## Monitoring the edges of a graph using distances

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Motivation: Detect failures in a network


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Question
How many probes are enough?

A probe at vertex $x$ monitors the edges that lie on all shortest paths to some vertex $y$

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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 $y$.

Proposition
For two distinct edges $e, e^{\prime}$, we have $P(S, e) \neq P\left(S, e^{\prime}\right)$.


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- All incident edges are monitored $\Rightarrow \operatorname{dem}(G)$ is at most the vertex cover number of $G$. (vertex cover of $G$ : set of vertices covering every edge of $G$ )
- Every bridge of $G$ is monitored by any vertex

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## Connection to feedback edge sets

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Tree $T: f e s(T)=0$; Unicyclic graph $G: f e s(G)=1$

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## Lemma (Folklore)

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


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(Tight for a ladder $P_{2} \square P_{k+1}$.)


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## Theorem

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Theorem
For any graph $G$, we have $\operatorname{dem}(G) \leq 2 f e s(G)-2$.

## 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:
Lemma
For any graph $G$ of radius at least $4, \operatorname{dem}(G) \times K_{1}=v c(G)$.


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 $G$.

## Theorem

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

Proof: reduction from SET COVER.


- Conjecture: $\operatorname{dem}(G) \leq f e s(G)+1$ (true for $f e s(G)=0,1,2$ )
- Is DEM NP-hard for planar graphs? Interval graphs?
- Are there approximation/FPT algorithms for nice classes?
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## Thanks!

