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Example

A graph **G** is vertex-transitive if every partial automorphism f with $|\text{Dom}(f)| \le 1$ extends to an automorphism of **G**.

Let **B** be a structure and let **A** be its **induced** substructure. **B** is an EPPA-witness for **A** if every partial automorphism of **A** extends to an automorphism of **B**.

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A class C of **finite** structures has EPPA if for every $\mathbf{A} \in C$ there is

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Theorem (Hrushovski, 1992)

The class of all finite graphs has EPPA.

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Observation

Every class with EPPA has the amalgamation property and corresponds to a countable homogeneous structure.

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Theorem (Kechris-Rosendal, 2007)

If **M** homogeneous then $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathbf{M}) = \overline{\bigcup_i G_i}$ with compact $G_1 \leq G_2 \leq \cdots \operatorname{Aut}(\mathbf{M})$ if and only if $\operatorname{Age}(\mathbf{M})$ has EPPA.

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EPPA is known to hold for graphs, K_n -free graphs, hypergraphs, metric spaces, free amalgamation classes, two-graphs, finite groups, ...

Given graph ${\bf G},$ let ${\rm eppa}({\bf G})$ be the least number of vertices of an EPPA-witness for ${\bf G}.$

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Theorem (Hrushovski, 1992)

- For every **G** with *n* vertices we have that $eppa(\mathbf{G}) \leq (2n2^n)!$.
- If \mathbf{G}_{2m} is the half-graph on 2m vertices then $\operatorname{eppa}(\mathbf{G}_{2m}) \geq 2^m$.

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Problem (Hrushovski, 1992) Improve the bounds.

Theorem (Herwig–Lascar, 2000)

For every **G** with n vertices and maximum degree Δ we have that $\operatorname{eppa}(\mathbf{G}) \leq {\binom{\Delta n}{\Delta}} \in n^{\mathcal{O}(n)}$. In particular, bounded degree graphs have polynomial EPPA numbers.

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Theorem (Evans–Hubička–K–Nešetřil, 2021) For every graph **G** it holds that $eppa(\mathbf{G}) \leq n2^{n-1}$.

Theorem (Herwig, Lascar 2000)

If the maximum degree of **G** is Δ , then there is an EPPA-witness on $\binom{\Delta n}{\Delta}$ vertices.

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Proof.

- 1. Let $\mathbf{G} = (V, E)$ be a graph. Assume that \mathbf{G} is k-regular.
- 2. Define **H** so that $V(\mathbf{H}) = {E \choose k}$ and $XY \in E(\mathbf{H})$ if $X \cap Y \neq \emptyset$.
- 3. Embed $\psi : \mathbf{G} \to \mathbf{H}$ sending $v \mapsto \{e \in E : v \in e\}$.
- 4. A partial automorphism of G gives a partial permutation of E.

- 5. Extend it to a permutation of E respecting the partial automorphism.
- 6. Every permutation of E induces an automorphism of H.

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For non-k-regular graphs, add "half-edges" to make them regular.

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► Embed G → H sending v ↦ (v, f) with f having nonzero opinion about its smaller neighbours.



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For $u, v \in G$, we define a flip $F_{u,v}((w, f)) = (w, f')$, where

about its smaller neighbours.

$$f'(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - f(x) & \text{if } \{w, x\} = \{u, v\} \\ f(x) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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Fix $\boldsymbol{G}.$ Define graph $\boldsymbol{H}:$

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Remark

This can be straightforwardly generalised to arbitrary relational structures and less straightforwardly one can also add unary functions.

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- We have √2ⁿ ≤ max{eppa(G) : |G| = n} ≤ n2ⁿ⁻¹. Can this exponential gap be closed?
- The half-graph is an important example in e.g. model theory. Is there something going on here? (Cf. the Malliaris–Shelah Regularity Lemma for edge-stable graphs.)
- For graphs with maximum degree ∆ we have eppa(G) ∈ O(n[∆]), but no lower bound. Can a lower bound be proved? At least for cycles?
- ▶ What are the EPPA numbers of G(n, 1/2)? Can one prove at least a non-linear lower bound?

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- We have √2ⁿ ≤ max{eppa(G) : |G| = n} ≤ n2ⁿ⁻¹. Can this exponential gap be closed? YES.
- The half-graph is an important example in e.g. model theory. Is there something going on here? (Cf. the Malliaris–Shelah Regularity Lemma for edge-stable graphs.) NO.
- For graphs with maximum degree ∆ we have eppa(G) ∈ O(n[∆]), but no lower bound. Can a lower bound be proved? Probably. At least for cycles? YES.
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Exercise There is a graph **G** with $\text{eppa}(\mathbf{G}) \in \Omega(\frac{2^n}{\sqrt{n}})$.

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Corollary $\Omega(\frac{2^n}{\sqrt{n}}) \leq \max\{\operatorname{eppa}(\mathbf{G}) : |G| = n\} \leq \mathcal{O}(n2^n).$

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Observation

If $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{G}}$ is triangle-free with maximum degree Δ then

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If $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{G}}$ is triangle-free with maximum degree Δ then

$$\operatorname{eppa}(\mathbf{G}) \in \Omega(n^{\Delta}).$$

Corollary Cycles have quadratic EPPA numbers.

Observation

There is ${\bf G}$ such that every EPPA-witness for ${\bf G}$ has at least $\Omega(2^n/\sqrt{n})$ vertices.

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Proof.

- Every permutation of the left part is a partial automorphism of G.
- Claim: In every EPPA-witness, for every $S \in {[n] \choose n/2}$, there is a vertex connected to S and not to $[n] \setminus S$.



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- Claim: In every EPPA-witness, for every S ∈ (^[n]_{n/2}), there is a vertex connected to S and not to [n] \ S.
- ▶ Pick arbitrary $S \in \binom{[n]}{n/2}$.
- $\operatorname{eppa}(\mathbf{G}) \geq \binom{n}{n/2} \in \Omega(2^n/\sqrt{n}).$



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Observation If **G** is a cycle then $eppa(\mathbf{G}) \in \Theta(n^2)$.

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Proof.

1. Find an independent set I of size $2\log_2(n)$.



Proof.

- 1. Find an independent set I of size $2\log_2(n)$.
- 2. There is a vertex connected to about half of *I*.

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- 2. There is a vertex connected to about half of I.
- 3. So $\operatorname{eppa}(G(n, 1/2)) \gtrsim {2 \log_2(n) \choose \log_2(n)} \in \Omega(n^2/\sqrt{\log(n)}).$

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Problem

Prove (or disprove) that eppa(G(n, 1/2)) is superexponential.

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Improve the bounds for G(n, 1/2), or other non-bounded-degree graphs.

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Find c such that $eppa(C_n) = cn^2 + o(n^2)$
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Question [Herwig-Lascar, 2000]

Does the class of all finite tournaments have EPPA?

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Observation (Hrushovski, 1992)

There is **G** with $n = |V(\mathbf{H})|$ such that every EPPA-witness for **G** has at least $\Omega(2^{n/2})$ vertices.

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- Every permutation of [m] is a partial automorphism of G.
- Pick any EPPA-witness and any S ⊆ [m]. There is a vertex v connected to S and not connected to [m] \ S.
- Hence every EPPA-witness for G has at least Ω(2^m) vertices.

