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## Random matchings in linear hypergraphs

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For a given hypergraph H and a vertex  $v \in V(H)$ , consider a random matching M chosen uniformly from the set of all matchings in H. In 1995, Kahn conjectured that if H is a d-regular linear k-uniform hypergraph, the probability that M does not cover v is  $(1+o_d(1))d^{-1/k}$  for all vertices  $v \in V(H)$ . This conjecture was proved for k=2 by Kahn and Kim in 1998.

We disprove this conjecture for all  $k \geq 3$ . For infinitely many values of d, we construct d-regular linear k-uniform hypergraph H containing two vertices  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  such that  $\mathcal{P}(v_1 \notin M) = 1 - \frac{(1+o_d(1))}{d^k-2}$  and  $\mathcal{P}(v_2 \notin M) = \frac{(1+o_d(1))}{d+1}$ . The gap between  $\mathcal{P}(v_1 \notin M)$  and  $\mathcal{P}(v_2 \notin M)$  in this H is best possible. In the course of proving this, we also prove a hypergraph analog of Godsil's result on matching polynomials and paths in graphs, which is of independent interest.

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