

## Lecture 7: April 11, 2005

Lecturer: László Babai

Scribe: Raghav Kulkarni

TA SCHEDULE: TA sessions are held in Ryerson-255, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 5:30–6:30pm.

INSTRUCTOR'S EMAIL: laci@cs.uchicago.edu

TA's EMAIL: hari@cs.uchicago.edu, raghav@cs.uchicago.edu

## Explicit Ramsey Graphs

Erdős proved that  $n \not\rightarrow (1 + 2 \log_2 n, 1 + 2 \log_2 n)$ , i.e.,  $\exists$  a graph on  $n$  vertices without a *homogeneous subset* (clique or independent set) of size  $1 + 2 \log_2 n$ . The proof using Probabilistic Method proves only the *existence* of such a graph. No explicit construction of graphs verifying  $n \not\rightarrow ((\log n)^c, (\log n)^c)$  is known for any  $c > 0$ . No polynomial time algorithm to construct such graphs is known.

We have seen an easy explicit construction that verifies  $n \not\rightarrow (1 + \sqrt{n}, 1 + \sqrt{n})$ . (What is the construction?)

Zsigmond Nagy (1973) gave an explicit Ramsey graph showing that  $\binom{t}{3} \not\rightarrow (t+1, t+1)$ . This implies that,  $n \not\rightarrow (cn^{1/3}, cn^{1/3})$  where  $n = \binom{t}{3} \sim \frac{t^3}{6}$ , so  $t \sim (6n)^{1/3}$  and therefore  $c \sim 6^{1/3}$ . (Refer Exercise 5.5)

(No clique of size  $t+1$  follows from Fisher's Inequality while no independent set of size  $t+1$  follows from the Oddtown Theorem.)

**Theorem 7.1 (Frankl-Wilson, 1980)** *Explicit construction verifies the relation  $(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists n_0)(\forall n \geq n_0)(n \not\rightarrow (n^\epsilon, n^\epsilon))$ .*

*The proof is the extension of idea used by Zsigmond Nagy. The proof depends on an extremal hypergraph inequality, also supplied by Frankl and Wilson in the same paper.*

*Question:* Given a set  $\{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_s\}$  of  $s$  integers where  $s \leq n/2$ , suppose  $A_1, \dots, A_m \subseteq [n]$  are sets such that  $(\forall i)(|A_i| = k)$  and  $(\forall i \neq j)|A_i \cap A_j| \in \{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_s\}$ . Then what is the maximum possible value of  $m$  in terms of  $n$  and  $s$ ?

For  $s = 2$ ,  $K_n$  will give us  $m \geq \binom{n}{2}$ .

For  $s = 3$ ,  $K_n^{(3)}$  will give us  $m \geq \binom{n}{3}$ .

For an arbitrary  $s$ ,  $K_n^{(s)}$  will give us  $m \geq \binom{n}{s}$ .

**Theorem 7.2 (D. K. Ray-Chaudhury–Richard M. Wilson, 1964)** Suppose  $A_1, \dots, A_m \subseteq [n]$  such that  $(\forall i)(|A_i| = k)$  and  $|A_i \cap A_j| \in \{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_s\}$ . Then  $m \leq \binom{n}{s}$ .

**Theorem 7.3 (Frankl-Wilson, 1980)** Suppose  $A_1, \dots, A_m \subseteq [n]$  such that  $(\forall i)(|A_i| = k)$  and  $L = \{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_s\}$   
 (a)  $k \notin L \pmod{p}$ , i.e.,  $(\forall j)(k \not\equiv \ell_j \pmod{p})$  where  $p$  is a prime.  
 (b)  $(\forall i \neq j)(|A_i \cap A_j| \in L \pmod{p})$ , i.e.,  $((\forall i \neq j)(\exists r)(|A_i \cap A_j| \equiv \ell_r \pmod{p}))$ .  
 Then  $m \leq \binom{n}{s}$ .

Theorem 7.3 has an application in constructing Explicit Ramsey Graphs. Let  $V = \binom{[2p^2-1]}{p^2-1}$  where  $p$  is a prime. For  $A, B \in V$  we define  $A \sim B$  iff  $|A \cap B| \not\equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ .

**Claim:** The above defined graph has no homogeneous subset of size  $> \binom{2p^2-1}{p-1}$ .

This will show that,  $\binom{2p^2-1}{p^2-1} \not\rightarrow (1 + \binom{2p^2-1}{p-1}, 1 + \binom{2p^2-1}{p-1})$ .

**Exercise 7.4** Prove Theorem 7.3.

**Exercise 7.5** Prove the Claim. (Hint: For proving that there is no clique of desired size use Frankl-Wilson Theorem (Theorem 7.3). For proving that there is no independent set of desired size use Ray-Chaudhury - Wilson Theorem (Theorem 7.2).)