

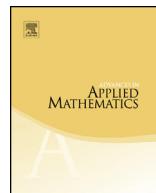


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The automorphism group of the s -stable Kneser graphs[☆]



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 15 September 2015

Received in revised form 20 March 2017

Accepted 5 April 2017

Available online 13 April 2017

MSC:

05C99

05E99

Keywords:

Stable Kneser graph

Automorphism group

ABSTRACT

For $k, s \geq 2$, the s -stable Kneser graphs are the graphs with vertex set the k -subsets S of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ such that the circular distance between any two elements in S is at least s and two vertices are adjacent if and only if the corresponding k -subsets are disjoint. Braun showed that for $n \geq 2k + 1$ the automorphism group of the 2-stable Kneser graphs (Schrijver graphs) is isomorphic to the dihedral group of order $2n$. In this paper we generalize this result by proving that for $s \geq 2$ and $n \geq sk + 1$ the automorphism group of the s -stable Kneser graphs also is isomorphic to the dihedral group of order $2n$.

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1. Introduction

Given a graph G , $V(G)$, $E(G)$ and $\text{Aut}(G)$ denote its vertex set, edge set and automorphism group, respectively. Let $[n] := \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$. For positive integers n and k such that $n \geq 2k$, the *Kneser graph* $\text{KG}(n, k)$ has as vertices the k -subsets of $[n]$ with edges defined by disjoint pairs of k -subsets. A subset $S \subseteq [n]$ is *s-stable* if any two of its

[☆] Partially supported by MathAmSud Project 13MATH-07 (Argentina–Brazil–Chile–France), PID CONICET 2015-0277, PICT-2012-1324 and PICT-2015-2218.

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elements are at least “at distance s apart” on the n -cycle, i.e. $s \leq |i - j| \leq n - s$ for distinct $i, j \in S$. For $s, k \geq 2$, we denote $[n]_s^k$ the family of s -stable k -subsets of $[n]$. The s -stable Kneser graph $\text{KG}(n, k)_{s\text{-stab}}$ [6,10] is the subgraph of $\text{KG}(n, k)$ induced by $[n]_s^k$.

In a celebrated result, Lovász [5] proved that the chromatic number of $\text{KG}(n, k)$, denoted $\chi(\text{KG}(n, k))$, is equal to $n - 2k + 2$, verifying a conjecture due to M. Kneser [3]. After this result, Schrijver [7] proved that the chromatic number remains the same for $\text{KG}(n, k)_{2\text{-stab}}$. Moreover, this author showed that $\text{KG}(n, k)_{2\text{-stab}}$ is χ -critical. Due to these facts, the 2-stable Kneser graphs have been named *Schrijver graphs*. These results were the base for several papers devoted to Kneser graphs and stable Kneser graphs (see e.g. [1,4,6,8–10]). In addition, it is well known that for $n \geq 2k + 1$ the automorphism group of the Kneser graph $\text{KG}(n, k)$ is isomorphic to S_n , the symmetric group of order n (see [2] for a textbook account).

More recently, in 2010 Braun [1] proved that the automorphism group of the Schrijver graphs $\text{KG}(n, k)_{2\text{-stab}}$ is isomorphic to the dihedral group of order $2n$, denoted D_{2n} . In this paper we generalize this result by proving that the automorphism group of the s -stable Kneser graphs is isomorphic to D_{2n} , for $n \geq sk + 1$.

Firstly, notice that if $n = sk$, the s -stable Kneser graph $\text{KG}(n, k)_{s\text{-stab}}$ is isomorphic to the complete graph on s vertices and the automorphism group of $\text{KG}(n, k)_{s\text{-stab}}$ is isomorphic to S_s .

From the definitions we have that D_{2n} injects into $\text{Aut}(\text{KG}(n, k)_{s\text{-stab}})$, as D_{2n} acts on $\text{KG}(n, k)_{s\text{-stab}}$ by acting on $[n]$. Then, we have the following fact.

Remark 1.1. $D_{2n} \subseteq \text{Aut}(\text{KG}(n, k)_{s\text{-stab}})$.

In the sequel, the arithmetic operations are taken *modulo* n on the set $[n]$ where n represents the 0. Let us recall an important result due to Talbot.

Theorem 1.2 (Theorem 3 in [8]). *Let n, s, k be positive integers such that $n \geq sk$ and $s \geq 3$. Then, every maximum independent set in $\text{KG}(n, k)_{s\text{-stab}}$ is of the form $\mathcal{I}_i = \{I \in [n]_s^k : i \in I\}$ for a fixed $i \in [n]$.*

For $n \geq sk + 1$ we observe that $\{i, i + s, i + 2s, \dots, i + (k - 1)s\}$ and $\{i, i + s + 1, i + 2s + 1, \dots, i + (k - 1)s + 1\}$ belong to $[n]_s^k$ for all $i \in [n]$. Then, we can easily obtain the following fact.

Remark 1.3. Let $n \geq sk + 1$ and $i, j \in [n]$. If $i \neq j$, then $\mathcal{I}_i \neq \mathcal{I}_j$.

2. Automorphism group of $\text{KG}(n, k)_{s\text{-stab}}$

This section is devoted to obtain the automorphism group of $\text{KG}(n, k)_{s\text{-stab}}$. To this end, let us introduce the following graph family. Let n, s, k be positive integers such that $n \geq sk + 1$. We define the graph $G(n, k, s)$ with vertex set $[n]$ and two vertices $i, j \in [n]$

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