

75

Potentially G -graphical degree sequences

Ronald J. Gould¹
Emory University

Michael S. Jacobson² and Jenő Lehel³
University of Louisville

Abstract

In this paper we consider a variation of the classical Turán-type extremal problems. Let S be an n -element graphical sequence, and $\sigma(S)$ be the sum of the terms in S . Let G be a graph. The problem is to determine the smallest m such that any n -term graphical sequence S having $\sigma(S) \geq m$ has a realization containing G . Denote this value m by $\sigma(G, n)$. We present several results for this parameter for various graphs G . In particular, we show $\sigma(K_4, n) = 4n - 4$ for $n \geq 9$.

1 Introduction.

There are several famous results, Havel and Hakimi [6, 5] and Erdős and Gallai [3], which give necessary and sufficient conditions for a sequence $S = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$ to be the degree sequence of a simple graph G . Unfortunately, knowing that a sequence has a realization gives no information about the properties that such a graph might have. In this paper, we explore this question of properties of graphs with a given degree sequence which is related to work originally introduced by A. R. Rao [7].

¹Supported by O.N.R. Grant N00014-91-J-1085.

²Supported by O.N.R. Grant N00014-91-J-1098.

³On leave from Computer and Automation Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

For convenience, we employ the following terminology. If $S = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$ is a sequence of non-negative integers then it is called *graphical* if there is a (simple) graph of order n , whose degrees are precisely the terms in S . If G is such a graph then G is said to *realize* S or be a *realization of* S . A graphical sequence S is *potentially G -graphical* if there is a realization of S containing G , while S is *forcibly G -graphical* if every realization of S contains G . Throughout the paper subgraph means non-induced subgraph. For any undefined terms, refer to [1].

One of the classical extremal problems is to determine the minimum even integer m such that every n -term graphical sequence S with $\sigma(S) \geq m$ is forcibly G -graphical; this m is denoted $ex(G, n)$. Here we consider the following variant: determine the minimum even integer m such that every n -term graphical sequence S with $\sigma(S) \geq m$ is potentially G -graphical. We denote this minimum m by $\sigma(G, n)$.

This problem was considered by Erdős, Jacobson and Lehel [4] where they showed the following:

Theorem A. For $n \geq 6$, $\sigma(K_3, n) = 2n$.

They also gave a construction that gave a lower bound for $\sigma(K_k, n)$, which also would be a bound for $\sigma(G, n)$ for any graph G of order k .

Theorem B. $\sigma(K_k, n) \geq (k-2)(2n-k+1) + 2$.

This result can easily be seen, by noting that $H = K_{k-2} + \overline{K_{n-k+2}}$ gives a uniquely realizable degree sequence and H clearly does not contain K_k . Also note, this degree sequence only contains $k-2$ vertices of degree at least $k-1$, but a K_k would require k vertices of degree at least $k-1$.

In Section 2, we show that Theorem B achieves the correct value for the case $k=4$ and $n \geq 9$. In Section 3 we also find $\sigma(G, n)$ for various other graphs G .

2 $\sigma(K_4, n)$

We begin with a useful result which extends a theorem of S. B. Rao [8].

Lemma 1. Let H be a degree sequence $S = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$, $G \subset H$, and $x \in V(G)$. If $\deg_H(x) = d_i$ and $\deg_H(v_j) = d_j$ for all $j \in V(G) \setminus \{x\}$, then there exists a subgraph H' of H such that
 (1) $H - \{x, y\} = H' - \{x, y\}$
 (2) the subgraph of H' induced by $V(G) \setminus \{x, y\}$ is isomorphic to G .

Proof. Suppose the sequence S is graphical. Let v_j and y be as above. Take $H = H'$ and clearly there exist non-empty sets A and C such that $A \cup C = V(G) \setminus \{x, y\}$ and there exist non-empty sets A' and C' such that $A' \cup C' = V(G) \setminus \{x, y\}$ and $A' \cap C' = \emptyset$. Now choose any subset C' of C such that H' is a realization of S by intersecting H with A' and C' .

It is easy to see that the above sets are met. \square

Corollary (Rao [7]). If S is a graphical sequence containing K_k , then there exists a realization of S containing K_k with the k vertices having degree at least $k-1$.

Note, in fact, Lemma 1 implies that if $G \subseteq H$, then there is a realization of S in which the vertices of G have the degrees in S .

Proposition 2. If S is a graphical sequence such that $\sigma(S) \geq 28$ then either there is a realization of S containing K_4 or S is $(4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 0)$.

Before proceeding with the proof of Proposition 2, we note that there is no realization of S such that $\sigma(S) \geq 28$ and S is $(4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 0)$.

following terminology. If $S = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ is a graphical sequence of order n , whose degrees are non-negative integers then it is called a graphical sequence. If G is a graph of order n , whose degrees are d_1, \dots, d_n then G is said to be a realization of S . A graphical sequence S is said to be realizable if there exists a realization of S containing G . A realization of S containing G means non-induced subgraph.

It is to determine the minimum number of terms in a graphical sequence S with $\sigma(S) \geq m$; this m is denoted $ex(G, n)$. It is to determine the minimum even number of terms in a graphical sequence S with $\sigma(S) \geq m$; this minimum m is denoted $ex_e(G, n)$. Erdős, Jacobson and Lehel [4]

that gave a lower bound for $ex(G, n)$ for any graph G .

$(k+1) + 2$. Noting that $H = K_{k-2} + \overline{K_{n-k+2}}$ is a graphical sequence and H clearly does not contain K_k , the sequence only contains $k-2$ vertices of degree k . A K_k would require k vertices of degree k .

B achieves the correct value for $ex(G, n)$ for $n \geq 3$ we also find $ex(G, n)$ for $n \geq 3$.

extends a theorem of S. B. Rao [8].

Lemma 1. Let H be a graph having $V(H) = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ and degree sequence $S = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ where $\deg_H(v_i) = d_i$. If $G \subset H$, and $x \in V(G)$, $y \in V(H) \setminus V(G)$ with $\deg_H(y) \geq \deg_H(x)$, then there exists a realization H' of S with $V(H') = V(H)$ and $\deg_{H'}(v_i) = d_i$ such that

- (1) $H - \{x, y\} = H' - \{x, y\}$
- (2) the subgraph of H' induced by $(V(G) \setminus \{x\}) \cup \{y\}$ has a subgraph G' isomorphic to G .

Proof. Suppose the sequence S , the graphs H and G , and the vertices v_i and y are as above. If $N_G(x) \subseteq N_G(y)$ then simply take $H = H'$ and clearly (1) and (2) above hold. Hence, assume there exist non-empty sets $A = N_G(x) - N_G(y)$ and $B = N_H(y) - N_H(x)$. Since $\deg_H(y) \geq \deg_H(x)$, it follows that $|B| \geq |A|$. Now choose any subset $C \subseteq B$ having $|C| = |A|$. Now form a new realization H' of S by interchanging the edges of the star centered at x with endvertices in A with the non-edges of the star centered at x with endvertices in C , and interchanging the edges of the star centered at y with endvertices in C with the non-edges of the star centered at y with endvertices in A .

It is easy to see that this is a realization H' of S and (1) and (2) are met. \square

Corollary (Rao [7]). If S is a graphical sequence with a realization H containing K_k , then there is a realization H' of S containing K_k with the k vertices having the k largest degrees.

Note, in fact, Lemma 1 shows that if H is a realization of S with $G \subseteq H$, then there is a realization H' of S with $G \subseteq H'$ so that the vertices of G have the largest degrees of S .

Proposition 2. If S is an 8-term graphical sequence with $\sigma(S) \geq 28$ then either there is a realization of S containing K_4 or $S = (4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 0)$.

Before proceeding with the proof of this proposition, we note that there is no realization of $S = (4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 0)$ containing a K_4 .

Consider the complementary sequence $\bar{S} = (3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 7)$. Clearly in any realization of \bar{S} , there is a dominating vertex and a 2-regular subgraph on the remaining 7 vertices. There is no independent set of 4 vertices in this 2-regular subgraph and thus no realization of \bar{S} can contain 4 independent vertices. Therefore, no realization of S can contain a K_4 .

Proof of Proposition 2. Let $S = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_8)$ be a graphical sequence with $\sigma(S) \geq 28$. Assume $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_8$; it must be the case that $4 \leq d_1 \leq 7$. Applying the Havel-Hakimi characterization of realizable sequences it follows that $S' = (d_2-1, d_3-1, \dots, d_{d_1+1}-1, d_{d_1+2}, \dots, d_8)$ is realizable and $\sigma(S') \geq 14$. By Theorem A, $\sigma(K_3, 7) = 14$, thus there is a realization of S' containing K_3 . Furthermore, by Lemma 2, there is a realization having K_3 on the largest three degrees of S' . If these three highest degrees are obtained from S by subtracting 1, then we simply reinsert the vertex of degree d_1 , producing a realization of S containing K_4 . This implies we may assume $4 \leq d_1 \leq 6$. In addition, the general form for S must be one of the following three types.

Case 1: $S = (6, d_2, d_3, a, a, a, a, a)$ where $3 \leq a \leq 6$. If $a = 5$ or 6 then $S = (6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6)$ or $(6, 6, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5)$. If $a = 4$ then S is one of $(6, 6, 6, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$, $(6, 5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$, $(6, 6, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$, $(6, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$. If $a = 3$ then S must be one of $(6, 6, 5, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3)$, $(6, 5, 4, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3)$, $(6, 6, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3)$. Each of these sequences are potentially K_4 -graphical.

Case 2: $S = (5, d_2, d_3, a, a, a, a, d_8)$ where $3 \leq a \leq 5$. If $a = 5$, then $S = (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, d_8)$ where $d_8 = 1, 3, \text{ or } 5$. If $a = 4$, there are seven possible sequences: $(5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$, $(5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 2)$, $(5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 0)$, $(5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3)$, $(5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 1)$, $(5, 5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3)$, and $(5, 5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 1)$. If $a = 3$, there are four possible sequences $(5, 5, 5, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3)$, $(5, 5, 4, 3, 3, 3, 3, 2)$, $(5, 5, 5, 3, 3, 3, 3, 1)$ and $(5, 4, 4, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3)$. Each of these sequences are potentially K_4 -graphical.

Case 3: $S = (4, 4, 4, 4, 4, (4, 4), (4, 2), (3, 3), (3, 1), (2, 2))$ except the last pair yield a realization.

With all cases exhausted, the

Proposition 3. If S is an n -term graphic sequence with $\sigma(S) \leq 4n - 6$ with smallest two 2's, then there exists a realization of S containing K_4 .

Proof. Assume $\sigma(S) = 4n - 6$. Proceed by induction on n and k (upward).

For $n = 8$, there exist exactly two such sequences. We check that each has an appropriate realization.

For $k \geq \frac{n-1}{2}$, the result is vacuous. For $k < \frac{n-1}{2}$, there are at least 3 vertices having degree less than k .

We now assume the n -term graphic sequence with $\sigma(S) = 4n - 6$ and $k < \frac{n-1}{2}$.

As noted, this implies (vacuously) a realization of S containing K_4 .

Proceeding downward on k we may assume that for every $k \geq k_0$ if S is a graphic sequence then there exists a realization of S containing K_4 .

Now let S^* be an $(n+1)$ -term graphic sequence with $\sigma(S^*) \geq 3n + 2$ and $k_0 > 1$. Note that $\sigma(S^*) \geq 3n + 2$ implies that either all terms are greater than 3 or there are at least two terms greater than 3.

If all terms equal 3 (and $n \geq 3$) then a realization containing K_4 is easily obtained. If there are at least two terms greater than 3, then we may assume $k_0 > 1$. Subcase A. Suppose S^* contains at least two terms greater than 3.

If all terms equal 3 (and $n \geq 3$) then a realization containing K_4 is easily obtained. If there are at least two terms greater than 3, then we may assume $k_0 > 1$. Subcase A. Suppose S^* contains at least two terms greater than 3.

ence $\bar{S} = (3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 7)$.
 There is a dominating vertex and a
 containing 7 vertices. There is no
 2-regular subgraph and thus no
 independent vertices. Therefore, no

(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_8) be a graphical
 sequence with $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_8$; it must be
 the Havel-Hakimi characterization
 implies that $S' = (d_2-1, d_3-1, \dots, d_8-1)$
 is graphical and $\sigma(S') \geq 14$. By Theorem
 2.1, there is a realization of S' containing K_3 .
 Then a realization having K_3 on the
 vertices of these three highest degrees are
 present. Then we simply reinsert the vertex
 of degree d_1 into the realization of S containing K_4 . This
 shows that in addition, the general form for
 such sequences is

(a, a, a, a, a, a, a, a) where $3 \leq a \leq 6$. If $a = 5$
 or $(6, 6, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5)$. If $a = 4$
 or $(6, 5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$, $(6, 6, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$,
 or $a = 3$ then S must be one of $(6, 6, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5)$,
 $(6, 6, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3)$. Each of these
 sequences is graphical.

(a, d_2, \dots, d_8) where $3 \leq a \leq 5$. If $a = 5$
 where $d_8 = 1, 3, \text{ or } 5$. If $a = 4$,
 $(5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$, $(5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$,
 $(5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4)$, $(5, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 1)$,
 $(4, 4, 4, 4, 1)$. If $a = 3$, there are four
 sequences: $(5, 5, 4, 3, 3, 3, 3, 2)$, $(5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 3)$. Each of these sequences are

Case 3: $S = (4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, d_7, d_8)$ with (d_7, d_8) being one of
 $(4, 4), (4, 2), (3, 3), (3, 1), (2, 2)$ or $(4, 0)$. The sequence in all cases
 except the last pair yield a realization containing K_4 .

With all cases exhausted, the result follows. \square

Proposition 3. If S is an n -term graphical sequence ($n \geq 8$) having
 $\sigma(S) \leq 4n - 6$ with smallest term at least 2 and containing at most
 two 2's, then there exists a realization of S containing a K_4 .

Proof. Assume $\sigma(S) = 4n - 4 - 2k$ ($k \geq 1$). We proceed by
 induction on n and k (upward on n and downward on k for each n).

For $n = 8$, there exist exactly 15 such sequences and it is easy to
 check that each has an appropriate realization. Also, for any n and
 $k \geq \frac{n-1}{2}$, the result is vacuous, since $\sigma(S) \leq 3n - 3$ implies at least
 3 vertices having degree less than three.

We now assume the n case holds for all k and let S be an $n + 1$
 term graphic sequence with smallest term at least 2 and containing at
 most two 2's. As noted, if $k \geq \frac{(n+1)-1}{2}$, then $\sigma(S) = 4n - 2k$
 implies (vacuously) a realization containing K_4 . Thus, inducting
 downward on k we may assume there exists a k_0 ($1 \leq k_0 \leq \frac{n-1}{2}$) so
 that for every $k \geq k_0$ if S is as above and $\sigma(S) = 4n - 4 - 2k$ there
 exists a realization of S containing K_4 . If $k_0 = 1$ we are done, so
 assume $k_0 > 1$.

Now let S^* be an $(n+1)$ -term graphic sequence with smallest term
 at least 2 containing at most two 2's and having $\sigma(S^*) = 4n - 2(k_0 - 1)$.
 Note that $\sigma(S^*) \geq 3n + 3$ (using the bound on k_0) which implies
 that either all terms are equal to 3 or at least one term is strictly
 greater than 3.

If all terms equal 3 (and $n + 1$ is thus even) then a realization
 containing K_4 is easily obtained by considering $K_4 \cup H$ where H is
 a 3-regular graph on $n - 4$ vertices. Thus we may assume that S^*
 has a term strictly greater than 3.

Subcase A. Suppose S^* contains a term equal to 2.

By Lemma 1 there exists a realization G of S^* with degree 2 vertex (call it x) adjacent to a vertex of degree strictly greater than 3, (call it y) and a vertex z of degree at least 3. Then $G - x$ produces a graphic n -term sequences S' with $\sigma(S') = 4(n-1) - 2(k_0 - 1)$ with S' having smallest term at least 2 and at most two 2's. Thus, by the induction hypothesis S' has a realization containing K_4 and by inserting x we can obtain a realization of S^* with a K_4 .

Subcase B. Suppose that S^* does not contain a term equal to 2 and S^* is not the sequence of all 3's.

Clearly 3 must be a term of S^* , and by Lemma 1 there exists a realization G and a vertex x of degree 3 with x adjacent to a vertex y of degree strictly greater than 3. Now $G - x$ produces an n -term graphic sequence S' with smallest term at least 2 and at most two terms equal to 2. Further,

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma(S') &= 4n - 2(k_0 - 1) - 6 \\ &= 4n - 4 - 2(k_0 - 1) - 2(1) = 4n - 4 - 2k_0.\end{aligned}$$

Thus we are finished with this case by induction and this case completes the proof. \square

Theorem 4. If $n \geq 9$, then $\sigma(K_4, n) = 4n - 4$.

Proof. Suppose $n \geq 9$, Theorem B shows that $\sigma(K_4, n) \geq 4n - 4$. We now show that any n -term graphical sequence S having $\sigma(S) \geq 4n - 4$ has a realization containing a K_4 . We will proceed by induction and begin with the case $n = 9$. Let $S = (d_1, \dots, d_9)$ be a 9-term graphical sequence having $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_9$ with $\sigma(S) \geq 32$. Let G be a realization of S . If the smallest term in S is $d_9 = 0, 1$ or 2 and $x \in V(G)$ with $\deg_G(x) = d_9$, then $G - x$ yields an 8-term sequence S^* with $\sigma(S^*) \geq 28$. By Proposition 2, S^* has a realization containing a K_4 , because $S^* \neq (4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 0)$.

Assume that $d_9 \geq 3$; furthermore, it follows that $d_1 \geq 4$. By Lemma 1, there is a realization G of S with vertex x having $\deg_G(x) \geq 3$ and x is adjacent to a vertex y with $\deg_G(y) \geq 4$. It follows that the 8-term graphical sequence S^* obtained from $G - x$ either has $\sigma(S^*) \geq 28$ or $\sigma(S^*) \leq 26$. In the first case, since S^* cannot contain 0, S^* has a realization containing a K_4 by Proposition 2. This results in a realization of S with a K_4 after the

insertion of x . If $\sigma(S^*) \leq 26$ and contains at most two realizations of S containing a

We now proceed by induction values from 9 to n , and with $(n+1)$ -term graphical sequence $\sigma(S) \geq 4n$. Let G be any $\deg_G(x) = d_{n+1}$. If $S^* = (d_1, \dots, d_n, d_{n+1})$ with $d_{n+1} = 0$ then by induction an appropriate realization of S containing a K_4 then the n -term graphical sequence S^* with $\sigma(S^*) \leq 4n - 6$, and smaller than $4n - 4$ there is a realization of S^* containing a K_4 .

If $d_{n+1} \leq 2$ then the n -term sequence $G - x$ has $\sigma(S^*) \geq 4n - 4$, containing K_4 and by induction contains a K_4 .

Finally, if $d_{n+1} = 3$ by having x adjacent to a vertex y of degree strictly greater than 3, the appropriate realization of S containing a K_4 . \square

3 $\sigma(G, n)$

In this section we look at matchings. Turning to matchings, our result for matchings obtained immediately.

Theorem 5. For $p \geq 2$, σ

We now turn our attention

Theorem 6. For $n \geq 4$,

realization G of S^* with degree 2
 x of degree strictly greater than 3,
at least 3. Then $G - x$ produces
with $\sigma(S') = 4(n-1) - 2(k_0 - 1)$
: 2 and at most two 2's. Thus, by
realization containing K_4 and by
of S^* with a K_4 .
not contain a term equal to 2 and

and by Lemma 1 there exists a
ree 3 with x adjacent to a vertex
Now $G - x$ produces an n -term
term at least 2 and at most two

$k_0 - 1) - 6$
 $(1) = 4n - 4 - 2k_0$.
ase by induction and this case

$= 4n - 4$.

shows that $\sigma(K_4, n) \geq 4n - 4$.
hical sequence S having $\sigma(S) \geq$
 $\geq a K_4$. We will proceed by
 $= 9$. Let $S = (d_1, \dots, d_9)$ be a
 $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_9$ with $\sigma(S) \geq$
the smallest term in S is $d_9 = 0$,
 $(x) = d_9$, then $G - x$ yields an
28. By Proposition 2, S^* has a
 $\neq (4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 0)$.
e, it follows that $d_1 \geq 4$. By
 G of S with vertex x having
vertex y with $\deg_G(y) \geq 4$. It
quence S^* obtained from $G - x$
26. In the first case, since S^*
lization containing a K_4 by
zation of S with a K_4 after the

insertion of x . If $\sigma(S^*) \leq 26$, S^* has the smallest term of at least 2
and contains at most two 2's. Thus by Proposition 3, again a
realization of S containing a K_4 is obtained.

We now proceed by induction, assuming the result is true for all
values from 9 to n , and we consider $S = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{n+1})$ an $(n$
 $+ 1)$ -term graphical sequence having $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_{n+1}$ and
 $\sigma(S) \geq 4n$. Let G be any realization of S , and $x \in V(G)$ having
 $\deg_G(x) = d_{n+1}$. If S^* obtained from $G - x$ has $\sigma(S^*) \geq 4n$
 $- 4$ then by induction an appropriate realization results. If $d_{n+1} \geq 4$
then the n -term graphical sequence S^* obtained from $G - x$ has
 $\sigma(S^*) \leq 4n - 6$, and smallest term at least 3. Thus by Proposition 3,
there is a realization of S^* containing K_4 and thus by inserting x , a
realization of S containing K_4 .

If $d_{n+1} \leq 2$ then the n -term graphical sequence S^* obtained from
 $G - x$ has $\sigma(S^*) \geq 4n - 4$, and as noted above there is a realization
containing K_4 and by inserting x , we obtain a realization of S
containing K_4 .

Finally, if $d_{n+1} = 3$ by Lemma 1, there is a realization G^* of S
having x adjacent to a vertex y with $\deg_G(y) \geq 4$. Now the
sequence S^* obtained from $G^* - x$ has $\sigma(S^*) \leq 4n - 6$ and S^*
has smallest term at least 2 and at most two 2's. Thus by Proposition
3, the appropriate realization of S^* exists and this yields a realization
of S containing a K_4 . \square

3 $\sigma(G, n)$

In this section we look at a few very special cases for this number.
Turning to matchings, our first result coincides with the extremal
result for matchings obtained by Chvátal and Hanson [1], hence it is
immediate.

Theorem 5. For $p \geq 2$, $\sigma(pK_2, n) = (p - 1)(2n - 2) + 2$.

We now turn our attention to cycles. The first interesting case is C_4 .

Theorem 6. For $n \geq 4$,

$$\sigma(C_4, n) = \begin{cases} 3n-1 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 3n-2 & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. To see that $\sigma(C_4, n) \geq 3n - 1$ or $3n - 2$, consider the uniquely realizable degree sequence obtained from $K_1 + pK_2$ ($n = 2p + 1$) or $K_1 + (pK_2 \cup K_1)$ ($n = 2p + 2$). We now show the upper bound.

For $n = 4$, if a graph has size $q \geq 5$, then clearly it contains a C_4 . For $n = 5$, we have that $q \geq 7$. There are exactly 4 graphs of order 5 and size 7 and each contains a C_4 . Thus, we now assume the result is true for all values up to n and consider a sequence S of $n + 1$ terms.

If S contains a term equal to 1, then remove it and adjust the new sequence S' . By induction S' must contain a C_4 . We also note that there must be at least 2 vertices of degree at least 3 in our sequence (as $n - 1 + 2(n - 1)$ is too small).

Then, by Theorem A there is a realization of S containing a K_3 , which by Lemma 1, can be obtained in a realization using the two vertices of highest degree (recall each is at least 3).

Say this K_3 has vertices w_1, w_2 and w_3 . Further suppose the two vertices of highest degree in the graph are w_1 and w_2 . Thus, w_1 and w_2 have at least one more adjacency in the graph. Say w_1 is adjacent to x and w_2 is adjacent to y .

If $x = y$ we are done as a C_4 is formed. If $x \neq y$ we consider two cases.

Case 1. Suppose x and y have a common adjacency, say z .

Then we see that the edges zw_1 and xw_3 are not in G or a C_4 would exist. But then the edge interchange which removes w_1w_3 and xz and inserts the independent edges zw_1 and xw_3 produces a realization containing a C_4 .

Case 2. Suppose x and y have no common adjacencies off K_3 .

Since both x and y have adjacencies off K_3 , suppose that x is adjacent to x_1 and y is adjacent to y_1 and $x_1 \neq y_1$. Further suppose that x_1 and y_1 are not adjacent. Then, the interchange that removes the independent edges xx_1 and yy_1 and inserts the independent edges xy and x_1y_1 produces a realization of S containing a C_4 . If x_1 and y_1 are adjacent, then again it is easy to

see that the edges w_1x_1 already exist. But again the xx_1 and inserts w_1x_1 and containing a C_4 .

In all cases a C_4 was present therefore the result is proved.

Clearly, $\sigma(C_4, n) \leq \sigma(K_4)$ see where in the range from lies.

4 Conclusion

This extension of the classic question but presently sufficient We feel that the complete graph the following.

Conjecture: For n sufficient

$$\sigma(K_k, n) =$$

As a weakening of this, it is large, this number is linear this value and $ex(K_k, n)$.

References

- [1] CHARTRAND, G. & LES and Hall (London), 1996.
- [2] CHVÁTAL, V. & HAN *Combinatorial Theory, Ser.*
- [3] ERDŐS, P. & GALLAI (Hungarian) *Matemoutiki L*
- [4] ERDŐS, P., JACOBSON, Same Degree Sequence and *Theory, Combinatorics a*
- [5] HAKIMI, S. L., On the I of the Vertices of a Graph,

-1 if n is odd
 -2 if n is even.

For $3n - 1$ or $3n - 2$, consider the sequence obtained from $K_1 + pK_2$ ($n = 2p + 2$). We now show the

sequence contains a C_4 . There are exactly 4 graphs of order 5

with degree sequence $(3, 3, 2, 2, 2)$. Thus, we now assume the result is

for a sequence S of $n + 1$ terms. If we then remove it and adjust the new sequence to contain a C_4 . We also note that the minimum degree is at least 3 in our sequence (as

the degree sequence is a realization of S containing a K_3 , and the minimum degree is at least 3).

Let x and y be adjacent vertices and w_3 be a vertex adjacent to both x and y . Further suppose the two graphs are w_1 and w_2 . Thus, w_1 and w_2 are adjacent in the graph. Say w_1 is adjacent to x and y .

If $x \neq y$ we consider two cases:

1. w_1 and w_2 have a common adjacency, say z .

2. w_1 and w_2 are not adjacent. The interchange which removes w_1w_2 and inserts zw_1 and zw_2 produces a realization of S containing a C_4 .

3. w_1 and w_2 have no common adjacencies off K_3 .

4. w_1 and w_2 have common adjacencies off K_3 , suppose that x is adjacent to y_1 and $x_1 \neq y_1$. Further suppose w_1 and w_2 are adjacent. Then, the interchange that removes xx_1 and yy_1 and inserts the edges w_1x_1 and w_2y_1 produces a realization of S containing a C_4 . If w_1 and w_2 are not adjacent, then again it is easy to

see that the edges w_1x_1 and xw_3 are not in G or a C_4 would already exist. But again the interchange that removes w_1w_3 and xx_1 and inserts w_1x_1 and xw_3 produces a realization of S containing a C_4 .

In all cases a C_4 was produced in some realization of S and therefore the result is proved. \square

Clearly, $\sigma(C_4, n) \leq \sigma(K_4 - e, n) \leq \sigma(K_4, n)$. It would be nice to see where in the range from $3n - 2$ to $4n - 4$, the value $\sigma(K_4 - e, n)$ lies.

4 Conclusion

This extension of the classical extremal problem seems like a natural question but presently sufficient techniques have not been developed. We feel that the complete graph case is the most tractable so we give the following.

Conjecture: For n sufficiently large

$$\sigma(K_k, n) = (k-2)(2n-k+1) + 2.$$

As a weakening of this, it would be nice to see that for n sufficiently large, this number is linear in n , explaining the difference between this value and $ex(K_k, n)$.

References

- [1] CHARTRAND, G. & LESNIAK L., *Graphs and Digraphs*, Chapman and Hall (London), 1996.
- [2] CHVÁTAL, V. & HANSON, D., Degrees and Matchings, *J. Combinatorial Theory*, Ser. B12 (1976), 128-138.
- [3] ERDŐS, P. & GALLAI, T., Graphs with prescribed degrees (in Hungarian) *Matemoutiká Lapor* 11 (1960), 264-274.
- [4] ERDŐS, P., JACOBSON, M. S. & LEHEL, J., Graphs Realizing the Same Degree Sequence and their Respective Clique Numbers, *Graph Theory, Combinatorics and Applications*, Vol. I, 1991, ed. Alavi, Chartrand, Oellerman and Schwenk, 439-449.
- [5] HAKIMI, S. L., On the Realizability of a Set of Integers as Degrees of the Vertices of a Graph, *J. SIAM Appl. Math.* 10 (1962), 496-506.

- [6] HAVEL, V., A Remark on the Existence of Finite Graphs (Czech). *Casopis Pest. Mat.* 80 (1955), 477-480.
- [7] RAO, A. R., The Clique Number of a Graph with a Given Degree Sequence, *Proceedings of the Symposium on Graph Theory* (Indian Statistical Inst., Calcutta, 1976), 251-267.
- [8] RAO, S. B., A Survey of the Theory of Potentially P -Graphic and Forcibly P -Graphic Degree Sequences, *Lecture Notes in Math.* No. 885, Springer-Verlag, (1981), 417-440.

ON DEFINING SETS OF THE CARTESIAN PRODUCT OF A GRAPH A COMBINATORIAL PROBLEM

M. Mahdian, E.S. Mahmoodian
Department of Mathematics
Sharif University of Technology
P.O. Box 11365-441
Tehran, Iran

FRANK R. McWEE
Department of Mathematics
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico

In a given graph G , a set of colors is a *defining set* if there exists a unique extension of the coloring to all the vertices of G . A defining set of minimum cardinality is called a *minimum defining set*. Its cardinality is denoted by $d(G, \chi)$.

Mahmoodian et al [3] proved that for each given m and for all $k \geq 3$, there exists a graph G such that $d(G, \chi) = m$. Among our results are

- (1) $d(C_m \times K_3, \chi) = \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor$
- (2) $m \leq d(C_m \times K_4, \chi) \leq 2m$
- (3) $d(C_m \times K_5, \chi) = 2$
 $2m \leq d(C_m \times K_5, \chi) \leq 3m$

1 Introduction

A k -coloring of a graph G is a mapping from the vertices of G such that adjacent vertices receive different colors.