

# Largest union-intersecting families

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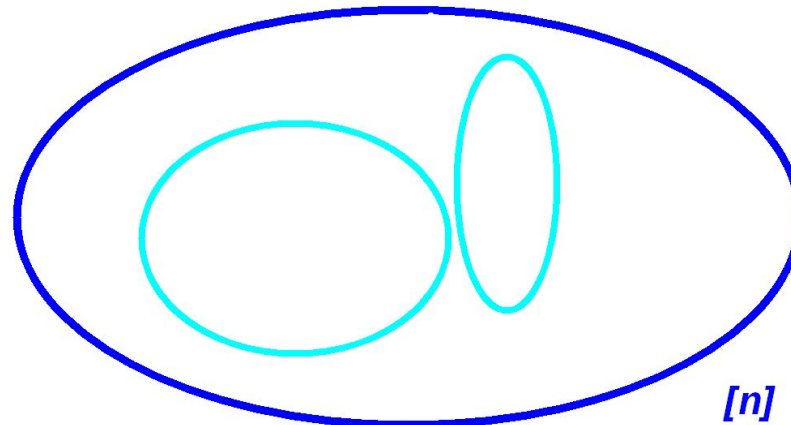
**2014 SIAM Conference on  
Discrete Mathematics**

**Minneapolis**

June 16, 2014

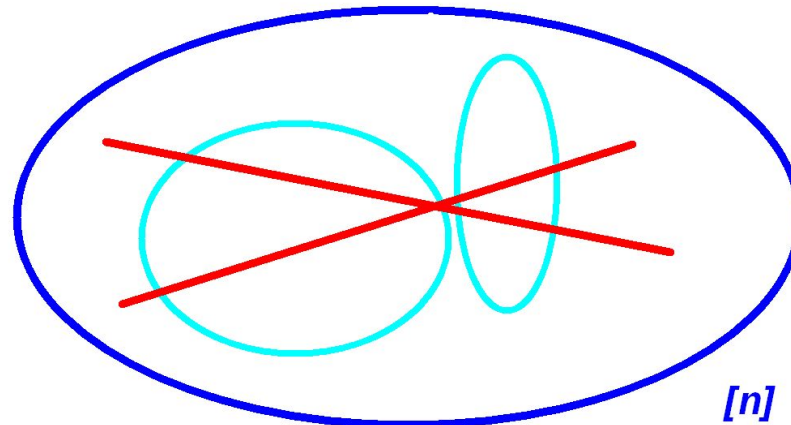
Notation:  $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

A family  $\mathcal{F} \subset 2^{[n]}$  is **intersecting** if  $F \cap G \neq \emptyset$  holds for every pair  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}$ .



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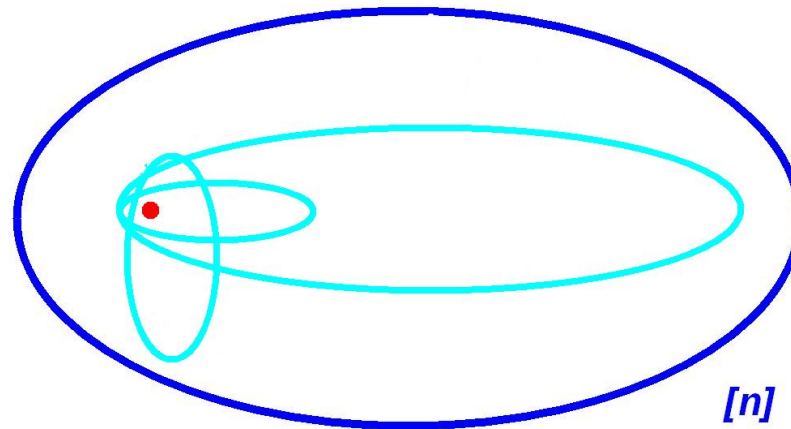
$$|\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^{n-1}.$$

**Observation (Erdős – Ko – Rado, 1961)** If  $\mathcal{F} \subset 2^{[n]}$  is intersecting then

$$|\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^{n-1} = 2^n/2.$$

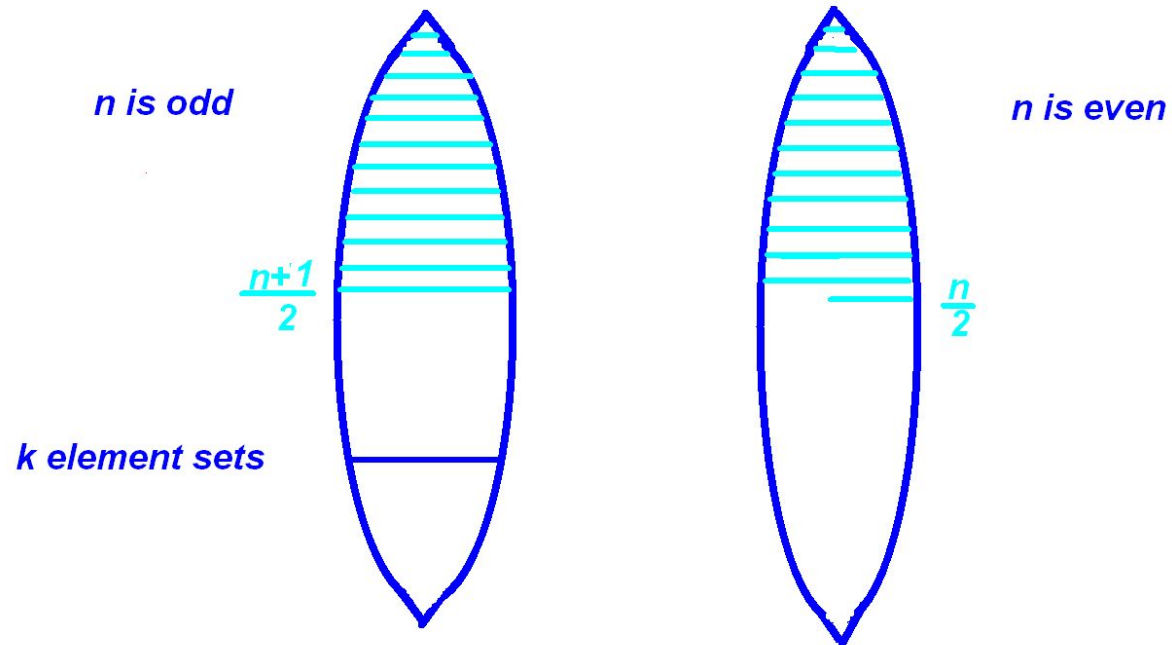
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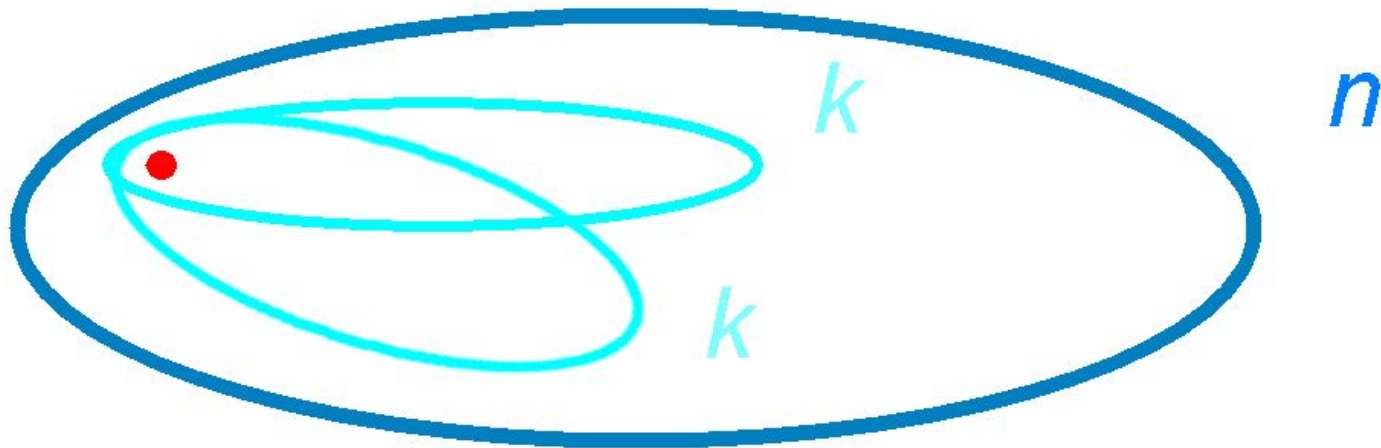
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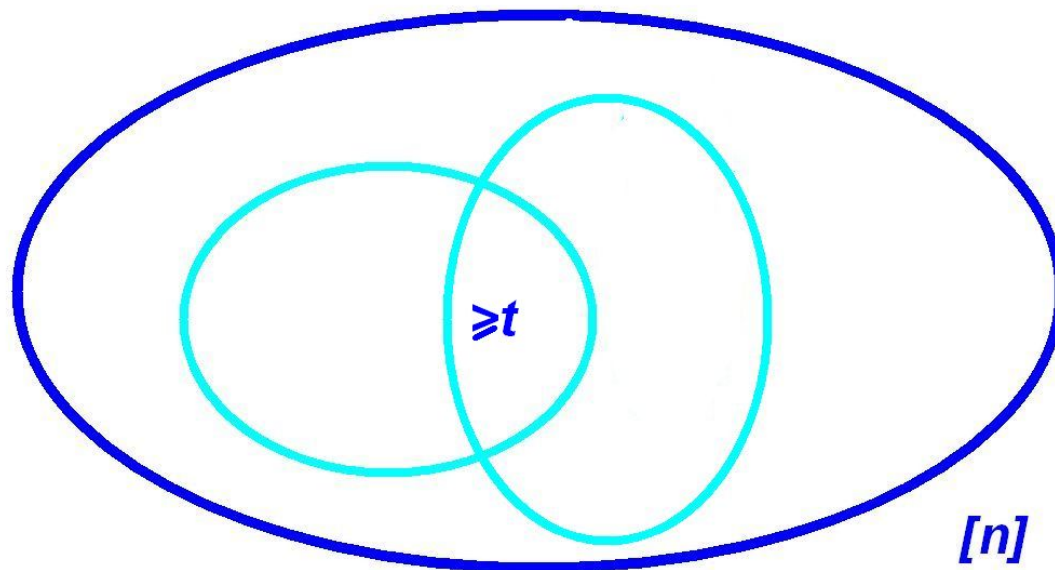
**Theorem (Erdős – Ko – Rado, 1961)** If  $\mathcal{F} \subset \binom{[n]}{k}$  is intersecting where  $k \leq \frac{n}{2}$  then

$$|\mathcal{F}| \leq \binom{n-1}{k-1}.$$





A family  $\mathcal{F} \subset 2^{[n]}$  is  **$t$ -intersecting** if  $|F \cap G| \geq t$  holds for every pair  $F, G \in \mathcal{F}$ .



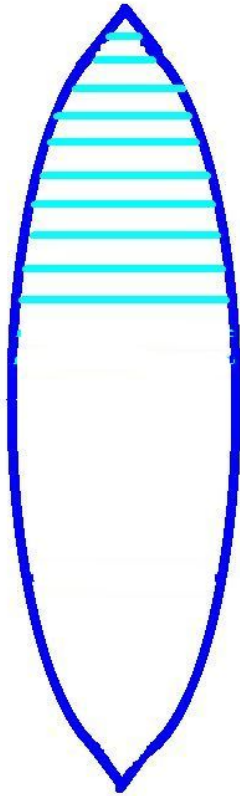
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**Theorem (K, 1964)** If  $\mathcal{F} \subset 2^{[n]}$  is  $t$ -intersecting then

$$|\mathcal{F}| \leq \begin{cases} \sum_{i=\frac{n+t}{2}}^n \binom{n}{i} & \text{if } n+t \text{ is even} \\ \sum_{i=\frac{n+t+1}{2}}^n \binom{n}{i} + \binom{n-1}{\frac{n+t-1}{2}} & \text{if } n+t \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

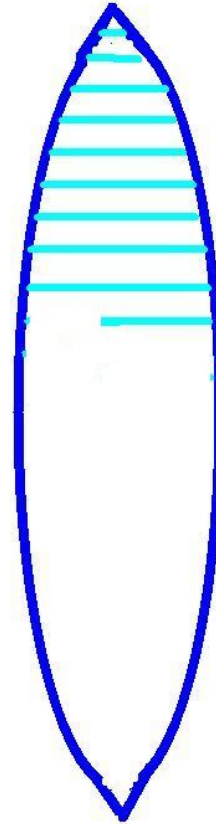
***$n+t$  is even***

$$\frac{n+t}{2}$$



***$n+t$  is odd***

$$\frac{n+t+1}{2}$$



A **problem** of **Körner**.

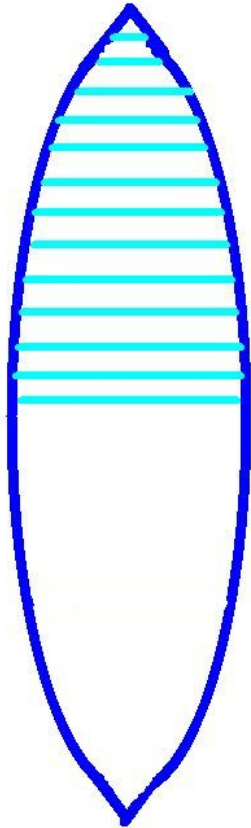
Let  $\mathcal{F} \subset 2^{[n]}$  and suppose that if  $F_1, F_2, G_1, G_2 \in \mathcal{F}, F_1 \neq F_2, G_1 \neq G_2$  holds then

$$(F_1 \cup F_2) \cap (G_1 \cup G_2) \neq \emptyset.$$

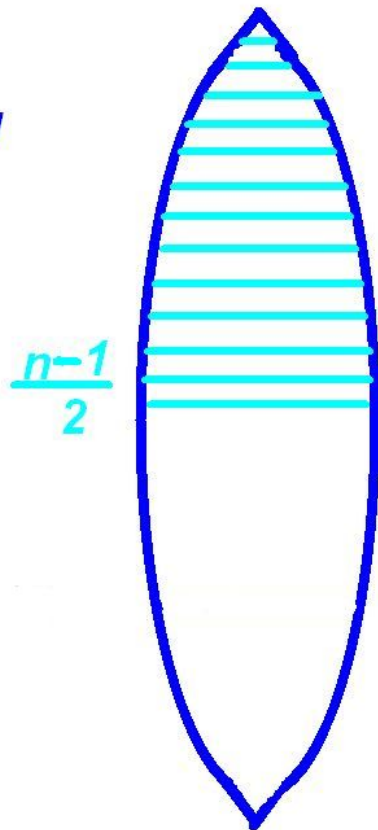
What is the maximum size of such a **union-intersecting** family?

*n is odd*

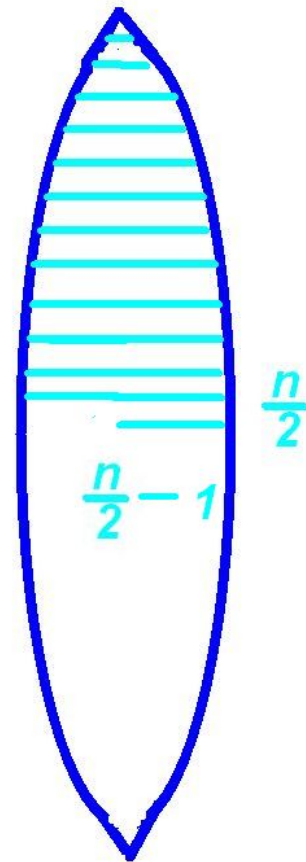
$$\frac{n-1}{2}$$



*n is odd*



*n is even*



**Theorem (Katona-D.T. Nagy 2014+)** Suppose that the family  $\mathcal{F} \subset 2^{[n]}$  is a union–intersecting family then

$$|\mathcal{F}| \leq \begin{cases} \sum_{i=\frac{n-1}{2}}^n \binom{n}{i} & \text{if } n+1 \text{ is odd} \\ \sum_{i=\frac{n}{2}}^n \binom{n}{i} + \binom{n-1}{\frac{n}{2}-1} & \text{if } n+1 \text{ is even .} \end{cases}$$

holds.

A family  $\mathcal{F} \subset 2^{[n]}$  is called a  **$(u, v)$ -union-intersecting** if for different members  $F_1, \dots, F_u, G_1, \dots, G_v$  the following holds:

$$\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^u F_i\right) \cap \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^v G_j\right) \neq \emptyset.$$



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The **maximum size** of a  $(u, v)$ -union-intersecting family on  $n$  elements is denoted by  $f(n, u, v)$ .

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$f(n, 2, 2)$  is the previous theorem.

**Theorem (Katona-D.T. Nagy 2014+)**

$$f(n, 1, 2) = \begin{cases} \sum_{i=\frac{n}{2}}^n \binom{n}{i} & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ \sum_{i=\frac{n+1}{2}}^n \binom{n}{i} + \binom{n-1}{\frac{n-3}{2}} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd .} \end{cases}$$

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## Proof

## **Standardization of mathematical lectures**

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§345, ¶59. Every lecture should contain one proof and one joke but they must not be the same.



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$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{F}^-$$

$$2|\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^n + |\mathcal{G}| \rightarrow |\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^{n-1} + \frac{1}{2}|\mathcal{G}|$$

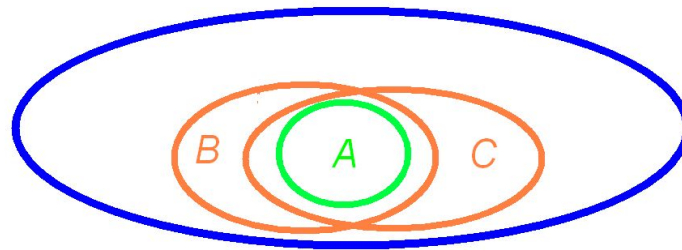
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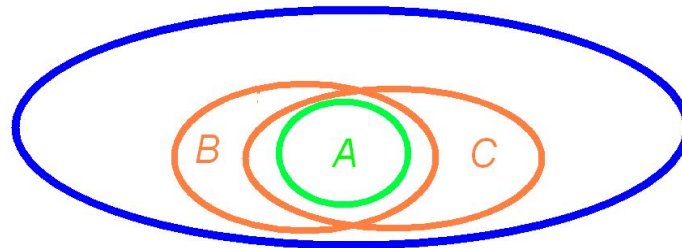
**Proof**  $A \subset B, A \subset C$  implies  $\bar{A} \supset \bar{B}, \bar{A} \supset \bar{C}$  and  $\bar{A} \supset \bar{B} \cup \bar{C}$



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$$A \cap (\bar{A} \cup \bar{B} \cup \bar{C}) = A \cap \bar{A} = \emptyset$$

a contradiction.

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$$\text{La}(n, V, \Lambda) = 2 \binom{n-1}{\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor}$$

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**Theorem (K-Tarján, 1981)**

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Hence

$$|\mathcal{F}| \leq 2^{n-1} + \frac{1}{2}|\mathcal{G}| \leq 2^{n-1} + \binom{n-1}{\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor}$$

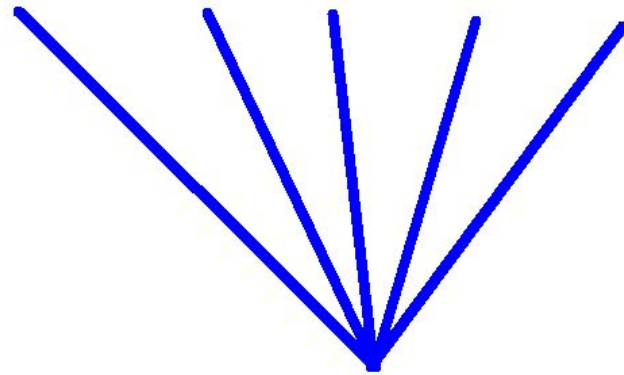
**Theorem (Katona-D.T. Nagy 2014+)** If  $v \geq 4$  then

$$2^{n-1} + \frac{1}{2} \binom{n}{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \leq f(n, 1, v) \leq 2^{n-1} + \frac{1}{2} \binom{n}{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} + \frac{v-2}{n} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$

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**Proof** uses forbidden

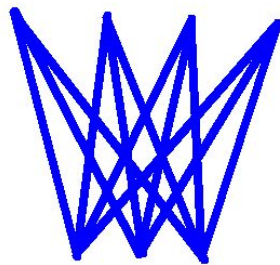


**Theorem (Katona-D.T. Nagy 2014+)** If  $v \geq u \geq 2, v \geq 3$  then

$$2^{n-1} + \binom{n}{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{n} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) \right) \leq f(n, u, v) \leq$$

$$2^{n-1} + \binom{n}{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \left( 1 + \frac{u + v - 3}{n} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right) \right)$$

**Proof** uses forbidden



**Theorem (Katona-D.T. Nagy 2014+)** Let  $1 \leq u \leq v$  and suppose that the family  $\mathcal{F} \subset \binom{[n]}{k}$  is a  $(u, v)$ -union-intersecting family then

$$|\mathcal{F}| \leq \binom{n-1}{k-1} + u - 1$$

holds if  $n > n(k, v)$ .

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Is there an **Ahlsvede-Khachatrian** theorem also here?

# Շնորհակալություն



~~Handwritten scribble in black ink obscuring the text.~~



Thank you