Selfridge-Conway Discrete Procedure: Envy-Free Division Among Three People

Aviv Lipman Williams College



Marriage and Divorce in America

• 2 million US marriages per year

Almost half end in divorce



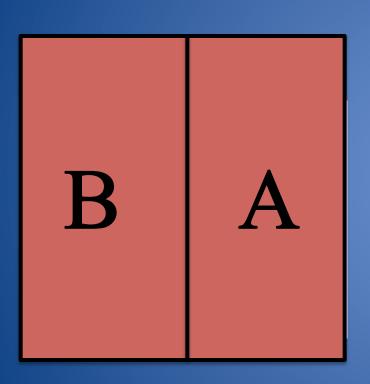
Post-Divorce

- Options
 - Lawyers



- Math! Envy free division

Envy-Free Division Between Two People





3-way civil union (Netherlands 2005)



Victor de Brujin, Bianca, Mirjam

Polyfidelitous union (Brazil 2012)



Envy-Free Division Among Three People (1960s)

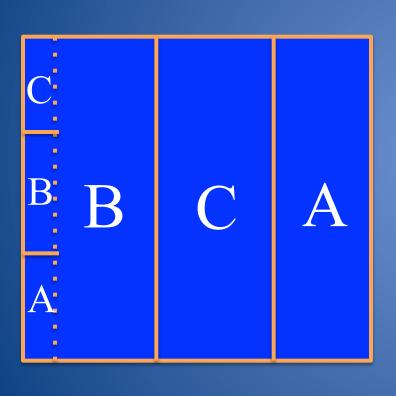


John L. Selfridge



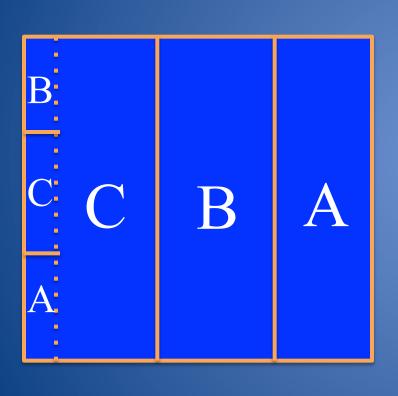
John H. Conway

Selfridge-Conway Procedure



- A cuts
- C cuts trim
 - B trims largest
- B chooses
 - C chooses
- A chooses
 - B chooses

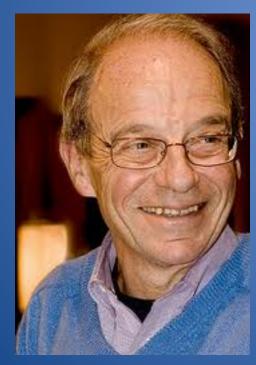
Selfridge-Conway Procedure, Case II



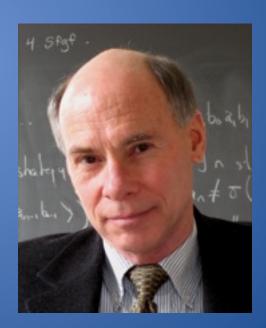
- A cuts
- B cuts trim
 - B trims largest
- C chooses
 - C chooses
- A chooses
 - B chooses

Quartets? Quintets? ...?

• For n ≥ 4, number of cuts unbounded but finite for fixed n (1995)



Steven J. Brams



Alan D. Taylor