Odd Cycle Transversal on P_5 -free Graphs in Polynomial Time

Recent Grends in Algorithms, 2024

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Graph P_i

For $i \in \mathbb{N}$, P_i is the graph with: * $V(P_i) = \{1, 2, \dots, i\}$ * $E(P_i) = \{\{j, j+1\} \mid j \in \{1, 2, \dots, i-1\}\}$





 P_5



only if $\{\phi(h), \phi(h')\} \in E(G)$.

A graph G = (V, E) is *H*-free if G does not have H as an induced subgraph, i.e., there is no $S \subseteq V(G)$ and a bijective function $\phi : V(H) \to S$ such that for $h, h' \in V(H), \{h, h'\} \in E(H)$ if and



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 P_3 -free graphs are disjoint union of cliques!



Bipartite Graphs

A graph G = (V, E) is **bipartite** if V can be partitioned into two sets, V_1 and V_2 , s.t., for each $\{u, v\} \in E(G)$, **★** $u \in V_1$ and $v \in V_2$, or **★** $v \in V_1$ and $u \in V_2$



Graph G = (V, E)



Odd Cycle Transversal

Input: A graph *G* and a weight function $w : V(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$

Task: Find a maximum weight induced bipartite subgraph of G, i.e., find $S \subseteq V(G)$ of maximum total weight such that G[S] is bipartite.





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- * The above results imply (prior to our work), the only connected graph H for $H = P_5$.

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which the status of Odd Cycle Transversal on *H*-free graphs was unknown was



Our Result

THEOREM

Odd Cycle Transversal admits a polynomial time algorithm on P_5 -free graphs.



Two Ingredients

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Ingredient 1: A polynomial-sized solution covering family.

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For a graph G and a weight function $w : V(G) \to \mathbb{Q}$, a family of vertex subsets $\mathscr{C} \subseteq 2^{V(G)}$ is a **solution covering family** if for some $S \subseteq V(G)$ of maximum total weight where G[S] is bipartite, there is a sub-family $\mathscr{C}' \subseteq \mathscr{C}$ such that:





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Given a P_5 -free graph G on n vertices and a weight function $w : V(G) \to \mathbb{Q}$, there is a polynomial-time algorithm that outputs a solution covering family of size $O(n^6)$.



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Consider a P_5 -free graph G and $w: V(G) \to \mathbb{Q}$ and its **solution covering family** $\mathscr{C} = \{X_1, X_2, \cdots, X_\ell\}$.

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Consider a P_5 -free graph G and $w: V(G) \to \mathbb{Q}$ and its **solution covering family** $\mathscr{C} = \{X_1, X_2, \cdots, X_\ell\}$.

Create a graph $H_{\mathscr{C}}$ with $V(H_{\mathscr{C}}) = \mathscr{C}$, where, for distinct $X_i, X_i \in \mathscr{C}$, add $\{X_i, X_i\}$ to $E(H_{\mathscr{C}})$ if and only if: $X_i \cap X_i \neq \emptyset$ **OR** $E(X_i, X_i) \neq \emptyset$.

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How do we find max. wt. independent set in $H_{\mathscr{C}}$?

* G is P₅-free then so is $H_{\mathscr{C}}$

* Max. Wt. Independent Set on P_5 -free graphs has a polynomial time algorithm (Lokshtanov et al.)

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Useful Definition

For a graph G, a set $X \subseteq V(G)$ is a *module* in G if for all $u, v \in X$, $N_G(u) \setminus X = N_G(v) \setminus X$.

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Consider some $S \subseteq V(G)$ **where** G[S] **is bipartite.**

$V(C) \in \mathscr{C}$

V(C)

solution covering family C

OR

solution covering family C

$\exists X \in \mathscr{C}, \text{ for } S' = (S \setminus V(C)) \cup X, G[S'] \text{ is }$ bipartite and $w(S') \ge w(S)$

solution covering family C

***** [Trivial Case: V(C) = 1] Add {v} to \mathcal{C} , for each $v \in V(G)$.

***** [Handling $V(C) \ge 2$]

Known Property of conn. *P*₅**-free graphs**

C has a dominating P_2 or P_3 , i.e., $D \subseteq V(C)$, such that $V(C) \subseteq N_G[D]$.

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Can we directly remove vertices outside *N*[*D*]?

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Finding Replacement For C

Remaining neighbours of D

* Partition *remaining* N[D]into the two disjoint sets, $N(D_1)$ and $N(D_2)$.

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 $I_1 \cup I_2$ is a replacement for *C*!

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