

1. If $2 \leq p' \leq p$ and $2 \leq q' \leq q$, then prove that $R(p', q') \leq R(p, q)$. Also, prove that equality holds if and only if $p' = p$ and $q' = q$.

Solution: (Assume the two colors are blue and red.) Known from the definition of $R(p, q) = r$, there exists a 2-coloring of a complete graph K_{r-1} satisfying that there is no red K_p or blue K_q . Now exchange the colors in the coloring (which is to turn blue into red and to turn red into blue). We would produce another 2-coloring of K_{r-1} which does not contain blue K_p or red K_q . Thus, according to the definition, $R(q, p) \geq r = R(p, q)$. Similarly, we can get $R(p, q) \geq R(q, p)$.

2. Use Theorem 1.64 to prove that $R(3, 5) = 14$.

Solution: Using Theorem 1.64,

$$R(3, 5) \leq R(2, 5) + R(3, 4) \leq 5 + (4^2 + 3)/2 \leq 14 \quad (1)$$

Now we need to prove that there is a 2-coloring of K_{13} that does not contain monochromatic K_3 or K_5 . Figure 1 is an example.

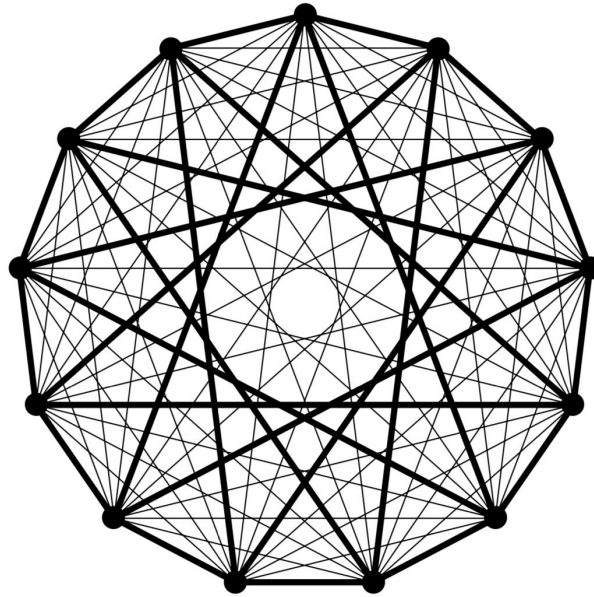


Figure 1: A 2-coloring of K_{13}

3. Use Theorem 1.64 to prove that $R(4, 4) = 18$.

Solution: Using Theorem 1.64,

$$R(4, 4) \leq R(3, 4) + R(3, 4) \leq 2 * \lfloor (4^2 + 3)/2 \rfloor \leq 18 \quad (2)$$

Now we need to prove that there is a 2-coloring of K_{17} that does not contain monochromatic K_4 . Figure 2 is an example.

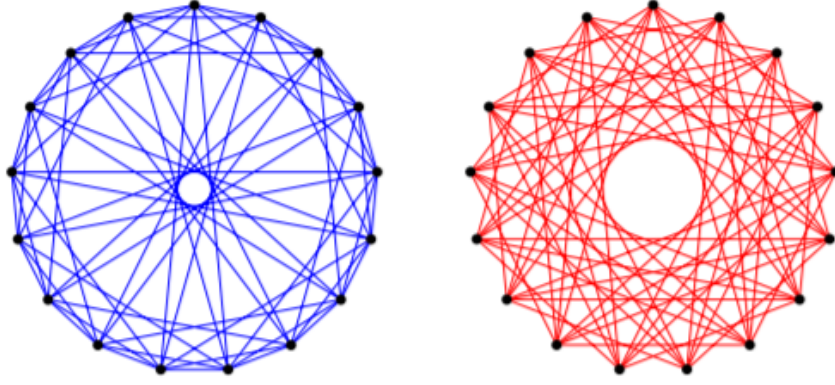


Figure 2: A 2-coloring of K_{17}

4. Find $R(P_3, P_3)$.

Solution: (!!!The definition of P_n here is a path containing n edges.)

We can construct a 2-coloring of K_4 that all of the edges except the edges connected to one specific vertex are red, and the remaining edges are blue. Then there is no monochromatic P_3 .

Claim: $R(P_3, P_3) = 5$

Now consider a two coloring of the edges of K_5 . There is a color used at least twice at vertex Red. So assume that edges $(1,2), (1,3)$ are Red. If $(2,4)$ is Red then $(4,2,1,3)$ is Red and if $(2,5)$ is Red then $(5,2,1,3)$ is Red. So we can assume that $(2,4), (2,5)$ are Blue. But then if $(3,4)$ is Red we have $(4,3,1,2)$ is Red and if $(3,4)$ is Blue then $(3,4,2,5)$ is Blue.

5. Find $R(P_3, C_4)$.

Solution:

First of all, based on Theorem 1.68 (Harris)

$$R(P_3, C_4) \geq (2-1)(4-1) + 1 = 4 \quad (3)$$

We can construct a 2-coloring of K_4 that all of the edges except the edges connected to one specific vertex are red, and the remaining edges are blue. Then there is no P_3 and C_4 .

Then we claim $R(P_3, C_4) = 5$. Now consider a two coloring of the edge of K_5 . We can assume from $r(P_3, P_3) = 5$ that there is a Blue P_3 , say $(1,2,3,4)$ and that $(1,4)$ is Red. Consider the edges $(2,5), (4,5)$. If they are both Red then $(1,4,5,2)$ is Red. If they are both Blue then $(2,3,4,5,2)$ is Blue. A similar argument deals with the case where $(1,5)$ and $(3,5)$ have the same color. Assume next that $(4,5)$ is Blue and $(2,5)$ is Red. If $(1,5)$ is Red then $(2,5,1,4)$ is Red. So assume that $(1,5)$ is Blue and $(3,5)$ is Red. If now $(1,3)$ is Red then so is $(4,1,3,5)$ and if $(1,3)$ is Blue then so is $(1,3,4,5,1)$. Finally, suppose that $(4,5)$ is Red and $(2,5)$ is Blue. If $(3,5)$ is Red then $(3,5,4,1)$ is Red. So assume that $(3,5)$ is Blue and $(1,5)$ is Red. If $(1,3)$ is Red then so is $(3,1,5,4)$ and if $(1,3)$ is Blue then so is $(1,3,5,2,1)$.

6. Find $R(C_4, C_4)$.

Solution: Using Theorem 1.71 (Harris),

$$R(C_4, C_4) \geq R(2K_2, 2K_2) = 5 \quad (4)$$

As K_5 can be decomposed into 2 C_5 , $R(C_4, C_4) \geq 6$. Now consider a two coloring of the edge of K_6 with all the vertices labeled as integers from 1 to 6. Consider the edges incident with 1. At least 3 must be the same color. Assume therefore that the edges $(1,2), (1,3), (1,4)$ are all Red. It follows that neither of vertices 5 and 6 can have 2 Red edges joining them to 1,2,3. Suppose that edges $(2,5), (3,5)$ are Blue. Then at most one of $(6,2), (6,3)$ can be Blue. Otherwise we have the Blue $(2,5,3,6,2)$. So assume that $(3,6), (4,6)$ are Blue and $(2,6), (4,5)$ are Red. Suppose now that $(5,6)$ is Blue. If $(2,3)$ is Blue then so is $(5,6,3,2,5)$. If $(3,4)$ is Blue then so is $(5,6,4,3,5)$. But now if $(2,3)$ and $(3,4)$ are Red then $(1,2,3,4,1)$ is Red. So we can assume that $(5,6)$ is Red. If $(2,4)$ is Red then $(2,4,6,5,2)$ is Red. Suppose then that $(2,4)$ Blue. If for example $(2,3)$ is Blue then so is $(2,3,6,4,2)$. So assume now that $(2,3)$ and $(3,4)$ both Red and then $(1,2,3,4,1)$ is Red.

7. Prove that $R(K_{1,3}, K_{1,3}) = 6$.

Solution: Using the theorem 1.70 (Harris), with $K_{1,3}$ considered as a tree of order 4, we can know

$$R(K_{1,3}, K_{1,3}) = 4 + 3 - 1 = 6 \quad (5)$$

8. Prove that $R(2K_3, K_3) = 8$.

Solution: First Figure 3 shows that $R(2K_3, K_3) > 7$.

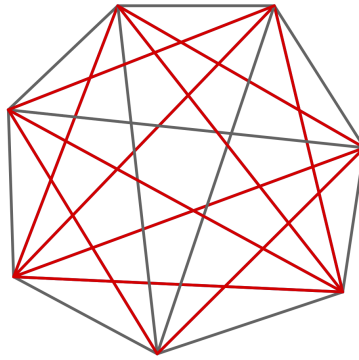


Figure 3: .

We need to find two disjoint red K_3 or a blue K_3 in any 2-coloring of K_8 . Since K_8 would always contain a monochromatic triangle $R(3,3) = 6$, if the triangle is blue, then the 2-coloring satisfies the condition. If the triangle is red, we need to find another red triangle or blue triangle. Consider K_6 which is a subgraph of K_8 and does not contain the triangle we mentioned. Then there must be a blue or red triangle in this K_6 . If the triangle happens to be blue, then we find a blue triangle. If the triangle is red, and the red triangle does not share a vertex with the former triangle, then we find two disjoint red triangles. The remaining part would be too difficult. See proof in Page9-11 of <https://www.ams.org/journals/tran/1975-209-00/S0002-9947-1975-0409255-0/S0002-9947-1975-0409255-0.pdf>.

9. Prove that any 2-coloring of K_6 produces two monochromatic K_3 and a monochromatic C_4 .

Solution: C_4 is proved in Problem 6. The remaining part of the proof is written in another file.