

AD/A-005 418

GRAPHS WITH DEGREES FROM PRESCRIBED
INTERVALS

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Prepared for:

Office of Naval Research

January 1975

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER Technical Report No. 248	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER AD/A-005418
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) GRAPHS WITH DEGREES FROM PRESCRIBED INTERVALS		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED
7. AUTHOR(s) Michael Koren		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER Technical Report No. 248
		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) N00014-67-A-0077-0014
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Department of Operations Research Cornell University Ithaca, New York 14853		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS Operations Research Program Office of Naval Research Arlington, Virginia 22217		12. REPORT DATE January 1975
		13. NUMBER OF PAGES 16
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified
		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Graphs, realizations		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of simple graphs with degrees from prescribed intervals, are given.		

DD FORM 1473
1 JAN 73

EDITION OF 1 NOV 65 IS OBSOLETE
S/N 0102-014-6601

Unclassified

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

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DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS RESEARCH
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 248

January 1975

GRAPHS WITH DEGREES FROM PRESCRIBED INTERVALS*

by

Michael Koren

* Supported by the Office of Naval Research under contract N00014-67-A-0077-0014.

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Abstract

Necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of simple graphs with degrees from prescribed intervals, are given.

1. Introduction

All graphs in this paper are finite and have no loops and no multiple edges. For undefined terms see [4].

The degree, $d(p) = d(p, G)$ of a vertex p in an undirected graph G , is the number of edges of G , incident with p . The outdegree $d^+(p, D)$ (indegree $d^-(p, D)$) of a vertex p in a directed graph D , is the number of edges of D , having p as an initial (terminal) vertex.

Using flows, L. R. Ford and D. R. Fulkerson [2, Theorem 11.1] give necessary and sufficient conditions under which a directed graph D has a subgraph whose outdegrees and indegrees lie in prescribed intervals. The aim of this paper is to study analogue conditions for undirected graphs.

2. Notation

A graph is considered to be undirected unless otherwise specified. All graphs in this paper have the same set of vertices $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$. A graph G is identified with its set of edges; for example, the complete graph on n vertices is $K_n = \{(p_i, p_j) | 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$.

Definition: A semi-graph W is a function from the edges of K_n into $\{0, \frac{1}{2}, 1\}$. The degree of a vertex p in a semi-graph W is $d(p, W) = \sum_{i=1}^n W(p, p_i)$.

A semi-graph W is a semi-subgraph of a graph G if $(p_i, p_j) \in G \Rightarrow W(p_i, p_j) = 0$.

Notation: Throughout, ϕ and ψ will denote two sequences $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ and $(b_1, \dots, b_n)$, respectively, of non-negative integers, such that $a_i \leq b_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$.

Definition: A graph H (semi-graph H) is a $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization (semi- $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization) if $a_i \leq d(p_i, H) \leq b_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. A $[\phi, \psi]$ -factor

(semi- $[\phi, \psi]$ -factor), of a given graph G , is a subgraph (semi-subgraph) of G which is a $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization (semi- $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization). The prefix $[\phi, \psi]$ - will sometimes be omitted.

Definition: For a directed graph D , and a set $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$, $\delta^+(p, S)$ is the number of edges of D , going from p to a vertex in $S^* = \{p_i | i \in S\}$, and $\delta^-(p, S)$ is the number of edges of D , going from a vertex of S^* to p . Similarly, for a graph G , $\delta(p, S)$ is the number of edges of G , connecting p to vertices in S^* .

3. Weighted subgraphs

We will need the following known theorem:

Theorem 3.1: [2, Theorem 11.1]. Suppose D is a directed graph on n vertices $v_1, \dots, v_n$, and numbers a_i, b_i, a'_i, b'_i are given ($i = 1, \dots, n$), such that $a_i \leq b_i, a'_i \leq b'_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Then D has a subgraph E for which

$$a_i \leq d^+(v_i, E) \leq b_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, n) \quad (3.1)$$

and

$$a'_i \leq d^-(v_i, E) \leq b'_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, n) \quad (3.2)$$

if and only if for all $S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$

$$\sum_{i \in S} a_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \min[b'_j, \delta^+(v_j, S)] \quad (3.3)$$

and

$$\sum_{i \in S} a_i' \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \min[b_j, \delta^-(v_j, S)]. \quad (3.4)$$

Lemma 3.1: If $S, T \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$, and $S \cap T = \emptyset$, then for any graph G

$$\sum_{i \in S} d(p_i, G) \leq \sum_{i \in T} d(p_i, G) + s(n-1-t),$$

where s and t are the cardinalities of S and T , respectively.

Proof: Because G is simple,

$$\sum_{i \in S} d(p_i, G) - s(s-1) \leq \text{Card}\{(p_i, p_j) \in G \mid i \in S, j \notin S\}$$

$$\leq \sum_{i \notin S} \min(s, d(p_i, G)) \leq \sum_{i \in T} d(p_i, G) + s(n-s-t).$$

Lemma 3.2: (Compare [5, Lemma 2.2]). Let W be a semi-graph, and let $S \neq \emptyset$ and T be two disjoint subsets of $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then, if

$$i \in S, j \in N-T \Rightarrow W(p_i, p_j) = 1 \quad (3.5)$$

and

$$i \in T, j \in N-S \Rightarrow W(p_i, p_j) = 0, \quad (3.6)$$

then

$$\sum_{i \in S} d(p_i, W) = \sum_{i \in T} d(p_i, W) + s(n-1-t). \quad (3.7)$$

Proof: By condition (3.5), $\sum_{i \in S} d(p_i, W) - s(s-1) = \sum_{\substack{i \in S \\ j \in N-S}} W(p_i, p_j)$, and by condition (3.6), the last sum is equal to

$$\sum_{\substack{i \in S \\ j \in T}} W(p_i, p_j) + s(n-s-t) = \sum_{i \in T} d(p_i, W) + s(n-s-t).$$

Definition: Let $C = [p_{i_1}, \dots, p_{i_\ell}]$ be a path or a cycle in a semi-graph W , such that $W = \frac{1}{2}$ on all its edges. Alternating C will mean the changing of W on C , by alternatively adding and subtracting $\frac{1}{2}$ along C . In a positive (negative) alternation we begin at p_{i_1} , (or at another specified vertex), by adding (subtracting) $\frac{1}{2}$.

Remark: If C is a path, then $d(p_{i_1}, W)$ and $d(p_{i_\ell}, W)$ will be changed by $\frac{1}{2}$, by an alternation. If C is an odd cycle, i.e. cycle with odd number of edges, then $d(p_{i_1}, W)$ will be increased, or decreased by 1, depending on whether the alternation is positive or negative. In any alternation, W becomes integral on C , and the degrees of $p_{i_2}, \dots, p_{i_{\ell-1}}$ do not change. If C is even, i.e. C has even number of edges, then the degree of p_{i_1} also does not change.

Lemma 3.3: A graph C has a semi- $[\phi, \psi]$ -factor W such that for $i = 1, \dots, n$

$$d(p_i, W) \text{ is integer} \quad (3.8)$$

If and only if for all $S \subseteq N$

$$\sum_{i \in S} a_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \min(b_j, \delta(p_j, S)). \quad (3.9)$$

Proof: Let D be the symmetric directed graph which is obtained from G by replacing each edge (p_i, p_j) by two directed edges (one from p_i to p_j and one from p_j to p_i). Since $\delta(p_i, S) = \delta^+(p_i, S) = \delta^-(p_i, S)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$, and for all $S \subseteq N$, it follows from Theorem 3.1, that D has a directed subgraph E for which

$$a_i \leq d^+(p_i, E), d^-(p_i, E) \leq b_i, \quad (i = 1, \dots, n), \quad (3.10)$$

if and only if condition (3.9) holds for ϕ, ψ and G .

Suppose first that G has a semi- $[\phi, \psi]$ -factor W which fulfills condition (3.8). Let $W_1 = \{(p_i, p_j) | W(p_i, p_j) = 1\}$ and $W_2 = \{(p_i, p_j) | W(p_i, p_j) = \frac{1}{2}\}$. By condition (3.8), each component of W_2 is Eulerian. By orienting each component of W_2 along an Eulerian cycle, and by replacing each edge of W_1 by two directed edges (one in each direction) we obtain a directed subgraph E of D which fulfills condition (3.10). Hence condition (3.9) holds for ϕ, ψ and G .

Suppose now that D has a subgraph E , for which condition (3.10) holds. Define

$$W(p_i, p_j) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (p_i, p_j), (p_j, p_i) \in E \\ 0 & \text{if } (p_i, p_j), (p_j, p_i) \notin E \\ \frac{1}{2} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Clearly W is a semi- $[\phi, \psi]$ -factor of G . Let $W_2 = \{(p_i, p_j) | W(p_i, p_j) = \frac{1}{2}\}$. We will show that if condition (3.8) does not hold, then it is possible to change W , to reduce W_2 .

Notice that $d(p_i, W)$ is an integer iff $d(p_i, W_2)$ is even. Thus, if for some j , $d(p_j, W)$ is not integer, then there exists an index k such that p_j and p_k are in the same component of W_2 , and $d(p_k, W)$ is not integer. Of course, $a_j + \frac{1}{2} \leq d(p_j, W) \leq b_j - \frac{1}{2}$ and $a_k + \frac{1}{2} \leq d(p_k, W) \leq b_k - \frac{1}{2}$. Hence, by alternating any path in W_2 , between p_j and p_k , we reduce W_2 .

4. The main theorems

Theorem 4.1: Let $\phi = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$, $\psi = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$ be two sequences of non-negative integers, such that $a_i < b_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Then a graph G has a $[\phi, \psi]$ -factor if and only if for all $S \subseteq N$

$$\sum_{i \in S} a_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \min(b_j, \delta(p_j, S)). \quad (3.9)$$

Proof: If G has a $[\phi, \psi]$ -factor, then condition (3.9) holds, as we showed in the proof of Lemma 3.3. To prove the other direction, suppose condition (3.9) holds and let W be a semi- $[\phi, \psi]$ -factor of G , for which condition (3.8) holds. Let $W_2 = \{(p_i, p_j) | W(p_i, p_j) = \frac{1}{2}\}$. Each component of W_2 is Eulerian, and hence has an Eulerian cycle. If $W_2 \neq \emptyset$, let $C = [p_{i_1}, \dots, p_{i_\ell}]$ be such a cycle. If C is even we may reduce W_2 by alternating C , either positively or negatively. If $C = [p_{i_1}, \dots, p_{i_\ell}]$ is odd, then since $a_{i_1} < b_{i_1}$, either $d(p_{i_1}, W) > a_{i_1}$ or $d(p_{i_1}, W) < b_{i_1}$ (or both). In the first case a negative alternation of C will reduce W_2 and in the second case, a positive alternation will reduce W_2 .

Notice that the strong inequalities $a_i < b_i$ are needed for the reduction only for the alternation of odd cycles. Since the smallest odd cycle is a

triangle we may allow an equality $a_i = b_i$ in one or two indices i , in the conditions of Theorem 4.1.

Theorem 4.2: Suppose $\phi \neq \psi$ and ϕ is arranged in a non-increased order. Then,

a $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization exists if and only if

a) for $j = 1, \dots, n$

$$\sum_{i=1}^j a_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^j \min(b_i, j-1) + \sum_{i=j+1}^n \min(b_i, j) \quad (4.1)$$

and

b) there are no two disjoint sets $S, T \subset N$, $S \neq \emptyset$, for which

$$\sum_{i \in T} a_i + \sum_{i \in T} b_i \text{ is odd,} \quad (4.2)$$

$$\sum_{i \in S} a_i = \sum_{i \in T} b_i + s(n-1-t), \quad (4.3)$$

and

$$a_i = b_i \text{ for } i \in N-S-T. \quad (4.4)$$

Proof: Condition (4.1) is a particular case of condition (3.9), where the given graph is K_n .

Suppose a $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization exists and for $S_0, T_0 \subset N$ such that $S_0 \neq \emptyset$ and $S_0 \cap T_0 = \emptyset$, conditions (4.2)-(4.4) hold. Then

$$s_0(n-1-t_0) = \sum_{i \in S_0} a_i - \sum_{i \in T_0} b_i \leq \sum_{i \in S_0} d(p_i, H) - \sum_{i \in T_0} d(p_i, H) \leq s_0(n-1-t_0).$$

(The last inequality follows from Lemma 3.1.) Thus,

$$d(p_i, H) = a_i \quad \text{for } i \in N-T$$

and

$$d(p_i, H) = b_i \quad \text{for } i \in T.$$

Hence, by condition (4.2), $\sum_{i=1}^n d(p_i, H)$ is odd, a contradiction.

Suppose now that condition (4.1) holds for ϕ and ψ , but no $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization exists. We will construct a pair of disjoint sets $S, T \subset N$, $S \neq \emptyset$, for which conditions (4.2)-(4.4) hold.

By Lemma 3.3 and the proof of Theorem 4.1, there exists a semi- $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization W such that $d(p_i, W)$ is an integer for $i = 1, \dots, n$, and such that $W_2 = \{(p_i, p_j) \mid W(p_i, p_j) = \frac{1}{2}\}$ has no even cycles. Suppose $C_1 = [p_{i_1}, \dots, p_{i_\ell}]$ and $C_2 = [p_{j_1}, \dots, p_{j_k}]$ are two odd Eulerian cycles in W_2 . If $W(p_{i_1}, p_{j_1}) = 1$ we may reduce W_2 by defining $W(p_{i_1}, p_{j_1}) = 0$ and making a positive alternation of both C_1 and C_2 . (See Figure 1). A similar

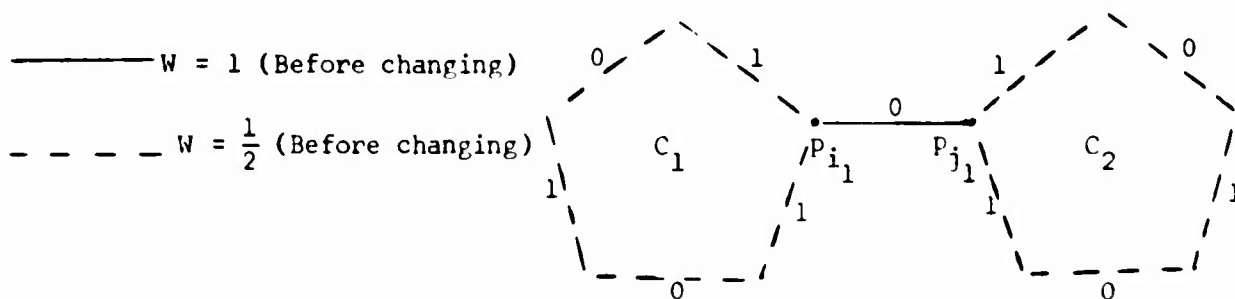


Figure 1

The numbers show the new values of W .

reduction is obtained if $W(p_{i_1}, p_{j_1}) = 0$ by setting $W(p_{i_1}, p_{j_1}) = 1$ and making a negative alternation of the cycles. Thus there exists a semi- $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization W , in which $W_2 = [p_{i_1}, \dots, p_{i_\ell}] = C$ is an odd cycle. Fix W for which W_2 is maximal (and fix C).

Let

$$S = \{i | p_i \in W_2, W(p_i, p_{i_1}) = \dots = W(p_i, p_{i_\ell}) = 1\},$$

$$T = \{i | p_i \in W_2, W(p_i, p_{i_1}) = \dots = W(p_i, p_{i_\ell}) = 0\}.$$

We have to show that if no $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization exists, then conditions (4.2)-(4.4) hold for S and T . We will show it, in a chain of 5 claims, the proofs of which will be given at the end of the proof of the theorem.

Claim 1. If $i \in S$ and $j \in N-T$, then $W(p_i, p_j) = 1$.

Claim 2. If $i \in T$ and $j \in N-S$, then $W(p_i, p_j) = 0$.

Claim 3. If $i \in S$, then $d(p_i, W) = b_i$.

Claim 4. If $i \in T$, then $d(p_i, W) = a_i$.

Claim 5. The set S is not empty.

Using Lemma 3.2, claims 1, 2 and 5 imply the equality $\sum_{i \in S} d(p_i, W) = \sum_{i \in T} d(p_i, W)$

+ $s(n-1-t)$. Claims 3 and 4 imply that $\sum_{i \in S} a_i = \sum_{i \in S} d(p_i, W)$,

$\sum_{i \in T} a_i = \sum_{i \in T} d(p_i, W)$, $\sum_{i \in T} b_i = \sum_{i \in T} d(p_i, W)$, and for $i \in S \cup T$,

$a_i = d(p_i, W) = b_i$. Therefore conditions (4.3) and (4.4) hold for S and T

and since W has exactly one odd cycle on which $W = \frac{1}{2}$, the sum $\sum_{i=1}^n d(p_i, W)$

is odd, and hence condition (4.2) also holds. Thus we have shown that if

no $[\phi, \psi]$ -realization exists we can find a pair $S, T \subset N$ for which conditions (4.2)-(4.4) hold.

To finish the proof we have only to prove the 5 claims:

Proof of claim 1: Since $i \in S$, $(p_i, p_j) \notin W_2$. Suppose $W(p_i, p_j) = 0$. Then by the construction of S , $p_j \notin W_2$. As $j \in T$ there exists a vertex p_k on W_2 such that $W(p_j, p_k) = 1$. Let p_r be the consecutive vertex of p_k , along C . (See Figure 2). By redefining $W(p_k, p_r) = 1$, $W(p_i, p_j) = W(p_j, p_k) = W(p_i, p_r) = \frac{1}{2}$ we enlarge W_2 , a contradiction to its maximality.

————— $W = 1$ (Before changing)
 - - - - - $W = \frac{1}{2}$ (Before changing)
 $W = 0$ (Before changing)

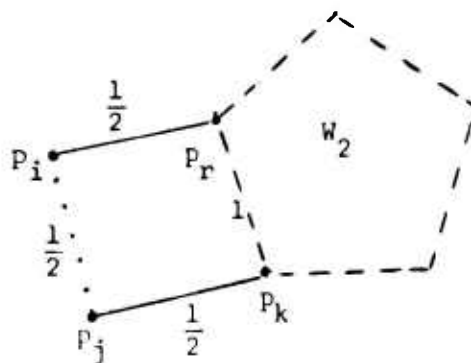


Figure 2

The numbers show the new values of W .

Proof of claim 2: Similarly to the case of claim 1, if $W(p_i, p_j) \neq 0$ for $i \in T$, $j \in N-S$, then $W(p_i, p_j) = 1$, $p_j \notin C$, there exists k such that $W(p_j, p_k) = 0$ and if p_r is the consecutive vertex of p_k , on C , then redefining $W(p_k, p_r) = 0$ and $W(p_i, p_j) = W(p_j, p_k) = W(p_i, p_r) = \frac{1}{2}$ enlarges W_2 . (See Figure 3).

————— $W = 1$ (Before changing)
 - - - - - $W = \frac{1}{2}$ (Before changing)
 $W = 0$ (Before changing)

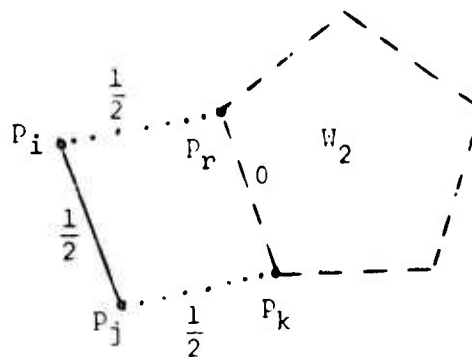


Figure 3

The numbers show the new values of W .

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