

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Special Colloquium



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Generalized Ramsey Theory

Abstract: How many guests must be at a party to ensure that there are either p mutual friends or p strangers in attendance? This easily-stated question is, in fact, a famously challenging classical question in the area of Ramsey theory. In this talk, I will introduce the Ramsey problem and a generalization of the problem due to Erdős and Shelah which asks, given integers p and q, for the minimum number of colors needed to color the edges of the complete graph on p vertices so that every complete subgraph on p vertices has at least p distinct colors. I will discuss some of my recent work on this generalized Ramsey problem and describe some of the exciting open questions in the area.

Keywords: Graph theory, Ramsey theory, graph coloring.