# Rainbow Connection and minimum degree

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**Rainbow** Colourings

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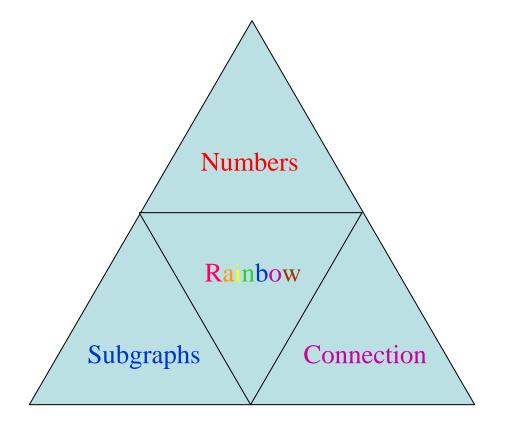
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An edge-coloured graph G is called rainbow connected if any two vertices are connected by a path whose edges have distinct colours. This concept of rainbow connection in graphs was recently introduced by Chartrand, Johns, McKeon, and Zhang.

The rainbow connection number of a connected graph G, denoted rc(G), is the smallest number of colours that are needed in order to make G rainbow connected.

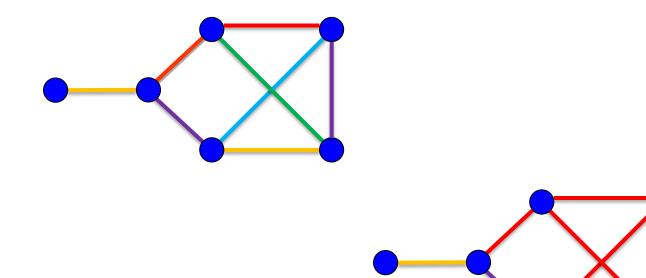
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Rainbow connection has an interesting application for the secure transfer of classified information between agencies. While the information needs to be protected since it relates to national security, there must also be procedures that permit access between appropriate parties. This two-fold issue can be addressed by assigning information transfer paths between agencies which may have other agencies as intermediaries while requiring a large enough number of passwords and firewalls that is prohibitive to intruders, yet small enough to manage (that is, enough so that one or more paths between every pair of agencies have no password repeated).

An immediate question arises:

What is the minimum number of passwords or firewalls needed that allows one or more secure paths between every two agencies so that the passwords along each path are distinct?





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- The computational complexity has been studied by Chakraborty, Fischer, Matsliah and Yuster (STACS 2009) and by Le and Tuza (2009).
- The computation of rc(G) is NP-hard.
- It is NP-complete to decide if rc(G) = 2.
- It is NP-complete to decide whether a given edgecoloured (with an unbounded number of colours) graph is rainbow-connected.

#### **Results:**

 $1 \le \operatorname{rc}(G) \le n - 1$   $\operatorname{rc}(G) = 1 \quad \text{if and only if G is a clique}$   $\operatorname{rc}(G) = n - 1 \quad \text{if and only if G is a tree}$   $\operatorname{rc}(G) \ge \operatorname{diam}(G)$  $\operatorname{rc}(C_k) = \left\lceil \frac{k}{2} \right\rceil \text{ for } k \ge 4$ 

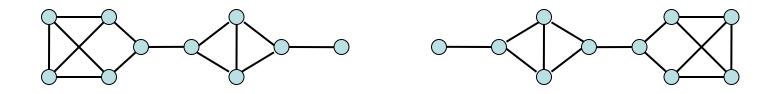
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- There are graphs with minimum degree 2 and with rc(G) = n - 3.
- Theorem (Krivelevich and Yuster, 2010) If G is a connected graph then  $rc(G) < \frac{20n}{s}$ .
- Theorem (Caro et al. 2008)
   If G is a connected graph with minimum degree
   δ(G) then rc(G) ≤ n δ.

Theorem (Caro et al. 2008) If G is a connected graph with minimum degree  $\delta(G) \ge 3$  then  $\operatorname{rc}(G) < \frac{5n}{6}$ . Conjecture If G is a connected graph with minimum degree  $\delta(G) \ge 3$  then  $\operatorname{rc}(G) < \frac{3n}{4}$ .

Conjecture became Theorem IWOCA 2009



 $G_{4k+10}$  is 3 - regular, has order n = 4k + 10and rc \* ( $G_{4k+10}$ ) = rc( $G_{4k+10}$ ) = diam ( $G_{4k+10}$ ) =  $\frac{3n - 10}{4}$ .

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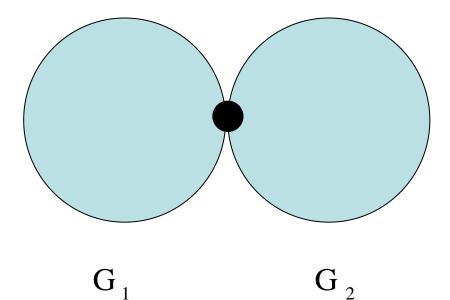
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#### Proposition

Let G be a 2-connected graph with n vertices and degree sequence  $2 \le d_1 \le d_2 \le ... \le d_n$ . If  $d_3 \ge 3$ , then  $rc(G) \le \frac{3n - 4}{4}$ .

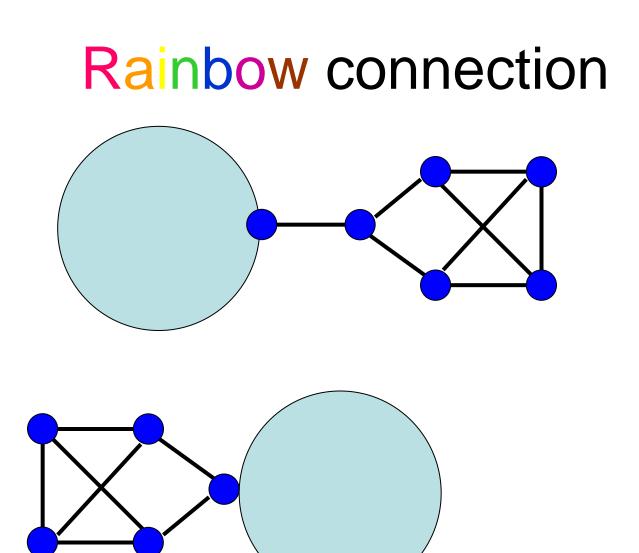
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- Theorem (Krivelevich and Yuster, 2010) If G is a connected graph then  $rc(G) < \frac{20n}{\delta}$ .
- Theorem (S., 2010) If G is a connected graph with minimum degree  $\delta(G)$  then  $rc(G) \leq \frac{4}{\delta(G)+1}n + 4$ .

#### Problem

For every  $k \ge 2$  find a minimal constant  $c_k$  with  $0 < c_k \le 1$  such that  $rc(G) \le c_k \cdot n$  for all graphs G with minimum degree  $\delta(G) \ge k$ . Is it true that

$$c_k = \frac{3}{k+1}$$
 for all  $k \ge 2$ ?  
This is true for  $k = 2, 3$ .

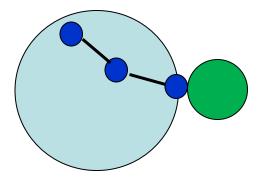
#### Problem

For every k,  $1 \le k \le n - 1$ , compute and minimize a function f(n,k) with the following property:

If  $| E(G) | \ge f(n, k)$ , then  $rc(G) \le k$ .

#### Proposition

$$f(n, k) \ge {n - k + 1 \choose 2} + (k - 1)$$



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#### Proposition

$$f(n, n - 1) = n - 1,$$
  

$$f(n, n - 2) = n,$$
  

$$f(n,2) = {n - 1 \choose 2} + 1,$$
  

$$f(n,1) = {n \choose 2}.$$

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A graph G is called **rainbow** k-connected, if there is an edge-colouring of G with k colours such that G is rainbow connected.

For an integer  $n \ge 3$  and  $1 \le k \le n-1$  let t(n,k) denote the minimum size of a graph G of order n, which is rainbow k-connected.

#### Theorem 2010

$$\begin{split} t(n,1) &= \binom{n}{2}, \\ t(n,2) &\leq \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor (n+1) - 2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1} + 2, \\ t(n,3) &\leq 2n - 5, \\ t(n,k) &\leq n - 1 + \left\lceil \frac{n-2}{k-2} \right\rceil \text{ for } 4 \leq k \leq \frac{n-1}{2}, \\ t(n,k) &= n \text{ for } \frac{n}{2} \leq k \leq n - 2, \\ t(n,n-1) &= n - 1. \end{split}$$

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**Open Problem** 

Is  $t(n,2) = \lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor (n+1) - 2^{\lfloor \log_2 n \rfloor + 1} + c?$ 

Theorem Kostochka, Łuzcak, Simonyi and Sopena, 1997

 $t(n,2) \leq \lceil \log_2 n \rceil (n - \lceil \log_2 n \rceil) \text{ for n large.}$ 

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