



Realizing Graphs with Cut Constraints^a

Lucas de Oliveira Silva¹

Vítor Gomes Chagas¹

Samuel Praça de Paula¹

Greis Yvet Oropeza Quesquén¹

Uéverton dos Santos Souza^{2,3}

¹ Unicamp, Campinas, Brazil

² IMPA, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

³ UFF, Niterói, Brazil

30th May 2025

^a This work was started during the 6th edition of WoPOCA. We thank the organizers and the agencies CNPq (process number 404315/2023-2) and FAEPEX (process number 2422/23).

Classic Problems

Graph Realization Problem

GRAPH REALIZATION

Input: A non-decreasing sequence $d = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ of natural numbers.

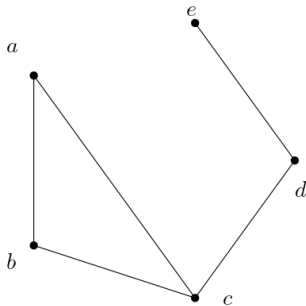
Question: Is d a graphic sequence?

Example

Is $d = (3, 2, 2, 2, 1)$ graphic?

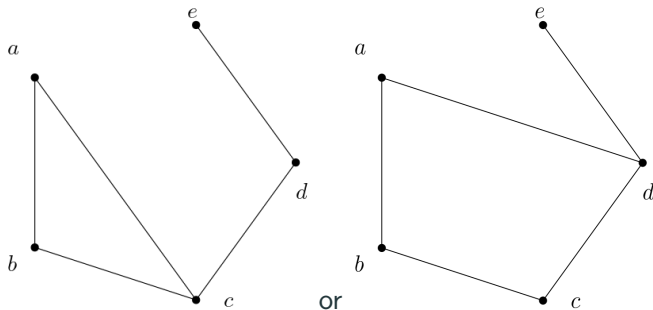
Example

Is $d = (3, 2, 2, 2, 1)$ graphic?



Example

Is $d = (3, 2, 2, 2, 1)$ graphic?



Theorem (Erdős and Gallai [EG60])

A non-decreasing sequence $d = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ of natural numbers is graphic if and only if

1. $\sum_{i=1}^n d_i$ is even, and
2. For every $1 \leq k \leq n$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^k d_i \leq k(k-1) + \sum_{i=k+1}^n \min\{d_i, k\}$$

- Erdős–Gallai gives a simple poly-time criterion;

- Erdős–Gallai gives a simple poly-time criterion;
- Many variations of the problem have been considered;

- Erdős–Gallai gives a simple poly-time criterion;
- Many variations of the problem have been considered;
- Vertex degree = size of trivial edge cut;

- Erdős–Gallai gives a simple poly-time criterion;
- Many variations of the problem have been considered;
- Vertex degree = size of trivial edge cut;
- We generalize this by adding nontrivial cut-size constraints.

A k -factor of a graph G is a k -regular spanning subgraph of G .

A k -factor of a graph G is a k -regular spanning subgraph of G .

A matching is a 1-factor.

A spanning subgraph H of G is a f -factor, where $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, if

$$d_H(v) = f(v) \text{ for all } v \in V.$$

A spanning subgraph H of G is a f -factor, where $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, if
$$d_H(v) = f(v) \text{ for all } v \in V.$$

f -factors can be found in cubic time [Ans85].

Nontrivial Cut Constraints

Fixed a graph $G = (V, E)$ where $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

Fixed a graph $G = (V, E)$ where $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

- A *cut list* is a list of pairs $\mathcal{L} = \{(S_1, \ell_1), \dots, (S_m, \ell_m)\}$;

Fixed a graph $G = (V, E)$ where $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

- A *cut list* is a list of pairs $\mathcal{L} = \{(S_1, \ell_1), \dots, (S_m, \ell_m)\}$;
- For each j we have $\emptyset \neq S_j \subsetneq V$ and $\ell_j \in \mathbb{N}$;

Fixed a graph $G = (V, E)$ where $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

- A *cut list* is a list of pairs $\mathcal{L} = \{(S_1, \ell_1), \dots, (S_m, \ell_m)\}$;
- For each j we have $\emptyset \neq S_j \subsetneq V$ and $\ell_j \in \mathbb{N}$;
- G *realizes* \mathcal{L} if $|\partial(S_j)| = \ell_j$ for every $(S_j, \ell_j) \in \mathcal{L}$;

Fixed a graph $G = (V, E)$ where $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$

- A *cut list* is a list of pairs $\mathcal{L} = \{(S_1, \ell_1), \dots, (S_m, \ell_m)\}$;
- For each j we have $\emptyset \neq S_j \subsetneq V$ and $\ell_j \in \mathbb{N}$;
- G *realizes* \mathcal{L} if $|\partial(S_j)| = \ell_j$ for every $(S_j, \ell_j) \in \mathcal{L}$;
- By $w(\mathcal{L})$ we denote $\max_j |S_j|$.

New Graph Realization Problem

GRAPH REALIZATION WITH CUT CONSTRAINTS (GR-C)

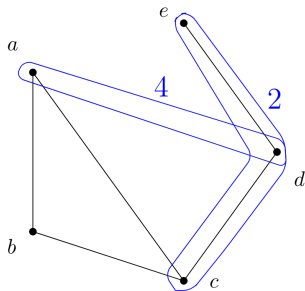
Input: A cut list \mathcal{L} for a set of vertices $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$, and a non-decreasing sequence $\mathbf{d} = (d_1, \dots, d_n)$ of natural numbers.

Question: Does there exist a simple graph $G = (V, E)$ such that, for every j , $d(v_j) = d_j$ and G realizes \mathcal{L} ?

Consider $d = (3, 2, 2, 2, 1)$ and $\mathcal{L} = \{(\{a, d\}, 4), (\{c, d, e\}, 2)\}$:

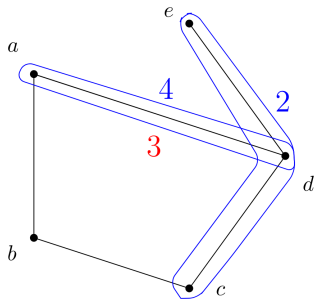
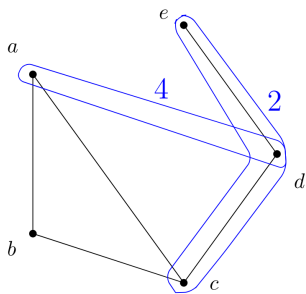
Running Example

Consider $d = (3, 2, 2, 2, 1)$ and $\mathcal{L} = \{(\{a, d\}, 4), (\{c, d, e\}, 2)\}$:



Running Example

Consider $d = (3, 2, 2, 2, 1)$ and $\mathcal{L} = \{(\{a, d\}, 4), (\{c, d, e\}, 2)\}$:



- If $\mathcal{L} = \emptyset$, we have the classic realization problem;

- If $\mathcal{L} = \emptyset$, we have the classic realization problem;
- We can see GR-C as a consistency check for cut-queries in learning an unknown graph.

For $S \subseteq V$ let $d(S) = \sum_{u \in S} d(u)$.

For $S \subseteq V$ let $d(S) = \sum_{u \in S} d(u)$.

Remark (1)

An instance (d, \mathcal{L}) is true only if, for each $(S, \ell) \in \mathcal{L}$, $\ell \in \{d(S) - 2k \mid 0 \leq k \leq \binom{|S|}{2}\}$.

Nontrivial Cut Constraints

Small Cuts

For a solution G if $(\{u, v\}, d(u) + d(v) - 2) \in \mathcal{L}$ then $uv \in E(G)$.

For a solution G if $(\{u, v\}, d(u) + d(v)) \in \mathcal{L}$ then $uv \notin E(G)$.

Replace $(\{u, v\}, d(u) + d(v) - 2)$ by $(\{u, v\}, d(u) + d(v))$ while updating d .

Let F be the set of forbidden edges.

Let F be the set of forbidden edges.

Then we call $\mathcal{G} = K_n - F$ the *possibility graph*.

We can reduce GR-C to f -factor!

We can reduce GR-C to f -factor!

Lemma (1)

An instance (d, \mathcal{L}) of GR-C can be solved in polynomial time whenever $w(\mathcal{L}) = 2$.

We can reduce to the previous case!

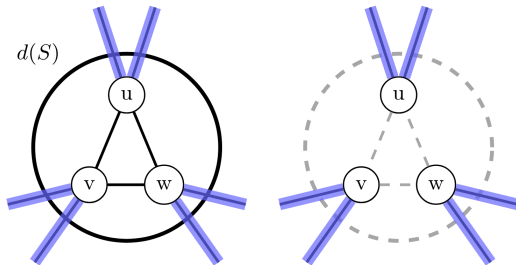
We can reduce to the previous case!

Theorem (1)

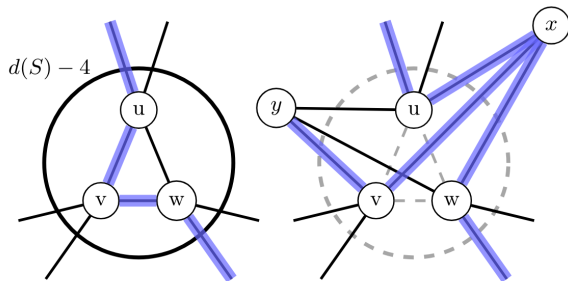
An instance (d, \mathcal{L}) of GR-C can be solved in polynomial time whenever $w(\mathcal{L}) = 3$.

Consider a cut $(S, \ell) \in \mathcal{L}$ where $S = \{u, v, w\}$.

Case $\ell = d(S)$



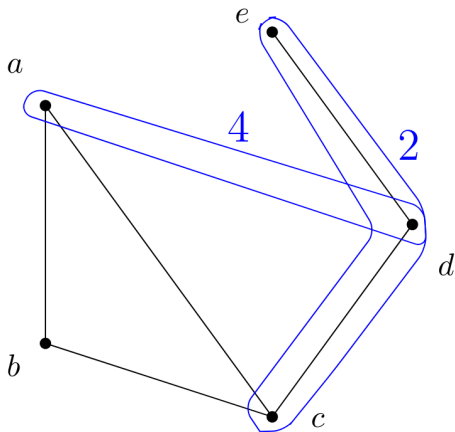
Case $\ell = d(S) - 4$



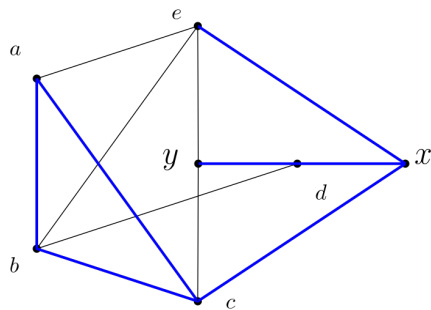
$$\ell = d(S) - 2 \text{ or } \ell = d(S) - 6$$

Running Example

$d = (3, 2, 2, 2, 1)$ and $\mathcal{L} = \{(\{a, d\}, 4), (\{c, d, e\}, 2)\}$:



Equivalent f -factor instance:



Nontrivial Cut Constraints

Large Cuts

Can we keep doing a case-by-case analysis?

Can we keep doing a case-by-case analysis?

No, we cannot, as the GR-C becomes hard!

For $S \in \binom{V}{3}$, the edges within S determine how degrees change.

For $S \in \binom{V}{3}$, the edges within S determine how degrees change.

In contrast, when $S \in \binom{V}{4}$, this claim does not hold anymore.

Theorem (2)

The GR-C problem cannot be solved in polynomial time unless $P = NP$ even when $w(\mathcal{L}) = 4$ and all degrees in the degree sequence d are 1.

Reduction from k -True 1-in-3-SAT_(2,1)

1-IN-3-SAT_(2,1)

Input: A set of variables X and a formula ϕ in conjunctive normal form over X such that:

each variable of X occurs twice as a positive literal and once as a negative literal;

each clause of ϕ has two or three literals.

Question: Is there a truth assignment of X such that exactly one literal in every clause of ϕ is true?

Lemma (2)

1-in-3-SAT_(2,1) is NP-complete.

k -TRUE 1-IN-3-SAT_(2,1)

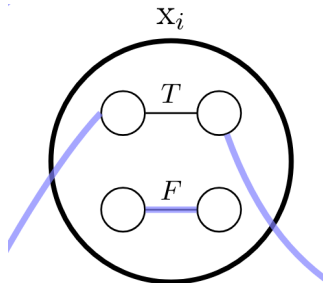
Input: A tuple (X, ϕ, k) , where (X, ϕ) is an instance of 1-in-3-SAT_(2,1) and k is a nonnegative integer.

Question: Is there a feasible solution to (X, ϕ) in which exactly k variables are assigned to true?

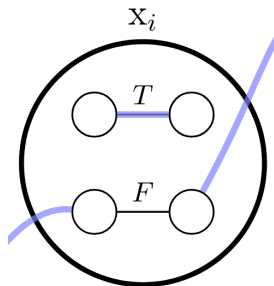
Lemma (3)

$k\text{-True 1-in-3-SAT}_{(2,1)}$ cannot be solved in polynomial time unless $P = NP$.

Variable Gadget

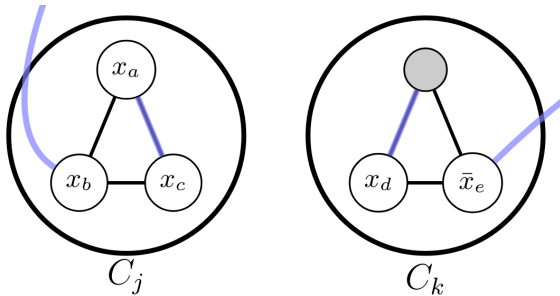


Variable Gadget



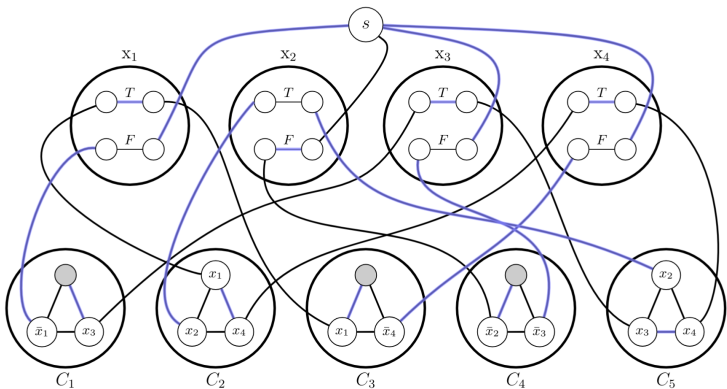
Clause Gadget

$$C_j = (x_a + x_b + x_c) \text{ and } C_k = (x_d + \bar{x}_e)$$



Complete Example

$(\bar{x}_1 + x_3)(x_1 + x_2 + x_4)(x_1 + \bar{x}_4)(\bar{x}_2 + \bar{x}_3)(x_2 + x_3 + x_4)$ and $k = 1$



Conclusion

Proposition (1)

Given an instance (d, \mathcal{L}) of GR-C with a tree possibility graph \mathcal{G} , we can decide if there is a solution in polynomial time.

Theorem (3)

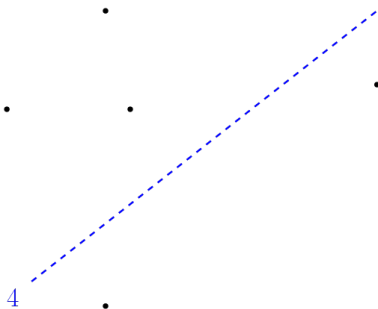
The GR-C problem is NP-complete when the possibility graph \mathcal{G} is subcubic and bipartite, even when $w(\mathcal{L}) = 6$ and \mathcal{d} is a sequence of ones.

\mathcal{G} is planar or has bounded treewidth

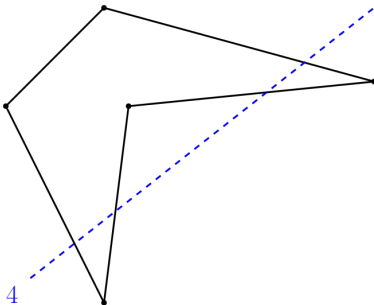
The size of \mathcal{L} is small (like $|\mathcal{L}| = 1$)

Complexity of 1-in-3 SAT_(2,2)

Geometric version of GR-C



Polygon Realization with Cut Constraints



Thank you all for the attention...

The End

Bibliography

- [Ans85] R.P Anstee.
An algorithmic proof of tutte's f-factor theorem.
Journal of Algorithms, 6(1):112–131, 1985.
- [EG60] Paul Erdős and Tibor Gallai.
Gráfok előírt fokszámú pontokkal.
Matematikai Lapok, 11:264–274, 1960.