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Linear Time Approximation Algorithm for Multicoloring Lattice Graphs with Diagonals

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Abstract

Let P be a subset of 2-dimensional integer lattice points $P = \{1, 2, \ldots, m\} \times \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \subseteq \mathbf{Z}^2$. We consider the graph G_P with vertex set P satisfying that two vertices in P are adjacent if and only if Euclidean distance between the pair is less than or equal to $\sqrt{2}$. Given a non-negative vertex weight vector $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathbf{Z}_+^P$, a multicoloring of $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ is an assignment of colors to P such that each vertex $v \in P$ admits $w(v)$ colors and every adjacent pair of two vertices does not share a common color.

We show the NP-completeness of the problem to determine the existence of a multicoloring of $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ with strictly less than $(4/3)\omega$ colors where ω denotes the weight of a maximum weight clique. We also propose an O(mn) time approximation algorithm for multicoloring $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$. Our algorithm finds a multicoloring with at most $(4/3)\omega + 4$ colors

Our algorithm based on the property that when $n = 3$, we can find a multicoloring of $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ with ω colors easily, since an undirected graph associated with $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ becomes a perfect graph.

1 Introduction

Given a pair of positive integers m and n, P denotes the subset of 2-dimensional integer lattice points defined by

$$P \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \{1, 2, \ldots, m\} \times \{1, 2, \ldots, n\} \subseteq \mathrm{Z}^2.$$

Let G_P be an undirected graph with vertex set P satisfying that two vertices are adjacent if and only if Euclidean distance between the pair is less than or equal to $\sqrt{2}$. Given a non-negative vertex weights $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathrm{Z}_+^P$, the pair $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ is called a *weighted lattice graph with diagonals* and abbreviated by WLGD.

Given an undirected graph H and a non-negative integer vertex weight $\boldsymbol{w}'$ of H, a *multicoloring* of $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$ is an assignment of colors to vertices of H such that each vertex v admits $w'(v)$ colors and every adjacent pair of two vertices does not share a common color. A *multicoloring problem* on $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$ finds a multicoloring of $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$ which minimizes the required number of colors. The multicoloring problem is also known as weighted coloring [2], minimum integer weighted coloring [7] or w-coloring [6]. A vertex subset V' of an undirected graph is called a *clique* if every pair of vertices in V' are adjacent. The weight of a clique is the sum total of all the weights of vertices in the clique. We denote the weight of a maximum weight clique in $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$ by $\omega(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$. It is clear that for any multicoloring of $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$, the required number of colors is greater than or equal to $\omega(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$.

In this paper, we study a fundamental class of graphs: lattice graphs with diagonals G_P. We show the NP-completeness of the problem to determine the existence a multicoloring of $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ with strictly less than $(4/3)\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ colors. We also propose an O(mn) time algorithm for multicoloring $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ with at most $(4/3)\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}) + 4$ colors.

The multicoloring problem has been studied in several context. On triangular lattice graphs it corresponds to the radio channel (frequency) assignment problem. McDiarmid and Reed [5] showed that the multicoloring problem on triangular lattice graphs is NP-hard. Some authors [5, 6] independently gave approximation algorithms for this problem. In case that a given graph H is a square lattice graph (without diagonal) and/or a hexagonal lattice graph, the graph becomes bipartite and so we can obtain an optimal multicoloring of $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$ in polynomial time (see [5] for example). Halldórsson and Kortsarz [3] studied planar graphs and partial k-trees. For both classes, they gave a polynomial time approximation scheme (PTAS) for variations of multicoloring problem with min-sum objectives. These objectives appear in the context of multiprocessor task scheduling.

There is a natural graph $H(\boldsymbol{w}')$ associated with a pair $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$ as above, obtained by replacing each vertex v of H by a complete graph on $w'(v)$ vertices. Multicolorings of the pair $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$ correspond to usual vertex colorings of the graph $H(\boldsymbol{w}')$, and the multicoloring number of $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$ is equivalent

to the coloring number of $H(\boldsymbol{w}')$. Here we note that the input size of the graph $H(\boldsymbol{w}')$ is bounded by a pseudo polynomial of that of $(H, \boldsymbol{w}')$ in general. We also show that when $n = 3$, we can exactly solve the multicoloring problem on $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ in O(m) time. It based on the property that the associated graph $G_P(\boldsymbol{w})$ becomes a perfect graph. For (general) perfect graphs, Grötschel, Lovász, and Schrijver [2] gave a polynomial time exact algorithm for the coloring problem. Their algorithm based on the ellipsoid method.

2   Approximation Algorithm

In this section, we propose a linear time approximation algorithm for multicoloring a WLGD $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$. For any vertex $(x, y) \in P$, we denote the corresponding vertex weight by $w(x, y)$.

Theorem 1 *There exists an O(mn) time algorithm for finding a multicoloring of $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ which uses at most $(4/3)\omega(G, \boldsymbol{w}) + 4$ colors.*

Before giving a proof of Theorem 1, let us consider a well-solvable case.

Lemma 1 *When $P = \{1, \ldots, m\} \times \{1, 2, 3\}$, there exists an O($m$) time (exact) algorithm for multicoloring $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ with $\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ colors.*

Proof: In the following, we express a multicoloring by an assignment of integers $c : P \to 2^{\mathbf{Z}_+}$ such that $[\forall v \in P, w(v) = |c(v)|]$ and [for every adjacent pair of vertices $v, w \in P$, $c(v) \cap c(w) = \emptyset$]. We describe an O(m) time algorithm explicitly.

First, we compute $\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ in O(m) time. For each odd number $x \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$, we set

$$
\begin{aligned}
c(x, 1) &= \{i \in \mathbf{Z} : w(x, 2) < i \le w(x, 2) + w(x, 1)\}, \\
c(x, 2) &= \{i \in \mathbf{Z} : 1 \le i \le w(x, 2)\}, \\
c(x, 3) &= \{i \in \mathbf{Z} : w(x, 2) < i \le w(x, 2) + w(x, 3)\},
\end{aligned}
$$

and for each even number $x \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$, we set

$$
\begin{aligned}
c(x, 1) &= \{i \in \mathbf{Z} : \omega(G, \boldsymbol{w}) - w(x, 2) \ge i > \omega(G, \boldsymbol{w}) - w(x, 2) - w(x, 1)\}, \\
c(x, 2) &= \{i \in \mathbf{Z} : \omega(G, \boldsymbol{w}) \ge i > \omega(G, \boldsymbol{w}) - w(x, 2)\}, \\
c(x, 3) &= \{i \in \mathbf{Z} : \omega(G, \boldsymbol{w}) - w(x, 2) \ge i > \omega(G, \boldsymbol{w}) - w(x, 2) - w(x, 3)\}.
\end{aligned}
$$

Obviously, the above procedure requires O(m) time.

It remains to show that every adjacent pair of two vertices does not share a common color. First, assume on the contrary that the edge between $(x, 1)$ and $(x + 1, 1)$ violates the condition, i.e., $c(x, 1) \cap c(x + 1, 1) \ne \emptyset$. It follows that $w(x, 1) + w(x, 2) + w(x + 1, 1) + w(x + 1, 2) > \omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$. Since the set

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of four vertices $\{(x,1), (x,2), (x+1,1), (x+1,2)\}$ forms a clique of G_P, it is a contradiction. For other edges, the correctness is proved analogously. ∎

From Lemma 1, the following result is now immediate.

Corollary 1 *If $P = \{1, \ldots, m\} \times \{1, 2, 3\}$, the undirected graph $G_P(\boldsymbol{w})$ associated with $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ is perfect.*

Proof: Every vertex induced subgraph G' of $G_P(\boldsymbol{w})$ is associated with a WLGD $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}')$, satisfying that $w'(v)$ denotes the number of vertices in G' corresponding to the vertex v. ∎

In case that every vertex weight is a multiple of 3, there exists a simple $(4/3)$-approximation algorithm. In the following, we describe an outline of the algorithm. First, we construct four vertex weights $\boldsymbol{w}'_k$ for $k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ by setting

$$w'_k(x,y) = \begin{cases} 0, & y = k \,(\mathrm{mod}\,4), \\ w(x,y)/3, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Next, we exactly solve four multicoloring problems defined on four WLGDs $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}'_k)$ ($k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$) and obtain four multicolorings. We can solve the problems independently by applying the procedure in the proof of Lemma 1 (we will describe later in detail). Here we assume that four multicolorings use mutually disjoint sets of colors. Lastly, we output the direct sum of four multicolorings. It is clear that $\max_{i \in \{0,1,2,3\}} \omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}'_i) \leq (1/3)\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$. Thus, the obtained multicoloring uses at most $(4/3)\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ colors.

In the following, we consider the general case and describe a proof of Theorem 1.

Proof of Theorem 1: For each $k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$, we introduce a partition $\{A_k, B_k, C_k, D_k\}$ of P defined as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
A_k &= \{(x,y) \in P : y = k \,(\mathrm{mod}\,4)\}, \\
B_k &= \{(x,y) \in P : y = k+2 \,(\mathrm{mod}\,4)\}, \\
C_k &= \{(x,y) \in P : y = k+1 \,(\mathrm{mod}\,4),\ x \text{ is odd}\} \\
&\quad \cup \{(x,y) \in P : y = k+3 \,(\mathrm{mod}\,4),\ x \text{ is even}\}, \\
D_k &= \{(x,y) \in P : y = k+1 \,(\mathrm{mod}\,4),\ x \text{ is even}\} \\
&\quad \cup \{(x,y) \in P : y = k+3 \,(\mathrm{mod}\,4),\ x \text{ is odd}\}.
\end{aligned}
$$

Then we construct vertex weights $\boldsymbol{w}_k$ for $k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ by the following procedure. We put the weight of every vertex in A_k to 0. For each vertex $(x,y) \in B_k$, we set $w_k(x,y) = \lfloor w(x,y)/3 \rfloor$. If $(x,y) \in C_k$, we set

$$w_k(x,y) = \begin{cases} \lfloor w(x,y)/3 \rfloor, & w(x,y) = 0 \,(\mathrm{mod}\,3), \\ \lfloor w(x,y)/3 \rfloor + 1, & w(x,y) \in \{1, 2\} \,(\mathrm{mod}\,3), \end{cases}$$

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and in case that $(x, y) \in D_k$, we set

$$w_k(x, y) = \begin{cases} \lfloor w(x, y)/3 \rfloor, & w(x, y) \in \{0, 1\} \pmod 3, \\ \lfloor w(x, y)/3 \rfloor + 1, & w(x, y) = 2 \pmod 3. \end{cases}$$

Clearly from the definition, the equality $\boldsymbol{w} = \boldsymbol{w}_0 + \boldsymbol{w}_1 + \boldsymbol{w}_2 + \boldsymbol{w}_3$ holds.

For each WLGD $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}_k)$ ($k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$), we delete all the vertices in A_k and decompose the graph into $O(n)$ connected components. Then each connected component satisfies the condition in Lemma 1 and so the procedure in the proof of Lemma 1 finds a multicoloring of $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}_k)$ using $\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}_k)$ colors in $O(mn)$ time. Here we assume that four multicolorings use mutually disjoint sets of colors. Then the direct sum of four multicoloring becomes a multicoloring of original WLGD $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$.

Lastly, we show that the algorithm finds a multicoloring with at most $(4/3)\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}) + 4$ colors. We only need to show the inequality $\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}_k) \leq (1/3)\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}) + 1$ for all $k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$. Let V' be a clique of G_P and $V_k'' \overset{\text{def.}}{=} \{(x, y) \in V' : w_k(x, y) = \lfloor w(x, y)/3 \rfloor + 1\}$. The definition of weights $\boldsymbol{w}_k$ directly implies that $|V_k''| \leq 2$, since $|V' \cap C_k| \leq 1$ and $|V' \cap D_k| \leq 1$. We denote the weight of the clique V' with respect to $\boldsymbol{w}_k$ or $\boldsymbol{w}$ by $w_k(V')$ or $w(V')$, respectively. If $V_k'' = \emptyset$, we have done. When $|V_k''| = 1$, the inequality $w(V') \geq 3(w_k(V') - 1) = 3w_k(V') - 3$ holds. In case that $|V_k''| = 2$, $|V' \cap C_k| = |V' \cap D_k| = 1$ and so we have $w(V') \geq 3(w_k(V') - 2) + 1 + 2 = 3w_k(V') - 3$. Thus we have the desired result. ∎

3 Hardness Result

In this section, we discuss the hardness of our problem.

Theorem 2 *Given a WLGD $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$, it is NP-complete to determine whether $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ is multicolorable with strictly less than $(4/3)\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ colors or not.*

Proof: It is known to be NP-complete to determine the 3-colorability of a given planar graph H with each vertex degree is either 3 or 4 (see [1] e.g.). We show a procedure to construct a WLGD $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ such that $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ is 3-multicolorable if and only if H is 3-colorable. In the following, We identify a WLGD $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ with the $n \times m$ integer matrix $\boldsymbol{w} \in \mathrm{Z}_+^{n \times m}$ such that rows and columns are indexed by $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ and $\{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ respectively.

First, we introduce 3 special WLGDs defined by the following matrices:

$$L_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, L_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, L_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The four elements of L_0 indexed by $\{(1, 3), (3, 1), (3, 5), (5, 3)\}$ are the "contact points" of L_0. Observe that in any 3-multicoloring of L_0, all the contact

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points must have the same color. Similarly, four elements of L_1 indexed by $\{(1,3),(3,1),(5,3),(3,11)\}$ are the "contact points" such that in any 3-multicoloring of L_1, the contact points must have the same color. The "contact pair" of L_2 indexed by $\{(3,1),(3,7)\}$ satisfies that in any 3-multicoloring of L_2, the contact points have different colors.

Next, we embed the planar graph H (with each vertex degree is either 3 or 4) on the x–y plain and obtain a plain graph H' such that (1) H' is a subdivision of H (H' is homeomorphic to H), (2) every vertex of H' is an integer lattice point in $\{1,2,\ldots,m'\} \times \{1,2,\ldots,n'\}$, (3) every edge of H' is either a vertical or horizontal edge with unit length, and (4) m' and n' are bounded by a polynomial of the number of vertices of H. For each edge of H', we insert 9 vertices and obtain a finer subdivision H'' of H'. We put $P = \{1,2,\ldots,10m'\} \times \{1,2,\ldots,10n'\}$ and construct G_P (a lattice graph with diagonals) from P. It is easy to see that H'' is a subgraph of G_P. Since there is a linear time algorithm for finding a planar embedding of a given graph or deciding that it is not planar [4], the computational effort of the above procedure is obviously bounded by a polynomial of the number of vertices in H.

Lastly, we construct the vertex weights $\boldsymbol{w}$ of G_P as follows. Initially, we put all the vertex weights to 0. For each vertex v of H'' whose degree is greater than 2, we replace the weights of vertices in G_P whose (Euclidean) distances from v is less than or equal to $2\sqrt{2}$ by matrix L_0. For each edge e in the original graph H, there exists a corresponding path P_e in H''. We denote the path P_e by a sequence of vertices $(v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_{10k})$. Then we replace the weights of vertices near the vertices in the subpath $(v_2, v_3, \ldots, v_8)$ with the matrix L_2 or its rotated image satisfying that $\{v_2, v_8\}$ becomes the contact pair of L_2. Here we note that the copies of L_0 and L_2 share five vertices. In case $k \geq 2$, we apply the following. For every $k' \in \{1, 2, \ldots, k-1\}$, we replace the weights of vertices near the vertices in the subpath $(v_{10k'-2}, v_{10k'-1}, \ldots, v_{10k'+8})$ by a copy of L_1 or its rotated image satisfying that $v_{10k'-2}$ corresponds to one of the elements of L_1 indexed by (1,3),(3,1),(5,3) and $v_{10k'+8}$ corresponds to the element indexed by (3,11). Similarly to the above, consecutive pair of matrices shares five elements.

From the definitions of L_0, L_1, L_2, it is obvious that the WLGD $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ defined above satisfies $\omega(G_P, \boldsymbol{w}) = 3$. The above procedure directly implies that the given graph H is 3-colorable if and only if $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ is 3-multicolorable. Thus, NP-completeness of the original problem implies that it is NP-complete to determine whether a given WLGD $(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ is multicolorable with strictly less than $(4/3)w(G_P, \boldsymbol{w})$ colors. ∎

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