Maximum number of triangle-free edge colorings

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Abstract

A coloring of the edges of a graph G with r colors is called a K_k -free r-coloring if it induces no monochromatic copy of K_k , the clique on k vertices. For $k \geq 3$ and $r \in \{2,3\}$ Alon, Balogh, Keevash and Sudakov showed that among all graphs on $n > n_0(k)$ vertices the balanced (k-1)-partite graph and only this graph admits the maximum number of distinct K_k -free r-colorings. For triangles and two colors this was conjectured by Erdős and Rothschild and previously confirmed by Yuster.

For r > 3 the problem becomes much harder and is only resolved for r = 4 and $k \in \{3, 4\}$. In our work, we address the problem for triangles and $r \in \{5, 6\}$.

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