

# 7.4 - Colourings

Review: (Colour Degree)

$G$  graph,  $L$ -list assignment

$$|L| := \min_{v \in V(G)} |L(v)|$$

$$d_L(v, c) := |\{v' \in V(G) : c \in L(v')\}|$$

$$d_L(v) := \max_{c \in L(v)} d_L(v, c)$$

$$\Delta_L(G) := \max_{v \in V(G)} d_L(v)$$

Theorem (Alon '92)

If  $|L| \geq 2e(\Delta_L(G) + 1)$ , then  $G$  has an  $L$ -colouring

Proof:

(We may assume  $|L(v)| = L \ \forall v$ )

- Colour every vertex  $v$  uniformly at random from its list  $L(v)$
- Bad events:  $A_{e, c} : \phi(u) = \phi(v) = c \ \forall c \in L(u) \cap L(v)$

Then  $\Pr[A_{e, c}] = \frac{1}{L^2} = p$

$A_{e, c}$  is mutually independent of  $A_{e', c'}$  where  $e' \neq e$  (and  $c' \neq c$ )

$$B_{e, c} = \{A_{e', c'} : e' \neq e \text{ or } c' \neq c \text{ and } c \in L(u') \cap L(v')\}$$

$$= 2 \cdot |L| \cdot \Delta_L(G) = d_{e, c}$$

$\downarrow$  Pick an end (user  $v$ )  
 $\downarrow$  Pick a colour  $c$  in  $L(v)$   
 $\rightarrow$  Pick a neighbour  $w$  of  $v$  where  $c \in L(w)$ .  
 Call this  $x$

Proof (cont)

Then, by LL:

$$\text{Since } \epsilon p(d+1) = e \frac{1}{|L|} (2|L| \cdot \Delta_L(G))$$

$$= \frac{2e \Delta_L(G)}{|L|} \leq 1.$$

Then  $\exists$  a coloring  $\phi$  avoiding all  $A_{e,e}$ , i.e. an  $L$ -coloring of  $G$ , as desired.

Note! We can actually get rid of the "+1" in the statement of the theorem!

Theorem (Haxell)

If  $|L| \geq 2\Delta_L(G)$ , then  $G$  has an  $L$ -coloring.

Actually follows from the following more general theorem:

Theorem (Haxell)

Let  $k \geq 1$  be an integer. If  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_r$  is a partition of  $V(G)$  into independent sets for a graph  $G$  such that:

•  $|U_i| \geq 2k \ \forall i \in [r]$ , and

•  $\Delta(G) \leq k$ , and

Then  $\exists$  an independent set  $I$  of  $G$  st.  $\forall i \in [r], I \cap U_i \neq \emptyset$ .

(called an independent transversal)

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Jan 16th

How does it imply previous thm?

Let  $H$  be such that

$$V(H) = \{ (v, c) : v \in V(G), c \in L(v) \}$$

$$E(H) = \{ (v, c)(v', c') : vv' \in E(G), c = c' \}$$

Then  $H$  satisfies independent transversal theorem by assumption on  $G$ . So, by that theorem,  $H$  has an independent transversal, i.e. An  $L$ -colouring.

Remark: Clearly also this implies correspondence by letting  $E(H) = \{ (v, c)(v', c') : vv' \in E(G), c \text{ matched to } c' \text{ in } H_{v,v'} \}$ .

Remark: This is tight! (i.e. The ratio of 2). For general independent transversals.

Conjecture (Reed, ~90s)

If  $|L| \geq \Delta_1(G) + 1$ , then  $G$  has an  $L$ -colouring.

Reed, Behnen and Holzman disproved this conjecture!

Still open if  $|L| \geq \Delta_1(G) + 2$  works! (Has been open for about 20 years)

Theorem (Reed - Sudakov, '02)

If  $|L| \geq (1 + o(1)) \Delta_1(G)$ , then  $G$  has an  $L$ -colouring.

~~Reed and Sudakov proved that if  $|L| \geq (1 + o(1)) \Delta_1(G)$ , then  $G$  has an  $L$ -colouring.~~

(Note: Equivalent to:

$\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $\forall \Delta \geq \delta$ , if  $\Delta(G) = \Delta$  and  $|L| \geq (1 + \epsilon)\Delta$ , then  $G$  has an  $L$ -colouring).

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Remark:

~~Reed~~ Lon and Sussner proved that the ratio for independent ~~semirandom~~ is  $(1 + o(1))$  assuming that every vertex has at most  $o(k)$  neighbors in any other partitioning...

Proof (Reed-Sussner)

Note: Uses Random Middle (aka semirandom) method of iteratively constructing a solution a little bit at a time. (In particular, uses the "Wasteful Coloring Procedure" to implement one such iterative procedure)

Note #2: Uses LL and concentration inequalities to prove that there is a decent enough outcome of the WCP as to continue iterating, until the Big Finish.

What is our finish? Han's Theorem (or Havel's), i.e. can L-color if  $LL \geq 2e\Delta_L(b)$

How will an iterative step be improving? Progress will be in the ratio,  $\frac{LL}{2e\Delta_L(b)}$ . In fact, in our proof, it will take some constant, depending on  $\epsilon$ , # of steps



Proof details:

Big assumption for now:

Let's assume  $\forall v \in V$  that  $d(v, c) = d(v) = \Delta(G)$   
 (Of course, we may assume wlog  $|L(v)| = |L(v')|$ )

Wasteful Colouring Procedure:

- Independently "activate" each vertex of  $G$  for some probability  $p$  to be fixed later.  
 (Remark (if the calculations are correct):  
 $p = \frac{2c(\epsilon)}{\Delta}$   
 works and any smaller  $p \geq \text{polylog}(\Delta)$ ).

- Now colour every activated vertex  $v$  with a colour  $\phi(v)$  selected uniformly at random from  $L(v)$   
 ← This is the "wasteful" step!
- Remove  $\phi(v)$  from the list of all  $v$ 's neighbours  
 Uncolour any vertex which has the same colour as neighbour (or equiv.  $\phi(v)$  is no longer in its list)
- Let  $\phi'$  be the resulting colour, and  $L'$  be the resulting list

Remark: In the "naive colouring procedure" we only remove colours from neighbour's list if they keep the colour.



Here, we use WCD over NCD b/c

- 1) WCD is harder to analyze for concentration, and
- 2) The probability that an active keeps its color will be close to 1, so in practice, much difference here

We let  $U$  be the set of vertices that do not receive a color from  $\phi'$

$$\text{let } G' = G[U]$$

$$\text{let } L'(v) = L(v) \setminus \{ \phi'(u) : v \in N(u) \cap A \}$$

← where A is activated vertices/procedures

→  $U$  would be for naive.

We'll prove that there is an outcome with

$$\frac{|L'|}{\Delta L'(G)} > 1 + \epsilon$$

← GOAL!

(In fact,  $(1+\epsilon)(1-\epsilon^2/4)$ .)

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Expectations:

- Lists: Want to calculate  $\mathbb{E}[|L'(u)|]$  for a given  $u$

$$\mathbb{E}[|L'(u)|] = \sum_{c \in C(u)} P[c \in L'(u)]$$

By linearity of expectation

$$= \sum_{c \in C(u)} P[\underbrace{\{u \in N(w) \cap A \text{ with } \phi(u) = c\}}_{\text{set of } w \text{ such that } \phi(w) = c}]$$

See note on next pg.

$$= \sum_{c \in C(u)} P[\underbrace{\{u \in N(w) \cap A \text{ and } \phi(w) = c\}}_{\text{set of } w \text{ such that } \phi(w) = c}]$$

$$= \sum_{c \in C(u)} (1 - P[u \in A \text{ and } \phi(u) = c])$$

But activation is independent of colouring:

$$\prod_{u \in V(G)} \Pr[1 - \Pr[u \in A] \& \Pr[d(u) = c]]$$

$$= \prod_{u \in V(G)} \left(1 - p \cdot \frac{1}{|L|}\right)$$

In fact, since  $d(u) = c$  only happens if  $c \in L(u)$ , we can write  $u \in V(u, c)$

$$= \left(1 - \frac{p}{|L|}\right)^{|N_L(u, c)|}$$

$$= \left(1 - \frac{p}{|L|}\right)^{\Delta_1(G)} \leftarrow \text{by color regularity}$$

$$\approx e^{-\frac{p \Delta_1(G)}{|L|}}$$

So, the sum is:

$$\mathbb{E}[|L(G)|] = e^{-\frac{p \Delta_1(G)}{|L|}} \cdot |L|$$

So, note that when  $p \approx 1$ , the  $u$ 's at the list by around a  $\frac{1}{2}$  each time.

But, if  $p$  small, then we return a decent chunk.

Color-degrees:

$$\mathbb{E}[d_L(u, c)] = \sum_{u \in V(G)} \Pr[u \in V(G) \text{ and } c \in L(u)]$$

(Remark: Does this whether or not  $c \in L(u)$ )





$$\mathbb{E}[d_L(v, c)] = \sum_{u \in V(G, c)} \Pr[u \in A(v) \text{ and } c \in L(u)]$$

$$= \sum_u \Pr[c \in A \text{ and } c \in L(u)]$$

$$= \sum_u \Pr[c \in A] \Pr[c \in L(u)]$$

$$= \Pr[c \in A] \sum_u \Pr[c \in L(u)]$$

$$\Pr[c \in A] \leq \Pr[c \in A]$$

$$\leq \Pr[c \in A]$$

$$\Pr[c \in A]$$

$$\Pr[c \in L(u)]$$

Let's pretend that  $c \in A$  does not matter:

$$\leq \sum_u \left(1 - \Pr[c \in L(u)]\right)^{d_L(u)}$$

$$\Pr[c \in A] \Pr[c \in L(u)]$$

$$+ \Pr[c \in A] \cdot \frac{1}{|L|}$$

$$+ \left(1 - \Pr[c \in L(u)]\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{|L|}\right)^{d_L(u)}$$

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{|L|}\right)^{d_L(u)}$$

$$= d_L(u) \text{ times}$$

By the way, the last term is  $\frac{1}{|L|}$