

On Turán-Type Problems and the Abstract Chromatic Number

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Abstract

In 2020, Coregliano and Razborov introduced a general framework to study limits of combinatorial objects, using logic and model theory. They introduced the abstract chromatic number and proved/reproved multiple Erdős-Stone-Simonovits-type theorems in different settings. In 2022, Coregliano extended this by showing that similar results hold when we count copies of K_t instead of edges.

Our aim is threefold. First, we provide a purely combinatorial approach. Second, we extend their results by showing several other graph parameters and other settings where Erdős-Stone-Simonovits-type theorems follow. Third, we go beyond determining asymptotics and obtain corresponding stability, supersaturation, and sometimes even exact results.

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1 Introduction

One of the most fundamental results in extremal combinatorics is the theorem of Turán [43], which determines the maximum number of edges among n -vertex graphs that do not contain K_{k+1} as a subgraph, in other words, K_{k+1} -free graphs. More generally, given a graph F , let $\text{ex}(n, F)$ denote the largest size among all n -vertex F -free graphs G . Turán's theorem [43] states that $\text{ex}(n, K_{k+1}) = |E(T(n, k))|$, where $T(n, k)$ is the complete k -partite graph with each part of order $\lfloor n/k \rfloor$ or $\lceil n/k \rceil$. The celebrated Erdős-Stone-Simonovits (ESS) theorem [13, 15] is the most general result in the area, which states that the same holds if we forbid another graph with chromatic number $k + 1$, apart from an error term $o(n^2)$, i.e., for any graph F we have $\text{ex}(n, F) = |E(T(n, \chi(F) - 1))| + o(n^2)$. Note that this determines the asymptotics of $\text{ex}(n, F)$, if F is not bipartite.

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There have been attempts to study these types of problems in a unified and general way. Coregliano and Razborov [9] introduced a general model theoretic framework to study limits of combinatorial objects. They define *abstract chromatic number* of “open interpretations” on theories of graphs to capture such different notions of chromatic numbers in a unified way. They obtained the ESS result for the density of the edges in this general setting and Coregliano [8] extended this to the density of cliques.

Both in the ad hoc manner and in the unified approach, the general aim is to determine the objective extremum (e.g. the maximum number of edges or cliques) among the set of all graphs that can be underlying graphs of the graphs with the extra structure that possess some desired properties (e.g. not containing certain forbidden configurations). For example, in vertex-ordered graphs, we are interested in the maximum number of edges of an n -vertex vertex-ordered graph G avoiding F in an ordered sense. The ordering does not play any role in counting the edges; thus, we can think of this as counting the edges of the *underlying graph* of G , i.e., the ordinary graph we obtain from G by simply ignoring the ordering. The problem then reduces to finding the largest number of edges among graphs that can be underlying graphs of F -free vertex-ordered graphs. This way, the family of all graphs is partitioned into a family $\mathcal{A}(F)$ of *allowed graphs* and a family $\mathcal{F}(F)$ of *forbidden graphs*. In each case of graphs with an extra structure, and in the model theoretic approach, the corresponding chromatic number is defined in a way that if its value for a graph F is k , then we have $T(n, k - 1)$ is among $\mathcal{A}(F)$ and for n large enough $T(n, k)$ is in $\mathcal{F}(F)$. This is the core idea in the proofs for the ESS-like results.

In this paper, we introduce a general, unified and yet purely combinatorial approach. We consider partitions $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ of the family of all graphs into \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{F} , and define the “abstract chromatic number” of such partitions. Let $K_k(n)$ denote $T(nk, k)$ and let $T(n, \infty) = K_n$.

Definition 1. We say that a partition $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is *Turán-suitable* if for all sufficiently large n one of the following condition holds:

- $K_n \in \mathcal{A}$.
- There exists an integer k such that each complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph with each part of order at least n is in \mathcal{A} but no $G \in \mathcal{A}$ contains $T(n, k)$ as a subgraph.

For simplicity, we will say *suitable* instead of *Turán-suitable* for the rest of this paper.

Let us show some examples of suitable partitions. We say that a partition is *monotone* if $G \in \mathcal{A}$ implies that every subgraph of G is in \mathcal{A} . This is clearly the case when a graph with extra structure is forbidden. We say that the partition is *hereditary* if $G \in \mathcal{A}$ implies that every induced subgraph of G is in \mathcal{A} . This is the case where some graphs are forbidden as induced subgraphs. Clearly, monotone partitions are hereditary.

Lemma 2. *Hereditary partitions are suitable.*

Proof. If $K_n \in \mathcal{A}$ for every n sufficiently large, then we are done. Otherwise, there exists a maximum value of k such that for sufficiently large n , $T(n, k - 1) \in \mathcal{A}$.

Then $T(m, k) \notin \mathcal{A}$ for every sufficiently large m . Then for $G \in \mathcal{A}$, $T(m, k)$ is not an induced subgraph of G by the hereditary property. We may pick m such that $K_m \notin \mathcal{A}$. Let n be large enough with respect to m . More precisely, let $n \geq R(m, m)$, where $R(m, m)$ is the Ramsey number defined as the smallest n such that every n -vertex graph contains either an m -vertex clique or an independent set of size m . Such a number exists by Ramsey's Theorem.

Assume that G contains a $T(n, k)$ as a subgraph (not necessarily induced) and let U_1, \dots, U_k be the partite sets of this $T(n, k)$. If each U_i contains an independent set of order at least m , we found an induced $T(m, k)$. Otherwise, one of the parts, say U_1 does not contain an independent set of order m , thus it contains K_m by the assumption $n \geq R(m, m)$, a contradiction. \square

A *graph with extra structure* is given by a pair (G, X) where G is a graph, and X represents some extra structure, such as ordering of vertices or edges, or coloring, etc. Let \mathcal{Q} denote a family of pairs (G, X) . Assume that we are given a transitive relation $<$ on the pairs in \mathcal{Q} such that if $(G, X) < (G', X')$, then G is a subgraph of G' . Moreover, assume that for every (G, X) and every subgraph G' of G , there is X' such that $(G', X') < (G, X)$. Note that in our examples of extra structures, X' can be the restriction of X to G' .

Given a family $\mathcal{F}_0 \subset \mathcal{Q}$, we say that a pair (G, X) is \mathcal{F}_0 -free if there is no $(F, Y) \in \mathcal{F}_0$ with $(F, Y) < (G, X)$. For \mathcal{F}_0 the *corresponding partition* $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ of the graph families is defined in the following way. We have that $G \in \mathcal{A}$ if there is an X such that (G, X) is \mathcal{F}_0 -free. Then this partition is monotone, since for each subgraph G' of $G \in \mathcal{A}$, we have an X' such that $(G', X') < (G, X)$. If $G' \notin \mathcal{A}$, then there is $(F, Y) \in \mathcal{F}_0$ with $(F, Y) < (G', X')$. Therefore, $(F, Y) < (G, X)$ by the transitivity of $<$, hence $G \notin \mathcal{A}$, a contradiction.

Next, we define the abstract chromatic number of a suitable partition, which coincides with the definition given in [9] in the simple specific cases they present as examples.

Definition 3. Given a suitable partition $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$, its *abstract chromatic number* is ∞ if $K_n \in \mathcal{A}$ for all sufficiently large n . Otherwise, the abstract chromatic number is the largest k such that every complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph with each part of order at least n is in \mathcal{A} .

Note that k is the same as in the definition of suitable partitions. When $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is the corresponding partition of some family \mathcal{F}_0 of graphs with extra structure, then we say that the abstract chromatic number of \mathcal{F}_0 is the abstract chromatic number of $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$.

Also note that our approach is in some sense stronger than that of [9]. They deal only with finitely axiomatizable theories (although mention that it is easy to extend their results). For example, the case that \mathcal{A} is the family of bipartite graphs does not fit into their setting but is handled by our approach.

Let us consider some graph parameter $h(G)$, where h is a function from the finite graphs to the real numbers. Let

$$g(n, F) = g_h(n, F) = \max\{h(G) : G \text{ is an } n\text{-vertex } F\text{-free graph}\}.$$

Then we say that g is a *Turán-type function*. For instance, in the classical Turán problem $h(G) = |E(G)|$. For other examples, see Section 3.

We extend this to suitable partitions as follows.

$$g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) := \max\{h(G) : G \text{ is an } n\text{-vertex graph in } \mathcal{A}\}.$$

Note that if $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is a monotone partition, then $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}))$ is simply $g(n, \mathcal{F})$.

As we mentioned above, an essential result in those generalizations of the Turán problem is the ESS theorem. Therefore, we define the notion of k -ESS for the Turán type functions.

Definition 4. Let $h(G)$ be some real-valued graph parameter. We say that $g = g_h$ is *weakly k -ESS* if for any graph F with chromatic number k , $g(n, F) = (1 + o(1))h(T)$ for some n -vertex complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph T . We say that g is *strongly k -ESS* if the above holds with T being the Turán graph $T(n, k - 1)$.

We say that g is *weakly k -ESS with respect to a partition $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$* if $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) = (1 + o(1))h(T)$ for a complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph T on n vertices. We say that g is *strongly k -ESS with respect to $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$* if the above holds with T being the Turán graph $T(n, k - 1)$.

Theorem 5. *If g is a weakly (resp. strongly) k -ESS Turán-type function, then g is also weakly (resp. strongly) k -ESS with respect to any suitable partition with abstract chromatic number k .*

Note that if the abstract chromatic number of $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is infinity, then clearly we have $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) = h(K_n)$.

Proof. Let n be sufficiently large and $n' \geq kn$. We have that $T(n', k - 1) \in \mathcal{A}$, by the definition of the abstract chromatic number. Let T be such that $h(T) \geq (1 + o(1))h(T')$ for every T' such that T and T' are both n' -vertex complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graphs with each part of order at least n . Then $T \in \mathcal{A}$ because the partition is suitable. This gives the lower bound.

We also have that $T(m, k) \in \mathcal{F}$ and $K_m \in \mathcal{F}$ for some m by the definition of the abstract chromatic number. Let n be large enough and G be an n -vertex graph in \mathcal{A} . Then we have that G is $T(m, k)$ -free by the definition of suitable partitions. Together with the weak (or strong) k -ESS property, we obtain the upper bound. \square

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we define some Turán type properties and show that such properties imply analogous results with respect to suitable partitions. In Section 3 we list several Turán-type functions that are known to be weakly or strongly k -ESS. We also present some examples for the various properties studied in Section 2. Afterwards, we present some suitable partitions. In Section 4 we show how some natural restriction on h allows us to obtain further exact results. We finish the paper with some concluding remarks in Section 5.

2 Stability, supersaturation and more

We say that a Turán-type function $g = g_h$ is *weakly k -ESS-stable*, if g is weakly k -ESS and for any graph F with chromatic number k , any F -free n -vertex G with $h(G) \geq (1 - o(1))g(n, F)$ can be turned into an n -vertex complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph T by adding and/or deleting $o(n^2)$ edges. We say that g is *strongly k -ESS-stable* if the above holds with T being the Turán graph $T(n, k - 1)$ and g is strongly k -ESS.

We say that g is *weakly k -ESS-stable with respect to a partition $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$* if the following holds. If G is an n -vertex graph in \mathcal{A} with $h(G) \geq (1 - o(1))g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}))$, then G can be turned into an n -vertex complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph T by adding and/or deleting $o(n^2)$ edges. We say that g is *strongly k -ESS-stable with respect to $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$* if the above holds with T being the Turán graph $T(n, k - 1)$.

Theorem 6. *If g is a weakly (resp. strongly) k -ESS-stable Turán-type function, then g is also weakly (resp. strongly) k -ESS-stable with respect to any suitable partition with abstract chromatic number k .*

Proof. Let T be a complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph with $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) = (1 + o(1))h(T)$, which exists by Theorem 5. Let G be an n -vertex graph in \mathcal{A} with $h(G) \geq (1 - o(1))g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}))$. We have that for large enough m , $T(m, k) \in \mathcal{F}$ and G is $T(m, k)$ -free by definition of the abstract chromatic number. We claim that $g(n, T(m, k)) = (1 + o(1))h(T)$. Indeed, this holds for some n -vertex complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph T' because g is k -ESS, and we must have $h(T') \leq (1 + o(1))h(T)$, since $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) = (1 + o(1))h(T)$ and $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) \geq h(T')$.

Now we have $h(G) \geq (1 - o(1))h(T) = (1 - o(1))g(n, T(m, k))$ and we are done since g is weakly k -ESS-stable. The strong case follows similarly. \square

Given a graph F of chromatic number k , we let $\sigma(F)$ denote the cardinality of the smallest color class among all possible proper k -colorings of F . Given a family \mathcal{F} of graphs with smallest chromatic number k , we let $\sigma(\mathcal{F})$ be the smallest $\sigma(F)$ among k -chromatic elements of \mathcal{F} .

We say that a Turán-type property $g = g_h$ is *weakly k -ESS-sigma* if $g(n, F) = h(T)$ for some n -vertex complete $k + \sigma(F) - 1$ -partite graph T with $\sigma(F) - 1$ parts of order 1. In other words, we obtain T from an $(n - \sigma(F) + 1)$ -vertex complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph by adding $\sigma(F) - 1$ vertices and joining each of them to each other vertex. Let $T(n, k - 1, t)$ be the graph we obtain from $T(n - t, k - 1)$ by adding t vertices and joining each of them to each other vertex.

We say that g is *strongly k -ESS-sigma* if the above holds with T being $T(n, k - 1, \sigma(F) - 1)$. We remark that we know of only one example of such functions, counting $T((k - 1)a, a)$ for a large enough, see Section 3 for more details.

Given a suitable partition $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ with abstract chromatic number $k < \infty$, we let $\sigma(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ be the smallest $\sigma(T)$ for complete k -partite graphs T such that no element of \mathcal{A} contains T as a subgraph. Note that if the partition is monotone, then $\sigma(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}) = \sigma(\mathcal{F})$.

We say that a Turán-type function $g = g_h$ is *weakly k -ESS-sigma with respect to a partition $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$* if $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) = h(T)$ for some n -vertex complete k -partite graph T with

$\sigma(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}) - 1$ parts of order 1. We say that g is *strongly k -ESS-sigma with respect to $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$* if the above holds with T being the Turán graph $T(n, k - 1)$.

Theorem 7. *If g is a weakly (resp. strongly) k -ESS-sigma Turán-type function, then g is also weakly (resp. strongly) k -ESS-sigma with respect to any suitable partition with abstract chromatic number k .*

We remark that this is quite shocking to obtain an exact bound here. For example, in the case of edge-ordered graphs and counting edges, the only exact results are the trivial cases with infinite abstract chromatic number, the other trivial cases of stars and triangles where there is only one edge-ordering, and the simplest remaining cases, the two edge-orderings of the 3-edge path. Now we obtain an exact result for every edge-ordered graph, provided we can calculate the abstract chromatic number and σ . Note that both of these tasks seem very complicated.

Proof. By the definition of $\sigma(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ we have that $T \in \mathcal{A}$, giving the lower bound. For the upper bound, recall that there is a complete k -partite graph $F \in \mathcal{F}$ with $\chi(F) = k$, $\sigma(F) = \sigma(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ such that no element of \mathcal{A} contains F as a subgraph. Then we clearly have $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) \leq g(n, F)$. Using the weakly k -ESS-sigma property of g as a Turán-type function completes the proof. The strong version follows similarly. \square

We say that a Turán-type function $g = g_h$ is *k -ESS-supersat* if for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $\delta > 0$ such that for any sufficiently large n , any n -vertex graph G with $h(G) > (1 + \varepsilon)g(n, F)$ we have that G contains at least $\delta n^{|V(F)|}$ copies of F , for any k -chromatic graph F .

We say that a Turán-type function $g = g_h$ is *k -ESS-supersat with respect to a partition $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$* if for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there is $\delta > 0$ such that for any sufficiently large n , any n -vertex graph G with $h(G) > (1 + \varepsilon)g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}))$, there is an $F \in \mathcal{F}$ such that G contains at least $\delta n^{|V(F)|}$ copies of F .

Theorem 8. *If g is a k -ESS-supersat Turán-type function, then g is also k -ESS-supersat with respect to any suitable partition with abstract chromatic number k .*

Proof. Let G be an n -vertex graph with $h(G) \geq (1 + \varepsilon)g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}))$, where n is sufficiently large. Since the abstract chromatic number of $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is k , then $T(m, k) \in \mathcal{F}$, for some m , and every graph in \mathcal{A} is $T(m, k)$ -free. Thus, $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) \geq g(n, T(m, k))$, and hence $h(G) \geq (1 + \varepsilon)g(n, T(m, k))$. Thus, G contains at least δn^m copies of $T(m, k)$ by the k -ESS-supersat property. \square

Assume now that $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ corresponds to a graph (F, Y) with extra structure. The above theorem does not say anything about the number of copies of (F, Y) in (G, X) since the number of copies of (F, Y) in (G, X) is not well-defined. In all the examples of extra structures we consider, the extra structure is defined using the vertices and/or edges of the graph, thus the extra structure X in G creates some extra structure on the subgraphs of G , simply by restricting (G, X) to the subgraph. This is what we try to capture formally in the next definition.

Assume that we have an equivalence relation on the pairs in \mathcal{Q} such that $(G, X) \equiv (G', X')$ implies that G is isomorphic to G' . In our examples, the isomorphism is extended to keep the extra structure, e.g., if u is before v in a vertex ordering, then the same holds for their images. Given a graph G and $U \subset V(G)$, $G|_U$ denotes the *restriction* of G to U , i.e., the graph with vertex set U where for $u, v \in U$, uv is an edge of $G|_U$ if and only if $uv \in E(G)$.

We say that \mathcal{Q} and $<$ are *ordinary* if for every $(G, X) \in \mathcal{Q}$ we have a function f from the power set of $V(G)$ to the extra structures such that for each $U \subset V(G)$ we have that $(G|_U, f(U)) \in \mathcal{Q}$ and $(F, Y) < (G, X)$ if and only if there is a $U \subset V(G)$ such that $(F, Y) \equiv (G|_U, f(U))$. Then a copy of (F, Y) in (G, X) is a subgraph of G with vertex set U such that $(F, Y) \equiv (G|_U, f(U))$.

Theorem 9. *Let $g = g_n$ be a k -ESS-supersat Turán-type function and \mathcal{Q} be a family of graphs with extra structure, $<$ be a relation on \mathcal{Q} such that \mathcal{Q} and $<$ are ordinary. Let $(F, Y) \in \mathcal{Q}$, $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ be the corresponding partition and k be the abstract chromatic number of $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$. Let G be an n -vertex graph with $h(G) > (1 + \varepsilon)g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}))$ and $(G, X) \in \mathcal{Q}$. Then (G, X) contains at least $\delta n^{|V(F)|}$ copies of (F, Y) .*

Proof. Similar to the previous proof, we have that G contains at least δn^m copies of $T(m, k)$. By the ordinary property, each copy T of $T(m, k)$ has an extra structure $X' = f(V(T))$, and (T, X') contains a copy of (F, Y) . Clearly less than $\delta n^{|V(F)|}$ copies of F are contained in less than $\delta n^{|V(F)|} \binom{n-|V(F)|}{m-|V(F)|} < \delta n^m$ copies of $T(m, k)$, a contradiction completing the proof. \square

3 Turán-type functions and suitable partitions

Let us list some Turán-type functions that satisfy the requirements of some of our theorems. We start with k -ESS functions.

Counting edges, cliques. The examples in [8] and [9]. The Erdős-Stone-Simonovits theorem [13, 15] itself shows that counting edges is strongly k -ESS, and a theorem of Alon and Shikhelman [1] shows that counting K_t is strongly k -ESS if $k > t$.

Counting asymptotically (weakly) Turán-good graphs. Considering that the Turán graph is the extremal graph when we forbid cliques and count edges, it is a natural to ask: What graphs H have the property that $\text{ex}(n, H, K_k) = \mathcal{N}(H, T(n, k-1))$, at least for n large enough? This property was named as k -Turán-good in [24]. The graph H is *weakly k -Turán-good* if $\text{ex}(n, H, K_k) = \mathcal{N}(H, T)$ for some complete $(k-1)$ -partite graph. Recall that $\mathcal{N}(H, T)$ denotes the number of copies of H in G . We only need an asymptotic version, but we need it to hold for every k -chromatic graph F in place of K_k . However, this requirement follows from the k -Turán-goodness using the removal lemma [12]: if we have an n -vertex F -free graph, we can remove each copy of K_k by deleting $o(n^2)$ edges. This way we removed $o(n^{|V(H)|}) = o(\text{ex}(n, H, F))$ copies of H .

Asymptotic (and usually exact) k -Turán-goodness has been proved for several graphs. Most usually it is accompanied with a stability result that we will return to shortly. Highlights include the following results: complete t -partite graphs with $t < k$ are weakly

k -Turán-good, [25], paths are k -Turán-good [24], and each graph is k -Turán-good if k is large enough [35].

Functions of degree sequences. Let f be a non-decreasing log-continuous function and $h(G) := \sum_{v \in V} f(d(v))$. Here log-continuous means that for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for any m, n with $m \leq n \leq (1 + \delta)m$ we have $f(m) \leq (1 + \varepsilon)f(n)$. Pikhurko and Taraz [39] showed that g_h is weakly k -ESS. The study of the special case $f(n) = n^r$, r is an integer was initiated by Caro and Yuster [7], who conjectured that this function is weakly k -ESS. It was proved for any real $r \geq 1$ by Bollobás and Nikiforov [2]. They showed in [3] that if $r \leq k$, then this function is strongly k -ESS.

Some topological indices. There are several topological indices of the form

$$h(G) = \sum_{uv \in E(G)} f(d(u), d(v)).$$

They are used in chemical graph theory. Gerbner [19] showed that if f is a monotone increasing polynomial, then g_h is weakly 3-ESS, moreover, weakly 3-ESS-stable.

Spectral radius. Let $h(G)$ denote the spectral radius of the adjacency matrix of G . Nikiforov [36] showed that g_h is strongly k -ESS.

p -spectral radius. Kang and Nikiforov [28] initiated the study of Turán-type problems for the p -spectral radius. This is defined as

$$h(G) = \max \left\{ 2 \sum_{uv \in E(G)} x_u x_v : x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}, |x_1|^p + \dots + |x_n|^p = 1 \right\}.$$

Li and Peng [31] showed that g_h is strongly k -ESS.

Higher order spectral radius. The t -clique tensor of a graph G is an order t dimension n tensor, with entries

$$a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_t} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{(t-1)!}, & \text{if } v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_t} \text{ form a clique in } G, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let $h(G)$ denote the spectral radius of this tensor. Liu, Zhou and Bu [32] showed that g_h is strongly $(t+1)$ -ESS.

Local density. Let $h(G) = h_\alpha(G)$ denote the smallest number of edges spanned by αn vertices of G . Keevash and Sudakov [30] showed that if $1 - 1/2(k-1)^2 \leq \alpha \leq 1$, then g_h is strongly k -ESS.

Small perturbations and combinations of k -ESS functions. Clearly, if we add or multiply strongly k -ESS functions, we obtain new strongly k -ESS functions. An example where such functions have been studied is counting multiple graphs at the same time. Also, adding to a weakly or strongly $h(G)$ a function that is $o(h(G))$ results in another weakly or strongly k -ESS function. For example, counting stars S_r and $\sum_{v \in V(G)} d(v)^r$ differs by a constant factor and a negligible additive term, thus one being weakly k -ESS implies the same for another.

Let us continue with some k -ESS-stable functions.

Counting edges. The well-known Erdős-Simonovits stability [10, 11, 41] means that $\text{ex}(n, F)$ is k -ESS-stable.

Counting (weakly) F -Turán-stable graphs. The first stability result concerning $\text{ex}(n, H, F)$ is due to Ma and Qiu [34], who showed that counting cliques K_t is k -ESS-stable if $k > t$. Several other results followed, and in fact by now in most cases when we know that counting H is k -ESS, we also know that it is k -ESS-stable. Highlights include paths [27], complete t -partite graphs with $t < k$, and every graph if k is large enough [20]. Several other results can be found in [17].

Spectral radius. Nikiforov [37] showed that the spectral radius is strongly k -ESS-stable.

p -spectral radius. Li and Peng [31] showed that g_h is strongly k -ESS-stable.

Let us continue with a strongly k -ESS-sigma function.

Counting large complete balanced $(k-1)$ -partite graphs. Gerbner [18] showed that if H is the complete $(k-1)$ -partite graph $K_{a,\dots,a}$ and a is large enough, then counting H is strongly k -ESS-sigma.

Let us list some k -ESS-supersat functions.

Counting subgraphs. It was shown in [14] that $\text{ex}(n, F)$ is k -ESS-supersat. It was extended to every subgraph of chromatic number at most k by Halfpap and Palmer [26].

Let us continue with listing some suitable partitions. It is clear that we obtain results for several partitions, in particular for several forbidden graphs with extra structure. Let us list some examples where \mathcal{F} is defined by some objects that have been studied before.

Edge-ordered, vertex-ordered, cyclically ordered graphs. These were the main examples of graphs with extra structure in [8, 9]. The interested reader may find more details [4, 42, 23].

Forbidden induced family of graphs. This is another important example from [9]. This corresponds to hereditary partitions.

Rainbow Turán. Keevash, Mubayi, Sudakov and Verstraëte [29] introduced the following problem. What is the maximum number of edges in an n -vertex graph that has a proper edge-coloring without a rainbow copy of F ? Here rainbow copy of F means that each edge gets a distinct color. Counting other subgraphs in this setting was initiated in [22].

Keevash, Mubayi, Sudakov and Verstraëte [29] showed that the abstract chromatic number of F is $\chi(F)$ by showing that any proper edge-coloring of the complete k -partite graph $K_{k^{3t^3}, \dots, k^{3t^3}}$ contains a rainbow copy of the complete k -partite graph $K_{t, \dots, t}$. Here we extend this by showing that σ does not increase either.

Lemma 10. *Let $\chi(F) = k$, $\sigma(F) = t$ and n be sufficiently large. Then any proper edge-coloring of the complete k -partite graph $K_{t, n, \dots, n}$ contains a rainbow copy of F .*

Proof. Consider a properly edge-colored $K_{t, n, \dots, n}$ with parts $|X_1| = t$ and X_2, \dots, X_k . We let the color classes of F be $|Y_1| = t$ and Y_2, \dots, Y_k . We will embed the sets Y_i into X_i greedily to obtain a rainbow copy of F . First we embed Y_1 into X_1 arbitrarily. After embedding Y_1, \dots, Y_i , we will embed Y_{i+1} . At this point we have embedded less than

$|V(F)|$ vertices, thus there are less than $\binom{|V(F)|}{2}$ colors used on the already embedded edges. For each of the already embedded vertices u , we remove each vertex v from X_{i+1} if uv is of a color already used. As there is at most one neighbor of u in each color, less than $|V(F)|\binom{|V(F)|}{2}$ vertices were deleted from X_{i+1} , thus we can pick $|Y_{i+1}|$ other vertices if n is sufficiently large. We can complete the embedding, thus the proof is complete. \square

4 An exact result for balanced graph parameters

So far, we have not made any assumption on the graph parameter h itself. We can prove another exact result if h is balanced in the following sense. We think of the increase of h when adding an edge to a graph as the contribution of that edge. We are interested in h where we are given an upper bound on the order of magnitude of the contribution of every edge. Furthermore, when the graph is closer to a complete multipartite graph, then we also have the same lower bound on the order of magnitude of the contribution of every edge, i.e., the contributions have the same order of magnitude.

Definition 11. We say that a graph parameter h is *balanced* for a positive integer k if the following properties hold for some a :

- (a) For any graph G and any non-edge e of G , if G' is obtained from G by adding e , then $h(G') = h(G) + O(n^a)$.
- (b) If G'' is obtained from G by adding a new vertex u and joining u to all the neighbors of an arbitrary vertex v , then $h(G'') = h(G) + O(n^{a+1})$.
- (c) For any $c > 0$ there is n_0 such that if $n \geq n_0$ and G is a complete $(k-1)$ -partite n -vertex graph with each part of order at least cn , then $h(G') = h(G) + \Theta(n^a)$ and $h(G'') = h(G) + \Theta(n^{a+1})$.
- (d) If G is a complete $(k-1)$ -partite n -vertex graph with each part of order at least cn and G''' is obtained from G by deleting x edges, then $h(G''') = h(G) - \Theta(xn^a)$.

Recall that if the abstract chromatic number of $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is k , then each complete $(k-1)$ -partite graph with each part of order at least n is in \mathcal{A} , for every sufficiently large n .

Definition 12. A partition $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is *edge-critical* if it is suitable with abstract chromatic number k but for large enough n , no $G \in \mathcal{A}$ contains $T^+(n, k-1)$ as a subgraph, where $T^+(n, k-1)$ is obtained from $T(n, k-1)$ by adding an edge into one of the smallest parts.

One particular example is when $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}(F)$ for a k -chromatic graph F with a color-critical edge, i.e., an edge whose deletion decreases the chromatic number. We will show in Proposition 16 that the rainbow Turán problem for a k -chromatic graph F with a color-critical edge gives an edge-critical partition. However, in general, if we take some extra structure on F , it is unclear whether the corresponding partition is edge-critical. In fact, we are not aware of any such example.

Simonovits [40] proved that if F has a color-critical edge and n is sufficiently large, then $\text{ex}(n, F) = |E(T(n, \chi(F) - 1))|$. We can extend this result to our setting in the balanced case if we also have stability.

Theorem 13. *Let $g = g_h$ be a Turán-type function that is weakly k -ESS-stable such that h is balanced for k . Let $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ be an edge-critical partition with abstract chromatic number k . Then $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) = h(T)$ for some complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph T on n vertices where n is sufficiently large.*

We follow the proof of Theorem 1.5 in [17], which deals with counting copies of some graphs. We remark that in that theorem the assumption is slightly more general than being edge-critical. It is likely that a similar generalization would also hold in our setting.

Proof. We pick $\varepsilon > 0$ sufficiently small depending on h and \mathcal{A} . We also pick a sufficiently large m depending on \mathcal{A} such that no graph in \mathcal{A} contains $T^+(m, k - 1)$ as a subgraph. We pick n to be sufficiently large with respect to h , \mathcal{A} , ε and m .

Let G be an n -vertex graph in \mathcal{A} with $h(G) = g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}))$. By the weakly k -ESS-stable property, G can be turned into a complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph T by adding and/or deleting $o(n^2)$ edges. We pick T so that we need to add and/or delete the smallest number of edges this way. Let V_i be the i -th part of T with $|V_1| \leq |V_2| \leq \dots \leq |V_{k-1}|$. Observe that if $v \in V_i$ has d neighbors in V_i in G , then v has at least d neighbors in every V_j in G , otherwise we could move it to V_j and obtain another complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph instead of T that can be obtained from G by adding and/or deleting a smaller number of edges.

Claim 14. $|V_1| \geq \varepsilon n$ if n is sufficiently large.

Proof of Claim. Assume not and let ℓ be the largest integer such that $|V_\ell| < \varepsilon n$. Let us pick arbitrary vertex-disjoint subsets $U_i \subset V_{k-1}$ with $|U_i| = \lfloor n/(k - 2)^2 \rfloor$ for each $i \leq \ell$. We move each U_i from V_{k-1} to V_i to obtain another complete $(k - 1)$ -partite n -vertex graph T' . In other words, we delete each edge between U_i and V_i for every i , and then add each edge uv with $u \in U_i$, $v \in V_{k-1} \setminus U_i$, for every i . Let us compare $h(T)$ and $h(T')$. We deleted $o(n^2)$ edges, which decreases h by $o(n^{a+2})$.

Now we consider the edges added in two steps. Let us pick a set $U'_i \subset U_i$ with $|U'_i| = \varepsilon n$ for each i . First, we add the edges connecting vertices in U'_i to vertices in $V_{k-1} \setminus U_i$. Let G_0 denote the graph we obtain by deleting the vertices in $U_i \setminus U'_i$ for every i . Therefore G_0 is a complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph on at least $n/2$ vertices with each part of order at least εn . Then we add linearly many additional vertices, so that each vertex creates a complete $(k - 1)$ -partite graph, thus we can apply the definition of the balanced graph parameters to adding the next vertex. Therefore, each vertex increases h by $\Theta(n^{a+1})$, which implies that altogether h is increased by $\Theta(n^{a+2})$.

Thus we have obtained that $h(T') = h(T) + \Theta(n^{a+2})$. We also have $h(T) = (1 + o(1))h(G)$. Observe that $h(T) = O(n^{a+2})$, since we can get T from the empty graph by adding $O(n^2)$ edges. These imply that $h(T') = h(T) + \Theta(n^{a+2}) > h(G)$, a contradiction. \square

Let us return to the proof of the theorem and let E denote the set of edges in G that are not in T , i.e., the edges inside some V_i . Let $r(u)$ denote the number of edges incident to u in T that are not in G , i.e., the edges between parts that are missing from G . Then by the definition of T , we have $|E| = o(n^2)$ and $\sum_{u \in V(G)} r(u) = o(n^2)$. Let A denote the set of vertices with $r(u) = o(n)$, then $|V(G) \setminus A| = o(n)$. Let $A_i = V_i \cap A$, then by Claim 14, $|A_i| = \Omega(n)$.

Let B_i denote the set of vertices in V_i with $\Omega(n)$ neighbors inside V_i .

Claim 15. *Any $u \in A_i$ has no neighbor in $A_i \cup B_i$.*

Proof of Claim. Assume that $uv \in E(G)$ with $v \in A_i \cup B_i$. We will show that G contains $T^+(m, k-1)$, contradicting the definition of m . Let U_j denote the j -th part of $T^+(m, k-1)$, and assume without loss of generality that we added the extra edge inside the i -th part. Then we embed the extra edge into uv arbitrarily. We embed the other vertices of U_i into A_i arbitrarily. Next we embed some U_j with $j \neq i$. Observe that v has a set W_j of $\Omega(n)$ neighbors in A_j , and only $o(n)$ vertices of W_j are not adjacent to any given vertex of A_i . Therefore, with the exception of at most $(m-1)o(n) = o(n)$ vertices, the vertices of W_j are in the common neighborhood of the already picked vertices. We pick m of those vertices in W_j , and embed U_j into those vertices.

We continue similarly, embedding the parts of $T^+(m, k-1)$ one by one. When we embed a part U_ℓ , we pick m vertices from the common neighborhood inside A_ℓ of the already embedded vertices. We have embedded 1 vertex into $v \in A_i \cup B_i$ and each other vertex (at most $m-1$ vertices) into some A_j with $j \neq k$. Therefore, out of the $\Omega(n)$ neighbors of v in A_ℓ , only $o(n)$ vertices are not in the common neighborhood of the already picked vertices. This shows that indeed we can complete the embedding and obtain a contradiction. \square

Let us return to the proof of the theorem. The above claim implies that $B_i = \emptyset$, since a vertex in B_i has at most $|V_i \setminus A_i| = o(n)$ neighbors inside V_i . Let X denote a smallest set of vertices inside $V(G) \setminus A$ such that each edge of G inside parts is incident to at least one vertex of X . Then $\sum_{u \in X} r(u) = \Omega(n|X|)$. On the other hand, there are $o(n|X|)$ edges incident to X inside V_i because $B_i = \emptyset$. Let G' denote the graph we obtain from T by deleting the edges that are in T but not in G . Then by the definition of balanced graph parameters, $h(G) = h(T) - \Omega(n^{a+1}|X|)$. We obtain G from G' by adding $o(n|X|)$ edges inside the parts, thus $h(G) = h(G') + o(n^{a+1}|X|) < h(T)$ if $|X| \neq 0$, a contradiction completing the proof. \square

It is easy to see that several graph parameters mentioned earlier are balanced. We remark that our definition of balancedness was chosen to satisfy the requirements of each step of the proof. It would be interesting to find a simpler, yet similarly general definition of balancedness such that the above theorem holds.

Let us now show an edge-critical partition. Recall the rainbow Turán problem from the previous section.

Proposition 16. *Let F be a k -chromatic graph with a color-critical edge. Let \mathcal{A} denote the family of graphs that have a proper coloring without a rainbow copy of F , and \mathcal{F} denote the family of other graphs. Then $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is an edge-critical partition.*

Proof. Let us assume that G contains $T^+(n, k-1)$ for n sufficiently large and let A_i be the i -th part of $T^+(n, k-1)$, with the extra edge uv in A_1 . Since F has a color-critical edge, there is a $(k-1)$ -partition of F into B_1, \dots, B_{k-1} such that the only edge inside parts is the edge $u'v'$ inside B_1 .

We will embed F into a properly colored $T^+(n, k-1)$ in a rainbow way, obtaining a contradiction. First we map u' into u and v' into v . Then we embed the rest of B_1 to the rest of A_1 arbitrarily. Afterward, we will embed the rest of the vertices of B_2 into A_2 , then B_3 into A_3 , and so on. We pick the order of the vertices inside the parts arbitrarily.

When we embed a vertex $w' \in B_i$, we have to pick a vertex w of A_i such that the edges connecting w to the already embedded less than $|V(F)|$ vertices have color distinct from each of the at most $|E(F)|$ colors used earlier in the embedding. For each already embedded vertex z and each already used color c , there is at most one vertex of A_i that is joined by an edge of color c to z . This shows that there are at most $|V(F)||E(F)|$ forbidden vertices in A_i , thus we can pick one where we embed w . We continue this way till we embed F , which gives us a contradiction and thus completes the proof. \square

5 Concluding remarks

There are several other Erdős-Stone-Simonovits-type theorems we can obtain by modifying our definitions a little bit. We say that g_h is *robust* if the following holds. If G contains $T(n, k-1)$ and G' is obtained from G by adding and/or deleting $o(n^2)$ edges, then $h(G') = (1 + o(1))h(G)$. Counting subgraphs of chromatic number at most $k-1$ clearly has this property.

Let us say that a partition is *suitable for robust Turán-type functions* if there is a k such that the following two properties hold. For sufficiently large n , for each complete $(k-1)$ -partite graph T with each part of order at least n , there is a graph in \mathcal{A} that can be obtained from T by adding and/or deleting $o(n^2)$ edges. For every $G \in \mathcal{A}$, we can delete $o(n^2)$ edges from G to obtain a graph G' that does not contain $T(n, k)$ as a subgraph, or if $K_n \in \mathcal{A}$ for sufficiently large n .

It is easy to see that some of the arguments in this paper extend to this situation. For example, if the lower bound in Theorem 1.1 is obtained by a complete $(k-1)$ -partite graph T , then we can find a graph $G \in \mathcal{A}$ that is close to T by the suitability for robustness, and $h(G)$ is close to $h(T)$ by the robustness.

This can be applied to **regular Turán problems**. Let \mathcal{A} consist of regular F -free graphs and \mathcal{F} consist of the graphs not in \mathcal{A} . The study of Turán problems for regular graphs was initiated in [5, 6], where it was shown that for $k \geq 4$ and any n , there is a $(k-1)$ -partite regular graph with $(1 - o(1))|E(T(n, k-1))|$ edges. This implies that $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is suitable for robust Turán-type functions. Note that counting other subgraphs in regular F -free graphs was studied in [21].

Another example is the **shadow graph of Berge- F -free hypergraphs**. We omit the definitions here and only mention here that an Erdős-Stone-Simonovits-type theorem was proved for such graphs in [33], and the proof was by showing that the second property of the above definition holds (the first one holds trivially). Therefore, these graphs define a suitable partition for robust Turán-type functions. Note that counting other subgraphs in such shadow graphs was initiated in [16].

Instead of $(1 + o(1))h(T)$, we can aim to obtain different bounds. An example is counting graphs H on h vertices, where this bound is of the form $\text{ex}(n, H, F) = \mathcal{N}(H, T) + o(n^h)$. It is known that in several cases $o(n^h)$ can be replaced by $O(n^{h-\varepsilon})$ for some $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(H) > 0$; this implies $g(n, (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})) = \mathcal{N}(H, T) + O(n^{h-\varepsilon})$, which is analogous to Theorem 5.

Another example is **counting n -vertex F -free graphs**. A theorem of Erdős, Frankl and Rödl [12] states that there are $2^{(1+o(1))\text{ex}(n, F)}$ distinct labeled F -free graphs on n vertices, if F is not bipartite. This implies that if $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F})$ is a monotone partition with abstract chromatic number k , then there are $2^{(1+o(1))|E(T(n, k-1))|}$ distinct n -vertex labeled graphs in \mathcal{A} . The lower bound is obtained by the subgraphs of $T(n, k-1)$, while the upper bound comes from the above-mentioned theorem of Erdős, Frankl and Rödl, since some k -chromatic graph is forbidden.

Note that if we consider graphs with extra structures, this result only states how many underlying graphs there are, and does not say anything about the possible extra structures. For example, in the case of vertex-ordered graphs, this result does not say how many orderings of the vertices of such a graph avoid the forbidden subgraphs.

However, for some of the extra structures mentioned in this paper, the difference is negligible. For example, for a vertex-ordered graph F with abstract chromatic number $k > 2$, we obtain that there are at most $2^{(1+o(1))|E(T(n, k-1))|} n! = 2^{(1+o(1))|E(T(n, k-1))|}$ distinct F -free edge-ordered n -vertex labeled graphs.

In the case of **Turán problems for oriented graphs**, a parameter called *compressibility* plays the role of the chromatic number in the analogue of the Erdős-Stone-Simonovits theorem [44]. It can be a direction of future research to examine whether some of our results extend to that setting.

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