Zbl 857.05051

Alon, Noga; Erdős, Paul; Holzman, Ron; Krivelevich, Michael On k-saturated graphs with restrictions on the degrees. (In English) J. Graph Theory 23, No.1, 1-20 (1996). [0364-9024]

A graph G is called k-saturated if it is K_k -free, but the addition of any edge produces a K_k (where K_k is the complete graph of order k). There is an old result that if G has order n and is k- saturated, then the number of edges in G is at least $(k-2)n-\binom{k-1}{2}$. However, the extremal examples contain each vertex of degree n-1. This paper defines $F_k(n,D)$ to be the minimal number of edges in a k-saturated graph of order n and maximum degree at most D. The case k = 3 has been studied by Z. Füredi and A. Seress [J. Graph Theory 18, No. 1, 11-24 (1994; Zbl 787.05054)].

In this paper it is shown that $F_4(n,D) = 4n - 15$ for $n > n_0$ and $\lfloor (2n |1/3| \leq D \leq n-2$. Also, it is shown that $\lim_{n\to\infty} F_k(n,cn)$ exists for all 0 < c < 1, except maybe for some values of c contained in a sequence $c_i \to 0$. For sufficiently large n, they also construct some k- saturated graphs of order n with maximal degree at most $2k\sqrt{n}$, significantly improving earlier results.

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Classification:

05C35 Extremal problems (graph theory) 05C65 Hypergraphs

Keywords:

maximum degree; k-saturated graphs