

## A. INTRODUCTION

- ps1 A1. *Ramsey's theorem*
- (a) Let  $s$  and  $r$  be positive integers. Show that there is some integer  $n = n(s, r)$  so that if every edge of the complete graph  $K_n$  on  $n$  vertices is colored with one of  $r$  colors, then there is a monochromatic copy of  $K_s$ .
- (b) Let  $s \geq 3$  be a positive integer. Show that if the edges of the complete graph on  $\binom{2s-2}{s-1}$  vertices are colored with 2 colors, then there is a monochromatic copy of  $K_s$ .
- ps1 A2. Prove that it is possible to color  $\mathbb{N}$  using two colors so that there is no infinitely long monochromatic arithmetic progression.
- ps1 A3. *Many monochromatic triangles*
- (a) True or false: If the edges of  $K_n$  are colored using 2 colors, then at least  $1/4 - o(1)$  fraction of all triangles are monochromatic. (Note that  $1/4$  is the fraction one expects if the edges were colored uniformly at random.)
- (b) True or false: if the edges of  $K_n$  are colored using 3 colors, then at least  $1/9 - o(1)$  fraction of all triangles are monochromatic.
- (c) ( $\star$  do not submit) True or false: if the edges of  $K_n$  are colored using 2 colors, then at least  $1/32 - o(1)$  fraction of all copies of  $K_4$ 's are monochromatic.
- (d) (do not submit) Prove that for every  $s$  and  $r$ , there is some constant  $c > 0$  so that for every sufficiently large  $n$ , if the edges of  $K_n$  are colored using  $r$  colors, then at least  $c$  fraction of all copies of  $K_s$  are monochromatic.

## B. FORBIDDING SUBGRAPHS

- ps1 B1. Show that a graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges has at least  $\frac{4m}{3n} \left(m - \frac{n^2}{4}\right)$  triangles.
- ps1 B2. Prove that every  $n$ -vertex graph with at least  $\lfloor n^2/4 \rfloor + 1$  edges contains at least  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  triangles.
- ps1 B3. Prove that every  $n$ -vertex graph with at least  $\lfloor n^2/4 \rfloor + 1$  edges contains some edge in at least  $(1/6 - o(1))n$  triangles, and that this constant  $1/6$  is best possible.
- B4.  *$K_{r+1}$ -free graphs close to the Turán bound are nearly  $r$ -partite*
- ps1 (a) Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex triangle-free graph with at least  $\lfloor n^2/4 \rfloor - k$  edges. Prove that  $G$  can be made bipartite by removing at most  $k$  edges.
- ps1 (b) Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex  $K_{r+1}$ -free graph with at least  $e(T_{n,r}) - k$  edges, where  $T_{n,r}$  is the Turán graph. Prove that  $G$  can be made  $r$ -partite by removing at most  $k$  edges.
- B5. Let  $G$  be a  $K_{r+1}$ -free graph. Prove that there is another graph  $H$  on the same vertex set as  $G$  such that  $\chi(H) \leq r$  and  $d_H(x) \geq d_G(x)$  for every vertex  $x$  (here  $d_H(x)$  is the degree of  $x$  in  $H$ , and likewise with  $d_G(x)$  for  $G$ ). Give another proof of Turán's theorem from this fact.
- B6. *Turán density*. Let  $H$  be a  $r$ -uniform hypergraph, let its *Turán number*  $\text{ex}^{(r)}(n, H)$  be the maximum number of edges in an  $r$ -uniform hypergraph on  $n$  vertices that does not contain  $H$  as a subgraph. Prove that the fraction  $\text{ex}^{(r)}(n, H) / \binom{n}{r}$  is a nonincreasing function of  $n$ , so that it has a limit  $\pi(H)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , called the *Turán density* of  $H$ .

**ps1** B7. *Supersaturation.* Let  $H$  be a graph and  $\rho$  a constant such that  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{ex}(n, H) / \binom{n}{2} \leq \rho$ . Prove that for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists some constant  $c = c(H, \epsilon) > 0$  such that for sufficiently large  $n$ , every  $n$ -vertex graph with at least  $(\rho + \epsilon) \binom{n}{2}$  edges contains at least  $cn^{v(H)}$  copies of  $H$ .

**ps1** B8. Let  $S$  be a set of  $n$  points in the plane, with the property that no two points are at distance greater than 1. Show that  $S$  has at most  $\lfloor n^2/3 \rfloor$  pairs of points at distance greater than  $1/\sqrt{2}$ . Also, show that the bound  $\lfloor n^2/3 \rfloor$  is tight (i.e., cannot be improved).

**ps1** B9. (How *not* to define density in a product set) Let  $S \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ . Define

$$d_k(S) = \max_{\substack{A, B \subset \mathbb{Z} \\ |A|=|B|=k}} \frac{|S \cap (A \times B)|}{|A||B|}.$$

Show that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} d_k(S)$  exists and is always either 0 or 1.

B10. Show that, for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every graph with  $n$  vertices and at least  $\epsilon n^2$  edges contains a copy of  $K_{s,t}$  where  $s \geq \delta \log n$  and  $t \geq n^{0.99}$ .

**ps2** B11. *Density version of Kővári–Sós–Turán.* Prove that for every positive integers  $s \leq t$ , there are constants  $C, c > 0$  such that every  $n$ -vertex graph with  $p \binom{n}{2}$  edges contains at least  $cp^{st}n^{s+t}$  copies of  $K_{s,t}$ , provided that  $p \geq Cn^{-1/s}$ .

**ps2\*** B12. *Hypergraph Kővári–Sós–Turán and a proof of Erdős–Stone–Simonovits*

(a) Prove that for every positive integer  $t$  there is some  $C$  so that every 3-uniform hypergraph on  $n$  vertices and at least  $Cn^{3-t^2}$  edges (i.e., triples) contains a copy of  $K_{t,t,t}^{(3)}$ , the complete tripartite 3-uniform hypergraph with  $t$  vertices in each part.

(b) Deduce that  $\text{ex}(n, H) \leq (\frac{1}{4} + o(1))n^2$  for every graph  $H$  with  $\chi(H) \leq 3$ .

(c) Explain how to generalize the above strategy to prove the Erdős–Stone–Simonovits theorem for every  $H$  (sketch the key steps).

**ps2** B13. Find a graph  $H$  with  $\chi(H) = 3$  and  $\text{ex}(n, H) > \frac{1}{4}n^2 + n^{1.99}$  for all sufficiently large  $n$ .

**ps2\*** B14. *Construction of a  $C_6$ -free graph.* Let  $q$  be an odd prime power. Let  $S$  denote the quadratic surface in the 4-dimensional projective space over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  (whose points are nonzero points of  $\mathbb{F}_q^5$  modulo the equivalence relation  $(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \sim (\lambda x_0, \lambda x_1, \lambda x_2, \lambda x_3, \lambda x_4)$  for  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ ) given by the equation (you may use another quadratic form if you wish)

$$x_0^2 + 2x_1x_2 + 2x_3x_4 = 0.$$

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the set of lines contained in  $S$ .

(a) Prove that no three lines of  $\mathcal{L}$  lie in the same plane.

(b) Show that the point-line incidence bipartite graph between  $S$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  is a  $(q+1)$ -regular graph on  $2(q^3 + q^2 + q + 1)$  vertices with no cycles of length at most 6. Conclude that  $\text{ex}(n, C_6) \geq cn^{4/3}$  for some constant  $c > 0$ .

*The next two problems concern the dependent random choice technique.*

**ps2** B15. Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Show that, for sufficiently large  $n$ , every  $K_4$ -free graph with  $n$  vertices and at least  $\epsilon n^2$  edges contains an independent set of size at least  $n^{1-\epsilon}$ .

**ps2\*** B16. *Extremal numbers of degenerate graphs*

- (a) Prove that there is some absolute constant  $c > 0$  so that for every positive integer  $r$ , every  $n$ -vertex graph with at least  $n^{2-c/r}$  edges contains disjoint vertex subsets  $A$  and  $B$  such that every subset of  $r$  vertices in  $A$  has at least  $n^c$  neighbors in  $B$  and every subset of  $r$  vertices in  $B$  has at least  $n^c$  neighbors in  $A$ .
- (b) We say that a graph  $H$  is  $r$ -degenerate if its vertices can be ordered so that every vertex has at most  $r$  neighbors that appear before it in the ordering. Show that for every  $r$ -degenerate bipartite graph  $H$  there is some constant  $C > 0$  so that  $\text{ex}(n, H) \leq Cn^{2-c/r}$ , where  $c$  is the same absolute constant from part (a) ( $c$  should not depend on  $H$  or  $r$ ).

ps2 B17. Let  $T$  be a tree with  $k$  edges. Show that  $\text{ex}(n, T) \leq kn$ .

ps2\* B18. Show that every  $n$ -vertex triangle-free graph with minimum degree greater than  $2n/5$  is bipartite.

### C. SZEMERÉDI'S REGULARITY LEMMA AND APPLICATIONS

*For simplicity, you are welcome to apply the equitable version of Szemerédi's regularity lemma.*

C1. Let  $G$  be a graph and  $X, Y \subset V(G)$ . If  $(X, Y)$  is an  $\epsilon\eta$ -regular pair, then  $(X', Y')$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular for all  $X' \subset X$  with  $|X'| \geq \eta|X|$  and  $Y' \subset Y$  with  $|Y'| \geq \eta|Y|$ .

C2. Let  $G$  be a graph and  $X, Y \subset V(G)$ . Say that  $(X, Y)$  is  $\epsilon$ -homogeneous if for all  $A \subset X$  and  $B \subset Y$ , one has

$$|e(A, B) - |A||B|d(X, Y)| \leq \epsilon|X||Y|.$$

Show that if  $(X, Y)$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular, then it is  $\epsilon$ -homogeneous. Also, show that if  $(X, Y)$  is  $\epsilon^3$ -homogeneous, then it is  $\epsilon$ -regular.

ps2 C3. *Unavoidability of irregular pairs.* Let the half-graph  $H_n$  be the bipartite graph on  $2n$  vertices  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n\}$  with edges  $\{a_i b_j : i \leq j\}$ .

- (a) For every  $\epsilon > 0$ , explicitly construct an  $\epsilon$ -regular partition of  $H_n$  into  $O(1/\epsilon)$  parts.
- (b) Show that there is some  $c > 0$  such that for every  $\epsilon \in (0, c)$ , every integer  $k$  and sufficiently large multiple  $n$  of  $k$ , every partition of the vertices of  $H_n$  into  $k$  equal-sized parts contains at least  $ck$  pairs of parts which are not  $\epsilon$ -regular.

ps2 C4. Show that there is some absolute constant  $C > 0$  such that for every  $0 < \epsilon < 1/2$ , every graph on  $n$  vertices contains an  $\epsilon$ -regular pair of vertex subsets each with size at least  $\delta n$ , where  $\delta = 2^{-\epsilon^{-C}}$ .

C5. *Existence of a regular set.* Given a graph  $G$ , we say that  $X \subset V(G)$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular if the pair  $(X, X)$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular, i.e., for all  $A, B \subset X$  with  $|A|, |B| \geq \epsilon|X|$ , one has  $|d(A, B) - d(X, X)| \leq \epsilon$ . This problem asks for two different proofs of the claim: for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every graph contains an  $\epsilon$ -regular subset of vertices of size at least  $\delta$  fraction of the vertex set.

ps3 (a) Prove the claim using Szemerédi's regularity lemma, showing that one can obtain the  $\epsilon$ -regular subset by combining a suitable sub-collection of parts from a regular partition.

ps3\* (b) Give an alternative proof of the claim showing that one can take  $\delta = \exp(-\exp(\epsilon^{-C}))$  for some constant  $C$ .

ps3 C6. Show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every  $n$ -vertex  $K_4$ -free graph with at least  $(\frac{1}{8} + \epsilon)n^2$  edges contains an independent set of size at least  $\delta n$ .

C7. Show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every  $n$ -vertex  $K_4$ -free graph with at least  $(\frac{1}{8} - \delta)n^2$  edges and independence number at most  $\delta n$  can be made bipartite by removing at most  $\epsilon n^2$  edges.

ps3 C8. Show that the number of non-isomorphic  $n$ -vertex triangle-free graphs is  $2^{(1/4+o(1))n^2}$ .

C9. Show that for every  $H$  there exists some  $\delta > 0$  such that for all sufficiently large  $n$ , if  $G$  is an  $n$ -vertex graph with average degree at least  $(1 - \delta)n$  and the edges of  $G$  are colored using 2 colors, then there is a monochromatic copy of  $H$ .

ps3 C10. Show that for every  $H$  and  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every graph on  $n$  vertices without an induced copy of  $H$  contains an induced subgraph on at least  $\delta n$  vertices whose edge density is at most  $\epsilon$  or at least  $1 - \epsilon$ .

C11. *Random graphs are  $\epsilon$ -regular.* Let  $G$  be a random bipartite graph between disjoint sets of vertices  $X$  and  $Y$  with  $|X| = |Y| = n$ , such that every pair in  $X \times Y$  appears as an edge of  $G$  independently with the same probability. Show that there is some absolute constant  $c > 0$  such that with probability at least  $1 - e^{-n^{1+c}}$  for sufficiently large  $n$ , the pair  $(X, Y)$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular in  $G$  with  $\epsilon = n^{-c}$ .

(You may use the following special case of the Azuma–Hoeffding inequality: if  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  are independent random variables taking values in  $[-1, 1]$ , and  $S = X_1 + \dots + X_N$ , then  $\mathbb{P}(S \geq \mathbb{E}S + t) \leq e^{-t^2/(2N)}$ .)

ps3★ C12. Show that for every graph  $H$  there is some graph  $G$  such that if the edges of  $G$  are colored with two colors, then some induced subgraph of  $G$  is a monochromatic copy of  $H$ .

ps3★ C13. Show that for every  $c > 0$ , there exists  $c' > 0$  such that every graph on  $n$  vertices with at least  $cn^2$  edges contains a  $d$ -regular subgraph with  $d \geq c'n$  (here  $d$ -regular refers to every vertex having degree  $d$ ).

ps4 C14. Show that there is a constant  $c > 0$  so that for every sufficiently small  $\epsilon > 0$  and sufficiently large  $n > n_0(\epsilon)$  there exists an  $n$ -vertex graph with at most  $\epsilon^{c \log(1/\epsilon)} n^3$  triangles that cannot be made triangle-free by removing fewer than  $\epsilon n^2$  edges. (In particular, this shows that one cannot take  $\delta = \epsilon^C$  for some constant  $C > 0$  in the triangle removal lemma.)

C15. *Removal lemma for bipartite graphs with polynomial bounds.* Prove that for every bipartite graph  $H$ , there is a constant  $C$  such that for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , every  $n$ -vertex graph with fewer than  $\epsilon^C n^{v(H)}$  copies of  $H$  can be made  $H$ -free by removing at most  $\epsilon n^2$  edges.

ps4 C16. Let  $H$  be a  $n$ -vertex 3-uniform hypergraph such that every 6 vertices contain strictly fewer than 3 triples. Prove that  $H$  has  $o(n^2)$  edges.

(Hint in white: \_\_\_\_\_)

ps4 C17. Assuming the tetrahedron removal lemma for 3-uniform hypergraphs, deduce that if  $A \subset [N]^2$  contains no axes-aligned squares (i.e., four points of the form  $(x, y), (x + d, y), (x, y + d), (x + d, y + d)$ , where  $d \neq 0$ ), then  $|A| = o(N^2)$ .

ps4★ C18. Show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $A \subset [n]$  has fewer than  $\delta n^2$  many triples  $(x, y, z) \in A^3$  with  $x + y = z$ , then there is some  $B \subset A$  with  $|A \setminus B| \leq \epsilon n$  such that  $B$  is sum-free, i.e., there do not exist  $x, y, z \in B$  with  $x + y = z$ .

## D. SPECTRAL GRAPH THEORY AND PSEUDORANDOM GRAPHS

- ps4 D1. Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex graph. The *Laplacian* of  $G$  is defined to be  $L_G = D_G - A_G$ , where  $A_G$  is the adjacency matrix of  $G$  and  $D_G$  a diagonal matrix whose entry corresponding to the vertex  $v \in V(G)$  is the degree of  $v$  in  $G$  (so that  $L_G$  is a symmetric matrix with all row sums zero). Let  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$  be the eigenvalues of  $L_G$ , with  $\lambda_1 = 0$  corresponding to the all-1 vector. Prove that for every  $S \subset V(G)$  with  $|S| \leq n/2$ , one has (writing  $\bar{S} := V(G) \setminus S$ )

$$e(S, \bar{S}) \geq \frac{1}{2} \lambda_2 |S|$$

- ps4\* D2. Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $A, B \subset \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ . Show that

$$\sum_{a \in A} \sum_{b \in B} \left( \frac{a+b}{p} \right) \leq p\sqrt{p}$$

where  $(a/p)$  is the Legendre symbol defined by

$$\left( \frac{a}{p} \right) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } a \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \\ 1 & \text{if } a \text{ is a nonzero quadratic residue mod } p \\ -1 & \text{if } a \text{ is a quadratic nonresidue mod } p \end{cases}$$

- D3. *Quasirandom transitive graphs.* Prove that if an  $n$ -vertex  $d$ -regular vertex-transitive graph  $G$  satisfies

$$e(X, Y) - \frac{d}{n}|X||Y| \leq \epsilon dn \quad \text{for all } X, Y \subseteq V(G),$$

then all the eigenvalues of the adjacency matrix of  $G$ , other than the largest one, are at most  $8\epsilon d$  in absolute value.

- ps4 D4. Prove that the diameter of an  $(n, d, \lambda)$ -graph is at most  $\lceil \log n / \log(d/\lambda) \rceil$ . (The *diameter* of a graph is the maximum distance between a pair of vertices.)

- D5. Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex  $d$ -regular graph. Suppose  $n$  is divisible by  $k$ . Color the vertices of  $G$  with  $k$  colors (not necessarily a proper coloring) such that each color appears exactly  $n/k$  times. Suppose that all eigenvalues, except the top one, of the adjacency matrix of  $G$  are at most  $d/k$  in absolute value. Show that there is a vertex of  $G$  whose neighborhood contains all  $k$  colors.

- ps4 D6. Prove that for every positive integer  $d$  and real  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is some constant  $c > 0$  so that if  $G$  is an  $n$ -vertex  $d$ -regular graph with adjacency matrix  $A_G$ , then at least  $cn$  of the eigenvalues of  $A_G$  are greater than  $2\sqrt{d-1} - \epsilon$ .

- ps4\* D7. Show that for every  $d$  and  $r$ , there is some  $\epsilon > 0$  such that if  $G$  is a  $d$ -regular graph, and  $S \subset V(G)$  is such that every vertex of  $G$  is within distance  $r$  of  $S$ , then the top eigenvalue of the adjacency matrix of  $G - S$  (i.e., remove  $S$  and its incident edges from  $G$ ) is at most  $d - \epsilon$ .

- ps4\* D8. Prove or disprove: there exists an absolute constant  $C$  such that the adjacency matrix of every  $n$ -vertex Cayley graph has an eigenbasis in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  (consisting of  $n$  orthonormal unit eigenvectors) all of whose coordinates are each at most  $C/\sqrt{n}$  in absolute value.

## E. GRAPH LIMITS AND HOMOMORPHISM DENSITY INEQUALITIES

Note: A “graphon” is a symmetric measurable function  $W: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$ .

ps5

E1. *Weak regularity decomposition (instead of partition).*

- (a) Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Show that for every graphon  $W$ , there exist measurable  $S_1, \dots, S_k, T_1, \dots, T_k \subseteq [0, 1]$  and reals  $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $k < \epsilon^{-2}$ , such that

$$W - \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \mathbf{1}_{S_i \times T_i} \leq \epsilon.$$

The above conclusion allows one to approximate an arbitrary graph(on) as a sum of most  $\epsilon^{-2}$  components. In the next following parts, you will show how to recover a regularity partition from the approximation above.

- (b) Show that the stepping operator  $\mathcal{P}$  is contractive with respect to the cut norm, in the sense that if  $W: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a measurable symmetric function, then  $\|W_{\mathcal{P}}\|_{\square} \leq \|W\|_{\square}$ .  
 (c) Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a partition of  $[0, 1]$  into measurable sets. Let  $U$  be a graphon that is constant on  $S \times T$  for each  $S, T \in \mathcal{P}$ . Show that for every graphon  $W$ , one has

$$\|W - W_{\mathcal{P}}\|_{\square} \leq 2\|W - U\|_{\square}.$$

- (d) Use (a) and (c) to give a different proof of the weak regularity lemma (with slightly worse bounds than the one given in class): show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$  and every graphon  $W$ , there exists partition  $\mathcal{P}$  of  $[0, 1]$  into  $2^{O(1/\epsilon^2)}$  measurable sets such that  $\|W - W_{\mathcal{P}}\|_{\square} \leq \epsilon$ .  
 E2. Define  $W: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $W(x, y) = 2 \cos(2\pi(x - y))$ . Let  $G$  be a graph. Show that  $t(G, W)$  is the number of ways to orient all edges of  $G$  so that every vertex has the same number of incoming edges as outgoing edges.

- E3. Show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there is some  $C > 0$  such that if  $W$  is a graphon, and  $S \subset [0, 1]$  is a set of such that, writing  $W \circ W(x, z) = \int_{[0,1]} W(x, y)W(y, z) dy$ ,

$$\int_{[0,1]} |W \circ W(s, z) - W \circ W(t, z)| dz > \epsilon$$

for all distinct  $s, t \in S$ , then  $|S| \leq C$ .

- E4. Let  $W$  be a  $\{0, 1\}$ -valued graphon. Suppose graphons  $W_n$  satisfy  $\|W_n - W\|_{\square} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Show that  $\|W_n - W\|_1 \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

ps5

- E5. *“Regularity lemma” for bounded degree graphs.* The  $r$ -local sample of a graph  $G$  is defined to be the random rooted graph induced by all vertices within distance  $r$  from a uniform random vertex  $v$  of  $G$ , and setting  $v$  to be the root.

Show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $r, \Delta \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $M = M(\epsilon, r, \Delta)$  such that if  $G$  is a graph with maximum degree at most  $\Delta$ , then there exists a graph  $H$  on at most  $M$  vertices such that the  $r$ -local samples of  $G$  and  $H$  differ by at most  $\epsilon$  in total variation distance.

- E6. *Strong regularity lemma.* In this problem, you will give an alternate proof of the strong regularity lemma with explicit bounds.

Let  $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots)$  be a sequence of positive reals. By repeatedly applying the weak regularity lemma, show that there is some  $M = M(\epsilon)$  such that for every graphon  $W$ , there

is a pair of partitions  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$  of  $[0, 1]$  into measurable sets, such that  $\mathcal{Q}$  refines  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $|\mathcal{Q}| \leq M$  (here  $|\mathcal{Q}|$  denotes the number of parts of  $\mathcal{Q}$ ),

$$\|W - W_{\mathcal{Q}}\|_{\square} \leq \epsilon_{|\mathcal{P}|} \quad \text{and} \quad \|W_{\mathcal{Q}}\|_2^2 \leq \|W_{\mathcal{P}}\|_2^2 + \epsilon_1^2.$$

Furthermore, deduce the strong regularity lemma in the following form: one can write

$$W = W_{\text{str}} + W_{\text{psr}} + W_{\text{sml}}$$

where  $W_{\text{str}}$  is a  $k$ -step-graphon with  $k \leq M$ ,  $\|W_{\text{psr}}\|_{\square} \leq \epsilon_k$ , and  $\|W_{\text{sml}}\|_1 \leq \epsilon_1$ . State your bounds on  $M$  explicitly in terms of  $\epsilon$ . (Note: the parameter choice  $\epsilon_k = \epsilon/k^2$  roughly corresponds to Szemerédi's regularity lemma, in which case your bound on  $M$  should be an exponential tower of 2's of height  $\epsilon^{-O(1)}$ ; if not then you are doing something wrong.)

ps5

E7. *Inverse counting lemma.* Using the moments lemma ( $t(F, U) = t(F, W)$  for all  $F$  implies  $\delta_{\square}(U, W) = 0$ ) and compactness of the space of graphons, deduce that for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exist  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\eta > 0$  such that if  $U$  and  $W$  are graphons such that  $|t(F, U) - t(F, W)| \leq \eta$  for all graphs  $F$  on  $k$  vertices, then  $\delta_{\square}(U, W) \leq \epsilon$ .

ps5\*

E8. *Generalized maximum cut.* For symmetric measurable functions  $W, U: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , define

$$\mathcal{C}(W, U) := \sup_{\varphi} \langle W, U^{\varphi} \rangle = \sup_{\varphi} \int W(x, y) U(\varphi(x), \varphi(y)) dx dy,$$

where  $\varphi$  ranges over all measure-preserving bijections on  $[0, 1]$ . Extend the definition of  $\mathcal{C}(\cdot, \cdot)$  to graphs by  $\mathcal{C}(G, \cdot) := \mathcal{C}(W_G, \cdot)$ , etc.

- (a) Is  $\mathcal{C}(U, W)$  continuous jointly in  $(U, W)$  with respect to the cut norm? Is it continuous in  $U$  if  $W$  is held fixed?
- (b) Show that if  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  are graphons such that  $\mathcal{C}(W_1, U) = \mathcal{C}(W_2, U)$  for all graphons  $U$ , then  $\delta_{\square}(W_1, W_2) = 0$ .
- (c) Let  $G_1, G_2, \dots$  be a sequence of graphs such that  $\mathcal{C}(G_n, U)$  converges as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for every graphon  $U$ . Show that  $G_1, G_2, \dots$  is convergent.
- (d) Can the hypothesis in (c) be replaced by " $\mathcal{C}(G_n, H)$  converges as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for every graph  $H$ "?
- E9. (a) Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two graphs such that  $\text{hom}(F, G_1) = \text{hom}(F, G_2)$  for every graph  $F$ . Show that  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are isomorphic.
- (b) Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two graphs such that  $\text{hom}(G_1, H) = \text{hom}(G_2, H)$  for every graph  $H$ . Show that  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are isomorphic.
- E10. Fix  $0 < p < 1$ . Let  $G$  be a graph on  $n$  vertices with average degree at least  $pn$ . Prove:

ps5

- (a) The number of labeled copies of  $K_{3,3}$  in  $G$  is at least  $(p^9 - o(1))n^6$ .
- (b) The number of labeled 6-cycles in  $G$  is at least  $(p^6 - o(1))n^6$ . (You may not use part (d) for part (b))

ps5

- (c) The number of labeled copies of  $Q_3 = \begin{array}{c} \bullet & & \bullet \\ \diagdown & & / \\ & \bullet & \\ / & & \diagdown \\ \bullet & & \bullet \end{array}$  in  $G$  is at least  $(p^{12} - o(1))n^8$ .

ps5\*

- (d) The number of labeled paths on 4 vertices in  $G$  is at least  $(p^3 - o(1))n^4$ .

- ps5★ E11. Let  $\mathcal{F}_m$  denote the set of all  $m$ -edge graphs without isolated vertices (up to isomorphism). Suppose  $p \in [0, 1]$  is a constant, and  $G_n$  is a sequence of graphs such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_m} t(F, G_n) = \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}_m} p^{|E(F)|}$$

for every positive integer  $m$ . Prove that  $G_n$  converges to the constant graphon  $p$ .

- ps5★ E12. Prove there is a function  $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  with  $f(x) \geq x^2$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)/x^2 = \infty$  such that

$$t(K_4^-, W) \geq f(t(K_3, W))$$

for all graphons  $W$ . Here  $K_4^-$  is  $K_4$  with one edge removed.

### F. FOURIER ANALYSIS AND LINEAR PATTERNS

Some conventions: for  $f: \mathbb{F}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  with prime  $p$ ,

- $\widehat{f}(r) = \mathbb{E}_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p^n} f(x) \omega^{-r \cdot x}$  where  $\omega = e^{2\pi i/p}$
- $\|f\|_s := (\mathbb{E}[|f|^s])^{1/s}$
- $\|\widehat{f}\|_\infty = \max_{r \in \mathbb{F}_p^n} |\widehat{f}(r)|$

- ps5 F1. *Fourier does not control 4-AP counts.* Let  $A = \{x \in \mathbb{F}_5^n : x \cdot x = 0\}$ . Write  $N = 5^n$ .

(a) Show that  $|A| = (1/5 + o(1))N$  and  $|\widehat{1}_A(r)| = o(1)$  for all  $r \neq 0$ .

(b) Show that  $|\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{F}_5^n : x, x + y, x + 2y, x + 3y \in A\}| \neq (5^{-4} + o(1))N^2$ .

- ps6 F2. *Linearity testing.* Show that for every prime  $p$  and real  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $f: \mathbb{F}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$  is a function such that

$$\mathbb{P}_{x, y \in \mathbb{F}_p^n} (f(x) + f(y) = f(x + y)) \geq 1 - \delta$$

then there exists some  $a \in \mathbb{F}_p^n$  such that

$$\mathbb{P}_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p^n} (f(x) = a_1 x_1 + \cdots + a_n x_n) \geq 1 - \epsilon,$$

where in the above  $\mathbb{P}$  expressions  $x$  and  $y$  are chosen i.i.d. uniform from  $\mathbb{F}_p^n$ .

- ps6 F3. *Counting solutions to a single linear equation.*

(a) Given a function  $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  with finite support, define  $\widehat{f}: \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  by

$$\widehat{f}(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f(n) e^{-2\pi i n t}.$$

Let  $c_1, \dots, c_k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Let  $A \subset \mathbb{Z}$  be a finite set. Show that

$$|\{(a_1, \dots, a_k) \in A^k : c_1 a_1 + \cdots + c_k a_k = 0\}| = \int_0^1 \widehat{1}_A(c_1 t) \widehat{1}_A(c_2 t) \cdots \widehat{1}_A(c_k t) dt.$$

(b) Show that if a finite set  $A$  of integers contains  $\beta |A|^2$  solutions  $(a, b, c) \in A^3$  to  $a + 2b = 3c$ , then it contains at least  $\beta^2 |A|^3$  solutions  $(a, b, c, d) \in A^4$  to  $a + b = c + d$ .

- ps6 F4. Let  $a_1, \dots, a_m, b_1, \dots, b_m, c_1, \dots, c_m \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$ . Suppose that the equation  $a_i + b_j + c_k = 0$  holds if and only if  $i = j = k$ . Show that there is some constant  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $m \leq (2 - \epsilon)^n$  for all sufficiently large  $n$ .

F5. *Strong arithmetic regularity lemma.* Show that for every  $\epsilon = (\epsilon_0, \epsilon_1, \dots)$  with  $1 \geq \epsilon_0 \geq \epsilon_1 \geq \dots$  there exists  $m = m(\epsilon)$  such that for every  $f: \mathbb{F}_3^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$  there exist a pair of subspaces  $W \leq U$  of  $\mathbb{F}_3^n$  with  $\text{codim} W \leq m$  and a decomposition

$$f = f_{\text{str}} + f_{\text{psr}} + f_{\text{sml}}$$

such that

- $f_{\text{str}} = f_U$  and  $f_{\text{str}} + f_{\text{sml}} = f_W$ ,
- $\|f_{\text{psr}}\|_\infty \leq \epsilon_{\text{codim} U}$
- $\|f_{\text{sml}}\|_2 \leq \epsilon_0$

F6. *Counting lemma for 3-APs with restricted differences.* Let  $f: \mathbb{F}_3^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$  be written as  $f = f_{\text{str}} + f_{\text{psr}} + f_{\text{sml}}$  where

- $f_{\text{str}}$  and  $f_{\text{str}} + f_{\text{sml}}$  take values in  $[0, 1]$ ,
- $\|f_{\text{psr}}\|_\infty \leq \eta$ , and
- $\|f_{\text{sml}}\|_2 \leq \epsilon$ .

Let  $U$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{F}_3^n$ . Show that there is some absolute constant  $C$  so that

$$\mathbb{E}_{x \in \mathbb{F}_3^n, y \in U} (f(x)f(x+y)f(x+2y) - f_{\text{str}}(x)f_{\text{str}}(x+y)f_{\text{str}}(x+2y)) \leq C(|U^\perp| \eta + \epsilon)$$

F7. *Gowers  $U^2$  uniformity norm.* Let  $\Gamma$  be a finite abelian group. For  $f: \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , define

$$\|f\|_{U^2} := \left( \mathbb{E}_{x, h, h' \in \Gamma} f(x) \overline{f(x+h)} \overline{f(x+h')} f(x+h+h') \right)^{1/4}.$$

- (a) Show that the expectation above is always a nonnegative real number, so that the above expression is well defined. Also, show that  $\|f\|_{U^2} \geq |\mathbb{E}f|$ .
- (b) For  $f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4: \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , let

$$\langle f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 \rangle = \mathbb{E}_{x, h, h' \in \Gamma} f_1(x) \overline{f_2(x+h)} \overline{f_3(x+h')} f_4(x+h+h').$$

Prove that

$$|\langle f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 \rangle| \leq \|f_1\|_{U^2} \|f_2\|_{U^2} \|f_3\|_{U^2} \|f_4\|_{U^2}$$

- (c) By noting that  $\langle f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 \rangle$  is multilinear, and using part (b), show that

$$\|f + g\|_{U^2} \leq \|f\|_{U^2} + \|g\|_{U^2}.$$

Conclude that  $\|\cdot\|_{U^2}$  is a norm.

- (d) Show that  $\|f\|_{U^2} = \|\widehat{f}\|_{\ell^4}$ , i.e.,

$$\|f\|_{U^2}^4 = \sum_{\gamma \in \widehat{\Gamma}} |\widehat{f}(\gamma)|^4.$$

Furthermore, deduce that if  $\|f\|_\infty \leq 1$ , then

$$\|\widehat{f}\|_\infty \leq \|f\|_{U^2} \leq \|\widehat{f}\|_\infty^{1/2}.$$

(This gives a so-called “inverse theorem” for the  $U^2$  norm: if  $\|f\|_{U^2} \geq \delta$  then  $|f(\gamma)| \geq \delta^2$  for some  $\gamma \in \widehat{\Gamma}$ , i.e., if  $f$  is not  $U^2$ -uniform, then it must correlate with some character.)

## G. STRUCTURE OF SET ADDITION

- ps6 G1. Show that for every real  $K \geq 1$  there is some  $C_K$  such that for every finite set  $A$  of an abelian group with  $|A + A| \leq K|A|$ , one has  $|nA| \leq n^{C_K}|A|$  for every positive integer  $n$ .
- ps6★ G2. Show that there is some constant  $C$  so that if  $S$  is a finite subset of an abelian group, and  $k$  is a positive integer, then  $|2kS| \leq C^{|S|} |kS|$ .
- ps6★ G3. Show that for every sufficiently large  $K$  there is some finite set  $A \subset \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $|A + A| \leq K|A|$  and  $|A - A| \geq K^{1.99}|A|$ .
- ps6★ G4. Show that for every finite subsets  $A, B, C$  in an abelian group, one has

$$|A + B + C|^2 \leq |A + B| |A + C| |B + C|.$$

- ps6 G5. Let  $A \subset \mathbb{Z}$  with  $|A| = n$ .
- (a) Let  $p$  be a prime. Show that there is some integer  $t$  relatively prime to  $p$  such that  $\|at/p\|_{\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}} \leq p^{-1/n}$  for all  $a \in A$ .
- (b) Show that  $A$  is Freiman 2-isomorphic to a subset of  $[N]$  for some  $N = (4 + o(1))^n$ .
- (c) Show that (b) cannot be improved to  $N = 2^{n-2}$ .
- (You may use the fact that the smallest prime larger than  $m$  has size  $m + o(m)$ .)
- G6. Let  $r_3(N)$  denote the size of the largest 3-AP-free subset of  $[N]$ . Show that there is some constant  $c > 0$  so that if  $A$  is 3-AP-free, then  $|A + A| \geq c|A|^{1+c} r_3(|A|)^{-c}$ .
- ps6 G7. Let  $A \subset \mathbb{F}_2^n$  with  $|A| = \alpha 2^n$ .
- (a) Show that if  $|A + A| < 0.99 \cdot 2^n$ , then there is some  $r \in \mathbb{F}_2^n \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $|\widehat{1_A}(r)| > c\alpha^{3/2}$  for some constant  $c > 0$ .
- (b) By iterating (a), show that  $A + A$  contains 99% of a subspace of codimension  $O(\alpha^{-1/2})$ .
- (c) Deduce that  $4A$  contains a subspace of codimension  $O(\alpha^{-1/2})$  (i.e., Bogolyubov's lemma with better bounds than the one shown in class)
- G8. Prove that there is some  $C > 0$  so that every set of  $n$  integers has a 3-AP-free subset of size  $ne^{-C\sqrt{\log n}}$ .

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18.217 Graph Theory and Additive Combinatorics  
Fall 2019

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