The Logic of Random Graphs

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April 13, 2011

Lecture material by Joel Spencer

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Motivation The Erdős—Rényi Models

Motivation

Problems

• Large graphs are very hard to analyze.

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Motivation The Erdős—Rényi Models

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- Large graphs are very hard to analyze.
- Analyzing a large graph "manually" is rather primitive.

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- Large graphs are very hard to analyze.
- Analyzing a large graph "manually" is rather primitive.
- Large graphs are everywhere: social networks, actors playing together in movies, biology, etc.

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Motivation The Erdős—Rényi Models

Motivation

Problems

- Large graphs are very hard to analyze.
- Analyzing a large graph "manually" is rather primitive.
- Large graphs are everywhere: social networks, actors playing together in movies, biology, etc.

A Possible Solution

Analyzing the typical behaviour of a graph with "similar properties". There are several known models for doing this.

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The Erdős-Rényi Models

Definition

 $G \in G(n, p)$ if G has n vertices, and every edge is included in the graph with probability p.

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Definition

 $G \in G(n, m)$ if G has n vertices and m edges, chosen uniformly from all $\binom{n}{2}$ possible edges.

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Definition

 $G \in G(n, m)$ if G has n vertices and m edges, chosen uniformly from all $\binom{n}{2}$ possible edges.

Example

Let $G \in G(n, p)$. Then $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{P}(G \text{ has an edge}) = 1$.

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Motivation The Erdős—Rényi Models

Example Application

Theorem

Let R_k be the k'th diagonal Ramsey number. Then: $R_k > 2^{k/2}$.

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Motivation The Erdős—Rényi Models

Example Application

Theorem

Let R_k be the k'th diagonal Ramsey number. Then: $R_k > 2^{k/2}$.

Proof.

Let $G \in G(n, \frac{1}{2})$, $n \leq 2^{k/2}$. We calculate:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\omega(G) \ge k
ight) \le {n \choose k} 2^{-{k \choose 2}} \le \left(rac{n}{2 \cdot 2^{-(k-1)/2}}
ight)^k \ \le \left(rac{\sqrt{2}}{2}
ight)^k < rac{1}{2}$$

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Language Almost Sure Theories Completeness The Zero-One Law

The Graph Language

First-Order Logic: Our Language

• variables: *x*₁, *x*₂, ...

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The Graph Language

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- variables: *x*₁, *x*₂, . . .
- $\, \bullet \,$ two binary relations: = and $\sim \,$

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Note

We will assume the following two axioms:

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We will assume the following two axioms:

•
$$\forall x \neg x \sim x$$

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Note

We will assume the following two axioms:

•
$$\forall x \neg x \sim x$$

•
$$\forall x \forall y \ x \sim y \rightarrow y \sim x$$

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Language Almost Sure Theories Completeness The Zero-One Law

Example

Example

Let $A = "\exists x \exists y \exists z (x \sim y) \land (y \sim z) \land (z \sim x)"$. In that case,

 $G \models A$ if and only if G (thought of as a graph) contains a triangle.

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Example

Example

Let $A = "\exists x \exists y \exists z (x \sim y) \land (y \sim z) \land (z \sim x)''$. In that case, $G \models A$ if and only if G (thought of as a graph) contains a triangle.

Proposition

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\mathbb{P}\left(G(n,\frac{1}{2})\models A\right)=1.$$

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Language Almost Sure Theories Completeness The Zero-One Law

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Let $A = "\exists x \exists y \exists z (x \sim y) \land (y \sim z) \land (z \sim x)"$. In that case, $G \models A$ if and only if G (thought of as a graph) contains a triangle.

Proposition

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\mathbb{P}\left(G(n,\frac{1}{2})\models A\right)=1.$$

Proof.

Partition the vertices of *G* into sets of 3. Each set contains a triangle with probability 1/8, hence the probability that *G* does not contain a triangle is no higher than $\left(\frac{7}{8}\right)^{n/3}$.

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Almost Sure Theories

Definition

An almost sure theory is the set of all sentences A holding almost surely (with respect to some p = p(n)).

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Almost Sure Theories

Definition

An almost sure theory is the set of all sentences A holding almost surely (with respect to some p = p(n)).

Theorem

An almost sure theory is a theory.

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Almost Sure Theories

Definition

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Theorem

An almost sure theory is a theory.

Proof.

Suppose *B* is deduced from an almost sure theory *T*; hence, it can be deduced from a finite subset of *T*, A_1, \ldots, A_k . $\mathbb{P}(G(n, p) \models \neg A_1 \land \ldots \land \neg A_k) \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \mathbb{P}(G(n, p) \models \neg A_i)$

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Almost Sure Theories

Theorem

An almost sure theory T is consistent.

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Almost Sure Theories

Theorem

An almost sure theory T is consistent.

Proof.

The sentence "False" does not hold almost surely, hence it is not in ${\cal T}$. $\hfill \square$

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Language Almost Sure Theories **Completeness** The Zero-One Law

Completeness

Theorem

Let T be a theory with no finite models. Then T is complete iff all of its infinite models are elementarily equivalent.

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Completeness

Proof.

Suppose T is complete. Let A be a first-order sentence. Either T ⊨ A or T ⊨ ¬A, hence all infinite models G of T satisfy either A or ¬A, respectively.

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Completeness

Proof.

- Suppose T is complete. Let A be a first-order sentence. Either T ⊨ A or T ⊨ ¬A, hence all infinite models G of T satisfy either A or ¬A, respectively.
- Suppose T is incomplete. Let B be a first-order sentence for which neither T ⊨ B nor T ⊨ ¬B. Let T⁺ be the theory given by adding B to T, and let T⁻ be the theory given by adding ¬B. Both are consistent, hence by Gödel both have models, G⁺ and G⁻, which are models of T, but are not elementarily equivalent, since they disagree on B.

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The Zero-One Law

Definition

We say that p = p(n) satisfies the Zero-One Law if for every first-order sentence A, the following holds: $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{P}(G(n, p(n)) \models A) \in \{0, 1\}.$

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Theorem (Fagin)

The constant function $p(n) \equiv \frac{1}{2}$ satisfies the Zero-One Law.

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The Zero-One Law

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We say that p = p(n) satisfies the Zero-One Law if for every first-order sentence A, the following holds: $\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{P}(G(n, p(n)) \models A) \in \{0, 1\}.$

Theorem (Fagin)

The constant function $p(n) \equiv \frac{1}{2}$ satisfies the Zero-One Law. Note: This can be generalised to any constant $p(n) \equiv p$.

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Alice's Restaurant Property

Definition

For any non-negative integers r, s, let $A_{r,s}$ be the following statement: "For any distinct x_1, \ldots, x_r and y_1, \ldots, y_s there exists a vertex z such that $z \sim x_i$ for all i and $\neg z \sim y_i$ for all i."

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Alice's Restaurant Property

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For any non-negative integers r, s, let $A_{r,s}$ be the following statement: "For any distinct x_1, \ldots, x_r and y_1, \ldots, y_s there exists a vertex z such that $z \sim x_i$ for all i and $\neg z \sim y_i$ for all i." Note: This is a first-order sentence.

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Alice's Restaurant Property

Proposition

 $\forall r, s \geq 0$, $A_{r,s}$ holds almost surely.

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Alice's Restaurant Property

Proposition

 $\forall r, s \geq 0$, $A_{r,s}$ holds almost surely.

Proof.

For given r, s and $x_1, \ldots, x_r, y_1, \ldots, y_s$, let Noz be the event "there is no z satisfying \ldots ". It is easy to see that $\mathbb{P}(Noz) = (1 - 2^{-r-s})^{n-r-s}$.

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Proposition

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Proof.

For given r, s and $x_1, \ldots, x_r, y_1, \ldots, y_s$, let Noz be the event "there is no z satisfying \ldots ". It is easy to see that $\mathbb{P}(Noz) = (1 - 2^{-r-s})^{n-r-s}$. The union bound gives the following:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\neg A_{r,s}\right) \leq \binom{n}{r}\binom{n-r}{s}\left(1-2^{-r-s}\right)^{n-r-s} \to 0$$

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Alice's Restaurant Property

Definition

A graph is said to have the Alice's Restaurant Property if it satisfies $A_{r,s}$ for all $r, s \ge 0$.

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Alice's Restaurant Property

Definition

A graph is said to have the Alice's Restaurant Property if it satisfies $A_{r,s}$ for all $r, s \ge 0$.

Theorem

There is a unique graph G (up to isomorphism) for which $G \models ARP$.

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Alice's Restaurant Property

Proof of existence.

The theory generated by $A_{r,s}$ is partial to the almost sure theory, so it is consistent. Hence, by Gödel's completeness theorem it has a countable or finite model (in our case, countable).

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Alice's Restaurant Property

Proof of existence.

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Proof of uniqueness.

On the board!

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Proof of Fagin's Theorem

Proof.

Consider the theory T generated by $A_{r,s}$ for all $r, s \ge 0$. We have shown that this theory has a unique countable model. Hence, by a previous theorem T is complete. Let B be a first-order sentence. Suppose $T \models B$. By compactness we can derive B from a finite subset of T, say X_i , $i \in [m]$.

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Proof of Fagin's Theorem

Proof.

Consider the theory T generated by $A_{r,s}$ for all $r, s \ge 0$. We have shown that this theory has a unique countable model. Hence, by a previous theorem T is complete. Let B be a first-order sentence. Suppose $T \models B$. By compactness we can derive B from a finite subset of T, say X_i , $i \in [m]$. But:

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\mathbb{P}\left(\neg B\right)\leq\lim_{n\to\infty}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\mathbb{P}\left(\neg X_{i}\right)=\sum_{i=1}^{m}\lim_{n\to\infty}\mathbb{P}\left(\neg X_{i}\right)=0$$

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Proof of Fagin's Theorem

Proof.

Consider the theory T generated by $A_{r,s}$ for all $r, s \ge 0$. We have shown that this theory has a unique countable model. Hence, by a previous theorem T is complete. Let B be a first-order sentence. Suppose $T \models B$. By compactness we can derive B from a finite subset of T, say X_i , $i \in [m]$. But:

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\mathbb{P}(\neg B)\leq\lim_{n\to\infty}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\mathbb{P}(\neg X_i)=\sum_{i=1}^{m}\lim_{n\to\infty}\mathbb{P}(\neg X_i)=0$$

Otherwise $T \models \neg B$; switching the roles of *B* and $\neg B$ yields the desired result.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Rules

Settings

• Two players: Spoiler and Duplicator

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Rules

Settings

- Two players: Spoiler and Duplicator
- A known natural number k which states the length of the game in rounds

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Rules

Settings

- Two players: Spoiler and Duplicator
- A known natural number k which states the length of the game in rounds
- A board consists of two distinct graphs G_1 and G_2

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Rules

Settings

- Two players: Spoiler and Duplicator
- A known natural number k which states the length of the game in rounds
- A board consists of two distinct graphs G_1 and G_2
- We shall call this game $EHR(G_1, G_2; k)$

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic



How the *i*'th round looks like...

Consists of two moves: Spoiler's move followed by Duplicator's move

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic



How the *i*'th round looks like...

- Consists of two moves: Spoiler's move followed by Duplicator's move
- Spoiler selects a vertex in *any of the graphs*, marking it *i*

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic



How the *i*'th round looks like...

- Consists of two moves: Spoiler's move followed by Duplicator's move
- Spoiler selects a vertex in *any of the graphs*, marking it *i*
- Duplicator selects a vertex in the other graph, marking it i

Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Rules

Who wins?

• Let x_i, y_i be the marked vertices of G_1, G_2 respectively, indexed according to their marking order.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Rules

Who wins?

- Let x_i, y_i be the marked vertices of G_1, G_2 respectively, indexed according to their marking order.
- Duplicator wins if for all $i, j \in [k]$, $x_i \sim x_j \iff y_i \sim y_j$.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

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- Otherwise Spoiler wins.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

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- Duplicator wins if for all $i, j \in [k]$, $x_i \sim x_j \iff y_i \sim y_j$.
- Otherwise Spoiler wins.
- We say that EHR(G₁, G₂; k) is a win for Duplicator if with a perfect play she wins.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Rules

Who wins?

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- Duplicator wins if for all $i, j \in [k]$, $x_i \sim x_j \iff y_i \sim y_j$.
- Otherwise Spoiler wins.
- We say that EHR(G₁, G₂; k) is a win for Duplicator if with a perfect play she wins.

Observation

If G_1 , G_2 satisfy Alice's Restaurant Property, Duplicator wins EHR(G_1 , G_2 ; k) for any k.

Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Equivalence Classes

Definition

Given G_1, G_2 and a non-negative integer k, we say $(G_1; x_1, \ldots, x_s) \equiv_k (G_2; y_1, \ldots, y_s)$ whenver Duplicator has a winning strategy on the Ehrenfeucht game played on G_1, G_2 , assuming the first s moves out of k done, having marked x_i, y_i .

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Equivalence Classes

Observation 1

If s = k the game is over, and Duplicator wins exactly if $x_i \sim x_j \iff y_i \sim y_j$.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Equivalence Classes

Observation 1

If s = k the game is over, and Duplicator wins exactly if

 $x_i \sim x_j \iff y_i \sim y_j.$

Observation 2

If s = 0 we obtain our original game. We write: $G_1 \equiv G_2$ if it is a win for Duplicator.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Equivalence Classes

Proposition

For each k, \equiv_k is an equivalence relation.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Equivalence Classes

Proposition

For each k, \equiv_k is an equivalence relation.

Proof of reflexivity.

Indeed, by duplicating Spoiler's moves, Duplicator wins.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Equivalence Classes

Proposition

For each k, \equiv_k is an equivalence relation.

Proof of reflexivity.

Indeed, by duplicating Spoiler's moves, Duplicator wins.

Proof of symmetricity.

The order of the graphs plays no role in the game.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Equivalence Classes

Proof of transitivity.

By reverse induction on *s*. If s = k from earlier observation we conclude that $x_i \sim x_j \iff y_i \sim y_j \iff z_i \sim z_j$.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Equivalence Classes

Proof of transitivity.

By reverse induction on *s*. If s = k from earlier observation we conclude that $x_i \sim x_j \iff y_i \sim y_j \iff z_i \sim z_j$. Assume the result for s + 1, and consider the game on G_1, G_3 where $(G_1; x_1, \ldots, x_s) \equiv_k (G_2; y_1, \ldots, y_s) \equiv_k (G_3; z_1, \ldots, z_s)$. It is now Spoiler's move, and he marks x_{s+1} . Duplicator has a winning reply in G_2 , say y_{s+1} , so $(G_1; x_1, \ldots, x_{s+1}) \equiv_k (G_2; y_1, \ldots, y_{s+1})$. Had Spoiler chosen y_{s+1} in the game G_2, G_3 , Duplicator would have had a winning reply in G_3 , say z_{s+1} . Hence $(G_2; y_1, \ldots, y_{s+1}) \equiv_k (G_3; z_1, \ldots, z_{s+1})$. Duplicator replies to Spoiler's x_{s+1} by marking z_{s+1} , and wins by induction.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

Combinatorialists like games. Logicians like truth. Fortunately, there is a connection.

-Joel Spencer

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

The Logic Behind the Game

Theorem

- G₁ ≡_k G₂ iff G₁, G₂ agree on all first-order sentences of quantifier depth k.
- Por each equivalence class [G]_{≡k} there exists a first-order sentence A of quantifier depth k for which [G]_{≡k} = {G' | G' ⊨ A}.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

The Logic Behind the Game

Theorem (stronger)

For each $k \ge 1$ and $0 \le s \le k$

- (G₁; x₁,..., x_s) ≡_k (G₂; y₁,..., y_s) iff G₁, G₂ agree on all first-order predicates of quantifier depth k − s with s free variables, when we assign x₁,..., x_s or y₁,..., y_s to these variables.
- For each equivalence class [(G; x₁,..., x_s)]_{≡k} there exists a first-order predicate A of quantifier depth k − s with s free variables, for which [(G; x₁,..., x_s)]_{=k} = {(G'; y₁,..., y_s) | G' |= A(y₁,..., y_s)}.

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Rules Equivalence Classes Connection to Logic

The Logic Behind the Game

Proof of the case s = k.

We note that $(G_1; x_1, \ldots, x_k) \equiv_k (G_2; y_1, \ldots, y_k)$ iff the induced subgraphs of G_1, G_2 on their designated vertices are the same. Any predicate of quantifier depth k - s = 0 is a boolean combination of $x_i \sim x_j$ and $x_i = x_j$, hence the equivalence implies agreement with regard to such a predicate, while inequivalence implies disagreement with regard to one such predicate.

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The Logic Behind the Game

Proof of the case s = k.

We note that $(G_1; x_1, \ldots, x_k) \equiv_k (G_2; y_1, \ldots, y_k)$ iff the induced subgraphs of G_1, G_2 on their designated vertices are the same. Any predicate of quantifier depth k - s = 0 is a boolean combination of $x_i \sim x_j$ and $x_i = x_j$, hence the equivalence implies agreement with regard to such a predicate, while inequivalence implies disagreement with regard to one such predicate.

The predicate A that lists the adjacencies and nonadjacencies amongst the x_i 's will be the one to define $[(G_1; x_1, \ldots, x_k)]_{=_i}$.

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Proof of the case s < k, assuming correctness for s + 1

From induction, each β of the form $[(G'; y_1, \ldots, y_s, y_{s+1})]_{\equiv_k}$ is defined by a predicate A_β of quantifier depth k - s - 1, having s + 1 free variables. Let $\alpha = [(G; x_1, \ldots, x_s)]_{\equiv_k}$ and let $\overline{\alpha}$ be the representative $(G; x_1, \ldots, x_s)$. Define $\varphi(\beta) = \exists x A_\beta(x_1, \ldots, x_s, x)$. Define also Yes $[\overline{\alpha}] = \{\beta \mid \overline{\alpha} \models \varphi(\beta)\}$ and No $[\overline{\alpha}] = \{\beta \mid \overline{\alpha} \models \neg \varphi(\beta)\}$. We will later show that these sets do not depend on the representative $\overline{\alpha}$, hence we can mark them Yes $[\alpha]$ and No $[\alpha]$. We define $A_\alpha = \bigwedge_{\beta \in \operatorname{Yes}[\alpha]} \varphi(\beta) \land \bigwedge_{\beta \in \operatorname{No}[\alpha]} \neg \varphi(\beta)$.

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Proof (cont.) — why A_{α} works?

First we note that A_{α} is of quantifier depth k - s and with s free variables, as wanted. Clearly, $\alpha \models A_{\alpha}$. Suppose $\overline{\gamma} \models A_{\alpha}$. The set of equivalence classes generated by $\overline{\gamma}$ with an additional designated x is exactly Yes [α], hence $\overline{\gamma} \in \alpha$.

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Proof (cont.) — why the representative does not matter?

Suppose $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \alpha$, two representatives. Assume $\beta \in \text{Yes}[\alpha_1]$. Hence $\alpha_1 \models \exists x A_\beta (x_1, \dots, x_s, x)$. We want to show that $\alpha_2 \models \exists x A_\beta (y_1, \dots, y_s, x)$. Indeed, $(G_1; x_1, \dots, x_s) \equiv_k (G_2; y_1, \dots, y_s)$, hence $(G_1; x_1, \dots, x_s, z)$ models A_β form some z. Let z' be the winning reply of Duplicator to z on the EHR $(G_1, G_2; k)$ game. Hence $(G_1; x_1, \dots, x_s, z) \equiv_k (G_2; y_1, \dots, y_s, z')$, hence by induction $(G_2; y_1, \dots, y_s, z')$ models A_β , hence $\alpha_2 \models \exists x A_\beta (y_1, \dots, y_s, x)$, as wanted.

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Proof (cont.) — proving the first part of the theorem.

Suppose G_1 , G_2 (with designated vertices) agree on first-order prediacates of quantifier depth k - s with s free variables. Hence, they agree on the same predicate that defines the equivalence class of G_1 , hence they are equivalent.

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Proof (cont.) — proving the first part of the theorem.

Suppose G_1 , G_2 (with designated vertices) agree on first-order prediacates of quantifier depth k - s with s free variables. Hence, they agree on the same predicate that defines the equivalence class of G_1 , hence they are equivalent.

Conversely, let G_1 , G_2 (with designated vertices) be *k*-equivalent, and let *P* be some predicate of quantifier depth k - s and *s* free variables. We can express *P* is a boolean combination of phrases of the form $\exists xQ$ where *Q* is of quantifier depth k - s - 1 and s + 1free variables. By induction, the value of *Q* is determined by the equivalence class of $(G; x_1, \ldots, x_s, x)$ for every *x*, hence the value of *P* is determined by the equivalence class of $(G; x_1, \ldots, x_s)$, hence G_1, G_2 agree on *P*.

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Examples

Theorem

Connectivity is not first-order expressible.

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Examples

Theorem

Connectivity is not first-order expressible.

Proof sketch.

We let G_1 be a cycle of length n and G_2 be two such cycles, with n at least 2^k . With s moves remaining in the game, Duplicator calls any two vertices of distance at most 2^s "close enough", and do her best to reply in a way that the corresponding points will be of the same distance apart and the same orientation on the other graph.

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Examples

Theorem

Connectivity is not first-order expressible.

Proof sketch.

We let G_1 be a cycle of length n and G_2 be two such cycles, with n at least 2^k . With s moves remaining in the game, Duplicator calls any two vertices of distance at most 2^s "close enough", and do her best to reply in a way that the corresponding points will be of the same distance apart and the same orientation on the other graph. When Spoiler tries to take advantage of G_2 's nonconnectivity, Duplicator replies with marking vertices so far apart, so that Spoiler will not have time to spoil.

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Examples

Theorem

2-colourability is not first-order expressible.

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Examples

Theorem

2-colourability is not first-order expressible.

Proof sketch.

We take G_1 to be a cycle of length 2n and G_2 to be a cycle of length 2n + 1, for large enough n, and use a similar argument.

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Thank You!



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