

Zbl 218.52005

Erdős, Paul; Méir, A.; Sós, V.T.; Turán, P.

On some applications of graph theory. II. (In English)

Stud. Pure Math., Papers presented to Richard Rado on the Occasion of his sixtyfifth Birthday, 89-99 (1971).

[For the entire collection see Zbl 214.00204.]

Using combinatorial methods the authors prove (among others) the following theorem: Let there be given n points in the plane P_1, \dots, P_n so that the maximal area of all triangles (P_i, P_j, P_l) is 1. Then at least $\frac{1}{7} \binom{n}{3}$ of these triangles have an area $\leq \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$. The authors conjectured and B. Bollobás proved that if $n = 4m$ there is an absolute constant c so that at most $4m^3$ of the triangles can have area $> 1 - c$. $4m^3$ is best possible, but the best value of c is not known. They also show that if $n = 5$ at least one of the triangles have area $\leq \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$. (The regular pentagon P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, P_5 , area (P_1, P_3, P_4) is 1 shows that $\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$ is best possible). Many unsolved problems remain.

Classification:

52B05 Combinatorial properties of convex sets

05C99 Graph theory