Graph colouring and maximal F-free subgraphs

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Abstract

Given finite graphs F and G and an integer k, an F-avoiding k-colouring of G is a k-colouring of the vertices of G such that no maximal F-free subgraph of G is monochromatic. The F-avoiding chromatic number $\operatorname{ac}_F(G)$ is the least integer k such that G is F-avoiding k-colourable. In this talk, we will give a complete answer to the following problem: for which F is $\operatorname{ac}_F(G)$ bounded by a constant independent of G?