

FRACTIONAL CHROMATIC POLYNOMIALS

Paul Cusson, Ke Han Xiao and Cunyan Zhao, under the supervision of Prof. D. Jakobson.

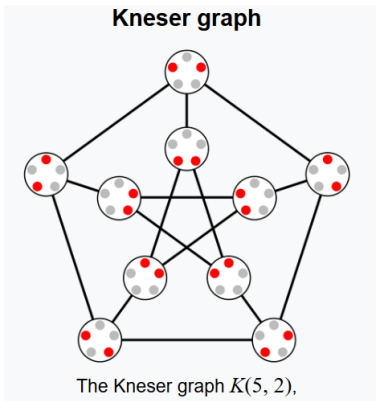
Presented by Ke Han Xiao

- ▶ **Introduction** We study fractional colourings of finite graphs, and discuss their asymptotic behaviour.
Let $a \geq b > 0$ be positive integers, and let G be a finite graph.
- ▶ **Fractional coloring** A (fractional) $(a : b)$ vertex colouring of G is an assignment to each vertex of a set of b colours, out of available set of a colours, so that adjacent vertices are assigned disjoint sets of colours (they have no colours in common).
- ▶ An $(a : b)$ colouring of G is a homomorphism from G to the **Kneser graph** $KG_{a,b}$: its vertices are b -element subsets of a set of a elements, and the two vertices are adjacent **iff** the corresponding sets are disjoint.
The usual colouring of G corresponds to taking $b = 1$ (every vertex is assigned a single colour).

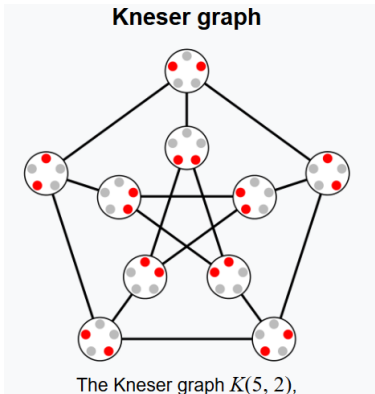
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- ▶ **Kneser graph:** Kneser graph $KG_{a,b}$ is the graph whose vertices correspond to the b -element subsets of a set of a elements, and where two vertices are adjacent **if and only if** the two corresponding sets are disjoint.
- ▶ **Graph homomorphism:** a graph homomorphism is a mapping between two graphs that respects their structure. More concretely, it is a function between the vertex sets of two graphs that maps adjacent vertices to adjacent vertices.



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- ▶ We denote by $P_G(a, b)$ the number of $(a : b)$ vertex colourings of G .
- ▶ **Proposition:** Let b be fixed, then $P_G(a, b)$ is a polynomial in a .
- ▶ **Proof:** Let each vertex u of G is replaced by a complete graph $K_b(u)$, for a fixed b we have

$$P_G(a, b) = P_{G(K_b)}(a),$$

where $P_H(a)$ denotes the chromatic polynomial for the graph H , and the result follows.

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- ▶ We next consider the rate of growth of $P_G(a, b)$. It is easy to show that

$$P_G(a + c, b + d) \geq P_G(a, b)P_G(c, d).$$

- ▶ It follows that :

$$\ln P_G((k + l)a, (k + l)b) \geq \ln P_G(ka, kb) + \ln P_G(la, lb)$$

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Thus, the function $\ln P_G(ka, kb)$ is a superadditive function of k .

- By Fekete Lemma, there exists the following limit, which we call ***fractional colouring growth rate function*** or simply ***colouring rate function***, and which we denote by $\mathcal{CR}_G(x)$, where $x = a/b$:

$$\mathcal{CR}_G(x) := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln P_G(ka, kb)}{kb|G|} = \sup_k \frac{\ln P_G(ka, kb)}{kb|G|}.$$

That function is well-defined, since the limit only depends on the ratio a/b . Until now, $\mathcal{CR}_G(x)$ is only defined for a dense set of $x \in \mathbb{Q}$, and for $x \geq \chi_f(G)$.

- **Remark1** Let $G = G_1 + G_2$ be a disjoint union of two graphs, and let $a/b \geq \chi_f(G_i), i = 1, 2$. Then clearly $P_G(a, b) = P_{G_1}(a, b) \cdot P_{G_2}(a, b)$, so

$$\mathcal{CR}_{G_1+G_2}(x) = \mathcal{CR}_{G_1}(x) + \mathcal{CR}_{G_2}(x).$$

on the common interval of definition.

- **Remark2** Let G be a subgraph of H . Then $\chi_f(G) \leq \chi_f(H)$, and

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- ▶ **Proposition:** The function $\mathcal{CR}_G(x)$ is non-decreasing in x .
- ▶ **Proof:** Let $\chi_f < x < y < \infty$ be such that $x = \frac{a_1}{b_1} < \frac{a_2}{b_2} = y$.
As $kb_1 a_2 > ka_1 b_2$, it is clear by definition of $P(a, b)$ that
 $P(kb_1 a_2, kb_1 b_2) \geq P(ka_1 b_2, kb_1 b_2)$
- ▶ Thus it follows

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- ▶ We next let $k \rightarrow \infty$. By definition of the function g , we conclude that

$$\mathcal{CR}_G(y) \geq \mathcal{CR}_G(x).$$

- ▶ Finally, We extend $\mathcal{CR}_G(x)$ to a function on the interval $I_G = (\chi_f(G), +\infty)$ as follows:

$$\mathcal{CR}_G(x) := \sup_{y \in I_G: y \in \mathbb{Q}, y \leq x} \mathcal{CR}_G(y).$$

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► **Tree:**

$$\mathcal{CR}_T(x) = \frac{x}{n} \cdot \ln x + \frac{(n-2)(x-1)}{n} \cdot \ln(x-1) \\ - \frac{(n-1)(x-2)}{n} \cdot \ln(x-2).$$

► **Complement of a complete graph:**

$$\mathcal{CR}_{\overline{K_n}}(x) = x \ln x + (1-x) \ln(x-1).$$

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► **Properties of colouring rate function**

By our previous definition, it suffices to consider \mathcal{CR}_G restricted to \mathbb{Q} . We know that $P_{G(K_{kb})}$ is a polynomial of degree nkb , where n is the number of vertices of G , with the highest coefficient equal to 1. To study the asymptotics of $\mathcal{CR}_G(x)$, we shall use the following result of Sokal,

► **proposition**

Let G be a graph of maximal degree D . Then all roots ρ of the chromatic polynomial $P_G(x)$ satisfy the inequality

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► **Properties of colouring rate function(2)**

Let d be the maximal degree of G . Consider two rational numbers $a/b < c/b$, where

$$a/b > M \cdot d,$$

where M is a large constant to be chosen later on.

► By definition of \mathcal{CR}_G , it suffices to estimate the ratio

$$\frac{\ln P_G(kc, kb) - \ln P_G(ka, kb)}{kbn} = \frac{\ln \left(\frac{P_G(kc, kb)}{P_G(ka, kb)} \right)}{kbn} = \frac{\ln \left(\frac{P_{G(K_{kb})}(kc)}{P_{G(K_{kb})}(ka)} \right)}{kbn}.$$

► Let $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_{kbn}$ be the roots of $P_{G(K_{kb})}(x)$. Now,

$$\frac{P_{G(K_{kb})}(kc)}{P_{G(K_{kb})}(ka)} = \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{kbn} (kc - \rho_j)}{\prod_{j=1}^{kbn} (ka - \rho_j)} = \left(\frac{c}{a} \right)^{kbn} \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{kbn} (1 - \frac{\rho_j}{kc})}{\prod_{j=1}^{kbn} (1 - \frac{\rho_j}{ka})}$$

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- By previous Proposition, we have $|\rho_j| < 8kbd$ for all j , since the maximal degree of $G(K_{kb})$ is equal to kbd .

$$|\rho_j/kc| < |\rho_j/ka| < \frac{8kbd}{Mkbd} = \frac{8}{M}.$$

Let $\epsilon > 0$; we shall choose M large enough so that $8/M < \epsilon$. It follows that

$$\ln \left(\frac{1 - \epsilon}{1 + \epsilon} \right) \leq \left(\frac{\ln \left(\frac{P_G(kc, kb)}{P_G(ka, kb)} \right)}{kbn} - \ln(c/a) \right) \leq \ln \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon}{1 - \epsilon} \right)$$

- **Proposition** We pass to the limit $k \rightarrow \infty$, since ϵ was arbitrary, the previous estimate implies:
As $x, y \rightarrow \infty$, we have

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or, equivalently, $\mathcal{CR}_G(x)$ grows at the rate of $\ln x$.

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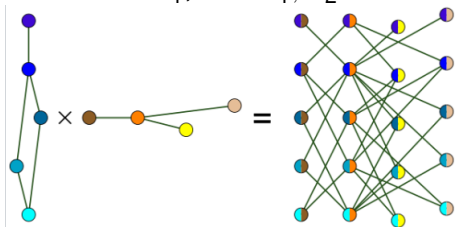
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► Tensor products of graphs

Let G_1, G_2 be two simple graphs. The *tensor product* $G_1 \times G_2$ is the graph whose vertex set is the Cartesian product $V(G_1) \times V(G_2)$, and whose edge set is defined as follows: (v_1, w_1) is adjacent to (v_2, w_2) iff v_1 is adjacent to v_2 in G_1 , and w_1 is adjacent to w_2 in G_2 . Here v_1, v_2 are vertices of G_1 , and w_1, w_2 are vertices of G_2 .



The tensor product of graphs.



- **Proposition:** Let $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$$P_{G_1 \times G_2}(a + c, b + d) \geq P_{G_1}(a, b)P_{G_2}(c, d).$$

- **Proof:** Let \mathcal{C} be an $(a : b)$ colouring of G_1 , and let \mathcal{D} be an $(c : d)$ colouring of G_2 .

For $v \in V(G_1)$, denote by $A(v)$ the set of b colours assigned to v in \mathcal{C} . For $w \in V(G_2)$, denote by $B(w)$ the set of d colours assigned to w in \mathcal{D} .

Denote by $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}$ the colouring that assigns the set $A(v) \cup B(w)$ to the vertex (v, w) of $G_1 \times G_2$.

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► **Convergence of fractional chromatic polynomials**

Let $\text{hom}(G_n, H)$ denote the number of homomorphisms (adjacency preserving maps) from G_n to H . A sequence $\{G_n\}$ of graphs is called *right convergent* if $\ln \text{hom}(G_n, H)/|G_n|$ converges as $n \rightarrow \infty$ for any graph H in a “reasonable class” of graphs.

- Let $\{G_n\}$ be a right convergent sequence of graphs. Fix two natural numbers a, b so that $a \geq 2b + 1 > 0$.

It follows that $\ln P_{G_n}(a, b)/|G_n|$ converges as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

It follows that $\ln P_{G_n}(a, b)/(b|G_n|)$ converges as well for fixed a, b .

- Question: Can we interchange the limits $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $n \rightarrow \infty$, and conclude that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{CR}_{G_n}(x)$ exists (in some suitable sense)?

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