Applications of zero forcing number to the minimum rank problem

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- Introduction
- Exhaustive zero forcing number
- Sieving process

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Relation between Matrices and Graphs

\mathcal{G} :real symmetric matrices \rightarrow graphs.



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 $\mathcal{S}(G) = \{A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R}) : A = A^t, \mathcal{G}(A) = G\}.$

• The minimum rank of a graph G is

 $mr(G) = \min\{rank(A): A \in \mathcal{S}(G)\}.$

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• The minimum rank problem of a graph G is to determine the number mr(G) or M(G).

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Related Parameters

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 - If x is black and y is the only white neighbor of x, then change the color of y to black.

Related Parameters

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- For all graph G, $M(G) \leq Z(G).[1]$



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- Attack the Upper bound!



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- A pattern matrix Q is a matrix over S.
- The minimum rank of a pattern Q is

 $mr(Q) = \min\{rankA: A \cong Q\}.$

Example for Minmum Rank of A Pattern

• The pattern

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} * & 0 & 0 \\ u & * & u \end{pmatrix}$$

must have rank at least 2.

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Example for Minmum Rank of A Pattern

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• The rank 2 is achievable. Hence mr(Q) = 2.

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- Zero forcing number banned by *B Z*(*G*, *B*): minimum size of *F*.

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- Zero forcing number banned by *B Z*(*G*, *B*): minimum size of *F*.
- Zero forcing number banned by *B* with support *W* $Z_W(G,B)$: minimum size of $F \supseteq W$.
- When W and B is empty, $Z_W(G,B) = Z(G)$.
Natural Relation between Patterns and Bipartites

Q is a given m × n pattern. G = (X ∪ Y, E) is the related bipartite defined by

$$X = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}, \ Y = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}, \ E = \{a_i b_j : Q_{ij} \neq 0\}.$$



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•
$$B = \{a_i b_j : Q_{ij} = u\}.$$



Theorem

For a given $m \times n$ pattern matrix Q, If $G = (X \cup Y, E)$ is the graph and B is the set of banned edges defined above, then

 $\operatorname{mr}(Q) \geq m + n - Z_Y(G, B).$

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Theorem

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• For $n \times n$ square pattern Q, it becomes

 $n - \operatorname{mr}(Q) \leq Z_Y(G, B) - n$

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Let I ⊆ [n] and Q_I be the pattern replace those u in ii-entry by * if i ∈ I and 0 if i ∉ I. Then U = {Q_I: I ⊆ [n]}. Define G̃_I to be the bipartite given by Q_I.

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- The inequality become

$$M(G) \leq n - \operatorname{mr}(Q) = \max_{I \subseteq [n]} [n - \operatorname{mr}(Q_I)] \leq \max_{I \subseteq [n]} Z_Y(\widetilde{G}_I) - n.$$

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 The right most term is called the exhaustive zero forcing number of G. Denote it by Z̃(G).

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- The right most term is called the exhaustive zero forcing number of G. Denote it by Z̃(G).
- It can be proven that $M(G) \leq \widetilde{Z}(G) \leq Z(G)$.

Example of Exhaustive Zero Forcing Number

• For $G = P_3$, the pattern is

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} u & * & 0 \\ * & u & * \\ 0 & * & u \end{pmatrix}.$$

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• For $I = \{1, 3\} \subseteq [3]$, the pattern is

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• $1 = M(P_3) \le \widetilde{Z}(P_3) \le Z(P_3) = 1$. Hence $\widetilde{Z}(G) = 1$.

Bipartites related to P_3



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If Z(H₅₁) - 10 = 3 for some I, then 1 ∈ I and 2 ∉ I, a contradiction.



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 $\widetilde{Z}(G)=12-10=2.$



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• Rewrite

$$\widetilde{Z}(G) = \max_{I \subseteq [n]} Z_Y(\widetilde{G}_I) - n = \max\{k: k = Z_Y(\widetilde{G}_I) - n \text{ for some } I\}.$$

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$$\mathcal{I}_k(G) = \{I \subseteq [n]: Z_Y(\widetilde{G}_I) - n \ge k\}.$$

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$$\widetilde{Z}(G) = \max\{k: \mathcal{I}_k \neq \emptyset\}.$$

Each F ⊇ Y with size n + k − 1 is a sieve for I_k(G) to delete impossible index sets.

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• If $i \in I$ for all $I \in \mathcal{I}_k(G)$, then *i* is called a nonzero-vertex.

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- If $i \notin I$ for all $I \in \mathcal{I}_k(G)$, then *i* is called a zero-vertex.
- Nonzero:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & a^t & 0 \\ a & \widehat{A}_{11} & \widehat{A}_{12} \\ 0 & \widehat{A}_{21} & \widehat{A}_{22} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \widehat{B}_{11} & \widehat{A}_{12} \\ 0 & \widehat{A}_{21} & \widehat{A}_{22} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Zero:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & a^t & O \\ a & \widehat{A}_{11} & \widehat{A}_{12} \\ O & \widehat{A}_{21} & \widehat{A}_{22} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & O & O \\ O & \widehat{B}_{11} & \widehat{A}_{12} \\ O & \widehat{A}_{21} & \widehat{A}_{22} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here α has the form $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & * \\ * & u \end{pmatrix}$ and α^{-1} has the form $\begin{pmatrix} u & * \\ * & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$

Thank my advisor.

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