

# Sampling Arbitrary Subgraphs Exactly Uniformly in Sublinear Time

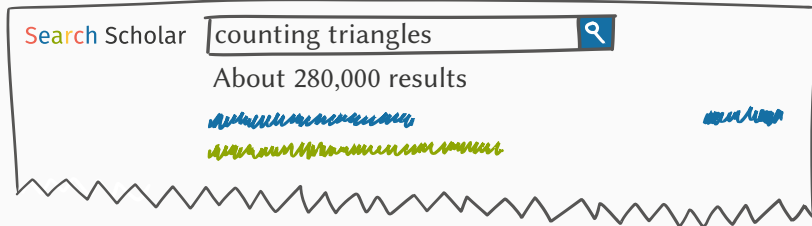
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*Hendrik Fichtenberger, Mingze Gao and Pan Peng*

ICALP 2020

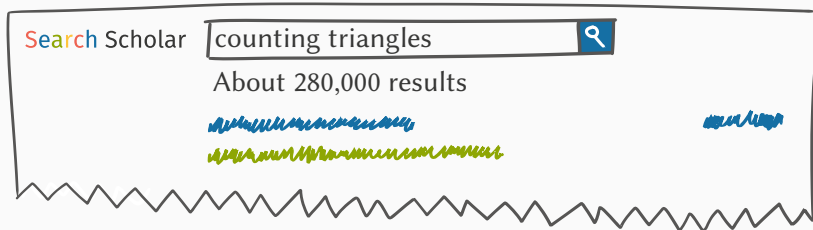
# Subgraph Problems

subgraph problems are basic but popular:



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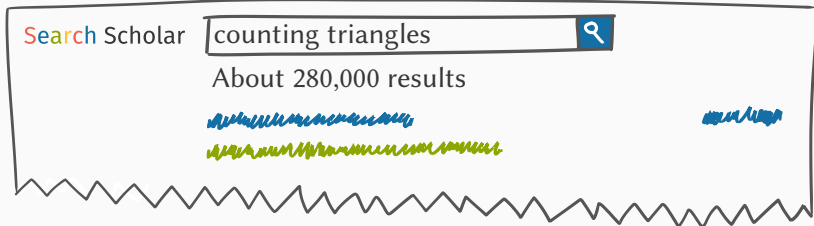
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in this talk: sampling subgraphs in sublinear time

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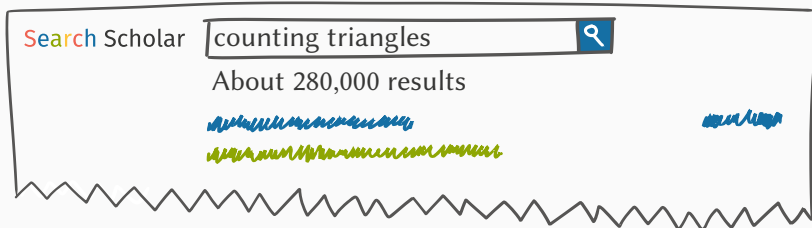
in this talk: sampling subgraphs in sublinear time



fixed subgraph  
uniformly from  
an input graph

# Subgraph Problems

subgraph problems are basic but popular:



in this talk: sampling subgraphs in sublinear time



fixed subgraph  
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need to define  
model of access  
to input graph



query for uniformly random vertex

# Graph Models



query for uniformly random vertex



given a vertex,

query for its  $i$ -th neighbor

# Graph Models



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given two vertices,  
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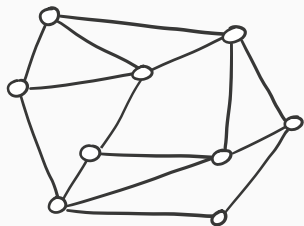
general model



query for uniformly random edge

augmented general model

# Simple Algorithm for the Augmented General Model

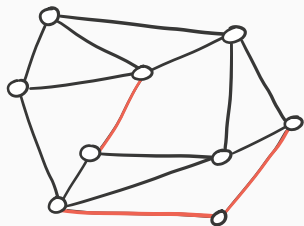


repeat until success:



$H$

# Simple Algorithm for the Augmented General Model



$G$

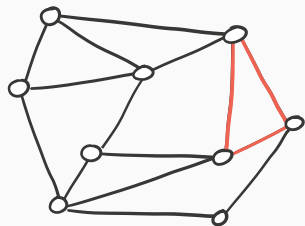


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2. check whether they form a copy of  $H$

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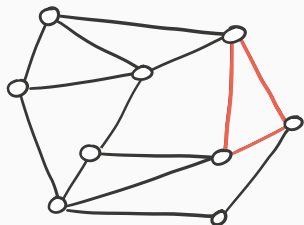


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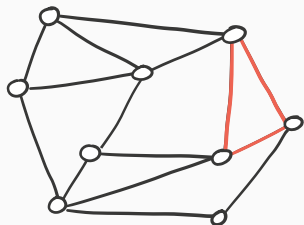
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- expected running time:  $\Theta\left(\frac{m^{|E(H)|}}{\#H}\right)$

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can we do better?



## Related Work<sup>1</sup>

improvements over linear query bounds in  $\tilde{O}(\dots)$ , all essentially tight for cliques

subgraph  $H$

approximate  
counting

sampling *approx.*  
uniformly

sampling *exactly*  
uniformly



---

<sup>1</sup>Goldreich, Ron, RS&A'08; Eden, Rosenbaum, SOSA'18; Eden, Ron, Seshadhri, STOC'18; Assadi, Kapralov, Khanna, ITCS'18

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$$\frac{n}{\sqrt{m}} \text{ [ER18]}$$



$$\frac{n}{(\#H)^{1/|H|}} + \frac{m^{\rho(H)}}{\#H} \text{ [ERS18]}$$

any

general model

$\rho(H)$  is the frac. edge cover size of  $H$ ,  $|H|/2 \leq \rho(H) \leq |H|$

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trivial



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general model / augmented general model

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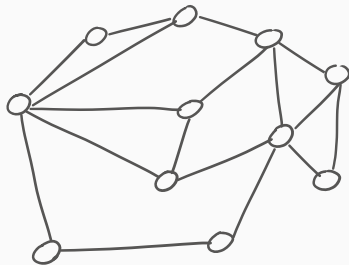
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## Main Theorem

For any subgraph  $H$ , sampling *exactly uniformly* from all copies of  $H$  in an input graph  $G$  has expected query and time complexity  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m^{\rho(H)}}{\#H}\right)$  in the augmented general model.

This is essentially tight for cliques, even when we require only *almost* uniform sampling.

# Fractional Edge Covers



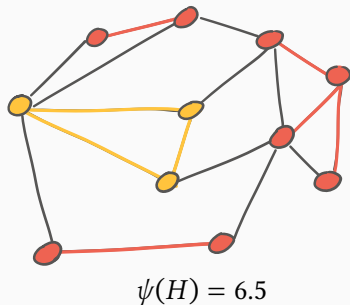
## Theorem [AKK18]<sup>2</sup>

For every graph  $H$ , there is a minimum fractional edge cover by vertex-disjoint **odd cycles** and **stars**.

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# Fractional Edge Covers



## Theorem [AKK18]<sup>2</sup>

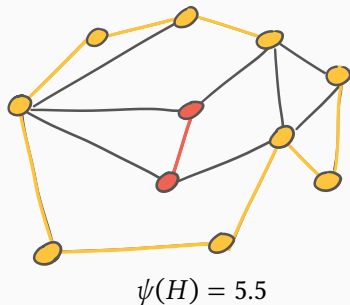
For every graph  $H$ , there is a minimum fractional edge cover by vertex-disjoint **odd cycles** and **stars**.

The value  $\psi_H(C)$  of a cover  $C$  is

$$\psi_H(C) = \sum_{\substack{k \in \{3,5,\dots\} \\ C_k \in C}} \frac{k}{2} + \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{N} \\ S_k \in C}} k.$$

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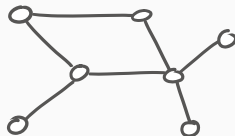
We define  $\rho(H) = \min_C \psi_H(C)$ .

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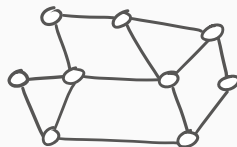
# Sampling in the Augmented General Model

for subgraph  $H$  and input  $G$ :



$H$

$$\rho(H) = 5$$

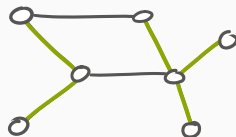


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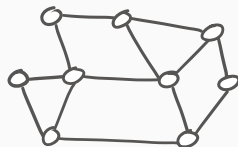
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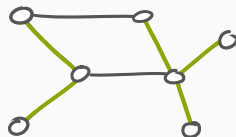


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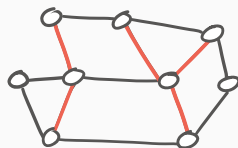
for subgraph  $H$  and input  $G$ :

1. compute edge cover of  $H$
2. sample  $\rho(H)$  edges from  $G$



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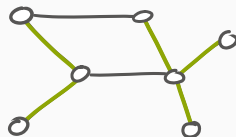


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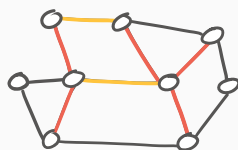
for subgraph  $H$  and input  $G$ :

1. compute edge cover of  $H$
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3. use pair queries to check for copy of  $H$



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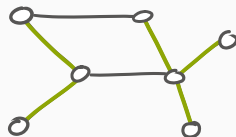
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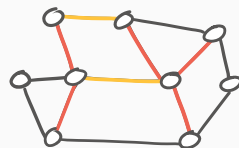
probability to find fixed  $H$ :  $\Theta\left(\frac{1}{m^{\rho(H)}}\right)$

expected time to find it:  $\Theta(m^{\rho(H)})$



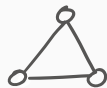
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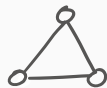
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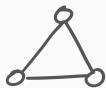


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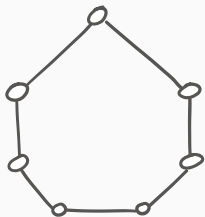
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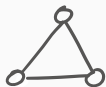
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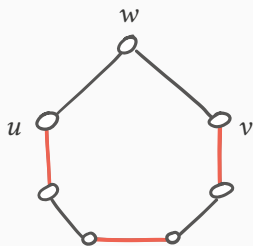
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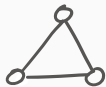
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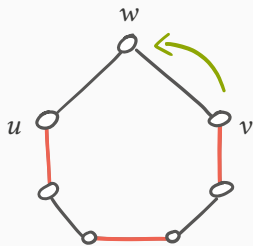
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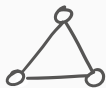


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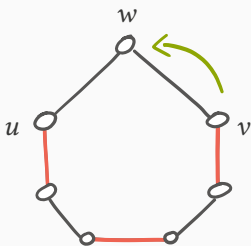
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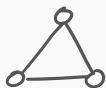
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target probability:  $\Pr[w] = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{m}}\right)$

for all  $w \in \Gamma(u) \cap \Gamma(v)$

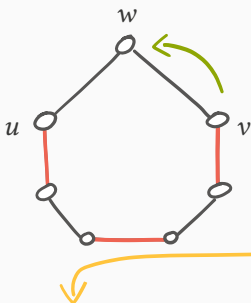
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total probability to sample a fixed  $H$ :  $\Theta\left(\frac{1}{m^{(k-1)/2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{m}}\right) = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{m^{\rho(C_k)}}\right)$

# Rejection Sampling



## Problem

Given samples from distribution  $\vec{p}$  on  $[n]$ , simulate sampling from  $\vec{q}$ .

# Rejection Sampling

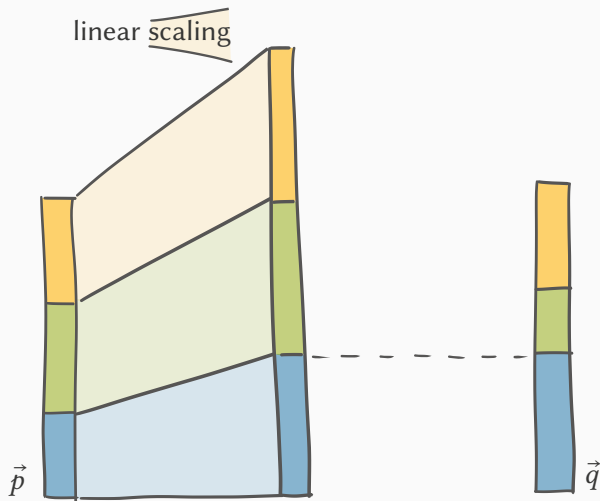


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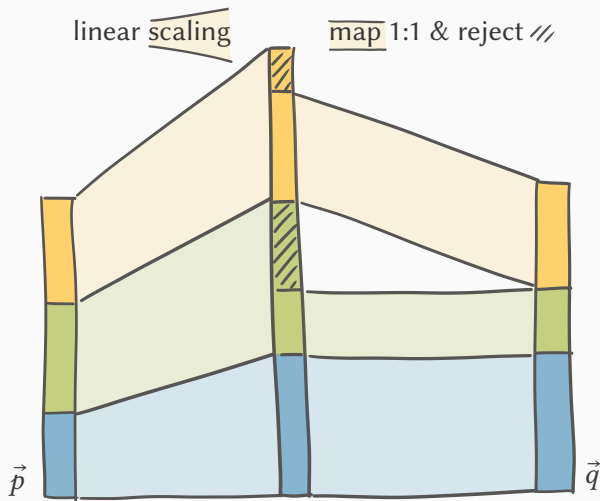


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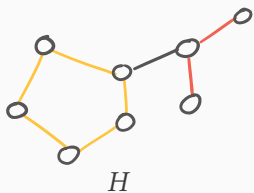
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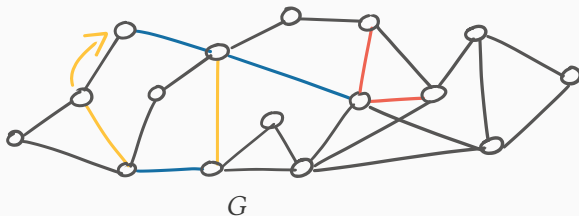
1. scale  $\vec{p}$  linearly by factor  $s = \max_i \vec{q}(i) / \vec{p}(i)$
2. sample  $o$  from  $\vec{p}$
3. sample  $x$  uniformly from  $[0, 1]$
4. accept  $o$  if  $x \leq \vec{q}(o) / (s\vec{p}(o))$ , reject and repeat otherwise



# Algorithm



1. decompose  $H$  into odd cycles  $C$  and stars  $S$
2. repeat until success:
  - a. sample edges from  $G$  as described
  - b. check whether they form a copy of  $H$  using pair queries



sample  $H$  exactly uniformly in  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m^{\rho(H)}}{\#H}\right)$  expected time