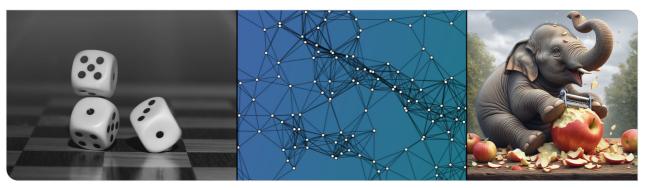




Probability and Computing – The Peeling Algorithm

Stefan Walzer | WS 2024/2025



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1. Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

- 2. The Peeling Algorithm
- 3. The Peeling Theorem

4. Conclusion

Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions $_{\rm OOO}$

The Peeling Algorithm

The Peeling Theorem

Conclusion 00



1. Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

2. The Peeling Algorithm

3. The Peeling Theorem

4. Conclusion

Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions $_{\odot \odot \odot}$

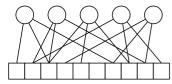
The Peeling Algorithm

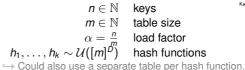
The Peeling Theorem

Conclusion

Cuckoo Hashing with one table and k hash functions







randomWalkInsert(x)

(some improvements possible)

Theorem (without proof)

For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$ there is a **threshold** c_k^* such that:

- if $\alpha < c_k^*$ all keys can be placed with probability $1 O(\frac{1}{m})$.
- if $\alpha > c_k^*$ not all keys can be placed with probability $1 \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{m})$.

 $c_2^* = rac{1}{2}, \quad c_3^* pprox 0.92, \quad c_4^* pprox 0.98, \ldots$

Theorem (Bell, Frieze, 2024)

If $k \ge 4$ and $\alpha < c_k^*$ then, conditioned on a high probability event^{*a*}, the expected insertion time is $\mathcal{O}(1)$.

^aWithout this conditioning, randomWalkInsert might be trapped in an infinite loop.

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The Peeling Algorithm

The Peeling Theorem

Static Hash Tables

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Static Hash Table

Constructing cuckoo hash tables:

- solved by Khosla 2013: "Balls into Bins Made Faster"
- matching algorithm resembling preflow push
- expected running time $\mathcal{O}(n)$, finds placement whenever one exists
- not in this lecture

Greedily constructing cuckoo hash tables

- Peeling: simple algorithm but sophisticated analysis
- interesting applications beyond hash tables (see "retrieval" in next lecture)

Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions $\circ \circ \bullet$

The Peeling Algorithm

The Peeling Theorem

Conclusion





1. Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

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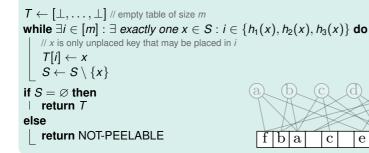
Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions $_{\rm OOO}$

The Peeling Algorithm ●○○ The Peeling Theorem

The Peeling Algorithm



constructByPeeling($S \subseteq D, h_1, h_2, h_3 \in [m]^D$)



Exercise

- Success of constructByPeeling does not depend on choices for *i* made by while.
- constructByPeeling can be implemented in linear time.

Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

The Peeling Algorithm

d

The Peeling Theorem

Conclusion

Peelability and the Cuckoo Graph

Cuckoo Graph and Peelability

• The Cuckoo Graph is the bipartite graph

 $G_{S,h_1,h_2,h_3} = (S,[m],\{(x,h_i(x)) \mid x \in S, i \in [3]\})$

- Call *G*_{*S*,*h*₁,*h*₂,*h*₃ **peelable** if constructByPeeling(*S*, *h*₁, *h*₂, *h*₃) succeeds.}
- If h₁, h₂, h₃ ~ U([m]^D) then the distribution of G_{S,h1,h2,h3} does not depend on S. We then simply write G_{m,αm}.
 - $m \square$ -nodes and $\lfloor \alpha m \rfloor$ -O-nodes
 - think: α is constant and $m \to \infty$.

Peeling simplified (not computing placement)

while $\exists \square$ *-node of degree* 1 **do** \lfloor remove it and its incident \bigcirc

Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

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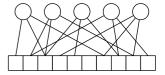
The Peeling Algorithm

G is peelable if and only if

this algorithm removes all O-nodes.

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1. Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

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The Peeling Algorithm

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Peeling Theorem

Peeling Threshold

Let $c_3^{\Delta} = \min_{y \in [0,1]} \frac{y}{3(1-e^{-y})^2} \approx 0.81.$

Theorem (today's goal)

Let $\alpha < c_3^{\Delta}$. Then $\Pr[G_{m,\alpha m} \text{ is peelable}] = 1 - o(1)$.

Remark: More is known.

- For " $\alpha < c_3^{\Delta}$ " we get "peelable" with probability 1 O(1/m).
- For " $\alpha > c_3^{\Delta}$ " we get "not peelable" with probability 1 O(1/m).
- Corresponding thresholds c_k^{Δ} for $k \ge 3$ hash functions are also known.

Exercise: What about k = 2?

Peeling does not reliably work for k = 2 for any $\alpha > 0$.

Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions The Peeling Algorithm OOO The Peeling Algorithm



Peeling Theorem: Proof outline



Theorem (today's goal)

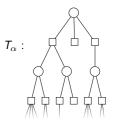
Let $\alpha < c_3^{\Delta}$. Then $\Pr[G_{m,\alpha m} \text{ is peelable}] = 1 - o(1)$.

Proof Idea

The random (possibly) infinite tree T_{α} can be peeled for $\alpha < c_3^{\Delta}$ and T_{α} is locally like $G_{m,\alpha m}$.

Steps

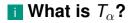
- What is T_{α} ?
- What does peeling mean in this setting?
- **What role does** c_3^{Δ} play?
- **W** What does it mean for T_{α} to be locally like $G_{m,\alpha m}$?
- V What is the probability that a fixed key of $G_{m,\alpha m}$ is peeled?
- **W** What is the probability that *all* keys of $G_{m,\alpha m}$ are peeled?



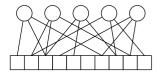
Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

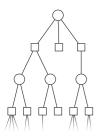
The Peeling Algorithm

The Peeling Theorem









Observations for the finite Graph $G_{m,\alpha m}$

- each \bigcirc has 3 \square as neighbours (rare exception: $h_1(x), h_2(x), h_3(x)$ not distinct)
- each \Box has random number X of \bigcirc as neighbours with

 $X \sim Bin(3n, \frac{1}{m}) = Bin(3\lfloor \alpha m \rfloor, \frac{1}{m})$. In an exercise you'll show

$$\Pr[X=i] \stackrel{m \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} \Pr_{Y \sim \operatorname{Pois}(3\alpha)}[Y=i].$$

Definition of the (possibly) infinite random tree T_{α}

- root is O and has three I as children
- each
 has random number of
 children, sampled Pois(3α) (independently for each
 ...).
- each non-root has two □ as children.

Remark: T_{α} is finite with positive probability > 0, e.g. when the first three Pois(3α) random variables come out as 0. But T_{α} is also infinite with positive probability.

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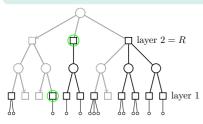
The Peeling Theorem

What does peeling mean in this setting?



Peeling Algorithm

 $\stackrel{\hookrightarrow}{\longrightarrow} \text{not well defined outcome on } T_{\alpha}! \\ \stackrel{\bigoplus}{\longrightarrow} \text{but well defined on } T_{\alpha}^{R}!$



Peel only the first $R \in \mathbb{N}$ layers

- Let T_{α}^{R} be the first 2R + 1 levels of T_{α} .
- *R layers* of __-nodes, labeled bottom to top.
- Run peeling on T_{α}^{R} (later $R \to \infty$).

 \hookrightarrow Why not consider the first 2R levels? (without +1)

Only care whether root is removed (root represents arbitrary node in $G_{m,\alpha m}$)

We may then simplify the peeling algorithm.

- replace "-node of degree 1" condition with stronger "childless -node".
 - prevents peeling of -nodes with one child and no parent
 - no matter: such nodes are disconnected from the root anyway
- whether node is peeled only depends on subtree
 - \hookrightarrow one bottom up pass suffices for peeling

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The Peeling Algorithm

The Peeling Theorem

Conclusion

What does peeling mean in this setting? (2)



Observation

Let $q_R = \Pr[\text{root survives when peeling } T_{\alpha}^R]$. The values q_R are decreasing in R.

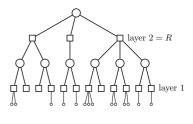
Peeling Algorithm

while \exists *childless* \Box *-node* **do** \lfloor remove it and its incident \bigcirc

Proof.

Assume when peeling T_{α}^{R} the sequence $\vec{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$ is a valid sequence of \Box -node choices. Then \vec{x} is also valid when peeling T_{α}^{R+1} .

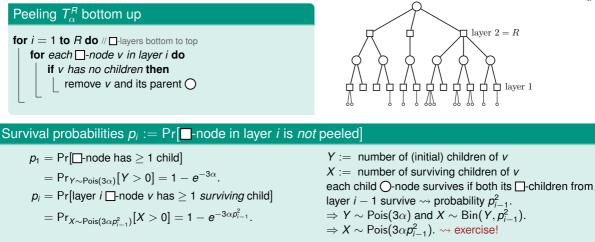
peeling T_{α}^{R} removes the root \Rightarrow peeling T_{α}^{R+1} removes the root root survives when peeling $T_{\alpha}^{R+1} \Rightarrow$ peeling T_{α}^{R} removes the root $q_{R+1} \leq q_{R}$



Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions $_{\rm OOO}$

The Peeling Algorithm

The Peeling Theorem



Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

The Peeling Algorithm

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Conclusion

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What does peeling mean in this setting? (3)





Peeling T_{α}^{R} bottom up

for i = 1 to R do // \Box -layers bottom to top for each -node v in layer i do if v has no children then

 $p_1 = \Pr[\square$ -node has ≥ 1 child]

remove v and its parent \bigcirc

 $= \Pr_{Y \sim \operatorname{Pois}(3\alpha)}[Y > 0] = 1 - e^{-3\alpha}.$

 $p_i = \Pr[\text{layer } i \square \text{-node } v \text{ has } \ge 1 \text{ surviving child}]$

$= \Pr_{X \sim \operatorname{Pois}(3\alpha p_{i-1}^2)}[X > 0] = 1 - e^{-3\alpha p_{i-1}^2}$

 \Box -survival probabilities. With $p_0 := 1$ we have

$$p_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = 0\\ 1 - e^{-3\alpha p_{i-1}^2} & \text{if } i = 1, 2, \dots \end{cases}$$

Moreover: $q_B := \Pr[\text{root survives}] = p_B^3$.

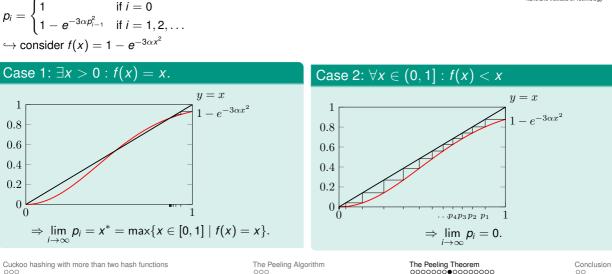
$$\int 1 \qquad \text{if } i = 0$$

What does peeling mean in this setting? (3)

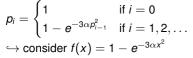
Survival probabilities $p_i := \Pr[-node in layer i is not peeled]$



laver 2 = R



What role does $c_3^{\Delta} \approx 0.81$ play?

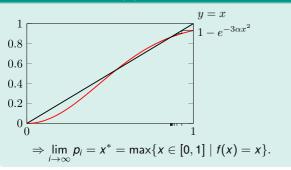




III What role does $c_3^\Delta pprox$ 0.81 play?

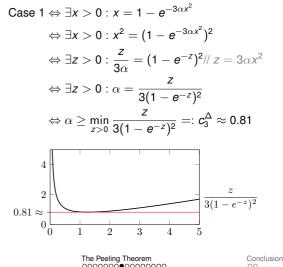
$$p_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = 0\\ 1 - e^{-3\alpha p_{i-1}^2} & \text{if } i = 1, 2, \dots \end{cases}$$
$$\hookrightarrow \text{ consider } f(x) = 1 - e^{-3\alpha x^2}$$

Case 1: $\exists x > 0 : f(x) = x$.



The Peeling Algorithm





Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

iii Interim Conclusion: What we learned about peeling T_{lpha}



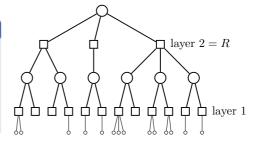
Lemma

For $\alpha < c_3^{\Delta} \approx 0.81$ we have

 $\square \lim_{i\to\infty} p_i = 0.$

$$\lim_{R\to\infty}q_R=\lim_{R\to\infty}p_R^3=0.$$

"Root rarely survives for large *R*."



Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions $_{\rm OOO}$

The Peeling Algorithm

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Conclusion

What does it mean for T_{α} to be locally like $G_{m,\alpha m}$?



Neighbourhoods in T_{α} and G

Let $R \in \mathbb{N}$. We consider

- T_{α}^{R} as before and
- for any fixed $x \in S$ the subgraph $G_{m,\alpha m}^{x,R}$ of $G_{m,\alpha m}$ induced by all nodes with distance at most 2R from x.

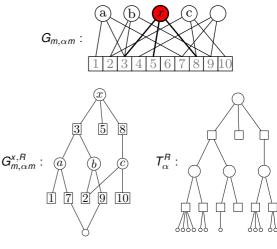
Lemma

For any $R \in \mathbb{N}$, the **distribution** of $G_{m,\alpha m}^{x,R}$ converges the distribution of \mathcal{T}_{α}^{R} , i.e.

$$\forall T: \lim_{m \to \infty} \Pr[G^{x,R}_{m,\alpha m} = T] = \Pr[T^R_{\alpha} = T].$$

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Conclusion 00

iv Distribution of T_{α}^{R}

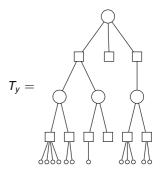


e.g. for
$$y = (2, 0, 1, 4, 2, 1, 0, 3, 2)$$
:

Lemma

Let T_y be a possible outcome of T_{α}^R given by a finite sequence $y = (y_1, \ldots, y_k) \in \mathbb{N}_0^k$ specifying the number of children of \Box -nodes in level order. Then

$$\Pr[T_{\alpha}^{R} = T_{y}] = \prod_{i=1}^{k} \Pr_{Y \sim \mathsf{Pois}(3\alpha)}[Y = y_{i}].$$



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iv No cycles in $G_{m,\alpha m}^{x,R}$

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Lemma

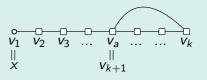
Assume $R = \mathcal{O}(1)$. The probability that $G_{m,\alpha m}^{x,R}$ contains a cycle is $\mathcal{O}(1/m)$.

Proof.

If $G_{m,\alpha m}^{x,R}$ contains a cycle then we have

• a sequence
$$(v_1 = x, v_2, \dots, v_k, v_{k+1} = v_a)$$
 of nodes with $a \in [k]$

- of length $k \leq 4R$ (consider BFS tree for x and additional edge in it)
- for each *i* ∈ {1,..., *k*} an index *j_i* ∈ {1,2,3} of the hash function connecting *v_i* and *v_{i+1}*. (If *a* = *k* − 1 then *j_k* ≠ *j_{k−1}*.)



 $\Pr[\exists \text{cycle in } G_{m,\alpha m}^{x,R}] \leq \Pr[\exists 2 \leq k \leq 4R : \exists v_2, \dots, v_k : \exists a \in [k] : \exists j_1, \dots, j_k \in [3] : \forall i \in [k] : h_{j_i} \text{ connects } v_i \text{ to } v_{i+1}]$

$$\leq \sum_{k=2}^{4R} \sum_{v_2, \dots, v_k} \sum_{a=1}^{k} \sum_{j_1, \dots, j_k} \prod_{i=1}^{k} \Pr[h_{j_i} \text{ connects } v_i \text{ to } v_{i+1}] \leq \sum_{k=2}^{4R} (\max\{m, n\})^{k-1} \cdot k \cdot 3^k (\frac{1}{m})^k = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=2}^{4R} k \cdot 3^k = \mathcal{O}(1/m).$$

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Lemma

Let T_y be a possible outcome of T_{α}^R as before. Then

$$\mathsf{Pr}_{h_1,h_2,h_3\sim\mathcal{U}([m]^D)}[G^{\mathsf{x},R}_{m,\alpha m}=T_y] \xrightarrow{m\to\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{\kappa} \mathsf{Pr}_{\mathsf{Y}\sim\mathsf{Pois}(3\alpha)}[\mathsf{Y}=y_i].$$

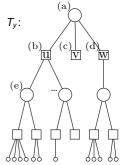
"Proof by example", using T_y shown on the right.

The following things have to "go right" for $G_{m,\alpha m}^{x,R} = T_y$.

a $h_1(x), h_2(x), h_3(x)$ pairwise distinct: probability $\xrightarrow{m \to \infty} 1$ \hookrightarrow non-distinct would give cycle of length 2. Unlikely by lemma.

Note: $3\lfloor \alpha m \rfloor - 3$ remaining hash values $\sim \mathcal{U}([m])$.





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Lemma

Let T_y be a possible outcome of T_{α}^R as before. Then

$$\mathsf{Pr}_{h_1,h_2,h_3\sim\mathcal{U}([m]^D)}[G^{x,R}_{m,\alpha m}=T_y] \xrightarrow{m\to\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{\kappa} \mathsf{Pr}_{Y\sim\mathsf{Pois}(3\alpha)}[Y=y_i].$$

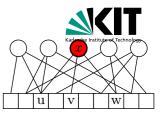
"Proof by example", using T_y shown on the right.

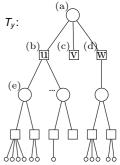
b Exactly $y_1 = 2$ of the remaining hash values are *u*.

$$\rightarrow \mathsf{Pr}_{\mathsf{Y} \sim \mathit{Bin}(3\lfloor \alpha m \rfloor - 3, \frac{1}{m})}[\mathsf{Y} = 2] \stackrel{m \rightarrow \infty}{\longrightarrow} \mathsf{Pr}_{\mathsf{Y} \sim \mathsf{Pois}(3\alpha)}[\mathsf{Y} = 2]. \rightarrow \mathsf{exercise}$$

Moreover: The two hash values must belong to 2 distinct keys. Probability $\xrightarrow{m\to\infty}$ 1. \hookrightarrow non-distinct would give cycle of length 2.

Note: The $3\lfloor \alpha m \rfloor - 5$ remaining hash values are $\sim \mathcal{U}([m] \setminus \{u\})$. \rightarrow exercise





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Conclusion 00

Lemma

. . .

Let T_y be a possible outcome of T_{α}^R as before. Then

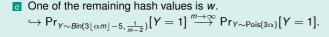
$$\mathsf{Pr}_{h_1,h_2,h_3\sim\mathcal{U}([m]^D)}[G^{x,R}_{m,\alpha m}=T_y] \xrightarrow{m\to\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{\kappa} \mathsf{Pr}_{\mathsf{Y}\sim\mathsf{Pois}(3\alpha)}[Y=y_i].$$

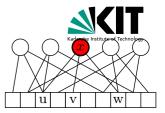
"Proof by example", using T_{y} shown on the right.

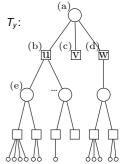
c None of the remaining hash values are *v*.

$$\hookrightarrow \mathsf{Pr}_{Y \sim \mathit{Bin}(3\lfloor \alpha m \rfloor - 5, \frac{1}{m-1})}[Y = 0] \stackrel{m \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} \mathsf{Pr}_{Y \sim \mathsf{Pois}(3\alpha)}[Y = 0].$$

Note: The $3\lfloor \alpha m \rfloor - 5$ remaining hash values are $\sim \mathcal{U}([m] \setminus \{u, v\})$.







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Lemma

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Let T_y be a possible outcome of T_{α}^R as before. Then

$$\mathsf{Pr}_{h_1,h_2,h_3\sim\mathcal{U}([m]^D)}[G^{x,R}_{m,\alpha m}=T_y] \xrightarrow{m\to\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{\kappa} \mathsf{Pr}_{\mathsf{Y}\sim\mathsf{Pois}(3\alpha)}[Y=y_i].$$

Proof sketch in general (some details ommitted)

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General case at *i*-th □-node. Want: probability that G^{x,R}_{m,∞m} continues to match T_y. Note: T_y is fixed, so *i* and the number c_i of previously revealed hash values is bounded.

$$\mathsf{Pr}_{\mathsf{Y}\sim \textit{Bin}(3\lfloor \alpha m\rfloor - c_i, \frac{1}{m-i+1})}[\mathsf{Y} = y_i] \xrightarrow{m \to \infty} \mathsf{Pr}_{\mathsf{Y}\sim \mathsf{Pois}(3\alpha)}[\mathsf{Y} = y_i].$$

Moreover, those y_i hash values must belong to distinct fresh keys. Probability $\xrightarrow{m \to \infty} 1$ \hookrightarrow otherwise we'd have a cycle.

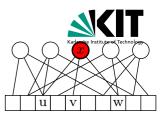
General case for O-node. The two children must be fresh: probability → 1 → otherwise there would be a cycle.

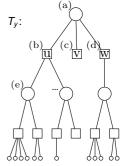
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The Peeling Algorithm







Probability that a specific key survives peeling



Lemma

Let $\alpha < c_3^{\Delta}$. Let *x* be any \bigcirc -node in $G_{m,\alpha m}$ as before (chosen before sampling the hash functions). Let

 $\mu_m := \mathsf{Pr}_{h_1,h_2,h_3 \sim \mathcal{U}([m]^D)}[x \text{ is removed when peeling } G_{m,\alpha m}].$

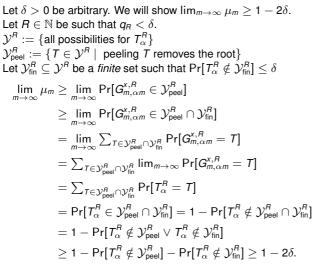
Then $\lim_{m\to\infty}\mu_m = 1$.

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$\mathbf{v} \ \mu_m := \Pr[x \text{ is removed when peeling } G_{m,\alpha m}] \stackrel{m o \infty}{\longrightarrow} 1$



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possible because $\lim_{R\to\infty} q_R = 0$

note: $\Pr[T_{\alpha}^{R} \notin \mathcal{Y}_{peel}^{R}] = q_{R} \leq \delta$. uses that \mathcal{Y}^{R} is countable and $\sum_{T \in \mathcal{Y}^{R}} \Pr[T_{\alpha}^{R} = T] = 1$. peeling only in *R*-neighbourhood of *x* is "weaker"

finite sums commute with limit

previous lemmas

De Morgan's laws: $\overline{A \cap B} = \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}$

union bound: $\Pr[E_1 \lor E_2] \leq \Pr[E_1] + \Pr[E_2]$

Conclusion
00



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Proof of the Peeling Theorem

Theorem

Let $\alpha < c_3^{\Delta}$. Then

 $\Pr[G_{m,\alpha m} \text{ is peelable}] = 1 - o(1).$

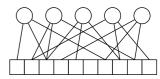
Proof

Let $n = \lfloor \alpha m \rfloor$ and $0 \le s \le n$ the number of \bigcirc nodes surviving peeling. last lemma: each \bigcirc survives with probability o(1). linearity of expectation $\mathbb{E}[s] = n \cdot o(1) = o(n)$. Exercise: $\Pr[s \in \{1, \dots, \delta n\}] = \mathcal{O}(1/m)$ if $\delta > 0$ is a small enough constant. Markov: $\Pr[s > \delta n] \le \frac{\mathbb{E}[s]}{\delta n} = \frac{o(n)}{\delta n} = o(1)$. finally: $\Pr[s > 0] = \Pr[s \in \{1, \dots, \delta n\}] + \Pr[s > \delta n] = \mathcal{O}(1/m) + o(1) = o(1)$. \Box

Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions $_{\rm OOO}$

The Peeling Algorithm

The Peeling Theorem





Conclusion



Peeling Process

- greedy algorithm for placing keys in cuckoo table
- works up to a load factor of $c_3^{\Delta} \approx 0.81$

We saw glimpses of important techniques

- Local interactions in large graphs. Also used in statistical physics.
- Galton-Watson Processes / Trees. Random processes related to T_{α} .
- Local weak convergence. How the finite graph $G_{m,\alpha m}$ is locally like T_{α} .

But wait, there's more!

- Further applications of peeling
 - retrieval data structures (next lecture)
 - perfect hash functions (next lecture)

- set sketches
- linear error correcting codes

Cuckoo hashing with more than two hash functions

The Peeling Algorithm

The Peeling Theorem

Anhang: Mögliche Prüfungsfragen I



Cuckoo Hashing und der Schälalgorithmus

- (Wie) kann man Cuckoo Hashing mit mehr als 2 Hashfunktionen aufziehen?
- Welcher Vorteil ergibt sich im Vergleich zu 2 Hashfunktionen?
- Wie funktioniert der Schälalgorithmus zur Platzierung von Schlüsseln in einer Cuckoo Hashtabelle?
- Schälen lässt sich als einfacher Prozess auf Graphen auffassen. Wie?
- Was besagt das Hauptresultat, das wir zum Schälprozess bewiesen haben?
- Beweis des Schälsatzes. Mir ist klar, dass der Beweis äußerst kompliziert ist.
 - Im Beweis haben zwei Graphen eine Rolle gespielt ein endlicher und ein (potentiell) unendlicher. Wie waren diese Graphen definiert?
 - Welcher Zusammenhang besteht zwischen der Verteilung der Knotengrade in T_{α} und $G_{m,\alpha m}$?