The Erdős-Gyárfás function $f(n,4,5) = \frac{5}{6}n + o(n)$ — so Gyárfás was right

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A (4,5)-coloring of K_n is an edge-coloring of K_n where every 4-clique spans at least five colors. In this talk, we show that there exist (4,5)-colorings of K_n using $\frac{5}{6}n + o(n)$ colors. This settles a disagreement between Erdős and Gyárfás reported in their 1997 paper. Our construction uses a randomized process which we analyze using the so-called differential equation method to establish dynamic concentration. In particular, our coloring process uses random triangle removal, a process first introduced by Bollobás and Erdős, and analyzed by Bohman, Frieze and Lubetzky.

This is a joint work with Patrick Bennett, Ryan Cushman and Paweł Prałat.