

Faster mixing of the Jerrum-Sinclair chain

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Joint work with

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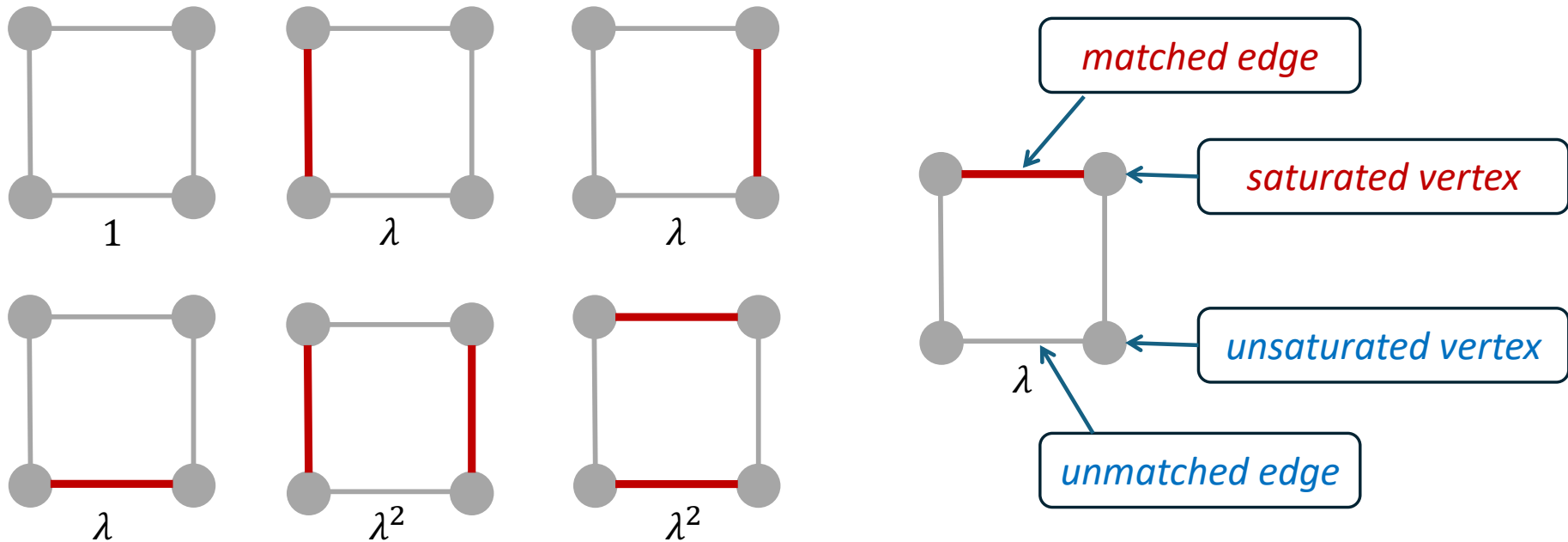
Nanjing University

Conference on Mixing Times between Probability, Computer Science and Statistical Physics
ICTP, Italy, 9 May 2025

Monomer-dimer model

Simple graph $G = (V, E)$ and edge weight $\lambda > 0$

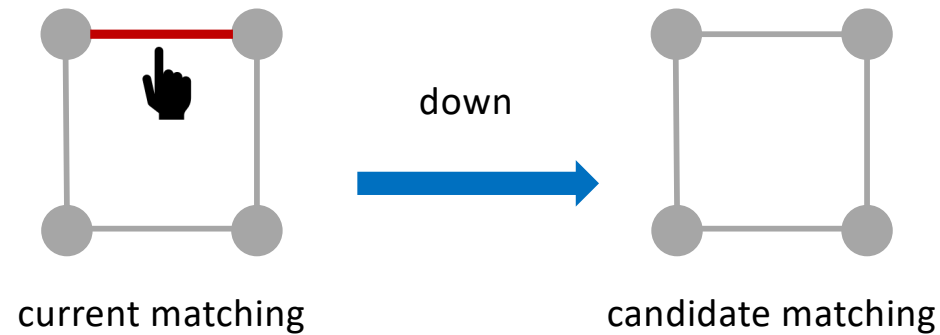
$$\forall \text{ matching } M \subseteq E, \mu(M) \propto \lambda^{|M|}$$



Jerrum-Sinclair chain (Metropolis chain)

Jerrum-Sinclair chain updates matching $X_t \rightarrow X_{t+1}$ by

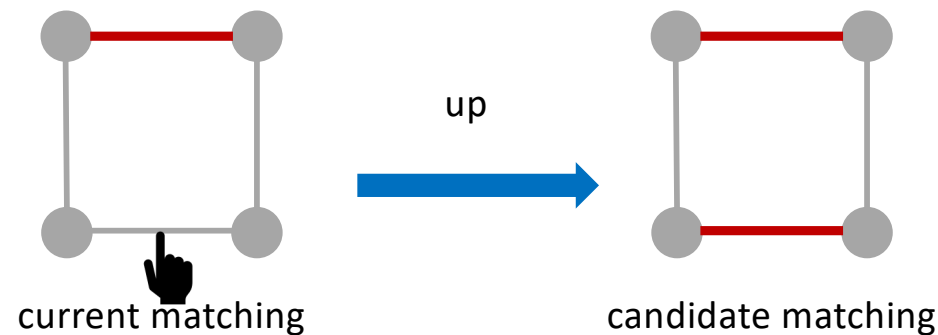
- select an edge $e = \{u, v\} \in E$ u.a.r.
- propose a candidate matching M from X_t by
 - 1) **down transition**: if $e \in X_t$, set $M \leftarrow X_t - e$



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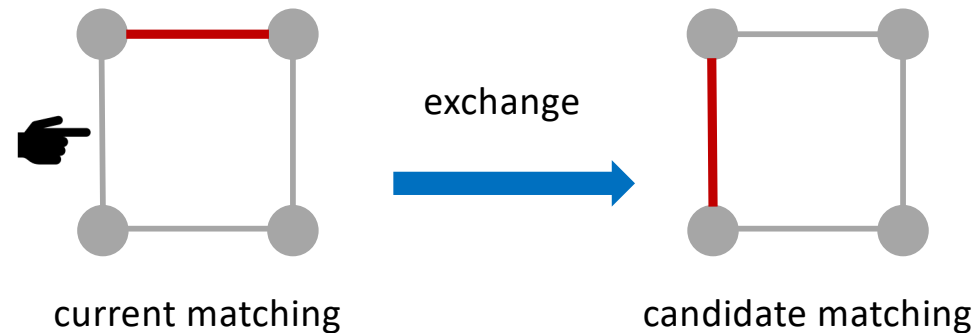
- select an edge $e = \{u, v\} \in E$ u.a.r.
- propose a candidate matching M for X_{t+1} by
 - 1) **down transition**: if $e \in X_t$, set $M \leftarrow X_t - e$
 - 2) **up transition**: if both u, v are **not saturated** in X_t , set $M \leftarrow X_t + e$



Jerrum-Sinclair chain (Metropolis chain)

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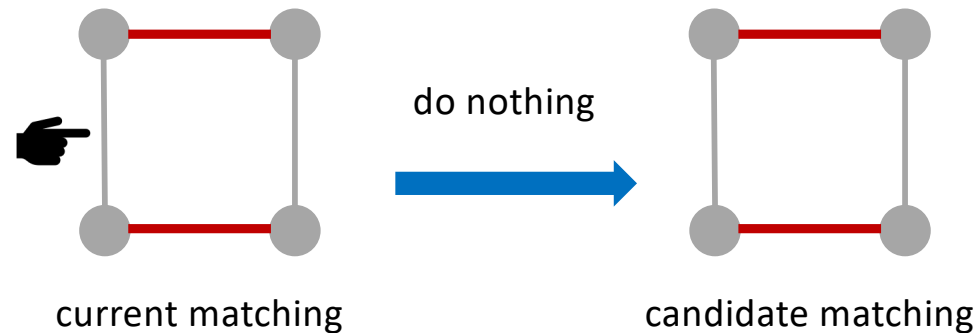
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 - 3) **exchange transition**: if one endpoint is **saturated** and the other is **not**, say u is saturated by edge f and v is not, set $M \leftarrow X_t + e - f$



Jerrum-Sinclair chain (Metropolis chain)

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- select an edge $e = \{u, v\} \in E$ u.a.r.
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 - 3) **exchange transition**: if one endpoint is **saturated** and the other is **not**, say u is saturated by edge f and v is not, set $M \leftarrow X_t + e - f$
 - 4) **otherwise** (both u, v are saturated and $e \notin X_t$): set $M \leftarrow X_t$



Jerrum-Sinclair chain (Metropolis chain)

Jerrum-Sinclair chain P_{JS} updates matching $X_t \rightarrow X_{t+1}$ by

- select an edge $e = \{u, v\} \in E$ u.a.r.
- propose a candidate matching M for X_{t+1} by
 - 1) **down transition**: if $e \in X_t$, set $M \leftarrow X_t - e$
 - 2) **up transition**: if both u, v are **not saturated** in X_t , set $M \leftarrow X_t + e$
 - 3) **exchange transition**: if one endpoint is **saturated** and the other is **not**, say u is saturated by edge f and v is not, set $M \leftarrow X_t + e - f$
 - 4) **otherwise** (both u, v are saturated and $e \notin X_t$): set $M \leftarrow X_t$
- with prob. $\min \left\{ 1, \frac{\mu(M)}{\mu(X_t)} \right\}$, accept M and set $X_{t+1} \leftarrow M$; otherwise, $X_{t+1} \leftarrow X_t$ (Metropolis filter)

1/2-Lazy Jerrum-Sinclair chain: $P_{JS_zz} = \frac{1}{2}(P_{JS} + I)$

$$\textbf{Mixing time: } T_{\text{mix}}(P_{JS_zz}) = \max_{X_0} \min \left\{ t > 0 \mid \|X_t - \mu\|_{TV} \leq \frac{1}{4e} \right\}$$

Mixing time results

Jerrum-Sinclair (1989): Graph with n vertices and m edges; constant $\lambda > 0$,

$$T_{\text{mix}}(P_{JS_zz}) = \tilde{O}(mn^2)$$

Canonical Path: $O(nm)$ -congestion with $O(n)$ path length \longrightarrow **spectral gap** $\gamma = \Omega\left(\frac{1}{nm}\right)$

Mixing time: $T_{\text{mix}}(P_{JS_zz}) = O\left(\frac{1}{\gamma} \log \frac{1}{\mu_{\min}}\right)$, $\mu_{\min} = \min_M \mu(M)$ and $\log \frac{1}{\mu_{\min}} = \tilde{O}(n)$

Chen-Liu-Vigoda (2021): Graph with n vertices, m edges, and max degree Δ ; constant $\lambda > 0$,

$$T_{\text{mix}}(\text{Glauber dynamics}) = O(\Delta^{\Delta^2} \cdot m \log n)$$

Spectral independence (local-to-global in HDX) \longrightarrow **modified log-Sobolev const.** $\alpha = \Omega_{\Delta}\left(\frac{1}{m}\right)$

Our Result: $T_{\text{mix}}(P_{JS_zz}) = O(\Delta m \cdot \min\{n, \Delta \log \Delta \log n\}) = \tilde{O}(m\Delta^2)$

- **Spectral gap**: $\Omega\left(\frac{1}{m\Delta}\right)$
- **Log-Sobolev const.:** $\Omega\left(\frac{1}{m\Delta^2}\right)$

Corollary: $T_{\text{mix}}(\text{Glauber dynamics}) = \tilde{O}(\Delta^3 \cdot m)$

General results

- **Distribution** μ over $\Omega \subseteq [q]^E$ for finite domain $[q] = \{1, 2, \dots, q\}$ and variable set E
- **Random variable** $F = f(X)$ for a function $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $X \sim \mu$

Variance: $\text{Var}[F] = \text{Var}_\mu[f] = \mathbb{E}[F^2] - \mathbb{E}[F]^2$

Entropy: $\text{Ent}[F] = \text{Ent}_\mu[f] = \mathbb{E}[F \log F] - \mathbb{E}[F] \log \mathbb{E}[F]$

- **Reversible Markov chain** Q for $\mu: \forall x, y, \mu(x)Q(x, y) = \mu(y)Q(y, x)$

Dirichlet form: $\mathcal{E}_Q(f, f) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in \Omega} \mu(x)Q(x, y)(f(x) - f(y))^2$ for all $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Poincaré Inequality (Spectral Gap)

$$\gamma(Q) \cdot \text{Var}_\mu[f] \leq \mathcal{E}_Q(f, f)$$

→ $T_{\text{mix}}\left(\frac{Q + I}{2}\right) = O\left(\frac{1}{\gamma(Q)} \log \frac{1}{\mu_{\min}}\right)$

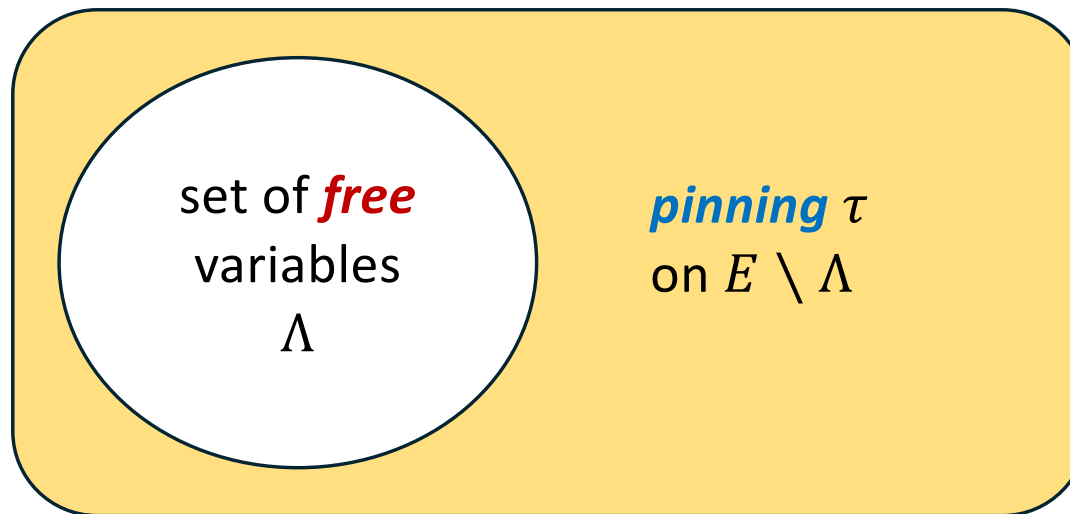
Log-Sobolev Inequality

$$\rho(Q) \cdot \text{Ent}_\mu[F^2] \leq \mathcal{E}_Q(f, f)$$

→ $T_{\text{mix}}(Q) = O\left(\frac{1}{\rho(Q)} \log \log \frac{1}{\mu_{\min}}\right)$

Family of Markov chains

- For a subset $\Lambda \subseteq E$, a pinning $\tau \in [q]^{E \setminus \Lambda}$ outside Λ , define **conditional distribution**
 $\mu^\tau = (\text{distribution of } X \sim \mu \text{ conditional on } X_{E \setminus \Lambda} = \tau)$



Family of Markov chains

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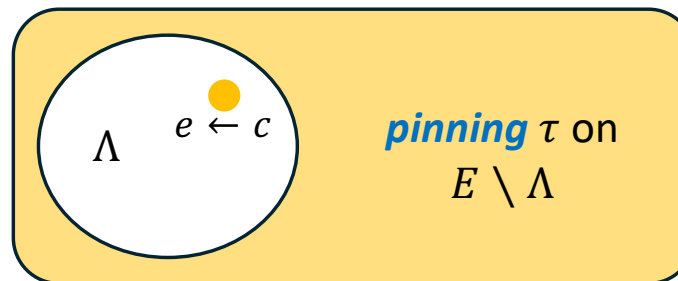
- Markov chain Q^τ is a reversible chain for μ^τ

a family of chains $\mathcal{Q} = \{Q^\tau \mid \tau \text{ is a pinning}\}$

Example: \mathcal{Q} is a family of *Glauber dynamics* or a family of *Metropolis chains*.

Concave Dirichlet forms: $\forall \Lambda \subseteq E, \forall \tau \in [q]^{E \setminus \Lambda}$, the Markov chain Q^τ for μ^τ satisfies

$$\frac{1}{|\Lambda|} \sum_{e \in \Lambda} \mathbb{E}_{c \sim \mu_e^\tau} [\varepsilon_{Q^\tau \Lambda(e \leftarrow c)}(f, f)] \leq \varepsilon_{Q^\tau}(f, f).$$



Family of Markov chains

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$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{|\Lambda|} \sum_{e \in \Lambda} \mathbb{E}_{c \sim \mu_e^\tau} \left[\varepsilon_{Q^{\tau \wedge (e \leftarrow c)}}(f, f) \right]}_{\text{average of Dirichlet forms}} \leq \underbrace{\varepsilon_{Q^\tau}(f, f)}_{\text{Dirichlet forms of } Q^\tau \text{ for } \mu^\tau}.$$

Markov chain for conditional distributions
with **one more pinned variable**

Local functional inequalities

Distribution μ over $\Omega \subseteq [q]^E$, random variables $F = f(X)$, where $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $X \sim \mu$

α -local Poincaré Inequality

$$\alpha \cdot \sum_{e \in E} \text{Var} [\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e]] \leq \mathcal{E}_Q(f, f)$$

sum over all
variables in E

a random variable in \mathbb{R}
support size at most q

α -local log-Sobolev Inequality

$$\alpha \cdot \sum_{e \in E} \text{Ent} [\mathbb{E}[F^2 \mid X_e]] \leq \mathcal{E}_Q(f, f)$$

Local functional inequalities for a family of Markov chains \mathcal{Q}

$(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{|E|})$ -local Poincaré Inequality

$\forall \Lambda \subseteq E, \forall \tau \in [q]^{E \setminus \Lambda}$, the Markov chain Q^τ for μ^τ satisfies the $\alpha_{|\Lambda|}$ -local Poincaré Inequality

set of $k = |\Lambda|$
free variables
 Λ

pinning τ
on $E \setminus \Lambda$

Local functional inequalities for a family of Markov chains \mathcal{Q}

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$\forall \Lambda \subseteq E, \forall \tau \in [q]^{E \setminus \Lambda}$, the Markov chain Q^τ for μ^τ satisfies the $\alpha_{|\Lambda|}$ -local Poincaré Inequality

$$\alpha_{|\Lambda|} \cdot \sum_{e \in E} \text{Var} [\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e]] \leq \varepsilon_{Q^\tau}(f, f),$$

where $F = f(X)$ and $X \sim \mu^\tau$

Local functional inequalities for a family of Markov chains \mathcal{Q}

$(\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \dots, \alpha_{|E|})$ -local Poincaré Inequality

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Local functional inequalities for a family of Markov chains \mathcal{Q}

$(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{|E|})$ -local Poincaré Inequality

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Local-to-global theorem for functional inequalities

For a family of Markov chains \mathcal{Q} with the concave Dirichlet forms

$(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{|E|})$ -local Poincaré Inequality



Poincaré constant $\gamma(Q) \geq \left(\sum_{k=1}^{|E|} \frac{1}{k\alpha_k} \right)^{-1}$

$(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{|E|})$ -local log-Sobolev Inequality



Log-Sobolev constant $\rho(Q) \geq \left(\sum_{k=1}^{|E|} \frac{1}{k\alpha_k} \right)^{-1}$

Q : Markov chain for $\mu = \mu^\emptyset$ without pinning

How to establish local functional inequalities?

α -local Poincaré Inequality

$$\alpha \cdot \sum_{e \in E} \text{Var} [\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e]] \leq \mathcal{E}_Q(f, f)$$

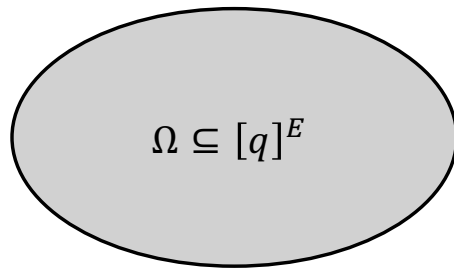
α -local log-Sobolev Inequality

$$\alpha \cdot \sum_{e \in E} \text{Ent} [\mathbb{E}[F^2 \mid X_e]] \leq \mathcal{E}_Q(f, f)$$

Transport Flow

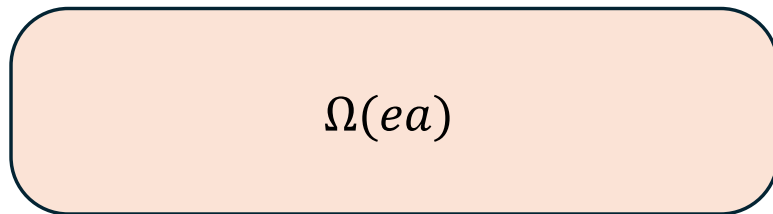
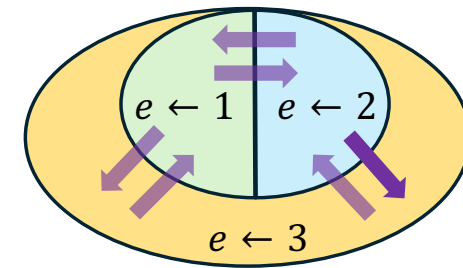
Given a Markov chain Q , a transport flow Γ from a **distribution ν** to a **distribution π** is **a distribution of paths** such that $\gamma = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \sim \Gamma$ satisfies

- The starting point $s(\gamma) = x_0 \sim \nu$
 - The endpoint $t(\gamma) = x_\ell \sim \pi$
 - Every pair of adjacent points (x_i, x_{i+1}) is a **transition** in Q
- } $(s(\gamma), t(\gamma))$ forms a **coupling** of ν and π



For any variable $e \in E$

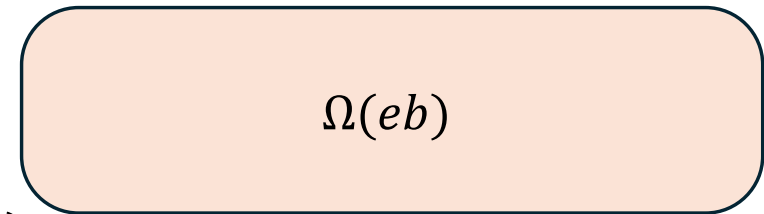
- **partition** the space by **the value of e**
- **routing** between different parts



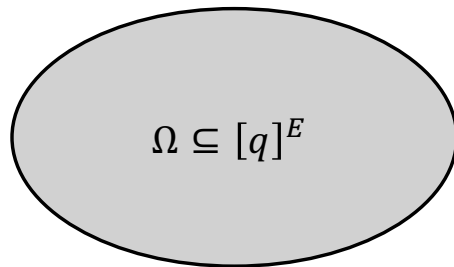
$$\Omega(ea) = \{X \in \Omega \mid X_e = a\}$$

routing via
transitions in Q

sending $\mu_e(a)\mu_e(b)$
units of flow in total

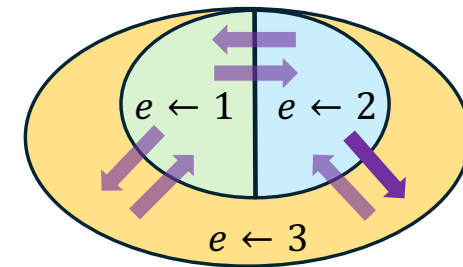


$$\Omega(eb) = \{X \in \Omega \mid X_e = b\}$$



For any variable $e \in E$

- **partition** the space by **the value of e**
- **routing** between different parts



$\forall \sigma \in \Omega(ea)$ needs to **send**
 $\mu_e(a)\mu_e(b)\mu^{e \leftarrow a}(\sigma)$ unit of flow

$$\Omega(ea) = \{X \in \Omega \mid X_e = a\}$$

routing via
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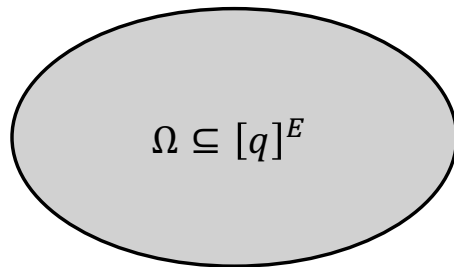
sending $\mu_e(a)\mu_e(b)$
units of flow in total

$\forall \tau \in \Omega(eb)$ needs to **receive**
 $\mu_e(a)\mu_e(b)\mu^{e \leftarrow b}(\tau)$ unit of flow

$$\Omega(eb) = \{X \in \Omega \mid X_e = b\}$$

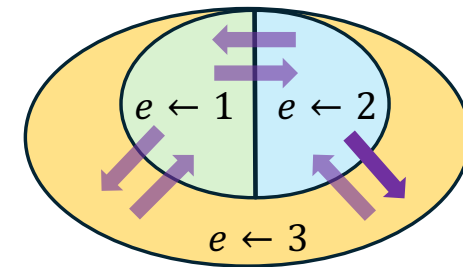


Sending $\mu_e(a)\mu_e(b)$ units of flow via a **random path**
from the **transport flow** $\Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}$ from $\mu^{e \leftarrow a}$ to $\mu^{e \leftarrow b}$



For any variable $e \in E$

- **partition** the space by **the value of e**
- **routing** between different parts



$\forall \sigma \in \Omega(ea)$ needs to **send**
 $\mu_e(a)\mu_e(b)\mu^{e \leftarrow a}(\sigma)$ unit of flow

$$\Omega(ea) = \{X \in \Omega \mid X_e = a\}$$

routing via
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$\forall \tau \in \Omega(eb)$ needs to **receive**
 $\mu_e(a)\mu_e(b)\mu^{e \leftarrow b}(\tau)$ unit of flow

sending $\mu_e(a)\mu_e(b)$
units of flow in total

$$\Omega(eb) = \{X \in \Omega \mid X_e = b\}$$



Every path $\gamma = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_\ell)$

send $\mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \Pr_{X \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}}[X = \gamma]$ units of flow from x_0 to x_ℓ

Local Poincaré inequality via transport flow

If there exists a *family of transport flow*

$$\{\Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b} \text{ from } \mu^{e \leftarrow a} \text{ to } \mu^{e \leftarrow b} \mid e \in E, a, b \in [q]\}$$

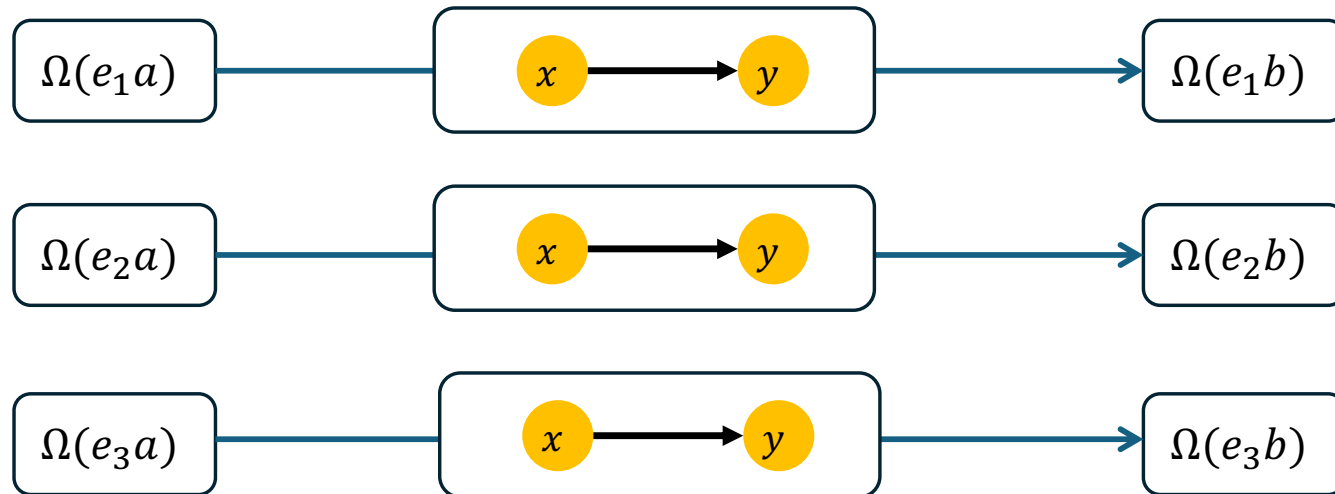
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- (κ -*expected congestion*) For *any transition* $(x \rightarrow y)$ in Q , and any $a, b \in [q]$,

$$\sum_{e \in E} \mu_e(a) \mu_e(b) \cdot \Pr_{\gamma \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}} [(x \rightarrow y) \in \gamma] \leq \kappa \cdot \mu(x) Q(x, y).$$



Local Poincaré inequality via transport flow

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- (L -*expected length*) For any $e \in E$, any $a, b \in [q]$,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\gamma \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}} [\ell(\gamma)] \leq L$$

*Slightly different definitions
are used in the paper to
improve the application*



α -local Poincaré Inequality

$$\alpha \cdot \sum_{e \in E} \text{Var} [\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e]] \leq \mathcal{E}_Q(f, f) \text{ with } \alpha = \Omega\left(\frac{1}{q^2 \kappa L}\right)$$

Local Poincaré inequality via transport flow

Family of transport flow

- low expected congestion
- low expected length



local Poincaré Inequality

Construct transport flow $\Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}$ from $\mu^{e \leftarrow a}$ to $\mu^{e \leftarrow b}$ such that for $\gamma = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \sim \Gamma$

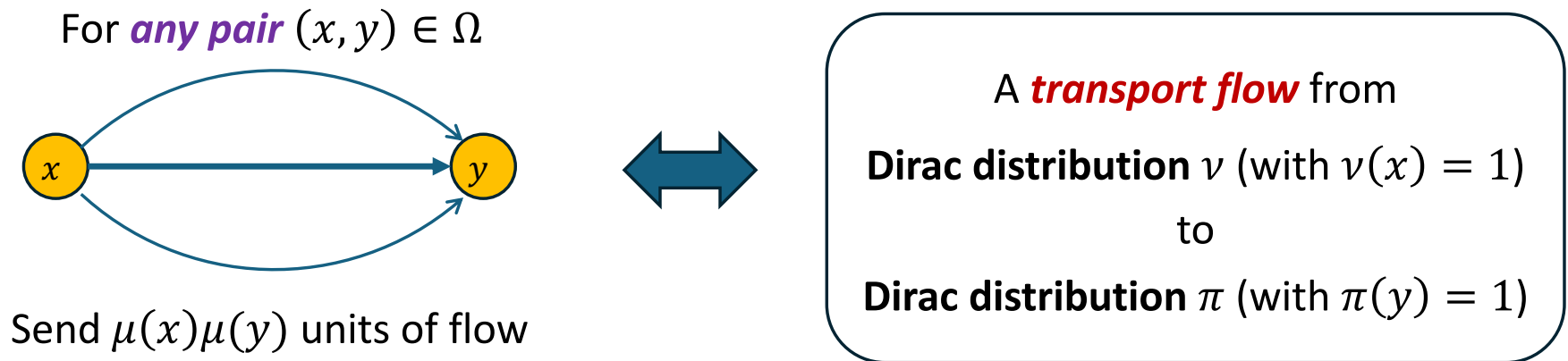
- The starting point $s(\gamma) = x_0 \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow a}$
 - The endpoint $t(\gamma) = x_\ell \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow b}$
 - Every pair of adjacent points (x_i, x_{i+1}) is a **transition** in Q
- } $(s(\gamma), t(\gamma))$ forms a **coupling** of $\mu^{e \leftarrow a}$ and $\mu^{e \leftarrow b}$

Find a **good coupling** with small **expected discrepancy** between $\mu^{e \leftarrow a}$ and $\mu^{e \leftarrow b}$

Canonical path and multicommodity flow

The technique [Diaconis and Stroock 91] [Sinclair 92] is to bound **global variance**

$$\alpha \cdot \text{Var}[F] \leq \mathcal{E}_Q(f, f)$$



- **Canonical path**: sending flow through one path
- **Multicommodity flow**: sending flow through a distribution of paths

Proof outline: Local Poincaré inequality via transport flow

$$\text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e]] = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a) \mu_e(b) (\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = a] - \mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = b])^2$$


local variance


amount of flow

Proof outline: Local Poincaré inequality via transport flow

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e]] &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) (\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = a] - \mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = b])^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow a}}[f(X)] - \mathbb{E}_{Y \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow b}}[f(Y)] \right)^2\end{aligned}$$

By definition $F = f(x)$

*beginning of the
transport flow*

*ending of the
transport flow*

Proof outline: Local Poincaré inequality via transport flow

$$\text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e]] = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a) \mu_e(b) (\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = a] - \mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = b])^2$$

By definition $F = f(x)$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a) \mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow a}}[f(X)] - \mathbb{E}_{Y \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow b}}[f(Y)] \right)^2$$

Coupling : $(x_0, x_\ell) \sim (\mu^{e \leftarrow a}, \mu^{e \leftarrow b})$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a) \mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{\gamma=(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}}[f(x_0) - f(x_\ell)] \right)^2$$



sample a random path from the flow

Proof outline: Local Poincaré inequality via transport flow

$$\text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e]] = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) (\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = a] - \mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = b])^2$$

By definition $F = f(x)$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow a}}[f(X)] - \mathbb{E}_{Y \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow b}}[f(Y)] \right)^2$$

Coupling : $(x_0, x_\ell) \sim (\mu^{e \leftarrow a}, \mu^{e \leftarrow b})$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{\gamma=(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}}[f(x_0) - f(x_\ell)] \right)^2$$

Telescoping sum along the path

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{\gamma=(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}} \left[\sum_{1 \leq i \leq \ell} (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})) \right] \right)^2$$

Proof outline: Local Poincaré inequality via transport flow

$$\text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e]] = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) (\mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = a] - \mathbb{E}[F \mid X_e = b])^2$$

By definition $F = f(x)$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{X \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow a}}[f(X)] - \mathbb{E}_{Y \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow b}}[f(Y)] \right)^2$$

Coupling : $(x_0, x_\ell) \sim (\mu^{e \leftarrow a}, \mu^{e \leftarrow b})$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{\gamma=(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}}[f(x_0) - f(x_\ell)] \right)^2$$

Telescoping sum along the path

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{\gamma=(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}} \left[\sum_{1 \leq i \leq \ell} (f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1})) \right] \right)^2$$

Summing by
enumerating transitions

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \left(\mathbb{E}_{\gamma \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}} \left[\sum_{(x \rightarrow y) \in Q} (f(x) - f(y)) \mathbf{1}[(x \rightarrow y) \in \gamma] \right] \right)^2$$

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- using **Cauchy–Schwarz inequality** on the term
- the rest of the proof follows from the standard analysis in [\[Sinclair 92\]](#)

Local log-Sobolev inequality via transport flow

If there exists a *family of transport flow*

$$\{\Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b} \text{ from } \mu^{e \leftarrow a} \text{ to } \mu^{e \leftarrow b} \mid e \in E, a, b \in [q]\}$$

- (κ -**strong expected congestion**) For **any transition** $(x \rightarrow y)$ in Q , and any $a, b \in [q]$,

$$\sum_{e \in E} \mu_e(a) \mu_e(b) \cdot \mathbb{E}_{\gamma \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}} [\ell(\gamma) \cdot \mathbf{1}[(x \rightarrow y) \in \gamma]] \leq \kappa \cdot \mu(x) Q(x, y).$$



add the length of the path into the expectation

Local log-Sobolev inequality via transport flow

If there exists a **family of transport flow**

$$\{\Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b} \text{ from } \mu^{e \leftarrow a} \text{ to } \mu^{e \leftarrow b} \mid e \in E, a, b \in [q]\}$$

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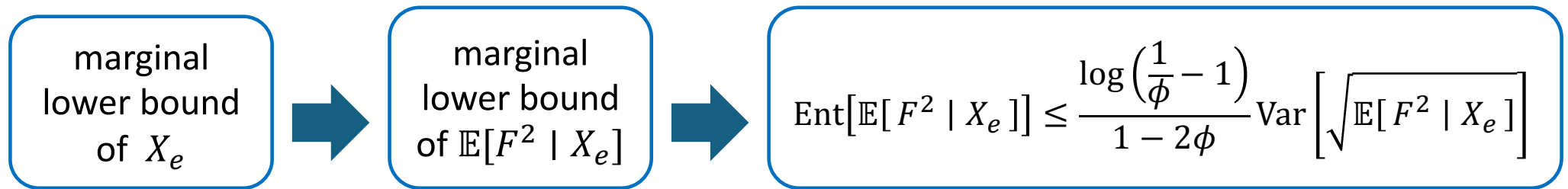


α -local log-Sobolev Inequality

$$\alpha \cdot \sum_{e \in E} \text{Ent} [\mathbb{E}[F^2 \mid X_e]] \leq \mathcal{E}_Q(f, f) \text{ with } \alpha = \Omega\left(\frac{1}{q^2 \kappa \log \frac{1}{\phi}}\right)$$

$\phi = \min\{\mu_e(c) \mid e \in E, c \in [q]\}$ is the **marginal lower bound**

Proof outline: log-Sobolev inequality via transport flow



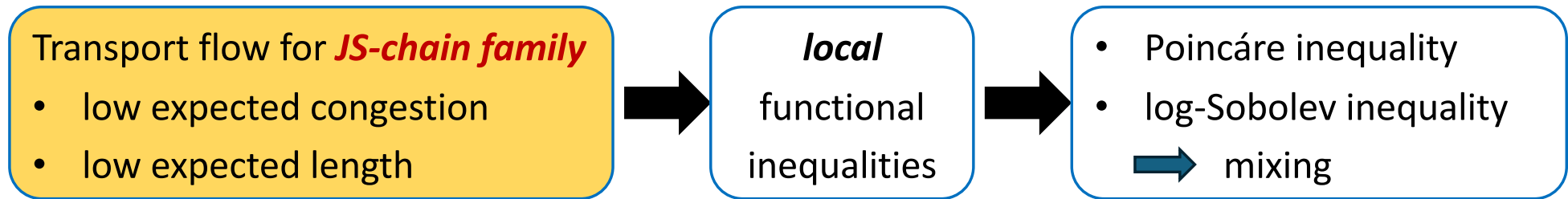
$$\text{Var}\left[\sqrt{\mathbb{E}[F^2 \mid X_e]}\right] \leq \sum_{a,b \in [q]} \mu_e(a)\mu_e(b) \cdot \mathbb{E}_{\gamma=(x_0, \dots, x_\ell) \sim \Gamma_e^{a \rightarrow b}} \left[\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq \ell} f(x_i) - f(x_{i-1}) \right)^2 \right]$$

by convexity of $h(x, y) = (\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{y})^2$

Using **Cauchy–Schwarz inequality** on the term



Application to Jerrum-Sinclair chain



For μ^τ with pinnings $\tau \in \{0,1\}^{E-\Lambda}$, free variables in Λ , the Jerrum-Sinclair chain $Q^\tau: X_t \rightarrow X_{t+1}$

- Pick an edge $e \in \Lambda$ uniformly at random
- Construct a candidate matching M from X_t
- Accept or reject M via Metropolis filter w.r.t. μ^τ

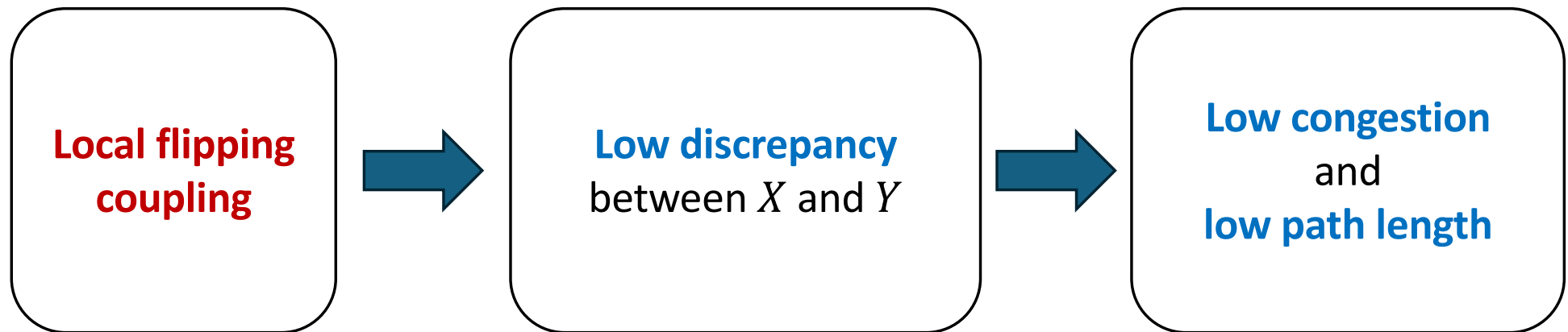
The family of Jerrum-Sinclair chains $\mathcal{Q} = \{Q^\tau \mid \tau\}$ satisfies

- $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{|E|})$ -**local Poincaré inequality** with $\alpha_k = \Omega_\lambda \left(\frac{1}{k\Delta} \right)$
- $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{|E|})$ -**log Sobolev inequality** with $\alpha_k = \Omega_\lambda \left(\frac{1}{k\Delta^2 \log \Delta} \right)$

Proved by **transport flow**

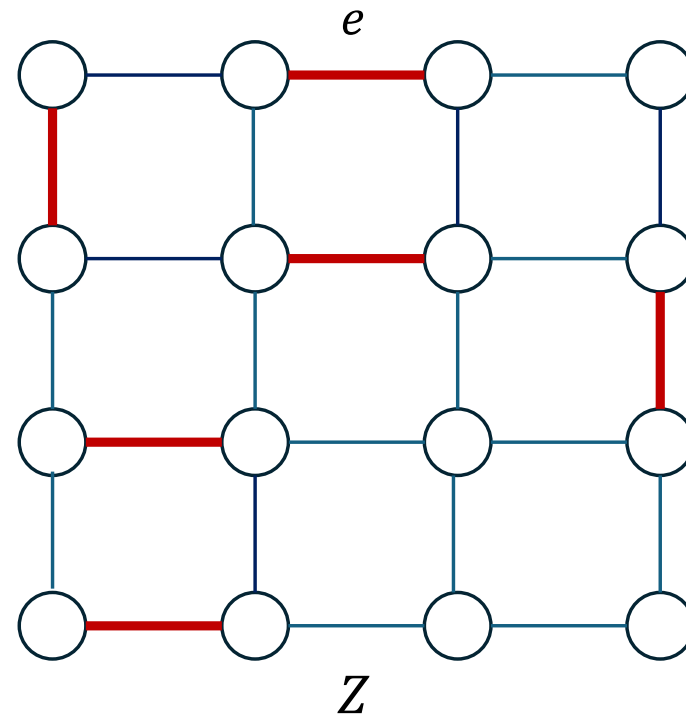
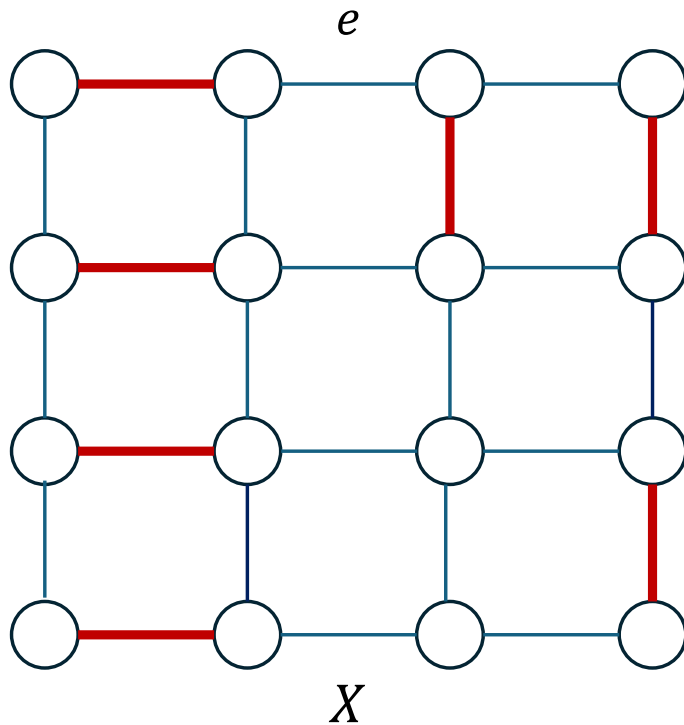
Fix an edge $e \in E$, construct transport flow from $\mu^{e \leftarrow \text{unmatched}}$ to $\mu^{e \leftarrow \text{matched}}$

- Sample (X, Y) from the **local-flipping coupling** of $\mu^{e \leftarrow \text{unmatched}}$ to $\mu^{e \leftarrow \text{matched}}$
- Construct canonical path from X to Y using Jerrum and Sinclair's construction



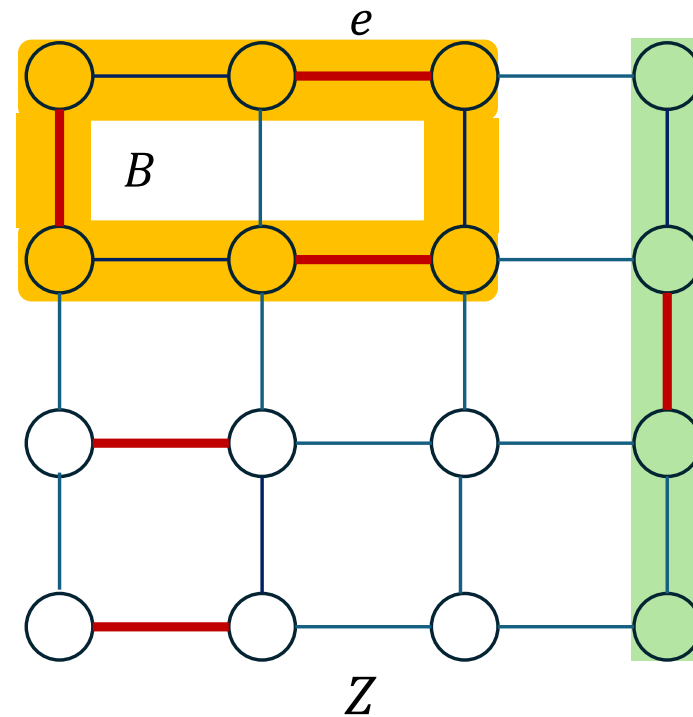
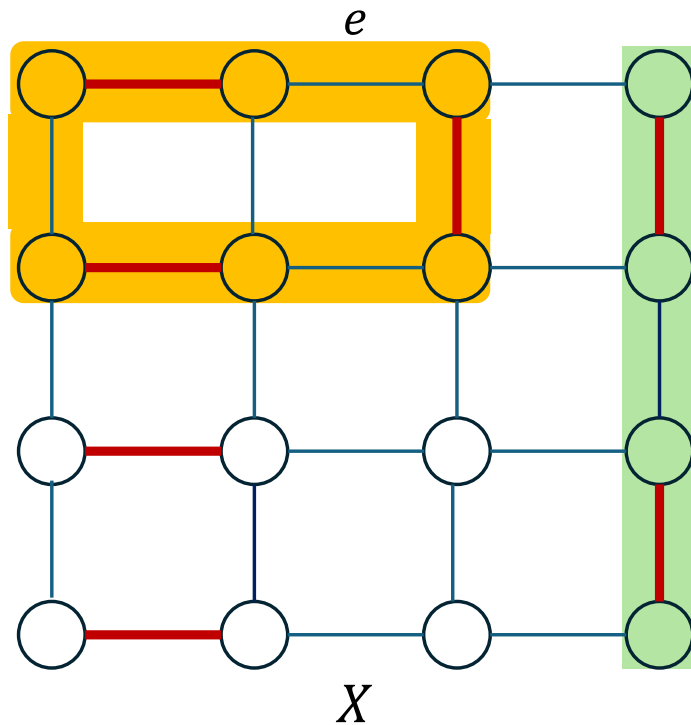
Local Flipping Coupling

- Sample $X \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow \text{unmatched}}$ and $Z \sim \mu^{e \leftarrow \text{matched}}$ **independently**
- The difference between X and Y are paths and cycles, find the unique one B containing e
- Let $Y = Z_B \cup X_{E-B}$ (flipping B in X to obtain Y)



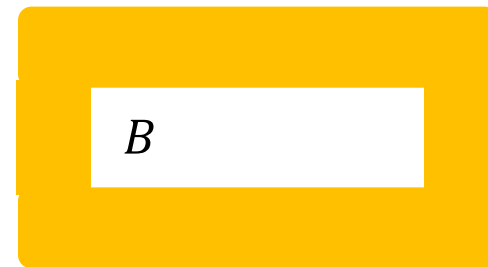
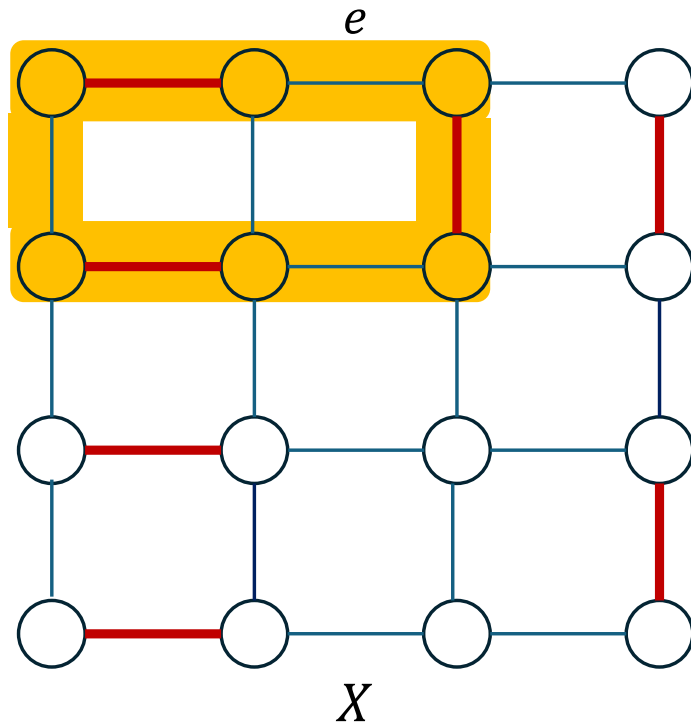
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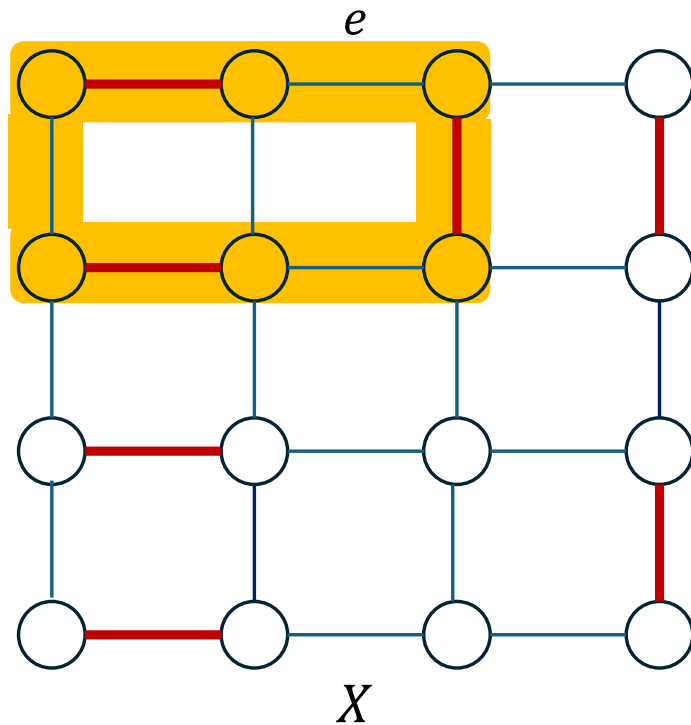
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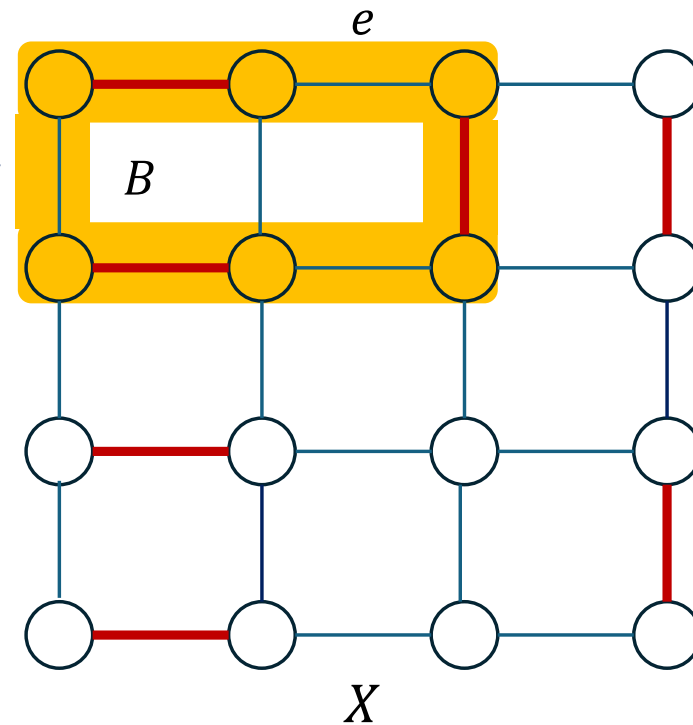


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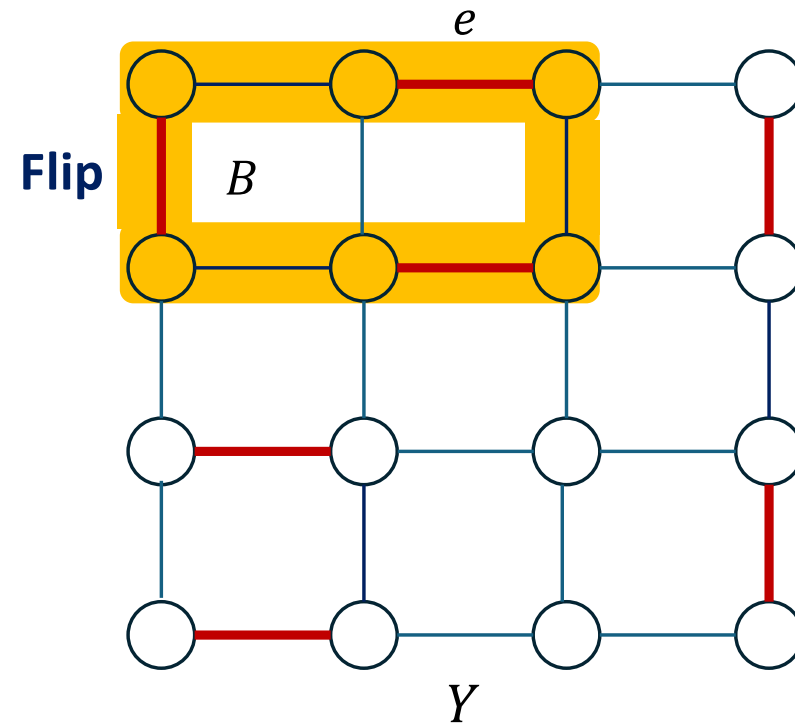
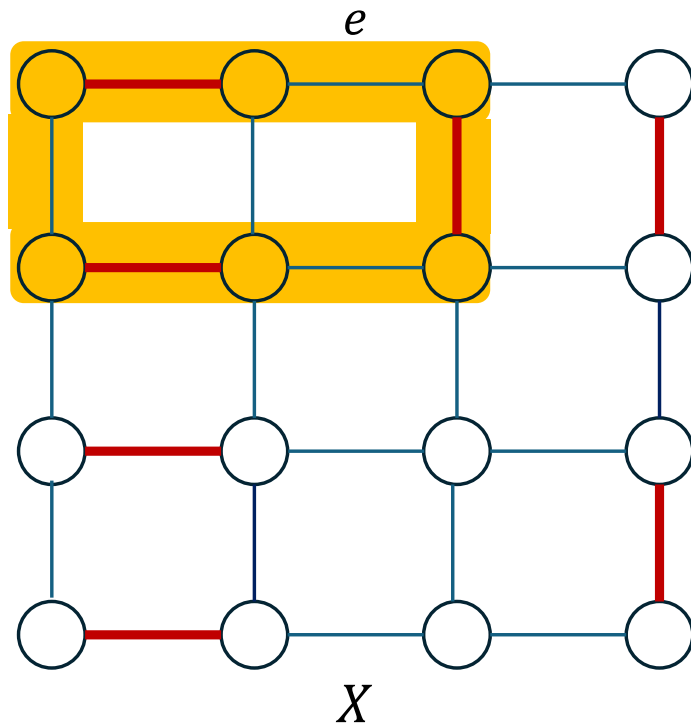


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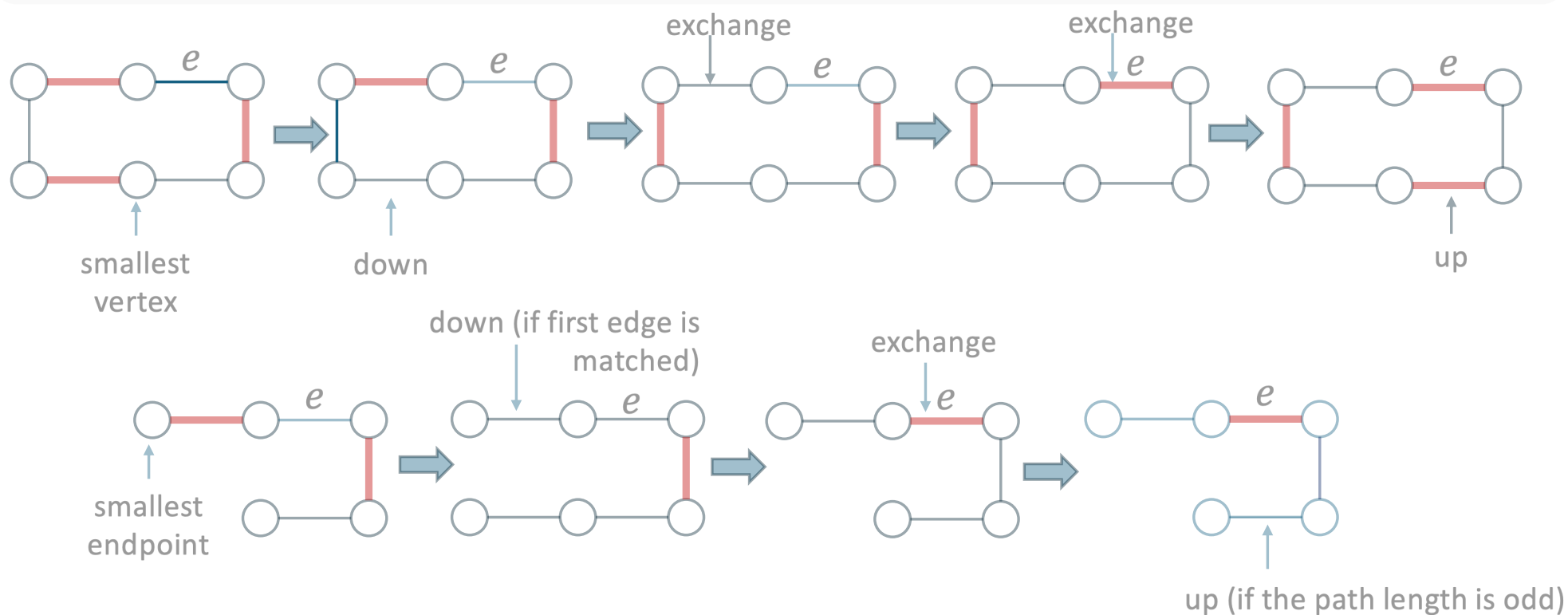
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Transport Flow

- Sample (X, Y) from the **local-flipping coupling** of $\mu^{e \leftarrow \text{unmatched}}$ to $\mu^{e \leftarrow \text{matched}}$
- Construct canonical path from X to Y using Jerrum and Sinclair's construction



Proof overview of expected length and congestion

- Analyze coupling via **local reviewing process**
- Disagreement percolation



For $(X, Y) \sim \mathcal{C}_e$ from local flipping coupling

- Length bound $\mathbb{E}[|X \oplus Y|] \leq O_\lambda(\sqrt{\Delta})$
- One sided bound $\mathbb{E}[|X \oplus Y| \mid X = x] \leq O_\lambda(\Delta)$

Expected congestion and strong congestion analysis

$$\sum_{e \in E} \mu_e(a) \mu_e(b) \cdot \mathbb{E}_{\gamma \sim \Gamma_e} [\mathbf{1}[(x \rightarrow y) \in \gamma]] \leq \kappa \cdot \mu(x) Q(x, y).$$

$$\sum_{e \in E} \mu_e(a) \mu_e(b) \cdot \mathbb{E}_{\gamma \sim \Gamma_e} [\ell(\gamma) \cdot \mathbf{1}[(x \rightarrow y) \in \gamma]] \leq \kappa \cdot \mu(x) Q(x, y).$$

sum of $|E|$ different couplings

$$\gamma \sim \Gamma_e$$



- Sample starting and ending points from coupling
- Construct the path deterministically

The randomness is only from locally flipping coupling

Proof overview of expected length and congestion

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$$\sum_{e \in E} \mu_e(a) \mu_e(b) \cdot \mathbb{E}_{\gamma \sim \Gamma_e} [\ell(\gamma) \cdot \mathbf{1}[(x \rightarrow y) \in \gamma]] \leq \kappa \cdot \mu(x) Q(x, y).$$

sum of $|E|$ different couplings



decoupling lemma

bound congestion by constructing **injection**
(guided by Jerrum-Sinclair's analysis)



analyze **one coupling** with a different
function inside the expectation

Open problems

- Lower discrepancy coupling of $\mu^{e \leftarrow a}$ and $\mu^{e \leftarrow b}$
- Construction of canonical paths



- Poincaré inequality
- log-Sobolev inequality

- Sharp bound for Jerrum-Sinclair chain: $\tilde{O}(m\sqrt{\Delta})$ mixing?
- More applications?

Improving the mixing bound for e.g. the permanent, the Ising model, the switch/flip chain for sampling regular graphs...