# NEW ORE-TYPE CONDITIONS FOR H-LINKED GRAPHS

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ABSTRACT. For a fixed (multi)graph H, a graph G is H-linked if any injection  $f: V(H) \to V(G)$  can be extended to an H-subdivision in G. The notion of an H-linked graph encompasses several familiar graph classes, including k-linked, k-ordered and k-connected graphs. In this paper, we give two sharp Ore-type degree sum conditions that assure a graph G is H-linked for arbitrary H. These results extend and refine several previous results on H-linked, k-linked and k-ordered graphs. Keywords: H-linked graph, k-linked graph, k-ordered graph

All graphs in this paper are finite. For notation not defined here we refer the reader to [1]. If  $X \subseteq V(G)$  is a vertex set, we will often just write X for the induced subgraph G[X] if the context is clear. Let  $\delta(G)$  and  $\Delta(G)$  denote the minimum and maximum degree of G, respectively, and let  $\sigma_2(G)$  denote the minimum degree sum of nonadjacent vertices in G. Throughout the paper, we will often refer to  $\sigma_2$  conditions as *Ore-type* conditions in light of Ore's classical theorem on hamiltonian graphs. We

will also let  $n_i(G)$  be the number of vertices of degree i in G. Given a vertex v and set  $A \subseteq V(G)$ , we let  $d_A(v)$  denote the number of neighbors of v in the set A. For  $A, B \subseteq V(G)$  we let  $\delta_B(A)$  and  $\Delta_B(A)$  denote the minimum and maximum respectively of  $d_B(v)$  taken over all vertices in A. We will let  $E_G(A, B)$ denote the number of edges in G with one endpoint in A and the other in B, and let  $e_G(A, B) = |E_G(A, B)|$ . We will frequently write E(A, B) and e(A, B) when the context is clear.

Given an integer-valued graph parameter p and a graph property  $\mathcal{P}$ , the *p*-threshold for  $\mathcal{P}$  is the minimum k = k(n) such that any graph G of order n with  $p(G) \ge k$ has property  $\mathcal{P}$ . We will frequently consider *p*-thresholds restricted to specific graph classes, such as sufficiently large graphs, or graphs with a prescribed number of edges.

A graph G is k-linked if for any ordered subset of 2k vertices  $S = \{s_1, t_1, \ldots, s_k, t_k\}$ there exist disjoint paths  $P_1, \ldots, P_k$  such that for each  $i, P_i$  is an  $s_i - t_i$  path. We will

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refer to this collection of paths as an *S*-linkage in *G*. We also say that *G* is *k*-ordered if for any list of *k* vertices  $v_1, \ldots, v_k$  in *G*, there exists a cycle that visits these vertices in the given order.

A subdivision of a (multi)graph H, or an H-subdivision is any simple graph obtained by replacing the edges of H with internally disjoint paths. The vertices originally in H are called the ground vertices or the ground set of the subdivision. For a fixed graph H, a graph G is H-linked if any injection  $f : V(H) \to V(G)$  can be extended to an H-subdivision in G with ground vertices prescribed by f. We refer to the injection fas an H-linkage problem (in G). The notion of an H-linked graph generalizes those of k-linked, k-ordered and k-connected graphs, as G is  $kK_2$ -linked if and only if G is k-linked, G is  $C_k$ -linked if and only if G is k-ordered and G is k-connected if and only if G is  $K_{1,k}$ -linked.

# 1. Degree Conditions for *H*-Linked Graphs

Kawarabayashi, Kostochka and Yu [8] determined sharp minimum degree and degree sum conditions for a graph G of order at least 2k to be k-linked.

**Theorem 1.** Let G be a graph on  $n \ge 2k$  vertices. If

$$\delta(G) \ge \begin{cases} \frac{n+2k-3}{2}, & \text{if } n \ge 4k-1\\ \frac{n+5k-5}{3}, & \text{if } 3k \le n \le 4k-2\\ n-1, & \text{if } 2k \le n \le 3k-1 \end{cases}$$

or

$$\sigma_2(G) \ge \begin{cases} n+2k-3, & \text{if } n \ge 4k-1\\ \frac{2(n+5k)}{3}-3, & \text{if } 3k \le n \le 4k-2\\ 2n-3, & \text{if } 2k \le n \le 3k-1 \end{cases}$$

then G is k-linked. These bounds are best possible.

For sufficiently large graphs, the relevant portion of these conditions were obtained independently in [6]. Sharp minimum degree and degree sum conditions for k-ordered graphs were determined in [2] and [9], respectively.

**Theorem 2.** Let G be a graph of order n and  $k \ge 2$  be an integer. If

(a) 
$$n \ge 11k - 3$$
 and  $\delta(G) \ge \left|\frac{n}{2}\right| + \left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor - 1$ , or  
(b)  $n \ge 53k^2$  and  $\sigma_2(G) \ge n + \left\lceil\frac{3k-9}{2}\right\rceil$ ,  
then G is k-ordered.

Turning our attention the the broader class of H-linked graphs, minimum degree conditions that assure a graph G is H-linked for arbitrary connected H were first given (independently) in [3] and [10]. These were subsequently strengthened in [5] to include arbitrary multigraphs H, thereby extending Theorem 1. Similar conditions concerned with finding (strong) H-immersions in a graph G appear in [4]. In order to discuss these results, we must first introduce a useful parameter.

For a (multi-)graph H, let

$$b(H) = \max_{\substack{A \cup B \cup C = V(H)\\e(A,B) > 1}} e(A,B) + |C|$$

where we take this maximum over all partitions A, B, C of V(H). As every graph G has a bipartite subgraph with at least half of the edges in  $G, b(H) \ge |E(H)|/2$ . When H is connected, it is straightforward to see that we may choose C to be empty in any optimal partition, so that b(H) is equal to the maximum number of edges in a bipartite subgraph of H. As was noted in [4] and [5], when H is disconnected, b(H)depends not only on the maximum size of a bipartite subgraph of H, but also on the number of components of H without even cycles.

The following result of Gould, Kostochka and Yu [5] gives the  $\delta$ -threshold for *H*-linkedness.

**Theorem 3.** Let H be a (multi-)graph with c(H) components that do not contain even cycles and G be a graph of order  $n \ge 9.5(|E(H)| + c(H) + 1)$ . If

$$\delta(G) \ge \frac{1}{2}(n+b(H)-2),$$

then G is H-linked. This result is sharp.

Kostochka and Yu [11] gave Ore-type conditions, dependent on k, implying that a graph G is H-linked for *every* graph H with k edges.

**Theorem 4.** Let G be a graph of order n and let H be a simple graph with k edges and minimum degree at least two. If

$$\sigma_2(G) \ge \begin{cases} \left\lceil n + \frac{3k-9}{2} \right\rceil & n > 2.5k - 5.5 \\ \left\lceil n + \frac{3k-8}{2} \right\rceil & 2k \le n \le 2.5k - 5.5 \\ 2n - 3 & k \le n \le 2.5k - 1, \end{cases}$$

then G is H-linked.

In light of Theorem 2, one interesting consequence of Theorem 4 is that amongst those graphs H with k edges,  $C_k$  has the largest  $\sigma_2$ -threshold for H-linkedness when n is sufficiently large.

The goal of this paper is to refine Theorem 4 by giving sharp Ore-type conditions that assure a graph G is H-linked for an arbitrarily chosen H. We note here that the  $\sigma_2$ -threshold for H-linkedness is not, in general, twice the minimum degree given in Theorem 3, as Theorem 2 demonstrates that this is not the case for  $H = C_k$  when n is sufficiently large. Our first result demonstrates that twice the minimum degree in Theorem 3 does suffice if we add only a mild minimum degree condition to G. **Theorem 5.** Let H be a multigraph and G be a graph with  $|G| \ge 20|E(H)| + n_0(H)$ . If

$$\delta(G) \ge 4|E(H)| + n_0(H), \text{ and}$$
  
 $\sigma_2(G) \ge |G| + b(H) - 2,$ 

then G is H-linked. This result is sharp.

We also utilize Theorem 5 to give a sharp  $\sigma_2$  bound that, without any additional minimum degree condition, assures a graph G is H-linked for any simple graph H. Let

$$a(H) = \max_{A \cup B = V(H)} (e(A, B) + |B| - \Delta_B(A)).$$

**Theorem 6.** Let H be a simple graph and G be a graph of order n > 20|E(H)|. If

$$\sigma_2(G) \ge n + a(H) - 2,$$

then G is H-linked. This result is sharp.

Observe that for arbitrary H,  $a(H) \ge b(H)$ . To see this, suppose that  $V(H) = A \cup B \cup C$  with e(A, B) + |C| = b(H). Then, if we let  $B^* = B \cup C$ , it follows that

 $a(H) \ge e(A, B^*) + |B^*| - \Delta_{B^*}(A) \ge e(A, B) + |C| = b(H).$ 

There are a number of graphs H, including  $C_k$   $(k \ge 5)$ , for which a(H) > b(H). As such, Theorem 6 demonstrates that there are many choices of H for which the  $\sigma_2$ -threshold for H-linkedness is more than twice the  $\delta$ -threshold.

## 2. Preliminary Lemmas

A version of the following Lemma originally appears in [12], pertaining to directed graphs. The proof for undirected graphs is analogous and, hence, omitted.

**Lemma 7.** Let G be a graph,  $k \ge 1$  and  $v \in V(G)$  with  $d(v) \ge 2k - 1$ . If G - v is k-linked, then G is k-linked.

Thomas and Wollan [14] used the following to prove that every 10m-connected graph is m-linked, which represents the current best bound on connectivity sufficient to assure k-linkedness.

**Theorem 8.** Let  $k \ge 2$  and G be a 2k-connected graph. If  $|E(G)| \ge 5k|G|$ , then G is k-linked.

**Corollary 9.** Let  $k \ge 2$  and G be a 2k-connected graph of order n. If  $\sigma_2(G) \ge n$  and  $n \ge 20k$ , then G is k-linked.

*Proof.* This follows from the observation that any graph G of order n with  $\sigma_2(G) \ge n$  must have at least  $\frac{n^2}{4}$  edges. Indeed, if  $\delta = \delta(G) \ge \frac{n}{2}$  then there is nothing to prove

so assume otherwise and let v be a vertex of G with  $d(v) = \delta$ . Counting the degrees of the neighbors and non-neighbors of v respectively, we have that

$$|E(G)| \ge \frac{1}{2} \left( \delta(\delta+1) + (n-\delta-1)(n-\delta) \right)$$

which is greater than  $\frac{n^2}{4}$  for  $\delta < \frac{n}{2}$ .

We close with the following fact and lemma, both of which are straightforward to prove and will be useful as we proceed.

**Fact 10.** Let G be a graph and H a (multi-)graph with |E(H)| = m and  $n_0(H) = 0$ . If G is m-linked, then G is H-linked.

**Lemma 11.** Let H be a multigraph, and let G be an edge maximal non-H-linked graph. Then for every  $m \ge |E(H)|$  and  $X \subseteq V(G)$  with  $|X| \ge 2m$ :

$$G[X]$$
 is m-linked  $\iff G[X]$  is complete

Proof. Assume that X is as given, that there are nonadjacent x and y in X and that f is an H-linkage problem in G. By maximality, G + xy is H-linked, so let F be a solution to the H-linkage problem f in G + xy. Let  $P_i$  be the path in F corresponding to the edge  $e_i$  in H for  $1 \le i \le |E(G)|$  and when traversing P, let  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  be the extreme (first and last) vertices in  $V(P) \cap X$  (note that  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  may not be distinct). For each i, delete all vertices of  $P_i$  that lie strictly between  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  to create F', a partial solution to the H-linkage problem f in G. As G[X] is m-linked and  $xy \notin F'$ , we can extend F' to an H-linkage in G, contradicting the assumption that G is not H-linked.

### 3. Proofs of Theorems 5 and 6

We are now ready to prove our main results.

Proof of Theorem 5. Sharpness is established by the following example, which is identical to the sharpness example for Theorem 3. Let  $A \cup B \cup C$  be a partition of V(H)such that e(A, B) + |C| = b(H). Create G by first adding e(A, B) - 1 vertices to C to obtain  $C^*$ , and then adding vertices to A and B to create sets  $A^*$  and  $B^*$ , each of size  $\frac{n-|C^*|}{2}$ . The edges of G are all possible edges in  $(A^* \cup C^*)$  and  $(B^* \cup C^*)$ . It is straightforward to see that G is not H-linked, as there is not a sufficient number of vertices in  $C^*$  to create paths representing the edges in E(A, B).

Let n = |G| and m = |E(H)|. Note that the statement is trivial for  $m \leq 1$ , so we may also assume that  $m \geq 2$ . For the sake of contradiction, we assume that there is no *H*-linkage in *G*, and furthermore that Theorem 5 holds for every proper subgraph  $H' \subsetneq H$ . Further, assume that *G* is edge maximal without an *H*-linkage.

If  $v \in V(H)$  is isolated in H, then solving the H-linkage problem in G is equivalent to solving the (H-v)-linkage problem  $f|_{V(H)-\{v\}}$  in G-v. As G-v satisfies all of the

conditions in Theorem 5 (note that b(H-v) = b(H) - 1), this yields a contradiction, so H does not contain any isolated vertices.

If G is 2m-connected, we are done by Corollary 9, so we may assume that there is a minimal cut set Z in G with  $|Z| \leq 2m - 1$ . The degree conditions on G imply that G - Z has exactly two components, call them X and Y and we assume without loss of generality that  $|X| \leq |Y|$ . Let  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$ , then

$$n + b(H) - 2 \le d(x) + d(y) \le |X| + |Y| + 2|Z| - 2 \le n + |Z| - 2,$$

 $\mathbf{SO}$ 

$$\delta_X(X) + \delta_Y(Y) \ge |X| + |Y| - |Z| + b(H) - 2.$$

Therefore,

$$\delta_X(X) \ge \max\{|X| - |Z| + b(H) - 1, \delta(G) - |Z|\} \ge |X| - \frac{3}{2}m.$$

We now wish to show that both X and Y are m-linked. If  $|X| \ge 5m$ , then  $\delta_X(X) \ge \frac{|X|}{2} + m$ , so X is m-linked by Theorem 1. Suppose then that |X| < 5m, so 2(|X| + |Z|) < |G| and X is complete by the degree sum condition. Since  $|X| \ge \delta(G) + 1 - |Z| \ge 2m + 2$ , the fact that X is complete implies that X is m-linked. Analogously, we also conclude that Y is m-linked.

Let  $z \in Z$ , and suppose there are vertices  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$  such that  $xz, yz \notin E(G)$ . Then

$$n + |Z| + 2d(z) \ge d(x) + 2d(z) + d(y) \ge 2n + m - 4,$$

 $\mathbf{SO}$ 

$$d(z) \ge \frac{1}{2}(n+m-|Z|-4) \ge \frac{1}{2}(n-m-4) > 6m.$$

Thus, for every  $z \in Z$ , we have  $d_X(z) \ge 2m$  or  $d_Y(z) \ge 2m$ . Let  $V(G) = A \cup B$  be a partition with

$$X \subseteq A \subseteq \{v \in V(G) : d_X(v) \ge 2m - 1\}, \text{ and}$$
$$Y \subseteq B \subseteq \{v \in V(G) : d_Y(v) \ge 2m - 1\}.$$

Then, A and B are m-linked by Lemma 7, and therefore complete by Lemma 11. Let  $A^H, B^H$  be the partition of V(H) induced by this partition of V(G).

Choose  $ab \in E(H)$ , let H' = H - ab, and let  $F \subseteq G$  be a solution to the H'-linkage problem. As A and B are complete, we may choose F such that every path in Fcorresponding to an edge in E(H') contains at most two vertices in A and at most two vertices in B. In particular, as  $n_0(H) = 0$ , this implies that  $|F \cap A| \leq 2m$ and  $|F \cap B| \leq 2m$ , so  $A \setminus F \neq \emptyset$  and  $B \setminus F \neq \emptyset$ . We conclude that  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ , and in particular,  $E(H) = E_H(A, B)$ . We also have that  $|E_F(A, B)| =$  $|E_{H'}(A, B)| = |E(H)| - 1$ . There are three types of paths in F corresponding to edges  $yz \in E_{H'}(A, B)$ :

1: yuvz with  $u \in A, v \in B$ , 2: yuz with  $u \in A \cup B$ , and 3: yz. Choose F such that the number of type 1 paths is maximized.

Let  $w \in A \setminus F$  and  $x \in B \setminus F$ . If  $wx \in E(G)$ , then we can extend F to a solution of the *H*-linkage problem using the path awxb, so we conclude that  $wx \notin E(G)$ . Similarly, if there exists an  $c \in (N(w) \cap N(x)) \setminus F$ , we can extend F to a solution of the *H*-linkage problem using awcxb, so  $N(x) \cap N(w) \subseteq F$ .

If yuvz is a path of type 1 in F, then we claim that

$$N(w) \cap N(x) \cap \{y, u, v, z\} \subsetneq \{u, v\}.$$

Indeed, if  $wz \in E(G)$ , then we can replace yuvz by ywz and use the path auvb to complete an *H*-linkage. If  $wv, xu \in E(G)$ , then we can replace yuvz with yuxz and use the path awvb to complete an *H*-linkage. The case where  $xy \in E(G)$  is handled similarly.

Now if yuz is a path of type 2 in F, then  $u \notin N(w) \cap N(x)$ , as otherwise we could replace yuz by yuzz or ywuz and increase the number of type 1 paths in F.

Let  $F_1$  be the edges in H' corresponding to type 1 paths in F, and  $F_2 := E(H') \setminus F_1$ . Furthermore, let  $H_1 \subseteq V(H)$  be the vertices in H incident to  $F_1$ , and let  $H_2 := V(H) \setminus H_1$ . Then

$$n - 2 + b(H) \le d(w) + d(x) \le n - 2 + |F_1| + |H_2 \cap N(w) \cap N(x)|.$$
(1)

If  $H_2 = \emptyset$ , observe that  $|F_1| \leq |E_H(A, B)| - 1 < b(H)$ , so (1) gives a contradiction.

Also, if  $F_1 = \emptyset$ , note that  $b(H) \ge |H| - 1 = |H_2| - 1$ , and thus by (1),  $N(w) \cap N(x)$  may miss at most one vertex in V(H). Therefore,  $a \in N(x)$  or  $b \in N(w)$ . But then, we can complete the *H*-linkage via axb or awb, a contradiction.

Finally, suppose that  $F_1 \neq \emptyset$  and  $H_2 \neq \emptyset$ , so that  $b(H) \geq |F_1| + |H_2|$ , with the lower bound realized by a partition of H with all vertices of  $H_2$  in C, and the remaining vertices partitioned according to their membership in  $A^H$  and  $B^H$ . Therefore by (1),  $H_2 \subseteq N(w) \cap N(x)$  for every pair of vertices  $w \in A \setminus V(F)$  and  $x \in B \setminus V(F)$ . If H contains no edge between two vertices in  $H_2$ , then  $|H_2| \leq |F_2|$ , and  $|F_1| + |F_2| =$  $|E_H(A, B)| - 1 < b(H)$ , so (1) gives a contradiction. Thus, there are two vertices  $y \in H_2 \cap A$  and  $z \in H_2 \cap B$ . As  $n \geq 20m$ , we may assume by symmetry that  $|A| \geq 10m$ , and therefore since z is in  $N(w) \cap N(x)$  for all  $w \in A \setminus V(F)$  and  $x \in B \setminus V(F)$ , that  $d_A(z) \geq 8m$ . By Lemma 11, z is connected to all vertices in V(G). But now, there is an (H - z)-linkage in G - z by the minimality of H, and this linkage can trivially be expanded to an H-linkage in G.

Proof of Theorem 6. Sharpness follows from the following example. Starting from a partition  $A \cup B$  of V(H) with  $(e(A, B) + |B| - \Delta_B(A)) = a(H)$ , add a set C of e(A, B) - 1 vertices. Blow up B to  $B^*$  by adding n - |A| - |B| - |C| vertices to B and then add all edges in  $A \cup C$ ,  $B^* \cup C$ , and all edges between A and B except for the edges in H. This graph is not H-linked, as there is not a sufficient number of vertices in C to create paths representing the edges in E(A, B), and has  $\sigma_2 = n + a(H) - 3$ .

As in the proof of Theorem 5, assume that H is a minimal counterexample to the statement, and furthermore that G is edge maximal without creating an H-linkage.

Let m = |E(H)| and n = |G|. Again, we have  $n_0(H) = 0$  as isolated vertices in H contribute 2 to |G| + a(H) and at most 2 to  $\sigma_2(G)$ .

If  $\delta(G) \ge 4m$ , we are done by Theorem 5 (as  $b(H) \le a(H)$ ), so there is a vertex v with d(v) < 4m. Let  $Y := V(G) \setminus N[v]$ . Then |Y| > 16m and, since for any  $y \in Y$  we have that  $d(v) + d(y) \ge n + a(H) - 2$ , it follows that

$$\delta_Y(Y) > |Y| - 4m > \frac{1}{2}|Y| + m.$$

Therefore Y is m-linked by Theorem 1. Let  $B \supseteq Y$  be maximal such that B is mlinked, and  $A := V(G) \setminus B \subseteq N[v]$ . If  $A = \emptyset$  we are done, so assume that  $A \neq \emptyset$ . By Lemma 7 no vertex in A has 2m neighbors in B, so since  $|A| \leq |N[v]| \leq 4m$ , we have that  $\Delta_G(A) < 6m$ . Therefore A is complete by the degree sum condition. We now continue in a manner similar to the proof of Theorem 5.

Let  $A^H \cup B^H$  be the partition of V(H) induced by A and B. Note that B is complete by Lemma 11. If there is an edge  $e \in E(H) \cap E(G)$ , we can extend any solution of the (H - e)-linkage problem trivially to a solution of the H-linkage problem, so we conclude that  $E(H) \cap E(G) = \emptyset$ , and in particular,  $E(H) = E_H(A, B)$ .

Let  $a \in A^H$  maximize  $|E_H(a, B)|$ , and choose  $ab \in E(H)$ . For H' = H - ab, let  $F \subseteq G$  be a solution of the H'-linkage problem of minimum order, so that in particular  $|E_F(A, B)| = |E(H')|$ . Further assume that  $|F \cap A|$  is minimized.

Next, choose  $w \in B \setminus F$ . If  $aw \in E(G)$ , then we can extend F to a solution of the H-linkage problem using the path awb, so we conclude that  $aw \notin E(G)$ . Similarly, if there exists an  $x \in (N(a) \cap N(w)) \setminus F$ , we can extend F to a solution of the H-linkage problem using axwb, so  $N(a) \cap N(w) \subseteq F$ .

Now we consider paths  $P \subset F$  corresponding to edges in H' with types identical to those described in the proof of Theorem 5. If P = a'uvb' is of type 1, then  $a'w, uw \notin E(G)$  by the minimality of  $|F \cap A|$ . Similarly, if P = a'ub' is of type 2 with  $u \in A$ , then  $a'w, uw \notin E(G)$ . If P = a'vb' is of type 1 with  $v \in B$ , and  $a'w, av \in E(G)$ , then we can replace av by aw in F and complete the H-linkage via avb.

Therefore, for every path  $P \subset F$  corresponding to an edge in H', we have

$$|(V(P) \cap N(a) \cap N(w)) \setminus (B^H \setminus N_H(a))| \le 1.$$

But this yields a contradiction, as then

$$a(H) \le |N(a) \cap N(w)| \le |E_F(A, B)| + |B^H \setminus N_H(a)|$$
  
= |E(H)| - 1 + |B^H| - \Delta\_{B^H}(A^H) \le a(H) - 1.

We note here that Theorem 6 does not extend to arbitrary multigraphs H. To see this, let  $k \ge 6$ , r = 2(k - 1), and let H be the disjoint union of a star having center c and leaves  $\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_r$  with an edge uv of multiplicity k. As defined above, a(H) = 3k - 1 (let B consist of u and all of the  $\ell_i$ ). However, consider the following example. Let  $A = \{c, u, v\}$  be a triangle and X be a clique of order n - 3 containing disjoint subsets  $L, X_u$  and  $X_v$  of X with  $|X_v| = r, |X_u| = r - 1$  and  $L = \{\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_r\}$ .

Construct G from A and X by adding all edges from u to  $X_u \cup L$ , v to  $X_v \cup L$ and c to  $X_u \cup X_v$  and note that  $\sigma_2(G) = n + (4k - 4) - 2 > n + a(H) - 2$ . If we let the vertex labels in G define an H-linkage problem  $\rho$ , then we require at least one vertex from  $X_u \cup X_v$  to construct the r desired paths from c to L and at least two vertices from  $X_u \cup X_v$  to construct each of the remaining k - 1 paths from u to v. This is a total of at least 2k - 4 additional vertices, which exceeds the 2k - 5 vertices in  $X_u \cup X_v$ . Hence G is not H-linked.

Theorems 5 and 6 also allow us to obtain a number of interesting results on k-linked and k-ordered graphs as corollaries. In particular, we obtain the degree conditions for sufficiently large k-linked, k-ordered and H-linked graphs found in Theorems 2, 3 and 4, respectively. In most cases, our bounds on |G| are reasonable, but slightly larger than those in the original theorems due to the more general nature of our results.

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