

Distance graphs in Euclidean space

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Abstract

Let D be a non-empty set of real numbers. For a point set X in Euclidean n -space, the D -distance graph on X (denoted by $X(D)$) is the simple graph with vertex set X and edge set $\{xy:d(x,y)\in D, x,y\in X\}$. Specifying D in various ways, there arise many interesting graphs as $X(D)$. For example, letting $D = \{1\}$, $[0,1]$, N , A , S , we get the unit distance graph, the unit neighborhood graph, the integral distance graph, the algebraic distance graph, and the surd distance graph, on X , respectively. (A number is called a surd if it is obtained from 0 and 1 by applying finite times of arithmetical operations and extractions of square root.) Related to these graphs, many interesting results are obtained. Let us cite just one: For a finite point set X in n -space, the algebraic distance graph $X(A)$ is "rigid" in n -space if and only if $X(A)$ is a complete graph (Homma-Maehara).

After a brief survey on distance graphs, we construct a rigid, surd distance graph $X(S)$ in the plane which is not complete. In other words, we present a rigid graph in the plane (with edges all line segments) which cannot be constructed by ruler and compass from the data of incidence relation and edge-lengths. Further, under certain conditions, we prove that if a distance set D has the property that for any finite set X in the plane, the rigidity of $X(D)$ implies the completeness of the graph $X(D)$, then D is a field containing the surd field.