

## 18.217 PROBLEM SET (FALL 2019)

### Instructions:

- All submissions must be **typed in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X** and submitted as PDF on Stellar (try Overleaf if you are looking for an online L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X editor without requiring installations). Please name your file `ps#_Lastname_Firstname.pdf` and remember to include your name in each file.  
Suggested L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X template for homework submissions.
- Please acknowledge, **individually for every problem at the beginning of each solution**, a list of all collaborators and sources consulted (people, books, websites, etc.). Write `sources consulted: none` even if no sources are consulted. Failure acknowledge sources will lead to an automatic 10% penalty.
- You may not look up solutions to homework problems online or offline.
- Please turn in the problems marked `ps1` and `ps1★` for problem set 1, etc., by midnight of each due date (see course homepage). Do not submit the other problems—they are for you to practice.
- *Late policy.* Late submissions will be penalized by 20% per each late day. For example, for an assignment due on Sunday, a submission worth  $x$  points if turned in on time will be worth  $0.6x$  points if submitted on Tuesday.
- *Collaboration policy.* You are strongly encouraged to start early and first work on the problems on your own. Reasonable collaboration is permitted, but everyone must write their solutions individually and acknowledge their collaborators.
- *Bonus problems*, marked by ★, are more challenging. A grade of A- may be attained by only solving the non-starred problems. To attain a grade of A or A+, you should solve a substantial number of starred problems. (No hints will be given for bonus problems, e.g., during office hours.)
- Please try to **fit your solution within one page** for each unstarred problem/part (standard 1-inch margins and 11pt font). The spirit of this policy is to encourage you to think first before you write. Distill your ideas, structure your arguments, and eliminate unnecessary steps. If necessary, some details of routine calculations may be skipped provided that you give convincing explanations.
- This file will be updated as the term progresses. Please check back regularly. There will be an announcement whenever each problem set is complete.
- You are encouraged to include figures whenever they are helpful. Here are some recommended ways to produce figures in decreasing order of learning curve difficulty:
  - (1) TikZ or other drawing script
  - (2) IPE (which supports LaTeX) or other drawing app
  - (3) photo/scan (I recommend the Dropbox app on your phone, which has a nice scanning feature that produces clear monochrome scans)

Problems begin on the next page.

Last updated: October 30, 2019

## A. INTRODUCTION

- ps1 A1. *Ramsey's theorem*
- (a) Let  $s$  and  $r$  be positive integers. Show that there is some integer  $n = n(s, r)$  so that if every edge of the complete graph  $K_n$  on  $n$  vertices is colored with one of  $r$  colors, then there is a monochromatic copy of  $K_s$ .
  - (b) Let  $s \geq 3$  be a positive integer. Show that if the edges of the complete graph on  $\binom{2s-2}{s-1}$  vertices are colored with 2 colors, then there is a monochromatic copy of  $K_s$ .
- ps1 A2. Prove that it is possible to color  $\mathbb{N}$  using two colors so that there is no infinitely long monochromatic arithmetic progression.
- ps1 A3. *Many monochromatic triangles*
- (a) True or false: If the edges of  $K_n$  are colored using 2 colors, then at least  $1/4 - o(1)$  fraction of all triangles are monochromatic. (Note that  $1/4$  is the fraction one expects if the edges were colored uniformly at random.)
  - (b) True or false: if the edges of  $K_n$  are colored using 3 colors, then at least  $1/9 - o(1)$  fraction of all triangles are monochromatic.
  - (c) ( $\star$  do not submit) True or false: if the edges of  $K_n$  are colored using 2 colors, then at least  $1/32 - o(1)$  fraction of all copies of  $K_4$ 's are monochromatic.
  - (d) (do not submit) Prove that for every  $s$  and  $r$ , there is some constant  $c > 0$  so that for every sufficiently large  $n$ , if the edges of  $K_n$  are colored using  $r$  colors, then at least  $c$  fraction of all copies of  $K_s$  are monochromatic.

## B. FORBIDDING SUBGRAPHS

- ps1 B1. Show that a graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges has at least  $\frac{4m}{3n} \left(m - \frac{n^2}{4}\right)$  triangles.
- ps1 B2. Prove that every  $n$ -vertex graph with at least  $\lfloor n^2/4 \rfloor + 1$  edges contains at least  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  triangles.
- ps1 $\star$  B3. Prove that every  $n$ -vertex graph with at least  $\lfloor n^2/4 \rfloor + 1$  edges contains some edge in at least  $(1/6 - o(1))n$  triangles, and that this constant  $1/6$  is best possible.
- B4.  *$K_{r+1}$ -free graphs close to the Turán bound are nearly  $r$ -partite*
- ps1 (a) Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex triangle-free graph with at least  $\lfloor n^2/4 \rfloor - k$  edges. Prove that  $G$  can be made bipartite by removing at most  $k$  edges.
- ps1 $\star$  (b) Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex  $K_{r+1}$ -free graph with at least  $e(T_{n,r}) - k$  edges, where  $T_{n,r}$  is the Turán graph. Prove that  $G$  can be made  $r$ -partite by removing at most  $k$  edges.
- B5. Let  $G$  be a  $K_{r+1}$ -free graph. Prove that there is another graph  $H$  on the same vertex set as  $G$  such that  $\chi(H) \leq r$  and  $d_H(x) \geq d_G(x)$  for every vertex  $x$  (here  $d_H(x)$  is the degree of  $x$  in  $H$ , and likewise with  $d_G(x)$  for  $G$ ). Give another proof of Turán's theorem from this fact.
- B6. *Turán density*. Let  $H$  be a  $r$ -uniform hypergraph, let its *Turán number*  $\text{ex}^{(r)}(n, H)$  be the maximum number of edges in an  $r$ -uniform hypergraph on  $n$  vertices that does not contain  $H$  as a subgraph. Prove that the fraction  $\text{ex}^{(r)}(n, H) / \binom{n}{r}$  is a nonincreasing function of  $n$ , so that it has a limit  $\pi(H)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , called the *Turán density* of  $H$ .

- ps1** B7. *Supersaturation.* Let  $H$  be a graph and  $\rho$  a constant such that  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{ex}(n, H) / \binom{n}{2} \leq \rho$ . Prove that for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists some constant  $c = c(H, \epsilon) > 0$  such that for sufficiently large  $n$ , every  $n$ -vertex graph with at least  $(\rho + \epsilon) \binom{n}{2}$  edges contains at least  $cn^{v(H)}$  copies of  $H$ .
- ps1** B8. Let  $S$  be a set of  $n$  points in the plane, with the property that no two points are at distance greater than 1. Show that  $S$  has at most  $\lfloor n^2/3 \rfloor$  pairs of points at distance greater than  $1/\sqrt{2}$ . Also, show that the bound  $\lfloor n^2/3 \rfloor$  is tight (i.e., cannot be improved).
- ps1** B9. (How *not* to define density in a product set) Let  $S \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ . Define

$$d_k(S) = \max_{\substack{A, B \subset \mathbb{Z} \\ |A|=|B|=k}} \frac{|S \cap (A \times B)|}{|A||B|}.$$

Show that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} d_k(S)$  exists and is always either 0 or 1.

- B10. Show that, for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every graph with  $n$  vertices and at least  $\epsilon n^2$  edges contains a copy of  $K_{s,t}$  where  $s \geq \delta \log n$  and  $t \geq n^{0.99}$ .
- ps2** B11. *Density version of Kővári–Sós–Turán.* Prove that for every positive integers  $s \leq t$ , there are constants  $C, c > 0$  such that every  $n$ -vertex graph with  $p \binom{n}{2}$  edges contains at least  $cp^{st}n^{s+t}$  copies of  $K_{s,t}$ , provided that  $p \geq Cn^{-1/s}$ .
- ps2\*** B12. *Hypergraph Kővári–Sós–Turán and a proof of Erdős–Stone–Simonovits*
- (a) Prove that for every positive integer  $t$  there is some  $C$  so that every 3-uniform hypergraph on  $n$  vertices and at least  $Cn^{3-t^{-2}}$  edges (i.e., triples) contains a copy of  $K_{t,t,t}^{(3)}$ , the complete tripartite 3-uniform hypergraph with  $t$  vertices in each part.
  - (b) Deduce that  $\text{ex}(n, H) \leq (\frac{1}{4} + o(1))n^2$  for every graph  $H$  with  $\chi(H) \leq 3$ .
  - (c) Explain how to generalize the above strategy to prove the Erdős–Stone–Simonovits theorem for every  $H$  (sketch the key steps).
- ps2** B13. Find a graph  $H$  with  $\chi(H) = 3$  and  $\text{ex}(n, H) > \frac{1}{4}n^2 + n^{1.99}$  for all sufficiently large  $n$ .
- ps2\*** B14. *Construction of a  $C_6$ -free graph.* Let  $q$  be an odd prime power. Let  $S$  denote the quadratic surface in the 4-dimensional projective space over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  (whose points are nonzero points of  $\mathbb{F}_q^5$  modulo the equivalence relation  $(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \sim (\lambda x_0, \lambda x_1, \lambda x_2, \lambda x_3, \lambda x_4)$  for  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ ) given by the equation (you may use another quadratic form if you wish)

$$x_0^2 + 2x_1x_2 + 2x_3x_4 = 0.$$

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the set of lines contained in  $S$ .

- (a) Prove that no three lines of  $\mathcal{L}$  lie in the same plane.
- (b) Show that the point-line incidence bipartite graph between  $S$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  is a  $(q+1)$ -regular graph on  $2(q^3 + q^2 + q + 1)$  vertices with no cycles of length at most 6. Conclude that  $\text{ex}(n, C_6) \geq cn^{4/3}$  for some constant  $c > 0$ .

*The next two problems concern the dependent random choice technique.*

- ps2** B15. Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Show that, for sufficiently large  $n$ , every  $K_4$ -free graph with  $n$  vertices and at least  $\epsilon n^2$  edges contains an independent set of size at least  $n^{1-\epsilon}$ .
- ps2\*** B16. *Extremal numbers of degenerate graphs*

- (a) Prove that there is some absolute constant  $c > 0$  so that for every positive integer  $r$ , every  $n$ -vertex graph with at least  $n^{2-c/r}$  edges contains disjoint vertex subsets  $A$  and  $B$  such that every subset of  $r$  vertices in  $A$  has at least  $n^c$  neighbors in  $B$  and every subset of  $r$  vertices in  $B$  has at least  $n^c$  neighbors in  $A$ .
- (b) We say that a graph  $H$  is  $r$ -degenerate if its vertices can be ordered so that every vertex has at most  $r$  neighbors that appear before it in the ordering. Show that for every  $r$ -degenerate bipartite graph  $H$  there is some constant  $C > 0$  so that  $\text{ex}(n, H) \leq Cn^{2-c/r}$ , where  $c$  is the same absolute constant from part (a) ( $c$  should not depend on  $H$  or  $r$ ).

ps2 B17. Let  $T$  be a tree with  $k$  edges. Show that  $\text{ex}(n, T) \leq kn$ .

ps2★ B18. Show that every  $n$ -vertex triangle-free graph with minimum degree greater than  $2n/5$  is bipartite.

### C. SZEMERÉDI'S REGULARITY LEMMA AND APPLICATIONS

*For simplicity, you are welcome to apply the equitable version of Szemerédi's regularity lemma.*

- C1. Let  $G$  be a graph and  $X, Y \subset V(G)$ . If  $(X, Y)$  is an  $\epsilon\eta$ -regular pair, then  $(X', Y')$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular for all  $X' \subset X$  with  $|X'| \geq \eta|X|$  and  $Y' \subset Y$  with  $|Y'| \geq \eta|Y|$ .
- C2. Let  $G$  be a graph and  $X, Y \subset V(G)$ . Say that  $(X, Y)$  is  $\epsilon$ -homogeneous if for all  $A \subset X$  and  $B \subset Y$ , one has

$$|e(A, B) - |A||B|d(X, Y)| \leq \epsilon|X||Y|.$$

Show that if  $(X, Y)$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular, then it is  $\epsilon$ -homogeneous. Also, show that if  $(X, Y)$  is  $\epsilon^3$ -homogeneous, then it is  $\epsilon$ -regular.

ps2 C3. *Unavoidability of irregular pairs.* Let the half-graph  $H_n$  be the bipartite graph on  $2n$  vertices  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n\}$  with edges  $\{a_i b_j : i \leq j\}$ .

- (a) For every  $\epsilon > 0$ , explicitly construct an  $\epsilon$ -regular partition of  $H_n$  into  $O(1/\epsilon)$  parts.
- (b) Show that there is some  $c > 0$  such that for every  $\epsilon \in (0, c)$ , every integer  $k$  and sufficiently large multiple  $n$  of  $k$ , every partition of the vertices of  $H_n$  into  $k$  equal-sized parts contains at least  $ck$  pairs of parts which are not  $\epsilon$ -regular.

ps2 C4. Show that there is some absolute constant  $C > 0$  such that for every  $0 < \epsilon < 1/2$ , every graph on  $n$  vertices contains an  $\epsilon$ -regular pair of vertex subsets each with size at least  $\delta n$ , where  $\delta = 2^{-\epsilon^{-C}}$ .

C5. *Existence of a regular set.* Given a graph  $G$ , we say that  $X \subset V(G)$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular if the pair  $(X, X)$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular, i.e., for all  $A, B \subset X$  with  $|A|, |B| \geq \epsilon|X|$ , one has  $|d(A, B) - d(X, X)| \leq \epsilon$ . This problem asks for two different proofs of the claim: for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every graph contains an  $\epsilon$ -regular subset of vertices of size at least  $\delta$  fraction of the vertex set.

ps3 (a) Prove the claim using Szemerédi's regularity lemma, showing that one can obtain the  $\epsilon$ -regular subset by combining a suitable sub-collection of parts from a regular partition.

ps3★ (b) Give an alternative proof of the claim showing that one can take  $\delta = \exp(-\exp(\epsilon^{-C}))$  for some constant  $C$ .

ps3 C6. Show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every  $n$ -vertex  $K_4$ -free graph with at least  $(\frac{1}{8} + \epsilon)n^2$  edges contains an independent set of size at least  $\delta n$ .

C7. Show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every  $n$ -vertex  $K_4$ -free graph with at least  $(\frac{1}{8} - \delta)n^2$  edges and independence number at most  $\delta n$  can be made bipartite by removing at most  $\epsilon n^2$  edges.

ps3 C8. Show that the number of non-isomorphic  $n$ -vertex triangle-free graphs is  $2^{(1/4+o(1))n^2}$ .

C9. Show that for every  $H$  there exists some  $\delta > 0$  such that for all sufficiently large  $n$ , if  $G$  is an  $n$ -vertex graph with average degree at least  $(1 - \delta)n$  and the edges of  $G$  are colored using 2 colors, then there is a monochromatic copy of  $H$ .

ps3 C10. Show that for every  $H$  and  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that every graph on  $n$  vertices without an induced copy of  $H$  contains an induced subgraph on at least  $\delta n$  vertices whose edge density is at most  $\epsilon$  or at least  $1 - \epsilon$ .

C11. *Random graphs are  $\epsilon$ -regular.* Let  $G$  be a random bipartite graph between disjoint sets of vertices  $X$  and  $Y$  with  $|X| = |Y| = n$ , such that every pair in  $X \times Y$  appears as an edge of  $G$  independently with the same probability. Show that there is some absolute constant  $c > 0$  such that with probability at least  $1 - e^{-n^{1+c}}$  for sufficiently large  $n$ , the pair  $(X, Y)$  is  $\epsilon$ -regular in  $G$  with  $\epsilon = n^{-c}$ .

(You may use the following special case of the Azuma–Hoeffding inequality: if  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  are independent random variables taking values in  $[-1, 1]$ , and  $S = X_1 + \dots + X_N$ , then  $\mathbb{P}(S \geq \mathbb{E}S + t) \leq e^{-t^2/(2N)}.$ )

ps3★ C12. Show that for every graph  $H$  there is some graph  $G$  such that if the edges of  $G$  are colored with two colors, then some induced subgraph of  $G$  is a monochromatic copy of  $H$ .

ps3★ C13. Show that for every  $c > 0$ , there exists  $c' > 0$  such that every graph on  $n$  vertices with at least  $cn^2$  edges contains a  $d$ -regular subgraph with  $d \geq c'n$  (here  $d$ -regular refers to every vertex having degree  $d$ ).

ps4 C14. Show that there is a constant  $c > 0$  so that for every sufficiently small  $\epsilon > 0$  and sufficiently large  $n > n_0(\epsilon)$  there exists an  $n$ -vertex graph with at most  $\epsilon^{c \log(1/\epsilon)} n^3$  triangles that cannot be made triangle-free by removing fewer than  $\epsilon n^2$  edges. (In particular, this shows that one cannot take  $\delta = \epsilon^C$  for some constant  $C > 0$  in the triangle removal lemma.)

C15. *Removal lemma for bipartite graphs with polynomial bounds.* Prove that for every bipartite graph  $H$ , there is a constant  $C$  such that for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , every  $n$ -vertex graph with fewer than  $\epsilon^C n^{v(H)}$  copies of  $H$  can be made  $H$ -free by removing at most  $\epsilon n^2$  edges.

ps4 C16. Let  $H$  be a  $n$ -vertex 3-uniform hypergraph such that every 6 vertices contain strictly fewer than 3 triples. Prove that  $H$  has  $o(n^2)$  edges.

(Hint in white: )

ps4 C17. Assuming the tetrahedron removal lemma for 3-uniform hypergraphs, deduce that if  $A \subset [N]^2$  contains no axes-aligned squares (i.e., four points of the form  $(x, y), (x + d, y), (x, y + d), (x + d, y + d)$ , where  $d \neq 0$ ), then  $|A| = o(N^2)$ .

ps4★ C18. Show that for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $A \subset [n]$  has fewer than  $\delta n^2$  many triples  $(x, y, z) \in A^3$  with  $x + y = z$ , then there is some  $B \subset A$  with  $|A \setminus B| \leq \epsilon n$  such that  $B$  is sum-free, i.e., there do not exist  $x, y, z \in B$  with  $x + y = z$ .

## D. SPECTRAL GRAPH THEORY AND PSEUDORANDOM GRAPHS

- ps4 D1. Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex graph. The *Laplacian* of  $G$  is defined to be  $L_G = D_G - A_G$ , where  $A_G$  is the adjacency matrix of  $G$  and  $D_G$  a diagonal matrix whose entry corresponding to the vertex  $v \in V(G)$  is the degree of  $v$  in  $G$  (so that  $L_G$  is a symmetric matrix with all row sums zero). Let  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$  be the eigenvalues of  $L_G$ , with  $\lambda_1 = 0$  corresponding to the all-1 vector. Prove that for every  $S \subset V(G)$  with  $|S| \leq n/2$ , one has (writing  $\bar{S} := V(G) \setminus S$ )

$$e(S, \bar{S}) \geq \frac{1}{2} \lambda_2 |S|$$

- ps4★ D2. Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $A, B \subset \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ . Show that

$$\left| \sum_{a \in A} \sum_{b \in B} \left( \frac{a+b}{p} \right) \right| \leq p\sqrt{p}$$

where  $(a/p)$  is the Legendre symbol defined by

$$\left( \frac{a}{p} \right) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } a \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \\ 1 & \text{if } a \text{ is a nonzero quadratic residue mod } p \\ -1 & \text{if } a \text{ is a quadratic nonresidue mod } p \end{cases}$$

- D3. *Quasirandom transitive graphs.* Prove that if an  $n$ -vertex  $d$ -regular vertex-transitive graph  $G$  satisfies

$$|e(X, Y) - \frac{d}{n} |X| |Y|| \leq \epsilon dn \quad \text{for all } X, Y \subseteq V(G),$$

then all the eigenvalues of the adjacency matrix of  $G$ , other than the largest one, are at most  $8\epsilon d$  in absolute value.

- ps4 D4. Prove that the diameter of an  $(n, d, \lambda)$ -graph is at most  $\log n / \log(d/\lambda)$ . (The *diameter* of a graph is the maximum distance between a pair of vertices.)
- D5. Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex  $d$ -regular graph. Suppose  $n$  is divisible by  $k$ . Color the vertices of  $G$  with  $k$  colors (not necessarily a proper coloring) such that each color appears exactly  $n/k$  times. Suppose that all eigenvalues, except the top one, of the adjacency matrix of  $G$  are at most  $d/k$  in absolute value. Show that there is a vertex of  $G$  whose neighborhood contains all  $k$  colors.

- ps4 D6. Prove that for every positive integer  $d$  and real  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is some constant  $c > 0$  so that if  $G$  is an  $n$ -vertex  $d$ -regular graph with adjacency matrix  $A_G$ , then at least  $cn$  of the eigenvalues of  $A_G$  are greater than  $2\sqrt{d-1} - \epsilon$ .

- ps4★ D7. Show that for every  $d$  and  $r$ , there is some  $\epsilon > 0$  such that if  $G$  is a  $d$ -regular graph, and  $S \subset V(G)$  is such that every vertex of  $G$  is within distance  $r$  of  $S$ , then the top eigenvalue of the adjacency matrix of  $G - S$  (i.e., remove  $S$  and its incident edges from  $G$ ) is at most  $d - \epsilon$ .

- ps4★ D8. Prove or disprove: there exists an absolute constant  $C$  such that the adjacency matrix of every  $n$ -vertex Cayley graph has an eigenbasis in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  (consisting of  $n$  orthonormal unit eigenvectors) all of whose coordinates are each at most  $C/\sqrt{n}$  in absolute value.