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Sparse highly connected spanning subgraphs in dense directed graphs. (English) Zbl 07186350
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Summary: Mader proved that every strongly k -connected n -vertex digraph contains a strongly k -connected spanning subgraph with at most $2kn - 2k^2$ edges, where equality holds for the complete bipartite digraph $DK_{k,n-k}$. For dense strongly k -connected digraphs, this upper bound can be significantly improved. More precisely, we prove that every strongly k -connected n -vertex digraph D contains a strongly k -connected spanning subgraph with at most $kn + 800k(k + \overline{\Delta}(D))$ edges, where $\overline{\Delta}(D)$ denotes the maximum degree of the complement of the underlying undirected graph of a digraph D . Here, the additional term $800k(k + \overline{\Delta}(D))$ is tight up to multiplicative and additive constants. As a corollary, this implies that every strongly k -connected n -vertex semicomplete digraph contains a strongly k -connected spanning subgraph with at most $kn + 800k^2$ edges, which is essentially optimal since $800k^2$ cannot be reduced to the number less than $k(k - 1)/2$.

We also prove an analogous result for strongly k -arc-connected directed multigraphs. Both proofs yield polynomial-time algorithms.

MSC:

[05C20](#) Directed graphs (digraphs), tournaments
[05C40](#) Connectivity

Full Text: [DOI](#)

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