

- **Weeks 1–2: informal introduction**

- network = path



- **Week 3: graph theory**

- **Weeks 4–7: models of computing**

- what can be computed (efficiently)?

- **Weeks 8–11: lower bounds**

- what cannot be computed (efficiently)?

- **Week 12: recap**

# Week 11

- Applications of Ramsey's theorem

# Ramsey's theorem

- For all  $c, k, n$  there are numbers  $R_c(n; k)$  s.t.:  
if we have  $N \geq R_c(n; k)$  elements and we label each  $k$ -subset with one of  $c$  colours, there is a monochromatic subset of size  $n$

$\bar{R}_c(n; 2)?$

$$\bar{R}_c(2; 2) = 2$$

$$M = \bar{R}_c(2; 2)$$

$$\bar{R}_c(3; 2) \leq 1 + R_c(M; 1)$$

$$M = \bar{R}_c(3; 2)$$

$$\bar{R}_c(4; 2) \leq 1 + R_c(M; 1)$$

...

$\bar{R}_c(n; 3)?$

$$\bar{R}_c(3; 3) = 3$$

$$M = \bar{R}_c(3; 3)$$

$$\bar{R}_c(4; 3) \leq 1 + R_c(M; 2)$$

$$M = \bar{R}_c(4; 3)$$

$$\bar{R}_c(5; 3) \leq 1 + R_c(M; 2)$$

...

$R_c(n; 1)?$

$$R_c(n; 1) \leq c \cdot (n-1) + 1$$

$R_c(n; 2)?$

$$M = R_c(n; 1)$$

$$R_c(n; 2) \leq \bar{R}_c(M; 2)$$

$R_c(n; 3)?$

$$M = R_c(n; 1)$$

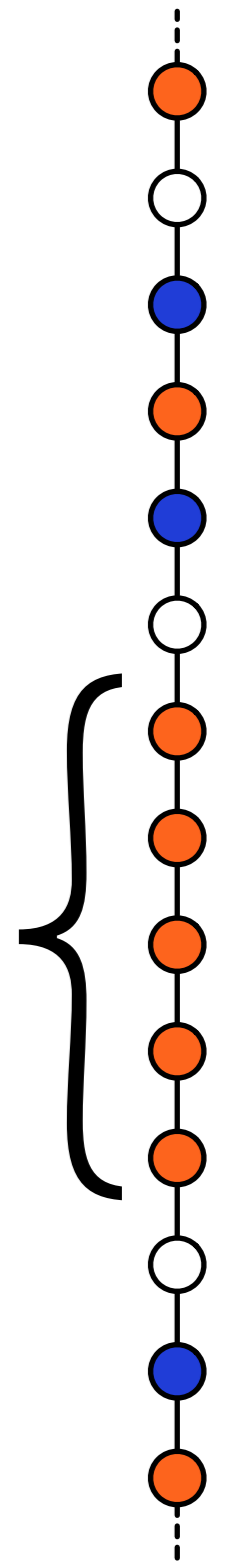
$$R_c(n; 3) \leq \bar{R}_c(M; 3)$$

# Applications of Ramsey's theorem

- **Application for  $k = 2, c = 2$ :**  
**any graph with  $N$  nodes contains  
an independent set or a clique of size  $n$**

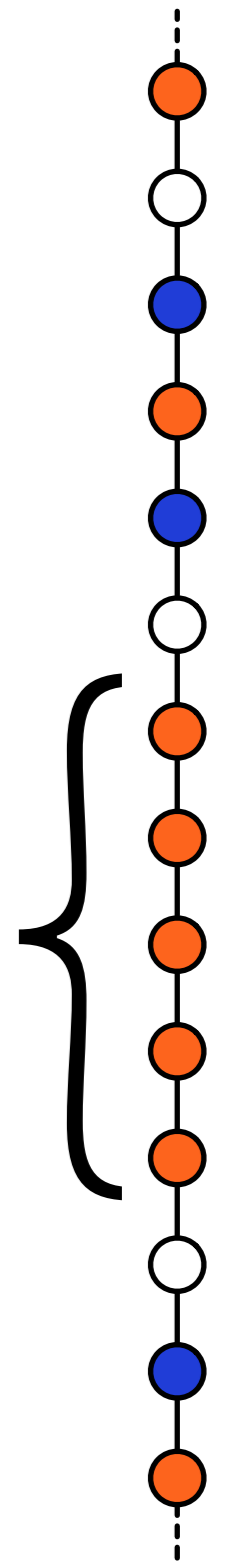
# Applications of Ramsey's theorem

- **Application: negative results for the LOCAL model**
- **For any constant-time algorithm  $A$ , we can construct a bad input  $G$  such that there is a large region of nodes with the **same output****



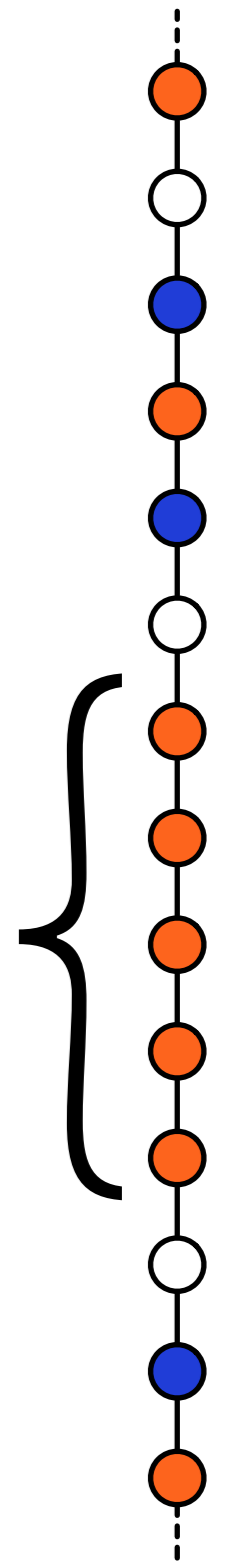
# Applications of Ramsey's theorem

- **For any constant-time algorithm  $A$ , we can construct a bad input  $G$  such that there is a large region of nodes with the **same output****
  - some technical assumptions, see exercises for details...



# Applications of Ramsey's theorem

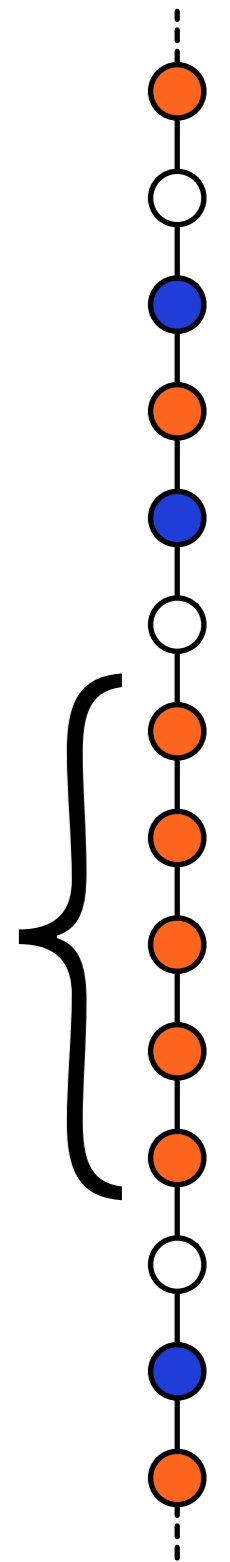
- **For any constant-time algorithm  $A$ , we can construct a bad input  $G$  such that there is a large region of nodes with the same output**
  - no constant-time algorithms for vertex colouring, edge colouring, maximal independent sets, ...





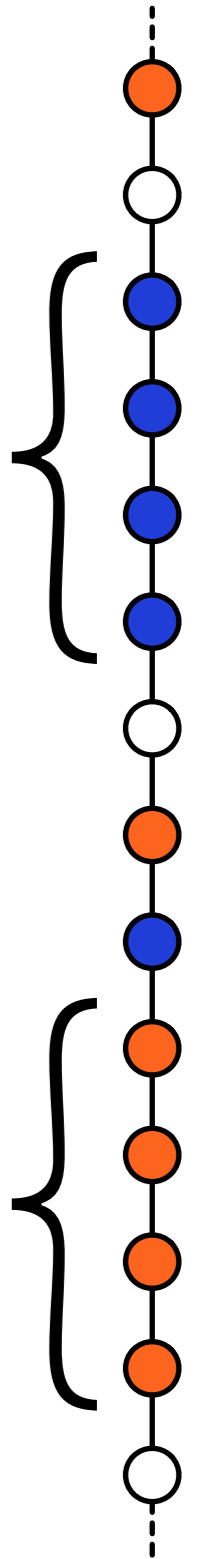
# Applications of Ramsey's theorem

- **We already know all (?) this from week 2**
- **However, Ramsey's theorem has further applications!**



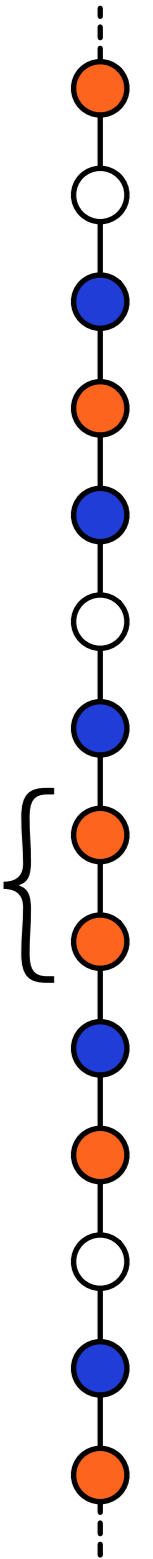
# Applications of Ramsey's theorem

- For any constant-time algorithm  $A$ , we can construct a bad input  $G$  such that there are **lots of regions** of nodes with the **same output**
  - no constant-time algorithms for large independent sets, large matchings, ...



# Applications of Ramsey's theorem

- **Generalisations in exercises...**
- **We will now just prove a simple special case: vertex colouring not possible in the LOCAL model with constant-time algorithms**



# Vertex colouring and Ramsey's theorem

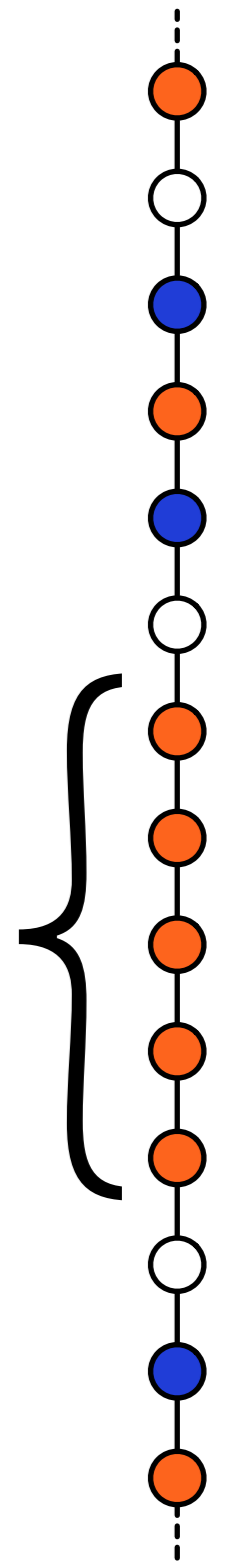
- **Assume:** algorithm  $A$  runs in time  $T = O(1)$  and outputs values 1, 2, 3
- **Claim:** there is a cycle  $G$  with unique identifiers such that  $A$  does not find a vertex colouring

# Vertex colouring and Ramsey's theorem

- **Assume: algorithm  $A$  runs in time  $T = O(1)$  and outputs values 1, 2, 3**
- **Let:  $n = 2T + 2$ ,  $k = 2T + 1$ ,  $c = 3$ ,  $N = R_c(n; k)$**
- **Use  $A$  to label  $k$ -subsets of  $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$**
- **Monochromatic subset  $\rightarrow$  bad output**

# Applications of Ramsey's theorem

- **$O(1)$ -time algorithms cannot do much**
  - even if we have unique identifiers
- **$O(\log^* n)$ -time algorithms much more powerful:**
  - can find colourings, break symmetry, find large independent sets, ...



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