EPPA numbers of graphs

Matěj Konečný

TU Dresden

MCW 2024

David Bradley-Williams, Peter J. Cameron, Jan Hubička, and MK: EPPA numbers of graphs (arXiv:2311.07995)

Funded by the European Union (project POCOCOP, ERC Synergy grant No. 101071674). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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Midsummer Combinatorial Workshop XXV

August 3 - August 7, 2020, Prague

Programme (tentative)

All lectures take place in room S5 at the building of Charles University, Malostranske namesti 25.

Monday				
	Morning		Registration	
	9:00-9:20		Welcome, brief information about program of the workshop	
	9:25-9:55	Peter Cameron	Lockdown theorem	
	10:00-10:30		Coffee break	
	10:30-11:00	Pavel Patak	Better bounds for abstract Radon theorem	
	11:10-11:40	Vaclav Rozhon	Deterministic network decomposition	
	11:50-12:20	Jan Hubicka	Big Ramsey degrees using parameter spaces	
Thursday				
	9:00-9:30	Antoine Mottet	Cores over Ramsey structures	
	9:30-10:00	Carl Feghali	Revisiting a theorem of Talbot	
	10:00-10:30		Coffee break	
	10:30-11:00	Denys Bulavka	Optimal bounds for the colorful fractional Helly theorem	
	11:10-11:40	Johanna Wiehe	The chromatic polynomial of a digraph	
	11:50-12:20	Matej Konecny	On EPPA numbers of graphs	
	Evening		Picnic?	
	Friday			
	9:30-10:00	Peter Zeman	Testing isomorphism of circular-arc graphs	

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Let **A** be a graph. A partial function $f: A \to A$ is a partial automorphism of **A** if f is an isomorphism $\mathbf{A}|_{\text{Dom}(f)} \to \mathbf{A}|_{\text{Range}(f)}$.

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Example

A graph G is vertex-transitive if every partial automorphism f with |Dom(f)| ≤ 1 extends to an automorphism of G.

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Example

- A graph G is vertex-transitive if every partial automorphism f with |Dom(f)| ≤ 1 extends to an automorphism of G.
- A graph G is edge-transitive if every partial automorphism f with Dom(f) being an edge extends to an automorphism of G.

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- A graph G is edge-transitive if every partial automorphism f with Dom(f) being an edge extends to an automorphism of G.

Definition

A graph **G** is homogeneous if every partial automorphism of **G** with finite domain extends to an automorphism of **G**.

The following are the only finite homogeneous graphs:

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- \blacktriangleright *mK_n* and complements,
- ► C₅,
- ► $L(K_{3,3})$.

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

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EPPA numbers

Definition

 $eppa(\mathbf{A}) = \min\{|\mathbf{B}| : \mathbf{B} \text{ is an EPPA-witness for } \mathbf{A}\}.$ $eppa(n) = \max\{eppa(\mathbf{A}) : |\mathbf{A}| = n\}.$

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Theorem (Hrushovski, 1992)

For every n we have that

$$2^{n/2} \leq \operatorname{eppa}(n) < \infty.$$

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Problem (Hrushovski, 1992)

Improve the bounds.

Pick a graph \mathbf{A}_0 .



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Let $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{M}}$ be the union of the chain. Then $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{M}}$ is homogeneous.

Pick a graph A_0 .



Let M be the union of the chain. Then M is homogeneous.

Theorem [Hodges, Hodkinson, Lascar, Shelah, 1993]: The countable random graph has the small index property.

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Pick a graph A_0 .



Let M be the union of the chain. Then M is homogeneous.

Theorem [Hodges, Hodkinson, Lascar, Shelah, 1993]: The countable random graph has the small index property. Theorem [Kechris, Rosendal, 2007]: The class of all finite substructures of a homogeneous structure M has EPPA if and only if Aut(M) can be written as the closure of a chain of compact subgroups.

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

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Theorem (Evans, Hubička, K, Nešetřil, 2021)

 $\operatorname{eppa}(n) \leq n2^{n-1}$

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Independently proved also by Andréka and Németi.

If the maximum degree of **G** is Δ , then it has an EPPA-witness on at most $\begin{pmatrix} \Delta n \\ \Delta \end{pmatrix}$ vertices.

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If the maximum degree of **G** is Δ , then it has an EPPA-witness on at most $\begin{pmatrix} \Delta n \\ \Delta \end{pmatrix}$ vertices.

Proof.

- 1. Let $\mathbf{G} = (V, E)$ be a graph. Assume that \mathbf{G} is Δ -regular.
- 2. Define **H** so that $V(\mathbf{H}) = \begin{pmatrix} E \\ \Delta \end{pmatrix}$ 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-regular graphs, add "half-edges" to make them regular.

An upper bound [Evans, Hubička, K, Nešetřil, 2021]

Given set A, define graph
$$\mathbf{H}_A$$
.
 $H_A = \{(x, f) : x \in A, f : A \setminus \{x\} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}\}.$
 $\{(x, f), (y, g)\} \in E \iff x \neq y \text{ and } f(y) \neq g(x).$

- 1. For a permutation $\pi: A \to A$ define $\alpha_{\pi}: H_n \to H_n$ by $\alpha_{\pi}((x, f)) = (\pi(x), g)$, where $g(y) = f(\pi^{-1}(y))$.
- 2. $\alpha_{\pi} \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathbf{H}_{A})$.
- 3. For $x \neq y \in A$ define α_{xy} by $\alpha_{xy}((z, f)) = (z, g)$ where g(w) = 1 - f(w) if $\{x, y\} = \{z, w\}$ and g(w) = f(w) otherwise.
- 4. $\alpha_{xy} \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathbf{H}_{\mathcal{A}}).$


An upper bound [Evans, Hubička, K, Nešetřil, 2021] II.

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{A}} = \{(x,f) : x \in \mathcal{A}, f : \mathcal{A} \setminus \{x\} \to \{0,1\}\} \\ & \{(x,f), (y,g)\} \in \mathcal{E} \iff x \neq y \text{ and } f(y) \neq g(x). \end{aligned}$$

- 5. Fix a graph **G** and consider \mathbf{H}_G .
- 6. Embed **G** to **H**_G vertex-by-vertex, preserving projections.
- 7. Pick a partial automorphism f of **G**, project it to G, and extend it to a permutation π of G.
- 8. Consider α_{π} . There is a canonical choice of $\alpha_{x_iy_i}$'s such that $\alpha_{\pi} \circ \alpha_{x_1y_1} \circ \cdots \circ \alpha_{x_ky_k}$ extends f.



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1. Finite homogeneous graphs (C_5 , $L(K_{3,3})$, mK_n , $\overline{mK_n}$).

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- 1. Finite homogeneous graphs (C_5 , $L(K_{3,3})$, mK_n , $\overline{mK_n}$).
- 2. Complements of Kneser graphs ($\mathcal{O}(n^{\Delta})$ for constant Δ).

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- 1. Finite homogeneous graphs (C_5 , $L(K_{3,3})$, mK_n , $\overline{mK_n}$).
- 2. Complements of Kneser graphs ($\mathcal{O}(n^{\Delta})$ for constant Δ).

3. Valuation graphs $(n2^{n-1})$.

Observation (Bradley-Williams, Cameron, Hubička, K, 2023)

 $\operatorname{eppa}(n) \geq \Omega(2^n/\sqrt{n}).$

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Proof (basically Hrushovski'92).

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Proof (basically Hrushovski'92).

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



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• Pick arbitrary
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- 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 $[n] \setminus S$.

Pick arbitrary S ∈
$$\binom{[n]}{n/2}$$
.
eppa(G) ≥ $\binom{n}{n/2} \in \Omega(2^n/\sqrt{n})$.



If **G** contains an independent set I and a vertex connected to exactly k members of I then $\operatorname{eppa}(\mathbf{G}) \geq \binom{|I|}{k}$.

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Corollary

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

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

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Corollary

Cycles have quadratic EPPA numbers.



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Proof (sketch).

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

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Asymptotically almost surely $eppa(G(n, 1/2)) \gg n$.

Proof (sketch).

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

eppa(G(n, 1/2)) is superpolynomial.

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Observation (B-WCHK, 2023)

For every c, d, a.a.s. $eppa(G(n, c/n)) \gg n^d$.

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- 2. There is a vertex connected to exactly d members of I.

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Problem

Close the gap $\Omega(2^n/\sqrt{n}) \le \operatorname{eppa}(n) \le n2^{n-1}$. (I doubt the lower bound is tight.)

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Problem

Close the gap $\Omega(2^n/\sqrt{n}) \le \operatorname{eppa}(n) \le n2^{n-1}$. (I doubt the lower bound is tight.)

Conjecture

If **G** is not sub-homogeneous then $\text{eppa}(\mathbf{G}) \in \Omega(n^2)$. (Even $\omega(n)$ would be nice.)

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If **G** is not sub-homogeneous then $\text{eppa}(\mathbf{G}) \in \Omega(n^2)$. (Even $\omega(n)$ would be nice.)

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Open problems II

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Problem Improve bounds for hypergraphs.

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(Note that there are only $2^{O(n \log n)}$ partial automorphisms of any *n*-vertex structure.)

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