

# Hamilton Cycles in Random Graphs

Alan Frieze

C.M.U.

$G_{n,m}$



vertex set  
[n]

m random  
edges

and

$G_{n,p}$



vertex set  
[n]

Each of  $N = \binom{n}{2}$   
edges independently  
included with  
probability  $p$ .

If  $m = N_p \rightarrow \infty$

then  $G_{n,m}$  and  $G_{n,p}$

are similar.

Aim:

Estimate

$P_r(G_{n,m} \text{ is Hamiltonian})$ .

Pósa's breakthrough:

$G_{n,p}$  is Hamiltonian whp

$$\text{if } p \geq \frac{k \log n}{n}$$

Pósa 1976

whp  $\equiv$  Prob.  $1 - o(1)$ .

# THEOREM Komlós, Szemerédi 1983

Let  $m = \frac{n}{2} (\log n + \log \log n + c_n)$ .

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_r (G_{n,m} \text{ is Hamiltonian})$

$$= \begin{cases} 0 & c_n \rightarrow -\infty \\ e^{-e^{-c}} & c_n \rightarrow c \\ 1 & c_n \rightarrow +\infty \end{cases} \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Prob.} \\ \delta(G_{n,m}) \geq 2 \end{array} \right\}$$

Graph Process:

Let  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_N$  be a  
random ordering of the  
edges of  $K_n$ .

$$G_m = ([n], \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\})$$

$G_0, G_1, \dots, G_N = K_n$ ; Graph Process

$$G_m \sim G_{n,m}$$

For property  $\mathcal{P}$ ,

$$\tau_{\mathcal{P}} = \min \{ m : G_m \in \mathcal{P} \}$$



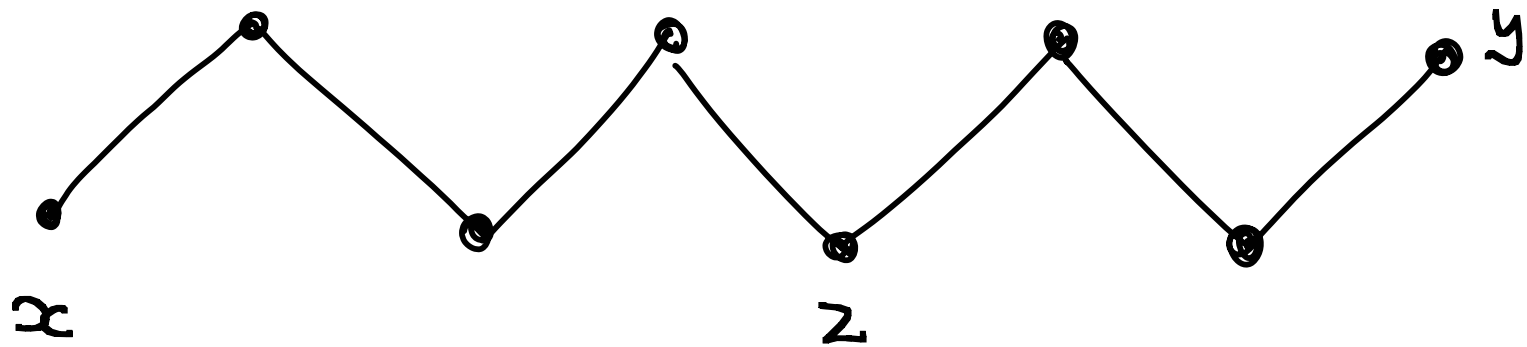
# THEOREM

Ajtai, Komlós, Szemerédi 1985  
Bollobás 1984

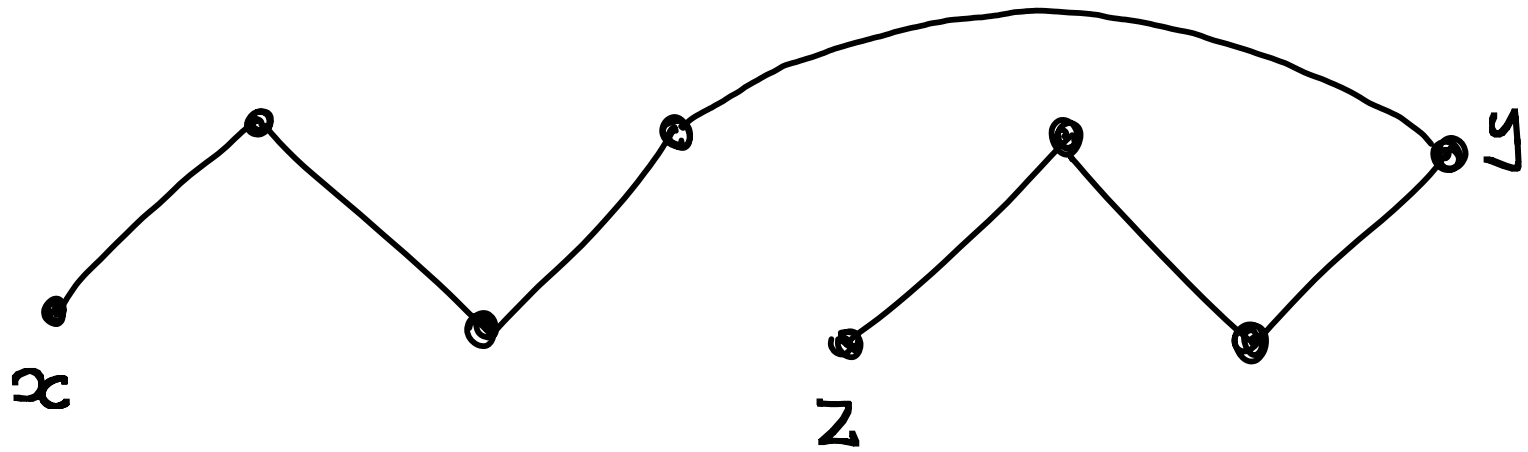
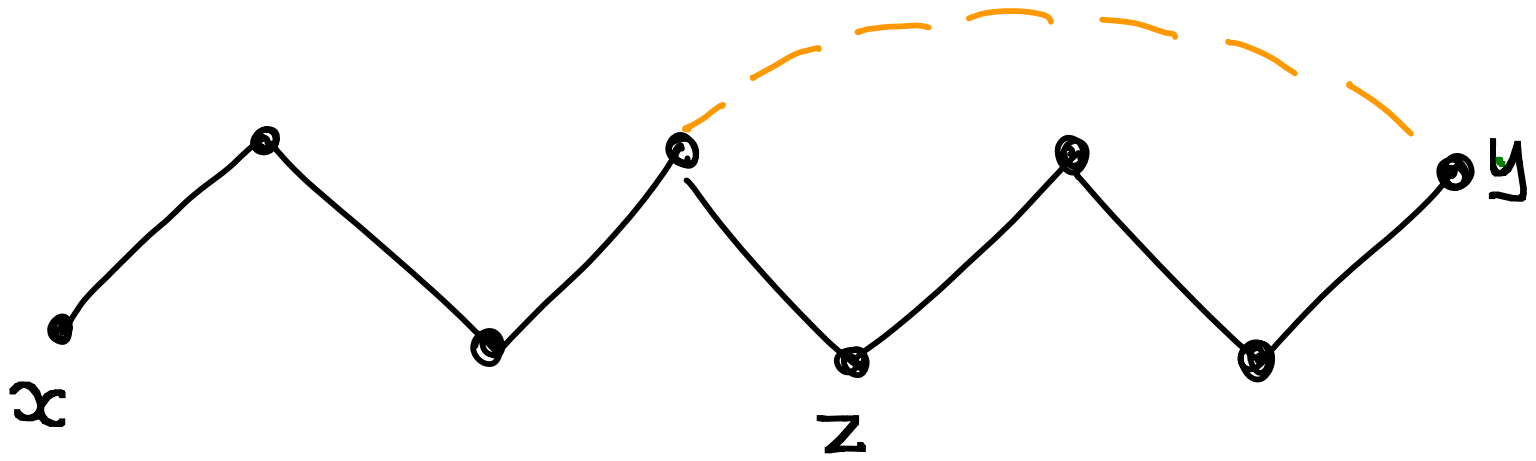
$$\uparrow \text{Hamiltonian} = \uparrow \delta \geq 2 \quad \text{why}$$

i.e. when randomly adding edges one by one,  $G_m$  becomes Hamiltonian when it first has minimum degree two.

# Posá Rotations

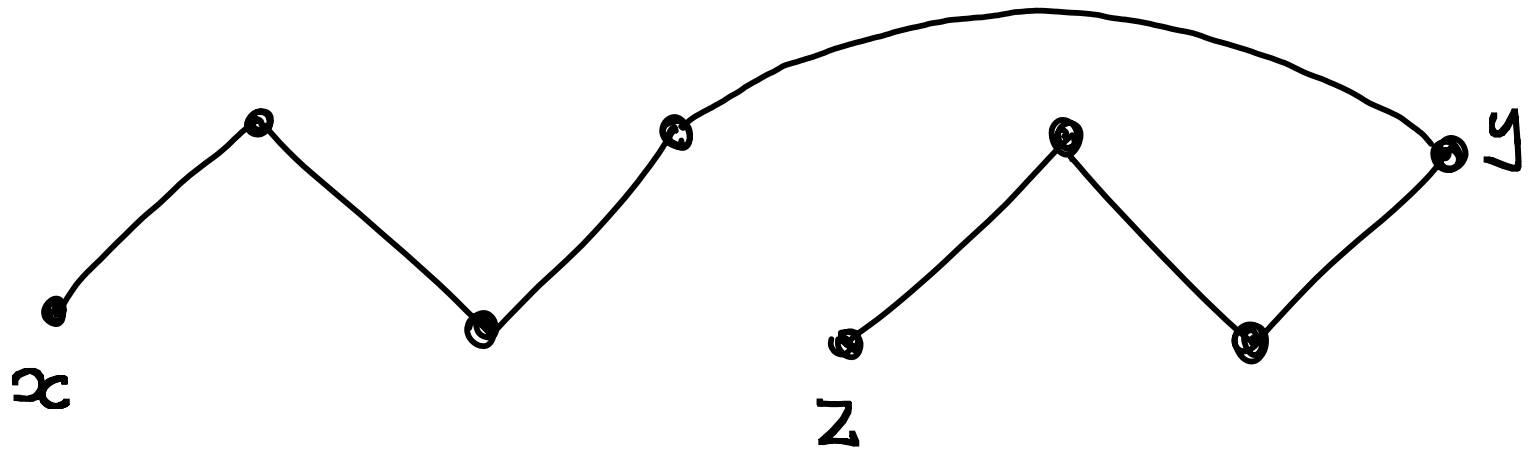
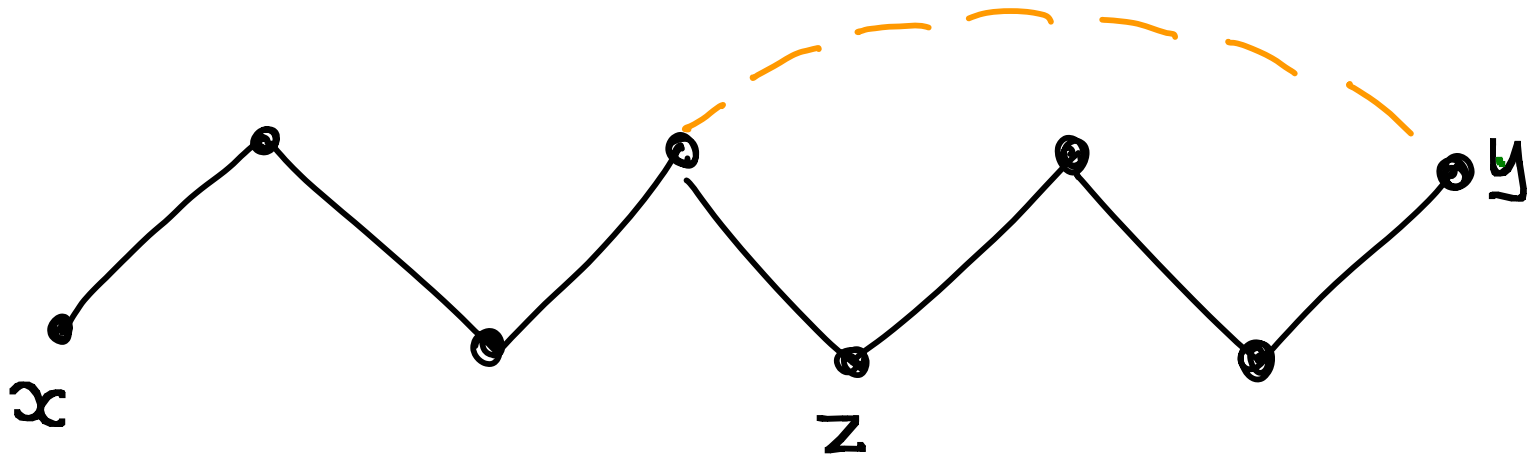


Longest Path in  $G$



New longest path.

z replaces y as endpoint



Rotation with  $x$  as  
fixed endpoint.

Algorithm HAM: Bollobás, Fenner, Frieze 1987

HAM runs in  $n^{3+o(1)}$  time

It is deterministic

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr(\text{HAM succeeds})$

=

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr(G_{n,m} \text{ is Hamiltonian})$

Suppose that

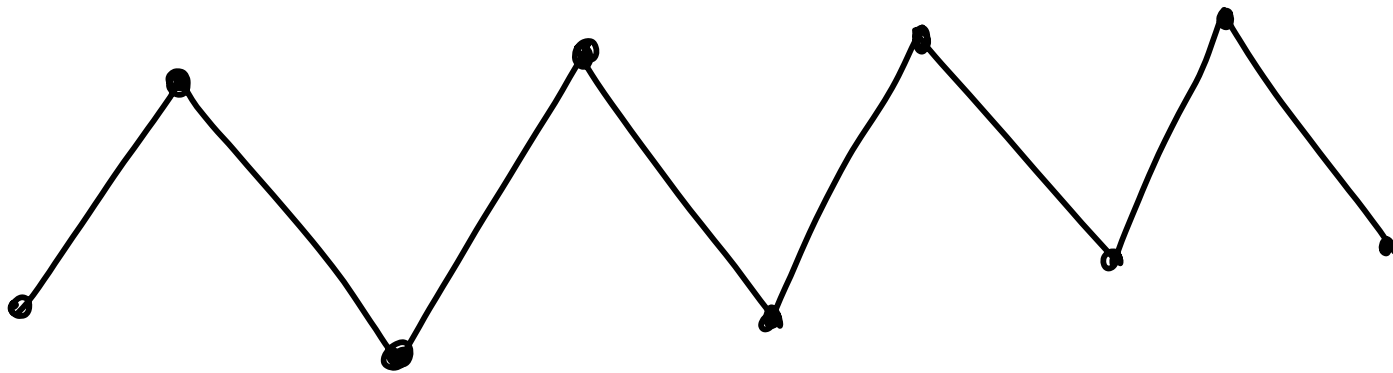
$$m = \frac{n}{2} (\log n + \log \log n + c_n)$$

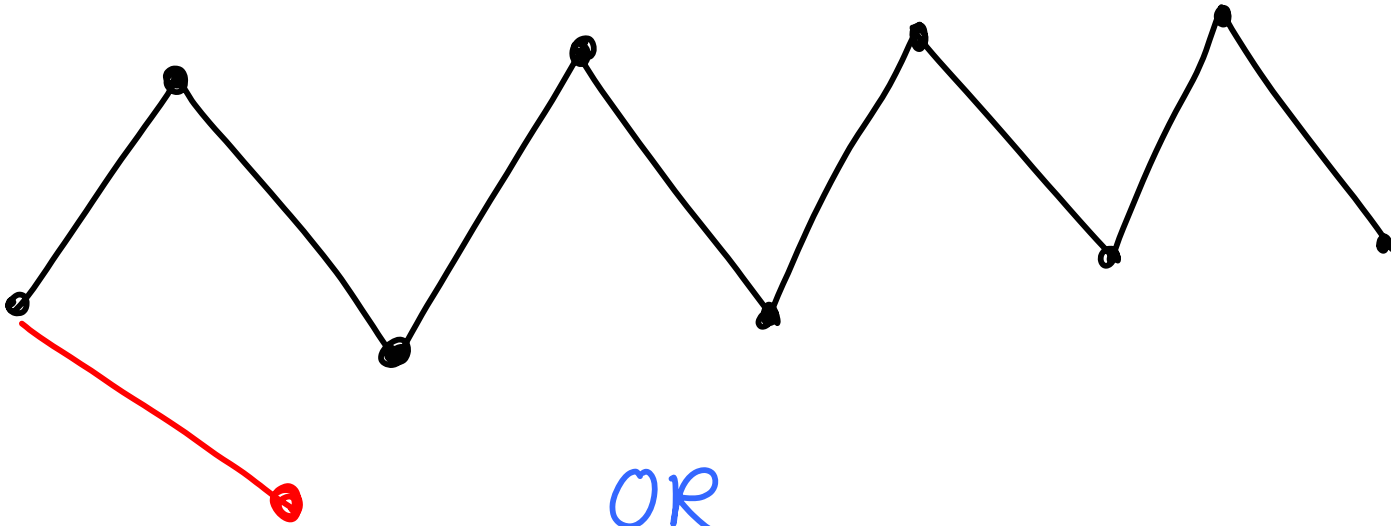
$c_n \rightarrow -\infty$

$G_{n,m}$  is connected whp

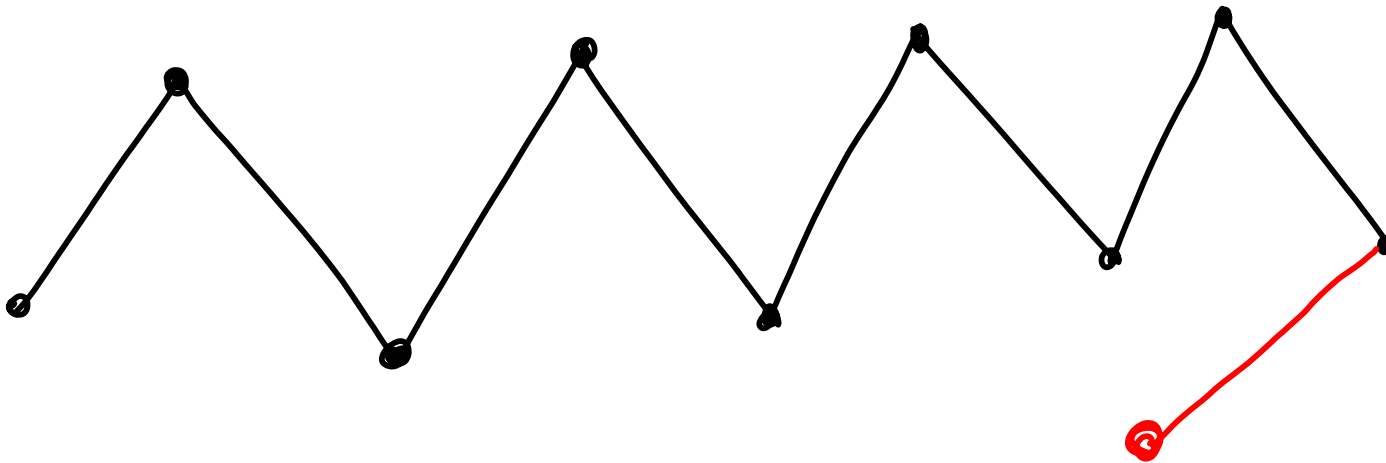
Stage  $k$

Currently have path of length  $k$ .



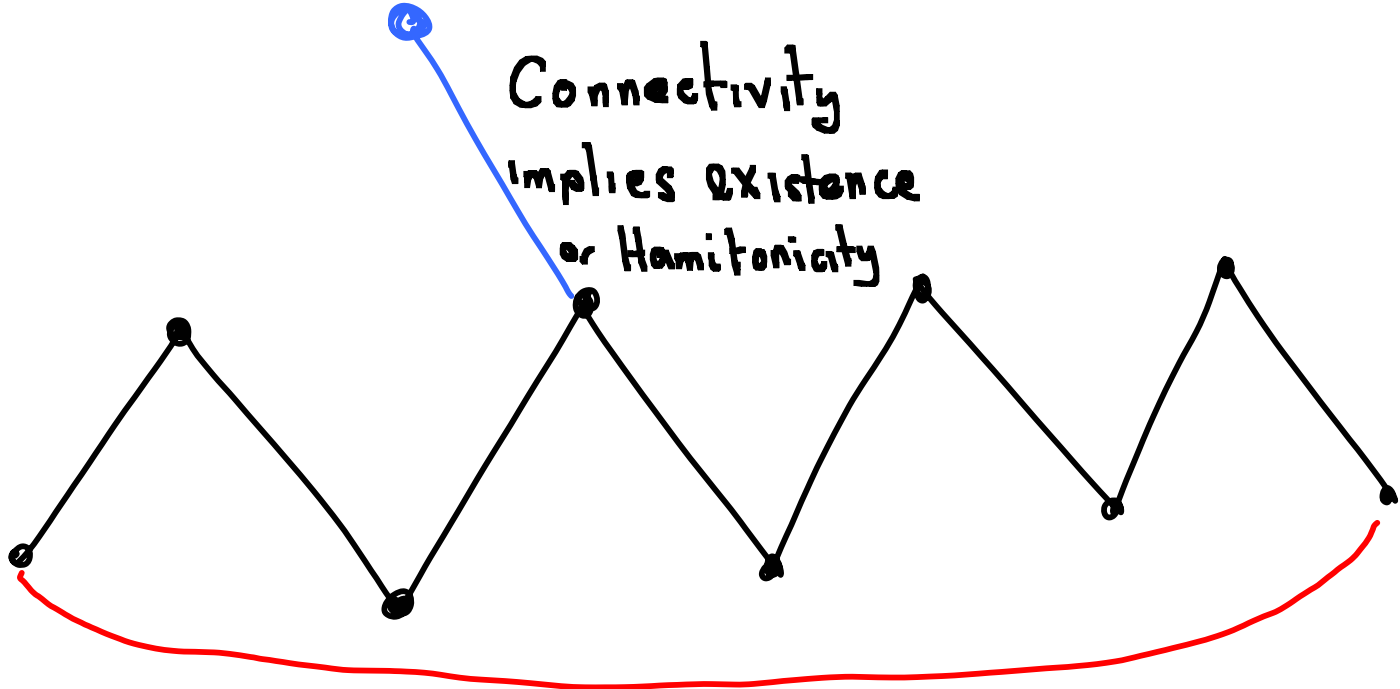


OR

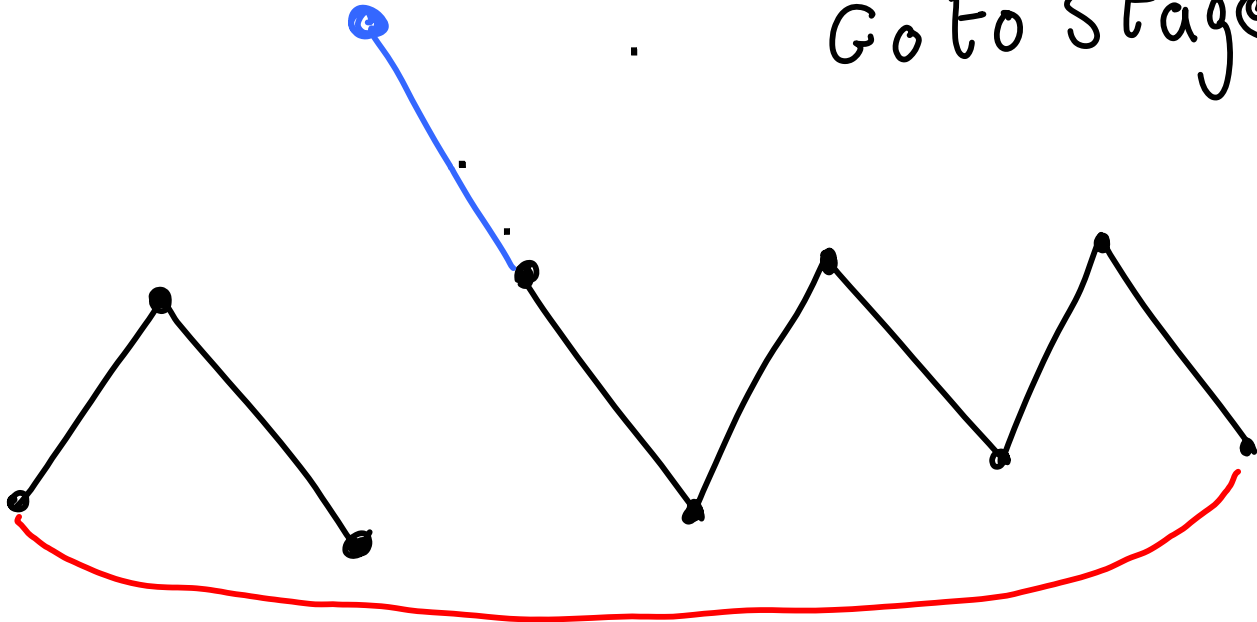


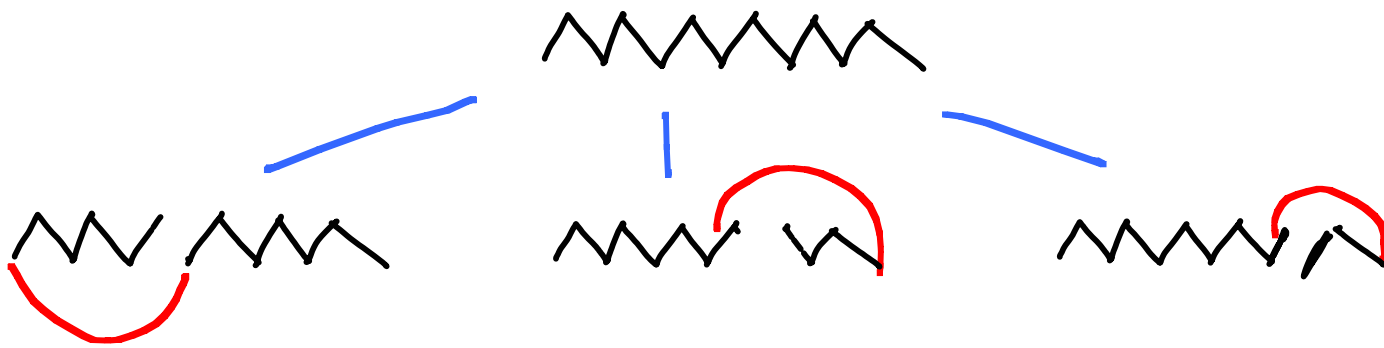
GO TO Stage  $k+1$





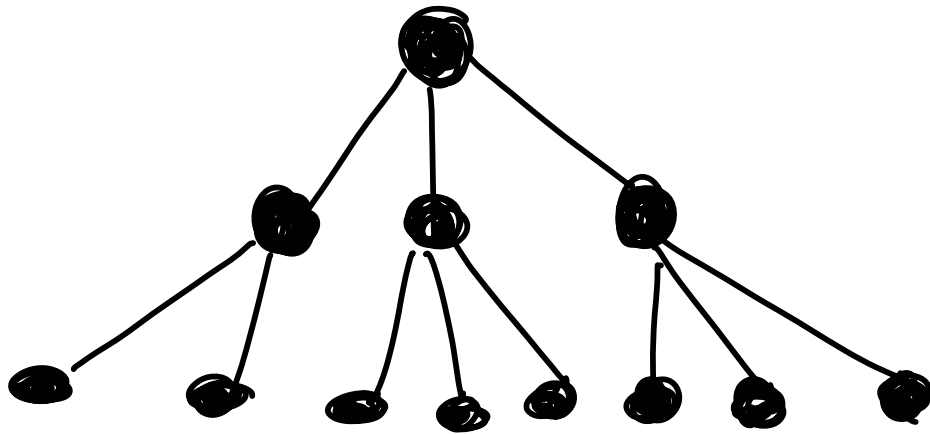
Go to Stage  $k+1$





ROTATE FROM

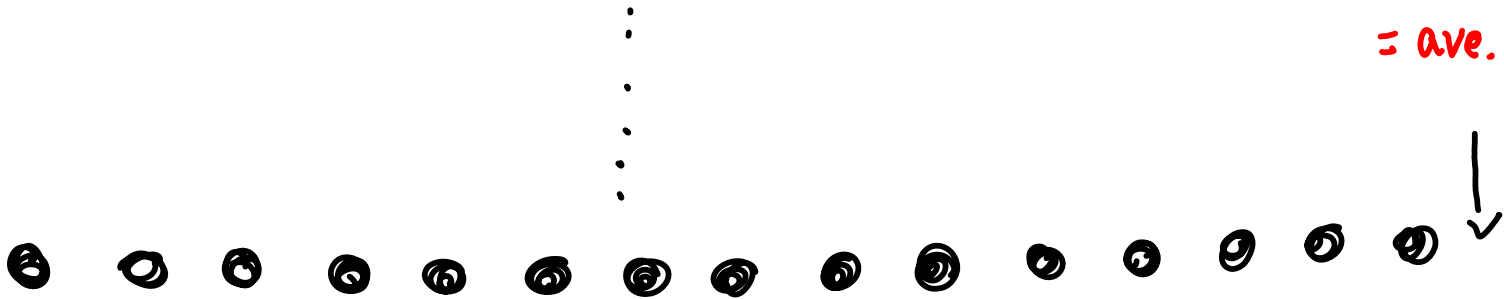
BOTH ENDS



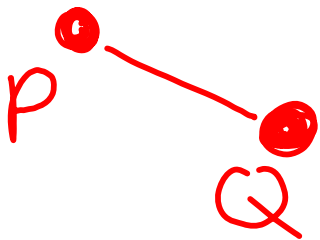
$$T = \frac{2 \log n}{\log d}$$

$$d = \frac{2m}{n}$$

= ave. deg.

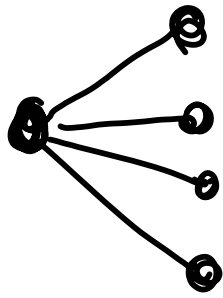


Each ● is a path



Q obtained from P by a rotation.

(i)



$$\leftarrow \leq 5d$$

$\Rightarrow$  construction is poly time

(ii) If no longer path found then at bottom of tree

$\exists$   $Cn$  vertices  $END$

and for each  $x \in END$

there are  $\geq Cn$   $y$  with a

path  $x \rightsquigarrow y$   $END(x) = \{y\}$

$\exists$   $Cn$  vertices  $END$

Argument for

$$m = \frac{n}{2} (\log n + \log \log n + \omega)$$

Let  $m' = m - \frac{\omega n}{4}$ .

$G_{n, m'}$  has big tree

property

Now whenever HAM gets stuck on  $G_{n,m'}$  add random edges, from  $m-m'$  not used, until we find edge  $(x, y)$  where  $y \in \text{END}(z)$

$$P_i[\text{next edge OK}] \geq c^2.$$

$P_1[\text{HAM runs out of OK edges}]$

$$\leq P_1[\text{Bin}[\frac{wn}{4}, c^2] < n]$$

$$= o(1).$$

Previous argument  
cannot work for  $C_n \rightarrow C$ .

Also, algorithm is a bit  
artificial.

Now suppose we run HAM as is.

$$m = \frac{n}{2} (\log n + \log \log n + c)$$

and condition:  $\delta \geq 2$ .



Suppose that we randomly choose  $w = \log n$  random edges  $X$ .

$$H = G - X.$$

$\mathcal{A} = \{ \text{HAM fails on } G + \text{expansion} \}$

$\mathcal{B} = \{ \text{HAM does as well on } H \text{ as on } G + \text{expansion} \}$

$$Pr(\mathcal{B} | \mathcal{A}) \geq (1 - o(1))^w$$

Just avoid  $o(m)$   
important edges

$$Pr(\mathcal{B}) \leq (1 - \epsilon)^w$$

Have to avoid lots of  
choices

So

$$Pr(\mathcal{A}) \leq \left( \frac{1 - \epsilon}{1 - o(1)} \right)^w = o(1).$$

Suppose HAM fails in Stage  $k$ .

Let  $P$  be path of length  $k$  constructed.

$W = \{ \text{edges } \underline{\text{used}} \text{ to make } P \}$

$$|W| \leq \underbrace{n}_{\# \text{ stages}} \times \underbrace{2T}_{\# \text{ used per stage for } P}$$

If edges  $X \cap W = \emptyset$  are  
deleted then HAM  
will begin Stage  $k$   
with  $P$  and fail in Stage  $k$ .

(\*)

If edges  $X$  are deleted

and

- (i)  $X$  is not incident with low degree vertices
  - (ii) No vertex is incident with  $\geq d/1000$  edges of  $X$
- then

$G-X$  will have the big tree property

(\*\*)

A set of edges  $X$ ,

$$|X| = \log n \leftarrow l$$

is deletable if

(\*) , (\*\*) hold and

HAM gets no further in  $G$

than in  $G - X$ .

$$a(G, X) = \begin{cases} 1 & \begin{array}{l} G \text{ normal}^* \\ G \neg \text{Hamiltonian} \\ X \text{ deletable} \end{array} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$X \subseteq E(G)$

normal  $\equiv$  some 1-0(1) properties.

(1)  $G$  normal & non-Hamiltonian

$$\Rightarrow \sum_X a(G, X) \geq (1 - o(1)) \binom{m'}{l}$$

$$m' = m - 2Tn = (1 - o(1))m$$

(11) For fixed  $H$  with  $m-l$  edges

$$\sum_X a(H+X, X) \leq \binom{N' - m + l}{l}$$

where  $N' = \binom{n}{2} - \binom{cn}{2}$

Not allowed to join  $oc$  to  $END(x)$ ,

else HAM gets further in  $H+X$  than in  $H$ .



$$Pr [G_{N,m} \text{ not Hamiltonian} | S \geq 2]$$

$$\leq o(1) \quad \text{abnormal}$$

$$+ \frac{\binom{N}{m-l} \binom{N'-m+l}{l}}{(1-o(1)) \binom{m'}{l} \binom{N}{m}}$$

$$= o(1).$$

## Open Question

Is there a polynomial  
expected time algorithm  
that correctly determines  
Hamiltonicity of  $G_{n,m}$ ,  
for all  $m$ ?

Property  $\mathcal{R}_k$

A graph has property

$\mathcal{R}_k$  if it contains  $\lfloor k/2 \rfloor$

edge disjoint Hamilton cycles

+ disjoint  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  matching if

$k$  is odd.

Why

$$\chi_{\mathcal{A}_k} = \chi_{\delta \geq k}$$

Bollobás, Frieze 1985

$$k = O(1)$$

$$m = (1 + o(1)) n \log n / 2$$

$$G_{n,m} \in \mathcal{A}_{\delta}(G_{n,m})$$

whp

Frieze, Krivelevich 2008

# Conjecture

$$G_m \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{S}(G_m)}$$

whyp

throughout graph

process.

$G_{n, \frac{1}{2}}$  contains

$$\frac{n}{4} - O(n^{5/6} \ln^{1/6} n)$$

What is  
correct  
error term?

edge disjoint Hamiltonian  
cycles whp.

Frieze, Krivelevich 2005

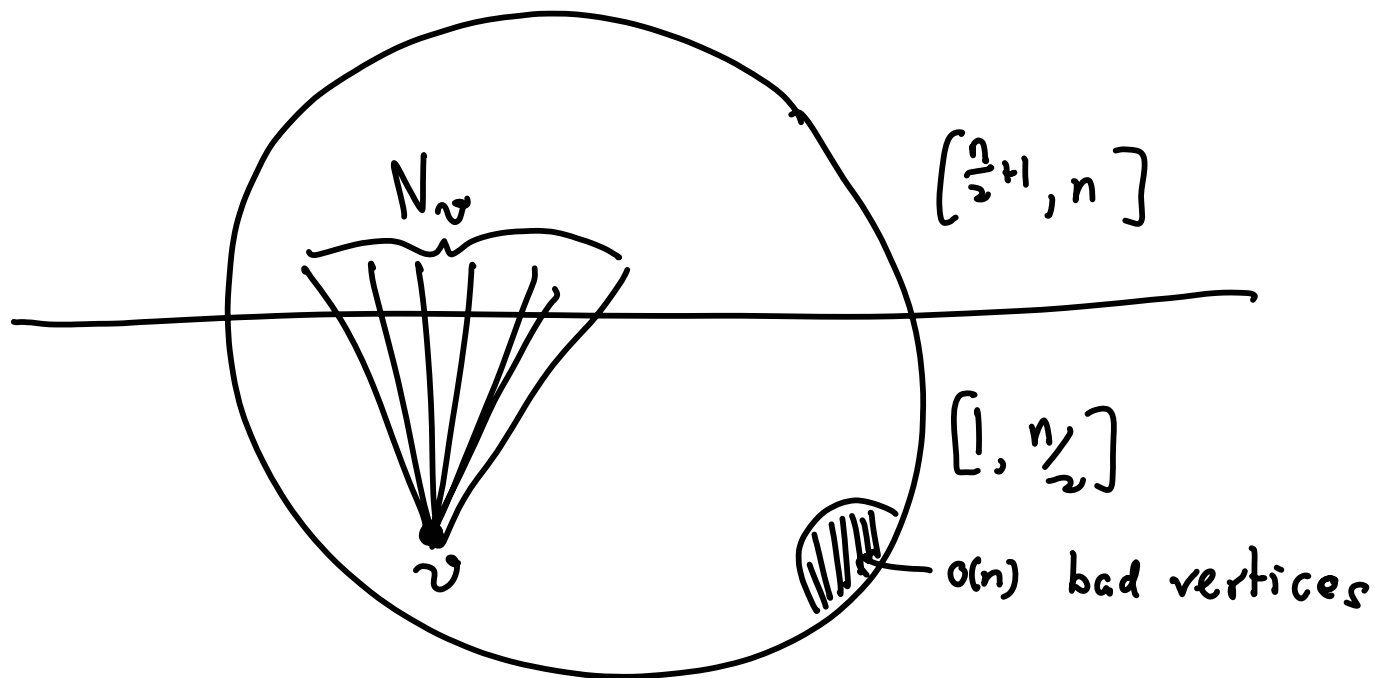
If  $m = \sum_{\delta \geq 2} \delta$  then whp

$G_m$  contains  $(\log n)^{n-o(n)}$

distinct Hamilton cycles

Cooper, Frieze 1989





For each  $v$ , construct  $s = (\log n)^{2 - o(1)}$  sets  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_s \subseteq N_v$   
 where each  $|X_i| = \Theta((\log \log n)^2)$  and  $|X_i \cap X_j| \leq 1$ .

For each  $\Theta(n/2)$   $v$ 's, choose an  $X_j$ : #choices is  
 $s^{n/2 - o(n)} = (\log n)^{n - o(n)}$ .

For almost all choices + edges up to  $v$ , get a Hamiltonian subgraph.

By construction  $H$ -cycles found are distinct

# Random Bipartite Graphs

$B_{n,p}$  = random subgraph of  $K_{n,n}$  where we keep edge with probability  $p$ .

$$\text{Let } p = \frac{1}{n} (\log n + \log \log n + c_n)$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P[B_{n,p} \text{ is Hamiltonian}] = \begin{cases} 0 & c_n \rightarrow -\infty \\ e^{-2e^{-c}} & c_n \rightarrow c \\ 1 & c_n \rightarrow \infty \end{cases}$$

Frieze 1985; Bollobás, Kohayakawa 1991  
(shorter proof)

# Resilience

How resilient is Hamiltonicity to adversarial edge deletion:

(i)  $m = \Omega(n \log^4 n) \Rightarrow$  adversary can delete up to  $(\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon) d(v)$  edges at degree  $v$  and what is left of  $G_{n,m}$  is Hamiltonian

Sudakov, Vu 2008

(ii)  $m = Kn \log n \Rightarrow$   ~~$\frac{1}{2} - \epsilon$~~   $\epsilon$

Frieze, Krivelevich 2008

Conjecture: result of (i) true given hypothesis of (ii)

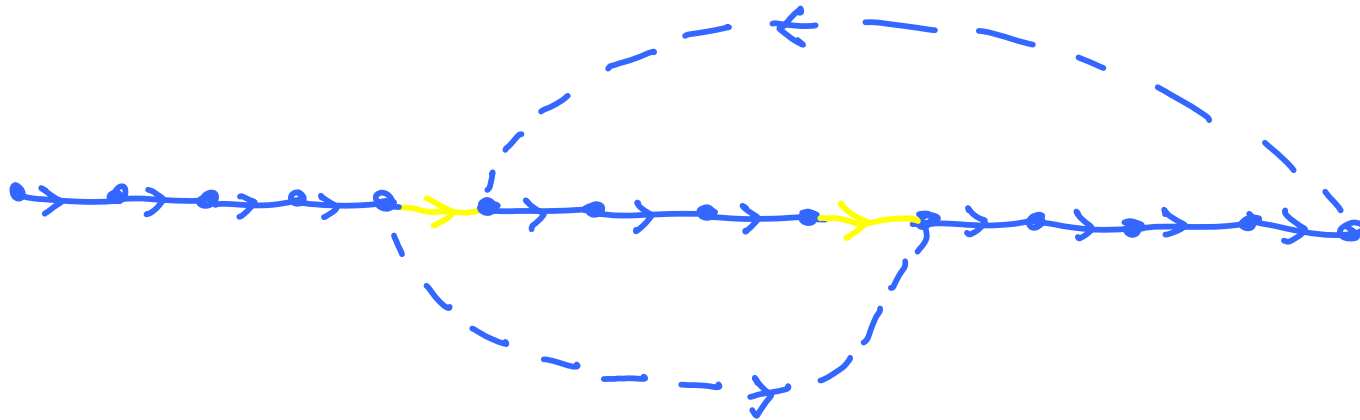
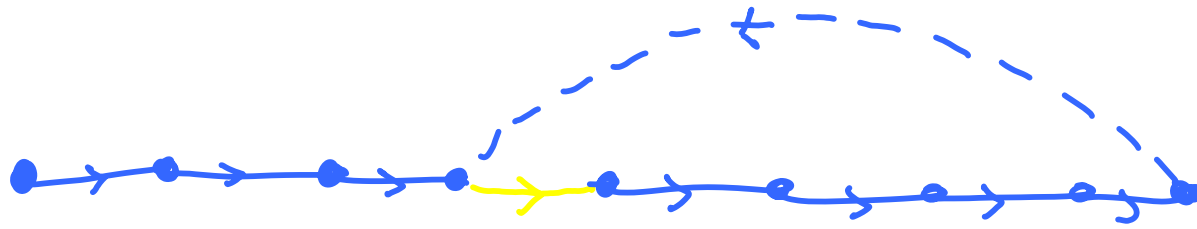
# Directed Graphs

$D_{n,m}$  is random digraph with vertex set  $[n]$  and  $m$  random directed edges.

$$m = n(\log n + c_n)$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(D_{n,m} \text{ is Hamiltonian}) = \begin{cases} 0 & c_n \rightarrow -\infty \\ e^{-2e^{-c}} & c_n \rightarrow c \\ 1 & c_n \rightarrow \infty \end{cases} \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Prob.} \\ \delta^+, \delta^- \geq 1 \end{array} \right]$$

Frieze 1988

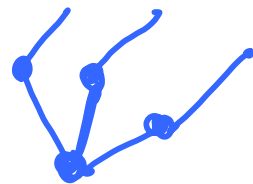


$G_{n,m}^{(\delta \geq k)}$  is uniformly chosen from graphs with vertex set  $[n]$ ,  $m$  edges and  $\delta \geq k$ .

Let  $m = \frac{n}{6} (\log n + 6 \log \log n + c_n)$ .

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr(G_{n,m}^{(\delta \geq 2)} \text{ is Hamiltonian}) = \begin{cases} 0 & c_n \rightarrow -\infty \\ e^{-3c/6 \cdot 3^6} & c_n \rightarrow c \\ 1 & c_n \rightarrow +\infty \end{cases}$$

Bollobás, Fenner, Frieze 1990



## Sparse Graphs

$$m \geq C_k n, \quad C_k = 2(k+1)^3, \quad k \geq 3$$

$$G_{n,m}^{(s \geq k)} \in \mathcal{R}_{k-1} \quad \text{whp} \quad (*)$$

Bollobás, Cooper, Fenner, Frieze. 2000

## Conjecture

(\*) holds with  $C_k$  replaced by  $k/2$ .

# Random Regular Graphs

$G_{n,r}$  is chosen uniformly from the set of  $r$ -regular graphs with vertex set  $[n]$ .

$G_{n,r}$  is Hamiltonian whp

$$3 \leq r = O(1)$$

Robinson, Wormald 1994



Use configuration model

[Frieze, Jerrum, Molloy,  
Robinson, Wormald]

1996

$Z_H = \#$  Hamiltonian pairings.

$$E(Z_H) \approx \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2n}} \left( (r-1) \left( \frac{r-2}{r} \right)^{(r-2)/2} \right)^n$$

$$E(Z_H^2) \approx \frac{r}{r-2} E(Z_H)^2$$

$$\Omega_c = \left\{ F : C_{2k-1} = c_k, 1 \leq k \leq b \right\}$$

# of  $(2b-1)$ -cycles
large integer

$$E(Z_H^2) = \sum_c \pi_c V_c + \sum_c \pi_c E_c^2$$

$\text{Var}(Z_H | \Omega_c)$   
↓  
small

 $E(Z_H | \Omega_c)$   
↓  
large  
ss  $\frac{1}{r-2} E(Z)^2$

Follows that whp  $Z_H \approx \frac{E(Z_H)}{n}$

## Finding a Hamilton Cycle

Let  $Z_F = \#$  of 2-Factors in  $G_{n,r}$ .

$$E(Z_F) \leq 2n^{5/2} E(Z_H)$$

So why

$$\frac{Z_H}{Z_F} \geq \frac{1}{2n^{5/2}}$$

Algorithm: Use MCMC to choose a (near) random 2-factor of  $G_{n,r}$ . Repeat until a hamilton cycle is found.

$r \rightarrow \infty$

Cooper, Frieze, Reed 2002  
Krivelevich, Sudakov, Vu, Wormald  
2001

$G_{k\text{-out}}$ : Random graph with vertex set  $[n]$  in which each vertex independently chooses  $k$  random neighbors.

[ Graph underlying  $D_{k\text{-out}}$  ]

THEOREM

Bohman, Frieze 2009

$G_{3\text{-out}}$  is Hamiltonian whp

$G_{5\text{-out}}$  : Frieze, Łuczak 1990

||

$$G_{2\text{-out}} + G_{2\text{-out}} + G_{1\text{-out}}$$



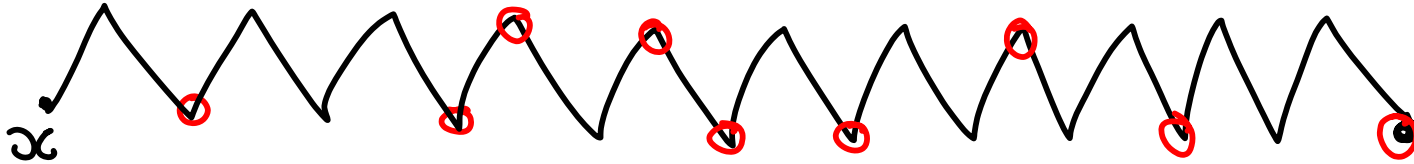
Has a perfect matching, whp

So whp

$$G_{2\text{-out}} + G_{2\text{-out}} = G_{4\text{-out}}$$

contains a collection of vertex disjoint  
cycles that cover  $[n]$ .

Re-call Posá's Lemma:



$$\text{END}(x) = \{ \circ \}$$

Lemma:  $|N(\text{END}(x))| < 2|\text{END}(x)|.$

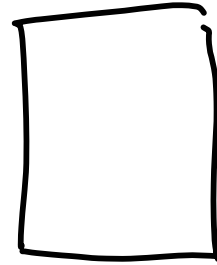
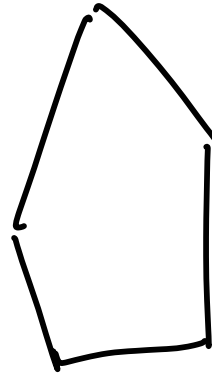
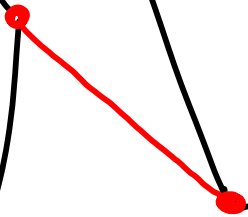
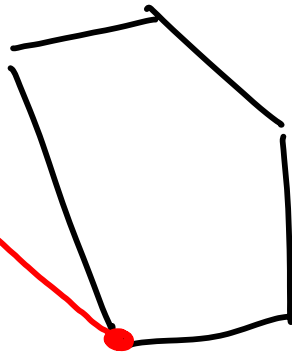
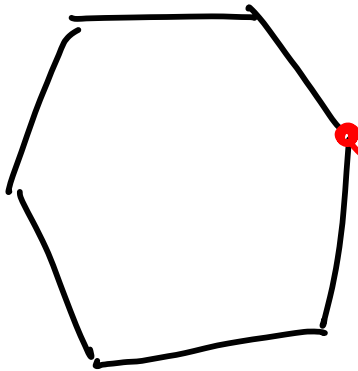
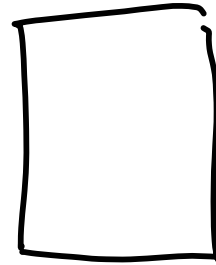
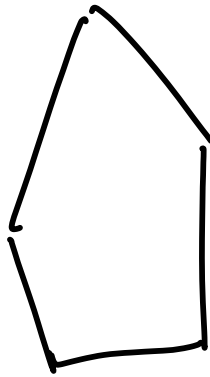
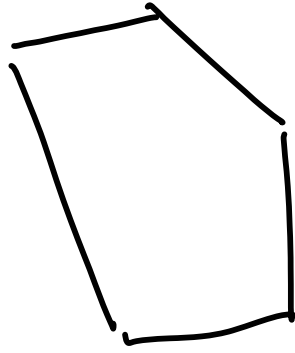
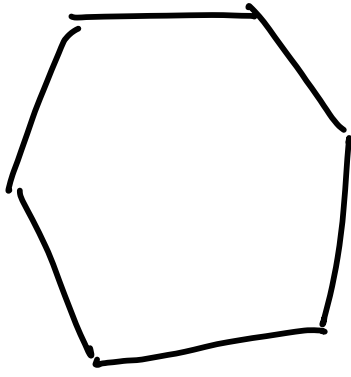
## Lemma

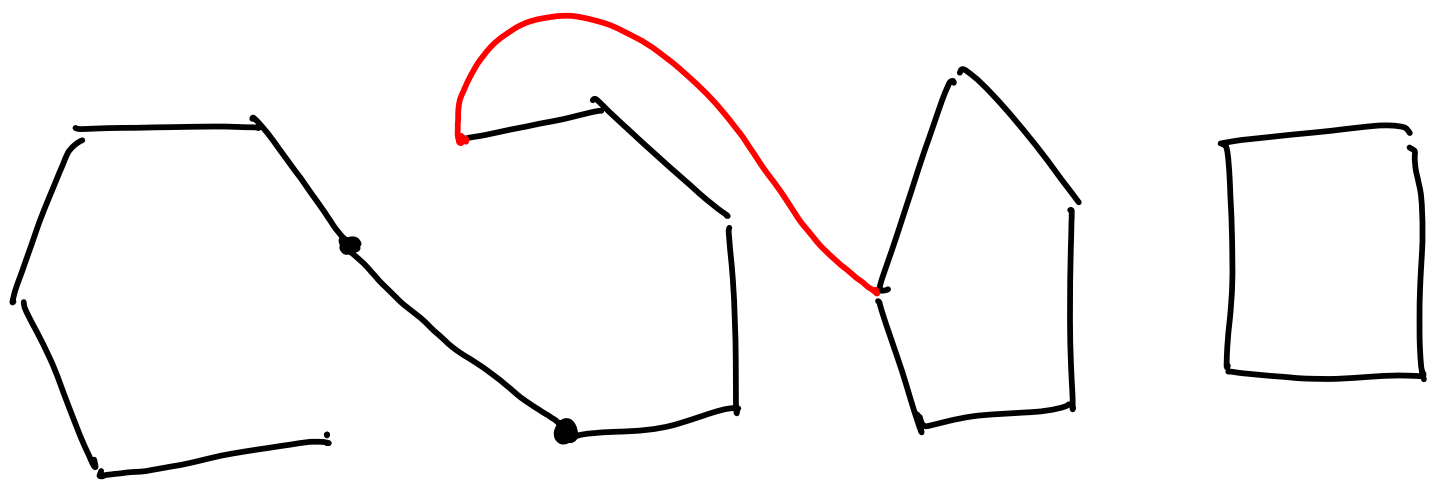
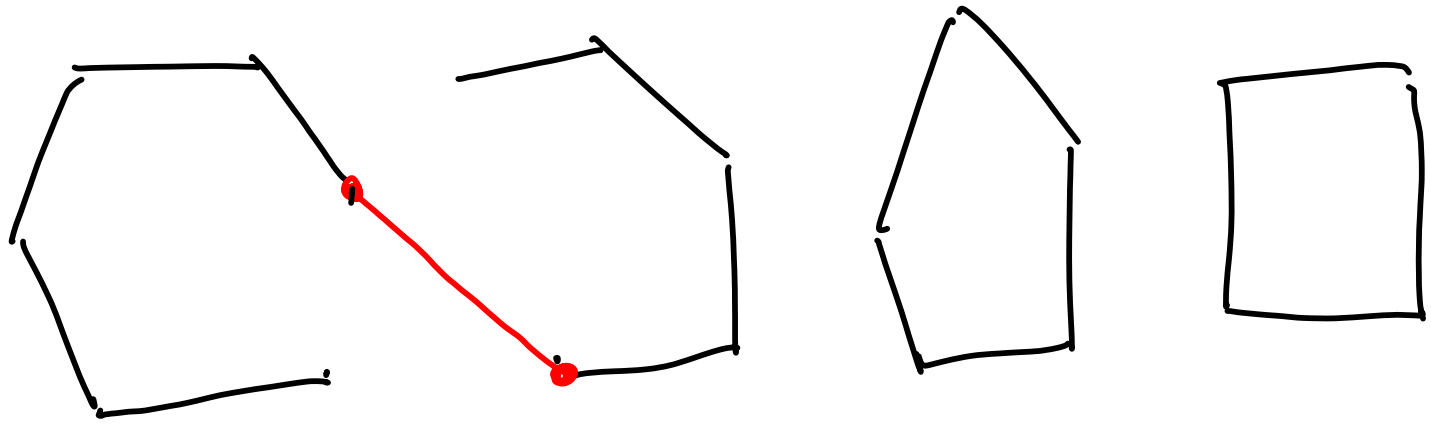
Whp,  $S \subseteq [n]$ ,  $|S| \leq \frac{n}{100} \Rightarrow |N(S)| \geq 2|S|$   
in  $G_{4\text{-out}}$

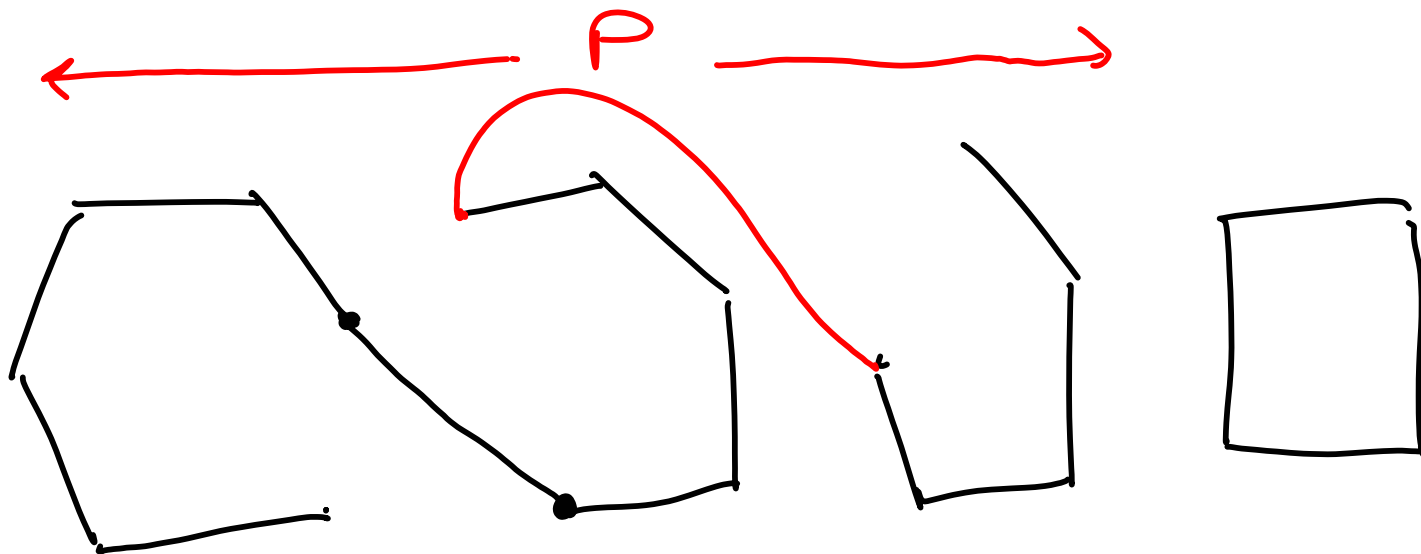
So whp if  $H \geq G_{4\text{-out}}$  and  $P$  is a  
longest path in  $H$  then

$$|END(P)| > \frac{n}{100}, \quad \forall P \in END$$





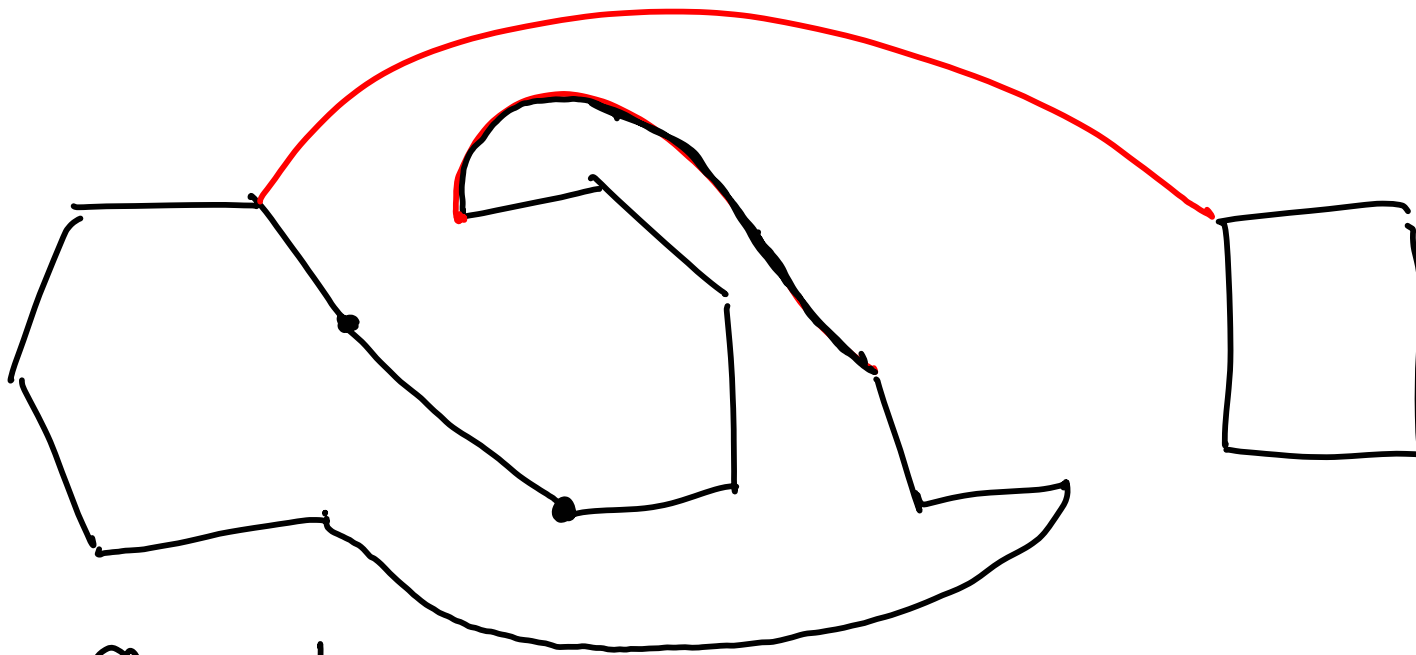
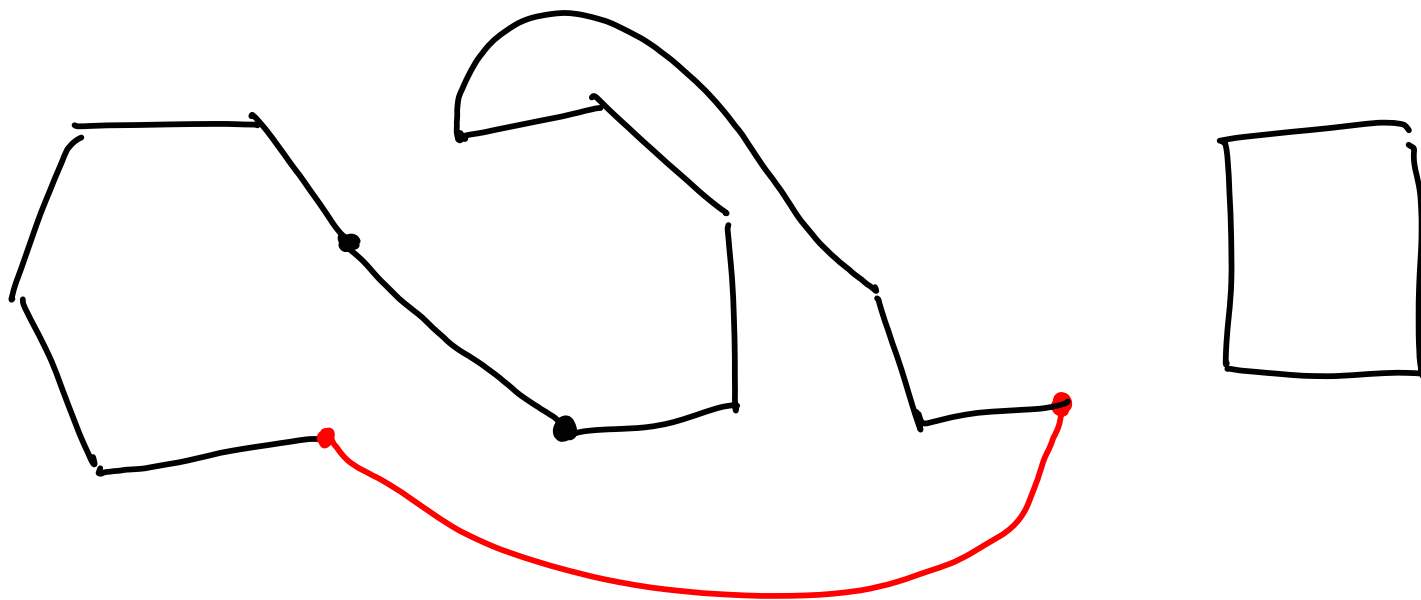




Repeat until path cannot be extended.  
 Do rotations; construct  $END(x)$ ,  $x \in END$   
 where  $|END(x)| \geq \frac{n}{100}$ ,  $\forall x$ .

Go through  $END$ ; check if  $G_{1-out}$   
 connects  $OC - END(x)$ .

Why succeed after  $O(\log n)$  steps



One less cycle

$O(\log n)$  cycles,

$O(\log^2 n)$   $G_{\downarrow}$ -out edges are  
enough to find Hamiltonian  
cycle.

$G_{3\text{-out}}$

(i) Randomly choose  $K \subseteq [n]$ ,  $|K| = \frac{n}{\sqrt{\log n}}$

(ii) Remove 3<sup>rd</sup> choice for each  $v \in K$

(iii) Put back 3<sup>rd</sup> choice for  $v \in K$  which would otherwise be of degree 2.

Call resulting graph  $G_2$

(a) Why  $G_2$  contains a simple 2-matching  
[collection of vertex disjoint paths & cycles]  
with  $O(n/\log n)$  pieces

(b) Why  $|END(n)| \geq \frac{n}{100}$  for any  
path that cannot be extended.

(c) Now use  $\sim \frac{n}{\sqrt{\log n}}$  missing edges to  
join together  $O(n/\log n)$  pieces

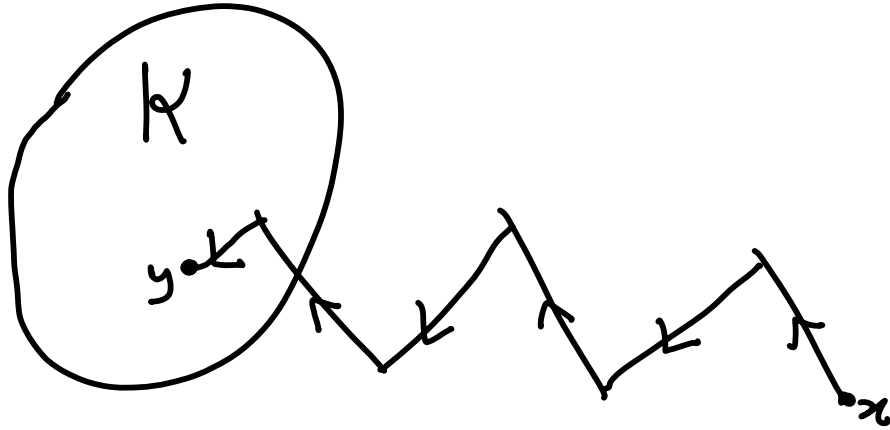
THERE IS A CATCH!

What if conditioning makes most of  $END$  outside  $K$ .

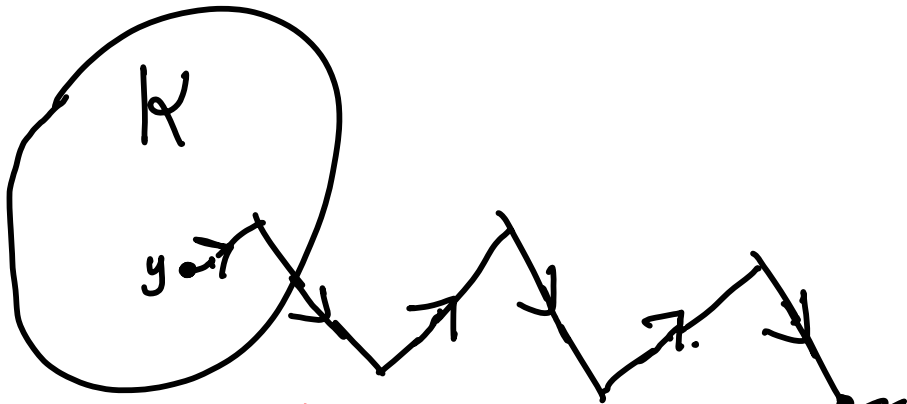
Then there will not be any extra edge to "aim" at  $END(n)$ .

We solve this problem by considering underlying graph  $G$  to be fixed and probability space  $\equiv$  space of digraphs  $D$  with underlying graph  $G$ .





is about as likely as



Now  $y \notin K$

This requires checking that the numbers of paths of some fixed length  $l$ , are usually close enough to expectation

So END must be distributed almost independently with respect to  $K$ .

Conjecture: Whp

$$G_{k\text{-out}} \in \mathcal{A}_{k-1}, \quad k \geq 3$$

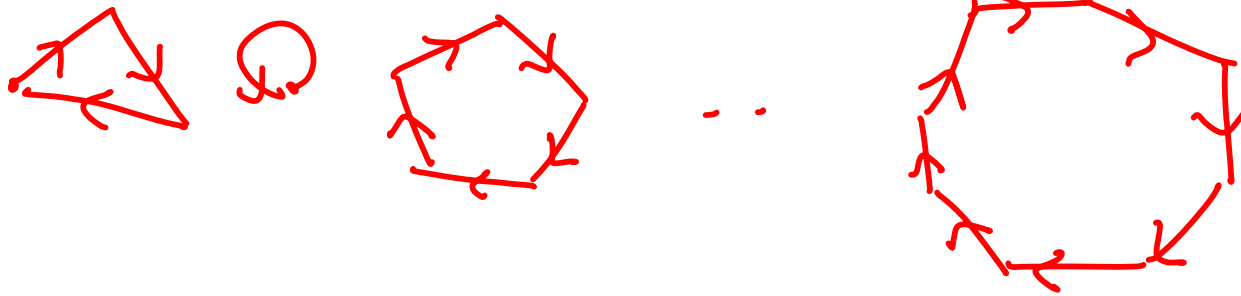
$\mathcal{D}_{k-in, k-out}$ : Random digraph with vertex set  $[n]$  in which each vertex independently chooses  $k$  random in-neighbors and  $k$  random out-neighbors.

THEOREM Cooper, Frieze 2000

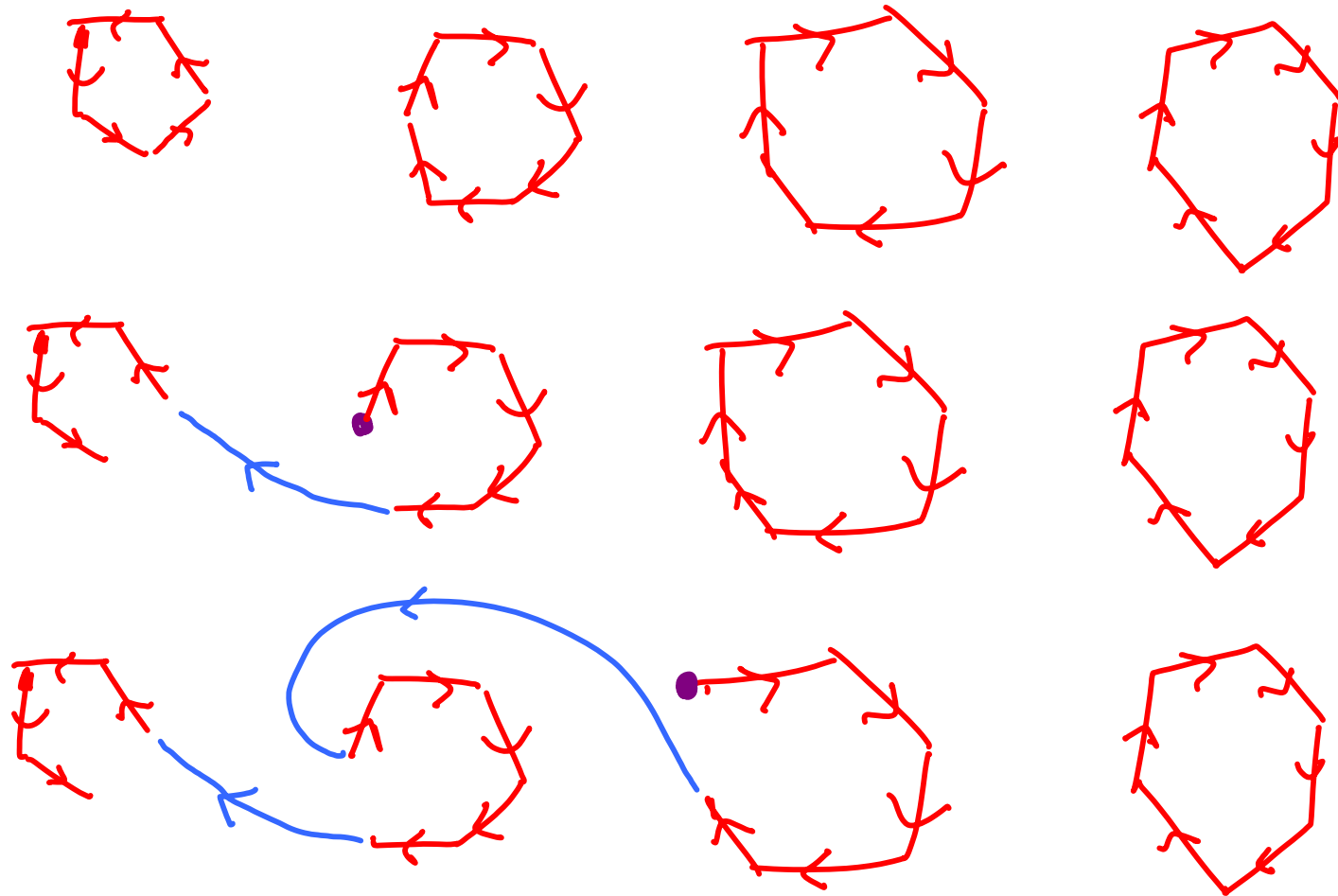
$\mathcal{D}_{2-in, 2-out}$  is Hamiltonian whp

$$\underline{3\text{-in, } 3\text{-out}} = \underbrace{2\text{-in, } 2\text{-out}}_{D_1} + \underbrace{1\text{-in, } 1\text{-out}}_{D_2}$$

1) Construct random cycle cover using  $D_1 - O(\log n)$  cycles

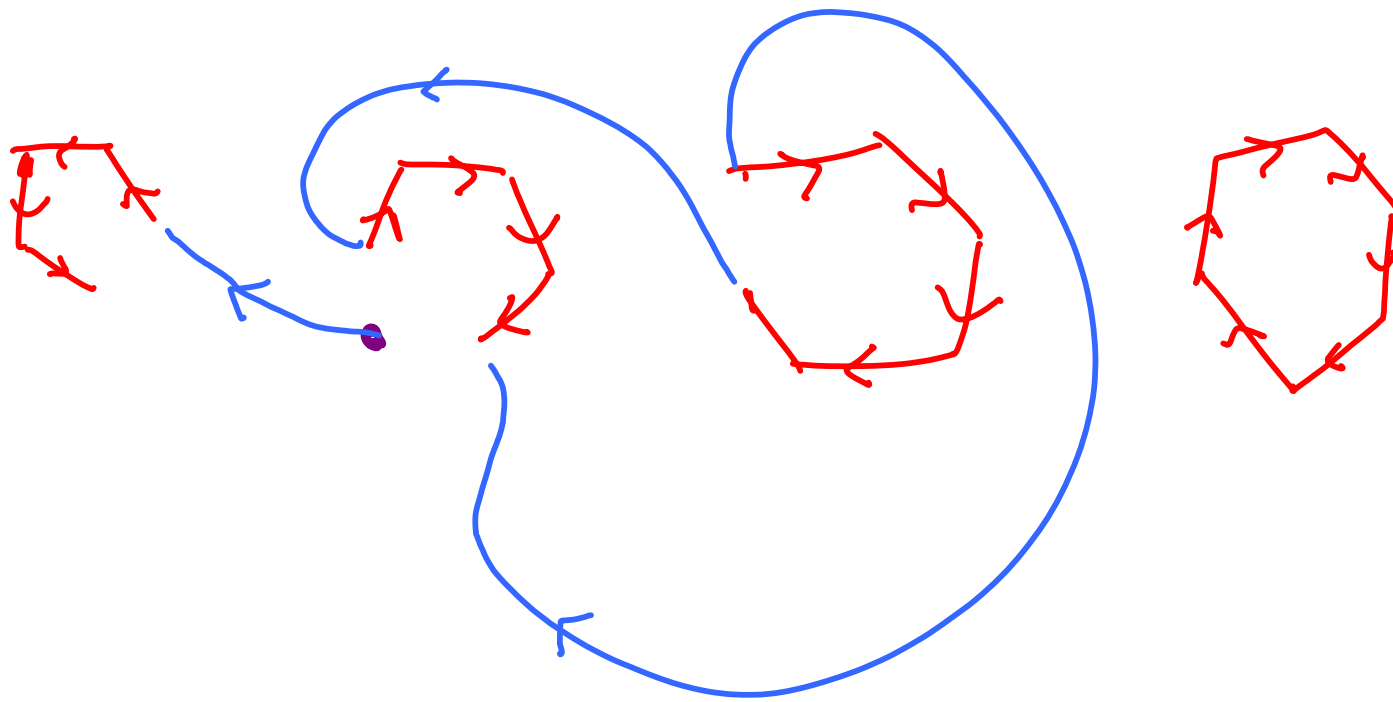


2) Absorb small cycles into rest so that each cycle is  $\Omega(n/\log n)$  in size

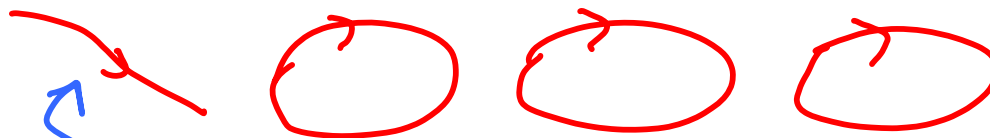


Blue  $\equiv D_2$  edges

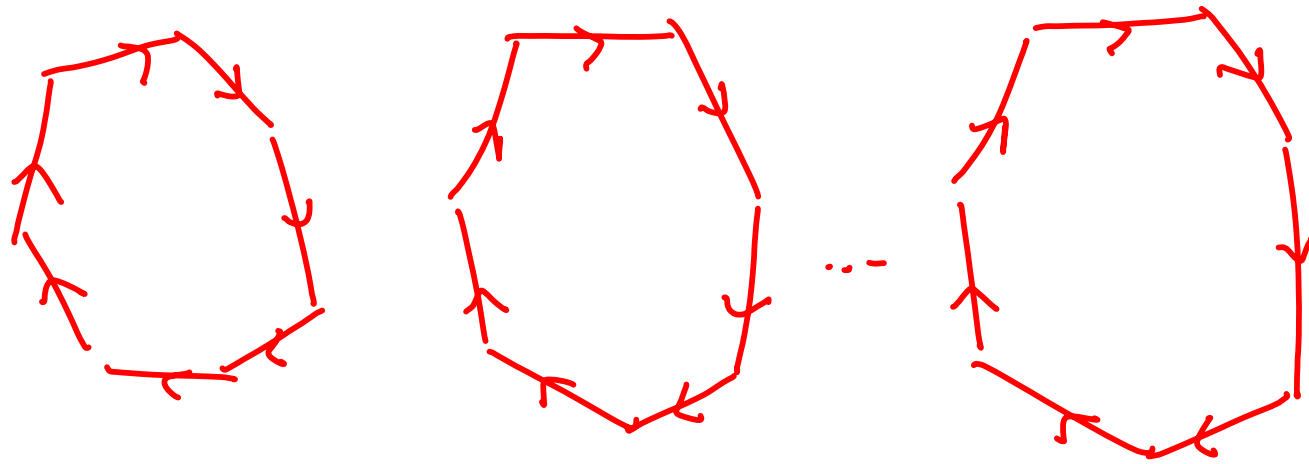
Follow up all choices



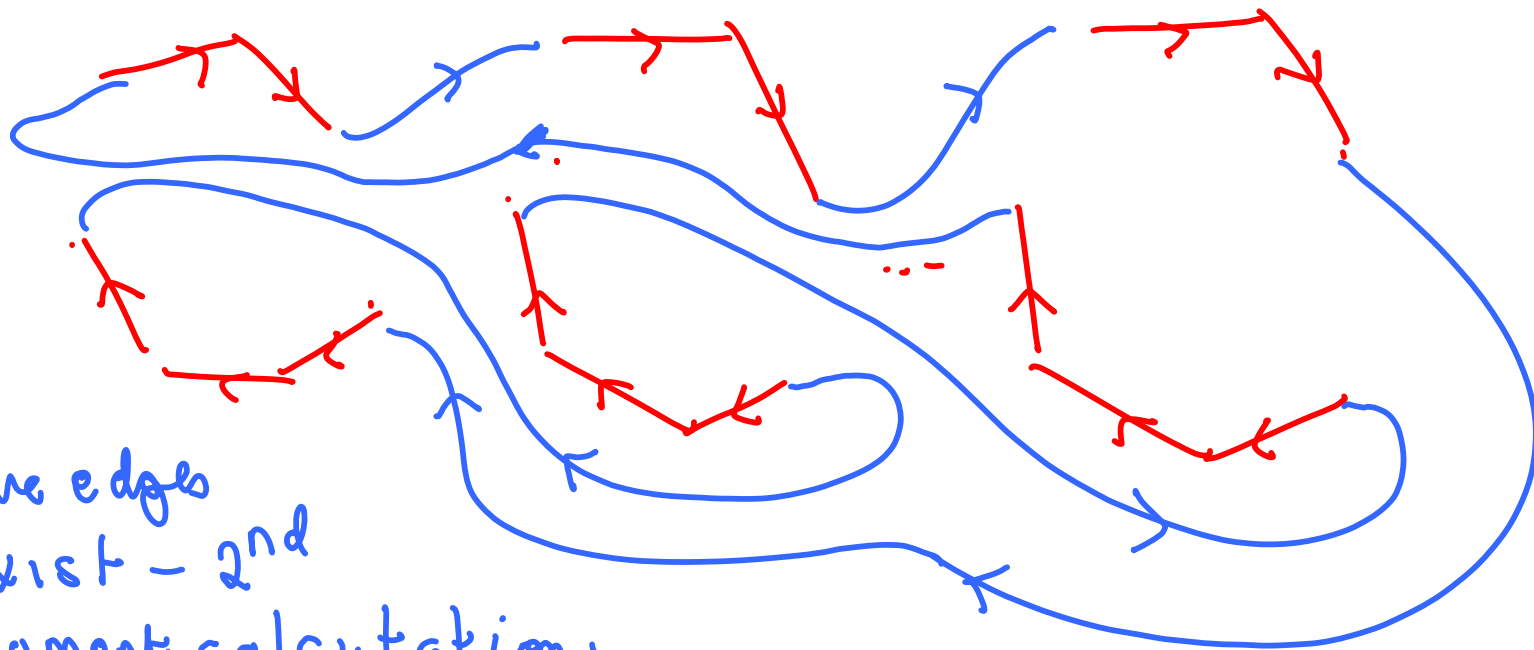
Create many



Use  $D_2$  to close one of paths



All of size  $\Omega(n) \log n$



Blue edges exist - 2<sup>nd</sup> moment calculation - problem with one term; consider special class of rearrangements.

Random Regular Digraphs.

$D_{n,r}$  has vertex set  $[n]$  and indegree/outdegree  $r$ .

Theorem Cooper, Frieze, Molloy 1994

$D_{n,r}$  is Hamiltonian whp,  $r \geq 3$

$D_{n,2}$  is not Hamiltonian whp.



# Union of random permutations

Union of 2 random permutations  
contains **undirected** Hamilton cycle whp } Frieze 2001;  
Greenhill  
Janson,  
Kim, Wormald  
2002

Union of 3 random permutations  
contains **directed** Hamilton cycle whp } Frieze 2001

Union of 2 random permutations whp does )  
**not** contain a **directed** Hamilton cycle whp } Cooper  
2001

# Multi-Colored Hamilton Cycles Cooper, Frieze 2002

Suppose that  $G_{n,m}$  is random edge coloured with  $s$  colours. When does it have a Rainbow Hamilton cycle - each edge a different colour.

$m \geq Kn \log n$  &  $s \geq Kn$  implies yes, whp

## Question

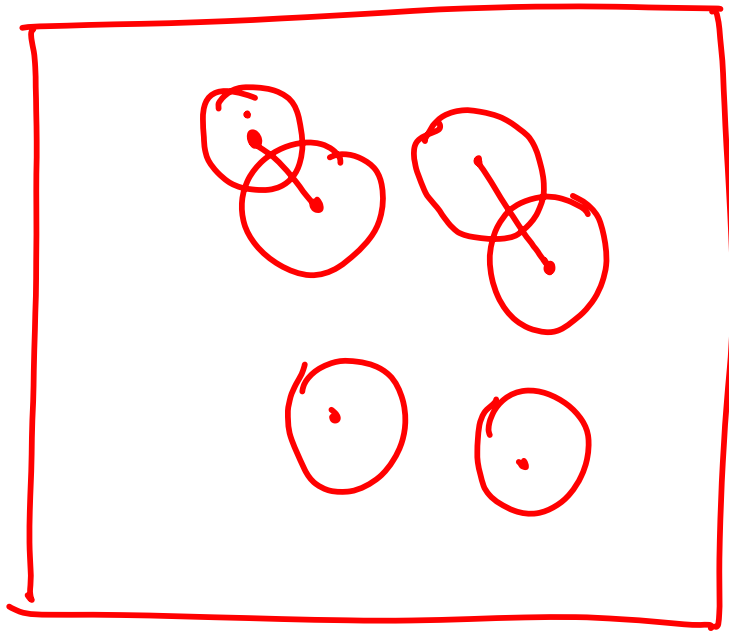
1) If  $s = n$ , how large should  $m$  be?

2) If  $m = \frac{n}{2} (\log n + \log \log n + w)$ , how large should  $s$  be?

# Random Geometric Graphs

$X = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$  chosen uniformly from  $[0,1]^2$ .

$$G_{n,\rho} = (X, \{ (X_i, X_j) : |X_i - X_j| \leq 2\rho \})$$



Suppose  $\pi p^2 = \frac{1}{n} (\log n + \log \log n + c_n)$ .

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_r(G_{n,p} \text{ is Hamiltonian}) = \begin{cases} 0 & c_n \rightarrow -\infty \\ e^{-e^{-c}} & c_n \rightarrow c \\ 1 & c_n \rightarrow \infty \end{cases}$$

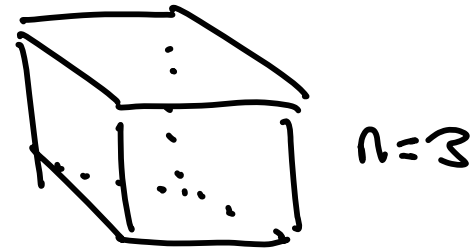
Balogh, Bollobás, Krivelevich, Müller, Walters 2009  
Pérez, Wormald 2009

Improved earlier result of Diaz, Mitsche, Pérez

for case  $\pi p^2 = \frac{(1+\epsilon)}{n} \log n$ .

$Q_{n,p}$  = random sub-graph of the  $n$ -cube.

Each edge included with probability  $p$ .

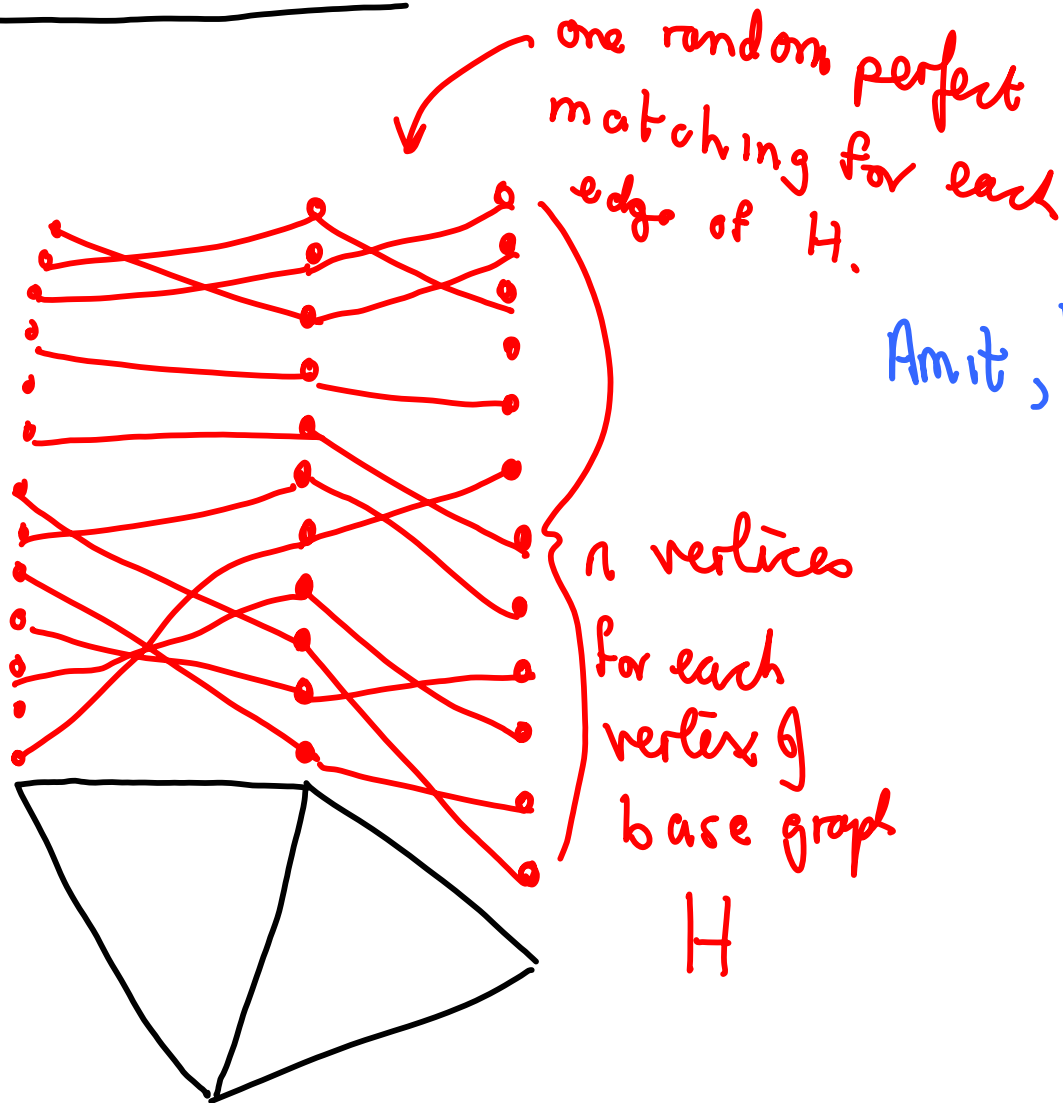


Connectivity occurs around  $p = \frac{1}{2}$  Erdős, Spencer 1979

Matching around  $p = \frac{1}{2}$  Bollobás 1990

Hamilton cycle around  $p = \frac{1}{2}$  ???  
...

# Random Lifts



Amit, Linial 2002

When is a random lift hamiltonian whp:

$H = K_h$  or  $K_{h,h}$  and  $h$  is large: Burgin, Chebolu,  
Cooper, Frieze 2006

$$H = \overrightarrow{K}_h$$

Chebolu, Frieze 2008

(directed lift)

Problem: Is a random lift of  $K_4$   
Hamiltonian whp?

THANK  
YOU