On the Maximum F_5 -free Subhypergraphs of a Random Hypergraph

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Abstract

Denote by F_5 the 3-uniform hypergraph on vertex set $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ with hyperedges $\{123, 124, 345\}$. Balogh, Butterfield, Hu, and Lenz proved that if $p > K \log n/n$ for some large constant K, then every maximum F_5 -free subhypergraph of $G^3(n, p)$ is tripartite with high probability, and showed that if $p_0 = 0.1\sqrt{\log n}/n$, then with high probability there exists a maximum F_5 -free subhypergraph of $G^3(n, p_0)$ that is not tripartite. In this paper, we sharpen the upper bound to be best possible up to a constant factor. We prove that if $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$ for some large constant C, then every maximum F_5 -free subhypergraph of $G^3(n, p)$ is tripartite with high probability.

Mathematics Subject Classifications: 05C65, 05C80

1 Introduction

In this paper, a (hyper)graph is maximum with respect to a property if it has the maximum number of (hyper)edges among the (hyper)graphs satisfying the given property. Throughout the paper, all logarithms are in base e.

One of the first results in extremal graph theory is Mantel's Theorem [9], which states that every triangle-free graph on n vertices has at most $\lfloor n^2/4 \rfloor$ edges. Additionally, the complete bipartite graph whose part sizes differ by at most one is the unique maximum triangle-free graph. Later, Turán [13] generalized Mantel's Theorem for all complete graphs. Denote by K_s the complete graph on s vertices and by $T_s(n)$ the complete s-partite graph on n vertices where the sizes of the parts differ by at most 1. Turán's Theorem states that $T_{s-1}(n)$ is the unique maximum K_s -free graph on n vertices. Turán's Theorem can also be understood as a property of K_n . Namely, it claims that every maximum K_s -free subgraph of K_n is (s-1)-partite.

Let G(n, p) be the standard binomial model of random graphs, where each edge in K_n is chosen independently with probability p. We say that an event occurs with high probability (w.h.p.) if its probability goes to 1 as n goes to infinity. A question related to Turán's Theorem arises when G(n, p) replaces the role of K_n , that is, for what p = p(n) we have that w.h.p. every maximum K_s -free subgraph of G(n, p) is (s - 1)-partite.

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This question was first raised by Babai, Simonovits, and Spencer [1], who gave an affirmative answer when $p = \frac{1}{2}$ and s = 3. Later, DeMarco and Kahn [6] determined the correct order of p for s = 3. They [6] showed that if $p > K\sqrt{\log n/n}$ for some large constant K, then w.h.p. every maximum triangle-free subgraph of G(n, p) is bipartite, while if $p = 0.1\sqrt{\log n/n}$, then this does not hold w.h.p. Finally, DeMarco and Kahn [7] answered this question up to a constant factor for every $s \ge 3$.

Figure 1: The hypergraph F_5 .



Figure 2: The hypergraph K_4^- .



Similar problems were also considered for hypergraphs. Denote by K_4^- the hypergraph obtained from the complete 3-uniform hypergraph on four vertices by removing one hyperedge. Let F_5 , which is often called the *generalized triangle*, be the hypergraph on vertex set $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ with hyperedges $\{123, 124, 345\}$. Denote by S(n) the complete 3-partite 3-uniform hypergraph on n vertices whose parts have sizes $\lfloor n/3 \rfloor$, $\lfloor (n+1)/3 \rfloor$, and $\lfloor (n+2)/3 \rfloor$, and let $s(n) \coloneqq \lfloor n/3 \rfloor \cdot \lfloor (n+1)/3 \rfloor \cdot \lfloor (n+2)/3 \rfloor$ be the number of hyperedges in S(n). Bollobás [4] proved that S(n) is the unique maximum $\{K_4^-, F_5\}$ -free n-vertex hypergraph. Frankl and Füredi [8] proved that, for $n \ge 3000$, the maximum number of hyperedges in an n-vertex F_5 -free 3-uniform hypergraph is s(n).

The random version of this theorem was first studied by Balogh, Butterfield, Hu, and Lenz [2]. Let $G^3(n,p)$ be the random 3-uniform hypergraph on vertex set $[n] := \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$, where each triple is included with probability p independently of each other. Note that when p is very small, $G^3(n,p)$ itself is tripartite and hence F_5 -free w.h.p. Therefore, the interesting case is when p is sufficiently large. In [2], it was proved that if $p > K \log n/n$ for some large constant K, then w.h.p. every maximum F_5 -free subhypergraph of $G^3(n,p)$ is tripartite, and it was conjectured that it suffices to require only $p > C\sqrt{\log n/n}$ for some large constant C. In this paper, we verify this conjecture. This is best possible up to the constant factor, as it was also shown in [2] that when $p = 0.1\sqrt{\log n/n}$, then w.h.p. there is a maximum F_5 -free subhypergraph of $G^3(n,p)$ that is not tripartite.

Theorem 1. There exists a constant C > 0 such that if $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$, then w.h.p. every maximum F_5 -free subhypergraph of $G^3(n, p)$ is tripartite.

Our approach will follow the general structure of the proof of the main result of [2]. Several key lemmas are improved and adapted for this smaller p. In particular, in [2], an easier version of codegree concentration was proved using Chernoff's bound with the

larger p. Here, for the smaller p, we need a stronger statement, not only using Chernoff's bound (cf. Lemmas 6 and 7). As typical with the probabilistic method, one must fight to avoid applying the union bound when the concentration is not strong enough. This is the most challenging and technical part of the proof, see Remarks 10 and 19 for more details on that. We trust that the new ideas used in the proof could be useful for other problems when one has to beat the union bound.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we will introduce the notation and lemmas needed. In Section 3, we give the proof of Theorem 1.

2 Preliminaries

To improve readability, as it is standard in the literature, we will usually pretend that large numbers are integers to avoid using essentially irrelevant floor and ceiling symbols. We often use the standard upper bound $\binom{n}{k} \leq (\frac{en}{k})^k$ for binomial coefficients. We will use xy to stand for set $\{x, y\}$ and xyz to stand for set $\{x, y, z\}$. We write $x = (1 \pm c)y$ for $(1-c)y \leq x \leq (1+c)y$.

We use G for $G^3(n, p)$ hereinafter and denote by t(G) the number of hyperedges in a maximum tripartite subhypergraph of G.

We will always assume that the hypergraphs are on vertex set $[n] = \{1, \ldots, n\}$, so we can identify a hypergraph H by its hyperedges, and |H| stands for the number of hyperedges of H. We use $\pi = (V_1, V_2, V_3)$ for a 3-partition of [n]. We say a 3-partition π is balanced if every part has size $(1 \pm 10^{-10})n/3$. Denote by K_{π} the set of triples with exactly one vertex in each part of π . Let $G_{\pi} := G \cap K_{\pi}$. For a hypergraph $H \subseteq G$, let $H_i := \{e \in H : |e \cap V_i| \ge 2\}$ for i = 1, 2, 3. Let $H_{\pi} := H \cap K_{\pi}$ and $\bar{H}_{\pi} := G_{\pi} \setminus H_{\pi}$. We will call hyperedges in H_{π} the crossing hyperedges of H, and the hyperedges in \bar{H}_{π} the missing crossing hyperedges of H.

For a hypergraph H, a partition $\pi = (V_1, V_2, V_3)$ of [n], vertices $v, v' \in [n]$, and subsets of vertices $S, T \subseteq [n]$, let

- $N_{S,T}^H(v) \coloneqq \{yz : y \in S, z \in T, vyz \in H\}$ be the link graph of v between S and T,
- $d_{S,T}^H(v) \coloneqq |N_{S,T}^H(v)|$ be the *degree* of v between S and T,
- $N_S^H(v, v') \coloneqq \{z : z \in S, vv'z \in H\}$ be the set of *neighbors* of v and v' in S,
- $d_S^H(v, v') \coloneqq |N_S^H(v, v')|$ be the *codegree* of v and v' in S, and
- $L_{S,T}^H(v,v') \coloneqq N_{S,T}^H(v) \cap N_{S,T}^H(v')$ be the common neighborhood of v and v' between S and T.

When S or T is [n] or H = G, we omit to write S, T, or G when there is no ambiguity. When S or T is V_i , we often just use *i* in the subscript to stand for V_i . For example, d(x) is just the degree of x in G and $N_1^H(y, z)$ is the neighbors of y and z in V_1 in H. Finally, define $Q(\pi) := \{xy \in V_1 : |L_{2,3}(x, y)| < 0.8p^2n^2/9\}.$

The first proposition we need is the following result from [2], which is a special case of a general transference result of Conlon and Gowers [5], and as Samotij observed [10], of Schacht [12]. It was also proved by the hypergraph container method [3,11].

Proposition 2. For every $\delta > 0$, there exist $\varepsilon > 0$ and C > 0 such that if p > C/n, then the following statement is true. Let H be a maximum F_5 -free subhypergraph of G and π be a 3-partition of [n] maximizing $|H_{\pi}|$. Then, we have that π is balanced, $|H| \ge (2/9 - \varepsilon)p\binom{n}{3}$, and $|H \setminus H_{\pi}| \le \delta pn^3$.

The following concentration results are also used in [2]. Lemma 3 is the standard Chernoff's bound. Lemmas 4 and 5 are standard properties of random hypergraphs, which are direct applications of Lemma 3 and the union bound.

Lemma 3. Let Y be the sum of mutually independent indicator random variables, and let $\mu = \mathbb{E}[Y]$. For every $\varepsilon > 0$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}[|Y - \mu| > \varepsilon \mu] < 2e^{-c_{\varepsilon}\mu},$$

where $c_{\varepsilon} = \min \left\{ -\log \left(e^{\varepsilon} (1+\varepsilon)^{-(1+\varepsilon)} \right), \, \varepsilon^2/2 \right\}.$

Lemma 4. For every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a positive constant C such that if $p > C \log n/n^2$, then w.h.p. for every vertex v, we have $d(v) = (1 \pm \varepsilon)pn^2/2$.

Lemma 5. For every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a positive constant C such that if p > C/n, then w.h.p. for every 3-partition $\pi = (V_1, V_2, V_3)$ with $|V_2|, |V_3| \ge n/20$ and every vertex $v \in V_1$, we have $d_{2,3}(v) = (1 \pm \varepsilon)p|V_2||V_3|$.

We also need the following concentration results.

Lemma 6. There exists a positive constant C such that if $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$, then w.h.p. for every pair of vertices x, y, we have $d(x, y) \leq pn\sqrt{\log n}/\log \log n$.

Proof. For every pair of vertices xy, the probability that $d(x,y) \ge \frac{pn\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}$ is at most $\left(\frac{n}{\frac{pn\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}}\right) p^{\frac{pn\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}}$. There are $\binom{n}{2}$ pairs of vertices, so by using a union bound, the probability that there exists a pair of vertices xy such that $d(x,y) \ge \frac{pn\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}$ is at most

$$\binom{n}{2}\binom{n}{pn\frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log\log n}}p^{\frac{pn\sqrt{\log n}}{\log\log n}} \leqslant n^2 \left(\frac{enp}{pn\frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log\log n}}\right)^{\frac{pn\sqrt{\log n}}{\log\log n}} \leqslant n^2 \left(\frac{e\log\log n}{\sqrt{\log n}}\right)^{\frac{C\log n}{\log\log n}}$$
$$\leqslant \exp\left(2\log n + \frac{C\log n}{\log\log n}\log\frac{e\log\log n}{\sqrt{\log n}}\right) = \exp\left(\left(2 + \frac{C\log(e\log\log n)}{\log\log n} - \frac{C}{2}\right)\log n\right),$$

where the last expression is o(1) for sufficiently large C.

Lemma 7. There exists a constant C > 0 such that if $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$, then w.h.p. for every subset $S \subseteq [n]$, we have

$$|\{xy \subseteq [n] \setminus S : d_S(x,y) \ge 3pn\}| \le n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}.$$

Proof. First, consider a fixed set S. For every pair of vertices $xy \subseteq [n] \setminus S$, the probability that $d_S(x,y) > 3pn$ is at most $q = \binom{|S|}{3pn}p^{3pn}$. For different pairs $x_1y_1, x_2y_2 \subseteq [n] \setminus S$, random variables $d_S(x_1, y_1)$ and $d_S(x_2, y_2)$ are independent. Hence, given a family of $n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}$ pairs of vertices in $[n] \setminus S$, the probability that $d_S(x, y) \ge 3pn$ for every pair in

this family is at most $q^{n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}}$. Then, by a union bound over all the families containing pairs of vertices not in S with size $n^2 e^{-c\sqrt{\log n}}$, we get

$$\mathbb{P}\left(|\{xy \subseteq [n] \setminus S : d_S(x,y) \ge 3pn\}| > n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}\right) \le \binom{n^2}{n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}} q^{n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}}$$

Finally, using a union bound over all the choices of S, the probability of failure is at most

$$2^n \binom{n^2}{n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}} \left(\binom{n}{3pn} p^{3pn} \right)^{n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}} \leqslant 2^n \left(e^{1+\sqrt{\log n}} \left(\frac{e}{3} \right)^{3pn} \right)^{n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}} = o(1). \quad \Box$$

In our proof of Theorem 1, we will repeatedly use the following lemma to show that for some given vertex v and vertex set S, the number of pairs that are in the link graph of v and have a large neighborhood in S is small.

Let s = s(n, p), r = r(n, p), i = i(n, p) be positive integers depending on n and p, where $s \leq n, r \leq \binom{n}{2}$, and $i \leq n$. Let $E_{s,r,i}$ be the event that for every vertex $v \in [n]$ and vertex set $S \subseteq [n]$, where $v \notin S$ and |S| = s, we have $|\{yz \subseteq [n] \setminus S : vyz \in G, d_S(y, z) \geq i\}| \leq r$, see Figure 3. Define $g(p, s, r, i) := n\binom{n}{s}\binom{n^2}{r} \frac{(p\binom{s}{i}p^i)^r}{r}$, and let Obe the set of (s, r, i) such that $g(p, s, r, i) = o(n^{-5})$ given $p > C\sqrt{\log n/n}$. Let E be the event $\bigcap_{(s,r,i)\in O} E_{s,r,i}$.

Figure 3: A pair of vertices $y_k z_k$ satisfies that $vy_k z_k \in G$ and $d_S(y_k, z_k) \ge i$. The event $E_{s,r,i}$ is that for every vertex v and vertex set $S \subseteq [n] \setminus \{v\}$ with size s, there are at most r such pairs of vertices.



Lemma 8. E happens with high probability.

Proof. For distinct vertices $v, y, z \in [n]$ and vertex set $S \subset [n]$ where $v, y, z \notin S$ and |S| = s, we have $\mathbb{P}(vyz \in G) = p$ and $\mathbb{P}(d_S(y, z) \ge i) \le {s \choose i} p^i$. Note that these two events are independent since $v \notin S$. Hence,

$$\mathbb{P}(vyz \in G, d_S(y, z) \ge i) \le p\binom{s}{i} p^i.$$

For fixed v and S, events $vyz \in G, d_S(y, z) \ge i$ are independent for different pairs yz, so

$$\mathbb{P}(|\{yz \subseteq [n] \setminus S : vyz \in G, d_S(y, z) \ge i\}| > r) \le {\binom{n^2}{r}} \left(p{\binom{s}{i}}p^i\right)^r$$

Then, using a union bound over all choices of $v \in [n]$ and $S \subset [n]$ of size s, we get that

$$\mathbb{P}(\bar{E}_{s,r,i}) \leqslant n \binom{n}{s} \binom{n^2}{r} \left(p \binom{s}{i} p^i \right)^r = g(p, s, r, i),$$

where $E_{s,r,i}$ is the complement of the event $E_{s,r,i}$. Now we have

$$\mathbb{P}(\bar{E}) = \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{(s,r,i)\in O} \bar{E}_{s,r,i}\right) \leqslant \sum_{(s,r,i)\in O} \mathbb{P}(\bar{E}_{s,r,i}) \leqslant |O| \cdot o(n^{-5}) \leqslant n\binom{n}{2}n \cdot o(n^{-5}) = o(1). \ \Box$$

Finally, we will use the following lemma to give lower bounds on the number of copies of F_5 . For fixed vertex v, vertex set $A \subseteq [n] \setminus \{v\}$, subset T of $N_{[n]\setminus A, [n]\setminus A}(v)$, and subset E of $\{vxw \in G : x \in A\}$ satisfying that for every $x \in A$, there exists $e \in E$ such that $x \in e$, define

 $K(v, E, A, T) \coloneqq \{xyz : x \in A, yz \in T, \text{ there exists } e \in E \text{ such that } x \in e, y \notin e, z \notin e\},\$ and $G(v, E, A, T) \coloneqq K(v, E, A, T) \cap G$. We have that

$$\mathbb{E}(|G(v, E, A, T)|) = p|K(v, E, A, T)|;$$

note that here the randomness in this expectation is of the hyperedges in $\{xyz : x \in A, yz \in T\}$ being or not in G. Also note that the events of the hyperedges in $\{xyz : x \in A, yz \in T\}$ being or not in G are independent of the events of hyperedges containing v being in G. For every $xyz \in G(v, E, A, T)$ with $x \in A, yz \in T$, we can find a copy of $F_5 = \{yzv, yzx, vxw\}$ in G where $vxw \in E$, see Figure 4. The condition $y \notin e, z \notin e$ in the definition of K(v, E, A, T) guarantees that we indeed find an F_5 instead of an K_4^- .

Figure 4: A copy of F_5 from $xyz \in G(v, E, A, T)$.



Lemma 9. For any constants $\varepsilon, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 > 0$, there exists a constant C > 0 such that if $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$, then w.h.p. for every choice of v, E, A, T as above with $|A| \ge \varepsilon_1 n/\sqrt{\log n}$ and $|T| \ge \varepsilon_2 pn^2$, we have $|G(v, E, A, T)| = (1 \pm \varepsilon)p|A||T|$.

The proof of Lemma 9 follows the same lines as the proof of Proposition 9 in [2].

Proof. For every choice of v, E, A, T as above, we reveal the randomness in two phases. We first reveal the hyperedges containing v. Let $[A, T] := \{xyz : x \in A, yz \in T\}$. For vertex $x \in A$, let $[x, T] := \{xyz : yz \in T\}$, $d^E(x) := |\{e \in E : x \in e\}|$, and $T_x := \{yz \in T : vxy \in E \text{ or } vxz \in E\}$. Note that $[A, T] \supseteq K(v, E, A, T)$. If $d^E(x) \ge 3$, choose vxw_1, vxw_2, vxw_3 arbitrarily from E. For every $yz \in T$, there exists some $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ such that $y \neq w_i$ and $z \neq w_i$. Hence, by the definition of K(v, E, A, T), we have $[x, T] \subseteq K(v, E, A, T)$. If $d^E(x) \le 2$, then by Lemma 6, we have $|T_x| \le 2 \cdot \frac{pn\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}$ and $[x, T \setminus T_x] = \{xyz : yz \in T \setminus T_x\} \subseteq K(v, E, A, T)$. Therefore,

$$|[A,T]| - |K(v,E,A,T)| \leq \sum_{x: x \in A, d^E(x) \leq 2} |T_x| \leq |A| \cdot 2pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}.$$

We have $|[A,T]| = |A||T| \ge |A|\varepsilon_2 pn^2$, so |K(v, E, A, T)| = (1 - o(1))|A||T| with high probability.

Then, we reveal the hyperedges in [A, T]. Let

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}(G(v, E, A, T)) = p|K(v, E, A, T)| = (1 - o(1))p|A||T|.$$

By Lemma 3, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(||G(v, E, A, T)| - \mu| > \varepsilon\mu) < 2e^{-c_{\varepsilon}\mu}.$$

Now, we apply the union bound over all possible choices of (v, E, A, T). We have at most n choices for v and at most $\binom{n}{a}$ choices for sets A with size a. With high probability we have that for every a, t > 0, given |A| = a and |T| = t, there are at most $2^{apn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}}$ choices for E (by Lemma 6) and at most $\binom{pn^2}{t}$ choices for T (by Lemma 4). By the union bound, the probability that the statement in the lemma does not hold is at most

$$\sum_{a \ge \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \sum_{t \ge \varepsilon_2 p n^2} n \binom{n}{a} 2^{a p n \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}} \binom{p n^2}{t} \cdot 2e^{-c_{\varepsilon} \cdot a t p/2} + o(1)$$

$$\leqslant \sum_{a \ge \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \sum_{t \ge \varepsilon_2 p n^2} n \exp\left(a \log \frac{e n}{a}\right) 2^{a p n \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}} \exp\left(t \log \frac{p n^2}{t}\right) \cdot 2e^{-c_{\varepsilon} \cdot a t p/2} + o(1)$$

$$\leqslant 2 \sum_{a \ge \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \sum_{t \ge \varepsilon_2 p n^2} \exp\left[\log n + a \log\left(\frac{e}{\varepsilon_1}\sqrt{\log n}\right) + \frac{1}{2}e^{-c_{\varepsilon} \cdot a t p/2}\right]$$

$$apn \frac{\sqrt{\log n} \log 2}{\log \log n} + t \log \frac{1}{\varepsilon_2} - \frac{c_{\varepsilon} atp}{2} \right] + o(1)$$

$$\leq 2 \sum_{a \geq \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \sum_{t \geq \varepsilon_2 pn^2} \exp\left(-c_{\varepsilon} atp/4\right) + o(1) \leq 2n^3 \exp\left(-n\sqrt{\log n}\right) + o(1) = o(1). \quad \Box$$

Remark 10. Lemma 6 shows one of the differences when p is only at least $C\sqrt{\log n}/n$, whereas in [2] it is proved that w.h.p. we have $d(x, y) \leq 2pn$ for every pair of vertices x, y

when $p > K \log n/n$. Note that with a direct application of the Chernoff's inequality, one can only conclude that $d(x, y) \leq pn\sqrt{\log n}$, without the $\log \log n$ factor. As we will see in Section 3, this $\log \log n$ factor plays a vital role in the proof of Theorem 1 (see Remark 19).

Remark 11. Lemmas 7 and 8 are similar, and one may hope that we can still keep the $e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}$ factor, by proving $(s, pn^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}, 3ps) \in O$ for every $1 \leq s \leq n$. Unfortunately, this is not necessarily true. In the proof of Lemma 7, we have $n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}$ in the exponent, which can beat the number of choices of S, whereas here $pn^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}$ is not necessarily larger than n. However, we have $(s, pn^2/\log n, 3pn) \in O$, see Claim 25.

3 Proof of the Main Theorem

We first give an outline of the proof. Recall that for a hypergraph H and a partition $\pi = (V_1, V_2, V_3)$ of [n], we defined in Section 2 that

$$H_{\pi} = G_{\pi} \setminus H_{\pi},$$

$$H_{i} = \{e \in H : |e \cap V_{i}| \ge 2\} \text{ for } i \in \{1, 2, 3\}, \text{ and }$$

$$Q(\pi) = \{uv \subset V_{1} : |L_{2,3}(u, v)| < 0.8p^{2}n^{2}/9\}.$$

Assume that H is a maximum F_5 -free subhypergraph of $G^3(n, p)$. Let $\pi = (V_1, V_2, V_3)$ be a partition of [n] maximizing $|H_{\pi}|$. Let $e = x_1x_2v$ be a hyperedge in H where $x_1, x_2 \in V_1$. For every $yz \in L_{2,3}(x_1, x_2)$ where $y \neq v$ and $z \neq v$, at least one hyperedge from $\{yzx_1, yzx_2\}$ cannot be in H, since otherwise hyperedges $\{yzx_1, yzx_2, x_1x_2v\}$ form a copy of F_5 . For those $x_1x_2 \notin Q(\pi)$, there are at least $0.8p^2n^2/9 - d(x_1, v) - d(x_2, v) = \Omega(\log n)$ such pairs yz. Hence, the existence of e will cause H to lose $\Omega(\log n)$ hyperedges. Since H is maximum, one can expect that H should not contain such hyperedges with more than one vertex in any part of π , so H is tripartite. Proposition 12 confirms this idea. We also need handle $Q(\pi)$. A control over $|Q(\pi)|$ will be given by Proposition 13, which states that if $Q(\pi)$ is large, then t(G) will be much larger than $|G_{\pi}|$. Theorem 1 will be a simple corollary of Propositions 12 and 13.

For a 3-uniform hypergraph H, the shadow graph of H is the graph on the same vertex set, where xy is an edge if and only if there exists another vertex z such that xyz is a hyperedge in H.

Proposition 12. Let H be an F_5 -free subhypergraph of G and $\pi = (V_1, V_2, V_3)$ be a balanced partition maximizing $|H_{\pi}|$. Then there exist positive constants C and δ such that if $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$ and if the following conditions hold:

- 1. $|H_1|, |H_2|, |H_3| \leq \delta p n^3/3,$
- 2. the shadow graph of H_1 is disjoint from $Q(\pi)$,

then with high probability $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 3|H_1|$, where equality is possible only if H is tripartite.

Proposition 13. There exist positive constants C and δ such that if $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$ and the 3-partition π is balanced, then with high probability

$$t(G) \ge |G_{\pi}| + |Q(\pi)|\delta n^2 p^2,$$

where equality is possible only if $Q(\pi) = \emptyset$.

Based on Propositions 12 and 13, Theorem 1 easily follows, whose proof is similar to the proof of the main theorem in [2].

Proof of Theorem 1. Let H be a maximum F_5 -free subhypergraph of G. We have $|H| \ge t(G)$, since F_5 is not tripartite. Let $\pi = (V_1, V_2, V_3)$ be a 3-partition of [n] maximizing $|H_{\pi}|$. Without loss of generality, we may assume $|H_1| \ge |H_2|, |H_3|$. Besides, by Proposition 2, we know that π is balanced and $\sum_{i=1}^3 |H_i| \le \delta pn^3/3$, where δ is a constant smaller than the δ 's in Propositions 12 and 13. Now let

$$B(\pi) \coloneqq \{e \in G : \text{there exists } uv \in Q(\pi) \text{ such that } uv \subset e\}$$

and $H' := H \setminus B(\pi)$, so the shadow graph of H'_1 is disjoint from $Q(\pi)$. Since $B(\pi)$ consists of only non-crossing hyperedges of H, π is still a partition maximizing $|H'_{\pi}|$ and $|H'_1|, |H'_2|, |H'_3| \leq \sum_{i=1}^3 |H'_i| \leq \sum_{i=1}^3 |H_i| \leq \delta p n^3/3$. Hence, H' satisfies the assumptions in Proposition 12. Now, we have w.h.p.

$$|H| \leq |H_{\pi}| + 3|H_{1}| = |H'_{\pi}| + 3|H'_{1}| + 3|H \cap B(\pi)|$$

$$\leq |H'_{\pi}| + 3|H'_{1}| + 3|B(\pi)|$$

$$\leq |G_{\pi}| + 3|B(\pi)|$$
(1)

$$\leq |G_{\pi}| + 3|Q(\pi)|pn\sqrt{\log n}/\log\log n \tag{2}$$

$$\leq |G_{\pi}| + |Q(\pi)|\delta p^2 n^2 \tag{3}$$

$$\leq t(G).$$
 (4)

Here we use Proposition 12 for (1), Lemma 6 for (2), the assumption $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$ for (3), and Proposition 13 for (4). |H| cannot be strictly smaller than t(G), so all the inequalities must hold with equality. By Propositions 12 and 13, H' is tripartite and $Q(\pi)$ is empty. Then, we conclude that H = H' is tripartite.

The proof of Proposition 13 is exactly the same as the one in [2], where it is assumed that $p > K \log n/n$. It can be easily checked that all the arguments still work verbatim with $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$, and hence we do not include its proof here. It remains to prove Proposition 12.

Clearly, we can assume that $|H_1| \ge |H_2|, |H_3|$. Let δ be small enough so that the following arguments work, and fix three small positive constants $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2$, and ε_3 such that

$$\frac{1}{72\varepsilon_1} \ge 30, \quad \frac{1}{20} \cdot \frac{1}{2\varepsilon_2} \ge 10, \quad \frac{1}{10} - \varepsilon_2 \ge \frac{1}{20}, \quad \frac{100\delta}{\varepsilon_1} \le \varepsilon_3 \le \varepsilon_1, \quad \frac{\frac{1}{4}\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_2}{3\varepsilon_3} \ge 20$$

For example, we can set

$$\delta = 10^{-100}, \quad \varepsilon_1 = \frac{1}{3000}, \quad \varepsilon_2 = \frac{1}{400}, \quad \varepsilon_3 = 10^{-10},$$

Denote by J the induced subgraph of the shadow graph of H_1 on the vertex set V_1 and use $N^J(x)$, $d^J(x)$ for neighborhood and degree of x in graph J, respectively. Call a 4-set $\{w_1, w_2, y, z\}$ an \hat{F}_5 if w_1yz , $w_2yz \in G_{\pi}$ and there exists $e \in H$ such that $w_1, w_2 \in e \cap V_1$, $y, z \notin e$. Note that $w_1w_2 \in J$ and $\{w_1yz, w_2yz, e\}$ forms a copy of F_5 in G, so at least one of w_1yz and w_2yz has to be in \bar{H}_{π} .

We next count copies of \hat{F}_5 to lower bound the number of missing crossing hyperedges $|\bar{H}_{\pi}|$, based on the size of (a subgraph of) J. First, we prove the following claim, which will be used in the proofs of the next few lemmas.

Figure 5: The set $\{w_1, w_2, y, z\}$ is an \hat{F}_5 if there exists an edge $e \in H_1$ as below.



Claim 14. If $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$, then w.h.p. for every edge $x_1x_2 \in J \setminus Q(\pi)$, there are at least $p^2n^2/12$ choices of (y, z) where $y \in V_2, z \in V_3$ such that $\{x_1, x_2, y, z\}$ spans an \hat{F}_5 .

Proof. Since x_1x_2 is in J, there exists v_0 such that $x_1x_2v_0 \in H$. Since x_1x_2 is not in $Q(\pi)$, there exist at least $0.8p^2n^2/9$ choices of (y, z) such that $y \in V_2, z \in V_3$, and x_1yz and x_2yz are both in G_{π} . By Lemma 6, we know $d(x_1, v_0)$ is at most $pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}$, so there can be at most $pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}$ vertices v such that $x_1v_0v \in G_{\pi}$. Therefore, there are at least $0.8p^2n^2/9 - pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n} \ge p^2n^2/12$ choices of (y, z) such that $x_1yz, x_2yz \in G_{\pi}$ and $v_0 \notin \{y, z\}$. For every such (y, z), $\{x_1, x_2, y, z\}$ forms an \hat{F}_5 .

Lemma 15. Suppose the assumptions of Proposition 12 hold. Let J' be a subgraph of Jand denote by $\Delta(J')$ the maximum degree of J'. If $\Delta(J') \leq \varepsilon_1 n$, then w.h.p. we have

 $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \geqslant 30pn|J'|.$

If further $\Delta(J') \leq \varepsilon_1 n / \sqrt{\log n}$, then w.h.p. we have

$$|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 20pn|J'|\frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}.$$

Proof. For each $wx \in J'$, we get $wx \notin Q(\pi)$ by the assumption of Proposition 12, so there are at least $p^2 n^2/12$ choices of (y, z) such that $\{w, x, y, z\}$ spans an \hat{F}_5 , by Claim 14. Then there are at least $\frac{1}{12}|J'|p^2n^2 = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{x \in V_1} d^{J'}(x)\frac{p^2n^2}{12}$ copies of \hat{F}_5 in total. Now consider missing crossing hyperedges $xyz \in \bar{H}_{\pi}$ with $x \in V_1$. Call $xyz \in \bar{H}_{\pi}$ bad

if

$$d^{J'}(x) \leqslant \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}} \quad \text{and} \quad |N(y,z) \cap N^{J'}(x)| \ge \frac{pn \log \log n}{500\sqrt{\log n}}, \quad \text{or}$$
$$\frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}} < d^{J'}(x) \leqslant \varepsilon_1 n \quad \text{and} \quad |N(y,z) \cap N^{J'}(x)| \ge 3\varepsilon_1 pn.$$

Otherwise, call xyz good. We will show that the number of copies of \hat{F}_5 that contain a good hyperedge from \bar{H}_{π} is at least $\frac{1}{4} \sum_{x \in V_1} d^{J'}(x) \frac{p^2 n^2}{12}$. For $x \in V_1$, let n_x be the number

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of copies of \hat{F}_5 that contain vertex x and a bad hyperedge $e \in \bar{H}_{\pi}$ such that $x \in e$, and let r_x be the number of (y, z) such that $y \in V_2$, $z \in V_3$, and xyz is bad. We will repeatedly use Lemma 8 for some choices of $(s, r, i) \in O$ to give upper bounds for r_x and then obtain upper bounds for n_x . For every $x \in V_1$, we consider the following two cases.

Case 1: $d^{J'}(x) \leq \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}$. If $d^{J'}(x) = 0$, then n_x is trivially 0. For every positive integer $s \leq \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}$, $r = \frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}s$, and $i = \frac{pn \log \log n}{500 \sqrt{\log n}}$, we have $(s, r, i) \in O$ (see Claim 23 in the Appendix for the proof). Hence, by Lemma 8, we get $r_x \leq \frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}} d^{J'}(x)$. By Lemma 6, we can assume every pair of vertices has codegree at most $pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}$ in G. We conclude

$$n_x \leqslant pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n} \cdot \frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}} d^{J'}(x) \leqslant \frac{p^2 n^2}{100} d^{J'}(x).$$

Case 2: $\frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}} < d^{J'}(x) \leq \varepsilon_1 n$. For every integer $s \in (\frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}, \varepsilon_1 n]$, $r = \frac{pn}{500}s$, and $i = 3\varepsilon_1 pn$, we have $(s, r, i) \in O$ (see Claim 24 in the Appendix for the proof). Hence, by Lemma 8, we have $r_x \leq \frac{pn}{500}d^{J'}(x)$. By Lemma 6, we can assume every pair of vertices has codegree at most $pn\frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}$ in G. Besides, we have $(s, pn^2/\log n, 3pn) \in O$ for every $1 \leq s \leq n$ (see Claim 25 in the Appendix for the proof), so by Lemma 8, there are at most $pn^2/\log n$ pairs (y, z) where $y \in V_2$, $z \in V_3$ such that $|N(y, z) \cap N^{J'}(x)| \geq 3pn$. We conclude

$$n_x \leqslant \frac{pn^2}{\log n} \cdot pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n} + 3r_x pn \leqslant \frac{p^2 n^2}{\log \log n} \cdot \frac{n}{\sqrt{\log n}} + \frac{3p^2 n^2}{500} d^{J'}(x) \leqslant \frac{p^2 n^2}{100} d^{J'}(x).$$

Recall that a copy of \hat{F}_5 contains at least one hyperedge from \bar{H}_{π} , which is either bad or good. Thus, the number of copies of \hat{F}_5 that contain a good hyperedge from \bar{H}_{π} is at least

$$\frac{1}{2}\sum_{x\in V_1} d^{J'}(x)\frac{p^2n^2}{12} - \sum_{x\in V_1} \frac{p^2n^2}{100} d^{J'}(x) \ge \frac{1}{4}\sum_{x\in V_1} d^{J'}(x)\frac{p^2n^2}{12} = \frac{1}{24}|J'|p^2n^2.$$
(5)

If $\Delta(J') \leq \varepsilon_1 n$, every good missing crossing hyperedge is in at most $3\varepsilon_1 pn$ copies of \hat{F}_5 estimated in (5), so

$$|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge \frac{\frac{1}{24}|J'|p^2n^2}{3\varepsilon_1 pn} \ge \frac{pn|J'|}{72\varepsilon_1} \ge 30pn|J'|.$$

If further $\Delta(J') \leq \varepsilon_1 n / \sqrt{\log n}$, then every good missing crossing hyperedge is in at most $\frac{pn \log \log n}{500 \sqrt{\log n}}$ copies of \hat{F}_5 estimated in (5), so

$$|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge \frac{\frac{1}{24}|J'|p^2n^2}{pn\log\log n/(500\sqrt{\log n})} \ge \frac{20pn|J'|\sqrt{\log n}}{\log\log n}.$$

Now, we divide the rest of the proof into two cases according to the size of \bar{H}_{π} . The notations and calculations are similar in both cases.

$3.1 \quad |ar{H}_{\pi}| \leqslant \delta p n^3 / \log n$

Define

$$S := \{ x \in V_1 : d^J(x) \ge \varepsilon_1 n / \sqrt{\log n} \},$$

$$S_1 := \{ x \in S : d^H_{2,3}(x) \ge \varepsilon_2 p n^2 \}, \text{ and } S_2 := S \setminus S_1.$$

For the following lemmas, we always assume that $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \leq \delta p n^3 / \log n$ and the assumptions of Proposition 12 hold.

Lemma 16. With high probability $|S| \leq \varepsilon_3 n / \sqrt{\log n}$.

Proof. For each $wx \in J$, we get $wx \notin Q(\pi)$ by the assumption of Proposition 12, so there are at least $p^2n^2/12$ choices of (y, z) such that $\{w, x, y, z\}$ spans an \hat{F}_5 , by Claim 14. Then there are at least $\frac{1}{12}|J|p^2n^2$ copies of \hat{F}_5 in total. On the other hand, at least one of wyz and xyz must be in \bar{H}_{π} . For xyz where $d_{V_1}(y, z) \leq 3pn$, xyz can be in at most 3pn copies of \hat{F}_5 . Hence the number of copies of \hat{F}_5 containing a pair $(y, z) \in V_2 \times V_3$ with $d_{V_1}(y, z) \leq 3pn$ is at most $3|\bar{H}_{\pi}|pn$. By Lemma 7, there can be at most $n^2e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}$ pairs (y, z) with $d_{V_1}(y, z) \geq 3pn$, and by Lemma 6, for every pair (y, z), we can assume $d_{V_1}(y, z) \leq d(y, z) \leq pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}$. Hence the number of copies of \hat{F}_5 containing a pair (y, z), we can assume $d_{V_1}(y, z) \leq d(y, z) \leq 3pn$ is at most $n^2e^{-\sqrt{\log n}} \left(pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}\right)^2$. Therefore, we get

$$n^{2}e^{-\sqrt{\log n}}\left(pn\frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log\log n}\right)^{2} + |\bar{H}_{\pi}| \cdot 3pn \geqslant \frac{|J|p^{2}n^{2}}{12}.$$
(6)

Note that $n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}} \left(pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n} \right)^2 \leq \frac{\delta p^2 n^4}{\log n}$. By the assumption $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \leq \frac{\delta pn^3}{\log n}$, we have $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \cdot 3pn \leq \frac{3\delta p^2 n^4}{\log n}$. Hence, we get $|J| \leq \frac{48\delta n^2}{\log n}$. Every vertex in S has degree at least $\frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}$ in J, so $\frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}} |S| \leq 2|J| \leq \frac{96\delta n^2}{\log n}$, which confirms that $|S| \leq \frac{100\delta}{\varepsilon_1} \cdot \frac{n}{\sqrt{\log n}} \leq \frac{\varepsilon_3 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}$.

Lemma 17. With high probability $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 20pn^2|S_1|$.

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Proof. We can assume that $|S_1| > 0$, since otherwise this inequality is trivial. For every vertex $x \in S_1$, define

$$T_x := \{yz : y \in V_2, z \in V_3, xyz \in H, d_{S_1 \setminus \{x\}}(y, z) \leq 3\varepsilon_3 pn/\sqrt{\log n}\}.$$

By Lemma 16, we know that w.h.p. $|S_1| \leq |S| \leq \varepsilon_3 n/\sqrt{\log n}$. For every $s \leq \varepsilon_3 n/\sqrt{\log n}$, we have $(s, \varepsilon_2 pn^2/2, 3\varepsilon_3 pn/\sqrt{\log n}) \in O$ (see Claim 26 in the Appendix for the proof), so by Lemma 8, there can be at most $\varepsilon_2 pn^2/2$ pairs of (y, z) such that $xyz \in G$ and $d_{S_1 \setminus \{x\}}(y, z) \geq 3\varepsilon_3 pn/\sqrt{\log n}$. By the definition of S_1 , we have $d_{2,3}^H(x) \geq \varepsilon_2 pn^2$ for every $x \in S_1$. Thus, we get $|T_x| \geq \varepsilon_2 pn^2/2$.

Now, we count the copies of $\hat{F}_5 = \{x, w, y, z\}$ where $x \in S_1, w \in N^J(x)$, and $\{y, z\} \in T_x$. Note that wyz must be in \bar{H}_{π} , since $xyz \in H$. We have that $|N^J(x)| \ge \varepsilon_1 n/\sqrt{\log n}$ by the definition of S, and we just confirmed $|T_x| \ge \varepsilon_2 pn^2/2$. Applying Lemma 9 by setting $v = x, E = \{e \in H_1 : x \in e\}, A = N^J(x)$, and $T = T_x$, we get the number of such copies of \hat{F}_5 is w.h.p. at least

$$\sum_{x \in S_1} \frac{1}{2} p |N^J(x)| |T_x| \ge \sum_{x \in S_1} \frac{1}{2} p \cdot \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_2 p n^2 \ge \frac{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 p^2 n^3 |S_1|}{4\sqrt{\log n}}.$$
(7)

Every $wyz \in \overline{H}_{\pi}$ can be in at most $3\varepsilon_3 pn/\sqrt{\log n}$ copies of \widehat{F}_5 evaluated in (7), because x is assumed to be in S_1 and $d_{S_1}(y, z) \leq 3\varepsilon_3 pn/\sqrt{\log n}$. Therefore,

$$|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge \frac{\frac{1}{4}\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_2 p^2 n^3 |S_1| / \sqrt{\log n}}{3\varepsilon_3 p n / \sqrt{\log n}} \ge 20 p n^2 |S_1|.$$

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Lemma 18. With high probability $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge \frac{1}{20}pn^2|S_2|$.

Proof. For every vertex $x \in S_2$, we have $d_{2,3}^H(x) < \varepsilon_2 pn^2$ by the definition of S_2 , but by Lemma 5, $d_{2,3}(x) \ge pn^2/10$. Thus, there are at least $pn^2/20$ hyperedges in \bar{H}_{π} containing x, so $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge |S_2|pn^2/20$.

Finally, we deduce Proposition 12 assuming $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \leq \delta p n^3 / \log n$.

Proof of Proposition 12. We will show that with high probability $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 3|H_1|$, by using the lower bounds in Lemmas 15, 17, and 18. Partition H_1 into the following three sets.

- $H_1(1) = \{ e \in H_1 : |e \cap S| \ge 2 \text{ or } |e \cap (V_1 \setminus S)| \ge 2 \}.$
- $H_1(2) = \{e \in H_1 \setminus H_1(1) : |e \cap S_1| = 1\}$. Hence, $H_1(2)$ contains those hyperedges in H_1 with exactly one vertex in S_1 , one vertex in $V_1 \setminus S$, and one vertex in $[n] \setminus V_1$.
- $H_1(3) = H_1 \setminus (H_1(1) \cup H_1(2))$. Hence, $H_1(3)$ contains those hyperedges in H_1 with exactly one vertex in S_2 , one vertex in $V_1 \setminus S$, and one vertex in $[n] \setminus V_1$.

There are three cases needed to be handled.

Case 1: $3|H_1(1)| \ge |H_1|$.

Let $J' \coloneqq J[S] \cup J[V_1 \setminus S]$, where J[S] and $J[V_1 \setminus S]$ are the induced subgraph of J on S and $V_1 \setminus S$ separately. By Lemma 6, $|H_1(1)| \leq |J'| pn \sqrt{\log n} / \log \log n$. For every vertex $x \in S$, $d^{J'}(x)$, the degree of x in J', is at most $|S| - 1 \leq \varepsilon_3 n / \sqrt{\log n} \leq \varepsilon_1 n / \sqrt{\log n}$, by Lemma 16. For every vertex $x \in V_1 \setminus S$, we have $d^{J'}(x) \leq d^J(x) \leq \varepsilon_1 n / \sqrt{\log n}$, by the definition of S. Hence, $\Delta(J') \leq \varepsilon_1 n / \sqrt{\log n}$. Then, by Lemma 15,

$$|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \geq \frac{20pn|J'|\sqrt{\log n}}{\log\log n} \geq 20|H_1(1)| \geq 3.3|H_1|.$$

Case 2: $3|H_1(2)| \ge |H_1|$.

For every vertex $x \in S_1$, there are at most $2pn^2$ hyperedges in $H_1 \setminus H_1(1)$ containing it, by Lemma 4. Hence, $|H_1(2)| \leq 2pn^2|S_1|$. Then, by Lemma 17,

$$|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 20pn^2 |S_1| \ge 10 |H_1(2)| \ge 3.3 |H_1|.$$

Case 3: $3|H_1(3)| \ge |H_1|$.

By the definition of S_2 , every vertex $x \in S_2$ has $d_{2,3}^H(x) \leq \varepsilon_2 pn^2$. Recall that π maximizes $|H_{\pi}|$, so $d_{1,2}^H(x), d_{1,3}^H(x) \leq \varepsilon_2 pn^2$. Hence, $|H_1(3)| \leq 2\varepsilon_2 pn^2 |S_2|$. Then, by Lemma 18,

$$|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge \frac{1}{20} pn^2 |S_2| \ge \frac{1}{20} \cdot \frac{|H_1(3)|}{2\varepsilon_2} \ge 10 |H_1(3)| \ge 3.3 |H_1|.$$

Thus, we have $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 3.3|H_1| \ge 3|H_1|$, where the equality is possible only if $|H_1| = 0$. Recalling our assumption that $|H_1| \ge |H_2|, |H_3|$, we have that $|H_1| = 0$ implies $\sum_{i=1}^{3} |H_i| = 0$, which means H is tripartite.

Remark 19. The log log *n* factor in Lemma 6 plays an important role in the case $3|H_1(1)| \ge |H_1|$. Without this factor, we would need to conclude $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 20pn|J'|\sqrt{\log n}$ from Lemma 15, which we can only obtain when $\Delta(J') \le \varepsilon_1 n/\log^{1/2+c} n$ for some constant c > 0. Then, we would need to modify the definition of *S* to be $\{x \in V_1 : d^J(x) \ge \varepsilon_1 n/\log^{1/2+c} n\}$. However, the assumption of Lemma 9 is no longer valid for sets *A* of smaller size. Therefore, we would not be able to use Lemma 9 in the proof of Lemma 17.

$3.2 \quad |ar{H}_\pi| > \delta p n^3 / \log n$

All the notation and theorems here are similar to those in Section 3.1, so we will just point out the necessary modifications. Define

$$S' \coloneqq \{x \in V_1 : d^J(x) \ge \varepsilon_1 n\},\$$

$$S'_1 \coloneqq \{x \in S' : d^H_{2,3}(x) \ge \varepsilon_2 p n^2\}, \text{ and } S'_2 \coloneqq S' \setminus S'_1.$$

For the following lemmas, we always assume that $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| > \delta p n^3 / \log n$ and the assumptions of Proposition 12 hold. Note that by the assumption in Proposition 12, we have $|H_1|, |H_2|, |H_3| \leq \delta p n^3/3$. If $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \geq 3|H_1|$, then we are done, so we can assume that $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| < 3|H_1| \leq \delta p n^3$.

Lemma 20. With high probability $|S'| \leq \varepsilon_3 n$.

Proof. Inequality (6) still holds, and now we get $|J| \leq 48\delta n^2$. Every vertex in S' has degree at least $\varepsilon_1 n$ in J, so $\varepsilon_1 n |S'| \leq 2 \cdot 48\delta n^2$, which gives $|S'| \leq \frac{100\delta}{\varepsilon_1} n = \varepsilon_3 n$.

Lemma 21. With high probability $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 20pn^2|S'_1|$.

Proof. We can assume that $|S'_1| \ge 1$, since otherwise this inequality is trivial. For each $x \in S'_1$, define

$$T'_x := \{ yz : y \in V_2, z \in V_3, xyz \in H, d_{S'_1 \setminus \{x\}}(y, z) \leq 3\varepsilon_3 pn \}.$$

By Lemma 20, $|S'_1| \leq |S'| \leq \varepsilon_3 n$. For every $s \leq \varepsilon_3 n$, we have $(s, \varepsilon_2 pn^2/2, 3\varepsilon_3 pn) \in O$ (see Claim 27 in the Appendix for the proof). Then by Lemma 8 and the definition of S'_1 , we get that $|T'_x| \geq \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_2 pn^2$. Now we count those copies of $\hat{F}_5 = \{x, w, y, z\}$ where $x \in S'_1$, $w \in N^J(x)$, and $\{y, z\} \in T'_x$. By Lemma 9, the number of such copies of \hat{F}_5 is at least $\frac{1}{4}\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_2 p^2 n^3 |S'_1|$. Every $wyz \in \bar{H}_{\pi}$ can be in at most $3\varepsilon_3 pn$ such copies of \hat{F}_5 , because x is assumed to be in S'_1 and $d_{S'_1}(y, z) \leq 3\varepsilon_3 pn$. Therefore,

$$|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge \frac{\frac{1}{4}\varepsilon_1\varepsilon_2 p^2 n^3 |S_1'|}{3\varepsilon_3 pn} \ge 20pn^2 |S_1'|.$$

Lemma 22. With high probability $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge \frac{1}{20}pn^2|S'_2|$.

Proof. Exactly the same as the proof of Lemma 18.

We are now able to conclude the proof of Proposition 12 for the remaining case that $\frac{\delta pn^3}{\log n} < |\bar{H}_{\pi}| \leq \delta pn^3$.

Proof of Proposition 12. Similarly to the proof in Section 3.1, we define $H'_1(1) = \{e \in H_1 : |e \cap S'| \ge 2 \text{ or } |e \cap (V_1 \setminus S')| \ge 2\}, H'_1(2) = \{e \in H_1 \setminus H'_1(1) : |e \cap S'_1| = 1\}$ and $H'_1(3) = H'_1 \setminus (H'_1(1) \cup H'_1(2)).$

We still split the proof into three cases. The cases $3|H'_1(2)| \ge |H_1|$ and $3|H'_1(3)| \ge |H_1|$ follow with the same proof as in Section 3.1. For the case $3|H'_1(1)| \ge |H_1|$, now let $J' = J[S'] \cup J[V_1 \setminus S']$. By Lemmas 6 and 7,

$$|H_1'(1)| \leqslant |J'| \cdot 3pn + n^2 e^{-\sqrt{\log n}} \cdot pn \frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}.$$
(8)

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Recall we have the assumptions that $3|H_1| \ge |\bar{H}_{\pi}|$, so $3|H'_1(1)| \ge |H_1| \ge \delta pn^3/(3\log n)$. Hence by (8), we have that $0.99|H'_1(1)| \le |J'| \cdot 3pn$. Then, by Lemma 20 and the definition of S', we get that $\Delta(J') \le \varepsilon_1 n$. Finally, by Lemma 15, $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 30pn|J'| \ge 9.9|H'_1(1)| \ge 3.3|H_1|$.

Thus, similarly as in Section 3.1, we get $|\bar{H}_{\pi}| \ge 3.3|H_1| \ge 3|H_1|$, where the equality is possible only if H is tripartite.

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Appendix: Final computations

Recall that $g(p, s, r, i) = n {n \choose s} {n^2 \choose r} (p {s \choose i} p^i)^r$ and O is the set of (s, r, i) where $g(p, s, r, i) = o(n^{-5})$ given $p > C\sqrt{\log n}/n$. In this appendix, we give the proof for the claims made in the proof of Theorem 1 that certain (s, r, i) is in O.

Claim 23. For every positive integer $s \leq \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}$, $r = \frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}s$, and $i = \frac{pn \log \log n}{500 \sqrt{\log n}}$, we have $(s, r, i) \in O$.

Proof. We have

$$g(p, s, r, i) = n \binom{n}{s} \binom{n^2}{\frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}} s} \left(p\binom{s}{\frac{pn\log\log n}{500\sqrt{\log n}}} p^{\frac{pn\log\log n}{500\sqrt{\log n}}} \right)^{\frac{r}{\sqrt{\log n}} s}$$

$$\leq n \left(\frac{en}{s}\right)^s \left(\frac{epn^2\sqrt{\log n}}{pns} \left(\frac{500eps\sqrt{\log n}}{pn\log\log n}\right)^{\frac{pn\log\log n}{500\sqrt{\log n}}}\right)^{\frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}} s}$$

$$(en)^s \left(en\sqrt{\log n} \left(500es\sqrt{\log n}\right)^{\frac{pn\log\log n}{500\sqrt{\log n}}}\right)^{\frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}} s}$$

$$\leqslant n \left(\frac{en}{s}\right)^{s} \left(\frac{en\sqrt{\log n}}{s} \left(\frac{500es\sqrt{\log n}}{n\log\log n}\right)^{\frac{pn\log\log n}{500\sqrt{\log n}}}\right)^{\frac{\sqrt{\log n}s}{s}}.$$
(9)

nn

There are three cases depending on s.

Case 1: $1 \leq s \leq \sqrt{n}$. In this case, (9) is at most

$$n(en)^s \left(en\sqrt{\log n} \left(\frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{\sqrt{n}}\right)^{\frac{C\log\log n}{500}} \right)^{Cs} \leqslant n(en)^s \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^{Cs} = o(n^{-5}).$$

Case 2: $\sqrt{n} < s < \frac{n}{\log n}$. In this case, we have $\frac{n}{s} \ge \log n > \left(\frac{500e\sqrt{\log n}}{\log \log n}\right)^2$ and then

$$\left(\frac{500es\sqrt{\log n}}{n\log\log n}\right)^{\frac{pn\log\log n}{500\sqrt{\log n}}} \leqslant \left(\frac{s}{n} \cdot \frac{500e\sqrt{\log n}}{\log\log n}\right)^{\log\log n} \leqslant \left(\frac{s}{n}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}\log\log n} \leqslant \left(\frac{s}{n}\right)^{100}.$$

Therefore, (9) is at most

$$n\left(\frac{en}{s}\right)^{s} \left(\frac{en\sqrt{\log n}}{s}\left(\frac{s}{n}\right)^{100}\right)^{\frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}s} \leqslant n\left(\frac{en}{s}\right)^{s} \left(\frac{s}{n}\right)^{\frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}s}$$
$$\leqslant n\left(\frac{en}{s}\right)^{s} \left(\frac{s}{n}\right)^{Cs} \leqslant n\left(\frac{s}{n}\right)^{s} \leqslant n\left(\frac{1}{\log n}\right)^{\sqrt{n}} = o(n^{-5}).$$

Case 3: $\frac{n}{\log n} \leq s \leq \frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}$. In this case, (9) is at most

$$n(e\log n)^{s} \left(e\log^{3/2} n\left(\frac{500e\varepsilon_{1}}{\log\log n}\right)^{\frac{C\log\log n}{500}} \right)^{\frac{pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}s} \leqslant n(e\log n)^{s} \left(\left(\frac{1}{\log\log n}\right)^{\log\log n} \right)^{Cs}$$
$$\leqslant n \left(\frac{1}{\log n}\right)^{s} \leqslant n \left(\frac{1}{\log n}\right)^{\frac{n}{\log n}} = o(n^{-5}).$$

Claim 24. For every positive integer $s \in \left(\frac{\varepsilon_1 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}, \varepsilon_1 n\right]$, $r = \frac{pn}{500}s$, and $i = 3\varepsilon_1 pn$, we have $(s, r, i) \in O$.

Proof. We have that g(p, s, r, i) is

$$n\binom{n}{s}\binom{n^{2}}{\frac{pn}{500}s}\left(p\binom{s}{3\varepsilon_{1}pn}p^{3\varepsilon_{1}pn}\right)^{\frac{pn}{500}s} \leqslant n\left(\frac{en}{s}\right)^{s}\left(\frac{500pn^{2}}{pns}\left(\frac{eps}{3\varepsilon_{1}pn}\right)^{3\varepsilon_{1}pn}\right)^{\frac{pn}{500}s} = \\ n\left(\frac{en}{s}\right)^{s}\left(\frac{500n}{s}\left(\frac{es}{3\varepsilon_{1}n}\right)^{3\varepsilon_{1}pn}\right)^{\frac{pns}{500}} \leqslant n\left(\frac{e\sqrt{\log n}}{\varepsilon_{1}}\right)^{s}\left(\frac{500\sqrt{\log n}}{\varepsilon_{1}}\left(\frac{e}{3}\right)^{3\varepsilon_{1}C\sqrt{\log n}}\right)^{Cs\sqrt{\log n}} \\ \leqslant n\left(\frac{e\sqrt{\log n}}{\varepsilon_{1}}\right)^{s}\left(2^{-\sqrt{\log n}}\right)^{Cs\sqrt{\log n}} \leqslant n2^{-s} \leqslant n2^{-\frac{\varepsilon_{1}n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} = o(n^{-5}).$$

Claim 25. For every positive integer $s \leq n$, we have $\left(s, \frac{pn^2}{\log n}, 3pn\right) \in O$.

Proof. We have that g(p, s, r, i) is

$$n\binom{n}{s}\binom{n^2}{\frac{pm^2}{\log n}}\left(p\binom{s}{3pn}p^{3pn}\right)^{\frac{pn^2}{\log n}} \leqslant n2^n\binom{n^2}{\frac{pn^2}{\log n}}\left(p\binom{n}{3pn}p^{3pn}\right)^{\frac{pn^2}{\log n}}$$
$$\leqslant n2^n\left(\frac{epn^2\log n}{pn^2}\left(\frac{enp}{3pn}\right)^{3pn}\right)^{\frac{pn^2}{\log n}} \leqslant n2^n\left(e\log n\left(\frac{e}{3}\right)^{3pn}\right)^{\frac{pn^2}{\log n}}$$
$$\leqslant n2^n\left(e\log n\left(\frac{e}{3}\right)^{3C\sqrt{\log n}}\right)^{\frac{Cn}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \leqslant n2^n\left(\left(\frac{e}{3}\right)^{\sqrt{\log n}}\right)^{\frac{Cn}{\sqrt{\log n}}} = n2^n\left(\frac{e}{3}\right)^{Cn} = o(n^{-5}). \square$$

Claim 26. For every positive integer $s \leq \frac{\varepsilon_3 n}{\sqrt{\log n}}$, we have $\left(s, \frac{\varepsilon_2 p n^2}{2}, \frac{3\varepsilon_3 p n}{\sqrt{\log n}}\right) \in O$.

Proof. We have that g(p, s, r, i) is

$$\begin{split} &n\binom{n}{s}\binom{n^{2}}{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} \left(p\binom{s}{\frac{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}} p^{\frac{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} \\ &\leqslant n\binom{n}{\frac{\varepsilon_{3}n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \binom{n^{2}}{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} \left(p\binom{\frac{\varepsilon_{3}n}{\sqrt{\log n}}}{\frac{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}} p^{\frac{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} \\ &\leqslant n\left(\frac{en\sqrt{\log n}}{\varepsilon_{3}n}\right)^{\frac{\varepsilon_{3}n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \left(\frac{2epn^{2}}{\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} \left(\frac{e\varepsilon_{3}pn}{3\varepsilon_{3}pn} \right)^{\frac{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} \\ &= n\left(\frac{e\sqrt{\log n}}{\varepsilon_{3}} \right)^{\frac{\varepsilon_{3}n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \left(\frac{2e}{\varepsilon_{2}} \left(\frac{e}{3} \right)^{\frac{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}{\sqrt{\log n}}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} \\ &\leqslant n\left(\frac{e\sqrt{\log n}}{\varepsilon_{3}} \right)^{\frac{\varepsilon_{3}n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} 2^{-\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} \leqslant n\left(\frac{e\sqrt{\log n}}{\varepsilon_{3}} \right)^{\frac{\varepsilon_{3}n}{\sqrt{\log n}}} 2^{-\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}Cn\sqrt{\log n}} = o(n^{-5}). \end{split}$$

Claim 27. For every positive integer $s \leq \varepsilon_3 n$, we have $\left(s, \frac{\varepsilon_2 p n^2}{2}, 3\varepsilon_3 p n\right) \in O$.

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Proof. We have that g(p, s, r, i) is

$$n\binom{n}{s}\binom{n^{2}}{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}}\left(p\binom{s}{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}p^{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} \leqslant n\binom{n}{\varepsilon_{3}n}\binom{n^{2}}{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}}\left(p\binom{\varepsilon_{3}n}{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}p^{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}}$$
$$\leqslant n\left(\frac{en}{\varepsilon_{3}n}\right)^{\varepsilon_{3}n}\left(\frac{2epn^{2}}{\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}}\left(\frac{e\varepsilon_{3}pn}{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}\right)^{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}} = n\left(\frac{e}{\varepsilon_{3}}\right)^{\varepsilon_{3}n}\left(\frac{2e}{\varepsilon_{2}}\left(\frac{e}{3}\right)^{3\varepsilon_{3}pn}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{2}pn^{2}}$$
$$\leqslant n2^{-n\sqrt{\log n}} = o(n^{-5}).$$