

# Introduction to Random Graphs

[longhuan@sjtu.edu.cn](mailto:longhuan@sjtu.edu.cn)



- World Wide Web
- Internet
- Social networks
- Journal citations
- .....

Statistical properties VS Exact answer to questions

# The $G(n, p)$ model

Properties of almost all graphs

Phase transition

# $G(n, p)$ Model

- $G(n, p)$  Model [Erdős and Rényi 1960]:  
 $|V| = n$  is the number of vertices, and for  
and different  $u, v \in V$ ,  $\Pr(\{u, v\} \in E) = p$ .

- **Example.** If  $p = \frac{d}{n}$ .

$$\text{Then } E(\deg(v)) = \frac{d}{n}(n - 1) \approx d$$

$$n \approx n - 1$$

# Example: $G(n, 1/2)$

$$K = \deg(v)$$

$$\Pr(K = k) = \binom{n-1}{k} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-k}$$

$$\approx \boxed{\binom{n}{k} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-k}} = \frac{1}{2^n} \binom{n}{k}$$

$$E(K) = n/2$$

$$Var(K) = n/4$$

Independence!

Binomial Distribution

# Recall: Central Limit Theorem

## Normal distribution (Gauss Distribution):

$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , with density function:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}, \quad -\infty < x < +\infty$$

As long as  $\{X_i\}$  is independent identically distributed with  $E(X_i) = \mu$ ,  $D(X_i) = \sigma^2$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^n X_i$  can be approximated by normal distribution  $(n\mu, n\sigma^2)$  when  $n$  is large enough.

注意上面只要求了每个 $X_i$ 独立同分布，且均值和方差一致，并没有要求它们是什么分布！！

- $G(\textcolor{red}{n}, \textcolor{blue}{1/2})$

$$\mu = n\mu' = E(K) = \frac{n}{2},$$

$$\sigma^2 = n(\sigma')^2 = \text{Var}(K) = n/4$$

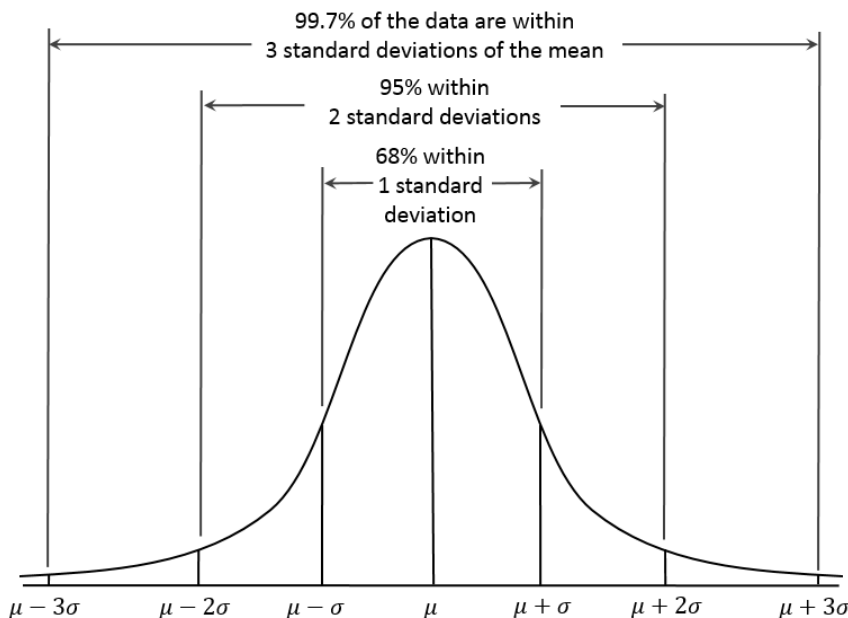
(CLT) Near the mean, the binomial distribution is well approximated by the normal distribution.

$$\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(k-n\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi n/2}} e^{-\frac{(k-n/2)^2}{n/2}}$$

It works well when  $k = \Theta(n)$ .

- $G(n, 1/2)$ : for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , the degree of each vertex almost surely is within  $(1 \pm \epsilon) \frac{n}{2}$ .

**Proof.** As we can approximate the distribution by



$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi n/2}} e^{-\frac{(k-n/2)^2}{n/2}}$$

$$\mu = \frac{n}{2}, \sigma = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2}$$

$$\mu \pm c\sigma = \frac{n}{2} \pm c \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2} \approx (1 \pm \epsilon) \frac{n}{2}$$



- $G(n, p)$ : for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , if  $p$  is  $\Omega\left(\frac{\ln n}{n\epsilon^2}\right)$ , then the degree of each vertex almost surely is within  $(1 \pm \epsilon)np$ .

**Proof.** Omitted

$G(n, p)$  Model: independent set and clique

**Lemma.** For all integers  $n, k$  with  $n \geq k \geq 2$ ; the probability that  $G \in G(n, p)$  has a set of  $k$  independent vertices is at most

$$\Pr(\alpha(G) \geq k) \leq \binom{n}{k} (1-p)^{\binom{k}{2}}$$

the probability that  $G \in G(n, p)$  has a set of  $k$  clique is at most

$$\Pr(\omega(G) \geq k) \leq \binom{n}{k} p^{\binom{k}{2}}$$

**Lemma.** The expected number of  $k$  –cycles in  $G \in \mathcal{G}(n, p)$  is  $E(x) = \frac{(n)_k}{2k} p^k$ .

**Proof.** The expectation of certain  $n$  vertices  $v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}, v_0$  form a length  $k$  cycle is:  $p^k$

The possible ways to choose  $k$  vertices to form a cycle  $C$  is  $\frac{(n)_k}{2k}$ .

The expectation of the number of all cycles:

$$X = \sum_C X_C = \frac{(n)_k}{2k} p^k$$

The  $G(n, p)$  model

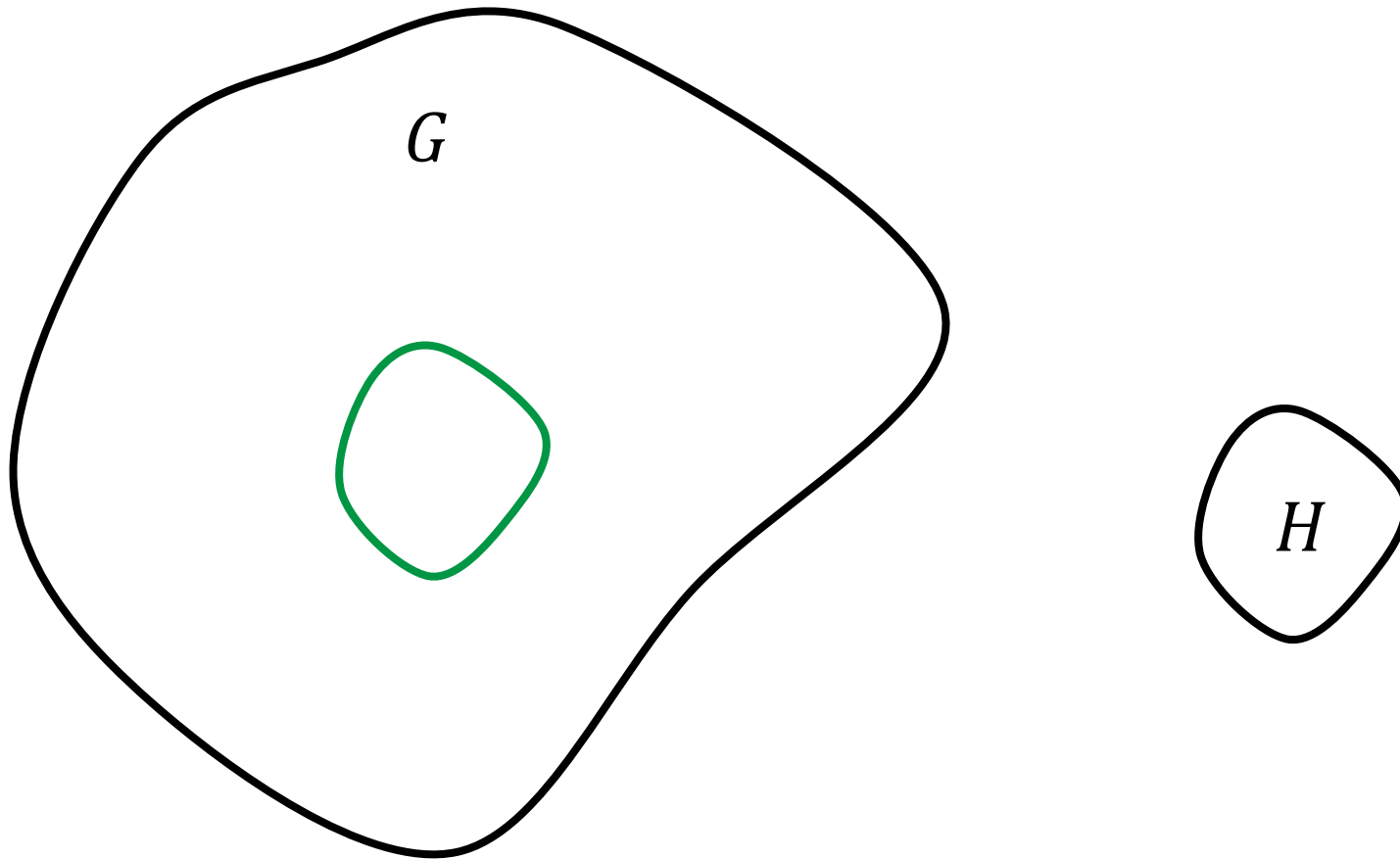
Properties of almost all graphs

Phase transition

# Properties of almost all graphs

- For a graph property  $P$ , when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , If the *limit* of the probability of  $G \in \mathcal{G}(n, p)$  having the property tends to
  - **1**: we say than the property holds for **almost all** (**almost every** / **almost surely**)  $G \in \mathcal{G}(n, p)$ .
  - **0**: we say than the property holds for **almost no**  $G \in \mathcal{G}(n, p)$ .

**Proposition.** For every constant  $p \in (0,1)$  and every graph  $H$ , almost every  $G \in \mathbf{G}(n,p)$  contains an induced copy of  $H$ .



**Proposition.** For every constant  $p \in (0,1)$  and every graph  $H$ , almost every  $G \in \mathbf{G}(n, p)$  contains an induced copy of  $H$ .

**Proof.**  $V(G) = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}\}, k = |H|$

Fix some  $U \in \binom{V(G)}{k}$ , then  $\Pr(U \cong H) = r > 0$

$r$  depends on  $p, k$  not on  $n$ .

There are  $\lfloor n/k \rfloor$  disjoint such  $U$ .

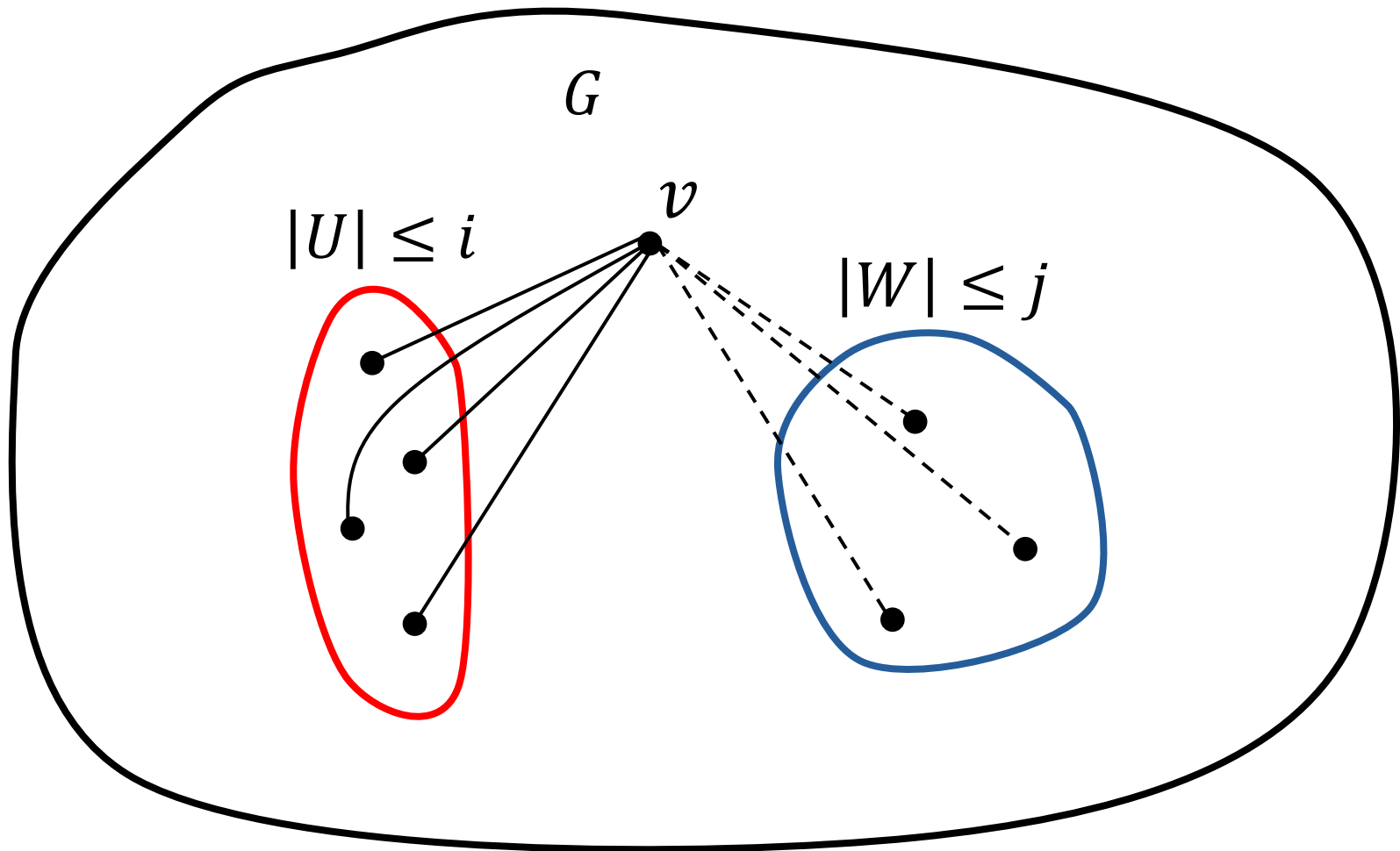
The probability that none of the

$G[U]$  is isomorphic to  $H$  is:  $= (1 - r)^{\lfloor n/k \rfloor}$

$\Pr[\neg(H \subseteq G \text{ induced})]: \leq (1 - r)^{\lfloor n/k \rfloor}$

$\downarrow_{n \rightarrow \infty}$   
 $0$

**Proposition.** For every constant  $p \in (0,1)$  and  $i, j \in N$ , almost every graph  $G \in \mathcal{G}(n, p)$  has the property  $P_{i,j}$ .





**Proposition.** For every constant  $p \in (0,1)$  and  $i, j \in N$ , almost every graph  $G \in \mathcal{G}(n, p)$  has the property  $P_{i,j}$ .

**Proof.** Fix  $U, W$  and  $v \in G - (U \cup W)$ ,  $q = 1 - p$ ,

The probability that  $P_{i,j}$  holds for  $v$ :  $p^{|U|}q^{|W|} \geq p^i q^j$

The probability there's no such  $v$  for chosen  $U, W$ :

$$= (1 - p^{|U|}q^{|W|})^{n-|U|-|W|} \leq (1 - p^i q^j)^{n-i-j}$$

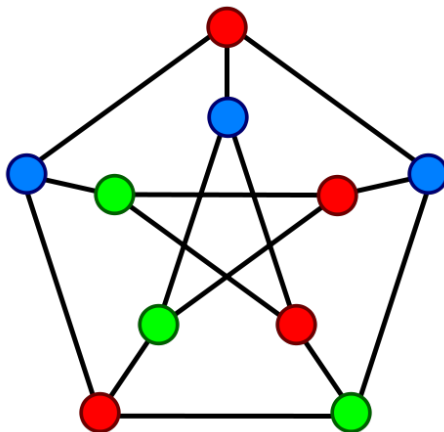
The upper bound for the number of different choice of  $U, W$ :  $n^{i+j}$

The probability there exists some  $U, W$  without suitable  $v$ :

$$\leq n^{i+j} (1 - p^i q^j)^{n-i-j} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

# Colouring

- **Vertex coloring:** to  $G = (V, E)$ , a vertex coloring is a map  $c: V \rightarrow S$  such that  $c(v) \neq c(w)$  whenever  $v$  and  $w$  are adjacent.
- **Chromatic number  $\chi(G)$ :** the smallest size of  $S$ .



$$\chi(G) = 3$$

# Colouring

- **Vertex coloring:** to  $G = (V, E)$ , a vertex coloring is a map  $c: V \rightarrow S$  such that  $c(v) \neq c(w)$  whenever  $v$  and  $w$  are adjacent.
- **Chromatic number  $\chi(G)$ :** the smallest size of  $S$ .
- **Some famous results:**
  - Whether  $\chi(G) = k$  is NP-complete.
  - Every Planar graph is 4-colourable.
  - [Grtözsch 1959] Every Planar graph not containing a triangle is 3-colourable.

**Proposition.** For every constant  $p \in (0,1)$  and every  $\epsilon > 0$ , almost every graph  $G \in \mathbf{G}(n,p)$  has chromatic number  $\chi(G) > \frac{\log(1/q)}{2+\epsilon} \cdot \frac{n}{\log n}$

**Proof.** The size of the maximum independent set in  $G$ :  $\alpha(G)$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\alpha(G) \geq k) &\leq \binom{n}{k} q^{\binom{k}{2}} \leq n^k q^{\binom{k}{2}} \\ &= q^{k \frac{\log n}{\log q} + \frac{1}{2}k(k-1)} = q^{\frac{k}{2} \left( -\frac{2 \log n}{\log(1/q)} + k - 1 \right)} \quad (*) \end{aligned}$$

Take  $k = (2 + \epsilon) \frac{\log n}{\log(1/q)}$  then  $(*)$  tends to  $\infty$  with  $n$ .

$\therefore \Pr(\alpha(G) \geq k) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \Rightarrow$  No  $k$  vertices can have the same colour.

$$\therefore \chi(G) > \frac{n}{k} = \frac{\log(1/q)}{2 + \epsilon} \cdot \frac{n}{\log n}$$

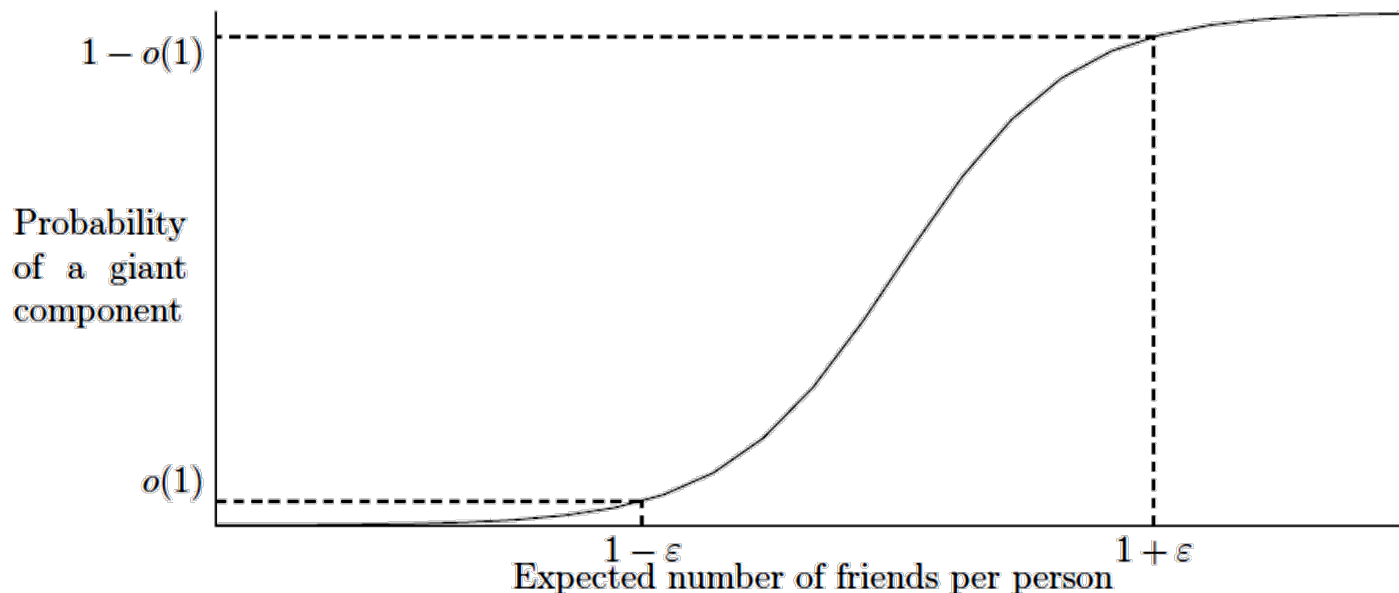
The  $G(n, p)$  model

Properties of almost all graphs

**Phase transition**

# Phase transition

The interesting thing about the  $G(n, p)$  model is that even though edges are chosen **independently**, certain **global properties** of the graph emerge from the independent choice.



# Phase transition

**Definition.** If there exists a function  $p(n)$  such that

– when  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{p_1(n)}{p(n)} \right) = 0$ ,  $G(n, p_1(n))$  almost surely does not have the property.

– when  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{p_2(n)}{p(n)} \right) = \infty$ ,  $G(n, p_2(n))$  almost surely has the property.

Then we say phase transition occurs and  $p(n)$  is the threshold.

Every increasing property has a threshold.

# Phase transition

Probability	Transition
$p = o(\frac{1}{n})$	Forest of trees, no component of size greater than $O(\log n)$
$p = \frac{d}{n}, d < 1$	All components of size $O(\log n)$
$p = \frac{d}{n}, d = 1$	Components of size $O(n^{\frac{2}{3}})$
$p = \frac{d}{n}, d > 1$	Giant component plus $O(\log n)$ components
$p = \sqrt{\frac{2 \ln n}{n}}$	Diameter two
$p = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\ln n}{n}$	Giant component plus isolated vertices
$p = \frac{\ln n}{n}$	Disappearance of isolated vertices Appearance of Hamilton circuit Diameter $O(\log n)$
$p = \frac{1}{2}$	Clique of size $(2 - \epsilon) \ln n$



# First moment method

**Markov's Inequality:** Let  $x$  be a random variable that assumes only nonnegative values. Then for all  $a > 0$

$$\Pr(x \geq a) \leq \frac{E[x]}{a}$$

**First moment method** : for non-negative, integer valued variable  $x$

$$\Pr(x > 0) = \Pr(x \geq 1) \leq E(x)$$

$$\therefore \Pr(x = 0) = 1 - \Pr(x > 0) \geq 1 - E(x)$$

**First moment method** : for non-negative , integer valued variable  $x$

$$\Pr(x > 0) = \Pr(x \geq 1) \leq E(x)$$

$$\therefore \Pr(x = 0) = 1 - \Pr(x > 0) \geq 1 - E(x)$$

- If the expectation goes to 0: the property almost surely does not happen.
- If the expectation does not goes to 0:

e.g. Expectation =  $\frac{1}{n} \times n^2 + \frac{n-1}{n} \times 0 = n$

i.e., a *vanishingly small* fraction of the sample contribute a lot to the expectation.

# Chebyshev's Inequality

- For any  $a > 0$ ,

$$\Pr(|X - E(X)| \geq a) \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{a^2}$$

# Second moment method

**Theorem.** Let  $x(n)$  be a random variable with  $E(x) > 0$ . If

$$\text{Var}(x) = o(E^2(x))$$

Then  $x$  is almost surely greater than zero.

**Proof.** If  $E(x) > 0$ , then for  $x \leq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(x \leq 0) &\leq \Pr(|x - E(x)| \geq E(x)) \\ &\leq \frac{\text{Var}(x)}{E^2(x)} \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

## Example : Threshold for graph diameter two (two degrees of separation)

Probability	Transition
$p = o(\frac{1}{n})$	Forest of trees, no component of size greater than $O(\log n)$
$p = \frac{d}{n}, d < 1$	All components of size $O(\log n)$
$p = \frac{d}{n}, d = 1$	Components of size $O(n^{\frac{2}{3}})$
$p = \frac{d}{n}, d > 1$	Giant component plus $O(\log n)$ components
$p = \sqrt{\frac{2 \ln n}{n}}$	Diameter two
$p = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\ln n}{n}$	Giant component plus isolated vertices
$p = \frac{\ln n}{n}$	Disappearance of isolated vertices Appearance of Hamilton circuit Diameter $O(\log n)$
$p = \frac{1}{2}$	Clique of size $(2 - \epsilon) \ln n$

Example : Threshold for graph diameter two  
(two degrees of separation)

- **Diameter**: the maximum length of the shortest path between a pair of nodes.
- **Theorem**: The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a **sharp threshold** at  $p =$

$$\sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}.$$

sharp threshold是指 $p_1(n)$ ,  $p_2(n)$ 都是 $cp(n)$ 的形式

Example : Threshold for graph diameter two  
(two degrees of separation)

**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

**Proof.** For any two different vertices  $i < j$ ,  
$$I_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \{i, j\} \notin E, \text{ no other vertex is adjacent to both } i \text{ and } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$x = \sum_{i < j} I_{ij}$$

If  $E(x) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ , then for large  $n$ , almost surely the diameter is at most two.

## Example : Threshold for graph diameter two (two degrees of separation)

**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

**Proof.** For any two different vertices  $i < j$ ,  
$$I_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \{i, j\} \notin E, \text{ no other vertex is adjacent to both } i \text{ and } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$x = \sum_{i < j} I_{ij}$$

$$E(x) = \binom{n}{2} (1-p)(1-p^2)^{n-2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Take } p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}, \quad E(x) &\cong \frac{n^2}{2} \left( 1 - c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}} \right) \left( 1 - c^2 \frac{\ln n}{n} \right)^n \\ &\cong \frac{n^2}{2} e^{-c^2 \ln n} = \frac{1}{2} n^{2-c^2} \end{aligned}$$



Example : Threshold for graph diameter two  
(two degrees of separation)

**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

**Proof.** For any two different vertices  $i < j$ ,  
$$I_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \{i, j\} \notin E, \text{ no other vertex is adjacent to both } i \text{ and } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$x = \sum_{i < j} I_{ij} \quad E(x) = \binom{n}{2} (1-p)(1-p^2)^{n-2}$$

Take  $p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$ ,  $c > \sqrt{2}$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E(x) = 0$

For large  $n$ , almost surely the diameter is at most two.

**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

- Take  $p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$ ,  $c > \sqrt{2}$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E(x) = 0$

**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

- Take  $p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$ ,  $c < \sqrt{2}$ ,

$$E(x^2) = E\left(\sum_{i < j} I_{ij}\right)^2$$

If  $Var(x) = o(E^2(x))$ , then for large  $n$ , almost surely the diameter will be larger than two.

**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

- Take  $p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$ ,  $c < \sqrt{2}$

$$E(x^2) = E\left(\sum_{i < j} I_{ij}\right)^2 = E\left(\sum_{i < j} I_{ij} \sum_{k < l} I_{kl}\right) = E\left(\sum_{\substack{i < j \\ k < l}} I_{ij} I_{kl}\right) = \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ k < l}} E(I_{ij} I_{kl})$$

$$a = |\{i, j, k, l\}|$$

$$E(x^2) = \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ k < l \\ a=4}} E(I_{ij} I_{kl}) + \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ i < k \\ a=3}} E(I_{ij} I_{ik}) + \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ a=2}} E(I_{ij}^2)$$

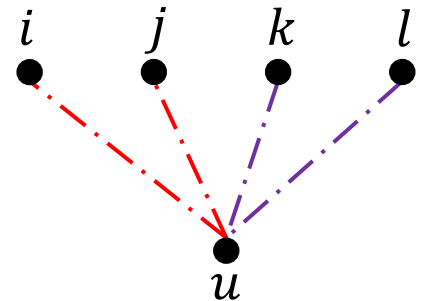
**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

- Take  $p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$ ,  $c < \sqrt{2}$

$$E(x^2) = \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ k < l \\ a=4}} E(I_{ij} I_{kl}) + \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ i < k \\ a=3}} E(I_{ij} I_{ik}) + \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ a=2}} E(I_{ij}^2)$$

$$E(I_{ij} I_{kl}) \leq (1 - p^2)^{2(n-4)} \leq \left(1 - c^2 \frac{\ln n}{n}\right)^{2n} (1 + o(1)) \leq n^{-2c^2} (1 + o(1))$$

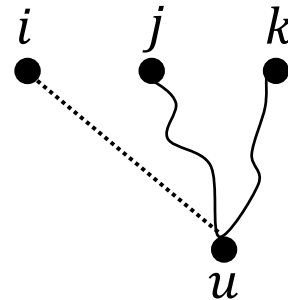
$$\sum_{\substack{i < j \\ k < l \\ a=4}} E(I_{ij} I_{kl}) \leq n^{4-2c^2} (1 + o(1))$$



**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

- Take  $p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$ ,  $c < \sqrt{2}$

$$E(x^2) = \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ k < l \\ a=4}} E(I_{ij} I_{kl}) + \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ i < k \\ a=3}} E(I_{ij} I_{ik}) + \sum_{i < j} E(I_{ij}^2) \quad a=2$$



**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

- Take  $p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$ ,  $c < \sqrt{2}$

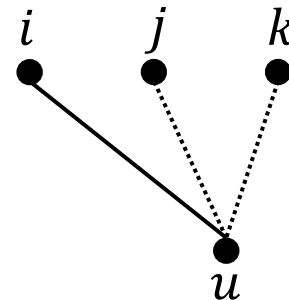
$$E(x^2) = \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ k < l \\ a=4}} E(I_{ij} I_{kl}) + \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ i < k \\ a=3}} E(I_{ij} I_{ik}) + \sum_{i < j} E(I_{ij}^2)$$

$$\Pr(I_{ij} I_{ik} = 1) \leq 1 - p + p(1 - p)^2 = 1 - 2p^2 + p^3 \approx 1 - 2p^2$$

$$E(I_{ij} I_{ik}) \leq (1 - 2p^2)^{n-3} = \left(1 - \frac{2c^2 \ln n}{n}\right)^{n-3}$$

$$\cong e^{-2c^2 \ln n} = n^{-2c^2}$$

$$\sum_{\substack{i < j \\ i < k}} E(I_{ij} I_{ik}) \leq n^{3-2c^2}$$



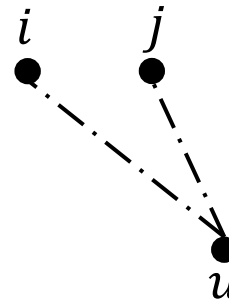
**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

- Take  $p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$ ,  $c < \sqrt{2}$

$$E(x^2) = \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ k < l \\ a=4}} E(I_{ij} I_{kl}) + \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ i < k \\ a=3}} E(I_{ij} I_{ik}) + \sum_{\substack{i < j \\ a=2}} E(I_{ij}^2)$$

$$E(I_{ij}^2) = E(I_{ij})$$

$$\sum_{ij} E(I_{ij}^2) = E(x) \cong \frac{1}{2} n^{2-c^2}$$





**Theorem.** The property that  $G(n, p)$  has diameter two has a sharp threshold at  $p = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$

- Take  $p = c \sqrt{\frac{\ln n}{n}}$ ,  $c < \sqrt{2}$

$$E(x^2) \leq E^2(x)(1 + o(1))$$

A graph almost surely has at least one bad pair of vertices and thus diameter greater than two.