

Compactness theorem for propositional logic:

A set of formulas \mathcal{A} in a propositional language L is satisfiable if and only if it is finitely satisfiable.

Corollary Let L be a propositional language, \mathcal{A} a set of formulas and B a formula.

Then $\mathcal{A} \models B$, i.e., B is a tautological consequence of \mathcal{A} if and only if there is a finite subset $\mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ such that $\mathcal{A}_0 \models B$.

Proof Note that $\mathcal{A} \models B$ if and only if $\mathcal{A} \cup \{\neg B\}$ is not satisfiable if and only if there is some finite set $\mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ such that $\mathcal{A}_0 \cup \{\neg B\}$ is not satisfiable. \square

A graph is an ordered pair $G = (V, E)$ where V are the vertices of G , $V \neq \emptyset$, and E are the edges, i.e., E is a collection of unordered pairs $\{x, y\}$, where $x \neq y$ are vertices.

Given a subset $W \subseteq V$ of vertices, the induced subgraph $G|_W = (W, E')$ is simply given by $E' = \{ \{x, y\} \mid x, y \in W \}$.

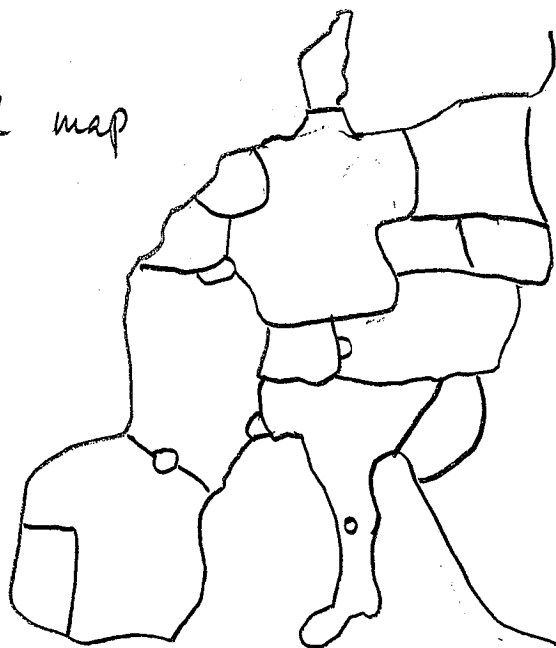
Example

Consider a partial map of Europe and

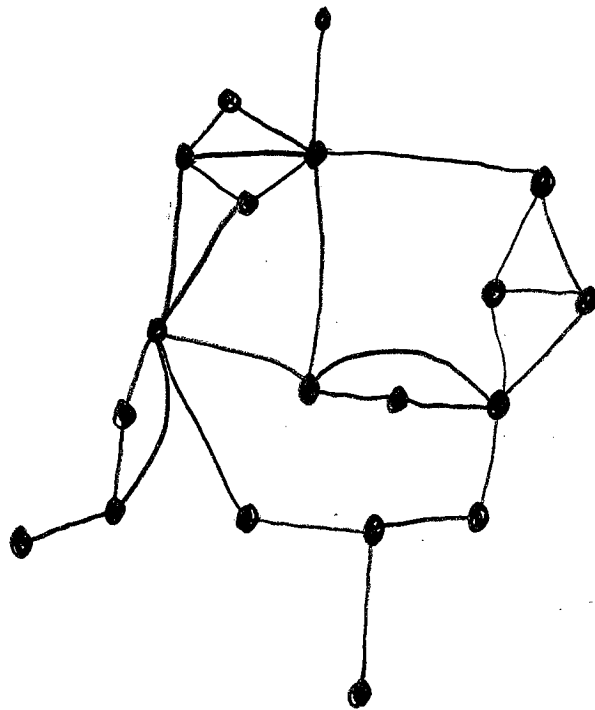
let $V = \{ \text{countries on the map} \}$,

$\{x, y\} \in E \iff$

x and y are neighbours.



Then the graph G looks as



A colouring of the graph $G = (V, E)$ with k colours is a function $c : V \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ such that if $\{x, y\} \in E$ then $c(x) \neq c(y)$.

Thus in the example above, this would correspond to colouring the map with k different colours such that neighbouring countries get different colours.

Theorem A graph $G = (V, E)$ admits a colouring with k colours if and only if every finite induced subgraph has a colouring with k colours.

Proof Let L be the language whose variables are P_{xi} for every $x \in V$ and $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$.

We let \mathcal{A} be the set consisting of formulas

$$(1) \quad P_{x1} \vee P_{x2} \vee \dots \vee P_{xk} \quad \text{for } x \in V$$

$$(2) \quad \neg (P_{xi} \wedge P_{xj}) \quad \text{for } x \in V \text{ and } i \neq j$$

$$(3) \quad \neg (P_{xi} \wedge P_{yi}) \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, k \text{ and } \{x, y\} \in E.$$

Then if $v: L \rightarrow \{T, F\}$ is a valuation of L satisfying \mathcal{A} , we can define $c: V \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$ by setting

$$c(x) = i \iff v(P_{xi}) = T.$$

Since v satisfies \mathcal{A} , (i) implies that every

vertex gets a colour, (ii) implies that a vertex gets only one colour and (iii) implies that vertices with an edge between them do not get the same colour.

So it is enough to show that \mathcal{A} is satisfiable or, equivalently, that \mathcal{A} is finitely satisfiable.

Suppose $\mathcal{A}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ is finite and let

$$W = \{x \in V \mid P_{xi} \text{ appears in some formula of } \mathcal{A}_0 \text{ for some } i=1, \dots, k\}.$$

Since \mathcal{A}_0 is finite, so is W and hence there is a colouring $c: W \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ of the induced subgraph $G|_W$.

We let $v: L \rightarrow \{T, F\}$ be defined by

$$v(P_{xi}) = T \iff x \in W \text{ and } c(x) = i$$

$$v(P_{xi}) = F \text{ otherwise.}$$

Then clearly v satisfies \mathcal{A}_0 . □

Ramsey's Theorem (Infinite version)

For $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, set $[A]^2 = \{ (n, m) \mid n, m \in A \text{ and } n < m \}$.

We can think of $[A]^2$ as being the set of 2-element subsets of A .

Then suppose $c : [N]^2 \rightarrow \{\text{blue}, \text{red}\}$ is a colouring with two colours. Then there is an infinite subset $A \subseteq N$ such that $[A]^2$ is monochromatic, i.e., $c \upharpoonright [A]^2$ is constant.

Exercise Deduce Ramsey's Theorem from the above theorem using the compactness theorem for propositional logic!

Ramsey's Theorem For any k there is an n such that for any colouring

$$c : [\{1, 2, \dots, n\}]^k \rightarrow \{\text{blue}, \text{red}\}$$

there is k -element subset $A \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ such that $[A]^k$ is monochromatic.