

# Bounded Degree High Dimensional Expanders

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# Expander graphs and their Cheeger constant

Graph:  $X=(V,E)$ .

$X$  is an  $\varepsilon$ -expander iff its Cheeger constant,  $h(x) \geq \varepsilon$  .

$$h(x) = \min_{\emptyset \neq A \subseteq V} \frac{|E(A, \bar{A})|}{\min(|A|, |\bar{A}|)} = \frac{|\delta(A)|}{|[A]_{B_0}|}$$

$\delta(A)$ : Edges whose vertices in  $A$  sum to 1 (mod 2);

Cocycles -  $\{\mathbf{V}, \boldsymbol{\phi}\}$  :  $|\delta(V)|=0$ ;  $|\delta(\phi)|=0$ ,

$|[A]_{B_0}|$  - the distance of  $A$  from cocycles.

**What is the generalization of Cheeger to higher dimensional simplicial complexes?**

# Generalizing Cheeger to 2-dimensions

[Linial Meshulam, Gromov]

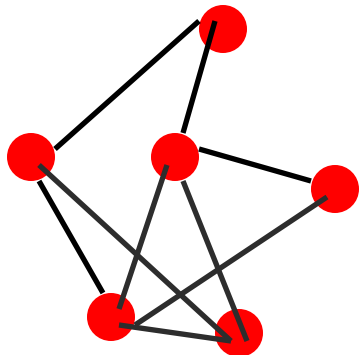
2 dimensional simplicial complex:  $X=(V,E,T)$

$$\varepsilon_1^{LM}(X) = \min_{\emptyset \neq A \subseteq E, A \notin B^1(X)} \frac{|\delta(A)|/|T|}{|[A]_{B^1}|/|E|}$$

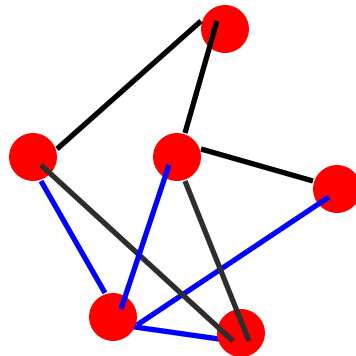
$\delta(A)$ :  $\Delta$ 's whose sum of edges in  $A$  is 1 (mod 2);

Cocycles :  $|\delta(A)|=0$ : cuts

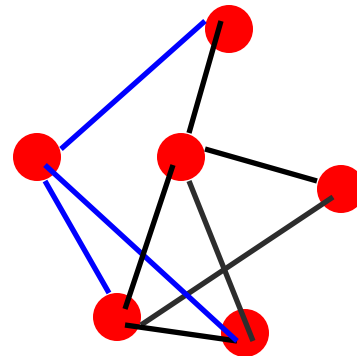
$[A]_{B^1}$  - the distance of  $A$  from the cuts -  $B^1(X)$ .



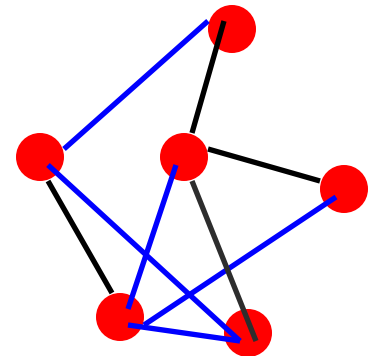
Star:



Star:



Sum of stars: cuts



# Brief introduction to $F_2$ -cohomology

Let  $X$  be a  $d$ -dimensional simplicial complex on  $V$  vertices.

$F \subseteq V$ ,  $F \in X$ ,  $F' \subseteq F$  implies  $F' \in X$ .

$X(i) = \{F \in X \mid |F| = i+1\}$ .

$X(-1) = \{\emptyset\}$ ,  $X(0)$  the vertices,  $X(1)$  the edges,  $X(2)$  the triangles, etc.

$C^i = C^i(X, F_2)$  is the  $F_2$  vector space of functions from  $X(i)$  to  $F_2$ .

# The coboundary map

$$\delta_i: C^i(X, F_2) \rightarrow C^{i+1}(X, F_2)$$

$$\delta_i(f)(G) = \sum_{F \subseteq G; |F|=|G|-1} f(F) \text{ where } f \in C^i \text{ and } G \in X(i+1).$$

$B^i(X, F_2) = \text{Image}(\delta_{i-1})$  the space of  $i$ -coboundaries.

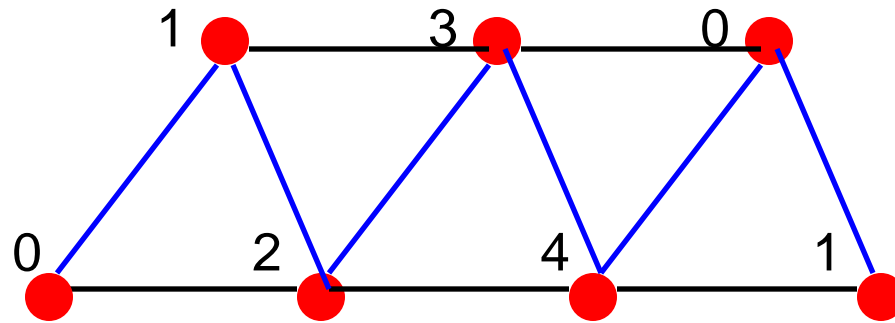
E.g.,  $B^0(X, F_2) = \{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1}\}$ ,  $B^1(X, F_2)$  is the "cut-space" of  $X$ .

$Z^i(X, F_2) = \text{Ker}(\delta_i)$  the space of  $i$ -cocycles.

$\delta_i \circ \delta_{i-1} = 0$ , Thus,  $B^i \subseteq Z^i$ ,  $H^i = Z^i / B^i$  -  $i$ -cohomology.

# Example of non trivial cocycle ( $H^1(X) \neq 0$ )

2 dimensional simplicial complex:  $X=(V,E,T)$



# Definition of high dimensional expansion

$X$  -  $d$  dimensional complex. For  $i=0, \dots, d-1$ ,  $f \in C^i(X, F_2)$

Normalized **support**:  $\|f\| = |\{F \in X(i) \mid f(F) \neq 0\}| / |X(i)|$ .

Normalized **distance from coboundaries/cocycles**

$$\|[f]_B\| = \text{dist}(f, B^i(X, F_2)); \quad \|[f]_Z\| = \text{dist}(f, Z^i(X, F_2))$$

**[Gromov]** 
$$\varepsilon_i^G(X) = \min_{f \in C^i(X, F_2) \setminus Z^i(X, F_2)} \frac{\|\delta_i f\|}{\|[f]_Z\|}$$

$X$  is a  **$\varepsilon$ -cocycle expander** if for all  $i$ ,  $\varepsilon_i^G(X) > \varepsilon > 0$

**[Linial Meshulam]:** 
$$\varepsilon_i^{LM}(X) = \min_{f \in C^i(X, F_2) \setminus B^i(X, F_2)} \frac{\|\delta_i f\|}{\|[f]_B\|}$$

$X$  is a  **$\varepsilon$ -coboundary expander** if for all  $i$ ,  $\varepsilon_i^{LM}(X) > \varepsilon > 0$



# On the definitions of high dimensional expanders

$X$  -  $d$  dimensional complex. For  $i=0, \dots, d-1$ ,  $f \in C^i(X, F_2)$

$$\varepsilon_i^G(X) = \min_{f \in C^i(X, F_2) \setminus Z^i(X, F_2)} \frac{\|\delta_i f\|}{\|[f]_Z\|} \quad \varepsilon_i^{LM}(X) = \min_{f \in C^i(X, F_2) \setminus B^i(X, F_2)} \frac{\|\delta_i f\|}{\|[f]_B\|}$$

- Coboundary expander is a cocycle expander:  $\varepsilon_i^G(X) \geq \varepsilon_i^{LM}(X)$
- If no non-trivial cocycles, i.e.,  $H^i(X) = 0$ , then:  $\varepsilon_i^{LM}(X) = \varepsilon_i^G(X)$
- Generalize Cheeger:  $\varepsilon_0^{LM}(X) = h(X) |X(0)|/|X(1)|$
- If  $X$  is connected  $\varepsilon_0^{LM}(X) = \varepsilon_0^G(X)$

**Linial Meshulam:** study theory of random graphs in higher dims

**Gromov:** study topological overlapping.

# Background - Topological overlapping

**[Boros, Furedi]:** For any set  $P$  of  $n$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  there exists a point  $z \in \mathbb{R}^2$  contained in at least  $2/9$  of the triangles determined by  $P$ .

**[Barany]:** For any set  $P$  of  $n$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  there exists a point  $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$  contained in at least  $\varepsilon(>0)$ -fraction of the  $d$ -simplicies determined by  $P$ .

**[Gromov]:** The above results hold, with any drawing of the triangles (simplicies) (i.e., any continuous triangle through 3 points).

# Topological overlapping

**[Gromov]:** A  $d$ -dimensional complex  $X$  has  $\varepsilon$ -topological (geometric) overlapping if for every  $f: X(0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  and every continuous (affine) extension of it to  $f': X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  there exists  $z \in \mathbb{R}^d$  covered by at least  $\varepsilon$ -fraction of the images of the facets in  $X(d)$  under  $f'$ .

**[Boros, Furedi]** and **[Barany]:** The complete  $d$ -dimensional complex has a geometric overlapping property.

**[Gromov]:** The complete  $d$ -dimensional complex has a topological overlapping property.

The overlapping is a property of complex, not of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

# Gromov's Question

**Question [Gromov]** : Is there a bounded degree  $d$ -dimensional complex with a  $\varepsilon$ -geometric/topological overlapping property for  $\varepsilon > 0$ ?

**[Fox, Gromov, Lafforgue, Naor, Pach]**: There are bounded degree  $d$ -dimensional complexes with geometric overlapping.

The question about bounded degree  $d$ -dimensional complexes with the topological overlapping property remained open.

# High dim expanders and topological overlapping

**Thm [Gromov]:** A  $d$ -dimensional complex  $X$  that is an  $\varepsilon$ -coboundary expander has  $\varepsilon'$ -topological overlapping property.

Trivially holds for  $d=1$ .

Gromov result showing that the complete  $d$ -dimensional complex has the topological overlapping property is obtained by showing that this complex is a coboundary expander.

# Major questions

Is there a bounded degree  $d$ -dimension complex that is an  $\varepsilon$ -coboundary expander ? (known only for  $d=1$ )

Is there a bounded degree  $d$ -dimension complex that has an  $\varepsilon$ -topological overlapping property?

Is there a bounded degree  $d$ -dimension complex that is an  $\varepsilon$ -cocycle expander?

# Our results

Explicit **2-dimensional bounded degree** complex with the **topological overlapping property**.

Explicit **2-dimensional bounded degree** complex which is a **cocycle expander**.

**Assuming Serre's conjecture** on the congruence subgroup property our complex is also a **coboundary expander**.

# Ramanujan complexes

**[Lubotzky, Samuels, Vishne]** constructed  $d$ -dimensional bounded degree complexes that generalize the Ramanujan graph construction of **[Lubotzky, Philips, Sarnak]**.

**[LSV]** complexes obtained as a **quotient of the Bruhat-Tits building** associated with  $\mathrm{PGL}_{d+1}(F)$  where  $F$  is a local field,

Our 2-dimensional complex is the **2-skeleton of the 3-dimensional Ramanujan complex**.



# Systoles and topological overlapping

Some of our complexes have  $H^i(X) \neq 0$ , i.e., not coboundary expanders!

How to prove topological overlapping for them?

**Systole:** minimal size of a non-trivial cocycle

$$\text{syst}_i(X) = \min_{f \in Z^i(X, \mathbb{F}_2) \setminus B^i(X, \mathbb{F}_2)} \frac{|f|}{|X(i)|}$$

A  $d$ -dim complex  $X$  has an  $\eta$ -systole if  $\text{syst}_i(X) > \eta$  for  $i=0, \dots, d-1$ .

**[Kaufman, Wagner]** (Generalizing Gromov to the case  $H^i(X) \neq 0$ ):

$d$ -dimensional complex  $X$  with  $\eta$ -systole that is an  $\varepsilon$ -cocycle expander has  $\varepsilon'$ -overlapping property,  $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon'(\varepsilon, \eta)$ .

# Topological overlapping from Isoparametric inequalities

**Thm** :Let  $X$  be 3-dim complex.

Assume for every  $i=0,1,2$  every locally minimal  $f \in C^i(X, F_2)$  with  $\|f\| \leq \eta_i$ :  
 $\|\delta_i(f)\| = c\|f\|$  for  $c > 0$ .

Then the 2-skeleton of  $X$  has  $\varepsilon'$ -overlapping property,  $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon'(\eta_0, \eta_1, \eta_2)$

**Conclusion:** A locally minimal cocycle  $f \in Z^i(X, F_2)$  in  $X$  sat  $\|f\| = 0$  or  $\|f\| > \eta_i > 0$

**locally minimal** is a relaxation of minimal.  $f \in C^i(X, F_2)$  that is locally minimal satisfies for every  $f' \in C^i(X, F_2)$  s.t.  $\delta_i(f) = \delta_i(f')$ .  $\|f\| \leq \|f'\|$ .

# Topological overlapping from Isoparametric inequalities

Let  $X$  be 3-dim complex satisfying the iso-inequalities,  $Y$  - its 2 skeleton

$\eta$ -systole :  $\text{syst}_i(Y) > \eta$  : immediate, since a minimal systole is locally min

$\varepsilon$ -cocycle expander:  $f \in C^i(Y, F_2) \setminus Z^i(Y, F_2) = C^i(X, F_2) \setminus Z^i(X, F_2)$   $\|\delta_1(f)\| / \|[f]_Z\| > \varepsilon$ .

if  $\|\delta_1(f)\| > \eta_2$  done.

o.w. if  $\delta_1(f)$  is locally minimal then by iso-inequalities  $\|\delta_1(f)\| = 0$  done

Remain: if  $\|\delta_1(f)\| \leq \eta_2$ , not locally minimal,

We show:  $\delta_1(f) = \delta_1(h) + \delta_1(g)$ ,  $\delta_1(h)$  is locally min  $\|[g]_Z\| < c \|\delta_1(f)\|$

Note:  $\delta(\delta(h)) = 0$ ,  $\delta_1(h)$  - loc min 2-cocycle, thus  $\|\delta_1(h)\| = 0$  or  $\|\delta_1(h)\| > \eta_2$

Thus:  $\|[h]_Z\| \leq 1/\eta_2 \|\delta_1(h)\| \leq 1/\eta_2 \|\delta_1(f)\|$

$\|\delta_1(f)\| / \|[f]_Z\| \geq 1/(c + 1/\eta_2)$

# Isoparametric inequalities

**Thm (main technical theorem)** : Let  $X$  be 3-dimensional Riemannian complex. For every  $i=0,1,2$  every locally minimal  $f \in C^i(X, \mathbb{F}_2)$  with  $\|f\| \leq \eta_i$ :  $\|\delta_i(f)\| = c\|f\|$  for  $c > 0$ .

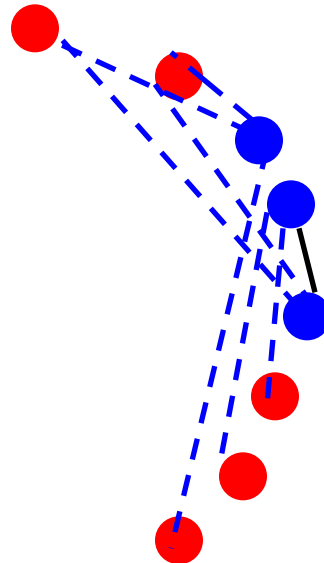
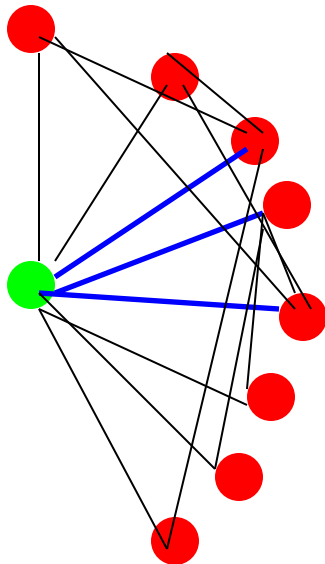
# Baby version: Iso-inequalities for 2-dim complexes

Let  $X = (V, E, T)$  be a 2-dimensional Ramanujan complex:

Their skeleton graph is a degree  $Q$  almost Ramanujan expander.

The link of every vertex is a degree  $q \sim \sqrt{Q}$  Ramanujan expander.

.



the link graph of ●

# Proof idea: every locally minimal 1-cocycle is large

1-cochain (a collection of edges) is a subgraph in the skeleton graph of  $X$ .

A sub-linear sub-graph of the expander graph  $X$  has an average degree  $< \lambda(X) \ll Q$  (as  $X$  is almost Ramanujan).

In a sub-linear sub-graph of the expander graph  $X$  most vertices are **thin** (with degree  $\ll Q$ ). Rest are **thick**

# Proof idea: every locally minimal 1-cocycle is large

Link of a vertex is a  $q$  regular graph.

Every vertex in link corresponds to an edge.

Every edge in link corresponds to a  $\Delta$ .

A vertex  $v$  defines a set  $S_v$  in its link,

By local minimality, for every  $v$ ,  $|S_v| \leq Q/2$ ,

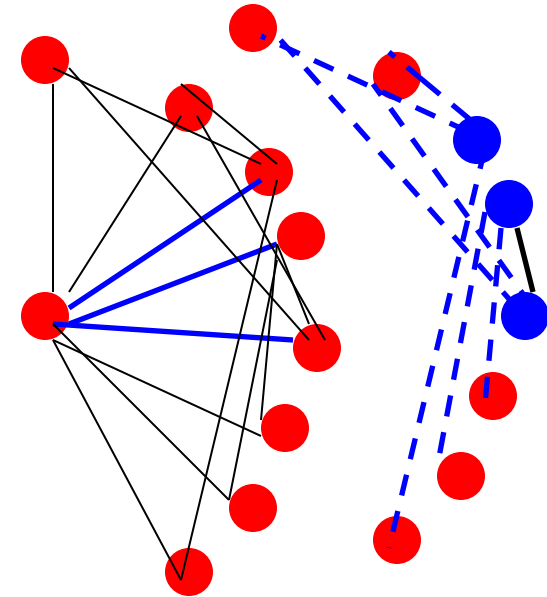
A **thin** vertex  $v$  defines a small set  $S_v$  in its link.

If  $v$  is thin,  $S_v$  expands extremely well in the link graph

If  $v$  is thick,  $S_v$  expands well, since  $|S_v| \leq Q/2$ ,

Many  $\Delta$ 's are colored once (as most vertices are thin)

Every sublinear locally minimal 1-cochain has many 1-colored  $\Delta$ 's.



the link graph

# Conditional Coboundary expanders

Our 2-dim complex is a **cocycle expander** and it has **large systole**, thus it has the **topological overlapping property** (by Gromov, Kaufman & Wagner thms).

If our complex had  $H^i(Y) = 0$  then it would be also a coboundary expander.

According to Serre's conjecture, one can choose the 3 dimensional Ramanujan complex  $X$ , s.t., its 2 skeleton  $Y$  has  $H^i(Y) = 0$ .



# Open

Unconditional bounded degree coboundary expanders

Are the 2-dim Ramanujan complexes cocycle expanders?

Generalize the result to  $d$ -dimensional bounded degree complexes.

Random constructions of bounded degree high dim expanders.

**Thank You!!!**