A Generalized Turan Problem and Its Applications

Abstract:

Our first theorem is a hierarchy theorem for the query complexity of testing graph properties with one-sided error; more precisely, we show that for every sufficiently fast-growing function f from (0,1) to the natural numbers, there is a graph property whose one-sided-error query complexity is precisely f(\Theta(\epsilon)). No result of this type was previously known for any f which is super-polynomial.

Goldreich [ECCC 2005] asked to exhibit a graph property whose query complexity is exponential in 1/\epsilon. Our hierarchy theorem partially resolves this problem by exhibiting a property whose one-sided-error query complexity is exponential in 1/\epsilon. We also use our hierarchy theorem in order to resolve a problem raised by Alon and Shapira [STOC 2005] regarding testing relaxed versions of bipartiteness.

Our second theorem states that for any function f there is a graph property whose one-sided-error query complexity is at least f(\epsilon) while its two-sided-error query complexity is only polynomial in 1/\epsilon. This is the first indication of the surprising power that two-sided-error testing algorithms have over one-sided-error ones, even when restricted to properties that are testable with one-sided error. Again, no result of this type was previously known for any f that is super-polynomial.

The above theorems are derived from a graph theoretic result which we think is of independent interest, and might have further applications. Alon and Shikhelman [JCTB 2016] introduced the following generalized Turan problem: for fixed graphs H and T, and an integer n, what is the maximum number of copies of T, denoted by ex(n,T,H), that can appear in an n-vertex H-free graph? This problem received a lot of attention recently, with an emphasis on T = C_3, H=C_{2m+1}. Our third theorem gives tight bounds for ex(n,C_k,C_m) for all the remaining values of k and m.

Joint work with Asaf Shapira.