## Identifying codes in vertex-transitive graphs

Sylvain Gravier, Aline Parreau, Sara Rottey, Leo Storme and Élise Vandomme

$$
\text { ICGT } 2014 \text { - Grenoble }
$$



## Identification in a finite set



How to choose the attributes to efficiently distinguish the individuals?

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- Individuals are vertices of a graph
- Attributes are closed neighbourhoods of the vertices



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## Formal definition

An identifying code $C$ is a subset of vertices such that

- $\forall u \in V$,
$N[u] \cap C \neq \emptyset$
(domination)
- $\forall u, v \in V, \quad N[u] \cap C \neq N[v] \cap C$
(separation)


| $\mathrm{V} \backslash \mathrm{C}$ | a | b | c | d |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $\bullet$ | $\bullet$ | - | - |
| 2 | - | $\bullet$ | - | - |
| 3 | - | $\bullet$ | $\bullet$ | - |
| 4 | - | - | $\bullet$ | $\bullet$ |
| 5 | $\bullet$ | $\bullet$ | $\bullet$ | - |
| 6 | - | $\bullet$ | $\bullet$ | $\bullet$ |

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## Linear programming formulation

- A variable $x_{u}$ for each vertex $u$

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- Goal: minimize $\sum_{u \in V} x_{u}$
- Constraints: domination and separation

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
\text { Minimize } & \sum_{u \in V} x_{u} & \\
\text { such that } & \sum_{w \in N[u]} x_{w} \geq 1 \quad \forall u \in V & \text { (domination) } \\
& \sum_{w \in N[u] \Delta N[v]} x_{w} \geq 1 \quad \forall u \neq v \in V & \text { (separation) } \\
& x_{u} \in\{0,1\} & \forall u \in V &
\end{array}
$$

This problem is NP-complete... but its fractional relaxation is not !

## Fractional relaxation

Minimize

$$
\sum_{u \in V} x_{u}
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such that

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\begin{array}{ccc}
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x_{u} \in[0,1] & \forall u \in V &
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$$

Let $\gamma_{f}^{I D}(G)$ be the optimal solution of this problem.

$$
\gamma_{f}^{I D}(G) \leq \gamma^{I D}(G)
$$

## Vertex-transitive graphs

A graph is vertex-transitive if for any two vertices $u$ and $v$, there is an automorphism sending $u$ to $v$.

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Examples:

$\checkmark \quad \times$

## Properties:

- All vertices have the same degree, denoted by $k$.
- There is an optimal solution to the fractional program with all the variables equal.


## Fractional value for VT-graphs

There is an optimal solution with $x_{u}=\lambda$ for all $u \in V$.

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& \sum_{w \in N[u]} x_{w} \geq 1 \quad \forall u \in V \quad \text { (domination) } \\
& \Rightarrow \lambda \geq 1 /(k+1) \\
& \text { (separation) } \\
& x_{u} \in[0,1] \\
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where $d$ is the smallest size of sets $N[u] \Delta N[v]$

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If $G$ is vertex-transitive, $\gamma_{f}^{I D}(G)=\lambda \cdot|V|=\frac{|V|}{\min (k+1, d)}$.

## Example

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Cycle $\mathcal{C}_{n}$


$$
k=2, d=2
$$

- $\gamma_{f}^{I D}\left(\mathcal{C}_{n}\right)=\frac{n}{2}$
- $\gamma^{I D}\left(\mathcal{C}_{n}\right) \leq \frac{n+3}{2}$
- $1 \leq \frac{\gamma^{I D}\left(\mathcal{C}_{n}\right)}{\gamma_{f}^{\prime D}\left(\mathcal{C}_{n}\right)} \leq 1+\frac{3}{n}$


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How big can be the gap between $\gamma_{f}^{I D}$ and $\gamma^{I D}$ ?
For any graph $G, 1 \leq \frac{\gamma^{I D}(G)}{\gamma_{f}^{I D}(G)} \leq 1+2 \ln |V|$

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For any graph $G, 1 \leq \frac{\gamma^{I D}(G)}{\gamma_{f}^{I D}(G)} \leq 1+2 \ln |V|$

The upperbound is good if $\gamma_{f}^{I D}$ is small, i.e. if $k$ and $d$ are large.

## Generalized quadrangles

A generalized quadrangle $G Q(s, t)$ is an incidence structure of points and lines such that:

- each line contains $s+1$ points,
- each point is on $t+1$ lines,
- if a point $P$ is not on a line $L$, there is a unique line trough $P$ intersecting $L$.


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Adjacency graph: points are vertices, lines are clique.
Example:
The square grid $n \times n$ or as a graph, the cartesian product $K_{n} \square K_{n}$, is a $G Q(n-1,1)$.



## Some facts on GQ

Assume $s>1, t>1$

- A $G Q(s, t)$ is a strongly regular graph with parameters

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\operatorname{srg}((s t+1)(s+1), s(t+1), s-1, t+1) .
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- If it is vertex-transitive,

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\gamma_{f}^{I D}(G)=\frac{s^{2} t}{s t+s+1}+1=\Theta(s)
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- We have $s \leq t^{2}$ and $t \leq s^{2}$. Therefore

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c_{1}|V|^{1 / 4} \leq \gamma_{f}^{I D}(G) \leq c_{2}|V|^{2 / 5}
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- The only known values of $(s, t)$ for which there is $G Q(s, t)$ are $(q-1, q+1),(q+1, q-1),(q, q),\left(q, q^{2}\right),\left(q^{2}, q\right),\left(q^{2}, q^{3}\right),\left(q^{3}, q^{2}\right)$ where $q$ is a prime power.


## A construction of $G Q(q-1, q+1)$ for $q=2^{\ell}$

Step 1: construction of a hyperconic in the projective plane on $\mathbb{F}_{q}$.

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Nucleus
All the lines through $N$ intersect $\mathcal{C}$ in one point

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Hyperconic: $\mathcal{O}=\mathcal{C} \cup\{N\}$ $q+2$ points
no 3 collinear points
a line intersects $\mathcal{O}$ in 0 or 2 points

## A construction of $G Q(q-1, q+1)$ for $q=2^{\ell}$

## Step 2: Construction of GQ.

Projective space of dim. 3 on $\mathbb{F}_{q},\left(X_{0}, X_{1}, X_{2}, X_{3}\right)$

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- $q^{3}$ points
- q points by line
- $q+2$ lines by point
- unique projection


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Three non coplanar lines through $N$ form an identifying code.


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\begin{aligned}
& N\left[P_{1}\right] \cap C=N\left[P_{2}\right] \cap C=\left\{Q_{1}, Q_{2}, Q_{3}\right\} \\
& \Rightarrow Q_{1}, Q_{2}, Q_{3} \text { in a plane containing } N \\
& \Rightarrow L_{1}, L_{2}, L_{3} \text { are coplanar. }
\end{aligned}
$$

## Bounds for $\gamma^{I D}(G Q(q-1, q+1))$

Three non coplanar lines through $N$ form an identifying code.

Hence

$$
\gamma^{I D}(G Q(q-1, q+1)) \leq 3 q
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Lower bound ?

- Using the fractional value

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\gamma^{I D}(G Q(q-1, q+1)) \geq \frac{q^{3}}{q^{2}+q-1}
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- With discharging methods (for $q \geq 32$ )

$$
\gamma^{I D}(G Q(q-1, q+1)) \geq 3 q-7
$$

Finally,

$$
\gamma^{I D}(G Q(q-1, q+1)) \simeq 3 q \simeq 3|V|^{1 / 3}
$$

## Other results

Let $q$ be a prime power.

- There exists a $G Q(q, q)$ with identifying code of size

$$
5 q=\Theta\left(|V|^{1 / 3}\right)
$$

- There exists a $G Q\left(q, q^{2}\right)$ with identifying code of size

$$
5 q+5=\Theta\left(|V|^{1 / 4}\right)
$$

- There exists a $G Q\left(q^{2}, q\right)$ with identifying code of size

$$
5 q^{2}+3=\Theta\left(|V|^{2 / 5}\right)
$$

## Identifying codes in strongly regular graphs

For a $\operatorname{srg}(n, k, \lambda, \mu)$, we have

$$
d=\min (2(k-1-\lambda), 2(k+1-\mu)) .
$$

Let $G$ be a primitive strongly regular $\operatorname{graph} \operatorname{srg}(n, k, \lambda, \mu)$, then

$$
k \geq \sqrt{n-1} \text { and } d \geq \sqrt{n}-3
$$

As a consequence:

$$
\gamma^{I D}(G) \leq \frac{n(1+2 \ln n)}{\sqrt{n}-3}=\Theta(\sqrt{n} \ln n)
$$

## Another interest of strongly regular graphs

A resolving set of a graph is a set of vertices $S$ such that the distances to this set uniquely determine the vertices.

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A resolving set of a graph is a set of vertices $S$ such that the distances to this set uniquely determine the vertices.

Let $G$ be a graph of diameter 2. Let $\operatorname{dim}(G)$ be the size of a smallest resolving set of $G$.

$$
\operatorname{dim}(G) \leq \gamma^{I D}(G) \leq 2 \operatorname{dim}(G)+1
$$

Strongly regular graphs have diameter 2.
$\rightarrow$ Our constructions give bounds for resolving sets in strongly regular graphs.
Example: For $G$ a $G Q(s, t), c^{\prime}|V|^{1 / 4} \leq \operatorname{dim}(G) \leq c_{2}|V|^{2 / 5}$

## Conclusion

For any graph $G, \gamma_{f}^{I D}(G) \leq \gamma^{I D}(G) \leq(1+2 \ln |V|) \cdot \gamma_{f}^{I D}(G)$

- New families with $\gamma^{I D}$ and $\gamma_{f}^{I D}$ of the same order $|V|^{\alpha}$ with $\alpha \in\{1 / 3,1 / 4,2 / 5\}$
- There exists graphs with $\gamma^{I D}$ and $\gamma_{f}^{I D}$ not of the same order (Paley graphs)..
- ... but $\gamma_{f}^{I D}$ is constant for them !
- Existence of graphs with $\gamma_{f}^{I D}$ not constant and $\gamma^{I D}$ not of the same order ?
- Existence of graphs with order $\gamma^{I D}$ strictly between $\gamma_{f}^{I D}$ and $\gamma_{f}^{I D} \cdot \ln |V|$ ?

