An Erdős-Lovász-Spencer Theorem for permutations and its consequences for parameter testing

Carlos Hoppen (UFRGS, Porto Alegre, Brazil)

This is joint work with Roman Glebov (ETH Zürich, Switzerland) Tereza Klimošová (University of Warwick, UK) Yoshiharu Kohayakawa (USP, São Paulo, Brazil) Daniel Král (University of Warwick, UK) Hong Liu (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA)

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Permutations and their limits

An Erdős-Lovász-Spencer Theorem for permutations

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We look at a copies of a subgraph H = (W, F) in a graph G = (V, E) as injective functions $f : W \to V$ such that

$$\{u,v\}\in F\iff \{f(u),f(v)\}\in E.$$



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Given graphs *H* and *G*, let $\Lambda(H, G)$ denote the number of copies of *H* in *G*. The density of *H* as an induced subgraph of *G* is given by

$$t(H,G)=\frac{\Lambda(H,G)}{\binom{n}{k}},$$

where n = |V(G)| and k = |V(H)|.

Example: $t(K_2, I_2) = 1/3$, $t(K_3, I_2) = 0$

Let \mathcal{G} denote the set of all finite graphs. For a fixed family of graphs H_1, \ldots, H_r , consider the function $\mathcal{F} \colon \mathcal{G} \to [0, 1]^r$ given by

$$\mathcal{F}(G) = (t(H_1, G), \cdots, t(H_r, G)).$$

Here, we will consider H_1, \ldots, H_r to be the set of all (unlabelled) connected graphs with $2 \leq |V(H_i)| \leq k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

For k = 3, the graphs are



 $K_4
ightarrow (1,0,1), \quad P_3
ightarrow (2/3,1,0)$

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The image of ${\cal F}$

Erdős, Lovász and Spencer (1979) considered the image of \mathcal{F} . They were particularly concerned with the way in which the coordinates of $\mathcal{F}(G)$ depend on each other.

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Whitney (1932) showed that, for any finite family of connected graphs, the coordinates are algebraically independent as functions over all graphs.

Consider the set

$$S_r = \{ \mathbf{v} \in [0,1]^r \colon \exists \text{ sequence } G_n, |V(G_n)| \to \infty, \mathcal{F}(G_n) \to \mathbf{v} \}.$$

This is the set of accumulation points of the image of \mathcal{F} .

The image of Φ

Consider the set

$$S_r = \{ \mathbf{v} \in [0,1]^r : \exists \text{ sequence } G_n, |V(G_n)| \to \infty, \mathcal{F}(G_n) \to \mathbf{v} \}.$$

For k = 3, (2/3, 1, 0) ∉ S_r, even though there is a graph G such that F(G) = (2/3, 1, 0).

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• S_r may contain points with irrational coordinates.

A theorem of Erdős, Lovász and Spencer

Theorem (Erdős, Lovász, Spencer'79)

For all $k \ge 2$, the set S_r has an interior point. In particular, the set S_r is r-dimensional.

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However, the densities of disconnected subgraphs are asymptotically determined by the densities of their connected components.

Permutations

A permutation σ on $[n] = \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ is a bijective function of the set [n] into itself.

(4, 5, 2, 3, 6, 1) is a permutation on [6].

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Parameter testing

We consider general (quantitative) properties of a permutation:

- How many fixed points does it have?
- What is the size of the longest increasing subpermutation?

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Parameter testing

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- How many fixed points does it have?
- What is the size of the longest increasing subpermutation?

Question: Can one estimate the answer of such a question accurately by looking only at a randomly chosen substructure of sufficiently large, but constant size?

A subpermutation of a permutation σ on [n] is a permutation τ on [k] such that there is an k-tuple $x_1 < \cdots < x_k \in [n]^k$ such that $\tau(i) < \tau(j)$ if and only if $\sigma(x_i) < \sigma(x_j)$ for every $(i,j) \in [k]^2$.

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Example: $\tau = (3, 1, 4, 2), \sigma = (5, 6, 2, 4, 7, 1, 3).$

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$$t(\tau,\sigma) = {\binom{n}{k}}^{-1} \Lambda(\tau,\sigma).$$

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Example: For au = (2, 1) and $\sigma = (3, 1, 2)$,

$$t(\tau,\sigma) = \binom{3}{2}^{-1} \cdot 2 = \frac{2}{3}$$

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Let $k \le n$ be positive integers and let σ be a permutation on [n]. A random subpermutation sub (k, σ) of σ is obtained as follows:

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$$k = 3, n = 10, \sigma = (5, 7, 2, 10, 1, 4, 8, 6, 3, 9)$$

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Permutation parameters

A permutation parameter is a function $f : \bigcup_n \mathfrak{S}_n \to \mathbb{R}$, where $\mathfrak{S}_n = \{\text{permutations on } [n]\}.$

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A parameter f is testable (through subpermutations) if, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a positive integer $k = k(\epsilon)$ with the following property. If σ is a permutation of length n > k, then

$$\mathbb{P}\Big(|f(\sigma) - f(\operatorname{sub}(k, \sigma))| > \epsilon\Big) \leq \epsilon.$$

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Limits of permutation sequences

Borgs, Chayes, Lovász, Sós, Szegedy and Vesztergombi (2006) proved that, for graphs, testable parameters are characterized by graph limits. A theory of convergence has been devised for permutation sequences.

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A sequence of permutations (σ_n) is said to converge if, for every fixed permutation τ , the real sequence $(t(\tau, \sigma_n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges.

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A sequence of permutations (σ_n) is said to converge if, for every fixed permutation τ , the real sequence $(t(\tau, \sigma_n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges.

A permuton (or permutation limit) is a probability measure Φ on the unit square $[0, 1]^2$ such that Φ has uniform marginals:

$$\Phi([\alpha,\beta]\times[0,1])=\Phi([0,1]\times[\alpha,\beta])=\beta-\alpha$$

for every $0 \le \alpha \le \beta \le 1$.

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For a permuton Φ , a Φ -random permutation of order *n* is a permutation $\sigma_{\Phi,n}$ generated as follows.



Sample *n* points $(x_1, y_1), \ldots, (x_n, y_n)$ in $[0, 1]^2$ independently with the distribution given by Φ .



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Let i_1, \ldots, i_n such that $x_{i_1} < x_{i_2} < \cdots < x_{i_n}$. The permutation is given by the relative order of the y_{i_i} .



Existence of a limit

If Φ is a permuton and τ is a permutation on [k], we define

$$t(\tau, \Phi) = \mathbb{P}(\sigma_{\Phi,k} = \tau).$$

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Theorem (H., Kohayakawa, Moreira, Ráth and Sampaio'10) Given a convergent permutation sequence (σ_n) , there exists a permuton $\Phi : [0,1]^2 \rightarrow [0,1]$ such that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}t(\tau,\sigma_n)=t(\tau,\Phi)$$

for every permutation τ .

Characterization of testable parameters

A permutation parameter f is bounded if there is a constant M such that $|f(\sigma)| < M$ for every permutation σ .

Theorem (H., Kohayakawa, Moreira and Sampaio'10) A bounded permutation parameter is testable if and only if the sequence $(f(\sigma_n))$ converges for every convergent permutation sequence (σ_n) .

Finite forcibility

A permutation parameter is finitely forcible if there exists a finite family of permutations \mathcal{A} which determines the value of the parameter.

Formally, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exist an integer n_0 and a constant $\delta > 0$ such that if σ and π are permutations on [n], where $n \ge n_0$, satisfying $|t(\tau, \sigma) - t(\tau, \pi)| < \delta$ for every $\tau \in \mathcal{A}$, then $|f(\sigma) - f(\pi)| < \epsilon$.

Finite approximability

A permutation parameter is finitely approximable if, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exist a finite family of permutations \mathcal{A}_{ϵ} , an integer n_0 and a constant $\delta > 0$ such that if σ and π are permutations on [n], where $n \ge n_0$, satisfying $|t(\tau, \sigma) - t(\tau, \pi)| < \delta$ for every $\tau \in \mathcal{A}$, then $|f(\sigma) - f(\pi)| < \epsilon$.

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[H., Kohayakawa, Moreira and Sampaio] f is testable if and only if f is finitely approximable. Is there a testable parameter that is not finitely forcible?

Connected permutations

A permutation on [n] is connected if there is no m < n such that $\sigma([m]) = [m]$.

Example: (2,1) is the single connected permutation on [2] and (3,1,2), (2,3,1) and (3,2,1) are the connected permutations on [3].

Erdős-Lovász-Spencer Theorem for permutations

- Given k ≥ 2, let τ₁,..., τ_r be the set of connected permutations on [j], where 2 ≤ j ≤ k.
- Consider the function $\sigma \to (t(\tau_1, \sigma), \dots, t(\tau_r, \sigma))$ and the set S_r of its accumulation points. In fact,

$$S_r = \{(t(\tau_1, \Phi), \dots, t(\tau_r, \Phi)) : \Phi \text{ permuton}\}$$

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Theorem (Glebov, H., Klimošová, Kohayakawa, Král, Liu'14?) For all $k \ge 2$, the set S_r has an interior point.

A testable permutation parameter that is not finitely forcible

Theorem (Glebov, H., Klimošová, Kohayakawa, Král, Liu'14?) For all $k \ge 2$, the set S_r has an interior point.

This result implies that, for any finite family of permutations A, there exist a permutation τ and permutons Φ and Φ' such that

•
$$t(\pi, \Phi) = t(\pi, \Phi')$$
 for every $\pi \in \mathcal{A}$

•
$$t(\tau, \Phi) \neq t(\tau, \Phi')$$

A testable permutation parameter that is not finitely forcible

• Using this theorem inductively, fix a sequence (τ_i) of permutations of strictly increasing orders such that, for every k > 1, there exist permutons Φ_k and Φ'_k satisfying the following:

•
$$t(\sigma, \Phi_k) = t(\sigma, \Phi'_k)$$
 for every σ such that $|\sigma| \le |\tau_{k-1}|$

•
$$t(\tau_k, \Phi_k) > t(\tau_k, \Phi'_k)$$

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 for every σ such that $|\sigma| \le |\tau_{k-1}|$
• $t(\tau_k, \Phi_k) > t(\tau_k, \Phi'_k)$

• With this, we may easily find a sequence α_i of positive reals such that

$$f_{\bullet}(\sigma) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i t(\tau_i, \sigma)$$

is testable, but not finitely forcible.

We define two constructions on permutons:

Step-up permuton: Given a permutation σ on [n] and a vector y = (y₁,..., y_n) ∈ [0, 1]ⁿ such that ∑ y_i ≤ 1, we define the step-up permuton Φ^y_σ.



$$\sigma = (2, 4, 3, 1), \ \mathbf{y} = (1/6, 1/4, 1/12, 1/4)$$

We define two constructions on permutons:

• Composed permuton: given permutons $\Phi_1, \ldots, \Phi_\ell$, and a vector $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \ldots, y_\ell) \in [0, 1]^\ell$ such that $\sum y_i \leq 1$, we define the composed permuton $\bigoplus (y_i, \Phi_i)$.



The permuton $(1/3,\Phi_1)\oplus(1/6,\Phi_2)\oplus(1/4,\Phi_3).$

- Given $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$, we find formulas for $t(\tau, \Phi_{\sigma}^{\mathbf{x}})$ and $t(\tau, \bigoplus(x_i, \Phi_i))$, which are homogeneous polynomials of degree $|\tau|$ on the indeterminates \mathbf{x} .
- If τ_1, \ldots, τ_r are the nontrivial connected permutations of order up to $k \ge 2$, and c_1, \ldots, c_r are real number, not all of which are zero, we show that there is a permuton Φ such that $\sum_{i=1}^r c_i t(\tau_i, \Phi) \ne 0$. In particular, S_r contains elements that span \mathbb{R}^r .

• Let Φ_1, \ldots, Φ_r be permutons such that $\{(t(\tau_1, \Phi_i), \ldots, t(\tau_r, \Phi_i))\}$ span \mathbb{R}^r . Let $\Psi : \mathbb{R}^r \to \mathbb{R}^r$ be the map:

$$\Psi_j:(x_1,\ldots,x_r)\to\sum_{i=1}^r x_i^{|\tau_j|}t(\tau_j,\Phi_i).$$

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• Our formulas show that $\Psi((0, 1/r)^r) \subset S_r$. Moreover, there exists $\mathbf{x} \in (0, 1/r)^r$ such that $Jac(\Psi)(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$. Then S_r contains an open ball around $\Psi(\mathbf{x})$.

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