Chemical graph theory



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Chemical graph theory



Historical uses of chemical graph theory



Modern uses of chemical graph theory

# What is a graph?

A graph is defined as a non empty set of vertices and a set of edges



$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} D(i) = 2M$$
  $N - M + F = 2$ 

## Walks, trails, paths, and cycles



- Walk an alternate sequence of vertices and edges, begining and ending with a vertice
  - Open starts and ends at different vertices
  - **Closed** starts and ends at the same vertex

Length (I) - number of occurence of edges in a walk

Trail - a walk where all edges are distinct



**Distance (d)** - the length of the shortest path between 2 vertices

Cycle - a path that starts and ends at the same vertex

Girth - length of the smalest cycle in a graph



Connected vs disconnected and simple, general, and multigraphs



# Forests and trees



*Types of graphs — regular graphs* 

#### A regular graph is a graph where every vertex has the same valency

regular graph of degree 4

M = 0.5\*N\*D

regular graph of degree 2



regular graph of degree 3



Bonchev, D.; Rouvray, D. H. Chemical Graph Theory: Introduction and Fundamentals; Gordon and Brach Science Publishers S.A.: New York, 1991.

# Vertex coloring



Bonchev, D.; Rouvray, D. H. Chemical Graph Theory: Introduction and Fundamentals; Gordon and Brach Science Publishers S.A.: New York, 1991.

Planar graphs

# A graph is planar if it can be drawn such that no edges intersect

Planar



Not planar

Two graphs are isomorphic if there exists a 1:1 mapping from one onto the other (i.e. they are identical, but drawn differently)



Identifying isomorphic graphs without sampling all N! mappings is challenging and remains a problem in graph theory



Planar

Planar graphs

# A graph is planar if it can be drawn such that no edges intersect

A graph is planar if it does not contain a subgraph homeomorphic to  $K_5$  or  $K_{3,3}$ 



Two graphs are homoemorphic if they can be obtained from the same graph by inserting new vertices of valency 2 into its edges





Not planar

Planar

# Euler Circuit – the Königsberg bridge problem



An Euler circuit is a path that starts and ends at the same vertices and traverses every edge exactly once

Only occurs if every vertice is of even degree

An Euler path is a path that traverses every edge exactly once, but doesn't start and end at the same vertice

Only occurs if every vertice besides two are of even degree

# Hamiltonian circuit – the icosian game



Is it possible to start at one vertice of a dodecahedron, travel to every other vertex on the polyhedra, and then return to the initial vertex without visiting any vertex besides the starting one twice?





# Digraphs, line graphs, and weighted graphs



Bonchev, D.; Rouvray, D. H. Chemical Graph Theory: Introduction and Fundamentals; Gordon and Brach Science Publishers S.A.: New York, 1991.

#### Graphs can be converted to matrices and polynomials



#### **Adjacency matrix**

#### **Distance matrix**

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# Applying graph theory to chemistry

#### **Molecular Structures**

- vertices represent atoms
- edges represent bonds
- weighted edges can represent double bonds or C-X bonds



#### **Graph Theory**

#### **Kinetics**

- vertices represent intermediates
  - edges represent pathways
    - frequently digraphs

And many more...

**Polymers** 

vertices represent building

blocks

edges represent connections

- aromaticity
- depicting orbitals and electrons
  - NMR analysis
  - crystals and clusters
  - mapping reaction space

Chemical graph theory



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# Isomer counting

How can we go about counting the number of isomers possible for a given carbon number in a systematic fashion?





## Isomer counting – the Henze-Blair approach

Counting the number of alcohols on acyclic alkanes

Let  $T_N$  be the number of alcohols of carbon N and  $p_N$ ,  $s_N$ , and  $t_N$  be the number of primary, secondary and tertiary alcohols respectively

Then  $T_N = p_N + s_N + t_N$ 





Henze, H. R.; Blair, C. M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1931, 53, 3042.

## Isomer counting – the Henze-Blair approach



This approach has been expanded to deal with structural saturated hydrocarbons, unsaturated hydrocarbons, alkynes and even stereoisomeric alcohols

Henze, H. R.; Blair, C. M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1931, 53, 3042.



Pólya, G. Acta Math. 1937, 68, 1937.



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How many ways are there to substitute a benzene ring with an R group X times?

Point group: D<sub>6</sub>

This method has been extended to isotopic isomers, cyclic molecules, benzenoid hydrocarbons, porphyrins, chiral and achiral alkenes, ferrocenes, clusters, and inorganic structures, among others

Isomer counting – the N-tuple code



Knop, J. V.; Müller, W. R.; Jeričević, Ž.; Trinajstić, N. J. Chem. Inf. Comput. Appl. Chem. 1981, 21, 94.

# Chemical graph theory



Modern uses of chemical graph theory

# NMR assignment of methyl peaks in large molecules via MAGMA

- NMR spectroscopy can probe both structure and dynamics of biomolecules at atomic resolutions
  - Methyl-TROSY can be utilized to study protein complexes up to 1 MDa in molecular weight
- A major challenge to this approach is the need to match resonances in the NMR with specific atoms

Generally obtained by either monitoring assignments from smaller in tact proteins or individually changing residues and observing the NMR perturbations

#### Would it be possible to use graph theory to simplify this process?



Methyl Assignment by Graph MAtching

Pritišanac, I.; Degiacomi, M. T.; Alderson, T. R.; Carneiro, M. G.; AB, E.; Siegal, G.; Baldwin, A. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2017, 139, 9523.

#### NMR assignment of methyl peaks in large molecules via MAGMA



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## Kinetic Analysis with Prim's algorithm

Minimum spanning tree – a subset of edges that connect a graph together with the minimal possible weight

Prim's algorithm finds minimum spanning by repeatedly adding the cheapest vertice to the spanning tree





Yoshimura, T.; Maeda, S.; Taketsugu, T.; Sawamura, M.; Morokuma, K.; Mori, S. Chem. Sci. 2017, 8, 4475.

### Kinetic Analysis with Prim's algorithm



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## Kinetic analysis with Prim's algorithm



■ Green paths represent earlier in the pathway and red later

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■ Green paths represent earlier in the pathway and red later



High-throughput computer-based reaction predictions (HTRP) can be used for *de novo* drug design, virtual chemical space exploration, and to predict if retrosynthesis disconnections are feasible

Can we use this to predict reactions?

Constructed a knowledge graph from 14.4 million reactants and 8.2 million binary reactions

Vertices represent reactants and reaction conditions with edges connecting reactants to reaction conditions and other reactants

- Predict reactions, products and reaction conditions
- Correctly predicted the right product with 67.5% accuracy on 180,000 reactions that were withheld from the data set

Able to predict the products and reaction conditions of 'novel' reactions with decent efficiency



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aromaticity

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#### Polymers

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# Questions



Figure 13. A plot showing the annual number of papers published in the area of chemical graph theory for the years 1970-1986. Note the annual growth rate of around 25% for this period.