
# Random walks as algorithmic tools

**Example 2:** uniform sampling on a subset

Execute random walk on a related graph that quickly approaches uniform distribution

Basis of some very good approximation algorithms

E.g., approximating the ***permanent*** of a matrix

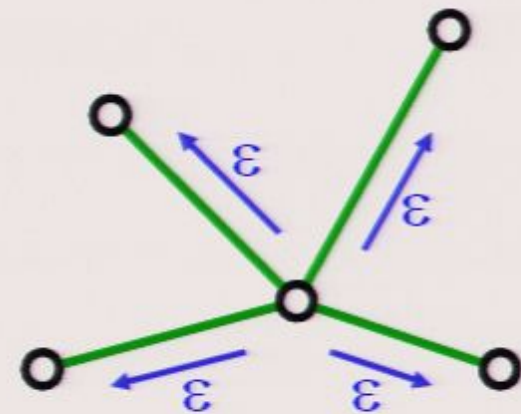


# *Quantum* walks on graphs

# Quantum walks on graphs

## Continuous-time *random* walk:

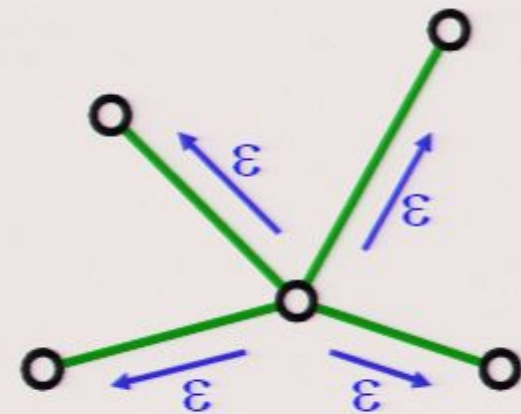
in each small  $\varepsilon$  time interval, move to each neighbor with probability  $\varepsilon$   
( $\lim \varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , like a Poisson process)



# Quantum walks on graphs

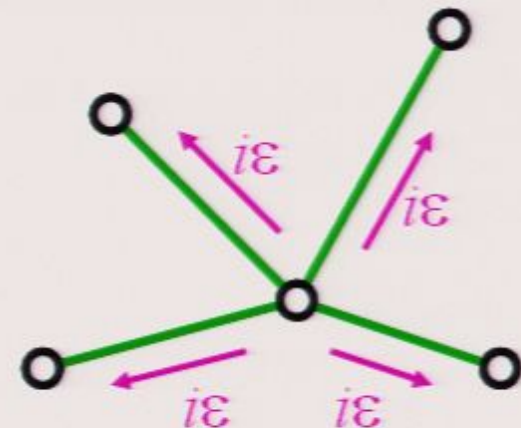
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## Quantum analog:

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# Quantum walks on graphs

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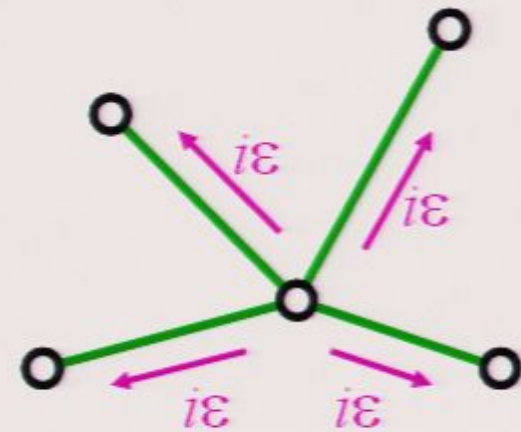
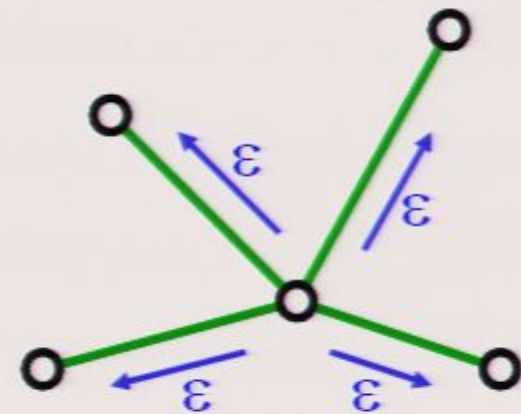
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## Quantum analog:

in  $\varepsilon$  time interval, move to neighbors with amplitude  $i\varepsilon$  ( $\lim \varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ )

Evolving for time  $t$ :  $e^{-iAt}$  **|initial state** $\rangle$

where  $A_{xy} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (x,y) \text{ edge} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

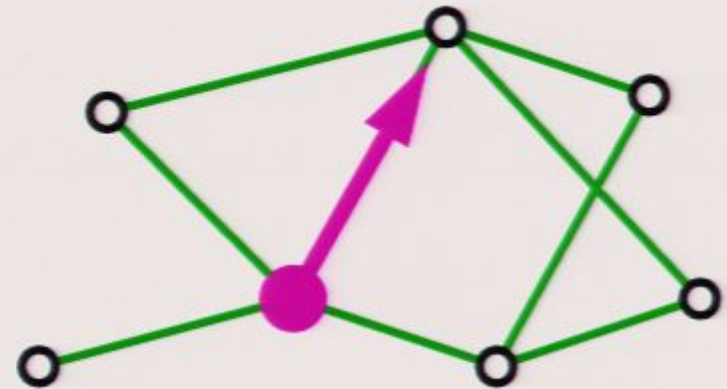


# Quantum walks on graphs

## *Discrete-time* version:

Acts on extended Hilbert space

$|\text{vertex}\rangle \otimes |\text{orientation}\rangle$



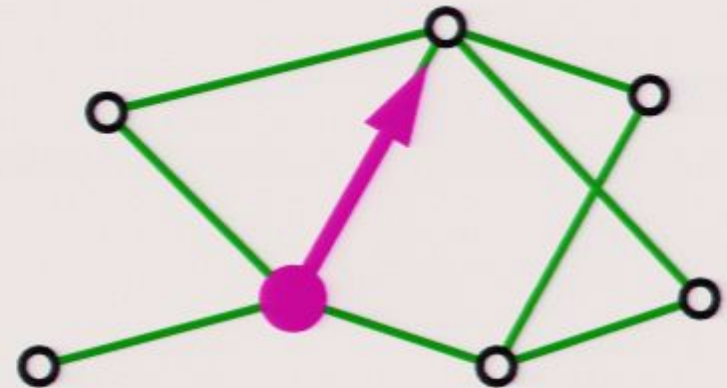
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## *Discrete-time version:*

Acts on extended Hilbert space

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Quantum walk on unbounded line





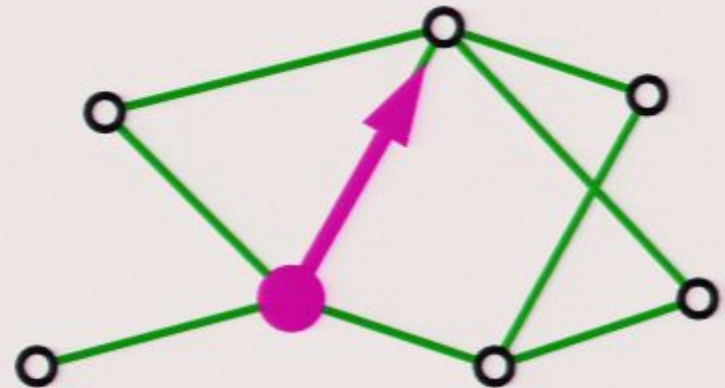


# Quantum walks on graphs

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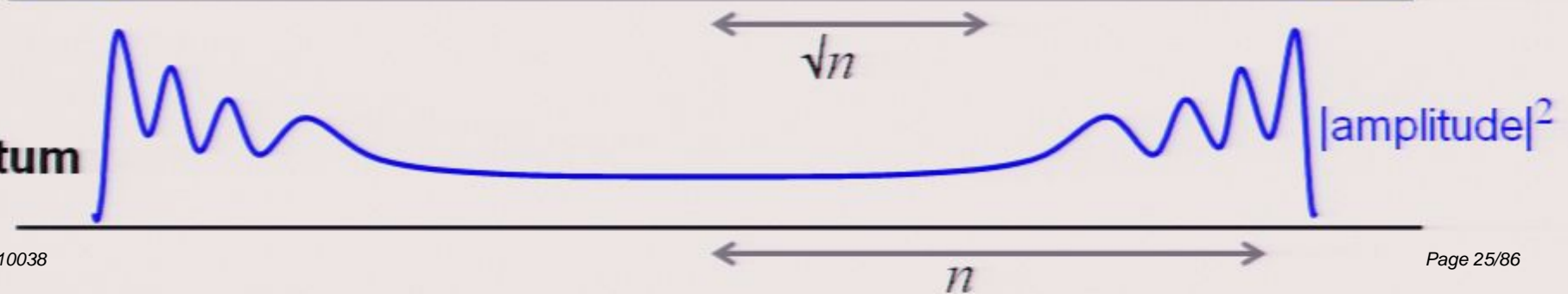
Quantum walk on unbounded line



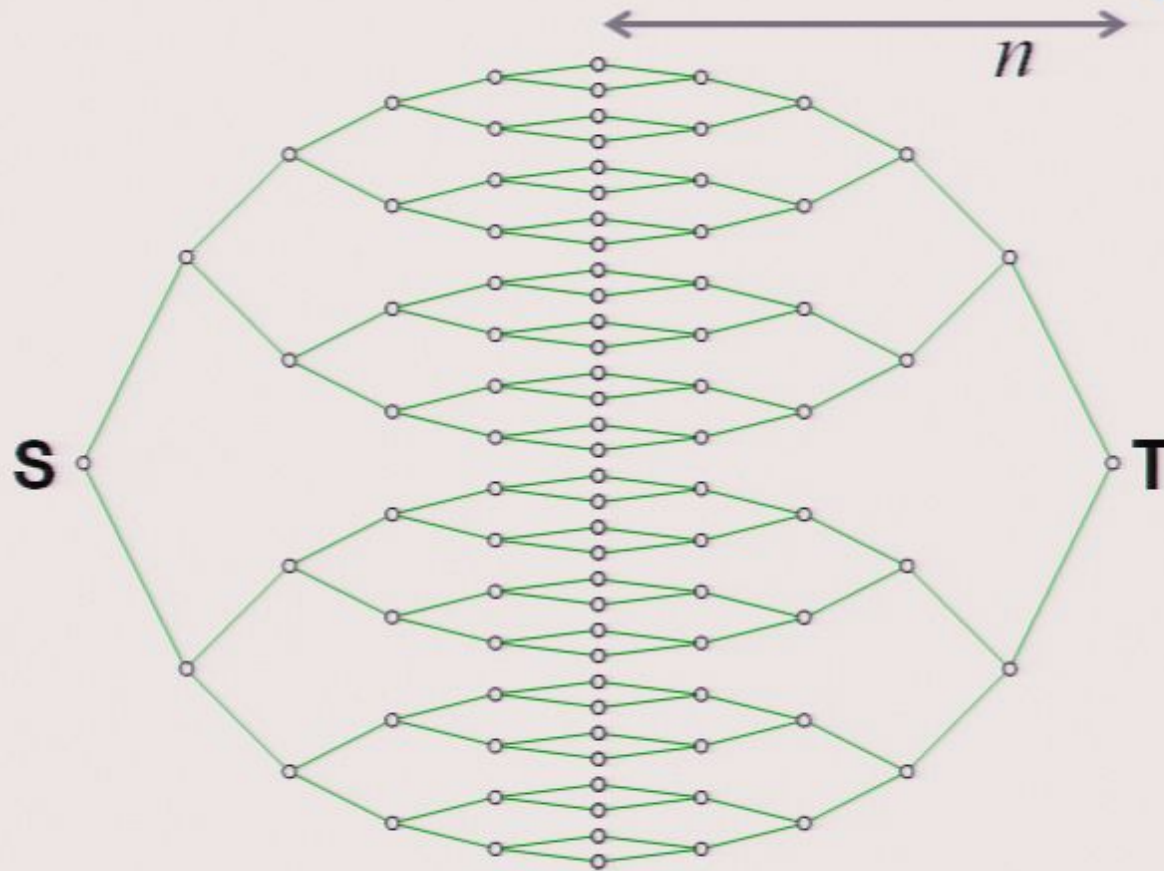
Classical



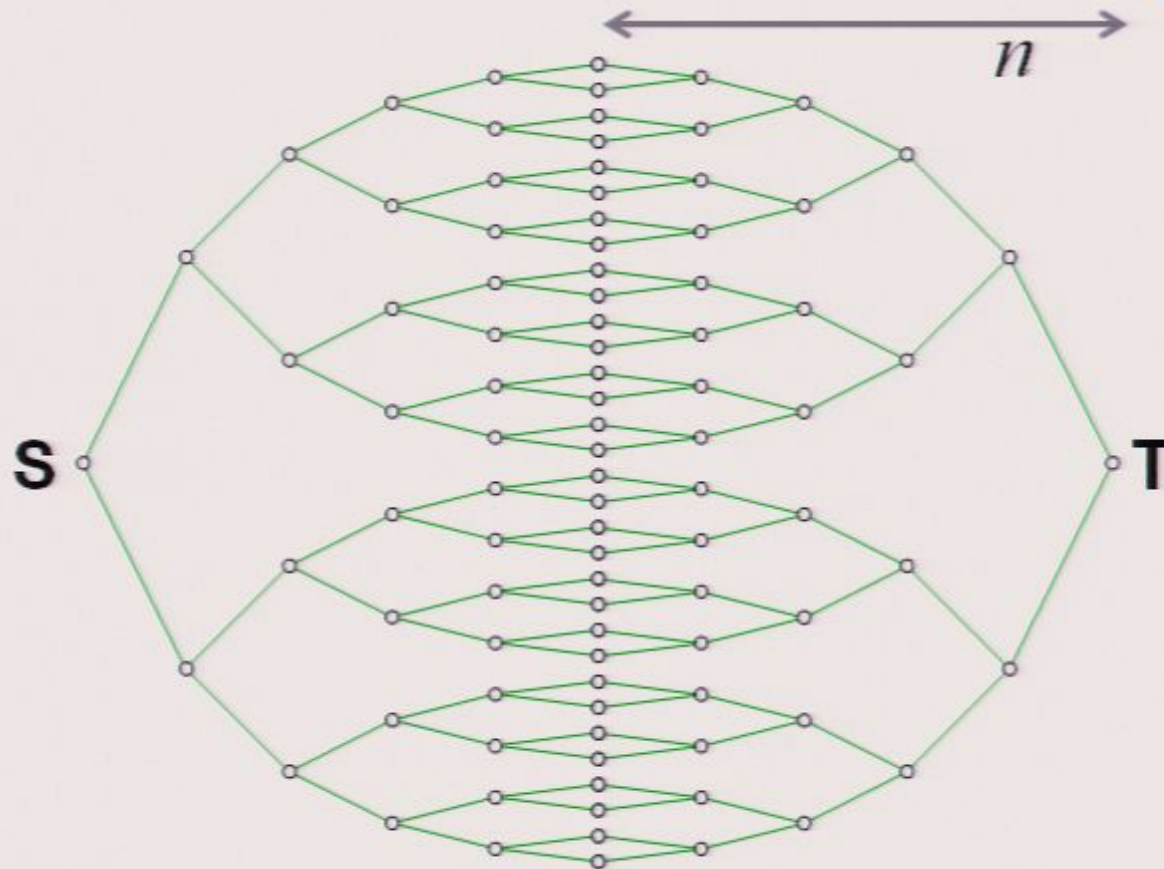
Quantum



# Quantum vs classical hitting times

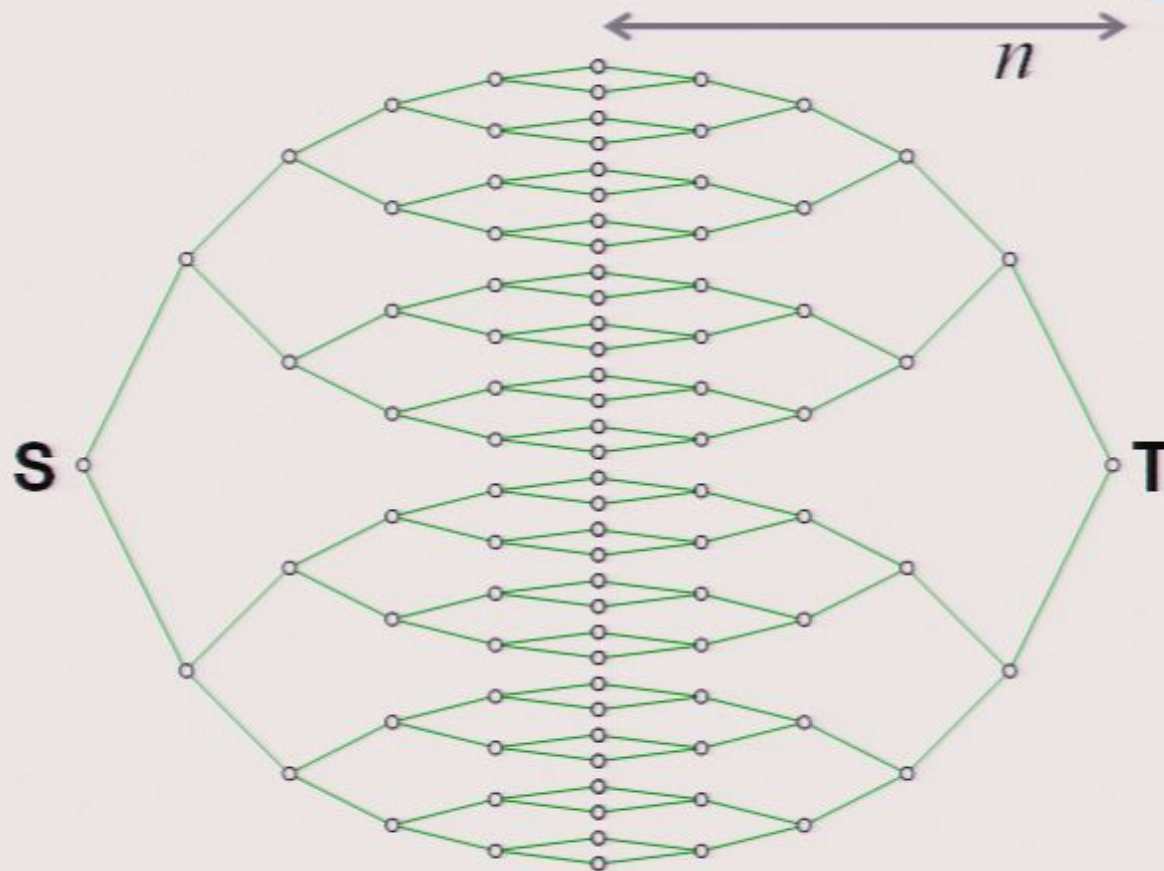


# Quantum vs classical hitting times

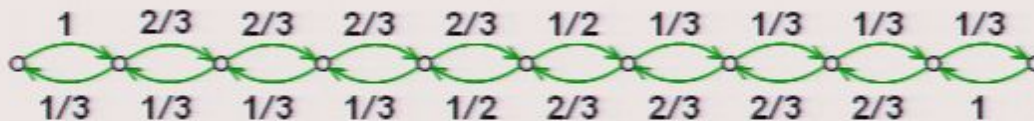


A *random* walk takes **exponential** time to get from **S** to **T**

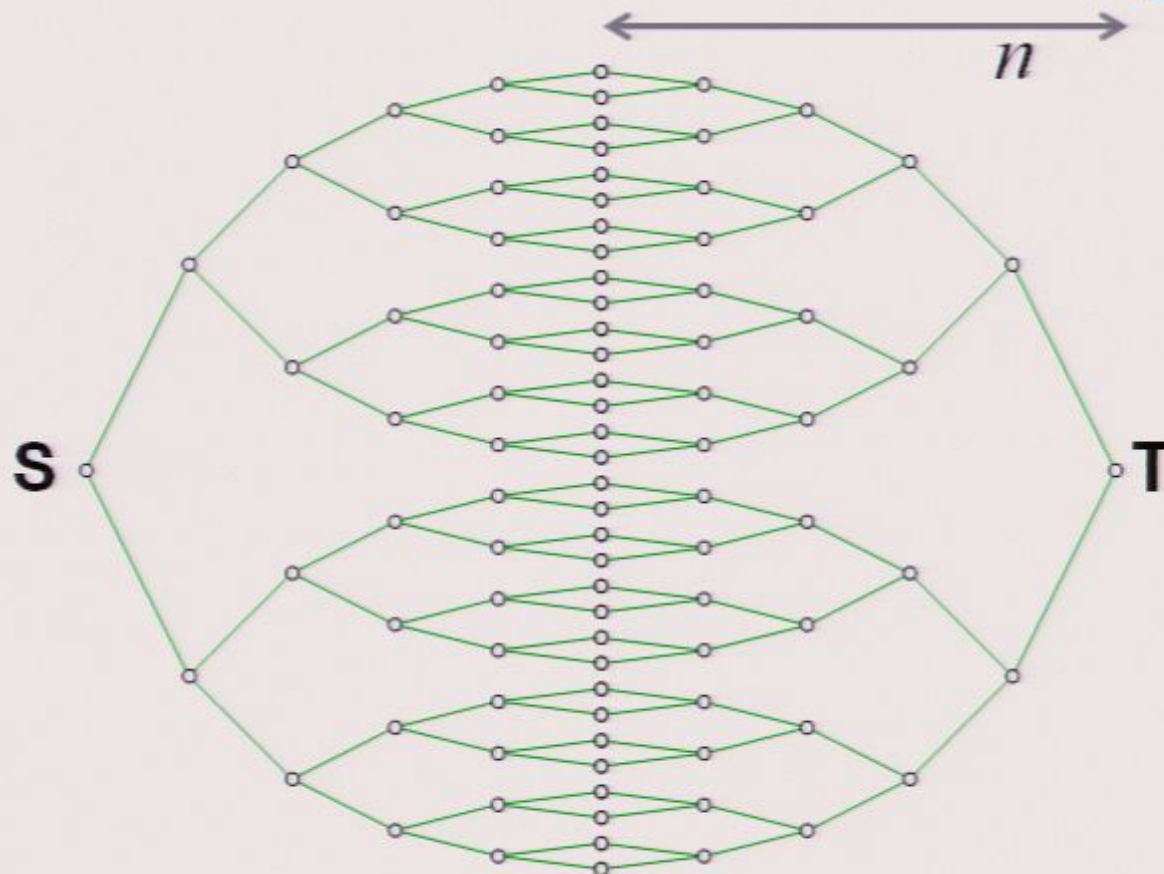
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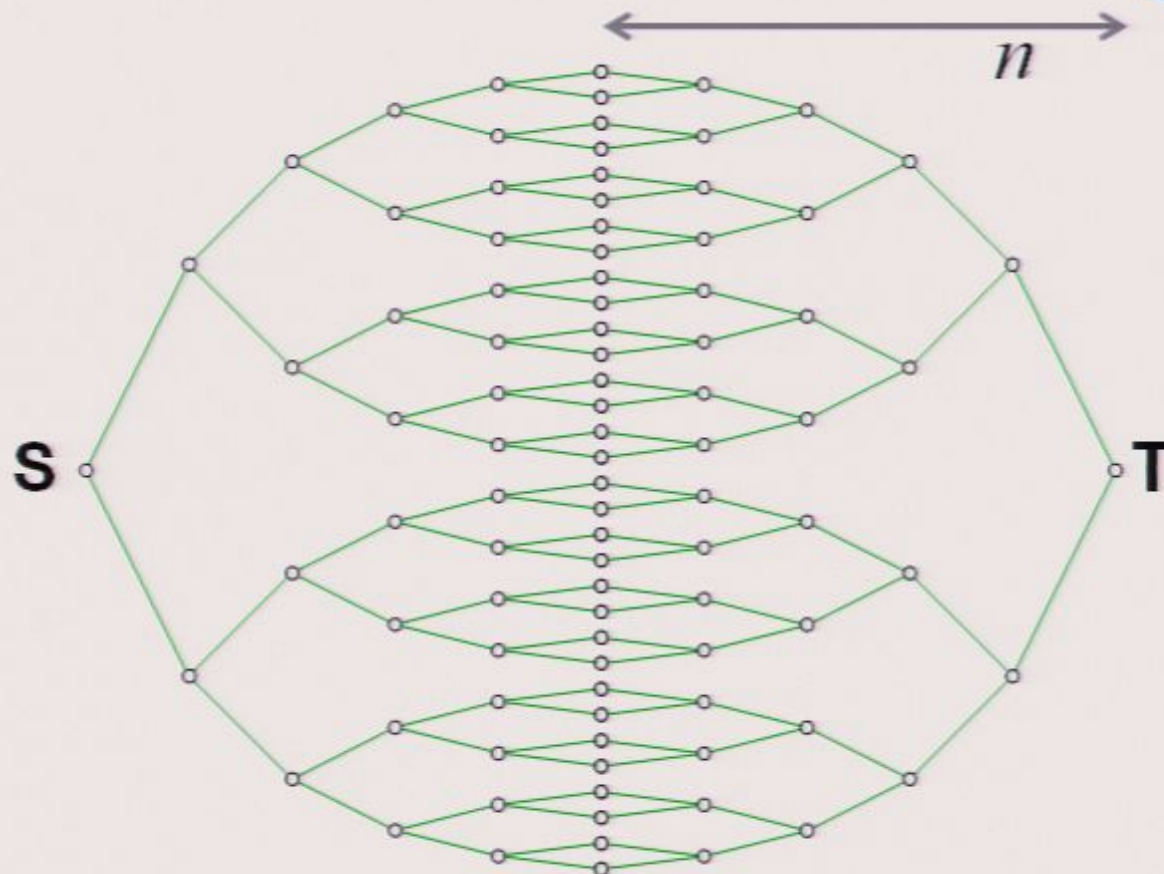


# Quantum vs classical hitting times

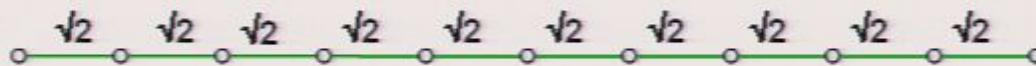


A *quantum* walk takes *polynomial* time to get from **S** to **T**

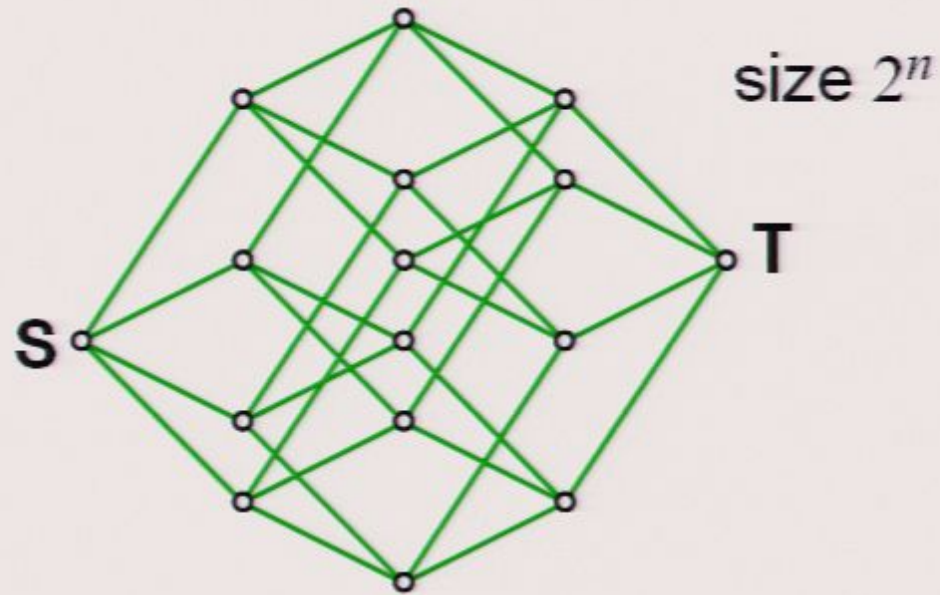
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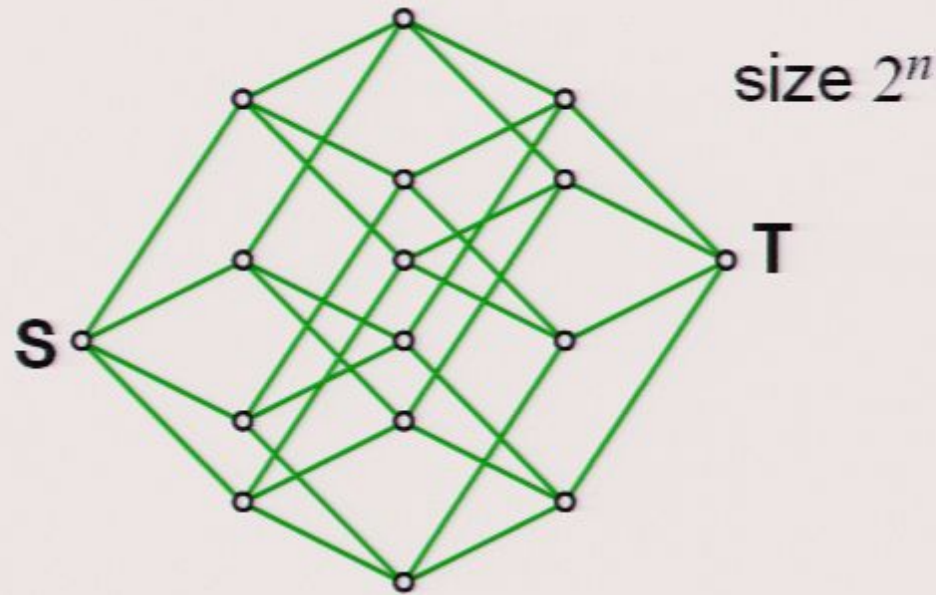
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# $n$ -dimensional hypercube



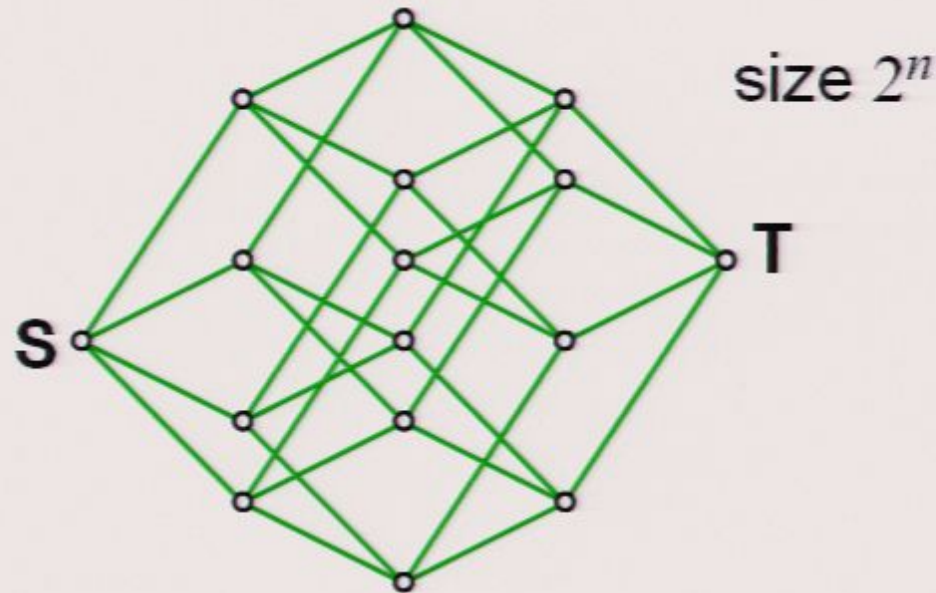
# $n$ -dimensional hypercube



- Random walk takes **exponential** time to get from **S** to **T**

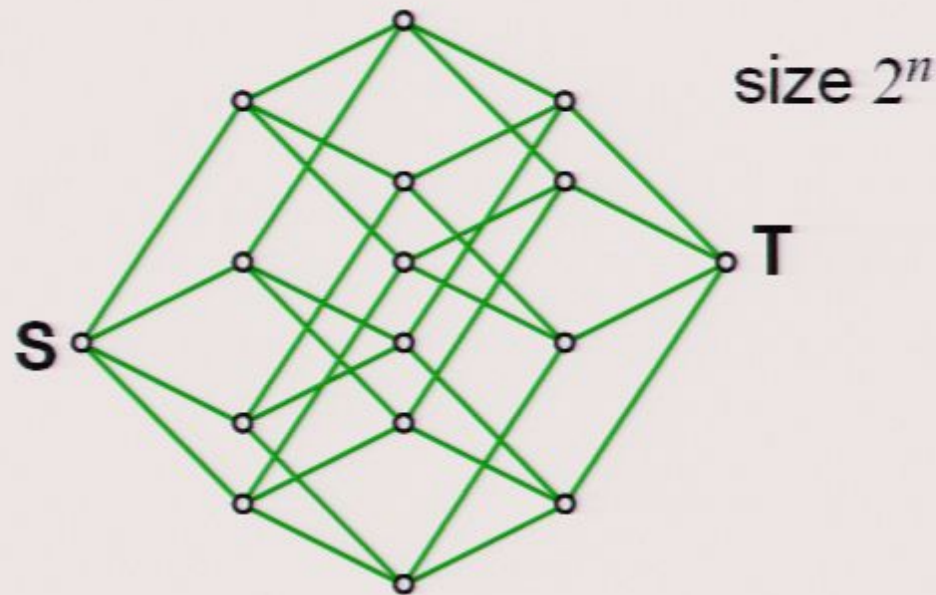


# $n$ -dimensional hypercube



- Random walk takes **exponential** time to get from S to T
- Quantum walk takes **polynomial** time to get from S to T

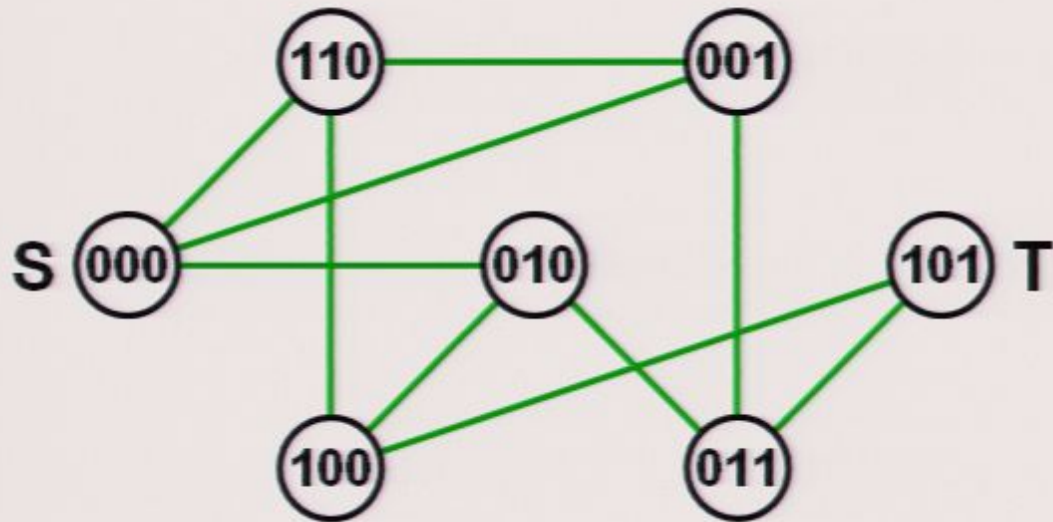
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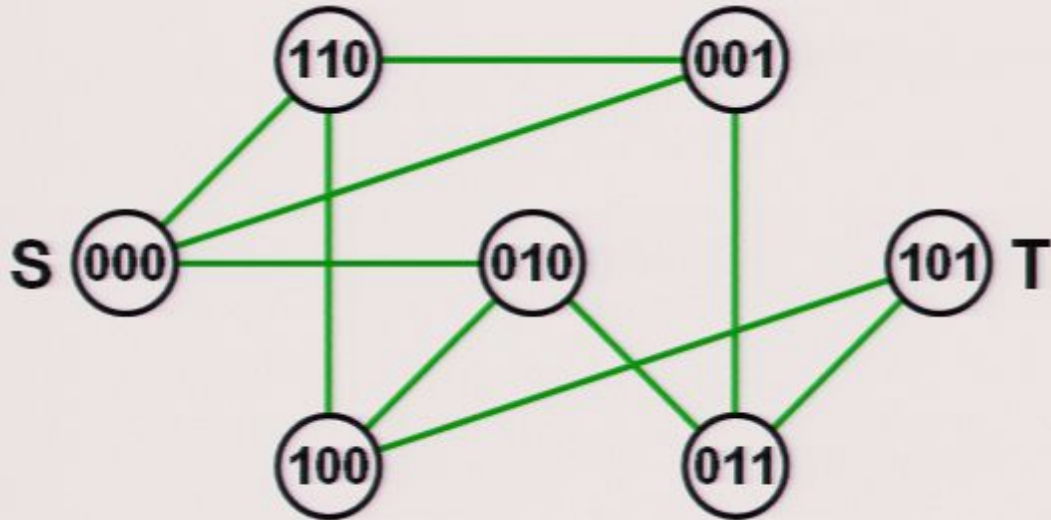
- Random walk takes **exponential** time to get from **S** to **T**
- Quantum walk takes **polynomial** time to get from **S** to **T**

**ST-traversal problem:** starting at node **S**, “find” node **T**

# Representing graphs

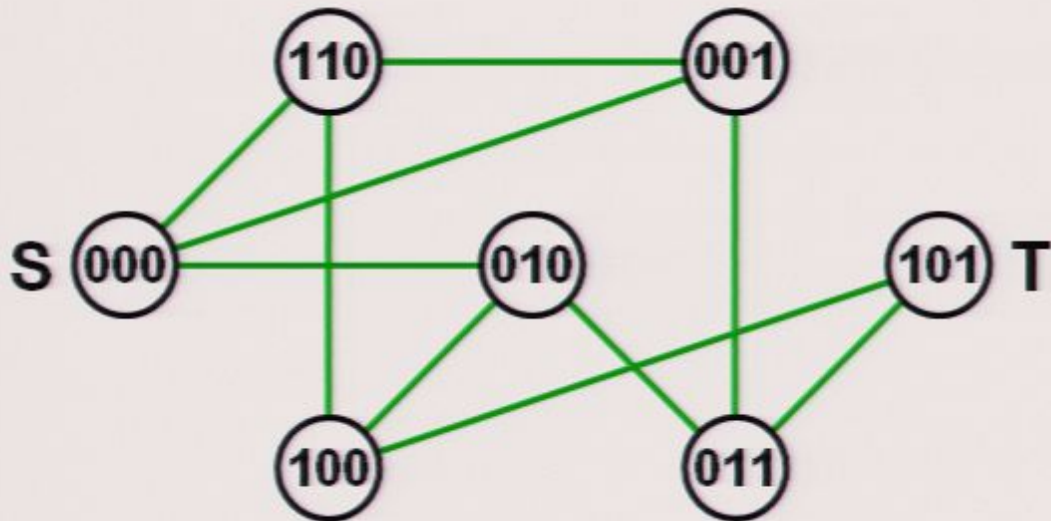


# Representing graphs



node	neighbors		
000	110	001	100
001	000	011	110
010	000	011	100
011	010	101	010
100	110	010	101
101	011	100	111
110	100	000	001
111	111	111	111

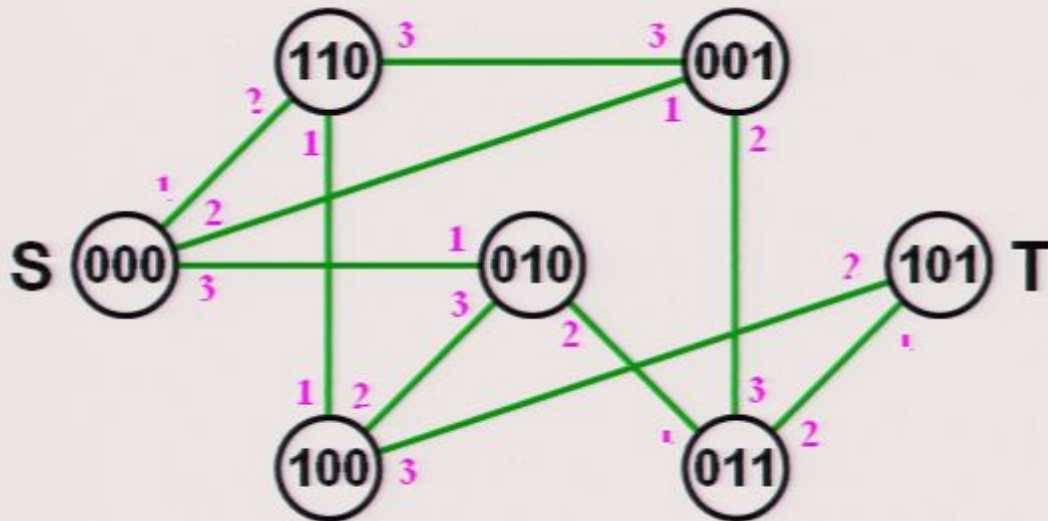
# Representing graphs



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001	000	011	110
010	000	011	100
011	010	101	010
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101	011	100	111
110	100	000	001
111	111	111	111



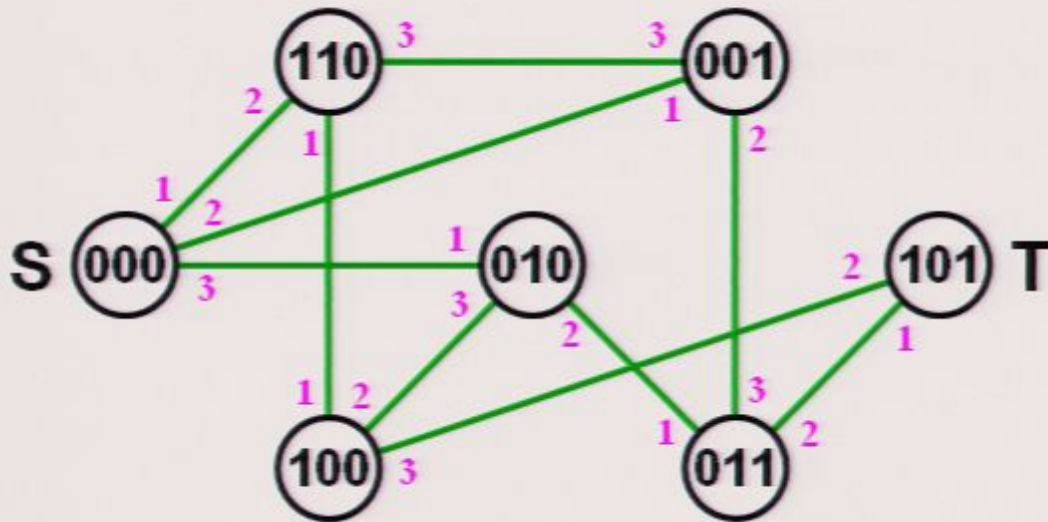
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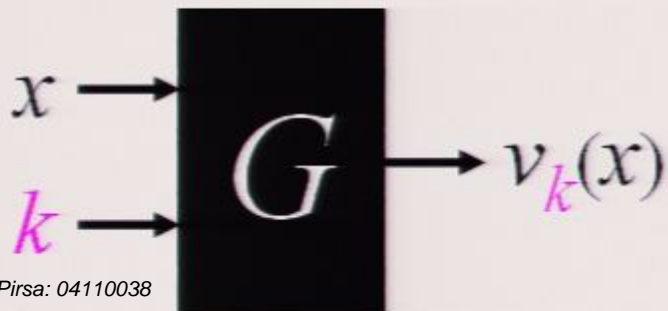
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100	110	010	101
101	011	100	111
110	100	000	001
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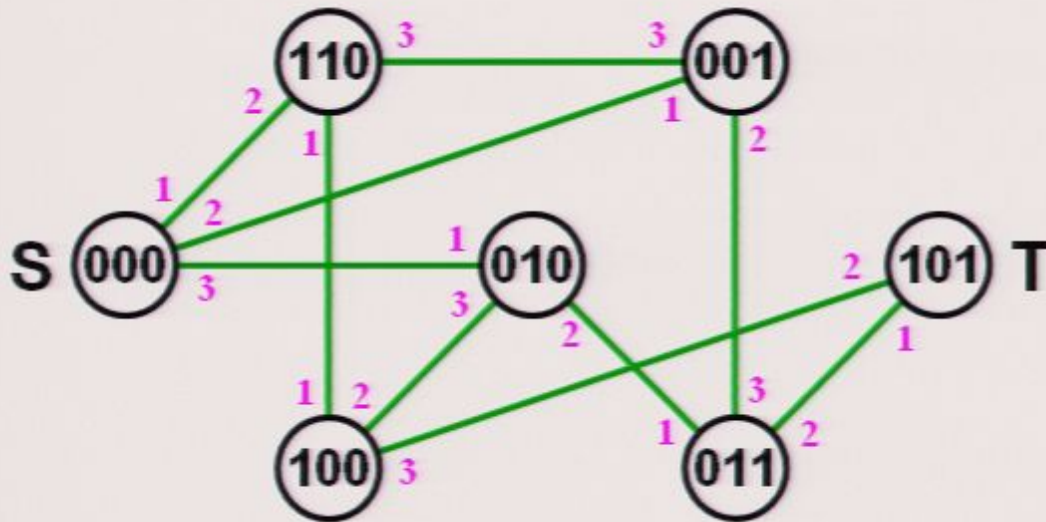
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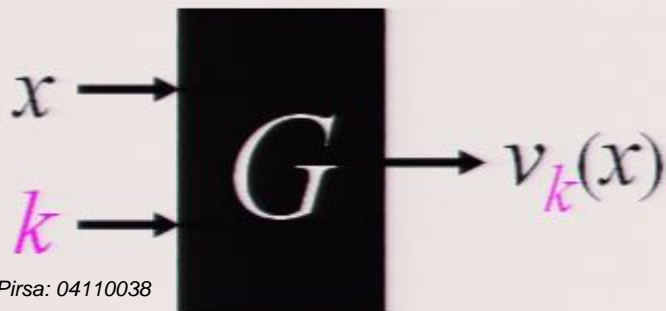
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# Representing graphs



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111	111	111	111

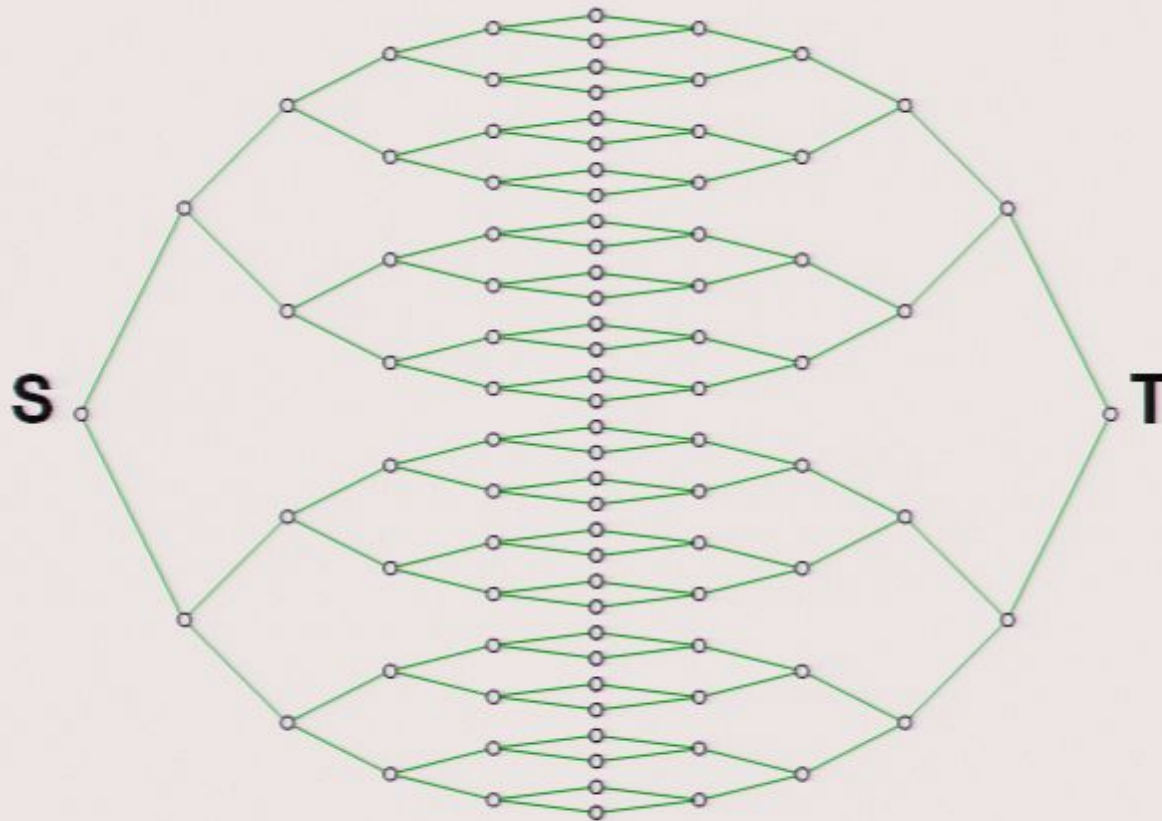


**ST-traversal problem:** given a black box for  $G$  and the name of node  $s$ , find the **name** of node  $T$

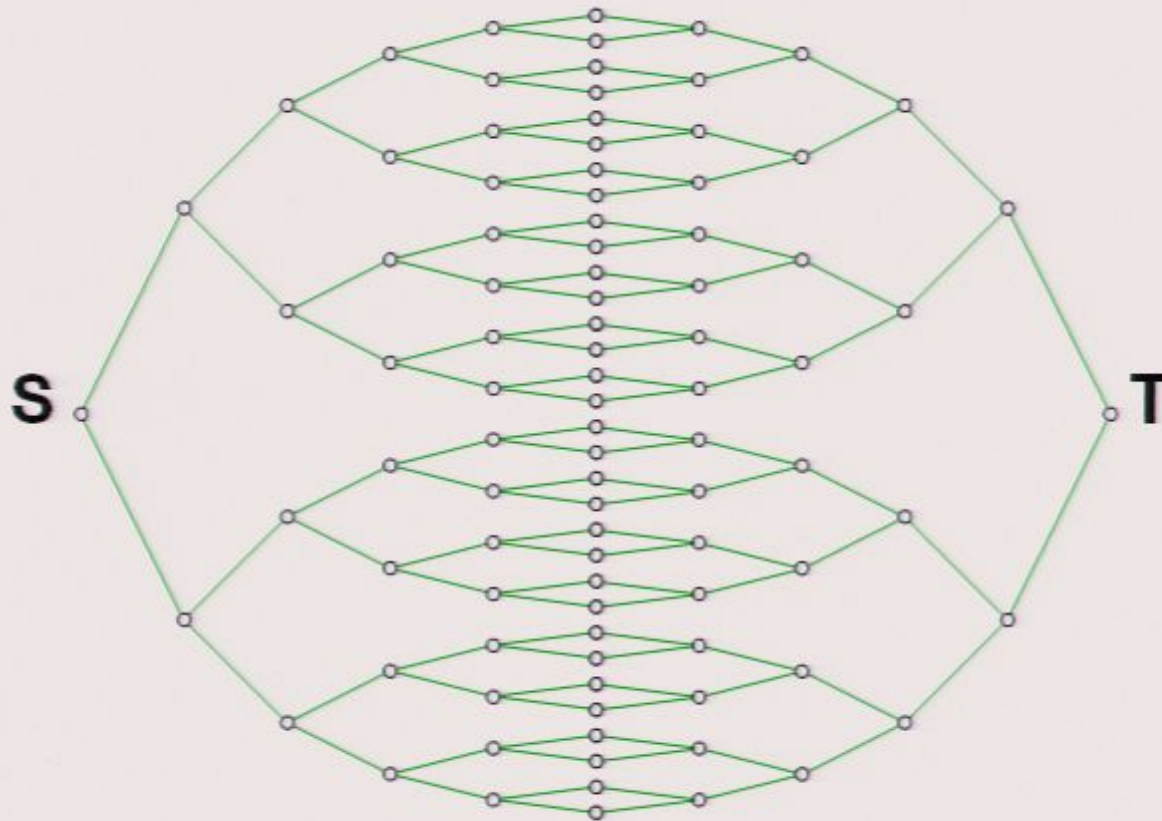
“virtual labyrinth”



# ST-traversal on GFG-graph

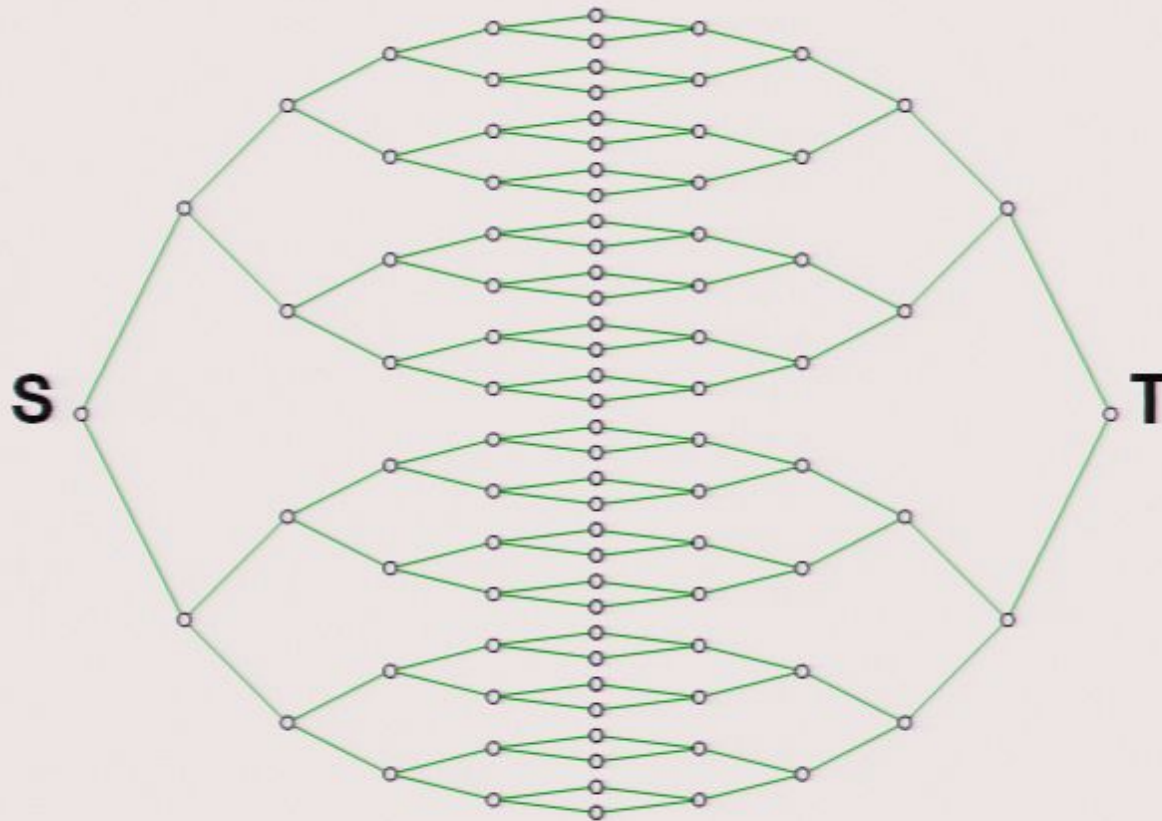


# ST-traversal on GFG-graph



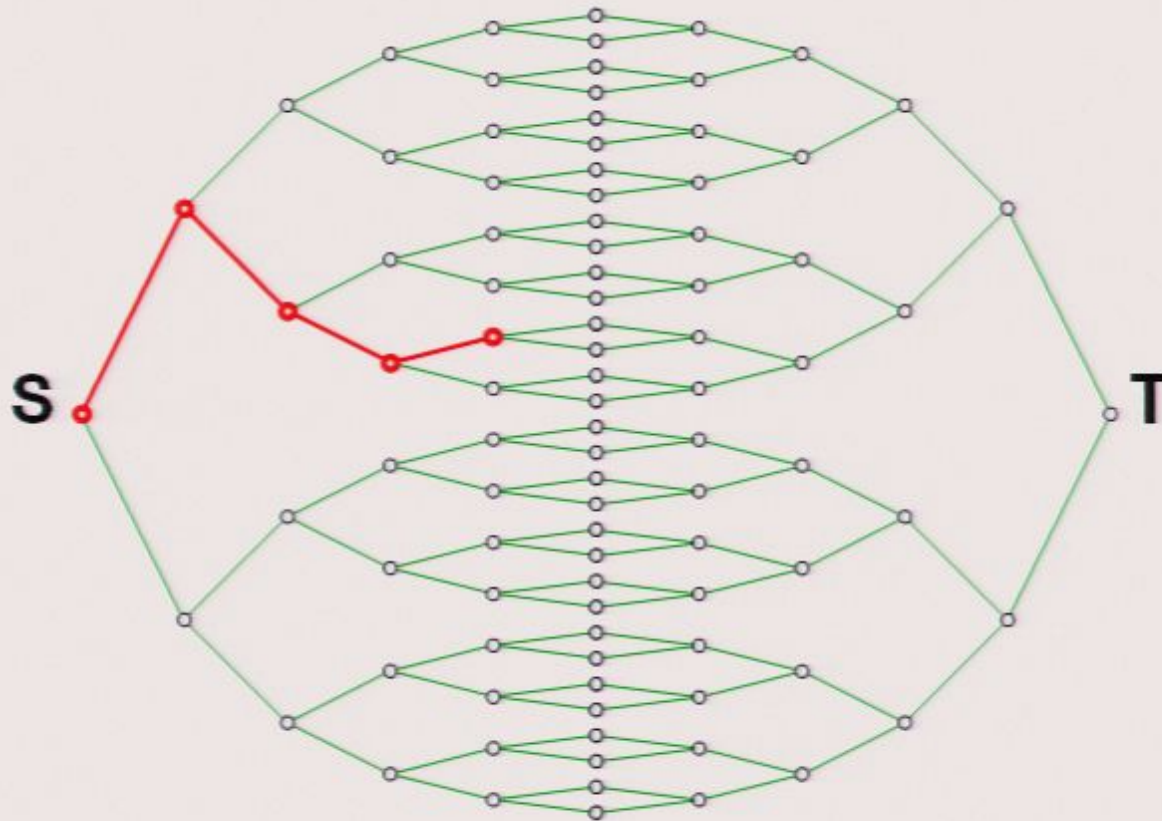
- Random walk costs  $2^{O(n)}$

# ST-traversal on GFG-graph



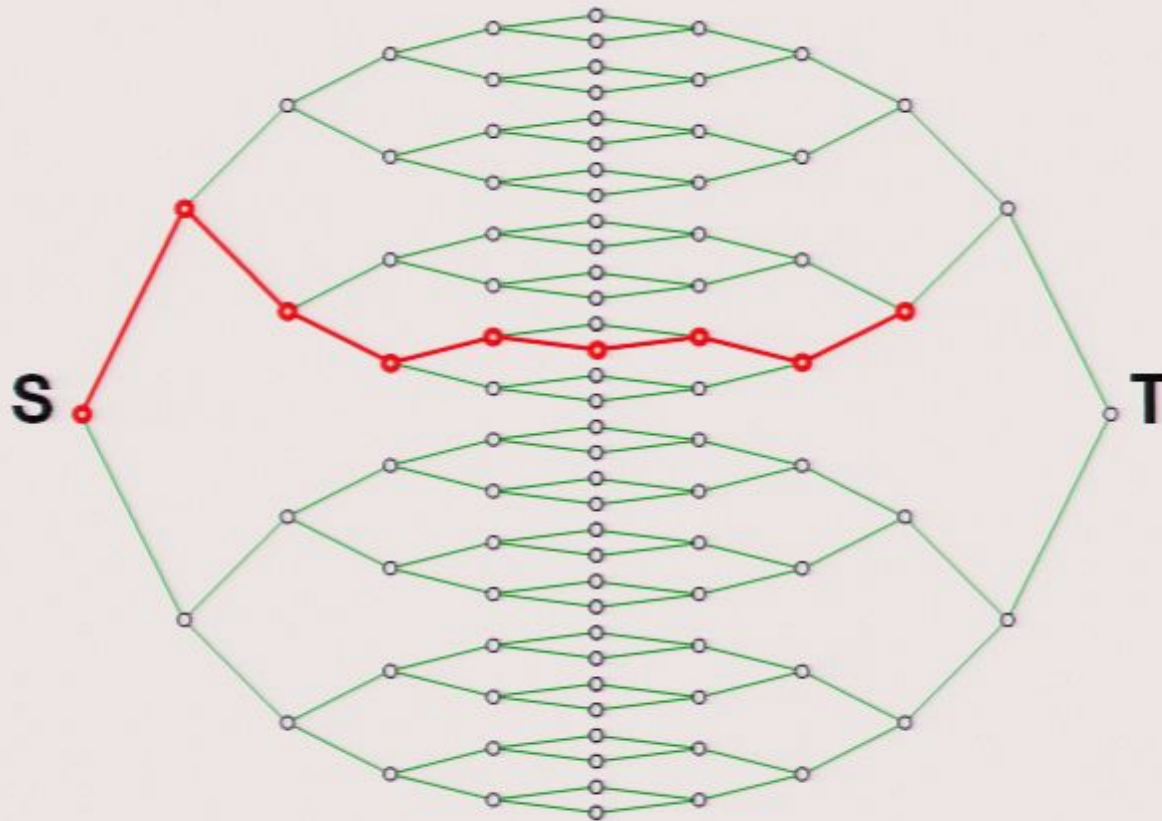
- Random walk costs  $2^{O(n)}$
- Quantum walk with success probability  $1/n$  costs  $O(n^4)$

# ST-traversal on GFG-graph



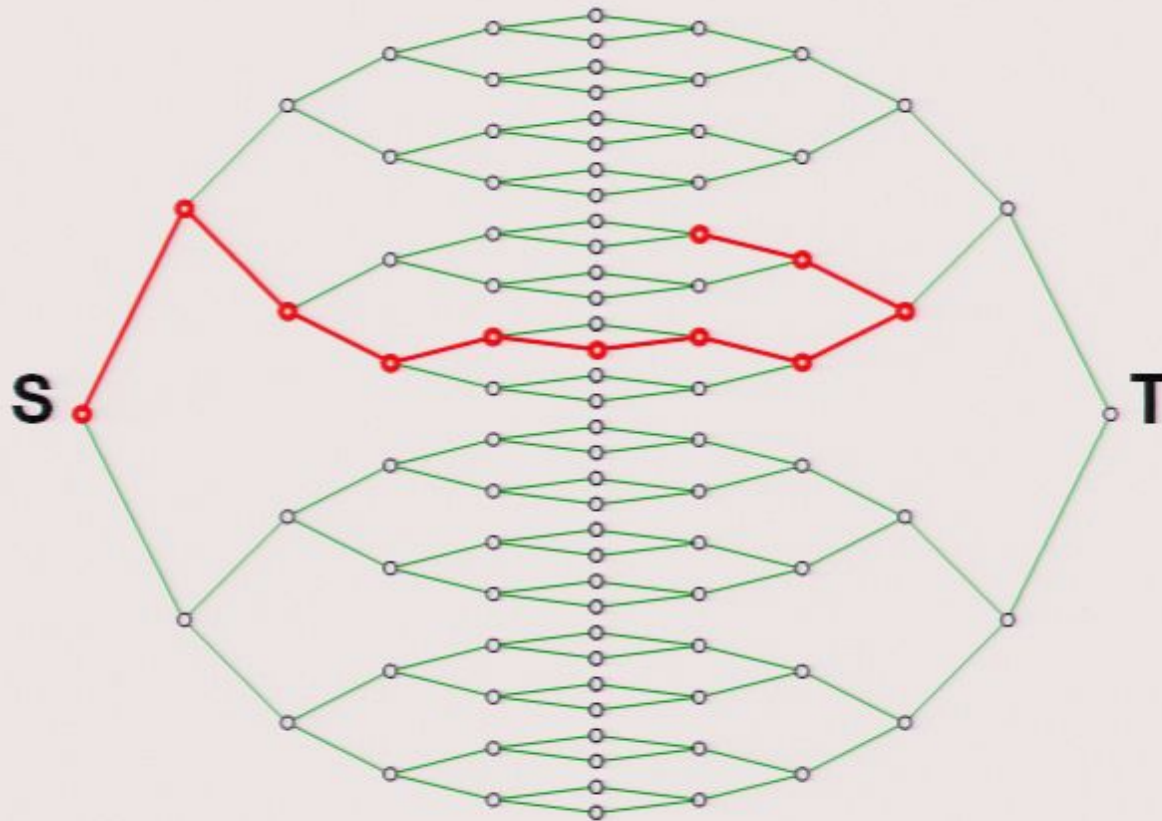
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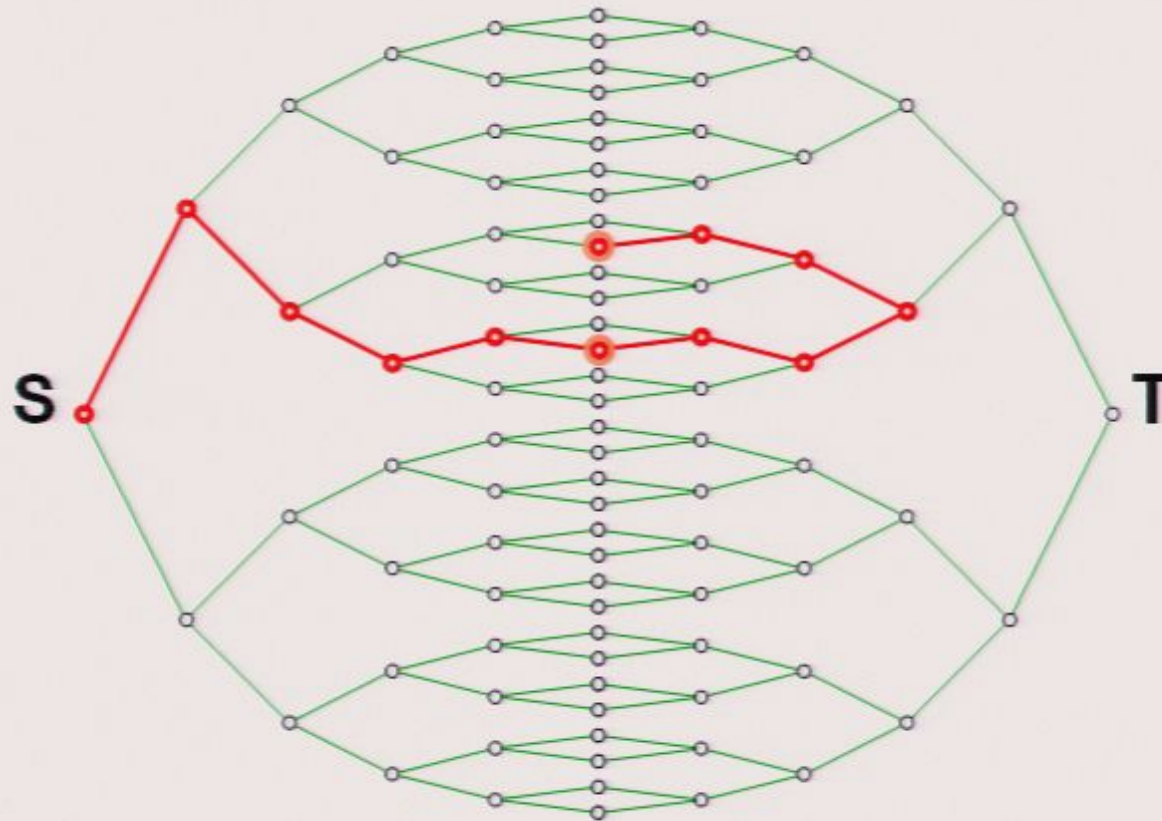
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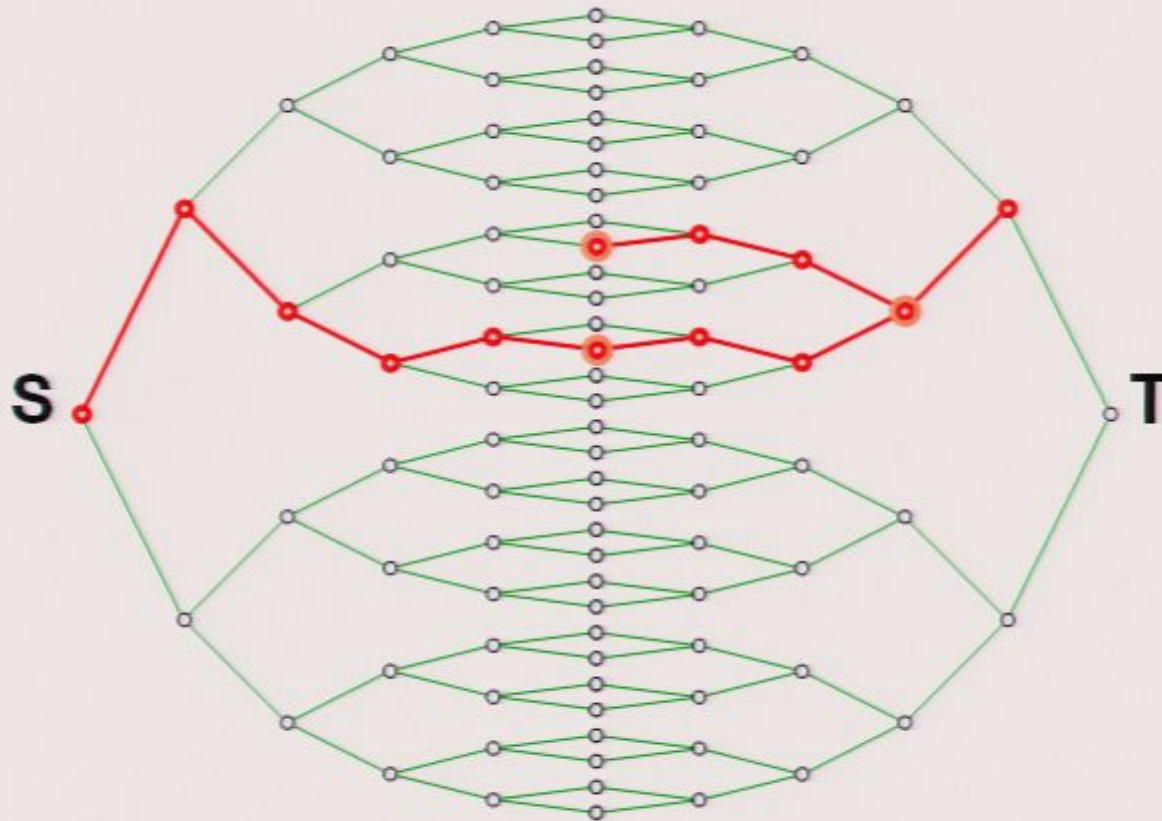
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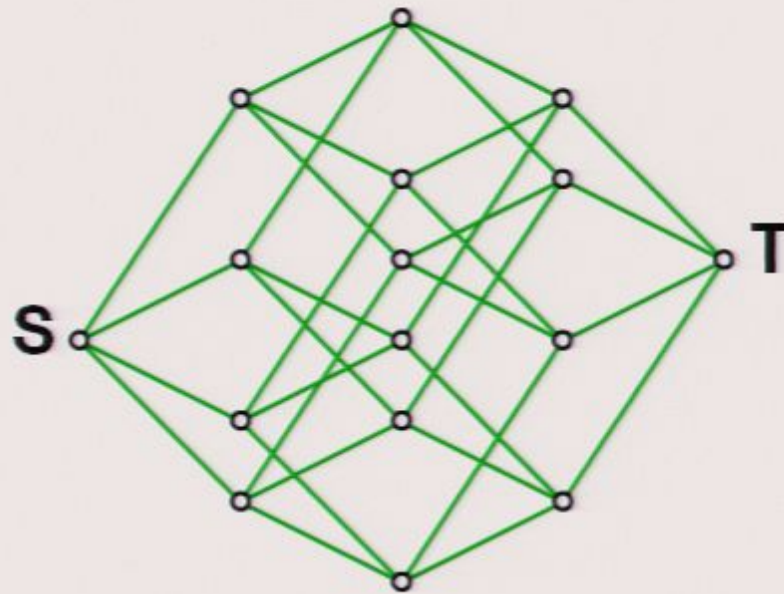
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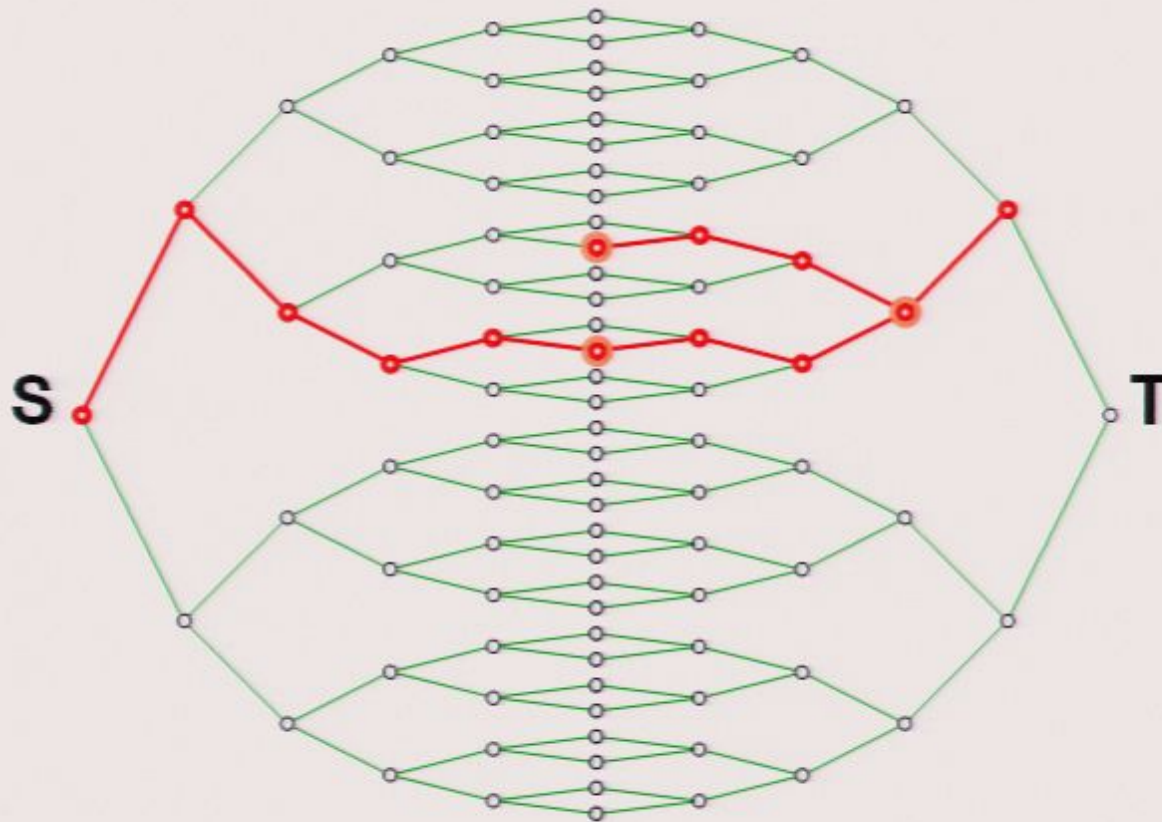
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- Classical algorithm based on backtracking costs  $O(n^2)$



# ST-traversal on hypercube

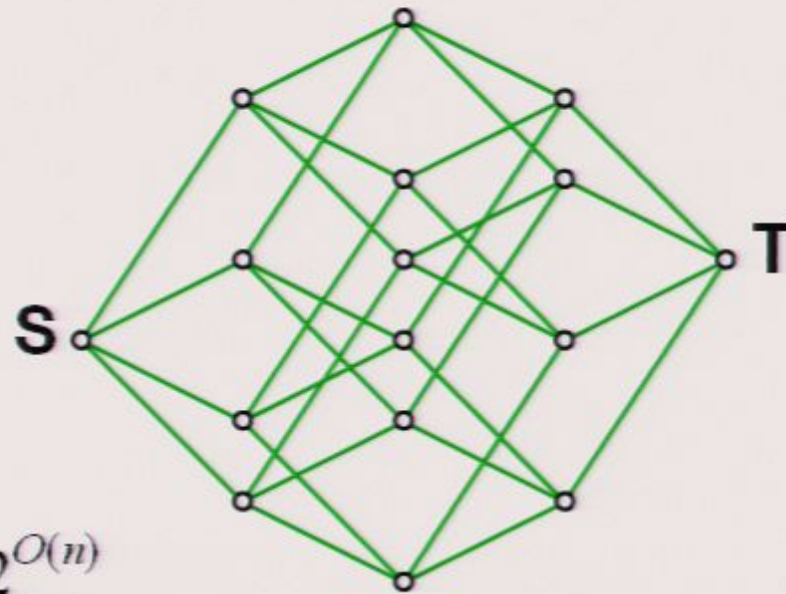


# ST-traversal on GFG-graph



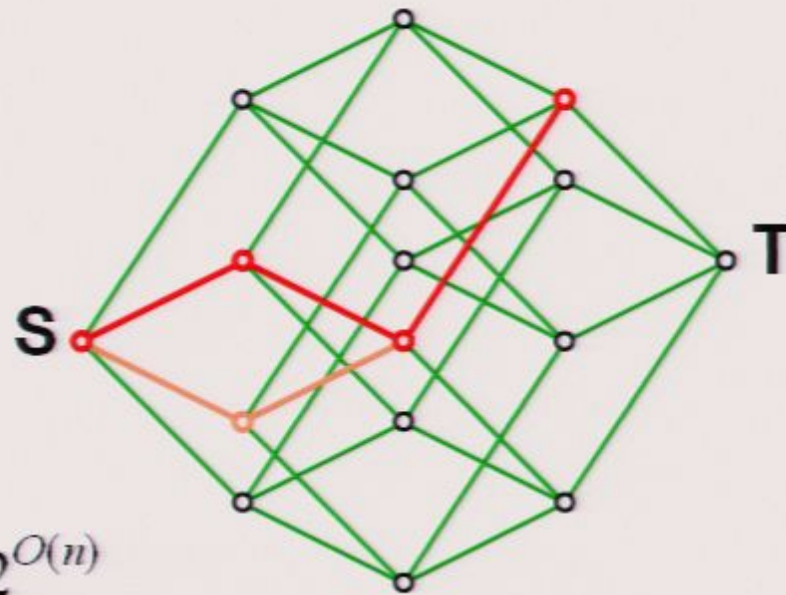
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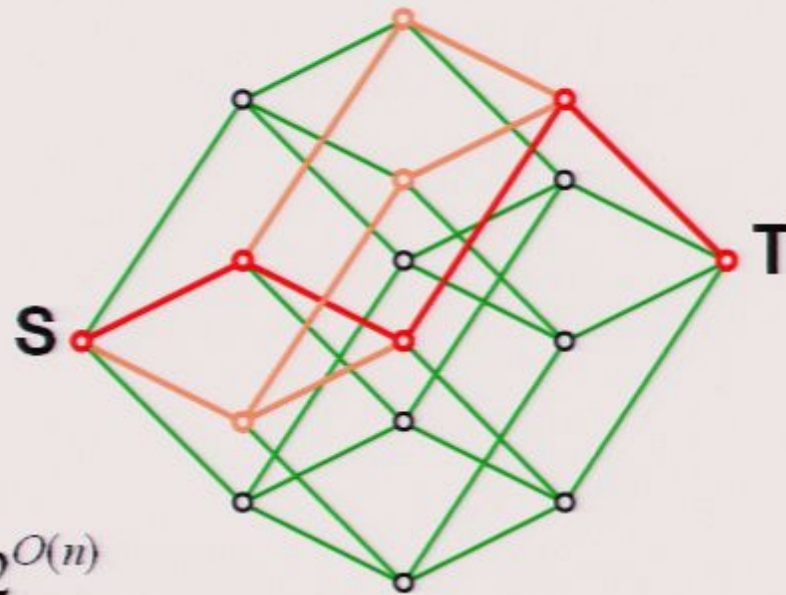
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# ST-traversal on hypercube



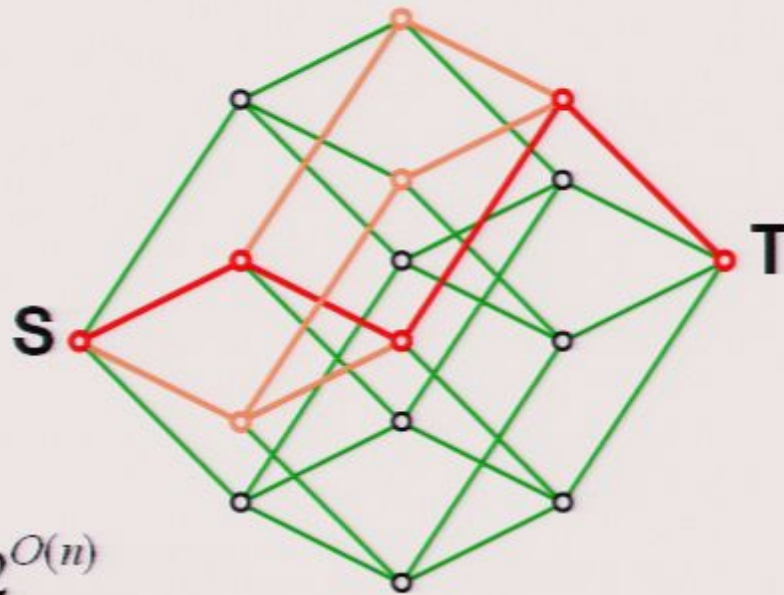
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# ST-traversal on hypercube



- Random walk  $2^{O(n)}$
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- Classical algorithm based on “dynamic programming”  $O(n^3)$

# ST-traversal on hypercube



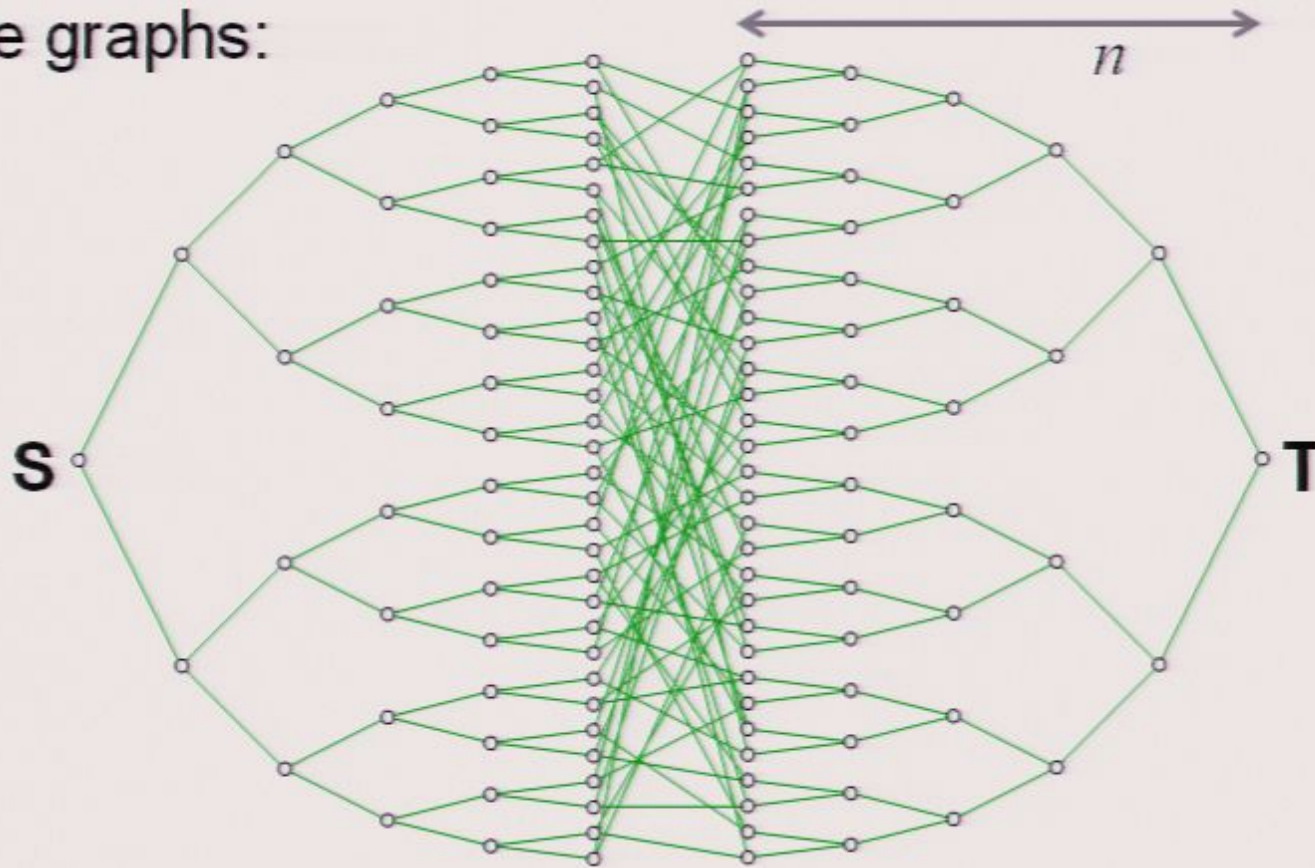
- Random walk  $2^{O(n)}$
- Quantum walk  $O(n)$
- Classical algorithm based on “dynamic programming”  $O(n^3)$

**Question:** is there a graph for which a quantum walk finds **T** exponentially faster than **any** classical algorithm?

**Answer: yes**

# Answer: yes

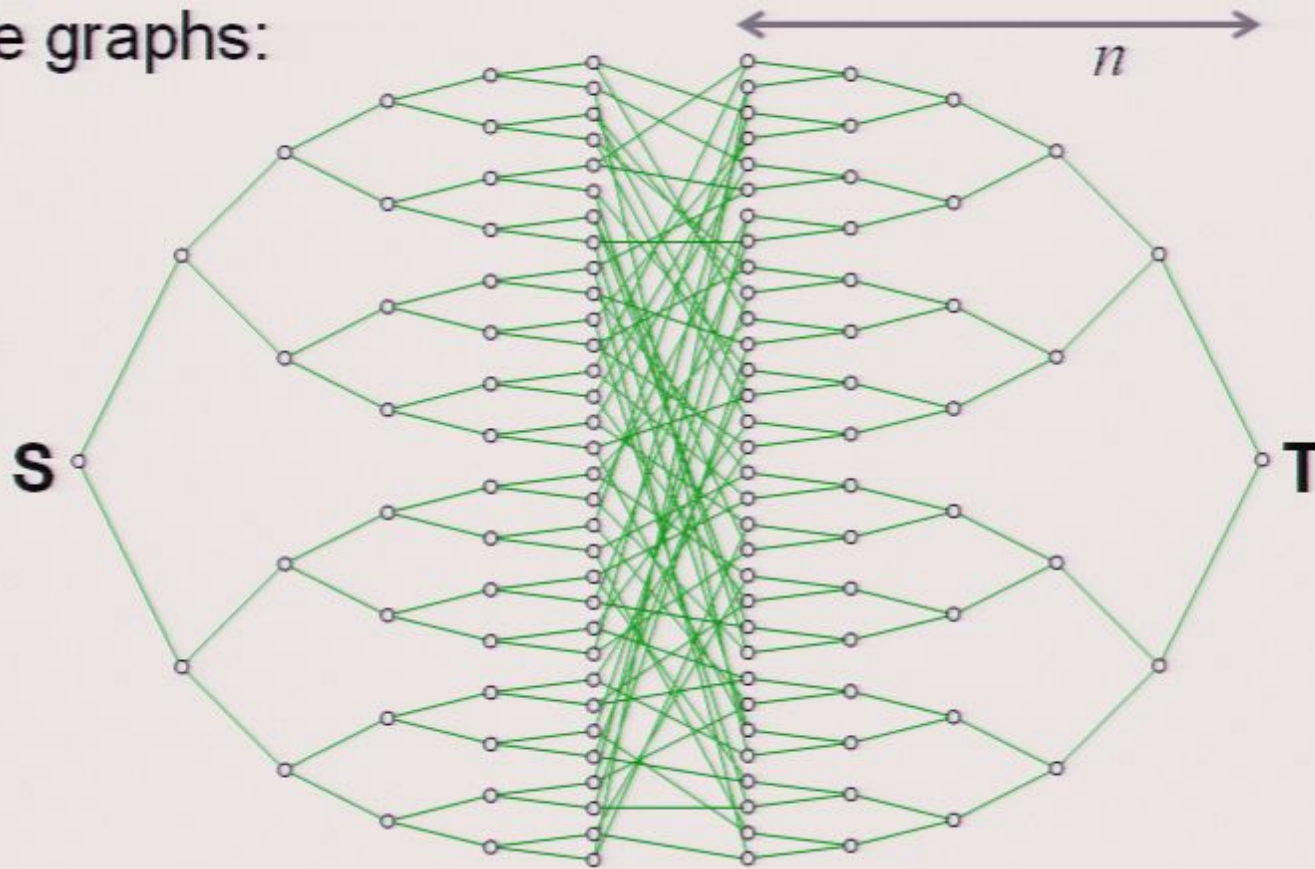
For these graphs:





# Answer: yes

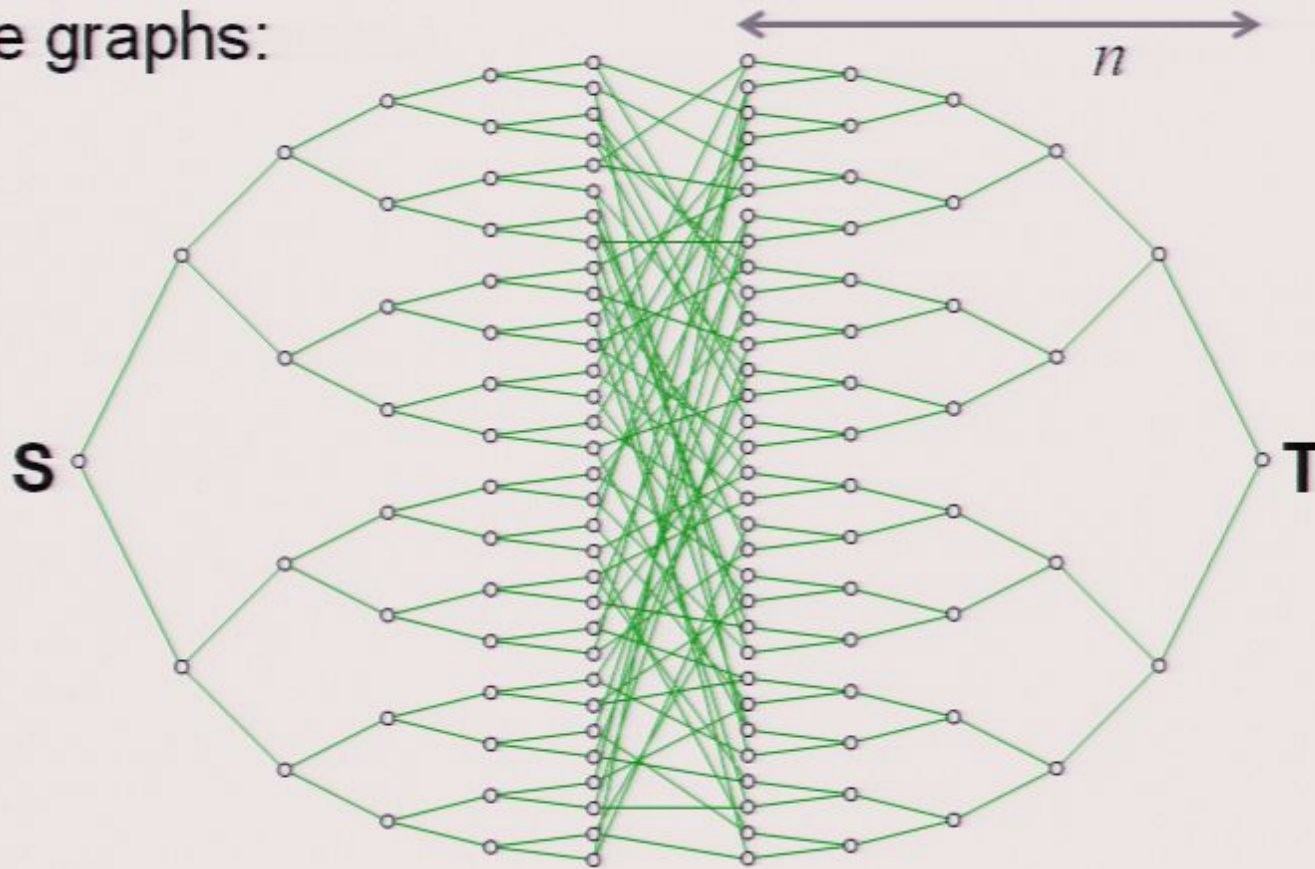
For these graphs:



- **Any** classical **ST**-traversal algorithm takes exponential time

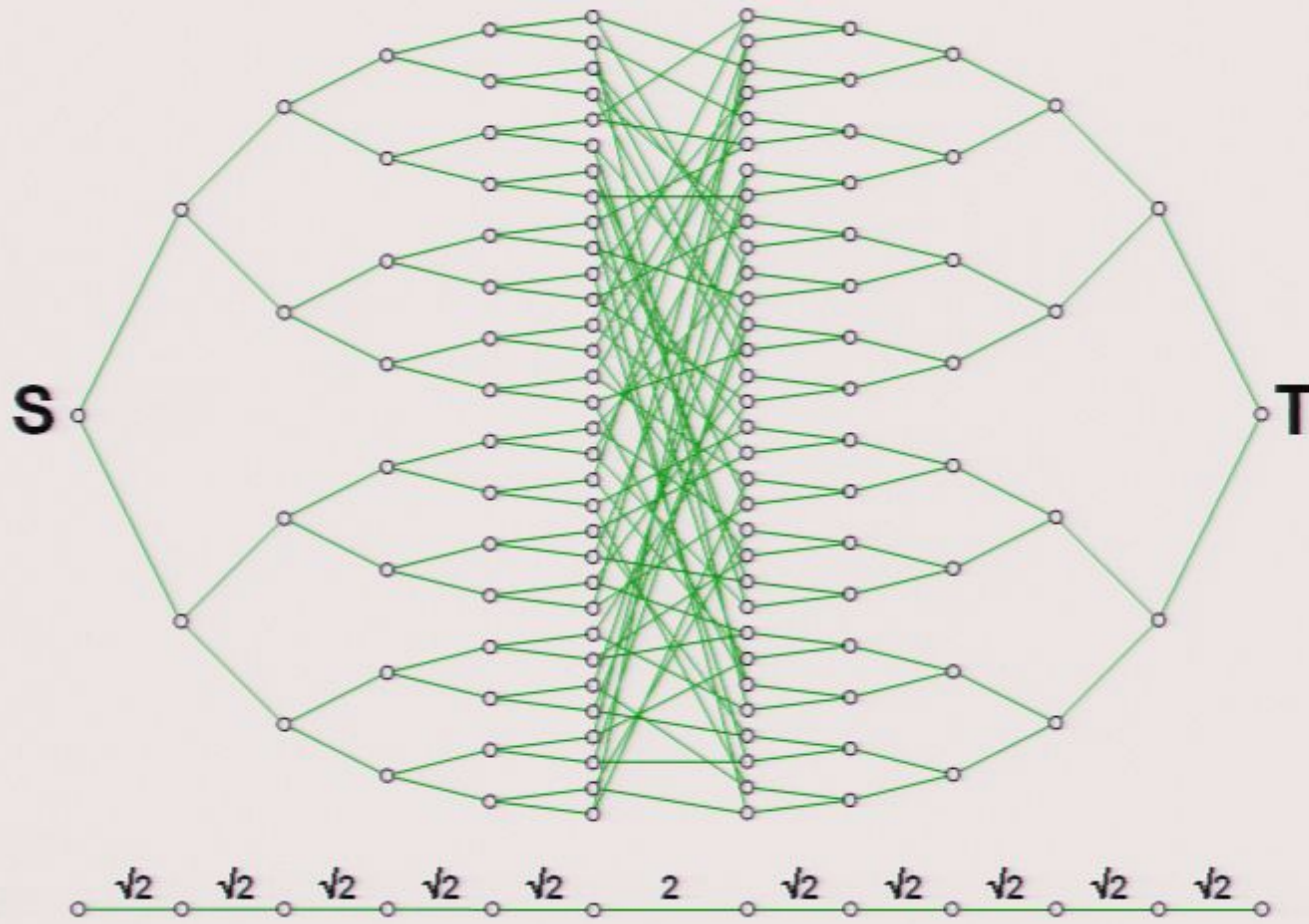
# Answer: yes

For these graphs:

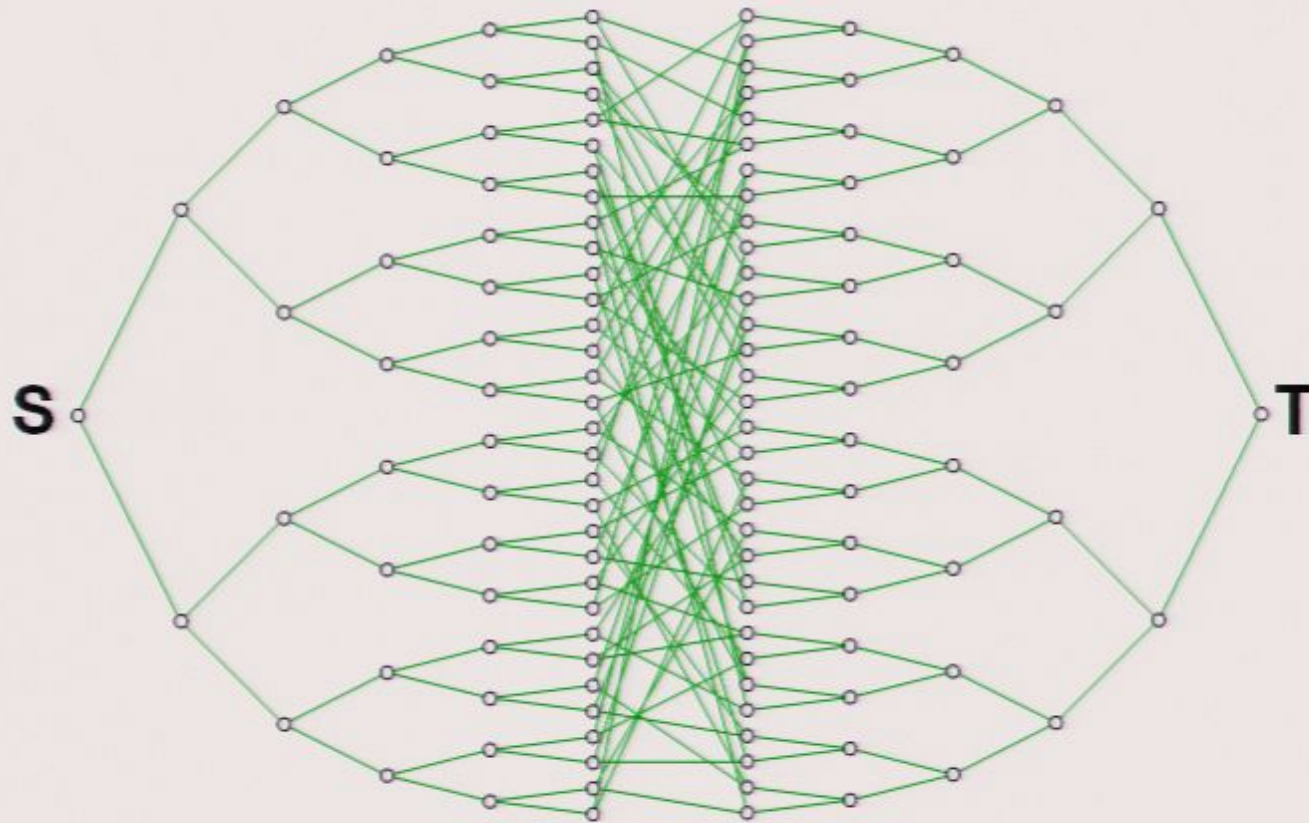


- **Any** classical **ST**-traversal algorithm takes exponential time
- Algorithm based on **quantum walks** takes polynomial time

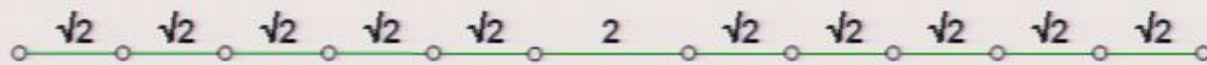
# Analysis of continuous-time QW



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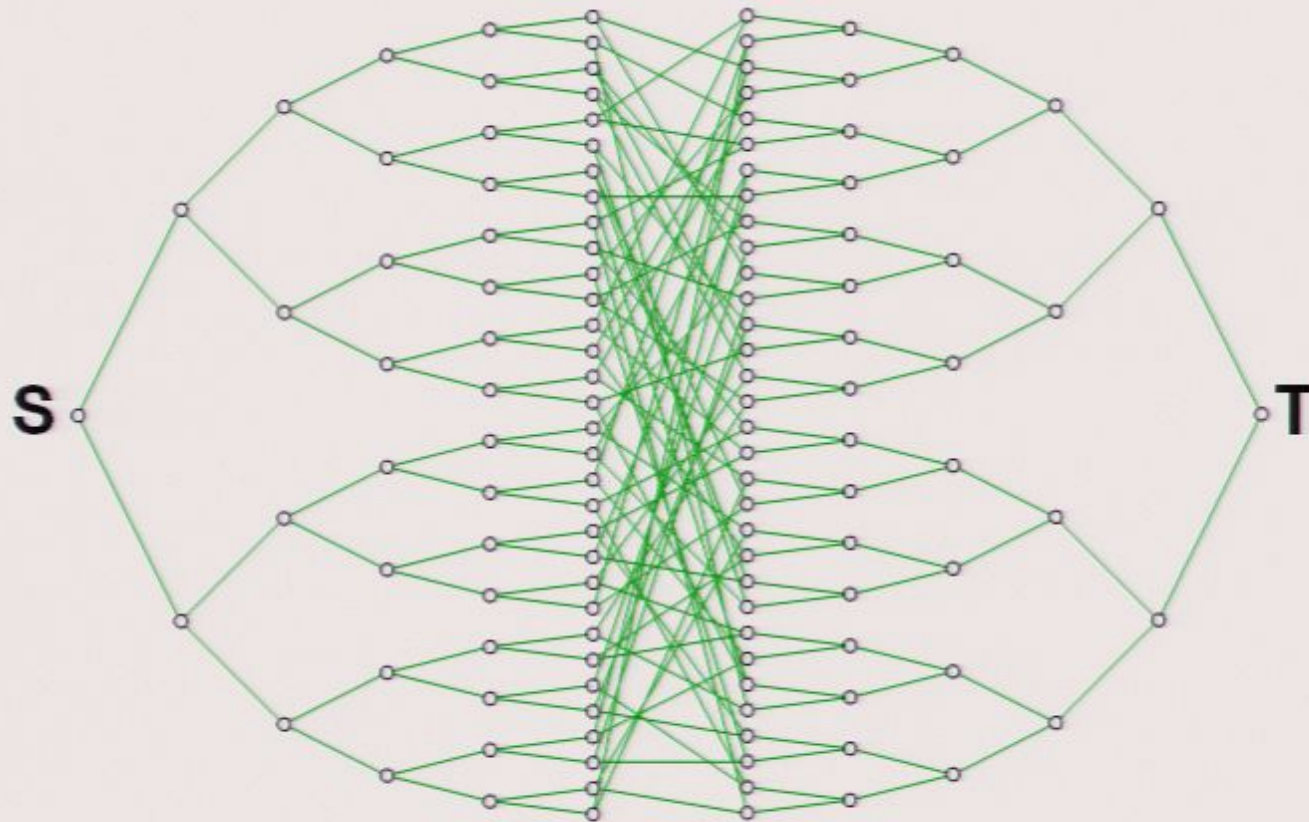


Column  
subspace:



Choose  $t \in [0, O(n^4)]$  uniformly, run QW for time  $t$ , and measure

# Analysis of continuous-time QW



Column  
subspace:

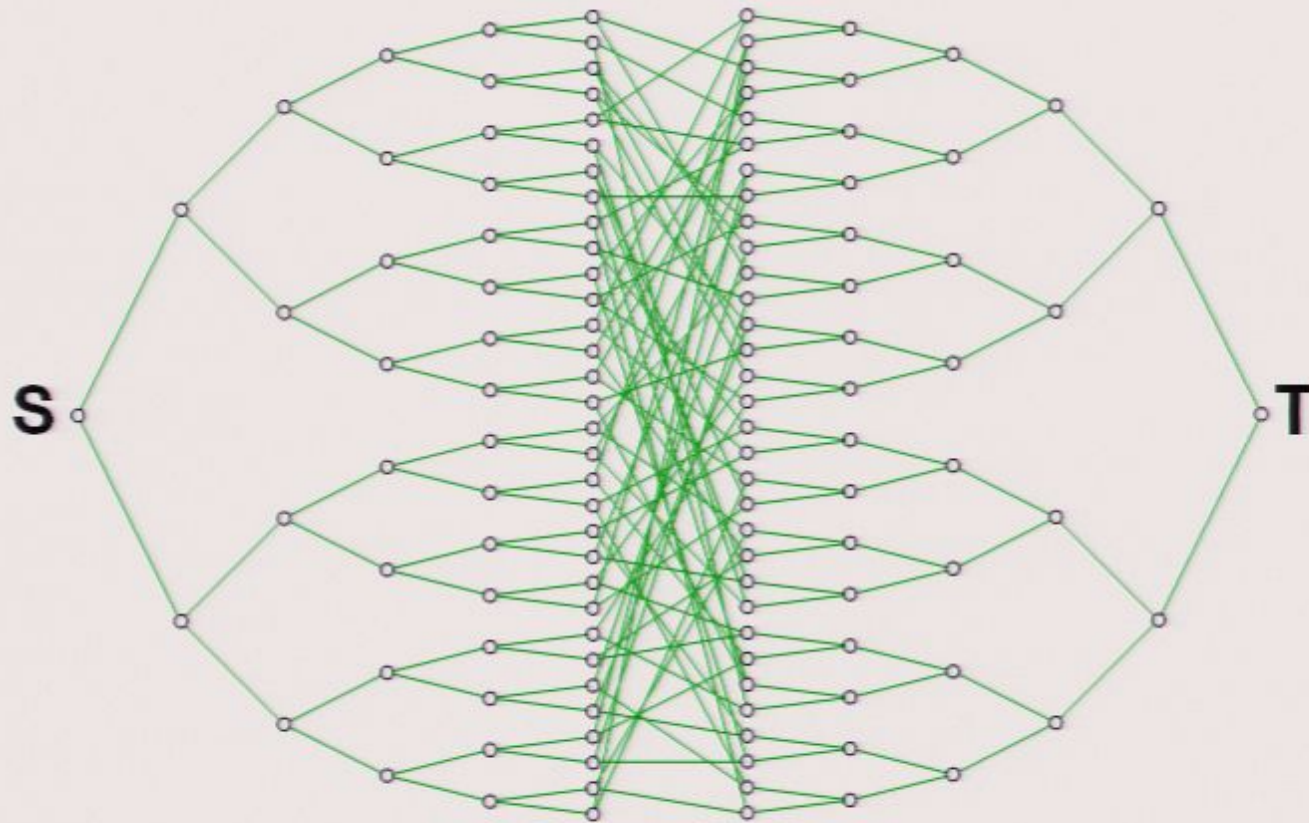


Choose  $t \in [0, O(n^4)]$  uniformly, run QW for time  $t$ , and measure

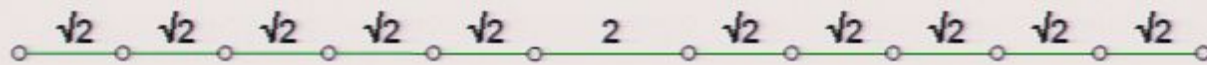
**Theorem:** the outcome is T with probability  $\Omega(1/n)$

# How to simulate the quantum walk

# Analysis of continuous-time QW



Column  
subspace:



Choose  $t \in [0, O(n^4)]$  uniformly, run QW for time  $t$ , and measure

**Theorem:** the outcome is T with probability  $\Omega(1/n)$

# How to simulate the quantum walk

**Goal:** simulate  $e^{-iHt} |\mathbf{s}\rangle$ , where  $\langle x|H|y\rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (x,y) \text{ edge} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$   
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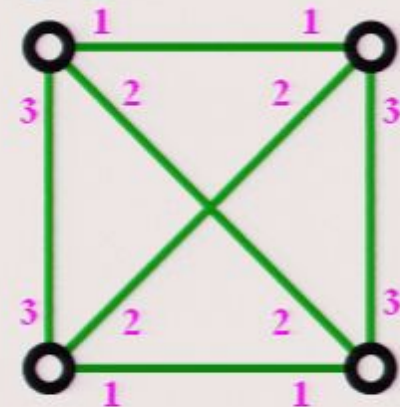
# Simulation of quantum walk for *symmetric* black-boxes

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**Symmetric:**  $v_k(x) = y$  iff  $v_k(y) = x$

Define **SWAP**  $|x\rangle|y\rangle = |y\rangle|x\rangle$

Simulate evolution by **SWAP** (tensor product)



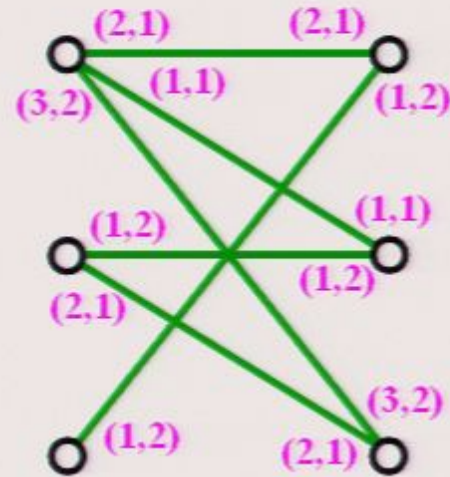
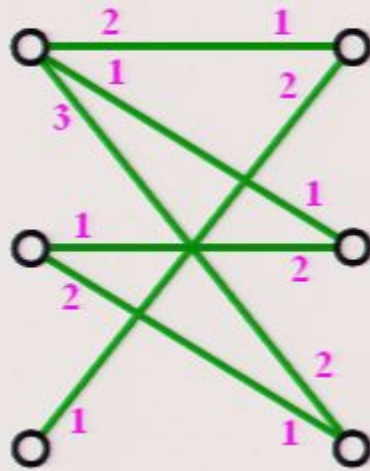
Simulate evolution by  $\mathbf{V}_k^\dagger \mathbf{SWAP} \mathbf{V}_k$  (unitary conjugation)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{V}_k^\dagger \mathbf{SWAP} \mathbf{V}_k |x\rangle|0\rangle &= \mathbf{V}_k^\dagger \mathbf{SWAP} |x\rangle|v_k(x)\rangle \quad (\mathbf{V}_k^\dagger \text{ reversible black-box}) \\ &= \mathbf{V}_k^\dagger |v_k(x)\rangle|x\rangle \\ &= |v_k(x)\rangle|x \oplus v_k(v_k(x))\rangle = |v_k(x)\rangle|0\rangle \end{aligned}$$

Simulate evolution by  $A \otimes I = \sum_k \mathbf{V}_k^\dagger \mathbf{SWAP} \mathbf{V}_k$  (linear combination)

# Simulation for *bipartite* graphs

**Idea:** reduce to the symmetric case



**Conclusion:** there is a quantum walk algorithm that solves **ST**-traversal with polynomially many queries and other operations

# Simulation for *arbitrary* graphs

[Aharonov & Ta-Shma '03]:  $O(n^9 d^3 t^{1.5}/\sqrt{\epsilon})$  queries, where:

- $n = \log|G|$
- $d$  is the maximum degree
- $t$  is the time duration
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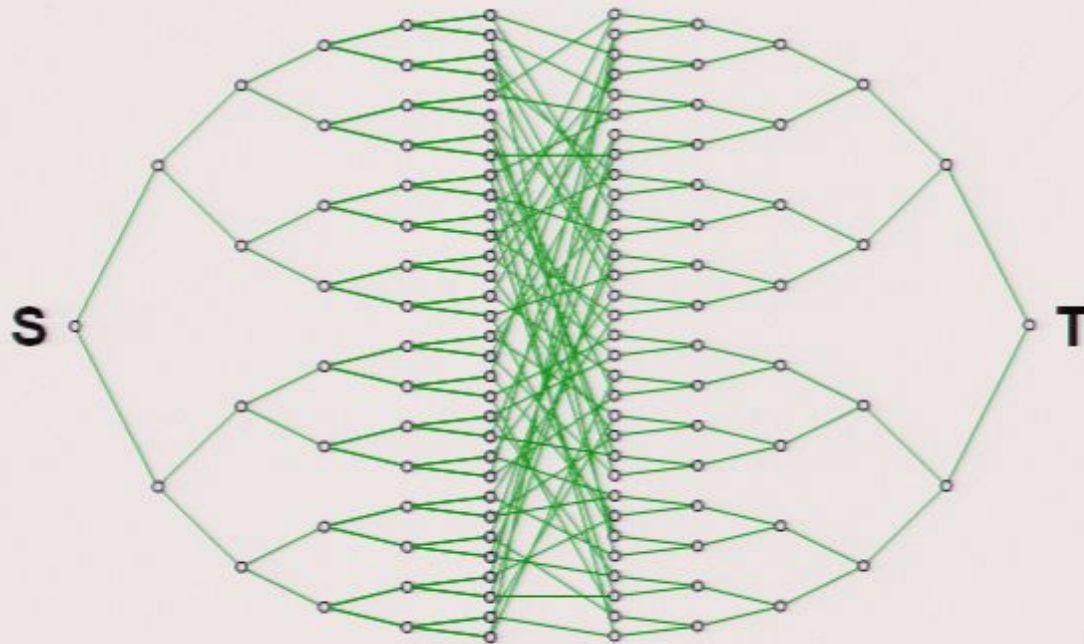
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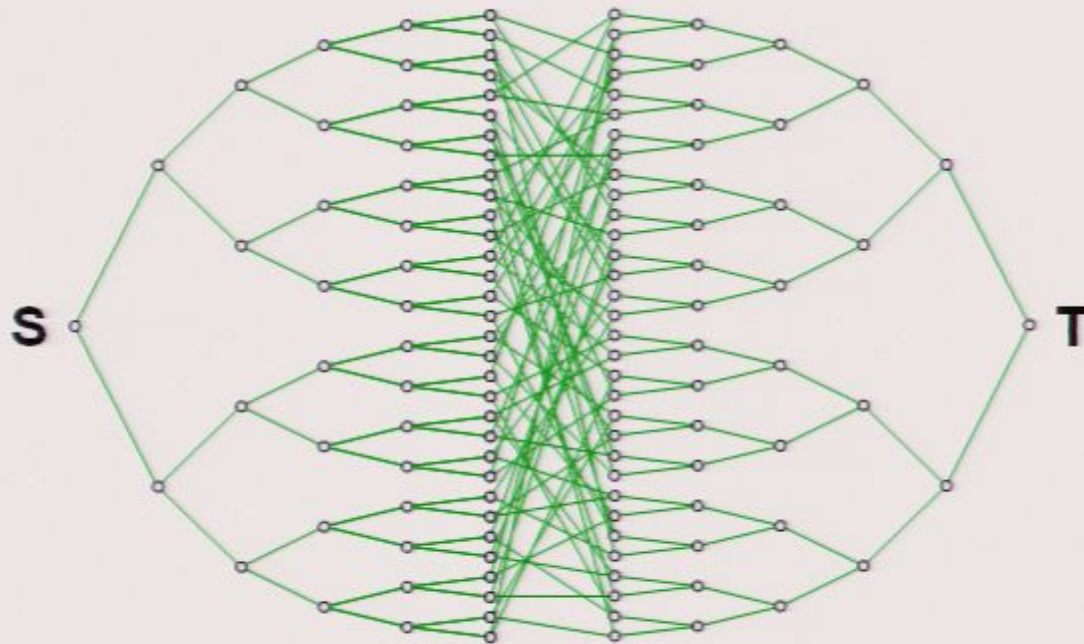
**Consequence:** for algorithms that employ continuous-time quantum walks, the overhead for the QW simulation can be made negligible in many cases

# Classical hardness of ST-traversal

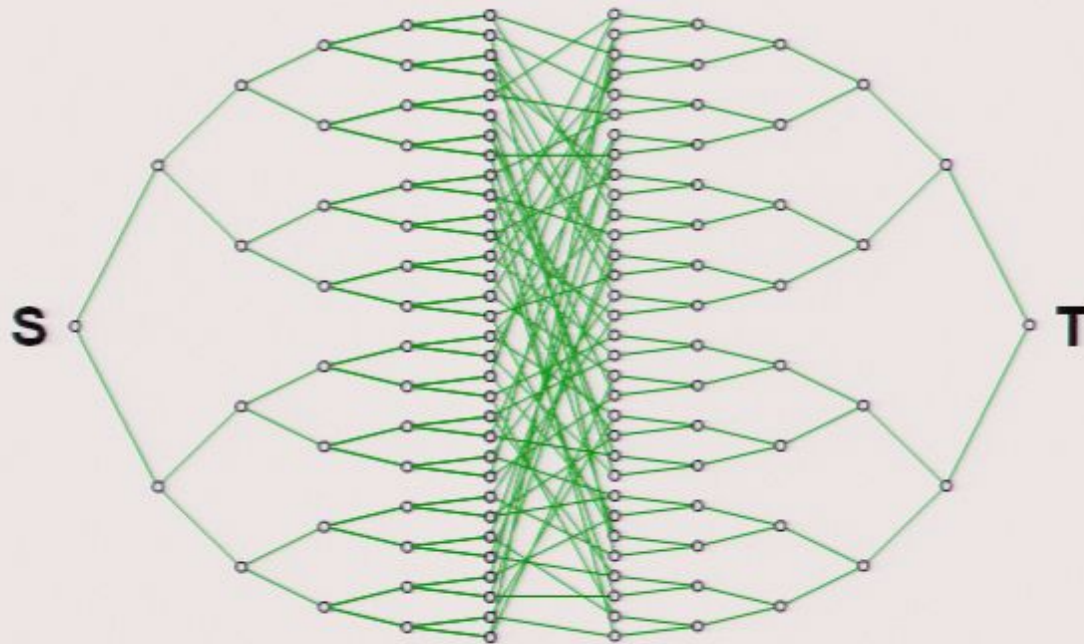


# Classical hardness of ST-traversal

Define **success** as either finding **T** or finding a cycle



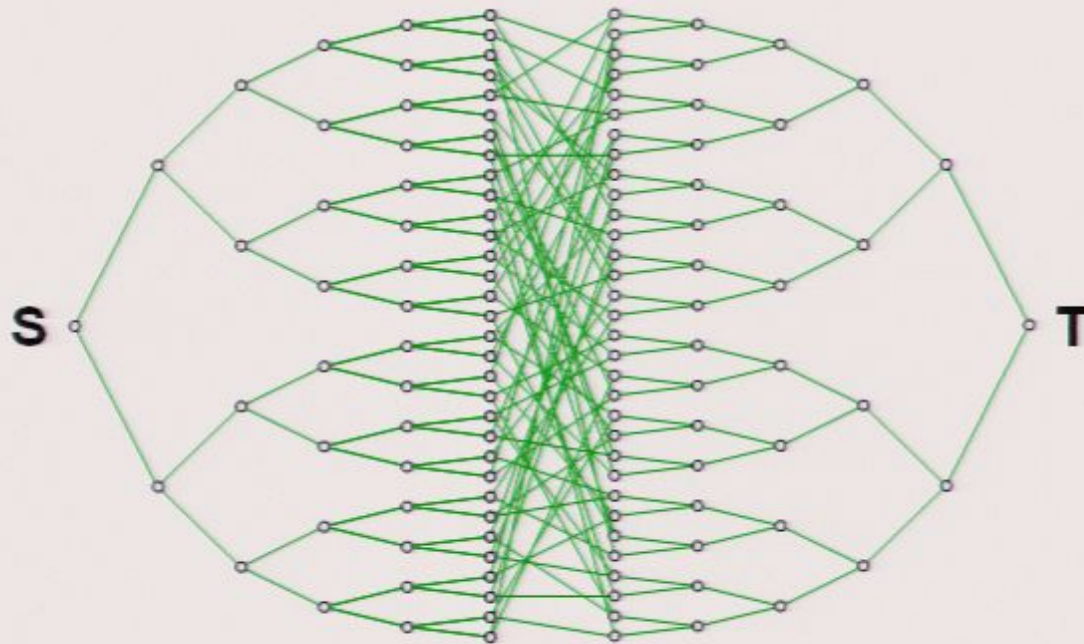
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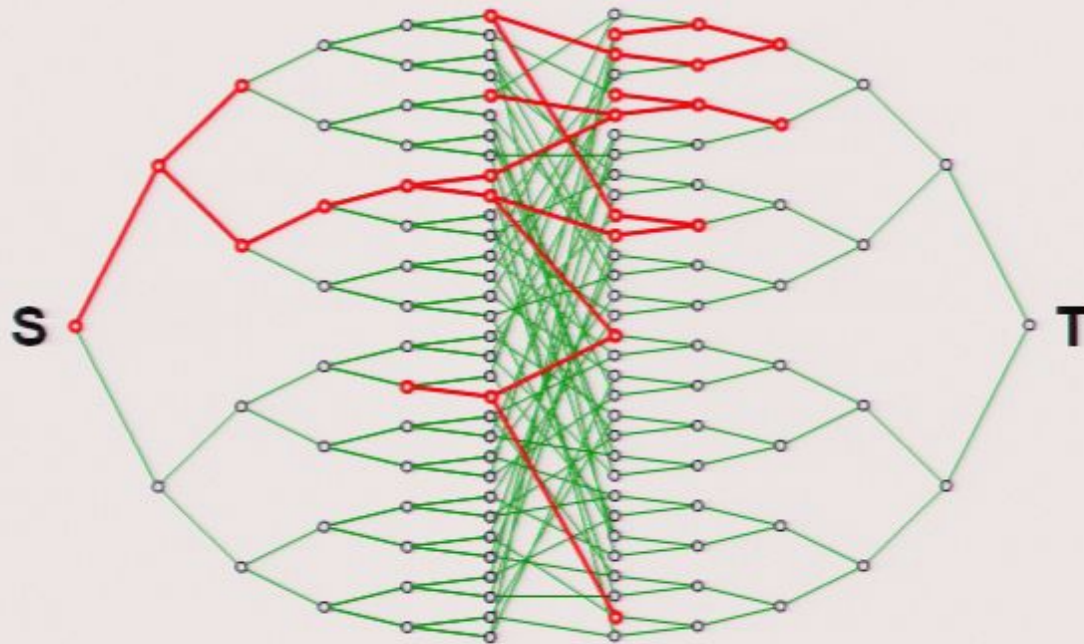
Then, prior to success, algorithm is growing a tree on  $G$



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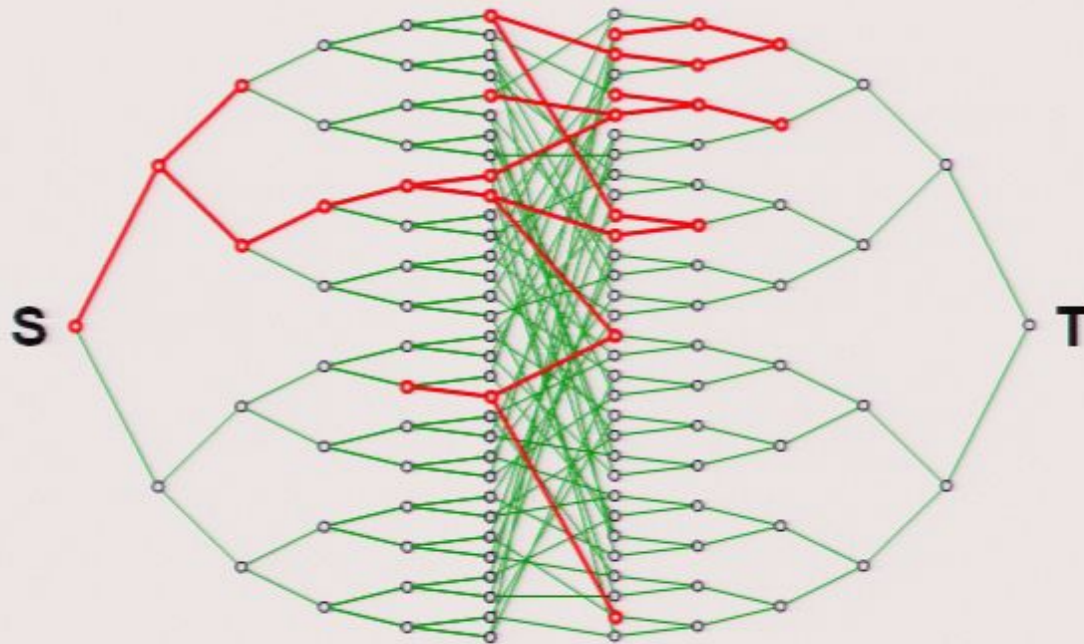
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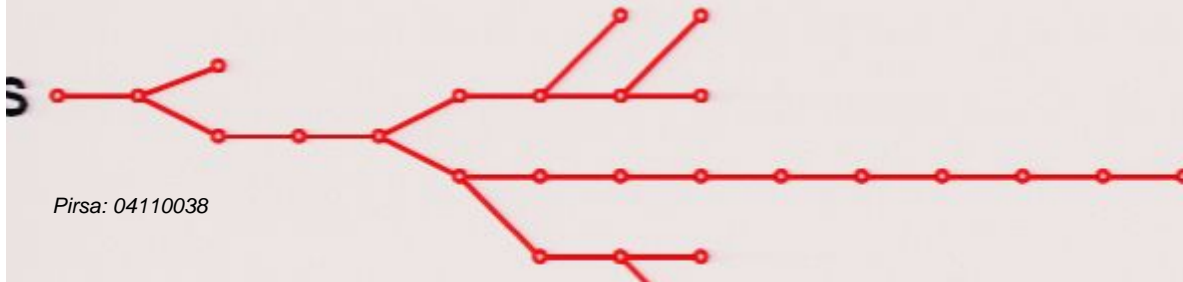
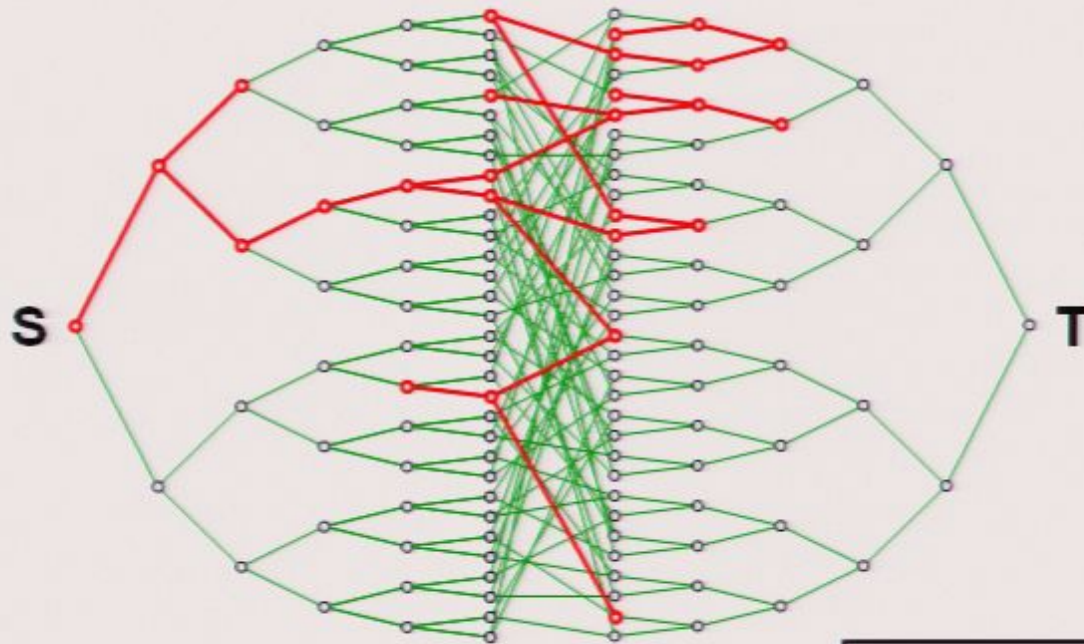




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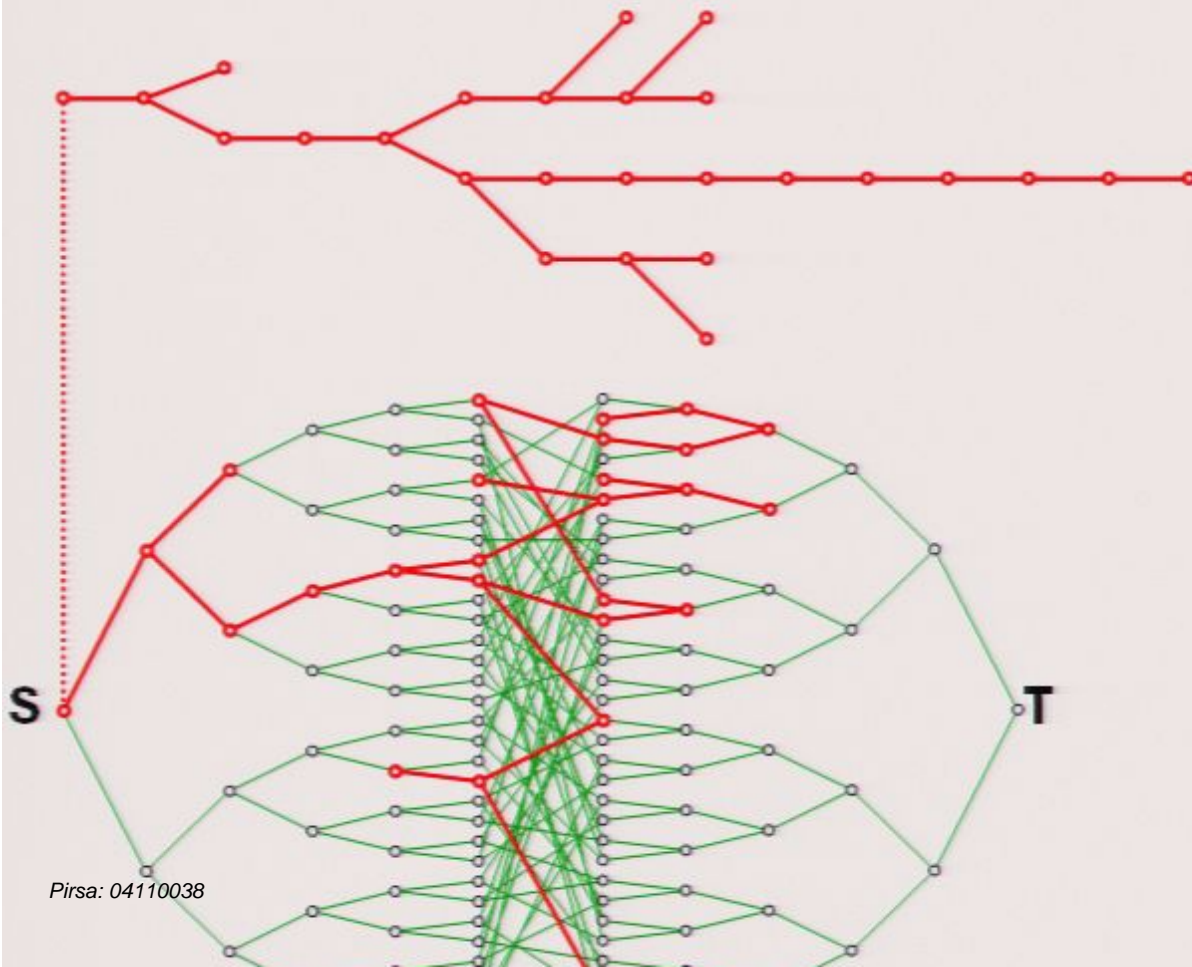
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Can assume tree is pre-computed, since black box is random.

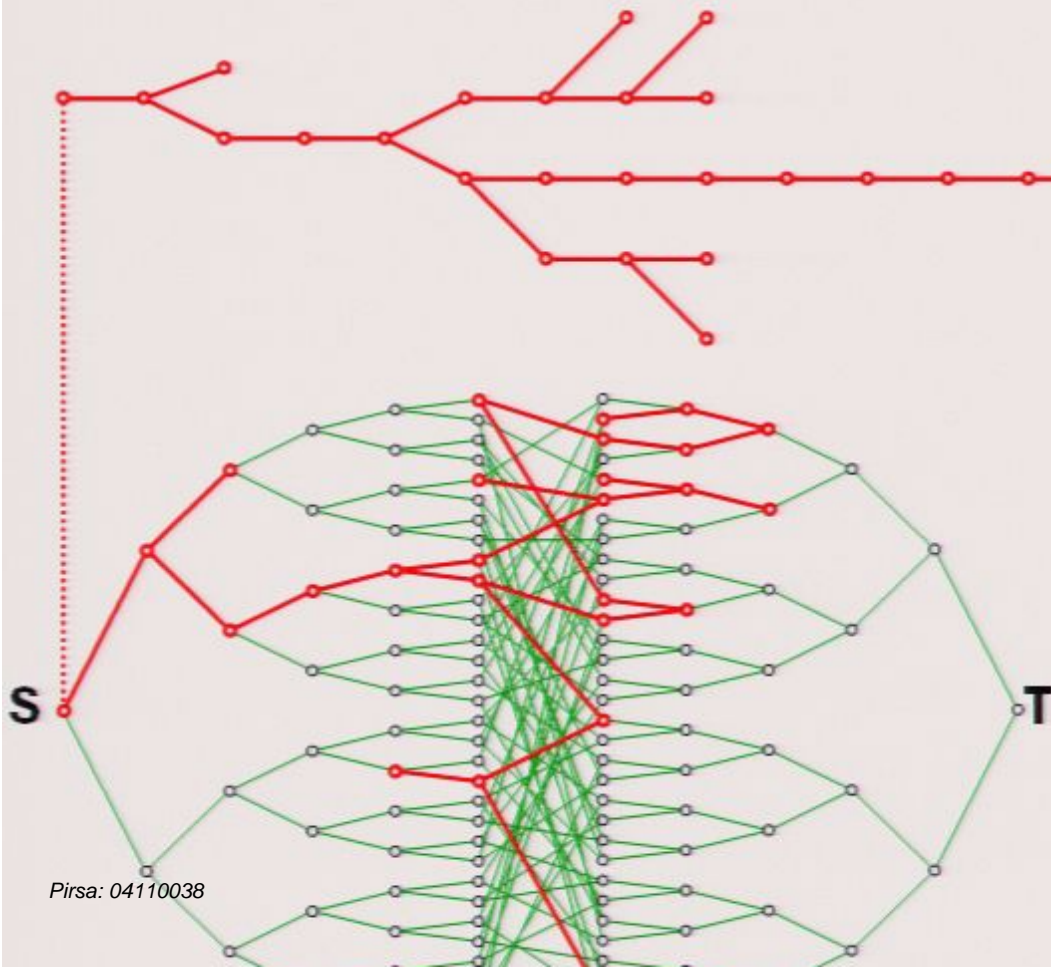
# Classical hardness of ST-traversal

**Lemma:** randomly embedding *any* tree of size  $m$  into  $G$   
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**Theorem:** *any* classical algorithm making  $\leq 2^{n/6}$  queries succeeds with probability  $\leq 4 \cdot 2^{-n/6}$

# Concluding remarks

- Exponential quantum vs. classical speedup using a quantum walk algorithm
- Results easily adaptable to ***ST-connectivity*** problem
- Quantum algorithm solves **ST**-traversal without finding a path from **S** to **T**!

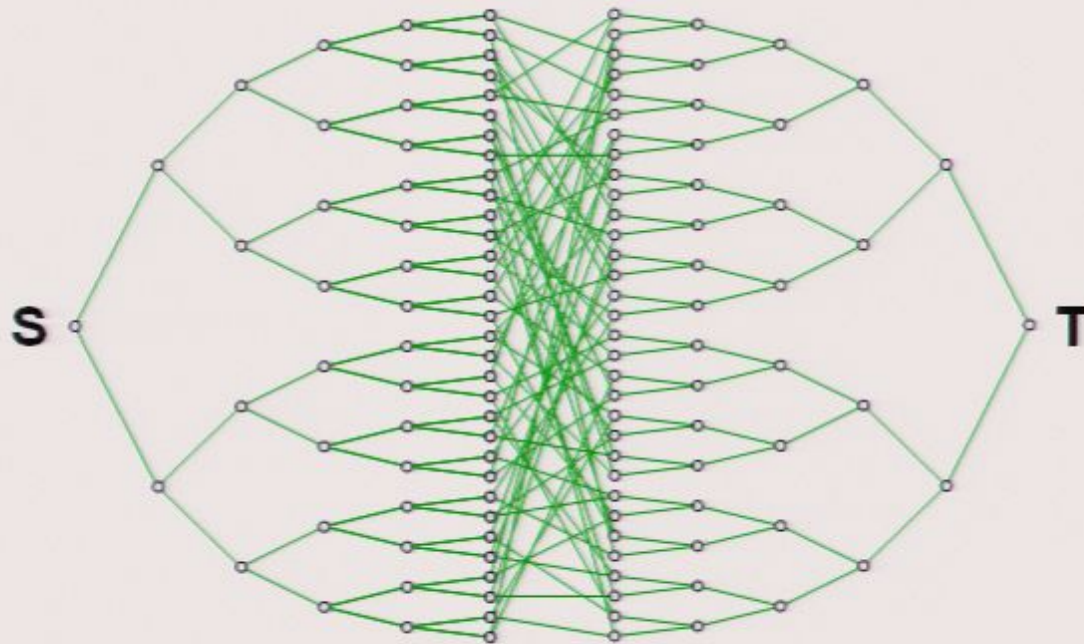
## Open questions:

- Are there ***useful*** problems that can be solved efficiently by quantum walks? Progress by [Ambainis '04]
- Is there a graph where **ST**-connectivity can be ***decided*** efficiently, but an **ST**-path cannot be found efficiently?

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# Classical hardness of ST-traversal

