

# Lecture 10

Testing dense graph properties via SRL:

$\Delta$ -freeness

Begin lower bound

# Density & Regularity of set pairs:

def. For  $A, B \subseteq V$  s.t.

(1)  $A \cap B = \emptyset$

(2)  $|A|, |B| > 1$

Let  $e(A, B) = \# \text{ edges between } A \text{ \& } B$

† density  $d(A, B) = \frac{e(A, B)}{|A| \cdot |B|}$

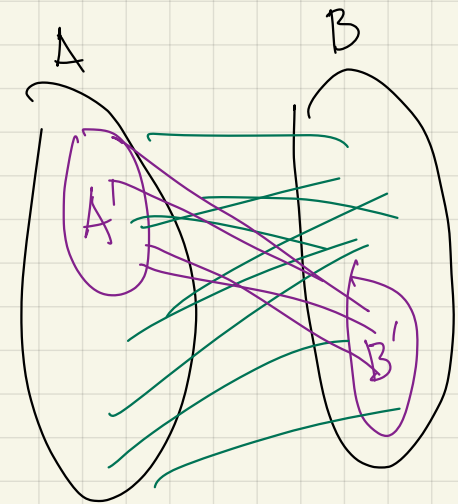
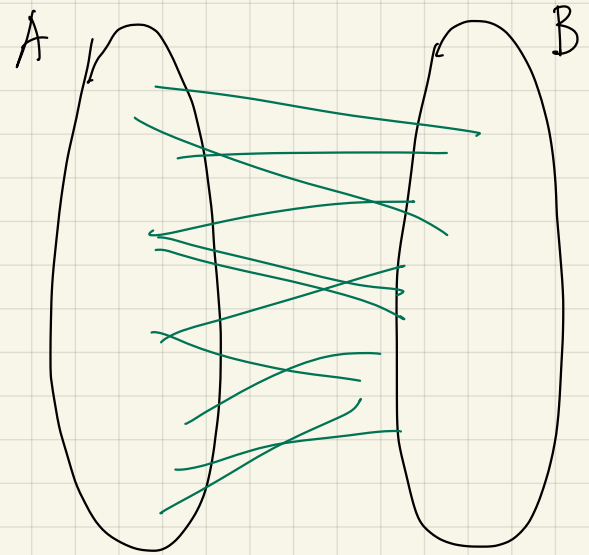
Say  $A, B$  is  $\gamma$ -regular if  $\forall A' \subseteq A, B' \subseteq B$

s.t.  $|A'| \geq \gamma |A|$

$|B'| \geq \gamma |B|$

$$|d(A', B') - d(A, B)| \leq \gamma$$

behaves like  
"random graph"



Lemma ← density

$$\forall \eta > 0$$

assume  $\eta < 1/2$

#triangles → depends only on  $\eta$

$$\exists \gamma = \frac{1}{2}\eta \equiv \gamma^\Delta(\eta)$$

$$\delta = (1-\eta)\frac{\eta^3}{8} \equiv \frac{\eta^3}{16} \equiv \delta^\Delta(\eta)$$

if  $\eta < 1/2$

regularity parameter, depends only on  $\eta$

$$d(A,B) = \frac{e(A,B)}{|A| \cdot |B|}$$

$A, B$  is  $\gamma$ -regular if  $\forall A' \subseteq A, B' \subseteq B$

$$\text{s.t. } |A'| \geq \gamma|A|$$

$$|B'| \geq \gamma|B|$$

$$|d(A',B') - d(A,B)| < \gamma$$

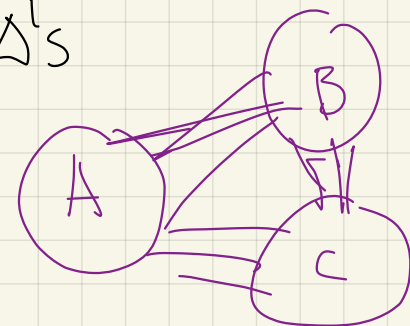
s.t. if  $A, B, C$  disjoint subsets of  $V$  s.t. each pair

is  $\gamma$ -regular with density  $> \eta$

then  $G$  contains  $\geq \delta \cdot |A| \cdot |B| \cdot |C|$

with node in each of  $A, B, C$ .

distinct  $\Delta$ 's



Compare

for random tripartite graphs:

$$\eta^3 \cdot |A| |B| |C|$$

Do interesting graphs have regularity properties?

Yes in some sense all graphs do

Can be approximated as small collection of random regular sets

### Szemerédi's Regularity Lemma

would like it to say:

"one can equipartition nodes of  $V$  into  $V_1 \dots V_k$  (for const  $k$ ) s.t.

all pairs  $(v_i, v_j)$  are  $\epsilon$ -regular"

will get only "most"  
 $\leq \epsilon \binom{k}{2}$   
are not regular

↑  
to be useful  
sometimes need  $k \gg m$   
for some  $m$   
 $k=1$  +  $k=n$  trivial

# Szemerédi's Regularity Lemma: (especially useful version)

$\forall m, \epsilon > 0 \quad \exists T = T(m, \epsilon)$  s.t. given  $G = (V, E)$  s.t.  $|V| > T$

$\downarrow$   $\mathcal{A}$  an equipartition of  $V$  into  $m$  sets  $\leftarrow \#$  is const incl of  $n \ll T$

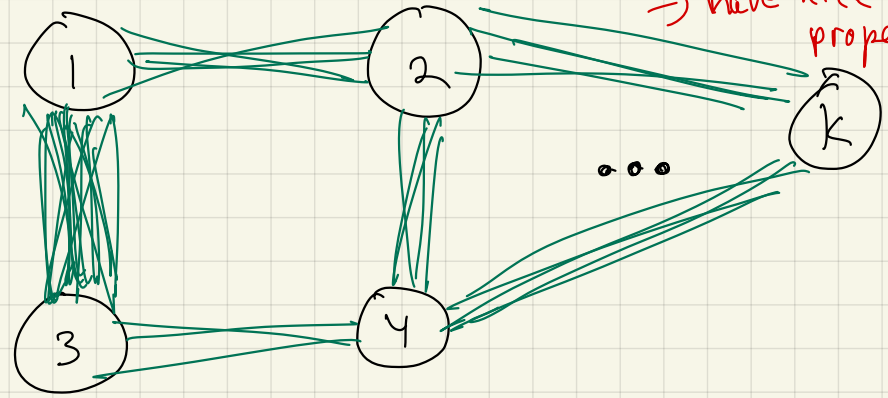
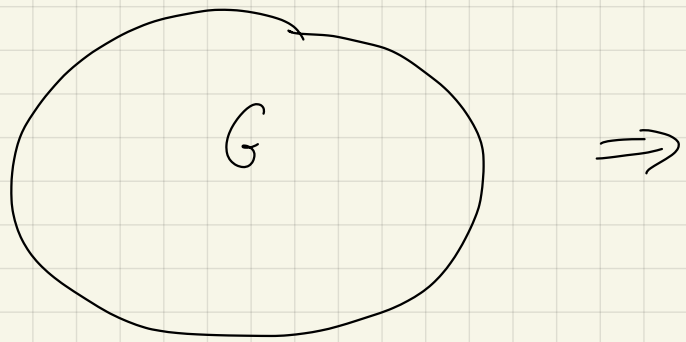
then exists equipartition  $\mathcal{B}$  into  $k$  sets which refines  $\mathcal{A}$

s.t.  $m \leq k \leq T$

$\downarrow \leq \epsilon \binom{k}{2}$  set pairs not  $\epsilon$ -regular

const # partitions  
 $\downarrow$  each pairs behaves like random graph  
 $\Rightarrow$  have nice properties

Note:  $T$  does not depend on  $|V|$



An application of the SRL:

Given  $G$  in adj matrix form

Is it  $\Delta$ -free?

desired behavior: if  $G$  is  $\Delta$ -free, output PASS  
if  $G$  is  $\varepsilon$ -far from  $\Delta$ -free output FAIL with prob  $\geq 3/4$

must delete  $\geq \varepsilon n^2$  edges

1-sided error

Algorithm:

Do

$O(\varepsilon^{-1})$  times:

Pick  $v_1, v_2, v_3 \in_r V$   
if  $\Delta$  reject & halt

Accept

Just because you need to delete  $\geq \varepsilon n^2$  edges, do we know that there are a lot of  $\Delta$ 's ???

$\leftarrow$  fctn of  $\epsilon$  only  
Thm  $\forall \epsilon, \exists \delta$  st.  $\forall G$  st.  $|V|=n$   
 $\wedge$  st.  $G$  is  $\epsilon$ -far from  $\Delta$ -free,  
 then  $G$  has  $\geq \delta \binom{n}{3}$  distinct  $\Delta$ 's

Corr Algorithm has desired behavior

Why?

- if  $\Delta$ -free: we never reject ✓
- if  $\epsilon$ -far from  $\Delta$ -free:  
 $\geq \delta \binom{n}{3}$   $\Delta$ 's

$\Rightarrow$  each loop passes with prob  $\leq 1 - \delta$   
 $\Pr[\text{don't find } \Delta] \leq (1 - \delta)^{c/\delta}$

$$\leq e^{-c} < 1/4$$

$\uparrow$   
 for proper choice of  $c$  ✓

$\Rightarrow$  reject with prob  $\geq 3/4$

Thm  $\forall \varepsilon, \exists \delta$  s.t.  $\forall G$  s.t.  $|V|=n$   
 $\delta$  s.t.  $G$  is  $\varepsilon$ -far from  $\Delta$ -free,  
 then  $G$  has  $\geq \delta \binom{n}{3}$  distinct  $\Delta$ 's

Proof

Use regularity to get equipartition  $\{V_1, \dots, V_k\}$  s.t.

# partitions  $\frac{5}{\varepsilon} \leq k \leq T(\frac{5}{\varepsilon}, \varepsilon')$

need  $\geq \frac{5}{\varepsilon}$  sets in partition  
 so that no set has  $\geq \frac{\varepsilon}{5}$  fraction  
 of nodes

equivalent: size of partitions  $\frac{\varepsilon n}{5} \geq \frac{n}{k} \geq \frac{n}{T(\frac{5}{\varepsilon}, \varepsilon')}$

how? start with arbitrary equipartition into  $5/\varepsilon$  sets

for  $\varepsilon' \equiv \min \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon}{5}, \gamma^\Delta \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{5} \right) \right\}$

s.t.  $\leq \varepsilon' \binom{k}{2}$  pairs not  $\varepsilon'$ -regular



assume  $\frac{n}{k}$  is integer

$G'$  = take  $G$  and

1) delete edges internal to any  $V_i$   
 (if #nodes per partition small, few internal edges)

this is why the  $V_i$ 's need to be small

how many?  $\leq \frac{n}{k} \cdot n \leq \frac{n^2}{k} \leq \frac{\epsilon n^2}{5}$

#edges per node      total # nodes in graph

2) delete edges between  $\epsilon'$ -non regular pairs

how many?  $\leq \epsilon' \binom{k}{2} \left(\frac{n}{k}\right)^2 \leq \frac{\epsilon}{5} \cdot \frac{k^2}{2} \cdot \frac{n^2}{k^2} \leq \frac{\epsilon n^2}{10}$

#irregular pairs      #edge slots per irregular pair

$$\frac{\epsilon n}{5} \geq \frac{n}{k} \geq \frac{n}{T(\frac{\epsilon}{5}, \epsilon')}$$

#nodes in partition

$$d(A, B) = \frac{e(A, B)}{|A| \cdot |B|}$$

$A, B$  is  $\delta$ -regular if  $\forall A' \subseteq A, B' \subseteq B$   
 s.t.  $|A'| \geq \delta |A|$   
 $|B'| \geq \delta |B|$

$$|d(A', B') - d(A, B)| < \delta$$

$$\delta^{\Delta}(\eta) = \frac{1}{2} \eta$$

$$\delta^{\Delta}(\eta) = (1 - \eta) \frac{\eta^3}{8} \approx \frac{\eta^3}{16}$$

$$\epsilon' = \min \left\{ \frac{\epsilon}{5}, \delta^{\Delta} \left( \frac{\epsilon}{5} \right) \right\}$$

$\epsilon \leq \epsilon' \binom{k}{2}$  pairs not  $\epsilon'$ -regular

3) delete edges between low density pairs

how many?

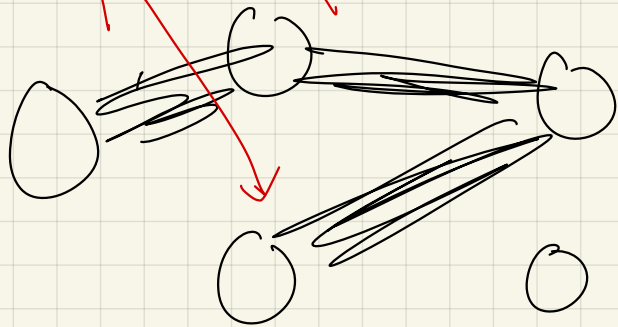
$$\leq \sum \binom{\frac{\epsilon}{5}}{2} \left(\frac{n}{k}\right)^2$$

low density pairs

$$\leq \frac{\epsilon}{5} \binom{n}{2} \approx \frac{\epsilon n^2}{10}$$

note  $\sum \binom{n}{k}^2 \leq \binom{n}{2}$

regular  
density  $\geq \epsilon/5$



Total deleted edges:  $\leq \frac{\epsilon n^2}{5} + \frac{\epsilon n^2}{10} + \frac{\epsilon n^2}{10} < \epsilon n^2$

But  $G$  is  $\epsilon$ -far from  $\Delta$ -free (must delete  $\geq \epsilon n^2$  edges to remove all  $\Delta$ 's)  
so  $G'$  must still have a triangle!

$$\frac{\epsilon n}{5} \geq \frac{n}{k} \geq \frac{n}{T(\frac{\epsilon}{5}, \epsilon')}$$

$$d(A, B) = \frac{e(A, B)}{|A| \cdot |B|}$$

$A, B$  is  $\gamma$ -regular if  $\forall A' \subseteq A, B' \subseteq B$   
s.t.  $|A'| \geq \gamma |A|$   
 $|B'| \geq \gamma |B|$

$$|d(A', B') - d(A, B)| < \gamma$$

$$\epsilon' = \min \left\{ \frac{\epsilon}{5}, \gamma^\Delta \left( \frac{\epsilon}{5} \right) \right\}$$

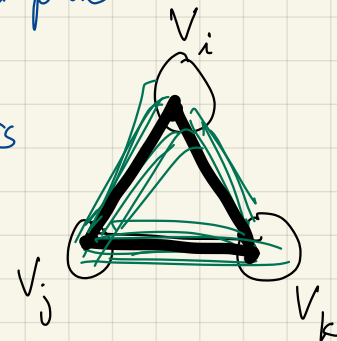
$\forall \leq \epsilon' \binom{n}{2}$  pairs not  $\epsilon'$ -regular

$\Delta$  in  $G'$  must connect:

1) nodes in 3 distinct  $V_i, V_j, V_k$   
since deleted all internal edges

2) regular pairs  
since deleted all edges between irregular pairs

3) high density pairs  
since deleted all edges between low density pairs



$\therefore \exists i, j, k$  distinct st.  $x \in V_i, y \in V_j, z \in V_k$

$V_i, V_j, V_k$  all  $\geq \frac{\epsilon}{5} \stackrel{M}{=} \text{density pairs}$

$\wedge \geq \gamma^{\Delta}(\frac{\epsilon}{5})$ -regular

$$\geq \frac{M}{2} \geq \frac{\epsilon}{10}$$

$\Delta$ -counting lemma  $\Rightarrow$

$$\geq \delta^\Delta \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{5} \right) |V_i| |V_j| |V_k|$$

triangles in  $G'$

where  $\delta^\Delta = (1-\eta) \frac{\eta^3}{8}$

$$\geq \frac{\delta^\Delta \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{5} \right) n^3}{\left( T \left( \frac{5\varepsilon}{2} \varepsilon' \right) \right)^3}$$

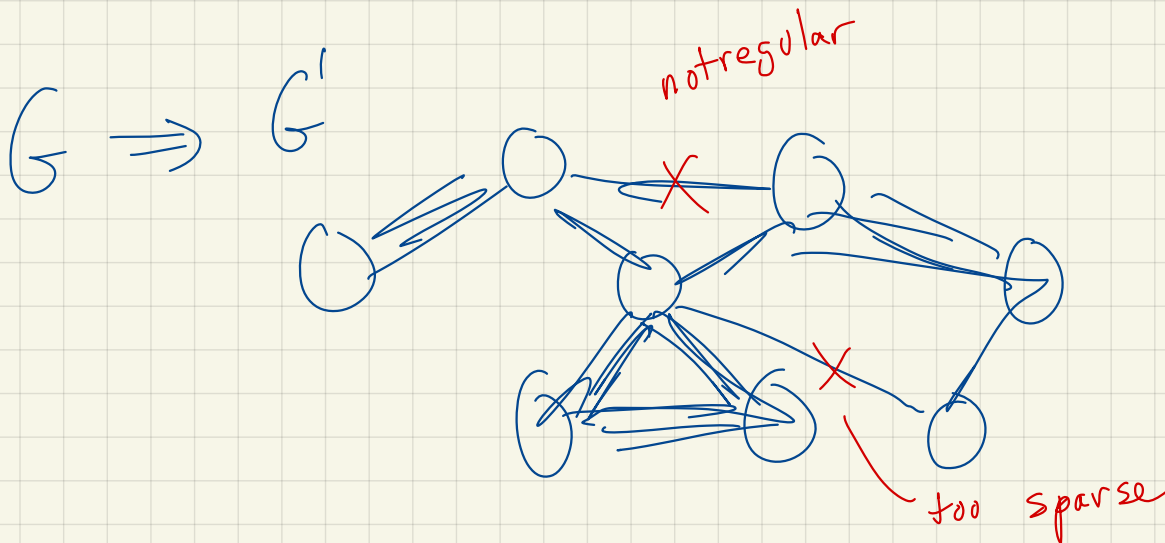
$\Delta$ 's

$$\geq \Omega(\varepsilon^3)$$

$$\geq \delta' \binom{n}{3} \Delta\text{'s in } G' \text{ \& thus in } G$$

for  $\delta' = 6 \delta^\Delta \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{5} \right) \left( T \left( \frac{5\varepsilon}{2} \varepsilon' \right) \right)^3$

~~1/2~~



This is a powerful technique!

• similar lemma to  $\Delta$ -counting holds for all const sized subgraphs

• almost "as is" can use same method to test all

"1st order" graph properties:

$\exists u_1, u_2, u_3, \dots, u_k$

↑  
nodes

$\forall v_1, \dots, v_\ell \quad R(u_1, \dots, u_k, v_1, \dots, v_\ell)$

$R$  defined via  $\wedge, \vee, \neg$  + neighbors

queries to  
adj  
matrix

i.e.  $\forall u_1, u_2, u_3 \quad \neg (u_1 \sim u_2, u_2 \sim u_3, u_3 \sim u_1)$

triangle

more generally,

H-freeness for all const sized H

For dense graphs, testable properties

independent of  $n$

- 1-sided error const time  $\approx$  hereditary graph properties  
(closed under vertex removal: chordal, perfect, interval)

difficulty: infinite set of forbidden subgraphs

- 2-sided error const time  $\approx$  any property that can be reduced to testing if satisfies one of finite # of Szemerédi partitions

Maybe the reason that the dependence on  $\epsilon$  is so bad is that this technique is too "general purpose"?  
Maybe specific properties (e.g.  $\Delta$ -freeness) have better testers?

An intriguing characterization of bipartite graphs:

For graphs in adjacency matrix model:

Thm

[Noga  
Alon]

Complexity of testing  $H$ -freeness property,

- if  $H$  bipartite,  $\text{poly}(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$  is enough
- if  $H$  not bipartite, no  $\text{poly}(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$  suffices



we will prove for  $H = \Delta$

is a terrible dependence  
on  $\epsilon$  required?  
is there a better algorithm?  
even just for testing  $\Delta$ -freeness?



Lower bounds for testing

$\Delta$ -freeness:

No! superpoly dependence on  $\epsilon$  required!

i.e.  $\geq \left(\frac{C}{\epsilon}\right)^{c \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)}$  for some const  $C$



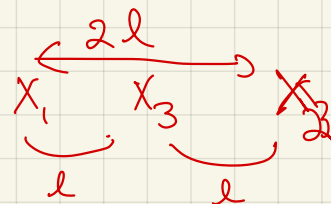
Main tool #1: Additive number theory lemma

Lemma  $\forall m, \exists X < M = \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$  of size  $\geq \frac{m}{e^{10\sqrt{\lg m}}}$

with no nontrivial soln to

no three  
evenly spaced  
points

$$\rightarrow X_1 + X_2 = 2X_3$$



$$X_3 = \frac{X_1 + X_2}{2}$$



will use to construct graphs

which are (1) far from  $\Delta$ -free

(2) any algorithm needs lots (in terms of  $\epsilon$ )  
queries to find  $\Delta$

Lemma  $\forall m, \exists X \subset M = \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$  of size  $\geq \frac{m}{e^{10\sqrt{\log m}}}$

with no nontrivial soln to

$$X_1 + X_2 = 2X_3$$

Examples:

Bad  $X$ :  
 $\{1, 2, 3\}$   
 $\{5, 9, 13\}$

Good  $X$ ?  
 $\{1, 2, 4, 5, \cancel{6}, \cancel{7}, \cancel{8}, \cancel{9}, 10, \dots\}$   $\leftarrow$  how big?  
 $\{1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, \dots\}$   $\leftarrow$  only size  $\log m$

Proof Let  $d$  be integer

$$k \leftarrow \left\lfloor \frac{\log m}{\log d} \right\rfloor - 1$$

Lemma  $\forall m, \exists X \subset M = \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$  of size  $\geq \frac{m}{e^{10\sqrt{\log m}}}$   
with no nontrivial soln to  $X_1 + X_2 = 2X_3$

$$\text{define } X_B = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^k x_i \cdot d^i \mid x_i < \frac{d}{2} \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq k \text{ and } \sum_{i=0}^k x_i^2 = B \right\}$$

view  $X \in M$  in base  $d$   
representation

$$X = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_k)$$

Claim  $X_B \subseteq M$

Pick  $B$  st.  $|X_B|$  maximized:

how big can  $B$  be?

how small can  $|X_B|$  be?

so  $\exists B$  st.  $|X_B| \geq$