

The Typical Structure of Intersecting Families

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1. Definitions

- k -uniform hypergraphs

 $\{1, 2, 3\}$ $\{1, 4, 5\}$ $\{1, 6, 7\}$ $\{2, 4, 6\}$

Definition

$\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ is *intersecting* if
 $\forall F, G \in E(\mathcal{F}), |F \cap G| \geq 1$

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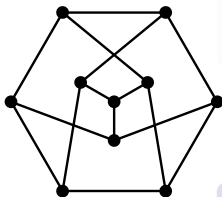
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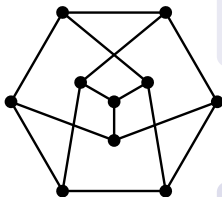
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Kneser graph $KG(n, k)$ on $\binom{[n]}{k}$
has an edge if and only if the
corresponding k -sets are disjoint

independent sets in $KG(n, k)$ correspond
to intersecting families from $\binom{[n]}{k}$

Observation (Lovász 1979)

The minimum eigenvalue of
 $KG(n, k)$ is $-\binom{n-k-1}{k-1}$.



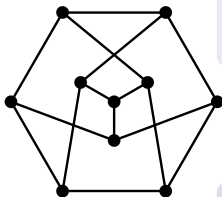
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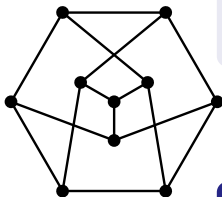
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2. Stability Results

Maximal intersecting families

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for fixed $i \in [n]$,

$$\left| \left\{ F \in \binom{[n]}{k} : i \in F \right\} \right| = \binom{n-1}{k-1}$$

$$\binom{7-1}{3-1} = \binom{6}{2} = 15$$

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How large can an intersecting family be?

Theorem (Erdős-Ko-Rado 1961)

If $n \geq 2k$ and $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ is intersecting, then

$$e(\mathcal{F}) \leq \binom{n-1}{k-1}.$$

For $n > 2k$ we have equality only if \mathcal{F} is trivial.

How large can an intersecting family be?

Theorem (Erdős-Ko-Rado Restated)

For $n \geq 2k$, the independence number of $KG(n, k)$ is less than or equal to $\binom{n-1}{k-1}$.

Theorem (Hoffman's bound)

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a d -regular graph and λ be the smallest eigenvalue. If $I \subseteq V$ is an independent set, then

$$|I| \leq |V| \frac{-\lambda}{d - \lambda}.$$

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Proof.

Note that $KG(n, k)$ is a regular graph on $\binom{n}{k}$ vertices. Each vertex has degree $d = \binom{n-k}{k}$ (need $n \geq 2k$). The minimum eigenvalue of $KG(n, k)$ is $-\binom{n-k-1}{k-1}$. Using Hoffman's bound,

$$\alpha(KG(n, k)) \leq \binom{n}{k} \frac{-\lambda}{d - \lambda} = \binom{n}{k} \frac{\binom{n-k-1}{k-1}}{\binom{n-k}{k} + \binom{n-k-1}{k-1}} = \binom{n-1}{k-1}.$$



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What about non-trivial families?

Theorem (Hilton-Milner 1967)

For $n > 2k$, the largest non-trivial intersecting $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ have size

$$\binom{n-1}{k-1} - \binom{n-k-1}{k-1} + 1.$$

3. Typical Structure

What does a “typical” family look like?

N_0 size of the largest trivial intersecting family

N_1 size of the largest non-trivial intersecting family

M upper bound on the number of maximal families

Observation

Any subset of a trivial intersecting family is itself trivial.

there are at least 2^{N_0} trivial families

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$$\frac{M2^{N_1}}{2^{N_0}} \rightarrow 0,$$

then trivial families are **typical**.

Bounding the number of **maximal** families is interesting.

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Set-pairs inequality

Proposition (BDDLS 2015)

The number of maximal intersecting $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ is at most

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\frac{1}{2} \binom{2k}{k}} \binom{\binom{n}{k}}{i} \leq \binom{n}{k}^{\frac{1}{2} \binom{2k}{k}}.$$

Corollary (BDDLS 2015)

Almost every intersecting family is trivially intersecting.

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We will use the skew-symmetric Bollobás set-pairs inequality

Theorem (Frankl 1982)

Let A_1, \dots, A_m be sets of size a and B_1, \dots, B_m be sets of size b such that

$$A_i \cap B_i = \emptyset \text{ and } A_i \cap B_j \neq \emptyset$$

for every $1 \leq i < j \leq m$. Then $m \leq \binom{a+b}{a}$.

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- $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ maximal intersecting
- $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ is a **generating set** if $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{G})$

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$\{1, 2, 6\}$	$\{1, 4, 7\}$	$\{1, 5, 6\}$
$\{1, 2, 7\}$	$\{1, 5, 6\}$	$\{1, 5, 7\}$
$\{1, 3, 4\}$	$\{1, 5, 7\}$	$\{1, 6, 7\}$
$\{1, 3, 5\}$	$\{1, 6, 7\}$	
$\{1, 3, 6\}$		

- $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ maximal intersecting
- $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ is a **generating set** if $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{G})$

Maximal intersecting families

Proposition (BDDLS 2015)

The number of maximal intersecting $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ is at most

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\frac{1}{2} \binom{2k}{k}} \binom{\binom{n}{k}}{i} \leq \binom{n}{k}^{\frac{1}{2} \binom{2k}{k}}.$$

$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{G})$

\mathcal{G}

$\{1, 2, 3\}$	$\{1, 3, 7\}$	$\{1, 2, 3\}$
$\{1, 2, 4\}$	$\{1, 4, 5\}$	$\{1, 2, 4\}$
$\{1, 2, 5\}$	$\{1, 4, 6\}$	$\{1, 3, 4\}$
$\{1, 2, 6\}$	$\{1, 4, 7\}$	$\{1, 5, 6\}$
$\{1, 2, 7\}$	$\{1, 5, 6\}$	$\{1, 5, 7\}$
$\{1, 3, 4\}$	$\{1, 5, 7\}$	$\{1, 6, 7\}$
$\{1, 3, 5\}$	$\{1, 6, 7\}$	
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$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{F}_0)$$

$\{1, 2, 3\}\{1, 3, 7\}$
 $\{1, 2, 4\}\{1, 4, 5\}$
 $\{1, 2, 5\}\{1, 4, 6\}$
 $\{1, 2, 6\}\{1, 4, 7\}$
 $\{1, 2, 7\}\{1, 5, 6\}$
 $\{1, 3, 4\}\{1, 5, 7\}$
 $\{1, 3, 5\}\{1, 6, 7\}$
 $\{1, 3, 6\}$

\mathcal{F}_0
 $\{1, 2, 3\}$
 $\{1, 2, 4\}$
 $\{1, 3, 4\}$
 $\{1, 5, 6\}$
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\mathcal{F}	\mathcal{F}_0
$\{1, 2, 3\}$	$\{1, 2, 3\}$
$\{1, 2, 4\}$	$\{1, 2, 4\}$
$\{1, 2, 5\}$	$\{1, 3, 4\}$
$\{1, 2, 6\}$	$\{1, 5, 6\}$
$\{1, 2, 7\}$	$\{1, 5, 7\}$
$\{1, 3, 4\}$	$\{1, 6, 7\}$
$\{1, 3, 5\}$	
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$\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{F}_0 \setminus \{F_1\})$

$\{1, 2, 3\}\{1, 3, 7\}$
 $\{1, 2, 4\}\{1, 4, 5\}$
 $\{1, 2, 5\}\{1, 4, 6\}$
 $\{1, 2, 6\}\{1, 4, 7\}$
 $\{1, 2, 7\}\{1, 5, 6\}$
 $\{1, 3, 4\}\{1, 5, 7\}$
 $\{1, 3, 5\}\{1, 6, 7\}$
 $\{1, 3, 6\}\{4, 5, 6\}$
 $\{4, 5, 6\}\{4, 6, 7\}$

F_1

$\{1, 2, 3\}$

$\mathcal{F}_0 \setminus \{F_1\}$

$\{1, 2, 4\}$
 $\{1, 3, 4\}$
 $\{1, 5, 6\}$
 $\{1, 5, 7\}$
 $\{1, 6, 7\}$

- $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ maximal intersecting
- $\mathcal{F}_0 = \{F_1, \dots, F_s\} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ minimal generating set of \mathcal{F}
- by minimality $\forall i \in [s]$,
 $\mathcal{F} \not\subseteq \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{F}_0 \setminus \{F_i\})$
- $\forall i \exists G_i \in \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{F}_0 \setminus \{F_i\}) \setminus \mathcal{F}$

Maximal intersecting families

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The number of maximal intersecting $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ is at most

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\frac{1}{2} \binom{2k}{k}} \binom{\binom{n}{k}}{i} \leq \binom{n}{k}^{\frac{1}{2} \binom{2k}{k}}.$$

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F_1

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$\mathcal{F}_0 \setminus \{F_1\}$

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 $F_i \in \mathcal{F}_0$
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F_1

$\{1, 2, 3\}$

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$$A_1 = \{1, 2, 3\} \quad B_1 = \{4, 5, 6\}$$

$$A_2 = \{1, 2, 4\} \quad B_2 = \{3, 5, 6\}$$

$$A_3 = \{1, 3, 4\} \quad B_3 = \{2, 5, 6\}$$

$$A_4 = \{1, 5, 6\} \quad B_4 = \{2, 3, 7\}$$

$$A_5 = \{1, 5, 7\} \quad B_5 = \{2, 3, 6\}$$

$$A_6 = \{1, 6, 7\} \quad B_6 = \{2, 3, 5\}$$

- For $1 \leq i \leq s$, $A_i = F_i$ and $B_i = G_i$
- Then $|\mathcal{F}_0| \leq \binom{2k}{k}$

Maximal intersecting families

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\mathcal{F}_0	\mathcal{F}'_0
$\{1, 2, 3\}$	$\{1, 3, 5\}$
$\{1, 2, 4\}$	$\{1, 3, 7\}$
$\{1, 3, 4\}$	$\{1, 5, 7\}$
$\{1, 5, 6\}$	$\{1, 2, 4\}$
$\{1, 5, 7\}$	$\{1, 2, 6\}$
$\{1, 6, 7\}$	$\{1, 4, 6\}$

- \mathcal{F}_0 is not necessarily unique
- because $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{F}_0)$,
 $\mathcal{F} \mapsto \mathcal{F}_0$ is an injection
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- the number of maximal intersecting hypergraphs is bounded by the number of sets of at most $\binom{2k}{k}$ edges
- being more clever we can get $\frac{1}{2} \binom{2k}{k}$ instead of $\binom{2k}{k}$ edges

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4. Other Settings

- Let S_n denote the **symmetric group** on $[n]$
- $\mathcal{F} \subseteq S_n$ is **intersecting** if $\forall \sigma, \pi \in \mathcal{F}$

$$|\sigma \cap \pi| := |\{i \in [n] : \sigma(i) = \pi(i)\}| \geq 1$$

- For example,

1 2 3 4

1 3 4 2

2 3 1 4

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2 **3** 1 4

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- $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathbf{S}_n$ is **trivial** if $\exists i, j \in [n]$ such that $\pi(i) = j \quad \forall \pi \in \mathcal{F}$
- For example,

1 2 3 4

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1 2 3 4

1 2 4 3

1 3 2 4

1 3 4 2

1 4 2 3

1 4 3 2

How large can an intersecting family be?

1 2 3 4
1 2 4 3
1 3 2 4
1 3 4 2
1 4 2 3
1 4 3 2

for fixed $i, j \in [n]$,
 $|\{\sigma \in S_n : \sigma(i) = j\}| = (n-1)!$

$$(4-1)! = 3! = 6$$

Theorem (Frankl–Deza 1977)

If $\mathcal{F} \subseteq S_n$ is intersecting, then $|\mathcal{F}| \leq (n-1)!$.

Theorem (Cameron–Ku / Larose–Malvenuto 2003)

We have equality above only if $\mathcal{F} \subseteq S_n$ is trivial.

How large can an intersecting family be?

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1 2 4 3
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How large can a non-trivial, intersecting family be?

Theorem (Ellis 2008)

For n sufficiently large, the largest non-trivial intersecting $\mathcal{F} \subseteq S_n$ have size

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{e} + o(1)\right) (n-1)!.$$

$$\{\sigma \in S_n : \sigma(1) = 1, \sigma(j) = j \text{ for some } j > 2\} \cup \{(1\ 2)\}$$

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Theorem (BDDLS 2015)

- 1 *The number of intersecting families of permutations is*

$$(n^2 + o(1))2^{(n-1)!}.$$

- 2 *Almost every intersecting family of permutations is trivial.*

Maximal intersecting families

Proposition (BDDLS 2015)

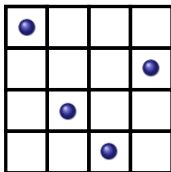
The number of maximal intersecting $\mathcal{F} \subseteq S_n$ is at most

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\frac{1}{2}\binom{2n}{n}} \binom{n!}{i} < n^{n2^{2n-1}}.$$

1 3 4 2

$\{(1, 1), (2, 3), (3, 4), (4, 2)\}$ • to $\pi \in \mathcal{F}$, assign n -set of pairs
 $H_\pi = \{(1, \pi(1)), \dots, (n, \pi(n))\}$

• proof follows the same framework as before



Maximal intersecting families

Proposition (BDDL 2015)

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		●	

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t-intersecting families

$\{1, 2, 3\}$
 $\{1, 2, 4\}$
 $\{1, 2, 5\}$
 $\{1, 2, 6\}$
 $\{1, 2, 7\}$

Definition

$\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ is ***t*-intersecting** if
 $\forall F, G \in \mathcal{F}, |F \cap G| \geq t$

Definition

t-intersecting $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \binom{[n]}{k}$ is **trivial**
 if all edges share some *t* vertices

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t-intersecting set-pairs inequality

Theorem (Füredi 1984)

Let A_1, \dots, A_m be sets of size a and B_1, \dots, B_m be sets of size b such that

$$|A_i \cap B_i| < t \text{ and } |A_i \cap B_j| \geq t$$

for every $1 \leq i < j \leq m$. Then $m \leq \binom{a+b-2t+2}{a-t+1}$.

Results

Theorem (BDDLS 2015)

- 1 *The number of t -intersecting families of $\binom{[n]}{k}$ is*

$$\left(\binom{n}{t} + o(1) \right) 2^{\binom{n-t}{k-t}}.$$

- 2 *Almost every t -intersecting family is trivial.*

Results

Theorem (BDDLS 2015)

- 1 *The number of t -intersecting families of S_n is*

$$\left(\binom{n}{t}^2 t! + o(1) \right) 2^{(n-t)!}.$$

- 2 *Almost every t -intersecting family of permutations is trivial.*

Method of graph containers

Proposition (BDDLS 2015)

The number of intersecting families of permutations is

$$2^{(1+o(1))(n-1)!}.$$

Theorem (Alon–Chung Expander Mixing Lemma (form in Alon–Balogh–Morris–Samotij 2014))

Let G be a D -regular graph on N vertices with second largest eigenvalue (in absolute value) λ . Then for all $S \subseteq V$,

$$e(G[S]) \geq \frac{D}{2N}|S|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2N}|S|(N - |S|).$$

Method of graph containers

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The number of intersecting families of permutations is

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Consider the graph Γ with $V = S_n$ and edges non-intersecting pairs.

Theorem (Ellis 2011)

$$\lambda = -\left(\frac{1}{e} + o(1)\right)(n-1)!$$

$N = n!$ and $D = \left(1 - \frac{1}{e} + o(1)\right)N$.

Pick S with $|S| = (1 + o(1))(n-1)!$.

Because $G[S]$ spans ‘many’ edges then G does not have ‘many’ independent sets.

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Thank you for listening!