Article

Role of Graphic Integer Sequence in the Determination of Graph Integrity

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Abstract: Networks have an important role in our daily lives. The effectiveness of the network decreases with the breaking down of some vertices or links. Therefore, a less vulnerable communication network is required for greater stability. Vulnerability is the measure of resistance of the network after failure of communication links. In this article, a graph has been taken for modeling a network and integrity as a measure of vulnerability. The approach is to estimate the integrity or upper bound of integrity of at least one connected graph or network constructed from the given graphic integer sequence. Experiments have been done with random graphs, complex networks and also a comparison between two parameters, namely the vertex connectivity and graph integrity as a measure of the network vulnerability have been carried out by removing vertices randomly from various complex networks. A comparison with the existing method shows that the algorithm proposed in this article provides a much better integrity measurement.

Keywords: vulnerability; graphic integer sequence; integrity; tenacity; rupture degree; scattering number; independence number; covering number; clique number

1. Introduction

A communication network contains nodes or processors and communication links. Link cuts, software errors, node interruptions, hardware and transmission failures at various points can cause service interruption for a long time and as a consequence effectiveness may be lost. These events are termed as the vulnerability of communication networks \[1,2\]. Two parameters are important for analyzing the vulnerability of a communication network and they are (i) the number of non-functioning nodes, (ii) the remaining group size within which mutual communication can occur. It is very important and desirable for an adversarial relationship to make the above two quantities simultaneously small \[3\].

Many graph-theoretic parameters are there that can be used to measure the vulnerability of communication networks, which includes connectivity, tenacity, integrity, toughness, binding number and more \[1\]. This paper considers integrity as the measure of vulnerability as it is a useful measure of vulnerability with respect to other parameters \[4\]. The concept of integrity of a graph was introduced in \[5\]. The integrity of a simple connected graph \(G\) with \(V\) number of vertices is defined by \(I(G) = \min_{S \subseteq V} (|S| + m(G-S))\), where \(|S|\) and \(m(G-S)\) denote the subset of vertices \(V\) and the order of the largest component of \(G-S\), respectively \[3\]. Integrity shows not only the difficulty to break down the network but also the damage that has been caused.

In Figure 1, a small comparison between connectivity \[6,7\] and integrity as the measure of vulnerability has been shown. It can be seen that integrity as the measure of vulnerability gives a good result. The connectivity of both graphs \(G_1\) and \(G_2\) is 1, so it clearly cannot differentiate the vulnerability
of both graphs, but the integrity of $G_1$ and $G_2$ is 3 and 4, respectively. Therefore, with this measure it can be concluded that $G_2$ is less vulnerable than $G_1$.

![Figure 1. Connectivity and integrity of graph $G_1$ (graphic integer sequence 5, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1) and $G_2$ (graphic integer sequence 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2) as the measure of the network vulnerability where the connectivity of both graphs is 1 but the integrity is 3 and 4, respectively.](image)

An integer sequence is an ordered list of integers [8,9]. There are various integer sequences. This article considers integer sequences that are graphic. A graphic integer sequence [10,11] is a universal representation structure of a graph. It is an inherent characteristic of any graph. A sequence $d_1, d_2, \ldots, d_n$ of non-negative integers is called graphic if there is at least one graph on vertices $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ such that vertex $k$ has degree $d_k$ [10,12]. If the labeling is added to a graphic integer sequence, at least one graph can be uniquely drawn. Therefore, this is a universal superset of all other graph representation [12].

As the determination of graph integrity is an NP-Complete problem [13], the measure of integrity cannot be done in polynomial time; especially for large networks. This is a novel approach which provides the estimate of integrity or upper bound of integrity of at least one connected graph constructed from the given graphic integer sequence in polynomial time and space. The algorithm proposed here uses the concept of [14,15], where the authors find the maximal clique number. Using this concept, the author of this article first finds the minimal vertex cover number and then the estimate of integrity of the given graph. The advantage is that the proposed algorithm finds the approximate integrity in seconds.

The organization of the article is as follows: Section 2 illustrates the preliminary ideas behind the proposed technique. Section 3 of this paper contains some known results related to graph integrity. Section 4 contains some related works with vulnerability measurement. In Section 5, the proposed algorithm has been described and in Section 6, the algorithm is illustrated with an example. Section 7 explains some results. Concluding remarks are given in Section 8.

2. Preliminaries

This section contains some terms and theorems that act as the basis of the proposed algorithm. For various graph-theoretic terminologies readers may refer to [6,7,16].

**Definition 1.** A Vertex Cover in a graph $G$ is a set of vertices that covers all edges of $G$ [9]. The covering set with the minimum number of vertices of $G$ is the covering number of $G$ and is denoted by $\alpha(G)$ [6,7,16].

**Definition 2.** A subset of vertices of $G$ with no two adjacent vertices is called an independent set. The independent set with the maximum number of vertices is called a maximum independent set (MIS) of $G$ and the number of vertices in MIS is the independence number of the graph $G$ and is denoted by $\beta(G)$. “The order $n$ of a graph $G$ is defined by $\alpha(G) + \beta(G) = n$” [6,7,16].

**Definition 3.** A clique in a graph $G$ is a complete subgraph of $G$. The order of the largest clique in a graph $G$ is its clique number of $G$ and is denoted by $\omega(G)$ [16,17].
Definition 4. A sequence x = d_1, d_2, d_3, . . . , d_n of non-negative integers is said to be a graphic sequence if there exists a graph G whose vertices have degree d_i [1 ≤ i ≤ n] and G is called realization of x [14].

Definition 5. If x = d_1, d_2, d_3, . . . , d_n is the graphic integer sequence of a graph G and x’ = p_1 ≥ p_2 ≥ . . . ≥ p_n is the graphic integer sequence of the complement of the graph G denoted by \( \overline{G} \), then G contains the independence number k, then m = \( \sum (p_i - k + 1) [1 ≤ i ≤ k] \) and drop-m implies reducing the largest terms among p_{k+1}, p_{k+2}, . . . , p_n by unity, where ‘m’ of operation drop-m is the number of edges between the vertices of the largest clique of \( \overline{G} \) and the remaining vertices of \( \overline{G} \) [14].

Theorem 1. For a given graph G and an integer k, the problem of deciding whether the integrity of G is at most k is NP-Complete, even for planar graphs [13].

Theorem 2. A vertex covering S of a graph G is minimum if and only if MIS = V(G) \ S is a maximum independent set of G [18].

Theorem 3. A subset of V(G) is a clique of G if and only if it is an independent set of \( \overline{G} \). Furthermore, \( \omega(G) = \beta(\overline{G}) \) and \( \omega(\overline{G}) = \beta(G) \) [19].

Theorem 4. Let x = d_1, d_2, d_3, . . . , d_n be the graphic integer sequence of a graph G and x’ = p_1 ≥ p_2 ≥ . . . ≥ p_n be the graphic integer sequence of graph G. The graph G contains the independence number k if and only if p_1 ≥ p_2 ≥ . . . ≥ p_k ≥ k-1, k ≤ n and the sequence after drop-m, (p_{k+1}, p_{k+2}, . . . , p_n) is graphic.

Proof. Let x represent a graphic integer sequence of graph G and after drop-m from \( \overline{G} \), a new sequence is generated that is not graphic. Drop-m implies deletion of complete subgraph from G and reducing n-k term by unity. Therefore, after drop-m a new sequence x’ is produced. Since x is graphic, so x’ must be a graphic integer sequence, this contradicts the assumption. Hence, this proves the theorem. □

3. Known Results on Graph Integrity

Theorem 5. ([13]) For any graph G when I(G) is the integrity of G, then
(a) \( I(G) ≤ \alpha (G) + 1 \)
(b) \( I(G) ≥ \delta (G) + 1 \) [where \( \delta (G) \) = minimum vertex degree of G]
(c) \( I(G) ≥ \chi (G) \) [where \( \chi (G) \) = chromatic number of G]
(d) \( I(G) = \kappa (G) + 1 \) if and only if \( \kappa (G) = \alpha (G) \) [where \( \kappa (G) \) = connectivity of G].

Theorem 6. ([13]) The integrity of
(a) The complete graph \( K_n \) is n [where n is the number of vertices]
(b) The null graph \( K_0 \) is 1.
(c) The Pn is \( 2\sqrt{n} + 1 \) − 2.
(d) The cycle \( C_n \) is \( 2\sqrt{n} \) − 1.
(e) The complete bipartite graph \( K_{t,p} \) is 1 + min {t, p}. 
4. Related Works

There are many graph-theoretic parameters for measuring the vulnerability of the network. This section contains some related works. First, in [20,21] authors used connectivity as the measure of vulnerability. Next, in [22] authors discussed the relationship between the safe number and integrity of a graph and in [23] authors studied the bounds and relationships among the scattering number, integrity, and tenacity which are better than other parameters for measuring the stability of networks. In addition, authors of [24–27] studied the integrity of fuzzy graphs, hub integrity, relationships among integrity and component order connectivity, domination integrity and edge, and hub integrity of the graph, respectively. Next, in [13,28] authors used tenacity as the vulnerability measure. The scattering number and rupture degree has been discussed in [29–34]. The authors of [4–37] proved that computing the vulnerability parameters such as integrity, scattering number etc. of a graph is NP-hard in general. Also in [38], authors studied the robustness and fragility of scale-free networks under topologically biased failure (degree-dependent percolation) based on the natural connectivity as the measure of vulnerability.

5. Proposed Algorithm

The problem is to find out the estimate of integrity or upper bound of the integrity of at least one connected graph G constructed from the given graphic integer sequence. The target is to estimate or compute the upper bound of $\alpha(G)$ which in turn gives the estimate of $I(G)$ as $I(G) \leq \alpha(G) + 1$ (Theorem 5a). Therefore, in this algorithm at first $\omega(G)$, i.e., the maximum clique number of the complement of the graph G is computed. If k be the maximum clique number of G, then there must be at least k number of integers which are greater than or equal to k−1. Therefore, 1st k integers with a value greater than or equal to k−1 has been taken from the given graphic integer sequence, which represents a complete subgraph of k vertices. Deleting this subgraph from G, a graph with total edges $e' = e' - [k(k-1)/2+m]$ has been produced, where $e'$ is the total number of edges of G and $m = \sum (d_i' - k+1) [1 \leq i \leq k]$. Then, after drop-m (from Definition 5) if the remaining sequence represents a graphic sequence, then k is the maximum clique number, otherwise the same process is continued. Therefore, from $\omega(G)$, $\beta(G)$ is computed according to Theorem 3. Lastly, $\alpha(G)$ is computed from $\beta(G)$ according to the formula $\alpha(G) = n - \beta(G)$ (from Definition 2). The Algorithm 1 is depicted below:

Algorithm 1. Calculate Graph Integrity

| Input: Graphic integer sequence $x = d_1, d_2, \ldots, d_n$ in non-increasing order, number of vertices (n). |
| Output: Integrity ($I(G)$) of the graph G produced from x. |
| Begin |
| Step 1: $x = d_1 \geq d_2 \geq d_3 \ldots \geq d_n$; |
| Step 2: If $e = n(n - 1)/2$, then $I(G) = n$, goto step 9; (where $e = (d_1 + d_2 + \ldots + d_n)/2$). |
| Step 3: If $e = 0$, then $I(G) = 1$, goto step 9. |
| Step 4: Compute the complement of the given graphic integer sequence. $x' = (n - 1) - d_n \geq (n - 1) - d_{n-1} \geq \ldots \geq (n - 1) - d_1, k = (n - 1) - d_1$. Suppose, $(n - 1) - d_n = p_1, (n - 1) - d_{n-1} = p_2, \ldots, (n - 1) - d_1 = p_n$. |
| Now, $x' = p_1 \geq p_2 \geq \ldots \geq p_n$ and $k = p_1$. |
Step 5: If \( p_1 \geq p_2 \geq \ldots \geq p_k \geq (k - 1)) \), then
Continue.
Else
Goto step 7.
End If

Step 6: If \( p_{k+1} \geq p_{k+2} \geq \ldots \geq p_n \) is graphic (using the Havel–Hakimi \([7]\) algorithm) after drop-m (refer Section 2) Then
Goto step 8.
Else
Continue.
End If

Step 7: If \( k \neq 0 \), \( k = k - 1 \), goto step 5.

Step 8: Compute minimal vertex cover (VC) = \( n-k \) and \( I(G) = |\text{VC}| + 1 \).

Step 9: End

Claim 1. The time complexity of the algorithm proposed in this article is \( O(n^3) \) where \( n \) is the number of vertices and space complexity is \( O(n) \).

In step 6, the Havel–Hakimi algorithm \([7]\) is used for checking if the sequence is graphic or not. For ‘\( n \)’ number of vertices the time complexity of Havel–Hakimi algorithm is \( O(n^2) \). As the maximum number of iterations of the proposed algorithm is ‘\( n \)’, thus the overall time complexity of the proposed algorithm is \( O(n^3) \). In addition, as this algorithm only considers a graphic integer sequence as the representation of graph, so its space complexity is \( O(n) \).

6. Illustration with Example

Example 1. Let us consider the graphic integer sequence \( x = 6,5,5,5,5,5,4,3 \) and have to find integrity of graph \( G \) in Figure 2 produced from \( x \).

First, compute \( x' = 4,3,2,2,2,2,2,1 \).
As \( d_1' = 4 \), so \( k = 4 \).
As \( p_3 = 2 < 3 \), so condition of step 5 failed.
Now, in next iteration \( k = k - 1 = 3 \) (according to step 7 of the algorithm),
As \( p_1 \geq p_2 \geq p_3 \geq 2 \),
\( m = \sum (p_i - k+1) [1 \leq i \leq 3] = (2 + 1 + 0) = 3 \).
After drop-m from \( (p_4, p_5, p_6, p_7, p_8) \) the new sequence \( x'' = (2,1,1,1,1) \) which is graphic.
So, the sequence contains \( VC = (8-3) = 5 \) and integrity \( I(G) = 6 \).

Figure 2. Graph with 8 vertices and graphic integer sequence 6, 5, 5, 5, 5, 4, 3.
**Example 2.** The Graph in Figure 3 has the actual integrity is 3 and with the proposed algorithm integrity is 3. Hence, in this case the algorithm gives exact integrity.

![Figure 3. Graph with 9 vertices and graphic integer sequence 6, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1.](image)

**Example 3.** The Graph in Figure 4 has the actual integrity is 4 and with the proposed algorithm integrity is 5. Hence, in this case the algorithm gives estimate of integrity or upper bound of integrity.

![Figure 4. Graph with 6 vertices and graphic integer sequence 3,3, 3, 3, 3, 3.](image)

**7. Experimental Results**

The algorithm proposed in the article has been coded in C, and compiled using a Cygwin 64 bit c++ compiler and an AMD APU 2.20 GHz processor with 4 GB RAM. In Figures 5–7, the integrity of the Random graph [39], scale-free graph [40] and small-world graph [41] respectively has been shown as measured by the proposed algorithm. Figure 8 shows the time complexity of the proposed algorithm and it can be seen that it follows moving average trend line with period 2. All graphs were generated with software R [42].

![Erdos-Renyi Random Graph](image)

**Figure 5.** Random graph (Erdos–Renyi random graph model [39]) with integrity (measured by the proposed algorithm) = 49.
Figure 4. Graph with 6 vertices and graphic integer sequence 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3.

7. Experimental Results

The algorithm proposed in the article has been coded in C, and compiled using a Cygwin 64 bit C++ compiler and an AMD APU 2.20 GHz processor with 4 GB RAM. In Figures 5–7, the integrity of the Random graph [39], scale-free graph [40] and small-world graph [41] respectively has been shown as measured by the proposed algorithm. Figure 8 shows the time complexity of the proposed algorithm and it can be seen that it follows a moving average trend line with period 2. All graphs were generated with software R [42].

Figure 5. Random graph (Erdos–Renyi random graph model [39]) with integrity (measured by the proposed algorithm) = 49.

Figure 6. Scale-free graph (Barabasi–Albert preferential attachment model [40]) with integrity (measured by the proposed algorithm) = 35.

Figure 7. Small-world graph (Watts–Strogatz small-world model [41]) with integrity (measured by the proposed algorithm) = 44.

Figure 6. Scale-free graph (Barabasi–Albert preferential attachment model [40]) with integrity (measured by the proposed algorithm) = 35.

Figure 7. Small-world graph (Watts–Strogatz small-world model [41]) with integrity (measured by the proposed algorithm) = 44.
Figure 7. Small-world graph (Watts–Strogatz small-world model [41]) with integrity (measured by the proposed algorithm) = 44.

Figure 8. Time complexity of the proposed algorithm (measured in milliseconds) with moving average trend line period 2.

Figures 9–12 show the effect of random vertex removal from the random graph, scale-free graph and small-world graph, respectively by removing 0, 20, 40, 60 vertices, respectively at random. It can be seen from the figures that integrity gives a better measurement of vulnerability than vertex connectivity.

Figure 9. Comparison of vertex connectivity and integrity with random node removal in Erdos–Renyi random graph model with probability = 0.05.

Figure 10. Comparison of vertex connectivity and integrity with random node removal in Erdos–Renyi random graph model with probability = 0.5.
Table 1 compared the proposed method with the existing method in [43] termed as Method 1 in this paper. In Method 1, graph integrity has been measured using graph coloring. Random graph 100, 200 and 300 vertices and with probability 0.6, 0.5, 0.4, respectively, Valdis Krebs’ Initial Mapping of the 9/11 Hijackers’ Network [44] with 19 nodes and Road Network of Burdwan, W. Bengal, India [45] with 60 nodes and 70 edges has been used in this experiment. If the integrity of the graph in example 2 of Section 6 is measured with Method 1 then the output will be 4. Therefore, the integrity measure of the proposed method is more accurate than Method 1, at least for the data considered in Table 1 of this article. Though the time complexity of Method 1 is a little less, the proposed method surpasses Method 1 in terms of integrity measure. Additionally, in terms of space complexity, Method 1 required loading the entire graph in the memory at the time of execution but the proposed algorithm only required the graphic integer sequence. Therefore, the proposed scheme required much less space compared to Method 1.
Table 1. Comparison of integrity measure and time complexity of Method 1 and the proposed method.

| Networks                  | Number of Vertices | Probability of Connections | Graph Integrity by Method 1 | Graph Integrity by Proposed Method | Deviation of Integrity Measure (Column 4–Column 3) | Time Complexity of Method 1 (in Milliseconds) | Time Complexity of Proposed Method (in Milliseconds) |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Random Networks           | 100                | 0.6                        | 83                          | 60                                | 23                                           | 0.0                                           | 1.0                                               |
|                           |                    | 0.5                        | 86                          | 50                                | 36                                           | 1.0                                           | 0.0                                               |
|                           |                    | 0.4                        | 80                          | 48                                | 32                                           | 1.0                                           | 0.0                                               |
|                           | 200                | 0.6                        | 188                         | 119                               | 69                                           | 1.0                                           | 1.0                                               |
|                           |                    | 0.5                        | 177                         | 100                               | 77                                           | 1.0                                           | 1.0                                               |
|                           |                    | 0.4                        | 182                         | 98                                | 84                                           | 1.0                                           | 1.0                                               |
|                           | 300                | 0.6                        | 281                         | 178                               | 103                                          | 2.0                                           | 7.0                                               |
|                           |                    | 0.5                        | 273                         | 150                               | 123                                          | 2.0                                           | 4.0                                               |
|                           |                    | 0.4                        | 263                         | 146                               | 117                                          | 2.0                                           | 4.0                                               |
| Valdis Krebs’ Initial Mapping of the 9/11 Hijackers’ Network [44] | 19 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Road Network of Burdwan, W. Bengal, India [45] | 60 | 30 | 25 | 5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

8. Conclusions

Network vulnerability measures the robustness of the network. Among all other graph parameters, graph integrity is a well-known measure of vulnerability of the network because it considers two conditions after network failure like (i) the number of non-functioning nodes, (ii) the remaining size of the group within which communication can still occur. However, measuring graph integrity cannot be done in polynomial time especially for large complex networks as it is an NP-Hard problem. To cope with this, in this article authors proposed an algorithm that combines universal graph representation, i.e., a graphic integer sequence with the integrity to measure the network vulnerability in linear time. With respect to other methods, it gives a more accurate measurement of integrity. In terms of space, the proposed algorithm is much better also. Additionally, the integrity measure of large complex networks with the Erdos–Renyi random graph model, Watts–Strogatz small-world model and Barabasi–Albert preferential attachment model has been shown. A comparison between vertex connectivity and integrity shows that integrity gives a better measurement of vulnerability. This algorithm is very useful for engineers and researchers for network analysis. Different configuration of networks can be tested to find networks with higher integrity that produce networks with high security, reliability and robustness. Moreover, as in this article only the graphic integer sequence of a connected graph has been considered, further experiments need to carry out in future to see if the proposed algorithm works for more general graphs like edge-independent random graphs [46], and other real world networks. Last but not least, since the problem considered here is an open problem; a more detailed comparison study with the other methods of vulnerability measure can be done to design a more improved and efficient algorithm. Additionally, authors are interested in another open problem, i.e., to construct a graph or network with given integrity and order of vertices that can be applied to construct a less vulnerable network with the given constraints.

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