

# Problems on uncountable graphs - the morning show -

Dániel T. Soukup

<http://renyi.hu/~dsoukup/>



Goal: present **a selection of chromatic number problems** on uncountable graphs.

- some very good surveys: P. Komjáth, S. Todorcevic...
- **historical** and **personal** reasons,
- **minimal structure**
  - easily accessible problems,
  - great for understanding the limitations of certain techniques.

I received kind support and advice from several people: I. Juhász, P. Komjáth, L. Soukup, J. Steprans, S. Todorcevic, the Cambridge Phil. Soc.

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# What is the chromatic number?

## Definition

The **chromatic number** of a graph  $G$ , denoted by  $\text{Chr}(G)$ , is the least cardinal  $\kappa$  such that **the vertices of  $G$  can be covered by  $\kappa$  many independent sets**.

How does **large chromatic number** affect the **subgraph structure**?

[Galvin, Komjáth 1991]:

$$\forall G \exists \text{Chr}(G) \Leftrightarrow \text{AC}$$

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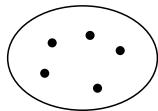
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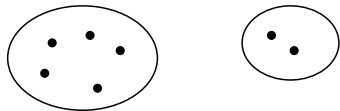
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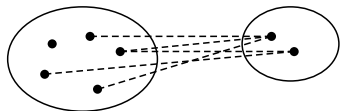
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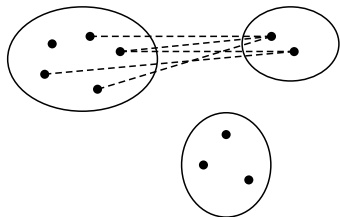
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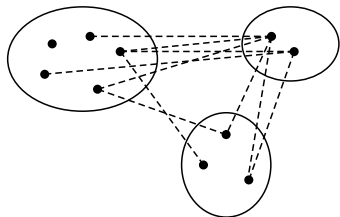
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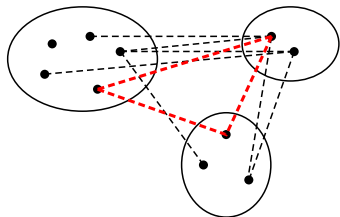
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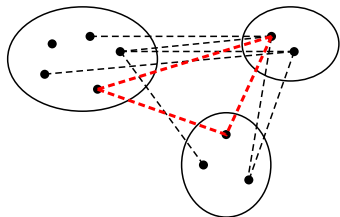
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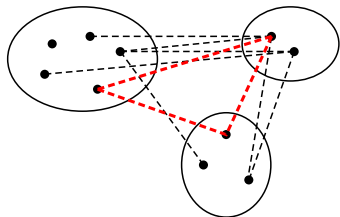
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- **Erdős, 1959:** There are graphs with arbitrary large girth and arbitrary large finite chromatic number.

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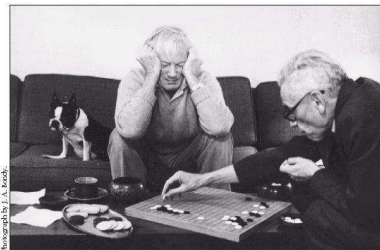
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# Obligatory subgraphs

What graphs must occur as subgraphs of uncountably chromatic graphs?

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- Erdős-Hajnal, 1966:  
If  $\text{Chr}(G) > \omega$  then  $K_{n,\omega_1}$  embeds into  $G$  for each  $n \in \omega$ .

In particular, any finite bipartite graph embeds into  $G$ .

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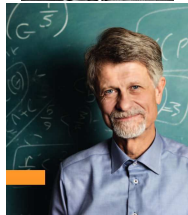
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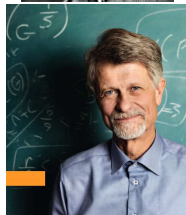


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Can we classify countable obligatory subgraphs?

- Hajnal-Komjáth, 1984:  $H_{\omega, \omega+1}$  embeds into  $G$  if  $\text{Chr}(G) > \omega$  but  $K_{\omega, \omega}$  can be avoided.

## Problem

Is there a **universal countable obligatory graph**  $H^*$  for graphs  $G$  with  $\text{Chr}(G) = \omega_1$ ?

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A set  $A$  in graph is **infinitely connected** iff  $A$  is infinite and  $A \setminus F$  is connected for all finite  $F \subseteq A$ .

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# A few words about the proof

- consider the **comparability graph** of a **non-special tree without uncountable chains**.
- **thin out the edges** to have no uncountable infinitely connected subgraph:
  - use a **ladder system** on the tree;
- how to make sure that **the chromatic number is still large**?
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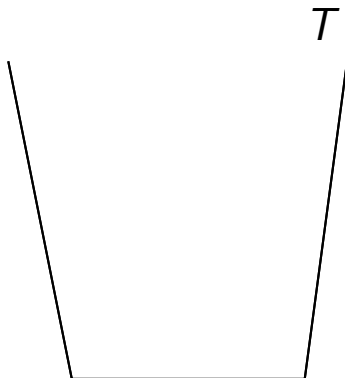
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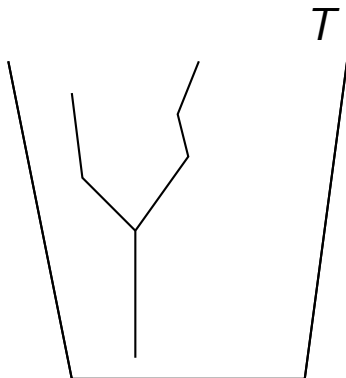
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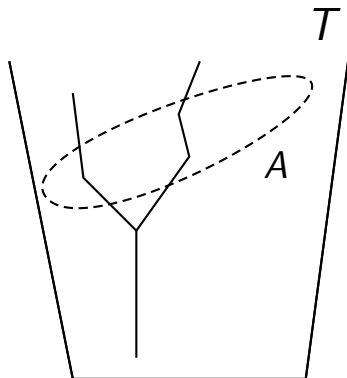
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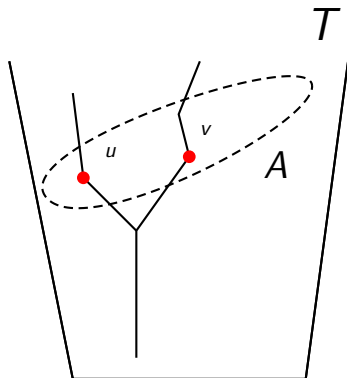
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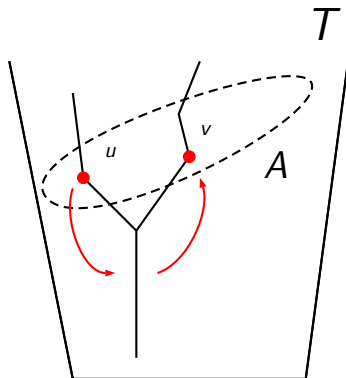
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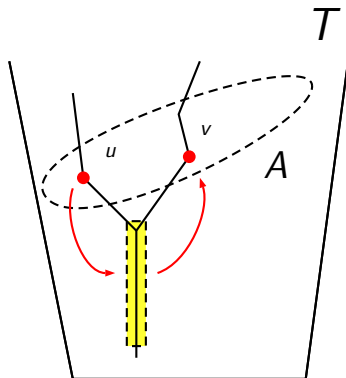
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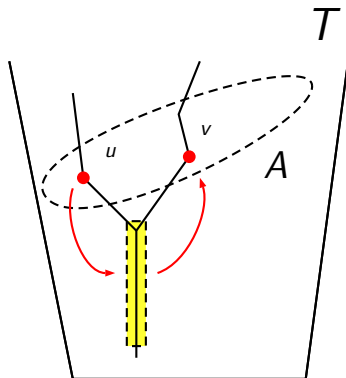
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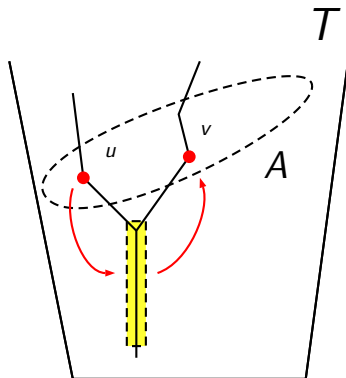
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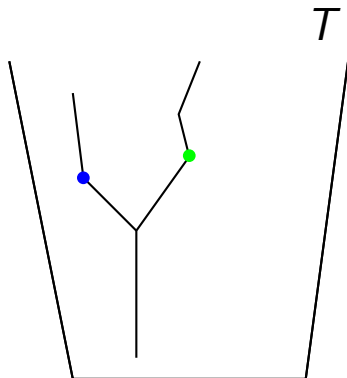
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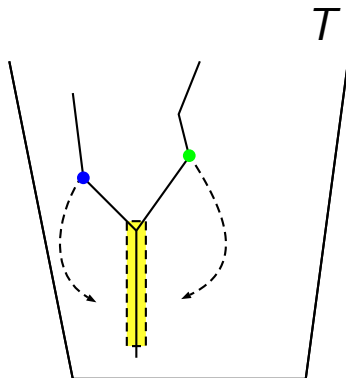
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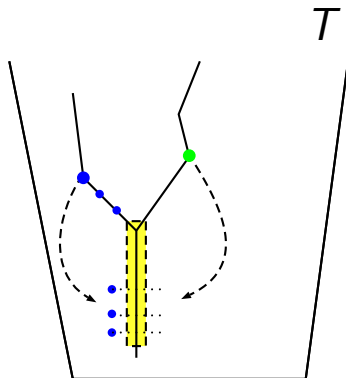
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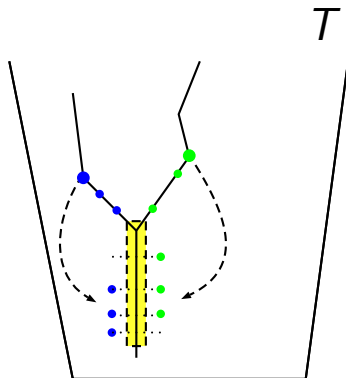
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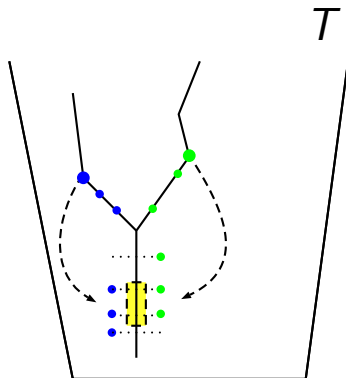
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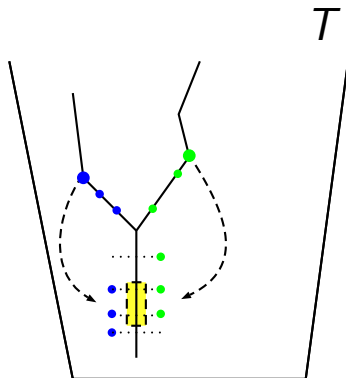
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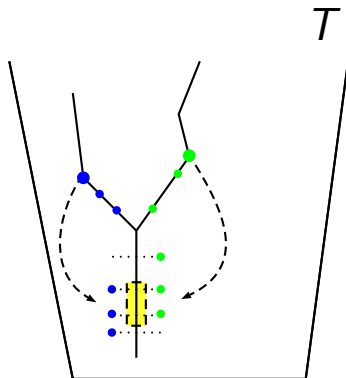
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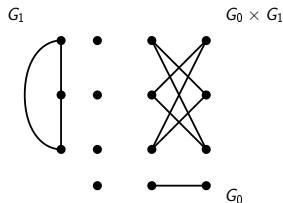
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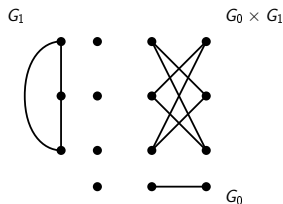
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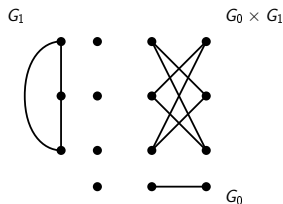
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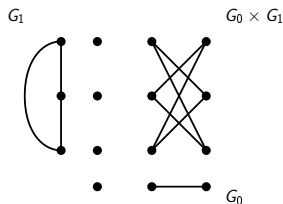


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Is there a non trivial almost smooth (hyper)graph  $G$  in **ZFC**?

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Is there a nontrivial  $\omega$ -smooth or  $\omega_1$ -smooth graph  $G$ ?

It is independent whether there is a nontrivial  $< \omega$ -smooth graph:

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# Anti-Ramsey results for graphs

What do you need for Ramsey's theorem to fail?

Todorćević proved that  $\omega_1 \not\rightarrow [\omega_1]_{\omega_1}^2$  i.e. we can colour the edges of  $K_{\omega_1}$  such that **every colour appears on every uncountable induced subgraph**.

Conjecture [Erdős, Galvin, Hajnal 1975]

Suppose that  $G = (V, E)$  is an  $\omega_1$ -chromatic graph. Then **there is a colouring**  $c : E \rightarrow \omega_1$  such that for every  $V = \bigcup_{i \in \omega} V_i$  there is  $i < \omega$  such that  **$F$  assumes all values on  $G[V_i]$** .

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Prove the (strong) conjecture for certain classes of graphs!

Let  $(T)^2 = \{\{s, t\} : s \leq t \in T\}$  for a **tree**  $T$ .

## Conjecture

For every **non special tree**  $T$  there is a colouring  $c : (T)^2 \rightarrow \omega_1$  such that  $c''(S)^2 = \omega_1$  for every non special subtree  $S$ .

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- **incompactness** of chromatic number (see recently A. Rinot),
  - $\min\{\kappa : \forall G (\text{Chr}(G) = \omega_1 \Rightarrow \exists H \in [G]^\kappa \text{Chr}(H) = \omega_1)\} = ???$
- theory of **definable graphs** (closed/open graphs);
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Thank you for your attention.

*Any questions?*

