

# Perfect Packings in Quasirandom Hypergraphs II

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## Abstract

For each of the notions of hypergraph quasirandomness that have been studied, we identify a large class of hypergraphs  $F$  so that every quasirandom hypergraph  $H$  admits a perfect  $F$ -packing. An informal statement of a special case of our general result for 3-uniform hypergraphs is as follows. Fix an integer  $r \geq 4$  and  $0 < p < 1$ . Suppose that  $H$  is an  $n$ -vertex triple system with  $r|n$  and the following two properties:

- for every graph  $G$  with  $V(G) = V(H)$ , at least  $p$  proportion of the triangles in  $G$  are also edges of  $H$ ,
- for every vertex  $x$  of  $H$ , the link graph of  $x$  is a quasirandom graph with density at least  $p$ .

Then  $H$  has a perfect  $K_r^{(3)}$ -packing. Moreover, we show that neither hypotheses above can be weakened, so in this sense our result is tight. A similar conclusion for this special case can be proved by Keevash's hypergraph blowup lemma, with a slightly stronger hypothesis on  $H$ .

## 1 Introduction

A  $k$ -uniform hypergraph  $H$  ( $k$ -graph for short) is a collection of  $k$ -element subsets (edges) of a vertex set  $V(H)$ . For a  $k$ -graph  $H$  and a subset  $S$  of vertices of size at most  $k - 1$ , define the  $(k - |S|)$ -graph  $N_H(S) := \{T \subseteq V(H) - S : T \cup S \in H\}$ . Also, let  $d_H(S) = |N_H(S)|$ . When  $S = \{x\}$ , we write  $N_H(x)$  and  $d_H(x)$ . The *minimum  $\ell$ -degree* of  $H$ , written  $\delta_\ell(H)$ , is the minimum of  $d_H(S)$  taken over all  $\ell$ -sets  $S \in \binom{V(H)}{\ell}$ . The *minimum codegree* of  $H$  is  $\delta_{k-1}(H)$  and the *minimum degree* is  $\delta(H) = \delta_1(H)$ . The complete  $k$ -graph on  $r$  vertices, denoted  $K_r^{(k)}$  (or sometimes just  $K_r$ ) is the  $k$ -graph with vertex set  $[r]$  and all  $\binom{r}{k}$  edges.

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If  $H$  is a  $k$ -graph and  $x \in V(H)$ , the *link of  $x$* , written  $L_H(x)$ , is the  $(k - 1)$ -graph whose vertex set is  $V(H) - \{x\}$  and whose edge set is  $N_H(x)$ . We write  $v(H)$  for  $|V(H)|$ .

Let  $G$  and  $F$  be  $k$ -graphs. We say that  $G$  has a *perfect  $F$ -packing* if the vertex set of  $G$  can be partitioned into copies of  $F$ . Minimum degree conditions that force perfect  $F$ -packings in graphs have a long history and have been well studied [1, 11, 21, 23]. In the past decade there has been substantial interest in extending these result to  $k$ -graphs [9, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 39, 40]. Despite this activity many basic questions in this area remain open. For example, for  $k \geq 5$  the minimum degree threshold which forces a perfect matching in  $k$ -graphs is not known.

A key ingredient in the proofs of most of the previously cited results are specially designed random-like or quasirandom properties of  $k$ -graphs that imply the existence of perfect  $F$ -packings. There is a rather well-defined notion of quasirandomness for graphs that originated in early work of Thomason [36, 37] and Chung-Graham-Wilson [7]. These graph quasirandom properties, when generalized to  $k$ -graphs, provide a rich structure of inequivalent hypergraph quasirandom properties (see [29, 38]). In [28], the authors studied in detail the packing problem for the simplest of these quasirandom properties, the so-called weak hypergraph quasirandomness. A hypergraph is *linear* if every two edges share at most one vertex. Results of [28] showed that weak hypergraph quasirandomness and an obvious minimum degree condition suffices to obtain perfect  $F$ -packings for all linear  $F$ , but the result does not hold for certain  $F$  that are very close to being linear.

In this paper, we address the packing problem for the other quasirandom properties. A special case of our result identifies what hypergraph quasirandom property and what condition on the link of each vertex is required in order to be able to guarantee a perfect  $K_r^{(k)}$ -packing for all  $r$  (which implies a perfect  $F$ -packing for all  $F$ ). The quasirandom property naturally has great resemblance to those used in the various (strong) hypergraph regularity lemmas. Keevash's hypergraph blowup lemma [14] has as a corollary that the super-regularity of complexes implies the existence of perfect packings, but our main result below (Theorem 1) shows that a weaker notion of quasirandomness is enough to obtain perfect packings of complete hypergraphs. In fact, we are able to do more: for many of the hypergraph quasirandom properties that have been studied previously in the literature, we give a class of hypergraphs  $F$  for which we can find a perfect packing. Before stating Theorem 1, we need to define these notions of hypergraph quasirandomness.

## 1.1 Notions of Hypergraph Quasirandomness

Our definitions are closely related to the definitions by Towsner [38], which gives the most general treatment of hypergraph quasirandomness.

**Definition.** Let  $X$  be a finite set and let  $2^X = \{A : A \subseteq X\}$ . An *antichain* is an  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^X$  such that  $A \subsetneq B$  for all  $A, B \in \mathcal{I}$ . A *full antichain* is an antichain  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^X$  such that  $|\mathcal{I}| \geq 2$  and for all  $x \in X$ , there exists  $I \in \mathcal{I}$  with  $x \in I$ .

**Definition.** Let  $k \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  be an antichain, and let  $H$  be a  $k$ -graph. An  $\mathcal{I}$ -layout in  $H$  is a tuple of uniform hypergraphs  $\Lambda = (\lambda_I)_{I \in \mathcal{I}}$  where  $\lambda_I$  is an  $|I|$ -uniform hypergraph

on vertex set  $V(H)$ . If  $\Lambda$  is an  $\mathcal{I}$ -layout, then the  $k$ -cliques of  $\Lambda$ , denoted  $K_k(\Lambda)$ , is the set of all vertex tuples  $(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  such that  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  are distinct vertices and for each  $I \in \mathcal{I}$ ,  $\{x_i : i \in I\} \in \lambda_I$ . In an abuse of notation, we will denote by  $H \cap K_k(\Lambda)$  the  $k$ -tuples  $(x_1, \dots, x_k)$  such that  $(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in K_k(\Lambda)$  and  $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\} \in H$ .

We now are ready to define hypergraph quasirandomness.

**Definition.** Let  $0 < \mu, p < 1$ . A  $k$ -graph  $H$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  if for every  $\mathcal{I}$ -layout  $\Lambda$ ,

$$|H \cap K_k(\Lambda)| \geq p|K_k(\Lambda)| - \mu n^k.$$

The stronger property  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, p, \mu)$  stipulates that for every  $\mathcal{I}$ -layout  $\Lambda$ ,

$$\left| |H \cap K_k(\Lambda)| - p|K_k(\Lambda)| \right| \leq \mu n^k.$$

**Example.** Let  $k = 3$  and  $\mathcal{I} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{2, 3\}\}$ . A 3-graph  $H$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(3)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  if for every two graphs  $\lambda_{12}$  and  $\lambda_{23}$  with vertex set  $V(H)$ , the number of tuples  $(x, y, z)$  with  $\{x, y, z\} \in H$ ,  $xy \in \lambda_{12}$ , and  $yz \in \lambda_{23}$  is at least  $p|K_3(\lambda_{12}, \lambda_{23})| - \mu n^3$ , where  $K_3(\lambda_{12}, \lambda_{23})$  is the set of tuples  $(x, y, z)$  with  $xy \in \lambda_{12}$  and  $yz \in \lambda_{23}$ .

Several special cases of this definition deserve mention, since essentially all previously studied hypergraph quasirandomness properties are related to  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  for some  $\mathcal{I}$ .

- When  $\mathcal{I} = \{\{1\}, \dots, \{k\}\}$ , then  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  is exactly the property  $(p, \frac{\mu}{k!})$ -dense from [28] and is closely related to weak quasirandomness studied in [8, 10, 18, 35].
- More generally, when  $\mathcal{I}$  is a partition the property  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, p, \mu)$  is essentially the property  $\text{Expand}[\pi]$  studied in [26, 27, 29]. In particular, when  $\mathcal{I} = \{\{1, \dots, k-1\}, \{k\}\}$ , then  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  is essentially equivalent to the property considered recently by Keevash (the property called “typical” in [13]) in his recent proof of the existence of designs.
- When  $\mathcal{I} = \binom{[k]}{\ell}$ , then  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, p, \mu)$  is closely related to the property  $\text{CliqueDisc}[\ell]$  studied in [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19, 29].
- When  $\mathcal{I} = \{I \in \binom{[k]}{k-1} : \{1, \dots, \ell\} \subseteq I\}$ , then  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, p, \mu)$  is essentially the same as the property  $\text{Deviation}[\ell]$  studied in [4, 5, 3, 19, 29].
- Finally, note that  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\{\emptyset\}, \geq p, \mu)$  is equivalent to  $|H| \geq p \binom{v(H)}{k} - \frac{\mu}{k!} n^k$ , since  $K_k(\{\emptyset\})$  is the set of all ordered  $k$ -tuples of distinct vertices.

**Definition.** Let  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  be an antichain. A  $k$ -graph  $F$  is  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted if there exists an ordering  $E_1, \dots, E_m$  of the edges of  $F$  and bijections  $\phi_i : E_i \rightarrow [k]$  such that for each  $1 \leq j < i \leq m$ , the following holds: there exists an  $I \in \mathcal{I}$  with  $\{\phi_i(x) : x \in E_j \cap E_i\} \subseteq I \in \mathcal{I}$ .

In words,  $F$  is  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted if the set of labels assigned to  $E_i$  which appear on  $E_j \cap E_i$  is a subset of a set in  $\mathcal{I}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  and  $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[k-1]}$  be antichains. A  $k$ -graph  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted if  $F$  is  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted and there exists  $x \in V(F)$ , an ordering  $E_1, \dots, E_m$  of the edges of  $F$ , and bijections  $\psi_i : E_i \rightarrow [k]$  such that for all  $1 \leq j < i \leq m$ , the following holds.

- If  $x \notin E_i$  then there exists  $I \in \mathcal{I}$  with  $\{\psi_i(y) : y \in E_j \cap E_i\} \subseteq I$ .
- If  $x \in E_i$  then  $\psi_i(x) = k$  and there exists  $J \in \mathcal{J}$  with  $\{\psi_i(y) : y \in E_j \cap E_i, y \neq x\} \subseteq J$ .

## 1.2 Our Results

The following is our main result.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $k \geq 2$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  be a full antichain,  $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[k-1]}$ , and  $0 < \alpha, p < 1$ . For every  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted  $k$ -graph  $F$ , there exists  $\mu > 0$  and  $n_0$  so that the following holds. Let  $H$  be an  $n$ -vertex  $k$ -graph where  $n \geq n_0$  and  $v(F) | n$ . Suppose that  $H$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  and that  $L_H(x)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  for all  $x \in V(H)$ . Then  $H$  has a perfect  $F$ -packing.*

It is straightforward to see that if  $\mathcal{I}$  and  $\mathcal{I}'$  are such that for every  $I' \in \mathcal{I}'$ , there exists  $I \in \mathcal{I}$  with  $I' \subseteq I$ , then  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu) \Rightarrow \text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}', \geq p, \mu)$ . Also, if  $\mathcal{I} = \binom{[k]}{k-1}$  and  $\mathcal{J} = \binom{[k-1]}{k-2}$ , then every  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted. Thus to find the weakest quasirandom condition to apply Theorem 1 to a given  $k$ -graph  $F$ , one should find the minimal  $\mathcal{I}$  and  $\mathcal{J}$  for which  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted. For example, if  $C = \{abc, bcd, def, aef\}$ , then  $C$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted where  $\mathcal{I} = \{\{1, 2\}, \{3\}\}$  and  $\mathcal{J} = \{\emptyset\}$  (let  $x = a$  and order the edges which contain  $a$  first).

As mentioned above, special cases of  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  correspond to previously studied quasirandom properties so that Theorem 1 generalizes several previous results.

- Let  $k = 2$ . The only full antichain is  $\mathcal{I} = \{\{1\}, \{2\}\}$ . For this  $\mathcal{I}$ , all graphs  $F$  are  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted if  $\mathcal{J} = \{\emptyset\}$ . To see this, pick  $x \in V(F)$  and place all edges incident to  $x$  first in the ordering for the definition of  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted. Now the property  $\text{Disc}^{(2)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  just states that  $G$  is quasirandom (in fact only “one-sided” quasirandom). Also, the condition “ $L_H(x)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(1)}(\{\emptyset\}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  for every  $x \in V(H)$ ” is equivalent to the condition that  $\delta(H) \geq (\alpha - \mu)(n - 1)$ . To see this, recall from before that if  $H'$  is an  $r$ -graph the property “ $H'$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(1)}(\{\emptyset\}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$ ” is equivalent to the property that  $|H'| \geq \alpha \binom{v(H')}{r} - \frac{\mu}{r!} v(H')^r$ . Thus Theorem 1 for  $k = 2$  states that if  $G$  is an  $n$ -vertex quasirandom graph,  $v(F) | n$ , and  $\delta(G) \geq (\alpha - \mu)(n - 1)$ , then  $G$  has a perfect  $F$ -packing. This fact is a simple consequence of the blowup lemma of Komlós-Sárközy-Szemerédi [20].
- For  $k \geq 2$  with  $\mathcal{I}$  a partition into singletons, we obtain exactly [28, Theorem 3]. In this case,  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  is equivalent to  $(p, \frac{\mu}{k!})$ -dense from [28], an  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted  $k$ -graph is a linear  $k$ -graph, and one can take  $\mathcal{J} = \{\emptyset\}$ . Similar to the previous paragraph, the condition “ $L_H(x)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\{\emptyset\}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  for every  $x \in V(H)$ ” is equivalent to the condition that  $\delta(H) \geq \alpha \binom{v(H)-1}{k-1} - \frac{\mu}{(k-1)!} v(H)^{k-1}$ .

- If  $\mathcal{I} = \binom{[k]}{k-1}$  and  $\mathcal{J} = \binom{[k-1]}{k-2}$  then every  $k$ -graph  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted. Thus Theorem 1 implies the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.** *Fix  $2 \leq k \leq r$ . For every  $0 < \alpha, p < 1$ , there exists  $\mu > 0$  and  $n_0$  such that the following holds. Let  $H$  be an  $n$ -vertex  $k$ -graph with  $n \geq n_0$  and  $r|n$ . If  $H$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\binom{[k]}{k-1}, \geq p, \mu)$  and  $L_H(x)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\binom{[k-1]}{k-2}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  for every  $x \in V(H)$ , then  $H$  has a perfect  $K_r^{(k)}$ -packing.*

Keevash's hypergraph blowup lemma [14] also guarantees perfect  $K_r^{(k)}$ -packings under certain regularity conditions, however the hypotheses of Corollary 2 are slightly weaker. Indeed, the main extra requirement that [14] places on  $H$  is [14, Definition 3.16 part (iii)]; translated into our language, for 3-graphs this property says roughly that for every  $x \in V(H)$ , if  $W$  is a set of triples where each triple contains some pair from  $L_H(x)$ , then  $|H \cap W| \approx p|W|$ .

Next, we investigate if either of the conditions  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  or  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  in the links from Theorem 1 can be weakened. This question was studied by the authors [28] in detail when  $\mathcal{I}$  is a partition, and it turns out that for certain non-linear  $F$  it is possible to weaken the conditions (see [28] for details). Most likely, the constructions and results from [28] can be generalized to all  $\mathcal{I}$ . In this paper, we focus only on the case  $\mathcal{I} = \binom{[k]}{k-1}$  and  $\mathcal{J} = \binom{[k-1]}{k-2}$ , which corresponds to the condition required for perfect  $K_r^{(k)}$ -packings. In this case, neither condition can be weakened, so that Theorem 1 cannot be improved in general.

**Proposition 3.** *For every  $k \geq 3$  there exists an  $r$  (depending only on  $k$ ) such that the following holds. Let  $\alpha = p = \frac{k-1}{k}$  and let  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  be a full antichain where  $\mathcal{I} \neq \binom{[k]}{k-1}$ . For every  $\mu > 0$ , there exists  $n_0$  such that for all  $n \geq n_0$  there exists an  $n$ -vertex  $k$ -graph  $H$  which*

- *satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$ ,*
- *fails  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\binom{[k]}{k-1}, \geq p, \mu)$ ,*
- *for every  $x \in V(H)$  the link  $L_H(x)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\binom{[k-1]}{k-2}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$ ,*
- *has no copy of  $K_r$  (so no perfect  $K_r$ -packing).*

**Proposition 4.** *For every  $k \geq 3$  there exists an  $r$  (depending only on  $k$ ) such that the following holds. Let  $\alpha = p = \frac{k-1}{k}$  and let  $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[k-1]}$  be a full antichain where  $\mathcal{J} \neq \binom{[k-1]}{k-2}$ . For every  $0 < \mu, p < 1$ , there exists  $n_0$  such that for all  $n \geq n_0$  with  $r|n$ , there exists an  $n$ -vertex  $k$ -graph  $H$  which*

- *satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\binom{[k]}{k-1}, \geq p, \mu)$ ,*
- *for every  $x \in V(H)$  the link  $L_H(x)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$ ,*
- *there exists  $x \in V(H)$  such that the link  $L_H(x)$  fails  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\binom{[k-1]}{k-2}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$ ,*

- has no perfect  $K_r$ -packing.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Sections 2 and 3 we discuss the two main tools needed for the proof of Theorem 1, in Section 4 we prove Theorem 1, and finally in Section 5 we explain the constructions which prove Propositions 3 and 4.

## 2 Absorbing Sets

One of the main tools for our proof of Theorem 1 is the absorbing technique of Rödl-Ruciński-Szemerédi [34]. We will use the following absorbing lemma from [28] without modification.

**Definition.** Let  $F$  and  $H$  be  $k$ -graphs and let  $A, B \subseteq V(H)$ . We say that  $A$   $F$ -absorbs  $B$  or that  $A$  is an  $F$ -absorbing set for  $B$  if both  $H[A]$  and  $H[A \cup B]$  have perfect  $F$ -packings. When  $F$  is a single edge, we say that  $A$  edge-absorbs  $B$ .

**Definition.** Let  $F$  and  $H$  be  $k$ -graphs,  $\epsilon > 0$ , and  $a$  and  $b$  be multiples of  $v(F)$ . We say that  $H$  is  $(a, b, \epsilon, F)$ -rich if for all  $B \in \binom{V(H)}{b}$  there are at least  $\epsilon n^a$  sets in  $\binom{V(H)}{a}$  which  $F$ -absorb  $B$ .

**Lemma 5.** (Absorbing Lemma, specialized version of [28, Lemma 10]) Let  $F$  be a  $k$ -graph,  $\epsilon > 0$ , and  $a$  and  $b$  be multiples of  $v(F)$ . There exists an  $n_0$  and  $\omega > 0$  such that for all  $n$ -vertex  $k$ -graphs  $H$  with  $n \geq n_0$ , the following holds. If  $H$  is  $(a, b, \epsilon, F)$ -rich, then there exists an  $A \subseteq V(H)$  such that  $a \parallel |A|$  and  $A$   $F$ -absorbs all sets  $C$  satisfying the following conditions:  $C \subseteq V(H) - A$ ,  $|C| \leq \omega n$ , and  $b \parallel |C|$ .

## 3 Embedding Lemma

**Definition.** Let  $k \geq 2$  and  $0 \leq m \leq f$ . Let  $F$  and  $H$  be  $k$ -graphs with  $V(F) = \{w_1, \dots, w_f\}$ . A labeled copy of  $F$  in  $H$  is an edge-preserving injection from  $V(F)$  to  $V(H)$ . A degenerate labeled copy of  $F$  in  $H$  is an edge-preserving map from  $V(F)$  to  $V(H)$  that is not an injection. Let  $1 \leq m \leq f$  and let  $Z_1, \dots, Z_m \subseteq V(H)$ . Set  $\text{inj}[F \rightarrow H; w_1 \rightarrow Z_1, \dots, w_m \rightarrow Z_m]$  to be the number of edge-preserving injections  $\psi : V(F) \rightarrow V(H)$  such that  $\psi(w_i) \in Z_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . If  $Z_i = \{z_i\}$ , we abbreviate  $w_i \rightarrow \{z_i\}$  as  $w_i \rightarrow z_i$ .

The embedding lemma (Lemma 6) proved in this section shows that if  $H$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  and  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  in the links, then  $H$  contains many copies of  $F$  if  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted. In fact, it says more: if  $m$  of the vertices of  $F$  are pre-specified and  $F$  satisfies the following more technical condition, then there are many copies of  $F$  using the  $m$  pre-specified vertices.

**Definition.** Let  $k \geq 2$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  and  $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[k-1]}$  be antichains,  $F$  a  $k$ -graph, and  $s_1, \dots, s_m \in V(F)$ . We say that  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted at  $s_1, \dots, s_m$  if there exists an ordering  $E_1, \dots, E_t$  of the edges of  $F$  such that

- for every  $i$ ,  $|E_i \cap \{s_1, \dots, s_m\}| \leq 1$ ,
- for every  $E_i$  with  $E_i \cap \{s_1, \dots, s_m\} = \emptyset$ , there exists a bijection  $\phi_i : E_i \rightarrow [k]$  such that for all  $j < i$ , there exists  $I \in \mathcal{I}$  with  $\{\phi_i(x) : x \in E_j \cap E_i\} \subseteq I$ ,
- for every  $E_i$  with  $s_\ell \in E_i$ , there exists a bijection  $\psi_i : E_i \setminus \{s_\ell\} \rightarrow [k-1]$  such that for all  $j < i$ , there exists  $J \in \mathcal{J}$  with  $\{\psi_i(x) : x \in E_j \cap E_i, x \neq s_\ell\} \subseteq J$ .

Note that  $m = 0$  is possible, in which case the definition is equivalent to  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted.

**Lemma 6.** Let  $k \geq 2$ ,  $0 < \alpha, \gamma, p < 1$ , and  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  and  $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[k-1]}$  be antichains. Let  $F$  be an  $f$ -vertex  $k$ -graph with  $V(F) = \{s_1, \dots, s_m, t_{m+1}, \dots, t_f\}$ . Suppose that  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted at  $s_1, \dots, s_m$ . Then there exists an  $n_0$  and  $\mu > 0$  such that the following is true.

Let  $H$  be an  $n$ -vertex  $k$ -graph with  $n \geq n_0$ , where  $H$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$ . If  $m > 0$ , then also assume that  $L_H(x)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  for every vertex  $x \in V(H)$ . Let  $y_1, \dots, y_m \in V(H)$  be distinct and let  $V_{m+1}, \dots, V_f \subseteq V(H)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inj}[F \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f] \\ \geq \alpha^{d_F(s_1)} \dots \alpha^{d_F(s_m)} p^{|F| - \sum d_F(s_i)} |V_{m+1}| \dots |V_f| - \gamma n^{f-m}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We first prove the lemma under the additional assumption that the sets  $V_{m+1}, \dots, V_f$  are pairwise disjoint. This is proved by induction on  $|F|$ . If  $|F| = 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inj}[F \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f] &\geq \prod_{i=m+1}^f (|V_i| - f) \\ &\geq \alpha^0 p^0 \prod_{i=m+1}^f |V_i| - \gamma n^{f-m} \end{aligned}$$

for large  $n$ . So assume  $F$  has at least one edge and let  $E$  be the last edge in an ordering of the edges of  $F$  which witness that  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted at  $s_1, \dots, s_m$ . (Recall that if  $m = 0$  then  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted at  $s_1, \dots, s_m$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted.)

Let  $F_*$  be the hypergraph formed by deleting all vertices of  $E$  from  $F$ . Let  $F_-$  be the hypergraph formed by removing the edge  $E$  from  $F$  but keeping the same vertex set. Let  $Q_*$  be an injective edge-preserving map  $Q_* : V(F_*) \rightarrow V(H)$  where  $Q_*(s_i) = y_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $Q_*(t_j) \in V_j$  for  $t_j \notin E$ . There are two cases.

**Case 1:**  $E \cap \{s_1, \dots, s_m\} = \emptyset$ . Let  $\phi : E \rightarrow [k]$  be the bijection from the definition of  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted at  $s_1, \dots, s_m$  and assume the vertices of  $F$  are labeled such that  $E = \{t_{m+1}, \dots, t_{m+k}\}$ , where  $\phi(t_{m+i}) = i$ . For each  $I \in \mathcal{I}$ , define an  $|I|$ -uniform hypergraph  $\lambda_{I, Q_*}$  with vertex set  $V(H)$  as follows. Let  $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_{|I|}\}$ . Make  $\{z_{i_1}, \dots, z_{i_{|I|}}\} \in \binom{V(H)}{|I|}$  a hyperedge of  $\lambda_{I, Q_*}$  if  $z_{i_j} \in V_{m+i_j}$  for all  $j$  and when the map  $Q_*$  is extended to map  $t_{i_j}$  to  $z_{i_j}$  for all  $j$ , this extended map is an edge-preserving map from  $F_-[V(F_*) \cup \{t_{i_1}, \dots, t_{i_{|I|}}\}]$  to  $H$ . More informally,  $\lambda_{I, Q_*}$  consists of all  $|I|$ -sets to which  $Q_*$  can be extended to produce a copy of  $F_*$  together with the vertices of  $E$  indexed by  $I$ . Let  $\Lambda_{Q_*} = (\lambda_{I, Q_*})_{I \in \mathcal{I}}$ .

Now, if  $(z_{m+1}, \dots, z_{m+k})$  is a  $k$ -tuple in  $K_k(\Lambda_{Q_*})$ , then the map  $Q_*$  can be extended to map  $t_j$  to  $z_j$  for  $m+1 \leq j \leq m+k$  to produce an edge-preserving map from  $F_-$  to  $H$ . To see this, let  $E'$  be an edge of  $F_-$ . Since  $E$  is the last edge in the ordering, if  $E' \cap E = \{t_{j_1}, \dots, t_{j_r}\}$  then there exists some  $I \in \mathcal{I}$  with  $\{j_1, \dots, j_r\} \subseteq I$  since  $F$  is  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted. Since  $(z_{m+1}, \dots, z_{m+k})$  is a  $k$ -clique,  $\{z_{m+i} : i \in I\} \in \lambda_{I, Q_*}$ . This implies that there is some permutation  $\eta$  of  $I$  such that extending  $Q_*$  to map  $t_{m+i}$  to  $z_{m+\eta(i)}$  produces an edge-preserving map. Since the  $V_{m+i}$ s are pairwise disjoint and  $z_{m+i} \in V_{m+i}$  for all  $i \in I$ ,  $\eta$  must be the identity permutation, i.e. extending the map  $Q_*$  to map  $t_{m+i}$  to  $z_{m+i}$  for all  $i \in I$  produces an edge-preserving map. Thus extending the map  $Q_*$  to map  $t_{j_p}$  to  $z_{j_p}$  for all  $p$  is an edge-preserving map and  $E'$  is one of the preserved edges. Finally, since the  $V_j$ s are disjoint, each  $k$ -tuple in  $K_k(\Lambda_{Q_*})$  corresponds to exactly one labeled copy of  $F_-$  in  $H$  which extend  $Q_*$  with  $t_j$  mapped into  $V_j$  for all  $j$ . Similarly,  $|H \cap K_k(\Lambda_{Q_*})|$  is exactly the number of labeled copies of  $F$  in  $H$  which extend  $Q_*$  with  $t_j$  mapped into  $V_j$  for all  $j$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inj}[F \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f] &= \sum_{Q_*} |H \cap K_k(\Lambda_{Q_*})| \\ \text{inj}[F_- \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f] &= \sum_{Q_*} |K_k(\Lambda_{Q_*})|. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Since  $H$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inj}[F \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f] \\ \geq \sum_{Q_*} (p|K_k(\Lambda_{Q_*})| - \mu n^k) \\ \geq p \sum_{Q_*} |K_k(\Lambda_{Q_*})| - \mu n^{f-m}, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where the last inequality is because there are at most  $n^{f-m-k}$  maps  $Q_*$ , since  $F_*$  has  $f-k$  vertices and  $s_i \in V(F_*)$  must map to  $y_i$ . Combining (1) and (2) and then applying induction,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inj}[F \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f] \\ \geq p \text{inj}[F_- \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f] - \mu n^{f-m} \\ \geq p (\alpha^{\sum d(s_i)} p^{|F|-1-\sum d(s_i)} |V_{m+1}| \cdots |V_f| - \gamma n^{f-m}) - \mu n^{f-m}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mu = (1-p)\gamma$  so that the proof of this case complete.

**Case 2:**  $s_\ell \in E$ . (Since  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted at  $s_1, \dots, s_m$ , at most one vertex  $s_\ell$  can be in  $E$ .) Let  $\psi : E \setminus \{s_\ell\} \rightarrow [k-1]$  be the bijection from the definition of  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted at  $s_1, \dots, s_m$  and assume the vertices of  $E$  are labeled such that  $E = \{s_\ell, t_{m+1}, \dots, t_{m+k-1}\}$  where  $\psi(t_{m+j}) = j$ . This case is very similar to the previous case, except we will use  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  in the link of  $y_\ell$ . For each  $J \in \mathcal{J}$ , define a  $|J|$ -uniform hypergraph  $\lambda_{J, Q_*}$  with vertex set  $V(H)$  as follows. Let  $J = \{j_1, \dots, j_{|J|}\}$ . Make  $\{z_{j_1}, \dots, z_{j_{|J|}}\}$  a hyperedge of  $\lambda_{J, Q_*}$  if  $z_{j_r} \in V_{j_r}$  for all  $r$  and extending the map  $Q_*$  to map  $s_\ell$  to  $y_\ell$  and mapping  $t_{j_r}$



to  $z_{j_r}$  for all  $r$  produces an edge-preserving map. Let  $\Lambda_{Q_*} = (\lambda_{J, Q_*})_{J \in \mathcal{J}}$ . Similar to before, if  $(z_{m+1}, \dots, z_{m+k-1})$  is a  $(k-1)$ -tuple in  $K_{k-1}(\Lambda_{Q_*})$ , then the map  $Q_*$  can be extended to map  $s_\ell$  to  $y_\ell$  and map  $t_i$  to  $z_i$  for  $m+1 \leq i \leq m+k-1$  to produce an edge-preserving map from  $F_-$  to  $H$ . Thus  $|K_{k-1}(\Lambda_{Q_*})|$  is exactly the number of labeled copies of  $F_-$  in  $H$  which extend  $Q_*$ . Similarly,  $|L_H(y_\ell) \cap K_{k-1}(\Lambda_{Q_*})|$  is exactly the number of labeled copies of  $F$  in  $H$  which extend  $Q_*$ .

Now formulas similar to (1) and (2) and the fact that  $L_H(y_\ell)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  completes this case. This concludes the proof of the lemma if the sets  $V_{m+1}, \dots, V_f$  are pairwise disjoint.

Now assume that the sets  $V_{m+1}, \dots, V_f$  are not necessarily pairwise disjoint. Let  $\mathcal{P} = \{(P_{m+1}, \dots, P_f) : P_{m+1}, \dots, P_f \text{ is a partition of } V(H)\}$  so that  $|\mathcal{P}| = (f-m)^n$ . Now

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{inj}[F \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f] \\ &= \frac{1}{(f-m)^{n-f+m}} \sum_{(P_{m+1}, \dots, P_f) \in \mathcal{P}} \text{inj}[F \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, \\ & \quad t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1} \cap P_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f \cap P_f]. \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, each labeled copy of  $F$  of the right form will be counted exactly  $(f-m)^{n-f+m}$  times by the sum over all partitions, since the images of  $t_{m+1}, \dots, t_f$  must map into the corresponding part of the partition and all other vertices of  $H$  can be distributed to any of the parts of the partition. Let  $\delta = \alpha^{d_F(s_1)} \dots \alpha^{d_F(s_m)} p^{|F| - \sum d_F(s_i)}$ . Since  $V_{m+1} \cap P_{m+1}, \dots, V_f \cap P_f$  are pairwise disjoint,

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{inj}[F \rightarrow H; s_1 \rightarrow y_1, \dots, s_m \rightarrow y_m, t_{m+1} \rightarrow V_{m+1}, \dots, t_f \rightarrow V_f] \\ & \geq \frac{1}{(f-m)^{n-f+m}} \sum_{(P_{m+1}, \dots, P_f) \in \mathcal{P}} (\delta |V_{m+1} \cap P_{m+1}| \cdots |V_f \cap P_f| - \gamma n^{f-m}) \\ & = \delta |V_{m+1}| \cdots |V_f| - \frac{\gamma n^{f-m} |\mathcal{P}|}{(f-m)^{n-f+m}} \geq \delta |V_{m+1}| \cdots |V_f| - \gamma n^{f-m}. \end{aligned}$$

□

## 4 Packing $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted hypergraphs

In this section we prove Theorem 1. The proof has several stages: we first prove that the quasirandom conditions on  $H$  imply that  $H$  is rich, then we use Lemma 5 to set aside a vertex set  $A$  which can absorb all reasonably sized sets, next we use the embedding lemma (Lemma 6) to produce an almost perfect packing in  $H - A$ , and finally we use the properties of  $A$  to absorb the remaining vertices.

### 4.1 Richness

In this subsection, we prove that the conditions on  $H$  in Theorem 1 imply that  $H$  is  $(f^2 - f, f, \epsilon, F)$ -rich, where  $f = v(F)$ .

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $k \geq 2$ ,  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  be a full antichain, and  $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[k-1]}$  an antichain. Let  $F$  be an  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted  $k$ -graph with  $f$  vertices. For every  $0 < \alpha, p < 1$ , there exists  $\mu, \epsilon > 0$  and  $n_0$  so that the following holds. Let  $H$  be an  $n$ -vertex  $k$ -graph where  $n \geq n_0$ . Also, assume that  $H$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  and that  $L_H(z)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  for every vertex  $z \in V(H)$ . Then  $H$  is  $(f^2 - f, f, \epsilon, F)$ -rich.*

*Proof.* Let  $a = f(f - 1)$  and  $b = f$ . Our task is to come up with an  $\epsilon > 0$  such that for large  $n$  and all  $B \in \binom{V(H)}{b}$ , there are at least  $\epsilon n^a$  vertex sets of size  $a$  which  $F$ -absorb  $B$ ; we will define  $\epsilon$  and  $\mu$  later. Let  $V(F) = \{w_0, \dots, w_{f-1}\}$ , where  $w_0$  is the special vertex in the definition that  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted.

Next, form the following  $k$ -graph  $F'$ . Let

$$V(F') = \{x_{i,j} : 0 \leq i, j \leq f - 1\}.$$

(We think of the vertices of  $F'$  as arranged in a grid with  $i$  as the row and  $j$  as the column.) Form the edges of  $F'$  as follows: for each fixed  $1 \leq i \leq f - 1$ , let  $\{x_{i,0}, \dots, x_{i,f-1}\}$  induce a copy of  $F$  where  $x_{i,j}$  is mapped to  $w_j$ . Similarly, for each fixed  $0 \leq j \leq f - 1$ , let  $\{x_{0,j}, \dots, x_{f-1,j}\}$  induce a copy of  $F$  where  $x_{i,j}$  is mapped to  $w_i$ . Note that we therefore have a copy of  $F$  in each column and a copy of  $F$  in each row besides the zeroth row.

Now fix  $B = \{b_0, \dots, b_{f-1}\} \subseteq V(H)$ ; we want to show that  $B$  is  $F$ -absorbed by many  $a$ -sets. Note that any labeled copy of  $F'$  in  $H$  which maps  $x_{0,0} \rightarrow b_0, \dots, x_{0,f-1} \rightarrow b_{f-1}$  produces an  $F$ -absorbing set for  $B$  as follows. Let  $Q : V(F') \rightarrow V(H)$  be an edge-preserving injection where  $Q(b_j) = x_{0,j}$  (so  $Q$  is a labeled copy of  $F'$  in  $H$  where the set  $B$  is the zeroth row of  $F'$ ). Let  $A = \{Q(x_{i,j}) : 1 \leq i \leq f - 1, 0 \leq j \leq f - 1\}$  consist of all vertices in rows 1 through  $f - 1$ . Then  $A$  has a perfect  $F$ -packing consisting of the copies of  $F$  on the rows, and  $A \cup B$  has a perfect  $F$ -packing consisting of the copies of  $F$  on the columns. Therefore,  $A$   $F$ -absorbs  $B$ .

To complete the proof, we therefore just need to use Lemma 6 where  $m = f$  and  $s_1 = x_{0,0}, \dots, s_f = x_{0,f-1}$  to show that there are many copies of  $F'$  with  $B$  as the zeroth row. To do so, we need to show that  $F'$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted at  $s_1, \dots, s_m$ . Indeed, consider the following ordering of edges of  $F'$ . First, list the edges of  $F'$  in the first column, then the edges of  $F'$  in the second column, and so on until the  $k$ th column. Next, list the edges of  $F'$  in the first row, then the second row, and so on until the  $(k - 1)$ st row. Within each row or column, list the edges in the ordering given in the definition of  $F$  being  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted. For the bijections  $\phi$  or  $\psi$ , use the same bijection as in the definition of  $F$  being  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted. Now consider  $E_i, E_j \in F'$  in this ordering with  $j < i$ . If  $E_i$  and  $E_j$  are from the same row or the same column, then since  $F$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted the condition on  $E_i \cap E_j$  is satisfied. If  $E_i$  and  $E_j$  are in different rows or columns, the size of their intersection is at most one. If  $E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$  then the condition is trivially satisfied. If  $E_i \cap E_j = \{u\}$ , then  $E_i$  must be from a row since  $i > j$ . Then  $E_i$  does not contain any  $s_1, \dots, s_m$ , so we must show that there is some  $I \in \mathcal{I}$  so that  $\phi_i(u) \in I$ . This is true because  $\mathcal{I}$  is full. Thus  $F'$  is  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted at  $s_1, \dots, s_m$ .

Now apply Lemma 6 to  $F'$  with  $m = f$ ,  $s_1 = x_{0,0}, \dots, s_f = x_{0,f-1}$ ,  $V_{m+1} = \dots = V_{f^2} = V(H) - B$ , and  $\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \alpha \sum d(x_{0,j}) p^{|F| - \sum d(x_{0,j})}$ . Ensure that  $n_0$  is large enough and  $\mu$  is small

enough apply Lemma 6 to show that

$$\text{inj}[F' \rightarrow H; x_{0,0} \rightarrow b_0, \dots, x_{0,f-1} \rightarrow b_{f-1}] \geq \gamma \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{f^2-f} = \frac{\gamma}{2^{f^2-f}} n^a.$$

Each labeled copy of  $F'$  produces a labeled  $F$ -absorbing set for  $B$ , so there are at least  $\frac{\gamma}{a!2^{f^2-f}} n^a$   $F$ -absorbing sets for  $B$ . The proof is complete by letting  $\epsilon = \frac{\gamma}{a!2^{f^2-f}}$ .  $\square$

## 4.2 Almost perfect packings

In this section we prove that the conditions in Theorem 1 imply that there exists a perfect  $F$ -packing covering almost all the vertices of  $H$ .

**Lemma 8.** *Let  $k \geq 2$  and  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  be a full antichain. Fix  $0 < p < 1$  and an  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted  $k$ -graph  $F$  with  $f$  vertices. Fix an integer  $b$  with  $f|b$ . For any  $0 < \omega < 1$ , there exists  $n_0$  and  $\mu > 0$  such that the following holds. Let  $H$  be an  $k$ -graph satisfying  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  with  $n \geq n_0$  and  $f|n$ . Then there exists  $C \subseteq V(H)$  such that  $|C| \leq \omega n$ ,  $b||C|$ , and  $H[\bar{C}]$  has a perfect  $F$ -packing.*

*Proof.* First, select  $n_0$  large enough and  $\mu$  small enough so that any vertex set  $C$  of size  $\lceil \frac{\omega}{2} \rceil$  contains a copy of  $F$ . To see this, let  $\gamma = \frac{1}{2} p^{|F|} \left(\frac{\omega}{2}\right)^f$  and select  $n_0$  and  $\mu > 0$  according to Lemma 6 with  $m = 0$ . (Recall that if  $m = 0$  then the condition  $(\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J})$ -adapted on  $F$  at  $\emptyset$  just reduces to the statement that  $F$  is  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted.) Now if  $C \subseteq V(H)$  with  $|C| \geq \frac{\omega}{2} n$ , then let  $V_1 = \dots = V_f = C$  so that  $|V_i| \geq \frac{\omega}{2}$  for all  $i$ . Then Lemma 6 implies there are at least  $p^{|F|} \prod |V_i| - \gamma n^f \geq p^{|F|} \left(\frac{\omega}{2}\right)^f n^f - \gamma n^f = \gamma n^f > 0$  copies of  $F$  inside  $C$ .

Now let  $F_1, \dots, F_t$  be a greedily constructed  $F$ -packing. That is,  $F_1, \dots, F_t$  are disjoint copies of  $F$  and  $C := V(H) - V(F_1) - \dots - V(F_t)$  has no copy of  $F$ . By the previous paragraph,  $|C| \leq \frac{\omega}{2} n$ . Since  $f|n$  and  $H[\bar{C}]$  has a perfect  $F$ -packing,  $f||C|$ . Thus we can let  $y \equiv -\frac{|C|}{f} \pmod{b}$  with  $0 \leq y < b$  and take  $y$  of the copies of  $F$  in the  $F$ -packing of  $H[\bar{C}]$  and add their vertices into  $C$  so that  $b||C|$ .  $\square$

## 4.3 Proof of Theorem 1

*Proof of Theorem 1.* First, apply Lemma 7 to produce  $\epsilon > 0$ . Next, select  $\omega > 0$  according to Lemma 5 and  $\mu_1 > 0$  according to Lemma 8. Also, make  $n_0$  large enough so that both Lemma 5 and 8 can be applied. Let  $\mu = \mu_1 \omega^k$ . All the parameters have now been chosen.

By Lemmas 5 and 7, there exists a set  $A \subseteq V(H)$  such that  $A$   $F$ -absorbs  $C$  for all  $C \subseteq V(H) \setminus A$  with  $|C| \leq \omega n$  and  $b ||C|$ . If  $|A| \geq (1 - \omega)n$ , then  $A$   $F$ -absorbs  $V(H) \setminus A$  so that  $H$  has a perfect  $F$ -packing. Thus  $|A| \leq (1 - \omega)n$ . Next, let  $H' := H[\bar{A}]$  and notice that  $H'$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu_1)$  since  $v(H') \geq \omega n$  and

$$\mu n^k \leq \frac{\mu}{\omega^k} v(H')^k = \mu_1 v(H')^k.$$

Therefore, by Lemma 8, there exists a vertex set  $C \subseteq V(H') = V(H) \setminus A$  such that  $|C| \leq \omega n$ ,  $|C|$  is a multiple of  $b$ , and  $H'[\bar{C}]$  has a perfect  $F$ -packing. Now Lemma 5 implies that  $A$

$F$ -absorbs  $C$ . The perfect  $F$ -packing of  $A \cup C$  and the perfect  $F$ -packing of  $H'[\bar{C}]$  produces a perfect  $F$ -packing of  $H$ .  $\square$

## 5 Constructions

In this section, we prove Propositions 3 and 4 using the following construction.

**Construction.** Let  $k \geq 2$ . Let  $A_n^{(k)}$  be the following probability distribution over  $n$ -vertex  $k$ -graphs. Let  $f : \binom{V(A_n^{(k)})}{k-1} \rightarrow \{0, \dots, k-1\}$  be a random  $k$ -coloring of the  $(k-1)$ -sets. Make  $E \in \binom{V(A_n^{(k)})}{k}$  an edge of  $A_n^{(k)}$  if

$$\sum_{\substack{T \subseteq E \\ |T|=k-1}} f(T) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{k}.$$

**Lemma 9.** Let  $p = \frac{k-1}{k}$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then with probability going to one as  $n$  goes to infinity,

$$\left| |A_n^{(k)}| - p \binom{n}{k} \right| < \epsilon n^k.$$

*Proof.* Each  $k$ -set is an edge with probability exactly  $p$ , so  $\mathbb{E}[|A_n^{(k)}|] = p \binom{n}{k}$ . A simple second moment argument then shows that with high probability the number of edges is concentrated around  $p \binom{n}{k}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 10.** There exists a  $\mu_0$  such that for all  $0 < \mu < \mu_0$ , with probability going to one as  $n$  goes to infinity,  $A_n^{(k)}$  fails  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}\left(\binom{[k]}{k-1}, \geq p, \mu\right)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $Z$  be the  $(k-1)$ -graph whose edges are all the  $(k-1)$ -sets colored zero. Let  $\Lambda = (Z, \dots, Z)$  be the  $\binom{[k]}{k-1}$ -layout consisting of  $Z$  in every coordinate. Now any  $k$ -clique  $(z_1, \dots, z_k)$  of  $\Lambda$  is not a hyperedge of  $A_n^{(k)}$ , since every  $(k-1)$ -subset of  $\{z_1, \dots, z_k\}$  has color zero. This  $\Lambda$  will show that  $A_n^{(k)}$  fails  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}\left(\binom{[k]}{k-1}, \geq p, \mu\right)$  if  $|K_k(\Lambda)|$  is large enough. Each  $k$ -tuple of vertices is a  $k$ -clique with probability  $(\frac{1}{k})^k$ , so  $\mathbb{E}[|K_k(\Lambda)|] = k^{-k} \binom{n}{k}$ . A simple second moment computation shows that  $|K_k(\Lambda)|$  is concentrated around its expectation, so with high probability for large  $n$  we have that  $|K_k(\Lambda)| \geq \frac{1}{10} k^{-k} n^k$ . Thus if  $\mu_0 = \frac{1}{20} \frac{k-1}{k^{k+1}}$ , we have that

$$0 = |H \cap K_k(\Lambda)| < \frac{k-1}{k} |K_k(\Lambda)| - \mu n^k.$$

$\square$

**Lemma 11.** Let  $r = r_{k-1}(K_k^{(k-1)}, \dots, K_k^{(k-1)})$  be the  $k$ -color Ramsey number, where the  $(k-1)$ -sets are colored and a monochromatic  $k$ -clique is forced. Then  $A_n^{(k)}$  has no copy of  $K_r^{(k)}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $X \subseteq V(A_n^{(k)})$  be such that  $|X| = r$  and  $A_n^{(k)}[X]$  is a clique. Then by the property of  $r$ , there exists a  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $|Y| = k$  and all  $(k-1)$ -subsets of  $Y$  have the same color  $c$ . But now

$$\sum_{\substack{T \subseteq Y \\ |T|=k-1}} f(T) = ck = 0 \pmod{k}.$$

Thus  $Y \notin A_n^{(k)}$ , which contradicts that  $A_n^{(k)}[X]$  is a clique.  $\square$

To show that  $A_n^{(k)}$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$  when  $\mathcal{I} \neq \binom{[k]}{k-1}$ , we will use a theorem of Towsner [38] that equates  $\mathcal{I}$ -discrepancy with counting  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted hypergraphs. Therefore, we prove that the count of any  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted hypergraph  $F$  in  $A_n^{(k)}$  is correct with high probability.

**Lemma 12.** *Let  $p = \frac{k-1}{k}$  and let  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq 2^{[k]}$  be an antichain such that  $\mathcal{I} \neq \binom{[k]}{k-1}$ . Let  $F$  be an  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted  $k$ -graph. For every  $\mu > 0$ , with probability going to one as  $n$  goes to infinity, the number of labeled copies of  $F$  in  $A_n^{(k)}$  satisfies*

$$|\text{inj}[F \rightarrow A_n^{(k)}] - p^{|F|} n^{v(F)}| < \mu n^{v(F)}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $E_1, \dots, E_m$  be the ordering of edges in the definition of  $F$  being  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted. First we show that if  $Q : V(F) \rightarrow V(A_n^{(k)})$  is any injection, then the probability that  $Q(E_i) \in A_n^{(k)}$  is exactly  $p$  independently of if the edges  $E_j$  with  $j < i$  map to hyperedges or not. Indeed, since  $\mathcal{I} \neq \binom{[k]}{k-1}$ , let  $I \in \binom{[k]}{k-1} - \mathcal{I}$ . Now consider some  $E_i$  and let  $\phi_i : E_i \rightarrow [k]$  be the bijection from the definition of  $F$  being  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted. Now since  $I \notin \mathcal{I}$ , there is no  $j < i$  such that  $\phi_i(E_i \cap E_j) = I$ . Thus conditioning on if the edges  $E_j$  with  $j < i$  map to edges of  $A_n^{(k)}$  or not potentially fixes the colors on  $(k-1)$ -subsets of  $Q(E_i)$  besides the  $(k-1)$ -subset indexed by  $I$ . Since the color of  $\{Q(x) : x \in E_i, \phi_i(x) \in I\}$  (which has size  $k-1$ ) has probability exactly  $p$  to make the color sum of  $Q(E_i)$  once all other colors are fixed, with probability  $p$  we have that  $Q(E_i)$  is an edge.

Therefore, the probability that  $Q$  is an edge-preserving map is  $p^{|F|}$ . This implies that the expected number of labeled copies of  $F$  in  $A_n^{(k)}$  is  $p^{|F|} n(n-1) \cdots (n-v(F)+1)$ . A simple second moment calculation shows that with high probability the number of labeled copies of  $F$  in  $A_n^{(k)}$  is  $p^{|F|} n^{v(F)} \pm \mu n^{v(F)}$  for large  $n$ .  $\square$

Lastly, we need to show that  $A_n^{(k)}$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  in every link for every  $\mathcal{J}$ . We could do that similar to the previous lemma by showing that the count of  $\mathcal{J}$ -adapted  $k$ -graphs is correct, but instead are able to directly show that  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  holds.

**Lemma 13.** *Let  $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[k-1]}$  be an antichain and  $\alpha = \frac{k-1}{k}$ . Then for every  $\mu > 0$ , with probability going to one as  $n$  goes to infinity,  $L(x)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  for each  $x \in V(A_n^{(k)})$ .*

*Proof.* Fix  $x \in V(A_n^{(k)})$  and view  $L_{A_n^{(k)}}(x)$  as a probability distribution over  $(k-1)$ -graphs with vertex set  $V(A_n^{(k)})-x$ . That is, an element from this probability distribution is generated by first generating  $A_n^{(k)}$  and then outputting the link of  $x$ . We claim that the probability distribution  $L(x)$  is isomorphic to the probability distribution  $G^{(k-1)}(n-1, \alpha)$ . To see this, consider  $S \in \binom{V(A_n^{(k)})-x}{k-1}$ . Then  $S \in L(x)$  if

$$\sum_{\substack{T \subseteq S \cup \{x\} \\ |T|=k-1}} f(T) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{k}.$$

We could rewrite this as

$$f(S) \not\equiv \sum_{\substack{T \subseteq S \\ |T|=k-2}} f(T \cup x) \pmod{k}.$$

The sum on the left hand side is some integer  $w_S$  between 0 and  $k-1$ , so that  $S$  is a hyperedge of  $L(x)$  if and only if the color of  $S$  is not  $w_S$ . Since this is for every  $S$  and the colors assigned to  $S$  are mutually independent,  $L(x)$  is isomorphic to  $G^{(k-1)}(n-1, \alpha)$ .

The proof is now complete, since for large  $n$   $G^{(k-1)}(n-1, \alpha)$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  with very high probability as follows. Fix any  $\mathcal{J}$ -layout  $\Lambda$ . Each  $(k-1)$ -clique in  $\Lambda$  is a hyperedge with probability  $\alpha$  and two  $(k-1)$ -cliques are independent unless one is a permutation of the other. So divide  $K_{k-1}(\Lambda)$  up into at most  $(k-1)!$  sets  $R_1, \dots, R_{(k-1)!}$  such that within a single  $R_i$  there are no  $(k-1)$ -tuples which are permutations of each other. Then the expected size of  $H \cap R_i$  is  $\alpha|R_i|$  and by Chernoff's inequality,

$$\mathbb{P}\left[|H \cap R_i| - \alpha|R_i| > \epsilon n^{k-1}\right] < 2e^{-\epsilon^2 n^{2k-2}/2|R_i|}.$$

Since  $|R_i| \leq n^{k-1}$ , the probability is at most  $e^{-cn^{k-1}}$  for some constant  $c$ . There are  $(k-1)!$  sets  $R_i$  and there are at most  $2^{k-2}2^{n^{k-2}}$   $\mathcal{J}$ -layouts  $\Lambda$ , so with probability at most  $e^{-c'n^{k-1}}$ , the link of  $x$  fails  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$ . There are  $n$  vertices of  $A_n^{(k)}$ , so with probability at most  $ne^{-c'n^{k-1}} \rightarrow 0$ , there is some vertex  $x$  of  $A_n^{(k)}$  whose link fails  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Proposition 3.* As mentioned previously, to show that  $A_n^{(k)}$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}(\mathcal{I}, \geq p, \mu)$ , we combine Lemma 12 with a theorem of Towsner [38] which is stated in the language of  $k$ -graph sequences. Converting from the probability distribution  $A_n^{(k)}$  to a  $k$ -graph sequence is very similar to the proofs of [29, Lemmas 30 and 31] so we only briefly sketch the technique here. By the previous lemmas and the probabilistic method, for every  $\mu > 0$  there exists an  $n_0$  such that for every  $n \geq n_0$  there exists some  $k$ -graph satisfying the properties in the previous lemmas (has the right edge density, fails  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}\left(\binom{[k]}{k-1}, \geq p, \mu\right)$ , no copy of  $K_r$ , has the right count of all  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted hypergraphs, and satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  in the links). Construct a  $k$ -graph sequence  $\mathcal{H} = \{H_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  by diagonalization by setting  $\mu = \frac{1}{n}$ .

By Lemma 12,  $\mathcal{H}$  satisfies the property that for every  $\mathcal{I}$ -adapted  $F$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} t_F(H_n) = p^{|F|}$  so by [38, Theorem 1.1]  $\mathcal{H}$  is  $\text{Disc}_p[\mathcal{I}]$  (where  $t_F(H_n)$  and  $\text{Disc}_p[\mathcal{I}]$  are defined in [38]). Thus for large  $n$ , the  $k$ -graphs in the sequence  $\mathcal{H}$  are the  $k$ -graphs which prove Proposition 3.  $\square$

*Proof of Proposition 4.* Let  $G = G^{(k)}(n, p)$  be the random  $k$ -graph with density  $p$ . Modify  $G$  by picking a single vertex  $x \in V(G)$ , removing all edges which contain  $x$ , and adding edges so that  $L(x) = A_n^{(k-1)}$ . Now the link of  $x$  has no copy of  $K_r^{(k-1)}$  so that  $G$  has no perfect  $K_{r+1}^{(k)}$ -packing. Also,  $G$  satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}\left(\binom{[k]}{k-1}, \geq p, \mu\right)$  since the random  $k$ -graph satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k)}\left(\binom{[k]}{k-1}, \geq p, \mu\right)$  (see the proof of Lemma 13) and we only modified at most  $n^{k-1}$  hyperedges. By the previous lemmas, the link of  $x$  fails  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}\left(\binom{[k-1]}{k-2}, \geq \alpha, \mu\right)$  and satisfies  $\text{Disc}^{(k-1)}(\mathcal{J}, \geq \alpha, \mu)$  for all  $\mathcal{J} \neq \binom{[k-1]}{k-2}$ .  $\square$

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