

1073-05-147

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Planarity for Comparability Graphs and Cover Graphs.

It is well known that for every positive integer t , there exists a planar poset P_t so that the dimension of P_t is t . Streib and Trotter have shown that for every $h \geq 2$, there exists a constant c_h so that if P is a poset with a planar cover graph and the height of P is at most h , then the dimension of P is at most c_h . Here we show that if P is a poset with a planar comparability graph, then the dimension of P is at most 4. We also show that if P has an outerplanar cover graph, then the dimension of P is at most 4. Finally, if P has an outerplanar cover graph and the height of P is 2, then the dimension of P is at most three. These three inequalities are all best possible. (Received July 31, 2011)