

# Planar Turán numbers of short paths

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**Abstract** Given a graph  $H$ , the planar Turán number of  $H$ , denoted  $ex_{\mathcal{P}}(n, H)$ , is the maximum number of edges in an  $H$ -free planar graph on  $n$  vertices. The idea of determining  $ex_{\mathcal{P}}(n, P_k)$  was promoted by Lan, Song and Shi, in which they obtained that the planar Turán number of paths  $P_k$  with  $k \in \{8, 9\}$ . In this paper, we determine the planar Turán number of paths  $P_k$  with  $k \in \{6, 7, 10, 11\}$ .

**Keywords** Turán number, planar Turán number, path

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## 1 Introduction

Graphs considered below will always be simple and finite. Our notation in this paper is standard and refers to [3]. Given a graph  $G$ , let  $|G|$  and  $e(G)$  denote the size of the vertex set  $V(G)$  and edge set  $E(G)$ , respectively. For a vertex  $v \in V(G)$ , we will use  $N_G(v)$  to denote the set of vertices which are adjacent to  $v$  in  $G$  and its size, denoted  $d_G(v)$ , is the degree of vertex  $v$ . Let  $\delta(G)$  denote the minimum degree in a graph  $G$ . Given two graphs  $G$  and  $H$ , the *union*  $G \cup H$  is the graph with vertex set  $V(G) \cup V(H)$  and edge set  $E(G) \cup E(H)$ ; the *join*  $G + H$  is the graph obtained from  $G \cup H$  by adding all edges with one endpoint in  $G$  and the other in  $H$ ; and let  $kG$  denote the disjoint union of  $k$  copies of  $G$ , where  $k$  is a positive integer. For a vertex set  $S \subseteq V(G)$ , we use  $G[S]$  to denote the subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $S$  and  $G \setminus S$  the subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $V(G) \setminus S$  (i.e., the set  $V(G) - S$ ). For  $A \subseteq E(G)$ , let  $G/A$  denote the simple graph obtained from  $G$  by contracting each component of  $G[A]$  into a single vertex. If  $A = \{uv\}$ , then we simply write  $G/uv$ . Moreover, a graph is a minor of a given graph  $G$  if it can be obtained from a subgraph of  $G$  by contracting edges. Denote by  $P_k$  a path and  $C_k$  a cycle on  $k$  vertices. Let  $K_k^-$  denote the complete graph on  $k$  vertices minus one edge.

Given a graph  $H$ , we say that a graph is  $H$ -free if it does not contain  $H$  as a subgraph. One of the fundamental questions in extremal graph theory is to study the maximum number

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of edges in an  $H$ -free graph on  $n$  vertices. The maximum, denoted  $ex(n, H)$ , is called the Turán number of  $H$ . Turán Theorem [15] gave a precise answer to this question for complete graphs by determining the balanced complete  $(r-1)$ -partite graph (called *Turán graph*) with the maximum number of edges in a  $K_r$ -free graph on  $n$  vertices. This was extended by Erdős and Stone [6], who proved that every  $H$ -free graph has at most  $(1+o(1))(1-\frac{1}{\chi(H)-1})\binom{n}{2}$  edges for given arbitrary graph  $H$ , where  $\chi(H)$  denotes the chromatic number of  $H$ . This means that the asymptotics of  $ex(n, H)$  was determined for all non-bipartite graphs  $H$ . For bipartite graphs  $H$ , the problem of determining  $ex(n, H)$  is still largely open. The Turán problem for even cycles is of particular interest. Erdős [5] conjectured that  $ex(n, C_{2k}) = \Theta(n^{1+\frac{1}{k}})$ . The upper bound on  $ex(n, C_{2k})$  was showed by Bondy and Simonovits [2], but the corresponding lower bound is only known for  $k \in \{2, 3, 5\}$ . The Turán number of paths was completely determined by Faudree and Schelp [7].

When host graphs are hypergraphs, the Turán number of  $k$ -uniform linear paths and cycles was also investigated and we refer to [9, 10, 11]. More results for Turán problem of hypergraphs see surveys [8, 12].

When host graphs are planar graphs, the Turán problem was introduced by Dowden [4] (under the name of “extremal” planar graphs). The *planar Turán number* of  $H$ , denoted  $ex_p(n, H)$ , is the maximum number of edges in an  $H$ -free planar graph on  $n$  vertices. Euler’s formula implies that the maximum number of edges in a planar graph on  $n \geq 3$  vertices equals  $3n-6$ . It is trivial that  $ex_p(n, H) = 3n-6$  for every non-planar graph  $H$ . The planar Turán number of  $K_r$  can be obtained easily as  $K_5$  is not planar. Dowden first observed the results for  $K_r$  with  $3 \leq r \leq 4$  and also determined the tight upper bounds of  $ex_p(n, C_k)$  for  $k \in \{4, 5\}$ . Actually,  $ex_p(n, K_4) = 3n-6$ , since the triangulation  $\overline{K_2} + C_{n-2}$  is  $K_4$ -free. In [14], the authors completely determine  $ex_p(n, H)$  when  $H$  is a wheel or a star, and obtain several sufficient conditions on  $H$  which yield  $ex_p(n, H) = 3n-6$  for all  $n \geq |V(H)|$ , which partially answers a question of Dowden [4]. In [13], the upper bound of  $ex_p(n, C_6)$  was determined and they promoted the idea of determining  $ex_p(n, P_k)$ . In addition, they determined that the planar Turán number for paths  $P_k$  with  $k = 8, 9$ . Let  $\mathcal{T}_t$  denote the family of all planar triangulations on  $t$  vertices and let  $\mathcal{T}_t^* \subseteq \mathcal{T}_t$  denote the family of planar triangulations with a spanning path. Now we will construct a family of graphs containing a copy of  $P_{k-1}$  but no  $P_k$ . Let  $n = \lfloor k/3 \rfloor - 1 + \varepsilon + t(\lfloor k/3 \rfloor - 1) + r + 2$ ,  $t \geq 2$  and  $0 \leq r < \lfloor k/3 \rfloor - 1$ , where  $\varepsilon = k \pmod{3}$ . Given a positive integer  $k \geq 9$ , let  $(a_0, b_0), \dots, (a_{t+1}, b_{t+1})$  be the two ends of one fixed spanning path of  $T_0, T_1, \dots, T_{t+1}$ , respectively, and let  $\mathcal{G}_{\lfloor k/3 \rfloor + 1 + \varepsilon, n}$  be the family of graphs obtained from  $T_0, T_1, \dots, T_{t+1}$  by identifying all  $a_i$  as  $a$  and identifying all  $b_i$  as  $b$ , where

$$T_0 \in \mathcal{T}_{\lfloor k/3 \rfloor + 1 + \varepsilon}^*, T_{t+1} \in \mathcal{T}_{r+2}^*, T_i \in \mathcal{T}_{\lfloor k/3 \rfloor + 1}^* \text{ for any } i \in [t] \text{ when } \varepsilon \in \{0, 1\};$$

$$T_0, T_1 \in \mathcal{T}_{\lfloor k/3 \rfloor + 2}^*, T_{t+1} \in \mathcal{T}_{r+2}^*, T_i \in \mathcal{T}_{\lfloor k/3 \rfloor + 1}^* \text{ for any } 2 \leq i \leq t, \text{ or}$$

$$T_0 \in \mathcal{T}_{\lfloor k/3 \rfloor + 3}^*, T_{t+1} \in \mathcal{T}_{r+2}^*, T_i \in \mathcal{T}_{\lfloor k/3 \rfloor + 1}^* \text{ for any } i \in [t] \text{ when } \varepsilon = 2.$$

For  $n \geq k - 1$ , it is easy to see that the longest path of  $\mathcal{G}_{\lfloor k/3 \rfloor + 1 + \varepsilon, n}$  has  $(|T_0| - 2) + (|T_1| - 2) + (|T_2| - 2) + 2 = k - 1$  vertices and so  $\mathcal{G}_{\lfloor k/3 \rfloor + 1 + \varepsilon, n}$  is  $P_k$ -free, where  $\varepsilon = k \pmod{3}$ .

**Theorem 1.1** ([13]) *Let  $n \geq 3$  be an integer. Let  $G$  be a  $P_8$ -free planar graph on  $n$  vertices. Then  $e(G) \leq 15n/7$ , with equality when  $n = 7t$  for any positive integer  $t$  and  $G = T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_t$ , where  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}_7$  for all  $i \in [t]$ .*

**Theorem 1.2** ([13]) *Let  $n \geq 3$  be an integer. Let  $G$  be a  $P_9$ -free planar graph on  $n$  vertices. Then  $e(G) \leq \max\{\frac{9n}{4}, \frac{5n}{2} - 4\}$ , with equality when  $G \in \mathcal{T}_8$  or when  $G = T_1 \cup T_2$  with  $T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{T}_8$  or when  $n \geq 16$  is even and  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{4,n}$ .*

In this paper, we continue to determine the planar Turán number of paths  $P_k$  with  $k \in \{6, 7, 10, 11\}$ . Clearly,  $ex_p(n, P_6) = 3n - 6$  when  $n \in \{3, 4, 5\}$ . We first introduce more notation. We say that  $U$  is *complete to*  $W$  if for every  $u \in U$  and every  $w \in W$ ,  $uw \in E(G)$ . If  $U = \{u\}$ , we simply say  $u$  is complete to  $W$ . Let  $e_G(S)$  denote the number of edges in  $G$  meeting the vertex set  $S \subseteq V(G)$ .

**Theorem 1.3** *Let  $n \geq 6$  be an integer and let  $G$  be a  $P_6$ -free planar graph on  $n$  vertices. Then*

$$e(G) \leq \begin{cases} 2n - 3 & \text{if } n \in \{6, 9\}, \text{ with equality when } G \in \{K_2 + \overline{K_{n-2}}, K_5^- \cup K_{n-5}\}; \\ 2n - 3 & \text{if } n \in \{7, 8\}, \text{ with equality when } G = K_2 + \overline{K_{n-2}}; \\ 2n - 2 & \text{if } n = 10, \text{ with equality when } G = 2K_5^-; \\ 2n - 3 & \text{if } n \geq 11, \text{ with equality when } G \in \{K_2 + \overline{K_{n-2}}, 3K_5^-\}. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 1.4** *Let  $n \geq 7$  be an integer. Let  $G$  be a  $P_7$ -free planar graph on  $n$  vertices. Then*

$$e(G) \leq \begin{cases} 2n & \text{if } n = 6t, \text{ with equality when } G = T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_t; \\ 2n - 1 & \text{if } n = 6t + 5, \text{ with equality when } G = T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_t \cup K_5^-; \\ 2n - 2 & \text{if } n = 6t + 4 \text{ with equality when } G \in \{K_2 + (\overline{K_{n-4}} + K_2), T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_t \cup K_4, \\ & T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_{t-1} \cup 2K_5^-, T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_{t-1} \cup (K_2 + (\overline{K_6} \cup K_2))\}; \\ 2n - 2 & \text{if } n = 6t + 1 \text{ with equality when } G \in \{K_2 + (\overline{K_{n-4}} + K_2), T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_t \cup K_1, \\ & T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_{t-1} \cup (K_2 + (\overline{K_3} \cup K_2))\}; \\ 2n - 2 & \text{if } n = 6t + r \text{ with equality when } G \in \{K_2 + (\overline{K_{n-4}} + K_2), \\ & T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_{t-1} \cup (K_2 + (\overline{K_{2+r}} \cup K_2))\}, \end{cases}$$

where  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}_6$  for all  $i \in [t]$  and  $r \in \{2, 3\}$ .

**Theorem 1.5** *Let  $n \geq 3$  be an integer. Let  $G$  be a  $P_{10}$ -free planar graph on  $n$  vertices. Then  $e(G) \leq \max\{\frac{7n}{3}, \frac{5n-7}{2}\}$ , with equality when  $G \in \mathcal{T}_9$ , or when  $G = T_1 \cup T_2$  with  $T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{T}_9$ , or when  $n \geq 21$  is odd and  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{5,n}$ .*

**Theorem 1.6** *Let  $n \geq 3$  be an integer. Let  $G$  be a  $P_{11}$ -free planar graph on  $n$  vertices. Then  $e(G) \leq \max\{\frac{12n}{5}, \frac{5n-6}{2}\}$ , with equality when  $G \in \mathcal{T}_{10}$ , or when  $G \in \{T_1 \cup T_2, T_1 \cup T_2 \cup T_3\}$  with  $T_1, T_2, T_3 \in \mathcal{T}_{10}$ , or when  $n \geq 30$  is even and  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{6,n}$ .*

## 2 Preliminary Results

To study planar Turán numbers of paths, we shall make use of the following results.

**Lemma 2.1** ([7]) *Let  $t, k, r$  be integers satisfying  $t \geq 0$  and  $0 \leq r < k$ . If  $G$  is a  $P_{k+1}$ -free graph on  $tk+r$  vertices, then  $e(G) \leq t \binom{k}{2} + \binom{r}{2}$ , with equality when  $G = tK_k \cup K_r$  or when  $k$  is odd,  $t > 0$ , and  $r \in \{(k+1)/2, (k-1)/2\}$ ,  $G = (t-s-1)K_k \cup (K_{(k-1)/2} + \overline{K}_{(k+1)/2+sk+r})$  for some  $s \in \{0, 1, \dots, t-1\}$ .*

**Lemma 2.2** ([1]) *Let  $n, k$  with  $n > k \geq 3$  be integers. If  $G$  is a connected,  $P_{k+1}$ -free graph on  $n$  vertices, then*

$$e(G) \leq \max \left\{ \binom{k-1}{2} + (n-k+1), \binom{\lceil (k+1)/2 \rceil}{2} + \left\lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \right\rfloor \left( n - \left\lfloor \frac{k+1}{2} \right\rfloor \right) \right\},$$

*with equality when  $G = K_s + (K_{k-2s} \cup \overline{K}_{n-k+s})$  for some  $s \in \{1, \lfloor (k-1)/2 \rfloor\}$ .*

**Lemma 2.3** ([13]) *Let  $G$  be a connected graph and let  $P$  be a longest path in  $G$  with vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_\ell$  in order, where  $\ell = |P|$  and  $|G| > \ell \geq 3$ . Then*

- (a)  $G[V(P)]$  has no spanning cycle. In particular,  $v_1 v_\ell \notin E(G)$ , and if  $v_1 v_s \in E(G)$  for some  $s \in \{2, \dots, \ell-1\}$ , then  $v_{s-1} v_\ell \notin E(G)$ . Similarly, if  $v_\ell v_s \in E(G)$  for some  $s \in \{2, \dots, \ell-1\}$ , then  $v_1 v_{s+1} \notin E(G)$ .
- (b)  $v_{s-1} v_{t+1} \notin E(G)$  if  $v_1 v_s \in E(G)$  and  $v_\ell v_t \in E(G)$ , where  $s, t \in [\ell]$  with  $2 \leq s \leq t \leq \ell-1$ . Similarly,  $v_{t-1}$  has no edges to  $\{v_{s-1}, v_{s+1}\}$  if  $v_1 v_s \in E(G)$  and  $v_\ell v_t \in E(G)$ , where  $s, t \in [\ell]$  with  $4 \leq t+2 \leq s \leq \ell-1$ .
- (c)  $2\delta(G) \leq d_G(v_1) + d_G(v_\ell) \leq \ell-1$ .
- (d)  $v_\ell$  (resp.  $v_1$ ) is not adjacent to any two consecutive vertices in  $\{v_2, v_3, \dots, v_{\ell-1}\}$  if  $v_1 v_{\ell-1} \in E(G)$  (resp.  $v_\ell v_2 \in E(G)$ ).

It is worth noting that for all  $k \in \{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ , every  $P_k$ -free graph must be planar. Hence the values of  $ex_p(n, P_k)$  when  $k \in \{2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and the extremal graphs are determined by Lemma 2.1.

### 3 Proof of Theorem 1.3

Let  $G$  and  $n$  be given as in the statement. By Lemma 2.2, the components of an extremal  $P_6$ -free graph are either  $K_r$  when  $r \leq 4$  and  $K_5^-$  or  $K_2 + \overline{K_{r-2}}$  when  $r \geq 6$ . When  $G$  is connected, by Lemma 2.2,  $e(G) \leq 2n - 3$  with equality when  $G = K_2 + \overline{K_{n-2}}$ . So we may assume that  $G$  is disconnected. Let  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_s$  be components of  $G$ . We see that  $e(H_i) \leq 2n - 3$  when  $|H_i| \in \{2, 3\}$  or  $|H_i| \geq 6$ ,  $e(H_i) \leq 2n - 2$  when  $|H_i| \in \{1, 4\}$  and  $e(H_i) \leq 2n - 1$  when  $|H_i| = 5$ . If  $s \geq 3$ , then  $e(G) = e(H_1) + \dots + e(H_s) \leq 2n - 3$  with equality when  $G = 3K_5^-$ . So we assume  $s = 2$ . If  $H_1 = H_2 = K_5^-$ , then  $e(G) = 2n - 2$ . If either  $H_1 \neq K_5^-$  or  $H_2 \neq K_5^-$ , then  $e(G) = e(H_1) + e(H_2) \leq 2n - 3$  with equality when  $G = K_5^- \cup K_1$  or  $G = K_5^- \cup K_4$ .  $\square$

### 4 Proof of Theorem 1.4

Let  $G$  and  $n$  be given as in the statement. By Lemma 2.2, the components of an extremal  $P_7$ -free graph are either  $K_r$  when  $r \leq 4$ ,  $K_5^-$ ,  $K_2 + P_4$  and  $K_{2,2,2}$ , or  $K_2 + (\overline{K_{r-4}} + K_2)$  when  $r \geq 7$ . When  $G$  is connected, by Lemma 2.2,  $e(G) \leq 2n - 2$  with equality when  $G = K_2 + (\overline{K_{r-4}} + K_2)$ . So we may assume that  $G$  is disconnected and let  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_s$  be the components of  $G$ . We see that  $e(H_i) \leq 2n - 3$  when  $|H_i| \in \{2, 3\}$ ,  $e(H_i) \leq 2n - 2$  when  $|H_i| \in \{1, 4\}$  or  $|H_i| \geq 7$ ,  $e(H_i) \leq 2n - 1$  when  $|H_i| = 5$  and  $e(H_i) \leq 2n$  when  $|H_i| = 6$ . Then  $e(G) \leq 2n$  with equality when  $n = 6t$  and  $G = T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_t$ , where  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}_6$  for all  $i \in [t]$ . Let  $t \geq 1$  be any positive integer. If  $n = 6t + 5$ , then  $e(H_j) \leq 2|H_j| - 1$  for some  $j \in [s]$ , and so  $e(G) \leq 2n - 1$  with equality when  $G = T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_t \cup K_5^-$ , where  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}_6$  for all  $i \in [t]$ . If  $n = 6t + 4$ , then  $e(H_{j_i}) \leq 2|H_{j_i}| - 1$  for  $i \in [2]$  and some  $j_1, j_2 \in [s]$  or  $e(H_\ell) \leq 2|H_\ell| - 2$  for some  $\ell \in [s]$ , and so  $e(G) \leq 2n - 2$  with equality when  $G \in \{K_2 + (\overline{K_{n-4}} + K_2), T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_t \cup K_4, T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_{t-1} \cup 2K_5^-, T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_{t-1} \cup (K_2 + (\overline{K_6} + K_2))\}$ , where  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}_6$  for all  $i \in [t]$ . If  $n = 6t + 1$ , then  $e(H_\ell) \leq 2|H_\ell| - 2$  for some  $\ell \in [s]$ , and so  $e(G) \leq 2n - 2$  with equality when  $G \in \{K_2 + (\overline{K_{n-4}} + K_2), T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_t \cup K_1, T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_{t-1} \cup (K_2 + (\overline{K_3} + K_2))\}$ , where  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}_6$  for all  $i \in [t]$ . Finally, if  $n = 6t + r$  for  $r \in \{2, 3\}$ , then  $e(H_k) \leq 2|H_k| - 2$  for some  $k \in [s]$  and so  $e(G) \leq 2n - 2$  with equality when  $G \in \{K_2 + (\overline{K_{n-4}} + K_2), T_1 \cup \dots \cup T_{t-1} \cup (K_2 + (\overline{K_{2+r}} + K_2))\}$ , where  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}_6$  for all  $i \in [t]$ , as desired.  $\square$

### 5 Proof of Theorem 1.5

Let  $G$  and  $n$  be given as in the statement. Note that  $\max\{\frac{7n}{3}, \frac{5n-7}{2}\} = \frac{5n-7}{2}$  when  $n \geq 21$  and  $\max\{\frac{7n}{3}, \frac{5n-7}{2}\} = \frac{7n}{3}$  when  $n \leq 21$ . By induction on  $n$ . Since any graph on at most 9 vertices is  $P_{10}$ -free and  $|G| \geq 3$ , we see that  $e(G) \leq 3n - 6 \leq \frac{7n}{3}$ , with equality when  $n = 9$  and  $G \in \mathcal{T}_9$ . So we may assume that  $n \geq 10$ . We next show that  $e(G) \leq \max\{\frac{7n}{3}, \frac{5n-7}{2}\}$ . Let  $x \in V(G)$  be a vertex with  $d_G(x) = \delta(G)$ . Then  $G - x$  is a  $P_{10}$ -free planar graph on  $n - 1$  vertices. By

the induction hypothesis,  $e(G-x) \leq \max\{\frac{7}{3}(n-1), \frac{5}{2}(n-1) - \frac{7}{2}\}$  and so  $e(G) = e(G-x) + d_G(x) \leq \max\{\frac{7n}{3}, \frac{5n-7}{2}\}$  when  $d_G(x) \leq 2$ . So we may assume that  $d_G(x) \geq 3$ . Assume next that  $G$  is disconnected and  $H$  is one of its components. Then  $|H| \geq 4$  and  $|G \setminus V(H)| \geq 4$  since  $\delta(G) \geq 3$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $e(H) \leq \max\{\frac{7}{3}|H|, \frac{5}{2}|H| - \frac{7}{2}\}$  and  $e(G \setminus V(H)) \leq \max\{\frac{7}{3}|G \setminus V(H)|, \frac{5}{2}|G \setminus V(H)| - \frac{7}{2}\}$ . Hence,  $e(G) = e(H) + e(G \setminus V(H)) \leq \max\{\frac{7}{3}|H|, \frac{5}{2}|H| - \frac{7}{2}\} + \max\{\frac{7}{3}|G \setminus V(H)|, \frac{5}{2}|G \setminus V(H)| - \frac{7}{2}\} \leq \max\{\frac{7n}{3}, \frac{5n-7}{2}\}$ , with equality when both  $H$  and  $G \setminus V(H)$  are planar triangulations on 9 vertices. Hence,  $e(G) \leq \max\{\frac{7n}{3}, \frac{5n-7}{2}\}$ , with equality when  $n = 18$  and  $G = T_1 \cup T_2$ , where  $T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{T}_9$ . Now suppose  $G$  is connected. Let  $P$  be a longest path in  $G$  with vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_t$  in order. We may assume that  $d_G(v_1) \leq d_G(v_t)$ . Then  $t \leq 9$  because  $G$  is  $P_{10}$ -free. By Lemma 2.3(c),  $6 \leq 2\delta(G) \leq d_G(v_1) + d_G(v_t) \leq t-1 \leq 8$ . Then  $7 \leq t \leq 9$ . Assume that  $t \in \{7, 8\}$ . Then by Theorem 1.1 (when  $t = 7$ ) and Theorem 1.2 (when  $t = 8$ ),  $e(G) < \max\{\frac{7n}{3}, \frac{5n-7}{2}\}$ , as desired. So we may assume that  $t = 9$ .

Let  $F$  be an induced subgraph of  $G$  on  $V(P)$ . Let  $\ell_v$  denote the number of vertices of the longest path in  $F$  starting at  $v$  and  $S = \{v \in V(F) | \ell_v = 9\}$ . Notice that  $S \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $G$  is connected, it follows that  $S \neq V(F)$ . Observe that  $e_F(S') = e_G(S')$  for any  $S' \subseteq S$ . Assume that there exists some  $R \subseteq S$  with  $e_F(R) < \frac{7}{3}|R|$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $e(G \setminus R) \leq \max\{\frac{7}{3}|G \setminus R|, \frac{5}{2}|G \setminus R| - \frac{7}{2}\}$ . Hence,  $e(G) = e_G(R) + e(G \setminus R) < \frac{7}{3}|R| + \max\{\frac{7}{3}|G \setminus R|, \frac{5}{2}|G \setminus R| - \frac{7}{2}\} \leq \max\{\frac{7n}{3}, \frac{5n-7}{2}\}$ . So we may assume that  $e_F(S') \geq \frac{7}{3}|S'|$  for any  $S' \subseteq S$ . Thus we have the following claim.

**Claim.** The graph  $G$  has an induced subgraph  $F$  on 9 vertices satisfying the properties: (1)  $F$  is planar; (2)  $S \neq \emptyset$  and  $S \neq V(F)$ ; (3)  $e_F(S') \geq \frac{7}{3}|S'|$  for any  $S' \subseteq S$ .

It can be shown by computer that there are only 18 graphs with the above three properties, as depicted in **Appendix 1**. It can be observed that  $(\ell_v)_{v \notin S} = (\ell_{u_1}, \ell_{u_2}) = (7, 7)$  when  $F = F_i$  for any  $i \in [10]$ ,  $(\ell_v)_{v \notin S} = (\ell_{w_1}, \ell_{w_2}, \ell_{w_3}) = (7, 7, 8)$  when  $F = F_{11}$  or  $F = F_{12}$ , and  $(\ell_v)_{v \notin S} = (\ell_{w_1}, \ell_{w_2}, \ell_{w_3}) = (8, 8, 8)$  when  $F = F_i$  for any  $13 \leq i \leq 18$ . Assume that  $F = F_i$  for any  $11 \leq i \leq 18$ . Since  $\delta(G) \geq 3$  and  $G$  is  $P_{10}$ -free, it follows that  $N_G(v) = \{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$  for some  $v \in V(G) \setminus V(F)$ . But then  $G$  contains a copy of  $K_{3,3}$  because  $n \geq 10$  and  $F$  contains  $K_{2,3}$  as a subgraph with one part  $\{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$ , a contradiction. Assume then that  $F = F_i$  for any  $i \in [10]$ . Since  $\delta(G) \geq 3$  and  $G$  is  $P_{10}$ -free, it follows that for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(F)$ ,  $d_G(w) = 3$ ,  $w$  is complete to  $\{u_1, u_2\}$  in  $G$  and every component of  $G \setminus V(F)$  is isomorphic to  $K_2$ . **This is only possible** when  $n$  is odd. We see that  $G \setminus V(F) = \frac{n-9}{2}K_2$ . Hence, when  $n$  is odd, we see that  $e(G) \leq e(F) + \frac{5(n-9)}{2} \leq 19 + \frac{5n-45}{2} \leq \frac{5n-7}{2}$ . With equality when  $F = F_6$  or  $F = F_{10}$ , that is, when  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{5,n}$ .  $\square$

## 6 Proof of Theorem 1.6

Let  $G$  and  $n$  be given as in the statement. Note that  $\max\{\frac{12n}{5}, \frac{5n-6}{2}\} = \frac{5n-6}{2}$  when  $n \geq 30$  and  $\max\{\frac{12n}{5}, \frac{5n-6}{2}\} = \frac{12n}{5}$  when  $n \leq 30$ . By induction on  $n$ . Since any graph on at most 10

vertices is  $P_{11}$ -free and  $|G| \geq 3$ , we see that  $e(G) \leq 3n - 6 \leq \frac{12n}{5}$ , with equality when  $n = 10$  and  $G \in \mathcal{T}_{10}$ . So we may assume that  $n \geq 11$ . We next show that  $e(G) \leq \max\{\frac{12n}{5}, \frac{5n-6}{2}\}$ . Let  $x \in V(G)$  be a vertex with  $d_G(x) = \delta(G)$ . Then  $G - x$  is a  $P_{11}$ -free planar graph on  $n - 1$  vertices. By the induction hypothesis,  $e(G - x) \leq \max\{\frac{12}{5}(n - 1), \frac{5}{2}(n - 1) - 3\}$  and so  $e(G) = e(G - x) + d_G(x) \leq \max\{\frac{12n}{5}, \frac{5n-6}{2}\}$  when  $d_G(x) \leq 2$ . So we may assume that  $d_G(x) \geq 3$ . Assume next that  $G$  is disconnected and  $H$  is one of its components. Then  $|H| \geq 4$  and  $|G \setminus V(H)| \geq 4$  since  $\delta(G) \geq 3$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $e(H) \leq \max\{\frac{12}{5}|H|, \frac{5}{2}|H| - 3\}$  and  $e(G \setminus V(H)) \leq \max\{\frac{12}{5}|G \setminus V(H)|, \frac{5}{2}|G \setminus V(H)| - 3\}$ . Hence,  $e(G) = e(H) + e(G \setminus V(H)) \leq \max\{\frac{12}{5}|H|, \frac{5}{2}|H| - 3\} + \max\{\frac{12}{5}|G \setminus V(H)|, \frac{5}{2}|G \setminus V(H)| - 3\} \leq \max\{\frac{12n}{5}, \frac{5n-6}{2}\}$ , with equality when  $H$  is planar triangulation on 10 vertices and  $G \setminus V(H)$  is either planar triangulation on 10 vertices or the disjoint union of two planar triangulations on 10 vertices. Hence,  $e(G) \leq \max\{\frac{12n}{5}, \frac{5n-6}{2}\}$ , with equality when  $n = 20$  and  $G = T_1 \cup T_2$ , or when  $n = 30$  and  $G = T_1 \cup T_2 \cup T_3$ , where  $T_1, T_2, T_3 \in \mathcal{T}_{10}$ . Now suppose  $G$  is connected. Let  $P$  be a longest path in  $G$  with vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_t$  in order. Assume  $d_G(v_1) \leq d_G(v_t)$  and  $t \leq 10$  since  $G$  is  $P_{11}$ -free. By Lemma 2.3(c),  $6 \leq 2\delta(G) \leq d_G(v_1) + d_G(v_t) \leq t - 1 \leq 9$ . Then  $7 \leq t \leq 10$ . If  $t \in \{7, 8, 9\}$ , then by Theorem 1.1 (when  $t = 7$ ), Theorem 1.2 (when  $t = 8$ ) and Theorem 1.5 (when  $t = 9$ ), we have  $e(G) < \max\{\frac{12n}{5}, \frac{5n-6}{2}\}$ , as desired. So now suppose  $t = 10$ .

Let  $H$  be an induced subgraph of  $G$  on  $V(P)$ . Let  $\ell_v$  denote the number of vertices of the longest path in  $H$  starting at  $v$  and  $S = \{v \in V(H) | \ell_v = 10\}$ . Notice that  $S \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $G$  is connected, it follows that  $S \neq V(H)$ . Observe that  $e_H(S') = e_G(S')$  for any  $S' \subseteq S$ . Assume that there exists some  $R \subseteq S$  with  $e_H(R) < \frac{12}{5}|R|$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $e(G \setminus R) \leq \max\{\frac{12}{5}|G \setminus R|, \frac{5}{2}|G \setminus R| - 3\}$ . Hence,  $e(G) = e_G(R) + e(G \setminus R) < \frac{12}{5}|R| + \max\{\frac{12}{5}|G \setminus R|, \frac{5}{2}|G \setminus R| - 3\} \leq \max\{\frac{12n}{5}, \frac{5n-6}{2}\}$ . So we may assume that  $e_H(S') \geq \frac{12}{5}|S'|$  for any  $S' \subseteq S$ . Thus we have the following claim.

**Claim.** The graph  $G$  has an induced subgraph  $H$  on 10 vertices satisfying the properties: (1)  $H$  is planar; (2)  $S \neq \emptyset$  and  $S \neq V(H)$ ; (3)  $e_H(S') \geq \frac{12}{5}|S'|$  for any  $S' \subseteq S$ .

It could be shown by computer that there are only 200 graphs with the above three properties, as depicted in **Appendix 2**. It can be observed that  $(\ell_w)_{w \notin S} = (\ell_x, \ell_y, \ell_u, \ell_v) = (8, 8, 9, 9)$  when  $H = H_i$  for any  $i \in [28]$ ,  $(\ell_w)_{w \notin S} = (\ell_x, \ell_y, \ell_u, \ell_v) = (9, 9, 9, 9)$  when  $H = H_i$  for any  $29 \leq i \leq 88$ ,  $(\ell_w)_{w \notin S} = (\ell_x, \ell_y, \ell_u) = (8, 8, 9)$  when  $H = H_i$  for any  $89 \leq i \leq 118$ ,  $(\ell_w)_{w \notin S} = (\ell_x, \ell_y, \ell_u) = (9, 9, 9)$  when  $H = H_i$  for any  $119 \leq i \leq 166$ , and  $(\ell_w)_{w \notin S} = (\ell_x, \ell_y) = (8, 8)$  when  $H = H_i$  for any  $167 \leq i \leq 200$ .

**Case 1.**  $H = H_i$  for any  $i \in [28]$ . Since  $V(H) \setminus S = \{x, y, u, v\}$ ,  $N_H(w) \subseteq \{x, y, u, v\}$  and  $d_H(w) \leq 4$  for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ . We claim that  $d_H(w) \leq 2$  for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ . Suppose  $d_H(w) \geq 3$  for some  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ , then either  $\{x, y\} \subseteq N_H(w)$  or  $\{u, v\} \subseteq N_H(w)$ . If  $\{u, v\} \subseteq N_H(w)$ , then  $G$  contains  $P_{11}$  as a subgraph when  $uv \in E(H)$ , and  $G$  contains  $K_{3,3}$ -minor as a subgraph with one part  $\{x, y, \{u, w, v\}\}$  when  $uv \notin E(H)$ . If  $\{x, y\} \subseteq N_H(w)$ , then  $G$  contains  $K_{3,3}$ -minor as a subgraph with one part  $\{x, y, \{u, v\}\}$  or

$\{x, y, u\}$  or  $\{x, y, v\}$ . Now suppose  $d_H(w) \leq 2$  for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ . Since  $\delta(G) \geq 3$  and  $G$  is  $P_{11}$ -free, it follows that for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ ,  $d_G(w) = 3$ ,  $w$  is complete to  $\{x, y\}$  in  $G$ , and so each component is isomorphic to  $K_2$ . We see that  $G \setminus V(H) = \frac{n-10}{2}K_2$ . This is impossible when  $n$  is even. Hence,  $e(G) = e(H) + \frac{5(n-10)}{2} \leq 22 + \frac{5n-50}{2} \leq \frac{5n-6}{2}$ . With equality when  $H = H_{20}$  or  $H = H_{28}$ , that is, when  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{6,n}$ .

**Case 2.**  $H = H_i$  for any  $29 \leq i \leq 88$ . Notice that  $N_H(w) = N_G(w)$  for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ . Since  $V(H) \setminus S = \{x, y, u, v\}$ ,  $N_G(w) \subseteq \{x, y, u, v\}$  and  $d_G(w) \leq 4$  for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ . Since  $\delta(G) \geq 3$ , it follows that either  $\{x, y\} \subseteq N_H(w)$  or  $\{u, v\} \subseteq N_H(w)$  for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ . If  $\{u, v\} \subseteq N_H(w)$ , then  $G$  contains  $K_{3,3}$ -minor as a subgraph with one part  $\{x, y, \{u, w, v\}\}$  or  $\{u, v, \{x, y, w'\}\}$ , where  $w' \in N_H(x) \cap N_H(y)$ . If  $\{x, y\} \subseteq N_H(w)$ , then  $G$  contains  $K_{3,3}$ -minor as a subgraph with one part  $\{x, y, u\}$  or  $\{x, y, v\}$  or  $\{x, y, \{u, w', v\}\}$ , where  $w' \in N_H(u) \cap N_H(v)$ .

**Case 3.**  $H = H_i$  for any  $89 \leq i \leq 166$ . Since  $V(H) \setminus S = \{x, y, u\}$ ,  $N_H(w) \subseteq \{x, y, u\}$  and  $d_H(w) \leq 3$  for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ . Notice that  $G \setminus V(H)$  contains at most one vertex  $w$  with  $d_H(w) = 3$  since  $H$  contains  $K_{1,3}$  as a subgraph with one part  $\{x, y, u\}$ . Hence,  $e(G) \leq e(H) + 3 + 2(n-11) = 2n + 3 < \frac{12n}{5}$  when  $H = H_i$  for any  $119 \leq i \leq 166$ . So next consider  $H = H_i$  for any  $97 \leq i \leq 118$ . We see that  $d_H(w) = 2$  for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$  since  $G$  contains  $K_{2,3}$ -minor as a subgraph with one part  $\{x, y, u\}$ . Since  $\delta(G) \geq 3$  and  $G$  is  $P_{11}$ -free, it follows that for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ ,  $d_G(w) = 3$ ,  $w$  is complete to  $\{x, y\}$  in  $G$ , and so each component is isomorphic to  $K_2$ . We see that  $G \setminus V(H) = \frac{n-10}{2}K_2$ . This is impossible when  $n$  is even. Hence,  $e(G) \leq e(H) + \frac{5(n-10)}{2} \leq 22 + \frac{5n-50}{2} \leq \frac{5n-6}{2}$ . With equality when  $H = H_{112}$  or  $H = H_{118}$ , that is, when  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{6,n}$ . Finally, consider  $H = H_i$  for  $89 \leq i \leq 96$ . Since  $\delta(G) \geq 3$  and  $G$  is  $P_{11}$ -free, it follows that for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ ,  $d_G(w) = 3$ ,  $w$  is complete to  $\{x, y\}$  ( $\{x, y, u\}$  when  $d_H(w) = 3$ ) in  $G$ , and so each component is isomorphic to  $K_2$  (isolated vertex when  $d_H(w) = 3$ ). Hence,  $e(G) \leq e(H) + 3 + \frac{5(n-11)}{2} \leq 21 + 3 + \frac{5n-55}{2} = \frac{5n-7}{2}$ .

**Case 4.**  $H = H_i$  for any  $167 \leq i \leq 200$ . Since  $V(H) \setminus S = \{x, y\}$ ,  $N_H(w) \subseteq \{x, y\}$  and  $d_H(w) \leq 2$  for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ . Since  $\delta(G) \geq 3$  and  $G$  is  $P_{11}$ -free, it follows that for any  $w \in V(G) \setminus V(H)$ ,  $d_G(w) = 3$ ,  $w$  is complete to  $\{x, y\}$  in  $G$ , and so each component is isomorphic to  $K_2$ . We see that  $G \setminus V(H) = \frac{n-10}{2}K_2$ . This is impossible when  $n$  is even. Hence,  $e(G) \leq e(H) + \frac{5(n-10)}{2} \leq 22 + \frac{5n-50}{2} \leq \frac{5n-6}{2}$ . With equality when  $H = H_{184}$  or  $H = H_{186}$  or  $H = H_{188}$  or  $H = H_{190}$  or  $H = H_{192}$  or  $H = H_{200}$ , that is, when  $G \in \mathcal{G}_{6,n}$ .  $\square$

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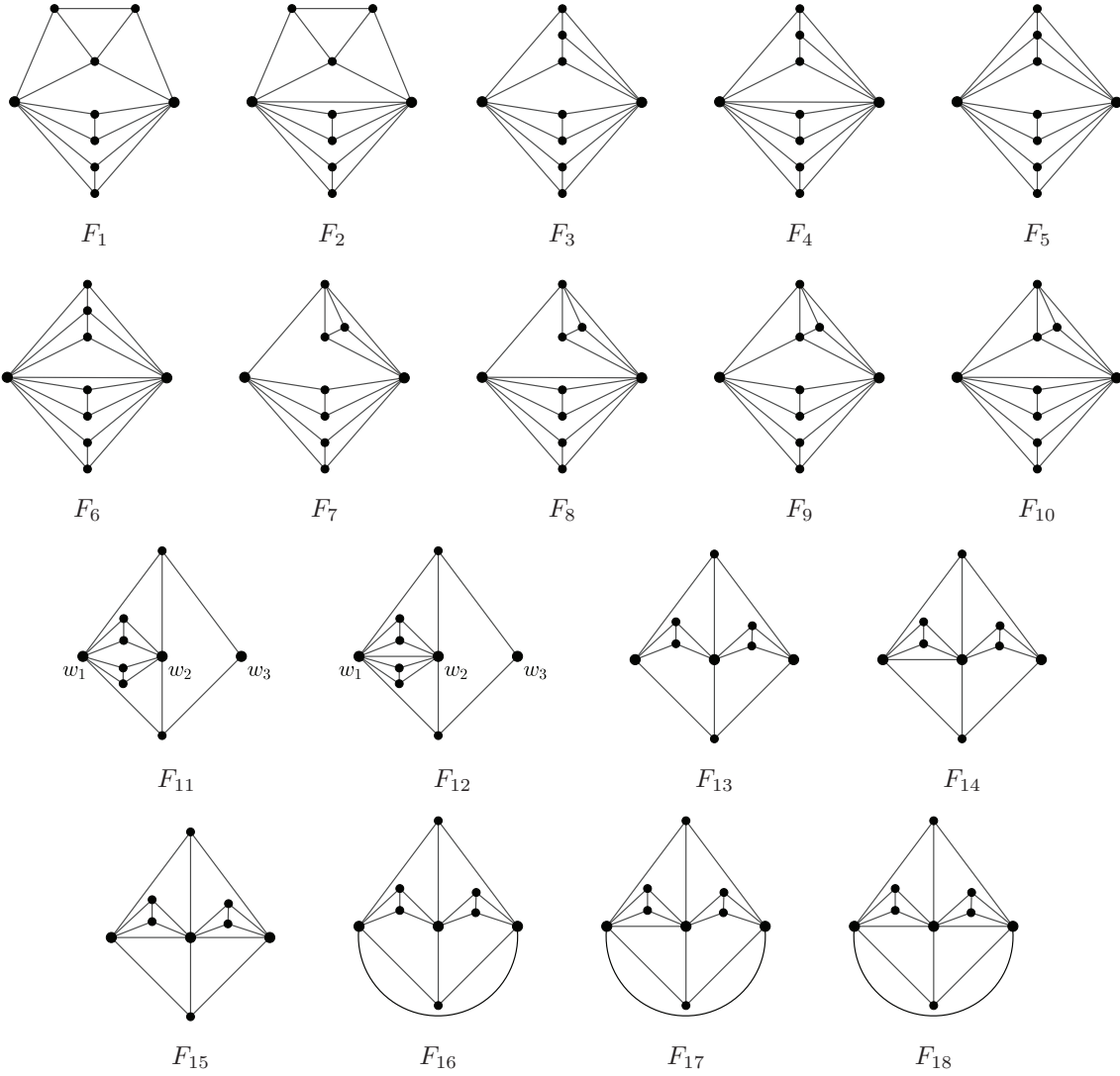
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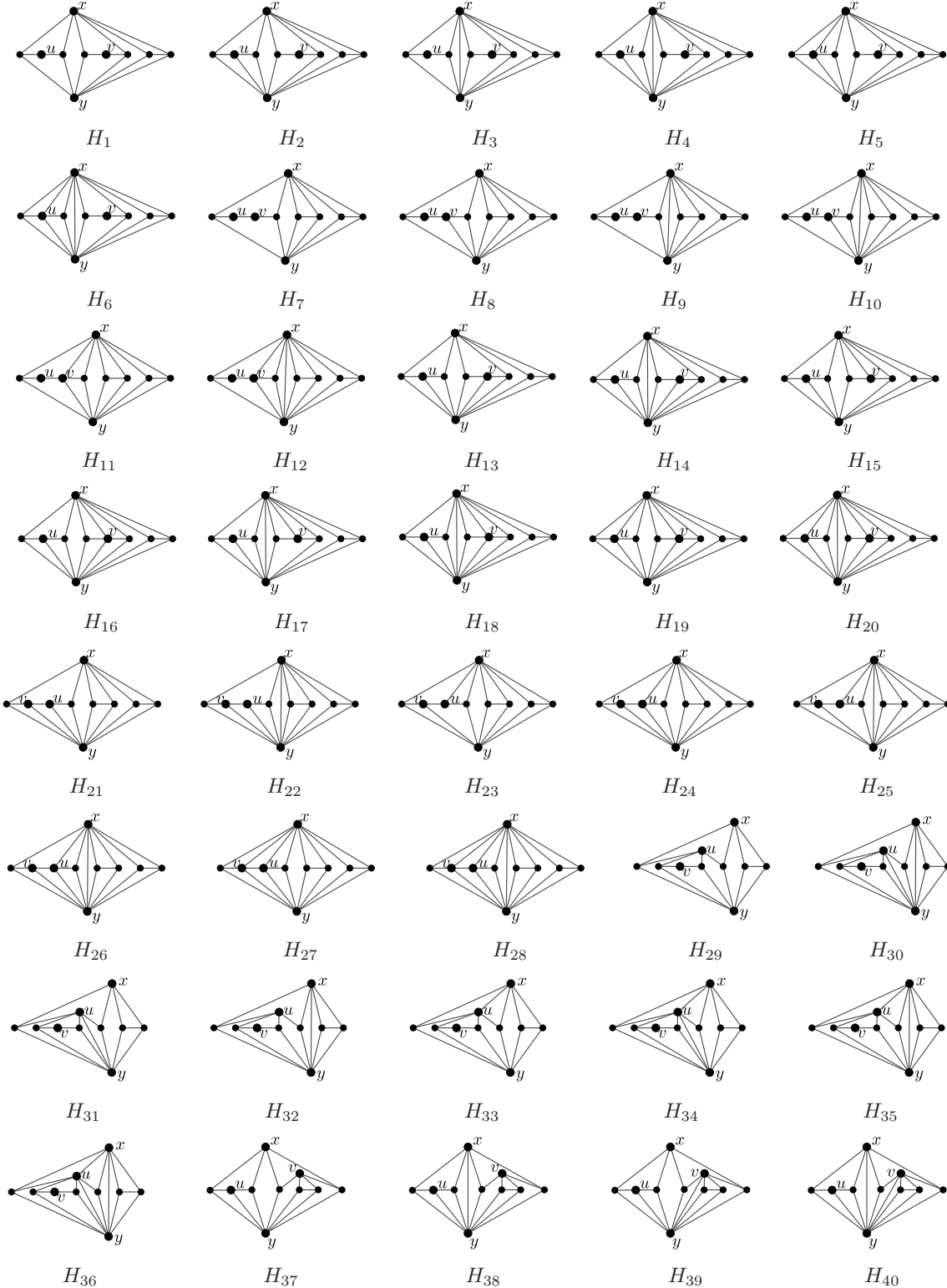
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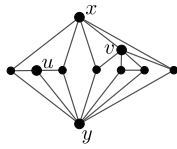
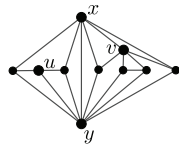
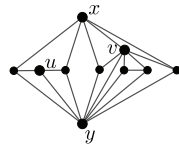
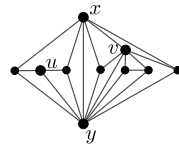
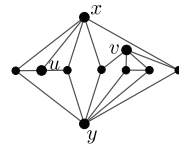
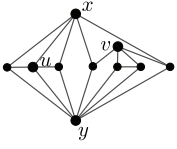
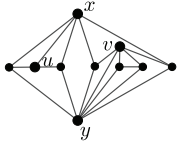
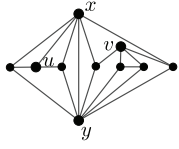
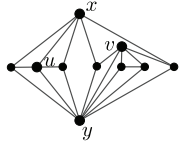
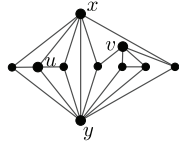
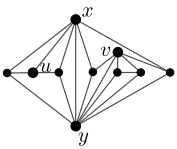
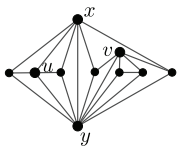
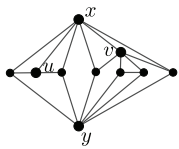
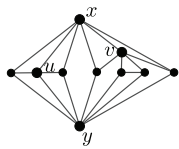
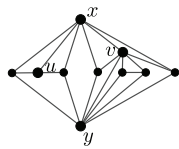
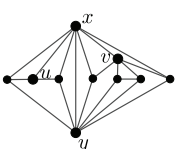
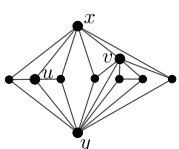
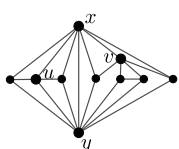
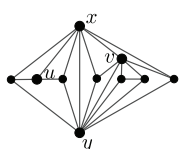
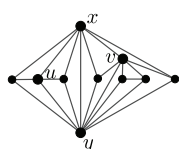
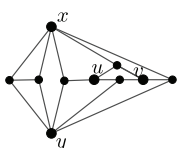
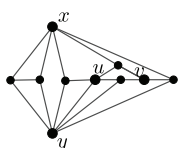
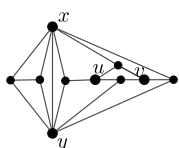
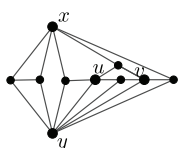
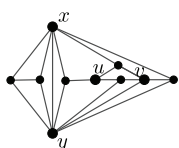
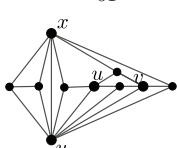
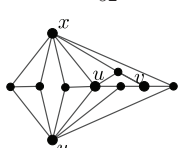
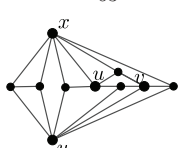
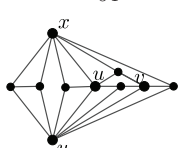
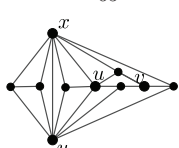
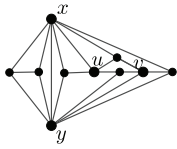
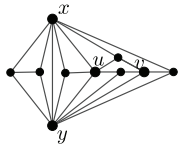
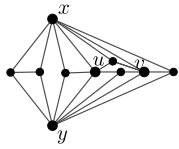
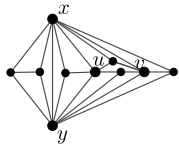
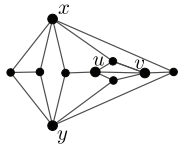
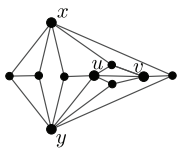
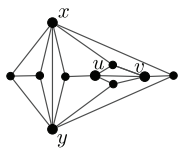
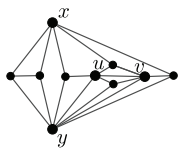
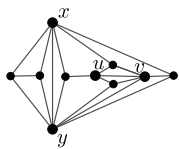
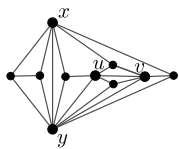
List of 18 graphs satisfying the three properties in Claim used in the proof of Theorem 1.5.

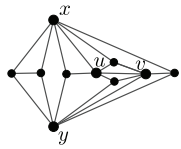


## Appendix 2:

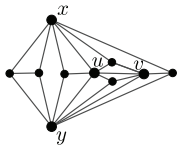
List of 200 graphs satisfying the three properties in Claim used in the proof of Theorem 1.6.



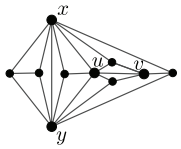
 $H_{41}$  $H_{42}$  $H_{43}$  $H_{44}$  $H_{45}$  $H_{46}$  $H_{47}$  $H_{48}$  $H_{49}$  $H_{50}$  $H_{51}$  $H_{52}$  $H_{53}$  $H_{54}$  $H_{55}$  $H_{56}$  $H_{57}$  $H_{58}$  $H_{59}$  $H_{60}$  $H_{61}$  $H_{62}$  $H_{63}$  $H_{64}$  $H_{65}$  $H_{66}$  $H_{67}$  $H_{68}$  $H_{69}$  $H_{70}$  $H_{71}$  $H_{72}$  $H_{73}$  $H_{74}$  $H_{75}$  $H_{76}$  $H_{77}$  $H_{78}$  $H_{79}$  $H_{80}$



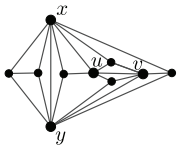
$H_{81}$



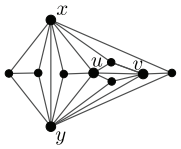
$H_{82}$



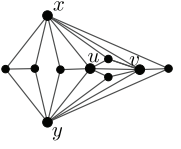
$H_{83}$



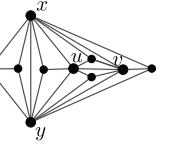
$H_{84}$



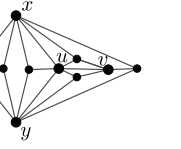
$H_{85}$



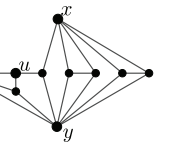
$H_{86}$



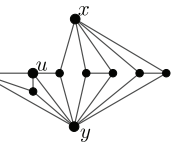
$H_{87}$



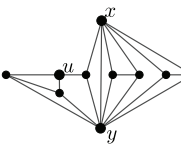
$H_{88}$



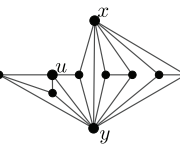
$H_{89}$



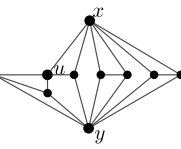
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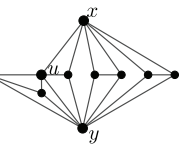
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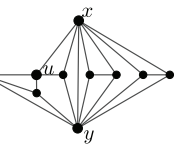
$H_{92}$



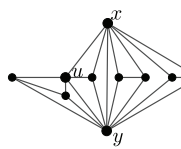
$H_{93}$



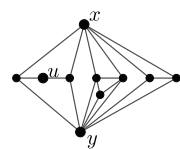
$H_{94}$



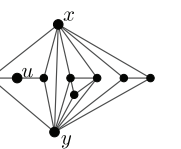
$H_{95}$



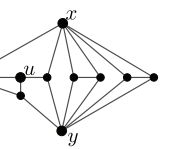
$H_{96}$



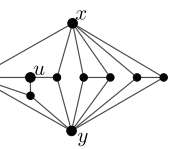
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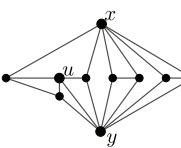
$H_{98}$



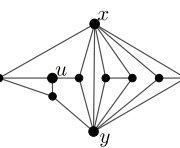
$H_{99}$



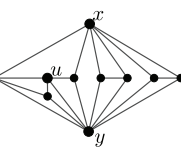
$H_{100}$



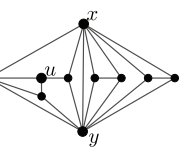
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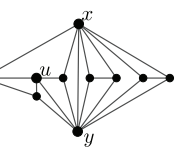
$H_{102}$



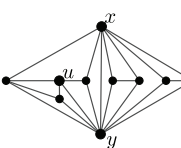
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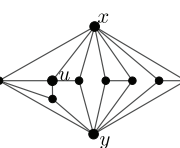
$H_{104}$



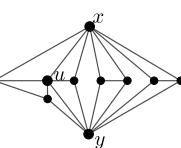
$H_{105}$



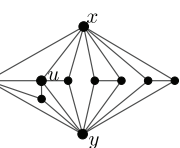
$H_{106}$



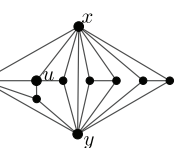
$H_{107}$



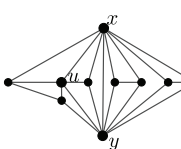
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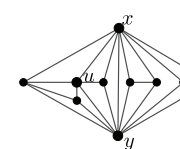
$H_{109}$



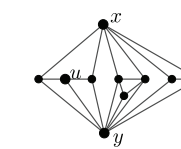
$H_{110}$



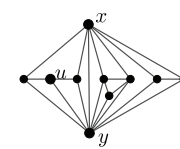
$H_{111}$



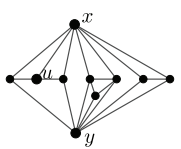
$H_{112}$



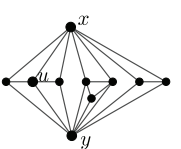
$H_{113}$



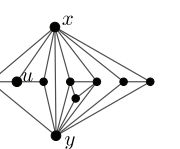
$H_{114}$



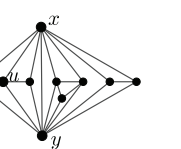
$H_{115}$



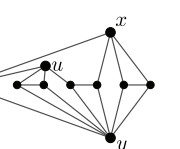
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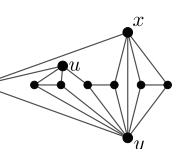
$H_{117}$



$H_{118}$



$H_{119}$



$H_{120}$

