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Equi-2-Regular Graphs

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we study graphs whose size of all maximal 2-regular subgraphs are the same. We call these graphs equi-2-regular. We characterize regular graphs which are equi-2-regular. We study claw-free equi-2-regular graphs. Moreover, a family of 2-connected equi-2-regular graphs is constructed.

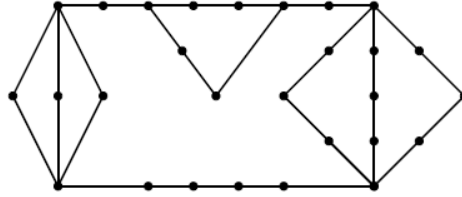
KEYWORDS: Claw-free, Equi-2-regular, Matching

1 INTRODUCTION

All graphs we consider are finite, simple and undirected. Let G be a graph. The minimum degree of G is denoted by $\delta(G)$. A graph G is called *equimatchable* if all maximal matchings in G , have the same size. For example $K_{n, n}$, where n is a positive integer, is an equimatchable graph. The concept of equimatchability was first considered by Meng [6], Lewin [5] and Grünbaum [2] in 1974. Since then, equimatchable graphs have been extensively studied by several authors. See for instance [1, 3, 4, 7].

Sumner [7], proved that a connected equimatchable graph has a 2-factor if and only if it is one of the graphs K_{2n} and $K_{n, n}$, where n is a positive integer. Favaron also proved that every equimatchable factor-critical 2-connected graph is Hamiltonian. Equimatchable 3-regular graphs are characterized in [3]. It is proved that the only connected 3-regular equimatchable graphs are K_4 or $K_{3, 3}$.

In this paper, we intend to characterize all graphs whose size of all maximal 2-regular subgraphs are the same. We call these graphs *equi-2-regular*. For instance, the following graph is equi-2-regular and the size of its maximal 2-regular subgraphs is 18.



We study regular graphs which are equi-2-regular. We investigate claw-free equi-2-regular graphs. Furthermore, a family of 2-connected equi-2-regular graphs is constructed.

2 MAIN RESULTS

Theorem 2.1. Let r be a positive integer and G be an r -regular graph. Then G is not equi-2-regular.

Theorem 2.2. Let G be a connected claw-free graph which is not a cycle. If $\delta(G) \geq 3$, then G is not equi-2-regular.

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