

An alien race has three genders: male, female, and emale. A *married triple* consists of three persons, one from each gender, who all like each other. Any person is allowed to belong to at most one married triple. A special feature of this race is that feelings are always mutual — if x likes y , then y likes x .

The race is sending an expedition to colonize a planet. The expedition has n males, n females, and n emales. It is known that every expedition member likes at least k persons of each of the two other genders. The problem is to create as many married triples as possible to produce healthy offspring so the colony could grow and prosper.

- a) Show that if n is even and $k = \frac{n}{2}$, then it might be impossible to create even one married triple.
- b) Show that if $k \geq \frac{3n}{4}$, then it is always possible to create n disjoint married triples, thus marrying all of the expedition members.