Monitoring the edges of a graph using distances

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Motivation: Detect failures in a network



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Definition

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A set S of vertices of a graph G is distance-edge-monitoring if every edge is monitored by a vertex in S.

dem(G): smallest size of such a set.

Let S be a distance-edge-monitoring set, and P(S, e) the set of pairs (x, y) s.t. e lies on all shortest paths from $x \in S$ to y.



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- Every bridge of G is monitored by any vertex



For any tree T, dem(T) = 1.





















Unicyclic graphs



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Tree T: fes(T) = 0; Unicyclic graph G: fes(G) = 1

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Lemma (Folklore)

If fes(G) = k, then G is obtained from a multigraph H of order at most 2k - 2 and size 3k - 3 by iteratively subdividing edges and adding degree 1 vertices.



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(Tight for a ladder $P_2 \Box P_{k+1}$.)



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Theorem

For any graph G, we have $dem(G) \leq 2fes(G) - 2$.

NP-hardness

DEM

Input: Graph *G Task:* Find smallest distance-edge-monitoring set of *G*

Theorem

DEM is NP-complete.

Proof: reduction from VERTEX COVER:





Approximability

Theorem

DEM is approximable within a factor of $\ln |E(G)| + 1$ for any graph G.

Proof: reduction to SET COVER.

Sets are vertices of G, elements are edges of G.

Non-approximability

Theorem

For every $\epsilon > 0$, DEM is NOT approximable within a factor of $(1 - \epsilon) \ln |E(G)|$ in polynomial time, unless P = NP (even on subcubic bipartite graphs). Moreover, the probem is W[2]-hard for parameter solution size.

Proof: reduction from SET COVER.



Open questions

- Conjecture: $dem(G) \leq fes(G) + 1$ (true for fes(G) = 0, 1, 2)
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- Are there approximation/FPT algorithms for nice classes?

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Thanks!