

Spectral Independence Beyond Total Influence on Trees and Related Graphs

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Nanjing University

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Xiongxin Yang (Northeast Normal University)
Yitong Yin (Nanjing University)

SODA 2025

Sampling from High Dimensional Distributions

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Distribution of graphical models

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Hardcore model (weighted independent sets)

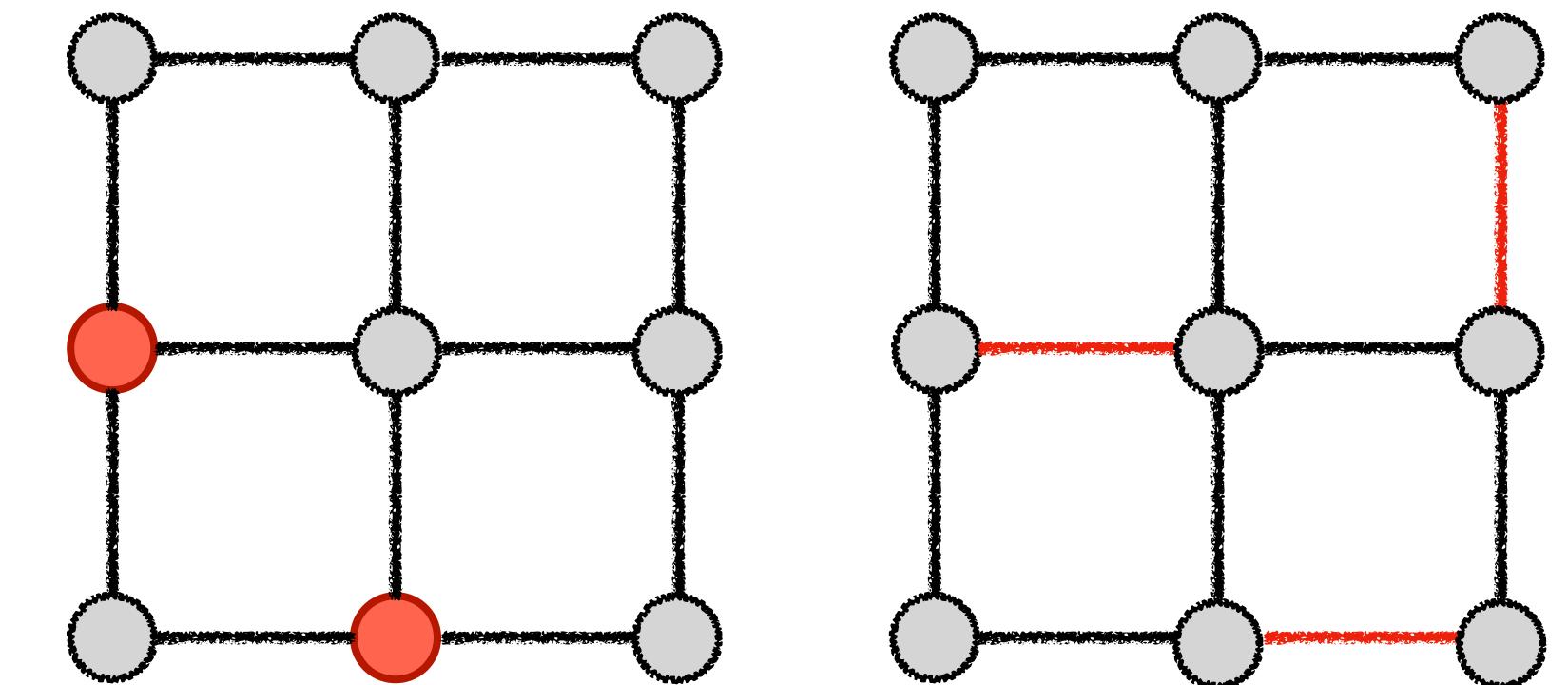
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\mathcal{I} : collection of independent sets $I \subseteq V$

Monomer-dimer model (weighted matchings)

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Examples: Independent set and matching

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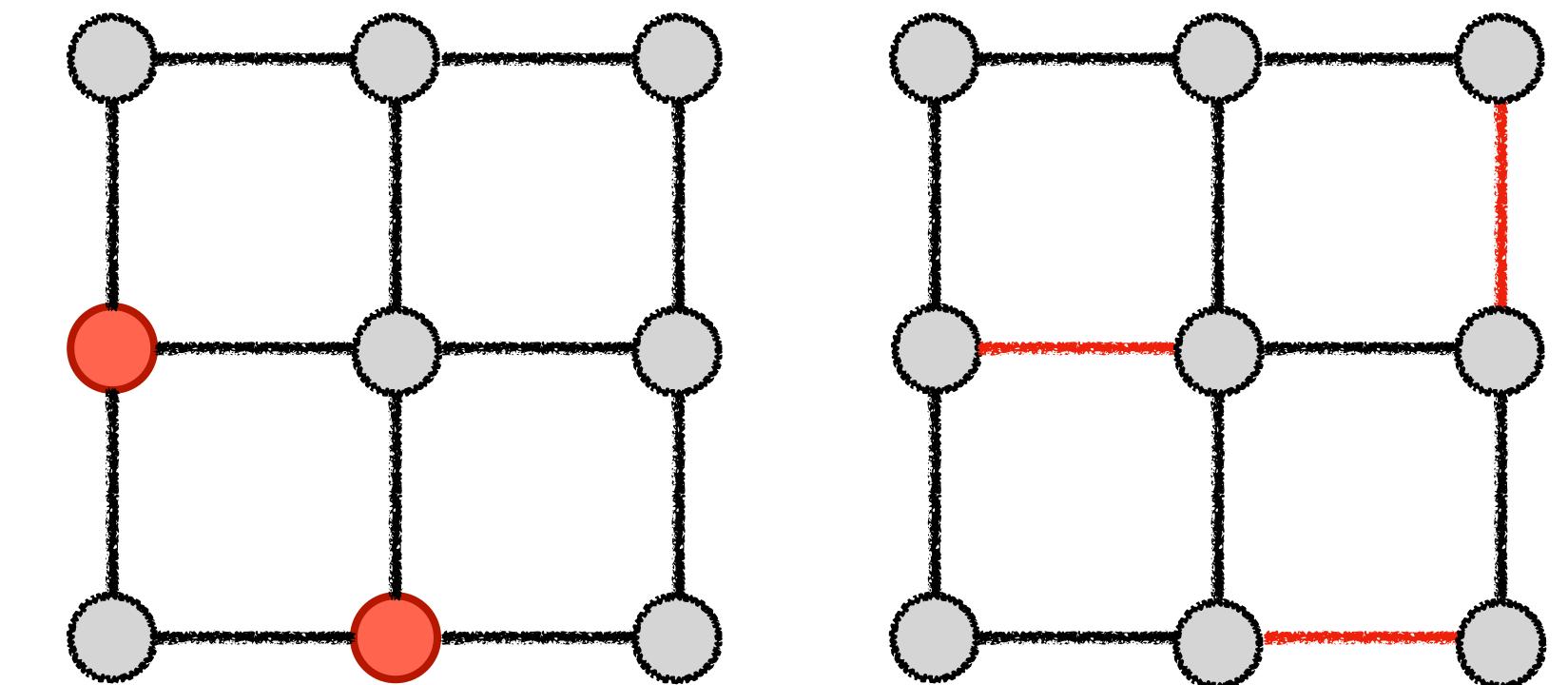
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Examples: Independent set and matching

Challenge

Efficiently draw an (approximate) sample from the target distribution

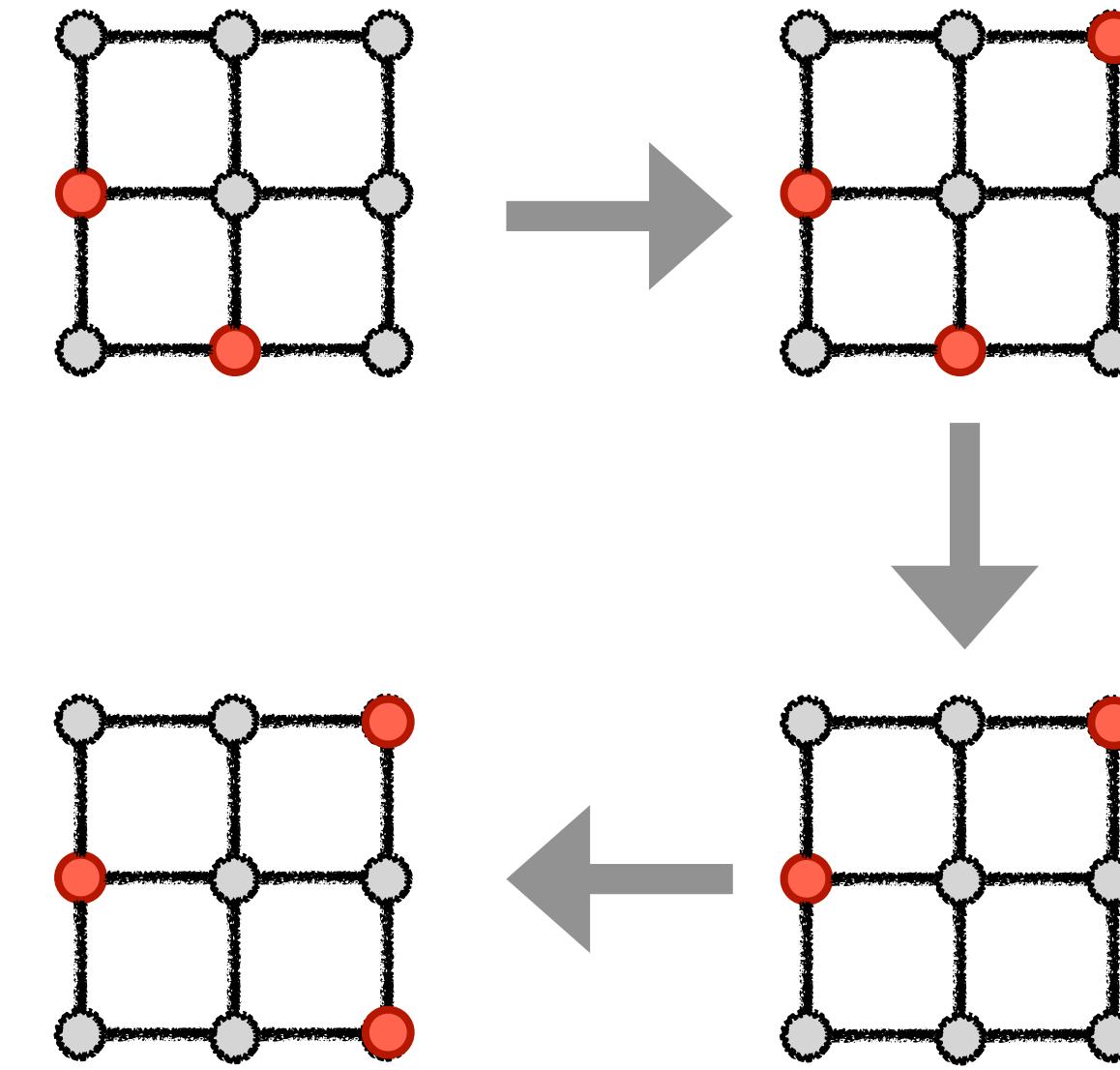
Glauber Dynamics

Glauber dynamics on hardcore model

(single-site dynamics)

In each transition step, update independent set I as follows:

- Pick a vertex $v \in V$ u.a.r.;
- If $I \cup \{v\}$ is an independent set, then
 - update $I \leftarrow I \cup \{v\}$ with probability $\frac{\lambda}{1 + \lambda}$;
 - update $I \leftarrow I \setminus \{v\}$ with remaining probability;
- Otherwise, we do not update the independent set.



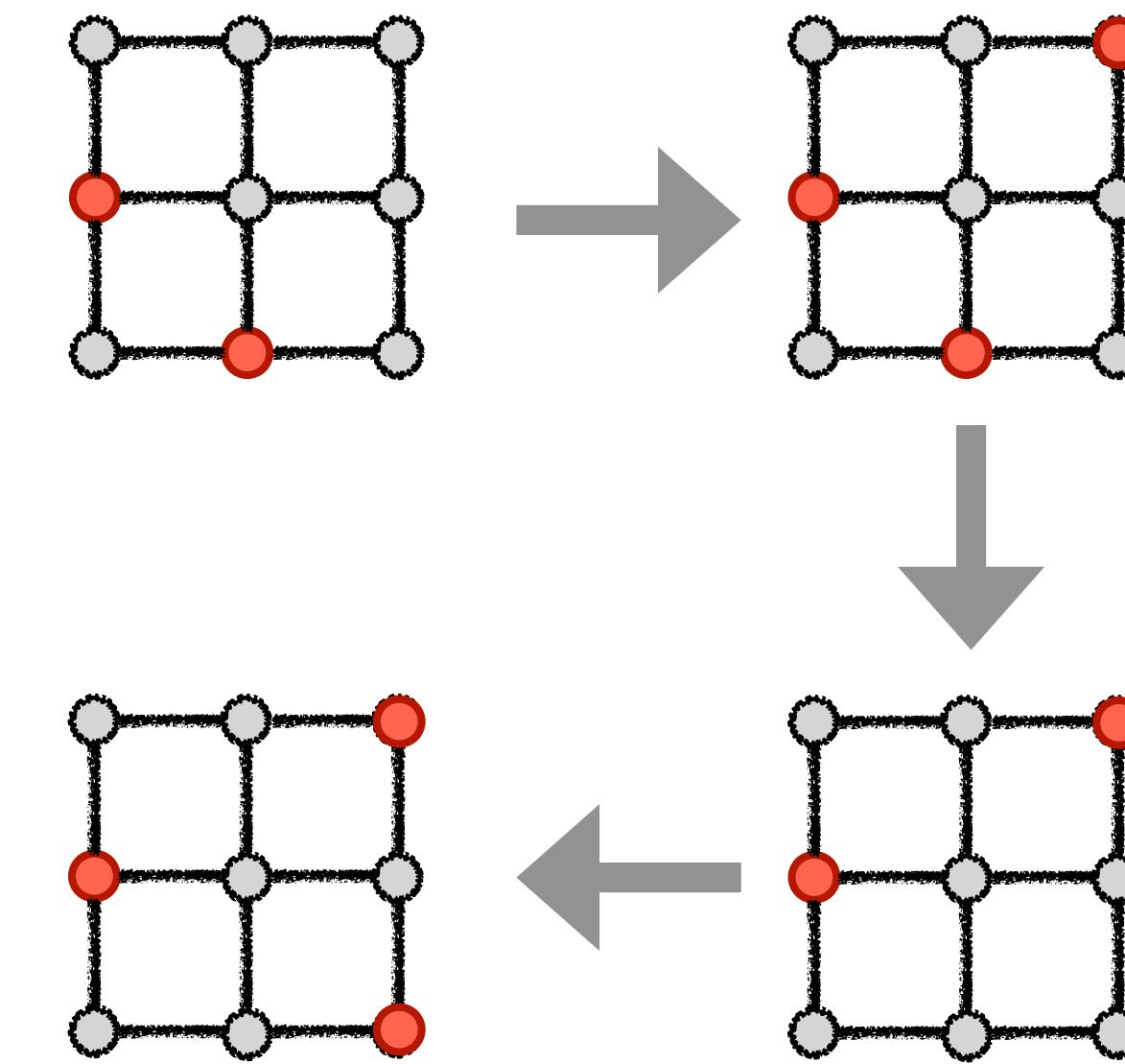
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Computational phase transition

$\lambda \leq (1 - \delta)\lambda_c(\Delta)$: Optimal $O(n \log n)$ mixing time [Chen-Eldan, 22; Chen-Feng-Yin-Z., 22]

$\lambda = \lambda_c(\Delta)$: Polynomial mixing time [Chen-Chen-Yin-Z., 24]

$\lambda \geq (1 + \delta)\lambda_c(\Delta)$: No poly-time sampler unless **NP=RP** [Sly, 10]

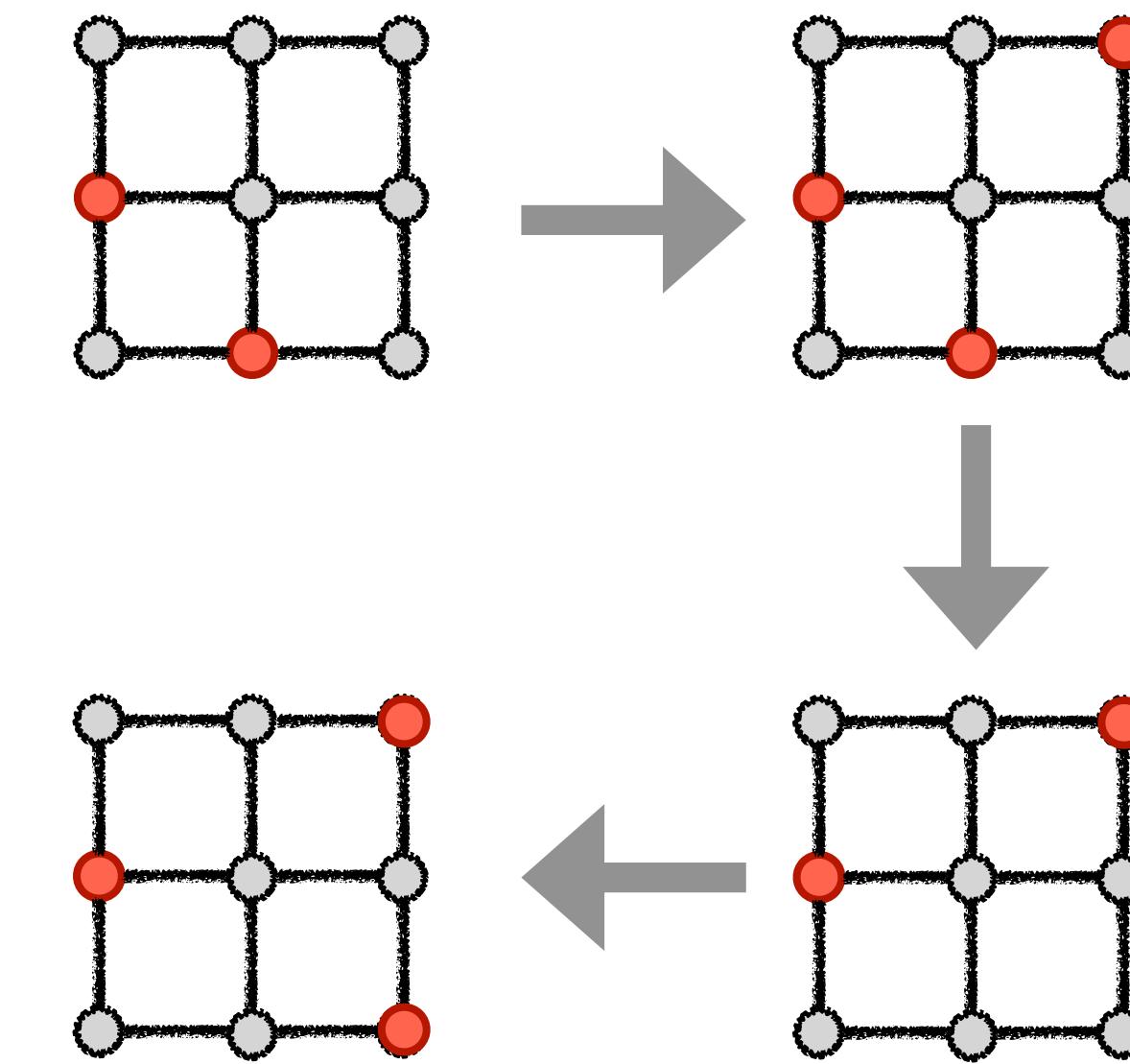
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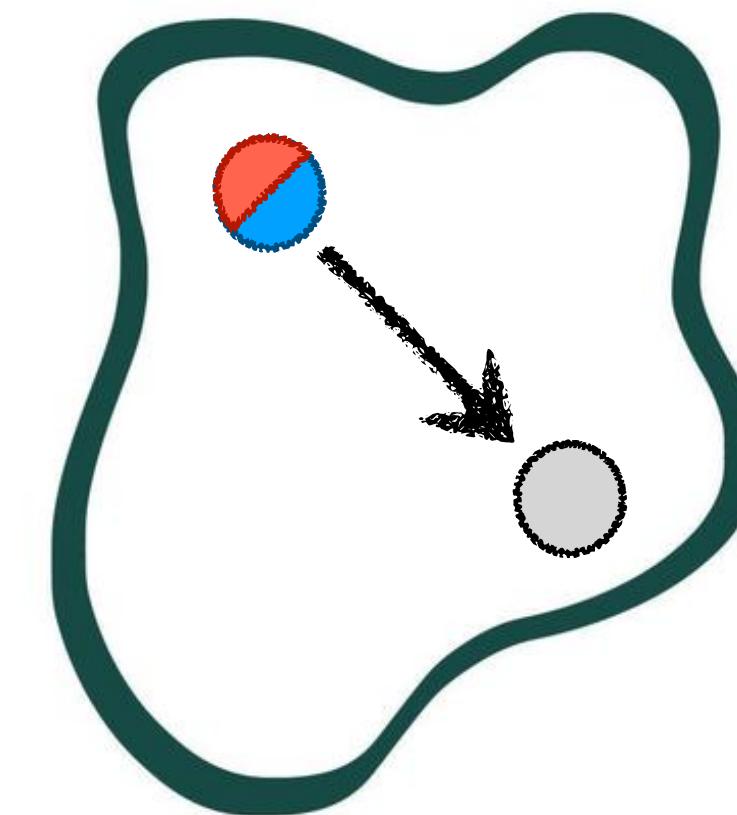
Based on the framework of
spectral independence!

Spectral Independence and Rapid Mixing

(η -) **Spectral independence (SI)**

[Anari-Liu-Oveis Gharan, 20]

$\lambda_{\max}(\Psi_\mu) \leq \eta$, where $\Psi_\mu(i, j) = \mu(j \mid i) - \mu(j \mid \bar{i})$.

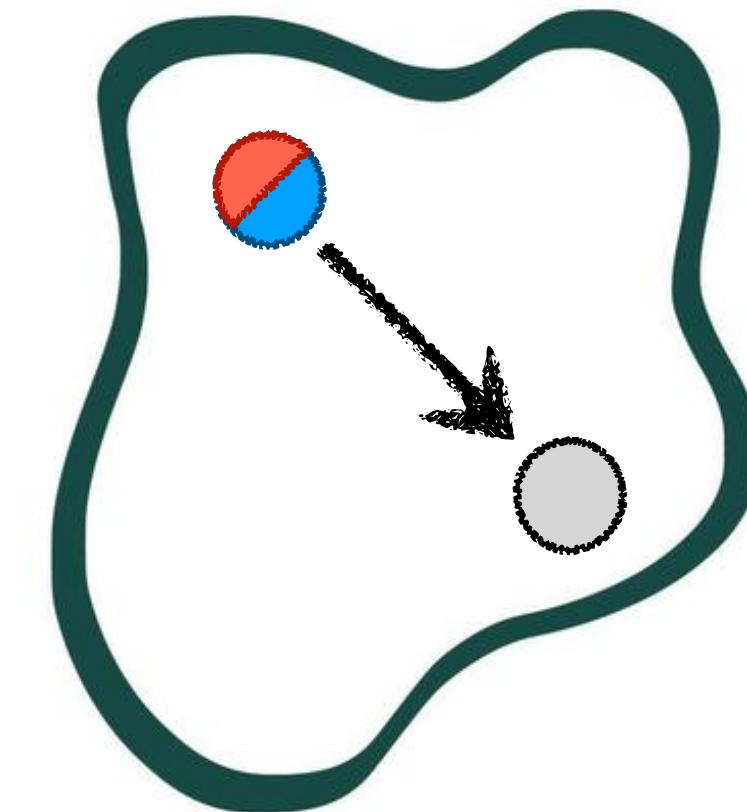


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Rapid mixing via spectral independence (informal)

[Chen-Liu-Vigoda, 21]

Assuming constant maximum degree and bounded marginal bounds,

Constant SI implies an optimal $O(n \log n)$ mixing time bound for Glauber dynamics;

[Chen-Feng-Yin-Z., 21]

Assuming rapid mixing of Glauber dynamics in a sub-critical regime,

Constant SI implies an optimal $O(n)$ relaxation time bound for Glauber dynamics.

Previous Techniques on Establishing Spectral Independence

Challenge

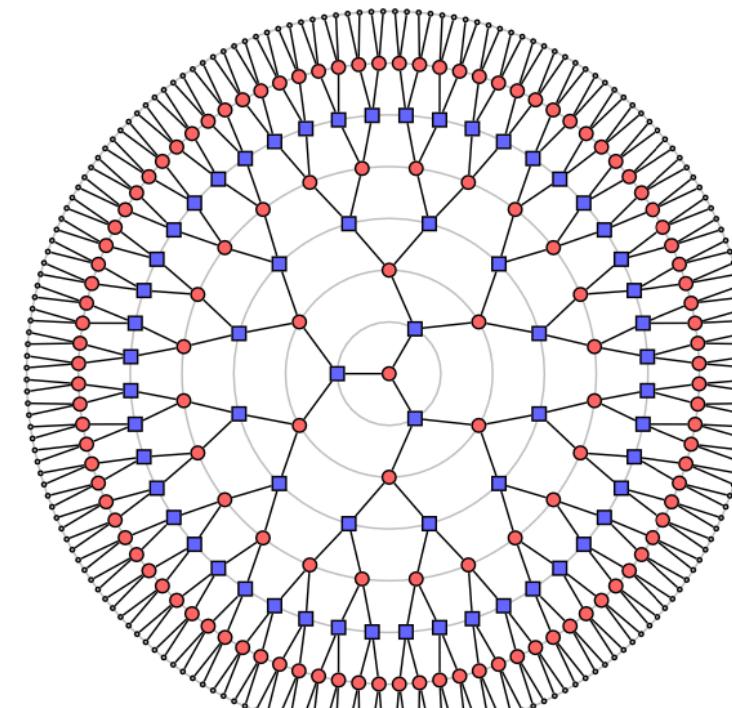
Establishing constant spectral independence for the target distributions

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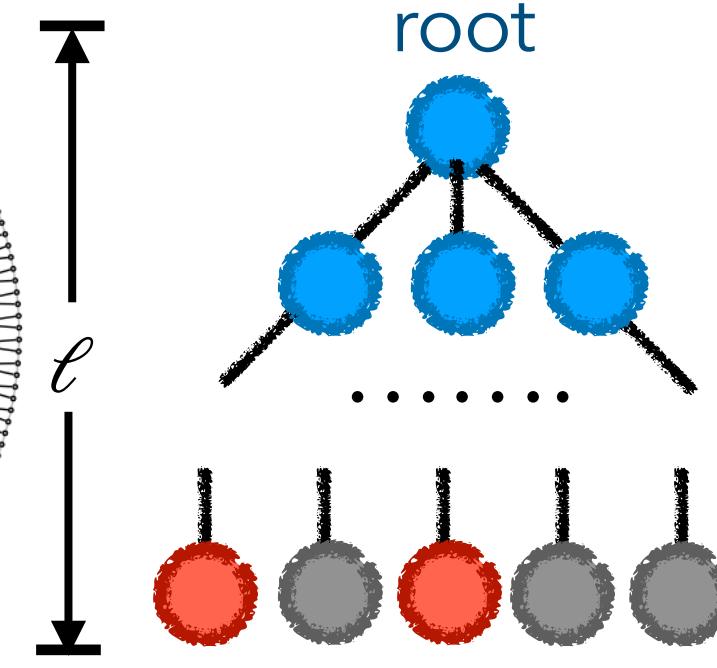
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Establishing constant spectral independence for the target distributions

Decay of correlation

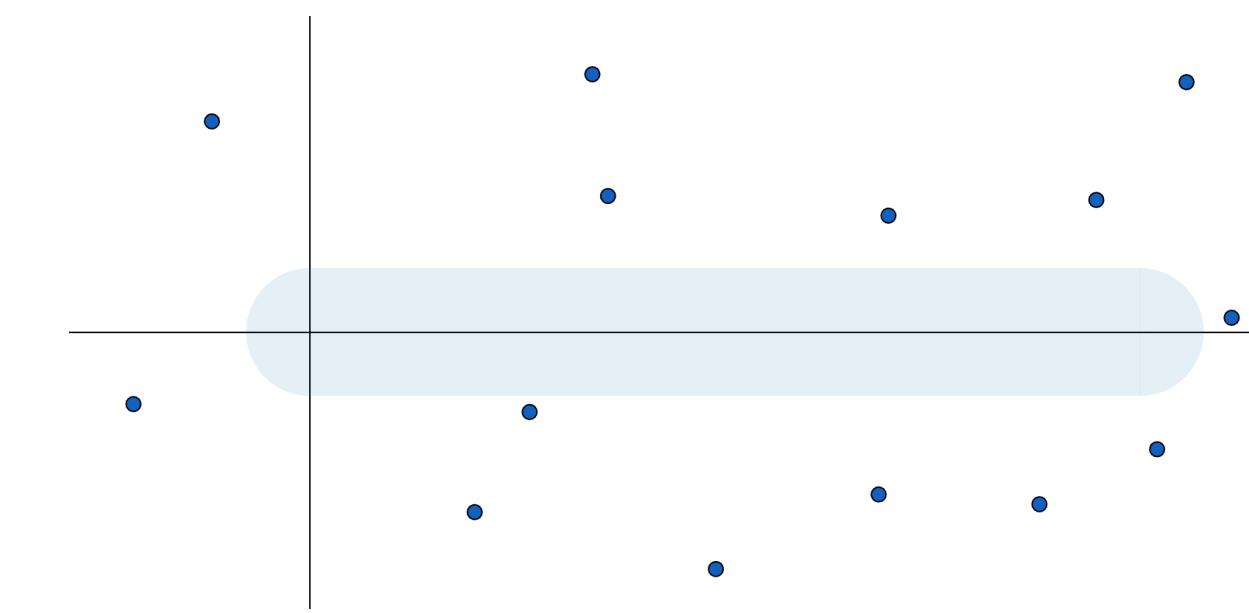


Bethe lattice
(infinite regular tree)



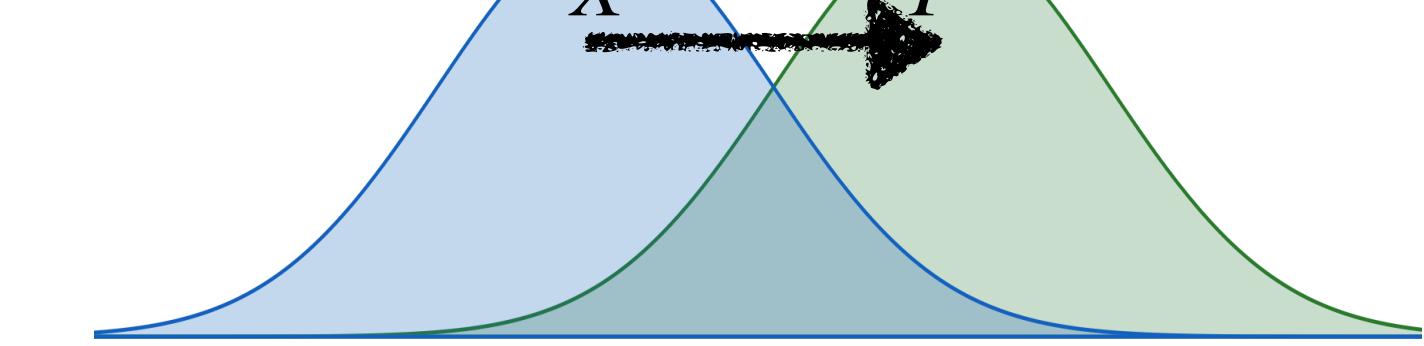
Applications: two-spin systems, colorings...
[Anari-Liu-Oveis Gharan, 20],
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Stability of Polynomials



Applications: Holant problem, k-DPP, ...
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Coupling Independence



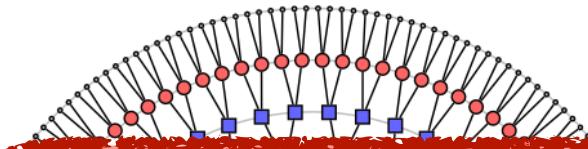
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root

Stability of Polynomials

All these methods establish upper bounds for $\|\Psi_\mu\|_1$ or $\|\Psi_\mu\|_\infty$ (**total influence**)

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Correlation decay

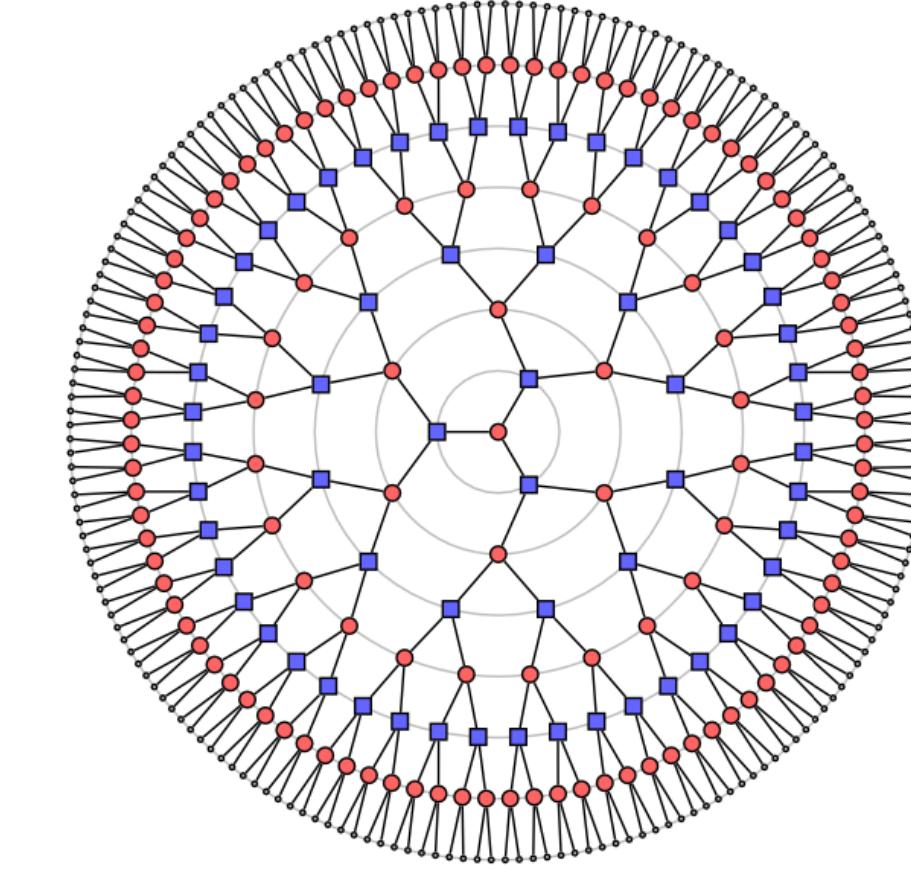
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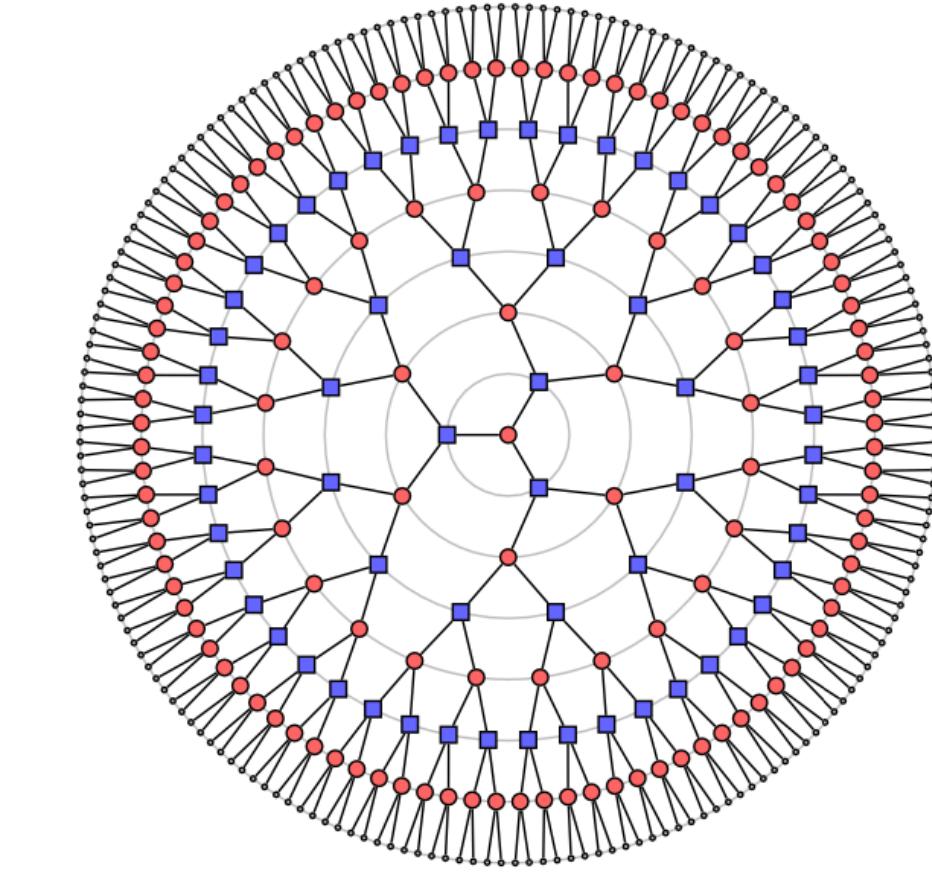


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Spectral Independence beyond Total Influence

**Hardcore: Total influence on
sufficiently large regular tree**

$\|\Psi_\mu\|_1$ and $\|\Psi_\mu\|_\infty$ are unbounded, when $\lambda > \lambda_c(\Delta)$.



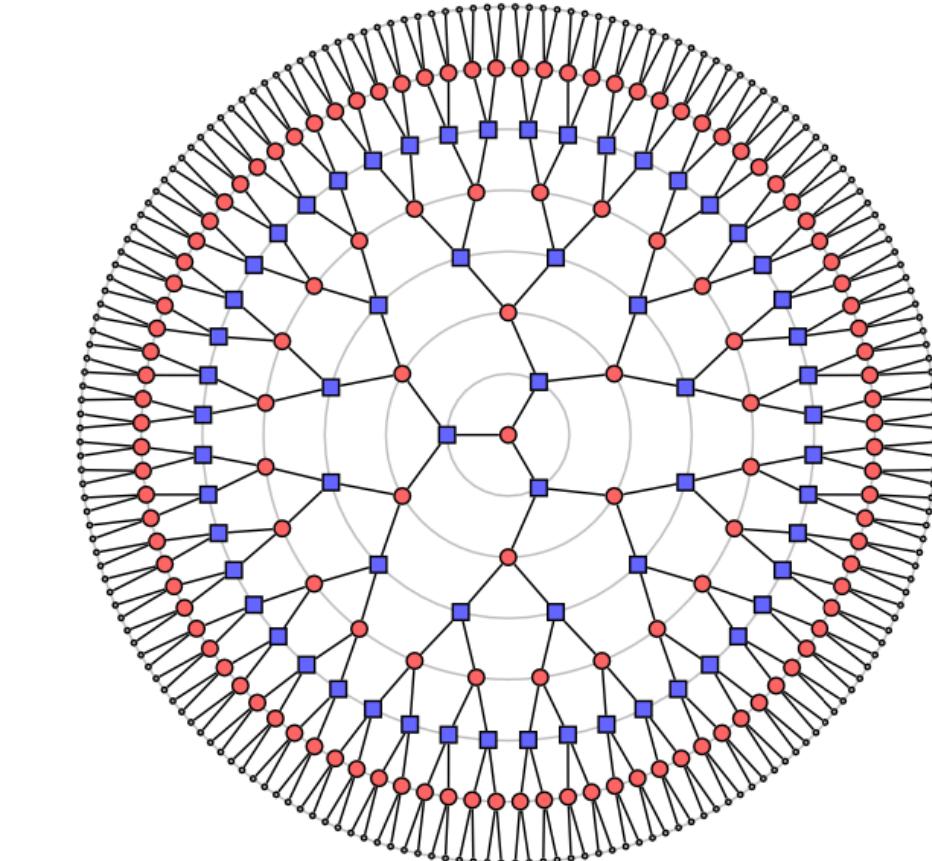
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Fact: Glauber dynamics **optimally mixes** on trees even when $\lambda = 1.01\lambda_c(\Delta)$



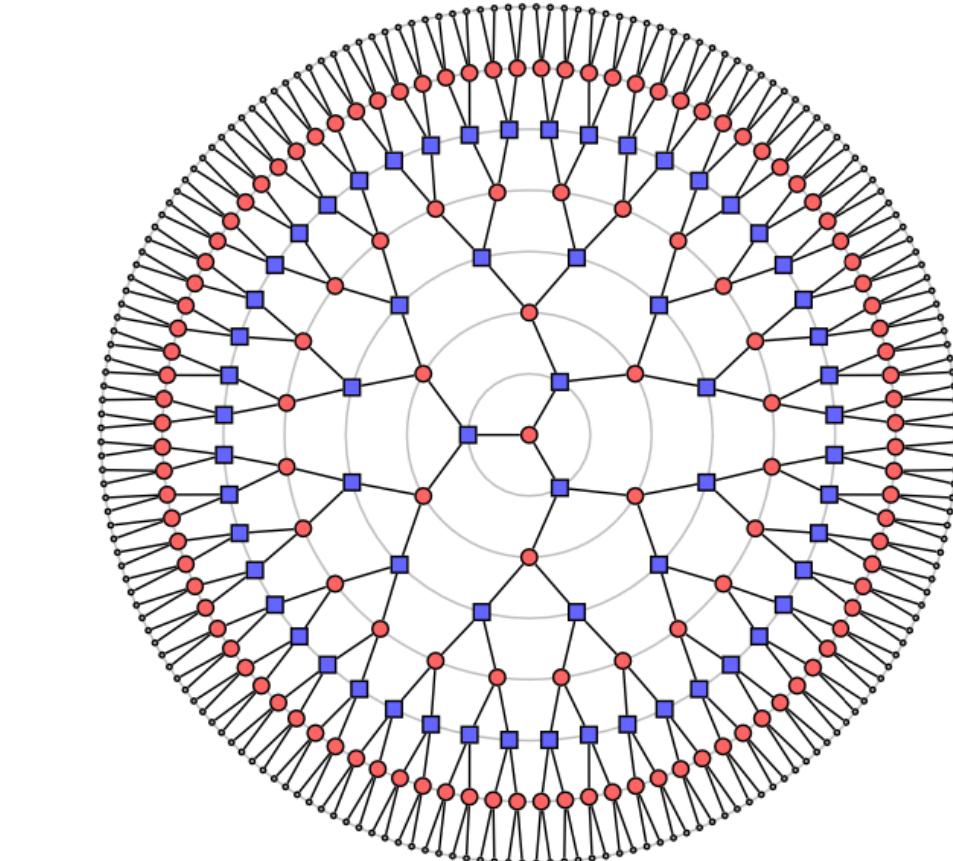
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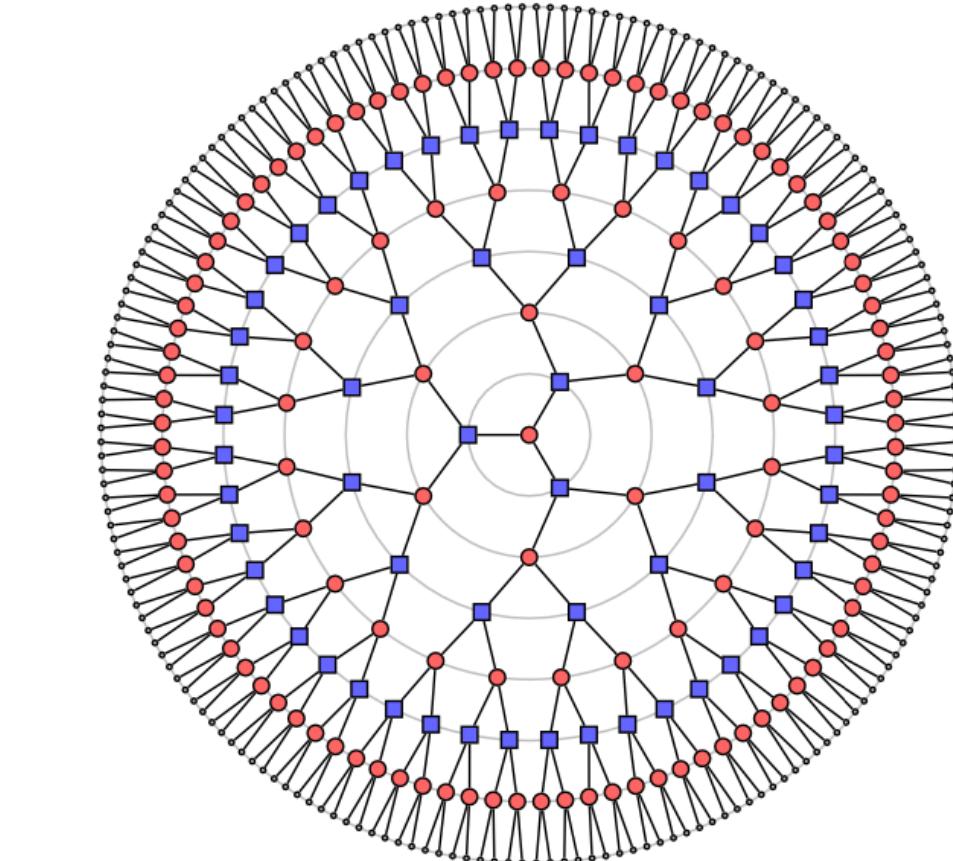
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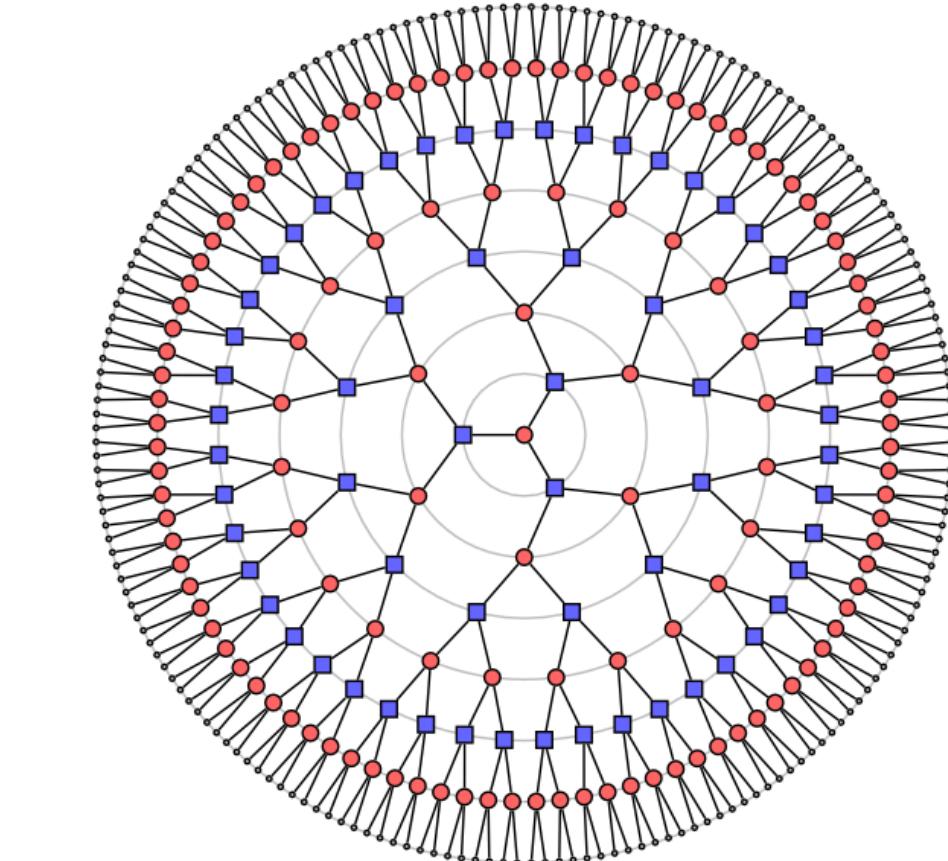
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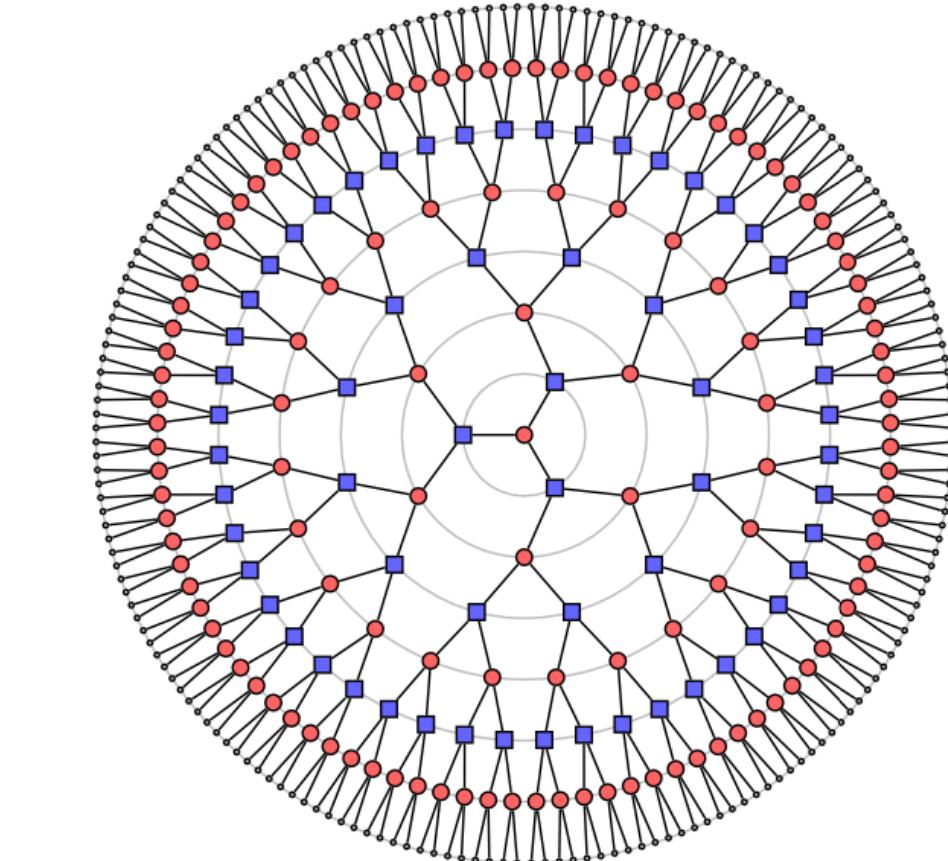
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An improved bound (independent of Δ) for matchings on general graphs
(open problem in [Chen-Liu-Vigoda, 21])

Previous Techniques on Establishing Spectral Independence

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Establish constant spectral independence beyond total influence (row/column sums)

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Trickle-down Theorem

Applications: matroid, random cluster model,...
[Anari-Liu-Oveis Gharan-Vinzant, 20],
[Brändén-Huh, 20], ...

Matrix trickle-down

Applications: edge colorings
[Abdolazimi-Liu-Oveis Gharan, 21],
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Trickle-down in localization schemes

Applications: SK model, ...
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Lack of systematic ways
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New systematic technique on establishing SI beyond total influence

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Hardcore model on trees

Constant spectral independence when $\lambda < e^2$, implying an optimal mixing time bound for bounded degree trees.

- Previous result: $\lambda < 1.3$ [Efthymiou-Hayes-Stefankovic-Vigoda, 24]
- Reconstruction/non-reconstruction threshold bound $\lambda_r(\Delta) > e - 1$ [Marton, 03]



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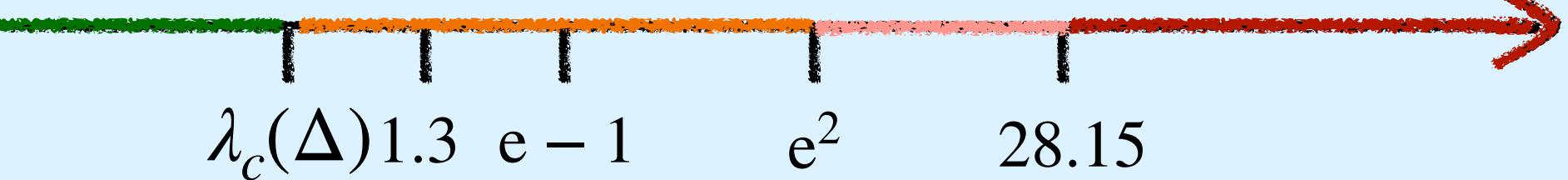
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Rapid mixing on Optimal mixing
general graphs on trees ? Polynomial
mixing on trees



Monomer-dimer model on graphs with large girth

Constant spectral independence (independent of Δ), implying an optimal relaxation time bound for trees.

- Partly answers the question in [Chen-Liu-Vigoda, 21];
- Provide a counterexample for multi-graphs.

In this talk, we only consider trees.

Spectral Independence via Matrix Inverse

Inverse of influence matrix

Let μ be a distribution over $\{0,1\}^V$ satisfying

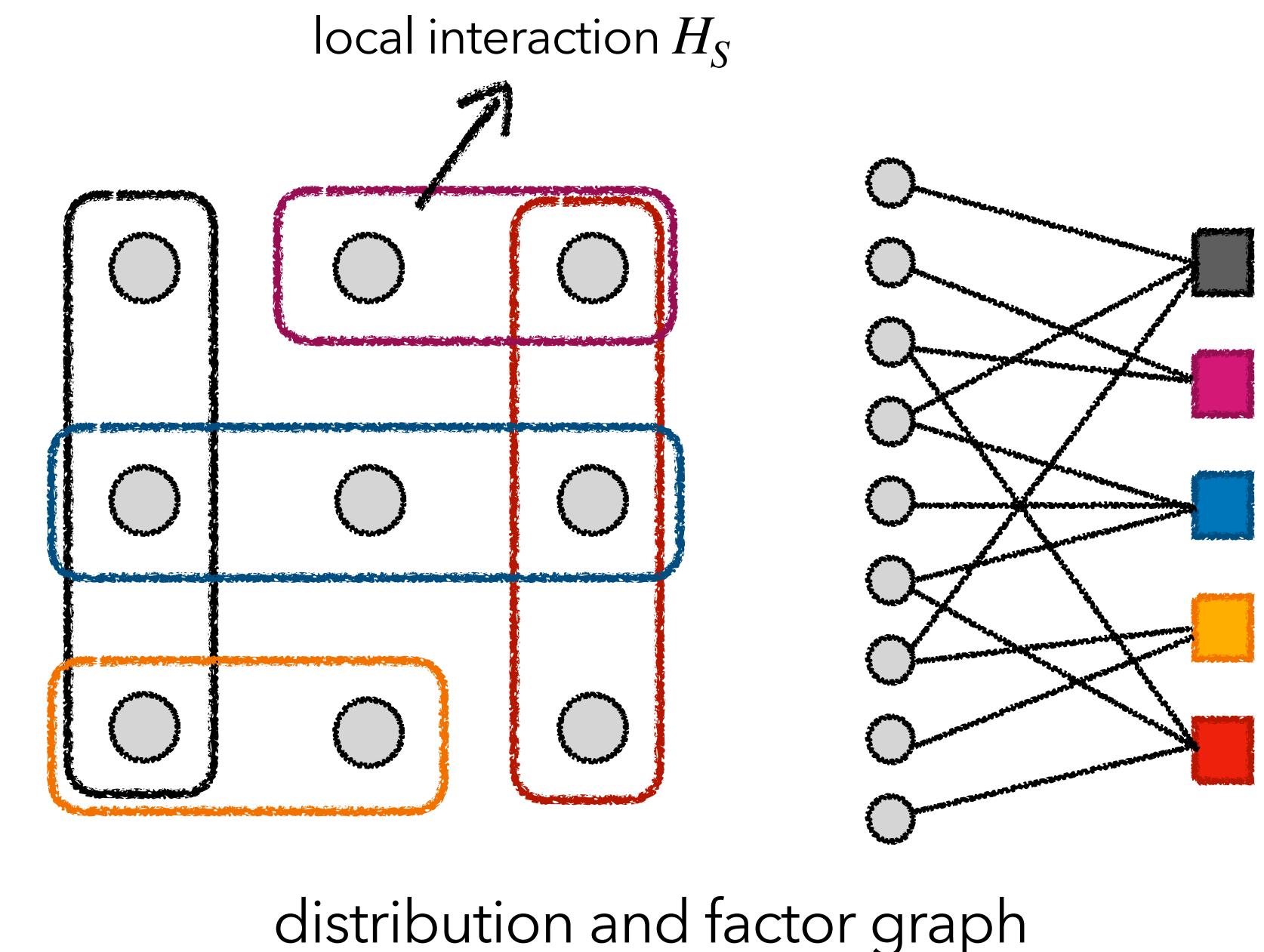
$$\forall x \in \{0,1\}^n, \quad \mu(x) \propto \exp \left(\sum_{S \in \mathcal{S}} H_S(x_S) \right)$$

If the factor graph is a tree, the inverse of Ψ_μ satisfies

$$\Psi_\mu^{-1} = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \widetilde{\Psi_{\mu_S}^{-1}} - \text{diag}(d_i - 1)_{i \in V}$$

$$H_S : \{0,1\}^S \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$$

factor graph: bipartite graph (V, \mathcal{S}, E)
with edge $(i, S) \in E$ iff $i \in S$



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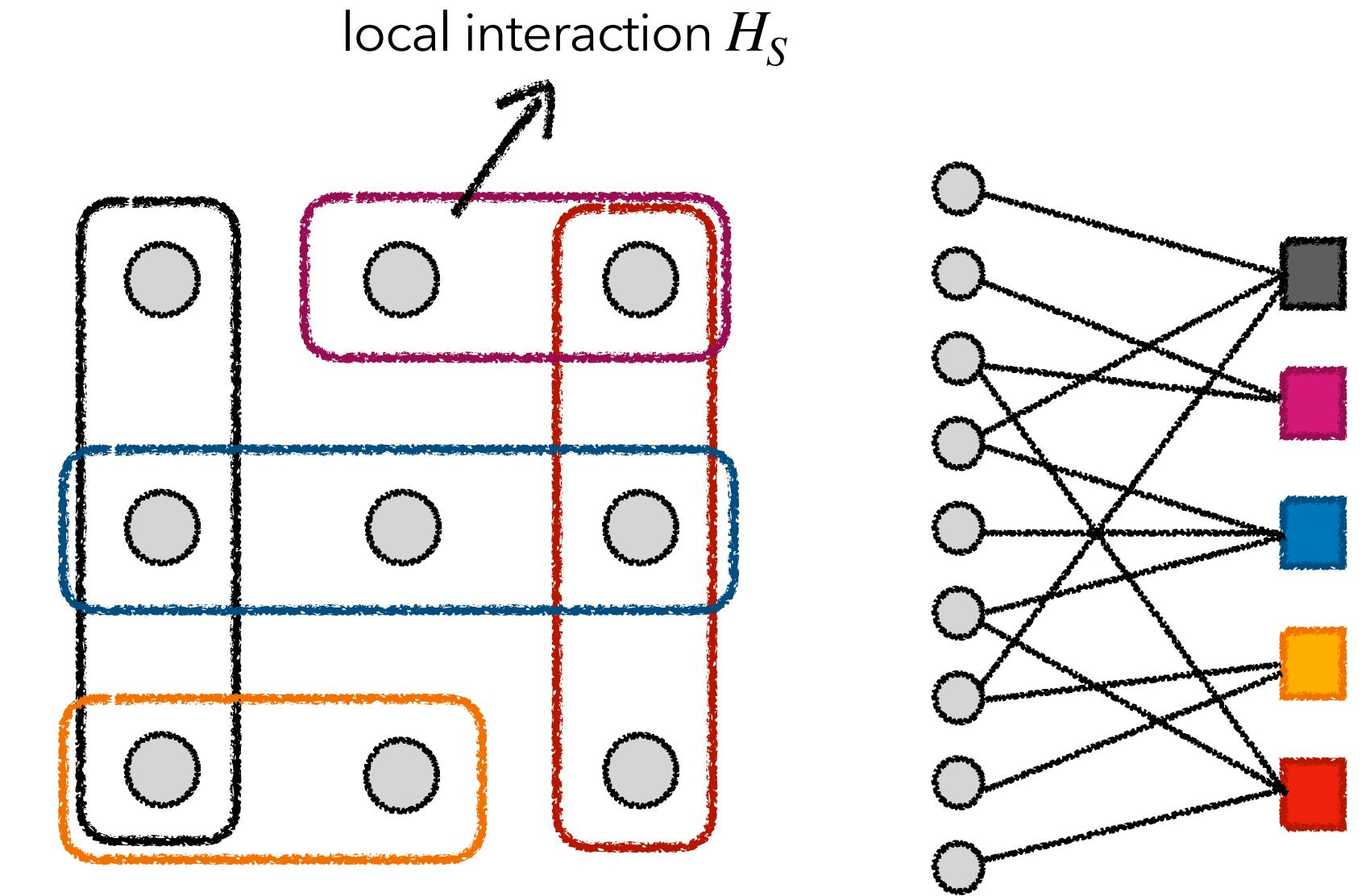
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distribution and factor graph

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Ψ_μ $\widetilde{\Psi_{\mu_S}^{-1}}$

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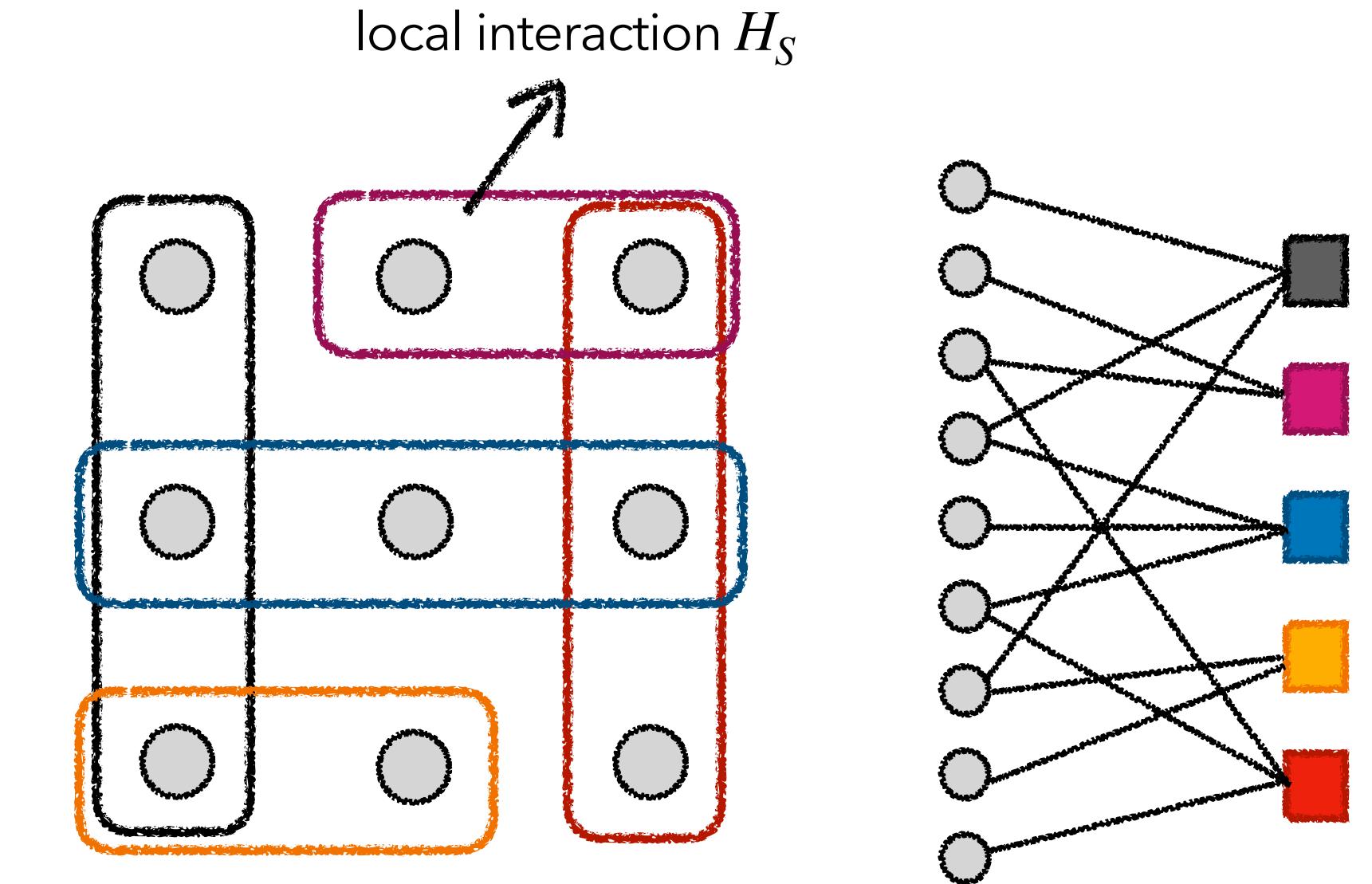
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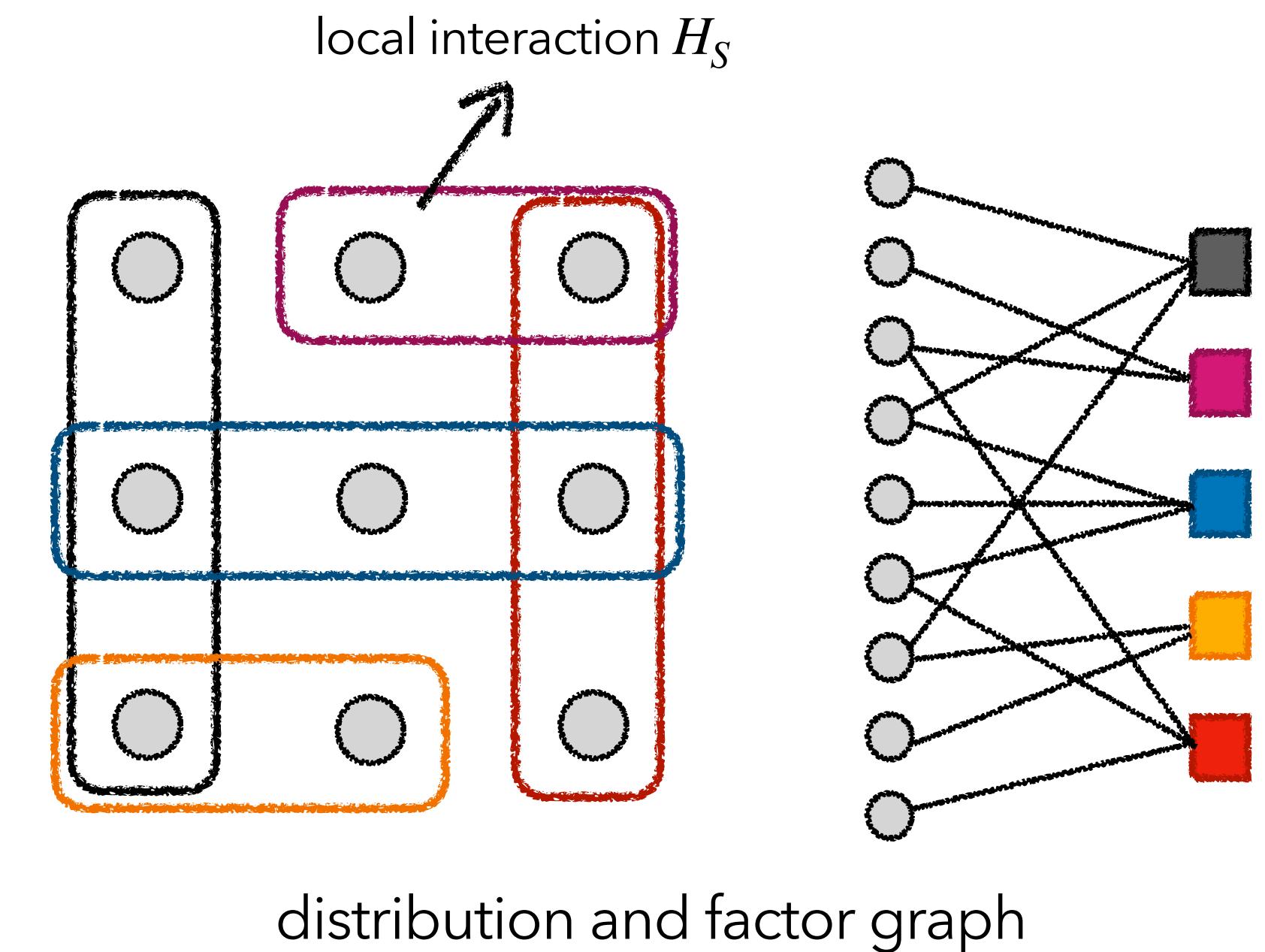
Influence Matrix as Product Distance Matrix

Product distance matrix

Let $G = (V, E)$ be an undirected graph and $P \in \mathbb{R}^{V \times V}$.

Matrix P is a *product distance matrix* if

- For any $u, v, w \in V$ satisfying that any path from u to v must pass w , we have $P(u, v) = P(u, w) \cdot P(w, v)$.



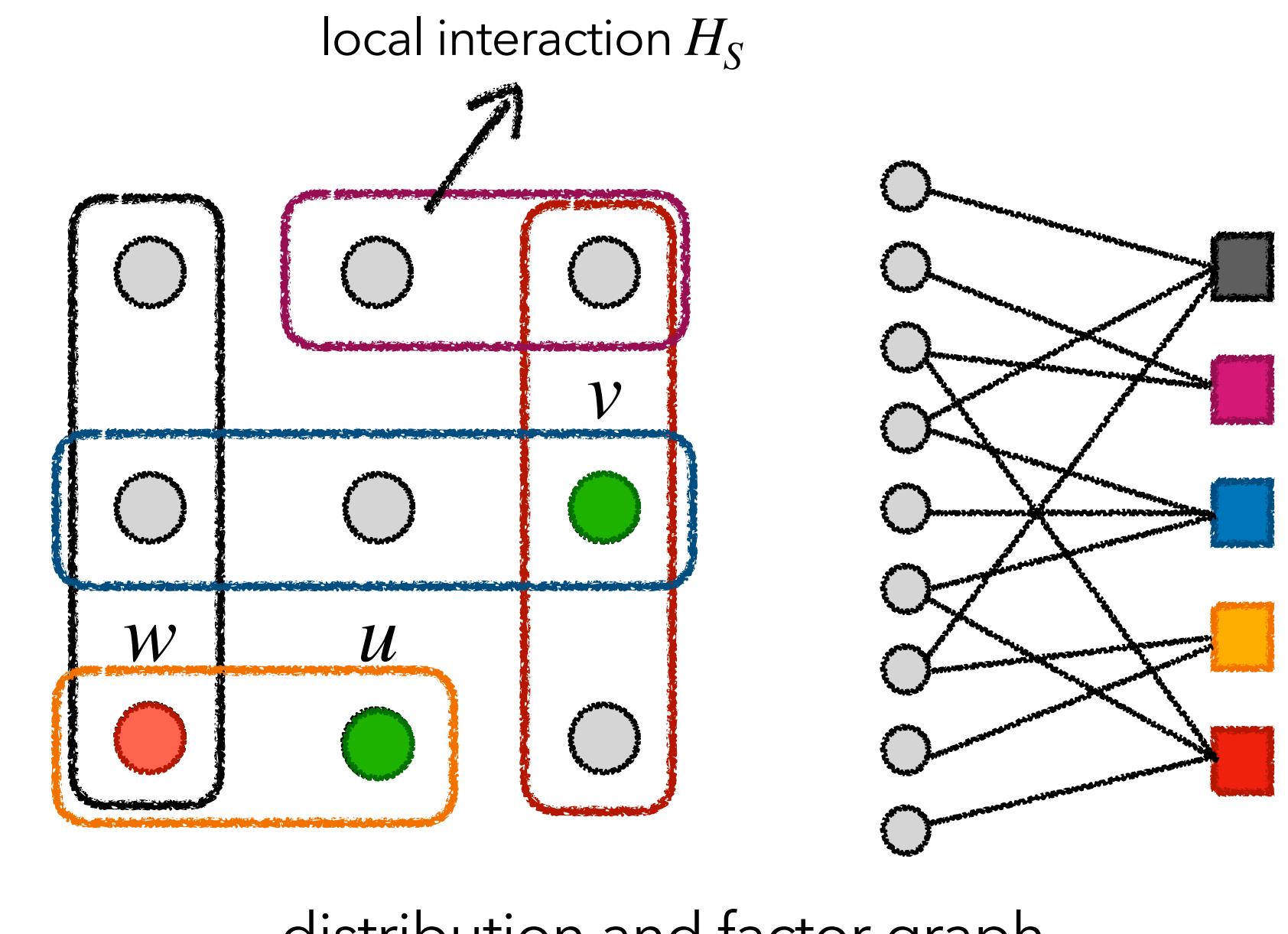
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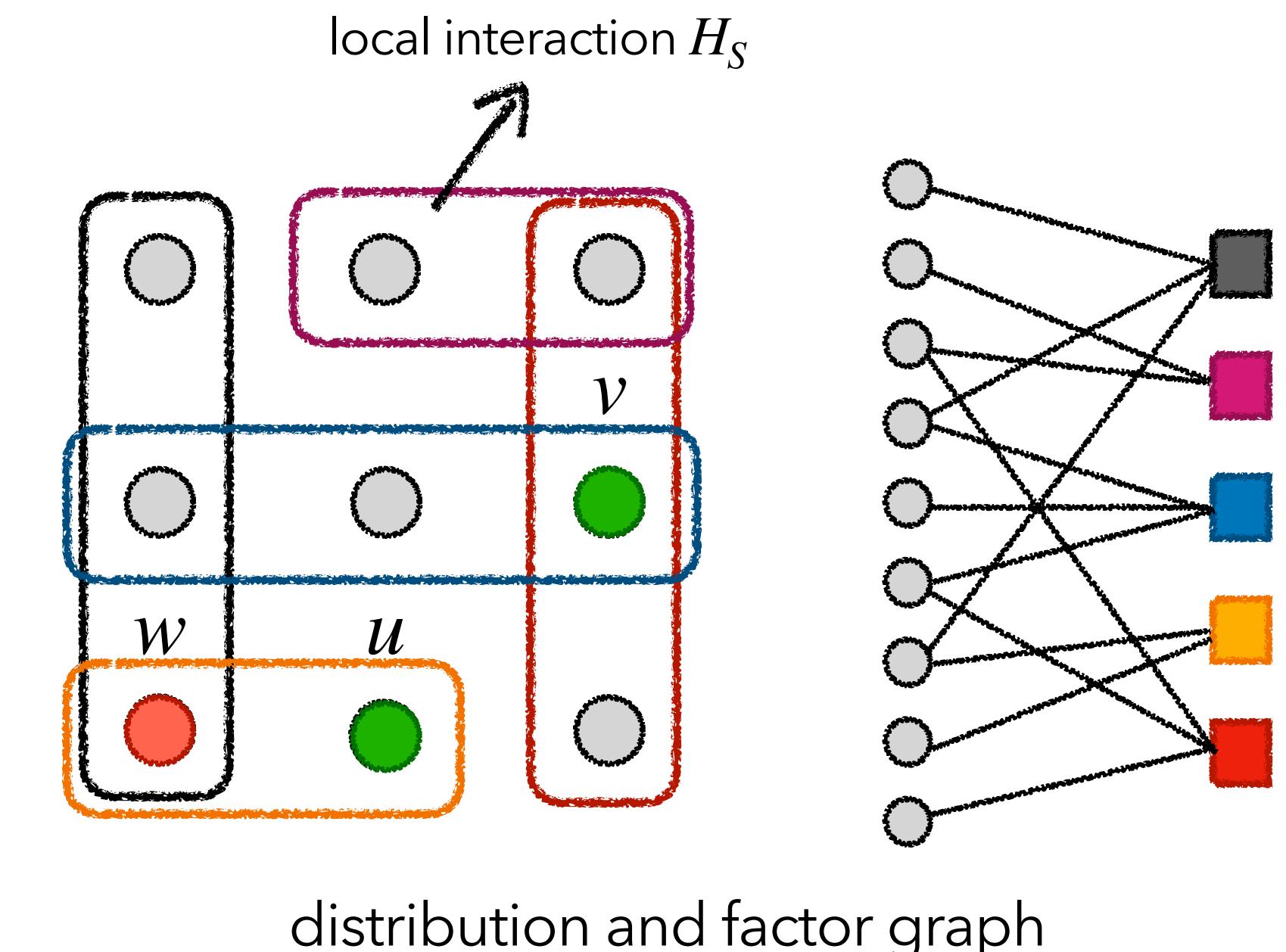
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If the factor graph is a tree, the influence matrix Ψ_μ is a product distance matrix!
(We treat each interaction set $S \in \mathcal{S}$ as a clique)

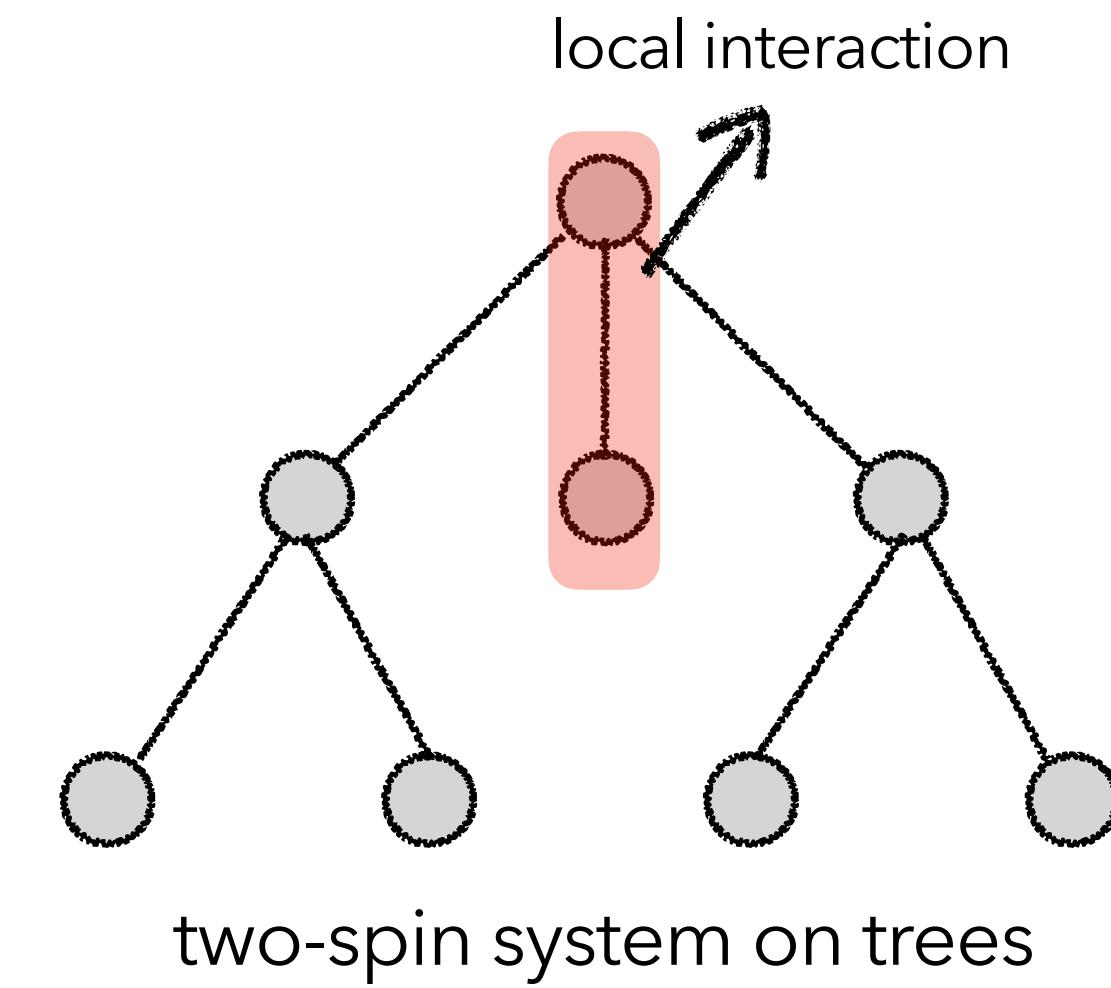
Applications: Two-Spin Systems on Trees

SI for two-spin system on trees (informal)

If for any non-root vertex $v \in V$, we have

$$(\star) \quad \sum_{w \in \mathcal{C}(v)} \Psi_\mu(v, w) \Psi_\mu(w, v) < 1 - \delta,$$

then $\lambda_{\max}(\Psi_\mu) = O(1/\delta^2)$.



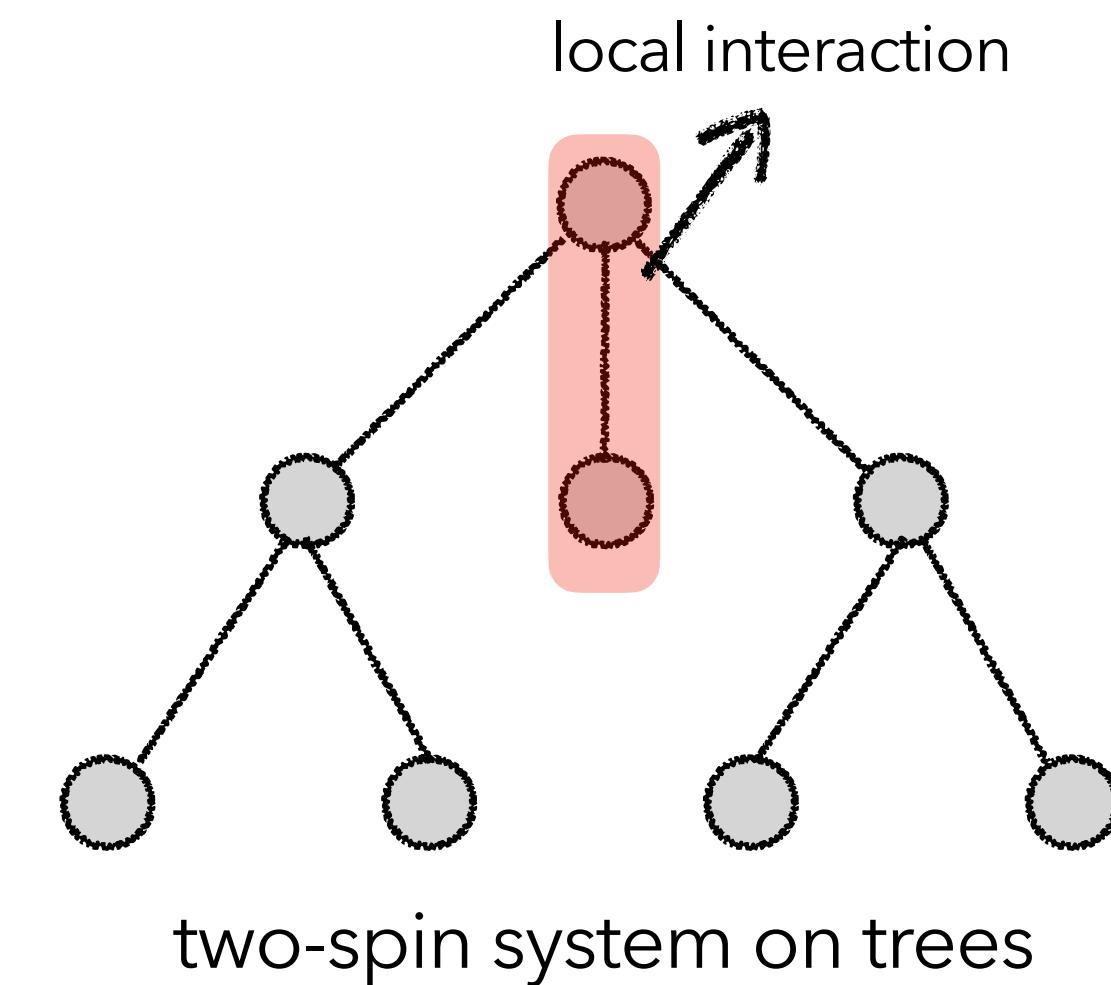
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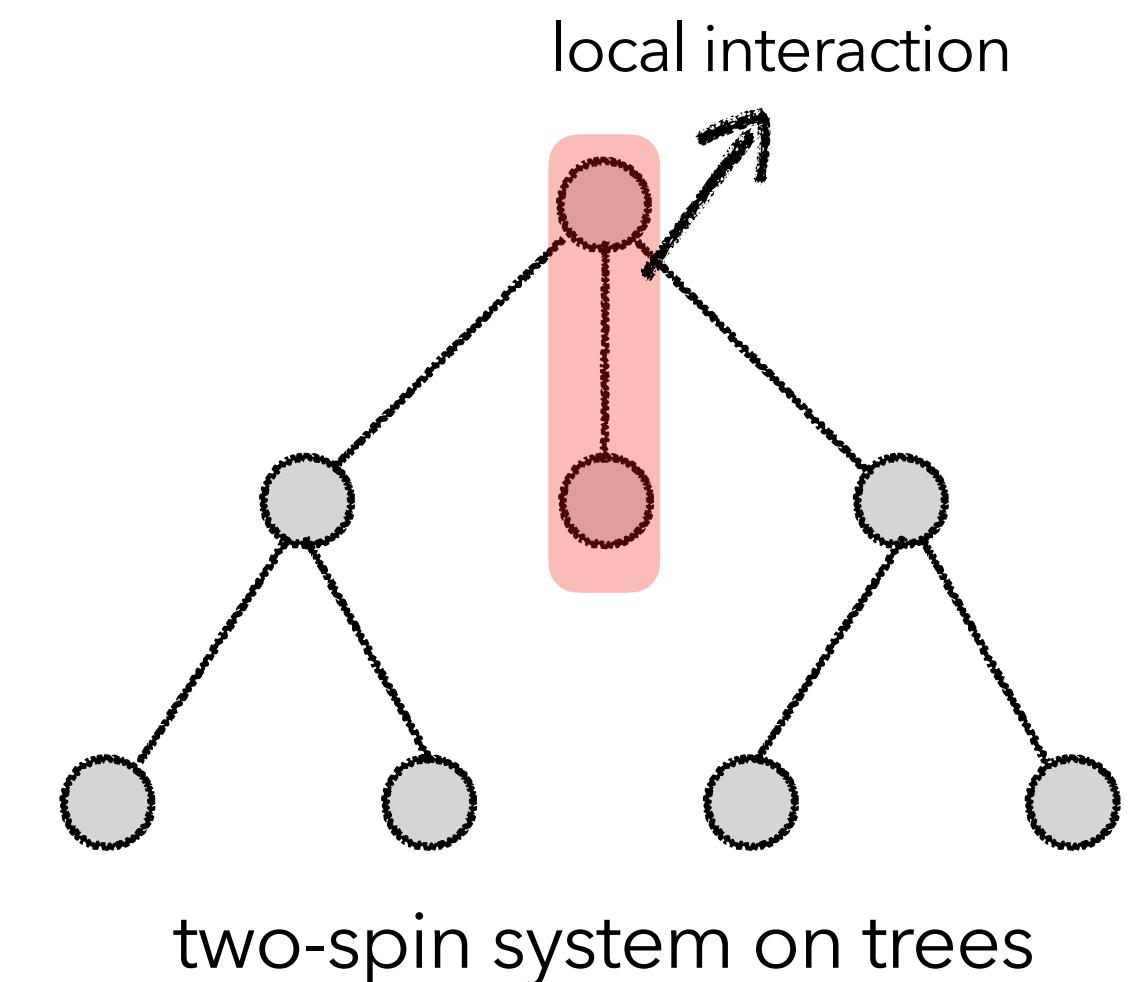
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Constant spectral
independence via
 ℓ_2 -norm instead of ℓ_1
-norm on trees!

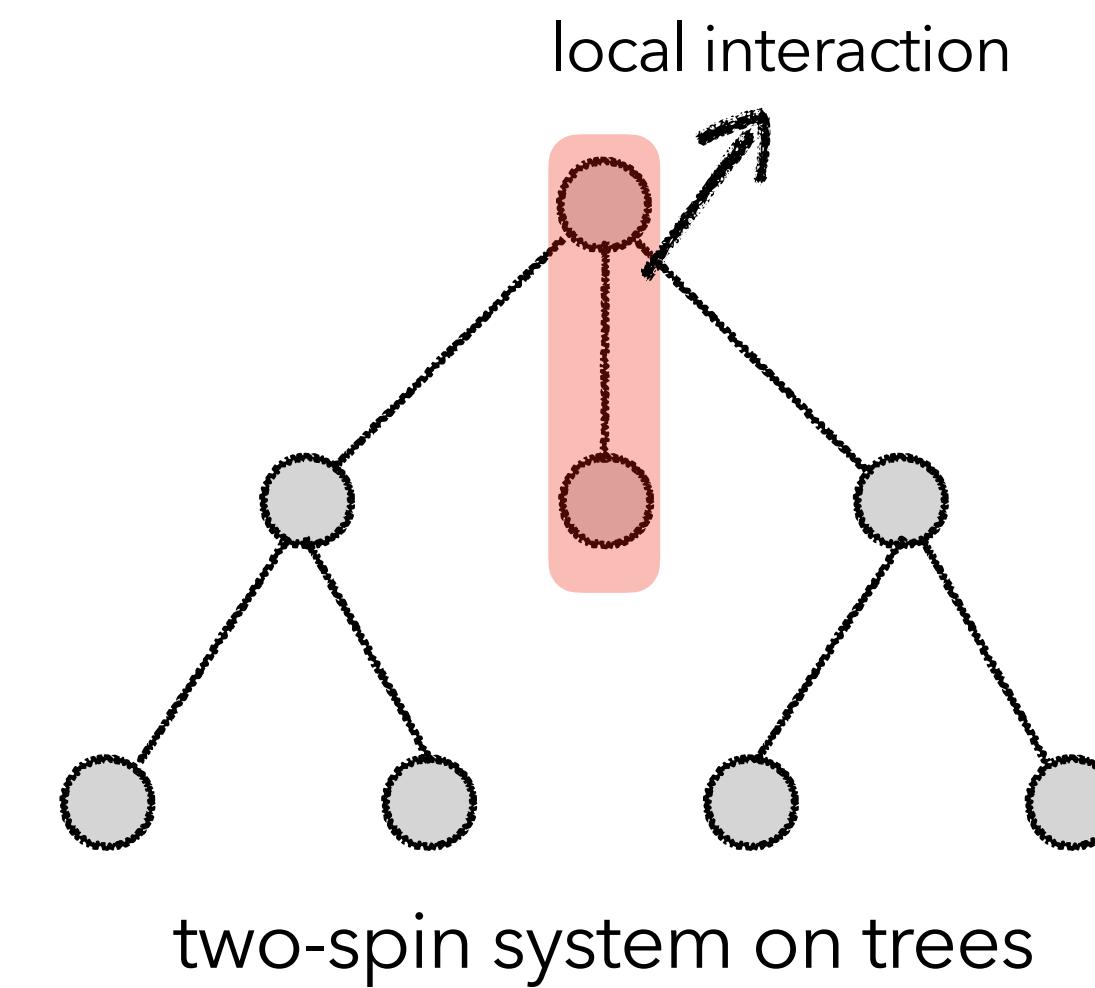
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(Ferro) Ising model: $\beta < \beta_1(\Delta)$ (spin-glass critical point) implies a constant SI;

Hardcore model: $\lambda < e^2$ implies a constant SI.

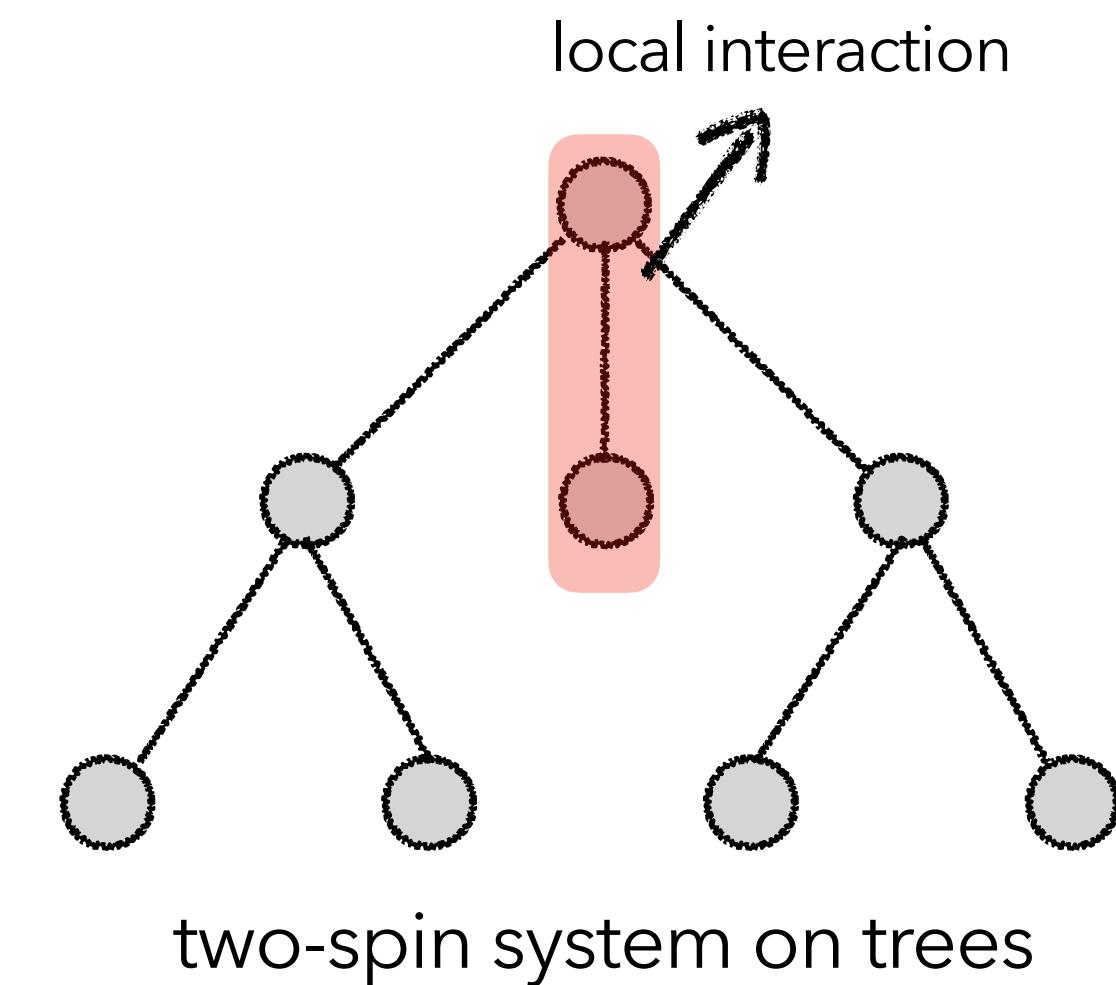
Applications: Two-Spin Systems on Trees

SI for two-spin system on trees (informal)

If for any non-root vertex $v \in V$, we have

$$(\star) \quad \sum_{w \in \mathcal{C}(v)} \Psi_\mu(v, w) \Psi_\mu(w, v) < 1 - \delta,$$

then $\lambda_{\max}(\Psi_\mu) = O(1/\delta^2)$.



Proof Sketch (informal)

- Symmetrize Ψ_μ^{-1} as $\widehat{\Psi_\mu^{-1}}$;
- It suffices to show that $x^\top (\widehat{\Psi_\mu^{-1}} - \delta^2 I)x \geq 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^V$;
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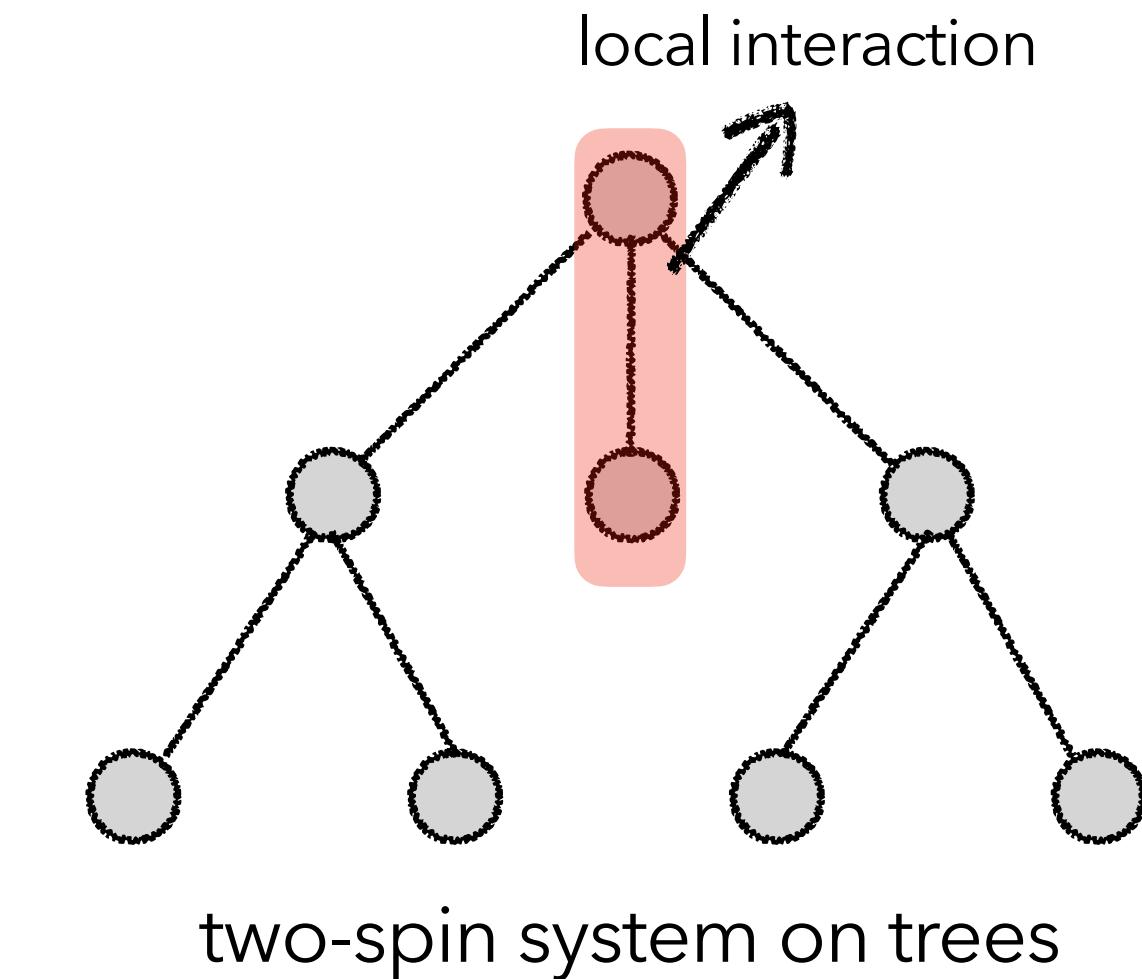
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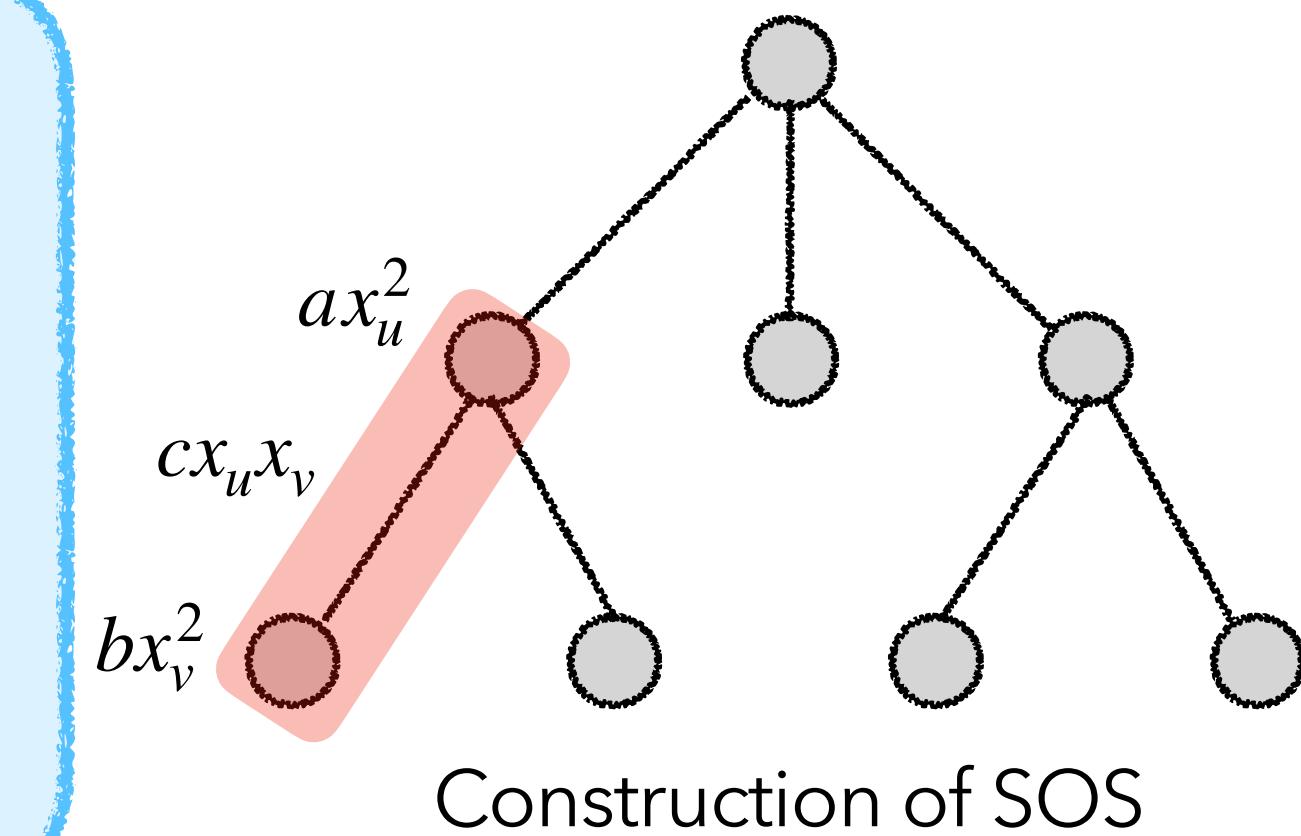
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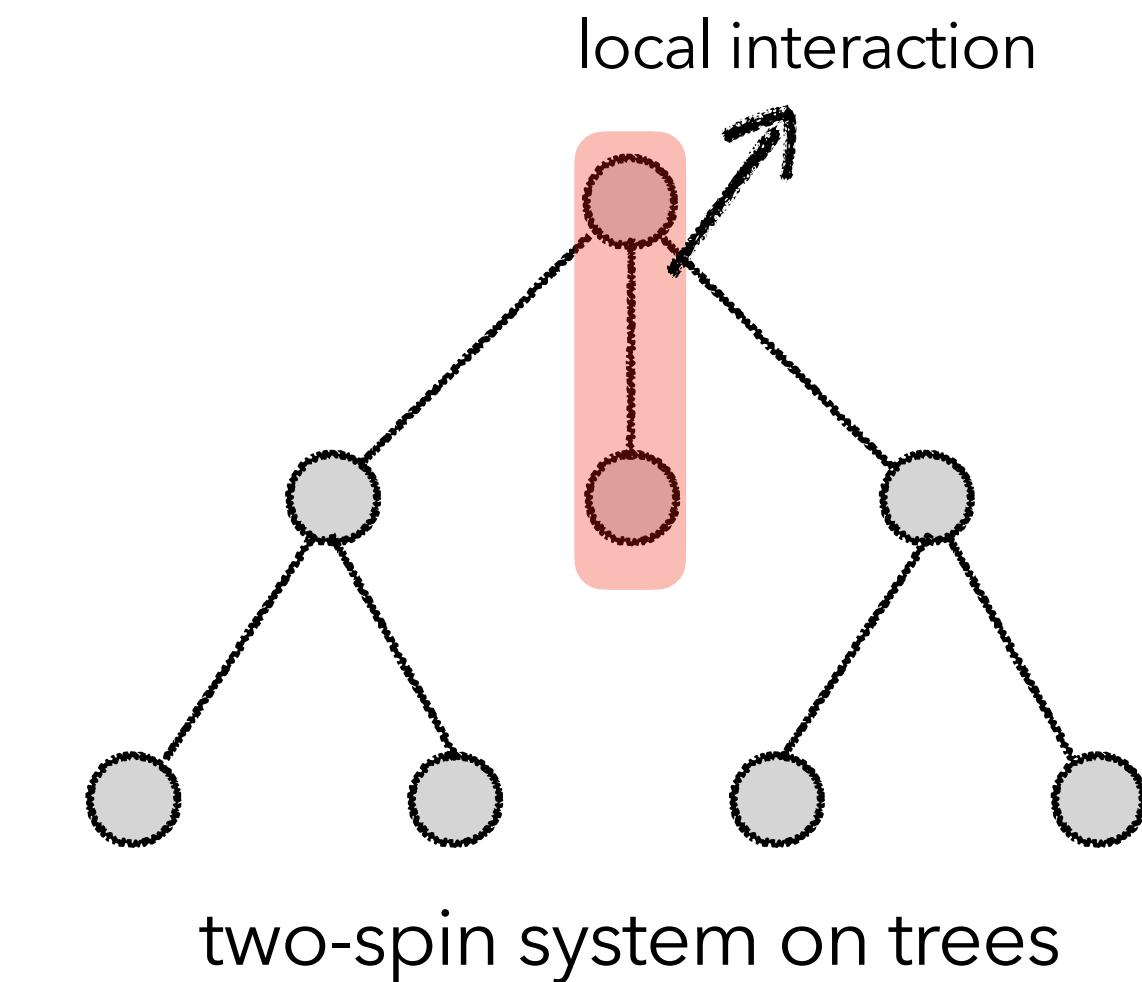
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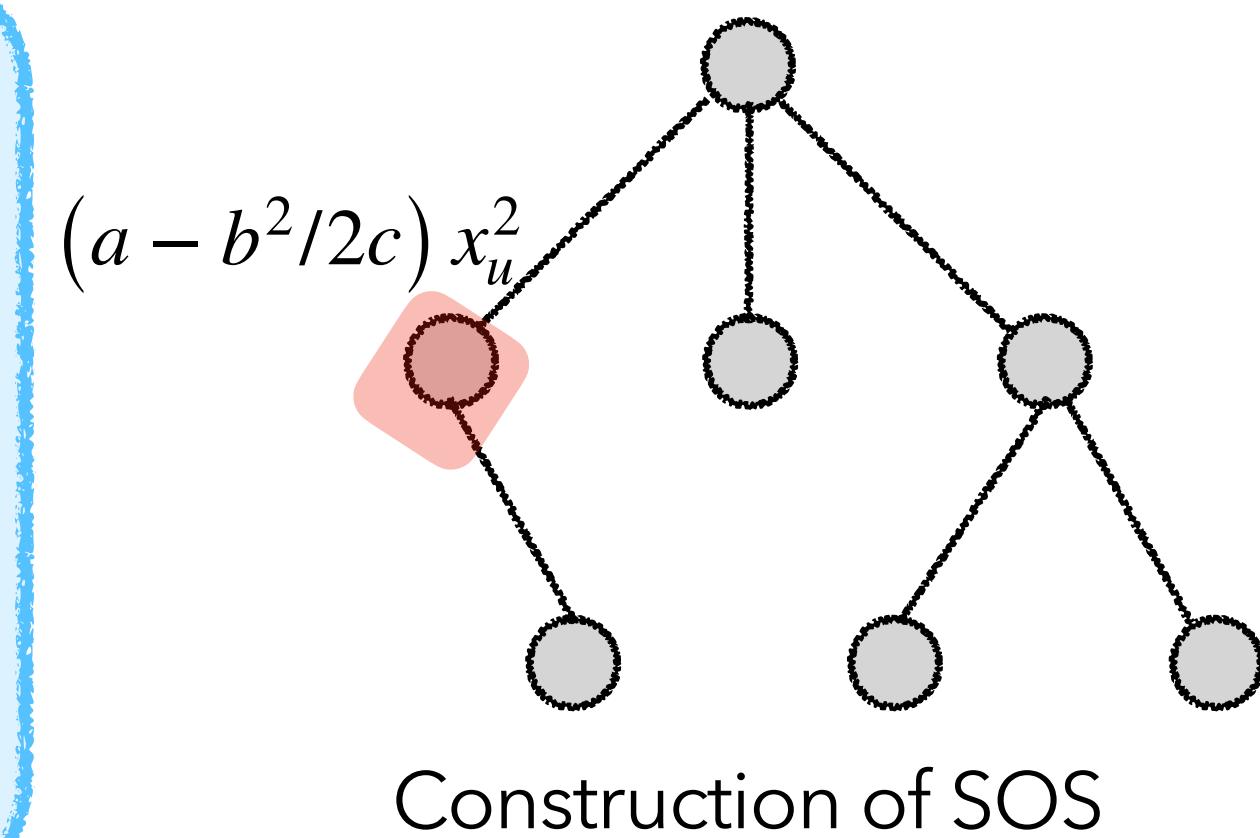
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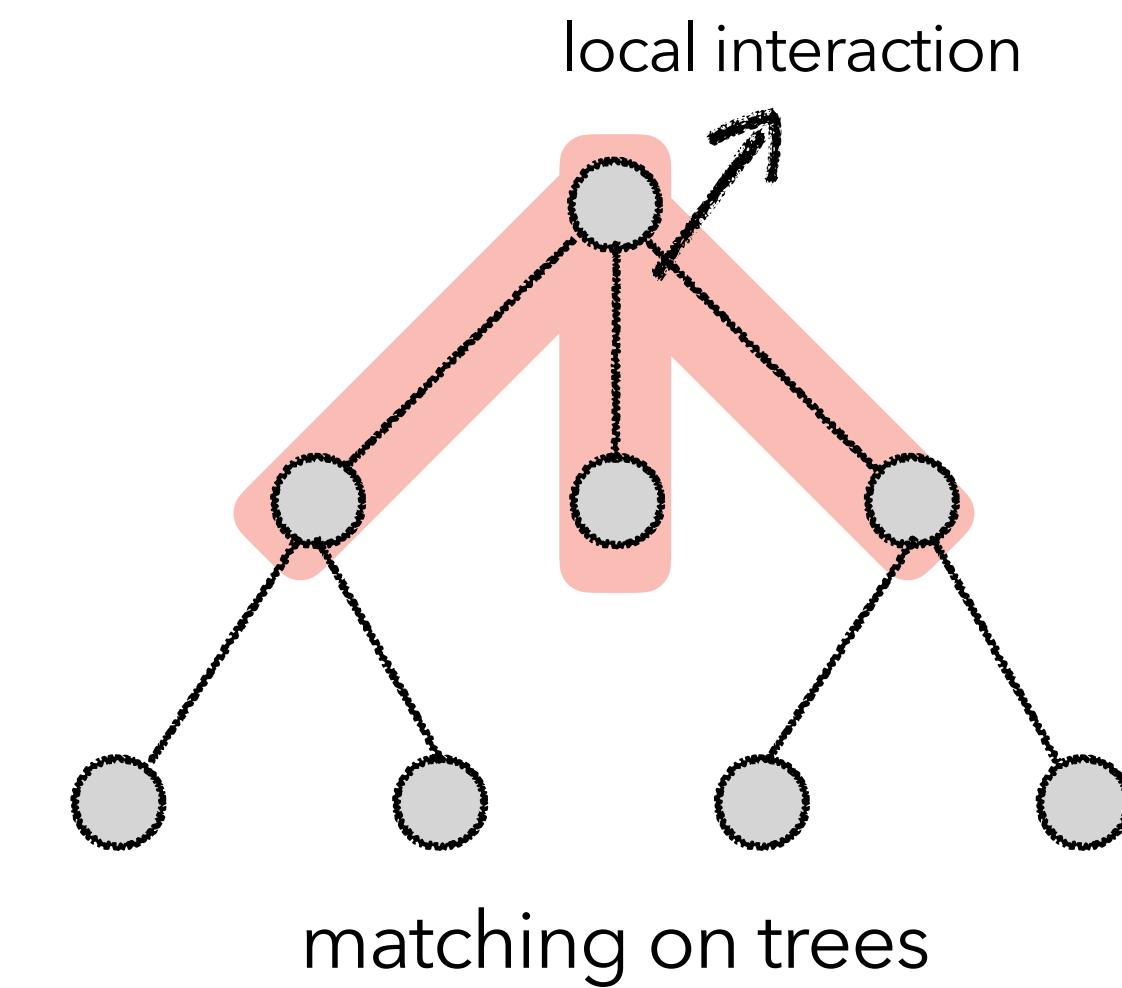


Applications: Matching on Trees

SI for monomer-dimer model on trees

$O(\lambda)$ -spectral independence, i.e. $\lambda_{\max}(\Psi_\mu) \leq 2(\lambda + 1)$

Inverse of influence matrix: $\Psi_\mu^{-1} = \sum_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \widetilde{\Psi_{\mu_S}^{-1}} - \text{diag}(d_i - 1)_{i \in E}$

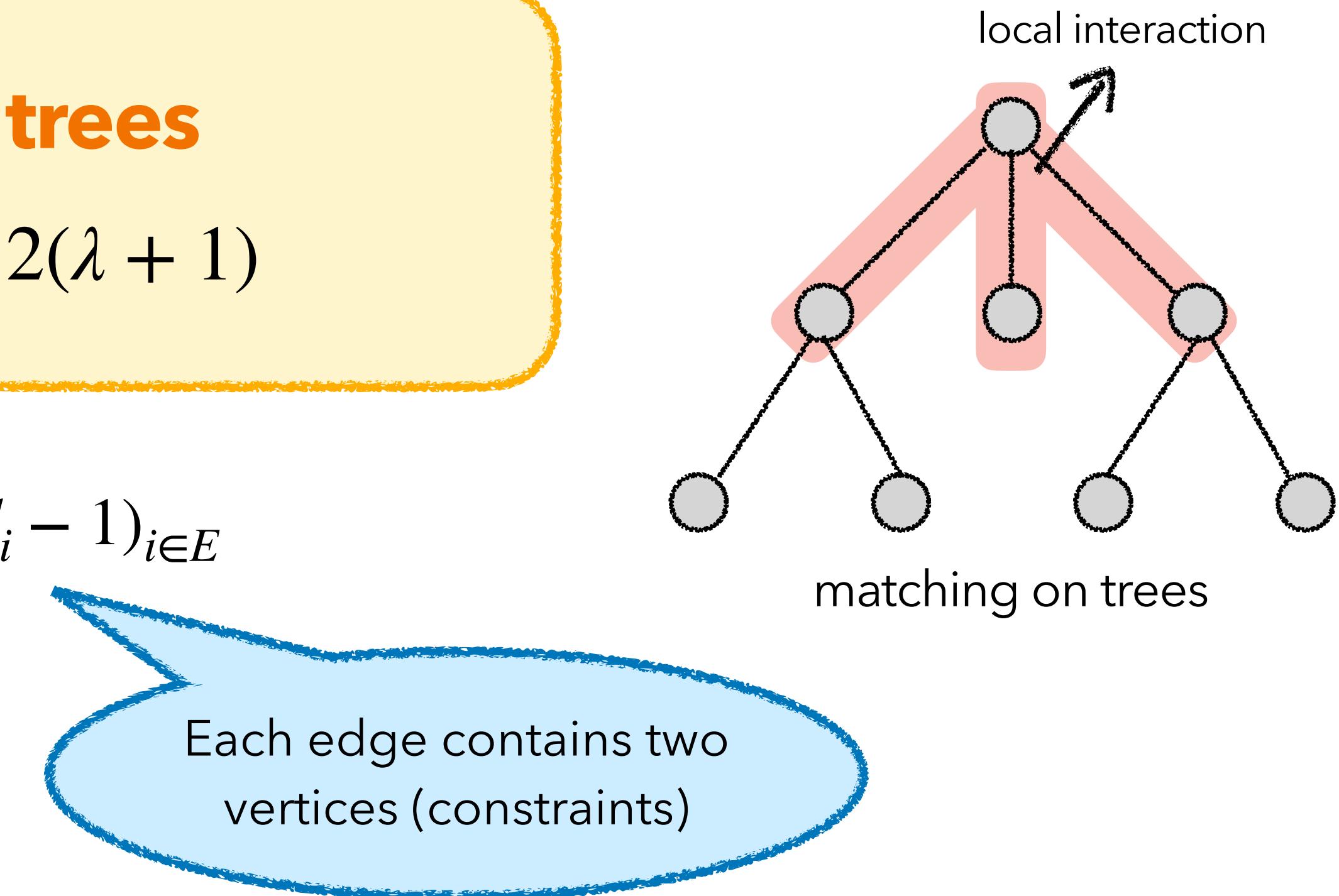


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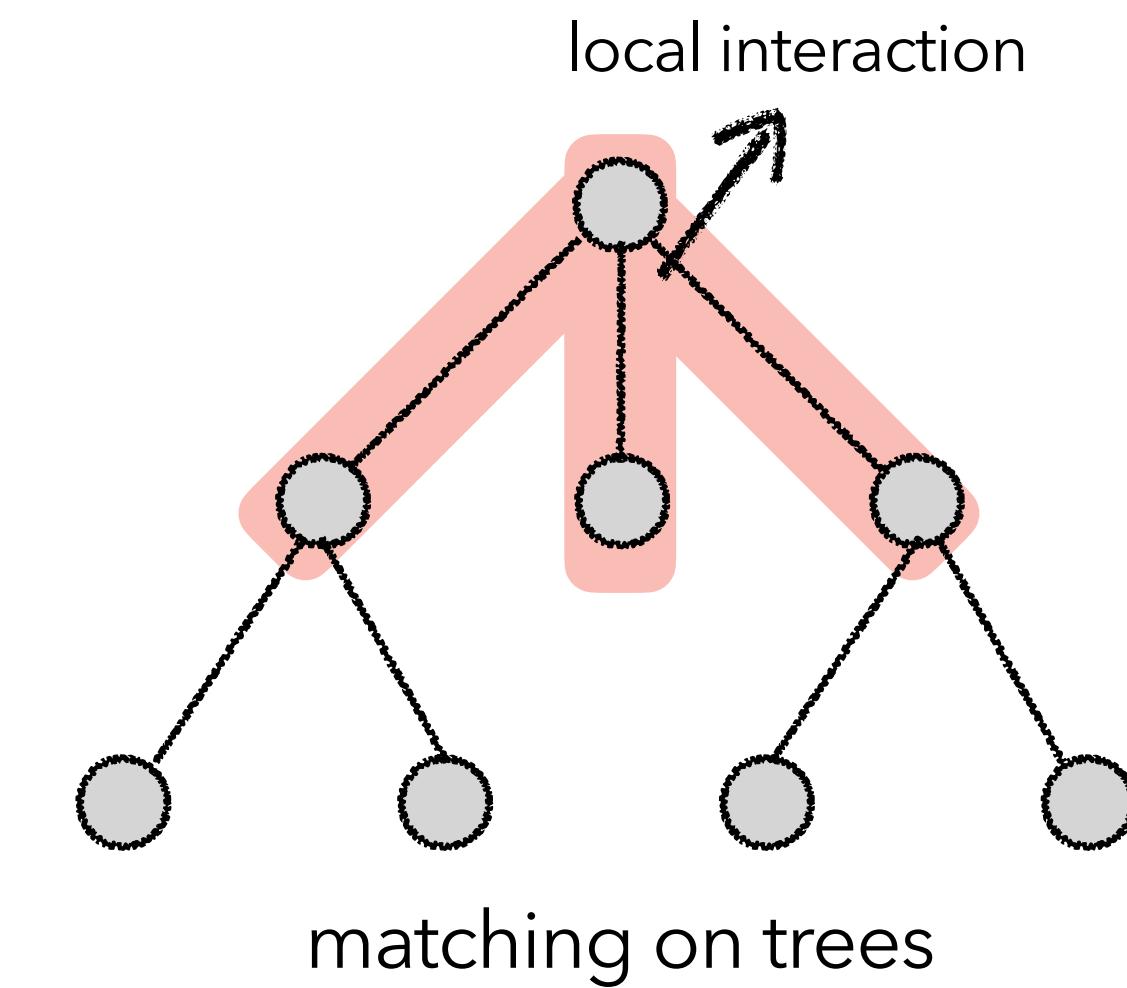


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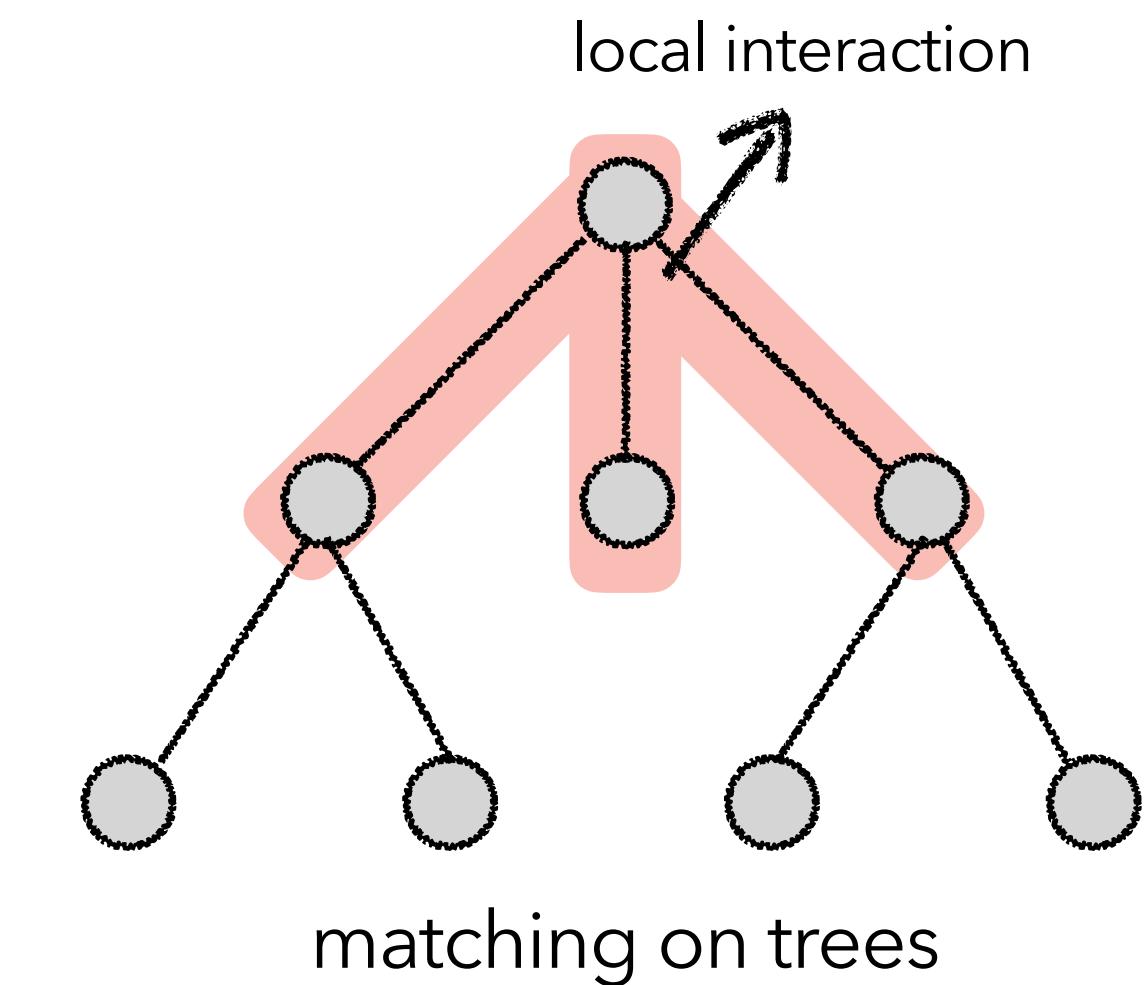


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Proof Sketch (informal)

- It suffices to show that $\Psi_{\mu_S}^{-1} \succeq (1/2 + \epsilon)I$ for all local interactions S ;
- Analyze $\Psi_{\mu_S}^{-1}$ via Schur's theorem.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mu_2/(1-\mu_1) & \mu_3/(1-\mu_1) \\ \mu_1/(1-\mu_2) & 1 & \mu_3/(1-\mu_2) \\ \mu_1/(1-\mu_3) & \mu_2/(1-\mu_3) & 1 \end{bmatrix} = D - uv^\top$$

Conclusion and Open Problems

Spectral independence beyond total influence

Technique

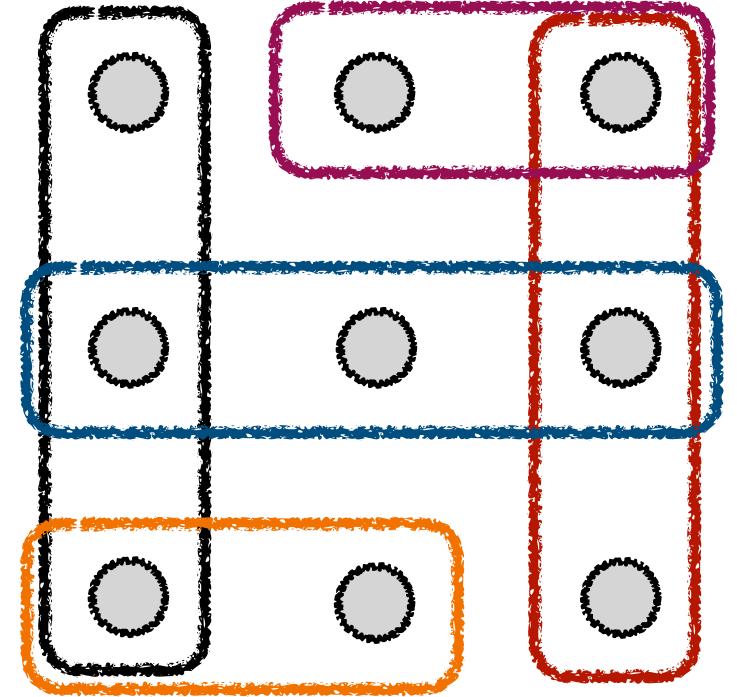
Approximate inverse of influence matrix

Hardcore model on trees

Optimal mixing time bound for bounded degree trees when $\lambda < e^2$

Monomer-dimer model

$O(\lambda)$ -spectral independence for graphs with large girth



$$\begin{bmatrix} * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * & * & * \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & * & * & * & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & * & \Psi^{-1} & * & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & * & \mu_s & * & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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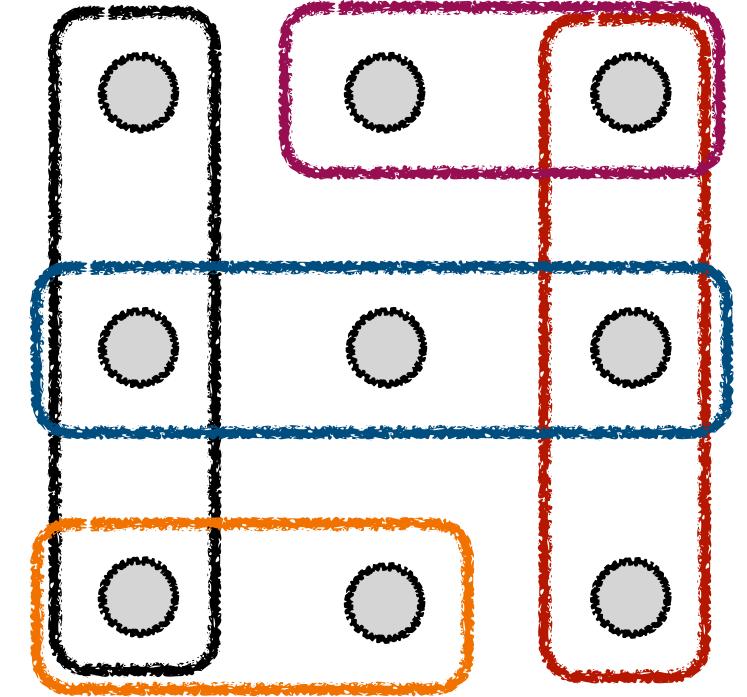
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Open problems

- Spectral Independence and mixing time for monomer-dimer model **on general graphs**;
- Approximate inverse **beyond two-state systems** and **further applications**;
- ...

Conclusion and Open Problems

Spectral independence beyond total influence

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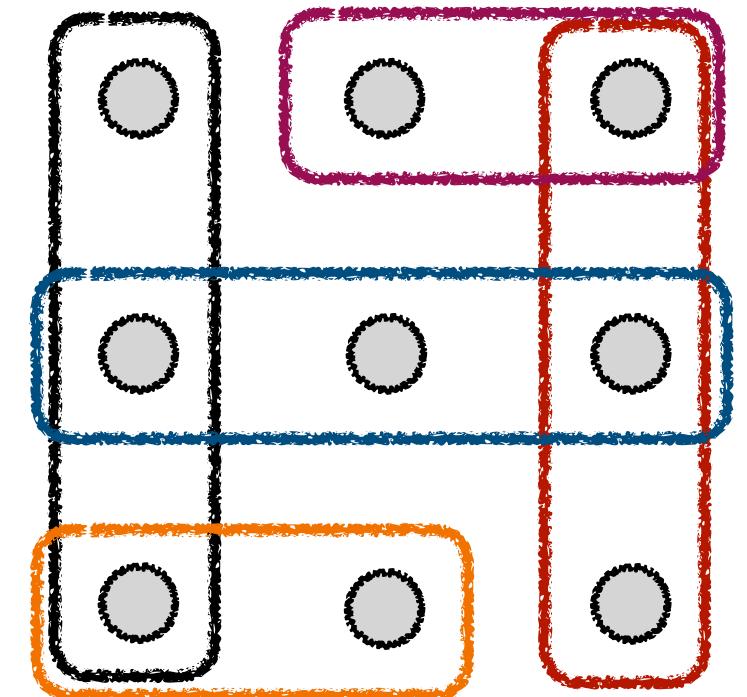
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Thanks!