



An extremal problem on potentially $K_{p,1,1}$ -graphic sequences

Chunhui Lai

► To cite this version:

Chunhui Lai. An extremal problem on potentially $K_{p,1,1}$ -graphic sequences. Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science, 2005, Vol. 7, pp.75-80. 10.46298/dmtcs.357 . hal-00959032

HAL Id: hal-00959032

<https://inria.hal.science/hal-00959032>

Submitted on 13 Mar 2014

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

An extremal problem on potentially $K_{p,1,1}$ -graphic sequences[†]

Chunhui Lai

Department of Mathematics, Zhangzhou Teachers College, Zhangzhou, Fujian 363000, P. R. of CHINA.

E-mail: zjlaichu@public.zzptt.fj.cn

received Oct 4, 2004, revised Dec 23, 2004, Apr 21, 2005, accepted May 18, 2005.

A sequence S is potentially $K_{p,1,1}$ graphical if it has a realization containing a $K_{p,1,1}$ as a subgraph, where $K_{p,1,1}$ is a complete 3-partite graph with partition sizes $p, 1, 1$. Let $\sigma(K_{p,1,1}, n)$ denote the smallest degree sum such that every n -term graphical sequence S with $\sigma(S) \geq \sigma(K_{p,1,1}, n)$ is potentially $K_{p,1,1}$ graphical. In this paper, we prove that $\sigma(K_{p,1,1}, n) \geq 2[(p+1)(n-1)+2]/2$ for $n \geq p+2$. We conjecture that equality holds for $n \geq 2p+4$. We prove that this conjecture is true for $p=3$.

AMS Subject Classifications: 05C07, 05C35

Keywords: graph; degree sequence; potentially $K_{p,1,1}$ -graphic sequence

1 Introduction

If $S = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$ is a sequence of non-negative integers, then it is called graphical if there is a simple graph G of order n , whose degree sequence $(d(v_1), d(v_2), \dots, d(v_n))$ is precisely S . If G is such a graph then G is said to realize S or be a realization of S . A graphical sequence S is potentially H graphical if there is a realization of S containing H as a subgraph, while S is forcibly H graphical if every realization of S contains H as a subgraph. Let $\sigma(S) = d(v_1) + d(v_2) + \dots + d(v_n)$, and $[x]$ denote the largest integer less than or equal to x . We denote $G+H$ as the graph with $V(G+H) = V(G) \cup V(H)$ and $E(G+H) = E(G) \cup E(H) \cup \{xy : x \in V(G), y \in V(H)\}$. Let K_k , and C_k denote a complete graph on k vertices, and a cycle on k vertices, respectively. Let $K_{p,1,1}$ denote a complete 3-partite graph with partition sizes $p, 1, 1$.

Given a graph H , what is the maximum number of edges of a graph with n vertices not containing H as a subgraph? This number is denoted $ex(n, H)$, and is known as the Turán number. This problem was proposed for $H = C_4$ by Erdős [3] in 1938 and in general by Turán [12]. In terms of graphic sequences, the number $2ex(n, H)+2$ is the minimum even integer l such that every n -term graphical sequence S with

[†]Project Supported by NNSF of China(10271105), NSF of Fujian, Science and Technology Project of Fujian, Fujian Provincial Training Foundation for "Bai-Quan-Wan Talents Engineering", Project of Fujian Education Department and Project of Zhangzhou Teachers College.

$\sigma(S) \geq l$ is forcibly H graphical. Here we consider the following variant: determine the minimum even integer l such that every n -term graphical sequence S with $\sigma(S) \geq l$ is potentially H graphical. We denote this minimum l by $\sigma(H, n)$. Erdős, Jacobson and Lehel [4] showed that $\sigma(K_k, n) \geq (k-2)(2n-k+1)+2$ and conjectured that equality holds. They proved that if S does not contain zero terms, this conjecture is true for $k = 3, n \geq 6$. The conjecture is confirmed in [5], [7], [8], [9] and [10].

Gould, Jacobson and Lehel [5] also proved that $\sigma(pK_2, n) = (p-1)(2n-2)+2$ for $p \geq 2$; $\sigma(C_4, n) = 2\lceil \frac{3n-1}{2} \rceil$ for $n \geq 4$. Luo [11] characterized the potentially C_k graphic sequence for $k = 3, 4, 5$. Yin and Li [13] gave sufficient conditions for a graphic sequence being potentially $K_{r,s}$ -graphic, and determined $\sigma(K_{r,r}, n)$ for $r = 3, 4$. Lai [6] proved that $\sigma(K_4 - e, n) = 2\lceil \frac{3n-1}{2} \rceil$ for $n \geq 7$. In this paper, we prove that $\sigma(K_{p,1,1}, n) \geq 2\lceil ((p+1)(n-1)+2)/2 \rceil$ for $n \geq p+2$. We conjecture that equality holds for $n \geq 2p+4$. We prove that this conjecture is true for $p = 3$.

2 Main results.

Theorem 1 $\sigma(K_{p,1,1}, n) \geq 2\lceil ((p+1)(n-1)+2)/2 \rceil$, for $n \geq p+2$.

Proof: If $p = 1$, by Erdős, Jacobson and Lehel [4], $\sigma(K_{1,1,1}, n) \geq 2n$, Theorem 1 is true.

If $p = 2$, by Gould, Jacobson and Lehel [5], $\sigma(K_{2,1,1}, n) = \sigma(K_4 - e, n) \geq \sigma(C_4, n) = 2\lceil (3n-1)/2 \rceil$, Theorem 1 is true. Then we can suppose that $p \geq 3$.

We first consider odd p . If n is odd, let $n = 2m + 1$, by Theorem 9.7 of [2], K_{2m} is the union of one 1-factor M and $m - 1$ spanning cycles $C_1^1, C_2^1, \dots, C_{m-1}^1$. Let

$$H = C_1^1 \cup C_2^1 \cup \dots \cup C_{\frac{p-1}{2}}^1 + K_1 \quad (1)$$

Then H is a realization of $((n-1)^1, p^{n-1})$, where the symbol x^y stands for y consecutive terms x . Since $K_{p,1,1}$ contains two vertices of degree $p+1$ while $((n-1)^1, p^{n-1})$ only contains one integer $n-1$ greater than degree p , $((n-1)^1, p^{n-1})$ is not potentially $K_{p,1,1}$ graphic. Thus

$$\sigma(K_{p,1,1}, n) \geq (n-1) + p(n-1) + 2 = 2\lceil ((p+1)(n-1)+2)/2 \rceil. \quad (2)$$

Next, if n is even, let $n = 2m + 2$, by Theorem 9.6 of [2], K_{2m+1} is the union of m spanning cycles $C_1^1, C_2^1, \dots, C_m^1$. Let

$$H = C_1^1 \cup C_2^1 \cup \dots \cup C_{\frac{p-1}{2}}^1 + K_1 \quad (3)$$

Then H is a realization of $((n-1)^1, p^{n-1})$, and we are done as before. This completes the discussion for odd p .

Now we consider even p . If n is odd, let $n = 2m + 1$, by Theorem 9.7 of [2], K_{2m} is the union of one 1-factor M and $m - 1$ spanning cycles $C_1^1, C_2^1, \dots, C_{m-1}^1$. Let

$$H = M \cup C_1^1 \cup C_2^1 \cup \dots \cup C_{\frac{p-2}{2}}^1 + K_1 \quad (4)$$

Then H is a realization of $((n-1)^1, p^{n-1})$, and we are done as before.

Next, if n is even, let $n = 2m + 2$, by Theorem 9.6 of [2], K_{2m+1} is the union of m spanning cycles $C_1^1, C_2^1, \dots, C_m^1$. Let

$$\begin{aligned} C_1^1 &= x_1 x_2 \dots x_{2m+1} x_1 \\ H &= (C_1^1 \cup C_2^1 \cup \dots \cup C_{\frac{n}{2}}^1 + K_1) - \{x_1 x_2, x_3 x_4, \dots, x_{2m-1} x_{2m}, x_{2m+1} x_1\} \end{aligned}$$

Then H is a realization of $((n-1)^1, p^{n-2}, (p-1)^1)$. It is easy to see that $((n-1)^1, p^{n-2}, (p-1)^1)$ is not potentially $K_{p,1,1}$ graphic. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(K_{p,1,1}, n) &\geq (n-1) + p(n-2) + p-1 + 2 \\ &= 2[(p+1)(n-1) + 2]/2. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the discussion for even p , and so finishes the proof of Theorem 1 \square

Theorem 2 For $n = 5$ and $n \geq 7$,

$$\sigma(K_{3,1,1}, n) = 4n - 2.$$

For $n = 6$, if S is a 6-term graphical sequence with $\sigma(S) \geq 22$, then either there is a realization of S containing $K_{3,1,1}$ or $S = (4^6)$. (Thus $\sigma(K_{3,1,1}, 6) = 26$.)

Proof: By Theorem 1, for $n \geq 5$, $\sigma(K_{3,1,1}, n) \geq 2[(3+1)(n-1) + 2]/2 = 4n - 2$. We need to show that if S is an n -term graphical sequence with $\sigma(S) \geq 4n - 2$, then there is a realization of S containing a $K_{3,1,1}$ (unless $S = (4^6)$). Let $d_1 \geq d_2 \geq \dots \geq d_n$, and let G be a realization of S .

Case $n = 5$: If a graph has size $q \geq 9$, then clearly it contains a $K_{3,1,1}$, so that $\sigma(K_{3,1,1}, 5) \leq 4n - 2$.

Case $n = 6$: If $\sigma(S) = 22$, we first consider $d_6 \leq 2$. Let S' be the degree sequence of $G - v_6$, so $\sigma(S') \geq 22 - 2 \times 2 = 18$. Then S' has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Therefore S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Now we consider $d_6 \geq 3$. It is easy to see that S is one of $(5^2, 3^4)$, $(5^1, 4^2, 3^3)$ or $(4^4, 3^2)$. Obviously, all of them are potentially $K_{3,1,1}$ -graphic. Next, if $\sigma(S) = 24$, we first consider $d_6 \leq 3$. Let S' be the degree sequence of $G - v_6$, so $\sigma(S') \geq 24 - 3 \times 2 = 18$. Then S' has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Therefore S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Now we consider $d_6 \geq 4$. It is easy to see that $S = (4^6)$. Obviously, (4^6) is graphical and (4^6) is not potentially $K_{3,1,1}$ graphic. Finally, suppose that $\sigma(S) \geq 26$. We first consider $d_6 \leq 4$. Let S' be the degree sequence of $G - v_6$, so $\sigma(S') \geq 26 - 2 \times 4 = 18$. Then S' has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Therefore S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Now we consider $d_6 \geq 5$. It is easy to see that $S = (5^6)$. Obviously, (5^6) is potentially $K_{3,1,1}$ -graphic.

Case $n = 7$: First we assume that $\sigma(S) = 26$. Suppose $d_7 \leq 2$ and let S' be the degree sequence of $G - v_7$, so $\sigma(S') \geq 26 - 2 \times 2 = 22$. Then S' has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$ or $S' = (4^6)$. Therefore S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$ or $S = (5^1, 4^5, 1^1)$. Obviously, $(5^1, 4^5, 1^1)$ is potentially $K_{3,1,1}$ -graphic. In either event, S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Now we assume that $d_7 \geq 3$. It is easy to see that S is one of $(6^1, 5^1, 3^5)$, $(6^1, 4^2, 3^4)$, $(5^2, 4^1, 3^4)$, $(5^1, 4^3, 3^3)$ or $(4^5, 3^2)$. Obviously, all of them are potentially $K_{3,1,1}$ -graphic. Next, if $\sigma(S) = 28$, Suppose $d_7 \leq 3$. Let S' be the degree sequence of $G - v_7$, so $\sigma(S') \geq 28 - 3 \times 2 = 22$. Then

S' has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$ or $S' = (4^6)$. Therefore S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$ or $S = (5^2, 4^4, 2^1)$. Obviously, $(5^2, 4^2, 2^1)$ is potentially $K_{3,1,1}$ -graphic. In either event, S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Now we assume that $d_7 \geq 4$, then $S = (4^7)$. Clearly, (4^7) has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Finally, suppose that $\sigma(S) \geq 30$. If $d_7 \leq 4$. Let S' be the degree sequence of $G - v_7$, so $\sigma(S') \geq 30 - 2 \times 4 = 22$. Then S' has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$ or $S' = (4^6)$. Therefore S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$ or $S = (5^3, 4^3, 3^1)$. Clearly, $(5^3, 4^3, 3^1)$ has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. In either event, S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Now we consider $d_7 \geq 5$. It is easy to see that $\sigma(S) \geq 5 \times 7 = 35$. Obviously $\sigma(S) \geq 36$. Clearly, S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$.

We proceed by induction on n . Take $n \geq 8$ and make the inductive assumption that for $7 \leq t < n$, whenever S_1 is a t -term graphical sequence such that

$$\sigma(S_1) \geq 4t - 2 \quad (5)$$

then S_1 has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Let S be an n -term graphical sequence with $\sigma(S) \geq 4n - 2$. If $d_n \leq 2$, let S' be the degree sequence of $G - v_n$. Then $\sigma(S') \geq 4n - 2 - 2 \times 2 = 4(n - 1) - 2$. By induction, S' has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Therefore S has a realization containing a $K_{3,1,1}$. Hence, we may assume that $d_n \geq 3$. By Proposition 2 and Theorem 4 of [5] (or Theorem 3.3 of [7]) S has a realization containing a K_4 . By Lemma 1 of [5], there is a realization G of S with v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4 , the four vertices of highest degree containing a K_4 . If $d(v_2) = 3$, then $4n - 2 \leq \sigma(S) \leq n - 1 + 3(n - 1) = 4n - 4$. This is a contradiction. Hence, we may assume that $d(v_2) \geq 4$. Let v_1 be adjacent to v_2, v_3, v_4, y_1 . If y_1 is adjacent to one of v_2, v_3, v_4 , then G contains a $K_{3,1,1}$. Hence, we may assume that y_1 is not adjacent to v_2, v_3, v_4 . Let v_2 be adjacent to v_1, v_3, v_4, y_2 . If y_2 is adjacent to one of v_1, v_3, v_4 , then G contains a $K_{3,1,1}$. Hence, we may assume that y_2 is not adjacent to v_1, v_3, v_4 . Since $d(y_1) \geq d_n \geq 3$, there is a new vertex y_3 , such that $y_1 y_3 \in E(G)$.

Case 1: Suppose $y_3 v_3 \in E(G)$. If $y_3 v_4 \in E(G)$, then G contains a $K_{3,1,1}$. Hence, we may assume that $y_3 v_4 \notin E(G)$. Then the edge interchange that removes the edges $y_1 y_3, v_3 v_4$ and $v_2 y_2$ and inserts the edges $y_1 v_2, y_3 v_4$ and $y_2 v_3$ produces a realization G' of S containing a $K_{3,1,1}$.

Case 2: Suppose $y_3 v_3 \notin E(G)$. Then the edge interchange that removes the edges $y_1 y_3, v_3 v_4$ and $v_2 y_2$ and inserts the edges $y_1 v_2, y_3 v_3$ and $y_2 v_4$ produces a realization G' of S containing a $K_{3,1,1}$.

This finishes the inductive step, and thus Theorem 2 is established. \square

We make the following conjecture:

Conjecture 1 $\sigma(K_{p,1,1}, n) = 2[(p+1)(n-1)+2]/2$, for $n \geq 2p+4$.

This conjecture is true for $p = 1$, by Theorem 3.5 of [4], for $p = 2$, by Theorem 1 of [6], and for $p = 3$, by the above Theorem 2.

Acknowledgements

The author thanks Prof. Therese Biedl for her valuable suggestions. The author thanks the referees for many helpful comments.

References

- [1] B. Bollobás, *Extremal Graph Theory*, Academic Press, London, 1978.
- [2] F. Harary, *Graph Theory*, Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1969.
- [3] P. Erdős, On sequences of integers no one of which divides the product of two others and some related problems, *Izv. Naustno-Issl. Mat. i Meh. Tomsk* 2, 1938, p. 74–82.
- [4] P. Erdős, M.S. Jacobson and J. Lehel, Graphs realizing the same degree sequences and their respective clique numbers, in *Graph Theory, Combinatorics and Application*, Vol. 1 (Y. Alavi et al., eds.), John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1991, p. 439–449.
- [5] R.J. Gould, M.S. Jacobson and J. Lehel, Potentially G -graphic degree sequences, in *Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Algorithms*, Vol. 2 (Y. Alavi et al., eds.), New Issues Press, Kalamazoo, MI, 1999, p. 451–460.
- [6] Lai Chunhui, A note on potentially $K_4 - e$ graphical sequences, *Australasian J. of Combinatorics* 24, 2001, p. 123–127.
- [7] Li Jiong-Sheng and Song Zi-Xia, An extremal problem on the potentially P_k -graphic sequences, *Discrete Math.* 212, 2000, p. 223–231.
- [8] Li Jiong-Sheng and Song Zi-Xia, The smallest degree sum that yields potentially P_k -graphical sequences, *J. Graph Theory* 29, 1998, p. 63–72.
- [9] Li Jiong-sheng and Song Zi-Xia, On the potentially P_k -graphic sequences, *Discrete Math.* 195, 1999, p. 255–262.
- [10] Li Jiong-sheng, Song Zi-Xia and Luo Rong, The Erdős-Jacobson-Lehel conjecture on potentially P_k -graphic sequence is true, *Science in China (Series A)*, 41:5, 1998, p. 510–520.
- [11] Rong Luo, On potentially C_k -graphic sequences, *Ars Combinatoria* 64, 2002, p. 301–318.
- [12] P. Turán, On an extremal problem in graph theory, *Mat. Fiz. Lapok* 48, 1941, p. 436–452.
- [13] Yin Jian-Hua and Li Jiong-Sheng, An extremal problem on potentially $K_{r,s}$ -graphic sequences, *Discrete Math.* 260, 2003, p. 295–305.

