Finite Ramsey Theorem For 3-Hypergraph: Better Bounds

Exposition by William Gasarch

December 10, 2024

Credit Where Credit is Due

The main theorem in these slides, in fact not just the 3-ary case but also the *a*-ary case, appeared in **Combinatorial Theorems on Classifications of Subsets of a Given Set** by Erdös and Rado (1952).

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Here is a link
https://www.cs.umd.edu/users/gasarch/TOPICS/
canramsey/ErdosRado2.pdf

Thm $(\forall a)(\forall k)$



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- 1) Start with $H_1 = [n]$.
- 2) Apply 2-ary Ramsey Theory 2k 1 times. $|H_i| \ge \Omega(\log(|H_{i-1}|))$.

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Look at all triples that have 1,2 in them.

Since every 3-subset has a color, harder to draw pictures so I won't :-(. Look at all triples that have 1,2 in them. COL(1,2,3) = R.

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COL(1,2,3) = R.
COL(1,2,4) = B.
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COL(1,2,5) = B.
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COL(1, 2, 3) = R.
COL(1, 2, 4) = B.
COL(1, 2, 5) = B.
COL(1, 2, 6) = R.
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Look at all triples that have 1, 2 in them.

COL(1, 2, 3) = \mathbb{R}.

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COL(1, 2, n) = \mathbb{R}.
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What to make of this?
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What to make of this? Discuss.
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We are given COL: $\binom{[n]}{3} \rightarrow [2]$.



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We are given COL:
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.
 $x_1 = 1$. $x_2 = 2$. $H_1 = [n] - \{1, 2\}$.

We are given COL:
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COL': $H_1 \to [2]$ is COL' $(z) = \text{COL}(x_1, x_2, z)$.

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$$H_2 = \{z : \text{COL}(x_1, x_2, z) = c_{1,2}\}.$$
 Note $|H_2| \ge |H_1|/2.$
First Stage Formally

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Now what? Discuss.

We have $H_1, x_1, x_2, c_{1,2}, H_2$

We have $H_1, x_1, x_2, c_{1,2}, H_2$ x_3 is the least element of H_2 .

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We have $H_1, x_1, x_2, c_{1,2}, H_2$ x_3 is the least element of H_2 . Discuss what to do next.

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We have $H_1, x_1, x_2, c_{1,2}, H_2$ x_3 is the least element of H_2 . Discuss what to do next. Key Will look at $COL(x_1, x_3, z)$ and $COL(x_2, x_3, z)$.

We have $H_1, x_1, x_2, c_{1,2}, H_2$ x_3 is the least element of H_2 . Discuss what to do next. Key Will look at $COL(x_1, x_3, z)$ and $COL(x_2, x_3, z)$. Notation We will use H_3 as a running variable.

We have $H_1, x_1, x_2, c_{1,2}, H_2$ x_3 is the least element of H_2 . Discuss what to do next. Key Will look at $COL(x_1, x_3, z)$ and $COL(x_2, x_3, z)$. Notation We will use H_3 as a running variable. $COL': H_2 \rightarrow [2]$ is $COL'(z) = COL(x_1, x_3, z)$.

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We have H_s, x_1, \ldots, x_s and $\{c_{i,j} \colon 1 \leq i < j \leq s\}$

We have H_s, x_1, \ldots, x_s and $\{c_{i,j} \colon 1 \le i < j \le s\}$ x_{s+1} is the least element of H_s .

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We have H_s, x_1, \ldots, x_s and $\{c_{i,j} \colon 1 \le i < j \le s\}$ x_{s+1} is the least element of H_s . Key $\operatorname{COL}(x_1, x_{s+1}, z)$, $\operatorname{COL}(x_2, x_{s+1}, z)$, ..., $\operatorname{COL}(x_s, x_{s+1}, z)$.

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$$\begin{split} |H_1| &= n \\ H_{s+1} \text{ takes } H_s \text{ and cuts it in half } s \text{ times.} \\ |H_{s+1}| &\geq \frac{1}{2^s} |H_s| \\ |H_{s+1}| &\geq \frac{1}{2^s} |H_s| = \frac{1}{2^s} \frac{1}{2^{s-1}} |H_{s-1}| = \frac{1}{2^{s+(s-1)}} |H_{s-1}|. \end{split}$$

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The Coloring of Pairs of Vertices
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Hence H is homog for COL.

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 $s \ge 2^{2k}$

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$$n \ge 2^{s^2/2} \ge 2^{2^{4k}}$$

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We take $n = 2^{2^{4k}}$.

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- 5) Lower Bound: $R_3(k) \ge 2^{k/2}$.
- 6) The good money says $R_3(k) \ge 2^{2^{\Omega(k)}}$.