

Combinatorial group testing on hypergraphs

Thaís Bardini Idalino

Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina - Brazil

Ottawa Mathematics and Statistics Conference

May 2025



uOttawa



Joint work with Lucia Moura



Undergrad

2009



uOttawa

PhD

2015



Professor

2021



Masters

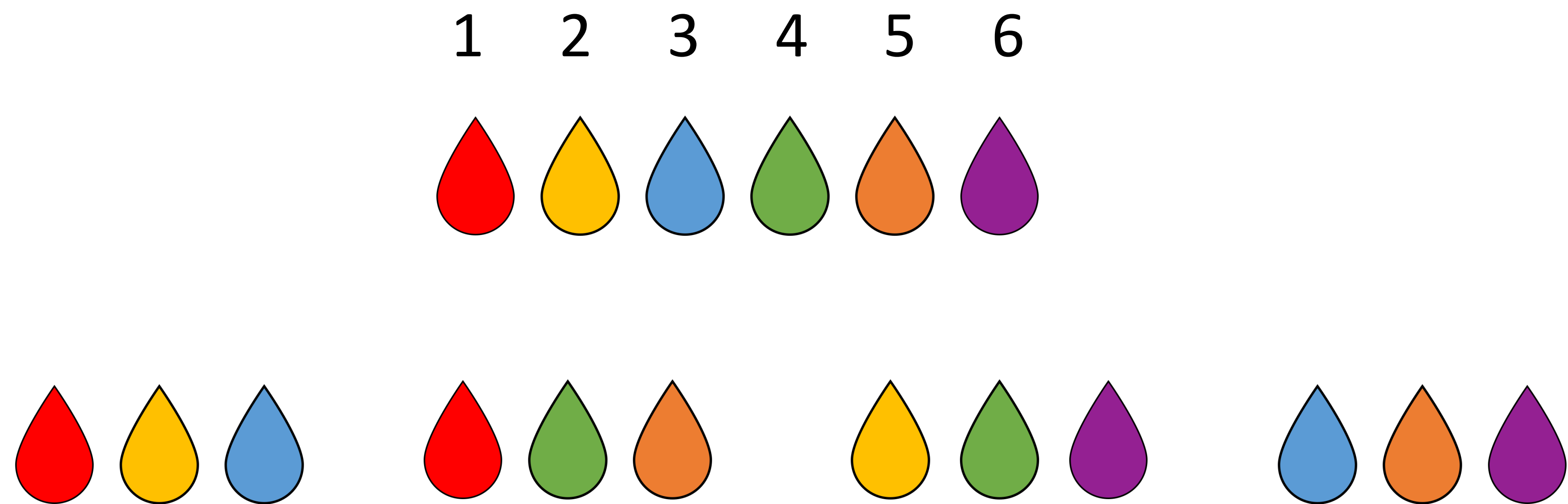
2013



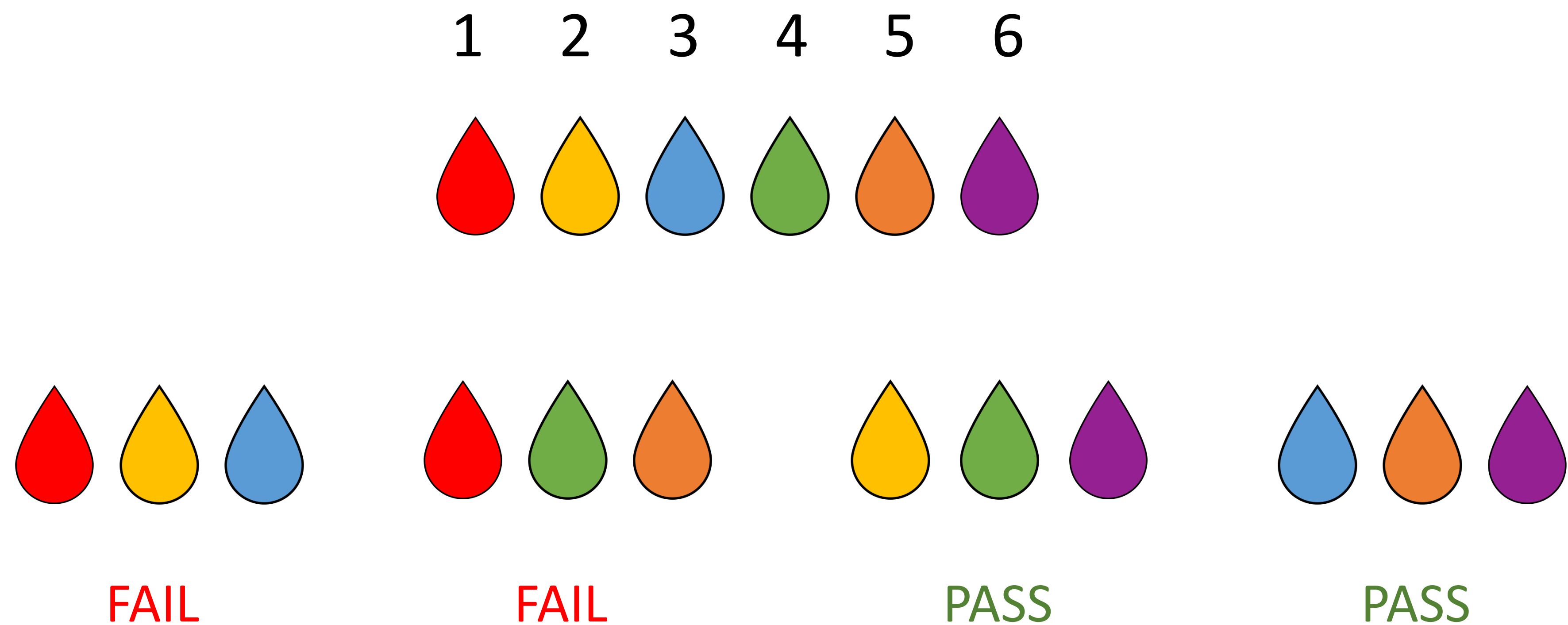
Postdoc

2019

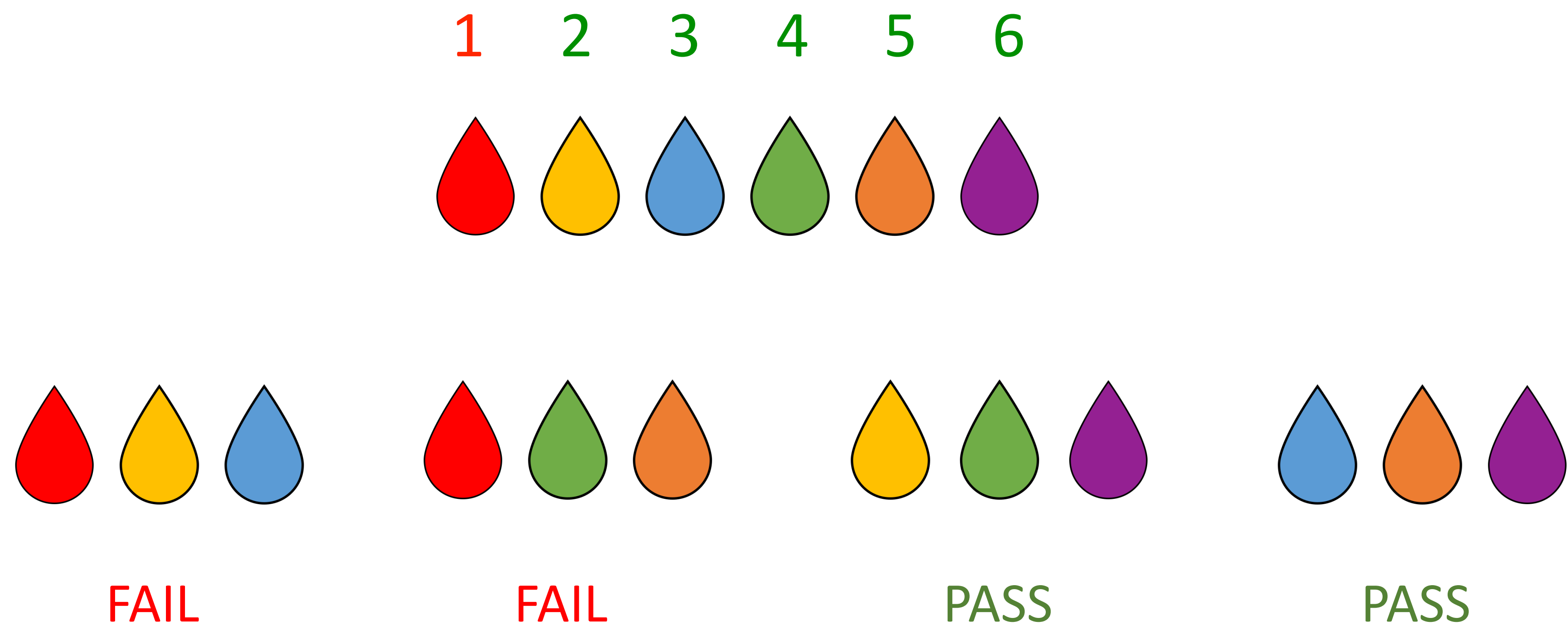
Combinatorial Group Testing



Combinatorial Group Testing



Combinatorial Group Testing



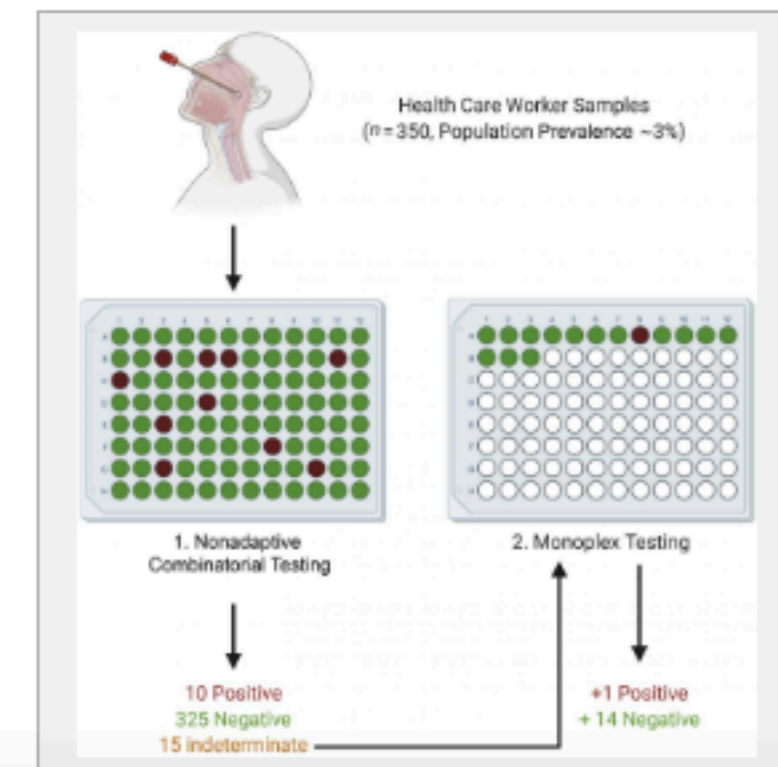
New testing strategy can speed up COVID-19 test results for healthcare workers

In The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics investigators share a new methodology for testing pooled samples that maximizes the proportion of samples resolved after a single round of testing

Peer-Reviewed Publication

ELSEVIER

Philadelphia, April 26, 2021 - Fast turnaround of COVID-19 test results for healthcare workers is critical. Investigators have now developed a COVID-19 testing [strategy](#) that maximizes the proportion of negative results after a single round of testing, allowing prompt notification of results. The method also reduces the need for increasingly limited test reagents, as fewer additional tests are required. Their strategy is described in [The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics](#), published by Elsevier.





A Nonadaptive Combinatorial Group Testing Strategy to Facilitate Health Care Worker Screening during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) Outbreak

John H. McDermott,^{*,†} Duncan Stoddard,[‡] Peter J. Woolf,[§] Jamie M. Ellingford,^{*,†} David Gokhale,^{*,†} Algy Taylor,^{*} Leigh A.M. Demain,^{*} William G. Newman,^{*,†} and Graeme Black^{*,†}

From the Manchester Centre for Genomic Medicine,^{*} St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, United Kingdom; Division of Evolution and Genomic Sciences,[†] School of Biological Sciences, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom; DS Analytics and Machine Learning Ltd.,[‡] London, United Kingdom; and Origami Assays,[§] Ann Arbor, Michigan

METHODS article

Front. Public Health, 17 August 2021
Sec. Infectious Diseases: Epidemiology and Prevention
Volume 9 - 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.583377>

Group Testing for SARS-CoV-2 Allows for Up to 10-Fold Efficiency Increase Across Realistic Scenarios and Testing Strategies

Updated

Claudio M. Verdun^{1,2†} Tim Fuchs^{1†} Pavol Harar^{3,4†}
 Dennis Elbrächter^{5†} David S. Fischer⁶ Julius Berner^{5†}
 Philipp Grohs^{3,5,7} Fabian J. Theis^{1,6} Felix Krahmer^{1,8*}



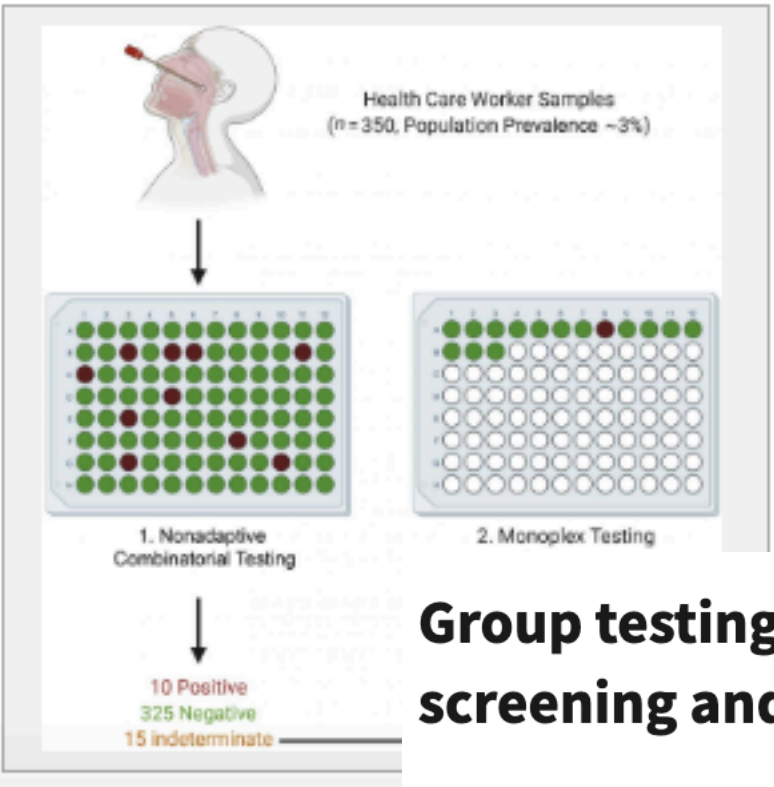
Testing strategy can speed up COVID-19 test results for health care workers

Molecular Diagnostics investigators share a method that maximizes the proportion of samples re-



Publication

On May 26, 2021 - Fast COVID-19 test results for health care workers is critical. Investigators developed a COVID-19 testing strategy that maximizes the proportion of negative results after a single round of testing, allowing prompt notification of results. The method also reduces the need for increasingly limited test reagents, as additional tests are required. Their work is described in *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*, published by Elsevier.



Group testing performance evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 massive scale screening and testing

[Ozkan Ufuk Nalbantoglu](#)^{1,2,✉}

► [Author information](#) ► [Article notes](#) ► [Copyright and License information](#)

PMCID: PMC7330001 PMID: [32615934](#)

[nature](#) > [scientific reports](#) > [articles](#) > [article](#)

Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 26 July 2023

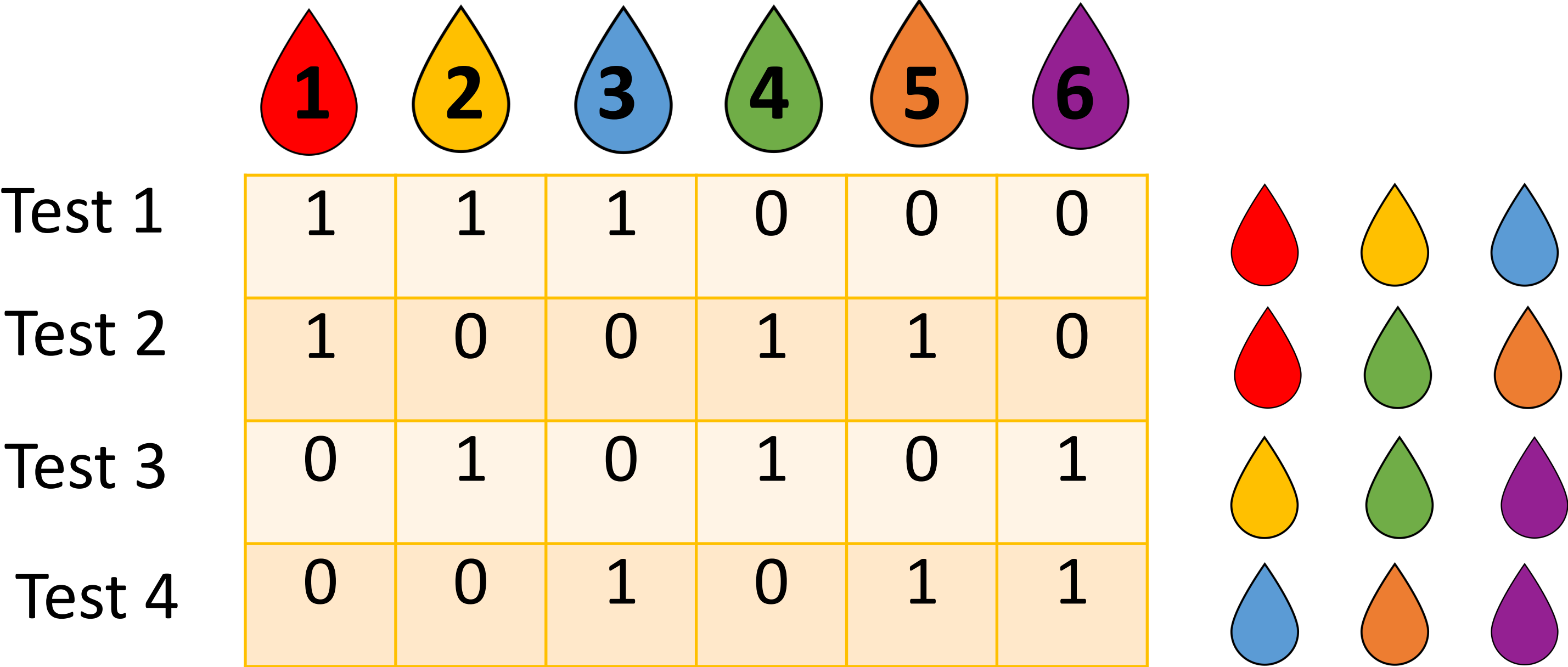
Adaptive group testing strategy for infectious diseases using social contact graph partitions

[Jingyi Zhang](#) & [Lenwood S. Heath](#)

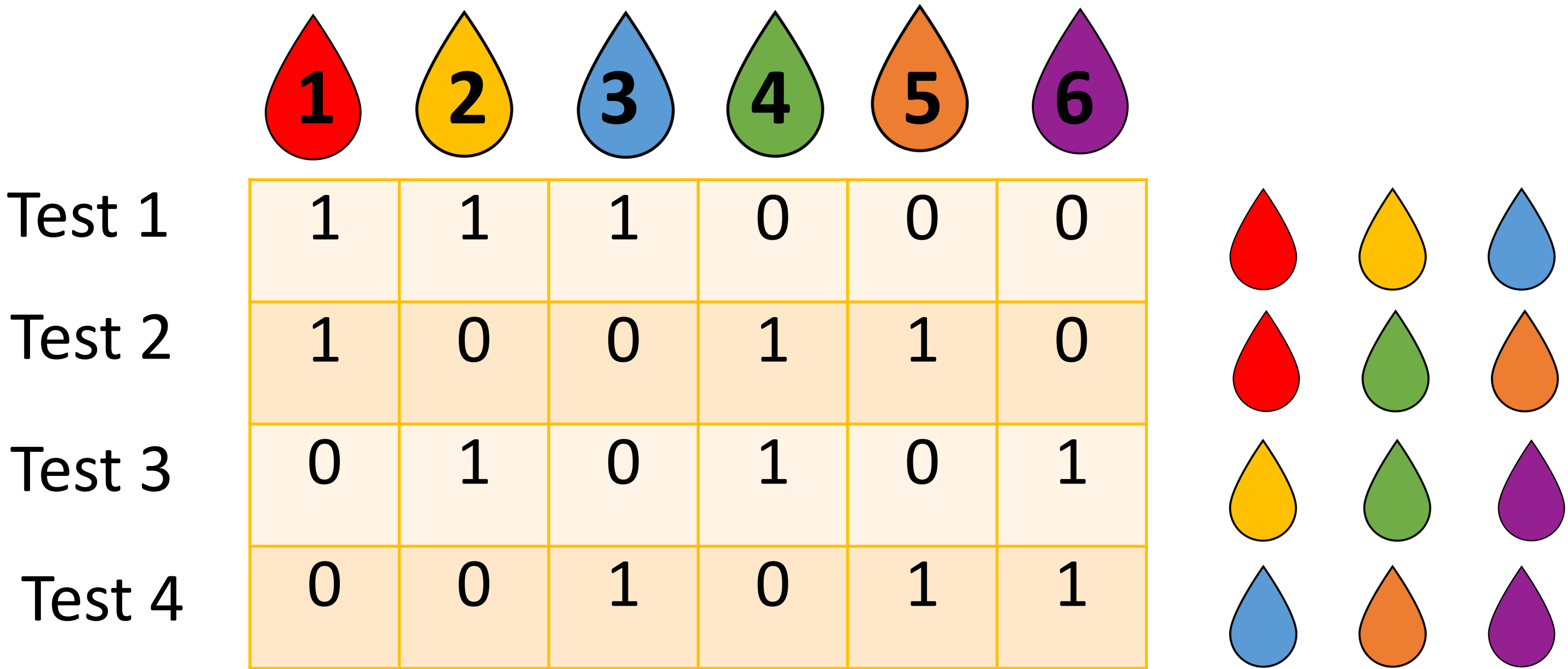
Scientific Reports **13**, Article number: 12102 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

1581 Accesses | **2** Citations | [Metrics](#)

Cover-Free Families








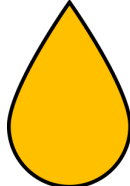








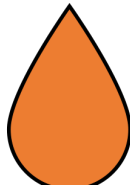



Cover-Free Families



$d - \text{CFF}(t, n)$



















Cover-Free Families

							
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0	  
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0	  
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1	  
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1	  

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other



















Cover-Free Families

										
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0				FAIL
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0				FAIL
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1				PASS
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1				PASS

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other



















Cover-Free Families

										
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0				FAIL
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0				FAIL
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1				PASS
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1				PASS

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other



















Cover-Free Families

										
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0				FAIL
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0				FAIL
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1				PASS
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1				PASS

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other



















Cover-Free Families

										
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0				FAIL
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0				FAIL
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1				PASS
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1				PASS

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other



















Cover-Free Families

										
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0				FAIL
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0				FAIL
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1				PASS
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1				PASS

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other



















Cover-Free Families

										
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0				FAIL
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0				FAIL
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1				PASS
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1				PASS

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other



















Cover-Free Families

										
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0				FAIL
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0				PASS
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1				FAIL
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1				PASS

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other

Cover-Free Families

										
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0				FAIL
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0				PASS
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1				PASS
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1				FAIL

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other

Cover-Free Families

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other

Cover-Free Families

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other

Cover-Free Families

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other

Cover-Free Families

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

No column is **covered** by any other

Cover-Free Families

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Test 1	1	1	1	0	0	0	FAIL
Test 2	1	0	0	1	1	0	FAIL
Test 3	0	1	0	1	0	1	FAIL
Test 4	0	0	1	0	1	1	FAIL

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

This is not a 2-CFF!

Cover-Free Families

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test 1	1			1			1			1		
Test 2	1				1			1			1	
Test 3	1					1			1			1
Test 4		1		1					1		1	
Test 5		1			1		1					1
Test 6		1				1		1		1		
Test 7			1	1				1				1
Test 8			1		1				1	1		
Test 9			1			1	1				1	

2 - CFF(9, 12)

No column is **covered**
by the union of
any **two** others

Cover-Free Families

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test 1	1			1			1			1		
Test 2	1				1			1			1	
Test 3	1					1			1			1
Test 4		1		1					1		1	
Test 5		1			1		1					1
Test 6		1				1		1		1		
Test 7			1	1				1				1
Test 8			1		1				1	1		
Test 9			1			1	1				1	

2 - CFF(9, 12)

No column is covered
by the union of
any **two** others

Cover-Free Families

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test 1	1			1			1			1		
Test 2	1				1			1			1	
Test 3	1					1			1			1
Test 4		1		1					1		1	
Test 5		1			1		1					1
Test 6		1				1		1		1		
Test 7			1	1				1				1
Test 8			1		1				1	1		
Test 9			1			1	1				1	

2 - CFF(9, 12)

No column is covered
by the union of
any **two** others

Cover-Free Families

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test 1	1			1			1			1		
Test 2	1				1			1			1	
Test 3	1					1			1			1
Test 4		1		1					1		1	
Test 5		1			1		1					1
Test 6		1				1		1		1		
Test 7			1	1				1				1
Test 8			1		1				1	1		
Test 9			1			1	1				1	

2 - CFF(9, 12)

No column is **covered**
by the union of
any **two** others

Cover-Free Families

		B_1	B_2	B_3	B_4	B_5	B_6
X	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
	2	1	0	0	1	1	0
	3	0	1	0	1	0	1
	4	0	0	1	0	1	1

Definition: Let d be a positive integer. A d -cover-free family, denoted $d\text{-}CFF(t, n)$, is a set system $\mathcal{F} = (X, \mathcal{B})$ with $|X| = t$ and $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n\}$ such that for any $d + 1$ subsets $B_{i_0}, B_{i_1}, \dots, B_{i_d} \in \mathcal{B}$, we have:

$$\left| B_{i_0} \setminus \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^d B_{i_j} \right) \right| \geq 1.$$

No element is **covered** by the union of any d others.

* Equivalent to disjunct matrices and superimposed codes.

Cover-Free Families

$X = \{1,2,\dots,9\}$

$\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, \dots, B_{12}\}$

	B_1	B_2	B_3	B_4	B_5	B_6	B_7	B_8	B_9	B_{10}	B_{11}	B_{12}
1	1			1			1			1		
2	1				1			1			1	
3	1					1			1			1
4		1		1					1		1	
5		1			1		1					1
6		1				1		1		1		
7			1	1				1				1
8			1		1				1	1		
9			1			1	1				1	

$B_1 \cup B_2 = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$

$B_3 - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{7,8,9\}$

$B_4 - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{7\}$

$B_5 - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{8\}$

$B_6 - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{9\}$

$B_7 - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{9\}$

$B_8 - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{7\}$

$B_9 - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{8\}$

$B_{10} - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{8\}$

$B_{11} - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{9\}$

$B_{12} - (B_1 \cup B_2) = \{7\}$

Constructing CFFs

Bounds

	n					
t	1	1	1	0	0	0
	1	0	0	1	1	0
	0	1	0	1	0	1
	0	0	1	0	1	1

- **Minimize** t for given n and d
 - $t(d, n) = \min\{t : \exists d\text{-CFF}(t, n)\}$
- When $d = 1$, Sperner's construction gives $t(1, n) \sim \log_2 n$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$;
- For $d \geq 2$, the best known **lower bound** on t for $d\text{-CFF}(t, n)$ is:

$$t(d, n) \geq c \frac{d^2}{\log d} \log n$$

Sperner construction

$$d = 1$$

- For a given n , choose the smallest t such that

$$n \leq \binom{t}{\lfloor t/2 \rfloor}$$

- Consider $X = \{1, 2, \dots, t\}$
- $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n\}$ is the list of all subsets of X with cardinality $\lfloor t/2 \rfloor$

Sperner construction

$$d = 1$$

For $n = 6$, $t = 4$:

$$6 = \binom{4}{2}$$

For $n = 100$, $t = 9$:

$$100 \leq \binom{9}{4}$$

For $n = 1500$, $t = 13$:

$$1500 \leq \binom{13}{6}$$

$$X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

$$B_1 = \{1, 2\}$$

$$B_2 = \{1, 3\}$$

$$B_3 = \{1, 4\}$$

$$B_4 = \{2, 3\}$$

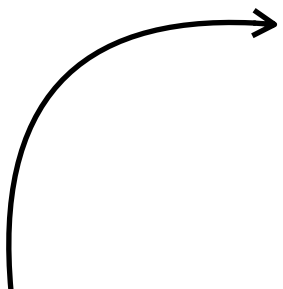
$$B_5 = \{2, 4\}$$

$$B_6 = \{3, 4\}$$

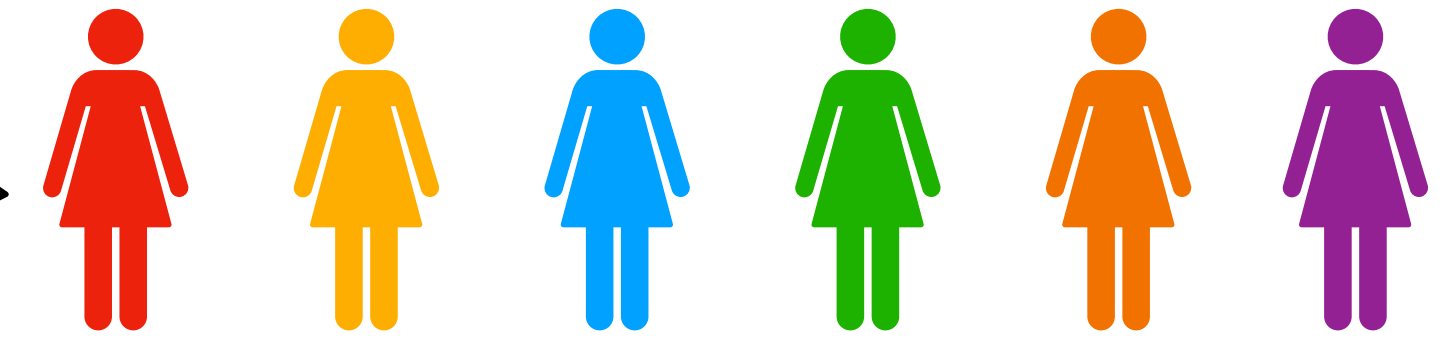
	B_1	B_2	B_3	B_4	B_5	B_6
1	1	1	1	0	0	0
2	1	0	0	1	1	0
3	0	1	0	1	0	1
4	0	0	1	0	1	1

$1 - \text{CFF}(4, 6)$

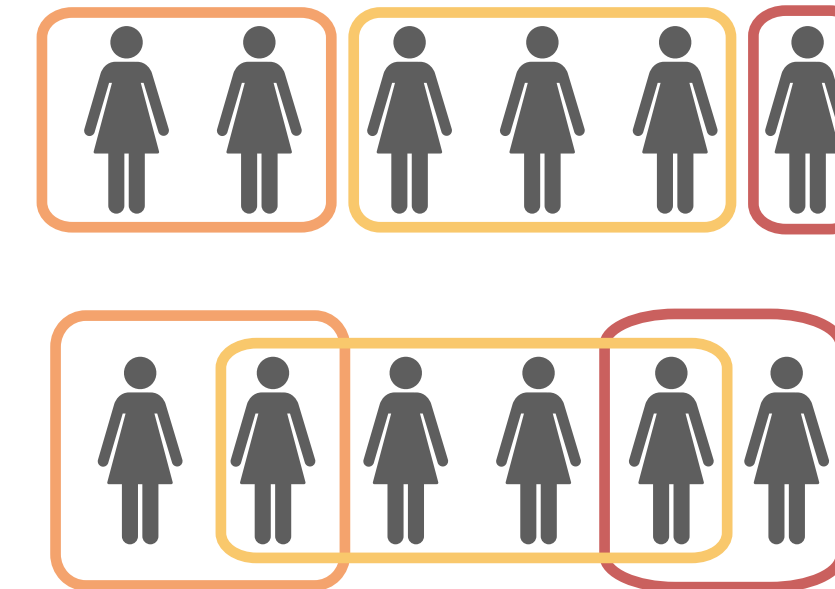
In this talk



1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1

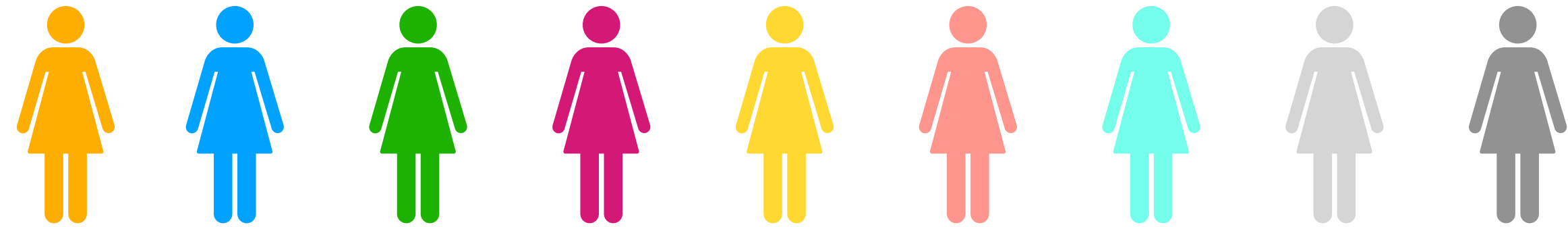


- The problem of **combinatorial group testing** in pandemic screening
- Study of *CFFs on hypergraphs*
 - Non-overlapping edges
 - Overlapping edges
 - Some other cases
- Applications in cryptography



1. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Structure-Aware Combinatorial Group Testing: A New Method for Pandemic Screening. In: IWOCA 2022. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 13270. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06678-8>

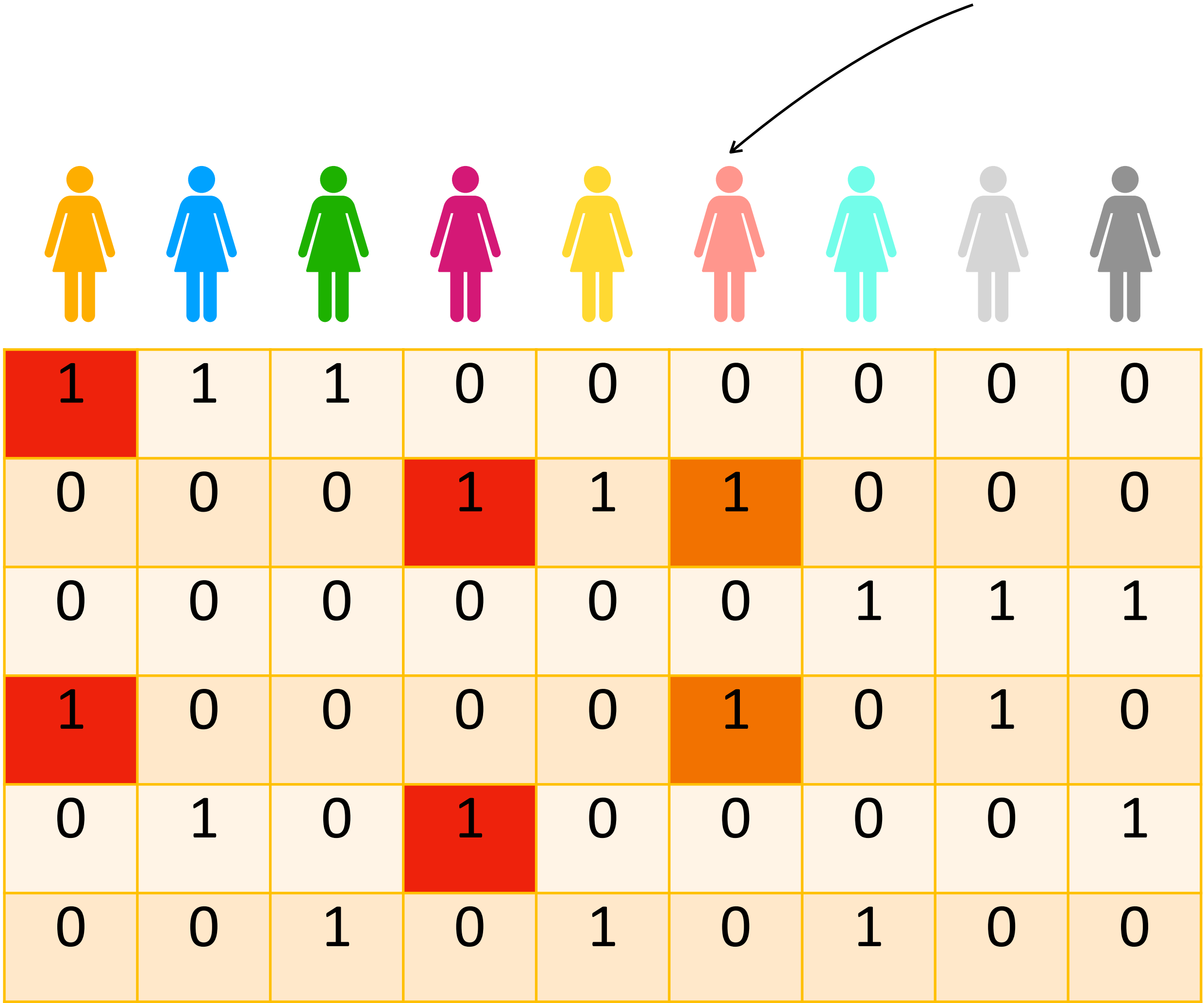
2. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Combinatorial group testing and cover-free families on hypergraphs. 2025[Unpublished manuscript].



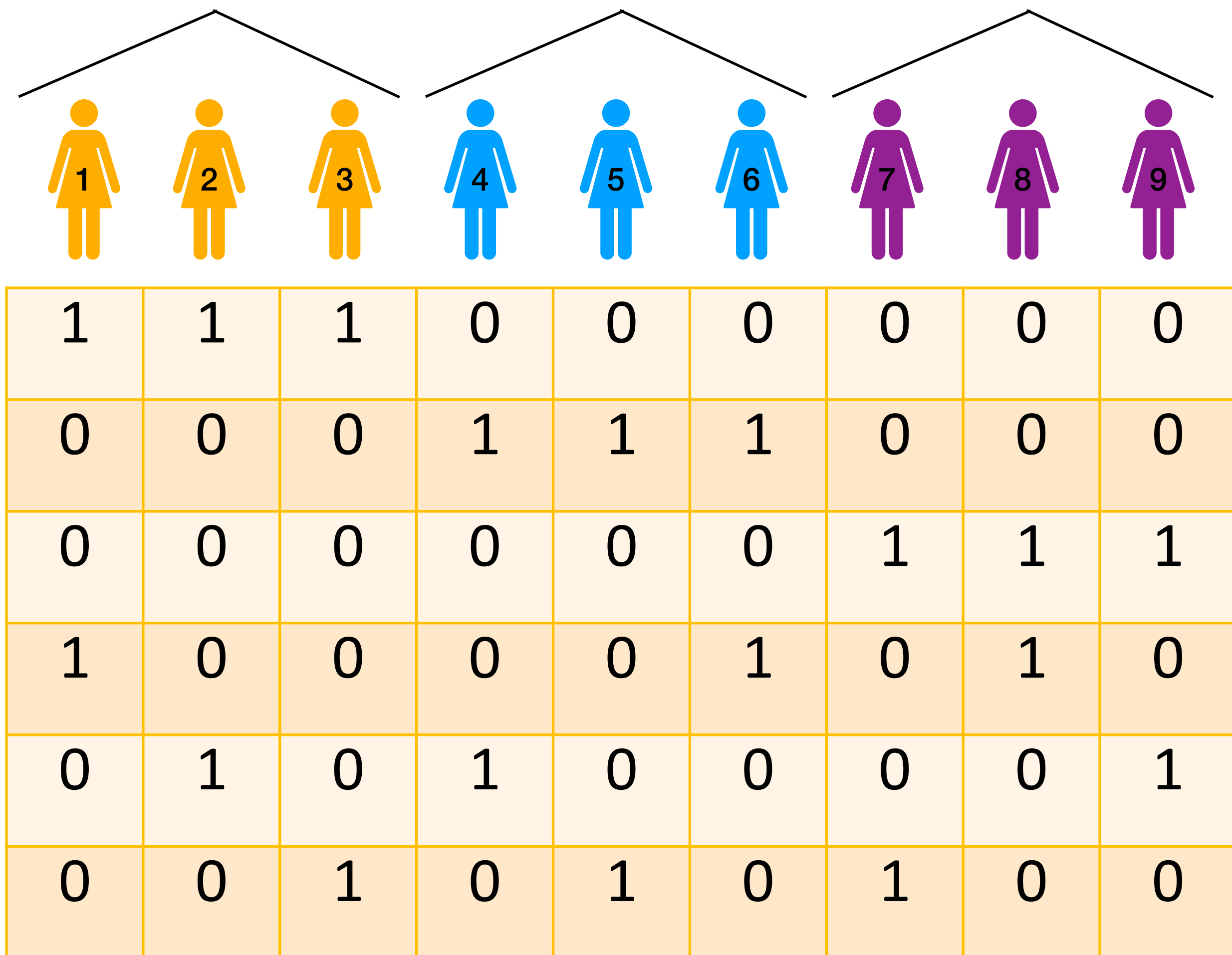
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0

$1 - \text{CFF}(6, 9)$

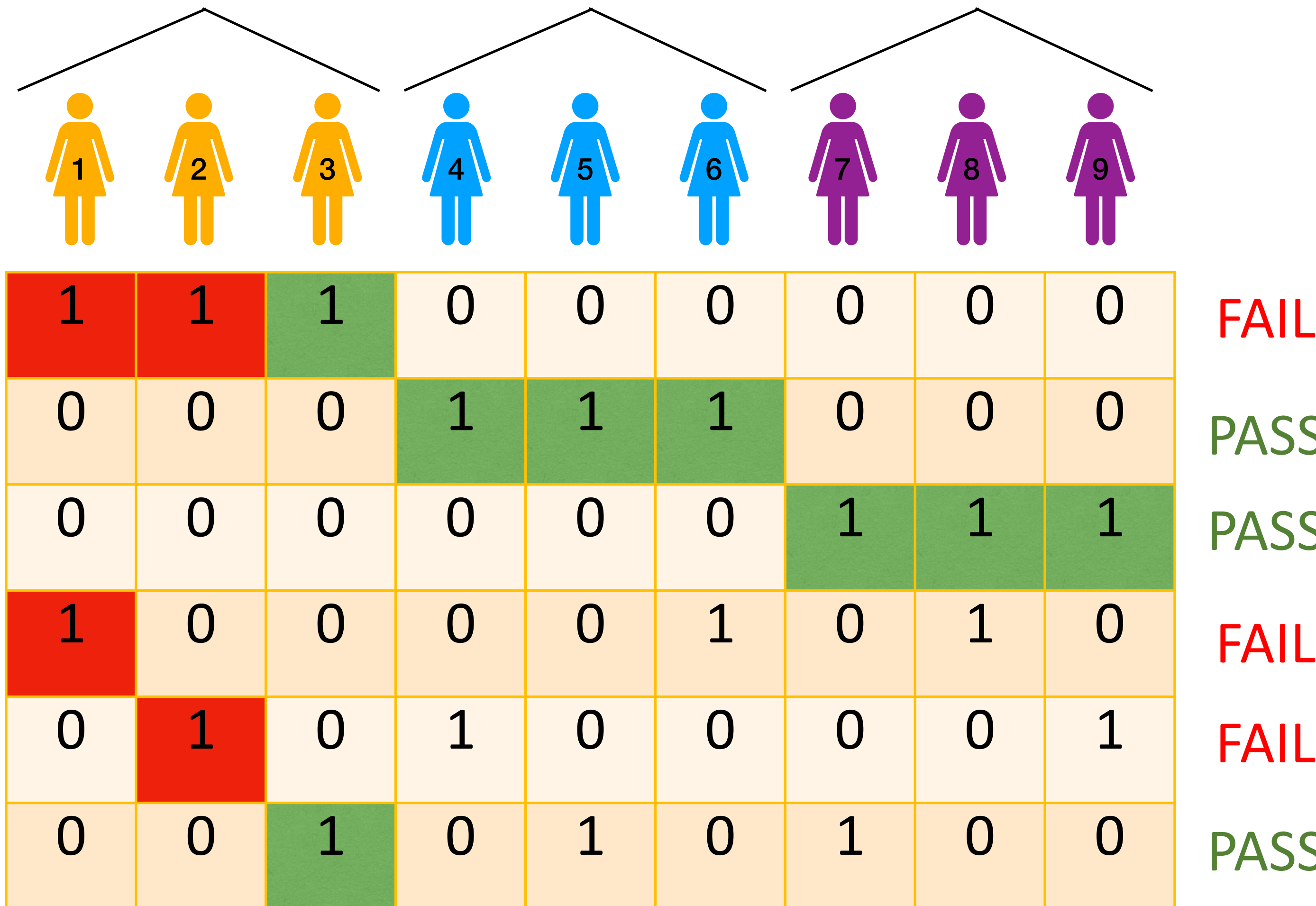
Two infected people can cover a healthy one



$1 - \text{CFF}(6, 9)$



$1 - \text{CFF}(6, 9)$

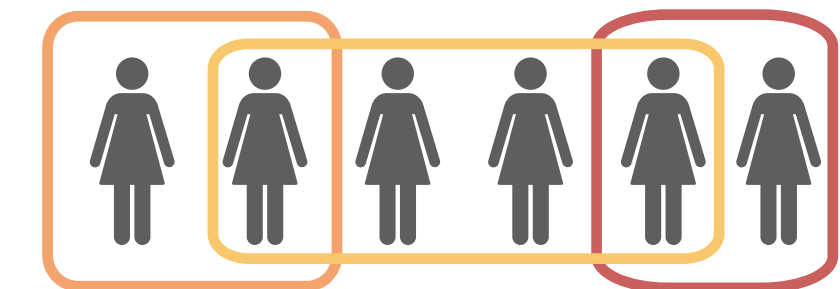
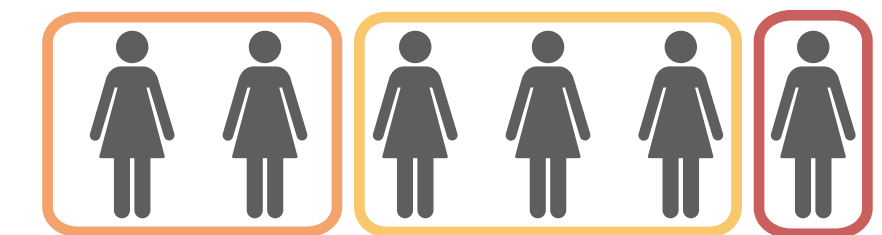


$$1 - \text{CFF}(6, 9)$$

CFFs on hypergraphs

Model the problem using **hypergraphs** $\mathcal{H} = (V, \mathcal{E})$

- Vertices \rightarrow items/columns of the CFF
- Edges \rightarrow potential clusters of items / communities

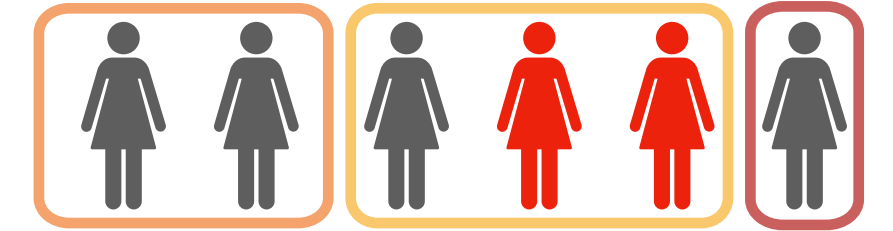


Propose constructions that take \mathcal{H} into consideration

- $(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF(t, n)$ (vertex-identifying CFF)
- $(\mathcal{E}, r) - ECFF(t, n)$ (edge-identifying CFF)

Vertex-identifying CFFs

$(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF(t, n)$



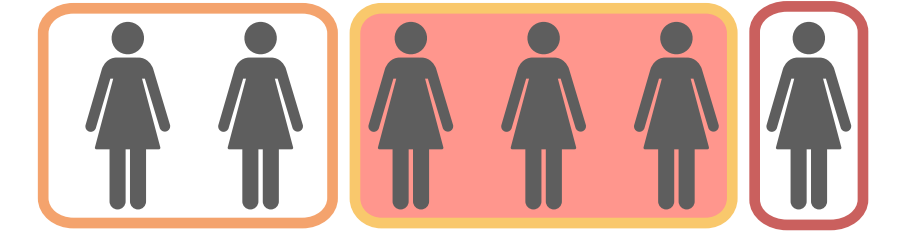
Definition: Let $n, t > 0$ and $r \geq 0$ be integers. Let $\mathcal{H} = ([1, n], \mathcal{E})$ be a hypergraph with n vertices and m edges. A set system $\mathcal{F} = ([1, t], \mathcal{B})$, $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, \dots, B_n\}$ is a $(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF(t, n)$ if, for any set of r edges $\{e_1, \dots, e_r\} \subseteq \mathcal{E}$, and for any $I \subseteq \bigcup_{j=1}^r e_j$ and any $i_0 \in [1, n] \setminus I$, we have

$$\left| B_{i_0} \setminus \left(\bigcup_{i \in I} B_i \right) \right| \geq 1.$$

In other words: we can identify all infected vertices, as long as there are at most r infected edges that jointly contain them

Edge-identifying CFFs

$(\mathcal{E}, r) - ECFF(t, n)$



Definition: Let $r, n, t, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{F}$ be as in the previous definition. The set systems is an $(\mathcal{E}, r) - ECFF(t, n)$ if for any set of ℓ edges $\{e_1, \dots, e_\ell\} \subseteq \mathcal{E}$, $\ell \leq r$, and any $i_0 \notin E = \cup_{j=1}^{\ell} e_j$, we have

$$\left| B_{i_0} \setminus \left(\bigcup_{i \in E} B_i \right) \right| \geq 1.$$

In other words: we can identify all infected edges, as long as there are at most r of them

A bit more detail...

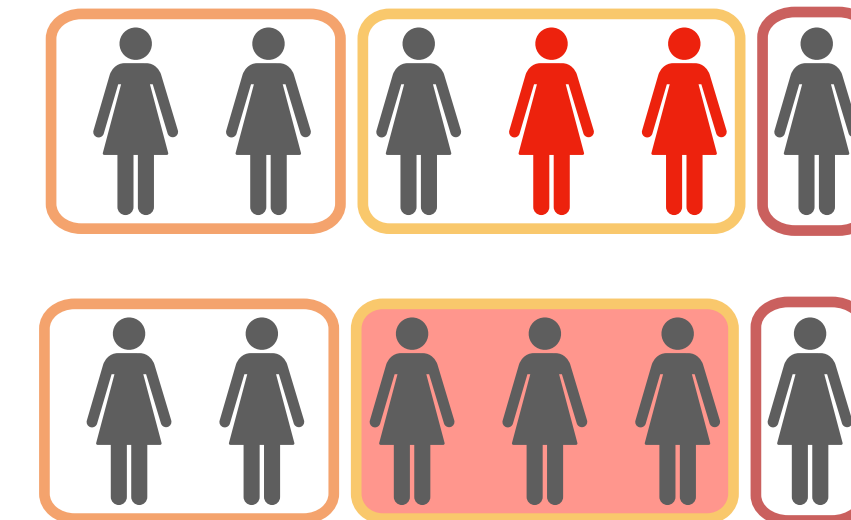
- Overlapping and non-overlapping edges:



- Minimize the number of rows t :

$$t(r, \mathcal{E}) = \min\{t : \exists (\mathcal{E}, r)\text{-CFF}(t, n)\}$$

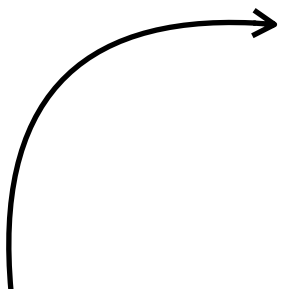
$$t_E(r, \mathcal{E}) = \min\{t : \exists (\mathcal{E}, r)\text{-ECFF}(t, n)\}$$



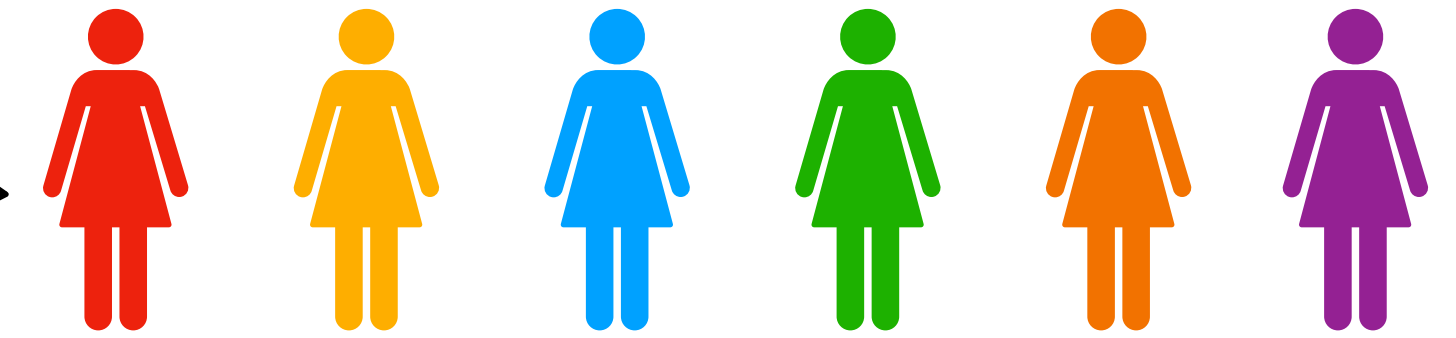
Related Work

- Several works on CGT for COVID-19 testing
- Some solutions modeled as hypergraphs
 - Community-aware group testing (Nikolopoulos et al., 2021)
 - Connected and overlapping communities
 - Generalized group testing (Gonen et al., 2022 , Vorobyev, 2022, De Bonis, 2024)
 - Edges are all potentially contaminated sets
- **Our work:** focus on the construction of CFFs on hypergraphs:
 - *Variable* CFFs in Cryptography (Idalino, 2019)
 - Structure-Aware Combinatorial Group Testing (Idalino, Moura, 2022)
 - Combinatorial group testing and cover-free families on hypergraphs (Idalino, Moura, 2025?)

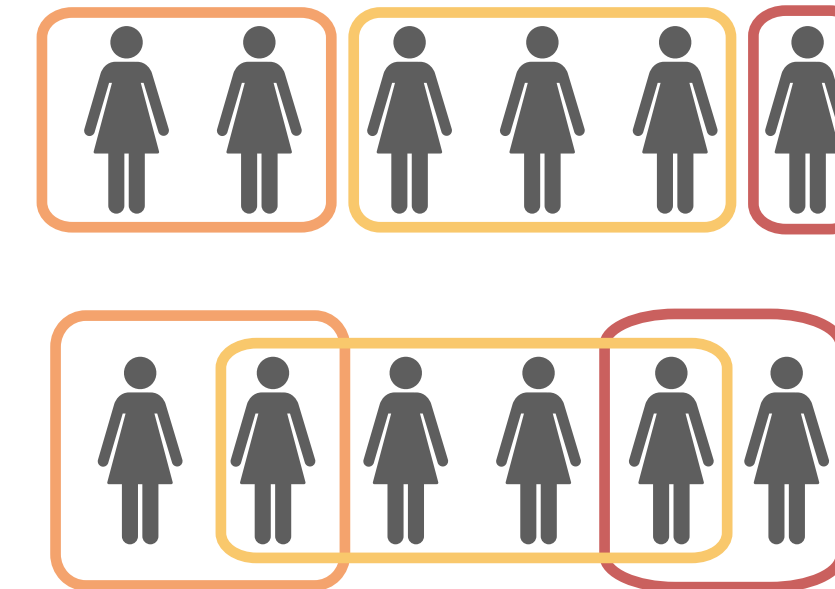
In this talk



1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1



- The problem of **combinatorial group testing** in pandemic screening
- Study of *CFFs on hypergraphs*
 - Non-overlapping edges
 - Overlapping edges
 - Some other cases
- Applications in cryptography

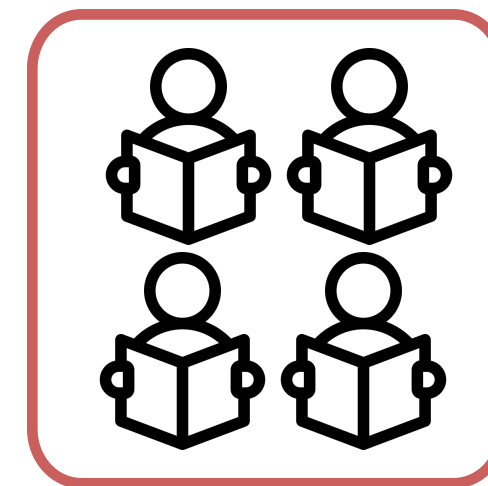
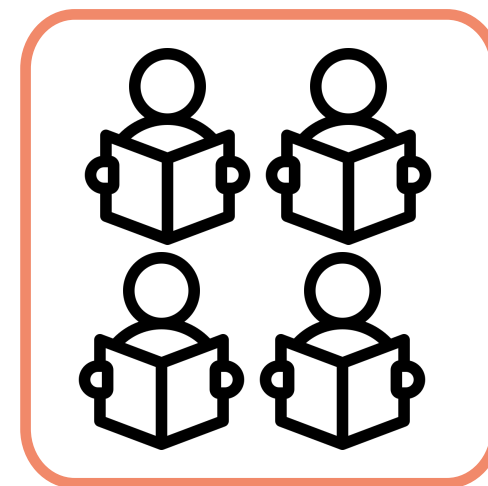
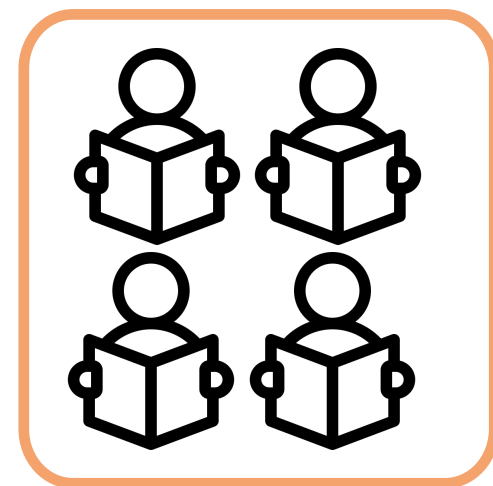
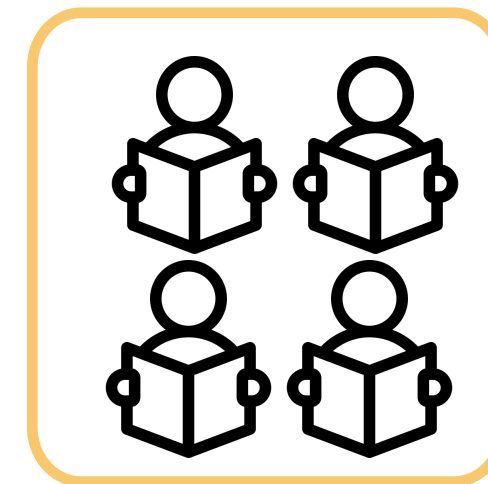
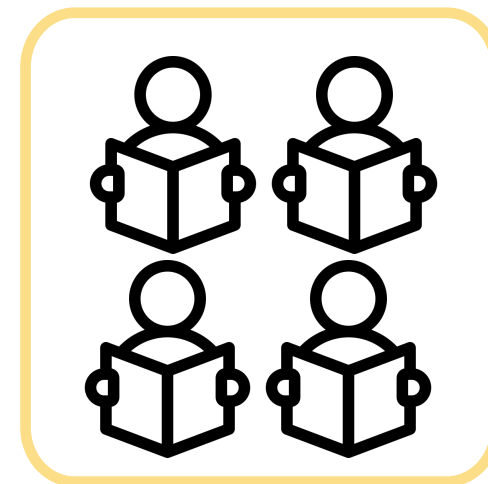
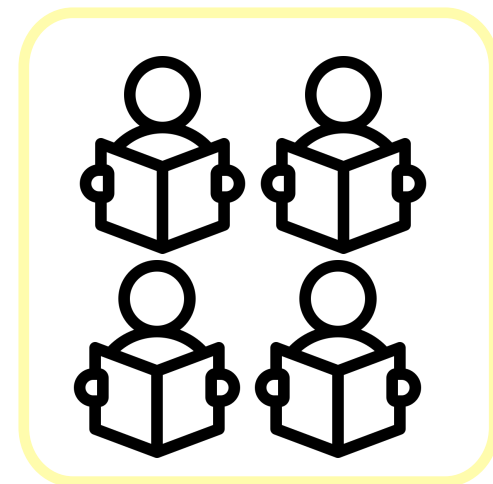


1. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Structure-Aware Combinatorial Group Testing: A New Method for Pandemic Screening. In: IWOCA 2022. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 13270. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06678-8>

2. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Combinatorial group testing and cover-free families on hypergraphs. 2025 [Unpublished manuscript].

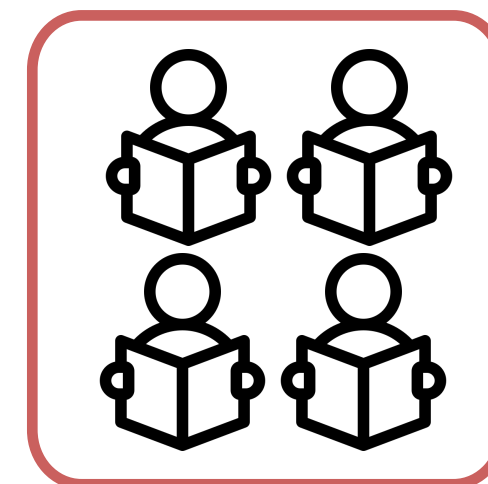
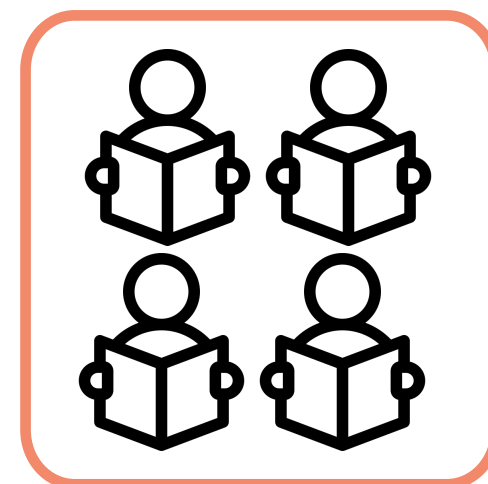
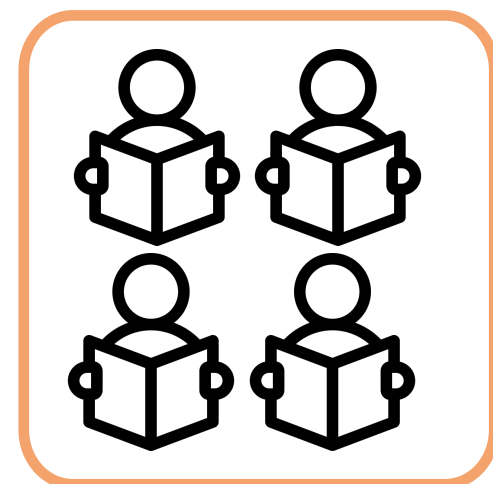
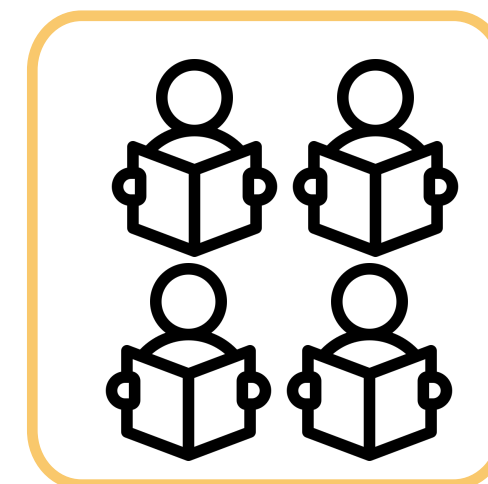
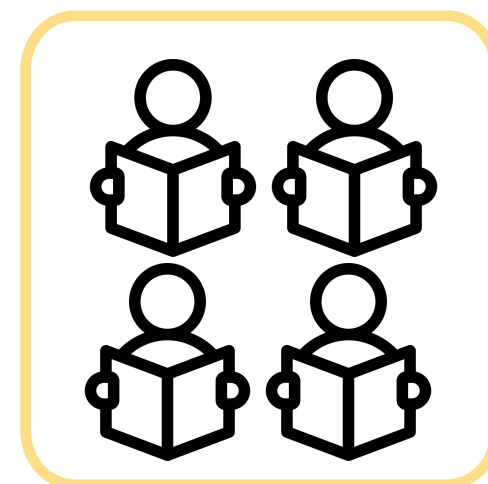
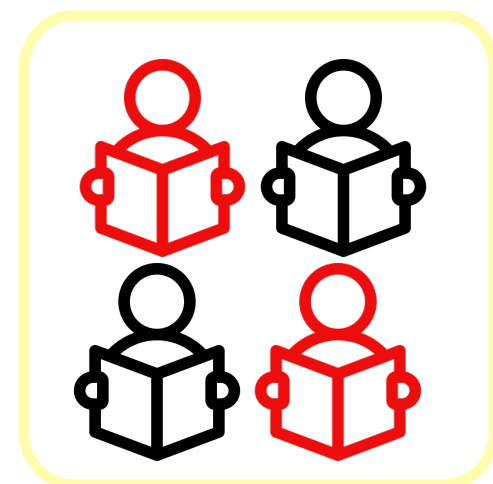
The school problem

Non-overlapping edges



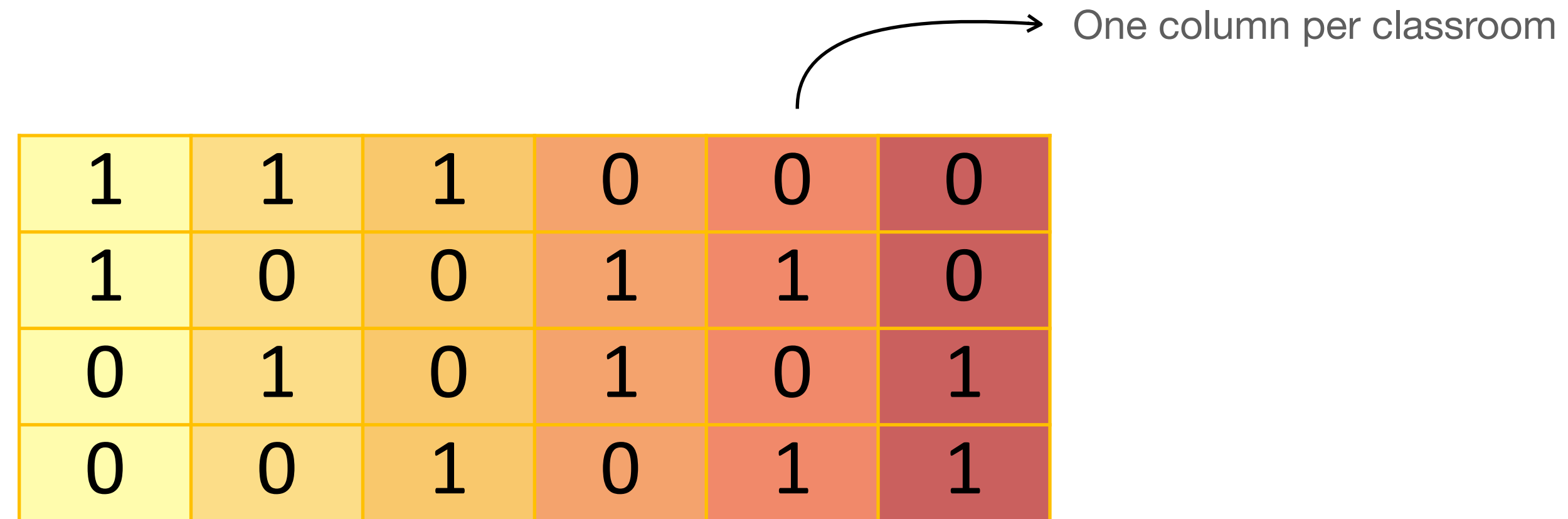
The school problem

Non-overlapping edges, $r = 1$



The school problem

Non-overlapping edges, $r = 1$



One column per classroom

1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1

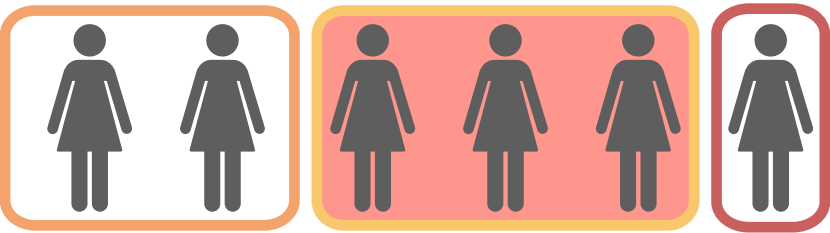
The school problem






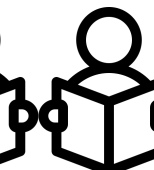
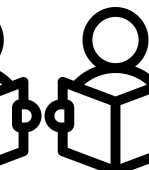
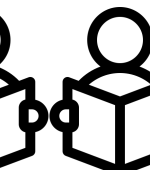
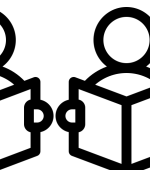
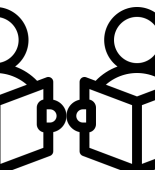
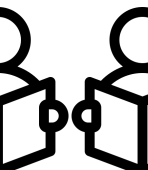
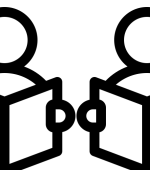
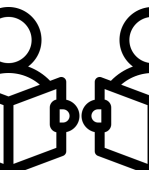
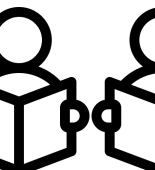
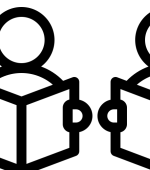
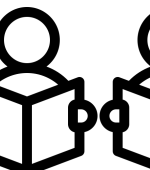
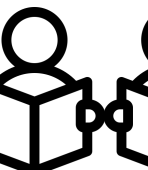
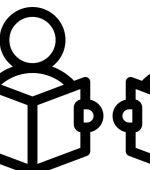
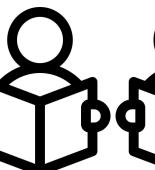
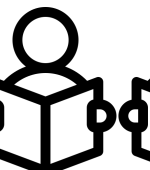




Non-overlapping edges, $r = 1$

Classroom 1				Classroom 2				Classroom 3				Classroom 4				Classroom 5				Classroom 6			
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

The school problem

Non-overlapping edges, $r = 1$





1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	FAIL
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	FAIL
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	PASS
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	PASS

$(\mathcal{E}, 1) - ECFF(4, 24)$
Edge-identifying CFF

$$(\mathcal{E}, 1) - ECFF(t, n)$$

- Let $\mathcal{H} = ([1, n], \mathcal{E})$ be a hypergraph with m disjoint edges of cardinality k

- Construct $(\mathcal{E}, 1) - ECF\mathcal{F}(t, n)$ as follows:

- **Step 1:** pick a good $1 - CFF(t, m)$

- **Step 2:** repeat each column k times

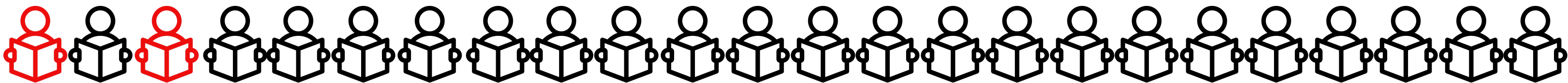
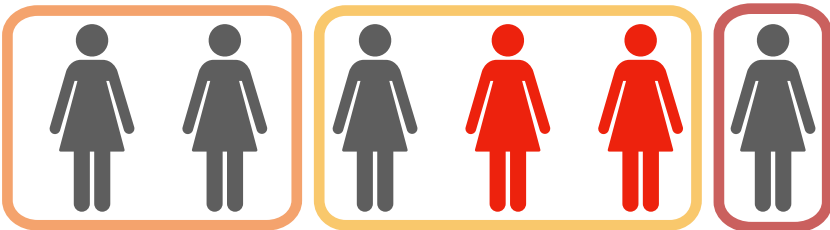
- We have $t_E(1, \mathcal{E}) = t(1, m) = \Theta(\log m)$

	e_1	e_2	e_3	e_4	e_5	e_6
e_1	1	1	1	0	0	0
e_2	1	0	0	1	1	0
e_3	0	1	0	1	0	1
e_4	0	0	1	0	1	1

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1

The school problem

Non-overlapping edges, $r = 1$



1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

FAIL

FAIL

PASS

PASS

FAIL

PASS

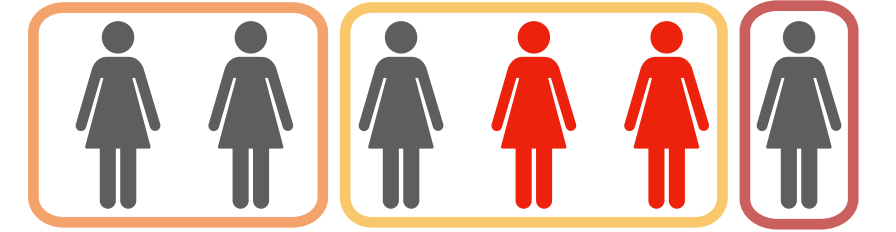
FAIL

PASS

$(\mathcal{E}, 1) - CFF(8, 24)$

Vertex-identifying CFF

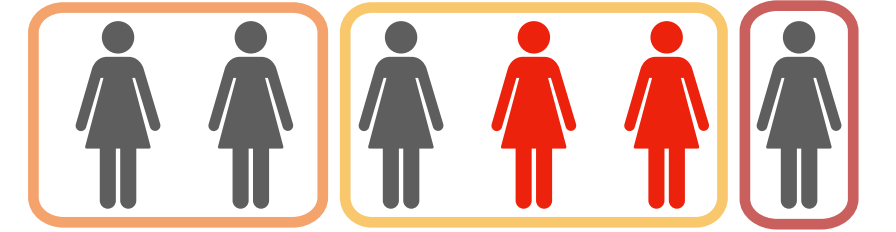
Generalizing the idea..



$$(\mathcal{E}, 1) - CFF(t, n)$$

- Let $\mathcal{H} = ([1, n], \mathcal{E})$ be a hypergraph with m disjoint edges of cardinality k
- Construct $(\mathcal{E}, 1) - CFF(t, n)$ as follows:
 - **Step 1:** pick a $1 - CFF(t, m)$
 - **Step 2:** repeat each column k times
 - **Step 3:** append m identity matrices of dimension k
- We have $t(1, \mathcal{E}) \leq t(1, m) + k = \Theta(\log m + k)$

Wait.. that is actually good!

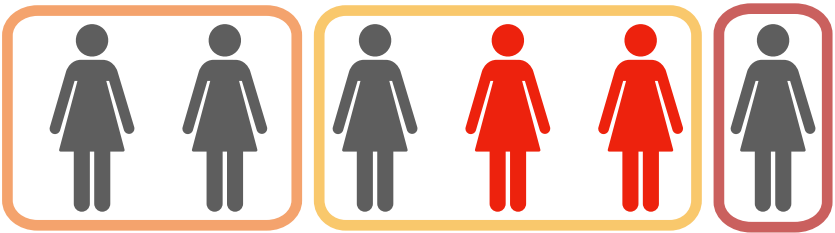


$(\mathcal{E}, 1) - CFF(t, n)$

- Let $\mathcal{H} = ([1, n], \mathcal{E})$ be a hypergraph with m disjoint edges of cardinality k
- We constructed an $(\mathcal{E}, 1) - CFF(t, n)$ with only $\Theta(\log m + k)$ tests
 - to test $n = mk$ vertices
 - and identify up to k infected ones, as long as they are all inside $r = 1$ edge
- We would need a traditional k -CFF(t, n) to identify k infections
 - $t(d, n) \geq c \frac{k^2}{\log k} \log n$

Wait.. that is actually good!

Comparison with traditional $k - CFF(t, n)$



Total number of students Number of classrooms Classroom size

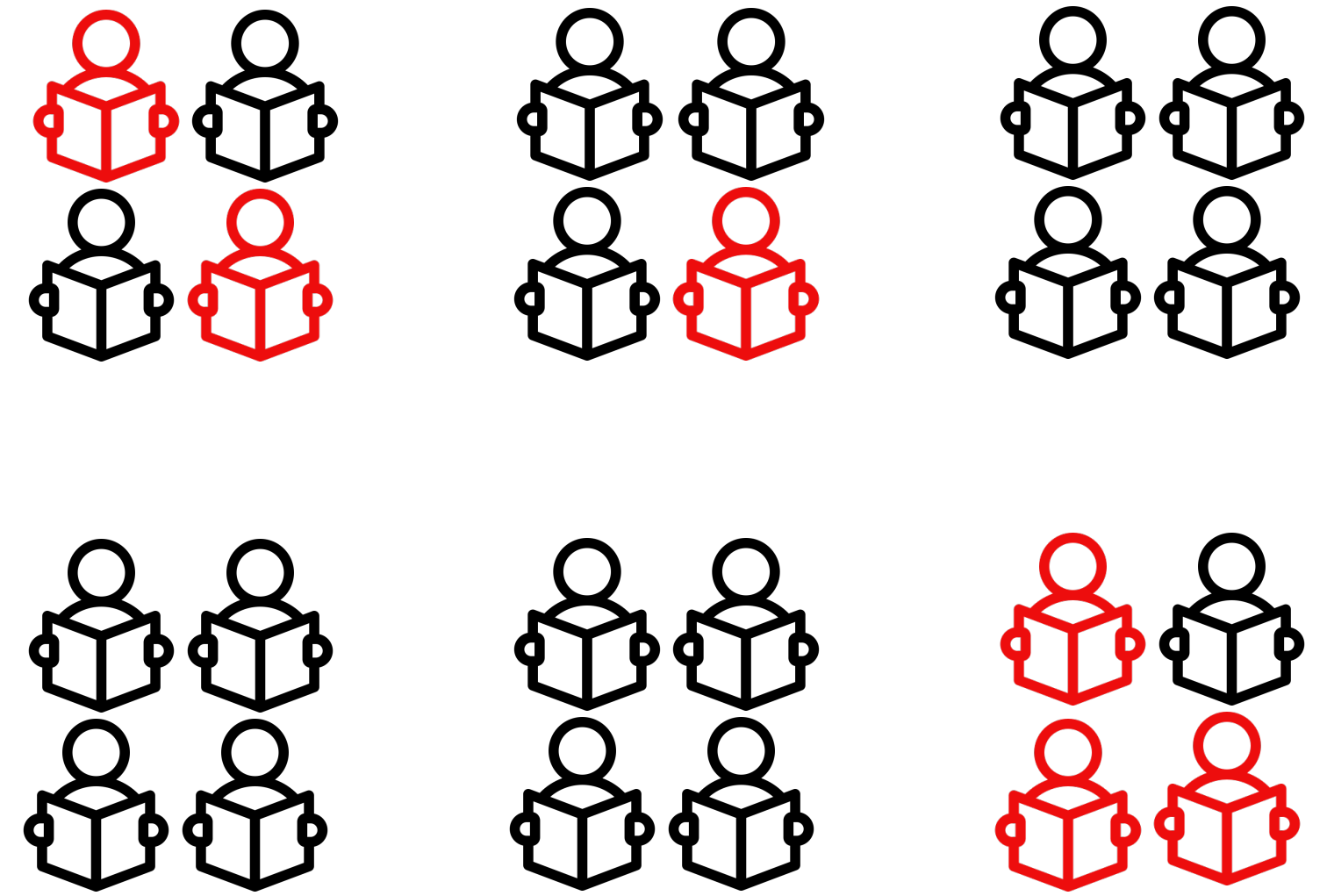
n	m	k	$(\mathcal{E},1) - CFF(t,n)$	$k - CFF(t,n)$
100	10	10	15	66
200	10	20	25	180
300	10	30	35	231
100	20	5	11	21
200	20	10	16	66
400	20	20	26	231

Lower bound

The school problem

What if more classrooms are infected?

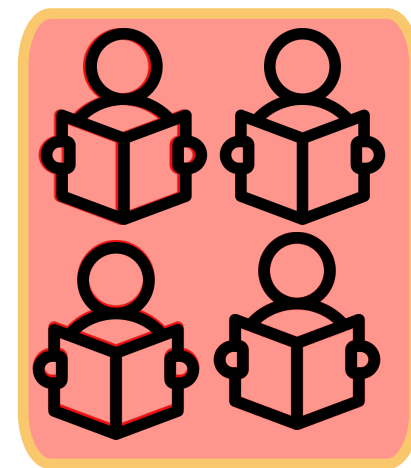
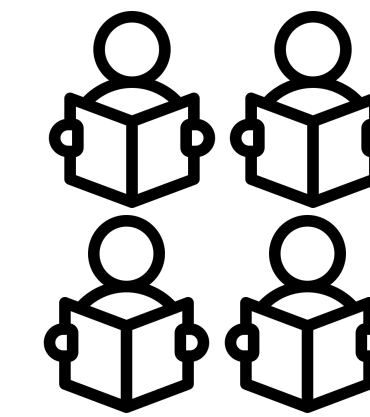
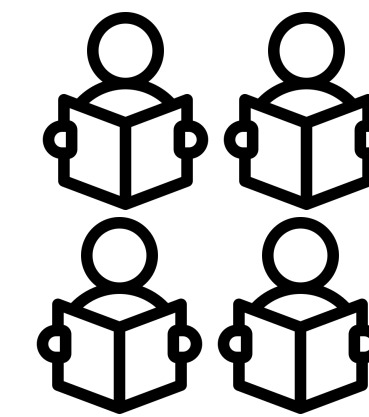
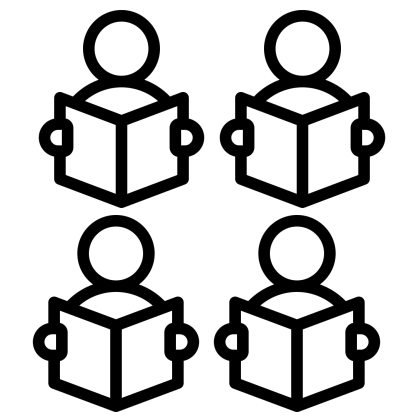
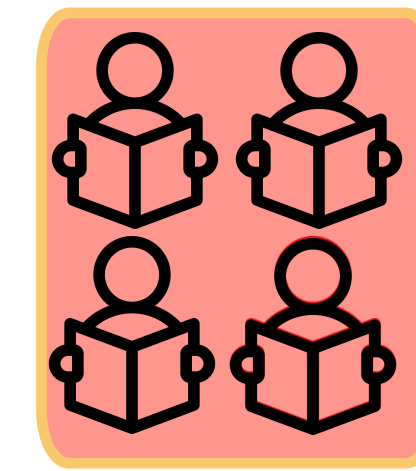
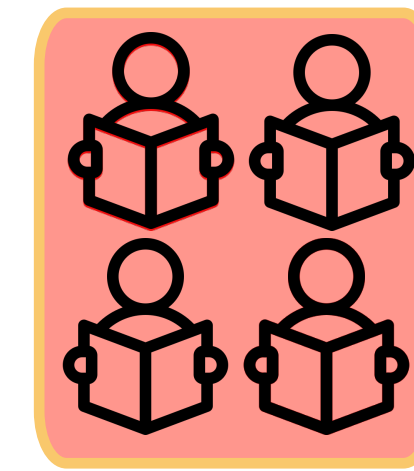
- This is the case $r \geq 2$



The school problem

What if more classrooms are infected?

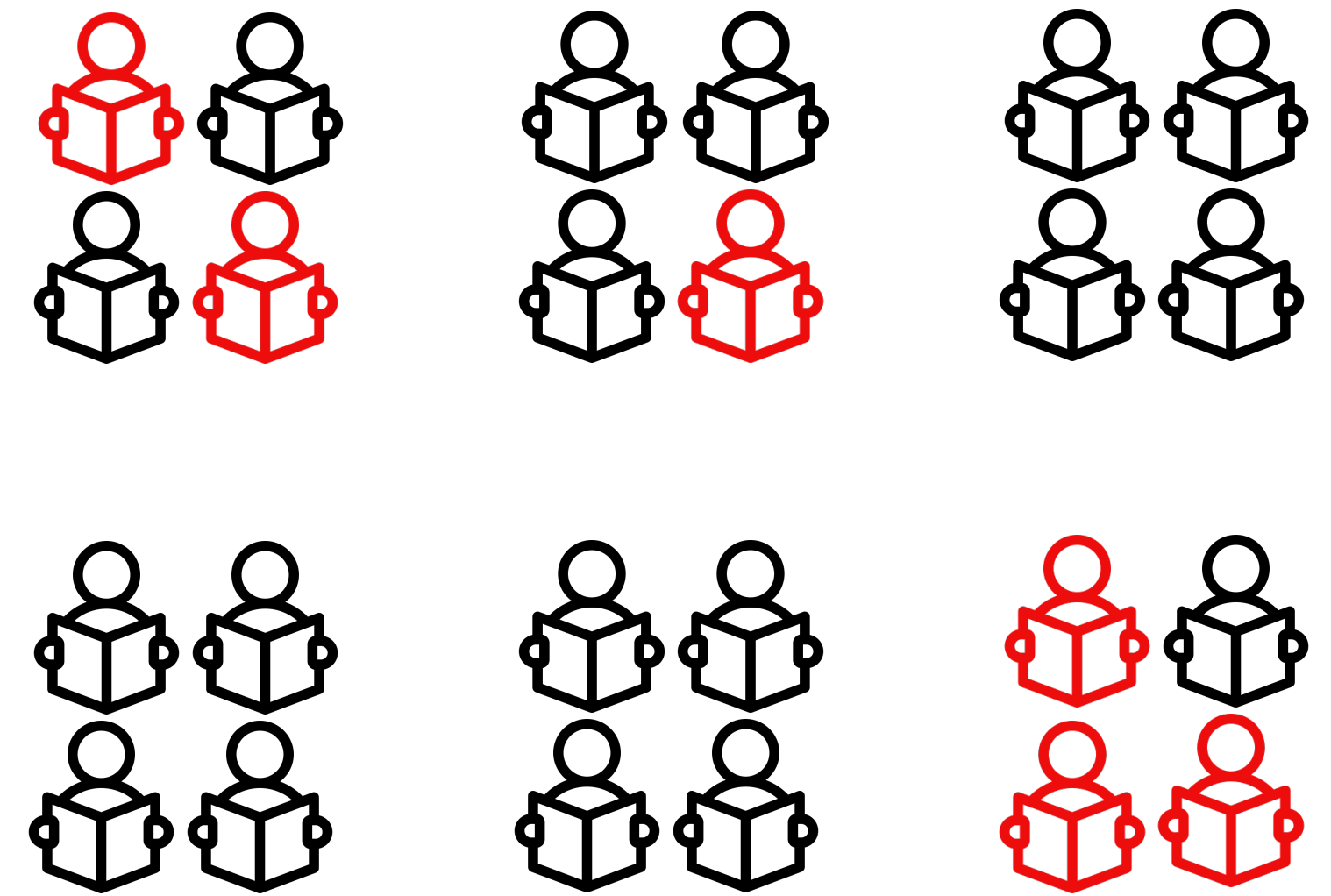
- This is the case $r \geq 2$
- We can have $(\mathcal{E}, r) - ECF F(t, n)$



The school problem

What if more classrooms are infected?

- This is the case $r \geq 2$
- We can have $(\mathcal{E}, r) - ECFF(t, n)$
- And also $(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF(t, n)$



Generalizing the idea.. further

The edge-identifying CFF, $r \geq 2$

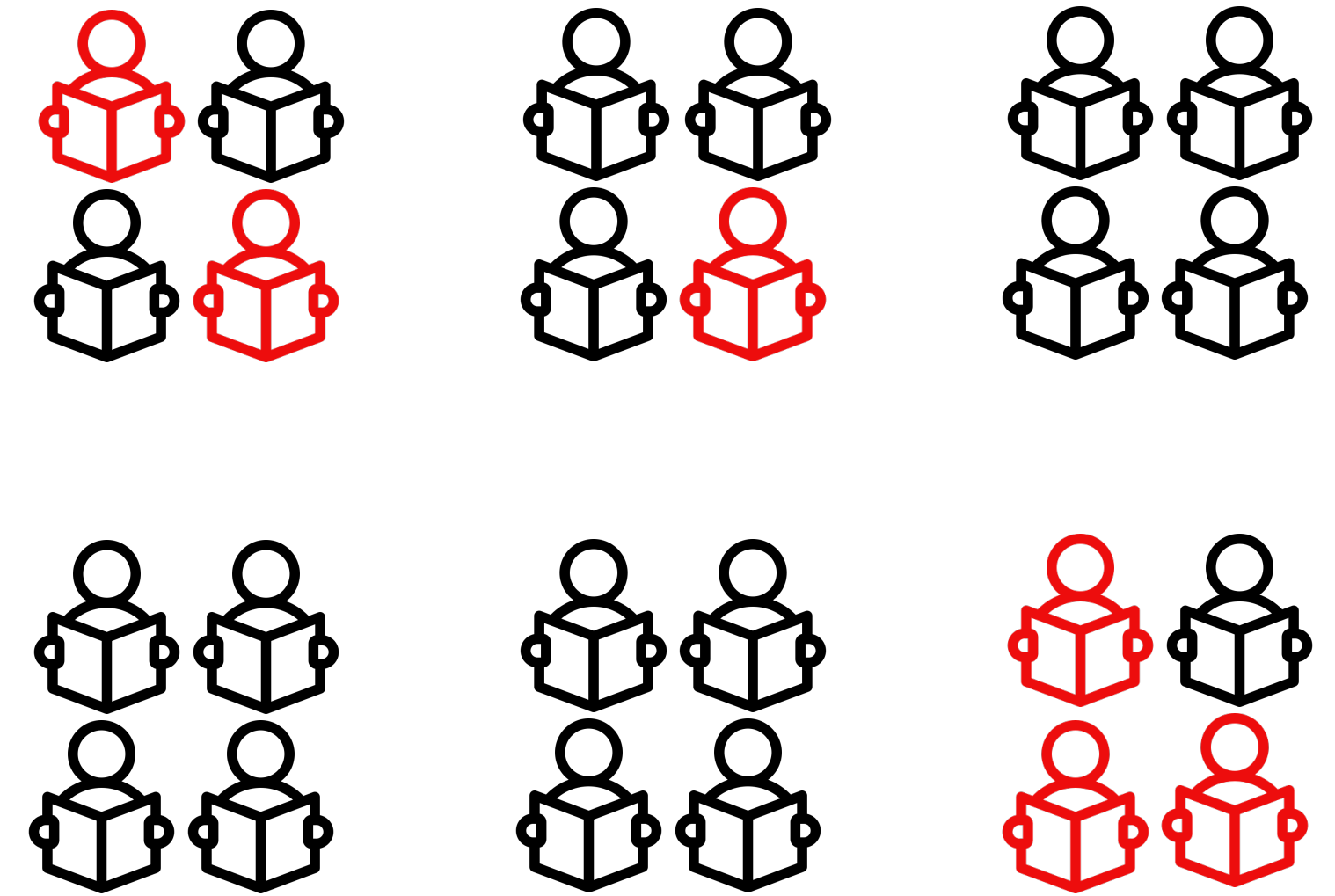
- Let $\mathcal{H} = ([1, n], \mathcal{E})$ be a hypergraph with m disjoint edges of cardinality k
 - Construct $(\mathcal{E}, r) - ECFF(t, n)$ as follows:
 - Step 1:** pick a good $r - CFF(t, m)$
 - Step 2:** repeat each column k times
 - We have $t_F(r, \mathcal{E}) = t(r, m)$
-
- | | e_1 | e_2 | e_3 | e_4 | e_5 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
-
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

	e_1	e_2	e_3	e_4	e_5	e_6
1	1	1	1	0	0	0
2	1	0	0	1	1	0
3	0	1	0	1	0	1
4	0	0	1	0	1	1

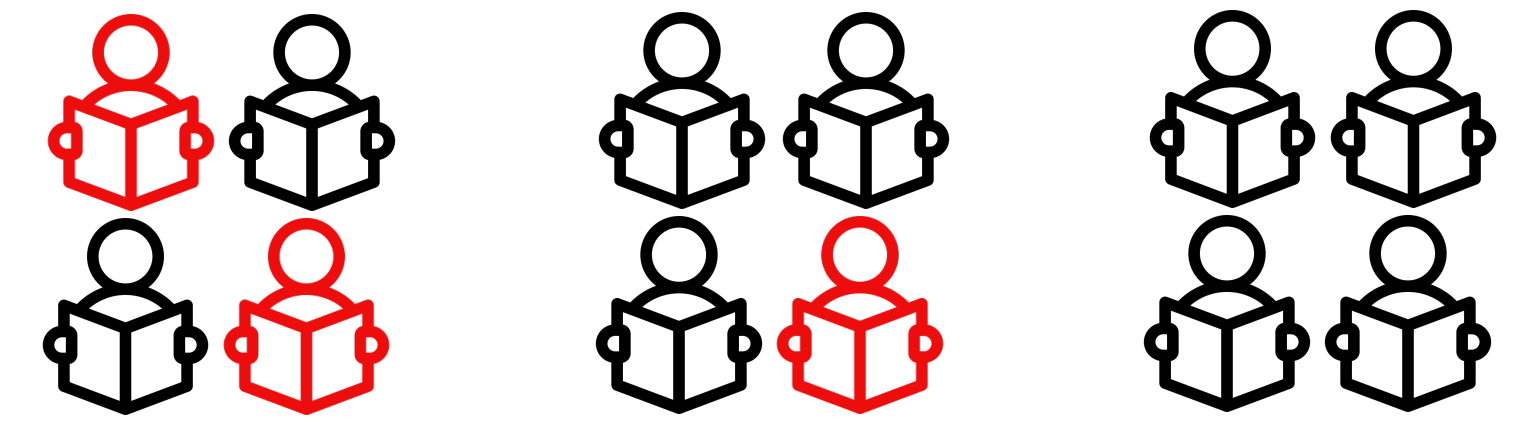
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

$(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF(t, n)$
 The vertex-identifying CFF, $r \geq 2$

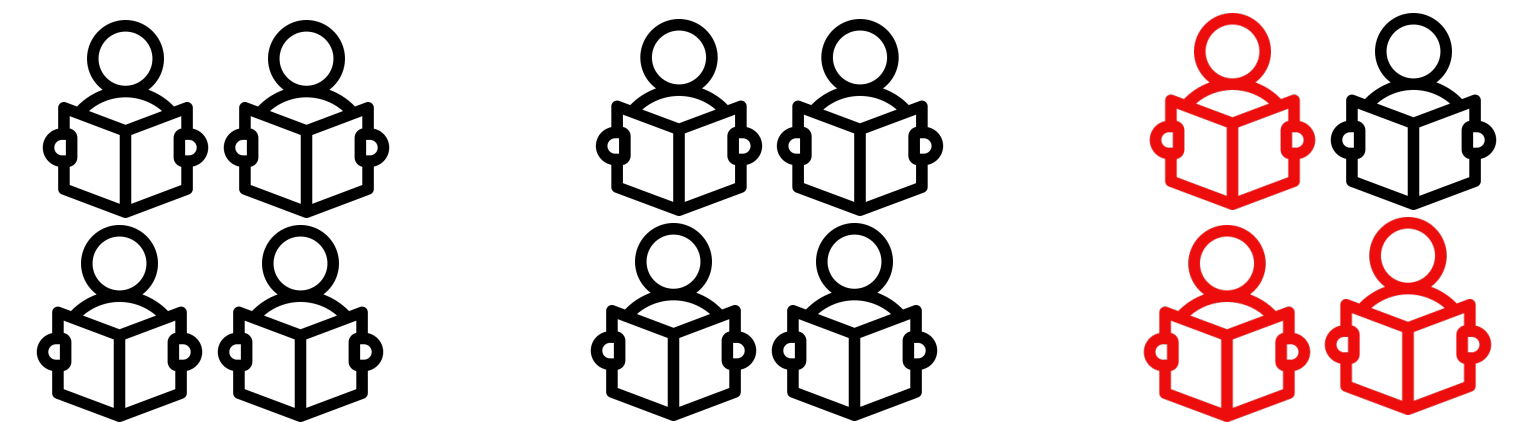
- Propose some constructions of $(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF$
 - For m classrooms of k students each
 - Identify r infected classrooms and everyone inside them



$(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF(t, n)$ The vertex-identifying CFF, $r \geq 2$

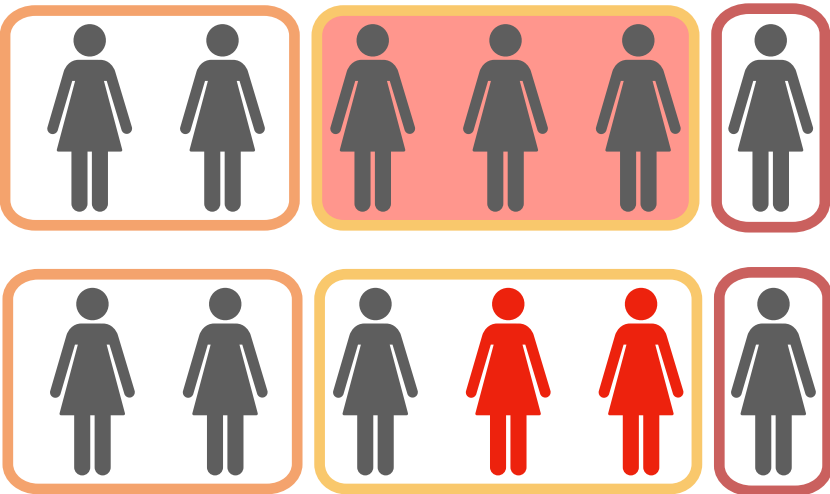


- Propose some constructions of $(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF$
 - For m classrooms of k students each
 - Identify r infected classrooms and everyone inside them
- Generalization of Li, van Rees and Wei (2006)
 - Uses an $r - CFF(t, m)$ and $(r - 1) - CFF(t, m)$ to build $(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF(kt, km)$
- Allows edges of different cardinalities



Bounds for CFFs on hypergraphs

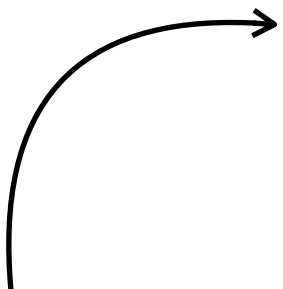
Non-overlapping edges



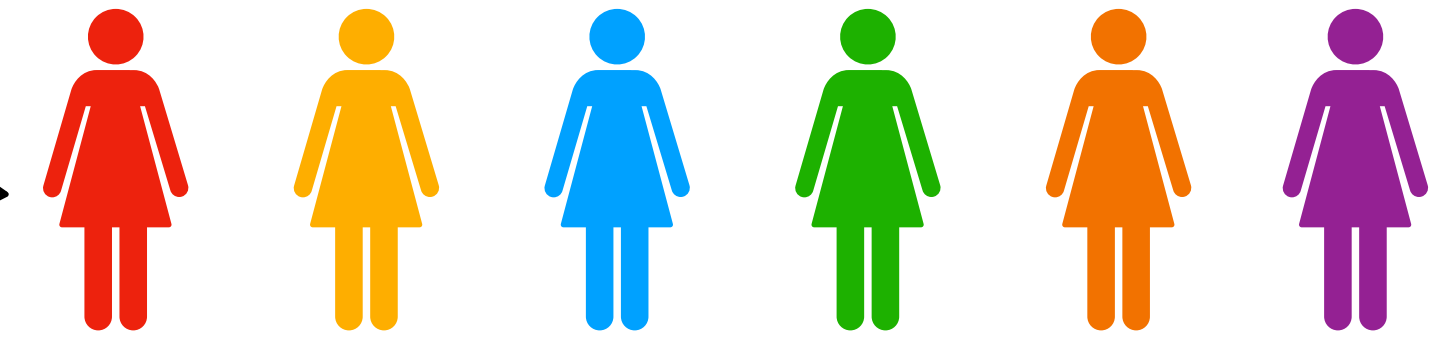
CFF	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
$(\mathcal{E}, 1)\text{-ECFF}(t, n)$	$\log(n/k)$	$\log(n/k)$
$(\mathcal{E}, 1)\text{-CFF}(t, n)$	$\log(n/k)$	$\log(n/k) + k$
$(\mathcal{E}, r)\text{-ECFF}(t, n)$	$c_1 \frac{r^2 \log(n/k)}{\log r}$	$c_2 \cdot r^2 \log(n/k)$
$(\mathcal{E}, r)\text{-CFF}(t, n)$	$c_1 \frac{r^2 \log(n/k)}{\log r}$	$c_3 \cdot k \cdot r^2 \log(n/k)$

$n = m \times k$
 m edges with k vertices each

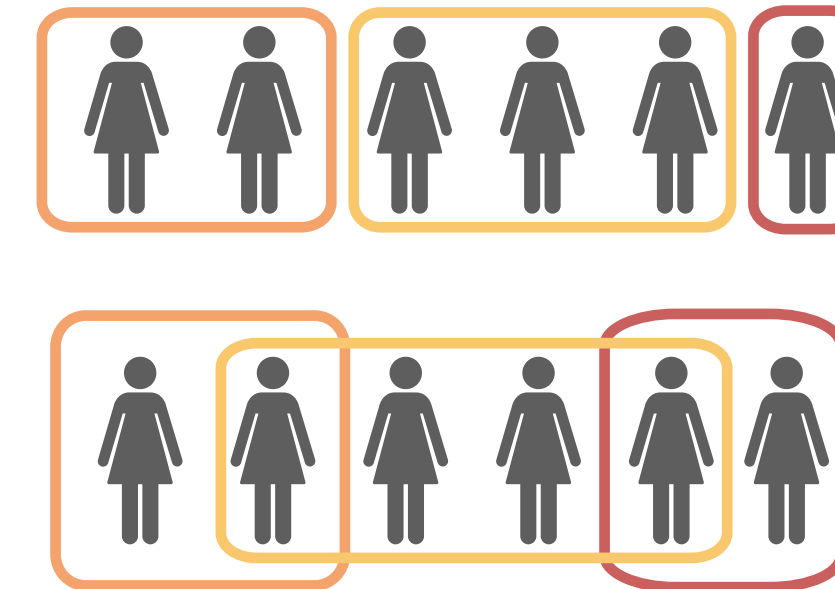
In this talk



1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1



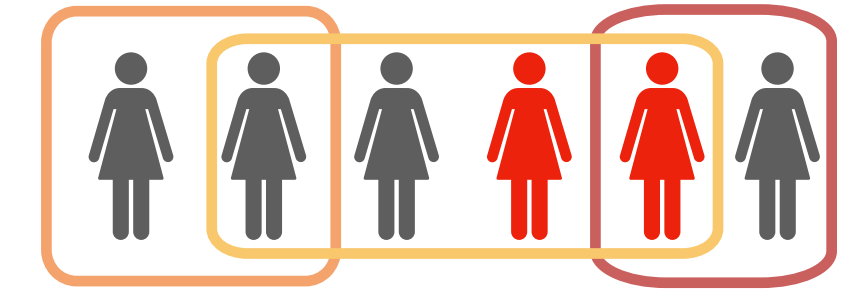
- The problem of **combinatorial group testing** in pandemic screening
- Study of *CFFs on hypergraphs*
 - Non-overlapping edges
 - **Overlapping edges**
 - Some other cases
- Applications in cryptography



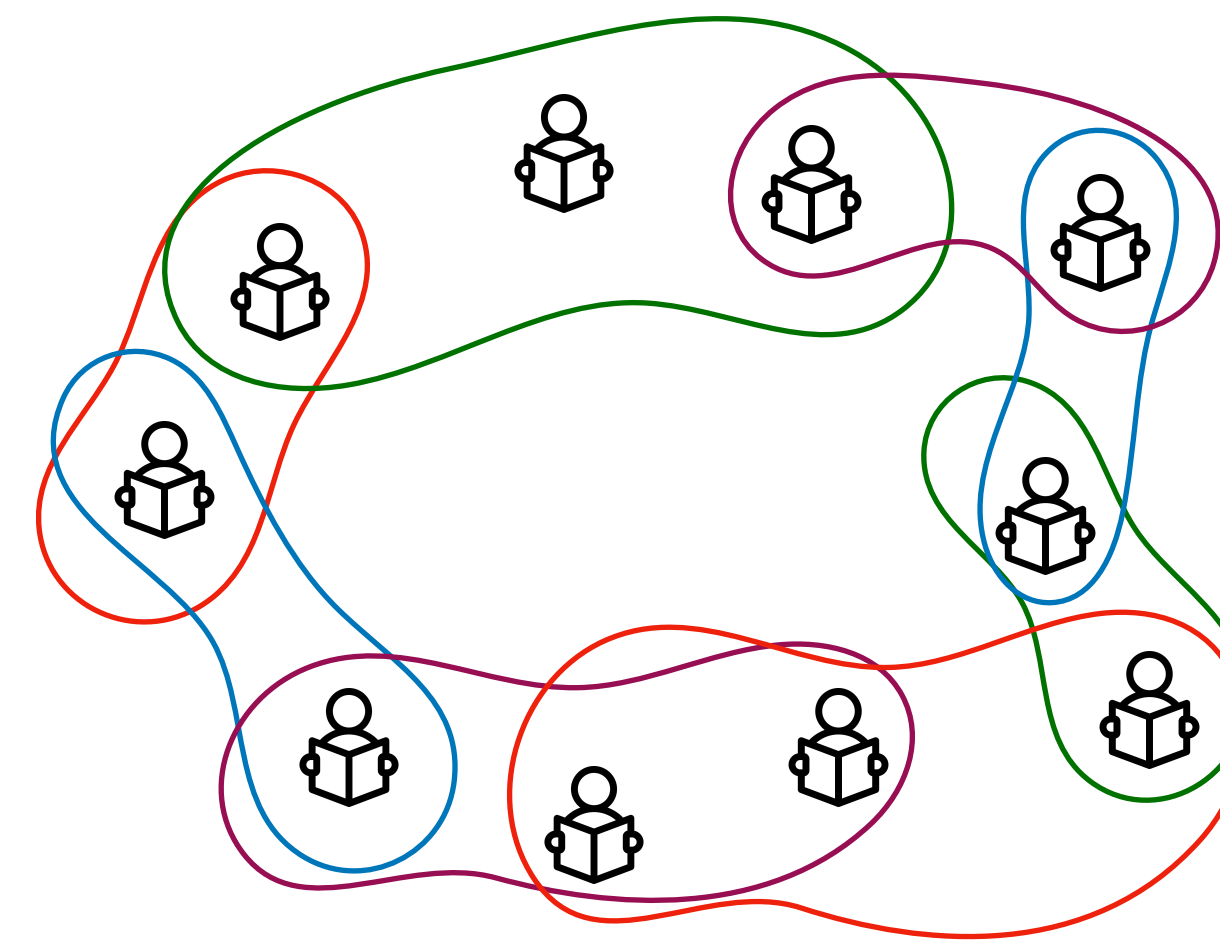
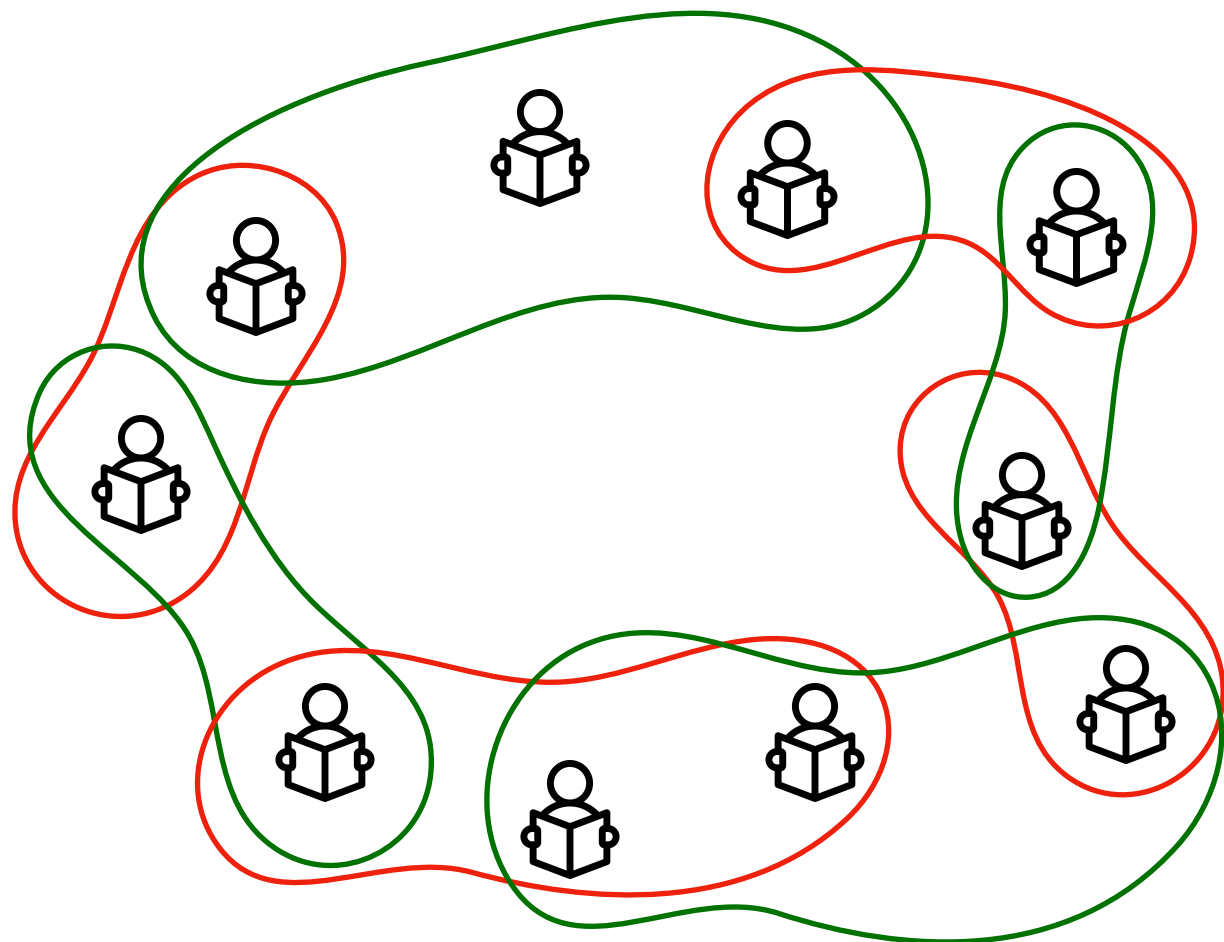
1. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Structure-Aware Combinatorial Group Testing: A New Method for Pandemic Screening. In: IWOCA 2022. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 13270. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06678-8>

2. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Combinatorial group testing and cover-free families on hypergraphs. 2025[Unpublished manuscript].

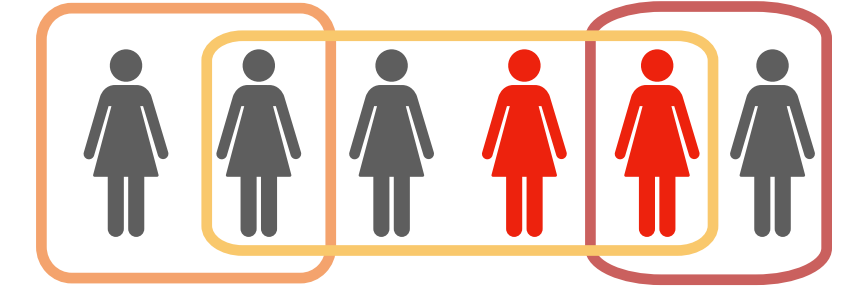
Overlapping edges



- Propose constructions inspired by the non-overlapping ones
- Use **edge-colouring** to partition the edges into sets of non-overlapping edges
 - **Edge-colouring**: no vertex is incident to more than one edge of the same colour
 - **Strong edge-coloring**: any two vertices belonging to distinct edges with the same colour are not adjacent.



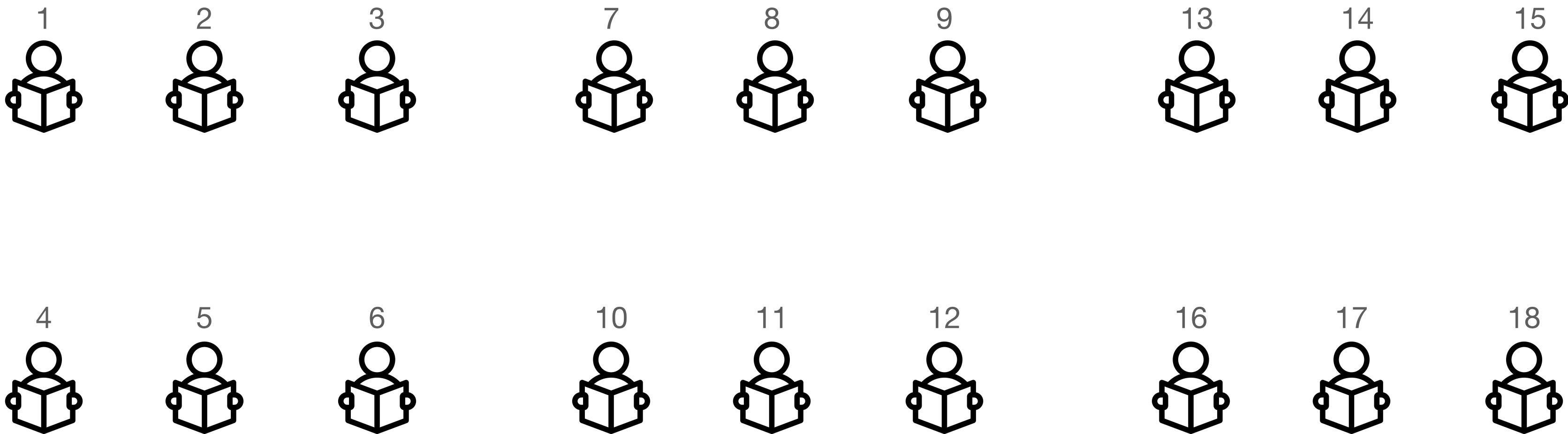
Overlapping edges



- Construction of $(\mathcal{E}, 1) - CFF$ and $(\mathcal{E}, 1) - ECFF$ based on **edge-colouring**
- Construction of $(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF$ based on **strong edge-colouring**
- **Defect cover**: a set of at most r edges whose union contains the set of infected elements
 - We can handle many infected edges, as long as the size of the defect cover is $\leq r$

The high school problem

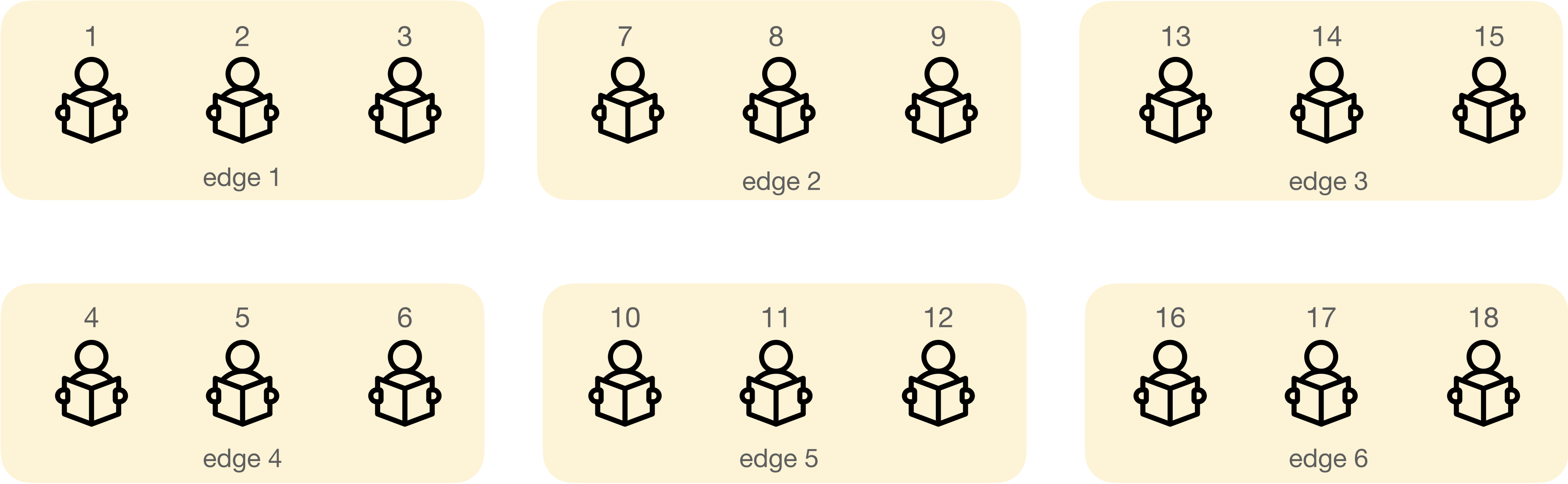
$r = 1$



The high school problem

$r = 1$

Morning classes:
n = 18 students, 6 classrooms, 3 students each

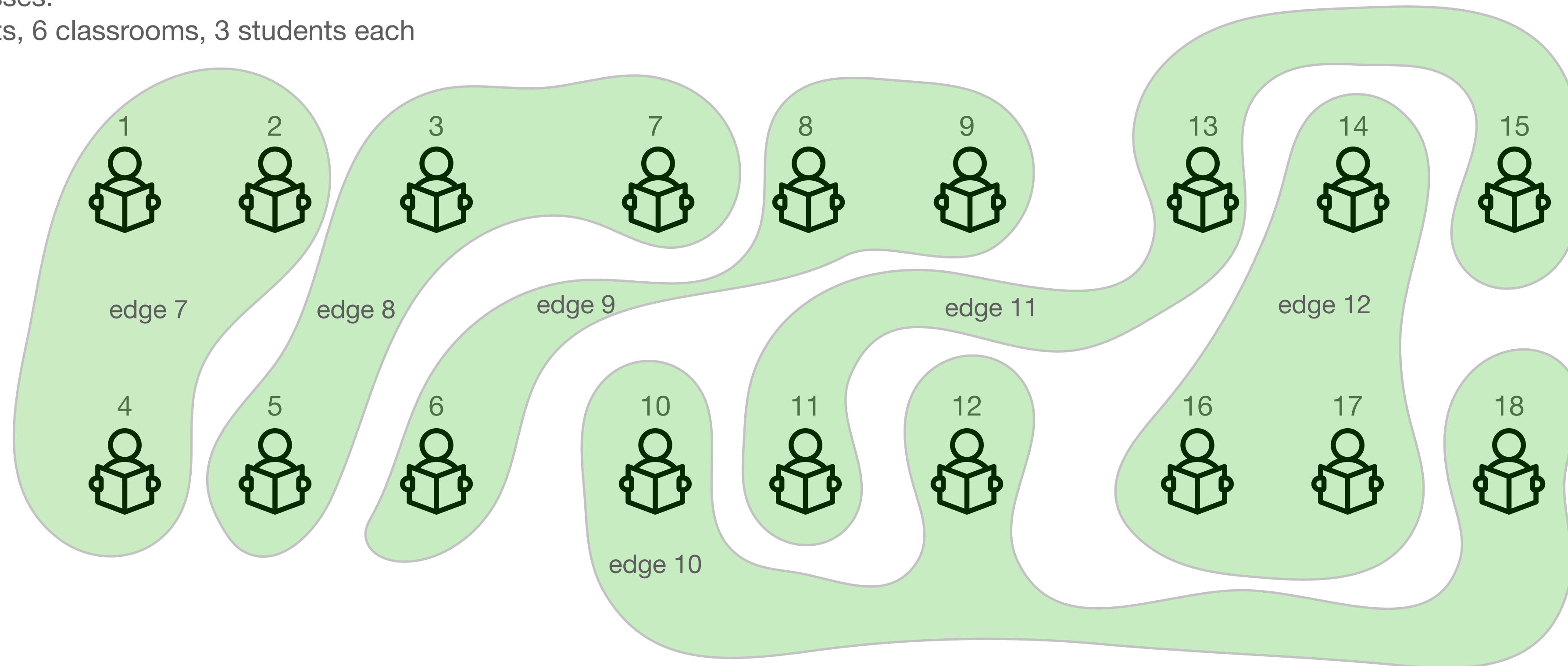


The high school problem

$$r = 1$$

Afternoon classes:

n = 18 students, 6 classrooms, 3 students each

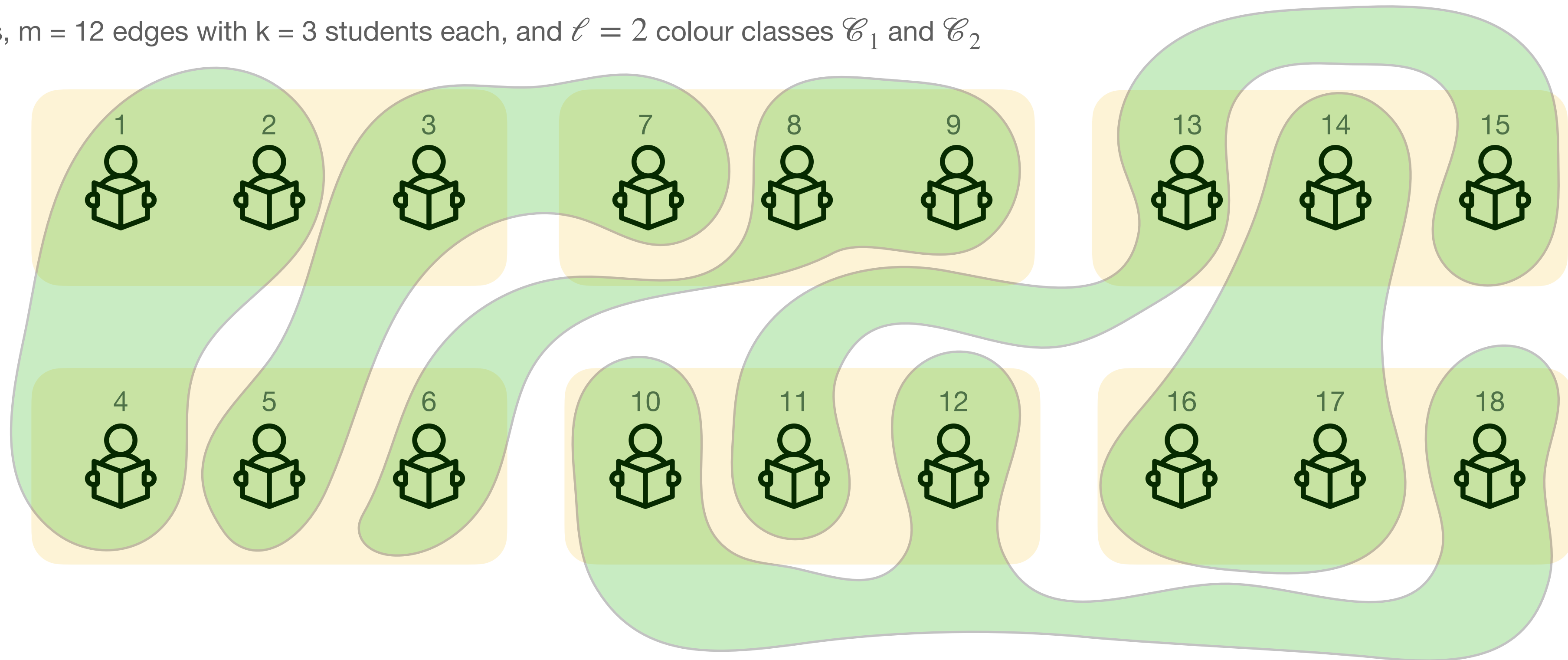


The high school problem

$$r = 1$$

Total:

$n = 18$ vertices, $m = 12$ edges with $k = 3$ students each, and $\ell = 2$ colour classes \mathcal{C}_1 and \mathcal{C}_2





















Overlapping edge construction



















\mathcal{C}_1

edge 1	edge 2	edge 3	edge 4	edge 5	edge 6
1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1

\mathcal{C}_2

edge 7	edge 8	edge 9	edge 10	edge 11	edge 12
1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
																	
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
																	
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0



















Overlapping edge construction



















\mathcal{C}_1

edge 1	edge 2	edge 3	edge 4	edge 5	edge 6
1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1

\mathcal{C}_2






edge 7	edge 8	edge 9	edge 10	edge 11	edge 12
1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
																	
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1

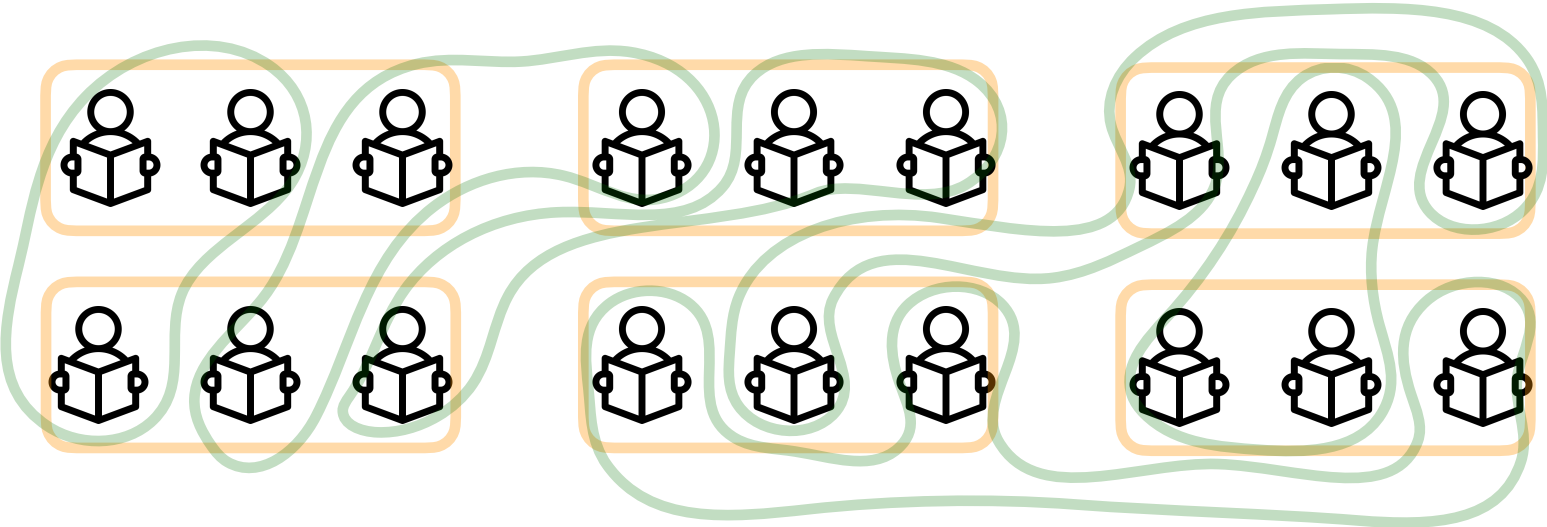
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
																	
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1

Overlapping edge construction

$r = 1$

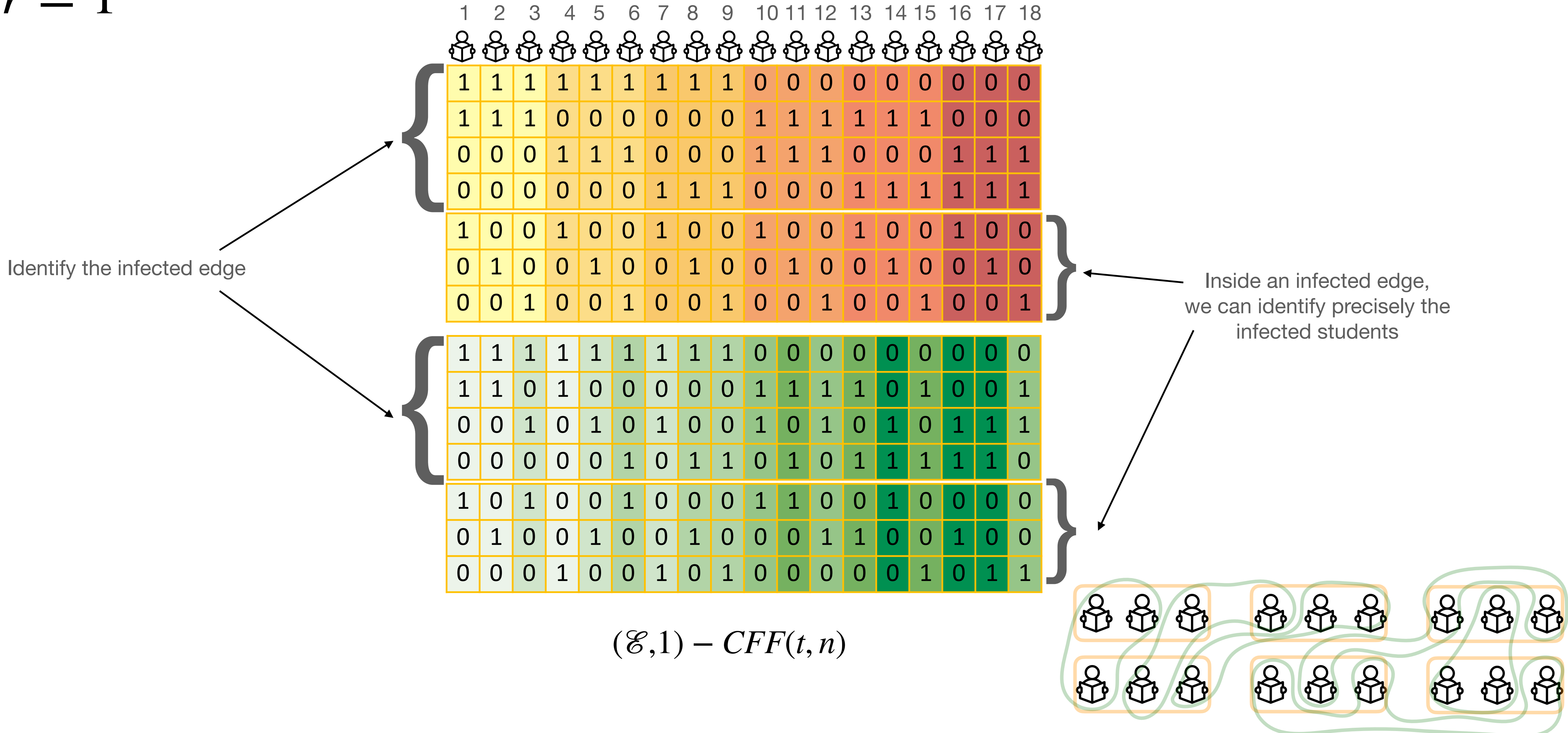
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
																	
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1

$(\mathcal{E},1) - CFF(t,n)$



Overlapping edge construction



















$r = 1$



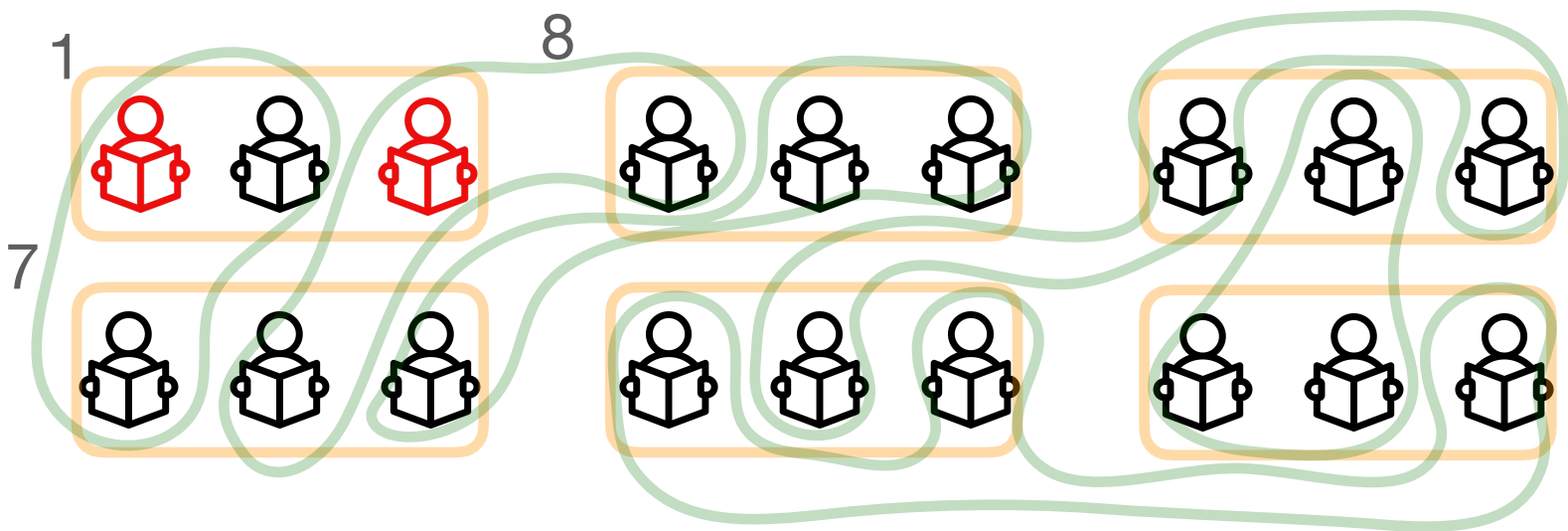
Overlapping edge construction

$r = 1$

Edges 1, 7 and 8 are infected

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
																	
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1

$(\mathcal{E},1) - CFF(t,n)$



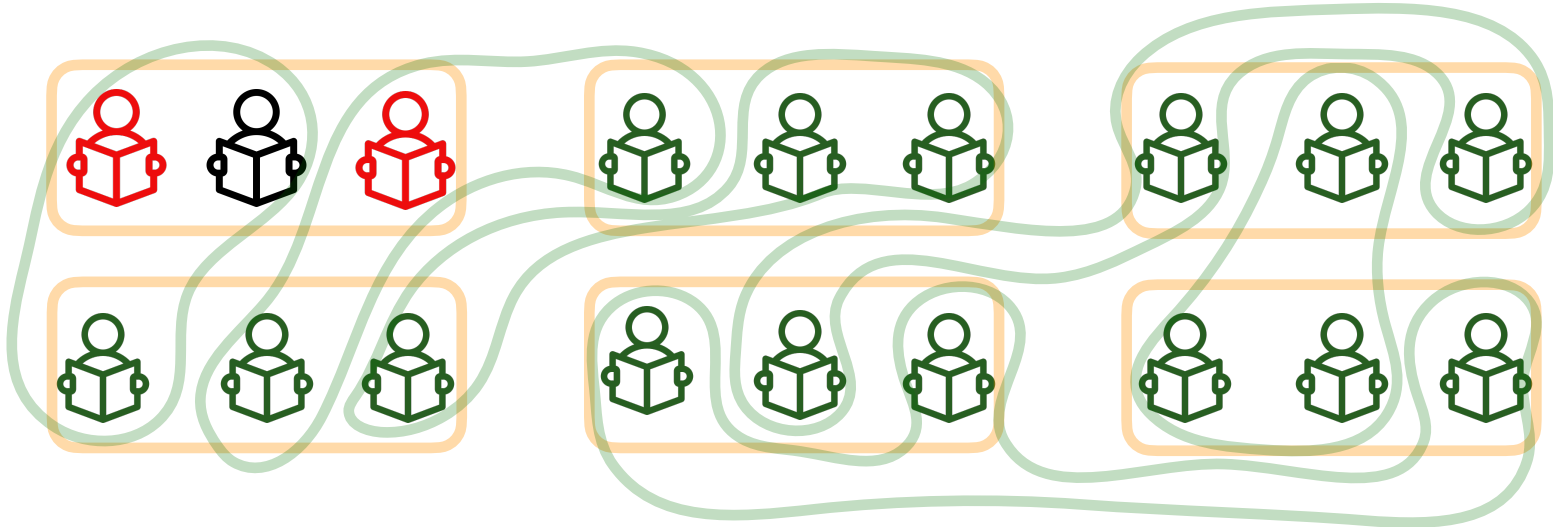
Overlapping edge construction

$r = 1$

Edges 1, 7 and 8 are infected,
students 4-18 are cleared out

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1

$(\mathcal{E},1) - CFF(t,n)$



Overlapping edge construction

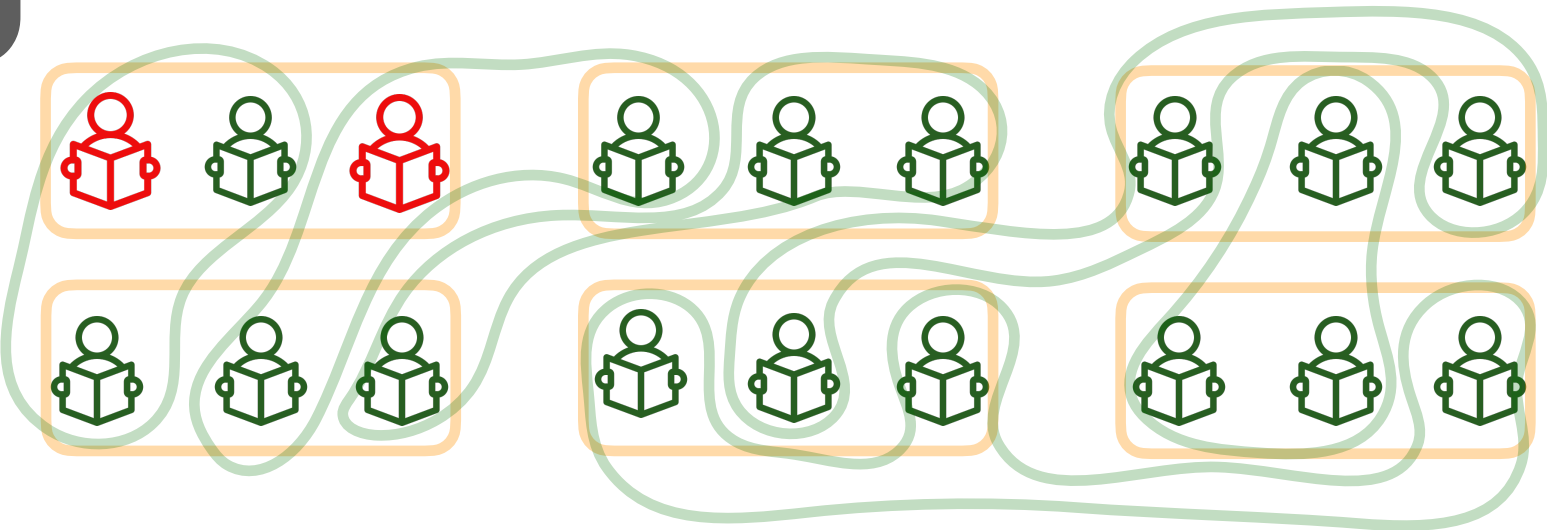
$r = 1$

Edges 1, 7 and 8 are infected,
students 4-18 are cleared out

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1

Inside an infected edge,
we can identify precisely the
infected students

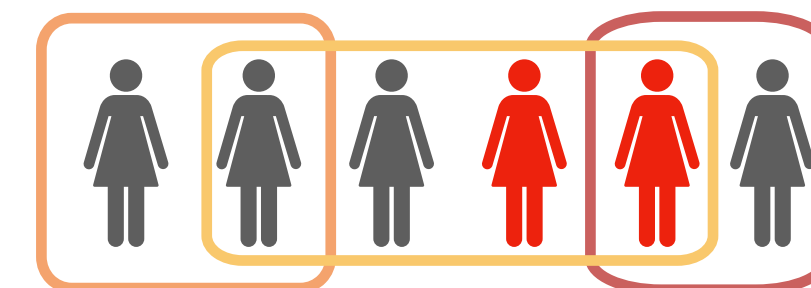
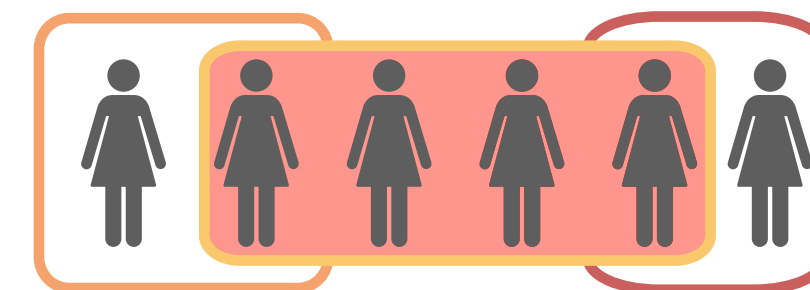
$(\mathcal{E},1) - CFF(t = 2 \times (4 + 3), n = 18)$
 $(\mathcal{E},1) - ECFF(t = 2 \times 4, n = 18)$



Overlapping edge construction

$$r = 1$$

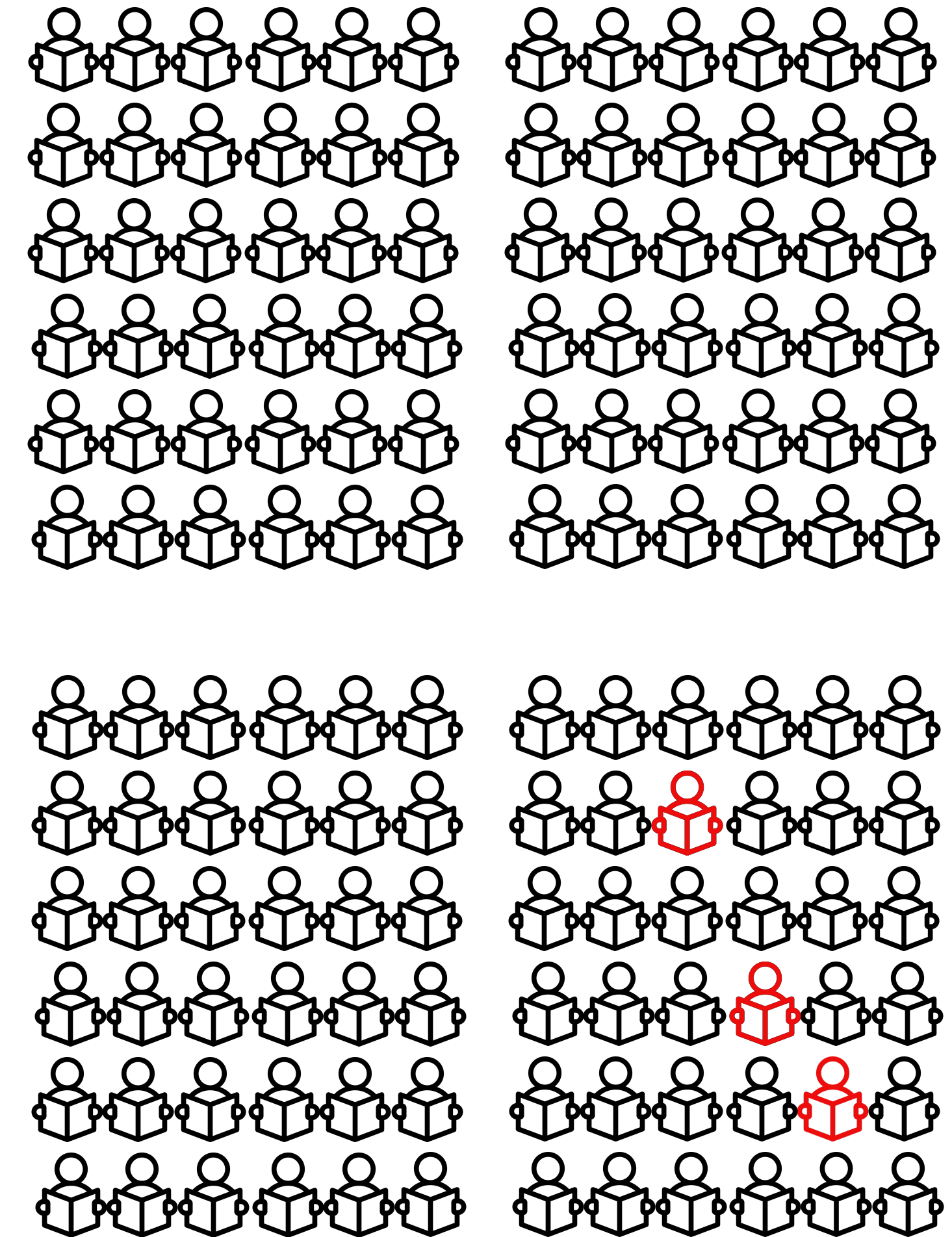
- Let $\mathcal{H} = ([1, n], \mathcal{E})$ be a hypergraph with m edges of cardinality k
- And let $\chi(\mathcal{H}) = \ell$ be its edge chromatic number, with colour classes $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_\ell$
- We constructed an $(\mathcal{E}, 1) - ECFE(t, n)$
 - $t_E(1, \mathcal{E}) \leq \ell \times t(1, m) \approx \ell \times \log m$
- We constructed a $(\mathcal{E}, 1) - CFE(t, n)$
 - $t(1, \mathcal{E}) \leq \ell \times (t(1, m) + k) \approx \ell \times (\log m + k)$



For a larger high school

$$r = 1$$

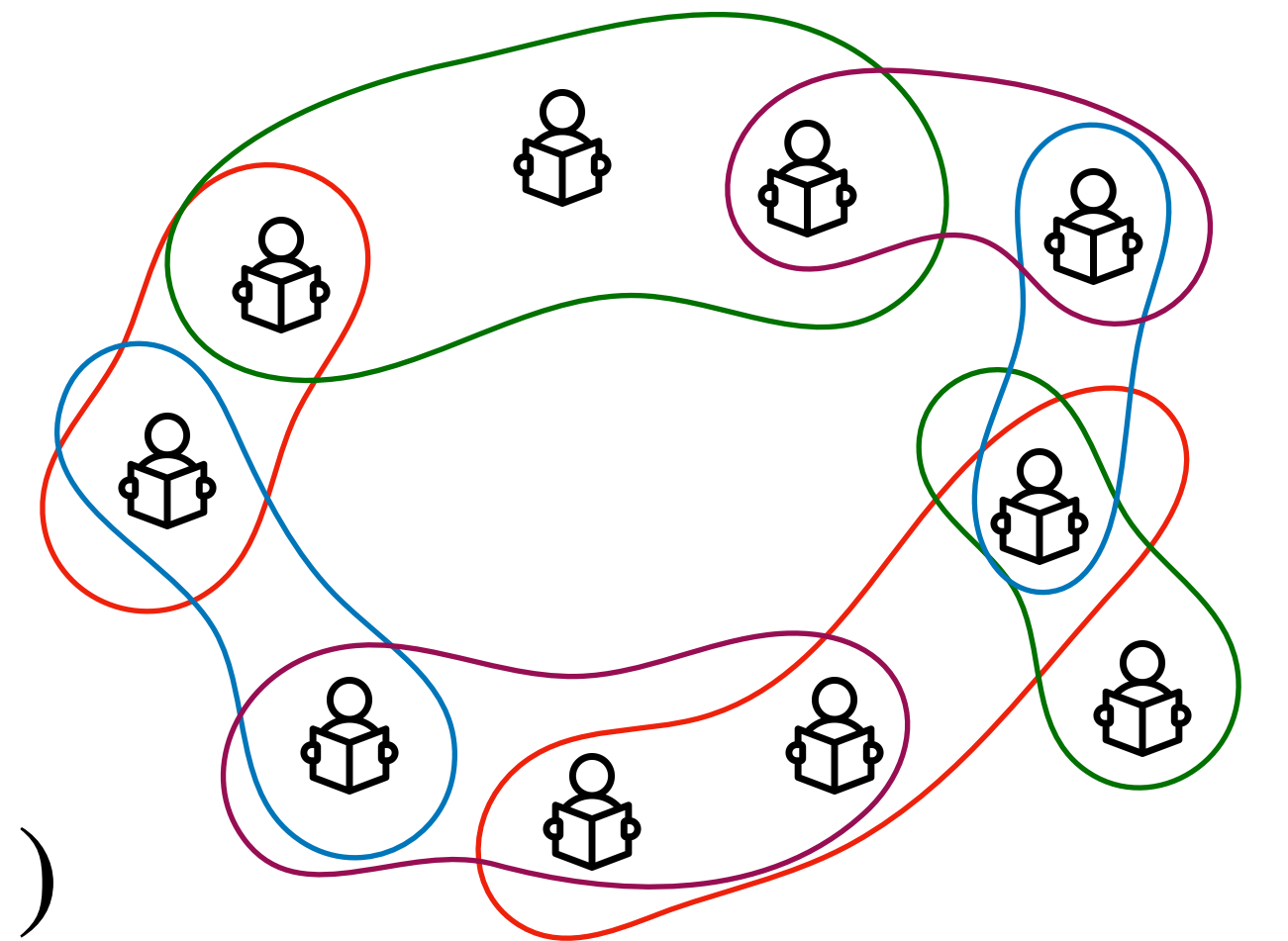
- Total of $n = 900$ students
- Each student takes $\ell = 4$ courses (4 colour classes)
- Each course has $k = 30$ students (cardinality of the edges)
- Total of $m = 120$ courses (edges)
 - Each color class has $120/4 = 30$ edges
- Construction:
 - Use $1 - CFF(7,30)$
 - $\ell \times t(1,m) = 4 \times 7 = 28$ tests to detect the infected edge
 - $\ell \times (t(1,m) + k) = 4 \times (7 + 30) = 148$ tests to identify all infected students in the infected edge



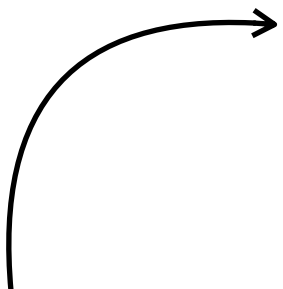
Overlapping edge construction

$$r \geq 2$$

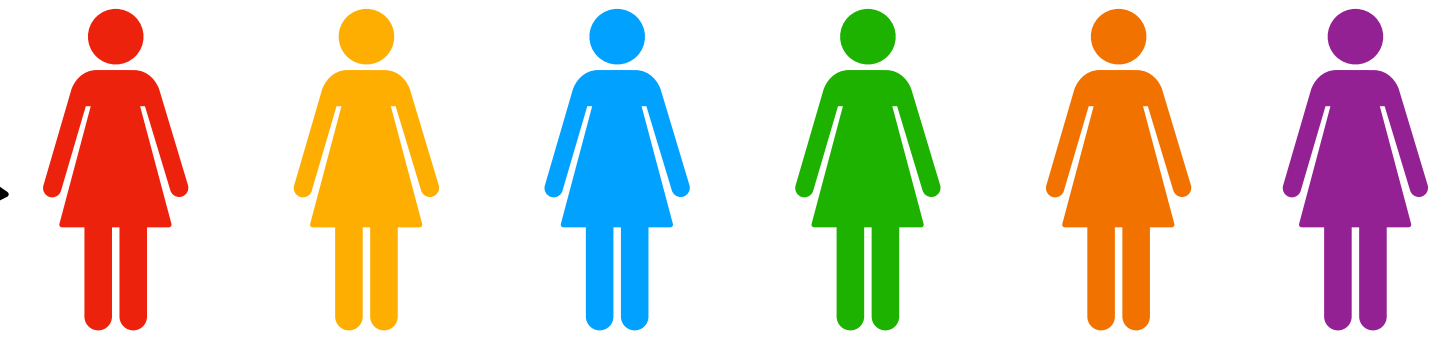
- Generalization for $(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF(t, n)$ using **strong edge-colouring**
 - At most r edges $I = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_r\}$ contain all infected individuals
 - There are at most r edges in each \mathcal{C}_i that intersect I
 - \mathcal{C}_i contains at most r infected edges
- Use a combination of $r - CFF(t, |\mathcal{C}_i|)$ and $(r - 1) - CFF(t', |\mathcal{C}_i|)$
 - $(\mathcal{E}, r) - CFF(t, n)$ with $t \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (t_i + k_i t'_i)$, $k_i = \max \text{ edge in colour class } \mathcal{C}_i$



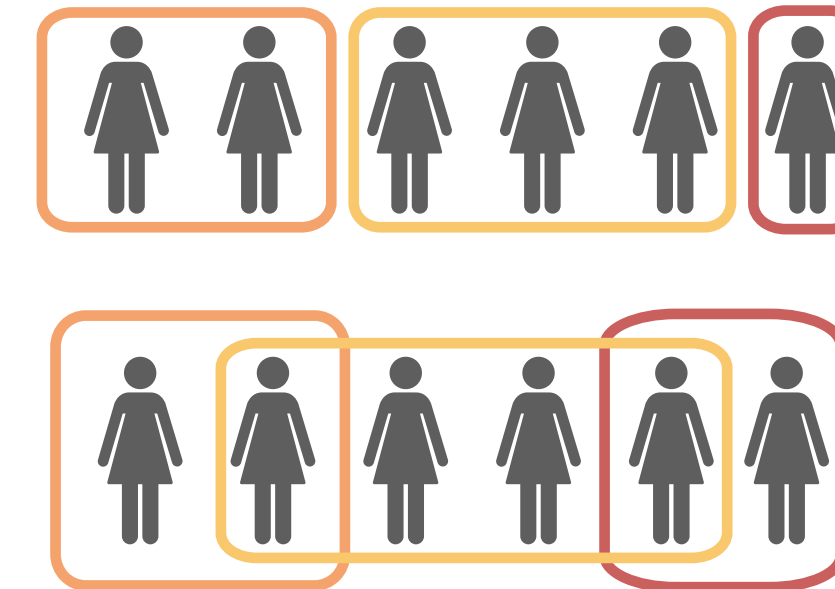
In this talk



1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1



- The problem of **combinatorial group testing** in pandemic screening
- Study of *CFFs on hypergraphs*
 - Non-overlapping edges
 - Overlapping edges
 - Some other cases
- Applications in cryptography



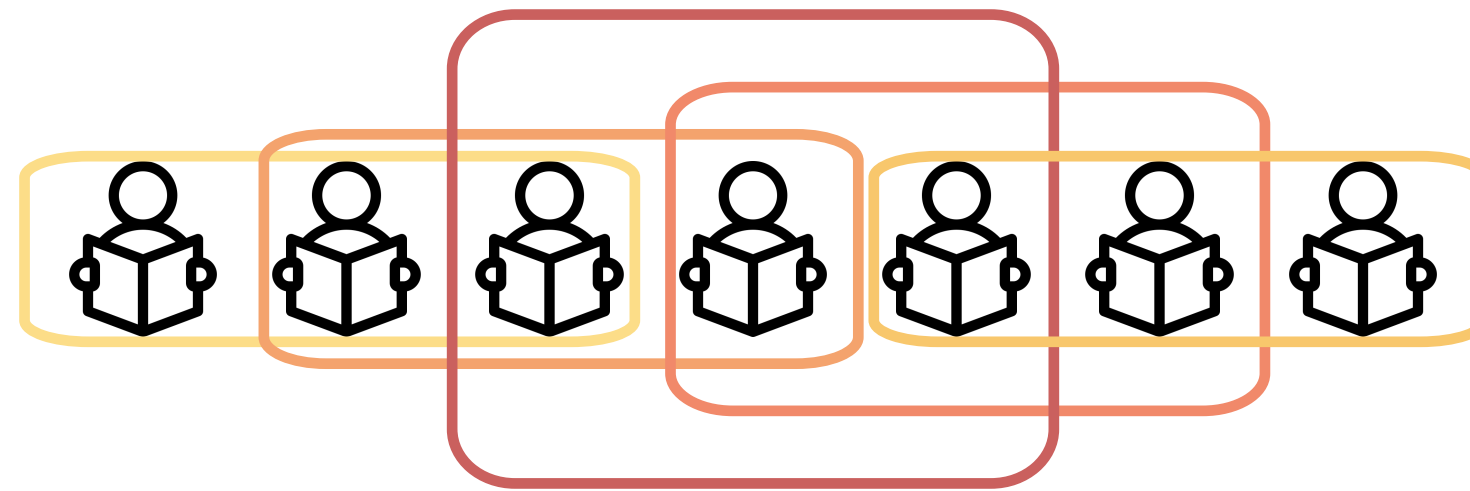
1. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Structure-Aware Combinatorial Group Testing: A New Method for Pandemic Screening. In: IWOCA 2022. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 13270. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06678-8>

2. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Combinatorial group testing and cover-free families on hypergraphs. 2025[Unpublished manuscript].

Some other cases

Consecutive infections

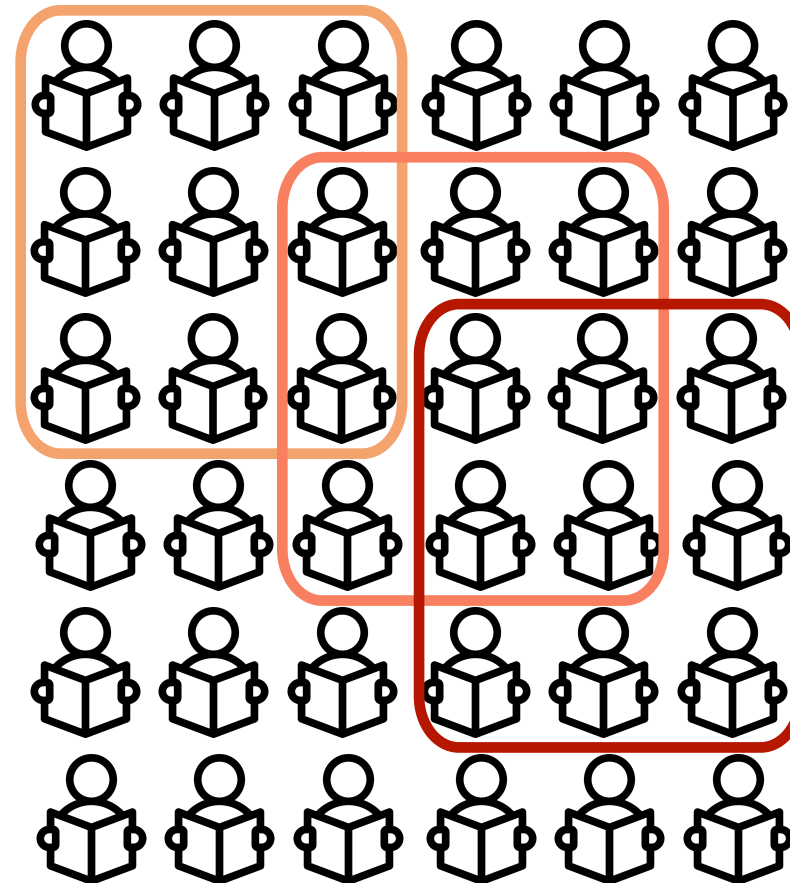
- In some scenarios, infections happen with people who are seated close to each other



Some other cases

Consecutive infections

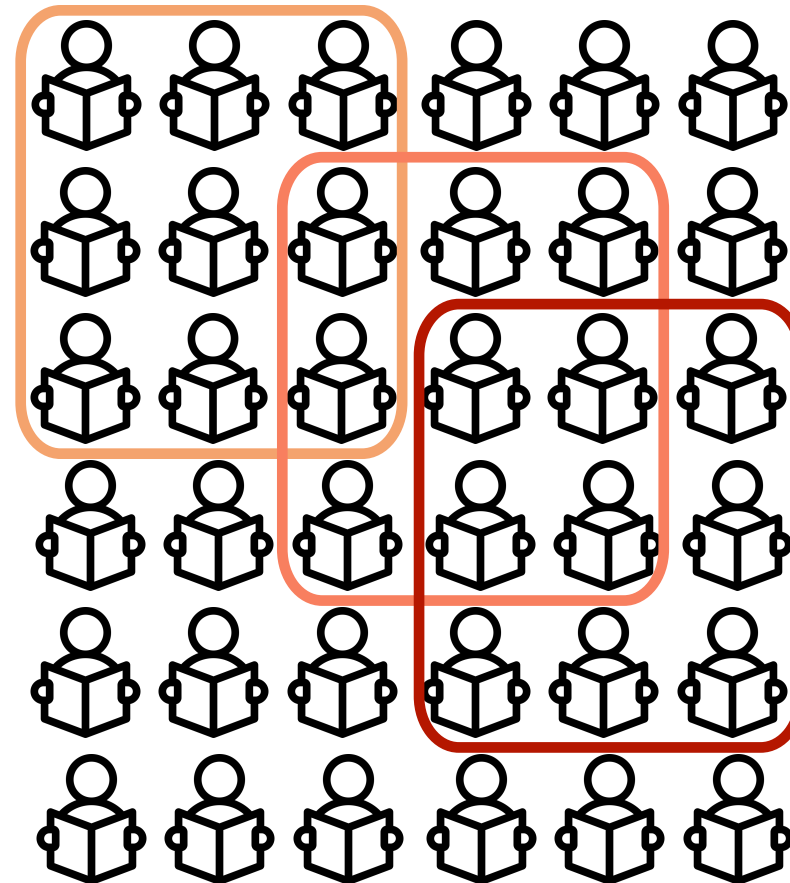
- In some scenarios, infections happen with people who are seated close to each other



Some other cases

Consecutive infections

- In some scenarios, infections happen with people who are seated close to each other
- We consider *consecutive hypercube hypergraphs*
- Initial results on CFFs for this case using vertex colouring




























Some other cases

The Swiss-Army-Knife CFF

- In some scenarios, we don't know which CFF to use
- We focus on constructions for CFFs on hypergraphs that hold *several purposes*
- For example, a matrix can be at the same time:
 - an $(\mathcal{E}, r^+) - ECF(t, n)$
 - a $(\mathcal{E}, r^-) - CFF(t, n)$
 - A traditional $d - CFF(t, n)$
 - $r^+ > r^- > d$

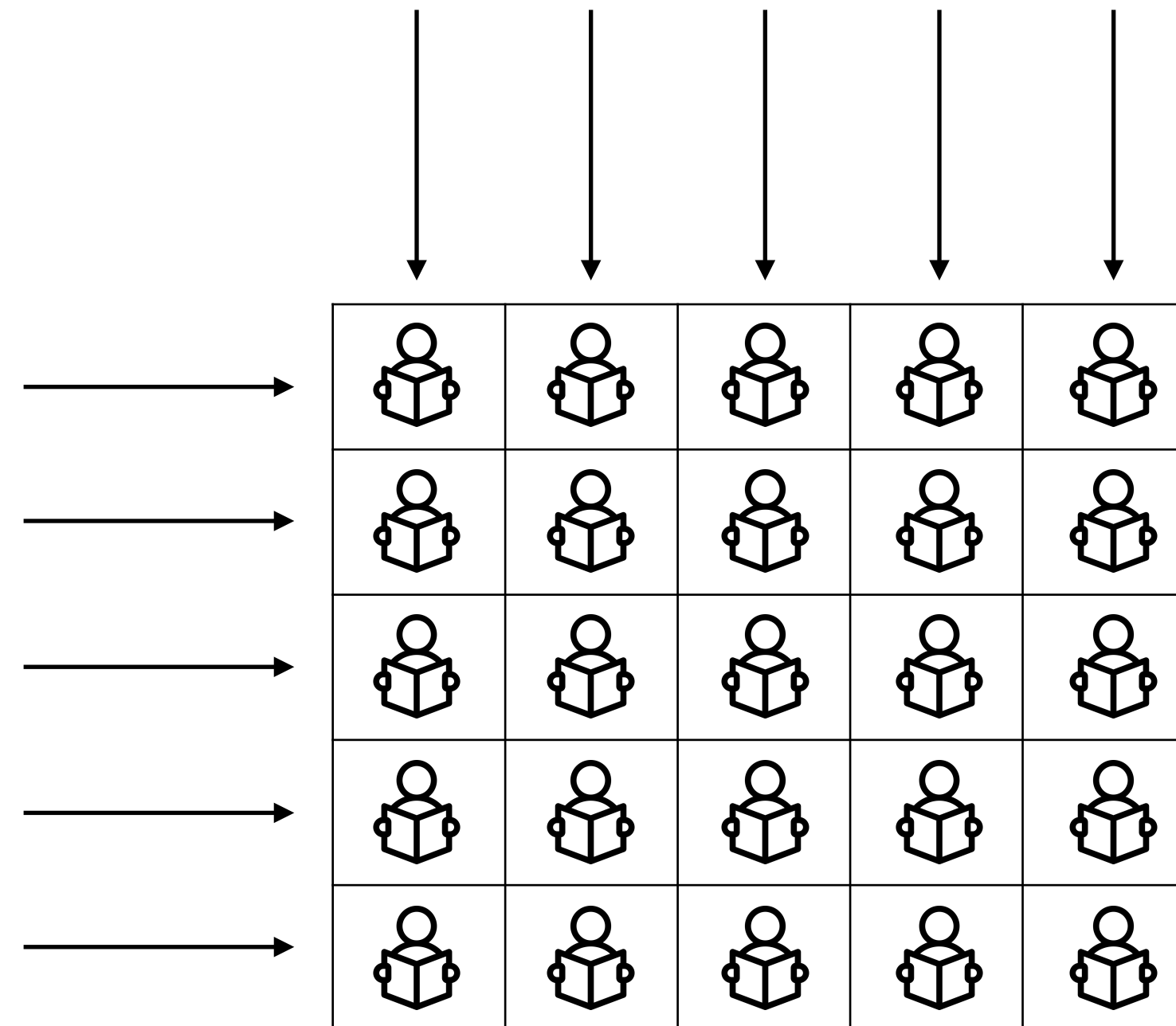
Some other cases

The Swiss-Army-Knife CFF

Some other cases

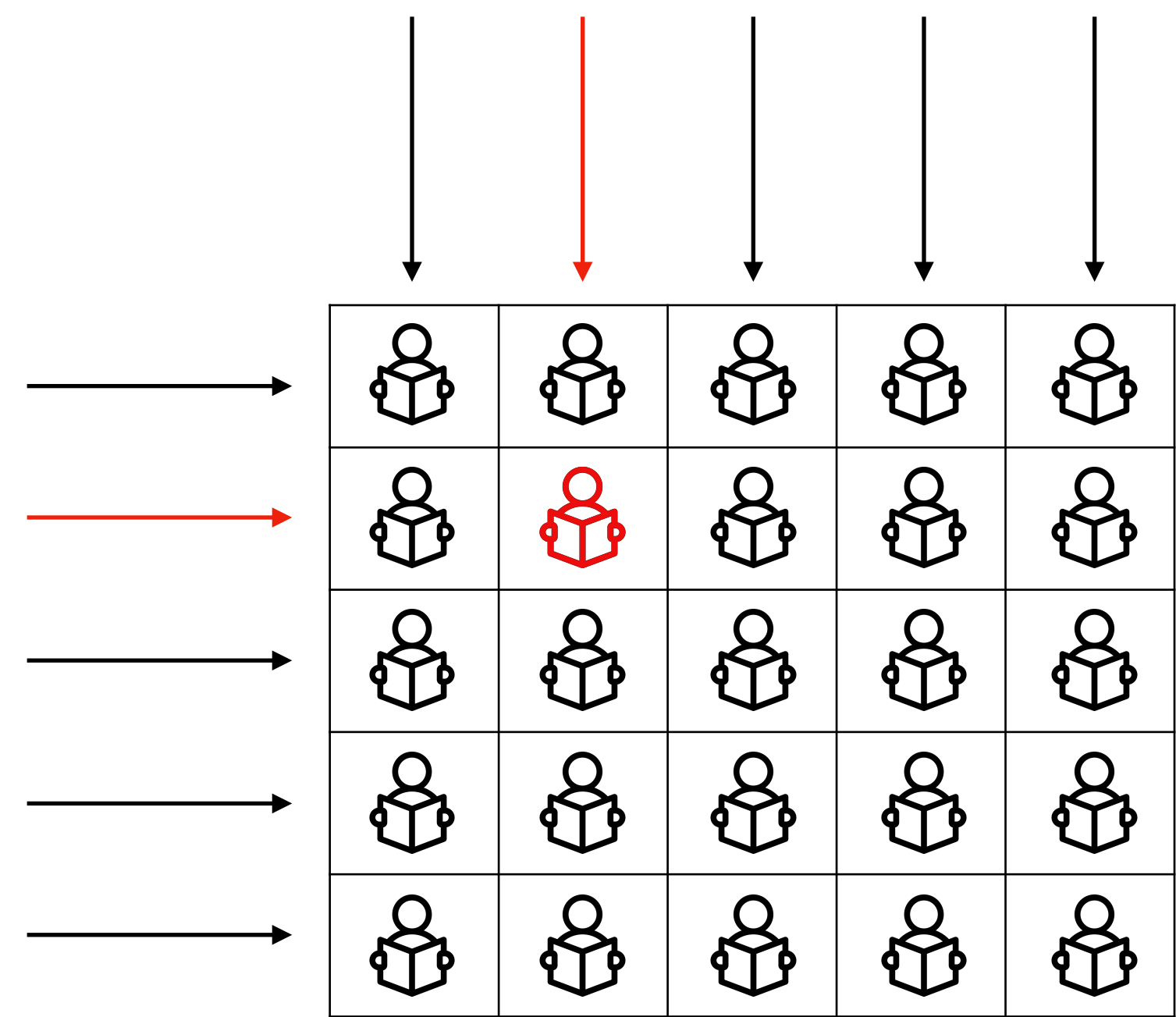
The Swiss-Army-Knife CFF



$$1 - CFF(10,25)$$

Some other cases


























The Swiss-Army-Knife CFF



$1 - CFF(10,25)$

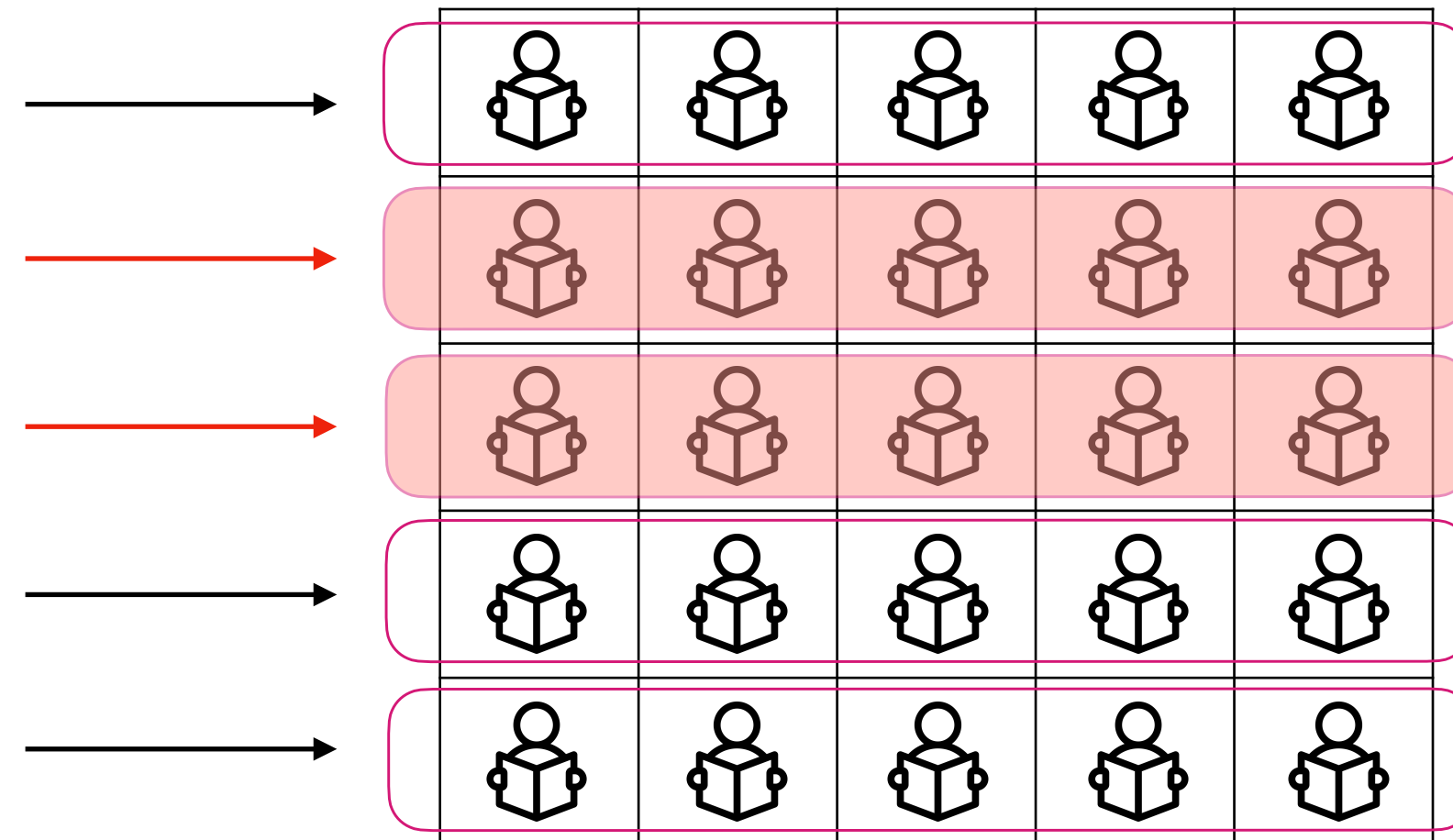
Some other cases

The Swiss-Army-Knife CFF

Some other cases

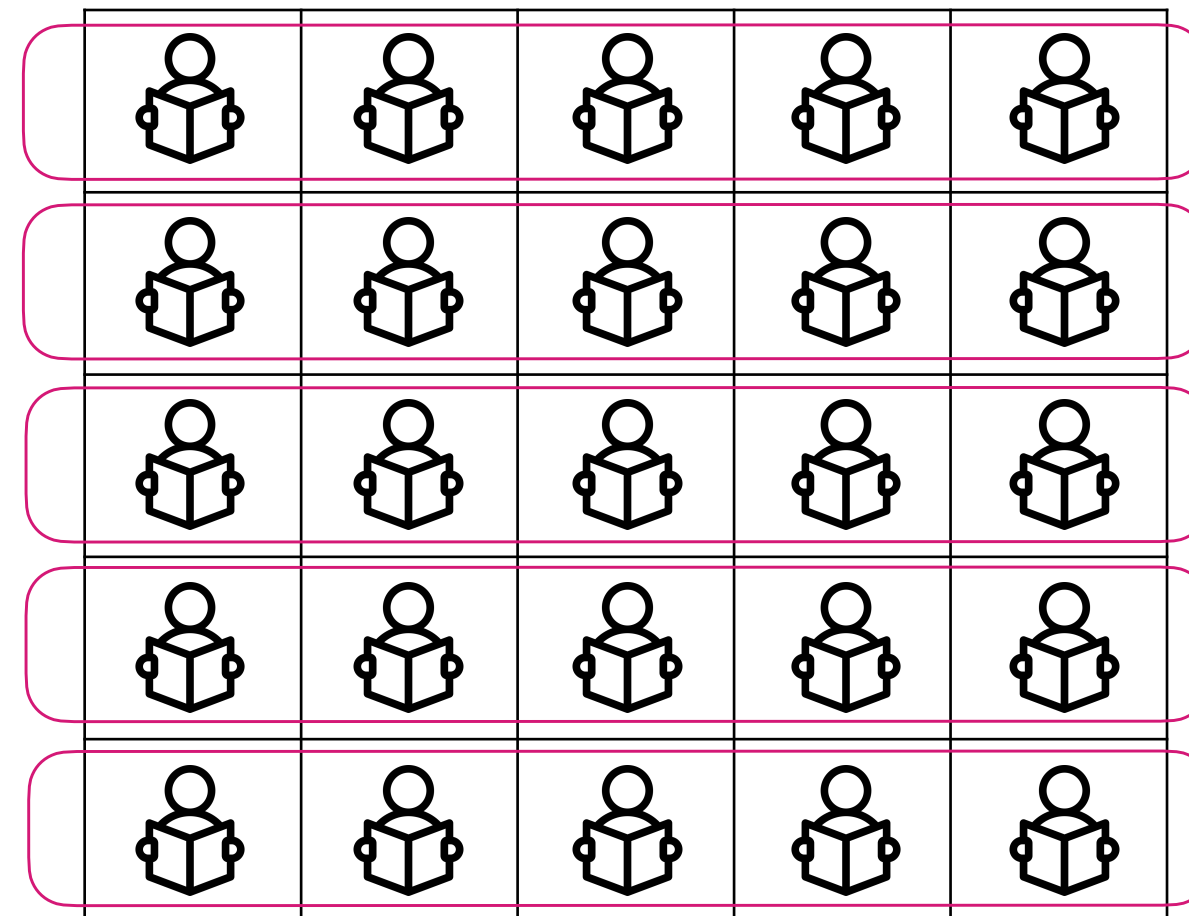
The Swiss-Army-Knife CFF



$$(\mathcal{E}, 5) - ECFF(10, 25)$$

Some other cases

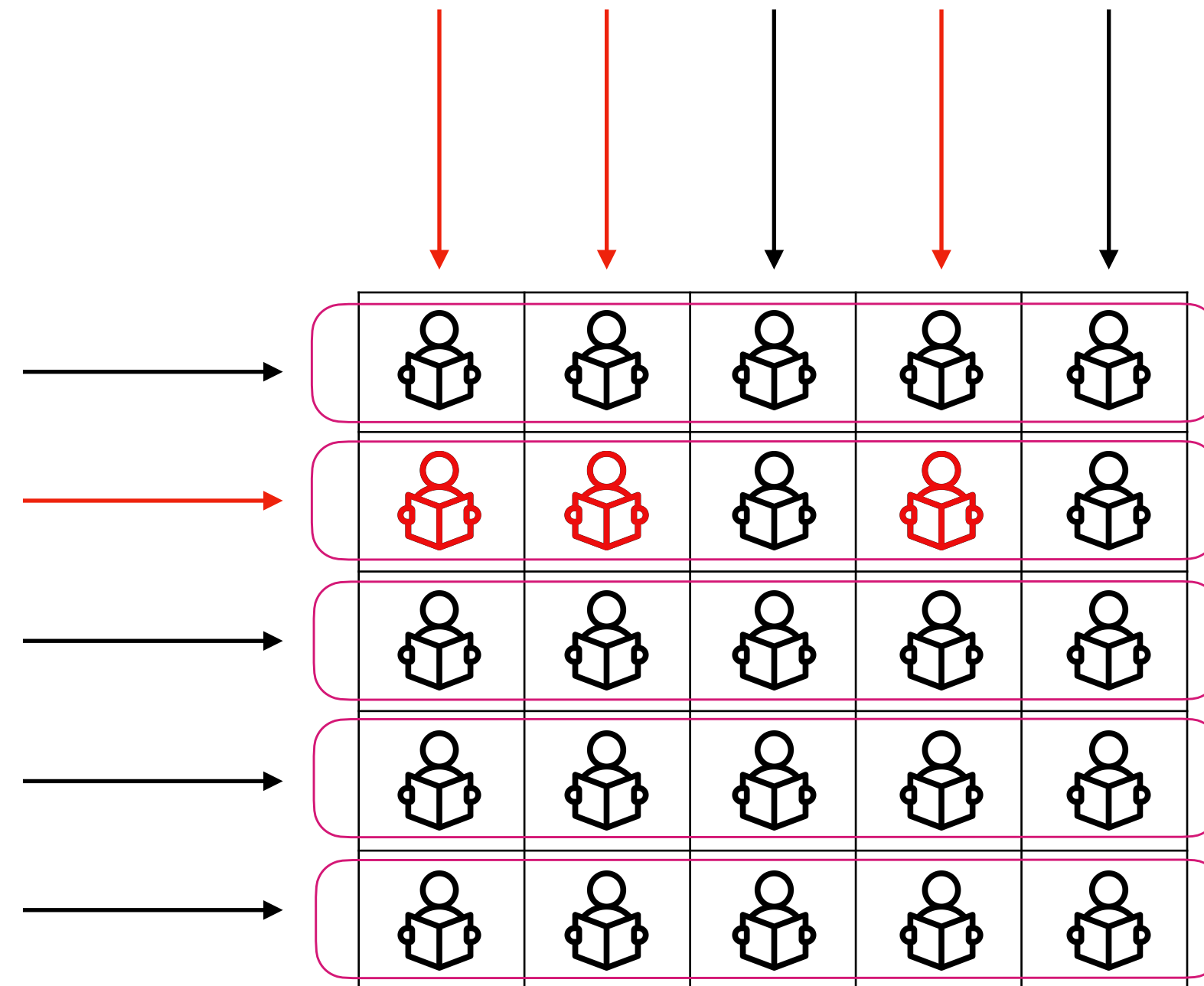
The Swiss-Army-Knife CFF



$$(\mathcal{E}, 1) - CFF(10, 25)$$

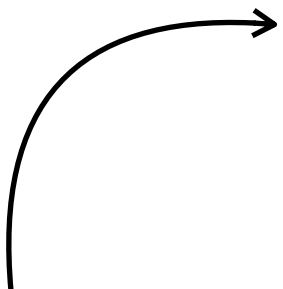
Some other cases

The Swiss-Army-Knife CFF

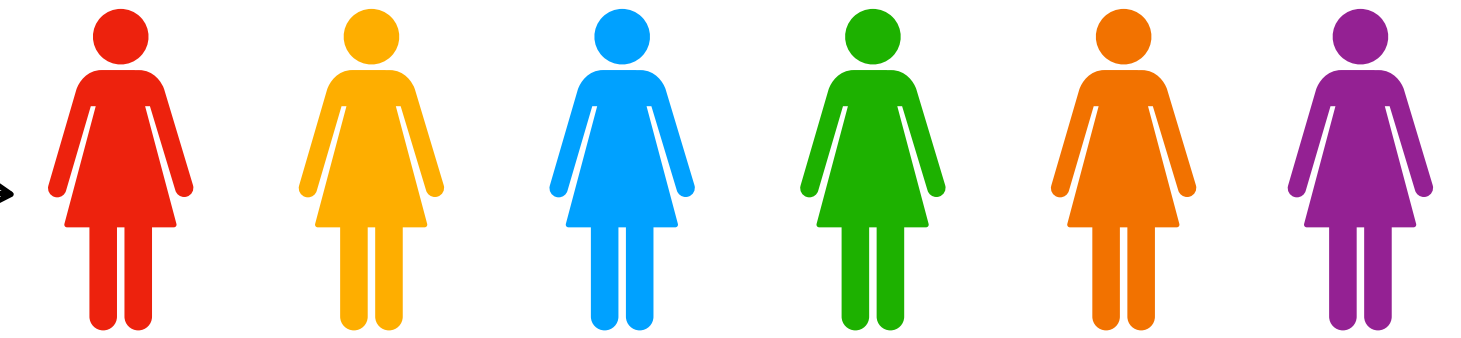


$(\mathcal{E}, 1) - CFF(10, 25)$

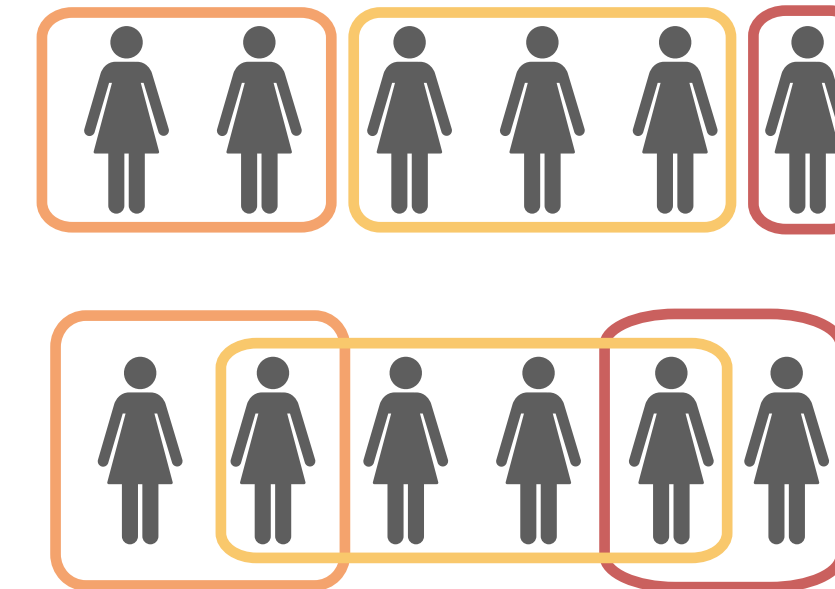
In this talk



1	1	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0
0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	1



- The problem of **combinatorial group testing** in pandemic screening
- Study of *CFFs on hypergraphs*
 - Non-overlapping edges
 - Overlapping edges
 - Some other cases
- Applications in cryptography



1. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Structure-Aware Combinatorial Group Testing: A New Method for Pandemic Screening. In: IWOCA 2022. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 13270. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06678-8>

2. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Combinatorial group testing and cover-free families on hypergraphs. 2025[Unpublished manuscript].

Applications in Cryptography

- **Fault-tolerant Digital Signatures**

- Fault-tolerant digital signatures
 - Idalino, Moura, Custodio, Panario (2015), Idalino, Moura, Adams, (2019)
- Fault-tolerance in aggregation of signatures
 - Zaverucha, Stinson (2010). Idalino (2015). Hartung, Kaidel, Koch, Koch, Rupp (2016). Idalino, Moura (2018, 2021)
- Fault-tolerance in batch verification
 - Pastuszak, Pieprzyk (2000). Zaverucha, Stinson (2009).

- **Post-quantum one-time and multiple-times signature schemes**

- Pieprzyk, Wang, Xing (2003). Zaverucha and Stinson, (2011). Kalach and Safavi-Naini (2016).

- **Key distribution**

- Key distribution patterns
 - Mitchell and Piper (1988)
- Broadcast authentication
 - Safavi-Naini and Wang (1998) . Ling, Wang, Xing (2007).
- Broadcast encryption
 - Gafni, Staddon, Yin (1999). D'Arco and Stinson (2003)
- Traitor Tracing
 - Stinson and Wei (1998). Tonien and Safavi-Naini (2006)

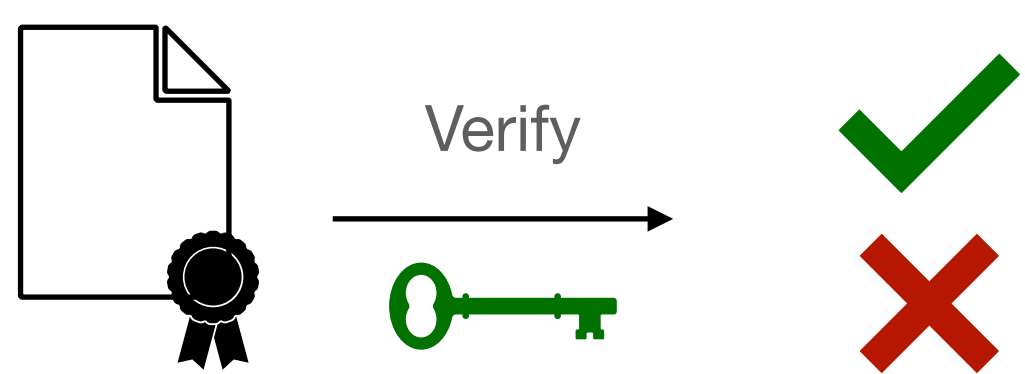
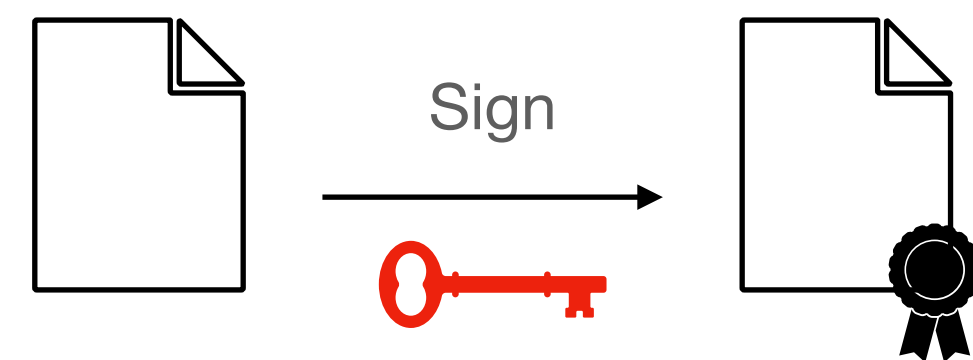
- and many many others..



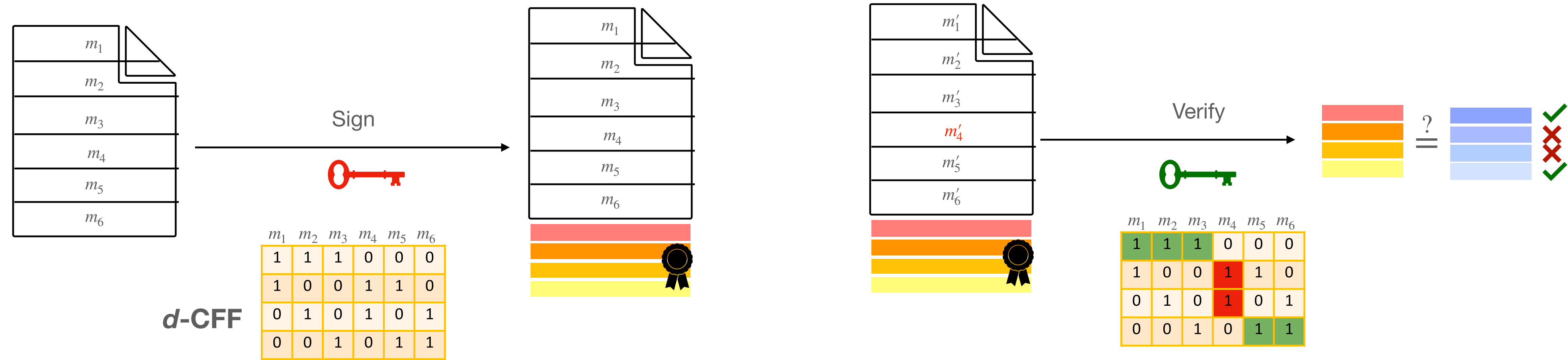
More details:

IDALINO, T. B.; MOURA, L., A Survey of Cover-Free Families: Constructions, Applications, and Generalizations. New Advances in Designs, Codes and Cryptography. 86 (2024),

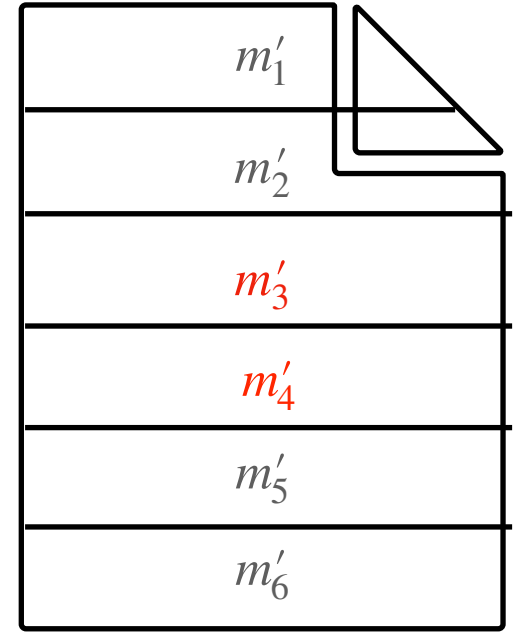
Applications in cryptography



Applications in cryptography



Applications in cryptography

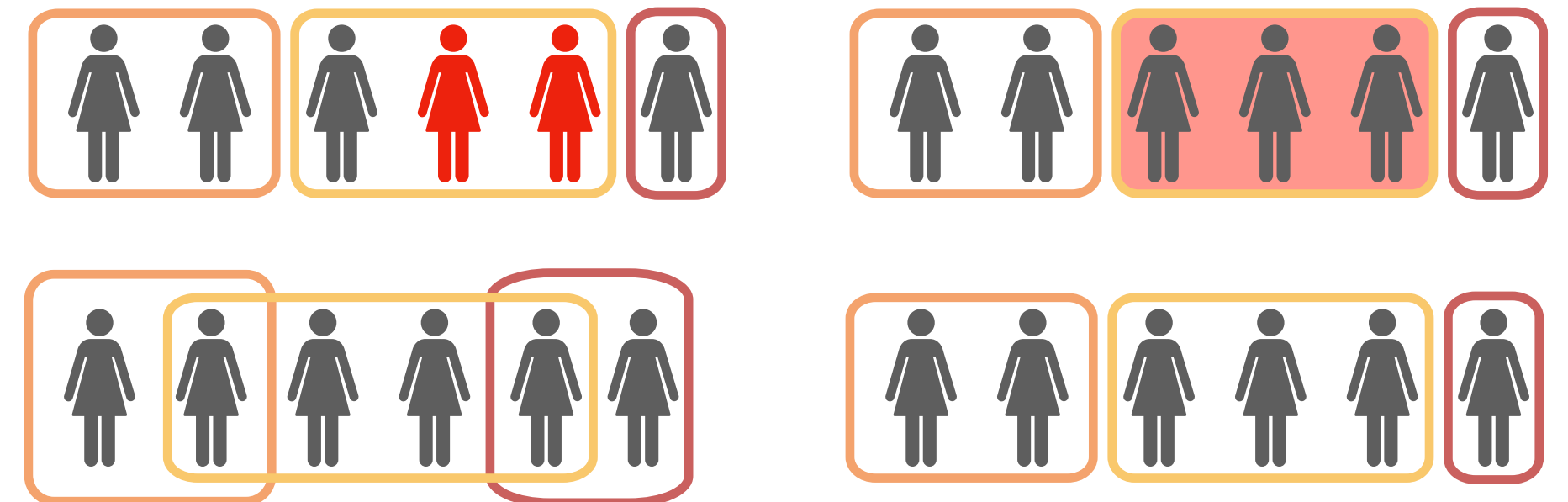


- Once modifications happened, it is natural to expect that they will happen in clusters of blocks
- This application was studied under the name of *variable CFFs* *
- It is natural to model these clusters of modifications using hypergraphs

* Idalino, T.B.: Fault tolerance in cryptographic applications using cover-free families. Ph.D. thesis, University of Ottawa, Canada (2019)

In this talk

- The problem of **combinatorial group testing** in pandemic screening
- Naturally model close contacts using hypergraphs
- Construction of *CFFs on hypergraphs*
 - Vertex-identifying and edge-identifying CFFs
 - Overlapping and non-overlapping edges



1. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Structure-Aware Combinatorial Group Testing: A New Method for Pandemic Screening. In: IWOCA 2022. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 13270. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06678-8>

2. Bardini Idalino, T., Moura, L. Combinatorial group testing and cover-free families on hypergraphs. 2025[Unpublished manuscript].

Future work on structure-aware CFFs

- Explore other constraints of the applications
 - Limit on number of 1s per row and/or column
- Generalize definitions to allow flexible internal identification
 - Assume a bound on the number of infected items inside an edge (instead of edge size)
- Explore probabilistic constructions
- Explore practical applications in other scenarios

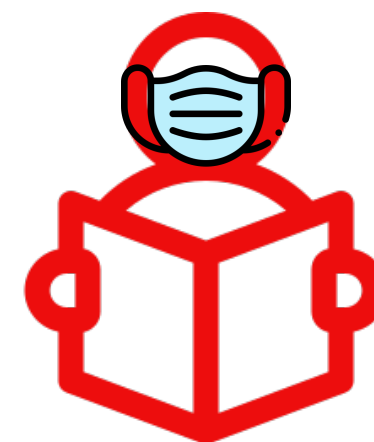
Combinatorial group testing on hypergraphs

Thaís Bardini Idalino
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina - Brazil

Ottawa Mathematics and Statistics Conference
May 2025



Thank you!



Thais Bardini Idalino - thais.bardini@ufsc.br
Lucia Moura - lmoura@uottawa.ca