

Ramsey's Theorem

Thomas Cohn

10/18/2018

Extremal Problems: If G on n vertices avoids the same structure, how big is $|E|$?

Thm: (Turán) If G on n vertices avoids K_k , then $|E| \leq \frac{k-2}{2(k-1)}n^2 + C$, where C is a constant term.

If both G and \overline{G} on n vertices avoid K_k , then how big is n ?

Ex: $k = 2$, then $n < 2$.

Prop: If $n = 6$, and the edges of K_n are colored R/B, then we can find a monochromatic triangle.

Proof: Look at vertex v . $N(v) = X \sqcup Y$, where $X = \{x : xv \text{ is red}\}$ and $Y = \{y : yv \text{ is blue}\}$.
 $|X| + |Y| = 5$, so one of them (WOLOG X) has size at least 3.

Say $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in X$. Then vx_1x_2 , vx_1x_3 , and vx_2x_3 are all triangles. If any x_1x_2 , x_1x_3 , and x_2x_3 are red, then we have a red triangle vx_ix_j . If all are blue, then $x_1x_2x_3$ is a blue triangle. \square

Defn: For $r, s \in \mathbb{N}$, the Ramsey Number $R(r, s)$ is the minimum $n \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. any R/B coloring of the edges in K_n contains a red K_r or a blue K_s .

Ex: $R(3, 3) = 6$

Thm: (Ramsey) $R(r, s) < \infty, \forall r, s \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof: Induction on r, s .

Assume we know $R(r-1, s)$ and $R(r, s-1)$ are finite.

Claim: $R(r, s) \leq R(r-1, s) + R(r, s-1)$. Let $n = R(r-1, s) + R(r, s-1) \in \mathbb{N}$. Consider a R/B coloring of K_n . Let $X = \{x : xv \text{ is red}\}$ and $Y = \{y : yv \text{ is blue}\}$. Then $|X| + |Y| = n-1 = a+b-1$. Thus $|X| \geq a$ or $|Y| \geq b$.

Case 1: Let $|X| \geq a$. Let G_x be the complete subgraph on X . Then G_x has a red K_{r-1} or a blue K_s . If G_x contains a red K_{r-1} , then G has a K_r . If G_x contains a blue K_s , then G has a K_s .

Case 2: Just do the same thing.

We conclude that if $n = a + b$, then any R/B coloring of edges in K_n contains a red K_r or blue K_s , and $n \geq R(r, s)$. \square

Ex: $R(4, 4) = 18$

$R(3, 5) = 14$

$R(3, 6) = 18$

$R(3, 7) = 23$

$R(3, 8) = 28$

$R(3, 9) = 36$

Cor: $R(r, s) \leq \binom{r+s-2}{r-1}$. If $r = s$, then $R(r, s) \leq \binom{2r-2}{r-1} \leq 2^{2r-2}$.

Proof: Assume $R(r-1, s) \leq \binom{r+s-3}{r-2}$ and $R(r, s-1) \leq \binom{r+s-3}{r-1}$.

Then $R(r, s) \leq R(r-1, s) + R(r, s-1) = \binom{r+s-3}{r-2} + \binom{r+s-3}{r-1} = \binom{r+s-2}{r-1}$. \square

Thm: $R(r, r) \geq 2^{(r-2)/2}$.

Proof: $n = 2^{(r-2)/2}$. There is a R/B coloring of edges in K_n with no red K_r or blue K_r . Consider $X \subset [n]$ with $|X| = r$. Then $\mathbb{P}(G_x \text{ is mono}) = \frac{1}{2^{\binom{r}{2}}} + \frac{1}{2^{\binom{r}{2}}} = 2^{1-\binom{r}{2}}$

Let $Y = |\{X \subset [n] : |X| = r \wedge G_x \text{ is mono}\}|$.

Then $\mathbb{E}[y] = \sum_{X \subset [n], |X|=r} \mathbb{P}(G_x \text{ is mono}) = \binom{n}{r} \cdot 2^{1-\binom{r}{2}}$, and $\binom{n}{r} < n^r$

So $\mathbb{E}[y] < n^r \cdot 2^{1-\binom{r}{2}} = (2^{(r-2)/2})^r = 2^{1-\frac{r(r-1)}{2}} = 2^{r(r-2)/2 - r(r-1)/2 + 1} = 2^{-r/2 + 1} < 1$

So there exists a set of coin flips for which $y = 0$, and therefore, there is a R/B coloring on K_n for which no G_x is mono. \square