Discrete Smoothed Analysis

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1 Hamiltonicity in hypergraphs

Definition 1.1. The 2-degree of a pair of vertices v, w is the number of hyperedges containing both v and w.

Definition 1.2. Let $\mathbb{H}(n, m)$ be the random 3-uniform hypergraph on the vertex set $[n]$ chosen uniformly from all 3-uniform hypergraphs with m hyperedges.

Theorem 1.3. *There is $\beta(\alpha)$ such that if H is a 3-uniform hypergraph on $[n]$ with minimal 2-degree at least αn and $R \in \mathbb{H}(n, \beta(\alpha)n)$, then $H \cup R$ a.a.s. has a perfect matching.*

This theorem will follow from a lemma.

Lemma 1.4. *There is $\xi(\alpha)$ such that the following holds. Let G be a bipartite graph with partitions A, B of equal size n, and suppose $\delta(G) \geq \alpha n$. Let M be a uniformly random matching with $(1 - \xi(\alpha))n$ edges between A and B. Then $G \cup M$ has a perfect matching.*

Proof. We use Hall's marriage theorem: we need to show that $|N_{G\cup M}(W)| \geq |W|$ for all $W \subseteq A$. If $|W| \leq \alpha n$, then $|N_{G\cup M}(W)| \geq |N_G(W)| \geq \alpha n \geq |W|$ by the degree condition on G. Similarly, if $|W| \geq (1 - \alpha)n$ then every $b \in B$ has an edge to W in G, so $|N_{G\cup M}(W)| = |B| \geq |W|$. The difficult case is where $\alpha n \leq |W| \leq (1 - \alpha)n$. It is straightfoward to prove that for any individual such W, a.a.s. $|N_{G\cup M}(W)| \geq |W|$. However the probability of failure is not small enough for a union bound over all choices of W. Our approach is to use Szemeredi's regularity lemma on G and to show that the random matching a.a.s. distributes evenly over the clusters. Then, ε-regularity and the even distribution of the added edges are enough to ensure that $|N_{G\cup M}(W)| \geq |W|$ for each W.

We use a bipartite version of Szemerédi's regularity lemma (which can be deduced from say [Tao05, Theorem 2.3] in a similar way to [KS96, Theorem 1.10]). Let $\alpha' = \alpha/2$ and let $\varepsilon > 0$ be a small constant that will be determined later ($\varepsilon < \alpha/8$). There is a large constant K depending only on α such that we can write $A = V_0^1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup V_k^1$ and $B = V_0^2 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup V_k^2$ with $k \leq K$, in such a way that the following conditions are satisfied. The "exceptional" sets V_0^1 and V_0^2 both have fewer than εn vertices, and the non-exceptional clusters in A and B have equal size: $\left|V_1^1\right| = \cdots = \left|V_k^\ell\right| = an$ and $\left|V_1^1\right| = \cdots = \left|V_k^\ell\right| = bn$. There is a subgraph $G' \subseteq G$ with minimum degree at least $(\alpha' + \varepsilon)n$ such that each pair of distinct clusters V_i^1, V_j^2 $(i, j \geq 1)$ is ε-regular in G' with density zero or at least 2ε. Define the cluster graph $\mathfrak{G}$ as the bipartite graph whose vertices are the non-exceptional clusters V_i^ℓ, and whose edges are the pairs of clusters between which there is nonzero density in G'.

Fix some V_i^1 and V_j^2. The vertices of each V_i^1 are matched by M to at most an vertices; conditioning on their number, they are uniformly randomly chosen from B. Let X_b be the indicator random variable for the event that the vertex $b \in B$ is matched with a vertex in V_i^1. The random variables X_b are said to be *negatively associated* (see [JDP83, Application 3.1(c)]). This means in particular that we can apply Chernoff bounds to $\sum_{b \in V_j^2} X_b$ even though the X_b are not independent. By a union bound, a.a.s. there are at most $(ab + \xi(\alpha))n$ edges of M between every pair V_i^1, V_j^2.

Now, in G' each V_i^ℓ has at least $(\alpha' + \varepsilon)n|V_i^\ell|$ edges to other clusters. There are at most $\varepsilon n|V_0^\ell|$ edges to the exceptional cluster V_0 and at most $|V_i^\ell|^2$ edges to each other cluster. So, $d_{\mathfrak{G}}(V_i^\ell) \geq \big((\beta + \varepsilon)n|V_i^\ell| - \varepsilon n|V_i^\ell|\big)/|V_i^\ell|^2 \geq \alpha' k$.

Consider any $W \subset A$ with $\alpha n \leq |W| \leq \lceil n/2 \rceil$. For each i let $\pi_i = |V_i^1 \cap W|/(an)$, and let Q be the set of clusters V_i^1 with $\pi_i \geq \varepsilon$. Now, if $V_j^2 \in N_{\mathfrak{G}}(Q)$ then in G', by ε-regularity there are edges from W to at least $(1 - \varepsilon)bn$ vertices of V_j^2.

It follows that if $|N_{\mathfrak{G}}(Q)| = k$ (that is, every V_i^ℓ is a neighbour of Q) then $|N_{G \cup M}(W)| \geq |N_{G'}(W)| \geq (1 - \varepsilon)\big(n - |V_0^2|\big) \geq |W|$ and we are done. Otherwise, choose $S \subseteq N(Q)$ with $|S| = \beta k$, so that W has $(1 - \varepsilon)\beta kbn \geq (1 - \varepsilon)^2 \beta n$ neighbours among the clusters in S. There is V_j^2 outside $N_{\mathfrak{G}}(Q)$ which has βk neighbours outside Q in $\mathfrak{G}$, so $|Q| \leq (1 - \beta)k$. Each V_i^1 has at least $(a - \xi(\alpha))n$ neighbours in M, at most $\beta k(ab + \xi(\alpha))n$ of which are in S. So, W has at least

$$\sum_{V_i^1 \in Q} \pi_i an - (\beta k(ab + \xi(\alpha)) + \xi(\alpha))n|Q| - \xi(\alpha) \geq |W| - \varepsilon n - \beta(1 - \beta)\Big((1 - \varepsilon)^2 + k^2\xi(\alpha)\Big)n - k\xi(\alpha)n$$

neighbours outside S. Combining with the $(1 - \varepsilon)^2 \beta n$ neighbours of W in G' inside S, we have

$$|N_{G' \cup M}(W)| \geq |W| + \Big(\beta(1 - \varepsilon)^2 - \varepsilon - \beta(1 - \beta)\Big((1 - \varepsilon)^2 + k^2\xi(\alpha)\Big) - k\xi(\alpha)\Big)n.$$

If ε is chosen to be small enough relative to α and $\xi(\alpha)$ chosen to be small enough relative to K, then this gives $|N_{G \cup M}(W)| \geq |W|$.

[Proof of Theorem 1.3]The idea is to reduce this theorem to Lemma 1.4: roughly speaking, H induces a bipartite graph, and R provides a uniformly random large matching. First, uniformly randomly partition $V(H)$ into a set A of $n/3$ vertices and a set B_0 of $2n/3$ vertices.

We can construct a random hypergraph distributed as $\mathbb{H}(n, \beta(\alpha)n)$ by repeatedly choosing random hyperedges with repetition, and stopping when we have seen $\beta(\alpha)n$ distinct hyperedges. We will show that for any ε there is β such that a.a.s. the first $\beta(\alpha)n$ random edges will contain a matching M_0 of $(1 - \varepsilon)n/3$ hyperedges, each comprising a vertex of A and two vertices of B_0. This matching can be chosen greedily: each new random hyperedge is immediately added to M_0 if it has one vertex in A and two vertices in B_0, and does not conflict with any hyperedge added so far. If our matching-in-progress has i hyperedges, the probability that the next random edge will be added is

$$p_i = (n/3 - i)\binom{2n/3 - 2i}{2} \Big/ \binom{n}{3} = \Omega\left(\left(\frac{n - i}{n}\right)^3\right).$$

The number of random edges required to build a matching of size $(1-\varepsilon)n/3$ therefore has the distribution of

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{(1-\varepsilon)n/3} X_i,$$

where each X_i is independently geometrically distributed with success probability p_i. By Chebyshev's inequality or a Chernoff bound, X is a.a.s. close to its expectation, which is at most

$$O\left(\sum_{i=1}^{(1-\varepsilon)n/3} n^3/(n-i)^3\right) = O\left(n^3 \int_{\varepsilon n/3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^3} dx\right) = O(n).$$

Our chosen matching M_0 couples with a uniformly random partition of B_0 into pairs: for every $\{a, b, b'\} \in M$, pair up b and b', and partition the remaining $2\varepsilon n/3$ elements of B_0 into pairs uniformly at random. Conditioning on the set of pairs B, M_0 is distributed uniformly at random among all matchings consisting of $(1-\varepsilon)n/3$ hyperedges between a pair of B and a vertex of A.

In order to apply Lemma 1.4, we just need to show that a uniformly random choice of A, B induces a bipartite graph with linear minimum degree.

Let $a_1, \ldots, a_{n/3}, b_{n/3+1}, \ldots, b_n$ be a uniformly random ordering of $V(H)$. Let A contain the first $n/3$ vertices, let $B_0 = V(H)\backslash A$ and let B be the set of pairs $\{b_{2i-1}, b_{2i}\}$. Let $\Gamma(v)$ be the set of all pairs of vertices $\{w, u\}$ and let $\Gamma(v, w)$ be the set of all vertices u such that $\{v, w, u\}$ is a hyperedge of H. We will first prove that each $\Gamma(v, w)$ is a.a.s. almost evenly distributed between A and B_0. So, let $\varepsilon > 0$ be some small constant to be determined later, and fix distinct vertices v, w.

There are at least αn vertices u such that $\{u, v, w\}$ is a hyperedge in H. Let $X_i^{v,w}$ be the indicator for the event that the ith vertex of our random ordering is in $\Gamma(v, w)$. By [JDP83, Application 3.1(c)], $\{X_i^{v,w}\}_{i=1}^n$ is a set of negatively associated random variables. Let $X_A = \sum_{i=1}^{n/3} X_i^{v,w} = |A \cap \Gamma(v, w)|$ and $X_B = \sum_{i=n/3+1}^{n} X_i^{v,w} = |B_0 \cap \Gamma(v, w)|$, so that a Chernoff bound gives

$$\Pr(|A \cap \Gamma(v, w)| < (\alpha/3 - \varepsilon)n) \leq \Pr(X_A - \mathbb{E}X_A < \varepsilon n) \leq e^{-\Omega(n)}.$$

Similarly, $\Pr(|B_0 \cap \Gamma(v, w)| < (2\alpha/3 - \varepsilon)n) \leq e^{-\Omega(n)}$, so a.a.s. every pair of vertices v, w has at least $(\alpha/3 - \varepsilon)n$ neighbours in A and at least $(2\alpha/3 - \varepsilon)n$ neighbours in B_0.

The degree of each $\{b_{2i-1}, b_{2i}\} \in B$ in G is $|N(b_{2i-1}, b_{2i})|$, which we have just shown is uniformly$\Omega(n)$. It remains to show that the degree of each $a \in A$ is $\Omega(n)$. So, fix $a \in A$. For each b, $|\Gamma(a, b) \cap B_0| \geq (2\alpha/3 - \varepsilon)n$, so $\Gamma(a) \geq (2\alpha/3 - \varepsilon)|B_0|n/2$. The probability that $\{a, b_1, b_2\}$ is a hyperedge in H is therefore (for large n) at least

$$|\Gamma(a)|/\binom{|B_0|}{2} \geq \alpha - 2\varepsilon.$$

Now, condition on $b_1, \ldots, b_{2i}$. There are at most $2i|B_0|$ hyperedges containing a and some conditioned b_j, so the probability that $\{a, b_{2i+1}, b_{2i+2}\}$ is in H is at least $\alpha - 2\varepsilon - 6i/n$, which is at least $\alpha/2$ for $i \leq (\alpha/12 - \varepsilon/3)n$. For such i, let X_i be independently distributed as $\mathrm{Ber}(\alpha/2)$. By a Chernoff bound, $\sum_{i=1}^{(\alpha/12-\varepsilon/3)n} X_i$ (and therefore $|N(a) \cap B|$) is $\Omega(n)$ with probability $e^{-\Omega(n)}$. By a union bound, it follows that a.a.s. $d_G(a) = \Omega(n)$. $\square$

2 Hamiltonicity in dense digraphs

MOTIVATION, BACKGROUND, DEFINITIONS AND EQUIVALENCE OF MODELS TO COME LATER.

It was observed by Bondy [Bon75] that almost any non-trivial condition on a graph G that ensures the existence of a Hamilton cycle also ensures the existence of cycles of all lengths ranging from 3 to $|G|$ (we say such a graph is *pancyclic*). In [BFM03], the authors proved that adding a sufficiently large linear number of edges to a dense graph or digraph a.a.s. ensures the existence of a Hamilton cycle. In accordance with Bondy's observation, we prove the following theorem. (Note that the corresponding result for undirected graphs is an immediate corollary).

Theorem 2.1. *For each $\alpha > 0$, there is $\beta(\alpha)$ such that the following holds. Let D be digraph on n vertices with minimum (in- and out-) degree αn. Uniformly at random, choose $\beta(\alpha)n$ arcs not already in D and add them to D. The resulting digraph D' is a.a.s. pancyclic.*

The proofs in [BFM03] can give an exponentially small bound on the probability of failure to be Hamiltonian, so it is possible to use a union bound and some small adjustments to prove Theorem 2.1 as a corollary. However, we prefer to give an alternative proof, which we feel is more direct. The key to our proof is the following lemma, which gives a very general condition for pancyclicity based on an expansion property.

Lemma 2.2. *Let D be a directed graph on n vertices with $\delta(D) \geq 8k$, and suppose for all disjoint $A, B \subseteq V(D)$ with $|A| = |B| \geq k$, there is an arc from A to B. Then D is pancyclic.*

Lemma 2.2 will be a corollary of the following lemma.

Lemma 2.3. *Let D be a directed graph with $\delta(D) \geq 4k$, and suppose for all disjoint $A, B \subseteq V(D)$ with $|A| = |B| \geq k$, there is an arc from A to B. Then D is Hamiltonian.*

Remark 2.4. We have made no attempt to optimize the constant in the degree condition of Lemma 2.2. The ideas in the proof of Lemma 2.3 can be used directly to prove Lemma 2.2 with a weaker condition on $\delta(D)$, but we do not know whether the condition can be weakened all the way to $\delta(D) \geq 4k$, as Bondy's "meta-conjecture" would suggest. The constants in Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3 can both be halved for the undirected case, just by simplifying the main argument in the proof of Lemma 2.3.

Proof of Lemma 2.3. The idea of the proof is to start with a longest path P and manipulate it into a cycle C on the same vertex set. We will show that D is strongly connected, so if C were not Hamiltonian, there would be an arc from $V(C)$ to its complement, which could be combined with C to give a longer path than P, contradicting maximality.

This type of argument goes back to a classical theorem by Dirac [Dir52, Theorem 3]. It also bears some resemblance to the "rotation-extension" idea introduced in [Pós76], and a variation for directed graphs in [FK05, Section 4.3].

First we acknowledge some immediate consequences of the condition on D. Note that if A and B are disjoint sets with size at least k, then in fact there are $|A| - k$ vertices of A with an arc into B.

To see this, note that for any fewer number of such vertices in A, we can delete those vertices and at least k will remain, one of which has an arc to B. Also, D is strongly connected. To see this, note that for any v, w, both of $N^+(v)$ and $N^-(w)$ have size at least $4k > k$. If they intersect then there is a length-2 path from v to w; otherwise there must be an arc from $N^+(v)$ to $N^-(w)$ giving a length-3 path.

Let $P = u \dots w$ be a maximal-length directed path in D. We will use the notation v^+ (respectively v^-) for the successor (respectively predecessor) of a vertex v on P, and also write V^+, V^- for the set of successors or predecessors of a set of vertices V.

By maximality, $N^+(w) \subset P$ and $N^-(u) \subset P$. Let U_1 be the first $3k$ elements of $N^-(u)$ on P, and let U_2 be the last k (note $U_1 \cap U_2 = \varnothing$). Similarly let W_1 be the first k and W_2 the last $3k$ elements of $N^+(w)$. We will now show that there is a cycle on the vertex set $V(P)$.

First, consider the case where each vertex of W_1 precedes each vertex of U_2. If wu is in D then we can immediately close P into a cycle. Otherwise, $\left|W_1^-\right| = |W_1| = \left|U_2^+\right| = |U_2| = k$, so there is an arc w_1u_2 from W_1^- to U_2^+. This is enough to piece together a cycle on $V(P)$: start at u_2 and move along P to w, from where there is a shortcut back to w_1^+. Now move along P from w_1^+ to u_2^-, from where we can jump back to u, then move along P to w_1, then jump to u_2. See Figure 1 for an illustration.

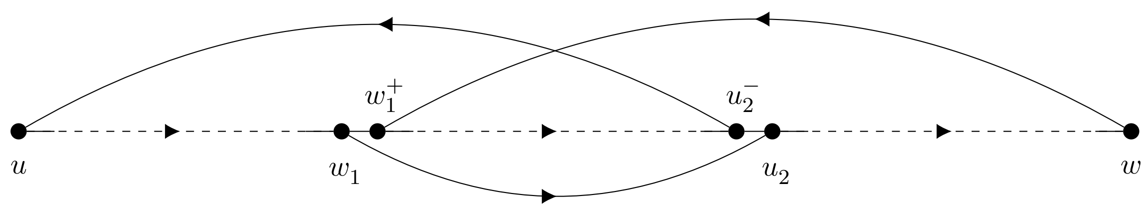

Figure 1. The case where the vertices of W_1 precede the vertices of U_2. The horizontal line through the center is P; the broken lines indicate subpaths.

Otherwise, each vertex of U_1 precedes each vertex of W_2. Let U_{12} contain the k elements of U_1 furthest down the path. Let U_{11} be the set of vertices among the first $2k$ vertices of P which have an arc to U_{12}^+. By the discussion at the beginning of the proof, $|U_{11}| \geq k$. Similarly, let W_{21} contain the k elements of W_2 first appearing on the path, and let W_{22} be the set of at least k vertices among the last $2k$ on P which have an arc from W_{21}^-. By the condition on D, there is an arc $w_{22}u_{11}$ from W_{22}^- to U_{11}^+. By definition, there is $u_{12} \in U_{12}^+$ and $w_{21} \in W_{21}^-$ such that the arcs $u_{11}^-u_{12}$ and $w_{21}w_{22}^+$ are in D. We can piece everything together to get a cycle on the vertices of P: start at u_{11}, move along P until u_{12}^-, then jump back to u. Move along P until u_{11}^-, then take the shortcut to u_{12}. Continue along P to w_{21}, jump to w_{22}^+, continue to w, jump back to w_{21}^+, and continue to w_{22}. From here there is a shortcut back to u_{11}. See Figure 2.

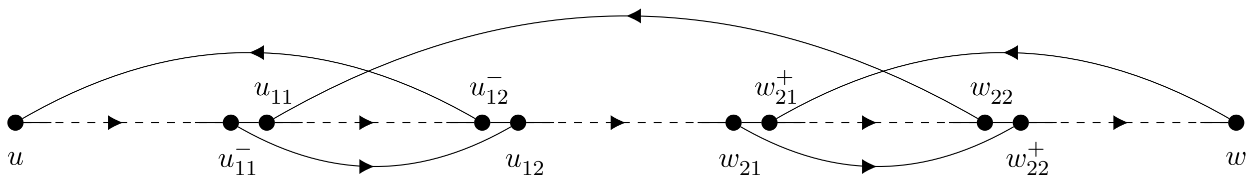

Figure 2. The case where the vertices of U_1 precede the vertices of W_2.

□

Proof of Lemma 2.3. Fix a vertex v. Let U^+ and U^- be arbitrary k-subsets of $N^+(v)$ and $N^-(v)$ respectively. There is an arc from U^+ to U^- which immediately gives a 3-cycle.

Next, let W^+ be the set of (fewer than k) vertices with no arc into U^+, and similarly let W^- be the set of vertices with no arc from U^-. Now consider the induced digraph D' obtained from D by deleting v and the vertices in U^+, U^-, W^+, W^-. Since we have removed fewer than $4k$ vertices, D' satisfies the conditions of Lemma 2.3 so has a Hamilton cycle. In particular, for every ℓ satisfying $4 \le \ell \le n - 4k$, there is a path $P_\ell = u_\ell \dots w_\ell$ in D' of length $\ell - 4$. By construction, there is an arc from U^+ to u_ℓ and from w_ℓ to U^-, which we can combine with arcs to and from v to get a cycle of length ℓ.

Finally, for every $\ell > n - 4k$, arbitrarily delete vertices from D to obtain an induced digraph D'' with ℓ vertices which satisfies the conditions of Lemma 2.3. Since D'' has a Hamilton cycle, D has a cycle of length ℓ. □

Proof of Theorem 2.1. Consider the alternative model where we add to D each arc not in D with independent probability $p = 2\beta(\alpha)/n$. By [JŁR00, Corollary 1.16(i)], it suffices to prove that D'' a.a.s. has a Hamilton cycle. In what follows, we omit floor symbols and implicitly round to an integer where appropriate.

If $A, B \subseteq V(D)$ are disjoint sets with $|A| = |B| = \alpha n/8$, the probability that there are no arcs from A to B in D'' is at most

$$(1-p)^{(\alpha n/8)^2} \le e^{-p\alpha^2 n^2/64} = e^{-\beta(\alpha)\alpha^2 n/32}.$$

The number of choices of such pairs of disjoint sets A, B is

$$\binom{n}{\alpha n/4}\binom{\alpha n/4}{\alpha n/8} = O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} e^{n(H(\alpha/4)+\alpha H(1/2)/4)}\right),$$

where $H(\alpha) = -\alpha \log \alpha - (1-\alpha)\log(1-\alpha)$ (this can be proved with Stirling's approximation). By a union bound, the probability that D'' does not satisfy the condition of Lemma 2.3 is at most

$$O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} e^{n\left(H(\alpha/4)+\alpha H(1/2)/4-\beta(\alpha)\alpha^2 n/32+o(1)\right)}\right).$$

This converges to zero if $\beta(\alpha)$ is chosen to be sufficiently large. □

Remark 2.5. If we are only interested in Hamiltonicity, we can use Lemma 2.3 directly in the proof of Theorem 2.1, which gives a better constant $\beta(\alpha)$ than in [BFM03, Theorem 3]. If we make the adjustment for undirected graphs mentioned in 2.4, then we also beat the corresponding constant in [BFM03, Theorem 1] for large values of α.

3 Hamiltonicity in tournaments

I WILL REWRITE THIS INTRODUCTION LATER.

A *tournament* is a directed graph obtained by assigning a direction for each edge in a complete graph. A digraph is *strongly connected* if there is a directed path between any pair of vertices. It was proved in [MM62] that almost all tournaments are strongly connected, in the sense that the proportion of tournaments on n vertices that are strongly connected converges to 1 as $n \to \infty$. Our preferred interpretation of this fact is that a uniformly random tournament is strongly connected with probability converging to 1 (*asymptotically almost surely*, or *a.a.s.* for short).

It is not true that every sufficiently large tournament is strongly connected. For example, a *transitive* tournament (corresponding to a linear order on the vertices) is never strongly connected. We are interested in understanding how "fragile" such counterexamples are, by asking how much a fixed tournament T must be randomly perturbed to make it strongly connected. Questions of this type are of particular interest in the setting of *smoothed analysis* of algorithms, introduced in [ST04]. In this setting, instead of considering absolute worst-case inputs, we consider the "approximate" worst case.

If T is a transitive tournament, our question was effectively answered in [ŁRG96, Section 3]: flipping each arc with probability $\omega(1/n)$ will result in a strongly connected tournament a.a.s., and a gentler perturbation will not suffice.

Unsurprisingly, we find that transitive tournaments are a "worst case", in that flipping a super-linear number of arcs suffices for all T. We also find that the vertices in a transitive tournament with only outgoing or only incoming arcs are a "bottleneck" for strong connectivity, and a gentler random perturbation suffices for tournaments which do not have such "imbalanced" vertices. Denote the minimum indegree and outdegree of T by $\delta^-(T)$ and $\delta^-(T)$ respectively, and let $\delta(T) = \min\{\delta^-(T), \delta^+(T)\}$. We prove the following theorem.

Theorem 3.1. *Consider a tournament T with n vertices and $\delta(T) \geq d$. Independently designate each arc as "random" with probability p satisfying $np(d+1) \to \infty$, then choose the orientations of the chosen edges independently and uniformly at random. The resulting perturbed tournament P a.a.s. has t arc-disjoint Hamilton cycles, for any fixed t.*

This theorem is sharp, in the sense that if we do not have $np(d+1) \to \infty$ then P might not be a.a.s. Hamiltonian. To see this, consider a "transitive cluster-tournament" T on $n = rk$ vertices defined as follows. Let R be a regular tournament on $2d+1$ vertices (this means the indegree and outdegree are equal for each vertex). To construct T, start with r disjoint copies $R_1, \dots, R_r$ of R, then put an arc from v to w for every $v \in R_i$, $w \in R_j$ with $i < j$. In order for the perturbed tournament P to be Hamiltonian, there must be an arc entering R_1, so one of the $O(n(d+1))$ arcs exiting R_1 must be resampled. This will not happen a.a.s. unless $pn(d+1) \to \infty$.

Remark 3.2. Theorem 3.1 is stated with a particular type of seemingly complicated random perturbation. The reason we have chosen this model is because it is "monotone" in that performing two small perturbations is the same as performing one big perturbation, and because it has convenient independence properties. However, the result is not sensitive to the model of perturbation. NEED TO ELABORATE.

3.1 Proof of Theorem 3.1

There are several seemingly different conditions that are equivalent to Hamiltonicity for tournaments (see [Moo68, Chapters 2-3]). A tournament is strongly connected if and only if it is irreducible (cannot be divided into two partitions with all arcs between the two partitions in the same direction), if and only if it is Hamiltonian (has a directed cycle containing all the vertices), if and only if it is pancyclic (contains cycles of all lengths). It was more recently proved in [Pok14] that if a tournament is t-strongly connected (it remains strongly connected after the deletion of $t-1$ vertices), then it has $O\big(\sqrt{t}\big)$ arc-disjoint Hamilton cycles. Theorem 3.1 then implies that P contains q arc-disjoint Hamilton cycles for $q = O(1)$.

We therefore prove that P is t-strongly connected. The idea of the proof is to choose a set S of t vertices with a large indegree and outdegree. Then we show that with high probability almost every vertex has many paths to and from each vertex in S.

Lemma 3.3. *In any tournament, there are less than k vertices with indegree (respectively outdegree) less than $(k-1)/2$.*

Proof. The sum of indegrees (respectively outdegrees) of a tournament on k vertices is $\binom{k}{2}$, because each arc contributes 1 to this sum. Therefore in every set of k vertices of a tournament, there is a vertex of outdegree (indegree) at least $(k-1)/2$ in the induced tournament. □

It follows from Lemma 3.3 that the set of all vertices with indegree (respectively outdegree) less than $n/6$ has size smaller than $n/3$. So, there are at least $n/3$ vertices with indegree and outdegree at least $n/6$. Since $t = O(1) = o(n/6)$, there is a set S of t such vertices.

Lemma 3.4. *If a vertex v has outdegree (respectively indegree) k in T, then it has outdegree (respectively indegree) at least $k/3$ in P, with probability $e^{-\Omega(\sqrt{n})}$ uniformly over k.*

Proof. We only prove the statement where v has outdegree k; the indegree case is identical. If $k = 0$ the lemma is trivial, so assume $k \geq 1$. First consider the cases where $k > \sqrt{n}$ or $p < 1/\sqrt{n}$. There are k arcs pointing away from v in T; let X be the number of those arcs that are changed by the perturbation. Since $X \in \mathrm{Bin}(k, p/2)$, a Chernoff bound gives

$$\Pr(X > 2k/3) \leq \Pr(X - \mathbb{E}X > k/6) \leq e^{-\Omega\left(k^2/\mathbb{E}X\right)} = e^{-\Omega\left(\sqrt{n}\right)}.$$

That is, with the required probability, $k/3$ of the original out-neighbours survive the perturbation.

Otherwise (for large n), there is a set of $n/2$ arcs pointing towards v in T. Let Y be the number of these arcs that are changed by the perturbation, so $Y \in \mathrm{Bin}(n/2, p/2)$ with $\mathbb{E}Y \geq \sqrt{n}/2$. Then,

$$\Pr(Y < k/3) \leq \Pr(X - \mathbb{E}Y < -\mathbb{E}Y/3) \leq e^{-\Omega\left(\sqrt{n}\right)},$$

so with the required probability, $k/3$ new out-neighbours are added by the perturbation. □

Lemma 3.5. *Suppose w has outdegree (respectively indegree) at least $n/6$, and $v \neq w$ is a vertex with indegree (respectively outdegree) at least k. Then with probability $1 - e^{-\Omega(\sqrt{n})} - e^{-\Omega(np(k+1))}$ (uniformly over k), there are $t' = 3t$ internally vertex-disjoint paths of length at most 3 from w to v (respectively from v to w).*

Proof. We will only prove the statement where v has indegree at least k; the other case is identical. By independence, we can condition on the outcome of the perturbation on individual arcs. Condition on the outcome for all arcs adjacent to w, and let $N_P^+(w)$ be the set of vertices to which there is an arc from w in P. By Lemma 3.4, we can assume $\left|N_P^+(w)\right| \geq n/18$.

We first prove the lemma for the case where $k \leq 12t'$. There are at least $n' = n/18 - 1$ arcs between $N_P^+(w)$ and v, each of which will be pointing towards v in P with independent probability at least $p/2$. Let $Z \in \mathrm{Bin}(n', p/2)$. The probability that less than t' arcs will point from $N_P^+(w)$ to v in P is at most

$$\Pr\big(Z < t'\big) \leq e^{-\Omega(\mathbb{E}Z - t')} = e^{-\Omega(np)} = e^{-\Omega(np(k+1))}.$$

So, with the required probability there are t' suitable length-2 paths from w to v.

We can now assume $k > 12t'$. Condition on the result of the perturbation for the arcs adjacent to v. Let $N_P^-(v)$ be the set of vertices from which there is an edge into v in P; by Lemma 3.4, we can assume $\left|N_P^-(v)\right| \geq k/3$.

Now, if $\left|N_P^+(w) \cap N_P^-(v)\right| \geq t'$ then there are t' disjoint length-2 paths from w to v and we are done. So we can assume $U^+ = N_P^+(w) \backslash \big(N_P^-(v) \cup \{v\}\big)$ has at least $n' = n/18 - t' - 1$ vertices, and $U^- = N_P^-(v) \backslash \big(N_P^+(w) \cup \{w\}\big)$ has at least $k' = k/6 - t' - 1$ vertices (note $k' \geq t'$ by assumption).

Now, we would like to show that with the required probability there is a set of t' independent arcs from U^+ into U^- in P, which will give t' suitable length-3 paths. Partition U^+(respectively U^-) into subsets $U_1^+, \dots, U_{t'}^+$ (respectively $U_1^-, \dots, U_{t'}^-$), such that each $\left|U_1^+\right| > n'/(2t')$ and each $\left|U_1^-\right| > k'/(2t')$. For each i, the probability that there is no arc from U_i^+ into U_i^- after the perturbation is at most

$$(1 - p/2)^{n'k'/(4t')} \leq e^{-\Theta(np(k+1))},$$

so with the required probability there a set of t' suitable independent arcs, each between a pair U_i^+, U_i^-. □

Lemma 3.6. *Fix some $w \in S$. In P, there are a.a.s. t disjoint paths from w to each other vertex (respectively, from each other vertex to w).*

Proof. We only prove there are paths from w to each other vertex; the reverse case is identical. If there are $3t$ disjoint paths of length at most 3 from w to v then we say v is *safe*. It follows from Lemma 3.5 that a vertex with indegree k is safe with probability $1 - e^{-\Omega(\sqrt{n})} - e^{-\Omega(np(k+1))}$.

By Lemma 3.3, there are at most $(2d + 1)$ vertices with outdegree d, and the vertex with the $2k$th smallest outdegree has outdegree at least $k-1$. Let Q be the set of non-safe vertices, and note

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}|Q| &= (2d+1)e^{-\Omega(np(d+1))} + \sum_{k=d+1}^{n} 2e^{-\Omega(np(k+1))} + ne^{-\Omega(\sqrt{n})} \\ &= e^{-\Omega(np(d+1))}\left(O(d+1) + \frac{1}{1-e^{-\Omega(np)}}\right) + o(1) \\ &= e^{-\Omega(np(d+1))}O(d+1).\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the geometric series formula, the inequality $1-e^{-x} \geq (x \wedge 1)/2$ (for positive x) and the fact that $d+1 = \Omega(1)$.

By Markov's inequality, a.a.s. $|Q| \leq \sqrt{e^{-\Omega(pn(d+1))}}O(d+1) = o(d+1)$. If $d \leq 4t$ then $|Q| = 0$ for large n. Otherwise, for large n, $|Q| \leq 3d$, so every vertex $v \in Q$ has $3t$ safe neighbours $v_1, \dots, v_{3t}$. Now, fix a maximal set M of disjoint paths from w to v. If $|M| < t$ then the paths in M collectively use less than $3t$ vertices other than t, so there is some v_i not in any path of M, and there is some path from w to v_i that does not contain any vertex of M. But then $w \dots v_i v$ is a path from w to v disjoint with every path in M, contradicting maximality. $\square$

It follows from Lemma 3.6 that a.a.s. every vertex outside S has t disjoint paths to and from every vertex in S. If we delete $t-1$ vertices, then there is at least one vertex w of S remaining, and w has least one path to and from every other vertex. That is, P is strongly connected. (In fact, we have also proved that P has diameter at most 8).

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