## Analysis of Boolean functions on exotic domains

Yuval Filmus Technion – Israel Institute of Technology PART I What is analysis of Boolean functions?

#### (mostly) the study of Boolean-valued functions

#### from a spectral perspective.

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 $\{0,I\} \text{ or } \{\pm I\}$ 

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{0,1} or {±1}

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Fourier analysis, representation theory, or equivalent

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The functions are usually over a finite domain.

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- Subset of vertices in a graph (theoretical computer science)
- Classification function (statistical learning theory)

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- More rarely, over other product domains
- Some applications: over finite groups or over  $\binom{[n]}{k}$

Known as the "slice" or the Johnson association scheme

• Erdős–Ko–Rado theorem: if k < n/2 then an intersecting family  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq {\binom{[n]}{k}}$  satisfies  $|\mathcal{F}| \le {\binom{n-1}{k-1}}$ 

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  - Only known proof through Analysis

# PART II Structure theorems

• If a Boolean function on  $\{0,1\}^n$  satisfies  $f(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = C + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i$ then it is a "dictatorship" (depends on one coordinate)

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- Ellis-F.-Friedgut (I): Every Boolean function of magnitude *c/n* (for *c* small) which is close to a linear function is close to a maximum of *c* entries
- Ellis-F.-Friedgut (2): Every *balanced* Boolean function close to a linear function is close to a dictatorship

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- Ellis-F.-Friedgut (3): Same true for  $S_n$  for sparse functions

# PART III Invariance principle

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• Berry-Esséen: as long as no  $\alpha_i$  is too prominent

 $\sum_{i} \alpha_i x_i$ 

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- Replace each x<sub>i</sub> by standard Gaussian g<sub>i</sub>:

• Properties of Gaussians imply

$$\sum_{i} \alpha_{i} g_{i} \sim N(0, \sum_{i} \alpha_{i}^{2})$$

 $\sum_{i} \alpha_{i} x_{i} \approx \sum_{i} \alpha_{i} g_{i}$ 

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- This time we need all the variable *influences* to be small
- Implies that Majority vote is the voting rule most resistant to noise (asymptotically)
- Important corollaries in theoretical computer science



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- For example,  $x_1^2 + ... + x_n^2$  is constant while  $g_1^2 + ... + g_n^2$  is not
- Not a problem, since any function on Boolean cube has unique multilinear representation ("Fourier expansion")

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- $s_1$ +...+ $s_n$  constant but  $x_1$ +...+ $x_n$  isn't!

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 Solut near Middle slice is a polyr representative section of the Boolean cube from the point of view of • Ever ltilinear low-degree "harmonic" repre multilinear polynomials • F.-K invariance principle holds for such polynomials • Corollary: Majority is Stablest on the slice

# PART IV Gelfand–Tsetlin basis for the slice

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- On  $S_n$  we have representation theory
- On the slice we also have representation theory: every multilinear "harmonic" polynomial decomposes as sum of its homogeneous parts (part of general theory of association schemes)

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- Basis depends on order of coordinates

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• Norm of  $\chi_B$  proportional to norm of  $(x_1 - x_2) \cdots (x_{2|B|-1} - x_{2|B|})$ 

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- Basis implies that same is true for all low-degree harmonic polynomials! (F.–Mossel: basis-free argument)
- Basis is explicit orthogonal basis of eigenvectors for Johnson and Kneser graphs
- Simplifies Wimmer's proof of Friedgut's junta theorem on the slice

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- More theorems on slice and symmetric group

### THE END

