

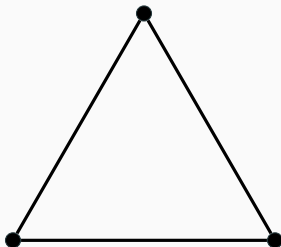
A STRATEGY FOR LOWERING THE UPPER BOUND OF $R(5,5)$ ¹

Thibault Gauthier

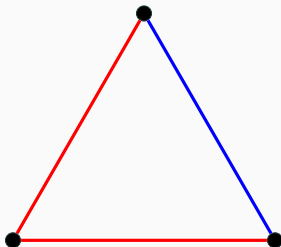
Czech Technical University in Prague

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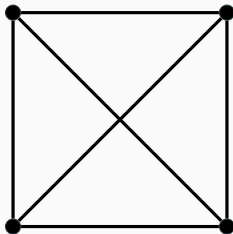
A complete graph of size 3



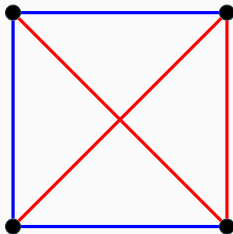
A blue-red coloring avoiding 3-cliques



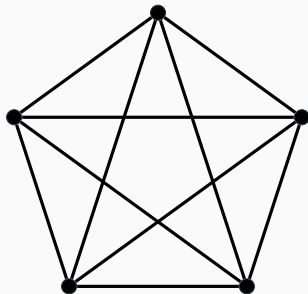
A complete graph of size 4



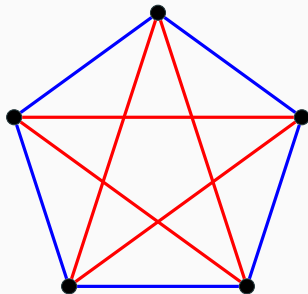
A blue-red coloring avoiding 3-cliques



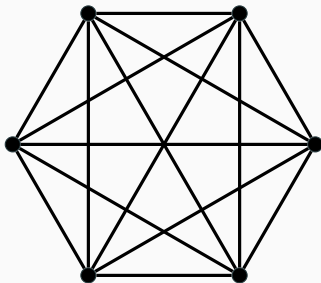
A complete graph of size 5



A blue-red coloring avoiding 3-cliques



A complete graph of size 6



Definition of the Ramsey Number

The Ramsey number $R(n, m)$ is the smallest k such that:

- it is not possible to find a coloring of the complete graph of size k which avoids blue n -cliques and red m -cliques.

Example: $R(3, 3) = 6$

Ramsey Theorem: $R(n, m)$ exists for every $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$.

The set of graphs (modulo isomorphism) of size k which avoid blue n -cliques and red m -cliques is noted $\mathcal{R}(n, m, k)$.

A graph in $\mathcal{R}(n, m, k)$ will be called a $\mathcal{R}(n, m, k)$ -graph.

Example: $\mathcal{R}(3, 3, 5) \neq \emptyset$ and $\mathcal{R}(3, 3, 6) = \emptyset$

We rely on the nauty algorithm to normalize graphs.

Why prove that $R(5,5) = 25$?

“Suppose aliens invade the earth and threaten to obliterate it in a year’s time unless human beings can find $R(5,5)$. We could marshal the world’s best minds and fastest computers, and within a year we could probably calculate the value. If the aliens demanded $R(6,6)$, however, we would have no choice but to launch a preemptive attack.”

– Paul Erdős

How to find the value of $R(5, 5)$?

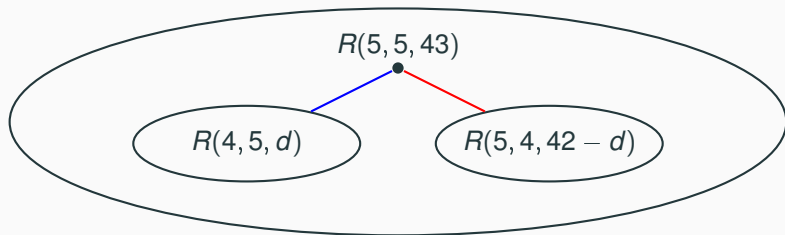
Improve the lower bound and the upper bound.

- 1989: $R(5, 5) \geq 43$
- 1995: $R(5, 5) \leq 50$
- 2017: $R(5, 5) \leq 48$
- 2024: $R(5, 5) \leq 46$

Some experts in the field have conjectured that $R(5, 5) = 43$.

A standard strategy applied to $R(5, 5) \leq 43$

Proof by contradiction: suppose there exists a $R(5, 5, 43)$ -graph.



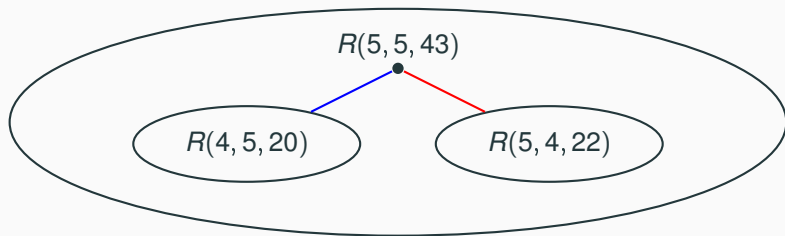
How many gluing problems are they?

The worst case by far is $d = 20$ (we can ignore all other cases).

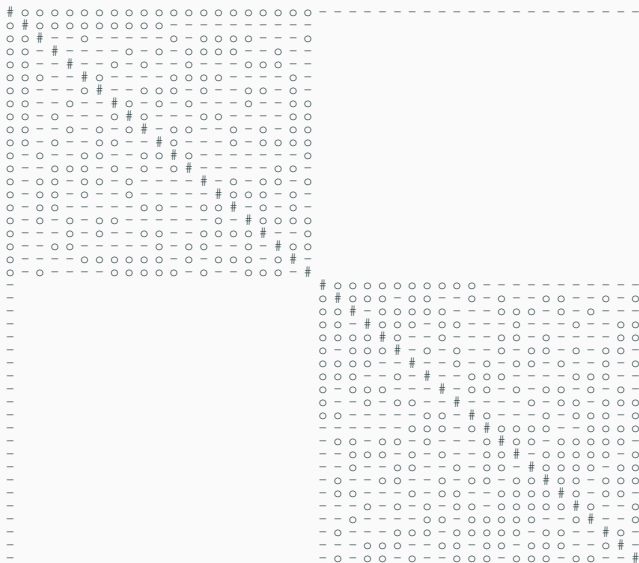
$$\begin{aligned} |R(4, 5, 20)| \times |R(4, 5, 22)| &= \text{number of problems} \\ (8.5 \times 10^{18}) \times (1.9 \times 10^{15}) &= 1.6 \times 10^{34} \end{aligned}$$

Without isomorphism checking: $20! \times 22!$ times more problems.

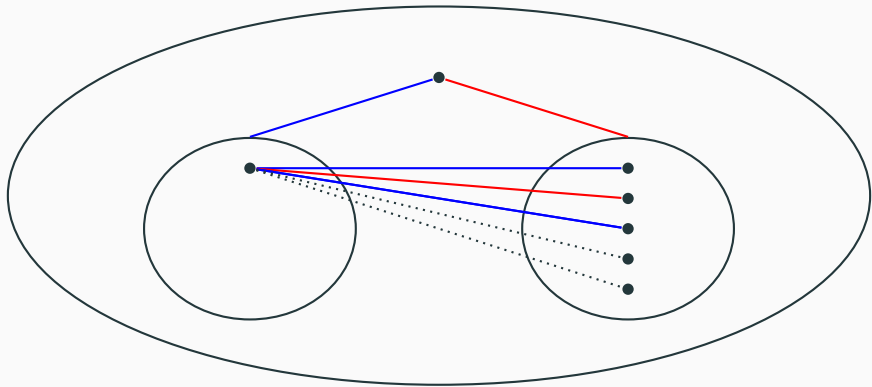
Solving one gluing problem



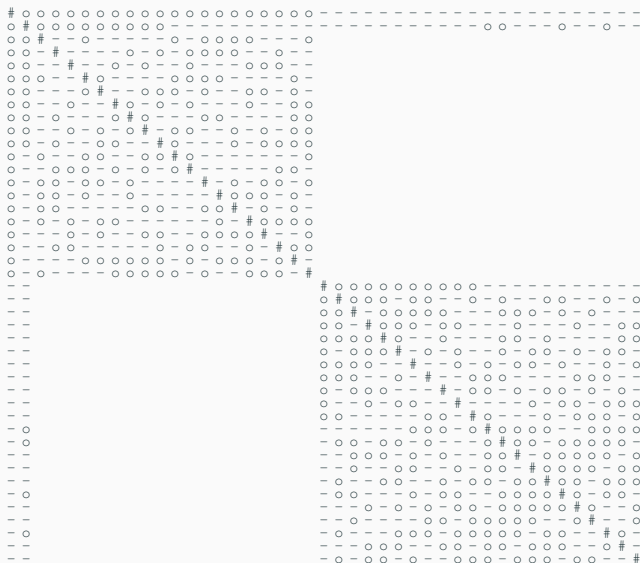
Solving one gluing problem P_0



Solving one gluing sub-problem



Solving one gluing sub-problem Q_0



Solving one gluing problem

Result for P_0 :

- 2^{22} subproblems \rightarrow 622,746 non-trivial
- Most solved by CaDiCaL in < 10 s
- Hardest case: 8 hours
- Total: 200 CPU-days

Estimate for all gluing problems:

$$(1.62 \times 10^{34}) \times 200 \text{ CPU-days} = 3.2 \times 10^{36} \text{ CPU-days}$$

Generalization strategy

Construct $Q_0, Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_n$ by forgetting the color of edges (one at a time).

Advantage:

- Solving Q_i solves many subproblems simultaneously.
- Covered subproblems may be from different gluing problems.

Disadvantage:

- Generalized problems are harder.
- Requires to check if a subproblem has already been covered.

Edge selection

Run `CaDiCaL` on all potential generalizations from Q_i .
(one for each colored edges in Q_i)

Select edge with the lowest amortized solving time:

$$\frac{\text{solving time}}{\text{number of subproblems covered}}$$

The number of subproblems covered is computed by a model counter.

Generalization algorithm

Result for Q_0 :

- Generalization sequence: $Q_0, Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_{298}$.
- Stopped when CaDiCaL solving time exceeded 20 seconds.
- Took 10 hours to compute (rounded up to 1 day in our estimate).
- Solves an estimated 2.4×10^{27} non-isomorphic subproblems

Estimate for all gluing subproblems (thus all gluing problems):

$$\frac{(1.62 \times 10^{34}) \times 622,746 \times 1 \text{ CPU-day}}{2.4 \times 10^{27}} = 4.2 \times 10^{12} \text{ CPU-days}$$

The subproblem Q_0

[illegible]

The generalized subproblem Q_{298}



Conclusion

Summary:

- Solved one of the gluing problem P_0 in 200 CPU-days.
Estimate for all gluing problems: 3.2×10^{36} CPU-days
- Generalization of 298 vertices in a subproblem Q_0 .
Estimate for all gluing problems: 4.2×10^{12} CPU-days

Key ideas:

- **symmetry-breaking** (splitting vertex, isomorphism checking)
- **generalization** (don't-care edges)

Future ideas:

- deeper splitting
- simultaneous edge generalization
- faster edge selection: heuristics, graph neural networks.