

Lecture 1 Wednesday Jan 21

No. Lec 1 - 1
Date 1/21/09

MATH 846 - Algebraic Graph Theory
B211 VV 11:00 MWF

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References

- Bannai and Ito. Algebraic Combinatorics I:
Association Schemes (Benjamin Cummings 1984)
- Brouwer, Cohen, Neumaier. Distance-Regular
Graphs (Springer-Verlag 1989)
- Biggs. Algebraic Graph theory 2nd Ed
(Cambridge 1993)

1. Introduction

Fix a field \mathbb{F} (\mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C})

Let $X =$ finite nonempty set

$$n = |X|$$

$\text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F}) =$ \mathbb{F} -algebra of all $n \times n$ matrices

with entries in \mathbb{F} . View rows/columns

as indexed by X

$\mathbb{F}^X =$ vector space \mathbb{F}^n (column vectors) with

coordinates indexed by X .

$\text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$ acts on \mathbb{F}^X by left multiplication

Endow \mathbb{F}^X with a Hermitian dot product

$$\langle u, v \rangle = u^t \bar{v} \quad u, v \in \mathbb{F}^X$$

From now on abbrev

$$V = \mathbb{F}^X$$

For $x \in X$ define $\hat{x} \in V$ by

$$\hat{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \leftarrow x \text{ coord}$$

Obs

$\{\hat{x} \mid x \in X\}$ is orthonormal basis for V

Write

$$\mathbb{1} = \sum_{x \in X} \hat{x}$$

A matrix $B \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$ is Hermitean whenever

$$\overline{B}^t = B$$

In this case B is diagonalizable over \mathbb{F} and

the eigenvalues of B are real.

Let $\theta_0 > \theta_1 > \dots > \theta_r$ denote the distinct

eigenvalues of B (roots of min polynomial of B)

For $0 \leq i < r$ let

$V_i =$ eigenspace of B for θ_i .

Then

$$V = V_0 + V_1 + \dots + V_r \quad (\text{orthog direct sum})$$

For $0 \leq i \leq r$ define $E_i \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$ by

$$(E_i - I) V_i = 0$$

$$E_i V_j = 0 \quad \text{if } i \neq j \quad (0 \leq i, j \leq r)$$

Obs

$$E_i E_j = \delta_{ij} E_i \quad (0 \leq i, j \leq r)$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^r E_i = I$$

$$B = \sum_{i=0}^r \theta_i E_i$$

$$E_i = \prod_{\substack{0 \leq j \leq r \\ j \neq i}} \frac{B - \theta_j I}{\theta_i - \theta_j} \quad 0 \leq i \leq r$$

$$E_i^t = E_i \quad 0 \leq i \leq r$$

Let $M =$ subalgebra of $\text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$ gen by B .

Then $\{B^i\}_{i=0}^r$ is a basis for \mathbb{F} -vector space M

Also $\{E_i\}_{i=0}^r$ is a basis for \mathbb{F} -vector space M .

Call $\{E_i\}_{i=0}^r$ the primitive idempotents for B

For $0 \leq i \leq r$ define

$$n_i = \dim V_i$$

$$= \text{rank } E_i = \text{trace } E_i$$

Call m_i the multiplicity of θ_i

The spectrum of B is the array

$$\text{Spec}(B) = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \dots & \theta_r \\ m_0 & m_1 & \dots & m_r \end{pmatrix}$$

A graph is a pair $\Gamma = (X, R)$

where $X =$ nonempty finite set (the vertices)

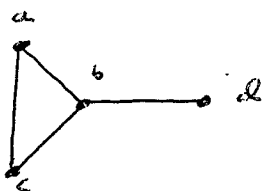
and $R =$ set of distinct 2-element subsets of X
(the edges)

Vertices $x, y \in X$ called adjacent whenever $xy \in R$

[Note our graphs are undirected, without loops or multiple edges]

Ex

$\Gamma =$



$$X = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

$$R = \{ab, bc, ca, bd\}$$

For a graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$ the adjacency matrix $A \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$

satisfies

$$A_{xy} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } xy \in R \\ 0 & \text{if } xy \notin R \end{cases} \quad x, y \in X$$

$$E_x \quad A = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} a & b & c & d \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

Note $\bar{A} = A$, $A^t = A$ so A Hermitian.

Let $M =$ subalgebra of $\text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$ gen by A .

M called adjacency algebra or Bose-Mesner algebra of Γ .

By the spectrum of Γ we mean $\text{Spec}(A)$.

Classical problem What combinatorial info about

a graph Γ can we deduce from its spectrum?

The next few lemmas give examples.

Fix a graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$

For $x \in X$ define

$$\Gamma(x) = \{y \in X \mid xy \in R\}$$

$$k(x) = |\Gamma(x)| \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{"valency of } x \text{"} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{"degree of } x \text{"} \end{array}$$

Call Γ regular with valency k whenever $k(x) = k \quad \forall x \in X$

LEM 1. With above notation

$$(i) \quad \theta_0 \leq \max \{ k(x) \mid x \in X \} \quad (= k^{\max})$$

(ii) Suppose Γ is regular w.r.t k . Then $\theta_0 = k$

PF (i) Let v denote an eigenvector for θ_0 so

$$Av = \theta_0 v, \quad v \neq 0$$

Write

$$v = \sum_{x \in X} \alpha_x x \quad \alpha_x \in \mathbb{F}$$

Define

$$\alpha = \max \{ |\alpha_x| \mid x \in X \}$$

Obs

$$\alpha > 0$$

Put $x \in X$ s.t

$$|\alpha_x| = \alpha$$

From coord x of $Av = \theta_0 v$ get

$$\theta_0 \alpha_x = \sum_{y \in X} \alpha_y \sum_{x_1 \in R} k(x_1, y)$$

So

$$\theta_0 \alpha = |\theta_0 \alpha x|$$

$$\leq \sum_{\substack{y \in X \\ x_y \in \mathbb{R}}} |x_y|$$

$$\leq k(x) \alpha$$

$$\leq k^{\max} \alpha$$

So

$$\theta_0 \leq k^{\max}$$

(ii) The "all 1's vector" $\mathbb{1} = \sum_{x \in X} \hat{x}$ satisfies

$$A \mathbb{1} = k \mathbb{1}$$

□

Given a graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$

For $x, y \in X$

For an integer $l \geq 0$

A path of length l from x to y is a sequence of vertices

$$x_0, x_1, \dots, x_l$$

where $x_0 = x$, $x_l = y$,

x_{i-1}, x_i adjacent for $1 \leq i \leq l$.

Let $A =$ adj matrix of Γ .

One checks

$(A^l)_{xy} =$ the number of paths of length l from x to y

A path x_0, x_1, \dots, x_l is closed whenever $x_0 = x_l$

LEM 2 Given a graph $\Gamma = (X, E)$ with spectrum

$$\begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \dots & \theta_r \\ m_0 & m_1 & \dots & m_r \end{pmatrix}$$

Given an integer $l \geq 0$

$$\sum_{i=0}^r m_i \theta_i^l = \text{the number of closed paths in } \Gamma \text{ that have length } l$$

Pf

Recall

$$A = \sum_{i=0}^r \theta_i E_i$$

so

$$A^l = \sum_{i=0}^r \theta_i^l E_i$$

so

$$\text{tr}(A^l) = \sum_{i=0}^l \theta_i^l \underbrace{\text{tr}(E_i)}_{m_i} \quad \text{tr} = \text{trace}$$

Also

$$\text{tr}(A^l) = \sum_{x \in X} \underbrace{(A^l)_{xx}}$$

paths length l from x to x

$$= \text{\# closed paths of length } l$$

COR 3 With the notation of Lem 2

$$(i) \sum_{i=0}^r m_i = |X|$$

$$(ii) \sum_{i=0}^r m_i \theta_i = 0$$

$$(iii) \sum_{i=0}^r m_i \theta_i^2 = 2|R|$$

Pf set $l=0,1,2$ in LEM 2.

□

Fix a graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$

For $x, y \in X$ the distance

$$d(x, y) = \min \left\{ l \mid \exists \text{ path of length } l \text{ from } x \text{ to } y \right\}$$

$$\in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\}$$

Γ is connected whenever $d(x, y) < \infty \quad \forall x, y \in X$

Until further notice assume Γ is connected

For $x \in X$ def

$$d(x) = \max \{ d(x, y) \mid y \in X \}$$

"diameter w.r.t. x "

$$D = \max \{ d(x) \mid x \in X \}$$

"diameter of Γ "

LEM 4 A connected graph Γ with diameter D has at least $D+1$ distinct eigenvalues

Pf. The Bose-Mesner algebra M has basis

$$\{A^i\}_{i=0}^r \quad \text{where } r+1 = \# \text{ dist eigenvalues of } \Gamma.$$

Show $r \geq D$ Suppose $r < D$.

$$\exists x, y \in X \quad \text{with } d(x, y) = r+1$$

For $0 \leq i \leq r+1$

$$\begin{aligned} (A^i)_{xy} &= \# \text{ paths of length } i \text{ from } x \text{ to } y \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 0 \leq i \leq r \\ \neq 0 & \text{if } i = r+1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now } B_{xy} = 0 \quad \forall B \in M$$

$$\text{and } A_{xy}^{r+1} \neq 0$$

contradicting the fact that $A^{r+1} \in M$, So $r \geq D$ \square



Next goal: Use Perron / Frobenius theory of nonnegative matrices to get information about the eigenvalues of a graph.

Until further notice

$X =$ nonempty finite set

$F = \mathbb{R}$ $V = \mathbb{R}^X$

LEM 5 Given a symmetric $B \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{R})$

assume all eigenvalues of B are nonnegative (ie B

is positive semi-definite). Then \exists vectors $\{v_x\}_{x \in X}$

in V such that

$$\langle v_x, v_y \rangle = B_{xy} \quad \forall x, y \in X$$

Pf By elem linear algebra V has an

orthonormal basis $\{w_x\}_{x \in X}$ consisting of eigenvectors

for B . Define $P \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{R})$ s.t.

$$w_x = \text{column } x \text{ of } P \quad \forall x \in X$$

Observe

$$P^t P = I$$

For $x \in X$ let $\theta_x =$ eigenvalue of B for w_x .

and define

$$H = \text{diag}(\theta_x)_{x \in X}$$

So

$$BP = PH$$

Now

$$B = PHP^t$$

$$= PHP^t$$

$$= QQ^t$$

where

$$Q = P \text{diag}(\sqrt{\theta_x})_{x \in X}$$

Note entries of Q are real since $\theta_x \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in X$

For $x \in X$ define $v_x = \text{col } x \text{ of } Q^t$

For $x, y \in X$

$$\langle v_x, v_y \rangle = (QQ^t)_{xy}$$

$$= B_{xy}$$

□

A graph is complete whenever each pair of distinct vertices are adjacent.

K_n denotes the complete graph on n vertices

LEM 6 The eigenvalues of K_n are

$$n-1 \quad (\text{with mult } 1)$$

$$-1 \quad (\text{with mult } n-1)$$

Pf ex.

LEM 7 For a graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$ the following are equiv:

(i) The minimal eigenvalue of Γ is at least -1

(ii) Γ is a disjoint union of complete graphs

pf (i) \rightarrow (ii) Define a binary relation \sim on X by

$$x \sim y \quad \text{iff} \quad x=y \text{ or } xy \in R \quad (\forall x, y \in X)$$

Suffices to show \sim is an equivalence relation.

Obs $A+I$ is pos semi def ($A = \text{adj matrix of } \Gamma$)

By Lem 5 \exists vectors $\{v_x\}_{x \in X}$ in V such that

$$\langle v_x, v_y \rangle = (A+I)_{xy} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \sim y \\ 0 & \text{if } x \not\sim y \end{cases} \quad (\forall x, y \in X)$$

For $x, y \in X$

$$\|v_x - v_y\|^2 = \langle v_x - v_y, v_x - v_y \rangle$$

$$= 2 - 2 \langle v_x, v_y \rangle$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \sim y \\ 2 & \text{if } x \not\sim y \end{cases}$$

So

$$x \sim y \quad \text{iff} \quad v_x = v_y$$

So \sim is equiv relation. (ii) \rightarrow (i) By LEM 6 \square

A graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$ is called bipartite whenever

there exists a bipartition

$$X = X^+ \cup X^- \quad (\text{disjoint union})$$

such that neither X^\pm contains an edge

We will present a few spectral results about bipartite graphs. These results are special cases of the following results on real symmetric matrices.

Given a symmetric $C \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{R})$ call C bipartite

whenever \exists bipartition

$$X = X^+ \cup X^- \quad (\text{disj union})$$

such that $\forall x, y \in X$

$$C_{xy} = 0 \quad \text{if } x, y \in X^+ \text{ or } x, y \in X^-$$

LEM 8. Given a bipartite symmetric $C \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{R})$.

For all eigenvalues θ of C , $-\theta$ is also an eigenvalue of C . Moreover $\theta, -\theta$ have the same multiplicity.

pf. Let $X = X^+ \cup X^-$ be the bipartition for C .

Define a diagonal matrix $H \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{R})$ by

$$H_{xx} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in X^+ \\ -1 & \text{if } x \in X^- \end{cases} \quad (\forall x \in X)$$

One checks

$$CH = -HC$$

Now for $v \in V$

v is an eigenvector for C with eigenvalue θ

\Leftrightarrow

Hv is an eigenvector for C with eigenvalue $-\theta$.

Result follows. \square

COR 9 For a bipartite graph Γ ,

For all eigenvalues θ of Γ , $-\theta$ is also an eigenvalue of Γ . Moreover $\theta, -\theta$ have the same multiplicity.

Pf. Immed from LEM 8. \square

Given a symmetric $C \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{R})$, call C

reducible whenever there exists a bipartition

$$X = X^+ \cup X^- \quad (\text{disjoint union of nonempty sets})$$

such that

$$C_{xy} = 0 \quad \forall x \in X^+ \quad \forall y \in X^-$$

LEM 10 For a symmetric $C \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{R})$

(i) Suppose C is bipartite and $|X| \geq 2$, then C^2 is reducible

(ii) Suppose C^2 is reducible, C is irreducible, $C_{xy} \geq 0$

$\forall x, y \in X$, then C is bipartite.

pf ex

□

thm 11 (Perron - Frobenius)

Given an irreducible symmetric $C \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{R})$

such that $C_{xy} \geq 0 \quad \forall x, y \in X$. let $\theta_0 = \text{max'd eigenval of } C$

(i) let $v \in V$ denote a nonzero eigenvector for θ_0 .

then the coordinates of v are all pos or all negative.

(ii) $\theta_0 \geq 0$

(iii) The multiplicity of θ_0 is 1

(iv) $\theta \geq -\theta_0$ for all eigenvalues θ of C .

(v) C has eigenvalue $-\theta_0$ if and only if C is bipartite.

Pf (i) Write

$$v = \sum_{x \in X} \alpha_x x^{\wedge} \quad \alpha_x \in \mathbb{R}$$

Define

$$X^+ = \{x \in X \mid \alpha_x > 0\}$$

$$X^- = \{x \in X \mid \alpha_x \leq 0\}$$

Replacing v by $-v$ if necessary, wlog $X^+ \neq \emptyset$.

Show $X^- = \emptyset$.

Define

$$B = \theta_0 I - C$$

B symmetric, pos semi def.

By Lem 5 \exists vectors $\{v_x\}_{x \in X}$ in V s.t. $\forall x, y \in X$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v_x, v_y \rangle &= B_{xy} \\ &= \begin{cases} \theta_0 - C_{xx} & \text{if } x=y \\ -C_{xy} & \text{if } x \neq y. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Claim

$$0 = \sum_{x \in X} \alpha_x v_x$$

To see this recall $Cv = \theta_0 v$ so $Bv = 0$

Now

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left\| \sum_{x \in X} \alpha_x v_x \right\|^2 &= \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in X} \alpha_x \alpha_y B_{xy} \\
 &= v^t \underbrace{B}_0 v \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and claim is proved.

Set

$$\begin{aligned}
 p &= \sum_{x \in X^+} \alpha_x v_x \\
 &= - \sum_{x \in X^-} \alpha_x v_x
 \end{aligned}$$

Obs

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|p\|^2 &= - \left\langle \sum_{x \in X^+} \alpha_x v_x, \sum_{y \in X^-} \alpha_y v_y \right\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{x \in X^+} \sum_{y \in X^-} \underbrace{\alpha_x \alpha_y}_{\geq 0} \underbrace{C_{xy}}_{\leq 0}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq 0$$

so $p=0$

Claim

$$C_{xy} = 0 \quad \forall x \in X^+ \quad \forall y \in X^-$$

Indeed for $y \in X^-$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle p, v_y \rangle \\ &= \sum_{x \in X^+} \alpha_x \langle v_x, v_y \rangle \\ &= - \sum_{x \in X^+} \alpha_x C_{xy} \end{aligned}$$

So

$$C_{xy} = 0 \quad \forall x \in X^+$$

and claim proved.

Now $X^- = \emptyset$ since C is irreducible \checkmark

$$(ii) \quad \forall v = \sum_{x \in X} \alpha_x \hat{x} \quad \text{as in (i)}$$

$\forall x \in X$ compute coord x in $Cv = \theta_{0,x}$ to find

$$\theta_{0,x} = \sum_{y \in X} C_{xy} \alpha_y$$

So

$$\theta_0 = \sum_{y \in X} C_{xy} \underbrace{\frac{dy}{dx}}_{\substack{IV \\ 0}}$$

 ≥ 0

(iii) Suppose θ_0 has mult ≥ 2 . Then $\forall x \in X$,

\exists nonzero eigenvector of C for θ_0 that has x -coord 0

contradicting (i)

(iv) We suppose not and get contradiction.

Let $\theta = \min$ equal of C .

Let $w \in V$ denote a nonzero eigenvector for θ .

Obs w is orthog to vector v in (i)

so coords of w not all same sign.

Consider C^2

C^2 symmetric

$(C^2)_{xy} \geq 0 \quad \forall x, y \in X$

C^2 is irreducible, else C is bip by L10 (ii)

forcing $\theta = -\theta_0$ cont.

Obs θ^2 is max'l eigenval of C^2 , w is assoc eigenvector.

By part (i) coords of w must be same sign, cont.

(v) Suppose C has eigenval $-\theta_0$. Show C bip.

Assume $\theta_0 \neq 0$, else $C=0$ which is bip.

C^2 has max'l eigenvalue θ_0^2

Corresp eigenspace is

$$W = W^+ + W^-$$

where $W^+ =$ eigenspace of C for θ_0

$$W^- = \dots - \theta_0$$

So $\dim W \geq 2$

So C^2 is reducible by (ii) above

So C is bip by LEM 10. Result follows \square



Lecture 3 Monday Jan 26

Cor 12 Given a connected graph $\Gamma = (X, \mathbb{R})$

Let $\theta_0 =$ maxl eigenval of Γ

(i) Let $v \in V$ denote a nonzero eigenvector for θ_0 .

Then the coordinates of v are all pos or all neg

(ii) $\theta_0 \geq 0$

(iii) The mult of θ_0 is 1

(iv) $\theta \geq -\theta_0$ for all eigenvalues θ of Γ

(v) Γ has eigenvalue $-\theta_0$ iff Γ is bipartite.

One more bound for later use ...

LEM 13 Given a connected regular graph

$$\Gamma = (X, R) \text{ with } |X| \geq 2. \quad \text{TFAE}$$

(i) the second largest eigenvalue of Γ is at most -1

(ii) Γ is complete

Pf (i) \rightarrow (ii) Suf to show Γ has valency $k \geq |X| - 1$

Consider spectrum

$$\begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \dots & \theta_r \\ m_0 & m_1 & \dots & m_r \end{pmatrix}$$

Since Γ is regular $\theta_0 = k$

By Ca 12 $m_0 = 1$

By Cor 3

$$\sum_{i=1}^r m_i = |X| - 1$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^r m_i \theta_i = -k$$

Now

$$|X| - 1 - k = \sum_{i=1}^r m_i \underbrace{(1 + \theta_i)}_{\leq 0}$$

$$\leq 0$$

and result follows.

(ii) \rightarrow (i) By Lem 6

□

For the time being $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C} .

We now consider a class of graphs whose spectrum is well behaved.

Let $\Gamma = (X, R)$ denote a connected graph with diameter

D . For $0 \leq i \leq D$ let $A_i \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$ have (x, y) -entry

$$(A_i)_{xy} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \partial(x, y) = i \\ 0 & \text{if } \partial(x, y) \neq i \end{cases} \quad \forall x, y \in X$$

Call A_i the i th distance matrix for Γ . For notational conv put $A_{-1} = 0$, $A_{D+1} = 0$

LEM 14 With above notation

(i) $\{A_i\}_{i=0}^D$ are linearly independent

(ii) For $x \in X$ and $0 \leq i \leq D$

$$A_i \hat{x} = \sum_{\substack{y \in X \\ \partial(x, y) = i}} \hat{y}$$

PF (i) Each A_i is non 0. Also for $i \neq j$ A_i and A_j have non 0 entries in disjoint locations.

(ii) Routine □

LEM 15 With above notation

(i) $A_0 = I$

(ii) $A_i = A$ (the adjacency matrix)

(iii) $\sum_{i=0}^D A_i = J$ (the all 1's matrix)

(iv) $A_i^t = A_i$ ($0 \leq i \leq D$)

Pf Routine

For a connected graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$ with diameter D

For $x \in X$ and $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ define

$$\Gamma_i(x) = \{ y \in X \mid d(x, y) = i \}$$

So $\Gamma_0(x) = \{x\}$, $\Gamma_1(x) = \Gamma(x)$, $\Gamma_i(x) = \emptyset$ unless $0 \leq i \leq D$.

We call Γ distance-regular (or DRG) whenever for $0 \leq i \leq D$

and all $x, y \in X$ at $d(x, y) = i$ the scalars

$$c_i = |\Gamma_{i-1}(x) \cap \Gamma(y)|, \quad a_i = |\Gamma_i(x) \cap \Gamma(y)|$$

$$b_i = |\Gamma_{i+1}(x) \cap \Gamma(y)|$$

are independent of x, y and depend only on i

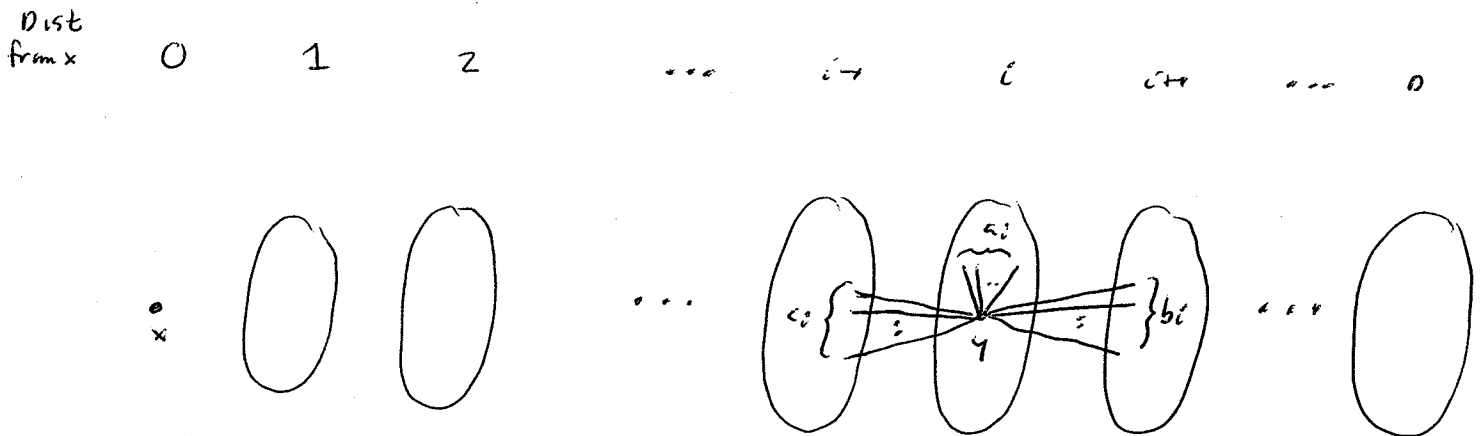
We call c_i, a_i, b_i the intersection numbers of Γ .

Observe $c_0 = 0, a_0 = 0, c_1 = 1, b_0 = 0$

$$c_i > 0 \quad 1 \leq i \leq D$$

$$b_i > 0 \quad 0 \leq i \leq D-1$$

Illustration Fix $x, y \in X$ at $d(x, y) = i$



LEM 16 Let $\Gamma = (X, R)$ denote a distance-regular graph with diameter D

(i) Γ is regular with valency $k = b_0$

(ii) $k = c_0 + a_1 + b_1 \quad (0 \leq i \leq D)$.

PF (i) Set $i=0$ in the def of b_i

(ii) See the above diagram.

□

there are many known infinite families of distance-regular graphs

We mention three families

EXAMPLE 17 Let D denote a positive integer. The following are distance-regular graphs with diameter D

(i) the Hamming graphs $H(D, N)$ ($N \geq 2$)

Fix a set S with $|S| = N$

$X =$ set of D -tuples of elements from S

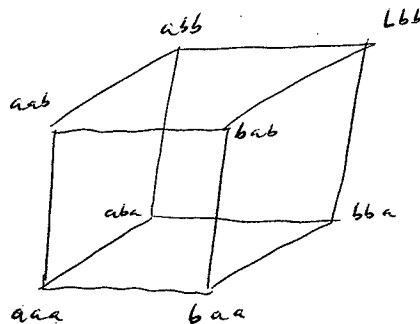
$R = \{x, y \mid x, y \in X, \text{ } x, y \text{ differ in exactly one coordinate}\}$

Here

$$c_i = i \qquad b_i = (D-i)(N-1) \qquad 0 \leq i \leq D$$

We call $H(D, 2)$ the D -cube or hypercube

3-cube



$$S = \{a, b\}$$

(ii) The Johnson graph $J(0, N)$ ($N \geq 2, 0$)

Fix set S with $|S| = N$

$X =$ set of all 0 -element subsets of S

$$R = \left\{ x, y \mid x, y \in X, \quad |x \cap y| = 0-1 \right\}$$

Here

$$c_i = i^2 \quad b_i = (0-i)(N-0-i) \quad (0 \leq i \leq 0)$$

(iii) The q -Johnson graph $J_q(0, N)$ ($N \geq 2, 0$)

Fix a finite field \mathbb{F}_q

Let W denote an N -dimensional vector space over \mathbb{F}_q

$X =$ set of all 0 -dimensional subspaces of W

$$R = \left\{ x, y \mid x, y \in X, \quad \dim(x \cap y) = 0-1 \right\}$$

Here

$$c_i = \left(\frac{q^i - 1}{q - 1} \right)^2 \quad (0 \leq i \leq 0)$$

$$b_i = \frac{q^{2i+1} (q^{0-i} - 1) (q^{N-0-i} - 1)}{(q - 1)^2} \quad (0 \leq i \leq 0)$$



For a DRG $\Gamma = (X, R)$ with diameter D

Fix $x \in X$ and write

$$k_i = |\Gamma_i(x)| \quad 0 \leq i \leq D$$

Obs $k_0 = 1$, $k_1 = k$ the valency.

LEM 18 With above notation

$$(i) \quad k_i c_i = k_{i+1} b_{i+1} \quad 1 \leq i \leq D$$

$$(ii) \quad k_i = \frac{b_0 b_1 \cdots b_{i-1}}{c_0 c_1 \cdots c_i} \quad 0 \leq i \leq D$$

(iii) k_i is independent of x .

Pf (i) Each of $k_i c_i$, $k_{i+1} b_{i+1}$ equal the number of edges

between $\Gamma_{i+1}(x)$, $\Gamma_i(x)$

(ii) From (i)

(iii) From (ii) □

We call k_i the i th valency of Γ .

Last time we gave three families of DRGs.

We now give another kind of example.

For the moment let $\Gamma = (X, R)$ be any graph

An automorphism of Γ is a bijection $\sigma: X \rightarrow X$ that

leaves R invariant, so $\forall x, y \in X$

x, y adjacent $\iff \sigma(x), \sigma(y)$ adjacent.

The set $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ of automorphisms of Γ forms a group under composition.

EXAMPLE 19 For the complete graph $\Gamma = K_n$

$\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ is the symmetric group S_n

Note. For a graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$ and for $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$,

for notational convenience we often view σ as a permutation

matrix in $\text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$. From this point of view

$$\text{Aut}(\Gamma) = \left\{ P \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F}) \mid P \text{ a perm matrix and } PA = AP \right\}$$

Given a graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$

Any subgroup $G \subseteq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ acts on set X ,

type of action	meaning
transitive	$\forall x, y \in X \exists \sigma \in G$ s.t. $\sigma(x) = y$
regular	$\forall x, y \in X \exists$ unique $\sigma \in G$ s.t. $\sigma(x) = y$
generously transitive	$\forall x, y \in X \exists \sigma \in G$ s.t. $\sigma(x) = y$ and $\sigma(y) = x$
distance-transitive	$\forall x, y, x', y' \in X$ s.t. $d(x, y) = d(x', y') \exists \sigma \in G$ s.t. $\sigma(x) = x'$ and $\sigma(y) = y'$

LEM 20 For a connected graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$

assume $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ is distance-transitive on X . Then

Γ is distance-regular.

Pf ex.

Note All the graphs in Example 17 are distance-trans.

Next goal: show that any DRG with diameter D

has exactly $D+1$ distinct eigenvalues.

For the time being $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ or \mathbb{C}

LEM 21 For a DRG $\Gamma = (X, R)$ with diameter D

$$AA_i = b_{i-1}A_{i-1} + a_iA_i + c_{i+1}A_{i+1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq D)$$

where $b_{-1} = 1$, $c_{D+1} = 1$ and we recall $A_{-1} = 0$, $A_{D+1} = 0$.

Pf For $x, y \in X$

$$(AA_i)_{xy} = \sum_{z \in X} A_{xz} (A_i)_{zy}$$

$$= \sum_{z \in \Gamma(x) \cap \Gamma_i(y)} 1$$

$$= |\Gamma(x) \cap \Gamma_i(y)|$$

$$= \begin{cases} b_{i-1} & \text{if } d(x, y) = i-1 \\ a_i & \text{if } d(x, y) = i \\ c_{i+1} & \text{if } d(x, y) = i+1 \end{cases}$$

$$= (x, y)\text{-entry of}$$

$$b_{i-1}A_{i-1} + a_iA_i + c_{i+1}A_{i+1}$$

LEM 22 With above notation

(i) $\{A_i\}_{i=0}^D$ form a basis for the Bose-Mesner algebra M

(ii) The \mathbb{F} -vector space M has $\dim D+1$.

(iii) Γ has exactly $D+1$ distinct eigenvalues.

Pf (i) $\{A_i\}_{i=0}^D$ are lin indep by L14. Set

$$M' = \text{Span} \{A_i\}_{i=0}^D$$

$A_i M' \subseteq M'$ by L2 and $I \in M'$ so

$$M \subseteq M'$$

$\dim M' = D+1$ and $\dim M \geq D+1$ so $M = M'$

(ii), (iii) follows from (i) \square

EX Given a graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$ and given a subgroup

$G \subseteq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ that acts distance-transitively on X ,

the Bose-Mesner algebra

$$M = \left\{ B \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F}) \mid BP = PB \quad \forall P \in G \right\}$$

EX Given a DRG $\Gamma = (X, R)$ with diameter D

then for $0 \leq j \leq D$

(i) $E_j V$ is a module for $\text{Aut}(\Gamma)$

(ii) Suppose $G \subseteq \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$ is distance-transitive on X . Then

the $E_j V$ is irreducible as a G -module.

PF (i) $\forall P \in \text{Aut}(\Gamma)$

$$PB = BP \quad \forall B \in M$$

so

$$P E_j = E_j P$$

so

$$P E_j V \subseteq E_j V$$

(ii) Suppose $\exists 0 \neq W \subseteq E_j V$ such that $GW \subseteq W$.

Show $W = E_j V$

$\forall x \in G$ let G_x denote the stabilizer of x in G

By the distance-transitivity assumption G_x is trans on $\Gamma_j(x)$

Define

$$S_x = |G_x|^{-1} \sum_{P \in G_x} P$$

$$\in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$$

S_x acts on V as follows: Given $v \in V$ write

$$v = \sum_{y \in X} \alpha_y \hat{y}$$

Then

$$S_x v = \sum_{i=0}^p \alpha_i A_i \hat{x} \quad (*)$$

where

$$\alpha_i = k_i^{-1} \sum_{y \in P_i(x)} \alpha_y \quad \text{"average value of } \{\alpha_y \mid y \in P_i(x)\} \text{"}$$

Note $\alpha_0 = \alpha_x = \langle v, \hat{x} \rangle \neq 0$

$$S_x v \neq 0 \quad \text{if } \langle v, \hat{x} \rangle \neq 0 \quad (**)$$

By (*) and since $\{A_i \hat{x}\}_{i=0}^p$ is a basis for $M \hat{x}$

$$S_x V = M \hat{x}$$

By construction

$$S_x W \subseteq W \subseteq E_g V$$

$$S_x W \subseteq M \hat{x} \cap E_2 V$$

$$= \text{Span}(E_2 \hat{x})$$

Claim $S_x W = \text{Span}(E_2 \hat{x})$

pf cl Since $\text{Span}(E_2 \hat{x})$ has dim 1, suffice to show $S_x W \neq 0$

Suppose $S_x W = 0$. Then $\langle W, \hat{x} \rangle = 0$ by (**)

But W is G -inv and G is trans on X so $\langle W, \hat{y} \rangle = 0$

$\forall \hat{y} \in X$, forcing $W = 0$ for a contradiction. The claim is proved.

Now

$$E_2 \hat{x} \in S_x W$$

$$\subseteq W$$

Now $E_2 V = \text{Span}(E_2 \hat{x} \mid x \in X)$

$$\subseteq W$$

$$\approx E_2 V = W$$

□

How to compute the eigenvalues of a DRG from the intersection numbers.

Notation. Let $\lambda =$ indeterminate

$\mathbb{F}[\lambda]$ denotes the \mathbb{F} -algebra of all polynomials

in λ that have all coeffs in \mathbb{F} .

DEF 23 Given a DRG $\Gamma = (X, R)$ with diameter D

Define polynomials $\{v_i\}_{i=0}^{D+1}$ in $\mathbb{F}[\lambda]$ by

$$v_0 = 1 \quad v_1 = \lambda$$

$$\lambda v_i = c_{i+1} v_{i+1} + a_i v_i + b_{i-1} v_{i-1} \quad 1 \leq i \leq D$$

where $c_{D+1} = 1$.

LEM 24 With above notation

$$(i) \quad \deg v_i = i \quad (0 \leq i \leq n-1)$$

$$(ii) \quad \text{the coeff of } \lambda^i \text{ in } v_i \text{ is } (c_1 c_2 \dots c_i)^{-1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq n-1)$$

$$(iii) \quad v_i(A) = A^i \quad (0 \leq i \leq n)$$

$$(iv) \quad v_{n+1}(A) = 0$$

(v) The distinct eigenvalues of Γ are precisely the zeros of v_{n+1}

Pf (i), (ii) From Def 23

(iii), (iv) Compare LEM 21, Def 23

(v) Let $m \in \mathbb{F}[\lambda]$ denote the minimal polynomial of A

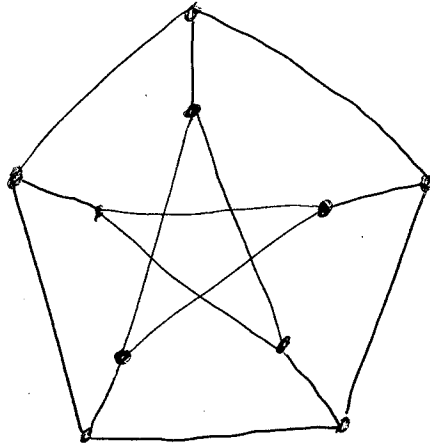
i.e. monic poly of least degree s.t. $m(A) = 0$

Since A is diagonalizable, the distinct eigenvalues of Γ are precisely the zeros of m . Each of m, v_{n+1}

has degree $n+1$ and $v_{n+1}(A) = 0$ so v_{n+1} is a scalar

multiple of m . Result follows \square

EXAMPLE 25 Peterson's graph



$$|X| = 10$$

is BRG with $D = 2$

$$c_1 = 1 \quad c_2 = 1$$

$$a_0 = 0 \quad a_1 = 0 \quad a_2 = 2$$

$$k = 3 \quad b_1 = 2$$

Here

$$v_0 = 1 \quad v_1 = \lambda \quad v_2 = \lambda^2 - 3$$

$$v_3 = \lambda^3 - 2\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 6$$

$$= (\lambda - 3)(\lambda - 1)(\lambda + 2)$$

Dist eigenvalues are $\theta_0 = 3, \theta_1 = 1, \theta_2 = -2$

□

LEM 27. With above notation the following coincide

(i) the min poly of A

(ii) the min poly of B

(iii) the char poly of B

Pf (i) = (ii) B represents the action of A on the basis $\{A_i^0\}_{i=0}^n$,
and this action is faithful

(iii) = (ii) min poly of B has degree $n+1$

□

COR 28. With above notation

The eigenvalues of B are mutually distinct

and are precisely the distinct eigenvalues of A .

LEM 29 With above notation For an eigenvalue θ

of B define a row vector

$$v = (v_0(\theta), v_1(\theta), \dots, v_{p-1}(\theta))$$

where the v_i are from Def 23. Then

$$v B = \theta v$$

Pf Use Def 23 and Def 26

□

DEF 30 Given a DRG $P = (X, R)$ of diameter D define

polynomials $\{u_i\}_{i=0}^D$ in $F[\lambda]$ by

$$u_0 = 1, \quad u_1 = \frac{\lambda}{k}$$

$$\lambda u_i = c_2 u_{i-2} + a_2 u_{i-1} + b_2 u_{i+1} \quad (1 \leq i \leq D-1)$$

LEM 31 With above notation

$$u_i = \frac{v_i}{k_i} \quad (0 \leq i \leq D)$$

Pf Define $v_i' = u_i k_i$ for $0 \leq i \leq D$.

Obs $v_0' = 1 = v_0$ $v_1' = \lambda = v_1$

Using LEM 18 and Def 30 one finds

$$\lambda v_i' = c_{i-1} v_{i-1}' + a_i v_i' \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq D-1.$$

Comparing this and Def 23 we find $v_i = v_i'$ for $0 \leq i \leq D$. \square

LEM 32 With above notation,

for an eigenvalue θ of B define a column

vector

$$u = \begin{pmatrix} u_0(\theta) \\ u_1(\theta) \\ \vdots \\ u_p(\theta) \end{pmatrix}$$

Then

$$Bu = \theta u$$

pf Use Def 26 and Def 30



$$\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R} \text{ or } \mathbb{C}$$

For a DRG $\Gamma = (X, R)$ with diameter D

the Bose-Mesner algebra M has basis $\{A_i\}_{i=0}^D$ and $\{E_i\}_{i=0}^D$

We now compute the transition matrices in terms of the polynomials u_i, v_i .

LEM 33 With above notation

$$(i) \quad A_j = \sum_{i=0}^D v_j(\theta_i) E_i \quad (0 \leq j \leq D)$$

$$(ii) \quad E_j = |X|^{-1} m_j \sum_{i=0}^D u_i(\theta_j) A_i \quad (0 \leq j \leq D)$$

pf (i)

$$\begin{aligned} A_j &= A_j I \\ &= A_j \sum_{i=0}^D E_i \\ &= v_j(A) \sum_{i=0}^D E_i \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^D v_j(\theta_i) E_i \end{aligned}$$

Since $AE_i = \theta_i E_i$

(ii) Write $E_2' = \text{sum on RHS}$

show $E_2 = E_2'$

Obs $E_2' \in M$

show $A E_2' = \theta_2 E_2'$

$$\begin{aligned}
 A E_2' &= |X|^{-1} m_2 \sum_{i=0}^p u_i(\theta_2) A A_i \\
 &= |X|^{-1} m_2 \sum_{i=0}^p u_i(\theta_2) (c_{i+1} A_{i+1} + a_i A_i + b_{i+1} A_{i+1}) \\
 &= |X|^{-1} m_2 \sum_{l=0}^p A_l (c_l u_{l+1}(\theta_2) + a_l u_l(\theta_2) + b_{l+1} u_{l+1}(\theta_2)) \\
 &= |X|^{-1} m_2 \sum_{l=0}^p A_l u_l(\theta_2) \theta_2 \\
 &= \theta_2 E_2'
 \end{aligned}$$

Now $E_2' = \alpha E_2$ some $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$.

to show $\alpha = 1$ show E_2, E_2' have same trace

$$\text{tr } E_2 = m_2$$

$$\text{tr } A_i = \delta_{i0} |X| \quad (0 \leq i \leq p)$$

$$\text{so } \text{tr } E_2' = m_2 \quad \checkmark$$

□

The following theorem is due to Norman Biggs 1974.

Thm 34. For a DRG $\Gamma = (X|R)$ with diameter D

for an eigenvalue $\theta \neq 1$ the corresponding multiplicity is

$$\frac{|X|}{\sum_{i=0}^D u_i(\theta) v_i(\theta)}$$

Pf.

Write $\theta = \theta_j$. Obs

$$\begin{aligned} E_j &= E_j^2 \\ &= \left(|X|^{-1} m_j \sum_{i=0}^D u_i(\theta_j) A_i \right) E_j \\ &= |X|^{-1} m_j \sum_{i=0}^D u_i(\theta_j) v_i(A) E_j \\ &= |X|^{-1} m_j \sum_{i=0}^D u_i(\theta_j) v_i(\theta_j) E_j \end{aligned}$$

So

$$1 = |X|^{-1} m_j \sum_{i=0}^D u_i(\theta_j) v_i(\theta_j)$$

and result follows. \square

COR 35 The spectrum of a DRG is determined by its intersection numbers.

PF Let

$$\begin{pmatrix} \theta_0 & \theta_1 & \dots & \theta_p \\ m_0 & m_1 & \dots & m_p \end{pmatrix}$$

be the spectrum in question.

Given the intersection numbers c_i, a_i, b_i

we get $\{v_i\}_{i=0}^{p+1}$ by def 23

we get $\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^p$ as reps of v_{0+i}

we get $\{u_i\}_{i=0}^p$ by def 30

we get $\{k_i\}_{i=0}^p$ by $k_i = \frac{b_0 b_1 \dots b_{i-1}}{c_1 c_2 \dots c_i}$

we get $|X|$ by $|X| = \sum_{i=0}^p k_i$

we get $\{m_i\}_{i=0}^p$ by Thm 34. □

EX 36 Peterson's graph revisited.

Using Cor 35 the spectrum is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 5 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note Given pos integers $\{c_i\}_{i=1}^p$, $\{b_i\}_{i=0}^{p-1}$

does there exist a corresponding DRG Γ ?

Compute spectrum of Γ as in Cor 35

If m_i fail to be positive integers then Γ does not exist.

This is a "feasibility condition" on the

intersection numbers.

EXAMPLE 37 Show that there does not exist

a DRG with diameter $D=3$ and intersection numbers

$$c_1 = 1 \quad c_2 = 1 \quad c_3 = 3$$

$$k = 3 \quad b_1 = 2 \quad b_2 = 1$$

Pf ex.

□

We have a few comments

LEM 38 For a DRG $\Gamma = (X, R)$

$$(i) \quad E_0 = |X|^{-1} J$$

($J =$ all 1's matrix)

$$(ii) \quad E_0 V = \text{Span}(\mathbb{1})$$

$$(\mathbb{1} = \sum_{x \in X} x^{\wedge})$$

Pf (i) Write $E = |X|^{-1} J$

Obs $E = |X|^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^D A_i \in M$

and

$$E^2 = E$$

and

$$\text{rank } E = 1$$

so E is a primitive idempotent of Γ

Also $AE = kE$ ($k =$ valency of Γ) and $0_0 = k$ so $E = E_0$ □

LEM 39 For a DRG $\Gamma = (X, R)$ with diameter D

$$(i) \quad u_i(\theta_0) = 1 \quad (0 \leq i \leq D)$$

$$(ii) \quad v_i(\theta_0) = k_i \quad (0 \leq i \leq D)$$

pf (i) By LEM 33

$$E_0 = |X|^{-1} \underbrace{m_0}_{1} \sum_{i=0}^D u_i(\theta_0) A_i$$

By LEM 38

$$\begin{aligned} E_0 &= |X|^{-1} J \\ &= |X|^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^D A_i \end{aligned}$$

The result follows since $\{A_i\}_{i=0}^D$ are linearly indep.

(ii) By LEM 31 and (i) above \square

Next goal: find the spectrum of the Hamming graphs $H(d, r)$

Clarification: Given any graph $\Gamma = (X, R)$ with adjacency matrix A

- By the eigenvalues of Γ we mean the multiset of zeros for the characteristic polynomial of A
- By the distinct eigenvalues of Γ we mean the set of zeros for the minimal polynomial of A

Given finite nonempty sets X, X' the Cartesian product

$$X \times X' = \{ xx' \mid x \in X, x' \in X' \}.$$

Given graphs $\Gamma = (X, R)$ and $\Gamma' = (X', R')$

their Cartesian product is the graph $\Gamma \times \Gamma'$ with vertex set

$X \times X'$, Vertices xx' and yy' are adjacent in $\Gamma \times \Gamma'$

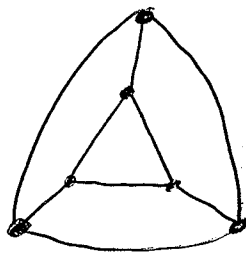
iff

$$x=y \text{ and } x'y' \in R' \quad \text{or} \quad xy \in R \text{ and } x'=y'$$

EX 40 take $\Gamma = K_3$ $\Gamma' = K_2$



$\Gamma \times \Gamma'$:



LEM 41 Given graphs $\Gamma = (X, R)$ and $\Gamma' = (X', R')$

Denote the eigenvalues of Γ by

$$\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n \quad n = |X|$$

Denote the eigenvalues of Γ' by

$$\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m \quad m = |X'|$$

then the eigenvalues of $\Gamma \times \Gamma'$ are

$$\alpha_i + \beta_j \quad 1 \leq i \leq n \quad 1 \leq j \leq m$$

Pf let $V = \mathbb{F}^X$ be the standard module for Γ

let $V' = \mathbb{F}^{X'}$... Γ'

Interpret standard module for $\Gamma \times \Gamma'$ as $V \otimes V'$

Interpret

$$\text{Mat}_{X \times X'}(\mathbb{F}) = \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F}) \otimes \text{Mat}_{X'}(\mathbb{F})$$

For $B \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$ and $B' \in \text{Mat}_{X'}(\mathbb{F})$

$B \otimes B'$ acts on $V \otimes V'$ as

$$(B \otimes B')(u \otimes u') = (Bu) \otimes (B'u') \quad u \in V \quad u' \in V'$$

let $A \in \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$ be adj matrix for Γ

... $A' \in \text{Mat}_{X'}(\mathbb{F})$... Γ'

Adj matrix for $\Gamma \times \Gamma'$ is

$$A \otimes I' + I \otimes A'$$

where

$I = \text{identity in } \text{Mat}_X(\mathbb{F})$

$I' = \dots \text{Mat}_{X'}(\mathbb{F})$

let $\{u_i\}_{i=1}^n$ be a basis for V s.t.

$$A u_i = \alpha_i u_i \quad i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

let $\{v_i\}_{i=1}^m$ be a basis for V' s.t.

$$A'v_i = \beta_i v_i \quad 1 \leq i \leq m$$

Obs

$$u_i \otimes v_j \quad 1 \leq i \leq n, \quad 1 \leq j \leq m$$

is a basis for $V \otimes V'$. Also

$$(A \otimes I' + I \otimes A') u_i \otimes v_j = (\alpha_i + \beta_j) u_i \otimes v_j$$

$$1 \leq i \leq n, \quad 1 \leq j \leq m$$

Result follows.

□

COR 42 The Hamming graph $H(0,r)$ has spectrum

$$\theta_i = (r-i)(r-1) - i \quad (0 \leq i \leq 0)$$

$$m_i = \binom{0}{i} (r-1)^i \quad (0 \leq i \leq 0)$$

pf Obs

$$H(0,r) = \underbrace{K_r \times K_r \times \dots \times K_r}_0$$

where $K_r =$ complete graph on r vertices.

Recall spectrum of K_r is

$$\begin{pmatrix} r-1 & -1 \\ 1 & r-1 \end{pmatrix}$$

By LEM 41 the eigenvalues of $H(0,r)$ are the sums

$$y_1 + y_2 + \dots + y_0$$

where

$$y_i = r-1 \text{ or } y_i = -1 \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq 0.$$

Result follows. □

Cor 43 The hypercube $H(n, 2)$ has spectrum

$$\theta_i = n - 2i \quad (0 \leq i \leq n)$$

$$m_i = \binom{n}{i} \quad (0 \leq i \leq n)$$

