

Social Choice

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Outline

- 1 Introduction to Social Choice
- 2 Peer-Grading in MOOCs
 - Preliminaries
 - Correctness of Recovered Pairwise Rankings
 - Proofs



The Setting of Social Choice

Take voting scheme for example.

- A set O of **outcomes** (i.e., alternatives, candidates, etc.)
- A set A of agents s.t. each of them has a **preference** \succ over the outcomes.
- The **social choice function**: a mapping from the profiles of the preferences to a particular outcome.

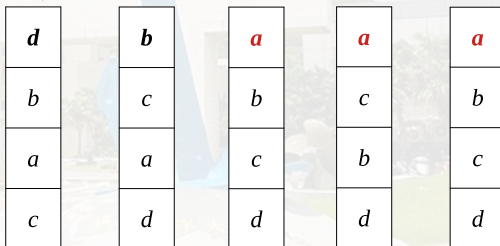


Outcomes & preferences

outcomes : a, b, c, d

preferences

$$d \succ b \succ a \succ c$$



d	b	a	a	a
b	c	b	c	b
a	a	c	b	c
c	d	d	d	d

Preferences

- A binary relation \succsim such that
 - for every $a, b \in O$, $a \neq b$, we have either $a \succsim b$ or $b \succsim a$ but NOT both.
 - for $a, b, c \in O$, if $a \succsim b$ and $b \succsim c$, then we have $a \succsim c$.
- \precsim can be defined similarly.
 - $\precsim: \precsim$



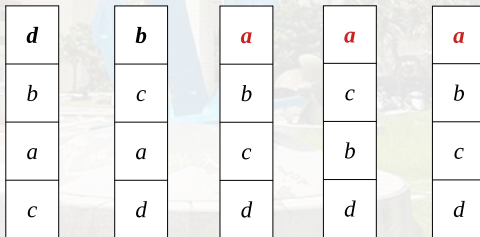
Agents with preferences

- E.g., five agents (voters).
- Each agent has its preference over four candidates $\{a, b, c, d\}$.

outcomes : a, b, c, d

$d \succ b \succ a \succ c$

preferences



d	b	a	a	a
b	c	b	c	b
a	a	c	b	c
c	d	d	d	d

Agents with preferences

- E.g., three agents (voters).
- Each agent has its preference over four candidates $\{a, b, c, d\}$.

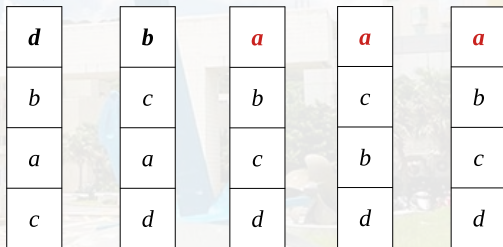
v_1	v_2	v_3
d	b	a
b	c	b
a	a	c
c	d	d

Plurality rule $\Rightarrow a$

outcomes : a, b, c, d

$d \succ b \succ a \succ c$

preferences



d	b	a	a	a
b	c	b	c	b
a	a	c	b	c
c	d	d	d	d

- Plurality rule: each agent can only give score 1 to the most preferred one and 0 to the others.

Plurality rule (contd.)

v_1	v_2	v_3
<i>d</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>

- Plurality rule: each agent can only give score 1 to the most preferred one and 0 to the others.

Plurality rule (contd.)

v_1	v_2	v_3
<i>d</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>

- Plurality rule:

Plurality rule (contd.)

v_1	v_2	v_3
<i>d</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>c</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>

- Plurality rule: depending on the tie-breaking rule.

Condorcet rule

v_1	v_2	v_3
d	b	a
b	c	b
a	a	c
c	d	d

- Condorcet rule:

- a vs. b
- a vs. c
- a vs. d

Condorcet rule

v_1	v_2	v_3
d	b	a
b	c	b
a	a	c
c	d	d

- Condorcet rule:

- a vs. $b \rightarrow b$
- a vs. $c \rightarrow a$
- a vs. $d \rightarrow a$

Condorcet rule

v_1	v_2	v_3
d	b	a
b	c	b
a	a	c
c	d	d

- Condorcet rule:

- c vs. a
- c vs. b
- c vs. d

Condorcet rule

v_1	v_2	v_3
d	b	a
b	c	b
a	a	c
c	d	d

- Condorcet rule:

- c vs. $a \rightarrow a$
- c vs. $b \rightarrow b$
- c vs. $d \rightarrow c$

Condorcet rule

v_1	v_2	v_3
d	b	a
b	c	b
a	a	c
c	d	d

- Condorcet rule:

- b vs. a
- b vs. c
- b vs. d

Condorcet rule

v_1	v_2	v_3
d	b	a
b	c	b
a	a	c
c	d	d

- Condorcet rule:

- b vs. $a \rightarrow b$
- b vs. $c \rightarrow b$
- b vs. $d \rightarrow b$

Condorcet rule

v_1	v_2	v_3
d	b	a
b	c	b
a	a	c
c	d	d

- Condorcet rule: b

- b vs. $a \rightarrow b$
- b vs. $c \rightarrow b$
- b vs. $d \rightarrow b$

Borda rule

v_1	v_2	v_3																								
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- Borda count rule:

Borda rule

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- Borda count rule:

- score of a : $1 + 1 + 3 = 5$.
- score of b : $2 + 3 + 2 = 7$.
- score of c : $0 + 2 + 1 = 3$.
- score of d : $3 + 0 + 0 = 3$.

Borda rule

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- Borda count rule: b .
 - score of a : $1 + 1 + 3 = 5$.
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Inefficiency of Borda Count

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- Who is the winner by Borda counting?



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- Who is the winner by Borda counting? a : 6, b : 7, c : 2.

Inefficiency of Borda Count

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- Who is the winner by Borda counting? a : 6, b : 7, c : 2.
- Condorcet principle follows?

Inefficiency of Borda Count

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- Condorcet principle follows? $a \succ b$, $a \succ c$.
- Who is the winner under the plurality rule?

Inefficiency of Borda Count

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- Condorcet principle follows? $a \succ b$, $a \succ c$.
- Who is the winner under the plurality rule? a .

Successive elimination

v_1	v_2	v_3
b	a	c
d	b	a
c	d	b
a	c	d

- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d$:

Successive elimination

v_1	v_2	v_3
b	a	c
d	b	a
c	d	b
a	c	d

- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow \cancel{b} \rightarrow c \rightarrow d$:

Successive elimination

v_1	v_2	v_3
b	a	c
d	b	a
c	d	b
a	c	d

- Successive elimination with ordering $\cancel{a} \rightarrow \cancel{b} \rightarrow c \rightarrow d$:

Successive elimination

v_1	v_2	v_3
b	a	c
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- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d$:

Successive elimination

v_1	v_2	v_3
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- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d$: d

Successive elimination

v_1	v_2	v_3
b	a	c
d	b	a
c	d	b
a	c	d

- Successive elimination with ordering $\cancel{a} \rightarrow \cancel{b} \rightarrow \cancel{c} \rightarrow d$: d
 - The issue: all of the agents prefer b to d !

Successive elimination

v_1	v_2	v_3
b	a	c
d	b	a
c	d	b
a	c	d

- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d$: d
- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow c \rightarrow b \rightarrow d$:



Successive elimination

v_1	v_2	v_3
b	a	c
d	b	a
c	d	b
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- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d$: d
- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow c \rightarrow b \rightarrow d$: b

Successive elimination (sensitive to the agenda order)

v_1	v_2	v_3
b	a	c
d	b	a
c	d	b
a	c	d

- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d$: d
- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow c \rightarrow b \rightarrow d$: b
- Successive elimination with ordering $b \rightarrow c \rightarrow a \rightarrow d$:



Successive elimination (sensitive to the agenda order)

v_1	v_2	v_3
b	a	c
d	b	a
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a	c	d

- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d$: d
- Successive elimination with ordering $a \rightarrow c \rightarrow b \rightarrow d$: b
- Successive elimination with ordering $b \rightarrow c \rightarrow a \rightarrow d$: a



Condorcet Winner vs. Plurality

- Let's say we have 1,000 agents each of which has a preference over three candidates A, B, C .
 - 499 agents for $A \succ B \succ C$.
 - 3 agents for $B \succ C \succ A$.
 - 498 agents for $C \succ B \succ A$.
- Who is the Condorcet winner?



Condorcet Winner vs. Plurality

- Let's say we have 1,000 agents each of which has a preference over three candidates A, B, C .
 - 499 agents for $A \succ B \succ C$.
 - 3 agents for $B \succ C \succ A$.
 - 498 agents for $C \succ B \succ A$.
- Who is the Condorcet winner? **B**.



Condorcet Winner vs. Plurality

- Let's say we have 1,000 agents each of which has a preference over three candidates A, B, C .
 - 499 agents for $A \succ B \succ C$.
 - 3 agents for $B \succ C \succ A$.
 - 498 agents for $C \succ B \succ A$.
- Who is the Condorcet winner? **B**.
- Who is the winner under the plurality rule?



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 - 3 agents for $B \succ C \succ A$.
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- Who is the Condorcet winner? **B**.
- Who is the winner under the plurality rule? **A**.



Exercise

On Borda Count & Condorcet

We have five voters with the following preferences (ordering) over the outcomes A, B, C , and D .

- $B \succ C \succ A \succ D$.
- $B \succ D \succ C \succ A$.
- $D \succ C \succ A \succ B$.
- $A \succ D \succ B \succ C$.
- $A \succ D \succ C \succ B$.

Who is the winner by the Borda Count rule?

Who is the Condorcet winner?



Let's consider a practical application in MOOCs.



MOOCs

- MOOCs: Massive Online Open Courses
 - e.g., Coursera, EdX.



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 - ▷ Ask each student to grade a SMALL number of her peers' assignments.



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- MOOCs: Massive Online Open Courses
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- Outsourcing the grading task to the students.
- They may have incentives to assign LOW scores to everybody else.
 - ▶ Ask each student to grade a SMALL number of her peers' assignments.
 - Then merge individual rankings into a global one.



Terminologies

- \mathcal{A} : universe of n elements (students).
- (n, k) -grading scheme:
a collection \mathcal{B} of size- k subsets (**bundles**) of \mathcal{A} , such that each element of \mathcal{A} belongs to exactly k subsets of \mathcal{B} .
- The **bundle graph**:
Represent the (n, k) -grading scheme with a bipartite graph.
- \prec_b : a ranking of the element b contains (partial order).



The aggregation rule

An aggregation rule:

profile of partial rankings \rightarrow complete ranking of all elements.

- Borda:

SPRING FEAST 2016 BALLOT

a	LE BLE D'OR	金色三季 JINSE SANJI	5
b	CRYSTAL SPOON	水晶勺 CRYSTAL SPOON	3
c	Bei Yuan Restaurant	北园酒家 BEI YUAN	1
d	Tasty Steak	TASTY TASTY	2
e	Capricciosa	卡普里奇奥 CAPRICCIOSA	4

SPRING FEAST 2016 BALLOT

a	LE BLE D'OR	金色三季 JINSE SANJI	5
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d	Tasty Steak	TASTY TASTY	1
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SPRING FEAST 2016 BALLOT

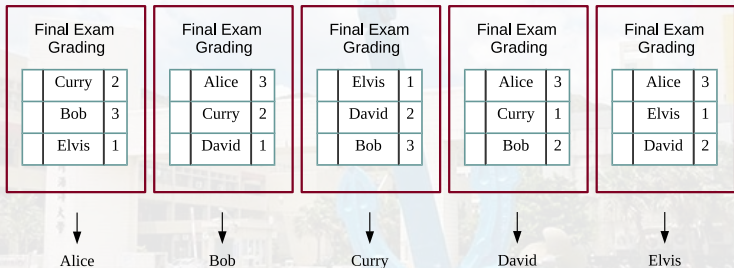
a	LE BLE D'OR	金色三季 JINSE SANJI	4
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- a: 14; b: 12; c: 4; d: 6; e: 9.

$a \succ b \succ e \succ d \succ c$.

Order-revealing grading scheme

An aggregation rule in peer grading (Borda):



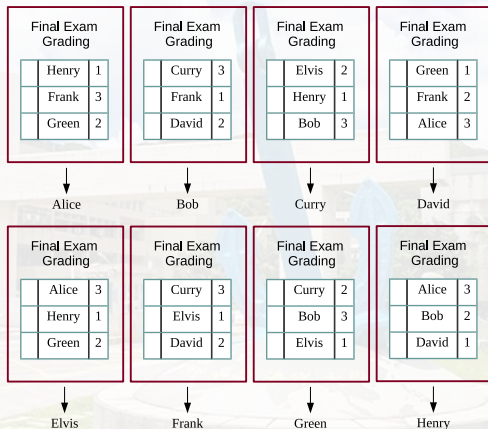
- Alice: 9; Bob: 8; Curry: 5; David: 5; Elvis: 3.

Alice \prec Bob \prec Curry \prec David \prec Elvis.

Assumption (perfect grading)

Each student grades the assignments in her bundle **consistently** to the ground truth.

Order-revealing grading scheme (contd.)

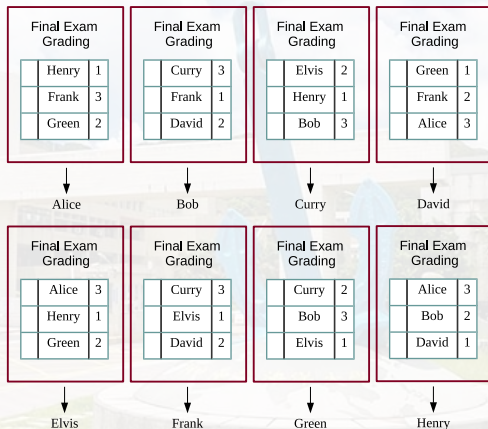


- Alice: 9; Bob: 8; Curry: 8; David: 5; Elvis: 4; Frank: 6; Green: 5; Henry: 3.

Alice \prec Bob \prec Curry \prec Frank \prec David \prec Green \prec Elvis \prec Henry.



Order-revealing grading scheme (contd.)



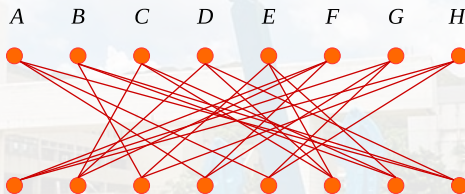
- Alice: 9; Bob: 8; Curry: 8; David: 5; Elvis: 4; Frank: 6; Green: 5; Henry: 3.

Alice \prec Bob \prec Curry \prec Frank \prec David \prec Green \prec Elvis \prec Henry.



The bundle graph

The bundle graph:



The bundle graph

The bundle graph:



- A random k -regular graph:

A complete bipartite $K_{n,n} \rightarrow$ removing edges $\{v, v\}, \forall v \rightarrow$
repeat

“draw a perfect matching uniformly at random among all perfect matchings of the remaining graph”

for k times.



The limitation on the order revealing scheme

- The property of revealing the ground truth for certain:

$$\forall x, y \in \mathcal{A}, \exists B \in \mathcal{B} \text{ such that } x, y \in B.$$

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- Suppose NO bundle contains both $x, y \in \mathcal{A}$.
- Let \prec, \prec' be two complete rankings.
 - x, y are in the first two positions in \prec, \prec' ;
 - \prec and \prec' differs only in the order of x and y .
- Clearly, partial rankings within the bundles are identical in both cases.
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 - Clearly, partial rankings within the bundles are identical in both cases.
 - No way to identify whether \prec or \prec' is the ground truth.
- To reveal the ground truth with certainty: $k = \Omega(\sqrt{n})$.
 - $n \cdot \binom{k}{2} \geq \binom{n}{2}$.



Seeking for approximate order-revealing grading schemes

- Use a bundle graph with a very low degree k (independent of n).
- Randomly permute the elements by $\pi : U \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ before associating them to the nodes of U of the bundle graph.
- Aiming at $\frac{\text{\#correctly recovered pairwise relations}}{\binom{n}{2}}$.



The main result

Theorem (Caragiannis, Krimpas, Voudouris@AAMAS'15)

When

- Borda is applied as the aggregation rule, and
- all the partial rankings are consistent to the ground truth,

then the expected fraction of correctly recovered pairwise relations is $1 - O(1/\sqrt{k})$.



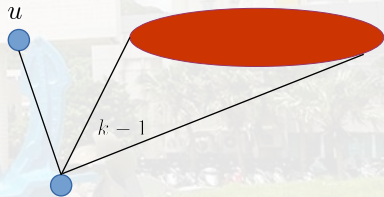
Question

- What will happen if we assign for each student only two assignments and each assignment is graded by exactly two students?



About who grading both u and v

- $\lambda_{u,v} := |N(u) \cap N(v)|$, for $u, v \in U$.
- $\sum_{v \in U \setminus \{u\}} \lambda_{u,v} = k(k-1)$.



- $W_{r,q}$: the r.v. denoting $B(a_r) - B(a_q)$ for $r < q$, $a_r, a_q \in \mathcal{A}$.
- $\Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}$: the event that $\pi(u) = a_r$, $\pi(v) = a_q$.

$$C := \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} \sum_{q=r+1}^n \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}\{W_{r,q} > 0\}] = \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} \sum_{q=r+1}^n \Pr[W_{r,q} > 0]$$

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 \end{aligned}$$

- Given $\Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}$,
 - the expected Borda score of a_r is $k + (k(k-1) - \lambda_{u,v}) \cdot \frac{n-r-1}{n-2} + \lambda_{u,v}$.
 - the expected Borda score of a_q is $k + (k(k-1) - \lambda_{u,v}) \cdot \frac{n-q}{n-2}$.
- Thus

$$E[W_{r,q} \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}] = (k(k-1) - \lambda_{u,v}) \frac{q-r-1}{n-2} + \lambda_{u,v}.$$

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$$E[W_{r,q} \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}] = (k(k-1) - \lambda_{u,v}) \frac{q-r-1}{n-2} + \lambda_{u,v}.$$

Why?



Calculate the Borda score from another point of view

- Element a_r gets one point for each bundle it belongs to;
 - plus one additional point for each appearance of an element with rank higher $> r$ in the bundles a_r belongs to.



- In the bundles of containing a_r :
 - $\lambda_{u,v}$ appearances of a_q in the bundles of a_r .
 - $k(k-1) - \lambda_{u,v}$ appearances of elements different than a_r, a_q .
 - Each of them has prob. $\frac{n-r-1}{n-2}$ to have rank higher than r .



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- $E[B(a_q) \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}] = k + (k(k-1) - \lambda_{u,v}) \frac{n-q}{n-2}$.



Dealing with dependencies

Goal: $\Pr[W_{r,q} \leq 0 \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}]$

- Given $\Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}$, define $S = N(N(u) \cup N(v)) \setminus \{u, v\}$.
- $o : [|S|] \rightarrow S$ denotes an arbitrary ordering of nodes of S .
- X_i : the random variable denoting the rank of the element $\pi(o(i))$.
- Define the **Doob martingale** $Z_0, Z_1, \dots, Z_{|S|}$ such that
 - $Z_0 = E[W_{r,q} \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}]$;
 - $Z_i = E[W_{r,q} \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}, X_1, \dots, X_i]$.
- Hence, $W_{r,q} \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q} = Z_{|S|}$.



Martingale

Martingale

A sequence of random variables Z_0, Z_1, \dots, Z_m is a **martingale** w.r.t. a sequence of random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m if $\forall i = 1, \dots, m$,

$$E[Z_i \mid X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}] = Z_{i-1}.$$

Doob martingale (Joseph L. Doob (1910–2004))

- W : a random variable
- X_1, \dots, X_m : a sequence of m random variables.

The sequence Z_0, Z_1, \dots, Z_m such that

- $Z_0 = E[W]$;
- $Z_i = E[W \mid X_1, \dots, X_i], \forall i = 1, \dots, m$

is called a **Doob martingale**.

Azuma-Hoeffding inequality

Azuma-Hoeffding inequality

Let Z_0, Z_1, \dots, Z_m be a martingale with $Z_i - Z_{i-1} \leq c_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, m$.
Then, for all $t > 0$,

$$\Pr[Z_m - Z_0 \leq -t] \leq \exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^m c_i^2}\right).$$

Dealing with dependencies (contd.)

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- Hence, $W_{r,q} \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q} = Z_{|S|}$.

Lemma 8

$\forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |S|\}$, it holds that $|Z_i - Z_{i-1}| \leq 2(\lambda_{u,o(i)} + \lambda_{v,o(i)})$.

Lemma 3

For every k -regular bipartite graph G ,

$$\theta_{u,v} = 4 \sum_{z \in (N(u) \cup N(v)) \setminus \{u,v\}} (\lambda_{u,z} + \lambda_{v,z})^2 \leq 8k(k-1)(4k-3).$$

- Set $t = E[W_{r,q} \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}] (= Z_0)$, by the **Azuma-Hoeffding inequality**:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[Z_{|S|} - Z_0 \leq -t] &= \Pr[W_{r,q} \leq 0 \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}] \\ &\leq \exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^m c_i^2}\right) \\ &= \exp\left(-\frac{E[W_{r,q} \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}]^2}{2\theta_{u,v}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Back to the computation of C

$$\begin{aligned}
 C &= \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} \sum_{q=r+1}^n \left(1 - \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{u,v \in U} \Pr[W_{r,q} \leq 0 \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}] \right) \\
 &\geq \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} \sum_{q=r+1}^n \left(1 - \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{u,v \in U} \exp \left(-\frac{E[W_{r,q} \mid \Gamma_{u,v}^{r,q}]^2}{2\theta_{u,v}} \right) \right) \\
 &= \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} \sum_{q=r+1}^n \left(1 - \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{u,v \in U} e^{-(\beta(u,v) \cdot y(q-r) + \delta(u,v))^2} \right) \\
 &= \frac{n(n-1)}{2} - \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{u,v \in U} \sum_{d=1}^{n-1} (n-d) e^{-(\beta(u,v) \cdot y(d) + \delta(u,v))^2} \\
 &\geq \frac{n(n-1)}{2} - \sum_{u,v \in U} \int_0^1 (1-y) e^{-(\beta(u,v) \cdot y + \delta(u,v))^2} dy
 \end{aligned}$$

- $\beta(u, v) = \frac{k(k-1) - \lambda_{u,v}}{\sqrt{2\theta_{u,v}}}$;
- $\delta(u, v) = \frac{\lambda_{u,v}}{\sqrt{2\theta_{u,v}}}$;
- $y(t) = \frac{t-1}{n-2}$.



$$\begin{aligned}
C &\geq \frac{n(n-1)}{2} - \sum_{u,v \in U} \int_0^1 (1-y) e^{-(\beta(u,v) \cdot y + \delta(u,v))^2} dy \\
&\geq \frac{n(n-1)}{2} - \sum_{u,v \in U} \frac{\beta(u,v) + \delta(u,v)}{2\beta(u,v)^2} \sqrt{\pi} \\
&\geq \frac{n(n-1)}{2} - \frac{k-1}{k(k-2)^2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sum_{u,v \in U} \sqrt{\theta_{u,v}} \\
&\geq \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \left(1 - \frac{48\sqrt{2\pi}}{\sqrt{k}} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Claim 9

Let $\beta > 0$, $\delta \geq 0$, then

$$\int_0^1 (1-y) e^{-(\beta y + \delta)^2} dy \leq \frac{\beta + \delta}{2\beta^2} \sqrt{\pi}.$$

- $k \geq 3$ (assumption).