

Expander Graphs and Their Applications (XIX)

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Review of the Previous Lecture

Assignment Tester

Definition

An Assignment Tester with alphabet Σ_0 and reject probability $\varepsilon > 0$ is an algorithm \mathbb{P} whose input is a circuit Φ over Boolean variables in the set X , and whose output is a constraint graph $G = \langle (V, E), \Sigma_0, \mathcal{C} \rangle$ such that $X \subseteq V$ and such that the following hold.

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Let $V' := V \setminus X$ and let $a : X \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ be an assignment.

- **(Completeness)** if a satisfies Φ , then there exists some $b : V' \rightarrow \Sigma_0$ such that $\text{unsat}_{a \cup b}(G) = 0$.
- **(Soundness)** if a does not satisfy Φ , then for all $b : V' \rightarrow \Sigma_0$

$$\text{unsat}_{a \cup b}(G) \geq \varepsilon \cdot \text{rdist}(a, s)$$

for every $s : X \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ that satisfies Φ .

Theorem

There is some $\varepsilon > 0$ and an explicit construction of an assignment tester \mathbb{P} with *alphabet* $\Sigma_0 = \{0, 1\}^3$ and rejection probability ε .

Alphabet Reduction by Composition

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e is of relative distance $\rho > 0$ if for every $a_1, a_2 \in \Sigma$

$$\text{rdist}(e(a_1), e(a_2)) \leq \rho.$$

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1. **(Robustization:)** We convert each $c(e) \in \mathcal{C}$ to a circuit $\check{c}(e)$: For each $v \in V$, let $[v]$ be a set of ℓ Boolean variables. For each $e = (v, w) \in E$, $\check{c}(e)$ is a circuit with $2 \cdot \ell$ inputs $[v] \cup [w]$. $\check{c}(e)$ outputs 1 if and only if the assignment for $[v] \cup [w]$ is the legal encoding via e of an assignment for v and w that would have satisfied c .

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2. **(Composition:)** Run the assignment tester \mathbb{P} on each $\tilde{c}(e)$ which outputs $G_e = \langle (V_e, E_e), \Sigma_0, \mathcal{C}_e \rangle$. Assume, without loss of generality, E_e has the same cardinality for every $e \in E$. Finally, we define the constraint graph $G \circ \mathbb{P} := \langle (V', E'), \Sigma_0, \mathcal{C}' \rangle$ by

$$V' := \bigcup_{e \in E} V_e, \quad E' := \bigcup_{e \in E} E_e, \quad \mathcal{C}' := \bigcup_{e \in E} \mathcal{C}_e.$$

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Given any constraint graph $G = \langle (V, E), \Sigma, \mathcal{C} \rangle$, one can compute *in time linear in $\text{size}(G)$* , the constraint graph $G' = G \circ \mathbb{P}$, with $\text{size}(G') = c(\mathbb{P}, |\Sigma|) \cdot \text{size}(G)$, and

$$\beta_3 \cdot \text{unsat}(G) \leq \text{unsat}(G') \leq \text{unsat}(G).$$

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Therefore, the blowup factor depends only on $|\Sigma|$ and on \mathbb{P} , i.e.,

$$\text{size}(G') = c(\mathbb{P}, |\Sigma|) \cdot \text{size}(G).$$

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$$\sigma'([v]) = e(\sigma(v)) \in \{0,1\}^\ell$$

where $\sigma'([v])$ means the concatenation of $\sigma'(v)$ for all $y \in [v]$.

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It remains to define values for σ' on

$$\bigcup_{e=(u,v) \in E} (V_e \setminus ([u] \cup [v]))$$

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So if let a be the restriction of σ' to $[u] \cup [v]$, then there is some $b : V_e \setminus ([u] \cup [v]) \rightarrow \Sigma_0$ such that $\text{unsat}_{a \cup b}(G_e) = 0$.

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Therefore,

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Let $e = (u, v) \in F$. We will show that *at least β_3 fraction of the constraints of G_e is falsified by σ'* .

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As e is an encoding of *relative distance* ρ , at least $\rho/2$ fraction of the bits in either $[u]$ or $[v]$ (or both) must be changed in order to change σ' into an assignment satisfying $\tilde{c}(e)$.

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