

# Probabilistic method

Instructor: Benny Sudakov

## Assignment 1

**Problem 1:** Suppose  $n \geq 4$  and let  $H$  be an  $n$ -uniform hypergraph with at most  $4^{n-1}/3^n$  edges. Prove that there is a coloring of the vertices of  $H$  by four colors so that in every edge all four colors are represented.

**Problem 2:** Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a finite collection of binary strings of finite length and assume that no member of  $\mathcal{F}$  is a prefix of another. Let  $N_i$  denote the number of strings of length  $i$  in  $\mathcal{F}$ . Prove that  $\sum_i N_i 2^{-i} \leq 1$ .

**Problem 3:** Let  $\{(A_i, B_i), 1 \leq i \leq h\}$  be a family of pairs of subsets of the set of integers such that  $|A_i| = k$  for all  $i$  and  $|B_i| = l$  for all  $i$ ,  $A_i \cap B_i = \emptyset$  and both  $A_i \cap B_j, A_j \cap B_i \neq \emptyset$  for all  $i \neq j$ . Prove that  $h \leq \binom{k+l}{k}$ .

**Hint.** Take random ordering of ground set.

**Problem 4:** Let  $T$  be a tournament (complete graph whose edges are oriented) on  $n$  vertices such that for every subset of vertices  $U$  of size  $k$  there is a vertex  $v$  which dominates  $U$ , i.e.,  $T$  contains all directed arcs  $\{(v, u) : u \in U\}$ .

(a) Prove that for some positive constant  $c$  there exists such a tournament on  $n$  vertices, with  $n \leq ck^2 2^k$ .

(b) Prove that  $n > 2^k$ .

(c) (**hard, bonus**) Prove that  $n > ck2^k$ , for some positive constant  $c$ .

**Problem 5:** Prove that there is an absolute constant  $c > 0$  with the following property. Let  $A$  be an  $n$  by  $n$  matrix with pairwise distinct entries. Then there is a permutation of the rows of  $A$  so that no column in the permuted matrix contains an increasing sub-sequence of length at least  $c\sqrt{n}$ .

**Problem 6:** Let  $n > 1$  and let  $G = (V, E)$  be a bipartite graph on  $2^n$  vertices with a list  $S(v)$  of at least  $n$  colors associated with each vertex  $v \in V$ . Prove that there is a proper coloring of  $G$  assigning to each vertex  $v$  a color from its list  $S(v)$ .