

# Some Ramsey Problems - Computational Approach

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# Outline - Triangles Everywhere

or avoiding  $K_3$  in some/most colors

## 1 Ramsey Numbers - Two Colors

Some known and computed facts

$R(3, 10)$  is hard

Some things to do, computationally

## 2 Ramsey Numbers - More Colors

Some general bounds

$R(3, 3, 4)$ ,  $R(3, 3, 3, 3)$  are hard

Things to do

## 3 Most Wanted Folkman Number

Edge-arrowing  $(3, 3)$

$K_4$ -free edge-arrowing  $(3, 3)$

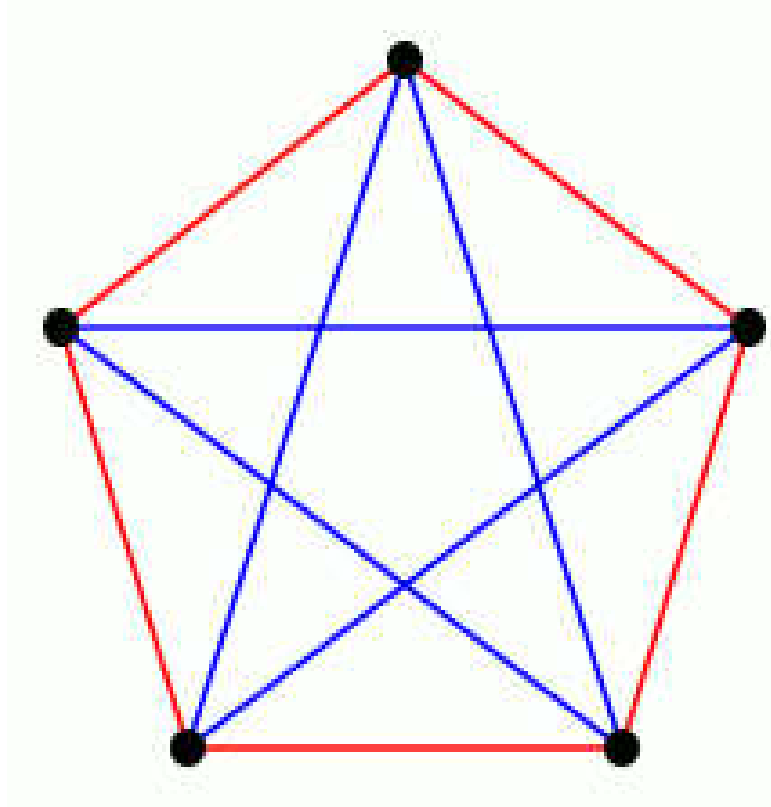
Things to do

## 4 So, what to do next?

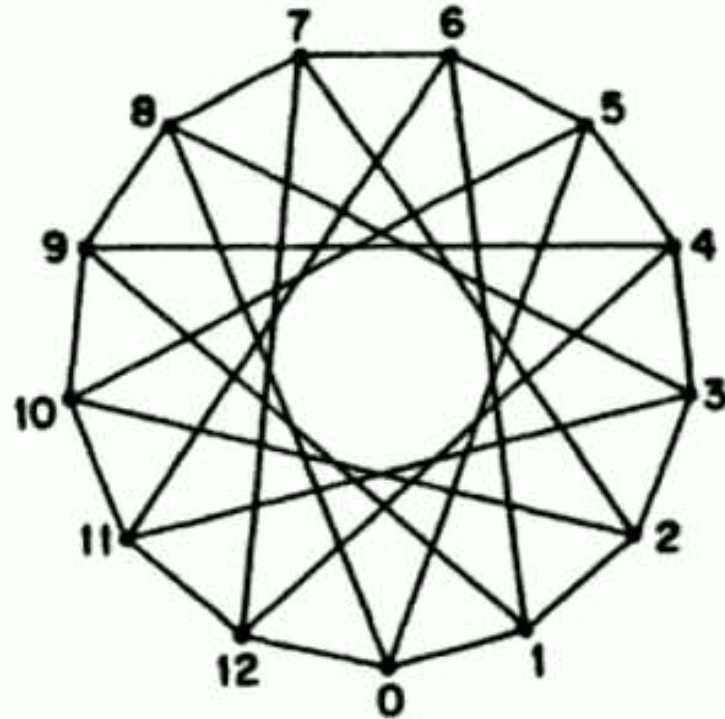
# Ramsey Numbers

- $R(G, H) = n$  iff  
 $n =$  least positive integer such that in any 2-coloring of the edges of  $K_n$  there is a monochromatic  $G$  in the first color or a monochromatic  $H$  in the second color
- $R(k, l) = R(K_k, K_l)$
- generalizes to  $r$  colors,  $R(G_1, \dots, G_r)$
- *2-edge-colorings*  $\cong$  *graphs*
- Theorem (Ramsey 1930): Ramsey numbers exist

# Unavoidable classics



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



$$R(3, 5) = 14 \text{ [GRS'90]}$$

# Basic upper bounds

- $R(k, l) = R(l, k)$ ,  $R(k, 2) = k$
- Erdős, Szekeres 1935  
Greenwood, Gleason 1955

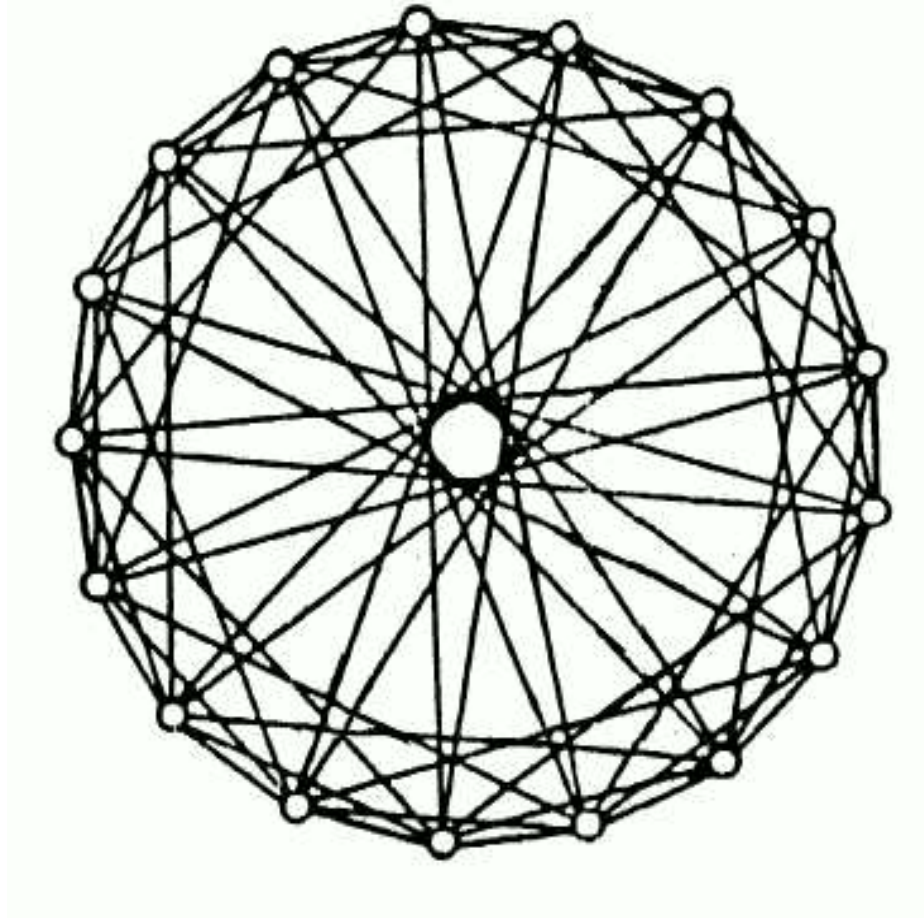
$$R(k, l) \leq R(k - 1, l) + R(k, l - 1)$$

with  $<$  if both RHS terms are even, and

$$R(k + 1, l + 1) \leq \binom{k + l}{k}$$

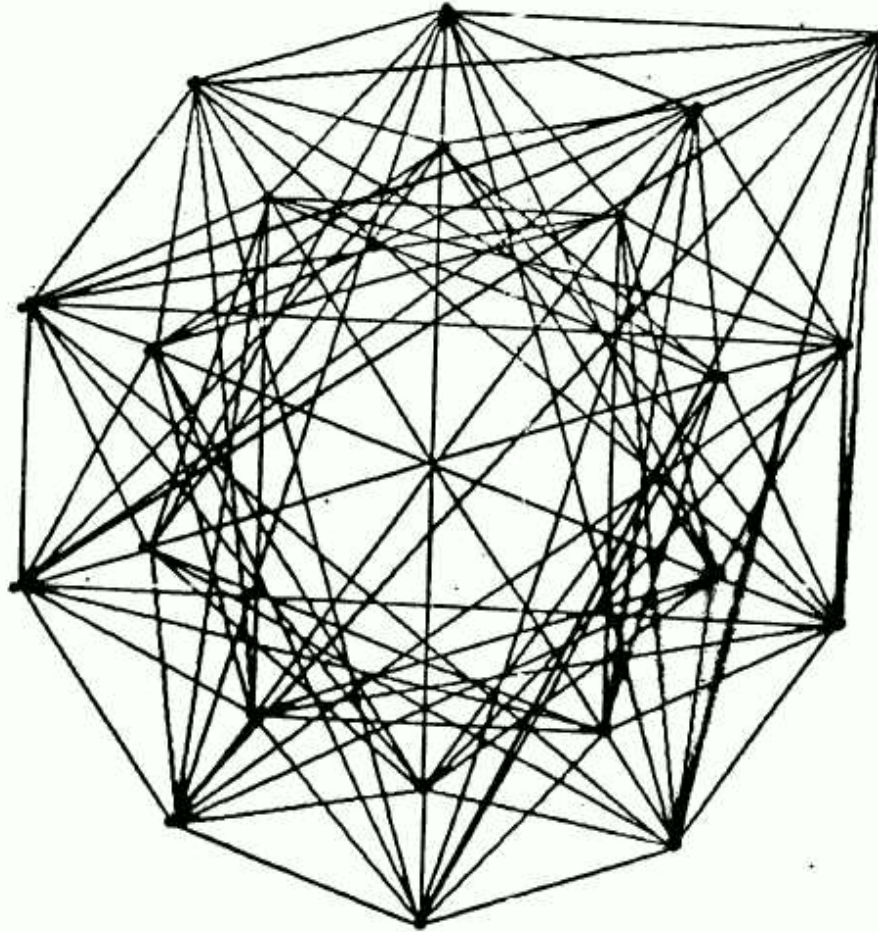
- $R(3, 3) = 6$ ,  $R(3, 4) = 9$ ,  $R(3, 5) = 14$ ,  $R(4, 4) = 18$

# Unavoidable classics



$$R(4, 4) > 17, \quad \text{dist} = \{1, 2, 4, 8\}$$

# A messy case



$R(K_5 - e, K_5 - e) > 21$ , double ring + outlier

# Diagonal Cases

asymptotics

- Bounds (Erdős 1947, Spencer 1975, Thomason 1988)

$$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{e} 2^{n/2} n < R(n, n) < \binom{2n-2}{n-1} n^{-1/2+c/\sqrt{\log n}}$$

- Newest upper bound (Conlon, 2010)

$$R(n+1, n+1) \leq \binom{2n}{n} n^{-c \frac{\log n}{\log \log n}}$$

- **Conjecture** (Erdős 1947, \$100)

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R(n, n)^{1/n}$  exists.

If it exists, it is between  $\sqrt{2}$  and 4 (\$250 for value).





# Diagonal Cases

concretely

- Best construction (Frankl, Wilson 1981)

$$n^{c \log n / \log \log n} < R(n, n)$$

- First open case (Exoo 1989, MR 1997)

$$43 \leq R(5, 5) \leq 49$$

- Second open case (Kalbfleisch 1965, Mackey 1994)

$$102 \leq R(6, 6) \leq 165$$



# Off-Diagonal Cases

asymptotics

- $R(3, *)$  - discussed later in the talk
- Bounds (Spencer 1977, Li and Rousseau 2000)

$$c_k \left( \frac{n}{\log n} \right)^{(k+1)/2} < R(k, n) < (1 + o(1)) \frac{n^{k-1}}{\log^{k-2} n}$$

- A generalization (Krivelevich 1995)

$\rho(H)$  = largest density  $(e - 1)/(v - 2)$  of subgraphs of  $H$

$\rho(K_k) = (k + 1)/2$

$$c_H \left( \frac{n}{\log n} \right)^{\rho(H)} < R(H, n)$$



# Off-Diagonal Cases

fixing small  $k$

- $R(3, *)$  - later in these slides
- McKay-R 1995,  $R(4, 5) = 25$
- Bohman triangle-free process - 2009

$$R(4, n) = \Omega(n^{5/2} / \log^2 n)$$

- Kostochka, Pudlák, Rödl - 2010  
constructive lower bounds

$$R(4, n) = \Omega(n^{8/5}), \quad R(5, n) = \Omega(n^{5/3}), \quad R(6, n) = \Omega(n^2)$$

(vs. probabilistic  $5/2, 6/2, 7/2$  with /logs)



# Values and Bounds on $R(k, l)$

two colors, avoiding cliques

$k \backslash l$	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	6	9	14	18	23	28	36	40 43	46 51	52 59	59 69	66 78	73 88
4		18	25	35 41	49 61	56 84	73 115	92 149	97 191	128 238	133 291	141 349	153 417
5			43 49	58 87	80 143	101 216	125 316	143 442	159	185 848	209	235 1461	265
6				102 165	113 298	127 495	169 780	179 1171	253	262 2566	317		401
7					205 540	216 1031	233 1713	289 2826	405 4553	416 6954	511 10581		15263 22116
8						282 1870	317 3583		6090 10630		817 27490		41525 63620
9							565 6588	580 12677		22325 39025		64871 89203	
10								798 23556					1265

[EJC survey *Small Ramsey Numbers*, revision #12, 2009]



# General lower bound constructions

aren't that good

**Theorem** Burr, Erdős, Faudree, Schelp, 1989

$$R(k, n) \geq R(k, n - 1) + 2k - 3 \text{ for } k \geq 2, n \geq 3 \text{ (not } n \geq 2)$$

**Theorem** (Xu-Xie-Shao-R 2004, 2010)

If  $2 \leq p \leq q$  and  $3 \leq k$ , then  $R(k, p + q - 1) \geq$

$$R(k, p) + R(k, q) + \begin{cases} k - 3, & \text{if } 2 = p \\ k - 2, & \text{if } 3 \leq p \text{ or } 5 \leq k \\ p - 2, & \text{if } 2 = p \text{ or } 3 = k \\ p - 1, & \text{if } 3 \leq p \text{ and } 4 \leq k \end{cases}$$

For  $p = 2$ ,  $n = q + 1$ , we have  $R(k, p) = k$ ,  
which implies BEFR'89



# Proof by construction

2004 cases

## Given

$(k, p)$ -graph  $G$ ,  $(k, q)$ -graph  $H$ ,  $k \geq 3$ ,  $p, q \geq 2$   
 $G$  and  $H$  contain induced  $K_{k-1}$ -free graph  $M$

## construct

$(k, p + q - 1)$ -graph  $F$ ,  $n(F) = n(G) + n(H) + n(M)$

$$VG = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n_1}\}, VH = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n_2}\}$$

$$VM = \{w_1, \dots, w_m\}, m \leq n_1, n_2, K_{k-1} \not\subseteq M$$

$$G[\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}], H[\{u_1, \dots, u_m\}] \cong M$$

$$\phi(w_i) = v_i, \psi(w_i) = u_i \text{ isomorphisms}$$

$$VF = VG \cup VH \cup VM$$

$$E(G, H) = \{\{v_i, u_i\} \mid 1 \leq i \leq m\}$$

$$E(G, M) = \{\{v_i, w_j\} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n_1, 1 \leq j \leq m, \{v_i, v_j\} \in E(G)\}$$

$$E(H, M) = \{\{u_i, w_j\} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n_2, 1 \leq j \leq m, \{u_i, u_j\} \in E(H)\}$$



# #vertices / #graphs

no exhaustive searches beyond 13

4 11

5 34

6 156

7 1044

8 12346

9 274668

10 12005168

11 1018997864

12 165091172592  $\approx 1.6 * 10^{11}$

—————too many to process—————

13 50502031367952  $\approx 5 * 10^{13}$

14 29054155657235488

15 31426485969804308768

16 64001015704527557894928

17 245935864153532932683719776

18  $\approx 2 * 10^{30}$



# #vertices / #triangle-free graphs

no exhaustive searches beyond 17

4 7

5 14

6 38

7 107

8 410

9 1897

10 12172

11 105071

12 1262180

13 20797002

14 467871369

15 14232552452

16 581460254001  $\approx 6 * 10^{11}$

~~too many to process~~

17  $\approx 3 * 10^{12}$





# Asymptotics

## Ramsey numbers avoiding $K_3$

- Recursive construction yielding  
 $R(3, 4k + 1) \geq 6R(3, k + 1) - 5$   
 $\Omega(k^{\log 6 / \log 4}) = \Omega(k^{1.29})$   
Chung-Cleve-Dagum 1993
- Explicit  $\Omega(k^{3/2})$  construction  
Alon 1994, Codenotti-Pudlák-Giovanni 2000
- Kim 1995, lower bound  
Ajtai-Komlós-Szemerédi 1980, upper bound  
Bohman 2009, triangle-free process

$$R(3, k) = \Theta\left(\frac{k^2}{\log k}\right)$$

# Small $R(3, k)$ cases

$k$	$R(3, k)$	year	reference [lower/upper]
3	6	1953	Putnam Competition
4	9	1955	Greenwood-Gleason
5	14	1955	Greenwood-Gleason
6	18	1964	Kéry
7	23	1966 / 1968	Kalbfleisch / Graver-Yackel
8	28	1982 / 1992	Grinstead-Roberts / McKay-Zhang
9	36	1966 / 1982	Kalbfleisch / Grinstead-Roberts
10	40-43	1989 / 1988	Exoo / Kreher-R

Known values of  $R(3, k)$

Erdős and Sós, 1980, asked about

$$3 \leq \Delta_k = R(3, k) - R(3, k - 1) \leq k:$$

$$\Delta_k \xrightarrow{k} \infty ? \quad \Delta_k/k \xrightarrow{k} 0 ?$$

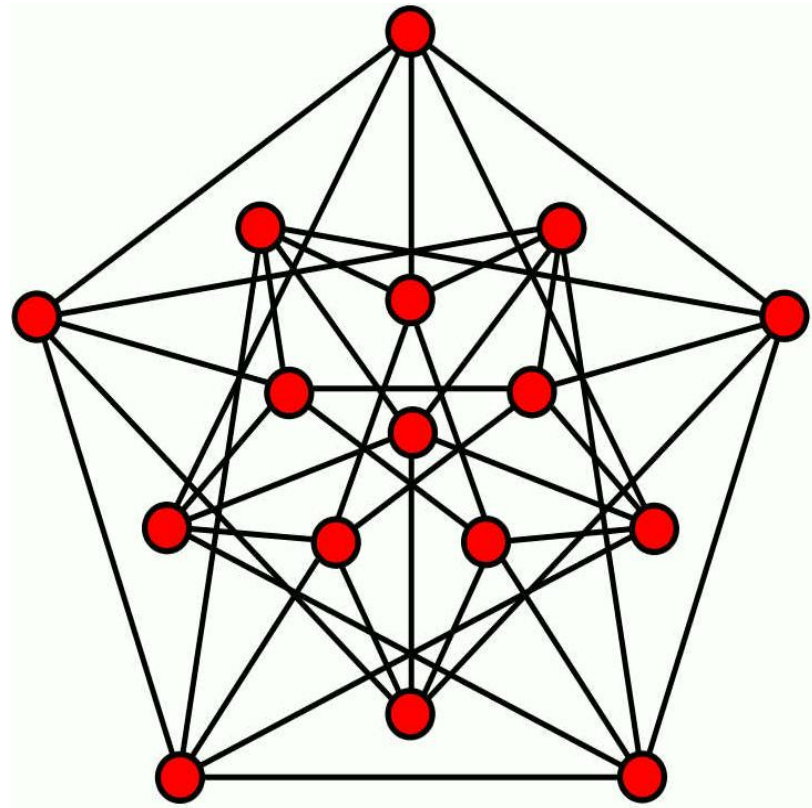


# Clebsch (3, 6; 16)-graph on $GF(2^4)$

$$(x, y) \in E \text{ iff } x - y = \alpha^3$$



[Wikipedia]



Alfred Clebsch (1833-1872)

# Larger Cases

$K_3$  versus  $K_k - e$  or  $K_k$

$$\begin{array}{lll} R(3, K_7 - e) = 21 & R(3, K_8 - e) = 25 & R(3, K_9 - e) = 31 \\ R(3, 7) = 23 & R(3, 8) = 28 & R(3, 9) = 36 \end{array}$$

All  $R(3, K_k - e)$  critical graphs are known for  $k \leq 8$

All  $R(3, K_k)$  critical graphs are known for  $k \leq 7$

First open cases:

$$\begin{array}{ll} 37 \leq R(K_3, K_{10} - e) \leq 38, & 42 \leq R(K_3, K_{11} - e) \leq 47 \\ 40 \leq R(K_3, K_{10}) \leq 43, & 46 \leq R(K_3, K_{11}) \leq 51 \end{array}$$



# Upper bounds by counting edges

computing  $R(3, 10)$  is difficult

**Definition:**  $e(k, n)$  = min # edges in  $n$ -vertex triangle-free graphs without independent sets of order  $k$

- Very good lower bounds on  $e(k - 1, n - d)$  give good lower bounds on  $e(k, n)$
- For any graph  $G \in R(k, n, e)$

$$ne - \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} n_i (e(k - 1, n - i - 1) + i^2) \geq 0$$

- $e(9, n)$  not known for  $27 \leq n \leq 35$  seem needed before improving on  $e(10, n)$  for  $n > 37$
- known  $e(8, n)$ -graphs not sufficient to improve on  $e(9, n)$



# $R(K_3, G)$

general non-asymptotic results

- $R(K_3, W_n) = R(C_3, C_n) = 2n - 1$   
Faudree-Schelp 1974, Burr-Erdős 1983  
all critical colorings, R-Jin 1994
- $R(K_3, G) = 2n(G) - 1$ , for connected  $G$   
 $e(G) \leq 17(n(G) + 1)/15$ ,  $n(G) \geq 4$   
Burr-Erdős-Faudree-Rousseau-Schelp 1980
- $R(K_3, G) \leq 2e(G) + 1$ , isolate-free  $G$   
 $R(K_3, G) \leq n(G) + e(G)$ , a conjecture for all  $G$   
Sidorenko 1992-3, Goddard-Kleitman 1994

# $R(K_3, G)$

general non-asymptotic results

- $R(nK_3, mK_3) = 2n + 3m$  for  $n \geq m \geq 1, n \geq 2$   
Burr-Erdős-Spencer 1975
- $R(K_3, K_3 + \overline{K_n}) = R(K_3, K_3 + C_n) = 2n + 5$  for  $n \geq 212$   
Zhou 1993
- $R(K_3, K_2 + T_n) = 2n + 3$  for  $n \geq 4$   
Song-Gu-Qian 2004
- $R(K_3, G)$  for all connected  $G, n(G) \leq 9$   
Brandt-Brinkmann-Harmuth 1998-2000

# Things to do for two colors

avoiding triangles

- Enumerate all critical  $(3, 8; 27)$ -graphs  
430K+ known already
- Enumerate all critical  $(3, 9; 35)$ -graphs  
only one is known!
- Finish off  $37 \leq R(3, K_{10} - e) \leq 38$
- $R(3, 10) \leq 43$ , get it down first to 42

$R(3, 10) \geq 40$ , don't even try to do better :- ( lower bound 40 is probably correct





# Stay awake - applications exist

ELJC Dynamic Survey, Dec 2004  
Ramsey Theory Applications | 12 areas  
269 references

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## Abstract

There are many interesting applications of Ramsey theory, these include results in number theory, algebra, geometry, topology, set theory, logic, ergodic theory, information theory and theoretical computer science. Relations of Ramsey-type theorems to various fields in mathematics are well documented in published books and monographs. The main objective of this survey is to list applications mostly in theoretical computer science of the last two decades not contained in these.



# More colors

upper bound

$$R(k_1, \dots, k_r) \leq 2 - r + \sum_{i=1}^r R(k_1, \dots, k_{i-1}, k_i - 1, k_{i+1}, \dots, k_r)$$

with strict  $<$  if the RHS is even and sum has an even term

Greenwood-Gleason 1955

Only two known multicolor cases, (3,3,4) and (3,3,3,3), where the RHS is improved. Likely this bound is never tight, except for (3,3,3).



# More colors

## some constructive results

- Xu-Xie-Exoo-R 2004
  - for  $k_1 \geq 5$  and  $k_i \geq 2$ 
$$R(k_1, 2k_2 - 1, k_3, \dots, k_r) \geq 4R(k_1 - 1, k_2, k_3, \dots, k_r)$$
  - using  $k_1 = l, k_2 = 2, k_3 = k$  in the above
$$R(3, k, l) \geq 4R(k, l - 1) - 3$$
  - use  $k = 3$ 
$$R(3, 3, l) \geq 4R(3, l - 1) - 3$$
- $R(3, 3, k) = \Theta(k^3 \text{poly-log } k)$   
Alon-Rödl 2005

$$R_r(3) = R(3, 3, \dots, 3)$$

just no triangles

- The limit  $L = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} R_r(3)^{\frac{1}{r}}$  exists  
Chung-Grinstead 1983

$$(2s(r) + 1)^{\frac{1}{r}} = c_r \approx_{(r=6)} 3.199 < L$$

- Much work on Schur numbers  $s(r)$   
via sum-free partitions and cyclic colorings

$$s(r) > 89^{r/4 - c \log r} > 3.07^r \quad [\text{except small } r]$$

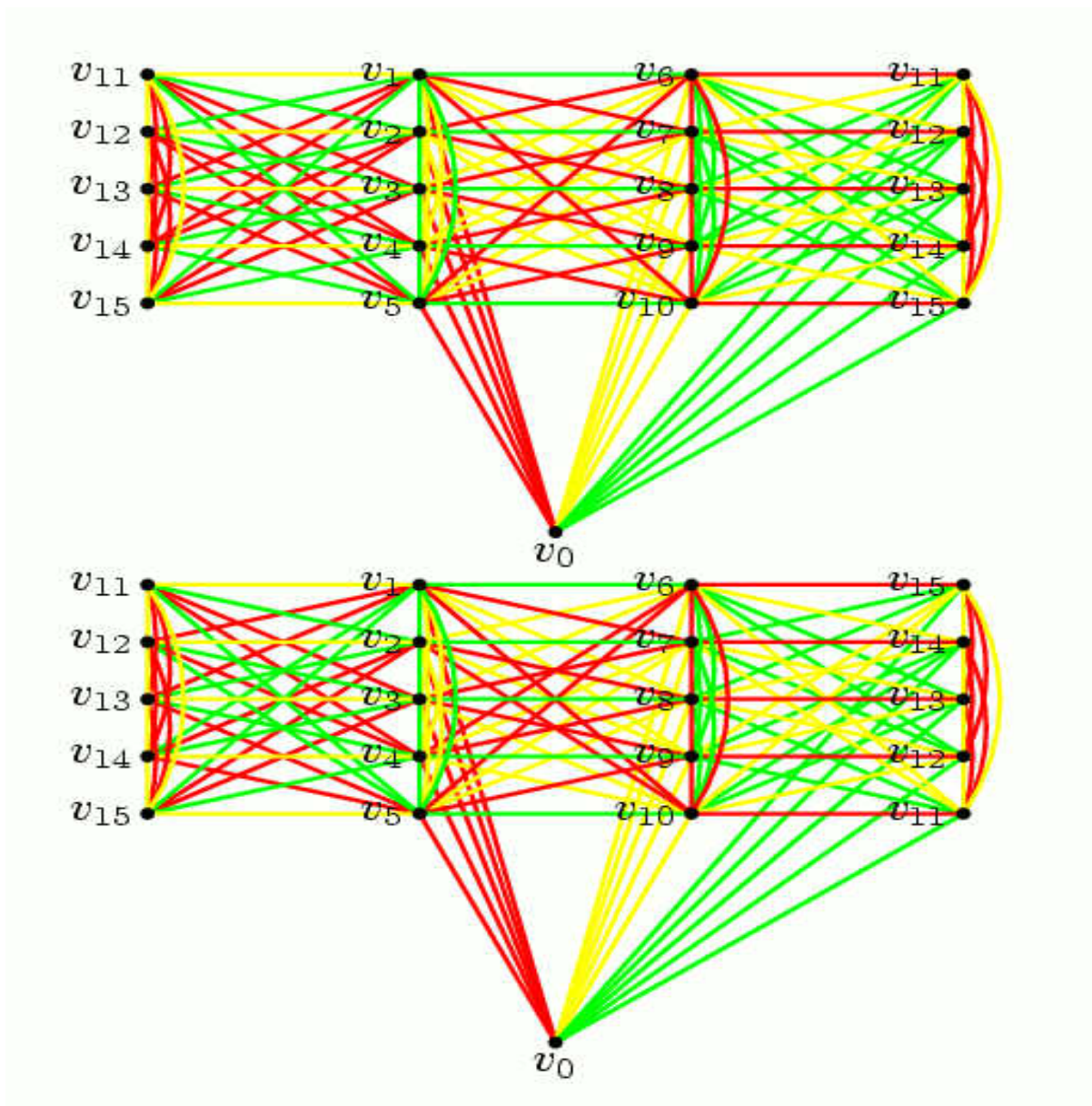
Abbott+ 1965+

- $s(r) + 2 \leq R_r(3)$   
 $s(r) = 1, 4, 13, 44, \geq 160, \geq 536$
- $R_r(3) \geq 3R_{r-1}(3) + R_{r-3}(3) - 3$   
Chung 1973



$$R(3, 3, 3) = 17$$

two Kalbfleisch  $(3, 3, 3; 16)$ -colorings, each color is a Clebsch graph



[Wikipedia]



# Three colors - $R(3, 3, 4)$

the only (as of now) not hopeless case

- $30 \leq R(3, 3, 4)$ , cyclic coloring, Kalbfleisch 1966
- $R(3, 3, 4) \leq 31$ , computations, Piwakowski-R 1998

**Theorem (Piwakowski-R 2001):**  $R(3, 3, 4) = 31$  iff there exists a  $(3, 3, 4; 30)$ -coloring  $C$  in which every edge in 3-rd color has an endpoint  $x$  with degree 13. Furthermore,  $C$  has at least 25 vertices with color degree sequence  $(8, 8, 13)$ .

**Proof:** Gluing possible arrangements of color induced neighborhoods of  $v$  in a  $(3, 3, 4; 30)$ -coloring:

$(3, 4; s)$ ,  $(3, 4; t)$ ,  $(3, 3, 3; u \geq 14)$  with  $s + t + u = 29$

too many  $(3, 3, 3; 13)$ 's to proceed further  $\diamond$



## Four colors - $R_4(3)$

$$51 \leq R(3, 3, 3, 3) \leq 62$$

year	reference	lower	upper
1955	Greenwood, Gleason	42	66
1967	false rumors	[66]	
1971	Golomb, Baumert	46	
1973	Whitehead	50	65
1973	Chung, Porter	51	
1974	Folkman		65
1995	Sánchez-Flores		64
1995	Kramer (no computer)		62
2004	Fettes-Kramer-R (computer)		62

History of bounds on  $R_4(3)$  [from FKR 2004]





# Lower bound for $R_4(3)$

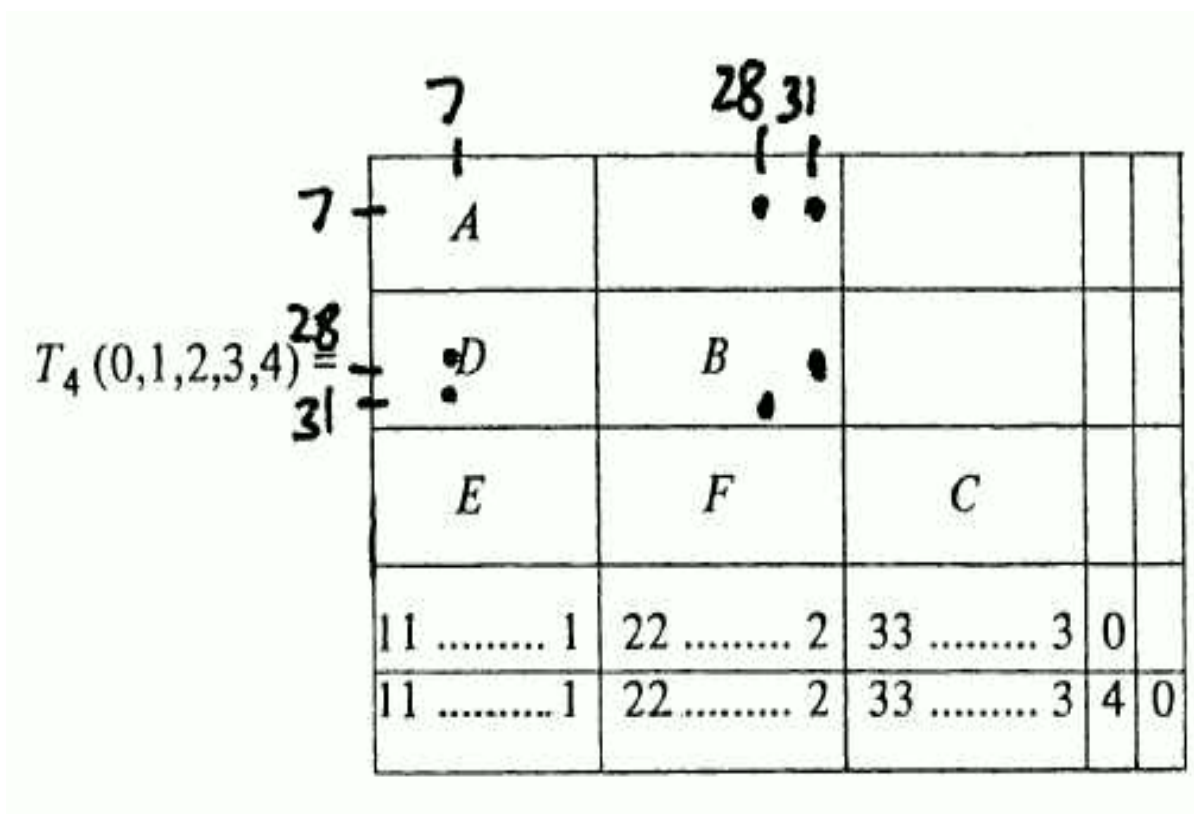
start with Clebsch (3,3,3;16)-coloring

$$T_3(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3) = \begin{array}{l} x_0 \\ x_1 x_0 \\ x_1 x_2 x_0 \\ x_1 x_2 x_3 x_0 \\ x_1 x_3 x_2 x_0 \\ x_1 x_3 x_2 x_3 x_0 \\ x_2 x_3 x_2 x_2 x_1 x_0 \\ x_2 x_2 x_3 x_1 x_1 x_2 x_0 \\ x_2 x_2 x_1 x_3 x_2 x_1 x_3 x_0 \\ x_2 x_1 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_2 x_1 x_3 x_0 \\ x_2 x_1 x_2 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_1 x_3 x_0 \\ x_3 x_2 x_1 x_1 x_3 x_3 x_3 x_2 x_2 x_0 \\ x_3 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_3 x_1 x_3 x_2 x_3 x_0 \\ x_3 x_1 x_3 x_2 x_1 x_3 x_3 x_2 x_1 x_3 x_2 x_0 \\ x_3 x_3 x_3 x_1 x_2 x_1 x_2 x_2 x_3 x_1 x_3 x_2 x_2 x_0 \\ x_3 x_3 x_1 x_3 x_1 x_2 x_2 x_3 x_2 x_3 x_1 x_2 x_1 x_2 x_1 x_0 \end{array}$$



# Lower bound for $R_4(3)$

Chung construction 1973, basic step yields  $(3,3,3,3;50)$ -coloring



$$A = T_3(0, 2, 3, 4)$$

$$D = T_3(3, 2, 1, 4)$$

$$B = T_3(0, 3, 1, 4)$$

$$E = T_3(2, 1, 3, 4)$$

$$C = T_3(0, 1, 2, 4)$$

$$F = T_3(1, 3, 2, 4)$$



# Lower bound for $R_4(3)$

attempts to beat Chung's construction for 4 colors

Iterate transformations of colorings:

- Merging pairs of colors (easy)

$$(3, 3, 3, 3; n) \rightarrow (3, 3, 6; n), \quad (3, 3, 6; n) \rightarrow (6, 6; n)$$

- Deleting a vertex with all adjacent edges (easy)

$$(3, 3, 3, 3; n) \rightarrow (3, 3, 3, 3; n - 1)$$

- Single color splitting (moderate)

$$(6, 6; n) \rightarrow (3, 3, 6; n), \quad (3, 3, 6; n) \rightarrow (3, 3, 3, 3; n)$$

- Limited one point extension (hard)

$$(6, 6; n) \rightarrow (6, 6; n + 1)$$



# Lower bound for $R_4(3)$

attempts to beat Chung's construction

## Results

- Many nonisomorphic constructions on 50 vertices, yet, all of them are just minor modifications of the Chung construction.
- Very hard to get close to 50 vertices with heuristics.

Used great software by Brendan McKay

- *nauty*, canonical labelings of graphs (and more), isomorph deletion
- *geng*, graph generator
- *autoson*, network job scheduling



# Lower bound for $R_k(3)$

Chung construction 1973, recursion

$$R_r(3) \geq 3R_{r-1}(3) + R_{r-3}(3) - 3$$

$T_{k+1}(0, 1, 2, \dots, k+1) =$

<b>A</b>			
<b>D</b>	<b>B</b>		
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>C</b>	,
11 ..... 1 ⋮ 1 ..... 1	22 ..... 2 ⋮ 2 ..... 2	33 ..... 3 ⋮ 3 ..... 3	<b>G</b>

$A = T_k(0, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots, k+1),$   
 $C = T_k(0, 1, 2, 4, 5, \dots, k+1),$   
 $E = T_k(2, 1, 3, 4, 5, \dots, k+1),$   
 $G = T_{k-2}(0, 4, 5, \dots, k+1).$

$B = T_k(0, 3, 1, 4, 5, \dots, k+1),$   
 $D = T_k(3, 2, 1, 4, 5, \dots, k+1),$   
 $F = T_k(1, 3, 2, 4, 5, \dots, k+1),$



# Upper bound for $R_4(3)$

color degree sequences for  $(3, 3, 3, 3; \geq 59)$ -colorings

$n$	orders of $N_\eta(v)$	
65	[ 16, 16, 16, 16 ]	Whitehead, Folkman 1973-4
64	[ 16, 16, 16, 15 ]	Sánchez-Flores 1995
63	[ 16, 16, 16, 14 ]	
	[ 16, 16, 15, 15 ]	
62	[ 16, 16, 16, 13 ]	Kramer 1995+
	[ 16, 16, 15, 14 ]	–
	[ 16, 15, 15, 15 ]	Fettes-Kramer-R 2004
61	[ 16, 16, 16, 12 ]	
	[ 16, 16, 15, 13 ]	
	[ 16, 16, 14, 14 ]	
	[ 16, 15, 15, 14 ]	
	[ 15, 15, 15, 15 ]	
60	[ 16, 16, 16, 11 ]	guess: doable in 2015
	[ 16, 16, 15, 12 ]	
	[ 16, 16, 14, 13 ]	
	[ 16, 15, 15, 13 ]	
	[ 16, 15, 14, 14 ]	
	[ 15, 15, 15, 14 ]	
59	[ 16, 16, 16, 10 ]	
	[ 16, 16, 15, 11 ]	
	[ 16, 16, 14, 12 ]	
	[ 16, 16, 13, 13 ]	
	[ 16, 15, 15, 12 ]	
	[ 16, 15, 14, 13 ]	
	[ 15, 15, 15, 13 ]	
	[ 15, 15, 14, 14 ]	



# More colors - summary

just no triangles

$k$	value	or	bounds	reference(s)
2		6		[cf. Bush 1953]
3		17		Greenwood-Gleason 1955
4	51	–	62	Chung 1973 – Fettes-Kramer-R 2004
5	162	–	307	Exoo 1994 – easy
6	538	–	1838	Fredricksen-Sweet 2000 – easy
7	1682	–	12861	Fredricksen-Sweet 2000 – easy

Bounds and values of  $R_k(K_3)$



# Things to do

computational multicolor Ramsey numbers problems

- improve  $45 \leq R(3, 3, 5) \leq 57$
- finish off  $30 \leq R(3, 3, 4) \leq 31$
- understand why heuristics don't find  $51 \leq R_4(3)$
- improve on  $R_4(3) \leq 62$

# More Arrowing

$F, G, H$  - graphs,  $s, t, s_i$  - positive integers

## Definitions

$F \rightarrow (s_1, \dots, s_r)^e$  iff for every  $r$ -coloring of the edges  
 $F$  contains a monochromatic copy of  $K_{s_i}$  in some color  $i$ .

$F \rightarrow (G, H)^e$  iff for every blue/red edge-coloring of  $F$ ,  
 $F$  contains a blue copy of  $G$  or a red copy of  $H$ .

## Facts

$$R(s, t) = \min\{n \mid K_n \rightarrow (s, t)^e\}$$

$$R(G, H) = \min\{n \mid K_n \rightarrow (G, H)^e\}$$



# Folkman problems

## edge Folkman graphs

$$\mathcal{F}_e(s, t; k) = \{G \rightarrow (s, t)^e : K_k \not\subseteq G\}$$

## edge Folkman numbers (very hard to compute)

$F_e(s, t; k)$  = the smallest  $n$  such that there exists an  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$  in  $\mathcal{F}_e(s, t; k)$

## vertex Folkman graphs/numbers (hard to compute)

2-coloring vertices instead of edges

**Theorem (Folkman 1970):** For all  $k > \max(s, t)$ , edge- and vertex Folkman numbers  $F_e(s, t; k)$ ,  $F_v(s, t; k)$  exist.



# Two small cases

warming up

- $G = K_6$  has the smallest number of vertices among graphs which are not a union of two  $K_3$ -free graphs, or
  - $K_6 \rightarrow (K_3, K_3)^e$  and  $K_5 \not\rightarrow (K_3, K_3)^e$
- What if we want  $G$  to be  $K_6$ -free?  
Graham (1968) proved that
  - $K_8 - C_5 = K_3 + C_5 \rightarrow (K_3, K_3)$   
 $|V(H)| < 8 \wedge K_6 \not\subseteq H \Rightarrow H \not\rightarrow (K_3, K_3)$



# Known values/bounds for $F_e(3, 3; k)$

the challenge is to compute  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$

$k > R(s, t) \Rightarrow F_e(s, t; k) = R(s, t)$

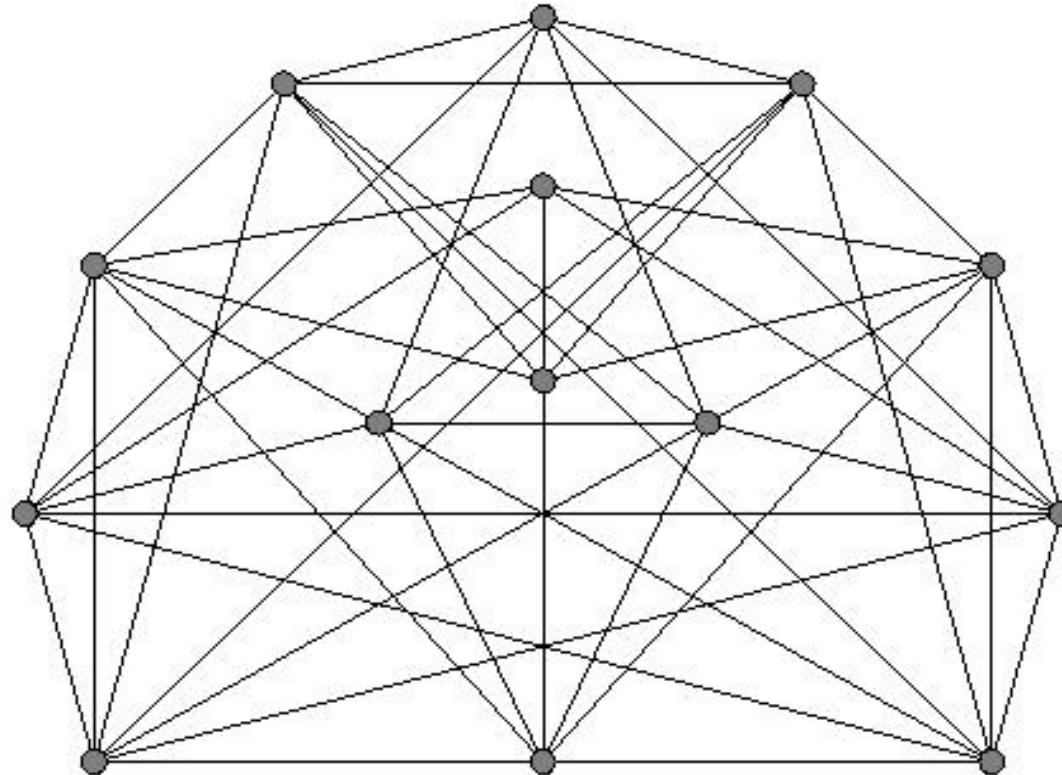
$k \leq R(s, t)$ , very little known in general

$k$	$F_e(3, 3; k)$	graphs	reference
$\geq 7$	6	$K_6$	folklore
6	8	$C_5 + K_3$	Graham 1968
5	15	659 graphs	Piwakowski-Urbański-R 1999
4	$\leq 941$	$\alpha^5 \pmod{941}$	Dudek-Rödl 2008



$$F_e(3, 3; 5) = 15, \text{ and } F_v(3, 3; 4) = 14$$

$$G + x \rightarrow (3, 3)^e, \text{ and } G \rightarrow (3, 3)^v$$



unique 14-vertex bicritical  $F_v(3, 3; 4)$ -graph  $G$  [PRU 1999]

# History of upper bounds on $F_e(3, 3; 4)$

- 1967 - Erdős, Hajnal state the problem
- 1970 - Folkman proves his theorem for 2 colors  
**VERY** large bound for  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$ .
- 1975 - Erdős offers \$100 (or 300 Swiss francs)  
for deciding if  $F_e(3, 3; 4) < 10^{10}$
- 1988 - Spencer, probabilistic proof for the bound  $3 \times 10^8$   
(1989 - Hovey finds a mistake, bound up to  $3 \times 10^9$ )
- 2007 - Lu,  $\leq 9697$ , spectral analysis of modular circulants
- 2008 - Dudek-Ródl,  $F_e(3, 3; 4) \leq 941$   
circulant arc lengths  $\alpha^5 \pmod{941}$

$$F_e(3, 3; 4) \leq 941$$

some details of the proof by Dudek-Rödl

- **Theorem.** If for every vertex  $v \in V(G)$

$$\text{Maxcut}(G[N(v)]) < \frac{2}{3}|E(G[N(v)])|$$

then  $G \rightarrow (3, 3)^e$ .

- Define graph  $H$  on vertices  $E(G)$  with edges  $\{(e, f) : e, f \in E(G), efg \text{ is a triangle in } G \text{ for some } g\}$ .

Maxcut approximation in  $H$  can imply  $G \rightarrow (3, 3)^e$ .

- This works for the graph

$$G = (\mathbb{Z}_{941}, \{(i, j) : i - j = \alpha^5 \pmod{941}\})$$



# History of lower bounds on $F_e(3, 3; 4)$

- $10 \leq F_e(3, 3; 4)$  Lin 1972
- $16 \leq F_e(3, 3; 4)$  Piwakowski-Urbański-R 1999  
since  $F_e(3, 3; 5) = 15$ , all graphs in  $\mathcal{F}_e(3, 3; 5)$  on 15 vertices are known, and all of them contain  $K_4$ 's
- $19 \leq F_e(3, 3; 4)$  R-Xu 2007  
 $18 \leq F_e(3, 3; 4)$  proof "by hand"
- **ANY** proof technique improving on 19 very likely will be of interest

# Lower bound

proof "by hand" that  $18 \leq F_e(3, 3; 4)$

- $G_{17}$  critical for  $R(4, 4) = 18$ ,  
check that  $G_{17} \not\rightarrow (3, 3; 4)^e$ .
- $G_{17} \not\approx G \rightarrow (3, 3; 4)^e$ ,  $|V(G)| = 17$ ,  
 $G$  must have indset  $I$  on 4 vertices.
- $H = I + G[V(G) \setminus I] \rightarrow (3, 3; 5)^e$ .
- Dropping any three vertices from  $I$ ,  
gives  $K_5$ -free graph on 14 vertices.
- Contradiction with  $F_e(3, 3; 5) = 15$ .

Computing  $19 \leq F_e(3, 3; 4)$

quite similar, but much more work,  
use all 153 graph  $H \in \mathcal{F}_v(3, 3; 4)$ .





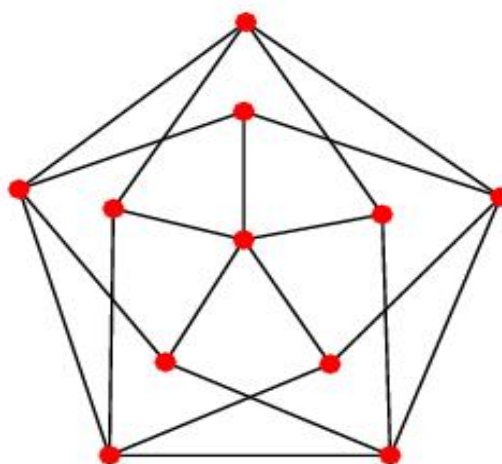
# General facts on $F_e(s, t; k)$

- $G \in \mathcal{F}_e(s, t; k) \Rightarrow \chi(G) \geq R(s, t)$   
no  $k$  in the bound!, easy
- $\mathcal{F}_e(s, t; k) = R(s, t)$  for  $k > R(s, t)$  easy
- $\mathcal{F}_e(s, t; R(s, t)) = R(s, t) + c$  so, so  
in most cases  $c$  is small (2, 4, 5)
- $\mathcal{F}_e(s, t; k) \geq R(s, t) + 4$  for  $k < R(s, t)$  hard
- $G \in \mathcal{F}_v(R(s-1, t), R(s, t-1); k-1) \Rightarrow$   
 $G + x \in \mathcal{F}_e(s, t; k)$ , or equivalently
- $G + x \not\rightarrow (s, t)^e \Rightarrow G \not\rightarrow (R(s-1, t), R(s, t-1))^v$ ,  
and clearly  $cl(G + x) = cl(G) + 1$

# Vertex Folkman numbers pearls

$$F_v(2, 2, 2; 3) = 11$$

the smallest 4-chromatic triangle-free graph



Grötzsch graph [mathworld.wolfram.com]

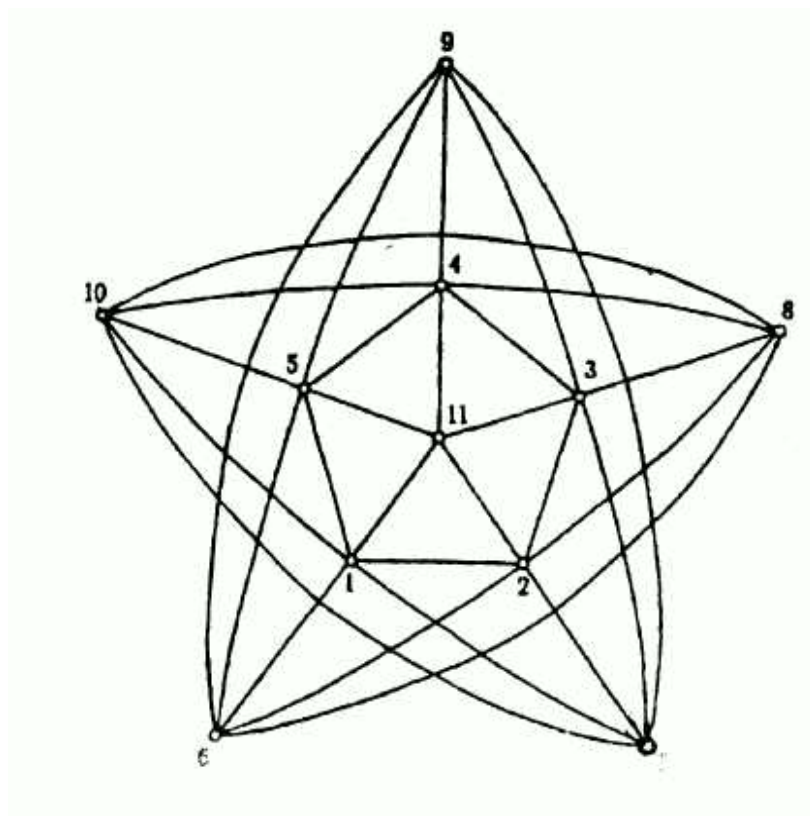
$$F_v(2, 2, 2, 2; 3) = 22, \quad \text{Jensen-Royle 1995}$$

the smallest 5-chromatic triangle-free graph has 22 vertices

# Vertex Folkman numbers pearls

$F_v(2, 2, 2, 2; 4) = 11$ , Nenov 1984, also 1993

the smallest 5-chromatic  $K_4$ -free graph has 11 vertices



$17 \leq F_v(4, 4; 5) \leq 23$ , Xu-Luo-Shao 2010

# Vertex Folkman numbers pearls

**Theorem** (ancient folklore)

$$F_v(\underbrace{2, \dots, 2}_r; r) = r + 5, \text{ for } r \geq 5.$$

**Proof.** For the upper bound consider as the critical graph  $K_{r-5} + C_5 + C_5$  for the lower bound take any  $K_r$ -free graph  $G$  on  $r + 4$  vertices, then assemble matchings in  $\overline{G}$  to show  $\chi(G) \leq r$  □

**Theorem** (Nenov 2003)

$$F_v(\underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_r; 2r) = 2r + 7, \text{ for } r \geq 3.$$

For  $r = 2$ , a small but hard case,  $F_v(3, 3; 4) = 14$  (PRU 1999)



# Testing arrowing is hard

theory/practice

- Testing whether  $F \rightarrow (3, 3)^e$  is **coNP**-complete  
Burr 1976
- Determining if  $R(G, H) < m$  is **NP**-hard  
Burr 1984
- Testing whether  $F \rightarrow (G, H)^e$  is  $\Pi_2^p$ -complete  
Schaefer 2001
- Implementing fast  $F \rightarrow (3, 3)^e$  is challenging

Testing whether  $F \rightarrow (K_2, K_n)^e$  is the same as checking  $K_n \subset F$ , so it is **NP**-hard.



# Complexity of (edge) arrowing

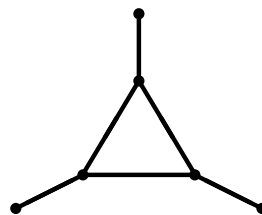
<u>Problem</u>	<u>Fixed</u>	<u>Complexity</u>
$F \rightarrow (G, H)$		$\Pi_2^P$ -complete
$F \rightarrow (G, H)$	$G, H$	in <b>coNP</b>
$F \rightarrow (K_2, H)$		<b>NP</b> -complete
$F \rightarrow (K_2, H)$	$H$	<b>NP</b> -complete
$F \rightarrow (T, K_n)$	$T, e(T) \geq 2$	$\Pi_2^P$ -complete
$F \rightarrow (G, H)$	$G, H \in \Gamma_3$	<b>coNP</b> -complete
$F \rightarrow (P_4, P_4)$		<b>coNP</b> -complete
$F \rightarrow (kK_2, H)$	$k, H$	P
$F \rightarrow (K_{1,n}, K_{1,m})$		P
$K_n \rightarrow (G, H)$		<b>NP</b> -hard

Compendium of arrowing complexity by many.

# Tools in complexity of arrowing

$(G, H)$ -enforcers, -signal senders, -cleavers, -determiners are the tools (gadgets) used in reductions (Burr, Schaefer). They give control on  $F \rightarrow (G, H)$ .

**Definition.** (Grossman 1983)  $F$  is a  $(G, G)$ -cleaver iff there exists unique coloring of  $F$  witnessing  $F \not\rightarrow (G, G)$ .



$P_4$  cleaved  $F \not\rightarrow (P_4, P_4)$ , with only one witness coloring.

Known  $K_3$ -cleaved graphs contain  $K_4$ .

$K_5$  is not  $C_5$ -cleaved,  $P_3$  cleaves  $C_{2n}$ .

# $G_{127}$

Hill-Irving 1982

$$G_{127} = (\mathcal{Z}_{127}, E)$$

$$E = \{(x, y) \mid x - y = \alpha^3 \pmod{127}\}$$

Ramsey (4, 12)-graph, a color in (4, 4, 4; 127)

Exoo started to study if  $G_{127} \rightarrow (3, 3)^e$

- 127 vertices, 2667 edges, 9779 triangles
- no  $K_4$ 's, independence number 11, regular of degree 42
- vertex- and edge-transitive
- 5334 (= 127 \* 42) automorphisms
- (127, 42, 11, {14, 16}) - regularity
- $K_{127}$  can be partitioned into three  $G_{127}$ 's





# When to expect $G \rightarrow (3, 3)^e$ ?

- $G$  has a large number of triangles
- $G$  has many small dense subgraphs
- Spencer's proof is far from useful for  $G_{127}$

**Conjecture.**  $G_{127} \rightarrow (3, 3)^e$

**Plan.** Find a subgraph  $H$ , embedded in  $G$  in many places, so there is a small number of colorings witnessing  $H \not\rightarrow (3, 3)^e$ .

Try to extend all (not many) colorings for  $H \not\rightarrow (3, 3)^e$  to  $G$ .

or, if this is too expensive ...

go via **SAT** ...



# Reducing $\{G \mid G \not\rightarrow (3, 3)^e\}$ to 3-SAT

edges in  $G \mapsto$  variables of  $\phi_G$

each (edge)-triangle  $xyz$  in  $G \mapsto$  add to  $\phi_G$

$$(x + y + z) \wedge (\bar{x} + \bar{y} + \bar{z})$$

Clearly,

$$G \not\rightarrow (3, 3)^e \iff \phi_G \text{ is satisfiable}$$

For  $G = G_{127}$ ,  $\phi_G$  has 2667 variables and 19558 3-clauses, 2 for each of the 9779 triangles.

**Note:** By taking only the positive clauses, we obtain a reduction to  $\phi'_G$  in NAE-3-SAT with half of the clauses.



# Use SAT-solvers

SAT-solver competitions, 3 medals in 9 categories

(random, crafted, industrial)

× (SAT, UNSAT, ALL)

SATzilla (UBC) - winner of 2007 and 2009 competitions  
clasp (D), precosat (SF/A/NL) - winners of 2009 competition

The category we need: CRAFTED-UNSAT

Rsat, Picosat, Minisat, March\_KS  
other recent leading SAT-solvers



$G_{127} \rightarrow (3, 3)^e ?$

zChaff experiments on  $\phi_{G_{127}}$

- Pick  $H = G_{127}[S]$  on  $m = |S|$  vertices.  
Use zChaff to split  $H$ :
  - $m \leq 80$ ,  $H$  easily splittable
  - $m \approx 83$ , phase transition ?
  - $m \geq 86$ , splitting  $H$  is very difficult
- $\#(\text{clauses})/\#(\text{variables}) = 7.483$  for  $G_{127}$ , far above conjectured phase transition ratio  $r \approx 4.2$  for 3-SAT.  
It is known that

$$3.52 \leq r \leq 4.596$$

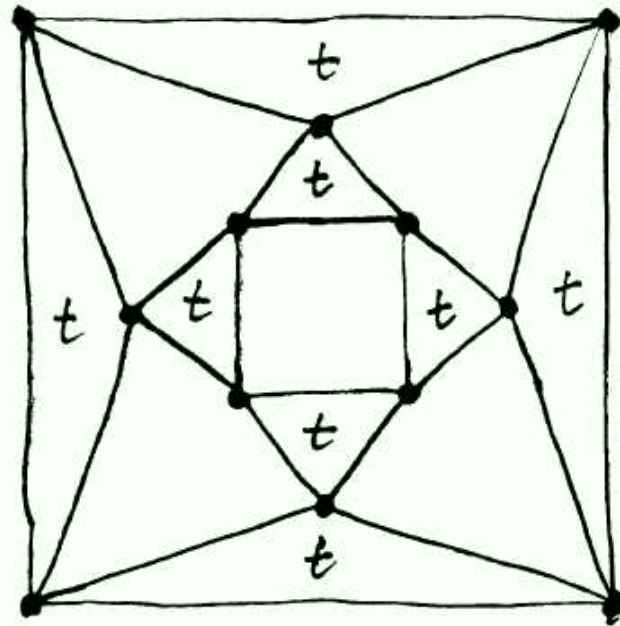


# Folkman problems to work on

Is it true that  $50 \leq F_e(3, 3; 4) \leq 100$ ?

- Decide whether  $G_{127} \rightarrow (3, 3)^e$
- Improve on  $19 \leq F_e(3, 3; 4) \leq 941$
- Study  $F_e(3, 3; G)$  for  $G \in \{K_5 - e, W_5 = C_4 + x\}$
- Study  $F_e(K_4 - e, K_4 - e; K_4)$
- Don't study  $F_e(K_3, K_3; K_4 - e)$   
it doesn't exist :-)

# A small Folkman graph



12 vertex  
t triangles

$$F_e(K_3 - e, K_3; K_4 - e)$$

$$G \rightarrow (\langle \triangle, \triangle; \square \rangle)^e$$

can drop any vertex, arrowing still holds!

# So, what to do next?

computationally

Hard but potentially feasible tasks:

- Improve any of the Ramsey bounds
  - $40 \leq R(3, 10) \leq 43$
  - $30 \leq R(3, 3, 4) \leq 31$
  - $51 \leq R(3, 3, 3, 3) \leq 62$
- Folkman arrowing of  $K_3$ 
  - Improve on  $19 \leq F_e(3, 3; 4) \leq 941$
  - Study  $F_e(3, 3; G)$  for  $G \in \{K_5 - e, W_5 = C_4 + x\}$



# References

- Alexander Soifer  
*The Mathematical Coloring Book*, Springer 2009
- SPR's survey *Small Ramsey Numbers* at the *EIJC*  
Dynamic Survey DS1, revision #12, August 2009  
<http://www.combinatorics.org/Surveys>

All other references therein.



Thanks  
for listening

