## **Distributed Merlin-Arthur Synthesis of Quantum** States and Its Applications

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## — Abstract -

The generation and verification of quantum states are fundamental tasks for quantum information processing that have recently been investigated by Irani, Natarajan, Nirkhe, Rao and Yuen [CCC 2022], Rosenthal and Yuen [ITCS 2022], Metger and Yuen [QIP 2023] under the term state synthesis. This paper studies this concept from the viewpoint of quantum distributed computing, and especially distributed quantum Merlin-Arthur (dQMA) protocols. We first introduce a novel task, on a line, called state generation with distributed inputs (SGDI). In this task, the goal is to generate the quantum state  $U|\psi\rangle$  at the rightmost node of the line, where  $|\psi\rangle$  is a quantum state given at the leftmost node and U is a unitary matrix whose description is distributed over the nodes of the line. We give a dQMA protocol for SGDI and utilize this protocol to construct a dQMA protocol for the Set Equality problem studied by Naor, Parter and Yogev [SODA 2020], and complement our protocol by showing classical lower bounds for this problem. Our second contribution is a dQMA protocol, based on a recent work by Zhu and Hayashi [Physical Review A, 2019], to create EPR-pairs between adjacent nodes of a network without quantum communication. As an application of this dQMA protocol, we prove a general result showing how to convert any dQMA protocol on an arbitrary network into another dQMA protocol where the verification stage does not require any quantum communication.

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#### 1 Introduction

While quantum computational complexity has so far mostly investigated the complexity of classical problems (e.g., computing Boolean functions) in the quantum setting, recent works [1, 16, 20, 24, 29, 35] have started investigating the complexity of quantum problems (e.g., generating quantum states). For instance, Ji, Liu and Song [20] and Kretschmer [24]



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have investigated the concept of quantum pseudorandom states from complexity-theoretic and cryptographic perspectives. Irani, Natarajan, Nirkhe, Rao, and Yuen [16] have made in-depth investigations of the complexity of the *state synthesis problem* in a setting first introduced by Aaronson [1] where the goal is to generate a quantum state by making queries to a classical oracle encoding the state. Rosenthal and Yuen [35] and Metger and Yuen [29] have considered interactive proofs for synthesizing quantum states (and also for implementing unitaries). Here the main goal is to generate complicated quantum states (e.g., quantum states described by an exponential-size generating quantum circuit) efficiently with the help of an all-powerful but untrusted prover. Note that in settings where an all-powerful prover is present, the task of quantum state synthesis is closely related to the task of quantum state verification (since the prover can simply send the quantum state that needs to be synthesized).

In this paper, we investigate the task of state generation and verification in the setting of quantum distributed computing. Quantum distributed computing is a fairly recent research topic: despite early investigations in the 2000s and the 2010s [3, 8, 9, 13, 36], it is only in the past five years that significant advances have been done in understanding the power of quantum distributed algorithms [2, 10, 17, 18, 25, 27, 37]. Fraigniaud, Le Gall, Nishimura, and Paz [10], in particular, have investigated the power of distributed quantum proofs in distributed computing, which is the natural quantum version of the concept of distributed classical proofs (also called locally-checkable proofs [14] or proof-labeling schemes [23]): each node of the network receives, additionally to its input, a quantum state (called a quantum proof) from an all-powerful but untrusted party called the prover. The main result from [10] shows that there exist classical problems that can be solved by quantum protocols using quantum proofs of length exponentially smaller than in the classical case.

We present two main results about state generation and verification in the setting where an all-powerful but untrusted prover helps the nodes in a non-interactive way, and apply these results to design new quantum protocols for concrete problems studied recently in [10, 33].

## 1.1 First result and applications: State Generation with Distributed Inputs

One of the main conceptual contributions of this paper is introducing the following problem: In a network of r + 1 nodes  $v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_r$ , node  $v_0$  is given as input an *n*-qubit quantum state  $|\psi\rangle$ . The goal is to generate the quantum state  $U|\psi\rangle$  at node  $v_r$ , where U is a unitary matrix whose description is distributed over the nodes of the network. For concreteness, in this paper we focus on the case where the network is a path of length r and the nodes  $v_0, v_r$  are both extremities of the path.<sup>1</sup>

Here is the precise description of the problem. The parties  $v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_r$  are the nodes of a line graph of length r: the left-end extremity is  $v_0$ , the right-end extremity is  $v_r$ , and nodes  $v_j$  and  $v_{j+1}$  are connected for  $j = 0, 1, \ldots, r-1$ . Node  $v_0$  receives as input the classical description of an *n*-qubit state  $|\psi\rangle$ , as a  $2^n$ -dimensional vector.<sup>2</sup> The other nodes  $v_j$  for  $j = 1, 2, \ldots, r$  receive as input the description of an *n*-qubit unitary transformation: each node  $v_j$  receives the description of a unitary transformation  $U_j$  acting on *n* qubits. In this setting, the aim is to generate the quantum state

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In distributed computing it is standard to first investigate the complexity of computational problems on simple network topologies such as a path or a ring. A solution on the path can often be extended to networks of more complex topology, or be used as a building block for solving problems on network of arbitrary topology.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Our protocol actually only requires  $v_0$  to be able to generate many copies of  $|\psi\rangle$ , and thus also works when the input is a description of a quantum circuit generating  $|\psi\rangle$ , or even a black box generating  $|\psi\rangle$ .

$$|\varphi_r\rangle := U_r \cdots U_1 |\psi\rangle$$

at the right-end extremity  $v_r$ . We call this problem *n*-qubit State Generation with Distributed Inputs on the line of length r (*n*-qubit SGDI<sub>r</sub>). Without a prover, this problem is clearly not solvable in less than r rounds of communications between neighbors (this can be seen easily by considering the case where  $U_1 = \cdots = U_r = I$ ).

We consider the setting where a prover (an all-powerful but untrusted party) helps the nodes in a non-interactive way: at the very beginning of the protocol the prover sends to node  $v_j$  a quantum state  $\rho_j$  of at most  $s_c$  qubits, for each  $j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, r\}$ . Here  $s_c$  is called the certificate size of the protocol and the state  $\rho_j$  is called the certificate to  $v_j$ . The nodes then run a one-round<sup>3</sup> distributed quantum algorithm (called the verification algorithm). More precisely, the nodes first perform one round of (synchronous) communication: each node sends one quantum message of at most  $s_m$  qubits to its neighbors ( $s_m$  is called the message size of the protocol). Each node then decides to either accept or reject. Such protocols, which have been introduced and studied in [10], are called distributed Quantum Merlin-Arthur (dQMA) protocols (see Section 2 for details). Additionally, when considering dQMA protocols for *n*-qubit SGDI<sub>r</sub>, we add the requirement that node  $v_r$  outputs an *n*-qubit quantum state at the end of the protocol.

Here is our main result:

▶ **Theorem 1.** For any constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a dQMA protocol for n-qubit SGDI<sub>r</sub> with certificate size  $O(n^2r^5)$  and message size  $O(nr^2)$  satisfying the following: (completeness) There are certificates  $\rho_0, \ldots, \rho_r$  such that all the nodes accept and node  $v_r$  outputs  $|\varphi_r\rangle$  with probability 1; (soundness) If all the nodes accept with probability at least  $\varepsilon$ , then the output state  $\rho$  of node  $v_r$  satisfies  $\langle \varphi_r | \rho | \varphi_r \rangle \geq 1 - \varepsilon$ .

The protocol of Theorem 1 is a dQMA protocol with perfect completeness and soundness  $\varepsilon$ . Indeed, when receiving appropriate certificates from the prover, all nodes accept with probability 1 and node  $v_r$  outputs the state  $|\varphi_r\rangle$ . On the other hand, if the state  $\rho$  is far from  $|\varphi_r\rangle$ , the soundness condition guarantees that for any certificates  $\rho_0, \ldots, \rho_r$  received from the prover (including the case of entangled certificates), the probability that at least one node rejects is at least  $1 - \varepsilon$  (remember that the quantity  $\langle \varphi_r | \rho | \varphi_r \rangle$  represents the square root of the fidelity between  $|\varphi_r\rangle\langle\varphi_r|$  and  $\rho$ ).

As an application of Theorem 1, we construct a quantum protocol for a concrete computational task called Set Equality, which was introduced in Ref. [33]. Here is the formal definition over a network of arbitrary topology (represented by an arbitrary graph G = (V, E)).

▶ **Definition 1** (SetEquality<sub>ℓ,U</sub> [33]). Let  $\ell$  be a positive integer and U be a finite set. Each node u of a graph G = (V, E) holds two lists of  $\ell$  elements  $(a_{u,1}, \ldots, a_{u,\ell})$  and  $(b_{u,1}, \ldots, b_{u,\ell})$  as input, where  $a_{u,i}, b_{u,i} \in U$  for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, \ell\}$ . Define  $A = \{a_{u,i} \mid u \in V, i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, \ell\}\}$  and  $B = \{b_{u,i} \mid u \in V, i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, \ell\}\}$ . The output of SetEquality<sub>ℓ,U</sub> is 1 (yes), if A = B as multisets and 0 (no) otherwise.

Using Theorem 1 we obtain the following result:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As in almost all prior works on (classical or quantum) distributed proofs, in this paper we consider only one-round verification algorithms.

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▶ **Theorem 2.** For any small enough constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a dQMA protocol for SetEquality<sub>ℓ,U</sub> on the line graph of length r with completeness  $1 - \varepsilon$  and soundness  $\varepsilon$  that has certificate size  $O(r^5 \log^2(\ell r) \log^2 |U|)$  and message size  $O(r^2 \log(\ell r) \log |U|)$ .

While Ref. [33] considered the special case of  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  and showed efficient distributed *interactive* protocols with small certificate and message size (see Section 1.4), no (nontrivial) classical dMA protocol (or lower bound) is known before this paper to our best knowledge. We complement the result in Theorem 2 by showing classical lower bounds and upper bounds of distributed Merlin-Arthur (dMA) protocols for  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$ .

▶ **Theorem 3.** For any dMA protocol for SetEquality<sub>ℓ,U</sub> on a line graph of length r with certificate size  $s_c$ , completeness 3/4, and soundness 1/4,

- $= if |U| < \ell, then s_c = \Omega(|U| \log(\ell/|U|));$
- if  $|U| = \Omega(\ell)$ , then  $s_c = \Omega(\ell)$ ;
- if  $|U| = \Omega(r\ell)$ , then  $s_c = \Omega(r\ell)$ .

▶ **Theorem 4.** There exists a dMA protocol for SetEquality<sub> $\ell,U$ </sub> on a line graph of length r with completeness 1 and soundness 0 whose certificate size and message size are both  $O(\min\{r\ell \log |U|, |U| \log(r\ell)\}).$ 

Although the dependence in r is worse than in the classical dMA protocol of Theorem 4, the dependence of the dQMA protocol of Theorem 2 in  $\ell$  (the number of elements each node receives) and |U| (the size of the universal set) are polylogarithmic. On the other hand, in classical case, we have linear lower bounds with respect to  $\ell$  and |U| as in Theorem 3. Therefore Theorem 2 gives a significant improvement for sufficiently large  $\ell$  and |U|. This assumption about the input parameters seems reasonable when considering applications similar to those of the dQMA protocol for the equality problem proposed in Ref. [10]. Note that our bounds of classical certificate size in Theorem 3 and Theorem 4 are tight up to poly  $\log(\ell, |U|, r)$  factors when  $|U| < \ell$  or  $|U| = \Omega(r\ell)$ .

# 1.2 Second result and applications: EPR-pairs generation and LOCC dQMA protocols

Our second contribution is a protocol, based on a recent work by Zhu and Hayashi [41], to create EPR-pairs between adjacent nodes of a network without quantum communication in the same setting as above, where a prover helps the nodes in a non-interactive way. As an application of this protocol, we prove a general result showing how to convert any dQMA protocol on an arbitrary network into another dQMA protocol where the verification algorithm uses only classical communication (instead as quantum communication, as allowed in the definition of dQMA protocols and used in all dQMA protocols of Ref. [10] and Theorems 1 and 2 above).

More precisely, we say a dQMA protocol is an LOCC (Local Operation and Classical Communication) dQMA protocol if the verification algorithm can be implemented only by local operations at each node and classical communication between neighboring nodes (i.e., no quantum communication is allowed). Our protocol for generating EPR-pairs enables us to show the following theorem:

▶ **Theorem 5.** For any constants  $p_c$  and  $p_s$  such that  $0 \le p_s < p_c \le 1$ , let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a dQMA protocol for some problem on a network G with completeness  $p_c$ , soundness  $p_s$ , certificate size  $s_c^{\mathcal{P}}$  and message size  $s_m^{\mathcal{P}}$ . For any small enough constant  $\gamma > 0$ , there exists an LOCC dQMA protocol  $\mathcal{P}'$  for the same problem on G with completeness  $p_c$ , soundness  $p_s + \gamma$ , certificate size  $s_c^{\mathcal{P}} + O(d_{\max}s_m^{\mathcal{P}}s_{tm}^{\mathcal{P}})$ , and message size  $O(s_m^{\mathcal{P}}s_{tm}^{\mathcal{P}})$ , where  $d_{\max}$  is the maximum degree of G, and  $s_{tm}^{\mathcal{P}}$  is the total number of qubits sent in the verification stage of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

As an application of Theorem 5, we consider the equality problem studied in Ref. [10]. In this problem, denoted  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^t$ , a collection of *n*-bit strings  $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_t$  is given as input to *t* specific nodes  $u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_t$  (called terminals) of an arbitrary network G = (V, E) as follows: node  $u_i$  receives  $x_i$ , for  $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, t\}$ . The goal is to check whether the *t* strings are equal, i.e., whether  $x_1 = \cdots = x_t$ . By applying Theorem 5 to the main result in Ref. [10] (a dQMA protocol for  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^t$  with certificate size  $O(tr^2 \log n)$  and message size  $O(tr^2 \log(n + r))$ ), we obtain the following corollary:

▶ Corollary 1. For any small enough constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is an LOCC dQMA protocol for EQ<sup>t</sup><sub>n</sub> with completeness 1, soundness  $\varepsilon$ , certificate size  $O(d_{\max}|V|t^2r^4\log^2(n+r))$  and messages size  $O(|V|t^2r^4\log^2(n+r))$ , where r is the radius of the set of the t terminals and |V| is the number of nodes of the network G = (V, E).

We can also apply Theorem 5 to the dQMA protocol of Theorem 2, leading to the following corollary:

► Corollary 2. For any small enough constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is an LOCC dQMA protocol for SetEquality<sub> $\ell,U$ </sub> on the line graph of length r with completeness  $1 - \varepsilon$ , soundness  $\varepsilon$ , certificate size  $O(r^5 \log^2(\ell r) \log^2 |U|)$  and messages size  $O(r^5 \log^2(\ell r) \log^2 |U|)$ .

Note that these LOCC dQMA protocols still have good dependence in the main parameters we are interested in: the parameter n for  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^t$  (for which the dependence is still exponentially better than any classical dMA protocols) and the parameters  $\ell$  and |U| for  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$ (for which the dependence is still exponentially better than any classical dMA protocols, due to Theorem 3).

## 1.3 Overview of our proofs

To explain the proof idea of Theorem 1, we only consider the simplified case  $U_1 = \cdots = U_r = I$ . The general case can be proved similarly by a slightly more complicated analysis.

The dQMA protocol to prove Theorem 1 is based on the dQMA protocol on the line of length r by Fraigniaud et al. [10]. In the setting of Ref. [10], the left-end extremity  $v_0$  has an n-bit string x, the right-end extremity  $v_r$  has an n-bit string y, and the other intermediate nodes have no input. The goal is to verify whether x = y. The dQMA protocol in Ref. [10] checks whether the fingerprint state  $|\psi_0\rangle = |\psi_x\rangle$  [5] prepared by  $v_0$  is equal to the fingerprint state  $|\psi_r\rangle = |\psi_y\rangle$  prepared by  $v_r$  (x = y), or  $|\psi_0\rangle$  is almost orthogonal to  $|\psi_r\rangle$   $(x \neq y)$ . For this, node  $v_j$   $(2 \le j \le r - 1)$  receives a subsystem whose reduced state is  $\rho_j$  as a certificate from the prover. At the verification stage, any node (except for  $v_r$ ) chooses keeping its certificate by itself, or sending it to the right neighboring node with probability 1/2 to check if the reduced states of the two neighboring nodes,  $\rho_j$  and  $\rho_{j+1}$ , are close, which can be checked by the SWAP test [5]. If x = y, then the prover can send  $|\psi_0\rangle$  (=  $|\psi_r\rangle$ ) for every intermediate node to pass all the SWAP tests done at the verification stage, which means accept. Otherwise, the SWAP test done at some node rejects with a reasonable probability since  $|\psi_x\rangle$  is very far from  $|\psi_y\rangle$ , and hence the distance between  $\rho_j$  and  $\rho_{j+1}$  should be far at some j.

Now the case that  $U_1 = \cdots = U_r = I$  (which means that all nodes except  $v_0$  have no input) in the setting of  $\mathsf{SGDI}_r$  (then the goal state  $|\varphi_r\rangle$  at  $v_r$  is the same as the state  $|\psi\rangle$  of  $v_0$ ) is similar to the setting of Ref. [10], except that  $v_r$  also has no input. The difficulty is that  $v_r$  has no state that can be generated by itself, and thus the analysis of Ref. [10] cannot be used as it is.

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To overcome this difficulty, we utilize an idea from the verification of graph states [15, 32], in particular, the idea by Morimae, Takeuchi, and Hayashi [32]. They used the following basic idea for their protocol in order to verify an arbitrary graph state  $|G\rangle$  sent from the prover (or prepared by a malicious party): (i) the verifier receives (m + k + 1) subsystems, in which each subsystem ideally contains  $|G\rangle$ , from the prover; (ii) the verifier chooses msubsystems uniformly at random, and discards them; (iii) the verifier chooses one subsystem, and some test that  $|G\rangle$  should pass (stabilizer test) is done for each of the remaining ksubsystems; and (iv) if all the tests passed, the chosen subsystem in (iii) should be close to  $|G\rangle$ , which is proved by using a quantum de Finetti theorem with some measurement condition [28] (exponentially better in the dimension of the subsystem than the standard quantum de Finetti theorem [6]). Note that (ii) and (iii) are necessary since the assumption that the total system is permutation-invariant is needed to apply the quantum de Finetti theorem.

Our protocol applies the idea of Ref. [32] to the verification protocol of Ref. [10] explained above. Namely, the parties  $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_r$  first receives (m + k + 1) subsystems, where each subsystem ideally contains  $|\psi\rangle^{\otimes r}$ , sent from the prover. For k subsystems that are randomly chosen, we apply the verification protocol of Ref. [10]. Actually, we have a subtle problem with the corresponding steps of (ii) and (iii) in the idea of Ref. [32], since  $v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_r$  do not have any shared randomness, and thus those steps cannot be implemented jointly. Fortunately, this problem can be overcome since the permutation-invariant property is satisfied by the random permutations of (m + k + 1) subsystems on *each* party.

The dQMA protocol for Theorem 2 is based on the distributed interactive protocol by Naor, Parter, and Yogev [33] using shared randomness<sup>4</sup>. In our setting (line of length r), the distributed interactive protocol of Ref. [33] is as follows with two polynomials  $\alpha_j(x) := \prod_i (x - a_{j,i})$  and  $\beta_j(x) := \prod_i (x - b_{j,i})$ : with shared randomness s (taken from a large field), (i)  $v_0$  prepares  $A_0(s) := \alpha_0(s)$  and  $B_0(s) := \beta_0(s)$ ; (ii)  $v_j$  (j = 1, 2, ..., r) ideally receives  $A_j(s) := \alpha_0(s) \cdots \alpha_j(s)$  and  $B_j(s) := \beta_0(s) \cdots \beta_j(s)$  from the prover; (iii)  $A_j(s) =$  $\alpha_j(s)A_{j-1}(s)$  and  $B_j(s) = \beta_j(s)B_{j-1}(s)$  are checked for consistency by communication from  $v_{j-1}$  to  $v_j$ . We can see that when A = B,  $A_r(s) = B_r(s)$  for any s, and thus this protocol accepts with probability 1 by the ideal certificates from the prover, while when  $A \neq B$ ,  $A_r(s) \neq B_r(s)$  for most of s, and thus some node rejects with reasonable probability.

Actually, neither interaction nor shared randomness is available in our setting. Instead, we reduce the protocol by Naor et al. to  $\mathsf{SGDI}_r$  with  $|\psi\rangle = |\psi_A\rangle \otimes |\psi_B\rangle$  where  $|\psi_A\rangle = \sum_s |s\rangle |\alpha_0(s)\rangle$ , and  $|\psi_B\rangle = \sum_s |s\rangle |\beta_0(s)\rangle$ , and  $U = U_{j,A} \otimes U_{j,B}$ , where  $U_{j,A}$  roughly<sup>5</sup> maps  $|s\rangle |t\rangle$  to  $|s\rangle |\alpha_j(s)t\rangle$  (j = 1, 2, ..., r) and  $U_{j,B}$  roughly maps  $|s\rangle |t\rangle$  to  $|s\rangle |\beta_j(s)t\rangle$  (j = 1, 2, ..., r). Then, Theorem 1 guarantees that  $v_r$  receives  $\sum_s |s\rangle |A_r(s)\rangle$  and  $\sum_s |s\rangle |B_r(s)\rangle$  with high fidelity as long as every node accepts with at least the probability guaranteed by Theorem 1. The SWAP test between these at  $v_r$  checks if A = B with high probability.

For the classical lower bound of  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  in Theorem 3, we utilize the lower bound for  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  of [10]. Ref. [10] showed that for any classical protocol for  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  on the line graph, at least one internal node requires a certificate of linear size. We show that  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  can be reduced to  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  in three cases depending on the size of U. Here we explain the simplest case:  $|U| = \Omega(\ell)$ . For a line graph with the left-end extremity v and the right-end extremity v', let  $x = x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n$  be the input of  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  for v and  $y = y_1 y_2 \cdots y_n$  be the input of  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  for v'. Then we consider an injection f from  $\{0,1\}^n$  to the set of  $3\ell$ -bit strings with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> While there is no shared randomness in their setting, shared randomness can be simulated by two interactions between the prover and the verifier.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> We actually need some modifications for  $U_{j,A}$  to be unitary.

Hamming weight  $\ell$  such that the input list  $(a_{v,1}, \ldots, a_{v,\ell})$  of  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  for v includes the *j*-th element of the universal set U for  $|U| > 3\ell$  if and only if  $f(x)_j = 1$ , and the input list  $(b_{v',1}, \ldots, b_{v',\ell})$  of  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  for v' includes the *j*-th element of the universal set U if and only if  $f(y)_j = 1$ . Now these two sets are identical if and only if x = y, which means a reduction from  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  to  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  for  $\ell = \Theta(n)$ . We thus get a lower bound of  $\Omega(\ell)$  from the  $\Omega(n)$  lower bound of  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  mentioned above.

The classical upper bound of SetEquality<sub> $\ell,U$ </sub> in Theorem 4 is fairly simple: the prover can send all of inputs A and B to each node to achieve the first upper bound  $O(r\ell \log |U|)$ . For the second upper bound  $O(|U|\log(r\ell))$ , the node  $v_i$  on the line graph  $\{v_0, \ldots, v_r\}$  is given the information of inputs of  $v_j, j \in \{0, \ldots, i-1\}$  as the certificate in the form of the number of each element of U in the corresponding inputs.

The basic proof idea of Theorem 5 is standard: we replace one qubit communicated between any two nodes u and v by two bits using quantum teleportation [4], assuming that they share an EPR pair  $|\Phi^+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|00\rangle + |11\rangle)$  sent from the prover. The problem is that the prover may be malicious, and u and v should then verify that the pair sent from the prover is  $|\Phi^+\rangle$ . In order to obtain  $|\Phi^+\rangle$  with high fidelity, we actually ask the prover to send N + 1 copies of the EPR pairs. An honest prover will send the state  $|\Phi^+\rangle^{\otimes (N+1)}$ , but a malicious prover may naturally send an arbitrary state. Nodes u and v use N among the N + 1 pairs for the verification. If the verification succeeds, they are guaranteed that the remaining pair has high fidelity with  $|\Phi^+\rangle$ .

This type of verification of  $|\Phi^+\rangle$  in an adversarial scenario by the malicious prover was considered in a remarkable work by Zhu and Hayashi [41]. Extending the previous result [34] in a less adversarial scenario, they showed that by taking  $N = O(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log(\frac{1}{\delta}))$ , if the verification test succeeds with probability at least  $\delta$ , the state  $\sigma$  of the last pair has a high fidelity with  $|\Phi^+\rangle$  such that  $\langle \Phi^+ | \sigma | \Phi^+ \rangle \geq 1 - \varepsilon$ . Furthermore, the measurements in their verification protocol (essentially the same as those in Ref. [34]) are local, namely, they do not need any entangled measurement between the two qubits of each pair.

Now the proof idea of Theorem 5 uses the verification protocol of Ref. [41] in our setting. To do so, we first observe that the amount of classical communication needed between u and v can be upper-bounded by O(N) (which is the same as the certificate size from the prover), by rewriting the protocol of Ref. [41] with a slight modification in our setting. Then we replace the quantum bits sent among the nodes in the original dQMA protocol  $\mathcal{P}$  by classical communication. However, it needs not only a single EPR pair but a lot of EPR pairs to be verified. Thus, we need further analysis to convert  $\mathcal{P}$  into an LOCC dQMA protocol and to evaluate the message size of classical communication and the certificate size.

## 1.4 Related work

The concept of distributed Merlin-Arthur protocols (dMA), which is very similar to the concept of randomized proof-labeling schemes [12] was introduced by [11] as a randomized version of locally checkable proofs (LCPs). In a dMA protocol, as in LCPs, the prover assigns each node a short certificate. The nodes then perform a 1-round distributed algorithm, i.e., exchange messages with their neighbors through incident edges. The difference is that in dMA, this algorithm can be a randomized algorithm, instead of a deterministic algorithm as in LCPs. This randomization is helpful to reduce the size of certificates for some problems.

The recent paper [22] introduced the interactive extension of dMA, *distributed interactive proofs*, in which the prover and the verifier can perform more interaction. They showed that interaction is also useful to reduce the size of certificates. This concept has recently been explored in depth by several studies: distributed interactive proofs that utilize quantum certificates [26], the role of shared and private randomness [7, 30], and more efficient protocols

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for concrete problems [19, 31, 33]. In particular, [33] introduced  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$ , which is one of the problems we study in this paper, and showed efficient interactive protocols for  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  when  $\ell = |V|$  and |U| = O(|V|) that require two interactions between the prover and the verifier with certificate size<sup>6</sup>  $O(\log |V|)$ , and five interactions between the prover and the verifier with certificate size  $O(\log \log |V|)$ .

The technique we used in this paper from Refs. [32, 41] belongs to a broad and hot topic called "state certification (state verification)" [21, 38]. One conceptual contribution of this paper is providing the first concrete example of the effective use of these techniques for quantum distributed verification.

## 2 dQMA protocols

We consider a decision problem on a connected graph (called the network) G = (V, E), where t inputs  $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_t$  are assigned to t nodes  $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_t \in V$ . We interpret the decision problem as a Boolean function f, where  $f(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_t) = 1$  is interpreted as "yes" and  $f(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_t) = 0$  is interpreted as "no".

The concept of distributed quantum Merlin-Arthur (dQMA) protocols on a graph G = (V, E) is a quantum version of the concept of distributed Merlin-Arthur (dMA) protocols. The aim of a dMA protocol is to verify whether  $f(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_t) = 1$  or not. As briefly explained in Section 1.1, the nodes of G (which correspond to the verifier) first receive a message from a powerful but possibly malicious party (the prover). The nodes then enter a verification phase, in which they communicate together (but do not communicate with the prover anymore). The communication is possible only if two nodes are connected: each node can send one message to each of its neighbors. In the case of dQMA protocols, the only difference is that the message from the prover and the communication among the nodes may be quantum. Note that neither randomness nor entanglement are shared among the nodes in advance.

Formally, in a dQMA protocol  $\mathcal{P}$  on G = (V, E), each node  $u \in V$  first receives a quantum register  $\mathsf{M}_u$  from the prover. Then the nodes move to the verification stage, which consists of the following steps: (i) u applies a local quantum (or classical) operation on the composite system of  $\mathsf{M}_u$  and its private register  $\mathsf{V}_u$ ; (ii) u sends a quantum (or classical) register  $\mathsf{M}_{uv}$ to any neighboring node v, and (iii) u applies a local quantum (or classical) operation on  $\mathsf{M}_u$ ,  $\mathsf{V}_u$ , and  $\otimes_{v \in N(u)} \mathsf{M}_{vu}$ , and either accepts or rejects (we call this the decision of u), where N(u)denotes the set of nodes that are neighbors of u. When local operations at each node and communication among the nodes in the verification stage are classical, the dQMA protocol is called *LOCC* (Local Operation and Classical Communication).

The two main complexity measures of  $\mathcal{P}$  are the certificate size and the message size. The certificate size of  $\mathcal{P}$ , denoted as  $s_c^{\mathcal{P}}$ , is the maximum number of qubits that are sent to each node from the prover, that is,  $s_c^{\mathcal{P}} := \max_{u \in V} |\mathsf{M}_u|$ , where  $|\mathsf{R}|$  denotes the number of qubits of  $\mathsf{R}$ . The message size of  $\mathcal{P}$ , denoted as  $s_m^{\mathcal{P}}$ , is the maximum number of qubits sent on edges of G, namely,  $s_m^{\mathcal{P}} := \max_{(u,v) \in E} (|\mathsf{M}_{uv}| + |\mathsf{M}_{vu}|)$ .

A dQMA protocol  $\mathcal{P}$  for a decision problem f on G with completeness  $p_c$  and soundness  $p_s$  is defined as a dQMA protocol satisfying the following two conditions:

(completeness) If  $f(x_1, x_2, ..., x_t) = 1$ , there exists some quantum state  $|\chi\rangle$  on  $\mathsf{M} := \bigotimes_{u \in V} \mathsf{M}_u$  such that  $\Pr[\text{all nodes accept}] \ge p_c$ ;

(soundness) If  $f(x_1, x_2, ..., x_t) = 0$ , for any quantum state  $|\chi\rangle$  on M, Pr[all nodes accept]  $\leq p_s$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For SetEquality<sub> $\ell,U$ </sub>, the certificate size of their protocol can be written as  $O(\log |U| + \log(\ell |V|))$ .

In this paper, we consider the problem of generating a quantum state  $|\varphi\rangle$  on a network G = (V, E). In this problem, some initially specified nodes  $w_1, \ldots, w_\kappa$  not only make their decisions (accept or reject) but also output the quantum state  $|\varphi\rangle$  jointly (if they accept). In our specific problem, the *n*-qubit SGDI<sub>r</sub>, all nodes of the line graph with nodes  $v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_r$  have an input  $(v_0$  has a classical description of  $|\psi\rangle$  and  $v_j$  for  $j = 1, 2, \ldots, r$  has a classical description of  $U_j$ ,  $|\varphi\rangle = |\varphi_r\rangle$  (:=  $U_r \cdots U_1 |\psi\rangle$ ),  $\kappa = 1$ , and  $w_1 = v_r$ .

In a dQMA protocol for the problem of generating  $|\varphi\rangle$  on G, the completeness and soundness conditions are slightly different from the case of decision problems. For our purpose we actually only need to discuss perfect-completeness protocols. We say that the dQMA protocol has perfect completeness and  $(\delta, \varepsilon)$ -soundness if the following completeness and soundness are satisfied:

(completeness) There exists a quantum state  $|\chi\rangle$  on M such that

Pr[all nodes accept and  $w_1, \ldots, w_{\kappa}$  output  $|\varphi\rangle$  jointly] = 1;

(soundness) If all nodes accept with probability at least  $\delta$ , then the output  $\tilde{\rho}$  of  $w_1, \ldots, w_{\kappa}$  (under the condition that all nodes accept) satisfies

 $\langle \varphi | \tilde{\rho} | \varphi \rangle \geq 1 - \varepsilon.$ 

The soundness condition is regarded as a kind of hypothesis testing (i.e., if the verifier's test passes with probability greater than a threshold, then the state would be close to the ideal one). A similar completeness-soundness condition is used for the interactive proofs for synthesizing quantum states [35].

## **3** dQMA Protocol for State Generation with Distributed Inputs

In this section we present our dQMA protocol for the *n*-qubit State Generation with Distributed Inputs over the line of length r (*n*-qubit SGDI<sub>r</sub>) and prove Theorem 1.

## 3.1 dQMA protocol for SGDI

The following is our dQMA protocol for n-qubit SGDI<sub>r</sub>.

**Protocol**  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDI}}$ : Let  $k = 144cr^{2+\eta}$  and  $m = 2cnk^2(r+1)^{1+\eta}$  for any constant c > 0 and any small constant  $\eta \ge 0$ .

- 1.  $v_0$  prepares (m+k+1) copies of  $|\psi\rangle$  in *n*-qubit registers  $\mathsf{R}_{0,j}$   $(j=1,2,\ldots,m+k+1)$ .
- **2.** The prover sends each  $v_l$ , where l = 1, 2, ..., r, (m + k + 1) *n*-qubit registers  $\mathsf{R}_{l,1}, \mathsf{R}_{l,2}, \ldots, \mathsf{R}_{l,m+k+1}$ .
- **3.** Each  $v_l$  (l = 1, 2, ..., r) permutes the (m + k + 1) registers  $\mathsf{R}_{l,1}, \mathsf{R}_{l,2}, ..., \mathsf{R}_{l,m+k+1}$  by a permutation  $\pi$  on  $\{1, 2, ..., m + k + 1\}$  taken uniformly at random, and renames  $\mathsf{R}_{l,j} := \mathsf{R}_{l,\pi(j)}$ .
- 4. The parties  $v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_r$  implement the following subprotocol  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDIV}}$  (a modification of the verification steps in Ref. [10]) on registers  $\mathsf{R}_{0,j}, \mathsf{R}_{1,j}, \ldots, \mathsf{R}_{r,j}$  for each  $j = 2, 3, \ldots, k+1$  in order. If some party rejects for some j, the protocol rejects.
- **5.**  $v_r$  outputs  $\mathsf{R}_{r,1}$ .

**Protocol**  $\mathcal{P}_{\text{SGDIV}}$ : Assume that  $v_0$  has  $|\psi\rangle$  on *n*-qubit register  $\mathsf{R}_0$ , and  $v_l$  (l = 1, 2, ..., r) receives *n*-qubit register  $\mathsf{R}_l$ .

- 1. For every j = 0, 1, ..., r 1, party  $v_j$  chooses a bit  $b_j$  uniformly at random, and sends its register  $\mathsf{R}_j$  to the right neighbor  $v_{j+1}$  whenever  $b_j = 0$ .
- 2. For every j = 1, 2, ..., r, if  $v_j$  receives a register from the left neighbor  $v_{j-1}$ , and if  $b_j = 1$ , then  $v_j$  applies  $U_j$  on register  $\mathsf{R}_{j-1}$ , and performs the SWAP test on the registers  $(\mathsf{R}_{j-1}, \mathsf{R}_j)$ , and accepts or rejects accordingly; Otherwise,  $v_j$  accepts.

We can show the following theorem, which induces Theorem 1 by a special case with  $\eta = 0$ .

▶ **Theorem 6.** Protocol  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDI}}$  has perfect completeness and  $(\frac{1}{(cr^{\eta})^{1/4}}, \frac{1}{(cr^{\eta})^{1/4}})$ -soundness. The certificate size of  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDI}}$  is  $O(n^2r^{5+3\eta})$  and the message size is  $O(nr^{2+\eta})$ .

## 3.2 Proof of Theorem 6

We can see that the certificate size of  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDI}}$  is  $(m+k+1)n = O(n^2 r^{5+3\eta})$  from step 2 of  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDI}}$ . Since  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDI}}$  implements  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDIV}}$  (k+1) times, and the message size of  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDI}}$  is O(n), the message size of  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDI}}$  is  $O(nk) = O(nr^{2+\eta})$ .

The completeness clearly holds: since the prover honestly sends

 $|\varphi_l\rangle := U_l \cdots U_1 |\psi\rangle$ 

as the content of  $\mathsf{R}_{l,j}$  for each  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, m + k + 1\}$  and then all the SWAP tests in  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{SGDIV}}$  accept with probability 1.

The proof of the soundness can be found in the full version.

## 4 Application: dQMA Protocol for Set Equality

In this section we prove Theorem 2 by constructing a protocol for  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  based on the protocol for  $\mathsf{SGDI}_r$  developed in Section 3.

**Proof of Theorem 2.** We consider  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  (Definition 1) for the line graph of length r with nodes  $v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_r$ , where  $v_j$  has  $a_{j,1}, \ldots, a_{j,\ell}$  and  $b_{j,1}, \ldots, b_{j,\ell}$ . Let  $\alpha_j(s) := \prod_{i \in \{1,2,\ldots,\ell\}} (s-a_{j,i})$  and  $\beta_j(s) := \prod_{i \in \{1,2,\ldots,\ell\}} (s-b_{j,i})$  for each  $j \in \{0,1,\ldots,r\}$ . We identify  $a_{u,i}, b_{u,i}$  as elements in a finite field  $\mathbb{F}$  with size  $|\mathbb{F}| \geq \tilde{c}\ell(r+1)2^{\log|U|}$  for some (sufficiently large) constant  $\tilde{c} > 0$ . Our goal is the same as of the interactive protocol of [33] – the node  $v_r$  checks if two polynomials  $p_A(s) := \prod_{j \in \{0,1,\ldots,r\}} \alpha_j(s)$  and  $p_B(s) := \prod_{j \in \{0,1,\ldots,r\}} \beta_j(s)$  take the same value for uniform randomly chosen  $s \in \mathbb{F}$ , where s is distributed by the interaction. In order to implement this idea in a non-interactive way, we utilize the framework of SGDI as follows: Let

$$|\psi\rangle := \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\mathbb{F}|}} \sum_{s \in \mathbb{F}} |s\rangle |\alpha_0(s)\rangle$$

be the initial state that the node  $v_0$  can locally produce. Each node  $v_j, j \in \{1, 2, ..., r\}$ has a unitary transformation  $U_j$  which maps  $|s\rangle|\alpha_{j-1}(s)\rangle$  to  $|s\rangle|\alpha_j(s)\rangle$  (to be precise, we also need to deal with the case where  $\alpha_j(s)$  is a zero polynomial). Using the protocol for SGDI in Theorem 1, the node  $v_r$  outputs the state  $|\varphi_r\rangle = U_r \cdots U_1 |\psi\rangle$ , which is the uniform

superposition of  $|s\rangle|p_A(s)\rangle$  over all  $s \in \mathbb{F}$ . Similarly,  $v_r$  also outputs the uniform superposition of  $|s\rangle|p_B(s)\rangle$  over all  $s \in \mathbb{F}$ . Finally,  $v_r$  does the SWAP test for these states, which accepts with high probability if and only if two polynomials are identical (i.e., A = B as multisets) since the two polynomials  $p_A(s)$  and  $p_B(s)$  take different values for most  $s \in \mathbb{F}$  if  $A \neq B$ . In the full version we complete the proof by describing the details of the protocol (which we denote  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{seteq}}$ ) and analyzing it rigorously.

## 4.1 Classical bounds for SetEquality<sub> $\ell,U$ </sub>

Here we prove the classical lower bounds shown in Theorem 3. The proof of Theorem 4 is deferred to the full version.

**Proof of Theorem 3.** In order to prove our lower bounds for  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$ , we utilize reductions from  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  to  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$ , then apply the following lower bound of  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  that appears in [10].

▶ Lemma 1 (Theorem 9 of [10]). Let  $r \ge 3$  be a positive integer. Consider an instance of  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  where the two nodes  $v_0$  and  $v_r$  on a line graph  $v_0, \ldots, v_r$  are provided with inputs  $x \in \{0,1\}^n$  and  $y \in \{0,1\}^n$ . Then, for any dMA protocol that solves  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  for this instance with completeness 1-p and soundness  $1-2p-\varepsilon$  for any  $p, \varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $i \in \{1,\ldots,r-1\}$ such that the certificate size of  $v_i$  is  $\Omega(n)$ .

We show three different reductions depending on the size of |U|. Due to space constraints, we only show the simplest case:  $|U| = \Omega(\ell)$ . The reductions for the other two cases are deferred to the full version.

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a dMA protocol for  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  with the certificate size  $s_c$  which appears in the statement of the theorem. We consider the following instance of  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  on a line graph  $v_0, \ldots, v_r$  of length  $r \geq 3$ : the node  $v_0$  is provided with x, and the node  $v_r$  is provided with y. Let  $\ell$  be the minimum integer satisfying  $\binom{3\ell}{\ell} \geq 2^n$ . Since  $\binom{3\ell}{\ell} = 2^{3\ell H(1/3) - O(\log \ell)}$  where  $H(\cdot)$ is the binary entropy function, we have  $\ell = \Theta(n)$ . Let  $S = \{s \in \{0,1\}^{3\ell} : |s| = \ell\}$  be the set of  $3\ell$ -bit strings so that  $|S| = \binom{3\ell}{\ell}$ . We arbitrarily choose one injection  $f : \{0,1\}^n \to S$ (this kind of injection exists since we have  $|S| \geq 2^n$ ). The network constructs the following instance of  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  for the universal set  $U = \{0, 1, 2, \ldots, 3\ell\}$  without communication: The inputs x and y are converted to  $f(x), f(y) \in S$ . Let  $X = \{i : f(x)_i = 1\}$  and

 $Y = \{i : f(y)_i = 1\} \text{ be two sets of } \ell \text{ elements from the universal set } \{1, 2, \dots, 3\ell\}. X$ and Y are regarded as the inputs  $(a_{v_0,1}, \dots, a_{v_0,\ell})$  and  $(b_{v_r,1}, \dots, b_{v_r,\ell})$  of SetEquality<sub> $\ell,U$ </sub>. Furthermore, we set  $(b_{v_0,1}, \dots, b_{v_0,\ell}) = (a_{v_r,1}, \dots, a_{v_r,\ell}) = (0, \dots, 0).$ 

The inputs to each internal node  $v_1, \ldots, v_{r-1}$  are set to  $(0, \ldots, 0), (0, \ldots, 0)$ .

Now the set A and B of this instance of  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  are identical as multisets if and only if f(x) = f(y). Since f is an injection, we have  $f(x) = f(y) \Leftrightarrow x = y$  and thus the output of  $\mathsf{SetEquality}_{\ell,U}$  on this instance is identical to that of  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  on the input x and y. Now we can use the protocol  $\mathcal{P}$  to solve  $\mathsf{EQ}_n^2$  for  $n = \Theta(\ell)$ . Thus by Lemma 1, we have  $s_c = \Omega(\ell)$ .

## 5 Conversion of dQMA protocols into LOCC dQMA protocols

In this section we show how to create an EPR pair  $|\Phi^+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|00\rangle + |11\rangle)$  between two parties without quantum communication in the setting where a prover helps the nodes in a non-interactive way. Our protocol is based on the verification protocol of the EPR pair in the adversarial setting proposed by Zhu and Hayashi [41] (see also [39, 40]), who showed that a verifier V can check whether a two-qubit state sent from a (possibly malicious) prover is  $|\Phi^+\rangle$ .

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The following is the verification protocol given in Ref. [41].

**Protocol**  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZH}}$ : Let  $\mathsf{R}_1, \mathsf{R}_2, \ldots, \mathsf{R}_N, \mathsf{R}_{N+1}$  be (N+1) two-qubit registers from the prover. Here,  $|+\rangle := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle), |-\rangle := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle - |1\rangle), |+\rangle := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + i|1\rangle)$  and  $|-'\rangle := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle - i|1\rangle).$ 

- 1. Perform a random permutation  $\pi$  on the (N+1) two-qubit registers, and rename  $\mathsf{R}_{i} := \mathsf{R}_{\pi(i)}$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N+1$ .
- 2. For each j = 1, 2, ..., N, the verifier V does one of the following three POVMs on register  $R_i$  with probability 1/3 for each:
  - $M_1 = \{E_1, I E_1\} \text{ with } E_1 = |00\rangle\langle 00| + |11\rangle\langle 11|.$
  - $M_2 = \{E_2, I E_2\} \text{ with } E_2 = |++\rangle \langle ++|+|--\rangle \langle --|. \\ M_3 = \{E_3, I E_3\} \text{ with } E_3 = |+'-'\rangle \langle +'-'|+|-'+'\rangle \langle -'+'|.$
- 3. Reject if the second components in the POVMs are obtained. Otherwise, the test passes and outputs  $R_{N+1}$ .

Ref. [41] describes 
$$E_1 = \frac{I+Z^{\otimes 2}}{2}$$
,  $E_2 = \frac{I+X^{\otimes 2}}{2}$  and  $E_3 = \frac{I-Y^{\otimes 2}}{2}$ , where  $X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1\\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i\\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , and  $Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0\\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,

while we rewrite them as above (which is a similar expression to the protocol in Ref. [34]) since it would be easy to see for our purpose. Importantly, step 2 implements the POVM  $\{\Omega, I - \Omega\}$  on  $\mathsf{R}_j$  with  $\Omega = \frac{2}{3} |\Phi^+\rangle \langle \Phi^+| + \frac{1}{3}I$  for each j, but it is implemented by local measurements on each qubit of  $R_i$ .

The following result was shown for the protocol  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZH}}$  in Ref. [41].

▶ Theorem 7 (Zhu-Hayashi). There is a number  $N = O(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log(\frac{1}{\delta}))$  such that if the test passed with probability at least  $\delta$ , then the output state  $\tilde{\sigma}$  of  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZH}}$  (under the condition that the test passes) satisfies  $\langle \Phi^+ | \tilde{\sigma} | \Phi^+ \rangle \ge 1 - \varepsilon$ .

The protocol  $\mathcal{P}_{ZH}$  uses only local measurements, and thus, it can be used for verifying the sharing of an EPR pair by two parties who only use local operations and classical communication (LOCC).

Let  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  be neighboring parties who expect to receive  $|\Phi^+\rangle$  jointly from the prover. The following protocol is a simple implementation of  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZH}}$  with LOCC by  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ .

**Protocol**  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZHLOCC}}$ : Let  $\mathsf{R}_{1,1}, \ldots, \mathsf{R}_{N,1}, \mathsf{R}_{N+1,1}$  be (N+1) one-qubit registers from the prover to  $V_1$ , and  $\mathsf{R}_{1,2},\ldots,\mathsf{R}_{N,2},\mathsf{R}_{N+1,2}$  be (N+1) one-qubit registers from the prover to  $V_2$ , respectively.

- 1.  $V_1$  chooses a random permutation  $\pi$  on  $\{1, 2, \ldots, N + 1\}$  and sends it to  $V_2$ , and then both perform  $\pi$  on the (N + 1) two-qubit registers  $(\mathsf{R}_{1,1},\mathsf{R}_{1,2}),\ldots,(\mathsf{R}_{N,1},\mathsf{R}_{N,2}),(\mathsf{R}_{N+1,1},\mathsf{R}_{N+1,2})$ . Rename  $\mathsf{R}_{j,1}:=\mathsf{R}_{\pi(j),1}$  and  $\mathsf{R}_{j,2}:=$  $R_{\pi(j),2}$ .
- 2.  $V_1$  chooses N random numbers  $k_1, k_2, \ldots, k_N \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  and sends them to  $V_2$ . For each j = 1, 2, ..., N,  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  implement one of the POVMs  $M_1, M_2, M_3$  on register  $(\mathsf{R}_{i,1},\mathsf{R}_{i,2})$  jointly as follows.
  - when  $k_j = 1$ , they jointly implement  $M_1 = \{E_1, I E_1\}$ ;  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  measure  $\mathsf{R}_{j,1}$ and  $\mathsf{R}_{j,2}$  in the Z basis  $\{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$ , respectively, and  $V_1$  sends the measurement value to  $V_2$ , who rejects iff it differs from the measurement value of  $V_2$ .

- when  $k_j = 2$ , they jointly implement  $M_2 = \{E_2, I E_2\}$ ;  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  measure  $\mathsf{R}_{j,1}$ and  $\mathsf{R}_{j,2}$  in the X basis  $\{|+\rangle, |-\rangle\}$ , respectively, and  $V_1$  sends the measurement value to  $V_2$ , who rejects iff it differs from the measurement value of  $V_2$ .
- when  $k_j = 3$ , they jointly implement  $M_3 = \{E_3, I E_3\}$ ;  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  measure  $\mathsf{R}_{j,1}$ and  $\mathsf{R}_{j,2}$  in the Y basis  $\{|+'\rangle, |-'\rangle\}$ , respectively, and  $V_1$  sends the measurement value to  $V_2$ , who rejects iff it is same as the measurement value of  $V_2$ .
- **3.** The test passes and  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  output  $\mathsf{R}_{N+1,1}$  and  $\mathsf{R}_{N+1,2}$ , respectively.

It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZHLOCC}}$  simulates  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZH}}$  exactly in a distributed manner. The protocol  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZHLOCC}}$  does not use any quantum communication between  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ , while the amount of classical communication used between  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  is  $\lceil \log(N+1)! \rceil + \lceil \log 3^N \rceil + N = O(N \log N)$ .

Furthermore, we can replace a random permutation  $\pi$  in step 1 of  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZHLOCC}}$  by switching the *j*th two-qubit register  $(\mathsf{R}_{j,1},\mathsf{R}_{j,2})$  and the (N+1)th register  $(\mathsf{R}_{N+1,1},\mathsf{R}_{N+1,2})$  by choosing *j* uniformly at random from  $\{1, 2, \ldots, N+1\}$  (actually, doing nothing when j = N+1) since the output state by such change is the same as protocol  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathsf{ZHLOCC}}$ . We call the protocol by such change  $\mathcal{P}^+_{\mathsf{ZHLOCC}}$ . Now the amount of classical communication used between  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ in  $\mathcal{P}^+_{\mathsf{ZHLOCC}}$  is improved to  $\lceil \log(N+1) \rceil + \lceil \log 3^N \rceil + N = O(N)$ .

Thus the following theorem holds for  $\mathcal{P}^+_{\mathsf{ZHLOCC}}$ .

▶ **Theorem 8.** For the same number  $N = O(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log(\frac{1}{\delta}))$  as Theorem 7, if the test passed with at least probability  $\delta$ , then the two-qubit state  $\tilde{\sigma}$  output by  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  in  $\mathcal{P}^+_{\mathsf{ZHLOCC}}$  satisfies  $\langle \Phi^+ | \tilde{\sigma} | \Phi^+ \rangle \geq 1 - \varepsilon$ .

In the full version, we prove Theorem 5 by showing how to use the protocol  $\mathcal{P}^+_{\mathsf{ZHIOCC}}$ .

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