

A Survey of k -critical Graphs

Daniel W. Cranston

Virginia Commonwealth University

dcranston@vcu.edu

Albertson's Conjecture and Related Problems (AIM)

14 October 2024

Why k -critical graphs?

Why k -critical graphs?

Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable.

Why k -critical graphs?

Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable.
Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

Why k -critical graphs?

Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable.

Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k + 1$

might have few edges as function of n ,

Why k -critical graphs?

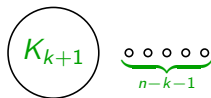
Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable.

Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k + 1$

might have few edges as function of n ,

e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n - k - 1)K_1$



Why k -critical graphs?

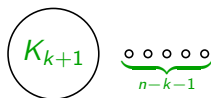
Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable.

Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k + 1$

might have few edges as function of n ,

e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n - k - 1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k + 1$.

Why k -critical graphs?

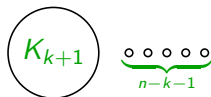
Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable.

Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k + 1$

might have few edges as function of n ,

e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n - k - 1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k + 1$. How can we avoid this?

Why k -critical graphs?

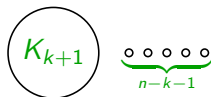
Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable.

Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k + 1$

might have few edges as function of n ,

e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n - k - 1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k + 1$. How can we avoid this?

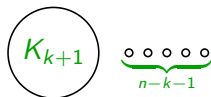
Defn: G is k -critical if $\chi(G) = k$ and $\chi(H) < k \forall H \subsetneq G$.

Why k -critical graphs?

Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable.

Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

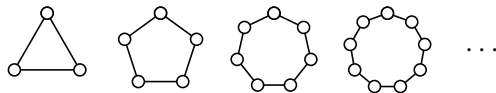
General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k+1$
might have few edges as function of n ,
e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n - k - 1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k+1$. How can we avoid this?

Defn: G is k -critical if $\chi(G) = k$ and $\chi(H) < k \forall H \subsetneq G$.

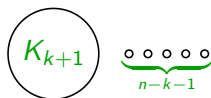
Examples:



Why k -critical graphs?

Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable. Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

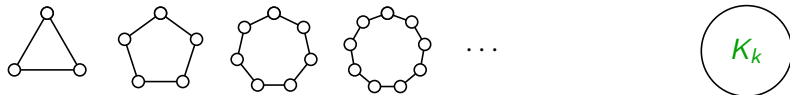
General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k+1$ might have few edges as function of n , e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n - k - 1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k+1$. How can we avoid this?

Defn: G is k -critical if $\chi(G) = k$ and $\chi(H) < k \forall H \subsetneq G$.

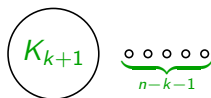
Examples:



Why k -critical graphs?

Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable. Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

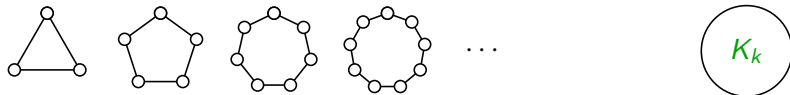
General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k+1$ might have few edges as function of n , e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n-k-1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k+1$. How can we avoid this?

Defn: G is k -critical if $\chi(G) = k$ and $\chi(H) < k \forall H \subsetneq G$.

Examples:

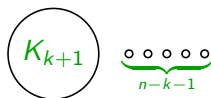


Ques: Are these all the k -critical graphs?

Why k -critical graphs?

Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable. Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

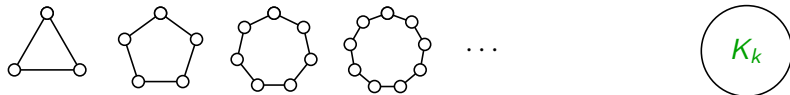
General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k+1$ might have few edges as function of n , e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n-k-1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k+1$. How can we avoid this?

Defn: G is k -critical if $\chi(G) = k$ and $\chi(H) < k \forall H \subsetneq G$.

Examples:

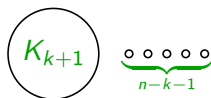


Ques: Are these all the k -critical graphs? How many are there?

Why k -critical graphs?

Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable. Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

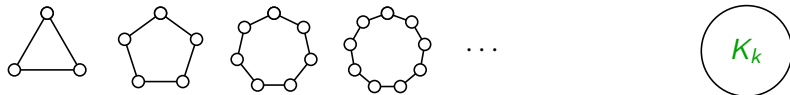
General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k+1$ might have few edges as function of n , e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n - k - 1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k+1$. How can we avoid this?

Defn: G is k -critical if $\chi(G) = k$ and $\chi(H) < k \forall H \subsetneq G$.

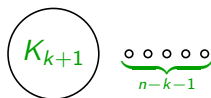
Examples:



Ques: Are these all the k -critical graphs? How many are there? What do they look like?

Why k -critical graphs?

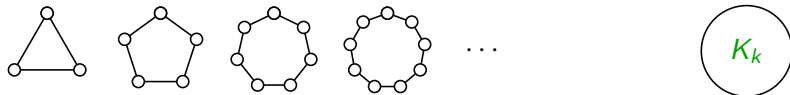
Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable. Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges. General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k+1$ might have few edges as function of n , e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n-k-1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k+1$. How can we avoid this?

Defn: G is k -critical if $\chi(G) = k$ and $\chi(H) < k \forall H \subsetneq G$.

Examples:

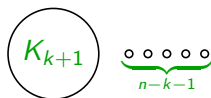


Ques: Are these all the k -critical graphs? How many are there? What do they look like? Why study them?

Why k -critical graphs?

Idea: Want sufficient conditions for n -vertex G to be k -colorable. Many possible criteria, but natural to consider number of edges.

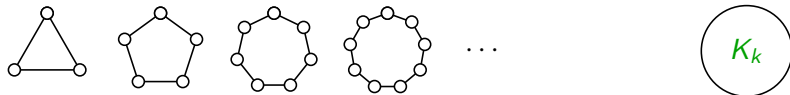
General graph G with $\chi(G) \geq k+1$ might have few edges as function of n , e.g., $K_{k+1} + (n - k - 1)K_1$



Rem: This example feels like “cheating” because most vertices are not helping force $\chi \geq k+1$. How can we avoid this?

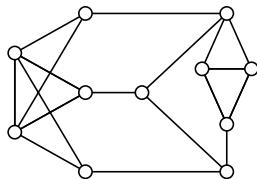
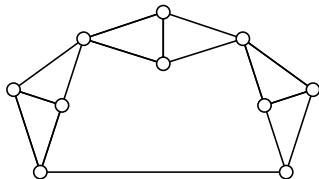
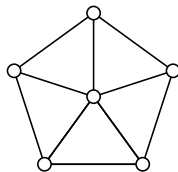
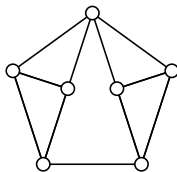
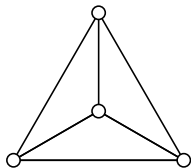
Defn: G is k -critical if $\chi(G) = k$ and $\chi(H) < k \forall H \subsetneq G$.

Examples:



Ques: Are these all the k -critical graphs? How many are there? What do they look like? Why study them? Open Questions?

A Gallery of 4-critical Graphs



An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

Ans: Yes.

An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

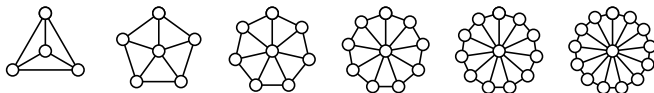
Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

Ans: Yes. $C_{2t+1} \vee K_{k-3}$

An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

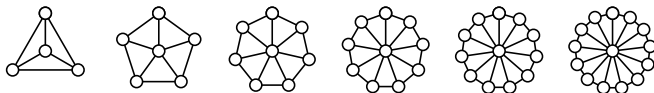
Ans: Yes. $C_{2t+1} \vee K_{k-3}$



An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

Ans: Yes. $C_{2t+1} \vee K_{k-3}$

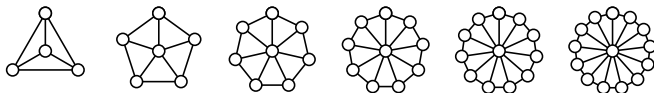


Ques: What if we want bounded maximum degree?

An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

Ans: Yes. $C_{2t+1} \vee K_{k-3}$

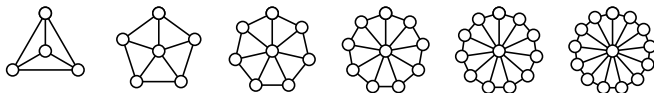


Ques: What if we want bounded maximum degree? **Ans:** Yes.

An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

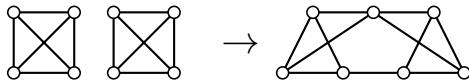
Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

Ans: Yes. $C_{2t+1} \vee K_{k-3}$



Ques: What if we want bounded maximum degree? **Ans:** Yes.

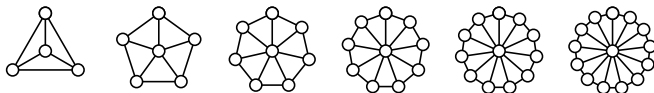
Defn: A **Hajós join** of graphs G_1 and G_2 with $vw \in E(G_1)$ and $xy \in E(G_2)$ is formed from $(G_1 - vw) + (G_2 - xy)$ by identifying v and x and adding edge yw .



An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

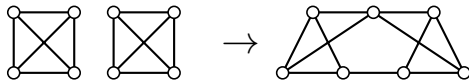
Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

Ans: Yes. $C_{2t+1} \vee K_{k-3}$



Ques: What if we want bounded maximum degree? **Ans:** Yes.

Defn: A **Hajós join** of graphs G_1 and G_2 with $vw \in E(G_1)$ and $xy \in E(G_2)$ is formed from $(G_1 - vw) + (G_2 - xy)$ by identifying v and x and adding edge yw .

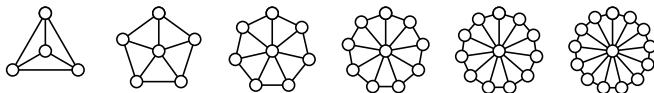


Prop: If G_1 and G_2 are k -critical, then so is their Hajós join.

An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

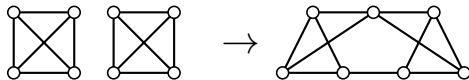
Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

Ans: Yes. $C_{2t+1} \vee K_{k-3}$



Ques: What if we want bounded maximum degree? **Ans:** Yes.

Defn: A **Hajós join** of graphs G_1 and G_2 with $vw \in E(G_1)$ and $xy \in E(G_2)$ is formed from $(G_1 - vw) + (G_2 - xy)$ by identifying v and x and adding edge yw .



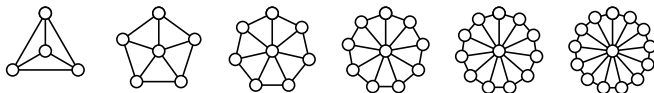
Prop: If G_1 and G_2 are k -critical, then so is their Hajós join.

Cor: Get infinitely many k -critical graphs. Can bound max degree.

An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

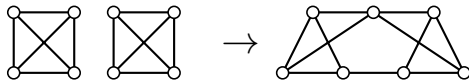
Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

Ans: Yes. $C_{2t+1} \vee K_{k-3}$



Ques: What if we want bounded maximum degree? **Ans:** Yes.

Defn: A **Hajós join** of graphs G_1 and G_2 with $vw \in E(G_1)$ and $xy \in E(G_2)$ is formed from $(G_1 - vw) + (G_2 - xy)$ by identifying v and x and adding edge yw .



Prop: If G_1 and G_2 are k -critical, then so is their Hajós join.

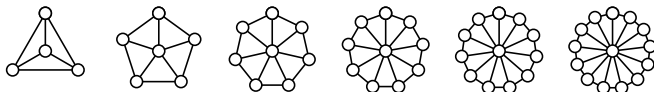
Cor: Get infinitely many k -critical graphs. Can bound max degree.

Cor: For each k , there exist n -vertex k -critical graphs for all sufficiently large n (with bounded max degree).

An Infinitude of k -critical Graphs

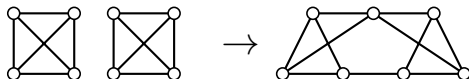
Ques: For every k are there infinitely many k -critical graphs?

Ans: Yes. $C_{2t+1} \vee K_{k-3}$



Ques: What if we want bounded maximum degree? **Ans:** Yes.

Defn: A **Hajós join** of graphs G_1 and G_2 with $vw \in E(G_1)$ and $xy \in E(G_2)$ is formed from $(G_1 - vw) + (G_2 - xy)$ by identifying v and x and adding edge yw .



Prop: If G_1 and G_2 are k -critical, then so is their Hajós join.

Cor: Get infinitely many k -critical graphs. Can bound max degree.

Cor: For each k , there exist n -vertex k -critical graphs for all sufficiently large n (with bounded max degree).

Defn: **k -Ore graphs** are what we get from K_k 's with Hajós join.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 .

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 .

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 .
Permute colors on G_2 to avoid conflicts with G_1

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 . Permute colors on G_2 to avoid conflicts with G_1 , by Hall's Thm.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 . Permute colors on G_2 to avoid conflicts with G_1 , by Hall's Thm.

Exer: The observation and lemma above are both sharp.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 . Permute colors on G_2 to avoid conflicts with G_1 , by Hall's Thm.

Exer: The observation and lemma above are both sharp.

Lem: A graph H appears as induced subgraph of some k -critical if and only if $\chi(H/e) \leq k - 1$ for all $e \in E(H)$.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 . Permute colors on G_2 to avoid conflicts with G_1 , by Hall's Thm.

Exer: The observation and lemma above are both sharp.

Lem: A graph H appears as induced subgraph of some k -critical if and only if $\chi(H/e) \leq k - 1$ for all $e \in E(H)$.

Pf: If H appears in k -critical G , then $\chi(G - vw) \leq k - 1$ for each $vw \in E(H)$.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 . Permute colors on G_2 to avoid conflicts with G_1 , by Hall's Thm.

Exer: The observation and lemma above are both sharp.

Lem: A graph H appears as induced subgraph of some k -critical if and only if $\chi(H/e) \leq k - 1$ for all $e \in E(H)$.

Pf: If H appears in k -critical G , then $\chi(G - vw) \leq k - 1$ for each $vw \in E(H)$. If $\varphi(v) \neq \varphi(w)$, then $\chi(G) \leq k - 1$, a contradiction.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 . Permute colors on G_2 to avoid conflicts with G_1 , by Hall's Thm.

Exer: The observation and lemma above are both sharp.

Lem: A graph H appears as induced subgraph of some k -critical if and only if $\chi(H/e) \leq k - 1$ for all $e \in E(H)$.

Pf: If H appears in k -critical G , then $\chi(G - vw) \leq k - 1$ for each $vw \in E(H)$. If $\varphi(v) \neq \varphi(w)$, then $\chi(G) \leq k - 1$, a contradiction. So $\varphi(v) = \varphi(w)$.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 . Permute colors on G_2 to avoid conflicts with G_1 , by Hall's Thm.

Exer: The observation and lemma above are both sharp.

Lem: A graph H appears as induced subgraph of some k -critical if and only if $\chi(H/e) \leq k - 1$ for all $e \in E(H)$.

Pf: If H appears in k -critical G , then $\chi(G - vw) \leq k - 1$ for each $vw \in E(H)$. If $\varphi(v) \neq \varphi(w)$, then $\chi(G) \leq k - 1$, a contradiction. So $\varphi(v) = \varphi(w)$. Thus, $\chi(H/vw) \leq \chi(G/vw) \leq k - 1$.

Properties of Critical Graphs

Obs: No critical graph has clique cutset. So must be 2-connected.

Lem: Every k -critical graph G is $(k - 1)$ -edge-connected.

Pf: Suppose G has edge-cut S with $|S| \leq k - 2$, and $G - S$ has components G_1 and G_2 . By criticality, $(k - 1)$ -color G_1 and G_2 . Permute colors on G_2 to avoid conflicts with G_1 , by Hall's Thm.

Exer: The observation and lemma above are both sharp.

Lem: A graph H appears as induced subgraph of some k -critical if and only if $\chi(H/e) \leq k - 1$ for all $e \in E(H)$.

Pf: If H appears in k -critical G , then $\chi(G - vw) \leq k - 1$ for each $vw \in E(H)$. If $\varphi(v) \neq \varphi(w)$, then $\chi(G) \leq k - 1$, a contradiction. So $\varphi(v) = \varphi(w)$. Thus, $\chi(H/vw) \leq \chi(G/vw) \leq k - 1$. Other direction is a long paragraph.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be?

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be?

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Conj: [Gallai] When $n \equiv 1(k-1)$, $f(n, k)$ is achieved by k -Ore graphs.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be?

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Conj: [Gallai] When $n \equiv 1(k-1)$, $f(n, k)$ is achieved by k -Ore graphs. So $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2f(n, k)/n = 2(\binom{k}{2} - 1)/(k-1) = k-2/(k-1)$.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be?

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Conj: [Gallai] When $n \equiv 1(k-1)$, $f(n, k)$ is achieved by k -Ore graphs. So $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2f(n, k)/n = 2(\binom{k}{2} - 1)/(k-1) = k-2/(k-1)$.

Conj: [Ore] $f(n+k-1, k) = f(n, k) + (k-2)(k+1)/2$,

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be?

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Conj: [Gallai] When $n \equiv 1(k-1)$, $f(n, k)$ is achieved by k -Ore graphs. So $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2f(n, k)/n = 2(\binom{k}{2} - 1)/(k-1) = k-2/(k-1)$.

Conj: [Ore] $f(n+k-1, k) = f(n, k) + (k-2)(k+1)/2$, $\forall n \geq k+2$.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be?

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Conj: [Gallai] When $n \equiv 1(k-1)$, $f(n, k)$ is achieved by k -Ore graphs. So $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2f(n, k)/n = 2((\binom{k}{2} - 1)/(k-1)) = k-2/(k-1)$.

Conj: [Ore] $f(n+k-1, k) = f(n, k) + (k-2)(k+1)/2$, $\forall n \geq k+2$.

Lem: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$ and $k+2 \leq n \leq 2k-2$. If G is n -vertex k -critical graph, then \overline{G} is disconnected

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be?

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Conj: [Gallai] When $n \equiv 1(k-1)$, $f(n, k)$ is achieved by k -Ore graphs. So $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2f(n, k)/n = 2(\binom{k}{2} - 1)/(k-1) = k-2/(k-1)$.

Conj: [Ore] $f(n+k-1, k) = f(n, k) + (k-2)(k+1)/2$, $\forall n \geq k+2$.

Lem: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$ and $k+2 \leq n \leq 2k-2$. If G is n -vertex k -critical graph, then \overline{G} is disconnected (that is, G is a join).

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be?

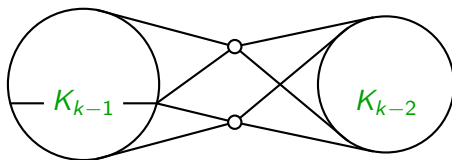
Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Conj: [Gallai] When $n \equiv 1(k-1)$, $f(n, k)$ is achieved by k -Ore graphs. So $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2f(n, k)/n = 2(\binom{k}{2} - 1)/(k-1) = k-2/(k-1)$.

Conj: [Ore] $f(n+k-1, k) = f(n, k) + (k-2)(k+1)/2, \forall n \geq k+2$.

Lem: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$ and $k+2 \leq n \leq 2k-2$. If G is n -vertex k -critical graph, then \overline{G} is disconnected (that is, G is a join).

Cor: If $k \geq 4$ and $k+2 \leq n \leq 2k-1$, then $2f(n, k) = (k-1)n + (n-k)(2k-n) - 2$.



How Sparse can Critical Graphs be?

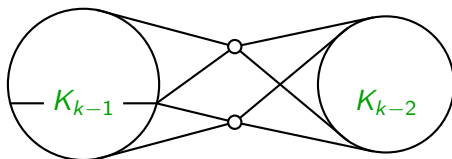
Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Conj: [Gallai] When $n \equiv 1(k-1)$, $f(n, k)$ is achieved by k -Ore graphs. So $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2f(n, k)/n = 2((\binom{k}{2} - 1)/(k-1) = k-2/(k-1)$.

Conj: [Ore] $f(n+k-1, k) = f(n, k) + (k-2)(k+1)/2, \forall n \geq k+2$.

Lem: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$ and $k+2 \leq n \leq 2k-2$. If G is n -vertex k -critical graph, then \overline{G} is disconnected (that is, G is a join).

Cor: If $k \geq 4$ and $k+2 \leq n \leq 2k-1$, then $2f(n, k) = (k-1)n + (n-k)(2k-n) - 2$.



For smaller n , join clique to graph above.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$?

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k - 1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k - 1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k - 1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k - 1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k - 1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k - 1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. Gallai tree.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. Gallai tree.

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. Gallai tree.

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

Cor: Fix $k \geq 4$ and let T be n -vert Gallai tree. If $\Delta(T) \leq k-1$ and T has no K_k , then $2|E(T)| \leq n(k-2+2/(k-1))$.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. **Gallai tree.**

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

Cor: Fix $k \geq 4$ and let T be n -vert Gallai tree. If $\Delta(T) \leq k-1$ and T has no K_k , then $2|E(T)| \leq n(k-2+2/(k-1))$. (Induct.)

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. **Gallai tree.**

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

Cor: Fix $k \geq 4$ and let T be n -vert Gallai tree. If $\Delta(T) \leq k-1$ and T has no K_k , then $2|E(T)| \leq n(k-2+2/(k-1))$. (Induct.)

Cor: [Gallai] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then by previous corollary $f(n, k)/n \geq (k-1)/2 + (k-3)/(2k^2-6)$.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. **Gallai tree.**

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

Cor: Fix $k \geq 4$ and let T be n -vert Gallai tree. If $\Delta(T) \leq k-1$ and T has no K_k , then $2|E(T)| \leq n(k-2+2/(k-1))$. (Induct.)

Cor: [Gallai] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then by previous corollary $f(n, k)/n \geq (k-1)/2 + (k-3)/(2k^2-6)$.

... Krivelevich, Kostochka–Stiebitz ...

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. Gallai tree.

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

Cor: Fix $k \geq 4$ and let T be n -vert Gallai tree. If $\Delta(T) \leq k-1$ and T has no K_k , then $2|E(T)| \leq n(k-2+2/(k-1))$. (Induct.)

Cor: [Gallai] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then by previous corollary $f(n, k)/n \geq (k-1)/2 + (k-3)/(2k^2-6)$.

... Krivelevich, Kostochka–Stiebitz ...

Thm: [Kostochka–Yancey] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then $f(n, k) \geq ((k+1)(k-2)n - k(k-3))/(2k-2)$.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. Gallai tree.

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

Cor: Fix $k \geq 4$ and let T be n -vert Gallai tree. If $\Delta(T) \leq k-1$ and T has no K_k , then $2|E(T)| \leq n(k-2+2/(k-1))$. (Induct.)

Cor: [Gallai] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then by previous corollary $f(n, k)/n \geq (k-1)/2 + (k-3)/(2k^2-6)$.

... Krivelevich, Kostochka–Stiebitz ...

Thm: [Kostochka–Yancey] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then $f(n, k) \geq ((k+1)(k-2)n - k(k-3))/(2k-2)$. Equality only for k -Ore.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. **Gallai tree.**

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

Cor: Fix $k \geq 4$ and let T be n -vert Gallai tree. If $\Delta(T) \leq k-1$ and T has no K_k , then $2|E(T)| \leq n(k-2+2/(k-1))$. (Induct.)

Cor: [Gallai] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then by previous corollary $f(n, k)/n \geq (k-1)/2 + (k-3)/(2k^2-6)$.

... Krivelevich, Kostochka–Stiebitz ...

Thm: [Kostochka–Yancey] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then $f(n, k) \geq ((k+1)(k-2)n - k(k-3))/(2k-2)$. Equality only for k -Ore. Proves Ore's Conj!

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. **Gallai tree.**

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

Cor: Fix $k \geq 4$ and let T be n -vert Gallai tree. If $\Delta(T) \leq k-1$ and T has no K_k , then $2|E(T)| \leq n(k-2+2/(k-1))$. (Induct.)

Cor: [Gallai] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then by previous corollary $f(n, k)/n \geq (k-1)/2 + (k-3)/(2k^2-6)$.

... Krivelevich, Kostochka–Stiebitz ...

Thm: [Kostochka–Yancey] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then $f(n, k) \geq ((k+1)(k-2)n - k(k-3))/(2k-2)$. Equality only for k -Ore. Proves Ore's Conj! Major progress on Gallai's Conj.

How Sparse can Critical Graphs be? (cont'd)

Defn: $f(n, k)$ is $\min |E(G)|$ of all n -vertex k -critical graphs G .

Ques: How to lower bound $f(n, k)$? **Pf idea:** Discharging; each $(k-1)$ -vert is near many k^+ -verts, so average degree is high.

Thm: [Gallai] Fix $k \geq 4$, and let G be k -critical. In subgraph H induced by $(k-1)$ -verts, each block clique/odd cycle. **Gallai tree.**

Pf idea: Suppose H has other block B . Color $G - H$ by criticality, extend to $H - B$ greedily, finish wisely on B .

Cor: Fix $k \geq 4$ and let T be n -vert Gallai tree. If $\Delta(T) \leq k-1$ and T has no K_k , then $2|E(T)| \leq n(k-2+2/(k-1))$. (Induct.)

Cor: [Gallai] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then by previous corollary $f(n, k)/n \geq (k-1)/2 + (k-3)/(2k^2-6)$.

... Krivelevich, Kostochka–Stiebitz ...

Thm: [Kostochka–Yancey] If $k \geq 4$ and $n \geq k+2$, then $f(n, k) \geq ((k+1)(k-2)n - k(k-3))/(2k-2)$. Equality only for k -Ore. Proves Ore's Conj! Major progress on Gallai's Conj.

Pf idea: Like above; work harder to forbid low degree subgraphs.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.
So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Thm: [K-Y] If G is 4-critical, then $|E(G)| \geq \lceil (5|G| - 2)/3 \rceil$.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Thm: [K-Y] If G is 4-critical, then $|E(G)| \geq \lceil (5|G| - 2)/3 \rceil$.

Cor: [Grötzsch] If G is planar and triangle-free, then $\chi(G) \leq 3$.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Thm: [K-Y] If G is 4-critical, then $|E(G)| \geq \lceil (5|G| - 2)/3 \rceil$.

Cor: [Grötzsch] If G is planar and triangle-free, then $\chi(G) \leq 3$.

Pf: Induction on $|G| + |E(G)|$.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Thm: [K-Y] If G is 4-critical, then $|E(G)| \geq \lceil (5|G| - 2)/3 \rceil$.

Cor: [Grötzsch] If G is planar and triangle-free, then $\chi(G) \leq 3$.

Pf: Induction on $|G| + |E(G)|$. If G has 4-face, then we “fold” it away without creating triangles.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

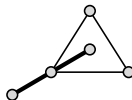
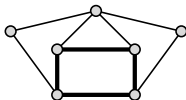
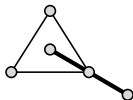
So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Thm: [K-Y] If G is 4-critical, then $|E(G)| \geq \lceil (5|G| - 2)/3 \rceil$.

Cor: [Grötzsch] If G is planar and triangle-free, then $\chi(G) \leq 3$.

Pf: Induction on $|G| + |E(G)|$. If G has 4-face, then we “fold” it away without creating triangles.



Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

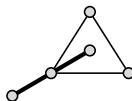
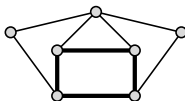
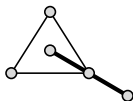
So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Thm: [K-Y] If G is 4-critical, then $|E(G)| \geq \lceil (5|G| - 2)/3 \rceil$.

Cor: [Grötzsch] If G is planar and triangle-free, then $\chi(G) \leq 3$.

Pf: Induction on $|G| + |E(G)|$. If G has 4-face, then we “fold” it away without creating triangles. Assume no 3-face and no 4-face.



Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

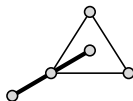
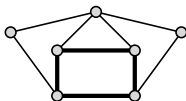
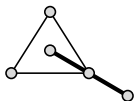
So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Thm: [K-Y] If G is 4-critical, then $|E(G)| \geq \lceil (5|G| - 2)/3 \rceil$.

Cor: [Grötzsch] If G is planar and triangle-free, then $\chi(G) \leq 3$.

Pf: Induction on $|G| + |E(G)|$. If G has 4-face, then we “fold” it away without creating triangles. Assume no 3-face and no 4-face.



By Euler's formula, $|E(G)| \leq 5(|G| - 2)/3$,

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

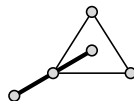
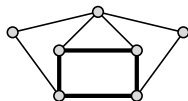
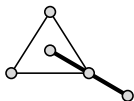
So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Thm: [K-Y] If G is 4-critical, then $|E(G)| \geq \lceil (5|G| - 2)/3 \rceil$.

Cor: [Grötzsch] If G is planar and triangle-free, then $\chi(G) \leq 3$.

Pf: Induction on $|G| + |E(G)|$. If G has 4-face, then we “fold” it away without creating triangles. Assume no 3-face and no 4-face.



By Euler's formula, $|E(G)| \leq 5(|G| - 2)/3$, so G is not 4-critical.

Applications

Thm: [Heawood] If G embeds on orientable surface S_g of genus g ,

$$\chi(G) \leq \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{1 + 48g}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Pf: Let G be k -critical. By Euler's, $|E(G)| \leq 3|G| + 6g - 6$.

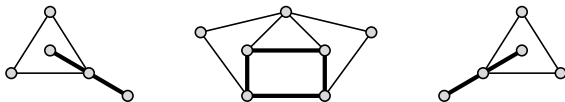
So $k \leq \min\{|G|, 7 + (12g - 12)/|G|\}$. Solve this quadratic.

[Dirac] Equality holds only when G has clique of this order.

Thm: [K-Y] If G is 4-critical, then $|E(G)| \geq \lceil (5|G| - 2)/3 \rceil$.

Cor: [Grötzsch] If G is planar and triangle-free, then $\chi(G) \leq 3$.

Pf: Induction on $|G| + |E(G)|$. If G has 4-face, then we “fold” it away without creating triangles. Assume no 3-face and no 4-face.



By Euler's formula, $|E(G)| \leq 5(|G| - 2)/3$, so G is not 4-critical.

Obs: Proof has some “slack”; allows various strengthenings.

Open Problems

Conj: [Postle] For $k \geq 5$, $\exists \epsilon_k > 0$ s.t. if G is k -crit K_{k-2} -free,
 $|E(G)| \geq (k/2 - 1/(k-1) + \epsilon_k)|G| - k(k-3)/(2k-2).$

Open Problems

Conj: [Postle] For $k \geq 5$, $\exists \epsilon_k > 0$ s.t. if G is k -crit K_{k-2} -free,
 $|E(G)| \geq (k/2 - 1/(k-1) + \epsilon_k)|G| - k(k-3)/(2k-2).$

Known: $k = 5$ [P]

Open Problems

Conj: [Postle] For $k \geq 5$, $\exists \epsilon_k > 0$ s.t. if G is k -crit K_{k-2} -free,
 $|E(G)| \geq (k/2 - 1/(k-1) + \epsilon_k)|G| - k(k-3)/(2k-2).$

Known: $k = 5$ [P] $k = 6$ [Gao-P]

Open Problems

Conj: [Postle] For $k \geq 5$, $\exists \epsilon_k > 0$ s.t. if G is k -crit K_{k-2} -free,
 $|E(G)| \geq (k/2 - 1/(k-1) + \epsilon_k)|G| - k(k-3)/(2k-2).$

Known: $k = 5$ [P] $k = 6$ [Gao-P] $k \geq 33$ [Gould-Larsen-P]

Open Problems

Conj: [Postle] For $k \geq 5$, $\exists \epsilon_k > 0$ s.t. if G is k -crit K_{k-2} -free,
 $|E(G)| \geq (k/2 - 1/(k-1) + \epsilon_k)|G| - k(k-3)/(2k-2).$

Known: $k = 5$ [P] $k = 6$ [Gao-P] $k \geq 33$ [Gould-Larsen-P]

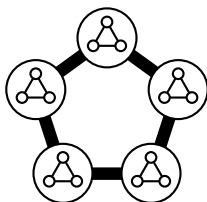
Conj: [Borodin-K] If $\Delta \geq 9$ and $\omega \leq \Delta - 1$, then $\chi \leq \Delta - 1$.

Open Problems

Conj: [Postle] For $k \geq 5$, $\exists \epsilon_k > 0$ s.t. if G is k -crit K_{k-2} -free,
 $|E(G)| \geq (k/2 - 1/(k-1) + \epsilon_k)|G| - k(k-3)/(2k-2)$.

Known: $k = 5$ [P] $k = 6$ [Gao-P] $k \geq 33$ [Gould-Larsen-P]

Conj: [Borodin-K] If $\Delta \geq 9$ and $\omega \leq \Delta - 1$, then $\chi \leq \Delta - 1$.

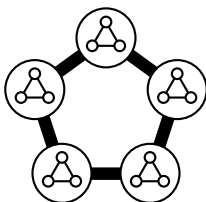


Open Problems

Conj: [Postle] For $k \geq 5$, $\exists \epsilon_k > 0$ s.t. if G is k -crit K_{k-2} -free,
 $|E(G)| \geq (k/2 - 1/(k-1) + \epsilon_k)|G| - k(k-3)/(2k-2)$.

Known: $k = 5$ [P] $k = 6$ [Gao-P] $k \geq 33$ [Gould-Larsen-P]

Conj: [Borodin-K] If $\Delta \geq 9$ and $\omega \leq \Delta - 1$, then $\chi \leq \Delta - 1$.



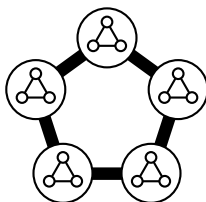
Known: For $\Delta \geq 10^{14}$. [Reed]

Open Problems

Conj: [Postle] For $k \geq 5$, $\exists \epsilon_k > 0$ s.t. if G is k -crit K_{k-2} -free,
 $|E(G)| \geq (k/2 - 1/(k-1) + \epsilon_k)|G| - k(k-3)/(2k-2)$.

Known: $k = 5$ [P] $k = 6$ [Gao-P] $k \geq 33$ [Gould-Larsen-P]

Conj: [Borodin-K] If $\Delta \geq 9$ and $\omega \leq \Delta - 1$, then $\chi \leq \Delta - 1$.



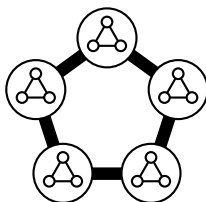
Known: For $\Delta \geq 10^{14}$. [Reed] Reduces to $\Delta = 9$. [Catlin, K]

Open Problems

Conj: [Postle] For $k \geq 5$, $\exists \epsilon_k > 0$ s.t. if G is k -crit K_{k-2} -free,
 $|E(G)| \geq (k/2 - 1/(k-1) + \epsilon_k)|G| - k(k-3)/(2k-2)$.

Known: $k = 5$ [P] $k = 6$ [Gao-P] $k \geq 33$ [Gould-Larsen-P]

Conj: [Borodin-K] If $\Delta \geq 9$ and $\omega \leq \Delta - 1$, then $\chi \leq \Delta - 1$.



Known: For $\Delta \geq 10^{14}$. [Reed] Reduces to $\Delta = 9$. [Catlin, K]
Hereditary families: $K_{1,3}$ -free, $\{P_5, \text{gem}\}$ -free, hammer-free, etc.