# Identification problems on graphs <br> selected topics 

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## Locating a burglar



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## Separating sets in hypergraphs

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## Definition - Separating set (Rényi, 1961)

Hypergraph $(X, \mathscr{E})$. A separating set is a subset $C \subseteq X$ such that each edge $e \in \mathscr{E}$ contains a distinct subset of $C$.


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Also known as Separating system, Distinguishing set, Test cover, Distinguishing transversal, Discriminating code...

## General bounds, Bondy's theorem

## Proposition

For a hypergraph $(X, \mathscr{E})$, a separating set $C$ has size at least $\log _{2}(|\mathscr{E}|)$.
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Which are the "problematic" vertices?

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- $\mathrm{e}_{4}$


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Join $e_{i}$ to $e_{j}$ iff $e_{i}=e_{j} \cup\{x\}$ for some $x \in X$, label it " $x$ "

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If an edge labeled $x$ appears multiple times,
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This destroys all cycles in $G$ !
So, there are at most $|\mathscr{E}|-1$ "problematic" vertices. $\rightarrow$ Find one "non-problematic vertex" and omit it.

## Some example problems

Special graph-based cases of separating sets in hypergraphs:

- identifying codes
- identifying open codes
- path/cycle identifying covers
- separating path systems


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A variation:

- locating-dominating sets
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Geometric versions: e.g. seperating points using disks in Euclidean space
Distance-based identification:

- resolving sets (metric dimension)
- centroidal locating sets
- tracking paths problem


## Identifying codes in graphs

## Identifying codes

$G$ : undirected graph
$N[u]$ : set of vertices $v$ s.t. $d(u, v) \leq 1$
Definition - Identifying code (Karpovsky, Chakrabarty, Levitin, 1998)
Subset $C$ of $V(G)$ such that:

- $C$ is a dominating set: $\forall u \in V(G), N[u] \cap C \neq \emptyset$, and
- $C$ is a separating set: $\forall u \neq v$ of $V(G), N[u] \cap C \neq N[v] \cap C$
$I D(G)$ : identifying code number of $G$, minimum size of an identifying code in $G$



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Identifying code number: $I D\left(P_{n}\right)=\left\lceil\frac{n+1}{2}\right\rceil$


## Identifiable graphs

## Remark

## Not all graphs have an identifying code!

Closed twins $=$ pair $u, v$ such that $N[u]=N[v]$.


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## Proposition

A graph is identifiable if and only if it is closed twin-free (i.e. has no twins).

## Bounds on $I D(G)$

$n$ : number of vertices

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$G$ identifiable graph on $n$ vertices: $\left\lceil\log _{2}(n+1)\right\rceil \leq I D(G)$.

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I D(G)=n \Leftrightarrow G \text { has no edges }
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$G$ identifiable, $n$ vertices, some edges: $\left\lceil\log _{2}(n+1)\right\rceil \leq I D(G) \leq n-1$


## A question

Theorem (Bertrand, 2005 / Gravier, Moncel, 2007 / Skaggs, 2007)
$G$ identifiable graph on $n$ vertices with at least one edge:

$$
I D(G) \leq n-1
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## Question

What are the graphs $G$ with $n$ vertices and $I D(G)=n-1$ ?

## Forced vertices

$u, v$ such that $N[v] \ominus N[u]=\{f\}$ :
$f$ belongs to any identifying code
$\rightarrow f$ forced by $u, v$.


## Graphs with many forced vertices

Special path powers: $A_{k}=P_{2 k}^{k-1}$

$A_{3}=P_{6}^{2}$

$A_{4}=P_{8}^{3}$

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## Proposition

$$
I D\left(A_{k}\right)=n-1
$$

## Constructions using joins



Two graphs $A_{k}$ and $A_{k^{\prime}}$

## Constructions using joins



Join: add all edges between them

## Constructions using joins



Join the new graph to two non-adjacent vertices ( $\overline{K_{2}}$ )

## Constructions using joins



Join the new graph to two non-adjacent vertices, again

## Constructions using joins



## Constructions using joins



Finally, add a universal vertex

## Proposition

At each step, the constructed graph has $I D=n-1$

## A characterization

(1) stars
(2) $A_{k}=P_{2 k}^{k-1}$
(3) joins between 0 or more members of (2) and 0 or more copies of $\overline{K_{2}}$
(4) (2) or (3) with a universal vertex

Theorem (F., Guerrini, Kovše, Naserasr, Parreau, Valicov, 2011)
$G$ connected identifiable graph, $n$ vertices:

$$
I D(G)=n-1 \Leftrightarrow G \in(1),(2), \text { (3) or (4) }
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## Lower bounds

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Tight example $(k=4)$ :


## Lower bounds

## Proposition

$G$ identifiable graph on $n$ vertices: $\left\lceil\log _{2}(n+1)\right\rceil \leq I D(G)$.

Theorem (Rall \& Slater, 1980's)
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Tight examples:


## Interval graphs

## Definition - Interval graph

Intersection graph of intervals of the real line.


Theorem (F., Mertzios, Naserasr, Parreau, Valicov, 2017)
$G$ interval graph of order $n, I D(G)=k$.

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\text { Then } n \leq \frac{k(k+1)}{2} \text {, i.e. } I D(G)=\Omega(\sqrt{n}) \text {. }
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Tight:


## Vapnik-Červonenkis dimension

Measure of intersection complexity of sets in a hypergraph $(X, \mathscr{E})$ (initial motivation: machine learning, 1971)

A set $S \subseteq X$ is shattered:
for every subset $S^{\prime} \subseteq S$, there is an edge e with $e \cap S=S^{\prime}$.


V-C dimension of $H$ : maximum size of a shattered set in $H$

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## Theorem (Sauer-Shelah Lemma)

Let $H$ be a hypergraph of V-C dimension at most $d$. Then, any set $S$ of vertices has at most $|S|^{d}$ distinct traces.

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## Corollary

$G$ graph of order $n, I D(G)=k$, V-C dimension $\leq d$. Then $n=O\left(k^{d}\right)$.

# Metric dimension 

## Determination of Position in 3D euclidean space

GPS/GLONASS/Galileo/Beidou/IRNSS:
need to know the exact position of 4 satellites + distance to them


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## Question



Does the "GPS" approach also work in undirected unweighted graphs?

## Metric dimension

Now, $w \in V(G)$ distinguishes $\{u, v\}$ if $\operatorname{dist}(w, u) \neq \operatorname{dist}(w, v)$

Definition - Resolving set (Slater, 1975 - Harary \& Melter, 1976)
$R \subseteq V(G)$ resolving set of $G$ :
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## Examples

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$\square$
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## Proposition

For any square grid $G, M D(G)=2$.

## Trees

Leg: path with all inner-vertices of degree 2 , endpoints of degree $\geq 3$ and 1 .


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$R$ resolving set. If $v$ has $k$ legs, at least $k-1$ legs contain a vertex of $R$.

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## Theorem (Slater 1975)

For any tree, the simple leg rule produces an optimal resolving set.

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Example of path: no bound $n \leq f(M D(G))$ possible.

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\text { i.e. } \left.k=\Omega\left(\sqrt{\frac{n}{D}}\right) \text {. (Tight. }\right)
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$\rightarrow$ Proofs are similar as for identifying codes.

Theorem (Beaudou, Dankelmann, F., Henning, Mary, Parreau, 2018)
$T$ a tree with diameter $D$ and $M D(T)=k$, then

$$
n \leq\left\{\begin{array}{cc}
\frac{1}{8}(k D+4)(D+2) & \text { if } D \text { even, } \\
\frac{1}{8}(k D-k+8)(D+1) & \text { if } D \text { odd. }
\end{array}=\Theta\left(k D^{2}\right)\right.
$$

Bounds are tight.


## Planar graphs

Using the concept of distance-VC-dimension:

Theorem (Beaudou, Dankelmann, F., Henning, Mary, Parreau, 2018)
$G$ planar with diameter $D$ and $M D(G)=k$, then $n=O\left(k^{4} D^{4}\right)$.

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Tight? Example with $k=3$ and $n=\Theta\left(D^{3}\right)$ :


## THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



