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Greedily cleaning edges: the robot vacuum

Imagine a large building with many corridors. A robot cleans these corridors in a greedy fashion: the next corridor cleaned is always the dirtiest to which it is incident. We let s(G) and S(G) denote the minimum and maximum number of time steps (over all edge weightings) before every edge of a graph G has been cleaned and determine bounds on both s(G) and S(G). We also show that Eulerian graphs have a self-stabilizing property that holds for any initial edge weighting: after the initial cleaning of all edges, all subsequent cleanings require s(G) time steps.