

Note to readers:  
Please ignore these  
sidenotes; they're just  
hints to myself for  
preparing the index,  
and they're often flaky!

KNUTH

# THE ART OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

VOLUME 4    PRE-FASCICLE 8A

## HAMILTONIAN PATHS AND CYCLES

DONALD E. KNUTH *Stanford University*

ADDISON-WESLEY



August 19, 2025

Internet  
Stanford GraphBase  
MMIX

Internet page <https://www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~knuth/taocp.html> contains current information about this book and related books.

See also <https://www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~knuth/sgb.html> for information about *The Stanford GraphBase*, including downloadable software for dealing with the graphs used in many of the examples in Chapter 7.

See also <https://www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~knuth/mmixture.html> for downloadable software to simulate the MMIX computer.

See also <https://www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~knuth/programs.html> for various experimental programs that I wrote while writing this material (and some data files).

Copyright © 2025 by Addison-Wesley

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior consent of the publisher, except that the official electronic file may be used to print single copies for personal (not commercial) use.

Zeroth printing (revision -65), 19 August 2025

August 19, 2025

## PREFACE

*But that is not my point.  
I have no point.*

— DAVE BARRY (2002)

THIS BOOKLET contains draft material that I'm circulating to experts in the field, in hopes that they can help remove its most egregious errors before too many other people see it. I am also, however, posting it on the Internet for courageous and/or random readers who don't mind the risk of reading a few pages that have not yet reached a very mature state. *Beware:* This material has not yet been proofread as thoroughly as the manuscripts of Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4A, and 4B were at the time of their first printings. And alas, those carefully checked volumes were subsequently found to contain thousands of mistakes.

Given this caveat, I hope that my errors this time will not be so numerous and/or obtrusive that you will be discouraged from reading the material carefully. I did try to make the text both interesting and authoritative, as far as it goes. But the field is vast; I cannot hope to have surrounded it enough to corral it completely. So I beg you to let me know about any deficiencies that you discover.

To put the material in context, this portion of fascicle 8 previews Section 7.2.2.4 of *The Art of Computer Programming*, entitled “Hamiltonian paths and cycles.” I haven't had time to write much of it yet — not even this preface!

\* \* \*

The explosion of research in combinatorial algorithms since the 1970s has meant that I cannot hope to be aware of all the important ideas in this field. I've tried my best to get the story right, yet I fear that in many respects I'm woefully ignorant. So I beg expert readers to steer me in appropriate directions.

Please look, for example, at the exercises that I've classed as research problems (rated with difficulty level 46 or higher), namely exercises ...; I've also implicitly mentioned or posed additional unsolved questions in the answers to exercises 65, 370, .... Are those problems still open? Please inform me if you know of a solution to any of these intriguing questions. And of course if no solution is known today but you do make progress on any of them in the future, I hope you'll let me know.

I urgently need your help also with respect to some exercises that I made up as I was preparing this material. I certainly don't like to receive credit for things

that have already been published by others, and most of these results are quite natural “fruits” that were just waiting to be “plucked.” Therefore please tell me if you know who deserves to be credited, with respect to the ideas found in exercises 11, 12, 36, 37, 41, 42, 53, 55, 62, 63, 65, 71, 73, 84, 100, 106, 135, 136, 137, 138, 156, 157, 158, 159, 163, 270, 271, 299, 300, 350, 360, 361, . . . . Furthermore I’ve credited exercises 79, . . . to unpublished work of Nikolai Beluhov and . . . . Have any of those results ever appeared in print, to your knowledge?

While writing this section I also wrote numerous programs for my own edification. (I usually can’t understand things well until I’ve tried to explain them to a machine.) Most of those programs were quite short, of course; but several of them are rather substantial, and possibly of interest to others. Therefore I’ve made a selection available by listing some of them on the following webpage:

<https://cs.stanford.edu/~knuth/programs.html>

In particular, prototypes of the main algorithms can be found there: Algorithm B (SSBIDIHAM); Algorithm D (DYNAHAM); Algorithm F (HAM-EULER); Algorithm H (SSHAM); Algorithm W (BACK-WARNSDORF). A few other programs are also mentioned in the answers to certain exercises. If you want to see a program called FOO, look for FOO on that webpage. See also

<https://cs.stanford.edu/~knuth/programs/ham-benchmarks.tgz>

for the benchmark graphs in Table 1.

\* \* \*

Special thanks are due to George Jelliss, Arnaud Lefebvre, Filip Stappers, Peter Weigel, Udo Wermuth, . . . for their detailed comments on my early attempts at exposition, as well as to numerous other correspondents who have contributed crucial corrections. Andrej Krevl has helped me to utilize hundreds of core processors on powerful computers in Stanford’s Infolab — quite a thrill!

\* \* \*

I happily offer a “finder’s fee” of \$2.56 for each error in this draft when it is first reported to me, whether that error be typographical, technical, or historical. The same reward holds for items that I forgot to put in the index. And valuable suggestions for improvements to the text are worth 32¢ each. (Furthermore, if you find a better solution to an exercise, I’ll actually do my best to give you immortal glory, by publishing your name in the eventual book:—)

Cross references to yet-unwritten material sometimes appear as ‘00’; this impossible value is a placeholder for the actual numbers to be supplied later.

Happy reading!

Stanford, California  
99 Umbruary 2016

D. E. K.

*I have twenty years’ work ahead of me  
to finish The Art of Computer Programming.*

— DONALD E. KNUTH, letter to John Ewing (04 September 1990)

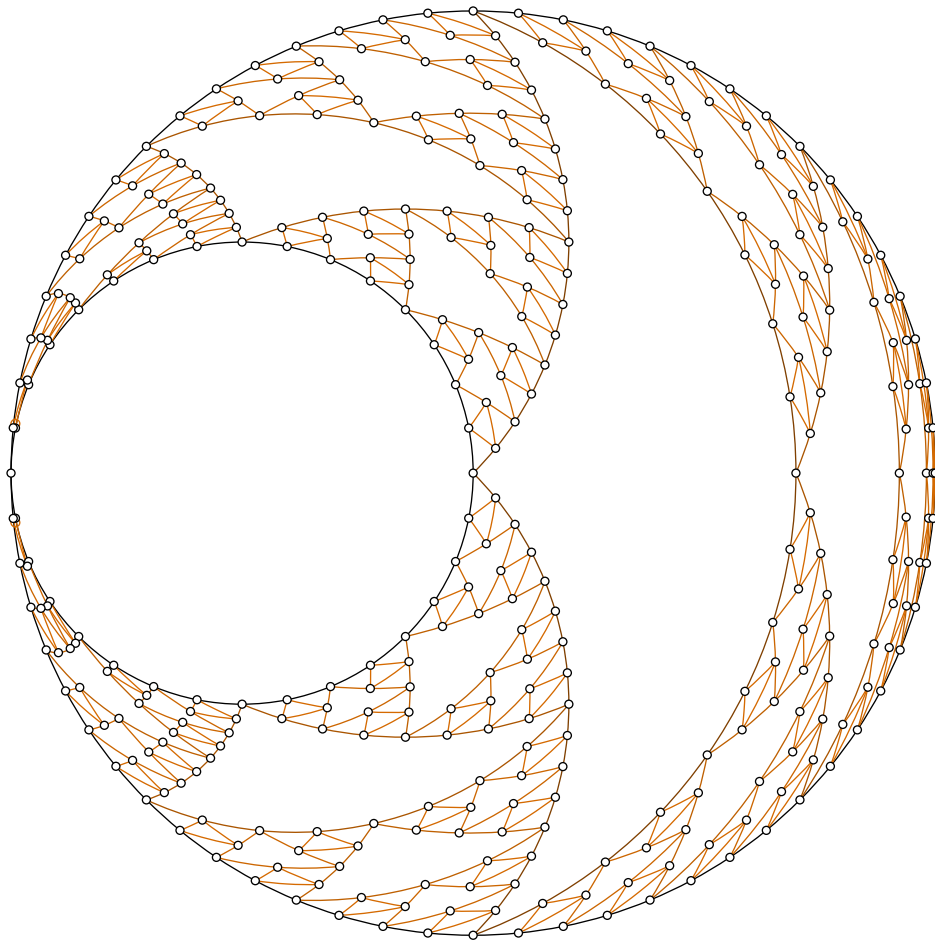
Beluhov  
benchmark graphs  
Jelliss  
Lefebvre  
Stappers  
Weigel  
Wermuth  
Krevl  
Stanford’s Infolab  
Knuth  
KNUTH  
Ewing

## CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 7 — Combinatorial Searching</b>	[4A.1]
7.2. Generating All Possibilities	[4A.281]
7.2.1. Generating Basic Combinatorial Patterns	[4A.281]
7.2.2. Backtrack Programming	[4B.30]
7.2.2.1. Dancing links	[4B.65]
7.2.2.2. Satisfiability	[4B.185]
7.2.2.3. Constraint satisfaction	[4fasc7.1]
7.2.2.4. Hamiltonian paths and cycles	1
Hamiltonian paths in antiquity	2
A greedy heuristic	6
Path flipping	9
Searching exhaustively	11
A census of knight's tours	18
Dynamic enumeration	21
Directed and bidirected graphs	??
History	25
Exercises	28
<b>Answers to Exercises</b>	41
<b>Index to Algorithms and Theorems</b>	??
<b>Index and Glossary</b>	72

*I always thought Volume 4 was a myth,  
like the missing part of the Dead Sea scrolls.*  
— BILL GASARCH (blog post, 10 January 2008)

pinched gasket



*A long train of consistent calculations opens itself out, for every result of which there is found a corresponding geometrical interpretation, in the theory of two of the celebrated solids of antiquity, alluded to with interest by Plato in the Timæus; namely, the Icosaedron, and the Dodecaedron.*

— WILLIAM ROWAN HAMILTON (1856)

*The total number of possible [knight's] tours that can be made is so vast that it is safe to predict that no mathematician will ever succeed in counting up the total.*

— ERNEST BERGHOLT (1915)

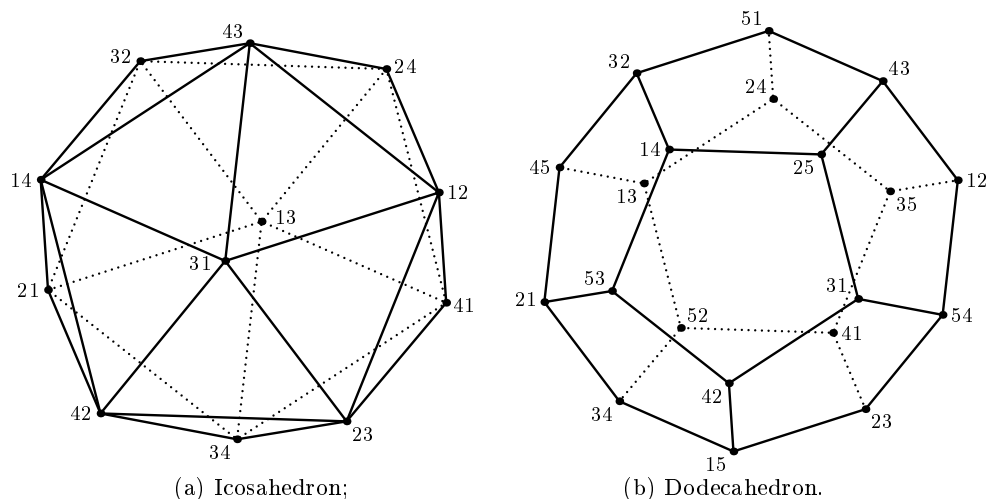
*I'll show that this problem is susceptible to a very special analysis, which merits extra attention because it involves reasoning of a kind rarely used elsewhere. The excellence of Analysis is easy to see, but most people think that it's limited to traditional questions about Mathematics; hence it will always be quite important to apply Analysis to subjects that seem to make it out of reach, for it incorporates the art of reasoning in the highest degree.*

*One cannot then extend the bounds of Analysis without justifiably expecting great advantages.*

— LEONHARD EULER (1759)

Plato  
HAMILTON  
BERGHOLT  
EULER  
Hamilton  
quaternions  
Platonic solids  
icosahedron  
Icosian Game  
planar graph  
dual of a planar graph  
dodecahedron

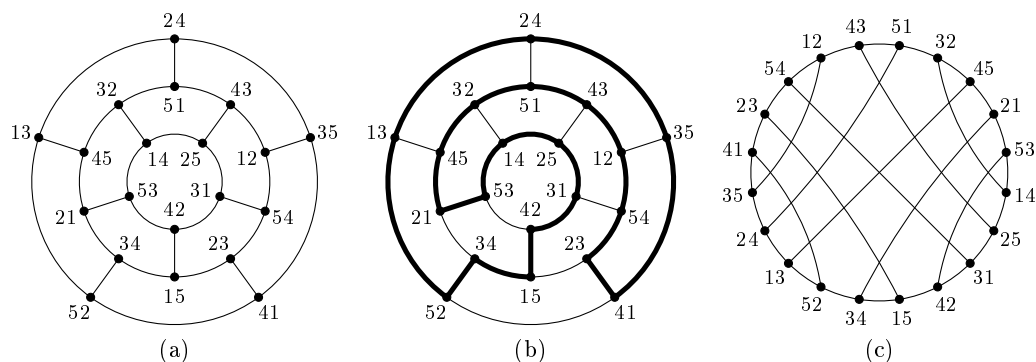
**7.2.2.4. Hamiltonian paths and cycles.** A path or cycle that touches every vertex of a graph is called “Hamiltonian” in honor of W. R. Hamilton, who began to ponder and publicize such questions shortly after discovering the quaternions. Hamilton was fascinated by Platonic solids such as the icosahedron, with its 20 triangular faces; and he introduced what he called the Icosian Game, based on paths that go from face to face in that solid. Equivalently (see Fig. 121), his game was based on paths from vertices to vertices along the edges of a dodecahedron.



**Fig. 121.** The icosahedron and dodecahedron, whose vertices, edges, and faces define “dual” planar graphs: The faces of one solid correspond to the vertices of the other. (The vertices have been named with two-digit codes that are discussed in exercise 3.)

It's convenient to redraw Fig. 121(b) as three concentric rings, without crossing edges, as shown in Fig. 122(a). Then it's easy to find a Hamiltonian cycle, such as the one indicated by bold edges in Fig. 122(b). (In fact, Hamilton proved that *every* such cycle on the dodecahedron is essentially the same as this one; see exercise 9.) Thus we can also redraw the dodecahedron's graph as shown in Fig. 122(c). From that diagram it's *obviously* Hamiltonian—that is, it obviously has a spanning cycle; but it's not obviously planar at first glance.

concentric rings  
Hamilton  
spanning cycle  
chords  
3-regular graph  
trivalent graphs  
cubic graph  
NP  
Ham paths, history of—  
Graeco-Roman icosahedra  
Greek alphabet  
Michon  
Louvre  
Perdrizet  
British Museum  
author



**Fig. 122.** Alternative views of a dodecahedron's vertices and edges.

Every Hamiltonian graph can clearly be drawn as a great big cycle, together with “chords” between certain pairs of vertices that aren't neighbors in the cycle. Thus a 3-regular graph can be specified compactly by listing only a third of its edges, if it is Hamiltonian. (On the other hand, many trivalent graphs are *not* Hamiltonian. In fact, the task of deciding whether or not a given cubic graph is Hamiltonian turns out to be NP-complete; see exercise 14.)

**Hamiltonian paths in antiquity.** Let's take a moment to discuss the rich history of the subject before we consider techniques by which Hamiltonian paths and cycles can be found. A strong case can actually be made for the assertion that questions of this kind represent the birth of graph theory, in the sense that they were the first nontrivial graph problems to be investigated.

For example, museums in many parts of the world contain specimens of ancient icosahedral objects whose 20 faces are inscribed with the first twenty letters of the Greek alphabet. In most of these cases the alphabetical sequence A, B, Γ, Δ, . . . , T, Y on such artifacts forms a Hamiltonian path between adjacent triangles. [E. Michon, in *Bulletin de la Société nationale des Antiquaires de France* (1897), 310 and (1904), 327–329, described an example in the Louvre, catalog number I1532; P. Perdrizet, in *Bulletin de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale* **30** (1930), 1–16, illustrated several others.]

In 2015, curators of the Egyptian antiquities at the British Museum kindly allowed the author to inspect the four icosahedra in their collection (EA 29418, EA 49738, EA 59731, EA 59732), of which the first three are Hamiltonian. The experience of rotating them by hand, slowly and systematically according to



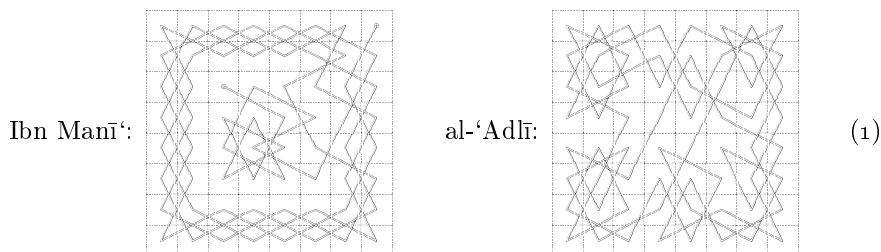
alphabetic order, turned out to be unexpectedly delightful. Here are views of the largest one, EA 49738, centered at each of its twelve vertices:



alphabetic order  
 Pi, as written in Greece  
 University College London  
 Petrie  
 coincidence  
 Hamilton  
 reentrant knight's tour, see closed  
 Chaturanga  
 Shaṭranj  
 knights  
 al-'Adlī ar-Rūmī  
 Abū Zakarīyā Yahyā  
 knight's tour  
 Ibn Manī'  
 open versus closed tour  
 closed versus open tour  
 Murray

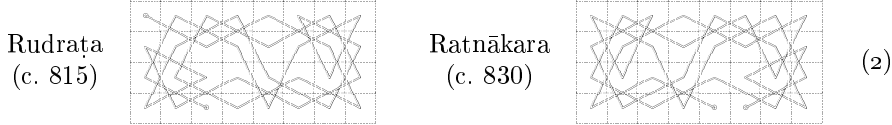
It is made of steatite, 5.8 centimeters in diameter and 228 grams in weight, and was acquired in 1911. A similar example, smaller and with more beautiful letterforms, is object number UC 59254 in the nearby Petrie Museum of University College London [see W. M. F. Petrie, *Objects of Daily Use* (1927), #288]. What a pleasant coincidence that W. R. Hamilton himself would independently come up with the same concept some 1800 years later, and would proceed to find a closed cycle instead of just a path!

Now fast forward to the ninth century, when Hamiltonian paths and cycles of quite a different kind came into play. The game of Chaturanga or Shaṭranj—a predecessor of chess, having different rules for certain pieces, but with knights moving just as they do today—was becoming popular in Asia. And in A.D. 842 the current world champion, al-'Adlī ar-Rūmī, published a book about Shaṭranj. Complete copies of that work are lost; but we know from a subsequent treatise by Abū Zakarīyā Yahyā ibn Ibrāhīm al-Ḥakīm that al-'Adlī had presented a closed *knight's tour*: a Hamiltonian cycle on the chessboard. That same treatise also recorded an “open” knight's tour (a Hamiltonian path that can't be completed to a cycle), which was credited to an otherwise unknown author Ibn Manī'.



[See H. J. R. Murray, *A History of Chess* (Oxford, 1913), 175–176, 336.] These remarkable constructions are the earliest known solutions to what was destined to become a classic combinatorial problem. It seems likely that the first path was discovered before the first cycle, because there are so many more of the former.

Remarkably, knight's tours on *half* of a chessboard,  $4 \times 8$ , had been published even earlier, by Kashmiri poets who were famous for their wordsmithing skills:



Rudrata  
Ratnakara  
slokas  
fractured English

Two copies of Rudrata's half-tour will make an open tour on the full board. And two copies of Ratnakara's will make a closed tour, if we rotate one copy by  $180^\circ$ .

Sanskrit poems traditionally consisted of verses called *slokas*, containing 32 syllables each. Here is sloka number 15 in chapter 5 of Rudrata's *Kāvyaalākāra*:

सेना लीलिलीना नाली लीनाना नानालीलिली ।      *senā līlīlīnā nālī līnānā nānālīlīlī*  
नालीनालील नालीना लीलिली नानानानाली ॥१५॥      *nālīnālīlī nālīnā līlīlī nānānālī* [15]

This enigmatic text, which speaks of military leadership, sounds almost like gibberish. But it cleverly represents a knight's tour, in the same way that his sloka 14 had represented a rook's tour: *When we read those 32 syllables in order of the left tour in (2), we get exactly the same words!*

More precisely, consider the following two  $4 \times 8$  arrays of syllables  $\sigma_j$ :

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} \sigma_1 & \sigma_{30} & \sigma_9 & \sigma_{20} & \sigma_3 & \sigma_{24} & \sigma_{11} & \sigma_{26} & \sigma_1 & \sigma_2 & \sigma_3 & \sigma_4 & \sigma_5 & \sigma_6 & \sigma_7 & \sigma_8 \\ \sigma_{16} & \sigma_{19} & \sigma_2 & \sigma_{29} & \sigma_{10} & \sigma_{27} & \sigma_4 & \sigma_{23} & \sigma_9 & \sigma_{10} & \sigma_{11} & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{13} & \sigma_{14} & \sigma_{15} & \sigma_{16} \\ \sigma_{31} & \sigma_8 & \sigma_{17} & \sigma_{14} & \sigma_{21} & \sigma_6 & \sigma_{25} & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{17} & \sigma_{18} & \sigma_{19} & \sigma_{20} & \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{22} & \sigma_{23} & \sigma_{24} \\ \sigma_{18} & \sigma_{15} & \sigma_{32} & \sigma_7 & \sigma_{28} & \sigma_{13} & \sigma_{22} & \sigma_5 & \sigma_{25} & \sigma_{26} & \sigma_{27} & \sigma_{28} & \sigma_{29} & \sigma_{30} & \sigma_{31} & \sigma_{32} \end{array} \quad (3)$$

The subscripts on the left correspond to the first sequence of knight moves in (2), while the subscripts on the right have their natural order. Rudrata composed a verse with the amazing property that both arrays agree (with  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_1$ ,  $\sigma_{30} = \sigma_2$ ,  $\sigma_9 = \sigma_3$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $\sigma_5 = \sigma_{32}$ ), by choosing  $\sigma_1 = \text{से}$ ,  $\sigma_2 = \text{ना}$ ,  $\sigma_3 = \sigma_4 = \sigma_5 = \text{ली}$ , etc.

Notice that the constraints forced him to use at most four different symbols, thereby throwing away most of the tour's structure. It turns out, in fact, that there are *two* knight's tours consistent with his sloka. Therefore nobody knows whether he was thinking of the tour in (2) and (3) or the tour in exercise 36(i).

Thousands of  $4 \times 8$  knight's tours are possible, and if Rudrata had known more of them he could have written a much less ambiguous sloka that had twelve distinct syllables. For example, a "fractured English" verse that describes such a poet-friendly tour might go like this (see exercise 36(ii)):

Want a good, good time, lots of fun?  
Now not time so good; now not time.  
Foo. Ah, so! So now fun is lost.  
Time not now good, so time not now.      (4)

Ratnakara came up with a better idea a few years later. For his tour, illustrated at the right of (2), he composed two *different* slokas, both of which made sense as part of his overall poem. Their syllable patterns

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} \sigma_{26} & \sigma_{11} & \sigma_{24} & \sigma_5 & \sigma_{20} & \sigma_9 & \sigma_{30} & \sigma_7 & \sigma_1 & \sigma_2 & \sigma_3 & \sigma_4 & \sigma_5 & \sigma_6 & \sigma_7 & \sigma_8 \\ \sigma_{23} & \sigma_4 & \sigma_{27} & \sigma_{10} & \sigma_{29} & \sigma_6 & \sigma_{19} & \sigma_{16} & \sigma_9 & \sigma_{10} & \sigma_{11} & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{13} & \sigma_{14} & \sigma_{15} & \sigma_{16} \\ \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{25} & \sigma_2 & \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{14} & \sigma_{17} & \sigma_8 & \sigma_{31} & \sigma_{17} & \sigma_{18} & \sigma_{19} & \sigma_{20} & \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{22} & \sigma_{23} & \sigma_{24} \\ \sigma_3 & \sigma_{22} & \sigma_{13} & \sigma_{28} & \sigma_1 & \sigma_{32} & \sigma_{15} & \sigma_{18} & \sigma_{25} & \sigma_{26} & \sigma_{27} & \sigma_{28} & \sigma_{29} & \sigma_{30} & \sigma_{31} & \sigma_{32} \end{array} \quad (5)$$

would have allowed him to define a tour quite precisely using 32 *distinct* syllables. (See his *Haravijaya*, Chapter 43, slokas 145 and 146.) For example, here's an English rendition of his two-sloka scheme:

Have some fun, watch this or that word —  
Great four lines, take out, each gives eight.  
Left; then two black; and just here white.  
Three rook steps make one knight move, right?  
  
One, two, three, four! Watch each word here;  
Or take some left steps and move eight.  
Just right gives this black rook great fun,  
Then have lines make out that white knight.

poetic license  
Rudraṭa  
Ratnākara  
Bhoja  
Deśika  
Somesvara III  
nonsense verse  
doggerel  
Yahyā ibn Ibrāhīm  
abjad numerals

We obtain the second verse by reading the first verse in knight's tour order, starting at the fifth syllable of the fourth line. (Ratnākara actually used only 24 different syllables. Furthermore, his choices for  $\sigma_5$  and  $\sigma_{32}$  did not agree in the two slokas; this may be due to errors in transmission of the ancient text, or to "poetic license." In any case his remarkable poem clearly defined a knight's tour.)

Such wordplay had many devotees in medieval India. For example, Rudraṭa's tour of (2) was rendered in Ratnākara's two-sloka style by King Bhoja in his *Sarasvatī-kaṇṭhābharaṇa* (c. 1050), slokas 2.306 and 2.308; also by Vedānta Deśika in his devotional hymn *Pādukāsahasra* (1313), slokas 929 and 930.

A simpler scheme, capable of encoding knight's tours on the full  $8 \times 8$  board, was used in slokas 5.623–632 of the encyclopedic Sanskrit work *Mānasollāsa* by King Someshvara III (c. 1130). He named each square of the board systematically by combining a consonant for the column with a vowel for the row; then an arbitrary tour was a nonsense verse of 64 syllables, which could be memorized if you wanted to impress your friends. For example, in English we could use the names

$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{bah} \text{ bay} \text{ bee} \text{ boe} \text{ boo} \text{ buh} \text{ bai} \text{ bao} \\ \text{dah} \text{ day} \text{ dee} \text{ doe} \text{ doo} \text{ duh} \text{ dai} \text{ dao} \\ \text{fah} \text{ fay} \text{ fee} \text{ foe} \text{ foo} \text{ fuh} \text{ fai} \text{ fao} \\ \text{hah} \text{ hay} \text{ hee} \text{ hoe} \text{ hoo} \text{ huh} \text{ hai} \text{ hao} \\ \text{lah} \text{ lay} \text{ lee} \text{ loe} \text{ loo} \text{ luh} \text{ lai} \text{ lao} \\ \text{mah} \text{ may} \text{ mee} \text{ moe} \text{ moo} \text{ muh} \text{ mai} \text{ mao} \\ \text{nah} \text{ nay} \text{ nee} \text{ noe} \text{ noo} \text{ nuh} \text{ nai} \text{ nao} \\ \text{sah} \text{ say} \text{ see} \text{ soe} \text{ soo} \text{ suh} \text{ sai} \text{ sao} \end{array} \right]$	
--	--

to encode Someshvara's tour as the following (memorable?) quatrain:

Sah nee soo nai lao fai bao duh, foe boo dee bah fay lah nay soe;  
nuh sao mai hao dai huh doo bee, dah hay mah say noe suh nao lai.  
Fao bai fuh dao buh doe bay fah, lay nah see noo sai mao hai foo?  
Luh moe hee loo mee hoe moo lee, hoo fee boe day hah may loe muh.

Incidentally, Yahyā ibn Ibrāhīm had presented the two knight's tours in (1) by first stating two 64-word poems in Arabic, then copying the words of those poems into  $8 \times 8$  diagrams, according to the knight's paths. Then he repeated the right-hand tour, using the Arabic words "first," "second," ..., together with Persian-style abjad numerals, in place of the words of the corresponding

poem. [His work is preserved in a rare manuscript belonging to the John Rylands Library in Manchester: *Arabic MS. 766*, folio 39.] The latter convention, which corresponds to

60	11	56	7	54	3	42	1
57	8	59	62	31	64	53	4
12	61	10	55	6	41	2	43
9	58	13	32	63	30	5	52
34	17	36	23	40	27	44	29
37	14	33	20	47	22	51	26
18	35	16	39	24	49	28	45
15	38	19	48	21	46	25	50

(9)

in decimal notation, has been used by many subsequent authors to characterize particular knight's tours in an easy-to-understand way. Path diagrams such as (1) and (2), which provide complementary insights, weren't invented until much later, when Lelio dalla Volpe published a short book *Corsa del Cavallo per tutt' i scacchi dello Scacchiere* (Bologna, 1766), containing nineteen examples.

**A greedy heuristic.** Early in the 1800s, the knight's tour problem inspired an important new approach to combinatorial problems, based on making a sequence of locally optimum decisions. Such techniques, now known as "greedy algorithms," were unheard-of at the time. But H. C. von Warnsdorf, a high court official in Hesse who had challenged himself by spending many nights trying to construct long paths of a knight, hit on a simple idea that worked like magic: *At each step, move to a place that has the fewest remaining exits.* This principle has become famous as "Warnsdorf's rule."

For example, suppose we want to construct an open knight's tour on a  $5 \times 5$  board, starting in a corner. Numbering the cells  $ij$  for  $0 \leq i, j < 5$ , we can assume by symmetry that the first two steps are 00 — 12. From cell 12 we can move the knight to either 04, 24, 33, 31, or 20, from which it could then exit in either 1, 3, 3, 3, or 3 ways; Warnsdorf's rule tells us to choose 04, because  $1 < 3$ . (Indeed, this is our last chance to visit 04, unless the tour will end at that cell.) After 04 the knight must proceed to 23; and again we have five choices, namely 44, 42, 31, 11, or 02. The rule takes us to 44, then 32; then to 40, then 21; and we've completed a partial tour that looks like this:

<b>1</b>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<b>2</b>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>2</i>	<b>8</b>	<i>8</i>	<b>4</b>	<i>2</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<b>6</b>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<b>7</b>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<b>5</b>

(**Bold** numbers are the visited cells.

*Italicized* numbers tell how many exits remain from the unvisited cells.) (10)

Four cells are now candidates for step **9**, and they're all currently marked '*2*'. So there's a four-way tie. In such cases, von Warnsdorf explicitly said that it's OK to choose arbitrarily, among all cells that have the fewest exits. Let us therefore proceed boldly to cell 33 (between **4**, **5**, and **6**). That makes a two-way tie; and we might as well go next to 41 (just to the right of **7**). From here we *don't* want to go to the middle square, which has just dropped from *8* to *7*, because our

John Rylands Library  
Path diagrams  
dalla Volpe  
greedy  
heuristic  
greedy algorithms  
Warnsdorf–

other choice is a *1*. And now it's plain sailing, as von Warnsdorf leads us on a merry chase—ending gloriously with move **25** in the center cell 22.

It's easy to implement Warnsdorf's rule, by representing the given graph in SGB format. (The reader should be familiar with this format; see, for example, Algorithm 7B and the remarks that precede it.) The node for each vertex  $v$  in Algorithm W below extends the basic format by including two utility fields,  $\text{DEG}(v)$  and  $\text{TAG}(v)$ , which correspond to the *italic* and **bold** numbers in (10).

Algorithm W allows the user to specify “target” vertices  $t_1, \dots, t_r$ , which are to be visited only when no other vertices are available. A similar mechanism was, in fact, used by von Warnsdorf himself, in the advanced examples of his original booklet that introduced the idea [*Des Rösselsprunges einfachste und allgemeinste Lösung* (Schmalkalden, 1823); see also *Schachzeitung* **13** (1858), 489–492].

**Algorithm W** (*Warnsdorf's rule*). Given a graph  $G$ , a source vertex  $s$ , and optional target vertices  $t_1, \dots, t_r$ , this algorithm applies Warnsdorf's rule to find a (hopefully Hamiltonian) path  $v_1, v_2, \dots$  that begins with  $s$ . Let  $n = \mathbf{N}(G)$  be the number of vertices of  $G$ ; let  $v_0 = \text{VERTICES}(G)$  be  $G$ 's initial vertex in memory.

**W1.** [Initialize.] For  $0 \leq k < n$  and  $v \leftarrow v_0 + k$ , do the following: Set  $d \leftarrow 0$ ,  $a \leftarrow \text{ARCS}(v)$ ; while  $a \neq \Lambda$ , set  $d \leftarrow d + 1$  and  $a \leftarrow \text{NEXT}(a)$ ; then set  $\text{DEG}(v) \leftarrow d$  and  $\text{TAG}(v) \leftarrow 0$ . (Thus  $\text{DEG}(v)$  is the degree of  $v$ .) Finally set  $k \leftarrow 0$ ,  $v \leftarrow s$ , and  $\text{DEG}(t_i) \leftarrow \text{DEG}(t_i) + n$  for  $1 \leq i \leq r$ .

**W2.** [Visit  $v$ .] Set  $k \leftarrow k + 1$ ,  $v_k \leftarrow v$ ,  $\text{TAG}(v) \leftarrow k$ ,  $a \leftarrow \text{ARCS}(v)$ , and  $\theta \leftarrow 2n$ .

**W3.** [All arcs tested?] If  $a = \Lambda$ , go to W7. Otherwise set  $u \leftarrow \text{TIP}(a)$ , and go to W6 if  $\text{TAG}(u) \neq 0$ . (Vertex  $u$  is a neighbor of  $v_k$  and a candidate for  $v_{k+1}$ .)

**W4.** [Decrease  $\text{DEG}(u)$ .] Set  $t \leftarrow \text{DEG}(u) - 1$  and  $\text{DEG}(u) \leftarrow t$ .

**W5.** [Is  $\text{DEG}(u)$  smallest?] If  $t < \theta$ , set  $\theta \leftarrow t$  and  $v \leftarrow u$ .

**W6.** [Loop over arcs.] Set  $a \leftarrow \text{NEXT}(a)$  and return to W3.

**W7.** [Done?] If  $\theta = 2n$ , terminate with path  $v_1 \dots v_k$ . Otherwise go to W2. ■

Notice that the candidates for  $v_{k+1}$  are precisely the vertices  $u$  whose  $\text{DEG}$  needs to change when  $v_k$  leaves the active graph. Therefore this algorithm runs in linear time: Every arc is examined at most twice, once in step W1 and once in step W3.

The path chosen by Algorithm W depends on the ordering of arcs that lead out of each vertex in SGB format, because Warnsdorf's rule makes an arbitrary decision in case of ties. A simple change to step W5 will randomize the path properly, as if all orderings of the arcs were equally likely (see exercise 53).

Now that we understand Warnsdorf's rule, let's talk a little bit about greed. Greed is of course one of the seven deadly sins; hence we might well question the morality of ever using a greedy algorithm in our own work. However, greed is actually a *virtue*, when it enhances the environment and harms nobody.

In what sense is Algorithm W greedy? From the standpoint of *short-term* greed, also known as “instant satisfaction,” the best choice for  $v_{k+1}$  would seem to be a vertex with *maximum* degree, not minimum, because that vertex will give us the most flexibility when choosing  $v_{k+2}$ . But from the standpoint of *long-term* greed, also known as “risk management” or maximizing our chance

SGB format  
linear time  
greed  
seven deadly sins  
morality  
virtue

of success, it's best to choose a vertex with *minimum* degree, as von Warnsdorf stipulated; that choice leaves us with the most arcs remaining for moves in the future. Indeed, short-term greed turns out to be very bad (see exercise 59).

How good is Warnsdorf's rule? It works so well for knight moves that von Warnsdorf naïvely believed it to be infallible, except perhaps on  $m \times n$  boards with  $m < 6$  or  $n < 6$ . He even thought that he had a proof of guaranteed success. His booklet exhibited many examples:  $6 \times 6$ ,  $6 \times 7$ ,  $\dots$ , up to  $10 \times 10$ . Experiments by C. F. de Jaenisch [*Traité des applications de l'analyse mathématique au jeu des échecs* **2** (1862), 59] showed in fact that, on an ordinary  $8 \times 8$  chessboard, one can basically choose the first 40 moves at random, and obtain a complete knight's tour by applying Warnsdorf's rule only to the last 24 steps!

The rule can fail, however. On a  $6 \times 6$  board, it gives a complete tour about 97.2% of the time, yet it sometimes stops after only 32 or 34 steps if the starting position is one of the eight interior diagonal squares. On the  $8 \times 8$  board it succeeds even more often (about 97.9%). Yet with probability 0.0000038 it might stop with a path of length 39, as shown in the answer to exercise 59.

Hamilton's dodecahedron graph (Fig. 122) is quite different from a graph of knight moves, because it is 3-regular. A partial path in a 3-regular graph can be extended in at most two ways, after we've selected the first two points, while a knight can have up to seven choices at every step. (Furthermore, all starting edges of the dodecahedron are equivalent.) Nevertheless, Algorithm W handles that graph well: It finds a Hamiltonian path  $v_1 v_2 \dots v_{20}$  with probability  $\frac{31}{32} = .96875$ . Furthermore, it finds a path with  $v_{20} - v_1$  (hence a Hamiltonian cycle) with probability  $\frac{15}{128} \approx .117$ . That probability rises to  $\frac{139}{256} \approx .543$  if we set  $t_1$  to a neighbor of  $s$ ; it's exactly  $1/2$  if we set  $\{t_1, t_2, t_3\}$  to the *three* neighbors of  $s$ .

It's not difficult to see that Algorithm W always works perfectly when  $G$  is the graph of a rectangular grid and  $s$  is a corner vertex (see exercise 62). With a bit more thought, we can even prove that it always succeeds when  $G$  is an  $n$ -cube, thereby finding many examples of the generalized Gray binary codes that we studied in Section 7.2.1.1 (see exercise 63). When  $G$  is the SGB graph *perms* $(-4, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$ —whose vertices are the permutations of  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , related by swapping adjacent digits—Warnsdorf's rule finds “change ringing” paths of length  $5! - 1 = 119$  about 29% of the time. (See Algorithm 7.2.1.2P. This probability drops to less than 2%, however, with permutations of 6 elements, and to near zero with permutations of 7.) Another instructive example is the SGB graph *binary* $(10, 0, 0)$ , whose vertices are the 16796 binary trees with 10 nodes, related by “rotation.” Starting at the tree with all-null left links, Algorithm W finds a Hamiltonian path about 5.6% of the time. (See Algorithm 7.2.1.6L.)

Of course Algorithm W isn't a panacea. We can't expect any algorithm to solve the NP-complete Hamiltonian path problem in linear time! Warnsdorf's rule certainly has difficulty in critical cases; indeed, it can fail spectacularly even on small graphs (see exercise 65). But it's often a good first thing to try, when presented with a graph that we haven't seen before.

Ira Pohl [*CACM* **10** (1967), 446–449; **11** (1968), 1] has suggested breaking ties in Warnsdorf's rule by looking at the *sum of the degrees* of  $v_k$ 's neighbors.

de Jaenisch  
Hamilton  
dodecahedron graph  
3-regular  
 $n$ -cube  
Gray binary codes  
*perms*  
change ringing  
*binary*  
binary trees  
rotation  
NP-complete  
Pohl

**Path flipping.** Long before Warnsdorf’s time, the great mathematician Leonhard Euler had already published a classic paper about knight’s tours [*Mémoires de l’académie des sciences de Berlin* **15** (1759), 310–337], in which he showed how to discover long paths by a completely different method. (Euler credited this idea, at least in part, to his friend Louis Bertrand.) Instead of Warnsdorf’s “greedy” algorithm, his approach might be called a “breedy” method, because it proceeded by simple mutations and adaptations of paths already known.

Suppose, for example, that we want to find a  $3 \times 10$  knight’s tour, and that Warnsdorf has already told us how to reach 28 of the 30 cells:

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 4 & 7 & 2 & 27 & 24 & 13 & 10 & 19 & a & 17 \\ \hline 1 & 28 & 5 & 14 & 9 & 22 & 25 & 16 & 11 & 20 \\ \hline 6 & 3 & 8 & 23 & 26 & 15 & 12 & 21 & 18 & b \\ \hline \end{array} . \quad (11)$$

We can’t go from position 28 to an unvisited cell; but we needn’t despair, because 28 is just one knight’s move away from cell 23. Similarly, cell 1 is adjacent to 8. Therefore we can immediately deduce that two more equally long paths exist:

$$1 \dots 23, 28 \dots 24; \quad 7 \dots 1, 8 \dots 28. \quad (12)$$

(Here ‘ $x \dots y$ ’ stands for the path from  $x$  to  $y$  that proceeds by unit steps  $\pm 1$ .) Operating in the same fashion on the first of these yields three more,

$$1 \dots 5, 24 \dots 28, 23 \dots 6; \quad 1 \dots 15, 24 \dots 28, 23 \dots 16; \quad 7 \dots 1, 8 \dots 23, 28 \dots 24. \quad (13)$$

And, aha, one of these can be extended to a full tour  $1 \dots 15, 24 \dots 28, 23 \dots 16, b, a$ :

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 4 & 7 & 2 & 19 & 16 & 13 & 10 & 25 & 30 & 27 \\ \hline 1 & 20 & 5 & 14 & 9 & 22 & 17 & 28 & 11 & 24 \\ \hline 6 & 3 & 8 & 21 & 18 & 15 & 12 & 23 & 26 & 29 \\ \hline \end{array} . \quad (14)$$

Now the same subpath-flipping technique leads from (14) to additional tours

$$1 \dots 17, 30 \dots 18; \quad 1 \dots 23, 30 \dots 24; \quad 7 \dots 1, 8 \dots 30; \quad (15)$$

and we can continue to find tours galore:

$$\begin{aligned} &1 \dots 13, 18 \dots 30, 17 \dots 14; \quad 1 \dots 5, 18 \dots 30, 17 \dots 6; \quad 7 \dots 1, 8 \dots 17, 30 \dots 18; \\ &7 \dots 1, 8 \dots 23, 30 \dots 24; \quad 13 \dots 8, 1 \dots 7, 14 \dots 30; \quad 1 \dots 7, 14 \dots 17, 30 \dots 18, 13 \dots 8; \end{aligned}$$

etc. Indeed, the latter is a Hamiltonian *cycle* — a *closed* tour — because 1 is adjacent to 8! A Hamiltonian cycle represents 30 different Hamiltonian *paths*, each of which leads to further flips, hence further paths and cycles.

If we start with (14) and keep flipping until no new paths arise, it turns out that we will have discovered all 16 of the Hamiltonian cycles of the  $3 \times 10$  knight graph, as well as 2472 of its 2568 noncyclic Hamiltonian paths.

One of the 96 noncyclic Hamiltonian paths *not* derivable from (14) is

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 1 & 12 & 3 & 22 & 15 & 10 & 7 & 26 & 29 & 18 \\ \hline 4 & 23 & 14 & 11 & 6 & 25 & 20 & 17 & 8 & 27 \\ \hline 13 & 2 & 5 & 24 & 21 & 16 & 9 & 28 & 19 & 30 \\ \hline \end{array} . \quad (16)$$

It leads via flips only to three others, namely to  $1 \dots 17, 30 \dots 18$ ;  $13 \dots 1, 14 \dots 30$ ;  $13 \dots 1, 14 \dots 17, 30 \dots 18$ . We *wouldn’t* have found a cycle, if we’d started with (16).

path flipping–  
flipping paths–  
path exchange, see path flipping  
Euler  
Bertrand  
breedy  
mutations  
genetic algorithms  
closed

Let's formulate Euler's approach more precisely:

**Algorithm F** (*Long paths by flipping*). Given a simple path  $v_1 \text{---} v_2 \text{---} \dots \text{---} v_t$  in a connected  $n$ -vertex graph, this algorithm repeatedly obtains new paths by reversing subpaths as explained above, until either exhausting all possibilities or finding a path that can be extended by a vertex  $\notin \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_t\}$ . An auxiliary table of vertex labels  $w[v]$  is used to discover potential flips.

- F1.** [Initialize for breadth-first search.] Prepare a dictionary, initially empty, for storing paths of length  $t - 1$ . Set  $w[v] \leftarrow 0$  for each of the  $n$  vertices  $v$  of the graph. Set  $q \leftarrow 0$  and perform  $\text{update}(v_1, \dots, v_t)$ , where  $\text{update}$  is the subroutine defined below. Then set  $d \leftarrow p \leftarrow p_1 \leftarrow p_2 \leftarrow 0$  and  $p_0 \leftarrow q$ .
- F2.** [Done with distance  $d$ ?] (At this point we've entered  $q$  paths into the dictionary, and we've explored the successors of the first  $p$  paths. Exactly  $p_i$  of those paths were obtained by making  $\leq d - i$  flips, for  $0 \leq i \leq 2$ .) Go to F6 if  $p = p_0$ ; otherwise set  $p \leftarrow p + 1$ .
- F3.** [Explore path  $p$ .] Let  $u_1 \text{---} u_2 \text{---} \dots \text{---} u_t$  be the  $p$ th path that entered the dictionary, and set  $w[u_k] \leftarrow k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq t$ . Go to F5 if  $u_t \text{---} u_1$ .
- F4.** [Process a noncyclic path.] For each vertex  $v$  such that  $u_t \text{---} v$ , do the following: Set  $k \leftarrow w[v]$ ; terminate the algorithm if  $k = 0$ ; otherwise call  $\text{update}(u_1, \dots, u_k, u_t, \dots, u_{k+1})$ . Then, for each  $v$  such that  $u_1 \text{---} v$ , do the following: Set  $k \leftarrow w[v]$ ; terminate if  $k = 0$ ; otherwise  $\text{update}(u_{k-1}, \dots, u_1, u_k, \dots, u_t)$ . Then return to F2.
- F5.** [Process a cyclic path.] (A cyclic path will be in the dictionary only if  $t = n$ ; see below.) For  $1 \leq j \leq t$  and for each  $v$  such that  $u_j \text{---} v$ , do the following: Set  $k \leftarrow w[v]$  (which will be positive). If  $k < j$ , call  $\text{update}(u_{j+1}, \dots, u_t, u_1, \dots, u_k, u_j, \dots, u_{k+1})$  and  $\text{update}(u_{k-1}, \dots, u_1, u_t, \dots, u_j, u_k, \dots, u_{j-1})$ ; otherwise  $\text{update}(u_{j+1}, \dots, u_k, u_j, \dots, u_1, u_t, \dots, u_{k+1})$  and  $\text{update}(u_{k-1}, \dots, u_j, u_k, \dots, u_t, u_1, \dots, u_{j-1})$ . Then return to F2.
- F6.** [Advance  $d$ .] Terminate if  $p = q$  (we have found all the reachable paths). Otherwise set  $d \leftarrow d + 1$ ,  $p_2 \leftarrow p_1$ ,  $p_1 \leftarrow p_0$ ,  $p_0 \leftarrow q$ , and go back to F2. ■

Algorithm F relies on a subroutine ' $\text{update}(v_1, \dots, v_t)$ ', whose purpose is to put the path  $v_1 \text{---} \dots \text{---} v_t$  into the dictionary unless it's already there. First the path is converted to a canonical form, so that equivalent paths are entered only once: If  $v_t \not\text{---} v_1$ , the canonical form is obtained by changing  $(v_1, \dots, v_t) \leftarrow (v_t, \dots, v_1)$  if  $v_1 > v_t$ . On the other hand if  $v_t \text{---} v_1$ , the path is cyclic, and we terminate the algorithm if  $t < n$ . (The graph is connected, so there must be a vertex outside the cycle that is adjacent to a vertex of the cycle.) Finally, if  $t = n$  and  $v_n \text{---} v_1$ , we obtain the canonical form by permuting the cycle cyclically so that  $v_1$  is the smallest element; then we set  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) \leftarrow (v_1, v_n, \dots, v_2)$  if  $v_2 > v_n$ . Once  $(v_1, \dots, v_t)$  is in canonical form, the  $\text{update}$  routine looks for it in the dictionary. If unsuccessful,  $\text{update}$  sets  $q \leftarrow q + 1$  and inserts it as the  $q$ th path.

The theory of breadth-first search tells us that  $(v_1, \dots, v_t)$  cannot match any path in the dictionary that was obtained with fewer than  $d - 1$  flips. (Otherwise the path  $(u_1, \dots, u_t)$  that led to it would have been seen before making  $d$  flips.)

Euler  
breadth-first search  
*update*  
canonical form  
breadth-first search



Therefore step F6 can save dictionary space and lookup time by deleting all paths of index  $\leq p_2$  from the dictionary whenever  $p_2$  increases. Exercise 73 discusses a simple trick that makes this deletion painless.

Algorithm F is amazingly versatile. For example, there are 9862 closed knight's tours on a  $6 \times 6$  board, and 2963928 open tours. All of them will be found by Algorithm F, when given any single instance.

We began our search for a  $3 \times 10$  knight's cycle by using the Warnsdorf-inspired path (11). But we could have started Algorithm F with  $t = 1$ , thus presenting it with only a single vertex  $v_1$ . Every time the algorithm finds a larger path, we can simply restart it, with  $t$  increased.

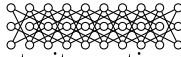
For example, the author tried the  $3 \times 10$  problem 100 times, choosing  $v_1$  at random and ordering the vertex neighbors randomly in steps F4 and F5. A Hamiltonian cycle was found in 82 cases, usually after making fewer than 100 calls on *update*. A stubborn Hamiltonian path like (16) was found in 6 cases. And the remaining 12 cases failed to reach  $t = 30$ ; once  $t$  was even stuck at 22.

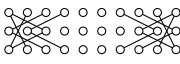
Of course that's a very small problem. When presented with the graph of permutations of  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ , Algorithm F was able to find a "change ringing" cycle of length 720 in each of ten random trials, averaging less than 50,000 updates per trial. On the other hand it did *not* do well when trying to find a closed  $3 \times 100$  knight's tour.

**Searching exhaustively.** Let's try now to design an algorithm that systematically finds *every* Hamiltonian cycle of a given graph. Such an algorithm will also find every Hamiltonian *path*, because exercise 2 shows that every Hamiltonian path of  $G$  corresponds to a Hamiltonian cycle of a related graph  $G'$ .

A Hamiltonian cycle involves every vertex. So we can start it at any convenient vertex  $v_1$ . Then there's an obvious way to grow all possible cycles via backtracking: For each  $v_2$  with  $v_1 - v_2$ , we consider each  $v_3 \neq v_1$  with  $v_2 - v_3$ , etc. We can also formulate the task as an XCC problem (see, for example, the "prime queen attacking problem" in Section 7.2.2.3).

But those approaches are overly specific; there's usually a much more efficient way to proceed. Instead of regarding our task as the assignment of appropriate labels  $1, 2, \dots, n$  to the  $n$  vertices of our graph, it's better to regard it as the task of choosing  $n$  edges in such a way that (i) every vertex is an endpoint of precisely two of those edges; (ii) the subgraph defined by those edges is connected. Indeed, a Hamiltonian cycle is nothing more nor less than an (unordered) set of  $n$  edges that form a single cycle.

Consider, for example, the  $3 \times 10$  knight graph, , which has 30 vertices and 50 edges. We can conveniently denote its vertices by two-digit numbers,  $\{00, 01, \dots, 09, 10, 11, \dots, 19, 20, 21, \dots, 29\}$ , and write its edges compactly in two-line form:  $\begin{smallmatrix} 00 & 00 & 01 & & 17 & 17 & 18 & 19 \\ 12 & 21 & 20 & \dots & 25 & 29 & 26 & 27 \end{smallmatrix}$ .

Notice that vertices 00, 09, 10, 11, 18, 19, 20, and 29 have degree 2 in this graph. Consequently the two edges that touch each of them *must* be present in any Hamiltonian cycle; in other words, the pattern  is already forced, before we begin to choose further edges.

Warnsdorf  
permutations  
change ringing  
all Hamiltonian cycles  
all Hamiltonian paths  
backtracking  
XCC problem  
prime queen attacking problem  
knight graph

In this pattern, vertex 12 belongs to the edges  $\frac{00}{12}$  and  $\frac{12}{20}$ , which were forced from vertices 00 and 20. So 12 already has the two edges that it needs; and the other edges that touch it, namely  $\frac{04}{12}$  and  $\frac{12}{24}$ , cannot ever be part of a Hamiltonian cycle. We might as well delete them. Similarly, we can delete edges  $\frac{05}{17}$  and  $\frac{17}{25}$ .

Nothing else is obviously forced at this point, so we must make a choice. For example, we must use either the edge  $\frac{02}{21}$  or the edge  $\frac{13}{21}$ , because those edges are the only ways for vertex 21 to reach its quota of two. In other words, our search tree for the  $3 \times 10$  knight graph must begin with a binary branch.

Suppose we choose  $\frac{02}{21}$ . That edge implies in particular that we now have  $01 \text{ --- } 20 \text{ --- } 12 \text{ --- } 00 \text{ --- } 21 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 10 \text{ --- } 22$  as a subpath of the final cycle. Consequently edges  $\frac{13}{21}$ ,  $\frac{02}{14}$ , and  $\frac{02}{23}$  can no longer be used. Nor can the edge  $\frac{01}{22}$  (because it would complete a short cycle!).

Aha. Only one of the remaining edges touches 01, namely  $\frac{01}{13}$ . So that edge is now forced. And then we're confronted with another two-way branch. Exercise 108 discusses one sequence of reasonable initial choices, and the reader is strongly encouraged to study that scenario.

In general, as we're trying to visit all Hamiltonian cycles of a given graph, we'll have a partial solution consisting of a set of disjoint subpaths to be included, and a set of edges by which those subpaths might be extended until a complete cycle is obtained. The subpaths are defined by the edges that have been chosen so far. If there are  $t$  subpaths,  $\{u_1 \dots v_1, \dots, u_t \dots v_t\}$ , we say that the  $2t$  endpoints  $\{u_1, v_1, \dots, u_t, v_t\}$  are "outer" vertices; any vertex that lies on a subpath but is *not* an endpoint is called "inner"; and all other vertices are "bare." Every vertex begins bare, and is eventually clothed. If we reach a state where all but two of the vertices are inner, and if those two outer vertices are adjacent, we can complete a Hamiltonian cycle. Success!

Algorithm H below finds Hamiltonian cycles by essentially starting with a graph  $G$  and removing edges until only a cycle remains. It uses a sparse-set representation for  $G$ , because such structures are an especially attractive way to maintain the current status of a graph that is continually getting smaller.

The idea is to have two arrays, **NBR** and **ADJ**, with one row for each vertex  $v$ . If  $v$  has  $d = \text{DEG}(v)$  neighbors in  $G$ , they're listed (in any order) in the first  $d$  columns of **NBR**[ $v$ ]. And if **NBR**[ $v$ ][ $k$ ] =  $u$ , where  $0 \leq k < d$ , we have **ADJ**[ $v$ ][ $u$ ] =  $k$ ; in other words, there's an important invariant relation,

$$\text{NBR}[v][\text{ADJ}[v][u]] = u, \quad \text{for } 0 \leq u < n, \quad (17)$$

where  $n$  is the number of vertices in  $G$ . Neighbors can be deleted by moving them to the right and decreasing  $d$ ; neighbors can be undeleted by simply increasing  $d$ . Furthermore, if  $u$  is *not* a neighbor of  $v$ , **ADJ**[ $v$ ][ $u$ ] has the impossible value  $\infty$ ; thus the **ADJ** array functions also as an adjacency matrix.

The edges  $u \text{ --- } v$  of  $G$  are considered to be pairs of arcs,  $u \rightarrow v$  and  $v \rightarrow u$ , which run in opposite directions. In particular, we always have **ADJ**[ $u$ ][ $v$ ] =  $\infty$  if and only if **ADJ**[ $v$ ][ $u$ ] =  $\infty$ . When an edge is deleted, however, we often need to delete only one of those arcs in the **NBR** array, because Algorithm H doesn't always need to look at both of them.

binary branch: A choice between two possibilities  
 outer vertices  
 inner vertices  
 bare vertices  
 sparse-set representation  
 data structures  
 invariant relation  
 adjacency matrix

Algorithm H represents the vertices of  $G$  by the integers 0 to  $n - 1$ , as we've seen in (17). Every vertex  $v$  has three fields: its current degree,  $\text{DEG}(v)$ ; its external name,  $\text{NAME}(v)$ , used only to print the answers; and a special field called  $\text{MATE}(v)$ . We have  $\text{MATE}(u) = v$  and  $\text{MATE}(v) = u$  when  $u$  and  $v$  are the outer vertices at the ends of a current subpath; and we have  $\text{MATE}(v) = -1$  if and only if vertex  $v$  is bare. The value of  $\text{MATE}(v)$  is undefined when  $v$  is an inner vertex, but it must be nonnegative in that case. (See exercise 109.)

An inner vertex is essentially invisible to our algorithm, because we already know its context in the final cycle. We maintain an array  $\text{VIS}$  to list the visible vertices — those that are either bare or outer.  $\text{VIS}$  is a sparse-set representation, containing a permutation of the vertices, with the invisible ones listed last. The inverse permutation appears in a companion array called  $\text{IVIS}$ , so that we have

$$\text{VIS}[k] = v \iff \text{IVIS}[v] = k. \quad (18)$$

Vertex  $v$  is visible if and only if  $\text{IVIS}[v] < S$ , where  $S$  is a global variable. Thus  $v$  is inner if and only if  $\text{IVIS}[v] \geq S$ . Here's how a vertex becomes invisible:

$$\text{make\_inner}(v) = \begin{cases} \text{Set } S \leftarrow S - 1, v' \leftarrow \text{VIS}[S], k \leftarrow \text{IVIS}[v]; \\ \text{set } \text{VIS}[S] \leftarrow v, \text{IVIS}[v] \leftarrow S, \\ \text{VIS}[k] \leftarrow v', \text{IVIS}[v'] \leftarrow k. \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

If  $u$  is a bare vertex whose degree decreases to 2, Algorithm H can make significant progress, because the two remaining edges that touch  $u$  must both be part of the cycle. Whenever such a  $u$  is discovered, we put it into a “trigger list” called  $\text{TRIG}$ . A global variable,  $T$ , holds the size of the trigger list. This behavior is implemented by using the following procedure to delete the arc  $u \rightarrow v$ :

$$\text{remarc}(u, v) = \begin{cases} \text{Set } d \leftarrow \text{DEG}(u) - 1, k \leftarrow \text{ADJ}[u][v], w \leftarrow \text{NBR}[u][d]. \\ \text{If } \text{MATE}(u) < 0 \text{ and } d = 2, \text{ set } \text{TRIG}[T] \leftarrow u, T \leftarrow T + 1. \\ \text{Set } \text{NBR}[u][d] \leftarrow v, \text{NBR}[u][k] \leftarrow w, \\ \quad \text{ADJ}[u][v] \leftarrow d, \text{ADJ}[u][w] \leftarrow k; \\ \text{set } \text{DEG}(v) \leftarrow d. \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

One might think that we've now defined a comprehensive set of data structures for implementing Algorithm H; but we aren't done yet. There's also a doubly linked list, maintained in arrays  $\text{LLINK}[v]$  and  $\text{RLINK}[v]$  for  $0 \leq v \leq n$ , with entries  $\text{LLINK}[n]$  and  $\text{RLINK}[n]$  serving as the list head. This list contains all of the current “outer” vertices. More precisely, suppose that there are  $t$  subpaths, and suppose that we have  $\text{RLINK}[n] = v_1$ ,  $\text{RLINK}[v_j] = v_{j+1}$  for  $1 \leq j < 2t$ , and  $\text{RLINK}[v_{2t}] = n$ . Then the outer vertices are  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{2t}\}$ ; and we also have  $\text{LLINK}[n] = v_{2t}$ ,  $\text{LLINK}[v_j] = v_{j-1}$  for  $1 < j \leq 2t$ , and  $\text{LLINK}[v_1] = n$ . Insertion and deletion are accomplished in the usual way:

$$\text{activate}(v) = \begin{cases} \text{Set } k \leftarrow \text{LLINK}[n], \\ \text{LLINK}[n] \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[k] \leftarrow v, \\ \text{LLINK}[v] \leftarrow k, \text{RLINK}[v] \leftarrow n. \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

$$\text{deactivate}(v) = \begin{cases} \text{Set } j \leftarrow \text{LLINK}[v], k \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[v], \\ \text{LLINK}[k] \leftarrow j, \text{RLINK}[j] \leftarrow k; \\ \text{make\_inner}(v). \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

degree  
 $\text{DEG}(v)$   
 NAME( $v$ )  
 $\text{MATE}(v)$   
 outer vertices  
 bare  
 inner vertex  
 sparse-set representation  
 visible  
 invisible  
 $\text{make\_inner}(v)$   
 trigger list  
 data structures  
 doubly linked list  
 $\text{LLINK}[v]$   
 $\text{RLINK}[v]$   
 list head  
 outer vertices  
 Insertion  
 deletion

The algorithm makes frequent use of the following subroutine:

$$\text{makemates}(u, w) = \begin{cases} \text{If } \text{ADJ}[w][u] < \text{DEG}(w), \\ \quad \text{remarc}(u, w) \text{ and } \text{remarc}(w, u); \\ \text{set } \text{MATE}(u) \leftarrow w \text{ and } \text{MATE}(w) \leftarrow u. \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

stack with holes  
 $n$ -cycle

Vertices  $u$  and  $w$  are becoming endpoints. It removes the edge between  $u$  and  $w$ , if present, in order to prevent the formation of a short (non-Hamiltonian) cycle.

The current state at each level of the search tree is kept in two sequential stacks. **ACTIVE** is an array that remembers which vertices are outer; **SAVE** is an array that remembers the mates and degrees of the visible vertices. The **SAVE** stack is somewhat unusual because it's a "stack with holes":  $n$  slots are allocated to it at every level, but only the slots for visible vertices are actually used.

Level  $l$  of the search can in fact involve up to seven state variables:  $\text{CV}(l)$  is the outer vertex on which we're branching;  $\text{I}(l)$  identifies the neighbor of that vertex in the currently chosen edge;  $\text{D}(l)$  is the current degree of  $\text{CV}(l)$ ;  $\text{E}(l)$  is the number of edges chosen so far;  $\text{S}(l)$  is the number of vertices that are currently visible;  $\text{T}(l)$  and  $\text{A}(l)$  are the current sizes of **TRIG** and **ACTIVE**.

**Algorithm H** (*All Hamiltonian cycles*). Given a graph  $G$  on the  $n$  vertices  $\{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ , this algorithm uses the data structures discussed above to visit every subset of  $n$  edges that form an  $n$ -cycle. During every visit, the chosen edges are  $\text{EU}[k] \text{ --- } \text{EV}[k]$  for  $0 \leq k < n$ .

- H1.** [Initialize.] Set up the **NBR** and **ADJ** arrays as described in (17). Also set  $\text{VIS}[v] \leftarrow \text{IVIS}[v] \leftarrow v$  and  $\text{MATE}(v) \leftarrow -1$  for  $0 \leq v < n$ . Set the global variables  $a \leftarrow e \leftarrow i \leftarrow l \leftarrow \text{T} \leftarrow 0$ . Set  $\text{LLINK}[n] \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[n] \leftarrow \text{S} \leftarrow n$ . Finally, for every vertex  $v$  with  $\text{DEG}(v) = 2$ , set  $\text{TRIG}[\text{T}] \leftarrow v$  and  $\text{T} \leftarrow \text{T} + 1$ .
- H2.** [Choose the root vertex.] Let **CURV** be a vertex of minimum degree, and set  $d \leftarrow \text{DEG}(\text{CURV}) - 1$ . If  $d < 1$ , terminate (there is no Hamiltonian cycle). If  $d = 1$ , set  $\text{CURV} \leftarrow -1$  and go to H4.
- H3.** [Force a root edge.] Set  $\text{CURU} \leftarrow \text{NBR}[\text{CURV}][d - i]$  (the last yet-untried neighbor of **CURV**), and set  $\text{EU}[0] \leftarrow \text{CURU}$ ,  $\text{EV}[0] \leftarrow \text{CURV}$ ,  $e \leftarrow 1$ . Then  $\text{activate}(\text{CURU})$ ,  $\text{activate}(\text{CURV})$ , and  $\text{makemates}(\text{CURU}, \text{CURV})$ .
- H4.** [Record the state.] Set  $\text{CV}(l) \leftarrow \text{CURV}$ ,  $\text{I}(l) \leftarrow i$ ,  $\text{D}(l) \leftarrow d$ ,  $\text{E}(l) \leftarrow e$ ,  $\text{S}(l) \leftarrow \text{S}$ ,  $\text{T}(l) \leftarrow \text{T}$ . For  $0 \leq k < \text{S}$ , set  $u \leftarrow \text{VIS}[k]$  and  $\text{SAVE}[nl + u] \leftarrow (\text{MATE}(u), \text{DEG}(u))$  (thereby leaving "holes" in the **SAVE** stack). Then set  $u \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[n]$ ; while  $u \neq n$  set  $\text{ACTIVE}[a] \leftarrow u$ ,  $a \leftarrow a + 1$ ,  $u \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[u]$ . Finally set  $\text{A}(l) \leftarrow a$ , and go to H6 if  $l = 0$ .
- H5.** [Choose an edge.] Set  $\text{CURU} \leftarrow \text{NBR}[\text{CURV}][i]$ ,  $\text{CURT} \leftarrow \text{MATE}(\text{CURU})$ ,  $\text{CURW} \leftarrow \text{MATE}(\text{CURV})$ ,  $\text{EU}[e] \leftarrow \text{CURU}$ , and  $e \leftarrow e + 1$ . If  $\text{CURT} < 0$  (**CURU** is bare),  $\text{makemates}(\text{CURU}, \text{CURW})$ ,  $\text{activate}(\text{CURU})$ , and go to H6. Otherwise (**CURU** is outer),  $\text{makemates}(\text{CURT}, \text{CURW})$ . Call  $\text{remarc}(\text{NBR}[\text{CURU}][k], \text{CURU})$  for  $k$  decreasing from  $\text{DEG}(\text{CURU}) - 1$  to 0. Then  $\text{deactivate}(\text{CURU})$ .
- H6.** [Begin trigger loop.] Set  $j \leftarrow 0$  if  $l = 0$ , else  $j \leftarrow \text{T}(l - 1)$ . Go to H10 if  $j = \text{T}$ .

- H7.** [Clothe  $\text{TRIG}[j]$ .] Set  $v \leftarrow \text{TRIG}[j]$ , and go to H9 if  $\text{MATE}(v) \geq 0$  ( $v$  is no longer bare). Otherwise go to H15 if  $\text{DEG}(v) < 2$  (Hamiltonian cycle is impossible). Set  $u \leftarrow \text{NBR}[v][0]$  and  $v \leftarrow \text{NBR}[v][1]$ . Go to H15 if  $w = \text{MATE}(u)$  and  $e \neq n-2$  (cycle is too short). Set  $\text{EU}[e] \leftarrow u$ ,  $\text{EV}[e] \leftarrow v$ ,  $e \leftarrow e+1$ ,  $\text{EU}[e] \leftarrow v$ ,  $\text{EV}[e] \leftarrow w$ ,  $e \leftarrow e+1$ ,  $\text{MATE}(v) \leftarrow v$ , and  $\text{make\_inner}(v)$ .
- H8.** [Take stock.] (We've just joined  $v$  to its only two neighbors,  $u$  and  $w$ , which aren't mates unless  $e = n$ .) Update the data structures as described in exercise 112, based on whether  $\text{MATE}(u) < 0$  and/or  $\text{MATE}(w) < 0$  (four cases).
- H9.** [End trigger loop?] Set  $j \leftarrow j+1$ , and return to H7 if  $j < T$ .
- H10.** [Enter new level.] Set  $l \leftarrow l+1$ , and go to H13 if  $e \geq n-1$ .
- H11.** [Choose vertex for branching.] Set  $\text{CURV} \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[n]$ ,  $d \leftarrow \text{DEG}(\text{CURV})$ ,  $k \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[\text{CURV}]$ . While  $k \neq n$ , if  $\text{DEG}(k) < d$  reset  $\text{CURV} \leftarrow k$  and  $d \leftarrow \text{DEG}(k)$ ; set  $k \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[k]$ . Go to H14 if  $d = 0$ . Otherwise set  $\text{EV}[e] \leftarrow \text{CURV}$  and  $T \leftarrow T(l-1)$ . (See exercise 129.)
- H12.** [Make  $\text{CURV}$  inner.] Call  $\text{remarc}(\text{NBR}[\text{CURV}][k], \text{CURV})$  for  $0 \leq k < d$  (thereby removing  $\text{CURV}$  from its neighbors' lists). Then  $\text{deactivate}(v)$ , set  $i \leftarrow 0$ , and go to H4.
- H13.** [Visit a solution.] If  $e < n$ , set  $u \leftarrow \text{LLINK}[n]$  and  $v \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[n]$ ; go to H14 if  $\text{NBR}[u][v] = \infty$ ; otherwise set  $\text{EU}[e] \leftarrow u$ ,  $\text{EV}[e] \leftarrow v$ ,  $e \leftarrow n$ . Now visit the  $n$ -cycle defined by arrays  $\text{EU}$  and  $\text{EV}$ . (See exercise 113.)
- H14.** [Back up.] Terminate if  $l = 0$ . Otherwise set  $l \leftarrow l-1$ .
- H15.** [Undo changes.] Set  $d \leftarrow D(l)$  and  $i \leftarrow I(l) + 1$ . Go to H14 if  $i \geq d$ . Otherwise set  $e \leftarrow E(l)$ ,  $k \leftarrow (l > 0 ? A(l-1) : 0)$ ,  $a \leftarrow A(l)$ ,  $v \leftarrow n$ . While  $k < a$ , set  $u \leftarrow \text{ACTIVE}[k]$ ,  $\text{RLINK}[v] \leftarrow u$ ,  $\text{LLINK}[u] \leftarrow v$ ,  $v \leftarrow u$ ,  $k \leftarrow k+1$ . Then set  $\text{RLINK}[v] \leftarrow n$ ,  $\text{LLINK}[n] \leftarrow v$ ,  $S \leftarrow S(l)$ ,  $T \leftarrow T(l)$ . For  $0 \leq k < S$ , set  $u \leftarrow \text{VIS}[k]$  and  $(\text{MATE}(u), \text{DEG}(u)) \leftarrow \text{SAVE}[nl+u]$ . Finally set  $\text{CURV} \leftarrow \text{CV}(l)$ . Go to H5 if  $l > 0$ .
- H16.** [Advance at root level.] Terminate if  $\text{CURV} < 0$ . Otherwise set  $\text{CURU} \leftarrow \text{MATE}(\text{CURV})$ . (The previous edge  $\text{CURU} - \text{CURV}$  is gone.) Set  $\text{LLINK}[n] \leftarrow \text{RLINK}[n] \leftarrow n$ ,  $a \leftarrow 0$ ,  $\text{MATE}(\text{CURU}) \leftarrow \text{MATE}(\text{CURV}) \leftarrow -1$ ,  $S \leftarrow n$ . (Everything is again bare.) If  $\text{DEG}(\text{CURU}) = 2$ , set  $\text{TRIG}[0] \leftarrow \text{CURU}$  and  $T \leftarrow 1$ ; otherwise set  $T \leftarrow 0$ . If  $\text{DEG}(\text{CURV}) = 2$ , set  $\text{TRIG}[T] \leftarrow \text{CURV}$  and  $T \leftarrow T+1$ . Go to H3 if  $T = 0$ . Otherwise set  $\text{CV}(0) \leftarrow -1$ ,  $A(0) \leftarrow e \leftarrow 0$ , and go to H6. ■

This marvelous algorithm has lots of steps, but it isn't terribly hard to understand. Its length arises mostly from the fact that a variety of data structures need to work together, combined with the fact that special provisions must be made at root level when no vertex has degree 2. In such cases, which are handled in steps H3 and H16, we choose a root vertex of minimum degree, and a root edge that touches it. We find all Hamiltonian cycles for which the root edge is present; then we discard that edge, and repeat the process. Eventually we will see a vertex of degree 2.

**Table 1**

A BAKER'S BAKER'S DOZEN OF EXAMPLE GRAPHS FOR ALGORITHM H

Graph	Description	Vertices	Edges	Degrees min..max	Hamiltonian cycles	Running time (mems)	Mems per solution
<i>A</i>	<i>Anna Karenina</i>	49	138	3..19	49152	415M	8447.1
<i>B</i>	binary trees	42	84	4..4	14306485	8790M	614.4
<i>C</i>	concentric rings	144	216	3..3	66770562	35G	528.5
<i>D</i>	disconnected	23	118	7..22	0	66G	$\infty$
<i>E</i>	expander	48	96	4..4	107921396	70G	652.3
<i>F</i>	Fleischner $G_3$	57	126	3..14	2	8872M	$4.4 \cdot 10^9$
<i>G</i>	giraffe tours	100	192	2..8	4515918298	3252G	720.2
<i>H</i>	Halin from $\pi$	128	227	3..11	10128654600	2929G	289.2
<i>P</i>	parity clash	82	145	2..4	0	204G	$\infty$
<i>Q</i>	5-cube	32	80	5..5	906545760	249G	275.3
<i>R</i>	"random"	64	125	2..6	9011601	7127M	790.9
<i>S</i>	Sierpiński simplex	34	96	3..6	1165688832	311G	267.0
<i>T</i>	tripartite $K_{4,5,6}$	15	74	9..11	207360000	40G	191.5
<i>U</i>	USA from ME	50	154	2..48	68656026	182G	2651.2

tripartite graph, complete  
 benchmarks+  
 unstructured  
 Tolstoy  
*book*  
 Stanford GraphBase  
 SGB  
 4-regular graph  
 regular graph  
*binary*  
 binary trees  
 dodecahedron  
 concentric rings  
 Hamilton  
 components  
 tough  
 SGB  
*raman*  
 Ramanujan graph  
 expander graph, see *raman*

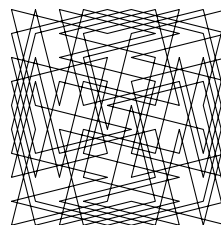
One good way to start learning Algorithm H is to play through the steps by hand when  $G$  is a small graph like  $K_3$  or  $K_4$  or  $C_4$ . (See exercise 115.)

Algorithm H promises to produce interesting results galore, because the number of interesting graphs is enormous. We can get an idea of its performance in practice by studying the statistics of the benchmarks in Table 1, which reports on many different kinds of graphs. Each graph has been given an identifying letter for convenience.

- *A*, an “unstructured” graph based on Tolstoy’s novel *Anna Karenina*. More precisely, this smallish graph arises from *book*("anna", 0, 6, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0) in the Stanford GraphBase (SGB) after repeatedly removing vertices whose degree is less than 3. Algorithm H finds its Hamiltonian cycles in a flash.
- *B*, by contrast, is a 4-regular graph with a strict mathematical structure. It’s the SGB graph *binary*(5, 5, 0), which consists of the binary trees with 5 internal nodes; they’re related by the “rotation” operation, 7.2.1.6–(12). (Algorithm 7.2.1.6L defines a Hamiltonian *path* in this graph, not a cycle.)
- *C* is one of the generalized dodecahedron graphs considered in exercise 11, with parameter  $q = 36$  where Hamilton’s original graph had  $q = 5$ .
- *D* is a contrived example that’s obtained from six disjoint copies of  $K_3$ , together with a copy of  $K_5$  whose five vertices are joined to everything else. It has no Hamiltonian cycles, because it breaks into six nonempty components when the five vertices of  $K_5$  are removed. (In the terminology of exercise 117, graph *D* isn’t “tough.” Every Hamiltonian graph is tough.)
- *E* is the SGB graph *raman*(3, 47, 1, 1), a “Ramanujan graph of type 1.” The vertices are  $\{0, 1, \dots, 46, \infty\}$ , and the edges are described in exercise 119.

- $F$  is a minor of the amazing 338-vertex graph introduced by H. Fleischner in 2013. His graph has 318 vertices of degree 4, 20 vertices of degree 14, and exactly one Hamiltonian cycle(!). (See exercise 120.)

- $G$  is a graph of  $10 \times 10$  “giraffe” moves, where a giraffe is like a knight in chess except that it’s a  $(4, 1)$ -leaper instead of a  $(2, 1)$ -leaper. For example, the attractive tour shown here, which has  $90^\circ$ -rotational symmetry, was published by Maurice Kraitchik in §67 of his pioneering book *Le Problème du Cavalier* (Paris: Gauthiers[sic]-Villars, 1927). Graph  $G$  requires the giraffe to make a special kind of tour whose diagram exhibits a “Cossack cross” in the four central squares. (A symmetrical example of such a tour appears in the answer to exercise 149.)



- $H$  is a representative example of a large family of planar Hamiltonian graphs called “Halin graphs.” (See exercises 122–125.)

- $P$  is a non-Hamiltonian graph that’s another kind of Achilles heel for Algorithm H. We obtain it by appending new vertices ‘!’ and ‘!!’ to the  $8 \times 10$  grid graph  $P_8 \square P_{10}$ , with three new edges  $u - ! - !! - v$ , where  $u$  and  $v$  are opposite corners of the grid. There’s no Hamiltonian cycle; for if we collapse ‘!’ and ‘!!’ into a single vertex, we obtain an equivalent bipartite graph  $P'$  with 41 vertices in one part and 40 vertices in the other. Unfortunately, Algorithm H doesn’t understand this. So it explores zillions of fruitless paths.

- $Q$  is the familiar 5-cube,  $P_2 \square P_2 \square P_2 \square P_2 \square P_2$ , whose Hamiltonian cycles are the 5-bit “Gray cycles” that we investigated in Section 7.2.1.1.

Their total number, about 9 million, is just half of the value of  $d(5)$  that was reported in Eq. 7.2.1.1–(26). Hmmm; was that a mistake? No:  $d(5)$  considers the cycles  $(x_0 \dots x_{31})$  and  $(x_{31} \dots x_0)$  to be different, while Algorithm H does not.

- $R$  is a graph obtained by adding 64 “random” edges to a 64-cycle. More precisely, it’s the SGB graph whose official name is

*union(random\_graph(64, 64, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 3142), board(64, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0), 0, 0).*

It has only 125 edges, because three of the added edges were already present.

- $S$  is the Sierpiński tetrahedron  $S_3^{(4)}$ , which was defined and illustrated in Section 7.2.2.3 (Fig. 114). Lots and lots of Hamiltonian cycles here.

- $T$  is a special case of exercise 106.

- $U$ , the graph that’s last but not least in Table 1, is another unstructured example from “real life.” It revisits the graph of the 48 contiguous states of the USA, 7.1.4–(133), augmented by two additional vertices ‘!’ and ‘!!’; there are edges  $!! - \text{ME}$ , and  $! - v$  for all  $v \notin \{\text{ME}, !\}$ . Thus its Hamiltonian cycles are the same as the Hamiltonian *paths* in 7.1.4–(133) from ME to any other state. (We used ZDD technology to treat those 68 million paths in Section 7.1.4.)

Fleischner  
unique Hamiltonian cycle  
giraffe  
knight  
leaper  
 $90^\circ$ -rotational symmetry  
Kraitchik  
Cossack cross  
cross  
Halin graphs  
grid graph  
bipartite graph  
5-cube  
Gray cycles  
random  
*union*  
*random\_graph*  
*board*  
Sierpiński tetrahedron  
unstructured  
ZDD

**A census of knight's tours.** Soon after the author had first learned to program a computer in the 1950s, he wondered whether he'd be able to list all of the closed knight's tours on a chessboard. Alas, however, he quickly learned that the number of such tours is humongous — way too large to be computed by the slow machines of those days. So his hopes were dashed. In fact, nobody even had a good *estimate* for the total number of possibilities, until forty years later.

That ancient riddle was finally solved, hurray, by Brendan D. McKay, who proved (without actually constructing them) that the total number of closed knight's tours is exactly 13,267,364,410,532. [*Technical Report TR-CS-97-03* (Computer Science Department, Australian National University, 1997), 4 pages.]

Hmmm. Thirteen trillion is indeed a huge number. Yet it isn't completely out of reach. If we can visit one tour every microsecond, we can visit them all in 13 million seconds, which is about 5 months. Also, if we represent each tour as a 168-bit vector that shows which edges are used, we can store all the tours in about 279 terabytes; and we'll see later that further compression is possible.

Furthermore, the vast majority of knight's tours belong to sets of eight that are essentially the same, except for rotation and/or reflection of the board. Indeed, McKay found that there are 1,658,420,247,200 equivalence classes of size 8, and 608,233 equivalence classes of size 4 (see exercise 137); hence the total number of essentially different closed tours is the sum of those two numbers, namely 1,658,420,855,433. We could fit them all into at most 35 terabytes.

Instead of storing them all, however, we can actually *compute* them all, in a fairly short time, if we exploit parallelism. The idea is to partition the set of all tours into a large number of *bunches*, where the members of each bunch can be computed rapidly by Algorithm H. Every bunch is independent of the others. Therefore several bunches can be computed simultaneously, if we have a computer that has several processing units.

Suppose  $C$  is a closed knight's tour. Let's say that the *wedge* of  $C$  at cell  $(i, j)$  is the pair of edges that touch that cell in  $C$ . At most 8 edges touch any cell; hence there are at most  $\binom{8}{2} = 28$  possible wedges at any cell, and it's convenient to give each of those possibilities a code letter, as shown in Fig. 123.

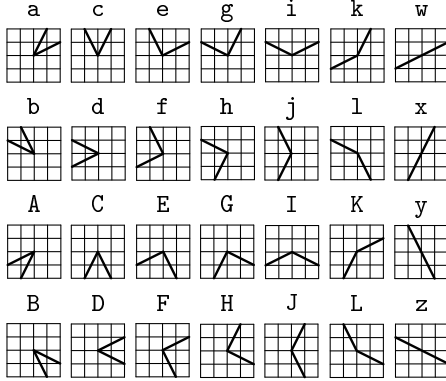
We shall partition the closed tours into  $28^4$  bunches, based on their wedges at the four central cells. More precisely, we shall number the rows and columns from top to bottom and left to right with the digits 0 to 7, and we shall place each tour into the bunch that corresponds to its wedges at cells 33, 34, 43, and 44.

A slightly tricky rule turns out to be a good way to give a four-letter *name* to every bunch, by writing down the code letter for the wedge at 34 after rotating the tour clockwise by  $0^\circ$ ,  $90^\circ$ ,  $180^\circ$ , and  $270^\circ$ , respectively. For example, let's look again at al-'Adli's historic tour (1); it clearly has wedge c at cell 34. Rotating it  $90^\circ$  clockwise puts cell 33 into position 34, where we now see wedge z. Another  $90^\circ$  rotation yields wedge b at 34 (because B was originally at 43). And a final rotation gives us another z. Therefore cycle (1) belongs to bunch czbz.

Notice that the four equivalent tours obtained from (1) by rotation belong to bunches czbz, zbcz, bzc, and zczb. In general, the tours of bunch  $\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4$

census  
knight's tours-  
author  
McKay  
rotation-  
reflection-  
equivalence classes  
bunches  
wedge  
al-'Adli





**Fig. 123.** The 28 possible wedges of a knight.

The angle  $\theta$  of the narrowest wedges,  $\{a, b, A, B\}$ , is  $\arctan \frac{3}{4} \approx 37^\circ$ ;  $\{c, d, C, D\}$  are slightly wider,  $90^\circ - \theta = \arctan \frac{4}{3} \approx 53^\circ$ . Eight wedges, namely  $\{e, f, E, F, g, h, G, H\}$ , make a  $90^\circ$  turn. Then come  $\{i, j, I, J\}$ , at  $90^\circ + \theta \approx 127^\circ$ ; and  $\{k, l, K, L\}$ , at  $180^\circ - \theta \approx 143^\circ$ . Finally, wedges  $\{w, x, y, z\}$  are straight. Notice that a  $90^\circ$  counterclockwise rotation changes  $a \mapsto b \mapsto A \mapsto B \mapsto a; \dots; k \mapsto l \mapsto K \mapsto L \mapsto k; w \mapsto y \mapsto w$ ; and  $x \mapsto z \mapsto x$ .

top-bottom reflection  
multiplicity  
canonical  
ASCII  
uppercase letters

are equivalent to the tours of bunches  $\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_3\alpha_4\alpha_1\alpha_2$ , and  $\alpha_4\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3$  whenever each  $\alpha_j$  is one of the 28 wedge codes.

Reflection also gives an equivalent tour, whose bunch depends only on the unreflected bunch name. For example, the top-bottom reflection of cycle (1) gives a cycle that belongs to bunch yByD. In general, let  $\rho$  and  $\tau$  be the permutations of wedge codes that correspond to  $90^\circ$  rotation and to top-bottom reflection. Then  $\alpha \mapsto \alpha\rho$  is the mapping discussed in Fig. 123, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= a b c d e f g h i j k l A B C D E F G H I J K L w x y z; \\ \alpha\rho &= b A d C f E h G j I l K B a D c F e H g J i L k y z w x; \\ \alpha\tau &= B A C d G h E f I j l k b a c D g H e F i J L K z y x w; \\ \bar{\alpha} &= \alpha\tau\rho = a B D C H G F E J I K l A b d c h g f e j i k L x w z y. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Exercise 142 shows that top-bottom reflection maps  $\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4 \mapsto \bar{\alpha}_4\bar{\alpha}_3\bar{\alpha}_2\bar{\alpha}_1$ .

The main consequence is that, if  $\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4$  is any one of the  $28^4$  bunches, its closed tours are equivalent to those of seven other bunches:

$$\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4\alpha_1, \alpha_3\alpha_4\alpha_1\alpha_2, \alpha_4\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3, \bar{\alpha}_4\bar{\alpha}_3\bar{\alpha}_2\bar{\alpha}_1, \bar{\alpha}_3\bar{\alpha}_2\bar{\alpha}_1\bar{\alpha}_4, \bar{\alpha}_2\bar{\alpha}_1\bar{\alpha}_4\bar{\alpha}_3, \bar{\alpha}_1\bar{\alpha}_4\bar{\alpha}_3\bar{\alpha}_2. \quad (26)$$

In most cases these eight bunches are distinct, and we say that  $\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4$  has multiplicity 8. For example, the equivalent bunches  $czbzbz$ ,  $zbzbc$ ,  $bzcbz$ ,  $zczb$ ,  $yByD$ ,  $ByDy$ ,  $yDyB$ ,  $DyBy$  all have multiplicity 8. But sometimes all eight bunches are identical, and we say that the multiplicity is 1. (There are just four bunches of multiplicity 1, namely  $aaaa$ ,  $1111$ ,  $AAAA$ , and  $LLLL$ .) Exercise 146 shows that 30 canonical bunches have multiplicity 2; and 774 of the canonical bunches have multiplicity 4. The multiplicity is always equal to either 1 or 2 or 4 or 8.

A bunch is *canonical* if it is the lexicographically smallest of the bunches equivalent to it, where the lexicographic order uses ASCII code (so that uppercase letters *precede* lowercase letters). For example,  $ByDy$  is canonical; it's lexicographically smaller than  $bzcbz$  and the other six equivalent bunches.

Although there are  $28^4 = 614656$  bunches altogether, only 77245 of them are canonical. Furthermore, no knight's tour has 'a' anywhere in its bunch name; do you see why? This reduces the number of relevant canonical bunches to 66771. (See exercises 145 and 148.)

In order to carry out a census of all the closed knight's tours, it therefore suffices to solve subproblems of the form “Visit all of the tours in bunch  $\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4$ ,” for 66,771 canonical names  $\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4$ . And each of those 66,771 subproblems asks for the Hamiltonian cycles on a modified  $8 \times 8$  knight graph, where eight particular edges are forced to be part of the cycle. Equivalently, 24 particular edges of that knight graph are forbidden. Every subproblem is in fact “Algorithm H friendly,” because at least 16 of the remaining edges—8 edges in the center, and 8 edges in the corners—are forced.

For instance, it turns out that bunch `ByDy` has exactly 31,905,973 tours; and Algorithm H needs only 16  $G\mu$  (a few seconds) to visit them all. The same is true, of course, for bunch `czbz`; but we don't need that bunch in our census, because it's not canonical.

One easy way to carry out the census is to prepare ten shell scripts, each with 6677 or 6678 of the subproblems. Then run all the scripts simultaneously, on a machine with 10 processors. At the time this section was written, the job was thereby accomplished with off-the-shelf hardware in less than two days. Notice that this strategy, via bunches, saves a factor of 8 because of symmetry, and another factor of 10 because of parallelism.

Almost all of the 66,771 bunches contributed solutions; the only exceptions were 198 cases of the form  $\alpha 1\beta 1$  or  $1\alpha 1\beta$ , and Algorithm H rejected them immediately. The smallest nonempty canonical bunch class was `CFgd`, with only 165,504 solutions (80  $M\mu$ ); the largest was `LLLL`, with 652,228,612 solutions (287  $G\mu$ ); the median was `Cflz`, with 17,440,101 solutions (8587  $M\mu$ ). To get the total number of tours, we simply compute the sum, over all bunches, of the number of solutions times the multiplicity. (Without multiplying by multiplicity, the total number of solutions over all bunches came to 1,671,517,634,718.)

The scheme just described has worked well, but we could have conducted the census in many other ways. For example, instead of defining bunches based on the  $28^4$  possible wedges at the four central cells, we could have based our definition on the  $6^8$  possible wedges at centrally located boundary cells. Or we could have used the  $5^8$  possible wedges at the cells that are a knight's move away from a corner. Exercises 151 and 152 explore those interesting alternatives.

The ability to conduct a reasonably quick census opens the door to the solution of many problems that were long thought to be out of reach, and it also raises new questions that are interesting in their own right. For example, how many of the 13 trillion possible tours involve each of the 28 possible wedges at least once? (Answer: 278,078,503,988.) How many of those tours involve each wedge at least twice? (Answer: 155,528.) And how many of *those* doubly diverse tours involve each wedge at most thrice? (Answer: 70,240.) In the latter tours, exactly eight of the 28 wedges occur three times, because  $64 = 20 \cdot 2 + 8 \cdot 3$ .

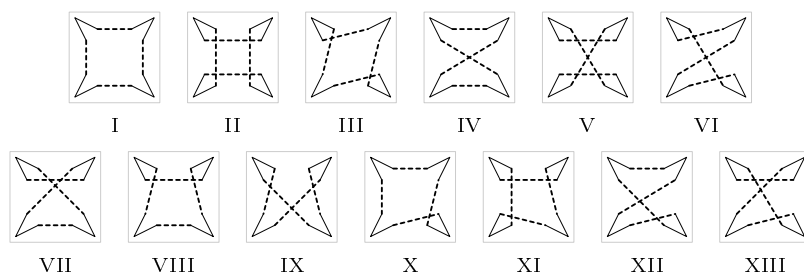
It turns out that Algorithm H is *not* the bottleneck when answering questions of this kind: The process of analyzing a tour tends to take longer than the process of generating the tour itself, because Algorithm H is so efficient. The total time is therefore roughly equal to the time to analyze 1.67 trillion tours, divided by the degree of parallelism.

symmetry  
parallelism  
diverse knight's tours+

Exercises 156–163 are devoted to a wide variety of questions that can be answered by a good census-taker, and Fig. A–19 in the answer pages is a gallery of knight’s tours with unusual properties. For example, one of the 70,240 tours with maximally diverse wedges appears in Fig. A–19(a).

What’s the maximum number of times that a knight can make the sharpest possible turn during a complete cycle, forming a tight angle of just  $\theta \approx 37^\circ$ ? (See Fig. 123.) Contrariwise, what’s the maximum number of times that he can continue in the same direction as his previous move, making no turn at all? Exercise 158 clears up those riddles.

topological type  
dynamic enumeration-  
induced subgraph  
Hamilton  
dodecahedron



**Fig. 124.** The thirteen topological types of knight’s cycles.

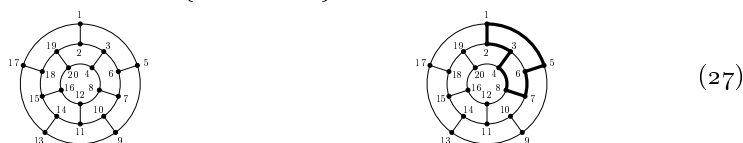
Every Hamiltonian cycle on an  $n \times n$  knight graph includes eight fixed edges, forming narrow wedges at each corner. The endpoints of those wedges can be connected up in 13 essentially different ways, modulo rotation and reflection, indicated by dashed lines in these diagrams. (The actual paths of interconnection can, of course, have wildly differing lengths and shapes.)

Figure 124 suggests a census-oriented question of a different kind, because it points out that there are 13 fundamentally different kinds of knight’s cycles on a square board. How many tours are of each topological type? (See exercise 156.)

**Dynamic enumeration.** Let’s switch gears now and focus on *counting*. Instead of trying to visit every Hamiltonian cycle of a given graph, we’ll try only to figure out exactly *how many* such cycles exist.

Algorithm D below is, in fact, designed to solve a somewhat more general problem: Given a graph  $G$  on the vertices  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , we’ll determine the number of  $m$ -cycles in the induced subgraph  $G_m = G|_{\{1, \dots, m\}}$ , for  $1 \leq m \leq n$ . In particular, when  $m = n$  we’ll know the number of Hamiltonian cycles in  $G$ .

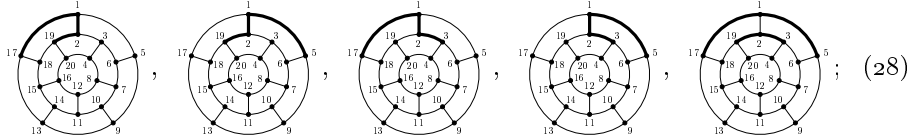
Algorithm D is easy to understand, once you understand it, but not so easy to explain. We shall study it by looking first at how it applies to Hamilton’s original example, the vertices of a dodecahedron. To start, let’s redraw Fig. 122(a) so that the vertices are named  $\{1, 2, \dots, 20\}$ :



On the left is Hamilton’s graph  $G$ ; on the right is an 8-cycle in  $G_8$ , clearly unique.

The key idea that underlies Algorithm D is the notion of an “ $m$ -config,” which is a subset of the edges that satisfies three properties: (i) Every vertex  $\leq m$  appears in exactly two edges. (ii) No edge has both endpoints  $> m$ . (iii) There is no cycle of edges. One consequence of (i) and (iii) is that the edges of an  $m$ -config always form disjoint subpaths of the graph. One consequence of (ii) is that the only 0-config is the empty set.

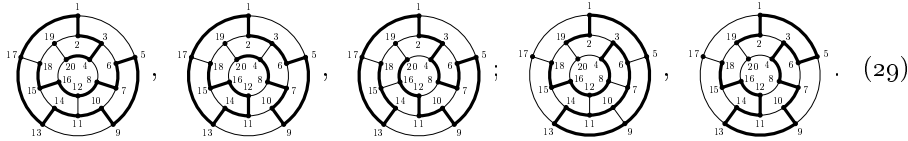
For example, Hamilton’s graph obviously has just five 2-configs, namely



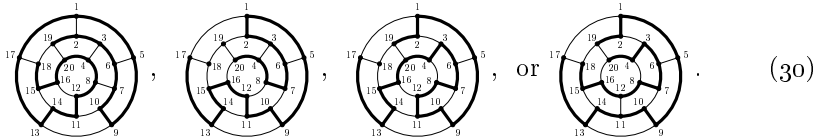
and they contain respectively 1, 1, 1, 1, 2 subpaths.

The “ $m$ -frontier”  $F_m$  of  $G$  is the set of vertices  $> m$  that are reachable from  $\{1, \dots, m\}$ . Building on our experience with Algorithm H, we classify each vertex of  $F_m$  in an  $m$ -config as either “outer” (an endpoint of a subpath), or “inner” (an intermediate vertex of a subpath), or “bare” (not in any subpath), according as its degree in the  $m$ -config is 1, 2, or 0. (There’ll be exactly  $2t$  outer cells when there are  $t$  subpaths.) Two  $m$ -configs are *equivalent* if they have the same outer, inner, and bare cells, and if the outer cells are paired up in the same way.

$F_2 = \{3, 5, 17, 19\}$ , and no two of the 2-configs in (28) are equivalent. But when  $m$  gets larger, we usually have fairly large equivalence classes. For instance, it turns out that Hamilton’s graph has exactly 32 16-configs, including these five:



The first three of these are equivalent, and so are the last two. Furthermore, every 16-config turns out to be equivalent either to one of those or to one of



Algorithm D works by systematically discovering every equivalence class of  $m$ -configs, while also computing all of their sizes. So it’s important to give an appropriate *name* to each equivalence class. When  $F_m$  has  $q$  elements  $(u_1, \dots, u_q)$ , this name consists of  $q$  integers  $a_j$ , one for each element of the frontier: If  $u_j$  is inner,  $a_j$  is  $-1$  (written ‘ $\bar{1}$ ’ for short). If  $u_j$  is bare,  $a_j = 0$ . And if  $u_j$  is outer, with mate  $u_{j'}$  at the other end of its subpath,  $a_j = a_{j'} = k$ , where  $k$  is the smallest positive integer not yet assigned to an outer vertex.

For example, the frontier  $F_{16}$  is  $(u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4) = (17, 18, 19, 20)$ . The equivalence class at the left of (29) has a subpath from 18 to 20, with 17 inner and 19 bare; so its name is  $\bar{1}101$ . The class at the right has a subpath from 18 to 19 and leaves both 17 and 20 bare; so its name is 0110. The names of the four classes

$m$ -config  
 $m$ -frontier  
 outer  
 inner  
 bare

in (30) are respectively  $\bar{1}11\bar{1}$ , 1001, 101 $\bar{1}$ , and 1212. (Check them!) Algorithm D determines not only that every 16-config belongs to one of those six classes, but also that the classes contain respectively 4, 2, 6, 6, 4, and 10 configs.

*Confession:* The statements above are almost true, but not really correct. Algorithm D actually works with an *extended* frontier  $\hat{F}_m = F_m \cup \{m+1\}$ , instead of with  $F_m$ , for  $0 \leq m < n$ ; in particular,  $\hat{F}_0 = \{1\}$ . This modification doesn't change the definition of equivalence classes, because vertex  $m+1$  will always be bare if it wasn't already in  $F_m$ .

The precise ordering of vertices  $(u_1, \dots, u_q)$ , where  $q = |\hat{F}_m|$ , is important for naming the classes. A somewhat peculiar rule turns out to work best: We divide  $\hat{F}_m$  into two parts,  $\hat{F}_m^- = (\hat{F}_{m-1} \cup \{m+1\}) \setminus \{m\}$  and  $\hat{F}_m^+ = \hat{F}_m \setminus \hat{F}_m^-$ ; then we place the elements of  $\hat{F}_m^-$  first, otherwise sorting into increasing order:

$$\begin{aligned} \{u_1, \dots, u_{q_0}\} &= \hat{F}_m^-, \quad \{u_{q_0+1}, \dots, u_q\} = \hat{F}_m^+, \quad \text{where } q_0 = |\hat{F}_m^-|; \\ u_j &< u_{j+1} \text{ for } 1 \leq j < q \text{ and } j \neq q_0. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

For example, the extended-and-ordered frontiers of Hamilton's graph are

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{F}_0 &= (1); & \hat{F}_{10} &= (11, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20); \\ \hat{F}_1 &= (2, 5, 17); & \hat{F}_{11} &= (12, 13, 17, 19, 20, 14); \\ \hat{F}_2 &= (3, 5, 17, 19); & \hat{F}_{12} &= (13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 16); \\ \hat{F}_3 &= (4, 5, 17, 19, 6); & \hat{F}_{13} &= (14, 16, 17, 19, 20); \\ \hat{F}_4 &= (5, 6, 17, 19, 8, 20); & \hat{F}_{14} &= (15, 16, 17, 19, 20); \\ \hat{F}_5 &= (6, 8, 17, 19, 20, 9); & \hat{F}_{15} &= (16, 17, 19, 20, 18); \\ \hat{F}_6 &= (7, 8, 9, 17, 19, 20); & \hat{F}_{16} &= (17, 18, 19, 20); \\ \hat{F}_7 &= (8, 9, 17, 19, 20, 10); & \hat{F}_{17} &= (18, 19, 20); \\ \hat{F}_8 &= (9, 10, 17, 19, 20, 12); & \hat{F}_{18} &= (19, 20); \\ \hat{F}_9 &= (10, 12, 17, 19, 20, 13); & \hat{F}_{19} &= (20). \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Notice that  $\hat{F}_m$  always begins with  $u_1 = m+1$ .

Everything works nicely because we can readily enumerate all the classes of  $(m+1)$ -configs once we know the names and sizes of all the classes of  $m$ -configs. Indeed, the transition from  $m$  to  $m+1$  means that vertex  $m+1$  gains respectively  $(0, 2, 1)$  neighbors if it is (inner, bare, outer). And the state of vertex  $m+1$  is the first digit of the class name; thus vertex gains  $(0, 2, 1)$  neighbors if and only if the class name begins with  $(\bar{1}, 0, 1)$ , respectively.

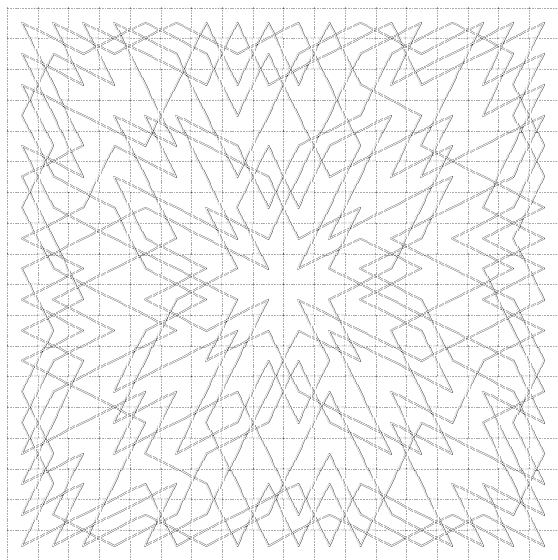
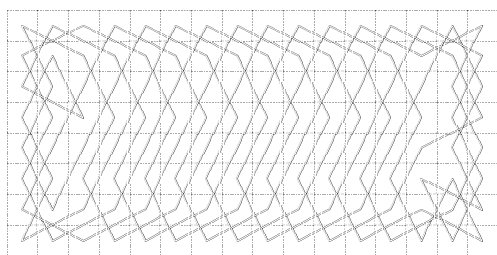
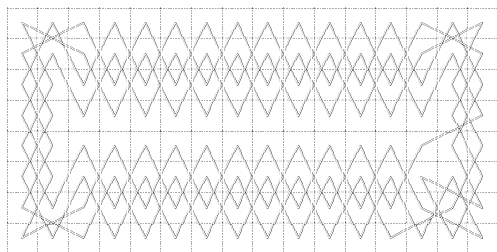
For example, we know that Hamilton's 16-configs have the class names  $\bar{1}101$ ,  $\bar{1}11\bar{1}$ , 0110, 1001, 101 $\bar{1}$ , 1212. In cases  $\bar{1}101$  and  $\bar{1}11\bar{1}$ , vertex 17 is already inner; so those cases are already 17-configs. In case 0110, the class fizzles out and leads to no 17-configs, because vertex 17 has only one neighbor in the frontier (namely 18). Cases 1001, 101 $\bar{1}$  and 1212 do lead to 17-configs, when 17 is joined to 18; see exercise 173.

The main data structures for Algorithm D are two tries, one for classes of the  $(m-1)$ -configs already enumerated and one for classes of the newly seen  $m$ -configs that they spawn. When  $m$  has an extended frontier  $\hat{F}_m$  of size  $q$ , the trie for  $m$ -configs has  $q$  levels, representing successive digits of each class name. Then there's a "bottom" level of *lieves*, containing the class sizes.

full disclosure  
*extended* frontier  
tries  
lieves



*Who knows what I might eventually decide to say next? Please stay tuned.  
[There will be an Algorithm B, analogous to Algorithm H, which visits all  
Hamiltonian cycles of bidirected graphs — which generalize digraphs.]*



**History.** There’s something inherently satisfying about a path that “hits all the bases.” For example, the ancient artist who carved the pattern of Fig. 777 in a mammoth’s tusk might well have been trying to create a Hamiltonian-like path in an implicit grid graph, before the dawn of recorded history!

**Fig. 777.** A pattern from the Old Stone Age. This detail from a Paleolithic ivory carving, found near the present-day village of Mizyn in northern Ukraine, illustrates interesting ways to cover a grid, rotated 45°, with a nonintersecting path.



Of course we cannot read the minds of people who lived c. 15,000 B.C.; but we certainly can admire the wonderful sophistication that’s evident in this fascinating artifact. [See M. Rudyns’kyj, *Industrie en os de la station paléolithique de Mizyn, interprétée par Fedir Vovk* (Kyjiv: Vseukraïns’ka Akademiâ Nauk, Kabinet Antropolohiï im. F. Vovka, 1931), 66 pages, 32 plates.]

Fast forward now to 750 B.C., by which time “meander friezes” had become well developed in many cultures, especially in Greek pottery (see exercise 360).

A few hundred years later, another kind of Hamiltonian pattern appeared on icosahedra, as we saw near the beginning of this section. And considerable research on knight’s tours began shortly after 800 A.D., as we’ve seen in (1) and (2).

But let’s jump to the computer age. The first reasonably successful algorithm for visiting all Hamiltonian cycles of a given graph was published by S. M. Roberts and B. Flores in *CACM* **9** (1966), 690–694; **10** (1967), 201–202. They actually considered *directed* graphs; but of course their method also handled undirected graphs, because each edge  $u \rightarrow v$  can be represented by a pair of arcs,  $\{u \rightarrow v, v \rightarrow u\}$ . Their procedure was an early instance of straightforward backtracking: At each stage of the computation, a partial path  $v_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow v_k$  was extended by trying all possible successors to  $v_k$  that hadn’t yet appeared.

M. B. Wells, in §4.2.4 of his book *Elements of Combinatorial Computing* (1971), presented a similar method, but for the task of visiting all Hamiltonian *paths*, in *undirected* graphs. He explained how to detect certain impossible cases early in the search, by backtracking whenever a partial path  $v_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow v_k$  wipes out all chances to reach a yet-untouched vertex  $v$ , namely when all of  $v$ ’s neighbors belong to  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ . He also considered the untouched  $v$  that have exactly *one* neighbor in  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ : There must not be three such vertices; and special restrictions apply when there are exactly two of them.

But G. R. Selby, in his Ph.D. thesis at Imperial College (University of London, 1970), 264 pages, realized that an edge-oriented approach would be much better. Instead of assigning vertices sequentially, he developed a “link algorithm” for undirected graphs that has much in common with Algorithm H above. Selby’s method was not as symmetrical as it could have been—he still retained the concept of a “main” partial path  $v_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow v_k$ ; but he augmented that path with a separate set of edges that it *implies*. Such edges, which form additional partial paths, arise when an untouched vertex belongs to only two available edges.

Historical notes

grid graph

Rudyns’kyj

Vovk

Ukraine

Stone Age

Paleolithic

Mizyn (Cyrillic ‘Mizyn’)

meander friezes

Greek pottery

icosahedra

knight’s tours

all Hamiltonian cycles

Roberts

Flores

*directed* graphs

backtracking

partial path

Wells

all Hamiltonian *paths*

*undirected* graphs

Selby

Imperial College

University of London

edge-oriented approach

link algorithm

Selby’s co-advisor at Imperial College, N. Christofides, worked out a similar “multi-path algorithm” for *directed* graphs, and presented it in §10.2.3 of his book *Graph Theory: An Algorithmic Approach* (1975). Then S. Martello improved the algorithm further by incorporating the MRV heuristic, when selecting the initial vertex  $v_1$  and when rank-ordering the neighbors of  $v_k$  that are candidates for  $v_{k+1}$ . [*ACM Trans. on Mathematical Software* **9** (1983), 131–138.] (The MRV heuristic had also been mentioned by Wells, who pointed out that neighbor ranking makes no difference to the total running time when we are visiting *all* of the solutions, because we are going to consider all choices of  $v_{k+1}$  anyway. However, just as with Warnsdorf’s rule, MRV tends to find the *first* solution much faster.) Curiously none of these authors realized that it would be much better to use MRV symmetrically on the set of *all* endpoints of the current partial paths or directed paths, as in Algorithm H or Algorithm B, instead of always extending a “main” path by choosing a neighbor for  $v_k$  at every stage. (Selby did sometimes extend his main path at the left, if vertex  $v_1$  had a forced neighbor  $v_0$ .)

F. Rubin [*JACM* **21** (1974), 576–580], unaware of Selby’s or Wells’s work, but inspired in part by S. L. Hakami [*IEEE Region Six Conf. Record* (1966), 635–643], proposed a similar algorithm that was in some ways weaker and in other ways stronger. His method repeatedly extended a single path at the right, while marking certain off-path edges as “required” and other edges as “deleted.” (For example, edges that touch a vertex of degree 2 were “required.”) But again, there was only a single main path. He also tested reachability between the path vertices and the remaining vertices; and he discussed preprocessing, whereby a graph could sometimes be partitioned into subgraphs whose Hamiltonian cycles could be pieced together to obtain the overall cycles.

W. Kocay [*Discrete Mathematics* **101** (1992), 171–188] realized that Selby and Christofides’s multi-path algorithm could be made symmetrical, by giving equal status to every subpath. (Curiously, however, he still distinguished the left and right endpoints of subpaths. Instead of using MRV, the vertex that he chose for branching was a right endpoint of *maximum* degree(!) —see exercise 129.)

Kocay also went further, by backtracking when the current subproblem could not be completed to a Hamiltonian cycle because the current subgraph either had an articulation point or was bipartite in an impossible way. (See exercise 130.) This test was costly, but it could save considerable time in many cases.

Andrew Chalaturnyk (Master’s thesis, University of Manitoba, 2008, vi + 123 pages) made Kocay’s algorithm significantly faster by designing data structures that allow it to backtrack efficiently. He improved the method also by invoking tests for articulation points or bipartiteness only at judicious intervals, when chances for effective pruning of the search tree seemed most likely. Without such pruning (which was optional), his program was rather similar to Algorithm H, although considerably more complicated.

In unpublished experiments during 2001, D. E. Knuth had developed a symmetrical edge-based algorithm for Hamiltonian cycles in undirected graphs that was comparatively simple. He called it HAMDANCE, because it used data structures analogous to the dancing links of Algorithm 7.2.2.1X. Algorithm H,

Christofides  
multi-path algorithm  
Martello  
MRV heuristic  
Warnsdorf’s rule  
Rubin  
Selby  
Wells  
Hakami  
Kocay  
articulation point  
bipartite  
Chalaturnyk  
data structures  
Knuth  
HAMDANCE  
data structures  
dancing links



which is called SSHAM because it uses sparse-set structures instead, was devised in 2024, and followed by Algorithm B (SSBIDIHAM) in 2025.

Counting of knight’s tours on rectangular boards began with a 4-page note by J. J. Duby, *Etude #8* (Paris: IBM France, 22 October 1964), stating that the  $6 \times 6$  board has 9862 cycles. Subsequent early work is summarized in *The Games and Puzzles Journal* **2**, 15 (December 1997), 265.

David Singmaster [*International Series of Numerical Mathematics* **29** (Basel: Birkhäuser, 1975), 117–130] discussed Hamiltonian enumeration and gave a heuristic ballpark estimate for the total number of  $8 \times 8$  knight’s cycles:  $10^{23 \pm 3}$ .

M. Löbbing and I. Wegener [*Electronic J. Combinatorics* **3**, 1 (1996), #R5, 1–4 and comment] tried to count the  $8 \times 8$  cycles by applying extended BDD methods to each of roughly 380 million subproblems. Unfortunately something went wrong, because the answer they got—more than 33 trillion—was not a multiple of 4. This error stimulated B. D. McKay to compute the correct value, as mentioned above, but without actually visiting the solutions.

The idea of a census is due to Günter C. Stertenbrink, who formulated the “corner wedge” approach of exercise 152 in 2003, thereby gaining a factor of 8 because of symmetry. Andrew Chalaturnyk, as part of his thesis work in 2008, generated the cycles for each of Stertenbrink’s 41790 canonical corner-bunches. Working off and on, at times together with Y. Denef, Stertenbrink was able in 2023 to compile a compressed database that contains representatives of all 13 trillion tours, occupying fewer than three terabytes of SSD storage. (See <http://magictour.free.fr>.) A census based on *central* wedges was independently devised by the author in 2010; see *FGbook*, pages 494 and 495.

SSHAM  
sparse-set  
SSBIDIHAM  
Duby  
Singmaster  
Löbbing  
Wegener  
BDD methods  
McKay  
Stertenbrink  
corner wedge  
Chalaturnyk  
Denef  
author

## EXERCISES

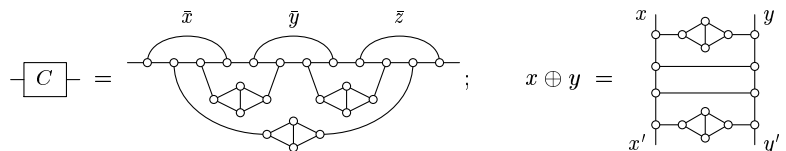
1. [15] We could save ourselves three syllables and three letters by saying “spanning cycle” and “spanning path” instead of “Hamiltonian cycle” and “Hamiltonian path.” Textbooks on graph theory could save lots of paper. Why doesn’t everybody do that?
- ▶ 2. [17] Join every vertex of graph  $G$  to a new vertex, obtaining  $G' = G \text{ --- } K_1$ . True or false:  $G$  has a Hamiltonian path if and only if  $G'$  is Hamiltonian.
3. [M22] Reverse-engineer the rules by which Fig. 121’s vertices have been named.
4. [M30] The Hamiltonian cycle in Fig. 122(b) doesn’t look symmetrical. Show, however, that it has fourfold symmetry when drawn on an undistorted dodecahedron.
5. [M20] A *second* glance at the graph depicted in Fig. 122(c) reveals that it actually *is* obviously planar. Why?
6. [22] Draw the graph of the icosahedron in the style of Fig. 122(a), arranging the vertices in three concentric rings.
7. [20] Draw the graph of the 4-cube in the style of Fig. 122(c), using Gray binary code as the Hamiltonian cycle.
8. [HM25] Show that it’s possible to redraw the graph of the dodecahedron, Fig. 122, in such a way that all lines between adjacent vertices have the same length.
- ▶ 9. [M21] A Hamiltonian cycle on a planar cubic graph, such as the dodecahedron in Fig. 121(b), can be described as a sequence of Ls and Rs denoting “left turn” and “right turn” at each vertex encountered during the cyclic journey.
  - a) Prove that no Hamiltonian cycle on the dodecahedron can contain any of the following subsequences: (i) LLLL; (ii) LRRL; (iii) LRLRLRL; (iv) LLRLRL; (v) LLRLRR; (vi) LLRLL; (vii)–(xii), subsequences (i)–(vi) with  $L \leftrightarrow R$  swapped.
  - b) Therefore there is essentially only one cycle (and its dual obtained by  $L \leftrightarrow R$ ).
10. [24] For which vertices  $v$  of Fig. 122(a) is there a Hamiltonian path from 12 to  $v$ ?
11. [M32] The *generalized Petersen graph*  $GP(n, k)$  is an interesting cubic graph with  $2n$  vertices  $\{0, 1, \dots, n-1, 0', 1', \dots, (n-1)'\}$  and  $3n$  edges

$$\{i \text{ --- } (i+1) \bmod n, i \text{ --- } i', i' \text{ --- } (i+k)' \bmod n \mid 0 \leq i < n\}.$$

Figure 122(a) is the special case  $q = 5$  of a general *concentric-ring graph*  $GP(2q, 2)$ .

For which vertices  $v$  does the graph  $GP(2q, 2)$  have a Hamiltonian path from  $0'$  to  $v$ ?

12. [HM28] How many Hamiltonian cycles exist in the graphs  $GP(2q, 2)$ ?
14. [22] The one-in-three satisfiability problem of exercise 7.2.2.2–517 is NP-complete. For every such problem  $F$ , we shall construct a cubic graph  $G$  that is Hamiltonian if and only if  $F$  is satisfiable. Every edge of  $G$  corresponds to a Boolean variable; values of the variables for which the true edges form a Hamiltonian cycle will be called a *win*.
  - a) A cubic graph that contains  $K_{2,1,1} = \text{---} \bigcirc \text{---} \bigcirc \text{---} \bigcirc \text{---}$  as an induced subgraph also contains the “Wheatstone bridge”  $\text{---} \bigcirc \text{---} \bigcirc \text{---} \bigcirc \text{---}$ , which has two edges that connect to other vertices. Show that those connecting edges must be true in every win.
  - b) For every clause  $C = (x \vee y \vee z)$  of  $F$ , where  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  are literals, include the “clause gadget”  $\text{---} \boxed{C} \text{---}$  below as part of  $G$ . Show that  $x + y + z = 1$  in every win.



spanning  
Hamiltonian  
fourfold symmetry  
symmetry  
planar  
icosahedron  
concentric rings  
4-cube  
Gray binary code  
draw the graph  
unit-distance graph  
graph drawing  
dodecahedron  
Hamiltonian path  
generalized Petersen graph  
Petersen graph  
 $GP(n, k)$   
concentric-ring graph  
enumeration of Ham cycles  
one-in-three satisfiability problem  
NP-complete  
cubic graph  
satisfiable  
win  
 $K_{2,1,1}$   
induced subgraph  
Wheatstone bridge  
literals  
clause gadget

- c) If two edges  $x$  and  $y$  of  $G$  are replaced by the “XOR gadget”  $x \oplus y$  above, show that  $x = x'$ ,  $y = y'$ , and  $x = \bar{y}$  in every win.
- d) Suppose the clauses of  $F$  are  $\{C_1, \dots, C_m\}$ . Use the gadgets above to construct the desired graph  $G$ , starting with  $\boxed{C_1} - \dots - \boxed{C_m}$ .

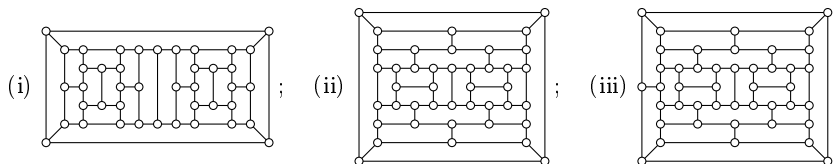
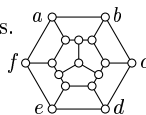
16. [29] What's the smallest connected cubic graph that is *not* Hamiltonian?

18. [M20] True or false: If a planar graph has a Hamiltonian cycle, so does its dual.

- 20. [M30] (T. P. Kirkman, 1856.) Let  $G$  be a planar graph with  $n$  vertices and with exactly  $\alpha_k$   $k$ -sided faces for  $k \geq 3$  (including the unbounded exterior face). For example, the graph of the dodecahedron, Fig. 122, has  $n = 20$  and  $\alpha_k = 12$  [ $k = 5$ ].

- a) If  $G$  is Hamiltonian, prove that integers  $a_k$  exist such that  $0 \leq a_k \leq \alpha_k$  and  $\sum_{k=3}^n (k-2)a_k = n-2$ . (For example, the dodecahedron has  $a_k = 6$  [ $k = 5$ ].)
- b) In a similar way, prove that the dodecahedron has no cycle of length 19.
- c) Furthermore its vertices can't be completely covered by two *disjoint* cycles.
- d) Use (a) to prove that every Hamiltonian cycle in the planar 16-vertex cubic graph  $G$  shown here must include the edges  $a-b$ ,  $c-d$ ,  $e-f$ .
- e) Use (a) to decide whether any of the following graphs are Hamiltonian:

XOR gadget  
gadgets  
planar graph  
dual  
Kirkman  
planar graph  
faces  
dodecahedron  
cycle cover  
benchmarks  
perfectly Hamiltonian  
edge coloring  
cubic graphs  
Tutte gadget  
pentagonal prism  
generalized Petersen graphs

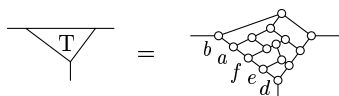


21. [M25] Large graphs that contain no Hamiltonian cycles can often be useful benchmarks. Construct infinitely many cubic planar graphs that fail to satisfy exercise 20(a).

24. [M28] A cubic graph is called *perfectly Hamiltonian* if its edges can be 3-colored in such a way that the edges of any two colors form a Hamiltonian cycle.

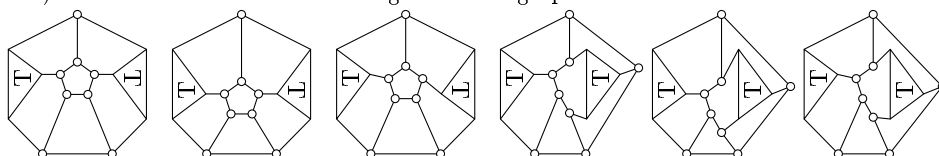
- a) Which of the cubic graphs on 8 vertices are Hamiltonian? Perfectly Hamiltonian?
- b) Prove that a *planar* cubic graph can be perfectly Hamiltonian only if there are nonnegative integers  $(a_k, b_k, c_k, d_k)$  for all  $k \geq 3$  such that  $a_k + b_k + c_k + d_k = \alpha_k$  is the number of  $k$ -faces as in exercise 20(a), and  $\sum_k (k-2)a_k = \sum_k (k-2)b_k = \sum_k (k-2)c_k = \sum_k (k-2)d_k = (n-2)/2$ , where  $n$  is the number of vertices.

27. [M21] The *Tutte gadget* is a useful 15-vertex graph fragment



that can be obtained by removing vertex  $c$  from the 16-vertex graph in exercise 20(d).

- a) Prove that every Hamiltonian path in a graph that contains the gadget must use the edge at the bottom of the T.
- b) Prove that no Hamiltonian path in the pentagonal prism  $GP(5, 1)$ , includes the edges of two nonconsecutive “spokes.”
- c) Therefore none of the following 38-vertex graphs are Hamiltonian:



d) Are any two of those six graphs isomorphic to each other?

30. [20] Each letter in a Græco-Roman icosahedron can be placed three ways within its triangular face, depending on the choice of “bottom edge” (except that  $\Delta$  and  $O$  are symmetric). From this standpoint, the fact that  $\Pi$  and  $Y$  share the *same* bottom edge, in the text’s example from the British Museum, is a bit disconcerting.

Redesign that layout for the 21st century, so that (i) Roman letters  $A, B, \dots, T$  replace the Greek ones; (ii) the bottom edge of a letter’s successor is always the upper left or upper right edge of the current letter; and (iii)  $T$  is adjacent to  $A$ , completing a cycle.

- 33. [M20] Suppose  $G$  is an  $n$ -vertex graph that has  $H$  Hamiltonian cycles and  $h$  Hamiltonian paths that aren’t cycles. (Thus, there are  $H$  sets of  $n$  edges whose union is a cycle, and  $h$  sets of  $n - 1$  edges whose union is a path but not a cycle.) Let  $G' = \{*\} \text{---} G$  be the  $(n + 1)$ -vertex graph obtained from  $G$  by adjoining a new vertex that’s adjacent to all the others. How many Hamiltonian cycles does  $G'$  have?

35. [M25] A close look at (1) shows that al-‘Adlī’s closed tour is traced by a “thread” that weaves alternately over and under itself at each crossing, forming a “knot.”

- Prove that *every* closed knight’s tour can be drawn as such a knot.
- On the other hand, the over-under rule is violated four times in Ibn Manī’s open tour. Prove that every drawing of his tour must necessarily have at least four such exceptions to the rule.

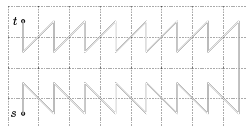
36. [22] Find  $4 \times 8$  knight’s tours that (i) preserve the syllables of Rudraṭa’s sloka, but differ from (2); (ii) preserve the fractured English syllables of (4).

37. [22] How many  $4 \times 8$  knight’s tours are possible?

38. [25] Write a two-verse English poem for Rudraṭa’s  $4 \times 8$  tour, analogous to (6).

40. [25] The variant of Chaturanga played in Rudraṭa’s day used a curious piece called an *elephant* (gaja) instead of a chess bishop. This piece had only five moves: One step forward or one step diagonally, representing the elephant’s trunk and its four legs. For example, an elephant can tour a  $4 \times 8$  board by following the  $(s, t)$ -path illustrated here.

Represent this half-tour with a two-verse poem in English.



- 41. [M32] This exercise classifies all elephant’s tours on an  $m \times n$  board, for  $m, n \geq 2$ .
- Let  $E_{mn}$  be the  $m \times n$  elephant digraph. How many arcs does it have?
  - Does  $E_{mn}$  have a *closed* tour (a Hamiltonian *cycle*), for some values of  $m$  and  $n$ ?
  - The open elephant’s tour in exercise 40 begins at the bottom left corner of  $E_{48}$ . Show that there’s also an open tour that begins at the *top* left corner of  $E_{48}$ .
  - Prove that every elephant’s tour must begin or end in the top row, when  $m > 2$ .
  - Similarly, prove that every such tour must begin or end in the bottom row.
  - Characterize all  $m \times n$  elephant’s tours that begin in the top row.
  - Characterize all  $m \times n$  elephant’s tours that begin in the bottom row.
  - Explain how to compute the number of Hamiltonian paths of  $E_{mn}$  that begin at a given vertex  $s$  and end at a given vertex  $t$ .

42. [30] Find a cycle of elephant moves on the  $8 \times 8$  chessboard that (i) visits all but two of the cells, and (ii) has the fewest “trunk moves” among all such cycles.

44. [18] Using the syllables (7), construct a knight’s tour quatrain that *rhymes*.

46. [19] Draw Someshvara’s tour (8) in the style of (1).

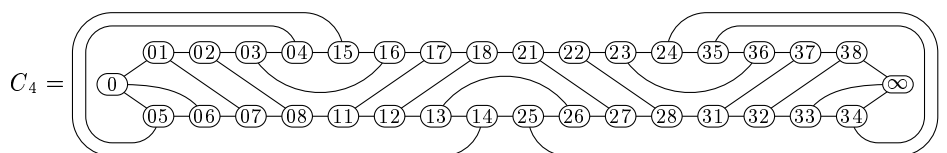
50. [19] The text describes only one scenario for moves 9, 10,  $\dots$ , that might extend the partial tour (10). What other paths are consistent with Warnsdorf’s rule?

isomorphic  
Græco-Roman icosahedron  
British Museum  
Hamiltonian paths that aren’t cycles  
al-‘Adlī  
path diagrams  
weaves  
knot  
alternating knot diagrams  
Ibn Manī  
Rudraṭa  
sloka  
fractured English  
poem  
Chaturanga  
elephant  
( $s, t$ )-path: A path from vertex  $s$  to vertex  $t$ .  
elephant’s tours  
elephant digraph  
trunk moves  
quatrain  
nonsense verse  
Someshvara  
path diagrams  
Warnsdorf’s rule

51. [21] What paths does Algorithm W construct when  $g$  is the graph of knight moves on a  $5 \times 5$  board,  $s$  is cell 00,  $r = 1$ , and  $t_1$  is cell 44 (the corner opposite 00)?
52. [20] What is the behavior of Algorithm W if  $t_i = t_j$  for some  $i \neq j$ ?
- 53. [M21] *Randomize* Algorithm W, by changing step W5 so that each candidate  $u$  is chosen with probability  $1/q$  when there's a  $q$ -way tie for the minimum number of exits. *Hint*: There's a nice way to do this "on the fly" without building a table of candidates.
55. [20] How many of the 63 moves in the historic knight's tour (1) by Ibn Manī' agree with Warnsdorf's rule? Consider also the closed tour of al-'Adlī, with the same opening moves  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ , as well as the open tour of Someshvara in exercise 46.
56. [20] Algorithm W sometimes moves to a "dead end" vertex (from which there's no exit), even though it could prolong the path by making a different choice. Discuss.
- 57. [21] Design an algorithm to compute the tree of all possible paths that might be computed by Algorithm W, given  $g$ ,  $s$ , and  $\{t_1, \dots, t_r\}$ . Also compute, for each path, the probability that it would be obtained by the algorithm of exercise 53.
59. [21] What are the longest and shortest paths obtainable in the  $8 \times 8$  knight graph when the *anti-Warnsdorf* rule is used? (Move always to a cell with the *most* exits.) Compare those results to the behavior of Algorithm W.
60. [22] Study empirically the behavior of Algorithm W on the concentric-ring graphs  $R_q = \text{GP}(2q, 2)$  of exercise 11, for  $6 \leq q \leq 10$ . What is the probability of obtaining (a) a Hamiltonian path? (b) a Hamiltonian cycle, when no target vertex is specified? (c) a Hamiltonian cycle, when there's a single target vertex with  $s \text{ --- } t_1$ ?
62. [16] Prove that Algorithm W always finds a Hamiltonian path when  $g = P_m \square P_n$  is the  $m \times n$  grid graph,  $s = (0, 0)$  is a corner vertex, and  $r = 0$ .
- 63. [M30] Prove that Algorithm W always finds a Hamiltonian path in the special case when  $g = P_2 \square P_2 \square \dots \square P_2$  is an  $n$ -cube and  $r = 0$ .
- 65. [25] Is there a Hamiltonian graph for which Algorithm W always *fails* to find a Hamiltonian path, regardless of the starting point and the ordering of arcs?
70. [11] Show that step F4 sometimes calls ' $\text{update}(u_1, \dots, u_t)$ ', which does nothing.
71. [M20] Euler believed that his method for discovering tours was "safe" and "infallible"; but (16) is a case where it fails to find a cycle. Construct arbitrarily large Hamiltonian graphs for which Algorithm F can in fact get stuck with paths of length 10.
73. [21] Discuss implementing the dictionary of Algorithm F with a hash table based on linked lists. If the entry for each path links to the number of the previous path that belongs to the same list, step F6 can regard all links  $\leq p_2$  as null.
75. [M23] (*One-sided flips*.) Simplify Algorithm F so that it flips subpaths only at the right, and doesn't distinguish between paths and cycles; call the resulting procedure "Algorithm F<sup>-</sup>." (More precisely, Algorithm F<sup>-</sup> never goes to step F5; it omits the second *update* in step F4; and it doesn't put paths into canonical form.)
- Suppose Algorithm F<sup>-</sup> is applied to a Hamiltonian path  $v_1 \text{ --- } \dots \text{ --- } v_n$  in a *cubic* graph  $G$ . Show that it constructs a *cycle* of Hamiltonian paths, each beginning with  $v_1$ , and illustrate this cycle when  $G$  is the 3-cube.
  - Furthermore the number of *cyclic* Hamiltonian paths in that cycle is even.
  - Moreover, the number of Hamiltonian cycles containing any given edge is even.
  - Every cubic Hamiltonian graph therefore has at least three Hamiltonian cycles.
  - Every cubic graph with exactly three Hamiltonian cycles is *perfectly* Hamiltonian.

Randomize  
 Ibn Manī'  
 al-'Adlī  
 Someshvara  
 anti-Warnsdorf  
 $m \times n$  knight graph: The SGB graph *board*( $m$ )  
 concentric-ring graphs  
 generalized Petersen graphs  
 Warnsdorf's rule  
 grid graph  
 $n$ -cube  
 $\text{update}(u_1, \dots, u_t)$   
 Euler  
 hash table  
 linked lists  
 null  
 One-sided flips  
 canonical form  
 lollipop method, see one-sided flips  
*cubic*  
 3-cube  
 perfectly

**77.** [M26] The *Cameron graph*  $C_n$  of order  $n$  is a planar cubic graph on the  $8n + 2$  vertices  $\{ij \mid 0 \leq i < n, 1 \leq j \leq 8\} \cup \{0, \infty\}$  defined by the relations  $i7 — i1 — i2 — i3 — i4 — i5 — i6 — i7 — i8 — i2$ ,  $i3 — (i+1)6$ ,  $i4 — (i+1)5$ , and  $i8 — (i+1)1$  for all integers  $i$ ; replace all vertices  $ij$  for  $i < 0$  by 0, and all  $ij$  for  $i \geq n$  by  $\infty$ . For example,



- Prove that the involution  $ij \leftrightarrow (n-1-i)(9-j)$  is an automorphism of  $C_n$ .
- Prove that  $C_n$  has exactly three Hamiltonian cycles (one of which is the “obvious” cycle  $\alpha_n = 0 — 01 — 02 — 03 — \dots — \infty — \dots — 07 — 06 — 05 — 0$ ).
- Compute the number  $c_n$  of one-sided flips needed to go from  $\alpha_n$  to its mate  $\beta_n$  with respect to  $0 — 01$ , in the sense of answer 75(c), for  $1 \leq n \leq 9$ .
- Surprise! Exactly  $c_{n-2} + 10$  flips go from  $\alpha_n$  to  $\beta_n$  with respect to  $01 — 0$ .
- How many flips go from  $\alpha_n$  to its mate  $\gamma_n$  with respect to (i)  $0 — 05$ ? (ii)  $05 — 0$ ?

**78.** [22] Study empirically the behavior of Algorithm F on the concentric-ring graphs  $R_q = \text{GP}(2q, 2)$  of exercise 11, for  $6 \leq q \leq 10$  and  $q = 100$ . Let  $t = 1$ , and choose  $v_1$  at random; also randomize the order in which a vertex's neighbors are examined. Estimate the probability of obtaining (a) a Hamiltonian path; (b) a Hamiltonian cycle. How many nontrivial calls of *update* are typically needed, before succeeding?

**79.** [M32] (N. Beluhov, 2019.) Say that two Hamiltonian paths or cycles are *equivalent* if they can be transformed into each other by Algorithm F.

- Find a graph with two inequivalent cycles.
- Can a graph have arbitrarily many pairwise inequivalent cycles?

**80.** [M20] For which  $q_1, \dots, q_s, t$  is the graph  $(K_{q_1} \oplus \dots \oplus K_{q_s}) — K_t$  Hamiltonian?

**81.** [M27] (*Forcibly Hamiltonian degrees*.) Sometimes we can conclude that a graph is Hamiltonian just by knowing that it has lots of edges. If  $n > 2$  and the vertices of  $G$  have respective degrees  $d_1 \leq d_2 \leq \dots \leq d_n$ , we shall prove that  $G$  is Hamiltonian whenever

$$1 \leq k < n/2 \text{ and } d_k \leq k \text{ implies } d_{n-k} \geq n - k. \quad (*)$$

- If  $G$  satisfies  $(*)$  and has  $m < \binom{n}{2}$  edges, so that  $G$  is not the complete graph  $K_n$ , prove that  $G$  contains two nonadjacent vertices  $\{u, v\}$  with  $\deg(u) + \deg(v) \geq n$ .
- Continuing (a), let  $G_0 = G$ ; and let  $G_{k+1} = G_k \cup \{u_k — v_k\}$ , where  $u_k \not\sim v_k$  and  $\deg(u_k) + \deg(v_k) \geq n$  in  $G_k$ , for  $0 \leq k < \binom{n}{2} - m$ . Explain how to construct a Hamiltonian cycle in  $G_k$ , given a Hamiltonian cycle in  $G_{k+1}$ . (Since  $G_{\binom{n}{2}-m} = K_n$  is Hamiltonian, so too is  $G_0$ .) *Hint:* Use flips as in Algorithm F.

**82.** [M25] If condition  $(*)$  fails in  $G$  for at least one value of  $k$ , show that there's a non-Hamiltonian graph  $G'$  whose degree sequence  $d'_1 \leq d'_2 \leq \dots \leq d'_n$  satisfies  $d_1 \leq d'_1$ ,  $d_2 \leq d'_2$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $d_n \leq d'_n$ . (In this sense exercise 81 is the best possible result of its kind.)

**83.** [M30] (C. S. A. Nash-Williams.) Let  $G$  be an  $r$ -regular graph with  $2r + 1$  vertices.

- Prove that  $r$  is even.
- Prove that  $G$  has a Hamiltonian path  $u_0 — u_1 — \dots — u_{2r}$ .
- If  $G$  isn't Hamiltonian, show that  $u_0 — u_j \iff u_{j-1} \not\sim u_{2r}$ , for  $1 < j < 2r$ .
- If  $G$  isn't Hamiltonian, show that it has a cycle  $v_1 — v_2 — \dots — v_{2r} — v_1$ .
- Conclude that  $G$  is Hamiltonian. *Hint:* Suppose  $v_0 — v_j \iff j$  is odd.

Cameron graph  
planar cubic graph  
involution: perm of order 2  
flips  
mate  
concentric-ring graphs  
generalized Petersen graphs  
Beluhov  
equivalent  
Forcibly Hamiltonian degrees  
degree seq of graph  
complete graph  
flips  
degree sequence  
Nash-Williams  
 $r$ -regular

**84.** [M28] What's the smallest number of edges for which condition (\*) in exercise 81 forces an  $n$ -vertex graph to be Hamiltonian?

**85.** [HM21] (P. Erdős, 1962.) Let  $f(n, k) = \binom{n-k}{2} + k^2$ , and  $g(n, k) = \max(f(n, k), f(n, \lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor))$ . Prove that if  $1 \leq k < n/2$ , there's a non-Hamiltonian graph with  $g(n, k)$  edges and  $n$  vertices, where every vertex has degree  $\geq k$ . But every such graph with *more* than  $g(n, k)$  edges is Hamiltonian. *Hint:* When is  $f(n, k) \geq f(n, k+1)$ ?

► **86.** [HM25] A graph is called *traceable* if it has a Hamiltonian path. Continuing exercise 85, determine the largest possible number of edges in a nontraceable  $n$ -vertex graph for which the degree of every vertex is  $k$  or more. *Hint:* Let the function  $f(n, k) = \binom{n-1-k}{2} + k(k+1)$  play the role of  $f(n, k)$  in that exercise.

**88.** [M27] The *length* of a graph is the number of edges in its longest path. (For example, the  $4 \times 4$  knight graph has length 14.)

- Let  $G$  be a connected graph whose  $n$  vertices each have degree  $k$  or more, where  $k < n/2$ . Prove constructively that the length of  $G$  is at least  $2k$ .
- Prove that an  $n$ -vertex graph of length  $l$  has at most  $nl/2$  edges.
- Exhibit an  $n$ -vertex graph of length  $l$  and at least  $nl/2 - (l+1)^2/8$  edges.

► **89.** [M31] The *circumference* of a graph is the number of edges in its longest cycle. (For example, the  $4 \times 4$  knight graph has circumference 14.)

- Let  $G$  be a biconnected graph whose  $n$  vertices each have degree  $k$  or more, where  $1 < k \leq n/2$ . Prove constructively that the circumference of  $G$  is at least  $2k$ .
- Prove that an  $n$ -vertex graph of circumference  $c$  has at most  $(n-1)c/2$  edges.
- If  $c > 2$ , exhibit an  $n$ -vertex graph of circumference  $c$  and  $\geq nc/2 - (c+1)^2/8$  edges.

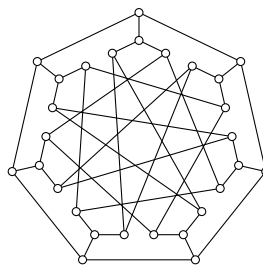
**90.** [16] True or false: The length of  $G$  is two less than the circumference of  $K_1 \text{ --- } G$ .

**93.** [M25] (J. W. Moon, 1965.) A graph that has a Hamiltonian path between every pair of vertices  $u \neq v$  is called *Hamiltonian-connected*.

- True or false: Every vertex of a Hamiltonian-connected graph has degree  $\geq 3$ .
- Construct a Hamiltonian-connected graph on  $n \geq 4$  vertices that has the smallest possible number of edges (for example, 8 edges when  $n = 5$ ; 9 edges when  $n = 6$ ).

► **95.** [M28] The *Coxeter graph* is a remarkable cubic graph whose 28 vertices  $\{a_j, b_j, c_j, d_j \mid 0 \leq j < 7\}$  are connected by the edges  $a_j \text{ --- } d_j$ ,  $b_j \text{ --- } d_j$ ,  $c_j \text{ --- } d_j$ ,  $a_j \text{ --- } a_{j+1}$ ,  $b_j \text{ --- } b_{j+2}$ ,  $c_j \text{ --- } c_{j+3}$ , for  $0 \leq j < 7$ . (All subscripts are treated modulo 7. Vertices  $a_0, \dots, a_6$  form the “outer ring” of the illustration.)

- Determine its automorphisms, by finding a Sims table as in Section 7.2.1.2. (Use the ordering  $(a_6, b_6, c_6, d_6, \dots, a_0, b_0, c_0, d_0)$ ; thus, for example, the permutations of  $S_{n-2} = S_{26}$  will fix the final vertex  $d_0$ .) *Hint:* There will be a surprise!
- Show that it is a *vertex-transitive graph*: Given any vertices  $v$  and  $v'$ , there's an automorphism that takes  $v \mapsto v'$ . (“All vertices are alike.”)
- Show that it's also an *edge-transitive graph*: Given any edges  $u \text{ --- } v$  and  $u' \text{ --- } v'$ , there's an automorphism that takes  $\{u, v\}$  into  $\{u', v'\}$ . (“All edges are alike.”)
- Furthermore, it's a *hypohamiltonian graph*: It has no Hamiltonian cycle, yet it does become Hamiltonian when any vertex is removed.



► **100.** [HM30] Analyze the cycle covers of the flower snark graph  $J_q$ , for  $q > 2$  (see exercise 7.2.2.2–176). How many of them have exactly  $k$  cycles?

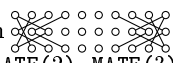
► **103.** [M25] If a graph  $G$  has a Hamiltonian cycle  $H$ , show that there's a very easy way to test whether or not  $G$  is planar. *Hint:* See Algorithm 7B.

Erdős  
traceable  
nontraceable  
length  
knight graph  
circumference  
biconnected graph  
Moon  
Hamiltonian-connected  
Coxeter graph  
cubic graph  
automorphisms  
Sims table  
vertex-transitive graph  
edge-transitive graph  
hypohamiltonian graph  
cycle covers  
flower snark graph  
planar

**105.** [M18] Exactly how many Hamiltonian cycles are present in (a) the complete graph  $K_n$ ? (b) the complete bipartite graph  $K_{m,n}$ ?

**106.** [M26] Continuing exercise 105, enumerate the Hamiltonian cycles of  $K_{l,m,n}$ .

- **108.** [24] According to the discussion in the text, every Hamiltonian cycle that contains edge  $\frac{02}{21}$  of the  $3 \times 10$  knight graph also contains the edge  $\frac{01}{13}$ .
- Given those edges, show that either  $\frac{07}{28}$  or  $\frac{16}{28}$  must be chosen.
  - And if that choice is  $\frac{16}{28}$ , another edge is forced.
  - Continuing (b), show that edge  $\frac{03}{22}$  leads to a contradiction.
  - Continuing (c), consider the consequences of now choosing  $\frac{03}{15}$ .

**109.** [15] After Algorithm H deduces the starting pattern  for the  $3 \times 10$  knight graph, what are the values of  $\text{MATE}(0)$ ,  $\text{MATE}(1)$ ,  $\text{MATE}(2)$ ,  $\text{MATE}(3)$ ,  $\text{MATE}(4)$ ?

**111.** [23] How much space should be allocated for the arrays **TRIG**, **ACTIVE**, and **SAVE** in Algorithm H so that no memory bounds will be exceeded?

- **112.** [26] Exactly what changes to the data structures should be made in step H8 of Algorithm H when we have (a)  $\text{MATE}(u) < 0$  and  $\text{MATE}(w) < 0$ ? (b)  $\text{MATE}(u) < 0$  and  $\text{MATE}(w) \geq 0$ ? (c)  $\text{MATE}(u) \geq 0$  and  $\text{MATE}(w) < 0$ ? (d)  $\text{MATE}(u) \geq 0$  and  $\text{MATE}(w) \geq 0$ ?

**113.** [20] Design an algorithm to “unscramble” the cycle defined by arrays **EU** and **EV** in step H13: It should find a permutation such that  $v_1 - v_2 - \dots - v_n - v_1$ .

**115.** [M23] Describe the search tree of Algorithm H when  $G$  is the complete graph  $K_n$ .

**116.** [20] Find a Hamiltonian cycle in the graph *binary*(4, 4, 0) (see Table 7.2.1.6–3).

**117.** [M22] (V. Chvátal, 1973.) The *toughness*  $t(G)$  of graph  $G$  is  $\min |U|/k(G \setminus U)$ , where the minimum is taken over all sets of vertices  $U$  such that  $G \setminus U$  is disconnected, and  $k$  denotes the number of components. (If  $G$  is the complete graph  $K_n$ , no set  $U$  disconnects it, and we have  $t(K_n) = \infty$ .) We say that  $G$  is “tough” if  $t(G) \geq 1$ .

- True or false:  $t(G) = 0$  if and only if  $G$  isn't connected.
- Show that  $t(G \setminus e) \leq t(G)$  for all edges  $e$ .
- Prove that every Hamiltonian graph is tough.
- Evaluate  $t(K_{m,n})$  when  $m \leq n$ .
- What's  $t(G)$  when  $G$  is the Petersen graph (which isn't Hamiltonian)?

**118.** [M27] Continuing exercise 117, determine  $t(K_m \square K_n)$ , when  $m, n > 1$ .

**119.** [M24] Read the SGB source code of *raman* and explain the edges of graph  $E$ .

**120.** [M27] Let  $G_0$  be the graph with vertices  $\{i, j, k, u, v, w, x, y, z, U, V, W, X, Y, Z\}$  and the following 24 edges:  $i - j - k - i$ ;  $u - i - U$ ,  $v - j - V$ ,  $w - k - W$ ;  $u - U - x - X - v - V - y - Y - w - W - z - Z - u$ ;  $x - Y$ ,  $y - Z$ ,  $z - X$ .

- Prove that  $G_0$  has twelve automorphisms and exactly two Hamiltonian cycles.
- Let  $(p_1, p_2, p_3) = (i, j, k)$ ;  $(q_1, q_2, q_3) = (u, v, w)$ ;  $(Q_1, Q_2, Q_3) = (U, V, W)$ ; and  $(P_1, P_2, P_3) = (Z, X, Y)$ . For  $1 \leq t \leq 3$ , let  $G_0^{(t)}$  be a copy of  $G_0$  with vertices  $i^{(t)}, \dots, Z^{(t)}$ . Obtain graph  $G_t$  by appending  $G_0^{(t)}$  to  $G_{t-1}$  and then doing this: (i) remove vertex  $q_t$ ; (ii) remove the edges  $q_t - Q_t$  and  $x^{(t)} - X^{(t)}$ ; (iii) replace the edges  $p_t - q_t$  and  $P_t - q_t$  by  $p_t - x^{(t)}$  and  $P_t - X^{(t)}$ ; (iv) add edges from  $Q_t$  to all the vertices of  $G_0^{(t)}$  except  $i^{(t)}, j^{(t)}, k^{(t)}$ . (Graph  $G_t$  therefore has  $15 + 14t$  vertices and  $24 + 34t$  edges.) Prove that  $G_t$  has exactly two Hamiltonian cycles.

complete graph

$K_n$

complete bipartite graph

$K_{m,n}$

$K_{l,m,n}$

tripartite graph, complete

$3 \times 10$  knight graph

**MATE**

**TRIG**

**ACTIVE**

**SAVE**

memory bounds

unscramble

complete graph  $K_n$

*binary*

Chvátal

toughness

disconnected

cutsets: sets of vertices that disconnect a graph

components

complete graph

$K_n$

$K_{m,n}$

Petersen graph

rook graph  $K_m \square K_n$

SGB

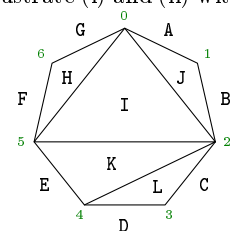
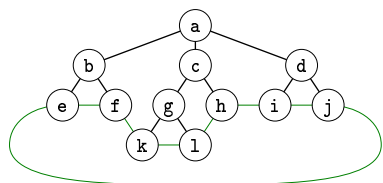
*raman*

automorphisms



- **122.** [M27] A *Halin graph* can be defined in two complementary ways: (i) Let  $T$  be a tree in which no node has degree 1, and the root has degree  $\geq 3$ . Let the leaves of  $T$  be  $x_0x_1 \dots x_{q-1}$  in preorder, and let  $C$  be the cycle  $x_0 \text{---} x_1 \text{---} \dots \text{---} x_{q-1} \text{---} x_0$ . Then  $H = T \cup C$  is a Halin graph. (ii) Let  $C$  be a regular  $q$ -gon with vertices  $0, 1, \dots, q-1$ . Let  $\{i_1 \text{---} j_1, \dots, i_t \text{---} j_t\}$  be nonintersecting chords of  $C$ ; they partition the interior of  $C$  into  $t+1$  regions. Let  $H$  be the graph of order  $q+t+1$  whose vertices are the sides of  $C$ , together with those regions. Two sides are adjacent in  $H$  if they are consecutive; a region is adjacent to the sides on its boundary and to the regions with which it shares a boundary. Then  $H$  is a Halin graph. Notice that, under either definition, a Halin graph must be planar, and each of its vertices must have degree 3 or more.

For example, here are structures that respectively illustrate (i) and (ii) with  $q = 7$ :



- Prove that the corresponding graphs are isomorphic, by finding a correspondence between vertices  $\{a, b, \dots, l\}$  and vertices  $\{A, B, \dots, L\}$  that preserves adjacency.
- If  $H$  satisfies definition (i), prove that it also satisfies definition (ii).
- If  $H$  satisfies definition (ii), prove that it also satisfies definition (i).

**123.** [M30] How many nonisomorphic Halin graphs have  $n$  vertices, for  $n \leq 1000$ ?

**124.** [M25] A graph is *uniformly Hamiltonian* if, for every edge  $e$ , it contains a Hamiltonian cycle  $C^+$  with  $e \in C^+$  as well as a Hamiltonian cycle  $C^-$  with  $e \notin C^-$ . Prove that every Halin graph is uniformly Hamiltonian.

**125.** [20] Use the decimal digits  $(\pi_0.\pi_1\pi_2\dots)_{10}$  of  $\pi$  to define  $t$  nonintersecting chords  $(i_1 \text{---} j_1, \dots, i_t \text{---} j_t)$  of a regular 100-gon for  $0 \leq t < 98$ , by letting  $i_k = \pi_{4r}\pi_{4r+1}$  and  $j_k = \pi_{4r+2}\pi_{4r+3}$ , where  $r$  is as small as possible with respect to previous chords. For example, the sequence begins  $(31 \text{---} 41, 59 \text{---} 26, 53 \text{---} 58, 97 \text{---} 93, 23 \text{---} 84, 62 \text{---} 64, \dots)$ ; the next chord cannot be  $33 \text{---} 83$ , because that one overlaps  $31 \text{---} 41$ . These chords define Halin graphs  $H_\pi^{(t)}$  with  $101 + t$  vertices, by exercise 122.

What is the final chord,  $i_{97} \text{---} j_{97}$ ?

**127.** [20] There's obviously no Hamiltonian path in the graph 7.1.4-(133) from ME to any of the other states of New England (NH, VT, MA, CT, RI), because NY is an articulation point. Is there a Hamiltonian path from ME to every *other* state?

- **128.** [20] Which of the 14 benchmark graphs in Table 1 are planar?
- **129.** [24] The MRV heuristic used in step H11 to choose a vertex for branching prefers small degree  $d$ , because the search tree has a  $d$ -way branch. On the other hand, one can argue that large  $d$  is actually good, because step H12 removes  $d$  edges—and that might force a contradiction, or it might cause more vertices to become clothed.

Experiment with a modified step H11, which *maximizes*  $d$  in cases where  $d < 2$  is impossible, by testing the modified algorithm on the benchmarks of Table 1.

**130.** [20] At the beginning of step H11, define the “current graph”  $G'$  to be the graph whose vertices are the currently visible vertices, and whose edges are (i) the edges of  $G$  that haven't been deleted, and (ii) the edges  $v \text{---} \text{MATE}(v)$  for all outer vertices  $v$ . Prove that we could safely jump to step H14 if  $G'$  isn't Hamiltonian.

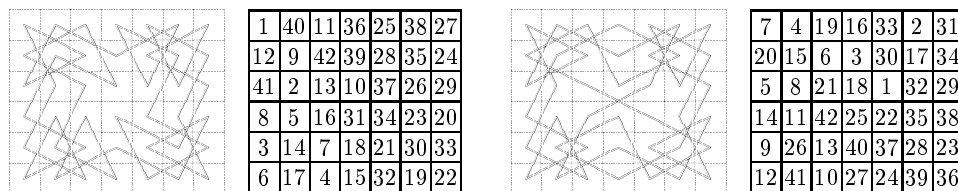
Halin graph  
preorder  
regular  $q$ -gon  
nonintersecting chords  
chords  
planar  
isomorphic  
uniformly Hamiltonian  
Hamiltonian, uniformly  
nonintersecting chords  
pi, as random source  
regular 100-gon  
Halin graphs  
Hamiltonian path  
articulation point  
planar  
MRV heuristic  
branching  
benchmarks  
current graph  
visible vertices

**133.** [M20] Can a knight's cycle on an  $n \times n$  board have diagonal symmetry?

**134.** [M20] Continuing exercise 133, show that a knight's cycle on an  $m \times n$  board can have vertical symmetry only if  $m/2$  and  $n$  are odd. (We require  $(i, j) \text{---} (i', j')$  to be an edge of the cycle if and only if  $(m-1-i, j) \text{---} (m-1-i', j')$  is also an edge.)

**135.** [22] Given  $m$  and  $n$ , with  $m/2$  and  $n$  odd, construct a graph whose Hamiltonian cycles correspond to the vertically symmetric  $m \times n$  knight's cycles.

► **136.** [23] Centrally symmetric  $m \times n$  knight's cycles can be surprisingly subtle:



On the left, the symmetry shows up because the step numbers of opposite cells always differ by 21:  $|1 - 22| = |40 - 19| = |11 - 32| = \dots = |29 - 8| = 21$ . (This  $6 \times 7$  tour begins in one corner, travels to the opposite corner in 21 steps, then repeats its motions—but rotated  $180^\circ$ .) The symmetry on the right, however, is quite different, although most of the edges are the same: The step numbers of opposite cells now *sum* to 43:  $7 + 36 = 4 + 39 = 19 + 24 = \dots = 29 + 14 = 43$ . (It has to be seen to be believed!) After the right-hand tour has gone halfway, it moves *backwards* over the paired cells.

Given  $m$  and  $n$ , with  $m$  even and  $n$  odd, construct a graph whose Hamiltonian cycles correspond to the centrally symmetric  $m \times n$  knight's cycles. *Hint:* See exercise 135.

► **137.** [28] Continuing exercise 136, show that centrally symmetric  $m \times n$  knight's cycles are even *more* subtle when  $m$  and  $n$  are both even. How can all of them be found, with the help of a suitable graph  $G$ ? Explore the case  $m = n = 8$  in detail.

**138.** [24] Use the results of exercises 134–137 to compute the exact number of symmetrical  $m \times n$  knight's cycles, when  $m \bmod 4 = 2$ ,  $n$  is odd, and  $mn < 100$ .

**139.** [21] Find all the  $10 \times 10$  giraffe tours that are symmetric under  $90^\circ$  rotation.

**141.** [16] Exactly how many  $8 \times 8$  arrays like (g) define a closed knight's tour?

**142.** [M22] If  $C$  is a closed knight's tour in bunch  $\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4$ , what bunch contains (a)  $C$ 's top-bottom reflection? (b)  $C$ 's left-right reflection? (c)  $C$ 's transpose?

**143.** [16] What bunch contains the closed knight's tour formed from Ratnākara's half-tour (2)? What is its canonical bunch?

**144.** [12] True or false: **abAB** is a canonical bunch of multiplicity 4.

**145.** [15] Why can't 'a' appear in the name of a closed knight's tour's bunch?

**146.** [20] List all canonical bunches whose multiplicity is 2.

**148.** [M21] Use "Burnside's Lemma" to determine the number of canonical bunches.

► **149.** [25] Explain how to visit every closed *giraffe's tour* on a  $10 \times 10$  board.

**151.** [25] The knight's census described in the text is based on the wedges formed at cells  $\{33, 34, 43, 44\}$  of an  $8 \times 8$  board, where  $ij$  denotes the cell in row  $i$  and column  $j$  for  $0 \leq i, j < 8$ . Explain how to carry out a similar census, based instead on the wedges formed at  $\{03, 04, 30, 37, 40, 47, 73, 74\}$ .

► **152.** [25] Do exercise 151, but with the wedges formed at  $\{12, 15, 21, 26, 51, 56, 62, 65\}$ .

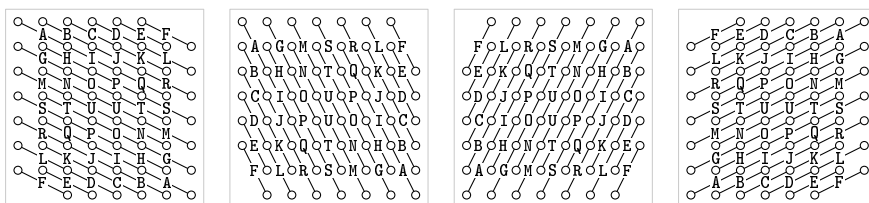
diagonal symmetry  
vertical symmetry  
axial symmetry  
Centrally symmetric  
giraffe tours  
symmetric under  $90^\circ$  rotation  
path diagrams  
knight's tour  
bunch  
top-bottom reflection  
left-right reflection  
transpose  
Ratnākara  
canonical bunch  
bunch  
Burnside's Lemma  
canonical bunches  
giraffe's tour

**154.** [19] To which of the thirteen topological types in Fig. 124 does al-'Adli's classic tour (1) belong? *Hint:* See (g).

**155.** [25] The classification of knight's cycles in Fig. 124 applies only to square boards. Show that additional topological types arise on  $m \times n$  boards when  $m < n$ .

**156.** [24] Compute the exact numbers of  $8 \times 8$  knight's cycles of each type in Fig. 124.

- **157.** [24] The set of all knight moves on a chessboard—that is, the set of all edges on the  $8 \times 8$  knight graph—is partitioned into 21 equivalence classes of size 8, when we say that two edges are equivalent if rotation and/or reflection takes one into the other. Each move can therefore be given a label from A to U, indicating its class:



Use a census to determine how many  $8 \times 8$  knight's cycles (a) have at least one move of each class; (b) have at least two moves of each class; (c) have all eight of the moves in six different classes. (Every cycle contains all eight of the class A moves.)

- **158.** [29] (G. P. Jelliss, 1976.) According to Fig. 123, six different angles  $\{\theta, 90^\circ - \theta, 90^\circ, 90^\circ + \theta, 180^\circ - \theta, 180^\circ\}$  can occur in a wedge. For every such angle  $\alpha$ , determine the maximum and minimum number of times  $\alpha$  can occur among the 64 moves of a closed knight's tour. Determine also the maximum and minimum *sum* of all 64 angles. Furthermore, discover exactly how many tours achieve those maxima and minima.

**159.** [40] Every knight's move "tarnishes" the two cells that it jumps over, by invading their space. A corner cell cannot be tarnished; and the other 24 cells on the border of a chessboard can be tarnished at most twice. The 36 interior cells can each be tarnished at most seven times (not eight!).

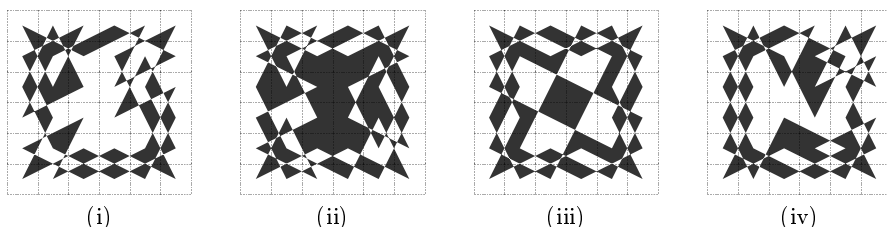
Use a census to discover as many interesting facts as you can about the multisets of 128 tarnishments that can arise in closed tours.

**160.** [29] Knight moves can intersect each other in essentially four ways: (i) perpendicular, '⊥'; (ii) 1:3 cuts, '⋈'; (iii) 1:2 cuts, '⋈'; and (iv) 1:1 cuts, '⋈', also called X cuts. Perpendicular cuts are asymmetrical, with one arm having a cut ratio of 3:2 while the ratio in the other is 1:4. The other types are symmetrical, having the stated cut ratios; the angles at the crossing point are  $\theta$  and  $180^\circ - \theta$  for (iii), but  $90^\circ \pm \theta$  for (ii) and (iv). Notice that every knight move has exactly one mate, with which it makes an ⋈. The author once conjectured, in *FGbook* page 502, that Fig. A-19(f) may be the only knight's cycle with the astonishing property that 60 of its 64 moves form an ⋈ with their mates!

What interesting facts about intersections can you turn up?

topological types  
al-'Adli  
knight graph  
equivalence classes  
rotation and/or reflection  
census  
diverse knight's tours  
Jelliss  
angles of a knight move  
tarnished  
1:3 cuts  
1:2 cuts  
Perpendicular cuts  
author

- **163.** [40] Closed tours can also be depicted by *changing color* when the path is crossed:



harlequinesque patterns  
eofill  
even-odd filling  
winding number  
swept area  
swept area  
1-configs  
 $m$ -configs  
Hamilton's graph  
dodecahedron graph  
Hamiltonian path

In such harlequinesque patterns, we cross the knight's path an odd number of times when we travel from a shaded region to the edge of the board. (Graphic designers know this as the “eofill” operation, short for “even-odd filling.”)

Examples (i) and (ii) are the  $6 \times 6$  tours with minimum and maximum shaded area,  $\frac{547}{60} \approx 9.11667$  and  $\frac{303}{20} = 15.15$ , out of the total conceivable area of  $5 \times 5 = 25$ . (The extremal tours that achieve those limits are in fact unique, up to symmetry.)

Suppose  $C$  is an oriented cycle that divides the plane into regions when it crosses itself. The *winding number* of a point  $p$  with respect to  $C$ , when  $p \notin C$ , is the net number of times by which  $C$  encircles  $p$  in the counterclockwise direction. All points of a region have the same winding number. The shaded area of  $C$  is the sum of the areas of regions whose winding number is odd.

The *swept area* of  $C$  is the integral of the winding number over all  $p \notin C$ ; equivalently, it's the sum, over all regions, of the area of that region times the winding number of that region. Example (iii) is a cycle whose regions have winding numbers  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  (or  $\{0, -1, -2, -3, -4, -5\}$ , depending on which way we traverse that cycle). It's the unique cycle whose swept area achieves the maximum value (namely 61); its shaded area is  $\frac{181}{15} \approx 12.067$ . On the other hand, the cycle in example (iv) has a swept area of zero. (Its regions have winding numbers  $\{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$ .) Among all  $8 \cdot 13$  such cycles, it uniquely has the smallest shaded area:  $\frac{32}{3} \approx 10.667$ .

Use a census to explore these aspects of  $8 \times 8$  knight's cycles. How large and small can the shaded area be? What is the maximum swept area? How many of the 49 internal corner points can have winding number zero? And so on.

**164.** [M30] Prove that the swept area  $A$  of an  $m \times n$  knight's cycle is always an integer, and it can be computed in at least two ways:

- $A$  is the sum of the winding numbers at the  $(m-1)(n-1)$  internal corner points.
- $A = \frac{1}{2}(i_0j_1 - i_1j_0 + i_1j_2 - i_2j_1 + \cdots + i_{mn-1}j_{mn} - i_{mn}j_{mn-1})$ , when the tour is  $(i_0, j_0) \longrightarrow (i_1, j_1) \longrightarrow \cdots \longrightarrow (i_{mn}, j_{mn}) = (i_0, j_0)$ .

**170.** [10] How many 1-configs does a graph have?

**171.** [M15] Describe the  $(n-1)$ -configs of an  $n$ -vertex graph.

**172.** [20] What 14-configs of Hamilton's graph (27) belong to class 11100?

**173.** [20] According to the text, Algorithm D discovers that the dodecahedron graph (27) has exactly 32 16-configs, which belong to six equivalence classes ( $\bar{1}101, \bar{1}11\bar{1}, 0110, 1001, 101\bar{1}, 1212$ ) of respective sizes (4, 6, 2, 6, 4, 10).

What then are the equivalence classes of the 17-configs?

- **270.** [22] If  $G$  is a digraph on  $n$  vertices, define  $\hat{G}$  by adding two vertices  $s$  and  $t$ , with  $2n$  additional arcs  $s \longrightarrow v$  and  $v \longrightarrow t$  for all  $v$  in  $G$ ; also  $t \longrightarrow s$ .

- Show that  $G$  has a Hamiltonian path if and only if  $\hat{G}$  has a Hamiltonian cycle.
- Prove that if  $G$  has no cycles, it has at most one Hamiltonian path.

c) True or false: Algorithm B will handle  $\widehat{G}$  in linear time when  $G$  is acyclic.

**271.** [M25] If  $G$  is a digraph with  $m$  arcs,  $n$  vertices, and  $p$  cycles, show that we need at most  $O(n^p(m+n))$  steps to test whether or not  $G$  has a Hamiltonian path.

**298.** [20] Given a bipartite graph  $G$  with  $n$  vertices in each part, construct an exact cover problem with  $3n$  primary items  $u^-, u^+, v$ : two for each vertex  $u$  in the first part, and one for each vertex  $v$  in the second part. Let the options be ' $u^- v w^+$ ', for all triples with  $u-v-w$  and  $u \neq w$ .

a) What do the solutions to this exact cover problem represent?

b) Experiment with this construction when  $G$  is the  $6 \times 6$  knight graph.

► **299.** [27] How many  $8 \times 8$  closed knight's tours have the property that moves  $k$  and  $32+k$  occupy the same column, for  $1 \leq k \leq 32$ ? *Hint:* Define an exact cover problem.

**300.** [24] Find a knight's tour whose step matrix has

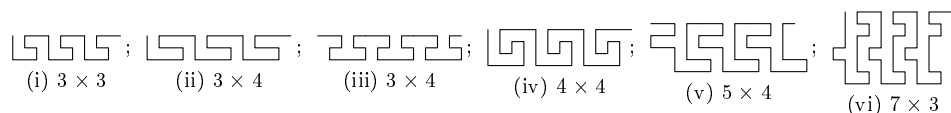
$$a_{11} = 1, a_{16} = 16, a_{32} = 64, a_{52} = 32, a_{71} = 33, a_{83} = 34,$$

and such that  $1 \leq a_{ij} \leq 18$  implies  $a_{(9-i)(9-j)} = 50 - a_{ij}$ . (The latter condition means that moves 1, 2, ..., 18 are rotated  $180^\circ$  from moves 49, 48, ..., 32.)

► **301.** [24] (G. E. Carpenter, 1881.) Find a knight's tour for which the top row of the step matrix is '1 4 9 16 25 36 49 64'.

► **350.** [M27] Exactly how many Hamiltonian cycles are possible in the *Sierpiński gasket graph*  $S_n^{(3)}$ ? (See Fig. 113, near 7.2.2.3–(6g).) *Hint:* There is a fairly simple formula.

► **360.** [25] An  $m \times n$  *meander frieze* is a Hamiltonian cycle of  $P_m \square C_n$  that isn't also a Hamiltonian cycle of  $P_m \square P_n$ . For example, a few of the possibilities are



(Such friezes were often used as ornamentation on Greek vases of the "late Geometric" period, c. 750 B.C. For example, the famous Dipylon Amphora was decorated in part with the unusual frieze (vi) and several copies of (i) and (v).)

a) The *margins* of a meander frieze are the sequences  $v_1 \dots v_{m-1}$  and  $h_1 \dots h_n$ , where there are  $v_i$  edges between rows  $i-1$  and  $i$  and  $h_j$  edges between columns  $j-1$  and  $j$ . For example, the margins of (iv) are  $v_1 v_2 v_3 = 242$  and  $h_1 h_2 h_3 h_4 = 1331$ . True or false:  $v_i$  is always even and  $h_j$  is always odd.

b) Prove that no  $m \times n$  meander frieze has  $m$  even and  $n$  odd.

c) A meander frieze is *reduced* if it doesn't have  $v_i = v_{i+1} = n$  or  $h_j = h_{j+1} = m$  for any  $i$  or  $j$ . (For example, (ii) reduces to (i) because it has  $h_2 = h_3 = 3$ .) Find an example of an unreduced frieze for which  $v_2 = v_3 = n$ .

d) Draw all the meander friezes with  $m \leq 8$  and  $n = 3$ . Are any of them symmetric?

e) An  $m \times n$  meander frieze is *periodic* if it's the same as  $d$  copies of an  $m \times (n/d)$  meander frieze, for some proper divisor of  $n$ . Draw all of the nonperiodic, reduced meander friezes with  $m = 3$  and  $n \leq 8$ . Which of them are symmetric?

f) How many automorphisms does the graph  $P_m \square C_n$  have, when  $m, n \geq 3$ ?

g) Count the nonisomorphic, nonperiodic, reduced meander friezes with  $3 \leq m, n \leq 7$ .

h) How many of the friezes in (g) are symmetrical?

i) Draw all of the friezes in (g) that have fourfold symmetry.

**361.** [M21] Describe the nonisomorphic Hamiltonian cycles of the torus  $C_3 \square C_4$ .

bipartite  
exact cover problem  
knight graph  
step matrix  
rotated  $180^\circ$   
near symmetry  
Carpenter  
Sierpiński gasket graph  
meander frieze  
frieze  
Greek vases  
vases  
Geometric  
Dipylon Amphora  
margins  
parity  
reduced  
symmetric  
periodic  
automorphisms  
fourfold symmetry  
torus

**370.** [M30] The *Grabarchuk graph* is the graph on  $4^3 = 64$  vertices  $xyz$ ,  $0 \leq x, y, z < 4$ , where  $xyz \text{ --- } x'y'z' \iff$  the Euclidean distance between  $(x, y, z)$  and  $(x', y', z')$  is 3.

- a) Prove that the Grabarchuk graph is bipartite, and regular of degree 6.
- b) What are its symmetries (automorphisms)?
- c) Find three Hamiltonian cycles that, together, contain all of its edges.

**999.** [M00] this is a temporary exercise (for dummies)

Grabarchuk graph  
 Euclidean distance  
 unit-distance graph, 3D  
 bipartite  
 regular  
 automorphisms  
 Hamiltonian decomposition

*After [this] way of Solving Questions, a man may steale a Nappe,  
and fall to worke again afresh where he left off.*

— JOHN AUBREY, *An Idea of Education of Young Gentlemen* (c. 1684)

AUBREY  
Rote  
inscribed cubes and tetrahedra  
Brückner  
historical notes  
Kowalewski  
Du Val  
threefold symmetries  
stereographic projection  
sphere

### SECTION 7.2.2.4

1. Established conventions promote communication, so they outweigh convenience. [And we could save even more syllables by saying “HC” and “HP.” Many authors now save two syllables by saying just “Hamilton.”]

2. True (except in the trivial case where  $G$  has a single vertex). In fact, the number of Hamiltonian paths in  $G$  is the number of Hamiltonian cycles in  $G'$ ; the number of Hamiltonian paths between  $u$  and  $v \neq u$  in  $G$  is the number of Hamiltonian cycles in  $G'$  that include the edges by which  $u$  and  $v$  are joined to the new vertex.

3. The 12 vertices of Fig. 121(a) are named  $ij$  for  $i \neq j$  and  $1 \leq i, j \leq 4$ . We define  $12 \text{ --- } 23$ ,  $12 \text{ --- } 24$ , and  $12 \text{ --- } 43$ . If  $ij \text{ --- } i'j'$  then  $ji \text{ --- } j'i'$  and  $(i\alpha)(j\alpha) \text{ --- } (i'\alpha)(j'\alpha)$ , where  $\alpha$  is any even permutation of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . These rules define all of the edges.

The 20 vertices of Fig. 121(b) are named  $ij$  for  $i \neq j$  and  $1 \leq i, j \leq 5$ . We define  $12 \text{ --- } 35$ ,  $12 \text{ --- } 43$ , and  $13 \text{ --- } 24$ . If  $ij \text{ --- } i'j'$  then  $ji \text{ --- } j'i'$  and  $(i\sigma)(j\sigma) \text{ --- } (i'\sigma)(j'\sigma)$ , where  $\sigma$  is the permutation (12345). These rules define all of the edges.

We can get from the dodecahedron graph of Fig. 121(b) to the icosahedron graph of Fig. 121(a) by first removing the eight vertices whose label includes ‘5’. Each of the twelve vertices that remain can then be joined to its five nearest neighbors, which were at distance  $\leq 2$  in the original graph. (This attractive labeling scheme for the isocahedron was suggested by G. Rote in 2025.)

Delightful patterns are abundant here! For example, if  $1 \leq l \leq 5$ , exactly eight of the dodecahedron’s vertices have a label containing  $l$ ; and those eight vertices actually are the corners of an inscribed cube. In fact, the four vertices with left coordinate  $i$  are equidistant, and they’re the corners of the  $i$ th “inscribed left tetrahedron”; similarly, the four with right endpoint  $j$  define the  $j$ th inscribed *right* tetrahedron. Thus vertex  $ij$  is the intersection of two inscribed tetrahedra.

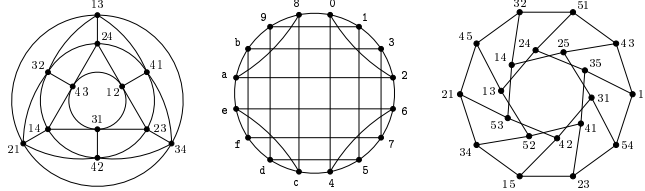
[See M. Brückner, *Vielecke und Vielfläche: Theorie und Geschichte* (Leipzig, 1900), §105; A. Kowalewski, *Sitz. Akad. Wiss. Wien* (IIa), **126** (1917), 67–90, 963–1007; P. Du Val, *Homographies Quaternions and Rotations* (Oxford, 1964), §2.11. See also exercise 7.2.2.1–136 for a 3D-geometry-based representation scheme.]

4. It remains unchanged after  $180^\circ$  rotation about any of the following lines: (i) from  $\frac{13+45}{2}$  to  $\frac{31+54}{2}$ ; (ii) from  $\frac{14+53}{2}$  to  $\frac{41+35}{2}$ ; (iii) from  $\frac{15+34}{2}$  to  $\frac{51+43}{2}$ .

There also are remarkable threefold symmetries of a different kind: Color the edges of the cycle alternately red and green; color the other edges blue. Then a  $120^\circ$  rotation about any of the lines from 21 to 12, 23 to 32, 24 to 42, or 25 to 52 will permute the colors cyclically(!). That will yield green-blue and blue-red cycles (see exercise 24).

5. We can redraw the edges  $\{12 \text{ --- } 35, 51 \text{ --- } 24, 45 \text{ --- } 13, 21 \text{ --- } 34, 53 \text{ --- } 42\}$  so that they lie outside the circle. Alternatively, via stereographic projection we can regard a planar graph as a graph embeddable on the surface of a sphere. In this sense Figure 122(c) shows the Hamiltonian cycle on the equator; we can imagine that half of the other edges lie in the hemisphere below. [A cubic planar graph with a Hamiltonian cycle can always be drawn as a circle, with some of the unused  $n/2$  noncrossing edges inside and the others entirely outside. See exercise 103 for more about planarity.]

6, 7, 8.



complex plane  
golden ratio  $\phi$   
Gerbracht  
multigraph  
parity

To determine the distances and angles needed for the third drawing above, assuming that vertex ‘12’ is point 1 in the complex plane and that ‘35’ is point  $re^{i\theta}$ , solve  $|1 - re^{i\theta}|^2 = |1 - e^{i\pi/5}|^2 = |re^{i\theta} - re^{i(\theta-2\pi/5)}|^2$ . The answer (see exercise 1.2.8–19) is  $r = 5^{-1/4}\phi^{-1/2} \approx .5257$ ,  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{1}{2}\arctan \frac{1}{2} \approx .5536$ . [E. H.-A. Gerbracht, *Kolloquium über Kombinatorik*, Universität Magdeburg (15 November 2008).]

9. (a) We can assume by symmetry that the cycle begins at vertex 12, having just come from 35. Case (i) takes us to 54, 23, 41, 35; oops! In case (ii) it's 54, 31, 25, 14; now 43 is stranded. In case (iii) the moves to 54, 31, 42, 53, 21, 45, 13 force the cyclic path  $51 \rightarrow 43 \rightarrow 25 \rightarrow 14 \rightarrow 32 \rightarrow 51$ . The opening moves 54, 23, 15, 34 in cases (iv)–(vi) force the ending to be  $\dots, 51, 24, 13, 52, 41, 35$ ; so those cases are ruled out.

(b) The only remaining possibilities are  $(LLRRRLRLR)^2$  and  $(RRLLLLRLRL)^2$ .

10. All but 23, 24, 25, 31, 41, and 51. (There are 20 Hamiltonian paths from 12 to 35, in spite of the “uniqueness” of exercise 9. There are only six such paths from 12 to 21.)

11. Let  $a_j = (2j)'$ ,  $b_j = 2j$ ,  $c_j = 2j + 1$ , and  $d_j = (2j + 1)'$ . Notice that  $GP(2q, 2)$  is a graph for  $q \geq 3$ , a multigraph for  $q < 3$ . The ungeneralized Petersen graph is  $GP(5, 2)$ .

A Hamiltonian path  $P$  can be characterized by its endpoints and its 3-bit “states”

$$s_j = [a_j - a_{j'} \in P][c_j - b_{j'} \in P][d_j - d_{j'} \in P], \quad 0 \leq j < q, \quad j' = (j + 1) \bmod q.$$

For example, with endpoints  $\{a_0, a_1\}$  and  $q = 3$ , the states  $(s_0, s_1, s_2) = (011, 111, 010)$  can arise only from the path  $a_0 \rightarrow b_0 \rightarrow c_2 \rightarrow d_2 \rightarrow d_1 \rightarrow d_0 \rightarrow c_0 \rightarrow b_1 \rightarrow c_1 \rightarrow b_2 \rightarrow a_2 \rightarrow a_1$ . Moreover, the states  $(s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{q-2}, s_{q-1}) = (011, 111, \dots, 111, 010)$  yield a path from  $a_0$  to  $a_1$  whenever  $q \geq 3$ . (Adding the edge  $a_1 \rightarrow a_0$  then gives a Hamiltonian cycle.) Those same states also define a Hamiltonian path from  $a_0$  to  $c_1$ .

Only certain state transitions  $s_j \rightarrow s_{j'}$  are possible. For example, parity is preserved if  $\{a_{j'}, b_{j'}, c_{j'}, d_{j'}\}$  contains no endpoint; and the only such legal transitions are

$$\begin{aligned} 001 &\rightarrow 100, 001 \rightarrow 111, 010 \rightarrow 111, 100 \rightarrow 001, 111 \rightarrow 010, 111 \rightarrow 100, 111 \rightarrow 111; \\ 000 &\rightarrow 101, 011 \rightarrow 110, 101 \rightarrow 000, 101 \rightarrow 011, 110 \rightarrow 011, 110 \rightarrow 101. \end{aligned}$$

Certain additional restrictions also apply. For example,  $110 \rightarrow 011$  can be used at most once, or it will “disconnect” the path. The sequence  $001 \rightarrow 111 \rightarrow 010$  forces a 5-cycle.

Parity is preserved also when *both* endpoints lie in  $\{a_{j'}, b_{j'}, c_{j'}, d_{j'}\}$ . For example, we get a path from  $a_0$  to  $d_0$  for all  $q \geq 2$  from the sequence  $(111, \dots, 111, 010)$ .

Transition rules at parity changes are also easy to work out. For example, if  $a_{j'}$  is an endpoint the legal transitions are

$$\begin{aligned} 000 &\rightarrow 001, 011 \rightarrow 010, 011 \rightarrow 100, 011 \rightarrow 111, 110 \rightarrow 001; \\ 001 &\rightarrow 000, 001 \rightarrow 011, 010 \rightarrow 011, 010 \rightarrow 101, 111 \rightarrow 000, 111 \rightarrow 011. \end{aligned}$$

It turns out that Hamiltonian paths from  $a_0$  to  $v$  exist except when  $v$  lies in  $B_q$ , where  $B_q = \{a_j \mid j \bmod 3 = 0, 0 < j < q\}$  when  $q \bmod 3 = 0$ ;  $B_q = \{a_j \mid j \bmod 3 = 2, 0 < j < q\}$  when  $q \bmod 3 = 1$ ; and  $B_q = \{a_j \mid j \bmod 3 \neq 1, 0 < j < q\} \cup \{c_0, c_{q-1}\} \cup \{b_j \mid j \bmod 3 = 1, 0 < j < q\}$  when  $q \bmod 3 = 2$ . (Unless  $q < 4$ :  $B_3 = \{b_1, b_2\}$ .)



**12.** Consider the state transitions in answer 11. The legal cycles of odd-parity states are of two kinds, namely  $(010, 111^*, 111)^k$  and  $(001, 111^*, 100)^k$ ; here ‘ $111^*$ ’ stands for zero or more repetitions of 111. Two legal cycles of even-parity states exist when  $q = 3k + 2$ , namely  $(000, 101, (011, 110, 101)^k)$  and  $(110, (011, 110, 101)^k, 011)$ .

The number of Hamiltonian cycles is the number of legal cycles of states, and we can enumerate them by using generating functions. The answer turns out to be  $2L_q - 2 + 2q[q \bmod 3 = 2]$ , where  $L_q = F_{q+1} + F_{q-1}$  is the  $q$ th Lucas number.

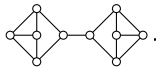
**14.** (a) In fact, let  $H$  be *any* induced subgraph whose vertices all have degree 3 except for exactly two vertices of degree 2. The other edges from those two must be true in every win, or we’d have a cycle entirely within  $H$ .

(b) The connecting edges are 1, and so are many of the internal edges. Thus internal cycles will appear when  $x + y + z$  is 0, 2, or 3. (But if  $x + y + z = 1$  we easily have a path through all the internal vertices.)

(c) The long horizontal edges must be true, because consecutive true vertical edges would yield a short cycle. Hence the edge values at the left and right are  $x, \bar{x}, x, \bar{x}, x$  and  $y, \bar{y}, y, \bar{y}, y$ . If  $x = y$  we’d have a 4-cycle or two 8-cycles.

(d) Hook  $C_m$  to  $C_1$ . Then insert XOR gadgets to ensure that all appearances of the same variable have consistent values. [This construction can be extended so that  $G$  is not only cubic but planar, and triconnected, with at least five sides on every face. See M. R. Garey, D. S. Johnson, and R. E. Tarjan, *SICOMP* 5 (1976), 704–714.]

**16.** (1, 2, 5, 19) connected cubic graphs on (4, 6, 8, 10) vertices are essentially distinct (not isomorphic); we’ll study how to generate them in Section 7.2.3. They all are Hamiltonian except for two of order 10. One of the latter is the famous Petersen graph (Fig. 2(e) near the beginning of Chapter 7), which also is nonplanar.

The other “smallest” non-Hamiltonian example is actually planar: . [Arun Girdhar verified in 2015 that a 16-vertex variant of this graph, consisting of three 5-vertex diamonds joined to a central vertex, is (uniquely) the smallest cubic graph that has no Hamiltonian *path*.]

**18.** False. For example, consider  $0 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 0$ ,  $0 - 2 - 4 - 0$ .

**20.** (a) The condition holds when  $a_k$  is the number of  $k$ -sided faces *inside* the  $n$ -cycle. For it’s certainly true when there’s just one such face ( $a_k = [k = n]$ ). And if a new chord is added to the graph, breaking an inner  $p$ -face into a  $q$ -face and an  $r$ -face where  $q + r = p + 2$ ,  $\sum_k (k - 2)a_k$  changes by  $(q - 2) + (r - 2) - (p - 2) = 0$ .

[The number  $a'_k = \alpha_k - a_k$  of  $k$ -faces *outside* the cycle is also a solution to Kirkman’s conditions. Indeed, we always have  $\frac{1}{2} \sum_k (k - 2)\alpha_k = \frac{1}{2} \sum_k k\alpha_k - \sum_k \alpha_k = \langle \text{edges} \rangle - \langle \text{faces} \rangle = \langle \text{vertices} \rangle - 2$  in a connected planar graph.]

(b) We can assume that the missing vertex is outside the cycle; and  $3a_5$  can’t equal  $19 - 2$ . (The dodecahedron does have cycles of lengths  $\{5, 8, 9, 10, \dots, 17, 18\}$ .)

(c) We can assume that neither cycle is inside the other. A cycle that contains exactly  $a$  pentagons has length  $3a + 2$ ; and  $(3a + 2) + (3b + 2)$  can’t equal 20.

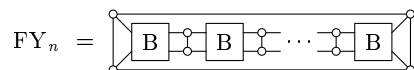
(d) Let  $G'$  be  $G$  without the edge  $a - b$ , and with two additional vertices of degree 2: one inserted between  $a$  and  $f$ , another between  $b$  and  $c$ . Any Hamiltonian cycle in  $G$  that omits  $a - b$  corresponds to a Hamiltonian cycle in  $G'$ . But  $G'$  isn’t Hamiltonian, because  $\alpha'_k = [k = 4] + 7[k = 5] + [k = 11]$  and  $2\alpha'_4 + 3\alpha'_5 + 9\alpha'_{11} \neq 18 - 2$ .

(e) Graph (i) has  $\alpha_k = [k = 4] + 20[k = 5] + 2[k = 11]$ ; graph (ii) has  $\alpha_k = [k = 4] + 18[k = 5] + 4[k = 8]$ . So both of them fail Kirkman’s test (a). Graph (iii), with  $\alpha_k = 18[k = 5] + 3[k = 6] + 3[k = 8]$ , passes the test only if  $a_6 = 0$  or 3. But the three 6-edged faces can’t all be inside or outside the cycle, since they share a common point.

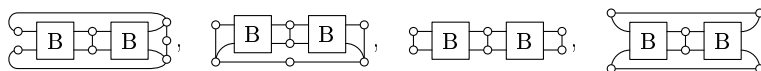
generating functions  
Lucas number  
Fibonacci numbers  
planar  
triconnected  
Garey  
Johnson  
Tarjan  
isomorphic  
Petersen graph  
Girdhar  
Hamiltonian *path*

[*Historical notes:* As noted near the beginning of this chapter, Kirkman actually studied full-length cycles in convex polyhedra before Hamilton began to toy with such ideas. [See *Philosophical Transactions* **146** (1856), 413–418.] Graphs (ii) and (iii) in part (e) are due to É. Ya. Grinberg, *Latvīškī Matemāticēskī Ezhegodnik* **4** (1968), 51–58, who rediscovered Kirkman’s long-forgotten criterion. Graph (i) was found as part of an exhaustive computer search by G. B. Faulkner and D. H. Younger, *Discrete Math.* **7** (1974), 67–74, who also established that Grinberg’s (iii) is the unique smallest cubic planar graph that is *cyclically 5-connected*: It cannot be broken into two components each containing a cycle unless at least five edges are removed. (Graph (ii) clearly has four automorphisms; and graph (iii), obtained by adding a single edge, actually has six, although that isn’t obvious from the diagram. If we add *another* edge at the right, in the mirror-image position, we get a 46-vertex graph with 36 Hamiltonian cycles. Of course each of those cycles uses both of the edges that were added to (ii).)]

**21.** Among many possibilities, the simplest are perhaps the  $(20n + 2)$ -vertex graphs

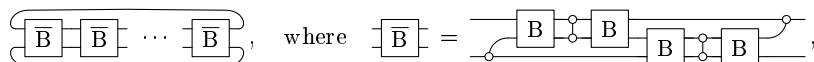


made from  $n$  copies of an 18-vertex gadget  $\boxed{B}$ , where graph (i) in exercise 20(e) is  $FY_2$  and  $\boxed{B}$  is illustrated there. In general,  $FY_n$  has  $\alpha_k = [k=4] + 10n[k=5] + 2[k=5n+1]$ ; so it fails Kirkman’s test whenever  $n \bmod 3 = 2$ . Further analysis, based on the fact that each of the four graphs



also fails Kirkman’s test, shows that  $FY_n$  is actually non-Hamiltonian for *all*  $n > 1$ .

(Faulkner and Younger went on to show that the  $78m$ -vertex graphs



are not only non-Hamiltonian, they can’t be covered by fewer than  $m$  disjoint cycles.)

Grinberg’s paper of 1968 described non-Hamiltonian cubic planar graphs having  $(14 \cdot 4^s - 10 \cdot 3^s)(3t - 1)$  vertices, for any  $s, t > 0$ . His graphs are noticeably harder than  $FY_n$  for a computer to analyze; even the case  $(s, t) = (2, 1)$  is quite a challenge.

**24.** (a)  $K_4 \oplus K_4$  is disconnected (and  $K_4$  is perfectly Hamiltonian). The others are at least Hamiltonian, and we can number the vertices so that  $0 \text{ --- } 1 \text{ --- } \dots \text{ --- } 7 \text{ --- } 0$ . There are five nonisomorphic possibilities: *Case 1*,  $0 \text{ --- } 2, 1 \text{ --- } 3, 4 \text{ --- } 6, 5 \text{ --- } 7$ : 16 auts, 4H. [Translation: 16 automorphisms and 4 Hamiltonian cycles.] *Case 2*,  $0 \text{ --- } 2, 1 \text{ --- } 5, 3 \text{ --- } 6, 4 \text{ --- } 7$ : 12 auts, 6H, perfect (two sets of three). *Case 3*,  $0 \text{ --- } 2, 1 \text{ --- } 5, 3 \text{ --- } 7, 4 \text{ --- } 6$ : 4 auts, 3H, planar, perfect. *Case 4*,  $0 \text{ --- } 3, 1 \text{ --- } 6, 2 \text{ --- } 5, 4 \text{ --- } 7$ : 48 auts, 6H, planar [the 3-cube]. *Case 5*,  $0 \text{ --- } 4, 1 \text{ --- } 5, 2 \text{ --- } 6, 3 \text{ --- } 7$ : 16 auts, 5H.

(b) Let  $a_k$  be the number of  $k$ -faces inside none of the three Hamiltonian cycles; let  $b_k, c_k, d_k$  be the number that are inside cycles  $\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}$ , respectively. Then Kirkman’s criterion for cycle 1 is satisfied by  $b_k + c_k$  and  $a_k + d_k$ , the number of faces respectively inside or outside. Similarly, it’s satisfied for cycle 2 by  $b_k + d_k$  and  $a_k + c_k$ ; for cycle 3 by  $c_k + d_k$  and  $a_k + b_k$ . Let  $A = \sum_k (k-2)a_k, \dots, D = \sum_k (k-2)d_k$ ; we’ve shown that  $A+B = A+C = A+D = B+C = n-2$ . [See Grinberg’s paper in answer 20.]

[Similarly, an  $r$ -regular graph is perfectly Hamiltonian if its edges can be  $r$ -colored in a such a way that all  $\binom{r}{2}$  pairs of colors yield Hamiltonian cycles. (The 4-regular 6-vertex “Star of David” graph  $L(K_4)$  is a good example; so is the 5-regular  $K_6$ .) Such

Historical notes  
Hamilton  
Grinberg  
Faulkner  
Younger  
cyclically 5-connected  
automorphisms  
gadget  
Kirkman  
Faulkner  
Younger  
Grinberg  
3-cube  
Grinberg  
Historical notes  
 $r$ -regular graph  
“Star of David” graph

graphs are also called P1F, “perfectly 1-factorable,” because two 1-factors — also known as perfect matchings — are called perfect if they yield a Hamiltonian cycle, and because an  $r$ -regular graph with  $\chi(L(G)) = r$  is called 1-factorable. The pioneering explorations of A. Kotzig (see *Theory of Graphs and its Applications*, ed. by M. Fiedler (1964), 63–82) have led to a large literature with many provocative problems still unsolved (see A. Kotzig and J. Labelle, *Annales des Sciences Math. du Québec* **3** (1979), 95–106); for an excellent survey see A. Rosa, *Mathematica Slovaca* **69** (2019), 479–496. Answer 124 below, Case 2, proves incidentally that cubic Halin graphs are perfectly Hamiltonian.]

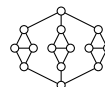
**27.** (a) This follows directly from exercise 20(d). (In general, we get a “forcing” gadget from *any* graph that has a “forced” edge, by removing any vertex of that edge.)

(b) Insert a degree-2 vertex into each of those spokes and apply 20(a).

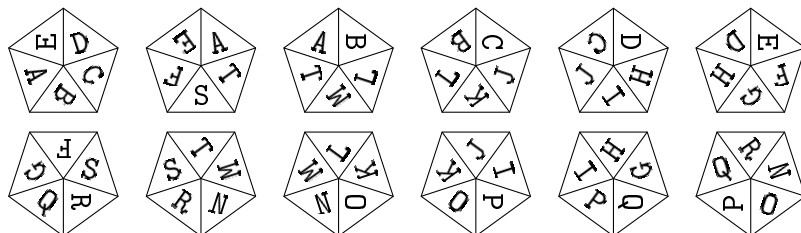
(c) Two nonconsecutive spokes are forced to be in any Hamiltonian path.

(d) No. One of the five 4-faced regions touches the unique 9-faced region. Its other neighbors have respectively  $\{5, 8, 8\}$ ,  $\{5, 7, 7\}$ ,  $\{5, 7, 8\}$ ,  $\{7, 8, 8\}$ ,  $\{7, 7, 7\}$ ,  $\{7, 7, 8\}$  faces.

*Historical notes:* A cubic graph that can be disconnected by removing one edge is clearly non-Hamiltonian. Many cyclically 2-connected planar cubic graphs, such as the example shown, also have no Hamiltonian cycle. However, P. G. Tait investigated numerous cyclically 3-connected planar cubic graphs — the “true” polyhedra — and found Hamiltonian cycles easily. So he conjectured that such cycles always exist, and he pointed out that the famous “Four Color Theorem” would then follow. (See §15 and §16 of his paper cited in answer 35.) Tait’s conjecture was believed for many years, until W. T. Tutte [*J. London Math. Soc.* (2) **21** (1946), 98–101] found a 46-vertex counterexample by putting together three Tutte gadgets. The smaller graphs in (c) were found independently in 1964 by D. Barnette, J. Bosák, and J. Lederberg; those graphs are the *only* counterexamples with fewer than 40 vertices [see D. A. Holton and B. D. McKay, *J. Combinatorial Theory* **B45** (1988), 305–319]. Every counterexample has a face with more than 6 vertices [F. Kardoš, *SIAM J. Discrete Math.* **34** (2020), 62–100]; in particular, all “fullerene graphs” are Hamiltonian.



**30.** We can use the Ls and Rs of answer 8 as a guide:



(The author cherishes a 3D-printed object like this, received as a surprise gift in 2016.)

**33.**  $nH + h$  — one for every Hamiltonian path in  $G$  (cyclic or not). (Thus an algorithm that finds all Hamiltonian cycles can readily be adapted to find all Hamiltonian paths.)

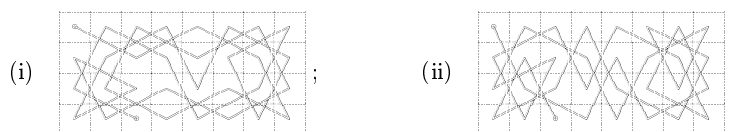
**35.** (a) The tour lines divide the plane into regions. Every such region can be assigned a rank, representing its distance from the outside. (More precisely, the rank is the minimum number of tour lines crossed by any path in the plane that goes from a point in the region to a point outside the chessboard, without passing through any of the tour’s intersection points.) Then, as you walk along the tour, make your thread go on top at an intersection if and only if the region on your left has odd rank. [See P. G. Tait, *London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Philosophical Magazine* **17** (1884), 30–46, §19.]

P1F  
1-factors  
perfect matchings  
Kotzig  
Fiedler  
Labelle  
strongly H graphs, see perfectly H graphs  
Rosa  
Historical notes  
isthmus  
bridge  
cyclically 2-connected  
bridge, wheatstone  
Tait  
cyclically 3-connected  
Four Color Theorem  
Tutte  
Barnette  
Bosák  
Lederberg  
Holton  
McKay  
Kardoš  
fullerene graphs  
author  
3D-printed  
all Hamiltonian paths  
rank  
Tait

(b) One endpoint is in the outside region, but the other is in a region of rank 4. Any artificial path that connects the two, and crosses  $k$  tour lines, will lead to a drawing with  $k$  exceptions when the artificial path is removed. Conversely, the exceptional tour segments in any drawing can be crossed by an artificial connection path together with zero or more artificial cycles; so there must be at least 4 exceptions.

(There's no problem in (2), because each endpoint lies in the outer region.)

36. In (i),  $\sigma_{22} \leftrightarrow \sigma_{24}$  and  $\sigma_{25} \leftrightarrow \sigma_{27}$ . In (ii), 'lots' matches 'lost':



37. Starting at cells (1, 2, 3, 4) of row 1 we obtain respectively (7630, 2740, 2066, 3108) tours. Starting at cells (1, 2, 3, 4) of row 2 we obtain none. Thus there are exactly  $4 \cdot (7630 + 2740 + 2066 + 3108) = 62,176$  tours, all of which are open because they begin and end in the top or bottom row. (Among all such tours, 1904 cannot be represented by a single Rudraṭa-style sloka because all 32 syllables of such a sloka would have to be identical! Only the example in answer 36(ii), and its reversal after  $180^\circ$  rotation, are representable by a sloka that has 12 distinct syllables.)

38. One knight jumps like three rookwise steps.

Past sore too mean; so, just for free,  
Hops here, turns there, flies each goose now.  
Can't place last word? Won't find the sea.  
One, two, three, four! See each word here:  
Jumps so wise now find their place passed.  
Terns can't soar, like flies the free rook;  
Goose steps just won't mean knight hops last.

40. Meet me, you fool; trip some word up;

Eat, see if autumn is a mess.  
To forgo this ordeal, I cheat:  
Won three games like dice, card-trick, chess.  
One, two, three, four! Games go like this:  
Dice or card deal, tricky chess cheat,  
Mess up; a word is some dumb trip.  
Awful if you see me eat meat.

[Sloka 16 in Rudraṭa's *Kāvyaṭaṅkāra* can be interpreted as two poorly joined quarter-tours of an elephant. See Murray's *History of Chess*, pages 54 and 55.]

(A "silver general" in shōgi (Japanese chess) has the same moves as an elephant.)

41. (a) There are  $(m-1)n$  "trunk" arcs from  $(i, j)$  to  $(i-1, j)$ , plus  $4(m-1)(n-1)$  "leg" arcs from  $(i, j)$  to  $(i \pm 1, j \pm 1)$ ; total  $(m-1)(5n-4)$ .

(b) Yes: If and only if  $m=2$  and  $n$  is even. (Use just two trunk moves.)

(c) In fact, the solution in Fig. A-18(a) is the *only* such Hamiltonian path on  $E_{48}$ .

(d) If not, every vertex of row 1 is of type A ( $\nearrow$ ) or B ( $\nwarrow$ ) or C ( $\nearrow \searrow$ ) or D ( $\nwarrow \searrow$ ) within the path. There's a B at the left and an A at the right. The adjacent pairs AD, BD, CA, CB are not permitted, nor are the near-adjacent pairs B $\circ$ A, B $\circ$ C, C $\circ$ D, D $\circ$ A, D $\circ$ C (with one vertex intervening). Furthermore the substrings B(CD)\*A = {BA, BCDA, BCDCDA, ...} are forbidden, because these are closed cycles and  $m > 2$ .

open  
Rudraṭa  
poetic license  
Murray  
silver general  
shōgi  
Japanese chess

But no string of A's, B's, C's, and D's obeys all of those restrictions.

(e) The same proof works, with types A ( $\searrow \uparrow$ ), B ( $\uparrow \searrow$ ), C ( $\searrow \nearrow$ ), and D ( $\nearrow \searrow$ ).

(f) The vertices of (d) are joined by one of type E ( $\nearrow \circ$ ) or F ( $\circ \searrow$ ). The leftmost is either B or F; the rightmost is either A or E. Cases  $B \circ E$ ,  $D \circ E$ ,  $F \circ A$ ,  $F \circ C$  are excluded, in addition to those of (d). Exactly  $n[n \text{ even}]$  such sequences are possible, having the forms  $F(CD)^*A$ ,  $B(CD)^*ED(CD)^*A$ ,  $B(CD)^*CF(CD)^*A$ , or  $B(CD)^*E$ .

Each of these has exactly one unsaturated vertex in row 2. Thus there are one or two possible moves to row 3, and we've effectively reduced  $m$  to  $m-2$ .

(g) Now the vertices of (e) are joined by one of type E ( $\searrow \circ$ ) or F ( $\circ \nearrow$ ) or G ( $\uparrow$ ). The leftmost is either B, F, or G; the rightmost is A, E, or G. The new forbidden substrings are AE, BE, CG, FA, FB, GD,  $C \circ E$ ,  $F \circ D$ . Six species of solutions exist, namely  $GA^*(CD)^*A$ ,  $B(CD)^*B^*G$ ,  $B^*FD(CD)^*A$ ,  $BCD(CD)^*B^*FD(CD)^*A$ ,  $B(CD)^*CEA^*$ , and  $B(CD)^*CEA^*(CD)^*CDA$ . The solutions containing  $A^*$  or  $B^*$  work when  $n$  is odd.

Again we reduce  $m$  to  $m-2$  and continue. (By induction,  $m$  must be even.)

(h) Let  $A^{(m)}$  be the  $n \times n$  matrix where  $a_{ij}^{(m)}$  is the number of Hamiltonian paths from  $(1, i)$  to  $(m, j)$ ; let  $B^{(m)}$  be analogous, where  $b_{ij}^{(m)}$  counts paths from  $(m, i)$  to  $(1, j)$ . (These matrices are symmetric about both diagonals, because the left-right and top-bottom reflections of any elephant path are elephant paths, possibly reversed.) We have

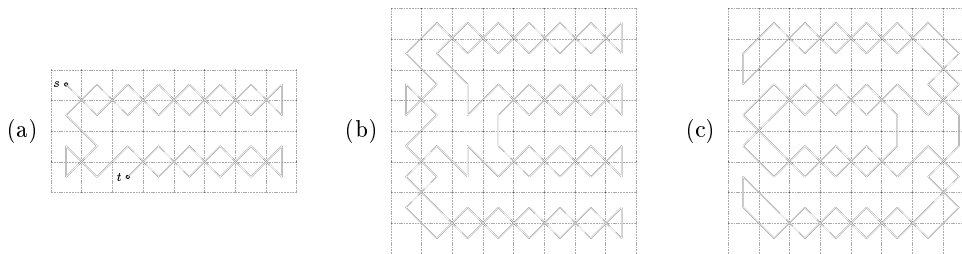
$$a_{ij}^{(2)} = ([i=j=1] + [i=j=n] + [|i-j|=1 \text{ and } \max(i, j) \text{ odd}])[n \text{ even}],$$

$$b_{ij}^{(2)} = \begin{cases} [i \text{ odd}][j \text{ even}][i < j] + [j \text{ odd}][i \text{ even}][j < i], & \text{if } n \text{ is even,} \\ [i \text{ odd}][j \text{ odd}] \max([i=1], [i=n], [i \neq j]), & \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \end{cases}$$

by (f) and (g). Moreover, by considering moves between two-row subgraphs,

$$A^{(m+m')} = A^{(m)}XA^{(m')} \quad \text{and} \quad B^{(m+m')} = B^{(m)}(X+I)B^{(m')}, \quad \text{where } x_{ij} = [|i-j|=1].$$

For example, there are  $\sum A^{(4)} + \sum B^{(4)} = 14 + 120 = 134$  tours on a  $4 \times 8$  board.



**Fig. A-18.** Noteworthy paths and cycles for elephants.

**42.** The technology of exercise 7.1.4-226 can be extended to directed graphs in a straightforward way. It constructs a ZDD of about 1.3 meganodes for all oriented cycles in the  $8 \times 8$  elephant digraph, and shows that there are exactly 277,906,978,347,470 of them. The generating function by cycle length is  $98z^2 + 205z^4 + 698z^6 + 3853z^8 + \dots + 50128559z^{60} + 6544z^{62}$ . If we say that trunk moves have weight 2 while other moves have weight 3, we find (by computing maximum-weight cycles) that exactly four of the 6544 62-cycles have only eight trunk moves. All four of these solutions are equivalent under reflection to Fig. A-18(b).

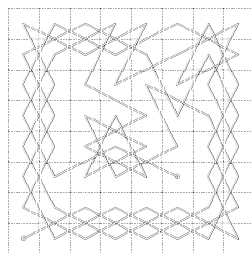
(Figure A-18(c) shows an interesting symmetrical 60-cycle that omits the corners and has just *four* trunk moves.)

44. We can use Rudraṭa's half-tour twice:

Bah dee boo dai hao fuh hoe fay, bee doo bai fao huh foe hay dah?  
 Fee hah day boe foo hai dao buh, fai bao duh hoo doe bay fah hee.  
 Lah mee loo mai sao nuh soe nay, lee moo lai nao suh noe say mah?  
 Nee sah may loe noo sai mao luh, nai lao muh soo moe lay nah see!

(This is an open tour. See exercise 199 for *closed* tours that rhyme just as perfectly.)

Rudraṭa  
 open tour  
*closed* tours  
 Ibn Manī'  
 Murthy  
 Rudraṭa  
 Ratnākara  
 Deśika  
 de Jaenisch  
 von Warnsdorf



46. This tour is rather like that of Ibn Manī' in (1):

[G. S. S. Murthy, in *Resonance* **25** (2020), 1095–1116, comments further on the work of Someshvara, and gives excellent translations of the Sanskrit verses by Rudraṭa, Ratnākara, and Vedānta Deśika.]

50. In fact, the text's “merry chase” need not end at cell 22; by swapping **23** ↔ **25** we get a tour that ends at 02. The other seven choices of **9** and **10** can lead, similarly, to either 22 or one of {02, 11, 13, 20, 24, 31, 33}. Each case completes an open tour.

[See page 280 of de Jaenisch's book, for his analysis of  $5 \times 5$  paths.]

51. Again  $v_1 v_2 v_3 v_4 = 00\ 12\ 04\ 23$  without loss of generality. Now  $t_1 = 44$  forces  $v_5 = 31$ , and there's a tie for  $v_6$ . If  $v_6 = 43$ , the path continues  $v_7 \dots v_{15} = 24\ 03\ 11\ 30\ 42\ 34\ 13\ 01\ 20$ ; and  $v_{16}$  is 32 or 41. The former case forces  $v_{17} = 40$ , hence “shutting out” 44; it leads to four paths, each ending at  $v_{24}$ . But the latter case leads to three paths, two of which end with  $v_{25} = 44$  (yea) and one that ends with  $v_{21} = 44$  (boo).

On the other hand if  $v_6 = 10$  we get  $v_7 \dots v_{13} = 02\ 14\ 33\ 41\ 20\ 01\ 13$  and then  $v_{14} v_{15} v_{16} = 21\ 40\ 32$  or  $32\ 40\ 21$ . Either case shuts 44 out. Ten continuations are possible, each of which involves 24 vertices—all but cell 44 (close but no cigar).

(The randomized algorithm of exercise 53 will yield a Hamiltonian path with probability  $\frac{3}{16}$ . If we set  $\{t_1, t_2, t_3\} = \{23, 32, 44\}$  and  $r = 3$ , this probability rises to  $\frac{3}{8}$ .)

52. The algorithm acts just as if a double-target vertex  $t$  has been entirely removed from the graph, because  $\text{DEG}(t)$  will never be less than  $2n$  in step W5.

53. **W5'**. [Is  $\text{DEG}(u)$  smallest?] If  $t < \theta$ , set  $\theta \leftarrow t$ ,  $v \leftarrow u$ ,  $q \leftarrow 1$ . Otherwise, if  $t = \theta$ , set  $q \leftarrow q + 1$ , then set  $v \leftarrow u$  with probability  $1/q$ .

55. Ibn Manī' broke Warnsdorf's rule first when choosing  $v_{14} = 41$  instead of 06. His choices for  $v_{26}$ ,  $v_{27}$ ,  $v_{38}$ ,  $v_{39}$ ,  $v_{45}$ ,  $v_{48}$ , and  $v_{54}$  also broke the rule. But altogether, his “hug the edge” strategy followed it  $\frac{55}{63} \approx 87\%$  of the time, so he probably had some of the same intuition that von Warnsdorf acquired later. Similarly, Someshvara deviated only eight times. But al-'Adlī broke the rule 15 times, clearly thinking other thoughts.

56. If there's no remaining exit from  $u$ , there's no remaining entrance to  $u$ . Therefore Algorithm W will not find a Hamiltonian path unless it moves to  $u$ . We might as well do that, if our goal is simply to find a Hamiltonian path. But maybe we really want to find as long a path as possible, via Warnsdorf-like rules; then we can do better.



In general one can prove that if  $\delta_{k-1} = \rho(k)$  for  $1 \leq k < r$ , then Warnsdorf's rule allows  $\delta_r$  to be any coordinate in the interval  $W_r = [\rho(r) \dots \rho'(r)]$ , where  $\rho'(r) = \rho(r \& (r-1))$  is the index of the next-to-rightmost 1 in the binary representation of  $r$ . (If  $r$  is a power of 2,  $\rho'(r)$  is undefined; in such cases we use  $n$  instead of  $\rho'(r)$  in the formula for  $W_r$ .) For example, if  $r = (1010010)_2$  and  $n \geq 7$ , we have  $\rho(r) = 1$  and  $\rho'(r) = 4$ , hence  $W_r = [1 \dots 4] = \{1, 2, 3\}$ .

Moreover, the residual graph of unvisited vertices, when it is time to choose  $\delta_r$ , is always symmetrical with respect to every coordinate in  $W_r$ . Therefore we can choose  $\delta_r = \rho(r)$  without loss of generality; all other Warnsdorf paths can be mapped into the standard path by permuting coordinates. For example, the Warnsdorf paths for the 3-cube have the delta sequences 0102010, 0102101, 0201020, 0201202, 1012101, 1012010, 1210121, 1210212, 2021202, 2021020, 2120212, 2120121.

[Algorithm W always succeeds in the graph  $P_3 \square P_3 \square P_3$  when  $s = (0, 0, 0)$ ; but not always in  $P_4 \square P_4 \square P_4$ . It sometimes fails in  $P_3 \square P_3 \square P_3 \square P_3$  when  $s = (0, 0, 0, 0)$ .]

**65.** Yes: . (Is there a smaller one?)

**70.** It happens when  $k = t - 1$  in the first call, and when  $k = 2$  in the second call. (A little time can be saved by detecting these special cases. Similarly, 'update( $u_1, \dots, u_t$ )' arises in step F5 when  $k = j \pm 1$ . Such updates weren't counted in the author's tests.)

**71.** Let the edges be  $1 \text{ --- } 2 \text{ --- } \dots \text{ --- } n \text{ --- } 1$  and  $1 \text{ --- } 5, 3 \text{ --- } (n-2), (n-4) \text{ --- } n$ ; consider the path  $2 \text{ --- } 1 \text{ --- } 5 \text{ --- } 4 \text{ --- } 3 \text{ --- } (n-2) \text{ --- } (n-3) \text{ --- } (n-4) \text{ --- } n \text{ --- } (n-1)$ .

**73.** Assign a random 32-bit weight to each edge of the graph, and let each path have a "long hash code"  $H$  that's the sum of its edge weights (modulo  $2^{32}$ ). Let there be  $2^b$  hash lists; a path with long hash  $H$  will go into list  $H \bmod 2^b$ . If  $c$  vertex names can be packed into an octabyte, the dictionary entry for  $(v_1, \dots, v_t)$  will occupy  $B = 1 + \lceil t/c \rceil$  octabytes: one for the link and  $H$ , the others for the vertices (which are examined in detail during a search only when the long hash code is correct). Store the  $q$ th path in positions  $(qB + s) \bmod M$  of a large array of octabytes, for  $0 \leq s < B$ , where  $M$  is a large power of 2. (Overflow occurs if we try to write into position  $(p_2B + B) \bmod M$ .)

**75.** (a) Let  $H$  be the graph whose vertices are the Hamiltonian paths of  $G$  that start with  $v_1$ , adjacent if they differ only by flipping a subpath. Since  $G$  is cubic, every vertex of  $H$  has degree 2. So  $H$  consists of cycles, and Algorithm F<sup>-</sup> constructs the cycle that begins with the given path. For example, when  $G = P_2 \square P_2 \square P_2$ , we can represent the vertices (000, 001, ..., 111) by (0, 1, ..., 7), and  $H$  has two cycles: 01326754 — 01326457 — 01375462 — 02645731 — 02645137 — 02673154 — 04513762 — 04513267 — 04576231 — 01326754; 04623751 — 01573264 — 01546247 — 01546732 — 02376451 — 02315467 — 02315764 — 04675132 — 04623157 — 04623751.

(b) Let  $\alpha = v_1 \text{ --- } v_2 \text{ --- } \dots \text{ --- } v_n$  be a Hamiltonian path with  $v_n \text{ --- } v_1$ . One of its two neighbors in  $H$  is  $v_1 \text{ --- } v_n \text{ --- } \dots \text{ --- } v_2$ , which is the reflected cycle  $\alpha^R$ . The other neighbor will have  $v_2$  unchanged. So the cyclic paths come in pairs.

(c) Consider maximal segments of the cycle in  $H$  whose paths begin with  $v_1 \text{ --- } v_2$ . The first and last of these paths are Hamiltonian cycles, which we can regard as *mates* of each other. (For example, the mate of 01326754 with respect to  $0 \text{ --- } 1$  is 01375462.)

(d) If  $\alpha$  is a Hamiltonian cycle containing the edge  $e$ , its mate  $\beta$  is a Hamiltonian cycle containing an edge  $e' \notin \alpha$ . Hence  $\gamma$ , the mate of  $\beta$  with respect to  $e'$ , is a third.

(e) Color the  $n$  edges of  $\alpha$  alternately red and green; color the other  $n/2$  edges blue. The blue edges of  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  are the same; suppose there are  $n/2 - x$  of them. Let  $\beta$  have  $r$  red and  $g$  green; hence  $\gamma$  has  $n/2 - r$  red and  $n/2 - g$  green. We have

Warnsdorf's rule  
next-to-rightmost 1  
Warnsdorf paths  
author  
random 32-bit weight  
long hash code  
3-cube  
mates



$r + g + n/2 - x = (n/2 - r) + (n/2 - g) + (n/2 - x) = n$ ; hence  $x = 0$ . Therefore no two consecutive edges of  $\alpha$  can appear in  $\beta$  or  $\gamma$ ; they must all be the same color.

[*Historical notes:* The theorem in (c) was discovered via algebraic reasoning by C. A. B. Smith, about 1940, but not published until later. See *Combinatorial Mathematics and its Applications* (Oxford conference, 1969), 259–283; W. T. Tutte, *Graph Theory As I Have Known It* (1998), 18, 48, 94. A. G. Thomason, in *Annals of Discrete Mathematics* **3** (1978), 259–268, introduced one-sided flips and used them to give an algorithmic proof of Smith’s theorem.]

**77.** (a) Easily verified. (This is the *only* automorphism, when  $n > 1$ .)

(b) Any Hamiltonian cycle containing  $05 \text{ --- } 0 \text{ --- } 01$  mustn’t contain  $0 \text{ --- } 06$ ; hence  $07 \text{ --- } 06 \text{ --- } 05$  but not  $05 \text{ --- } 04$  or  $01 \text{ --- } 07$ ; hence  $03 \text{ --- } 04 \text{ --- } 15$ ,  $01 \text{ --- } 02$ ,  $08 \text{ --- } 07 \text{ --- } 06$ , not  $02 \text{ --- } 08$ ; hence  $11 \text{ --- } 08$ . Replacing all ‘0j’ by ‘1’ yields a Hamiltonian cycle containing  $15 \text{ --- } 1 \text{ --- } 11$  in a graph isomorphic to  $C_{n-1}$ . By induction, it’s  $\alpha_n$ . Similarly, the only Hamiltonian cycles containing  $06 \text{ --- } 0 \text{ --- } 01$  and  $05 \text{ --- } 0 \text{ --- } 06$  are

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_n &= 0 \text{ --- } 01 \text{ --- } 07 \text{ --- } 08 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 16 \text{ --- } \cdots \text{ --- } 15 \text{ --- } 04 \text{ --- } 05 \text{ --- } 06 \text{ --- } 0; \\ \gamma_n &= 0 \text{ --- } 06 \text{ --- } 07 \text{ --- } 01 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 08 \text{ --- } 11 \text{ --- } \cdots \text{ --- } 16 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 04 \text{ --- } 05 \text{ --- } 0.\end{aligned}$$

(c) (11, 65, 265, 1005, 3749, 13927, 51683, 191735, 711243). [But an appropriate sequence of only  $4n$  *two-sided* flips will take us from  $\alpha_n$  to  $\beta_n$ , or  $\beta_n$  to  $\gamma_n$ , or  $\gamma_n$  to  $\alpha_n$ .]

(d) When  $n > 2$ , the first five flips yield  $01 \text{ --- } 0 \text{ --- } 05 \text{ --- } 06 \text{ --- } 07 \text{ --- } 08 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 04 \text{ --- } 15 \text{ --- } 16 \text{ --- } 17 \text{ --- } 11 \text{ --- } 12 \text{ --- } 18$  followed by a sequence  $21 \text{ --- } 22 \text{ --- } \cdots$  that’s the same as the suffix  $01 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } \cdots$  of the second path obtained with respect to  $0 \text{ --- } 01$ , *except* that all entries are increased by 20, and ‘14 --- 13’ appears between 25 and 26. The next  $c_{n-2} - 1$  flips mimic (c); then six more flips give the reverse of  $\beta_n$ .

(e) When  $n > 1$ , the number is  $c_{n-1} + 5$  in both cases(!), proved as in (d).

[The graphs  $C_n$  were introduced by K. Cameron, *Discrete Math.* **235** (2001), 69–77, who simplified a similar construction by A. Krawczyk and proved that  $c_n \geq 2^n$ . In 2020, Filip Stappers discovered that the generating function  $c(z) = \sum_n c_n z^n$  is  $p(z)/q(z)$ , where  $q(z) = (1 - z)(1 - 3z - 2z^2 - 2z^3 - z^4 - z^5)$  and  $p(z) = z(1 + z)(11 + 10z + 6z^2 + 4z^3 + z^4)$ . He also proved that the number of one-sided flips to go from  $\beta_n$  to its mate  $\gamma_n$ , with respect to either  $0 \text{ --- } 06$  or  $06 \text{ --- } 0$ , is  $\hat{c}_n$ , where  $\sum_n \hat{c}_n z^n = \hat{p}(z)/q(z)$  and  $\hat{p}(z) = 2z(3 + 2z + z^2 - 2z^3)$ . Consequently the actual limiting ratio  $c_{n+1}/c_n$  is  $\rho \approx 3.709398$ , the real root of  $z^5 = 3z^4 + 2z^3 + 2z^2 + z + 1$ . Asymptotically,  $c_n \sim c\rho^n - 8$  and  $\hat{c}_n \sim \hat{c}\rho^n$ , where  $c \approx 5.349$  and  $\hat{c}_n/c_n \sim \hat{p}(\rho)/p(\rho) \approx 0.3959$ . In *Bull. Aust. Math. Soc.* **98** (2018), 18–26, L. Zhong introduced a family of graphs on  $16n$  vertices for which the number of flips to get from a certain Hamiltonian path to its mate with respect to  $0 \text{ --- } 1$  is *exactly*  $6 \cdot 2^n - 10$ . However, that number with respect to  $1 \text{ --- } 0$  is only  $4$ (!).]

**78.** (a, b) In contrast to exercise 60, success occurs with probability  $\approx 100\%$  when  $q \leq 10$ . Furthermore, a Hamiltonian cycle is usually found soon after finding the first Hamiltonian path. The average number of updates before that first cycle, observed in 100 runs for each  $q$ , was  $\approx (81, 141, 146, 240, 295)$ .

But  $q = 100$  was a different story. Here a 400-cycle was successfully found in only six of ten cases—sometimes after as few as 18 thousand updates, sometimes after as many as 8.3 million. In one of the other cases, millions of Hamiltonian paths (not cycles) were found; but memory overflow, with more than 2 million paths in the dictionary, aborted the run. Memory overflow also arose in the three other cases, once before achieving any paths longer than 365.

We conclude that Algorithm F can have wildly eccentric behavior, and it should probably be restarted if it spins its wheels too long.

Historical notes  
Smith  
Tutte  
Thomason  
Cameron  
Krawczyk  
Stappers  
generating function  
Zhong

**79.** (a) Let there be 12 vertices  $\{0, \dots, 11\}$ , with  $k \sim (k+1)$  for  $0 \leq k < 12$  and  $3k \sim (3k+5)$  for  $0 \leq k < 4$  (modulo 12). This graph has two equivalence classes, each containing one Hamiltonian cycle and 12 Hamiltonian paths that aren't cycles.

(b) Let there be  $13n$  vertices  $ij$  for  $0 \leq i < n$  and  $-1 \leq j < 12$ , with  $ik \sim ik'$  whenever  $k \sim k'$  in (a); also  $i\bar{1} \sim i0$  and  $i1 \sim ((i+1) \bmod n)\bar{1}$ . This graph has  $2^n$  equivalence classes, each containing one cycle and  $17n$  noncycles.

**80.** If and only if  $s \leq t$  (except when  $s = t = q_1 = 1$ ). [See J. A. Bondy and U. S. R. Murty, *Graph Theory* (2008), Theorem 18.1.]

**81.** (a) Choose nonadjacent  $\{u, v\}$  with  $\deg(u) \leq \deg(v)$  so that  $\deg(u) + \deg(v)$  is maximum, and assume that  $\deg(u) + \deg(v) < n$ . Let  $k = \deg(u)$ . Then  $k > 0$ , because there are no isolated vertices when  $d_{n-1} = n - 1$ . Exactly  $n - 1 - \deg(v) \geq k$  vertices  $\neq v$  are nonadjacent to  $v$ ; these must all have degree  $\leq k$ , by maximality. Similarly, exactly  $n - k \geq \deg(v)$  vertices are nonadjacent to  $u$ , and they all have degree  $\leq \deg(v)$ .

But  $d_s \leq t$  if and only if at least  $s$  vertices have degree  $\leq t$ . Hence we have proved that  $1 \leq k < n/2$ ,  $d_k \leq k$ , and  $d_{n-k} \leq \deg(v) < n - k$ , contradicting (\*).

(b) Each  $G_k$  satisfies (\*), so  $G_{k+1}$  exists. Let  $(w_0 w_1 \dots w_{n-1})$  be a cycle in  $G_{k+1}$  that's not also a cycle in  $G_k$ . We can assume that  $w_0 = u_k$  and  $w_{n-1} = v_k$ . There are  $\deg(u_k)$  values of  $j$  with  $w_0 \sim w_{j+1}$  in  $G_k$ . And  $w_{n-1} \sim w_j$  for at least one such  $j$ , because  $\deg(w_{n-1}) \geq n - \deg(w_0)$ . Thus  $(w_0 \dots w_j w_{n-1} \dots w_{j+1})$  is a cycle in  $G_k$ .

[Condition (\*) was discovered by V. Chvátal, *J. Comb. Theory* **12** (1972), 163–168. This proof is due to J. A. Bondy and V. Chvátal, *Discrete Math.* **15** (1976), 111–135.]

**82.** Let  $G'$  be the graph  $(kK_1 \oplus K_{n-2k}) \sim K_k$ , whose degree sequence has  $d'_j = k$  for  $0 < j \leq k$ ,  $d'_j = n-1-k$  for  $k < j \leq n-k$ ,  $d'_j = n-1$  for  $n-k < j \leq n$ . (See exercise 80.)

**83.** (a) There are  $(2r+1)r/2$  edges. (b) Use exercises 2 and 81.

(c) If  $u_0 \sim u_j$  and  $u_{j-1} \sim u_{2r}$ , a flip will create a cycle. So  $r$  vertices  $u_{j-1}$  cannot be adjacent to  $u_{2r}$ ; the remaining  $r$  candidates must be  $u_{2r}$ 's neighbors.

(d) If the neighbors of  $u_0$  are  $u_1, \dots, u_r$  and the neighbors of  $u_{2r}$  are  $u_r, \dots, u_{2r-1}$ , we have a  $(2r+1)$ -cycle. Otherwise let  $j$  be minimum such that  $u_0 \not\sim u_j$  and  $u_0 \sim u_{j+1}$ . Then  $u_{j-1} \sim u_{2r}$ , and we have a  $2r$ -cycle that excludes  $v_0 = u_j$ .

(e) Assuming the hint, we can make a cycle  $v_1 \sim \dots \sim v_{2k-1} \sim v_0 \sim v_{2k+1} \sim \dots \sim v_1$  that excludes  $v_{2k}$ , for any  $k$ ; hence  $v_{2k} \sim v_j$  for all odd  $j$ . But then  $v_1$  has degree  $r+1$ . [This result was announced in *Lecture Notes in Math.* **186** (1971), 201.]

Notice that Hamiltonicity is *not* implied by exercise 81, even though that exercise is “best possible” according to exercise 82. No efficient way is known to test whether all graphs with a given degree sequence are forcibly Hamiltonian.

**84.** Let  $t = \lceil n/2 \rceil$ , and consider  $2^{t-2}$  cases  $a_1 \dots a_t$  where  $a_1 = a_t = 0$  and  $a_k = \lfloor d_k \rfloor$  for  $1 \leq k < t$ . Then it's easy to see that the minimum  $d_1 + \dots + d_n$  in case  $a_1 \dots a_t$  occurs when  $k < t$  and  $a_k = 0$  implies  $d_k = k+1$ ,  $d_{n-k} = d_{n-k-1}$ ;  $a_k = 1$  implies  $d_k = d_{k-1}$ ,  $d_{n-k} = n-k$ ; also  $d_n = d_{n-1}$ . (For example, if  $n = 11$  and  $a_1 \dots a_6 = 010110$ , we have  $d_1 \dots d_{11} = 22444677999$ .) Let  $s(a_1 \dots a_t)$  denote this minimum sum.

Suppose  $j$  is minimum with  $a_j = 1$ , and  $k$  is minimum with  $k > j$  and  $a_k = 0$ . One can show without difficulty that  $s(0^{k-1}a_k \dots a_t) < s(0^{j-1}1^{k-j}a_k \dots a_t)$ , except that the inequality is reversed when  $n$  is odd and  $j = t-1$ . Consequently the overall minimum sum occurs uniquely for  $d_1 \dots d_n = 23 \dots (t-1)t^{t+2}$  when  $n$  is even,  $23 \dots (t-1)(t-1)t^t$  when  $n > 3$  is odd. Increase  $d_n$  by 1 if the sum is odd.

The resulting sequence of degrees is graphical, by exercise 7–105. Hence the answer turns out to be  $\lfloor (3n^2 + 6n)/16 \rfloor$  when  $n$  is even;  $\lfloor (3n^2 + 8n - 3)/16 \rfloor$  when  $n$  is odd.

Bondy  
Murty  
isolated vertices  
Chvátal  
Bondy  
flip  
degree sequence  
forcibly Hamiltonian  
graphical

**85.** The quadratic function  $f(n, k)$  satisfies  $f(n, k) \geq f(n, k+1)$  if and only if  $k < \frac{n-1}{3}$ . Thus  $g(n, k) = \max_{k \leq t < n/2} f(n, t)$ . Every graph  $(tK_1 \oplus K_{n-2t}) \longrightarrow K_t$  for  $k \leq t < n/2$  is non-Hamiltonian, with degree sequence  $t^t(n-1-t)^{n-2t}(n-1)^t$  and  $f(n, t)$  edges. Furthermore, every graph with  $d_t \leq t$  has at most  $t^2$  edges that involve its first  $t$  vertices and at most  $\binom{n-t}{2}$  edges that don't. Hence a graph with  $d_1 \geq k$  and more than  $g(n, k)$  edges must have  $d_t > t$  for  $k \leq t < n/2$ . And exercise 81 calls it Hamiltonian. [Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Matematikai Kutató Int. Közl. **7** (1962), 227–228.]

**86.** Every graph  $((t+1)K_1 \oplus K_{n-1-2t}) \longrightarrow K_t$ , for  $k \leq t < (n-1)/2$ , is untraceable. So we can achieve  $\hat{g}(n, k) = \max(f(n, k), f(n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1))$  edges, when  $0 \leq k < \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ .

On the other hand, by exercises 2 and 81, a graph is traceable whenever its degree sequence  $d_1 \leq \dots \leq d_n$  satisfies the following condition:

$$1 \leq t < (n+1)/2 \text{ and } d_t < t \text{ implies } d_{n+1-t} \geq n-t. \quad (+)$$

In particular, a graph with minimum degree  $d_1 \geq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  is always traceable. If  $k < \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  and (+) fails for some  $t$ , we have  $d_s \leq t-1$  for  $1 \leq s \leq t$ ;  $d_s \leq n-t-1$  for  $t < s \leq n+1-t$ ; and  $d_s \leq n-1$  for  $n+1-t < s \leq n$ . Hence  $(d_1 + \dots + d_n)/2 \leq \hat{f}(n, t-1) \leq \hat{g}(n, k)$ . (The last inequality holds because  $k \leq t-1 \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1$ .)

**88.** (a) Let  $v_0 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow v_l$  be a longest path, and assume that  $l < 2k$ . We will prove first that there's actually an  $l$ -cycle, using the fact that all neighbors of  $v_0$  and  $v_l$  must lie on that path. Indeed, let  $\{v_i \mid i \in I\}$  be the neighbors of  $v_0$ , and let  $\{v_{j-1} \mid j \in J\}$  be the neighbors of  $v_l$ . Then  $I$  and  $J$  are subsets of  $\{1, \dots, l\}$ . They can't be disjoint, because  $|I| \geq k$  and  $|J| \geq k$ . Therefore there's some  $j \in I \cap J$ ; and we have the cycle  $v_0 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow v_{j-1} \longrightarrow v_l \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow v_j \longrightarrow v_0$ .

But there can't be an  $l$ -cycle! Since  $l \leq n-2$  and  $G$  is connected, there must be vertices  $w$  and  $w'$  not on the cycle, with  $v_j \longrightarrow w \longrightarrow w'$  for some  $j$ . So there's a longer path.

(b) The result clearly holds for  $n \leq l+1$ , because the number of edges is  $\leq \binom{n}{2} \leq nl/2$ . Also for larger  $n$ , if  $G$  isn't connected; for if there are  $r$  components, with  $n_j$  vertices and  $m_j$  edges in component  $j$ , each  $n_j$  is less than  $n$ . By induction, the number  $m_1 + \dots + m_r$  of edges is at most  $(n_1 + \dots + n_r)l/2 = nl/2$ .

Assume therefore that  $n > l+1$  and  $G$  is connected. Let  $k = \lfloor l/2 \rfloor + 1$ . Then  $2k > l$ , so there's no path of length  $2k$ . Hence by (a), there's a vertex  $v$  of degree  $< k$ , unless  $n = 2k = l+2$ . And  $v$  exists even in that case; otherwise exercise 81 tells us there would be a cycle of length  $2k$ , hence a path of length  $2k-1 > l$ .

Now  $G \setminus v$  has at most  $(n-1)l/2$  edges; so  $G$  has at most  $(n-1)l/2 + k-1 \leq nl/2$ .

(c)  $\lfloor n/(l+1) \rfloor K_{l+1} \oplus K_{n \bmod (l+1)}$ , a graph with  $\lceil n/(l+1) \rceil$  components. (The same number of edges is achieved by the much more interesting graph  $K_{l/2} \longrightarrow \overline{K}_{n-l/2}$ , if  $l$  is even and  $n > l$  and  $n \bmod (l+1) \in \{l/2, l/2+1\}$ !)

**89.** (a) Let  $l$  be the length of  $G$ , and consider a longest path  $v_0 \longrightarrow v_1 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow v_l$  where  $v_l \longrightarrow v_p$  and  $p$  is as small as possible. The resulting cycle has length  $c = l+1-p$ ; so we assume that  $c < 2k$ . A vertex  $v_q$  will be called "bounded" if its neighbors all belong to the cycle. We shall prove that  $v_q$  is bounded whenever  $p < q \leq l$ .

The idea will be to construct a longest path  $v_0 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow v_p \longrightarrow v'_{p+1} \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow v'_l$ , where  $\{v'_{p+1}, \dots, v'_l\} = \{v_{p+1}, \dots, v_l\}$  and  $v'_l = v_q$ . Then  $v_q$  must be bounded, because  $l$  is maximum and  $p$  is minimum. Vertex  $v_l$  is clearly bounded; so is vertex  $v_{p+1}$ .

Suppose  $v_{q+1}$  is bounded, and let the neighbors of  $v_{p+1}$  and  $v_{q+1}$  be  $\{v_i \mid i \in I\}$  and  $\{v_j \mid j \in J\}$ . Then  $I \cup J \subseteq \{v_{p+1}, \dots, v_{l+1}\}$ , where we set  $v_{l+1} = v_p$ . Also  $|I|, |J| \geq k$ .

If  $i \in I$  and  $i \leq q$  and  $i-1 \in J$ , let  $v_p v'_{p+1} \dots v'_l = v_{l+1} \dots v_{q+1} v_{i-1} \dots v_{p+1} v_i \dots v_q$ . If  $i \in I$  and  $q < i \leq l$  and  $i+1 \in J$ , let  $v_p v'_{p+1} \dots v'_l = v_{l+1} \dots v_{i+1} v_{q+1} \dots v_i \longrightarrow$

degree sequence  
components


$v_{p+1} \dots v_q$ . One of these constructions must work; otherwise we'd have ruled out at least  $k-1$  of the  $c$  potential elements of  $J$ , and we also have  $q+1 \notin J$ .

But  $\{v_{p+1}, \dots, v_l\}$  can't all be bounded! If  $p=0$ , the graph  $G$  would be disconnected; otherwise vertex  $v_p$  would be an articulation point.

(b) The result clearly holds for  $n \leq c$ , because the number of edges is  $\leq \binom{n}{2} \leq (n-1)c/2$ . Also for larger  $n$ , if  $G$  isn't connected; for if there are  $r$  components, with  $n_j$  vertices and  $m_j$  edges in component  $j$ , each  $n_j$  is less than  $n$ . By induction, the number  $m_1 + \dots + m_r$  of edges is at most  $((n_1-1) + \dots + (n_r-1))c/2 < (n-1)c/2$ .

Assume therefore that  $n > c$  and  $G$  is connected. If  $G$  isn't biconnected, there's an articulation point  $v$  that divides  $G$  into a bicomponent  $G'$  containing  $v$  and a connected graph  $(G \setminus G') \cup v$ . If  $G'$  has  $n'$  vertices,  $G$  has  $\leq (n'-1)c/2 + (n-n')c/2$  edges.


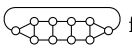
Finally, assume that  $G$  is biconnected and  $n > c$ . The proof follows as in exercise 88(b), because there exists a vertex whose degree is less than  $k = \lfloor c/2 \rfloor + 1$ .

(c)  $K_1 \text{ --- } (\lfloor (n-1)/(c-1) \rfloor K_{c-1} \oplus K_{(n-1) \bmod (c-1)})$ . (The same number of edges is achieved by a traceable graph: Put  $\lfloor (n-1)/(c-1) \rfloor$  copies of  $K_c$  and a  $K_{1+(n-1) \bmod (c-1)}$  in a row, then paste them together;  if  $(n, c) = (12, 4)$ .)

*Historical notes:* These results and those of the previous exercise are due to P. Erdős and T. Gallai [*Acta Mathematica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* **10** (1959), 337–356]. R. J. Faudree and R. H. Schelp [*J. Combinatorial Theory* **B19** (1975) 150–160] proved that the lower bound of exercise 88(c) is sharp: The upper bound in 88(a) can be replaced by the size of those graphs. Similarly, D. R. Woodall [*Acta Math. Acad. Sci. Hung.* **28** (1976), 77–80] proved that the lower bound in (c) is sharp.

**90.** True, except when  $G$  has no edges (and length 0). See exercise 2.

**93.** (a) True, unless there are fewer than 4 vertices.

(b) Graphs like  and  for  $n=9$  and  $n=10$  work in general.

[*Mathematical Gazette* **49** (1965), 40–41. These cubic graphs for even  $n$  are also perfectly Hamiltonian. A more symmetrical graph, whose edges are  $k \text{ --- } (k+1)$  and  $k \text{ --- } (k+n/2)$  (modulo  $n$ ), can also be used when  $n$  is a multiple of 4.]

**95.** (a) Powers of the “obvious” permutation  $\sigma = (a_0 a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 a_6)(b_0 b_1 b_2 b_3 b_4 b_5 b_6)(c_0 c_1 c_2 c_3 c_4 c_5 c_6)(d_0 d_1 d_2 d_3 d_4 d_5 d_6)$  will take  $d_6 \mapsto d_j$  for any  $j$ . There's also a “surprise,”  $\rho = (a_0 b_0)(a_1 b_2)(a_2 d_2)(a_3 c_2)(a_4 c_5)(a_5 d_5)(a_6 b_5)(b_1 b_6)(b_3 d_6)(b_4 d_1)(c_1 d_4)(c_6 d_3)$ ; one can verify that  $u\rho \text{ --- } v\rho$  whenever  $u \text{ --- } v$ . (Notice that  $c_0, c_3, c_4$ , and  $d_0$  are fixed by  $\rho$ . Coxeter called this “an apparent miracle.”) When  $\rho$  is premultiplied and postmultiplied by appropriate powers of  $\sigma$ , we can take  $d_0$  into any desired vertex.

The mapping  $a_j \mapsto b_{5j}, b_j \mapsto c_{5j}, c_j \mapsto a_{5j}, d_j \mapsto d_{5j}$ , namely the permutation  $\tau = (a_0 b_0 c_0)(a_1 b_5 c_4 a_6 b_2 c_3)(b_1 c_5 a_4 b_6 c_2 a_3)(c_1 a_5 b_4 c_6 a_2 b_3)(d_1 d_5 d_4 d_6 d_2 d_3)$ , is another automorphism that fixes  $d_0$ . When  $d_0$  is fixed, we must take its neighbor  $c_0$  into a neighbor; hence we can let  $S_{26} = \{(), \tau, \tau^2\}$ . And when  $c_0$  is also fixed, we can let  $S_{25} = \{(), \rho\}$ , because  $b_0$  must map to itself or  $a_0$ . Clearly  $S_{24} = \{()\}$ .

Finally, can we move anything else when  $d_0, c_0, b_0, a_0$  are all fixed? Aha—there's just one possibility, namely  $\tau^3$ , which swaps  $a_j \leftrightarrow a_{-j}, b_j \leftrightarrow b_{-j}, c_j \leftrightarrow c_{-j}, d_j \leftrightarrow d_{-j}$ , for  $0 < j < 7$ . Thus  $S_{23} = \{(), \tau^3\}$  and  $S_{22} = \dots = S_1 = \{()\}$ .

(b) Part (a) explains how to map  $v \mapsto d_0 \mapsto v'$ .

(c) In fact, part (a) shows that  $u \text{ --- } v \text{ --- } w$  can be mapped to any  $u' \text{ --- } v' \text{ --- } w'$ .

(d) Algorithm H quickly shows that there are no Hamiltonian cycles. But there are 12 cycles, such as  $a_1 \text{ --- } a_0 \text{ --- } a_6 \text{ --- } a_5 \text{ --- } a_4 \text{ --- } a_3 \text{ --- } a_2 \text{ --- } d_2 \text{ --- } c_2 \text{ --- } c_6 \text{ ---}$

articulation point  
components  
articulation point  
bicomponent  
traceable  
Historical notes  
Erdős  
Gallai  
Faudree  
Schelp  
Woodall  
cubic graphs  
perfectly Hamiltonian  
Coxeter  
miracle

$d_6 — b_6 — b_1 — b_3 — d_3 — c_3 — c_0 — c_4 — d_4 — b_4 — b_2 — b_0 — b_5 — d_5 — c_5 — c_1 — d_1 — a_1$ , that omit (say)  $d_0$ .

*Historical notes:* The Coxeter graph was first discussed in print by W. T. Tutte [Canadian Math. Bulletin 3 (1960), 1–5], who proved it non-Hamiltonian. Eventually H. S. M. Coxeter wrote about “his graph” [J. London Math. Society (3) 46 (1983), 117–136], identifying its vertices with the  $\binom{8}{2} = 28$  unordered pairs  $\{x, y\}$  of the set  $D = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, \infty\}$ . His new names for vertices  $a_0$  through  $d_7$  were respectively 25, 36, 04, 15, 26, 03, 14; 34, 45, 56, 06, 01, 12, 23; 16, 02, 13, 24, 35, 46, 05;  $0\infty, 1\infty, 2\infty, 3\infty, 4\infty, 5\infty, 6\infty$  (abbreviating  $\{x, y\}$  by  $xy$ ). If  $0 \leq x < y < 7$ , the neighbors of  $xy$  are  $\{2x - y, 3x - 2y\}$ ,  $\{2y - x, 3y - 2x\}$ , and  $\{4x + 4y, \infty\}$ , using arithmetic mod 7. He showed that the  $7^3 - 7 = 336$  automorphisms correspond to the mappings  $\{x, y\} \mapsto \{f(x), f(y)\}$ , where  $f$  is a fractional linear transformation on  $D$ ; that is,  $f(x) = (ax + b)/(cx + d)$ , where  $0 \leq a, b, c, d < 7$  and  $(ad - bc) \bmod 7 \neq 0$  and either  $c = 1$  or  $(c, d) = (0, 1)$ . (In this computation,  $x/\infty = 0$ ,  $x/0 = \infty$ , and  $f(\infty) = a/c$ . The automorphisms  $\sigma, \rho, \tau$  above correspond respectively to  $f(x) = x + 1, 1/x, 5x$ .)

**100.** (Using ideas of N. Beluhov.) When  $C$  is a cycle cover, let  $s_j = 4[t_j — t_{j+1} \in C] + 2[v_j — w_{j+1} \in C] + [w_j — v_{j+1} \in C]$  encode its edges between indices  $j$  and  $j + 1$  modulo  $q$ . A simple case analysis shows that  $s_j \neq 0$ ;  $s_j \in \{1, 2, 4\} \implies s_{j+1} = 7$ ;  $s_j = 3 \implies s_{j+1} \in \{5, 6\}$ ;  $s_j = 5 \implies s_{j+1} \in \{3, 5\}$ ;  $s_j = 6 \implies s_{j+1} \in \{3, 6\}$ ;  $s_j = 7 \implies s_{j+1} \in \{1, 2, 4\}$ ; and that the sequence  $s_1 s_2 \dots s_q$  completely determines  $C$ .

Thus there are two kinds of covers: Type A, where  $s_j$  is alternately 7 and an element of  $\{1, 2, 4\}$ ; or type B, where each  $s_j$  is an element of  $\{3, 5, 6\}$ . Type A covers arise only when  $q$  is even, and they have  $k + 1$  cycles when there are  $k$  occurrences of  $s_j = s_{j+2} \neq 7$ . Type B covers always have exactly 2 cycles.

Let  $g(w, z) = \sum w^{[a_0=a_1]+\dots+[a_{n-1}=a_n]} z^n [a_0 = a_n]$ , summed over all ternary sequences  $a_0 a_1 \dots a_n$ , and let  $h(w, z)$  be similar but requiring  $a_0 \neq a_n$ . Then  $g(w, z) = 3 + wzg(w, z) + zh(w, z)$  and  $h(w, z) = 2zg(w, z) + (1 + w)zh(w, z)$ . So we find  $g(w, z) = 3(1 - (1 + w)z)/((1 - (w - 1)z)(1 - (w + 2)z)) = 2/(1 - (w - 1)z) + 1/(1 - (2 + w)z)$ . Consequently the number of type A covers with  $k$  cycles is  $2[w^{k-1}z^{q/2}]g(w, z) = 4\binom{q/2}{k-1}(2^{q/2-k} - (-1)^{q/2-k})$  when  $q$  is even. (In particular, the number of Hamiltonian cycles is  $4(2^{q/2-1} + (-1)^{q/2})$ .)

Turning to type B, let there be  $f_{xyn}$  sequences  $a_0 \dots a_n$  with  $a_0 = x$ ,  $a_n = y$ , and each  $a_j \in \{3, 5, 6\}$ , having no consecutive 33 or 56 or 65. We find by induction that  $f_{xyn} = (2^n - (-1)^n)/3 + \delta_{xyn}$ , where  $\delta_{xyn} = 1$  when  $n$  is even and  $x = y$ ,  $\delta_{xyn} = -1$  when  $n$  is odd and  $xy \in \{33, 56, 65\}$ , otherwise  $\delta_{xyn} = 0$ . Hence there are  $f_{33q} + f_{55q} + f_{66q} = 2^q + 2[q \text{ even}]$  covers of type B.

**103.** Let  $H = v_0 — v_1 — \dots — v_n = v_0$ . Every edge of  $G \setminus H$  has the form  $e_{ij} = v_i — v_j$  for some  $0 \leq i < j < n$ . When  $G$  is drawn in the plane with no crossing edges, two edges  $e_{ij}$  and  $e_{i'j'}$  with  $i < i' < j < j'$  cannot both lie inside  $H$ , nor can they both lie outside  $H$ . Therefore the graph  $E$  whose vertices are the  $e_{ij}$ , with  $e_{ij}$  adjacent to  $e_{i'j'}$  when  $i < i' < j < j'$ , must be bipartite. Conversely, if  $E$  is bipartite,  $G$  is clearly planar. (And bipartiteness is readily tested by Algorithm 7B.)

*Historical notes:* This criterion for planarity was discovered by G. Demoucron, Y. Malgrange, and R. Pertuiset [Revue Française de Recherche Opérationnelle 8 (1964), 33–47] and independently by W. Bader [Archiv für Elektrotechnik 49 (1964), 2–12], at the time when planarity of printed circuits began to be important. A graph is planar if and only if its blocks (biconnected components) are planar; and in practice, a block that

Historical notes  
Tutte  
Coxeter  
fractional linear transformation  
Beluhov  
generating functions  
ternary sequences  
bipartite  
Historical notes  
Demoucron  
Malgrange  
Pertuiset  
Bader  
printed circuits  
blocks  
biconnected components

isn't a single edge is almost always Hamiltonian. Notice that the nonplanar graphs  $K_5$  and  $K_{3,3}$  have Hamiltonian cycles, and the corresponding graphs  $E$  aren't 2-colorable.

105. (a)  $[n \geq 3]n!/(2n)$ , one for every pair  $\{\pi, \pi^-\}$  where  $\pi$  is a cyclic permutation.  
 (b)  $[m = n \geq 2]n^2/(2n)$ .

106. [This problem is scheduled to appear in the *American Mathematical Monthly*, so the answer is “embargoed” until the deadline for reader submissions has passed.]

108. (a) Those are the only remaining ways to include vertex 28 in the cycle.  
 (b)  $\frac{08}{16}$  would form a short cycle; so 08 must be covered by  $\frac{08}{27}$ .  
 (c) 14 must be covered by  $\frac{06}{14}$  and  $\frac{14}{26}$ ; but then  $26 - 14 - 06 - \dots - 26$ .  
 (d) We must choose  $\frac{14}{22}$  to avoid the contradiction, after which  $\frac{03}{15}$  leaves  $23 - 04 - 25$  and  $05 - 24 - 16$  as the only ways to cover 04 and 24. Then  $\frac{07}{15}$  is forced, and almost everything is nailed down. Hence there are two ways to complete a cycle after the choices of (a), (b), and (d): either  $\{\frac{05}{13}, \frac{06}{25}, \frac{14}{26}\}$  or  $\{\frac{05}{26}, \frac{06}{14}, \frac{13}{25}\}$ .


109. (In this graph we have  $\text{NAME}(0) = 00$ ,  $\text{NAME}(1) = 01$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $\text{NAME}(29) = 29$ .)  
 $\text{MATE}(0)$  is  $\geq 0$ ;  $\text{MATE}(1) = 21$ ;  $\text{MATE}(2) = 22$ ;  $\text{MATE}(3) = 23$ ;  $\text{MATE}(4) = -1$ .


111. TRIG needs at most  $n$  locations, because no vertex can be a trigger more than once (when its degree drops to 2). ACTIVE needs at most  $\binom{n+1}{2}$  locations, because at most  $n - l$  vertices are outer in level  $l$ . SAVE needs at most  $n^2$  slots, where each “slot” holds a mate and a degree, because there can be at most  $n$  levels.

112. (a) `activate( $u$ ); activate( $w$ ); remark( $u, v$ ); remark( $w, v$ ); and makemates( $u, w$ ).`  
 (b) `activate( $u$ ); remark( $u, v$ ); purge( $w, v$ ); makemates( $\text{MATE}(w), u$ ); deactivate( $w$ ).`  
 Here ‘`purge( $w, v$ )`’ means ‘`remark(NBR[ $w$ ][ $k$ ],  $w$ )` for  $k$  decreasing from  $\text{DEG}(w) - 1$  down to 0, except when  $\text{NBR}[w][k] = v$ ’.  
 (c) `activate( $w$ ); remark( $w, v$ ); purge( $u, v$ ); makemates( $\text{MATE}(u), w$ ); deactivate( $u$ ).`  
 (d) Do nothing if  $e = n$ . Otherwise `purge( $u, v$ ); purge( $w, v$ ); makemates( $\text{MATE}(u), \text{MATE}(w)$ ); deactivate( $u$ ); deactivate( $w$ ).`

113. Set  $x[k] \leftarrow -1$  for  $0 \leq k < n$ . Then do this for  $0 \leq k < n$ : If  $x[\text{EU}[k]] < 0$ , set  $x[\text{EU}[k]] \leftarrow \text{EV}[k]$ ; else set  $y[\text{EU}[k]] \leftarrow \text{EV}[k]$ . If  $x[\text{EV}[k]] < 0$ , set  $x[\text{EV}[k]] \leftarrow \text{EU}[k]$ ; else set  $y[\text{EV}[k]] \leftarrow \text{EU}[k]$ . Finally set  $v_1 \leftarrow 0$ ,  $v_2 \leftarrow x[0]$ , and for  $3 \leq k \leq n$  set  $v_k \leftarrow (v_{k-2} = x[v_{k-1}]? y[v_{k-1}]: x[v_{k-1}])$ .

115. Assume that  $n > 4$ . The root has degree  $n - 2$ . The  $k$ th subtree, for  $1 \leq k < n - 2$ , is  $T(n - 1 - k, n - 3, n - 2, \dots, 2)$ ; and the last subtree is  $T(n - 3, n - 2, \dots, 2)$ . Here  $T(d_0, \dots, d_{r-1})$  denotes the complete tree with  $d_l$ -way branching at level  $l$  for  $0 \leq l < r$ . (The  $k$ th subtree has  $(n - 1 - k)(n - 3)!$  of the  $(n - 1)!/2$  solutions.)

116.   
 is one of the six ways to do 14 suitable rotations of those binary trees. (These are also the Hamiltonian cycles of an *associahedron*; see exercise 7.2.1.6–29.)

117. (a) True. ( $t(G) = 0$  if and only if  $U = \emptyset$  disconnects  $G$ .)  
 (b) If  $|U|/k(G \setminus U) \neq |U|/k(G \setminus e \setminus U)$ , edge  $e$  joins two components of  $G \setminus e$ ; hence  $k(G \setminus U) = k(G \setminus e \setminus U) - 1$  (and the term for this  $U$  leaves the ‘min’ if  $k(G \setminus U) = 1$ ).  
 (c) This follows from the monotonicity proved in (b), since  $t(C_n) \geq 1$ .  
 (d) After cutting out  $m'$  vertices of the smaller part and  $n'$  vertices of the larger part, the residual graph that's left is connected unless  $m' = m$  or  $n' = n$ . The smallest ratio  $(m' + n')/(m - m' + n - n')$  is  $m/n$  in such cases. (See exercise 105.)  
 (e)  $4/3$ , by cutting 4 independent vertices. (Let  $N$  be the “net” graph, ; the smallest non-Hamiltonian tough graph is  $K_1 \text{ --- } N$ . A 42-vertex non-Hamiltonian graph

$K_5$   
 $K_{3,3}$   
 2-colorable  
 cyclic permutation  
 $\text{NAME}(v)$   
 complete tree  
 rotations  
 binary trees  
 associahedron  
 “net” graph

with  $t(G) = 2$  was (surprisingly) constructed by D. Bauer, H. J. Broersma, and H. J. Veldman, in *Discrete Applied Math.* **99** (2000), 317–321; it's tough for Algorithm H!

(Let  $N_{t,m}$  be the graph  $(t+1)K_m - K_t$ ; graph  $D$  in Table 1 is the special case  $N_{5,3}$ . We have  $t(N_{t,m}) \leq t/(t+1)$ ; hence  $N_{t,m}$  is non-tough. Chvátal's original paper about toughness appeared in *Discrete Mathematics* **5** (1973), 215–228.)

**118.** (Solution by V. Chvátal.) Let the vertices of  $G = K_m \square K_n$  be  $V \times W$ , where  $|V| = m$  and  $|W| = n$ . Given  $p > 1$ , the smallest set  $U$  that makes  $k(G \setminus U) = p$  has the form  $(V \times W) \setminus (V_1 \times W_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_p \times W_p)$ , where  $V_1 \cup \cdots \cup V_p$  and  $W_1 \cup \cdots \cup W_p$  are set partitions of  $V$  and  $W$ . Hence  $|U| = mn - m_1 n_1 - \cdots - m_p n_p$ , where the sizes  $|V_j| = m_j$  and  $|W_j| = n_j$  are positive integers that sum to  $m$  and  $n$ . It is minimized when  $m_1 = m+1-p$ ,  $n_1 = n+1-p$ , and all other  $m_j$  and  $n_j$  are 1; in other words, the smallest such  $|U|$  is  $mn - (p-1) - (m+1-p)(n+1-p) = (p-1)(m+n-p)$ . Hence  $t(G) = \min_{p=2}^{\min(m,n)} (p-1)(m+n-p)/p = (m+n-2)/2$ .

**119.** They take  $v \mapsto (\frac{av+b}{cv+d}) \bmod 47$ , where  $(a, b, c, d) = (20, 15, 17, 27)$ ,  $(20, 17, 15, 27)$ ,  $(31, 19, 21, 16)$ , and  $(31, 21, 19, 16)$ . (We have  $1/\infty = 0$ ,  $1/0 = \infty$ , and  $\infty \mapsto \frac{a}{c} \bmod 47$ .)

**120.** (a) The automorphisms are generated by  $(i, j, k, u, v, w, x, y, z, U, V, W, X, Y, Z) \mapsto (j, k, i, V, W, U, X, Y, Z, v, w, u, z, x, y)$  or  $(i, j, k, U, V, W, Z, X, Y, u, v, w, y, z, x)$ . The cycles  $x \rightarrow U \rightarrow i \rightarrow u \rightarrow Z \rightarrow y \rightarrow V \rightarrow j \rightarrow v \rightarrow X \rightarrow z \rightarrow W \rightarrow k \rightarrow w \rightarrow Y \rightarrow x$  and  $Z \rightarrow u \rightarrow i \rightarrow U \rightarrow x \rightarrow X \rightarrow v \rightarrow j \rightarrow V \rightarrow y \rightarrow Y \rightarrow w \rightarrow k \rightarrow W \rightarrow z \rightarrow Z$  are quickly found by Algorithm H (just 50 nodes in the search tree).

(b) Since  $G_0^{(t)}$  has a unique Hamiltonian path from  $x^{(t)}$  to  $X^{(t)}$ , this construction uses it as a “gadget” to prevent any of the edges between  $Q_t$  and  $G_0^{(t)}$  from appearing in any Hamiltonian cycle of  $G_t$ . The proof relies on the fact that  $q_t \rightarrow p_t \rightarrow Q_t \rightarrow q_t \rightarrow P_t$ .

(See H. Fleischner, *J. Graph Theory* **75** (2014), 167–177, Lemma 1. He goes on to define  $G_4$  and  $G_5$ , thereby removing the degree-3 vertices  $Y$  and  $z$  in a similar way; those reductions introduce many more cycles, yet only one of them includes the edge  $u \rightarrow U$ . Another trick removes  $y$  and  $Z$ , in a graph  $F = G_6$  that's half of his tour-de-force!)

**122.** (a) For example, the triangles  $\{b, e, f\}$ ,  $\{g, k, l\}$ ,  $\{d, i, j\}$  must correspond somehow to the triangles  $\{A, B, J\}$ ,  $\{F, G, H\}$ ,  $\{C, D, L\}$ . Hence the other vertices  $\{a, c, h\}$  and  $\{E, I, K\}$  must also correspond to each other in some order. The solution is

$$(a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l) \leftrightarrow (I, J, K, H, A, B, L, E, F, G, C, D).$$

[It's unique, because this happens to be the “Frucht graph,” one of the smallest cubic graphs that has no automorphisms except the identity. See R. Frucht, *Canadian J. Math.* **1** (1949), 365–378. Halin graphs were introduced by R. Halin, *Combinatorial Mathematics and its Applications* (Oxford conference, 1969), 129–136.]

(b) For each nonleaf of  $T$  except the root, introduce the chord  $i \rightarrow ((j+1) \bmod q)$  when its descendant leaves are  $x_i \dots x_j$ . (The chords for  $b, c, d, g$  in the example are  $0 \rightarrow 2$ ,  $2 \rightarrow 5$ ,  $5 \rightarrow 0$ ,  $2 \rightarrow 4$ , because  $x_0 \dots x_6 = \mathbf{efklhij}$ .)

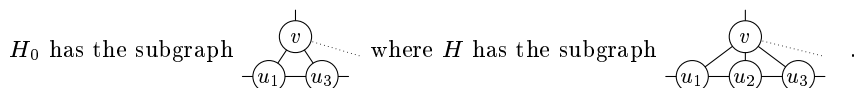
(c) Choose any region to be the root. The other regions and sides will form a tree  $T$ , when we ignore the adjacencies between sides of  $C$ , because the other adjacencies form no cycles. The children of each region in  $T$  are its adjacent regions and sides, except for the parent, in (say) clockwise order. For instance, if we choose root  $I$  in the example, the children of  $I$  might be  $(J, K, H)$ ; the children of  $J$  are  $(A, B)$ ; the children of  $K$  are  $(L, E)$ ; etc.; we could also have decided to let the children of  $I$  be  $(K, H, J)$  or  $(H, J, K)$ . Or we could have chosen root  $K$ , with children  $(E, I, L)$  or  $(I, L, E)$  or  $(L, E, I)$ ; then the children of  $I$  would be  $(H, J)$ , etc.

Bauer  
Broersma  
Veldman  
Chvátal  
gadget  
Fleischner  
Frucht graph  
automorphisms  
identity  
historical notes  
Halin

**123.** The answers for  $4 \leq n \leq 16$  are 1, 1, 2, 2, 4, 6, 13, 22, 50, 106, 252, 589, 1475, computed by using definition (ii). See A. Howroyd, OEIS A346779 and A380362 (2025).

**124.** By induction on the number of vertices. The result is clear when tree  $T$  in (i) has depth 1. Otherwise some nonroot vertex  $v \in T$  has  $d \geq 2$  children  $u_1 \dots u_d$ , all leaves.

*Case 1:*  $d > 2$ . Let  $H_0$  be the Halin graph obtained by deleting leaf  $u_2$ . Then

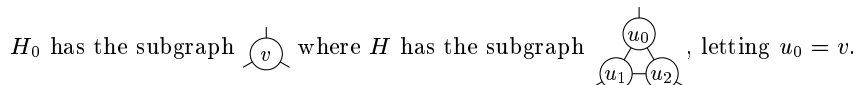


Since  $u_2$  has degree 3, the Hamiltonian cycles of  $H$  have three possible forms:

$$u_2 - v - \alpha - u_1 - u_2, \quad u_2 - v - \alpha - u_3 - u_2, \quad u_2 - u_1 - \alpha - u_3 - u_2,$$

where the middle part is a Hamiltonian path of  $H_0$ . And such paths in  $H_0$  arise from Hamiltonian cycles that respectively include the edges  $v - u_1$ ,  $v - u_3$ ,  $u_1 - u_3$ . So  $H$  has cycles that include/exclude  $u_2 - u_1$ ,  $u_2 - u_3$ ,  $u_2 - v$ . Furthermore, a Hamiltonian cycle of  $H_0$  that excludes  $u_1 - u_3$  must include  $u_1 - v - u_3$ ; so we obtain Hamiltonian cycles in  $H$  that include/exclude  $v - u_1$ ,  $v - u_3$ , and the edges from  $u_1$  and  $u_3$  to their anonymous neighbors. It's easy to include/exclude the other edges.

*Case 2:*  $d = 2$ . Now obtain  $H_0$  by changing  $v$  to a leaf; in this case



By threefold symmetry, the Hamiltonian cycles of  $H$  that avoid edge  $u_i - u_j$  correspond precisely to the Hamiltonian cycles of  $H_0$  that avoid the “opposite” edge from  $v$ .

[Considerably more is also true; see Z. Skupień, *Contemporary Methods in Graph Theory* (Mannheim, 1990), 537–555. Uniform Hamiltonicity was introduced by C. A. Holzmänn and F. Harary in *SIAM J. Applied Math.* **22** (1972), 187–193.]

**125.**  $i_{97} - j_{97} = 58 - 54 = \pi_{78004}\pi_{78005} - \pi_{78006}\pi_{78007}$ .

**127.** GA is impossible, because the arcs AL — FL — GA and GA — SC — NC are forced.

**128.**  $C$ ,  $H$ ,  $P$ , and  $U$ . (See exercise 103.)

**129.** (In the modified step H11, we can terminate the loop immediately if we encounter a vertex of degree 0 or 1.) The modified algorithm works surprisingly well: It wins convincingly on graphs  $A$ ,  $G$ , and  $U$  (58 M $\mu$ , 2762 G $\mu$ , and 27 G $\mu$ ); it ties or does slightly better on graphs  $C$ ,  $H$ , and  $T$ . It's slightly slower on graphs  $B$ ,  $P$ , and  $Q$ ; and it's more than 25% slower on graphs  $D$ ,  $E$ ,  $F$ ,  $R$ ,  $S$ .

**130.** In other words, if the present state of the computation can lead to a Hamiltonian cycle  $C$ , the current graph  $G'$  must have a Hamiltonian cycle  $C'$ . Indeed, that  $C'$  can be exhibited by replacing each subpath in  $C$  by the corresponding virtual edge of  $G'$ .

(Conversely, every Hamiltonian cycle of  $G'$  that actually uses every virtual edge corresponds to a unique Hamiltonian cycle  $C$  of  $G$ . There might, however, be other Hamiltonian cycles in  $G'$ . This graph  $G'$  was defined by W. Kocay in his paper of 1992, but he doesn't seem to have realized its full potential for pruning the search.)

One can, for example, discover whether or not  $G'$  has an articulation point by using Hopcroft and Tarjan's efficient depth-first algorithm for bicomponents (Algorithm 7.4.1.2B, or BOOK\_COMPONENTS in *The Stanford GraphBase*).

Howroyd  
OEIS  
Skupień  
Holzmänn  
Harary  
historical notes  
Kocay  
pruning the search  
articulation point  
Hopcroft  
Tarjan  
depth-first  
bicomponents



**133.** No! Let  $C$  be a cycle  $(0, 0) = v_0 \text{---} v_1 \text{---} \cdots \text{---} v_{n^2} = (0, 0)$  for which  $u \text{---} v$  is in  $C$  if and only if  $u\alpha \text{---} v\alpha$  is also in  $C$ , where  $(i, j)\alpha = (j, i)$  denotes reflection about the main diagonal. Let  $k > 0$  be minimum with  $v_k$  on the diagonal; that is,  $v_k = v_k\alpha$ . Then  $v_{k+1} = v_{k-1}\alpha$ , because  $v_{k-1}\alpha \text{---} v_k\alpha$  is the other edge of  $C$  that touches  $v_k$ . Similarly,  $v_{k+2} = v_{k-2}\alpha$ , and so on; we find  $v_{2k} = v_0$ . Hence  $2k = n^2$ , and only two elements of the diagonal are in  $C$ . Contradiction.

The same argument shows more generally that no nontrivial automorphism  $\alpha$  of a rectangular board can be a symmetry of a knight's cycle when  $\alpha$  has fixed points.

**134.** Let  $(i, j)\alpha = (m-1-i, j)$ , and let the cycle begin  $(0, 0) = v_0 \text{---} v_1 \text{---} \cdots \text{---} v_k = (m-1, 0)$ . Notice that  $m$  is even; otherwise  $((m-1)/2, 0)$  would be a fixed point of  $\alpha$ . Therefore  $k$  is odd. *Case 1:*  $v_1\alpha = v_{k+1}$ . Then  $v_{k+2} = v_2\alpha, \dots$ , and  $v_{2k} = v_k\alpha = v_0$ . So  $mn/2 = k$  is odd. *Case 2:*  $v_{k-1} = v_1\alpha$ . Then  $v_{k-j} = v_j\alpha$  for  $0 \leq j \leq k = 2l+1$ . But we can't have both  $v_{l+1} \text{---} v_l$  and  $v_{l+1} = v_l\alpha$ .

[Similar conditions apply to central symmetry, as we'll see in exercise 136. These results are due to G. P. Jelliss, *Chessics* **2**, 22 (Summer 1985), 64.]

**135.** Let graph  $G$  have  $N = mn/2$  vertices, one for each pair  $\{xy, \bar{x}y\}$  of equivalent cells; here  $0 \leq x < m/2$ ,  $0 \leq y < n$ , and  $\bar{x} = m-1-x$ . The neighbors of  $\{xy, \bar{x}y\}$  in  $G$  are  $\{x'y', \bar{x}'y'\}$  for all knight moves  $xy \text{---} x'y'$  with  $0 \leq x' < m$  and  $0 \leq y' < n$ . (For example, when  $m = 10$  we have  $\{30, 60\} \text{---} \{41, 51\}$ , since  $30 \text{---} 51$  and  $\{51, 41\} = \{41, 51\}$ .)

Given a Hamiltonian cycle  $\{00, \bar{0}0\} = v_0 \text{---} v_1 \text{---} \cdots \text{---} v_N = \{00, \bar{0}0\}$  in  $G$ , there's a unique knight path  $00 = x_0y_0 \text{---} x_1y_1 \text{---} \cdots \text{---} x_Ny_N$  with  $x_ky_k \in v_k$  for  $0 \leq k \leq N$ . We must have  $x_Ny_N = \bar{0}0$ , because  $N$  is odd. Therefore we get an  $m \times n$  knight's cycle by defining  $x_{N+k}y_{N+k} = \bar{x}_ky_k$  for  $0 \leq k \leq N$ .

**136.** We'll need names for these two kinds of symmetry. The right-hand species of symmetry is called *Bergholtian*, because it was discovered by Ernest Bergholt [*British Chess Magazine* **38** (1918), 104, 195; see also *The Games and Puzzles Journal* **2**, 14 (16 December 1996), 234]. The left-hand species is called *Eulerian*, because Leonhard Euler gave many examples of such cycles in §25–§34 of his 1759 memoir.

As in answer 135, we define a graph  $G$  with  $N = mn/2$  vertices; but this time the vertices represent pairs  $\{xy, \bar{x}y\}$ , where  $\bar{x}y = (m-1-x)(n-1-y)$ . The neighbors of  $\{xy, \bar{x}y\}$  are, similarly, the vertices  $\{x'y', \bar{x}'y'\}$  obtained from knight moves  $xy \text{---} x'y'$ . Now, however, there's a slight problem: There are two "self-loops," because we can have  $xy \text{---} x'y'$ . (More precisely, we have  $u_0 \text{---} u_0$  and  $u_1 \text{---} u_1$ , where  $u_0 = \{(\frac{m-2}{2})(\frac{n-3}{2}), (\frac{m}{2})(\frac{n+1}{2})\}$  and  $u_1 = \{(\frac{m-2}{2})(\frac{n+1}{2}), (\frac{m}{2})(\frac{n-3}{2})\}$ .) It may seem best to simply disallow those self-loops; after all, a self-loop can't be in a Hamiltonian cycle.

But further analysis reveals that the Bergholtian solutions correspond precisely to the Hamiltonian *paths* between  $u_0$  and  $u_1$ . Indeed, from a path  $u_0 = v_0 \text{---} \cdots \text{---} v_{N-1} = u_1$  in  $G$ , we get  $x_0y_0 \text{---} \cdots \text{---} x_{N-1}y_{N-1}$  with each  $x_ky_k \in v_k$ , where  $x_0y_0 = (\frac{m-2}{2})(\frac{n-3}{2})$ . Then  $x_0y_0 \text{---} \cdots \text{---} x_{N-1}y_{N-1} \text{---} \bar{x}_{N-1}\bar{y}_{N-1} \text{---} \cdots \text{---} \bar{x}_0\bar{y}_0 \text{---} x_0y_0$  is a Bergholtian cycle.

On the other hand, a Hamiltonian *cycle* in  $G$ , say  $\{00, \bar{0}0\} = v_0 \text{---} \cdots \text{---} v_N = \{00, \bar{0}0\}$ , will lead similarly to  $00 = x_0y_0 \text{---} \cdots \text{---} x_Ny_N$ . And it will yield an Eulerian cycle if and only if  $x_Ny_N = \bar{0}0$ , which happens if and only if  $N$  is odd.

We conclude that if  $n \bmod 4 = 2$ , we should add the special edge  $u_0 \text{---} u_1$  to  $G$ . Then its Hamiltonian cycles will correspond precisely to all of the centrally symmetric  $m \times n$  knight cycles; they're Bergholtian if the special edge is used, Eulerian otherwise.

central symmetry  
Jelliss  
Bergholt  
Euler  
Hamiltonian *paths*

But if  $n \bmod 4 = 0$ , there aren't any  $m \times n$  Eulerian cycles. We get the Bergholtian ones by adding *two* special edges,  $u_0 \text{---} ! \text{---} u_1$ , where '!' is a new vertex.

multigraph  
de Jaenisch

**137.** Again we construct  $G$  with  $N = mn/2$  vertices  $\{xy, \overline{xy}\}$ . But there's a new complication:  $G$  is a *multigraph*, with four edges that occur twice! Indeed, when  $x = \frac{m-4}{2}$ ,  $y = \frac{n-4}{2} + k$ ,  $x' = \frac{m-2}{2}$ , and  $y' = \frac{n-4}{2} + k'$ , where  $0 \leq k < 4$  and  $k' = (k+2) \bmod 4$ , we have both  $xy \text{---} x'y'$  and  $\overline{xy} \text{---} \overline{x'y'}$ . Hence  $\{xy, \overline{xy}\} \text{---} \{x'y', \overline{x'y'}\}$  is a double edge.

For example,  $G$  has 32 vertices when  $m = n = 8$ , namely  $\begin{smallmatrix} 00 & 01 \\ 77 & 76 \end{smallmatrix}, \dots, \begin{smallmatrix} 07 & 10 \\ 70 & 67 \end{smallmatrix}, \begin{smallmatrix} 11 \\ 66 \end{smallmatrix}, \dots, \begin{smallmatrix} 17 \\ 60 \end{smallmatrix}, \dots, \begin{smallmatrix} 37 \\ 40 \end{smallmatrix}$ . (We write  $\begin{smallmatrix} wx \\ yz \end{smallmatrix}$  as a convenient shorthand for vertex  $\{wx, yz\}$ .) The double edges for this case turn out to be  $\begin{smallmatrix} 22 \\ 55 \end{smallmatrix} \text{---} \begin{smallmatrix} 34 \\ 43 \end{smallmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{smallmatrix} 23 \\ 54 \end{smallmatrix} \text{---} \begin{smallmatrix} 35 \\ 42 \end{smallmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{smallmatrix} 24 \\ 53 \end{smallmatrix} \text{---} \begin{smallmatrix} 32 \\ 45 \end{smallmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{smallmatrix} 25 \\ 52 \end{smallmatrix} \text{---} \begin{smallmatrix} 33 \\ 44 \end{smallmatrix}$ ; and  $G$  also has 76 single edges. Algorithm H needs fewer than 800 megamems to visit each of  $G$ 's 2,451,830 Hamiltonian cycles, one of which is

00 21 35 30 26 07 15 36 20 01 13 34 24 05 17 25 04 16 37 32 11 03 22 14 06 27 31 10 02 23 33 12 00  
77 56 42 47 51 70 62 41 57 76 64 43 53 72 60 52 73 61 40 45 66 74 55 63 71 50 46 67 75 54 44 65 77 .

This cycle doesn't use any of the double edges; so we can uniquely extract a corresponding knight path that begins at 00, proceeding from left to right:

00 21 42 30 51 70 62 41 20 01 13 34 53 72 60 52 73 61 40 32 11 03 22 14 06 27 46 67 75 54 33 12 00 .

Hmmm. Bad luck. Only 32 cells have been touched before the knight has returned to its starting point, 00; hence this Hamiltonian cycle of  $G$  doesn't correspond to a valid knight's cycle of the full  $8 \times 8$  board. (Its complement tours the other 32 cells.)

Let's try again. Here's another Hamiltonian cycle that's double-move free:

00 21 35 30 26 07 15 36 20 01 22 14 06 27 31 10 02 23 04 16 37 25 17 05 13 34 24 03 11 32 33 12 00  
77 56 42 47 51 70 62 41 57 76 55 63 71 50 46 67 75 54 73 61 40 52 60 72 64 43 53 74 66 45 44 65 77 .

This one brings better news when we extract the corresponding knight path:

00 21 42 30 51 70 62 41 20 01 22 14 06 27 46 67 75 54 73 61 40 52 60 72 64 43 24 03 11 32 44 65 77 ;

aha, it ends in 77! We get a full knight's cycle by appending the complementary steps.

Consider now a Hamiltonian cycle of  $G$  that *does* use one of the double edges:

00 21 35 30 26 07 15 36 20 01 13 05 17 25 04 16 37 32 11 03 24 34 22 14 06 27 31 10 02 23 33 12 00  
77 56 42 47 51 70 62 41 57 76 64 72 60 52 73 61 40 45 66 74 53 43 55 63 71 50 46 67 75 54 44 65 77 .

(The culprit is  $\begin{smallmatrix} 34 \\ 43 \end{smallmatrix} \text{---} \begin{smallmatrix} 22 \\ 55 \end{smallmatrix}$ , aka  $\begin{smallmatrix} 22 \\ 55 \end{smallmatrix} \text{---} \begin{smallmatrix} 34 \\ 43 \end{smallmatrix}$ .) Knight-path extraction is now ambiguous,

00 21 42 30 51 70 62 41 20 01 13 05 17 25 04 16 37 45 66 74 53 34 \* 22 14 06 27 46 67 75 54 33 12 00 ,

because 34 can be followed by either 22 or 55. We'd better choose 55; that will complement all of the subsequent steps, and we'll end up with 77 as desired.

Next let's look at the path in  $G$  that corresponds to a famous knight's cycle that C. F. de Jaenisch [*Traité des applications de l'analyse math. au jeu des échecs* 2 (1862), 35–37] proudly called “seven-fold reentrant”:

00 21 33 32 24 03 11 30 35 23 04 16 37 25 17 05 13 01 20 36 15 07 26 34 22 10 02 14 06 27 31 12 00  
77 56 44 45 53 74 66 47 42 54 73 61 40 52 60 72 64 76 57 41 62 70 51 43 55 67 75 63 71 50 46 65 77 .

This one has *three* double edges, hence  $2^3 = 8$  ways to resolve its ambiguities:

00 21 33 45 \* 24 03 11 30 42 \* 23 04 16 37 25 17 05 13 01 20 41 62 70 51 43 \* 22 10 02 14 06 27 46 65 77 .

Four of those eight will produce 77 at the right.

Can all four of the double edges participate? Yes, but such cases are much rarer:

00 21 35 23 04 16 37 32 24 03 11 30 26 07 15 27 06 14 02 10 31 34 22 01 20 36 17 05 13 25 33 12 00  
77 56 42 54 73 61 40 45 53 74 66 47 51 70 62 50 71 63 75 67 46 43 55 76 57 41 60 72 64 52 44 65 77 .

Eight of the sixteen knight-path extractions are therefore fruitful in

00 21 42 \* 23 04 16 37 45 \* 24 03 11 30 51 70 62 50 71 63 75 67 46 34 \* 22 01 20 41 60 72 64 52 \* 33 12 00 .

Altogether the Hamiltonian cycles of  $G$  include exactly 1076876 without double edges, of which 536360 are unlucky; plus (978316, 341706, 52192, 2740) that have respectively (1, 2, 3, 4) doubles. That makes  $1076876 - 536360 + 978316 + 2 \cdot 341706 + 4 \cdot 52192 + 8 \cdot 2740 = 2432932$  centrally symmetric tours, which form 608233 sets of 4.

**138.** (Each value of  $m$  is accompanied by the totals for  $n = 3, 5, 7, \dots$ )

*Vertical symmetry.*  $m = 6$ : 0, 4, 530, 20582, 994660, 45129332, 2082753196.  
 $m = 10$ : 4, 2266, 18480426, 56275825112.  $m = 14$ : 24, 722396, 539780910056.  $m = 18$ :  
 276, 238539296.  $m = 22$ : 2604.  $m = 26$ : 25736.  $m = 30$ : 248816.

*Eulerian symmetry.*  $m = 6$ : 0, 0, 526, 22210, 1477090, 100121632, 6606415888.  
 $m = 10$ : 0, 1212, 16330492, 49470226538.  $m = 14$ : 16, 498926, 529843978930.  $m = 18$ :  
 124, 167812624.  $m = 22$ : 1404.  $m = 26$ : 12824.  $m = 30$ : 126696.

*Bergholtian symmetry.*  $m = 6$ : 0, 0, 38, 3724, 363594, 19156740, 1265006728.  
 $m = 10$ : 4, 494, 3346312, 19308979910.  $m = 14$ : 8, 123028, 101557666784.  $m = 18$ :  
 152, 47966908.  $m = 22$ : 1200.  $m = 26$ : 12912.  $m = 30$ : 122120.

(We might as well also record here the other cases of Bergholtian symmetry.  
 $m = 8$ : 0, 22, 21968, 17072474, 8868635684.  $m = 12$ : 0, 8858, 452675596.  $m = 16$ : 48,  
 3145086.  $m = 20$ : 352.  $m = 24$ : 3752.  $m = 28$ : 34768.  $m = 32$ : 346128.)

(Algorithm H's running time for these graphs  $G$  is roughly 500 mems per solution.  
 The totals for  $(m, n) = (6, 15)$  and  $(14, 7)$  were obtained by Algorithm D.)

**139.** Let  $G$  be a graph with 25 vertices, one for each class of four cells  $\{xy, y\bar{x}, \bar{x}\bar{y}, \bar{y}x\}$  that are rotationally equivalent, where  $\bar{x} = 9 - x$ . Adjacency is defined by giraffe moves; we must omit the self-loops from  $\{23, 37, 76, 62\}$  and  $\{32, 26, 67, 73\}$  to themselves. Furthermore, we remove one of the two edges between  $\{22, 27, 77, 72\}$  and  $\{33, 36, 66, 63\}$ .

This 51-edge graph has 56 Hamiltonian cycles (found in just 33 K $\mu$ ); but the actual number is 100, because 44 of those cycles include the double edge. That yields 100 ways to cover a  $10 \times 10$  board with symmetrical Hamiltonian cycles.

A cycle and its transpose are both counted. Hence there are exactly 50 essentially distinct solutions. [They were first discovered by T. W. Marlow, shortly after he had enumerated the 415902 essentially distinct  $10 \times 10$  knight cycles with  $90^\circ$  symmetry. See *The Games and Puzzles Journal* **2**, 16 (15 May 1999), 288–291.]

**141.** Multiply the number of Hamiltonian cycles of the  $8 \times 8$  knight graph ( $\approx 13$  trillion) by 64 (to place '1') and by 2 (to place '2'): 1,698,222,644,548,096.

**142.** (a) If  $\beta$  is the wedge at 44 in  $C$ , then  $\beta\tau$  is the wedge at 34 in the reflection. And  $\alpha_4 = \beta\rho$ . So  $\beta\tau = \alpha_4\rho\rho\tau = \alpha_4\tau\rho = \bar{\alpha}_4$ . Continuing in this way we obtain  $\bar{\alpha}_4\bar{\alpha}_3\bar{\alpha}_2\bar{\alpha}_1$ .

(b)  $\bar{\alpha}_2\bar{\alpha}_1\bar{\alpha}_4\bar{\alpha}_3$ . (c)  $\bar{\alpha}_3\bar{\alpha}_2\bar{\alpha}_1\bar{\alpha}_4$ .

**143.** dDdD reflects to cCcC, which is canonical.

**144.** False. In its equivalence class  $\{\mathbf{aBAb}, \mathbf{bABa}, \mathbf{ABab}, \mathbf{BabA}\}$ , the smallest is  $\mathbf{ABab}$ .

**145.** It would force a 4-cycle with two edges at the nearby corner.

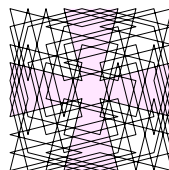
**146.**  $\alpha\alpha\alpha\alpha$  for  $\alpha \in \{\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{D}, \mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{H}, \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{J}, \mathbf{K}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y}\}$ ;  $\alpha\beta\alpha\beta$  for  $\alpha\beta \in \{\mathbf{AL}, \mathbf{Aa}, \mathbf{Al}, \mathbf{Bb}, \mathbf{Cd}, \mathbf{Dc}, \mathbf{Eh}, \mathbf{Fg}, \mathbf{Gf}, \mathbf{He}, \mathbf{Ij}, \mathbf{Ji}, \mathbf{Kk}, \mathbf{La}, \mathbf{Ll}, \mathbf{al}, \mathbf{wx}, \mathbf{yz}\}$ .

**148.** For example, the fixed point  $\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4 = \bar{\alpha}_3\bar{\alpha}_2\bar{\alpha}_1\bar{\alpha}_4$  occurs if and only if  $\alpha_1 = \bar{\alpha}_3$ ,  $\alpha_2 = \bar{\alpha}_2$ , and  $\alpha_4 = \bar{\alpha}_4$  ( $28 \cdot 4 \cdot 4$  cases). Summing over all eight fixed points yields the answer  $(28^4 + 28 + 28^2 + 28 + 28^2 + 28 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 + 28^2 + 28 \cdot 4 \cdot 4)/8$ . Similarly, without 'a', it's  $(27^4 + 27 + 27^2 + 27 + 27^2 + 27 \cdot 3 \cdot 3 + 27^2 + 27 \cdot 3 \cdot 3)/8$ .

**149.** A census based on the  $28^4$  possible central wedges works well, as it did for knights. (Notice that a giraffe's wedge  $\mathbf{a}$  subtends the angle  $\theta' = \arctan \frac{15}{8} \approx 61.93^\circ$ , which is significantly *wider* than the angle  $90^\circ - \theta'$  subtended by its wedge  $\mathbf{c}$ .) As with knights, we deal with 66771 canonical bunches; but this time we exclude code  $\mathbf{A}$  instead of code  $\mathbf{a}$ . It turns out that 33975 of those canonical bunches — more than half! — have no solutions, often because of subtle constraints that lead to nontrivial search trees. Of the remaining

Vertical symmetry  
 Eulerian symmetry  
 Bergholtian symmetry  
 dynamic enumeration  
 self-loops  
 transpose  
 Marlow  
 census  
 central wedges  
 canonical bunches

32796 cases, bunch **CdCd** has the fewest solutions (110); bunch **Baby** has a median number of solutions (847479); and bunch **aaaa** has the most ( $\approx 4.5$  billion). (Bunch **aaaa**, which has multiplicity 8, also happens to be the graph  $G$  in Table 1 whose central wedges define a Cossack cross, one of which is pictured here. Bunch **CdCd** has multiplicity 4.) The total number of tours, taking multiplicities into account, is 1,018,865,516,976.



Cossack cross  
multiplicities  
al-'Adlī  
reflection  
lexicographically smallest  
canonical bunches  
al-'Adlī  
reflection  
lexicographically smallest  
transposition  
reflection about a diagonal  
Jelliss

**151.** Now a bunch is defined by a sequence of *eight* wedge codes  $\alpha_1\beta_1\alpha_2\beta_2\alpha_3\beta_3\alpha_4\beta_4$ , where  $\alpha_1$  and  $\beta_1$  are the wedges at 03 and 04; then  $\alpha_2$  and  $\beta_2$  determine the wedges at 30 and 40 in a similar way, after we rotate the diagram  $90^\circ$  clockwise, etc. Therefore  $\alpha_1\beta_1\alpha_2\beta_2\alpha_3\beta_3\alpha_4\beta_4$ ,  $\alpha_2\beta_2\alpha_3\beta_3\alpha_4\beta_4\alpha_1\beta_1$ ,  $\alpha_3\beta_3\alpha_4\beta_4\alpha_1\beta_1\alpha_2\beta_2$ ,  $\alpha_4\beta_4\alpha_1\beta_1\alpha_2\beta_2\alpha_3\beta_3$  are equivalent bunches. (The only codes that can appear in the top row are {A, B, C, E, G, I}.)

For example, al-'Adlī's closed tour (1) belongs to bunch **EGABCAIG**, which is equivalent to **ABCAIGEG**, **CAIGEGAB**, and **IGEGABCA**, as well as to **EGEIBCAB**, **EIBCABEG**, **BCABEGEI**, and **ABEGEIBC** after reflection. These bunches all have 83,205,370 solutions; the census looks only at their canonical (lexicographically smallest) bunch, **ABCAIGEG**.

There are 210,771 canonical bunches altogether. But 29,984 of them have no solutions, usually for obvious reasons. For example,  $\alpha_1\beta_2 = \text{AB}$  forces a 4-cycle;  $\alpha_1\beta_2\alpha_3\beta_4 = \text{IIII}$  forces a 6-cycle;  $\alpha_1\beta_2\alpha_3\beta_4 = \text{CCCC}$  forces a 12-cycle, for three choices of each of  $\beta_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_3$ , and  $\alpha_4$ . Canonical bunch **CCCECECE** has a *unique* solution; and so does **CCCECCGE**! At the other extreme, **EGEGEGEG** has a whopping 3,046,049,272 solutions. The median canonical bunch, **AEEIECGC**, has 859,162. (1,676,968,941,608 solutions are visited.)

**152.** Again we'll have eight wedge codes  $\alpha_1\beta_1\alpha_2\beta_2\alpha_3\beta_3\alpha_4\beta_4$  for the eight designated wedges. We'll base  $\alpha_1\beta_1$  on the wedges at 15 and 26; then  $\alpha_2\beta_2$  will define the wedges at 21 and 12, after rotating the board  $90^\circ$  so that  $21 \mapsto 15$  and  $12 \mapsto 26$ ; and so on. Bunch  $\alpha_1\beta_1\alpha_2\beta_2\alpha_3\beta_3\alpha_4\beta_4$  will then be equivalent to bunch  $\alpha_2\beta_2\alpha_3\beta_3\alpha_4\beta_4\alpha_1\beta_1$ , as well as to  $\beta_4\bar{\alpha}_4\beta_3\bar{\alpha}_3\beta_2\bar{\alpha}_2\beta_1\bar{\alpha}_1$  under reflection. The edges  $15 - 07 - 26$  are always present; therefore the possible wedges at 15 are (D, F, i, K, w) and the possible wedges at 26 are (c, g, J, k, x), in increasing order of their angles. Reflection takes  $D \mapsto c$ ,  $F \mapsto g$ , etc.

For example, al-'Adlī's closed tour (1) belongs to bunch **KcFgFxiJ**, which is equivalent to **FgFxiJKc**, **FxiJKcFg**, and **iJKcFgFx**, as well as to **iJwgFgDk**, **wgFgDkiJ**, **FgDkiJwg**, and **DkiJwgFg** after reflection. These bunches all have 11,550,362 solutions; the census looks only at their canonical (lexicographically smallest) bunch, **DkiJwgFg**.

There are  $5^8$  bunches, of which 49225 are canonical. However, it's easy to see that a bunch with  $\alpha_j\beta_j = \text{Kk}$  forces a 4-cycle; we might as well omit all such cases. That leaves us with  $24^4$  bunches, of which 41790 are canonical (see exercise 148).

Among those 41790, bunch **wxwxwxwx** has the fewest solutions, with only 2112; bunch **iJiJiJiJ** has the most, with 5,609,440,068; bunch **DkFgFkig** is a median, with 11,856,607. Altogether 1,692,674,826,245 solutions are visited.

**154.** The interconnecting steps of (9) are  $2 \dots 14$ ,  $16 \dots 49$ ,  $51 \dots 59$ , and  $61 \dots 64$ . Rotating the diagram by  $180^\circ$  shows that this is type XII.

**155.** Only types I, II, III, X, and XI are unchanged by transposition (reflection about a diagonal). The other eight types must be split into two subtypes: IV and  $\text{IV}^T$ , ..., XIII and  $\text{XIII}^T$ , yielding 21 altogether. [The original 13-type classification in Fig. 124 is due to G. P. Jelliss, *The Games and Puzzles Journal* **2**, 16 (15 May 1999), 288.]

**156.** (357732461664, 166744766276, 483660455968, 498605611352, 333697459256, 812965778520, 1547585659448, 986042635376, 1513974300904, 1183196364192, 806039244560, 2491945752744, 2085173920272) for types (I, II, ..., XIII).

[These results are unexpected. Why does Type II occur less than half as often as Type I? But the totals are otherwise roughly in line with the prediction that a type with  $k$ -fold symmetry will occur about  $1/k$  times as often as the unsymmetrical types XII and XIII. (The respective values of  $k$  are (8, 8, 4, 4, 4, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1).)]

**157.** (a) 431,873,707,240. (b) 0! (No explanation for this lack of solutions is known.)

(c) Although six full classes force 48 of the 64 edges, there actually are 6720 solutions. For example, Fig. A-19(c) has all the edges of classes A, C, E, F, G, S.

[G. P. Jelliss devised Fig. A-19(b), whose moves of slope +2 solve (a), in *Chessics* **2**, 22 (Summer 1985), 66. He observed that a magician who memorizes a single solution to (a) can perform the following trick: A spectator places a white knight and a black knight anywhere on the board, a knight's move apart; the magician then captures the black knight with the white knight, the slow way, *after* first visiting every other square.]

**158.** We conduct *two* censuses, first to determine the maxima and unknown minima and then to count the extreme solutions. Since extreme solutions are rare, the second census needs to examine fewer than 2000 bunches. Most of the minima are obvious and findable by hand; Jelliss proved (surprisingly) that at least two  $90^\circ$  moves are needed.

*Proof.* Suppose there's a tour without any right-angle moves. We must make the eight moves of class A in exercise 157. Edge 01 — 22 is also forced; otherwise we'd have 20 — 01 — 13. Similarly, all eight edges of class G are forced. Then 03 — 15 is forced, because we can't have 11 — 03 — 24; we must have all of class D. Hence 02 — 14 (and all of class C) is forced. The central wedges are now determined, giving us all of class U. We must also have class B, because 13 — 32 makes a right angle. That forces class M, which forces class E. It's a nice kaleidoscopic pattern, with 8-fold symmetry; but it's not a tour! Sharper analysis shows that a single  $90^\circ$  angle is also impossible.

Each of the six possible angles  $\alpha$  can occur surprisingly often in a single tour. These maxima, (29, 30, 39, 33, 25, 19), are achieved respectively (136, 432, 48, 176, 32, 112) times among the 13 trillion solutions, and examples appear in (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l) of Fig. A-19. On the other hand the minima, namely (4, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0), aren't difficult to achieve, except for Jelliss's construction in Fig. A-19(p); they occur respectively (4073251792, 193895168, 1152, 316388348, 312777068, 196464725912) times.

It's also interesting to group angles together into *acute* angles ( $< 90^\circ$ ), *obtuse* angles ( $> 90^\circ$ ), and *orthogonal* angles ( $90^\circ$  or  $180^\circ$ ). These groups can occur as many as (42, 47, 42) times, while their minima are (4, 4, 4). (See Fig. A-19(m, n, o) and (s, t, u).) The maxima occur (56, 464, 7128) times, and the minima are also fairly rare: (28068, 4, 400624). Indeed, Fig. A-19(n) is essentially unique.

We can also group the *diagonal* angles ( $\theta$  and  $180^\circ - \theta$ ) as well as the *axial* angles  $90^\circ \pm \theta$ , which occur at least (4, 4?) and at most (45?, 39?) times. Those extremes are achieved in (xxx?, xxx?, xx?, xx?) ways and exhibited in Fig. A-19(m), (?), (?), (?) [work in progress!].

The least and greatest sums of all angles are  $52 \cdot 90^\circ - 6\theta \approx 4458.8^\circ$  and  $84 \cdot 90^\circ + 10\theta \approx 7928.7^\circ$ , illustrated in Fig. A-19(d) and (e), achievable in just 88 and 64 ways.

*Historical notes:* Problems 1 and 2 in Jelliss's magazine [*Chessics* **1**, 1 (Walton on Naze, March 1976), 2] asked only for the six maxima and minima; now at last we can ask and solve the more detailed questions. Only two of the maxima had been known before 2025. Prior to that, the best published constructions were (26, 38, 30, 22) for ( $\theta$ ,  $90^\circ$ ,  $90^\circ + \theta$ ,  $180^\circ - \theta$ ) [G. P. Jelliss, in *Chessics* **1**, 5 (July 1978), 4-5; *J. Recreational Math.* **27** (1995), 237], and 26 for  $90^\circ - \theta$  [J. J. Secker, in *Chessics* **1**, 7 (March 1979), 10]. Astonishingly, a tour achieving the correct value 19 for  $180^\circ$  had already been

$k$ -fold symmetry

Jelliss

magician

*acute* angles

*obtuse* angles

*orthogonal* angles

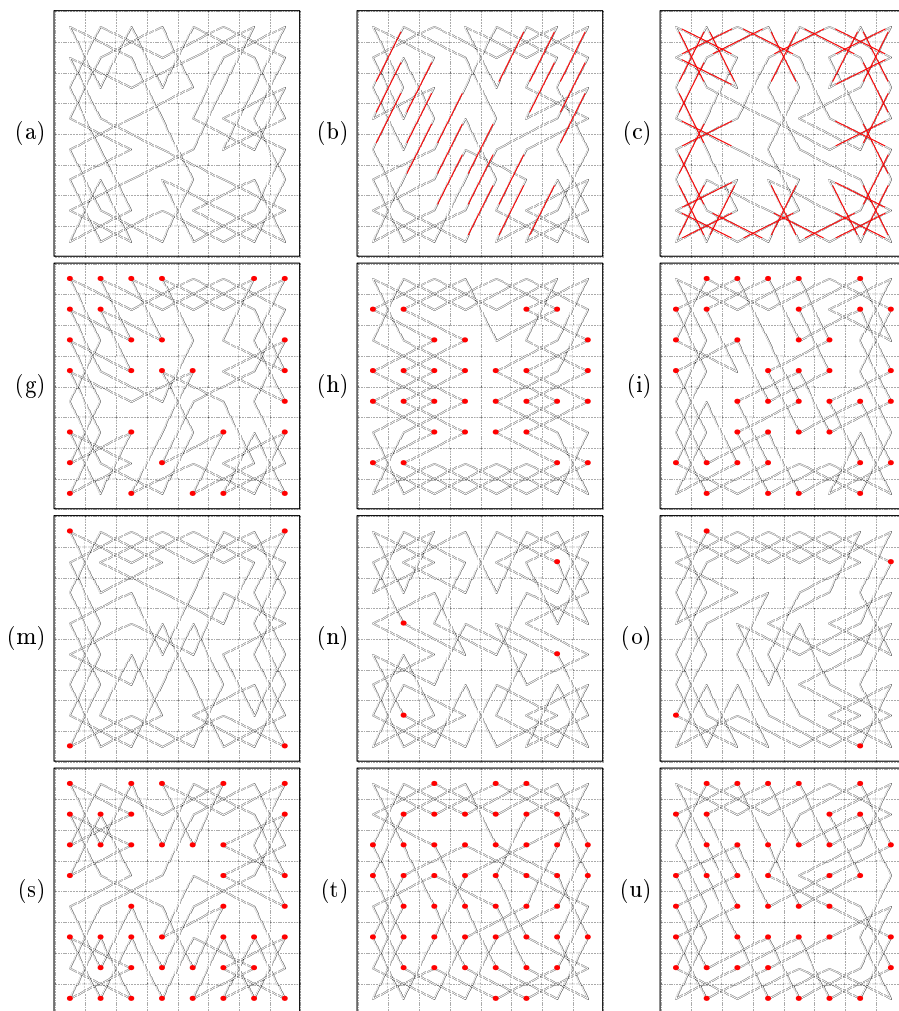
*diagonal* angles

*axial* angles

lateral angles, see axial

Historical notes

Secker



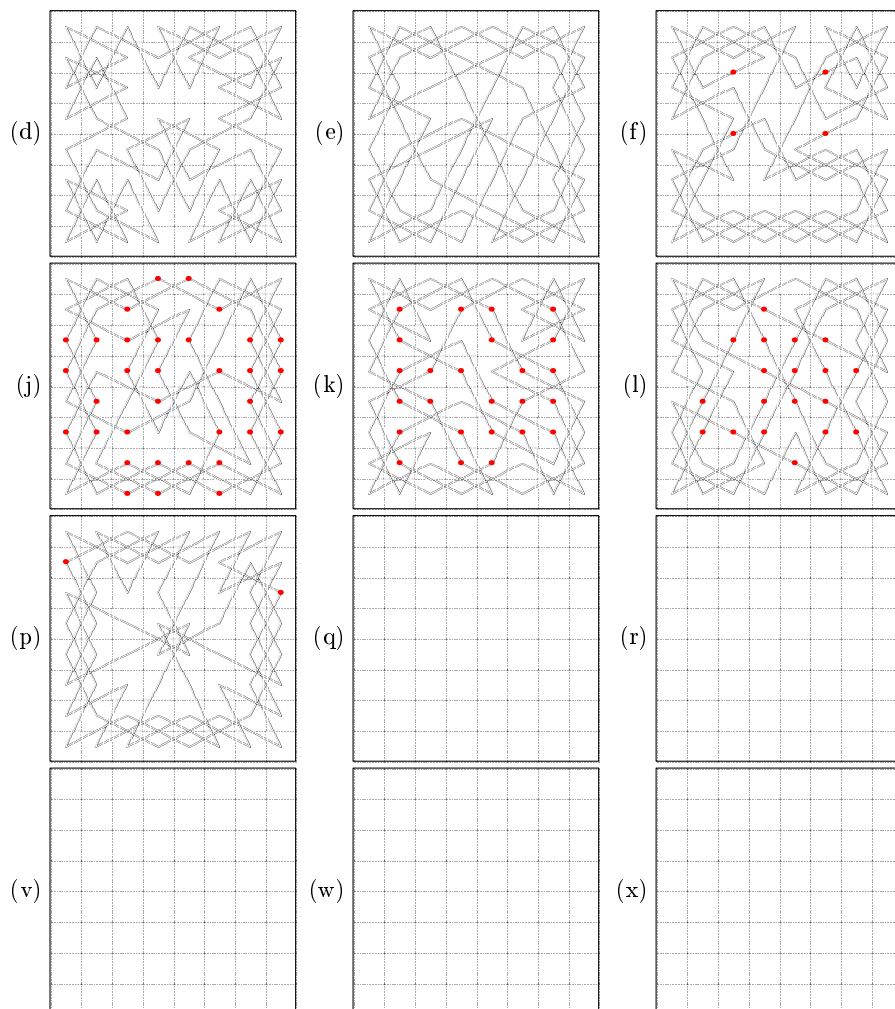
Onitiu  
Murray  
Jelliss  
author

**Fig. A–19.** A gallery of

given by V. Onitiu in *The Problemist: Fairy Chess Supplement* 1, 12 and 13 (June and August, 1932), pages 74 and 82! And H. J. R. Murray, on page 79 of an unpublished manuscript [*The Knight's Problem* (Oxford: Bodleian Library, 1942), viii + 283 pages], had found the “herringbone” tour of Fig. A–19(h), actually in another context.

**159.** Obvious candidates for investigation are the most or fewest untarnished cells; or the most cells that can be septuply tarnished. Can all of the noncorner cells be tarnished at least twice, yet none quadruply so?

**160.** George Jelliss, in *Chessics* 2, 19 (Autumn 1984), 25–26, exhibited a tour in which 10 moves are unintersected. He also showed that some move must be intersected at least four times. When the author asked him in 1992 about the fewest total intersections, he



Beluhov  
Jelliss

exceptional knight's cycles. (More to come — watch this space!)

responded with a tour that has only 76 — but said that such a problem was definitely “a task for [your] computers.”

N. I. Beluhov [arXiv:1310.3450 [math.CO] (2013), 7 pages] has proved that no  $m \times n$  knight's tour consists entirely of  $\times$  moves.

**163.** Each cell of the board can be partitioned into 21 subregions, and we can compute the winding number of each subregion by choosing an appropriate point in that subregion and counting how often the tour crosses a straight line to the left of that point. (Downward counts +1; upward counts −1.) The area of each subregion is a multiple of  $\frac{1}{120}$ , so the calculation can work entirely with smallish integers.

[See the online program SSHAM-WINDING-PREP. This way to represent tours by shaded regions was discovered by George Jelliss, who called them “knight's tour

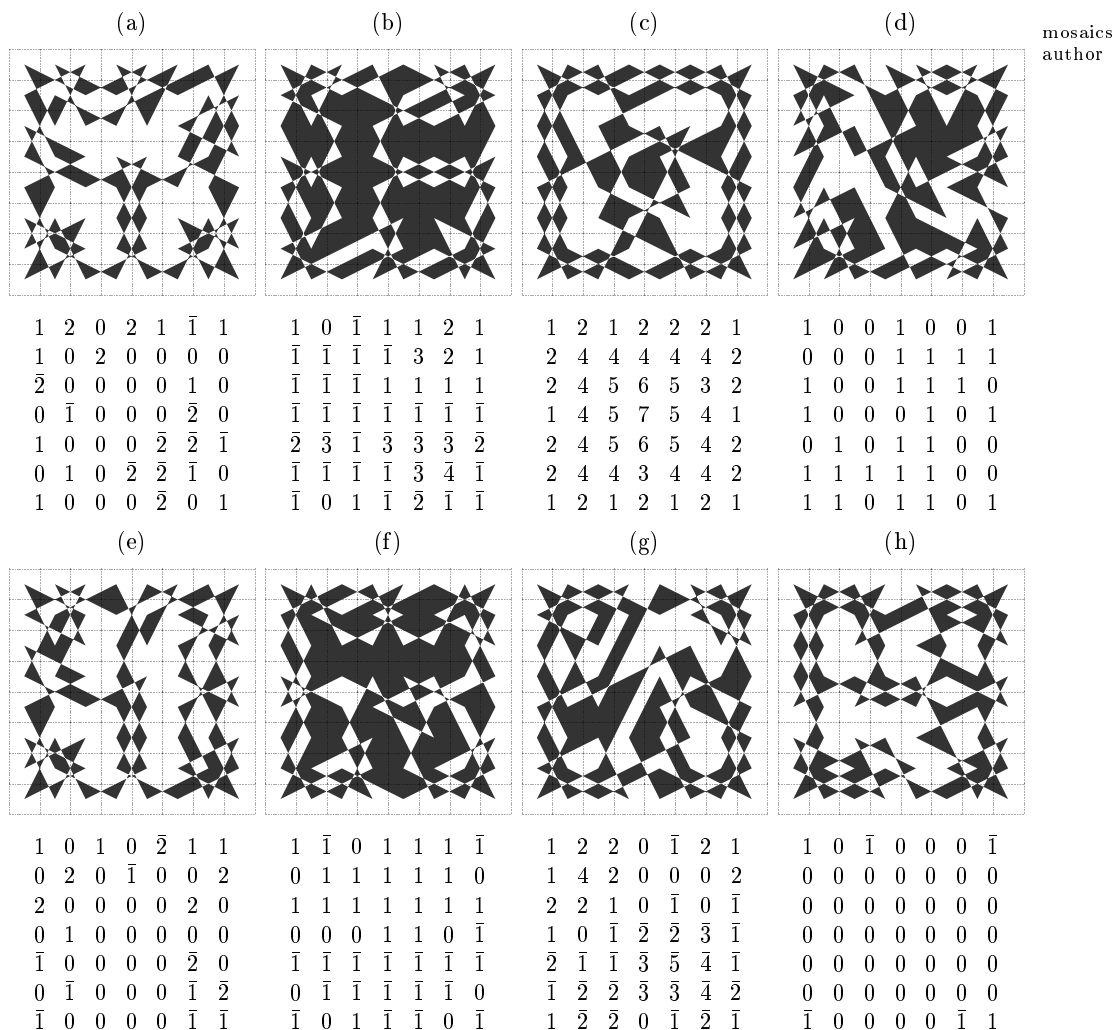


Fig. A-20. Record-breaking winding number patterns of closed  $8 \times 8$  tours.

mosaics” and communicated his idea to the author on 26 December 1992. In that same letter he asked if the minimum shaded area could be computed. Yes, now it can!]

The fascinating extremal results are exhibited in Fig. A-20, where tours (a) and (b) attain the minimum and maximum shaded area ( $\frac{1772}{120}$  and  $\frac{3942}{120}$ ), while (c) attains the maximum *swept* area (150). All three of those solutions are *unique*, except for rotation and/or reflection. The 49 individual winding numbers at interior corners, shown below each figure, yield the total swept area when we add them up, as proved in exercise 164. Fig. A-20(d) shows one of the 254,652 tours for which those 49 numbers are all 0 or 1, or all 0 or  $\bar{1}$ . If we restrict consideration to the 129,937,524,256 tours whose swept area is zero, the min and max shaded area ( $\frac{1838}{120}$  and  $\frac{3828}{120}$ ) occur uniquely in tours (e) and (f). Tour (g) is one of 3,378,536 cases where the interior winding numbers



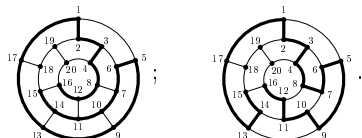
span ten different digits (in this case  $-5$  through  $+4$ ). And example (h) is an amazing tour, again unique, for which all but six of the interior winding numbers are zero!

**164.** In fact this is true of *any* oriented polygonal cycle  $C$  whose vertices are a subset of the midpoints of square cells, provided that none of the lines between consecutive vertices goes exactly through a corner between cells. (See *The American Mathematical Monthly* **101** (1994), 682–683; **104** (1997), 669; the proof consists of showing that such cycles can nicely be “spliced together.”)

**170.**  $\binom{d}{2}$ , when vertex 1 has degree  $d$ . (They’re the possible wedges of vertex 1.)

**171.** There aren’t any, unless  $n = 1$ . (The only possible endpoint is ‘ $n$ ’.)

**172.** Vertices 15 and 16 are endpoints; 17 is inner; 18, 19, 20 are bare. That forces a lot:



(When Algorithm H proceeds to 15-configs, these two answers yield 17-cycles of  $G_{17}$ .)

**173.** From  $\bar{1}101$  and  $\bar{1}11\bar{1}$  we get  $101$  and  $11\bar{1}$ . (The classes of 17-configs have three-digit names, because  $\hat{F}_{17} = (18, 19, 20)$ .) From  $0110$  we get nothing. Class  $1001$  yields additional members of  $101$ ; class  $101\bar{1}$  yields additional members of  $11\bar{1}$ ; class  $1212$  yields an additional class,  $\bar{1}11$ . Each of the three 17-classes therefore has size 10. (And ultimately they’ll account for the thirty 20-cycles.)

**270.** (a)  $v_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow v_n$  in  $G$  if and only if  $s \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow v_n \rightarrow t \rightarrow s$  in  $\hat{G}$ .

(b) Suppose  $u_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow u_n$  and  $v_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow v_n$  are Hamiltonian, with  $u_j \neq v_j$  and  $j$  minimum. Then  $u_j = v_k$  and  $v_j = u_l$  for some  $k > j$  and  $l > j$ . Consequently  $u_l \rightarrow v_{j+1} \cdots \rightarrow v_k \rightarrow u_{j+1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow u_l$  is a cycle.

(c) True. We can assume that the vertices of  $G$  are labeled “topologically” (see Algorithm 2.2.3T) so that  $v_j \rightarrow v_k$  implies  $j < k$ . Algorithm B will choose  $t \rightarrow s \rightarrow v_1$ , since  $s$  and  $v_1$  have in-degree 1. If  $v_1 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow v_k$  have been chosen, for  $k \geq 1$ , then  $\{v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}\}$  are inner; hence  $v_{k+1}$  has in-degree 0 or 1. No backtracking is needed.

**271.** Construct  $O(n^p)$  subgraphs of  $\hat{G}$  by removing one arc from each cycle in all possible ways. Then  $G$  has a Hamiltonian path if and only if at least one of those subgraphs is Hamiltonian. And each subgraph can be tested in  $O(m+n)$  steps by exercise 270(c).

(Of course this result is purely theoretical, by no means practical!)

**298.** (a) There’s one solution for every way to cover the vertices of  $G$  by disjoint oriented cycles of length  $\geq 4$ . A cycle  $u_0 \rightarrow v_0 \rightarrow u_1 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow u_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow v_{k-1} \rightarrow u_0$  corresponds to choosing the options ‘ $u_0^- v_0 u_1^+$ ’, ‘ $u_1^- v_1 u_2^+$ ’,  $\dots$ , ‘ $u_{k-1}^- v_{k-1} u_0^+$ ’.

(b) From the 332 options, Algorithm 7.2.2.1X needs about 180 Mμ to find 185868 solutions, of which 2·9862 are the closed knight’s tours (without removing symmetries).

wedges  
topological sorting  
theoretical  
practical  
disjoint oriented cycles

**299.** Set up an exact cover problem as in exercise 198, where  $n = 32$  and the vertices of the “first part” are the cells  $ij$  with  $1 \leq i, j \leq 8$  and  $i + j$  odd. Also add primary items  $ij^\times$  for  $i + j$  odd and  $i > 2$ . Each option now contains at least *six* items, not three: ‘ $u_1^- v_1 w_1^+ u_2^- v_2 w_2^+$ ’ where  $u_1 - v_1 - w_1$  and  $u_2 - v_2 - w_2$ , the six vertices are distinct, the  $i$ -coordinate of  $u_1$  is less than the  $i$ -coordinate of  $u_2$ , and the  $j$  coordinates of  $(u_1, u_2)$ ,  $(v_1, v_2)$ ,  $(w_1, w_2)$  are equal. (The  $u$ ’s and  $w$ ’s belong to the “first part.” This option represents a pair of moves with matching columns.) Furthermore, append  $ij^\times$  to each option for which  $\{w_1, w_2\} = \{mj, ij\}$  or for which  $\{u_1, u_2\} = \{mj, kj\}$  and  $k \neq i$ , where  $m \in \{1, 2\}$ . This trick forces the pairs of paths to

“hook up” properly. For example, two of the options are ‘ $12^- 24$   
 $16^+ 52^- 44 56^+ 32^\times 72^\times 56^\times$ ’ and ‘ $41^- 22 43^+ 61^- 42 23^+ 43^\times$ ’.

Exploit symmetry by removing options with  $v_1 = 11$  and  $w_1 = 32$ .

That makes a total of 1998 options, and Algorithm 7.2.2.1X finds 383080 solutions in 14 G $\mu$ . Each solution chooses 16 options, and a good one yields a cycle  $(v_0 v_1 \dots v_{63})$  in which the chosen options involve  $v_k^-, v_{k+1}^+, v_{k+2}^-, v_{k+3}^+, v_{k+4}^-, v_{k+5}^+, v_{k+6}^-, v_{k+7}^+$  for  $k = 0, 2, \dots, 30$ . Most solutions define short cyclic paths; but 5264 of them yield correct tours, such as the one shown.

**300.** Notice that we must have  $a_{23} = 2$ ,  $a_{28} = 17$ ,  $a_{47} = 18$ ,  $a_{67} = 50$ ,  $a_{76} = 48$ ,  $a_{88} = 49$ . To find such a tour, we can begin by finding a knight’s path of length 14 from step 2 to step 16 that doesn’t interfere with  $180^\circ$  rotation, nor does it involve any of the “reserved” cells. All paths of length 14 are efficiently found by pasting together compatible paths of length 7. Useful paths also have the property that each vertex in the set  $U$  of cells available for steps (18..30) and (50..64) has degree  $\geq 2$  in the graph restricted to  $U \cup I$ , where  $I = \{47, 52, 67, 32\}$  is the set of endpoints for future paths. The endpoints must also have degree  $\geq 1$  in that graph. A similar method finds 14-step paths for steps 18 through 32 and 50 through 64. One of the 46,596 solutions is shown.

**301.** Adapting the method in the previous exercise to paths of other lengths, we find that there are respectively (2, 47, 3217, 280244, 1205980, 259230, 41366) feasible solutions for the first (4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64) steps. The first full solution is shown. [Brentano’s *Chess Monthly* **1**, 1 (May 1881), 36; **1**, 5 (September 1881), 248–249. See George P. Jelliss, *Mathematical Spectrum* **25** (1992), 16–20, for information about many similar “figured tours.”]

**350.** Let the number be  $X_n$ , and let  $u, v, w$  be the “middle” vertices on the boundary. A Hamiltonian cycle on  $S_{n+1}^{(3)}$  has the form  $u - \dots - v - \dots - w - \dots - u$ , where the portions from  $u$  to  $v$ ,  $v$  to  $w$ , and  $w$  to  $u$  are Hamiltonian *paths* from corner to corner of  $S_n^{(3)}$ . Consequently  $X_{n+1} = Y_n^3$ , where  $Y_n$  is the number of such paths.

Write  $uv$  for the corner between  $u$  and  $v$ . A Hamiltonian path from  $uw$  to  $vw$  has the form  $uw - \dots - u - \dots - v - \dots - vw$ ; and there are two cases, depending on whether  $w$  appears before  $u$  or after  $v$ . Thus  $Y_{n+1} = Z_n Y_n Y_n + Y_n Y_n Z_n$ , where there are  $Z_n$  Hamiltonian paths from corner to corner in a graph that’s like  $S_n^{(3)}$  but with the third corner removed. Similarly,  $Z_{n+1} = Z_n Z_n Y_n + Y_n Z_n Z_n + [n=1]$ .

We have  $(X_1, Y_1, Z_1) = (1, 1, 1)$  and  $(X_2, Y_2, Z_2) = (1, 2, 3)$ . Hence, for  $n \geq 3$ , the formulas  $X_n = 2^{3^{n-2}} 3^{1+3^2+\dots+3^{n-3}}$ ,  $Y_n = 3X_n$ ,  $Z_n = \frac{3}{2}Y_n$  hold by induction.

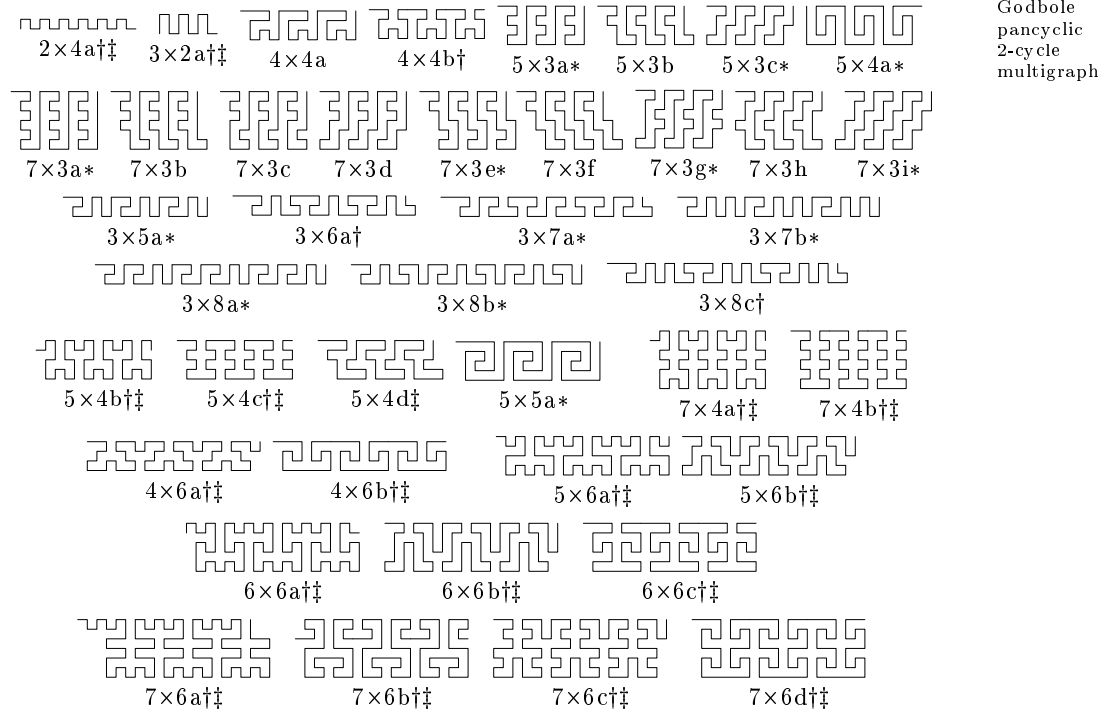
We can in fact write  $X_n = 8 \cdot 12^{(3^{n-2}-3)/2}$ . [This problem was first solved by R. M. Bradley, *J. de Physique* **47** (1986), 9–14. See also A. M. Tegua and A. P.

Jelliss  
 figured tours  
 Hamiltonian *paths*  
 Bradley  
 Tegua

1 32 57 30 3 12 55 16  
 58 29 2 11 56 15 52 13  
 33 64 31 4 35 54 17 50  
 28 59 34 41 10 51 14 53  
 7 40 63 36 5 22 49 18  
 60 27 6 9 42 19 46 21  
 39 8 25 62 37 44 23 48  
 26 61 38 43 24 47 20 45

1 30 9 6 3 16 61 24  
 10 7 2 15 62 25 4 17  
 31 64 29 8 5 38 23 60  
 28 11 14 63 26 59 18 37  
 13 32 27 58 51 36 39 22  
 54 57 12 45 42 21 50 19  
 33 46 55 52 35 48 43 40  
 56 53 34 47 44 41 20 49

1 4 9 16 25 36 49 64  
 8 15 24 3 10 17 26 37  
 5 2 7 14 35 50 63 48  
 56 13 34 23 18 11 38 27  
 33 6 55 12 51 40 47 62  
 54 57 22 19 46 43 28 39  
 21 32 59 52 41 30 61 44  
 58 53 20 31 60 45 42 29



**Fig. A-21.** A gallery of meander friezes.

\* =  $180^\circ$  symmetry; † = left-right symmetry; ‡ = top-bottom symmetry.

Godbole, *Australasian J. Combinatorics* **35** (2006), 181–192, who showed among other things that  $S_n^{(3)}$  is *pancyclic*: It has cycles of every length, from 3 to  $(3^n + 3)/2$ .]

**360.** (a) True. The infinite rightward path that's traced by repetitions of the patterns will cross a vertical line once more when traveling to the right than when traveling to the left; it will cross a horizontal line equally often when going up as when going down.

(b) The total number of edges is  $mn = v_1 + \cdots + v_{m-1} + h_1 + \cdots + h_n$ . But the left side of this equation is even, while the right side is odd by (a).

(c) Frieze  $5 \times 4a$  in Fig. A-21 reduces to example (iv).

(d) The case  $m = 1$  is trivial. When  $m = 3$ , the only possibilities are (i) and its cyclic shifts and/or left-right reversal; we consider them all to be equivalent (isomorphic), although the mirror reflection looks different. When  $m = 5$  and  $m = 7$ , there are  $3 + 10$  essentially distinct friezes, shown (except for (vi)) in Fig. A-21.

(e) Figure A-21 shows the  $1 + 1 + 2 + 3$  solutions for  $n = 5, 6, 7, 8$ .

(We need a special convention when  $n = 2$ , because the “2-cycle”  $C_2$  is a multigraph with two edges  $0 \text{ --- } 1$ . We consider ‘ $\square\square\square$ ’ to be a  $2 \times 2$  meander frieze. The  $3 \times 2a$  frieze reduces to it; the  $2 \times 4a$  frieze is a multiple of it.)

(f) The  $4n$  automorphisms are generated by  $\sigma, \tau, v$ , where  $ij\sigma = i((j+1) \bmod n)$ ,  $ij\tau = i((-j) \bmod n)$ ,  $ijv = (m-1-i)j$ . Notice that  $\sigma^n = \tau^2 = v^2 = (\tau v)^2 = 1$ .

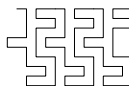
(g, h) The equivalence class sizes (with symmetric counts in parentheses) are:

	$n = 3$	$n = 4$	$n = 5$	$n = 6$	$n = 7$
$m = 3$	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
$m = 4$	0 (0)	3 (2)	0 (0)	16 (8)	0 (0)
$m = 5$	3 (2)	12 (7)	43 (12)	154 (35)	534 (53)
$m = 6$	0 (0)	30 (5)	0 (0)	1152 (63)	0 (0)
$m = 7$	10 (4)	117 (27)	1216 (75)	12326 (383)	97969 (873)

Historical notes  
 Jones  
 Chinese fretwork  
 fretwork  
 Coldstream  
 Dipylon Master  
 meander friezes

(i) See (iii) and Fig. A-21. (Friezes  $5 \times 4d$  and  $5 \times 5a$  have only twofold symmetry.) *Historical notes:* It's interesting to find instances of meander friezes in ancient artifacts from many cultures. For example, Chapter 4 of O. Jones's *The Grammar of Ornament* (1856) included (i) as a first example of a Greek design, and mentioned (ii) as a related pattern found in Chinese fretwork. J. N. Coldstream's book *Greek Geometric Pottery* (1968), which contains detailed information about the most important early discoveries of Greek vases from the Geometric Period, illustrates more than 40 specimens with the  $3 \times 3$  frieze (i), and six with the  $5 \times 4$  frieze (v). His Plate 7 shows three ancient vases with a symmetrical  $7 \times 4$  frieze, which is related to  $7 \times 3e$  in Fig. A-21 as (v) is related to  $5 \times 3b$ . (And  $5 \times 3b$ , upside down, is in his Plate 13b.)

The most elaborate meander frieze found so far in ancient sites is the magnificent  $9 \times 4$  example shown here, due to the Dipylon Master and now in the collection of the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. [See *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum, Greece*, Fascicule 8 (Athens, 2002), Plates 102–105.]



- 361.** (i)  $00 \text{ --- } 01 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 13 \text{ --- } 23 \text{ --- } 22 \text{ --- } 12 \text{ --- } 11 \text{ --- } 21 \text{ --- } 20 \text{ --- } 10 \text{ --- } 00$ .  
 (ii)  $00 \text{ --- } 01 \text{ --- } 11 \text{ --- } 10 \text{ --- } 20 \text{ --- } 21 \text{ --- } 22 \text{ --- } 23 \text{ --- } 13 \text{ --- } 12 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 00$ .  
 (iii)  $00 \text{ --- } 01 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 13 \text{ --- } 12 \text{ --- } 11 \text{ --- } 21 \text{ --- } 22 \text{ --- } 23 \text{ --- } 20 \text{ --- } 10 \text{ --- } 00$ .  
 (iv)  $00 \text{ --- } 01 \text{ --- } 11 \text{ --- } 21 \text{ --- } 22 \text{ --- } 12 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 13 \text{ --- } 23 \text{ --- } 20 \text{ --- } 10 \text{ --- } 00$ .  
 (v)  $00 \text{ --- } 01 \text{ --- } 11 \text{ --- } 21 \text{ --- } 22 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 12 \text{ --- } 13 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 23 \text{ --- } 20 \text{ --- } 10 \text{ --- } 00$ .  
 (vi)  $00 \text{ --- } 01 \text{ --- } 11 \text{ --- } 12 \text{ --- } 13 \text{ --- } 23 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 22 \text{ --- } 21 \text{ --- } 20 \text{ --- } 10 \text{ --- } 00$ .  
 (vii)  $00 \text{ --- } 03 \text{ --- } 13 \text{ --- } 10 \text{ --- } 11 \text{ --- } 21 \text{ --- } 01 \text{ --- } 02 \text{ --- } 12 \text{ --- } 22 \text{ --- } 23 \text{ --- } 20 \text{ --- } 00$ .

Here (i) is in  $P_3 \square P_4$ ; (ii) and (iii) are the meander friezes in exercise 360; (iv) is a multiple of the meander  $3 \times 2a$ ; (vi) and (vii) are disjoint(!). These cycles have respectively 2, 4, 2, 8, 4, 2, 2 automorphisms; hence their equivalence classes contribute respectively 24, 12, 24, 6, 12, 24, 24 cycles to the total of 126 found by Algorithm H.

**370.** (a) Bipartiteness is obvious. Regularity is readily verified (but *not* obvious).

(b) The 48 symmetries of the cube all apply, leaving at most four equivalence classes of vertices, represented by vertices  $\{000, 001, 011, 111\}$ . And there are no further automorphisms, because no automorphism takes any of those vertices into another: The number of vertices at distance 2 from  $(000, 001, 011, 111)$  is respectively  $(16, 21, 22, 22)$ ; and  $111$  is distance 2 from a corner vertex, but  $011$  isn't.

(c) (Solution by E. Weisstein.) Hamiltonian cycles are so abundant that we can simply choose one at random, and remove it to obtain a 4-regular graph; then partition those residual edges into two cycles. The following solution needed only a few trials:

```
(000 003 222 030 211 333 303 111 323 201 020 023 231 313 121 302 002 210 022 203 200 122
310 232 202 320 112 230 312 100 103 133 011 223 101 131 213 032 220 012 130 322 110 113
332 120 301 001 031 331 123 311 233 021 321 102 132 010 013 221 033 212 330 300)
(000 030 033 333 112 300 121 203 321 133 312 120 002 223 220 001 222 010 202 021 200 012
231 201 123 302 332 210 213 331 110 032 211 003 303 221 103 322 022 100 130 311 132 320
101 023 323 131 013 313 310 102 020 232 011 230 233 111 330 122 301 113 031 212)
(000 122 303 300 222 100 321 113 231 010 310 131 312 012 233 203 011 311 103 021 213 001
123 120 202 023 211 133 130 212 020 320 323 102 220 302 110 232 013 201 022 230 200 322
101 313 132 210 031 223 301 331 112 030 330 333 121 003 033 111 332 032 002 221)
```

[See the “Sticky Chain” puzzle in S. Grabarchuk, *Age of Puzzles: Puzzle Galleries* (2019), 170, which asks for the longest path or cycle that doesn't touch or cross itself.]

**999.** ...

symmetries of the cube  
hyperoctahedral symmetries  
 $B_3$   
Weisstein  
Sticky Chain  
Grabarchuk

## INDEX AND GLOSSARY

Florus, Lucius

*Read the table that follows, my honest reader,  
and it will soon guide you to hold the entire work in your mind.*  
— *Lucii Flori Bellorum Romanorum libri quattuor* (Vienna, 1511)

When an index entry refers to a page containing a relevant exercise, see also the *answer* to that exercise for further information. An answer page is not indexed here unless it refers to a topic not included in the statement of the exercise.

2-factor, *see* Cycle cover.

Articulation point: A vertex whose removal increases the number of components of a graph.

Barry, David McAlister (= Dave), iii.

Biconnected graph: A graph without articulation points.

Cycle cover: A covering of the vertices by disjoint cycles (a 2-regular spanning subgraph).

Cyclically  $k$ -connected: Must remove at least  $k$  edges to obtain two cyclic (nontree) components.

*FGbook: Selected Papers on Fun & Games*,  
a book by D. E. Knuth.

Hamiltonian graph: A graph with a spanning cycle, 2.

Nothing else is indexed yet (sorry).

Onițiu, Valeriu (= Valerian).

Preliminary notes for indexing appear in the upper right corner of most pages.

If I've mentioned somebody's name and forgotten to make such an index note, it's an error (worth \$2.56).