

Chain method for panchromatic colorings of hypergraphs

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ABSTRACT

We deal with an extremal problem concerning panchromatic colorings of hypergraphs. A vertex r -coloring of a hypergraph H is *panchromatic* if every edge meets every color. We prove that for every $2 \leq r < \sqrt[3]{\frac{n}{100 \ln n}}$, every n -uniform hypergraph H with $|E(H)| \leq \frac{c}{r^2} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1}\right)^{n-1}$ has a panchromatic coloring with r colors, where $c > 0$ is an absolute constant.

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1. Introduction and related work

We study colorings of uniform hypergraphs. Let us recall some definitions.

A vertex r -coloring of a hypergraph $H = (V, E)$ is a mapping from the vertex set V to a set of r colors. An r -coloring of H is *panchromatic* if each edge has at least one vertex of each color.

The first sufficient condition on the existence of a panchromatic coloring of a hypergraph was obtained in 1975 by Erdős and Lovász [6]. They proved that if every edge of an n -uniform hypergraph intersects at most

$$\frac{r^{n-1}}{4(r-1)^n} \quad (1)$$

other edges then the hypergraph has a panchromatic coloring with r colors.

The next generalization of the problem was formulated in 2002 by Kostochka [9], who posed the following question: *What is the minimum possible number of edges in an n -uniform hypergraph that does not admit a panchromatic coloring with r colors?* He denoted this number by $p(n, r)$.

Following closely behind this problem is a related one: a hypergraph $H = (V, E)$ has property B if there is a coloring of V by 2 colors so that no edge $f \in E$ is monochromatic. Erdős and Hajnal [5] (1961) proposed to find the value $m(n)$ equal to the minimum possible number of edges in a n -uniform hypergraph without property B . Erdős [4] (1963–1964) found bounds $\Omega(2^n) \leq m(n) = O(2^n n^2)$ and Radhakrishnan and Srinivasan [11] (2000) proved $m(n) \geq \Omega(2^n (n/\ln n)^{1/2})$. Clearly, $m(n) = p(n, 2)$.

We return to the panchromatic coloring. Kostochka [9] has found connections between $p(n, r)$ and minimum possible number of vertices in a k -partite graph with list chromatic number greater than r . Using results of Erdős, Rubin and

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Taylor [7] and also Alon's result [2] Kostochka [9] proved the existence of constants c_1 and c_2 that for every large n and fixed r :

$$\frac{e^{c_1 \frac{n}{r}}}{r} \leq p(n, r) \leq r e^{c_2 \frac{n}{r}}. \quad (2)$$

In 2010, bounds (2) were considerably improved in the paper of Shabanov [14]:

$$\begin{aligned} p(n, r) &\geq \frac{\sqrt{21}-3}{4r} \left(\frac{n}{(r-1)^2 \ln n} \right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n, \quad \text{for all } r < n, \\ p(n, r) &\leq \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n e(\ln r) \frac{n^2}{2(r-1)} \varphi_1, \quad \text{when } r = o(\sqrt{n}), \\ p(n, r) &\leq \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n e(\ln r) n^{3/2} \varphi_2, \quad \text{when } n = o(r^2), \end{aligned}$$

where φ_1, φ_2 are some functions of n and $r(n)$, tending to one at $n \rightarrow \infty$.

In 2012, Rozovskaya and Shabanov [13] improved Shabanov's lower bound by proving that for $r < n/(2 \ln n)$

$$\frac{1}{2r^2} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n \leq p(n, r) \leq c_2 n^2 \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n \ln r. \quad (3)$$

Note that bounds (3) are the same as the best known bounds for $r = 2$. Further research was conducted by Cherkashin [3] in 2018. In his work, Cherkashin introduced the auxiliary value $p'(n, r)$, which is numerically equal to the minimum number of edges in the class of n -uniform hypergraphs $H = (V, E)$, in which any subset of vertices $V' \subset V$ with $|V'| \geq \lceil \frac{r-1}{r} |V| \rceil$ must contain an edge. Analyzing the value $p'(n, r)$ and using Sidorenko's [15] estimates on the Turan numbers, Cherkashin proved that for $n \geq 2, r \geq 2$

$$p(n, r) \leq c \frac{n^2 \ln r}{r} \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n.$$

Cherkashin also proved that for $r \leq c \cdot \frac{n}{\ln n}$

$$p(n, r) \geq c \max \left(\frac{n^{1/4}}{r\sqrt{r}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n. \quad (4)$$

And repeating the ideas of Gebauer [8] Cherkashin constructed an example of a hypergraph that has few edges and does not admit a panchromatic coloring in r colors. The reader is referred to the survey [12] for the detailed history of panchromatic colorings.

It is thus natural to consider the local case. Formally, the *degree of an edge* A is the number of hyperedges intersecting A . Let $d(n, r)$ be the minimum possible value of the maximum edge degree in an n -uniform hypergraph that does not admit panchromatic coloring with r colors. Then, the Erdős and Lovász result (1) can be easily translated into following form:

$$d(n, r) \geq \frac{r^{n-1}}{4(r-1)^n}. \quad (5)$$

However, the bound (5) appeared not to be sharp. The restriction on $d(n, r)$ have been improved by Rozovskaya and Shabanov [13]. In their work they achieved that

$$d(n, r) > \frac{\sqrt{11}-3}{4r(r-1)} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n, \quad \text{when } r \leq n/(2 \ln n). \quad (6)$$

2. Our results

The main result of our paper improves the estimate (3) as follows.

Theorem 1. Suppose $2 \leq r \leq \sqrt[3]{\frac{n}{100 \ln n}}$. Then we have

$$p(n, r) \geq \frac{1}{20e^3 r^2} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n} \right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n. \quad (7)$$

Corollary 1. There is an absolute constant C so that for every $n > 2$ and $\ln n < r < \sqrt[3]{\frac{n}{100 \ln n}}$

$$p(n, r) \geq \frac{Cn}{r^2 \ln n} \cdot e^{\frac{n}{r} + \frac{n}{2r^2}}.$$

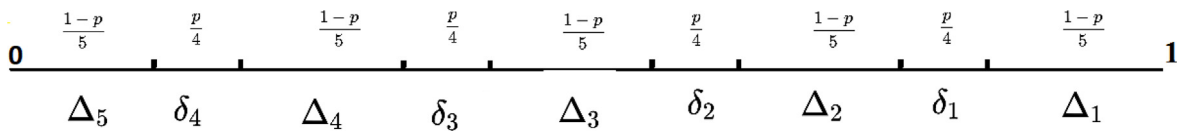


Fig. 1. Partition of $[0, 1]$ into $\Delta_5, \delta_4, \Delta_4, \delta_3, \dots, \Delta_1$ when $r = 5$.

We refine the bound (6) as follows.

Theorem 2. For every $2 < r < \sqrt[3]{\frac{n}{100 \ln n}}$

$$d(n, r) \geq \frac{1}{20e^3 r^3} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n} \right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n. \quad (8)$$

2.1. Methods

In the work, we propose a new idea based on the Pluhar's ordered chain method [10]. In the case of panchromatic coloring, the resulting structure is no longer a real ordered chain, but rather an intricate "snake ball". Nevertheless, with the help of probabilistic analysis, we managed to obtain a strong lower bound.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 3 describes a coloring algorithm. Section 4 is devoted to an analysis of the algorithm. In Section 5 we collect some inequalities that will be subsequently useful. Sections 6 and 7 contain proofs of Theorems 1 and 2.

3. A coloring algorithm

We may and will assume that $r \geq 3$, because case $r = 2$ corresponds to the case $m(n)$. Let $H = (V, E)$ be an n -uniform hypergraph with less than $\frac{1}{20e^3 r^2} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n} \right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1} \right)^n$ edges and let $r < \sqrt[3]{\frac{n}{100 \ln n}}$. We will show that H has a panchromatic coloring with r colors.

We define a special random order on the set V of vertices of hypergraph H using a mapping $\sigma : V \rightarrow [0, 1]$, where $\sigma(v), v \in V$ — i.i.d. with the uniform distribution on $[0, 1]$. The value $\sigma(v)$ we call the *weight* of vertex v . Reorder the vertices so that $\sigma(v_1) < \dots < \sigma(v_{|V|})$. Put

$$p = \left(\frac{r-1}{r} \right) \frac{(r-1)^2 \ln \left(\frac{n}{\ln n} \right)}{n}. \quad (9)$$

We divide the unit intercept $[0, 1]$ into subintervals $\Delta_r, \delta_{r-1}, \Delta_{r-1}, \delta_{r-2}, \dots, \Delta_1$ as in Fig. 1, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{r-i+1} &= \left[(i-1) \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{p}{r-1} \right), i \cdot \frac{1-p}{r} + (i-1) \cdot \frac{p}{r-1} \right), \quad i = 1, \dots, r; \\ \delta_{r-i} &= \left[i \cdot \frac{1-p}{r} + (i-1) \cdot \frac{p}{r-1}, i \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{p}{r-1} \right) \right), \quad i = 1, \dots, r-1. \end{aligned}$$

Since $p < \frac{1}{100r}$ under the given assumptions on r , we can see that the intervals $\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_r$ are each wider than the intervals $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_{r-1}$. The length of each large subinterval Δ_i is equal to $\frac{1-p}{r}$ and every small subinterval δ_i has length equal to $\frac{p}{r-1}$. For convenience, we denote belonging $\sigma(v)$ to a certain segment $[c, d]$ by a shorthand $v \in [c, d]$ and say that v belongs to $[c, d]$. We also note that the similar division of the segment $[0, 1]$ has already been used by the first author for proving some bounds on proper colorings [1].

We color the vertices of hypergraph H according to the following algorithm, which consists of two steps.

1. First, each $v \in \Delta_i$ is colored with color i for every $i \in \{r, \dots, 1\}$.
2. Then, using the vertex ordering determined by σ' , we color a vertex $v \in \delta_i$ with color i if there is no edge $e, v \in e$ that does not meet color $i+1$. Otherwise we color v with $i+1$.

4. Analysis of the algorithm

4.1. Short edge

We say that an edge A is *short* if $A \cap (\Delta_i \cup \delta_i) = \emptyset$ or $A \cap (\Delta_{i+1} \cup \delta_i) = \emptyset$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$. The probability of this event for fixed edge A and fixed i is at most $2 \left(1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{p}{r-1} \right) \right)^n = 2 \left(\frac{r-1}{r} - \frac{p}{r(r-1)} \right)^n$. Summing up this upper

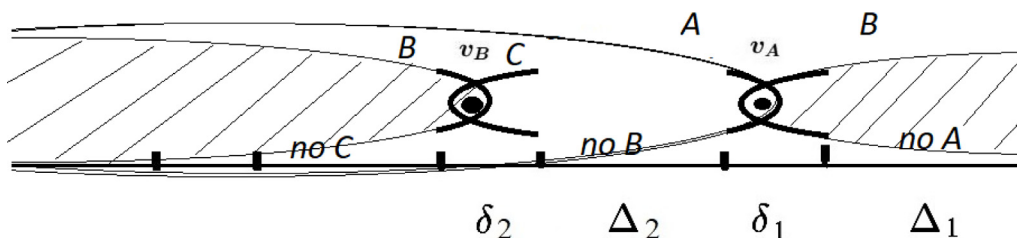


Fig. 2. Edges A and B in a snake ball.

bound over all edges and $i \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} 2(r-1)|E| \left(1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{p}{r-1}\right)\right)^n &\leq \frac{2(r-1)}{20e^3r^2} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1}\right)^n \left(\frac{r-1}{r} - \frac{p}{r(r-1)}\right)^n \\ &\leq \frac{1}{e} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(1 - \frac{p}{(r-1)^2}\right)^n \leq \frac{1}{e} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} e^{-pn(r-1)^2} = \frac{1}{e} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} e^{-\ln(\frac{n}{\ln n})^{\frac{r-1}{r}}} \leq \frac{1}{e}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we conclude that the expected number of short edges is less than $1/e$. Applying Markov's inequality, we get that with probability at least $1 - 1/e$ there is no short edge.

4.2. Snake ball

Suppose our algorithm fails to produce a panchromatic r -coloring and there are no short edges. Let A be an edge, which does not contain some color i . Now we have two possibilities:

- $i \in \{2, \dots, r\}$, in this situation edge A is disjoint from the interval $\Delta_i \cup \delta_{i-1}$, which means that A is short, a contradiction.
- $i = 1$.

Edge A is not short, so $A \cap (\delta_1 \cup \Delta_1) \neq \emptyset$. Since A does not contain color 1 we have $A \cap \Delta_1 = \emptyset$. Denote v_A the last vertex of $A \cap \delta_1$. We note that v_A could receive color 2 only if at the moment of coloring v_A there was an edge B without color 2 and v_A was the first vertex of $B \cap \delta_1$ (see Fig. 2). Again, edge B is not short and did not contain color 2 at the moment of coloring v_A , so $B \cap (\delta_2 \cup \Delta_2) \neq \emptyset$ and $B \cap \Delta_2 = \emptyset$. For v_B , the last vertex of $B \cap \delta_2$, there exists an edge C , which at the moment of coloring v_B was without color 2 and v_B was the first vertex of $C \cap \delta_2$.

Repeating the above arguments, we obtain an ordering r -tuple of edges $(C_1 = A, C_2 = B, \dots, C_r)$ that witnesses the failure of the Algorithm 1. Note that this r -tuple has three properties:

1. (local placing): $C_i \cap \Delta_i = \emptyset$ and C_i is not short edge for all $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$.
2. (local order): $\sigma(u) \leq \sigma(w)$ for all $u \in C_i \cap \delta_i$, $w \in C_{i+1} \cap \delta_i$ and $i \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$.
3. (local linearity): $|C_i \cap C_{i+1} \cap \delta_i| = 1$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$.

Now we call any ordered edge sequence $H' = (C_1 = A, C_2 = B, \dots, C_r)$ with above three properties *snake ball* and conclude the following claim:

Claim 1. If for injective $\sigma : V \rightarrow [0, 1]$ there are neither snake balls nor short edges then Algorithm 1 produces a panchromatic r -coloring.

Lemma 1. Let $H' = (C_1, \dots, C_r)$ be an ordered r -tuple of edges in H . Then

$$\mathbb{P}(H' \text{ forms a snake ball}) \leq \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \left(\frac{p}{r-1}\right)^{r-1} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{r-1} |C_i \cap C_{i+1}| \cdot \max H',$$

where $\max H' = \max_{\tilde{H}' \subset H': |\tilde{H}'| = |H'| - (r-1)} \prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} \frac{(1-s(v)\frac{1-p}{r})}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}}$ and $s(v)$ is the number of edges of H' that contain vertex v .

The scheme of the proof is following:

- fix vertex $v_j \in C_j \cap C_{j+1}$ and its weight $\sigma(v_j)$ for all $j \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$. Calculate conditional probability given weights of $v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}$.

- sum up (integrate) the previous probability over all possible values of weights, using that $\sigma(v_j) \in \delta_j, j \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$, as this is needed for H' to be a snake ball.
- Finally, sum over all choices of $v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}$.

Now formally. We assume that there exists only one vertex in each intersection $C_j \cap C_{j+1} \cap \delta_j, j \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$ as this is needed for H' to be a snake ball (property 3). We denote by v_j such vertex in each $C_j \cap C_{j+1} \cap \delta_j, j \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$ and assume for a moment that its weights equal some real numbers $y_i \in \delta_j$. Just for uniform notation of intercepts, we introduce two extra numbers: $y_0 = 1$ and $y_r = 1$. For convenience, we also denote by $\tilde{H}'$ and $\tilde{C}_j, j \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$, the set of the remaining vertices in H' and in C_j , i.e. $\tilde{H}' = H' \setminus \{v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}\}$ and $\tilde{C}_j \setminus \{v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}\}$. Using the above notations we are ready to upper bound the conditional probability of the event “ H' forms a snake ball” given weights of $v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}$ are equal to $y_1, \dots, y_{r-1}$, respectively.

$$\mathbb{P}(H' \text{ is a snake ball} \mid \sigma(v_1) = y_1, \dots, \sigma(v_{r-1}) = y_{r-1}, y_0 = 1, y_r = 1) \leq$$

$$\left[\prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{v \in \tilde{C}_i: s(v)=1} \mathbb{P}(\sigma(v) \notin [y_i, y_{i-1}]) \right] \times \prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} \mathbb{P}(\sigma(v) \notin \cup_{j: v \in \tilde{C}_j} \Delta_j) \quad (10)$$

Since for every v its weight $\sigma(v)$ is uniformly sampled, for $v \in \tilde{C}_i, \mathbb{P}(\sigma(v) \notin [y_i, y_{i-1}]) \geq \mathbb{P}(\sigma(v) \notin [\Delta_i \cup \delta_i \cup \delta_{i+1}]) = (1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))$. So,

$$\frac{\prod_{i: v \in \tilde{C}_i} \mathbb{P}(\sigma(v) \notin [y_i, y_{i-1}])}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}} \geq 1 \quad \text{and}$$

$$1 \leq \prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} \frac{\prod_{i: v \in \tilde{C}_i} \mathbb{P}(\sigma(v) \notin [y_i, y_{i-1}])}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{v \in \tilde{C}_i: s(v) \geq 2} \mathbb{P}(\sigma(v) \notin [y_i, y_{i-1}])}{\prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} (1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}}. \quad (11)$$

Multiplying bound (10) on right side of Eq. (11), we get a convenient bound on the conditional probability, which will be a bit easier to analyze:

$$\mathbb{P}(H' \text{ is a snake ball} \mid \sigma(v_1) = y_1, \dots, \sigma(v_{r-1}) = y_{r-1}, y_0 = 1, y_r = 1) \leq$$

$$\left[\prod_{i=1}^r \prod_{v \in \tilde{C}_i} \mathbb{P}(\sigma(v) \notin [y_i, y_{i-1}]) \right] \times \prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\sigma(v) \notin \cup_{j: v \in \tilde{C}_j} \Delta_j)}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}} \quad (12)$$

To simplify computations, we put $[\alpha_j, \beta_j] = \delta_j$ and $x_j = \beta_j - \sigma(v_j) = \beta_j - y_j$ for all $j \in \{1, \dots, r-1\}$. Then the length of intercept $[y_i, y_{i-1}]$ equals exactly $(\frac{1-p}{r} + x_1)$ for $i = 1, \frac{1-p}{r} + x_i + \frac{p}{r-1} - x_{i-1}$ for $i \in \{2, \dots, r-2\}$ and $\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{p}{r-1} - x_{r-1}$ for $i = r-1$. Therefore, using that for every v its weight $\sigma(v)$ is uniformly sampled, (12) does not exceed

$$\left(1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + x_1\right)\right)^{|\tilde{C}_1|} \cdot \left(1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + x_2 + \frac{p}{r-1} - x_1\right)\right)^{|\tilde{C}_2|} \cdot \dots$$

$$\left(1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + x_{r-1} + \frac{p}{r-1} - x_{r-2}\right)\right)^{|\tilde{C}_{r-2}|} \cdot \left(1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{p}{r-1} - x_{r-1}\right)\right)^{|\tilde{C}_r|}$$

$$\prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} \frac{(1 - s(v) \frac{1-p}{r})}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}}.$$

Now we lower bound the size of each $\tilde{C}_i = C_i \setminus \{v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}\}, i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ by $n-r$ and take out factor $((r-1)/r)^{(n-r)r}$:

$$\left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \left(1 + \frac{p}{r-1} - \frac{x_1 r}{r-1}\right)^{n-r} \left(1 + \frac{p}{r-1} - \frac{pr}{(r-1)^2} - \frac{(x_2 - x_1)r}{r-1}\right)^{n-r} \cdot \dots$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{p}{r-1} - \frac{pr}{(r-1)^2} - \frac{x_{r-1} r}{r-1}\right)^{n-r} \prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} \frac{(1 - s(v) \frac{1-p}{r})}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}}$$

Use estimate $(1+y)^s \leq \exp\{ys\}$:

$$\left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \exp\left\{(n-r) \left(\sum_{i=1}^r \frac{p}{r-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{r-1} \frac{pr}{(r-1)^2}\right)\right\} \prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} \frac{(1 - s(v) \frac{1-p}{r})}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}}$$

$$= \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{r(n-r)} \prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} \frac{(1 - s(v) \frac{1-p}{r})}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}}.$$

To obtain the final estimate, we have to integrate over the weights $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{r-1}$ (factor $(p/(r-1))^{r-1}$), sum up over all possible choices for the $v_1, \dots, v_{r-1}$ (factor $\prod_{i=1}^{r-1} |C_i \cap C_{i+1}|$) and take the maximum over all $\tilde{H}' \subset H' : |\tilde{H}'| = |H'| - (r-1)$.

5. Auxiliary calculations

Under the assumptions of [Theorem 1](#) we will formulate and prove three auxiliary lemmas needed to prove [Theorem 1](#). In particular, in [Lemma 2](#), we replace product of pairwise intersections by their sum $\sum_{i < j} |C_i \cap C_j|$ and in [Lemma 4](#), we will use double-counting for estimating the sum $\sum_{i < j} |C_i \cap C_j|$, which can be large with n , by special bounded terms.

Lemma 2. Let $H' = (C_1, \dots, C_r)$ be an ordered r -tuple of edges in the hypergraph H . Then

$$\sum_{\pi \in S_r} |C_{i_1} \cap C_{i_2}| \cdot |C_{i_2} \cap C_{i_3}| \cdot \dots \cdot |C_{i_{r-1}} \cap C_{i_r}| \leq \left(\frac{2 \sum_{i < j} |C_i \cap C_j| + r}{r} \right)^r, \quad (13)$$

where S_r denotes all permutations $\pi = (i_1, \dots, i_r)$ of $(1, 2, \dots, r)$.

Proof. Denote the cardinality of the edge intersection $|C_i \cap C_j|$ by $x_{i,j}$. Then, we have to prove that

$$\sum_{\pi \in S_r} x_{i_1, i_2} x_{i_2, i_3} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{i_{r-1}, i_r} \leq \left(\frac{2 \sum_{i < j} x_{i,j} + r}{r} \right)^r.$$

First, we will show that

$$\sum_{\pi \in S_r} x_{i_1, i_2} x_{i_2, i_3} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{i_{r-1}, i_r} \leq (x_{1,2} + \dots + x_{1,r} + 1) \cdot \dots \cdot (x_{r,1} + \dots + x_{r,r-1} + 1). \quad (14)$$

Let us call $(x_{i_1, i_2} + \dots + x_{i_{r-1}, i_r} + 1)$ from (14) the *bracket number* i . We define a mapping f between elements from the left-hand side of (14) and ordered sets that are obtained after performing the multiplication in (14).

Let $f : x_{i_1, i_2} x_{i_2, i_3} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{i_{r-1}, i_r} \mapsto x_{1, t_1} x_{2, t_2} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{r, t_r}$, where $x_{1, t_1} x_{2, t_2} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{r, t_r}$ is the product of the following r elements: x_{i_{r-1}, i_r} from the bracket number i_{r-1} , $x_{i_{r-2}, i_{r-1}}$ from the bracket number i_{r-2} and so forth, finally we take the factor 1 from the unused bracket. For example, $x_{5,6} x_{6,1} x_{1,4} x_{4,3} x_{3,2}$ is mapped to $x_{1,4} \cdot 1 \cdot x_{3,2} \cdot x_{4,3} \cdot x_{5,6} \cdot x_{6,1}$.

We note that f is an injection. Indeed, for each $x_{1, t_1} x_{2, t_2} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{r, t_r}$ there exists at most one sequence $x_{i_1, i_2} x_{i_2, i_3} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{i_{r-1}, i_r}$ with $i_1, \dots, i_r$ distinct, such as $f(x_{i_1, i_2} x_{i_2, i_3} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{i_{r-1}, i_r}) = x_{1, t_1} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{r, t_r}$.

So, since f does not change the product and f is an injection we get that the right-hand side of (14) is not less than the left-hand side.

Finally, by the inequality on the arithmetic–geometric means and by $x_{i,j} = x_{j,i}$

$$(x_{1,2} + \dots + x_{1,r} + 1) \cdot \dots \cdot (x_{r,1} + \dots + x_{r,r-1} + 1) \leq \left(\frac{2 \sum_{i < j} x_{i,j} + r}{r} \right)^r. \quad \square$$

Lemma 3. For all $s \in \{2, \dots, r\}$

$$\frac{(1 - s \frac{1-p}{r})}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^s} \leq e^{-\frac{s^2}{20r^2}}. \quad (15)$$

Proof. First prove the case $s \geq 3$.

$$\frac{(1 - \frac{s(1-p)}{r})}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^s} = \frac{(1 - \frac{s(1-p)}{r})}{(1 - (\frac{1-p}{r}))^s (1 - \frac{2pr}{(r-1)(r-1+p)})^s} \leq \frac{(1 - \frac{s(1-p)}{r}) (1 + \frac{1-p}{r-1+p})^s}{(1 - \frac{2pr}{(r-1)^2})^s}. \quad (16)$$

Now we deal with factors in (16) separately:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(1 + \frac{1-p}{r-1+p}\right)^s &\leq \left(1 + \frac{1-p}{r-1}\right)^s = |\text{Apply Taylor's formula with Lagrange Remainder}| = \\ &1 + \frac{s(1-p)}{r-1} + \frac{s(s-1)(1-p)^2}{2(r-1)^2} + \frac{s(s-1)(s-2)(1-p)^3(1+\theta \cdot \frac{1-p}{r-1})^{s-3}}{6(r-1)^3} \quad \text{for some } \theta \in (0, 1). \end{aligned}$$

Bound $(s-1)/(r-1)$ by s/r , $(s-1)(s-2)/(r-1)^2$ by s^2/r^2 , $(1+\theta/(r-1))^{s-3}$ with $\theta \in (0, 1)$ by e and $(1-p)$ factor by 1 in the second and the third terms:

$$\leq 1 + \frac{s(1-p)}{r-1} + \frac{s^2(1-p)}{2r(r-1)} + \frac{s^3(1-p)^2 e}{6r^2(r-1)}.$$

Hence, the numerator of (16) does not exceed

$$\left(1 - \frac{s(1-p)}{r}\right) \left(1 + \frac{s(1-p)}{r-1} + \frac{s^2(1-p)}{2r(r-1)} + \frac{s^3(1-p)^2}{2r^2(r-1)}\right) < 1 - \frac{s^2(1-p)}{r(r-1)}(1-p-1/2) + \frac{s(1-p)}{r(r-1)} = 1 - \frac{s^2(1-p)}{r(r-1)}(1/2 - 1/s - p) < 1 - \frac{s^2(1/6-p)(1-p)}{r^2} < 1 - \frac{s^2}{7r^2} \leq \exp\left\{-\frac{s^2}{7r^2}\right\}.$$

Using bounds $1/(1-x) < 1+2x$ for $x < 1/2$ and estimating $pr < 1/100$, which follows from restrictions on r , we finally get

$$\frac{(1-s\frac{1-p}{r})}{(1-(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2pr}{r-1}))^s} \leq \exp\left\{-\frac{s^2}{7r^2}\right\} \left(1 - \frac{2pr}{(r-1)^2}\right)^{-s} < \exp\left\{-\frac{s^2}{7r^2}\right\} \left(1 + \frac{4pr}{(r-1)^2}\right)^s \leq \exp\left\{\frac{4prs}{(r-1)^2} - \frac{s^2}{7r^2}\right\} \leq \exp\left\{\frac{s}{25(r-1)^2} - \frac{s^2}{7r^2}\right\} < \exp\left\{\frac{4}{25s} \cdot \frac{s^2}{r^2} - \frac{s^2}{7r^2}\right\} < \exp\left\{-\frac{s^2}{20r^2}\right\}.$$

Consider the case $s = 2$.

$$\frac{1-2(1-p)/r}{(1-(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^2} \leq \frac{1-2(1-p)/r}{1-\frac{2(1-p)}{r}-\frac{4p}{(r-1)}+\frac{1}{2r^2}} \leq \frac{1-2(1-p)/r}{1-\frac{2(1-p)}{r}-\frac{1}{4r^2}+\frac{1}{2r^2}} = 1 - \frac{1/4r^2}{1-2\frac{1-p}{r}+\frac{1}{4r^2}} \leq 1 - 1/4r^2 \leq \exp\{-1/4r^2\} < \exp\{-1/5r^2\},$$

where we used that $4p/(r-1) < 8p/r = 8pr/r^2 < 8/100r^2 < 1/4r^2$. $\square$

Lemma 4.

$$\max_{\sigma \in S_r} H' \cdot \sum |C_{i_1} \cap C_{i_2}| \cdot \dots \cdot |C_{i_{r-1}} \cap C_{i_r}| \leq (20r^2)^r e^{1/20}, \quad (17)$$

where $\max H' = \max_{\tilde{H}' \subset H': |\tilde{H}'|=|H'|-(r-1)} \prod_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} \frac{(1-s(v)\frac{1-p}{r})}{(1-(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{2p}{r-1}))^{s(v)}}$ and $s(v)$ is the number of edges of H' that contain vertex v .

Proof. By Lemmas 2 and 3 the left hand side of (17) does not exceed

$$\left(\frac{2 \sum_{i < j} |C_i \cap C_j| + r}{r}\right)^r \max_{\tilde{H}' \subset H': |\tilde{H}'|=|H'|-(r-1)} \exp\left\{\sum_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} -s^2(v)/20r^2\right\}. \quad (18)$$

Using that $|\tilde{H}'| = |H'| - (r-1)$ and $s(v) \leq r$ for all $v \in H$, we can upper bound the second term from (18). Namely,

$$\sum_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} -\frac{s^2(v)}{20r^2} \leq \sum_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} -\frac{s^2(v)}{20r^2} + r, \\ \max_{\tilde{H}' \subset H': |\tilde{H}'|=|H'|-(r-1)} \exp\left\{\sum_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} -s^2(v)/20r^2\right\} \leq \exp\left\{r + \sum_{v \in \tilde{H}': s(v) \geq 2} -s^2(v)/20r^2\right\}.$$

Now we will use the following double-counting: $\sum_{i < j} |C_i \cap C_j|$ is equal to $\sum_{v \in H': s(v) \geq 2} \binom{s(v)}{2} < 1/2 \sum_{v \in H': s(v) \geq 2} s^2(v)$. Hence, the left hand side of (17) does not exceed

$$(er)^r \exp\left\{\sum_{v \in H': s(v) \geq 2} -s^2(v)/20r^2\right\} \left(\frac{\sum_{v \in H': s(v) \geq 2} s^2(v) + r}{r^2}\right)^r \leq (er)^r e^{-\frac{t}{20}} (t+1)^r \leq (20r^2)^r e^{\frac{1}{20}},$$

where we used $t = \sum_{v \in H': s(v) \geq 2} s^2(v)/r^2$ and observed that the expression $(t+1)^r e^{-t/20}$ is maximized when $t = 20r-1$. $\square$

6. Proof of Theorem 1

It remains to show that if H is a hypergraph with less than $\frac{1}{20e^3r^2} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r-1}{r-1}\right)^n$ edges then with positive probability, H does not contain neither a short edge nor a snake ball.

Denote $\sum_{\text{unordered}}$ the sum over all r -sets $J \subseteq (1, 2, \dots, |E|)$, $\sum_{\text{ordered}}$ the sum over all ordered r -tuples $(j_1, \dots, j_r)$, with $\{j_1, \dots, j_r\}$ forming such a J and $\sum_{\pi \in S_r}$ denote the sum over all permutations $\pi = (i_1, \dots, i_r)$ of $(1, 2, \dots, r)$.

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{\pi \in S_r} \mathbb{P}((C_{i_1}, \dots, C_{i_r}) \text{ is a snake ball}) \leq \\
 & \sum_{\pi \in S_r} \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \left(\frac{p}{r-1}\right)^{r-1} \cdot |C_{i_1} \cap C_{i_2}| \dots |C_{i_{r-1}} \cap C_{i_r}| \cdot \max H' = \\
 & \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \left(\frac{p}{r-1}\right)^{r-1} \max_{\pi \in S_r} H' \cdot \sum_{\pi \in S_r} |C_{i_1} \cap C_{i_2}| \dots |C_{i_{r-1}} \cap C_{i_r}| \leq \\
 & \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \left(\frac{p}{r-1}\right)^{r-1} (20r^2)^r e^{1/20}, \tag{19}
 \end{aligned}$$

where for the first inequality we used [Lemma 1](#) and for the second [Lemma 4](#).

Finally, the expected number of snake balls can be upper bounded as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum^{\text{ordered}} \mathbb{P}((C_{j_1}, \dots, C_{j_r}) \text{ is a snake ball}) = \sum^{\text{unordered}} \sum_{\pi \in S_r} \mathbb{P}((C_{i_1}, \dots, C_{i_r}) \text{ is a snake ball}) \\
 & \leq \binom{|E|}{r} \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \left(\frac{p}{r-1}\right)^{r-1} (20r^2)^r e^{1/20} \leq \\
 & \frac{\left(\frac{1}{20e^3 r^2} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1}\right)^n\right)^r}{r!} \cdot \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \cdot \left(\frac{(r-1)^2 \ln(\frac{n}{\ln n})}{rn}\right)^{r-1} (20r^2)^r e^{\frac{1}{20}} \leq \\
 & \frac{1}{e^{3r} r!} \left(\frac{r}{r-1}\right)^{r^2} \left(\frac{(r-1)^2}{r}\right)^{r-1} e^{\frac{1}{20}} \leq \frac{1}{e^{2r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1}\right)^{r^2} e^{\frac{1}{20}} \leq e^{-2r + \frac{r^2}{r-1} + \frac{1}{20}} < e^{-r+2} \leq \frac{1}{e}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Applying Markov's inequality, we get that with probability at least $1 - 1/e$ there are no snake balls. Combining this with the result from [Section 4.1](#), we get that with positive probability the algorithm creates a panchromatic coloring with r colors, which proves [Theorem 1](#).

Corollary 1. *There is an absolute constant C so that for every $n > 2$ and $\ln n < r < \sqrt[3]{\frac{n}{100 \ln n}}$*

$$p(n, r) \geq \frac{Cn}{r^2(\ln n)} \cdot e^{\frac{n}{r} + \frac{n}{2r^2}}.$$

Proof. By applying Taylor's formula with Peano remainder, we obtain

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{r-1}\right) e^{-\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{2r^2}} = 1 + \frac{1}{3r^3} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^4}\right).$$

Thus, $\left(1 + \frac{1}{r-1}\right) > e^{\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{2r^2}}$. Finally, we use $\left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{-\frac{1}{r}} > \frac{1}{e}$ when $r > \ln n$ and [Theorem 1](#). $\square$

7. Local variant: proof of [Theorem 2](#)

A useful parameter of H is its *maximal edge degree*

$$D := D(H) = \max_{e \in E(H)} |\{e' \in E(H) : e \cap e' \neq \emptyset \text{ and } e \neq e'\}|.$$

We show that for $3 < r < \sqrt[3]{\frac{n}{100 \ln n}}$ every n -uniform hypergraph with $D \leq \frac{1}{20e^3 r^3} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1}\right)^n$ has a panchromatic coloring with r colors, which implies [Theorem 2](#).

We recall the asymmetric version of the Lovász Local Lemma, published by Spencer [16], in which it is allowed that different events can have different probability bounds. Spencer considered arbitrary events $A_1, \dots, A_n$, and expressed their dependencies by a dependency graph $G = (V, E)$. In this graph, $V = \{1, \dots, n\}$, and each event A_i is assumed mutually independent of the set of events $\{A_j \mid (i, j) \notin E\}$.

Lemma 5 (Asymmetric LLL, [16]). *Let $A_1, \dots, A_n$ be a system of events with dependency graph $G = (V, E)$. Suppose there are real numbers $x_1, \dots, x_n \in [0, 1]$, such that*

$$\mathbb{P}(A_i) \leq x_i \prod_{(i,j) \in E} (1 - x_j) \quad (\forall i)$$

Then,

$$\mathbb{P}(\bar{A}_1 \dots \bar{A}_n) \geq \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - x_i).$$

In particular, $\mathbb{P}(\bar{A}_1 \dots \bar{A}_n) > 0$ holds.

To prove [Theorem 2](#) we will use the following special case of [Lemma 5](#).

Lemma 6. If all events have probability $\mathbb{P}(A_i) < \frac{1}{2}$ and for all $i \in [n]$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in E} \mathbb{P}(A_j) \leq \frac{1}{4}, \quad (20)$$

then there is a positive probability that no A_i holds.

For the sake of completeness, we give the proof of [Lemma 6](#) here.

Proof. Put $x_i = 2\mathbb{P}(A_i)$. Then, for all $i \in [n]$

$$x_i \prod_{(i,j) \in E} (1 - x_j) = 2\mathbb{P}(A_i) \prod_{(i,j) \in E} (1 - 2\mathbb{P}(A_j)) = 2\mathbb{P}(A_i) e^{\sum_{(i,j) \in E} \ln(1 - \mathbb{P}(A_j))} \geq 2\mathbb{P}(A_i) e^{-\frac{1}{4}} \geq \mathbb{P}(A_i),$$

where we used that $\ln(1 - x) \geq -x$ for all $x > 0$. $\square$

In our case the set of bad events has two types: short edges and snake balls. Let $\mathcal{Q}(C)$ be the event “edge C is short” and $\mathcal{W}(C_1, \dots, C_r)$ be the event “ $(C_1, \dots, C_r)$ forms a snake ball”.

Note that $\mathcal{Q}(C)$ depends at most on D events $\mathcal{Q}(C')$, $C' \in E(H)$ and at most on rD^r events $\mathcal{W}(C_1, \dots, C_r)$, $(C_1, \dots, C_r) \in [E(H)]^r$. The second bound follows from the fact that when we fix index $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ for which $C \cap C_i \neq \emptyset$, we have at most D choices for the each of label $C_1, \dots, C_i$ and $C_{i+1}, \dots, C_r$. We also recall that, by definition, snake ball do not contain short edges, so $C \neq C_i$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$.

Similarly, $\mathcal{W}(C_1, \dots, C_r)$ depends at most on rD events $\mathcal{Q}(C')$, $C' \in E(H)$ and at most on $r^2(D+1)D^{r-1}$ events $\mathcal{W}(C'_1, \dots, C'_r)$, $(C'_1, \dots, C'_r) \in [E(H)]^r$. In the second bound we again fixed indexes $i, j \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ such that $C_i \cap C_j \neq \emptyset$ and then pick r edges. But in this case C_i can coincide with C'_j so we have $D+1$ choices for the edge C'_j and D^{r-1} choices for the rest.

Finally, using bound (19) and bound $2(r-1)\left(1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{p}{r-1}\right)\right)^n$ from Section 4.1, we have

if $A_i = \mathcal{W}(C_1, \dots, C_r)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{(i,j) \in E} \mathbb{P}(A_j) &\leq rD \cdot 2(r-1) \left(1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{p}{r-1}\right)\right)^n \\ &+ r^2(D+1)D^{r-1} \cdot \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \cdot \left(\frac{p}{r-1}\right)^{r-1} 20^r r^{2r} e^{1/20} \leq \\ &r \left(\frac{1}{20e^3 r^3} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1}\right)^n\right) \cdot 2(r-1) \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^n \left(1 - \frac{p}{(r-1)^2}\right)^n \\ &+ 2r^2 \left(\frac{1}{20e^3 r^3} \left(\frac{n}{\ln n}\right)^{\frac{r-1}{r}} \left(\frac{r}{r-1}\right)^n\right)^r \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \left(\frac{(r-1)^2 \ln(\frac{n}{\ln n})}{rn}\right)^{r-1} (20r^2)^r e^{\frac{1}{20}} \\ &\leq \frac{2r(r-1)}{20e^3 r^3} + \frac{2r^2}{e^3 r} \left(\frac{r}{r-1}\right)^{r^2} e^{\frac{1}{20}} \leq \frac{1}{10} + \frac{2r^2}{e^{3r}} e^{\frac{r^2}{r-1} + \frac{1}{20}} \leq \frac{1}{10} + \frac{2r^2 e^2}{e^{2r}} < \frac{1}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

if $A_i = \mathcal{Q}(C)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{(i,j) \in E} \mathbb{P}(A_j) &\leq D \cdot 2(r-1) \left(1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{r} + \frac{p}{r-1}\right)\right)^n \\ &+ rD^r \cdot \left(\frac{r-1}{r}\right)^{(n-r)r} \left(\frac{p}{r-1}\right)^{r-1} 20^r r^{2r} e^{1/20} < \frac{1}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

In both cases inequality (20) holds, completing the proof of [Theorem 2](#).

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