

Beauty is the first test, there is no permanent place in the world for ugly mathematics

MATH6502/7502/LN/WZ/ML/2024-2025

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

MATH6502/7502 Topics in Discrete Applied Mathematics

Part I. Linear Algebra Methods in Discrete Mathematics

1° Rank Argument

This method is to prove a statement by using the rank of a certain matrix, or equivalently, by showing the independence of certain vectors.

(1.1) Counting Clubs in Oddtown

奇偶镇

Suppose that n citizens of oddtown wish to form as many clubs as possible under the following rules:

- (a) Each club should have an odd number of members;
- (b) Each pair of clubs should have an even number of members in common.

How many clubs can there be in oddtown?

Remark. It is possible to have n clubs in oddtown, for instance, each individual could form a one-member club. The real surprise might be that although n clubs can be formed in a large number of different ways, there is no way of forming $n + 1$ or more clubs.

Theorem 1. In a town of n citizens, no more than n clubs can be formed under rules (a) and (b).

First Proof. For simplicity we assume that the citizens are numbered 1 through n . Suppose we have m clubs c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m satisfying (a) and (b). The incidence vector v_i of c_i is a 0-1 vector with n entries such that the j^{th} entry of v_i is 1 if citizen $j \in c_i$ and 0 otherwise. Then rules (a) and (b) can be rephrased as

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{forms a } m \times m \\ \text{real matrix} \end{array} \longleftarrow v_i^T v_j = \begin{cases} 1 \pmod{2} & \text{if } i = j; \\ 0 \pmod{2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Then v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m are linearly independent in F_2^n over the field F_2 . To see this, let $\sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j v_j = 0$ be an arbitrary linear relation over F_2 among the v_j 's, where $\lambda_j \in F_2$. Then $v_i^T (\sum_{j=1}^m \lambda_j v_j) = 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. By (1), we have $\lambda_i v_i^T v_i = 0$, implying $\lambda_i = 0$, and so the desired statement follows. Hence $m \leq \dim(F_2^n) = n$.

Second Proof. We resort to the following rank inequality:

note: $[n] := \{1 \leq i \leq n, i \in \mathbb{N}_+\}$

Odd - even town: (a) (b) satisfied

n club $C_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$

1. $C_i = \{i\}, 1 \leq i \leq n$

2. if n is even, set $C_i = \frac{[n]}{\{i\}} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\} - \{i\}, \forall i, 1 \leq i \leq n$

$$|C_i \cap C_j| = \left| \frac{[n]}{\{i\} \cup \{j\}} \right| = 0 \pmod{2}$$

Linear algebraic method in Combinatorics (odd - even town)

Theorem 1: \mathcal{J} is a collection of sets, $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$ satisfying

1. $(\forall A \in \mathcal{J}) \rightarrow \text{card}(A) \text{ is odd}$

2. $(\forall A, \beta \in \mathcal{J}) \wedge (A \neq \beta) \rightarrow \text{card}(A \cap \beta) \text{ even}$

so we have $\text{card}(\mathcal{J}) \leq n$

Even - even town question

n citizens in a town, form clubs satisfying

a', each club should have an even number of members

b', each pair of clubs should have an even number of members in common

Theorem 2: \mathcal{J} is a collection of sets, $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$ satisfying

1. $(\forall \mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{J}) \rightarrow \text{card}(\mathcal{A})$ is even

2. $(\forall \mathcal{A}, \beta \in \mathcal{J}) \wedge (\mathcal{A} \neq \beta) \rightarrow \text{card}(\mathcal{A} \cap \beta)$ even

so we have $\boxed{\text{card}(\mathcal{J}) ?}$

$m = \text{card}(\mathcal{J})$, $\mathcal{J} = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m\}$, incidence vectors v_1, \dots, v_m

(1) \rightarrow (1') $v_i^T \cdot v_j = 0, \forall i, j \in [1, m] \cap \mathbb{Z}$ over $F_2 = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$

consider the inner product $\rightarrow \langle v_i, v_j \rangle = 0, v_i \perp v_j \forall i, j$

assume S is a collection of some certain vectors v_i

$S = \{v_i\}_{i \in I}$, according to (1') $\rightarrow S \perp S \rightarrow S \subseteq S^\perp$

U is a linear subspace, spanned by vectors in S

$(\alpha \in U): \alpha = \sum_{i \in I} \mu_i v_i, v_j \cdot \alpha = \sum_{i \in I} \mu_i v_i v_j = 0$

$(\beta \in U): \beta = \sum_{k \in I} \lambda_k v_k, \alpha \cdot \beta = \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{k \in I} \mu_i \lambda_k v_i v_k = 0$

$\forall \alpha, \beta \in U \rightarrow \alpha \perp \beta \rightarrow U \perp U \rightarrow U \subseteq U^\perp$

lemma: $\dim V = n$, $U \subseteq V$ is a linear subspace

$V = U \oplus U^\perp, \dim V = n = \dim U + \dim U^\perp$

$n \geq 2 \dim U \rightarrow \dim U \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil, m = \text{card}(\mathcal{J}) = |U| \leq 2^{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil}$

Linear algebraic method in Combinatorics (even-odd town)

Theorem 2: \mathcal{J} is a collection of sets, $\mathcal{J} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$ satisfying

1. $(\forall A \in \mathcal{J}) \rightarrow \text{card}(A)$ is even

2. $(\forall A, \beta \in \mathcal{J}) \wedge (A \neq \beta) \rightarrow \text{card}(A \cap \beta)$ odd

so we have $\text{card}(\mathcal{J})$?

lemma: such \mathcal{J} satisfies $\text{card}(\mathcal{J}) \leq n+1$, $\mathcal{J} = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m\}$

adding a new element $n+1$ to every set $C_i \in \mathcal{J}$, so we get a new collection of sets \mathcal{J}^* , we know that \mathcal{J}^* satisfying (1)

so we have $\text{card}(\mathcal{J}) = \text{card}(\mathcal{J}^*) \leq n+1$ (theorem 1)

suffice to prove $\text{card}(\mathcal{J}) \neq n+1 \longrightarrow \text{card}(\mathcal{J}) \leq n$

suppose for a contradiction that $\mathcal{J} = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{n+1}\}$

$\forall 1 \leq i \leq n+1$, for each set C_i , we have a vector v_i as before

$n+1$ vectors in a $\dim = n$ (F_2^n) linear space, so they must be

linearly dependent therefore, there exist $a_i \in F_2 = \mathbb{Z}_2$

for $1 \leq i \leq n+1$ which are not all 0's such that $\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} a_i v_i = 0$

$$v_i^T v_j = \begin{cases} 0, & \forall i=j \\ 1, & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

we do the same like "Oddtown" $\forall i \in [1; n+1] \cap \mathbb{Z}$

$$0 = v_i^T \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} a_j v_j = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} a_j v_i^T v_j = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} a_j - a_i$$

$$a_i = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} a_j \quad \forall i \longrightarrow a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_{n+1} = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} a_j$$

1. $\forall i: a_i = 0$ contradiction

2. $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_{n+1} = 1$, over field F_2 , n must be even

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n+1} v_j = 0$$

consider $J^c = \{C_i^c, C_i \in J\}$, we will see that J^c also satisfies

even-odd town (theorem 3)

1. $\text{card}(C_i^c) = n - \text{card}(C_i)$ is even, because n is even

$$\begin{aligned} 2. \text{card}(C_i^c \cap C_j^c) &= \text{card}((C_i \cup C_j)^c) = n - \text{card}(C_i \cup C_j) \text{ is odd} \\ &= n - \text{card}(C_i) - \text{card}(C_j) + \text{card}(C_i \cap C_j) \end{aligned}$$

so by the same proof, we have

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n+1} v_j' = 0, \text{ where } v_j' \text{ is the incidence vector for } C_j^c$$

$$0 = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} v_j + \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} v_j' = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} 1 = (n+1)1 = 1$$

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \text{rank}(A) = \text{rank}(A \cdot A^T)$$

Let $M = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$

$$v_i^T v_j = M^T M$$

$$\text{rk}(AB) \leq \min\{\text{rk}(A), \text{rk}(B)\}, \quad (2)$$

where A and B are matrices over an arbitrary field, and the number of columns of A equals the number of rows of B .

Let M be the $n \times m$ matrix (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m) , where v_i is as defined in the first proof, and let $A = M^T M$. Then by (1) we have (over F_2) $A = I$. So $\text{rk}(A) = m$. From (2) it follows that

$$m = \text{rk}(M^T M) \leq \min\{\text{rk}(M^T), \text{rk}(M)\} = \text{rk}(M) \leq n,$$

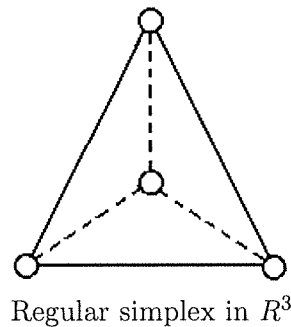
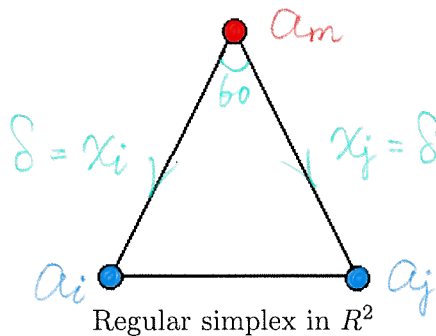
as desired.

remark: the rank of a matrix might be different over different field \square

(1.2) Point Sets in \mathbb{R}^n with Equal Distance

Theorem 2. Let a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m be points in \mathbb{R}^n such that the pairwise Euclidean distances of a_i 's are all equal. Then $m \leq n + 1$. *WTS $m-1$ vector linearly independent $m-1 \leq n$ so $m \leq n+1$*

Remark. The bound is sharp: let $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}$ be the set of vertices of a regular simplex. Then $m = n + 1$.



The following proof is due to Professor M.K. Siu.

Proof. Let $x_i = a_i - a_m$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m-1$, and let the pairwise distance of a_i 's be δ . Then $x_i^T x_i = \|a_i - a_m\|^2 = \delta^2$ for any $i \leq m-1$. Note that for any $1 \leq i \neq j \leq m-1$, a_i, a_j , and a_m form an equilateral triangle by hypothesis. So the angle formed by x_i and x_j is 60° , and thus $x_i^T x_j = \|x_i\| \cdot \|x_j\| \cdot \cos 60^\circ = \delta^2/2$.

WTS We aim to prove that x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{m-1} are linearly independent, which implies $m-1 \leq n$ or $m \leq n+1$. We shall actually prove a more general statement.

Proposition. Let $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be such that $x_i^T x_i = q$ for any i and $x_i^T x_j = p$ for any $i \neq j$, where p and q are fixed constants with $q > p > 0$. Then x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k are linearly independent.

$$x_i^T x_i > x_i^T x_j > 0$$

We prove by induction on k . The case $k = 1$ is trivial.

$k < n$

concepts

k-simplex: a k-dimensional polytope (多面体) that is the convex hull of its $k+1$ vertices u_0, \dots, u_k
 u_0, \dots, u_k affinely independent, $u_1 - u_0, \dots, u_k - u_0$ linearly independent

$$C = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^k \theta_i u_i \mid \sum_{i=0}^k \theta_i = 1, \theta_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in [0, k] \cap \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

regular simplex: simplex and also a regular polytope
a regular k-simplex may be constructed from a regular (k-1)-simplex by connecting a new vertex to all original vertices by the common edge length

question: 在 \mathbb{R}^n Euclid space 中, e, e_1, \dots, e_n 单位正交基

与 $\vec{t} = (t, t, t, \dots, t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ 能否构成 regular simplex

n regular simplex has $n+1$ points $\begin{cases} (0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0), a_i & i \in \overline{1, n} \\ (t, t, \dots, t), t \end{cases}$

$$\begin{cases} d(a_i, a_j) = \sqrt{2}, \quad \forall i \neq j \in \overline{1, n} \\ d(a_i, t) = \sqrt{(t-1)^2 + t^2 \cdot (n-1)} = \sqrt{nt^2 - 2t + 1} \end{cases}$$

$$d(a_i, a_j) = d(a_i, t) \longrightarrow \sqrt{2} = \sqrt{nt^2 - 2t + 1} \longrightarrow nt^2 - 2t - 1 = 0$$

$$\text{solution: } t_1 = \frac{2 + 2\sqrt{n+1}}{2n} = \frac{1 + \sqrt{n+1}}{n}, \quad t_2 = \frac{1 - \sqrt{n+1}}{n}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1}^T (\lambda_1 x_1 + \dots + \lambda_{k+1} x_{k+1}) &= 0 \\ \lambda_1 x_{k+1}^T x_1 + \dots + \lambda_k x_{k+1}^T x_k + \lambda_{k+1} x_{k+1}^T x_{k+1} &= 0 \\ p \cdot \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i + \lambda_{k+1} \cdot q &= 0 \longrightarrow \lambda_{k+1} = -\frac{p}{q} \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i \end{aligned}$$

Suppose the assertion holds for k . Let us proceed to the case of $k+1$. Consider an arbitrary linear combination $\lambda_1 x_1 + \lambda_2 x_2 + \dots + \lambda_{k+1} x_{k+1} = 0$, where $x_i^T x_j = p$ if $i = j$ and q otherwise, with $q > p > 0$. Since $x_{k+1}^T (\lambda_1 x_1 + \dots + \lambda_{k+1} x_{k+1}) = 0$, we get $\lambda_{k+1} = -\frac{p}{q} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_k)$. So

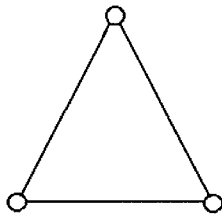
$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 x_1 + \lambda_2 x_2 + \dots + \lambda_k x_k - \frac{p}{q} (\lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_k) x_{k+1} &= 0 \\ \longrightarrow \lambda_1 \left(x_1 - \frac{p}{q} x_{k+1}\right) + \lambda_2 \left(x_2 - \frac{p}{q} x_{k+1}\right) + \dots + \lambda_k \left(x_k - \frac{p}{q} x_{k+1}\right) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Set $y_i = x_i - \frac{p}{q} x_{k+1}$. Then $y_i^T y_i = q - \frac{p^2}{q} \triangleq q'$ and $y_i^T y_j = p - \frac{p^2}{q} \triangleq p'$. Note that $q' > p' > 0$ as $q > p > 0$. By induction hypothesis with respect to y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k , we have $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \dots = \lambda_k = 0$. This, in turn, implies $\lambda_{k+1} = 0$. \square

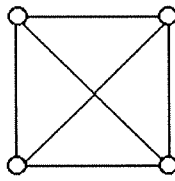
$$y_i^T y_i = \left(x_i - \frac{p}{q} x_{k+1}\right)^T \left(x_i - \frac{p}{q} x_{k+1}\right) = x_i^T x_i - \frac{p}{q} x_i^T x_{k+1} - \frac{p}{q} x_{k+1}^T x_i + \frac{p^2}{q^2} x_{k+1}^T x_{k+1}$$

(1.3) How Many Complete Bipartite Graphs Add Up to a Complete Graph?

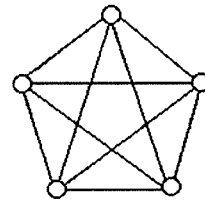
A graph is called **complete** if there is an edge between any two vertices. A complete graph with n vertices is usually denoted by K_n .



K_3

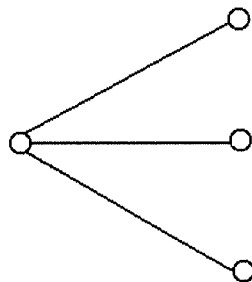


K_4

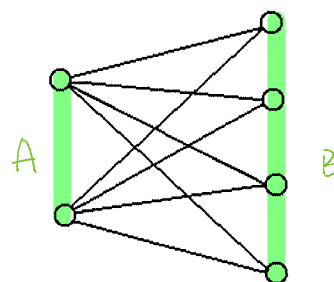


K_5

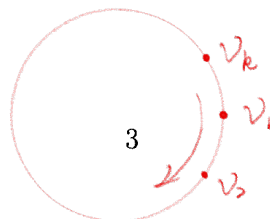
A graph G is **bipartite** if its vertex-set can be partitioned into two (disjoint) subsets A, B such that all edges are between A and B . (No edge is allowed to join two vertices in A or two in B .) We say that (A, B) is the **bipartition** of G . Graph G is called a **complete bipartite graph** if for any $a \in A$ and any $b \in B$, there is an edge between a and b . The complete bipartite graph G is denoted by $K_{s,t}$ if $|A| = s$ and $|B| = t$.



$K_{1,3}$



$K_{2,4}$



cycle $\begin{cases} \text{odd, if } k \text{ is odd} \\ \text{even, if } k \text{ is even} \end{cases}$

theorem: a graph is bipartite "iff \iff " it contains no odd cycles

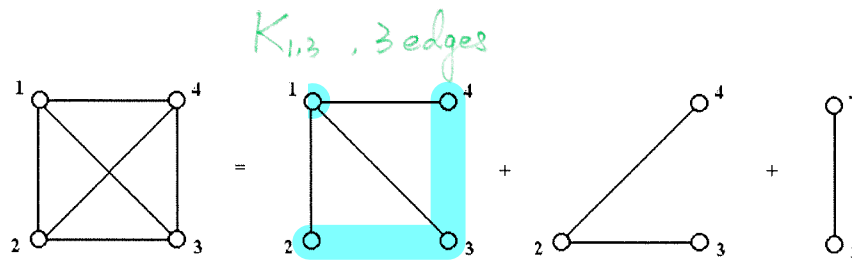
The following problem arose in connection with the problem of “addressing into the squashed cube” in telecommunication.

Input K_n — the complete graph on n vertices.

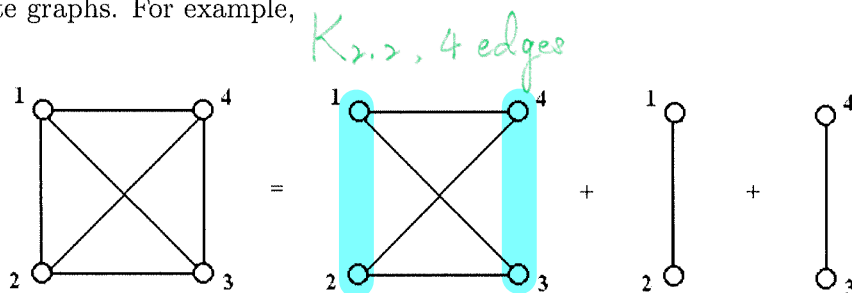
Output Decomposition of K_n into m edge disjoint, complete bipartite graphs such that m is as small as possible.

m 即可不相交的完全二分图

Remark 1. $m \leq n - 1$. For instance,



Remark 2. There are many decompositions of K_n into $n - 1$ edge disjoint complete bipartite graphs. For example,



The real surprise is $m \geq n - 1$.

Theorem 3 (Graham - Pollak). *If the edge set of K_n is the disjoint union of the edge sets of m complete bipartite graphs, then $m \geq n - 1$.*

First Proof. Suppose K_n has been decomposed into the disjoint union of complete bipartite graphs B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m . Let (X_k, Y_k) be the bipartition of B_k . Now associate an $n \times n$ matrix A_k with each B_k in the following way

A_k 是邻接矩阵的左上三角

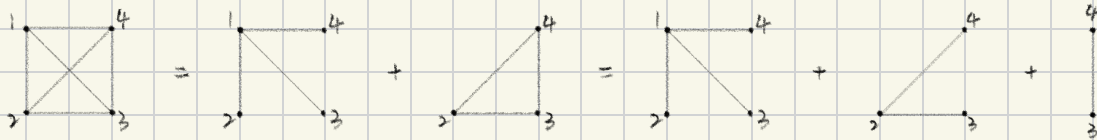
$$A_k(i, j) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in X_k \text{ and } j \in Y_k; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Clearly, $rk(A_k) = 1$. Let $S = \sum_{k=1}^m A_k$. Then $S + S^T = J - I$, since for each $i \neq j$ precisely one of (i, j) and (j, i) is represented in S , where J is the $n \times n$ all one matrix and I is the $n \times n$ identity matrix.

theorem: decomposition of complete graph K_n

into m edges disjoint, complete bipartite graph

see an example $K_4 = K_{1,3} + K_3 = K_{1,3} + K_{1,2} + K_{1,1}$

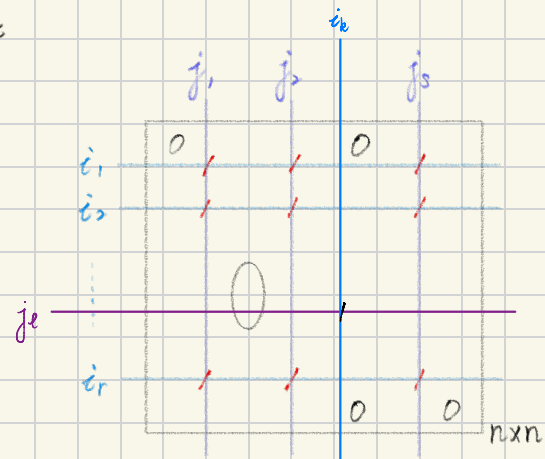


so we have the conclusion: $K_n = K_{1,n-1} + K_{n-1} = K_{1,n-1} + K_{1,n-2} + \dots + K_{1,1}$
 $= K_{1,n-1} + K_{1,n-2} + K_{n-2}$

definition: bipartite graph with its adjacency matrix

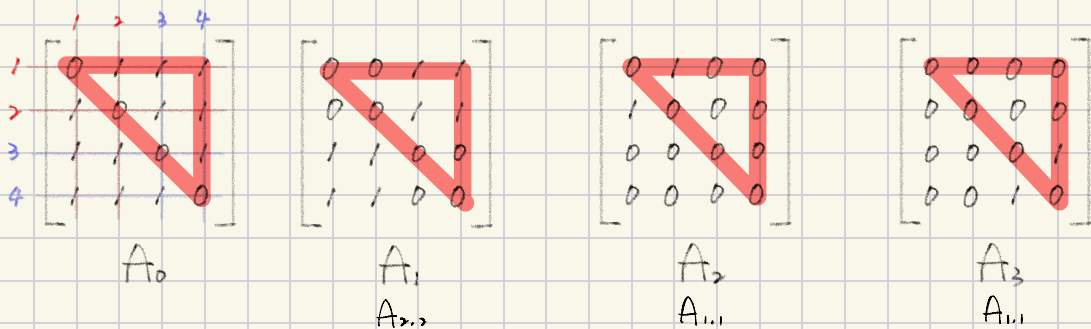
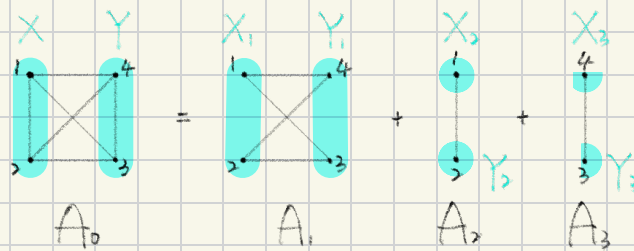
$K_{n,s} = (X, Y)$ where X and Y are two disjoint set including all vertices of $K_{n,s}$.

$X = \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r\}$, $Y = \{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_s\}$, 交界处为1



可变换成分块对角矩阵

example



theorem³: Graham-Pollak

如果完全图 K_n 的边集是 m 个完全二分图的边集的不相交并集, 则 $m \geq n-1$

1. suppose K_n has been decomposed into the disjoint union of complete bipartite graphs B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m , let (X_k, Y_k) be the bipartition of B_k

associate with an $n \times n$ matrix A_k with each B_k

from A_k definition, A_k is not symmetric but upper triangular

$$A_k(i, j) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in X_k \text{ and } j \in Y_k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

A_k 's i 'th row = i 'th row, because complete

$$K_n = B_1 + B_2 + \dots + B_m \quad \text{disjoint}$$

$$A_0 = A_1 + A_2 + \dots + A_m$$

Clearly, $\text{rank}(A_k) = 1$ Let $S = \sum_{i=1}^m A_i \rightarrow S + S^T = J - I = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & 1 \\ & \ddots & \\ 1 & & 0 \end{bmatrix} = A_0$

since for each $i \neq j$ precisely one of (i, j) and (j, i) is represented in S (1)

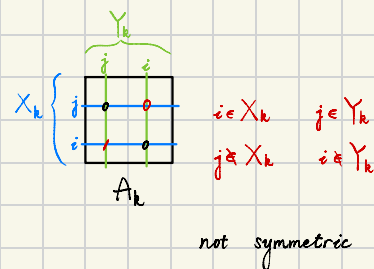
J is the $n \times n$ all one matrix and I is the $n \times n$ identity matrix

$$(1) \rightarrow \begin{cases} a. S(i, i) = 0, 1 \leq i \leq n \\ b. \text{one of } S(i, j) \text{ and } S(j, i) \text{ is } 1, \text{ the other is } 0, 1 \leq i \neq j \leq n \end{cases}$$

proof of a, $X_k \cap Y_k = \emptyset \rightarrow A_k(i, i) = 0, \forall 1 \leq k \leq m$, and $S = \sum_{k=1}^m A_k$

so $S(i, i) = 0$

proof of b, Let edge $ij \in B_k = (X_k, Y_k)$



either $i \in X_k, j \in Y_k \rightarrow A_k(i, j) = 1, A_k(j, i) = 0$

or $i \in Y_k, j \in X_k \rightarrow A_k(i, j) = 0, A_k(j, i) = 1$

Claim. $\text{rank}(S) \geq n-1$

assuming the claim, it follows that $n-1 \leq \text{rank}(S) = \text{rank}\left(\sum_{k=1}^m A_k\right) \leq \sum_{k=1}^m \text{rank}(A_k)$

according to $\text{rank}(A_k) = 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq m$

proof of "Chain" 反证法

$S \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\text{rk}(S) \leq n-2$, means $\det(S) = 0$ invertible

assume the contrary, $\text{rank}(S) \leq n-2 \rightarrow$ 矛盾 $\rightarrow \text{rank}(S) \geq n-1$

then there exists a nonzero solution to the following linear system

$$\begin{aligned} Dx &= 0, D = \begin{pmatrix} S \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}_{(n+1) \times n} \\ \text{rank}(D) &= \text{rank}(S) + 1 \leq n-1 \\ \Omega &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Dx = 0\} \\ \dim(\Omega) &= n - \text{rank}(A) \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} Sx &= 0, x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T & (2) \\ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i &= 0 \rightarrow Jx = 0 & (3) \end{aligned} \right.$$

thus $(S + S^T)x = (J - I)x = -x$, according to (3). From (2) it follows that

$S^T x = -x$, and hence $-x^T x = x^T S^T x = (Sx)^T x = 0$, by (2), means $x = 0$, contradiction

2. associate with each vertex $\mathbb{Z}_n \ni i$ a variable x_i

$$u_k = \sum_{i \in X_k} x_i \quad \text{and} \quad v_k = \sum_{i \in Y_k} x_i$$

then the fact of decomposition is expressed by equation following

$$\sum_{i < j} x_i x_j = \sum_{k=1}^m u_k v_k \quad ? \quad (4)$$

if $m \leq n-2$, then \exists a nonzero solution $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T$ to the following system

$$\begin{cases} u_k = 0, k = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n = 0 \end{cases}$$

for this solution x

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \text{LHS of (4)} &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^2 - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \right] = -\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \right) < 0 \\ \text{RHS of (4)} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{contradiction}$$



question motivation

$$1. \begin{cases} Sx=0 \\ Jx=0 \end{cases} \quad 2. \begin{cases} u_k=0 \\ Jx=0 \end{cases}$$

Claim. $rk(S) \geq n-1$.

(Assuming the claim) It follows that $n-1 \leq rk(S) = rk(\sum_{k=1}^m A_k) \leq \sum_{k=1}^m rk(A_k) = m$, as desired.

Proof of Claim. Assume the contrary: $rk(S) \leq n-2$. Then there exists a nonzero solution to the following linear system

$$\begin{cases} Sx=0 \\ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i=0 \end{cases} \quad Jx=0 \quad (3)$$

where $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T$. In view of (4), we have $Jx = 0$. Thus $(S + S^T)x = (J - I)x = -x$. From (3) it follows that $S^T x = -x$, and hence $-x^T x = x^T S^T x = 0$ by (3), a contradiction.

$$\begin{array}{c} B_k \\ \parallel \\ (X_k, Y_k) \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ u_k \quad v_k \end{array}$$

Second Proof. Let us associate with each vertex i a variable x_i . Set

consider edge set

$$u_k = \sum_{i \in X_k} x_i \quad \text{and} \quad v_k = \sum_{i \in Y_k} x_i,$$

where X_k and Y_k are as defined in the first proof. Then the fact of the decomposition is expressed by the equation

$$\sum_{i < j} x_i x_j = \sum_{k=1}^m u_k v_k = \sum_{k=1}^m \left(\sum_{i \in X_k} x_i \cdot \sum_{j \in Y_k} x_j \right) \quad (5)$$

If $m \leq n-2$, then there exists a nonzero solution $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T$ to the following linear system $Sx=0$

$$\begin{cases} u_k = 0 \quad \text{for } k = 1, 2, \dots, m. \\ x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n = 0. \end{cases}$$

For this solution x ,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LHS of (5)} &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^2 - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \right] = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 < 0, \\ \text{RHS of (5)} &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction. \square

proof of claim 1 Note that

- (1) Each edge ij corresponds to $x_i x_j$, and the edge set of B_k corresponds to $u_k v_k$.
- (2) $u_k v_k$ and $u_{k'} v_{k'}$ have no common terms (or disjoint) whenever $k \neq k'$, as each $x_i x_j$ appears once in LHS of (5).
- (3) Each edge appears in precisely one of B_k 's.

(1.4) A Combinatorial Design Problem

One famous block design problem is the following: Maximally how many subsets of a set of size n can pairwise share the same number of elements?

Theorem 4 (Nonuniform Fisher Inequality). Let c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m be distinct subsets of a set of size n such that for every $i \neq j$, $|c_i \cap c_j| = \lambda$, where λ is a fixed constant with $1 \leq \lambda < n$. Then $m \leq n$.

Proof of Claim 1 Let us show that

(a) $S(i, i) = 0 \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq n.$

(b) Precisely one of $S(i, j)$ and $S(j, i)$ is 1 and the other is 0 $\forall 1 \leq i \neq j \leq n.$

$$\Rightarrow S + S^T = J - I = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & & \\ & 0 & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & 1 & \\ 1 & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(a) since $A_k(i, i) = 0 \quad \forall 1 \leq k \leq m, \Rightarrow S(i, i) = 0.$

(b) Let edge $ij \in B_k$. Then

(1) either $i \in X_k, j \in Y_k \Rightarrow A_k(i, j) = 1, A_k(j, i) = 0$
or $i \in Y_k, j \in X_k \Rightarrow A_k(i, j) = 0, A_k(j, i) = 1.$

(2) since $ij \notin B_l \quad \forall l \neq k$, we have

$$A_l(i, j) = A_l(j, i) = 0.$$

(1) + (2) \Rightarrow (b) holds \Rightarrow claim 1 is justified.

Remark suppose $S + S^T = J - I$ over \mathbb{F}_2 . It is not necessarily true that $\text{rk}(S) \geq n-1$ over \mathbb{F}_2 , e.g.

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \\ r_3 \\ r_4 \\ r_5 \end{matrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{rk}(S) = 3 \text{ over } \mathbb{F}_2.$$

Note that $\text{rk}(S) < 4$ as $r_1 = r_2 + r_3 + r_4$ over \mathbb{F}_2

Proof of Claim 3 Note that

(1) Each edge ij corresponds to $x_i x_j$, and the edge set of B_k corresponds to $u_k v_k$;

(2) $u_k v_k$ and $u_{k'} v_{k'}$ have no common terms (or disjoint) whenever $k \neq k'$, as each $x_i x_j$ appears once in LHS of (5);

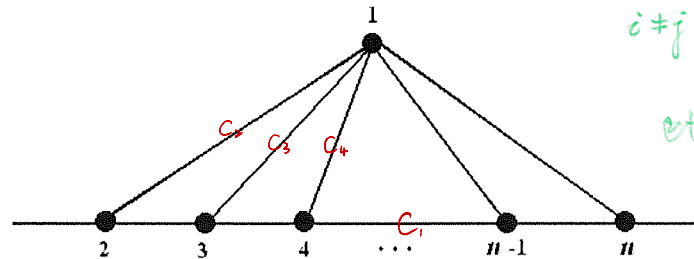
(3) Each edge appears in precisely one of B_k 's.

One famous block design problem is the following: Maximally how many subsets of a set of size n can pairwise share the same number of elements?

Theorem 4 (Nonuniform Fisher Inequality). Let c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m be distinct subsets of a set of size n such that for every $i \neq j$, $|c_i \cap c_j| = \lambda$, where λ is a fixed constant with $1 \leq \lambda < n$. Then $m \leq n$.

Remark. The bound is sharp.

Example 4.1. Let $c_1 = \{2, 3, \dots, n\}$ and $c_i = \{1, i\}$ for $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$. Then $|c_i \cap c_j| = 1$ for every $i \neq j$.



$$c_1 \cap c_i = i$$

$$i \neq j, i, j \neq 1, c_i \cap c_j = 1$$

$$\text{et } m = n$$

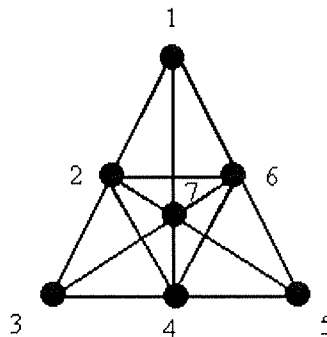
Example 4.2. Let $n = 7$

$$c_1 = \{1, 2, 3\}, c_2 = \{3, 4, 5\}, c_3 = \{5, 6, 1\},$$

$$c_4 = \{1, 7, 4\}, c_5 = \{2, 7, 5\}, c_6 = \{3, 7, 6\},$$

$$c_7 = \{2, 4, 6\}.$$

Then $|c_i \cap c_j| = 1$ for every $i \neq j$.



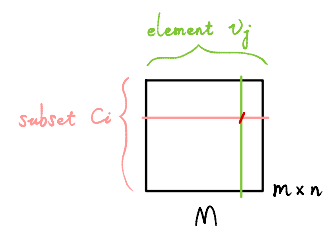
c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m distinct subset
for $i \neq j$ $|c_i \cap c_j| = \lambda$

Proof. Let us first consider the case when some c_i has precisely λ elements, that is, $|c_i| = \lambda$. Then $c_i \subseteq c_j$ for any $j \neq i$, and $c_j - c_i$ are pairwise disjoint for all $j \neq i$. Thus $|c_i| + \sum_{j \neq i} |c_j - c_i| \leq n$. So $\lambda + m - 1 \leq n$. Hence $m \leq n$ as $\lambda \geq 1$.

So we assume hereafter that $|c_i| > \lambda$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. Let v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n be the elements of the set of size n , and let M be the incidence matrix defined as follows

$$M(i, j) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v_j \in c_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

6



each row is an incident vector

$$j \neq i \neq k$$

$$|c_k \cap c_j| = \lambda$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$c_i$$

in total n ,
 c_1, \dots, c_m , m sets
precisely $|c_i| = \lambda$
 $n - \lambda \longrightarrow m - 1$

Notice that M is an $m \times n$ matrix whose rows are indexed by c'_i s and columns are indexed by v'_j s. Then the intersection condition is summarized in the matrix equation

$$\begin{aligned} c_i^T c_j &= \boxed{MM^T} = \begin{bmatrix} |c_1| & & & \\ & |c_2| & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ \lambda & & & |c_m| \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{|c_i \cap c_j| = \lambda} \\ &= \lambda J + \text{diag}(|c_1| - \lambda, |c_2| - \lambda, \dots, |c_m| - \lambda) \\ &\triangleq \lambda J + \text{diag}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_m), \end{aligned}$$

where $\gamma_i = |c_i| - \lambda > 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Claim. MM^T is nonsingular. 非常正的 (det ≠ 0, 可逆) 满秩

(Assuming the claim) It follows that $m = \boxed{rk(MM^T)} \leq \boxed{rk(M)} \leq n$, as desired. So it remains to establish the above claim.

1. Method 1. Show that MM^T is positive definite:

To justify this, note that for any $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m)^T \in R^m$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{二次型: } x^T(MM^T)x &= \lambda x^T J x + x^T \text{diag}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_m)x \\ &= \lambda \left(\sum_{i=1}^m x_i \right)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^m \gamma_i x_i^2. \end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned} x^T J x &= (\sum x_i)^2 \\ x^T I x &= \sum x_i^2 \end{aligned}$$

Hence $x^T(MM^T)x \geq 0$ for any $x \in R^m$ and equality holds iff $x = 0$.

2. Method 2. Show that $\det(MM^T) = \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \dots \gamma_m [1 + \lambda(\frac{1}{\gamma_1} + \frac{1}{\gamma_2} + \dots + \frac{1}{\gamma_m})]$. Indeed, nonzero

$$\det(MM^T) = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda + \gamma_1 & \lambda & \dots & \lambda \\ \lambda & \lambda + \gamma_2 & \dots & \lambda \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \lambda & \lambda & \dots & \lambda + \gamma_m \end{vmatrix}_{m \times m} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 0 & \lambda + \gamma_1 & \lambda & \dots & \lambda \\ 0 & \lambda & \lambda + \gamma_2 & \dots & \lambda \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \lambda & \lambda & \dots & \lambda + \gamma_m \end{vmatrix}_{(m+1) \times (m+1)}$$

每一行减去
去λ倍第
一行

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{Subtracting } \lambda \text{ times} \\ \text{the 1}^{st} \text{ row from} \\ \text{each of other rows} \end{array} \right) = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ -\lambda & \gamma_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\lambda & 0 & \gamma_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -\lambda & 0 & 0 & \dots & \gamma_m \end{vmatrix}_{(m+1) \times (m+1)}$$

K 1 1 ... 1
0 γ₁ 0 ... 0
0 0 γ₂ ... 0
⋮ ⋮ ⋮ ⋱ ⋮
0 0 0 ... γ_m

Next, using the diagonal entries, kill the first column to create an upper triangular matrix. The result follows.

det ≠ 0

where $K = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\lambda}{\gamma_i} + 1$

the bound in 1.5 is sharp
 Let $A_i = \{i\}$, $\forall 1 \leq i \leq n$
 and $A_{n+1} = [n] = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$
 $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = \bigcup_{j \in J} A_j$
 $I = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$, $J = \{n+1\}$
 thus $\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i = \emptyset \neq \bigcap_{j \in J} A_j$
 in the 1st case

Method 3. Let x_i be the incidence vector of c_i . Then

$$x_i^T x_j = \begin{cases} \lambda + \gamma_i & \text{if } j = i \\ \lambda & \text{if } j \neq i. \end{cases}$$

pairwise disjoint

Then x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m are linearly independent.

Method 4. Compute eigenvalues of MM^T directly and check that all of them are positive.

Exercise. Give a new proof of Theorem 2.

the bound in theorem 5 is sharp:

(1.5) Balanced Families

Let $A_i = \{i\}$, $\forall 1 \leq i \leq n$
 $A_{n+1} = [n] := \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$
 $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = \bigcup_{j \in J} A_j$, let $I = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$
 $J = \{n+1\}$ thus $\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i = \emptyset \neq \bigcap_{j \in J} A_j$
 in the first case

A family A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m of distinct sets is *balanced* if there exist two disjoint and nonempty subsets of indices, I and J , such that

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = \bigcup_{j \in J} A_j \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcap_{i \in I} A_i \neq \bigcap_{j \in J} A_j.$$

Theorem 5 (Lindstrom). Every family of m distinct subsets of an n -element set, with $m \geq n+2$, is balanced.

n 中元素的集合的 m 中不同的子集

Proof. With each subset A of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ we can associate the incidence vector $\mathbb{R}^{2n} \ni v = (x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, \dots, x_n, y_n)^T$ of the pair (A, \bar{A}) in the usual way: $x_i = 1$ iff $i \in A$ and $y_i = 1 - x_i$. These vectors belong to the vector space V (over \mathbb{R}) of all vectors for which $x_1 + y_1 = x_2 + y_2 = \dots = x_n + y_n = 1$ subspace

Claim. The dimension of V is $n+1$.

To prove the claim, observe that for any $v = (x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, \dots, x_n, y_n)^T$ in V , the knowledge of $n+1$ coordinates $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, y_n$ is enough to reconstruct the whole vector v , namely $y_i = x_1 + y_1 - x_i$. So our space V is the set of solutions $v \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ of the linear system $Mv = 0$, where M is the $(n-1) \times (2n)$ matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}_{(n-1) \times (2n)}$$

So $\dim(V) = 2n - \text{rk}(M) = 2n - (n-1) = n+1$, as desired.

Now let $v_i = (v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{i,2n})^T$ be the vector corresponding to the i^{th} set A_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. By the assumption, the vectors v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m are distinct and all belong to

remark: if $m = n+1$, then \exists two disjoint and nonempty subsets of indices, I & J , s.t.
 $\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = \bigcup_{j \in J} A_j$. furthermore, \exists two disjoint and nonempty subsets of indices, K & L
 $\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i = \bigcap_{j \in J} A_j$ But \nexists guarantee that $I=K$ and $J=L$ or $I=L$ and $J=K$

some explanation to the "Claim"

$$V = \{ (x_1, y_1, \dots, x_i, y_i, \dots, x_n, y_n)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \text{ where } x_1 + y_1 = \dots = x_i + y_i = \dots = x_n + y_n \}$$

$$v \in V \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x_1 + y_1 - x_2 - y_2 = 0 \Leftrightarrow x_1 + y_1 = x_2 + y_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_1 + y_1 - x_i - y_i = 0 \Leftrightarrow x_1 + y_1 = x_i + y_i \\ \vdots \\ x_1 + y_1 - x_n - y_n = 0 \Leftrightarrow x_1 + y_1 = x_n + y_n \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow$$

$Mv = 0$, where

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & y_1 & x_2 & y_2 & x_3 & y_3 & \dots & x_n & y_n \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}_{(n-1) \times (2n)}$$

so $\text{rank}(M) = n-1$, $\dim(V) = \dim(\mathbb{R}^{2n}) - \text{rank}(M) = n+1$ solution space

by assumption, if $m \geq n+2 > n+1 \Rightarrow v_1, \dots, v_m$ linearly dependent

▲ there exist not all zero $\alpha_i, i \in [m]$ such that $\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i v_i = 0$ (*)

Let $I = \{i \mid \alpha_i > 0\}$ and $J = \{j \mid \alpha_j < 0\}$ then

$I \cap J = \emptyset$, I, J nonempty, $\beta_j = -\alpha_j, \forall j \in J$, so the equation (*) is equal to

$$\sum_{i \in I} \alpha_i v_i = \sum_{j \in J} \beta_j v_j$$

while $\alpha_i > 0, \forall i \in I$ and $\beta_j > 0, \forall j \in J$

$$\forall k \in \bigcup_{i \in I} A_i$$

向量 v_i 的第 $(k-1)$ 个坐标
如果为 α_k , 则 $k \in A_i$

$$\Leftrightarrow \exists i_0 \in I, \text{ such that } k \in A_{i_0}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \exists i_0 \in I, \text{ such that } (k-1)\text{th entry of } v_{i_0} \text{ is } 1 \text{ and } k^{\text{th}} \text{ entry is } 0$$

$> (k-1) + 1 = k$

$$\Leftrightarrow (k-1)\text{th entry of } \sum_{i \in I} \alpha_i v_i \text{ is positive +}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (k-1)\text{th entry of } \sum_{j \in J} \beta_j v_j \text{ is positive +}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \exists j_0 \in J, \text{ such that } (k-1)\text{th entry of } v_{j_0} \text{ is } 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \exists j_0 \text{ st. } k \in A_{j_0} \Leftrightarrow \forall k \in \bigcup_{j \in J} A_j$$

assume at the beginning
 $\dim V = n+1$
 the subspace V . Since $m \geq n+2 > n+1 = \dim(V)$, there must be a nontrivial relation between these vectors, which can be written as

$$v_1, \dots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^{>n}$$

$$\sum_{i \in I} \alpha_i v_i = \sum_{j \in J} \beta_j v_j,$$

where I and J are both nonempty, $I \cap J = \emptyset$, and $\alpha_i, \beta_j > 0$ for all $i \in I$ and $j \in J$. But this means that

$$\bigcup_{i \in I} A_i = \bigcup_{j \in J} A_j \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcup_{i \in I} \bar{A}_i = \bigcup_{j \in J} \bar{A}_j,$$

where (using the identity $\bar{A} \cup \bar{B} = \overline{A \cap B}$) the last equality amounts to $\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i = \bigcap_{j \in J} A_j$. \square

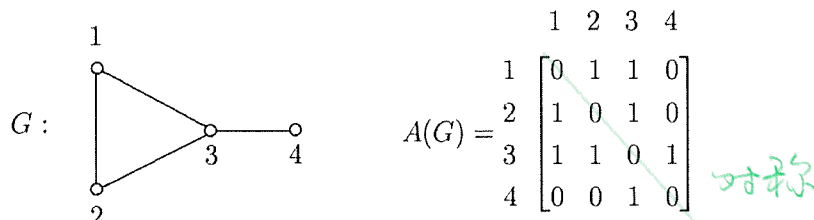
De Morgan

2° Eigenvalue Technique

Let G be a graph with n vertices. The adjacency matrix of G , denoted by $A(G)$, is an $n \times n$ matrix such that

- each row/column is indexed by a vertex;
- the (i, j) entry of $A(G)$ is 1 if vertex i and vertex j are adjacent in G and 0 otherwise.

For instance,



Let us consider the eigenvalues of $A(G)$.

Example 6.1. Let K_n stand for the complete graph with n vertices. Then the eigenvalues of $A(K_n)$ are

$$n-1, \underbrace{-1, -1, \dots, -1}_{n-1 \text{ times}}$$

Indeed, $A(K_n) = J - I$. So we have

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A(K_n) - \lambda I) &= \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} \\ &= (n-1-\lambda)(-1-\lambda)^{n-1}, \end{aligned}$$

properties of adjacency matrix 邻接矩阵 A

1. diagonal entries = 0

2. symmetric

3. $A\mathbf{1} = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)^T$ where d_i illustrate the degree of vertex i
and $\mathbf{1}$ is $(1, 1, \dots, 1)^T \in \mathbb{R}^n$

4. $A^2(i, j) = \begin{cases} \text{if } i=j, & a_{ij} \text{ express the degree of vertex } i=j \\ \text{if } i \neq j, & \text{the cardinality } \# \text{ of common neighbors of } i \text{ and } j \end{cases}$

in example 6.1

$$\det(A(K_n) - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & -\lambda \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (n-1-\lambda)(-1-\lambda)^{n-1},$$

add all rows to the 1st row

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -\lambda & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} \cdot (n-1-\lambda)$$

subtract 1st row from all other rows

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 0 & -\lambda-1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\lambda-1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & -\lambda-1 \end{vmatrix} \cdot (n-1-\lambda) = (n-1-\lambda) \cdot (-1-\lambda)^{n-1} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} 1 \neq n-1 \\ n-1 \neq -1 \end{cases}$$

some properties:

1. if $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ are eigenvalues of $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, then the eigenvalues of $B \pm kI$ are $\lambda_1 \pm k, \lambda_2 \pm k, \dots, \lambda_n \pm k$, where k is a fixed constant

2. the eigenvalues of J are $n, \underbrace{0, 0, \dots, 0}_{n-1 \text{ times}}$. Furthermore, every eigenvector of J is either parallel or orthogonal 平行或正交 to $\mathbf{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

3. if $n \geq 3$ and odd ($2 \nmid n$), then

$$\text{rank}(J - I) = \begin{cases} n, & \text{over } \mathbb{R} \\ n-1, & \text{over } \mathbb{F}_2 \end{cases}$$

if $n \geq 2$ and even ($2 \mid n$), then

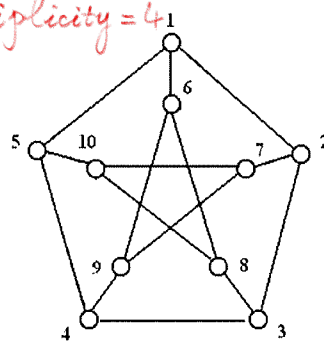
$$\text{rank}(J - I) = n, \text{ over both } \mathbb{R} \text{ \& \; } \mathbb{F}_2$$

and thus the statement follows. \square

Example 6.2. Let G be the **Petersen graph**. Then the **eigenvalues of $A(G)$** are

the eigenvalues of Peterson graph are 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, -2, -2, -2, -2.

重数 1, 对 multiplicity = 5
应向量 1



Petersen Graph

$$S \cdot T = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\lambda \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -\lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \lambda^2 & 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda \\ 1-\lambda & \lambda^2 & 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda \\ 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda & \lambda^2 & 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda \\ 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda & \lambda^2 & 1-\lambda \\ 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda & 1-\lambda & \lambda^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Clearly,

$$|A(G) - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 \\ -\lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -\lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\lambda & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -\lambda & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -\lambda \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\triangleq \left| \begin{array}{c|c} S & I \\ \hline I & T \end{array} \right|.$$

To **calculate the determinant**, let us apply the **following matrix identity**

$$\begin{pmatrix} S & I \\ I & T \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I & -T \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} S & I - ST \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then we have (by **swapping i^{th} column and $(5+i)^{th}$ column** for $i = 1, 2, \dots, 5$).

$$\left| \begin{array}{cc|cc} S & I & I & -T \\ I & T & 0 & I \end{array} \right| = \left| \begin{array}{cc|cc} S & I - ST & I & 0 \end{array} \right| = - \left| \begin{array}{cc|cc} I - ST & S & 0 & I \end{array} \right| = -|I - ST|.$$

$$10 \quad = - \det(I - ST) \cdot \det I$$