

1. There is a natural analogue of the stepping-up construction going from uniformity 2 to 3. Namely, given a coloring  $\chi : E(K_M^{(2)}) \rightarrow \{\text{red}, \text{blue}\}$ , we can define  $\psi : E(K_N^{(2)}) \rightarrow \{\text{red}, \text{blue}\}$ , where  $N = 2^M$ , by

$$\psi(\{x, y, z\}) := \chi(\delta(x, y), \delta(y, z)),$$

for  $x < y < z$ . Prove that this construction does not work, in the following sense: if  $\chi$  contains a monochromatic  $K_k^{(2)}$ , then  $\psi$  contains a monochromatic  $K_{2^k}^{(3)}$ . Conclude that this construction cannot prove a better lower bound than  $r_3(m) \geq 2^{\Omega(m)}$ .

2. (a) Let  $V(K_M) = \{v_1, \dots, v_M\}$ . Prove that if  $M \geq (k-1)^2 + 1$ , then in every coloring  $E(K_M) \rightarrow \{\text{red}, \text{blue}\}$ , there is a blue  $K_k$  or a vertex  $v_i$  with at least  $k-1$  red neighbors  $v_j$ , where  $j > i$ .

[Note that this is a stronger statement than saying  $r(K_{1,k-1}, K_k) \leq (k-1)^2 + 1$ , since in the second case we are finding an *ordered* copy of  $K_{1,k-1}$ .]

- (b) Let  $S_k$  be the 3-uniform hypergraph with vertex set  $w_0, \dots, w_k$  whose hyperedges are all triples  $\{w_0, w_i, w_j\}$  for  $1 \leq i, j \leq k$ . By following the proof of Theorem 10.1.4, prove that

$$r_3(S_k, K_{k+1}^{(3)}) \leq 2^{Ck^4}$$

for some absolute constant  $C > 0$ .

- (c) By coloring randomly, prove that

$$r_3(S_k, K_{k+1}^{(3)}) \geq 2^{ak^c},$$

for some absolute constants  $a, c > 0$ . What is the largest value of  $c$  you can obtain?

3. A *hyperforest* is a  $t$ -uniform hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$  with the following property. The hyperedges of  $\mathcal{H}$  may be ordered as  $e_1, \dots, e_m$  so that, for every  $2 \leq i \leq m$ , we have  $e_i \cap \bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} e_j \subset e_{j'}$  for some  $1 \leq j' \leq i-1$ . In other words, each edge  $e_i$  is obtained as follows: we pick some  $e_{j'}$ , for  $1 \leq j' \leq i-1$ , pick some subset  $S \subset e_{j'}$ , and define  $e_i$  to consist of  $S$  plus  $t - |S|$  new vertices, which were not yet used in any of  $e_1, \dots, e_{i-1}$ .

- (a) Prove that in case  $t = 2$ , a graph is a 2-uniform hyperforest if and only if it is a forest in the usual sense, i.e. a graph with no cycles.
- (b) Prove that for any  $t, q \geq 2$ , there exists some  $C_{t,q} > 0$  such that the following holds. If  $\mathcal{H}$  is a  $t$ -uniform hyperforest on  $n$  vertices, then

$$r_t(\mathcal{H}; q) \leq C_{t,q} n.$$

*Hints:* What are good analogues of Lemmas 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 in the  $t$ -uniform setting? Why do we require  $e_i$  to be glued along a subset of some  $e_{j'}$ , rather than on a subset of  $\bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} e_j$ ?

---

★ means that a problem is hard.

? means that a problem is open.

↔ means that a problem is on a topic beyond the scope of the course.

- ★4. Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be the 3-uniform hypergraph with vertex set  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  whose hyperedges are all triples  $\{v_i, v_{i+1}, v_j\}$ , where  $i, j \in \llbracket k \rrbracket$  with  $j \notin \{i, i+1\}$ . Here, indices are taken modulo  $k$ , so that  $\{v_k, v_1, v_j\}$  is a hyperedge of  $\mathcal{H}$  for all  $j \notin \{1, k\}$ .

Prove that there exist constants  $c, C > 0$  such that

$$2^{2^{ck}} \leq r_3(\mathcal{H}; 4) \leq 2^{2^{Ck}}.$$

In other words,  $r_3(\mathcal{H}; 4)$  is roughly as large as  $r(K_k^{(3)}; 4)$ , even though  $\mathcal{H}$  has  $\Theta(k^2)$  edges while  $K_k^{(3)}$  has  $\Theta(k^3)$  edges.

[In the case of graphs, no such example can exist—any graph with substantially fewer edges than  $K_k^{(2)}$  has a much smaller Ramsey number than  $K_k^{(2)}$ .]

- ★5. A 3-uniform hypergraph  $\mathcal{H}$  is *tripartite* if its vertex set can be partitioned as  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3$ , so that every hyperedge of  $\mathcal{H}$  uses exactly one vertex from each  $V_i$ . The *complete tripartite 3-uniform hypergraph*  $K_{k,k,k}^{(3)}$  is the tripartite hypergraph where  $|V_1| = |V_2| = |V_3| = k$  and in which every triple in  $V_1 \times V_2 \times V_3$  is a hyperedge.

(a) Prove that there exist absolute constants  $c, C > 0$  such that

$$2^{ck^2} \leq r_3(K_{k,k,k}^{(3)}) \leq 2^{Ck^2}.$$

- ★(b) Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a tripartite 3-uniform hypergraph with  $|V_1| = |V_2| = |V_3| = k$ , and suppose that every vertex of  $\mathcal{H}$  lies in at most  $\Delta$  hyperedges. Prove that

$$r_3(\mathcal{H}) \leq k^{1+o(1)},$$

where the  $o(1)$  term tends to 0 as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , while keeping  $\Delta$  constant.

★(c) Extend these results to uniformity  $t \geq 4$ .

- ⊕6. Let  $K_{\mathbb{N}}^{(t)}$  denote the (countably) infinite complete  $t$ -uniform hypergraph, whose vertex set is  $\mathbb{N}$  and whose hyperedges are all  $t$ -tuples of distinct integers. Prove the infinite hypergraph Ramsey theorem: for all  $t, q \geq 2$ , and for every  $q$ -coloring of  $E(K_{\mathbb{N}}^{(t)})$ , there is an infinite monochromatic clique.

- ⊕7. Prove that for all  $q, t \geq 2$ , there exists an integer  $N$  such that the following holds. Identify the vertex set of  $K_N^{(t)}$  with  $\llbracket N \rrbracket$ . For any  $q$ -coloring of  $E(K_N^{(t)})$ , there is a set  $S \subseteq \llbracket N \rrbracket$  such that  $S$  forms a monochromatic clique, and  $|S| > t + \min S$ , where  $\min S$  denotes the smallest element of  $S$ .

*Hint:* Although this is a purely “finitary” statement, you should apply the infinite hypergraph Ramsey theorem. In fact, the famous *Paris–Harrington theorem* states that this statement cannot be proved in Peano arithmetic.