

## Maximal Antichains of Isomorphic Subgraphs of the Rado Graph

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**Abstract.** If  $\langle R, E \rangle$  is the Rado graph and  $\mathcal{R}(R)$  the set of its copies inside  $R$ , then  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$  is a chain-complete and non-atomic partial order of the size  $2^{\aleph_0}$ . A family  $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{R}(R)$  is a maximal antichain in this partial order iff (1)  $A \cap B$  does not contain a copy of  $R$ , for each different  $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$  and (2) For each  $S \in \mathcal{R}(R)$  there is  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  such that  $A \cap S$  contains a copy of  $R$ . We show that the partial order  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$  contains maximal antichains of size  $2^{\aleph_0}$ ,  $\aleph_0$  and  $n$ , for each positive integer  $n$  (thus, of all possible cardinalities, under CH). The results are compared with the corresponding known results concerning the partial order  $\langle [\omega]^\omega, \subset \rangle$ .

### 1. Introduction

The object of our study is the Rado graph (the countable random graph) introduced by Erdős and Rényi [3] and characterized as the unique (up to isomorphism) countable graph  $\langle R, E \rangle$  such that the set

$$R_K^{H \cup K} = \left\{ r \in R \setminus (H \cup K) : \forall h \in H (rh \in E) \wedge \forall k \in K (rk \notin E) \right\}$$

is non-empty, for each pair of disjoint finite subsets  $H, K$  of  $R$ . This rich combinatorial structure and various related structures (for example the automorphism group and the endomorphism monoid of  $\langle R, E \rangle$ , various topologies on  $R$  etc.) were extensively explored (see [1]).

Since for each partition of the Rado graph  $R$  into two pieces at least one of them is isomorphic to  $R$ , one of the structures naturally related to the Rado graph (and providing additional information about it) is the partial order  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$ , where  $\mathcal{R}(R)$  is the set of all isomorphic copies of  $R$  contained in  $R$ , that is the set of all subsets  $A$  of  $R$  such that  $\langle A, E \cap [A]^2 \rangle$  is a countable random graph. It is easy to see that  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$  is a chain-complete and non-atomic partial order with the largest element  $R$  and of the cardinality continuum. Concerning the question of how “tall” is this partial order, we note that, by [4], the class of order types of maximal chains in the poset  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$  is exactly the class of order types of linear orders of the form  $K \setminus \{\min K\}$ , where  $K$  is a compact subset of the real line,  $\mathbb{R}$ , having the minimum non-isolated. Thus, for example, there is a maximal chain of isomorphic subgraphs of the Rado graph  $\langle R, E \rangle$  order isomorphic to the interval  $(0, 1]_{\mathbb{R}}$ .

Our main goal is to determine how “wide” is the partial order  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$ , that is to find one of its order invariants - the set of cardinalities of maximal antichains in  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$ . So we will show that under the CH there are maximal antichains in  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$  of all possible cardinalities  $\kappa$  ( $1 \leq \kappa \leq 2^{\aleph_0}$ ). We note that, in contrast to this result, in the poset  $\langle [R]^\omega, \subset \rangle$  of all infinite subsets of  $R$ , which contains our poset as a sub-order, countable maximal antichains do

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**Theorem 1.** *For each integer  $n \geq 2$  there is a partition of the Rado graph,  $\langle R, E \rangle$ , into  $n$  random subgraphs and in  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$  it is a maximal antichain of size  $n$ .*

*Proof.* First, using induction we show that for each  $n \geq 2$  the graph  $R$  can be partitioned into  $n$  elements of  $\mathcal{R}(R)$ . Let  $w \in R$ . Then, by Fact 2(b),  $R_{\{w\}}^{[w]}$  and  $R_{\emptyset}^{[w]}$  are random subgraphs of  $R$  and, clearly,  $R = \{w\} \cup R_{\{w\}}^{[w]} \cup R_{\emptyset}^{[w]}$  is a partition of  $R$ . According to Fact 2(a), the graph  $R$  is isomorphic to its subgraph  $R_1 = R_{\{w\}}^{[w]} \cup R_{\emptyset}^{[w]}$  and, consequently,  $R$  can be partitioned into two random subgraphs.

If  $R$  is partitioned into  $n$  elements of  $\mathcal{R}(R)$ ,  $R = R_1 \cup R_2 \cup \dots \cup R_n$ , then partitioning  $R_n$  into two random subgraphs as above we obtain a partition of  $R$  into  $n + 1$  elements of  $\mathcal{R}(R)$ .

Now, let  $R = R_1 \cup R_2 \cup \dots \cup R_n$  be a partition of  $R$ , where  $R_i \in \mathcal{R}(R)$ , for all  $i \leq n$ . Clearly  $\{R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n\}$  is an antichain in the ordering  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$  and we prove its maximality. Let  $S \in \mathcal{R}(R)$ . Then  $S = \bigcup_{i \leq n} S \cap R_i$  is a partition of  $S$  into finitely many pieces so, by Fact 2(c), at least one of them, say  $S \cap R_{i_0}$ , belongs to  $\mathcal{R}(R)$ . Hence  $S$  and  $R_{i_0}$  are compatible elements of  $\mathcal{R}(R)$ . Thus each element of  $\mathcal{R}(R)$  is compatible with some  $R_i$ , which proves the maximality of  $\{R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n\}$ .  $\square$

Now we show that, in contrast to Fact 1(b), the poset  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$  contains maximal antichains of size  $\aleph_0$ . For this we need the following lemma. In the sequel, if  $F \in [R]^{<\omega}$ , then instead of  $R_F^F$  we will write  $R^F$ .

**Lemma 1.** *If  $\langle R, E \rangle$  is the Rado graph and  $S, T \in [R]^{<\omega}$ , where  $T \not\subseteq R^S \cup S$ , then  $R^S \setminus R^{S \cup T}$  is a random graph.*

*Proof.* Let  $w \in T \setminus (R^S \cup S)$ . Then there is  $r \in R \setminus (S \cup \{w\})$  such that  $rw \notin E$  and  $rs \in E$ , for all  $s \in S$ . So  $r \in R^S$  and  $r \notin R^{S \cup T}$ , which implies  $R^S \setminus R^{S \cup T} \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $H, K \in [R^S \setminus R^{S \cup T}]^{<\omega}$  be disjoint sets. Then  $H' = H \cup S$  and  $K' = K \cup \{w\}$  are disjoint finite sets, so there is  $v \in R \setminus (H' \cup K')$  such that (i)  $\forall r \in H \cup S (vr \in E)$  and (ii)  $\forall r \in K \cup \{w\} (vr \notin E)$ . By (i) we have  $v \in R^S$  and, by (ii),  $vw \notin E$ , so  $v \notin R^{S \cup T}$ , hence  $v \in R^S \setminus R^{S \cup T}$ . Also  $vr \in E$  for all  $r \in H$  and  $vr \notin E$  for all  $r \in K$ . So,  $R^S \setminus R^{S \cup T}$  is a random subgraph of  $R$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.** *If  $\langle R, E \rangle$  is the Rado graph, then there exists an 1-1 enumeration  $R = \{a_n^k : k, n < \omega\}$  such that*

- (a) *Each column  $A_n = \{a_n^k : k < \omega\}$  of the matrix  $[a_n^k : \langle k, n \rangle \in \omega \times \omega]$  is a random graph. Also, for each  $n \in \omega$ ,  $B_n = \bigcup_{m \geq n} A_m$  is a random graph.*
- (b)  *$\mathcal{A} = \{A_n : n \in \omega\}$  is a maximal antichain in the partial order  $\langle \mathcal{R}(R), \subset \rangle$ .*

*Proof.* (a) Let us fix an element  $w$  of  $R$  and for each infinite subset  $B$  of  $R$  let us fix a bijection  $a_B : \omega \rightarrow B$ . Let the sets  $B_n \subset R$ ,  $n \in \omega$ , be defined recursively by

$$\begin{aligned} B_0 &= R \setminus \{w\}, \\ B_1 &= R^{\{w\}} \text{ and, for } n \geq 2, \end{aligned}$$

$$B_n = \begin{cases} R^{\{w\} \cup \{a_{B_i \setminus B_{i+1}}(k) : i+k \leq n-2\}} & \text{if } \forall i \leq n-2 |B_i \setminus B_{i+1}| = \omega, \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Claim 1.* For each  $n \in \omega$  we have  $\varphi(n)$ , where  $\varphi(n)$  is the conjunction of the following conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_1(n) &\equiv B_n \supset B_{n+1}; \\ \varphi_2(n) &\equiv B_n \setminus B_{n+1} \in \mathcal{R}(R). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof of Claim 1.* We prove the claim by induction. Clearly  $R \setminus \{w\} \supset R^{\{w\}}$ , that is  $B_0 \supset B_1$ , thus  $\varphi_1(0)$  holds. According to Fact 2(b) we have  $B_0 \setminus B_1 = (R \setminus \{w\}) \setminus R^{\{w\}} = R_{\emptyset}^{\{w\}} \in \mathcal{R}(R)$  and  $\varphi_2(0)$  is proved.

Let  $m > 0$  and suppose  $\varphi(i)$ , for each  $i < m$ . Then for each  $i < m$  we have  $B_i \setminus B_{i+1} \in \mathcal{R}(R)$ , which implies  $|B_i \setminus B_{i+1}| = \omega$  so, according to the definition,  $B_m = R^{\{w\} \cup \{a_{B_i \setminus B_{i+1}}(k) : i+k \leq m-2\}}$  and  $B_{m+1} = R^{\{w\} \cup \{a_{B_i \setminus B_{i+1}}(k) : i+k \leq m-1\}}$ , which implies  $B_m \supset B_{m+1}$  and  $\varphi_1(m)$  is proved.

According to Lemma 1 and since  $B_m \setminus B_{m+1} = R^S \setminus R^{S \cup T}$ , where

$$S = \{w\} \cup \{a_{B_i \setminus B_{i+1}}(k) : i+k \leq m-2\} \text{ and}$$

$$T = \{a_{B_i \setminus B_{i+1}}(k) : i+k = m-1\},$$



