New Lower Bounds on Multicolour Diagonal Ramsey Numbers

Matthew Coulson Universitat Politécnica de Catalunya

Reading Group: New trends in Combinatorics

7th October, 2020

Based on work by Conlon & Ferber; Widgerson.

Moral of Ramsey Theory: Complete disorder is impossible.

Moral of Ramsey Theory: Complete disorder is impossible.

Ramsey number, $R(k_1, \ldots, k_\ell)$ is defined to be the minimum value of n such that colouring the edges of K_n with colours c_1, \ldots, c_ℓ yields K_{k_1} in colour c_1 or K_{k_2} in colour $c_2 \ldots$

Moral of Ramsey Theory: Complete disorder is impossible.

Ramsey number, $R(k_1, \ldots, k_\ell)$ is defined to be the minimum value of n such that colouring the edges of K_n with colours c_1, \ldots, c_ℓ yields K_{k_1} in colour c_1 or K_{k_2} in colour $c_2 \ldots$

Note - that $R(k_1, \ldots, k_\ell)$ exists for all $\ell; k_1, \ldots, k_\ell \in \mathbb{N}$ is known as Ramsey's Theorem.

Moral of Ramsey Theory: Complete disorder is impossible.

Ramsey number, $R(k_1, \ldots, k_\ell)$ is defined to be the minimum value of n such that colouring the edges of K_n with colours c_1, \ldots, c_ℓ yields K_{k_1} in colour c_1 or K_{k_2} in colour $c_2 \ldots$

Note - that $R(k_1, \ldots, k_\ell)$ exists for all $\ell; k_1, \ldots, k_\ell \in \mathbb{N}$ is known as Ramsey's Theorem.

Diagonal Ramsey Numbers:

$$R(t;\ell) := R(\underbrace{t,t,\ldots,t}_{\ell \text{ copies}})$$

The Ramsey number R(3; 2) = R(3, 3) i.e., the 2 colour Ramsey number for a triangle is the smallest non-trivial Ramsey number.

The Ramsey number R(3; 2) = R(3, 3) i.e., the 2 colour Ramsey number for a triangle is the smallest non-trivial Ramsey number.

We shall show that R(3; 2) = 6.

R(3;2)=6

The Ramsey number R(3; 2) = R(3, 3) i.e., the 2 colour Ramsey number for a triangle is the smallest non-trivial Ramsey number.

We shall show that R(3; 2) = 6.

R(3; 2) > 5



R(3;2)=6

The Ramsey number R(3; 2) = R(3, 3) i.e., the 2 colour Ramsey number for a triangle is the smallest non-trivial Ramsey number.

We shall show that R(3; 2) = 6.



R(3;2)=6

The Ramsey number R(3; 2) = R(3, 3) i.e., the 2 colour Ramsey number for a triangle is the smallest non-trivial Ramsey number.

We shall show that R(3;2) = 6.





One of the dashed lines is blue or all are red.

Erdős' Lower Bound

Theorem (Erdős)

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \ge \sqrt{2}^{t}$

Erdős' Lower Bound

Theorem (Erdős)

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \ge \sqrt{2}^{t}$

Idea: Pick the colouring uniformly at random.

Erdős' Lower Bound

Theorem (Erdős)

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \ge \sqrt{2}^{t}$

Idea: Pick the colouring uniformly at random.

Colour edges red/blue with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ independently of all others.

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \ge \sqrt{2}^{t}$

Idea: Pick the colouring uniformly at random.

Colour edges red/blue with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ independently of all others.

The probability that an arbitrary K_t is monochromatic is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \ge \sqrt{2}^{t}$

Idea: Pick the colouring uniformly at random.

Colour edges red/blue with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ independently of all others.

The probability that an arbitrary K_t is monochromatic is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

There are $\binom{n}{t}$ copies of K_t in K_n .

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \ge \sqrt{2}^{t}$

Idea: Pick the colouring uniformly at random.

Colour edges red/blue with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ independently of all others.

The probability that an arbitrary K_t is monochromatic is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

There are $\binom{n}{t}$ copies of K_t in K_n .

So the expected number of monochromatic copies of K_t is $2\binom{n}{t}2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \ge \sqrt{2}^{r}$

Idea: Pick the colouring uniformly at random.

Colour edges red/blue with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ independently of all others.

The probability that an arbitrary K_t is monochromatic is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

There are $\binom{n}{t}$ copies of K_t in K_n .

So the expected number of monochromatic copies of K_t is $2\binom{n}{t}2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Ignoring lower order terms, this is $n^t 2^{-\frac{k^2}{2}}$ which is less than 1 provided $n \leq \sqrt{2}^t$.

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t;2) \geq \sqrt{2}^{r}$

Idea: Pick the colouring uniformly at random.

Colour edges red/blue with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ independently of all others.

The probability that an arbitrary K_t is monochromatic is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

There are $\binom{n}{t}$ copies of K_t in K_n .

So the expected number of monochromatic copies of K_t is $2\binom{n}{t}2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Ignoring lower order terms, this is $n^t 2^{-\frac{k^2}{2}}$ which is less than 1 provided $n \leq \sqrt{2}^t$.

This allows us to deduce that there is at least one graph on $\sqrt{2}^t$ vertices with no monochromatic K_t .

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \le 4^t$

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \le 4^t$

Idea: Neighbourhood Chasing.

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \le 4^t$

Idea: Neighbourhood Chasing.

We must find a monochromatic K_t for each graph of size 4^t .

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \le 4^t$

Idea: Neighbourhood Chasing.

We must find a monochromatic K_t for each graph of size 4^t .

Let G_0 be the initial coloured K_n .

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \le 4^t$

Idea: Neighbourhood Chasing.

We must find a monochromatic K_t for each graph of size 4^t .

Let G_0 be the initial coloured K_n .

For $i \ge 1$ Let v_i be an arbitrary vertex of G_{i-1} , it has either at least $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident red edges or $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident blue edges.

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \le 4^t$

Idea: Neighbourhood Chasing.

We must find a monochromatic K_t for each graph of size 4^t .

Let G_0 be the initial coloured K_n .

For $i \ge 1$ Let v_i be an arbitrary vertex of G_{i-1} , it has either at least $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident red edges or $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident blue edges.

Let G_i be the graph induced by the vertices connected to v_i in G_{i-1} by edges of the majority colour among those incident to v_i in G_{i-1} .

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \le 4^t$

Idea: Neighbourhood Chasing.

We must find a monochromatic K_t for each graph of size 4^t .

Let G_0 be the initial coloured K_n .

For $i \ge 1$ Let v_i be an arbitrary vertex of G_{i-1} , it has either at least $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident red edges or $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident blue edges.

Let G_i be the graph induced by the vertices connected to v_i in G_{i-1} by edges of the majority colour among those incident to v_i in G_{i-1} .

Repeat the above two steps until i = 2t - 1.

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \le 4^t$

Idea: Neighbourhood Chasing.

We must find a monochromatic K_t for each graph of size 4^t .

Let G_0 be the initial coloured K_n .

For $i \ge 1$ Let v_i be an arbitrary vertex of G_{i-1} , it has either at least $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident red edges or $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident blue edges.

Let G_i be the graph induced by the vertices connected to v_i in G_{i-1} by edges of the majority colour among those incident to v_i in G_{i-1} .

Repeat the above two steps until i = 2t - 1.

Colour v_i red if G_i is the vertices connected to v_i in red, blue otherwise.

The two colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; 2) \le 4^t$

Idea: Neighbourhood Chasing.

We must find a monochromatic K_t for each graph of size 4^t .

Let G_0 be the initial coloured K_n .

For $i \ge 1$ Let v_i be an arbitrary vertex of G_{i-1} , it has either at least $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident red edges or $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ incident blue edges.

Let G_i be the graph induced by the vertices connected to v_i in G_{i-1} by edges of the majority colour among those incident to v_i in G_{i-1} .

Repeat the above two steps until i = 2t - 1.

Colour v_i red if G_i is the vertices connected to v_i in red, blue otherwise.

At least t of the v_i share a colour and therefore form a monochromatic K_t .

The bounds from the previous two slides can be generalised to mulliple colours with almost identical proofs.

The bounds from the previous two slides can be generalised to mulliple colours with almost identical proofs.

This yields the following two bounds.

The bounds from the previous two slides can be generalised to mulliple colours with almost identical proofs.

This yields the following two bounds.

Theorem

The ℓ colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; \ell) \leq \ell^{\ell t}$

The bounds from the previous two slides can be generalised to mulliple colours with almost identical proofs.

This yields the following two bounds.

Theorem

The ℓ colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; \ell) \leq \ell^{\ell t}$

Theorem

The ℓ colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; \ell) \ge \sqrt{\ell}^t$

The bounds from the previous two slides can be generalised to mulliple colours with almost identical proofs.

This yields the following two bounds.



The ℓ colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; \ell) \leq \ell^{\ell t}$

Theorem

The ℓ colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; \ell) \ge \sqrt{\ell}^t$

The second of these can be improved by an observation of Lefmann, that

$$R(t; \ell_1 + \ell_2) - 1 \leq (R(t; \ell_1) - 1)(R(t; \ell_2) - 1)$$

The bounds from the previous two slides can be generalised to mutliple colours with almost identical proofs.

This yields the following two bounds.

Theorem

The ℓ colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; \ell) \leq \ell^{\ell t}$

Theorem

The ℓ colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; \ell) \ge \sqrt{\ell}^t$

The second of these can be improved by an observation of Lefmann, that

$$R(t; \ell_1 + \ell_2) - 1 \leq (R(t; \ell_1) - 1)(R(t; \ell_2) - 1)$$

Blow up a mono- K_t -free ℓ_1 -colouring on $R(t; \ell_1) - 1$ vertices such that each vertex set has size $R(t; \ell_2) - 1$ and colour these sets with remaining ℓ_2 colours without monochromatic K_t .

The bounds from the previous two slides can be generalised to mutliple colours with almost identical proofs.

This yields the following two bounds.

Theorem

The ℓ colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; \ell) \leq \ell^{\ell t}$

Theorem

The ℓ colour diagonal Ramsey number satisfies $R(t; \ell) \ge \sqrt{\ell}^t$

The second of these can be improved by an observation of Lefmann, that

$$R(t; \ell_1 + \ell_2) - 1 \leq (R(t; \ell_1) - 1)(R(t; \ell_2) - 1)$$

Blow up a mono- K_t -free ℓ_1 -colouring on $R(t; \ell_1) - 1$ vertices such that each vertex set has size $R(t; \ell_2) - 1$ and colour these sets with remaining ℓ_2 colours without monochromatic K_t .

Gives lower bound essentially $R(t; \ell) \ge 3^{\frac{\ell t}{6}}$.

Conlon-Ferber Result

Theorem (Conlon, Ferber (2020))

For any prime q, $R(t; q+1) \ge 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$.
Conlon-Ferber Result

Theorem (Conlon, Ferber (2020))

For any prime q, $R(t; q+1) \ge 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$.

This gives exponential improvements to the previous best lower bounds on R(t; 3) and R(t; 4).

Theorem (Conlon, Ferber (2020))

For any prime q, $R(t; q+1) \ge 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$.

This gives exponential improvements to the previous best lower bounds on R(t; 3) and R(t; 4).



Theorem (Conlon, Ferber (2020))

For any prime q, $R(t; q+1) \ge 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$.

This gives exponential improvements to the previous best lower bounds on R(t; 3) and R(t; 4).



Applying Lefmann's observation also gives the following improvement for any number of colours.

Theorem (Conlon, Ferber (2020))

For any prime q, $R(t; q+1) \ge 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$.

This gives exponential improvements to the previous best lower bounds on R(t; 3) and R(t; 4).



Applying Lefmann's observation also gives the following improvement for any number of colours.

Corollary $R(t; \ell) \ge 2^{7\ell t/24 + o(t)} (\gg 3^{\ell t/6}).$

Note that $q^{t-2} \leq |V| \leq q^t$ where the lower bound follows as each element of \mathbb{F}_q may be written as the sum of two squares.

Note that $q^{t-2} \le |V| \le q^t$ where the lower bound follows as each element of \mathbb{F}_q may be written as the sum of two squares.

Colouring: We construct our colouring χ as follows.

Note that $q^{t-2} \leq |V| \leq q^t$ where the lower bound follows as each element of \mathbb{F}_q may be written as the sum of two squares.

Colouring: We construct our colouring χ as follows.

If $u, v \in V$ and $u \cdot v = i$ where $i \neq 0 \mod q$, then set $\chi(u, v) = i$. Otherwise choose $\chi(uv)$ uniformly at random from $\{q, q+1\}$ independently of all other randomness.

Note that $q^{t-2} \leq |V| \leq q^t$ where the lower bound follows as each element of \mathbb{F}_q may be written as the sum of two squares.

Colouring: We construct our colouring χ as follows.

If $u, v \in V$ and $u \cdot v = i$ where $i \neq 0 \mod q$, then set $\chi(u, v) = i$. Otherwise choose $\chi(uv)$ uniformly at random from $\{q, q+1\}$ independently of all other randomness.

Embedding: Let f be a random injective map, $f : [n] \to V$. Define the colour of edge ij as $\chi(f(i)f(j))$.

Note that $q^{t-2} \leq |V| \leq q^t$ where the lower bound follows as each element of \mathbb{F}_q may be written as the sum of two squares.

Colouring: We construct our colouring χ as follows.

If $u, v \in V$ and $u \cdot v = i$ where $i \neq 0 \mod q$, then set $\chi(u, v) = i$. Otherwise choose $\chi(uv)$ uniformly at random from $\{q, q+1\}$ independently of all other randomness.

Embedding: Let f be a random injective map, $f : [n] \to V$. Define the colour of edge ij as $\chi(f(i)f(j))$.

That is, we take a random induced subgraph of V of size n and shall show it contains no monochromatic clique of size t.

To do so we show the same is true in V by linear independence.

To do so we show the same is true in V by linear independence.

Suppose $v_1, \ldots, v_s \in V$ form a clique of colour *i* and suppose that $u = \sum_{j=1}^{s} \alpha_j v_j = 0.$

To do so we show the same is true in V by linear independence.

Suppose $v_1, \ldots, v_s \in V$ form a clique of colour *i* and suppose that $u = \sum_{j=1}^{s} \alpha_j v_j = 0.$

Consider products $u \cdot v_k$, we find that $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s)$ solves $M\alpha = 0$ where M is the $s \times s$ matrix which is i everywhere but the diagonal where it is 0.

To do so we show the same is true in V by linear independence.

Suppose $v_1, \ldots, v_s \in V$ form a clique of colour *i* and suppose that $u = \sum_{j=1}^{s} \alpha_j v_j = 0.$

Consider products $u \cdot v_k$, we find that $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s)$ solves $M\alpha = 0$ where M is the $s \times s$ matrix which is i everywhere but the diagonal where it is 0.

This has eigenvalues i(s-1) (multiplicity 1) and -i (multiplicity s-1). So if $s \neq 1 \mod q$, M is non-singular over \mathbb{F}_q and thus $\alpha = 0$ so v_1, \ldots, v_s is a linearly independent set of vectors whereby $s \leq t = \dim(\mathbb{F}_q^t)$.

To do so we show the same is true in V by linear independence.

Suppose $v_1, \ldots, v_s \in V$ form a clique of colour *i* and suppose that $u = \sum_{j=1}^{s} \alpha_j v_j = 0.$

Consider products $u \cdot v_k$, we find that $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s)$ solves $M\alpha = 0$ where M is the $s \times s$ matrix which is i everywhere but the diagonal where it is 0.

This has eigenvalues i(s-1) (multiplicity 1) and -i (multiplicity s-1). So if $s \neq 1 \mod q$, M is non-singular over \mathbb{F}_q and thus $\alpha = 0$ so v_1, \ldots, v_s is a linearly independent set of vectors whereby $s \leq t = \dim(\mathbb{F}_q^t)$.

If $s = 1 \mod q$, the same argument with v_1, \ldots, v_{s-1} yields $s - 1 \le t$ and $s - 1 \ne t$ as then $t = 0 \mod q$ which we assumed was not the case.

Next, we deal with the colours q and q + 1.

Say X is a potential clique if it has size t and $u \cdot v = 0 \mod q$ for all $u, v \in X$.

Say X is a potential clique if it has size t and $u \cdot v = 0 \mod q$ for all $u, v \in X$.

Let M_X be the matrix whose rows are the vectors of X, then $M_X M_X^T = 0$ from which we may immediately deduce that $r = rank(M_X) \le t/2$.

Say X is a potential clique if it has size t and $u \cdot v = 0 \mod q$ for all $u, v \in X$.

Let M_X be the matrix whose rows are the vectors of X, then $M_X M_X^T = 0$ from which we may immediately deduce that $r = rank(M_X) \le t/2$.

Counting Potential Cliques:

Say X is a potential clique if it has size t and $u \cdot v = 0 \mod q$ for all $u, v \in X$.

Let M_X be the matrix whose rows are the vectors of X, then $M_X M_X^T = 0$ from which we may immediately deduce that $r = rank(M_X) \le t/2$.

Counting Potential Cliques:

Assume we first pick r linearly independent vectors, then pick the remainder in the span of these, gives at most

$$\left(\prod_{i=0}^{r-1} q^{t-i}\right) q^{r(t-r)} = q^{2tr - rac{3r^2}{2} + rac{r}{2}}$$

Potential cliques of rank r.

Say X is a potential clique if it has size t and $u \cdot v = 0 \mod q$ for all $u, v \in X$.

Let M_X be the matrix whose rows are the vectors of X, then $M_X M_X^T = 0$ from which we may immediately deduce that $r = rank(M_X) \le t/2$.

Counting Potential Cliques:

Assume we first pick r linearly independent vectors, then pick the remainder in the span of these, gives at most

$$\left(\prod_{i=0}^{r-1} q^{t-i}\right) q^{r(t-r)} = q^{2tr - \frac{3r^2}{2} + \frac{r}{2}}$$

Potential cliques of rank r.

Expression above increasing in r for $r \le t/2$ so max attained when r = t/2.

Say X is a potential clique if it has size t and $u \cdot v = 0 \mod q$ for all $u, v \in X$.

Let M_X be the matrix whose rows are the vectors of X, then $M_X M_X^T = 0$ from which we may immediately deduce that $r = rank(M_X) \le t/2$.

Counting Potential Cliques:

Assume we first pick r linearly independent vectors, then pick the remainder in the span of these, gives at most

$$\left(\prod_{i=0}^{r-1} q^{t-i}\right) q^{r(t-r)} = q^{2tr - \frac{3r^2}{2} + \frac{r}{2}}$$

Potential cliques of rank r.

Expression above increasing in r for $r \le t/2$ so max attained when r = t/2.

So sum over all ranks gives that we have at most $N_t = q^{\frac{5t^2}{8} + o(t^2)}$ potential cliques.

The probability that a given potential clique becomes monochromatic after colouring with q and q + 1 is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Monochromaticity Probability:

The probability that a given potential clique becomes monochromatic after colouring with q and q + 1 is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Next pick a random subset of V where we take each element with probability $2n|V|^{-1} = nq^{-t+O(1)}$.

Monochromaticity Probability:

The probability that a given potential clique becomes monochromatic after colouring with q and q + 1 is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Next pick a random subset of V where we take each element with probability $2n|V|^{-1} = nq^{-t+O(1)}$.

The expected number of monochromatic potential cliques in this subset when we take $n = 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$ is at most

Monochromaticity Probability:

The probability that a given potential clique becomes monochromatic after colouring with q and q + 1 is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Next pick a random subset of V where we take each element with probability $2n|V|^{-1} = nq^{-t+O(1)}$.

The expected number of monochromatic potential cliques in this subset when we take $n = 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$ is at most

$$2p^{t}2^{-\binom{t}{2}}N_{t} \leq q^{-t^{2}+o(t^{2})}n^{t}2^{-t^{2}/2+o(t^{2})}q^{5t^{2}/8+o(t^{2})} = \left(2^{-t/2}q^{-3t/8+o(t)}n\right)^{t} < \frac{1}{2}.$$

Monochromaticity Probability:

The probability that a given potential clique becomes monochromatic after colouring with q and q + 1 is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Next pick a random subset of V where we take each element with probability $2n|V|^{-1} = nq^{-t+O(1)}$.

The expected number of monochromatic potential cliques in this subset when we take $n = 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$ is at most

$$2p^{t}2^{-\binom{t}{2}}N_{t} \leq q^{-t^{2}+o(t^{2})}n^{t}2^{-t^{2}/2+o(t^{2})}q^{5t^{2}/8+o(t^{2})} = \left(2^{-t/2}q^{-3t/8+o(t)}n\right)^{t} < \frac{1}{2}.$$

(Where we have chosen the o(t) term in *n* appropriately so that the final inequality is correct.)

The probability that a given potential clique becomes monochromatic after colouring with q and q + 1 is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Next pick a random subset of V where we take each element with probability $2n|V|^{-1} = nq^{-t+O(1)}$.

The expected number of monochromatic potential cliques in this subset when we take $n = 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$ is at most

$$2p^{t}2^{-\binom{t}{2}}N_{t} \leq q^{-t^{2}+o(t^{2})}n^{t}2^{-t^{2}/2+o(t^{2})}q^{5t^{2}/8+o(t^{2})} = \left(2^{-t/2}q^{-3t/8+o(t)}n\right)^{t} < \frac{1}{2}.$$

(Where we have chosen the o(t) term in *n* appropriately so that the final inequality is correct.)

The random subset we chose earlier also clearly has at least n unique elements with probability at most 1/2.

The probability that a given potential clique becomes monochromatic after colouring with q and q + 1 is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Next pick a random subset of V where we take each element with probability $2n|V|^{-1} = nq^{-t+O(1)}$.

The expected number of monochromatic potential cliques in this subset when we take $n = 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$ is at most

$$2p^{t}2^{-\binom{t}{2}}N_{t} \leq q^{-t^{2}+o(t^{2})}n^{t}2^{-t^{2}/2+o(t^{2})}q^{5t^{2}/8+o(t^{2})} = \left(2^{-t/2}q^{-3t/8+o(t)}n\right)^{t} < \frac{1}{2}.$$

(Where we have chosen the o(t) term in *n* appropriately so that the final inequality is correct.)

The random subset we chose earlier also clearly has at least n unique elements with probability at most 1/2.

Thus by a union bound there is a colouring and choice of subset of V of size n with no monochromatic potential clique in this subset.

The probability that a given potential clique becomes monochromatic after colouring with q and q + 1 is $2 \cdot 2^{-\binom{t}{2}}$.

Next pick a random subset of V where we take each element with probability $2n|V|^{-1} = nq^{-t+O(1)}$.

The expected number of monochromatic potential cliques in this subset when we take $n = 2^{t/2}q^{3t/8+o(t)}$ is at most

$$2p^{t}2^{-\binom{t}{2}}N_{t} \leq q^{-t^{2}+o(t^{2})}n^{t}2^{-t^{2}/2+o(t^{2})}q^{5t^{2}/8+o(t^{2})} = \left(2^{-t/2}q^{-3t/8+o(t)}n\right)^{t} < \frac{1}{2}.$$

(Where we have chosen the o(t) term in *n* appropriately so that the final inequality is correct.)

The random subset we chose earlier also clearly has at least n unique elements with probability at most 1/2.

Thus by a union bound there is a colouring and choice of subset of V of size n with no monochromatic potential clique in this subset.

This completes the proof of the theorem.

Wigderson's Improvement

Theorem (Wigderson (2020))

For any fixed
$$\ell \geq 2$$
, $R(t; \ell) \geq \left(2^{\frac{3\ell}{8}-\frac{1}{4}}\right)^{t-o(t)}$.

Theorem (Wigderson (2020))

For any fixed
$$\ell \geq 2$$
, $R(t; \ell) \geq \left(2^{\frac{3\ell}{8}-\frac{1}{4}}\right)^{t-o(t)}$.

The idea here is adapting the Conlon-Ferber construction from the case q = 2.

Theorem (Wigderson (2020))

For any fixed
$$\ell \geq 2$$
, $R(t; \ell) \geq \left(2^{\frac{3\ell}{8} - \frac{1}{4}}\right)^{t-o(t)}$.

The idea here is adapting the Conlon-Ferber construction from the case q = 2.

If t is even define $V \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2^t$ to be the set of elements with even Hamming weight i.e., an even number of 1's.

Theorem (Wigderson (2020))

For any fixed
$$\ell \geq 2$$
, $R(t; \ell) \geq \left(2^{\frac{3\ell}{8}-\frac{1}{4}}\right)^{t-o(t)}$.

The idea here is adapting the Conlon-Ferber construction from the case q = 2.

If t is even define $V \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2^t$ to be the set of elements with even Hamming weight i.e., an even number of 1's.

 G_0 graph on V_0 where uv is an edge iff $u \cdot v = 1$.
For any fixed
$$\ell \geq 2$$
, $R(t; \ell) \geq \left(2^{\frac{3\ell}{8} - \frac{1}{4}}\right)^{t-o(t)}$.

The idea here is adapting the Conlon-Ferber construction from the case q = 2.

If t is even define $V \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2^t$ to be the set of elements with even Hamming weight i.e., an even number of 1's.

 G_0 graph on V_0 where uv is an edge iff $u \cdot v = 1$.

Then by the results of Conlon and Ferber, G_0 has no clique of size t and at most $2^{5t^2/8+o(t^2)}$ independent sets of size at most t.

For any fixed
$$\ell \geq 2$$
, $R(t; \ell) \geq \left(2^{\frac{3\ell}{8}-\frac{1}{4}}\right)^{t-o(t)}$.

The idea here is adapting the Conlon-Ferber construction from the case q = 2.

If t is even define $V \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2^t$ to be the set of elements with even Hamming weight i.e., an even number of 1's.

 G_0 graph on V_0 where uv is an edge iff $u \cdot v = 1$.

Then by the results of Conlon and Ferber, G_0 has no clique of size t and at most $2^{5t^2/8+o(t^2)}$ independent sets of size at most t.

Randomly overlay $m = \ell - 2$ blowups of G_0 of size N colouring edges according to an arbitrary choice from the indicies of copies which include that edge.

For any fixed
$$\ell \geq 2$$
, $R(t; \ell) \geq \left(2^{\frac{3\ell}{8}-\frac{1}{4}}\right)^{t-o(t)}$.

The idea here is adapting the Conlon-Ferber construction from the case q = 2.

If t is even define $V \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2^t$ to be the set of elements with even Hamming weight i.e., an even number of 1's.

 G_0 graph on V_0 where uv is an edge iff $u \cdot v = 1$.

Then by the results of Conlon and Ferber, G_0 has no clique of size t and at most $2^{5t^2/8+o(t^2)}$ independent sets of size at most t.

Randomly overlay $m = \ell - 2$ blowups of G_0 of size N colouring edges according to an arbitrary choice from the indicies of copies which include that edge.

We colour uncoloured edges uniformly at random with 2 additional colours.

For any fixed
$$\ell \geq 2$$
, $R(t; \ell) \geq \left(2^{\frac{3\ell}{8} - \frac{1}{4}}\right)^{t-o(t)}$.

The idea here is adapting the Conlon-Ferber construction from the case q = 2.

If t is even define $V \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2^t$ to be the set of elements with even Hamming weight i.e., an even number of 1's.

 G_0 graph on V_0 where uv is an edge iff $u \cdot v = 1$.

Then by the results of Conlon and Ferber, G_0 has no clique of size t and at most $2^{5t^2/8+o(t^2)}$ independent sets of size at most t.

Randomly overlay $m = \ell - 2$ blowups of G_0 of size N colouring edges according to an arbitrary choice from the indicies of copies which include that edge.

We colour uncoloured edges uniformly at random with 2 additional colours.

Arguing similarly to before we can deduce that provided N is sufficiently small, there are no monochromatic copies of K_t .