

# An overview of Hladký et al's (2021) Work on Inhomogeneous $W$ -Random Graphs

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Undergraduate Research in Probability & Statistics Program

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Hladký, Jan, et al. “A Limit Theorem for Small Cliques in Inhomogeneous Random Graphs.” *Journal of Graph Theory*, vol. 97, no. 4, 2021, pp. 578–599,  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.10570>

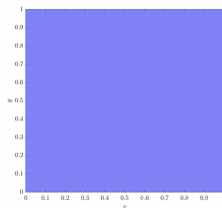
- Graphons
- $W$ -Random Graphs
- Graph Homomorphisms
- Homomorphism Density
- $K_r$ -free &  $K_r$ -complete graphons (Theorem 1.2a)
- Conditional homomorphism density
- $K_r$ -regular graphons
- Statement of Theorems 1.2b & 1.2c
- Proof Idea for Theorems
- Extensions & Concluding Remarks

## Definition

A **graphon** is a bounded, symmetric and measurable function

$$W : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow [0, 1] \quad \text{where } W(x, y) = W(y, x) \quad \forall x, y \in [0, 1]$$

Uniform (Erdős-Rényi)

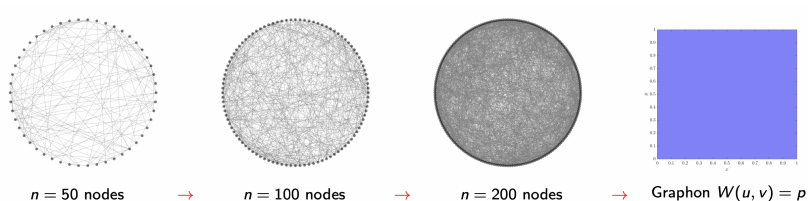


$$W(u, v) = p$$

Figure: A constant graphon (Ribeiro 2021)

# Graphons

- Graphons  $\approx$  weighted symmetric graphs with uncountably many vertices
- Graphons  $\approx$  limit of graph sequences
- If  $G$  is an unweighted graph, fix  $w_e = 1$  for each edge  $e$ .



**Figure:** Sequence of random graphs sampled from a constant graphon (Ribeiro 2021)

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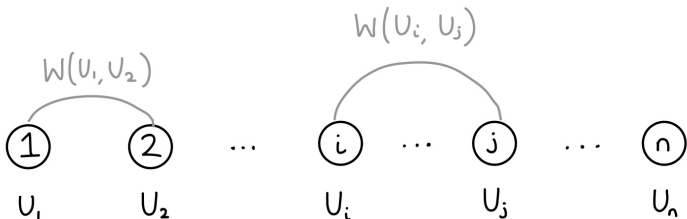


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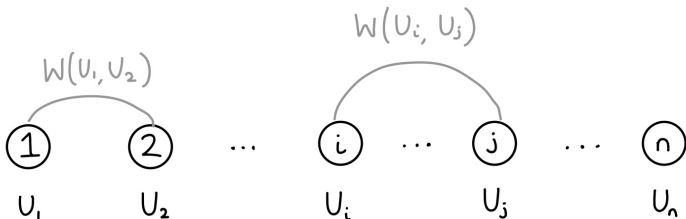
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- $W(x, y) \equiv p \Rightarrow \mathbb{G}(n, W)$  equivalent to Erdős–Rényi  $\mathbb{G}(n, p)$  random graph

# Graph Homomorphisms

## Definition

For graphs  $F = (V', E')$  &  $G = (V, E)$ ,  
a **graph homomorphism** from  $F$  to  $G$  is a map

$$\beta : V' \rightarrow V \quad \text{s.t. if } (i, j) \in E', \text{ then } (\beta(i), \beta(j)) \in E$$

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- Adjacency-preserving map
- Homomorphism  $K_r \rightarrow G \Rightarrow G$  contains an  $r$ -clique

# Graph Homomorphisms

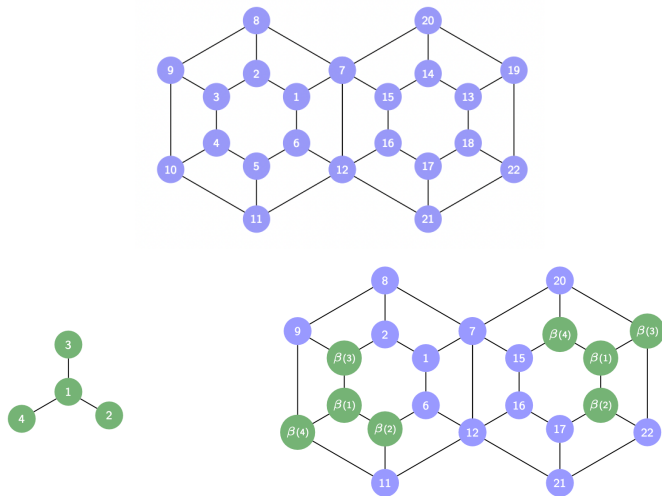


Figure: Example of multiple homomorphisms  $F \rightarrow G$  (Ribeiro 2021)

# Homomorphism Density for Weighted Graphs

## Definition

For  $G = (V, E)$  on  $n$  nodes &  $F = (V', E')$  on  $k$  nodes, the **homomorphism density** of  $F$  in  $G$  is:

$$t(F, G) = \frac{1}{n^k} \sum_{\substack{\beta: V' \rightarrow V \\ \text{graph hom.}}} \left( \prod_{(i,j) \in E'} [A]_{\beta(i), \beta(j)} \right)$$

where  $A$  is the adjacency matrix of  $G$ .

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- Weight each homomorphism  $\beta : V' \rightarrow V$  by the product of edge weights in the image of  $\beta$



# Homomorphism Densities for Graphons

## Definition

For a graphon  $W$  & multigraph  $H = (V, E)$  on  $n$  nodes, the **homomorphism density** of  $H$  in  $W$  is:

$$t(H, W) = \int_{[0,1]^n} \prod_{(i,j) \in E} W(x_i, x_j) \prod_{i \in V} dx_i$$

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- For a clique  $K_r$  ( $r \geq 2$ ), the homomorphism density can be defined as:

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- Akin to weighted graph definition, where  $W(x_i, x_j)$  is the weight of edge  $(i, j)$

# $K_r$ -free and $K_r$ -complete graphons

## Definition

A graphon  $W$  is  $K_r$ -free if  $t(K_r, W) = 0$  &  
 $K_r$ -complete if  $t(K_r, W) = 1$  almost everywhere.

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- Let  $X_{n,r} =$  no. of  $r$ -cliques in  $\mathbb{G}(n, W)$ .

## Theorem

If  $W$  is  $K_r$ -free or  $K_r$ -complete, then almost surely  $X_{n,r} = 0$  or  $X_{n,r} = \binom{n}{r}$  respectively.

## Statement of Theorem 1.2a

- Consider the graphon

$$W(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \neq y \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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- $W$  is  $K_r$ -complete  $\Rightarrow$  There are  $\binom{n}{r}$   $r$ -cliques

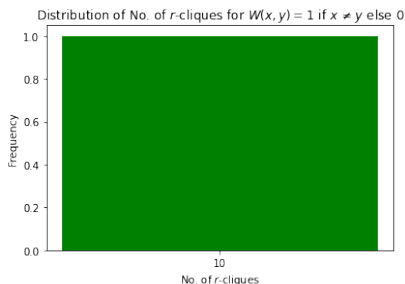


Figure: No. of 3-cliques in  $\mathbb{G}(5, W)$  (sampled 1000 times)

## Definition

Let  $H$  be a graph with vertex set  $[k]$  where nodes in  $J \subseteq [k]$  are **marked**. For a vector of values  $\mathbf{x} = (x_j)_{j \in J} \in [0, 1]^{|J|}$ , the **conditional density** is:

$$t_{\mathbf{x}}(H, W) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \prod_{\{i,j\} \in E(H)} W(U_i, U_j) \mid U_j = x_j : j \in J \right]$$



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- $t_{\mathbf{x}}(K_r, W)$  is the conditional probability that  $\mathbb{G}(r, W) = K_r$  whenever each node  $j \in J$  has type  $x_j$

# Degree Function of a Graphon

## Definition

For a graphon  $W$ , the **degree function**  $\deg_W : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is:

$$\deg_W(x) = \int_0^1 W(x, y) dy$$

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- In an Erdős–Rényi random graph  $\mathbb{G}(n, p)$ , a node has expected degree  $(n - 1) \cdot p$
- In  $\mathbb{G}(n, W)$ , a node with type  $x \in [0, 1]$  has expected degree is  $(n - 1) \cdot \deg_W(x)$

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## Definition

Say that a graphon  $W$  is **regular** if  $\deg_W(x) \equiv d$  for some constant  $d \in [0, 1]$ .

- Let  $K_r^\bullet := K_r$  with one marked node, with conditional density  $t_x(K_r^\bullet, W)$

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Definition (Equation 8, Hladký et al. 2021)

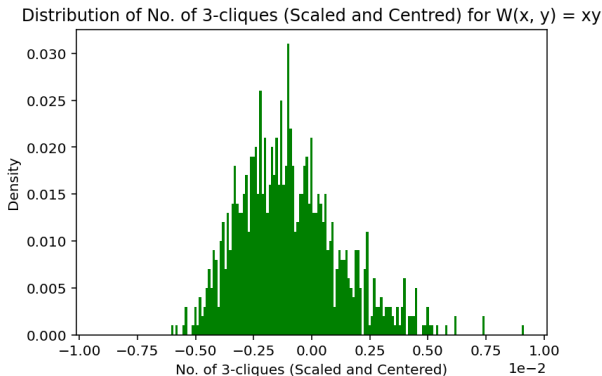
A graphon  $W$  is  $K_r$ -**regular** if for almost every  $x \in [0, 1]$ , we have:

$$t_x(K_r^\bullet, W) = t(K_r, W)$$

- $K_r$ -regularity = generalization of graph regularity

## Statement of Theorem 1.2b

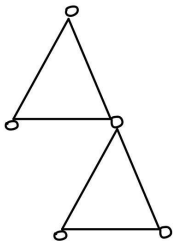
- If  $W$  is not  $K_r$ -regular, then the no. of  $r$ -cliques exhibits fluctuations that are asymptotically Gaussian.



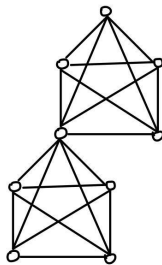
**Figure:** Numerical simulations (1000 iterations) for the distribution of  $\frac{X_{n,r} - \mathbb{E}[X_{n,r}]}{n^{r-1/2}}$  in  $\mathbb{G}(100, W)$ , where  $W(x, y) = xy$ ,  $r = 3$

## Statement of Theorem 1.2b

- Let  $K_r \ominus_1 K_r =$  simple graph on  $2r - 1$  nodes with two copies of  $K_r$  sharing one node



$K_3 \ominus_1 K_3$



$K_5 \ominus_1 K_5$



# Statement of Theorem 1.2b

## Theorem

If  $W$  is not  $K_r$ -regular, then:

$$\frac{X_{n,r} - \binom{n}{r} t_r}{n^{r-1/2}} \xrightarrow{d} \hat{\sigma}_{r,W} \cdot Z$$

where  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$  &  $\hat{\sigma}_{r,W} = \frac{1}{(r-1)!} (t(K_r \ominus_1 K_r, W) - t_r^2)^{1/2} > 0$

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- View  $\hat{\sigma}_{r,W}$  as the *scaled* variance of  $X_{n,r}$ , where:
  - ▶  $t(K_r \ominus_1 K_r, W) \approx \mathbb{E}[X_{n,r}^2]$
  - ▶  $t_r^2 \approx \mathbb{E}[X_{n,r}]^2$

# Motivating Example for Theorem 1.2c

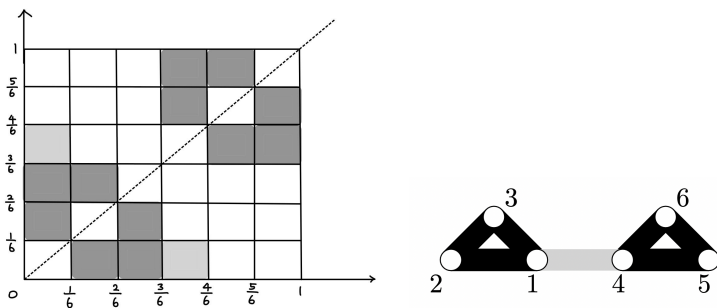


Figure:  $K_3$ -regular graphon where  $\frac{X_{n,r} - \mathbb{E}[X_{n,r}]}{n^{r-1}}$  follows a chi-square distribution (right picture from Hladký et al.)

# Motivating Example for Theorem 1.2c

Distribution of No. of 3-cliques (Scaled and Centred) for  $K_3$ -regular graphon

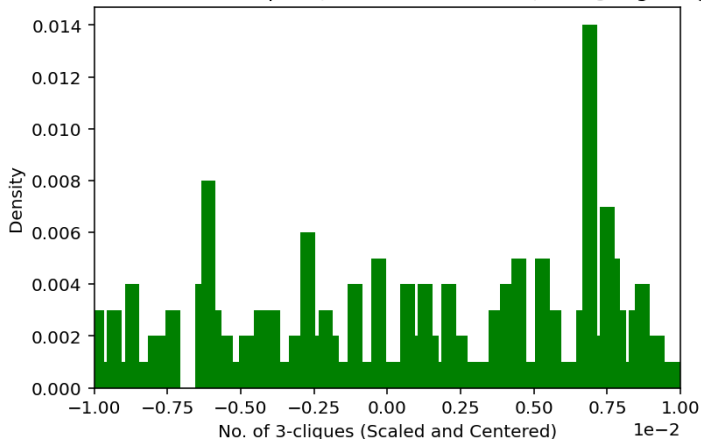


Figure: Simulated no. of 3-cliques (1000 iterations)

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## Theorem

If  $t(K_r, W)$  is constant &  $t(K_r, W) \notin \{0, 1\}$ , then  $\exists c_0, c_1, \dots \in \mathbb{R}$   
s.t.  $\sum_i c_i^2 \in (0, \infty)$  and:

$$\frac{X_{n,r} - \mathbb{E}[X_{n,r}]}{n^{r-1}} \xrightarrow{d} c_0 Z_0 + \sum_{i \geq 1} c_i (Z_i^2 - 1)$$

where  $Z_0, Z_1, \dots$  are independent standard normal.

# Theorem 1.2b Proof Idea

- Dependency Graphs
- Wasserstein Distance



# Dependency Graphs

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- Construct  $\mathcal{G}$  such that:

$\forall i \in I$ , the random variable  $Y_i$  is independent of  $\{Y_j\}_{j \notin N_i}$

# Dependency Graph Example

$Y_1, Z, Z', Y_4, Y_5 \sim N(0, 1)$  (i.i.d standard normal)

$$Y_2 := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(Y_1 + Z)$$

$$Y_3 := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(Y_1 + Z')$$

$$Y_2, Y_3 \sim N(0, 1)$$

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- $Y_1, Y_2, Y_3$  are dependent standard normal
- $\{Y_1, Y_2, Y_3\}$  are independent of  $Y_4$  and  $Y_5$ , where  $Y_4 \perp\!\!\!\perp Y_5$ .

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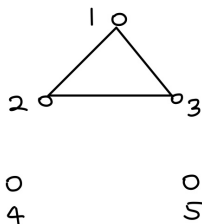
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- $Y_1, Y_2, Y_3$  are dependent standard normal
- $\{Y_1, Y_2, Y_3\}$  are independent of  $Y_4$  and  $Y_5$ , where  $Y_4 \perp\!\!\!\perp Y_5$ .
- $\mathcal{G}$  is given by:



# Wasserstein Distance

- Let  $d_{Wass}(X, Y)$  be the Wasserstein distance between two RVs  $X, Y$



# Wasserstein Distance

- Let  $d_{Wass}(X, Y)$  be the Wasserstein distance between two RVs  $X, Y$
- For  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$  and a sequence of RVs  $\{X_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ , consider the well-known convergence result:

$$d_{Wass}(X_n, Z) \rightarrow 0 \implies X_n \xrightarrow{d} Z$$

## Theorem 1.2b Proof Idea

- **Setup:** Create a dependency graph  $\mathcal{G}$  for the collection of RVs  $(Y_R)_R$ , where  $R \subset [n]$ ,  $|R| = r < n$

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- **Setup:** Create a dependency graph  $\mathcal{G}$  for the collection of RVs  $(Y_R)_R$ , where  $R \subset [n]$ ,  $|R| = r < n$
- In  $\mathcal{G}$ , edges  $(R_1, R_2) \longleftrightarrow$  non-disjoint subsets  $R_1, R_2 \subset [n]$
- How should we define the variables  $Y_R$ ?

## Theorem 1.2b Proof Idea

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- Then  $\sum_R Y_R = X_{n,r} - \binom{n}{r} t_r$

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- Then  $\sum_R Y_R = X_{n,r} - \binom{n}{r} t_r$
- The proof consists of two steps:
  1. Bound the maximum degree of any node in  $\mathcal{G}$
  2. Compute the asymptotics of the variance of  $\sum_R Y_R$

- **Step 1:** In  $\mathcal{G}$ , each neighbourhood  $N_R$  has the same size

$$\sum_{l=1}^r \binom{r}{l} \binom{n-r}{r-l} = O(n^{r-1})$$

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- Let  $\sigma_n^2 = \text{Var} [\sum_R Y_R]$
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- Hence  $\frac{\sum_R Y_R}{\sigma_n} \xrightarrow{d} Z$

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- Since  $\sum_R Y_R = X_{n,r} - \binom{n}{r} t_r$ , this completes the proof.

## Theorem 1.2c Proof Idea

- **Objective:** Use the method of moments to establish distributional convergence of  $\frac{X_{n,r} - \binom{n}{r} t_r}{n^{r-1}}$
- Computing coefficients involves examining the isomorphism classes of hypergraphs induced by collections of vertex subsets of  $\mathbb{G}(n, W)$

- Bhattacharya, Chatterjee & Janson (2022) extended these results for general subgraphs  $H$  in  $W$ -random graphs
- Analogous notion of  **$H$ -regular graphons**:
  - ▶ If  $W$  is *not*  $H$ -regular, then the distribution of  $X_n(H, W)$  is asymptotically Gaussian
  - ▶ If  $W$  is  $H$ -regular, then the limiting distribution of  $X_n(H, W)$  consists of a Gaussian term and a Chi-squared term

- Kaur & Röllin (2021) provide a central limit theorem for *centred* subgraph counts in  $W$ -random graphs, demonstrating distributional convergence to Gaussians
- Developed test statistics for determining the presence of certain subgraphs (eg. two edges sharing a common vertex)

# Concluding Remarks

- We study a limit theorem for complete subgraph counts in  $W$ -random graphs, which exhibits normal or chi-square behavior

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- We study a limit theorem for complete subgraph counts in  $W$ -random graphs, which exhibits normal or chi-square behavior
- Open problems:
  - ▶ Find the no. of cliques & other subgraphs in *sparse*  $\mathbb{G}(n, p \cdot W)$  where  $p = p(n) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$
  - ▶ Prove analogous results for  $W$ -random hypergraphs

**Thank you for listening!**

Special thanks to  
Anirban Chatterjee & Professor Bhaswar Bhattacharya



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Jan Hladký, Christos Pelekis, Matas Šileikis. “A Limit Theorem for Small Cliques in Inhomogeneous Random Graphs.” *Journal of Graph Theory*, vol. 97, no. 4, 2021, pp. 578–599, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.10570>

In the following slides, we discuss the high-level idea for the proofs for Theorems 1.2b-c in greater detail.

# $r$ -Uniform Hypergraphs, Clique Graphs

## Definition

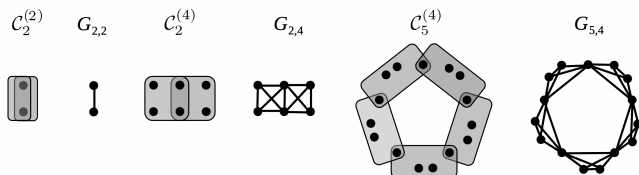
For  $r \geq 2$ , a  **$r$ -uniform hypergraph**  $\mathcal{H}$  on a vertex set  $V$  is a collection of  $r$ -element subsets (**hyperedges**) of  $V$ .

## Definition

Given a hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$ , the **graph associated with  $\mathcal{H}$  (clique graph of  $\mathcal{H}$ )** is a graph on the same vertex set, where each hyperedge  $S$  of  $\mathcal{H}$  is replaced by a clique on  $S$ , with multiple edges replaced by single edges.

# Loose Cycles (Hypergraph version of cycles)

- For  $l \geq 2$ , let  $C_l^{(r)}$  be a  $r$ -uniform hypergraph with  $l$  hyperedges.
- To construct  $C_l^{(r)}$ , take the cycle graph  $C_l$ , and for each edge, insert an additional  $r - 2$  nodes, where all  $l(r - 2)$  new nodes are distinct.
- Then let  $G_{l,r}$  be the graph associated with  $C_l^{(r)}$ .



**Figure:** Examples of hypergraphs  $C_l^{(r)}$  and their associated graphs  $G_{l,r}$  (Hladký et al. 2021)

# Spectrum of a Graphon

- Each graphon has an associated integral linear operator  $T_W : L^2[0, 1] \rightarrow L^2[0, 1]$ , where  $(T_W f)(x) = \int_0^1 W(x, y) f(y) dy$
- $T_W$  is a Hilbert-Schmidt operator and that there are countably many non-zero real eigenvalues associated with  $W$ .
- It can be shown that if  $W$  is a regular graphon, i.e.  $\deg_W(x) \equiv d$  for some constant  $d$ , then  $W$  has an eigenfunction  $f \equiv 1$  with associated eigenvalue  $d$ .
- Let  $\sigma^-(W)$  be the multiset of eigenvalues of  $W$ , where the multiplicity of the eigenvalue  $d$  is decreased by 1.

- For any graphon  $W$  and  $r \geq 2$ , define the graphon  $V_W^{(r)}$  as:

$$V_W^{(r)}(x, y) = t_{x, y}(K_r^{\bullet\bullet}, W)$$

- View  $V_W^{(r)}(x, y)$  as the conditional density of  $r$ -cliques containing nodes with types  $x, y$
- It can be shown that if  $W$  is  $K_r$ -regular  $\iff V_W^{(r)}$  is regular

# Full Statement of Theorem 1.2(c)

- Suppose  $W$  is a  $K_r$ -regular graphon that is neither  $K_r$ -free nor complete.
- Recall that  $X_{n,r}$  denotes the no. of  $r$ -cliques in  $\mathbb{G}(n, W)$ . Then:

Theorem (Theorem 1.2c (abridged), Hladký et al. 2021)

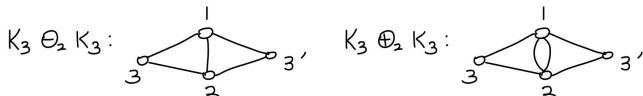
Let  $r \geq 2$  and set  $t_r = t(K_r, W)$ . Then:

$$\frac{X_{n,r} - \binom{n}{r} t_r}{n^{r-1}} \xrightarrow{d} \sigma_{r,W} \cdot Z + \frac{1}{2(r-2)!} \sum_{\lambda \in \text{Spec}^-(V_W^{(r)})} \lambda (Z_\lambda^2 - 1)$$

where  $Z$  and  $(Z_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \text{Spec}^-(V_W^{(r)})}$  are independent standard normal.

# The Parameter $\sigma_{r,W}^2$

- Let  $K_r \oplus_2 K_r$  denote the simple graph consisting of two  $r$ -cliques sharing 2 nodes (total of  $2r - 2$  nodes)
- Let  $K_r \ominus_2 K_r$  denote the multigraph obtained from  $K_r \oplus_2 K_r$  where we duplicate the shared edge.



- (Equation 9, Hladký et al. 2021) We have that:

$$\begin{aligned}
 t_{x,y}(K_r \oplus_2 K_r, W) &= W(x,y)t_{x,y}(K_r \ominus_2 K_r, W) \\
 &= (t_{x,y}(K_r^{\bullet\bullet}, W))^2 \\
 &= (V_W^{(r)}(x,y))^2
 \end{aligned}$$

Then define:

$$\sigma_{r,W}^2 := \frac{1}{2((r-2)!)^2} (t(K_r \ominus_2 K_r, W) - t(K_r \oplus_2 K_r, W))$$



## Theorem 1.2c Proof Idea

- Analyse the structure of tuples  $(R_1, \dots, R_m)$  where each  $R_i$  is a subset of vertices of  $\mathbb{G}(n, W)$
- Let  $\mathfrak{X}(n, r, m)$  be the set of  $m$ -tuples where  $\exists i \in [m]$  such that  $|R_i \cap (\cup_{j \neq i} R_j)| \leq 1$
- Let  $\Delta(R_1, \dots, R_m) := \mathbb{E}[\prod_{i=1}^m (I_{R_i} - t_r)]$ , and show that  $\Delta(R_1, \dots, R_m) = 0$  for all tuples in  $\mathfrak{X}(n, r, m)$ .
- Let  $\mathfrak{F}(n, r, m)$  be tuples *not* in  $\mathfrak{X}(n, r, m)$ , where the corresponding hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$  has  $(r-1)m$  nodes. One can show that such an  $\mathcal{H}$  is a union of vertex-disjoint loose cycles.

## Theorem 1.2c Proof Idea (cont.)

- Isomorphism classes of  $\mathcal{H}$  can be encoded by a vector  $\mathbf{k}$  where  $i$ -th component = no. of loose cycles of length  $i$ , where  $\mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{k}}^{(r)}$  is the hypergraph formed by  $k_i$  copies of the loose cycle  $C_i^{(r)}$
- Claim 4.3: Show that the contribution  $\Delta(R_1, \dots, R_m)$  for each tuple is the same, and obtain an explicit expression for the contribution.
- Claim 4.4: Count the no. of tuples in the isomorphism classes of  $\mathcal{H}$ .

## Theorem 1.2c Proof Idea (cont.)

- Claim 4.5: Express  $\mathbb{E}[(X_{n,r} - \binom{n}{r} t_r)^m]$  as a formal power series  $f(x)$ , and use results from previous claims to compute coefficients.
- Claim 4.6: Show that the MGF of  $Y$  is equal to  $f(x)$  within a neighborhood of zero. (This verifies that the MGF of  $Y$  is finite in this neighborhood, so the distribution of  $Y$  is determined by its moments.)