

Alfréd Rényi Institute of Mathematics  
Central European University

# Survey of Recent Generalisations of Erdős–Gallai Theorems for Berge Hypergraphs

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Discrete Maths Seminar Series at Open University, Milton Keynes,  
UK

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## B. Bollobás, Extremal Graph Theory

- ▶ Extremal graph theory is a branch of graph theory developed and loved by Hungarians.
- ▶ Its study as a subject was initiated by P. Turán in 1940.
- ▶ Several other extremal results including a special case of Turán's theorem had been proved many years earlier.
- ▶ The main exponent has been Paul Erdős who, through his many papers and lectures, as well as unaccountably many problems, has virtually created the subject.

## Why is it interesting?

There is a pleasure sure, In being mad, which none but madmen know!

**John Dryden**, 'The Spanish Friar'.



### Theorem (Turán, 1940)

If  $G$  is a graph of order  $n$ , without a clique of size  $r + 1$ , then

$$e(G) \leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{r}\right) \frac{n^2}{2}$$

### Theorem (Mantel, 1907)

If  $G$  is a triangle free graph of order  $n$ , then

$$e(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n^2}{4} \right\rfloor$$

### Remark

The equality holds iff  $r|n$  and  $G$  is the complete  $r$ -partite graph with equal classes.

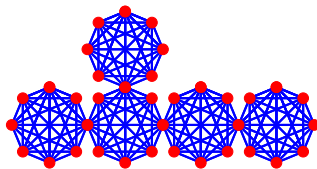
## Theorem (Erdős-Gallai, 1959)

If  $G$  is a graph of order  $n$ , without a cycle of length at least  $\ell$ , then

$$e(G) \leq \frac{(\ell - 1)(n - 1)}{2}$$

## Remark

The equality holds iff  $\ell - 2 \mid n - 1$  and  $G$  is the union of  $\frac{n-1}{\ell-2}$  disjoint cliques of size  $\ell - 1$  sharing a vertex.



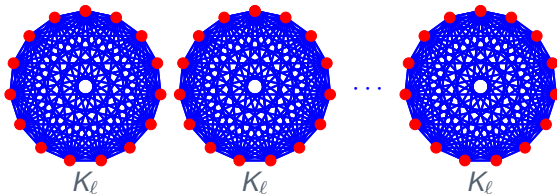
## Theorem (Erdős-Gallai, 1959)

If  $G$  is a graph of order  $n$ , without a path of length  $\ell$ , then

$$e(G) \leq \frac{\ell - 1}{2} n$$

## Remark

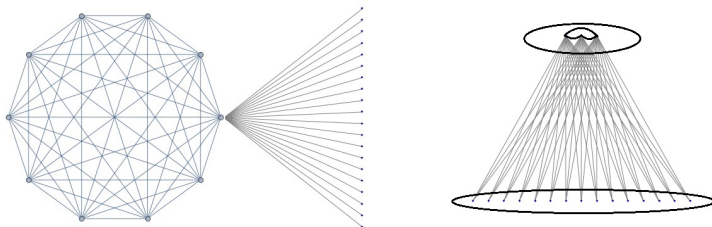
The equality holds iff  $\ell | n$  and  $G$  is the disjoint union of  $\frac{n}{\ell}$  cliques of size  $\ell$ .



## Theorem (Kopylov 1977, Ballister, Győri, Lehel, Schelp 2008)

If  $G$  is a **connected** graph of order  $n$ , without a path of length  $k$ ,  $n > k \geq 3$ , then number of edges  $e(G)$  is at most

$$\max \left\{ \binom{k-1}{2} + n - k + 1, \binom{\lceil \frac{k+1}{2} \rceil}{2} + \left\lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \right\rfloor \left( n - \left\lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \right\rfloor \right) \right\}$$



# Paths in the Hypergraph?

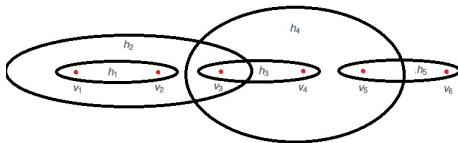
Berge Path of length  $k$



There are many different ways to define paths in hypergraphs. One of the most basic/general definition is due to **Berge**.

## Definition (Berge Path of Length $k$ )

A Berge path of length  $k$  in a Hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$ , is an ordered  $k + 1$  distinct vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{k+1}$  and ordered  $k$  distinct hyperedges  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_k$  such that for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $v_i$  and  $v_{i+1} \in h_i$ .



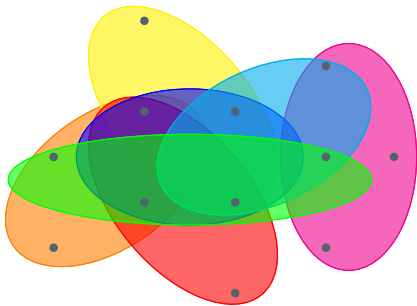
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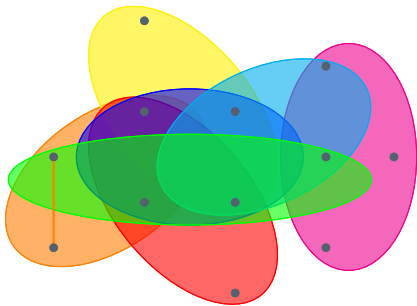
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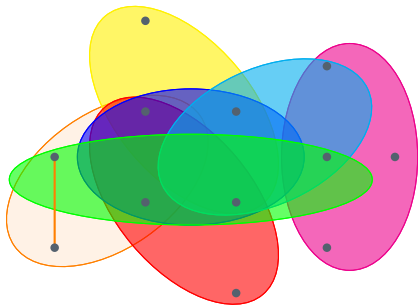
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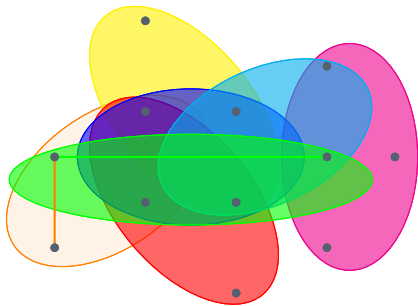
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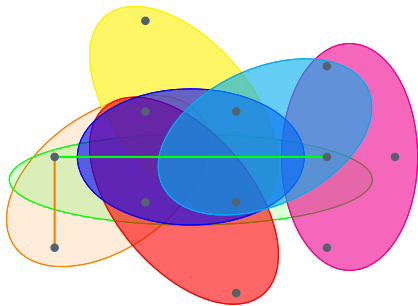
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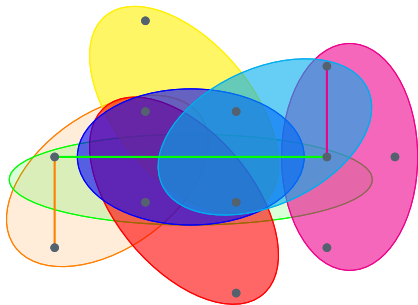
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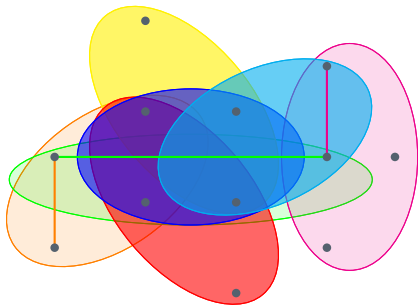
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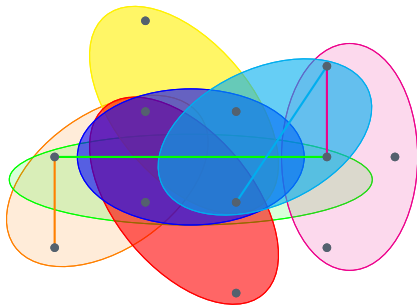
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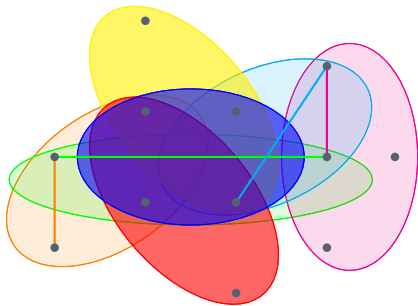
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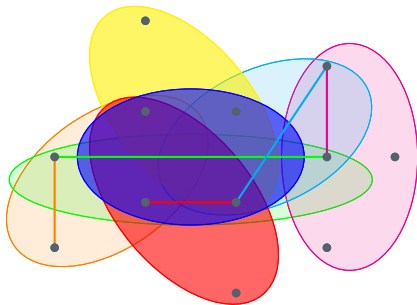
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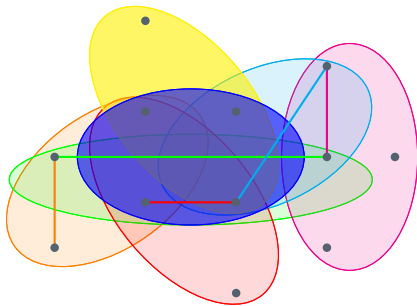
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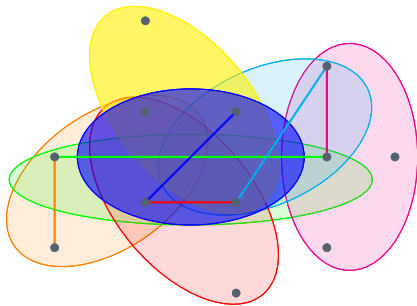
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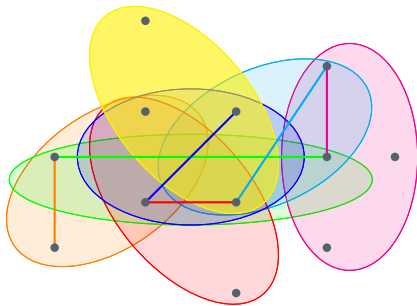
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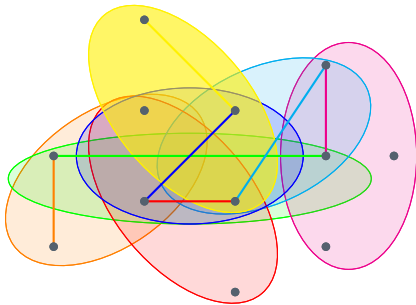
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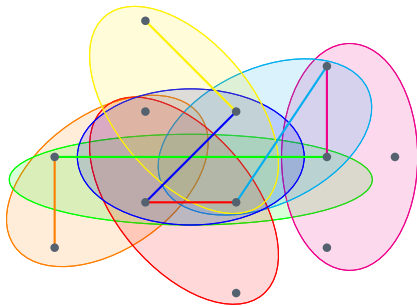
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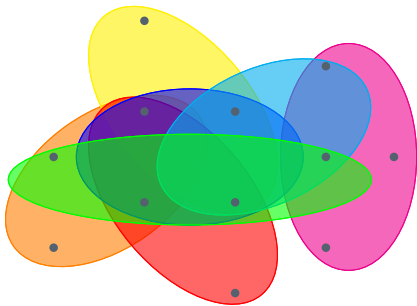
# Cycles in the Hypergraph?

Berge Cycle of length  $k$



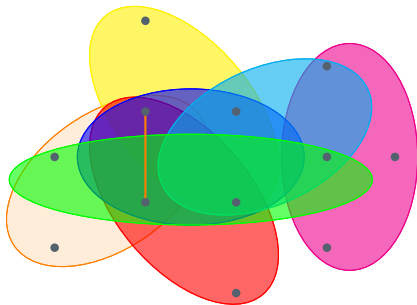
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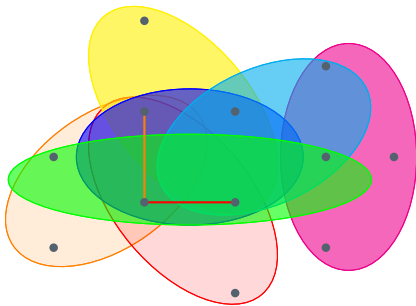
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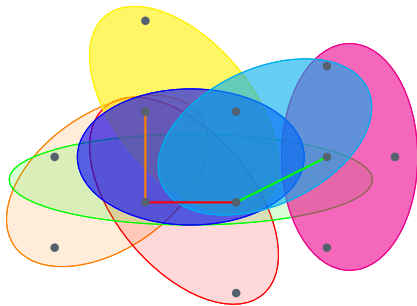
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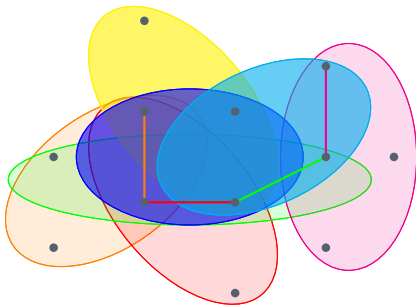
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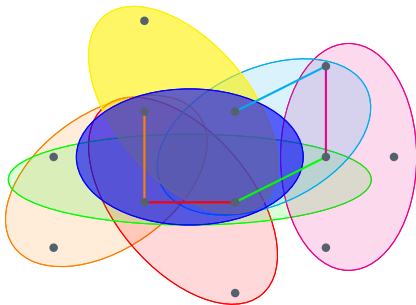
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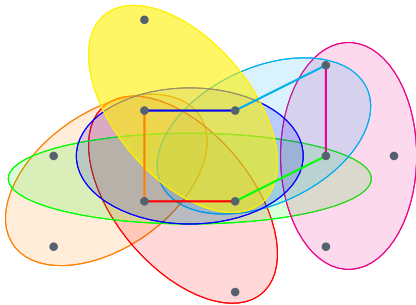
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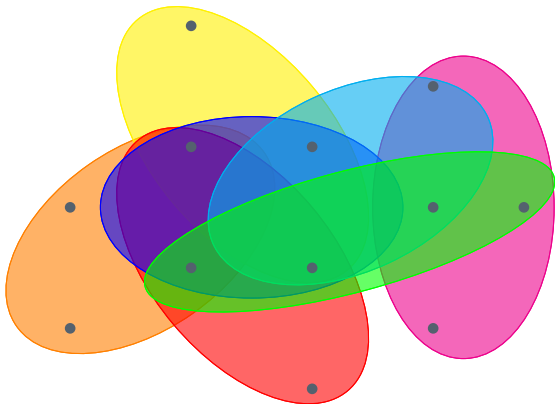


# A Question

Berge Cycle of length at least 7



Does this hypergraph contain a Berge cycle of length at least 7?

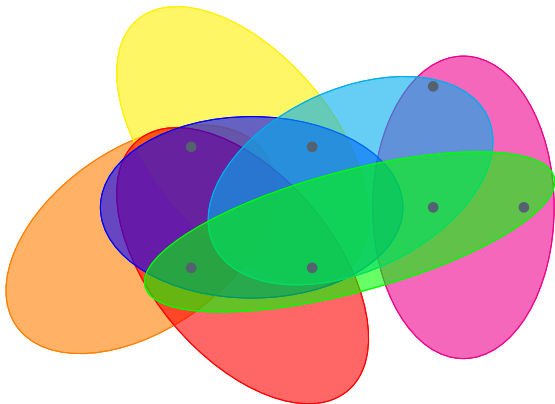


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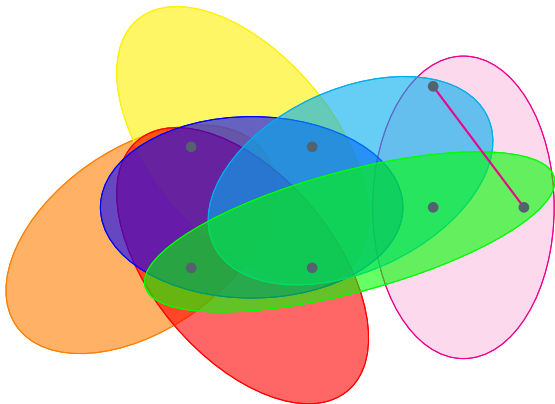


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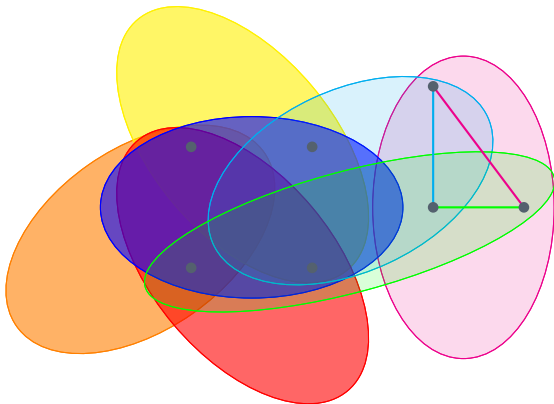


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# Hypergraph Version, Berge Paths

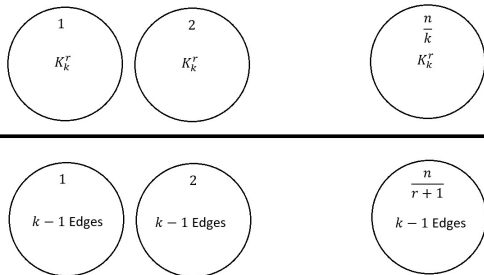
Erdős-Gallai



Theorem (Győri, Katona, Lemons, 2016  
Davoodi, Győri, Methuku, Tompkins, 2018)

If  $\mathcal{H}$  is an  $r$ -uniform hypergraph of order  $n$  without a Berge path of length  $k$ , then

- ▶ If  $k \geq r + 1 > 2$  we have  $e(\mathcal{H}) \leq \frac{n}{k} \binom{k}{r}$
- ▶ If  $r \geq k > 2$  we have  $e(\mathcal{H}) \leq \frac{n(k-1)}{r+1}$



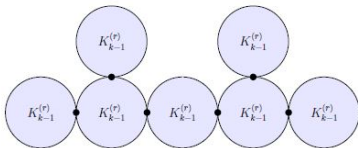
## Theorem (Füredi, Kostochka, Luo, 2018)

If  $\mathcal{H}$  is an  $r$ -uniform hypergraph of order  $n$ , without a Berge cycle of length at least  $k$ ,  $k \geq r + 3$ , then

$$e(\mathcal{H}) \leq \frac{n-1}{k-2} \binom{k-1}{r}$$

## Remark

The equality holds iff  $k - 2 \mid n - 1$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  is the union of  $\frac{n-1}{k-2}$  disjoint  $r$ -uniform cliques of size  $k - 1$  sharing a vertex



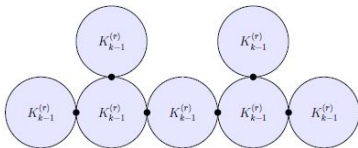
## Theorem (E., G., M., S., T., Z., 2018)

If  $\mathcal{H}$  is an  $r$ -uniform hypergraph of order  $n$ , without a Berge cycle of length at least  $r + 2$ , then

$$e(\mathcal{H}) \leq \frac{(n-1)(r+1)}{r}$$

## Remark

The equality holds iff  $r|n-1$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  is the union of  $\frac{n-1}{r}$  disjoint  $r$ -uniform cliques of size  $k-1$  sharing a vertex



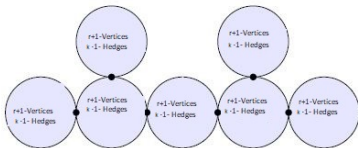
## Theorem (E., G., M., S., T., Z., 2020)

If  $\mathcal{H}$  is an  $r$ -uniform hypergraph of order  $n$ , without a Berge cycle of length at least  $r + 1$ , then

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## Remark

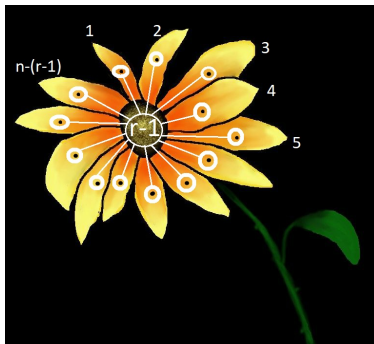
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## Theorem (G., L., S., Z., 2018)

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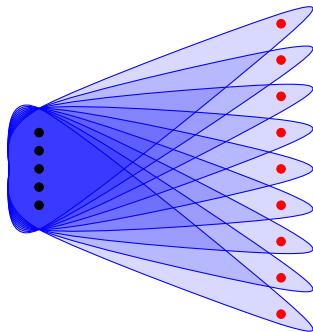
$$e(\mathcal{H}) \leq \max \left( n - (r - 1), \frac{(n - 1)(r - 1)}{r} \right)$$



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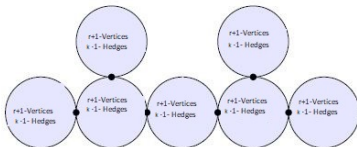
## Theorem (Kostochka, Luo, G., L., S., Z. 2020)

If  $\mathcal{H}$  is an  $r$ -uniform hypergraph of order  $n$ , without a Berge cycle of length at least  $k$ ,  $k \leq r - 1$ , then

$$e(\mathcal{H}) \leq \frac{n-1}{r}(k-1)$$

## Remark

The equality holds iff  $r|n-1$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  is the union of size  $r+1$  vertex sets, containing  $k-1$  hyperedges, sharing a vertex.



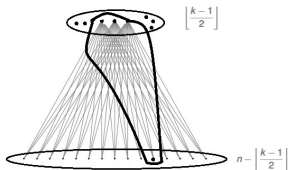


## Theorem (Győri, Salia, Zamora 2020+ and Füredi, Kostochka, Luo 2020+)

Let  $\mathcal{H}_{n,k}$  be a largest  $r$ -uniform,  $k \geq 2r + 13 \geq 18$ , connected hypergraph of order  $n > n_{k,r}$ , without a Berge path of length  $k$ , then

- ▶  $e(\mathcal{H}_{n,k}) = |\mathcal{H}_{n, \lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \rfloor}|$ , if  $k$  is odd, and
- ▶  $e(\mathcal{H}_{n,k}) = |\mathcal{H}_{n, \lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \rfloor, 2}|$ , if  $k$  is even.

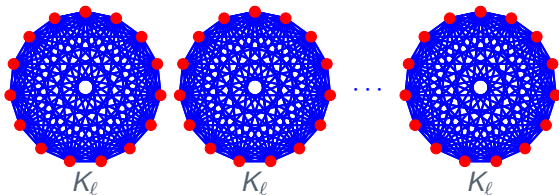
Depending on the parity of  $k$ , the unique extremal hypergraph is  $\mathcal{H}_{n, \lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \rfloor}$  or  $\mathcal{H}_{n, \lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \rfloor, 2}$ .



## Conjecture (Erdős and Sós, 1984)

If  $G$  is a graph of order  $n$ , without a fixed Tree  $T$  with  $\ell$  edges, then

$$e(G) \leq \frac{\ell - 1}{2} n$$



## Theorem (Gerbner, Methuku, Palmer, 2020)

*If the Erdős-Sós conjecture holds for a tree  $T$  with  $\ell$  edges and all of its sub-trees and  $\ell > r + 1$ , then for every  $r$ -uniform hypergraph with  $n$ -vertices and no Berge tree  $T$  we have*

$$e(\mathcal{H}) \leq \frac{n}{\ell} \binom{\ell}{r}$$

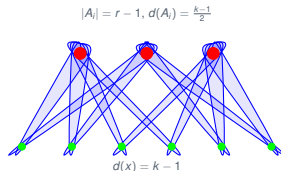
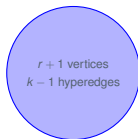
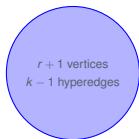
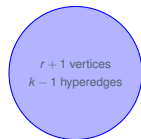
## Remark

The equality holds iff  $\ell | n$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  is the disjoint union of  $\frac{n}{\ell}$   $r$ -cliques of size  $\ell$ .

## Theorem (G,S,T,Z,2020+)

Let  $n, \ell, r$  be positive integers and let  $T$  be a  $\ell$ -edge tree which is not a star, then we have for all  $r \geq \ell(\ell - 2)$ , every  $n$  vertex  $r$ -uniform hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$ , without a copy of Berge- $T$

$$e(\mathcal{H}) \leq \frac{n(\ell - 1)}{r + 1}.$$





## Question (Kostochka, Lavrov, Luo, Zirlin)

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be an  $n$ -vertex, NON-uniform, hypergraph. We have

- ▶ For every  $A \subseteq V(\mathcal{H})$ , ( $|A| \geq 2$ ), the number of hyperedges incident with at least two vertices from  $A$  is at least  $|A|$ ;

Then for every  $A \subseteq V(\mathcal{H})$ , ( $|A| \geq 2$ ), there is a Berge cycle with the base vertices on  $A$ .

Thank You!  
Please Ask Me Questions?

Nika Salia

A watercolor painting depicting a tropical scene. In the foreground, there are several palm trees with green fronds and brown trunks. The background shows a large, multi-story building with a reddish-brown facade and many windows. The overall style is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and a mix of colors including greens, browns, and reds.