

Anti-Ramsey number of matchings in hypergraphs

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Abstract

A k -matching in a hypergraph is a set of k edges such that no two of these edges intersect. The *anti-Ramsey number* of a k -matching in a complete s -uniform hypergraph \mathcal{H} on n vertices, denoted by $\text{ar}(n, s, k)$, is the smallest integer c such that in any coloring of the edges of \mathcal{H} with exactly c colors, there is a k -matching whose edges have distinct colors. The *Turán number*, denoted by $\text{ex}(n, s, k)$, is the maximum number of edges in an s -uniform hypergraph on n vertices with no k -matching. For $k \geq 3$, we conjecture that if $n > sk$, then $\text{ar}(n, s, k) = \text{ex}(n, s, k-1) + 2$.

Also, if $n = sk$, then $\text{ar}(n, s, k) = \begin{cases} \text{ex}(n, s, k-1) + 2 & \text{if } k < c_s \\ \text{ex}(n, s, k-1) + s + 1 & \text{if } k \geq c_s \end{cases}$, where c_s is a constant dependent on s . We prove this conjecture for $k = 2, k = 3$, and sufficiently large n , as well as provide upper and lower bounds.

1 Introduction

A *hypergraph* \mathcal{H} consists of a set $V(\mathcal{H})$ of *vertices* and a family $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H})$ of nonempty subsets of $V(\mathcal{H})$ called *edges* of \mathcal{H} . If each edge of \mathcal{H} has exactly s vertices then \mathcal{H} is *s-uniform*. A *complete s-uniform hypergraph* is a hypergraph whose edge set is the set of all s -subsets of the vertex set. A *matching* is a set of edges in a (hyper)graph in which no two edges have a common vertex. We call a matching with k edges a *k-matching* and a matching containing all vertices a *perfect matching*. In an edge-coloring of a (hyper)graph \mathcal{H} , a sub(hyper)graph $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ is *rainbow* if all edges of \mathcal{F} have distinct colors. The *anti-Ramsey number* of a graph G , denoted by $\text{ar}(G, n)$, is the minimum number of colors needed to color the edges of K_n so that, in any coloring, there exists a rainbow copy of G . The *Turán number* of a graph G , denoted by $\text{ex}(n, G)$, is the maximum number of edges in a graph on n vertices that does not contain G as a subgraph. The *anti-Ramsey number* of a k -matching, denoted by $\text{ar}(n, s, k)$, is the minimum number of colors

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needed to color the edges of a complete s -uniform hypergraph on n vertices so that there exists a rainbow k -matching in any coloring. The *Turán number* of a k -matching, denoted by $\text{ex}(n, s, k)$, is the maximum number of edges in an s -uniform hypergraph on n vertices that contains no k -matching.

In 1973, Erdős, Simonovits, and Sós [6] showed that $\text{ar}(K_p, n) = \text{ex}(n, K_{p-1}) + 2$ for sufficiently large n . More recently, Montellano-Ballesteros and Neumann-Lara [10] extended this result to all values of n and p with $n > p \geq 3$. A history of results and open problems on this topic was given by Fujita, Magnant, and Ozeki [8]. The Turán number $\text{ex}(n, 2, k)$ was determined by Erdős and Gallai [4] as

$$\text{ex}(n, 2, k) = \max\left\{\binom{2k-1}{2}, \binom{k-1}{2} + (k-1)(n-k+1)\right\}$$

for $n \geq 2k$ and $k \geq 1$. Schiermeyer [11] proved that $\text{ar}(n, 2, k) = \text{ex}(n, 2, k-1) + 2$ for $k \geq 2$ and $n \geq 3k + 3$. Later, Chen, Li, and Tu [2] and independently Fujita, Kaneko, Schiermeyer, and Suzuki [7] showed that $\text{ar}(n, 2, k) = \text{ex}(n, 2, k-1) + 2$ for $k \geq 2$ and $n \geq 2k + 1$. The value

$$\text{ar}(n, 2, k) = \begin{cases} \text{ex}(n, 2, k-1) + 2 & \text{if } k < 7 \\ \text{ex}(n, 2, k-1) + 3 & \text{if } k \geq 7 \end{cases}$$

was determined for $n = 2k$ in [2] and by Haas and the second author [9], independently.

The same ideas implying a lower bound for the anti-Ramsey number of graphs given in [6] provide a lower bound for $\text{ar}(n, s, k)$.

Proposition 1. *For all n , $\text{ar}(n, s, k) \geq \text{ex}(n, s, k-1) + 2$.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{H} be a complete s -uniform hypergraph on n vertices. Let \mathcal{G} be a subhypergraph of \mathcal{H} with $\text{ex}(n, s, k-1)$ edges such that \mathcal{G} does not contain a $(k-1)$ -matching. Color each edge of \mathcal{G} with distinct colors and color all of the remaining edges of \mathcal{H} the same, using an additional color. If there is a rainbow k -matching in this coloring, then it uses $k-1$ edges from \mathcal{G} which is a contradiction. Therefore, this coloring has no rainbow k -matching. \square

For k -matchings the Turán number $\text{ex}(n, s, k)$ is still not known for $k \geq 3$ and $s \geq 3$. Erdős [3] conjectured in 1965 the value of $\text{ex}(n, s, k)$ as follows. Let $g(n, s, k-1)$ be the number of s -sets of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ that intersect $\{1, \dots, k-1\}$. By definition, $g(n, s, k-1) = \binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+1}{s}$.

Conjecture 2 (Erdős [3]). *For $n \geq sk$, $s \geq 2$, and $k \geq 2$,*

$$\text{ex}(n, s, k) = \max\left\{\binom{sk-1}{s}, g(n, s, k-1)\right\}. \quad (1)$$

Erdős, Ko, and Rado [5] proved that $\text{ex}(n, s, 2) = \binom{n-1}{s-1} = g(n, s, 1)$ for $n \geq 2s$. This conjecture is true for $s = 2$, as shown by Erdős and Gallai [4]. Erdős [3] proved that

$$\text{ex}(n, s, k) = g(n, s, k-1) = \binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+1}{s} \quad (2)$$

for sufficiently large n . Later, Bollobás, Daykin, and Erdős [1] sharpened this result by showing that (2) holds for $n > 2s^3(k-1)$.

In Section 2, we provide bounds on $\text{ar}(n, s, k)$ and show that anti-Ramsey number and Turán number of a k -matching differ at most by a constant. In Section 3, we determine the value of $\text{ar}(n, s, k)$ for $k \in \{2, 3\}$ and show that $\text{ar}(n, s, k) = \text{ex}(n, s, k-1) + 2$ for $k \in \{2, 3\}$ and $n > ks$. The claim also holds for $n = ks$ when $k = 3$. We conjecture that this is true for all k .

Conjecture 3. Let $k \geq 3$. If $n > sk$, then $\text{ar}(n, s, k) = \text{ex}(n, s, k - 1) + 2$. Also, if $n = sk$, then

$$\text{ar}(n, s, k) = \begin{cases} \text{ex}(n, s, k - 1) + 2 & \text{if } k < c_s \\ \text{ex}(n, s, k - 1) + s + 1 & \text{if } k \geq c_s \end{cases}$$

where c_s is a constant dependent on s .

Finally, in Section 4, we give the exact value of $\text{ar}(n, s, k)$ when n is sufficiently large.

We introduce some notation for hypergraphs used in the remaining sections. For a set X , $\binom{X}{s}$ denotes all s -subsets of X . We call a hypergraph an *intersecting family* if every two edges intersect. For a vertex x in a hypergraph \mathcal{H} , we call the number of edges of \mathcal{H} containing x the *degree* of x written $\text{deg}_{\mathcal{H}}(x)$. The maximum degree of a hypergraph \mathcal{H} is denoted by $\Delta(\mathcal{H})$.

2 General bounds on the anti-Ramsey number

The following constructions provide a lower bound for $\text{ar}(n, s, k)$ in Theorem 6.

Construction 4.

Let \mathcal{H} be the complete s -uniform hypergraph with vertex set $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$, where $n = sk$. Let $A = \{v_1, \dots, v_{s+1}\}$ and $c = \binom{n-s-1}{s} + s$. Define a c -coloring h of $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{H})$ as follows. For any edge $E \in \mathcal{E}$, if $v_1 \in E$, then let $h(e) = \min\{i : v_i \notin E\}$. If $E \cap A \neq \emptyset$ but $v_1 \notin E$, then let $h(E) = \min\{i : v_i \in E\}$. Assign distinct other colors to the remaining edges.

Assume there is a rainbow perfect matching \mathcal{M} in this coloring. Since $n = sk$, at least two edges of \mathcal{M} intersect A . Let E be the edge of \mathcal{M} that contains v_1 . Let $j = \min\{i : v_i \notin V(E)\}$ and let E' be the edge of \mathcal{M} that contains v_j . By the above construction, E and E' both have color j .

Construction 5.

Let \mathcal{H} be a complete s -uniform hypergraph on $n \geq sk$ vertices. Let S be a subset of $V(\mathcal{H})$ with $k - 2$ vertices and color the edges containing any vertex from S with distinct colors. Color all of the remaining edges the same with an additional color. The number of colors used is $\binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+2}{s} + 1$.

This construction has no rainbow k -matching, since at least two edges among any k must lie completely outside S . Constructions 4 and 5 establish lower bounds for the anti-Ramsey number:

Corollary 6. If $n \geq sk$, then $\text{ar}(n, s, k) \geq \begin{cases} \max\{\binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+2}{s} + 2, \binom{n-s-1}{s} + s + 1\} & \text{if } n = sk, \\ \binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+2}{s} + 2 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Theorem 7. If $n \geq sk + (s - 1)(k - 1)$, then $\text{ar}(n, s, k) \leq \text{ex}(n, s, k - 1) + k$.

Proof. Let \mathcal{H} be a complete s -uniform hypergraph on n vertices whose edges are colored with $\text{ex}(n, s, k - 1) + k$ colors. Since taking exactly one edge of each color gives a subhypergraph with $\text{ex}(n, s, k - 1) + k$ edges, there exists a rainbow $(k - 1)$ -matching \mathcal{M} . Let the colors of the edges in \mathcal{M} be $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{k-1}$. Let $A = V(\mathcal{H}) \setminus V(\mathcal{M})$. Note that every edge induced by A has a color in $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{k-1}\}$, otherwise, there is a rainbow k -matching containing the edges of \mathcal{M} .

Remove all edges of \mathcal{H} that have color α_i for $1 \leq i \leq k - 1$ and let \mathcal{G} be the remaining hypergraph (with colors preserved). In this coloring, there are at least $\text{ex}(n, s, k - 1) + 1$ colors and therefore a rainbow $(k - 1)$ -matching exists; call it \mathcal{M}' . Since no edge of \mathcal{G} is induced by A , $|V(\mathcal{M}') \cap A| \leq (k - 1)(s - 1)$. Together with the assumed lower bound on n , this yields $|A \setminus V(\mathcal{M}')| = |V(\mathcal{H}) \setminus (V(\mathcal{M} \cup \mathcal{M}'))| \geq n - s(k - 1) - (s - 1)(k - 1) \geq s$. Hence some edge induced by A intersects no edge in \mathcal{M}' and completes a rainbow k -matching with \mathcal{M} induced by A that does not intersect any edge in \mathcal{M}' . The color of e is α_i for some i , $1 \leq i \leq k - 1$ and there is a rainbow k -matching using the edges in \mathcal{M}' and e . \square

3 Anti-Ramsey numbers for k -matchings, $k \in \{2, 3\}$

Theorem 8. *If $n \geq 2s$, then*

$$\text{ar}(n, s, 2) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \binom{n}{s} + 1 & n = 2s \\ 2 & n > 2s. \end{cases}$$

Proof. Let \mathcal{H} be a complete s -uniform hypergraph on n vertices. If $n = 2s$, then by coloring complementary edges with the same color and using distinct colors for all such pairs, we can obtain a coloring without a rainbow 2-matching. If \mathcal{H} is colored by at least $\frac{1}{2} \binom{n}{s} + 1$ colors then, by the pigeonhole principle, one of the vertex-disjoint edge pairs has distinct colors.

Now, let $n \geq 2s + 1$ and consider a coloring of the edge set of \mathcal{H} with 2 colors such that there is no rainbow 2-matching. This requires disjoint edges to have the same color. Hence in the Kneser graph $K(n, s)$, where the vertices are the edges of \mathcal{H} and two vertices are adjacent when the corresponding edges of \mathcal{H} are disjoint, all edges in the same component must have the same color. It is well known that the Kneser graph is connected when $n \geq 2s + 1$, so only one color can be used when avoiding a rainbow 2-matching. □

Theorem 9. *If $n \geq 3s$, then $\text{ar}(n, s, 3) = \binom{n-1}{s-1} + 2 = \text{ex}(n, s, 2) + 2$.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{H} be a complete s -uniform hypergraph on n vertices with edge set \mathcal{E} . We consider a coloring of \mathcal{E} using $\binom{n-1}{s-1} + 2$ colors, such that there is no rainbow 3-matching. Fix a vertex v and let $E(v)$ denote the set of edges that contain v . Choose Q as a subset of $\mathcal{E} \setminus E(v)$ such that the edges of Q do not have any color in common with the edges of $E(v)$ and each color not used on $E(v)$ is the color of exactly one edge in Q . This implies that $|Q| \geq 2$, since $|E(v)| = \binom{n-1}{s-1}$.

Note that any pair of edges E_1 and E_2 in Q have nonempty intersection, otherwise there is a rainbow 3-matching containing E_1, E_2 , and any edge of $E(v)$ that does not intersect E_1 and E_2 . Let $A, B \in Q$ and $C, D \in E(v)$. We use (A, B) to denote an unordered pair of edges A and B . We write $(A, B) \diamond (C, D)$ if

$$\begin{aligned} A \cap D = \emptyset, \quad B \cap C = \emptyset, \quad \text{and } A \cup D = B \cup C \\ \text{or} \\ A \cap C = \emptyset, \quad B \cap D = \emptyset, \quad \text{and } A \cup C = B \cup D. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

An example of the configuration of A, B, C and D is shown in Figure 1.

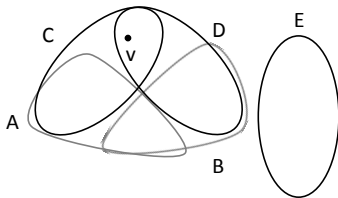


Figure 1: The edges A, B, C, D and E .

We define an auxiliary bipartite graph G with vertex set $V(G) = X \cup Y$, where $X = \binom{Q}{2}$, $Y = \binom{E(v)}{2}$ and the edge set of G is defined as $E(G) = \{(A, B)(C, D) : (A, B) \diamond (C, D), (A, B) \in$

$X, (C, D) \in Y\}$. In the proof of Claim 10, we use the following result of Erdős, Ko and Rado [5] which gives an upper bound on the size of an s -uniform intersecting family on n vertices.

$$\text{ex}(n, s, 2) = \binom{n-1}{s-1}, \text{ for } n \geq 2s. \quad (4)$$

Claim 10. *There is a matching in G whose vertex set contains all vertices in $X = \binom{Q}{2}$.*

Recall that Q is an intersecting subfamily. The degree $\text{deg}_G(A, B)$ is the number of vertices (C, D) in Y that satisfy the relation in (3). Therefore, the number of neighbors of (A, B) are given by the number of choices for the set $(C \cap D) \setminus \{v\}$. Let $\ell = |A \cap B|$, where $1 \leq \ell \leq s-1$. Since $|C \cap D| = \ell$, each vertex in X has the same degree given by

$$\text{deg}_G((A, B)) = \binom{n - (2s - \ell) - 1}{\ell - 1} \quad (5)$$

Now, by the same observations as above, the degree of a vertex (C, D) in Y can be bounded above. Let (A, B) and (A', B') , where $(A', B') \neq (A, B)$, be neighbors of (C, D) . By definition of the relation \diamond , the edges A, A', B , and B' are all distinct. Since Q is an intersecting family, $A \cap B$ and $A' \cap B'$ cannot be vertex-disjoint. Therefore the collection of $A \cap B$'s that satisfy $(A, B) \diamond (C, D)$ for a fixed vertex (C, D) in Y with $|C \cap D| = \ell$ is an ℓ -uniform intersecting family on the vertex set $V \setminus (C \cup D)$ which has $n - (2s - \ell)$ vertices. By using (4), we obtain an upper bound on the degree of (C, D) as

$$\text{deg}_G((C, D)) \leq \binom{n - (2s - \ell) - 1}{\ell - 1}. \quad (6)$$

Let G' be a connected component of G . A result of the definition of the edge set of G is that if $(U_1, U_2), (V_1, V_2) \in V(G')$ and $|U_1 \cap U_2| = \ell$, then $|V_1 \cap V_2| = \ell$. Let $T \subseteq (V(G') \cap X)$ and $N(T) \subseteq (V(G') \cap Y)$ be the neighborhood of T . Since (5) and (6) also hold for G' we have

$$\begin{aligned} |T| \binom{n - (2s - \ell) - 1}{\ell - 1} &= \sum_{(A, B) \in T} \text{deg}_{G'}((A, B)) \\ &\leq \sum_{(C, D) \in N(T)} \text{deg}_{G'}((C, D)) \\ &\leq |N(T)| \binom{n - (2s - \ell) - 1}{\ell - 1}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $|T| \leq |N(T)|$ for any $T \subseteq (V(G') \cap X)$ and by Hall's Theorem, there is a matching containing each vertex in $G' \cap X$. Applying this to each component of G completes the proof of the claim.

Claim 11. *Let $(A, B) \in \binom{Q}{2}$ and $(C, D) \in \binom{E(v)}{2}$ with $(A, B) \diamond (C, D)$. Then the edges C and D have the same color.*

Let S be the subset of $V(\mathcal{H})$ that is vertex-disjoint from these four edges, thus $|S| = n - 2s \geq s$. Let E be an edge induced by S . Let A, B, C and D be related as in (3) such that without loss of generality $\{A, D, E\}$ and $\{B, C, E\}$ are matchings. If E has the same color as A or B then $\{B, C, E\}$ or $\{A, D, E\}$, respectively, must be a rainbow matching. Therefore, E must have the same color as C and D , since there are no rainbow 3-matchings. Hence, C and D have the same color.

We define another auxiliary graph G_v with vertex set $E(v)$ and edge set $\{CD : C, D \in E(v) \text{ and } \text{deg}_G((C, D)) > 0\}$. Let $|Q| = q$ and p be the number of components of G_v . By

Claim 11, each component of G_v corresponds to a subset of $E(v)$ whose members have the same color. Therefore, $p \geq \binom{n-1}{s-1} + 2 - q$.

One can find an injective mapping $f : \binom{Q}{2} \rightarrow \binom{E(v)}{2}$ defined by using the adjacencies of vertices in a matching of G given by Claim 10. Therefore there are at least $\binom{q}{2}$ edges in G_v . The maximum number of components of a graph with fixed number of vertices and edges is attained in the case when all edges are in a single component with minimum number of vertices and remaining components are isolated vertices. Thus, $p \leq \binom{n-1}{s-1} - q + 1$. This is a contradiction with the lower bound of p given above. \square

4 Anti-Ramsey Number for Large n

By following the same ideas of the proof of (2) in [1] and [3], one can prove Theorem 12. For completeness, we provide its proof here.

Theorem 12. *For fixed s and k and $n \geq 2s^3k$, $\text{ar}(n, s, k) = \text{ex}(n, s, k-1) + 2$.*

Proof of Theorem 12. Let \mathcal{H} be a complete s -uniform hypergraph on n vertices. The lower bound for $\text{ar}(n, s, k)$ is provided by Construction 5. To prove the upper bound, we proceed by induction on k . Theorem 9 deals with the base case when $k = 3$ and $n \geq 3s$.

For the inductive case, color the edges of \mathcal{H} with exactly $c = \binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+2}{s} + 2 = \sum_{i=1}^{k-2} \binom{n-i}{s-1} + 2$ colors. We show that \mathcal{H} has a rainbow k -matching. Let \mathcal{G} be a subgraph of \mathcal{H} with c edges such that each color appears on exactly one edge of \mathcal{G} . Let v be a vertex such that $\deg_{\mathcal{G}}(v) = \Delta(\mathcal{G})$.

Note that there are at least $c - \binom{n-1}{s-1}$ colors on the edges of the complete subhypergraph $\mathcal{H} \setminus \{v\}$ and the inductive hypothesis implies that $c - \binom{n-1}{s-1} = \text{ar}(n-1, s, k-1)$ and there is a rainbow $(k-1)$ -matching in $\mathcal{H} \setminus \{v\}$. Call this matching \mathcal{M} and modify \mathcal{G} to obtain a new hypergraph \mathcal{G}' such that the edge set of \mathcal{G}' consists of the edges of \mathcal{M} and all edges of \mathcal{G} except the ones that have a color from \mathcal{M} . By this definition, \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}' have the same number of colors and each color on \mathcal{H} appears exactly once on \mathcal{G}' . The only difference is that $\deg_{\mathcal{G}'}(v) \geq \Delta(\mathcal{G}') - (k-1)$ and v may not be a vertex with maximum degree in \mathcal{G}' , but its degree is still high enough.

We analyze the two cases depending on the maximum degree in \mathcal{G}' . If $\Delta(\mathcal{G}') < c/((k-1)s)$ then the number of edges containing a vertex in \mathcal{M} is less than c and there is an edge of \mathcal{G}' that is vertex-disjoint from \mathcal{M} and we are done. Otherwise, $\Delta(\mathcal{G}') \geq c/((k-1)s)$. The number of edges of \mathcal{G}' containing both v and a vertex of \mathcal{M} is at most $(k-1)s \binom{n-2}{s-2}$. For $n \geq 2s^3k$, we have

$$\deg_{\mathcal{G}'}(v) \geq \Delta(\mathcal{G}') - (k-1) \geq \frac{c}{(k-1)s} - (k-1) = \frac{\binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+2}{s} + 2}{(k-1)s} - (k-1) > (k-1)s \binom{n-2}{s-2},$$

where the last inequality will be proved as Claim 13. Therefore, there is an edge of \mathcal{G}' that contains v and does not intersect any edge of \mathcal{M} , which implies that there is a rainbow k -matching.

Claim 13. *For $n \geq 2s^3k$,*

$$\binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+2}{s} + 2 > (k-1)^2 s \left(s + \binom{n-2}{s-2}^{-1} \right) \binom{n-2}{s-2}.$$

Below, we first present the observations that will be used later.

Note that for $r \leq m \leq n$,

$$\binom{m}{r} \geq \left(\frac{m-r+1}{n-r+1} \right)^r \binom{n}{r} = \left(1 - \frac{n-m}{n-r+1} \right)^r \binom{n}{r}$$

By using the fact that $(1-x)^a \geq 1-ax$ for $0 \leq x < 1$, the relation above gives that

$$\binom{m}{r} \geq \left(1 - \frac{r(n-m)}{n-r+1}\right) \binom{n}{r} \quad (7)$$

Observe that

$$\binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+2}{s} + 2 = \sum_{i=1}^{k-2} \binom{n-i}{s-1} + 2 > (k-2) \frac{n-k+2}{s-1} \binom{n-k+1}{s-2}.$$

By (7) and the inequality above, we obtain

$$\binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-k+2}{s} + 2 > (k-2) \frac{n-k+2}{s-1} \left(1 - \frac{(s-2)(k-3)}{n-s+1}\right) \binom{n-2}{s-2} \quad (8)$$

Assume that our claim does not hold. Then, (8) implies that

$$(k-1)^2 s \left(s + \binom{n-2}{s-2}^{-1} \right) > (k-2) \frac{n-k+2}{s-1} \left(1 - \frac{(s-2)(k-3)}{n-s+1} \right).$$

One can check that this is a contradiction for $n \geq 2s^3k$ and we are done. \square

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