

# THE PROBABILISTIC METHOD

## WEEK 7: ALTERATIONS



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CS49/MATH59  
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# READING QUIZ

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Which inequalities are valid?

(1)  $1/k! < (e/k)^k$

(2)  $\binom{n}{k} \leq n^k/k!$

(3)  $e^{ck} > 1 + ck$

(A) (1) and (2)

(B) (1) and (3)

(C) (2) and (3)

(D) All are valid

(E) None of the above



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# READING QUIZ

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What is  $\alpha(G)$ ?

- (A) **clique number of  $G$**
- (B) **independence number of  $G$**
- (C) **chromatic number of  $G$**
- (D) **size of the smallest cycle in  $G$**
- (E) **None of the above**



# READING QUIZ

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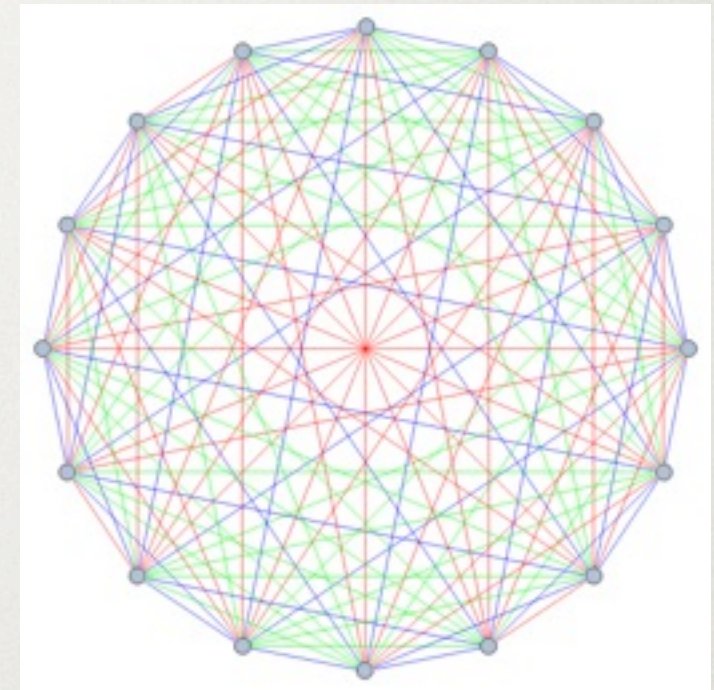
- (A) **clique number of G**
- (B) **independence number of G**
- (C) **chromatic number of G**
- (D) **size of the smallest cycle in G**
- (E) **None of the above**



# THE PROBABILISTIC METHOD

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- Define bad events  $\{\mathbf{BAD}_S\}$
- $\mathbf{BAD} := \cup \mathbf{BAD}_S$
- Compute  $\mathbf{Pr}[\mathbf{BAD}_S]$
- Calculate  $\# S$
- Union Bound:  $\mathbf{Pr}[\mathbf{BAD}] \leq (\#S) * \mathbf{Pr}[\mathbf{BAD}_S]$



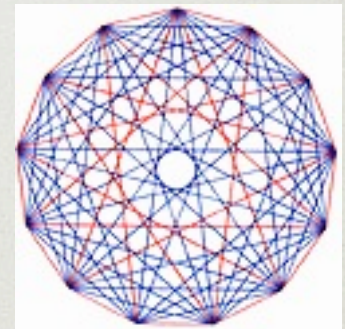
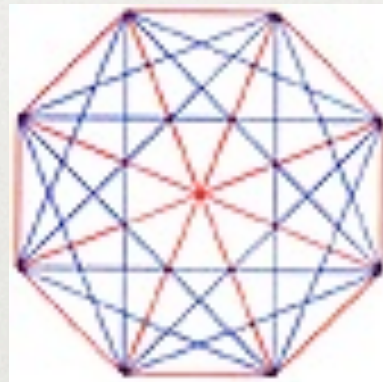
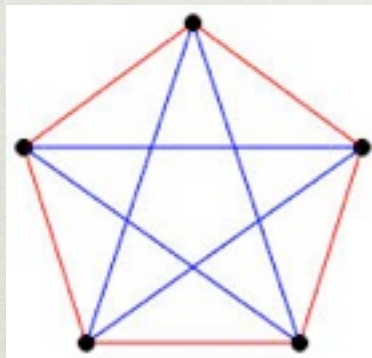
If  $\mathbf{Pr}[\mathbf{BAD}] \leq 1$  then bad events avoided  
with probability  $> 0$



# RAMSEY THEORY

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**$R(k,l)$**  := smallest  **$n$**  such that for every two-coloring of  **$K_n$** , there is red  **$K_k$**  subgraph or a blue  **$K_l$**  subgraph.

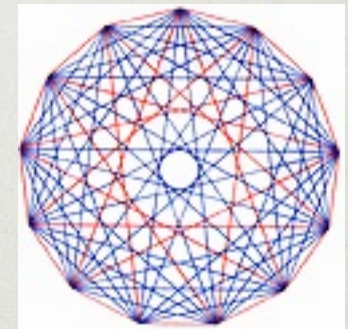
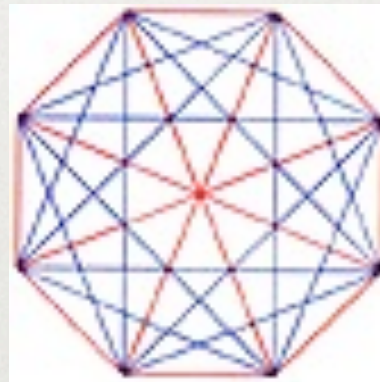
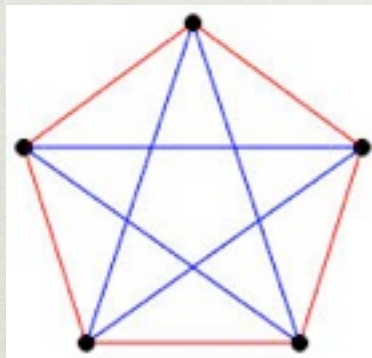


**Basic Method:** If  $\binom{n}{k} 2^{1-\binom{k}{2}} < 1$  then  **$R(k,k) > n$** .



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Basic Method: If  $\binom{n}{k} 2^{1-\binom{k}{2}} < 1$  then  **$R(k,k) > n$** .

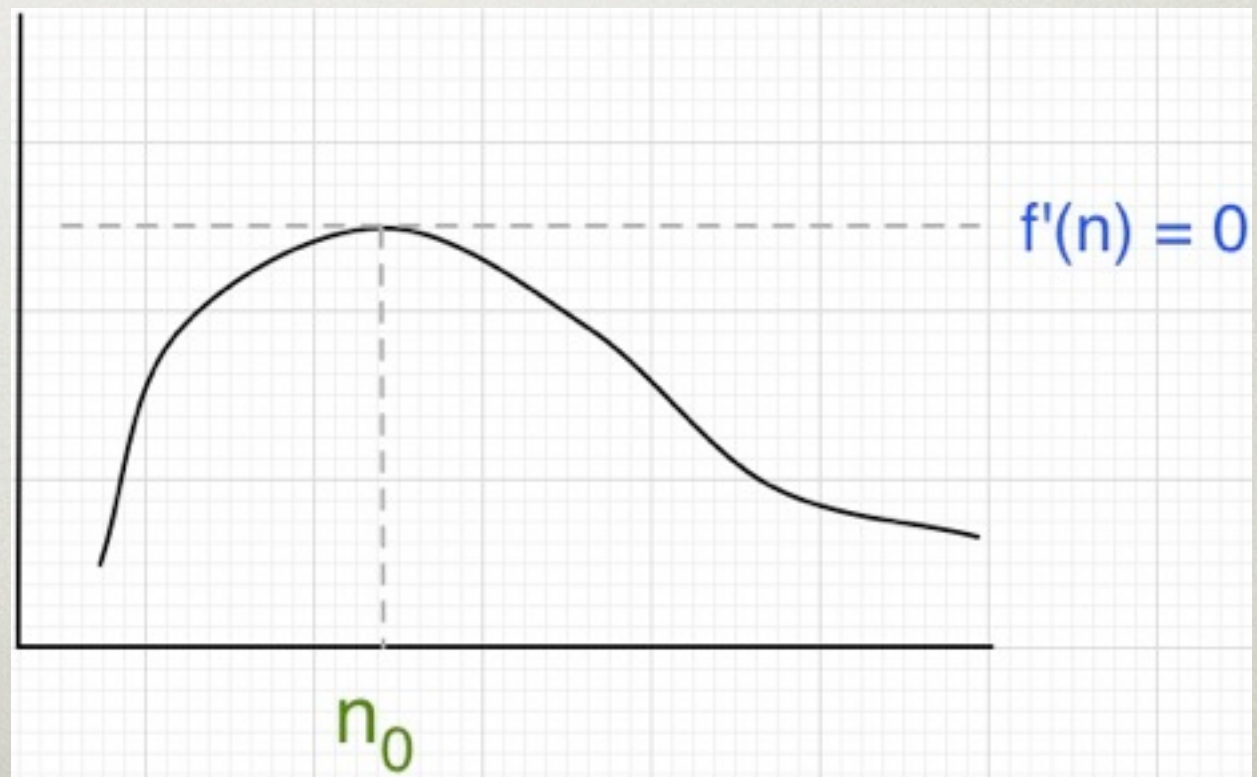
Alterations:  **$R(k,k) > n - \binom{n}{k} 2^{1-\binom{k}{2}}$**



# MAXIMIZING $F(N)$

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- (1) Determine when slope of  $f(n)$  equals  $0$ :  
i.e. find  $n_0$  so  $f'(n_0) = 0$
- (2) Compute second derivative  $f''(n)$
- (3) If  $f''(n_0) < 0$  then  $f$  has local maximum at  $n_0$
- (4) Compute  $f(n_0)$





# THE PROBABILISTIC METHOD



Some of us see the world in terms of expected value. We are very different from the rest of you.

[www.chalkboardmanifesto.com](http://www.chalkboardmanifesto.com)