

OFF-DIAGONAL HYPERGRAPH RAMSEY NUMBERS

DHRUV MUBAYI

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

OXFORD DISCRETE MATH &
PROBABILITY SEMINAR

February 25, 2025

H — k -uniform hypergraph (k -graph)

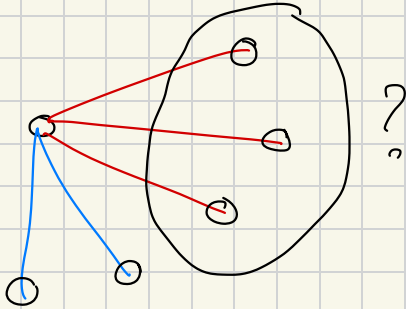
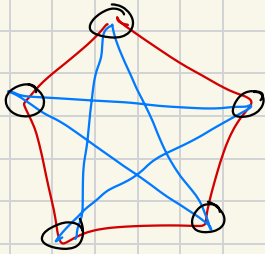
Ramsey number

$r(H, n) = \min N$ st every red/blue coloring of $K_N^{(k)} = \binom{[N]}{k}$

results in a red copy of H
or a blue copy of $K_n^{(k)}$

EXAMPLES

$$r(K_3, 3) = 6$$



$$r(K_4, 4) = 18$$

$$V(K_{17}) = \mathbb{Z}_{17}$$

$$a \quad b \quad a - b = x^2$$

$$a \quad b \quad a - b \neq x^2$$

(Greenwood-Gleason 1955)

$$r(K_4^{(13)}, 4) = 13$$

Computer

(McKay -
Radziszowski,
1991)

GRAPHS

Theorem (Spencer 1977, Campos-Griffiths, Morris, Sahasrabudhe 2023)

$$c \cdot n \cdot 2^{n/2} < r(K_n, n) < (4 - \varepsilon)^n$$

Theorem (Ajtai-Komlós-Szemerédi 1980, Kim 1995)

$$c_1 \frac{n^2}{\log n} \leq r(K_3, n) \leq c_2 \frac{n^2}{\log n}$$

Bdnan Keevash

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{4} - o(1)$$

Sheeffer $c_2 = 1 + o(1)$

Fiz Partiveros-Griffiths-Morris

Theorem (Mattheus-Verstraëte 2023)

$$r(K_4, n) = n^{3 - o(1)} \quad (\text{random graphs give } n^{\frac{5}{2} + o(1)})$$

Conjecture (M-Verstraëte \approx 2019)

For fixed $s \geq 3$

$$r(K_s, n) = n^{s-1 + o(1)} \quad (\text{random graphs give } n^{\frac{s+1}{2} + o(1)})$$

TRIPLE SYSTEMS (DIAGONAL)

(5)

Theorem (Erdős-Hajnal-Rado 1952/1965)

$$2^{cn^2} < r(K_n^{(3)}, n) < 2^{2^{4n}}$$

Conjecture (Erdős \$500)

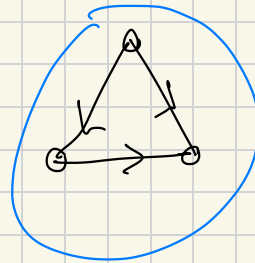
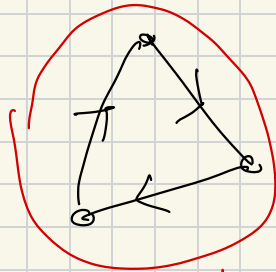
$$r(K_n^{(3)}, n) > 2^{2^{cn}}$$

TRIPLE SYSTEMS (OFF-DIAGONAL)

$$r(K_4^{(2)}, n) > 2^{cn} \quad (\text{Erdős-Hajnal 1972})$$

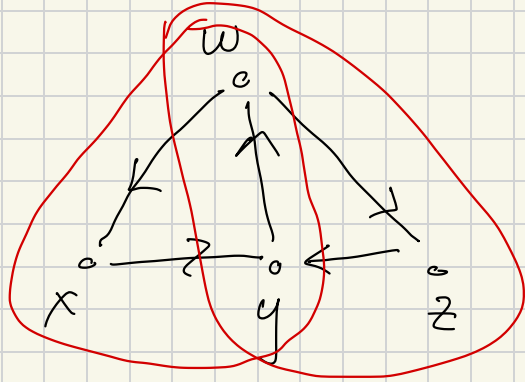
Construction

$T_N =$ random tournament
on N vertices



Red iff directed triangle

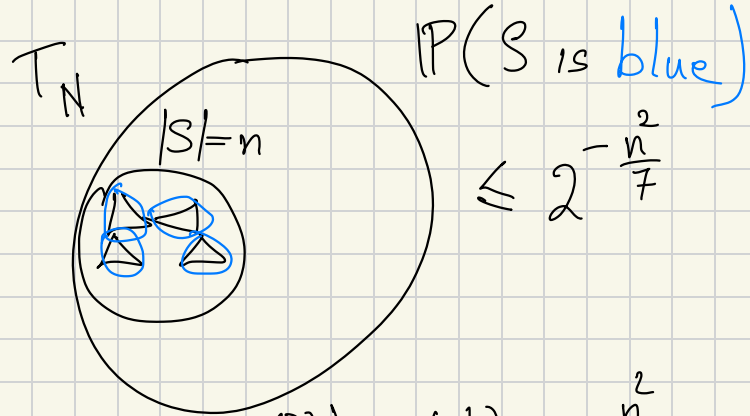
No red $K_4^{(2)}$ -edge



wxz IS BLUE!!

No blue $K_n^{(3)}$

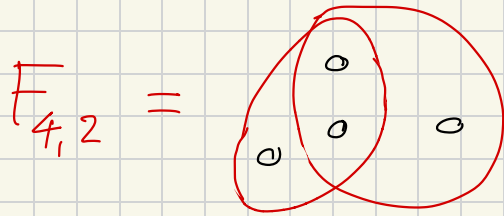
$$N = 2^{cn}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\# \text{ blue } K_n^{(3)}) &\leq \binom{N}{n} 2^{-\frac{n^2}{7}} \\ &< 2^{cn^2 - \frac{n^2}{7}} < | \end{aligned}$$

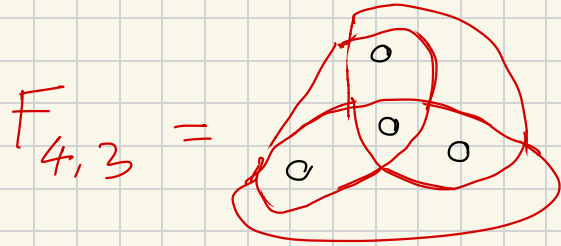
POLY VERSUS EXP

(8)



$$r(F_{4,2}, n) = n^{\frac{1}{2} + o(1)}$$

(Phelps-Rödl)



$$r(F_{4,3}, n) = 2^{cn \log n}$$

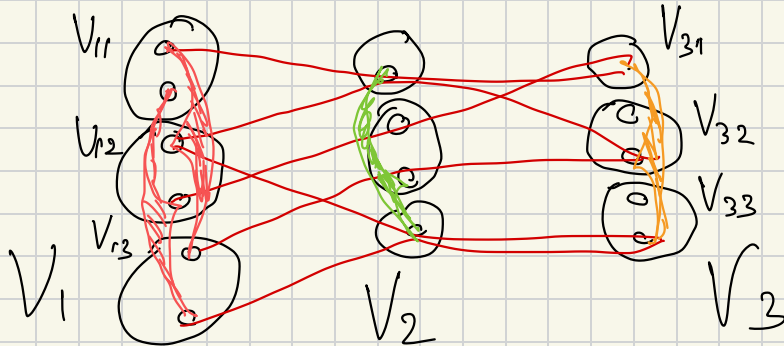
(Erdős-Hajnal, Fox-Hu)

Problem For which F is $r(F, n)$
polynomial? superpolynomial? exponential?

ITERATIONS

Definition A k -graph H is iterated k -partite if it has a vertex partition $V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_k$, each $H[V_i]$ is iterated k -partite, and all other edges are of the form $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ $x_i \in V_i$

$k=3$

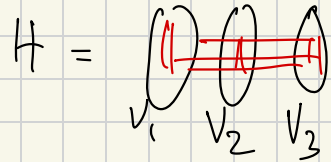


Theorem (Erdős-Hajnal 1972)

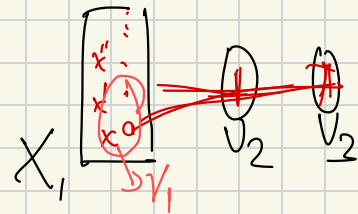
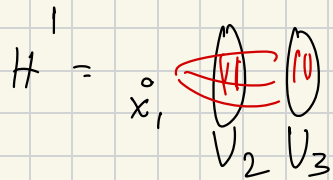
Suppose H is iterated 3-partite. Then

$$r(H, n) < n^{C_H} \quad (\text{i.e. polynomial})$$

Proof (Sketch). Shrink an "outer" part of H to form H'



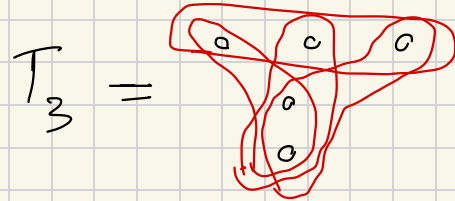
- Find many copies of H' by induction
- Find one copy of H' where x_1 is blown up to polynomial size
- Apply induction to X_1 to find V_1



Examples

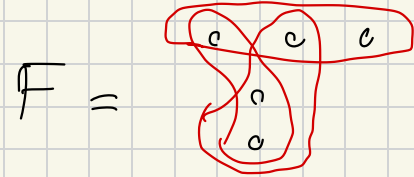
Theorem (Bohman - M. Picolleli 2016)

$$r(T_3, n) = \Theta\left(\frac{n^3}{\log n}\right)$$



Theorem (Mattheus - M. Nie - Verstraëte 2024)

$$r(F, n) = n^{3 - o(1)}$$

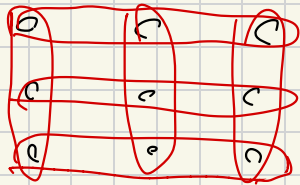
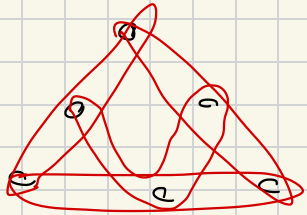


(random 3-graphs do not give exponent 3)

Definition

F is linear if every two edges share at most one vertex

E.g.

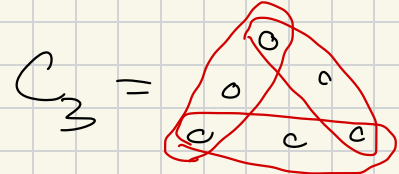


Conjecture (Folklore \approx 90's onwards)

If F is linear, $r(F, n) < n^{c_F}$

Theorem (Kostochka - M-Verstraëte 2016)

$$r(C_3, n) = n^{3/2 + o(1)}$$



Theorem (Conlon-Fox-Gunby-He-M-Suk-Verstraëte 2023)

For all sufficiently large K , there exists a linear 3-graph F on K -vertices such that

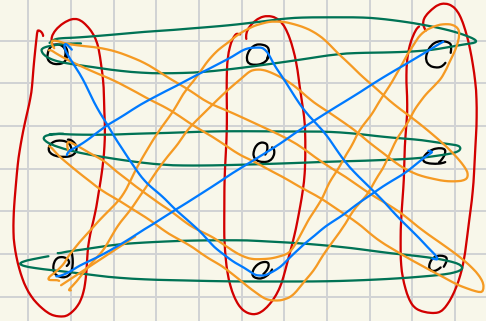
$$r(F, n) > 2^{c_F (\log n)^{K^{1/2} - o(1)}}$$

F is a large (but fixed) random 3-graph on K -vertices with edge probability $p = \frac{1}{200K}$.

Note: $r(F, K_{n,n,n}^{(3)}) < n^c$ for F linear

Conjecture $r(\text{Fano}, n) < n^c$?

Note : $r(\text{Affine}(2), n) < n^c$



Affine(2) is iterated 3-partite

Question Does there exist a linear F s.t.

$$r(F, n) > 2^{nc}, c > 0 ?$$

Conjecture (Conlon-Fox-Gunby-He-M-Suk-Verstraëte-Yu) ⁽¹⁵⁾

For all 3-graphs H , there exists $c = c(H)$

such that

$$r(H, n) < n^c \iff H \text{ is iterated 3-partite}$$

Definition H is tightly connected if, for any two edges $e, f \in H$ there is a tight path from e to f

Theorem (CFGHMSVY)

If H is tightly connected and not 3-partite, then

$$r(H, n) > 2^{c_H n^{2/2}}$$

Theorem (CFGHMSVY)

If H is not iterated 3-partite with at most two tight components, then

$$r(H, n) > 2^{c \log^2 n}$$

Proof

H - tightly connected and not 3-partite

Goal: $r(H, n) > 2^{cn^{2/3}} =: N$

V = r -trifference code in $[3]^l$,

$$l = C \log N, \quad r = \frac{l}{100}$$

$$V \subseteq [3]^l$$

$\forall xyz \in V, \exists r$ -coordinates s.t. $\{x_i, y_i, z_i\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$

$$\chi : \binom{V}{3} \longrightarrow \{ \text{Red}, \text{Blue} \}$$

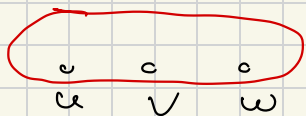
- $c(uv) = \{ i : u_i \neq v_i \}$

- $r \leq |c(uv)| \leq \ell$ $\ell = \lceil \log N \rceil$

- $\phi(uv) \in c(uv)$ at random $r = \frac{\ell}{100}$

- $\chi(uvw) = \text{Red}$ iff $\phi(uv) = \phi(vw) = \phi(uw)$

Note



iff $\{u_i, v_i, w_i\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$

$\forall i \in \phi(uv) = \phi(uw) = \phi(vw)$

Example

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
u =	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
v =	1	1	1	3	2	3	1	2	3	2	1
w =	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	3	1	1	2

$$C(uv) = \{2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11\}$$

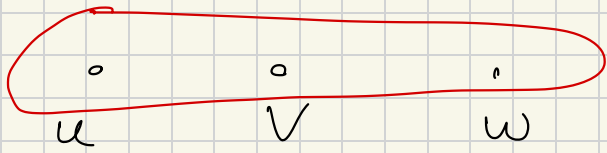
$$\phi(uv) = 5$$

$$C(uw) = \{1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11\}$$

$$\phi(uw) = 5$$

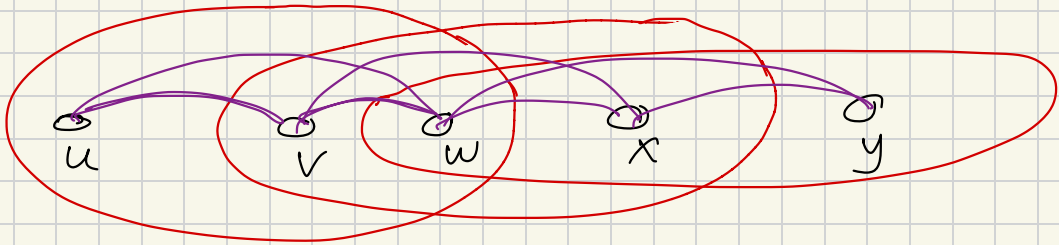
$$C(vw) = \{1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11\}$$

$$\phi(vw) = 5$$



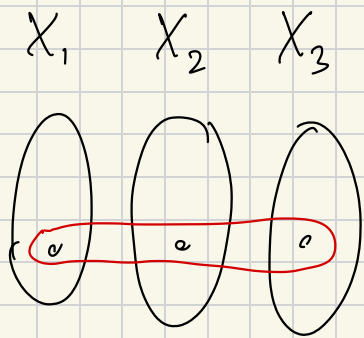
No Red H

Let C be a red tight component



$$\alpha \beta \in \text{shadow}: \phi(\alpha \beta) = \phi\left(\begin{matrix} \alpha & \beta \end{matrix}\right) = i$$

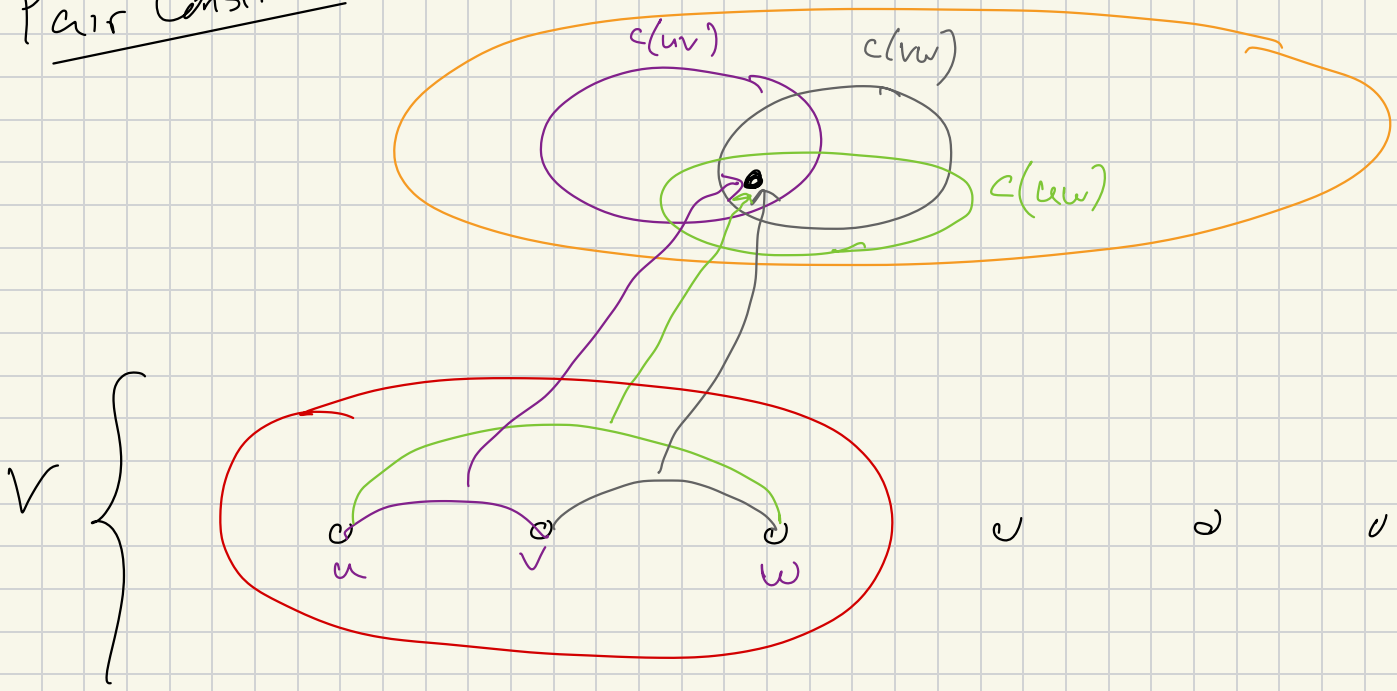
$$\alpha \in X_j \text{ iff } \alpha_i = j$$



High Level Idea

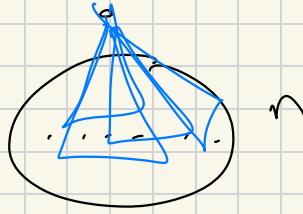
Pair Constructions

[l]



An Intermediate Growth Rate

$$S_n^{(3)} = n\text{-star}$$



$n+1$ vertices

$\binom{n}{2}$ edges

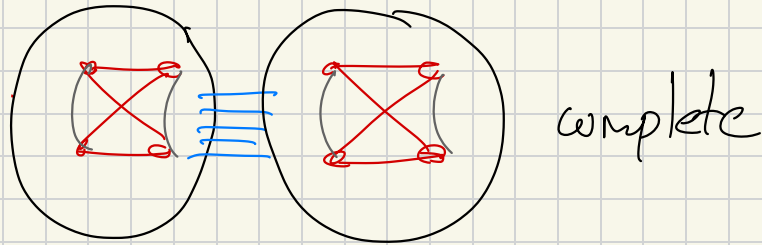
Theorem (Conlon-Fox-He-M-Suk-Verstraëte)

$$2^{c \log^2 n} < r(K_4^{(3)}, S_n^{(3)}) < 2^{c' n^{2/3} \log n}$$

Polynomial versus Exponential - Erdős-Hajnal

$g_k(s) = \max \# \text{ edges in } s\text{-vertex iterated } k\text{-partite } k\text{-graph}$

$$g_2(s) = \binom{s}{2}$$



$$g_k(s) = (1 + o(1)) \frac{k^s}{k^k - k} \binom{s}{k} \quad k \text{ fixed } s \rightarrow \infty$$

Achieved by recursively taking equitable partitions

Recall : H iterated k -partite k -graph

$$\Rightarrow r(H, n) < n^c$$

$$\mathcal{H}_s^k = \left\{ H : |V(H)| = s, |E(H)| > g_k(s) \right\}$$

Conjecture (Erdős-Hajnal 1972 \$500)

$s \geq k \geq 3$

$$r(\mathcal{H}_s^k, n) > 2^{cn}$$

Theorem (M. Razborov 2021)

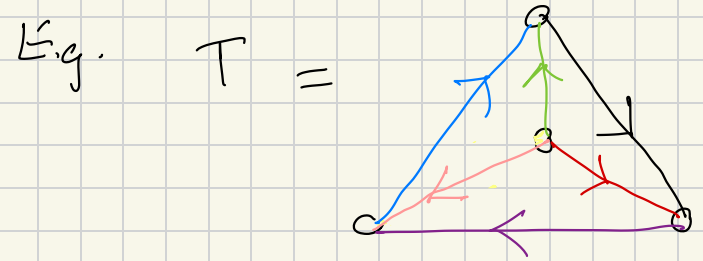
For $s \geq k \geq 4$,

$$r(H_s^k, n) > 2^{cn}$$

$k=3$ is still open for some values of s

True for $s = 3^t$ (Cohen-Fox-Sudakov)

$k=4$ Fix a k -edge colored tournament T

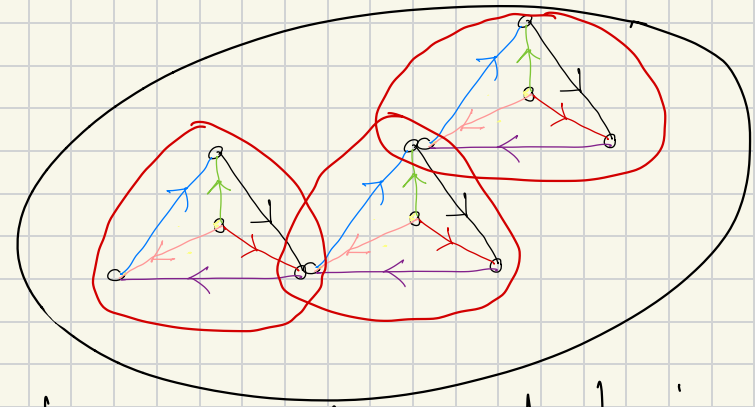


Construction of H :

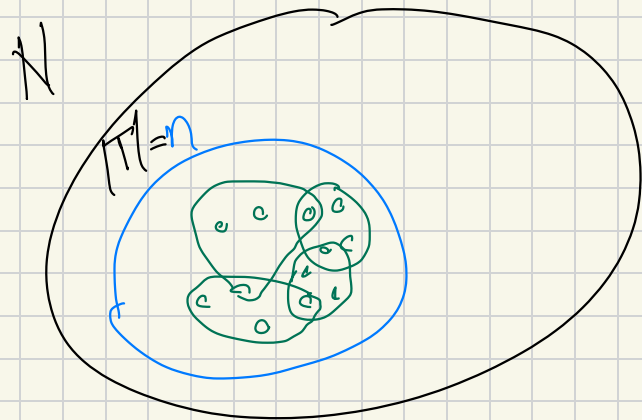
N vertices

$$N = 2^{C_n}$$

random orientation and coloring



No Blue n-set : Fix Steiner 4-system \mathcal{L} on T



$$P(T \text{ is blue})$$

$$\leq P(\mathcal{L} \text{ is blue})$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{1}{12}\right)^{5|T|} < \left(\frac{1}{12}\right)^{5 \frac{n^2}{12}}$$

$$E(\text{Blue } n\text{-sets}) \leq \binom{N}{n} \left(\frac{1}{12}\right)^{\frac{5n^2}{12}} < \left(N \left(\frac{1}{12}\right)^{\frac{5n}{12}}\right)^n < 1$$

No **Red** graph $H \in \mathcal{H}_s^4$

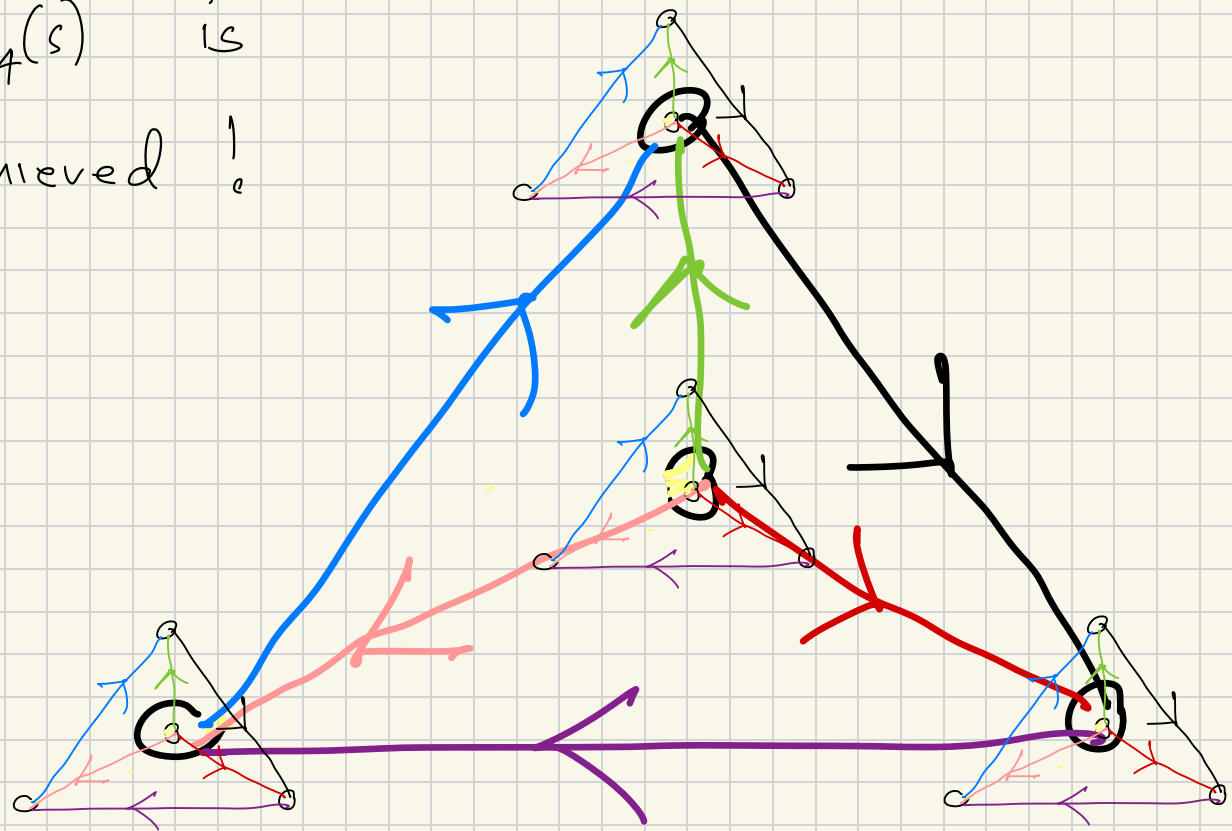
Theorem (M-Razborov)

Given a 6-edge colored tournament
with vertex set S , $|S| = s$.

$$\# \text{ copies of } T \leq g_4(s)$$



$g_4(s)$ is achieved!



Erdős-Hajnal Problem

(30)

$r_k(s, t; n) = \min N$ st every red/blue coloring of $\binom{[N]}{k}$ results in a blue $K_n^{(3)}$ or a set of s vertices with at least t red edges

Problem As t -grows from 1 to $\binom{s}{k}$ there is a well-defined value $t_1 = h_1^{(k)}(s)$ at which $r_k(s, t_1 - 1; n)$ is polynomial in n while $r_k(s, t_1; n)$ is exponential in a power of n , another well-defined value t_2 at which it changes from exponential to double-exponential and so on...

M. Razborov showed $t_1 = g_k(s) + 1$

(31)

Theorem (M-Suk 2020)

For $4 \leq t \leq k-2$, $\exists c > 0$ s.t.

$$\text{twr}_{t-1} \left(n^{\binom{k-t+1}{n} + o(1)} \right) > r_k(k+1, t; n) > \begin{cases} \text{twr}_{t-1} \left(c n^{k-t+1} \right) & k-t \text{ even} \\ \text{twr}_{t-1} \left(c n^{\frac{k-t+1}{2}} \right) & k-t \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

i.e. as we increase t by one the tower height increases by one.

Thank You !