Computational Combinatorics and the search for Uniquely *K*_r-Saturated Graphs

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What is Computational Combinatorics?



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Using a combination of

- pure mathematics,
- algorithms, and
- computational resources

to solve problems in pure combinatorics by

- providing evidence for conjectures,
- finding examples and counterexamples, and
- discovering and proving theorems.

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Is there a projective plane of order 10?

When do strongly regular graphs exist?

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Determine if certain **combinatorial objects** exist with given **structural** or **extremal** properties.

Examples:

Is there a projective plane of order 10? (Lam, Thiel, Swiercz, 1989)

When do strongly regular graphs exist? (Spence 2000, Coolsaet, Degraer, Spence 2006, many others)

How many Steiner triple systems are there of order 19? (Kaski, Östergård, 2004)

Combinatorial Object: Graphs

A graph *G* of order *n* is composed of a set V(G) of *n* vertices and a set E(G) of edges, where the edges are unordered pairs of vertices.



Combinatorial Object: Graphs

Cycles C_k



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Cycles C_k



Complete Graphs K_r

(cliques)



Main Technique: Combinatorial Search

- **Goal:** Determine if certain combinatorial objects exist with given structural or extremal properties.
- Idea: Build objects *piece-by-piece* from *base examples* to enumerate all desired examples of a given order.

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The computer performs a long, detailed case analysis.

Our job is to efficiently design the case analysis, using algorithms:

- Combinatorial Generation
- Combinatorial Optimization
- Graph Algorithms























An **isomorphism** between G_1 and G_2 is a bijection from $V(G_1)$ to $V(G_2)$ that induces a bijection from $E(G_1)$ to $E(G_2)$.



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Most interesting graph properties are **invariant under isomorphism**.

n	Labeled graphs of order n
6	32,768
7	2,097,152
8	268,435,456
9	68,719,476,736
10	35,184,372,088,832
11	36,028,797,018,963,968
12	2 73,786,976,294,838,206,464
13	302,231,454,903,657,293,676,544
14	2,475,880,078,570,760,549,798,248,448
15	40,564,819,207,303,340,847,894,502,572,032

 $\mathbf{2}^{\binom{n}{2}} \approx \mathbf{2}^{\theta(n^2)}$

	п	Unlabeled connected	graphs of order n
	6		85
	7		509
	8		4,060
	9		41,301
	10		510,489
	11		7,319,447
	12		117,940,535
	13		2,094,480,864
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Requires over 1 year of CPU Time.		







Unlabeled Graphs






Example: Generating Graphs by Edges



Toy Example

Suppose we are searching for graphs which are:

- **4-regular**: All vertices have 4 incident edges.
- 3-colorable: The vertices can be colored with three colors so that no edge is monochromatic.































Implementation

My TreeSearch library enables parallelization in the Condor scheduler.

Executes on the **Open Science Grid**, a collection of supercomputers around the country.





Open Science Grid

Computational Combinatorics



Definition A graph G is H-saturated if

- G does not contain H as a subgraph. (H-free)
- For every $e \in E(\overline{G})$, G + e contains H as a subgraph.



Example: $H = K_3$ where K_r is the **complete graph** on *r* vertices.

Derrick Stolee (ISU)

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Turán's Theorem

Theorem (Turán, 1941) Let $r \ge 3$. If *G* is *K*_r-saturated on *n* vertices, then *G* has **at most** $\left(1 - \frac{1}{r-1}\right) \frac{n^2}{2}$ edges (asymptotically).

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Uniquely *H*-Saturated Graphs

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Definition A graph *G* is **uniquely** *H***-saturated** if *G* does not contain *H* as a subgraph and for every edge $e \in \overline{G}$ admits **exactly one** copy of *H* in G + e.

Lemma (Cooper, Lenz, LeSaulnier, Wenger, West, 2011)

The uniquely C_3 -saturated graphs are either stars or Moore graphs of diameter 2 and girth 5.

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Theorem (Wenger, 2010)

For $k \in \{6, 7, 8\}$, no uniquely C_k -saturated graph exists.

Conjecture (Wenger, 2010)

For $k \ge 9$, no uniquely C_k -saturated graph exists.
Uniquely K_r -Saturated Graphs

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Uniquely K_r-Saturated Graphs

We consider the case where $H = K_r$ (an *r*-clique) for r > 4. $(K_3 \cong C_3)$

Definition A graph G is **uniquely** K_r-saturated if G does not contain an *r*-clique and for every edge $e \in G$ there is exactly one *r*-clique in G + e.

Adding a dominating vertex to a uniquely K_r -saturated graph creates a uniquely K_{r+1} -saturated graph.

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Call uniquely K_r -saturated graphs without a dominating vertex

r-primitive.

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3-primitive graphs are Moore graphs of diameter 2 and girth 5.



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Uniquely *K*₄-Saturated Graphs



Previously known 4-primitive graphs (Collins, Cooper, Kay, 2010)

Computational Combinatorics



The Problem

Goal: Characterize uniquely K_r -saturated graphs. *First Step:* Reduce to *r*-primitive graphs.

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Goal: Characterize uniquely *K*_{*r*}-saturated graphs. *First Step:* Reduce to *r*-primitive graphs.

1. Fix $r \ge 3$. Are there a **finite number** of *r*-primitive graphs?

2. Is every *r*-primitive graph regular?

Edges and Non-Edges

Non-edges are crucial to the structure of *r*-primitive graphs.

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Edges, Non-Edges, and Variables

Fix a vertex set $\{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n\}$.

For $i, j \in \{1, ..., n\}$, let

$$x_{i,j} = egin{cases} 1 & v_i v_j \in E(G) \ 0 & v_i v_j \notin E(G) \ st & v_i v_j$$
 unassigned

.

A vector $\mathbf{x} = (x_{i,j} : i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\})$ is a variable assignment.

Symmetries of the System

The constraints

- There is no *r*-clique in *G*.
- Every non-edge e of G has exactly one r-clique in G + e.

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Automorphisms of the tricolored graph define **orbits** on variables $x_{i,j}$.

Orbital branching reduces the number of isomorphic duplicates. (Ostrowski, Linderoth, Rossi, Smriglio, 2007)

Generalizes **branch-and-bound** strategy from Integer Programming.

Branch-and-Bound

x is given Variable $x_{i,j}$ is selected

Branch-and-Bound



Branch-and-Bound



Orbital Branching

x is given Orbit \mathcal{O} is selected









Computational Combinatorics






K_r-Completions

For every non-edge we add, we add a K_r -completion:

 $x_{i,j} = 0$ if and only if there exists a set $S \subset [n]$, |S| = r - 2, so that $x_{i,a} = x_{j,a} = x_{a,b} = 1$ for all $a, b \in S$.



x is given Orbit *O* is selected

aturated Graphs Orbital Branching



























Computational Combinatorics



Exhaustive Search Times

-

n	<i>r</i> = 4	<i>r</i> = 5	<i>r</i> = 6	<i>r</i> = 7	<i>r</i> = 8
10	0.10 s	0.37 s	0.13 s	0.01 s	0.01 s
11	0.68 s	5.25 s	1.91 s	0.28 s	0.09 s
12	4.58 s	1.60 m	25.39 s	1.97 s	1.12 s
13	34.66 s	34.54 m	6.53 m	59.94 s	20.03 s
14	4.93 m	10.39 h	5.13 h	20.66 m	2.71 m
15	40.59 m	23.49 d	10.08 d	12.28 h	1.22 h
16	6.34 h	1.58 y	1.74 y	34.53 d	1.88 d
17	3.44 d			8.76 y	115.69 d
18	53.01 d				
19	2.01 y				
20	45.11 y				

Total CPU times using Open Science Grid.

($\approx 8.83 \times 10^{18}$ connected graphs of order 20)

Computational Combinatorics







Empty graphs



Empty graphs

Cycle complements







New examples



New examples

4-Primitive Graphs n = 13





Paley(13)


















5-Primitive Graph $n = 16: G_{16}^{(A)}$



Not all *r*-primitive graphs are regular!

7-Primitive Graph $n = 17 : G_{17}^{(A)}$



7-Primitive Graph n = 17: $G_{17}^{(A)}$



The Cayley complement $\overline{C}(\mathbb{Z}_n, S)$ has vertex set $\{0, 1, ..., n-1\}$ and an edge *ij* if and only if $|i - j| \pmod{n} \notin S$.

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To search for Cayley complements $\overline{C}(\mathbb{Z}_n, S)$ with |S| = g:

1. Select a generator set $S = \{a_1 = 1 < a_2 < a_3 < \cdots < a_g\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$.

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Used Niskanen and Östergård's *cliquer* software to compute $\omega(G)$.

Two or Three Generators

S	r	n	<i>S</i>	r	n	
{1,4}	7	17	$\{1, 5, 6\}$	9	31	
{1,6}	16	37	$\{1, 8, 9\}$	22	73	
$\{1, 8\}$	29	65	{1, 11, 12}	41	133	
{1,10}	46	101	{1, 14, 15}	66	211	
{1,12}	67	145	{1, 17, 18}	97	307	
g= 2			<i>g</i> =	g= 3		

Infinite Families

Conjecture (Hartke, Stolee, 2012) Let $t \ge 1$, $n = 4t^2 + 1$, and $r = 2t^2 - t + 1$.

The Cayley complement $\overline{C}(\mathbb{Z}_n, \{1, 2t\})$ is *r*-primitive.

Conjecture (Hartke, Stolee, 2012) Let $t \ge 1$, $n = 9t^2 - 3t + 1$ and $r = 3t^2 - 2t + 1$.

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Proof uses **discharging** method.

Computational Combinatorics





- Orbital Branching: Formalize custom augmentations for arbitrary constraint systems.
- 2. **Discharging:** Automate process so computer can discover and write proofs.
- 3. More Techniques: Find, Adapt, or Develop.

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