

DISTANCE PATTERN DISTINGUISHING SETS IN GRAPHS

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(Updated on 27 January 2011)

Definition 1. Let $G = (V, E)$ be a connected (p, q) -graph. Let M be a nonempty subset of $V(G)$ and let $u \in V(G)$. The M -distance pattern of u is the set $f_M(u) = \{d(u, v) : v \in M\}$. If f_M is an injective function, then the set M is called a distance pattern distinguishing set (or *DPD*-set in short) of G .

Observation 2. For any graph $G = (V, E)$ with $|V| \geq 2$, V is not a *DPD*-set, since for any two vertices $u, v \in V$ with $d(u, v) = \text{diam}(G)$ we have $f_M(u) = f_M(v) = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, \text{diam}(G)\}$.

We observe that not every graph has a *DPD*-set. For example the complete graph K_n , $n \geq 3$ does not possess a *DPD*-set. Also any tree with a support vertex having at least three pendant vertices as its neighbours does not possess a *DPD*-set.

Problem

1. Characterize graphs which admit a *DPD*-set.
2. Given a positive integer $k \geq 3$, does there exist a k -regular graph which admits a *DPD*-set?