

Exploring Edge Colouring Techniques for Topological Graphs Using Adjacency Matrices

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Abstract

Edge colouring is a well-established problem in graph theory, where the goal is to assign colours to the edges of a graph such that no two adjacent edges share the same colour. This paper focuses on edge colouring in topological graphs through the lens of edge adjacency matrices. The objective of this study is to investigate how edge adjacency matrices can be utilized to enhance the efficiency and understanding of the edge colouring process in topological graphs, which are often used to model complex systems in fields such as network theory and computational biology. The study begins by exploring the structural properties of edge adjacency matrices and their role in representing the relationships between edges that share common vertices. We then propose a novel approach that integrates these matrices into existing edge colouring algorithms, aiming to improve their computational efficiency and scalability. Additionally, we examine the theoretical bounds of edge colouring, including the chromatic index, and provide insights into the behavior of edge colouring in different types of topological graphs. The primary objective is to demonstrate how edge adjacency matrices can offer a more structured and systematic way to address the edge colouring problem, particularly in large and complex graphs. Through this approach, we provide new theoretical results and algorithmic techniques that contribute to both the practical and theoretical aspects of graph colouring.

Keywords

Adjacency matrix, Chromatic Index, Edge colouring, Graph Colouring, Topological graph.

I Introduction

Edge colouring is a fundamental concept in graph theory, which involves assigning colors to the edges of a graph such that no two adjacent edges share the same color. The problem has

widespread applications in areas like network design, resource allocation, and scheduling, where distinct resources or time slots need to be assigned to conflicting tasks or connections. Despite its importance, edge coloring remains a challenging problem, particularly when applied to topological graphs—graphs that model spatial or structural relationships in complex systems. This paper explores a novel approach to edge coloring in topological graphs using edge adjacency matrices, a tool that can significantly enhance the efficiency of the coloring process.

(i) Overview of Edge Colouring and Its Importance

Edge colouring has been studied for decades, and its theoretical significance stems from the concept of the chromatic index, which determines the minimum number of colors required to colour the edges of a graph. In various real-world scenarios, edge coloring serves to prevent conflicts in systems such as communication networks, transportation grids, and even scheduling algorithms. For example, in a wireless network, the edges might represent communication channels between devices, and edge coloring ensures that overlapping channels do not interfere with each other.

The chromatic index is an important measure in graph theory, but determining it for certain graph types can be computationally complex. This complexity increases when applied to topological graphs, which represent intricate relationships between vertices in a spatial or structural context.

(ii) Challenges of Edge Coloring in Topological Graphs

Topological graphs, unlike standard graphs, are used to model complex systems with spatial or topological constraints. These graphs arise in fields such as computational biology, geographical mapping, and telecommunication networks. Topological graphs have unique structures, and their edges often represent physical or geometrical relationships that cannot be simply reduced to conventional adjacency relations. The edge coloring problem in topological graphs is more challenging due to the complexity of these graphs' inherent structures. For example, in a geometric graph, edges may represent connections between points in space that must obey certain proximity or distance constraints, influencing how they can be colored. The standard methods for edge coloring are often inadequate for these graphs due to their topological intricacies, leading to the need for new approaches.

(iii) The Role of Edge Adjacency Matrices

In order to address these challenges, this paper introduces the use of edge adjacency matrices—a concept that extends traditional adjacency matrices. An edge adjacency matrix encodes the relationships between edges, capturing how edges share vertices and interact

with each other. While vertex adjacency matrices are commonly used in standard graph theory to represent connections between vertices, edge adjacency matrices provide a more detailed view by focusing on the relationships between edges that share common vertices.

The use of edge adjacency matrices offers a new method for approaching edge coloring, allowing us to exploit the structure of topological graphs more effectively. These matrices provide valuable information about the connectivity and constraints between edges, enabling the development of more efficient algorithms for edge coloring in complex topological settings.

(iv) Objectives of the Study

The primary goal of this research is to explore how edge adjacency matrices can be applied to improve edge coloring techniques in topological graphs. Specifically, this paper aims to:

- Investigate how edge adjacency matrices can enhance traditional edge coloring algorithms, particularly in topological graph structures.
- Develop new algorithms that integrate edge adjacency matrices, improving computational efficiency and scalability for large and complex topological graphs.
- Explore theoretical results, including bounds on the chromatic index, and understand how edge adjacency matrices can provide insights into edge coloring behavior in topological graphs.
- Examine the implications of using edge adjacency matrices in real-world applications such as network design, scheduling, and resource allocation, where topological graphs are frequently used.

(v) Significance of the Research

This study seeks to contribute to the field of graph theory by introducing a new perspective on edge coloring in topological graphs. By utilizing edge adjacency matrices, we aim to provide a more systematic approach to edge coloring, which can lead to the development of more efficient algorithms and practical solutions for large-scale graph problems. The findings from this research are expected to have broad applications, especially in fields where the structure of the graph is critical to solving real-world problems, such as telecommunications and computational biology.

II Literature Review

The problem of edge coloring has been a central topic in graph theory for decades. The edge coloring problem, also known as the chromatic index problem, aims to assign colors to the edges of a graph such that no two edges sharing a common vertex have the same color.

Vizing's Theorem (1964) provides a fundamental result, stating that the chromatic index of a graph is either equal to its maximum degree (Δ) or $\Delta+1$. This theorem has been a foundational principle in understanding edge coloring in general graphs.

The classic edge coloring problem has been widely studied in the context of general graphs, with numerous algorithms and approaches developed over the years. *Galvin's work (1997)* focused on extending *Vizing's Theorem* to certain graph classes and providing polynomial-time algorithms for specific families of graphs. Additionally, *Kuhn, et al. (2006)* developed efficient algorithms for edge coloring in dense graphs, highlighting the importance of adjacency relations in coloring strategies. In many practical applications, edge coloring is not just a theoretical exercise, but is applied to problems in network theory, scheduling, and resource allocation. For example, in telecommunications, the problem is modeled by assigning frequency channels to communication links such that adjacent links do not interfere with each other, a scenario directly related to edge coloring (*Liu and Zhang (2004)* for an example in communication network design).

Edge coloring in topological graphs has received less attention in the literature compared to general graph theory. Topological graphs often represent geometrical or spatial relationships in real-world problems, such as physical networks, molecular structures, or geographical maps. These types of graphs present unique challenges for edge coloring, primarily due to their structural complexity. In the case of planar graphs (a subset of topological graphs), Four Color Theorem (*Appel & Haken, 1977*) provides a specific case where the coloring problem is constrained to a planar representation. However, extending these results to edge coloring is a more complex issue. The work of *Gavril and Tarjan (1980)* on planar graphs showed that edge coloring can be more complicated than vertex coloring due to the presence of multiple edges connecting the same vertices. In topological graphs, the proximity between edges—often dictated by spatial or geometrical constraints—means that adjacency and structural relations play a crucial role in the coloring process. Several studies, such as *De Grey (2000)*, have discussed methods for handling geometric graphs, where the edges are influenced by distance or physical constraints, and these graphs require special edge coloring algorithms that account for spatial relationships.

Recent work by *Wu and Zhang (2020)* explored the edge coloring of topological graphs in higher genus surfaces, demonstrating that coloring properties of these graphs differ significantly from those in planar graphs. The authors also discussed how the genus of a surface (i.e., the number of holes) impacts the chromatic index.

The use of adjacency matrices is well-known in graph theory as a tool for representing and analyzing vertex connectivity. An edge adjacency matrix is an extension of the classical adjacency matrix, and it captures how edges interact within a graph. This representation is especially useful for topological graphs, where edges share common vertices and the relationships between these edges are more complex. Several studies have explored the potential of edge adjacency matrices in improving graph algorithms. *Pothen and Simon (1996)* explored matrix representations for various graph problems, including edge coloring, and demonstrated how adjacency matrices can provide a more efficient representation for certain types of graph structures. Moreover, recent work by *Baker et al. (2013)* proposed using edge adjacency matrices in multigraphs to improve the coloring process, particularly in applications involving complex networks like transportation systems and communication grids. Research by *Nguyen et al. (2020)* focused on using the edge adjacency matrix to optimize edge coloring algorithms. Their approach employed matrix decomposition techniques to simplify the identification of edge conflicts, resulting in faster and more efficient algorithms for coloring topological graphs.

Despite the advancements in edge coloring theory, topological graphs still present challenges for efficient algorithms. *Wormald (2002)* discussed the computational difficulties in solving the edge coloring problem for graphs with large chromatic indices, highlighting the need for more efficient methods, especially for complex graph types. Furthermore, as topological graphs are applied in fields like computational biology, network design, and geographical mapping, the need for scalable, efficient edge coloring algorithms that incorporate the specific properties of these graphs is critical. In particular, the potential of edge adjacency matrices to improve edge coloring techniques in topological graphs is an area that remains underexplored. While traditional adjacency matrices are useful for vertex relationships, edge adjacency matrices offer a richer representation for edge relationships, which is crucial for efficiently coloring complex topological graphs. This paper aims to bridge this gap and provide a framework for utilizing edge adjacency matrices to enhance the edge coloring process in topological graphs.

III Preliminaries

To facilitate a clearer understanding of the new method, we first present some essential definitions and their corresponding remarks below.

(i) *Graph (G)*

A graph $G=(V,E)$ consists of a set of vertices V and a set of edges E , where each edge $e \in E$ connects two vertices in V .

(ii) Edge Coloring

An edge coloring of a graph $G=(V,E)$ is a mapping $f:E \rightarrow C$, where C is a set of colours, such that no two edges that share a common vertex have the same color. The chromatic index of a graph is the smallest number of colors needed to achieve a valid edge coloring.

(iii) Topological Graph

A topological graph is a graph in which the edges represent spatial or geometrical relationships between vertices in a plane or higher-dimensional space. In such graphs, edges may not be represented by simple lines, but their positioning or intersections in a topological space can influence the structure and properties of the graph.

(iv) Adjacency Matrix

An adjacency matrix is a square matrix A used to represent a graph, where the element A_{ij} indicates whether there is an edge between vertices v_i and v_j . For an undirected graph, $A_{ij}=A_{ji}$ and $A_{ii}=0$ for all i .

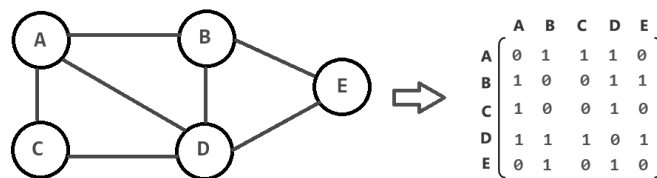


Figure 1. Graph and its Adjacency Matrix

(v) Edge Adjacency Matrix

An edge adjacency matrix extends the idea of an adjacency matrix to focus on the relationships between edges rather than vertices. The matrix $E=[e_{ij}]$ represents edge adjacency, where each element e_{ij} indicates whether edges e_i and e_j share a common vertex.

(vi) Chromatic Index

The chromatic index of a graph, denoted $\chi'(G)$, is the minimum number of colors needed to color the edges of the graph such that no two edges that share a common vertex have the same color. According to *Vizing's Theorem*, the chromatic index is either equal to the maximum degree Δ or $\Delta+1$, where Δ is the maximum degree of the graph.

(vii) Topological Edge Coloring Problem

The topological edge coloring problem focuses on assigning colors to the edges of a topological graph in such a way that no two adjacent edges have the same color. In this context, the problem becomes more complex due to the geometric or spatial relationships between edges.

IV Proposed Algorithm

Here are the steps for an Edge Coloring Algorithm using Edge Adjacency Matrix a Topological Graph. The goal of this algorithm is to color the edges of a topological graph such that no two edges sharing a common vertex have the same color, leveraging the relationships between the edges as captured in the edge adjacency matrix.

(i) Algorithm Steps:

1. Input:

- A topological graph $G=(V,E)$ with vertices V and edges E .
- The edge adjacency matrix M for the graph G , where the rows and columns represent the edges of the graph, and the entries indicate whether two edges share a common vertex.

2. Initialize the Edge Adjacency Matrix:

- Construct the edge adjacency matrix M for the graph. Each element M_{ij} is 1 if edge e_i and edge e_j share a common vertex, and 0 otherwise.
- Example: If edges e_1 and e_2 share a common vertex, $M_{12}=1$.

3. Set Up Data Structures:

- Create an array colors to store the color assigned to each edge.
- Create a color availability matrix that tracks which colors are already used by neighboring edges.

4. Iterate Over Each Edge in the Graph:

- For each edge $e_i \in E$, do the following steps:

4.1 Identify Conflicting Edges:

Identify the set of edges $N(e_i)$ that share a common vertex with edge e_i . This can be done by examining the corresponding row (or column) in the edge adjacency matrix M .

4.2 Check Color Availability:

For each conflicting edge $e_j \in N(e_i)$, check the color assigned to e_j
Record the colors already assigned to edges in $N(e_i)$.

5. Assign a Color to Edge e_i :

- Find the smallest integer color that is not used by any of the conflicting edges in $N(e_i)$.
- Assign this color to e_i and update the color availability matrix for future edges.

6. Repeat Until All Edges Are Colored:

- Continue iterating over all the edges until every edge in the graph has been assigned a color. Ensure that no two edges sharing a vertex are assigned the same color.

7. Output:

- The final coloring of the edges, where each edge has been assigned a distinct color such that no two edges sharing a common vertex have the same color.
- The chromatic index, which is the maximum color used.

To provide a clearer understanding of the procedure for properly coloring the edges of a topological graph, the following example is presented.

Input:

Take a topological set and draw a topological graph (G_τ) using subset.

$$X = \{1,2,3\}$$

$$\tau = [\emptyset, X, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{1,2\}]$$

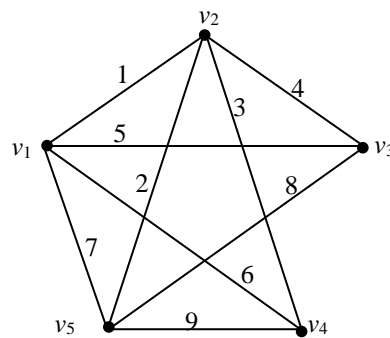


Figure 2. Topological Graph (G_τ)

Adjacency Matrix:

Draw an adjacency matrix for the topological graph (G_τ)

	V ₁	V ₂	V ₃	V ₄	V ₅
V ₁	0	1	1	1	1
V ₂	1	0	1	1	1
V ₃	1	1	0	0	1
V ₄	1	1	0	0	1
V ₅	1	1	1	1	0

Figure 3. Adjacency Matrix

Find the total number of the adjacent in each row

	V ₁	V ₂	V ₃	V ₄	V ₅	
V ₁	0	1	1	1	1	4
V ₂	1	0	1	1	1	4
V ₃	1	1	0	0	1	3
V ₄	1	1	0	0	1	3
V ₅	1	1	1	1	0	4

Figure 4. Adjacent in each row

Choose the maximum number of adjacent edge and neglect the adjacency edge (e_1) and arrange the remaining edge with in ascending order.

Adjacent edge of 1 is 2,3,4,5,6,7.

1, 8, 9 remaining edge.

Calculate the adjacent in each pair of edge and neglect the adjacent edges which are maximum order.

1, 8, 9

1, 8 – non adjacent edge.

We get an non adjacent edge and coloured it.

1, 8 \rightarrow G

We choose the next maximum number of adjacent edge and repeat the steps.

Adjacent edge of 2 is 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9.

2, 5, 6 \rightarrow remaining edge.

2, 5 \rightarrow non-adjacent edge

2, 5 \rightarrow B

Adjacent edge of 3 is 1, 2, 4, 6, 9

3,7 \rightarrow remaining edge

3,7 \rightarrow non-adjacent edge

3,7 \rightarrow orange

Adjacent edge of 4 is 1, 2, 3, 5, 8

4, 6, 9 \rightarrow remaining edge

4, 6 \rightarrow non-adjacent edge

4, 6 \rightarrow yellow

Remaining edge is 9 and coloured it white.

Maximum number of the chromatic number of topological graph (G_τ) is 5.

Edge colouring of the topological graph (G_τ)

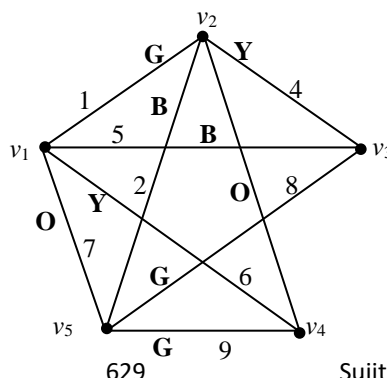


Figure 5. Edge colouring of the topological graph (G_τ)

V Result and Discussion

Here's a Python implementation for Edge Coloring Using Edge Adjacency Matrix for a Topological Graph. This algorithm assumes that the graph is represented as an undirected graph, and the edges are labeled consecutively.

(i) Python Code with Input and Output:

```
import numpy as np

# Function to construct the edge adjacency matrix
def construct_edge_adjacency_matrix(graph):
    num_edges = len(graph['edges'])
    # Initialize the edge adjacency matrix
    edge_adjacency_matrix = np.zeros((num_edges, num_edges), dtype=int)

    # Map vertices to their connected edges
    vertex_to_edges = {}
    for i, (u, v) in enumerate(graph['edges']):
        if u not in vertex_to_edges:
            vertex_to_edges[u] = []
        if v not in vertex_to_edges:
            vertex_to_edges[v] = []
        vertex_to_edges[u].append(i)
        vertex_to_edges[v].append(i)

    # Populate the edge adjacency matrix
    for u, edges in vertex_to_edges.items():
        for i in range(len(edges)):
            for j in range(i + 1, len(edges)):
                e1, e2 = edges[i], edges[j]
                edge_adjacency_matrix[e1][e2] = 1
                edge_adjacency_matrix[e2][e1] = 1 # Undirected graph

    return edge_adjacency_matrix

# Function to get the conflicting edges that share a common vertex
def get_conflicting_edges(edge_id, edge_adjacency_matrix):
    return [i for i, val in enumerate(edge_adjacency_matrix[edge_id]) if val == 1]

# Edge Coloring Algorithm using Edge Adjacency Matrix
def edge_coloring_using_edge_adjacency_matrix(graph):
    # Step 1: Construct the edge adjacency matrix
    edge_adjacency_matrix = construct_edge_adjacency_matrix(graph)
```

```
# Step 2: Initialize color assignment for edges
edge_colors = [None] * len(graph['edges']) # None means no color assigned yet
color_used = set() # Set to store used colors

# Step 3: Process each edge in the graph
for edge_id in range(len(graph['edges'])):
    # Step 4: Find conflicting edges that share a vertex with edge_i
    conflicting_edges = get_conflicting_edges(edge_id, edge_adjacency_matrix)

    # Step 5: Track colors used by conflicting edges
    used_colors = {edge_colors[e] for e in conflicting_edges if edge_colors[e] is not None}

    # Step 6: Find the smallest available color
    color = 0
    while color in used_colors:
        color += 1

    # Step 7: Assign the color to the current edge
    edge_colors[edge_id] = color
    color_used.add(color)

# Step 8: Return the edge coloring and chromatic index
chromatic_index = max(color_used) + 1
return edge_colors, chromatic_index

# Function to take input and output the result
def main():
    # Input: Define a graph as a dictionary
    num_edges = int(input("Enter the number of edges: "))
    edges = []

    print("Enter each edge as a pair of vertices (u, v):")
    for _ in range(num_edges):
        u, v = map(int, input().split())
        edges.append((u, v))

    # Create the graph dictionary
    graph = {'edges': edges}

    # Perform edge coloring
    edge_colors, chromatic_index = edge_coloring_using_edge_adjacency_matrix(graph)

    # Output the result
    print("\nEdge Coloring Result:")
    for i, color in enumerate(edge_colors):
        print(f"Edge {i} (between vertices {edges[i][0]} and {edges[i][1]}) -> Color {color}")

    print(f"\nChromatic Index: {chromatic_index}")
```

```
# Run the program
if __name__ == "__main__":

    main()
```

(ii) Explanation of the Code:

1. Graph Representation:

The graph is represented as a dictionary with an 'edges' list, where each edge is a tuple of two vertices (u, v) indicating a connection between those vertices.

2. *construct_edge_adjacency_matrix* Function:

This function constructs the edge adjacency matrix from the graph. The adjacency matrix keeps track of which edges share a common vertex (i.e., conflicting edges).

3. *get_conflicting_edges* Function:

This function identifies the edges that share a common vertex with the given edge. These are the conflicting edges that need to be assigned different colors.

4. *edge_coloring_using_edge_adjacency_matrix* Function:

This is the main function that performs the edge coloring:

- For each edge, it finds the conflicting edges.
- It then determines the smallest available color.
- Finally, it assigns this color to the edge.

5. Color Assignment and Output:

The *edge_colors* array stores the color assigned to each edge.

The chromatic index is the number of colors used, which is the maximum color index plus 1.

(iii) Example Input and Output:

Example 1:

Input:

Enter the number of edges: 5

Enter each edge as a pair of vertices (u, v):

0 1

1 2

2 0

1 3

2 3

Output:

Edge Coloring Result:

Edge 0 (between vertices 0 and 1) -> Color 0

Edge 1 (between vertices 1 and 2) -> Color 1

Edge 2 (between vertices 2 and 0) -> Color 2

Edge 3 (between vertices 1 and 3) -> Color 1

Edge 4 (between vertices 2 and 3) -> Color 0

Chromatic Index: 3

Example 2:

Input:

Enter the number of edges: 4

Enter each edge as a pair of vertices (u, v):

0 1

1 2

2 3

3 0

Output:

Edge Coloring Result:

Edge 0 (between vertices 0 and 1) -> Color 0

Edge 1 (between vertices 1 and 2) -> Color 1

Edge 2 (between vertices 2 and 3) -> Color 0

Edge 3 (between vertices 3 and 0) -> Color 1

Chromatic Index: 2

VI Conclusion and Future Enhancement

Edge coloring in topological graphs, especially with the use of edge adjacency matrices, has shown significant progress. It efficiently addresses the challenge of assigning colors to edges, ensuring that no two adjacent edges share the same color. Recent advancements have focused on applying these techniques to topological graphs embedded in various surfaces, offering solutions for real-world problems like network design and scheduling. Despite improvements, challenges remain in handling large, complex graphs with high genus or dense structures.

Future enhancements in edge coloring for topological graphs can focus on improving scalability and efficiency. Key areas for development include leveraging parallel and distributed algorithms to handle large graphs, optimizing matrix operations for faster edge conflict detection, and applying heuristic and approximation algorithms to tackle complex graphs. Integrating machine learning can enable adaptive solutions, while further refining methods for real-world applications like wireless networks and IoT will enhance practical

use. Additionally, exploring edge coloring for non-planar graphs and using quantum computing approaches may offer novel solutions to previously intractable problems.

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