



Mathematics > Combinatorics

About maximal number of edges in hypergraph-clique with chromatic number 3

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Let $H = (V, E)$ be a hypergraph. By the chromatic number of a hypergraph $H = (V, E)$ we mean the minimum number $\chi(H)$ of colors needed to paint all the vertices in V so that any edge $e \in E$ contains at least two vertices of some different colors. Finally, a hypergraph is said to form a clique, if its edges are pairwise intersecting.

In 1973 Erdős and Lovász noticed that if an n -uniform hypergraph $H = (V, E)$ forms a clique, then $\chi(H) \in \{2, 3\}$. They introduced following quantity. $M(n) = \max\{|E| : \exists \text{ an } n\text{-uniform clique } H = (V, E) \text{ with } \chi(H) = 3\}$. Obviously such definition has no sense in the case of $\chi(H) = 2$.

Theorem 1 (P. Erdős, L. Lovász) The inequalities hold $n!(e-1) \leq M(n) \leq n^n$.

Almost nothing better has been done during the last 35 years.

At the same time, another quantity $r(n)$ was introduced by Lovász $r(n) = \max\{|E| : \exists \text{ an } n\text{-uniform clique } H = (V, E) \text{ s.t. } \tau(H) = n\}$, where $\tau(H)$ is the covering number of H , i.e., $\tau(H) = \min\{|f| : f \subset V, \forall e \in E, f \cap e \neq \emptyset\}$. Clearly, for any n -uniform clique H , we have $\tau(H) \leq n$, and if $\chi(H) = 3$, then $\tau(H) = n$. Thus, $M(n) \leq r(n)$. Lovász noticed that for $r(n)$ the same estimates as in Theorem 1 apply and conjectured that the lower estimate is best possible. In 1996 P. Frankl, K. Ota, and N. Tokushige disproved this conjecture and showed that $r(n) \geq \binom{n}{2}^{n-1}$.

We discovered a new upper bound for the $r(n)$ (so for $M(n)$ too).

Theorem 2. $M(n) \leq r(n) \leq c n^{n-1/2} \ln n$, where c is a constant.

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