

# On the Chromatic Spectrum of Uniform $C$ -Hypergraphs

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**Abstract**—Motivated by solving the problem proposed by Král, (Electronic J. Combin. 11#R19, 2004), we construct a family of uniform  $C$ -hypergraphs whose chromatic spectrum is a linear combination of the Stirling numbers of the second kind.

**Keywords**-  $C$ -hypergraph; chromatic spectrum; Stirling number of the second kind

## I. INTRODUCTION

A mixed hypergraph on a finite set  $X$  is a triple  $H = (X, C, D)$ , where  $C$  and  $D$  are families of subsets of  $X$ . The members of  $C$  and  $D$  are called  $C$ -edges and  $D$ -edges, respectively. A mixed hypergraph with  $D = \emptyset$ , denoted by  $H = (X, C)$ , is called a  $C$ -hypergraph, and a hypergraph with  $C = \emptyset$ , denoted by  $H = (X, D)$ , is called a  $D$ -hypergraph. A mixed hypergraph is  $t$ -uniform if every edge contains  $t$  vertices.

A proper  $k$ -coloring of a mixed hypergraph  $H$  is a mapping from  $X$  into a set of  $k$  colors such that each  $C$ -edge has two vertices with a Common color and each  $D$ -edge has two vertices with Distinct colors. A coloring may also be viewed as a partition (feasible partition) of  $X$ , where the color classes (partition classes) are the sets of vertices assigned to the same color. A strict  $k$ -coloring is a proper  $k$ -coloring with  $k$  nonempty color classes, and a mixed hypergraph is  $k$ -colorable if it has a strict  $k$ -coloring. The maximum (resp. minimum) number of the colors in a strict coloring of  $H = (X, C, D)$  is the upper chromatic number (resp. lower chromatic number) of  $H$ , denoted by  $\bar{\chi}(H)$  (resp.  $\chi(H)$ ).

The set of all the values  $k$  such that  $H$  has a strict  $k$ -coloring is called the feasible set of  $H$ , denoted by  $F(H)$ . For each  $k$ , let  $r_k$  denote the number of feasible partitions of the vertex set. The vector  $R(H) = (r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{\bar{\chi}})$  is called the chromatic spectrum of  $H$ , where  $\bar{\chi}$  is the upper chromatic number of  $H$ . The study of the colorings of mixed hypergraphs has made a lot of progress since its inception [5]. For more information, see [4,6].

It is readily seen that  $H$  is a  $C$ -hypergraph if and only if  $1 \in F(H)$ . Moreover, if  $r_1 \neq 0$ , then  $r_1 = 1$ . For the case  $1 \notin F(H)$ , Jiang et al. [3] proved that for any finite set  $S$  of integers greater than 1, there exists a mixed hypergraph  $H$  such that  $F(H) = S$ . Král [2] strengthened this result by showing that prescribing any positive integer  $r_k$ , there exists a mixed hypergraph which has precisely  $r_k$  strict  $k$ -colorings for all  $k \in S$ . Bujtás and Tuza [1] gave the necessary and sufficient condition for a finite set  $S$  of natural numbers being the feasible set of an  $r$ -uniform mixed hypergraph. Zhao et al. [8] proved that any vector  $R = (0, r_2, \dots, r_n)$  with  $n \geq 2$  and  $r_i \geq 0, i = 2, \dots, n$  can be the chromatic spectrum of some 3-uniform bi-hypergraph. Král [2] proposed the following problem: What are necessary and sufficient conditions for a vector  $R = (1, r_2, \dots, r_n)$  to be the chromatic spectrum of a  $C$ -hypergraph?

Let  $S(n, k)$  be the Stirling number of the second kind, i.e., the number of ways to partition a set of  $n$  elements into  $k$  nonempty subsets. Assume that  $H = (X, C)$  be a  $t$ -uniform  $C$ -hypergraph and  $c = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$  a strict  $n$ -coloring of  $H$ . Then for any  $t \leq k \leq n$ , we can get  $S(n, k)$  strict  $k$ -colorings of  $H$  by union some color classes of  $c$ , i.e.,  $r_k \geq S(n, k)$ . In this sense, the  $n$ -dimensional vector with the  $k$ -th entry being  $S(n, k)$  for  $t \leq k \leq n$  is a lower bound on the chromatic spectrum of  $C$ -hypergraphs with upper chromatic number  $n$ . Zhang et al. [7] proved that this lower bound can be attained for 3-uniform  $C$ -hypergraphs. In this paper, we generalize it to  $t$ -uniform  $C$ -hypergraphs and get the following results.

**Theorem 1.1** Let  $n_1 > \dots > n_s \geq t \geq 3$  be integers. Then for any positive integers  $m_1, \dots, m_s$  and

$$t_k := m_1 S(n_1, k) + m_2 S(n_2, k) + \dots + m_s S(n_s, k), \quad k = t, \dots, n_1,$$

there exists a  $t$ -uniform  $C$ -hypergraph  $H$  with upper chromatic number  $n_1$  and  $r_k = t_k$  for each  $k \in \{t, \dots, n_1\}$ , where  $r_k$  is the  $k$ -th entry of the chromatic spectrum of  $H$ .

**Theorem 1.2** For any integers  $n \geq t \geq 3$ , there exists a  $t$ -uniform  $C$ -hypergraph  $H$  satisfies that  $\bar{\chi}(H) = n$  and

$$R(H) = (1, r_2, \dots, r_{t-1}, S_2(n, t), \dots, S_2(n, n)).$$

## II. PROOF OF THE THEOREMS

For any positive integer  $n$ , let  $[n]$  denote the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ .

We first give the basic construction of  $t$ -uniform  $C$ -hypergraphs. For integers  $s \geq 2$  and  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq \dots \geq n_s \geq t$ , let

$$\begin{aligned} X_{n_1, \dots, n_s} &= \{(x_1, \dots, x_s) \mid x_j \in [n_j], j \in [s]\}, \\ C_{n_1, \dots, n_s} &= \{\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_t\} \mid \alpha_i \in X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}, i \in [t]; \\ &\quad |\{\alpha_1^j, \dots, \alpha_t^j\}| \leq t-1, j \in [s]\}, \\ H_{n_1, \dots, n_s} &= (X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}, C_{n_1, \dots, n_s}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha_i^j$  is the  $j$ -th component of  $\alpha_i$ .

Note that for any  $i \in [s]$ ,  $c_i^s = \{X_{i1}^s, X_{i2}^s, \dots, X_{in_i}^s\}$  is a strict  $n_i$ -coloring of  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$ , where

$$X_{ij}^s = \{(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, j, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_s) \mid x_k \in [n_k], k \in [s] \setminus \{i\}, j \in [n_i]\}.$$

Moreover, for any  $k \geq t$ , we can get  $S(n_i, k)$  strict  $k$ -colorings of  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$  from  $c_i^s$ . Hence,  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$  has at least  $S(n_1, k) + \dots + S(n_s, k)$  strict  $k$ -colorings. In the following, we shall prove that  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$  has no other strict  $k$ -colorings, that is to say,  $r_k = S(n_1, k) + \dots + S(n_s, k)$  for every  $t \leq k \leq n_1$ .

Let  $k \in \{t, \dots, n_1\}$ ,  $i \in [s]$  and  $c = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$  be one of the  $S(n_i, k)$  strict  $k$ -colorings of  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$  getting from  $c_i^s$ . Note that for each  $j \in [n_i]$ , there exists an integer in  $[k]$ , say  $l_j$ , such that  $X_{ij}^s \subseteq C_{l_j}$ . It suffices to prove that for any strict  $k$ -coloring  $c = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$  of  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$ , there exists an  $i \in [s]$  such that  $|c(X_{ij}^s)| = 1$  holds for each  $j \in [n_i]$ .

**Lemma 2.1** Let  $c = \{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$  be a strict  $k$ -coloring of  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$  with  $k \geq t$ . For each  $i \in [s]$ , if  $|c(X_{ij}^s)| = 1$  for some  $j \in [n_i]$ , then for each  $h \in [n_i]$ ,  $|c(X_{ih}^s)| = 1$ .

**Proof** Without loss of generality, suppose  $X_{i1}^s \subseteq C_1$ .

We claim that for each  $j \in [n_i] \setminus \{1\}$ , there exists an integer in  $[k] \setminus \{1\}$ , say  $l_j$ , such that  $X_{1j}^s \subseteq C_{l_j} \cup C_1$ . Suppose for a contradiction that  $X_{1j}^s \cap C_p \neq \emptyset$  and  $X_{1j}^s \cap C_q \neq \emptyset$  for some  $j \in [n_i] \setminus \{1\}$  and  $p, q \in [k] \setminus \{1\}$  with  $p \neq q$ . Without loss of generality, suppose  $p = 2, q = 3$ . Pick  $(j, i_2, \dots, i_s) \in C_2$ ,  $(j, j_2, \dots, j_s) \in C_3$  and  $\alpha_h \in C_h$  for each  $h \in \{4, \dots, t\}$ . Note that  $(1, i_2, \dots, i_s) \in C_1$ . Then

$$\{(1, i_2, \dots, i_s), (j, i_2, \dots, i_s), (j, j_2, \dots, j_s), \alpha_4, \dots, \alpha_t\}$$

is an edge and is polychromatic, a contradiction. Hence, our claim is valid.

Suppose  $X_{1a}^s \subseteq C_1 \cup C_p$  and  $X_{1a}^s \cap C_1 \neq \emptyset, X_{1a}^s \cap C_p \neq \emptyset$  for some  $a \in [n_i] \setminus \{1\}$  and  $p \in [k] \setminus \{1\}$ . Without loss of generality, suppose  $p = 2$  and pick  $(a, i_2, \dots, i_s) \in C_1, (a, j_2, \dots, j_s) \in C_2$ . Note that  $k \geq t$ . Assume that  $X_{1q}^s \subseteq C_1 \cup C_3$  and  $X_{1q}^s \cap C_3 \neq \emptyset$ , where  $q \in [n_i] \setminus \{1, a\}$ . Pick  $\alpha_h \in C_h, h = 4, \dots, t$ . If  $(q, i_2, \dots, i_s) \in C_3$ , then the edge

$$\{(a, i_2, \dots, i_s), (a, j_2, \dots, j_s), (q, i_2, \dots, i_s), \alpha_4, \dots, \alpha_t\}$$

is polychromatic, a contradiction; or the edge

$$\{(a, i_2, \dots, i_s), (a, j_2, \dots, j_s), (q, j_2, \dots, j_s), \alpha_4, \dots, \alpha_t\}$$

is polychromatic if  $(q, j_2, \dots, j_s) \in C_3$ , also a contradiction.

Hence,  $(q, i_2, \dots, i_s), (q, j_2, \dots, j_s) \in C_1$ . Pick  $(q, k_2, \dots, k_s) \in C_3$ . Note that  $\beta = (a, k_2, \dots, k_s) \in C_1 \cup C_2$ . Then the edge

$$\{(a, i_2, \dots, i_s), (q, k_2, \dots, k_s), \beta, \alpha_4, \dots, \alpha_t\}$$

is polychromatic if  $\beta \in C_2$ ; or the edge

$$\{(a, j_2, \dots, j_s), (q, k_2, \dots, k_s), \beta, \alpha_4, \dots, \alpha_t\}$$

is polychromatic if  $\beta \in C_1$ , a contradiction. Therefore, for each  $h \in [n_i]$ ,  $|c(X_{ih}^s)| = 1$ , as desired.

In the following, we shall prove that under any strict coloring of  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$  with at least  $t$  colors, there exists a  $X_{ij}^s$  which is contained in one color class.

**Lemma 2.2** Let  $c = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k\}$  be a strict  $k$ -coloring of  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$  with  $k \geq t$ . Then there exist integers  $i \in [s]$  and  $j \in [n_i]$  such that  $|c(X_{ij}^s)| = 1$ .

**Proof** We prove it by induction on  $s$ . Let  $s = 2$ . Suppose for a contradiction that there exist  $i \in [n_1]$  and  $j \in [n_2]$  such that  $X_{i1}^2 \cup C_l$  and  $X_{2j}^2 \cup C_l$  for every  $l \in [k]$ . Without loss of generality, suppose  $i = j = 1, (1, 1) \in C_1, (1, 2) \in C_2, (a, 1) \notin C_1$ . Pick  $\alpha_h \in C_h, 3 \leq h \leq t-1$ . Since  $\{(1, 1), (1, 2), (a, 1), \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_{t-1}\}$

is an edge,  $(a, 1) \in C_2 \cup \dots \cup C_{t-1}$ . Pick  $(p, q) \in C_i$ . Assume that  $(a, 1) \in C_2$ . Then since  $\{(1, 1), (p, q), (1, q), \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_{t-1}\}$  and  $\{(1, 1), (a, 1), (1, q), \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_{t-1}\}$  are edges, one gets that  $(1, q) \in C_h$  for some  $h \in [t-1] \setminus \{2\}$ . If  $h = 1$ , then the edge  $\{(1, q), (1, 2), (p, q), \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_{t-1}\}$  is polychromatic; if  $h \neq 1$ , then the edge  $\{(1, 1), (1, 2), (p, q), \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_{h-1}, (1, q), \alpha_{h+1}, \dots, \alpha_{t-1}\}$  is polychromatic, a contradiction. Assume that  $(a, 1) \in C_h$  for some  $h \in \{3, \dots, t-1\}$ . Then the edge  $\{(1, 1), (1, 2), \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_{h-1}, (a, 1), \alpha_{h+1}, \dots, \alpha_{t-1}, (p, q)\}$  is polychromatic, a contradiction. It follows that the conclusion

is true for the case of  $s = 2$ . Assume that the conclusion is also true for the case of  $s - 1$ .

Let  $X' = \{(x_2, x_2, x_3, x_4, \dots, x_s) \mid x_j \in [n_j], j \in [s] \setminus \{1\}\}$ . Then

$$\phi: X' \rightarrow X_{n_2, \dots, n_s}, (x_2, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_s) \mapsto (x_2, \dots, x_s)$$

is an isomorphism from  $H' = H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}[X']$  to  $H_{n_2, \dots, n_s}$ .

Note that the restriction of any strict coloring of  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$  on  $X'$  corresponds to a strict  $k_1$ -coloring of  $H_{n_2, \dots, n_s}$ . We focus on the colors of the vertices of  $X'$  and get the following three possible cases.

**Case 1**  $k_1 = 1$ .

That is to say  $X' \subseteq C_h$  for some  $h \in [k]$ . Without loss of generality, suppose  $X' \subseteq C_1$ . Pick  $\alpha_i = (a_{i1}, \dots, a_{is}) \in C_i$  for each  $i \in [t] \setminus \{1\}$ . If there exist two distinct integers in  $[t] \setminus \{1\}$ , say  $p, q$ , such that  $a_{p1} = a_{q1}$ , then  $\{(a_{22}, a_{22}, a_{23}, \dots, a_{2s}), \alpha_i \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{1\}\}$  is an edge and is polychromatic, a contradiction. Hence,  $a_{p1} \neq a_{q1}$  if  $p \neq q$ . For each  $j \in [t] \setminus \{1, 2\}$ , from the edge

$\{(a_{21}, a_{32}, \dots, a_{3s}), (a_{22}, a_{22}, a_{23}, \dots, a_{2s}), \alpha_i \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{1, j\}\}$ , we have  $(a_{21}, a_{32}, \dots, a_{3s}) \notin C_j$ . Then from the edge

$\{(a_{21}, a_{32}, \dots, a_{3s}), \alpha_i \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{1\}\}$ , we have

$(a_{21}, a_{32}, \dots, a_{3s}) \in C_2$ . For each  $\alpha = (a_{21}, x_2, \dots, x_s) \in X_{1a_{21}}^s$ , from the edge

$\{\alpha, (a_{21}, a_{32}, \dots, a_{3s}), (a_{32}, a_{32}, a_{33}, \dots, a_{3s}), \alpha_i \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{1, 2, j\}\}$ , we have  $\alpha \notin C_j$  for all  $j \in [t] \setminus \{1, 2\}$ , then  $\alpha \in C_2$  since

$\{\alpha, (a_{21}, a_{32}, \dots, a_{3s}), \alpha_i \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{1, 2\}\}$  is an edge. Therefore,  $X_{1a_{21}}^s \subseteq C_2$ , as desired.

**Case 2**  $2 \leq k_1 \leq t - 1$ .

Without loss of generality, suppose  $X' \subseteq C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_{k_1}$ ,  $X' \cap C_i \neq \emptyset$  for all  $i \in [k_1]$ . Pick  $\alpha_i = (a_{i2}, a_{i2}, a_{i3}, \dots, a_{is}) \in C_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k_1$ , and  $\beta_j = (b_{j1}, \dots, b_{js}) \in C_j$ ,  $j = k_1 + 1, \dots, t$ . Then  $(b_{j2}, b_{j2}, b_{j3}, \dots, b_{js}) \in C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_{k_1}$  for all  $j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]$ .

**Case 2.1**  $(b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}) \in C_1$ . If  $a_{p2} = b_{q1}$  for some  $p \in [k_1] \setminus \{1\}$  and  $q \in [t] \setminus [k_1]$ , then

$\{(b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$  is an edge and is polychromatic, a contradiction. Hence,

$$a_{i2} \neq b_{j1} \text{ for all } i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1\} \text{ and } j \in [t] \setminus [k_1].$$

For each  $p \in [k_1] \setminus \{2\}$ , since

$\{(a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{p\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$  is an edge,

$(a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}) \notin C_p$ ; and for each  $q \in [t - 1] \setminus [k_1]$ , from the edge  $\{(a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1], j \in \{k_1 + 1, \dots, t\} \setminus \{q\}\}$ , we get that  $(a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}) \notin C_q$ . Then the edges

$\{(a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), (b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1\}, j \in [t - 1] \setminus [k_1]\}$  and  $\{(a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$  imply

that  $(a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}) \in C_2$ . Pick  $\eta = (a_{22}, x_2, \dots, x_s) \in X_{1a_{22}}^s$ . Since

$\{\eta, (a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), (b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1, 2, p\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$  is an edge,  $(a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}) \notin C_p$  for all  $p \in [k_1] \setminus \{1, 2\}$ ; since

$\{\eta, (a_{22}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), (b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1, 2\}, j \in \{k_1 + 1, \dots, t\} \setminus \{q\}\}$  is an edge,  $\eta \notin C_q$  for each  $q \in [t] \setminus [k_1]$ . Then the edge

$\{\eta, (a_{22}, a_{12}, \dots, a_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1, 2\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$

implies that  $\eta \in C_2$ . Therefore,  $X_{1a_{22}}^s \subseteq C_2$ , as desired.

**Case 2.2**  $(b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}) \in C_h$  for some  $h \in [k_1] \setminus \{1\}$ . If  $a_{p2} = b_{q1}$  for some  $p \in [k_1] \setminus \{h\}$  and  $q \in [t] \setminus [k_1]$ , then

$\{(b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{h\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$  is an edge and is polychromatic. Hence,  $a_{i2} \neq b_{j1}$  for all  $i \in [k_1] \setminus \{h\}$  and

$j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]$ .

For each  $p \in [k_1] \setminus \{1, h\}$ , since

$\{(a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{p\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$  is an edge,  $(a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}) \notin C_p$ ; for each  $q \in \{k_1 + 1, \dots, t - 1\}$ , from the edge

$\{(a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1], j \in \{k_1 + 1, \dots, t\} \setminus \{q\}\}$ , we get  $(a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}) \notin C_q$ . Then the edges

$\{(a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), (b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{h\}, j \in [t - 1] \setminus [k_1]\}$  and  $\{(a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{h\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$  imply

that  $(a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}) \in C_1$ . Pick  $\eta = (a_{12}, x_2, \dots, x_s) \in X_{1a_{12}}^s$ . Since

$\{\eta, (a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), (b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1, h, p\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$  is an edge,  $(a_{12}, a_{12}, \dots, a_{1s}) \notin C_p$  for each

$p \in [k_1] \setminus \{1, h\}$ ; and from the edge

$\{\eta, (a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), (b_{12}, b_{12}, b_{13}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1, h\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1], j \neq q\}$ , we get that  $\eta \notin C_q$  for each  $q \in [t] \setminus [k_1]$ .

Then the edge

$\{\eta, (a_{12}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{1s}), \alpha_i, \beta_j \mid i \in [k_1] \setminus \{1, h\}, j \in [t] \setminus [k_1]\}$

implies that  $\eta \in C_1$ . Therefore,  $X_{1a_{12}}^s \subseteq C_1$ , as desired.

**Case 3**  $t \leq k_1 \leq k$ .

By induction, it is true for  $H[X']$ . That is to say, there exists an  $i \in [s] \setminus \{1\}$  such that for each  $j \in [n_i]$ ,  $X_{ij} \subseteq C_{l_j}$  for some  $l_j \in [k_1]$ , where  $X_{ij} = X' \cap X_{ij}^s$ .

**Case 3.1**  $i = 2$ .

Without loss of generality, suppose  $X_{2j} \subseteq C_j, j = 1, \dots, t$ .

For each  $j \in [t] \setminus \{1\}$  and  $(1, j, x_3, \dots, x_s) \in X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$ , since  $\{(1, j, x_3, \dots, x_s), (i, i, x_3, \dots, x_s) \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{1, j\}\}$  are edges, one has  $(1, j, x_3, \dots, x_s) \in C_1 \cup C_j$ . Similarly, we have  $(i, j, x_3, \dots, x_s) \in C_i \cup C_j$  for any  $i, j \in [t]$  and  $(i, j, x_3, \dots, x_s) \in X_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$ .

Assume that  $(1, 2, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1$ . From the edge  $\{(1, 2, 1, \dots, 1), (1, 3, 1, \dots, 1), (i, i, 1, \dots, 1) \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{1, 3\}\}$ , we get  $(1, 3, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_1$ . Pick  $\eta = (1, x_2, \dots, x_s) \in X_{11}^s$ . From the edges  $\{\eta, (1, 2, 1, \dots, 1), (2, 2, 1, \dots, 1), (i, i, 1, \dots, 1) \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{1, 2, p\}\}, p \in [t] \setminus \{1, 2\}, \{\eta, (1, 3, 1, \dots, 1), (3, 3, 1, \dots, 1), (i, i, 1, \dots, 1) \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{1, 3, q\}\}, q \in [t] \setminus \{1, 3\}$ , we have  $\eta \in C_1$ , which implies that  $X_{11}^s \subseteq C_1$ .

Assume that  $(1, 2, 1, \dots, 1) \in C_2$ . Then we may similarly get that  $X_{22}^s \subseteq C_2$ , as desired.

**Case 3.2**  $i \in [s] \setminus \{1, 2\}$ .

Suppose  $i = 3$  and  $X_{3i} \subseteq C_i, i = 1, \dots, t$ . Pick  $\eta = (x_1, x_2, 1, x_4, \dots, x_s) \in X_{31}^s$ . Then  $\eta \notin C_j$  for each  $j \in [t] \setminus \{1\}$ , since  $\{\eta, (x_2, x_2, i, x_4, \dots, x_s) \mid i \in [t] \setminus \{j\}\}$  is an edge. From the edge  $\{\eta, (x_1, x_2, i, x_4, \dots, x_s) \mid i \in [t-1]\}$ , we have  $\eta \in C_1$ , which implies that  $X_{31}^s \subseteq C_1$ .

Combining Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, we get the following result.

**Theorem 2.3** Let  $s \geq 2$  and  $n_1 \geq \dots \geq n_s \geq t$  be integers.

Then

- (1)  $\bar{\chi}(H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}) = n_1$ ;
- (2)  $r_k = \sum_{i=1}^s S(n_i, k)$  for  $t \leq k \leq n_1$ , where  $r_k$  is the  $k$ -th entry of the chromatic spectrum of  $H_{n_1, \dots, n_s}$ .

In the following, we give the proof of Theorems 1.1 and 1.2.

**Proof of Theorem 1.1** Let

$(q_1, \dots, q_l) = (\underbrace{n_1, \dots, n_1}_{m_1}, \dots, \underbrace{n_s, \dots, n_s}_{m_s})$  and  $H = H_{q_1, \dots, q_l}$ . From the

above discussion, we get that  $\bar{\chi}(H) = n_1$  and

$r_k = m_1 S(n_1, k) + m_2 S(n_2, k) + \dots + m_s S(n_s, k), k = t, \dots, n_1$ , where  $r_k$  is the  $k$ -th entry of the chromatic spectrum of  $H$ . It follows that  $H$  is a desired  $C$ -hypergraph. The proof of Theorem 1.1 is completed.

**Proof of Theorem 1.2** For integer  $n$  at least three, let  $X = X_{n,t}, C' = \{(1, 1), (1, 2), \dots, (1, t)\}, C = C_{n,t} \cup C'$  and  $H = (X, C)$ . Note that  $H_{n,t}$  is a spanning sub-hypergraph of  $H$  and  $c_1^2$  is a strict  $n$ -coloring of  $H$ . But the edge  $\{(1, 1), \dots, (1, t)\}$  is polychromatic under  $c_2^2$ . Hence,  $c_2^2$  is not a strict coloring of  $H$ . Therefore, for any  $k \geq t$ ,  $H$  has  $S(n, k)$  strict  $k$ -colorings getting from  $c_1^2$ . It follows that  $H$  is a  $t$ -uniform  $C$ -hypergraph with upper chromatic number  $n$  and  $r_k = S(n, k)$  for any  $t \leq k \leq n$ , as desired.

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