

# Expander graphs

Teacher: Ori Parzanchevski  
parzan@math.huji.ac.il

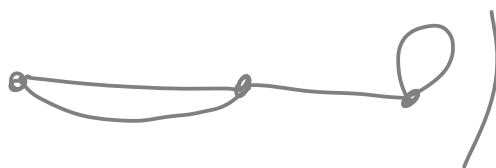
23/3/20

$G = (V, E)$      $V$  set     $E \subseteq \binom{V}{2}$  (unordered pairs of vertices)

e.g.  $V = \{1, 2, 3\}$      $E = \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}\}$



(Later we might allow  
multi-edges and loops)

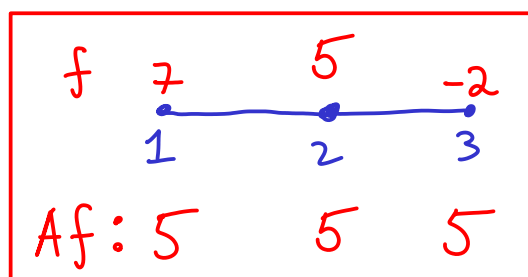


For a graph  $G$ , the adjacency operator  
 $A = \text{Adj}$  (or  $A_G$ ) is defined as follows:

$$A: \mathbb{R}^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^V$$

$$(Af)(v) = \sum_{w \sim v} f(w)$$

$v \sim w$  means  
 $v$  and  $w$  are  
neighbors



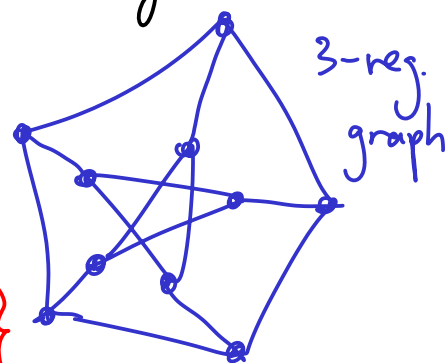
if we order the vertices, we can think of  
 $\mathbb{R}^V$  as  $\mathbb{R}^n$  ( $n = |V|$ ), and then  $A$  is  
represented by a matrix  $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{the } i\text{-th and } j\text{-th vertices are neighbors} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

For now, assume  $|V| = n < \infty$   
and that  $G$  is  $k$ -regular: every vertex  
has exactly  $k$  neighbors.

$$\text{Spec}(G) = \text{Spec}(A_G)$$

$$\text{Spec}(T) = \{ \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \exists v \neq 0 \text{ with } T(v) = \lambda v \}$$



- $k \in \text{Spec}(G)$  because  $A\mathbf{1} = k\mathbf{1}$  (for  $k$ -regular)
- every  $\lambda \in \text{Spec}(A)$  is real. In fact:

Reminder: if  $T$  is a Hermitian operator on  
an inner product space ( $T^* = T$ ), then the  
space has an O.N.B. of eigenvectors, with  
real eigenvalues. [for matrices,  
 $(T^*)_{ij} = \overline{T_{ji}}$ ]

- every  $\lambda \in \text{Spec}$  has  $|\lambda| \leq k$ :

Pf: if  $Af = \lambda f$ ,  $\exists v_0 \in V$  with  $|f(v_0)| \max$ .

( $|f(v_0)| \geq |f(v)| \forall v \in V$ ). Assume  $f(v_0) > 0$

(otherwise take  $-f$ ). Then:

$$|\lambda f(v_0)| = |(Af)(v_0)| = \left| \sum_{w \sim v_0} f(w) \right| \leq \sum_{w \sim v_0} |f(w)| \leq k f(v_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow |\lambda| \leq k \quad \square$$

So we have:

$$\text{Spec}(A_G): k = \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \geq -k$$

When is  $-k \in \text{Spec}(A)$ ?

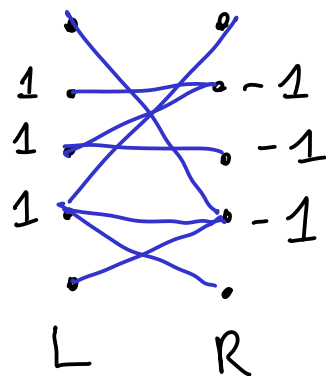
Claim: iff  $G$  is bipartite:  $V = R \sqcup L$

1/2 Pf: if  $G$  is bipartite

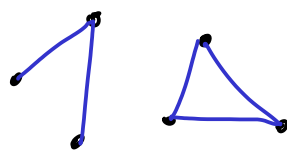
$$\text{take } f(v) = \begin{cases} 1 & v \in L \\ -1 & v \in R \end{cases}$$

$$\text{then } Af = -kf.$$

and  $E \subseteq R \times L$



Claim:  $\lambda_2 = k$  iff  $G$  is disconnected  
( $V = V_1 \sqcup V_2$ , with no  $e \in V_1 \times V_2$ )



1/2 Pf: if  $G$  is disconnected,  $G = V_1 \sqcup V_2$ , take  
 $f(v) = \begin{cases} 1 & v \in V_1 \\ 0 & v \notin V_1 \end{cases}$  ( $f = \mathbb{1}_{V_1}$ ). We still

have  $Af = kf$ , and  $f \notin \langle \mathbb{1} \rangle$ , so  $k$  is an eigenvalue with multiplicity  $\geq 2$ .

HW:  $\lambda_2 = k \Rightarrow G$  is disconnected

Definition:  $G$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -expander if

$$|\lambda_i| \leq \varepsilon \text{ for } i=2, \dots, n \Leftrightarrow \lambda(G) \leq \varepsilon$$

$$\text{Def: } \lambda(G) = \max \{ |\lambda_2|, \dots, |\lambda_n| \}.$$

# Simple Random Walk (SRW)

24/3/20

Start in a vertex  $v_0$ , at every step move to a uniformly chosen random neighbor.

We assume:  $G$  is  $k$ -regular,  $|V|=n$

Denote  $X_t$  = the vertex we are in

at time  $t$ . So:  $X_0 = v_0$

$$X_1 \sim \mathcal{U}(\text{neighbors of } v_0) \dots$$

Denote  $P_t^{(v_0)}: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   $P_t^{(v_0)}(v) = \text{Prob}(X_t = v \mid X_0 = v_0)$

Claim:  $P_{t+1} = \frac{1}{k} \cdot A P_t$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pf: } P_{t+1}(v) &= \sum_{w \sim v} P_t(w) \cdot \text{Prob}(X_{t+1} = v \mid X_t = w) \\ &= \frac{1}{k} \sum_{w \sim v} P_t(w) = \frac{1}{k} (A P_t)(v) \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_t = \left(\frac{A}{k}\right)^t P_0 \quad (\text{by induction})$$

Define:  $M = \frac{1}{k} A$  (normalized adj. op.)  
(Markov operator)

$M \rightarrow$  Markov  
 $M \rightarrow$  Mean  
 $M \rightarrow \frac{1}{N} \sum$

$$\mu_i = \frac{\lambda_i}{k} \text{ so Spec } M: 1 = \mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \dots \geq \mu_n \geq -1$$

We recall  $A$  and  $M$  have a ONB of eigenvectors

$$f_1, \dots, f_n: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \langle f_i, f_j \rangle = \delta_{ij} \quad (\rightarrow \|f_i\| = 1)$$

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \sum_{v \in V} f(v) g(v)$$

$$A f_i = \lambda_i f_i \quad (\rightarrow M f_i = \mu_i f_i)$$

for any  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i f_i$

$$\text{ONB} \rightarrow \alpha_i = \langle f, f_i \rangle$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\|f\|^2} = \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\alpha_i \cdot f_i}_{\substack{\text{orth. to each} \\ \text{other}}} \right\|^2 \stackrel{\text{Pythagoras}}{=} \sum \|\alpha_i \cdot f_i\|^2$$

$$= \sum |\alpha_i|^2 \|f_i\|^2 = \boxed{\sum_{i=1}^n |\alpha_i|^2}$$

Parseval

Back to SRW: Write  $P_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i f_i$  ( $\alpha_i = \langle P_0, f_i \rangle$ )

and then  $P_t = M^t P_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i M^t f_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \mu_i^t f_i$

$\underline{i=1}: \mu_1 = 1, f_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \left( \left\langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right\rangle = 1 \right) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_i \mu_i^t f_i = \frac{1}{n} = u \\ \text{uniform distribution} \end{array} \right.$

$\alpha_1 = \langle P_0, \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$

$u = \frac{1}{n}$

so:  $\|P_t - u\|^2 = \left\| \sum_{i=2}^n \alpha_i \mu_i^t f_i \right\|^2 \stackrel{P_{y,t}}{=} \sum_{i=2}^n |\alpha_i|^2 |\mu_i|^{2t} \|f_i\|^2$

if  $G$  was an  $\varepsilon$ -expander:  $|\lambda_2|, \dots, |\lambda_n| \leq \varepsilon$

$$\rightarrow |\mu_2|, \dots, |\mu_n| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{k}$$

$$\rightarrow \|P_t - u\|^2 \leq \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{k} \right)^{2t} \underbrace{\sum_{i=2}^n |\alpha_i|^2}_{(\text{Parseval}) \leq \|P_0\|^2} \leq \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{k} \right)^{2t}$$

Conc: in a  $k$ -reg.  $\varepsilon$ -exp.,  $\|P_t - u\| \leq \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{k} \right)^t$

So SRW on expanders converges to uniform dist. rapidly.

Worst case:  $\varepsilon = k$  :  $G$  is disconnected ( $\lambda_2 = k$ )

$G$  is bipartite ( $\lambda_n = -k$ )

$$\Rightarrow \max \{|\mu_2|, \dots, |\mu_n|\} = 1. \quad \|P_t - u\| \leq 1^t = 1$$

Lower bound:  $\|P_t - u\|^2 = \sum_{i=2}^n |\alpha_i|^2 |\mu_i|^{2t} \geq |\alpha_j|^2 \left(\frac{\lambda(G)}{k}\right)^{2t}$

where  $|\mu_j|$  is maximal among  $|\mu_2|, \dots, |\mu_n|$  ( $j=2$  or  $j=n$ )

( $|\mu_j| = \frac{\lambda(G)}{k}$ ). So if  $\alpha_j \neq 0$  then we get

$$\|P_t - u\| \geq |\alpha_j| \left(\frac{\lambda(G)}{k}\right)^t = \Omega\left(\left(\frac{\lambda(G)}{k}\right)^t\right)$$

We already know  $\|P_t - u\| = O\left(\left(\frac{\lambda(G)}{k}\right)^t\right)$  }  $\Theta\left(\left(\frac{\lambda(G)}{k}\right)^t\right)$

To get  $\alpha_j \neq 0$ , we take  $v_0$  for which  $f_j(v_0) \neq 0$ ,

$$\text{so } \alpha_j = \langle P_0, f_j \rangle = f_j(v_0) \neq 0.$$

Conc:  $\exists$  starting point from which  $\|P_t - u\| = \Theta\left(\left(\frac{\lambda(G)}{k}\right)^t\right)$ .

Definition:  $G$  is a **bipartite  $\varepsilon$ -expander**

if  $\lambda_n = -k$  and  $\max \{|\lambda_2|, |\lambda_{n-1}|\} \leq \varepsilon$

Claim: if  $G$  is a bipartite  $\varepsilon$ -expander, and

$P_t$  is the dist. of SRW with "lazy first step" (= at 1st step, stay in place with

prob.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , move to each neighbor with prob.  $\frac{1}{2k}$ , then  $\|P_t - u\| \leq \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{k}\right)^{t-1}$ .

## Examples

$K_n$  - complete graph on  $n$  vertices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} = J - I \quad (J = \text{all one matrix})$$

$$\text{Spec } A = n-1, -1, -1, -1, \dots, -1$$

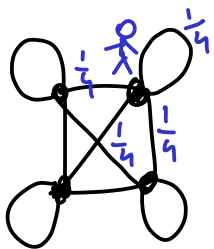
(by  $\text{Spec } J = n, 0, 0, \dots, 0$  as  $\text{rank } J = 1 \rightarrow \text{null } J = n-1$   
and  $Bv = \lambda v \rightarrow (B-I)v = Bv - v = \lambda v - v = (\lambda-1)v$ )

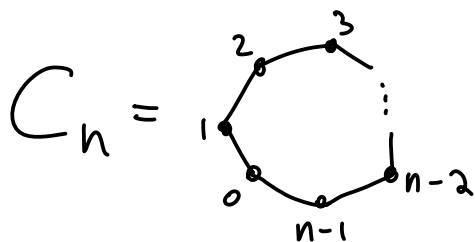
so  $K_n$  is a **1-expander** (but that's cheating)

Even better:  $\bar{K}_n$  = graph with  $A = J$

This is the ultimate expander:

a 0-expander ( $\text{Spec } J = n, 0, 0, \dots, 0$ )



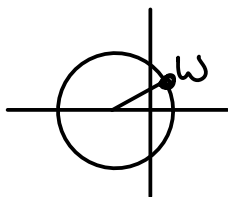


$$V = \{v_k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}/n\}$$

Spec  $A = 2, \dots$

$\boxed{-2}$   
iff  $2 \mid n$

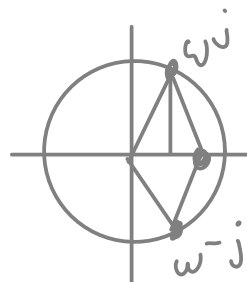
Let  $\omega = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{1}$



For  $0 \leq j \leq n-1$ , define  $f_j(v_k) = \omega^{jk}$

$f_j$  is an e.func:  $(Af_j)(v_k) = f_j(v_{\underline{k-1}}) + f_j(v_{\underline{k+1}})$   
 $= \omega^{j(k-1)} + \omega^{j(k+1)} = \omega^{jk}(\omega^j + \omega^{-j}) = f_j(v_k) \left(2 \cos\left(\frac{j2\pi}{n}\right)\right)$

so  $f_j$  has e.val  $2 \cos\left(\frac{j}{n} \cdot 2\pi\right)$



we got  $n$  e.funcs. they are

indep:  $f_0$   $f_1$   $f_2$   $\vdots$

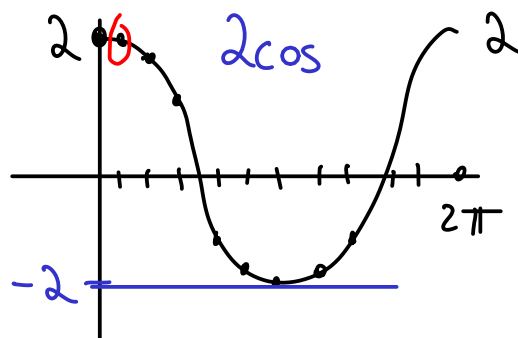
	$v_0$	$v_1$	$v_2$	$\dots$
$f_0$	1	1	1	$\dots$
$f_1$	1	$\omega$	$\omega^2$	$\dots$
$f_2$	1	$\omega^2$	$\omega^4$	$\dots$
$\vdots$	1	$\omega^3$	$\omega^6$	$\dots$

Van der Monde matrix

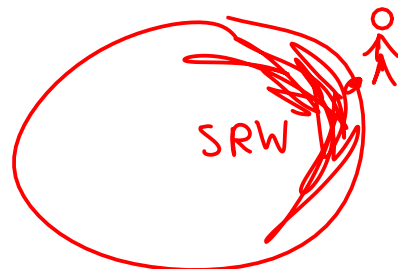
ex:  $\text{Det} \neq 0$

So we found all e.v.

$$\lambda(C_n) \geq 2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 2$$



so  $C_n$  are bad expanders:



# Projective Planes

30/3/20

Let  $q$  prime, define a graph  $\mathbb{P}^2 \mathbb{F}_q$  :  
(proj. plane over  $q$ )

$V$  = lines & Planes in  $\mathbb{F}_q^3$

$$E = \{ \{l, p\} \mid \begin{array}{l} l \text{ line, } p \text{ plane} \\ l \subset p \end{array} \}$$

$$\# \text{ lines in } \mathbb{F}_q^3 = \frac{q^3 - 1}{q - 1} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{non-zero} \\ \text{vectors} \end{array}$$

$\leftarrow$  every line has  $q-1$  gens.

$$= q^2 + q + 1$$

line in  $\mathbb{F}_3^3$

$$\begin{pmatrix} (0,0,0) \\ (1,0,0) \\ (2,0,0) \end{pmatrix}$$

# planes in  $\mathbb{F}_q^3$  = same, as lines  $\overset{\perp}{\underset{1:1}{\rightleftarrows}}$  planes

$$\text{so } |V| = 2(q^2 + q + 1)$$

$$\deg(l) = \# \{ p \mid l \subset p \}$$

$$0 \subset l \subset ? \subset \mathbb{F}_q^3$$

4th isom. theorem:  $\exists$  correspondence between subgps of  $G/N$  to sgps of  $G$  containing  $N$  ( $N \trianglelefteq G$ )

Likewise: between subspaces of  $V/W$  and subspaces of  $V$  cont.  $W$ . In our case: subspaces of  $\mathbb{F}_q^3/l$

(Reminder:  $V/W = \{v+W \mid v \in V\}$ ,  $(v+W) + (v'+W) = v+v'+W$

$v+W$   
 $v'+W$   $W$

$$\alpha(v+W) = \alpha v + W$$

$\mathbb{F}_q^3 / l$  is of dim 2  $\rightarrow \cong \mathbb{F}_q^2$ .

$$\mathbb{F}_q^2 \text{ has } \frac{q^2-1}{q-1} \text{ proper subspaces} = q+1$$

so every  $l$  is contained in  $q+1$  planes, and by  $\perp$ , every plane contains  $q+1$  lines ← another argument...

So  $G = \mathcal{P}^2 \mathbb{F}_q$  is  $(q+1)$ -regular, on  $2(q^2+q+1)$  verts.

Goal:  $G$  is a bipartite  $\sqrt{q}$ -expander.

Lemma: For a bip. graph, every nonzero e.val  $\lambda$  comes with a twin  $-\lambda$  e.val.

Reason:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} O & B \\ B^T & O \end{bmatrix}$  for some  $B$  (could be non-square, for non-reg. graphs)

If  $Av = \lambda v$ , write  $v = \begin{pmatrix} w \\ u \end{pmatrix}$ , so

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda w \\ \lambda u \end{pmatrix} = A \begin{pmatrix} w \\ u \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} O & B \\ B^T & O \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w \\ u \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} Bu \\ B^T w \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow \begin{cases} Bu = \lambda w \\ B^T w = \lambda u \end{cases}$$

Take  $v' = \begin{pmatrix} w \\ -u \end{pmatrix}$ . Then

$$Av' = \begin{pmatrix} O & B \\ B^T & O \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w \\ -u \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -Bu \\ B^T w \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda w \\ \lambda u \end{pmatrix} = -\lambda v'$$

Careful: if  $u=0$ , then  $v'=v \rightarrow \lambda = -\lambda \rightarrow \lambda=0$   
if  $w=0$ , then  $v'=-v \rightarrow$

Observation: if  $A = \text{Adj}(G)$ ,  $A_{v,w} = \begin{cases} 1 & v \sim w \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$   
then  $(A^l)_{v,w} = \# \text{ paths of length } l \text{ from } v \text{ to } w.$

Induct. basis:  $(A^2)_{v,w} = \sum_{u \in V} \underbrace{A_{v,u} A_{u,w}}_{\substack{1 \text{ if } v \sim u \sim w \\ 0 \text{ otherwise}}} = \# \text{ 2-paths } v \sim * \sim w$

complete the proof yourself!

Back to  $\mathbb{P}^2 \mathbb{F}_q$ :  $(A^2)_{p,l} = (A^2)_{l,p} = 0$  (bipartite  $\Rightarrow$  no  $l \sim * \sim p$ )

$$(A^2)_{l,l'} = \# \{p \mid l \sim p \sim l'\} = \begin{cases} 1 & l \neq l' \\ q+1 & l = l' \end{cases}$$

every 2 lines span a unique plane  
 $q+1$  planes containing  $l$

$$(A^2)_{p,p'} = \# \{l \mid p \sim l \sim p'\} = \begin{cases} 1 & p \neq p' \\ q+1 & p = p' \end{cases}$$

( $pp'$  is a line)

so  $A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} q+1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & q+1 \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix}$

$$A^2 = \left( \begin{array}{c|c} J + qI & O \\ \hline O & J + qI \end{array} \right)$$

31/3/20

where  $J = \text{all one mat.}$

$$\text{Spec } J_n = (n, 0, 0, \dots) \quad (\text{complete graph w/ loops})$$

$$\text{Spec } (J_{q^2+q+1} + qI) = (q^2+2q+1, q, q, q, \dots)$$

$$\text{Spec } (A^2) = (q^2+2q+1, q^2+2q+1, q, q, q, \dots)$$

Lemma  $\downarrow$

$$\text{Spec } (A) = (q+1, -(q+1), \sqrt{q}, -\sqrt{q}, \sqrt{q}, -\sqrt{q}, \dots)$$

So  $G$  is a  $(q+1)$ -regular bip.  $\sqrt{q}$ -expander.

$$A = \left( \begin{array}{c|c} B & 0 \\ \hline 0 & C \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \text{Spec } A = \text{Spec } B \sqcup \text{Spec } C$$

Challenge: Fix  $k$ , create  $k$ -reg expanders with  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Def: A family of  $k$ -reg graphs is a **family of expanders** if  $\exists \varepsilon < k$  s.t. all are  $\varepsilon$ -expanders.

How good can expanders be? (After fixing  $k$ )

Take a  $k$ -reg  $\varepsilon$ -expander with  $n$  vertices.

$$\text{tr}(A^2) = \sum_v (A^2)_{v,v} = |V| \cdot \deg = nk$$

$$O+OH \quad A^2 \sim \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \lambda_n^2 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \text{tr}(A^2) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i^2 \leq k^2 + (n-1)\varepsilon^2$$

$$\rightarrow \varepsilon \geq \sqrt{\frac{nk - k^2}{n-1}} = \sqrt{k} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{n-k}{n-1}} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{k}$$

so for large  $n$ ,  $\varepsilon$  cannot drop below  $\sqrt{k}$ .

(Proj. planes achieve this!

$$\text{bipartite: } \sqrt{\frac{nk - 2k^2}{n-2}} = \sqrt{k} \sqrt{\frac{n-2k}{n-2}} \rightarrow \sqrt{k}$$

Alon-Boppana Thm:  $\varepsilon$  cannot drop below  $2\sqrt{k-1}$ .

This is tight - there are  $\infty$  families of  $2\sqrt{k-1}$ -exp.

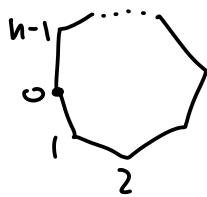
Cayley Graphs: Take group  $G$ ,  $S \subseteq G$ ,

Construct  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$ :  $\text{Vert}(\Gamma) = G$

$$\text{Edges}(\Gamma) = \left\{ (g, gs) \mid \begin{matrix} g \in G \\ s \in S \end{matrix} \right\}$$

this is a directed graph. We will assume  $S^{-1} = S$  ( $\{s^{-1} \mid s \in S\} = S$ ). Then we get an undirected graph: for  $(g, gs) \in E$  we also have  $(gs, gss^{-1}) = (gs, g) \in E$ , so  $A^T = A$ .

Example:  $G = \mathbb{Z}/n$ ,  $S = \{1, -1\} \rightarrow \Gamma = C_n$

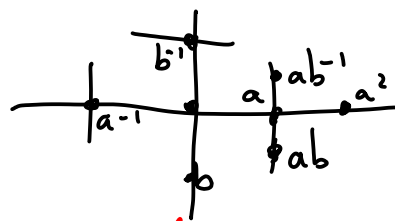


$G = \mathbb{Z}$   $S = \{1, -1\} \rightarrow \Gamma = \dots \dots \dots$

$G = F_k = F(x_1, \dots, x_k)$ ,  $S = \{x_1, \dots, x_k, x_1^{-1}, \dots, x_k^{-1}\}$

(free group on  $k$  letters)

$\Gamma = T_{2k}$



Thm: Abelian groups don't give expanders:

If  $\{\Gamma_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is a family of  $k$ -reg Cayley  $\Gamma_i = \text{Cay}(G_i, S_i)$  graphs of abelian gps and  $n_i = |V_{\Gamma_i}| = |G_i| \rightarrow \infty$  then  $\lambda(G_i) \rightarrow k$ .

Thm: Expanders have logarithmic diameter:

$$\text{diam}(G) \leq \lfloor \log_{k/\varepsilon} n \rfloor + 1$$

Pf:  $n, k, \varepsilon$  as always.  $P_t$  = random walk. We know

$$\|P_t - \frac{1}{n}\|^2 \leq \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{k}\right)^{2t}. \text{ Take } S_t(v_0) = \left\{ w \mid \begin{matrix} \exists \text{ path of} \\ \text{len } t \text{ from} \\ v_0 \text{ to } w \end{matrix} \right\}$$

$$\text{supp } P_t \subseteq S_t(v_0) \rightarrow$$

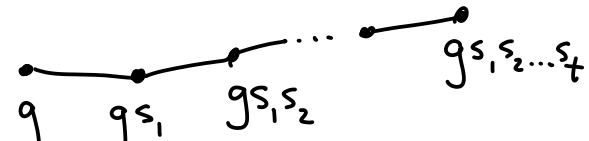
$$\|P_t - \frac{1}{n}\|^2 \geq \sum_{w \notin S_t(v_0)} (P_t - \frac{1}{n})(w)^2 = \sum_{w \notin S_t(v_0)} \frac{1}{n^2} = |V \setminus S_t(v_0)| \cdot \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow |V \setminus S_t(v_0)| \leq n^2 \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{k}\right)^{2t} \rightarrow \text{if } n^2 \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{k}\right)^{2t} < 1$$

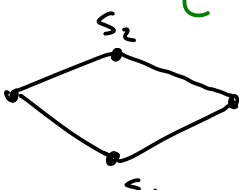
then  $S_t(v_0) = V$  so  $\text{diam}(G) \leq t$

We get this at  $t = \lfloor \log_{k/\varepsilon} n \rfloor + 1$ .  $\square$

Now look at Cayley graphs:

A  $t$ -path in  $\Gamma$  looks like:   
with  $s_i \in S$ .

So  $S_t(e) = \{s_1 s_2 \dots s_t \mid s_i \in S\}$ . If  $G$  is abelian

then   $s_1 s_2 = s_2 s_1$ . So all that matters is the number of times each  $s \in S$  appears in  $s_1 s_2 \dots s_t$ .

So write  $S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k\}$  and then

$$S_t(e) = \left\{ s_1^{n_1} s_2^{n_2} \dots s_k^{n_k} \mid \underbrace{n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_k = t}_{\text{choices}} \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow |S_t(e)| \leq \binom{t+k-1}{k-1} \leq t^k$$

$\Rightarrow$  if  $t < \sqrt[k]{n}$  then  $S_t(e) \neq V$ . But we saw

that at  $t = \lfloor \log_{k/\varepsilon}(n) \rfloor + 1$  we have  $S_t(e) = V$

if  $\varepsilon < k$  then for  $n$  large enough  $\lfloor \log_{k/\varepsilon}(n) \rfloor + 1 < \sqrt[k]{n}$ ,  
 so a  $\infty$ -family of abelian Cay. graphs cannot be  $\varepsilon$ -exp.  
 for any  $\varepsilon < k$ .

Thm (Margulis): pick  $d \geq 3$ , and  $S \subseteq SL_d(\mathbb{Z}) = G$   
 s.t.  $\langle S \rangle = G$  (e.g.:  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \pm 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ )

Then  $\Gamma_p = \text{Cay}(SL_d(\mathbb{F}_p), S \bmod p)$  is a family  
 of expanders.

Idea: ①  $SL_d(\mathbb{Z})$  have property (T) (Kazhdan)  $d \geq 3$   
 ② Property (T)  $\rightarrow$  expanders (Margulis)

Def:  $T: V \rightarrow V$ ,  $V$  inner prod. space (fin. dim.)

$$\|T\| = \sup_{v \neq 0} \frac{\|T(v)\|}{\|v\|} = \max_{\|v\|=1} \|T(v)\|$$

idea: by def any  $v$  satisfies  $\|T(v)\| \leq \|T\| \cdot \|v\|$

Claim: If  $T$  is self adjoint, then  $\|T\| = \max\{|\lambda| \mid \lambda \in \text{Spec } T\}$

Pf: if  $|\lambda|$  is max and  $Tv = \lambda v$  ( $v \neq 0$ ), then

$$\|T\| \geq \frac{\|Tv\|}{\|v\|} = \frac{\|\lambda v\|}{\|v\|} = |\lambda|.$$

OTOH,  $T$  self adj  $\rightarrow \exists$  O.N.B.  $v_i$ ,  $Tv_i = \lambda_i v_i$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{then } \|T(v)\|^2 &= \|T(\sum \langle v, v_i \rangle v_i)\|^2 = \|\sum \langle v, v_i \rangle \lambda_i v_i\|^2 \\ &\stackrel{\text{Pyth.}}{=} \sum |\langle v, v_i \rangle|^2 |\lambda_i|^2 \leq |\lambda|^2 \sum |\langle v, v_i \rangle|^2 \stackrel{\text{Parseval}}{=} |\lambda|^2 \|v\|^2 \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Doesn't hold in general:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 100 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$\text{spec } A = \{1, 2\}$ , but

$$\|A\| \geq \frac{\|A \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}\|}{\|\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}\|} = \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 100 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\| \approx \sqrt{10001} \approx 100$$

20/4/20

Example: back to SRW  $P_t = M^t P_0$   $M = \frac{A}{k}$

$$\begin{aligned} \|P_t - u\| &= \|M^t(P_0 - u)\| \leq \|M\| \|M^{t-1}(P_0 - u)\| \\ &\leq \dots \leq \underbrace{\|M\|^t}_1 \underbrace{\|P_0 - u\|}_{\sim 1} \sim 1 \end{aligned}$$

More carefully:

$$\mathbb{R}^V = \text{constant} \oplus \mathbb{Z} = \langle \mathbf{1} \rangle \oplus \mathbb{Z}^\perp \quad \text{orth. dir. sum}$$

$$\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}(G) = \left\{ f: V_G \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid \sum_{v \in V} f(v) = 0 \right\}$$

and  $A, M$  preserve the decomp:  $A(\langle \mathbf{1} \rangle) \subseteq \langle \mathbf{1} \rangle$   
 $A(\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$

$$\|P_t - u\| = \|M^t \underbrace{(P_0 - u)}_{\text{in } \mathbb{Z}}\| = \|(M|_{\mathbb{Z}})^t (P_0 - u)\|$$

$$\leq \underbrace{\|M|_{\mathbb{Z}}\|^t}_{\leq 1} \|P_0 - u\| \leq \left( \frac{\lambda(G)}{k} \right)^t$$

$$\begin{aligned} \max \{ |\lambda| \mid \lambda \in \text{spec } M|_{\mathbb{Z}} \} &\leq 1 \\ &= \frac{\lambda(G)}{k} \end{aligned}$$

Expander Mixing Lemma: ( $|V|=n$ ,  $k$ -reg,  $\epsilon$ -expander)

For  $S, T \subseteq V$ ,

$$||E(S, T)| - \frac{k|S||T|}{n}| \leq \epsilon \sqrt{|S||T|}$$

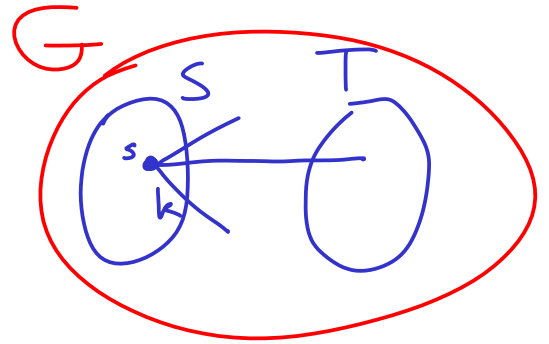
where  $E(S, T)$  are edges between  $S$  and  $T$ .

Heuristics:

every edge leaving  $s \in S$  has "prob"  $\frac{|T|}{n}$  to go to  $T$

so we expect  $s$  to have  $k \frac{|T|}{n}$

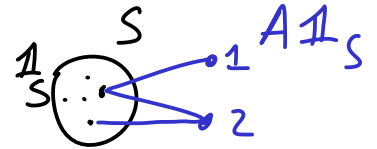
neighbors in  $T$ , so in total we expect  $|S| \cdot k \cdot \frac{|T|}{n}$  edges from  $S$  to  $T$ .



Pf: for  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , write  $f = f^1 + f^2$  for the decomp. into  $\langle \mathbb{1} \rangle \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ .

First, observe  $\langle A \mathbb{1}_S, \mathbb{1}_T \rangle = \sum_{v \in T} (A \mathbb{1}_S)(v)$

$$= \sum_{v \in T} \# \{ \text{neighbors of } v \text{ in } S \} = |E(S, T)|$$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{OTOH, } \langle A \mathbb{1}_S, \mathbb{1}_T \rangle &= \langle A(\mathbb{1}_S^1 + \mathbb{1}_S^2), \mathbb{1}_T^1 + \mathbb{1}_T^2 \rangle \\ &= \langle A \mathbb{1}_S^1, \mathbb{1}_T^1 \rangle + \langle A \mathbb{1}_S^2, \mathbb{1}_T^2 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

( $A\mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $A\mathbb{1} \subseteq \langle \mathbb{1} \rangle$ , and  $\mathbb{1} \perp \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow$  the other summands vanish)

$$\mathbb{1}_S = \text{Proj}_{\mathbb{1}}(\mathbb{1}_S) = \langle \mathbb{1}_S, \frac{\mathbb{1}}{\sqrt{n}} \rangle \cdot \frac{\mathbb{1}}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{|S|}{n} \cdot \mathbb{1}$$

$$\mathbb{1}_T = \frac{|T|}{n} \cdot \mathbb{1}$$

$$\text{so } \langle A \mathbb{1}_S, \mathbb{1}_T \rangle = \left\langle k \frac{|S|}{n} \mathbb{1}, \frac{|T|}{n} \mathbb{1} \right\rangle = \frac{k|S||T|}{n}.$$

$$\langle A \mathbb{1}_S, \mathbb{1}_T \rangle_{\text{c.s.}} \leq \|A \mathbb{1}_S\| \|\mathbb{1}_T\| = \|A|_Z \mathbb{1}_S\| \|\mathbb{1}_T\|$$

$$\leq \underbrace{\|A|_Z\|}_{=\lambda(G)} \underbrace{\|\mathbb{1}_S\|}_{\leq \|\mathbb{1}_S\| = \sqrt{|S|}} \|\mathbb{1}_T\| \leq \lambda(G) \sqrt{|S||T|}$$

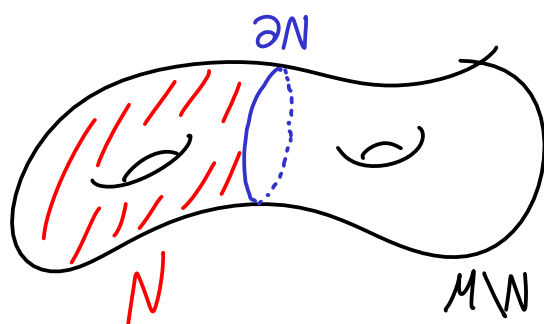
□

Note: if  $S \cap T \neq \emptyset$ , you need to count edges in  $S \cap T \times S \cap T$  twice (they contribute twice to  $\sum_{v \in T} \#\{\text{neighbors of } v \text{ in } S\}$ ).

## Cheeger inequalities

For a Riemannian manifold (geometric shape) the Cheeger constant  $h(M)$  measures bottlenecks:

$$h(M) = \inf_{N \subseteq M} \frac{\text{vol}(\partial N)}{\text{vol}(N) \text{vol}(M \setminus N)}$$



Classic Cheeger ineq. (Cheeger-Buser, Maza) relate  $h(M)$  to the spectral theory of  $M$

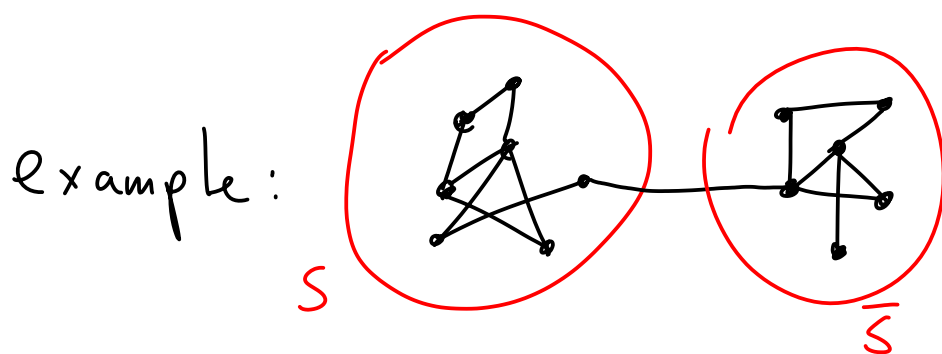
In graphs, we define the Cheeger constant

$$h'(G) = \min_{\emptyset \neq S \subset V} \frac{|\partial S| \cdot n}{|S| |\bar{S}|} \quad \text{or} \quad h(G) = \min_{\emptyset \neq S \subset V} \frac{|\partial S|}{\min(|S|, |\bar{S}|)}$$

where  $\bar{S} = V \setminus S$ ,  $\partial S = E(S, \bar{S})$

Note:  $h(G) \leq h'(G) \leq 2h(G)$  (if  $|S| \leq \frac{n}{2}$ ,  $\frac{n}{2} \leq |\bar{S}| \leq n$ )

21/4/20



low Cheeger const.  
 $S, \bar{S}$  large  
 $|\partial S| = 1$

$h(G) = 0 \iff G$  is disconnected.

Rayleigh quotient: if  $T: V \rightarrow V$   $V$  inn. prod. sp.  
 we define for  $v \in V$  the Rayleigh q. of  $v$  w.r.t.  $T$

$$R_v = \frac{\langle Tv, v \rangle}{\langle v, v \rangle}$$

if  $v$  is a  $T$ -eigenvector,  $Tv = \lambda v$ , then  $R_v = \lambda$ .

Assume that  $T$  is self-adjoint with

ONB of e.vecs  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , e.vals  $\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$ ,

then if  $v = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i v_i$  then

$$R_v = \frac{\langle \sum \alpha_i \lambda_i v_i, \sum \alpha_i v_i \rangle}{\langle \sum \alpha_i v_i, \sum \alpha_i v_i \rangle} = \frac{\sum |\alpha_i|^2 \lambda_i}{\sum |\alpha_i|^2} \rightarrow \text{weighted avg. of } \lambda_i \text{ with weight } \frac{|\alpha_i|^2}{\sum |\alpha_i|^2}$$

in particular,  $\lambda_1 \geq R_v \geq \lambda_n \forall v$ , and also  
if  $v \perp v_1$ , then  $\lambda_2 \geq R_v \geq \lambda_n$ , and so on...

$$(\text{BTW, } \lambda_1 = \max_{v \neq 0} R_v, \lambda_2 = \max_{v \perp v_1} R_v, \dots)$$

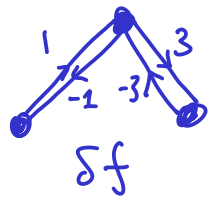
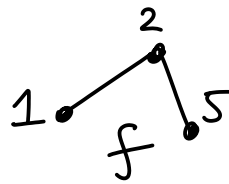
Goal: prove DCI:  $\frac{h(G)^2}{2k} \leq k - \lambda_2 \leq h'(G)$  (for  $k$ -reg. graph)

again, we see  $\lambda_2 = k \iff h = 0$  ( $\iff$  disconnected).

Laplacian Given a (finite) graph  $G$ , for  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  we define a function on directed edges

$$(\delta f)(v \rightarrow w) = f(w) - f(v)$$

$\delta = \text{"differential"}$



We always have  $(\delta f)(v \rightarrow w) = -(\delta f)(w \rightarrow v)$ .

Define the space of flows on  $G$ :

$$\Omega(G) = \{ f: \text{directed edges} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f(wv) = -f(vw) \forall \{v, w\} \in E \}$$

We got  $\delta: \mathbb{R}^V \rightarrow \Omega(G)$ .

$\dim \Omega(G) = |E|$  (even though there are  $2|E|$  dir. edges)

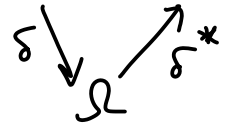
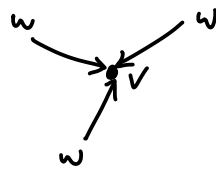
$\Omega(G)$  doesn't come with a natural basis.

it has a natural inner product:  $\langle f, f' \rangle = \sum_{e \in E} f(e) f'(e)$   
 well defined because  $(-1)^2 = 1$ .  $f, f' \in \Omega$  same direction

Def: the Laplacian of  $G$  is  $\Delta := \delta^* \delta : \mathbb{R}^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^V$

$$(\delta f)(wv) = f(v) - f(w)$$

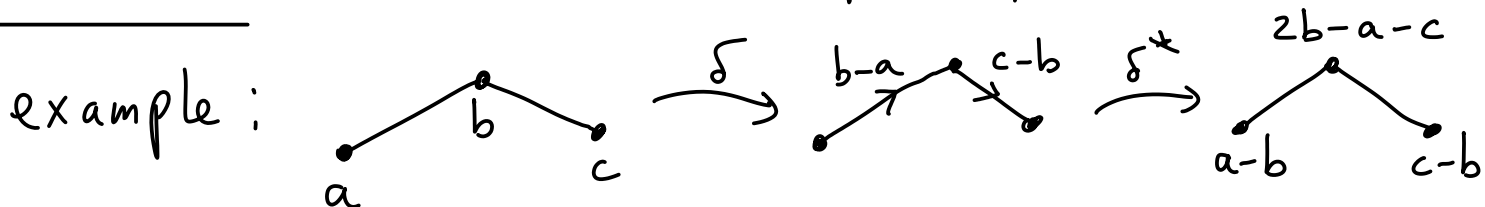
$$(\delta^* F)(v) = \sum_{v \sim w} F(wv)$$



$$\langle \delta \mathbb{1}_v, F \rangle \stackrel{?}{=} \langle \mathbb{1}_v, \delta^* F \rangle = \sum_w \mathbb{1}_v(w) (\delta^* F)(w) = (\delta^* F)(v)$$

$$\stackrel{||}{=} \sum_e (\delta \mathbb{1}_v)(e) F(e) = \sum_{v \sim w} \underbrace{(\delta \mathbb{1}_v)(wv)}_1 F(wv) = \sum_{v \sim w} F(wv)$$

ex: choose basis for  $\Omega(G)$ , compute  $\delta, \delta^*$  as matrices.



we see that  $\Delta = D - A$  (prove this!)

If  $G$  is  $k$ -regular,  $D = kI$ , and  $\Delta, A$  have the same spectral properties:  $\text{Spec } \Delta = \{k - \lambda \mid \lambda \in \text{Spec } A\}$

If  $G$  is not regular,  $\Delta$  is interesting.

For any  $T: V \rightarrow W$  ( $V, W$  inn. prod. sp.),

①  $T^* T$  is self-adjoint with non-negative spectrum

②  $\ker T^* T = \ker T$

Pf: ①  $(T^*T)^* = T^*T$  (self adj)

if  $T^*Tv = \lambda v$ ,  $\lambda = \langle T^*Tv, v \rangle = \langle Tv, Tv \rangle \geq 0$ .  
 $\|v\|=1$

② if  $Tv=0 \rightarrow T^*Tv=0$ . If  $T^*Tv=0$  then  
 $0 = \langle T^*Tv, v \rangle = \langle Tv, Tv \rangle \rightarrow Tv=0$ .  $\square$

So,  $\Delta$  has nonnegative spectrum, and  $\ker \Delta = \ker \delta$   
 $\ker \delta = \{f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid \delta f \equiv 0\} = \text{locally const. funcs.}$

$\rightarrow$  mult. of 0 in Spec of  $\Delta = \# \text{ conn. comp.}$

(q: can you find  $\# \text{ conn. comp.}$  from Spec  $A$ ?)

Note: The Rayleigh quotient of  $\Delta$  is

$$R_f = \frac{\langle \Delta f, f \rangle}{\langle f, f \rangle} = \frac{\langle \delta^* \delta f, f \rangle}{\langle f, f \rangle} = \frac{\langle \delta f, \delta f \rangle}{\langle f, f \rangle} = \frac{\|\delta f\|^2}{\|f\|^2}$$

Write:  $\text{Spec } \Delta : 0 = \gamma_1 \leq \gamma_2 \leq \dots \leq \gamma_n$

if  $G$   $k$ -reg  
 $\gamma_i = k - \lambda_i$

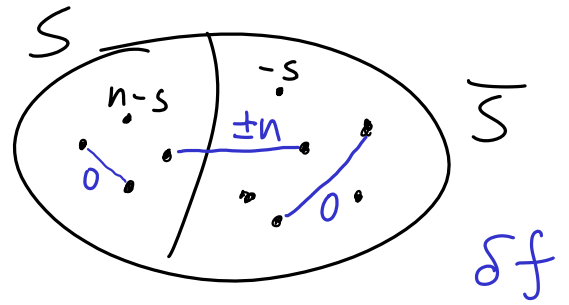
Thm (Discrete Cheeger Inequalities):

If  $G$  (finite) has max deg  $K$ , then

$$\frac{h(G)^2}{2K} \leq \gamma_2 \leq h'(G)$$

Pf: easy direction: find  $S \subseteq V$  with  $\frac{|\partial S|n}{|S||\bar{S}|} = h'(G)$

Define  $(n-s)\mathbb{1}_S - s\mathbb{1}_{\bar{S}} = f$   
 $s = |S|$  so  $f \perp \mathbb{1}$



Because  $f \perp \mathbb{1}$  = the e.vec of  $\chi_1$ , we have

$$\chi_2 \leq R_f = \frac{\|\delta f\|^2}{\|f\|^2} = \frac{|\partial S|n^2}{s(n-s)n} = h'(G)$$

$$\|f\|^2 = s(n-s)^2 + (n-s)(-s)^2 = s(n-s)n$$

$$\|\delta f\|^2 = \sum_e (\delta f)(e)^2 = |\partial S|n^2$$



Hard direction: we want  $\chi_2$  small  $\rightarrow G$  has sparse cut  
 $\chi_1 \rightarrow$  constant

$\chi_2$  tries to be locally const & orthogonal to  $\mathbb{1}$

if  $f$  is a normalized  $\chi_2$ -e.vec:  $\chi_2 = R_f = \|\delta f\|^2$  small

so we want to order  $V$  by  $f(v)$  and cut at some point (zero = avg  $f$ ?, median  $f$ ?)

we will take this  $f$  and show that for some  $t$ ,

$$S = \{v \mid f(v) \leq t\} \text{ gives } \frac{|\partial S|}{\min(|S|, |\bar{S}|)} \leq \sqrt{2K\chi_2}.$$

$$(so \rightarrow h(G)^2 \leq 2K\chi_2)$$

Goal:  $\frac{h^2}{2K} \leq \gamma_2$  where  $\gamma_2 = \text{second}$

27/4/20

e.v. of  $\Delta = S^* S = D - A$ ,  $K = \max \deg$

$$h = \min_{\substack{S \subseteq V \\ 0 < |S| \leq n/2}} \frac{|\partial S|}{|S|} \quad . \quad \text{also: } R_f = \frac{\langle \Delta f, f \rangle}{\langle f, f \rangle} = \frac{\|S f\|^2}{\|f\|^2} .$$

for  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  define  $L_t^f = \{v \in V \mid f(v)^2 > t\}$

Lemma: for  $0 \neq f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , there exist  $0 < t < \max(f(v)^2)$

$$\text{s.t. } \frac{|\partial L_t^f|}{|L_t^f|} \leq \sqrt{2K R_f} \quad \left( = \sqrt{2K \gamma_2} \right. \\ \left. \text{for } f = \text{e.vec of } \gamma_2 \right. \\ \left. \text{so if } |L_t^f| \leq n/2, \text{ were done} \right)$$

Rf: Assume  $\|f\| = 1$ , write  $M = \max f(v)^2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 1 = \|f\|^2 &= \sum_v f(v)^2 = \sum_v \int_0^M \mathbb{1}_{[0, f(v)^2]}(t) dt \\ &= \int_0^M \sum_v \mathbb{1}_{[0, f(v)^2]}(t) dt = \int_0^M \# \{v \mid f(v)^2 > t\} dt = \int_0^M |L_t^f| dt \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,  $e \in \partial L_t^f$  iff  $f(e^+)^2 \leq t < f(e^-)^2$  so

$$\int_0^M |\partial L_t^f| dt = \int_0^M \sum_{e \in E} \mathbb{1}_{[f(e^+)^2, f(e^-)^2]}(t) dt$$

$$= \sum_{e \in E} \int_0^M \mathbb{1}_{[f(e^+)^2, f(e^-)^2]}(t) dt = \sum_{e \in E} |f(e^+)^2 - f(e^-)^2|$$

(we would be happier to get  $\sum_e |f(e^+) - f(e^-)|^2 = \|S f\|^2$   
 $\rightarrow$  check what the Cheeger ineq. would have been)

$$\text{So, } \int_0^M |\partial L_t^f| dt = \sum_e |f(e^+)^2 - f(e^-)^2| = \sum_e |f(e^+) - f(e^-)| |f(e^+) + f(e^-)|$$

$$\leq \underbrace{\sum_e |f(e^+) - f(e^-)|^2}_{\|\delta f\|} \sum_e |f(e^+) + f(e^-)|^2$$

$$\leq \|\delta f\| \sqrt{2 \sum_e f(e^+)^2 + f(e^-)^2} \leq \sqrt{R_f} \sqrt{2K \sum_{v \in V} f(v)^2} = \sqrt{2KR_f}$$

$$\text{In total we got } \int_0^M |\partial L_t^f| dt \leq \sqrt{2KR_f} = \int_0^M \sqrt{2KR_f} |L_t^f| dt$$

so at some  $0 < t < M$  we must have  $|\partial L_t^f| \leq \sqrt{2KR_f} |L_t^f|$  ■

Prop.: if  $f \perp \mathbb{1}$  ( $f \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) then for some  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  
either  $S = \{v \mid f(v) > t\}$  or  $S = \{v \mid f(v) < t\}$   
satisfies  $\frac{|\partial S|}{|S|} \leq \sqrt{2KR_f}$  and  $|S| \leq \frac{n}{2}$ .

(clearer follows by taking  $f = \text{e.vec of } \gamma_2$ )

Pf: Denote  $m = \text{median}(f)$ ,  $f^+(v) = \max(f(v) - m, 0)$   
 $f^-(v) = \max(m - f(v), 0)$

$$\text{so, } f^+ - f^- = f - m\mathbb{1}, \quad f^+ \perp f^-.$$

★  $\|\delta f\|^2 \geq \|\delta f^+\|^2 + \|\delta f^-\|^2$ : for every  $e \in E$ , if

$$f(e^+), f(e^-) \geq m \quad (\text{or } \leq m), \quad \begin{array}{l} f^+ = f - m \text{ on } e^+, e^- \\ f^- = 0 \quad \text{on } e^+, e^- \end{array}$$

$$\text{so } \delta f(e)^2 = \delta f^+(e)^2 + \underbrace{\delta f^-(e)^2}_0$$

$$if \quad f(e^-) < m < f(e^+) \quad +len$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\delta f)(e)^2 &= |f(e^+) - f(e^-)|^2 = |f(e^+) - m + m - f(e^-)|^2 \\ &= |\delta f^+(e) + \delta f^-(e)|^2 \geq \delta f^+(e)^2 + \delta f^-(e)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Now:

$$\begin{aligned} R_f &\geq R_{f-m\mathbb{1}} = \frac{\|\delta(f-m\mathbb{1})\|^2}{\|f^+ - f^-\|^2} \stackrel{\delta\mathbb{1}=0}{\downarrow} \frac{\|\delta f\|^2}{\|f^+\|^2 + \|f^-\|^2} \\ &\stackrel{\text{by Rayleigh}}{\uparrow} \stackrel{f^+ \perp f^-}{=} \frac{\|\delta f^+\|^2 + \|\delta f^-\|^2}{\|f^+\|^2 + \|f^-\|^2} \geq \min \{R_{f^+}, R_{f^-}\} \\ &\stackrel{\Delta\mathbb{1}=0}{\geq} \end{aligned}$$

So now, applying the first Lemma to  $f^+$  (and  $f^-$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \text{we got for some } t \quad \frac{|2L_t^{f^+}|}{|L_t^{f^+}|} &\leq \sqrt{2KR_{f^+}} \\ \text{for some } t' \quad \frac{|2L_{t'}^{f^-}|}{|L_{t'}^{f^-}|} &\leq \sqrt{2KR_{f^-}} \end{aligned} \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} \frac{|2L_t^{f^+}|}{|L_t^{f^+}|} &\leq \sqrt{2KR_{f^+}} \\ \frac{|2L_{t'}^{f^-}|}{|L_{t'}^{f^-}|} &\leq \sqrt{2KR_{f^-}} \end{aligned}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{one of} \\ \text{these} \\ \leq \sqrt{2KR_f} \end{array}$$

and both  $|L_t^{f^+}|$  and  $|L_{t'}^{f^-}|$  are  $\leq \frac{n}{2}$ .  $\square$

4/5/20

Cor: sparse cut, approximation

$\hookrightarrow S$  such that  $\frac{|2S|}{\min(|S|, |\bar{S}|)}$  is small

Fact: finding the sparsest cut is NP-hard

also - computing  $h(G)$ .

However, we can find  $\gamma_2$ , and compute an e.vec  $f$  for  $\gamma_2$ . We showed that for some  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  we then have that

$S = \{v \mid f(v) > t\}$  satisfies

$$\frac{|S|}{\min(|S|, |\bar{S}|)} \leq \sqrt{2KR_f} = \sqrt{2K\gamma_2} \leq \boxed{\sqrt{2Kh}}$$

from hard side proof                      easy side of Cheeger

## Hoffman's bound

We say  $S \subset V$  is **independent** if  $E(S, S) = \emptyset$ . The **independence number** of  $G$  is  $\alpha_G = \max \{|S| \mid S \text{ indep.}\}$ .

The **chromatic number** of  $G$  is the smallest  $c$  so that  $V_G$  can be colored in  $c$  colors, with no neighbors of the same color. Denoted  $\chi_G$ .

Observe:  $\chi_G \chi_G \geq n$  (in a coloring, the vertices of any color form an indep. set).

Thm (Hoffman's bound):

For  $k$ -regular graph  $\chi_G \leq n(1 - \frac{k}{\gamma_n})$

Hence,  $\chi_G \geq \frac{\gamma_n}{\gamma_n - k}$ .

$$A \quad [-k \quad \dots \quad k]$$

$$\Delta = kI - A \quad [0 \quad \dots \quad -\frac{1}{k} \quad \dots \quad 2k]$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \gamma_n = 2k \text{ iff } G \text{ is bipartite} \\ \hookrightarrow n(1 - \frac{k}{\gamma_n}) = \frac{n}{2} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\text{if } \gamma_n = (1 + \frac{1}{m})k \text{ then } \chi_G \leq \frac{n}{m+1}$$

$$(\text{ex: } \gamma_n \geq k \text{ always}) \quad \rightarrow \quad \chi_G \geq m+1$$

Pf: If  $S$  is indep., take

$$f = (n-s) \mathbb{1}_S - s \mathbb{1}_{\bar{S}} \quad (s = |S|)$$

$$\gamma_n \geq R_f = \frac{\| \delta f \|^2}{\| f \|^2} = \frac{|2s|n}{s(n-s)} \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ S \text{ indep.}}}{=} \frac{ksn}{s(n-s)} = \frac{kn}{n-s}$$

$$\rightarrow n\gamma_n - s\gamma_n \geq kn \quad S \text{ indep.}$$

$$\rightarrow s \leq n \left( 1 - \frac{k}{\gamma_n} \right). \quad \square$$

"one-sided expander"

$\gamma_2 \gg 0 \rightarrow$  Clever (no sparse cut)

$\gamma_n \ll 2k \rightarrow$  Hoffman (no large indep.)

$0 \ll \gamma_2 < \gamma_n \ll 2k \rightarrow$  EML (pseudo random)

"two-sided expander"

## Existence

Q: Fix  $k \geq 3$ . Is there some  $\varepsilon > 0$  so that  $\exists$  inf. family of  $k$ -regular graphs with  $h(G) \geq \varepsilon$ ?

Pinsker: Yes. (Also - Kolmogorov + Bardzin)

In fact, most are:

"Thm": generate a random  $k$ -reg graph on  $n$  vertices.  $\exists \varepsilon > 0$  s.t.  $\text{Prob}[h \geq \varepsilon] \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1$

Our model: Choose unif. rand. indep.

$\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{k/2} \in S_n$ , take  $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$

connect  $i \rightarrow \sigma_j(i)$  and also

$i \rightarrow \sigma_j^{-1}(i)$  (to get an undirected gph)

$$A = \sum_{i=1}^{k/2} P_{\sigma_i} + P_{\sigma_i^{-1}} \quad (P_{\sigma} = \text{permutation matrix of } \sigma)$$

(Caveat: only good for even  $k$ )

Thm:  $\forall k \geq 4 \exists \varepsilon > 0$  s.t.

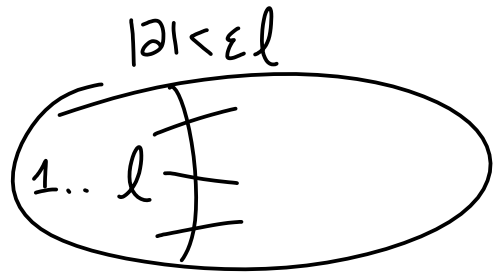
$$\text{Prob}[h(G) \geq \varepsilon] \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1$$

Pf: Want to show:  $P \left[ \underbrace{\min_{1 \leq |S| \leq \frac{n}{2}} \frac{|2S|}{|S|}}_{\text{union over many events}} < \varepsilon \right] \rightarrow 0$

Union bound:

$$P \left[ \bigcup_{1 \leq |S| \leq \frac{n}{2}} \left\{ \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{k/2} \mid \frac{|2S|}{|S|} < \varepsilon \right\} \right] \\ \leq \sum_{1 \leq |S| \leq \frac{n}{2}} P \left[ \frac{|2S|}{|S|} < \varepsilon \right] = \sum_{1 \leq l \leq \frac{n}{2}} \binom{n}{l} P \left[ \frac{|2\{1..l\}|}{l} < \varepsilon \right]$$

When is  $|2\{1..l\}| < \varepsilon l$ ?



If  $|2\{1..l\}| < \varepsilon l$  then

$|N_{1..l}| \leq l + \varepsilon l$ , where

$N_S = \{w \mid \exists s \in S, s \sim w\}$  (note we can have  $S \cap N_S \neq \emptyset$ )

so  $\exists T \subseteq V \setminus S$  with  $|T| = \varepsilon l$

such that  $N_{1..l} \subseteq \{1..l\} \cup T$ .

Thus,  $P \left[ \frac{|2\{1..l\}|}{l} < \varepsilon \right] \leq P \left[ \bigcup_{\substack{T \subseteq V \setminus \{1..l\} \\ |T| = \varepsilon l}} \left\{ N_{1..l} \subseteq \{1..l\} \cup T \right\} \right]$

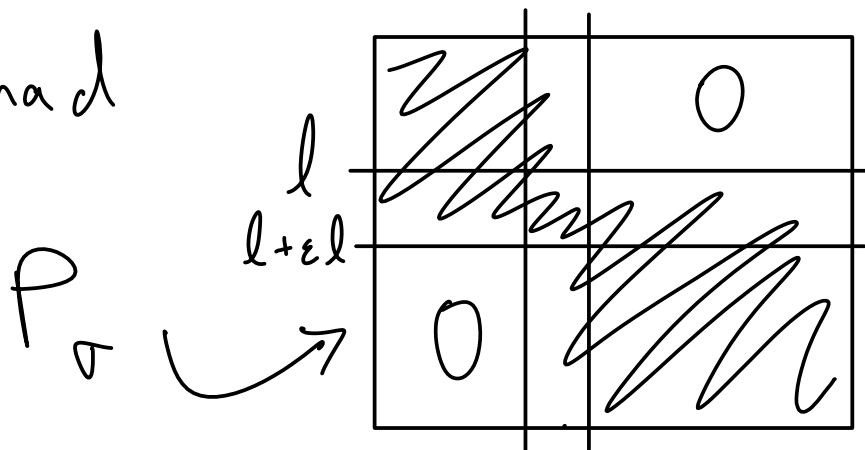
$$\leq \sum_T P \left[ N_{1..l} \subseteq \{1..l\} \cup T \right]$$

$$= \sum_T P \left[ N_{1..l} \subseteq \{1..l + \varepsilon l\} \right]$$

$$= \binom{n-l}{\varepsilon l} P[N_{1..l} \subseteq \{1..l+\varepsilon l\}]$$

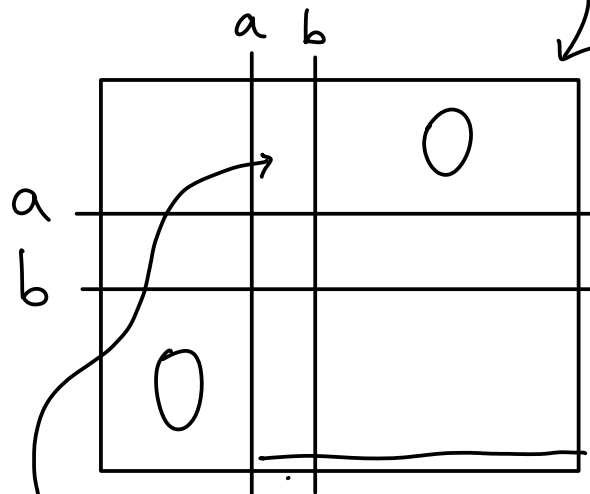
$N_{1..l} \subseteq \{1..l+\varepsilon l\}$  means that in each

$\sigma = \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{k/2}$  we had



Lemma: for  $a < b < n$ , there are at most  $b!(n-a)!/(b-a)!$  permutations with

Pf: First choose the top  $a$  rows: there are  $\underbrace{b \cdot (b-1) \cdot \dots \cdot (b-a+1)}_{(b)_a}$ .



Assume we put  $N$  ones in.

Choose the last  $n-b$  rows:  $(n-a-N)_{n-b}$  possibilities. This is at most  $(n-a)_{n-b}$

Now choose the middle  $b-a$  rows -  $(b-a)!$  possibilities.

In total we have at most

$$(b)_a (n-a)_{n-b} (b-a)! = \frac{b! (n-a)!}{(b-a)!} \quad \square$$

$$\text{So, } P[N_{1..l} \subseteq \{1..l+\varepsilon l\}] \leq \left( \frac{(l+\varepsilon l)! (n-l)!}{(\varepsilon l)! n!} \right)^{k/2}$$

In total,

$$P[h(G) < \varepsilon] \leq \sum_{l=1}^{n/2} \binom{n}{l} \binom{n-l}{\varepsilon l} \left( \frac{(l+\varepsilon l)! (n-l)!}{(\varepsilon l)! n!} \right)^{k/2}$$

$$(k \geq 4) \quad \leq \sum_{l=1}^{n/2} \binom{n}{l} \binom{n-l}{\varepsilon l} \left( \frac{(l+\varepsilon l)! (n-l)!}{(\varepsilon l)! n!} \right)^2$$

we need to show that for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

this goes to 0 as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

(In fact for  $\varepsilon \leq 0.163$  it does, for  $\varepsilon = 0.164$  it goes to  $\infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ )

Remark: using modern methods one can show actually  $P[h'(G) > k - 2\sqrt{k}] \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1$  !

Can you construct  $G$  with  $h'(G) > k - 2\sqrt{k}$ ?

"Finding hay in a haystack".

$$\sum_{l=1}^{\log n} \binom{n}{l} \binom{n-l}{\varepsilon l} \left( \frac{(l+\varepsilon l)! (n-l)!}{(\varepsilon l)! n!} \right)^2 \leq \sum_{l=1}^{\log n} n^l n^{\varepsilon l} \left( (l+\varepsilon l)^l \cdot \frac{1}{(n-l+1)^l} \right)^2$$

$$\leq \sum_{l=1}^{\log n} \left( \frac{n^{(1+\varepsilon)} \log^2 n \cdot (1+\varepsilon)^2}{(n - \log n + 1)^2} \right)^l \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{l=1}^{\log n} q_n^l$$

For any  $\varepsilon < 1$ ,  $q_n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$  (by calc. I)

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{l=1}^{\log n} q_n^l \leq \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} q_n^l = \frac{q_n}{1 - q_n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

$$\sum_{l=\log n}^{n/2} \binom{n}{l} \binom{n-l}{\varepsilon l} \left( \frac{(l+\varepsilon l)! (n-l)!}{(\varepsilon l)! n!} \right)^2 = \sum_{l=\log n}^{n/2} \frac{(l+\varepsilon l)!^2 (n-l)!^2}{l! (n-l(1+\varepsilon))! (\varepsilon l)!^3 n!}$$

$\xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0}$  Cheating!  $\sum_{l=\log n}^{n/2} \binom{n}{l}^{-1} \leq \frac{n}{2} \binom{n}{\log n}^{-1} \leq \frac{n}{2} \left( \frac{\log n}{n - \log n + 1} \right)^{\log n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$

Use **Sterling**:  $n! \approx \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n$ , or  $\log n! \approx n \log n - n$

In **log** the "-n" part cancels out:

$$2(l+\varepsilon l) + 2(n-l) = l + n - l(1+\varepsilon) + 3\varepsilon l + n$$

So you are left with " $\log n! \approx n \log n$ ",  
from there everything is tedious analysis.

---

## Schreier Graphs

If  $\Gamma$  is a group,  $S \subseteq \Gamma$ , we defined

$$\text{Cay}(\Gamma, S) = \left( \Gamma, \left\{ \overset{g}{\bullet} \xrightarrow{\quad} \overset{gs}{\bullet} \mid \begin{matrix} g \in \Gamma \\ s \in S \end{matrix} \right\} \right)$$

if  $S = S^{-1}$  then this is an undirected graph.

It is always  $k$ -regular for  $k = |S|$ .

So if we want undirected,  $k$  odd,  $S$  must have  
an element with  $s^{-1} = s$  ( $s$  of order 2).  
(or  $s = e$ )

11/5/20

Recall: if  $G$  is a group, a  $G$ -set is  
a set  $X$  on which  $G$  acts. Namely,  
there is a mult. rule  $\cdot : G \times X \rightarrow X$

so that: ①  $\forall g, g' \in G, x \in X : g(g'x) = (gg')x$

②  $\forall x \in X : e \cdot x = x$

example:  $GL_n(\mathbb{F})$  acts on  $\mathbb{F}^n$

$S_n$  acts on  $\{1, \dots, n\}$

every  $G$  acts on itself (by  $g \cdot g' = gg'$ )

$D_n$  acts on the vertices of the  $n$ -gon

If  $G$  is a group,  $X$  a  $G$ -set and  $S \subseteq G$ , we define the **Schreier graph**:

$$\text{Sch}(G \overset{\text{"acts"}}{\curvearrowright} X, S) = \left( X, \left\{ (x \rightarrow sx) \mid \begin{matrix} x \in X \\ s \in S \end{matrix} \right\} \right).$$

Example: the model we gave last week came from taking  $G = S_n$ ,  $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , and  $S =$  random  $k/2$  permutations & their inverses.

(and if we want odd  $k$ , we can choose a permutation of order 2 - a product of transpositions).

## Characters

A **character** of a finite abelian group  $G$  is a hom.  $\chi: G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$  (actually  $|\chi(g)| = 1$  since  $G$  is finite  $\rightarrow \chi(g)^{|G|} = \chi(g^{|G|}) = \chi(e) = 1$ )

The set of all chars is denoted  $\hat{G}$ ,

and it's a group (by  $(\chi\chi')(g) = \chi(g)\chi'(g)$ )  
 $\hat{G}$  is called the **dual group** of  $G$ .

Point: if  $\chi \in \hat{G}$ , for any  $S \subseteq G$ ,  $\chi$  is an eigenvector of  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$ :

$$(A\chi)(g) = \sum_{s \in S} \chi(sg) = \left( \sum_{s \in S} \chi(s) \right) \chi(g).$$

Fact:  $|\hat{G}| = |G|$  (actually even  $\hat{G} \cong G$ ) and the elts. of  $\hat{G}$  are lin. ind. in  $\mathbb{C}^G$ .

This means we found all e.vecs of  $A$ !

Take  $G = \mathbb{Z}/n \times \mathbb{Z}/n = \mathbb{Z}_n^2$ . For each  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_n^2$  define  $\chi_\alpha(\beta) = \omega^{\alpha_1\beta_1 + \alpha_2\beta_2} = \omega^{\alpha^t \beta}$   
( $\omega = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{n}}$ )

We got  $n^2$  chars., they are orthogonal;

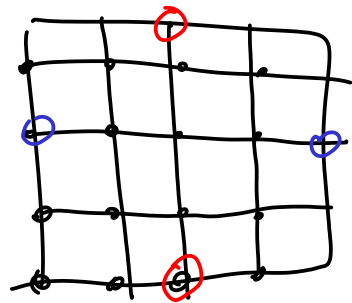
$$\langle \chi_\alpha, \chi_\beta \rangle = \sum_{g \in G} \chi_\alpha(g) \overline{\chi_\beta(g)} = n^2 \delta_{\alpha, \beta}$$

(It follows that they are indep  $\rightarrow$

form a basis of  $\mathbb{C}^G$ ).

Take  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \pm 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \pm 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$

$\Gamma = \text{Cay}(G, S)$ .  $A_c = \text{Adj}_\Gamma$



For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_n^2$ ,  $\chi_\alpha$  is an e.vec of  $A_c$

with e.val  $\lambda_\alpha = \sum_{s \in S} \chi_\alpha(s) = \sum_s \omega^{\alpha \cdot s}$

$= \omega^{\alpha_1} + \omega^{-\alpha_1} + \omega^{\alpha_2} + \omega^{-\alpha_2} = 2 \left( \cos \frac{2\pi}{n} \alpha_1 + \cos \frac{2\pi}{n} \alpha_2 \right)$

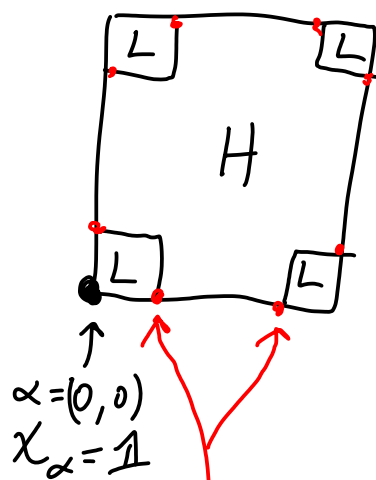
if  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  are close to 0 (or  $n$ ), this is close to  $4 = k$ .

Divide  $\mathbb{Z}_n^2 = L \sqcup H$

$L = \left\{ \alpha \mid \begin{array}{l} \min(\alpha_1, n-\alpha_1) < \frac{n}{6} \\ \min(\alpha_2, n-\alpha_2) < \frac{n}{6} \end{array} \right\}$

Writing  $\mathbb{C}^G = \hat{L} \oplus \hat{H}$

$\uparrow$   $\text{span}\{\chi_\alpha \mid \alpha \in L\}$        $\leftarrow \text{span}\{\chi_\alpha \mid \alpha \in H\}$



we get for  $f \in \hat{H}$ :

$\frac{\langle A_c f, f \rangle}{\langle f, f \rangle} \leq \max_{\alpha \in H} \lambda_\alpha = 2 \left( 1 + \cos \frac{2\pi}{6} \right) = 3.$

Our goal now is to add edges that will handle  $\hat{L}$ .

12/5/20

Look at a new graph:

$$\text{Sch}(GL_2(\mathbb{Z}/n) \hookrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/n)^2, \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \pm 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \pm 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\})$$

Call its adj. operator  $A_s$ . (both  $A_c$  and  $A_s$  are 4-regular & act on  $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{Z}_n^2}$ ).

We'll show that  $A_s$  contracts  $f \in \hat{L}$ ,  $f \perp \mathbf{1} = \chi_0$ ,

$$\left( \frac{\langle A_s f, f \rangle}{\langle f, f \rangle} \right) < \delta \text{ for some } \delta < 4.$$

For a fin. abel. gp.  $G$ , we "saw"  $G$  has  $|G|$  chars., and they are orthogonal  $\Rightarrow$  form a basis of  $\mathbb{C}^G$ . The change of basis from  $\{\delta_g\}_{g \in G}$  (the "standard" basis) and  $\{\chi\}_{\chi \in \hat{G}}$  is called "Fourier transform".

For  $f \in \mathbb{C}^G$ , and  $\chi \in \hat{G}$ , define  $\hat{f} \in \mathbb{C}^{\hat{G}}$

$$\hat{f}(\chi) = \langle f, \chi \rangle = \sum_{g \in G} f(g) \overline{\chi(g)}.$$

We will write  $\hat{f}(\alpha)$  instead of  $\hat{f}(\chi_\alpha)$ ,

getting: 
$$\hat{f}(\alpha) = \sum_{\beta \in G} f(\beta) \overline{\chi_\alpha(\beta)} = \sum_{\beta} \omega^{-\alpha^t \beta} f(\beta).$$

Since  $\{\chi_\alpha\}$  are almost an O.N.B., we get:

$$f = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{\alpha} \hat{f}(\alpha) \chi_\alpha$$

(since  $\langle \chi_\alpha, \chi_\beta \rangle = n^2 \cdot \delta_{\alpha, \beta}$ ). We also get

$$\langle f, h \rangle = \frac{1}{n^2} \langle \hat{f}, \hat{h} \rangle \quad (\text{Parseval})$$

Ex: (Fourier inversion):  $\hat{\hat{f}}(\alpha) = n^2 f(-\alpha).$

For  $X \in GL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  define  $M_X: \mathbb{C}^G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^G$   
 $(M_X f)(\alpha) = f(X\alpha)$

so  $A_s = M_B + M_{B^{-1}} + M_{B^t} + M_{B^{t-1}} \quad (B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix})$

We have  $\langle A_s f, f \rangle = \frac{1}{n^2} \langle \widehat{A_s f}, \hat{f} \rangle$

$$= \frac{1}{n^2} \langle \widehat{(M_B + M_{B^{-1}} + \dots) f}, \hat{f} \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{n^2} \langle \widehat{M_B f} + \widehat{M_{B^{-1}} f} + \dots, \hat{f} \rangle = \frac{1}{n^2} [\langle \widehat{M_B f}, \hat{f} \rangle + \dots]$$

Observe:  $\widehat{M_X f}(\alpha) = \sum_{\beta \in G} \omega^{-\alpha^t \beta} (M_X f)(\beta)$

$$= \sum_{\beta} \omega^{-\alpha^t \beta} f(X\beta) \stackrel{\beta \mapsto X^{-1}\beta}{=} \sum_{\beta} \omega^{-\alpha^t X^{-1}\beta} f(\beta)$$

$$= \sum_{\beta} \omega^{-(X^{t-1}\alpha)^t \beta} f(\beta) = \hat{f}(X^{t-1}\alpha) = (M_{X^{t-1}} \hat{f})(\alpha)$$

i.e.:  $\widehat{M_X f} = M_{X^{t-1}} \hat{f}$ . We get *magic*:

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{A_s f} &= \widehat{M_B f} + \widehat{M_{B^{-1}} f} + \widehat{M_{B^t} f} + \widehat{M_{B^{t-1}} f} \\ &= M_{B^{t-1}} \hat{f} + M_{B^t} \hat{f} + M_{B^{-1}} \hat{f} + M_B \hat{f} = \widehat{A_s \hat{f}} \end{aligned}$$

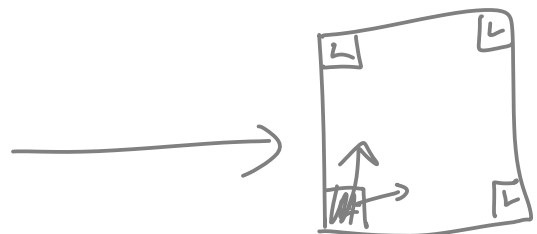
so  $R_{\hat{f}}^{A_s} = \frac{\langle A_s f, f \rangle}{\langle f, f \rangle} \stackrel{\text{Parseval}}{=} \frac{\langle \widehat{A_s f}, \hat{f} \rangle}{\langle \hat{f}, \hat{f} \rangle} = \frac{\langle \widehat{A_s \hat{f}}, \hat{f} \rangle}{\langle \hat{f}, \hat{f} \rangle} = R_{\hat{f}}^{A_s}$ .

We want to show  $R_f < \delta < 4$  for  $f \in \hat{L}$ ,  $f \perp \mathbb{1}$   
 or:  $f \in \widehat{L \setminus \{0\}} = \text{Span} \{ \chi_{\alpha} \mid 0 \neq \alpha \in L \}$ .

For such  $f$ ,  $\hat{f}$  is supported on  $L \setminus \{0\}$ .

$\langle A_s \hat{f}, \hat{f} \rangle$  is small

$\Updownarrow$   
 "A expands  $\hat{f}$ "

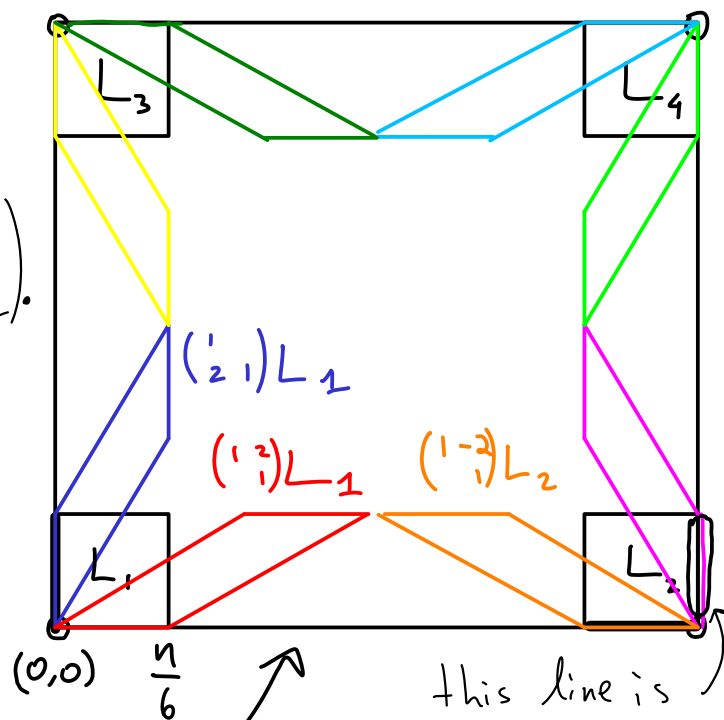


Claim: For any  $S \subseteq L \setminus 0$ ,  $|\partial S| \geq |S|$ .

Proof: Divide  $L \setminus \{0\}$  to 4 disjoint squares

$L_1, \dots, L_4$  (assigning their "intersections" arbitrarily).

For each  $L_i$  pick two appropriate shearings among  $B, B^{-1}, B^t, B^{t-1}$  so that in total we get eight disjoint parallelograms.



This means that for any  $S \subset L \setminus (0,0)$  we have  $|N_S| \geq 2|S|$  ( $N_S = \text{supp } A_s \perp_S$ ) and therefore,  $|2S| \geq |N_S| - |S| \geq |S|$   $\square$

For any  $t > 0$ , taking  $S = L_{\frac{\|\hat{f}\|}{t}} = \{\alpha \mid |\hat{f}(\alpha)|^2 > t\}$  we get  $\frac{|2L_{\frac{\|\hat{f}\|}{t}}|}{|L_{\frac{\|\hat{f}\|}{t}}|} > 1$ . However, we proved (page 24)

that for any  $p: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\exists t > 0$  with

$$\frac{|2L_t^p|}{|L_t^p|} \leq \sqrt{2k} R_p^\Delta.$$

Thus:  $1 < 2k R_{\|\hat{f}\|}^\Delta = 8 R_{\|\hat{f}\|}^\Delta.$

Combining everything: For  $\mathbb{1} \perp f \in \hat{L}$  with  $\|\hat{f}\| = 1$ ,

$$R_f^{A_s} = R_{\hat{f}}^{A_s} = \langle A_s \hat{f}, \hat{f} \rangle \stackrel{\text{triangle}}{\leq} \langle A_s |\hat{f}|, |\hat{f}| \rangle$$

$$= \langle (4I - \Delta) |\hat{f}|, |\hat{f}| \rangle = 4 - \underbrace{\langle \Delta |\hat{f}|, |\hat{f}| \rangle}_{R_{|\hat{f}|}^A} \leq 4 - \frac{1}{8}.$$

The **Gabber-Galil** graph  
is  $\delta$  regular with  $A = A_c + A_s$ .

For  $\underline{1} \perp f$ , write  $f = f^L + f^H$  ( $f^L \in \hat{L}, f^H \in \hat{H}$ )  
 $\|f\| = 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \langle A_c f, f \rangle &= \langle A_c f^H, f^H \rangle + \langle A_c f^L, f^L \rangle \\ &\stackrel{\substack{\text{all } \chi_\alpha \\ \text{are } A_c\text{-evecs}}}{\leq} 3 \|f^H\|^2 + 4 \|f^L\|^2 \\ &= 4 - \|f^H\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus if  $\|f^H\| \geq \varepsilon$  (determine  $\varepsilon$  later)

then

$$\langle A f, f \rangle = \langle A_c f, f \rangle + \langle A_s f, f \rangle \leq 8 - \varepsilon^2$$

And, if  $\|f^H\| < \varepsilon$  then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle A f, f \rangle &= \langle A_c f, f \rangle + \langle A_s f, f \rangle \\ &\leq 4 + \langle A_s f^L, f^L \rangle + \langle A_s f^L, f^H \rangle + \langle A_s f^H, f \rangle \\ &\leq 4 + \left(4 - \frac{1}{8}\right) + 4\varepsilon + 4\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

$= 8 - \frac{1}{8} + 8\varepsilon$ . We need to choose  $\varepsilon$  to make both bounds  $< 8$ .

Taking  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{65}$  we get  $\lambda_2 \leq \langle Af, f \rangle \leq 7.9998 \square$

Gabber-Galil prove  $\lambda_2 \leq 5\sqrt{2} \approx 7.07$ .

Remark: It follows from Margulis + Kazhdan that this is a family of two-sided expanders, but with no explicit bound.

18/5/20

Thm (Margulis): pick  $d \geq 3$ , and  $S \subseteq SL_d(\mathbb{Z}) = G$  s.t.  $\langle S \rangle = G$  (e.g.:  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \pm 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ )

Then  $\Gamma_n = \text{Sch}(SL_d(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright (\mathbb{Z}/n)^d, S)$  is a family of expanders. Doesn't give an explicit  $\lambda(\Gamma_n)$ .

We took  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  - Margulis doesn't apply. In fact, the Gabber-Galil graph is the Schreier graph of  $\text{Aff}_2(\mathbb{Z}) = \left\{ v \mapsto Av + b \mid \begin{matrix} A \in GL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \\ b \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \end{matrix} \right\}$

$\text{Sch}(\text{Aff}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{Z}_n^2, \left\{ v \mapsto B^{\pm 1}v, v \mapsto B^{t \pm 1}v, v \mapsto v \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, v \mapsto v \pm \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\})$

$\text{Aff}_d(\mathbb{Z}) = GL_d(\mathbb{Z}) \ltimes \mathbb{Z}^d \hookrightarrow GL_{d+1}(\mathbb{Z})$

$\text{Aff}_2(\mathbb{Z}) = \left\{ v \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} v + \begin{pmatrix} e \\ f \end{pmatrix} \right\} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & b & e \\ c & d & f \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in GL_3(\mathbb{Z})$

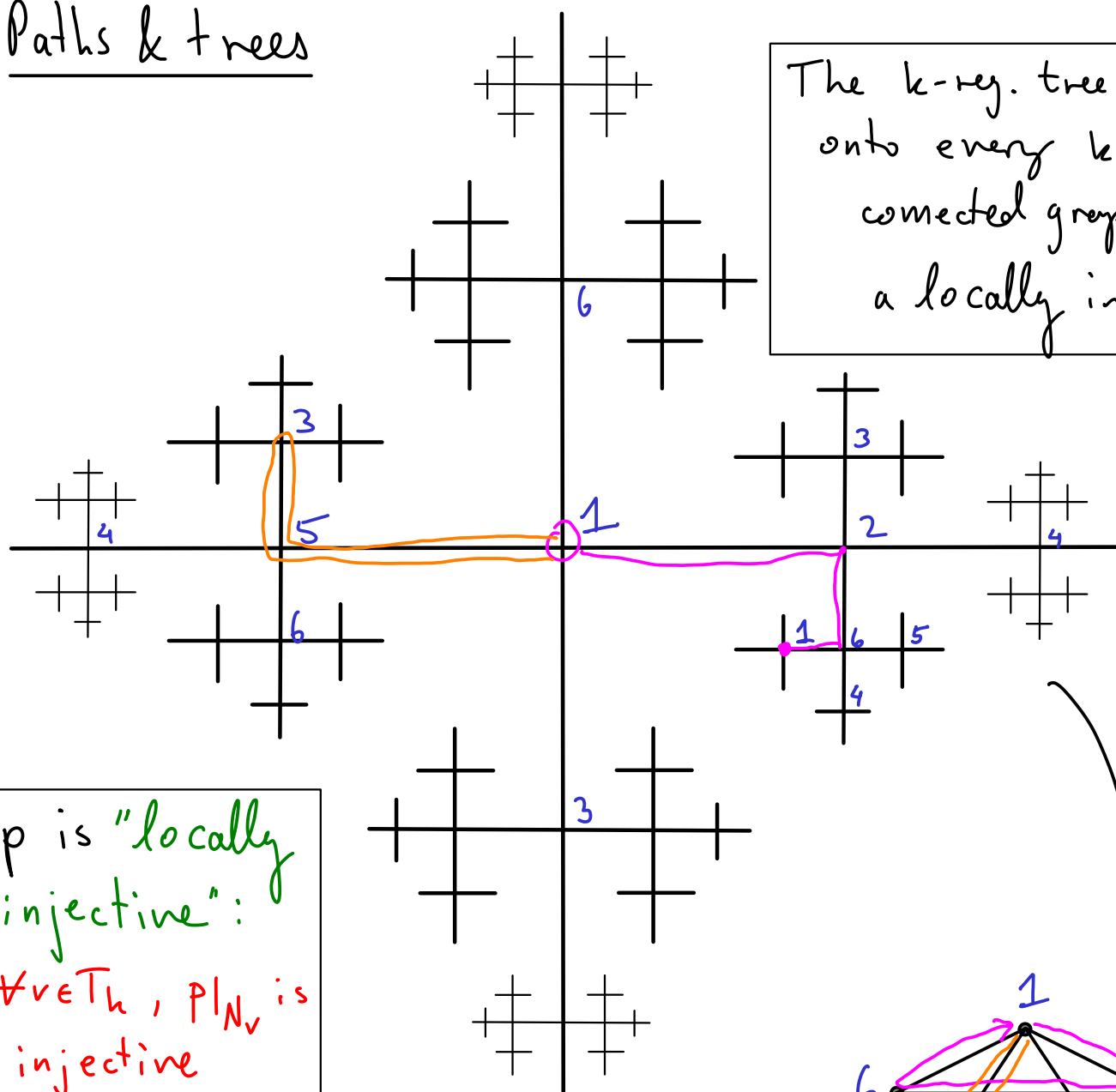
Geometrically,  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b & e \\ c & d & f \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} * \\ * \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} * \\ * \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$



Margulis applies for  $GL_3 \dots$

## Paths & trees

The  $k$ -reg. tree  $T_k$  maps onto every  $k$ -reg. connected graph  $\Gamma$  by a locally inj. map



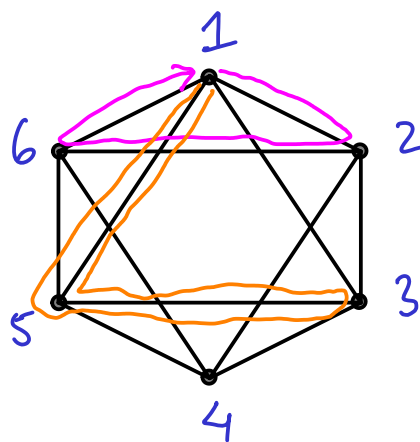
$p$  is "locally injective":

$\forall v \in T_k, p|_{N_v}$  is injective

(think why connectedness of the graph  $\Gamma$  implies that the map  $T_k \rightarrow \Gamma$  is onto).

Assume we chose  $p: T_k \rightarrow \Gamma$ . Any path

$\gamma = v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow v_3 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_\ell$  in  $T_k$  we can



"push" to  $\Gamma$  by  $p: p(\gamma) = p(v_1) \rightarrow p(v_2) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow p(v_e)$

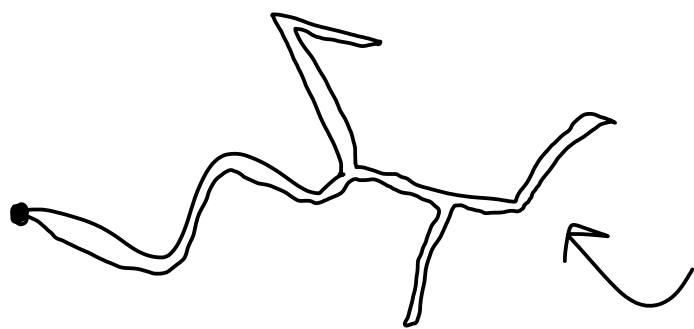
AND, any path "downstairs" (in  $\Gamma$ )

$\gamma = v_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_e$  can be "lifted" to a path  $\tilde{\gamma}$  in  $T_k$ , with  $p(\tilde{\gamma}) = \gamma$ .

Furthermore, after choosing the start point of  $\tilde{\gamma}$  (any vertex in  $p^{-1}(v_1)$ ),  $\tilde{\gamma}$  is **completely determined** (pigeonhole principle at every step).

A closed path in  $T_k$  always descends to a closed path in  $\Gamma$ . **When does a closed path  $\gamma$  in  $\Gamma$  lift to a closed path in  $T_k$ ?**

19/5/20



When it is "completely backtracking"

Namely: a path in  $\Gamma$  is called **completely backtracking** if it lifts to a closed path in  $T_k$ .

Why is this useful?

Recall: we showed for a  $k$ -regular graph

$$\lambda(G) \geq \sqrt{k} - o(1) \quad (\text{as } n \rightarrow \infty).$$

Thm (Alon-Boppana):  $k$ -reg. graphs satisfy

$$\lambda(G) \geq 2\sqrt{k-1} - o(1) \quad (\text{as } n \rightarrow \infty)$$

In other words,  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ , there are only fin. many  $k$ -reg graphs with  $\lambda(G) \leq 2\sqrt{k-1} - \varepsilon$ .

This is optimal: A graph with  $\lambda(G) = 2\sqrt{k-1}$  is called a **Ramanujan graph**, and they indeed exist, with  $n$  arbitrary large (at least when  $k = p^m + 1$ <sup>so'</sup>, for general  $k$  it is known if we allow  $\lambda_n = -k$ , and observe  $\lambda(G) = \max(\lambda_2, |\lambda_{n-1}|)$  (2015)).

Denote  $\rho = 2\sqrt{k-1}$ .

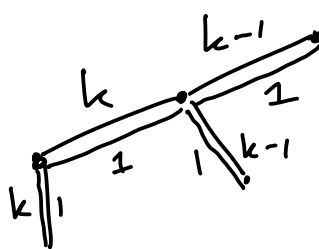
We need to show:  $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists n_0 = n_0(\varepsilon, k)$ ,  
s.t.  $n > n_0, \lambda(G) \geq \rho - \varepsilon$ .

Pf:  $\text{tr}(A^{2t}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (A^{2t})_{i,i} = \sum_{i=1}^n \# \left\{ \text{closed } 2t\text{-path} \atop \text{from } i \text{ to } i \right\}$

choose a covering map  $p: T_k \rightarrow \Gamma$ , and  $\tilde{i} \in p^{-1}(i)$ . Every closed path of length  $2t$  around  $\tilde{i}$  (in  $T_k$ ) descends to a closed path around  $i$  (in  $\Gamma$ ). So,  $\text{tr}(A^{2t}) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \# \left\{ \text{closed } 2t\text{-paths} \atop \text{from } \tilde{i} \text{ to } \tilde{i} \right\}$  (and once  $2t \geq \text{girth}(\Gamma)$ , this a strict inequality)

$= n \cdot \# \left\{ \text{closed } 2t\text{-paths} \atop \text{around any } v_0 \in T_k \right\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} n \cdot B_{2t}^{(k)}$

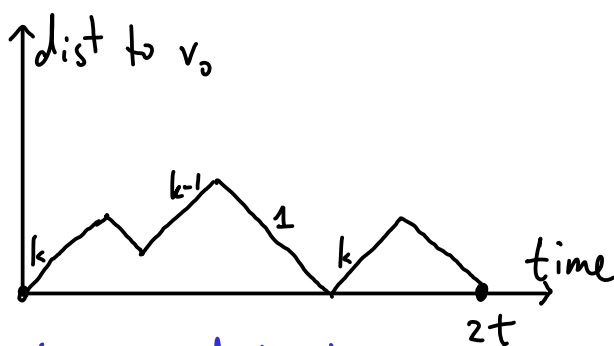
Let's bound  $B_{2t}^{(k)}$ :



$t$  times 1  
 $t$  times  $k/k-1$

For a closed  $2t$ -path, we can plot the "dist to  $v_0$ " function:

given such a distance profile, there are



$k^{\# \text{times dist}=0} \cdot (k-1)^{t - (\# \text{times dist}=0)}$  of paths around  $v_0$

giving this distance profile. This is  $\geq (k-1)^t$ .

There are  $C_t$  different profiles ( $C_t$ -Catalan Number), by definition.

We know  $C_t = \frac{1}{t+1} \binom{2t}{t}$   
(try to prove this!)



Thus,

$$B_{2t}^{(k)} \geq C_t (k-1)^t \underset{\text{Stirling}}{\sim} \frac{4^t}{t^{3/2} \sqrt{\pi}} (k-1)^t \geq \frac{(4(k-1))^t}{t^2} = \frac{\rho^{2t}}{t^2}$$

so that

$$\frac{\rho^{2t}}{t^2} \leq n B_{2t}^{(k)} \leq \text{tr}(A^{2t}) = k^{2t} + \sum_{i=2}^n \lambda_i^{2t} \leq k^{2t} + n \lambda^{2t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda \geq \sqrt[2t]{\frac{\rho^{2t}}{t^2} - \frac{k^{2t}}{n}}. \text{ Given } \varepsilon > 0, \text{ choose } t_0$$

$$\text{such that } \sqrt[2t_0]{\frac{\rho^{2t_0}}{t_0^2} - 1} \geq \rho - \varepsilon \text{ (using } \sqrt[2t]{\frac{\rho^{2t}}{t^2} - 1} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} \rho \text{),}$$

and then for  $n \geq k^{2t_0}$ , we get  $\lambda \geq \rho - \varepsilon \quad \square$

LPS Ramanujan graphs (Lubotzky-Phillips-Sarnak)

Pick  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  (prime). Find all ways to write  $p = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2$ ,  $a$  odd positive.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e.g.: } 5 &= 1^2 + (\pm 2)^2 + 0 + 0 \\ &= 1 + 0 + (\pm 2)^2 + 0 \\ &= 1 + 0 + 0 + (\pm 2)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Fact (Jacobi):  $\exists (p+1)$  such decompositions.

(Jacobi:  $8(p+1)$  ways to write  $p = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2$ )

Pick prime  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,  $q \neq p$ . Then, there is " $i$ " = " $\sqrt{-1}$ "  $\in \mathbb{F}_q$  (since  $\mathbb{F}_q^\times$  is cyclic of size  $q-1$ , and  $4 \mid q-1$ , so  $\exists$  elt. of order 4  $\rightarrow \sqrt{-1}$ ).

LPS graph  $(p+1)$ -reg:  $i = \sqrt{-1} \in \mathbb{F}_q$   
 $X^{p,q} = \text{Cay}\left(\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q), \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a+bi & c+di \\ -c+di & a-bi \end{pmatrix} \mid \begin{matrix} a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2=p \\ a \text{ odd positive} \end{matrix} \right\}\right)$

is Ramanujan (uses heaviest 20-th century math).

Remark: for  $\alpha = a+bi$ ,  $\beta = c+di$  (in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ )

we have  $N(\alpha) + N(\beta) = \alpha\bar{\alpha} + \beta\bar{\beta} = a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2 = p$

and  $\det \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ -\bar{\beta} & \bar{\alpha} \end{pmatrix} = N(\alpha) + N(\beta)$ .

Open Q.: is there an  $\infty$  family of 7-regular Ram. graphs? (allowing  $\lambda_n = -7$ , there is - Marcus-Spielman-Srivastava '15, using Bilu-Linial).

Recall: In our  $k$ -regular model (taking random uniform ind.  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{k/2} \in S_n$ ), we showed (Pinsker) that  $\exists \varepsilon > 0$   $P[\lambda_2 \leq k - \varepsilon] \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1$ .

Alon's conjecture:  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ ,  $P[\lambda \leq 2\sqrt{k-1} + \varepsilon] \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1$ !

(Random regular graphs are almost Ramanujan)  
Proved by Friedman 2004.

25/5/20

Thm (Broder-Shamir): In our random

$k$ -reg. model,  $\forall \epsilon > 0 : P[\lambda \leq \sqrt{2} k^{3/4} + \epsilon] \rightarrow 1$ .

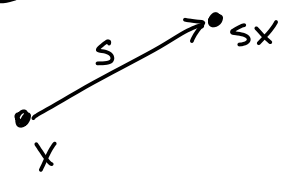
Recall that our model is the Schreier graph of  $S_n \curvearrowright \{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $k/2$  random generators  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{k/2}$ , and their inverses.

For any Schreier graph  $Sch(G \curvearrowright X, S) = \Gamma$

the edges in  $\Gamma$  are  $S$ -labeled

(so our edges are labeled

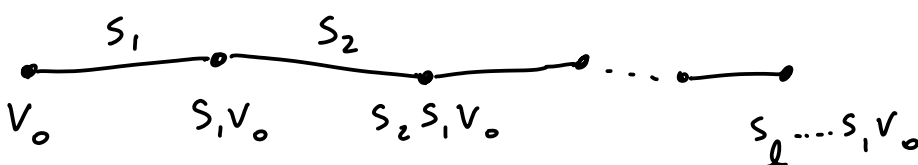
by  $\sigma_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, \sigma_{k/2}^{\pm 1}$ ).



Paths of length  $l$  in  $\Gamma$  are determined

by ① a starting vertex

② a word of length  $l$  in  $S$



Instead, we'll look at words in a fixed alphabet  $x_1, \dots, x_{k/2}$  (and words = also allowing inverses of letters).

This is the Free group on  $k/2$  letters:

$$F_r = \{ \text{words in } x_1, \dots, x_r \text{ \& inverses, concatenation} \}$$

$$F_2 : x_1 x_2 x_1^{-3} x_2, (x_2^{-1} x_1 x_2)(x_2^{-1} x_1^{-1} x_2) = \phi$$

So we will identify  $l$ -paths in  $\Gamma = \text{Sch}(G \curvearrowright X, S)$

$\updownarrow$   
starting vertex + word of len  $l$  in  $F_{k/2}$

Here  $|S| = k$ , and we assume  $S = S^{-1}$

so we write  $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_{k/2}\} \cup \{s_1^{-1}, \dots, s_{k/2}^{-1}\}$

and then the path corresponding to the word  $x_1 x_2^{-1} x_3$  is

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \bullet & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \bullet & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \bullet \\ v_0 & & s_1 v_0 & & s_2^{-1} s_1 v_0 & & s_3 s_2^{-1} s_1 v_0 \end{array}$$

Observation: such a path completely backtracking iff the word is actually the trivial element of  $F_{k/2}$ .  $(x_1 x_2 x_2^{-1} x_3 x_3^{-1} x_1^{-1})$

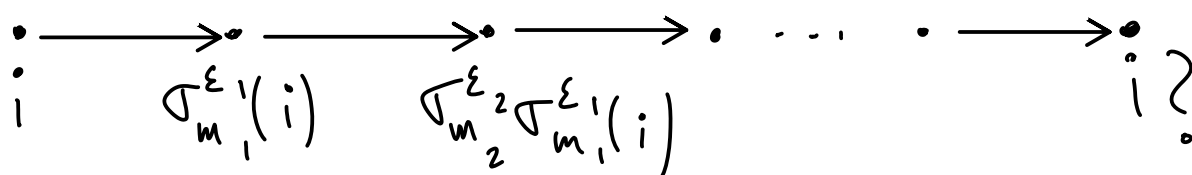
(Hint:  $\text{Cay}(F_{k/2}, \{x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, x_{k/2}^{\pm 1}\})$  is  $T_k$ ).

Now look at our graph  $(\Gamma = \text{Sch}(S_n \curvearrowright [n], \sigma_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, \sigma_{k/2}^{\pm 1}))$

a path  $\leftrightarrow$  starting vertex  $i \in [n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$

& word  $x_{m_\ell}^{\varepsilon_\ell} x_{m_{\ell-1}}^{\varepsilon_{\ell-1}} \dots x_{m_1}^{\varepsilon_1} \quad \begin{pmatrix} m_j \in [k/2] \\ \varepsilon_j = \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}$

This path is closed iff  $\sigma_{m_\ell}^{\varepsilon_\ell} \dots \sigma_{m_1}^{\varepsilon_1}(i) = i$ :



For  $w = x_{m_\ell}^{\varepsilon_\ell} \dots x_{m_1}^{\varepsilon_1}$  and  $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{k/2})$ , we denote  $w(\sigma) = \sigma_{m_\ell}^{\varepsilon_\ell} \dots \sigma_{m_1}^{\varepsilon_1} \in S_n$ .

Pf: For even  $t$ ,

$$\text{tr}(A^t) = \# \text{ of closed paths of length } t = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{w \in \Sigma^t} \delta_{w(\sigma)(i), i},$$

where  $\Sigma = \{x_1, \dots, x_{k/2}, x_1^{-1}, \dots, x_{k/2}^{-1}\}$ .

$$\text{Also } \text{tr}(A^t) = k^t + \sum_{i=2}^n \lambda_i^t \geq k^t + \lambda^t, \text{ or}$$

$$\lambda^t \leq \text{tr}(A^t) - k^t = \sum_i \sum_w \delta_{w(\sigma)(i), i} - k^t.$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(\lambda^t) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{w \in \Sigma^t} \mathbb{E}(\delta_{w(\sigma)(i), i}) - k^t$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{w \in \Sigma^t} \mathbb{P}[w(\sigma)(i) = i] - k^t$$

$$= \left( n \cdot \sum_{w \in \Sigma^t} \mathbb{P}[w(\sigma)(1) = 1] \right) - k^t$$

$$= n \cdot \sum_{w \in \Sigma^t} \left( \mathbb{P}[w(\sigma)(1) = 1] - \frac{1}{n} \right)$$

if  $w(\sigma)$  is uniform in  $S_n$  (e.g.:  $w = x_1$ )  
then this is zero!

26/5/20

Let's define  $p_w = \mathbb{P}[w(\sigma)(1) = 1] - \frac{1}{n}$ , so

$$\mathbb{E}(X^t) \leq n \sum_{w \in \Sigma^t} p_w.$$

If  $w = \emptyset$  ( $w$  completely cancels out), then in every instance of  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{k/2}$ , the path  $w$  is completely backtracking, so  $p_{\emptyset} = 1 - \frac{1}{n}$ .

If  $w = x_1$ , then  $w(\sigma) = \sigma_1 \sim \text{Uniform}(S_n)$  so

$$p_{x_1} = 0. \quad (\text{Thm (Puder-P)}: p_w = 0 \ (\forall n) \text{ iff } \exists \varphi \in \text{Aut}(F_{k/2}) \text{ with } \varphi(w) = x_1)$$

Exer.: for  $w \in F_{k/2}$  and  $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(F_{k/2})$ ,  $p_w = p_{\varphi(w)}$ .

$$\text{Examples: } p_{x_1^m} = \frac{\# \text{div}(m) - 1}{n}, \quad p_{x_1 x_2 x_1^{-1} x_2^{-1}} = \frac{1}{n^2 - n}$$

For  $w \in \Sigma^t$ , denote by  $w'$  its reduced form.  
 $w = x_1 x_2 x_2^{-1} \quad w' = x_1$

## Main Claim:

types of words after reduction	bound for $p_w$	bound for the number of such words
$\emptyset$ or conjugate to a power	1	$P(t)(2\sqrt{k})^t$
all others	$\frac{P(t)}{n^2}$	$k^t$

e.g.:  $xy^2zy^2zx^{-1}$

$P(t)$  means some pol. in  $t$   
(can be a different one each time)

The claim gives the proof:

$$\mathbb{E}(\lambda^t) \leq n \sum_w p_w \leq n P(t)(2\sqrt{k})^t + k^t \frac{P(t)}{n}$$

$$= P(t) \sqrt{k}^t \left( n 2^t + \frac{\sqrt{k}^t}{n} \right)$$

We'll take the  $t$  that gives the best bound, which happens when  $n 2^t = \frac{\sqrt{k}^t}{n} \Rightarrow n = \left(\frac{k}{4}\right)^{t/4} \mid t = 4 \log_{k/4} n$

this  $t$  gives  $\mathbb{E}(\lambda^t) \leq P(t) (\sqrt{2} k^{3/4})^t$ . Thus for any

$$\varepsilon > 0, \quad \mathbb{P}[\lambda > \sqrt{2} k^{3/4} + \varepsilon] (\sqrt{2} k^{3/4} + \varepsilon)^t \leq \mathbb{E}(\lambda^t) \leq P(t) (\sqrt{2} k^{3/4})^t$$

(Markov: for a non-negative RV  $X$ ,  $\mathbb{E}(X^t) \geq a^t \mathbb{P}(X \geq a)$ )

$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{P}[\lambda > \_ ] \leq P(t) \left( \frac{\sqrt{2} k^{3/4}}{\sqrt{2} k^{3/4} + \varepsilon} \right)^t \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} 0. \quad \square \text{ (up to the claim)}$$

$\Downarrow$   
 $t = 4 \log_{k/4} n \rightarrow \infty$

Claim 1: The number of trivial/power words is bounded by  $P(t)(2\sqrt{k})^t$ .

Pf: Write  $|w'| = \text{length}(w') = t - 2r$  (there were  $r$  cancellations in  $w$ ).

Write:  $w = ***(((())()))**(((())())**$

where  $*$  - a letter which survives in  $w'$   
( ) - cancelled letters.

(not unique:  $XX^{-1}XX^{-1} = (()) = ((()))$ )

Write  $w' = uv^j u^{-1}$  (with no cancellations)

We assumed  $j \geq 2$ , so that:

$$t = |w| = |w'| + 2r = 2|u| + j|v| + 2r \geq 2(|u| + |v| + r)$$

There are at most  $\binom{t}{r}$  choices for the locations of the "(", and then  $k^r$  choices for their content.

After this, the loc. and cont. of the ")" is determined. There are  $\leq t^2$  choices for  $|u|, |v|$

(which determine  $j$ ), and  $\leq k^{|u|}, k^{|v|}$  choices for their content. In total, we have the bound

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{r=0}^{t/2} \binom{t}{r} k^r t^2 k^{|u|+|v|} &\leq t^2 \sum_{r=0}^{t/2} \binom{t}{r} k^{t/2} \\ &= t^2 k^{t/2} \sum_{r=0}^{t/2} \binom{t}{r} \leq t^2 (2\sqrt{k})^t \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

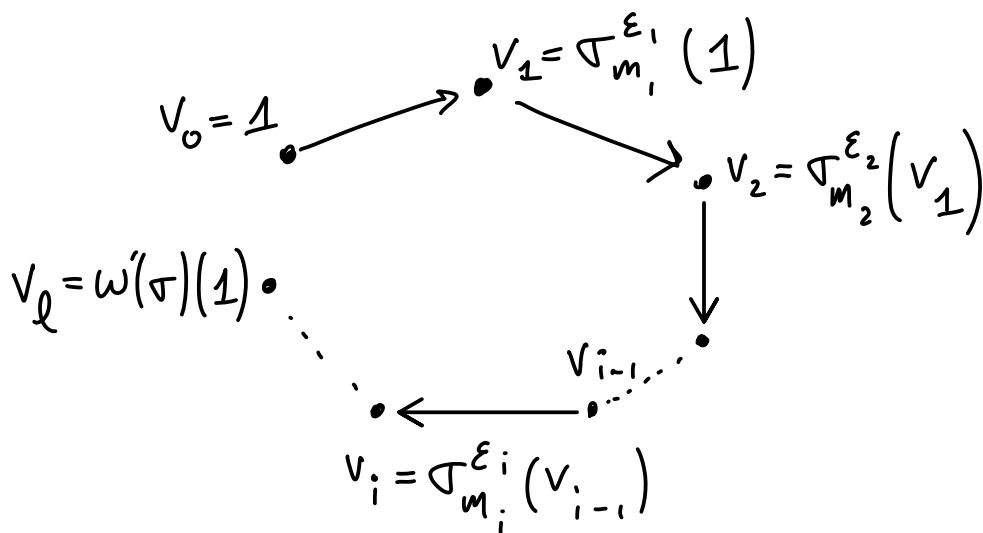
Claim 2: If  $w$  is not trivial nor a power  
 then  $P_w \leq \frac{2t^4 + 2t}{n^2}$ .

(e.g.  $P_{xyx^{-1}y^{-1}} = \frac{1}{n^2 - n} \leq \frac{1024 + 8}{n^2}$ ,  $P_{xy^2} = 0$ )

Pf: Let  $w'$  denote the cyclic reduction of  $w$   
 ( $xyx^{-1} \mapsto y$ ). Verify:  $P_w = P_{w'}$ .

so now we have  $w'$  which is cyclically reduced,  
 non-power, of length  $0 < l \leq t$ .

Write  $w' = X_{m_l}^{\varepsilon_l} \dots X_{m_1}^{\varepsilon_1}$ , and observe  
 the "journey" of 1:



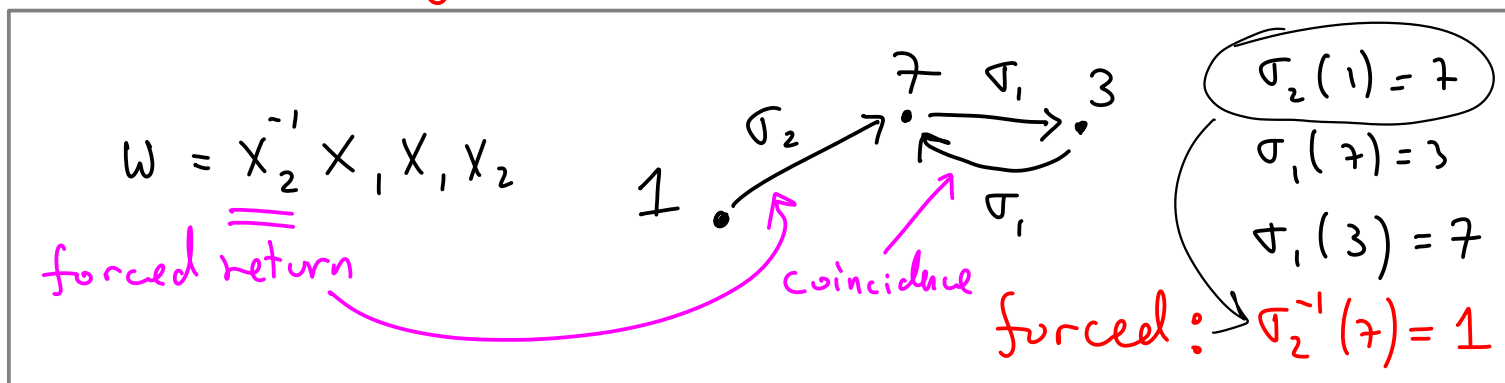
Prob( $v_l = 1$ )?

1/6/20

The idea is not to generate  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{k/2}$  at once,  
 but only as much as we need: first, generate  
 $\sigma_{m_1}^{\varepsilon_1}(1) \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , then  $\sigma_{m_2}^{\varepsilon_2}(\sigma_{m_1}^{\varepsilon_1}(1))$ , unless

it is already known, e.g.:  $m_2 = m_1$ , and  $\varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon_1$  and  $v_1 = 1$  ( $w = x_1^2$ ,  $\sigma_1(1) = 1$  :  $\begin{smallmatrix} 1 \\ \circlearrowleft \end{smallmatrix} \sigma_1$ )

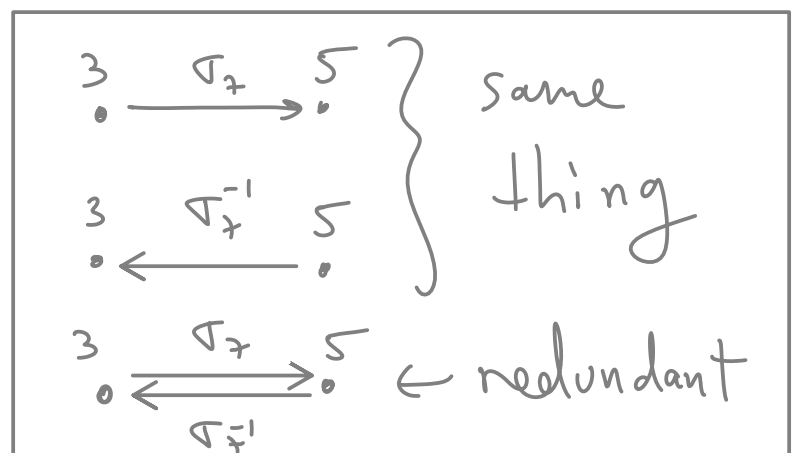
We say that the  $i$ -th step is **forced** if the value of  $\sigma_{m_i}^{\varepsilon_i}(v_{i-1})$  is already determined by the choices we made before, and it is **free** otherwise.



So, if we draw the edges of  $G = \text{Sch}(s, \sigma, \dots)$  one by one, the  $i$ -th step is **forced** if when we get to  $x_{m_i}^{\varepsilon_i}$ , the vertex  $v_{i-1}$  already has an **outgoing edge** labeled  $\sigma_{m_i}^{\varepsilon_i}$ , OR it has an **incoming edge** labeled  $\sigma_{m_i}^{-\varepsilon_i}$ .

$\Leftrightarrow$  forced step is one in which we don't draw a new edge

free = one where we draw a new edge.



We say the  $i$ -th step is a **return** if  $V_i \in \{V_0, \dots, V_{i-1}\}$ .

A **coincidence** is a **free return**.

Observe: -  $V_\ell = 1$  implies there are returns.

- the first return is a coincidence (when  $w$  is reduced!  $w = X_1^{-1} X_1 \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} ?$  first return is forced)

$\Rightarrow V_\ell = 1$  implies there are coincidences, so:

$$P_w + \frac{1}{n} = P[V_\ell = 1] \leq P[V_\ell = 1, \text{there is only 1 coincidence}] + \underbrace{P[\text{at least 2 coincidences}]}_{\geq \frac{1}{n}}$$

$$P[\text{i-th step is coin.}] = \underbrace{P[\text{i-th step is free}]}_{\leq 1} \underbrace{P[\sigma_{m_i}^{\varepsilon_i}(V_{i-1}) \in \{V_0, \dots, V_{i-1}\} \mid \text{i-th step free}]}_{\leq \frac{|\{V_0, \dots, V_{i-1}\}|}{n - \text{\# computed values of } \sigma_{m_i} \text{ at time } i}}$$

maybe values already computed of  $\sigma_{m_i}$  forbid me to land in some of  $V_0, \dots, V_{i-1}$ .

$\leq \frac{i}{n-i} \leq \frac{t}{n-t}$ . This holds regardless of prev. coincidences, so

$$P[\text{at least 2 coinc.}] \leq \sum_{0 \leq i < j \leq t} P[\text{coin. at } i \& j \text{ step}] \leq t^2 \cdot \left(\frac{t}{n-t}\right)^2 \leq \frac{2t^4}{n^2}.$$

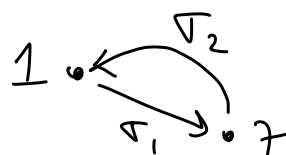
$t \ll n$

Bounding  $P[\text{only 1 coincidence} \mid v_l = 1]$ :

2/6/20

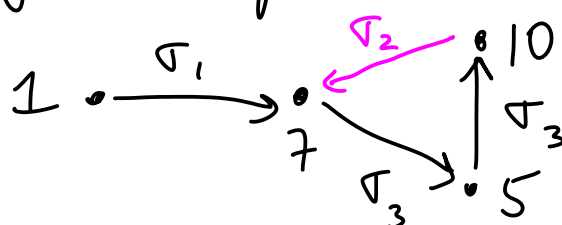
This implies the coincidence was at the last step!

- False for powers:  $w = (x_2 x_1)^3$

can have 1 coinc. earlier: 

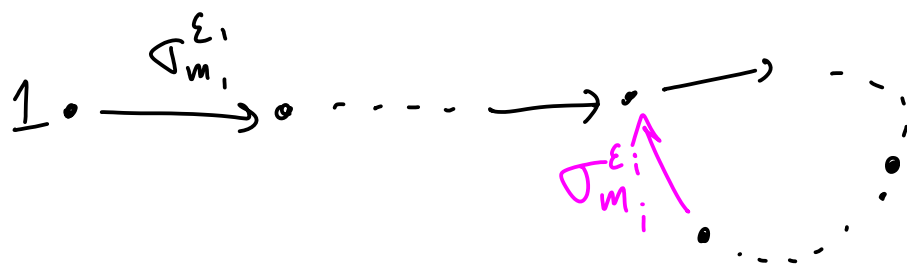
- and for non-cyclically reduced:

$$w = x_1^{-1} x_2 x_3^2 x_1$$



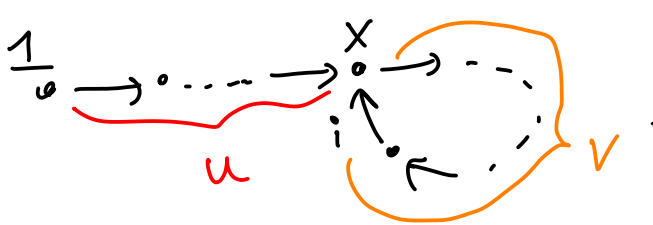
coinc. at  $l-1$  step

If  $w$  is cyc. reduced, non-power, and there is one coin. at time  $i < l$ , then



all next steps are either forced, or go to new vertices. If even one of them goes to a new vertex we can't have  $v_l = 1$  (without more coincidences)!

Thus, they are all forced, so

We travel along  $\frac{1}{u} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow x$  .
 Also, we cannot change direction ( $w$  is reduced). We can only decide each time we arrive at  $x$  whether to turn right or left. After we took left we get to 1 and that's it (has to be step 1). If we turned right  $j$  times, this means that  $w = u^{-1}v^ju$ . But we assumed  $w$  is non power  $\Rightarrow j=1$   
 cyc. reduced  $\Rightarrow u = \emptyset$ .

Namely, the single coinc. has to be at  $v_l$ , and in particular  $v_0, \dots, v_{l-1}$  are different.

$$P\left[\begin{matrix} v_l = 1 \\ \text{one coin.} \end{matrix} \middle| \begin{matrix} w \text{ non} \\ \text{power} \end{matrix}\right] \leq P\left[\sigma_{m_l}^{\varepsilon_l}(v_{l-1}) = 1 \mid \dots\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{n - \begin{matrix} \# \text{ generated} \\ \text{vols. of } \sigma_{m_l} \end{matrix}} \leq \frac{1}{n-l} \leq \frac{1}{n-t} = \frac{1}{n} + \frac{t}{n(n-t)} \leq \frac{1}{n} + \frac{2t}{n^2}$$

$t \ll n$   $\uparrow$

all in all, we got  $w$  non-power  $\Rightarrow p_w \leq \frac{2t^2 + 2t}{n^2}$ .

Broder  
Shamir

Puder: by these ideas, get to  $2\sqrt{k-1} + 0.84$

Brody-Shair:  $\sqrt{2} k^{3/4} + \epsilon$

Friedman:  $2\sqrt{k-1} + \epsilon$

Separating  $F_{k/2}$  to more types:

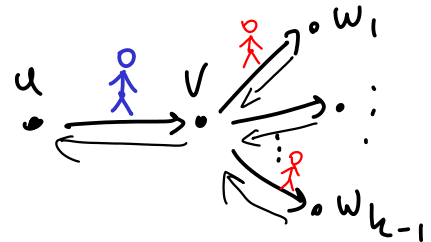
	trivial	powers	3rd	4 <sup>th</sup>	...	$(k/2+1)^{th}$
e.g.	$\emptyset$	$(x_1, x_2)^m$	$x_1 x_2 x_1^{-1} x_2^{-1}$			$x_1$
$p_w$	$\approx 1$	$\approx \frac{m-1}{n}$	$O(\frac{1}{n^2})$	$O(\frac{1}{n^3})$	...	0

However,  $\mathbb{E}(\lambda^t)$  is sensitive to rare events (e.g.  $\lambda = k$  - disconnected), causing Alon's conjecture not to be provable like this (words in  $F_{k/2}, \mathbb{E}(\lambda^t)$ ).

## Non Back Tracking Walks

Random process on  $E^\pm$  = all directed edges of the (undirected) graph  $G$ .

Moving from  $u \rightarrow v$  to a random edge  $v \rightarrow w$  with  $w \neq u$ .



Denote  $B: \mathbb{C}^{E^\pm} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{E^\pm}$

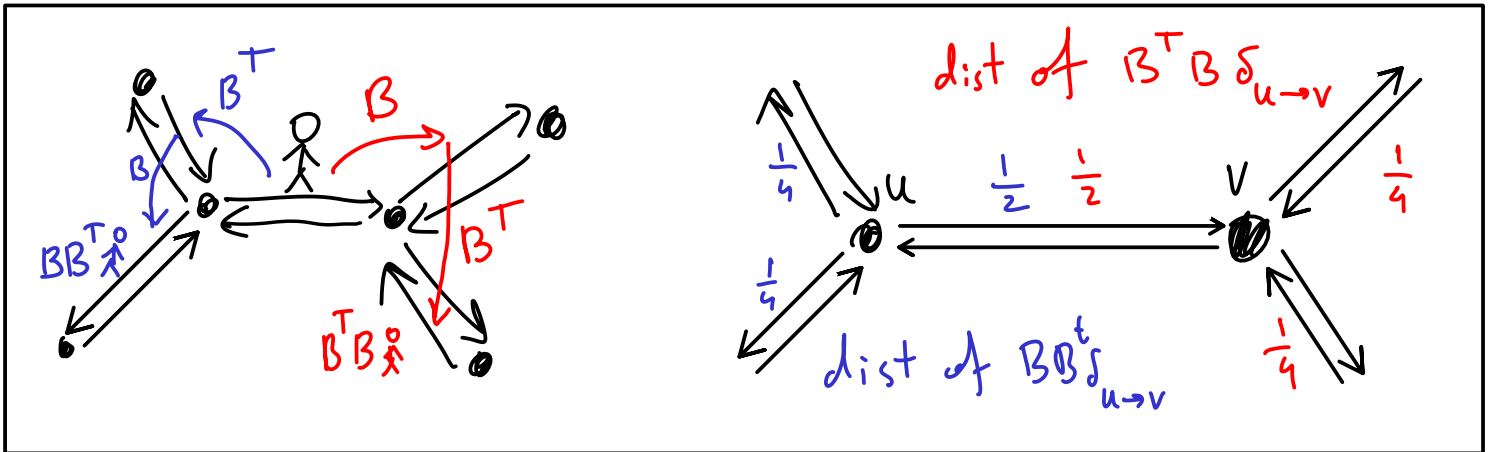
$$(Bf)(u \rightarrow v) = \sum_{u \neq w \sim v} f(v \rightarrow w)$$

(so  $\frac{1}{k-1} B^T$  evolves the dist. of NBRW).

Assume from now that  $G$  is  $(k+1)$ -regular and connected.

$$B\mathbf{1} = k\mathbf{1} \leftarrow$$

$B$  is not self-adjoint ( $B \neq B^T$ )  
and not even normal:  $BB^T \neq B^TB$ .



$\Rightarrow B$  is not unitarily diagonalizable.  
(no ONB of  $B$ -efuncs).

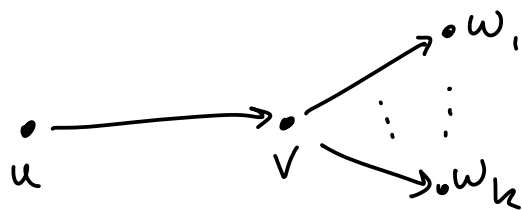
Q: is  $B$  diagonalizable?

Let's try to find efuncs for  $B$  from efuncs for  $A$ . Given  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with

$Af = \lambda f$ , we look for  $F: E^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

with  $BF = \theta F$  for some  $\theta \in \mathbb{C}$ , by

$$F(u \rightarrow v) = f(u) + \alpha f(v)$$



$$\theta f(u) + \theta \alpha f(v) = \theta F(uv) \stackrel{?}{=} BF(uv) = \sum_{u \neq w \sim v} F(vw)$$

$$= \sum_{u \neq w \sim v} (f(v) + \alpha f(w)) = k f(v) + \left( \alpha \sum_{w \sim v} f(w) \right) - \alpha f(u)$$

$$= k f(v) + \alpha \lambda f(v) - \alpha f(u) = (k + \alpha \lambda) f(v) - \alpha f(u).$$

so we want  $\begin{cases} \alpha = -\theta \\ \theta \alpha = k + \alpha \lambda \end{cases} \Rightarrow -\theta^2 = k - \theta \lambda$

$$\Rightarrow \theta^2 - \theta \lambda + k = 0$$

so  $\theta^{\pm} = \frac{\lambda \pm \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4k}}{2}$  (and  $\alpha^{\pm} = -\theta^{\pm}$ )

We got that  $f^{\pm}(u \rightarrow v) = f(u) - \theta^{\pm} f(v)$

$(Af = \lambda f)$  satisfies  $Bf^{\pm} = \theta^{\pm} f^{\pm}$ .

ex.:  $\lambda = k+1$ ,  $f = \mathbb{1}$

$$\theta^{+} = \frac{k+1 + (k-1)}{2} = k$$

$$f^{+}(uv) = f(u) - k f(v) = (1-k)$$

$$f^{+} = (1-k) \mathbb{1} \sim \mathbb{1}$$

$$\theta^{-} = \frac{k+1 - (k-1)}{2} = 1$$

$$f^{-}(uv) = f(u) - f(v) = 0$$

$$f^{-} \equiv 0 \text{ not e. vector!}$$

Reminder: we defined  $(Bf)(u \rightarrow v) = \sum_{\substack{w \sim v \\ w \neq u}} f(v \rightarrow w)$

For  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $Af = \lambda f$  we took

$f_\alpha(u \rightarrow v) = f(u) + \alpha f(v)$  and asked if for some  $\alpha, \theta \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $Bf_\alpha = \theta f_\alpha$ . We got  $(B - \theta I)f_\alpha(uv) = -(\alpha + \theta)f(u) + (k + \alpha\lambda - \alpha\theta)f(v)$  so we took  $\alpha = -\theta$ , and then

$$(B - \theta)f_{-\theta}(uv) = (\theta^2 - \lambda\theta + k)f(v)$$

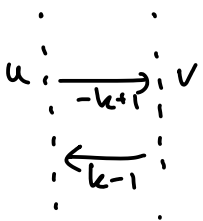
so we took  $\theta^\pm = \frac{\lambda \pm \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4k}}{2}$ , and we call  $f_{\theta^+} = f^+$ ,  $f_{\theta^-} = f^-$ , so  $Bf^\pm = \theta^\pm f^\pm$ .

E.g.:  $\lambda = -k-1 \rightarrow \theta^+ = -1$

$$f = \mathbb{1}_L - \mathbb{1}_R \rightarrow f^+(uv) = f(u) - \theta^+ f(v) = 0$$

And  $\theta^- = -k$ ,  $f^-(uv) = f(u) + kf(v)$

$$\text{so } f^- = C \cdot (\mathbb{1}_{L \rightarrow R} - \mathbb{1}_{R \rightarrow L})$$



•  $\lambda = 0 \rightarrow \theta^\pm = \pm \sqrt{k}$

•  $\lambda = 2\sqrt{k}$  (Worst Ramanujan eval)  $\rightarrow \theta^+ = \theta^- = \sqrt{k}$ .  
so  $f^+ = f^-$ .

$\rightarrow$  For  $\lambda = \pm(k+1), \pm 2\sqrt{k}$  we get only one

e.func of B.

Claim: for  $\lambda \neq \pm(k+1), \pm 2\sqrt{k}$ ,  $f^+, f^-$  are lin. independent.

Pf: cdf  $f^h(uv) = f(u)$ ,  $f^t(uv) = f(v)$ , so

$$\begin{pmatrix} f^+ \\ f^- \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\theta^+ \\ 1 & -\theta^- \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f^h \\ f^t \end{pmatrix}. \quad \det(\cdot) = \theta^+ - \theta^- = \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4k} \neq 0$$

for  $\lambda \neq \pm 2\sqrt{k}$

so if  $f^+, f^-$  are lin. dep., so are  $f^h, f^t$ .

Thus  $f(u) = c \cdot f(v)$  for all  $u \sim v$ , which implies  $f = \mathbb{1}$  or  $\mathbb{1}_R - \mathbb{1}_L$  ( $f(u) = cf(v) = c^2 f(u) \Rightarrow c = \pm 1$ )  $\square$

Observe:  $\theta^+ \cdot \theta^- = k$ ,  $\theta^+ + \theta^- = \lambda$  (Vieta)

Claim:  $\lambda \in [-2\sqrt{k}, 2\sqrt{k}]$  (Ramanujan)

$$\Leftrightarrow |\theta^\pm| = \sqrt{k} \Leftrightarrow |\theta^\pm| \leq \sqrt{k}.$$

$\frac{1}{2}$  Pf: if  $\lambda \in [\dots]$  then  $\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4k} < 0$  so

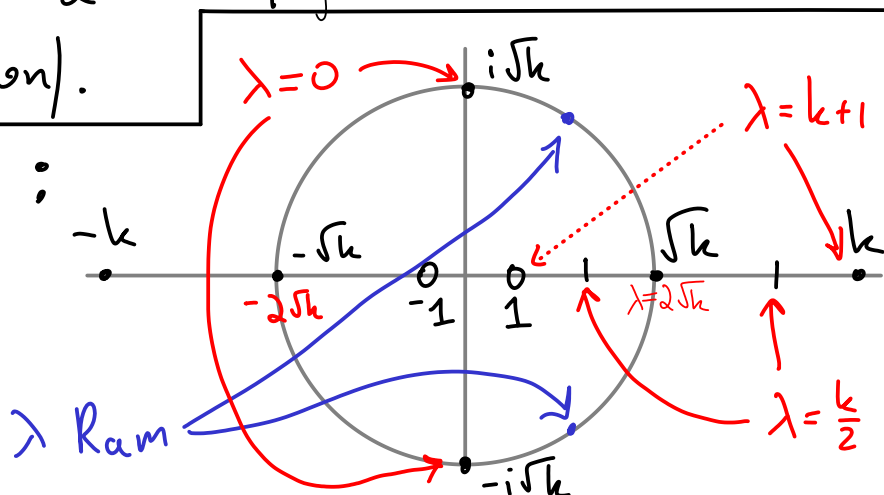
$$\left| \frac{\lambda \pm \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4k}}{2} \right|^2 = \left| \frac{\lambda \pm i\sqrt{4k - \lambda^2}}{2} \right|^2 \stackrel{\text{Pyt}}{=} \frac{\lambda^2 + (4k - \lambda^2)}{4} = k$$

(finish other direction).

$\lambda$  to  $\theta$  schematics:

Red -  $\lambda$

Black -  $\theta$



Proving that the e.vecs we got as  $f^\pm$  are indep:

$$\text{Let } Af = \lambda f \rightarrow Bf^\pm = \theta^\pm f^\pm$$

$$Ag = \mu g \rightarrow Bg^\pm = \eta^\pm g^\pm$$

$$\langle f^\pm, g^\pm \rangle = \sum_{u \sim v}^{(2E)} f^\pm(u) \overline{g^\pm(u)}$$

$$= \sum_{u \sim v} (f(u) - \theta^\pm f(v)) (g(u) - \overline{\eta^\pm} g(v)) \stackrel{\text{red arrow}}{=} C \cdot \langle f, g \rangle$$

$$\sum_{u \sim v} f(u)g(u) = \sum_u f(u)g(u) \sum_{v \sim u} 1 = (k+1) \langle f, g \rangle$$

$$\sum_{u \sim v} \theta^\pm \overline{\eta^\pm} f(v)g(v) = (k+1) \theta^\pm \overline{\eta^\pm} \langle f, g \rangle$$

$$\sum_{u \sim v} f(u) \overline{\eta^\pm} g(v) = \overline{\eta^\pm} \langle f, Ag \rangle = \mu \overline{\eta^\pm} \langle f, g \rangle \dots$$

so if  $f \perp g$  then  $f^\pm \perp g^\pm$ . Thus, choosing an ONB of e.vecs for  $A$ , we get pairs of e.vecs of  $B$  which are orth. between different pairs. In particular  $\rightarrow$  independent.

$B$  acts on a  $2|E| = (k+1)n$  dim. space, we found  $\sim 2n$  e. funcs.

Now, focus on  $\lambda = 2\sqrt{k}$  ( $\lambda = -2\sqrt{k}$  is similar)

$$\theta^+ = \theta^- = \sqrt{k} \quad \text{so} \quad f^+ = f^- = uv \mapsto f(u) - \sqrt{k} f(v).$$

Recall  $f_\alpha(uv) = f(u) + \alpha f(v)$  gave

$$\begin{aligned} (B - \theta) f_\alpha(uv) &= -(\alpha + \theta) f(u) + (k + \alpha\lambda - \alpha\theta) f(v) \\ \stackrel{\substack{\lambda=2\sqrt{k} \\ \theta=\sqrt{k}}}{\Rightarrow} (B - \sqrt{k}) f_\alpha(uv) &= -(\alpha + \sqrt{k}) f(u) + (k + \alpha\sqrt{k}) f(v) \\ &= -(\alpha + \sqrt{k}) (f(u) - \sqrt{k} f(v)) = -(\alpha + \sqrt{k}) f^+(uv) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{so } (B - \sqrt{k}) f_\alpha = -(\alpha + \sqrt{k}) f^+$$

$$\Rightarrow (B - \sqrt{k})^2 f_\alpha = 0 \quad (\text{for any } \alpha)$$

Take  $\alpha = -1 - \sqrt{k}$ :  $f' = f_{-1-\sqrt{k}}$ . We get

$$B f' = \sqrt{k} f' + f^+ \Rightarrow [B]_{\langle f^+, f' \rangle} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{k} & 1 \\ 0 & \sqrt{k} \end{pmatrix}$$

This is a non diagonal Jordan Block, so in particular  $\pm 2\sqrt{k} \in \text{Spec } A \Rightarrow B$  is not diagonalizable

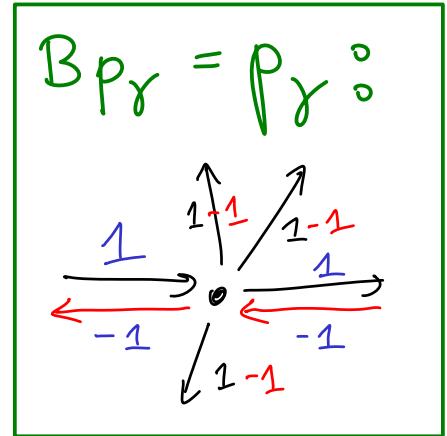
But, in algebraic multiplicities, we

found  $2n-1$   $\xleftarrow{\text{e.vals}}$   $G$  is not bip.  
 $2n-2$   $\xleftarrow{\text{e.vals}}$   $G$  is bip.

Where do the other  $2|E| - 2n + 1 + \delta_{\text{bip}}$  evals come from?

Let  $\gamma: v_0 \leftarrow v_r \cdots \leftarrow v_3 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_0$  be a cycle in  $G$ .

take  $p_\gamma: v_0 \leftarrow v_r \cdots \leftarrow v_3 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_0$ .



so from every cycle in  $G$

we can create an e.func with eval 1.

Choose a spanning tree  $T$ . For every  $e \in E \setminus T$

$\exists$  unique cycle  $\gamma_e$  in  $T \cup \{e\}$ . The functions

$\{p_{\gamma_e} \mid e \in E \setminus T\}$  are indep., so we get

$|E| - |E_T| = |E| - n + 1$  e.vals ( $p_{\gamma_{vu}} = -p_{\gamma_{uv}}$ )

If  $\text{len}(\gamma)$  is even, define  $n_\gamma: v_0 \leftarrow v_r \cdots \leftarrow v_3 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_0$

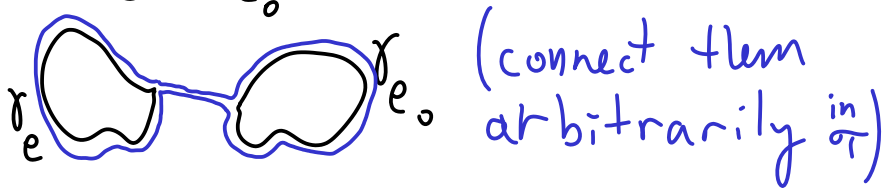
Now  $Bn_\gamma = -n_\gamma$ .

If  $G$  is bipartite, all cycles are even, so

$\{n_{\gamma_e} \mid e \in E \setminus T\}$  give  $|E| - n + 1$  times eval -1.

So we found all of  $\text{Spec } B$ !

If  $G$  is not bipartite, there is at least one odd cycle,  $\gamma_{e_0}$ . Then, for every  $e \neq e_0 \in E \setminus T$  either  $\gamma_e$  is even, or  $\gamma_e + \gamma_{e_0}$  is even ( $\gamma_e + \gamma_{e_0}$  means concatenating them) and



(connect them arbitrarily in  $T$ )

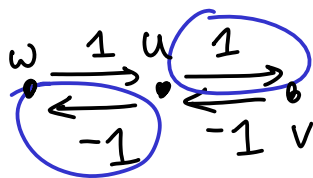
$$\left\{ \gamma_e \mid e \in E \setminus T \right\} \cup \left\{ \gamma_e + \gamma_{e_0} \mid e_0 \neq e \in E \setminus T \right\}$$

gives us  $|E| - n$  indep.  $-1$  e.vals., completing again  $\text{Spec}(B)$  to  $2|E|$ .

We know  $f^\pm \notin \langle p_\gamma, n_\gamma \rangle$  (different evals), but actually they are orthogonal ( $f^\pm, f' \perp p_\gamma, n_\gamma$ ) since for any  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f^h, f^t \perp p_\gamma, n_\gamma$ :

$$\langle f^h, p_\gamma \rangle = \sum_{u \sim v} f^h(uv) p_\gamma(uv) = \sum_{u \sim v} f(u) p_\gamma(uv) = 0$$

$$f(u) p_\gamma(uv) + f(u) p_\gamma(uw) = 0:$$



at every  $u \in V_\gamma$   
 $p_\gamma$  has outgoing  $1, -1$

$$\text{similarly for } n_\gamma: \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{1} \bullet \xleftarrow{-1} \\ \xleftarrow{1} \bullet \xrightarrow{-1} \end{array}$$

Thus,  $f^\pm, f' \in \langle f^h, f^t \rangle \perp \langle p_\gamma, n_\gamma \mid \text{all cycles } \gamma \rangle$

We know  $B^T B \neq B B^T \Rightarrow B$  is not unitarily diag.ble

It turns out that the only obstruction is that

$f', f^+, f^-$  for the same  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are not orthogonal

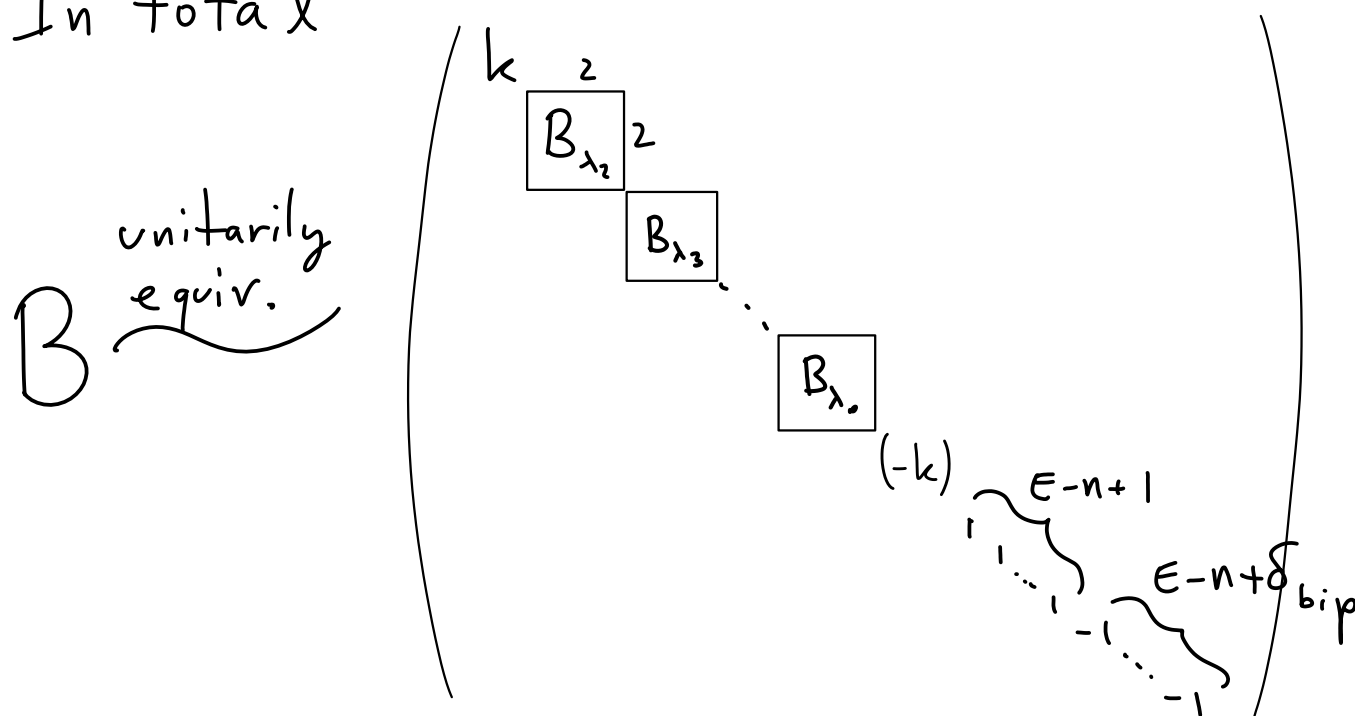
To see this it is only left to show that the e.v.s coming from  $p_\gamma, n_\gamma$  are orth.

But  $p_\gamma \neq p_{\gamma'}$  when  $\gamma, \gamma'$  overlap!

However, for any  $\gamma$ ,  $B^T p_\gamma = p_\gamma \xleftrightarrow{-1} \xleftrightarrow{1} \xleftrightarrow{-1}$   
and  $B^T n_\gamma = -n_\gamma$ . Thus,  $B|_{\langle p_\gamma, n_\gamma | \gamma \rangle}$  is self-adj.

(as  $B|_{\langle p_\gamma, n_\gamma \rangle} = B^T|_{\langle p_\gamma, n_\gamma \rangle}$ ). So, it has an ONB of eigenvectors.

In total



and (Ihara-Bass-Hashimoto):

$$\text{Spec}(B) = \left\{ \frac{\lambda \pm \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4k}}{2} \mid \lambda \in \text{Spec } A \right\} \cup \underbrace{\{\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1\}}_{E-n}$$

(with alg. multip.)

Check!

Corollary:  $G$  is **Ramanujan** iff

15/6/20

$$\text{Spec } B_G \subseteq \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| \leq \sqrt{k}\} \cup \{\pm k\}$$

$$(\text{Ramanujan: } A_G \subseteq \{z \in \mathbb{R} \mid |z| \leq 2\sqrt{k}\} \cup \{\pm(k+1)\})$$

Spectral analysis of non-normal ops.

Recall: if  $T$  is normal,

$$\|T\| := \max_{\|v\|=1} \|Tv\| = \max\{|\lambda| \mid \lambda \in \text{Spec } T\}$$

(we used this for  $T = A_G|_{Z(G)^\perp}$ )

Def: for an op  $T$  on an inn. prod. space, its singular values are  $\text{Sing } T = \{\sqrt{\lambda} \mid \lambda \in \text{Spec}(T^*T)\}$

(Denoting  $\text{Spec } T^*T = \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ ,  $\sigma_i := \sqrt{\lambda_i}$ )

Note:  $T^*T$  is always self-adjoint with non-neg. spectrum (we showed this when we looked at  $\Delta = S^*S$ )

Claim:  $\|T\| = \max(\text{Sing}(T))$

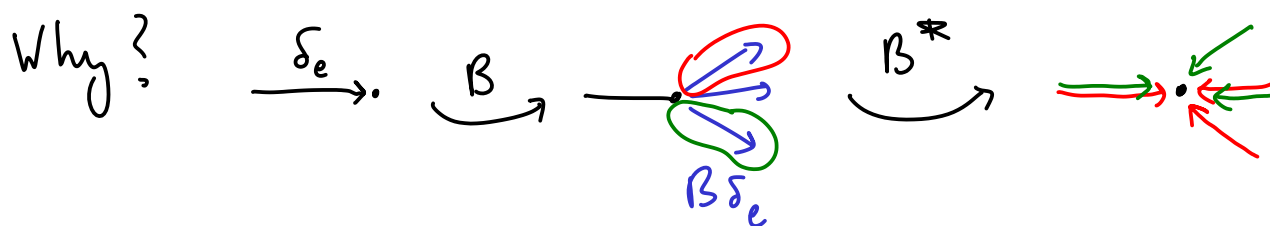
Pf: for any  $\|v\|=1$ ,  $\|Tv\|^2 = \langle Tv, Tv \rangle$   
 $= \langle T^*Tv, v \rangle \underset{\text{Rayl.}}{\leq} \max \{ \lambda \mid \lambda \in \text{Spec } T^*T \} = \max_{\sigma \text{ sing.}} \{ \sigma^2 \}$

$\Rightarrow \|Tv\| \leq \max \{ \sigma \}$ .

$0 \leq \lambda \leq k^2$ , if  $\lambda \in \text{Spec } T^*T$ , and  $T^*Tv = \lambda v$  with  $\|v\|=1$ , then

$\|Tv\|^2 = \langle Tv, Tv \rangle = \langle T^*Tv, v \rangle = \lambda \Rightarrow \|Tv\| \geq \sqrt{\lambda} \quad \square$

Sad fact:  $\text{Sing}(B_G) = \{ \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ B^*B \mathbb{1} = k^2 \mathbb{1}}}{k}, k, k, k, \dots, k, \text{ and smaller ones} \}$



so  $\{e \mid \text{tail}(e)=v\}$  is a disconnected component of the graph whose adj op. is  $B^*B$  (which is  $k^2$ -regular).

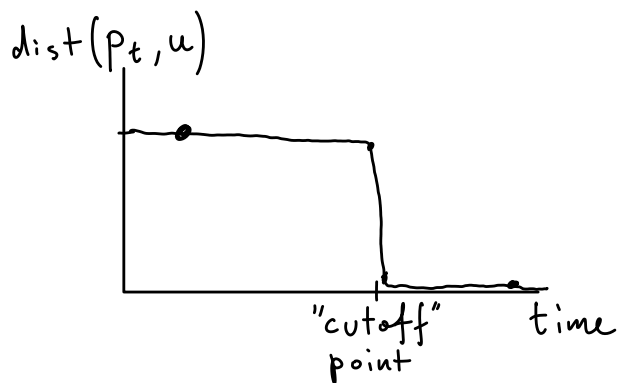
In other words,  $B^*B \mathbb{1}_{\{e \mid \text{tail}(e)=v\}} = \underset{k + k(k-1)}{k^2} \mathbb{1}_{\{e \mid \text{tail}(e)=v\}}$

so we get  $\sqrt{k^2} = k$

n times, and in particular  $\max \text{Sing}(B|_{\mathbb{1}^\perp}) = \max \text{Sing}(B) = k$ .

## Diaconis/Aldous cutoff phenomenon

For some natural Markov chains, the distance of the dist. from the stationary one looks like this:



Riffle-Shuffle: Verts = 52!  
ordering of deck of cards.  
"7 shuffles are enough"

2004': Peres conjectured that all transitive expanders have this property.

At the time, no family of bounded degree expanders was known to have this property!

2016': Ramanujan graphs have it (Lubetzky-Peres)

**16+22/6/20**

The  $\varepsilon$ -mixing time of a <sup>reg.</sup> graph  $G$  (w.r.t. some dist. on  $R^V$ ) is  $t_\varepsilon^G = \min \{t \mid \text{dist}(p_t^{v_0}, u) < \varepsilon \ \forall v_0 \in V\}$ .

We kept looking at  $\text{dist}(f, g) = \|f - g\|_2$ . In prob. theory, the most useful dist is total-variation dist:

if  $p, p'$  prob. measures on  $X$  ( $p: X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ ,  $\sum p = 1$ )

$$\text{dist}_{\text{TV}}^+(p, p') = \max_{A \subseteq X} |p(A) - p'(A)| = \frac{1}{2} \|p - p'\|_1.$$

A family of graphs  $\{G_n\}$  has the cutoff phenom.

if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t_\varepsilon^{G_n}}{t_{1-\varepsilon}^{G_n}} \rightarrow 1$  (w.r.t.  $\text{dist}_{\text{TV}}$ ).

So from now on we focus on  $\text{dist}(f, g) = \frac{1}{2} \|f - g\|_1$

## Motivating example (why $L_2$ -cutoff occurs)

Say we have a family of  $k$ -reg. graphs  $\{G_n\}$ , with  $|V(G_n)| = n$ , and  $\lambda(G_n) \leq \sqrt{k} \quad \forall n$  (which is impossible by Alon-Boppana). Then we have cutoff: after fixing  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\|p_t^{v_0} - u\|_1 \leq \sqrt{n} \|p_t^{v_0} - u\|_2 \leq \sqrt{n} \left( \frac{\lambda(G_n)}{k} \right)^t \leq \sqrt{\frac{n}{k^t}} \leq 2\varepsilon.$$

if we take  $t = \log_k n + \log_k \frac{1}{4\varepsilon^2}$

OTOH,  $\|p_t^{v_0} - u\|_1 = \sum_v |p_t^{v_0}(v) - \frac{1}{n}|$ . We split this:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \sum_{v \notin S^t(v_0)} |p_t^{v_0}(v) - \frac{1}{n}| &= (n - |S^t(v_0)|) \frac{1}{n} = 1 - \frac{|S^t(v_0)|}{n} \geq 1 - \frac{k^t}{n} \\ \sum_{v \in S^t(v_0)} |p_t^{v_0}(v) - \frac{1}{n}| &\geq \sum_{v \in S^t(v_0)} p_t^{v_0}(v) - \frac{1}{n} = 1 - \frac{|S^t(v_0)|}{n} \geq 1 - \frac{k^t}{n} \end{aligned} \right\} \geq 1 - \varepsilon$$

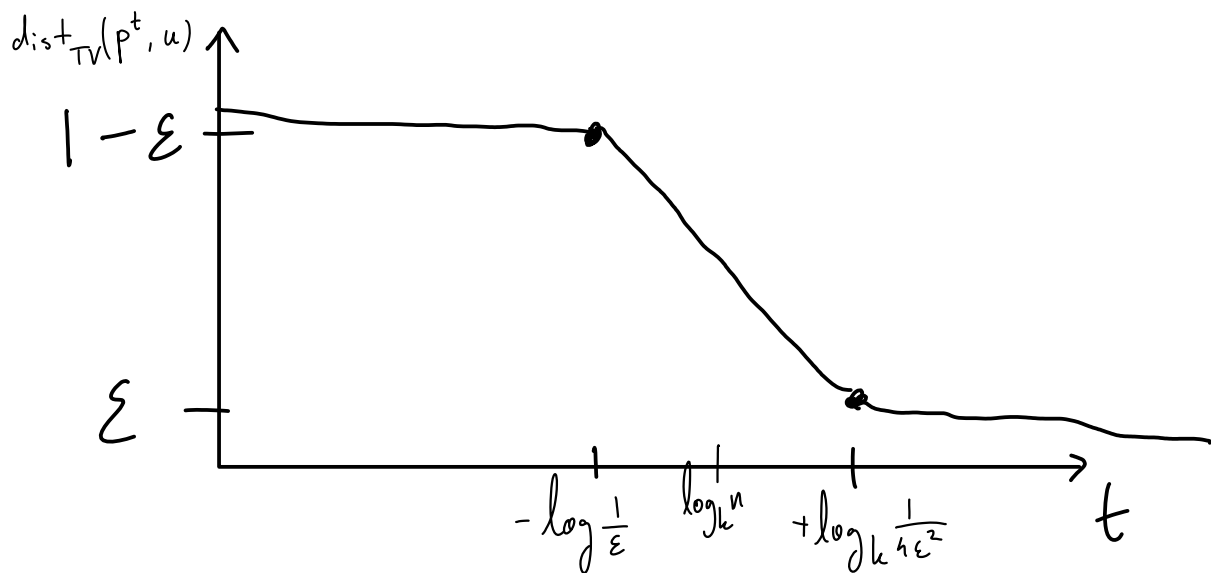
$p_t^{v_0}(v) = \frac{\#\{t\text{-paths } v_0 \rightsquigarrow v\}}{k^t} \geq \frac{1}{k^t} > \frac{1}{n}$

taking  
 $t = \log_k n - \log_k \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$

Thus,  $\|p^t - u\|_{TV} = \frac{1}{2} \|p^t - u\|_1 \geq 1 - \varepsilon$ .

Remark: in the lower bound we didn't look at the spectrum at all, so it holds for all  $k$ -reg. graphs, and also for digraphs!

in total:



In particular:

$$1 \leq \frac{t_{\epsilon}^{G_n}}{t_{1-\epsilon}^{G_n}} \leq \frac{\log_k n + \log_k \frac{1}{4\epsilon^2}}{\log_k n - \log_k \frac{1}{\epsilon}} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1$$

Furthermore, the cutoff happened around  $t = \log_k n$ , which is optimal for  $k$ -reg. graphs. So, we say we have optimal cutoff.

Conj (Peres, '04): every family of transitive expanders exhibits cutoff.

Thm (Lubetzky-Peres '16): Ram. graphs have cutoff.

Note: if  $G_n$  is a fam. of  $(k+1)$ -reg. Ram graphs, then  $D_n = \{E^{\rightarrow}(G_n), \{uv \rightarrow vw \mid w \neq u\}\}$  is a family of (in other words  $A_{D_n} = B_{G_n}$ )

directed  $k$ -reg. graphs with  $\lambda(D_n) \leq \sqrt{k}$ , like we assumed in the Motivating Example.

However, for a non-normal graph  $D$  we only have  $\|p_t^{v_0} - u\|_2 \leq \left(\frac{\sigma(D)}{k}\right)^t$  where

$\sigma(D) = \max \text{Sing}(A_D|_{\mathbb{1}^\perp})$ , and we saw that  $\sigma(A_{D_n}) = \sigma(B_{G_n}) = k$  for any  $(k+1)$ -reg  $G \dots$

*Deus ex machina*: we saw  $\mathbb{C}^{E^\pm}$  decomposes into 1-dim & 2-dim orthogonal subspaces which are stable under  $B_G$  ( $G$  is  $(k+1)$ -reg Ram. graph) (if it was only 1-dim  $\Leftrightarrow B_G$  is normal).

Lets look at one of these 2-dim subspaces:

For  $\lambda \in \text{Spec } A$ , take  $W_\lambda = \langle f^+, f^- \rangle$  (or  $\langle f^+, f' \rangle$  in the special cases  $\lambda = \pm 2\sqrt{k}$ ), and observe

$$B_\lambda = [B|_{W_\lambda}]_{\{f^+, f^-\} \text{ or } f'}$$

Assume from now  $G$  is not bipartite, so

$$B = \text{diag}(k, B_{\lambda_2}, B_{\lambda_3}, \dots, 1, \dots, 1, -1, \dots, -1), \text{ hence}$$

$$B^t = \text{diag}(k^t, B_{\lambda_2}^t, B_{\lambda_3}^t, \dots, 1, \dots, 1, -1^t, \dots, -1^t)$$

and in particular  $\|B|_{\mathbb{1}^\perp}\|_2 \leq \max_{2 \leq j \leq n} \|B_{\lambda_j}^t\|_2$  (Pythagoras).

Gram-Schmidt: for any  $A \in GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ , there is a (unique) decomp.  $A = QR$  with  $R$  upp-triang.  $Q$  unitary (and  $r_{ii} > 0 \forall i$ ). (exer: figure this out)

Schur Decomposition: every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  decomposes into  $A = QRQ^* = QRQ^{-1}$  with  $R$  upp-triang. and  $Q$  unitary.

In other words, any oper.  $T$  on fin. dim. inner-prod. space  $V$  has an O.N.B of  $V$  with respect to which it is upper triangular (with  $\text{Spec } T$  on the diagonal, since  $\det(A - xI) = \prod (A_{ii} - x)$ ).

Pf:  $[T]_{(v_1, \dots, v_n)}$  is triang. iff  $Tv_j \in \langle v_1, \dots, v_j \rangle \forall j$  (and  $v_j \notin \langle v_1, \dots, v_{j-1} \rangle \rightarrow$  basis!). Find  $Tv_1 \in \langle v_1 \rangle$  (and  $v_1 \neq 0$ ) (F.T.o.L.A.). Now, observe that  $T$  is well defined on  $V/\langle v_1 \rangle$ :  $T(v + \langle v_1 \rangle) = T\bar{v} = \overline{Tv} = (Tv + \langle v_1 \rangle)$ , since  $T(v + \alpha v_1 + \langle v_1 \rangle) = Tv + \alpha Tv_1 + \langle v_1 \rangle = Tv + \langle v_1 \rangle$ .

Now, find evec of  $T \curvearrowright V/\langle v_1 \rangle$ :  $T\bar{v}_2 = \lambda \bar{v}_2$  ( $\bar{v}_2 \neq 0$   
 $\updownarrow$   
 $v_2 \notin \langle v_1 \rangle$ )

This means that  $Tv_2 \in \lambda v_2 + \langle v_1 \rangle \subseteq \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$ . Now

$T$  is well def on  $V/\langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$ , find  $T\bar{v}_3 = \lambda \bar{v}_3, \dots$

We found basis  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  in which  $[T]$  is triang.

But it is still not an O.N.B. However,

performing Gram-Schmidt:  $\begin{cases} v_1 \leftarrow v_1 / \|v_1\| \\ v_2 \leftarrow v_2 - \langle v_2, v_1 \rangle v_1 \\ v_2 \leftarrow v_2 / \|v_2\| \\ v_3 \leftarrow v_3 - \langle v_3, v_1 \rangle v_1 - \langle v_3, v_2 \rangle v_2 \\ \vdots \end{cases}$   
 does not change the property that  $Tv_j \in \langle v_1, \dots, v_j \rangle$ . □

Thus, we have  $[B_\lambda] = [B|_{\langle f^+, f^- \rangle}] = \begin{pmatrix} \theta^+ & b' \\ 0 & \theta^- \end{pmatrix}$   
 for some  $b' \in \mathbb{C}$ , and  $|\theta^+| = |\theta^-| = \sqrt{k}$  (for Ramanujan!)  
 with respect to some **O.N.B.** of  $\langle f^+, f^- \rangle$ .

This is crucial:  $\left\| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1000 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\|_2 \sim 1000$   
 equivalent matrices  $\downarrow$  (same operator!)  
 $\left\| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\|_2 = 2$ .

$\|A\|_2 \leq \left\| (|a_{ij}|)_{ij} \right\|_2$  in general (triangle ineq.),  
 so we can look at  $|B_\lambda| = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{k} & b \\ 0 & \sqrt{k} \end{pmatrix}$ . Naively,  
 we have  $\|B_\lambda^t\|_2 \leq \|B_\lambda\|_2^t = k^t$  which doesn't give us  
 anything.  
 $\max \text{Sing}(B_\lambda) = k$ , since we know  $k$  has multiplicity  $n$  in  $\text{Sing}(B_G)$

However, since we made  $B_\lambda$  triangular we can actually compute its powers:

$$\|B_\lambda^t\|_2 \leq \|B_\lambda\|^t = \|\sqrt{k}^t \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{b}{\sqrt{k}} \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}^t\|_2 = \sqrt{k}^t \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{b}{\sqrt{k}} \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}^t \right\|_2$$

$$= \sqrt{k}^t \left\| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{tb}{\sqrt{k}} \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\|_2 \leq \sqrt{k}^t \left( 1 + \frac{tb}{\sqrt{k}} \right) \leq 2tb\sqrt{k}^{t-1}$$

$\|A\|_2 \leq \sqrt{\|A\|_1 \|A\|_\infty}$

and  $b \leq k$  since  $\|B_\lambda\|_2 \leq \|B\|_2 \leq k$  ( $k$ -reg digraph), so any entry of  $[B_\lambda]$  is also bounded by  $k$ . Thus,

$$\|B_\lambda^t\|_2 \leq \sqrt{k}^t (1 + t\sqrt{k}) \leq 2t\sqrt{k}^{t+1}$$

23/6/20

Thm: NBRW on  $(k+1)$ -reg. Ran. graphs has optimal cutoff (optimal:  $t = \log_k n$ ), with cutoff window of size  $O(\log \log n)$ .  
(Lubetzky-Peres '16)

(This is enough for cutoff:  $\frac{\log n + C_1 \log \log n}{\log n - C_2 \log \log n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1$ )

Pf: We already know

$$\text{dist}_{TV}(p_{\log_k n - \log_k \frac{1}{\varepsilon}}^{v_0}, u) \geq 1 - \varepsilon \quad (\text{for any } k\text{-reg. walk}).$$

on the other side, take  $t = \log_k n + 3 \log_k \log_k n$ :

$$\text{dist}_{TV}(p_t^{v_0}, u) = \frac{1}{2} \|p_t^{v_0} - u\|_1 \leq \frac{\sqrt{n(k+1)}}{2} \|p_t^{v_0} - u\|_2 = \frac{\sqrt{N}}{2} \left\| \left( \frac{B^T}{k} \right)^t (p_0^{v_0} - u) \right\|_2$$

$$\leq \frac{\sqrt{N}}{2k^t} \|B_{\mathbb{1}^\perp}^t\|_2 \leq t \sqrt{k \cdot \frac{n}{k^t} (k+1)} \quad N = n(k+1) = |E^\pm|$$

$$= (\log n + 3 \log \log n) \int_k \frac{(k+1) \cancel{n}}{\cancel{n} \cdot (\log n)^3} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

Thus,  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ , for  $n$  large enough we get

$$\text{dist}_{TV}(p_{v_0}^{\log n + 3 \log \log n}, u) < \varepsilon$$

so  $t_\varepsilon^G \leq \log_k n + 3 \log_k \log_k n.$

In total, in  $[\log n - \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}, \log n + 3 \log \log n]$  the TV distance drops from  $1 - \varepsilon$  to  $\varepsilon$ .  $\square$

Thm (Lubetzky-Pereira): SRW on  $(k+1)$ -reg. Ram. graphs has cutoff at  $t = \frac{k+1}{k-1} \log_k n$ , with window of size  $O(\sqrt{\log_k n})$ .

Recall there is a cover map  $p: T_{k+1} \rightarrow G$ , and after fixing  $\tilde{v}_0$  ( $p(\tilde{v}_0) = v_0$ ), paths starting at  $v_0$  are in 1-1 correspondence with paths (in  $T_{k+1}$ ) starting at  $\tilde{v}_0$ .   
  $\swarrow$  locally inj.  
  $\underbrace{\hspace{1cm}}_{\text{given by } p}$

In particular,  $p(B_r^{T_{k+1}}(\tilde{v}_0)) = B_r^G(v_0)$  ( $B_r(v) = \{w \mid \text{dist}(v, w) \leq r\}$ ),

so  $|B_r^G(v_0)| \leq |B_r^{T_{k+1}}(\tilde{v}_0)| = |B_r^{T_{k+1}}|$  (same for any vertex)

exer:  $|B_r^{T_{k+1}}| \leq r k^r$  (for  $r \geq 2$ )

Claim: Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$ . For  $r_0 = \log_k n - 2 \log_k \log_k n$ ,

$|B_{r_0}(v_0)| < \varepsilon n$  for  $n$  large enough.

$$\text{Pf: } \frac{1}{n} |B_{r_0}(v_0)| \leq \frac{1}{n} |B_{r_0}^{T_{k+1}}| \leq \frac{1}{n} r_0 k^{r_0}$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} (\log n - 2 \log \log n) \left( \frac{n}{(\log n)^2} \right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0. \quad \square$$

In NBW, after  $t$  steps we are at  $S_t^T(\tilde{v}_0)$ .

In SRW, we are at  $B_t^T(\tilde{v}_0)$ , but this is not good enough: most of  $B_t$  is at  $S_t$ , but the walk only gets to  $S_t$  with prob.  $\left(\frac{k}{k+1}\right)^{t-1} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} 0$ .

Intuitively, I'm expecting to be around the  $\frac{k-1}{k+1} \cdot t$  sphere: ~~except when at  $\tilde{v}_0$ , we advance away from  $\tilde{v}_0$  with prob.  $\frac{k}{k+1}$ , and toward  $\tilde{v}_0$  with prob.  $\frac{1}{k+1}$ .~~

So, the expectancy of change in dist. to  $\tilde{v}_0$  is ~~around~~

$$\frac{k}{k+1} \cdot 1 + \frac{1}{k+1} (-1) = \frac{k-1}{k+1}. \quad \text{Formally:}$$

Define Distribution  $\mathcal{D}: \begin{cases} 1 & \frac{k}{k+1} \\ -1 & \frac{1}{k+1} \end{cases}$

$$\varepsilon := \mathbb{E}(\mathcal{D}) = \frac{k-1}{k+1} \quad \sigma := \sigma(\mathcal{D}) = \sqrt{\mathbb{E}(\mathcal{D}^2) - \varepsilon^2} = \frac{2\sqrt{k}}{k+1}.$$

We consider SRW  $v_0, v_1, v_2, \dots$  on  $G$ , and lift it to SRW  $\tilde{v}_0, \tilde{v}_1, \dots$  on  $T_{k+1}$  ( $v_0, \tilde{v}_0$  are fixed).

$$d_t := \text{dist}_{T_{k+1}}(\tilde{v}_t, \tilde{v}_0), \text{ and } X_t := d_t - d_{t-1} \left[ \text{so } d_t = \sum_{j=1}^t X_j \right]$$

When  $d_{t-1} \neq 0 \iff \tilde{v}_{t-1} \neq \tilde{v}_0$ ,  $X_t \sim \mathcal{D}$  and are indep.  
 when  $\tilde{v}_{t-1} = \tilde{v}_0$ ,  $X_t \equiv 1$ .

Define  $Y_t = \begin{cases} X_t & \tilde{v}_{t-1} \neq \tilde{v}_0 \\ \text{new var.} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ , and  $d'_t = \sum_{j=1}^t Y_j$ .

Note  $d'_t \leq d_t$ . Also,  $Y_t$  are i.i.d so

$$\tilde{d}'_t := \frac{d'_t - t\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} \xrightarrow{\text{dist.}} \mathcal{N}(0,1) \text{ by C.L.T.}$$

(Remark:  $d_t$  and  $d'_t$  behave as  $(\frac{1}{k+1}, \frac{k}{k+1})$ -biased random walks on  $\mathbb{N}$ , and on  $\mathbb{Z}$ , respectively)

Claim:  $\frac{d_t - t\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} \xrightarrow{\text{dist.}} \mathcal{N}(0,1)$ .

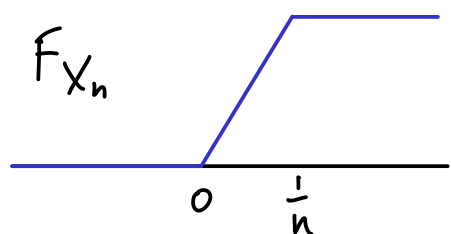
29/6/20

Reminder: a seq. of R.V.  $X_n$  converges in dist. to a R.V.  $X$  (or to the dist. of  $X$ )

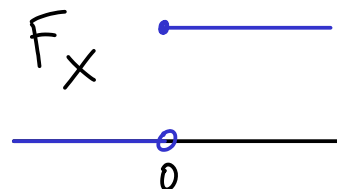
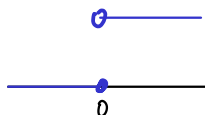
if  $F_{X_n}(t) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} F_X(t)$  at every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  at which  $F_X$  is cont.

where  $F_Y(t) = \mathbb{P}[Y \leq t]$  (the C.D.F.)

Example:  $X_n \sim U([0, \frac{1}{n}])$   $X \equiv 0$



point wise  
 $n \rightarrow \infty$



Claim:  $\frac{d_t - t\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} \xrightarrow{\text{dist}} \mathcal{N}(0,1)$

Pf: With prob. 1, the walk  $\{\tilde{V}_t\}_{t=0}^\infty$  only returns to the origin a finite # of times:

$P[\exists C : \text{there are at most } C \text{ returns}] = 1$  (exer!)  
 (or:  $P[\text{visit } \tilde{V}_0 \text{ } \infty \text{ many times}] = 0$ )  
 (Wrong!)

Thus  $P[\exists C : |d_t - d'_t| \leq C] = 1$ . Therefore,

$\forall \alpha \quad P\left[\frac{d_t - d'_t}{\sqrt{t}} \leq \alpha\right] \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} 1$ , or in other

words  $\frac{d_t - d'_t}{\sqrt{t}} \xrightarrow{\text{dist.}} \delta_0$  (Dirac) (constant 0).

Thus,  $\frac{d_t - t\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} = \frac{d_t - d'_t}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} + \frac{d'_t - t\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} \xrightarrow{\text{dist.}} \mathcal{N}(0,1)$  (complete the details)  
 $\Downarrow \delta_0$   $\Downarrow \mathcal{N}(0,1)$   $\square$

Claim: Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$ . There exist  $C = C_{k,\varepsilon}$  s.t. at

$\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \leftarrow t_0 = \frac{k+1}{k-1} \log_k n - C \sqrt{\log_k n}$

we have  $P[d_{t_0} > r_0] \leq 2\varepsilon$  for  $n$  large enough.

Proof: Take  $t = t_0$ .  $P[d_t > r_0] = P\left[\frac{d_t - t\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} > \frac{r_0 - t\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}\sigma}\right]$

$\frac{r_0 - t\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} = \frac{\cancel{\log n} - 2\log \log n - (\cancel{\log n} - \varepsilon C \sqrt{\log n})}{\sqrt{t}\sigma}$

for  $n$  large enough  $\rightarrow \frac{\varepsilon(c-1)\sqrt{\log n}}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} \geq \frac{(c-1)\sqrt{\log n}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\log n}\sigma} = \frac{(c-1)\varepsilon^{3/2}}{\sigma}$

so  $\mathbb{P}[d_t > r_0] \leq \mathbb{P}\left[\frac{d_t - t\varepsilon}{\sqrt{t}\sigma} > \frac{(c-1)\varepsilon^{3/2}}{\sqrt{t}\sigma}\right]$  30/6/20

$\leq \mathbb{P}\left[\mathcal{N}(0,1) > \frac{(c-1)\varepsilon^{3/2}}{\sigma}\right] + \varepsilon \leq 2\varepsilon.$

by choosing  $C$  approp.  $\square$

Claim: At time  $t_0$ ,  $\text{dist}(p^{t_0}, u) > 1 - 3\varepsilon$ .

Pf:  $\text{dist}_T(p^{t_0}, u) \geq u(V \setminus B_{r_0}(v_0)) - p^{t_0}(V \setminus B_{r_0}(v_0))$

$= \frac{n - |B_{r_0}(v_0)|}{n} - \mathbb{P}[v_{t_0} \notin B_{r_0}(v_0)]$

$\geq 1 - \varepsilon - \mathbb{P}[\tilde{v}_{t_0} \notin B_{r_0}(\tilde{v}_0)]$  if  $\tilde{v}_t \in B_r$  then  $v_t \in B_r$

$= 1 - \varepsilon - \mathbb{P}[d_{t_0} > r_0] \geq 1 - 3\varepsilon. \quad \square$

Upper bound on mixing time (Note: until now we didn't assume Raman.)

Recall that at  $r_1 = \log_k n + 3 \log_k \log_k n$

we had NBRW came  $\varepsilon$ -close to  $u$ , by

$\sqrt{n(k+1)} \left\| \left(\frac{B}{k}\right)^{r_1} \Big|_{\mathbb{1}^\perp} \right\|_2 \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0.$

I want to think of NBRW as a process on  $V$ :

define  $H: \mathbb{R}^{E^\pm} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^V$   $(Hf)(v) = \sum_{v \rightarrow w} f(v \rightarrow w)$   
 $(S = H^T)$   $S: \mathbb{R}^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{E^\pm}$   $(Sf)(v \rightarrow w) = \frac{1}{k+1} f(v)$

Obs.: the dist.  $P_{NB}^r$  of NBRW on  $V$  after  $r$  steps starting at  $v_0$  is  $P_{NB}^r = H \left( \frac{B^T}{k} \right)^r S \underbrace{\mathbb{1}_{v_0}}_{\frac{1}{k+1} \mathbb{1}_{\{v_0 \rightarrow *\}}}$ .

The thing is we still have

$$\frac{\sqrt{n}}{2} \left\| H \left( \frac{B^T}{k} \right)^r S (\mathbb{1}_{v_0} - u) \right\|_2 \leq \frac{\|H\|_2 \|S\|_2 \sqrt{n}}{2} \left\| \left( \frac{B^T}{k} \right)^r \mathbb{1}_{\perp} \right\| \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

so for  $n$  large enough  $\boxed{\text{dist}_{TV}(P_{NB}^r, u) < \varepsilon}$ .

Idea: "SRW of  $t$  steps should behave like NBRW of  $r = \frac{k-1}{k+1} t$  steps"

Formally: define  $t_1 = \frac{k+1}{k-1} \log_k n + C \sqrt{\log_k n}$

(same  $C$  as in  $t_0$ ). Convince yourself

that  $P[d_{t_1} < r_1] < 2\varepsilon$  for  $n$  large enough.

Now,  $p^t(v) = \sum_{\substack{r=0 \\ r \equiv t \pmod{2}}}^t P[v_t = v \mid d_t = r] P[d_t = r]$

define  $p_r^t(v) = P[v_t = v \mid d_t = r]$  so  $p^t = \sum p_r^t P[d_t = r]$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{So } \|p^t - u\|_{TV} &= \left\| \sum_{r=0}^t \mathbb{P}[d_t=r] (p_r^t - u) \right\|_{TV} \\
&\leq \sum_{r=0}^t \mathbb{P}[d_t=r] \|p_r^t - u\|_{TV} \\
&\leq \mathbb{P}[d_t < r_1] + \sum_{r=r_1}^t \mathbb{P}[d_t=r] \|p_r^t - u\|_{TV} \\
&\stackrel{t=t_1}{\leq} 2\varepsilon + \max_{r_1 \leq r \leq t_1} \|p_r^t - u\|_{TV}.
\end{aligned}$$

So it is left to show that for any  $r_1 \leq r \leq t_1$ ,  $\|p_r^t - u\|_{TV} < \varepsilon$ , in order to obtain that

$\text{dist}(p^{t_1}, u) < 3\varepsilon$  for  $n$  large enough.

so in  $\left[ \frac{k+1}{k-1} \log_k n \pm C_\varepsilon \sqrt{\log_k n} \right]$  we got from TV dist.  $1-3\varepsilon$  to  $3\varepsilon$ .

Back to  $p_r^t$ : I claim that

$$p_r^t(v) = \frac{|\{\tilde{v} \in S_r(\tilde{v}_0) \mid p(\tilde{v}) = v\}|}{|S_r(\tilde{v}_0)|}$$

Why? SRW on  $T_{k+1}$ , starting from  $\tilde{v}_0$ , gives the same prob. to the entire  $r$ -sphere around  $\tilde{v}_0$ , so  $p_r^t(v) = \mathbb{P}[v_t = v | d_t = r]$

$$= \mathbb{P}[\tilde{v}_t \in p^{-1}(v) | d_t = r] = \frac{|p^{-1}(v) \cap S_r(\tilde{v}_0)|}{|S_r(\tilde{v}_0)|}$$

(assuming  $r \leq t$   
 $r \equiv t \pmod{2}$ ).

In particular,  $p_r^t$  doesn't depend on  $t$ !

Punchline:  $p_r^t = p_{NB}^r$  because pulling both of them to  $T_{k+1}$  gives  $\mathcal{U}(S_r(\tilde{v}_0))!$   
(uniform)

So finally,

$$\text{dist}_{TV}(p_r^t, u) = \text{dist}_{TV}(p_{NB}^r, u) \stackrel{r \geq r_1}{\leq} d(p_{NB}^{r_1}, u) < \varepsilon$$

for  $r \geq r_1 = \log n + 3 \log \log n$ .

— Fin —

# Expander graphs (80571) – Exercise 1

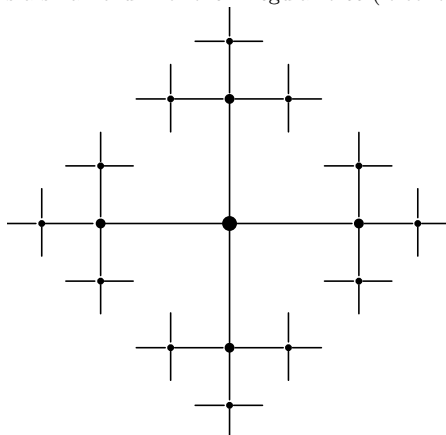
Unless stated otherwise,  $G = (V, E)$  is a  $k$ -regular graph with  $n < \infty$  vertices.

- (1) (a) Prove that if  $Af = kf$  then  $f$  is *locally constant*, namely:  $f(v) = f(w)$  whenever  $v \sim w$ .  
 (b) Prove that if  $\lambda_2 = k$  then  $G$  is disconnected.  
 (c) Optional: Prove that the multiplicity (number of appearances) of  $k$  in  $\text{Spec}(A)$  equals the number of connected components of  $G^{(\dagger)}$ .
- (2) (a) Prove that if  $G$  is connected and  $-k \in \text{Spec}(A)$  then  $G$  is bipartite.  
 (b) Optional: Find what is the multiplicity of  $-k$  in  $\text{Spec}(A)$ .
- (3) (Infinite graphs!) Let  $G = T_k$  be the  $k$ -regular tree<sup>(‡)</sup>.  
 (a) For  $k = 2$  (where you can take  $V(T_2) = \mathbb{Z}$ ), show there exists a **non-constant** function with  $Af = 2f$ . (compare this with question 1(a) and 1(b)).  
 (b) Show that for **every**  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  there exists a non-zero function on the vertices  $f: V(T_k) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $Af = \lambda f$ .
- (4) Assume  $G$  is a bipartite  $\varepsilon$ -expander. Show that SRW on  $G$  with a lazy first step satisfies  $\|P_t - \mathbf{u}\| \leq \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{k}\right)^{t-1}$ .

---

(†) You can check the definition in [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Component\\_\(graph\\_theory\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Component_(graph_theory)) - in general wikipedia is a good place to look for definitions you forgot, but you can always email me.

(‡) A tree is a connected graph with no cycles. There is a unique  $k$ -regular tree (think about it), and it is infinite. Do not be confused with computer science “ $k$ -regular tree” which can have leaves at the “bottom”, and a “root” vertex with different degree. Here is a small chunk of the 4-regular tree (it continues in all directions):



## Expander graphs (80571) – Exercise 2

- (1) Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $S \subseteq G$  a symmetric set ( $S^{-1} = S$ ).
  - (a) Show that  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is connected iff  $\langle S \rangle = G$ .
  - (b) Assuming  $\langle S \rangle = G$ , show that  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  is bipartite iff there exists a (normal) subgroup  $H \leq G$  of index two, such that  $S \subseteq G \setminus H$ .
- (2) For each  $\Gamma_n = \text{Cay}(D_n, \{\sigma, \sigma^{-1}, \tau\})$ ,<sup>(†)</sup> construct a (non-constant) eigenfunction with eigenvalue  $\lambda \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 3$ , showing that  $\Gamma_n$  do not form a family of expanders (or bipartite expanders).
- (3) Assume  $G$  is a finite **non-regular** graph, with no vertices of degree zero. Define  $D: \mathbb{R}^V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^V$  by  $(Df)(v) = \deg(v)f(v)$ , and  $M = D^{-1}A$ . Put on  $\mathbb{R}^V$  the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \sum_{v \in V} \deg(v) f(v) g(v).$$

- (a) Show that  $M$  is self-adjoint (w.r.t. the inner product above!), and deduce that its spectrum is real and that  $\mathbb{R}^V$  has an O.N.B. of  $M$ -eigenvectors.
- (b) Show that if  $P_t$  is the distribution of SRW at time  $t$ , then  $P_{t+1} = M^T P_t$ .
- (c) Recall that  $M$  and  $M^T$  have the same eigenvalues (for general  $M$ ). For our  $M$ , show that  $\text{Spec}(M) \subseteq [-1, 1]$  and find an eigenvector with eigenvalue 1 for  $M$ , and for  $M^T$  (these are not the same eigenvectors!)
- (d) Show that 1 appears once in  $\text{Spec}(M)$  iff  $G$  is connected, and that if  $G$  is connected then  $-1 \in \text{Spec}(M)$  iff  $G$  is bipartite. What is the limit distribution of SRW on  $G$ , when  $G$  is connected and non-bipartite?  
Hint: show that  $M^t$  is self-adjoint w.r.t. the inner product  $\langle f, g \rangle = \sum_{v \in V} \frac{f(v)g(v)}{\deg(v)}$ .

---

<sup>(†)</sup>The Dihedral group  $D_n$  is the symmetry group of a regular  $n$ -gon;  $\sigma$  denotes rotation by  $\frac{2\pi}{n}$ , and  $\tau$  a reflection.

# Expander graphs (80571) – Exercise 3

April 21, 2020

As always  $G$  is  $k$ -regular with  $n$  vertices.

- (1) (a) Prove the slightly stronger version of the Expander Mixing Lemma: for  $S, T \subseteq V$  in a  $\varepsilon$ -expander,

$$\left| |E(S, T)| - \frac{k |S| |T|}{n} \right| \leq \varepsilon \sqrt{|S| \left(1 - \frac{|S|}{n}\right) |T| \left(1 - \frac{|T|}{n}\right)}$$

- (b) Taking  $T = \bar{S}$ , conclude that for an  $\varepsilon$ -expander  $G$

$$h'(G) = \min_{\emptyset \neq S \subsetneq V} \frac{|\partial S| n}{|S| |\bar{S}|} \geq k - \varepsilon.$$

- (2) Let  $G$  be a bipartite  $\varepsilon$ -expander, with  $V = R \sqcup L$ .

- (a) Prove that for  $S \subseteq R$  and  $T \subseteq L$ ,

$$\left| |E(S, T)| - \frac{2k |S| |T|}{n} \right| \leq \varepsilon \sqrt{|S| |T|}$$

- (b) Optional: find an improvement as in question 1.

# Expander graphs (80571) – Exercise 4

May 29, 2020

In all questions  $G = (V, E)$  has  $n$  vertices and no loops/multiple-edges.

It does not have to be regular.

Eigenvalues:  $\lambda_i$  - Adjacency,  $\mu_i$  - Markov ( $D^{-1}A$ ),  $\gamma_i$  - Laplacian ( $\Delta = D - A$ ).

- (1) Define the *Edge Laplacian*  $\Delta_e \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \delta\delta^* : \Omega(G) \rightarrow \Omega(G)$  (recall that  $\Delta = \delta^*\delta$ ).
  - (a) Show that  $f \in \ker \Delta_e$  iff  $f$  obeys “Kirchhoff’s law”, namely the total incoming/outgoing flow at every vertex is zero.
  - (b) As discussed in class, choosing a direction for each edge in  $G$  gives a basis for  $\Omega(G)$ . Show that the various possible choices all end up in the same matrix representation for  $\Delta$  (but not so for  $\delta$ ,  $\delta^*$ ,  $\Delta_e$ ).
  - (c) Show that  $\text{Spec}(\Delta_e) = \text{Spec}(\Delta) \sqcup \underbrace{\{0, \dots, 0\}}_{|E| - |V| \text{ times}}$ .
- (2) While different choices of edge directions give different matrices for  $\Delta_e$ , the absolute values of the entries remain the same (check this). Recall that for a  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$

$$\|A\|_1 := \max_{v \neq 0} \frac{\|Av\|_1}{\|v\|_1} = \max_j \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m |a_{ij}| \right\}, \quad \|A\|_\infty := \max_{v \neq 0} \frac{\|Av\|_\infty}{\|v\|_\infty} = \max_i \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}| \right\},$$

and show that

$$\|\Delta_e\|_1 = \|\Delta_e\|_\infty = \max_{v \sim w} \{\deg(v) + \deg(w)\}.$$

Using the inequality  $\|A\| \leq \sqrt{\|A\|_1 \|A\|_\infty}$  (which you are welcome to prove if you never did), conclude that

$$\gamma_n \leq \max_{v \sim w} \{\deg(v) + \deg(w)\}.$$

Optional: prove this is an equality iff  $G$  is bipartite with each side having a constant degree.

- (3) Prove as much as you can from the following, or find other bounds:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{v \in V} \deg(v) &\leq \lambda_1 & \lambda_1 &\leq \max_{v \in V} \deg(v) \\ \sqrt{\max_{v \in V} \deg(v)} &\leq \lambda_1 & & \\ \max_{v \in V} \deg(v) + 1 &\leq \gamma_n & \gamma_n &\leq n \\ \lambda_2 < 0 &\Rightarrow G = K_n & & \end{aligned}$$

Hints (in white color):

Optional: if  $G$  has no triangles (loops of length three) then  $\lambda_n \leq -\sqrt{\max_{v \in V} \deg(v)}$ .

# Expander graphs (80571) – Exercise 5

June 1, 2020

- (1) For a word  $w \in \mathbf{F}_{k/2}$  we denoted  $p_w = \mathbb{P}[w(\sigma)(1) = 1] - \frac{1}{n}$ , where  $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{k/2})$  are random uniform independent permutations in  $S_n$ .
- (a) Show that  $p_w = \mathbb{P}[w(\sigma)(j) = j] - \frac{1}{n}$  for any  $1 \leq j \leq n$ .
  - (b) Show that  $p_w = p_{w'}$  when  $w'$  is the cyclic reduction of  $w$ .
  - (c) Show that  $p_{x_1^m} = \frac{d(m)-1}{n}$  (for  $m \leq n$ ) where  $d(m)$  is the number of divisors of  $m$ .
  - (d) Show that  $p_w = p_{\varphi(w)}$  for any  $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbf{F}_{k/2})$  (this gives another proof for (b)).
- (2) The De Bruijn graph  $G_{k,s}$  is the  $k$ -regular **directed graph** with

$$\begin{aligned} V_{G_{k,s}} &= [k]^s & ([k] &= \{1, \dots, k\}) \\ E_{G_{k,s}} &= \{(a_1, \dots, a_s) \rightarrow (a_2, \dots, a_s, t) \mid a_i, t \in [k]\}. \end{aligned}$$

Show that  $\text{Spec } A_{G_{k,s}} = \{k, 0, \dots, 0\}$ , and deduce that no analogue of the Alon-Boppana theorem holds for directed graphs.

- (3) (Alon-Boppana) We'll show that the second Laplacian eigenvalue  $\gamma_2$  of ( $k$ -regular)  $G$  satisfies

$$\gamma_2 < k - 2\sqrt{k-1} + \frac{2\sqrt{k-1} - 1}{\left\lfloor \frac{\text{diam}(G)}{2} \right\rfloor - 1}. \quad (1)$$

- (a) Show that  $\text{diam}(G) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n = |V| \rightarrow \infty$ , and deduce that (1) implies the Alon-Boppana theorem as stated in class<sup>(†)</sup>.
- (b) Fix  $v \in V$ , and denote

$$\begin{aligned} S_j &= S_j(v) = \{w \in V \mid \text{dist}(v, w) = j\} & s_j &= |S_j| \\ E_j &= E(S_j, S_{j+1}) & e_j &= |E(S_j, S_{j+1})|. \end{aligned}$$

Fix  $b \in \mathbb{N}$ , denote  $\rho = \sqrt{k-1}$ , and define  $f^v: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$f^v(w) = \begin{cases} 1 & w = v \\ \rho^{1-j} & w \in S_j, 1 \leq j \leq b \\ 0 & w \in S_j, b < j. \end{cases}$$

Show that (note both sums **include**  $j = b$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \|f^v\|^2 &= 1 + \sum_{j=1}^b s_j \rho^{2-2j} \\ \|\delta f^v\|^2 &= (\rho-1)^2 \sum_{j=1}^b e_j \rho^{-2j} + (2\rho-1) e_b \rho^{-2b}. \end{aligned}$$

- (c) For  $j \geq 1$  show that  $e_j \leq \rho^2 s_j$  and  $s_{j+1} \leq \rho^2 s_j$ , and deduce also that  $s_b \leq \frac{1}{b} \sum_{j=1}^b \rho^{2(b-j)} s_j$ .
- (d) Combine (b) and (c) to show that

$$\|\delta f^v\|^2 < \left( (\rho-1)^2 + \frac{2\rho-1}{b} \right) \|f^v\|^2 = \left( k - 2\sqrt{k-1} + \frac{2\sqrt{k-1} - 1}{b} \right) \|f^v\|^2.$$

- (e) Now, let  $v, w \in V$  be vertices with  $\text{dist}(v, w) = \text{diam}(G)$ , and fix  $b = \left\lfloor \frac{\text{diam}(G)}{2} \right\rfloor - 1$ . Show that  $f^v \perp f^w$  and  $\delta f^v \perp \delta f^w$ . Take  $f = f^v + \alpha f^w$  with  $\alpha$  for which  $f \perp \mathbb{1}$ , and use it to deduce (1).

---

<sup>(†)</sup>In fact it is stronger, as it addresses  $\lambda_2$  and not only  $\lambda = \max(\lambda_2, |\lambda_n|)$ .

# Expander graphs (80571) – Exercise 6

September 8, 2020

- (1) For a  $(k+1)$ -regular Ramanujan graph, let  $Af = \lambda f$  with  $\|f\| = 1$  and  $\lambda \notin \{\pm 2\sqrt{k}, \pm(k+1)\}$ . We showed that in some ONB  $\mathcal{B}$

$$[B_\lambda]_{\mathcal{B}} = [B|_{\langle f^+, f^- \rangle}]_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} \vartheta^+ & b \\ 0 & \vartheta^- \end{pmatrix},$$

with  $|\vartheta^+| = |\vartheta^-| = \sqrt{k}$  and  $|b| \leq k$ .

- (a) Show that  $\|f^h\|^2 = \|f^t\|^2 = k+1$ , and  $\langle f^h, f^t \rangle = \lambda$ .
  - (b) Define  $f^\perp = f^h - \frac{\vartheta^-}{k} f^t$ , and show that  $f^+ \perp f^\perp$ ,<sup>(†)</sup> and that  $[B_\lambda]_{\{f^+, f^\perp\}} = \begin{bmatrix} \vartheta^+ & \frac{(1-k)}{k} \vartheta^- \\ 0 & \vartheta^- \end{bmatrix}$ .<sup>(‡)</sup>
  - (c) Show that  $\|f^+\|^2 = (k+1)^2 - \lambda^2$  and  $\|f^\perp\|^2 = \frac{(k+1)^2 - \lambda^2}{k}$ , and compute  $[B_\lambda]_{\mathcal{B}}$  completely. Verify you got  $|b| = k-1$ , showing that our naive bound  $|b| \leq k$  was almost optimal.
  - (d) Optional: Verify from your computation that  $\|B_\lambda\|_2 = k$  (we already know this, since we saw that  $k$  appears  $n$  times in  $\text{Sing}(B)$ , and  $(n-1)$  of these have to come from the  $B_\lambda$ -blocks).
  - (e) Optional: Compute  $\|B^t\|_2$  precisely (by computing  $\|B_\lambda^t\|_2$ ), using some software (or if you are brave, by hand).
- (2) (a) We proved that for a  $k$ -regular graph/digraph,  $\|p_t^{v_0} - \mathbf{u}\|_1 \geq 2-2\varepsilon$  when  $t = \log_k n - \log_k(1/\varepsilon)$ . Prove that  $\text{dist}_{TV}(p_t^{v_0}, \mathbf{u}) \geq 1 - \varepsilon$  directly from the definition of  $\text{dist}_{TV}$ .
- (b) Prove that  $\text{dist}_{TV}(p, p') = \frac{1}{2} \|p - p'\|_1$  (for distributions  $p, p'$ ).
- (3) Let  $X_t$  be a positively-biased walk on  $\mathbb{N}$ , namely,  $X_t = 1$  when  $X_{t-1} = 0$ , and when  $X_{t-1} \neq 0$ ,

$$X_t \sim \begin{cases} X_{t-1} + 1 & \text{with probability } p \\ X_{t-1} - 1 & \text{with probability } 1 - p \end{cases}$$

with  $p > \frac{1}{2}$ .

- (a) Show that with probability one, the walk returns to 0 only a finite number of times.
- (b) Deduce that with probability one SRW on the  $k$ -regular tree ( $k \geq 3$ ) returns to the starting point only a finite number of times.
- (c) Optional: for  $n \geq 1$ , compute the probability that  $X_{t+1}, X_{t+2}, \dots \geq n$  given that  $X_t = n$ .

---

<sup>(†)</sup>Where did  $-\frac{\vartheta^-}{k}$  come from? I solved  $\langle f^+, f^h + x f^t \rangle = 0$  for you as it is a bit tedious, but you can do it yourself if you want to see all the details.

<sup>(‡)</sup>Tip: we computed  $Bf_\alpha = -\alpha f^h + (k + \alpha\lambda) f^t$  in class, and  $f^\perp = f - \frac{\vartheta^-}{k}$ .

# Expander graphs (80571) – Final Assignment

September 8, 2020

Two cycles (=closed paths) in a graph are called equivalent if one is obtained from the other by a cyclic rotation, or in other words, by starting from a different point in it; we denote by  $[\gamma]$  the equivalence class of  $\gamma$ . A cycle is called cyclically nonbacktracking (CNB) if it is nonbacktracking and so are also the cycles equivalent to it. A cycle is called primitive if it is CNB, and it is not obtained by repeating some cycle twice or more times. Finally, a prime in a graph  $G$  is an equivalence class of primitive cycles. The *Ihara zeta function* of a finite connected graph  $G$  is defined by

$$\zeta_G(u) = \prod_{[\gamma]} \frac{1}{1 - u^{\text{len}(\gamma)}},$$

where the product is over all primes in  $G$ . It is not a priori clear that the product converges for any  $u \in \mathbb{C}$ , but Ihara showed (and you will too) that  $\zeta_G$  is actually given by a rational function, for  $u$  small enough.

- (1) (a) **(5)** Show that for  $n \geq 3$  the  $n$ -cycle graph  $C_n$  has two primes, and Compute  $\zeta_{C_n}$ .
- (b) **(5)** The cycle rank of a connected graph is  $r(G) = |E| - |V| + 1$ . Show that any (connected) graph with  $r(G) \geq 2$  has infinitely many primes (hint: think first on a  $\infty$  shaped graph).
- (c) **(5)** Recall Riemann's zeta function,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \zeta(s) = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \frac{1}{1 - p^{-s}},$$

and sketch the argument why unique factorization in  $\mathbb{N}$  implies that these two expression are indeed equal (for  $s > 1$ ). Allow yourself to ignore all issues of convergence.

- (d) **(5)** Show that in graphs a “product” (namely, concatenation) of primes **can** be a prime, so in particular, there is no unique factorization. On the other hand, show that every CNB cycle can be uniquely written as a power of a primitive cycle.
- (e) **(10)** Let  $N_G(n)$  be the number of CNB cycles of length  $n$  in  $G$ . Show that for  $|u| < 1$ ,

$$\ln \zeta_G(u) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{N_G(n)}{n} \cdot u^n.$$

You may be sloppy about convergence issues, as before. Hint: use Taylor for  $\ln(1 - x)$ .

- (f) **(10)** Show that  $N_G(n) = \text{tr}(B^n)$  (where  $B = B_G$  is the nonbacktracking walk operator on directed edges), and use this to deduce Hashimoto's theorem (1989):

$$\zeta_G(u) = \prod_{\vartheta \in \text{Spec}(B)} \frac{1}{1 - \vartheta u} = \frac{1}{\det(I - uB)}$$

for  $u$  small enough (every  $\vartheta$  repeats in  $\text{Spec}(B)$  according to its algebraic multiplicity).<sup>(†)</sup>

---

<sup>(†)</sup>Note that we now discovered that  $\zeta_G(u)$  coincides with a rational function on an open set, so it can be analytically continued to a meromorphic function.

(g) **(5)** Assuming that  $G$  is  $(k+1)$ -regular, deduce Ihara's theorem (1966):

$$\zeta_G(u) = \frac{1}{(1-u^2)^{r(G)-1} \det(I - uA + u^2 kI)}.$$

(h) **(5)** Deduce Sunada's observation (1986) that Ramanujan graphs satisfy a sort of "Riemann hypothesis": assuming  $G$  is  $(k+1)$ -regular, it is Ramanujan iff every pole of  $\zeta_G(u)$  with  $0 < \Re(-\log_k u) < 1$  satisfies  $\Re(-\log_k u) = \frac{1}{2}$ .

(2) For  $K \geq k \geq 3$ , let  $G = (L \sqcup R, E)$  be a connected bipartite  $(K+1, k+1)$ -biregular graph.<sup>(†)</sup> Namely,  $\deg|_L \equiv K+1$  and  $\deg|_R \equiv k+1$ . Denote  $n = |L|$  (so that  $|R| = \frac{K+1}{k+1}n$ ).

(a) **(5)** Show that  $\mathbf{p} := \sqrt{(K+1)(k+1)}$  and  $-\mathbf{p}$  are eigenvalues of  $A := A_G$ , and that every  $\lambda \in \text{Spec}(A)$  satisfies  $|\lambda| \leq \mathbf{p}$ .<sup>(‡)</sup>

(b) **(5)** Show that the multiplicity of  $0 \in \text{Spec } A_G$  is at least  $\frac{K-k}{k+1}n$ .

(c) **(15)** Assume  $Af = \lambda f$  with  $f \neq 0$  and  $0 < \lambda < \mathbf{p}$ .<sup>(§)</sup> Construct eigenfunctions  $f^{\pm\pm}$  of  $B = B_G$  with eigenvalues

$$\vartheta^{\pm\pm} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \left( \lambda^2 - K - k \pm \sqrt{\lambda^4 - 2(K+k)\lambda^2 + (K-k)^2} \right)}$$

(or simpler,  $\vartheta^{\pm\pm}$  are the roots of  $z^4 + (K+k-\lambda^2)z^2 + Kk$ ).

(d) **(5)** Check what happens if you take  $\lambda = \mathbf{p}$  in the last question (How many eigenfunctions do you get? With which  $\vartheta$ ?)

(e) **(10)** For  $0 \leq \lambda \leq \mathbf{p}$ , show that  $|\vartheta^{\pm\pm}| \leq \sqrt[4]{Kk}$  iff  $\lambda \in [\sqrt{K} - \sqrt{k}, \sqrt{K} + \sqrt{k}]$ . (Do you see the significance of  $\sqrt[4]{Kk}$ ?)

Remark: This connects to the regular case as follows: the adjacency spectrum of the  $(k+1)$ -regular tree is  $\text{Spec}(A_{T_{k+1}}) = [-2\sqrt{k}, 2\sqrt{k}]$  (the "Ramanujan region"), and that of the  $(K+1, k+1)$ -biregular tree is

$$\text{Spec}(A_{T_{K+1, k+1}}) = [-\sqrt{K} - \sqrt{k}, -\sqrt{K} + \sqrt{k}] \cup \{0\} \cup [\sqrt{K} - \sqrt{k}, \sqrt{K} + \sqrt{k}].$$

(f) **(10)** Show that for  $\lambda \neq \sqrt{K} \pm \sqrt{k}$  the four eigenfunctions  $f^{\pm\pm}$  are independent.

(g) **(25)** Study what happens for  $\lambda = 0$ , and show that

$$\text{Spec}(B) \subseteq \left\{ z \mid |z| \leq \sqrt[4]{Kk} \right\} \cup \left\{ \pm\sqrt{Kk} \right\}$$

iff  $\text{Spec}(A) \subseteq \text{Spec}(A_{T_{K+1, k+1}}) \cup \{\pm\mathbf{p}\}$  and the multiplicity of  $0 \in \text{Spec } A_G$  is exactly  $\frac{K-k}{k+1}n$ .<sup>(¶)</sup>

<sup>(†)</sup>Recommendation: reread what we did in class for bipartite graphs at page 10 of the course notes.

<sup>(‡)</sup>This is called the "Perron-Frobenius" eigenvalue of a graph, if you want to read more about it.

<sup>(§)</sup>If you followed my recommendation, you know that there is also  $f'$  with  $Af' = -\lambda f'$ .

<sup>(¶)</sup>You may assume that  $\sqrt{K} \pm \sqrt{k} \notin \text{Spec}(A)$  - these are a headache.

A (Linear) Error-Correcting Code is a subspace  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathbb{F}_2^n$ . The *distance* of  $\mathcal{C}$  is

$$\text{dist}_{\mathcal{C}} := \min \left\{ \text{dist}_{\text{Ham}}(v, v') \mid \begin{matrix} v, v' \in \mathcal{C} \\ v \neq v' \end{matrix} \right\} = \min \left\{ \|v - v'\|_{\text{Ham}} \mid \begin{matrix} v, v' \in \mathcal{C} \\ v \neq v' \end{matrix} \right\} = \min \{ \|v\|_{\text{Ham}} \mid 0 \neq v \in \mathcal{C} \}$$

(where Ham stands for Hamming distance). The idea is that if  $v \in \mathcal{C}$  was transmitted via a noisy medium, as long as less than  $\text{dist}_{\mathcal{C}}$  bits were changed, the distorted message is **not** in  $\mathcal{C}$ , and thus the receiver can deduce that an error occurred<sup>(†)</sup>. Some common terminology:

- $n$  is called the block length of the code
- $\dim \mathcal{C}$  is the message length (think why)
- $r_{\mathcal{C}} = \frac{\dim \mathcal{C}}{n}$  is the rate
- $\delta_{\mathcal{C}} = \frac{\text{dist}_{\mathcal{C}}}{n}$  is the relative distance

A family of codes is called good if the rates, and the relative distances of the codes in the family are bounded away from zero<sup>(‡)</sup>.

- (3) Fix a code  $\mathcal{B}$  (the “Base code”) of block length  $k$ . Given a  $k$ -regular graph  $G$  on  $m$  vertices, for each vertex  $v$  choose an arbitrary order  $e_1^v, \dots, e_k^v$  on the edges touching  $v$ . Define a code with block length  $n = km/2$ , by identifying  $\mathbb{F}_2^n = \mathbb{F}_2^{E(G)}$  and taking

$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_G = \left\{ f \in \mathbb{F}_2^{E(G)} \mid \forall v \in V(G) : (f(e_1^v), \dots, f(e_k^v)) \in \mathcal{B} \right\}.$$

Namely,  $f$  is in  $\mathcal{C}$  if every vertex “sees” a word in  $\mathcal{B}$ . The idea (due to Sipser and Spielman), is that taking a family of very good expanders  $\{G\}$  one gets a good family of codes  $\{\mathcal{C}_G\}$  (which are also LDPC, if you want to read about it).

- (a) **(5)** Show that  $r_{\mathcal{C}} \geq 2r_{\mathcal{B}} - 1$ , so that if  $r_{\mathcal{B}} > \frac{1}{2}$  then  $r_{\mathcal{C}}$  are bounded away from zero<sup>(§)</sup>.  
(b) **(10)** Assume that  $G = (L \sqcup R, E)$  is a bipartite  $\varepsilon$ -expander, and let  $0 \neq f \in \mathcal{C}$ . Define  $S = \left\{ v \in L \mid (f(e_1^v), \dots, f(e_k^v)) \neq \vec{0} \right\}$ , and similarly  $T = \{v \in R \mid \dots\}$ . Show that

$$\delta_{\mathcal{B}} k \sqrt{|S||T|} \leq \|f\|_{\text{Ham}} \leq \frac{2k|S||T|}{m} + \varepsilon \sqrt{|S||T|}.$$

- (c) **(5)** Deduce that for  $0 \neq f \in \mathcal{C}$

$$\|f\|_{\text{Ham}} \geq \delta_{\mathcal{B}} \left( \delta_{\mathcal{B}} - \frac{\varepsilon}{k} \right) \frac{mk}{2},$$

and thus  $\delta_{\mathcal{C}} \geq \delta_{\mathcal{B}} \left( \delta_{\mathcal{B}} - \frac{\varepsilon}{k} \right)$ .

- (d) **(10)** Fix  $m \geq 1$ , and let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a finite field of size  $2^m$ . Recall that the elements of  $\mathbb{F}$  correspond to  $m$ -tuples of bits:  $\mathbb{F} \leftrightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m$ , and that this is also an isomorphism of the additive structure<sup>(¶)</sup>. We shall thus identify  $\mathbb{F}^{2^m}$  ( $2^m$ -tuples of elements from  $\mathbb{F}$ ) with  $(\mathbb{F}_2)^{m2^m}$ . Fix  $1 \leq t \leq 2^m$ , and define the (Reed-Solomon) code

$$\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}_{m,t} = \left\{ (p(0), p(1), \dots, p(2^m - 1)) \mid \begin{matrix} p \in \mathbb{F}[X] \\ \deg p < t \end{matrix} \right\} \leq \mathbb{F}^{2^m} = \mathbb{F}_2^{m2^m}.$$

(so  $\mathcal{R}$  has block length  $m2^m$ ). Show that  $\mathcal{R}$  has rate  $\frac{t}{2^m}$  and distance  $\geq 2^m - t + 1$ .

- (e) **(5)** Find the smallest  $m$  for which the code  $\mathcal{R}$  (with an appropriate  $t$ ) can be used as a base code, so that the Sipser-Spielman construction with Ramanujan graphs  $\{G\}$  will ensure a good family of codes  $\{\mathcal{C}_G\}$ .

<sup>(†)</sup>He can also find the correct message, as long as less than  $\frac{\text{dist}_{\mathcal{C}}}{2}$  bits were changed - think why.

<sup>(‡)</sup>It is common to talk about a “good code”, but like in “expander graph”, the definition requires a family.

<sup>(§)</sup>For example, the oldest code in the book,  $\mathcal{H}$ =Hamming(7,4) (see Wikipedia) has  $r_{\mathcal{H}} = \frac{4}{7}$ .

<sup>(¶)</sup>Multiplication in  $\mathbb{F}$  is done modulo a fixed irreducible polynomial of degree  $m$ , but we don’t need this.

