Turán numbers of sunflowers

Domagoj Bradač

ETH Zürich

joint work with Matija Bucić and Benny Sudakov

Slides based on a deck by Matija Bucić.

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British Combinatorial Conference 2022

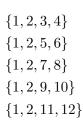
$$\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

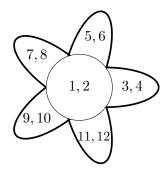
$$\{1, 2, 5, 6\}$$

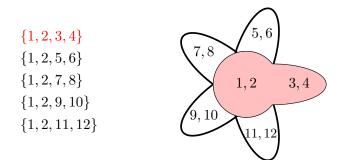
$$\{1, 2, 7, 8\}$$

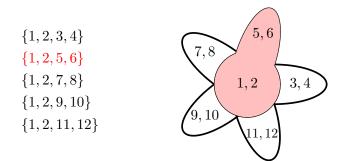
$$\{1, 2, 9, 10\}$$

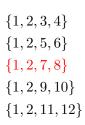
$$\{1, 2, 11, 12\}$$

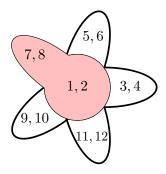


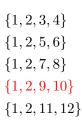


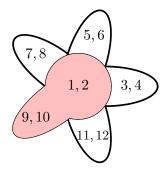


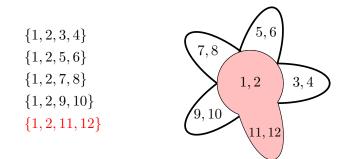




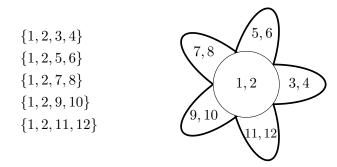






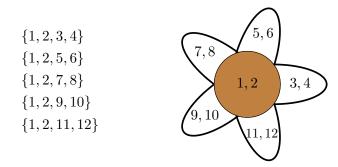


A collection of distinct sets is called a sunflower if the intersection of any pair of sets equals the common intersection of all the sets



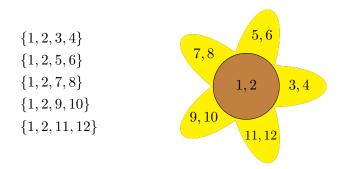
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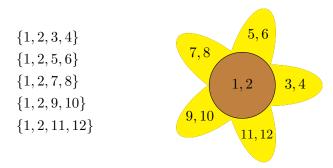


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- The common intersection is the kernel of the sunflower.
- *r*-uniform if all sets have size *r*.

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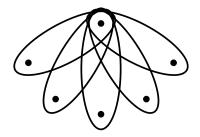
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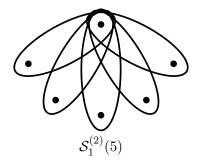
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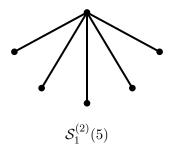
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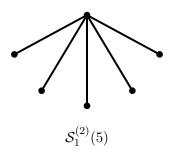
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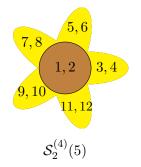
- Even k = 3 case is open and very interesting.
- Relations to many topics in computer science and probability theory.

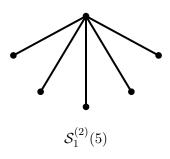


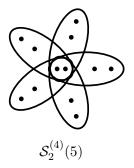




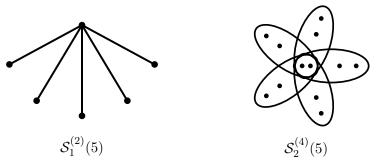






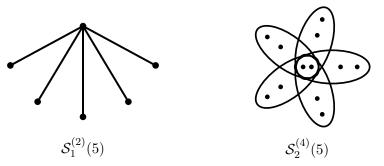


• Let $\mathcal{S}_t^{(r)}(k)$ be the *r*-uniform sunflower with k petals and kernel of size t.



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Question (Duke and Erdős 1977)

What is the max number of edges in an *n*-vertex *r*-graph without $S_t^{(r)}(k)$?

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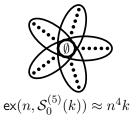
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- The r = 4 case solved approximately by Bucić, Draganić, Sudakov, Tran.

Theorem (B., Bucić. and Sudakov)

$$ex(n, \mathcal{S}_t^{(r)}(k)) \approx_r \begin{cases} n^{r-t-1}k^{t+1} & \text{ if } t \le \frac{r-1}{2}, \\ n^t k^{r-t} & \text{ if } t > \frac{r-1}{2}. \end{cases}$$

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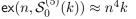
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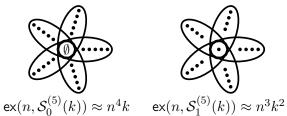


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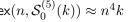


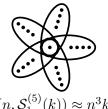
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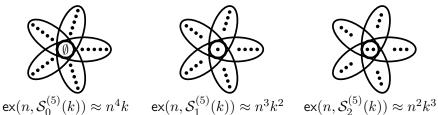
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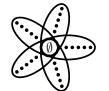


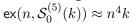


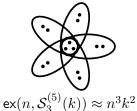
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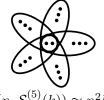
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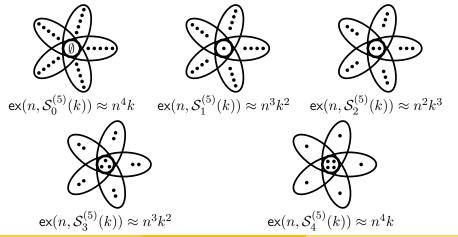




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We use induction to reduce to the *balanced* case:

$$\mathsf{ex}(n, \mathcal{S}_t^{(2t+1)}(k)) \le O(n^t k^{t+1}).$$

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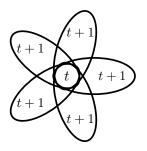
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 - When |X| = 2t + 1, add X to the list of enumerated (2t + 1)-tuples.

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Our list has $O(n^t k^{t+1})$ (2t+1)-tuples, but does it contain all edges?

Suppose $e = (v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5)$ and we start with $a = v_1, b = v_2$ and in the first step we choose $c = v_3 \in \tau(\{v_1, v_2\})$.

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So we cannot reach X = e with this start. However, maybe if we started with e.g. $a = v_3, b = v_4 \dots$

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Why? Let $e = (v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_{2t+1})$ and consider the function $f: \binom{[2t+1]}{t} \to [2t+1]$ which maps $(i_1, \ldots i_t)$ to a different index j such that $v_j \in \tau(\{v_{i_1}, \ldots, v_{i_t}\})$.

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• Known for $r \leq 4$, up to constant factor.

