



FernUniversität  
in Hagen

# Comparing the spectrum of Schrödinger operators on quantum graphs

Joint work with J. Kerner (Hagen)

## What is a *metric graph*?

„A metric graph is a collection of intervals glued together at their ends in a certain sense.“

(1)  $E$  (finite) edge set,  $[0, l_e]_{e \in E}$  family of intervals, consider disjoint union

$$\mathcal{E} := \coprod_{e \in E} [0, l_e] := \bigcup_{e \in E} [0, l_e] \times \{e\}.$$

(2) Put  $\mathcal{V} := \coprod_{e \in E} \{0, l_e\}$  vertices,  $\sim$  some equivalence relation on  $\mathcal{V}$ .

(3) Extend this relation  $\sim$  onto  $\mathcal{E}$  via

$$(x_1, e_1) \sim (x_2, e_2) \Leftrightarrow (x_1, e_1) = (x_2, e_2) \text{ or} \\ (x_1, e_1), (x_2, e_2) \in \mathcal{V} \text{ and } (x_1, e_1) \sim (x_2, e_2).$$

(4) Define  $\mathcal{G} := \mathcal{E} / \sim$  *metric graph*,  $E$  edge set,  $\mathcal{V} := \mathcal{V} / \sim$  vertex set.

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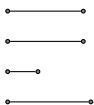
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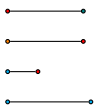
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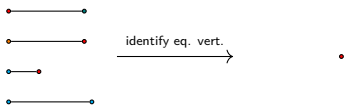
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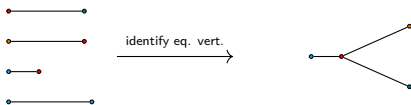
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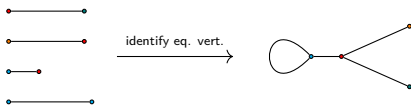
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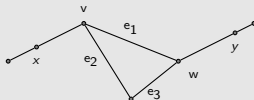


## Metric graphs – Why „metric“?

$\mathcal{G} = (V, E)$  metric graph,  $x, y \in \mathcal{G}$ .

Define **path pseudo-metric**

$d_{\mathcal{G}}(x, y) :=$  length of shortest path between  $x$  and  $y$ .



- $x \in e \simeq [0, \ell_e]$  with  $e \in E$ , then

$$d_{\mathcal{G}}(x, v) := \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } v = [(0, e)], \\ \ell_e - x, & \text{if } v = [(\ell_e, e)]. \end{cases}$$

- $d_{\mathcal{G}}(x, y) = d_{\mathcal{G}}(x, v) +$  shortest path between  $v$  and  $w$   $+ d_{\mathcal{G}}(y, w)$

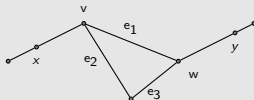
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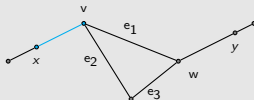
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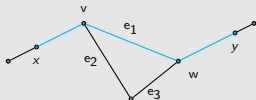
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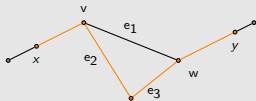
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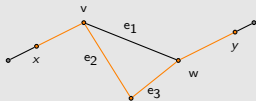
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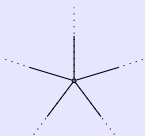
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## Metric graphs – Relevant spaces

### Definition

$\mathcal{G} = (V, E)$  metric graph.  $f = (f_e)_{e \in E} : \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is **continuous** if  
 $f_e \in C[0, \ell_e]$ ,  $f_e(v) = f_{e'}(v) \quad \forall v \in V, \forall e, e' \in E : e, e' \sim v$ .

**Notation:**  $f \in C(\mathcal{G})$ .



- Relevant *Hilbert spaces*

$$L^2(\mathcal{G}) := \bigoplus_{e \in E} L^2(0, \ell_e), \quad H^1(\mathcal{G}) := \bigoplus_{e \in E} H^1(0, \ell_e) \cap C(\mathcal{G}),$$

- *Differential expression on the edges;  $q_e \in C^\infty(0, \ell_e) \cap L^\infty(0, \ell_e)$ ,  $e \in E$*

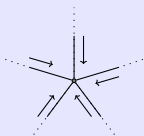
$$\Delta_{\mathcal{G}; q} f := \left( -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f_e + q_e f_e \right)_{e \in E} \quad \text{for „suitable“ } f = (f_e)_{e \in E} \in L^2(\mathcal{G}).$$

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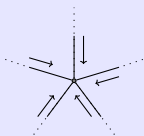


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## Suitable operator domains – Vertex conditions

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**Question:** Which functions do we consider for  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G};q}$ ?

Define for parameters  $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{|V|}) \in \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$

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$\delta$ -type vertex conditions (Kirchhoff-Neumann conditions if  $\sigma = 0$ ).

- $(\Delta_{\mathcal{G};q}, \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{G};\sigma})$  self-adj., comp. resolvent, disc. spec.  $\leadsto (\lambda_n^q(\sigma))_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathbb{R}$  s.t.

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- If  $\sigma, q \geq 0$ , then  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G};q}$  has positive spectrum;  $f \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{G};q}$ , then:

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$\delta$ -type vertex conditions (Kirchhoff-Neumann conditions if  $\sigma = 0$ ).

- $(\Delta_{\mathcal{G};q}, \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{G};\sigma})$  self-adj., comp. resolvent, disc. spec.  $\rightsquigarrow (\lambda_n^q(\sigma))_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathbb{R}$  s.t.

$$\lambda_1^q(\sigma) \leq \lambda_2^q(\sigma) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n^q(\sigma) \leq \dots \rightarrow +\infty$$

- If  $\sigma, q \geq 0$ , then  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G};q}$  has positive spectrum;  $f \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{G};q}$ , then:

$$\langle f, \Delta_{\mathcal{G};q}f \rangle_{L^2(\mathcal{G})} = \sum_{e \in E} \int_0^{\ell_e} |f_e'(x)|^2 + q_e(x)|f_e(x)|^2 dx + \sum_{v \in V} \sigma_v |f(v)|^2 \geq 0.$$

## The main theorem – an asymptotic result

$\mathcal{G} = (V, E)$  metric graph,  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G};q,\sigma}$  Schrödinger op. on  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{G};\sigma}$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$

Study **Robin-KN-gaps**:

$$d_n^q(\sigma) := \lambda_n^q(\sigma) - \lambda_n^q(0)$$

$$\hat{d}_n^q(\sigma) := \lambda_n^q(\sigma) - \lambda_n^{q=0}(0), \quad (n \in \mathbb{N})$$

- $|d_n^q(\sigma)|, |\hat{d}_n^q(\sigma)|$  uniformly bounded in  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- **But:** Not strictly positive bounded from below (e.g., 2-star).

Theorem (B., Kerner, 2022)

$\mathcal{G} = (V, E)$  metric graph,  $q \in \bigoplus_{e \in E} (C^\infty \cap L^\infty)(0, \ell_e)$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$ .

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \hat{d}_n^q(\sigma) = \frac{2}{|\mathcal{G}|} \left( \sum_{v \in V} \frac{\sigma_v}{\deg(v)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{e \in E} \int_0^{\ell_e} q_e(x) dx \right).$$

In particular:  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N d_n^q(\sigma) = \frac{2}{|\mathcal{G}|} \sum_{v \in V} \frac{\sigma_v}{\deg(v)}$ .

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Sketch of proof.  $(\lambda_n(\sigma), f_n^\sigma)$  norm. eigenpairs of  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G};q,\sigma}$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$

①  $[0, 1] \ni \tau \mapsto \lambda_n(\tau\sigma)$  differentiable a.e. with

$$\frac{d\lambda_n(\tau\sigma)}{d\tau} = \sum_{v \in V} \sigma_v |f_n^{\tau\sigma}(v)|^2 \quad (\text{Feynman-Hellmann formula})$$

② For the eigenfunctions  $f_n^\sigma$  of  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G};q,\sigma}$  and every  $x \in \mathcal{G}$ :

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## Robin-KN-gap – Some further notes

- First studied by Rivi re and Royer ('20): For certain star-graphs.
- Rudnick, Wigman, Yesha ('21): Planar domains in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and single  $\sigma \geq 0$ .

$$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ planar domain. Then: } \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N d_n(\sigma) = \frac{2\sigma}{|\Omega|} |\partial\Omega|$$

- Band, Schanz and Sofer ('22): For KN-Laplacian  $\Delta_{\mathcal{G}}$  and single  $\sigma \geq 0$ .
- $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{G}) := \sum_{v \in V} \frac{1}{\deg(v)}$  suitable notion of „surface area“ of a graph  $\mathcal{G}$ ?

Also: Asymptotic result has a pendant for discrete graphs  $G = (V, E)$ :

### Theorem (*Trace formula*)

$G = (V, E)$  discrete graph,  $\sigma := \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{|V|}) \in \mathbb{R}^{|V| \times |V|}$ .

$\Delta_{G;\sigma} := I - D^{-\frac{1}{2}}(A - \sigma)D^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  normalized Schr dinger op. Then:

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Thank you for your attention!