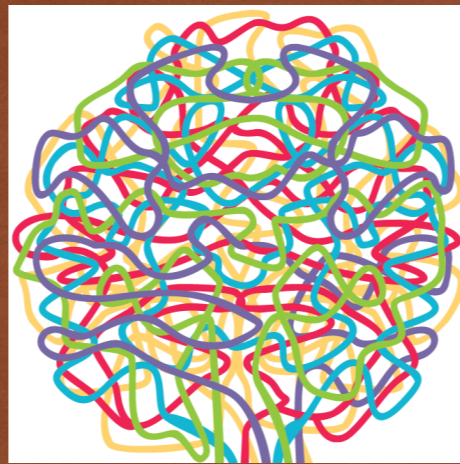


# Linear growth of quantum complexity

Haferkamp, Faist, Kothakonda, Eisert, and NYH, accepted by *Nat. Phys.*  
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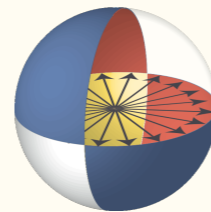


NICOLE YUNGER HALPERN



INSTITUTE FOR  
PHYSICAL SCIENCE  
& TECHNOLOGY

**NIST**



JOINT CENTER FOR  
QUANTUM INFORMATION  
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE



Institute for  
**Robust Quantum  
Simulation**



Quantum complexity





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Quantum complexity has been echoing across many-body physics.



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- Gapped Hamiltonian is in nontrivial topological phase only if the ground state has a complexity  $>$  constant in the system size
- Chen, Gu, and Wen, Phys. Rev. B **83** (3) (2011).



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AdS

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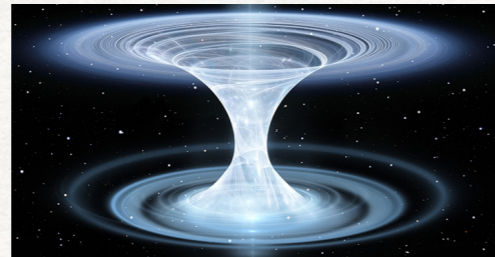


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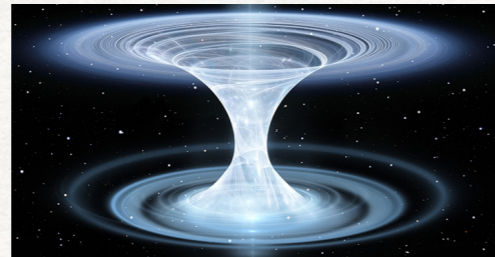


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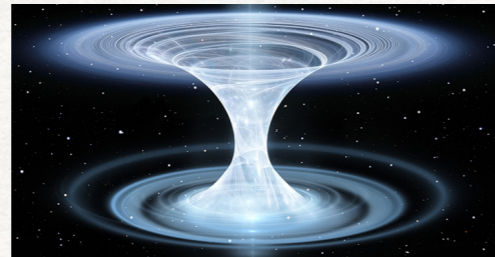


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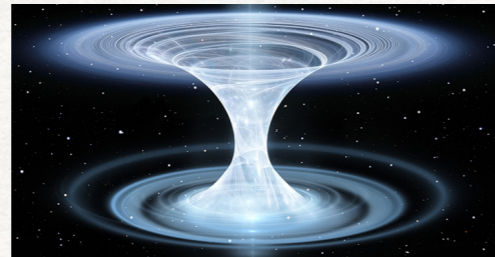


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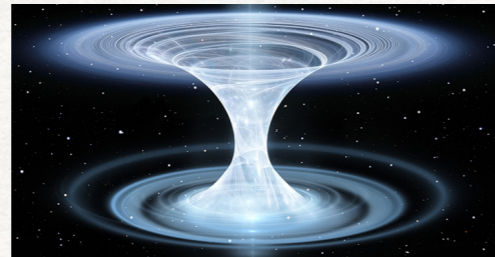


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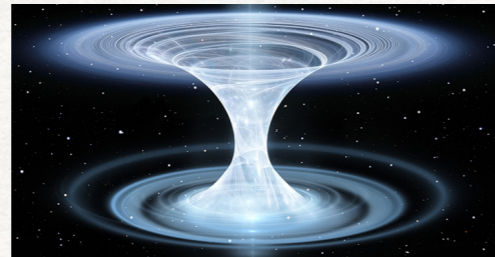


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**A quantification of quantum complexity:**



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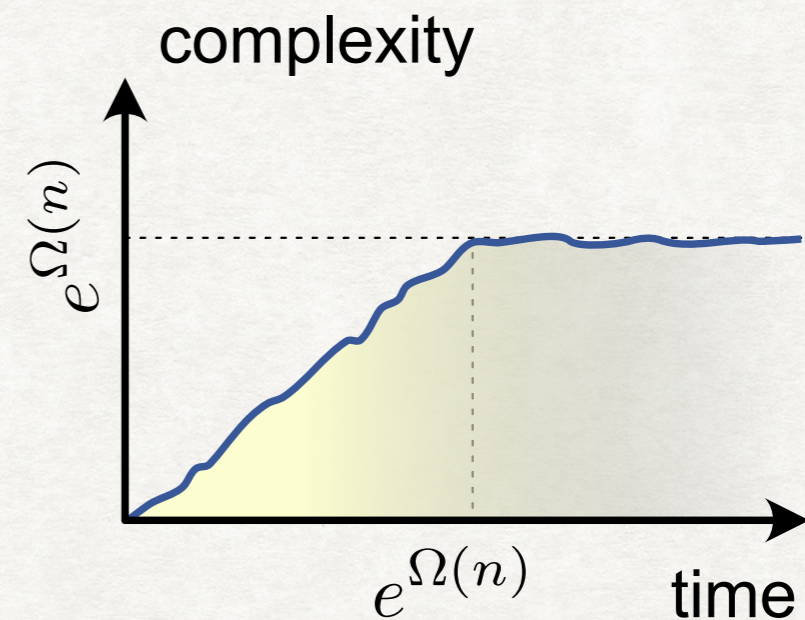
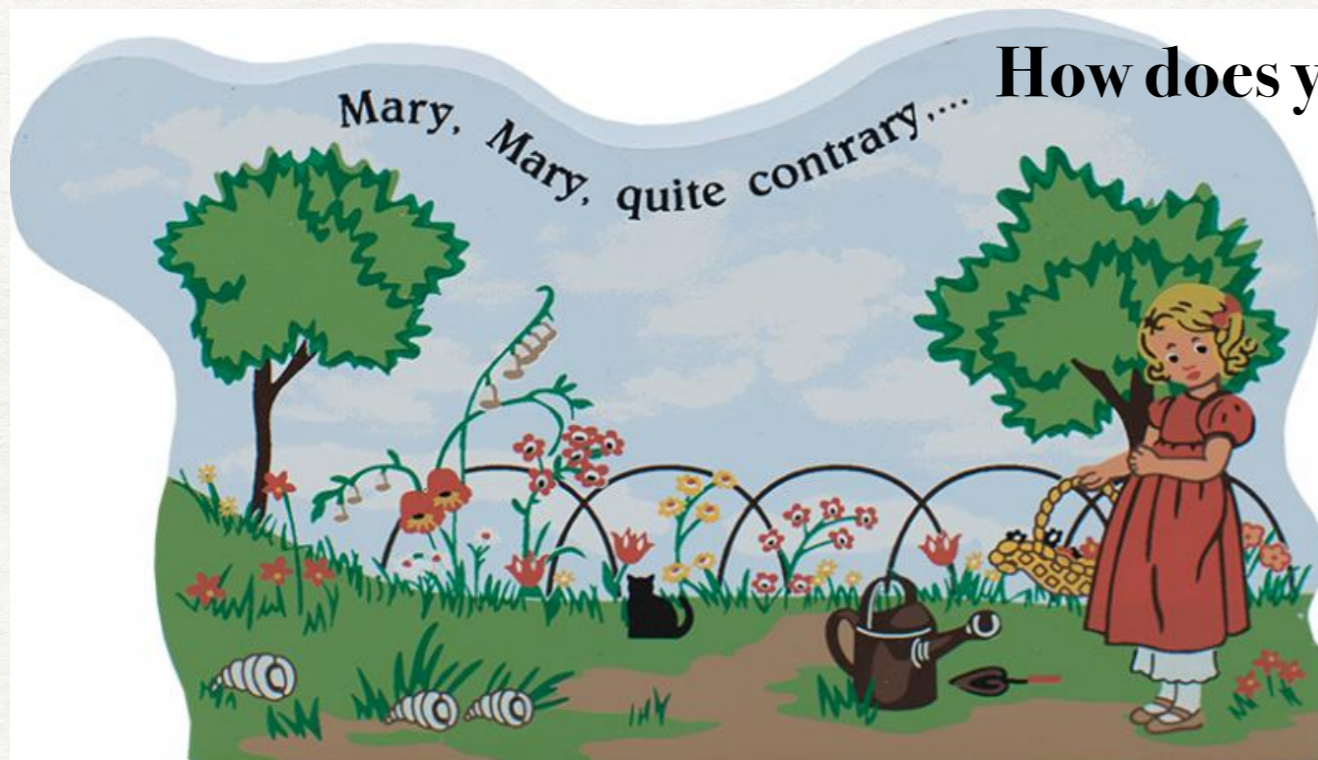
How does your complexity grow?



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Where we're headed





## Where we're headed



- Why is the problem hard?



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- Why is the problem hard?
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Lower-bounding quantum complexity  
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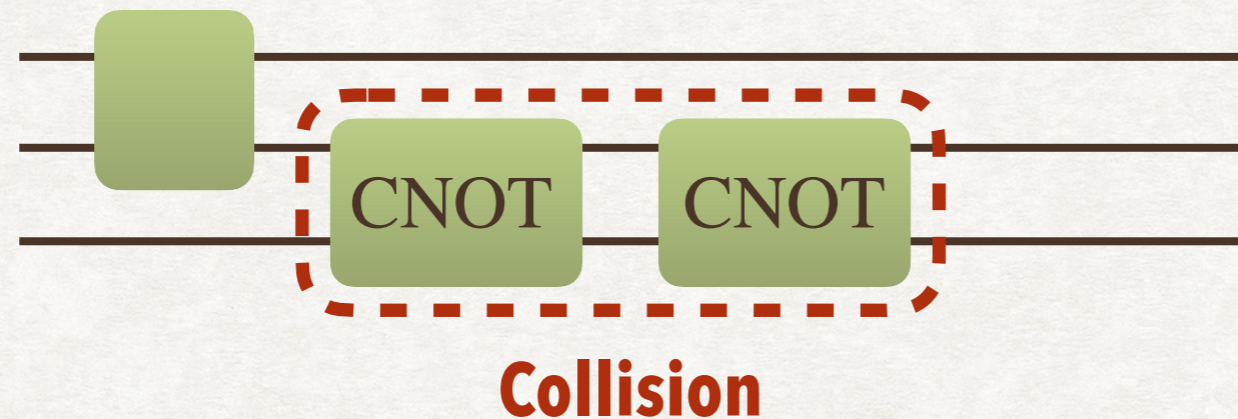




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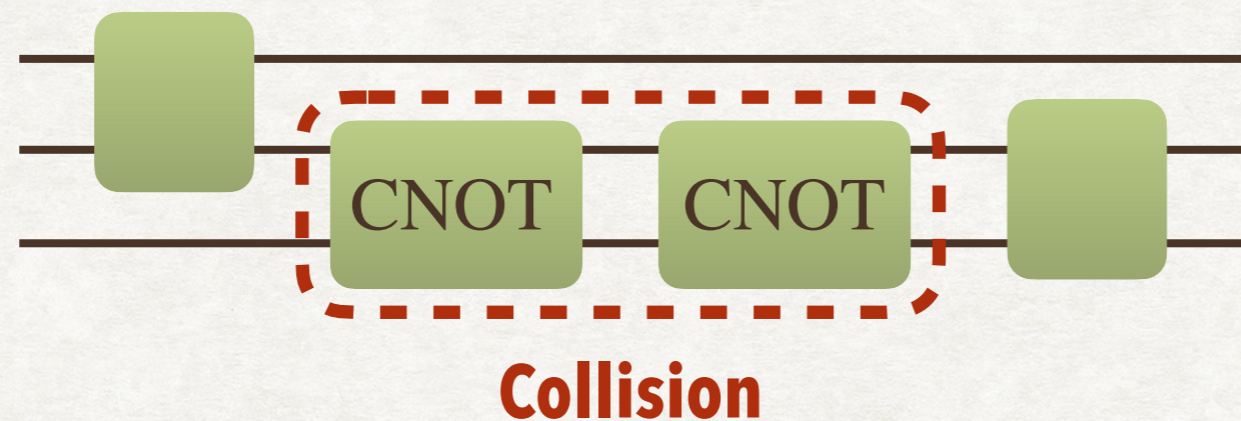




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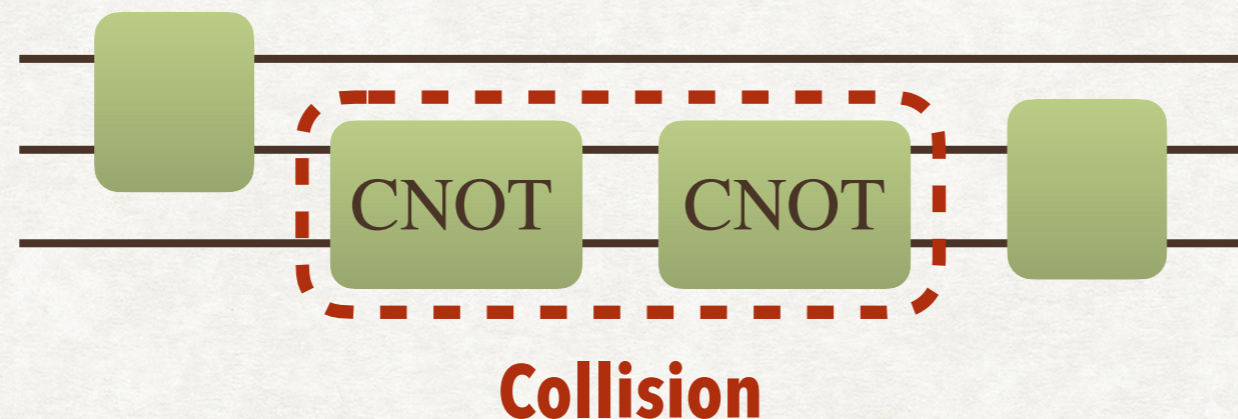




# Lower-bounding quantum complexity is difficult.

→ Why:

- Later gates can cancel earlier gates → complexity can conceivably decrease
- Common assumption: Collisions almost never happen.
  - Difficult to prove





## Setting the stage





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- $n$  qubits





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- $|\psi^k\rangle := |\psi\rangle^{\otimes k}$



# Terminology + mindset



## Terminology + mindset

- **Architecture** ( $A$ ): arrangement of a fixed number of gates



## Terminology + mindset

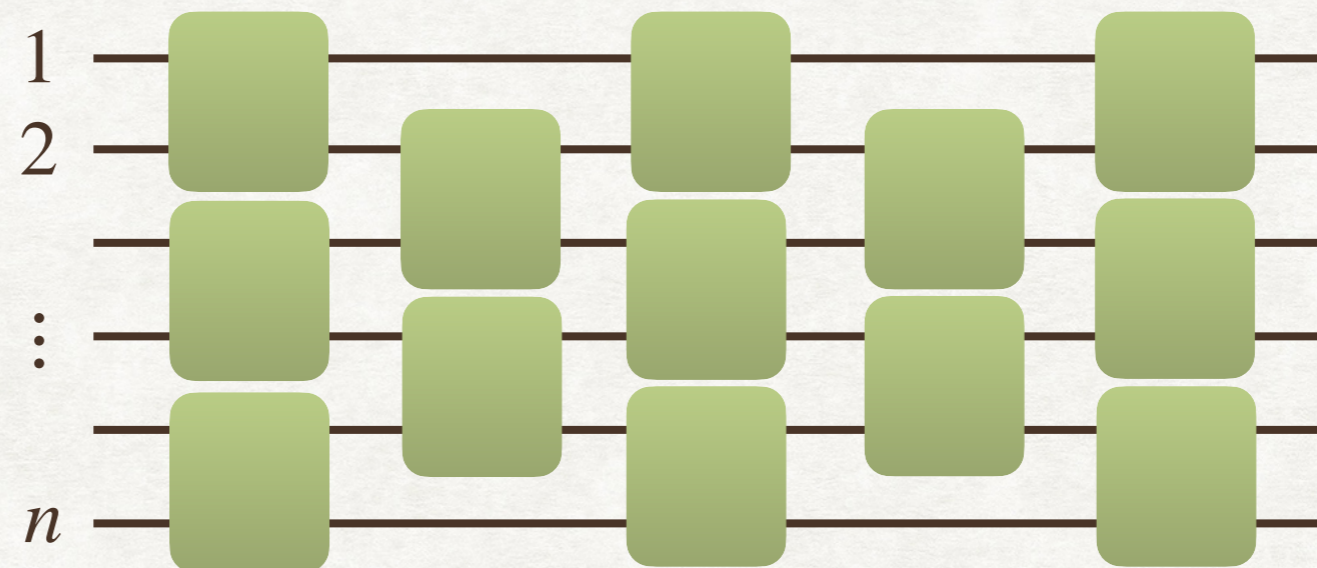
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**brickwork architecture**



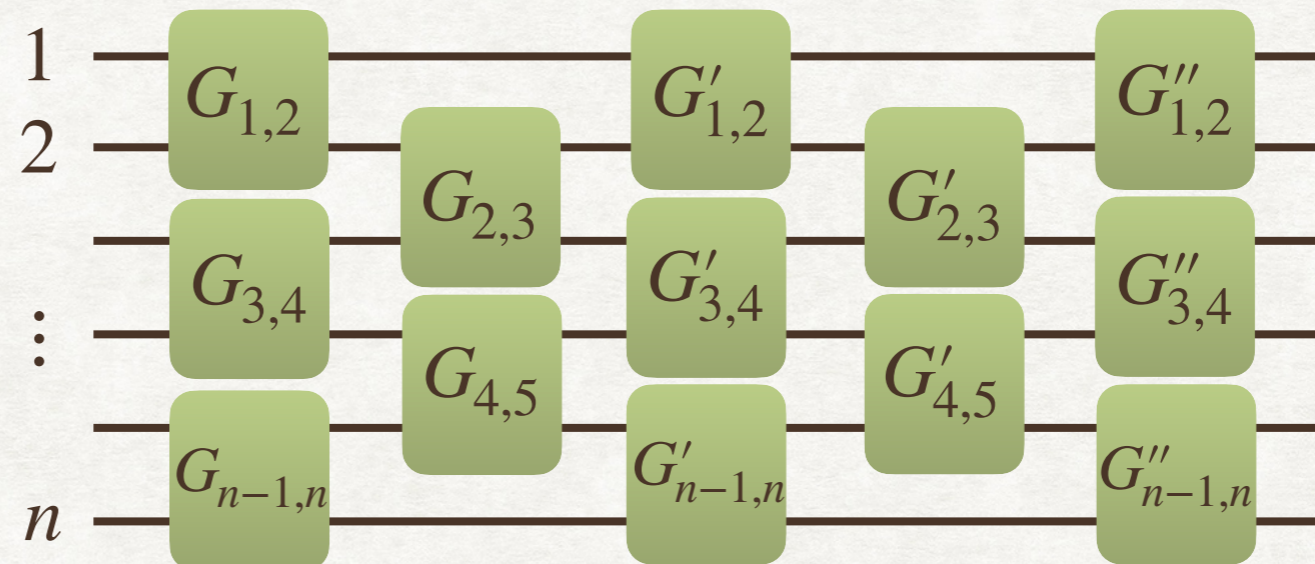


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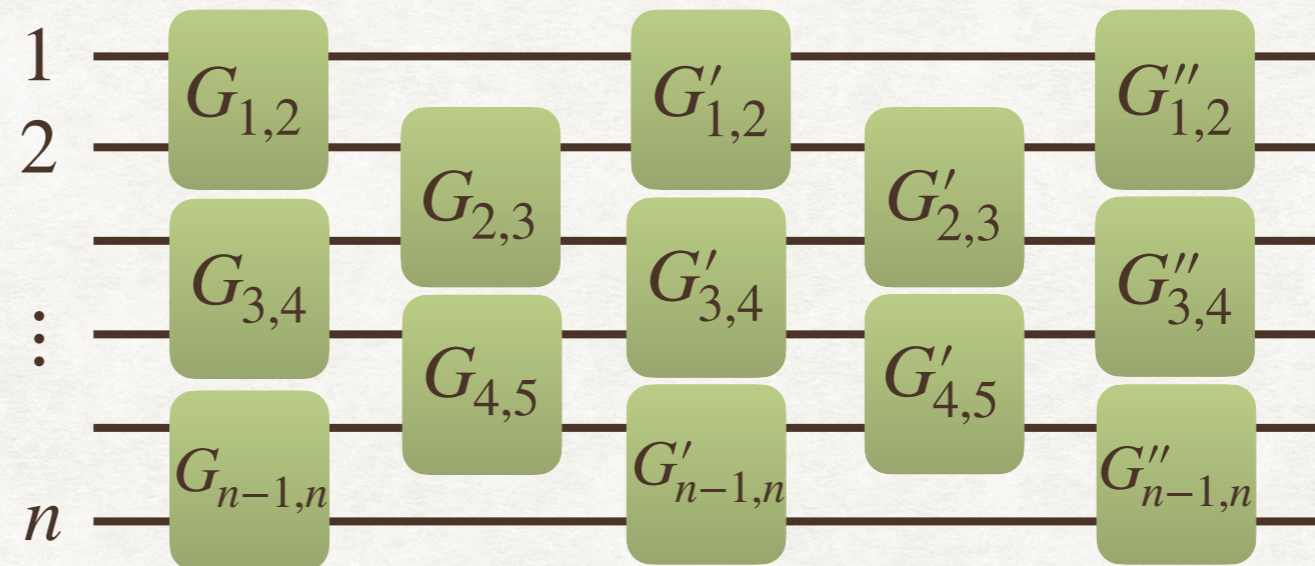
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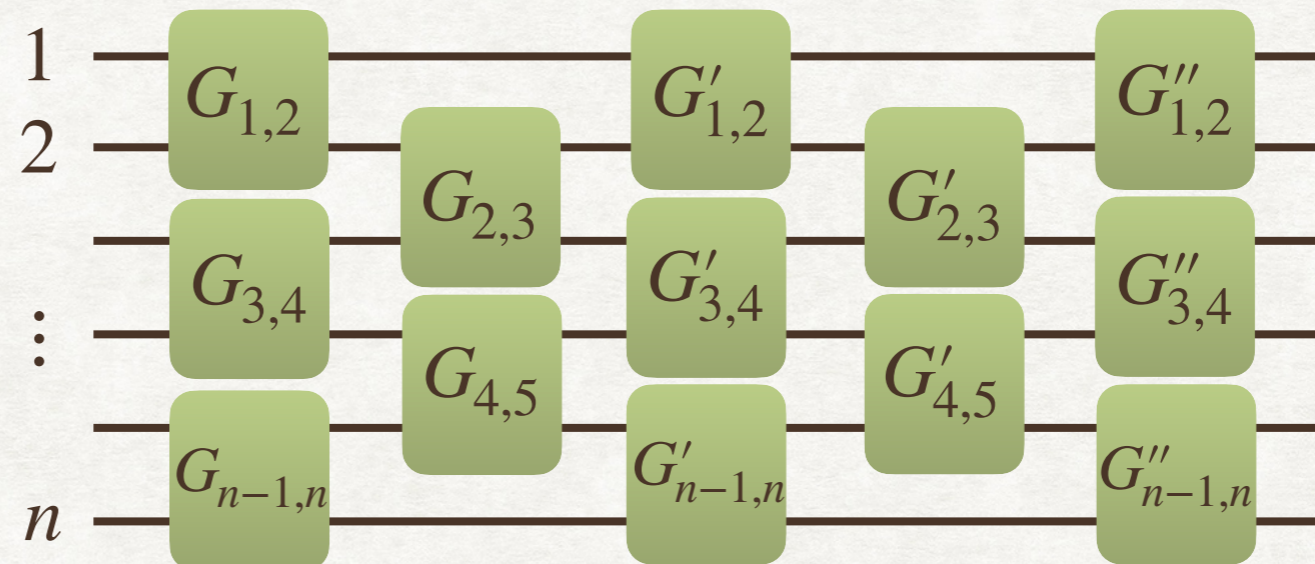


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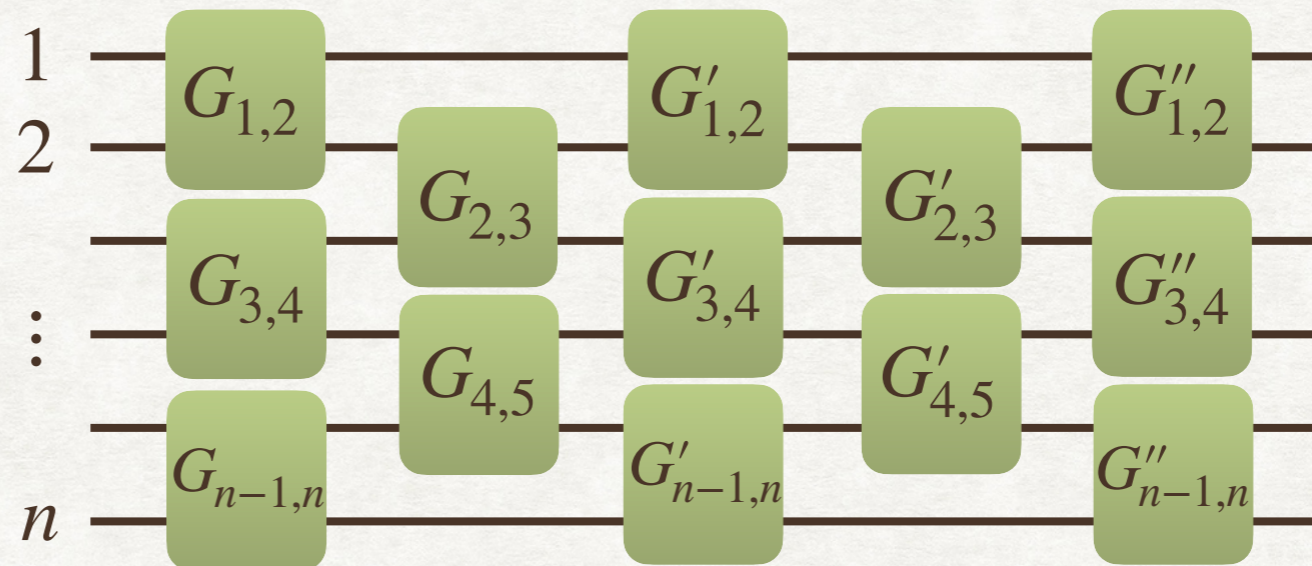


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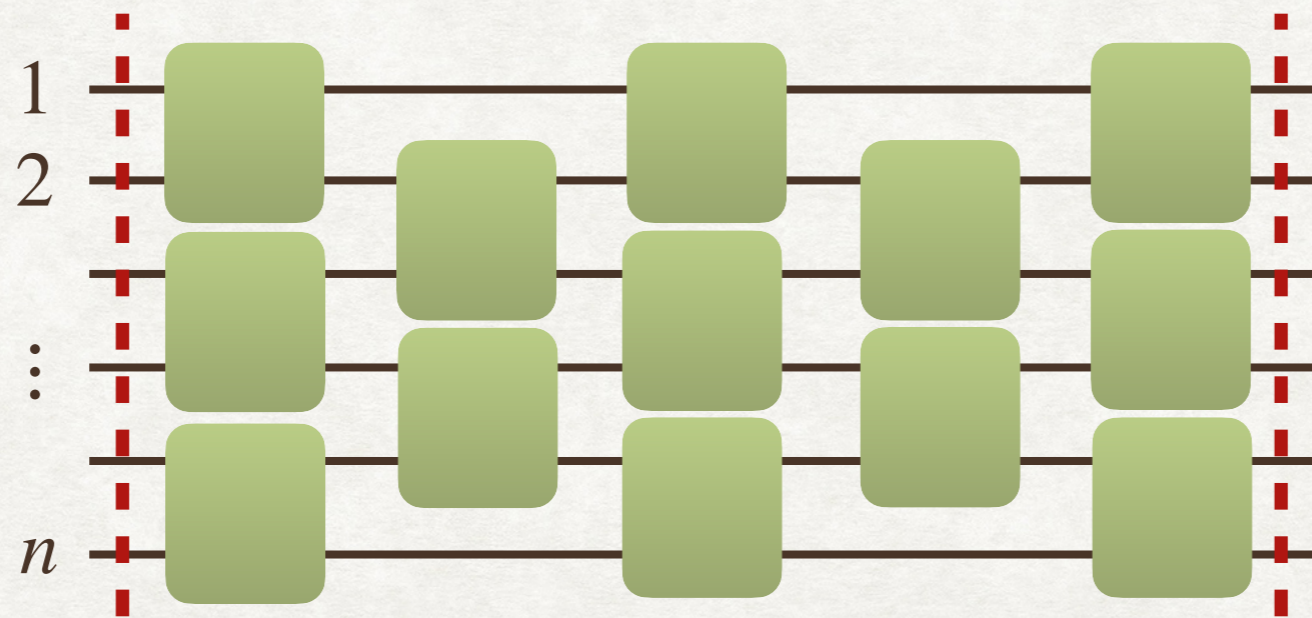
**Contraction map**

$F^A$



## Terminology + mindset

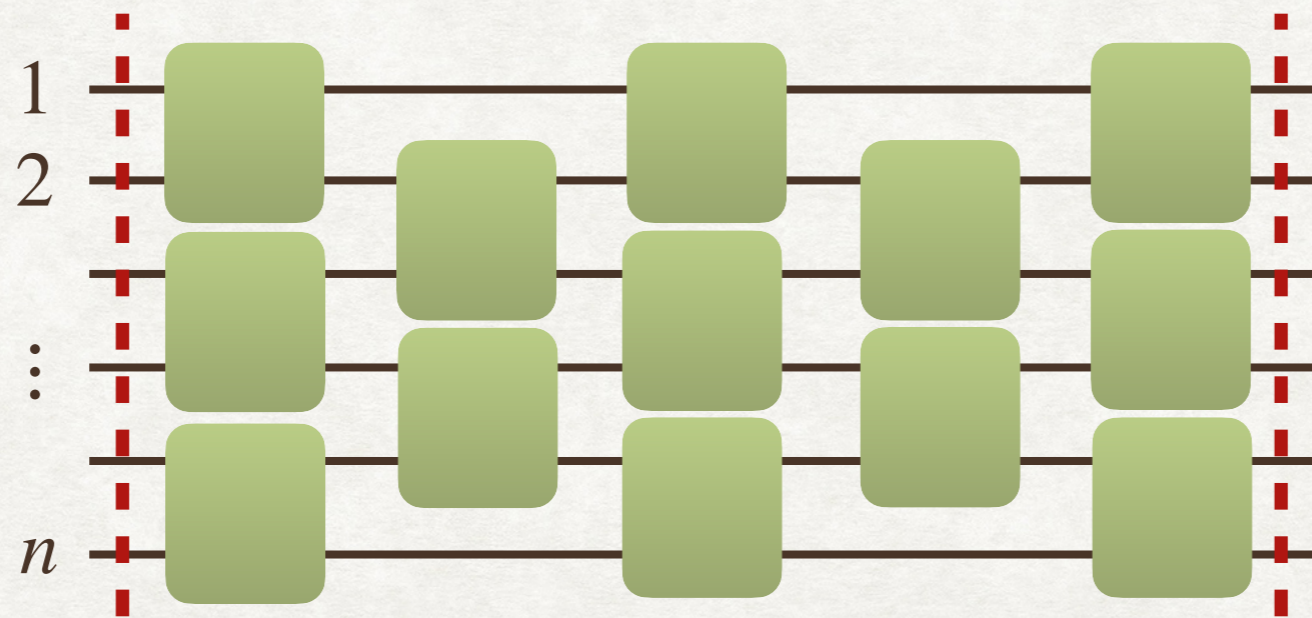
- **Block:** the gates between 2 vertical cuts





## Terminology + mindset

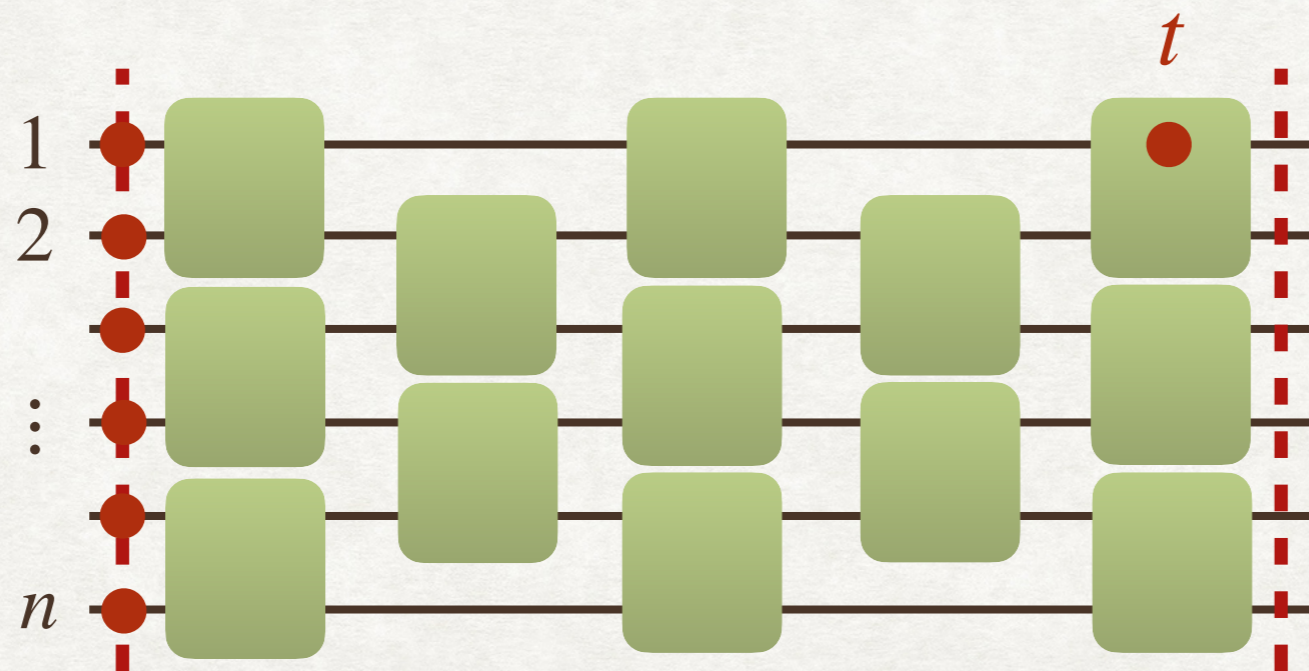
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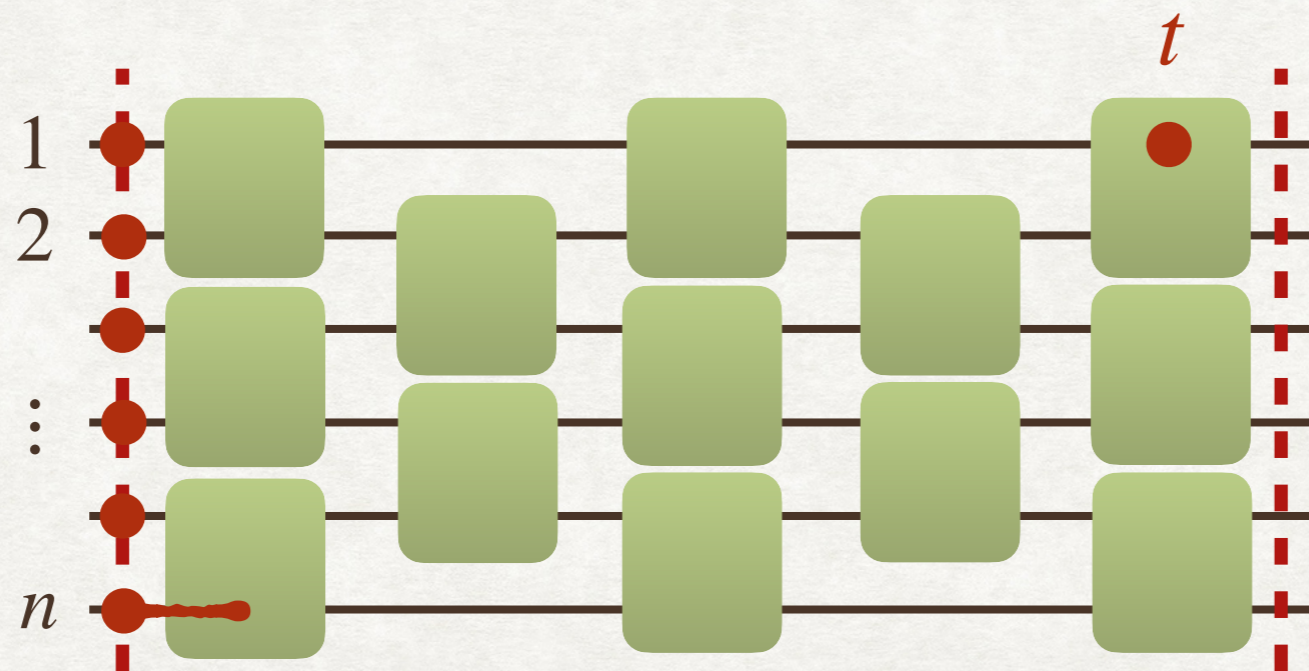
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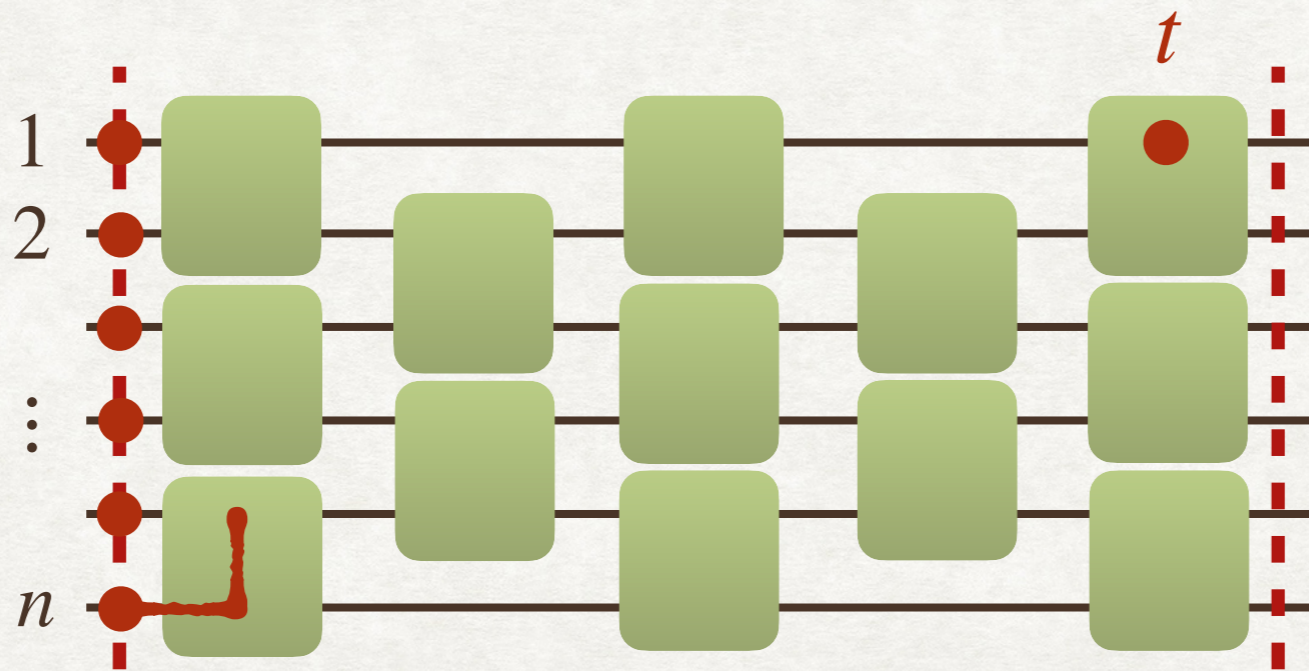
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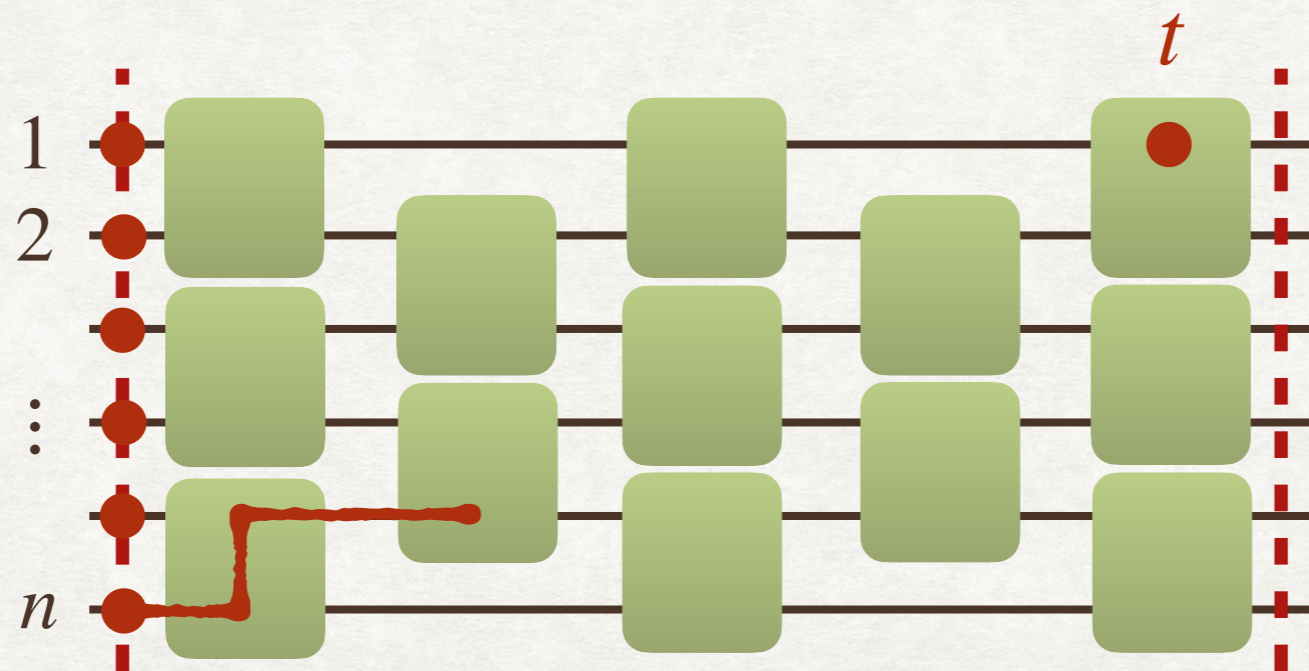
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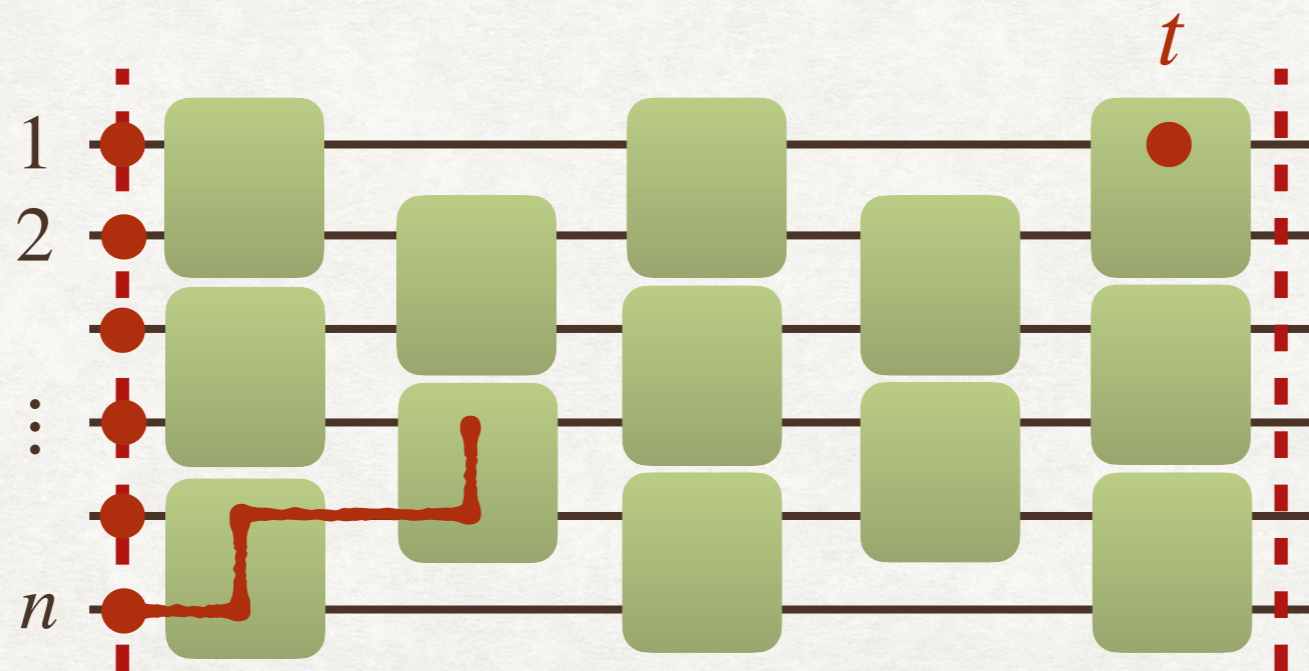
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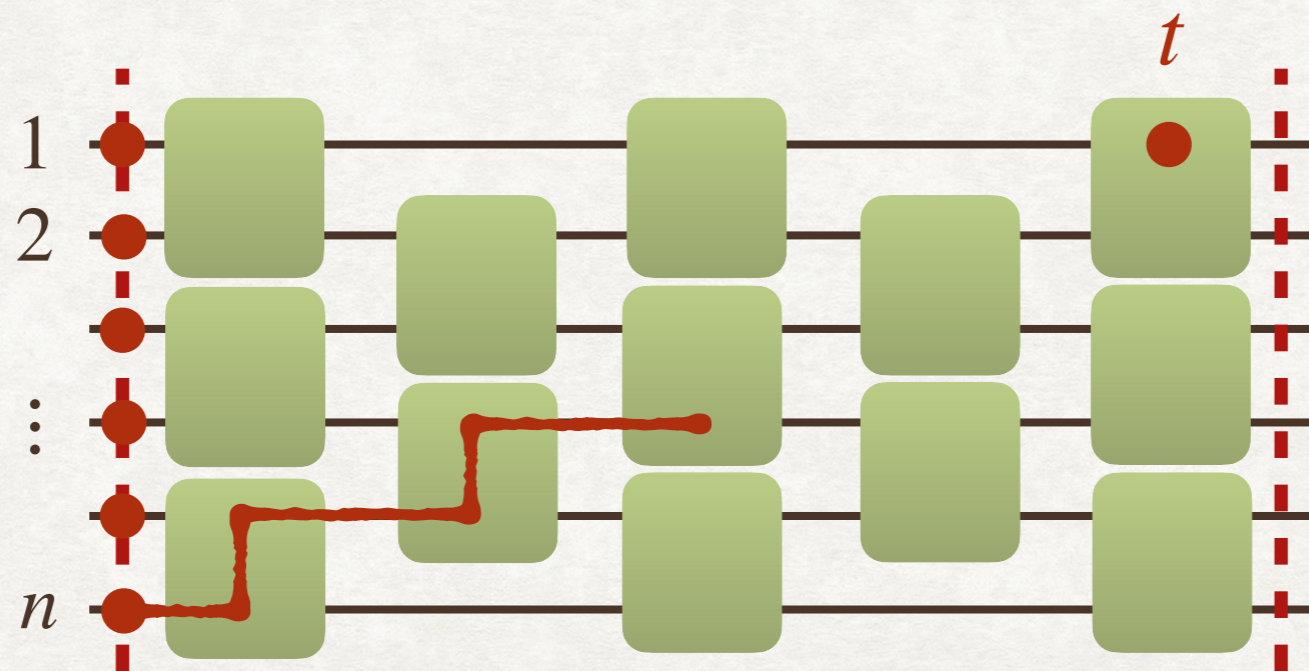
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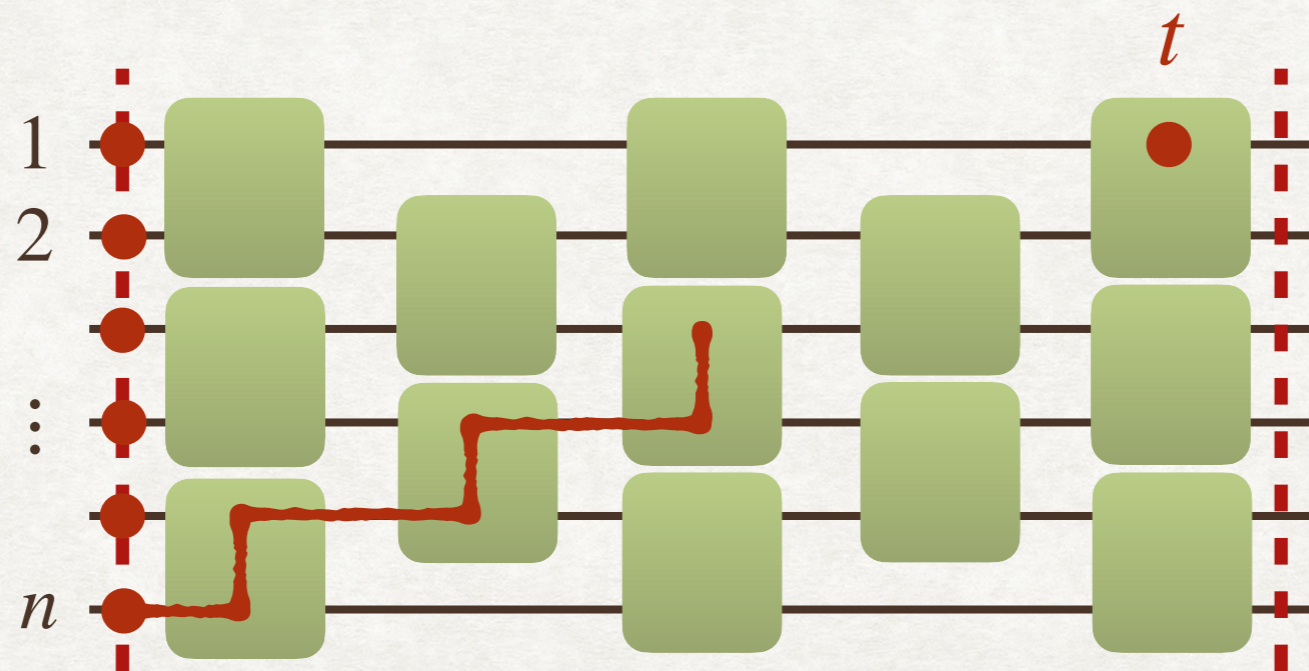
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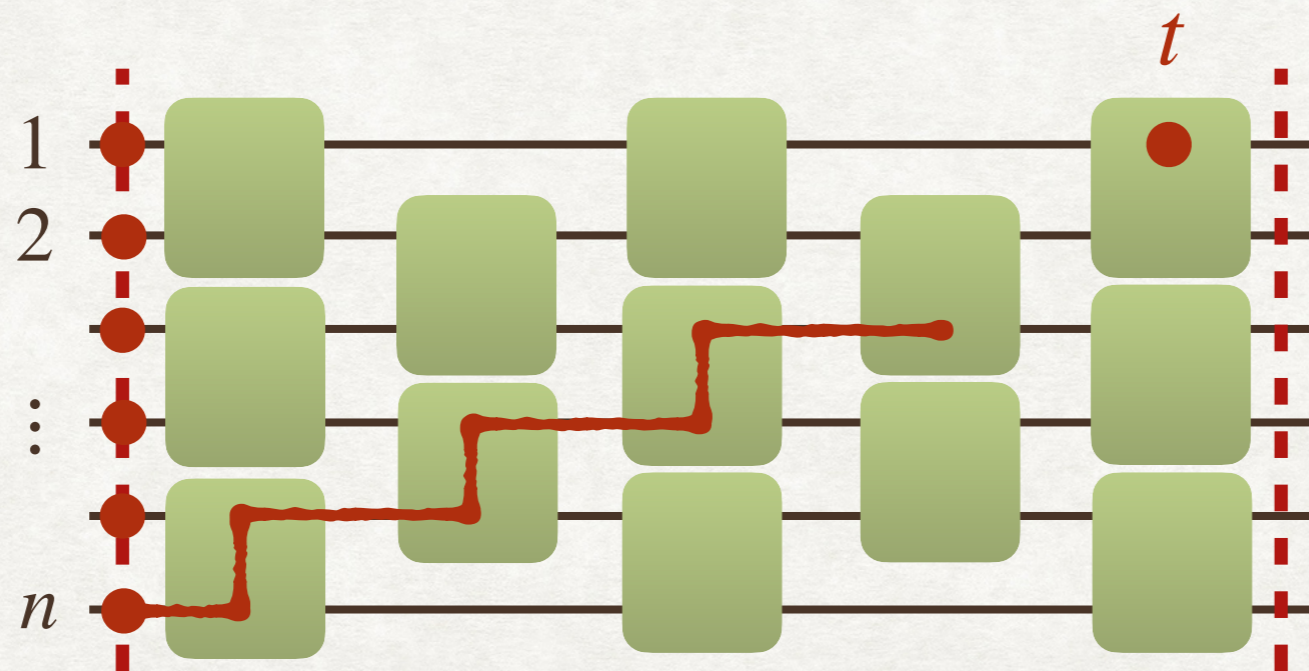
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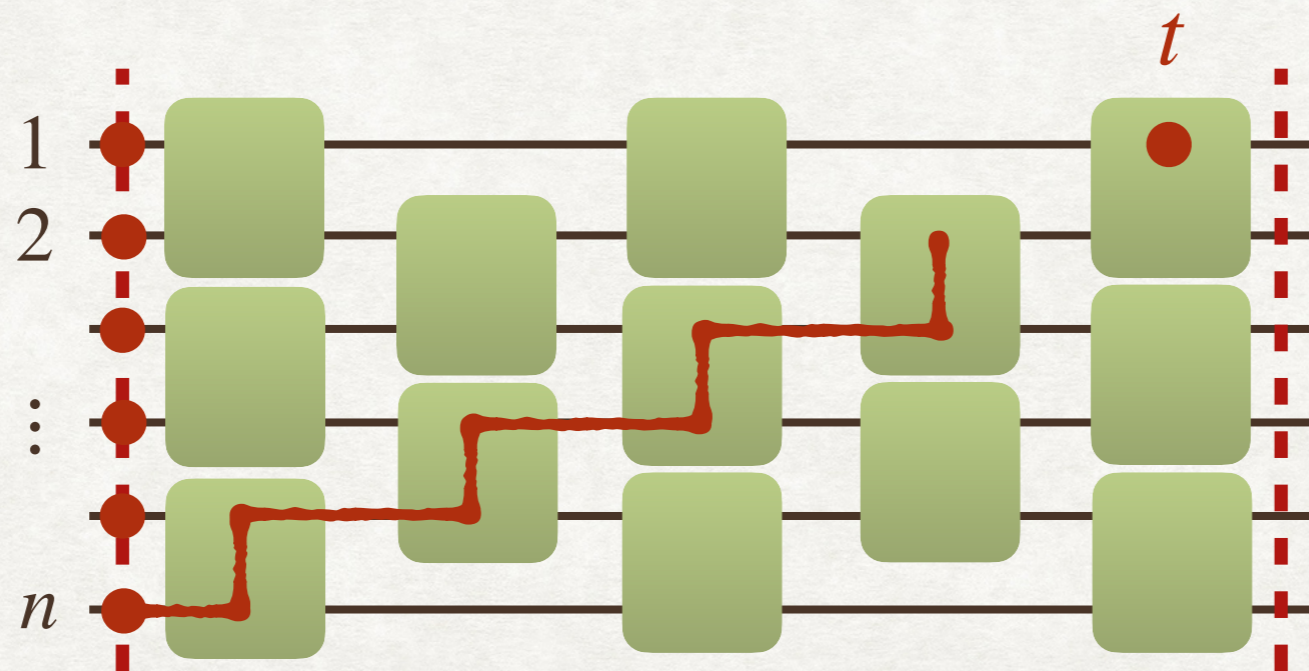
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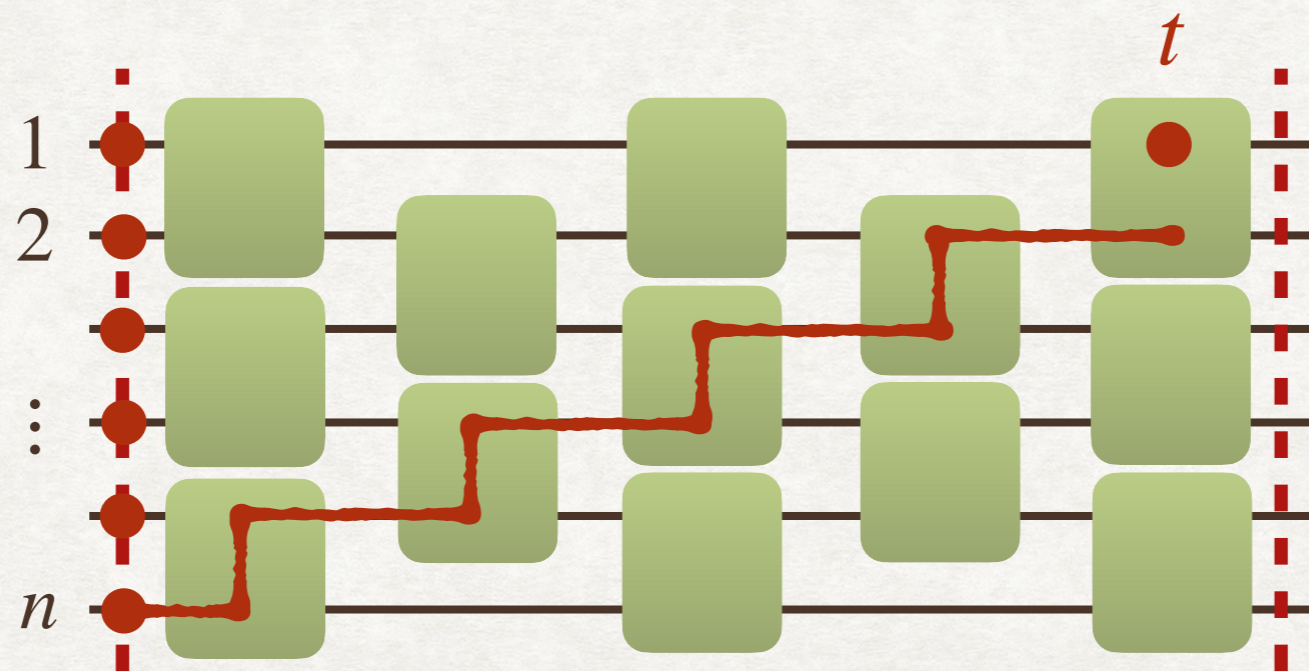
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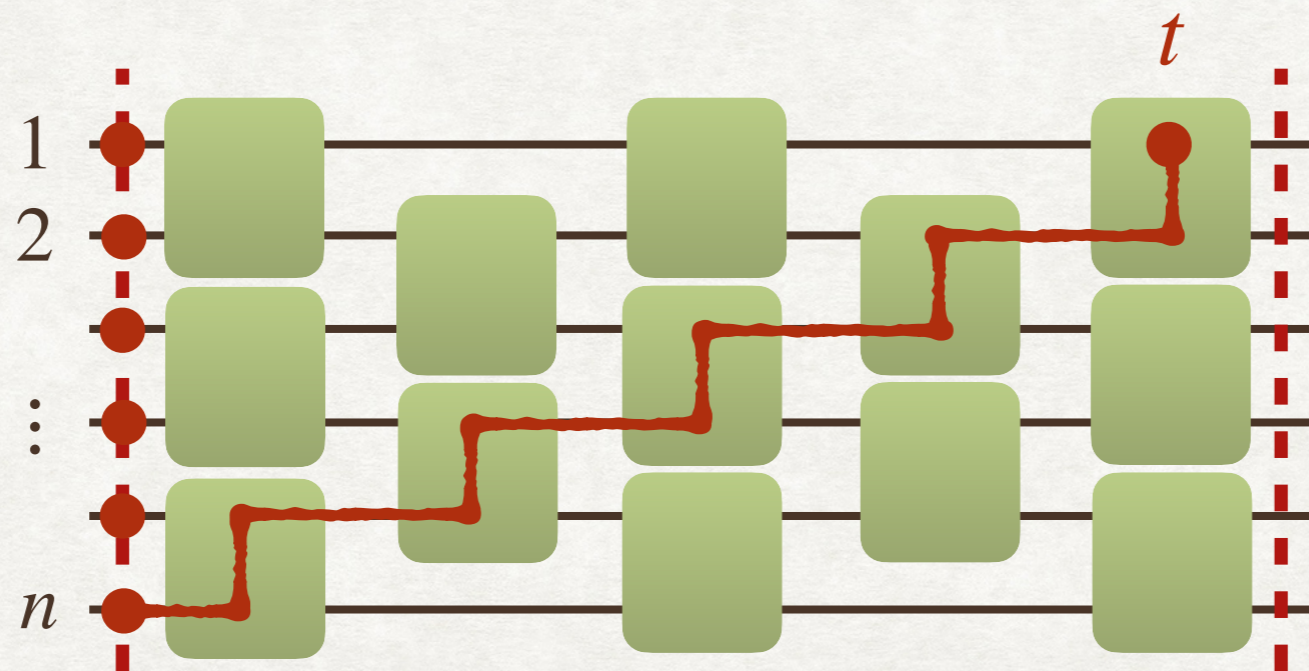
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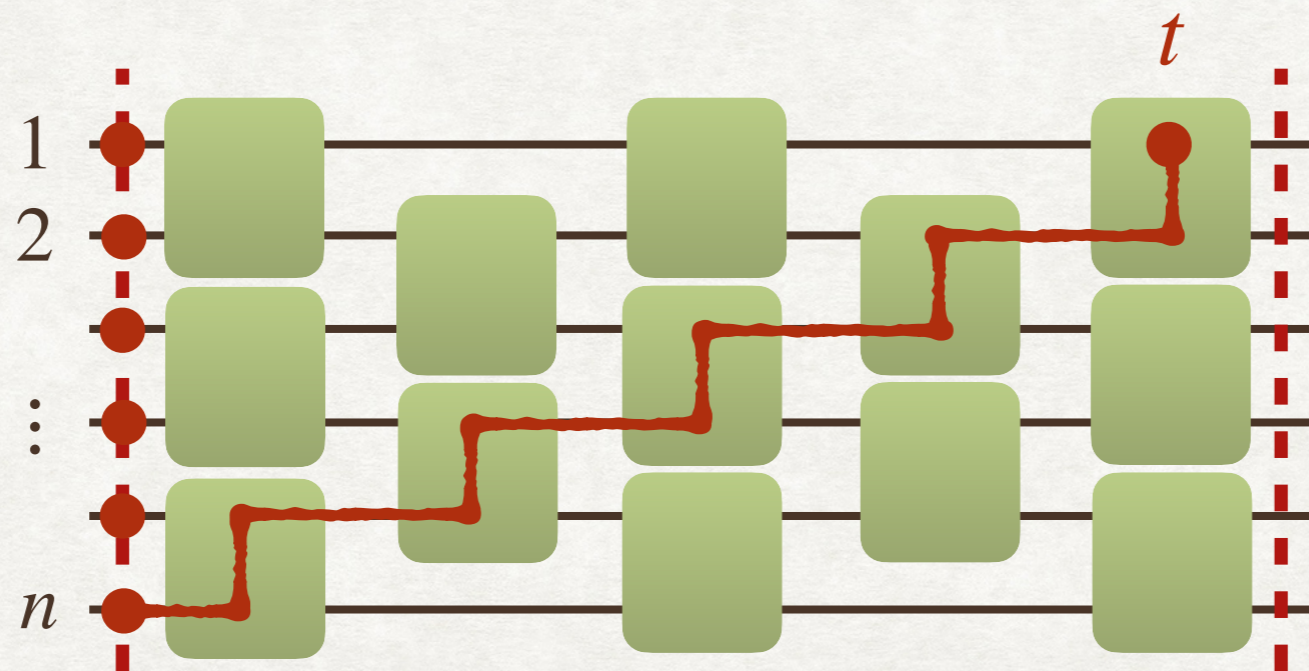
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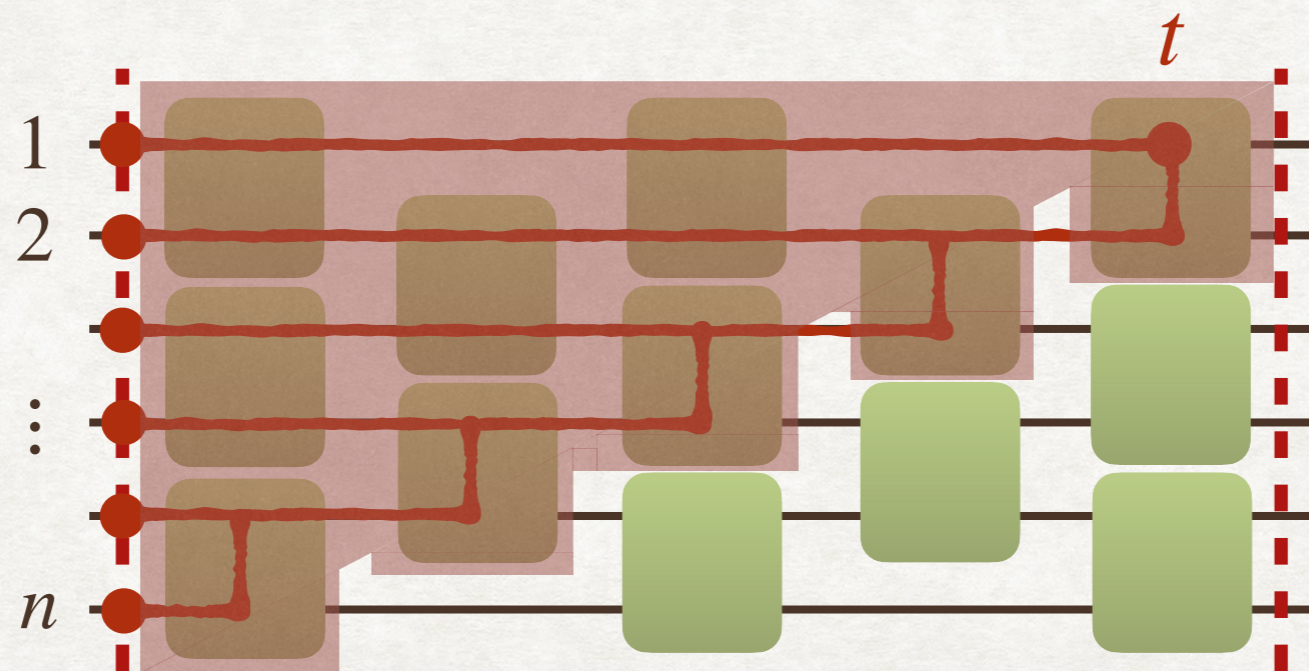
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- may be unique to  $t'$









**Theorem: Linear growth of complexity**



## Theorem: Linear growth of complexity

- $A$  = any architecture formed by concatenating  $T$  blocks of  $\leq L$  gates each,



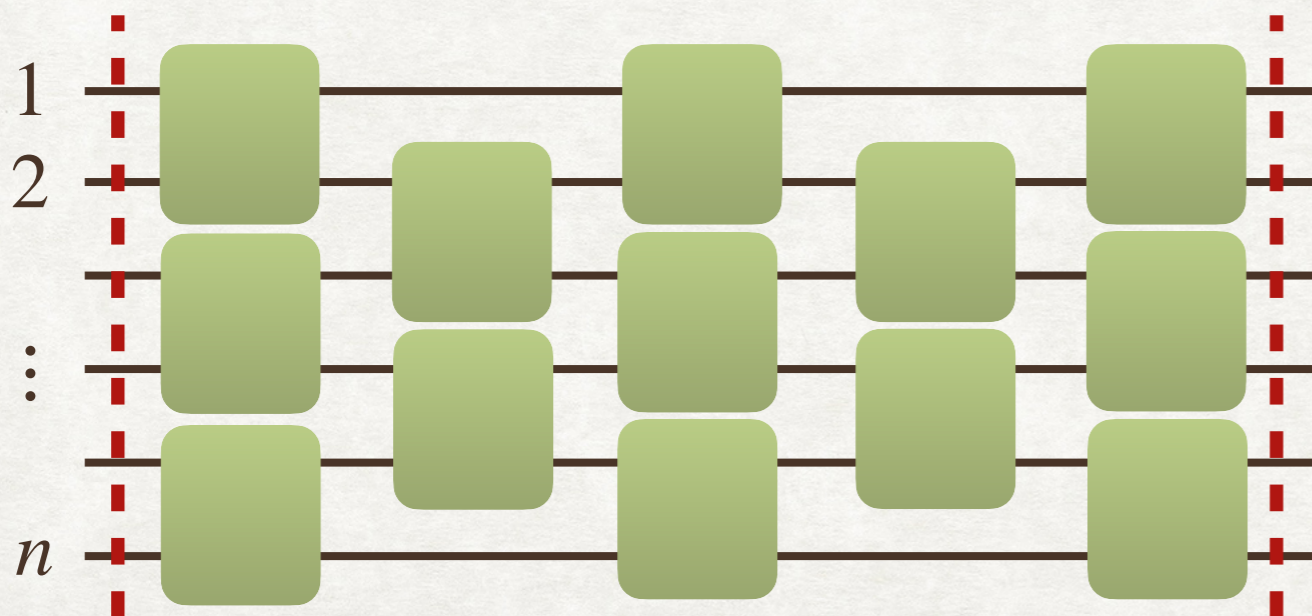
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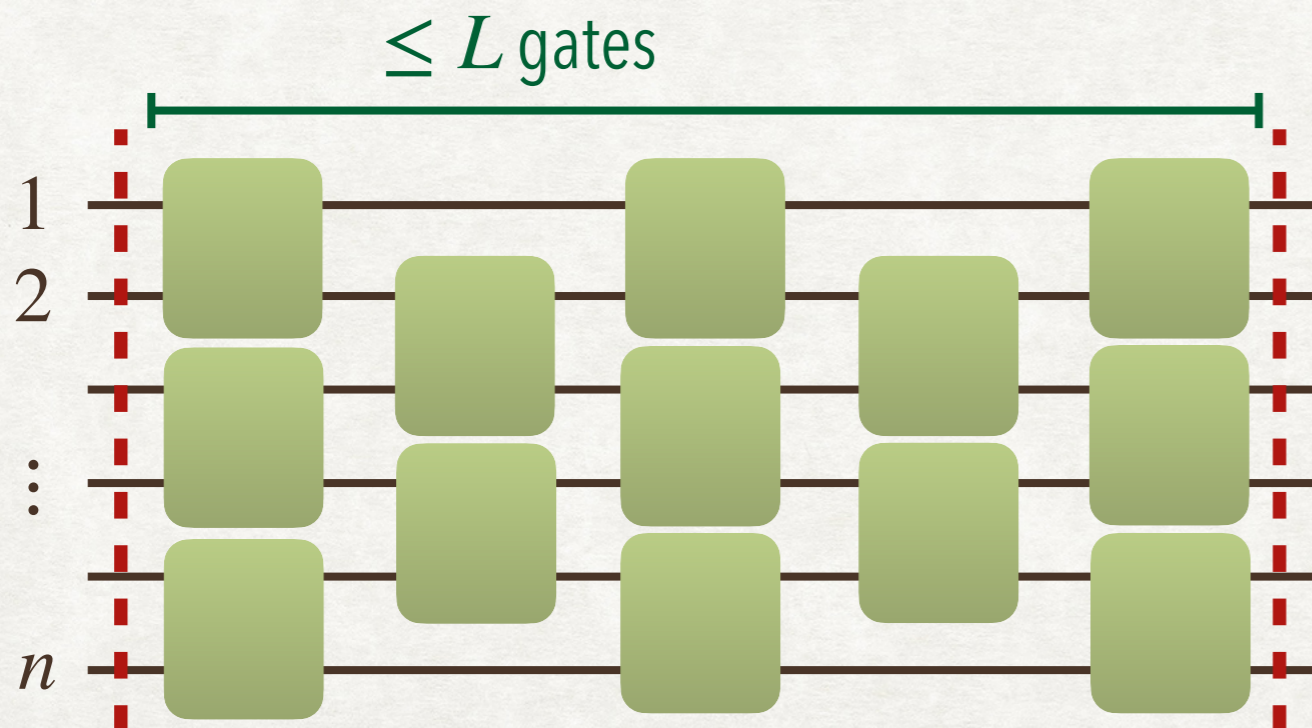
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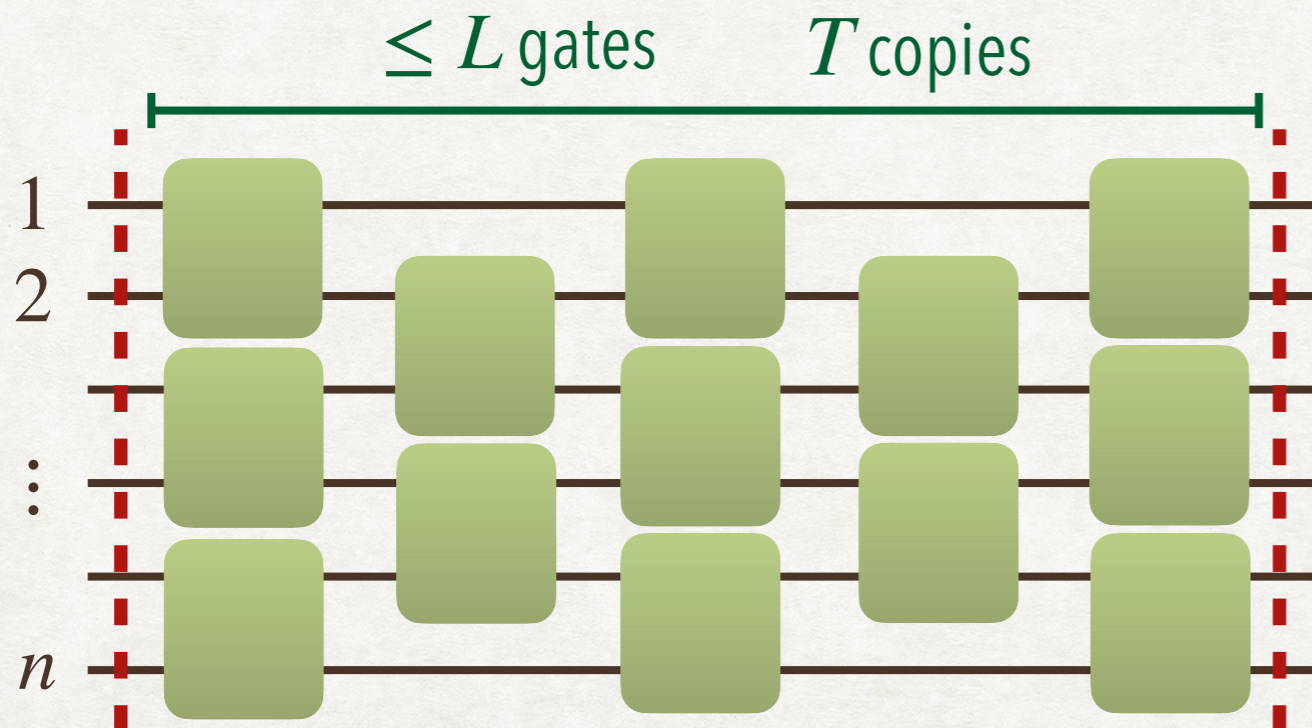
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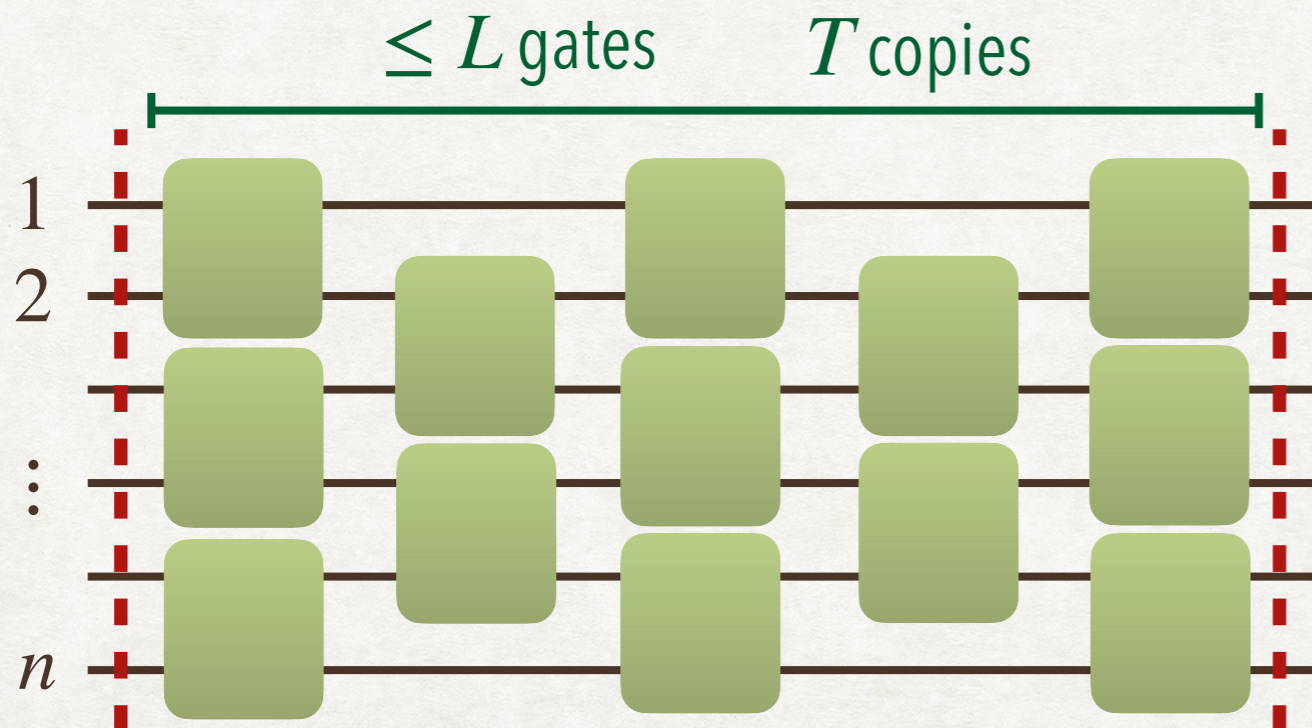
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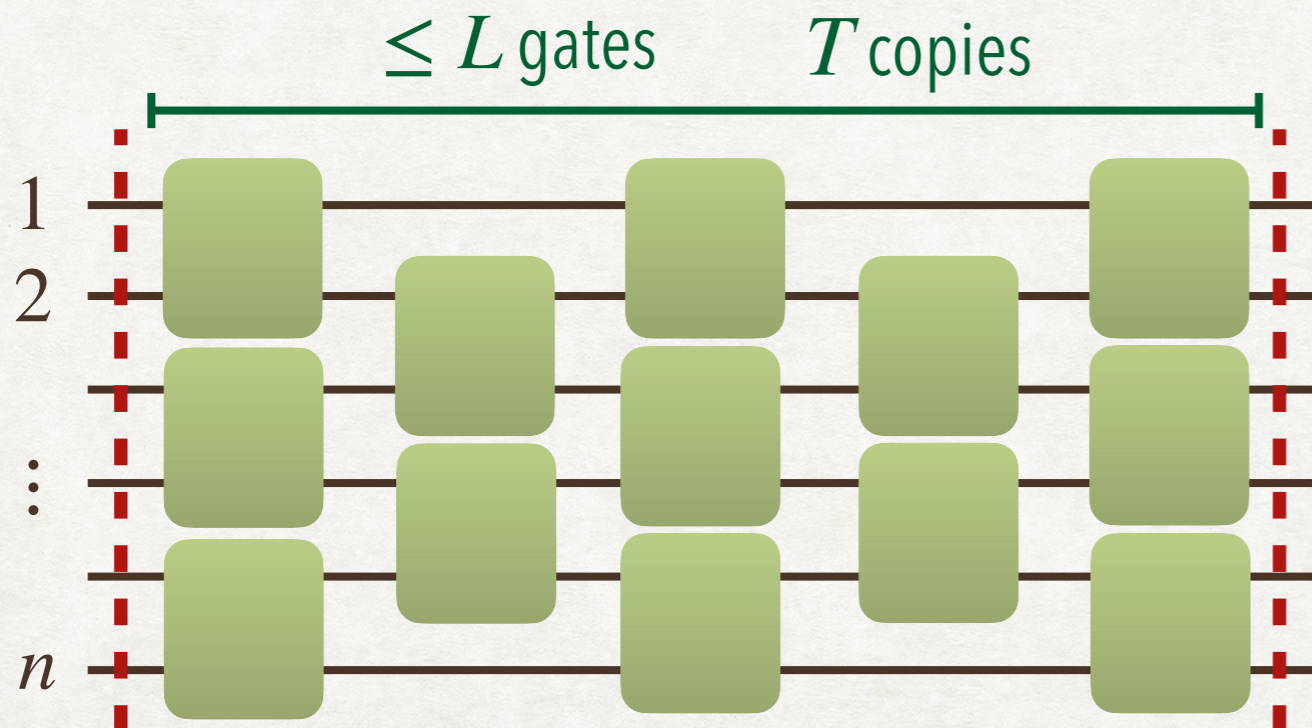
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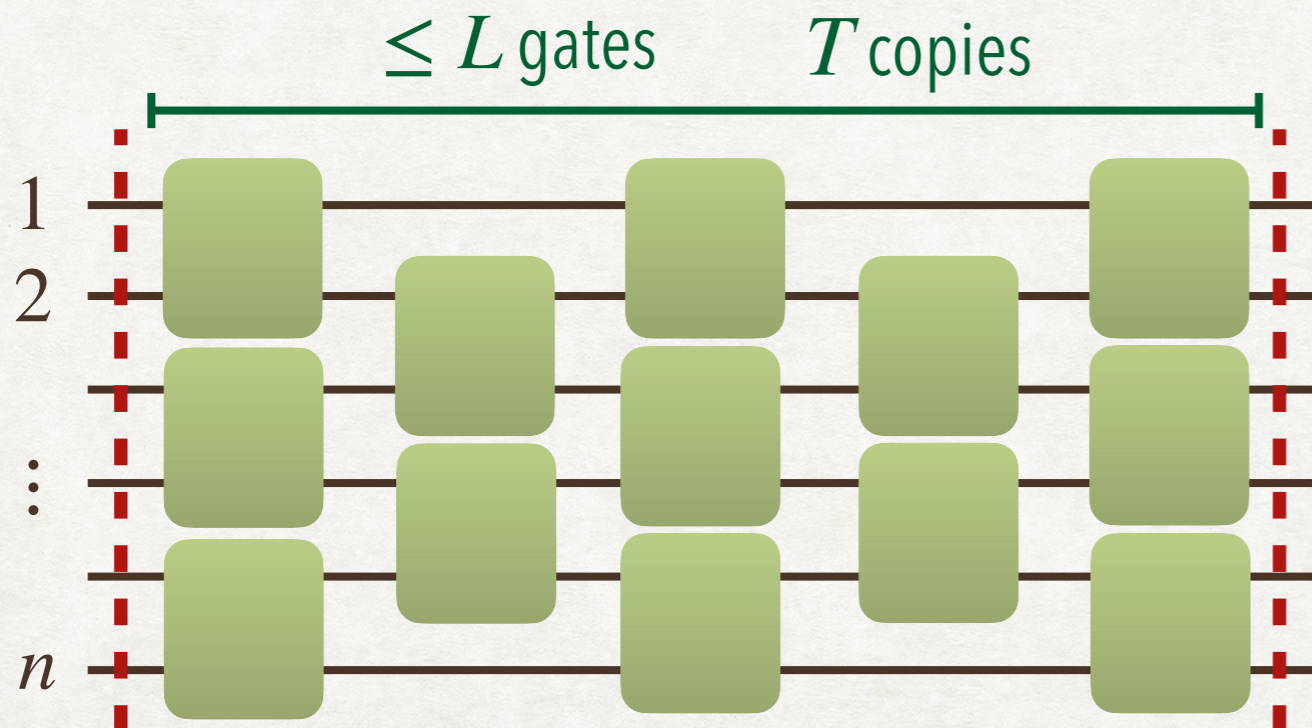
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- Unitary's exact complexity:



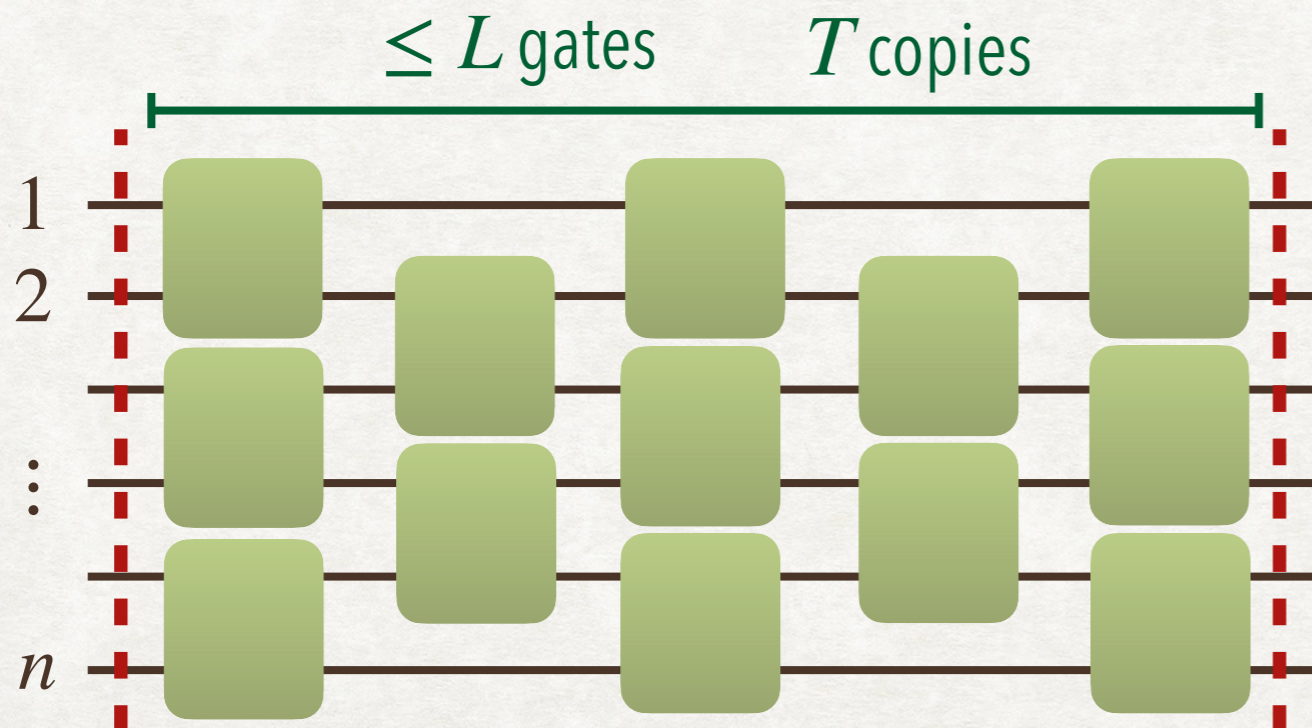


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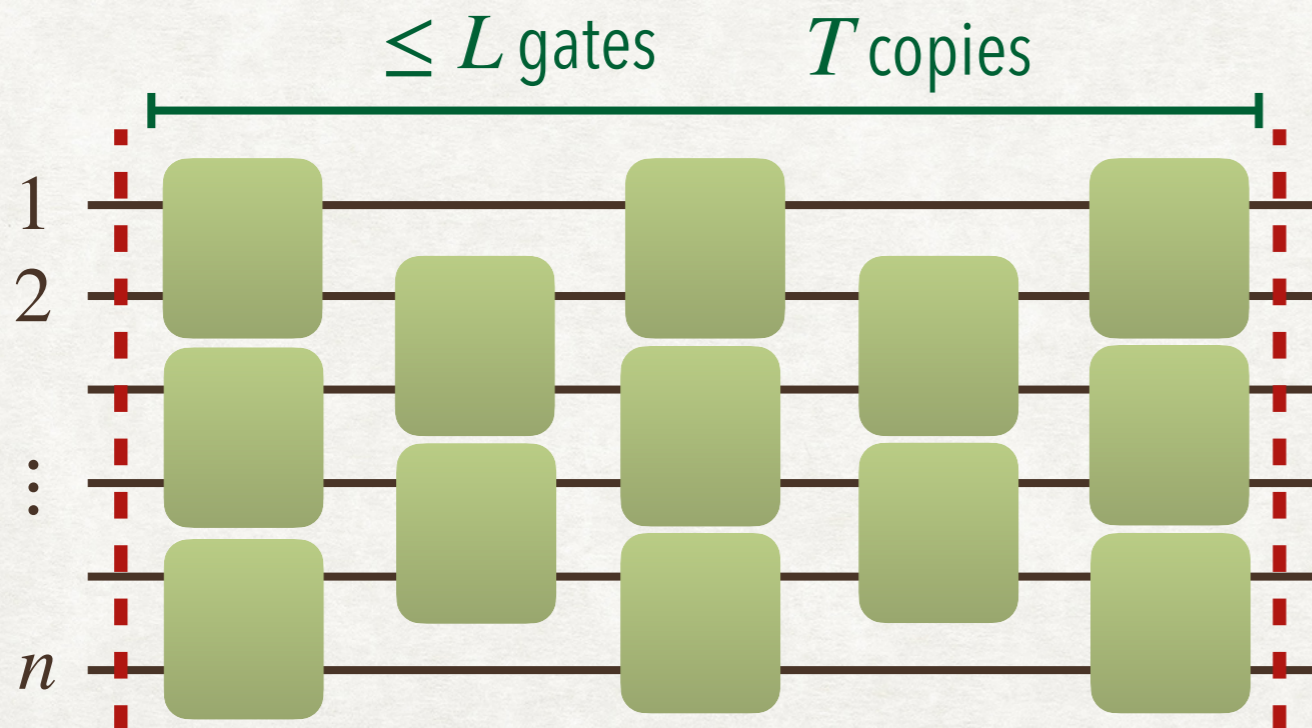




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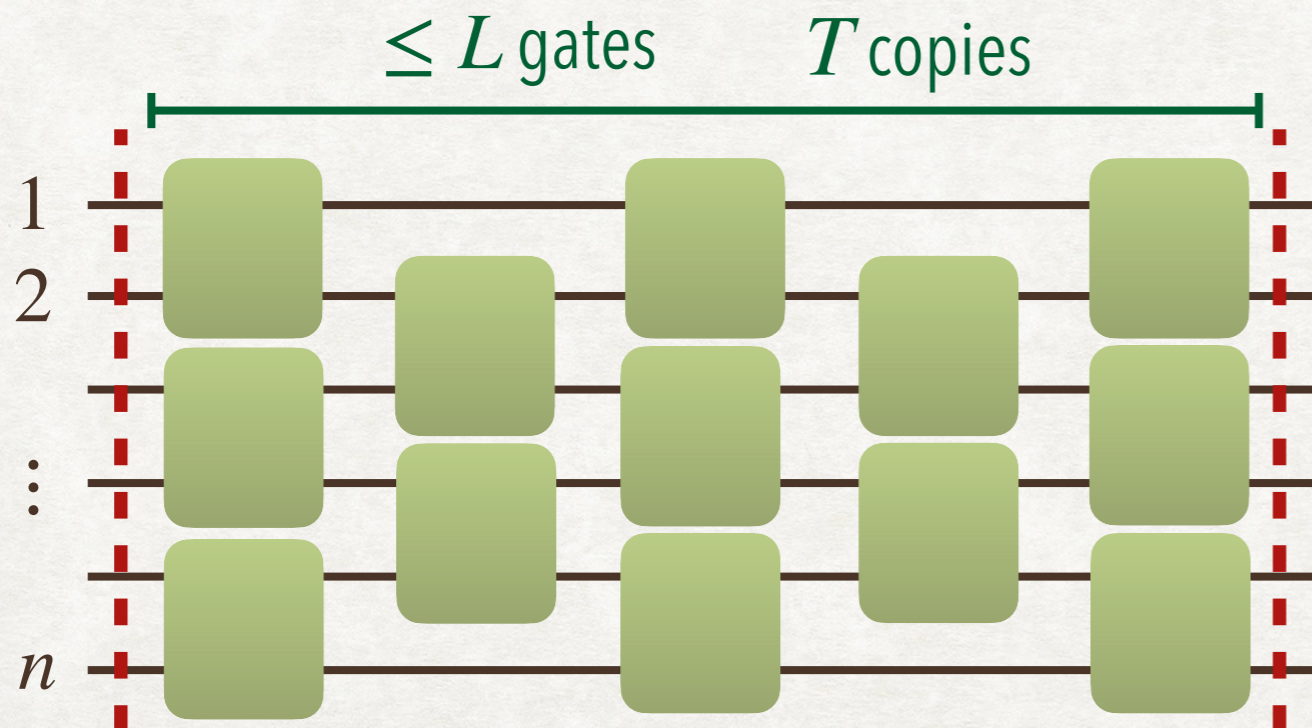


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Negligible at exponential times

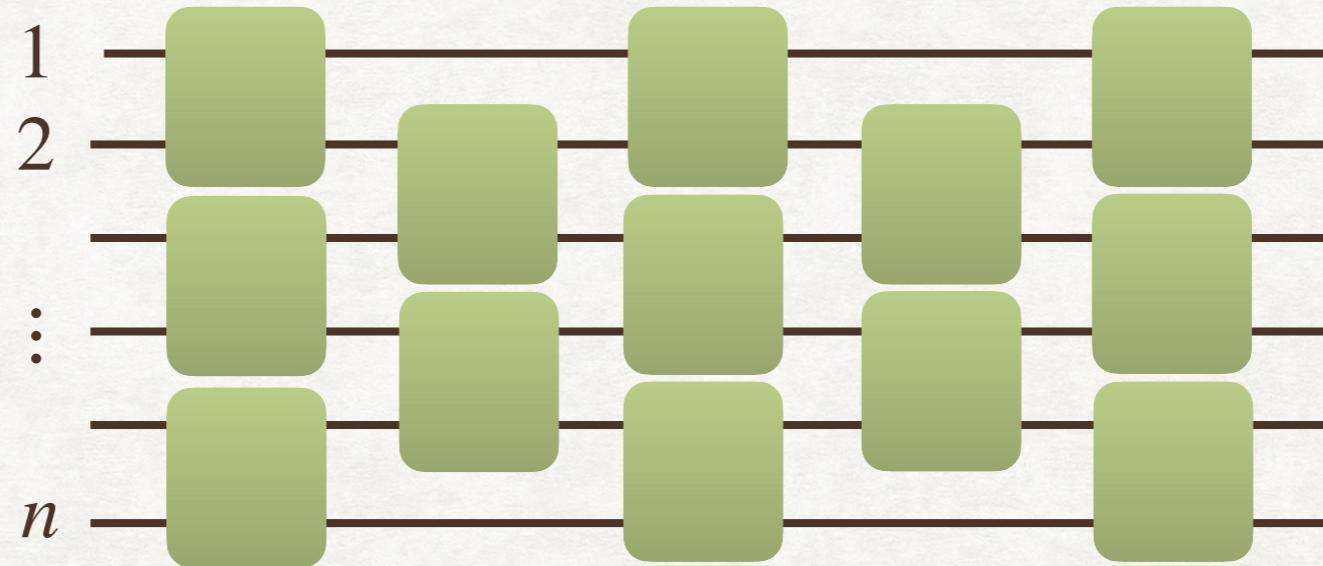


**Key proof idea: architecture's accessible dimension**



# Key proof idea: architecture's accessible dimension

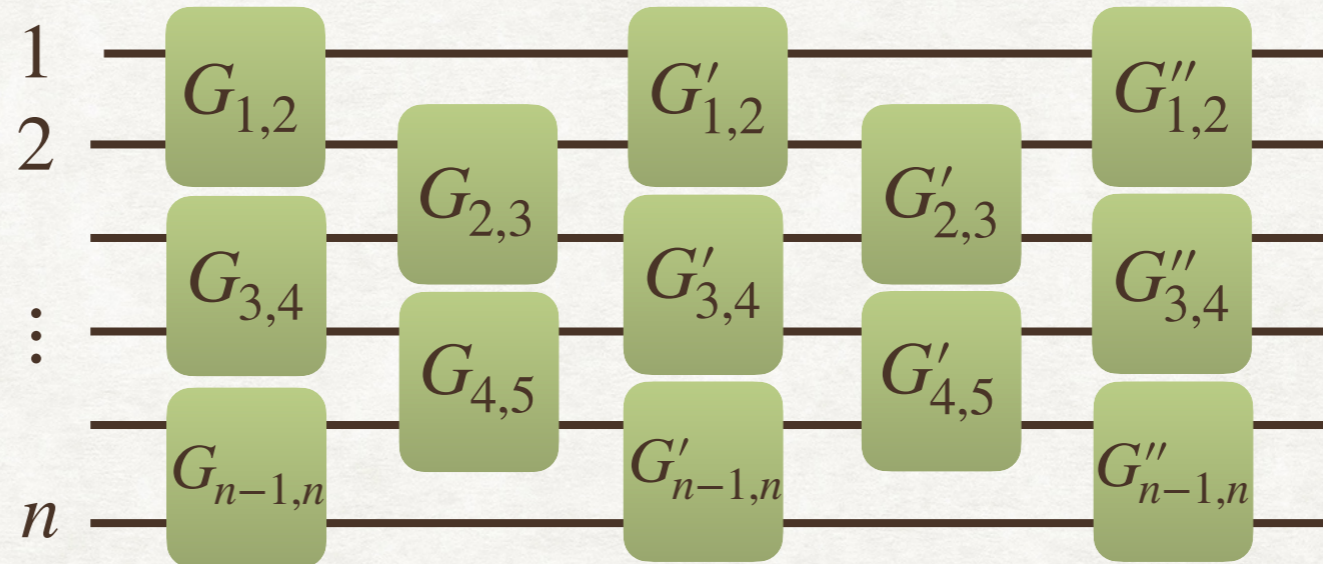
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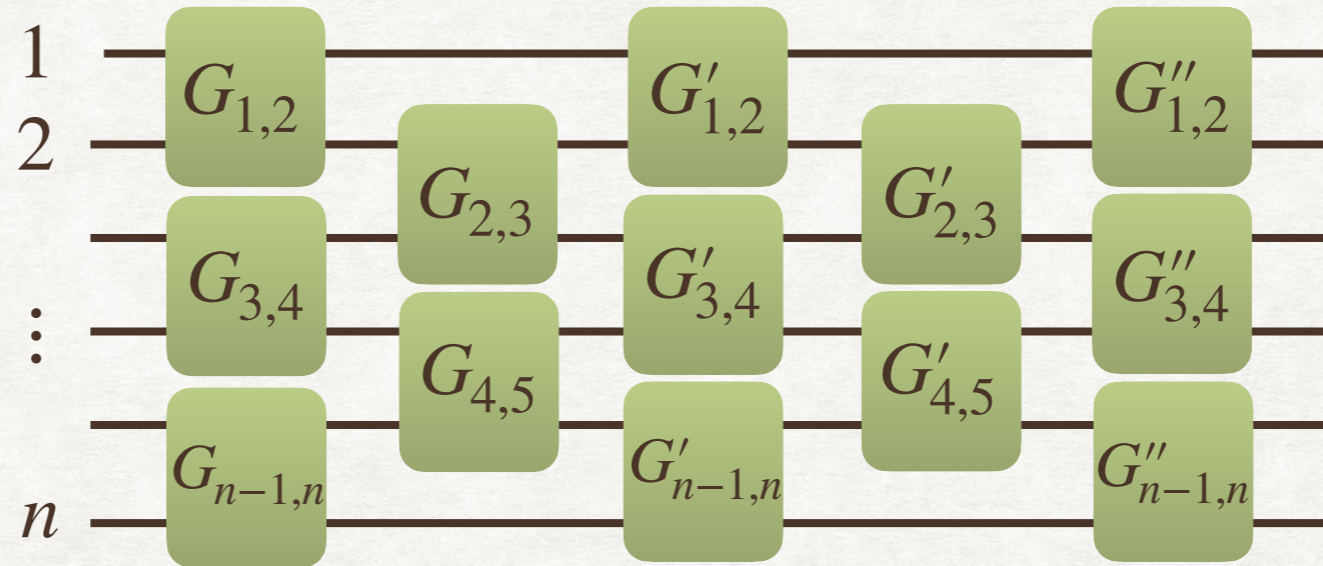


- Slot in gates + contract (apply  $F^A$ )



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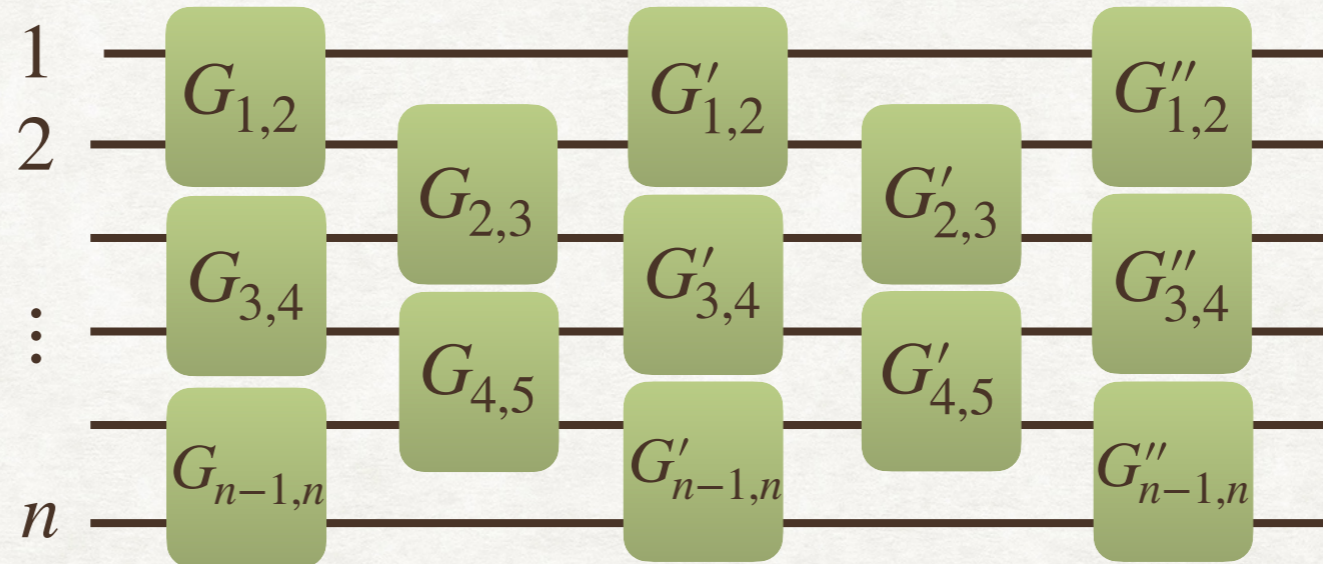


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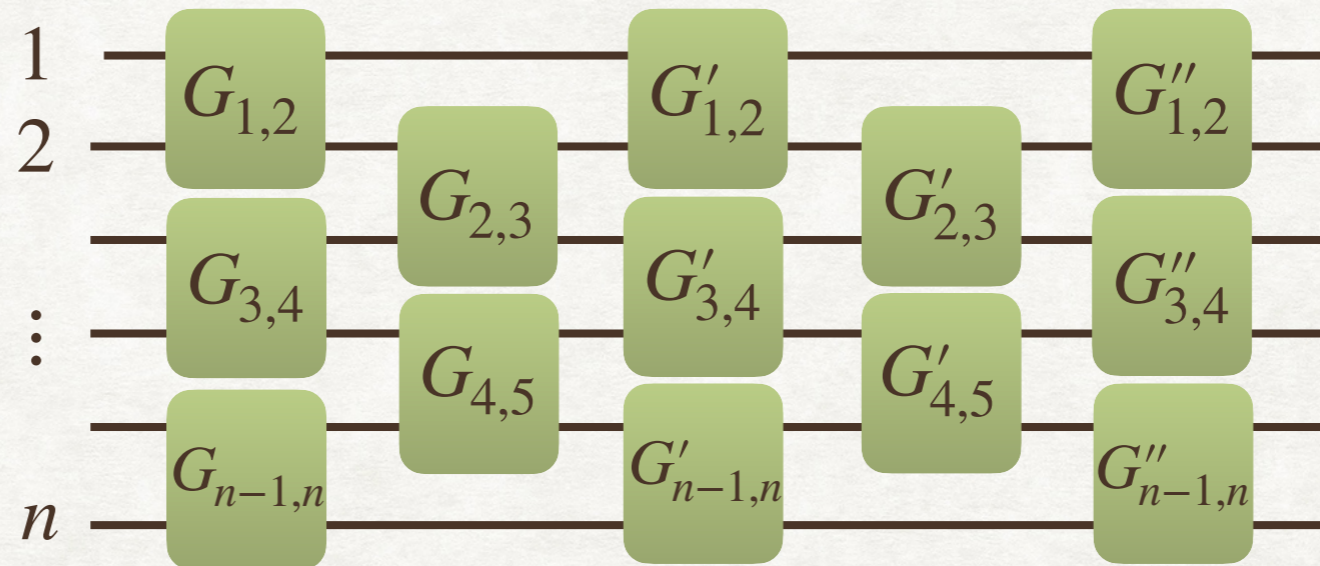


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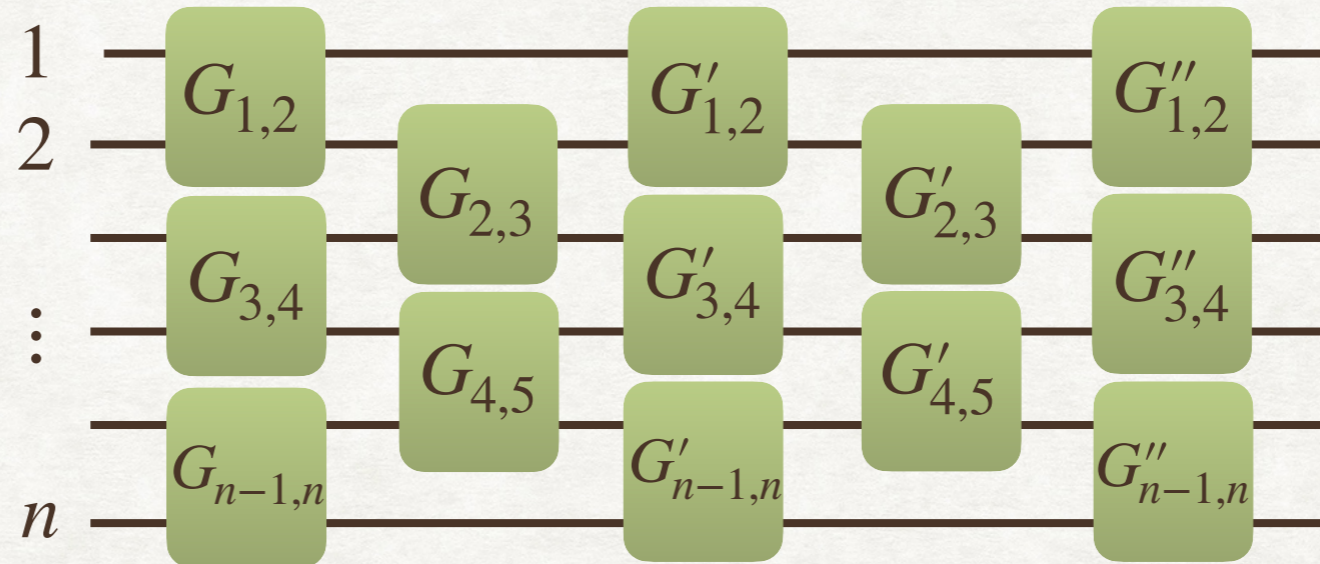


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Key proof idea: architecture's accessible dimension

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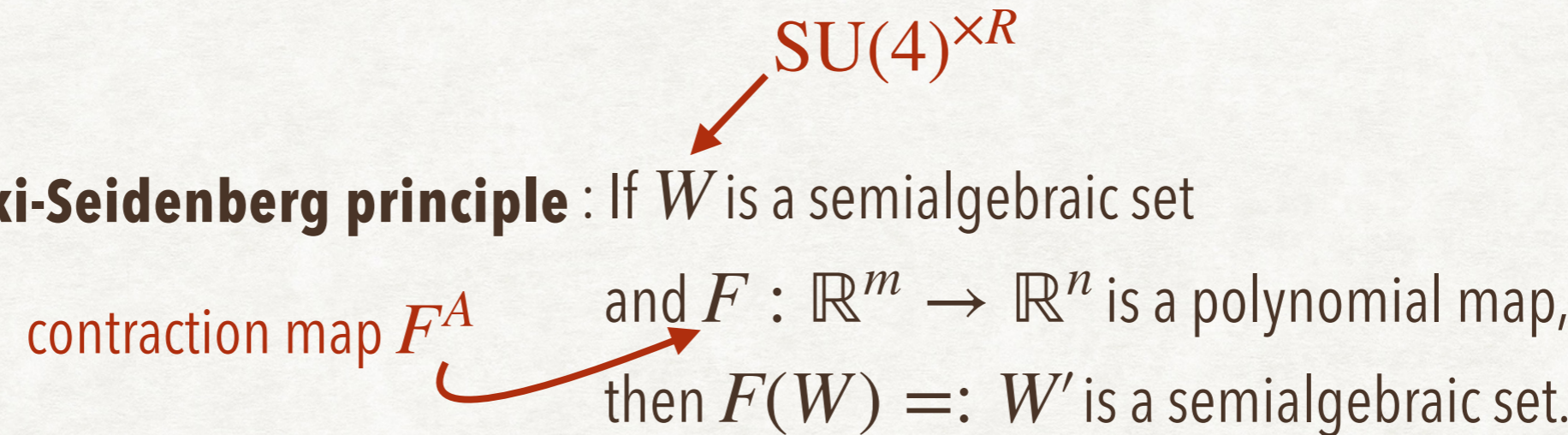
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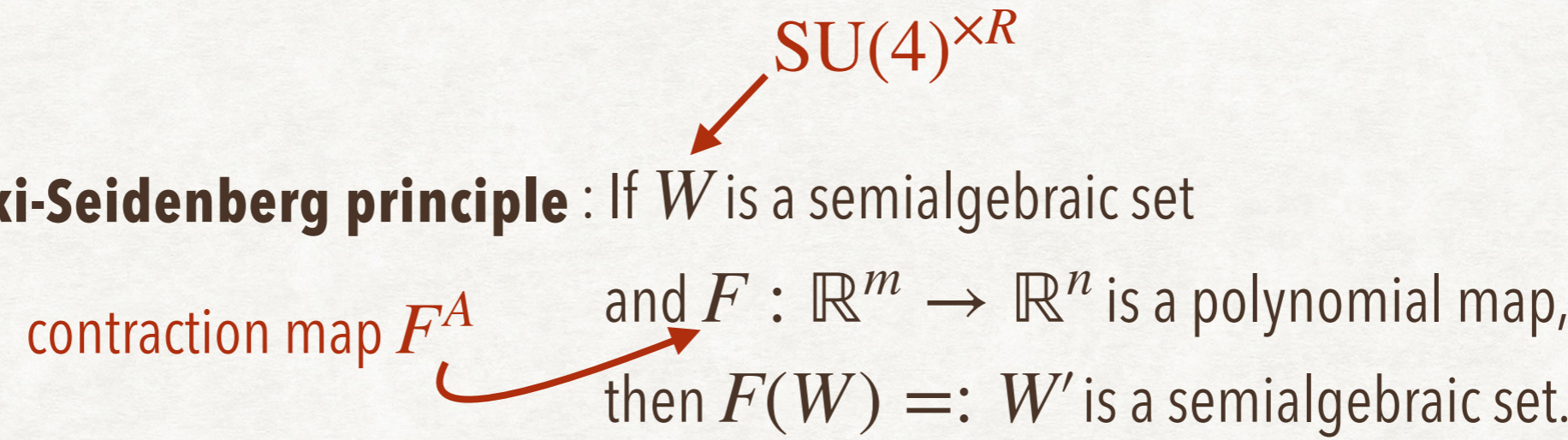


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-



# Key proof idea: architecture's accessible dimension



Learn about  $d_A$  from  
algebraic geometry and differential topology  
 $\Rightarrow$  infer about complexity



# Proof sketch



# Proof sketch

(1) Lower bound on accessible dimension



## Proof sketch

(1) Lower bound on accessible dimension (the toughest step):  $d_A \geq T$



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Our bound holds for  $T \leq 4^n - 1$ .



## Proof sketch

(1) Lower bound on accessible dimension (the toughest step):  $d_A \geq T$

(2) Upper bound on accessible dimension



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- Proof strategy: parameter counting  $\longrightarrow$  Ask during Q&A



(3) Putting it all together





### (3) Putting it all together



- Assume the theorem's assumptions.



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Show that the probability = 0, using lemmata (1) and (2).



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# Extensions



# Extensions

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$$\mathcal{C}_s(|\psi\rangle) \geq \frac{R}{9L} - \frac{n}{3}, \text{ until } T \leq 2^{n+1} - 1.$$
- Applications to resource theory:  
NYH, Kothakonda, Haferkamp, Munson, Eisert, and Faist,  
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# Extensions

(2) Random architecture



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Remove backward light cone from assumptions



# Extensions

(2) Random architecture → probabilistic lower bound on exact circuit complexity

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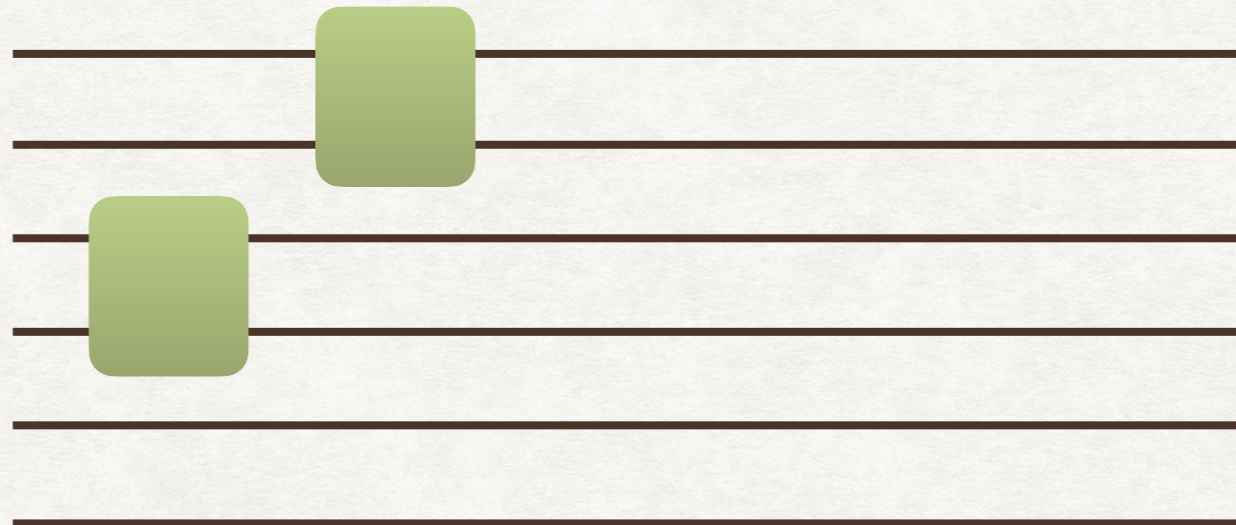


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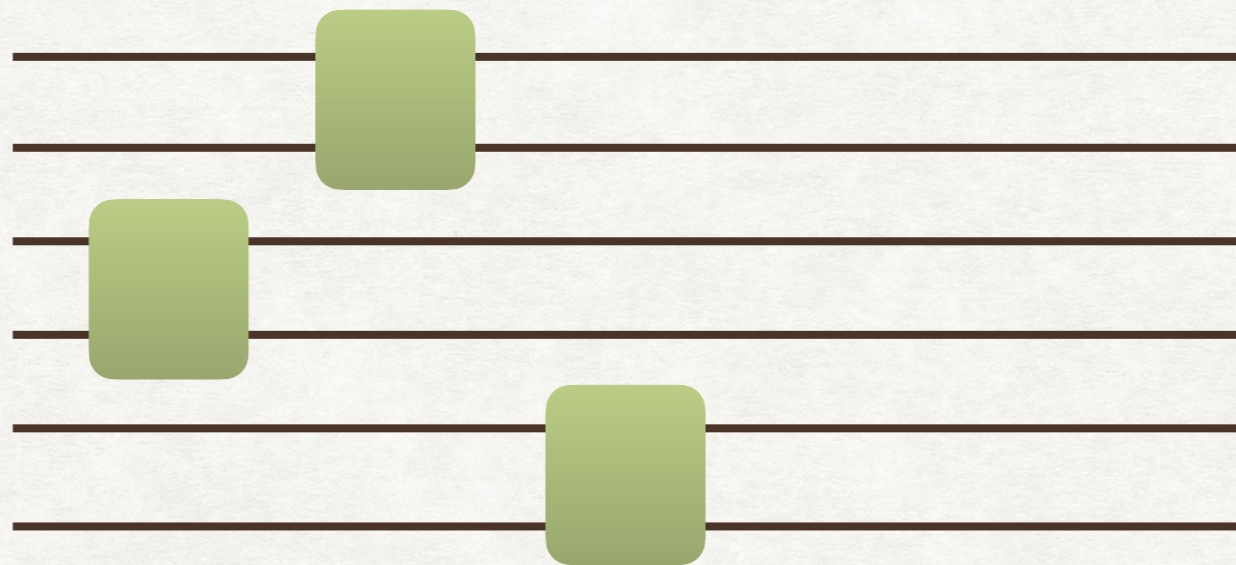


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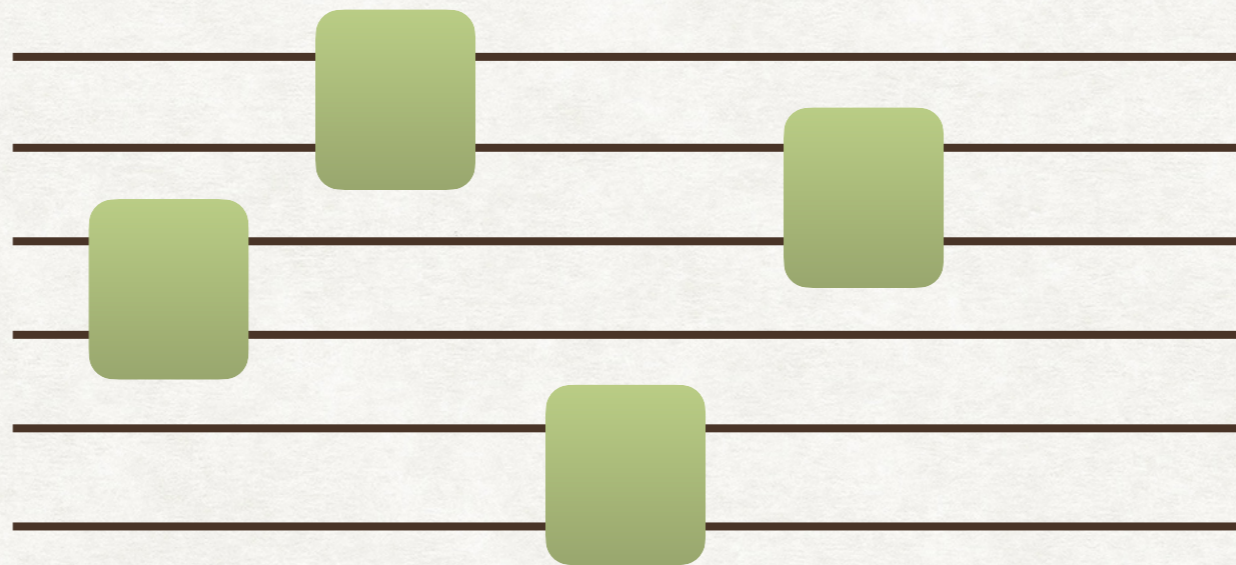


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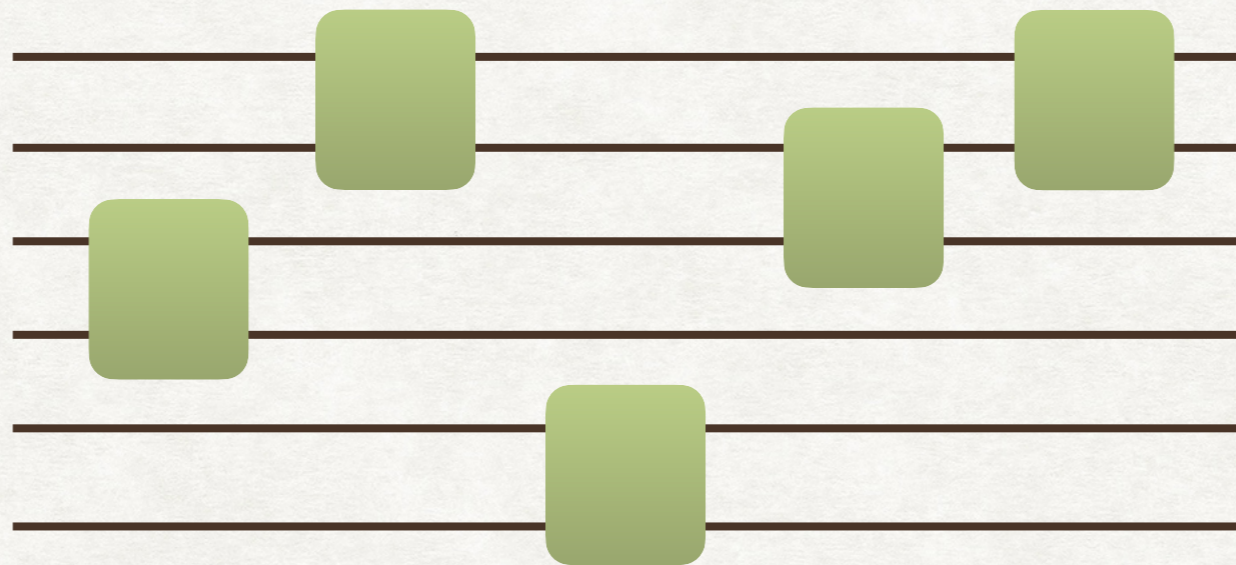


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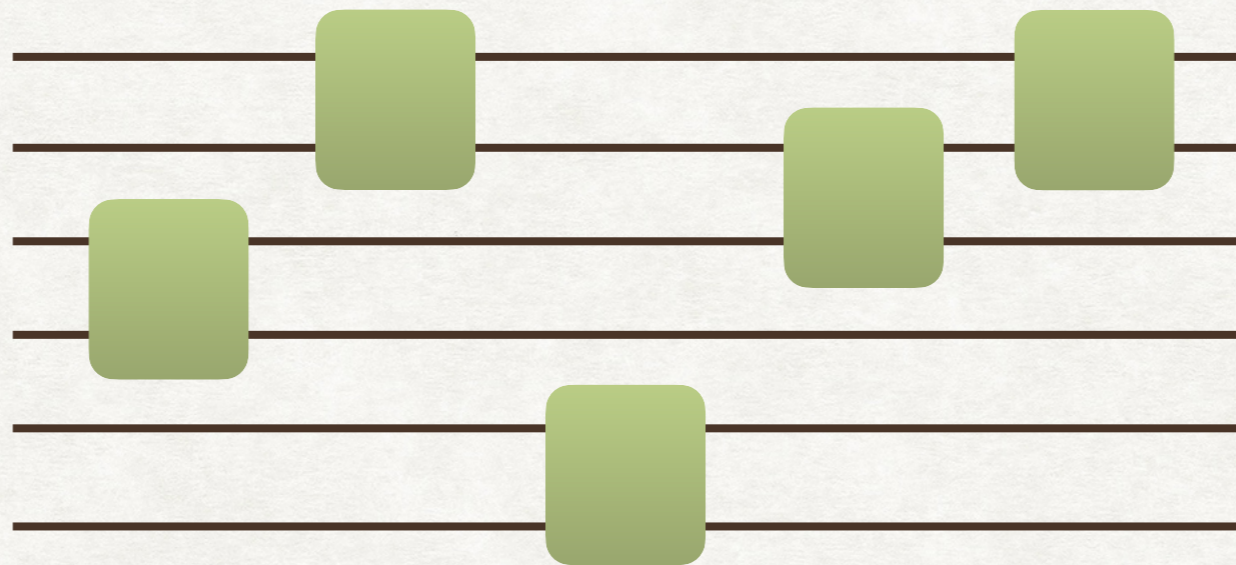


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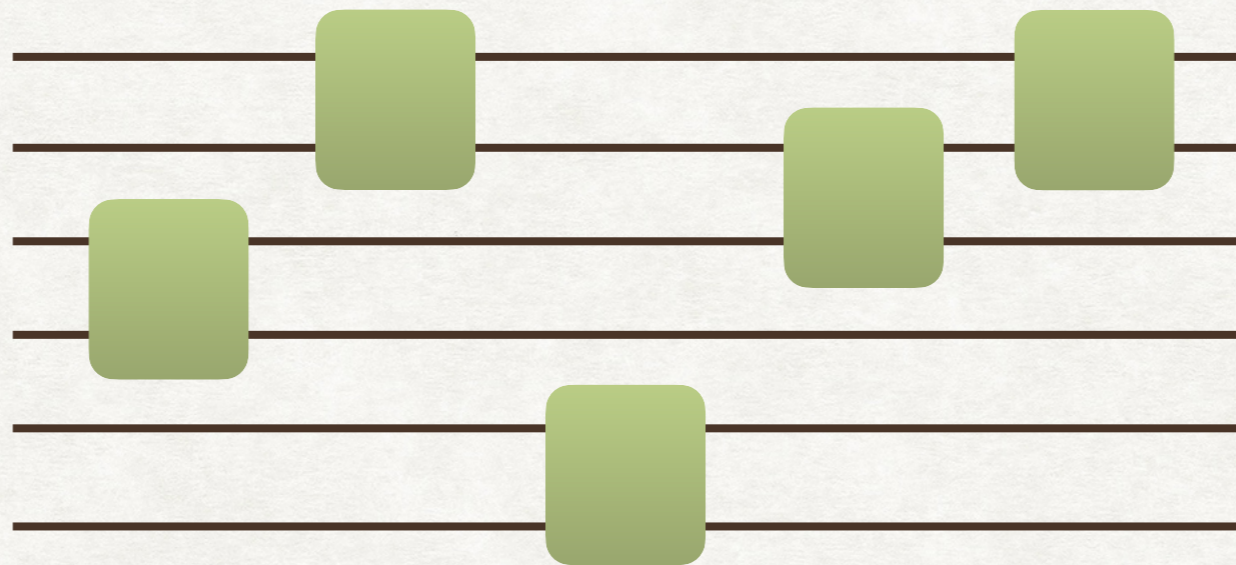


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- With high probability, the gates form backward light cones. →  
 $\mathcal{C}(U)$  obeys a linear lower bound.



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$$\bullet \Pr \left( \mathcal{C}(U) \geq \alpha \frac{R}{9n(n-1)^2} - \frac{n}{3} \right) \geq 1 - \frac{1}{1-\alpha} (n-1) e^{-n}$$

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- Key proof tool: Chebyshev's/Markov's inequality



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(3) Lower bound on approximate circuit complexity



# Extensions

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- Synopsis
  - Suppose that  $U$  satisfies our theorem's assumptions.



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such that, with probability  $1 - \delta$ ,  $\|U - U'\|_F \geq \varepsilon$ .
- Shortcoming:  $\varepsilon$  can be uncontrollably small.



# Extensions

(3) Lower bound on approximate circuit complexity

Why  $\varepsilon$  can be uncontrollably small



## Extensions

### (3) Lower bound on approximate circuit complexity

#### Why $\varepsilon$ can be uncontrollably small

- We're extending  $\mathcal{U}(A')$  to include all the unitaries close in some matrix norm.



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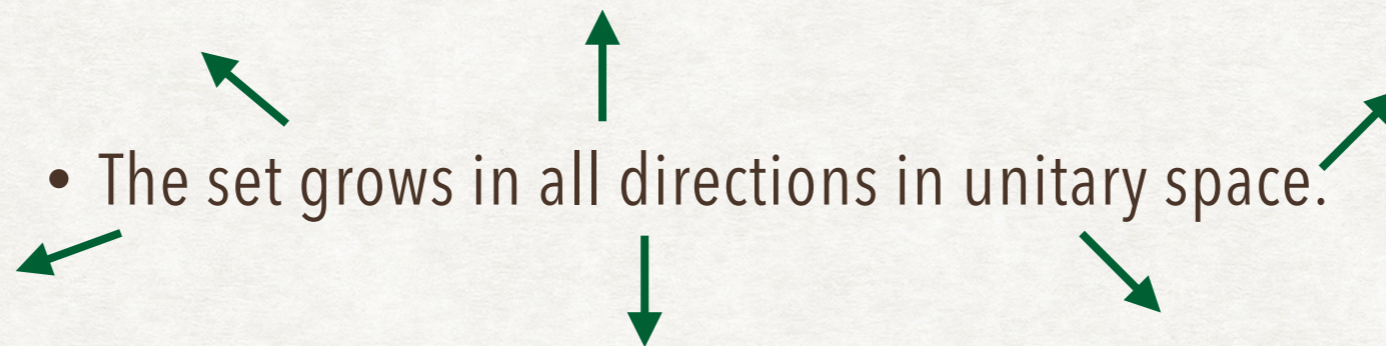


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⇒ The accessible dimension is too crude a tool.









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- Nielsen's complexity  $\geq$  approximate circuit complexity



Nielsen *et al.*, Science **311**, 1133 (2006).

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- Nielsen's complexity  $\geq$  approximate circuit complexity  $\geq$  lower bound (1)



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(3) Accessible dimension as a new mathematical tool in many-body quantum physics





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### (4) Resource-theory opportunities

- NYH, Kothakonda, Haferkamp, Munson, Eisert, and Faist, arXiv:2110.11371 (2021).



# Recap

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Haferkamp, Faist, Kothakonda, Eisert, and NYH, accepted by *Nat. Phys.*  
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- Toolkits: algebraic geometry, differential topology

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# Recap

- Quantum complexity as a relevant tool across many-body physics
- Two 2017/2018 complexity conjectures by Brown and Susskind



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(2) Can define a resource theory for quantum uncomplexity

- 2 proofs
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Thanks for your time!



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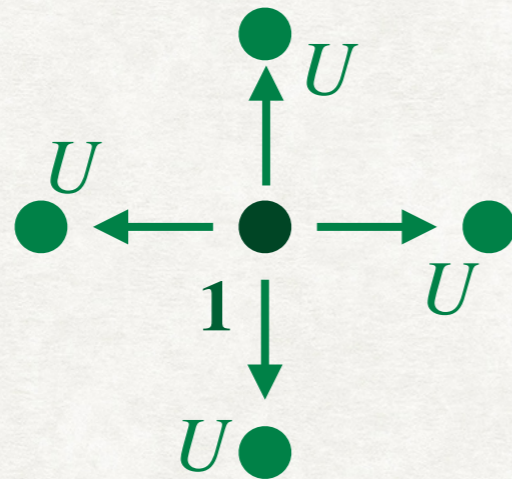
1 ●



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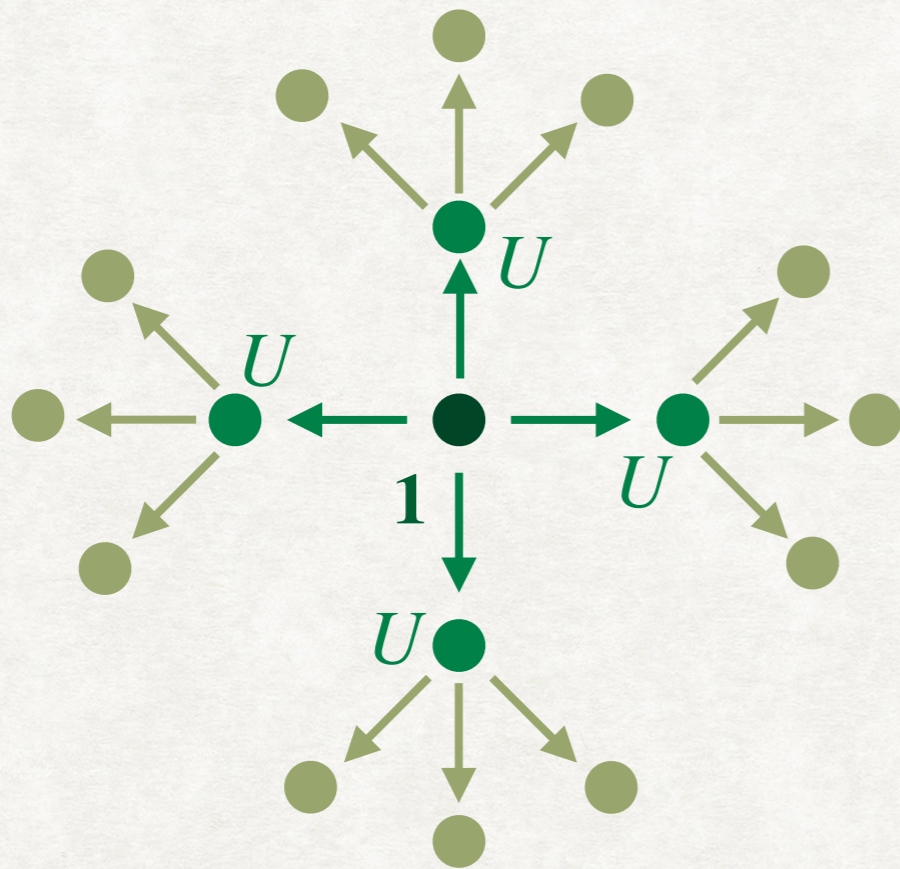




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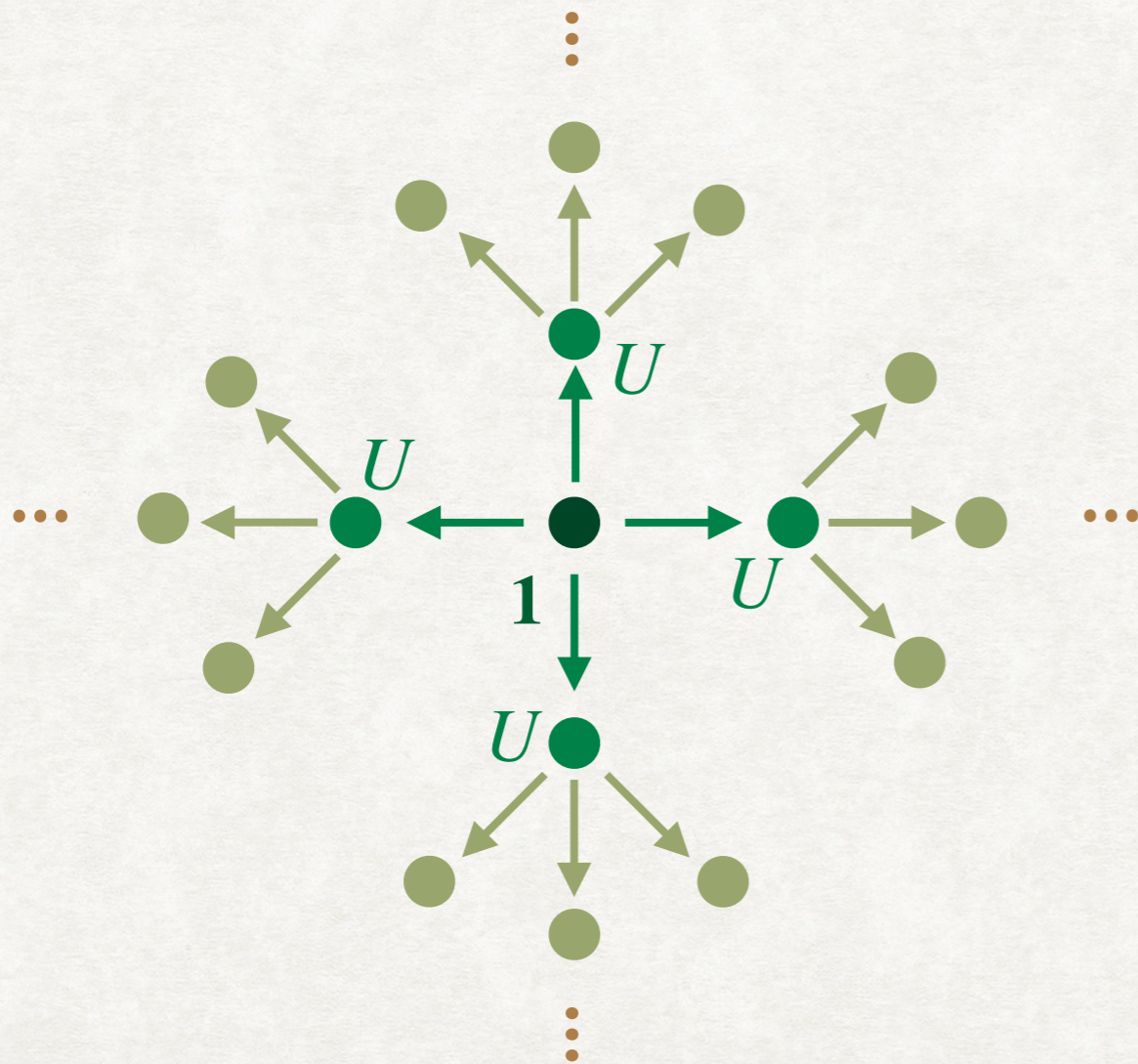




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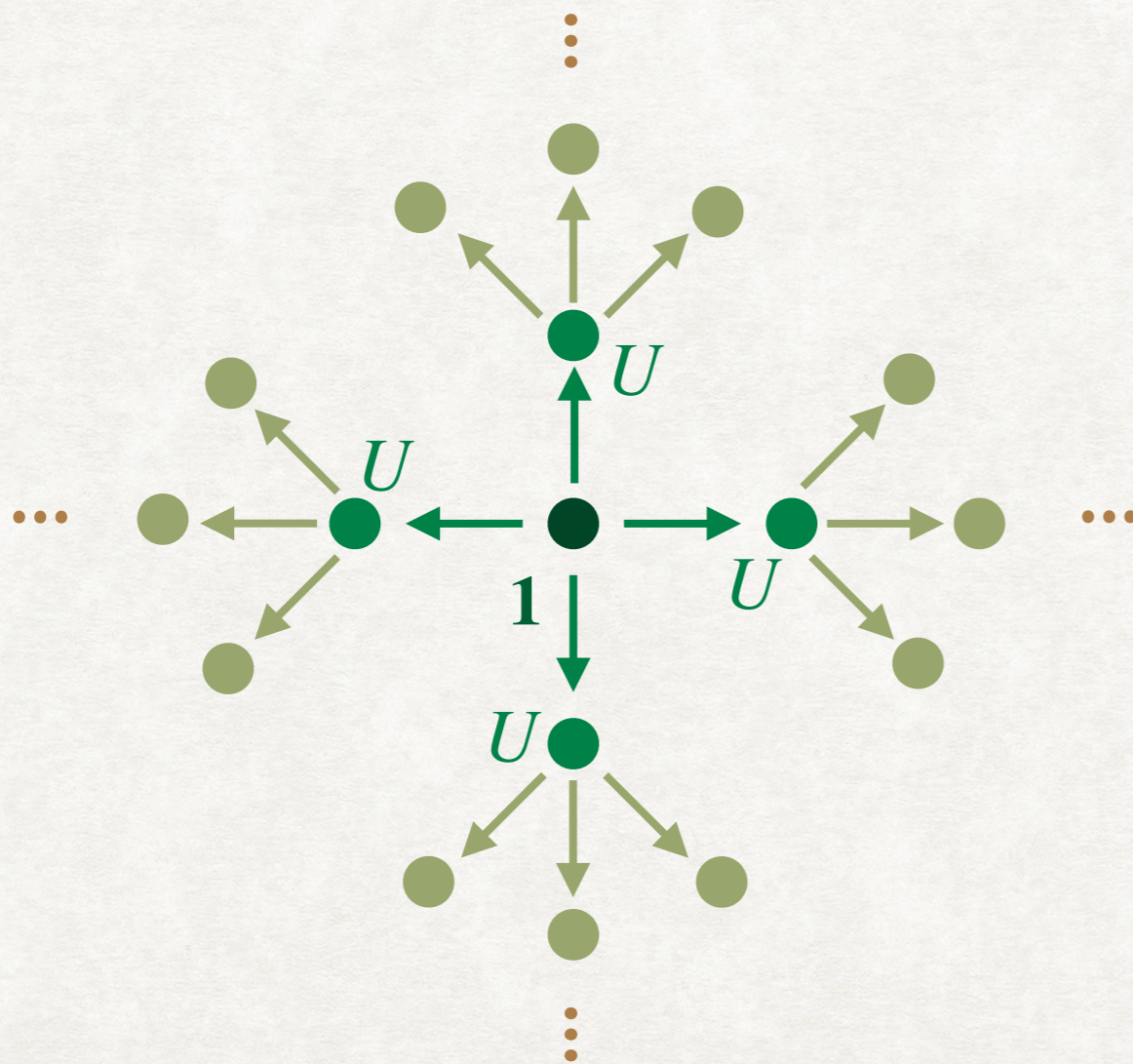




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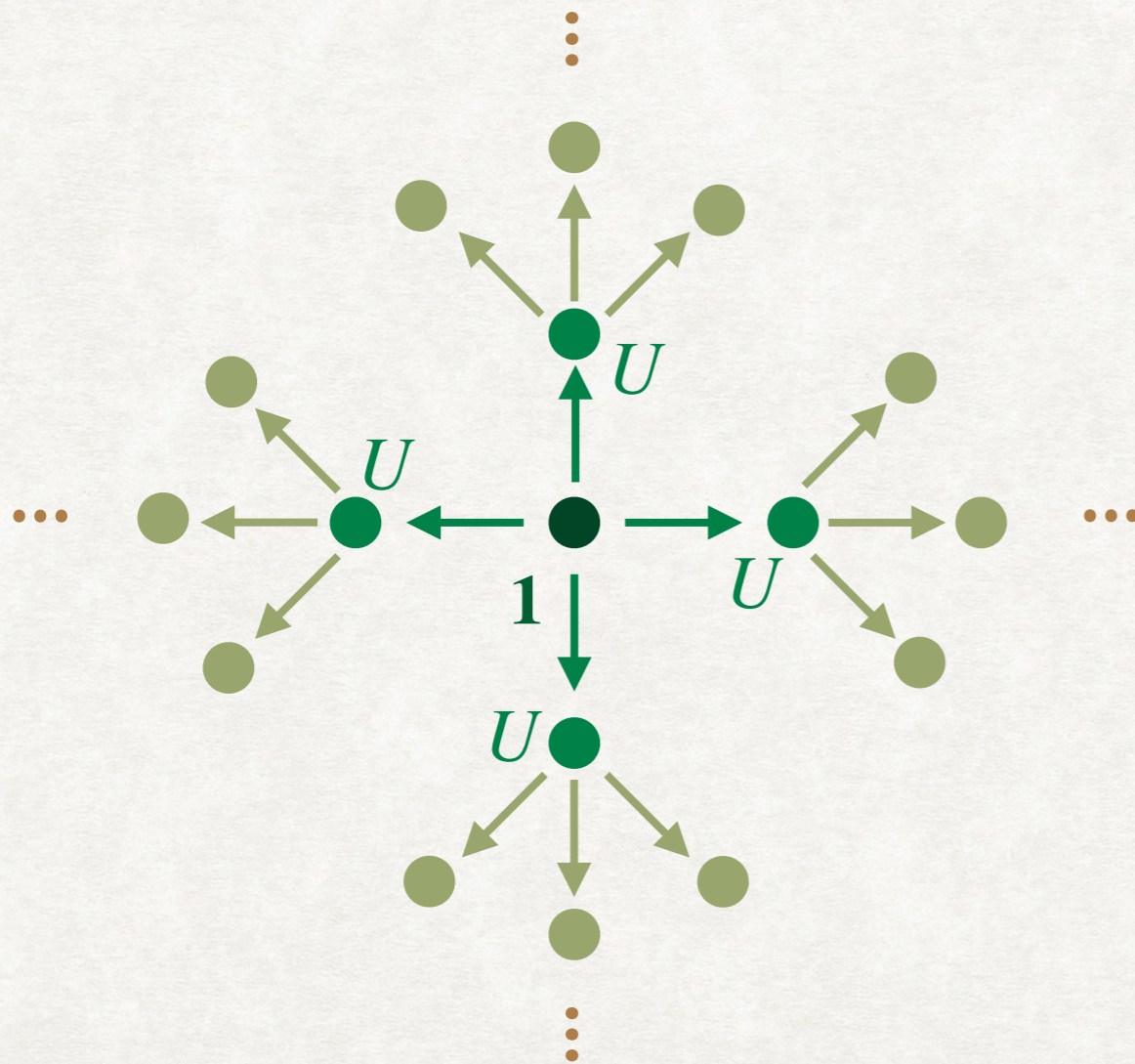
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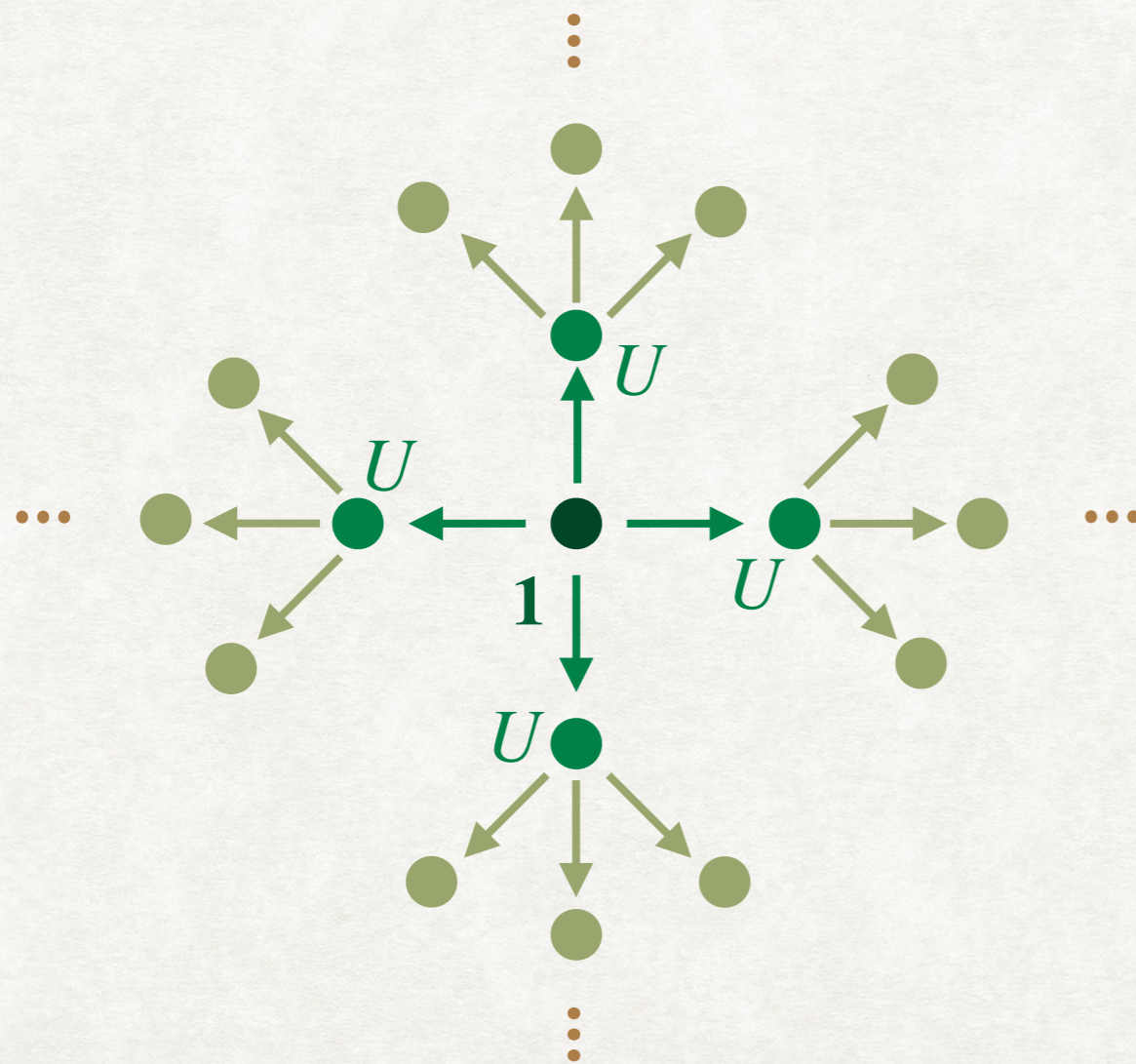
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Proof of lower bound on accessible dimension,  $d_A \geq T$



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Complexity  $\longrightarrow$  accessible dimension  $\longrightarrow$  rank of  $F^A$



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- If you perturb  $x$ , along how many directions can  $U$  spread?



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Construction of  $x \in \mathrm{SU}(4)^{\times R}$  for which  $r \geq T$

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Goal: lower-bound



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- Perturbed gate:  $\tilde{U}_j = (\text{infinitesimal unitary})U_j$

$$= \exp(i\epsilon \underline{H}) \tilde{U}_j$$

$$= \exp\left(i \sum_{k=1}^{15} \epsilon_{j,k} S_k\right) \tilde{U}_j$$

Parameterized by  
the 15 nontrivial  
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 $S_k = 1X, X1, XX, \dots$

- Perturbation to input  $x$   $\Rightarrow$  perturbation to image

$$U = F^A(x) \mapsto \tilde{U} = F^A(\tilde{x})$$

- Perturbation to image:  $\left. \partial_{\epsilon_{j,k}} F^A(\tilde{x}) \right|_{\epsilon_{j,k}=0}$



## Construction of $x \in \text{SU}(4)^{\times R}$ for which $r \geq T$

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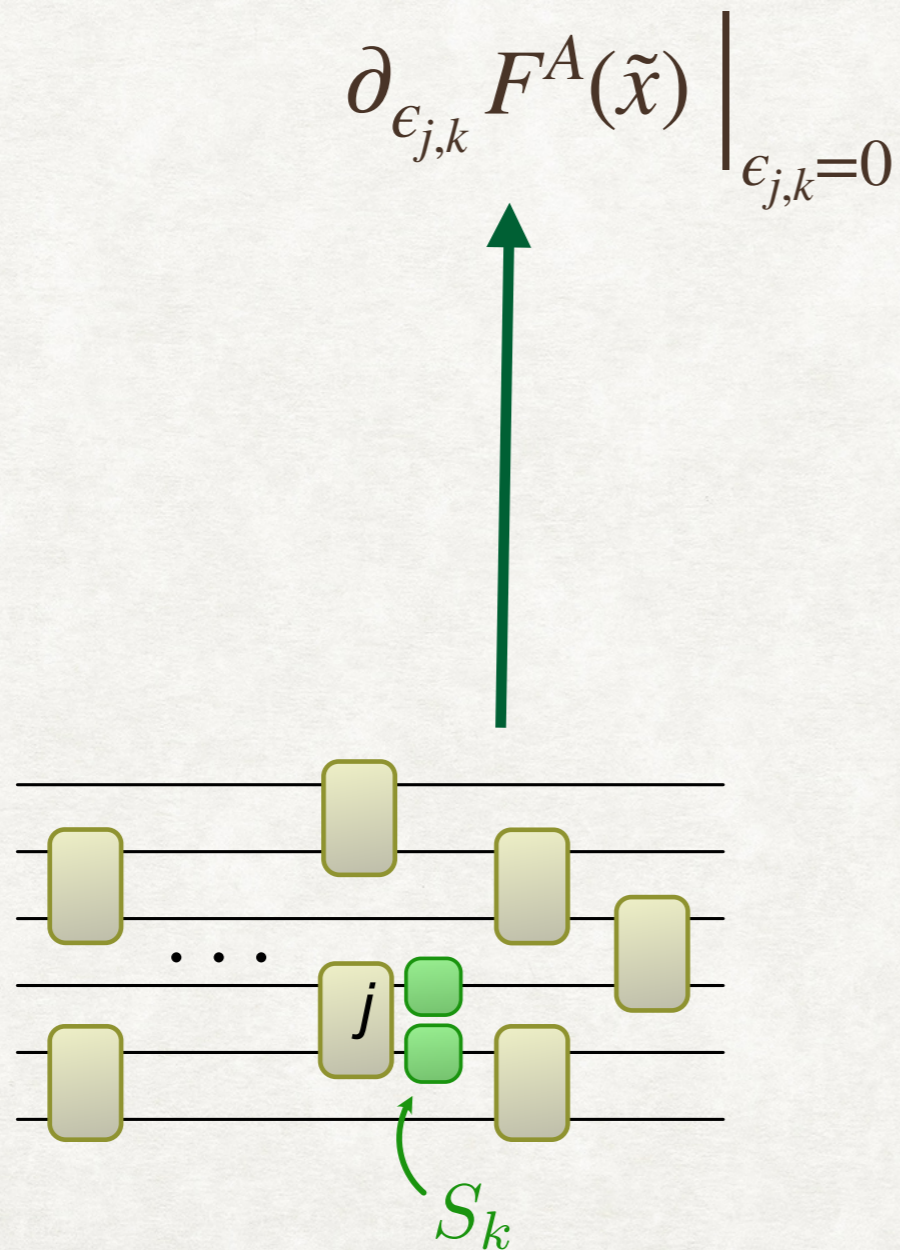
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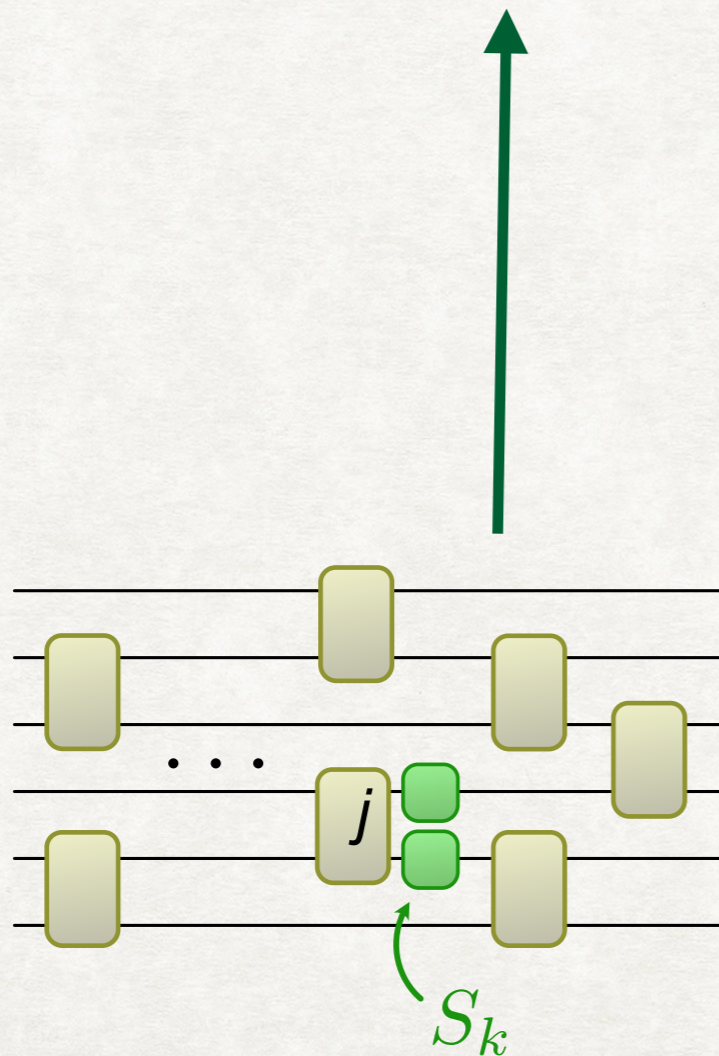




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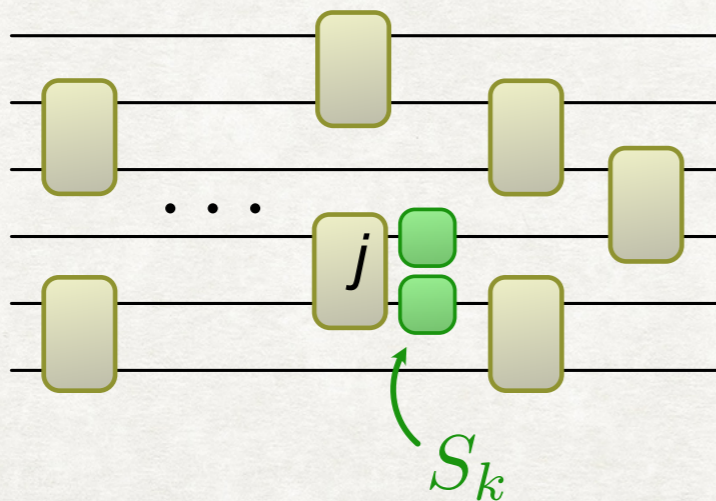


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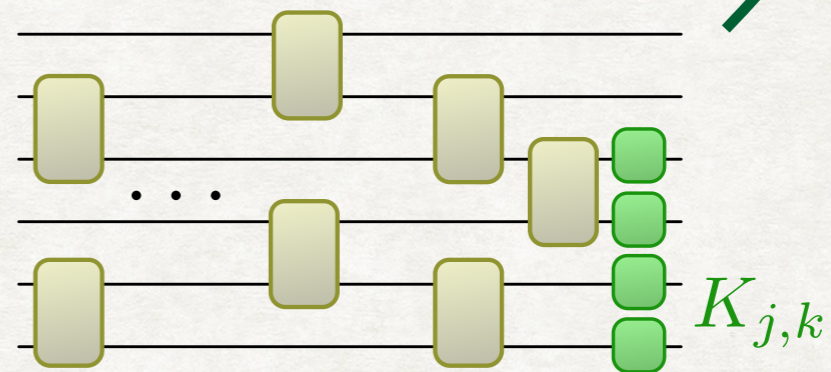
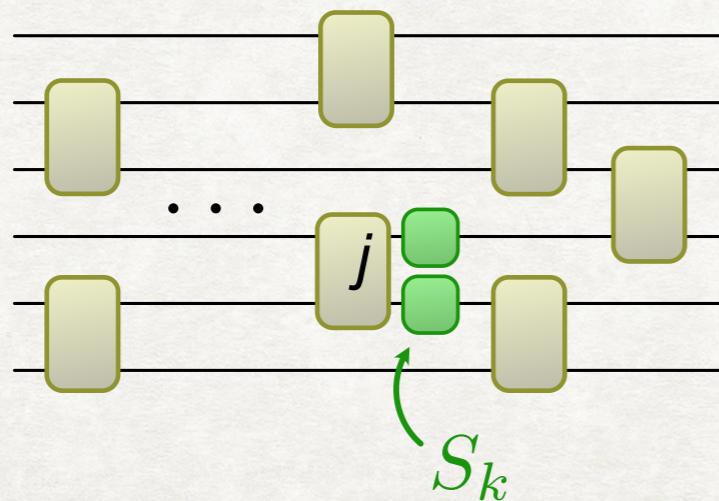


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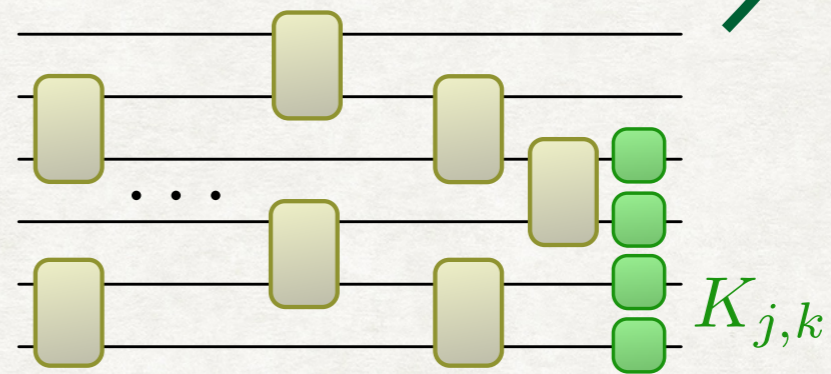
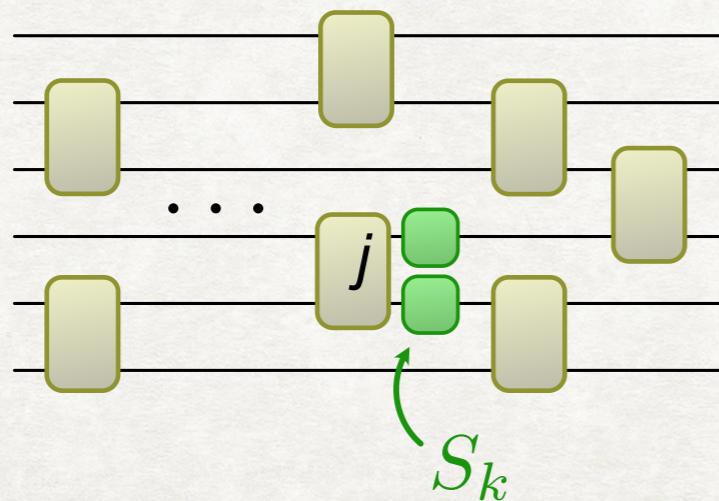


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Construction of  $x \in \text{SU}(4)^{\times R}$  for which  $r \geq T$

- To lower-bound  $r$ , choose Clifford gates  $U_j$ .



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Construction of  $x \in \text{SU}(4)^{\times R}$  for which  $r \geq T$

Recursive argument



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- Begin with circuit of architecture  $A'$



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 $(m = 1, 2, \dots, T')$



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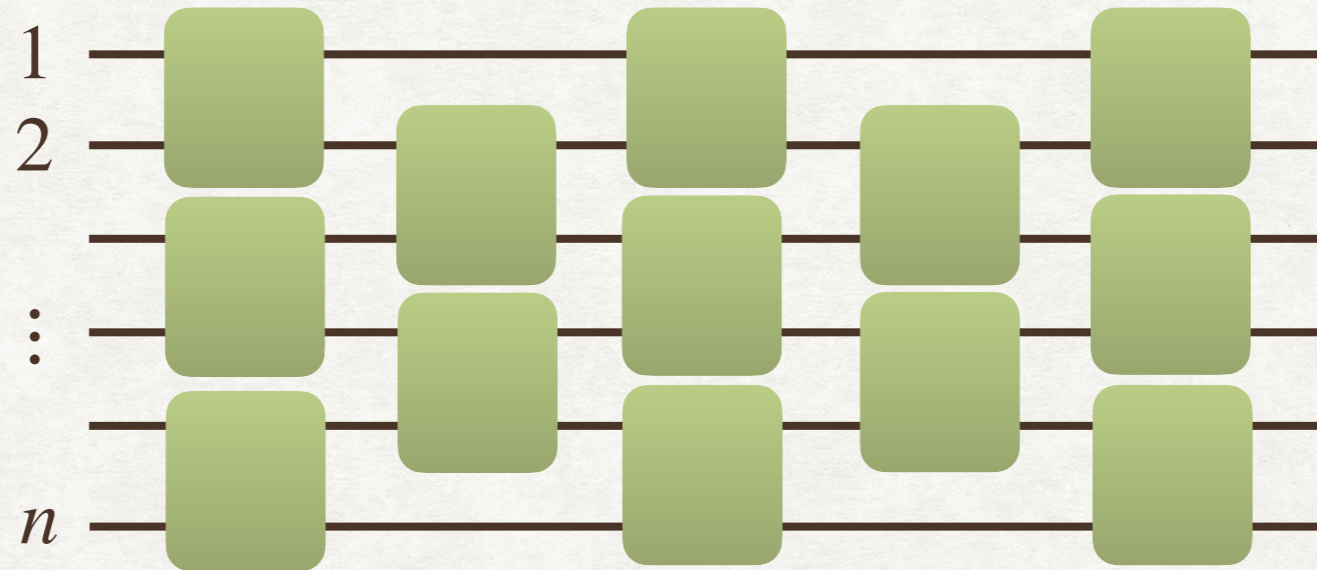
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 $\rightarrow r \geq T$  🙌



# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$

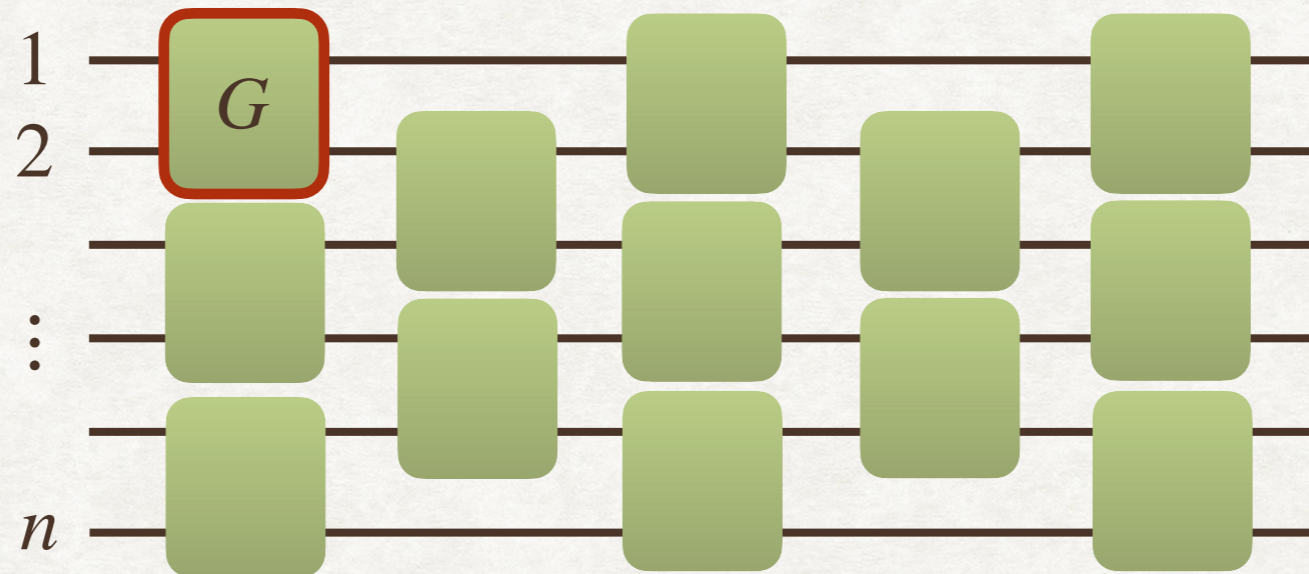
- $A$  = arbitrary  $n$ -qubit architecture of  $R$  gates





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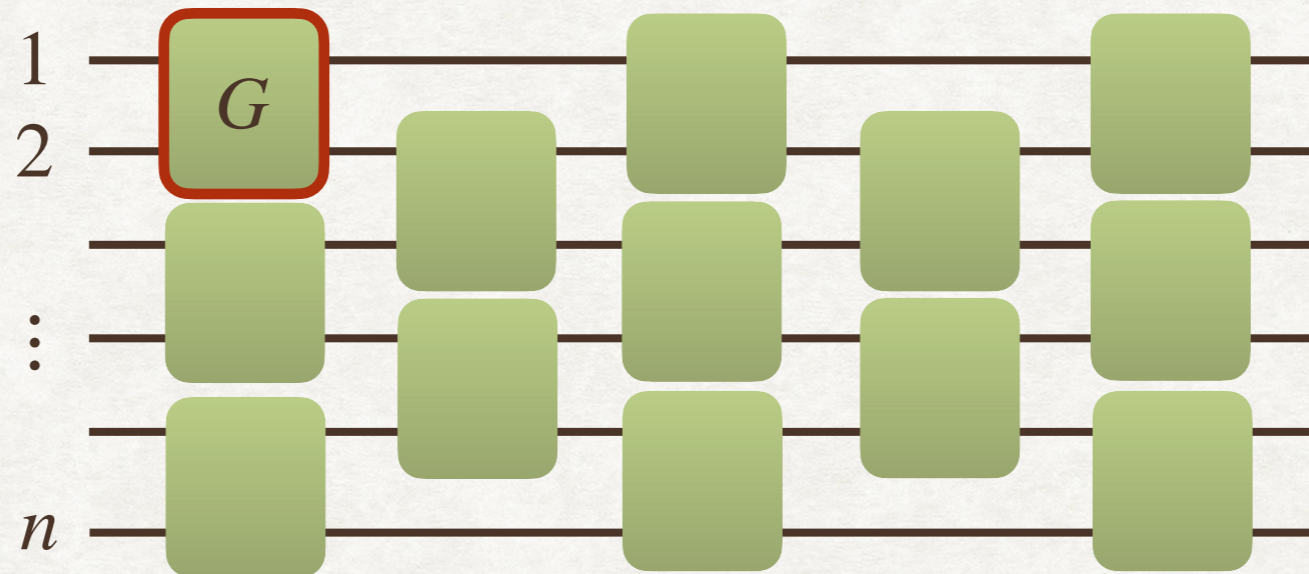
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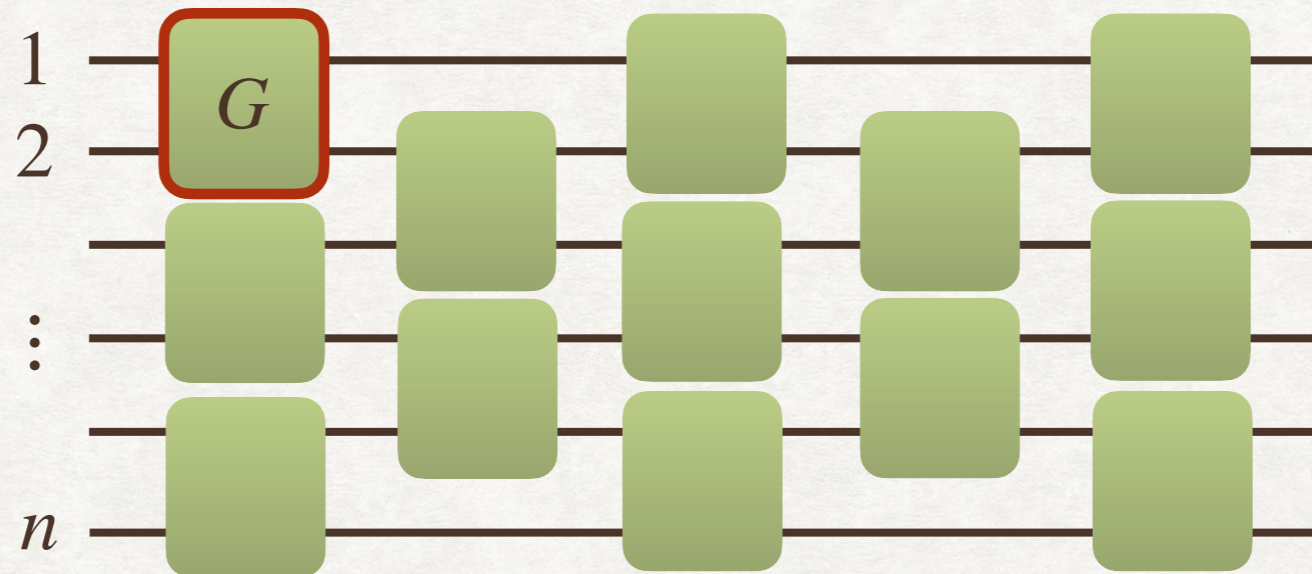
- $A$  = arbitrary  $n$ -qubit architecture of  $R$  gates
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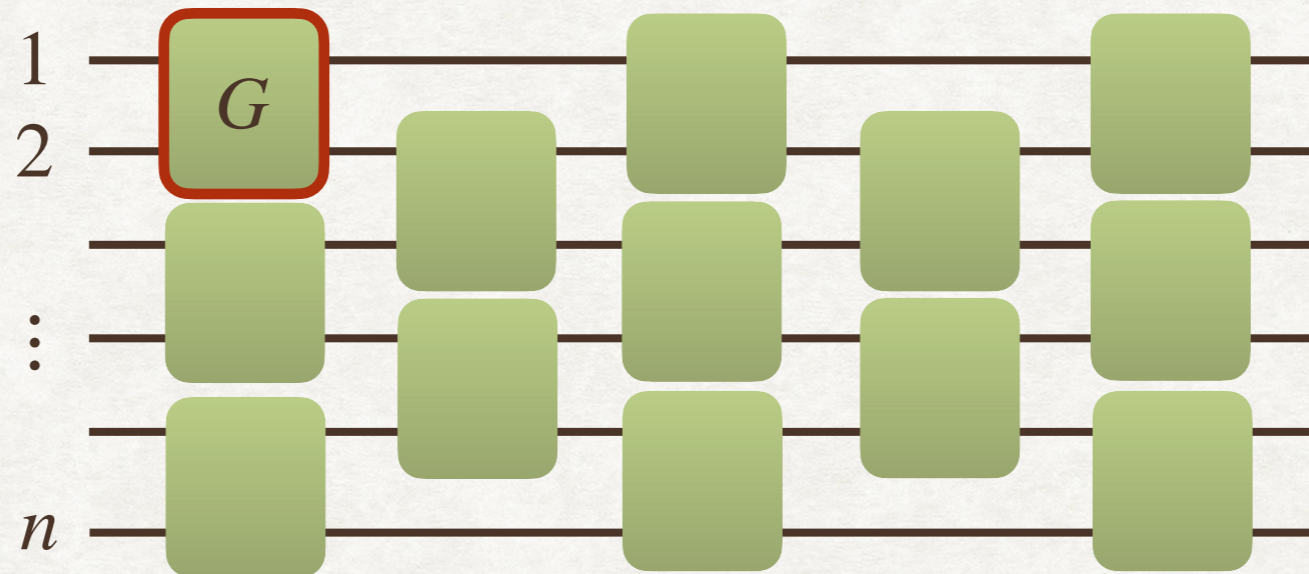
- $A$  = arbitrary  $n$ -qubit architecture of  $R$  gates
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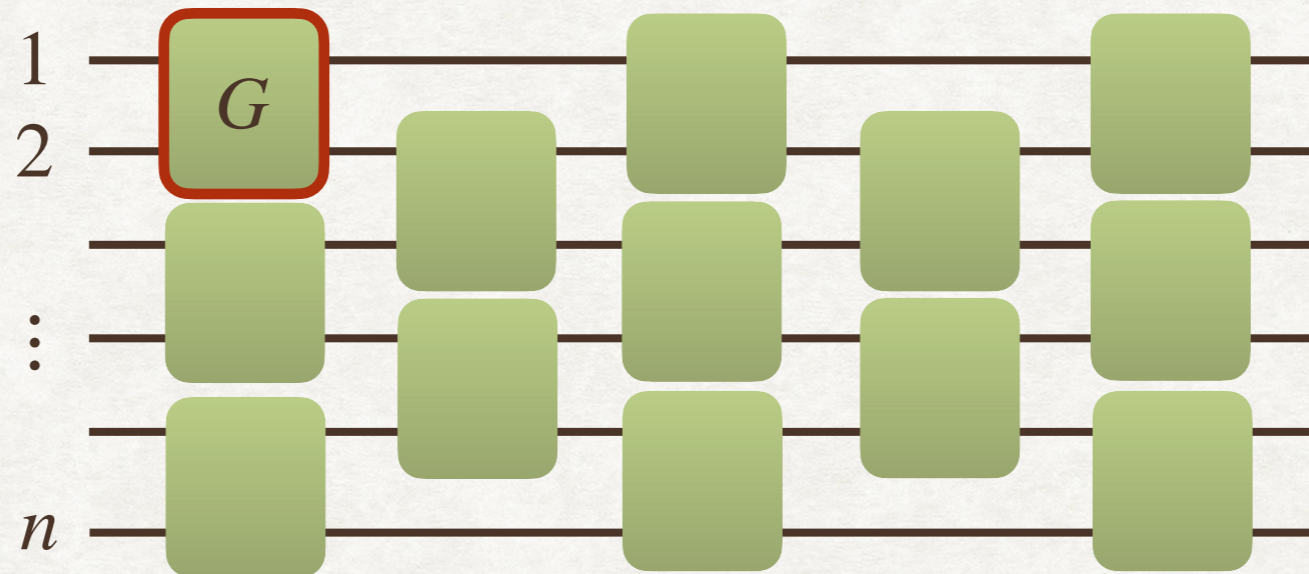
- $A$  = arbitrary  $n$ -qubit architecture of  $R$  gates
- # of parameters needed to specify one 2-qubit gate  
= dimension of  $SU(4) = 4^2 - 1 = 15$





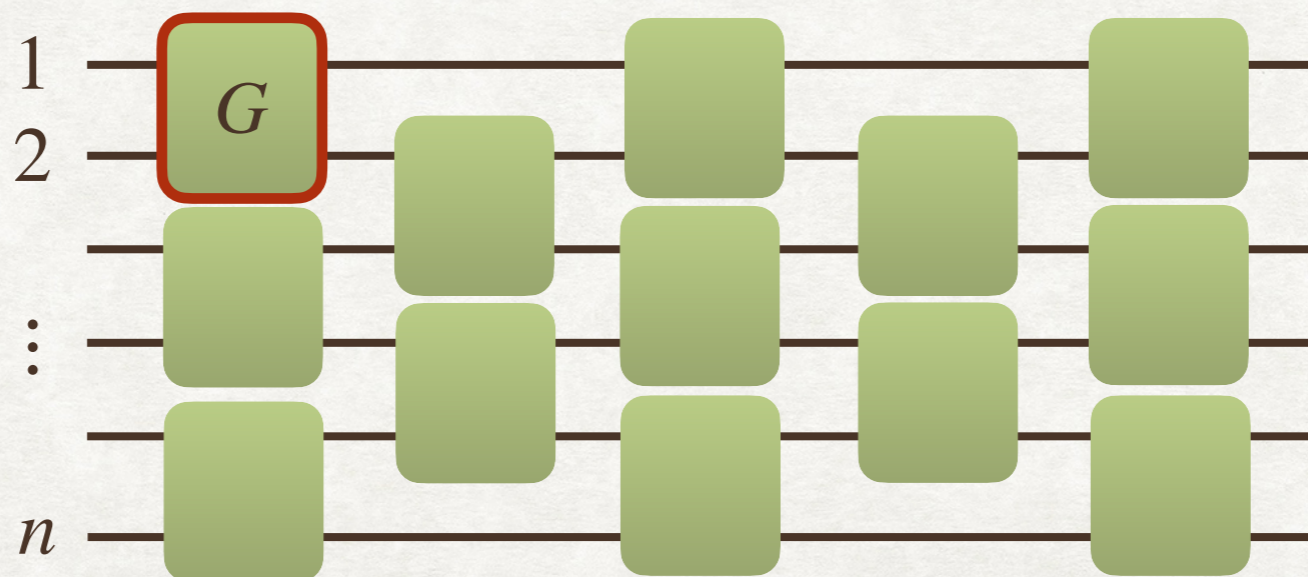
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= dimension of  $SU(4) = 4^2 - 1 = 15$
- Naïve guess: # of parameters needed to specify circuit =  $15R$





Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension,  $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$

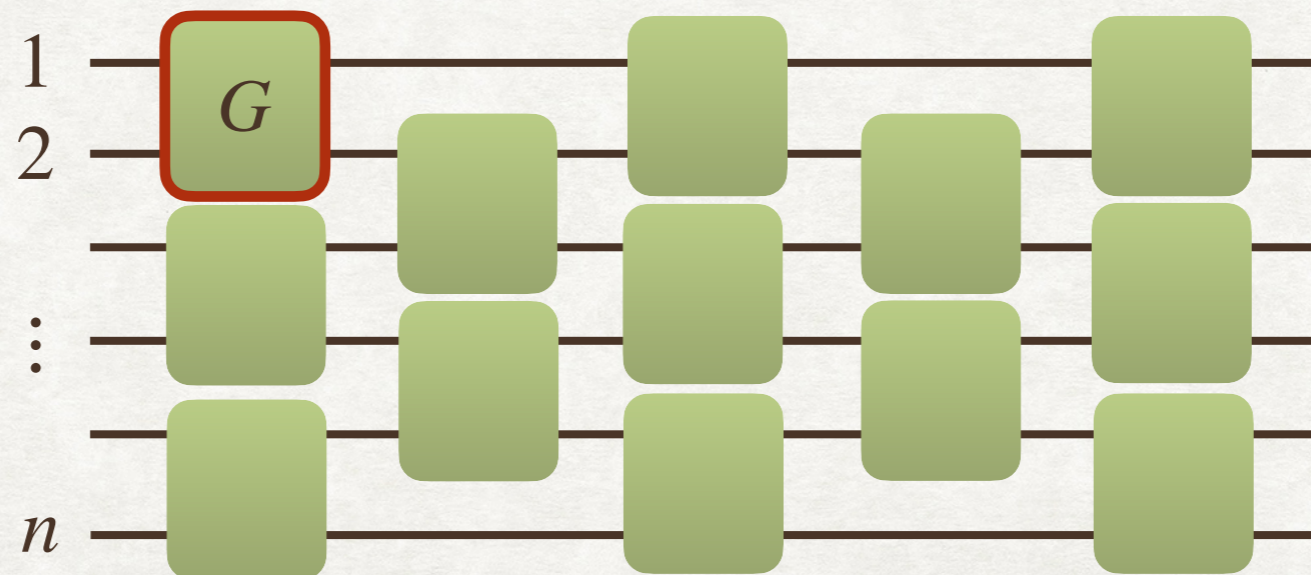




# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$



This set of parameters contains redundancies.



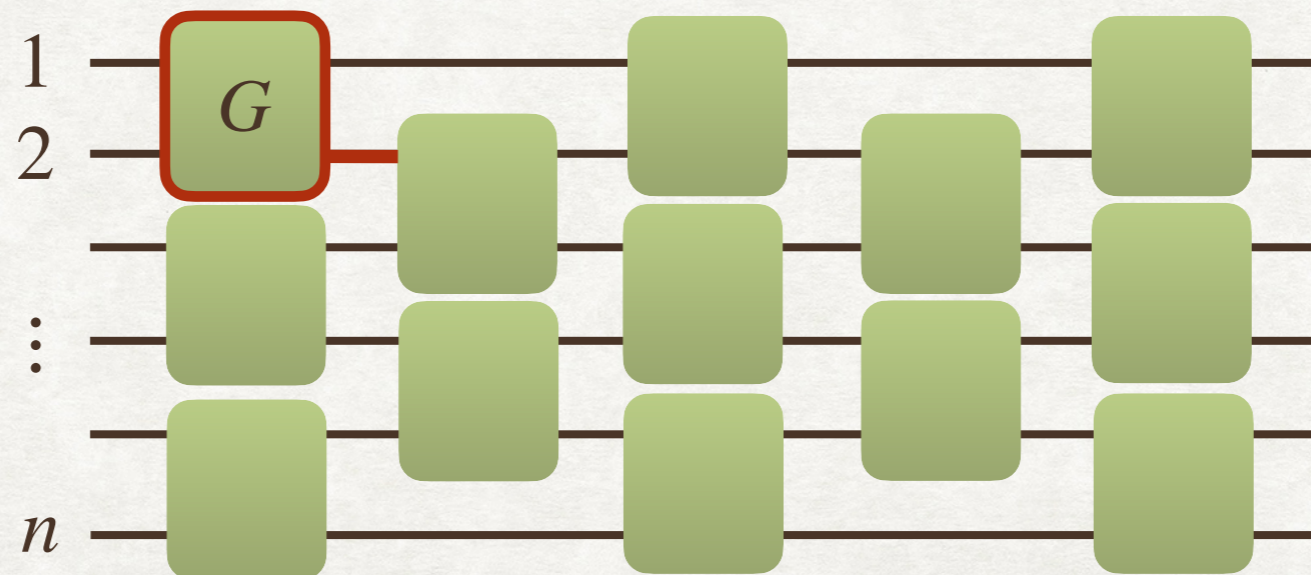


# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$



This set of parameters contains redundancies.

- This description of  $G$  includes a rotation of qubit 2



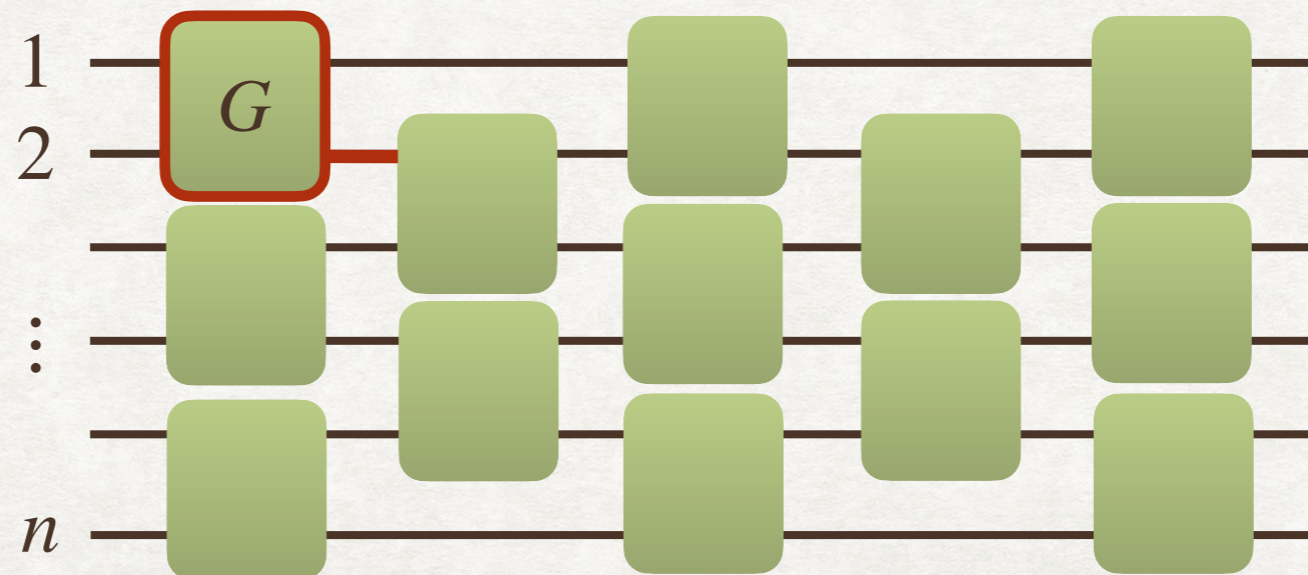


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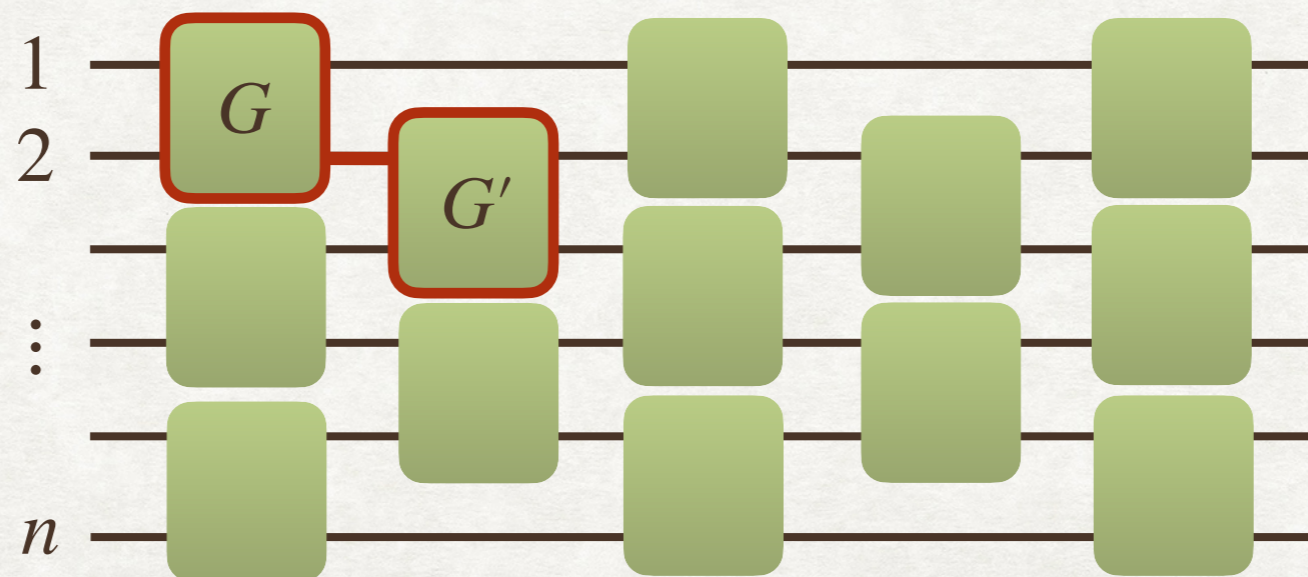


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- This description of  $G'$  includes a rotation of qubit 2



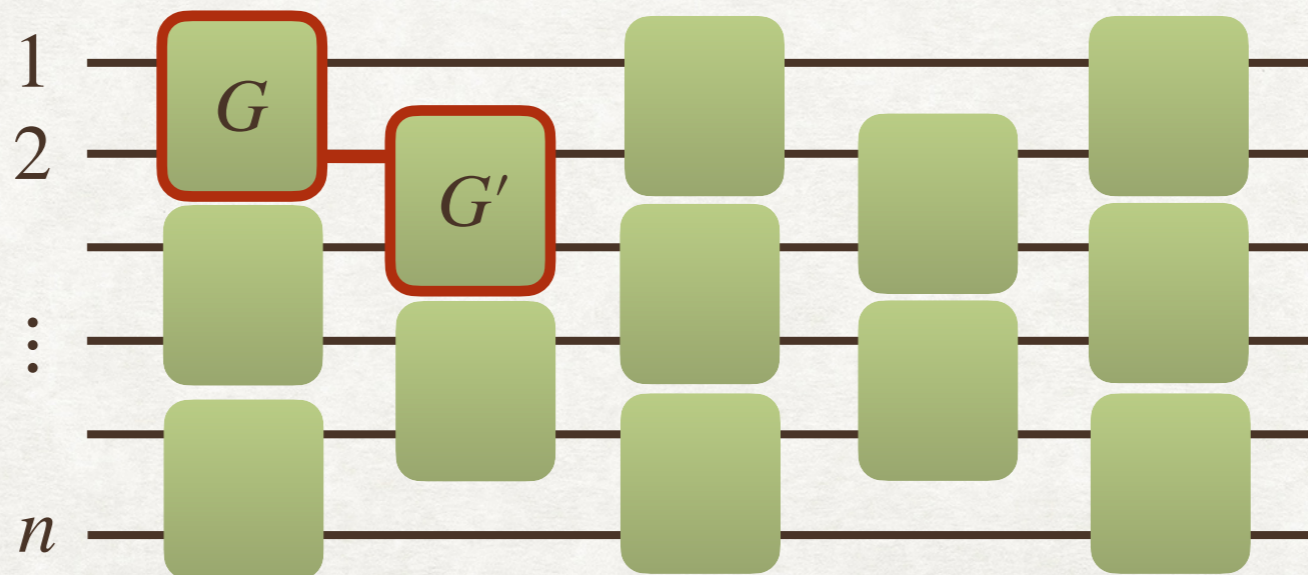


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- This description of  $G'$  includes a rotation of qubit 2  $\longrightarrow$  another 3 parameters



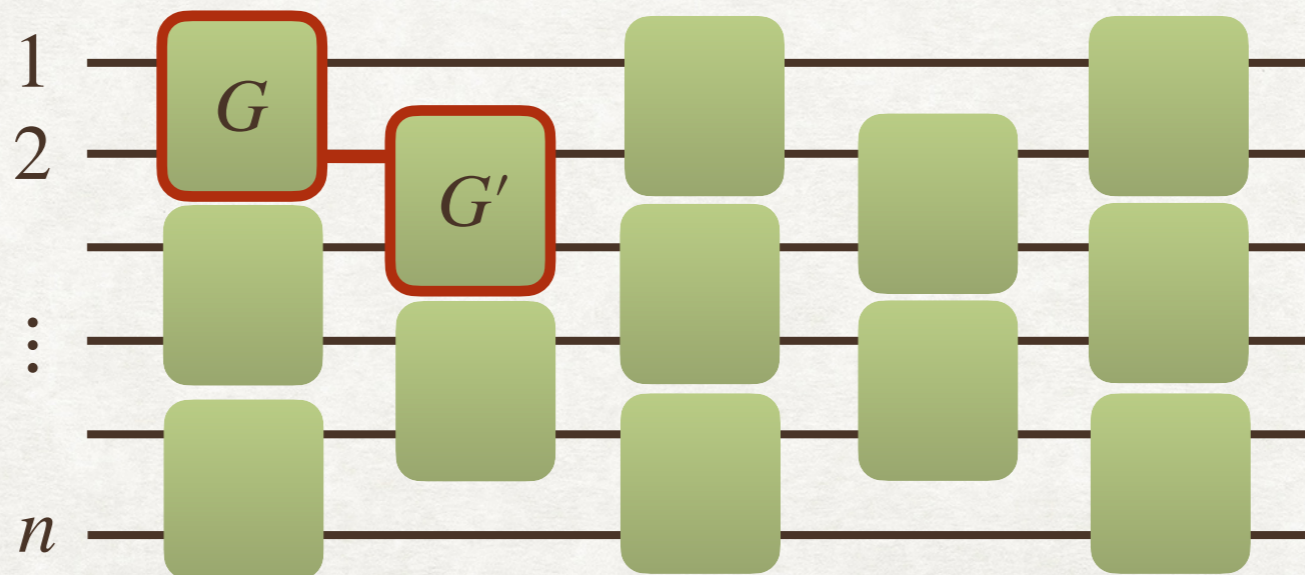


# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$



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- This description of  $G$  includes a rotation of qubit 2  $\longrightarrow$  3 parameters
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- (1st rotation) \* (2nd rotation) = just 1 rotation



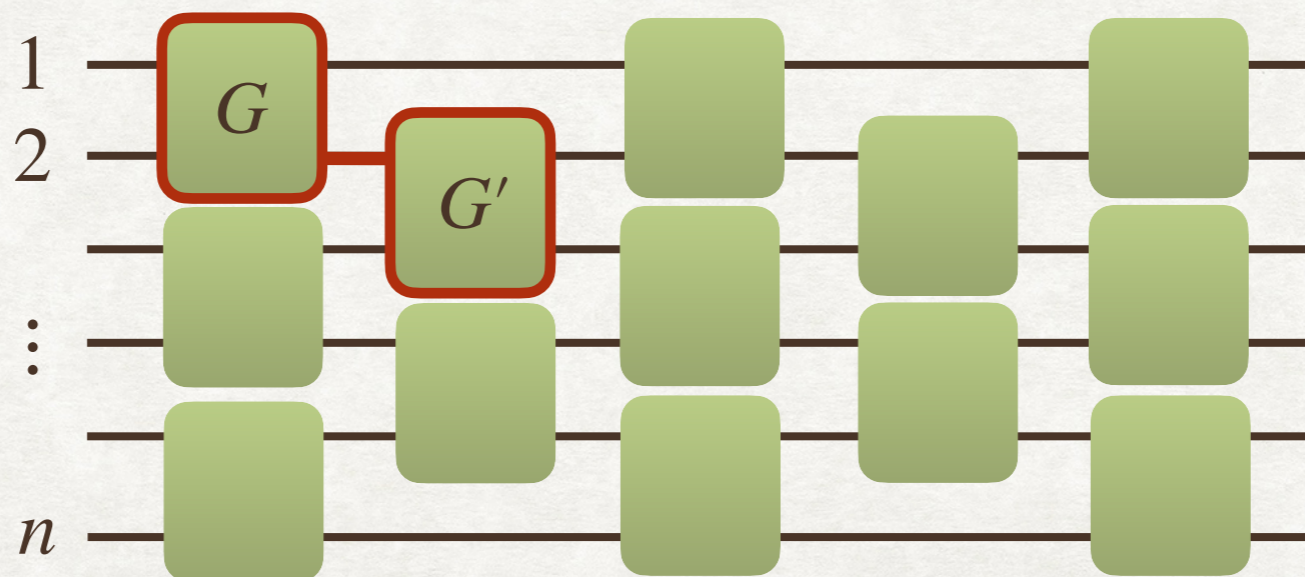


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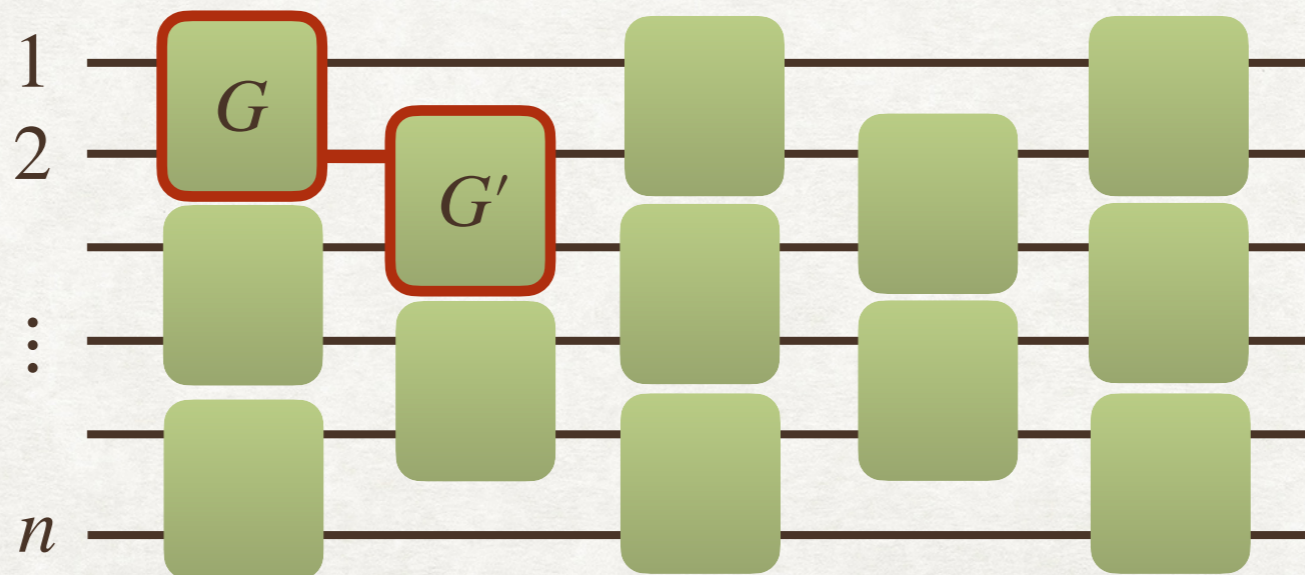


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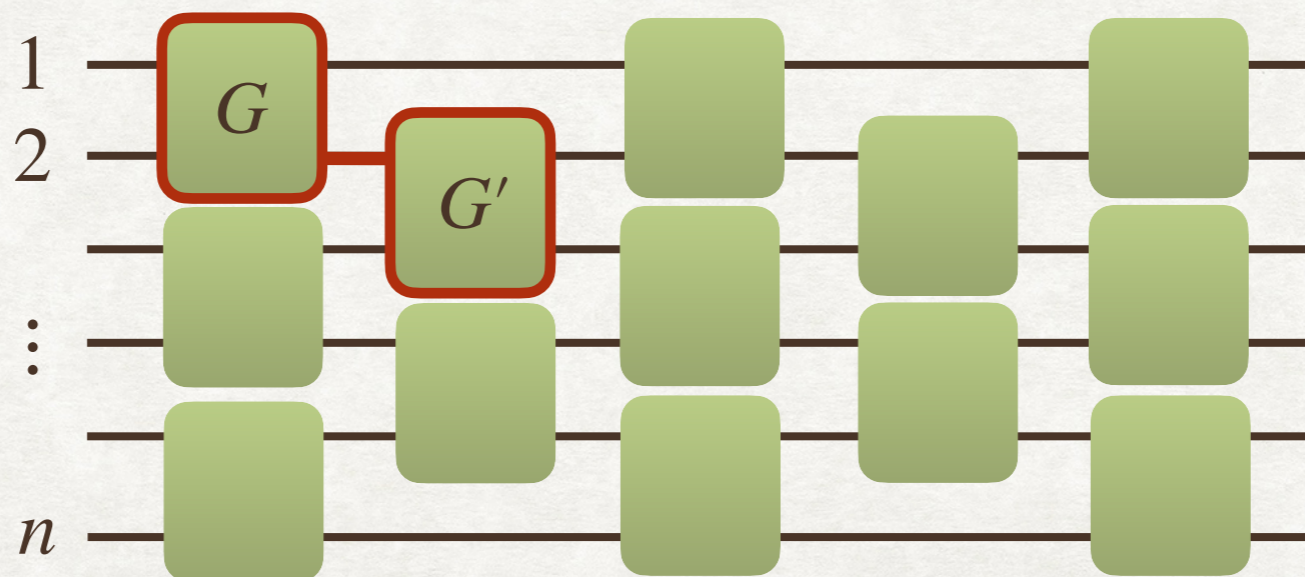


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- $\therefore$  Subtract off 3 parameters per shared qubit



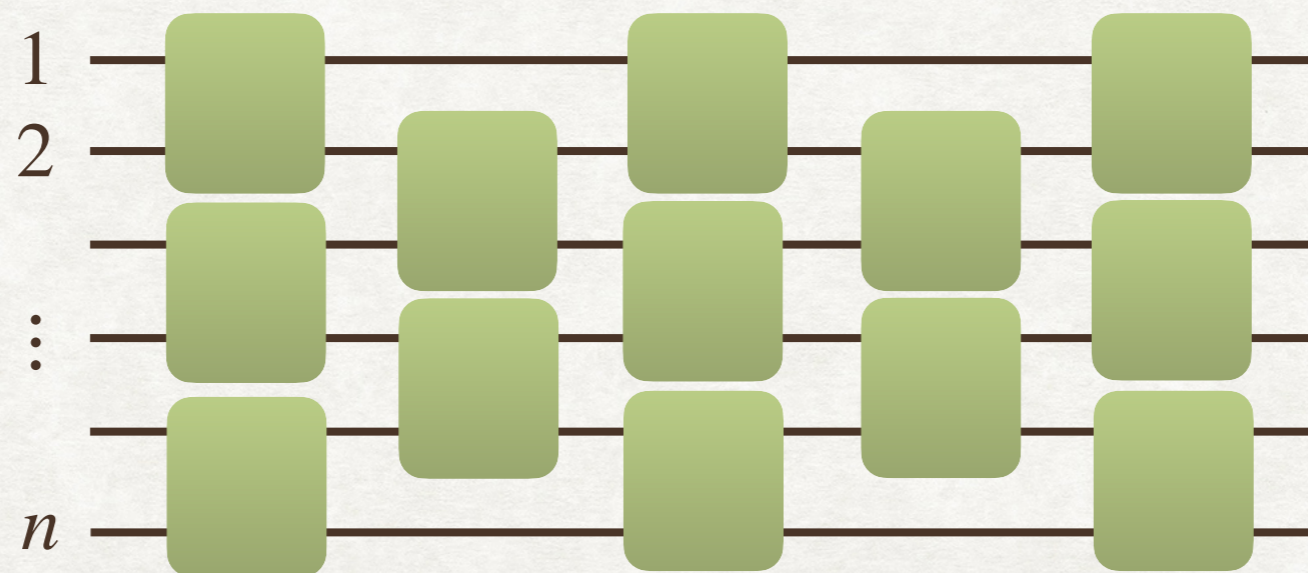


# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$



This set of parameters contains redundancies.

- # of shared qubits



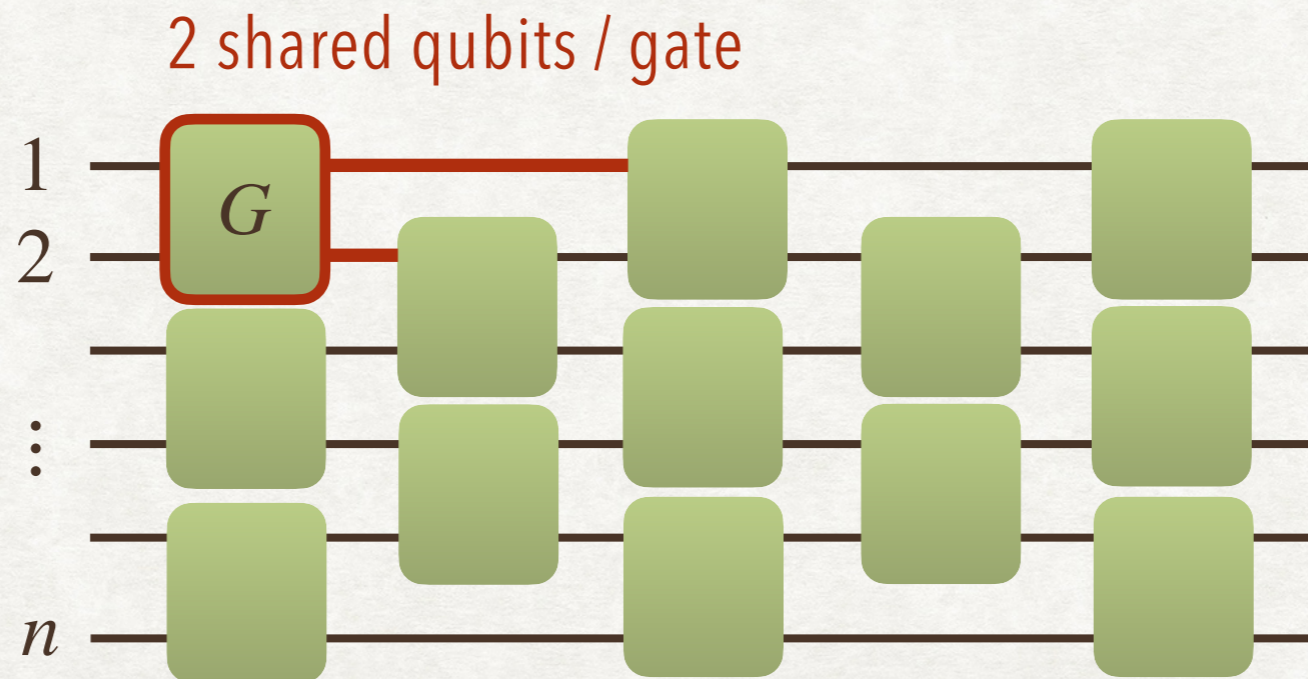


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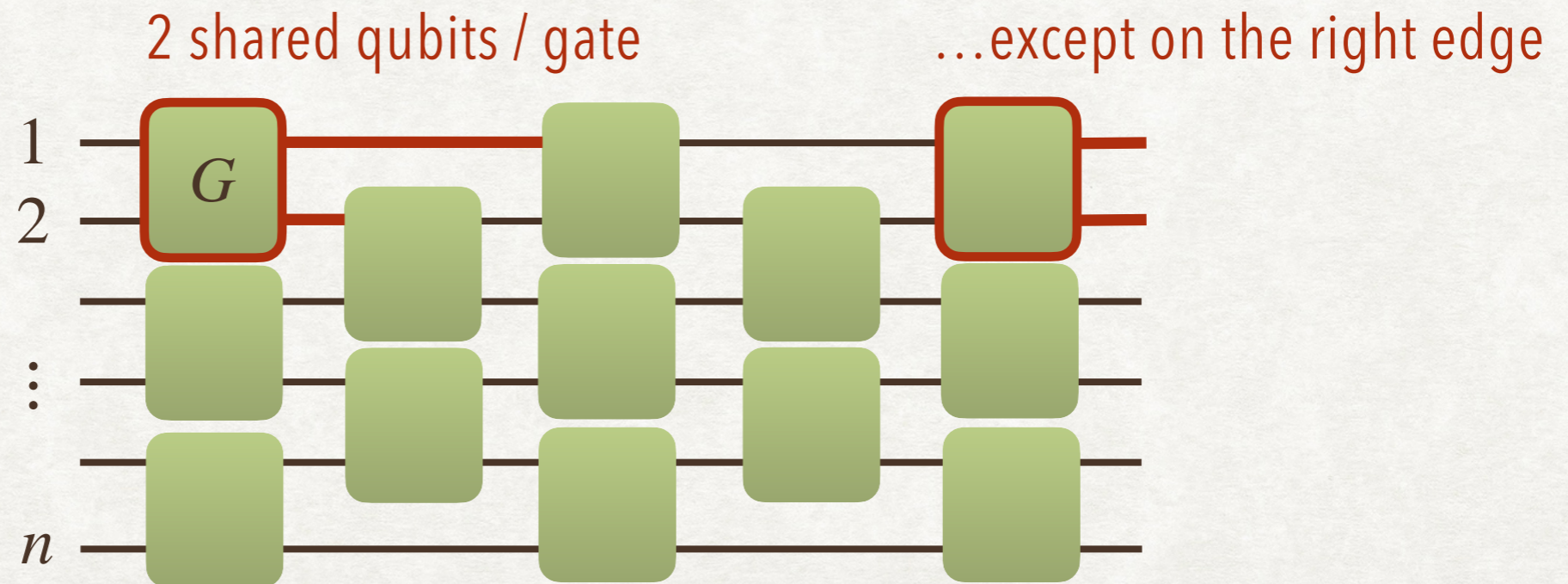


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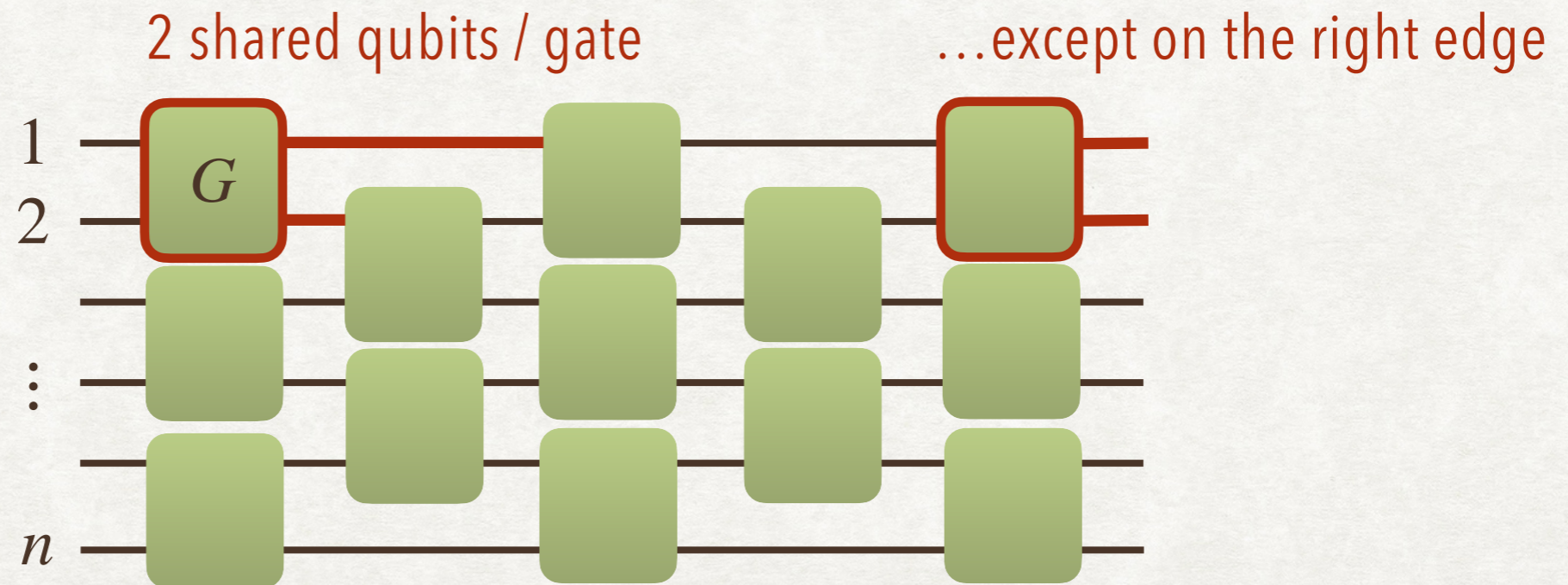


# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$



This set of parameters contains redundancies.

- # of shared qubits =  $2 (\# \text{ gates}) - 2 (\# \text{ gates on right-hand boundary})$



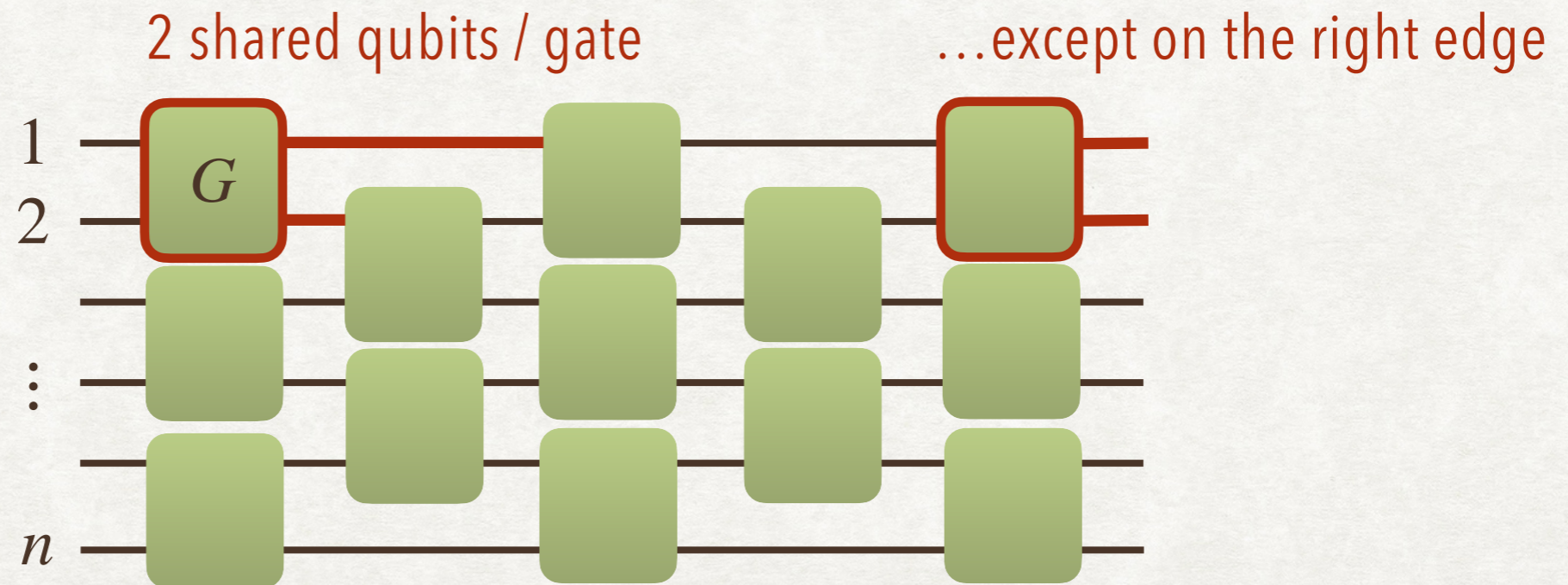


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- # of shared qubits =  $2(\# \text{ gates}) - 2(\# \text{ gates on right-hand boundary})$   
 $= 2R - 2(n/2)$



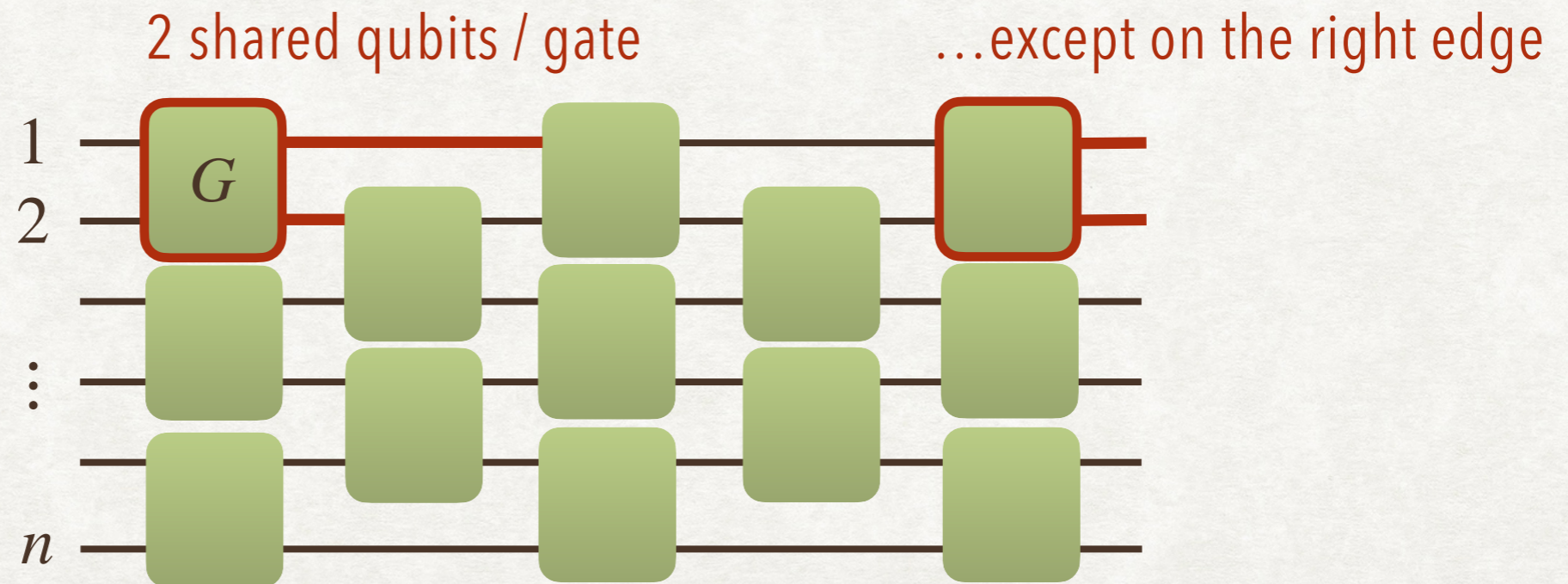


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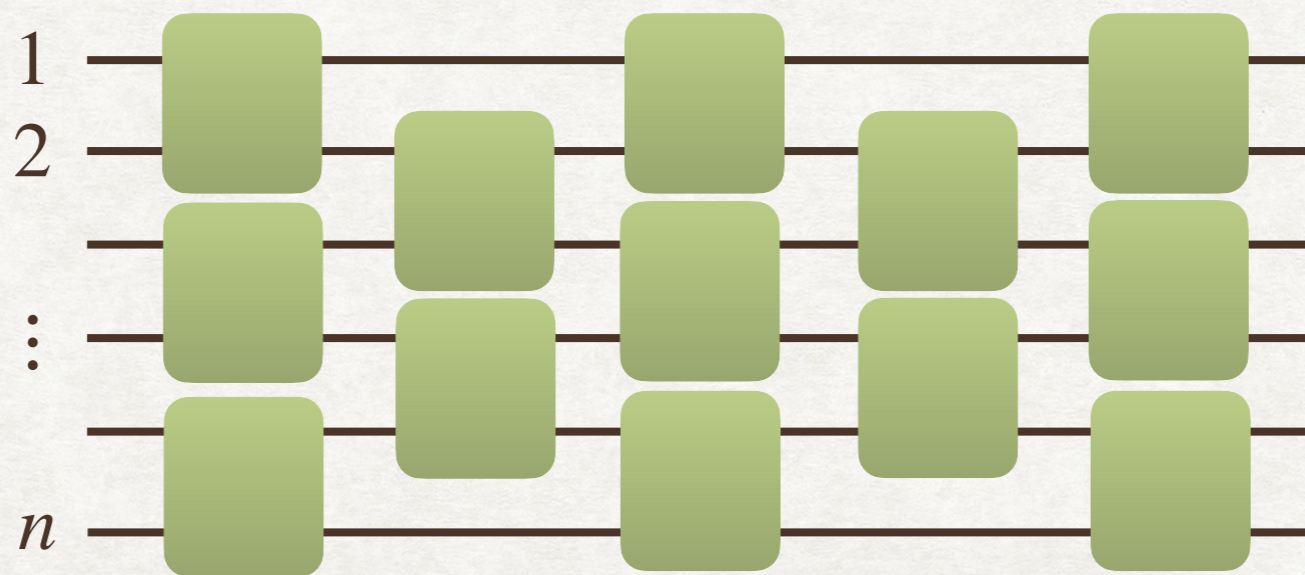
- # of shared qubits =  $2 (\# \text{ gates}) - 2 (\# \text{ gates on right-hand boundary})$   
=  $2R - 2(n/2)$   
=  $2R - n$





# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$

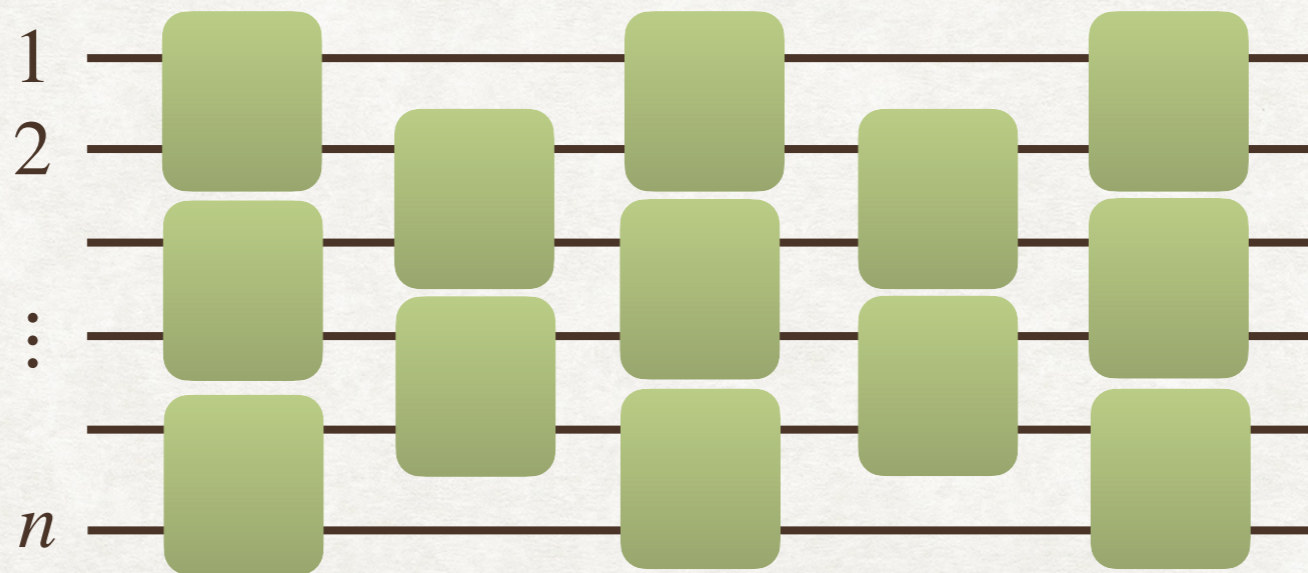
$\therefore$  # of parameters needed to specify circuit





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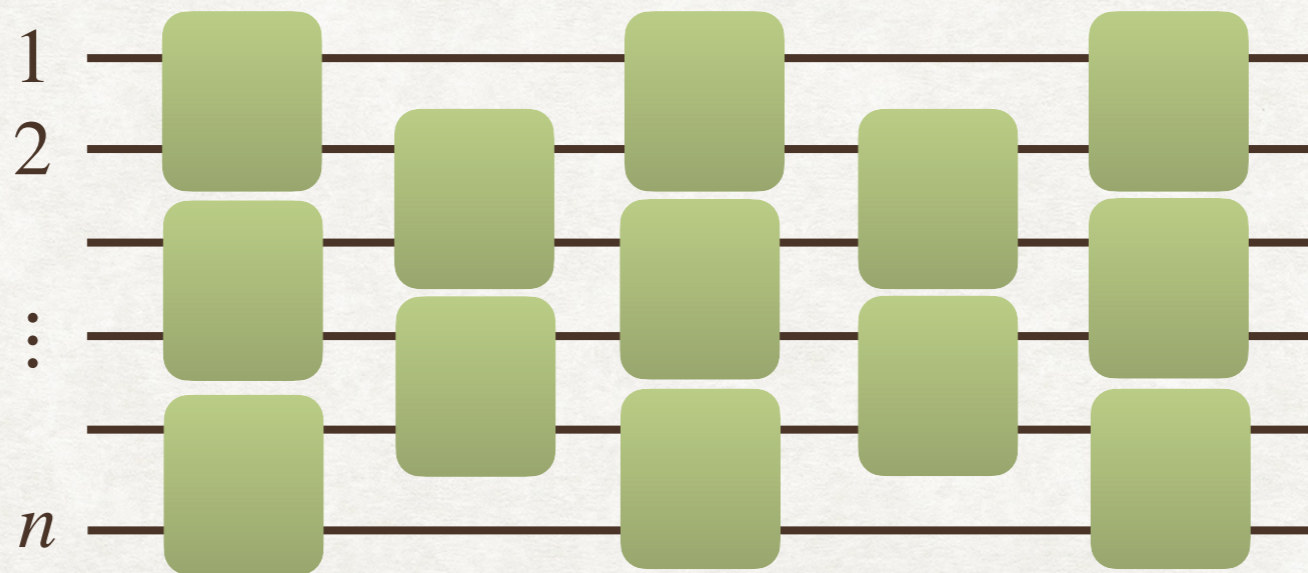
$\therefore$  # of parameters needed to specify circuit  
 $\leq$  (naïve guess)  $- 3$  (# shared qubits)





# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$

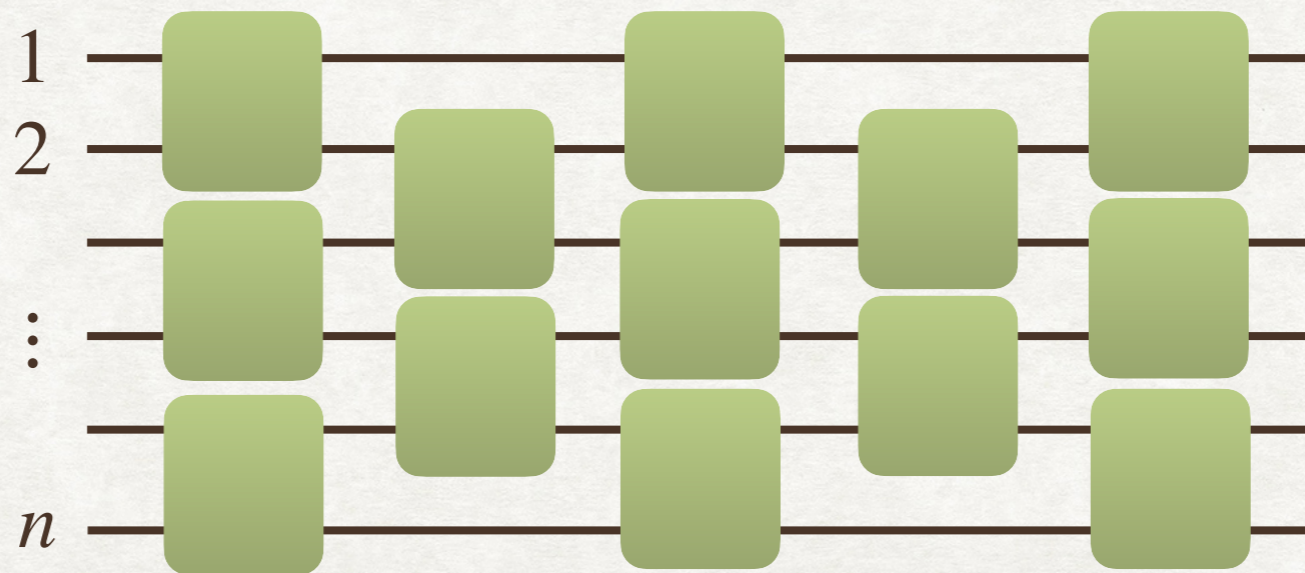
$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \# \text{ of parameters needed to specify circuit} \\ &\leq (\text{naïve guess}) - 3 (\# \text{ shared qubits}) \\ &= 15R - 3(2R - n) \end{aligned}$$





# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$

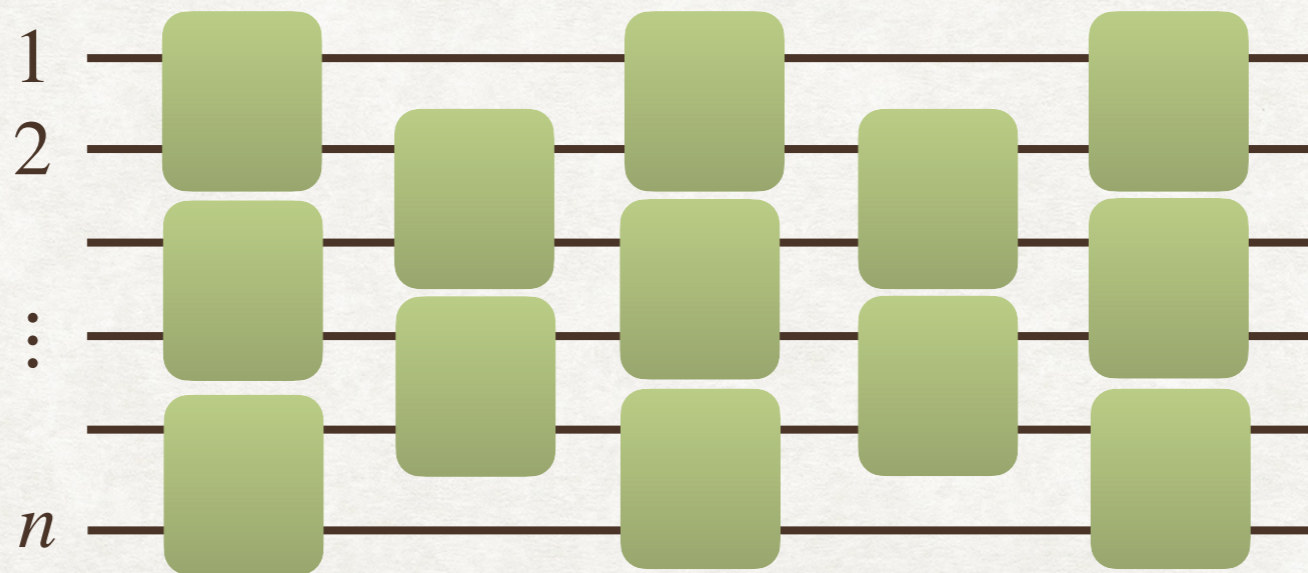
$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \# \text{ of parameters needed to specify circuit} &\leq (\text{naïve guess}) - 3 (\# \text{ shared qubits}) \\ &= 15R - 3(2R - n) \\ &= 9R + 3n \end{aligned}$$





# Proof of upper bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \leq 9R + 3n$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \# \text{ of parameters needed to specify circuit} &\leq (\text{naïve guess}) - 3 (\# \text{ shared qubits}) \\ &= 15R - 3(2R - n) \\ &= 9R + 3n \checkmark \end{aligned}$$





## Image sources

- Knot: <https://falkonry.com/blog/historical-data-the-gordian-knot-of-machine-learning/>
- Mary, Mary: <https://www.catsmeow.com/products/new-mother/mary-mary-quite-contrary>
- Home: <https://icon-icons.com/icon/house/99129>
- *Hamilton* set: <https://www.pinterest.de/pin/569072102906184687/>
- Not-so-fast sloth: <https://www.teepublic.com/sticker/2782891-not-so-fast>
- Opportunity: <https://www.moodyonthemarket.com/cornerstone-alliance-publishes-opportunity-zone-prospectus-for-potential-projects/>
- Complexity ("Thanks" slide): <https://www.facebook.com/complexandchaos/>
- Emptying glass: <https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/half-full-glass>



## Proof of lower bound on accessible dimension, $d_A \geq T$

- $r_{\max}$  = greatest rank achieved by  $F^A$  at any  $x \in \text{SU}(4)^{\times R}$
- $E_{r_{\max}}$  = locus of points  $x$  where  $F^A$  achieves rank  $r_{\max}$
- $E_{<r_{\max}}$  = locus of points  $x$  where  $F^A$  achieves rank  $< r_{\max}$
- Lemma:  $E_{<r_{\max}}$  is an algebraic set of measure 0.
  - $\Leftrightarrow E_{r_{\max}}$  is an open, measure-1 set.
  - $\Rightarrow$  Accessible dimension = rank:  $d_A = r_{\max}$ .