
DAVID PIKE, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Perfect 1-Factorisations

A matching in a graph G is a subset $M \subseteq E(G)$ of the edge set of G such that no two edges of M share a vertex. A 1-factor of a graph G is a matching F in which every vertex of G is in one of the edges of F . If G is a Δ -regular graph of even order then we can ask whether G admits a 1-factorisation, namely a partition of its edge set into Δ 1-factors.

Suppose that $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_\Delta$ are the 1-factors of a 1-factorisation \mathcal{F} of a Δ -regular graph G . If, for each $1 \leq i < j \leq \Delta$, the union $F_i \cup F_j$ is the edge set of a Hamilton cycle in G , then we say that \mathcal{F} is a perfect 1-factorisation of G . We will discuss some of the history and properties of 1-factorisations, including the recent discovery of a perfect 1-factorisation of K_{56} .