#### Shoham Letzter

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### SIAM Conference on Discrete Mathematics June 2016

Shoham Letzter Monochromatic cycle partitions

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# 2-colourings of complete graphs

Conjecture (Lehel '79)

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If  $K_n$  is 2-coloured,

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If  $K_n$  is 2-coloured, the vertices can be partitioned into a red cycle and a blue one.

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$$\blacksquare \emptyset$$
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- The conjecture is trivial for paths:

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# Lehel's conjecture

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Lehel's conjecture holds for very large n.

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Theorem (Allen '08)

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Lehel's conjecture holds for all n.

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### Possible extensions

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■ complete *r*-partite

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- complete r-partite
- small  $\alpha(G)$

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- complete r-partite
- small  $\alpha(G)$
- large  $\delta(G)$

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- complete r-partite
- small  $\alpha(G)$
- large  $\delta(G)$
- More than 2 colours

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# Large minimum degree

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## Large minimum degree

### Conjecture (Balogh, Barát, Gerbner, Gyárfás, Sárközy '13)

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## Large minimum degree

### Conjecture (Balogh, Barát, Gerbner, Gyárfás, Sárközy '13)

Let  $\delta(G) \geq 3n/4$ .

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### Results

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Let  $\delta(G) \geq (3/4 + \varepsilon)n$ .

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# Let $\delta(G) \ge (3/4 + \varepsilon)n$ . If G is 2-coloured, all but $\varepsilon n$ vertices may be partitioned into a red cycle and a blue one.

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#### Lemma (BBGGS)

Let  $\delta(G) \geq 3n/4$ .

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#### Lemma (BBGGS)

# Let $\delta(G) \ge 3n/4$ . If G is 2-coloured, the vertices may be partitioned into a red connected matching and a blue one.



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Apply regularity lemma.


- Apply regularity lemma.
- Form reduced graph.



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- Form reduced graph.
- Let *M* be a connected matching.



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#### Lemma (Łuczak '99)

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### Sketch of proof: first approximate result

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## Sketch of proof: first approximate result

Proof of BBGGS theorem:

# Sketch of proof: first approximate result

#### Proof of BBGGS theorem:

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- The reduced graph  $\Gamma$  satisfies  $\delta(\Gamma) \geq 3|\Gamma|/4$ .

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- Apply lemma about monochromatic connected matchings.

#### Proof of BBGGS theorem:

- Apply regularity lemma.
- The reduced graph  $\Gamma$  satisfies  $\delta(\Gamma) \geq 3|\Gamma|/4$ .
- Apply lemma about monochromatic connected matchings.
- Find the required cycles.

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Aim: use absorbing method (Rödl, Ruciński, Szemerédi '06).

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Aim: use absorbing method (Rödl, Ruciński, Szemerédi '06). Need: monochromatic **robust graphs**:

'well connected' graphs,



- 'well connected' graphs,
- with short **absorbing paths**:



- 'well connected' graphs,
- with short **absorbing paths**:



- 'well connected' graphs,
- with short absorbing paths: that can 'absorb' any small set of vertices.



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#### Proof of DeBiasio and Nelsen's theorem:

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### • $F_R$ and $F_B$ robust, large, covering V(G)



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- $C_R$  and  $C_B$  cycles extending  $P_R$  and  $P_B$



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'Robust structure' more complicated,

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Robust graphs correspond to connected components in

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- Robust graphs correspond to connected components in
- Two robust graphs may be joined by two paths,



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- Robust graphs correspond to connected components in Γ
- Two robust graphs may be joined by two paths, or the structure is restricted.



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May have  $\delta(\Gamma) < 3|\Gamma|/4$ .

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May have  $\delta(\Gamma) < 3|\Gamma|/4$ . Using stability results,

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 Either the required partition into connected matchings exists.

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If the latter holds, the cycle partition can be found by hand

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If the latter holds, the cycle partition can be found by hand (still hard!).



Thank you for listening!

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