On the Steiner set problem in graphs

C. Seara

(joint work with C. Hernando, T. Jiang, M. Mora, I. M. Pelayo)

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The most natural convexities on graphs are path convexities defined by a system $\mathcal{P}$ of paths in a graph $G$ that contains all geodesics. The canonical choices for $\mathcal{P}$ are provided by selecting all paths, triangle paths, monophonic paths and geodesics.

The intrinsic or standard convexity is the so-called geodesic convexity in which a vertex set $S$ is said to be (geodesically) convex if $S = I[S]$, where $I[S]$ (called the geodetic closure of $S$) is the set of all shortest $x - y$ paths (also called geodesics) for every $x, y \in S$. A set of vertices is called geodesic if $I[S] = V$, and it is said to be a hull set if $[S]_g = V$, where $[S]_g$ (called the convex hull of $S$) is the smallest convex set containing $S$. Certainly, every geodetic set is a hull set.

Another kind of convexity is the monophonic convexity in which a vertex set $S$ is said to be monophonically convex if $S = J[S]$, where $J[S]$ (called the monophonic closure of $S$) is the set of all chordless $x - y$ paths (also called monophonic path) for every $x, y \in S$. A set of vertices is called monophonic if $J[S] = V$. Certainly, every monophonic set is a geodetic set.

Given a vertex set $W$, a Steiner $W$-tree is a tree containing $W$ having minimum order. Moreover, $W$ is called a Steiner set if $S(W) = V$, where $S(W)$ (called the Steiner interval of $W$) is the collection of all vertices of $G$ which lies on some Steiner $W$-tree.

Contrarily to what was stated in a recent paper [1], Pelayo proved in [2] that not every Steiner set is a geodetic set. Going one step further, we approached the question: Is every Steiner set a monophonic set? obtaining an affirmative answer.

References
