

The Lovász Local Lemma



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Intro

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Is there a common situation where an outcome might happen with low but positive probability?

Yes: e.g. the intersection of many **independent** events!

E_1, \dots, E_n are independent events with $\Pr(E_i) = p > 0$.

Then

$$\Pr\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n E_i\right) = p^n > 0$$

Does this still hold if the events are **mostly independent**?

Mutual Independence

How do we formalize **mostly independent**?

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Definition 1. *An event A is mutually independent of the events B_1, \dots, B_n if for any subset*

$$I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$$

it holds that

$$\Pr(A \mid \bigcap_{i \in I} B_i) = \Pr(A)$$

The Dependency Graph

Definition 2. *A dependency graph for a set of events E_1, \dots, E_n is a graph $G = (V, E)$ where*

- $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$
- *For all i , E_i is mutually independent of the events $\{E_j : (i, j) \notin E\}$*

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- “mostly” mutually independent, and
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then with positive probability none of them happen.

The Lovász Local Lemma

Theorem 1 (Lovász Local Lemma). *Let $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and $p \in \mathbb{R}$ with $4dp \leq 1$. Let E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n be events. If*

- $\Pr(E_i) \leq p$ for all i , and
- *The degree of their dependency graph is bounded by d*

then

$$\Pr \left(\bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq n} \overline{E}_i \right) > 0$$

Using the LLL

Edge-disjoint paths

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Each pair $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ can choose from a collection F_i of paths.

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How many events do we have?

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How many events do we have? $\binom{n}{2} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$

Edge-disjoint paths

Assume

- each F_i consists of m paths
- for any i and j , a path in F_i intersect with at most k paths in F_j

Then,

$$\Pr (E_{\{i,j\}}) \leq \frac{k}{m}$$

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Remember: the degree of the dependency graph is $d < 2n$, so

$$4dp < \frac{8nk}{m} \leq 1$$

If $\frac{8nk}{m} \leq 1$, then there is a choice of paths such that the n paths are disjoint.

k-Satisfiability

Input: A collection of clauses C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m over n boolean variables (x_1, \dots, x_n) in k -CNF, i.e., each C_i is a **OR** of k variables and $\phi = C_1 \wedge C_2 \wedge \dots \wedge C_m$

Goal: Find a truth assignment to x_1, \dots, x_n , that satisfies ϕ .

k-Satisfiability

Theorem 2. *Let $\phi = C_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge C_m$, where each C_i has exactly k literals. If no variable appears in more than $T = 2^k / (4k)$ clauses then ϕ is satisfiable.*

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Proof. Assign random truth values to the variables. Let

$$E_i = \{i\text{-th clause is false}\}$$

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$$d \leq k \cdot T \leq 2^k / 4.$$

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Therefore: $4pd \leq 1$ and we can conclude that a satisfying assignment exists. □

Hypergraph Coloring

Definition 3 (Hypergraph). *A hypergraph is a pair $H = (V, \mathcal{E})$, where V is the set of vertices and \mathcal{E} is the set of **hyperedges**, where each hyperedge is a subset of V .*

Unlike in an ordinary graph, a hyperedge can connect any number of vertices, not just two.

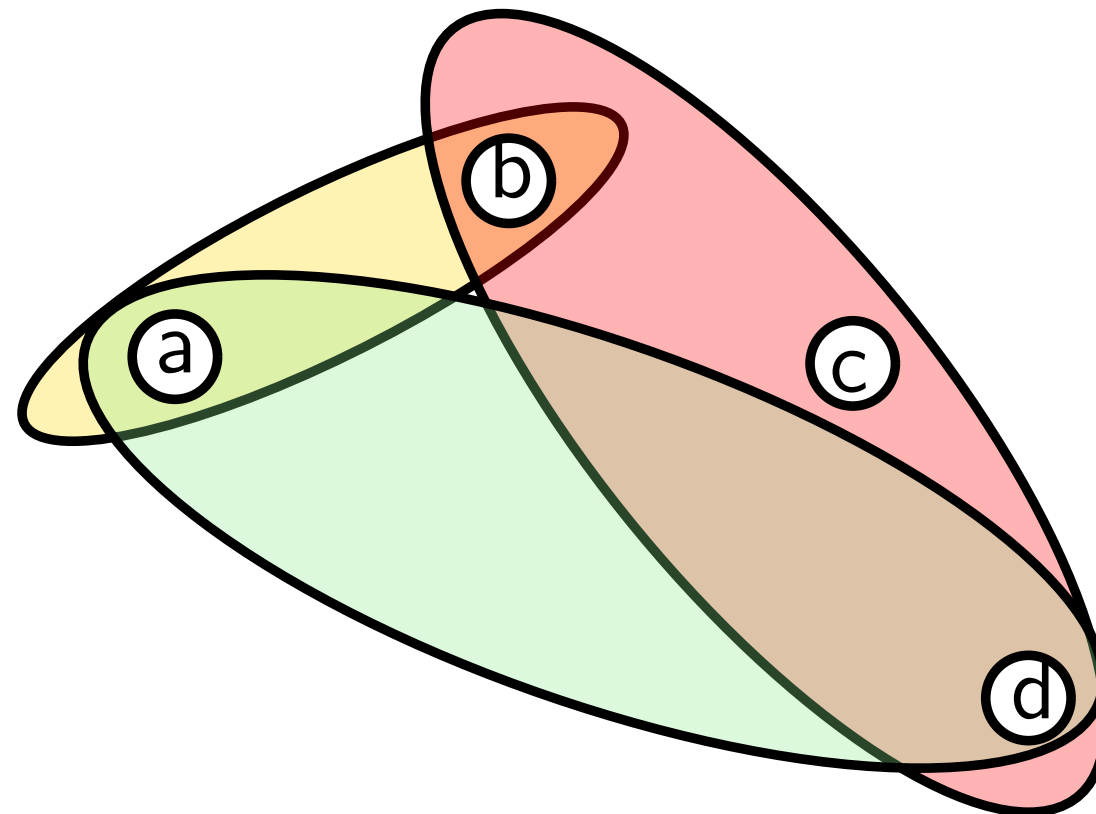
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Example:

$$V = \{a, b, c, d\}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{E} = \{\{a, b\}, \{b, c, d\}, \{a, d\}\}$$



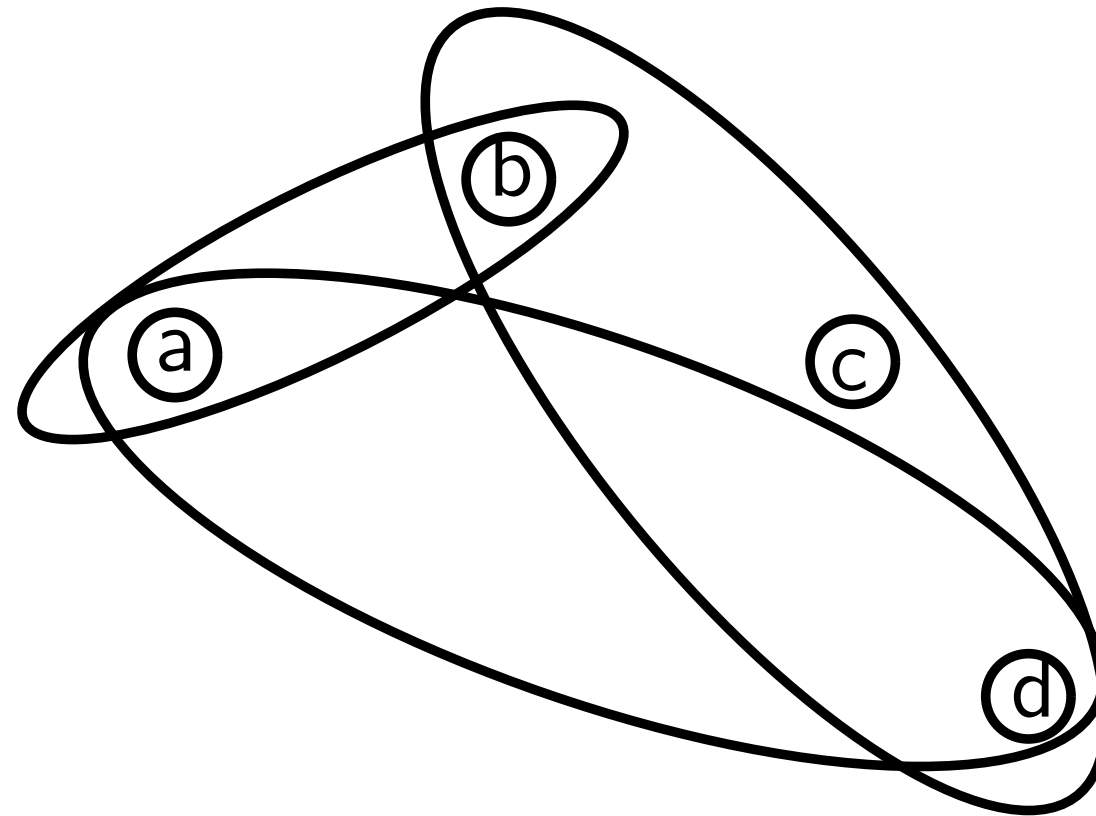
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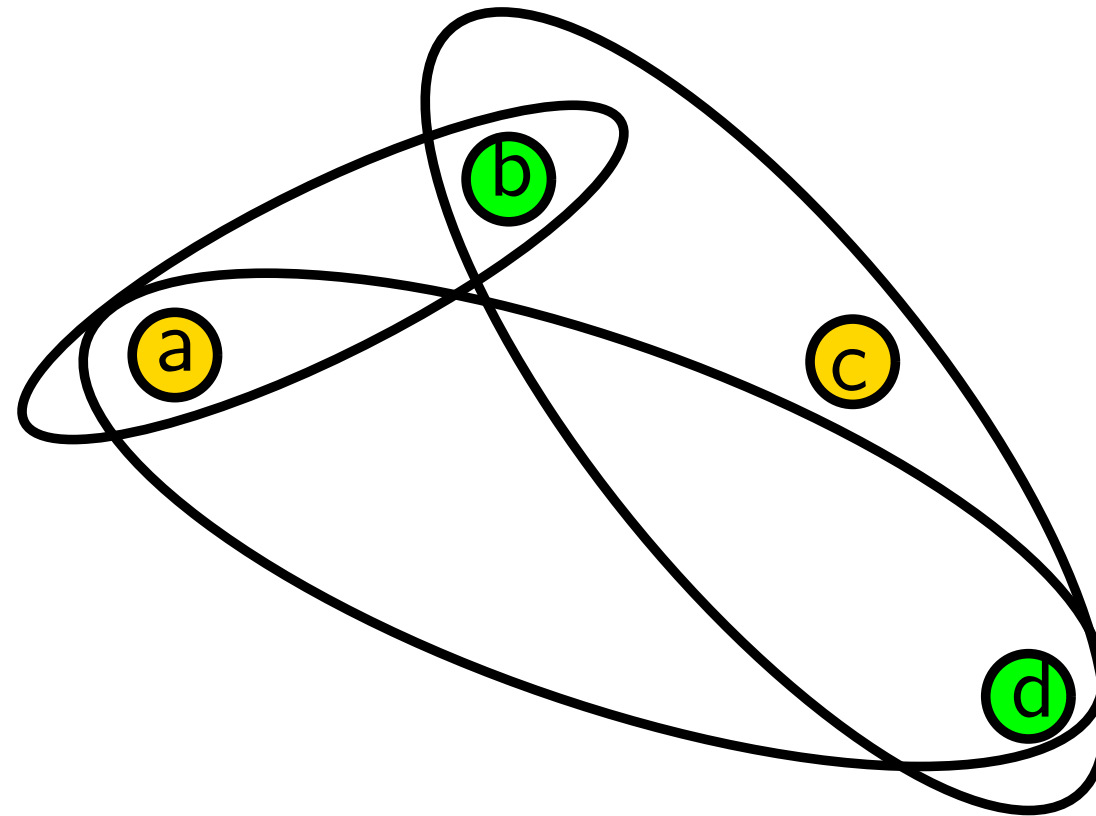
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Theorem 3 (Lovász Local Lemma). *Let $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and $p \in \mathbb{R}$ with*

$$ep(d + 1) \leq 1.$$

Let E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n be events. If

- $\Pr(E_i) \leq p$ for all i , and
- *The degree of their dependency graph is bounded by d*

then

$$\Pr \left(\bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq n} \bar{E}_i \right) > 0$$

Hypergraph Coloring

Theorem 4. *Let $H = (V, \mathcal{E})$ be a hypergraph. If $\forall e \in \mathcal{E}$, e has size at least k and intersect at most d other edges, and*

$$e(d + 1) \leq 2^{k-1}$$

the H has property B (i.e., 2-colorable).

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Let's discuss the dependencies,

$$D_f = \{f' \in \mathcal{E}(H) : f' \cap f \neq \emptyset\}$$

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$$D_f = \{f' \in \mathcal{E}(H) : f' \cap f \neq \emptyset\}$$

By assumption $|D_f| \leq d$. Since $ep(d + 1) \leq 1$ then H has property B . □

The General Lovász Local Lemma

Theorem 5 (General Lovász Local Lemma). *Let E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n be events in an arbitrary probability space Ω and let $G = (V, E)$ be the dependency graph of these events. Assume there exists $x_1, \dots, x_n \in [0, 1]$ such that, for all $1 \leq i \leq n$,*

$$\Pr(E_i) \leq x_i \prod_{(i,j) \in E} (1 - x_j).$$

Then

$$\Pr\left(\bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq n} \bar{E}_i\right) > \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - x_i)$$

The Lovász Local Lemma

Proof. Consider the following claim:

Claim 1. For all $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $k \notin S$,

$$\Pr \left(E_k \mid \bigcap_{i \in S} \bar{E}_i \right) \leq 2p.$$

If the claim holds, then the Local Lemma would follow because

$$\Pr \left(\bigcap_{1 \leq i \leq n} \bar{E}_i \right) = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} \Pr \left(\bar{E}_i \mid \bigcap_{1 \leq j \leq i} \bar{E}_j \right)$$

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$$= \prod_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left[1 - \Pr \left(E_i \mid \bigcap_{1 \leq j \leq i} \bar{E}_j \right) \right]$$

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□

The Mystic Lemma

Lemma 1. *For all $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $k \notin S$,*

$$\Pr \left(E_k \mid \bigcap_{i \in S} \bar{E}_i \right) \leq 2p.$$

Proof of The Mystic Lemma

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Base case $s = 0$: follows from the assumption.

$$\Pr(E_i) \leq p.$$

Otherwise, we can split S into

$$S_1 = \{i \mid k \text{ and } i \text{ are connected in the dependency graph}\} \quad \text{and} \quad S_2 = S \setminus S_1$$

If $S_1 = \emptyset$, then E_k is mutually independent of all the events in S .

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Assume that $|S_2| < |S|$ and let $F_{S_1} = \bigcap_{i \in S_1} \bar{E}_i$ and define F_{S_2} and F_S analogously.

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$$\Pr(E_k \mid F_S) = \frac{\Pr(E_k \cap F_S)}{\Pr(F_S)}$$

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We know that

$$\Pr(E_k \cap F_{S_1} \mid F_{S_2}) \leq \Pr(E_k \mid F_{S_2}) \leq p$$

because E_k is independent of S_2

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$$\Pr(F_{S_1} \mid F_{S_2}) = \Pr\left(\bigcap_{i \in S_1} \bar{E}_i \mid F_{S_2}\right) \geq 1 - \sum_{i \in S_1} \Pr(E_i \mid F_{S_2})$$

Proof of The Mystic Lemma – Almost there...

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because E_k is independent of S_2 , and

$$\Pr(F_{S_1} \mid F_{S_2}) = \Pr\left(\bigcap_{i \in S_1} \bar{E}_i \mid F_{S_2}\right) \geq 1 - \sum_{i \in S_1} \Pr(E_i \mid F_{S_2}) \geq 1 - \sum_{i \in S_1} 2p \geq 2pd \geq \frac{1}{2}$$

Inductive HP on the second inequality (since $|S_2| < |S| = s$ and $i \notin S_2, \forall i \in S_1$) and $|S_1| < d$ for the third one.

Proof of The Mystic Lemma

Proof. Putting all together:

$$\Pr(E_k \cap F_{S_1} \mid F_{S_2}) \leq \Pr(E_k \mid F_{S_2}) \leq p$$

And

$$\Pr(F_{S_1} \mid F_{S_2}) = \Pr\left(\bigcap_{i \in S_1} \bar{E}_i \mid F_{S_2}\right) \geq 1 - \sum_{i \in S_1} \Pr(E_i \mid F_{S_2}) \geq 1 - \sum_{i \in S_1} 2p \geq 2pd \geq \frac{1}{2}.$$

We have

$$\Pr(E_k \mid F_S) = \frac{\Pr(E_k \cap F_S)}{\Pr(F_S)} = \frac{\Pr(E_k \cap F_{S_1} \mid F_{S_2}) \Pr(F_{S_2})}{\Pr(F_{S_1} \mid F_{S_2}) \Pr(F_{S_2})} \leq \frac{p}{1/2} = 2p$$

□