

Zero-free Regions and Concentration Inequalities for Hypergraph Colorings in the Local Lemma Regime

Jingcheng Liu and **Yixiao Yu**

Nanjing University

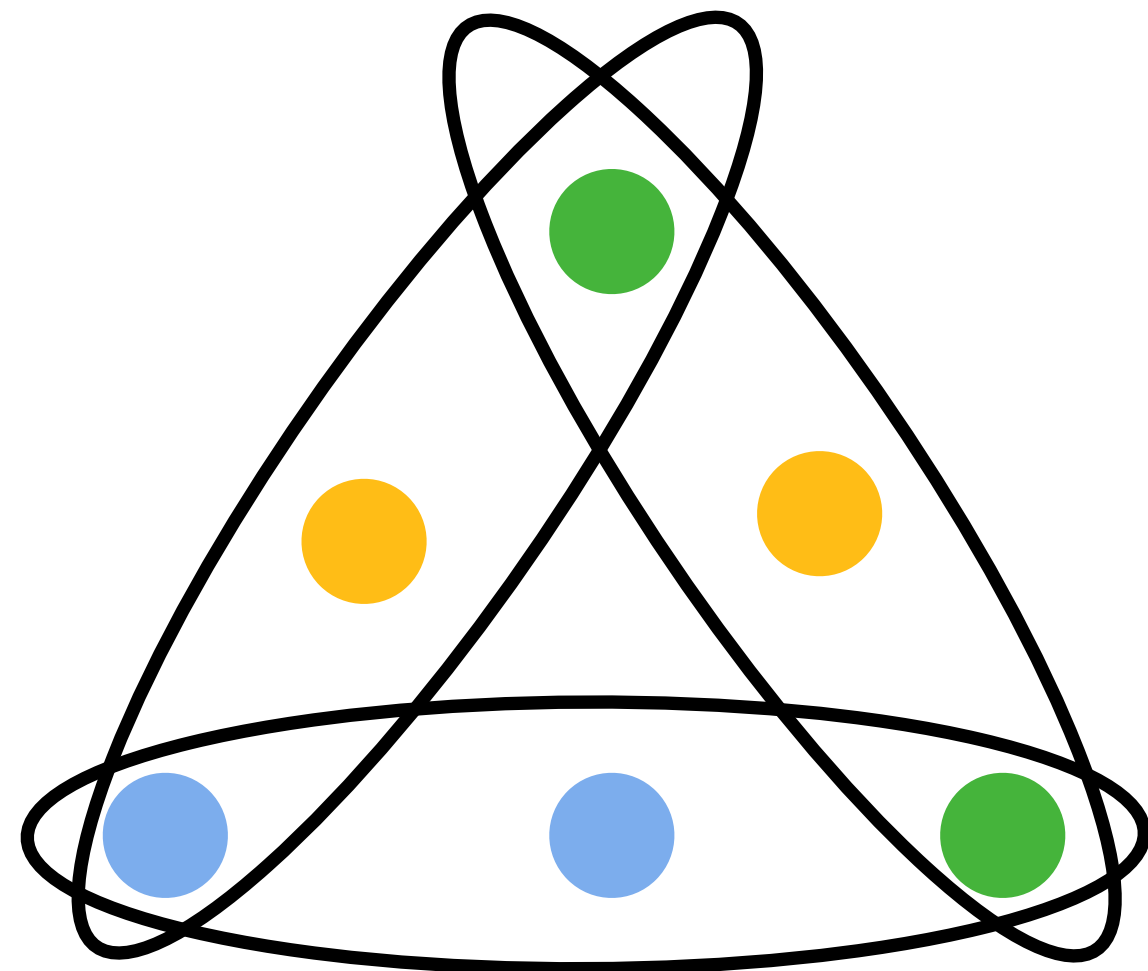
STOC 2026

Hypergraph q -colorings

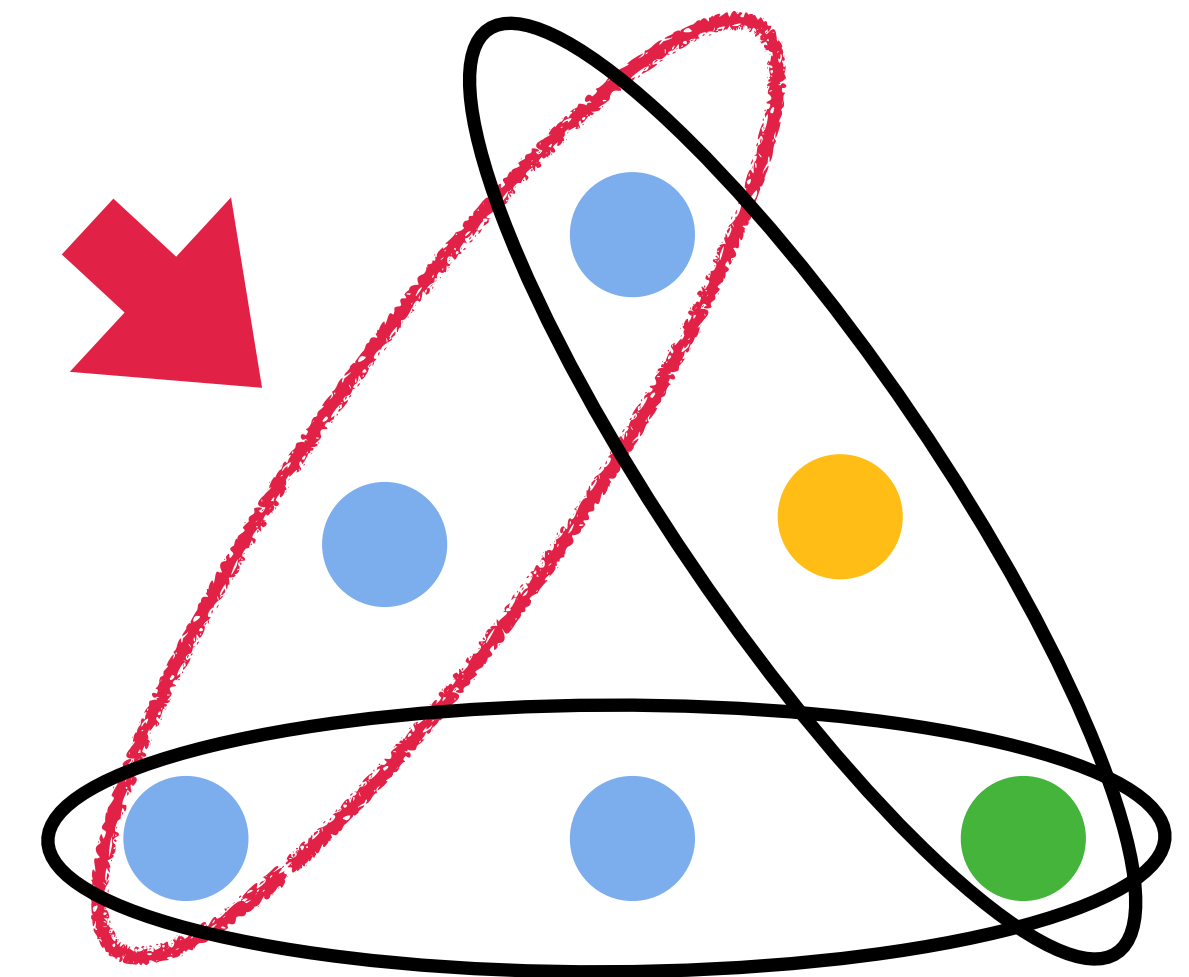
Hypergraph q -coloring:

an integer q , and a k -uniform hypergraph $H = (V, \mathcal{E})$ with the maximum degree Δ .

proper coloring:



improper coloring:

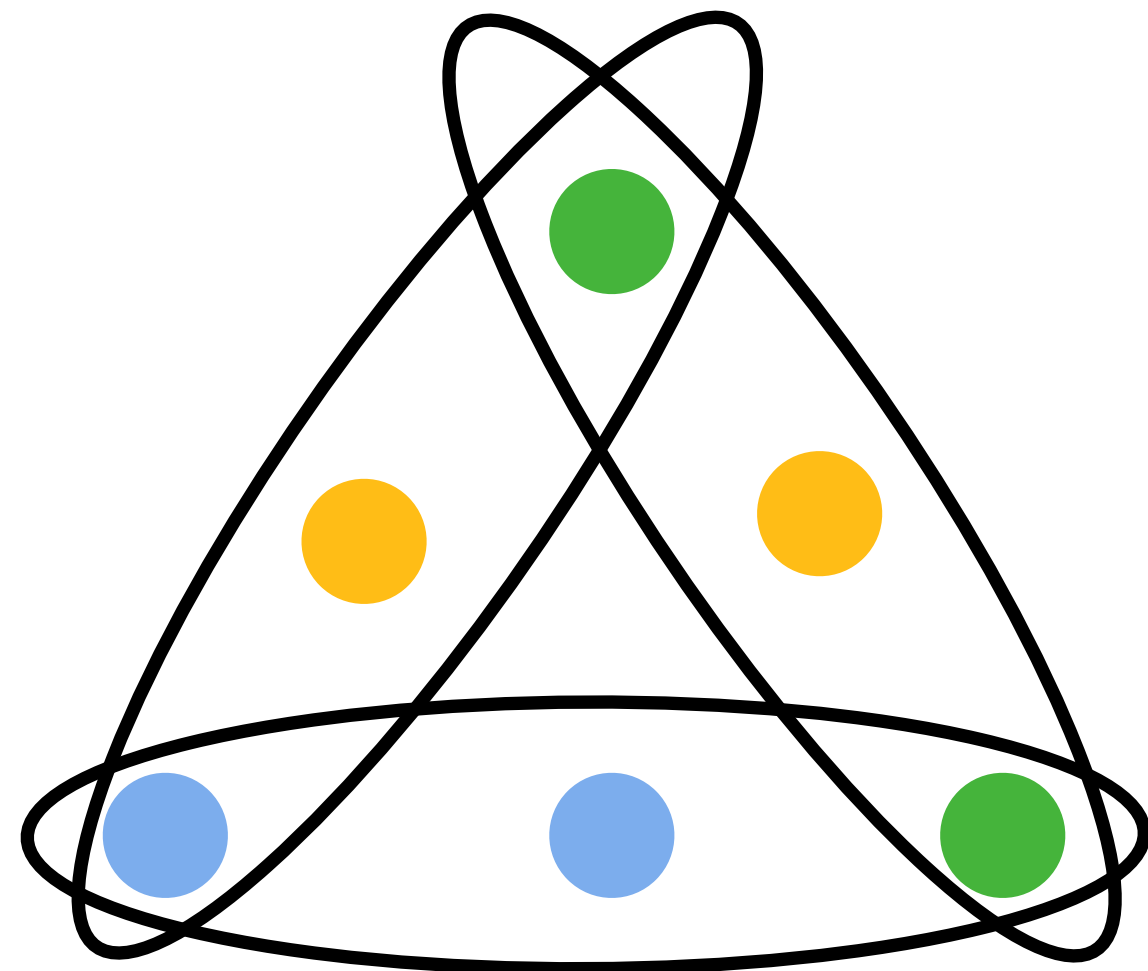


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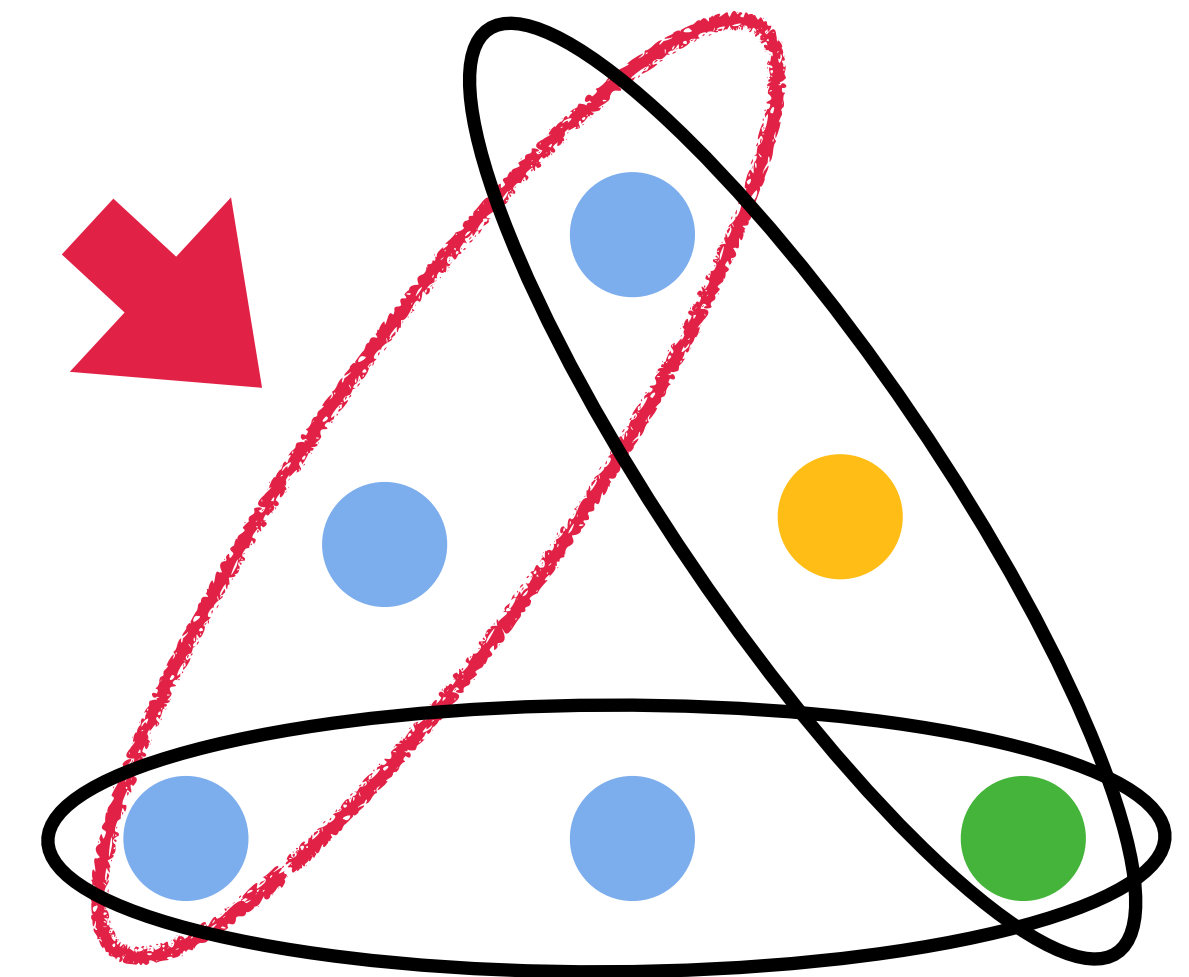
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Lovász local lemma (LLL): when $q \geq C\Delta^{\frac{1}{k-1}}$, there exists at least one proper coloring [EL75].

(LLL regime)

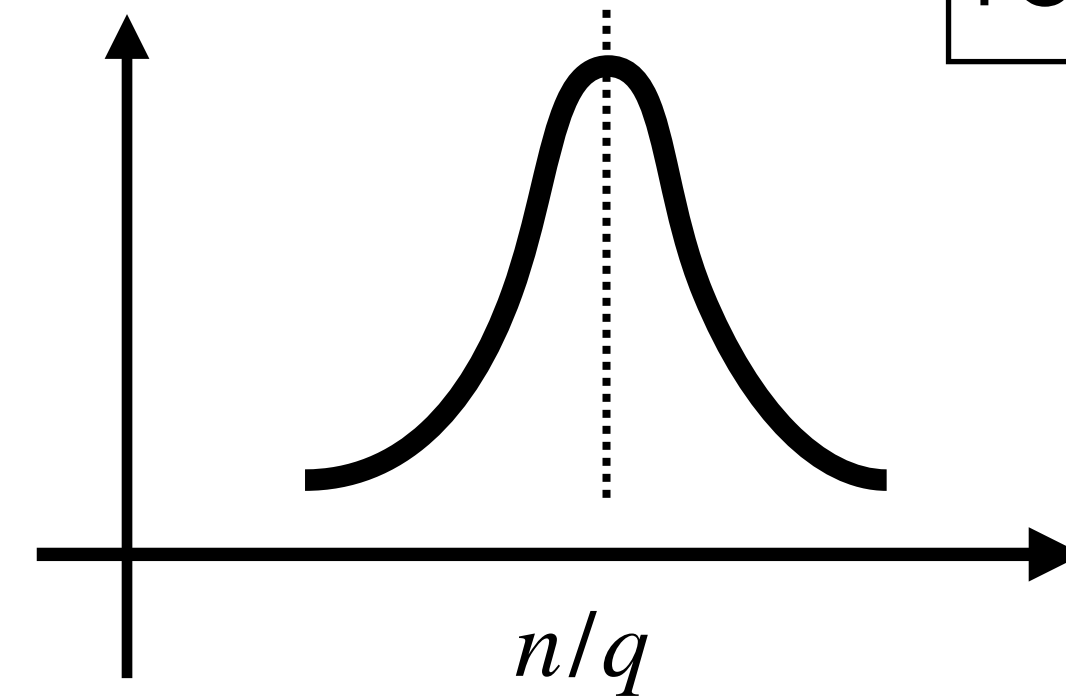
Hypergraph q -colorings in LLL regime

We focus on the **concentration phenomenon** in LLL regime.

(arbitrary by symmetry)



number of ● vertices in uniform random proper colorings:



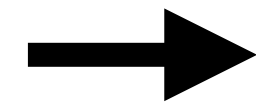
Concentration inequalities, central limit theorem (CLT)?

Hypergraph q -colorings in LLL regime

Lovász local lemma (LLL) regime: $p \cdot D^c \lesssim 1$

p : violating probability

D : dependency degree



q^{-k+1} : probability of a hyperedge being monochromatic.

Δk : dependency degree.

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approx. counting efficiently

$$q \gtrsim \Delta^{\frac{2+o_q(1)}{k-2}}$$

[WY24]

approx. counting intractable

$$q \lesssim \Delta^{\frac{2}{k}}$$

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possibly no proper q -coloring

$$q \lesssim \Delta^{\frac{1}{k-1}}$$

[She98]

$$D^{-2}$$

$$D^{-1}$$

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Hypergraph q -colorings in LLL regime

Lovász local lemma

p : violating prob

D : dependence

Below: LLL guarantees the existence of a proper q -coloring [EL75].

Moser and Tardos give a linear time searching algorithm [MT10].

Above: Shearer shows the tightness [She98].

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Hypergraph q -colorings in LLL regime

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Below: recursive coupling + LP-based FPTAS [WY24].

Above: NP-hard for approx. counting [GGW23].

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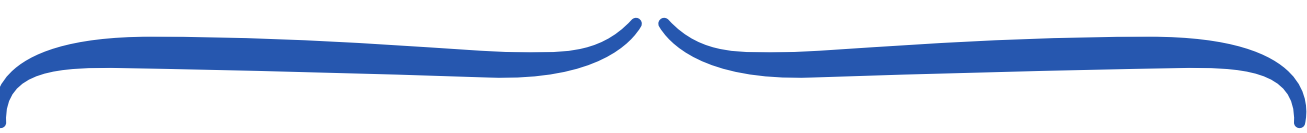
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bounded total influence + local uniformity lead to a Chebyshev-type inequality.



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Central limit theorem?

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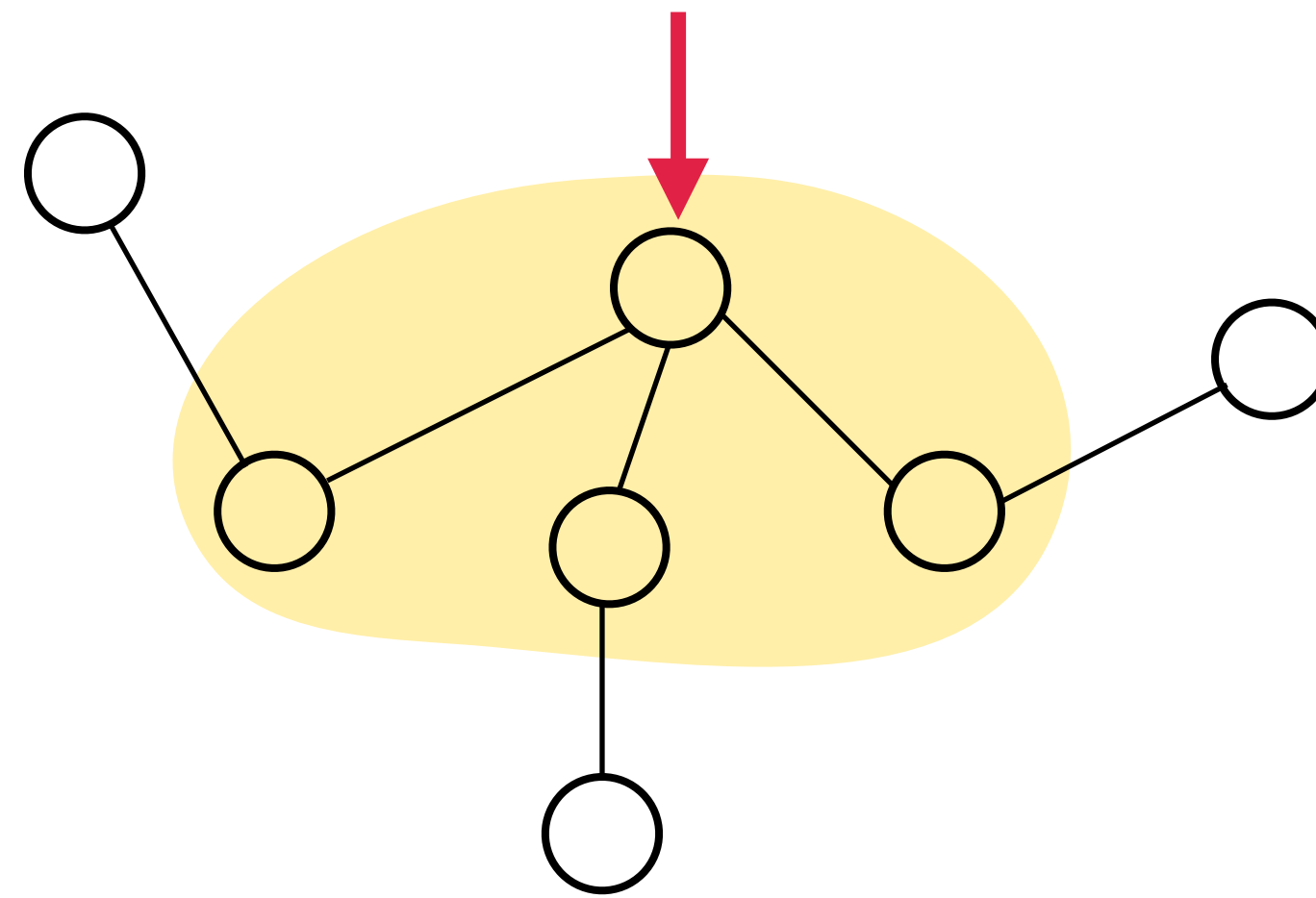
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CLTs beyond product distributions

Stein's method: CLTs under local dependency, e.g. [CS04, CHA08]:

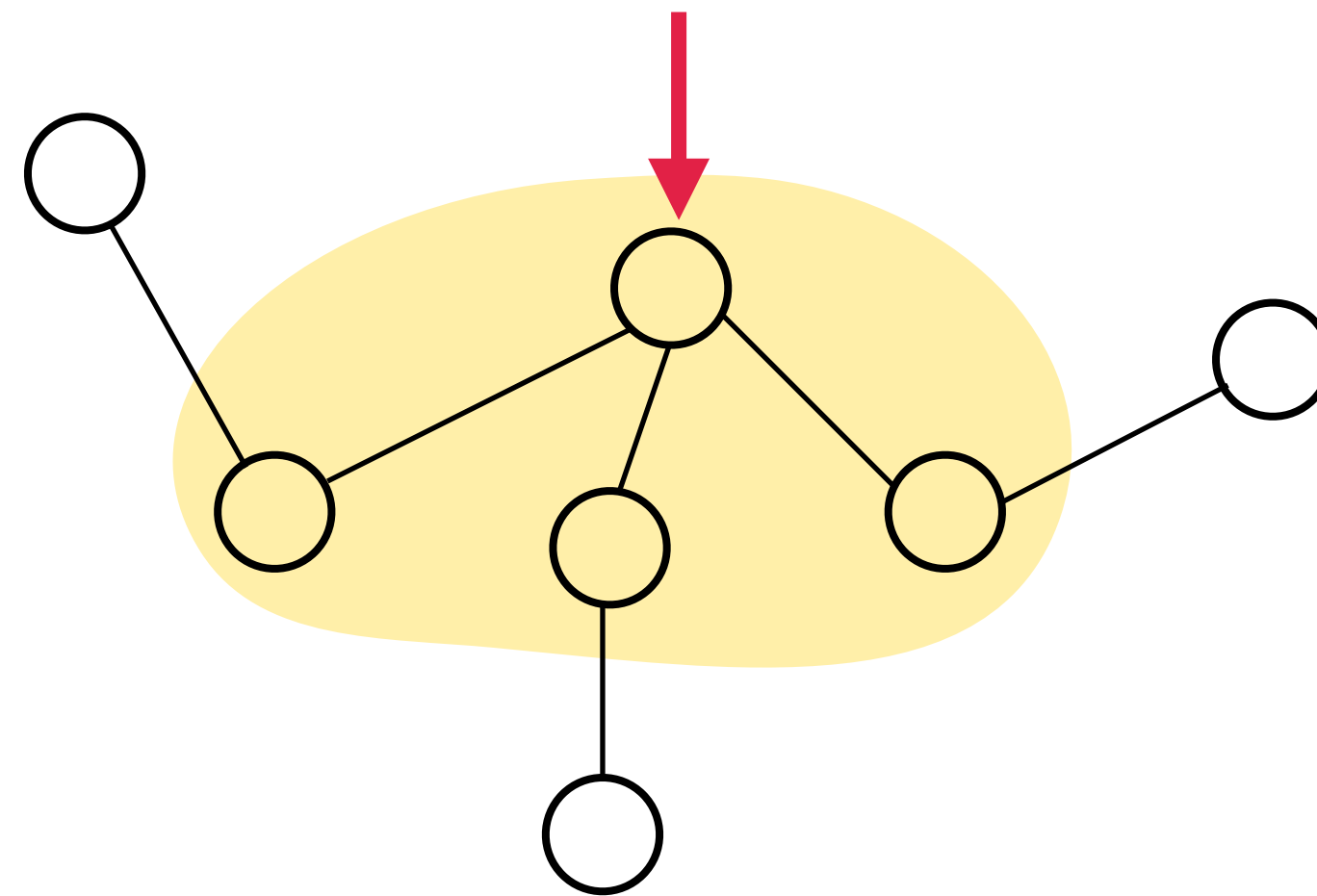


dependency graph

Only yields a CLT about the **number of monochromatic hyperedges**
under **i.i.d. random color assignments**.

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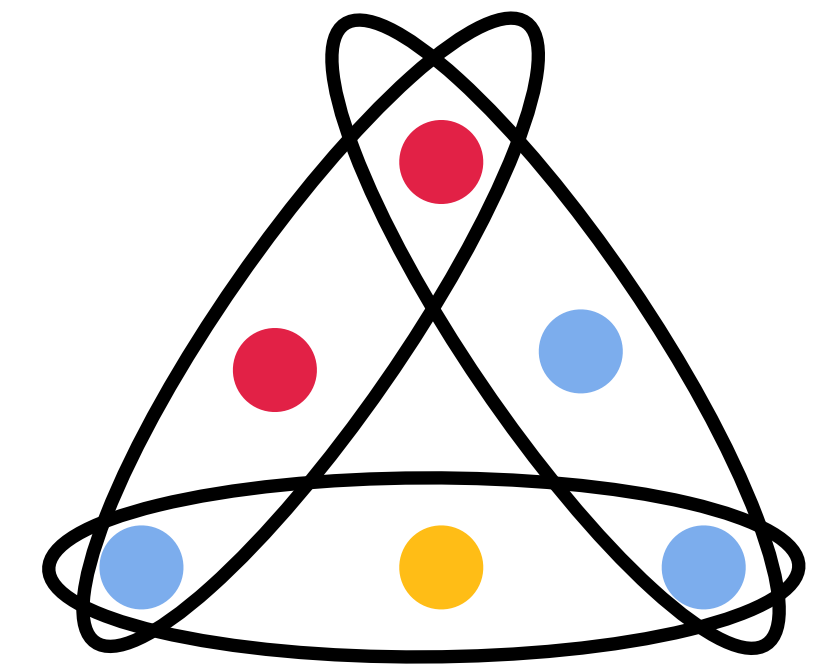
Only yields a CLT about the **number of monochromatic hyperedges** under **i.i.d. random color assignments**.

CLTs from Zero-freeness - Lee-Yang zeros

Ω : the set of proper q -colorings.

λ : complex external field on \bullet .

Partition function w.r.t. Lee-Yang zeros: $Z^{\text{LY}}(\lambda) = \sum_{\sigma \in \Omega} \lambda^{\#(\bullet) \text{ in } \sigma}$.



weight: λ^2



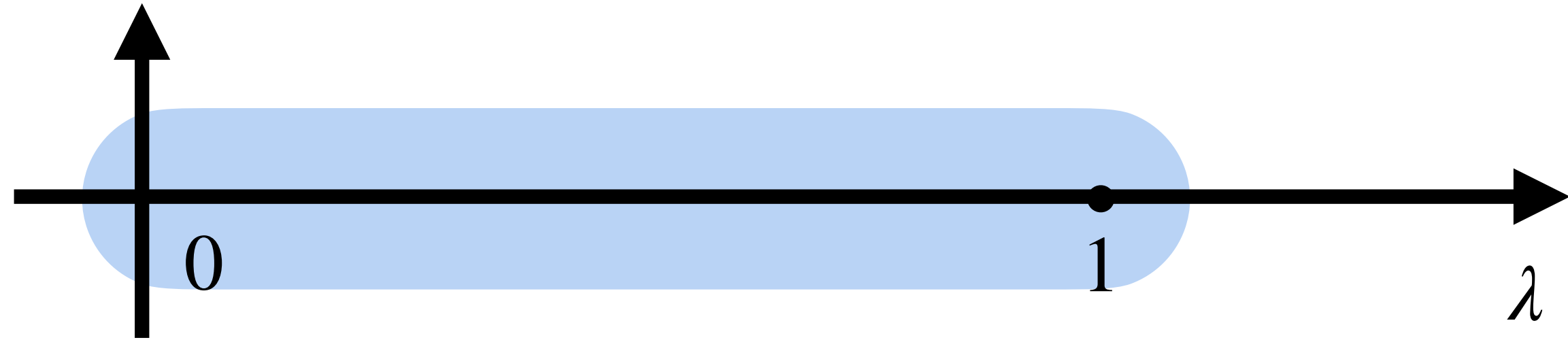
[LPRS16, MS24, JPSS22]

Central limit theorem, local central limit theorem for the number of \bullet vertices in uniform random proper colorings.

Zero-freeness in LLL regime

Hypergraph independent set on k -uniform hypergraph with maximum degree Δ .

When $\Delta \lesssim 2^{k/2}$:
($pD^2 \lesssim 1$)

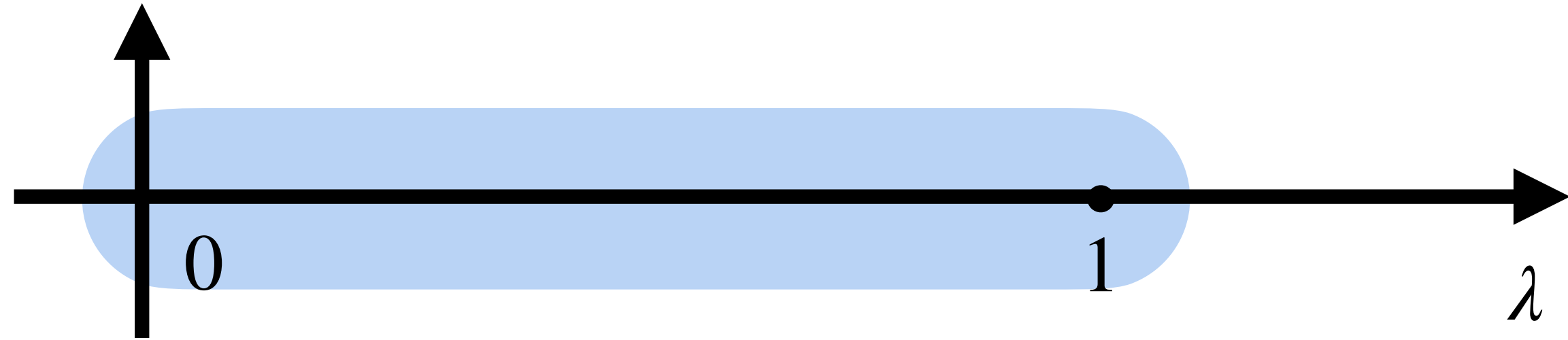


[LWYY25]: convergent complex Markov chain

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[LWYY25]: convergent complex Markov chain

However, hypergraph colorings (or more general CSPs) have **disconnected state space**.
For approx. sampling, this is bypassed by the **state-compression** method [GLLZ18, FHY21].

Our results - Lee-Yang zeros

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When $q \gtrsim \Delta^{\frac{5}{k-2.5}}$:
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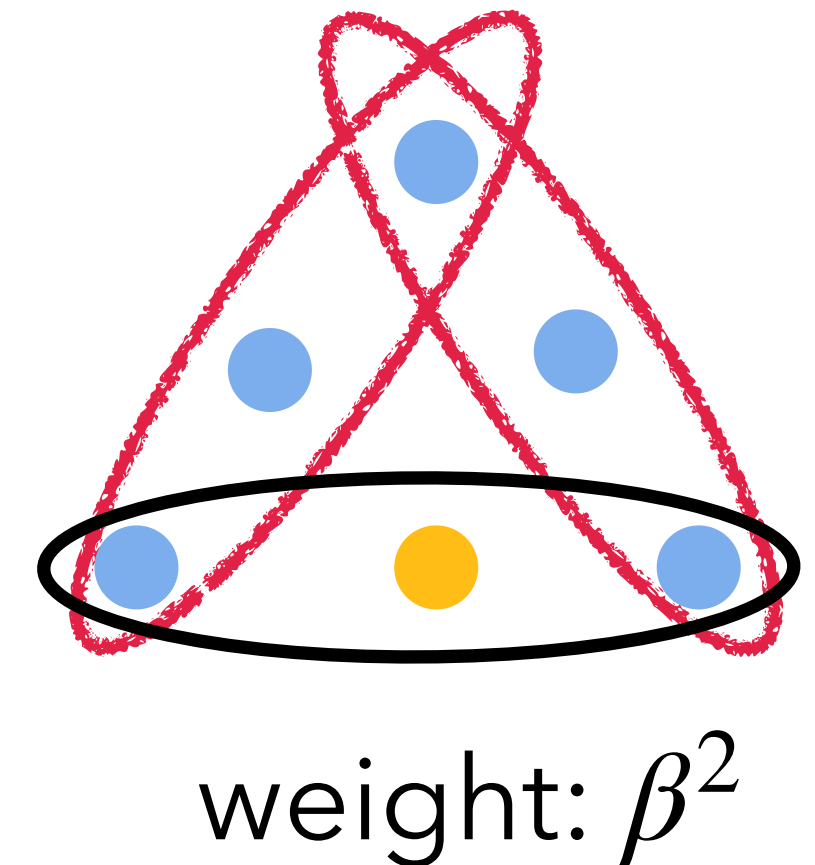
Zero-freeness - Fisher zeros

$$Z^{\text{FS}}(\beta) = \sum_{\sigma \in [q]^V} \beta^{m(\sigma)} \quad \leftarrow \quad \boxed{\text{partition function w.r.t. Fisher zeros}}$$

$m(\sigma)$ = number of **monochromatic** hyperedges

$Z^{\text{FS}}(0)$ = number of proper colorings (related to approx. counting)

$Z^{\text{FS}}(1) = q^n$ (number of color assignments)



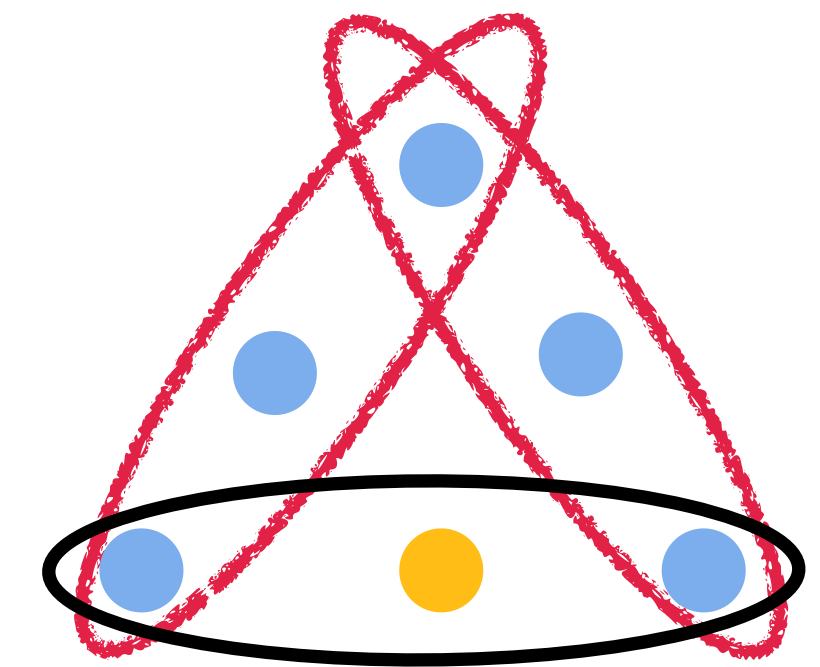
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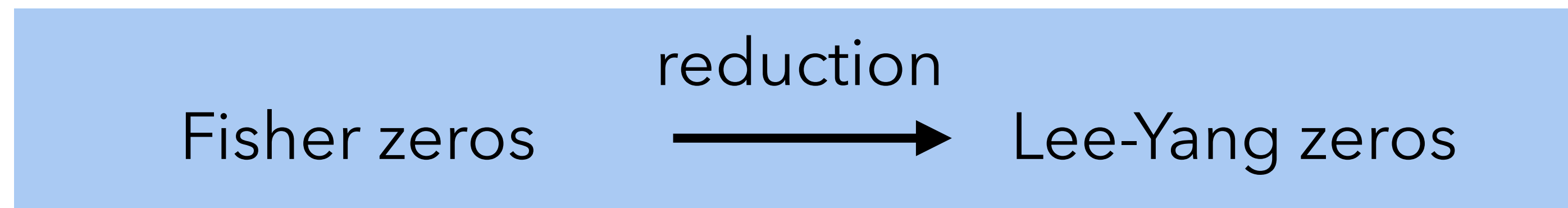
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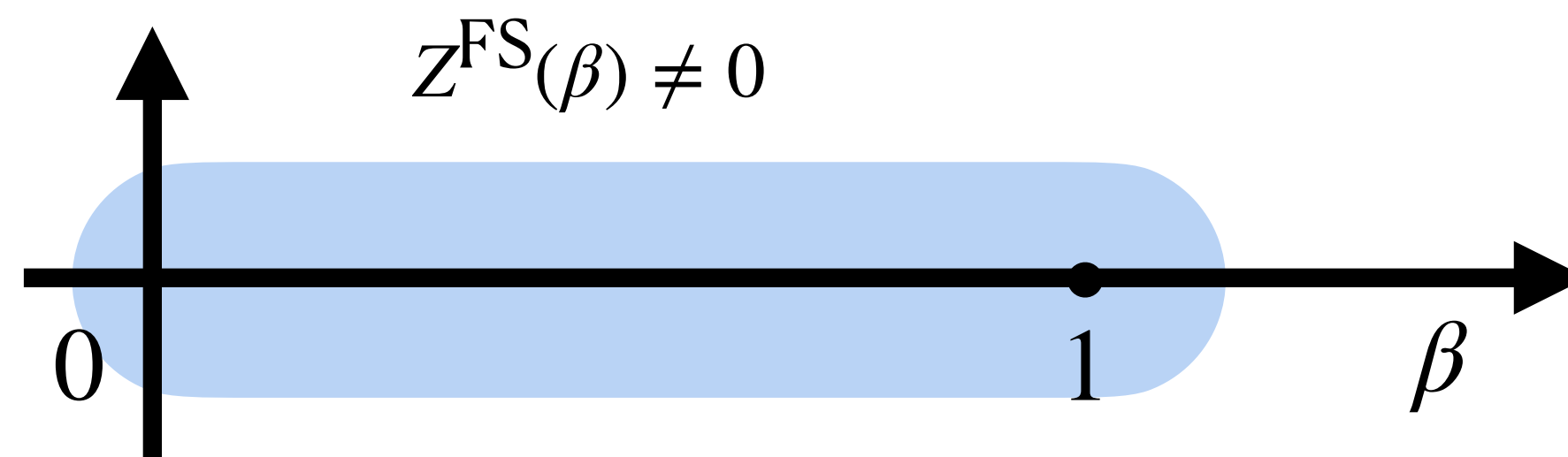


weight: β^2



When $q \gtrsim \Delta^{\frac{5}{k-10}}$:

($pD^5 \lesssim 1$)



Interpolation
[Bar16, PR17, LSS17]

FPTAS

Our results

approx. counting efficiently

Zero-freeness

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This work

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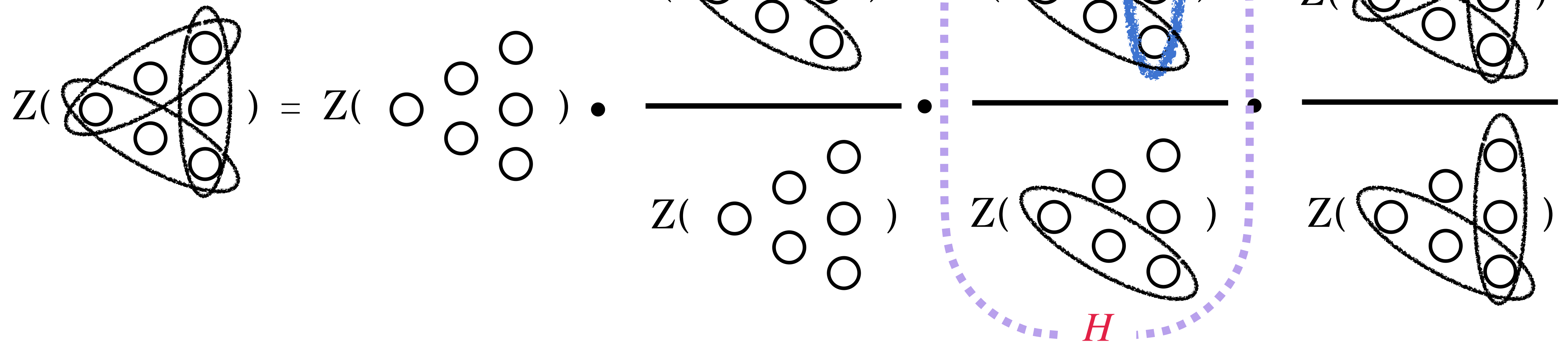
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Corollaries: [central limit theorem](#), [local central limit theorem](#) and [new FPTAS](#).

Proof overview

Controlling marginal measures

By edge-wise self-reduction:

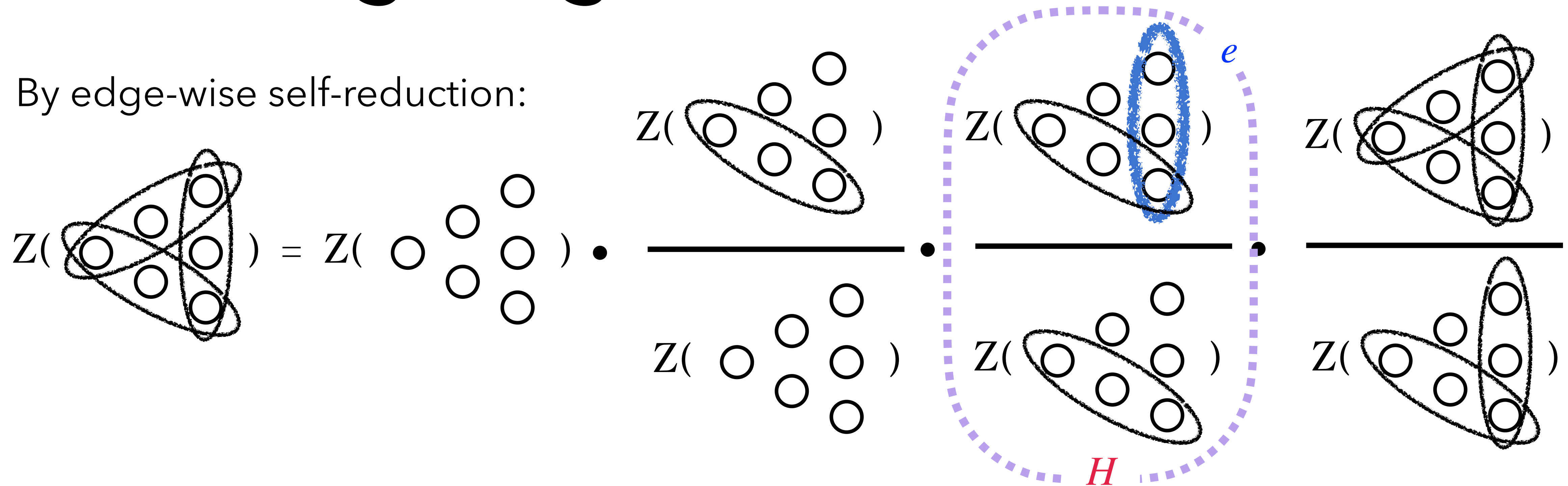


complex measure: $1 - \mu_H(e \text{ is monochromatic})$

(Note e is not in H)

Controlling marginal measures

By edge-wise self-reduction:



complex measure: $1 - \mu_H(e \text{ is monochromatic})$

(Note e is not in H)

$|\mu_H(e \text{ is monochromatic})| < 1$
(controlling marginal measures)



zero-freeness

Controlling marginal measures

In [LWYY25], marginal measures are represented through a **complex Markov chain**.

$$\mu_H(e \text{ is monochromatic}) = \sum \text{percolation analysis on a } \mathbf{convergent} \text{ complex Markov chain}$$

Controlling marginal measures

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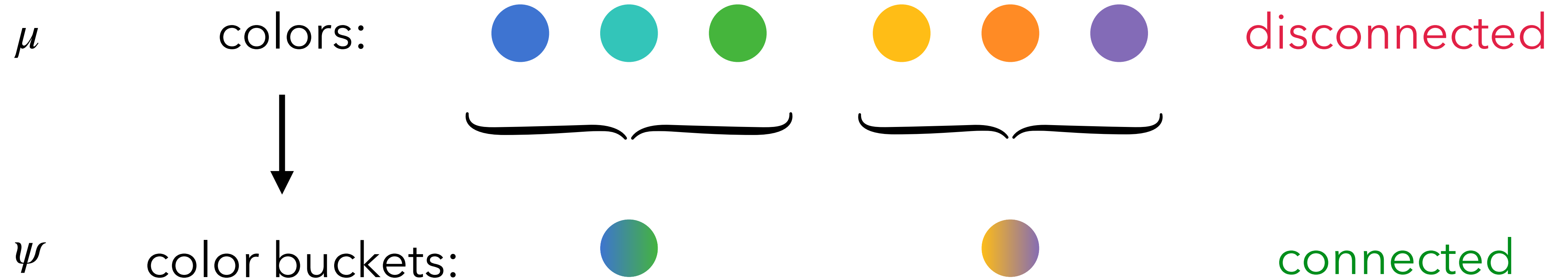
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Hypergraph colorings may have **disconnected state space.**

Projection-lifting in classical sampling

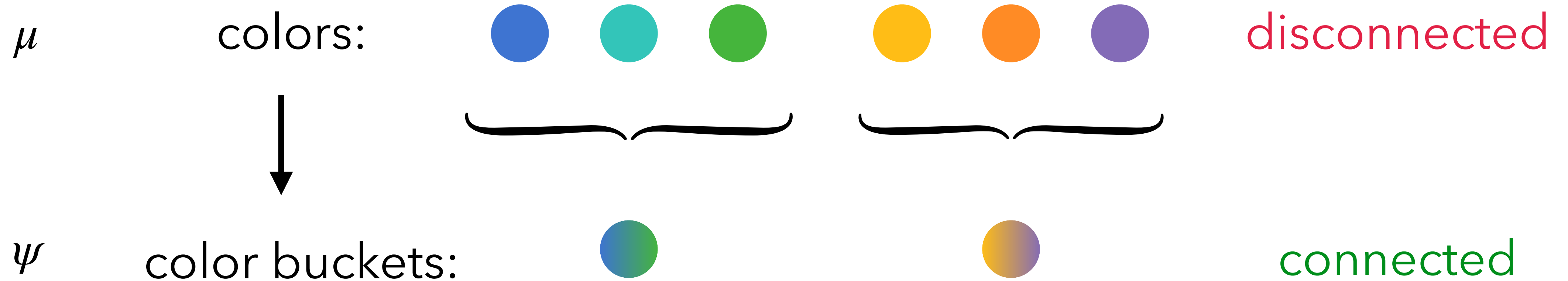
State-compression: projected measure with **connected state space** [GLLZ18, FHY21].



Glauber dynamics mixes rapidly on the projected distribution ψ .

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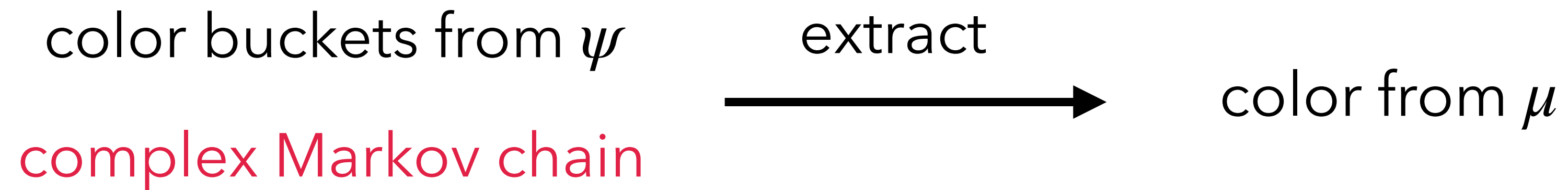


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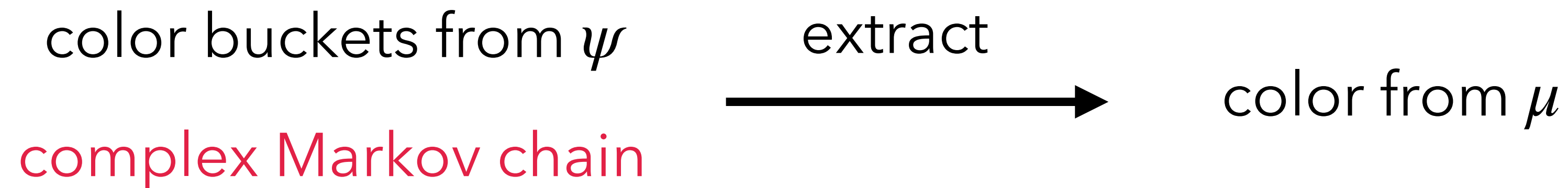
Projection-lifting in complex settings

To upper bound $|\mu(e \text{ is monochromatic})|$:



Projection-lifting in complex settings

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Proof idea:

(general complex measures may $\in \mathbb{C}$)

Design an event S on color buckets (ψ).

$\mu(e \text{ mono} \mid S) \in [0,1]$ is a probability

(triangle inequality) (conditional measure)

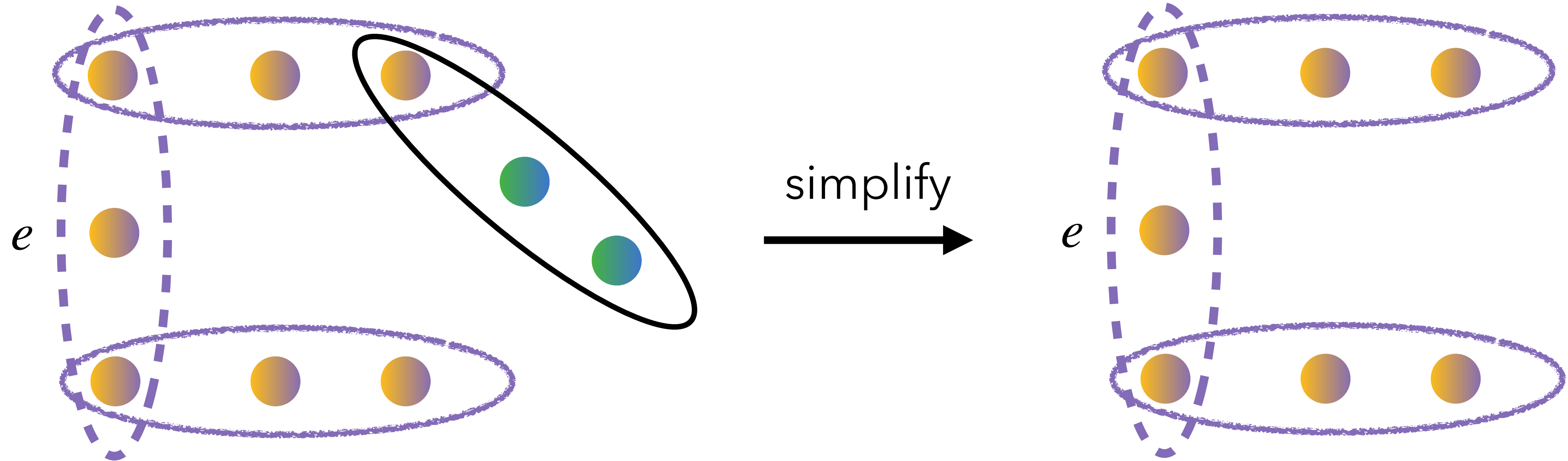
$$|\mu(e \text{ mono})| \leq \sum_S |\mu(e \text{ mono} \wedge S)| = \sum_S |\mu(e \text{ mono} \mid S) \cdot \psi(S)| \leq \sum_S |\psi(S)| < 1.$$

**Complex
Markov chain**

Projection-lifting in complex settings

Goal: design a event \mathcal{S} on **color buckets** such that $\mu(e \text{ mono} \mid \mathcal{S}) \in [0,1]$ is a probability.

Step 1: reveal bucket assignment on each vertex.

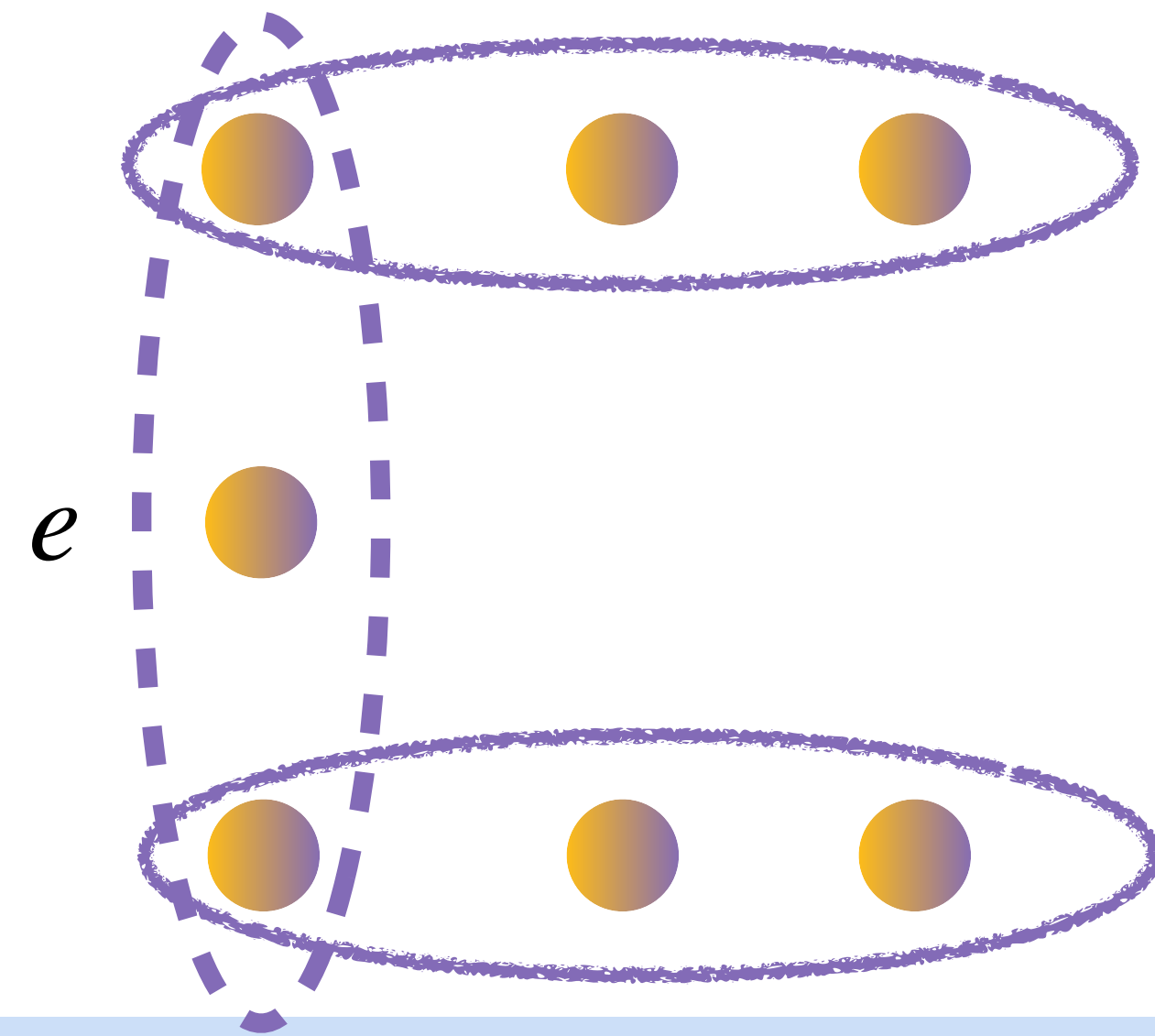


Bad cluster: maximal connected component containing hyperedge e with the same **color bucket**.

Event \mathcal{S} : bad cluster and the color bucket.

Projection-lifting in complex settings

Goal: design a event S on **color buckets** such that $\mu(e \text{ mono} \mid S) \in [0,1]$ is a probability.



Event S : bad cluster and the color bucket.

$$\mu(e \text{ mono} \mid S) = \frac{\text{total complex weight for proper colorings consistent to } S \text{ with } e \text{ is monochromatic}}{\text{total complex weight for proper colorings consistent to } S}$$

Projection-lifting in complex settings

Goal: design an event S on **color buckets** such that $\mu(e \text{ mono} \mid S) \in [0,1]$ is a probability.

If the complex external field λ is **on the color bucket**, then we can extract the contributions from λ :

(S fixes the color bucket)

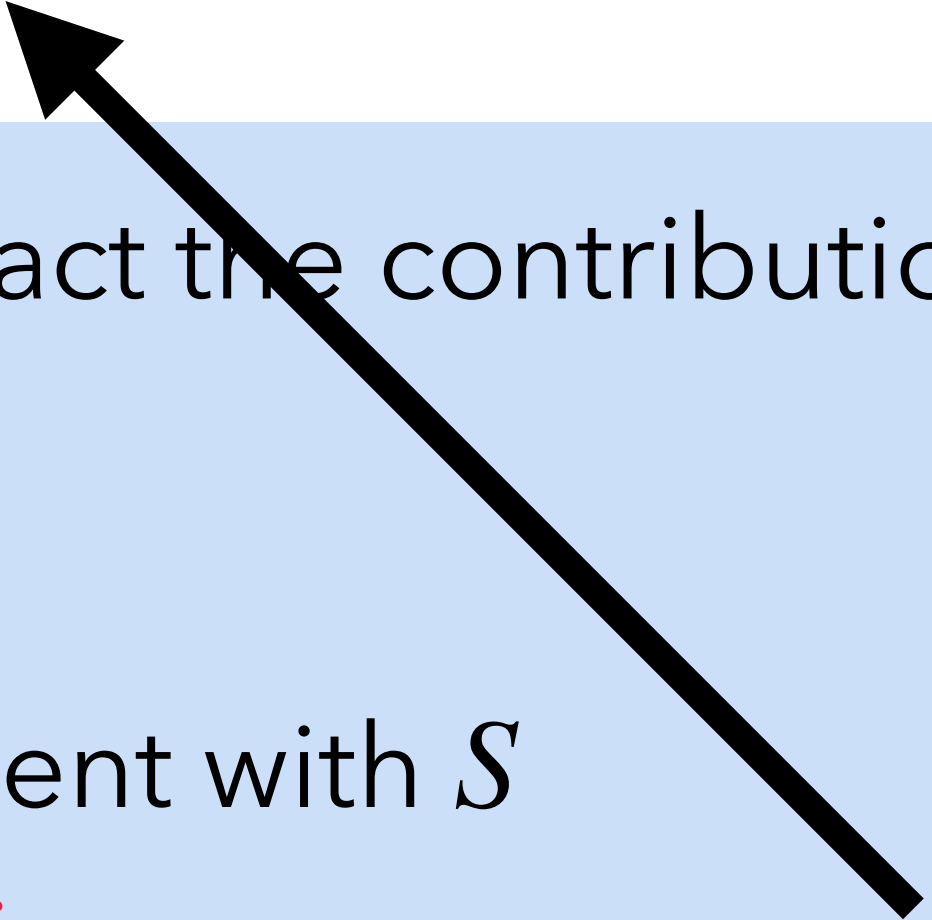
$$\mu(e \text{ mono} \mid S) = \frac{\lambda^X \cdot \text{number of proper colorings consistent with } S \text{ in which } e \text{ is monochromatic}}{\lambda^X \cdot \text{number of proper colorings consistent with } S}$$

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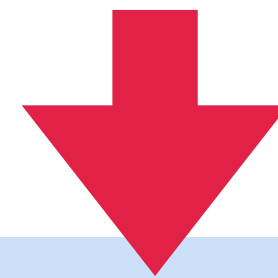
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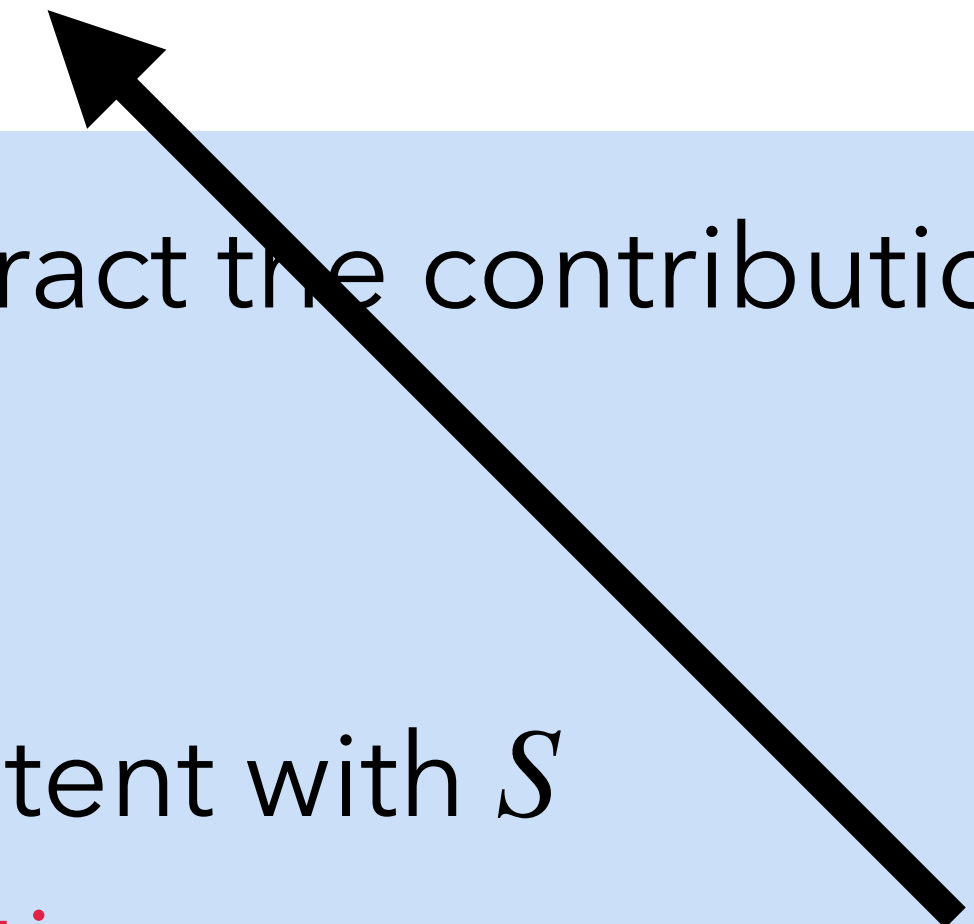
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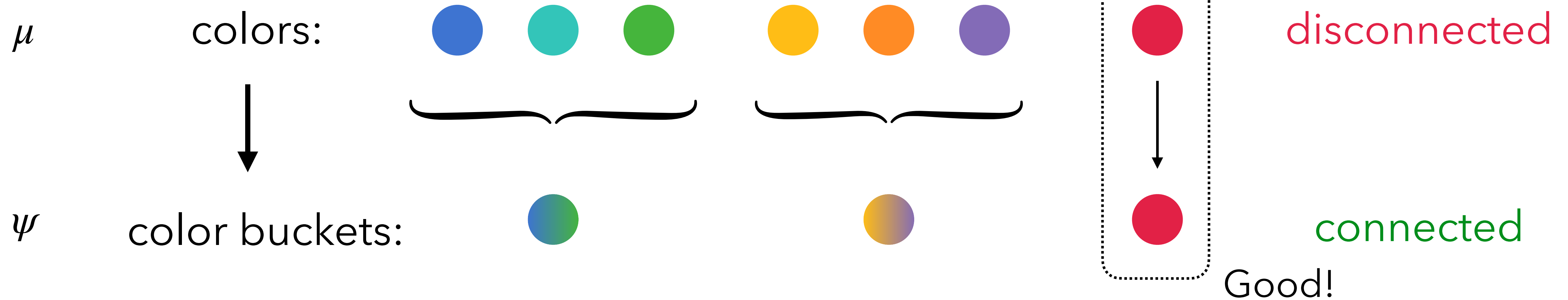


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Step2: modified state-compression.

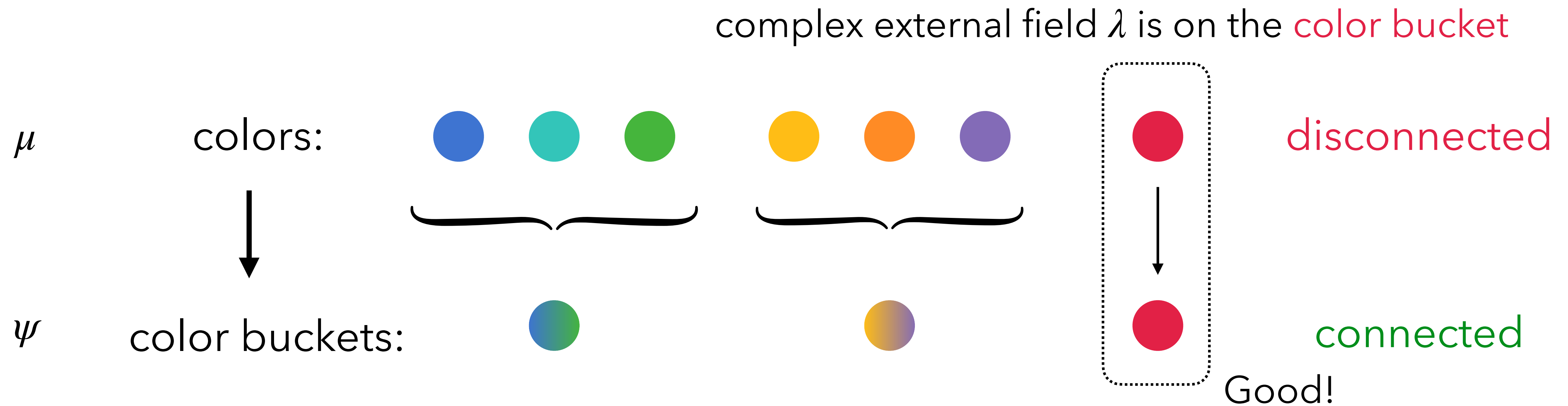
complex external field λ is on the **color bucket**



Projection-lifting in complex settings

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Step2: modified state-compression.



This step is not free! It changes ψ .

Projection-lifting in complex settings

Proof idea:

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Refined analysis of the complex Markov chain on the modified ψ .

Summary and open problems

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zero-freeness, CLTs ? concentration?

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