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# On some edge Folkman numbers, small and large

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Edge Folkman numbers  $F_e(G_1, G_2; k)$  can be viewed as a generalization of more commonly studied Ramsey numbers.  $F_e(G_1, G_2; k)$  is defined as the smallest order of any  $K_k$ -free graph  $F$  such that any red-blue coloring of the edges of  $F$  contains either a red  $G_1$  or a blue  $G_2$ . In this note, first we discuss edge Folkman numbers involving graphs  $J_s = K_s - e$ , including the results  $F_e(J_3, K_n; n + 1) = 2n - 1$ ,  $F_e(J_3, J_n; n) = 2n - 1$ , and  $F_e(J_3, J_n; n + 1) = 2n - 3$ . Our modification of computational methods used previously in the study of classical Folkman numbers is applied to obtain upper bounds on  $F_e(J_4, J_4; k)$  for all  $k > 4$ .

## 1. Overview

For a graph  $F$ , we say that  $F \rightarrow (G_1, G_2)$  if in any red-blue coloring of the edges of  $F$ , there exists a red  $G_1$  or a blue  $G_2$ . The classical Ramsey numbers can be defined using this arrowing notation as  $R(G_1, G_2) = \min\{n \mid K_n \rightarrow (G_1, G_2)\}$ . If graph  $F$  is  $K_k$ -free and  $F \rightarrow (G_1, G_2)$ , then we write  $F \rightarrow (G_1, G_2; k)$ . If graph  $G_i$  is complete, we may write  $|V(G_i)|$  in place of  $G_i$ ; for example, instead of  $F \rightarrow (K_s, K_t; k)$  we could write  $F \rightarrow (s, t; k)$ . Given graphs  $G_1, G_2$  and an integer  $k > 1$ , we define the set of edge Folkman graphs by

$$\mathcal{F}_e(G_1, G_2; k) = \{F \mid F \rightarrow (G_1, G_2) \text{ and } K_k \not\subseteq F\},$$

and we will denote by  $\mathcal{F}_e(G_1, G_2; k; m)$  the set of such Folkman graphs with  $m$  vertices. The *edge Folkman number*  $F_e(G_1, G_2; k)$  is the smallest  $m$  such that  $\mathcal{F}_e(G_1, G_2; k; m)$  is nonempty. A theorem by Folkman [1970] states that if  $k > \max\{s, t\}$ , then  $F_e(s, t; k) = F_e(K_s, K_t; k)$  exists. One may easily notice that for graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , if  $k > R(G_1, G_2)$ , then  $F_e(G_1, G_2; k) = R(G_1, G_2)$ . Henceforth, in the sequel we will focus on the cases for  $k \leq R(G_1, G_2)$ .

In general, the Ramsey numbers  $R(G, H)$  are difficult to compute, and  $F_e(G, H; k)$  for  $k < R(G, H)$  still more so. The graph  $J_3 = P_3$ , however, leads to much

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easier cases. The arrowing  $F \rightarrow (J_3, H)$  is equivalent to the question, “Does the removal of every matching  $sK_2$  from  $F$  leave a subgraph containing  $H$ ?” In Section 2, we present constructions which witness upper bounds on  $F_e(J_3; K_n; n+1)$ ,  $F_e(J_3; J_n; n+1)$ , and  $F_e(J_3; J_n; n)$ , and then we show that these bounds are tight.

In Section 3, we use computational methods modified from prior work on  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$  to determine values of Folkman numbers  $F_e(J_4, J_4; k)$  for  $k > 6$ , and bounds on  $F_e(J_4, J_4; k)$  for  $k = 5, 6$ . These are obtained with the help of techniques used in satisfiability (SAT) and MAX-CUT, both of which are well-studied problems in computer science. The cases of  $F_e(J_4, J_4; k)$  lie between the much-studied  $F_e(3, 3; k)$  and little-studied  $F_e(4, 4; k)$ . We also present up-to-date history of bounds on the former, namely  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$ .

## 2. Arrowing $(J_3, K_n)$ and $(J_3, J_n)$

Let the graph  $K_{2n}$  denote the complete graph  $K_{2n}$  with removed perfect matching; i.e.,  $K_{2n} = K_{2n} - nK_2$ .

**Proposition 1.** *For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , we have  $K_{2n-1} + K_1 \rightarrow (J_3, K_n)$ .*

*Proof.* We will first show that, for each  $n \geq 2$ , in any red-blue edge coloring of  $K_{2n-1}$  avoiding red  $J_3 = P_3$ , every vertex  $v \in V(K_{2n-1})$  belongs to a blue  $K_{n-1}$ . We proceed by induction. The claim is obvious for  $n = 2$ . Next, consider any red-blue coloring of  $K_{2n}$  avoiding red  $J_3$ . Fix any  $v_1 \in V(K_{2n})$ , and let  $v_2$  be the vertex not adjacent to  $v_1$ . If  $v_1$  is redly adjacent to some vertex  $w_1$ , then let  $\{w_1, w_2\}$  be nonadjacent; otherwise, choose an independent set  $\{w_1, w_2\}$  arbitrarily, but  $v_1 \notin \{w_1, w_2\}$ . The restriction of this coloring to  $K_{2n} - \{v_1, v_2\} = K_{2n-1}$  is a red-blue coloring avoiding red  $J_3$ , so by induction  $w_2$  is part of some blue  $K_{n-1} \subset K_{2n} - \{v_1, v_2\}$ . Since  $v_1$  is adjacent to all vertices in  $K_{2n} - \{v_1, v_2\}$  and is blue adjacent to all its vertices, possibly except  $w_1$ , together with this blue  $K_{n-1}$  it forms a blue  $K_n$ . By induction, the statement holds for all  $n$ .

Similarly, we prove the statement of the proposition by induction. Clearly, any red-blue edge coloring of  $K_{2n} + K_1$  has either a red  $J_3$  or a blue  $K_2$ . For  $n \geq 3$ , consider any red-blue coloring of the graph  $K_{2n-1} + K_1$  without any red  $J_3$ . Let  $\{x\} = V(K_1)$ . If any vertex  $v$  is redly adjacent to  $x$ , choose an independent set  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  so that  $v_2 = v$ ; otherwise, choose an independent set  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  arbitrarily. We have shown that in the restriction of this coloring to  $K_{2n-1}$ ,  $v_1$  is in a blue  $K_{n-1}$ . Vertex  $v_2$  cannot be part of this  $K_{n-1}$ . Since  $x$  is adjacent to all vertices in  $V(K_{2n-1})$ , and is blue adjacent to all such vertices (except perhaps  $v_2$ ), it is in a blue  $K_n$ . Thus,  $K_{2n-1} + K_1 \rightarrow (J_3, K_n)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.** *For all  $k > n \geq 2$  we have  $F_e(J_3, K_n; k) = 2n - 1$ .*

*Proof.* We notice that  $R(J_3, K_n) = 2n - 1$ , as listed in [Radziszowski 2017]. For  $k = n + 1$ , this gives the lower bound  $2n - 1 \leq F_e(J_3, K_n; n + 1)$ , while Proposition 1

provides a witness for the upper bound. For larger  $k$  the claim follows directly from definitions since  $F_e(J_3, K_n; k)$  is nonincreasing in  $k$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.** *For all  $n \geq 3$  we have*

$$F_e(J_3, J_n; k) = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } k = n = 3, \\ 2n - 3 & \text{if } k > n > 2, \\ 2n - 1 & \text{if } k = n \text{ and } n > 3. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* For the special case of  $k = n = 3$ , it can be easily checked that  $K_{1,3} \rightarrow (J_3, J_3)$ ; hence it gives the upper bound. Clearly, three vertices are not enough for a suitable Folkman graph, so  $F_e(J_3, J_3; 3) = 4$ .

For the case  $k > n > 2$ , as in Theorem 3, the lower bound  $F_e(J_3, J_n; n+1) \geq 2n - 3$  for any  $k \geq n$  follows from  $R(J_3, J_n) = 2n - 3$ ; see [Radziszowski 2017]. For the upper bound, we will prove that  $K_{2n-3} + K_3 \rightarrow (J_3, J_n)$ . Consider any red-blue coloring of the graph  $K_{2n-3} + K_3$  avoiding red  $J_3$ . Let  $\{x, y, z\} = V(K_3)$  and let  $e$  be the edge  $\{x, y\}$ . By Proposition 1, the restriction of this coloring to the subgraph  $K_{2n-2} + K_1 = K_{2n-3} + (K_3 - e)$  must include a blue  $K_{n-1}$ . Since  $K_{n-1} \not\subseteq K_{2n-3} + K_1$ , this blue  $K_{n-1}$  must include exactly one of  $x$  or  $y$ ; without loss of generality it includes  $x$  and not  $y$ . But in the original coloring,  $y$  is blue adjacent to all or all but one of the vertices in the blue  $K_{n-1}$ , so  $y$  is part of a blue  $J_n$ . Hence  $F_e(J_3, J_n; k) = 2n - 3$  for all  $k > n$ .

Finally we consider the case of  $k = n$  for  $n > 3$ . Consider any  $K_n$ -free graph  $G$  with  $|V(G)| = 2n - 2$ . Color the edges of  $G$  as follows: take a maximum matching  $R \subseteq E(G)$ , color all of its edges in red, and color all edges in  $G - R$  blue. This coloring contains no red  $J_3$ . We will show that either it contains no blue  $J_n$ , or that  $G \subseteq K_{n-2} + nK_1$ .

Suppose that  $G$  contains a blue  $J_n$  and let  $S \subset V(G)$  be the vertices of the  $J_n$ . Since  $G$  does not contain  $K_n$ , there exist nonadjacent vertices  $x, y \in S$ . Every edge in  $R$  must be incident to a vertex in  $\bar{S} = V(G) - S$ , implying that  $|R| \leq |\bar{S}| = n - 2$ . Now consider any pair of adjacent vertices  $s, t \in S$  (one of which may be  $x$  or  $y$ ). Since  $s$  and  $t$  are adjacent, at least one must be incident to a red edge, since otherwise we could add the edge  $\{s, t\}$  to  $R$  and obtain a matching larger than  $R$ . Since  $|R| \leq |S| - 2$ , there exist two vertices in  $S$  neither of which is incident to a red edge; then these vertices must be  $x$  and  $y$ . Furthermore, any other vertex in  $S$  is adjacent to  $x$  and  $y$ , so it must be incident to some red edge. Therefore,  $|R| = n - 2 = |\bar{S}|$ .

For any two vertices  $s', t' \in \bar{S}$ , there exist vertices  $s, t \in S$  distinct from  $x$  and  $y$ , such that  $\{s, s'\}$  and  $\{t, t'\}$  are red edges. We must have that  $s'$  and  $t'$  are nonadjacent, since otherwise we could obtain a matching larger than  $R$  by taking  $R$ , removing edges  $\{s, s'\}$  and  $\{t, t'\}$ , and replacing them with edges  $\{x, s\}$ ,  $\{y, t\}$ , and  $\{s', t'\}$ . Additionally, if (without loss of generality)  $x$  is adjacent to  $s' \in \bar{S}$ , then we could

obtain a matching larger than  $R$  by replacing edge  $\{s, s'\}$  with edges  $\{x, s'\}$  and  $\{y, s\}$ . Thus, the vertex set  $\bar{S} \cup \{x, y\}$  does not induce any edges, implying that  $G \subseteq K_{n-2} + nK_1$ .

We can edge color  $K_{n-2} + nK_1$  in a way that avoids red  $J_3$  and blue  $J_n$  simply by coloring only one edge in the  $K_{n-2}$  red. Thus,  $K_{n-2} + nK_1 \not\rightarrow (J_3, J_n)$ . Then there is no graph  $G$  on  $2n - 2$  vertices such that  $G \rightarrow (J_3, J_n; n)$ , which gives the lower bound  $F_e(J_3, J_n; n) \geq 2n - 1$ . For the upper bound we consider the graph  $K_{2n-1} + K_1$ . Let  $\{x\} = V(K_1)$  and let vertices  $v_1, v_2$  be nonadjacent. By Proposition 1, any red-blue coloring of  $K_{2n-1} + K_1$  with no red  $J_3$  contains a blue  $K_n$ . This blue  $K_n$  can include at most one of  $v_1, v_2$ , and therefore at most one of  $\{v_1, x\}$  and  $\{v_2, x\}$ . Hence, consider the subgraph  $K_{2n-2} + \bar{K}_3 \subset K_{2n-1} + K_1$  constructed by removing the edges  $\{v_1, x\}$  and  $\{v_2, x\}$ . Next, observe that any coloring of  $K_{2n-2} + \bar{K}_3$  with no red  $J_3$  therefore contains a blue  $J_n$ . So  $K_{2n-2} + \bar{K}_3 \rightarrow (J_3, J_n)$ , and thus,  $F_e(J_3, J_n; n) = 2n - 1$ .  $\square$

### 3. Folkman numbers $F_e(J_4, J_4; k)$

**3.1. Cases for  $k \geq 6$ .** In order to find upper bounds on  $F_e(J_4, J_4; k)$  for  $k \geq 6$  we reduced the corresponding arrowings to instances of the Boolean satisfiability (SAT) problem, which has been extensively studied. In particular, this approach had been previously used by Shetler, Wurtz, and the third author to test arrowing of  $(K_3, J_4)$ . We applied it instead to the question of whether  $G \not\rightarrow (J_4, J_4)$ , as follows: We map the edges  $E(G)$  to the variables of a Boolean formula  $\phi_G$ , so that the color of an edge  $e$  is represented by the value of its corresponding Boolean variable. Then for each  $J_4$  consisting of edges  $e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5$ , we add to  $\phi_G$  two clauses,

$$(e_1 + e_2 + e_3 + e_4 + e_5) \wedge (\bar{e}_1 + \bar{e}_2 + \bar{e}_3 + \bar{e}_4 + \bar{e}_5).$$

Then  $G \not\rightarrow (J_4, J_4)$  if and only if  $\phi_G$  is satisfiable. We solved many such instances of satisfiability problem for formulas  $\phi_G$  with the SAT-solver MiniSAT [Eén and Sörensson 2004]. The results of these computations lead to the next theorem.

**Theorem 4.** *It holds that*

$$F_e(J_4, J_4; k) = \begin{cases} 10 & \text{for } k \geq 8, \\ 11 & \text{for } k = 7, \end{cases}$$

and  $11 \leq F_e(J_4, J_4; 6) \leq 14$ .

*Proof.* It is known that  $R(J_4, J_4) = 10$ , see [Chvátal and Harary 1972], and hence  $F_e(J_4, J_4; k) \geq 10$  for all  $k \geq 4$ , and  $F_e(J_4, J_4; k) = 10$  for  $k \geq 11$ . A computation using MiniSAT determined that the graph  $G = K_4 + K_{2,2,2}$  satisfies  $G \rightarrow (J_4, J_4)$ . Since  $|V(G)| = 10$  and  $G$  is  $K_8$ -free, using previous comments we obtain that

$F_e(J_4, J_4; 8) = 10$ . Because  $F_e(J_4, J_4; k)$  is nonincreasing in  $k$ , we also obtain that  $F_e(J_4, J_4; k) = 10$  for  $k = 9$  and  $k = 10$ .

To find the lower bound for  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 7)$ , we tested all nonisomorphic graphs on 10 vertices found with nauty [McKay and Piperno 2014]. We ignored graphs containing  $K_7$  and those which are  $K_5$ -free (since it would contradict  $F_e(3, 3; 5) = 15$  [Piwakowski et al. 1999]). Testing exhaustively all 1806547 such graphs via  $\phi_G$  with MiniSAT revealed that  $\mathcal{F}_e(J_4, J_4; 7; 10) = \emptyset$ , and thus  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 7) \geq 11$ . A computation using MiniSAT determined that the graph  $F = K_2 + K_{3,2,2,2}$  satisfies  $F \rightarrow (J_4, J_4)$ . Since  $|V(F)| = 11$  and  $F$  is  $K_7$ -free, much as before we obtain  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 7) \leq 11$ . Lastly, we determined using MiniSAT that the graph  $H = C_5 + K_{3,3,3}$  satisfies  $H \rightarrow (J_4, J_4)$ . Since  $|V(H)| = 14$  and  $H$  is  $K_6$ -free, we have  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 6) \leq 14$ .  $\square$

The exact value of  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 6)$  possibly could be determined as above with a larger effort using similar computational techniques.

**3.2.  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 5)$  and MAX-CUT.** Our attempts to use MiniSAT to find a graph  $G$  witnessing an upper bound on  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 5)$  were unsuccessful, as the SAT-solver slowed down significantly when we tested larger graphs. However, we managed to obtain the bound  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 5) \leq 1297$  using a modification of an idea and computational approach of Dudek and Rödl [2008] for studying  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$ , which itself is based on an idea of Goodman [1959].

For a red-blue coloring of a graph  $G$ , we define  $T_{\text{diff}}(v)$  and  $T_{\text{same}}(v)$ , respectively, to be the number of triangles containing  $v$  in which the edges incident to  $v$  are different colors or the same color. Let  $t$  be the number of triangles in  $G$ , and let  $m$  be the number of monochromatic triangles in  $G$ . In each nonmonochromatic triangle, there are two vertices  $v_1, v_2$  for which the edges incident to it are different colors. Then  $\sum_{v \in G} T_{\text{diff}}(v) = 2(t - m)$  counts each nonmonochromatic triangle in  $G$  twice. Furthermore,  $\sum_{v \in G} T_{\text{same}}(v) = t + 2m$  gives the number of nonmonochromatic triangles plus three times the number of monochromatic triangles. Therefore,

$$6m = 2 \sum_{v \in G} T_{\text{same}}(v) - \sum_{v \in G} T_{\text{diff}}(v). \tag{1}$$

Observe that if  $3m > |E(G)|$ , then the ratio of edges in monochromatic triangles to edges is greater than 1, implying that there is some edge  $e$  which is part of two distinct monochromatic triangles. Therefore, if for every red-blue coloring of  $G$  we have

$$2|E(G)| < 2 \sum_{v \in G} T_{\text{same}}(v) - \sum_{v \in G} T_{\text{diff}}(v), \tag{2}$$

then  $G \rightarrow (J_4, J_4)$ .

We now recall a method for linking arrowing triangles to the MAX-CUT problem, first proposed by Dudek and Rödl [2008]. Let  $H_G$  be the graph created as follows: We map every edge  $e$  of  $G$  to vertex  $v_e$  of  $H$ , so that  $V(H_G) = E(G)$ . Then for any two vertices  $v_e, v_f$  in  $V(H_G)$ , we add the edge  $\{v_e, v_f\}$  if and only if their corresponding edges  $e$  and  $f$  are a part of some triangle in  $G$ . Note that any red-blue coloring of  $E(G)$  corresponds to a bipartition  $V(H_G) = B \cup R$  of vertices of  $H_G$ , inducing an edge cut  $C$ , for which any nonmonochromatic triangle in  $G$  has exactly two edges in  $C$ . For any graph  $F$ , let  $\text{MC}(F) = \text{MAX-CUT}(F)$  denote the maximum number of edges in  $F$  between the partite sets of any bipartition of  $V(F)$ . Letting  $M_C(H_G)$  be the size of the cut  $C$ , we have

$$M_C(H_G) = \sum_{v \in G} T_{\text{diff}}(v) \leq \text{MC}(H_G). \quad (3)$$

Clearly, any edge in  $H_G$  has both endpoints in the same partite set  $B$  or  $R$  if and only if it is not in  $C$ . The above considerations lead to the following theorem.

**Theorem 5.** *If  $\text{MC}(H_G) < 2t(G) - 2|E(G)|/3$ , then  $G \rightarrow (J_4, J_4)$ .*

*Proof.* For any graph  $G$  whose edges are arbitrarily colored red and blue, consider the cut  $C$  of  $H_G$  as described above. Using (1) and (3), one can easily show that

$$\sum_{v \in G} T_{\text{same}}(v) = |E(H_G)| - M_C(H_G) = 3t - M_C(H_G).$$

Now from the assumption we have  $2|E(G)| < 2(3t - M_C(H_G)) - (M_C(H_G))$ . Finally, using (2) and its implication we conclude that  $G \rightarrow (J_4, J_4)$ .  $\square$

For large graphs  $H$ , finding tight upper bounds for  $\text{MC}(H)$  is computationally expensive. For this reason, we used the following weakening of Theorem 5 for vertex-transitive graphs  $G$ . Its advantage is that it allows us to detect conditions for which Theorem 5 can be applied much faster.

**Theorem 6.** *Let  $G$  be a vertex-transitive  $d$ -regular graph, where  $G_v$  denotes the graph induced in  $G$  by the neighbors of vertex  $v$ . If we have*

$$\text{MC}(G_v) < \frac{2}{3}|E(G_v)| - \frac{1}{3}d,$$

*then  $G \rightarrow (J_4, J_4)$ .*

*Proof.* This is following the same argument as in an alternative approach to bounding Folkman numbers used by Lu [2008] and Spencer [1988]. Here, however, with an additional term  $d/3$ , we need to use the observation made above between equalities (1) and (2).  $\square$

MAX-CUT is among Karp's original 21 NP-hard problems [1972]. In order to find good bounds on  $\text{MC}(H_G)$  and  $\text{MC}(G_v)$  for graphs  $G$  of our interest, we used the eigenvalue and semidefinite programming approximations of MAX-CUT. This

approach was used by several authors, including Lu [2008], Dudek and Rödl [2008], and Lange et al. [2014] to obtain upper bounds on  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$  (see Section 3.3 for a historical summary).

We applied Theorems 5 and 6 to many graphs of different types. We found an interesting positive instance using the following construction described in [Lu 2008]. For positive integers  $n$  and  $s$ ,  $s < n$ , define  $S = \{s^i \pmod{n} \mid i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ . Then, if  $n-1 \in S$ , let  $L(n, s)$  be the graph with vertex set  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  and edge set  $\{\{x, y\} \mid x - y \in S\}$ . Clearly, the graphs  $L(n, s)$  are vertex-transitive.

**Theorem 7.** 
$$F_e(J_4, J_4; 5) \leq 1297.$$

*Proof.* For the graph  $L(1297, 8)$ , which is 216-regular, we found that it satisfies the assumptions of both Theorems 5 and 6, using two MAX-CUT bounding methods: the eigenvalue method and the SDP approach. We used our Java library and associated programs, including the `eigs` function in Matlab and the SDP solver SDP-LR [Helmberg and Rendl 2000]. An easy (computer) test shows that the graph  $L(1297, 8)$  is  $K_5$ -free, and hence it is a witness of the upper bound.  $\square$

We wish to note that recently (and after this work was completed) a much better bound of 51 on  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 5)$  was obtained in [Xu et al. 2018]. The latter bound did not require any computations. We also would like to recall the bound on  $F_e(J_4, J_4; 4)$  obtained in [Lu 2008], as follows.

**Proposition 8.** 
$$F_e(J_4, J_4; 4) \leq 30193.$$

The bound in Proposition 8 is mentioned by Lu [2008] in his paper on  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$  as a side result, without any comments on the approach. However, we communicated with the author who confirmed that the main idea of his approach was similar to one in this work.

**3.3. History of the Folkman number  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$ .** Table 1 below summarizes the history of bounds on the edge Folkman number  $F_e(3, 3; 4) = F_e(K_3, K_3; 4)$ , which is the smallest unknown classical Folkman number, sometimes also called *the most wanted*. This table builds on an earlier Table 5 by Xu and the third author [Xu and Radziszowski 2016], where further extensive comments about the progress related to  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$  can be found. The new entries in Table 1 here are lower bounds 13, 14 and 20. The bound  $F_e(3, 3; 4) \geq 14$  can be obtained as follows: removal of any independent set of three vertices from any graph in  $\mathcal{F}_e(3, 3; 4)$  must yield a 5-chromatic  $K_4$ -free graph, but Nenov [1984] proved (without using computer algorithms) that any such graph has at least 11 vertices.  $F_e(3, 3; 4) \geq 13$  is implied in the same way by an earlier result of Nenov [1983]. In contrast, the currently best-known lower bound of 20 was obtained by Bikov and Nenov [2017] using CPU-intensive computations.

year	lower/upper bounds	who/what
1967	any?	[Erdős and Hajnal 1967]
1970	exist	[Folkman 1970]
1972	11 –	implicit in [Lin 1972], implied by $F_e(3, 3; 5) \geq 10$
1975	– $10^{10}$ ?	Erdős [1975] offers \$100 for proof
1983	13 –	implied by a result of [Nenov 1983]
1984	14 –	implied by a result of [Nenov 1984]
1986	– $8 \cdot 10^{11}$	[Frankl and Rödl 1986]
1988	– $3 \cdot 10^9$	[Spencer 1988]
1999	16 –	Piwakowski, Radziszowski and Urbański, implicit in [Piwakowski et al. 1999]
2007	19 –	[Radziszowski and Xu 2007]
2008	– 9697	[Lu 2008]
2008	– 941	[Dudek and Rödl 2008]
2012	– 100?	Graham offers \$100 for proof
2014	– 786	Lange, Radziszowski and Xu [Lange et al. 2014]
2017	20 –	[Bikov and Nenov 2017]

**Table 1.** History of bounds on the Folkman number  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$ .

For any graph  $G$  with  $t$  triangles and graph  $H_G$  as defined in Section 3.2, one can easily observe that  $G \rightarrow (K_3, K_3)$  if and only if  $\text{MC}(H_G) < 2t$ ; see also [Dudek and Rödl 2008]. Thus, computational techniques to find upper bounds for MAX-CUT may lead to good upper bounds on  $F_e(3, 3; 4)$ , including the first such result by Dudek and V. Rödl [2008]. Lange, Xu, and the third author used the SDP MAX-CUT approximation to obtain an upper bound on  $\text{MC}(H_G)$  for a particular  $K_4$ -free graph  $G$  on 786 vertices, and used it to show that  $G \rightarrow (K_3, K_3)$ .

We made numerous attempts to lower this bound by trying to find a smaller  $K_4$ -free graph  $G$  for we could obtain the bound  $\text{MC}(H_G) < 2t$ . Among the graphs tested were the graphs  $G(n, r)$  considered in [Dudek and Rödl 2008], the graphs  $L(n, s)$  from [Lu 2008], and their variations. In particular, we tested a generalization of  $L(n, s)$  to Galois fields  $\text{GF}(p^k)$ , in addition to graphs constructed by adjoining various pairs of circulant graphs in a variety of ways. Our efforts have convinced us that these methods are unlikely to yield any major improvement on this bound.

The well-known  $K_4$ -free graph  $G_{127} = L(127, 5)$  was studied by several authors; see for example [Radziszowski and Xu 2007; Xu and Radziszowski 2016]. In particular, it was conjectured by Exoo that  $G_{127} \rightarrow (K_3, K_3)$ . Needless to say, we

were not successful in proving Exoo’s conjecture, because otherwise it would imply that  $F_e(3, 3; 4) \leq 127$ .

**Computations.** Some of the results in this paper were found through the use of various computational methods. This involved a large library of functions, including graph manipulation, construction of various types of graphs, and tests for graph arrowing. Graphs were represented in a variety of ways, including two-dimensional Boolean arrays, lists of edges for sparse graphs, and the g6-format of [McKay and Piperno 2014]. Our code was written in Java and executed on Unix and Windows systems. For our final results, Matlab and SDP-LR [Helmberg and Rendl 2000; Rendl et al. 2010] were used to calculate eigenvalue and SDP MAX-CUT approximations, respectively. MiniSAT [Eén and Sörensson 2004] was used to solve satisfiability problems. We also made use of lists of nonisomorphic graphs with special properties found with nauty [McKay and Piperno 2014].

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