Bounds on the number of isolates in sum graph labeling

Hiroshi Nagamochia, Mirka Millerb, *, Slaminb

a Department of Applied Mathematics and Physics, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan
b Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, University of Newcastle, NSW 2308, Australia

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Abstract

A simple undirected graph \( H \) is called a sum graph if there is a labeling \( L \) of the vertices of \( H \) into distinct positive integers such that any two vertices \( u \) and \( v \) of \( H \) are adjacent if and only if there is a vertex \( w \) with label \( L(w) = L(u) + L(v) \). The sum number \( \sigma(G) \) of a graph \( G = (V,E) \) is the least integer \( r \) such that the graph \( H \) consisting of \( G \) and \( r \) isolated vertices is a sum graph. It is clear that \( \sigma(G) \leq |E| \). In this paper, we discuss general upper and lower bounds on the sum number. In particular, we prove that, over all graphs \( G = (V,E) \) with fixed \( |V| \geq 3 \) and \( |E| \), the average of \( \sigma(G) \) is at least \( |E| - 3|V|/|E| - |V| - 1 \). In other words, for most graphs, \( \sigma(G) \in \Omega(|E|) \).

Keywords: Sum graphs; Graph labeling; Sum number

1. Introduction

The notion of sum graphs was first introduced by Harary [7]. From a practical point of view, sum graph labeling can be used as a compressed representation of a graph, a data structure for representing the graph. Data compression is important not only for saving memory space but also for speeding up some graph algorithms when adapted to work with the compressed representation of the input graph (for example, see [5,10]).

There have been several papers determining or bounding the sum number of particular classes of graphs \( G = (V,E) \) (\( n = |V|, m = |E| \)):

- \( \sigma(K_n) = 2n - 3 \) for complete graphs \( K_n \) (\( n \geq 4 \)) [1],
- \( \sigma(K_{p,q}) \leq [(3p + q - 3)/2] \) for complete bipartite graphs \( K_{p,q} \) (\( q \geq p \geq 2 \)) [8],
- \( \sigma(T) = 1 \) for trees \( T \) (\( n \geq 2 \)) [4].