# Ramsey numbers of books and quasirandomness 

Yuval Wigderson

## Joint work with David Conlon and Jacob Fox

"Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it is too dark to read."
-Groucho Marx

Ramsey numbers

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Conlon: $r\left(K_{t}\right) \leq t^{-c \log t / \log \log t} 4^{t}$.

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Let $N=r\left(K_{t}\right)$ - 1. If a coloring of $K_{N}$ contains no monochromatic $K_{t}$, then the red and blue graphs are quasirandom as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

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## Conjecture (Nikiforov-Rousseau-Schelp)

Fix $k \geq 2$ and let $N=2^{k} n-o(n)$. If a coloring of $K_{N}$ contains no monochromatic $B_{n}^{(k)}$, then the coloring is quasirandom.

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Fix $k \geq 2$. A coloring of $K_{N}$ with no monochromatic $B_{2^{-k} N+o(N)}^{(k)}$ is quasirandom.

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A coloring of $K_{N}$ is quasirandom iff at most o $\left(N^{k}\right)$ monochromatic $K_{k}$ have more than $2^{-k} N+o(N)$ extensions to a monochromatic $K_{k+1}$.

## Proof preliminaries

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Sets $X, Y \subseteq V(G)$ are called $\varepsilon$-regular if $\left|d(X, Y)-d\left(X^{\prime}, Y^{\prime}\right)\right| \leq \varepsilon$ for all $X^{\prime} \subseteq X, Y^{\prime} \subseteq Y$ with $\left|X^{\prime}\right| \geq \varepsilon|X|,\left|Y^{\prime}\right| \geq \varepsilon|Y|$. Here $d$ is edge density.

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## Theorem (Szemerédi's regularity lemma++)

For all $\varepsilon>0$, there exists $M$ such that for every graph $G$, there is an equitable partition $V(G)=V_{1} \sqcup \cdots \sqcup V_{m}$ with $m \leq M$, such that each $V_{i}$ is $\varepsilon$-regular with itself and with at least $(1-\varepsilon) m$ other $V_{j}$.

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## Definition

A $(k, \varepsilon, \delta)$-good configuration is a tuple of disjoint vertex sets $C_{1}, \ldots, C_{k}$ such that each pair $\left(C_{i}, C_{j}\right)$ is $\varepsilon$-regular, $d_{R}\left(C_{i}\right) \geq \delta$, and $d_{B}\left(C_{i}, C_{j}\right) \geq \delta$ for $i \neq j$.


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Lemma (Conlon '18, Conlon-Fox-W)
Let $N=\left(2^{k}+\beta\right) n$ and $\varepsilon \ll \delta \ll \beta$. If a coloring of $K_{N}$ has a $(k, \varepsilon, \delta)$-good configuration, then it contains a monochromatic $B_{n}^{(k)}$.


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3. If red, pick $i \in[k]$ uniformly, then a uniform red $K_{k}$ in $C_{i}$.

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Recall: We wish to prove that $r\left(B_{n}^{(k)}\right) \leq 2^{k} n+o_{k}(n)$.

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Recall: We wish to prove that $r\left(B_{n}^{(k)}\right) \leq 2^{k} n+o_{k}(n)$.
Sketch of Conlon's proof.
Let $N=\left(2^{k}+\beta\right) n$, and consider a two-coloring of $E\left(K_{N}\right)$. Apply Szemerédi's regularity lemma++ to find that either

- The coloring is nearly monochromatic, or
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To obtain our stronger bound (without the tower-type dependence), we need to avoid invoking the regularity lemma. Instead, we use much weaker partitioning results, and thus have to work much harder to find a good configuration.

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If this held with $\delta \ll 1 / C$, it would imply that $r\left(K_{t}\right) \leq(4-\varepsilon)^{t}$.

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- Thomason conjectured that $r\left(B_{n}^{(k)}\right) \leq 2^{k}(n+k-2)+2$.

