

# Automorphisms of direct products of circulant graphs

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45th Australasian Combinatorics Conference  
Perth 2023



All graphs in this presentation are **finite**, **simple** and **undirected**.

An **automorphism** of a graph  $X = (V, E)$  is a permutation of  $V$  which preserves  $E$ .

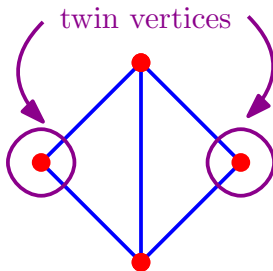
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Two vertices are **twins** if they have exactly the same neighbours. A graph is **twin-free** if it contains no twins.



### Definition (Direct product $\times$ )

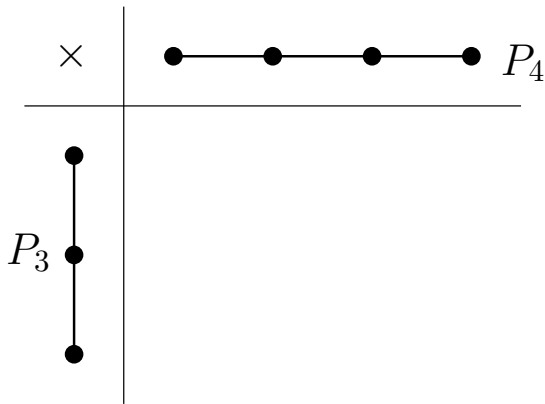
$$V(X \times Y) = \{(x, y) \mid x \in V(X), y \in V(Y)\}$$

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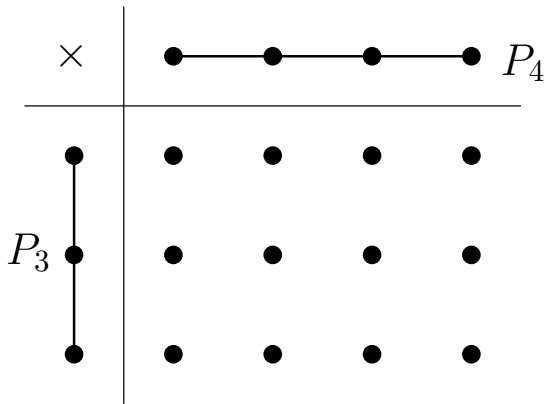
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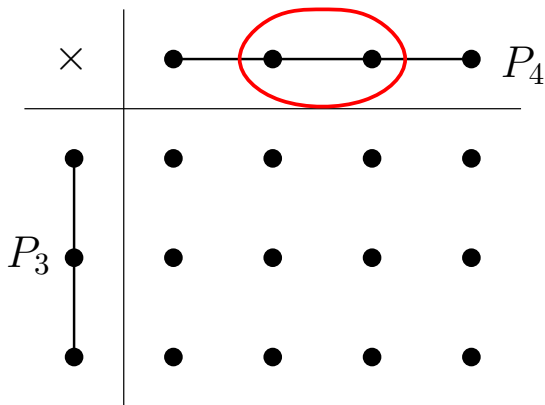
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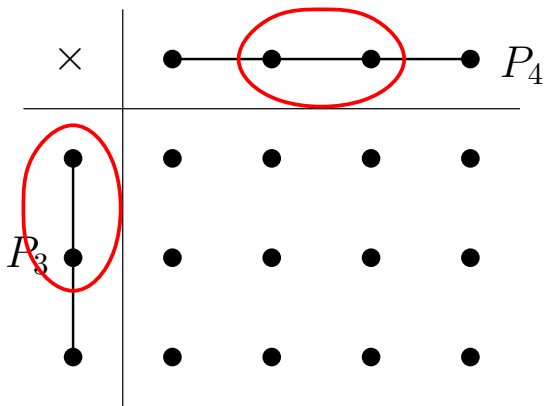
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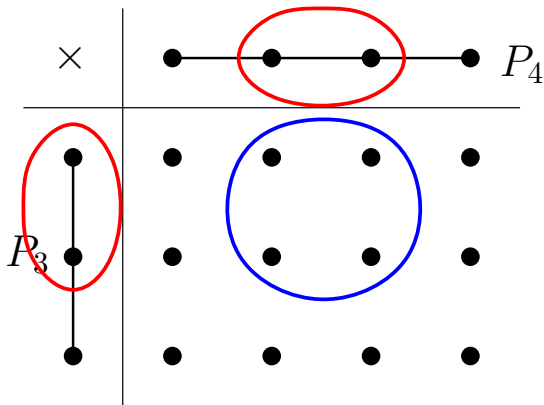




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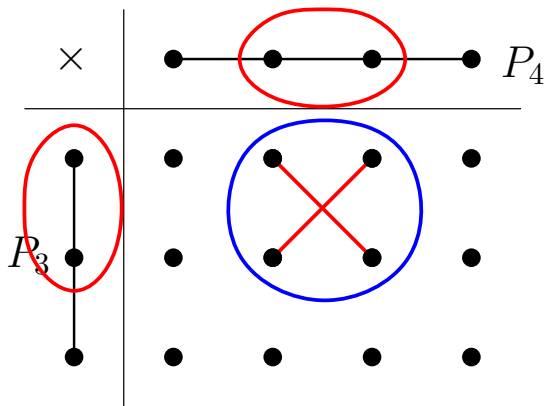
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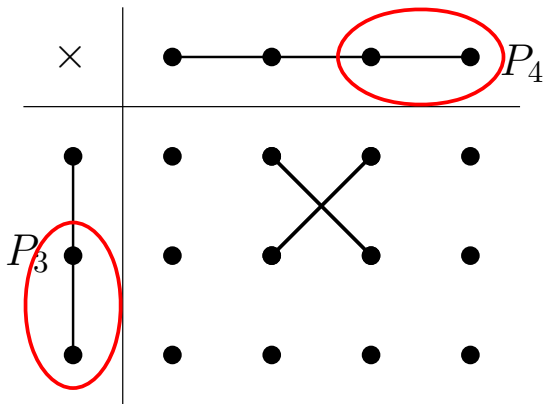
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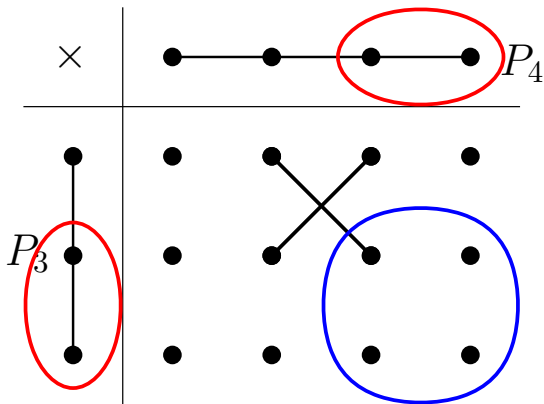
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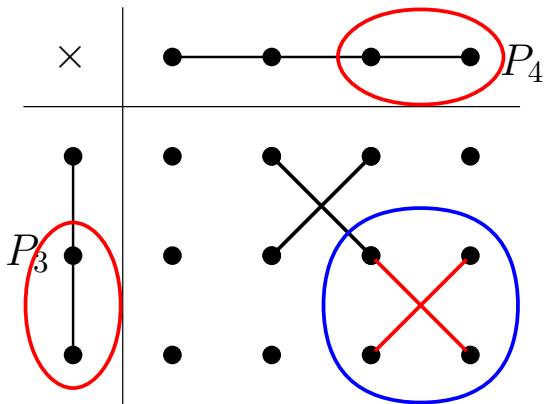
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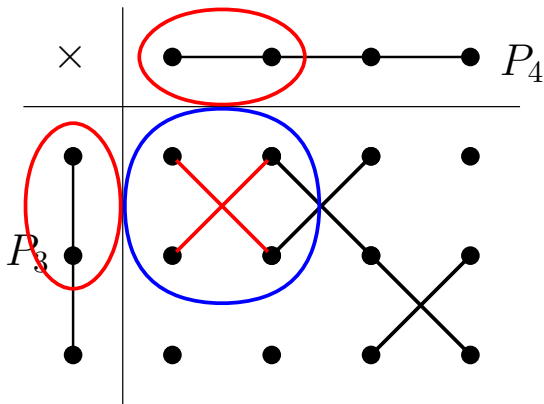
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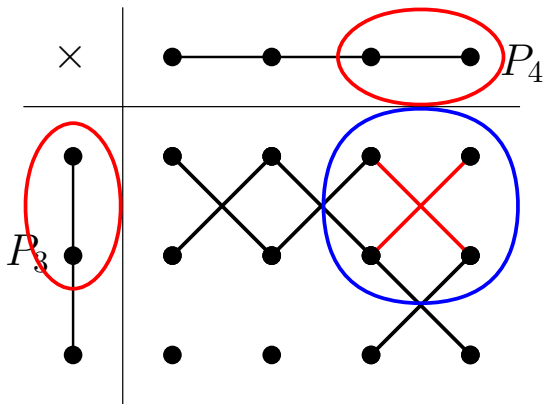
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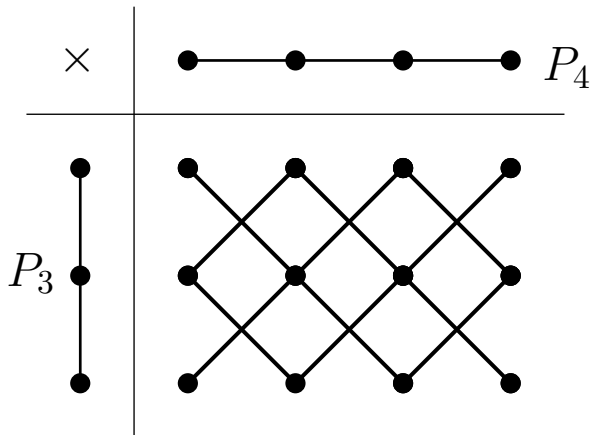
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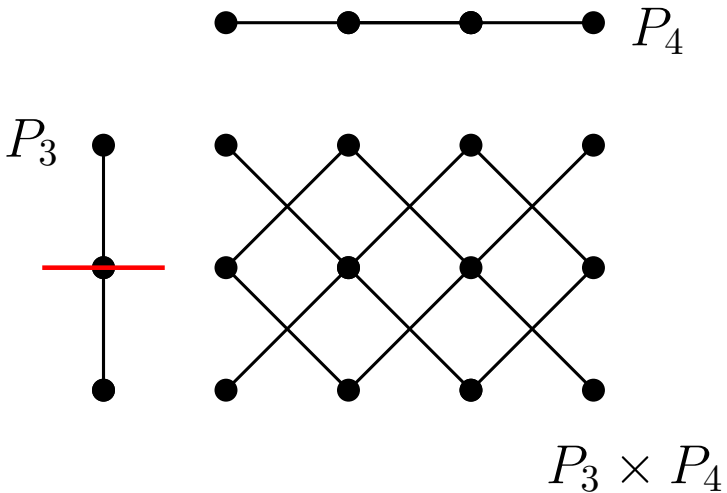




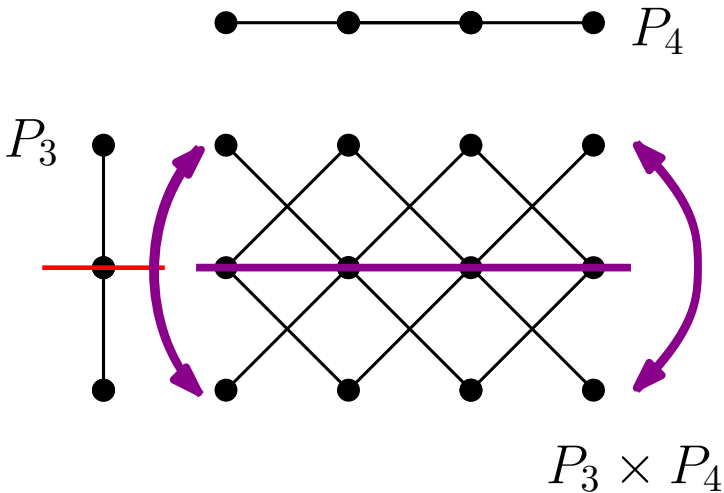
What is  $\text{Aut}(X \times Y)$ ?

$$\text{Aut}(X) \times \text{Aut}(Y) \leq \text{Aut}(X \times Y)$$

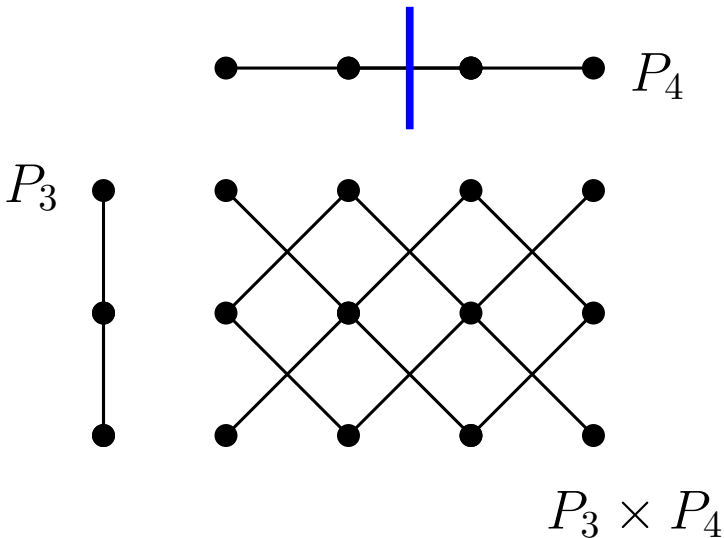
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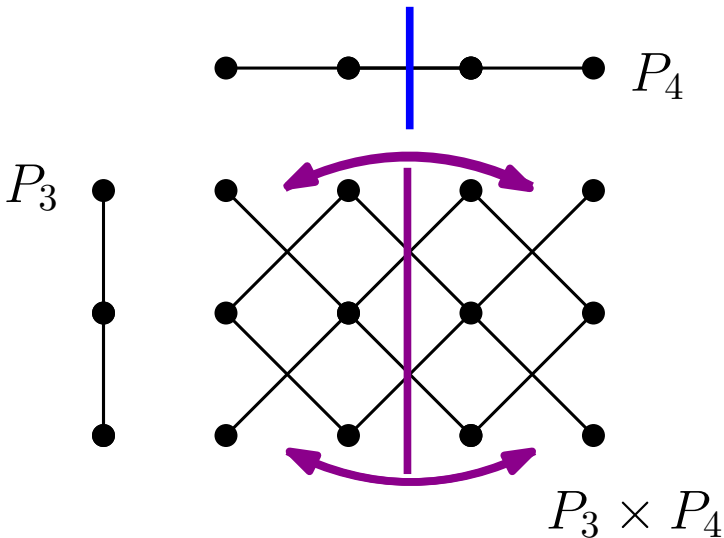
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What else can  $\text{Aut}(X \times Y)$  contain?



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### Theorem (Dörfler 1974)

*Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be a connected, non-bipartite, twin-free graphs with unique prime decompositions  $X = X_1 \times \dots \times X_n$  and  $Y = Y_1 \times \dots \times Y_m$ . Then  $\text{Aut}(X \times Y)$  is generated by*

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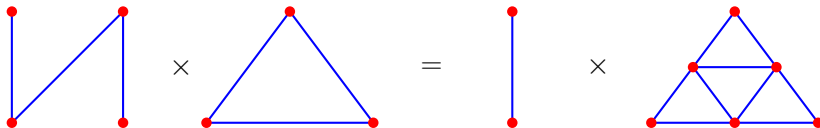
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### Corollary

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be a connected, non-bipartite, twin-free graphs. Then  $\text{Aut}(X \times Y) = \text{Aut}(X) \times \text{Aut}(Y)$  if and only if  $X$  and  $Y$  are  **$\times$ -coprime**.

Dörfler's theorem does not hold for bipartite graphs!



When does  $\text{Aut}(X \times Y) = \text{Aut}(X) \times \text{Aut}(Y)$ ?

( $X$  is non-bipartite and  $Y$  is bipartite)

Reduction to the case  $Y = K_2$

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### Lemma (folklore?)

*Let  $X$  be a connected, non-bipartite, twin-free graph such that*

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*Then for a connected, **bipartite**, twin-free graph  $Y$*

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Then for a connected, *bipartite*, twin-free graph  $Y$  (*satisfying mild technical conditions*)

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Canonical double cover

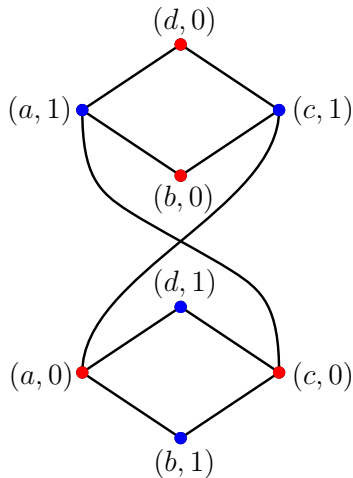
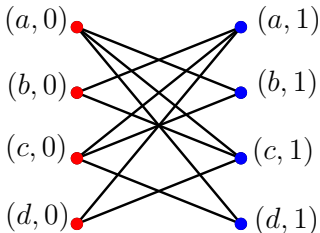
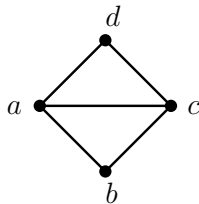
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The equality does not always hold!

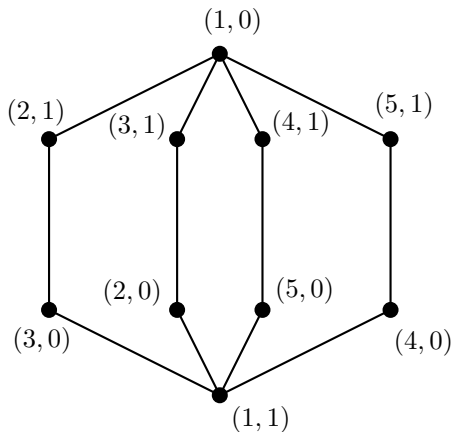
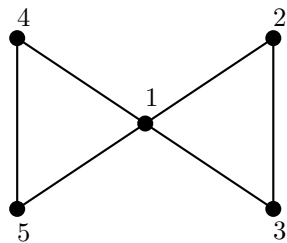
## Definition

A graph  $X$  is **non-trivially unstable** if it is connected, non-bipartite and twin-free, and

$$\text{Aut}(BX) \neq \text{Aut}(X) \times \text{Aut}(K_2).$$



## The smallest non-trivially unstable graph



What circulant graphs are (non-trivially) unstable?  
(Wilson in 2008)

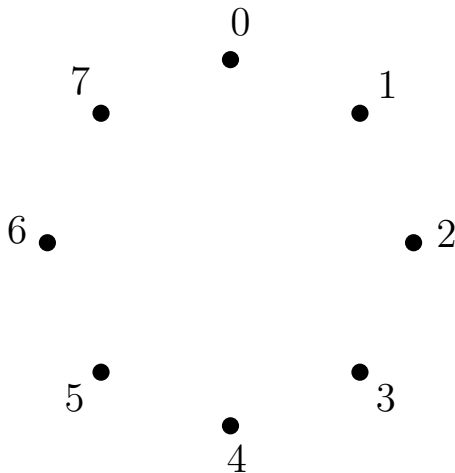
Unstable circulants and Wilson conditions

## Definition

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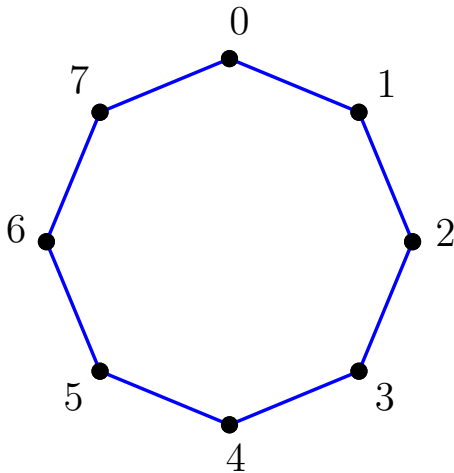
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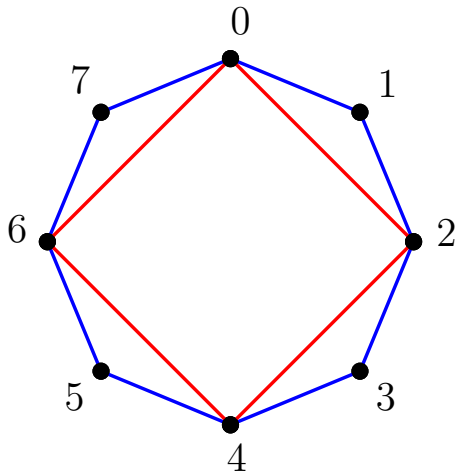
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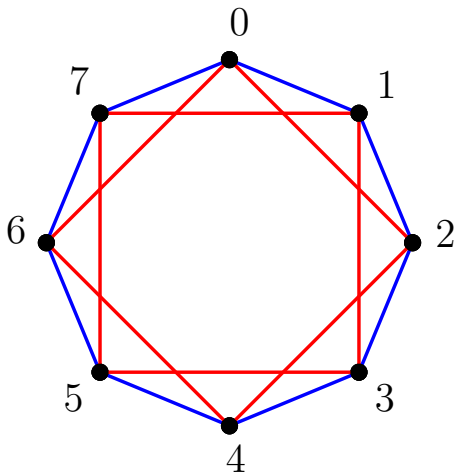
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Wilson conditions

=

sufficient conditions for a circulant graph to be unstable

(introduced by Wilson in 2008)

## Example of a Wilson condition

### Proposition (Wilson condition (C.4))

*If there exists  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_n^\times$  such that*

*$(n/2) + mS = S$ , then  $\text{Circ}(n, S)$  is *unstable*.*

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An unexpected automorphism of the double cover of  $\text{Circ}(n, S)$

$$\phi: (x, i) \mapsto \begin{cases} (mx, 0), & \text{if } i = 0 \\ (mx + (n/2), 1), & \text{if } i = 1 \end{cases}$$

## Wilson conditions - Corrections

- **Qin-Xia-Zhou (2019)** updated Wilson condition (C.2) to (C.2').
- **Hujdurović-Morris-Mitrović (2021)** updated Wilson condition (C.3) to (C.3').

Wilson's conjecture

## Wilson's conjecture

Every **non-trivially unstable circulant graph** satisfies  
at least one of the **Wilson conditions**.

# Circulants of odd order

Theorem (Fernandez-Hujdurović 2022)

*There are no non-trivially unstable circulants of odd order.*

# Circulants of order $2p$

Let  $p$  be a prime.

Theorem (Hujdurović-Morris-Mitrović 2021)

*Every non-trivially unstable circulant of order  $2p$  satisfies Wilson condition (C.4).*



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Reminder: Wilson condition (C.4)

$$(n/2) + mS = S, m \in \mathbb{Z}_n^\times$$

## Circulants of low valency

Theorem (Hujdurović-Morris-Mitrović 2022+)

*Every non-trivially unstable circulant of **valency at most 7** satisfies **at least one Wilson condition**.*

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- 1 For each valency, we provide a **complete list of connections sets**.
- 2 For each graph, we find a **Wilson condition** it satisfies.

## Example of a classification result

### Theorem (Hujdurović, Morris, Mitrović 2022+)

A **5-valent** circulant is unstable if and only if either it is **trivially unstable**, or it is one of the following:

- 1  $\text{Circ}(12k, \{\pm s, \pm 2k, 6k\})$  with  $s$  odd, satisfying **Wilson condition (C.1)**.
- 2  $\text{Circ}(8, \{\pm 1, \pm 3, 4\})$  satisfying **Wilson condition (C.3')**.

## Non-trivially unstable circulants of low valency

- **valency**  $\leq 3$ : **none**
- **valency** 4: **two** infinite families satisfying (C.4).
- **valency** 5: **one** infinite family (C.1); **one** sporadic example (C.3').
- **valency** 6: **seven** infinite families (C.1) – (C.4).
- **valency** 7: **six** infinite families (C.1) – (C.3').

Theorem (Hujdurović-Morris-Mitrović 2022+)

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Counterexample of minimal valency

The following graph is an **8-valent**, non-trivially unstable circulant satisfying **no Wilson condition**.

$$\text{Circ}(48, \{\pm 3, \pm 6, \pm 4, \pm 21\})$$

Generalizations of Wilson conditions

## Generalized Wilson condition (C.4)

Theorem (Hujdurović-Morris-Mitrović 2021)

If  $X = \text{Circ}(n, S) \cong \text{Circ}(n, (n/2) + S)$ , then  $X$  is *unstable*.

## New families of counterexamples to Wilson's conjecture

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For  $\ell \geq 4$ , set  $n := 3 \cdot 2^\ell$ .

$$S := \{\pm 3, \pm 6, \pm n/12, n/2 \pm 3\}$$

Let  $X := \text{Circ}(n, S)$ .

- 1  $X$  is 8-valent and is non-trivially unstable.
- 2  $X$  satisfies the **generalized Wilson condition** (C.4).
- 3  $X$  **does not satisfy any of Wilson conditions**.

## Other generalizations

$X = \text{Circ}(n, S)$ ,  $H, K \leq \mathbb{Z}_n$  be non-trivial, such that  $|K|$  is even,  $K_o = K \setminus 2K$ .

### Theorem (Hujdurović-Morris-Mitrović 2021)

*If either*

- ①  $S + H \subseteq S \cup (K_o + H)$  and  $H \cap K_o = \emptyset$ , or
- ②  $(S \setminus K_o) + H \subseteq S \cup K_o$  and either  $|H| \neq 2$  or  $|K|$  is divisible by 4

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## Other generalizations

This result generalizes Wilson conditions (C.1), (C.2') and (C.3').

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## Computational results

Newly introduced generalizations can explain instability of all non-trivially unstable circulants **up to order 50**.

# Recent developments

Analogues of Wilson's conjecture for other families of graphs turned out to be true!

- ① Generalized Petersen graphs - Qin, Xia, Zhou in 2020.
- ② Toroidal grids and Triangular grids - Witte Morris in 2023.
- ③ Rose-Window graphs - Ahanjideh, Kovács, Kutnar in 2023.

# Thank you for your attention!

- $X \times K_2$  plays a major role in understanding  $\text{Aut}(X \times Y)$  with  $X$  non-bipartite and  $Y$  bipartite.
- $X$  is **unstable** if  $\text{Aut}(X) \times \text{Aut}(K_2) \neq \text{Aut}(X \times K_2)$ .
- $X$  is **non-trivially unstable** if it is unstable, connected, non-bipartite and twin-free.
- **Wilson's conjecture**: Every non-trivially unstable circulant graph satisfies at least one Wilson condition.

## Results

- Generalizations of Wilson conditions
- New infinite families of counterexamples to Wilson's conjecture.
- Wilson's conjecture is true for
  - ▶ circulants of order  $2p$ , and
  - ▶ circulants with valency at most 7.

Additional slides

Definition (Marušič-Scapellato-Zagaglia 1989)

$X$  is **unstable** if

$$\text{Aut}(BX) \neq \text{Aut}(X) \times \text{Aut}(K_2).$$

# Trivially unstable graphs

## Fact

$BX$  is connected if and only if  $X$  is connected and non-bipartite.

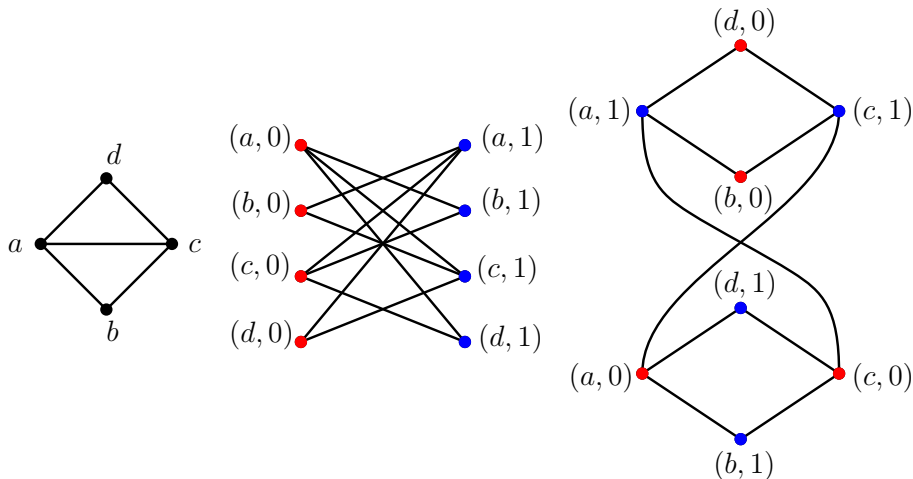
Trivially unstable graphs include

- disconnected graphs,
- bipartite graphs (with non-trivial automorphism group),
- graphs with twin-vertices.

# Canonical double covers of graphs with twin-vertices

## Twin vertices

$x, y \in V(X)$  are **twins** if  $\{\text{neighbours of } x\} = \{\text{neighbours of } y\}$ .





$X = \text{Circ}(n, S)$ ,  $n$  is even. Let  $S_e = S \cap 2\mathbb{Z}_n$  and  $S_o = S \setminus S_e$ .

### Wilson conditions

- ① There is a non-zero element  $h$  of  $2\mathbb{Z}_n$ , such that  $h + S_e = S_e$ .
- ②  $n$  is divisible by 4, and there exists  $h \in 1 + 2\mathbb{Z}_n$ , such that
  - ▶  $2h + S_o = S_o$ , and
  - ▶ **for each  $s \in S$ , such that  $s \equiv 0$  or  $-h \pmod{4}$ , we have  $s + h \in S$ .**
- ③ There is a subgroup  $H$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ , such that the set

$$R = \{s \in S \mid s + H \not\subseteq S\},$$

is non-empty and has the property that if we let  $d = \gcd(R \cup \{n\})$ , then  $n/d$  is even,  $r/d$  is odd for every  $r \in R$ , and **either  $H \not\subseteq d\mathbb{Z}_n$  or  $H \subseteq 2d\mathbb{Z}_n$ .**

- ④ There exists  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_n^\times$ , such that  $(n/2) + mS = S$ .

### Theorem (Valency 4)

*A circulant graph  $\text{Circ}(n, \{\pm a, \pm b\})$  of valency 4 is unstable if and only if either it is trivially unstable, or one of the following conditions is satisfied (perhaps after interchanging  $a$  and  $b$ ):*

- ①  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ ,  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$ , and  $b = ma + (n/2)$ , for some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_n^\times$ , such that  $m^2 \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{n}$ , or
- ②  $n$  is divisible by 8 and  $\gcd(|a|, |b|) = 4$ .

*In both of these cases,  $X$  satisfies Wilson condition (C.4).*

### Theorem (Valency 5)

*A circulant graph  $\text{Circ}(n, S)$  of valency 5 is unstable if and only if either it is trivially unstable, or it is one of the following:*

- ①  $\text{Circ}(12k, \{\pm s, \pm 2k, 6k\})$  with  $s$  odd, satisfying Wilson condition (C.1).
- ②  $\text{Circ}(8, \{\pm 1, \pm 3, 4\})$ , satisfying Wilson condition (C.3').

## Theorem (Valency 6)

A circulant graph  $X = \text{Circ}(n, \{\pm a, \pm b, \pm c\})$  of valency 6 is unstable if and only if either it is trivially unstable, or it is one of the following

- 1)  $\text{Circ}(8k, \{\pm a, \pm b, \pm 2k\})$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are odd, satisfying Wilson condition (C.1).
- 2)  $\text{Circ}(4k, \{\pm a, \pm b, \pm b + 2k\})$ , where  $a$  is odd and  $b$  is even, satisfying Wilson condition (C.1).
- 3)  $\text{Circ}(4k, \{\pm a, \pm(a + k), \pm(a - k)\})$ , where  $a \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$  and  $k$  is odd, satisfying Wilson condition (C.2').
- 4)  $\text{Circ}(8k, \{\pm a, \pm b, \pm b + 4k\})$ , where  $a$  is even and  $|a|$  is divisible by 4, satisfying Wilson condition (C.3').
- 5)  $\text{Circ}(8k, \{\pm a, \pm k, \pm 3k\})$ , where  $a \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$  and  $k$  is odd, satisfying Wilson condition (C.3').

6)  $\text{Circ}(4k, \{\pm a, \pm b, \pm mb + 2k\})$ , where

$$\gcd(m, 4k) = 1, \quad (m-1)a \equiv 2k \pmod{4k}, \quad \text{and}$$

$$\text{either } m^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4k} \text{ or } (m^2 + 1)b \equiv 0 \pmod{4k},$$

satisfying Wilson condition (C.4).

7)  $\text{Circ}(8k, \{\pm a, \pm b, \pm c\})$ , where there exists  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , such that

$$\gcd(m, 8k) = 1, \quad m^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8k}, \quad \text{and}$$

$$(m-1)a \equiv (m+1)b \equiv (m+1)c \equiv 4k \pmod{8k},$$

satisfying Wilson condition (C.4).

### Theorem (Valency 7)

*A circulant graph  $\text{Circ}(n, S)$  of valency 7 is unstable if and only if either it is trivially unstable, or it is one of the following:*

- 1)  $\text{Circ}(6k, \{\pm 2t, \pm 2(k - t), \pm 2(k + t), 3k\})$ , with  $k$  odd, satisfying Wilson condition (C.1).*
- 2)  $\text{Circ}(12k, \{\pm 2k, \pm b, \pm c, 6k\})$ , with  $b$  and  $c$  odd, satisfying Wilson condition (C.1).*
- 3)  $\text{Circ}(20k, \{\pm t, \pm 2k, \pm 6k, 10k\})$ , with  $t$  odd, satisfying Wilson condition (C.1).*
- 4)  $\text{Circ}(4k, \{\pm t, \pm(k - t), 2k \pm t, 2k\})$ , with  $k$  odd and  $t \equiv k \pmod{4}$ , satisfying Wilson condition (C.2').*

- 5)  $\text{Circ}(8k, \{\pm 4t, \pm k, \pm 3k, 4k\})$ , with  $k$  and  $t$  odd, satisfying Wilson condition (C.3').
- 6)  $\text{Circ}(12k, \{\pm t, \pm(4k - t), \pm(4k + t), 6k\})$ , with  $t$  odd, satisfying Wilson condition (C.3').