

Math 554

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# Entropy and Counting

## Lemma (Jensen's Inequality)

Let  $f$  be a continuous concave function. Then for any reals  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ,

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i)}{n} \leq f\left(\frac{\sum x_i}{n}\right),$$

or more generally,  $\frac{\sum a_i f(x_i)}{\sum a_i} \leq f\left(\frac{\sum a_i x_i}{\sum a_i}\right)$  for  $a_i > 0 \forall i$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Or, } \int f \circ g d\mu &\leq f\left(\int g d\mu\right) \\ \mathbb{E}[f(X)] &\leq f(\mathbb{E}[X]) \end{aligned}$$

## Property (Uniform Bound)

$H(X) \leq \log |\text{Range}(X)|$ , where  $\text{Range}(X)$  is the set of values  $X$  takes with positive probability.

$H(X) = \log |\text{Range}(X)|$  iff  $X$  is uniform on its range.

Suppose  $\mathcal{C}$  is a set whose size we want to estimate.

If  $X$  selects each element of  $\mathcal{C}$  uniformly at random then

$$H(X) = \log |\mathcal{C}|, \text{ i.e. } |\mathcal{C}| = 2^{H(X)}$$

So estimate  $H(X)$  to find  $|\mathcal{C}|$ .



We will work with vectors of random variables,

$X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ ,  $X$  is the joint s.v. of  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ .

taking values in  $\text{Range}(X_1) \times \dots \times \text{Range}(X_n)$   
with joint probability distribution of  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ .

Property (Subadditivity)

$$H(X_1, \dots, X_n) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n H(X_i)$$



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Property (Subadditivity)  $H(X_1, \dots, X_n) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n H(X_i)$

Proof  $n=2$   $H(X, Y) \leq H(X) + H(Y)$ .

$H(X) + H(Y) - H(X, Y)$

$$= \sum_x P[X=x] \log \frac{1}{P[X=x]} + \sum_y P[Y=y] \log \frac{1}{P[Y=y]} - \sum_x \sum_y P[X=x, Y=y] \log \frac{1}{P[X=x, Y=y]}$$

$$= \sum_x \sum_y P[X=x, Y=y] \log \frac{1}{P[X=x]} + \sum_y \sum_x P[Y=y, X=x] \log \frac{1}{P[Y=y]} - \sum_x \sum_y P[X=x, Y=y] \log \frac{1}{P[X=x, Y=y]}$$

$$= \sum_x \sum_y P(x, y) \left[ \log \frac{1}{P(x)} + \log \frac{1}{P(y)} - \log \frac{1}{P(x, y)} \right]$$

$$= \sum_x \sum_y P(x, y) \log \frac{P(x, y)}{P(x)P(y)} = \sum_x \sum_y P(x)P(y) \left[ \frac{P(x, y)}{P(x)P(y)} \log \frac{P(x, y)}{P(x)P(y)} \right]$$

$$\geq f \left( \sum_x \sum_y P(x)P(y) \frac{P(x, y)}{P(x)P(y)} \right) = f(1) = 0, \text{ by Jensen to } f(z) = z \log z \text{ convex function.}$$



## Observations

•  $H(X) \leq H(X, Y)$  (by monotonicity of  $\log z$ )

•  $H(X, Y) = H(X) + H(Y)$  if  $X$  &  $Y$  are independent

What if  $X$  &  $Y$  are not independent?



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What if  $X$  &  $Y$  are not independent?

## Conditional Entropy

If  $A$  is an event then define  $H(X|A) = \sum_x \mathbb{P}[X=x|A] \log \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}[X=x|A]}$   
 $= \sum_x p(x|A) \log \frac{1}{p(x|A)}$

This naturally extends to

$$H(X|Y) = \mathbb{E}_Y(H(X|Y=y)) = \sum_y H(X|Y=y) \mathbb{P}[Y=y]$$



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## Observations

- $H[X|X] = 0$
- $H[X|Y] = 0$  if  $X$  is determined by  $Y$  ( $X = g(Y)$ )
- $H[X|Y] = H[X]$  if  $X$  &  $Y$  are independent.



## Property (Chain Rule)

$$H(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n H(x_i | x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

Proof Try it for  $n=2$   $H(x, y) = H(x) + H(y|x)$

same algebra as proof for subadditivity but Jensen is not needed

Entropy of a random vector can be found by revealing its components one by one (recall, conditional probability & Bayes rule)



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Property (Dropping Conditioning)  $H(x|y) \leq H(x)$   $\leftarrow$  interpretation?  
 $H(x|y, z) \leq H(x|z)$   $\leftarrow$

Proof By chain rule & subadditivity,  $H(x|y) = H(x, y) - H(y) \leq H(x)$   
which also gives  $H(x|y, z=z) \geq H(x|z=z), \dots$   $\square$

The non-neg quantity  $I(x; y) = H(x) + H(y) - H(x, y)$  is called mutual information, amount of common information between  $x$  &  $y$ .



The conditional versions of all basic properties are also true (can be proved in the same manner)

- $H(X|A) \leq \log |\text{Range}(X|A)|$  for r.v.  $X$  & event  $A$   
where  $\text{Range}(X|A)$  is the set of values  $X$  takes on with positive probability, given  $A$  has occurred.

- $H(X_1, \dots, X_n | Z) = \sum_{i=1}^n H(X_i | X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, Z)$

- $H(X_1, \dots, X_n | Z) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n H(X_i | Z)$



## An Application

Consider  $n$  distinct points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that have

$n_1$  distinct projections on  $xy$ -plane

$n_2$  distinct projections on  $xz$ -plane

$n_3$  distinct projections on  $zy$ -plane

Show that  $n \leq (n_1 n_2 n_3)^{1/2}$



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Show that  $n \leq (n_1 n_2 n_3)^{1/2}$

Let  $(x, y, z)$  be picked uniformly at random from these  $n$  points

So,  $\log n = H(x, y, z) = H(x) + H(y|x) + H(z|x, y)$

We know,  $\log n_1 \geq H(x, y) = H(x) + H(y|x)$

$\log n_2 \geq H(x, z) = H(x) + H(z|x) = H(z) + H(x|z)$

$\log n_3 \geq H(y, z) = H(y) + H(z|y)$



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$\log n_3 \geq H(y, z) = H(y) + H(z|y)$

$n \leq \sqrt{n_1 n_2 n_3} \iff 2 \log n \leq \log n_1 + \log n_2 + \log n_3 \iff 2 \log n - (\log n_1 + \log n_2 + \log n_3) \leq 0$

Plug-in & do the algebra



## An Application

Consider  $n$  distinct points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that have

$n_1$  distinct projections on  $xy$ -plane ( $z=0$ )

$n_2$  distinct projections on  $xz$ -plane ( $y=0$ )

$n_3$  distinct projections on  $zy$ -plane ( $x=0$ )

Then  $n \leq (n_1 n_2 n_3)^{1/2}$

This can be generalized to  $d$ -dimensions (HW!)  
and then using scaling & limiting arguments gives

Loomis-Whitney Isoperimetric Ineq. (1949)

Let  $B$  be a measurable body in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Then  $\text{vol}(B) \leq \prod_{i=1}^d \text{vol}(B_i)^{1/d-1}$

where  $B_i$  is the projection onto the hyperplane  $x_i=0$

This bound is tight, e.g. for the cube.



## Binary Entropy and Binomial coefficients

are closely related.

Stirling's approximation to  $n!$  can be used to show

Fix  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , then  $\frac{2^{H(\alpha)n}}{n+1} \leq \binom{n}{\alpha n} \leq 2^{H(\alpha)n}$

where  $H(\alpha)$  is the binary entropy function

which gives  $\binom{n}{\alpha n} \sim \frac{2^{H(\alpha)n}}{\sqrt{2\pi n \alpha(1-\alpha)}}$



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Theorem Fix  $\alpha \in (0, \frac{1}{2}]$ . Then  $\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \alpha n \rfloor} \binom{n}{i} \leq 2^{H(\alpha)n}$

Comment The above inequality can also be interpreted probabilistically  $\rightarrow X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, \frac{1}{2}) \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}[X \leq \lfloor \alpha n \rfloor] \leq 2^{H(\alpha)n}$  which can be proved by MGF technique for proving Chernoff-type bounds to get  $\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \alpha n \rfloor} \binom{n}{i} \leq \frac{(1+x)^n}{x^{\lfloor \alpha n \rfloor}} \quad \forall x \in [0, 1]$

and taking infimum of  $\frac{(1+x)^n}{x^{\lfloor \alpha n \rfloor}}$  over  $x \in [0, 1]$  gives  $2^{H(\alpha)n}$ .

To generalize this to Binomial  $(n, p)$  we need the notion of "relative entropy" or Kullback-Leibler divergence.



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Proof Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the set of all subsets of  $[n]$  of size

at most  $\alpha n$ , so  $|\mathcal{C}| = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \alpha n \rfloor} \binom{n}{i} \quad \text{--- (1)}$  Combinatorial Interpretation

Let  $X$  be uniformly chosen member of  $\mathcal{C}$ , then

$H(X) = \log |\text{Range}(X)| = \log |\mathcal{C}|$ , i.e.  $|\mathcal{C}| = 2^{H(X)}$  --- (2)



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We view  $X$  as  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  where  $x_i$  is the indicator r.v. for picking the element  $i$  in  $X$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

$$\therefore H(X) \leq H(x_1) + H(x_2) + \dots + H(x_n) = n H(x_1) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Claim  $H(x_1) \leq H(\alpha)$  (1, 2, 3 with this claim will finish the proof.)



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Note  $H(X_1) = H(p)$  where  $p = \mathbb{P}[1 \in X]$  and  $H(p)$  is the binary entropy fn.

Since  $p \leq \alpha < \frac{1}{2}$  ( $|X| = \alpha n \Rightarrow p = \mathbb{P}[1 \in X] = \alpha$ ; &  $|X| < \alpha n \Rightarrow p < \alpha$ )  
we have  $H(p) \leq H(\alpha)$ .



# A generalization of Subadditivity

Shearer's Lemma (1978 / 1986) Let  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$ , family of subsets of  $[n]$ , such that each element of  $[n]$  appears in at least  $k$  members of  $\mathcal{F}$ . Then, for s.v.  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ ,

$$H(X) \leq \frac{1}{k} \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} H(X_F), \text{ where } X_F = (X_j : j \in F)$$

" $X_F$  = projection of  $X$  onto coordinates given by  $F$ "

$\mathcal{F} = \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \dots, \{n\}\}$  gives usual subadditivity of  $H(X)$

$\mathcal{F} = \{[n] - \{1\}, [n] - \{2\}, \dots, [n] - \{n\}\}$  gives Han's inequality (1978).



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Proof  $H(X) = \sum_{j \in [n]} H(X_j | (X_\ell : \ell < j))$ , chain rule

For each  $F \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $H(X_F) = \sum_{j \in F} H(X_j | (X_\ell : \ell \in F \ \& \ \ell < j))$ , chain rule

Adding up all the equations for all  $F \in \mathcal{F}$ , we get since  $j \in [n]$  appears in at least  $k$   $F$  in  $\mathcal{F}$ , the resulting equation has  $k$  terms of the form  $H(X_j | \text{---})$  on the RHS.

$$\therefore \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} H(X_F) \geq k \sum_{j=1}^n H(X_j | (X_\ell : \ell < j)) = k H(X)$$



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Shearer's Lemma (combinatorial version) Let  $\Omega$  be a finite set.

Let  $\mathcal{S} = \{S_1, \dots, S_m\}$  be a family of subsets of  $\Omega$  s.t. each element of  $\Omega$  appears in at least  $k$  members of  $\mathcal{S}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^\Omega$ , be any family of subsets of  $\Omega$ . Then

$$|\mathcal{F}| \leq \left( \prod_{i=1}^m |\mathcal{F}_i| \right)^{1/k} \text{ where } \mathcal{F}_i = \{F \cap S_i : F \in \mathcal{F}\}$$

Projection / Trace of  $\mathcal{F}$  onto  $S_i$

Clever choice of "coordinate system" / "projections" reduces a global problem ( $|\mathcal{F}|$  or  $H(X)$ ) to  $\downarrow$  local problems ( $|\mathcal{F}_i|$  or  $H(X_F)$ )  
easier



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Proof WLOG let  $\Omega = [n]$ .  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$  be an element of  $\mathcal{F}$  chosen uniformly at random, where  $X_i$  is indicator s.v. for " $i \in X$ ".

$$\text{Then } \log |\mathcal{F}| = H(X) \leq \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^m H(X_{S_i}) \leq \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^m \log |\text{Range}(X_{S_i})| = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^m \log |\mathcal{F}_i|$$

By Shearer



## An easy Application

Proposition Let  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$  s.t.  $\forall F, F' \in \mathcal{F}, \exists i \in [n]$  s.t.  $\{i, i+1\} \subseteq F \Delta F'$

Then  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^{n-2}$

Sharpness?



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Then  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^{n-2}$

Sharp, e.g. 

Proof Let  $S_0 =$  set of all even numbers in  $[n]$   
 $S_1 =$  set of all odd numbers in  $[n]$

} choice of  
projection  
coordinates

$\mathcal{F}_i = \{F \cap S_i \mid F \in \mathcal{F}\}$ , projection of  $\mathcal{F}$  onto  $S_i$ ,  $i=0, 1$ .

By Combinatorial Shearer,  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq \underbrace{(|\mathcal{F}_0|)}_{?} \underbrace{(|\mathcal{F}_1|)}_{?} \underbrace{1}_{?} \leq ?$



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Claim:  $\mathcal{F}_i$  is an intersecting family

For any  $G, G' \in \mathcal{F}_i$ ,  $G \cap G' = (F \cap S_i) \cap (F' \cap S_i) = (F \cap F') \cap S_i$

Since  $F \cap F'$  contains 2 consecutive integers,  $(F \cap F') \cap S_i \neq \emptyset$   
(one even & one odd)

$\therefore |\mathcal{F}_i| \leq 2^{?}$



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Then  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^{n-2}$

Proof Let  $S_0 =$  set of all even numbers in  $[n]$   
 $S_1 =$  set of all odd numbers in  $[n]$  } choice of projection coordinates

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Since  $F \cap F'$  contains 2 consecutive integers,  $(F \cap F') \cap S_i \neq \emptyset$   
(one even & one odd)

$\therefore |\mathcal{F}_i| \leq 2^{|S_i|-1}$  (Family of intersecting sets from  $S$  has size  $\leq 2^{|S|-1}$ )

Note  $k=1$ , every element of  $\Omega = [n]$  appears in 1 of  $S_0$  or  $S_1$ .

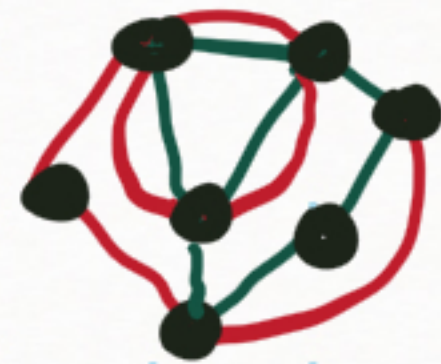
$\therefore |\mathcal{F}| \leq (|\mathcal{F}_0| |\mathcal{F}_1|)^{1/k} = (2^{|S_0|-1}) (2^{|S_1|-1}) = 2^{|S_0|+|S_1|-2} = 2^{n-2}$ .



# Intersecting Family of Graphs

Theorem (Chung, Graham, Frankl, Shearer, 1986)

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a family of labeled graphs on vertex set  $[n]$  such that for all  $G, G' \in \mathcal{G}$ ,  $G \cap G'$  contains a  $K_3$



Then  $|\mathcal{G}| < \frac{1}{4} 2^{\binom{n}{2}}$

Conjecture (Simonovits & Sós 1976)  $|\mathcal{G}| \leq \frac{1}{8} 2^{\binom{n}{2}}$

↑ sharp?

Proved by Ellis, Filmus & Friedgut (2012)  
using <sup>Discrete</sup> Fourier Analysis.

## Recall

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of subsets of  $[n]$

Without further info, best bound is  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^n$

If  $\mathcal{F}$  is intersecting then  $|\mathcal{F}| \leq \frac{1}{2} 2^n$  ( $\because$  we can only pick one of  $A$  or  $\bar{A}$ ....)

What about family of graphs on vertex set  $[n]$ ?  $|\mathcal{G}| \leq 2^{\binom{n}{2}}$

If  $\mathcal{G}$  is edge-intersecting then  $|\mathcal{G}| \leq \frac{1}{2} 2^{\binom{n}{2}}$ . (Why?) What if  $\mathcal{G}$  is  $K_3$ -intersecting



# Intersecting Family of Graphs

Theorem (Chung, Graham, Frankl, Shearer, 1986)

Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a family of labeled graphs on vertex set  $[n]$  such that for all  $G, G' \in \mathcal{G}$ ,  $G \cap G'$  contains a  $K_3$



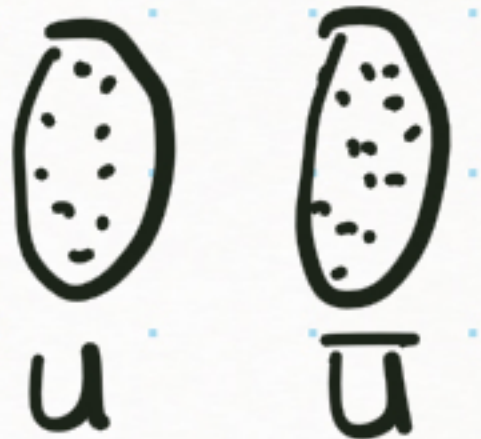
Then  $|\mathcal{G}| < \frac{1}{4} 2^{\binom{n}{2}}$

Proof Since the vertex set  $[n]$  is fixed for all graphs in  $\mathcal{G}$ , we identify each  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  with its edge set, that is  $G \subseteq \Omega = \binom{[n]}{2}$

For simplicity, assume  $n$  is even (odd case is similar with use of  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ )

Let  $\mathcal{S} = \{S_i : 1 \leq i \leq m = ?\}$  where each  $S_i =$  all possible edges in  $U$  and all possible edges in  $\bar{U}$   
 $= E(K_u) \cup E(K_{\bar{u}})$

where  $u \subseteq [n]$  and  $|u| = \frac{n}{2}$

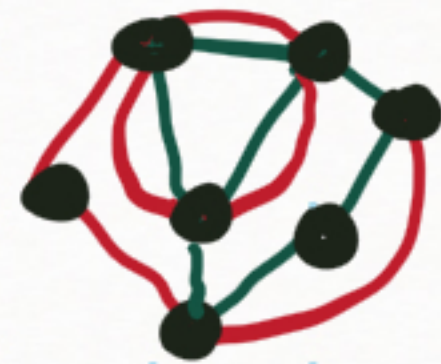




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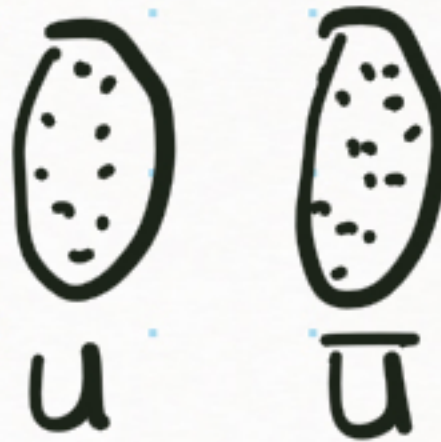
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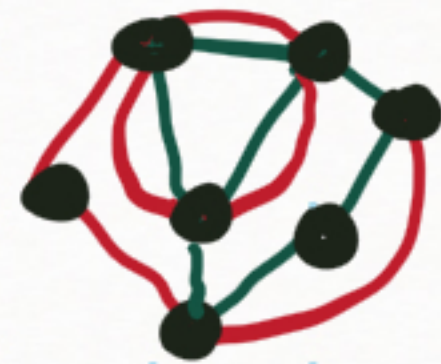




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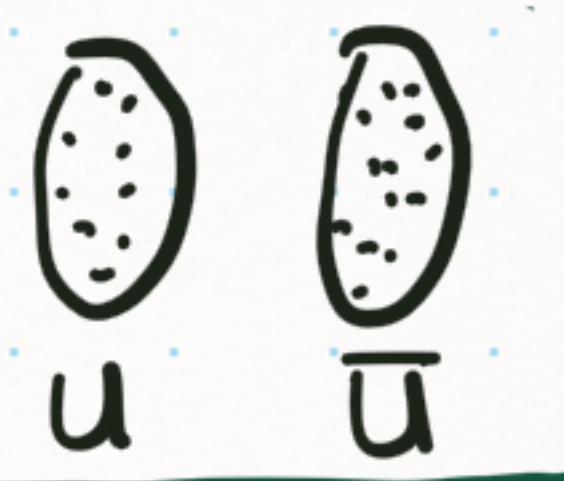
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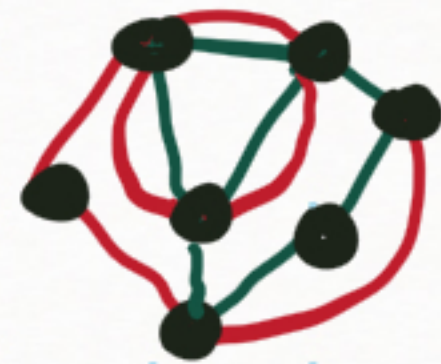
By Combinatorial Shearer,  $|\mathcal{G}| \leq \left( \prod_{i=1}^m |\mathcal{G}_i| \right)^{1/k}$  where  $\mathcal{G}_i = \{G \cap S_i : G \in \mathcal{G}\}$



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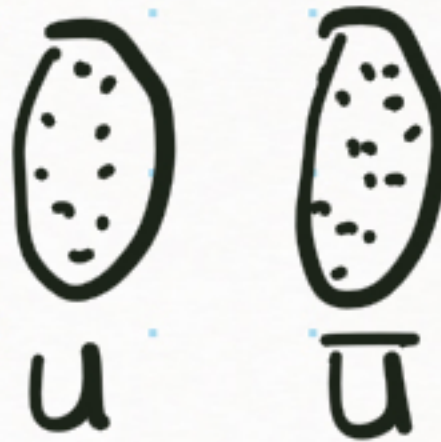
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Let  $G \cap S_i \neq \emptyset$  &  $G' \cap S_i \neq \emptyset$  then  $(G \cap S_i) \cap (G' \cap S_i) = (G \cap G') \cap S_i \neq \emptyset$   
 $G \cap G'$  contains  $K_3$  whose at least one edge must belong to  $S_i$

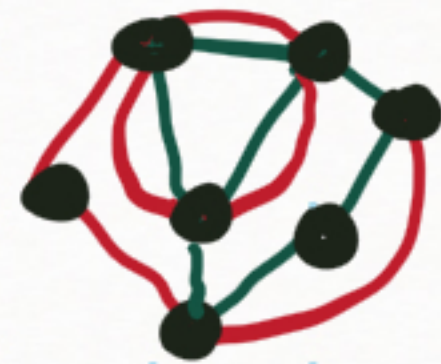
otherwise  
 $K_3 \subseteq$   
 bipartite



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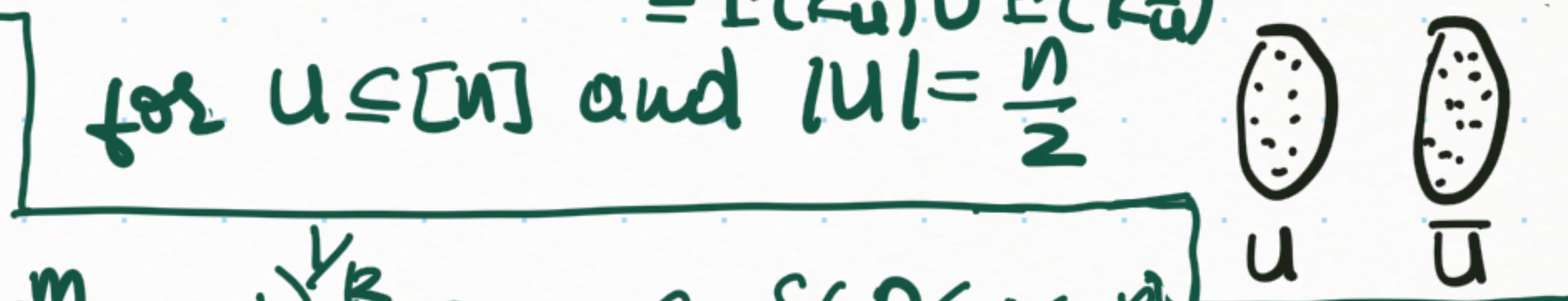
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$|\mathcal{G}_i| \leq 2^{|S_i|-1} = 2^{\binom{n}{2}-1}$ , since  $\mathcal{G}_i$  is an intersecting family on  $S_i$ , &  $|S_i| = s = \frac{1}{2} \binom{n}{2}$

$\therefore |\mathcal{G}| \leq 2^{(s-1)m/k}$  and  $\frac{(s-1)m}{k} = \dots = \binom{n}{2} - \frac{n(n-1)}{n(\frac{n}{2}-1)} < \binom{n}{2} - 2$   $\square$



# Counting the number of "copies" of hypergraph $H$ in $G$

To understand this problem, we need to specify what "copy" means?

- Allow removal of both vertices & edges

Graphs

Subgraph

Hypergraphs

Partial hypergraph

- Allow removal of only vertices

Induced subgraph

Two possibilities

What to do with edges whose at least one vertex has been removed?



↓  
"shrink" the edge but keep it.

↓  
Remove any such edge

Confusingly, both versions are called subhypergraph in the literature.



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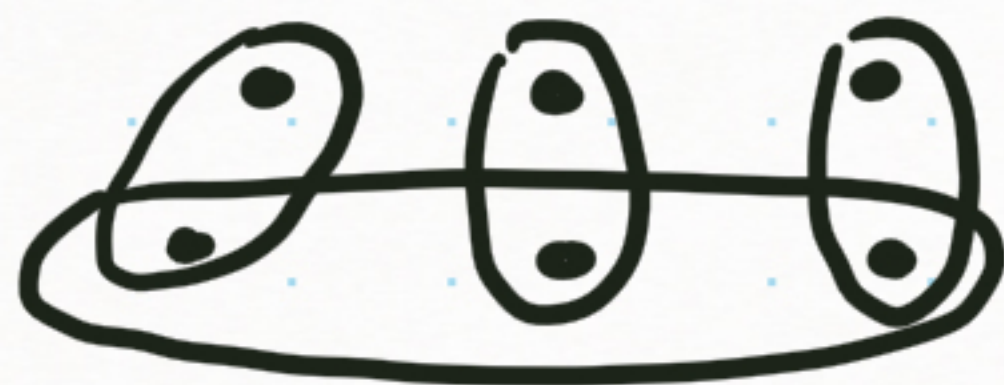
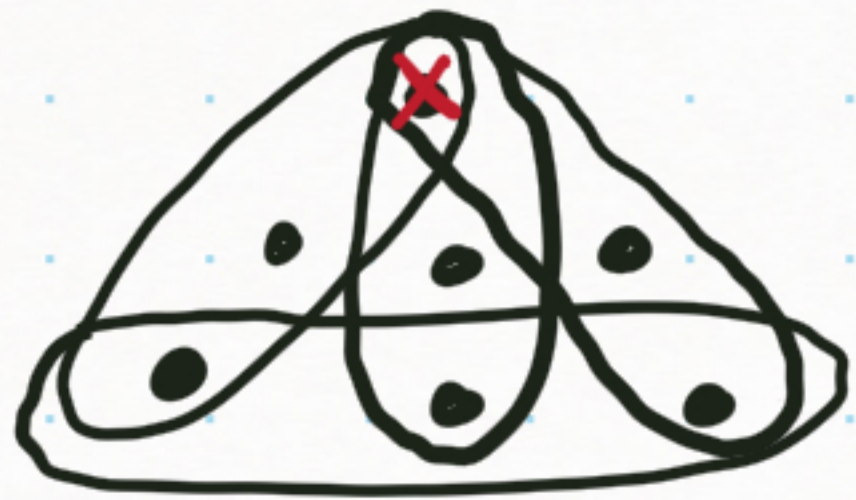
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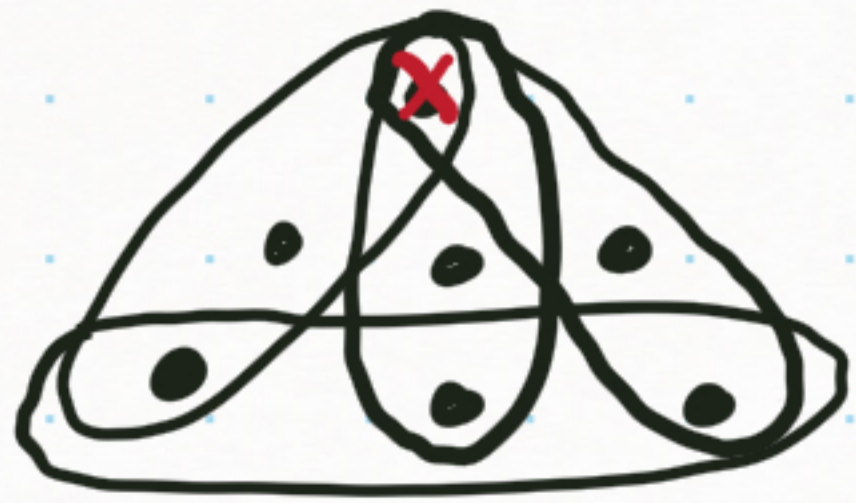
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	Graphs	Hypergraphs
• Allow removal of both vertices & edges	<u>Subgraph</u>	<u>Partial hypergraph</u>
• Allow removal of only vertices	<u>Induced subgraph</u>	<u>Two possibilities</u> What to do with edges whose at least one vertex has been removed?

↓  
"shrink" the edge but keep it.

★ Remove any such edge

Defn  $H = (V', E')$  is a subhypergraph of  $G = (V, E)$  induced by  $V' \subseteq V$  if  $E' = \{e \in E : e \subseteq V'\}$

is the definition we will use.

Confusingly, both versions are called subhypergraph in the literature.



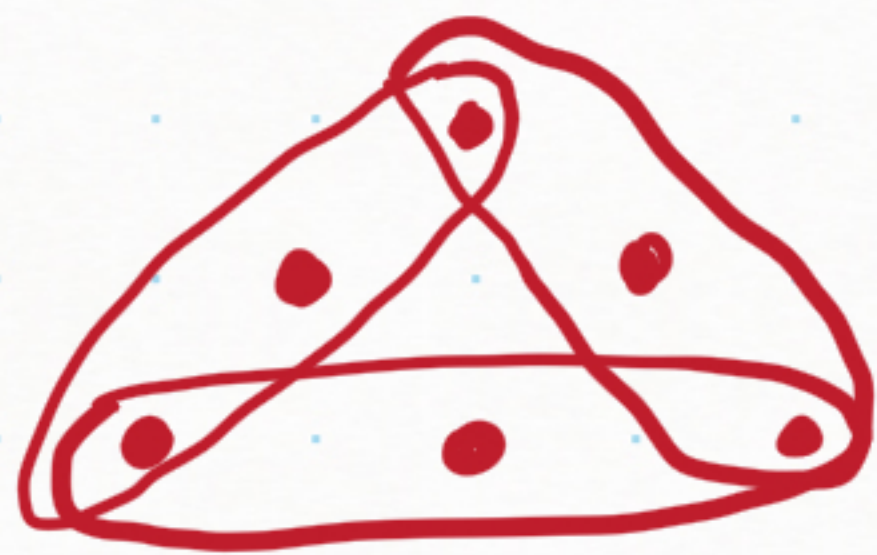
Defn A hypergraph homomorphism  $f: V(H) \rightarrow V(G)$

is a map which preserves edges, i.e. each edge of  $H$  maps to an edge of  $G$ .

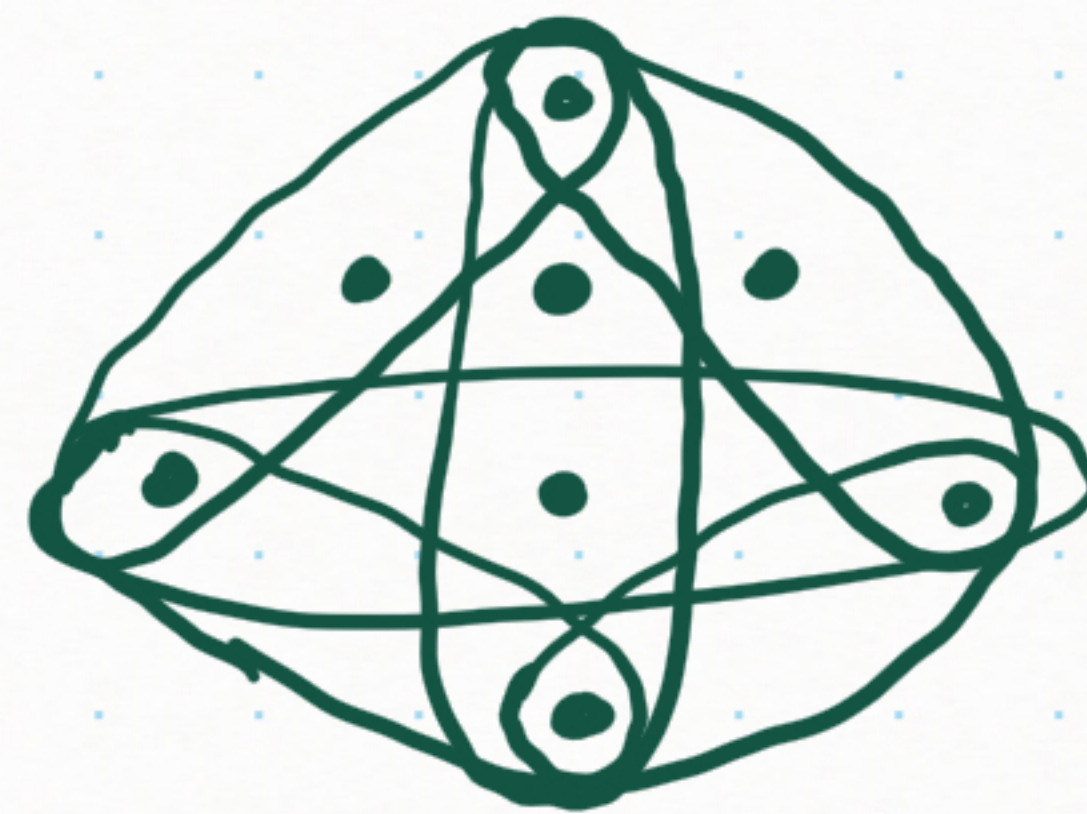
A copy of  $H$  in  $G$  corresponds to an injective homomorphism

from  $H$  to  $G$ , i.e., a 1-to-1 map  $\nabla: V(H) \rightarrow V(G)$

s.t.  $\nabla(e) \in E(G) \quad \forall e \in E(H)$ .



$H$

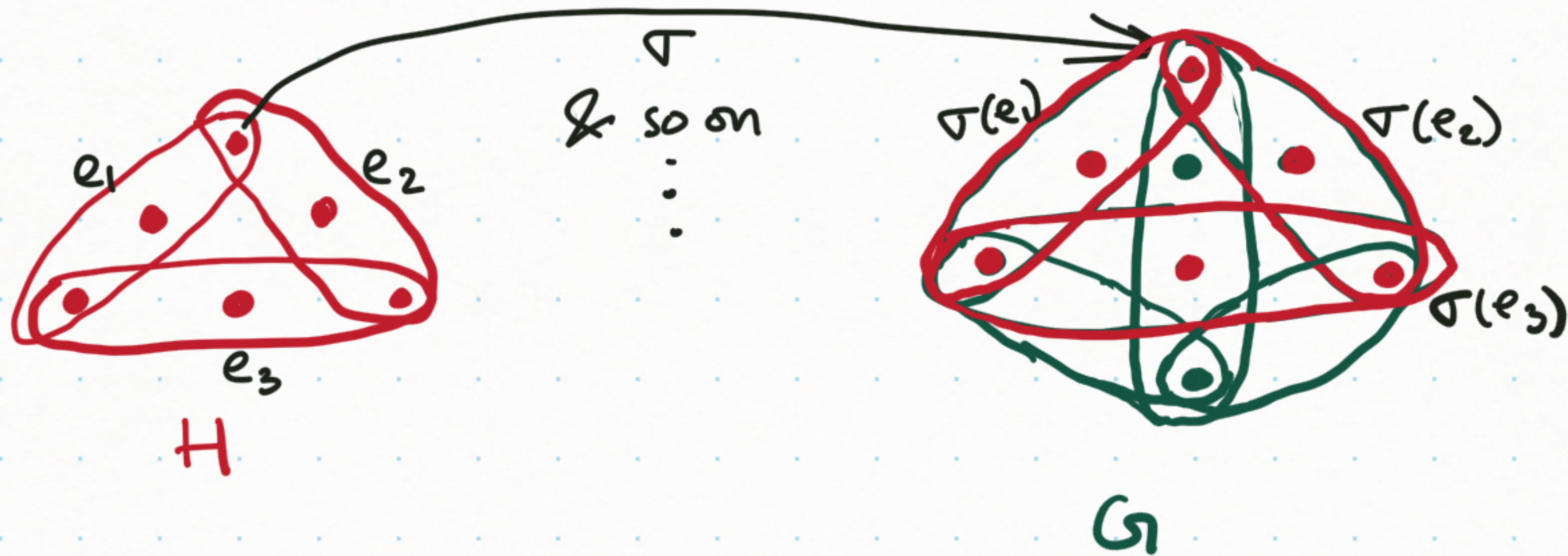


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There is a copy of  $H$  in  $G$ .

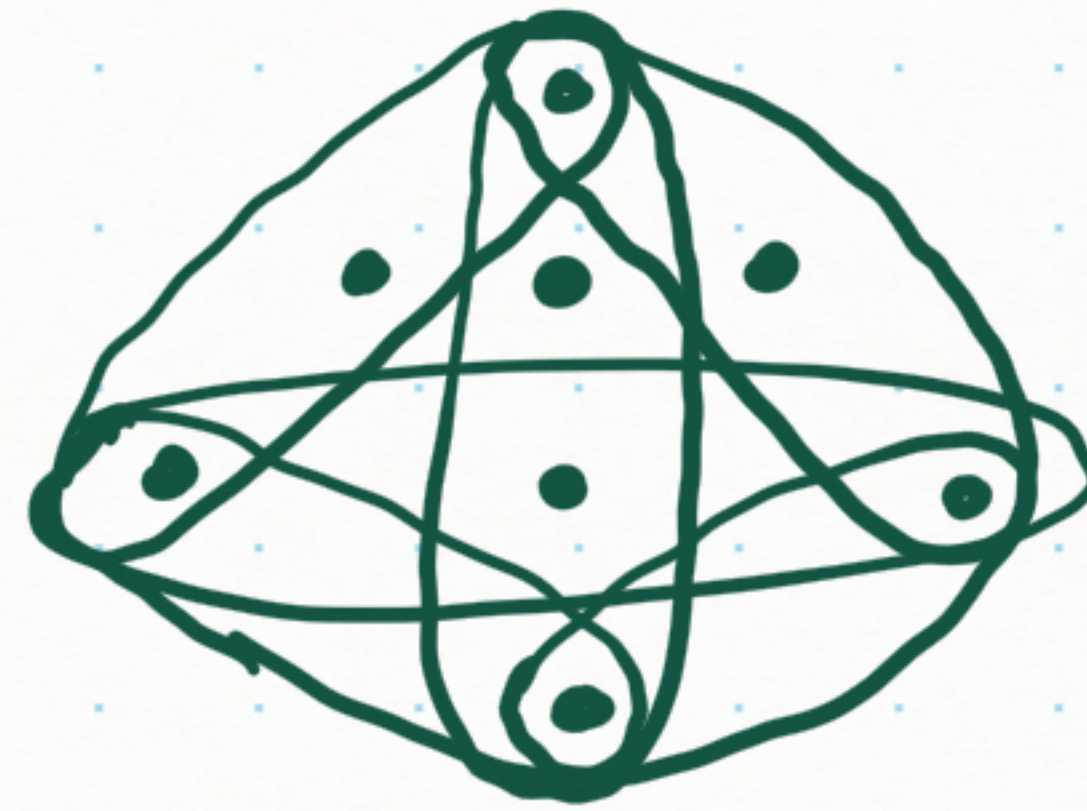


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$H$



$G$

Is there a copy of this  $H$  in  $G$ ?



Defn A hypergraph homomorphism  $\varphi: V(H) \rightarrow V(G)$   
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s.t.  $\nabla(e) \in E(G) \forall e \in E(H)$ .

Defn  $N(H, l) = \max$  # copies of a fixed hypergraph  $H$   
that can appear in a hypergraph  $G$  with  $l$  edges.  
*H fixed, small*  
*l large*

Theorem [Friedgut & Kahn 1998]

For a hypergraph  $H$  with fractional cover number  $\rho^*(H)$ ,  
 $\exists c_1, c_2$  s.t.  $c_1 l^{\rho^*(H)} \leq N(H, l) \leq c_2 l^{\rho^*(H)}$  for all  $l$ .



# Linear Programming Duality

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \max c^T x \\ \text{s.t. } Ax \leq b \\ x \geq 0 \end{array} \right\} \textcircled{1}$$

Dual

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \min b^T y \\ \text{s.t. } A^T y \geq c \\ y \geq 0 \end{array} \right\} \textcircled{2}$$

where

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ c \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ b \in \mathbb{R}^m \\ A_{m \times n} \end{array} \right.$$

Weak Duality says  $c^T x$  for any feasible solution  $x$  of  $\textcircled{1}$  is always at most  $b^T y$  for any feasible solution  $y$  of  $\textcircled{2}$ .

Strong Duality of Linear Programming says

If  $x^*$  is an optimal solution of  $\textcircled{1}$  and  $y^*$  is an optimal soln. of  $\textcircled{2}$  then  $c^T x^* = b^T y^*$ .

A Binary Linear Program is a linear program whose variables are restricted to be 0 or 1.

Replacing  $x \in \{0, 1\}$  by  $x \in [0, 1]$  gives the Linear Program relaxation.



## Independence number and cover number of hypergraphs

Defn An independent set of a hypergraph  $H$  is a subset of  $V(H)$  that meets each edge at most once.

$\alpha(H)$  = max size of an ind. set of  $H$  = independence number of  $H$

$$= \max_{\varphi} \sum_{v \in V(H)} \varphi(v)$$

where the max is taken over all functions  $\varphi: V(H) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  s.t.  $\sum_{v \in e} \varphi(v) \leq 1 \quad \forall e \in E(H)$



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Independence function of  $H$ .

Defn A fractional independent set, or fractional independence function of  $H$  is

$$\varphi: V(H) \rightarrow [0,1] \text{ s.t. } \sum_{v \in e} \varphi(v) \leq 1 \quad \forall e \in E(H)$$

$\alpha^*(H)$  = fractional independence number of  $H$

$$= \max_{\varphi} \sum_{v \in V(H)} \varphi(v)$$

where the max is taken over all fractional independence functions of  $H$ .

Note:  $\alpha(H) \leq \alpha^*(H)$



# Independence number and cover numbers of hypergraphs

Defn An (edge) cover of a hypergraph  $H$  is a set of edges whose union gives all of  $V(H)$ , that is each vertex is contained in at least one chosen edge.

$\rho(H) = \min$  size of a cover of  $H =$  (edge) cover number of  $H$   
 $= \min_{\chi} \sum_{e \in E(H)} \chi(e)$  where the min is taken over all functions

$$\chi: E(H) \rightarrow \{0, 1\} \text{ s.t. } \sum_{e: v \in e} \chi(e) \geq 1 \quad \forall v \in V(H)$$

Cover function of  $H$

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$\rho^*(H) =$  fractional cover number of  $H$

$= \min_{\chi} \sum_{e \in E(H)} \chi(e)$  where the min is taken over all fractional cover functions of  $H$ .

Note:  $\rho^*(H) \leq \rho(H)$



Recall,  $\alpha(H) \leq \rho(H)$  (an edge cover has to use a different edge for each vertex of an independent set)

By Strong Duality,  $\alpha^*(H) = \rho^*(H)$

$$\alpha^*(H) = \max_{\varphi} \sum_{v \in V(H)} \varphi(v)$$

s.t.

$$\sum_{v \in e} \varphi(v) \leq 1 \quad \forall e \in E(H)$$
$$0 \leq \varphi(v) \leq 1 \quad \forall v \in V(H)$$

Dual

$$\rho^*(H) = \min_{\psi} \sum_{e \in E(H)} \psi(e)$$

s.t.

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## Proof of $N(H, G) \leq C_k l^{\rho^*(H)}$

Let  $G$  be any hypergraph w.  $l$  edges

Assume each edge of  $H$  has at most  $k$  vertices.

Let  $N = N(H, G) = \#$  copies of  $H$  in  $G$ .

Let  $\Sigma = \{\sigma : V(H) \rightarrow V(G), 1-1 \text{ homomorphisms}\}$ , so  $N = |\Sigma|$ .

We think of  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  as  $(\sigma(v) : v \in H)$ , i.e.  $(\sigma(v_1), \sigma(v_2), \dots, \sigma(v_n))$ .

Let  $\psi : E(H) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be an optimal fractional cover of  $H$ ,

that is  $\sum_{e \in E(H)} \psi(e) = \rho^*(H)$ .

We may assume  $\rho^*(H) \in \mathbb{Q}$ , so  $\rho^*(H) = \frac{s}{t}$  s.t.  $\psi(e) = \frac{w(e)}{t}$   $\forall e$

where  $w(e) \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $t$  as common denominator of all  $\psi(e)$



## Proof of $N(H, G) \leq C_2 l^{\rho^*(H)}$

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Let  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$  be a list (a multiset) of edges of  $H$  where each edge of  $H$  appears exactly  $w(e)$  times.

Since  $\sum_{e: v \in e} \psi(e) \geq 1 \quad \forall v \Rightarrow \sum_{e: v \in e} w(e) \geq t$ , each vertex appears in at least  $t$  edges in this list.



Let  $\sigma$  be chosen uniformly at random from  $\Sigma$   
so,  $\log |\Sigma| = H(\sigma) = H(\sigma(v_1), \dots, \sigma(v_n)) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n H(\sigma(v_i))$   
 $\hookrightarrow$  trivial upper bd.

Apply Shearer's lemma

What should we project  $\sigma$  onto?

$$H(\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{R} \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} H(\sigma_F)$$

$\mathcal{F} = ?$  &  $k = ?$   
for the  $\mathcal{F}$ .

$$\mathcal{F} = \{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$$

works with  $k = t$ .

Think! Go back 1 page.



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$$\leq \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m (\log(k! * l))$$

since  $H(\sigma_{e_i}) = H(\sigma(v) : v \in e_i) \leq \log(k! * l)$

#choices of mapping vertices in each edge from  $H$  to  $G$   
#choices for edges  
 $(\dots) \xrightarrow{\sigma} (\dots)$   
 $e \in H \quad \sigma(e) \in G$



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$\leq \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^m (\log(k! * l))$  since  $H(\sigma_{e_i}) = H(\sigma(v) : v \in e_i) \leq \log(k! * l)$

$\leq \frac{1}{t} \log(k! * l) \sum_{i=1}^m 1$

$= \frac{1}{t} \log(k! * l) \sum_{e \in E(H)} w(e)$

since  $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$  contains each edge  $w(e)$  times

#choices of mapping vertices in each edge from  $H$  to  $G$   
 $(\dots) \xrightarrow{\sigma} (\dots)$   
 $e \in H \quad \sigma(e) \in G$   
 #choices for edges



Let  $\sigma$  be chosen uniformly at random from  $\Sigma$

so,  $\log |\Sigma| = H(\sigma) = H(\sigma(v_1), \dots, \sigma(v_n))$

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$= \log(k! * l) \sum_{e \in E(H)} \chi(e)$

since  $\chi(e) = \frac{w(e)}{t} \forall e$

$= \log(k! * l) \rho^*(H)$

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$\therefore |\Sigma| \leq (k! * l)^{\rho^*(H)} = \underbrace{(k!)^{\rho^*(H)}}_{\text{where } c_2 \text{ depends only on } H} l^{\rho^*(H)} = c_2 l^{\rho^*(H)}$



