

## ON WEAKLY TURÁN-GOOD GRAPHS

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### Abstract

Given graphs  $H$  and  $F$  with  $\chi(H) < \chi(F)$ , we say that  $H$  is weakly  $F$ -Turán-good if among  $n$ -vertex  $F$ -free graphs, a  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -partite graph contains the most copies of  $H$ . Let  $H$  be a bipartite graph that contains a complete bipartite subgraph  $K$  such that each vertex of  $H$  is adjacent to a vertex of  $K$ . We show that  $H$  is weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-good, improving a very recent asymptotic bound due to Grzesik, Győri, Salia and Tompkins. They also showed that for any  $r$  there exist graphs that are not weakly  $K_r$ -Turán-good. We show that for any non-bipartite  $F$  there exist graphs that are not weakly  $F$ -Turán-good. We also show examples of graphs that are  $C_{2k+1}$ -Turán-good but not  $C_{2\ell+1}$ -Turán-good for every  $k > \ell$ .

**Keywords:** generalized Turán problem, extremal, Turán-good.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Given a graph  $F$ , another graph  $G$  is called  $F$ -free if  $G$  does not contain any copy of  $F$  as a non-necessarily induced subgraph. Let  $\text{ex}(n, F)$  denote the largest number of edges in  $n$ -vertex  $F$ -free graphs. Turán [24] proved that  $\text{ex}(n, K_{r+1}) = |E(T(n, r))|$ , where the *Turán graph*  $T(n, r)$  is the complete  $r$ -partite graph with each part of order  $\lfloor n/r \rfloor$  or  $\lceil n/r \rceil$ . Simonovits [22] proved that for an  $(r + 1)$ -chromatic  $F$  we have  $\text{ex}(n, F) = |E(T(n, r))|$  for sufficiently large  $n$  if and only if  $F$  has a color-critical edge, i.e., an edge whose removal decreases the chromatic number. The Erdős-Stone-Simonovits theorem [6, 7] states that for any  $(r + 1)$ -chromatic graph  $F$  we have  $\text{ex}(n, F) = |E(T(n, r))| + o(n^2)$ .

Given graphs  $H$  and  $G$ , let  $\mathcal{N}(H, G)$  denote the number of copies of  $H$  in  $G$ . In *generalized Turán problems*, we deal with  $\text{ex}(n, H, F)$ , which is the largest

$\mathcal{N}(H, G)$  where  $G$  is an  $n$ -vertex  $F$ -free graph. The first result in this area is due to Zykov [25], who showed that  $\text{ex}(n, K_k, K_{r+1}) = \mathcal{N}(K_k, T(n, r))$ .

Generalized Turán problems have attracted several researchers since then. One of the main directions of research has been studying when the Turán graph, or more generally a complete  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -partite graph is extremal. Given a graph  $F$  with  $\chi(F) = r + 1$ , we say that  $H$  is *F-Turán-good* if  $\text{ex}(n, H, F) = \mathcal{N}(H, T(n, r))$  for  $n$  sufficiently large, and we say that  $H$  is *weakly F-Turán-good* if  $\text{ex}(n, H, F) = \mathcal{N}(H, T)$  for  $n$  sufficiently large for some complete  $r$ -partite  $n$ -vertex graph  $T$ . Note that for a given  $H$ , it is straightforward but complicated to determine which  $n$ -vertex complete  $r$ -partite graph contains the most copies of  $H$ .

Győri, Pach and Simonovits [16] studied  $K_{r+1}$ -Turán-good graphs. They showed that if  $H$  is a complete  $k$ -partite graph with  $k \leq r$ , then  $H$  is weakly  $K_{r+1}$ -Turán-good. They also constructed several  $K_{r+1}$ -Turán-good graphs. In particular, if  $H$  is a bipartite graph with a matching containing all but at most one of its vertices, then  $H$  is  $K_3$ -Turán-good.

Gerbner and Palmer [14] initiated the study of  $F$ -Turán-good graphs for non-complete graphs  $F$ . They also conjectured that paths  $P_k$  are  $K_{r+1}$ -Turán-good for any  $r \geq 2$ , where  $P_k$  denote the path on  $k$  vertices. This was proved in [12], after partial results in [9, 18, 20, 21].

We say that  $H$  is *asymptotically F-Turán-good* if we have  $\text{ex}(n, H, F) = (1 + o(1))\mathcal{N}(H, T(n, r))$  and we say that  $H$  is *asymptotically weakly F-Turán-good* if  $\text{ex}(n, H, F) = (1 + o(1))\mathcal{N}(H, T)$  for some complete  $r$ -partite graph  $T$ . Let  $H$  be a bipartite graph containing a subgraph  $K$  isomorphic to  $K_{s,t}$ . Assume that each vertex  $v \in V(H)$  is adjacent to a vertex of  $V(K)$ . Grzesik, Győri, Salia and Tompkins [15] showed that  $H$  is asymptotically weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-good. We improve this to an exact result. Moreover, we extend the result to any 3-chromatic graph with a color-critical edge in place of  $K_3$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $H$  be a bipartite graph containing a subgraph  $K$  isomorphic to  $K_{s,t}$  and assume that each vertex  $v \in V(H)$  is adjacent to a vertex of  $V(K)$ . Let  $F$  be a 3-chromatic graph with a color-critical edge. Then  $H$  is weakly  $F$ -Turán-good.*

Considering the large variety of weakly  $K_{r+1}$ -Turán-good graphs, it is a natural idea that maybe all graphs of chromatic number at most  $r$  have this property. However, Győri, Pach and Simonovits [16] showed a bipartite graph that is not weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-good, moreover, not even asymptotically weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-good. Grzesik, Győri, Salia and Tompkins [15] showed for any  $r \geq 2$  an  $r$ -chromatic graph that is not asymptotically weakly  $K_{r+1}$ -Turán-good. Here we extend this.

**Proposition 1.** *For any non-bipartite  $F$ , there exists a graph of chromatic number  $\chi(F) - 1$  that is not asymptotically weakly  $F$ -Turán-good.*

In extremal graph theory, graphs with a color-critical edge often behave similarly to cliques. We believe that this is the case in our setting as well.

**Conjecture 1.2.** *If  $F$  has a color-critical edge and chromatic number  $r + 1$ , and  $H$  is weakly  $K_{r+1}$ -Turán-good, then  $H$  is weakly  $F$ -Turán-good.*

This conjecture is supported by the fact that the asymptotic version is true: if  $H$  is asymptotically weakly  $K_{r+1}$ -Turán-good, then  $H$  is asymptotically weakly  $F$ -Turán-good. In fact,  $H$  is asymptotically weakly  $F'$ -Turán-good for any  $(r + 1)$ -chromatic graph  $F'$ . This follows from a theorem in [13], stating that  $\text{ex}(n, H, F) \leq \text{ex}(n, H, K_{r+1}) + o(n^{|V(H)|})$ . However, the reverse is not true. In fact, for every  $k > 2$  we can construct a graph that is asymptotically  $C_{2k+1}$ -Turán-good and not asymptotically weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-good. We prove more.

A *blow-up* of a graph  $G$  is obtained by replacing each vertex  $v_i$  with a non-empty independent set  $V_i$ , and each edge  $v_i v_j$  is replaced by all the possible edges between  $V_i$  and  $V_j$ . The sets  $V_i$  are called blown-up classes. We denote by  $G(m)$  the blow-up where each blown-up class has order  $m$ . A vertex  $v$  of  $G$  is *color-critical* if the removal of  $v$  decreases the chromatic number.

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $F$  be a 3-chromatic graph and let  $C_{2k+1}$  be the longest odd cycle such that a blow-up of it contains  $F$ . Then there is an asymptotically  $F$ -Turán-good graph  $H$  that is not asymptotically weakly  $C_{2\ell+1}$ -Turán-good for any  $\ell < k$ . Furthermore, if  $F$  has a color-critical vertex, then  $H$  is  $F$ -Turán-good.*

## 2. PROOFS

We say that  $H$  is  *$F$ -Turán-stable* if the following holds. If  $G$  is an  $n$ -vertex  $F$ -free graph with  $\mathcal{N}(H, G) \geq \text{ex}(n, H, F) - o(n^{|V(H)|})$ , then  $G$  can be obtained from  $T(n, \chi(F) - 1)$  by adding and removing  $o(n^2)$  edges. We say that  $H$  is *weakly  $F$ -Turán-stable* if the following holds. If  $G$  is an  $n$ -vertex  $F$ -free graph with  $\mathcal{N}(H, G) \geq \text{ex}(n, H, F) - o(n^{|V(H)|})$ , then  $G$  can be obtained from a complete  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -partite graph by adding and removing  $o(n^2)$  edges. Note that it is equivalent to the property that  $G$  can be turned into a  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -partite graph  $G'$  by removing  $o(n^2)$  edges. Indeed, if the second property holds but the first does not, then we need to add  $\Omega(n^2)$  edges to turn  $G'$  to a complete  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -partite graph  $G''$ . It is easy to see that we removed  $o(n^{|V(H)|})$  copies of  $H$  and then added  $\Omega(n^{|V(H)|})$  copies of  $H$ . Indeed, each edge in  $G''$  is clearly in  $\Omega(n^{|V(H)|-2})$  copies of  $H$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{N}(H, G) \leq \mathcal{N}(H, G'') - \Omega(n^{|V(H)|})$ , a contradiction.

The well-known Erdős-Simonovits stability theorem [3, 4, 23] states that  $K_2$  is  $F$ -Turán-stable for every  $F$ . Ma and Qiu [19] studied such stability in

generalized Turán problems first and showed that  $K_k$  is  $F$ -Turán-stable for every  $F$  with chromatic number more than  $k$ . Hei, Hou and Liu [18] and later Gerbner [11] studied the connection of such stability and exact result more generally. We will use two results from [11].

**Theorem 2.1** (Gerbner [11]). (i) *If  $H$  is weakly  $K_r$ -Turán-stable, then  $H$  is weakly  $F$ -Turán-stable for any  $r$ -chromatic graph  $F$ .*  
(ii) *If  $F$  has a color-critical edge, then weakly  $F$ -Turán-stable graphs are also weakly  $F$ -Turán-good.*

We will consider the *double star*  $S_{a,b}$ . It consists of a central edge  $uv$ ,  $a$  leaves joined to  $u$  and  $b$  leaves joined to  $v$ . Győri, Wang and Woolfson [17] proved that  $S_{a,b}$  is weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-good. Gerbner [10] showed that  $S_{a,b}$  is weakly  $F$ -Turán-good for any 3-chromatic graph  $F$  with a color-critical edge. We show that  $S_{a,b}$  is weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-stable.

**Proposition 2.**  *$S_{a,b}$  is weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-stable.*

**Proof.** We let  $f(x, y) = \binom{x-1}{a} \binom{y-1}{b} + \binom{y-1}{a} \binom{x-1}{b}$  if  $a \neq b$  and  $f(x, y) = \binom{x-1}{a} \binom{y-1}{b}$  if  $a = b$ . Győri, Wang and Woolfson [17] showed that in a  $K_3$ -free  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$  with maximum degree  $\Delta > n/2$ , each edge is the central edge of at most  $f(\Delta', n - \Delta')$  copies of  $S_{a,b}$  for some  $n/2 \leq \Delta' \leq \Delta$ . Moreover,  $G$  has at most  $\Delta(n - \Delta)$  edges. Let  $F_2$  denote the graph consisting of two triangles sharing a vertex. Gerbner [10] showed that for any  $\varepsilon' > 0$  there exists  $\delta' > 0$  such that if an  $F_2$ -free  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$  with maximum degree  $\Delta \geq n/2$  has at least  $\Delta(n - \Delta) - \delta'n^2$  edges, then  $G$  can be turned into a bipartite graph by deleting at most  $\varepsilon'n^2$  edges. We will pick a small  $\delta'$ .

Let  $G$  be a  $K_3$ -free  $n$ -vertex graph with at least  $\text{ex}(n, S_{a,b}, K_3) - \delta n^{a+b+2}$  copies of  $S_{a,b}$  and we want to show that  $G$  can be turned into a bipartite graph by deleting at most  $\varepsilon n^2$  edges. We consider two cases based on the maximum degree of  $G$ . In each case, we argue that either  $G$  has sufficiently many edges to apply a previously established stability result or  $G$  has too few edges to be near extremal.

Assume first that  $G$  has maximum degree  $\Delta > n/2$ . If the conclusion does not hold, then  $G$  has at most  $\Delta(n - \Delta) - \delta'n^2 \leq \Delta'(n - \Delta') - \delta'n^2$  edges by the previous paragraph. Each edge is the central edge at most  $q := f(\Delta', n - \Delta')$  copies of  $S_{a,b}$ , thus there are at most  $\Delta'(n - \Delta')q - \delta'n^2q = \mathcal{N}(S_{a,b}, K_{\Delta', n - \Delta'}) - \delta'\alpha n^{a+b+2}$  copies of  $S_{a,b}$  in  $G$  for some  $\alpha > 0$  that depends on  $a$  and  $b$ , but not on  $\varepsilon$ . Therefore, picking a sufficiently small  $\delta'$ , we obtain a contradiction with our assumption on  $G$ .

Assume now that  $\Delta \leq n/2$ . In this case we will show that  $G$  can be turned into  $K_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$  by deleting at most  $\varepsilon n^2$  edges. By the ordinary Erdős-Simonovits

stability the conclusion holds unless  $G$  has less than  $n^2/4 - \delta'n^2$  edges. Observe that each edge is the central edge of at most  $f(\Delta, \Delta) \leq f(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor) \leq f(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, \lceil n/2 \rceil) =: q'$  copies of  $S_{a,b}$ . Therefore, there are at most  $n^2 q' / 4 - \delta' n^2 q' \leq \mathcal{N}(S_{a,b}, K_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, \lceil n/2 \rceil}) - \delta' \alpha n^{a+b+2}$  copies of  $S_{a,b}$  in  $G$  for some  $\alpha > 0$  that does not depend on  $\varepsilon$ . We obtain a contradiction with our assumption on  $G$  as in the previous paragraph. ■

Note that this, combined with Theorem 2.1, gives a simpler proof of the theorem from [10] stating that  $S_{a,b}$  is  $F$ -Turán-good for every 3-chromatic graph  $F$  with a color-critical edge.

**Proposition 3.** *Let  $H$  be a bipartite graph containing a subgraph  $K$  isomorphic to  $K_{s,t}$  and assume that each vertex  $v \in V(H)$  is adjacent to a vertex of  $V(K)$ . Then  $H$  is weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-stable.*

**Proof.** Recall that [15] showed that  $H$  is asymptotically weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-good. We follow their proof. First they showed that it is enough to consider  $H$  that consists of  $K$  and some pendant edges. Assume that  $H$  has  $a+1$  vertices in one of its parts and  $b+1$  vertices in the other part. Let  $G$  be a  $K_3$ -free  $n$ -vertex graph, let  $p(G)$  denote the number of labeled copies of  $H$  in  $G$  and  $q(G)$  denote the number of labeled copies of  $S_{a,b}$  in  $G$ . It is shown in [15] that  $p(G) \leq q(G) + o(n^{a+b+2})$ . Observe that in a complete bipartite graph the same ordered sets of  $a+b+2$  vertices induce copies of  $H$  and  $S_{a,b}$ , and obviously the ratio of the numbers of labeled and unlabeled copies of a graph depends only on the graph itself. These imply the asymptotic result.

Let us assume now that  $G$  contains  $\text{ex}(n, H, K_3) - o(n^{a+b+2}) = \mathcal{N}(H, T) - o(n^{a+b+2})$  copies of  $H$ , for some  $n$ -vertex complete bipartite graph  $T$ . Then the number of labeled copies of  $H$  also differs by  $o(n^{a+b+2})$ , i.e.,  $p(G) = p(T) - o(n^{a+b+2})$ . Therefore, we have  $q(G) = q(T) - o(n^{a+b+2})$ , thus  $\mathcal{N}(S_{a,b}, G) = \mathcal{N}(S_{a,b}, T) - o(n^{a+b+2})$ . This, combined with Proposition 2, completes the proof. ■

Combined with Theorem 2.1, the above proposition implies Theorem 1.1.

Let us continue with the proof of Proposition 1. Recall that it states that for any non-bipartite  $F$ , there exists a graph of chromatic number  $\chi(F) - 1$  that is not asymptotically weakly  $F$ -Turán-good. Our construction is a slight generalization of the construction in [15], which we describe next, after some necessary definition.

Given a graph  $G$ ,  $G^k$  denotes the graph we obtain by connecting two vertices of  $G$  if and only if they are at distance at most  $k$  in  $G$ . The graph  $H$  that is not weakly  $K_{r+1}$ -Turán-good in [15] is obtained from  $P_{2r+2}^{r-1}$  by replacing the end-vertices of the original path by sufficiently large independent sets. Then they show that a very unbalanced blow-up of  $C_{2r+1}^{r-1}$  contains more copies of  $H$  than

any  $r$ -partite graph. On the other hand, any blow-up of  $C_{2r+1}^{r-1}$  is  $K_{r+1}$ -free, since any set of  $r+1$  vertices contains either 2 vertices from the same blown-up class, or 2 vertices that belong to classes that are at distance  $r$  in the original  $C_{2r+1}$ .

For simplicity, in the following proof, we will count labeled copies of  $H$  inside some host graphs. It is easy to see that it only differs by a multiplicative factor (the number of automorphisms of  $H$ ), independent of the host graph, thus does not affect our result.

**Proof of Proposition 1.** Let  $\chi(F) = r+1$  and  $k > |V(H)|$  be an integer that is divisible by  $r$ . We are going to use the following graph  $H$ . We take  $P_k^{r-1}$  and replace the end-vertices of the original path by independent sets of order  $a$ , where  $a$  is sufficiently large. We will show that a very unbalanced blow-up of  $C_k^{r-1}$  contains more copies of  $H$  than any  $r$ -partite graph.

We show that if  $k > |V(F)|$  and  $r$  divides  $k$ , then any blow-up of  $C_k^{r-1}$  is  $F$ -free. Indeed, a copy of  $F$  would not share any vertices with at least one of the blown-up classes, say with  $V_k$ . But the remaining graph is  $r$ -colorable (hence  $F$ -free), as shown by the following coloring. Let us color the vertices inside each blown-up class by the same color, and color the blown-up classes the following way. We go through the original  $C_k$  in a cyclic order, and color  $V_j$  by color  $j$  modulo  $r$ .

Observe that there is a unique  $r$ -coloring of any blow-up of  $P_k^{r-1}$ . In  $H$ , if  $k$  is not congruent to 1 modulo  $r$ , then the two  $a$ -sets corresponding to the end vertices of the original path have different color. Therefore, inside an  $r$ -partite  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$ , those sets are in different parts. It implies that there at most  $n^{k-2} \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^{2a}$  labeled copies of  $H$  in  $G$ .

Let  $G'$  be the blow-up of  $C_k^{r-1}$  where each vertex is replaced by  $\lfloor \gamma n \rfloor$  vertices except one vertex is replaced by  $n - (k-1)\lfloor \gamma n \rfloor$  vertices. Then the number of labeled copies of  $H$  in  $G'$  is at least  $(\gamma n)^{k-2} (n - (k-1)\lfloor \gamma n \rfloor)^{2a} + o(n^{k-2+2a})$ . For a given  $\gamma < 1/2k$ , we can pick  $a$  such that  $\gamma^{k-2} (1 - (k-1)\gamma)^{2a} > \frac{1}{2^{2a}}$ , completing the proof. ■

Let us turn to the proof of Theorem 1.3. We start with a lemma.

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $F$  be a 3-chromatic graph with a color-critical vertex and let  $C_{2k+1}$  be the longest odd cycle such that a blow-up of it contains  $F$ . Then  $F$  is the subgraph of a blow-up of  $C_{2k+1}$  where one of the blown-up classes has order 1.*

**Proof.** Let  $v$  be a color-critical vertex of  $F$  and consider a blow-up  $G$  of  $C_{2k+1}$  with parts  $V_1, \dots, V_{2k+1}$  in cyclic order, such that  $G$  contains  $F$ . Assume that  $v \in V_{2k+1}$ . We pick  $G$  such a way that  $V_{2k+1}$  is as small as possible.

Let us assume that there is another vertex  $v' \in V_{2k+1}$ . If  $v'$  is adjacent only to vertices in  $V_1$ , then we can move  $v'$  to  $V_2$ , thus  $|V_{2k+1}|$  decreases, a contradiction. If  $v'$  is adjacent only to vertices in  $V_{2k}$ , then we can move  $v'$  to

$V_{2k-1}$ , a contradiction. Assume that  $v'$  has neighbors  $v_1 \in V_1$  and  $v_{2k} \in V_{2k}$ . Let  $G'$  denote the bipartite graph we obtain from  $G$  by deleting  $V_{2k+1}$ , and let  $U$  denote the component containing  $v_1$  in  $G'$ . Then we move every vertex of  $U$  from  $V_i$  to  $V_{2k+1-i}$  for every  $i$ . We repeat this for every remaining neighbor of  $v'$  in  $V_1$ . At the end,  $v'$  has neighbors only in  $V_{2k}$ , thus we can move  $v'$  to  $V_{2k-1}$ , a contradiction. ■

**Proposition 5.** *If  $F$  is a 3-chromatic graph with a color-critical vertex, then for any integers  $\ell$  and  $m \geq |V(F)|$  we have that  $P_{2\ell}(m)$  is  $F$ -Turán-good.*

We remark that the first result concerning  $F$ -Turán-good graphs when  $F$  does not have a color-critical edge is due to Gerbner and Palmer [14], who showed that  $C_4$  is  $F_2$ -Turán-good, where  $F_2$  consists of two triangles sharing a vertex. Gerbner [8] constructed  $F$ -Turán-good graphs for every  $F$  with a color-critical vertex, but they were always complete  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -partite graphs. In particular,  $K_{m,m} = P_2(m)$  is  $F$ -Turán-good. The above proposition gives the first examples of another kind.

**Proof.** We apply induction on  $\ell$ , the base case  $\ell = 1$  was mentioned above. Assume the statement holds for  $\ell$  and prove it for  $\ell + 1$ . We count the copies of  $P_{2\ell+2}(m)$  in an  $n$ -vertex  $F$ -free graph  $G$  the following way. First we pick a copy of  $P_{2\ell}(m)$ , the number of ways to pick them is maximized when  $G = T(n, 2)$  by induction. Then, among the remaining  $n - 2\ell m$  vertices, we pick a copy of  $P_2(m) = K_{m,m}$ . The number of ways to pick it is maximized when there is a  $T(n - 2\ell m, 2)$  on the remaining  $n - 2\ell m$  vertices, which is achieved when  $G = T(n, 2)$ .

We show that there are at most two ways to add the copy of  $P_2(m)$  to the copy of  $P_{2\ell}(m)$  in  $G$  to create a copy of  $P_{2\ell+2}(m)$ . Indeed, we can do that if each vertex of a part of  $K_{m,m}$  is adjacent to each vertex of one of the ends of  $P_{2\ell}(m)$ . It cannot happen with the same end of  $P_{2\ell}(m)$  and both parts of  $K_{m,m}$ , as that would mean  $G$  contains  $K_{m,m,1}$ , which contains  $F$ , a contradiction. In  $T(n, 2)$ , there are always two ways to add a copy of  $P_2(m)$  to a copy of  $P_{2\ell}(m)$  in  $T(n, 2)$  to create a copy of  $P_{2\ell+2}(m)$ . Therefore, this third factor is also maximized by the Turán graph, completing the proof. ■

Let us denote by  $P_{2k+2}(m, a, b)$  the following blow-up of  $P_{2k+2}$ . We replace the end vertices  $v_1$  and  $v_{2k+2}$  by independent sets  $V_1$  of order  $a$  and  $V_{2k+2}$  of order  $b$ , and we replace the middle vertices  $v_2, \dots, v_{2k+1}$  by independent sets  $V_2, \dots, V_{2k+1}$  of order  $m$ .

**Proposition 6.** *Let  $F$  be a 3-chromatic graph and assume that  $F$  is contained in a blow-up of  $C_{2k+1}$ . If  $a \geq b \geq m \geq |V(F)|$  and  $a \leq b + 1/2 + \sqrt{2b + 1/4}$ , then*

$P_{2k+2}(m, a, b)$  is asymptotically  $F$ -Turán-good. Moreover, if  $F$  has a color-critical vertex and  $a < b + 1/2 + \sqrt{2b + 1/4}$ , then  $P_{2k+2}(m, a, b)$  is  $F$ -Turán-good.

As we have mentioned,  $K_{a,b}$  is weakly  $K_3$ -Turán-good by a result of Győri, Pach and Simonovits [16], thus only an optimization is needed here. Brown and Sidorenko [2] did this optimization in a slightly different context, and obtained that  $T(n, 2)$  is asymptotically optimal if  $b \geq \binom{a-b}{2}$ . Ma and Qiu [19] showed that  $K_{a,b}$  is  $K_3$ -Turán-good if and only if  $a < b + 1/2 + \sqrt{2b + 1/4}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $H_0$  denote the subgraph of  $P_{2k+2}(m, a, b)$  obtained by deleting  $V_1$  and  $V_{2k+2}$ , i.e.,  $H_0 = P_{2k}(m)$ . Then  $H_0$  has a complete matching, thus is  $K_3$ -Turán-good by a result of Győri, Pach and Simonovits [16]. This implies that  $H_0$  is asymptotically  $F$ -Turán-good by a result of Gerbner and Palmer [13] mentioned in the introduction. We show that the number of ways to extend  $H_0$  to  $P_{2k+2}(m, a, b)$  in  $G$  is also asymptotically at most the number of ways to extend  $H_0$  to  $P_{2k+2}(m, a, b)$  in the Turán graph.

Let us pick a copy of  $H_0$  in  $G$  and let  $U$  denote the set of its vertices. Observe that there are at most  $m - 1$  vertices in  $G$  that are not in  $H_0$  and are connected to all the vertices of  $U \cap V_2$  and  $U \cap V_{2k+1}$ , as otherwise  $G$  contains  $C_{2k+1}(m)$ , which contains  $F$ . Let  $x$  be the number of common neighbors of the vertices of  $V_2$  that are not in  $U$ . Then there are at most  $n - 2km + m - 1 - x$  common neighbors of the vertices of  $V_{2k+1}$  that are not in  $U$ . We need to pick  $a$  common neighbors of the  $m$  vertices in  $V_2$ , and  $b$  common neighbors of the  $m$  vertices in  $V_{2k+1}$ , or the other way around, thus there are at most  $\binom{x}{a} \binom{n-2km+m-1-x}{b} + \binom{x}{b} \binom{n-2km+m-1-x}{a}$  ways to extend  $H_0$  to  $P_{2k+2}(m, a, b)$  if  $a \neq b$ , and half of this if  $a = b$ . Observe that this is equal to the number of copies of  $K_{a,b}$  in  $K_{x, n-2km+m-1-x}$ , which is at most the number of copies of  $K_{a,b}$  in  $T(n - 2km + m - 1, 2)$ , using the theorem of Brown and Sidorenko we mentioned. It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{N}(K_{a,b}, T(n - 2km + m - 1, 2)) = (1 + o(1))\mathcal{N}(K_{a,b}, T(n - 2km, 2))$ . Therefore, the Turán graph asymptotically maximizes the number of ways to extend  $H_0$  to  $H$ , completing the proof for general  $F$ . Let us assume now that  $F$  has a color-critical vertex  $v$ . Recall that by Lemma 4,  $F$  is contained in a blow-up of  $C_{2k+1}$  where one blown-up class has order 1. We use this analogously to the argument before. We pick a copy of  $H_0$  in  $G$ , then there are no vertices that are not in  $H_0$  and are connected to all the vertices in  $V_2$  and  $V_{2k+1}$ . Let  $x$  be the number of common neighbors of  $V_2$  that are not in the copy of  $H$ . We need to pick  $a$  common neighbors of the  $m$  vertices in  $V_2$ , and  $b$  common neighbors of the  $m$  vertices in  $V_{2k+1}$ , or the other way around. There are at most  $\binom{x}{a} \binom{n-2km}{b} + \binom{x}{b} \binom{n-2km}{a}$  ways to do this if  $a \neq b$  and half of this if  $a = b$ . Observe that this is equal to the number of copies of  $K_{a,b}$  in  $K_{x, n-2km-x}$ , which is at most the number of copies of  $K_{a,b}$  in  $T(n - 2km, 2)$  by the theorem of Ma and Qiu we mentioned. This shows that the Turán graph maximizes the number of ways to extend  $H_0$  to  $H$ , completing the proof. ■



Now we are ready to prove Theorem 1.3 which we restate here for convenience.

**Theorem.** *Let  $F$  be a 3-chromatic graph and let  $C_{2k+1}$  be the longest odd cycle such that a blow-up of it contains  $F$ . Then there is an asymptotically  $F$ -Turán-good graph  $H$  that is not asymptotically weakly  $C_{2\ell+1}$ -Turán-good for any  $\ell < k$ . Furthermore, if  $F$  has a color-critical vertex, then  $H$  is  $F$ -Turán-good.*

**Proof.** Proposition 6 presented an asymptotically  $F$ -Turán-good graph  $H = P_{2k+2}(m, a, b)$  (which is an  $F$ -Turán-good graph if  $F$  has a color-critical vertex). We will show that  $H$  is not asymptotically weakly  $C_{2\ell+1}$ -Turán-good. Observe that the  $a$  vertices and the  $b$  vertices corresponding to the end vertices of the original  $P_{2k+2}$  must be in different parts of any bipartite graph. On the other hand, they can be in the same blown-up class of  $C_{2k+1}$ , which are  $C_{2\ell+1}$ -free graphs. From here, the calculation to show that  $H$  is not asymptotically weakly  $F'$ -Turán-good is the same as the calculation in the proof of Proposition 1, thus we omit the details. ■

### 3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

We have shown examples of graphs that are not asymptotically weakly  $F$ -Turán-good, for any non-bipartite graph  $F$ . Our examples, just like all the earlier examples for the case  $F$  is a clique, are built on the idea of forcing two large sets of vertices into different part in every  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -partite graph. In particular, the examples themselves are  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -chromatic. We do not know any examples of graphs that are not  $F$ -Turán-good and have chromatic number less than  $\chi(F) - 1$  in the case  $F$  has a color-critical edge.

Some of our results deal with asymptotically weakly  $F$ -Turán-good graphs, while other results deal with weakly  $F$ -Turán-good graphs. In the case  $F$  has a color-critical edge, we are not aware of any graph that is asymptotically weakly  $F$ -Turán-good but not weakly  $F$ -Turán-good. In fact, the situation is much worse. In each of the cases when we can show that  $H$  is not weakly  $F$ -Turán-good, i.e., we can find an  $F$ -free  $n$ -vertex graph that contains more copies of  $H$  than any  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -partite  $n$ -vertex graph, then we do not actually know  $\text{ex}(n, H, F)$ . There are constructions with more copies of  $H$  than any  $(\chi(F) - 1)$ -partite  $n$ -vertex graph, but we do not know whether they are extremal.

Let us recall that Theorem 1.3 contains the assumption that  $C_{2k+1}$  is the longest odd cycle such that the blow-up of it contains  $F$ . Then  $F$  cannot contain any odd cycle of length less than  $2k + 1$ . Then blow-ups of  $F$  do not contain such cycles either. Thus Theorem 1.3 is a special case of the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 3.1.** *For given  $r + 1$ -chromatic graphs  $F, F'$ , there exists a graph  $H$  that is asymptotically weakly  $F$ -Turán-good but not asymptotically weakly  $F'$ -*

*Turán-good if and only if  $F'$  is not a subgraph of any blow-up of  $F$ . Furthermore, if  $F$  has a color-critical vertex, then we can find  $H$  that is  $F$ -Turán-good.*

Note that one of the directions easily follows from known results. Let  $H$  be asymptotically weakly  $F$ -Turán-good. A result of Alon and Shikhelman [1] states that if  $F'$  is a subgraph of a blow-up of  $F$ , then  $\text{ex}(n, F, F') = o(n^{|V(F)|})$ . Combined with the removal lemma [5], this shows that we can delete the copies of  $F$  from any  $F'$ -free  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$  by deleting  $o(n^2)$  edges, thus  $o(n^{|V(H)|})$  copies of  $H$ . The resulting graph is  $F$ -free, thus contains at most  $(1 + o(1))\mathcal{N}(H, T)$  copies of  $H$  for some complete  $r$ -partite graph  $T$ , thus  $G$  also contains at most  $(1 + o(1))\mathcal{N}(H, T)$  copies of  $H$ , showing that  $H$  is asymptotically weakly  $F'$ -Turán-good.

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