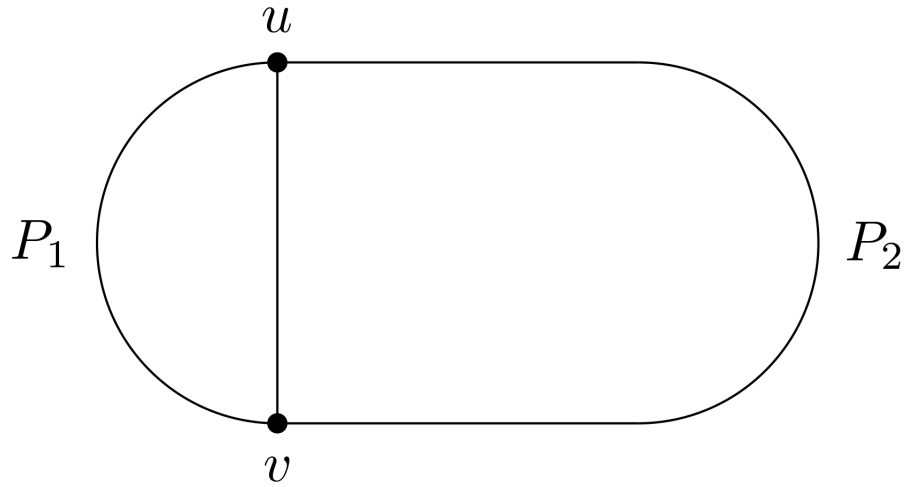


**Definition 1.** We define a family of graphs we call *bifurcated cycles* and denote as  $Q_{m,n}$ . As the name suggests, bifurcated cycles are cycles of length  $m + n$  with a single chord which divides the cycle into paths  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  of lengths  $m$  and  $n$ .

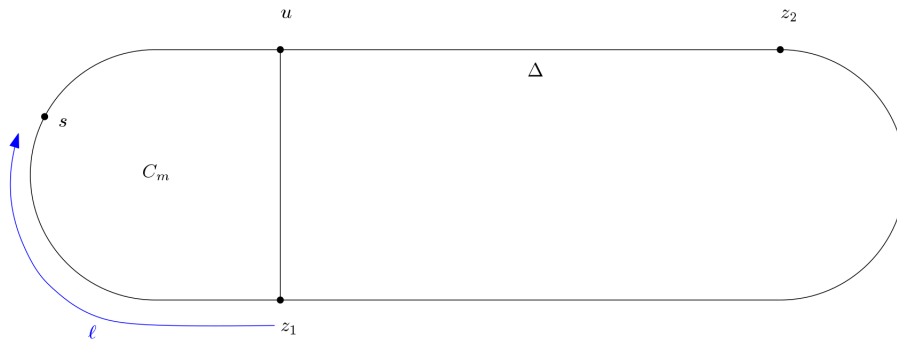


**Theorem 1.** The Bifurcated cycle  $Q_{m,n}$  is 2-zombie win.

*Proof.* First, we show that a certain game state is a losing position for the survivor. Second, we show how to position the zombies at the start of the game so that – no matter where the survivor starts – a losing position is inevitably reached.

**Part 1.** Cornering the Survivor on a Cycle

Suppose that the game has reached the following state: the survivor is  $P_1$ , the first zombie is on  $v$ , and the second zombie is at a distance of  $\Delta$  from  $u$ . Denote the length of the clockwise path from  $v$  to  $s$  as  $\ell$ . Note that we must have  $2 \leq \ell \leq m - 1$ , else the survivor is caught.



There are four possible  $z_2$ -paths. We wish to guarantee that  $z_2$  will follow the  $\Delta$ -path towards  $u$ , which translates into the following inequalities:

$$\Delta + (m - \ell) \leq n - \Delta + 1 + m - \ell$$

and

$$\Delta + (m - \ell) \leq n - \Delta + \ell$$

or

$$\Delta + 1 + \ell \leq n - \Delta + 1 + m - \ell$$

and

$$\Delta + 1 + \ell \leq n - \Delta + \ell$$

□