

# Notes on the Analysis of Boolean Functions

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## 1. COMPONENTS AND COMPLEMENTS

Let  $f : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and let its Fourier expansion be

$$f(x) = \sum_{S \subseteq [n]} \hat{f}(S) \chi_S(x)$$

**Definition** For a subset  $I \subseteq [n]$  we define the  $I$ -component,  $f_I$  of  $f$  as

$$f_I(x) = \sum_{S \subseteq I} \hat{f}_S \chi_S(x)$$

and the  $I$ -complement,  $\bar{f}_I$  as

$$\bar{f}_I(x) = \sum_{S \not\subseteq I} \hat{f}_S \chi_S(x) = f(x) - f_I(x)$$

REMARK 1.1.

$$\sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} f(x) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} f_I(x)$$

since  $\hat{f}(\emptyset) = \hat{f}_I(\emptyset)$

We will interpret a vector  $x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$  as the indicator of a subset  $S \subseteq [n]$  and (abuse of notation) use the same letter for the vector and the set when the interpretation is clear from the context.

LEMMA 1.2. Let

$$\delta_I(x) = \begin{cases} 2^{|I|} & \text{if } I \cap x = \emptyset \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

then,

$$f_I = f * \delta$$

PROOF.

$$\begin{aligned} f_I(x) &= \sum_{S \subseteq I} \hat{f}_S \chi_S(x) \\ &= \sum_{S \subseteq I} \chi_S(x) \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{y \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} f(y) \chi_S(y) \\ &= \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_y f(y) \sum_{S \subseteq I} \chi_S(x+y) \\ &= \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_y f(y) \delta_I(x+y) \end{aligned}$$

□

COROLLARY 1.3. If  $f : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  then

$$\forall x, I, 0 \leq f_I(x) \leq 1$$

PROOF.  $\delta_I$  is a probability density function (i.e.  $\delta_I/2^n$  is a probability distribution.) □

THEOREM 1.4. (Bourgain) Let  $f : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ . Fix a subset  $I \subseteq [n]$ . Then,

$$2 \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} \bar{f}_I(x)^2 = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} |\bar{f}_I(x)|$$

PROOF.

$$\begin{aligned} LHS &= 2 \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} (f(x) - f_I(x))^2 \\ &= 2f \cdot f + 2f_I \cdot f_I - 4f \cdot f_I \\ &= 2f \cdot f - 2f \cdot f_I \quad (\text{since } f_I \cdot f_I = f \cdot f_I) \\ RHS &= \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} |f(x) - f_I(x)| \\ &= \sum_{f(x)=0} f_I(x) + \sum_{f(x)=1} (f(x) - f_I(x)) \quad (\text{see corollary}) \\ &= \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} f(x) + \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} (1 - 2f(x)) f_I(x) \\ &= f \cdot f + f \cdot f - 2f \cdot f_I \end{aligned}$$

□

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## 2. LOW DEGREES

**Problem** Characterize all Boolean functions with degree  $\leq 1$ .

LEMMA 2.1. *The only degree  $\leq 1$  boolean functions are  $\pm\chi_S$  where  $|S| \leq 1$ .*

PROOF 1.  $f = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{f}_i \chi_i$  where  $i$  refers to the empty set when  $i = 0$  and the singleton set  $\{i\}$  otherwise and let  $x^{(i)}$  denote its vector indicator. Since  $f$  is boolean,

$$\begin{aligned} f(1) &= \pm 1 = \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{f}_i \\ f(x^{(i)}) &= \pm 1 = \hat{f}_0 + \dots + \hat{f}_{i-1} - \hat{f}_i + \hat{f}_{i+1} + \dots + \hat{f}_n \\ \Rightarrow \hat{f}_i &= 0 \text{ or } \pm 1 \end{aligned}$$

Also we know that  $\sum_{i=0}^n \hat{f}_i^2 = 1$ . QED.  $\square$

PROOF 1 REHASHED.

$$\begin{aligned} f &= \sum_{i=0}^n \hat{f}_i \chi_i \\ \Rightarrow D_i[f] &= \hat{f}_i \chi_0 \text{ (where } 1 \leq i \leq n) \\ \Rightarrow \forall x, D_i[f](x) &= \hat{f}_i \\ &= 0 \text{ or } \pm 1 \text{ (since } f \text{ is boolean)} \end{aligned}$$

As in first proof, QED  $\square$

## 3. CORRELATED GAUSSIANS

LEMMA 3.1. *Let  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  be the normal distribution with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ . Then*

$$N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2) + N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2) = N(\mu_1 + \mu_2, \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)$$

where the LHS random variables are assumed to be independent.

LEMMA 3.2. *If  $G = H = N(0, 1)$  and  $E[GH] = \rho$  then  $H = \rho G + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} G'$  where  $E[G, G'] = 0$*

PROOF. Define  $G' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}}(H - \rho G)$ . Using the preceding lemma,  $G' = N(0, 1)$ . Using  $E[GH] = \rho$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} E[GG'] &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}} E(GH - \rho G^2) \\ &= \frac{\rho - \rho \cdot 1}{\sqrt{1 - \rho^2}} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

LEMMA 3.3. *Let  $G, H$  be standard Gaussians with  $E[GH] = \rho$ . Then  $P[\text{sgn}(G) \neq \text{sgn}(H)] = \cos^{-1} \frac{\rho}{\pi}$ .*

PROOF. Consider the joint distribution  $[G, G']$  from previous lemma. We need to compute the relative area of the region  $R := \{(x, y) : \text{sgn}(x) \neq \text{sgn}(\rho x + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} y)\}$ . The result follows from the circular symmetry of the joint distribution.  $\square$

This leads to the following:

- $W^k(Maj_n) \sim (\frac{2}{k\pi})^{3/2}$ , when  $k$  is odd, 0 o/w.
- $W^{>=k}(Maj_n) \sim (\frac{2}{\pi})^{3/2} \cdot k^{-1/2}$

## 4. SOME SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

We will use the following notation: For any subset  $S \subseteq [n]$

- $e_S$  and  $\chi_S$  are functions on the boolean cube
- $e'_S$  and  $\chi'_S$  are functions on the dual boolean cube.

### 4.1 Spectra

#### 4.1.1 Neighbourhoods of a character

$$\min_n = OR_n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ \vdots \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \\ \vdots \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\widehat{OR}_n = \begin{bmatrix} -1 + \frac{2}{2^n} \\ \frac{2}{2^n} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{2}{2^n} \end{bmatrix} = -e'_\emptyset + \frac{2}{2^n} \chi'_\emptyset$$

Similarly,

$$\widehat{AND}_n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \frac{2}{2^n} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{2(-1)^{|S|+1}}{2^n} \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = e'_\emptyset - \frac{2}{2^n} \chi'_{[n]}$$

In general,

$$1_S : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$$

where  $1_S(a) = -1$  iff  $a$  is the indicator of  $S$ , then

$$\hat{1}_S = e'_\emptyset - \frac{2}{2^n} \chi'_S$$

Obvious generalizations:

- $EQ_n = 1 - 2e_\emptyset - 2e_{[n]} \Rightarrow \widehat{EQ}_n = e'_\emptyset - \frac{2}{2^n} \chi'_\emptyset - \frac{2}{2^n} \chi'_{[n]}$
- $\widehat{NAE}_n = -e'_\emptyset + \frac{2}{2^n} \chi'_\emptyset + \frac{2}{2^n} \chi'_{[n]}$
- Analogous results for the neighbourhoods of a non-trivial character

#### 4.1.2 Quadratic functions

For  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$  we define

$$IP_2(x_1, x_2) = (-1)^{x_1 \cdot x_2}$$

Clearly:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle IP_2, \chi_{S_1, S_2} \rangle &= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{x_1, x_2} (-1)^{x_1 \cdot x_2} (-1)^{x_1 \cdot S_1} (-1)^{x_2 \cdot S_2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{x_1} (-1)^{x_1 \cdot S_1} \sum_{x_2} (-1)^{(x_1 + S_2) \cdot x_2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{x_1} (-1)^{x_1 \cdot S_1} \cdot 2^n \delta(x_1, S_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2^n} (-1)^{S_2 \cdot S_1} \end{aligned}$$

Note that this shows  $IP_2$  is self dual.

### 4.1.3 The Complete Quadratic and Variants

For  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$  we define

$$\begin{aligned}
CQ(x) &= (-1)^{\sum_{i < j} x_i x_j} \\
\langle CQ, \chi_S \rangle &= \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_x (-1)^{S \cdot x} \cdot (-1)^{\binom{|x|}{2}} \\
&= \frac{1}{2^n} \left[ \sum_k (-1)^k \left( \sum_{\substack{|x|=0(4) \\ S \cdot x=k}} 1 + \sum_{\substack{|x|=1(4) \\ S \cdot x=k}} 1 - \sum_{\substack{|x|=2(4) \\ S \cdot x=k}} 1 - \sum_{\substack{|x|=3(4) \\ S \cdot x=k}} 1 \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2^n} [S_0 + S_1 - S_2 - S_3] \\
&= \hat{f}_S(\text{say})
\end{aligned}$$

The second line in the above equations comes from the fact that  $\binom{n}{2}$  is even if  $n$  is 0 or 1 mod 4 and odd otherwise.

Now let  $\sigma_0(n) = \sum_{i=0(4)} \binom{n}{i}$ , similarly  $\sigma_k(n) = \sum_{i=k(4)} \binom{n}{i}$ . We know that:

$$4\sigma_k(n) = 2^n + 2^{\frac{n}{2}+1} \cos((n-2k)\frac{\pi}{4})$$

Also let  $|S| = d$ . We now evaluate the above 4 sums in turn:

$$\begin{aligned}
S_0 &= \sum_{S \cdot x=k=0}^{k=d} (-1)^k \sum_{|x|=0(4)} 1 \\
&= \sigma_0(n-d) + (-1) \binom{d}{1} \sigma_3(n-d) + \dots \\
&\quad + (-1)^k \binom{d}{k} \sigma_{4-k}(n-d) + \dots \\
&= \sigma_0(n-d)\sigma_0(d) - \sigma_1(n-d)\sigma_3(d) + \\
&\quad \sigma_2(n-d)\sigma_2(d) - \sigma_3(n-d)\sigma_1(d)
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
S_1 &= -\sigma_0(n-d)\sigma_1(d) + \sigma_1(n-d)\sigma_0(d) + \\
&\quad -\sigma_2(n-d)\sigma_3(d) + \sigma_3(n-d)\sigma_2(d)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
S_2 &= \sigma_0(n-d)\sigma_2(d) - \sigma_1(n-d)\sigma_1(d) + \\
&\quad \sigma_2(n-d)\sigma_0(d) - \sigma_3(n-d)\sigma_3(d)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
S_3 &= -\sigma_0(n-d)\sigma_3(d) + \sigma_1(n-d)\sigma_2(d) + \\
&\quad -\sigma_2(n-d)\sigma_1(d) + \sigma_3(n-d)\sigma_0(d)
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting for the  $\sigma_i$

$$\hat{f}_S = \sqrt{\frac{2}{2^n}} \sin((n-2d+1)\frac{\pi}{4})$$

For even  $n$  the sin term is  $\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$  so CQ is bent.

REMARK 4.1. Since  $CQ$  and  $\widehat{CQ}$  are symmetric functions we can talk of  $CQ(d)$  and  $\widehat{CQ}(d)$  where  $d$  is the degree of the corresponding inputs. When  $n$  is even we have

$$\text{sgn}(\widehat{CQ}(d)) = CQ((d - \frac{n}{2} + 1) \bmod 4)$$

		$\text{sgn}(\widehat{CQ}(d))$			
$d \bmod 4$	$CQ(d)$	$n \equiv 0(8)$	$n \equiv 2(8)$	$n \equiv 4(8)$	$n \equiv 6(8)$
0	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1
1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1
2	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1
3	-1	+1	-1	-1	+1

LEMMA 4.2. Let  $n$  be even and let  $CQ$  be the complete quadratic function on  $n$  variables. Let  $S$  be an arbitrary subset of  $[n]$  and let  $|S| = s$ .

1. If  $(s - \frac{n}{2} + 1) \equiv 0(4)$  then  $CQ \cdot \chi_S$  is self-dual bent.
2. If  $(s - \frac{n}{2} + 1) \equiv 2(4)$  then  $CQ \cdot \chi_S$  is anti-self-dual bent.

	$ S  \bmod 4$			
$\frac{n}{2} \bmod 4$	0	1	2	3
0	$X$	$anti$	$X$	$dual$
1	$dual$	$X$	$anti$	$X$
2	$X$	$dual$	$X$	$anti$
3	$anti$	$X$	$dual$	$X$

PROOF. We have already seen that when  $n$  is even,  $CQ$  is bent and consequently  $CQ \cdot \chi_S$  is bent for any  $S$ .

Let  $g(x) = CQ(x)\chi(x)$ . Let  $x$  be an arbitrary vertex on the boolean cube and  $\alpha$  the corresponding vertex on the dual boolean cube. Given that  $g$  is bent, we just need to show that  $g(x)$  and  $\hat{g}(\alpha)$  have the same (resp. opposite) sign for all  $x$  to conclude that  $g$  is self dual (resp. anti-self-dual).

Let  $|x| = |\alpha| = d$  and  $S \cdot x = c$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{sign}(\hat{g}(\alpha)) &= \text{sign}(\widehat{CQ}(\alpha \oplus S)) \\
&= \text{sign}(\widehat{CQ}(d + s - 2c)) \\
&= \text{sign}(CQ((d + s - 2c - \frac{n}{2} + 1) \bmod 4)) \\
&= (-1)^c \text{sign}(CQ((d + s - \frac{n}{2} + 1) \bmod 4)) \\
&= (-1)^{\frac{s - \frac{n}{2} + 1}{2}} \cdot (-1)^c \cdot \text{sign}(CQ(d)) \\
&= (-1)^{\frac{s - \frac{n}{2} + 1}{2}} \cdot g(x)
\end{aligned}$$

QED.  $\square$

## 5. DEGREE, INFLUENCE, JUNTAS

In this section we only consider functions  $f : \{-1, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . For a random variable  $X$  (e.g.  $f(x)$  where  $x \sim \{-1, 1\}^n$ ) we define,  $\|X\|_p = \mathbb{E}[|X|^p]^{\frac{1}{p}}$  and analogously  $\|f\|_p$ .

**THEOREM 5.1. (Exact Junta)** *If  $\deg(f) = k$  then  $f$  is a  $k2^{k-1}$ -junta. Note that a depth- $k$  decision tree is a  $2^{k-1}$ -junta, so the bound is tight up to the linear factor.*

PROOF. At most  $k2^{k-1}$  variables have non-zero influence:

1. For a degree- $k$  function

$$I_i[f] \geq \frac{1}{2^{k-1}} \quad \text{or} \quad I_i[f] = 0$$

- (a)  $I_i[f] = \mathbb{P}[D_i[f] \neq 0]$
- (b)  $\deg(D_i[f]) = k - 1$
- (c) If  $p : \{-1, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a degree- $k$  polynomial then

$$p(x) \cong 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbb{P}[p(x) \neq 0] \geq 2^{-k}$$

- i. Induction on  $n, k$ .
  - ii. Let  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n, \pm 1) = p_{\pm} = q(x) \pm r(x)$ , where  $r(x)$  has degree  $k - 1$ .
  - iii. If  $p_+ \not\cong 0$  and  $p_- \not\cong 0$ , done.
  - iv. If  $p_+ \cong 0$  then  $p_-$  has degree  $\leq k - 1$ , done.
2.  $I[f] \leq \deg(f) = k$ .

□

**Definition** Given  $f : \{-1, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and a *criterion*  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \{\text{false}, \text{true}\}$  we define the **g-slice** of a function as follows:

$$f_g(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } g(f(x)) = \text{true} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In particular we will frequently use the following shorthand:

$$f_{\geq s}(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } f(x) \geq s \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$f_{|\geq s|}(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } |f(x)| \geq s \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$|f|_{\geq s}(x) = \begin{cases} |f(x)| & \text{if } |f(x)| \geq s \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

### 5.1 Notes

1. **Bonami's Lemma:** degree- $k$  functions are  $9^k$ -reasonable.

PROOF.  $\deg(f) = k \implies \|f\|_q \leq \sqrt{q-1} \|f\|_2$  □

2. **Paley-Zygmund inequality:** For  $X \geq 0$  and  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq t\mu) \geq (1-t)^2 \frac{\mu^2}{\mathbb{E}[X^2]}$

PROOF.

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{x < t\mu} x\mathbb{P}(x) + \sum_{x \geq t\mu} \sqrt{x^2\mathbb{P}(x)}\sqrt{\mathbb{P}(x)}$$

Using Cauchy-Schwartz on second term,

$$\mu \leq t\mu + \sqrt{\mathbb{E}[X^2]}\sqrt{\mathbb{P}[X > t\mu]}$$

□

### 3. Tail lower bounds

- (a) **B-reasonable variables:** If  $X$  is B-reasonable,

$$\mathbb{P}[|X| \geq t\|X\|_2] \geq \frac{(1-t^2)^2}{B}$$

PROOF. Paley-Zygmund applied to  $X^2$ . □

- (b) **Degree- $k$  functions:**

$$\Pr_{x \sim \{-1, 1\}^n} [|f(x) - \mu_f| \geq t\sigma_f] \geq \frac{(1-t^2)^2}{9^k}$$

PROOF. Set  $X = \frac{f - \mu}{\sigma}$ . Clearly  $\|X\|_2 = 1$  and  $X$  is  $9^k$ -reasonable. □

### 4. Tail upper bounds

- (a) **Hoeffding bound:** Let  $X = \sum X_i$ , where  $X_i \in [a_i, b_i]$ . Let  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[X]$  and  $\lambda^2 = \sum_i (b_i - a_i)^2$

$$\mathbb{P}[|X - \mu| \geq s] \leq 2e^{-2s^2/\lambda^2}$$

- (b) **Hoeffding for expected value:** Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\|\alpha\|_2 = 1$ ,  $x \in \{-1, 1\}^n$  and  $l(x) = \alpha^T x$ .

$$\mathbb{E}[|l|_{\geq s}(x)] \leq (2s+2)e^{-s^2/2}$$

PROOF. Hoeffding bound applied to  $\sum X_i$ , where each  $X_i \in [-\alpha_i, \alpha_i]$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[|l|_{\geq s}(x)] &= s\mathbb{P}[|l(x)| > s] + \int_s^\infty \mathbb{P}[|l(x)| > u]du \\ &\leq 2se^{-s^2/2} + \int_s^\infty 2e^{-u^2/2}du \\ &\leq 2se^{-s^2/2} + \int_s^\infty 2ue^{-u^2/2}du \\ &\leq (2s+2)e^{-s^2/2} \end{aligned}$$

□

## 5.2 0-1 bands of a boolean valued function

In this section we show the following properties for boolean valued functions:

1. **Heavy 1-band is unbalanced:** If  $1 - \epsilon$  of the weight is concentrated in the degree 1 band then most of that weight will be at a single character. (FKN Theorem)
2. **Heavy 0-band  $\implies$  light 1-band:** If  $W^0[f] \geq 1 - \epsilon$ ,  $W^1[f] \leq O(\epsilon^2 \log(1/\epsilon))$ .
3. **Balanced 1-band is light:** If none of the singleton fourier coefficients is large (say bounded above by  $\epsilon = \frac{1}{100}$ ) then the degree 1 weight is at most  $\frac{\pi}{2} + O(\epsilon)$ .

**THEOREM 5.2. (FKN)** *If  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -concentrated at degree 1 then  $f$  is  $f$  is  $O(\epsilon)$ -close to  $\pm \chi_i$  for some  $i \in [n]$ .*

PROOF. Let  $l = f^{-1}$  and  $\hat{f}_{max} = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |\hat{f}_i|$ .

1. It is enough to show that  $\text{Var}[l^2] = O(\epsilon)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
l^2 &= (1 - \epsilon) + 2 \sum_{i < j} \hat{f}_i \hat{f}_j \chi_{i,j} \\
\implies \text{Var}[l^2] &= 4 \sum_{i < j} \hat{f}_i^2 \hat{f}_j^2 \\
\frac{1}{2} \text{Var}[l^2] &= \sum_{i \neq j} \hat{f}_i^2 \hat{f}_j^2 \\
&= (\sum \hat{f}_i^2)^2 - \sum \hat{f}_i^4 \\
\implies \sum \hat{f}_i^4 &= (1 - \epsilon)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \text{Var}[l^2] \\
\hat{f}_{max}^2 (\sum \hat{f}_i^2) &\geq (1 - \epsilon)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \text{Var}[l^2] \\
\implies \hat{f}_{max} &\geq (1 - \epsilon) - \frac{\text{Var}[l^2]}{2(1 - \epsilon)}
\end{aligned}$$

2. If  $l^2$  is bounded away from 1, then  $l$  is bounded away from  $f$ : let  $\epsilon < 10^{-4}$  and  $t = \frac{1}{2}$ . Suppose  $\text{Var}[l^2] > 2601\epsilon$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{P}[|l^2 - 1 + \epsilon| \geq \frac{51}{2} \sqrt{\epsilon}] &\geq \frac{1}{144} \text{ (using 3b)} \\
\implies \mathbb{P}[|l^2 - 1| \geq \frac{50}{2} \sqrt{\epsilon}] &\geq \frac{1}{144} \\
\implies \mathbb{P}[(f - l)^2 > 146\epsilon] &\geq \frac{1}{144} \\
\implies \mathbb{E}[(f - l)^2] &\geq \frac{146}{144} \epsilon > \epsilon
\end{aligned}$$

□

LEMMA 5.3. **deg**  $\leq 1$ : If  $f$  is  $\epsilon$ -concentrated up to degree 1 then  $f$  is  $O(\epsilon)$ -close to a 1-junta ( $k$ -junta depends on at most  $k$  variables).

PROOF. Apply FKN to  $g$ , defined as:

$$g(x_0, x) = x_0 f(x_0 x) = \hat{f}_\emptyset x_0 + \sum_{|S|=1} \hat{f}_S x^S + \sum_{|S|=2} \hat{f}_S x_0 x^S + \dots$$

□

THEOREM 5.4. Let  $f : \{-1, 1\}^n \rightarrow [-1, 1]$  and  $\alpha = \mathbb{E}[|f|]$ . We will assume  $\alpha < \frac{1}{2}$ , (otherwise consider  $1 - f$ ).

$$W^1[f] \leq 2\alpha^2 \ln\left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\right)$$

PROOF. Let  $\lambda^2 = W^1[f]$  and  $l = \frac{1}{\lambda} f^{\perp 1}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle f, l \rangle &= \mathbb{E}(f(x) l_{<s}(x)) + \mathbb{E}(f(x) l_{\geq s}(x)) \\
&\leq \alpha s + 4s\epsilon^{-s^2/2}
\end{aligned}$$

Pick  $s = O(\ln(1/\alpha))$  □