

# Random Turán Problems

Sam Spiro, Rutgers University

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$$\text{ex}(n, K_3) = \lfloor n^2/4 \rfloor.$$

### Theorem (Erdős-Stone 1946)

$$\text{ex}(n, F) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\chi(F) - 1} + o(1)\right) \binom{n}{2}.$$

Let  $G_{n,p}$  be the random graph on  $n$  vertices where each edge is included independently and with probability  $p$ .

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The lower bound is tight when  $p = 1$ . The upper bound is tight if  $p$  is “small.”

$$\frac{1}{2}p\binom{n}{2} \lesssim \text{ex}(G_{n,p}, K_3) \lesssim p\binom{n}{2},$$

with the lower bound tight for  $p = 1$  and the upper bound tight for  $p \ll n^{-1/2}$ .

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### Theorem (Frankl-Rödl 1986)

Whp,

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, K_3) \sim \frac{1}{2}p \binom{n}{2} \quad p \gg n^{-1/2}.$$

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### Theorem (Conlon-Gowers, Schacht 2010)

Whp,

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, F) = p \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\chi(F) - 1} + o(1) \right) \binom{n}{2} \quad p \gg n^{-1/m_2(F)},$$

where  $m_2(F) = \max\left\{ \frac{e(F') - 1}{v(F') - 2} : F' \subseteq F \right\}$ .

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### Conjecture

*If  $F$  is a bipartite graph which is not a forest, then whp*

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, F) = \begin{cases} \Theta(p \cdot \text{ex}(n, F)) & p \gg n^{-1/m_2(F)}, \\ (1 + o(1))p \binom{n}{2} & p \ll n^{-1/m_2(F)}. \end{cases}$$

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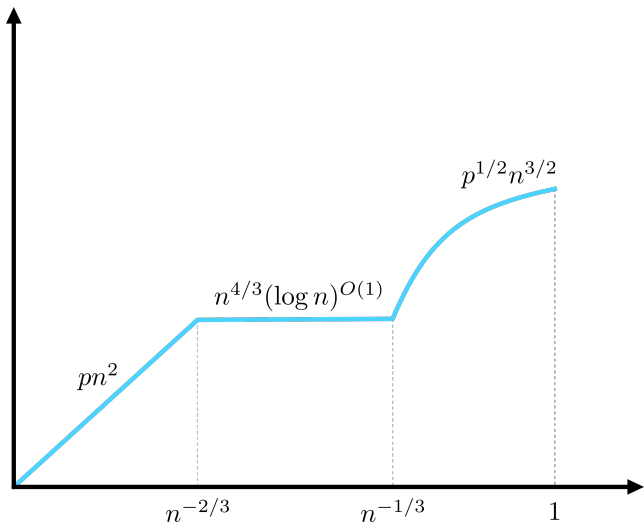
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This conjecture turns out to be completely false!





Plot of  $\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, C_4)$  (Füredi 1991)

### Conjecture (McKinley-S.)

If  $F$  is a graph with  $\text{ex}(n, F) = \Theta(n^\alpha)$  for some  $\alpha \in (1, 2]$ , then whp

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, F) = \max\{\Theta(p^{\alpha-1}n^\alpha), n^{2-1/m_2(F)}(\log n)^{O(1)}\},$$

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The heart of this problem is in showing  $\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, F) = \Theta(p^{\alpha-1}n^\alpha)$  when  $p$  is large.

## Theorem (Kővari-Sós-Turán 1954)

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*Moreover, this bound is tight whenever  $\text{ex}(n, K_{s,t}) = \Theta(n^{2-1/s})$ .*

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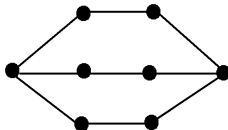
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*Moreover, this is tight whenever  $\text{ex}(n, \{C_3, C_4, \dots, C_{2b}\}) = \Theta(n^{1+1/b})$ .*

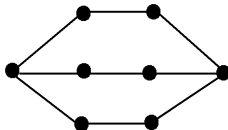
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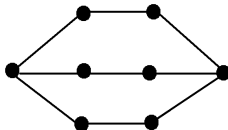


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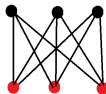
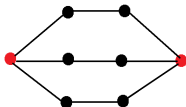
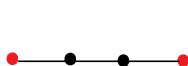
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$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, \theta_{a,b}) = O(p^{1/b} n^{1+1/b}) \text{ for } p \text{ large.}$$

*Moreover, this bound is tight whenever  $a$  is sufficiently large in terms of  $b$ .*

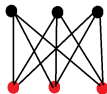
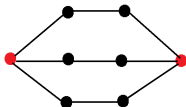
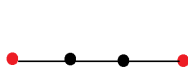
## Theorem (Bukh-Conlon 2015)

If  $T^\ell$  is the " $\ell$ th power of a balanced tree with density  $b/a$ ", then  $\text{ex}(n, T^\ell) = \Omega(n^{2-a/b})$  if  $\ell$  is sufficiently large.



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## Theorem (S. 2022)

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, T^\ell) = \Omega(p^{1-a/b} n^{2-a/b}).$$

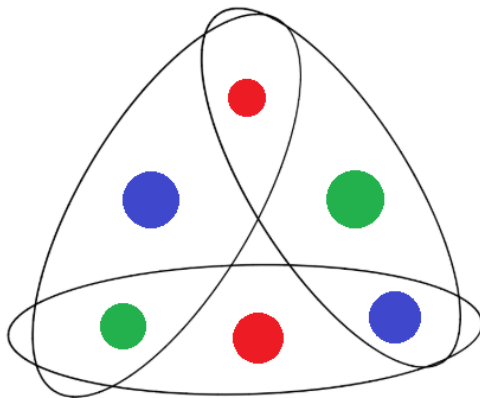
## Theorem (Jiang-Longbrake 2022)

If  $F$  satisfies “mild conditions”, then

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, F) = O(p^{1-m_2^*(F)(2-\alpha)} n^\alpha) \text{ for } p \text{ large,}$$

where  $m_2^*(F) = \max\{\frac{e(F')-1}{v(F')-2} : F' \subsetneq F, e(F') \geq 2\}$ .

# Hypergraphs





## Theorem (S.-Verstraëte 2021)

Let  $K_{s_1, \dots, s_r}^r$  denote the complete  $r$ -partite  $r$ -graph with parts of sizes  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ . There exist constants  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \gamma$  depending on  $s_1, \dots, s_r$  such that, for  $s_r$  sufficiently large in terms of  $s_1, \dots, s_{r-1}$ , we have whp

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}^r, K_{s_1, \dots, s_r}^r) = \begin{cases} \Theta(pn^r) & n^{-r} \ll p \leq n^{-\beta_1}, \\ n^{r-\beta_1+o(1)} & n^{-\beta_1} \leq p \leq n^{-\beta_2}(\log n)^\gamma, \\ \Theta(p^{1-\beta_3} n^{r-\beta_3}) & n^{-\beta_2}(\log n)^\gamma \leq p \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

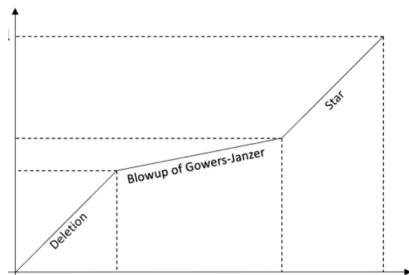
We define the *loose cycle*  $C_\ell^r$  to be the  $r$ -uniform hypergraph obtained by inserting  $r - 2$  distinct vertices into each edge of the graph cycle  $C_\ell$ .

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**Theorem (Nie-S.-Verstaëte 2020; Nie 2023)**

For  $r \geq 3$ , if  $p \gg n^{-r+3/2}$  then whp

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}^r, C_3^r) = \max\{p^{\frac{1}{2r-3}} n^{2+o(1)}, pn^{r-1+o(1)}\}.$$



Picture due to Jiaxi Nie.

## Theorem (Mubayi-Yepremyan 2020; Nie 2023)

For  $r \geq 4$ , if  $p \gg n^{-r+1+\frac{1}{2\ell-1}}$  then whp

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}^r, C_{2\ell}^r) = \max\{n^{1+\frac{1}{2\ell-1}}, pn^{r-1}\}.$$

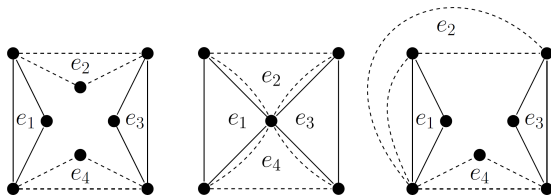
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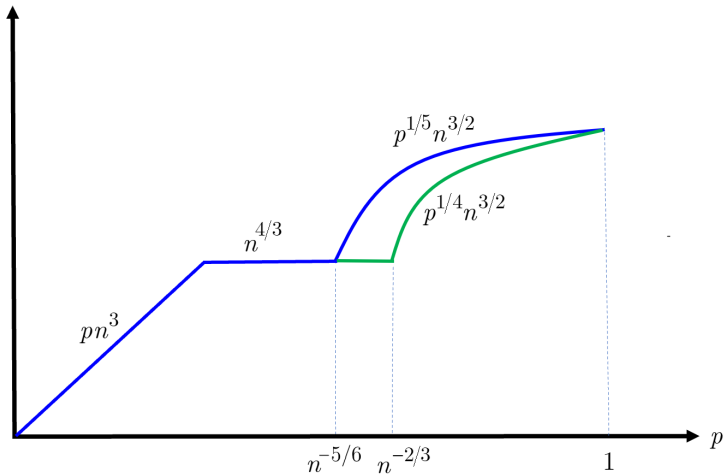
$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}^r, C_{2\ell}^r) = \max\{n^{1+\frac{1}{2\ell-1}}, pn^{r-1}\}.$$

It's suspected that this continues to hold for  $r = 3$ , but there is a gap for medium values of  $p$ .

We say that  $F$  is a Berge  $C_\ell$  if it has edges  $e_1, \dots, e_\ell$  and distinct vertices  $v_1, \dots, v_\ell$  with  $v_i \in e_i \cap e_{i+1}$  for all  $i$ .



Plot of  $\text{ex}(G_{n,p}^3, \mathcal{B}_4^3)$



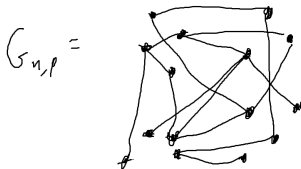
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For the bipartite case, lower bounds for  $\text{ex}(n, F)$  often imply lower bounds for  $\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, F)$  through “random homomorphisms.”

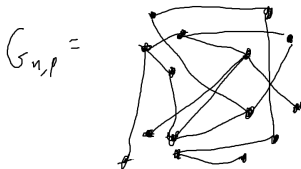


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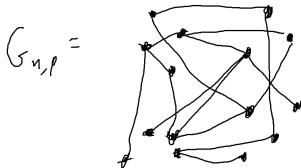


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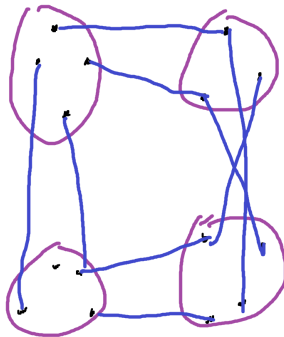


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Theorem (Füredi, 1991; Morris-Saxton, 2013)

If  $m \geq n^{4/3}(\log n)^2$ , then

$$N_m(n, C_4) \leq e^{cm}(\log n)^m \left( \frac{n^{3/2}}{m} \right)^{2m}$$

# Upper Bound Techniques

## Corollary

*If  $p \geq n^{-1/3}(\log n)^3$ , then a.a.s.*

$$\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, C_4) \leq O\left(p^{1/2} n^{3/2} \log n\right).$$

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Observe that  $\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, C_4) \geq m$  if and only if  $G_{n,p}$  contains at least one  $C_4$ -free subgraph on  $m$  edges.



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$$\Pr[\text{ex}(G_{n,p}, C_4) \geq m] = \Pr[X \geq 1] \leq \mathbb{E}[X] = p^m \cdot N_m(n, C_4) \approx p^m \cdot \left(\frac{n^{3/2}}{m}\right)^{2m}$$

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- Plenty of problems left to solve!