

The Lovász Local Lemma

Another way to argue that "nothing bad happens"

If  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are bad events

how do we know if there is positive probability that none occur?

usual way: Union bnd

$$\Pr[\cup A_i] \leq \sum \Pr[A_i]$$

no assumptions on  $A_i$ 's w.r.t. if each  $A_i$  occurs with prob  $p$ ,

independence then need  $p < \frac{1}{n}$  to get anything interesting  
(i.e. sum  $< 1$ )

if  $A_i$ 's independent + "nontrivial":

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\cup A_i] &\leq 1 - \Pr[\wedge \bar{A}_i] \\ &= 1 - \prod \underbrace{\Pr(\bar{A}_i)}_{> 0} \\ &< 1 \end{aligned}$$

What if  $A_i$ 's have "some" independence?

def A "independent" of  $B_1, \dots, B_k$  if  $\forall J \subseteq [k]$

$$\Pr[A \wedge \bigwedge_{j \in J} B_j] = \Pr[A] \cdot \Pr[\bigwedge_{j \in J} B_j] \quad J \neq \emptyset$$

def.  $A_1 \dots A_n$  events

$D = (V, E)$  with  $V = [n]$  is

"dependency digraph of  $A_1 \dots A_n$ "  
 if each  $A_i$  independent of all  $A_j$  that don't  
 neighbor it in  $D$  (i.e., all  $A_j$  st.  $(i, j) \notin E$ )

Lovász Local Lemma (symmetric version)

$A_1 \dots A_n$  events st.  $\Pr(A_i) \leq p \quad \forall i$

with dependency digraph  $D$  st.  $D$  is of degree  $\leq d$ .

If  $e(p(d+1)) \leq 1$  then

$$\Pr \left[ \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \overline{A_i} \right] > 0$$

Application:

Thm.  $S_1 \dots S_m \subseteq S$ ,  $|S_n| = l$ ,  
 each  $S_i$  intersects at most  $d$  other  $S_j$ 's

before  $m \leq 2^{l-1}$   
 now  $m$  not restricted

$$\text{if } e(d+1) \leq 2^{l-1}$$

then can 2-color  $S$  st. each  $S_i$  not  
 monochromatic

new: degree bound restriction

i.e.  $H$  is a hypergraph with  $m$  edges,  
 each containing  $l$  nodes + each intersecting  $\leq d$  other  
 edges

Pf.

color each elf of  $S$  red/blue with prob  $\frac{1}{2}$  iid.

$A_i$  = event that  $S_i$  monochromatic

$$\Pr[A_i] = 2^{-(d-1)}$$

$A_i$  ind of all  $A_j$  s.t.  $S_i \cap S_j = \emptyset$

depends on  $\leq d$  other  $A_j$

$$\text{Since } e^{p(d+1)} = e^{\frac{1}{2^{d-1}}(d+1)} \leq 1$$

LLL  $\Rightarrow$   $\exists$  2-coloring  $\blacksquare$

Comparison:

$$\# \text{edges} = m$$

$$\text{size of edge} = l$$

$$m < 2^{l-1}$$

$$\# \text{edges} = m$$

$$\text{size of edge} \geq l$$

each edge intersects  
 $\leq d$  others

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} d+1 \leq \frac{2^{l-1}}{e} \\ \text{no dependence on } m \end{array} \right.$$

A second application:

Given CNF formula st.  $l$  vars in each clause

& each var in  $\leq k$  clauses.

If  $\frac{e(lk+1)}{2^{l-1}} \leq 1$  there is a satisfying assignment

How do you find a solution?

partial history:

Lovász	1975	non-constructive (no fast algorithm to find soln)	$d \leq 2^{l-2}$
Beck	1991	randomized algorithm <u>but</u> for more restrictive conditions on parameters	$d \leq 2^{l/48}$
⋮	⋮	⋮	$d \leq 2^{l/8} \dots d \leq 2^{l/4}$
Moser	2009	negligible restrictions for SAT " " "	$d \leq 2^{l-2}$
Moser Tardos	⋮	⋮	" most problems

Then given  $S_1 \dots S_m \subseteq \mathbb{S}^l$

each  $S_i$  intersects  $\leq d$  other  $S_j$ 's

if  $e(d+1) \cdot c \leq 2^{l-1}$

then can find 2-coloring of  $\mathbb{S}^l$  s.t.

each  $S_i$  not monochromatic

in time poly in  $m, d$

## Algorithm

• 2-color all elts of  $\mathcal{S}$  randomly (iid, uniform)

- While there is a monochromatic set:

  - pick arbitrary "violated"  $S_i$

  - randomly reassign colors to elements of  $S_i$

for example, see p.3

Correctness trivial ✓

Runtime how many recolorings? \* see (2a)

To analyze, define "witness tree" to explain why a certain event happened.

def. "log of execution" is a set of pairs  $(1, s_1) (2, s_2) \dots$

where first entry is a "loop" number and second entry  $s_{ij}$  is the set resampled at  $j^{\text{th}}$  loop.

e.g.  $(1, s_1) (2, s_2) (3, s_1) (4, s_5) (5, s_2) \dots$

How many recolorings?

what independence properties do we have?

if  $S_i \cap S_j = \emptyset$  then whether they are monochromatic is independent at all times

if  $S_i \cap S_j \neq \emptyset$  but,

consider:

$\Pr[S_i \text{ 2-colored at time } t]$

+  $\Pr[S_j \text{ 2-colored at time } u]$

such that there was a recoloring of  $S_i \cap S_j$  at time  $t \leq v < u$

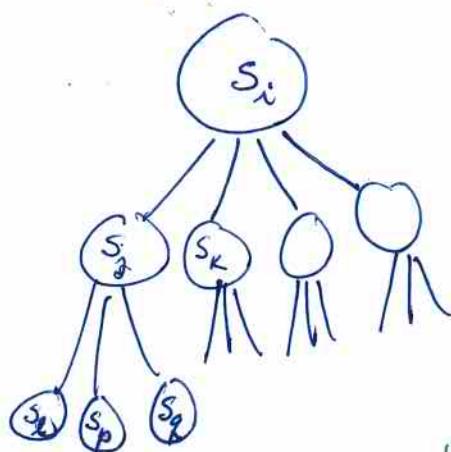
then also independent!

Model as tree:

Where is the gain?  
This tree is d-ary, not n-ary

all  $S_i^l$ 's  
st.

$S_j \cap S_l \neq \emptyset$



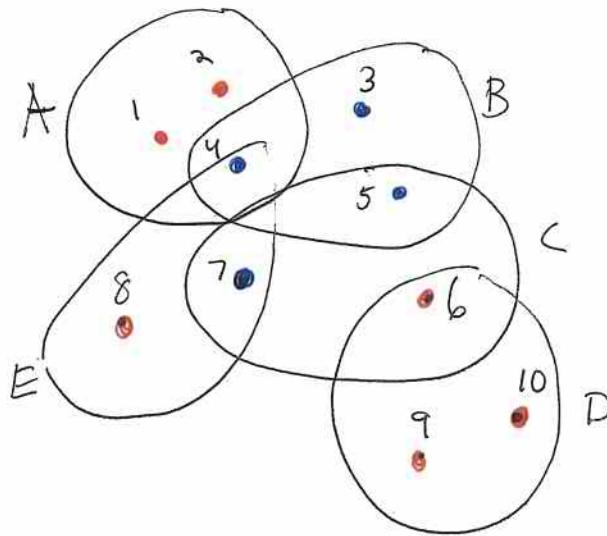
← all  $S_j$ 's st.  $S_i \cap S_j \neq \emptyset$

↔ Recolorings of  $S_i$   
↔ Recolorings of connected component in this tree

Log: (1, B) (2, D) (3, A) (4, C) (5, E)

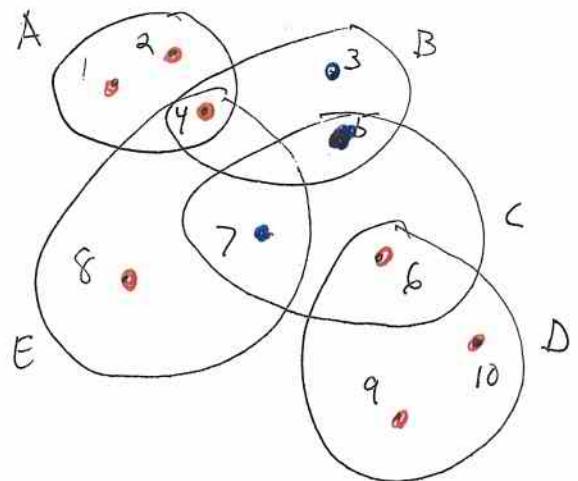
LLL - alg (3)

example time ①

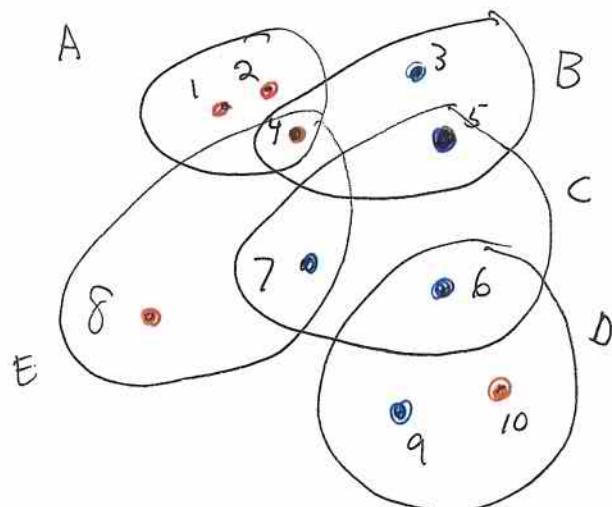


time 1  
(1, B)

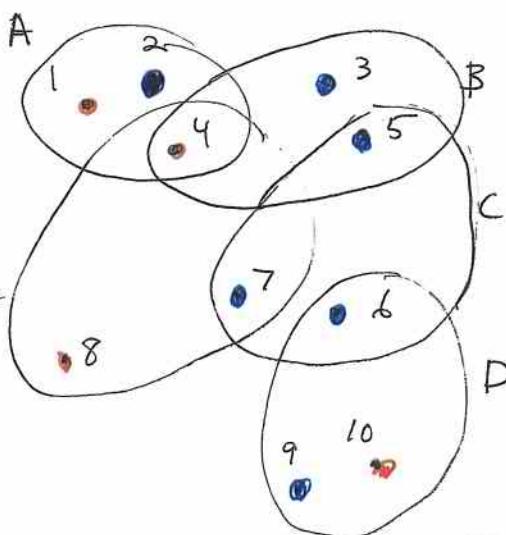
resample edge B



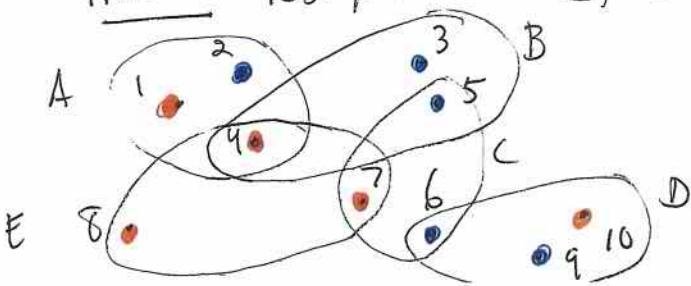
time 2  
(2, D) resample D



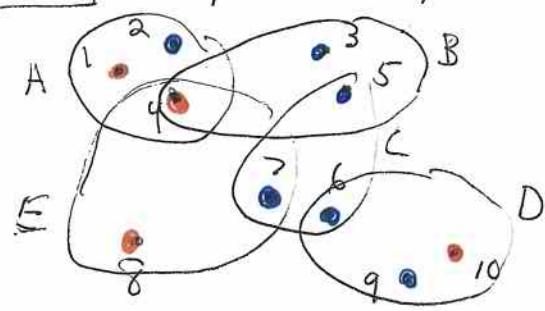
time 3  
(3, A) resample A



time 4 resample C - (4, C)



time 5 resample E - (5, E)



A plan :

Show that for any "long" log, it is unlikely to happen.

lots of resamplings

then

$$\Pr[\text{any long log occurs}] \leq (\# \text{ long logs}) \underbrace{(\max \text{ prob of a long log})}_{\text{union bnd}} ?$$

but need to be a bit more elaborate, may be show:

$$\Pr[\text{a log longer than size } k_0] \leq \sum_{k > k_0} (\# \text{ logs of length } k) \underbrace{(\text{Prob of log of length } k)}_{\text{still too many of these to do naively}}$$

Plan here:

Focus on point of view of each set  $S_i$

+ how labellings can evolve

- not too many ways due to locality
- each big one has low probability

def. "witness tree for step  $j$ " ( $j \geq 0$ )

is constructed as follows

- root vertex labelled by  $s_{ij}$
- { go backwards thru  $\log$  }
  - Do for step  $j, j-1, j-2, \dots$
  - if edge relabeled at current step  $t$  shares any nodes with edges already in witness tree,
    - any  $s_{it}$  can be added many times to witness tree
    - add  $s_{it}$  to witness tree by making it point to arbitrary node on witness tree which is at max distance from root

In our example:

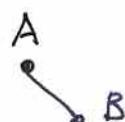
witness tree for time 1:



w.t. for time 2:



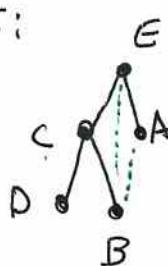
w.t. for time 3:



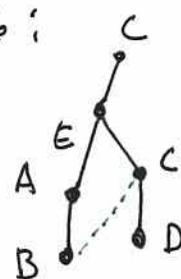
time 4:



time 5:



time 6:



How do we bound probability of specific witness tree  $\gamma$  in a run?

To analyze prob of tree  $\gamma$ , upper bound via

i.e., ensure that:  
"Y-check" procedure

prob  $\gamma$  occurs as a witness tree

$\leq$  prob  $\gamma$ -check passes

Def. Y-check procedure:

- Visit nodes of  $\gamma$  in reverse BFS order (max depth first)
- take random evaluations of vars in current set
- check that set is monochromatic (violated)
- pass if all checks are violated

Vars	resamplings	1	2	...
1		1		
2		0	1	
:		1	0	
:		1	0	
:		0	1	
:		0	1	
:		0	0	
:		0	0	

table of random bits

initial settings      resample set (only change one edge)

Important point  
prob of violation  
 $= 2^{-(l-1)} = p$

### Observe:

- if 2 sets at same level in tree,  
can't intersect! (by construction)  
 $\Rightarrow$  independent (i.e. order of coin tosses  
doesn't matter)
- if 2 sets at different levels,  
will resample + get totally new bits  
 $\rightarrow$  before later set  $\Rightarrow$  independent

note that we  
consider  
reverse BFS

$$\therefore \Pr[\gamma\text{-check passes}] \leq P^{|T|} \\ = (2^{-(l-1)})^{|T|}$$

### How to use the $\gamma$ -check?

1) Prob of getting tree somewhere in log  
 $\leq$  prob of  $\gamma$ -check passing

generosity #1  
many  $\gamma$ -trees  
consistent with  
log. We are  
bounding prob of  
any of them.  
(i.e. sum)

2) no tree occurs twice in log  
(has to have previous tree as subtree!)

3) <sup>so</sup> expected length of log  
= expected # of distinct trees in log

generosity #2:  $A$   
some of distinct  
trees can even happen  
in our input, we are  
unbounding more over a lot  
than can happen.

## Expected # of resamplings

$E[\# \text{ resamples}] \leq \sum_{\substack{\text{roots } i \\ \text{in } T \\ \text{without root } i}} E[\# \text{ times labelled tree } T \text{ rooted at } i \text{ occurs}]$  in execution of an algorithm

$$= \sum_{\text{roots } i} \sum_{\substack{T \text{ rooted} \\ \text{at } i}} E[X_T] \quad \text{where } X_T = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } T \text{ occurs in log} \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

(here we use that no tree occurs twice in a log)

$$= m \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{T: |T|=s \\ T \text{ with fixed root}}} E[X_T]$$

$$\leq m \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{s^d}{s-1} \right) p^s \quad (*)$$

$$\leq m \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} \underbrace{(d+1)e^s}_{\text{since } p < \frac{(1-\varepsilon)}{e(d+1)}} p^s$$

this is geometric sum + is  $\Theta(1)$

if  $p < \frac{1}{2e(d+1)}$  then goes down exponentially + gives good concentration

$$\therefore E[\text{runtime}] = E[\# \text{ resamples}] \times \text{time per resample}$$

is  $\text{poly}(m, l, d)$

④ Why?

How many <sup>d-ary</sup> labelled rooted trees of size  $s$ ?

describe via Eulerian tour (left  $\rightarrow$  right);

write 1 if go down  
0 if skip child

(2 for "pop up" is redundant)

then, each node contributes  $d$  bits

String is  $\leq sd$  characters with  $s-1$  1's

$\leq \binom{sd}{s-1}$  such strings

$\leq \left(e \frac{sd}{s-1}\right)^{s-1} \approx (ed)^{s-1}$  by Stirling's approx

example

