

1046-05-880

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The A_4 -structure of a graph G is the 4-uniform hypergraph H on $V(G)$ whose edges consist of vertex subsets inducing $2K_2$, C_4 , or P_4 in G . We define G to be A_4 -balanced if the vertices of G may be partitioned into two subsets such that each hyperedge in H has two vertices in each subset; thus the class of A_4 -balanced graphs contains all graphs which have the same A_4 -structure as a split or bipartite graph. We survey results on A_4 -balanced graphs and the similarly defined P_4 -balanced graphs and give characterizations of the A_4 -split and A_4 -bipartite graphs. (Received September 12, 2008)