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DIMENSION OF THE SUM OF SEVERAL COPIES OF A GRAPH

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1. PRELIMINARIES

1.1. Conventions and notation. We shall not repeat the definitions of the basic notions (graph, homomorphism, embedding, spanned subgraph, degree of a vertex – $d_G(x)$, cardinality of $V(G) - |G|$, λ -partite graph, complete graph – K_n , complete λ -partite graph – $K_{r_1, \dots, r_\lambda}$, cycles C_m). We also suppose as already known the operations of sum (the sum of k copies of G being denoted as $k \cdot G$), cartesian product, categorial product. Nevertheless, let us mention some of the less current notation: Let X be a set. Then we write $P(X) = \{Y: Y \subseteq X\}$ and $P_{\leq d}(X) = \{Y \subset X: |Y| \leq d\}$. Let $\Gamma: X \rightarrow P(X)$. Then $\bar{\Gamma}: X \rightarrow P(X)$ is defined as follows:

$$y \in \bar{\Gamma}(x) \Leftrightarrow x \in \Gamma(y).$$

Obviously, Γ corresponds to a graph iff $\Gamma = \bar{\Gamma}$ and $x \notin \Gamma(x)$. Such Γ will be sometimes denoted by Γ_G where G is the associated graph, and will be called a *graph-mapping*.

The upper integral approximation of a real number r will be denoted by $(r)^+$.

The symbol $I(N \times d)$ denotes a matrix $N \times d$, the i -th row of which is the vector i, \dots, i .

1.2. Some basic facts about the dimension and encodings. The dimension of G defined as the least natural number n such that G can be embedded into N^n (where the N^n is the n -th categorial power of the complete graph whose vertices are all natural numbers) leads in a natural way to an encoding, i.e. associating the vertices $x \in V(X)$ with distinct vectors $v(x) = v_1(x), \dots, v_d(x)$ in natural numbers so that for $\{x, y\} \in E(G)$ the vectors $v(x)$ and $v(y)$ do not meet and for $\{x, y\} \notin E(G)$ they meet in at least one coordinate.

For a graph G define the *strong matching number* $\mu(G)$ as the maximal cardinality of an $X \subset V(G)$ such that there exists a one-to-one mapping φ of X onto a $Y \subset V(G)$, disjoint from X , for which

$$\{x, y\} \in E(G), \quad x \in X \quad \text{and} \quad y \in Y \quad \text{iff} \quad y = \varphi(x).$$

Then $\dim(G) \geq \log_2 \mu(G)$ whenever $\mu(G) \geq 3$ [4].

Another graph characteristic is $\bar{\mu}(G)$: Let there be distinct x^1, \dots, x^k in $V(G)$ such that for some $y^1, \dots, y^k \in V(G)$,

$$\{x^i, y^i\} \in E(G) \quad \text{and} \quad \{x^i, y^j\} \notin E(G) \quad \text{for} \quad i < j.$$

This k is then denoted by $\bar{\mu}(G)$ and we have $\dim(G) \geq \log_2 \bar{\mu}(G)$ [4].

For C_{2n} we can put $x^i = i - 1, y^i = i$ ($i = 1, \dots, n - 2$), consequently $\bar{\mu}(C_{2n}) \geq 2(n - 1)$ i.e. $\dim C_{2n} \geq \log_2(n - 1) + 1$. Actually, $\dim C_{2n} = (\log_2(n - 1))^+ + 1$ for $n > 2$ [4].

We shall also need the following propositions [4]:

$$\dim(k \cdot K_2) = (\log_2 k)^+ + 1, \quad \dim(K_1 + K_n) = n.$$

Finally, recall that, by [3], $\dim(K_n + K_n) = n$ (actually, we have proved more – that $\dim(K_n + K_m) = \max(m, n)$ – for further generalization see 3.5.a). Besides, it is clear that for a spanned subgraph H of G , $\dim(H) \leq \dim(G)$, $\dim K_n = 1$, $\dim K_{r_1, \dots, r_\lambda} = 2$ (in the first coordinate there are the same numbers for the vertices of one colour, in the second there are the numbers $1, \dots, \sum r_i$). Let us also remark that the homomorphism Theorem 2.1 from [3] holds naturally for any number of copies.

2. GENERALIZED LATIN RECTANGLES

2.1. In the paper [3] we defined the Generalized Latin Rectangle corresponding to some $\Gamma: X \rightarrow P_{\leq d}(X)$ (GLR Γ) as a matrix $X \times d$ with columns p_1, \dots, p_d (p_i being permutations of X) such that for all $x \in X$,

$$\Gamma(x) \subset \{p_1(x), \dots, p_d(x)\} = v(x).$$

In Lemma 2.2 in [3] we have proved that such GLR Γ exists whenever Γ is a graph-mapping. We call two GLR ΓP and Q (corresponding to the same Γ) *independent* iff both $Q^{-1} \circ P$ and $P^{-1} \circ Q$ are again GLR Γ (by composition we mean the composition of the column permutations).

2.2. Lemma. *Let Q and P be two GLR Γ . Denote $F(x) = \{y \in X: v(y) \text{ in } Q \text{ meets } v(x) \text{ in } P\}$. Then $Q^{-1} \circ P$ is again GLR Γ iff*

$$x \in X \Rightarrow \Gamma(x) \subset F(x).$$

Proof. We have $F(x) = (Q^{-1} \circ P)(x) : y \in F(x)$ iff there exists a column s such that $p_s(x) = q_s(y) \Leftrightarrow y = (q_s^{-1} \circ p_s)(x) \Leftrightarrow y \in (Q^{-1} \circ P)(x)$. \square

2.3. Corollary. a) *If Γ is a graph-mapping then $Q^{-1} \circ P$ is GLR Γ iff*

$$P^{-1} \circ Q \text{ is GLR } \Gamma.$$

b) *If Γ is a graph G mapping then P and Q are independent iff*

$$\{x, y\} \in E(G) \Rightarrow v(x) \text{ in } P \text{ meets } v(y) \text{ in } Q.$$

c) Two latin squares P and Q of the same order are independent iff each row of P meets each row of Q . \square

2.4. Two matrices P and Q of the same dimension, their elements being integers from 1 to n , are called *orthogonal* if for every pair a, b ($1 \leq a, b \leq n$) there exists at most one pair (i, j) such that $P_{i,j} = a$ and $Q_{i,j} = b$ [1].

Lemma. Two GLR $\Gamma(N \times m)$ P and Q are orthogonal if and only if $Q \circ P^{-1}$ is LR.

Proof. Let P, Q be not orthogonal, i.e. there exist $a, b \leq N$ and two different pairs (i_1, j_1) and (i_2, j_2) such that $P_{i_1, j_1} = P_{i_2, j_2} = a$ and $Q_{i_1, j_1} = Q_{i_2, j_2} = b$. Consequently,

$$p_{j_1}(i_1) = p_{j_2}(i_2) = a \quad \text{and} \quad q_{j_1}(i_1) = q_{j_2}(i_2) = b.$$

This means

$$i_1 = (p_{j_1})^{-1}(a), \quad i_2 = (p_{j_2})^{-1}(a).$$

After substituting into the second equation we get

$$(q_{j_1} p_{j_1}^{-1})(a) = (q_{j_2} p_{j_2}^{-1})(a) = b.$$

Thus in the a -th row of the matrix $Q \circ P^{-1}$ the same element b is in both columns j_1, j_2 . By reversing the reasoning we obtain the other implication. \square

2.5. Corollary. The number of independent LS of order n equals the number of orthogonal LS of order n .

Proof. Let Q_1, \dots, Q_t be independent LS of order n . Thus $Q_i^{-1} \circ Q_j$ for $i \neq j$ is again LS. It is easy to prove that if P is LS then P^{-1} is again LS so that for $Q_1^{-1}, \dots, Q_t^{-1}$ we have that $Q_i^{-1} \circ (Q_j^{-1})^{-1} = Q_i^{-1} \circ Q_j$ is again LS and according to the previous lemma $Q_1^{-1}, \dots, Q_t^{-1}$ are orthogonal LS of order n . If we start with orthogonal LS it is easy to show that their inversion is a system of independent LS. \square

We shall denote the number of orthogonal LS of order n by $N(n)$. Let us recall that $N(n) \leq n - 1$, with equality holding whenever n is a prime power, $N(12) \geq 5$, $n \neq 2, 6 \Rightarrow N(n) \geq 2$. If $n = p_1^{t_1} \dots p_k^{t_k}$ is the prime decomposition of n then $N(n) \geq \min(p_i^{t_i} - 1)$ [1].

3. BASIC FACTS

3.1. Theorem. a) Let G be a graph such that there exist $t - 1$ independent GLR $\Gamma_G(|G| \times \Delta(G))$. Then

$$\dim(t \cdot G) \leq \dim G + \Delta(G).$$

b) For a given k , let m be the minimal number such that there exist $k - 1$ independent GLR $\Gamma_G(|G| \times m)$. Then

$$\dim(k \cdot G) \leq \dim G + m.$$

Proof is similar to that of Theorem 2.3 in [3]. There we have added the matrix $I(|G| \times \Delta(G))$ to one of the encodings of G and the corresponding GLR Γ_G to the other. Now, we have t (or k) encodings of G , to one of them we add the matrix $I(|G| \times \Delta(G))$ (or $I(|G| \times m)$, respectively) and to each of the rest one of the $t - 1$ independent GLR Γ_G (or one of the $k - 1$ independent GLR $\Gamma_G (|G| \times m)$). \square

3.2. Lemma. *Let G be a graph, k a given integer. There exist $k - 1$ independent GLR $\Gamma_G (|G| \times \Delta(G) (\log_2 k)^+)$ where t is the maximal number such that there exist $t - 1$ independent GLR $\Gamma_G (|G| \times \Delta(G))$.*

Proof. Let $r = (\log_2 k)^+$. We construct $t^r - 1 \geq k - 1$ independent GLR Γ_G : Let us denote $t - 1$ independent GLR $\Gamma_G (|G| \times \Delta(G))$ by P_1, \dots, P_{t-1} and let $P_0 = I(|G| \times \Delta(G))$. Let

$$M = \{v: v = (v_1, \dots, v_r), 0 \leq v_i \leq t - 1, \text{ at least one } v_i \neq 0\}$$

($|M| = t^r - 1$) and for $v \in M$ let P_v be the matrix $|G| \times \Delta(G) \cdot r$ given by $P_v = P_{v_1} P_{v_2} \dots P_{v_r}$ (P_{v_i} are just written down one after another).

It is easy to prove that each P_v is GLR Γ_G and that they are pairwise independent. \square

3.3. Corollary. *Let G be a graph with $t - 1$ independent GLR $\Gamma_G (|G| \times \Delta(G))$, k an integer. Then*

$$\dim(k \cdot G) \leq \dim G + \Delta(G) (\log_2 k)^+.$$

In particular, $\dim(k \cdot G) \leq \dim G + \Delta(G) (\log_2 k)^+.$ \square

3.4. Proposition. $\dim(k \cdot K_n) = n$ iff there exist at least $k - 1$ independent LS of order n .

Proof. \Leftarrow : It is clear that every LS is an encoding of K_n and $k - 1$ independent LS form an encoding of the sum $(k - 1) \cdot K_n$. Besides, $I(n \times n)$ is also an encoding of K_n and each row of this matrix meets each row of each LS.

\Rightarrow : As each row of one encoding of K_n meets each row of another encoding of K_n , two rows of one encoding never meet, at each place some two of the rows are bound to meet (for each pair of K_n). So we can suppose that each column is a permutation of the numbers $1, \dots, n$. If we transform each encoding in such a way that the first columns are identical permutations, we can easily check that these encodings are independent LS.

- 3.5. Corollary.** a) For any integer n , $\dim((n + 1) \cdot K_n) > n$.
 b) When n is a prime power then $\dim(n \cdot K_n) = n$.
 c) If $N(n)$ is the number of OLS of order n , then

$$\dim((N(n) + 1) \cdot K_n) = n, \quad \dim((N(n) + 2) \cdot K_n) > n.$$

- d) $\dim(K_{n_1} + \dots + K_{n_p}) = \max(n_1, \dots, n_p)$ iff $p \leq N(\max(n_1, \dots, n_p)) + 1.$ \square

3.6. Corollary. a) Let $n = p_1^{r_1} \dots p_k^{r_k}$ be the prime decomposition of n , let $a = \min(p_i^{r_i} - 1)$. Then $\dim(a \cdot K_n) = n$.

b) $\dim(6 \cdot K_{12}) = 12$.

c) For $n \neq 2, 6$, $\dim(3 \cdot K_n) = n$.

Proof follows from the properties of OLS. \square

3.7. Proposition. a) Let n be a prime power, k an integer, then

$$\dim(k \cdot K_n) \leq 1 + (n - 1)(\log_n k)^+.$$

b) For $n \neq 2, 6$ $\dim(k \cdot K_n) \leq 1 + (n - 1)(\log_3 k)^+.$

c) $\dim(k \cdot K_n) \leq 1 + (n - 1)(\log_{N(n)+1} k)^+.$

Proof. If we define $\Gamma_{K_n}(x) = X \setminus \{x\}$ we can complete each GLR Γ_{K_n} is a unique way to an LS and vice versa, i.e. the number of independent GLR Γ_{K_n} equals the number of independent (orthogonal) LS. The rest follows from Corollary 3.3. \square

3.8. Lemma. Let G be a graph, k an integer. Let there exist t independent GLR $\Gamma_G(|G| \times m)$. Then there exist t independent GLR $\Gamma_H(k|G| \times m)$ where Γ_H is a graph-mapping corresponding to the sum $k \cdot G$.

Proof. If p is a permutation of the set $1, \dots, N$ ($N = |G|$) let $t \cdot p$ be a permutation of the set $1, \dots, t \cdot N$ given by

$$j \cdot N \leq i \leq (j + 1) \cdot N \Rightarrow (t \cdot p)(i) - j \cdot N = p(i - j \cdot N).$$

If $P = \{p_1, \dots, p_m\}$ is a GLR Γ_G then $t \cdot P = \{t \cdot p_1, \dots, t \cdot p_m\}$ is a GLR Γ_H : It suffices to number the vertices of $k \cdot G$ in such a way that $\Gamma_H(i) \subset (t \cdot P)(i)$. One copy is already numbered (P is GLR Γ_G); let us number the others in such a way that if i and j are numbers of the same vertex in different copies of G then i and j are congruent mod N . Now, for $j \cdot N < i \leq (j + 1) \cdot N$ we have $\Gamma_H(i) = \Gamma_G(i - j \cdot N) + j \cdot N$ and since $(t \cdot P)(i) = P(i - j \cdot N) + j \cdot N$, we get $(t \cdot P)(i) \supset \Gamma_H(i)$. Besides, if P and Q are independent GLR Γ_G then $t \cdot P$ and $t \cdot Q$ are independent GLR Γ_H as $(t \cdot P)^{-1} = t \cdot (p)^{-1}$ and $(t \cdot p)(t \cdot q) = t(p \circ q)$ yields $(t \cdot P)^{-1} \circ (t \cdot Q) = t(P^{-1} \circ Q)$. \square

3.9. Proposition. a) Let m, n be integers, $m > n$, $N(m) > N(n)$. Then

$$\dim((N(m) + 1) \cdot K_n) \leq m.$$

b) Let n, n_1, \dots, n_k be integers, $n \leq n_i$, let $m = \prod_{i=1}^k (N(n_i) + 1)$. Then $\dim(m \cdot K_n) \leq 1 + \sum_{i=1}^k (n_i - 1)$.

Proof. a) Follows immediately from Corollary 2.5.c).

b) By induction: $k = 1$ - this is part a). Let now $m' = m(N(n_{k+1}) + 1)$ where $n_{k+1} \geq n$. As $\dim((N(n_{k+1}) + 1) \cdot K_n) \leq n$ and as we can suppose that the first column of the encoding is the identity, we get (after removing this first column) $N(n_{k+1})$ independent GLR $\Gamma_{K_n}(n \times d)$ where $d \leq n_{k+1} - 1$. According to Lemma

3.8 there exist $N(n_{k+1})$ independent GLR $\Gamma_H (mn \times d)$ (Γ_H corresponding to the graph $m \cdot K_n$). Now we take $N(n_{k+1}) + 1$ identical encodings of the sum $m \cdot K_n$, to one of them we add the matrix $I(mn \times d)$, to each of the others one of the GLR Γ_H . □

3.10. Corollary. a) *If k is a prime power, $n < k$, then*

$$\dim(k \cdot K_n) \leq k.$$

b) *Let k, n be integers, $k > n$, $n_1, \dots, n_k, n_i \geq n$ prime powers, denote $m = n_1^{r_1}, \dots, n_k^{r_k}$ ($m \geq k$). Then*

$$\dim(k \cdot K_n) \leq d_m + 1 \quad \text{where} \quad d_m = \sum_{i=1}^k r_i(n_i - 1).$$

4. SOME APPLICATIONS

4.1. Example. Estimation of the dimension of the sums of K_2, K_3, K_4 .

K_2 : From 3.7.a) we have $\dim(k \cdot K_2) \leq 1 + 1(\log_2 k)^+$, i.e. our estimate coincides with the actual dimension (see [4]).

K_3 : We get the best estimate if we put $m = 3^{r_1} \cdot 4^{r_2}$, r_1 any integer, $r_2 < 2$ in 3.10. For an upper estimate we have $\dim(k \cdot K_3) \leq 2(r_1 - 1) + 4 = 2r_1 + 2$ for $3^{r_1} < k \leq 3^{r_1-1} \cdot 4$, $\dim(k \cdot K_3) \leq 2(r_1 + 1) + 1 = 2r_1 + 3$ for $3^{r_1} \cdot 4 < k \leq 3^{r_1+1}$.

For a lower estimate we get $\dim(k \cdot K_3) \geq 4$ from 3.5.a), and, using the strong matching number, $\dim(k \cdot K_3) \geq \log_2 \mu(k \cdot K_3) = \log_2 k$. The results up to $m = 729$ are collected in Table 1.

Table 1.

m	4	9	12	27	36	81	108	243	324	729
$d_m + 1$	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
lower estimate	4	4	4	5	6	7	7	8	9	10

K_4 : The best results are for $m = 4^{r_1} \cdot 5^{r_2}$, r_1 any integer, $r_2 < 3$. For an upper estimate we have

$$\text{for } 4^{r_1} < k \leq 4^{r_1-1} \cdot 5: \quad \dim(k \cdot K_4) \leq 3(r_1 - 1) + 5 = 3r_1 + 2,$$

$$\text{for } 4^{r_1-1} \cdot 5 < k \leq 4^{r_1-2} \cdot 5^2: \quad \dim(k \cdot K_4) \leq 3(r_1 - 2) + 2 \cdot 4 + 1 = \\ = 3r_1 + 3,$$

$$\text{for } 4^{r_1-2} \cdot 5^2 < k \leq 4^{r_1+1}: \quad \dim(k \cdot K_4) \leq 3(r_1 + 1) + 1 = 3r_1 + 4.$$

For a lower estimate we get again $\dim(k \cdot K_4) \geq \max(5, \log_2 k)$. The results up to 320 are collected in Table 2. We could get quite analogous results for K_5 ($m =$

$= 5^{r_1} \cdot 7^{r_2} \cdot 8^{r_3}$ where $2r_2 + 3r_3 < 4$, i.e. $r_2 + r_3 \leq 1$). A different situation would occur for K_6 , as $N(6) = 1$ so that the best upper estimate is obtained from the inequality $\dim(k \cdot K_6) \leq \dim(k \cdot K_7)$ (for K_7 we get the best upper estimate when $m = 7^{r_1} \cdot 8^{r_2} \cdot 9^{r_3} \cdot 11^{r_4}$ where $r_2 + 2r_3 + 4r_4 < 6$). It is possible to give a general

Table 2.

m	5	16	20	25	64	80	100	256	320
decomposition		4^2	4 . 5	5^2	4^3	$4^2 \cdot 5$	$4 \cdot 5^2$	4^4	$4^3 \cdot 5$
$d_m + 1$	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
lower estimate	5	5	5	5	6	7	7	8	8

expression for the optimal m but it is a little bit clumsy (for an interested reader it is available from the author). For small n it can be simplified to

$$\sum_{i=1}^t r_i(n_i - n) < n - 1.$$

Now, we turn to λ -partite graphs and cycles. The following theorem is actually Theorem 2.5 from [3] in a more general form.

4.2. Theorem. *If G is a λ -partite graph then*

$$\dim(k \cdot G) \leq \dim(k \cdot K_\lambda) - 1 + \dim G.$$

Proof. It is clear that there exists such an encoding (in the proper dimension) of $k \cdot K_\lambda$ that the first column of all copies is the same encoding of K_λ and by means of the homomorphism Theorem 2.1 from [3] we get the rest. \square

4.3. Corollary. *Let G be a λ -partite graph. Then*

- $\dim(k \cdot G) \leq \dim G + (\lambda - 1)(\log_\lambda k)^+$ for λ prime power;
- $\dim(k \cdot G) \leq \dim G + (\log_2 k)^+$ for $\lambda = 2$;
- $\dim(k \cdot G) \leq \dim G + (\lambda - 1)(\log_3 k)^+$ for $\lambda \neq 2, 6$;
- $\dim(k \cdot G) \leq \dim G + (\lambda - 1)(\log_{N(\lambda)+1} k)^+$;
- $\dim(k \cdot K_\lambda) \leq \dim(k \cdot K_{r_1, \dots, r_\lambda}) \leq \dim(k \cdot K_\lambda) + 1$,

in particular:

$$(\log_2 k)^+ + 1 \leq \dim(k \cdot K_{r_1, r_2}) \leq (\log_2 k)^+ + 2.$$

Proof follows from Proposition 3.7. \square

4.4. Proposition.

$$\log_2 k(n - 1) + 1 \leq \dim(k \cdot C_{2n}) \leq (\log_2(n - 1))^+ + 1 + (\log_2 k)^+ \text{ for } n > 2.$$

Proof. From 4.3.b) we have $\dim(k \cdot C_{2n}) \leq \dim C_{2n} + (\log_2 k)^+ = (\log_2(n - 1))^+ + 1 + (\log_2 k)^+$. For a lower estimate we use $\bar{\mu}$. By means of

the construction from [4] (mentioned in 1.2) we get $\bar{\mu}(k \cdot C_{2n}) = k \cdot 2 \cdot (n - 1)$, i.e. $\dim(k \cdot C_{2n}) \geq \log_2 k(n - 1) + 1$. \square

4.5. Corollary. *Whenever*

$$n > 2 \text{ and } (\log_2(n - 1))^+ + (\log_2 k)^+ < 1 + \log_2 k(n - 1)$$

then

$$\dim(k \cdot C_{2n}) = (\log_2(n - 1))^+ + (\log_2 k)^+ + 1,$$

in particular:

$$\dim(2^t \cdot C_{2n}) = (\log_2(n - 1))^+ + t + 1$$

and if $n = 2^t + 1$ then

$$\dim(k \cdot C_{2n}) = t + (\log_2 k)^+ + 1. \quad \square$$

In the same way we could get estimates for odd cycles. Possible generalizations of Theorem 3.6, 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 are left to the reader.

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