

Extremal problems

Let \mathcal{C} be some class of graphs.

(For example: simple graphs, planar graphs with n vertices...)

Extremal problems

Let \mathcal{C} be some class of graphs.

(For example: simple graphs, planar graphs with n vertices...)

Let $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ be some function.

(For example: the number of edges, the size of the largest independent set, the chromatic number...)

Extremal problems

Let \mathcal{C} be some class of graphs.

(For example: simple graphs, planar graphs with n vertices...)

Let $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ be some function.

(For example: the number of edges, the size of the largest independent set, the chromatic number...)

An **extremal problem** asks for the maximum or minimum value of the function f over the graphs in \mathcal{C} .

Extremal problems

Let \mathcal{C} be some class of graphs.

(For example: simple graphs, planar graphs with n vertices...)

Let $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ be some function.

(For example: the number of edges, the size of the largest independent set, the chromatic number...)

An **extremal problem** asks for the maximum or minimum value of the function f over the graphs in \mathcal{C} .

To find the maximum value we have to:

- Find a bound β .
- Show that every graph G in \mathcal{C} satisfies $f(G) \leq \beta$.
- Find a graph G in \mathcal{C} such that $f(G) = \beta$.

Extremal problems

Let \mathcal{C} be some class of graphs.

(For example: simple graphs, planar graphs with n vertices...)

Let $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ be some function.

(For example: the number of edges, the size of the largest independent set, the chromatic number...)

An **extremal problem** asks for the maximum or minimum value of the function f over the graphs in \mathcal{C} .

To find the maximum value we have to:

- Find a bound β .
- Show that every graph G in \mathcal{C} satisfies $f(G) \leq \beta$.
- Find a graph G in \mathcal{C} such that $f(G) = \beta$.

Example: The maximum number of edges in a simple graph of order n is

Extremal problems

Let \mathcal{C} be some class of graphs.

(For example: simple graphs, planar graphs with n vertices...)

Let $f : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ be some function.

(For example: the number of edges, the size of the largest independent set, the chromatic number...)

An **extremal problem** asks for the maximum or minimum value of the function f over the graphs in \mathcal{C} .

To find the maximum value we have to:

- Find a bound β .
- Show that every graph G in \mathcal{C} satisfies $f(G) \leq \beta$.
- Find a graph G in \mathcal{C} such that $f(G) = \beta$.

Example: The maximum number of edges in a simple graph of order n is $\binom{n}{2}$.

Example: edges and minimum degrees in connected graphs

Proposition

The minimum number of edges in a connected graph of order n is

Example: edges and minimum degrees in connected graphs

Proposition

The minimum number of edges in a connected graph of order n is $n - 1$.

Example: edges and minimum degrees in connected graphs

Proposition

The minimum number of edges in a connected graph of order n is $n - 1$.

Theorem

Let G be a simple graph of order n . If $d(v) + d(u) \geq n - 1$ for every pair of vertices $u, v \in V(G)$, then G is connected.

Example: edges and minimum degrees in connected graphs

Proposition

The minimum number of edges in a connected graph of order n is $n - 1$.

Theorem

Let G be a simple graph of order n . If $d(v) + d(u) \geq n - 1$ for every pair of vertices $u, v \in V(G)$, then G is connected.

Corollary

If G is a simple graph of order n with $\delta(G) \geq \frac{n-1}{2}$, then G is connected.

Example: edges and minimum degrees in connected graphs

Proposition

The minimum number of edges in a connected graph of order n is $n - 1$.

Theorem

Let G be a simple graph of order n . If $d(v) + d(u) \geq n - 1$ for every pair of vertices $u, v \in V(G)$, then G is connected.

Corollary

If G is a simple graph of order n with $\delta(G) \geq \frac{n-1}{2}$, then G is connected.

This bound on $\delta(G)$ is best possible, in the sense that there are simple graphs with $\delta(G) = \frac{n}{2} - 1$ that are **not** connected.

Example: edges and minimum degrees in connected graphs

Proposition

The minimum number of edges in a connected graph of order n is $n - 1$.

Theorem

Let G be a simple graph of order n . If $d(v) + d(u) \geq n - 1$ for every pair of vertices $u, v \in V(G)$, then G is connected.

Corollary

If G is a simple graph of order n with $\delta(G) \geq \frac{n-1}{2}$, then G is connected.

This bound on $\delta(G)$ is best possible, in the sense that there are simple graphs with $\delta(G) = \frac{n}{2} - 1$ that are **not** connected.

Definition

The **sum** of two graphs G and H is the graph obtained by taking the union of disjoint copies of G and H .

Finding a large bipartite subgraph

Theorem

Every simple graph G has a bipartite subgraph with at least $e(G)/2$ edges.

Finding a large bipartite subgraph

Theorem

Every simple graph G has a bipartite subgraph with at least $e(G)/2$ edges.

Definition

G is H -free if G has no induced subgraph isomorphic to H .

Finding a large bipartite subgraph

Theorem

Every simple graph G has a bipartite subgraph with at least $e(G)/2$ edges.

Definition

G is H -free if G has no induced subgraph isomorphic to H .

Question: What is the maximum number of edges in a triangle-free simple graph with n vertices?

Finding a large bipartite subgraph

Theorem

Every simple graph G has a bipartite subgraph with at least $e(G)/2$ edges.

Definition

G is H -free if G has no induced subgraph isomorphic to H .

Question: What is the maximum number of edges in a triangle-free simple graph with n vertices?

Theorem (Mantel 1907)

The maximum number of edges in a triangle-free simple graph with n vertices is $\lfloor n^2/4 \rfloor$.