

# Index Coding

- Optimality of Fractional Coloring  
& Minimal Necessity of Non-Shannon Inequalities

Hua Sun

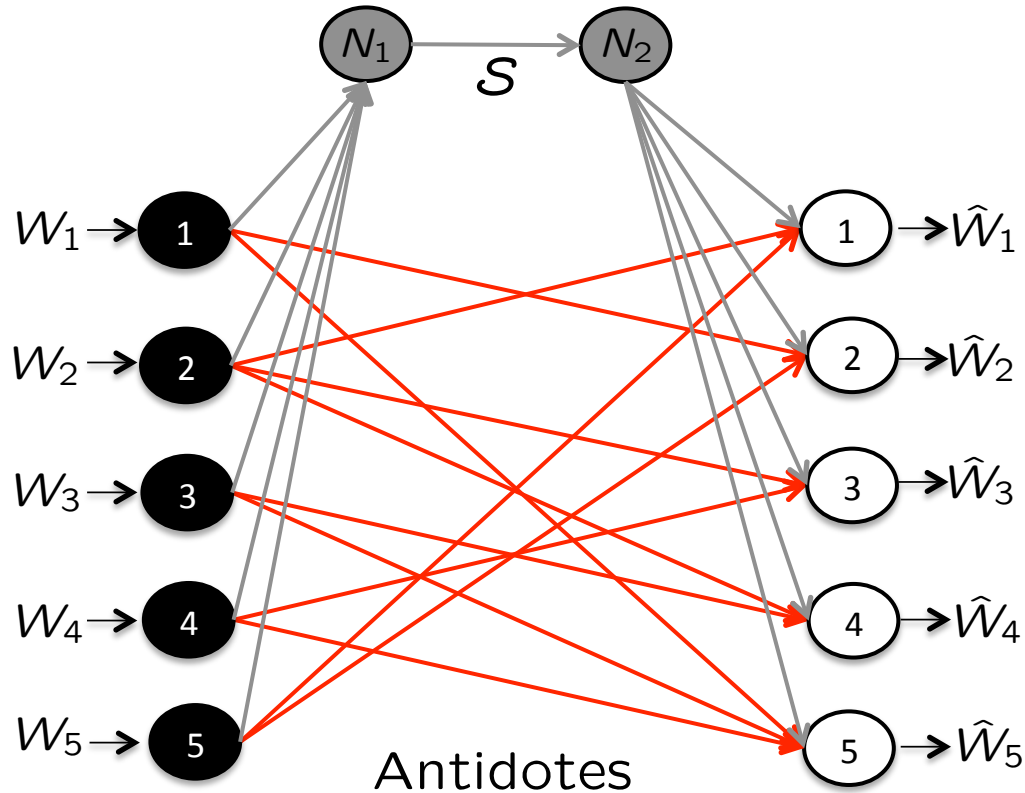
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Joint work with Xinping Yi, Syed Jafar, David Gesbert

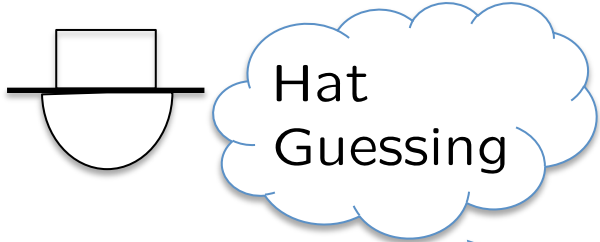
# Index Coding

[Birk, Kol, INFOCOM98]

Bottleneck : the only finite-capacity link



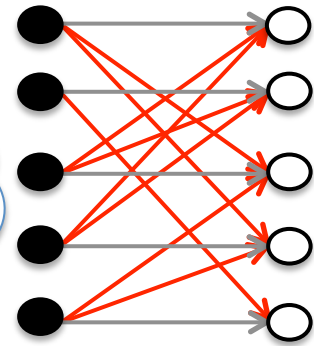
The "antidotes" simply mean that these undesired messages are known to the receivers, a-priori.



[Soren Riis, NetCod06]



[Jafar '12, '13]



# Index Coding

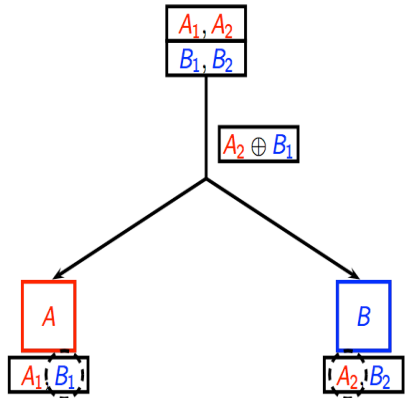
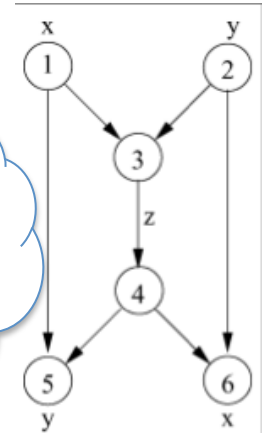
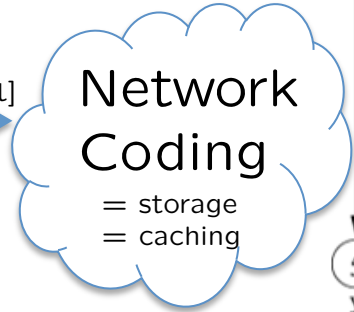
[Rouayheb et al]

[Birk, Kol, INFOCOM '98]

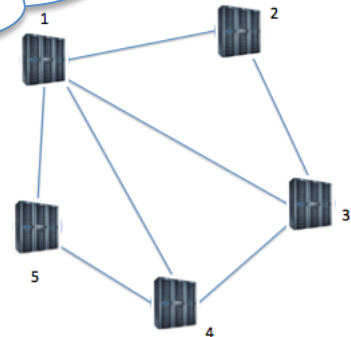
[Mazumdar, 14]

[Shanmugam, Dimakis, 14]

[Arbabjolfaei, Kim, 15]



[Maddah-Ali, Niesen, '12]



# Hat Guessing Game

[Soren Riis, NetCod06]

2 players, each has a hat

The hat can be one of 2 colors

Each player sees the other's hat, but not his own

Guess the color of their own *simultaneously*

Can agree on a strategy before the hats are drawn

No communication allowed later on

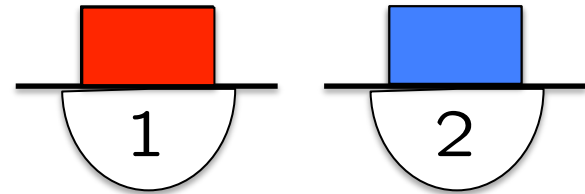
Maximize the probability everybody guesses correctly

Is seeing *independent* information helpful?

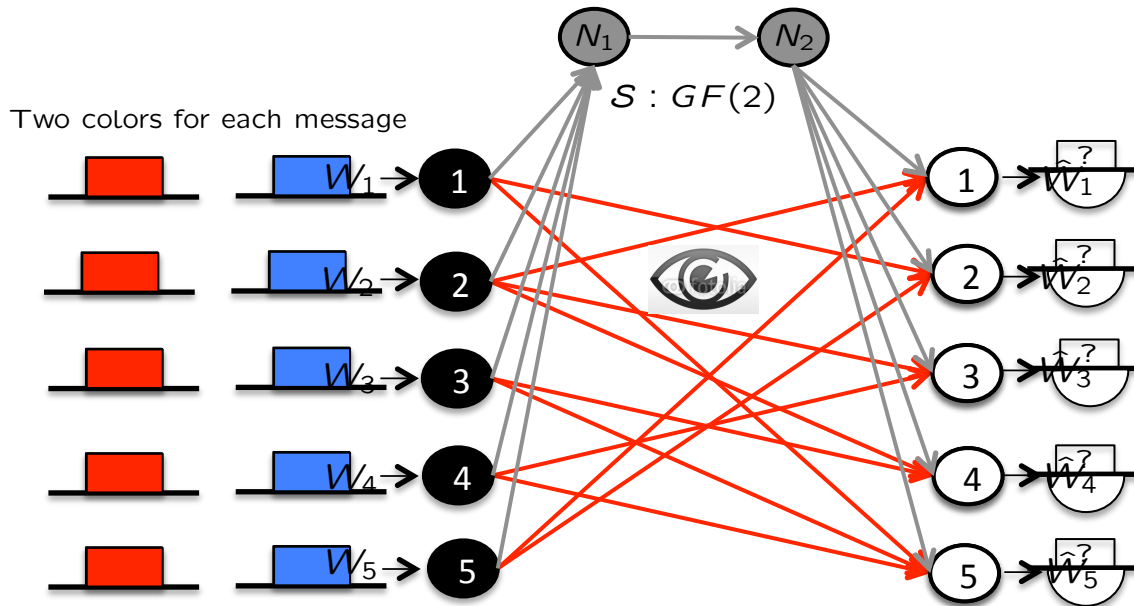
Can we do better than  $(\frac{1}{2})^2$ ?

Answer:  $\frac{1}{2}$

Strategy: Common belief that both hats have the same color



# Index coding view



Independent Guesses:  $P(\text{success}) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5$

Interference Alignment Scheme:  $P(\text{success}) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2$

Improvement from  $\frac{1}{32}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$

## Solution:

Hat colors  $x_i \in \{0, 1\}$

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_5 = 0$$

All players assume

$$x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = 0$$

Prob(assumed correct) =  $\frac{1}{4}$

If assumption is correct,  
then everyone guesses their hat color correctly.

# Approaches

- Graph Theoretic:
  - coloring [Birk, Kol, 98]
  - fractional coloring [Blasiak, Kleinberg, Lubetzky, 10]
  - local fractional coloring [Shanmugam, Dimakis, Langberg, 13]
  - (vector) minrank [Bar-Yossef et al, 11] [Lubetzky, Stav, 09] [Jafar, 13]
  - acyclic outer bound [Bar-Yossef et al, 11] [Tehrani, Dimakis Neely, 12]
  - graph product [Alon et al, 08] [Blasiak, Kleinberg, Lubetzky, 11]  
[Arbabjolfaei, Kim, 15]
  - graph homomorphism [Ebrahimi, Siavoshani, 14]
- Information Theoretic:
  - network coding:
    - matroid theory [Rouayheb, Sprintson, Georghiades, 10]
    - information inequalities [Blasiak, Kleinberg, Lubetzky, 10]
    - network equivalence [Effros, Rouayheb, Langberg, 14] and others
  - random coding [Arbabjolfaei, Kim, et al, 14]
  - rate distortion [Unal, Wagner, 14]
- Optimization:
  - integer programming [Yu, Neely, 13]
  - matrix completion [Jaganathan, Thramboulidis, Hassibi et al, 14]
- Interference Alignment
  - [Hamed, Cadambe, Jafar, 11] [Jafar, 12, 13] [Sun, Jafar, 13]

# Solved Classes of Index Coding Problems

- where sum capacity = 1 [Bar-Yossef et al, 11] [Tehrani, Dimakis Neely, 12]
- half-rate feasible instances [Blasiak, et al, 10] [Jafar, 13]
- alignment graph has no cycles or forks [Jafar, 13]
- alignment graph has no overlapping cycles [Sun, Jafar, 13]
- 5 or fewer messages, unicast [Arbabjolfaei, et al, 14]
- single uniprior instances [Ong, Ho, Lim, 14]
- each message not known at  $\leq 2$  Rx [Unal, Wagner, 14]
- 
- 
- 

When is the simplest coloring scheme optimal?

# Difficulty

Needs non-linear coding schemes [Rouayheb et al, 10] [Maleki et al, 12]

Needs non-shannon information inequalities

(computer search)[Riis '07, '13]

(matroids)[Blasiak, Kleinberg, Lubetzky, '10, '11]

(by hand, alignment perspective)[Sun, Jafar '13]

How far can we go with only Shannon Inequalities?



# Outline

1. Optimality of the Simplest Coloring Scheme
2. Minimal Necessity of Non-Shannon Inequalities
3. Remaining Challenges

# Outline

## 1. Optimality of the Simplest Coloring Scheme

1a. Main Result

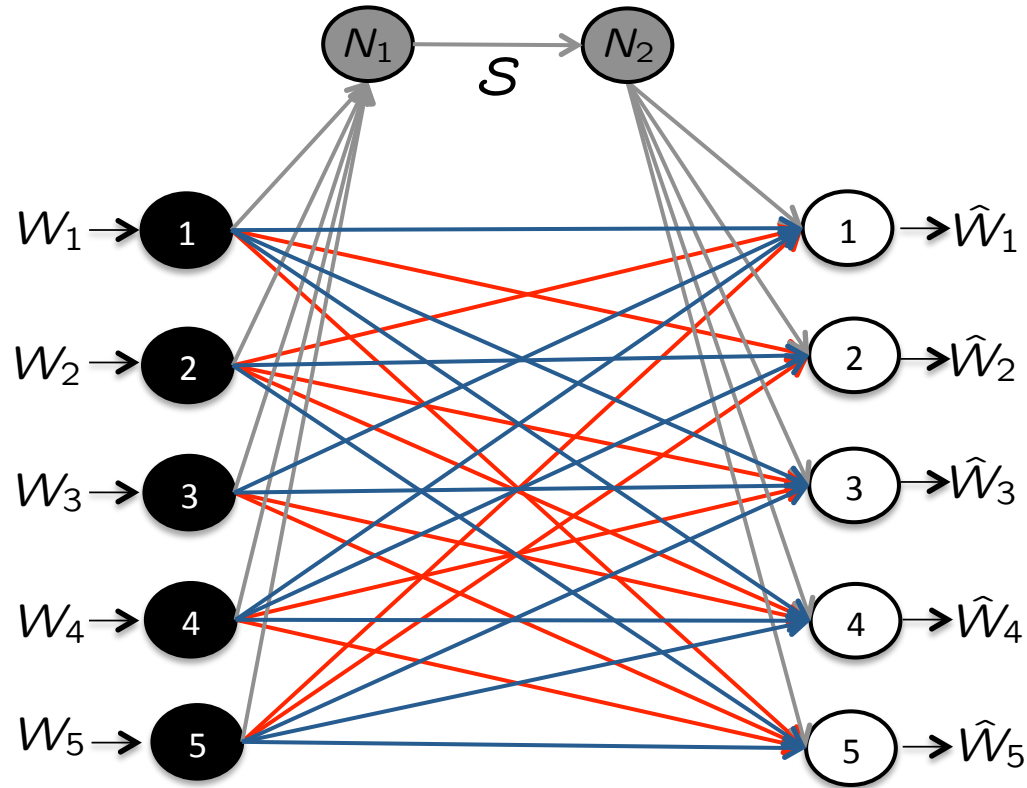
1b. Special Case: Convex networks

1c. Proof

## 2. Minimal Necessity of Non-Shannon Inequalities

## 3. Remaining Challenges

Fractional Coloring achieves All-unicast Capacity Region if and only if Network Topology is Chordal

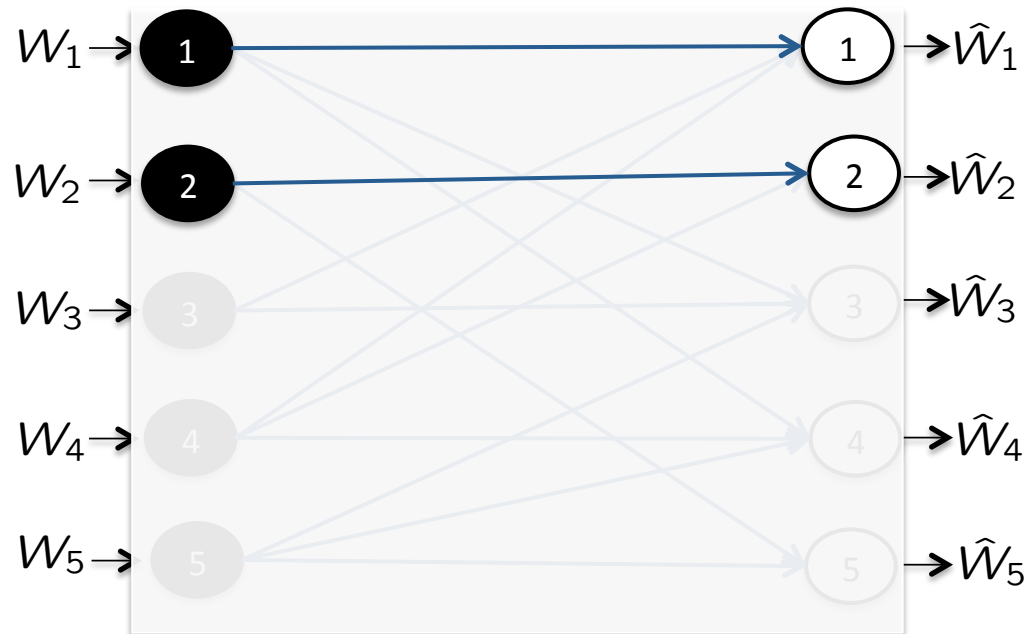


# Fractional Coloring achieves All-unicast Capacity Region if and only if Network Topology is Chordal

Coloring: (clique cover, TDMA, scheduling, orthogonal access)

Schedule messages that are non-interfering/orthogonal.

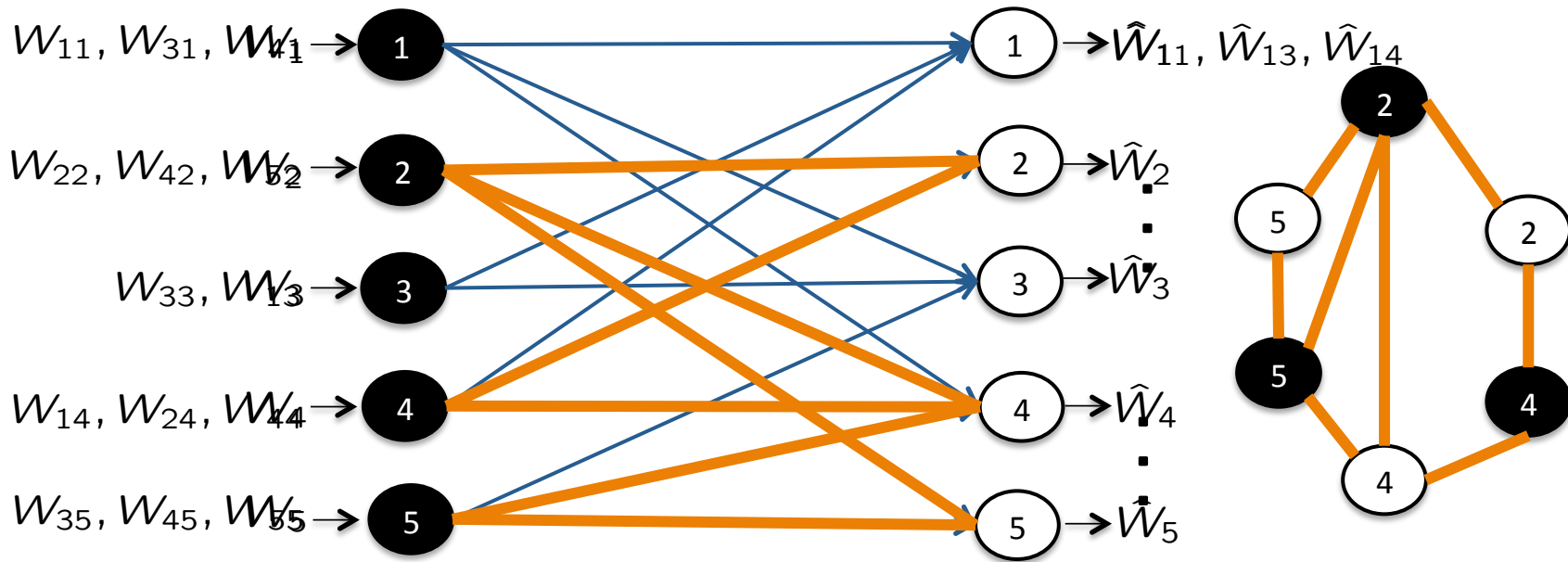
Fractional: Allows time sharing.



Network Topology: Complement of Antidote Graph

# Fractional Coloring achieves All-unicast Capacity Region if and only if Network Topology is Chordal

Coloring: (clique cover, TDMA, scheduling, orthogonal access)  
 Schedule messages that are non-interfering/orthogonal.  
 Fractional: Allows time sharing.



Network Topology: Complement of Antidote Graph

Chordal: All Cycles have Chord

All Unicast: Each Tx has a message for each Rx

Include arbitrary subset of the 17 messages

Capacity Region: Includes symmetric/sum capacity

# Outline

## 1. Optimality of the Simplest Coloring Scheme

1a. Main Result

1b. Special Case: Convex networks

1c. Proof

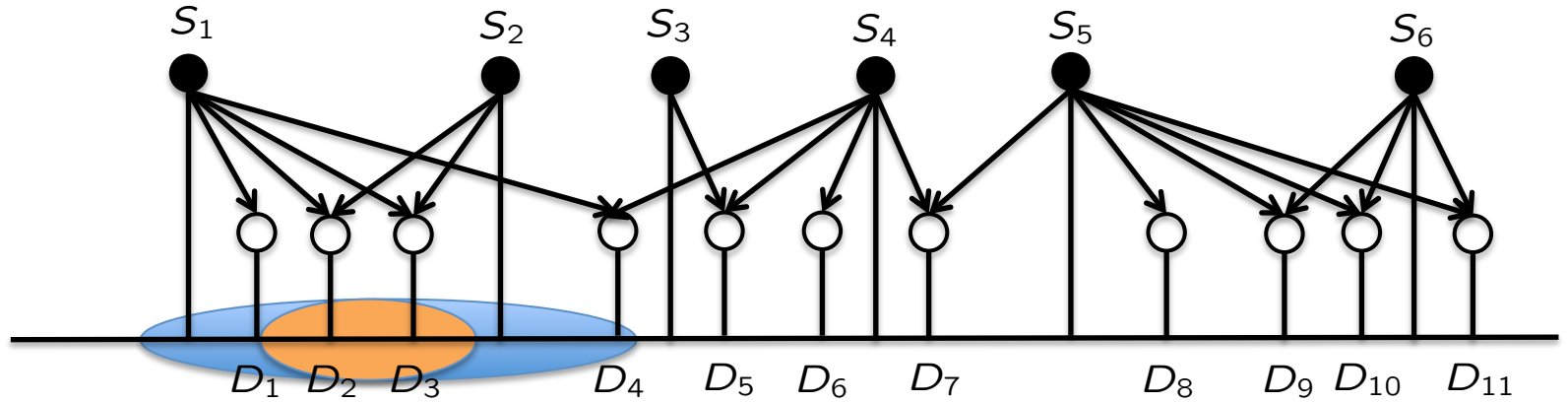
## 2. Minimal Necessity of Non-Shannon Inequalities

## 3. Remaining Challenges

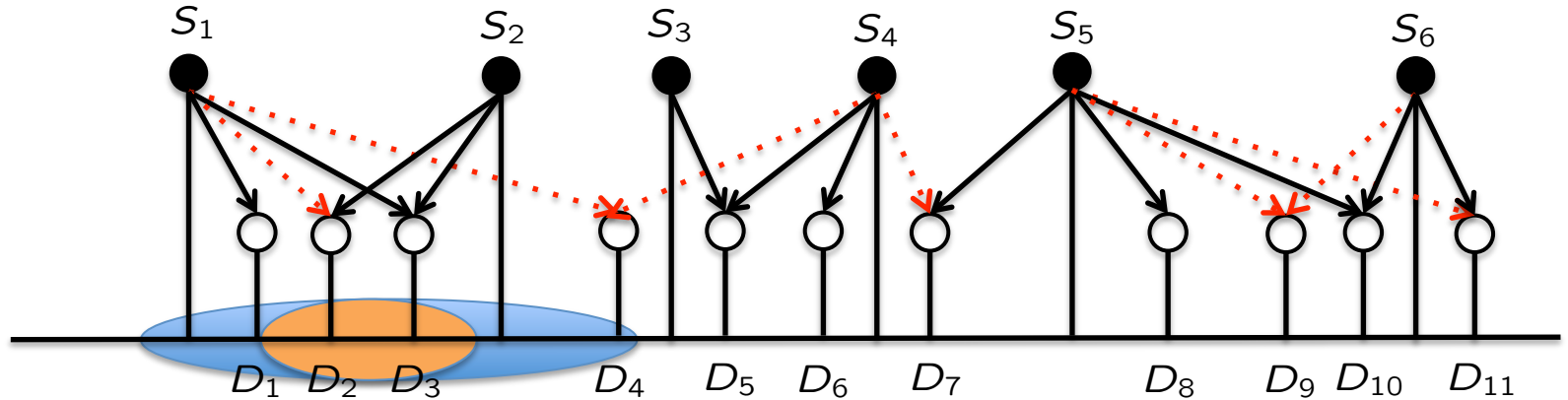
# One-dimensional Convex Cellular Topologies

(index coding problem)

[Maleki, Jafar '13]



# One-dimensional Convex Cellular Topologies (index coding problem)



—→ : Desired Message

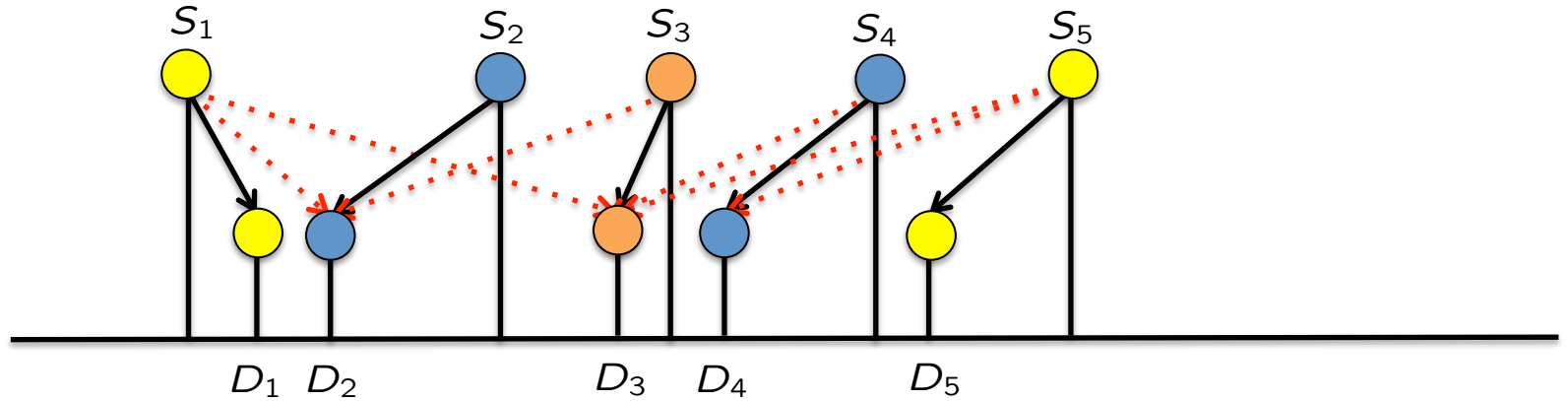
.....→ : No desired Message

Each link can carry an *independent* desired message

Scheduling is IT optimal for symmetric capacity, sum capacity and capacity region



# Illustrating Example



—————> : Desired Message

.....> : No desired Message

Sum capacity = 2

$$(D_2, W_2) \geq D_3$$

Acyclic outer bound  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} R_1 + R_2 + R_3 \leq 1 \\ R_4 + R_5 \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$

$$(D_2, W_2, W_3) \geq D_1$$

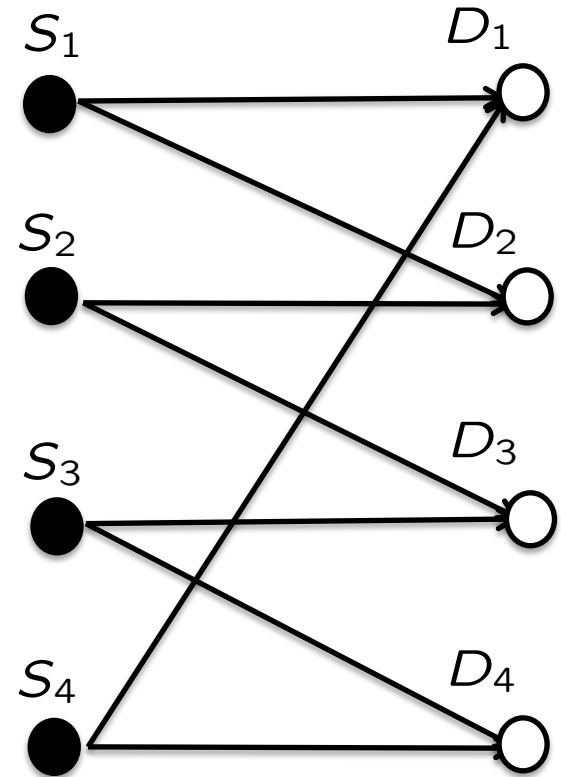
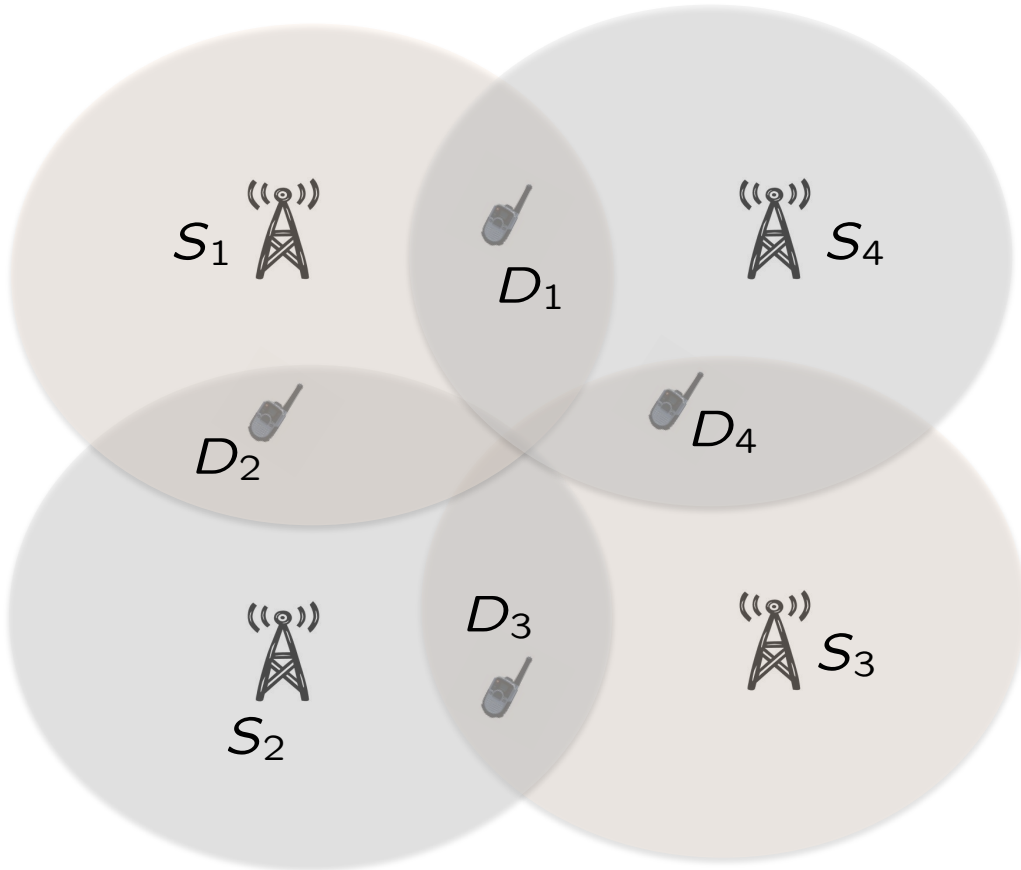
Symmetric capacity = 1/3

Capacity region:

set of all acyclic outer bounds = convex hull of all TDMA points

# Two-dimensional Convex Cellular Topologies

Fact: 2-dim convex networks are not chordal.



Fact: Scheduling is not optimal.

Conjecture: Scheduling is still close to optimal.

# Outline

## 1. Optimality of the Simplest Coloring Scheme

1a. Main Result

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1c. Proof

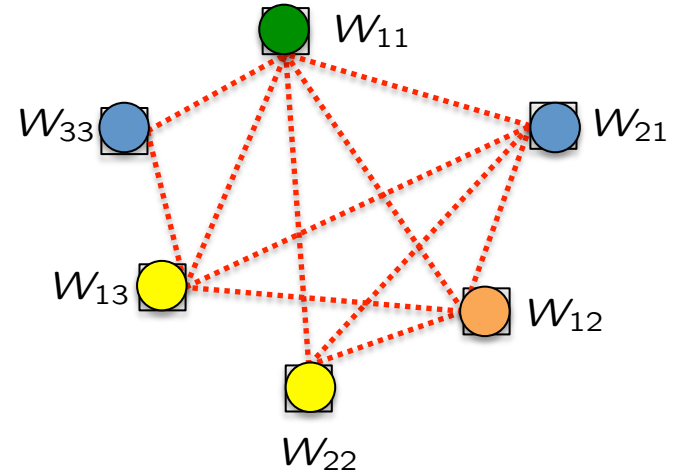
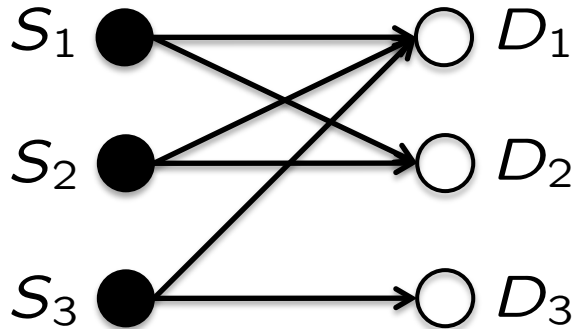
## 2. Minimal Necessity of Non-Shannon Inequalities

## 3. Remaining Challenges

# Fractional Coloring achieves All-unicast Capacity Region if and only if Network Topology is Chordal

Sufficiency: Chordal  $\rightarrow$  Coloring is optimal

$G$  (chordal)  $\xrightarrow{*}$  (perfect)  $G_e^2 =$  Message Conflict Graph



( $G$  is chordal)

$$R_{11} + R_{21} + R_{12} \leq 1$$

For a clique  $C$ :

$$\bigcup_C \sum_{W_{ji} \in C} R_{ji} \leq 1$$

Acyclic demand graph

Clique Polytope

$*$  ( $G_e^2$  is perfect)

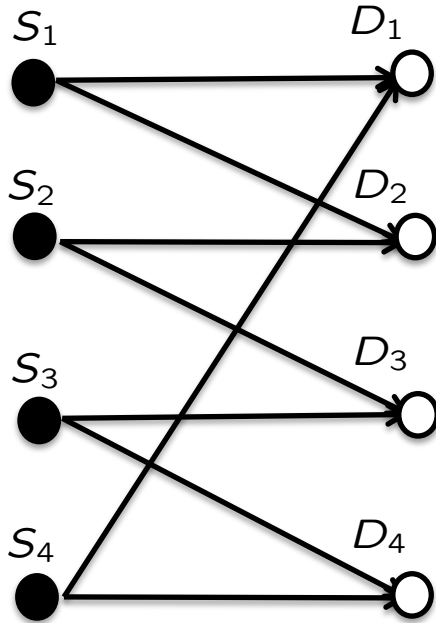
all vertices are integral

Capacity region:

set of all acyclic outer bounds = convex hull of all TDMA points

Fractional Coloring achieves All-unicast Capacity Region  
if and only if Network Topology is Chordal

Necessity: Not chordal  $\rightarrow$  Coloring is sub-optimal



For the cyclic sub-network,  
 $\exists$  a rate tuple that is not achievable by coloring.

# Outline

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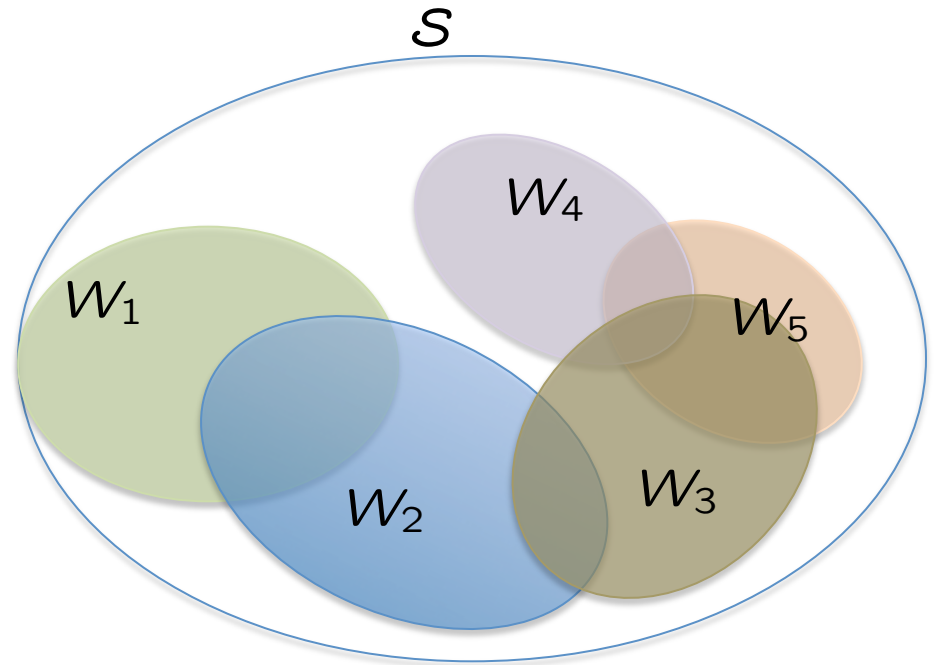
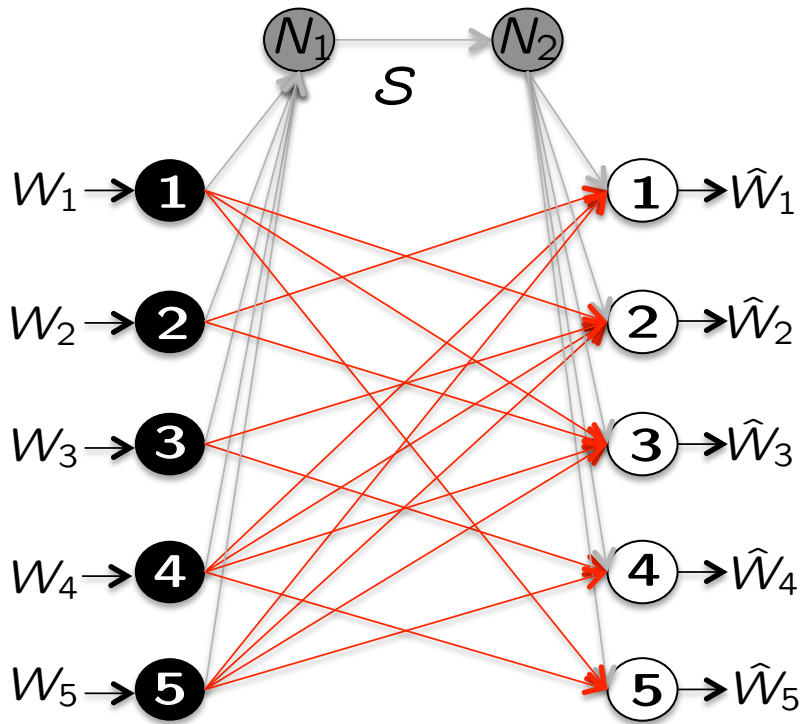
## 2. Minimal Necessity of Non-Shannon Inequalities

2a. An Interference Alignment Perspective

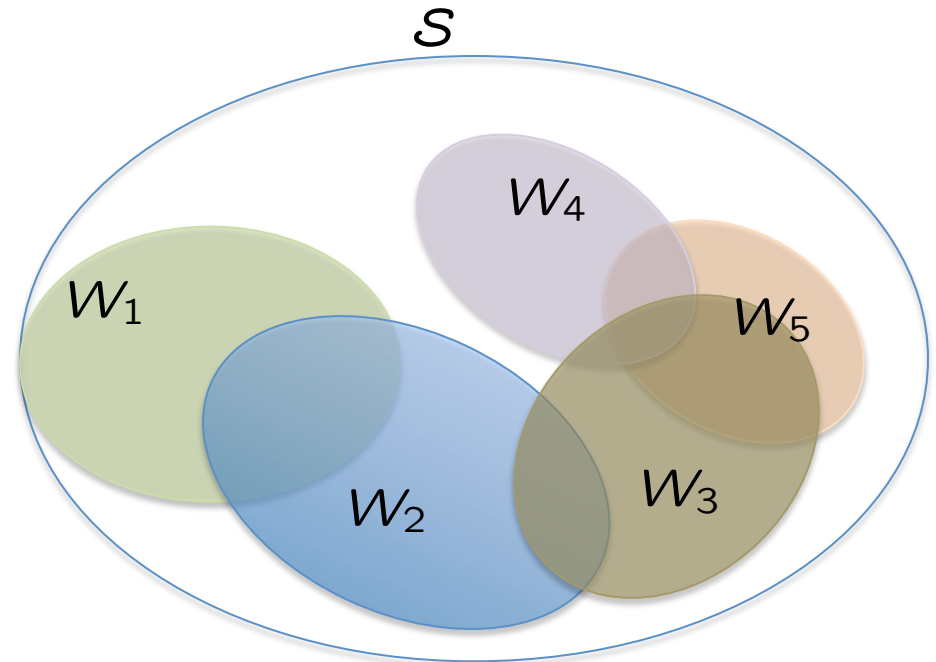
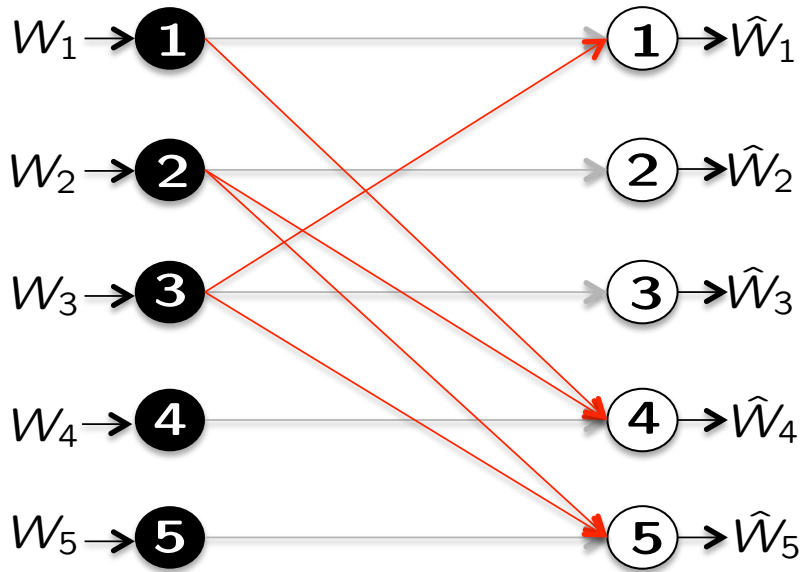
2b. The Simplest Hard Problem

## 3. Remaining Challenges

# Index Coding – Interference Alignment Perspective

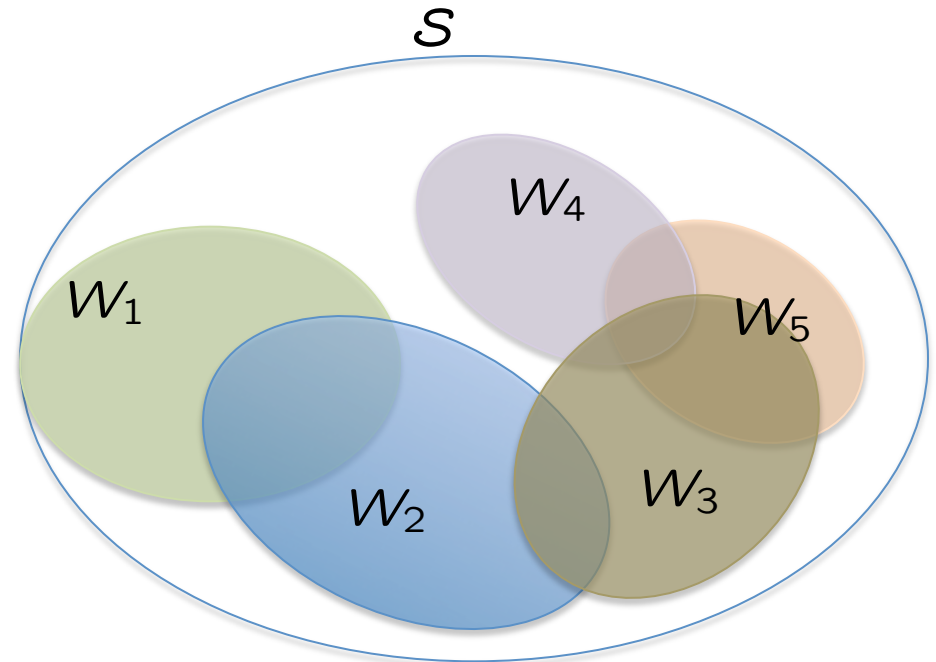
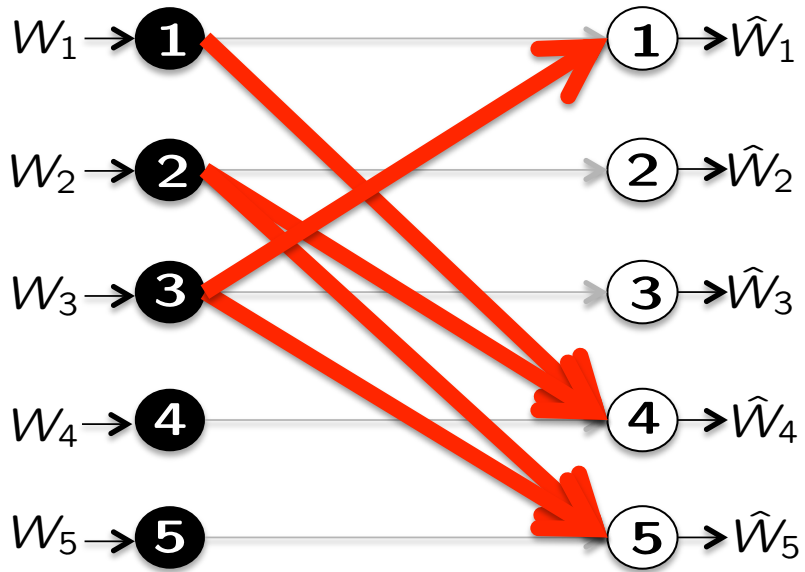


# Index Coding – Interference Alignment Perspective



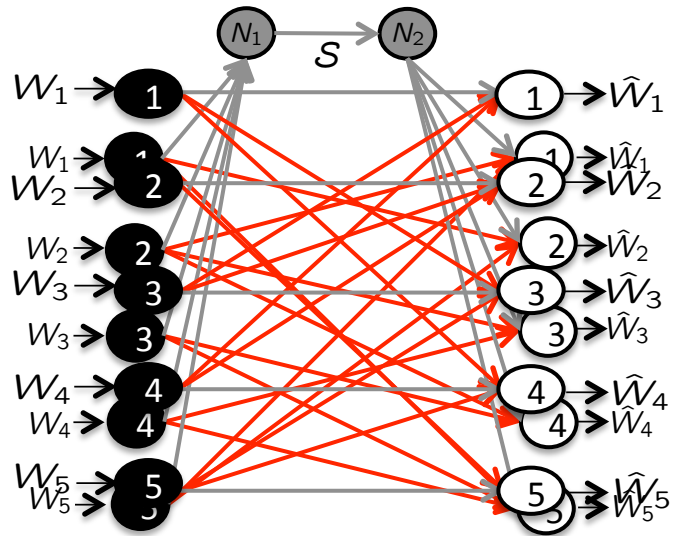


# Index Coding – Interference Alignment Perspective



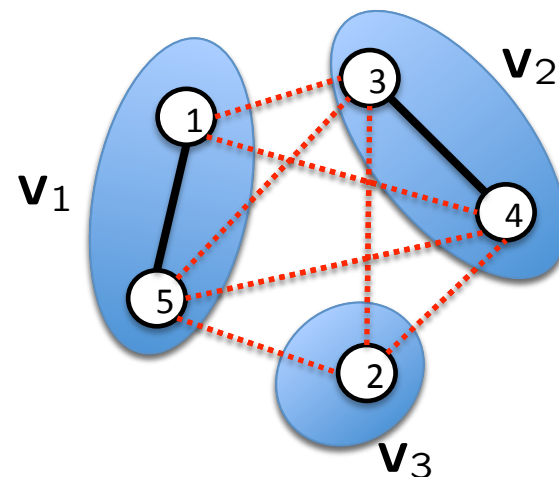
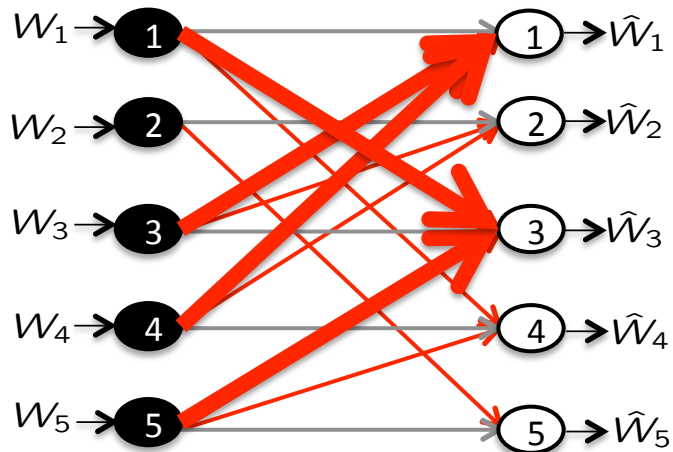
# Interference Alignment Perspective

[Jafar '12, '13]



# Interference Alignment Perspective

[Jafar '12, '13]



$\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3 : 2 \times 1$  vectors

Interference Alignment Conditions:

- 1) Interferers should align as much as possible
- 2) Desired signal must not align with interference

**Alignment graph** (solid black edges)

**Conflict graph** (dashed red edges)

Connected components of alignment graph are **alignment sets**

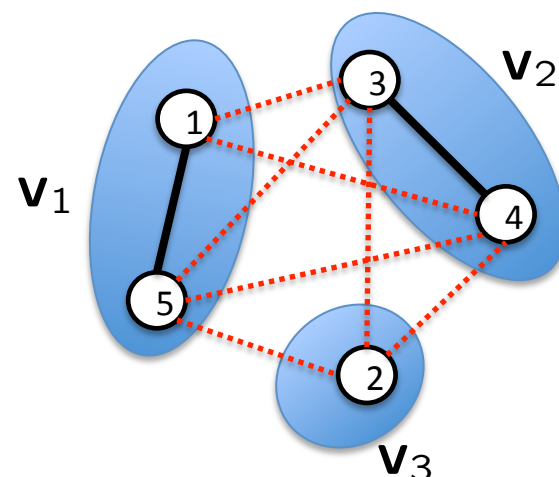
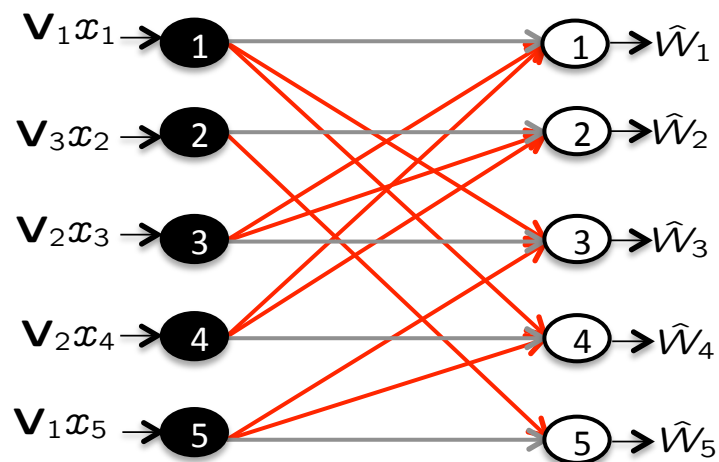
There is no internal conflict.

Assign a  $2 \times 1$  vector to each alignment set

Achieved Rate =  $1/2$  per user

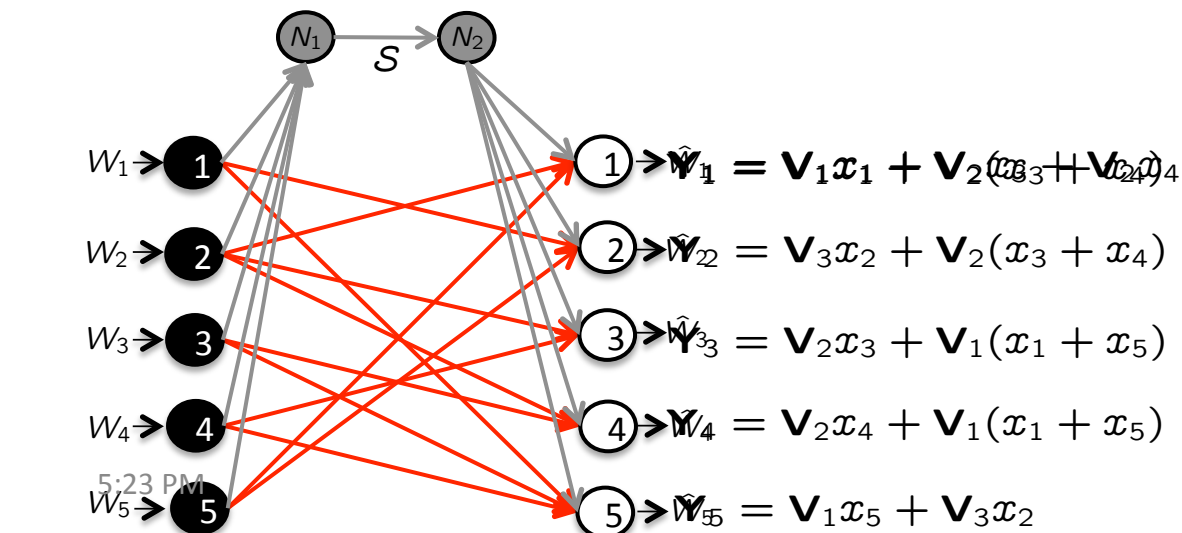
# Interference Alignment Perspective

[Jafar '12, '13]



$\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3 : 2 \times 1$  vectors

$$S = \mathbf{v}_1 x_1 + \mathbf{v}_3 x_2 + \mathbf{v}_2 x_3 + \mathbf{v}_2 x_4 + \mathbf{v}_1 x_5$$



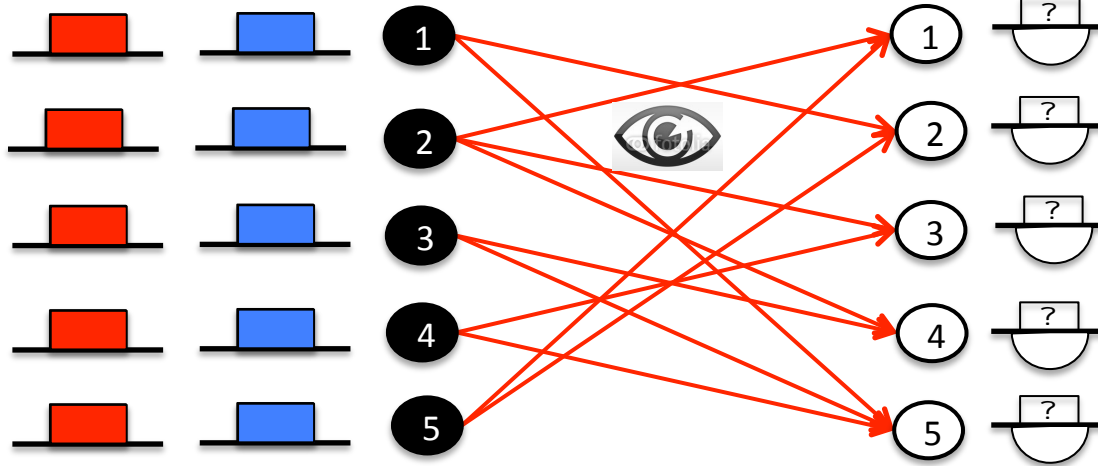
$$\begin{aligned}
 W_1 \rightarrow 1 & \rightarrow \hat{W}_1 = \mathbf{v}_1 x_1 + \mathbf{v}_2(x_3 + x_4) \\
 W_2 \rightarrow 2 & \rightarrow \hat{W}_2 = \mathbf{v}_3 x_2 + \mathbf{v}_2(x_3 + x_4) \\
 W_3 \rightarrow 3 & \rightarrow \hat{W}_3 = \mathbf{v}_2 x_3 + \mathbf{v}_1(x_1 + x_5) \\
 W_4 \rightarrow 4 & \rightarrow \hat{W}_4 = \mathbf{v}_2 x_4 + \mathbf{v}_1(x_1 + x_5) \\
 W_5 \rightarrow 5 & \rightarrow \hat{W}_5 = \mathbf{v}_1 x_5 + \mathbf{v}_3 x_2
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 S(1) &= x_1 + x_2 + x_5 \\
 S(2) &= x_2 + x_3 + x_4
 \end{aligned}$$

# Hat Guessing View

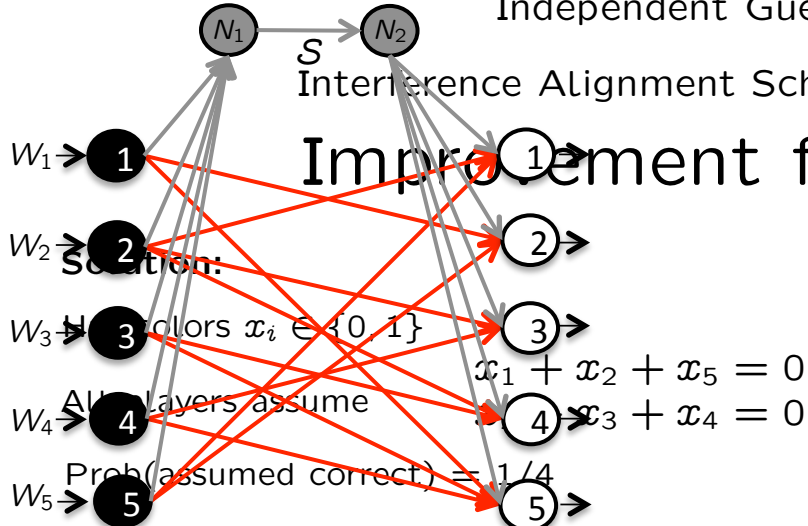
Two colors for each message



Independent Guesses:  $P(\text{success}) = (\frac{1}{2})^5$

Interference Alignment Scheme:  $P(\text{success}) = (\frac{1}{2})^2$

Improvement from  $\frac{1}{32}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$



$W_1 \rightarrow 1$   
 $W_2 \rightarrow 2$   
 $W_3 \rightarrow 3$   
 $W_4 \rightarrow 4$   
 $W_5 \rightarrow 5$

Solution:  
 colors  $x_i \in \{0, 1\}$   
 All layers assume  
 $x_1 + x_2 + x_5 = 0$   
 $x_3 + x_4 = 0$   
 Prob(assumed correct) =  $1/4$

$S(1) = x_1 + x_2 + x_5$   
 $S(2) = x_2 + x_3 + x_4$   
 If assumption is correct,  
 then everyone guesses their hat color correctly.

# Outline

## 1. Optimality of the Simplest Coloring Scheme

1a. Main Result

1b. Special Case: Convex networks

1c. Proof

## 2. Minimal Necessity of Non-Shannon Inequalities

2a. An Interference Alignment Perspective

2b. The Simplest Hard Problem

## 3. Remaining Challenges

# Non-Shannon Inequalities

## IT Capacity

Entropy Space  
(random variables)

Information Inequalities

$\leq 3$  Polymatroidal Axioms  
(non-negativeness of Shannon information measurements)

$= 4$  Non-Shannon-type Information Inequality  
[Zhang, Yeung, TIT98]  
Infinite many [Matus, ISIT2007]

Open

$= 5$  Open

$> 5$  Open

## Linear Capacity

Vector Space  
(subspaces)

Linear Rank Inequalities

Polymatroidal Axioms  
(non-negativeness of Shannon information measurements)

Ingleton Inequalities  
[Ingleton, 71]

24 more inequalities  
[Dougherty, Freiling, Zeger, 10]

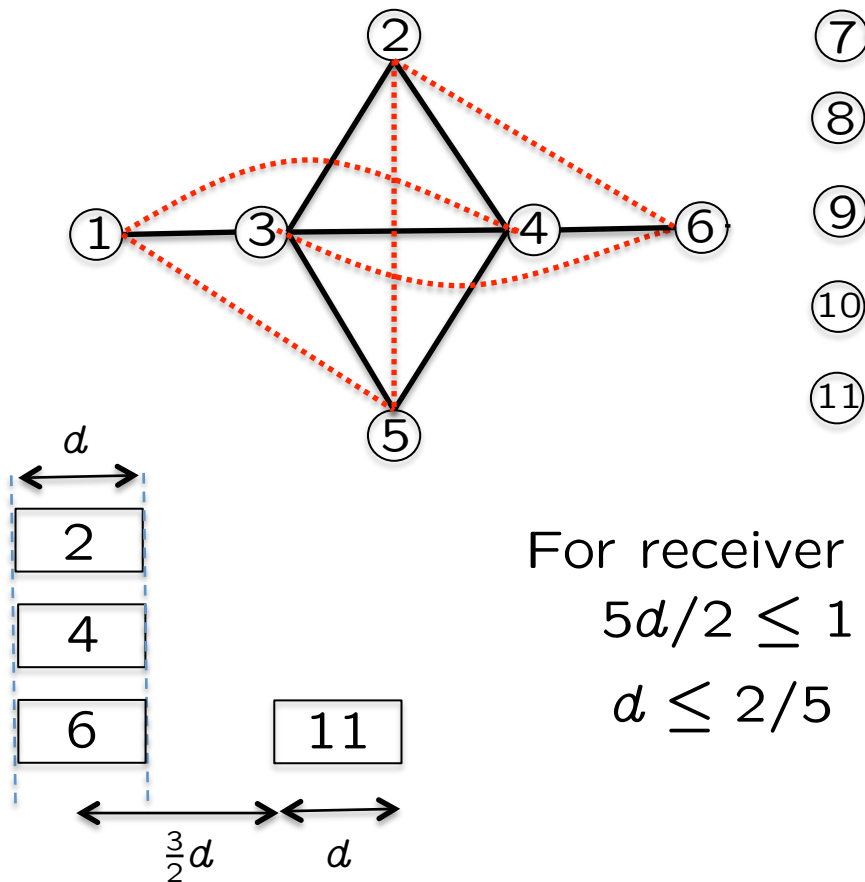
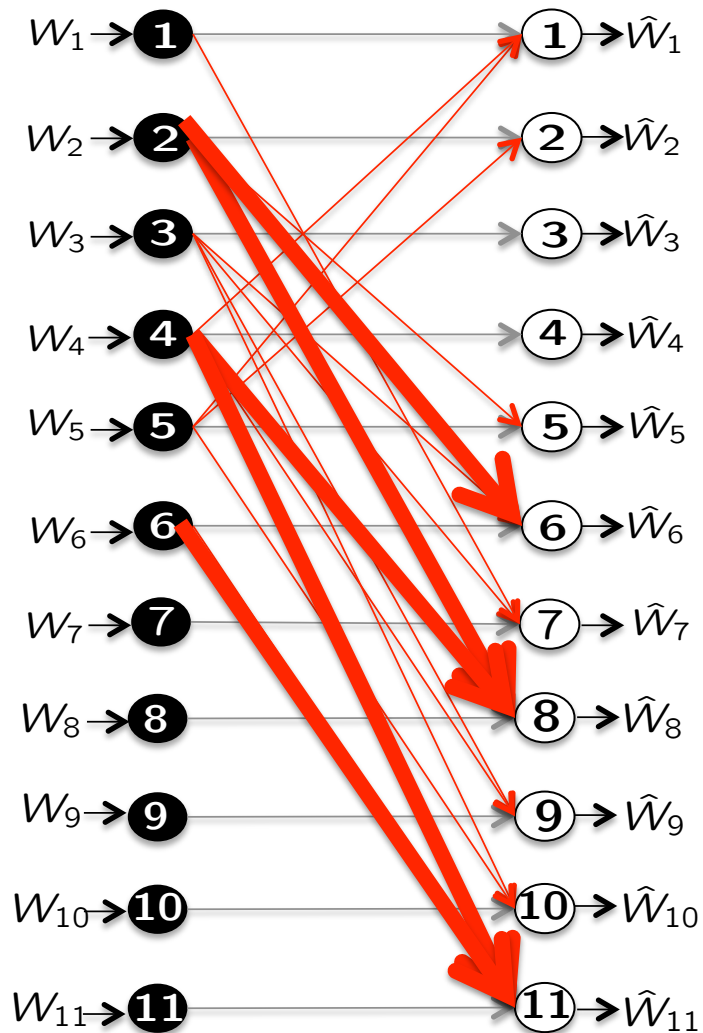
Open



# Simplest Example (for non-Shannon needed)

(from alignment perspective)  
by hand, from scratch

[Sun, Jafar, 13]



For receiver 11  
 $5d/2 \leq 1$   
 $d \leq 2/5$

2/5 is the best bound possible through Shannon inequalities

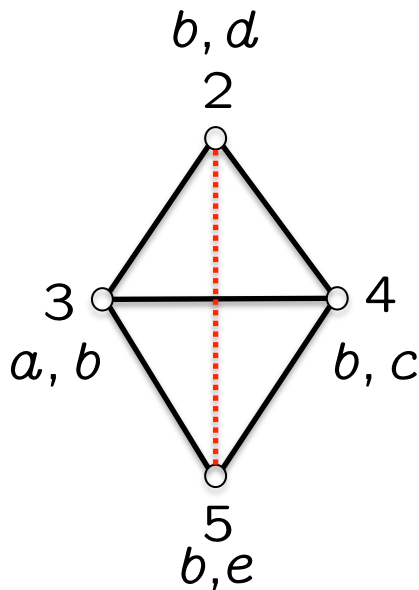
Can be tightened to 11/28 with Zhang-Yeung non-Shannon inequality



# Simplest Example

[Sun, Jafar, 13]

## Vector Space Interpretation



$a, b, c, d, e$ :  
1/5-size generic space

$\circ = 2/5$  : rate constraint

$\text{—} = 3/5$  : interference constraint

$\triangle = 4/5$  : submodularity constraint

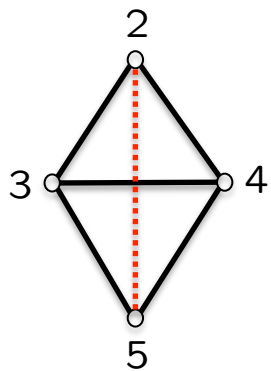
Above three satisfy all polymatroidal constraints.

For example,  $(2, 3) + (3, 4) \geq (2, 3, 4) + 3$ ?

$$\Leftrightarrow |\text{—}| + |\text{—}| \geq |\triangle| + |\circ|$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 3/5 + 3/5 \geq 4/5 + 2/5$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Overlap of 3 and 4} &= |\circ| + |\circ| - |\text{—}| \\ &= 1/5 \end{aligned}$$

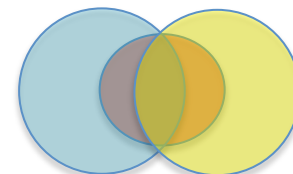


# Simplest Example

[Sun, Jafar, 13]

Vector Space Interpretation

Vector Space used by  $W_i$  :  $\mathbf{V}_i$



$$\begin{aligned} \dim(\mathbf{V}_2 \cap \mathbf{V}_5) &\geq \dim(\mathbf{V}_2 \cap (\mathbf{V}_3 \cap \mathbf{V}_4)) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_5 \cap (\mathbf{V}_3 \cap \mathbf{V}_4)) - \dim(\mathbf{V}_3 \cap \mathbf{V}_4) \\ &\geq \dim(\mathbf{V}_2 \cap \mathbf{V}_3) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_2 \cap \mathbf{V}_4) - \dim(\mathbf{V}_2 \cap (\mathbf{V}_3, \mathbf{V}_4)) \\ &\quad + \dim(\mathbf{V}_5 \cap \mathbf{V}_3) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_5 \cap \mathbf{V}_4) - \dim(\mathbf{V}_5 \cap (\mathbf{V}_3, \mathbf{V}_4)) - \dim(\mathbf{V}_3, \mathbf{V}_4) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \dim(\mathbf{V}_2, \mathbf{V}_3) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_2, \mathbf{V}_4) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_3, \mathbf{V}_4) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_3, \mathbf{V}_5) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_4, \mathbf{V}_5) \\ \geq \dim(\mathbf{V}_3) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_4) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_2, \mathbf{V}_5) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_2, \mathbf{V}_3, \mathbf{V}_4) + \dim(\mathbf{V}_3, \mathbf{V}_4, \mathbf{V}_5) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow 5 \times \frac{3}{5} \geq 4 \times \frac{2}{5} + 2 \times \frac{4}{5}$$

Ingleton inequality

$$\Rightarrow \frac{15}{5} \geq \frac{16}{5}, \text{ contradiction!}$$

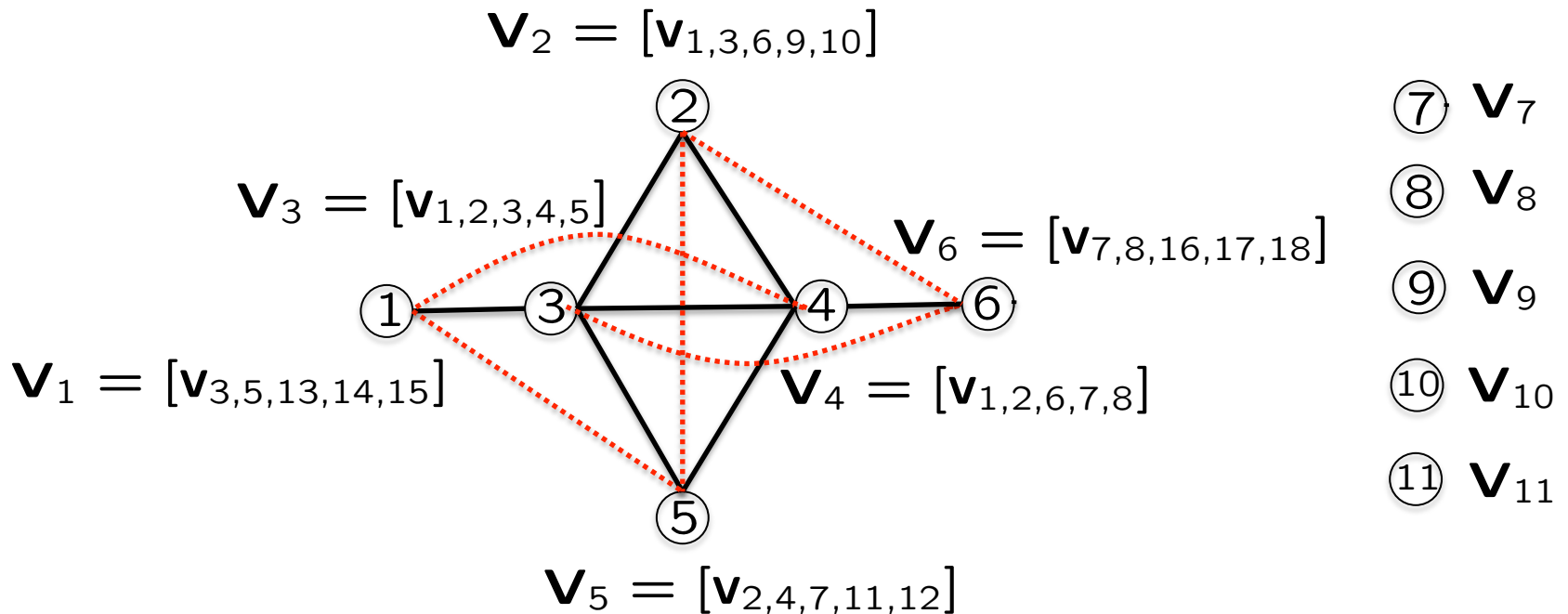
# Simplest Example

[Sun, Jafar, 13]

Linear Capacity (= 5/13)

$\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{18}$  : Generic  $13 \times 1$  random vectors

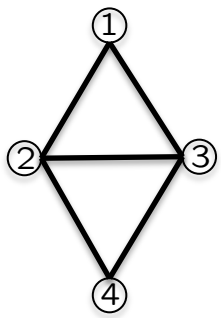
$\mathbf{V}_7, \dots, \mathbf{V}_{11}$  : Generic  $13 \times 5$  random matrices



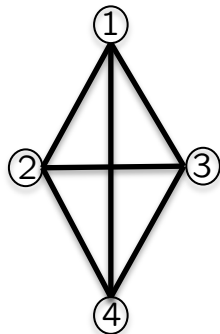
# No Simpler Example

[Sun, Jafar, 13]

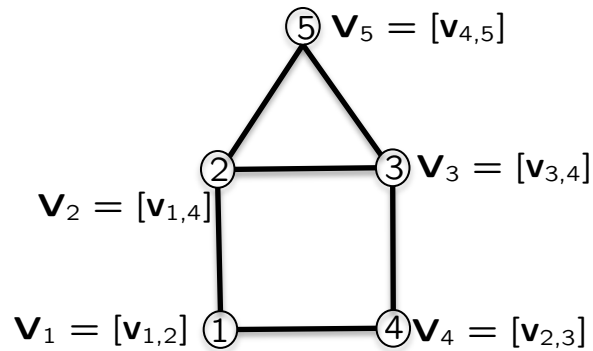
solved all cases with 6 or fewer edges in each alignment set



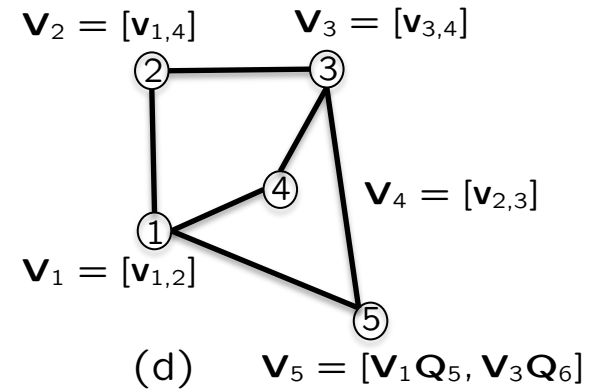
(a)



(b)

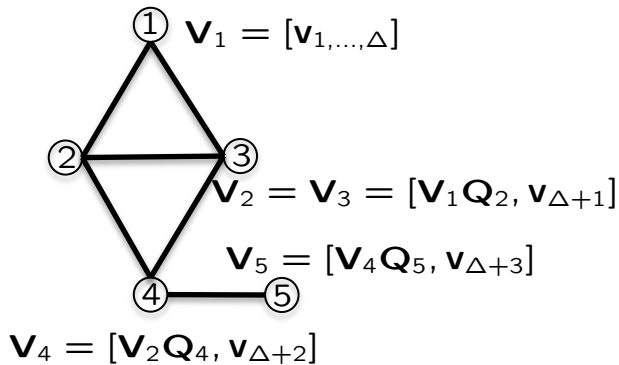


(c)

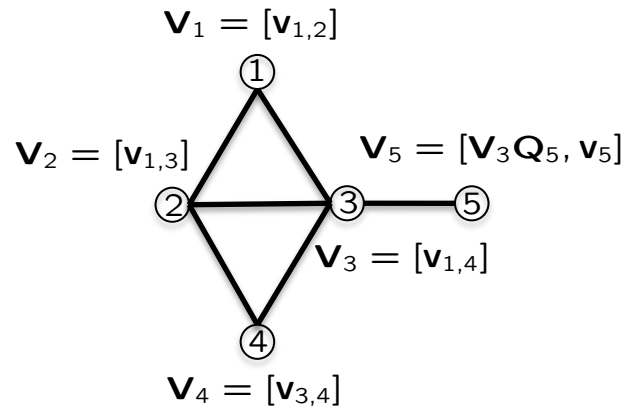


(d)

$\Delta = 2, 3$



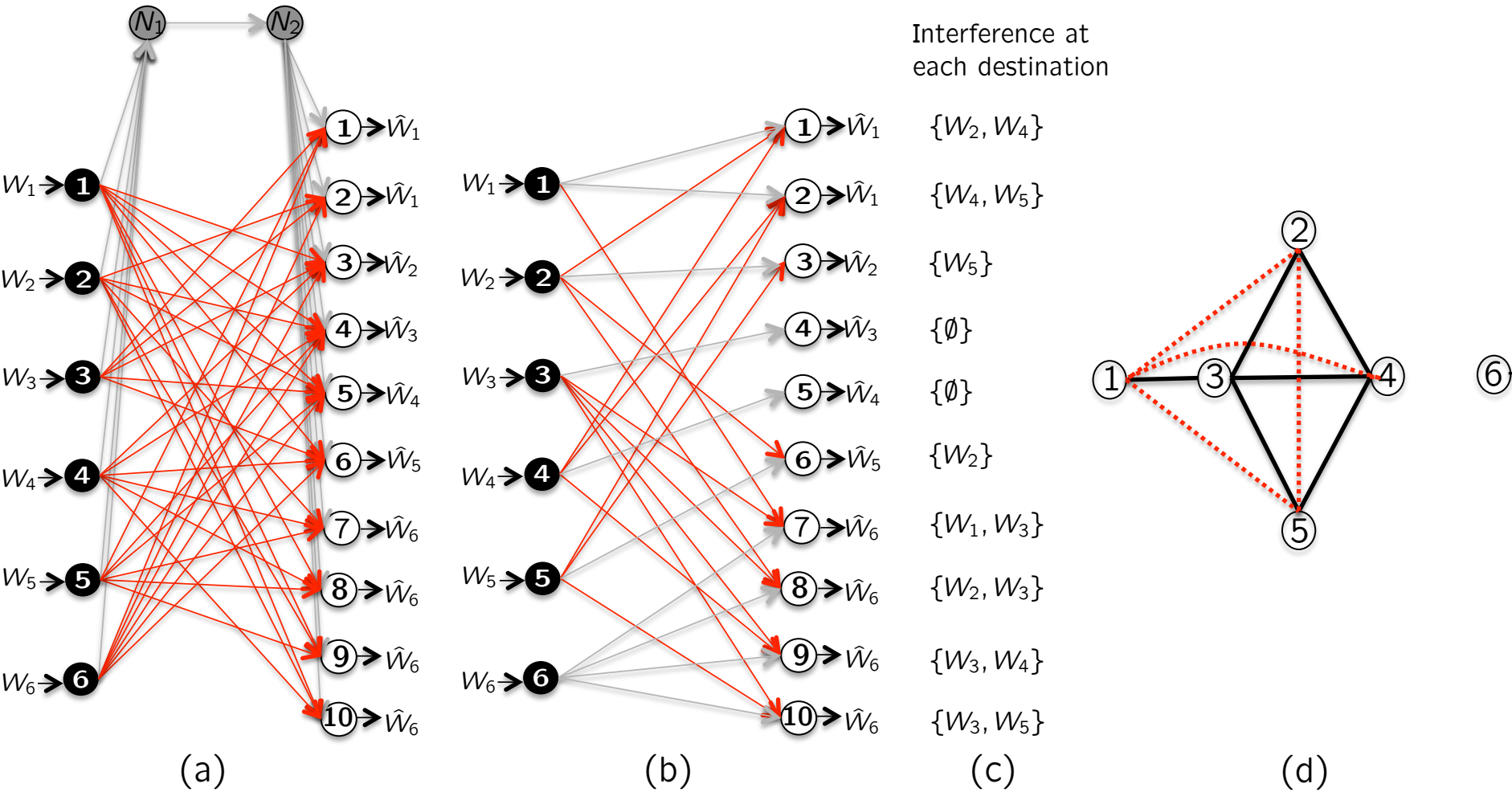
(e)



(f)

# Simplest Example for groupcast

[Sun, Jafar, 13]



Open: Simplest unicast example with min number of messages

# Outline

## 1. Optimality of the Simplest Coloring Scheme

1a. Main Result

1b. Special Case: Convex networks

1c. Proof

## 2. Minimal Necessity of Non-Shannon Inequalities

2a. An Interference Alignment Perspective

2b. The Simplest Hard Problem

## 3. Remaining Challenges

# Open Problem 1: Compute best linear rate?

Best linear rate = vector minrank

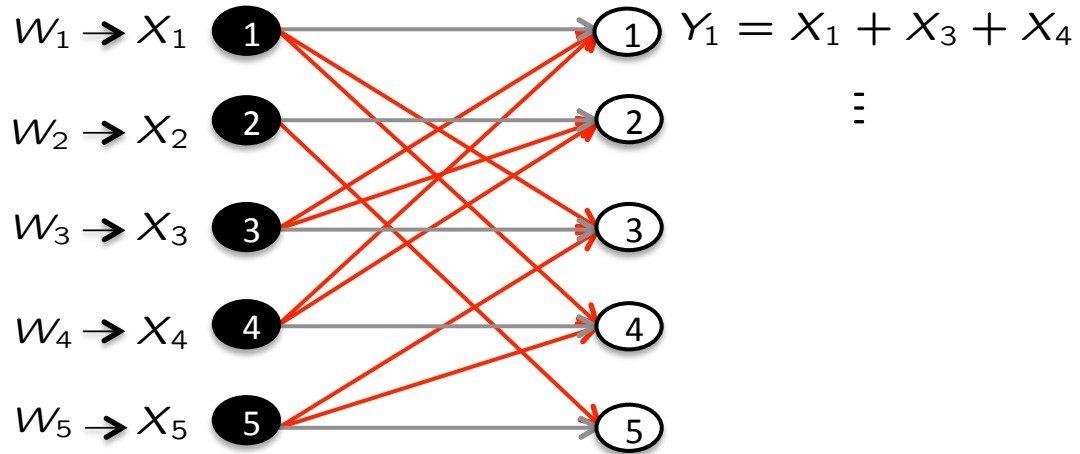
Can also be stated as alignment constraints.

Multi-letter in essence.

No bound on the number of symbol extension needed.

## Open Problem 2: Separate encoding

$$S = X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5$$



Non-shannon needed?

Non-linear needed?

Relates to the DoF of Gaussian networks.

Thanks!





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