

# Resolution complexity of perfect matching principles for sparse graphs\*

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## Abstract

The resolution complexity of the perfect matching principle was studied by Razborov [Raz04], who developed a technique for proving its lower bounds for dense graphs. We construct a constant degree bipartite graph  $G_n$  such that the resolution complexity of the perfect matching principle for  $G_n$  is  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ , where  $n$  is the number of vertices in  $G_n$ . This lower bound matches with the upper bound  $2^{O(n)}$  up to an application of a polynomial. Our result implies the  $2^{\Omega(n)}$  lower bounds for the complete graph  $K_n$  and the complete bipartite graph  $K_{n,O(n)}$  that improve the lower bounds followed from [Raz04]. Our results also implies the well-known exponential lower bounds on the resolution complexity of the pigeonhole principle, the functional pigeonhole principle and the pigeonhole principle over a graph.

We also prove the following corollary. For every natural number  $d$ , for every  $n$  large enough, for every function  $h : \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$ , we construct a graph with  $n$  vertices that has the following properties. There exists a constant  $D$  such that the degree of the  $i$ -th vertex is at least  $h(i)$  and at most  $D$ , and it is impossible to make all degrees equal to  $h(i)$  by removing the graph's edges. Moreover, any proof of this statement in the resolution proof system has size  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ . This result implies well-known exponential lower bounds on the Tseitin formulas as well as new results: for example, the same property of a complete graph.

## 1 Introduction

The resolution proof system is one of the simplest and well-studied proof systems. There are well known methods of proving lower and upper bounds on the complexity of several

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types of formulas. However, there are no known universal methods to determine an asymptotic resolution complexity of a given family of formulas. We say that a family of unsatisfiable CNF formulas  $F_n$  is weaker than a family of unsatisfiable formulas  $H_n$  if every clause of  $H_n$  is an implication of a constant number of clauses of  $F_n$ . Since the resolution proof system is implication complete, the size of any resolution proof of  $H_n$  is at least the size of the minimal resolution proof of  $F_n$ . Thus it is interesting to prove lower bounds for formulas as weak as possible.

CNF formulas  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  encode the pigeonhole principle;  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  states that it is possible to put  $m$  pigeons into  $n$  holes in such a way that every pigeon is contained in at least one hole and every hole contains at most one pigeon.  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  depends on variables  $p_{i,j}$  for  $i \in [m]$  and  $j \in [n]$  and  $p_{i,j} = 1$  iff the  $i$ -th pigeon is in the  $j$ -th hole.  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  is unsatisfiable iff  $m > n$ . Haken [Hak85] proved the lower bound  $2^{\Omega(n)}$  on the resolution complexity of  $\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}$ . Raz [Raz01a] proved the lower bound  $2^{n^\epsilon}$  on the resolution complexity of  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  for some positive constant  $\epsilon$  and arbitrary  $m > n$ . This lower bound was simplified and improved to  $2^{\Omega(n^{1/3})}$  by Razborov [Raz01b].

Urquhart [Urq03] and Ben-Sasson, and Wigderson [BSW01] consider formulas  $G\text{-PHP}_m^n$  that are defined by a bipartite graph  $G$ ; the first part of  $G$  corresponds to pigeons and consists of  $m$  vertices, and the second part corresponds to holes and consists of  $n$  vertices. Every pigeon must be contained in one of adjacent holes. Formulas  $G\text{-PHP}_m^n$  may be obtained from  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  by substituting variables which do not have corresponding edges in  $G$  with zeroes. The paper [BSW01] presents the lower bound  $2^{\Omega(n)}$  for formulas  $G\text{-PHP}_m^n$  where  $m = O(n)$  and  $G$  is a bipartite constant degree expander.

Razborov [Raz03] considers a so called functional pigeonhole principle  $\text{FPHP}_n^m$  that is a weakening of  $\text{PHP}_n^m$ ; the formula  $\text{FPHP}_n^m$  is the conjunction of  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  and additional conditions stating that every pigeon is contained in at most one hole. Razborov proved a lower bound  $2^{\Omega(\frac{n}{(\log m)^2})}$  for  $\text{FPHP}_n^m$  that implies a lower bound  $2^{\Omega(n^{1/3})}$  depending only on  $n$ .

Let for every graph  $G$  a formula  $\text{PMP}_G$  (from the Perfect Matching Principle) encode that  $G$  has a perfect matching. Variables of  $\text{PMP}_G$  correspond to edges, and for every vertex of  $G$  exactly one incident edge has value 1. Razborov [Raz04] proved that if  $G$  has no perfect matchings, then the resolution complexity of  $\text{PMP}_G$  is at least  $2^{\frac{\delta(G)}{\log^2 n}}$ , where  $\delta(G)$  is the minimal degree of the graph and  $n$  is the number of vertices.

Alekhovich [Ale04] and Dantchev and Riis [DR01] consider the graphs of the chessboard  $2n \times 2n$  with two opposite corners removed. The perfect matching principle for such graphs is equivalent to the possibility to tile such chessboards with domino. The strongest lower bound  $2^{\Omega(n)}$  was proved in [DR01] and this lower bound is polynomially connected with the upper bound  $2^{O(n)}$ . We note that the number of variables is  $\Theta(n^2)$ .

**Our results** For all  $n$  and all  $m \in [n+1, O(n)]$  we give an example of a bipartite graph  $G_{m,n}$  with  $m$  and  $n$  vertices in its parts such that all degrees are bounded by a constant and the resolution complexity of  $\text{PMP}_{G_{m,n}}$  is  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ . The number of variables in such formulas is  $O(n)$ , therefore the lower bound matches (up to an application of a polynomial) the trivial upper bound  $2^{O(n)}$  that holds for every formula with  $O(n)$  variables. This is the first lower bound for perfect matching principle that is exponential in the number of variables. In particular, our results imply that the resolution complexity

of  $\text{PMP}_{K_{m,n}}$  is  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ , where  $K_{m,n}$  is the complete bipartite graph and  $m = O(n)$ . And this lower bound improves the lower bound  $2^{\Omega(n/\log^2 n)}$  that follows from [Raz04] and matches (up to a polynomial application) the upper bound  $n2^n$  that follows from the upper bound for  $\text{PHP}_n^{n+1}$  [SB97]. Our result implies the lower bound  $2^{\Omega(n)}$  on the resolution complexity of  $\text{PMP}_{K_n}$ , where  $K_n$  is a complete graph on  $n$  vertices, and it is also better than the lower bound  $2^{\Omega(n/\log^2 n)}$  that follows from [Raz04]. We note that  $\text{PMP}_{G_{m,n}}$  is weaker than  $G_{m,n} - \text{PHP}_n^m$ ,  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  and  $\text{FPHP}_n^m$ , therefore our lower bound implies the same lower bound for  $G_{m,n} - \text{PHP}_n^m$ ,  $\text{PHP}_n^m$  and  $\text{FPHP}_n^m$ . To put it more precisely, we prove the following theorem:

**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph with parts  $X$  and  $Y$  such that the following holds:

1.  $G$  is a  $(r, c)$ -boundary expander; i.e. for all  $A \subseteq X$ , if  $|A| \leq r$  then  $|\delta(A)| \geq c|A|$ , where  $\delta(A)$  is the set of all vertices in  $Y$  that are connected with exactly one vertex in  $A$ ;
2. There is a matching in  $G$  that covers all vertices from  $Y$ .

Then the width of all resolution proofs of  $\text{PMP}_G$  is at least  $cr/2$ . If additionally degrees of all vertices are at most  $D$ , then (using [BSW01] we get that) the size of any resolution proof of  $\text{PHP}_G$  is at least  $2^{\Omega\left(\frac{(cr/2-D)^2}{n}\right)}$ , where  $n$  is the number of edges in  $G$ .

The condition that  $G$  has a matching covering all vertices from  $Y$  cannot be removed for free since for every  $(r, c)$ -boundary expander it is possible to add one vertex to  $X$  and  $\lceil c \rceil$  vertices to  $Y$  such that the new vertex in  $X$  is connected with all new vertices in  $Y$ . The resulting graph is also  $(r, c)$ -boundary expander but the resulting formula will contain unsatisfiable subformula that depends on  $\lceil c \rceil$  variables, hence it can be refuted with width  $\lceil c \rceil$ . We do not know whether it is possible to replace the second condition in the theorem by a weaker condition.

To estimate the width we use the method introduced by Ben-Sasson and Wigderson in [BSW01]. However, we use a non-standard notion of a semantic implication and a non-standard measure on the set of clauses.

An example of a graph that suits the conditions of Theorem 1.1 can be constructed from every lossless expander by removing vertices of high degrees as it was shown in [IS11], and by adding a matching that covers all vertices from  $Y$ . For example, we can use the explicit construction of lossless expanders from [MCW02] (or the randomized construction [HLW06]).

Theorem 1.1 implies a more general theorem:

**Theorem 1.2.** For graph  $G(V, E)$  and function  $h : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  we define a formula  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$ , that code that  $G$  has a subgraph  $H$  such that for all  $v$  in  $H$  the degree of  $v$  equals  $h(v)$ . For any  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $D \in \mathbb{N}$  that for all  $n$  large enough and every function  $h : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$ , where  $|V| = n$ , there exists graph  $G(V, E)$  with degrees of vertices at most  $D$  such that the formula  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  is unsatisfiable and the size of any resolution proof of  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  is at least  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ .

If  $h$  maps  $V$  to  $\{1, 2\}$ , then  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  is weaker than Tseitin formulas based on graph  $G$ . Thus our result implies the lower bound  $2^{\Omega(n)}$  on the resolution complexity of Tseitin formulas that was proved in [Urq87].

## 2 Preliminaries

We consider simple graphs without loops and multiple edges. The graph  $G$  is called bipartite if its vertices can be divided into two disjoint parts  $X$  and  $Y$  in such a way that any edge is incident to one vertex from  $X$  and one vertex from  $Y$ . We denote  $G(X, Y, E)$  a bipartite graph with parts  $X$  and  $Y$  and set of edges  $E$ . A matching in a graph  $G(V, E)$  is such a set of edges  $E' \subseteq E$  that any vertex  $v \in V$  has at most one incident edge from  $E'$ . A matching  $E'$  covers a vertex  $v$  if there exists  $e \in E'$  that is incident to  $v$ . A perfect matching is a matching that covers all vertices of  $G$ . For a bipartite graph  $G(X, Y, E)$  and a set  $A \subseteq X$  we denote  $\Gamma(A)$  a set of all neighbors of vertices from  $A$ .

**Lemma 2.1** (Hall). Consider such a bipartite graph  $G(X, Y, E)$  that for some  $A \subseteq X$  for all  $B \subseteq A$  the following inequality holds:  $|\Gamma(B)| \geq |B|$ . Then there is a matching that covers all vertices from  $A$ .

For a CNF formula  $\varphi$  a proof of its unsatisfiability in the resolution proof system is a sequence of clauses with the following properties: the last clause is an empty clause (we denote it by  $\square$ ); any other clause is either a clause of initial formula  $\varphi$  or can be obtained from previous ones by the resolution rule. The resolution rule admits to infer a clause  $(B \vee C)$  from clauses  $(x \vee B)$  and  $\neg x \vee C$ . The size of a resolutive proof is the number of clauses in it.

In [BSW01] E. Ben-Sasson and A. Wigderson introduced a notion of formula width. A width of a clause is a number of literals contained in it. For a  $k$ -CNF formula  $\varphi$  a width of  $\varphi$  is a maximum width of clauses of  $\varphi$ . A width of a resolution proof is a width of the largest clause used in it.

**Theorem 2.1** ([BSW01]). For any  $k$ -CNF unsatisfiable formula  $\varphi$  the size of resolution proof is at least  $2^{\Omega\left(\frac{(w-k)^2}{n}\right)}$ , where  $w$  is a minimal width of a resolutive proof and  $n$  is a number of variables used in  $\varphi$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $\phi$  be a formula that is obtained from unsatisfiable formula  $\psi$  by a substitution of several variables. Then  $\phi$  is unsatisfiable and the size of the minimal resolution proof of  $\psi$  is at least the size of the minimal resolution proof of  $\phi$ .

## 3 Subgraph extraction

### 3.1 Existence of a perfect matching

For an undirected graph  $G(V, E)$  we construct a formula  $\text{PMP}_G$  that encodes that  $G$  has a perfect matching. We assign a binary variable  $x_e$  for all  $e \in E$ .  $\text{PMP}_G$  is the conjunction of the following conditions: for all  $v \in V$  exactly one edge that incident to  $v$  has value 1. Such conditions can be written as the conjunction of the statement that at

least one edge takes value 1:  $\bigvee_{(v,u) \in E} x_{(v,u)}$  and the statement that for any pair of edges  $e_1, e_2$  incident to  $v$  at most one of them takes value 1:  $\neg x_{e_1} \vee \neg x_{e_2}$ .

Note that if degrees of all vertices are at most  $D$ , then  $\text{PMP}_G$  is a  $D$ -CNF formula.

In this section we prove the following theorem:

**Theorem 3.1.** There exists a constant  $D$  such that for all  $C$  that for all  $n$  large enough and for all  $m \in [n+1, Cn]$  it is possible to construct in polynomial in  $n$  time such bipartite graph  $G(V, E)$  with  $m$  and  $n$  vertices in parts that all degrees are at most  $D$  and the formula  $\text{PMP}_G$  is unsatisfiable and the size of any resolution proof of  $\text{PMP}_G$  is at least  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ .

**Definition 3.1.** A bipartite graph  $G(X, Y, E)$  is  $(r, c)$ -boundary expander if for any set  $A \subseteq X$  such that  $|A| \leq r$  the following inequality holds  $|\delta(A)| \geq c|A|$ , where  $\delta(A)$  denotes the set of all such vertices in  $Y$  that are connected with the set  $A$  by the unique edge.

**Lemma 3.1.** Let bipartite graph  $G(X, Y, E)$  have two matchings, the first one covers all vertices from  $Y$  and the second covers all vertices from  $A \subseteq X$ . Then there exists a matching in  $G$  that covers  $A$  and  $Y$  simultaneously.

*Proof.* Let  $L$  denote the matching that covers all vertices from the set  $A$  and let  $F$  be a matching that covers all vertices from  $Y$ . We prove that if  $F$  does not cover all vertices from  $A$ , then one may construct a matching  $F'$  that covers more vertices of  $A$  than  $F$  and also covers all vertices from  $Y$ . Therefore there is such a matching that covers  $A$  and  $Y$ .

Consider some vertex  $v_1 \in A$  that is not covered by  $F$  and such path  $v_1, u_1, v_2, u_2, \dots, u_{k-1}, v_k$  that  $(v_i, u_i) \in L$ ,  $(u_i, v_{i+1}) \in F$  and  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{k-1} \in A$  and  $v_k \notin A$ .

For any fixed  $v_1 \in A$  such a path can be constructed deterministically: starting at vertex  $v_1$  the edges of the path belong to alternating matchings  $L$  and  $F$ . For every vertex from  $X$  at most one of outgoing edges belongs to  $L$ . For every vertex from  $Y$  exactly one of outgoing edges belongs to  $F$ . The path can't become a cycle because  $v_1$  has no incident edges from  $F$ , therefore the constructed path will lead to some vertex  $v_k \notin A$ .

Let matching  $F'$  be constructed from  $F$  by removing all edges  $(v_i, v_{i+1})$  and adding edges  $(u_i, v_i)$  for  $1 \leq i < k$ . Now  $F'$  covers all  $Y$  and covers one additional vertex of  $A$  in comparison with  $F$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $G(X, Y, E)$  be a bipartite  $(r, d, c)$ -boundary expander with  $c > 2$  and  $|X| > |Y|$ . Let  $G$  have a matching that covers all vertices from the part  $Y$ . Then the formula  $\text{PMP}_G$  is unsatisfiable and the width of its resolution refutation is at least  $cr/2$ .

*Proof.* Parts  $X$  and  $Y$  have different number of vertices, hence there are no perfect matchings in  $G$  and  $\text{PMP}_G$  is unsatisfiable.

We call an assignment to variables of  $\text{PMP}_G$  proper if for every vertex  $v$  at most one edge incident to  $v$  has value 1. For some subset  $S \subseteq V$  and for a clause  $C$  we say that  $S$  properly implies  $C$  if any proper assignment that satisfies all constraints in vertices from  $S$ , also satisfies  $C$ . We denote it as  $S \vdash C$ .

Now we define a measure on clauses from a resolution refutation of  $\text{PMP}_G$ :  $\mu(C) = \min\{|S \cap X| \mid S \vdash C\}$ .

The measure  $\mu$  has the following properties:

- 1) The measure of any clause from  $\text{PMP}_G$  equals 0 or 1.
- 2) Semiadditivity:  $\mu(C) \leq \mu(C_1) + \mu(C_2)$ , if  $C$  is obtained by applying of resolution rule to  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

Let  $S_1 \vdash C_1$ ,  $|S_1 \cap X| = \mu(C_1)$  and  $S_2 \vdash C_2$ ,  $|S_2 \cap X| = \mu(C_2)$ . Hence  $S_1 \cup S_2 \vdash C_1$  and  $S_1 \cup S_2 \vdash C_2$ , so  $S_1 \cup S_2 \vdash C$ , therefore  $\mu(C) \leq |S_1 \cap X| + |S_2 \cap X| = \mu(C_1) + \mu(C_2)$ .

- 3) The measure of the empty clause  $\square$  is more than  $r$ .

Let  $\mu(\square) \leq r$ , then there is such  $S \subseteq V$  that  $S \vdash \square$  and  $|S \cap X| \leq r$ . For all  $A \subseteq S \cap X$  the following holds  $|\Gamma(A)| \geq |\delta(A)| \geq (c-1)|A| \geq |A|$ , and Hall's Lemma (Lemma 2.1) implies that there is a matching in  $H$  that covers all  $S \cap X$ . By construction of  $H$  it has a matching that covers all vertices of  $Y$ , therefore Lemma 3.1 implies that there exists a matching that covers  $S \cap X$  and  $Y$ , hence it covers  $S$ . This matching corresponds to an assignment that satisfies all constraints for vertices from  $S$ , but it is impossible to satisfy the empty clause and we get a contradiction with the fact that  $\mu(\square) \leq r$ .

The semiadditivity of the measure implies that any resolution proof of the formula  $\text{PMP}_G$  contains a clause  $C$  with the measure in the interval  $\frac{r}{2} \leq \mu(C) \leq r$ . Let  $S \vdash C$  and  $|S \cap X| = \mu(C)$ . For the sake of brevity let  $A = S \cap X$ . Since  $G$  is a  $(r, c)$ -boundary expander,  $\delta(A) \geq c|A|$ . Let  $F$  denote the set of edges between  $A$  and  $\delta(A)$ . Every vertex from  $\delta(A)$  has exactly one incident edge leading to  $A$ , therefore  $|F| = |\delta(A)|$ . Consider one particular edge  $f \in F$ , let  $f = (u, v)$ , where  $u \in A$ . Since  $|(S \setminus \{u\}) \cap X| < |S \cap X|$ , clause  $C$  is not properly implied from the set  $S \setminus \{u\}$ , i. e. there exists a proper assignment  $\sigma$  that satisfies all restrictions in the vertices  $S \setminus \{u\}$ , but refutes the clause  $C$ . Such assignment  $\sigma$  cannot satisfy the constraint in the vertex  $u$ , since otherwise  $\sigma$  would satisfy  $S$  and therefore satisfy  $C$ . Since  $\sigma$  is a proper assignment,  $\sigma$  assigns value 0 to all edges that are incident with  $u$ .

We consider two cases: 1)  $\sigma$  refutes a constraint in the vertex  $v$ ; 2)  $\sigma$  satisfies a constraint in the vertex  $v$ .

In the first case we consider another assignment  $\sigma'$  that differs from  $\sigma$  in the value of the edge  $f$ . Note that  $\sigma'$  is proper and satisfies all constraints from  $S$ , so it satisfies  $C$ . Since  $\sigma$  does not satisfy  $C$ , the variable  $f$  is contained in  $C$ .

In the second case  $\sigma$  satisfies  $v$ . There is an edge  $e$  incident to  $v$  such that  $\sigma(e) = 1$ . The vertex  $v$  is a boundary vertex for  $A$ , therefore the other endpoint of  $e$  does not belong to  $A$ . Consider an assignment  $\sigma''$  that is obtained from  $\sigma$  by changing the values of  $f$  and  $e$ ,  $\sigma''$  is proper and it satisfies all constraints from  $S$ , and hence it satisfies  $C$ . Thus  $C$  contains either  $e$  or  $f$ . Thus for all  $v \in \delta(A)$  at least one of the edges incident to  $v$  occurs in  $C$ . Therefore the size of the clause  $C$  is at least  $|\delta(A)| \geq c|A| \geq cr/2$ .

□

We say that a graph is explicit if it can be constructed in time polynomial in the number of its vertices.

**Lemma 3.3** ([IS11], lemma 6.2). For all  $d$  large enough and for all  $m$  there exists explicit construction of  $(r, 0.5d)$ -boundary expander  $G(X, Y, E)$  with  $|X| = |Y| = m$ ,  $r = \Omega(m)$  such that degrees of all vertices from  $X$  are at most  $d$  and degrees of all vertices from  $Y$  are at most  $d^2$ .

**Corollary 3.1.** For all  $d$  large enough and for all  $C$  and all  $n$  and  $m \in [n+1, Cn]$  there is an explicit construction of  $(r, 0.4d)$ -boundary expander  $G(X, Y, E)$  with  $|X| = m$ ,  $|Y| = n$

and  $r = \Omega(n)$  such that degrees of all vertices from  $X$  are at most  $d$  and degrees of all vertices from  $Y$  are at most  $d^2$ .

*Proof.* The required graph can be obtained from Lemma 3.3 by deleting several vertices from the part  $Y$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* Consider some  $d > 5$  that satisfies Corollary 3.1; consider  $(r, 0.4d)$ -boundary expander  $H$  from the Corollary 3.1 that has  $m$  and  $n$  vertices in parts. Let graph  $G$  be obtained from  $H$  by adding any matching that covers all vertices from the part  $Y$ . Graph  $G$  is a  $(r, c - 1)$ -boundary expander, since the addition of a matching increases degrees of vertices in  $X$  at most by 1 and for every  $A \subseteq X$  the size of  $\delta(A)$  decreases by at most  $|A|$ .

Lemma 3.2 implies that the width of any resolution proof of  $\text{PMP}_G$  is at least  $\Omega(n)$ . Theorem 2.1 implies that the size of any resolution proof of  $\text{PMP}_G$  is at least  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ .  $\square$

## 4 Subgraph extraction

Let  $G(V, E)$  be an undirected graph and  $h$  be a function  $V \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that for every vertex  $v \in V$ ,  $h(v)$  is at most the degree of  $v$ . We consider formula  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$ ; its variables corresponds to edges of  $G$ .  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  is a conjunction of the following statements: for every  $v \in V$  exactly  $h(v)$  edges that are incident to  $v$  have value 1. Formula  $\text{PMP}_G$  is a particular case of  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  for  $h \equiv 1$ .

**Lemma 4.1.** For all  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  and for all  $n$  large enough for any set  $V$  of cardinality  $n$  and any function  $h : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  there exists explicit construction of a graph  $G(V, E)$  with the following properties: 1)  $V$  consists of two disjoint sets  $U$  and  $T$  with no edges between them; 2) The degree of every vertex  $u \in U$  equals  $h(u) - 1$  and the degree of every vertex  $v \in T$  equals  $h(v)$ ; 3)  $|U| \geq \frac{n}{2} - 2d^2$ .

*Proof.* Let  $n \geq 4d^2$  and the vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  be arranged in non-decreasing order of  $h(v_i)$ . Let  $k$  be the largest number that satisfies the inequality  $\sum_{i=1}^k (h(v_i) - 1) < \sum_{i=k+1}^n h(v_i) - d(d - 1)$ . We denote  $U = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$  and  $T = V \setminus U$ . Obviously,  $|U| = k \geq n/2 - d(d - 1)$ . Now we construct a graph  $G$  based on the set of vertices  $V$ . We start with an empty graph and will add edges one by one. For every vertex  $v \in T$  we call co-degree of  $v$  the difference between  $h(v)$  and the current degree of  $v$ . From every  $u \in U$  we add  $h(u) - 1$  edges to  $G$  that lead from  $u$  to distinct vertices of  $V \setminus U$ . Doing so, we maintain degrees of all  $v \in T$  under the value  $h(v)$ . This always can be done since by the construction of  $U$  the total co-degree of all vertices from  $T$  is greater than  $d(d - 1)$ , hence for all big enough  $n$  there exists at least  $d$  vertices with co-degree at least 1.

While the number of vertices in  $T$  with positive co-degree is greater than  $d$ , we will choose one of those vertices  $w \in T$  and add to graph exactly co-degree of  $w$  edges that connect  $w$  with other vertices from  $T$ . Finally we have that  $T$  contains at most  $d$  vertices with co-degrees at most  $d$ . Now we connect them with distinct vertices from the set  $U$ , remove that vertices from  $U$  and add them to  $T$ . It is possible that in the last step some vertex  $v \in T$  is already connected with several vertices from  $U$ , in that case we should connect  $v$  with new vertices. By this operation we deleted at most  $d^2$  vertices from  $U$  and therefore  $|U| \geq n/2 - 2d^2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.1.** For all  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  there is such  $D \in \mathbb{N}$  that for all  $n$  large enough and for any function  $h : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$ , where  $V$  is a set of cardinality  $n$ , there exists such explicit graph  $G(V, E)$  with maximum degree at most  $D$ , that formula  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  is unsatisfiable and the size of any resolution proof for  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  is at least  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 4.1 we construct a graph  $G_1(V, E_1)$  and a set  $U \subseteq V$  of size at least  $\frac{n}{2} - 2d^2$  such that for all  $v \in U$ , the degree of  $v$  is equal to  $h(v) - 1$  and for all  $v \in V \setminus U$  the degree of  $v$  is equal to  $h(v)$ . Consider graph  $G(U, E_2)$  from Theorem 3.1 with  $U$  as the set of its vertices. Define a new graph  $G(V, E)$ , where the set of edges  $E$  equals  $E_1 \cup E_2$ . Recall that edges from the set  $E_2$  connect vertices of the set  $U$  and edges from  $E_1$  do not connect pairs of vertices from  $U$  (that follows from the construction of the graph in Lemma 4.1).

For every vertex  $v \in V \setminus U$  its degree equals  $h(v)$ . Therefore if  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  is satisfiable, then in any satisfying assignment of  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  all edges that are incident to vertices  $V \setminus U$  must have the value 1. After substitution the value 1 for all these variables  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  becomes equal to the formula  $\text{PMP}_{G_2}$  that is unsatisfiable because of Theorem 3.1.

Formula  $\text{PMP}_{G_2}$  is obtained from  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  by substitution of several variables, thus Lemma 2.2 implies that the size of any resolution proof of  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  is at least the size of the minimal proof for  $\text{PMP}_G$ , that is at least  $2^{\Omega(n)}$  by Theorem 3.1.  $\square$

## 4.1 Colloraries

**Tseitin formulas.** A Tseitin formula  $T_G^{(f)}$  can be constructed by an arbitrary graph  $G(V, E)$  and a function  $f : V \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ ; variables of  $T_G^{(f)}$  corresponds to edges of  $G$ . The formula  $T_G^{(f)}$  is a conjunction of the following conditions: for every vertex  $v$  we write down a CNF condition that encode that the parity of the number of edges incident to  $v$  that have value 1 is the same as the parity of  $f(v)$ .

Based on the function  $f : V \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  we define a function  $h : V \rightarrow \{1, 2\}$  by the following way:  $h(v) = 2 - f(v)$ . In other words if  $f(v) = 1$ , then  $h(v) = 1$ , and if  $f(v) = 0$ , then  $h(v) = 2$ . By Theorem 4.1 there exists such number  $D$ , that for all  $n$  large enough it is possible to construct graph  $G$  with  $n$  vertices of degree at most  $D$  such that the size of any resolution proof of the formula  $\Psi_G^h$  is at least  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ .

Note that every condition corresponding to a vertex of the formula  $T_G^{(h)}$  is implied from the condition corresponding to the formula  $\Psi_G^h$ . Since the resolution proof system is implication complete, every condition of  $T_G^{(h)}$  may be derived from a condition of  $\Psi_G^h$  by derivation of size at most  $2^D$ . Hence all clauses of the Tseitin formula may be obtained from clauses of formula  $\Psi_G^h$  by the derivation of size  $O(n)$ . Thus the size of any resolution proof of  $T_G^{(f)}$  is at least  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ . This lower bound was proved in the paper [Urq87].

**Complete graph.** Let  $K_n$  be a complete graph with  $n$  vertices and  $h : V \rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, d\}$ , where  $d$  is a some constant. Let formula  $\Psi_{K_n}^{(h)}$  be unsatisfiable. By Theorem 4.1 there exists  $D$  such that for all  $n$  large enough there exists an explicit graph  $G$  with  $n$  vertices of degree at most  $D$  that the size of any resolution proof of  $\Psi_G^h$  is at least  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ . The graph  $G$  can be obtained from  $K_n$  by removing of several edges, hence the formula  $\Psi_G^{(h)}$  can be obtained from  $\Psi_{K_n}^{(h)}$  by the substitution zeroes to edges that do not



present in  $G$ . Therefore by Lemma 2.2 the size of the resolution proof of  $\Psi_{K_n}^{(h)}$  is at least  $2^{\Omega(n)}$ .

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