# Weak and strong regularity, compactness, and approximation of polynomials 

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#### Abstract

Let $X$ be an inner product space, let $G$ be a group of orthogonal transformations of $X$, and let $R$ be a bounded $G$-stable subset of $X$. We define very weak and very strong regularity for such pairs ( $R, G$ ) (in the sense of Szemerédi's regularity lemma), and prove that these two properties are equivalent.

Moreover, these properties are equivalent to the compactness of the space $\left(B(H), d_{R}\right) / G$. Here $H$ is the completion of $X$ (a Hilbert space), $B(H)$ is the unit ball in $H, d_{R}$ is the metric on $H$ given by $d_{R}(x, y):=\sup _{r \in R}|\langle r, x-y\rangle|$, and $\left(B(H), d_{R}\right) / G$ is the orbit space of $\left(B(H), d_{R}\right)$ (the quotient topological space with the $G$-orbits as quotient classes).

As applications we give Szemerédi's regularity lemma, a related regularity lemma for partitions into intervals, and a low rank approximation theorem for homogeneous polynomials.


## 1. Equivalence of very weak regularity, very strong regularity, and compactness

This paper is inspired by Szemerédi's regularity lemma ([7]) and subsequent work on graph limits by Lovász and Szegedy ([3,4]) (cf. also [5]).

Let $X$ be an inner product space and let $R$ be a bounded subset of $X$ spanning $X$. (So each element of $X$ is a linear combination of finitely many elements of $R$.) Let $G$ be a group of orthogonal transformations $\pi$ of $X$ with $\pi(R)=R$. Let $B(X)$ denote the unit ball in $X$. For any $k$, let $R_{k}:=\left\{ \pm r_{1} \pm \cdots \pm r_{k} \mid r_{1}, \ldots, r_{k} \in R\right\}$. Let $H$ be the completion of $X$, which is a Hilbert space. Then $G$ naturally acts on $H$. For $x, y \in H$, define

$$
\begin{equation*}
d_{R}(x, y):=\sup _{r \in R}|\langle r, x-y\rangle| . \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

The space $\left(B(H), d_{R}\right) / G$ is the orbit space of $\left(B(H), d_{R}\right)$, i.e., the quotient topological space of $\left(B(H), d_{R}\right)$ taking the $G$-orbits as classes.

Theorem 1. The following are equivalent:
(i) $(R, G)$ is very weakly regular: for each $k$ there exists a finite set $Z \subseteq X$ such that for each $x \in R_{k}$ there exist $z \in Z$ and $\pi \in G$ satisfying $\left\langle r, x-z^{\pi}\right\rangle^{2} \leq 1$ for each $r \in R$;
(ii) $(R, G)$ is weakly regular: for each $\varepsilon>0$ there exists a finite set $Z \subseteq B(X)$ such that for each $x \in B(X)$ there exist $z \in Z$ and $\pi \in G$ satisfying $\left|\left\langle r, x-z^{\pi}\right\rangle\right|<\varepsilon$ for each $r \in R$;
(iii) $(R, G)$ is very strongly regular: for each $\varepsilon>0$ and $f: X \rightarrow\{1,2, \ldots\}$ there exists a finite set $Z \subseteq B(X)$ such that for each $x \in B(X)$ there exist $z \in Z$ and $\pi \in G$ satisfying ${ }^{2}$

[^0]\[

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{i=1}^{f(z)}\left|\left\langle r_{i}, x-z^{\pi}\right\rangle\right|^{t} \leq \varepsilon\left(1+\left\|\left(\left\|r_{1}\right\|^{t}, \ldots,\left\|r_{f(z)}\right\|^{t}\right)\right\|_{p}\right) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

\]

for all $t \in[\varepsilon, 2]$, where $p:=2 /(2-t)$, and for all orthogonal $r_{1}, \ldots, r_{f(z)} \in R$;
(iv) the space $\left(B(H), d_{R}\right) / G$ is compact.

Proof. (iii) $\Rightarrow$ (ii) follows by taking $f(x)=1$ for each $x \in X$ and $t=1$. (ii) $\Rightarrow$ (i) follows by observing that $\frac{1}{t} R_{k} \subseteq B(X)$ for some $t$, and taking $\varepsilon:=1 / t$. So it suffices to prove (i) $\Rightarrow$ (ii), (ii) $\Rightarrow$ (iv), and (iv) $\Rightarrow$ (iii).

For all $x, y \in B(H)$ define

$$
\begin{equation*}
\delta_{R}(x, y):=\inf _{\pi \in G} d_{R}\left(x, y^{\pi}\right) \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then $\delta_{R}$ is a pseudometric, and the space $\left(B(H), \delta_{R}\right)$ is topologically homeomorphic to the orbit space $\left(B(H), d_{R}\right) / G$.

Observe that (i) implies that the space $\left(R_{k}, \delta_{R}\right)$ is totally bounded ${ }^{3}$. Indeed, choose $\varepsilon>0$. Let $t:=\left\lceil\varepsilon^{-1}\right\rceil$. Then $R_{k t}$ can be covered by finitely many $\delta_{R}$-balls of radius 1 . As $R_{k} \subseteq \frac{1}{t} R_{k t}, R_{k}$ can be covered by finitely many $\delta_{R}$-balls of radius $1 / t \leq \varepsilon$.

So we can assume, by scaling, that $\|r\| \leq 1$ for each $r \in R$.
$(\mathrm{i}) \Rightarrow$ (ii): We saw above that (i) implies that $\left(R_{k}, \delta_{R}\right)$ is totally bounded for each $k$. Now define, for each $k$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
S_{k}:=\left\{\lambda_{1} r_{1}+\cdots+\lambda_{k} r_{k} \mid r_{1}, \ldots, r_{k} \in R, \lambda_{1}, \ldots, \lambda_{k} \in[-1,+1]\right\} . \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then also $\left(S_{k}, \delta_{R}\right)$ is totally bounded. Indeed, choose $\varepsilon>0$, and define $t:=k\left\lceil\varepsilon^{-1}\right\rceil$. Then each $x \in S_{k}$ has Hilbert distance less than $\varepsilon$ to $\frac{1}{t} R_{k t}$. By the above, $\left(R_{k t}, \delta_{R}\right)$ is totally bounded, hence so is $\left(\frac{1}{t} R_{k t}, \delta_{R}\right)$. So ( $S_{k}, \delta_{R}$ ) is totally bounded.

Next we show that for each $k$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
B(X) \subseteq B_{d_{R}}\left(S_{k}, 1 / \sqrt{k}\right) . \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

To see this, choose $a \in B(X)$. Let $a_{0}:=a$. If $a_{i}$ has been found, and $d_{R}\left(a_{i}, 0\right)>1 / \sqrt{k}$, choose $r$ with $\left\langle r, a_{i}\right\rangle>1 / \sqrt{k}$. Let $a_{i+1}:=a_{i}-\left\langle r, a_{i}\right\rangle r$. Then by induction on $i$, as $\|r\| \leq 1$,

$$
\begin{align*}
& \left\|a_{i+1}\right\|^{2}=\left\|a_{i}\right\|^{2}-2\left\langle r, a_{i}\right\rangle^{2}+\left\langle r, a_{i}\right\rangle^{2}\|r\|^{2} \leq\left\|a_{i}\right\|^{2}-\left\langle r, a_{i}\right\rangle^{2} \leq\left\|a_{i}\right\|^{2}-1 / k \leq  \tag{6}\\
& 1-i / k-1 / k=1-(i+1) / k .
\end{align*}
$$

So the process terminates for some $i \leq k$, and we have (5), since $a-a_{i} \in S_{k}$ and hence $d_{R}\left(a, S_{k}\right) \leq d_{R}\left(a, a-a_{i}\right)=d_{R}\left(a_{i}, 0\right) \leq 1 / \sqrt{k}$.

As each $\left(S_{k}, \delta_{R}\right)$ is totally bounded, (5) implies that $\left(B(X), \delta_{R}\right)$ is totally bounded.

[^1](ii) $\Rightarrow(\mathrm{iv})$ : By (ii), the space $\left(B(H), \delta_{R}\right)$ is totally bounded. So it suffices to show that $\left(B(H), \delta_{R}\right)$ is complete. Let $x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots$ be a Cauchy sequence in $\left(B(H), \delta_{R}\right)$. We show that it is convergent. We can assume that $\delta_{R}\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right)<2^{-n}$ for each $n$. Let $\pi_{1}$ be the identity in $G$. For each $n \geq 1$, we can choose $\pi_{n+1} \in G$ such that $d_{R}\left(x_{n}^{\pi_{n}}, x_{n+1}^{\pi_{n+1}}\right)<2^{-n}$. Replacing $x_{n}$ by $x_{n}^{\pi_{n}}$, we can assume that $x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots$ is a Cauchy sequence in $\left(B(H), d_{R}\right)$. As $B(H)$ is weakly compact, $x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots$ has a subsequence that converges to some $a \in B(H)$ in the weak topology on $B(H)$. Then $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} d_{R}\left(x_{n}, a\right)=0$. Indeed, $d_{R}\left(x_{n}, a\right) \leq 2^{-n+2}$ for each $n$. Otherwise, $\left|\left\langle r, x_{n}-a\right\rangle\right|>2^{-n+2}$ for some $r \in R$. As $a$ is weak limit of some subsequence of $x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots$, there is an $m \geq n$ with $\left|\left\langle r, x_{m}-a\right\rangle\right|<2^{-n+1}$. As $\left|\left\langle r, x_{n}-x_{m}\right\rangle\right| \leq d_{R}\left(x_{n}, x_{m}\right)<$ $2^{-n+1}$, this gives a contradiction.
(iv) $\Rightarrow$ (iii): Choose $\varepsilon>0$ and $f: X \rightarrow\{1,2, \ldots\}$. For any $k$, consider the function $\phi_{k}$ : $X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by
\[

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi_{k}(x):=\sup _{t \in[\varepsilon, 2]} \sup _{t \rightarrow r}^{\substack{\text { orthogonal } \\ r_{1}, \ldots, r_{k} \in R}} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k}\left|\left\langle r_{i}, x\right\rangle\right|^{t}}{\left(1+\left\|\left(\left\|r_{1}\right\|^{t}, \ldots,\left\|r_{k}\right\|^{t}\right)\right\|_{p}\right)} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

\]

for $x \in X$, where $p=(1-t / 2)^{-1}$. Then $\phi_{k}$ is continuous with respect to the $d_{R}$-topology on $B(H)$. To see this, let $x, y \in B(H)$ with $d_{R}(x, y) \leq 1$. Then $|\langle r, x\rangle|^{t}-|\langle r, y\rangle|^{t} \leq$ $2|\langle r, x-y\rangle|^{\varepsilon} \leq 2 d_{R}(x, y)^{\varepsilon}$ for each $r \in R$ and $t \in[\varepsilon, 2]$ This gives, by considering any $t$ and $r_{1}, \ldots, r_{k}$ in the suprema for $x$, that $\phi_{k}(y) \geq \phi_{k}(x)-2 k d_{R}(x, y)^{\varepsilon}$ (using that the denominator in (7) is at least 1). So $\phi_{k}$ is continuous in the $d_{R^{\prime}}$-topology on $B(H)$.

Define for each $z \in B(X)$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
U_{z}:=\left\{x \in B(H) \mid \phi_{f(z)}(x-z)<\varepsilon\right\} . \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

So $U_{z}$ is open in de $d_{R}$-topology. Moreover, the $U_{z}$ for $z \in B(X)$ cover $B(H)$. Indeed, for any $x \in B(H)$ there exists $z \in B(X)$ with $\|x-z\|<\varepsilon^{1 / \varepsilon}$. Then $x \in U_{z}$, since $\phi_{k}(x-z)<\varepsilon$ for any $k$, which follows from the following inequality. Let $t \in[\varepsilon, 2]$ and $r_{1}, \ldots, r_{k} \in R$ be orthogonal and nonzero, for some $k \geq 1$. Define $s_{i}:=r_{i} /\left\|r_{i}\right\|$ for each $i$. So $s_{1}, \ldots, s_{k}$ are orthonormal. Denote $\rho:=\left\|\left(\left\|r_{1}\right\|^{t}, \ldots,\left\|r_{k}\right\|^{t}\right)\right\|_{p}$, with $p:=2 /(2-t)$. Then one has for any $y \in B(H)$, using the Hölder inequality, and setting $q:=2 / t$ (so that $p^{-1}+q^{-1}=1$ ):

$$
\begin{align*}
& \sum_{i=1}^{k}\left|\left\langle r_{i}, y\right\rangle\right|^{t}=\sum_{i=1}^{k}\left\|r_{i}\right\|^{t} \cdot\left|\left\langle s_{i}, y\right\rangle\right|^{t} \leq\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k}\left\|r_{i}\right\|^{t p}\right)^{1 / p} \cdot\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k}\left|\left\langle s_{i}, y\right\rangle\right|^{t q}\right)^{1 / q}=  \tag{9}\\
& \rho\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k}\left\langle s_{i}, y\right\rangle^{2}\right)^{1 / q} \leq \rho\|y\|^{2 / q}=\rho\|y\|^{t} \leq(1+\rho)\|y\|^{\varepsilon} .
\end{align*}
$$

So $\phi_{f(z)}(x-z) \leq\|x-z\|^{\varepsilon}<\varepsilon$, and hence $x \in U_{z}$.
As $\left(B(H), \delta_{R}\right)$ is compact by (iv), there is a finite set $Z \subseteq X$ such that voor each $x \in X$ there exist $z \in Z$ and $\pi \in G$ such that $x \in U_{z^{\pi}}$. This gives (iii).

[^2]
## 2. Applications

Since $R$ spans $X, X$ is fully determined by the positive semidefinite $R \times R$ matrix giving the inner products of pairs from $R$. Then $G$ is given by a group of permutations of $R$ that leave the matrix invariant. It is convenient to realize that $R$ is weakly regular if (but not only if) the orbit space $R^{k} / G$ is compact for each $k$.

1. Szemerédi's regularity lemma [7]. Let $R$ be the collection of sets $I \times J$, with $I$ and $J$ each being a union of finitely many subintervals of $[0,1]$, with inner product equal to the measure of the intersection. Let $G$ be the group of permutations of the intervals of any partition of $[0,1]$ into intervals. Then $G$ acts on $R$.

Let $\Pi$ be the collection of partitions of $[0,1]$ into finitely many sets, each being a union of finitely many intervals. For $P, Q \in \Pi, P \leq Q$ if and only if $P$ is a refinement of $Q$. This gives a lattice; let $\wedge$ be the meet.

For any $P \in \Pi$, let $L_{P}$ be subspace of $X$ spanned by the elements $I \times J$ with $I, J \in P$. For any $x \in X$, let $x_{P}$ be the orthogonal projection of $x$ onto $L_{P}$.

Lemma 1. For each $x \in X$ and $\varepsilon>0$ there exists $t_{\varepsilon, x}$ such that for each $N \in \Pi$ there is a $P \geq N$ such that $\left\|x_{N}-x_{P}\right\|<\varepsilon$ and $|P| \leq t_{\varepsilon, x}$.

Proof. Let $Y$ be the set of those $x$ for which the statement holds for all $\varepsilon>0$. Then $Y$ is a linear space. Indeed, if $x \in Y$ and $\lambda \neq 0$ then $\lambda x \in Y$, as we can take $t_{\varepsilon, \lambda x}:=t_{|\lambda-1| \varepsilon, x}$. If $x, y \in Y$ then $x+y \in Y$, as we can take $t_{\varepsilon, x+y}:=t_{\varepsilon / 2, x} t_{\varepsilon / 2, y}$, since if $\left\|x_{N}-x_{P}\right\|<$ $\varepsilon / 2$ and $\| y_{N}-y_{Q} \mid<\varepsilon / 2$ for some $P, Q \geq N$, then $\left\|(x+y)_{N}-x_{P}-y_{Q}\right\|<\varepsilon$, hence $\left\|(x+y)_{N}-(x+y)_{P \wedge Q}\right\| \leq \varepsilon$, since $x_{P}+y_{Q} \in L_{P \wedge Q}$ and $\left((x+y)_{N}\right)_{P \wedge Q}=(x+y)_{P \wedge Q}$ (since $\left.L_{P \wedge Q} \subseteq L_{N}\right)$. Note that $|P \wedge Q| \leq|P||Q|$.

So $Y$ is a linear space, and hence it suffices to show that $R \subseteq Y$. Let $x \in R$ and $\varepsilon>0$. We claim that $t_{\varepsilon, x}:=(1+2 / \varepsilon)^{2}$ will do. Indeed, let $N \in \Pi$. Then

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{N}=\sum_{I, J \in N} \alpha_{I} \beta_{J}(I \times J) \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

for some $\alpha, \beta: N \rightarrow[0,1]$. Let $\alpha^{\prime}$ and $\beta^{\prime}$ be obtained from $\alpha$ and $\beta$ by rounding down the values to an integer multiple of $\varepsilon / 2$. Let $P \geq N$ be such that two classes $I$ and $J$ of $N$ are contained in the same class of $P$ if and only if $\alpha_{I}^{\prime}=\alpha_{J}^{\prime}$ and $\beta_{I}^{\prime}=\beta_{J}^{\prime}$. As the pairs ( $\alpha_{I}^{\prime}, \beta_{I}^{\prime}$ ) take at most $(1+2 / \varepsilon)^{2}$ different values, we have $|P| \leq\left(1+2 \varepsilon^{-1}\right)^{2}$. Define

$$
\begin{equation*}
y:=\sum_{I, J \in N} \alpha_{I}^{\prime} \beta_{J}^{\prime}(I \times J) . \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then $y \in L_{P}$. Hence, since $x_{P}=\left(x_{N}\right)_{P}\left(\right.$ as $\left.L_{P} \subseteq L_{N}\right)$, implying that $x_{P}$ is the point on $L_{P}$ closest to $x_{N}$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\|x_{N}-x_{P}\right\|^{2} \leq\left\|x_{N}-y\right\|^{2} \leq \sum_{I, J \in N}\left(\alpha_{I} \beta_{J}-\alpha_{I}^{\prime} \beta_{J}^{\prime}\right)^{2} \mu(I \times J) \leq \varepsilon^{2} \sum_{I, J \in N} \mu(I \times J)=\varepsilon^{2} . \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

Here $\mu(I \times J)$ is the measure of $I \times J$.
Call a collection $P$ of sets balanced if all sets in $P$ have the same cardinality. Call a partition $P$ of a finite set $V \varepsilon$-balanced if $P \backslash P^{\prime}$ is balanced for some $P^{\prime} \subseteq P$ with $\left|\bigcup P^{\prime}\right| \leq \varepsilon|V|$.

Lemma 2. Let $\varepsilon>0$. Then each partition $P$ of a finite set $V$ has an $\varepsilon$-balanced refinement $Q$ with $|Q| \leq(1+1 / \varepsilon)|P|$.

Proof. Define $t:=\varepsilon|V| /|P|$. Split each class of $P$ into classes, each of size $\lceil t\rceil$, except for at most one of size less than $t$. This gives $Q$. Then $|Q| \leq|P|+|V| / t=(1+1 / \varepsilon)|P|$. Moreover, the union of the classes of $Q$ of size less than $t$ has size at most $|P| t=\varepsilon|V|$. So $Q$ is $\varepsilon$-balanced.

Given a graph $H=(V, E)$ and $C, D \subseteq V$, then $e(C, D)$ is the number of adjacent pairs of vertices in $C \times D$. If $C, D \neq \emptyset$, let $d(C, D):=e(C, D) /|C||D|$.

Theorem 2 (Szemerédi's regularity lemma). For each $\varepsilon>0$ and $p \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists $k_{p, \varepsilon} \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for each graph $H=(V, E)$ and each partition $P$ of $V$ with $|P|=p$ there is an $\varepsilon$-balanced refinement $Q$ of $P$ with $|Q| \leq k_{p, \varepsilon}$ and

Proof. Let $R$ and $G$ be as above. It is easy to check that $R^{k} / G$ is compact for each $k$, hence $(R, G)$ is very weakly regular. So, by Theorem ( $(R, G)$ is very strongly regular.

Fix $\varepsilon>0$ and $p \in \mathbb{N}$. For each $x \in X$, define $f(x):=\left((1+1 / \varepsilon) p t_{\varepsilon / 4, x}\right)^{2}$, where $t_{\varepsilon / 4, x}$ is as given in Lemma 1 .

By the very strong regularity of $(R, G)$, there exists a finite set $Z \subseteq X$ such that for each $x \in B(X)$ there exist $z \in Z$ and $\pi \in G$ satisfying

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{j=1}^{f(z)}\left\langle r_{j}, x-z^{\pi}\right\rangle^{2}<\varepsilon^{2} / 16 \text { for all orthogonal } r_{1}, \ldots, r_{f(z)} \in R \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let $k_{p, \varepsilon}:=\max \{f(z) \mid z \in Z\}$. We show that $k_{p, \varepsilon}$ is as required.
Let $H=([n], E)$ be a graph. Let $N$ be the partition of $[0,1]$ into $n$ equal consecutive intervals $I_{1}, \ldots, I_{n}$, and let $x:=\sum_{i, j \in[n] \text { adjacent }} I_{i} \times I_{j}$ (the corresponding graphon).

By the above there exists a $z \in Z$ and a $\pi \in G$ satisfying (14). By Lemma $\mathbb{1}$ there is a partition $U \in \Pi$ with $U \geq N$ such that $|U| \leq t_{\varepsilon / 4, z}$ and $\left\|z_{N}-z_{U}\right\| \leq \varepsilon / 4$. Let $S:=P \wedge U$. So $|S| \leq|P||U| \leq p t_{\varepsilon / 4, z}$. By Lemma 2, there is an $\varepsilon$-balanced refinement $Q$ of $S$ with $N \leq Q \leq S$ and $|Q| \leq(1+1 / \varepsilon)|S| \leq \sqrt{f(z)} \leq k_{p, \varepsilon}$. We show that this $Q$ gives the partition of the theorem.

For each $A, B \in Q$, choose $r \in R$ with $r \subseteq A \times B$, such that $r \in L_{N}$ and such that $\left|\left\langle r, x-z_{Q}\right\rangle\right|$ is maximized. This implies for each $r^{\prime} \in R$ with $r^{\prime} \subseteq A \times B$ and $r^{\prime} \in L_{N}$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\left\langle r^{\prime}, x-x_{Q}\right\rangle\right| \leq\left|\left\langle r^{\prime}, x-z_{Q}\right\rangle\right|+\left|\left\langle r^{\prime}, x_{Q}-z_{Q}\right\rangle\right| \leq\left|\left\langle r^{\prime}, x-z_{Q}\right\rangle\right|+\left|\left\langle A \times B, x_{Q}-z_{Q}\right\rangle\right|= \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\left|\left\langle r^{\prime}, x-z_{Q}\right\rangle\right|+\left|\left\langle A \times B, x-z_{Q}\right\rangle\right| \leq 2\left|\left\langle r, x-z_{Q}\right\rangle\right| .
$$

Let $r_{1}, \ldots, r_{t}$ be the chosen elements. So $t=|Q|^{2} \leq f(z)$. Hence, noting that $\left\langle r_{i}, z\right\rangle=$ $\left\langle r_{i}, z_{N}\right\rangle$, since $r_{i} \in L_{N}$,

$$
\begin{align*}
& \left(\sum_{i=1}^{t}\left\langle r_{i}, x-z_{Q}\right\rangle^{2}\right)^{1 / 2} \leq\left(\sum_{i=1}^{t}\left\langle r_{i}, x-z_{N}\right\rangle^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}+\left\|z_{N}-z_{Q}\right\| \leq  \tag{16}\\
& \left(\sum_{i=1}^{t}\left\langle r_{i}, x-z\right\rangle^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}+\varepsilon / 4 \leq \varepsilon / 2
\end{align*}
$$

For the graph $H,(15)$ and (16) give (13).
To interpret (13), for $A, B \in Q$, let $m_{A, B}$ denote the maximum described in (13). Let $Q^{\prime}$ be such that $Q \backslash Q^{\prime}$ is balanced and $\left|\bigcup Q^{\prime}\right| \leq \varepsilon|V|$. Set $Q^{\prime \prime}:=Q \backslash Q^{\prime}$, and let $Z$ be the collection of pairs $(A, B) \in Q^{\prime \prime} \times Q^{\prime \prime}$ with $m_{A, B} \geq \sqrt{\varepsilon}|A||B|$. Then (13) implies

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{(A, B) \in Z}|A||B| \leq \sum_{(A, B) \in Z} \varepsilon^{-1 / 2} m_{A, B} \leq \sqrt{\varepsilon}|V|^{2} \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

Moreover, as $\left|\bigcup Q^{\prime}\right|<\varepsilon|V|$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{A, B \in Q^{\prime \prime}}|A||B| \geq \sum_{A, B \in Q}|A||B|-2 \varepsilon|V|^{2}=(1-2 \varepsilon)|V|^{2} \tag{18}
\end{equation*}
$$

Hence, assuming $\varepsilon<1 / 4,|Z| \leq \sqrt{\varepsilon}(1-2 \varepsilon)^{-1}\left|Q^{\prime \prime}\right|^{2}<2 \sqrt{\varepsilon}\left|Q^{\prime \prime}\right|^{2}$. For each $(A, B) \in$ $\left(Q^{\prime \prime} \times Q^{\prime \prime}\right) \backslash Z$ one has $m_{A, B}<\sqrt{\varepsilon}|A||B|$, implying that for each rectangle $R \subseteq A \times B$ with $|R| /|A \times B| \geq \sqrt[4]{\varepsilon}$ one has $|d(R)-d(A \times B)|<\sqrt[4]{\varepsilon}$. In other words, $A \times B$ is $\sqrt[4]{\varepsilon}$-regular.
2. "Interval regularity". Let $R$ be the collection of sets $I \times J$, with $I$ and $J$ subintervals of $[0,1]$, with inner product given by the measure of the intersection. Then Theorem 1 gives an "interval regularity theorem" for graphs (it can also be proved with Szemerédi's classical combinatorial method):

Theorem 3. For each $\varepsilon>0$ and $p \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists $k_{p, \varepsilon} \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for each $n$, each graph $H=([n], E)$ and each partition $P$ of $[n]$ into intervals with $|P| \leq p, P$ has a refinement to a partition $Q$ into at most $k_{p, \varepsilon}$ intervals such that all intervals in $Q$ have the same size except for some of them covering $\leq \varepsilon n$ vertices and such that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{A, B \in Q} \max _{\substack{I \subseteq A, J \subseteq B \\ I, J \text { intervals }}}|I\|J\| d(I, J)-d(A, B)|<\varepsilon n^{2} \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

Here $d(I, J)$ and $d(A, B)$ are the densities of the corresponding subgraphs of $H$.
This can be derived similarly as (in fact, easier than) Szemerédi's regularity lemma above.
3. Polynomial approximation. Let $k \leq n$. Each polynomial $p \in \mathbb{R}\left[x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right]$ can be uniquely written as $p=\sum_{\mu} \mu p_{\mu}$, where $\mu$ ranges over the set $M$ of all monomials in $\mathbb{R}\left[x_{1}, \ldots, x_{k}\right]$ and where $p_{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}\left[x_{k+1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right]$. If $p$ is homogeneous of degree $d$, we say that $p$ is $\varepsilon$-concentrated on the first $k$ variables if

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{\substack{\mu \in M \\ \operatorname{deg}(\mu)<d}} \max _{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n-k} \\\|x\|=1}} p_{\mu}(x)^{2} \leq \varepsilon\|p\|^{2}, \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\|p\|$ is the square root of the sum of the squares of the coefficients of $p$.
Theorem 4. For each $\varepsilon>0$ and $d \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists $k_{d, \varepsilon}$ such that for each $n$, each homogeneous polynomial of degree $d$ in $n$ variables is $\varepsilon$-concentrated on the first $k$ variables after some orthogonal transformation of $\mathbb{R}^{n}$, for some $k \leq k_{d, \varepsilon}$.

This can be derived by setting $R$ to be the set of all polynomials ( $\left.a^{\top} x\right)^{d}$, with $a \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$ and $\|a\|=1$ for some $n$ (setting $x=\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots\right)$ ), taking the inner product of $\left(a^{\top} x\right)^{d}$ and $\left(b^{\boldsymbol{\top}} x\right)^{d}$ equal to $\left(a^{\boldsymbol{\top}} b\right)^{d}$. (This corollary strengthens a 'weak regularity' result of Fernandez de la Vega, Kannan, Karpinski, and Vempala [2].) For details, we refer to [6].

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    ${ }^{2}\|\cdot\|_{p}$ is the $L^{p}$-norm, here for the finite-dimensional space $\mathbb{R}^{f(z)}$.

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ A pseudometric space is totally bounded if for each $\varepsilon>0$ it can be covered by finitely many balls of radius $\varepsilon$ (cf. [1]).

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ This follows from the fact that if $0 \leq b \leq a \leq 1$, then for each $t \in[1,2]: a^{t}-b^{t} \leq a^{t}-b^{t}+\left(a^{2-t}-\right.$ $\left.b^{2-t}\right)(a b)^{t-1}=(a-b)\left(a^{t-1}+b^{t-1}\right) \leq 2(a-\bar{b}) \leq 2(a-b)^{\varepsilon}$, and for each $t \in[\varepsilon, 1)$, by the concavity of the function $x^{t}: a^{t}-b^{t} \leq(a-b)^{t} \leq(a-b)^{\varepsilon}$.

