

SPARSE RAMSEY GRAPHS

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If H is a Ramsey graph for a graph G then H is rich in copies of the graph G . Here we prove theorems in the opposite direction. We find examples of H such that copies of G do not form short cycles in H . This provides a strengthening also, of the following well-known result of Erdős: there exist graphs with high chromatic number and no short cycles. In particular, we solve a problem of J. Spencer.

1. Introduction

Throughout this paper we use the term “subgraph” to mean *induced* subgraph. We write $G \subseteq G'$ to indicate that G is a subgraph of G' . If G and H are graphs then we denote by $\binom{H}{G}$ the set of all subgraphs of H which are isomorphic to G .

Let \mathcal{G} be a subset of $\binom{H}{G}$. Such a set \mathcal{G} is called a *system of copies of G in H* .

Definition 1.1. $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \binom{H}{G}$ is a *t -Ramsey system of copies of G* if for every partition $\mathcal{A}_1 \cup \dots \cup \mathcal{A}_t$ of the edges of H into t classes there exist $G' \in \mathcal{G}$ and $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, t\}$ such that $E(G') \subseteq \mathcal{A}_i$.

Alternatively, a partition $\mathcal{A}_1 \cup \dots \cup \mathcal{A}_t$ of the edges of H will sometimes be considered as a colouring $\varphi: E(H) \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, t\}$ defined by $\varphi(e) = i$ iff $e \in \mathcal{A}_i$.

If $\mathcal{G} = \binom{H}{G}$ is t -Ramsey then we simply write $H \rightarrow (G)_t$.

Let $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \binom{H}{G}$ be a system of copies of G in H . Put $\mathcal{G}_e = \{E(G'); G' \in \mathcal{G}\}$, i.e., the system of edge sets of copies from \mathcal{G} .

Let $\mathcal{S} = (X, \mathcal{M})$ be a set system, i.e., $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$. Recall that the chromatic number $\chi(X, \mathcal{M})$ of (X, \mathcal{M}) is the minimal number of classes X_1, \dots, X_k of a partition of X such that no X_i contains an edge $M \in \mathcal{M}$.

Sometimes we specify the set system by the edge set \mathcal{M} only. In that case we mean the set system $(\cup \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{M})$. Recall that a cycle of length l in a set system (X, \mathcal{M}) is an alternating sequence $x_0, M_1, x_1, M_2, \dots, x_n$ of vertices and edges of (X, \mathcal{M}) satisfying $x_n = x_0$, $M_i \supseteq \{x_{i-1}, x_i\}$ with at last two vertices x_i, x_j and two distinct edges M_i and M_j . Sometimes we specify a cycle by means of the edge-sequence only.

The Lemma below follows immediately from comparison of the definitions:

Lemma 1.2. $H \xrightarrow{\mathcal{G}} (G)_t$ iff $\chi(\mathcal{G}_e) > t$. ■

We prove here:

Theorem 1.3. For every pair of positive integers l, t and for every graph G there exist a graph H and a system \mathcal{G} of copies of G in H such that

1. $H \xrightarrow{\mathcal{G}} (G)_t$
2. \mathcal{G}_e does not contain any cycle of length less than l .

Theorem 1.4. For every triple of positive integers l, t, n there exists a graph H such that

1. $H \rightarrow (K(n))_t$,
2. $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} H \\ K(n) \end{smallmatrix} \right)_e$ does not contain any cycle of length less than l .

Remark that Theorem 1.3 generalizes results from [2, 4, 6] and Theorem 1.4 answers a question of J. Spencer [8]. As the proofs of both theorems are constructive this provides a strengthening of [8] as well.

The above theorems were announced in [7] and they also strengthen the construction of graphs with high chromatic number and without short cycles [3]. Our proof is based on the so-called *partite construction* introduced in [6] (which, incidentally, yields a short proof of the existence of graphs with high chromatic number and no short cycles, see [5]).

This paper consists of three parts. In Section 1 we give definitions and outline the strategy of our proofs. In Section 2 we prove Theorems 1.3–4. Section 3 contains some concluding remarks.

2. Preliminaries

In this part we introduce the notion of an a -partite graph and related special symbols $\mathcal{B} * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$, $B * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$, $\mathcal{B} * \mathcal{G}$. They will be used in the proof of the main theorem.

Definition 2.1. An a -partite graph is a pair $((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ where the sets X_i form a partition of the vertex set $\bigcup_{i=1}^a X_i$ and $\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^a X_i, E \right)$ is a graph such that no X_i contains any edge from E .

We remark that we allow $X_i = \emptyset$ for some i .

Two a -partite graphs $((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ and $((X'_i)_{i=1}^a, E')$ are said to be *isomorphic* if there exists a bijection $f: \bigcup_{i=1}^a X_i \rightarrow \bigcup_{i=1}^a X'_i$ which satisfies $f(X_i) = X'_i$ for every $i = 1, \dots, a$ and $\{f(x), f(y)\} \in E'$ iff $\{x, y\} \in E$.

$((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ is said to be an (induced) *subgraph* of $((X'_i)_{i=1}^a, E')$ if $X_i \subseteq X'_i$ for every $i=1, \dots, a$ and if $\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^a X_i, E\right)$ is an (induced) subgraph of $\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^a X'_i, E'\right)$.

A subgraph of $((Y_i)_{i=1}^a, F)$ isomorphic to $((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ will be often referred to as a *copy* of $((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ in $((Y_i)_{i=1}^a, F)$.

Definition 2.2. Let $((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ be an a -partite graph. Fix $c, d \in \{1, \dots, a\}$, $c \neq d$. Let $((Y_c, Y_d), F')$ be a bipartite graph and let \mathcal{B} be a family of copies of $((X_c, X_d), E')$ in $((Y_c, Y_d), F')$, where $E' = \{e \in E; e \subseteq X_c \cup X_d\}$. Put $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, \dots, B_r\}$. For each copy B_j let $\varphi_j: X_c \cup X_d \rightarrow Y_c \cup Y_d$ be the corresponding isomorphism (i.e. $\varphi_j(X_c) \subseteq Y_c$, $\varphi_j(X_d) \subseteq Y_d$). We define an a -partite graph $\mathcal{B} * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E) = ((Y_i)_{i=1}^a, F)$ as follows: $Y_i = X_i \times \{1, \dots, r\}$ for $i \neq c, d$; $\{\alpha, \beta\} \in F$ if one of the following possibilities holds:

- (i) $\alpha = (x, j)$, $\beta = (y, j)$ and $\{x, y\} \in E$;
- (ii) $\beta = (y, j)$, $\alpha = \varphi_j(x)$ and $\{x, y\} \in E'$ for some $x \in X_c \cup X_d$;
- (iii) $\alpha \in Y_c$, $\beta \in Y_d$ and $\{\alpha, \beta\} \in F'$.

Intuitively, $\mathcal{B} * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ is an amalgamation of copies of $((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ along the set system \mathcal{B} .

We introduce some further notation and mention a number of trivial facts:

- (a) For $j=1, \dots, r$ denote by $\Psi_j: \bigcup_{i=1}^a X_i \rightarrow \bigcup_{i=1}^a Y_i$ the 1—1 mapping defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi_j(x) &= \varphi_j(x) \quad \text{for } x \in X_c \cup X_d \\ \Psi_j(x) &= (x, j) \quad \text{for } x \notin X_c \cup X_d.\end{aligned}$$

- (b) It is easily seen that

$$F = \{\{\Psi_j(x), \Psi_j(y)\}: \{x, y\} \in E, j \in \{1, \dots, r\}\}$$

and that for each B_j the subgraph of $\mathcal{B} * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ induced by the set $\{\Psi_j(x): x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^a X_i\}$ is isomorphic to $((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$.

- (c) (Notation.) This a -partite graph will be denoted by $B_j * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$.

- (d) Explicitly $B_j * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E) = ((\Psi_j(X_i))_{i=1}^a, \{\{\Psi_j(x), \Psi_j(y)\}: \{x, y\} \in E\})$.

- (e) (Notation.) If $G = ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E^v)$ is an a -partite subgraph of $((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ then $B_j * G$ will stand for the Ψ_j -image of G .

- (f) Explicitly, $B_j * G = ((Y_i^v)_{i=1}^a, F^v)$, where $Y_i^v = \Psi_j(X_i^v)$ for $i=1, \dots, a$ and $F^v = \{\{\Psi_j(x), \Psi_j(y)\}: \{x, y\} \in E^v\}$.

- (g) (Notation.) If \mathcal{G} is a system of subgraphs of $((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ then $\mathcal{B} * \mathcal{G}$ denotes the set of all subgraphs of $\mathcal{B} * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ of the form $B_j * G'$, $B_j \in \mathcal{B}$, $G' \in \mathcal{G}$.

- (h) The bipartite graph $((X_c, X_d), E')$ may be considered as an a -partite graph $((X'_i)_{i=1}^a, E')$ where $X'_c = X_c$, $X'_d = X_d$, $X'_i = \emptyset$ otherwise. Using this convention \mathcal{B} is a family of subgraphs of $\mathcal{B} * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$. In particular, B_j is a subgraph of $B_j * ((X_i)_{i=1}^a, E)$ for every $j=1, \dots, r$.

Theorems 1 and 2 will be deduced from the following somewhat technical statement:

Proposition 2.3. *For every pair of positive integers t, l and every bipartite graph G there exist a bipartite graph H and a family $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \binom{H}{G}$ with the following properties:*

1. $H \xrightarrow{\mathcal{G}} (G)_t$;
2. \mathcal{G}_e does not contain cycles of length less than or equal to l ;
3. If $l > 2$ and G_1, G_2 are two distinct members of \mathcal{G} then G_1 and G_2 intersect in at most 2 vertices. Moreover, if x, y are common vertices of G_1 and G_2 then $\{x, y\}$ is an edge (in both G_1 and G_2).

Observe that 3 is slightly stronger than the fact that G_e does not contain any 2-cycle.

We will prove the Proposition by induction on l . Theorem 1.3 will be established by the same construction (and using Proposition 1). Theorem 1.4 is a direct consequence of the proof of Theorem 1.3 given below.

3. Proofs

Proof of Proposition 2.3. We proceed by induction on l . The case $l=1$ (i.e. the induced bipartite Ramsey Graph-Theorem) is easy and folkloristic. For the sake of completeness, note that any bipartite graph is a subgraph of a bipartite graph of type $(X, [X]^p; \{\{x, P\} : x \in P \in [X]^p\}) = (X, [X]^p; \epsilon)$ for some positive integer p and set X .

Using Ramsey's theorem we get that for every p, X there are p', X' such that

$$H = (X', [X']^{p'}, \epsilon) \rightarrow (G)_t \quad \text{where} \quad G = (X, [X]^p, \epsilon).$$

Clearly, $\mathcal{G} = \binom{H}{G}$ satisfies the condition ($l=1$) (see [6] for more details).

In the induction step assume that Proposition 2.3 is valid for a fixed $l \geq 1$. Fix $G = (V, E)$, $|V| = n$ and a positive integer t . Without loss of generality assume $n \geq 3$. Let $H' = (V', E')$ be a bipartite graph with $H' \rightarrow (G)_t$ (which exists by the case $l=1$). Suppose further

$$V' = \{1, 2, \dots, a\}$$

$$E' = \{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$$

$$\mathcal{G}' = \binom{H'}{G} = \{G_1, \dots, G_q\}.$$

Define inductively an a -partite graph P^k and a system \mathcal{G}^k for all $k \leq m$ as follows:

$$P^0 = ((X_i^0)_{i=1}^a, E^0)$$

where

$$X_i^0 = \{i\} \times \{1, \dots, q\}$$

and

$$\{(v, j), (v', j')\} \in E^0 \quad \text{iff} \quad j = j' \quad \text{and} \quad \{v, v'\} \in E(G_j).$$

Denote by \bar{G}_j the subgraph of P^0 induced by the vertices $V(G_j) \times \{j\}$ and put $\mathcal{G}^0 = \{\bar{G}_j; j=1, \dots, q\}$.

Suppose that $P^k = ((X_i^k)_{i=1}^a, E^k)$ and $\mathcal{G}^k \subseteq \binom{P^k}{G}$ have already been defined for $k < m$. Put $\{c, d\} = e_{k+1} \in E'$ and consider the bipartite graph:

$$B^{k+1} = (X_c^k, X_d^k, E'), \text{ where } E' = \{e \in E: e \subseteq X_c^k \cup X_d^k\}.$$

Now, applying the induction hypothesis to the graph B^{k+1} , we obtain that there exist a bipartite graph $C^{k+1} = (Y_c, Y_d, F')$ and a system $\mathcal{B}^{k+1} \subseteq \binom{C^{k+1}}{B^{k+1}}$ such that

- (i) $C^{k+1} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{B}^{k+1}} (B^{k+1})_t$,
- (ii) $(\mathcal{B}^{k+1})_e$ does not contain cycles of length $< l$,
- (iii) singletons and edges are the only pairwise intersections of copies from \mathcal{B}^{k+1} (cf. 3. in Proposition 2.3).

Put

$$P^{k+1} = \mathcal{B}^{k+1} * P^k \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{G}^{k+1} = \mathcal{B}^{k+1} * \mathcal{G}^k.$$

Finally, let

$$H = P^m = ((Y_i)_{i=1}^a, F) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}^m.$$

We will prove that H and G have all the desired properties.

Claim 1. $H \xrightarrow{\mathcal{G}} (G)_t$.

Proof. Following the lines of [6], [9] we use backwards induction on $k = m, m-1, \dots, 0$. Let $\varphi: E(H) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, t\}$ be an arbitrary coloring. Using the definition of P^m there exists a $\bar{B}^m \in \mathcal{B}^m$ such that φ restricted to the edge set of \bar{B}^m is a constant (say φ^m). (Note that $\bar{B}^m \in \mathcal{B}^m$ is a subgraph of C^m isomorphic to B^m . The upper index indicates that \bar{B}^m is related to the a -partite graph P^m and thus also to the edge e_m of the graph H' .) Consider the restriction of φ to the edge set of the graph $\bar{B}^m * P^{m-1}$ (which is isomorphic to P^{m-1}).

Using the definition of P^{m-1} there exists $\bar{B}^{m-1} \in \mathcal{B}^{m-1}$ such that φ restricted to the edge set of $\bar{B}^m * \bar{B}^{m-1}$ is constant (say φ^{m-1}). Proceeding this way we obtain $\bar{B}^i \in \mathcal{B}^i$ $i = m, m-1, \dots, 1$ such that the edge set of $\bar{B}^m * (\bar{B}^{m-1} * \dots * (\bar{B}^{i+1} * \bar{B}^i) \dots)$ is coloured by φ^i (cf. Section 2(e)). Now consider $P' = \bar{B}^m * (\dots * (\bar{B}^1 * P^0) \dots)$, P' is a copy of P^0 . Observe that for every edge $\{i, i'\} = e_j \in E'$ the following holds: the set of all edges e of P' which satisfy $e \subseteq Y_i \cup Y_{i'}$ is a subset of the edge set of $\bar{B}^m * (\dots * (\bar{B}^{j+1} * \bar{B}^j) \dots)$. Consequently, the colour of an edge e of P' depends only on those sets $Y_i, Y_{i'}$ for which $e \subseteq Y_i \cup Y_{i'}$. This induces a coloring φ' of the edge set E' of H' by $\varphi'(e_j) = \varphi^j$ for $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Thus, there exists $G' \in \mathcal{G}'$ such that the coloring φ' restricted to the edge set of G' is a constant. Hence, the coloring φ restricted to the edge set of a copy $\bar{B}^m * (\bar{B}^{m-1} * \dots * (\bar{B}^1 * G'))$ is constant. This proves Claim 1. ■

Claim 2. H is bipartite.

This is obvious as H' is bipartite and the bipartition of H' induces the bipartition on each of $P^k, k = 0, \dots, m$ (the mapping $f: \bigcup_{i=1}^a X_i^k \rightarrow \{1, \dots, a\}$ defined by $f(x) = i$, for all $x \in X_i^k$, is a homomorphism, $f: P^k \rightarrow H'$).

Claim 3. Any two distinct copies from \mathcal{G} intersect in at most two vertices. If they intersect in exactly two vertices then these vertices form an edge (in both copies).

Proof. Follows easily by induction. The case P^0, \mathcal{G}^0 is trivial. Put $e_{k+1} = \{c, d\}$. If G_1, G_2 are members of $\mathcal{G}^{k+1} = \mathcal{B}^{k+1} * \mathcal{G}^k$ then put $G_i = B_i * \bar{G}_i$, $B_i \in \mathcal{B}^{k+1}$, $\bar{G}_i \in \mathcal{G}^k$ for $i=1, 2$. If now $B_1 = B_2$ then we use induction on k and if $B_1 \neq B_2$ then the vertices of the intersection $G_1 \cap G_2$ are contained in the set $Y_c \cup Y_d$. Moreover, as G_1 and G_2 correspond to copies of G in H' and as $\{c, d\}$ is an edge of H' we get that $|V(G_i) \cap (Y_c \cup Y_d)| \geq 2$ iff $|E(G_i) \cap [Y_c \cup Y_d]| = 1$ for both $i=1, 2$. This proves Claim 3. ■

Claim 4. \mathcal{G}_e does not contain cycles of length $< l+1$.

Proof. Clearly, we may assume $l > 2$ as the case $l=1$ is trivial and the case $l=2$ follows from Claim 3. We proceed by induction proving that $(\mathcal{G}^k)_e$ does not contain cycles of length $< l+1$ for $k=0, 1, \dots, m$. This is obvious for $(\mathcal{G}^0)_e$ as \mathcal{G}^0 is a collection of q disjoint copies of G . Assume that $(\mathcal{G}^k)_e$ does not contain cycles of length $< l+1$ for some $k \geq 0$.

Suppose for a contradiction that the sequence $E(G_1), \dots, E(G_{l'})$ of the edge sets of these graphs $G_1, \dots, G_{l'}$ which belong to \mathcal{G}^{k+1} form a cycle of length $l' < l+1$. Denote by E_i the edge set of G_i . We may assume that all the sets E_i are distinct and that $E_{i-1} \cap E_i \neq E_i \cap E_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$ for $i=1, \dots, l'$ (cyclically).

Recall that $\mathcal{G}^{k+1} = \mathcal{B}^{k+1} * \mathcal{G}^k$. Thus each G_i , $i=1, \dots, l'$ is of the form

$$G_i = B_i * \bar{G}_i,$$

where $\bar{G}_i \in \mathcal{G}^k$ and $B_i \in \mathcal{B}^{k+1}$. Observe that both \bar{G}_i and B_i are uniquely determined by G_i (as G has at least 3 vertices) for every $i=1, \dots, l'$. Moreover, if $G_i = B_i * \bar{G}_i$, $G_j = B_j * \bar{G}_j$ and $B_i \neq B_j$ when $E_i \cap E_j \neq \emptyset$, then B_i and B_j intersect in (exactly) one edge (as \mathcal{B}^{k+1} satisfies condition 3. of Proposition 2.3). Consequently the edge sets of the graphs $B_1, \dots, B_{l'}$ either coincide or contain a cycle of length $< l+1$.

The first case is impossible, for if $B = B_1 = \dots = B_{l'}$ then $G_i = B * \bar{G}_i$ and thus \bar{G}_i form a cycle of length $< l+1$ in \mathcal{G}^k , a contradiction.

Now consider the second case. Denote by \bar{E}_i the edge set of B_i . Observe that $|E_i \cap \bar{E}_i| = 1$. Since $E_i \cap E_{i+1} \neq E_{i-1} \cap E_i$ we get that for every $i=1, \dots, l'$ either $E_i \cap \bar{E}_i \neq E_{i-1} \cap \bar{E}_i$ or $E_i \cap \bar{E}_i \neq E_{i+1} \cap \bar{E}_i$. Obviously, if e.g. $E_{i-1} \cap \bar{E}_i \neq E_i \cap \bar{E}_i$ then $\bar{E}_{i-1} = \bar{E}_i$. Consequently, for every $i=1, \dots, l'$ either $\bar{E}_{i-1} = \bar{E}_i$ or $\bar{E}_i = \bar{E}_{i+1}$. Thus, we have that the set $\{\bar{E}_1, \dots, \bar{E}_{l'}\}$ contains a cycle of length $< l$ in $(\mathcal{B}^k)_e$, which is a contradiction. ■

This completes the proof of Proposition 2.2. ■ ■

Proof of Theorem 1.3. Repeat the construction given in the proof of Proposition 2.3 with the following inputs: If $l=1$ then put $a=k$ and

$$H' = (\{1, \dots, \{a\}, \{i, j\} : 1 \leq i < j \leq a\}) = K(a).$$

If $l > 1$ then let H' be a Ramsey graph for $G, \mathcal{G}' = \left(\begin{smallmatrix} H' \\ G \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ (H' exists by the induction hypothesis used for $l=1$). If $H = P^m$, $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}^m$ is the result of this construction then the same proof as above establishes Theorem 1.3. ■

Proof of Theorem 1.4. Assume without loss of generality $n > 2$. Put $G = K(n)$ and use for G exactly the same construction as in the proof of Theorem 1.3. Let $H = P^m$ be the resulting graph. It suffices to prove that the family $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} H \\ K(n) \end{smallmatrix} \right)_e$ does not contain cycles of length $< l$. This can be done by induction on l (the case $l = 1$ being trivial). In the inductive step, let $P^0, P^1, \dots, P^m = H$ be the graphs constructed in the proof of Theorem 1.3. In this situation, we prove by induction on k that $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} P^k \\ K(n) \end{smallmatrix} \right)_e$ does not contain cycles of length $< l + 1$.

This is obvious for $k = 0$.

Suppose that some copies $K_1, \dots, K_{l'}$ of $K(n)$ form a cycle in $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} P^{k+1} \\ K(n) \end{smallmatrix} \right)_e$. Each K_i is of the form $K_i = B_i * \bar{K}_i$. Let $E_i, \tilde{E}_i, \bar{E}_i$ denote the edge sets of K_i, B_i, \bar{K}_i . Then the following are true:

(1) $B_i \neq B_j \Rightarrow E_i \cap E_j = \tilde{E}_i \cap \tilde{E}_j$;

(2) If $B_1 = \dots = B_{l'} = B$ then $\bar{E}_1, \dots, \bar{E}_{l'}$ form a cycle in P^k (a contradiction).

(3) If not all of $B_1, \dots, B_{l'}$ coincide then there exists i such that $B_i = B_{i+1}$. Consequently, the set $\{\tilde{E}_1, \dots, \tilde{E}_{l'}\}$ contains a cycle of length $< l$ in $(\mathcal{B}^{k+1})_e$ (a contradiction).

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.4. ■

4. Concluding remarks

We can extend Theorem 1.4 to several noncomplete graphs as well. E.g., the following is true.

Definition 4.1. A graph $G = (V, E)$ is called 3-chromatically connected if the graph $(V - V', \{e \in E: e \cap V' = \emptyset\})$ is connected for every bipartite subgraph $(V', \{e \in E: e \subseteq V'\})$ of G .

Theorem 4.2. Let k, l be positive integers and let G be a 3-chromatically connected graph. Then there exists a graph H with the following properties:

(i) $H \rightarrow (G)_k$

(ii) $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} H \\ G \end{smallmatrix} \right)_e$ does not contain cycles of length $< l$.

Conjecture 4.3. For every graph G and positive integers k, l there exists a graph H such that

(i) $H \rightarrow (G)_k$

(ii) $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} H \\ G \end{smallmatrix} \right)_e$ does not contain cycles of length $< l$.

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