

## Regular graphs with two distinct eigenvalues

Wayne Barrett, Brigham Young University, Shaun Fallat, University of Regina, Veronika Furst, Fort Lewis College, Shahla Nasserast\*, Rochester Institute of Technology, Brendan Rooney, Rochester Institute of Technology, Michael Tait, Villanova University, Hein van der Holst, Georgia State University

For an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , let  $q(A)$  be the number of distinct eigenvalues of  $A$ . If  $G$  is a connected graph on  $n$  vertices, let  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  be the set of all real symmetric  $n \times n$  matrices  $A = [a_{ij}]$  such that  $a_{ij} = 0$  if and only if  $\{i, j\}$  is not an edge of  $G$ . Let  $q(G) = \min\{q(A) \mid A \in \mathcal{S}(G)\}$ . Determining  $q(G)$  is a fundamental subproblem of the inverse eigenvalue problem for graphs, and characterizing the case for which  $q(G) = 2$  has been especially difficult. Some progress has been made by considering the problem for regular graphs. It turns out that it is easy if the degree of regularity is 1, 2, or 3. But the 4-regular graphs with  $q(G) = 2$  are much more difficult to characterize. A connected 4-regular graph has  $q(G) = 2$  if and only if either  $G$  belongs to an easily described infinite class of graphs, or else  $G$  is one of sixteen 4-regular graphs whose number of vertices ranges from 5 to 16. This technical result gives rise to several intriguing questions.