

# Progress on Quantum Network Coding

Debbie Leung<sup>1</sup> & Jonathan Oppenheim<sup>2</sup> & Andreas Winter<sup>3</sup>

1: IQC, U Waterloo (+PI)

\$\_{1}\$:[CRC, CFI, OIT, NSERC, CIAR]

2: U Cambridge

3: U Bristol

## Attitude/personality test:

*Q1. If you're to give a talk titled "quantum network coding" , how would you motivate it?*

(a) It's our future ! You're a cheerful optimist. You may have some problem coping with reality.

(b) To control something (q-sys), you get to understand it ! You're strategic & cautious in your pursuit, though some may call you a control freak.

(c) Who cares ? It's fun ! You know how to enjoy life, good luck with grant apps.

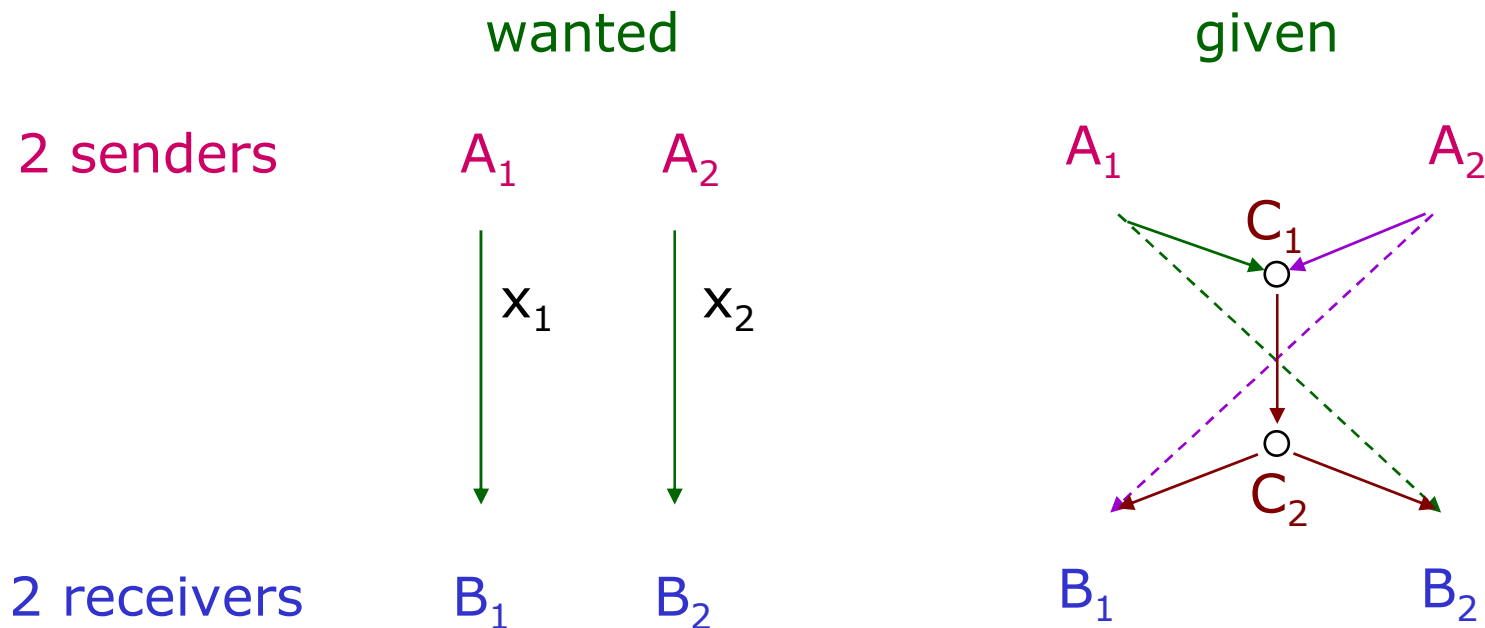
(d) None of the above  
This can't be motivated ! Have a good nap.

## Plan:

- Motivating example (the butterfly network)
  - The Problem & Solution (classical)
  - Prior work in quantum setting
  - Define our problems & solutions
- More general networks
  - Partial results and conjectures

# Motivating example : the butterfly network

The problem (classical):



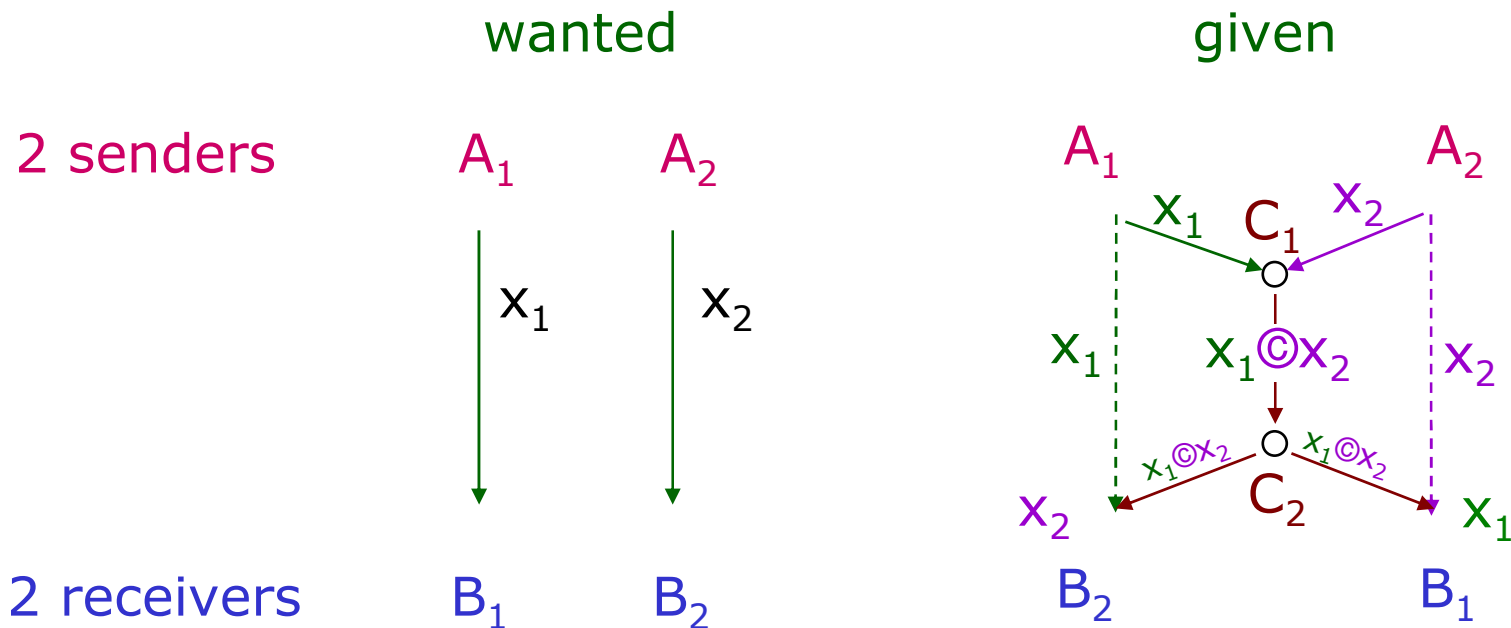
Assumption: "network" (all 7 channels) called as a package  
Qn: how to "best" communicate from  $A_1$  to  $B_1$  and  $A_2$  to  $B_2$ ?

Moving from attitude test to IQ test      Online slides: © should be  $\oplus$

## Motivating example : the butterfly network

For independent bits  $x_1, x_2$ , a "best" defines itself

$B_1, B_2$  both get both  $x_1, x_2$



Assumption: "network" (all 7 channels) called as a package  
Qn: how to "best" communicate from  $A_1$  to  $B_1$  and  $A_2$  to  $B_2$ ?

"Best" -- exact, 1-shot, & individual-rate optimal

Any question about the classical result?

Now, let's go quantum.

## Attitude test (ctd):

*Q2. How would you give the punchline of your result  
"quantum info sent in network is like waterflow  
in pipes, that simple rerouting is optimal  
unlike the classical case" ?*

(a) Due to monogamy of entanglement, quantum information sent in a network is incompressible, thus admitting simple, elegant, optimal solution that has no classical counterpart.

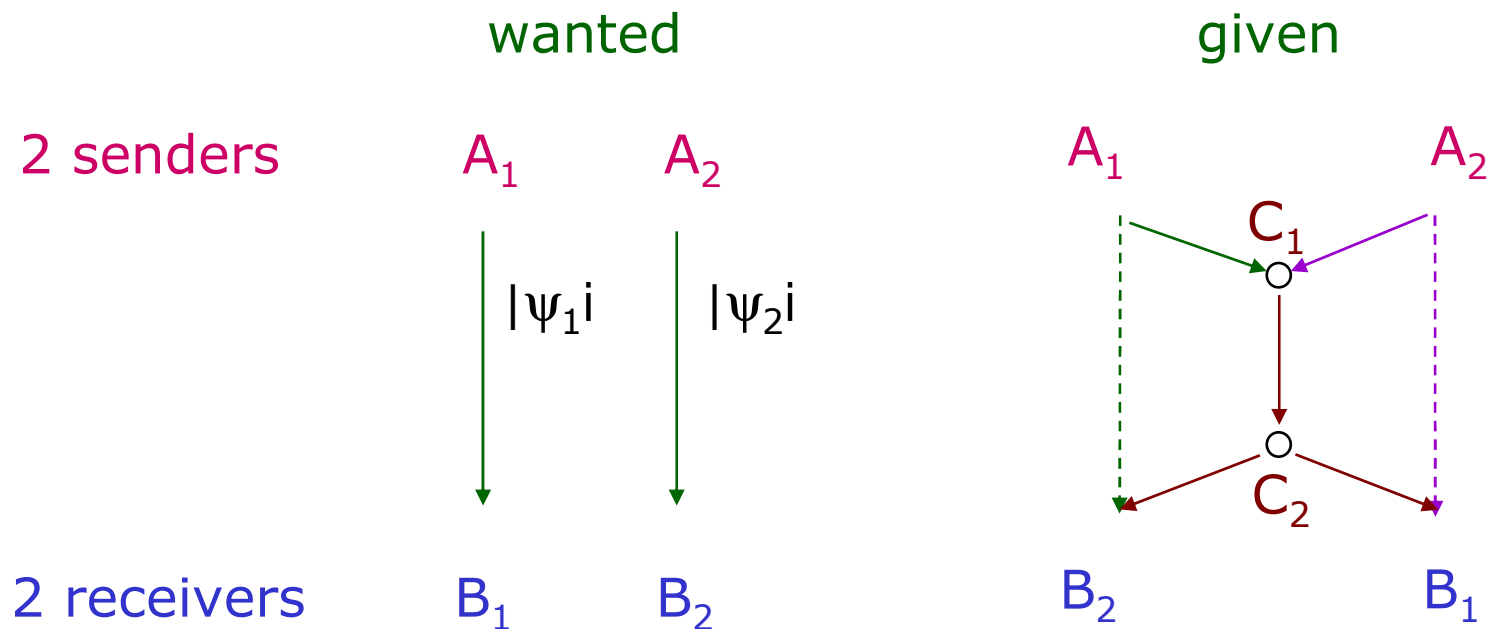
*you're appreciative*

(b) The surprise is the lack of surprise in quantum network coding compared to its classical counterpart.

*you're honest and harsh*

# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$



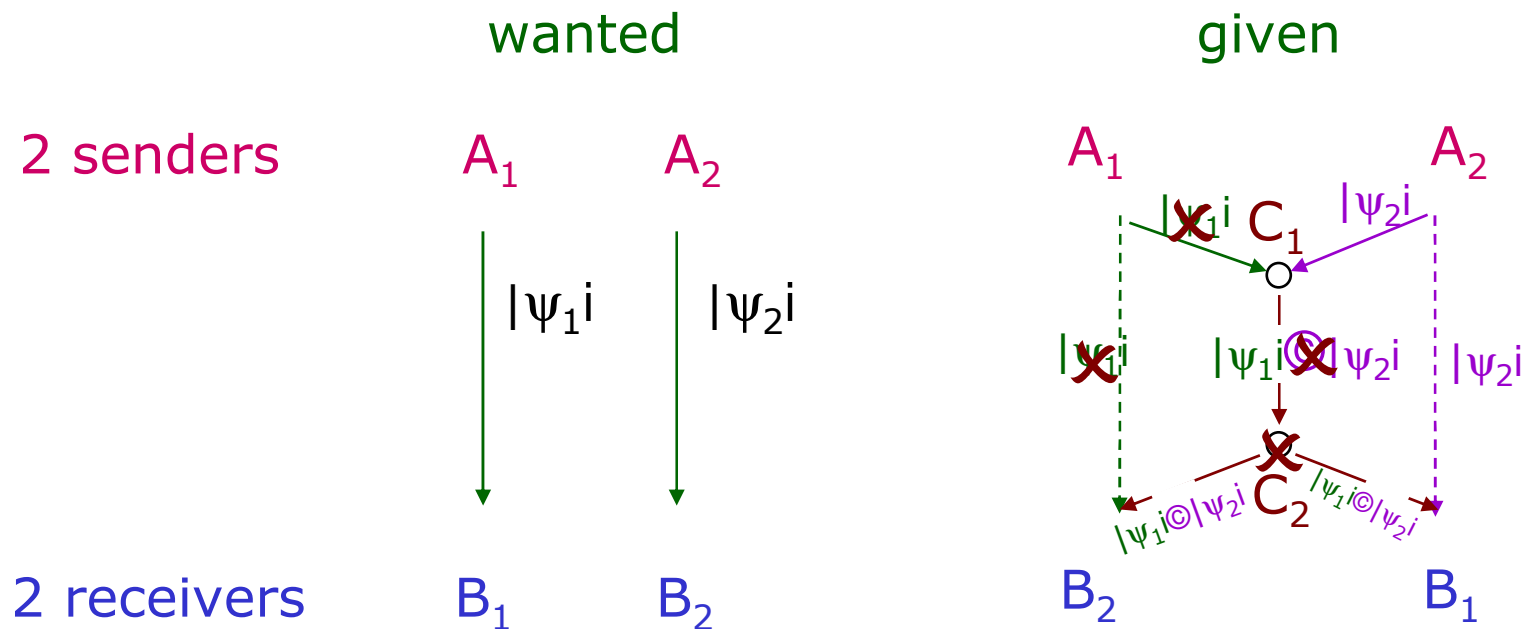
Assumption: "network" (all 7 channels) called as a package  
Qn: how to "best" communicate from  $A_1$  to  $B_1$  and  $A_2$  to  $B_2$ ?



Online slides:  $|\psi_1\rangle$  should be  $|\psi_1\rangle$

## Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  drunkness-test



Assumption: "network" (all 7 channels) called as a package  
Qn: how to "best" communicate from  $A_1$  to  $B_1$  and  $A_2$  to  $B_2$ ?

No all-optimal solution -- need to define notion of optimality

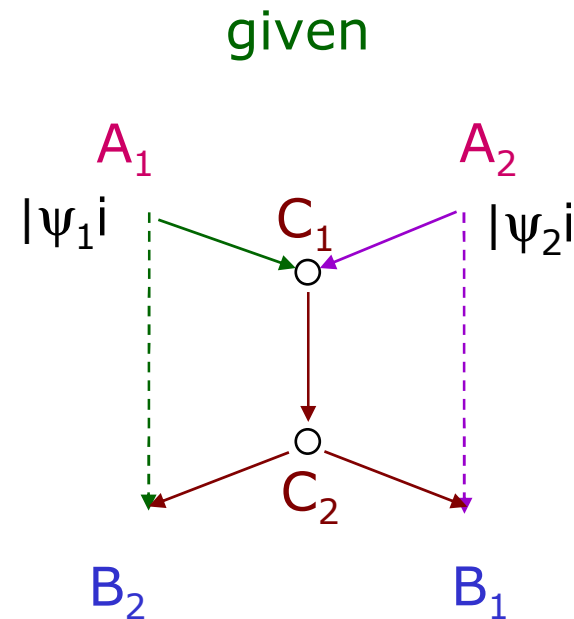
# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$

Prior work: [Hayashi, Iwama,  
Nishimura, Raymond, Yamashita  
0601088] 1-use of network,  
fixed rate, min distortion  
(fidelity  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ ).

Here:

asymptotic:  $n$  uses,  $n_i$ -qubit  $|\psi_i\rangle$   
max #qubits sent per network use  
impose near-perfect transmission  
Study optimal trade-off



Assumption: "network" (all 7 channels) called as a package  
 $Q_n$ : how to "best" communicate from  $A_1$  to  $B_1$  and  $A_2$  to  $B_2$ ?

# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$

Def [achievable rate region]:

If

$n$ -uses of the network enables  
 $n_i$  qubits to be faithfully sent  
from  $A_i$  to  $B_i$ ,

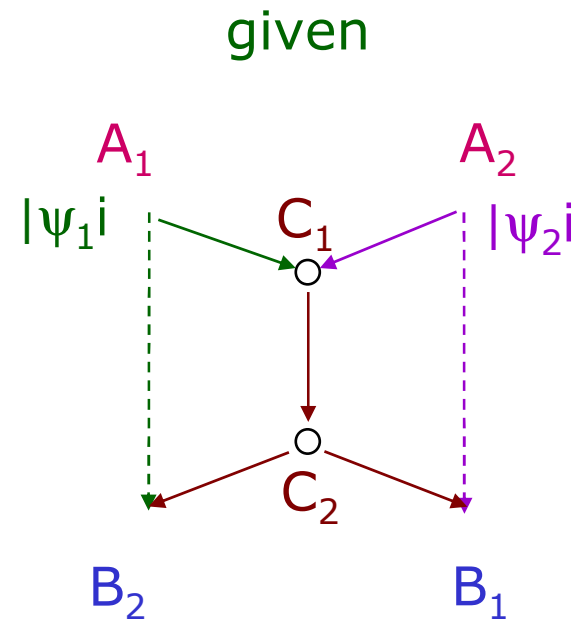
then,

rate pair  $(r_1, r_2) = (n_1/n, n_2/n)$   
is "achievable."

Achievable rate region is the set  
of all achievable rate pairs.

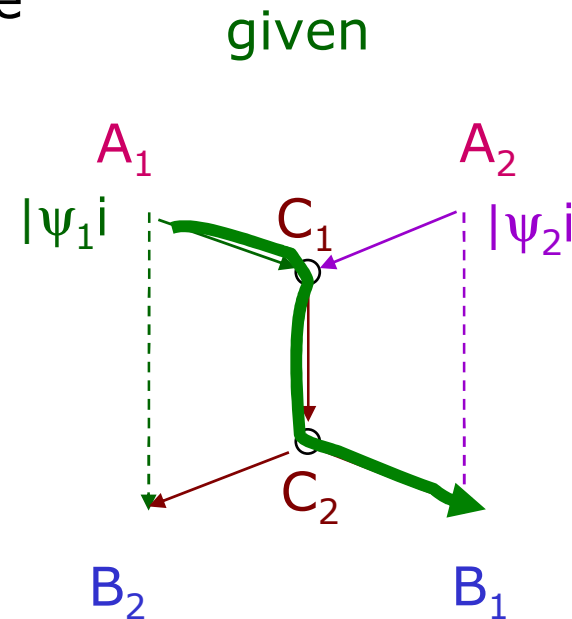
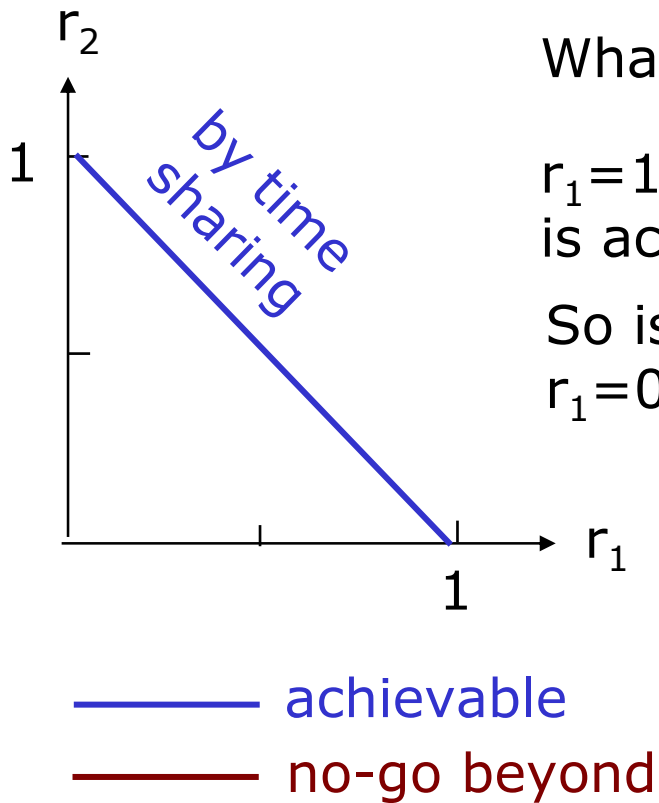
Goal: Find entire achievable rate region

*Will consider various "assistance" (i.e., free auxiliary resources)*



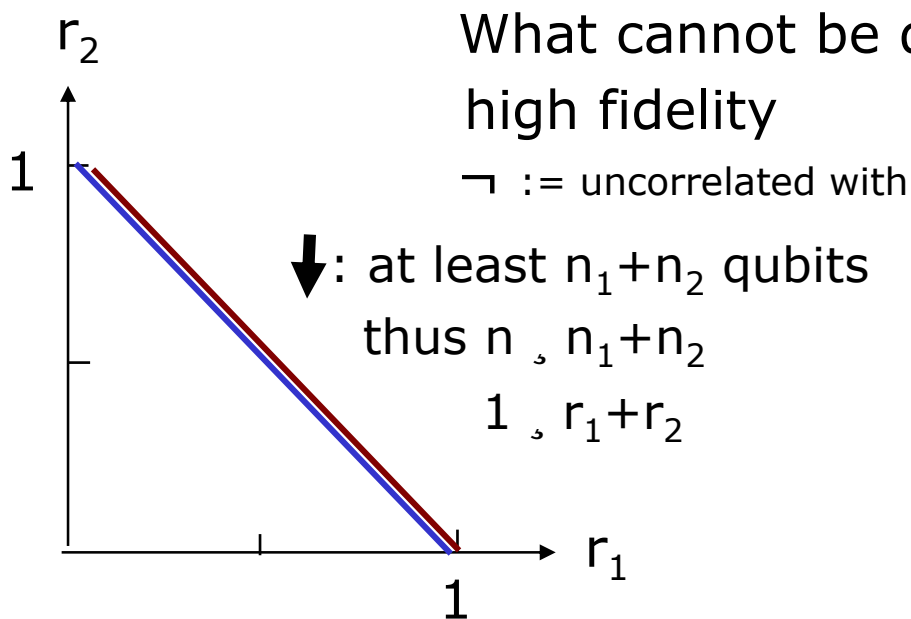
# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  no assistance



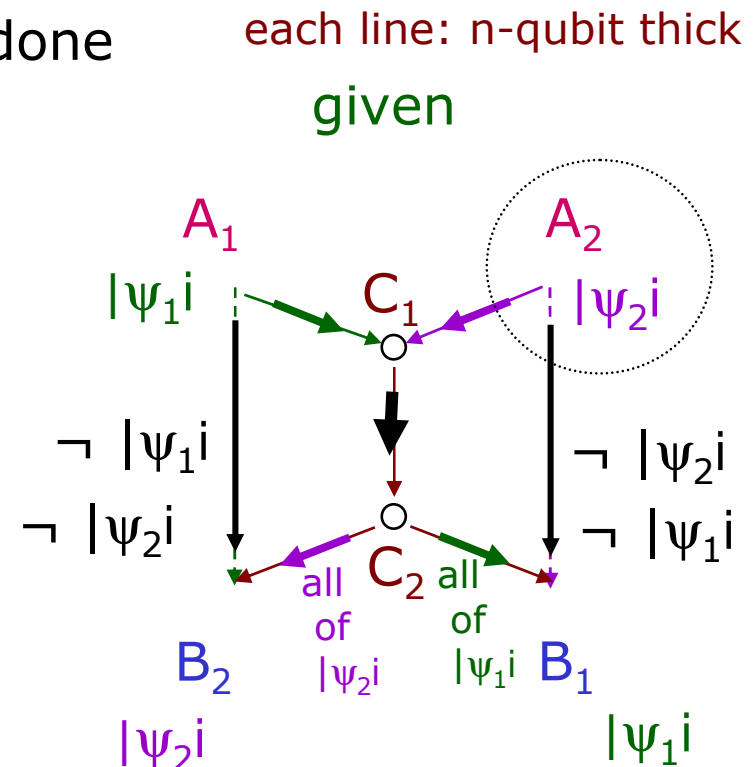
# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  no assistance



— achievable  
— no-go beyond

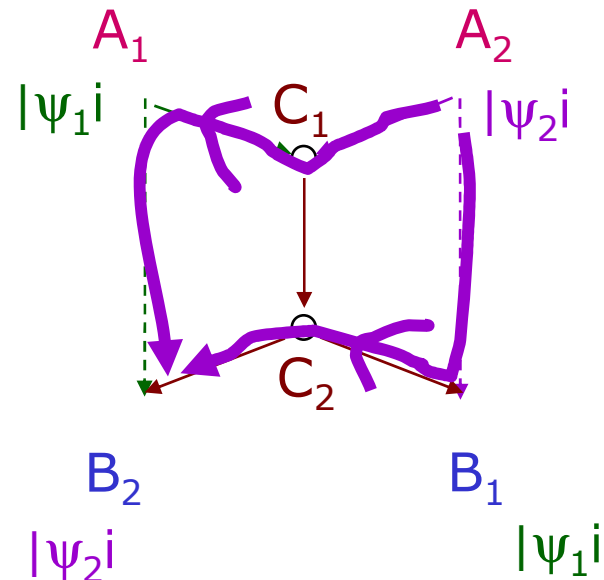
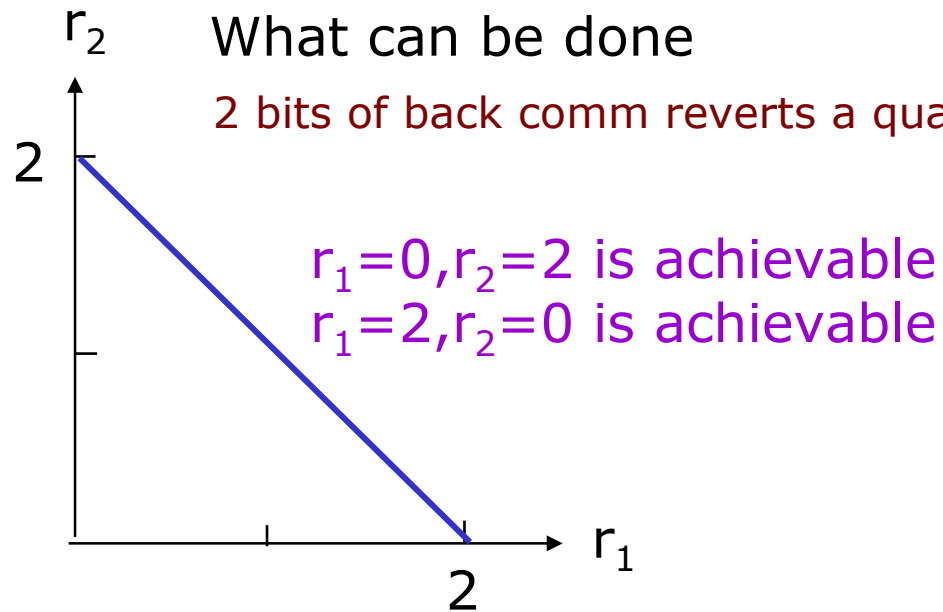
Optimal protocol: time sharing  
between 2 trivial 1-shot solutions



Any question about the quantum case  
with no assistance?

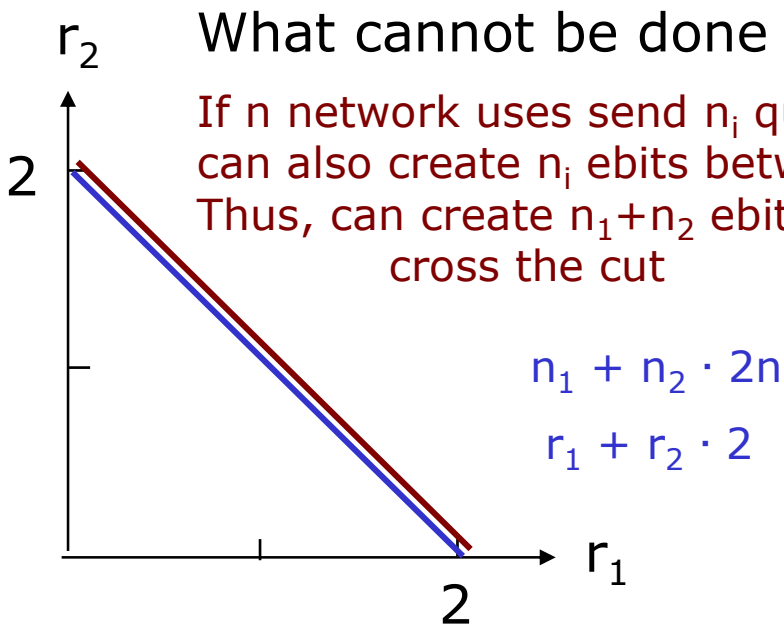
# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  free 2-way CC

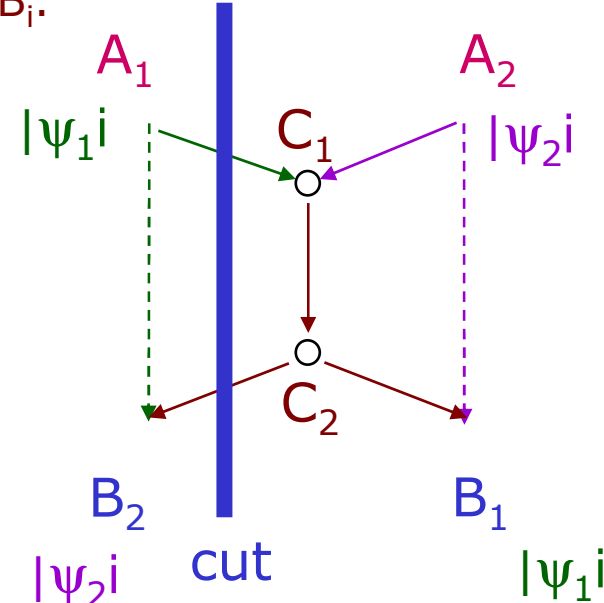


# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  free 2-way CC



— achievable  
— no-go beyond



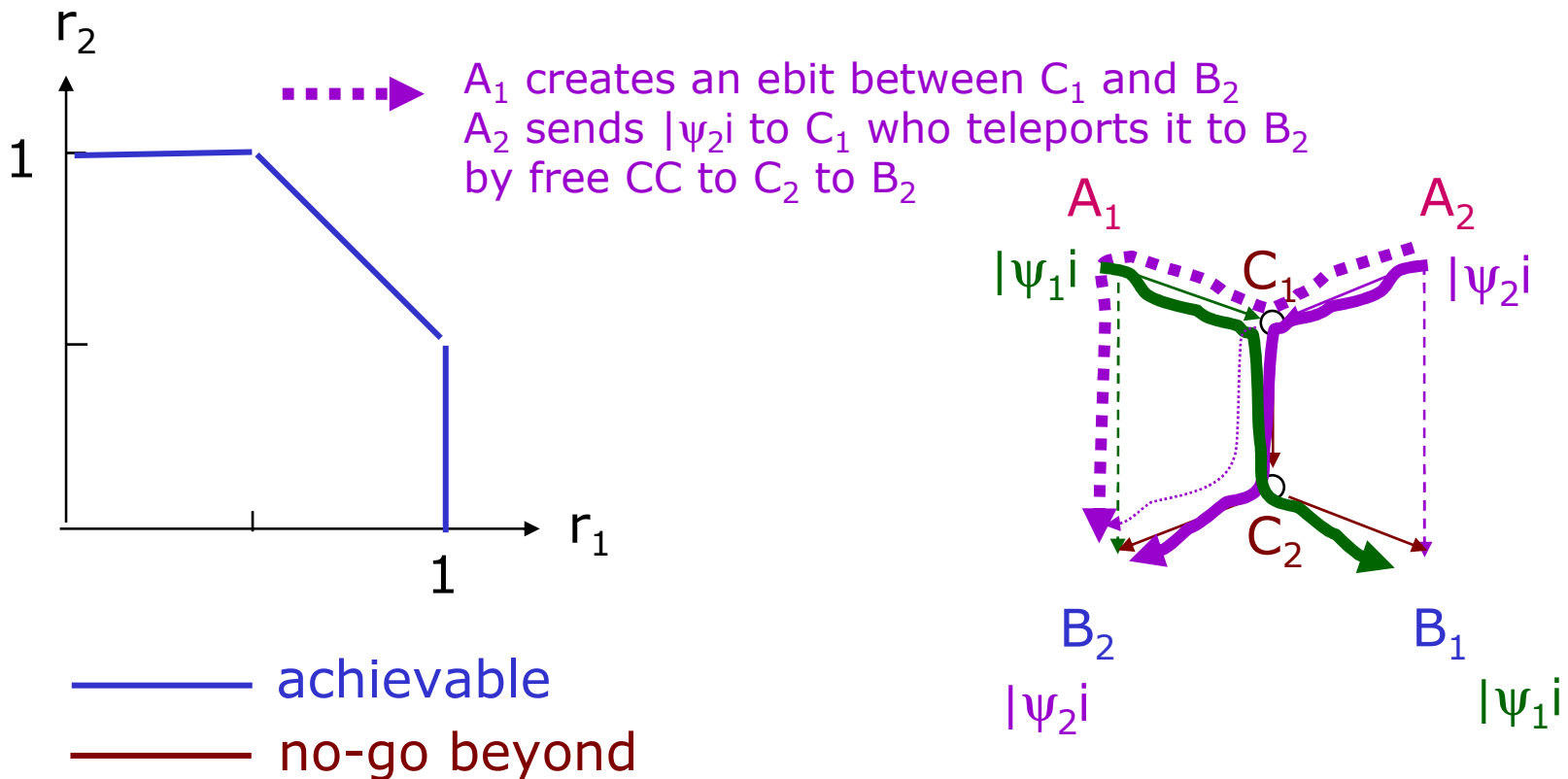
Optimal solution : time sharing of two 1-shot protocols  
Note: free two-way CC no better than 4 bits of back comm



Any question about the quantum case  
with free classical communication assistance?

# Motivating example : the butterfly network

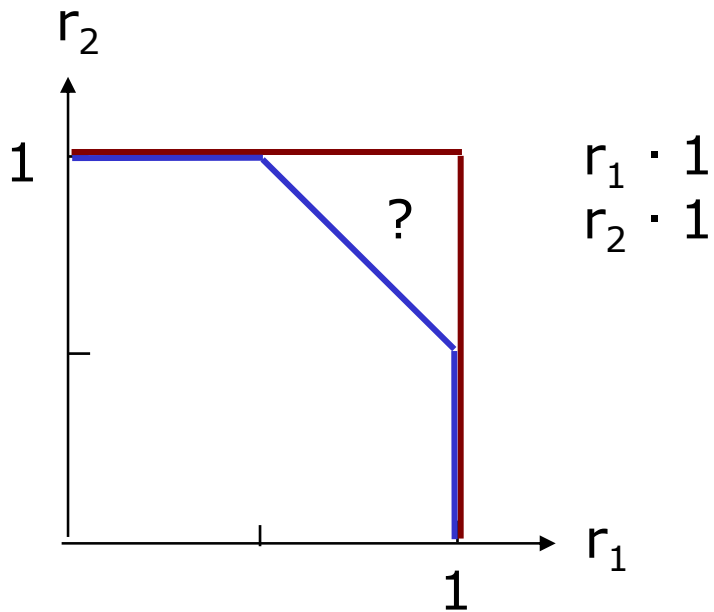
Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  free FORWARD CC



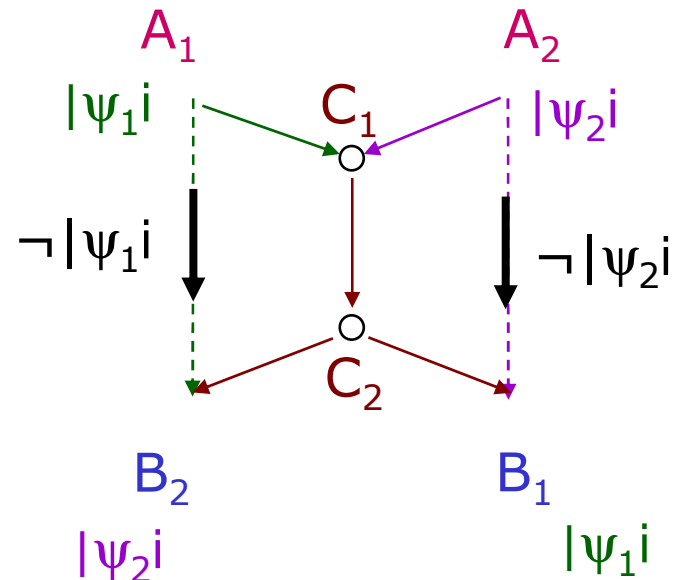
$n_1=1$ ,  $n_2=2$  for  $n=2$ , hence  $(r_1, r_2) = (0.5, 1)$  achievable  
So is  $(1, 0.5)$  by symmetry. Time sharing the two.

# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  free FORWARD CC

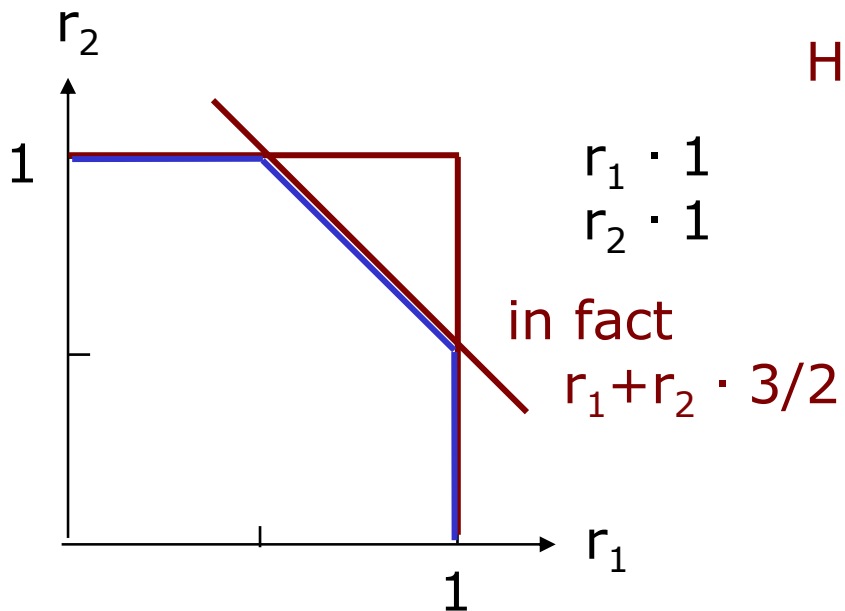


— achievable  
— no-go beyond



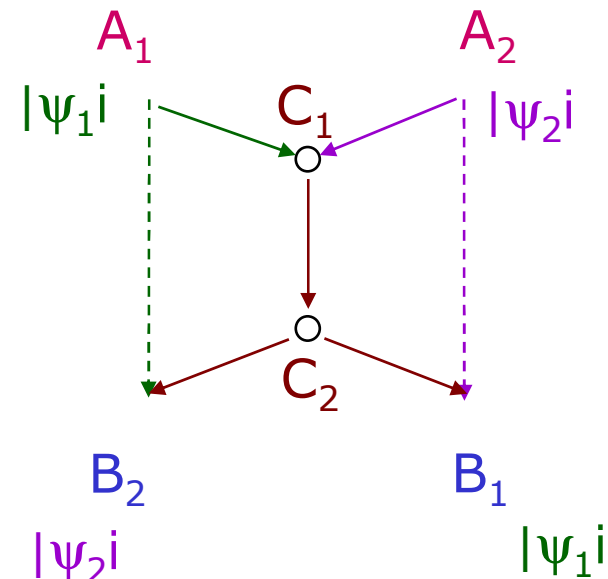
# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  free FORWARD CC



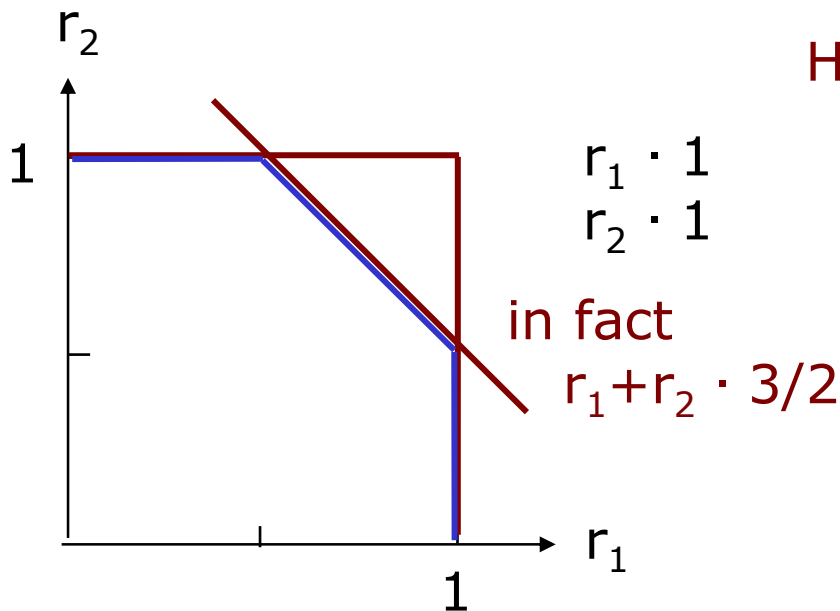
— achievable  
— no-go beyond

How many ways can  $A_2$  send to  $B_2$ ?

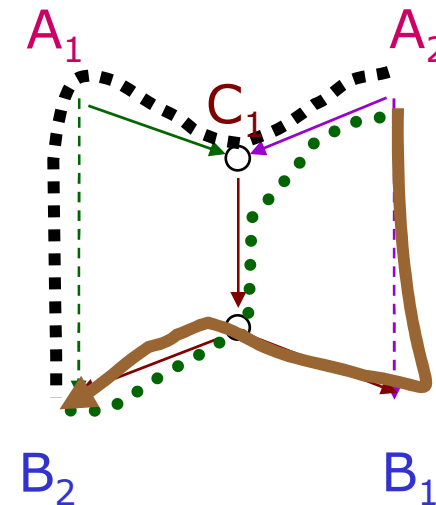


# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  free FORWARD CC



How many ways can  $A_2$  send to  $B_2$ ?

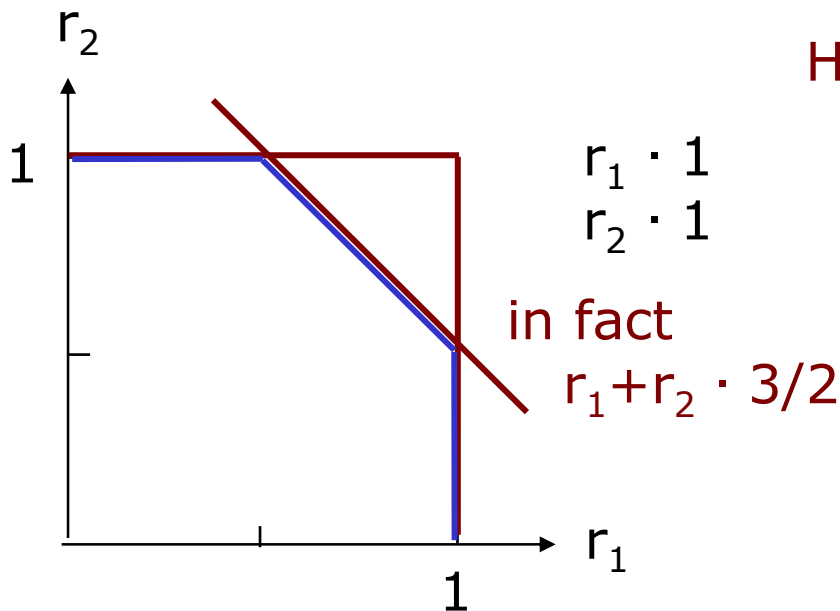


Path via  $B_1$  (a sink) is invalid!

i.e. all comm from  $A_2$  to  $B_2$  goes through  $C_1$ . Similarly for  $A_1$  to  $B_1$

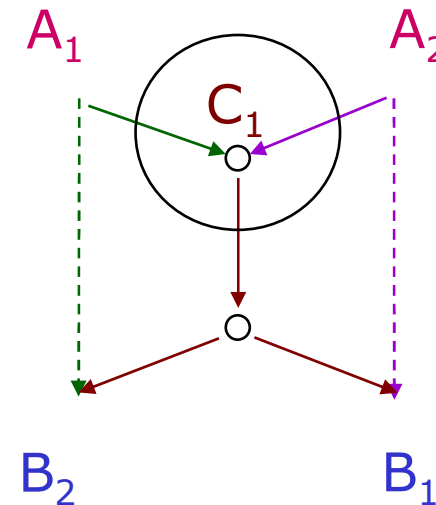
# Motivating example : the butterfly network

Quantum: for independent  $|\psi_1\rangle, |\psi_2\rangle$  free FORWARD CC



— achievable  
— no-go beyond

How many ways can  $A_2$  send to  $B_2$ ?

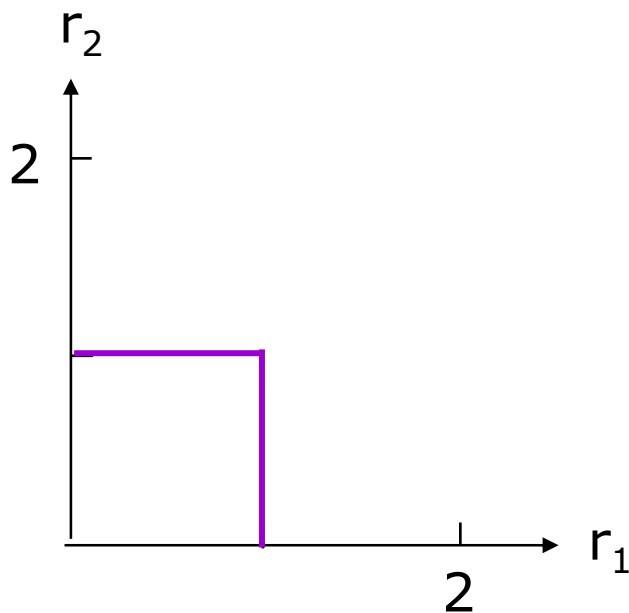


To send a qubit from  $A_i$  to  $B_i$  require 2 edges going in/out of  $C_1$ . Thus, if  $n_1 + n_2$  qubits are sent using  $n$  networks,  $n_1 + n_2 = 3n/2$

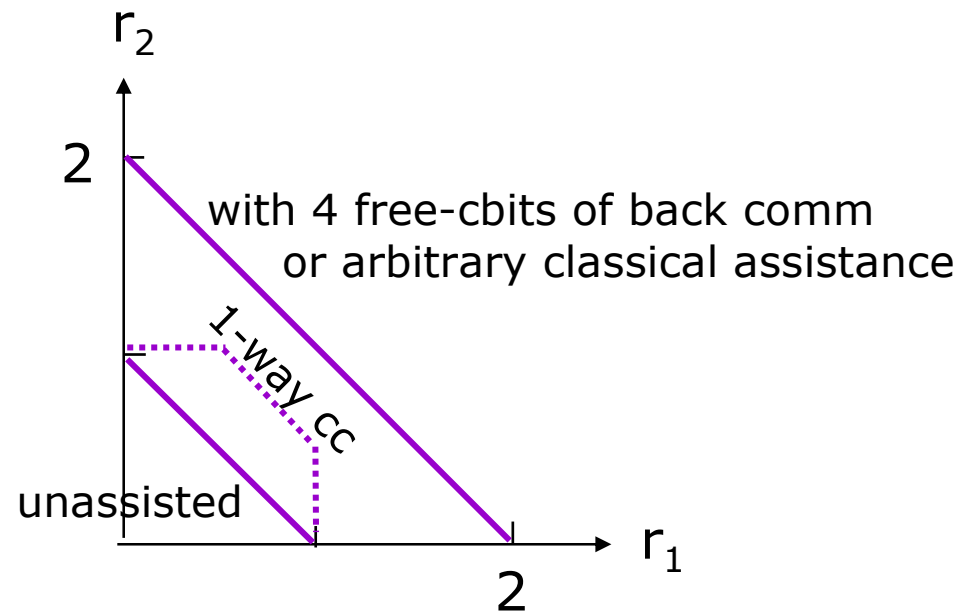
Any question about the quantum case  
with free forward classical communication  
assistance?

# Summary for the butterfly network:

Uniquely optimal  
classical rate region



Rate optimal - high fidelity  
quantum rate regions





## Summary for the butterfly network:

Quantum case:

The surprising is the simplicity (boringness) of the optimal solutions : each "leg" is either used for  $A_1 \rightarrow B_1$  comm or  $A_2 \rightarrow B_2$  comm

Contrast to the classical case, quantum info runs down a network like incompressible water running down pipes.

Does this simplifying feature hold in more general networks?

## Generalization:

- arbitrary number of receivers ( $B_i$ 's)  
(focusing on the case when they are sinks)
- arbitrary number of "helpers" ( $C_i$ 's)
- arbitrary number of senders ( $A_i$ 's) who may also be helpers
- arbitrary directed graph
  - vertices represent players
  - weighted edges represent noiseless channels  
of weighted capacity available in 1 network call

Task: communication of independent messages between specific sender-receiver pairs.

Goal: find asymptotic achievable rate region

# Generalization:

Progress report:

- All cases of classical communication assistance : optimality of "rerouting" holds for "shallow" networks (low depth treating the network as a circuit) 98%
- with back communication, 2 senders, 2 receivers, the mincut method give tight bound on the rate sum 98%
- for broadcasting (sharing a cat state between reference and all receivers, the classical solution holds) 97%
- entanglement-assisted case : trivial "superdense coding protocol" occurs to be optimal, but rigorous proof of optimality needed 93%

Conjecture : rerouting is optimal in general graph in all scenarios 5%

Any other question?

Reference: 0608666  
???

The analysis of the attitude test does NOT  
reflect the opinion of the speaker

Thank you ...