# Some Spectral extremal results for hypergraphs

#### An Chang Joint work with Yuan Hou, Joshua Cooper Center for Discrete Mathematics, Fuzhou University

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### 2 Turán problems on graphs or hypergraphs



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- The degree of a vertex v, which is denoted by d(v), is defined as the number of edges containing v.

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- An kth-order *n*-dimensional real tensor  $\mathcal{T} = (\mathcal{T}_{i_1 \cdots i_k})$ consists of  $n^k$  real entries  $\mathcal{T}_{i_1 \cdots i_k}$  for  $1 \leq i_1, i_2, \cdots, i_k \leq n$ .

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- $\mathcal{T}$  is called symmetric if the value of  $\mathcal{T}_{i_1\cdots i_k}$  is invariant under any permutation of its indices  $i_1, i_2, \cdots, i_k$ .

• Given a vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\mathcal{T}x^k$  is a real number and  $\mathcal{T}x^{k-1}$  is an *n*-dimensional vector defined as follows.

$$\mathcal{T}x^k = \sum_{i_1, i_2, \cdots, i_k \in [n]} \mathcal{T}_{i_1 i_2 \cdots i_k} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_k},$$

and the *i*th component of  $\mathcal{T}x^{k-1}$  is given by:

$$(\mathcal{T}x^{k-1})_i = \sum_{i_2,\cdots,i_k \in [n]} \mathcal{T}_{ii_2\cdots i_k} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_k}.$$

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• For some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , if there exists a nonzero vector  $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$  satisfying

$$\mathcal{T}x^{k-1} = \lambda x^{[k-1]}.$$

Then  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{T}$  and x is its corresponding eigenvector.

• The maximal absolute value of the eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{T}$  is called the spectral radius of  $\mathcal{T}$ , denoted by  $\rho(\mathcal{T})$ .

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In 2012, Cooper and Dutle defined the adjacency tensor of a k-uniform hypergraph.

• The adjacency tensor  $\mathcal{A}(H)$  is a k-th order n-dimensional symmetric tensor, where:

$$\mathcal{A}(H)_{i_1\cdots i_k} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{(k-1)!} & \text{if } \{i_1,\cdots,i_k\} \in E, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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### 2 Turán problems on graphs or hypergraphs



## Problems

For a fixed family  $\mathcal{F}$ , recall that the classical Turán problem is of the following type:

Problem A. What is the maximum number of edges of a graph of order n, not containing a given  $\mathcal{F}$ ?

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For a fixed family  $\mathcal{F}$ , recall that the classical Turán problem is of the following type:

Problem A. What is the maximum number of edges of a graph of order n, not containing a given  $\mathcal{F}$ ?

The following is the natural spectral analog to the Turán problem of graphs:

Problem B. What is the maximum spectral radius of a graph of order n, not containing a given  $\mathcal{F}$ ?

Spectral versions on Turán problems

Let  $\lambda(G)$  be the spectral radius of the adjacency matrix of the graph G.

Theorem 1 (Guiduli, 1998; Nikiforov, 2002)

If G is a graph of order n with no complete subgraph of order r + 1, then  $\lambda(G) \leq \lambda(T_r(n))$ . Equality holds if and only if  $G = T_r(n)$ .

Corollary 2 (Spectral version of Mantel's Theorem)

If G is a graph of order n without  $C_3$ , then  $\lambda(G) \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ . Equality holds if and only if  $G = T_2(n)$ .

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### Spectral versions on Turán problems

#### Theorem 3 (Nikiforov, 2007)

If G is a graph of order n without  $C_4$ , then

$$\lambda^2(G) - \lambda(G) \le n - 1.$$

Equality holds if and only if every two vertices of G have exactly one common neighbor, i.e., when G is the friendship graph.

### Theorem 4 (Favaron, Mahéo and Saclé, 1993) If G is a graph of order n with neither $C_3$ nor $C_4$ , then $\lambda(G) \leq \sqrt{n-1}$ .

# Turán extremal problem on hypergraphs

• Given a fixed k-uniform family  $\mathcal{F}$ , the Turán number of  $\mathcal{F}$ , denoted by  $ex_k(n, \mathcal{F})$ , is the maximum number of edges of an  $\mathcal{F}$ -free hypergraph on n vertices.

### Turán extremal problem on hypergraphs

- Given a fixed k-uniform family  $\mathcal{F}$ , the Turán number of  $\mathcal{F}$ , denoted by  $ex_k(n, \mathcal{F})$ , is the maximum number of edges of an  $\mathcal{F}$ -free hypergraph on n vertices.
- A hypergraph H is called linear if every two edges have at most one vertex in common. Given a family of kuniform linear hypergraphs  $\mathcal{F}$ , the linear Turán number of  $\mathcal{F}$ , denoted by  $ex_k^{lin}(n, \mathcal{F})$ , is the maximum number of edges in an  $\mathcal{F}$ -free k-uniform linear hypergraph on nvertices.

What is the maximum spectral radius of the adjacency tensor of a uniform hypergraph of order n, not containing a given  $\mathcal{F}$ ?

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### 2 Turán problems on graphs or hypergraphs



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# Useful tools

• For a vertex v, let  $N_v$  be the neighborhood of v, i.e.,  $N_v = \{x \in V \setminus \{v\} | v, x \in e \text{ for some } e \in E\}.$ 

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- The codegree of two vertices u and v, denoted by d(u, v), is the number of edges containing both u and v.
- For a set  $X \subseteq V$ , let  $E_t(X) = \{e | e \in E \text{ and } |e \cap X| = t\}$ and  $e_t(X)$  be the number of edges in  $E_t(X)$ , respectively.

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# Useful tools

#### Lemma 5 (Hou, Chang and Cooper, 2019+)

Let H be a connected simple k-uniform hypergraph and  $\rho$  be the spectral radius of the adjacency tensor of H. Then

$$\rho^{2} \leq \frac{1}{k-1} \sum_{t=1}^{k} \sum_{e \in E_{t}(N_{u})} \sum_{v \in N_{u} \cap e} d(u, v)$$
(1)

where u is the vertex corresponding to a maximum entry of the principal eigenvector.

Note that above Lemma illustrates a relationship between spectral radius of the adjacency tensor and structural properties of hypergraphs.

# Useful tools

It is clear that the codegree of each pair of adjacent vertices in H is exactly 1 if H is a linear hypergraph.

#### Corollary 6 (Hou, Chang and Cooper, 2019+)

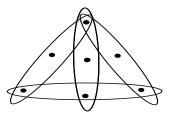
Let *H* be a connected simple *k*-uniform linear hypergraph and  $\rho$  be the spectral radius of the adjacency tensor of *H*. Let *u* be the vertex with maximum eigenvector entry. Then (1)  $\rho^2 \leq \frac{1}{k-1} [e_1(N_u) + 2e_2(N_u) + \dots + ke_k(N_u)];$ 

(2) 
$$\rho^2 \le \frac{1}{k-1} \sum_{v \in N_u} d(v).$$

# Linear hypergraphs without $Fan^k$

#### Definition 7 (Mubayi and Pikhurko, 2007)

For  $k \geq 2$ , the k-fan  $Fan^k$  is the k-uniform linear hypergraph having k edges  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k$  pairwise intersecting in the same vertex v and an additional edge g intersecting all  $f_i$  in a vertex different from v.



#### Figure: $Fan^3$

# Linear hypergraphs without $Fan^k$

#### Theorem 8 (Füredi, Gyárfás, 2017)

One has  $ex_k^{lin}(n, Fan^k) \leq \frac{n^2}{k^2}$  for all  $k \geq 2$ . The only extremal hypergraphs are the transversal designs on n vertices with k groups.

#### Theorem 9 (Hou, Chang and Cooper, 2019+)

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  denote the set of linear k-uniform hypergraphs of order  $n(n \equiv 0 \mod(k))$  with forbidden  $Fan^k$  and  $\rho$  be the maximum spectral radius of hypergraphs in  $\mathcal{H}$ . For n sufficiently large, we have  $\rho = \frac{n}{k}$ .

• After using the well-known inequality  $\rho \geq \frac{km}{n}$ , this result implies  $m \leq \frac{n^2}{k^2}$ .

#### Definition 10 (Gerbner and Palmer, 2017)

Let F = (V(F), E(F)) be a graph and  $\mathcal{B} = (V(\mathcal{B}), E(\mathcal{B}))$  be a hypergraph. We say  $\mathcal{B}$  is Berge F if there is a bijection  $\phi : E(F) \to E(\mathcal{B})$  such that  $e \subseteq \phi(e)$  for all  $e \in E(F)$ . In other words, given a graph F, we can obtain a Berge F by replacing each edge of F with a hyperedge that contains it.

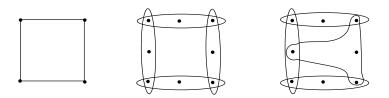


Figure:  $C_4$  and Berge  $C_4$ 

# Linear hypergraphs without Berge $C_4$

Theorem 11 (Ergemlidze, Győri and Methuku, 2018)

$$ex_3^{lin}(n, \{C_4\}) \le \frac{1}{6}n^{\frac{3}{2}} + O(n).$$

#### Theorem 12 (Hou, Chang and Cooper, 2019+)

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  denote the set of linear k-uniform hypergraphs of order n with forbidden Berge  $C_4$  and  $\rho$  be the maximum spectral radius among hypergraphs in  $\mathcal{H}$ . For n sufficiently large, we have  $\rho \leq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{k-1} + O(1)$ .

• After using the well-known inequality  $\rho \geq \frac{km}{n}$ , this result implies  $m \leq \frac{1}{k(k-1)}n^{\frac{3}{2}} + O(n)$ .

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### Linear hypergraphs with girth at least five

Theorem 13 (Lazebnik and Verstraëte, 2003)

$$ex_3^{lin}(n, \{C_3, C_4\}) = \frac{1}{6}n^{\frac{3}{2}} + O(n).$$

#### Theorem 14 (Hou, Chang and Cooper, 2019+)

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  denote the set of linear k-uniform hypergraphs of order n with neither Berge  $C_3$  nor Berge  $C_4$  and  $\rho$  be the maximum spectral radius of hypergraphs in  $\mathcal{H}$ . For n sufficiently large, we have  $\rho \leq \frac{\sqrt{n}}{k-1} + O(1)$ .

• After using the well-known inequality  $\rho \geq \frac{km}{n}$ , this result implies  $m \leq \frac{1}{k(k-1)}n^{\frac{3}{2}} + O(n)$ .

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### Thank You For Your Attention!