

# Adjacency labeling schemes for sparse and power law graphs.

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## Abstract

We discuss adjacency labeling schemes for power-law graphs. These are a sub-family of sparse graphs that received a considerable attention in the literature in the last decade. We first find a lower bound for the size of the induced universal graphs required to each of the families. We then provide a constructive upper bound for these induced universal graphs using adjacency labeling schemes of similar asymptotic size.

## 1 Introduction

Power-law graphs appear in vast number of places. The number of nodes in power-law graphs seen in practice is of magnitude of  $10^{12}$ . A label of  $\sqrt{10^{12}}$  bits is reasonable to handle given the current state of hardware.

### 1.1 Previous work

A graph  $G$  is universal, respectively induced universal to the graph family  $\mathcal{F}$  if it contains all graphs in  $\mathcal{F}$  as subgraphs, respectively induced subgraphs. Kannan, Naor and Rudich [4] showed that an adjacency labeling scheme of  $f(n)$  bits for some family of graphs can construct an induced universal graph for this family of  $2^{f(n)}$  vertices. The size of the smallest induced universal graph was first studied by Moon [5]. Seen from labelling schemes, he showed a lower bound of  $n/2$  on the label size for general graphs, and an upper bound of  $n/2 + \log n$ . This gap was recently closed by Alstrup et al. [2]. Universal graphs for sparse graphs were investigated first by Babai et al. [3] and improved by Alon and Asodi [1].

*Remark 1.* Let  $N$  be the smallest number of nodes in the an induced universal graph  $G = (V, E)$  for a family  $\mathcal{F}$  of graphs with  $n$  vertices . If this family contains no isomorphic graphs, then  $\binom{N}{n}$  is clearly an upper bound on  $|\mathcal{F}|$ .

## 2 Preliminaries

In the following we deal with  $n$ -vertex undirected finite and connected graphs. A graph  $G = (V, E)$  is *sparse* if  $|E| = O(n)$ , and an  $n$ -vertex graph with at most  $cn$  edges is called  $c$ -sparse. We denote the family of  $c$ -sparse graphs with  $n$  nodes as  $\mathcal{S}_C$ . The degree of a vertex  $v$  in a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is denoted by  $\Delta(v)$ . For every  $1 \leq k \leq n$  the collection of vertices of degree  $k$  is denoted  $V_k$ . We begin by a definition relating to the fraction of vertices of a certain degree.

**Definition 1.** *The degree distribution of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is the mapping  $\text{ddist}_G : \mathbb{N}_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$  defined by  $\text{ddist}_G(k) := \frac{|V_k|}{n}$ .*

We also define a family of graphs where this fraction exponentially decreases as the degree increases.

**Definition 2.** *We say that a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a  $(C, \alpha)$  power-law graph if for every  $1 \leq i \leq n$ :  $n \cdot \text{ddist}_G(k) = \lfloor C \frac{n}{i^\alpha} \rfloor$  for some real numbers  $C > 0, \alpha > 1$ .*

By this definition:

$$|E| = \sum_{i=1}^n i \lfloor C \frac{n}{i^\alpha} \rfloor = \sum_{i=1}^n \lfloor C \frac{n}{i^{\alpha-1}} \rfloor.$$

Since  $\sum_{i=1}^n 1/i^a$  converges when  $a > 1$ , all power law graphs where  $\alpha > 2$  are sparse. Moreover, for  $\alpha > 3$ , a  $(C, \alpha)$  power law graph is  $2C$  sparse<sup>1</sup>. We denote  $\mathcal{P}_{C,\alpha}$  the family of power law graphs with  $n$  nodes, and parameters  $C$  and  $\alpha$ .

We also ignore rounding and remark the two following equalities.

1.  $\text{ddist}_G(k) = \frac{C}{k^\alpha}$
2.  $|V_k| = \frac{nC}{k^\alpha}$ .

## 3 The Labeling Schemes

We first handle sparse graphs.

**Proposition 1.** *There exist a  $\sqrt{2cn} \log n + \log n$  adjacency labeling scheme for  $\mathcal{S}_c$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a  $c$ -sparse graph. We first assign each vertex  $v \in V$  a unique identifier  $ID(v)$ , using  $\log n$  bits. A vertex of degree at least  $\sqrt{2cn}$  is called *fat* and *thin* otherwise. From hereon, we use the terminology degree threshold to describe the value separating these two groups. The first bit of  $\mathcal{L}(v), v \in V$  is set to zero if  $v$  is fat and to one if it is thin. Since there are at most  $2cn$  edges, the number of fat vertices is at most  $\sqrt{2cn}$ . Let  $(u, v)$  be an edge in  $G$  such that  $ID(u) < ID(v)$ . If  $u$  and  $v$  are both either thin or fat  $ID(v)$

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<sup>1</sup>It is in fact  $\frac{\pi^2}{6}C \sim 1.64C$  sparse, which is the result of  $\zeta(2)$ , the Riemman Zeta function.

will appear in  $\mathcal{L}(u)$  and vice versa. If  $u$  is fat and  $v$  is thin,  $ID(u)$  will appear in  $ID(v)$ . Since there are at most  $\sqrt{2cn}$  fat vertices, the size of the largest label is bounded by  $\sqrt{2cn} \log n + \log n$ . Similarly, thin vertices enjoy the same label size as they have at degree at most  $\sqrt{2cn}$ . Decoding the label is now obvious, and will take  $O(\sqrt{n})$  operations.  $\square$

*Remark 2.* It is easy to see that  $f(n)$ -sparse graphs<sup>2</sup> enjoy a  $\sqrt{2f(n)n} \log n$  labeling scheme by setting the degree threshold to  $\sqrt{2f(n)n}$ .

Recall that  $\mathcal{P}_{C,\alpha} \in \mathcal{S}_{2C}$  when  $\alpha \geq 2$ . This yields a  $\sqrt{4Cn} \log n$  labeling scheme for  $\mathcal{P}_{C,\alpha}$ . We now show that this label can be significantly improved. To do so we first need to account for the number of vertices of degree at least  $k$  for any  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be a mapping such that  $f(n) = o(n)$ . Let  $C > 0$  and  $\alpha > 1$  be real numbers. Then there is  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that if  $G$  is a power-law graph with  $\text{ddist}_G(k) = Ck^{-\alpha}$  and at least  $N$  vertices, then the fraction of vertices in  $G$  with degree at least  $f(n) + 1$  is bounded above by  $O(f(n)^{-(\alpha-1)})$ .*

*Proof.* For  $1 \leq j \leq n-1$ , the fraction of vertices of degree at least  $j$  is  $C \sum_{i=j}^{n-1} 1/i^\alpha$ . Note that  $d/dx(Cx^{-\alpha}) = -\alpha Cx^{-(\alpha+1)} < 0$  and thus for all  $j \geq 1$  we have  $\int_j^{j+1} Cx^{-\alpha} dx > C(j+1)^{-\alpha}$ . Hence, the fraction of vertices of degree at least  $j+1$  is at most

$$\int_j^{n-1} Cx^{-\alpha} dx = \left[ \frac{C}{-(\alpha-1)} x^{-(\alpha-1)} \right]_j^{n-1} = \frac{C}{\alpha-1} \left( j^{-(\alpha-1)} - (n-1)^{-(\alpha-1)} \right)$$

In particular, the fraction of vertices of degree at least  $f(n) + 1$  is at most  $\frac{C}{\alpha-1} (f(n)^{-(\alpha-1)} - (n-1)^{-(\alpha-1)}) \leq \frac{C}{\alpha-1} f(n)^{-(\alpha-1)} = O(f(n)^{-(\alpha-1)})$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be a computable mapping such that  $f(n) = o(n)$  and let  $C > 0, \alpha > 1$  be real numbers. Then the family of power-law graphs with  $\text{ddist}_G(k) = Ck^{-\alpha}$  has a adjacency labeling scheme such that for all sufficiently large  $n$ , the maximum size of a label is bounded above by:*

$$\log n + \max(f(n) \log n, O(n/f(n)^{\alpha-1})).$$

*Proof.* We set the degree threshold at  $f(n)$ . By that we mean that a vertex  $v \in V$  is *small* if  $\Delta(v) \leq f(n)$  and *large* otherwise. By Proposition 2 there are at most  $c'n/f(n)^{\alpha-1}$  large vertices for some  $c'$ . We assign each vertex a unique identifier from  $1 \dots n$ , such that the large vertices are assigned the last  $c'n/f(n)^{\alpha-1}$  identifiers according to their degree in non-decreasing order.

The label of a small vertex consists of two parts: its unique identifier and a list of the identifiers of all its neighbors. The size of such label is thus at most  $(f(n) + 1) \log n$ . The label of a large vertex consists also of two parts: a unique identifier and a bit string of length  $c' \cdot n \cdot f(n)^{-(\alpha-1)}$  such that position  $i$  is 1 in

<sup>2</sup>Graphs with  $n$  vertices and  $f(n)$  edges

this bit string if the vertex is adjacent to the  $i$ 'th largest large vertex. The size of a such label is at most  $c' \cdot n/f(n)^{\alpha+1} + \log n$ .

Let  $\mathcal{L}(v), \mathcal{L}(w)$  be two labels assigned by our suggested decoder to vertices  $v, w \in V$ . If  $v$  and  $w$  are both small or both large, then there is an edge from  $v$  to  $w$  if and only if  $w$  is listed in the label of  $v$  and vice versa. Assume w.l.o.g that  $v$  is small and  $w$  is large, then there is an edge from  $v$  to  $w$  if and only if  $w$  is listed in the label of  $w$   $\square$

From Lemma 1 it follows that the smallest label size is attained when  $f(n) \log n = c'n/f(n)^{\alpha-1}$  for some constant  $c'$ . We rearrange the equation and get  $f(n)^\alpha = c'n$  and thus the optimum label size occurs when  $f(n) = \sqrt[\alpha]{c'n}$ , and the resulting label size is  $O(\sqrt[\alpha]{n} \log n)$ .

This also means that there are  $O(\sqrt[\alpha]{n})$  large vertices, which correlates nicely with the following fact. The largest degree in an  $(\alpha, C)$ -power law graph is bounded by  $O(\sqrt[\alpha]{n})$ . To see this observe that the number of vertices of degree  $k$  must to be at least 1. Thus  $nC \frac{1}{k^\alpha} \geq 1$ , which implies that  $k \leq \sqrt[\alpha]{nC}$  for some constant  $C$ .

**Conjecture 1.** *Any family of graphs such that  $\text{ddist}(k)$  has “high” positive skewness will have labeling schemes for adjacency with sublinear maximum labeling size. A reasonable way forward would be to consider the third moment of some standard distributions and see what happens.*

## 4 Lower Bounds

We begin this section by showing that the upper bounds achieved for sparse graphs are fairly close to the best possible. By Moon [5] it follows that any adjacency labeling scheme for general graphs requires at least  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  bits. For brevity, we assume now that  $n$  is an even number. We present the following extension, due to Spinard [6].

**Proposition 3.** *Any adjacency labeling scheme for  $c$ -sparse graphs requires labels of size strictly larger than  $\frac{\sqrt{n}}{2\sqrt{c}}$  bits.*

*Proof.* Assume for contradiction that there exist a labeling scheme for adjacency assigning labels of size strictly less than  $\frac{\sqrt{n}}{2\sqrt{c}}$ . Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertices graph. Let  $G'$  be the graph resulting by adding  $\frac{n(n-1)}{c}$  isolated vertices to  $G$ , and note that now  $G'$  is  $c$ -sparse. The graph  $G$  is an induced subgraph of  $G'$ . It now follows that the nodes of  $G$  have adjacency labels of size less than  $\frac{\sqrt{n^2/c}}{2\sqrt{c}} = n/2$  bits. As  $G$  was an arbitrary graph, we obtain a contradiction.  $\square$

### 4.1 Lower bounds for $\mathcal{P}_{C,\alpha}$ .

We now show that a similar lower bound can be attained for power-law graphs where  $\alpha > 2$ . To do so, we first must argue that constructing power law graphs in this fashion is possible.

A *degree sequence* is a sequence of integers  $d_1 \dots d_n$  such that  $0 \leq d_i \leq n-1$ . We denote  $v_1 \dots v_n$  the vertices of a graph  $G = (V, E)$  in non-increasing order according to their degree. We denote  $v_i \in V$  the  $i$ 'th vertex in this ordering. The *degree sequence* of  $G$  is  $d_1 \geq d_2 \dots \geq d_n$  where  $d_i$  is the degree of  $v_i$ . While every graph has a degree sequence, not all degree sequences have graphs. We say that a degree sequence is *realizable* if it has a corresponding graph. The *Erdős-Gallai theorem* [4] states the following: A degree sequence  $d_1 \dots d_n$  is realizable if and only if:

1. For every  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ :  $\sum_{i=1}^k d_i \leq k(k-1) + \sum_{i=k+1}^n \min\{k, d_i\}$ .
2.  $\sum_{i=1}^n d_i$  is even.

We now show the following:

**Lemma 2.** *Any degree sequence  $d_1 \geq d_2 \dots \geq d_n$  that abides to an  $(\alpha, C)$  power-law distribution is realizable.*

*Proof.* First, since graphs in  $\mathcal{P}_{C,\alpha}$  are sparse, for every  $k > O(\sqrt[n]{n})$  the condition holds trivially by observing that  $k(k+1) > O(n)$ . The maximum degree of a vertex in a power law graph is  $O(\sqrt[n]{n})$ . When  $k \leq O(\sqrt[n]{n})$ , and since  $\alpha > 2$  we have that:

$$\sum_{i=1}^k d_i < O(\sqrt[n]{n} \sqrt[n]{n}) = O(n^{2/\alpha}) = o(n).$$

It is easy to see that in this case  $\sum_{i=k+1}^n \min\{k, d_i\} = O(n)$ , and thus the inequality holds.

Finally, if  $\sum_{i=1}^n d_i$  is not even we add a single edge to the graph.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** *Any  $n$  vertices graph  $G = (V, E)$  can be extended to an  $N = cn^{\alpha+1}$  vertices graph  $G' = (V', E')$  where  $G' \in \mathcal{P}_{C,\alpha}$ , such that  $G$  is an induced sub-graph of  $G'$ .*

*Proof.* The number of vertices with degree at least  $n$  in  $G'$  is  $O(\frac{N}{n^\alpha}) = O(n)$ . By Lemma 2, we can create  $G'$  by first inserting the degree sequence corresponding to the vertices of  $G$ , and then complete the power law distribution naively.  $\square$

We can now conclude with our lower bound:

**Proposition 4.** *Any adjacency labeling scheme for  $\mathcal{P}_{C,\alpha}$  requires least  $O(\sqrt[n]{n})$  bits.*

*Proof.* Assume for contradiction that there exist a labeling scheme for adjacency assigning labels of size at most  $o(\sqrt[n]{n}/c)$  bits. Let  $G$  be a graph of  $n$ -vertices. We now construct the graph  $G'$  as described in Lemma 3. The graph  $G$  can be reconstructed by an adjacency labeling scheme for adjacency for  $G'$  using only the labels of vertices belonging to  $G$  inside  $G'$ . By the assumption, there is thus a labeling of  $G'$  using  $o(\sqrt[n]{n^{\alpha+1}}) = o(n)$  bits. As  $G$  is an arbitrary graph, we obtain a contradiction.

## 4.2 Constructive models and the implication of the lower bound.

The two most used power-law constructors are Waxman [1] and N-level Hierarchical [2]. The Barabasi-Albert model generates power-law graphs, such that given a parameter  $m$ , vertices are inserted to an initially empty graph and attached to at most  $m$  existing vertices according to a power-law distribution. We now prove that the constructions by Waxman and Barabasi-Albert can not possibly construct all power-law graphs.

It is easy to see that graphs constructed by the Barabasi-Albert model has an  $m \log n$  adjacency labeling scheme. Upon vertex insertion, simply store the identifiers of all vertices attached. This along with proposition 4 suggests that there are a lot more power-law graphs than ones that can be created by preferential attachment, as in the Barabasi-Albert model.

□

## References

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