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# Matrix Martingales in Randomized Numerical Linear Algebra

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# Concentration of Scalar Random Variables

Random  $X = \sum_i X_i$ ,  $X_i \in \mathbb{R}$

1.  $X_i$  are independent
2.  $\mathbb{E}X_i = 0$

Is  $X \approx 0$  with high probability?

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# Concentration of Scalar Random Variables

## Bernstein's Inequality

Random  $X = \sum_i X_i$ ,  $X_i \in \mathbb{R}$

1.  $X_i$  are independent
2.  $\mathbb{E}X_i = 0$
3.  $|X_i| \leq r$
4.  $\sum_i \mathbb{E}X_i^2 \leq \sigma^2$

gives

E.g. if  $\varepsilon = 0.5$ , and  $r, \sigma^2 = 0.1/\log(1/\tau)$

$$\mathbb{P}[|X| > \varepsilon] \leq 2\exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon^2/2}{r\varepsilon + \sigma^2}\right)$$

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# Concentration of Scalar Martingales

Random  $X = \sum_i X_i$ ,  $X_i \in \mathbb{R}$

1.  ~~$X_i$  are independent~~

2.  ~~$\mathbb{E}X_i = 0$~~   $\mathbb{E}[X_i | X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}] = 0$

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# Concentration of Scalar Martingales

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1.  ~~$X_i$  are independent~~

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# Concentration of Scalar Martingales

## Freedman's Inequality

## Bernstein's Inequality

Random  $X = \sum_i X_i$ ,  $X_i \in \mathbb{R}$

1.  ~~$X_i$  are independent~~
2.  ~~$\mathbb{E}X_i = 0$~~   $\mathbb{E}[X_i | \text{previous steps}] = 0$
3.  $|X_i| \leq r$
4.  ~~$\sum_i \mathbb{E}X_i^2 \leq \sigma^2$~~   $\sum_i \mathbb{E}[X_i^2 | \text{previous steps}] \leq \sigma^2$

gives  $\mathbb{P}\left[\sum_i \mathbb{E}[X_i^2 | \text{previous steps}] > \sigma^2\right] \leq \delta$

$$\mathbb{P}[|X| > \varepsilon] \leq 2 \exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon^2/2}{r\varepsilon + \sigma^2}\right) + \delta$$

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# Concentration of Scalar Martingales

## Freedman's Inequality

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gives

$$\mathbb{P}[|X| > \varepsilon] \leq 2\exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon^2/2}{r\varepsilon + \sigma^2}\right) + \delta$$

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# Concentration of Matrix Random Variables

## Matrix Bernstein's Inequality (Tropp 11)

Random  $X = \sum_i X_i$        $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ , symmetric

1.  $X_i$  are independent
2.  $\mathbb{E}X_i = \mathbf{0}$
3.  $\|X_i\| \leq r$
4.  $\left\| \sum_i \mathbb{E}X_i^2 \right\| \leq \sigma^2$

gives

$$\mathbb{P}[\|X\| > \epsilon] \leq \textcolor{red}{d} \exp\left(-\frac{\epsilon^2/2}{r\epsilon + \sigma^2}\right)$$

# Concentration of Matrix Martingales

## Matrix Freedman's Inequality (Tropp 11)

Random  $X = \sum_i X_i$        $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ , symmetric

1.  ~~$X_i$  are independent~~
2.  ~~$\mathbb{E}X_i = 0$~~        $\mathbb{E}[X_i | \text{previous steps}] = 0$
3.  $\|X_i\| \leq r$
4.  ~~$\|\sum_i \mathbb{E}X_i^2\| \leq \sigma^2$~~   $\mathbb{P}[\|\sum_i \mathbb{E}[X_i^2 | \text{prev. steps}]\| > \sigma^2] \leq \delta$

gives

E.g. if  $\varepsilon = 0.5$ , and  $r, \sigma^2 = 0.1/\log(\textcolor{red}{d}/\tau)$

$$\mathbb{P}[\|X\| > \varepsilon] \leq \textcolor{red}{d} 2\exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon^2/2}{r\varepsilon + \sigma^2}\right) + \delta$$

$$\leq \tau + \delta$$

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# Concentration of Matrix Martingales

**Matrix Freedman's Inequality (Tropp 11)**

$$\mathbb{P}[\|\sum_i \mathbb{E}[X_i^2 | \text{prev. steps}]\| > \sigma^2] \leq \delta$$

**Predictable quadratic variation**

$$= \sum_i \mathbb{E}[X_i^2 | \text{prev. steps}]$$

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# Laplacian Matrices

Graph

$$G = (V, E)$$

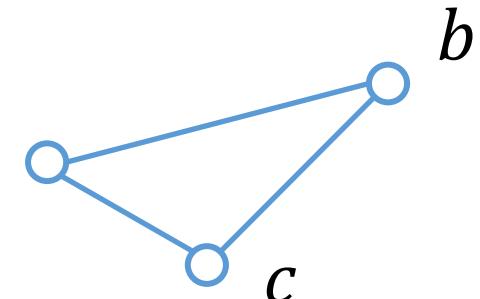
Edge weights

$$w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$$

$$n = |V|$$

$$m = |E|$$

$n \times n$  matrix



$$L = \sum_{e \in E} L_e$$

# Laplacian Matrices

Graph

$$G = (V, E)$$

Edge weights

$$w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$$

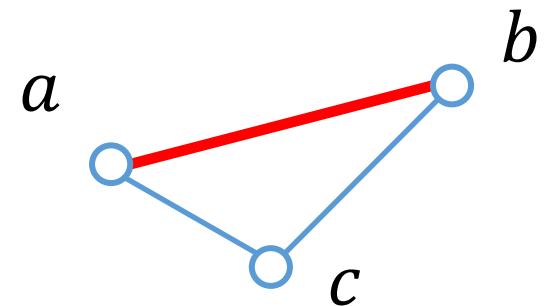
$$n = |V|$$

$$m = |E|$$

$n \times n$  matrix

$$L_{(a,b)} = w_{(a,b)}$$

$$\begin{matrix} & \dots & a & \dots & b & \dots \\ \vdots & & \left( \begin{array}{cccc} a & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ b & & & \\ \vdots & & & \end{array} \right) & & \end{matrix}$$



$$L = \sum_{e \in E} L_e$$

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# Laplacian Matrices

Graph  $G = (V, E)$

Edge weights  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$

$n = |V|$

$m = |E|$

$A_{ij}$  weighted adjacency matrix of the graph

$D_{ii}$  diagonal matrix of weighted degrees

$$L = D - A$$

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# Laplacian Matrices

Symmetric matrix  $L$

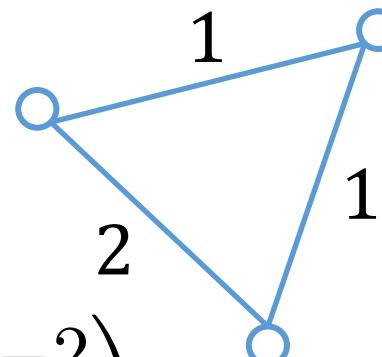
All off-diagonals are non-positive and

$$L_{ii} = \sum_{j \neq i} |L_{ij}|$$

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# Laplacian of a Graph

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -2 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -2 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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# Approximation between graphs

## PSD Order

$$A \preccurlyeq B \quad \text{iff for all } x \quad x^\top A x \leq x^\top B x$$

## Matrix Approximation

$$A \approx_{\varepsilon} B \quad \text{iff} \quad A \preccurlyeq (1 + \varepsilon)B \text{ and } B \preccurlyeq (1 + \varepsilon)A$$

## Graphs

$$G \approx_{\varepsilon} H \quad \text{iff} \quad L_G \approx_{\varepsilon} L_H$$

Implies multiplicative approximation to cuts

# Sparsification of Laplacians

Every graph  $G^{(0)}$  on  $n$  vertices

for any  $\varepsilon \in (0,1)$ ,

has a sparsifier  $G^{(1)} \approx_{\varepsilon} G^{(0)}$

with  $O(n \varepsilon^{-2})$  edges

**Many applications!**

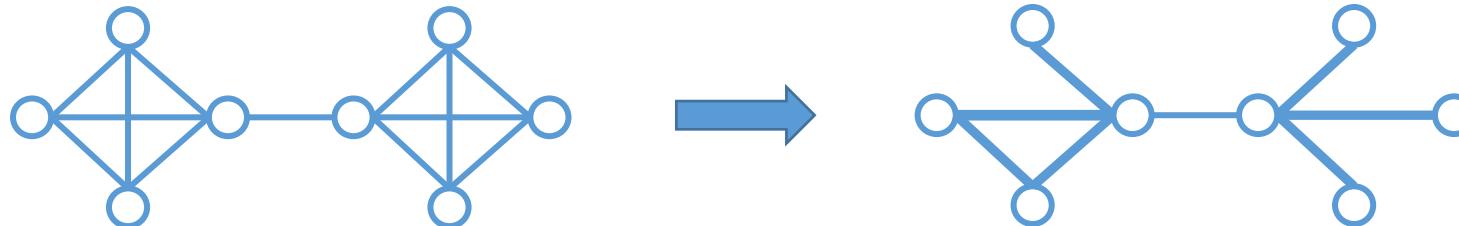
[BSS'09,LS'17]

Sampling edges independently

by leverage scores w.h.p. gives sparsifier

with  $O(n \varepsilon^{-2} \log n)$  edges

[Spielman-Srivastava'08]



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# Graph Semi-Streaming Sparsification

$m$  edges of a graph arriving as stream

$(\{a_1, b_1\}, w_1), (\{a_2, b_2\}, w_2), \dots$

**GOAL:** maintain  $\varepsilon$ -sparsifier,  
minimize working space (& time)

[Ahn-Guha '09]

$n\varepsilon^{-2} \log(n) \log\left(\frac{m}{n}\right)$  space

$n\varepsilon^{-2} \log(n) \log\left(\frac{m}{n}\right)$  edge **cut**  $\varepsilon$ -sparsifier

Used scalar martingales

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# Independent Edge Samples

$$\mathbf{L}_e^{(1)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{p_e} \mathbf{L}_e^{(0)} & \text{w. probability } p_e \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Expectation       $\mathbb{E} \mathbf{L}_e^{(1)} = \mathbf{L}_e^{(0)}$

Zero-mean       $\mathbf{X}_e^{(1)} = \mathbf{L}_e^{(1)} - \mathbf{L}_e^{(0)}$

$$\mathbf{X}^{(1)} = \mathbf{L}^{(1)} - \mathbf{L}^{(0)} = \sum_e \mathbf{X}_e^{(1)}$$

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# Matrix Martingale?

Zero mean?

So what if we just sparsify again?

It's a martingale!

Every time we accumulate  $20 n\epsilon^{-2} \log n$ ,  
sparsify down to  $10 n\epsilon^{-2} \log n$ ,  
and continue

---

# Independent Edge Samples

$$\mathbf{L}_e^{(1)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{p_e} \mathbf{L}_e^{(0)} & \text{w. probability } p_e \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

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Zero-mean       $\mathbf{X}_e^{(1)} = \mathbf{L}_e^{(1)} - \mathbf{L}_e^{(0)}$

$$\mathbf{X}^{(1)} = \sum_e \mathbf{X}_e^{(1)}$$

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# Repeated Edge Sampling

$$\mathbf{L}_e^{(i)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{p_e^{(i-1)}} \mathbf{L}_e^{(i-1)} & \text{w. prob. } p_e^{(i-1)} \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Expectation       $\mathbb{E} \mathbf{L}_e^{(i)} = \mathbf{L}_e^{(i-1)}$

Zero-mean       $\mathbf{X}_e^{(i)} = \mathbf{L}_e^{(i)} - \mathbf{L}_e^{(i-1)}$

$$\mathbf{X}^{(i)} = \mathbf{L}^{(i)} - \mathbf{L}^{(i-1)} = \sum_e \mathbf{X}_e^{(i)}$$

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# Repeated Edge Sampling

$$\mathbf{L}_e^{(i)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{p_e^{(i-1)}} \mathbf{L}_e^{(i-1)} & \text{w. prob. } p_e^{(i-1)} \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Expectation

$$\mathbb{E} \mathbf{L}_e^{(i)} = \mathbf{L}_e^{(i-1)}$$

Zero-mean

$$\mathbf{X}_e^{(i)} = \mathbf{L}_e^{(i)} - \mathbf{L}_e^{(i-1)}$$

$$\mathbf{X}^{(i)} = \mathbf{L}^{(i)} - \mathbf{L}^{(i-1)} = \sum_e \mathbf{X}_e^{(i)}$$

**Martingale**

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}^{(i)} | \text{prev. steps}] = \mathbf{0}$$

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# Repeated Edge Sampling

It works – and it couldn't be simpler

[K.PPS'17]

$n\epsilon^{-2}\log(n)$  space

$n\epsilon^{-2}\log(n)$  edge  $\epsilon$ -sparsifier

Shave a log off many algorithms  
that do repeated matrix sampling...

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# Approximation?

$$\mathbf{L}_H \approx_{0.5} \mathbf{L}_G$$

$$\mathbf{L}_H \leqslant 1.5\mathbf{L}_G \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{L}_G \leqslant 1.5\mathbf{L}_H$$

~~$$\|\mathbf{L}_H - \mathbf{L}_G\| \leq 0.5 ?$$~~

$$\left\| \mathbf{L}_G^{-1/2} (\mathbf{L}_H - \mathbf{L}_G) \mathbf{L}_G^{-1/2} \right\| \leq 0.1$$

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## Isotropic position

$$\bar{\mathbf{Z}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{L}_G^{-1/2} \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{L}_G^{-1/2}$$

Goal is now

$$\|\bar{\mathbf{L}}_H - \bar{\mathbf{L}}_G\| \leq 0.1$$

$$\|\bar{\mathbf{L}}_H - \mathbf{I}\| \leq 0.1$$

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# Concentration of Matrix Martingales

## Matrix Freedman's Inequality

Random  $\bar{\mathbf{X}} = \sum_i \sum_e \bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)}$        $\bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ , symmetric

1.  $\mathbb{E} [\bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)} | \text{previous steps}] = 0$

2.  $\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)}\| \leq r$

3.  $\mathbb{P} \left[ \left\| \sum_i \sum_e \mathbb{E} \left[ (\bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)})^2 | \text{prev. steps} \right] \right\| > \sigma^2 \leq \delta \right]$

gives

$$\mathbb{P}[\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}\| > \varepsilon] \leq d \exp \left( -\frac{\varepsilon^2/2}{r\varepsilon + \sigma^2} \right) + \delta$$

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# Concentration of Matrix Martingales

## Matrix Freedman's Inequality

Random  $\bar{\mathbf{X}} = \sum_i \sum_e \bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)}$        $\bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ , symmetric

1.  $\mathbb{E} [\bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)} | \text{previous steps}] = 0$

2.  $\boxed{\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)}\| \leq r}$

3.  $\mathbb{P} [\left\| \sum_i \sum_e \mathbb{E} [\left(\bar{\mathbf{X}}_e^{(i)}\right)^2 | \text{prev. steps}] \right\| > \sigma^2] \leq \delta$

gives

$$\mathbb{P} [\|\bar{\mathbf{X}}\| > \varepsilon] \leq d \cdot 2 \exp \left( -\frac{\varepsilon^2 / 2}{r\varepsilon + \sigma^2} \right) + \delta$$

---

# Norm Control

Can there be many edges with large norm?

$$\bar{\mathbf{L}}_e^{(1)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{p_e} \bar{\mathbf{L}}_e^{(0)} & \text{w. probability } p_e \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_e \left\| \bar{\mathbf{L}}_e^{(0)} \right\| &= \sum_e \text{Tr} \left( \bar{\mathbf{L}}_e^{(0)} \right) = \text{Tr} \left( \sum_e \bar{\mathbf{L}}_e^{(0)} \right) = \text{Tr} \left( \bar{\mathbf{L}}^{(0)} \right) \\ &= \text{Tr}(\mathbf{I}) = n - 1 \end{aligned}$$

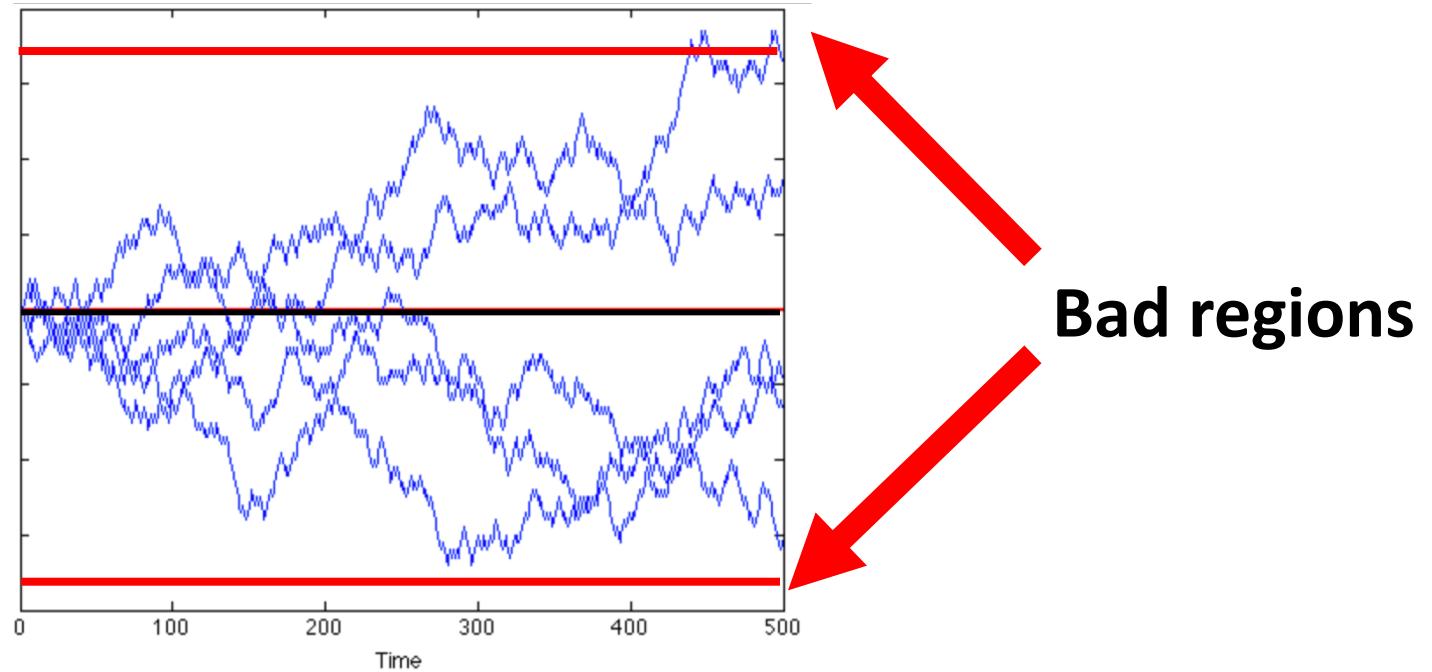
$$\text{Can afford } r = \frac{1}{\log n}, \quad p_e = \frac{\left\| \bar{\mathbf{L}}_e^{(0)} \right\|}{\log n}, \quad \sum_e p_e = n \log n$$

# Norm Control

$$\|\bar{X}_e^{(i)}\| \leq r$$

If we lose track of the original graph,  
we can't estimate the norm

## Stopping time argument



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# Variance Control

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \bar{X}_e^{(1)} \right)^2 \leq r \bar{L}_e^{(0)}$$

$$\sum_e \mathbb{E} \left( \bar{X}_e^{(1)} \right)^2 \leq \sum_e r \bar{L}_e^{(0)} = rI$$

But then edges get resampled.

Geometric sequence for variance, roughly.

---

# Resparsification

Every time we accumulate  $20 n\varepsilon^{-2} \log n$ ,  
sparsify down to  $10 n\varepsilon^{-2} \log n$ ,  
and continue

[K.PPS'17]

$n\varepsilon^{-2} \log(n)$  space

$n\varepsilon^{-2} \log(n)$  edge  $\varepsilon$ -sparsifier

Shave a log off many algorithms  
that do repeated matrix sampling...

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# Laplacian Linear Equations

[ST04]: solving Laplacian linear equations in  $\tilde{O}(m)$  time

⋮

[KS16]: simple algorithm

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# Solving a Laplacian Linear Equation

$$Lx = b$$

## Gaussian Elimination

Find  $\mathfrak{U}$ , upper triangular matrix, s.t.

$$\mathfrak{U}^T \mathfrak{U} = L$$

Then

$$x = \mathfrak{U}^{-1} \mathfrak{U}^{-T} b$$

Easy to apply  $\mathfrak{U}^{-1}$  and  $\mathfrak{U}^{-T}$

---

# Solving a Laplacian Linear Equation

$$Lx = b$$

## Approximate Gaussian Elimination

Find  $\mathfrak{U}$ , upper triangular matrix, s.t.

$$\mathfrak{U}^T \mathfrak{U} \approx_{0.5} L$$

$\mathfrak{U}$  is sparse.

$O\left(\log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$  iterations to get  
 $\varepsilon$ -approximate solution  $\tilde{x}$ .

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# Approximate Gaussian Elimination

## Theorem [KS]

When  $L$  is an **Laplacian** matrix with  $m$  non-zeros,  
we can find in  $O(m \log^3 n)$  time an upper triangular  
matrix  $\mathfrak{U}$  with  $O(m \log^3 n)$  non-zeros,  
s.t. w.h.p.

$$\mathfrak{U}^\top \mathfrak{U} \approx_{0.5} L$$

---

# Additive View of Gaussian Elimination

Find  $\mathbf{U}$ , upper triangular matrix, s.t  $\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{M}$

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} 16 & -4 & -8 & -4 \\ -4 & 5 & 0 & -1 \\ -8 & 0 & 14 & 0 \\ -4 & -1 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Additive View of Gaussian Elimination

$$\begin{pmatrix} 16 & -4 & -8 & -4 \\ -4 & 5 & 0 & -1 \\ -8 & 0 & 14 & 0 \\ -4 & -1 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

Find the rank-1 matrix that agrees with  $M$  on the first row and column.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 16 & -4 & -8 & -4 \\ -4 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -8 & 2 & 4 & 2 \\ -4 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}^T$$

# Additive View of Gaussian Elimination

$$\begin{pmatrix} 16 & -4 & -8 & -4 \\ -4 & 5 & 0 & -1 \\ -8 & 0 & 14 & 0 \\ -4 & -1 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} -$$

Subtract the rank 1 matrix.

We have **eliminated the first variable**.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 16 & -4 & -8 & -4 \\ -4 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -8 & 2 & 4 & 2 \\ -4 & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

---

# Additive View of Gaussian Elimination

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 10 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & -2 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

The remaining matrix is PSD.

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# Additive View of Gaussian Elimination

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 10 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & -2 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Find rank-1 matrix that agrees with our matrix on the **next** row and column.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}^T$$

# Additive View of Gaussian Elimination

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 10 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & -2 & 6 \end{pmatrix} - = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 9 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

Subtract the rank 1 matrix.

We have **eliminated the second variable.**

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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# Additive View of Gaussian Elimination

Repeat until all parts written as rank 1 terms.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M} &= \begin{pmatrix} 16 & -4 & -8 & -4 \\ -4 & 5 & 0 & -1 \\ -8 & 0 & 14 & 0 \\ -4 & -1 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}^T + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}^T + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}^T + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}^T \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M} &= \begin{pmatrix} 16 & -4 & -8 & -4 \\ -4 & 5 & 0 & -1 \\ -8 & 0 & 14 & 0 \\ -4 & -1 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & -1 & 3 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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# Additive View of Gaussian Elimination

Repeat until all parts written as rank 1 terms.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{M} &= \begin{pmatrix} 16 & -4 & -8 & -4 \\ -4 & 5 & 0 & -1 \\ -8 & 0 & 14 & 0 \\ -4 & -1 & 0 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}^\top \begin{pmatrix} 4 & -1 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} \end{aligned}$$

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# Additive View of Gaussian Elimination

What is special about Gaussian Elimination on Laplacians?

The **remaining matrix** is always Laplacian.

$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 16 & -8 & -4 & -4 \\ -8 & 8 & 0 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 & 4 & 0 \\ -4 & 0 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

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What is special about Gaussian Elimination on Laplacians?

The **remaining matrix** is always Laplacian.

$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 16 & -8 & -4 & -4 \\ -8 & 4 & 2 & 2 \\ -4 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ -4 & 2 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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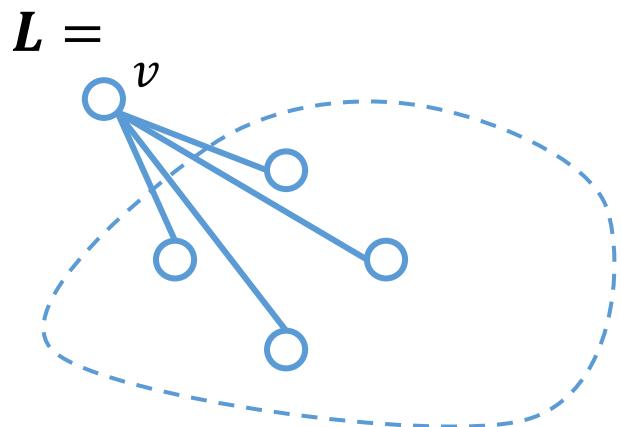
$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -2 \\ -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}^\top + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & -2 & -2 \\ 0 & -2 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & -2 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{A new Laplacian!}}$$

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# Why is Gaussian Elimination Slow?

Solving  $Lx = b$  by Gaussian Elimination can take  $\Omega(n^3)$  time.

The main issue is **fill**



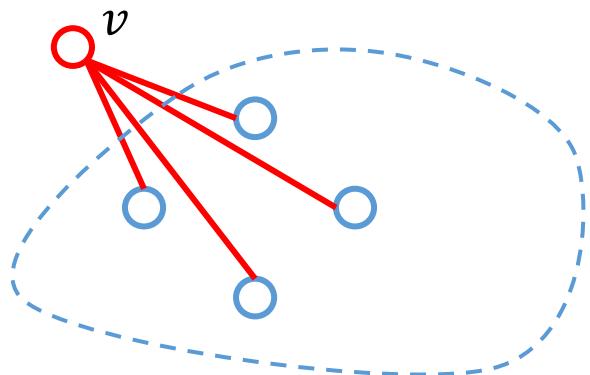
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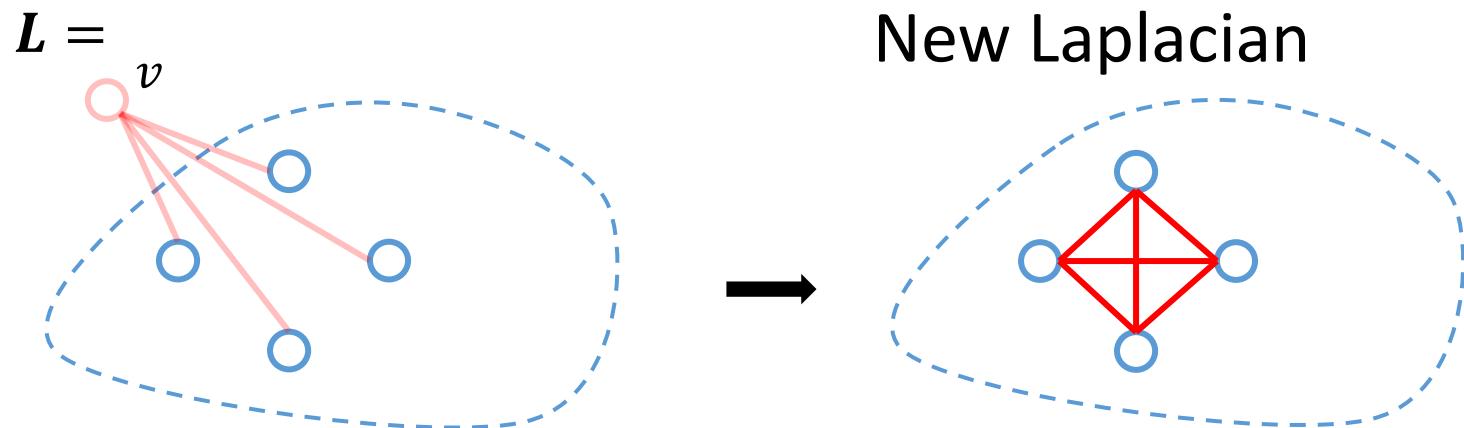
$$L =$$



# Why is Gaussian Elimination Slow?

Solving  $Lx = b$  by Gaussian Elimination can take  $\Omega(n^3)$  time.

The main issue is **fill**

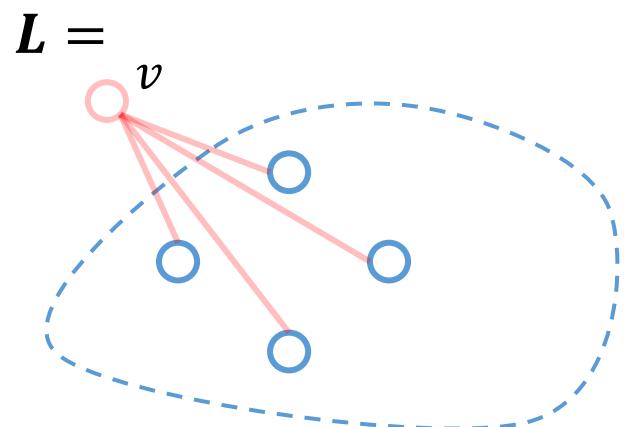


Elimination creates a clique on the neighbors of  $v$

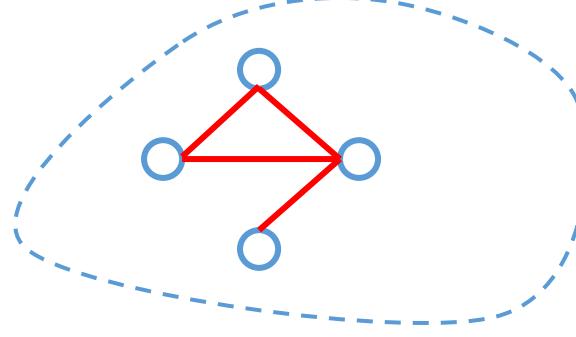
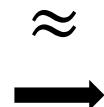
# Why is Gaussian Elimination Slow?

Solving  $Lx = b$  by Gaussian Elimination can take  $\Omega(n^3)$  time.

The main issue is **fill**



New Laplacian



Laplacian cliques can be sparsified!

---

# Gaussian Elimination

1. Pick a vertex  $v$  to eliminate
2. Add the clique created by eliminating  $v$
3. Repeat until done

---

# Approximate Gaussian Elimination

1. Pick a vertex  $v$  to eliminate
2. Add the clique created by eliminating  $v$
3. Repeat until done

---

# Approximate Gaussian Elimination

1. Pick a **random** vertex  $v$  to eliminate
2. Add the clique created by eliminating  $v$
3. Repeat until done

---

# Approximate Gaussian Elimination

1. Pick a **random** vertex  $v$  to eliminate
2. **Sample** the clique created by eliminating  $v$
3. Repeat until done

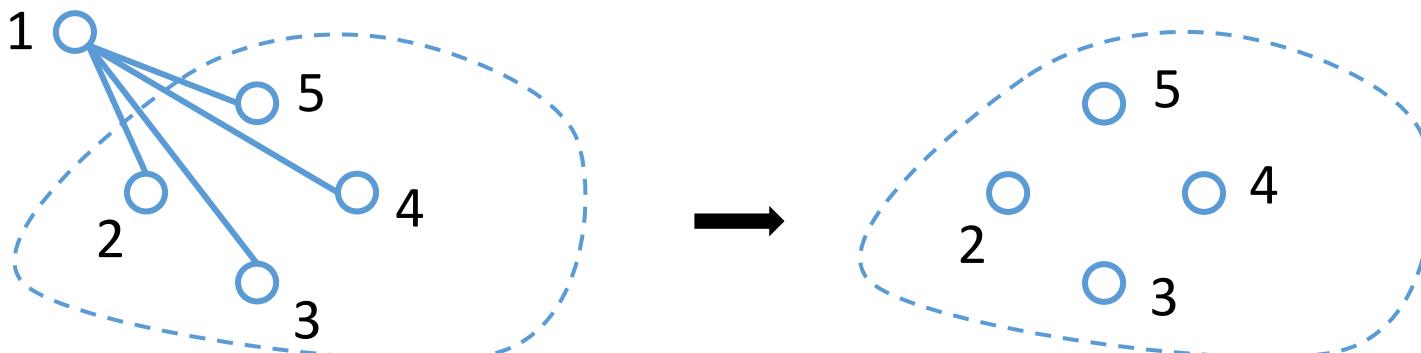
Resembles **randomized** Incomplete Cholesky

# How to Sample a Clique

For each edge  $(1, v)$

pick an edge  $(1, u)$  with probability  $\sim w_u$

insert edge  $(v, u)$  with weight  $\frac{w_u w_v}{w_u + w_v}$

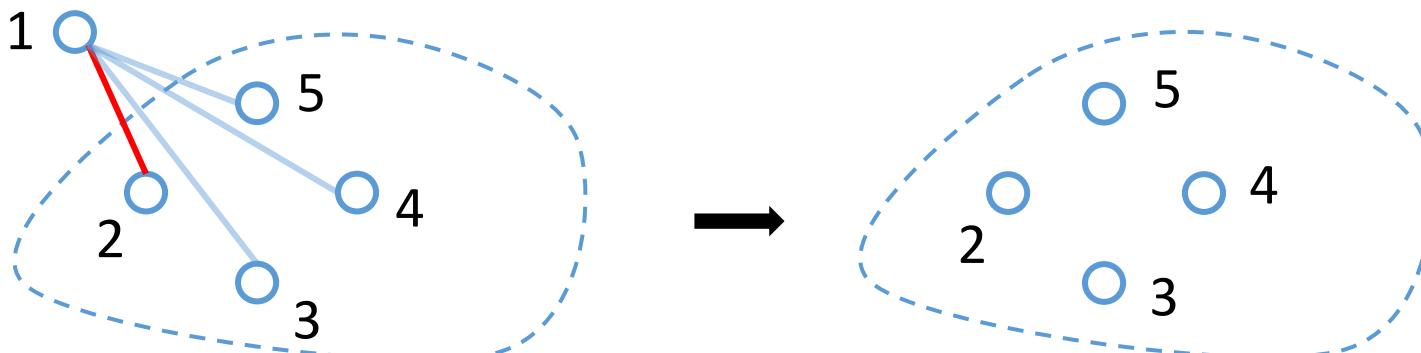


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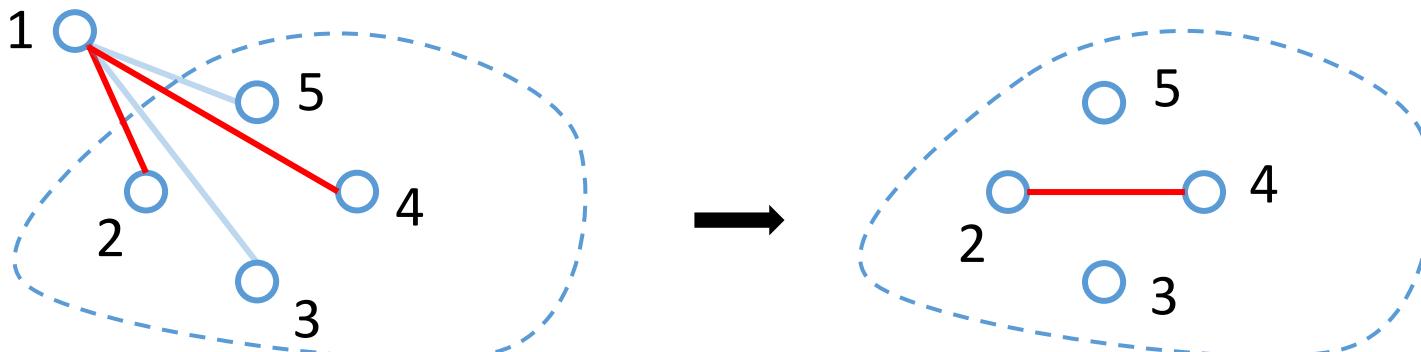


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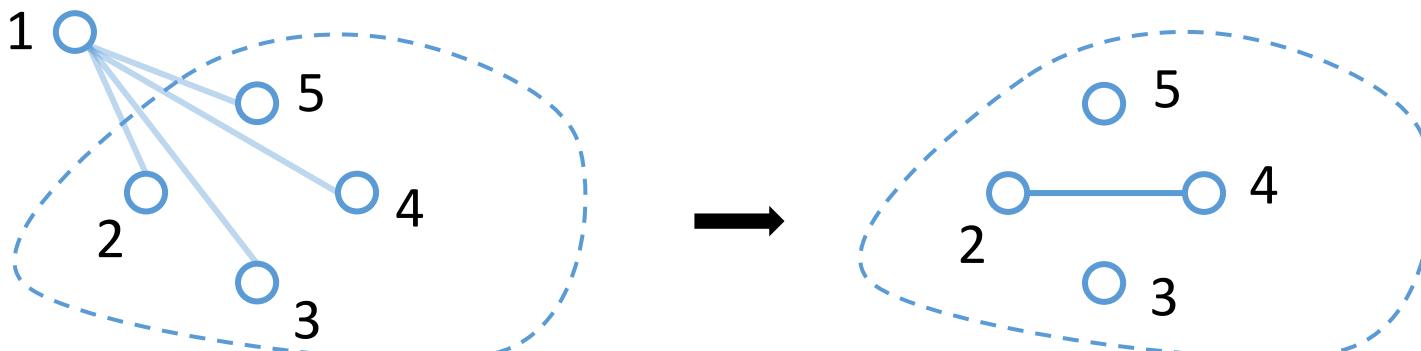


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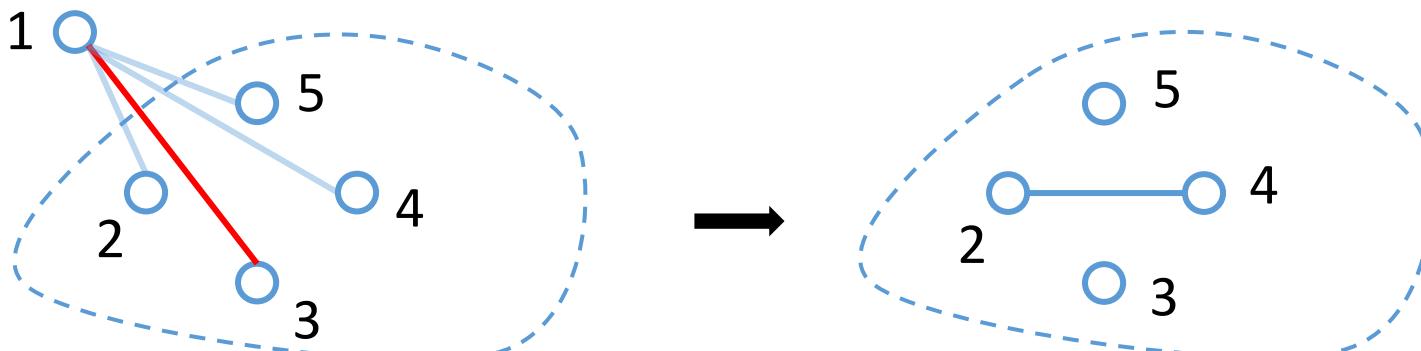


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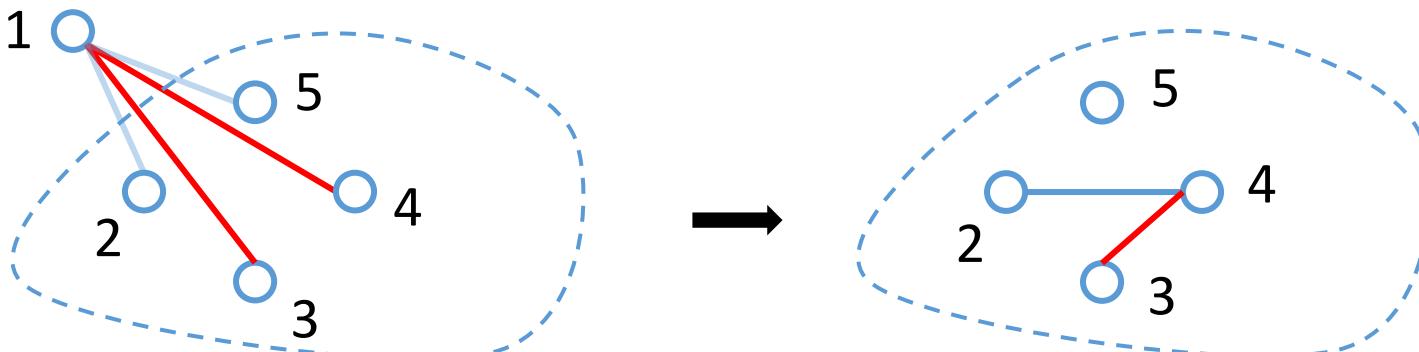


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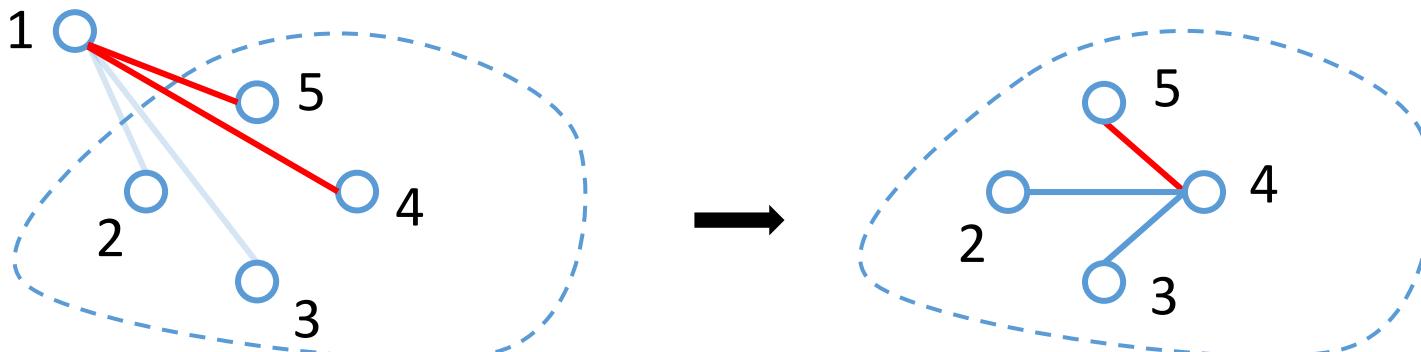


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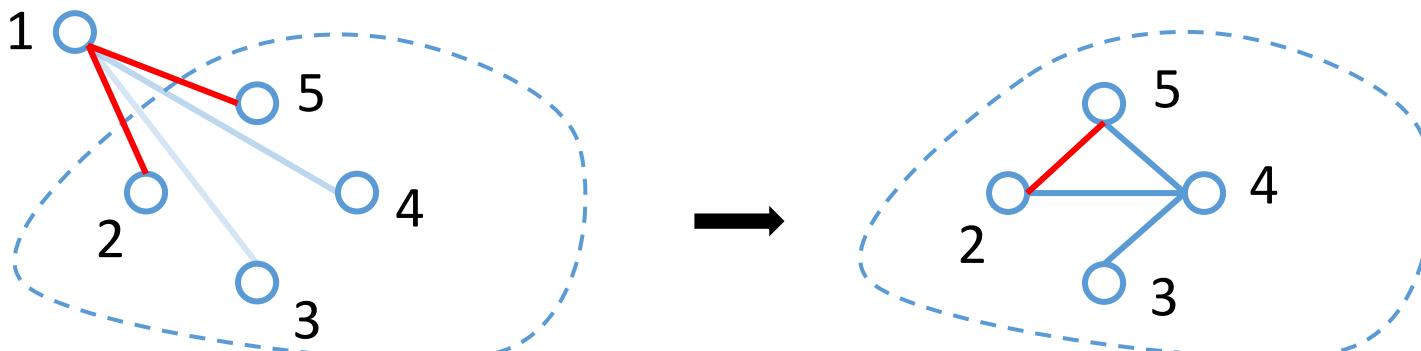


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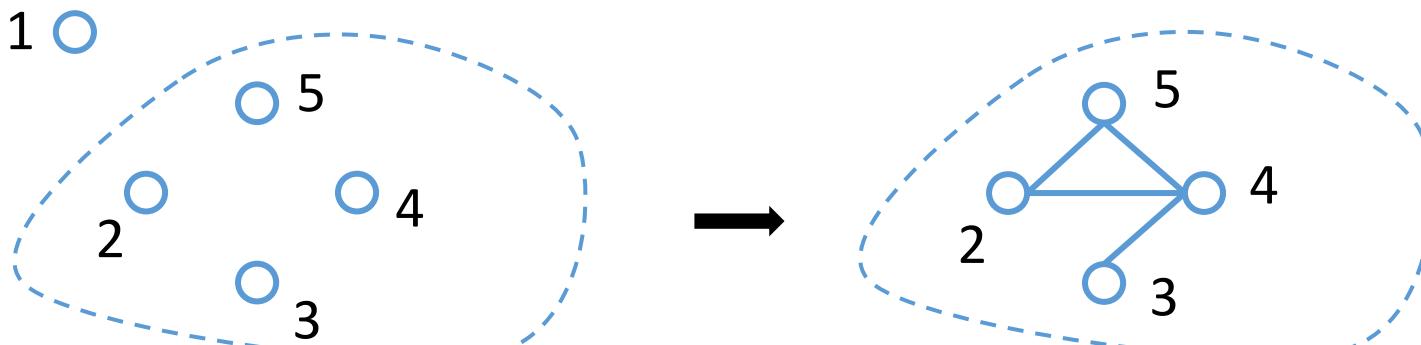


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---

# Approximating Matrices by Sampling

## Goal

$$\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} \approx \mathbf{L}$$

## Approach

1.  $\mathbb{E} \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{L}$
2. Show  $\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U}$  concentrated around expectation

Gives  $\mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{U} \approx \mathbf{L}$  w. high probability

# Approximating Matrices in Expectation

# Consider eliminating the first variable

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} L^{(0)} \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{c} \boldsymbol{c}_1 \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} \boldsymbol{c}_1 \end{array} \right)^T + \left( \begin{array}{ccc} \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \end{array} \right)$$

# Original Laplacian

# Rank 1 term

# Remaining graph + clique

---

# Approximating Matrices in Expectation

Consider eliminating the first variable

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}_1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}_1 \end{pmatrix}^T + \begin{pmatrix} & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \\ & & \end{pmatrix}$$

Rank 1  
term

Remaining graph  
+ **sparsified** clique

# Approximating Matrices in Expectation

Consider eliminating the first variable

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} L^{(1)} \\ \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{c} c_1 \\ \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} c_1 \\ \end{array} \right)^T + \left( \begin{array}{ccc} \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \end{array} \right)$$

Rank 1 term                      Remaining graph  
+ **sparsified** clique

# Approximating Matrices in Expectation

# Consider eliminating the first variable

---

# Approximating Matrices in Expectation

Consider eliminating the first variable

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{L}^{(1)} \\ \vdots \end{array} \right) = \left( \mathbf{c}_1 \right) \left( \mathbf{c}_1 \right)^T + \mathbb{E} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \end{array} \right)$$

Rank 1  
term

Remaining graph  
+ sparsified clique

$$\text{Suppose } = \left( \mathbf{c}_1 \right) \left( \mathbf{c}_1 \right)^T + \left( \begin{array}{ccc} \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \blacksquare \end{array} \right)$$

# Approximating Matrices in Expectation

# Consider eliminating the first variable

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \begin{array}{c} L^{(1)} \\ \vdots \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{c} c_1 \\ \vdots \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} c_1 \\ \vdots \end{array} \right)^T + \mathbb{E} \left( \begin{array}{ccccc} & & \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \\ & & \vdots & \vdots & \\ & & \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \\ & & \blacksquare & \blacksquare & \\ & & \vdots & \vdots & \end{array} \right)$$

Then  $= L^{(0)}$

---

# Approximating Matrices in Expectation

Let  $\mathbf{L}^{(i)}$  be our approximation after  $i$  eliminations

If we ensure at each step

$$\mathbb{E} \begin{pmatrix} & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \\ & \vdots & \vdots \\ & \vdots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ & \vdots & \vdots \\ & \vdots & \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

Sparsified clique    Clique

Then

$$\mathbb{E} \mathbf{L}^{(i)} = \mathbf{L}^{(i-1)}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{L}^{(i)} - \mathbf{L}^{(i-1)} | \text{previous steps}] = \mathbf{0}$$

---

# Predictable Quadratic Variation

**Predictable quadratic variation**

$$W = \sum_i \sum_e \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \bar{X}_e^{(i)} \right)^2 \mid \text{prev. steps} \right]$$

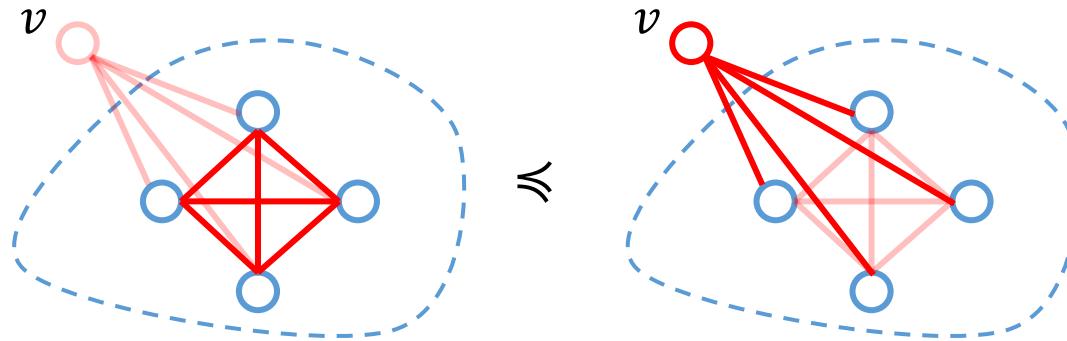
Want to show

$$\mathbb{P}[|W| > \sigma^2] \leq \delta$$

**Promise:**  $\mathbb{E} \bar{X}_e^2 \leq r \bar{L}_e$

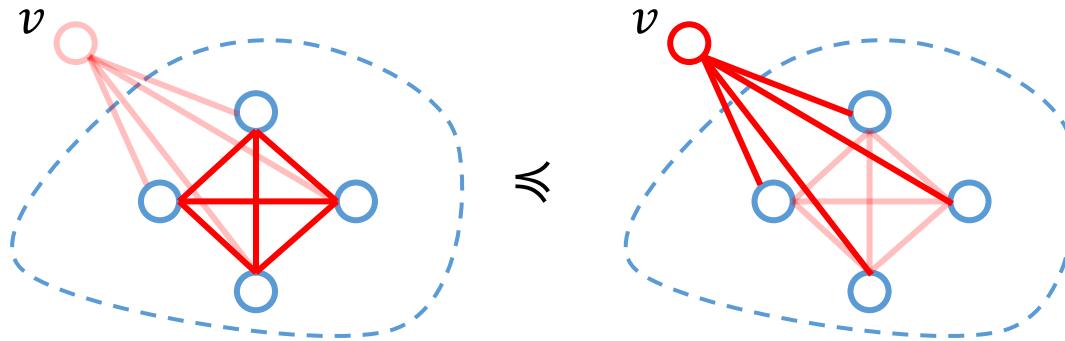


# Sample Variance



$$\sum_{e \in \text{elim. clique of } v} \bar{L}_e \asymp \sum_{e \ni v} \bar{L}_e$$

# Sample Variance



$$\mathbb{E}_v \sum_{e \in \text{elim. clique of } v} \bar{L}_e \leq \mathbb{E}_v \sum_{e \ni v} \bar{L}_e$$

$$= \frac{2 \overline{\text{current lap.}}}{\# \text{ vertices}} \leq \frac{4 \bar{L}}{\# \text{ vertices}} = \frac{4I}{\# \text{ vertices}}$$



WARNING: only true w.h.p.

# Sample Variance

Recall  $\mathbb{E}\bar{X}_e^2 \leq r\bar{L}_e$

Putting it together

$$\mathbb{E}_v \sum_{\substack{e \in \text{elim. clique of } v}} \mathbb{E}_v \sum_{\substack{e \in \text{elim. clique of } v}} \mathbb{E}\bar{X}_e^2 \leq r \frac{\frac{4I}{\# \text{ vertices}}}{\frac{4I}{\# \text{ vertices}}}$$

**variance  
in one round of elimination**

---

# Sample Variance

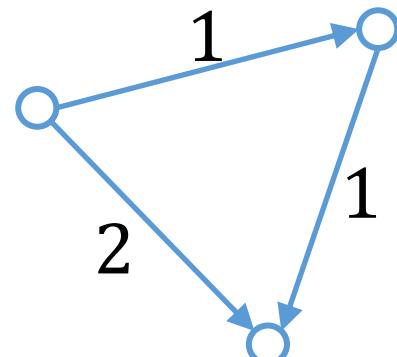
$$\sum_{\text{rounds of elimination}} \text{variance} \quad \asymp \quad \sum_{\text{rounds of elimination}} r \cdot \frac{4I}{\# \text{ vertices}}$$
$$\asymp 4r \log n \cdot I$$



---

# Directed Laplacian of a Graph

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



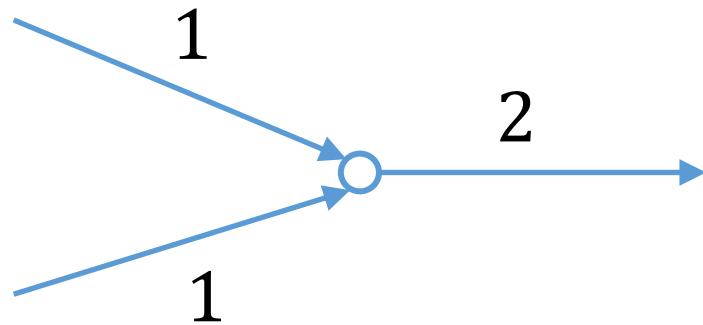
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

---

# (Weighted) Eulerian Graph

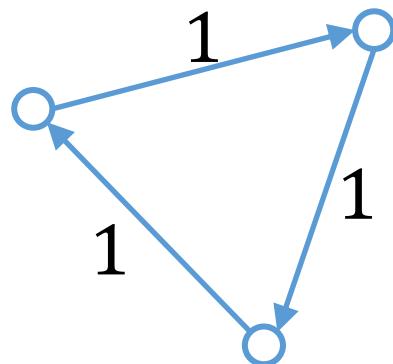


weighted in-degree = weighted out-degree

---

# Eulerian Laplacian of a Graph

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

---

# Solving an Eul. Laplacian Linear Equation

$$Lx = b$$

## Gaussian Elimination

Find  $\mathfrak{L}$ ,  $\mathfrak{U}$ , lower and upper triangular matrices, s.t.

$$\mathfrak{LU} = L$$

Then

$$x = \mathfrak{U}^{-1} \mathfrak{L}^{-1} b$$

Easy to apply  $\mathfrak{U}^{-1}$  and  $\mathfrak{L}^{-1}$

---

# Solving an Eul. Laplacian Linear Equation

$$Lx = b$$

**Approximate Gaussian Elimination** [CKKPPRS FOCS'18]

Find  $\mathfrak{L}, \mathfrak{U}$ , lower and upper triangular matrices, s.t.

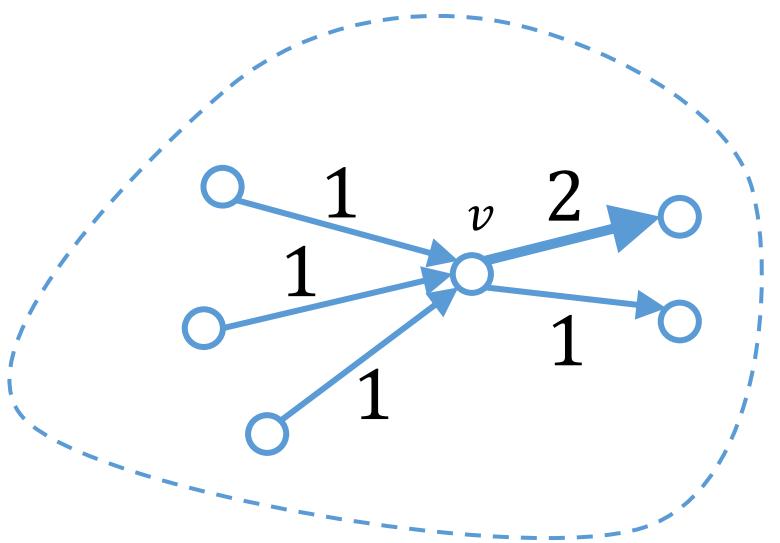
$$\mathfrak{L}\mathfrak{U} \approx L$$

$\mathfrak{L}, \mathfrak{U}$  are sparse.

$O\left(\log \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$  iterations to get  
 $\varepsilon$ -approximate solution  $\tilde{x}$ .

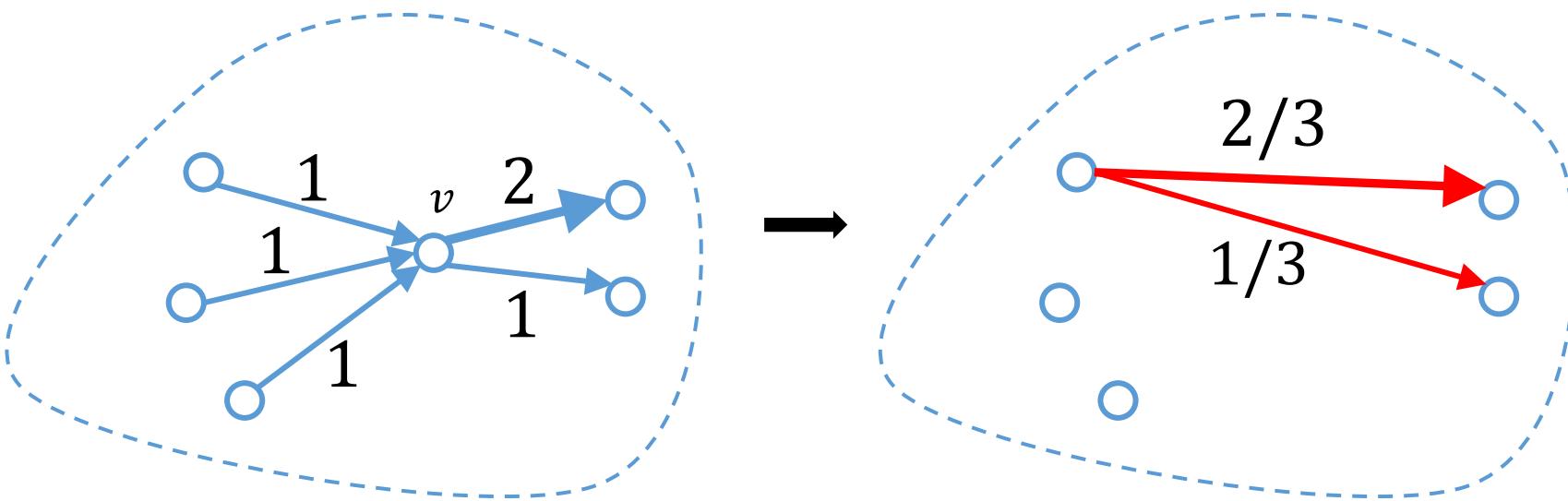
# Gaussian Elimination on Eulerian Laplacians

$L =$



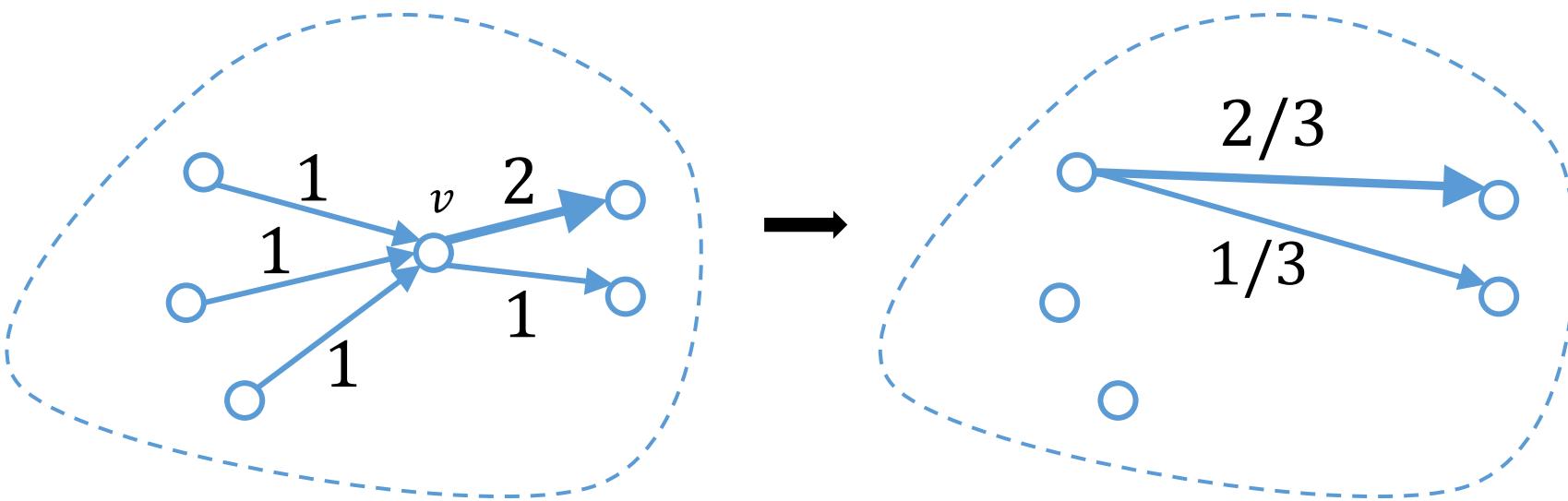
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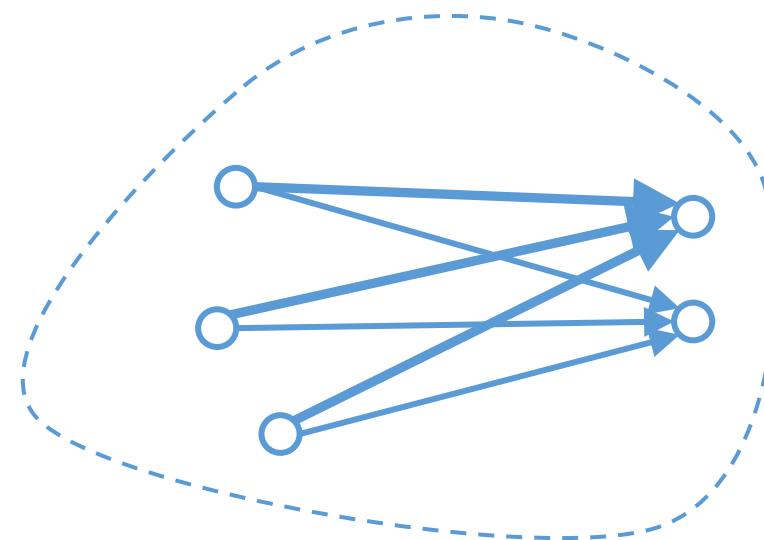
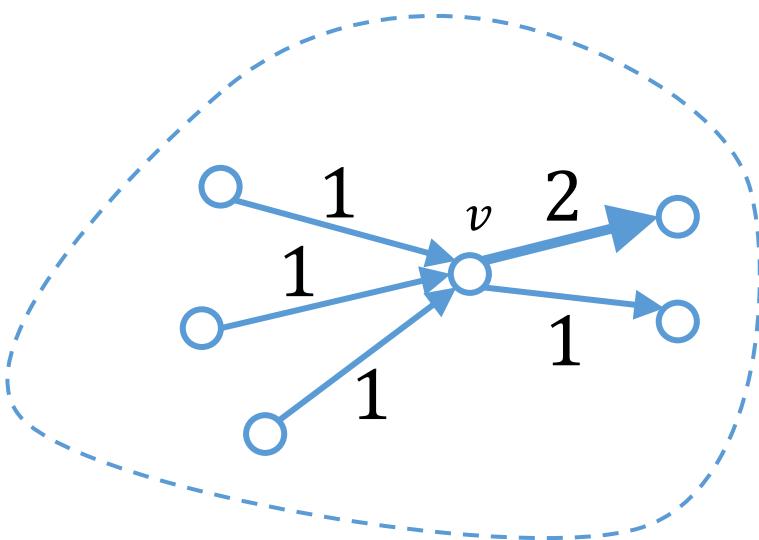
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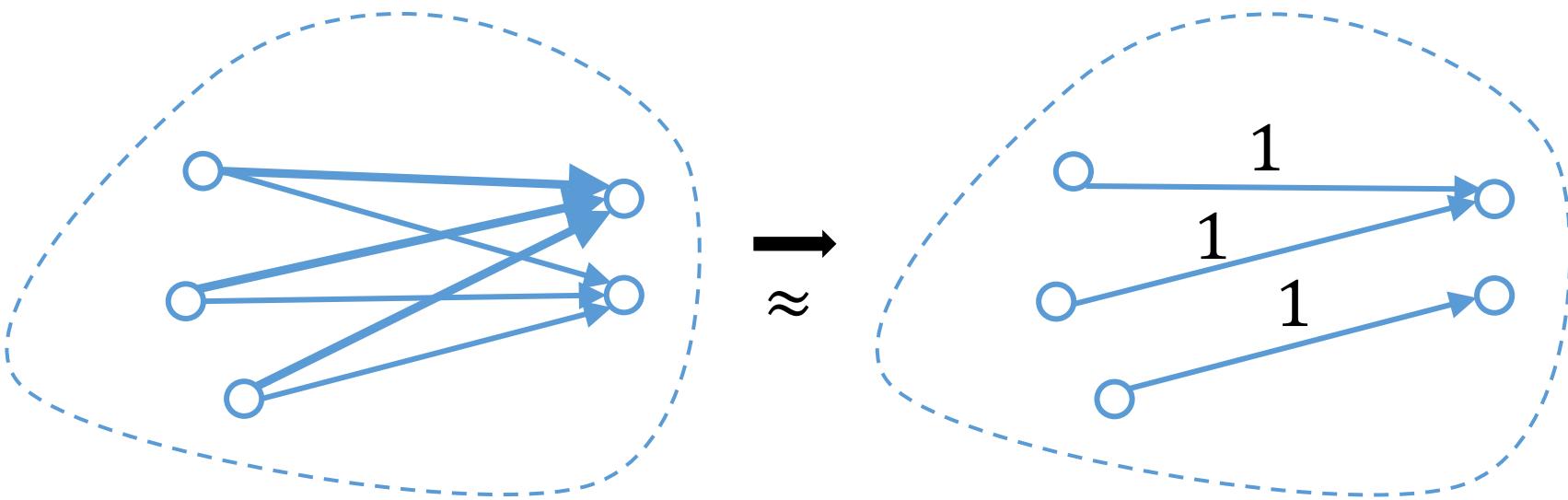
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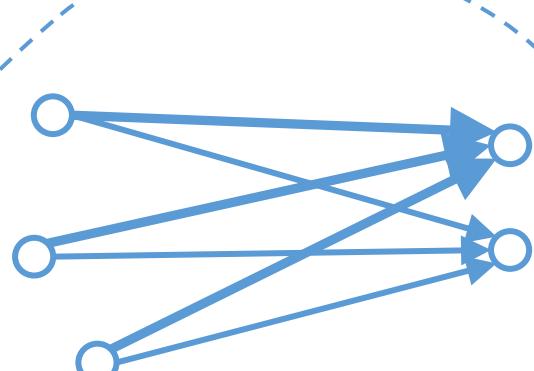
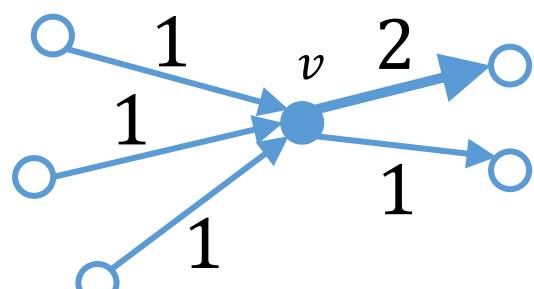
Sparsify

correct in expectation

output **always** Eulerian

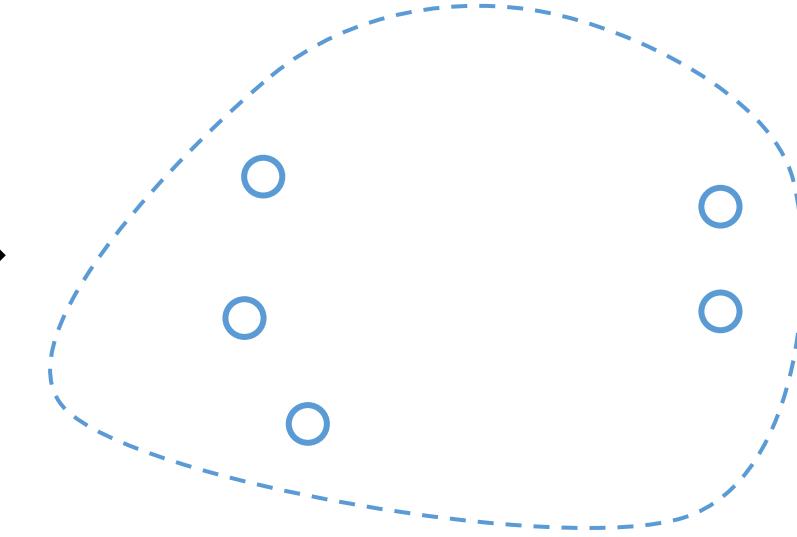
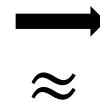
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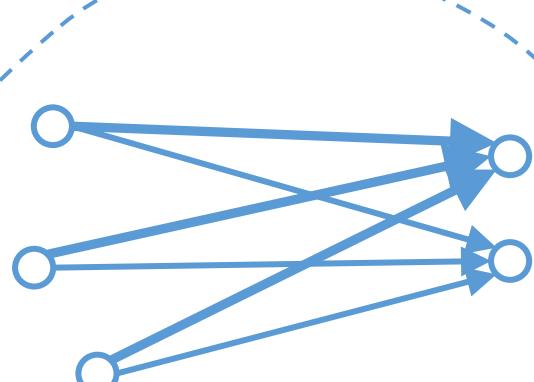
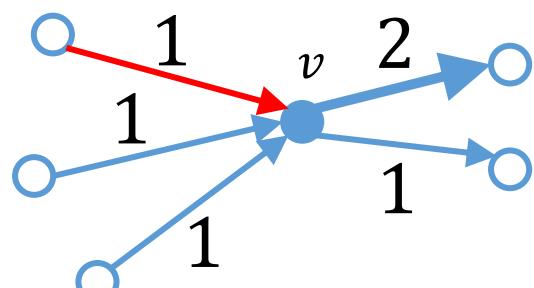
While edges remain:

1. Pick a minimum weight edge
2. Pair with random neighbor
3. Reduce mass on both by  $w_{\min}$



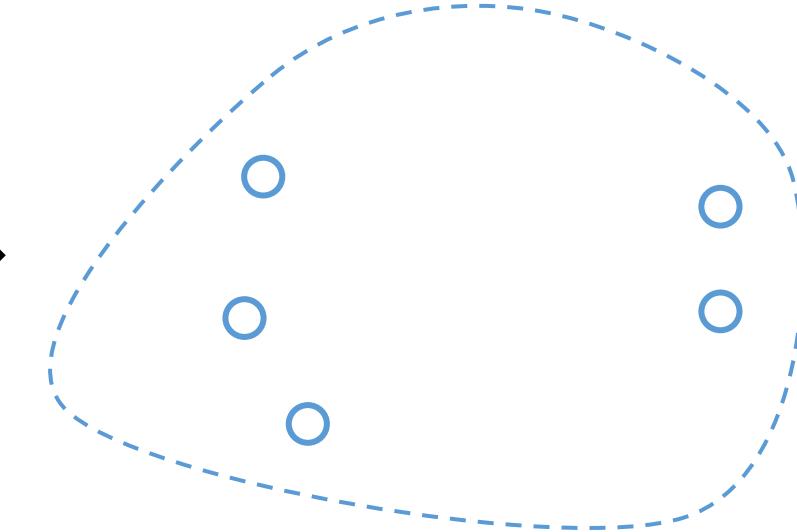
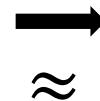
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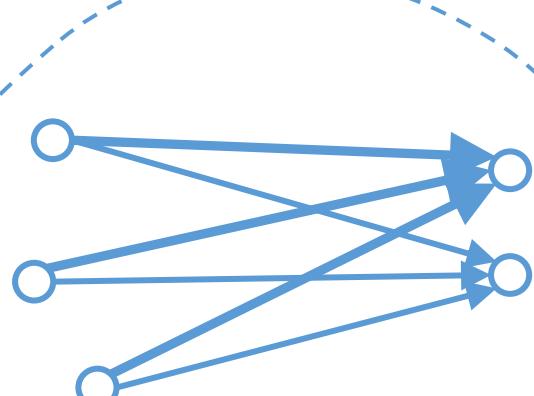
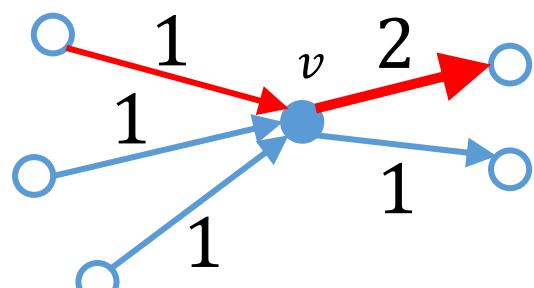
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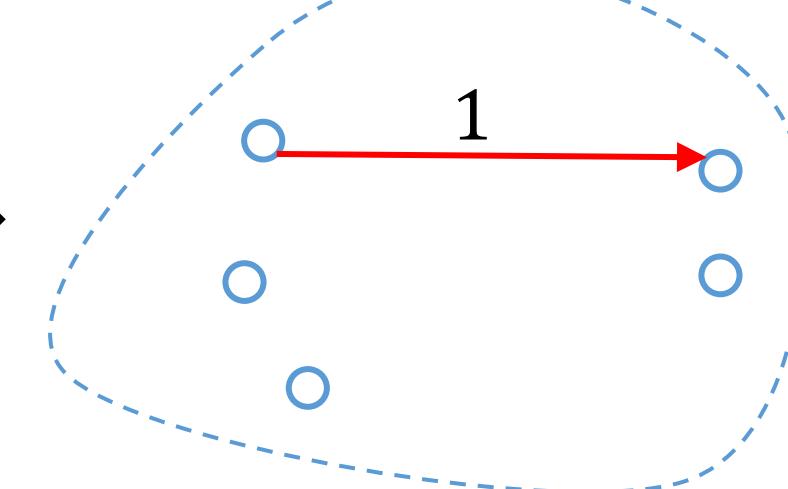
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$L =$



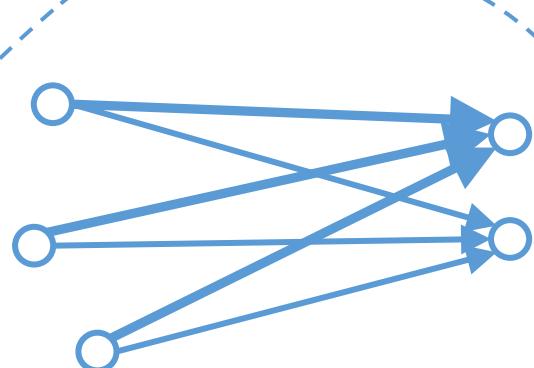
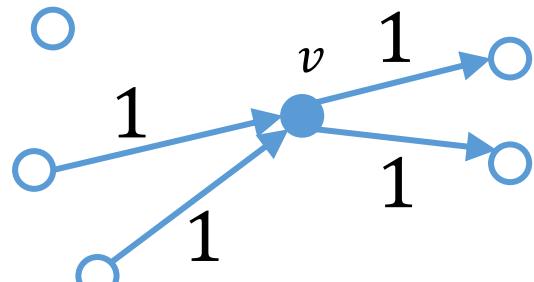
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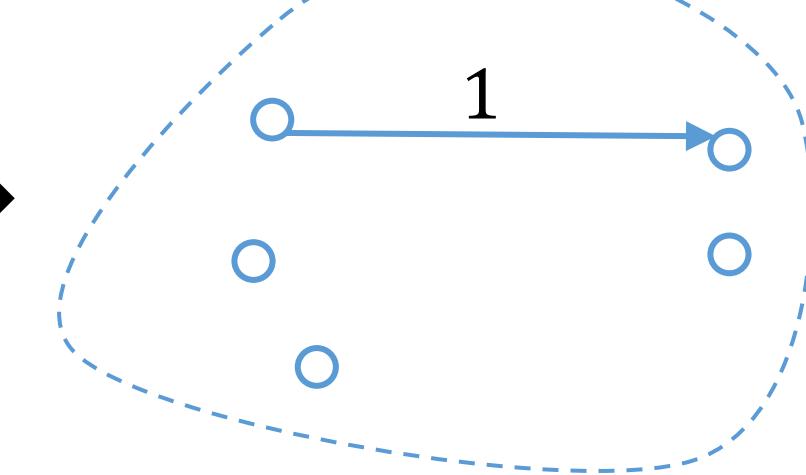
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$L =$



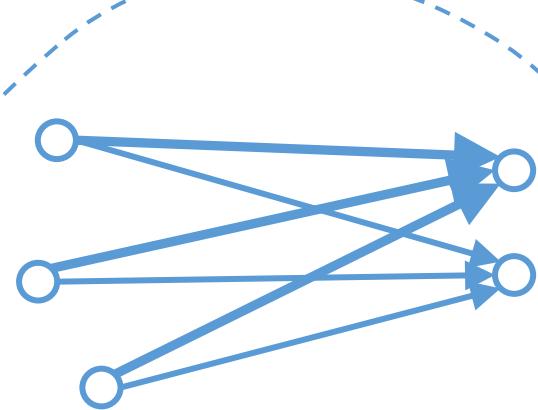
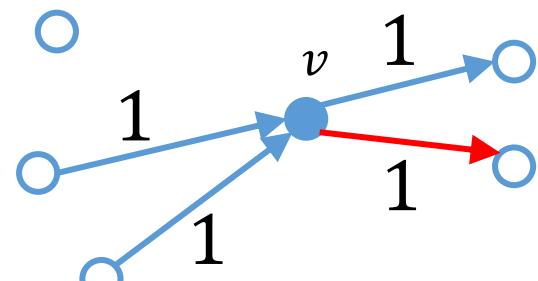
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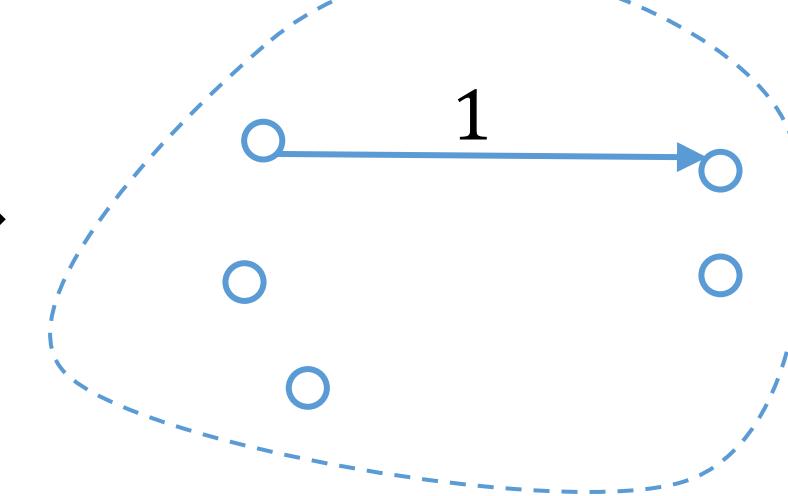
# Gaussian Elimination on Eulerian Laplacians

$L =$



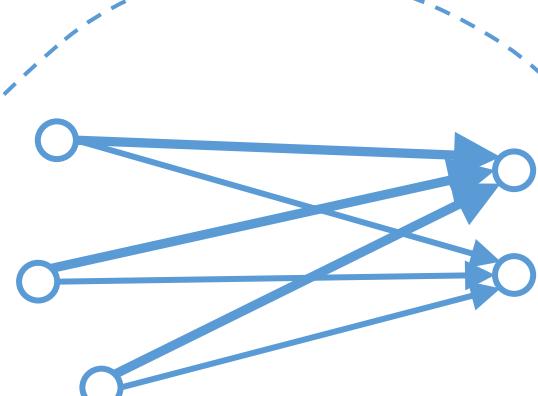
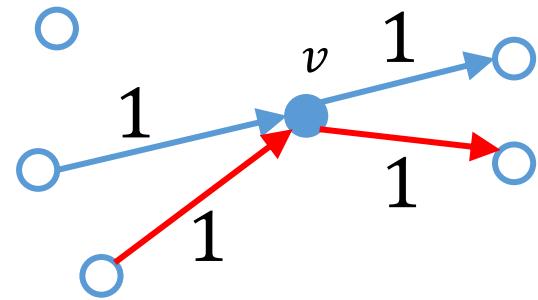
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# Gaussian Elimination on Eulerian Laplacians

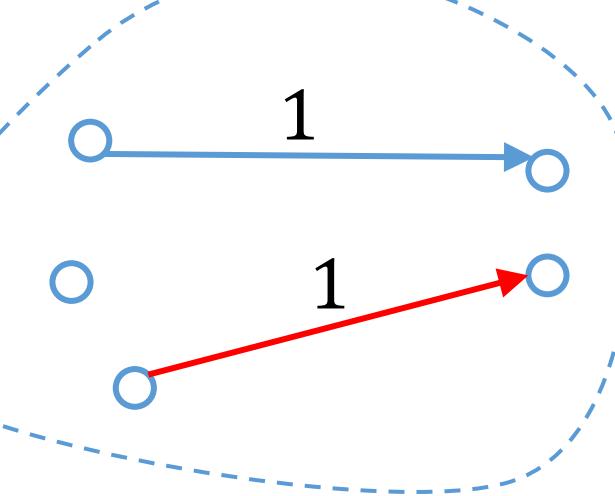
$L =$



While edges remain:

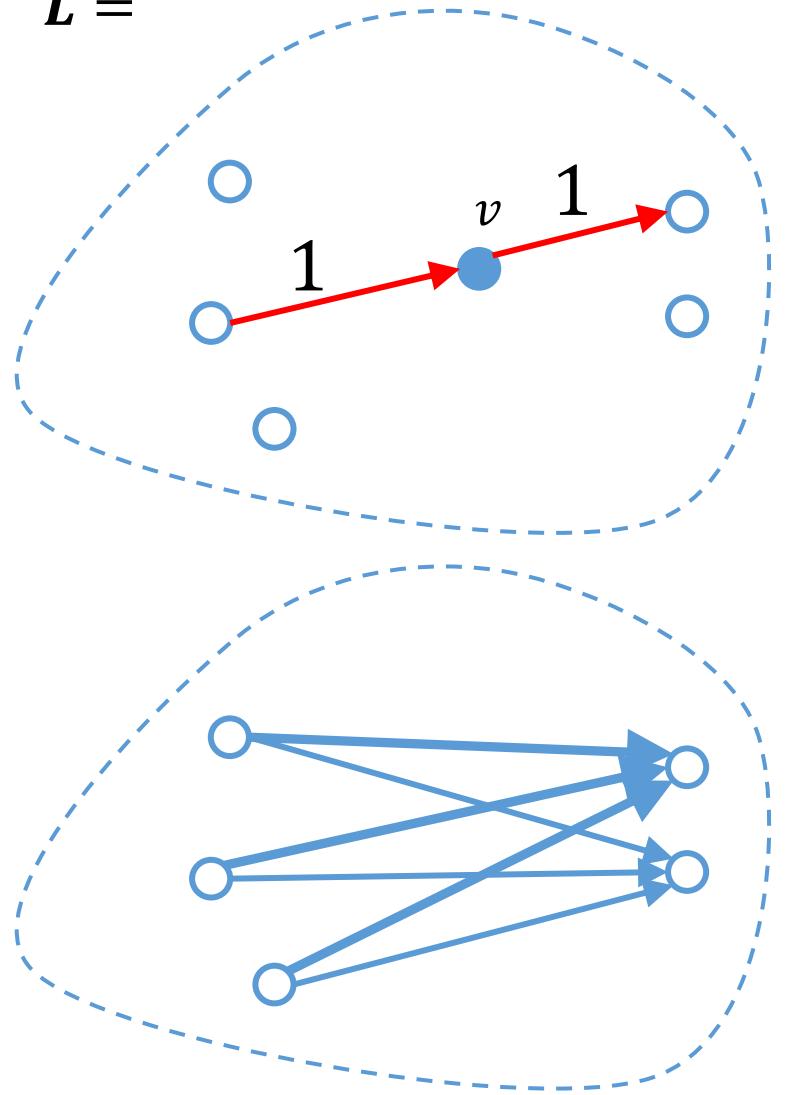
1. Pick a minimum weight edge
2. Pair with random neighbor
3. Reduce mass on both by  $w_{\min}$

$\Rightarrow \approx$



# Gaussian Elimination on Eulerian Laplacians

$L =$



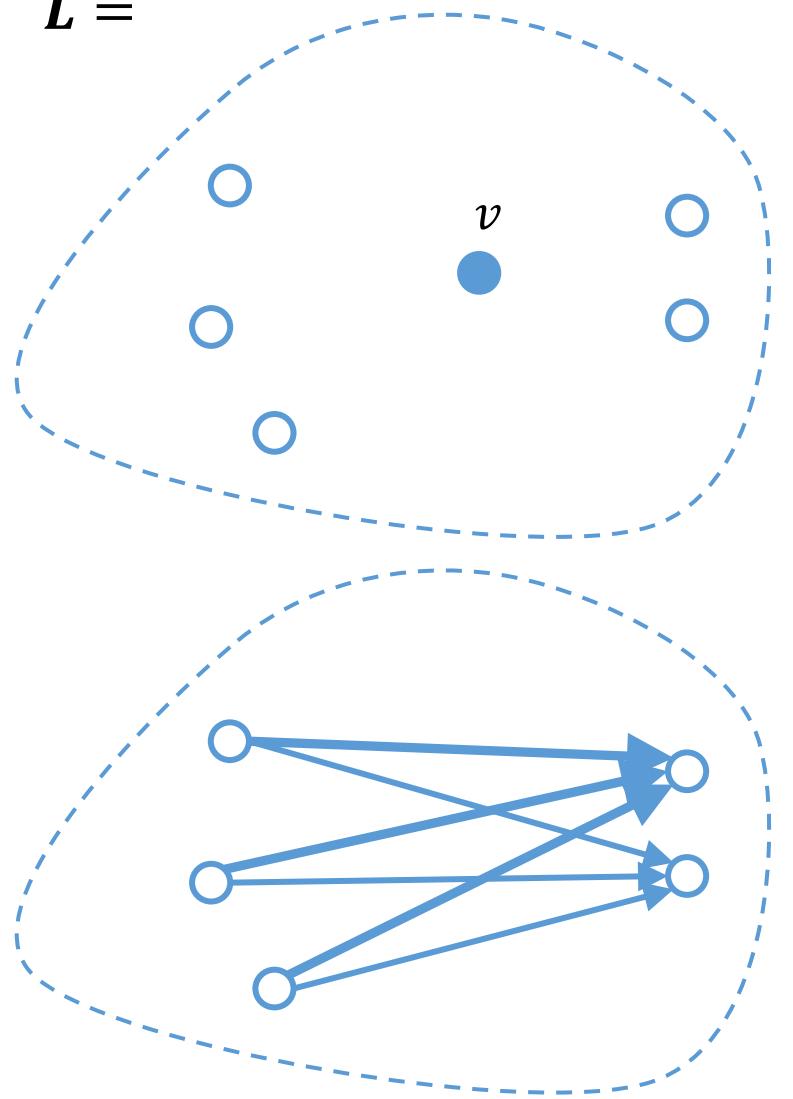
While edges remain:

1. Pick a minimum weight edge
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$\Rightarrow \approx$

# Gaussian Elimination on Eulerian Laplacians

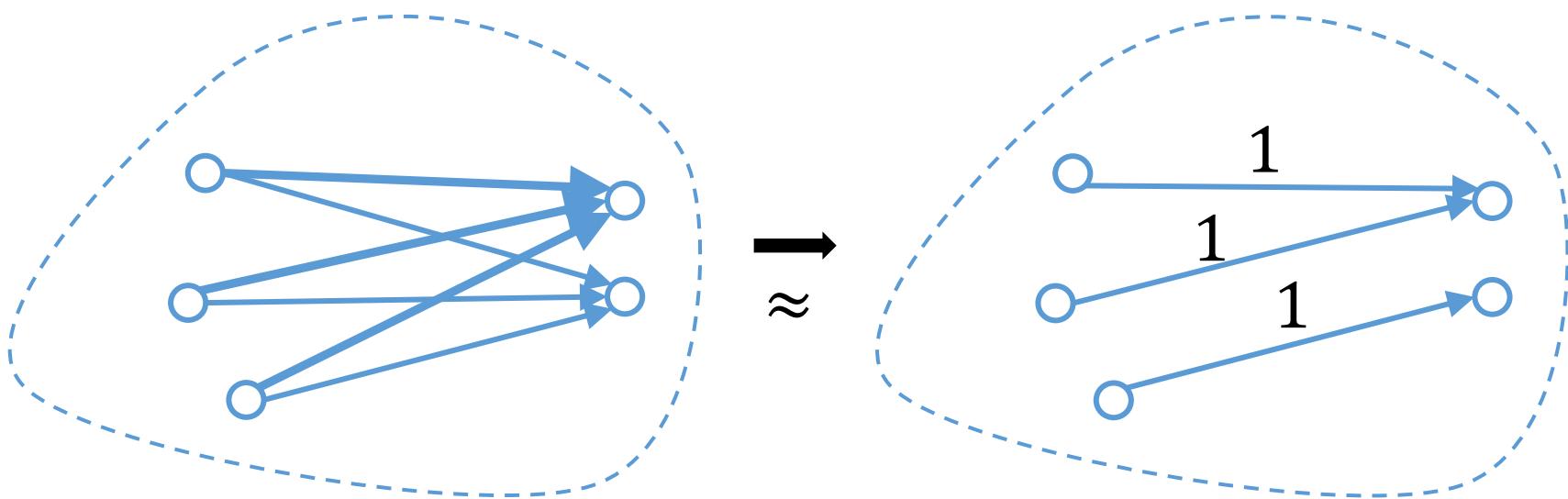
$L =$



While edges remain:

1. Pick a minimum weight edge
2. Pair with random neighbor
3. Reduce mass on both by  $w_{\min}$

# Gaussian Elimination on Eulerian Laplacians



Our sparsification

correct in expectation

output **always** Eulerian

Average over  $\log^3(n)$  runs to reduce variance

---

# Approximating Matrices by Sampling

## Goal

$$\mathfrak{L}\mathfrak{U} \approx L$$

## Approach

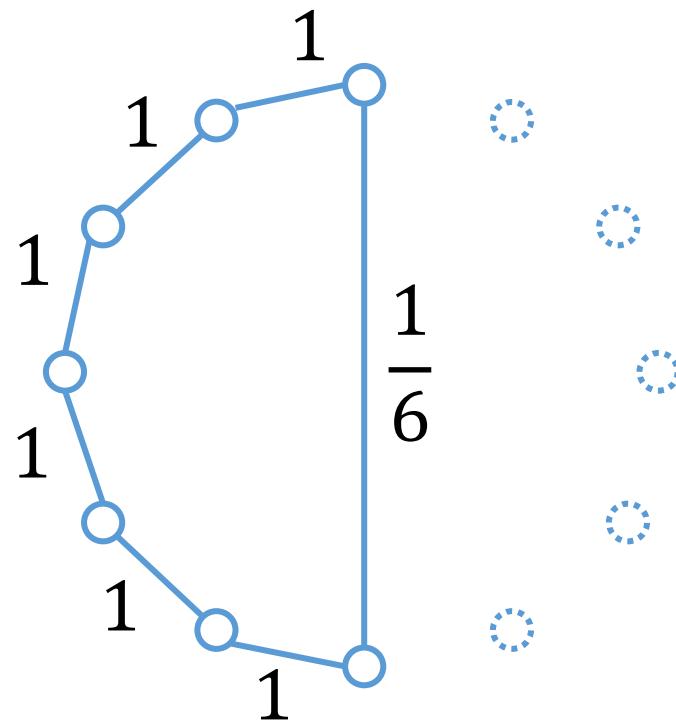
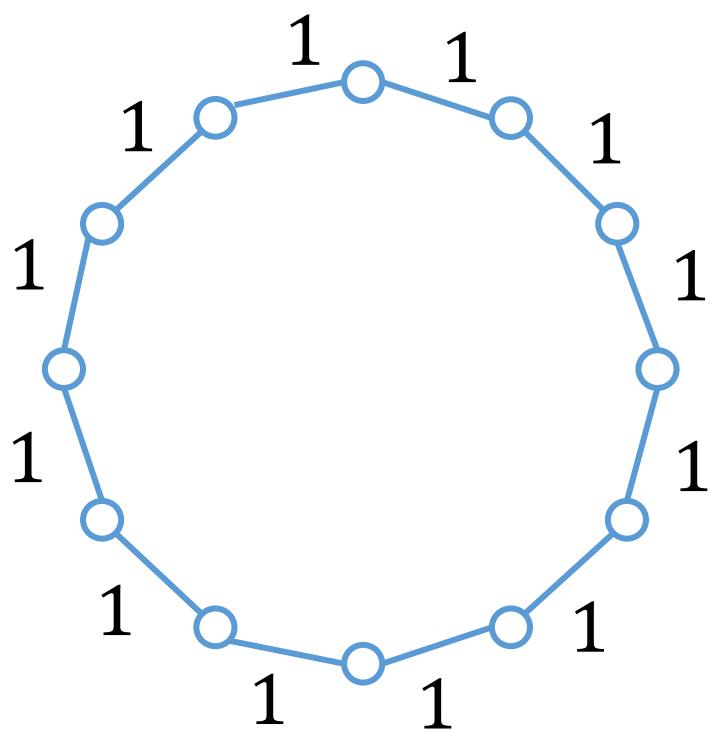
1.  $\mathbb{E} \mathfrak{L}\mathfrak{U} = L$
2. Show  $\mathfrak{L}\mathfrak{U}$  concentrated around expectation

Gives  $\mathfrak{L}\mathfrak{U} \approx L$  w. high probability (?)

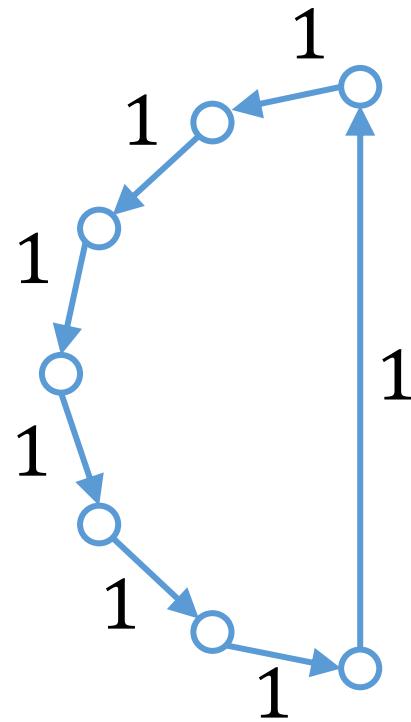
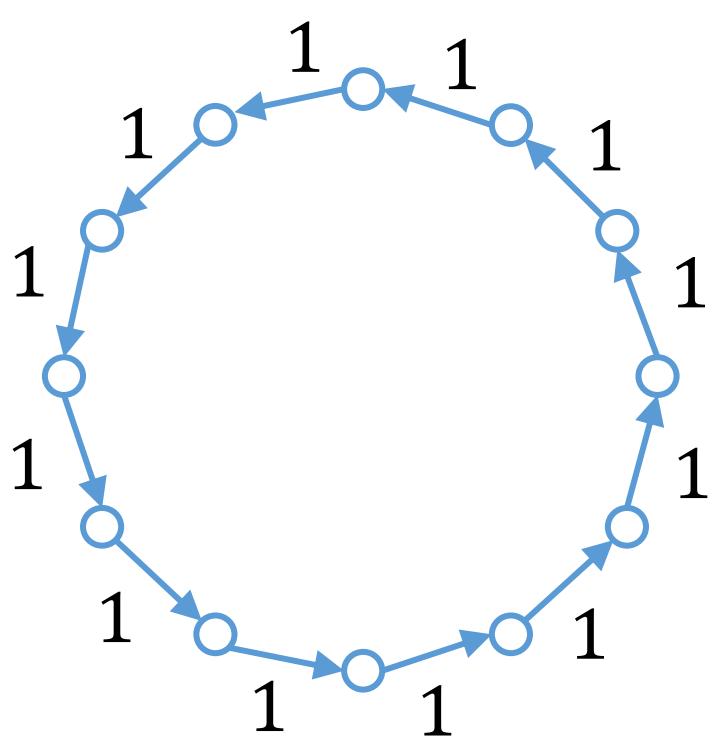
But what does  $\approx$  mean?  $L$  is not PSD?!?

Come to my talk and I'll tell you!

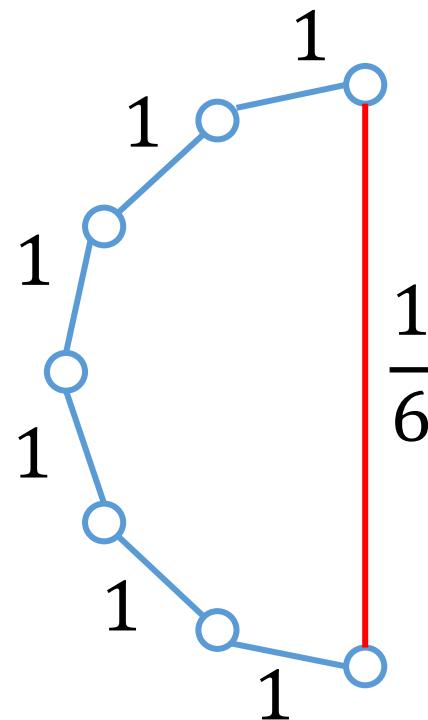
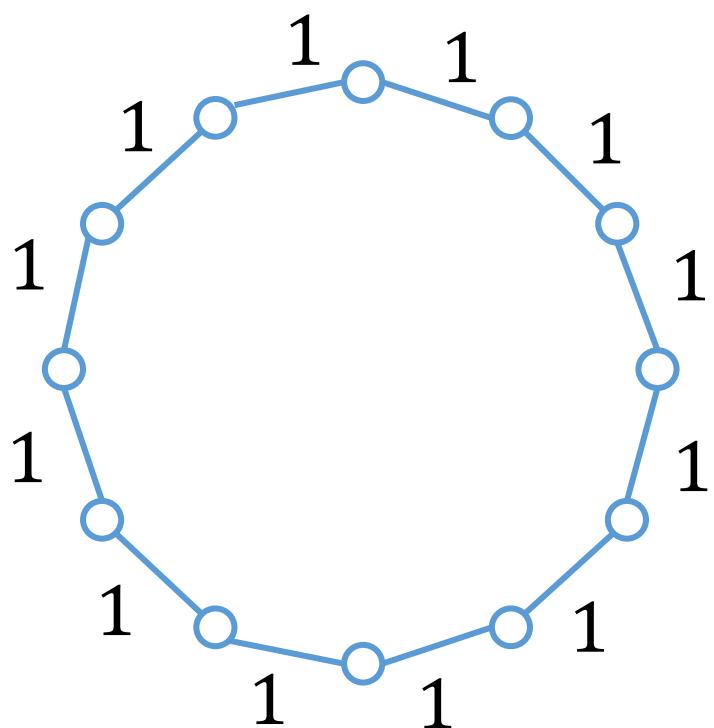
# Difficulties with Approximation



# Difficulties with Approximation

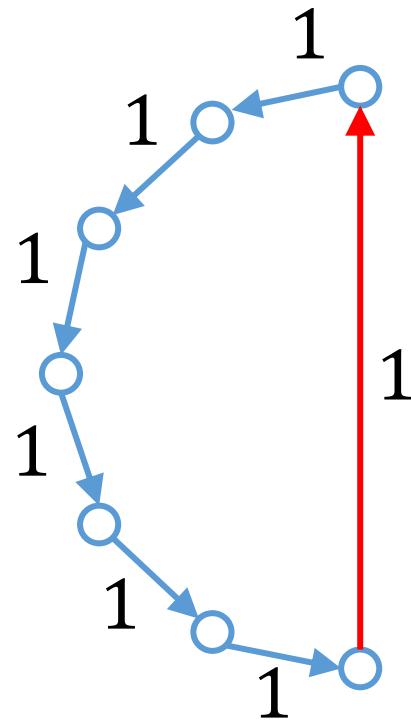
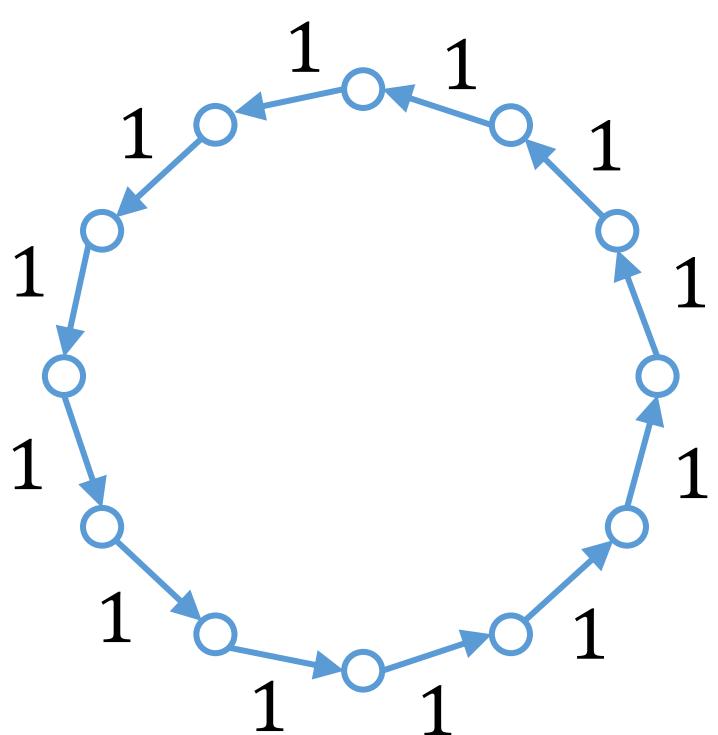


# Difficulties with Approximation



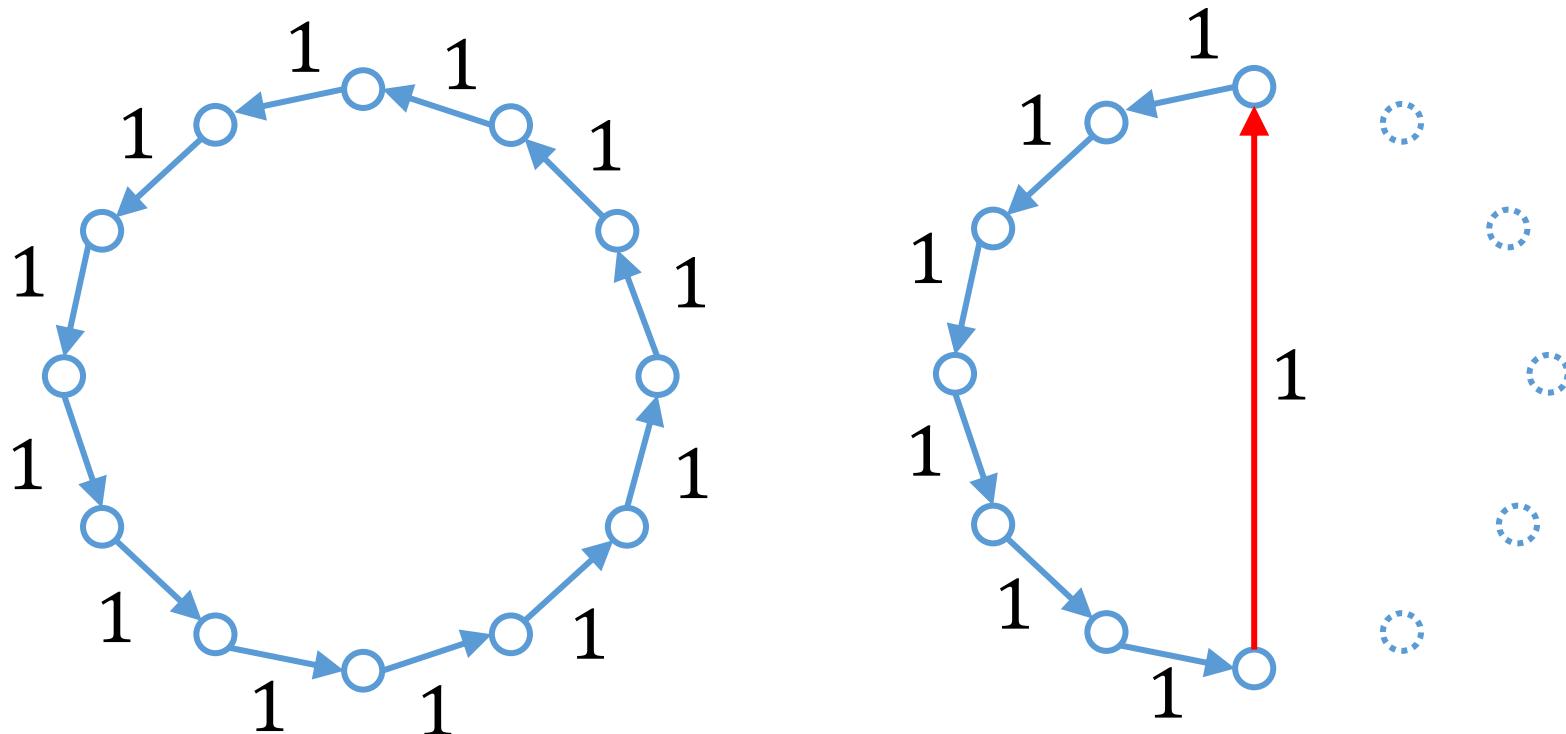
Variance manageable

# Difficulties with Approximation



Variance problematic!

# Difficulties with Approximation

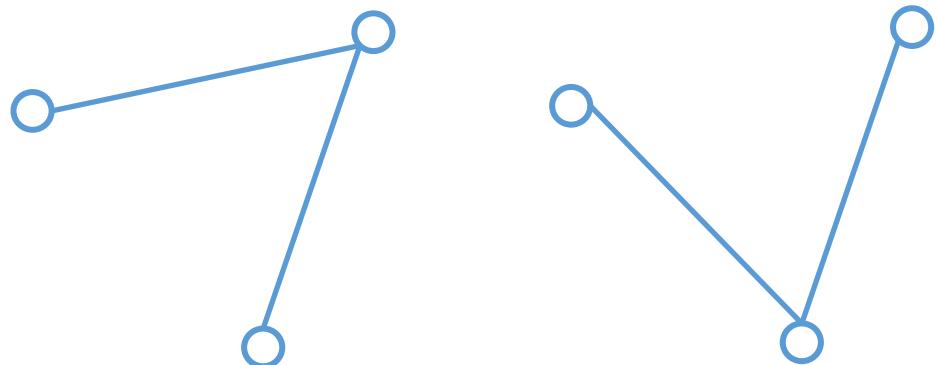
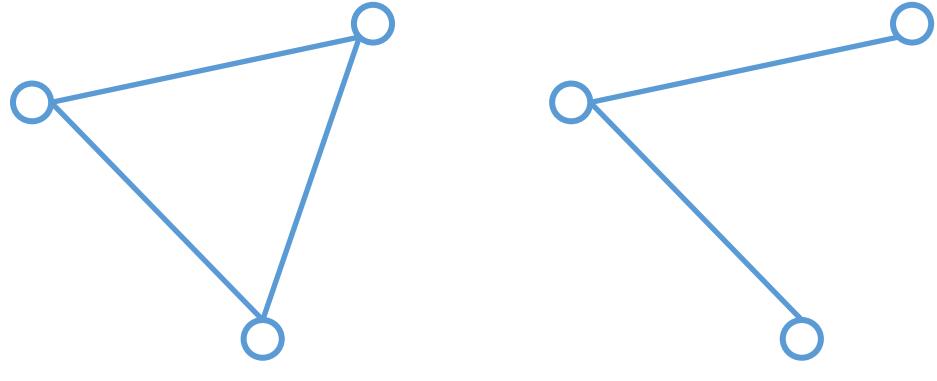


Come to my talk and hear the rest of the story!

[Cohen-Kelner-Kyng-Peebles-Peng-Rao-Sidford FOCS'18]

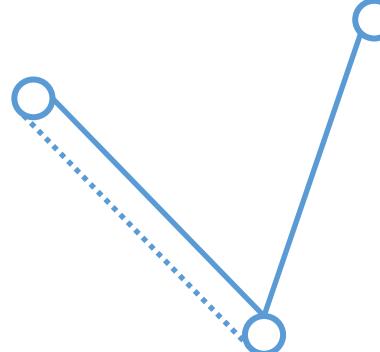
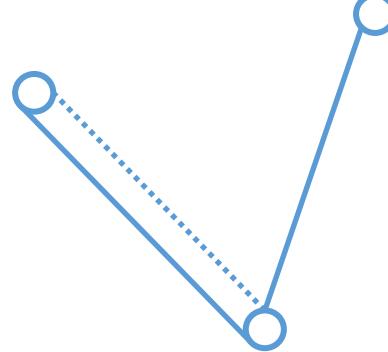
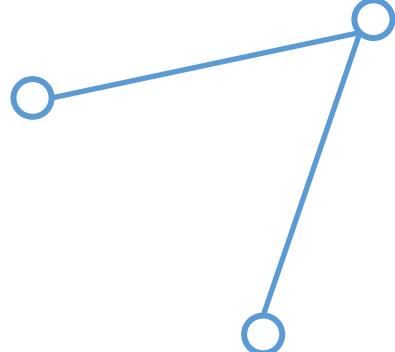
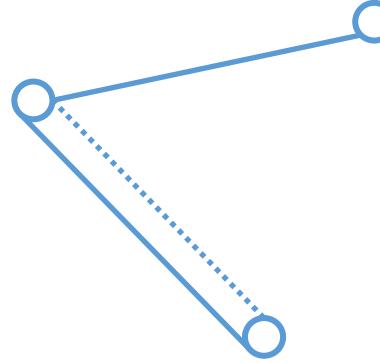
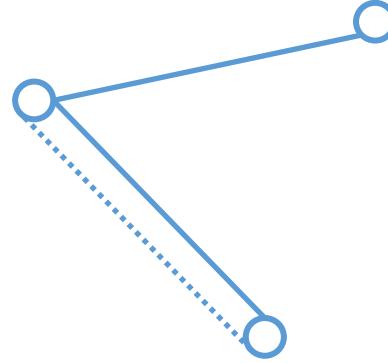
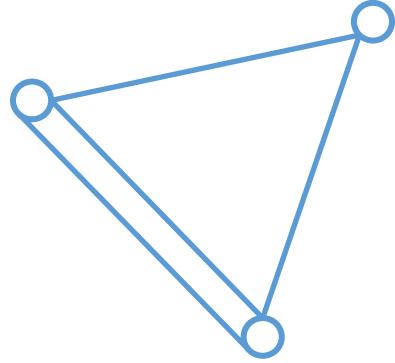
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# Spanning Trees of a Graph



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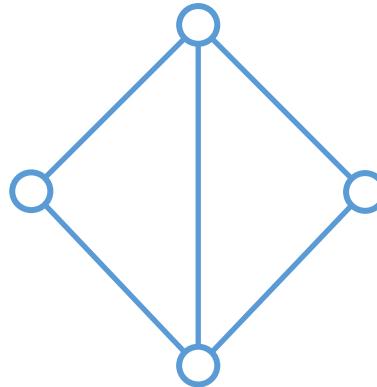
# Spanning Trees of a (Multi)-Graph



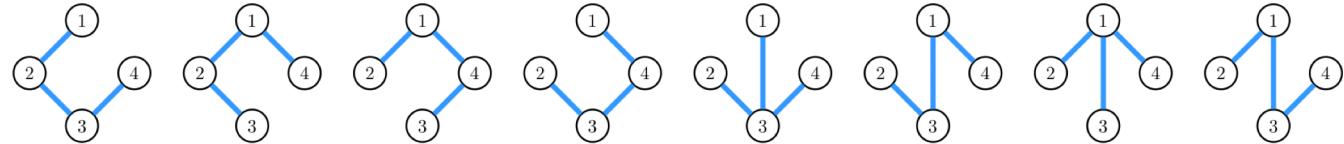
Pick a random tree?

# Random Spanning Trees

**Graph  $G$**



**Tree distribution**

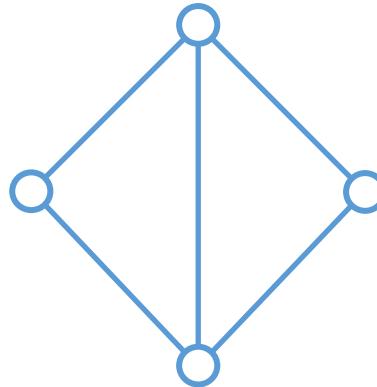


Marginal probability of edge:  $p_e = \|\bar{\mathbf{L}}_e\|$

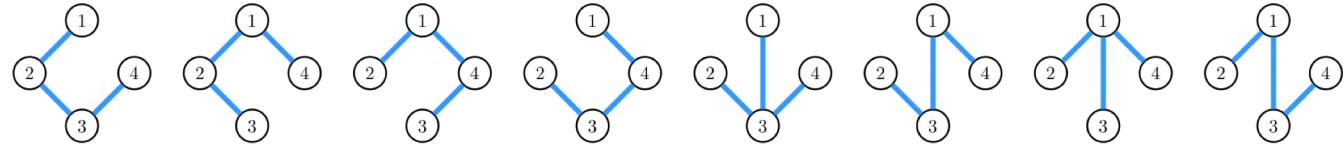
Similar to sparsification?!

# Random Spanning Trees

**Graph  $G$**



**Tree distribution**



Marginal probability of edge:  $p_e = \|\bar{\mathbf{L}}_e\|$

$$\mathbf{L}_G = \sum_{e \in G} \mathbf{L}_e$$

$$\text{Consider } \mathbf{L}_T = \sum_{e \in T} \frac{1}{p_e} \mathbf{L}_e$$

$$\mathbb{E} \mathbf{L}_T = \mathbf{L}_G$$

---

# Random Spanning Trees

Concentration?

$$L_T \approx_{0.5} L_G \quad ? \quad \text{NO}$$

$$L_T \leq \log n \ L_G \quad ? \quad \text{YES, w.h.p}$$

$$\frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^t L_{T_i} \approx_{\varepsilon} L_G \quad , \quad t = \varepsilon^{-2} \log^2 n$$

[Kyng-Song FOCS'18]

Come see my talk!

---

# Sometimes You Get a Martingale for Free

Random variables

$$Z_1, \dots, Z_k$$

Prove concentration for

$$f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)$$

where  $f$  is ``stable'' under small changes to  $Z_1, \dots, Z_k$

$$f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k) \approx \mathbb{E}f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k) \text{ ?}$$

---

# Doob Martingales

Random variables

$Z_1, \dots, Z_k$

NOT indep.

Prove concentration for

$f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)$

where  $f$  is ``stable'' under small changes to  $Z_1, \dots, Z_k$

Pick outcome  $z_1, \dots, z_k$

$\mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)]$

$\rightarrow \mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k) | Z_1 = z_1, Z_2 = z_2]$

$\rightarrow f(z_1, \dots, z_k)$

---

# Doob Martingales

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)] &\rightarrow \mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, k)|Z_1 = z_1] \\ &\rightarrow \mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)|Z_1 = z_1, Z_2 = z_2] \\ &\rightarrow f(z_1, \dots, z_k)\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)] = \mathbb{E}_{z_1} [\mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)|Z_1 = z_1]]$$

$$Y_0 = \mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)]$$

$$Y_1 = \mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)|Z_1 = z_1]$$

$$Y_2 = \mathbb{E}[f(Z_1, \dots, Z_k)|Z_1 = z_1, Z_2 = z_2]$$

$$\mathbb{E}[Y_{i+1} - Y_i | \text{prev. steps}] = 0 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Martingale! Despite} \\ Z_1, \dots, Z_k \text{ NOT indep.} \end{array}$$

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# Concentration of Random Spanning Trees

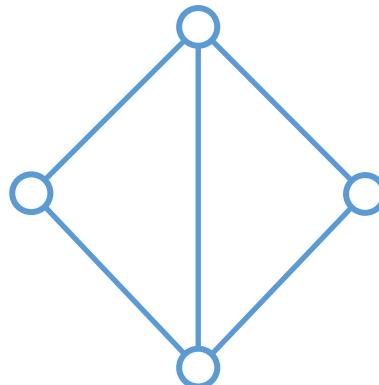
Random variables  $Z_1, \dots, Z_{n-1}$   
Positions of  $n - 1$  edges of random spanning tree

$$f(Z_1, \dots, Z_{n-1}) = L_T$$

Similar to [Peres-Pemantle '14]

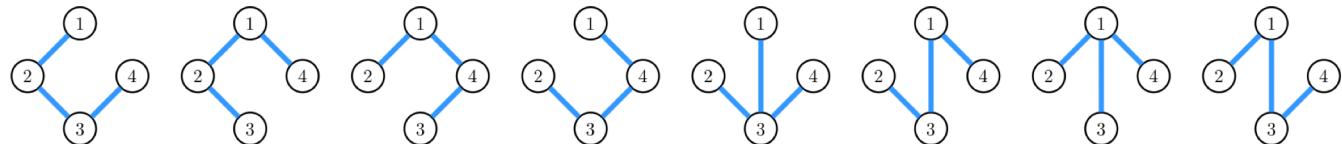
# Conditioning Changes Distributions?

**Graph**



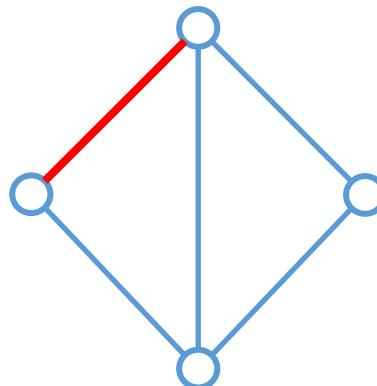
**Tree distribution**

All



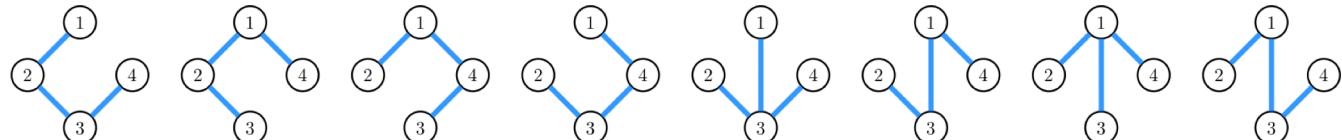
# Conditioning Changes Distributions?

**Graph**



**Tree distribution**

All



Conditional



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# Summary

Matrix martingales: a natural fit for algorithmic analysis

Understanding the Predictable Quadratic Variation is key

Some results using matrix martingales

Cohen, Musco, Pachocki '16 – online row sampling

Kyng, Sachdeva '17 – approximate Gaussian elimination

Kyng, Peng, Pachocki, Sachdeva '17 – semi-streaming graph sparsification

Cohen, Kelner, Kyng, Peebles, Peng, Rao, Sidford '18 – solving Directed Laplacian eqs.

Kyng, Song '18 – Matrix Chernoff bound for negatively dependent random variables

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Thanks!

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This is really the end

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# Older slides