### Cube Term Blockers Without Finiteness

### Ágnes Szendrei

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Joint work with Keith Kearnes

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A. Szendrei (CU Boulder)

Cube Term Blockers

### Cube Terms

A. Szendrei (CU Boulder)

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 $\exists$  **cube term** ( $\Leftrightarrow \exists$  edge term  $\Leftrightarrow \exists$  parallelogram term)

$$\mathcal{V} \models c \left( \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} y \\ x \\ \vdots \\ x \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ \vdots \\ x \end{bmatrix}, \dots, \begin{bmatrix} x \\ x \\ \vdots \\ y \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} y \\ y \\ \vdots \\ x \end{bmatrix}, \dots \right)_{d-\text{tuples in } x, y, \text{ with at least one } y} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ x \\ \vdots \\ x \end{bmatrix}$$

 $\exists cube term (\Leftrightarrow \exists edge term \Leftrightarrow \exists parallelogram term) \\ \diamond is a common generalization of `\exists Mal'tsev term' and `\exists NU term'$ 

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- ♦ for finite **A**, is equivalent to  $\log_2 |\operatorname{Sub}(\mathbf{A}^n)| \in O(n^k)$  for some *k* [Berman, Idziak, Marković, McKenzie, Valeriote, Willard, 2010]

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- $\diamond$  for  $\mathbf{A}_{\Gamma}$ , implies that  $\mathrm{CSP}(\Gamma) \in \mathsf{P}$  [Idziak, Marković, McKenzie, V., W., 2010]
- ♦ for finite A, implies that A is finitely related [Aichinger, Mayr, McKenzie, 2014]

# How To Recognize If Cube Terms Exist

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Image: A mathematical states and a mathem

## How To Recognize If Cube Terms Exist

Let A be an idempotent algebra.

**Definition.** A *cube term blocker* for **A** is a pair (U, B) of subuniverses of **A** with  $\emptyset \subsetneq U \subsetneq B$  such that for every term  $t = t(x_0, \ldots, x_{n-1})$ , the term operation  $t^{\mathbf{B}}$  is *U*-absorbing in some variable  $x_i$ ;

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 $\diamond$  i.e.,  $t^{\mathbf{B}}(b_0, \ldots, b_{n-1}) \in U$  whenever  $b_0, \ldots, b_{n-1} \in B$  with  $b_i \in U$ .

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**MMM Theorem.** [Marković, Maróti, McKenzie, 2012] *TFAE for a finite idempotent algebra* **A**:

- (1) **A** has no cube term;
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♦ **Note.** (2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) is easy.

### Crosses and Cube Term Blockers

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# Crosses and Cube Term Blockers

**Definition.** The *m*-dimensional cross on *B* with bases  $U_0, \ldots, U_{m-1}$  ( $\emptyset \subsetneq U_i \subsetneq B$ ) is  $Cross(U_0, \ldots, U_{m-1})$  $= \{(b_i)_{i < m} \in B^m : b_i \in U_i \text{ for some } i < m\}.$ 



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**Easy Fact:** Let **A** be an idempotent algebra. TFAE for **B**  $\leq$  **A** and  $\emptyset \subsetneq U \subsetneq B$ :

- (U, B) is a cube term blocker for A;
- $Cross(U, \ldots, U) \leq \mathbf{B}^m$  for all m.



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- (U, B) is a cube term blocker for A;
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#### MMM Theorem. [rephrased]

TFAE for a finite idempotent algebra A:

- (1) **A** has no cube term;
- (2) there exist  $\mathbf{B} \leq \mathbf{A}$  and a proper, nonempty subuniverse U of  $\mathbf{B}$  such that  $Cross(U, ..., U) \leq \mathbf{B}^m$  for all m.

![](_page_17_Figure_9.jpeg)

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Image: A mathematical states and a mathem

From now on:

 $\mathcal{V}$  is an idempotent variety and  $\mathbf{F} := \mathbf{F}_{\mathcal{V}}(x, y)$ .

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**Theorem 1.** *TFAE for*  $2 \le \nu \le \omega$ *:* 

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**Theorem 1.** *TFAE for*  $2 \le \nu \le \omega$ : (1)  $\mathcal{V}$  has no d-cube term for  $d \le \nu$ ;

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- (1)  $\mathcal{V}$  has no d-cube term for  $d \leq \nu$ ;
- (2) there exists a  $\nu$ -sequence  $(U_j)_{j < \nu}$  of subuniverses of  $\mathbf{F}$ with  $y \in \bigcap_{j < \nu} U_j$  and  $x \notin \bigcup_{j < \nu} U_j$  such that  $Cross(U_{i_0}, \dots, U_{i_{d-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^d$  whenever  $i_0 < \dots < i_{d-1} < \nu$ .

From now on: V is an idempotent variety and  $\mathbf{F} := \mathbf{F}_{\mathcal{V}}(x, y)$ .

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♦ **Definition.** Such a  $(U_j)_{j < \nu}$  is called a *cross sequence*.

From now on: V is an idempotent variety and  $\mathbf{F} := \mathbf{F}_{V}(x, y)$ .

**Theorem 1.** *TFAE for*  $2 \le \nu \le \omega$ :

(1)  $\mathcal{V}$  has no *d*-cube term for  $d \leq \nu$ ;

(2) there exists a ν-sequence (U<sub>j</sub>)<sub>j<ν</sub> of subuniverses of F with y ∈ ∩<sub>j<ν</sub> U<sub>j</sub> and x ∉ ∪<sub>j<ν</sub> U<sub>j</sub> such that Cross(U<sub>i0</sub>,..., U<sub>id-1</sub>) ≤ F<sup>d</sup> whenever i<sub>0</sub> < ··· < i<sub>d-1</sub> < ν.</li>
◊ Definition. Such a (U<sub>j</sub>)<sub>j<ν</sub> is called a cross sequence.

Theorem 1 vs. the MMM Theorem:

 $\diamond$  No finiteness assumption on  $\mathcal{V}$ ; works for finite  $\nu$  as well.

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  ◊ Definition. Such a (U<sub>j</sub>)<sub>j<ν</sub> is called a cross sequence.

Theorem 1 vs. the MMM Theorem:

- $\diamond$  No finiteness assumption on  $\mathcal{V}$ ; works for finite  $\nu$  as well.
- ♦ But: the cross sequence is not constant.

## MMM Type Cube Term Blockers for $\nu = \omega$

A. Szendrei (CU Boulder)

Э AAA90, June 2015

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## MMM Type Cube Term Blockers for $\nu = \omega$

**Theorem 2.** *TFAE:* (1) *V* has no cube term;

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# MMM Type Cube Term Blockers for $\nu=\omega$

#### Theorem 2. TFAE:

- (1)  $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term;
- (2) there exists a subuniverse U of **F** with  $y \in U$  and  $x \notin U$  such that (U, F) is a cube term blocker for **F**; i.e.,  $Cross(U, ..., U) \leq \mathbf{F}^d$  for all d.

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#### Corollary. TFAE for any finite idempotent algebra A:

- (1) A has no cube term;
- (2)  $\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{A})$  has no cube term;
- (3)  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{A})}(x, y)$  has a cube term blocker;
- (4) A has a cube term blocker.

# MMM Type Cube Term Blockers for $\nu=\omega$

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#### **Corollary.** *TFAE for any finite idempotent algebra* **A***:*

- (1) **A** has no cube term;
- (2)  $\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{A})$  has no cube term;
- (3)  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{A})}(x, y)$  has a cube term blocker;
- (4) A has a cube term blocker.

 $\diamond$  (1)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (4) is the MMM Theorem

# MMM Type Cube Term Blockers for $\nu = \omega$

#### Theorem 2. TFAE:

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#### Corollary. TFAE for any finite idempotent algebra A:

- (1) A has no cube term;
- (2)  $\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{A})$  has no cube term;
- (3)  $\mathbf{F}_{\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{A})}(x, y)$  has a cube term blocker;
- (4) A has a cube term blocker.
  - $\diamond$  (1)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (4) is the MMM Theorem
  - ♦ Reason for  $\neg(4) \Rightarrow \neg(3)$ :

In any signature, the class of idempotent algebras with no cube term blockers is closed under H, S, and  $P_{\rm fin}$ .

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 $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < \omega} (\mathbf{U}_i \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_i, x \notin U_i)$  s.t. Cross $(U_{i_0}, \ldots, U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < \ldots < i_{m-1}$ .

 $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thml}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < \omega} (\mathbf{U}_i \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_i, x \notin U_i) \text{ s.t.}$  $\text{Cross}(U_{i_0}, \ldots, U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < \ldots < i_{m-1}$ .

•  $U := \bigcup_{k < \omega} \bigcap_{j \ge k} U_j$  is a proper, nonempty subuniverse of **F**.

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- $U := \bigcup_{k < \omega} \bigcap_{j > k} U_j$  is a proper, nonempty subuniverse of **F**.
- Claim: (U, F) is a cube term blocker for **F**.

- $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thml}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < \omega} (\mathbf{U}_i \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_i, x \notin U_i) \text{ s.t.}$   $\text{Cross}(U_{i_0}, \ldots, U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < \ldots < i_{m-1}$ .
  - $U := \bigcup_{k < \omega} \bigcap_{j > k} U_j$  is a proper, nonempty subuniverse of **F**.
  - Claim: (U, F) is a cube term blocker for **F**.
    - $\diamond$  For any term *t* (*n*-ary), consider the bipartite graph

$$x_0 \quad \cdots \quad x_i \quad \cdots \quad x_{n-1} \quad X$$

$$\mathcal{V}$$
 has no cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < \omega} (\mathbf{U}_i \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_i, x \notin U_i) \text{ s.t.}$   
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- $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < \omega} (\mathbf{U}_i \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_i, x \notin U_i) \text{ s.t.}$   $\text{Cross}(U_{i_0}, \ldots, U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < \ldots < i_{m-1}$ .
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![](_page_38_Figure_5.jpeg)

- $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < \omega} (\mathbf{U}_i \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_i, x \notin U_i) \text{ s.t.}$   $\text{Cross}(U_{i_0}, \ldots, U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < \ldots < i_{m-1}$ .
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![](_page_39_Figure_5.jpeg)

 $\diamond$  There is no matching from *X* to  $\mathcal{U}$ .

- $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < \omega} (\mathbf{U}_i \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_i, x \notin U_i) \text{ s.t.}$   $\text{Cross}(U_{i_0}, \ldots, U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < \ldots < i_{m-1}$ .
  - $U := \bigcup_{k < \omega} \bigcap_{j > k} U_j$  is a proper, nonempty subuniverse of **F**.
  - Claim: (U, F) is a cube term blocker for **F**.
    - $\diamond$  For any term *t* (*n*-ary), consider the bipartite graph

![](_page_40_Figure_5.jpeg)

- $\diamond$  There is no matching from *X* to  $\mathcal{U}$ .
- $\diamond \text{ Marriage Thm } \Rightarrow \exists Z \subseteq X \dots$

$$\mathcal{V}$$
 has no cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < \omega} (\mathbf{U}_i \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_i, x \notin U_i) \text{ s.t.}$   
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- Claim: (U, F) is a cube term blocker for **F**.
  - $\diamond$  For any term *t* (*n*-ary), consider the bipartite graph

![](_page_41_Figure_5.jpeg)

- $\diamond$  There is no matching from *X* to  $\mathcal{U}$ .
- $\diamond \text{ Marriage Thm } \Rightarrow \exists Z \subseteq X \dots \Rightarrow t^{\mathbf{F}} \text{ is } \bigcap_{j \ge k} U_j \text{-absorbing in } z \in Z$ for large enough k

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- Claim: (U, F) is a cube term blocker for **F**.
  - $\diamond$  For any term *t* (*n*-ary), consider the bipartite graph

![](_page_42_Figure_5.jpeg)

- $\diamond$  There is no matching from *X* to  $\mathcal{U}$ .
- ♦ Marriage Thm  $\Rightarrow \exists Z \subseteq X \dots \Rightarrow t^{\mathbf{F}}$  is  $\bigcap_{j \ge k} U_j$ -absorbing in  $z \in Z$ for large enough  $k \Rightarrow t^{\mathbf{F}}$  is U-absorbing in  $z \in Z_{\neg \neg}$

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## Deciding the Existence of a Cube Term

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**Theorem 3.** Assume  $\mathcal{V}$  has k operation symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  (with  $f_{\ell} n_{\ell}$ -ary). If  $\mathcal{V}$  has no d-cube term for  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell \leq k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ , then  $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term.

**Theorem 3.** Assume  $\mathcal{V}$  has k operation symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  (with  $f_{\ell} n_{\ell}$ -ary). If  $\mathcal{V}$  has no d-cube term for  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ , then  $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term.  $\diamond$  This bound is sharp. **Theorem 3.** Assume  $\mathcal{V}$  has k operation symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  (with  $f_{\ell} n_{\ell}$ -ary). If  $\mathcal{V}$  has no d-cube term for  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ , then  $\mathcal{V}$  has no cube term.  $\diamond$  This bound is sharp.

**Corollary.** Assume V has one operation symbol only, which is binary. Then either V has a Mal'tsev term, or it has no cube term at all.

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Let  $\mathcal{V}$  have op symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  ( $f_\ell n_\ell$ -ary), and let  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_\ell - 1)$ .

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Let  $\mathcal{V}$  have op symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  ( $f_{\ell} n_{\ell}$ -ary), and let  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  has no *d*-cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_j)_{j < d} (\mathbf{U}_j \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_j, x \notin U_j)$  s.t.  $\text{Cross}(U_{i_0}, \ldots, U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < \ldots < i_{m-1} (< d)$ .

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  have op symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  ( $f_{\ell} \ n_{\ell}$ -ary), and let  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  has no *d*-cube term  $\xrightarrow{\text{Thm}1} \exists (U_j)_{j < d} (\mathbf{U}_j \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_j, x \notin U_j)$  s.t.  $\text{Cross}(U_{i_0}, \ldots, U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < \ldots < i_{m-1} \ (< d)$ . For each  $f_{\ell}$ , consider the bipartite graph

![](_page_50_Figure_2.jpeg)

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  have op symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  ( $f_{\ell} \ n_{\ell}$ -ary), and let  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  has no *d*-cube term  $\xrightarrow{\text{Thm1}} \exists (U_j)_{j < d} (\mathbf{U}_j \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_j, x \notin U_j)$  s.t.  $\text{Cross}(U_{i_0}, \ldots, U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < \ldots < i_{m-1} \ (< d)$ . For each  $f_{\ell}$ , consider the bipartite graph

![](_page_51_Figure_2.jpeg)

 $\diamond$  There is no matching from  $X_{\ell}$  to  $\mathcal{U}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  have op symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  ( $f_{\ell} n_{\ell}$ -ary), and let  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  has no *d*-cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < d} (\mathbf{U}_j \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_j, x \notin U_j)$  s.t.  $Cross(U_{i_0}, ..., U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < ... < i_{m-1} (< d)$ . For each  $f_{\ell}$ , consider the bipartite graph  $X_{\ell}$ Zø  $\dots x_{n_{\ell}-1}$  $x_i$  $f_{\ell}^{\mathbf{F}}$  is not  $U_i$ -absorbing in  $x_i$  $\Leftrightarrow$  $U_0$  $U_1$ . . . II. . .  $\mathcal{U}$  $< n_{\ell} - 1$ 

- ♦ There is no matching from  $X_\ell$  to U.
- $\diamond \text{ Marriage Thm } \Rightarrow \exists Z_{\ell} \subseteq X_{\ell} \dots$

![](_page_53_Figure_1.jpeg)

- ♦ There is no matching from  $X_\ell$  to U.
- $\diamond \text{ Marriage Thm } \Rightarrow \exists Z_{\ell} \subseteq X_{\ell} \dots$

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  have op symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  ( $f_{\ell} n_{\ell}$ -ary), and let  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  has no *d*-cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < d} (\mathbf{U}_j \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_j, x \notin U_j)$  s.t.  $Cross(U_{i_0}, ..., U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < ... < i_{m-1} (< d)$ . For each  $f_{\ell}$ , consider the bipartite graph  $Z_0 \qquad X_0$  $X_{\ell}$  $Z_{k-1}$   $X_{k-1}$ Zo  $\dots x_{n_{\ell}-1}$  $\dots x_{n_k}$  $\dots x_{n_0-1}$ x<sub>0</sub>  $x_{0}$  $x_i$  $f_{\ell}^{\mathbf{F}}$  is not  $U_i$ -absorbing in  $x_i$  $\Leftrightarrow$  $II_1$ II.  $\mathcal{U}$ . . .  $< n_{\ell} - 1 \le n_{k-1} - 1$  $< n_0 - 1$ 

- ♦ There is no matching from  $X_\ell$  to U.
- $\diamond \text{ Marriage Thm } \Rightarrow \exists Z_{\ell} \subseteq X_{\ell} \dots$

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  have op symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  ( $f_{\ell} n_{\ell}$ -ary), and let  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  has no *d*-cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm1}}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_i)_{i < d} (\mathbf{U}_j \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_j, x \notin U_j)$  s.t.  $Cross(U_{i_0}, ..., U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < ... < i_{m-1} (< d)$ . For each  $f_{\ell}$ , consider the bipartite graph  $Z_0 \qquad X_0$  $X_{\ell}$  $Z_{k-1}$   $X_{k-1}$ Zo  $\dots x_{n_{\ell}-1}$  $\dots x_{n_k}$  $\dots x_{n_0-1}$ x<sub>0</sub>  $x_{0}$  $x_i$  $f_{\ell}^{\mathbf{F}}$  is not  $U_i$ -absorbing in  $x_i$  $\Leftrightarrow$  $II_1$ II.  $\mathcal{U}$ . . .  $< n_{\ell} - 1 \le n_{k-1} - 1$  $< n_0 - 1$ 

- ♦ There is no matching from  $X_{\ell}$  to U.
- $\diamond \text{ Marriage Thm } \Rightarrow \exists Z_{\ell} \subseteq X_{\ell} \dots$

$$\diamond d > \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$$

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  have op symbols  $f_0, \ldots, f_{k-1}$  ( $f_{\ell} n_{\ell}$ -ary), and let  $d = 1 + \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} - 1)$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  has no *d*-cube term  $\stackrel{\text{Thm}1}{\Longrightarrow} \exists (U_j)_{j < d} (\mathbf{U}_j \leq \mathbf{F}, y \in U_j, x \notin U_j) \text{ s.t.}$  $Cross(U_{i_0}, ..., U_{i_{m-1}}) \leq \mathbf{F}^m$  whenever  $i_0 < ... < i_{m-1} (< d)$ . For each  $f_{\ell}$ , consider the bipartite graph  $Z_0 \qquad X_0$  $X_{\ell}$  $Z_{k-1}$   $X_{k-1}$  $\dots x_{n_0-1}$  $\dots x_{n_{\ell}-1}$  $\dots x_{n_k}$ l x<sub>0</sub>  $x_0$  $x_i$  $f_{\ell}^{\mathbf{F}}$  is not  $U_i$ -absorbing in  $x_i$  $\Leftrightarrow$  $II_1$ . . . 11: **I**I.,  $\mathcal{U}$  $< n_{\ell} - 1 \le n_{k-1} - 1$  $< n_0 - 1$ 

- ♦ There is no matching from  $X_\ell$  to U.
- $\diamond \text{ Marriage Thm } \Rightarrow \exists Z_{\ell} \subseteq X_{\ell} \dots$
- ♦  $d > \sum_{\ell < k} (n_{\ell} 1) \Rightarrow \exists U_r \in U$  s.t. all  $f_{\ell}^{\mathbf{F}}$  have  $U_r$ -absorbing variables.