# Spectral gap in random bipartite biregular graphs and applications

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  - Strengthen theoretical machine learning understanding, esp. RKHS
  - Teaching, advising, etc.







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  - Average # connections (degree)
  - Number of cycles
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  - Other subgraph counts
- Community structure
  - Block models
  - Multi-partite graphs



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- What's your favorite, and what did I miss?

#### Bipartite, biregular random graph model



Fixed d's (as n grows) mean these graphs are very sparse

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Feng & Li, Li & Solé (1996)

#### Our main result

Recall: 
$$\lambda_1 = \sqrt{d_1 d_2}, \quad \lambda_2 \ge \sqrt{d_1 - 1} + \sqrt{d_2 - 2} - \epsilon$$

**Theorem** (Spectral gap). Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & X \\ X^* & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  be the adjacency matrix of a bipartite, biregular random graph  $G \sim \mathcal{G}(n, m, d_1, d_2)$ . Without loss of generality, assume  $d_1 \geq d_2$  or, equivalently,  $n \leq m$ . Then:

(i) Its second largest eigenvalue  $\eta = \lambda_2(A)$  satisfies

$$\eta \le \sqrt{d_1 - 1} + \sqrt{d_2 - 1} + \epsilon'_n$$

asymptotically almost surely, with  $\epsilon'_n \to 0$  as  $n \to \infty$ .

(ii) Its smallest positive eigenvalue  $\eta_{\min}^+ = \min(\{\lambda \in \sigma(A) : \lambda > 0\})$  satisfies

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First result of this kind for rectangular matrices, conjectured to hold for d-regular adjacency w/ d > 2by Costello & Vu (2008)

#### Non-backtracking theorem

**Theorem** If B is the non-backtracking matrix of a bipartite, biregular random graph  $G \sim \mathcal{G}(n, m, d_1, d_2)$ , then its second largest eigenvalue

$$|\lambda_2(B)| \le ((d_1 - 1)(d_2 - 1))^{1/4} + \epsilon_n$$

asymptotically almost surely, with  $\epsilon_n \to 0$  as  $n \to \infty$ . Equivalently, there exists a sequence  $\epsilon_n \to 0$  as  $n \to \infty$  so that

$$\mathbb{P}\left[|\lambda_2(B)| - ((d_1 - 1)(d_2 - 1))^{1/4} > \epsilon_n\right] \to 0 \quad as \quad n \to \infty$$

Main result follows from this



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5) Relate spectra of B and A (Ihara-Bass formula, "zeta" function)



#### Graphical depiction of the spectra



**Ihara-Bass**:  $\sigma(B) = \{\pm 1\} \bigcup \{\lambda : D - \lambda A + \lambda^2 I \text{ is not invertible}\}\$ 

#### So, wouldn't it be simpler to work with A directly?

• But it doesn't work. Take d-regular example:

Goal: 
$$\operatorname{Tr} \left( A - \frac{d}{n} 11^* \right)^k \leq n \left( 2\sqrt{d-1} + o(1) \right)^k$$
  
But:  $\mathbb{E} \operatorname{Tr} \left( A - \frac{d}{n} 11^* \right)^k \geq d^k \mathbb{P}(\Omega) \geq d^k n^{-c}$ 

Event = existence of isolated  $K_{d+1}$  occurs with non-negligible prob.

#### Reason: "Tangled" paths

• Elucidated by Friedman, Bordenave



I-tangle-free: all I-neighborhoods contain at most one cycle

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Proof following Lubetzky & Sly (2010)

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1)Configuration model: random matching of half-edges 2)Consider depth i exploration of neighborhood 3)At most d<sup>i+1</sup> half-edges to match here 4)Consider event  $A_{ik}$ : k<sup>th</sup> edge in depth i  $\rightarrow$  cycle



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Finish with following & union bound over vertices

 $\mathbb{P}(B_{\ell}(v) \text{ is not } \ell\text{-tangle-free}) = \mathbb{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} A_{i,k} > 1\right) \le \mathbb{P}(Z > 1) = O\left(\frac{d^{4\ell+1}}{n^2}\right) = O\left(n^{-3/2}\right)$ 

#### How this appears in the proof:

• We form a bound for this:

$$\mathbb{E}\left(\|\bar{B}^{\ell}\|^{2k}\right) \leq \mathbb{E}\left(\mathrm{Tr}\left((\bar{B}^{\ell})(\bar{B}^{\ell})^{*}\right)^{k}\right)$$

Count non-backtracking circuits of diff types Weight by expectation Use tangle-free property

$$\ell \le c \log(n), \quad k = \frac{\log(n)}{\log(\log(n))}$$

Example: k = l = 2

9, 10

3.4

11

6.7

-1. 12-

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- Common tool, the expander mixing Lemma:

$$\left|\frac{E(A,B)}{|E|} - \frac{|A||B|}{nm}\right| \le \frac{\lambda_2}{\sqrt{d_1 d_2}} \sqrt{\frac{|A||B||A^c||B^c|}{(nm)^2}}$$

A proof in: De Winter, Schillewaert, Verstraete (2012)

#### Matrix completion



Data points are "edges" in the graph:

 $(i,j) \in E \iff$ entry (i,j) is observed

#### Expansion is related to complexity

Solve the problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{X}{\text{minimize}} & \gamma_2(X) \\ \text{subject to} & X_{ij} = Y_{ij}, \ (i,j) \in E, \end{array}$$

where 
$$\gamma_2(Y) = \min_{UV^*=Y} \max_{i,j} \|u_i\|_2 \|v_j\|_2 \le \|Y\|_*$$

So, if observations from  $(d_1, d_2)$ -regular graph:

$$\frac{1}{nm} \|\hat{Y} - Y\|_F^2 \le 7.2 \ \gamma_2(Y)^2 \frac{\lambda_2}{\sqrt{d_1 d_2}}$$

Extends & improves result of Heiman, Schechtman, Shraibman (2014)

### Conclusions

- Proof that bipartite biregular graphs have large gap "Ramanujan"
  - (Hopefully) simpler to understand than in past
- Surprising side result: full rank matrix X in  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & X \\ X^* & 0 \end{pmatrix}$
- Highlighted some nice applications:
  - Mostly showing how knowing gap yields explicit bounds
    - Community detection in general
    - LDPC error correcting codes
    - Matrix completion
  - New result for rectangular matrix completion

# Thank you for listening!

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