

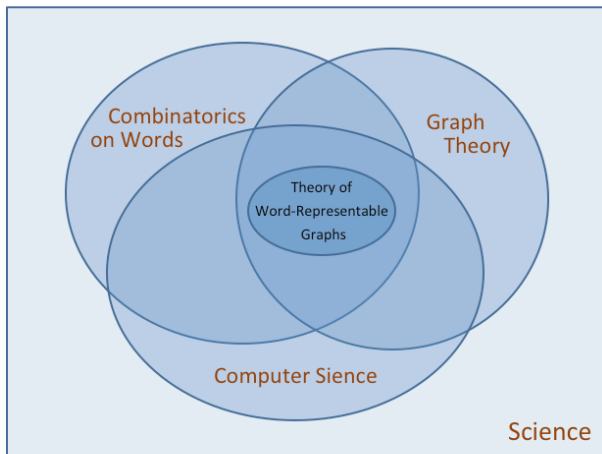
Word-representable graphs. The basics

Sergey Kitaev

University of Strathclyde

April 21, 2017

What is this about?



- Study of the Perkins semigroup (original motivation) — Algebra

Motivation

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- Scheduling robots on a path, periodically — Computer Science

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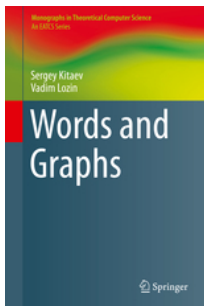
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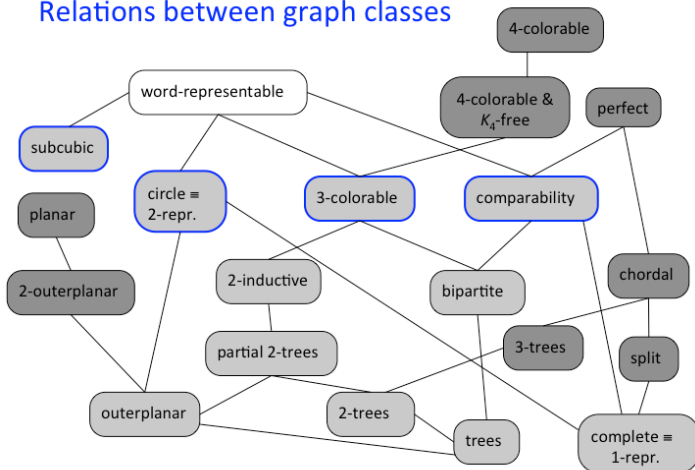
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- Beautiful mathematics — Mathematics
- Just fun — Human Science



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Relations between graph classes

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Basic definitions

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Any **consecutive letters** in a word generate a **factor** of the word. All different factors of the word 113 are 1, 3, 11, 13 and 113.

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Note that removing all letters but 5 and 6 we obtain 56 showing that the letters 5 and 6 alternate (**by definition**).

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All graphs considered by us are **simple** (no **loops**, no **multiple edges**).

Word-representable graph

A graph $G = (V, E)$ is **word-representable** if there exists a word w over the alphabet V such that letters x and y , $x \neq y$, alternate in w **if and only if** $xy \in E$. (w **must** contain **each** letter in V)

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Remark

We deal with **unlabelled graphs**. However, to apply the definition, we need to label graphs. Any labelling of a graph is **equivalent** to any other labelling because letters in w can always be renamed.

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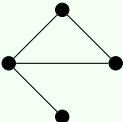
The class of word-representable graphs is hereditary. That is, removing a vertex v in a word-representable graph G results in a word-representable graph G' . Indeed, if w represents G then w with v removed represents G' .

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Example

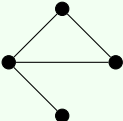
The graph  is word-representable.

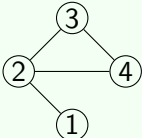
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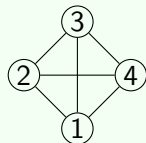
Indeed,  can be represented by 1213423.

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Example: representing complete graphs and empty graphs



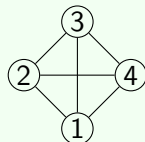
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③

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④

can be represented by 12344321 or 11223344.

①

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Uniform word

k -uniform word = **each** letter occurs k times

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k -representability implies $(k + 1)$ -representability.

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Graph's representation number

Graph's representation number is the **least** k such that the graph is k -representable. By a theorem above, this notion is well-defined for word-representable graphs. For non-word-representable graphs, we let $k = \infty$.

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Also, let $\mathcal{R}_k = \{G : \mathcal{R}(G) = k\}$.

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Observation

$\mathcal{R}_1 = \{G : G \text{ is a complete graph}\}$.

Graphs with representation number 2

Empty graphs

If G is an empty graph on **at least two** vertices then $\mathcal{R}(G) = 2$.

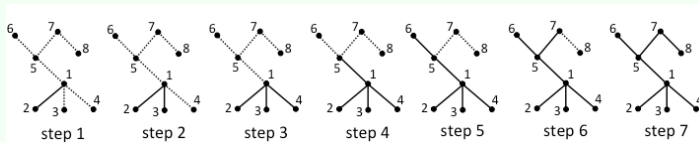
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Trees

Trees on **at least three** vertices belong to \mathcal{R}_2 . The idea of a simple inductive proof is shown for the tree in “step 7” below.



Step 1	$w_1 = 1212$
Step 2	$w_2 = 123132$
Step 3	$w_3 = 12341432$
Step 4	$w_4 = 5152341432$
Step 5	$w_5 = 656152341432$
Step 6	$w_6 = 65617572341432$
Step 7 (the tree itself)	$w_7 = 6561758782341432$

Graphs with representation number 2

Lemma

If a k -uniform word w represents a graph G , then any cyclic shift of w represents G .

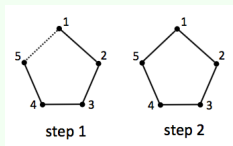
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Cycle graphs

Cycle graphs on **at least four** vertices belong to \mathcal{R}_2 . E.g. see C_5 :



■ As step 1, remove the edge 15 and represent the resulting tree as 1213243545.

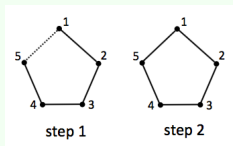
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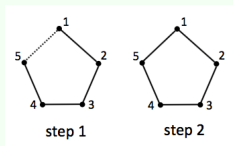
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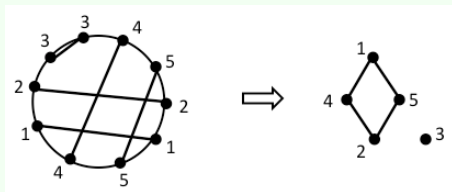
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- Swap the first two letters to obtain a word-representant for C_5 : 1521324354.

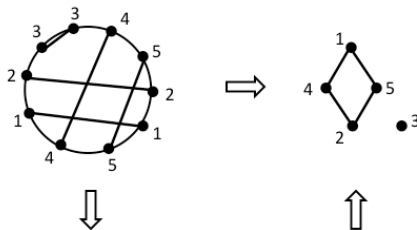
Characterization of graphs with representation number 2

Circle graphs



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Reading the letters clockwise:

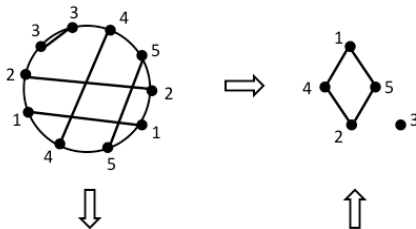
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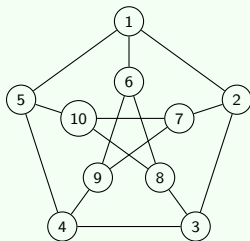
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Theorem (Halldórsson, SK, Pyatkin; 2011)

For a graph G different from a *complete graph*, $\mathcal{R}(G) = 2$ iff G is a circle graph.

Graphs with representation number 3

Petersen graph

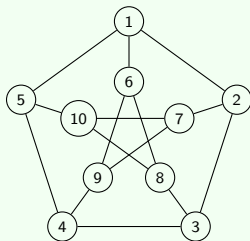


Two **non-equivalent** 3-representations (by **Konovalov** and **Linton**):

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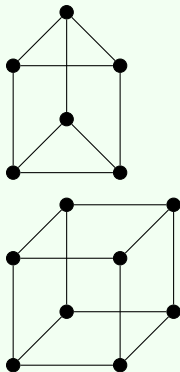
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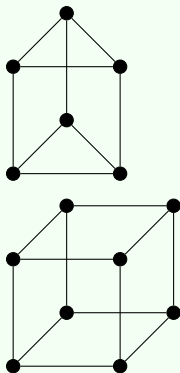
*Petersen graph is **not** 2-representable.*

Graphs with representation number 3

Prisms



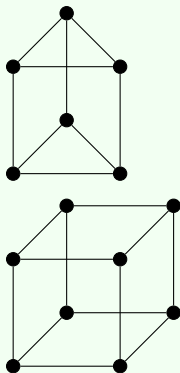
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Theorem (SK, Pyatkin; 2008)

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Theorem (SK, Pyatkin; 2008)

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Theorem (SK; 2013)

None of the prisms is 2-representable.

Graphs with representation number 3

Subdivisions of graphs



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3-subdivision of **any** graph is 3-representable. In particular, for **every** graph G there exists a 3-representable graph H that contains G as a *minor*.

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Remark

In fact, **any** subdivision of a graph is 3-representable as long as **at least two new vertices** are added on each edge.

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- Which graph operations preserve (non-)word-representability?
- Which graphs are word-representable in your favourite class of graphs?

Comparability graphs

Transitive orientation

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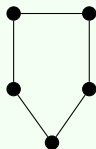
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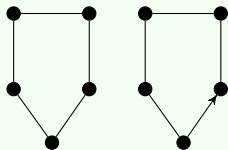
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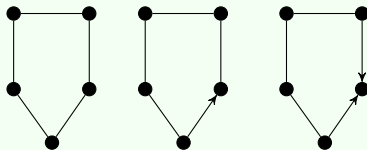
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Comparability graphs

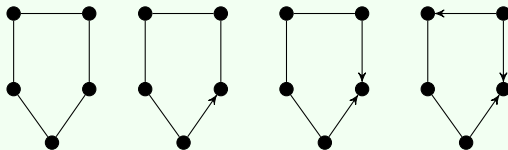
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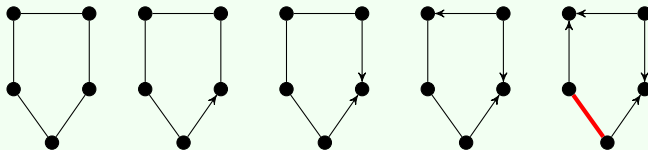
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Permutationally representable graphs

Permutationally representable graph

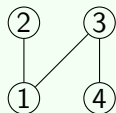
A graph $G = (V, E)$ is **permutationally representable** if it can be represented by a word of the form $p_1 \cdots p_k$ where p_i is a permutation. We say that G is **permutationally k -representable**.

Permutationally representable graphs

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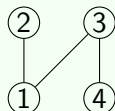
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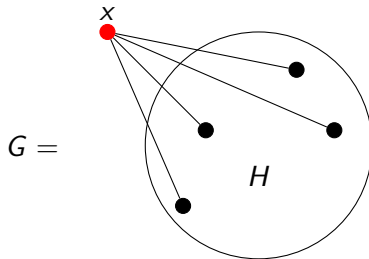
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Theorem (SK, Seif; 2008)

*A graph is permutationally representable **iff** it is a comparability graph.*

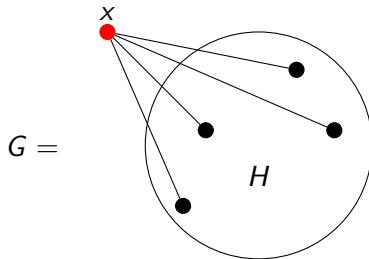
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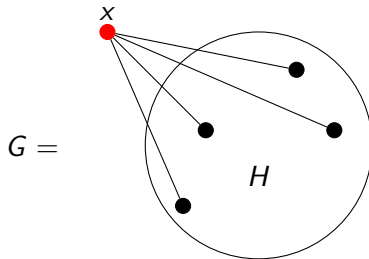


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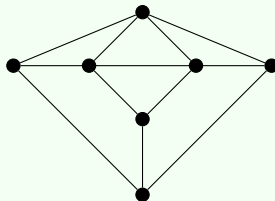
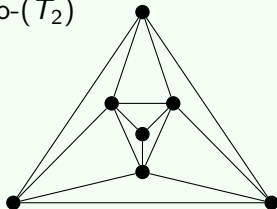
Converse to the last theorem is not true

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Minimal counterexamples

$\text{co-}(T_2)$



Maximum clique

A **clique** in an undirected graph is a subset of pairwise adjacent vertices. A **maximum clique** is a clique of the **maximum size**.

Maximum clique problem on word-representable graphs

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Remark

The Maximum Clique problem is NP-complete.

Maximum clique problem on word-representable graphs

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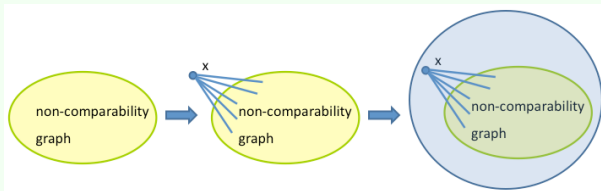
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- Each neighbourhood of a word-representable graph G is a comparability graph.
- The Maximum Clique problem is known to be solvable on comparability graphs in polynomial time.
- Thus the problem is solvable on G in polynomial time, since any maximum clique belongs to the neighbourhood of a vertex including the vertex itself.



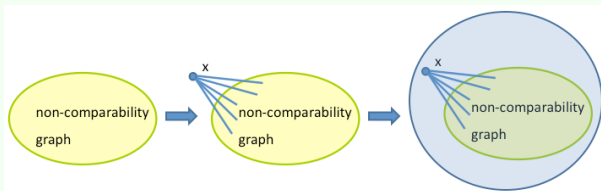
Non-word-representable graphs

A general construction via adding an apex

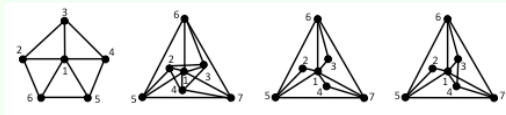


Non-word-representable graphs

A general construction via adding an apex



Smallest non-word-representable graphs



The **wheel graph** W_5 (to the left) is the **smallest** non-word-representable graph. It is the only such graph on 6 vertices.

Observation

The **cycle graphs** C_{2k+1} for $k \geq 2$ are **non-comparability graphs** \Rightarrow the **odd wheels** W_{2k+1} for $k \geq 2$ are **non-word-representable**.

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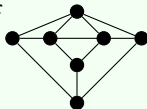
Observation

The **wheel graph** W_5 is **non-word representable** \Rightarrow **almost all** graphs are **non-word-representable** (since almost all graphs contain W_5 as an **induced subgraph**).

Non-word-representable graphs

Non-word-representable graphs of maximum degree 4

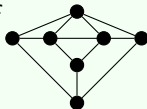
The **minimal non-comparability** graph is on 5 vertices, and thus the construction of non-word-representable graphs above gives a graph with a **vertex of degree at least 5**. Collins, SK and Lozin showed non-word-representability of



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Triangle-free non-word-representable graphs

Adding an apex to a **non-empty** graph gives a graph containing a triangle. Are there any **triangle-free** non-word-representable graphs?

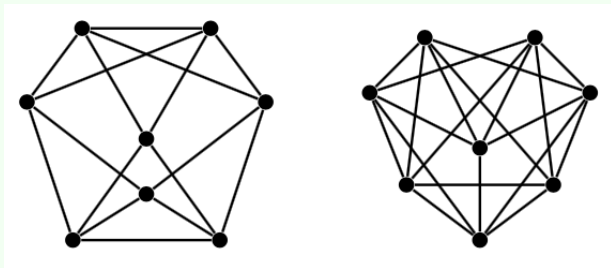
Theorem (Halldórsson, SK, Pyatkin; 2011)

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Non-word-representable graphs

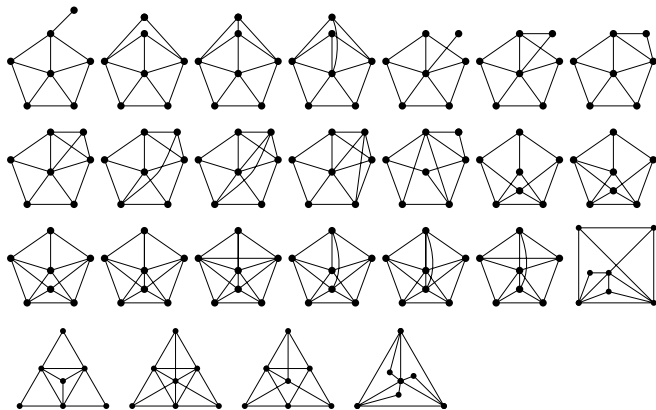
Regular non-word-representable graphs

A **regular graph** is a graph having **degree** of each vertex the **same**. It was found out by **Herman Chen** that the **smallest regular** non-word-representable graphs are on 8 vertices.



All 25 non-word-representable graphs on 7 vertices

The following picture was created by **Herman Chen**.



Ozgun Akgun, **Ian Gent**, **Chris Jefferson** found the number of non-word-representable graphs on up to 10 nodes: 1, 25, 929, 68545, 4880093 (ca 42% of all connected graphs)

Asymptotic enumeration of word-representable graphs

Theorem (Collins, SK, Lozin; 2017)

The number of n -vertex word-representable graphs is $2^{\frac{n^2}{3} + o(n^2)}$.

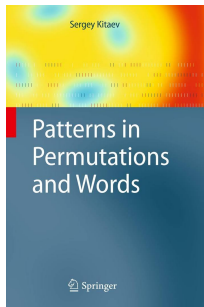
Proof.

Proof idea: Apply to the case of word-representable graphs **Alekseev-Bollobás-Thomason Theorem** related to asymptotic growth of **every hereditary class**. Details are skipped due time constraints, but they can be found here:

Collins, Kitaev, Lozin. New results on word-representable graphs. *Discr. Appl. Math.* 216 (2017) 136–141.

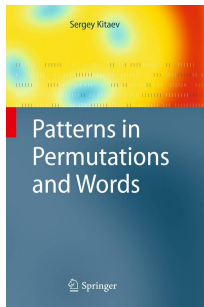


Word-representants avoiding patterns



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Merging two areas of research

In the context of word-representable graphs, which graphs can be represented if we require that word-representants **must avoid** a given **pattern** or a **set of patterns**.

Word-representants avoiding patterns

A trivial example

Describe graphs representable by words **avoiding the pattern 21**.

Solution: Clearly, any 21-avoiding word is of the form

$$w = 11 \cdots 122 \cdots 2 \cdots nn \cdots n.$$

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Papers in this direction

- Gao, Kitaev, Zhang. On 132-representable graphs. arXiv:1602.08965 (2016)
- Mandelshtam. On graphs representable by pattern-avoiding words. arXiv:1608.07614. (2016)

Word-representants avoiding patterns

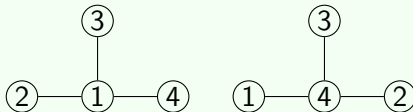
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Labeling of graphs does matter!

The **132-avoiding** word 4321234 represents the graph to the left, while **no 132-avoiding** word represents the other graph.

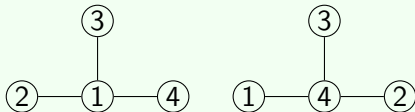


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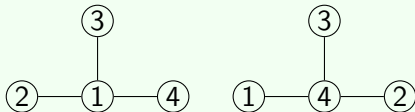


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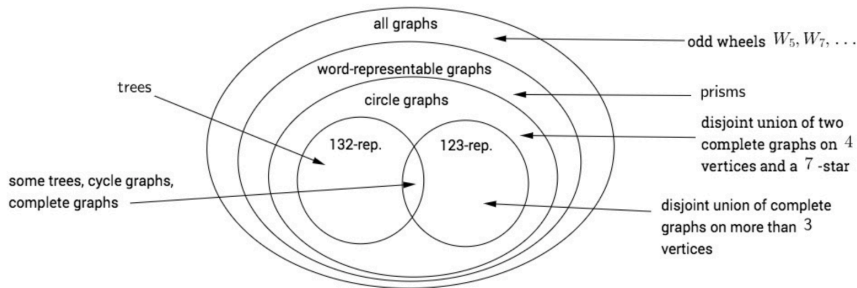
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Word-representants avoiding patterns



Word-representants avoiding patterns

Examples of simple, but useful general type results:

Theorem (Mandelshtam, 2016)

*Let G be a word-representable graph, which can be represented by a word avoiding a pattern τ of length $k + 1$. Let x be a vertex in G such that its degree $d(x) \geq k$. Then, **any** word w representing G that avoids τ must contain no more than k copies of x .*

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If there are **at least** $k + 1$ occurrences of x in w , we get a **subword** $xw_1x \cdots w_kx$ where k neighbours of x in G occur in each w_i . But then w contains **all** patterns of length $k + 1$, in particular, τ . Contradiction. \square

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Corollary (Mandelshtam, 2016)

*Let w be a word-representant for a graph which avoids a pattern of length $k + 1$. If some vertex y adjacent to x has degree at least k , then x occurs **at most** $k + 1$ times in w .*

Semi-transitive orientations as the main tool in the theory of word-representable graphs discovered so far

Sergey Kitaev

University of Strathclyde

April 21, 2017

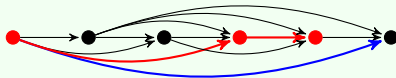
Shortcut

A **shortcut** is an oriented graph that

- is **acyclic** (that is, there are **no directed cycles**);
- has **at least 4 vertices**;
- has **exactly one source** (no edges coming in), **exactly one sink** (no edges coming out), and a **directed path** from the source to the sink that goes through **every** vertex in the graph;
- has an edge connecting the **source** to the **sink**;
- is **not transitive** (that is, there exist vertices u , v and z such that $u \rightarrow v$ and $v \rightarrow z$ are edges, but there is **no** edge $u \rightarrow z$).

Semi-transitive orientations

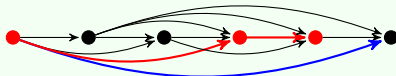
Example of a shortcut



The part of the graph **in red** shows **non-transitivity**. There are **two other violations** of transitivity.

Semi-transitive orientations

Example of a shortcut



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The **blue edge**, from the **source** to the **sink**, justifies the name “**short-cut**” for this type of graphs. Indeed, **instead** of going through the **longest directed path** from the **source** to the **sink**, we can shortcut it by going directly through the single edge. The **blue edge** is called **shortcutting edge**.

Semi-transitive orientations

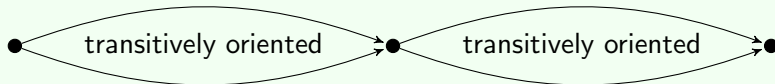
Semi-transitive orientation

An orientation of a graph is **semi-transitive** if it is

- **acyclic**, and
- **shortcut-free**.

Remark

Any transitive orientation is necessary **semi-transitive**. The **converse** is **not** true, e.g. the schematic semi-transitively oriented graph below is **not** transitively oriented:

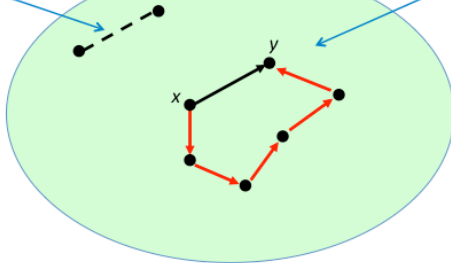


Thus semi-transitive orientations **generalize** transitive orientations.

Semi-transitive orientations

Checking if a given acyclic orientation is semi-transitive

no arc – no problem!



there is an arc – each path from x to y of length at least 3 must induce transitive orientation

Finding a semi-transitive orientation

- Pick **any** edge and orient it **arbitrarily**.

Semi-transitive orientations

Finding a semi-transitive orientation

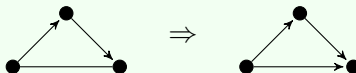
- Pick **any** edge and orient it **arbitrarily**.
- After that repeat the following procedure: pick an edge connected to an already oriented edge and **branch** the process by orienting it in one way and the other way assuming such an orientation does **not** introduce a **cycle** or a **shortcut**. E.g. **no** branching is required for the following situation:



Semi-transitive orientations

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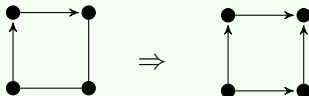
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- The process can normally be shortened by e.g. completing orientation of **quadrilaterals** as shown on **next slide**, which is **unique** to **avoid** cycles and shortcuts.

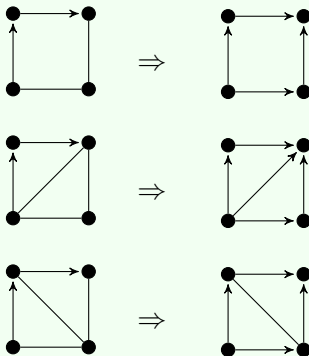
Semi-transitive orientations

Finding a semi-transitive orientation



Semi-transitive orientations

Finding a semi-transitive orientation



The **diagonal** in the last case may require **branching**.

A key result in the theory of word-representable graphs

Theorem (Halldórsson, Kitaev, Pyatkin; 2015)

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“ \Leftarrow ” Rather complicated and is **omitted**. An **algorithm** was created to turn a **semi-transitive orientation** of a graph into a **word-representant**.



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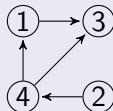
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“ \Rightarrow ” **Proof idea:** Given a word, say, $w = 2421341$, orient the graph represented by w by letting $x \rightarrow y$ be an edge if the **leftmost** x is **to the left** of the **leftmost** y in w , to obtain a **semi-transitive orientation**:



The shortest length of a word-representant

An upper bound on the length of a word-representant

Any **complete graph** is 1-representable. The algorithm turning semi-transitive orientations into word-representants gave:

Theorem (Halldórsson, Kitaev, Pyatkin; 2015)

*Each **non-complete** word-representable graph G is $2(n - \kappa(G))$ -representable, where $\kappa(G)$ is the size of the **maximum clique** in G .*

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The **recognition problem** of word-representability is in **NP**. Indeed, any word-representant is of length at most $O(n^2)$, and we need $O(n^2)$ passes through such a word to check alternation properties of **all** pairs of letters.

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Graphs requiring long word-representants

Crown graph (Cocktail party graph)

Crown graph $H_{n,n}$ is obtained from the complete bipartite graph $K_{n,n}$ by removing a perfect matching.

①

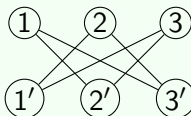
①'

$H_{1,1}$

① ②

①' ②'

$H_{2,2}$



$H_{3,3}$

Graphs requiring long word-representants

Crown graph (Cocktail party graph)

Crown graph $H_{n,n}$ is obtained from the complete bipartite graph $K_{n,n}$ by removing a perfect matching.

①

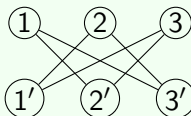
①'

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Word-representability of crown graphs

$H_{n,n}$ is a **comparability graph** \Rightarrow it is **permutationally representable**. In fact, $H_{n,n}$ requires n permutations to be represented. Can $H_{n,n}$ be represented in a shorter way if not to require permutational representability? E.g. $H_{3,3}$ is **2-representable**, while $H_{4,4}$ is **3-dimensional cube** (a prism) and is **3-representable**.

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① ② ③

①' ②' ③'

$H_{3,3}$

Theorem (Glen, Kitaev, Pyatkin; 2016)

If $n \geq 5$ then the **representation number** of $H_{n,n}$ is $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ (that is, one needs $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ copies of each letter to represent $H_{n,n}$ but **not fewer**).

Graphs requiring long word-representants

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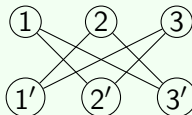
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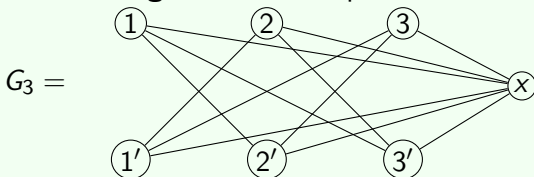
Open problem

Is it true that out of all bipartite graphs, crown graphs require **longest** word-representants?

Graphs requiring long word-representants

The “worst” known word-representable graph

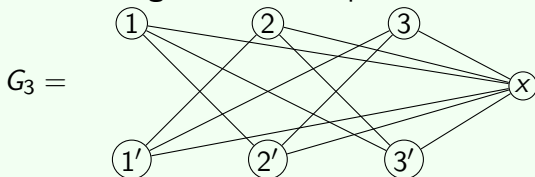
The graph G_n is obtained from a **crown graph** $H_{n,n}$ by adding an **apex** (an **all-adjacent vertex**). The **representation number** of G_n is $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, which is the **highest known** representation number.



Graphs requiring long word-representants

The “worst” known word-representable graph

The graph G_n is obtained from a **crown graph** $H_{n,n}$ by adding an **apex** (an **all-adjacent vertex**). The **representation number** of G_n is $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, which is the **highest known** representation number.



Open problem

Are there any graphs whose representation requires **more** than $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ copies of each letter? Recall that **any** word-representable graph can be represented by $2n$ copies of each letter (a bit fewer depending on the size of the maximum clique).

3-colorable graphs

Theorem (Halldórsson, Kitaev, Pyatkin; 2015)

Any 3-colorable graph is word-representable.

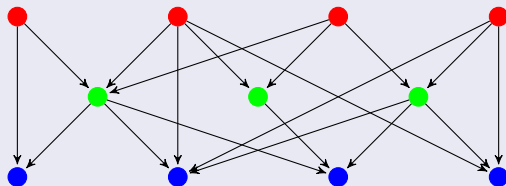
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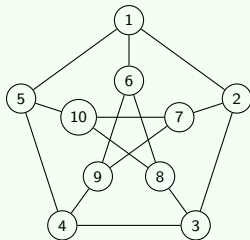
Proof.

Coloring a 3-colorable graph in three colors **Red**, **Green** and **Blue**, and orienting the edges as **Red** \rightarrow **Green** \rightarrow **Blue**, we obtain a **semi-transitive orientation**. Indeed, obviously there are **no cycles**, and because the longest directed path involves only three vertices, there are **no shortcuts**.



Some corollaries to the last theorem

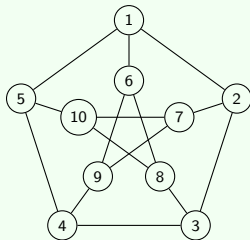
Petersen graph



Petersen graph is **3-colorable** \Rightarrow it is **word-representable**.

Some corollaries to the last theorem

Petersen graph

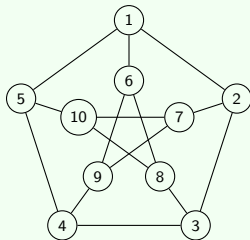


Petersen graph is **3-colorable** \Rightarrow it is **word-representable**. Recall that two **non-equivalent** word-representants were found by **Konovalov** and **Linton**:

1387296(10)7493541283(10)7685(10)194562
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Theorem (Halldórsson, Kitaev, Pyatkin; 2011)

Triangle-free planar graphs are word-representable.

Proof.

By Grötzsch's theorem, **every** triangle-free planar graph is 3-colorable. \square

Optimization problems

The following optimization problems are **NP-hard** on 3-colorable graphs \Rightarrow they are **NP-hard** on word-representable graphs:

- Dominating Set,
- Vertex Coloring,
- Clique Covering, and
- Maximum Independent Set.

Two complexity results

Theorem (Limouzy; 2014)

*It is an **NP-complete problem** to recognize whether a given graph is word-representable.*

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The proof of Limouzy's result appears in the book “**Words and Graphs**” and it is based on the observation that the class of **triangle-free word-representable graphs** is exactly the class of **cover graphs of posets**, recognising which is **NP-complete**.

Two complexity results

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The proof of Limouzy's result appears in the book “**Words and Graphs**” and it is based on the observation that the class of **triangle-free word-representable graphs** is exactly the class of **cover graphs of posets**, recognising which is **NP-complete**.

Theorem (Halldórsson, Kitaev, Pyatkin; 2011)

*Deciding whether a given graph is **k-representable**, for any fixed k , $3 \leq k \leq \lceil n/2 \rceil$, is **NP-complete**.*

Graph operations preserving word-representability

- Replacing a vertex v by a **module** H (**clique** or **any comparability graph**); Neighbors of v become neighbors of all vertices in H .
[Proof is straightforward via word-representants]

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[Proof is straightforward via semi-transitive orientations]

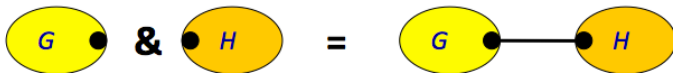
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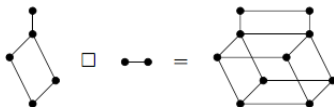
- Joining** two word-representable graphs by an **edge**:



[Proof is straightforward via semi-transitive orientations]

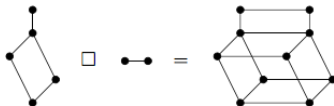
Graph operations preserving word-representability

- Cartesian product of two graphs (shown by Bruce Sagan):

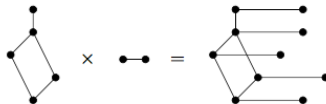


Graph operations preserving word-representability

- Cartesian product of two graphs (shown by Bruce Sagan):



- Rooted product of graphs:



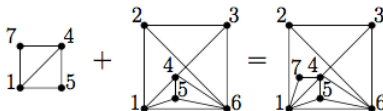
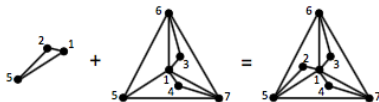
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Graph operations **not** preserving word-representability

- Taking the **complement**. The complement to the **cycle graph** C_5 and an **isolated vertex** is the **non-word-representable wheel graph** W_5 .

Graph operations **not** preserving word-representability

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- **Gluing** two graphs at an **edge** or a **triangle**



Graph operations **not** preserving word-representability

- Taking the line graph operation. **[Example is on next slide.]**

Theorem (SK, Salimov, Severs, Úlfarsson; 2011)

For **any** *wheel graph* W_n and $n \geq 4$, the line graph $L(W_n)$ is **not** word-representable.

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For **any** *complete graph* K_n and $n \geq 5$, the line graph $L(K_n)$ is **not** word-representable.

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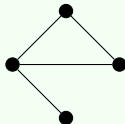
For **any** *complete graph* K_n and $n \geq 5$, the line graph $L(K_n)$ is **not** word-representable.

Open problem

Is the line graph of a non-word-representable graph **always** non-word-representable? (This is the case in all known cases.)

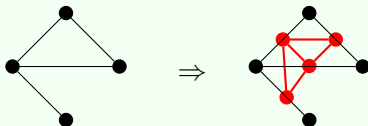
Taking the line graph operation

Example of taking the line graph operation



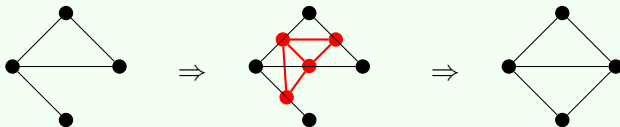
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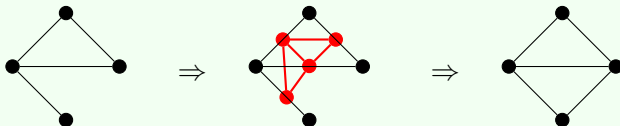
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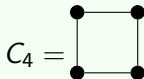
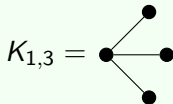


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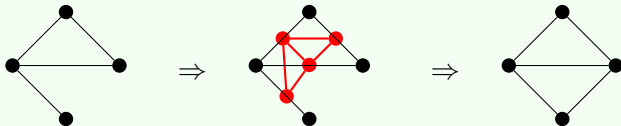


The claw graph; a cycle graph; a path graph

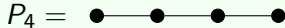
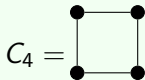
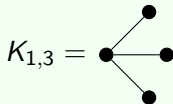


Taking the line graph operation

Example of taking the line graph operation



The claw graph; a cycle graph; a path graph



Theorem (SK, Salimov, Severs, Úlfarsson; 2011)

If a connected graph G is **not** a *path graph*, a *cycle graph* or the *claw graph* $K_{1,3}$, then the line graph $L^n(G)$ is **not** word-representable for $n \geq 4$.

Word-representability of planar graphs

- Not all planar graphs are word-representable (e.g. **odd wheel graphs** on at least 5 vertices are **non-word-representable**).

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- However, **all triangle-free planar graphs** are **3-colorable** and thus are **word-representable**.

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Open problem

Characterize (non-)word-representable planar graphs.

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Open problem

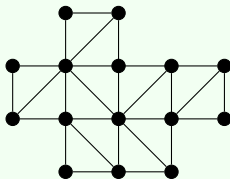
Characterize (non-)word-representable planar graphs.

- Towards solving the open problem various, **triangulations** of planar graphs were considered to be discussed next. **Key tools** here are **3-colorability** and **semi-transitive orientations**.

Word-representability of polyomino triangulations

Convex polyomino triangulation

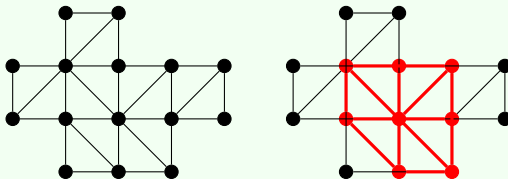
Convex = no “holes” (missing squares) in a column or a row.



Word-representability of polyomino triangulations

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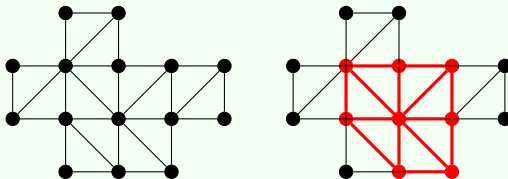
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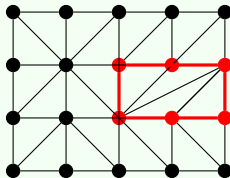


Theorem (Akrobotu, SK, Masárova; 2015)

*A triangulation of a **convex** polyomino is word-representable iff it is 3-colorable. There are not 3-colorable word-representable **non-convex** polyomino triangulations.*

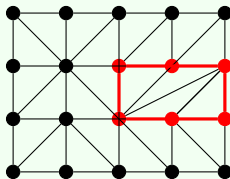
Word-representability of polyomino triangulations

Rectangular polyomino triangulation with a single domino tile



Word-representability of polyomino triangulations

Rectangular polyomino triangulation with a single domino tile



Theorem (Glen, SK; 2015)

*A triangulation of a rectangular polyomino with a single domino tile is word-representable **iff** it is 3-colorable.*

Near-triangulation

A **near-triangulation** is a planar graph in which **each inner bounded face** is a **triangle** (where the **outer face** may possibly not be a triangle).

Word-representability of near-triangulations

Near-triangulation

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The following theorem is a far-reaching generalization of the results from the last two slides:

Theorem (Glen; 2016)

*A K_4 -free near-triangulation is 3-colorable **iff** it is word-representable.*

Word-representability of near-triangulations

Near-triangulation

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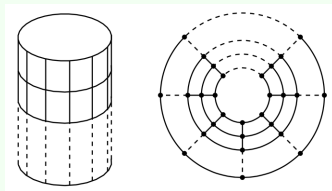
*A K_4 -free near-triangulation is 3-colorable **iff** it is word-representable.*

Open problem

Characterize word-representable near-triangulations (containing K_4).

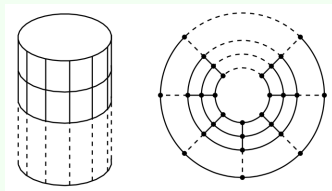
Triangulations of grid-covered cylinder graphs

Grid-covered cylinder graph

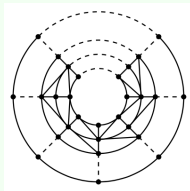


Triangulations of grid-covered cylinder graphs

Grid-covered cylinder graph



Triangulation of a grid-covered cylinder graph



Triangulations of grid-covered cylinder graphs

Theorem (Chen, SK, Sun; 2016)

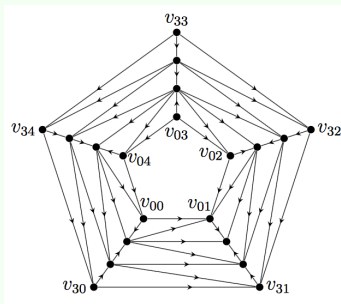
*A triangulation of a grid-covered cylinder graph with **more than three sectors** is word-representable **iff** it contains no W_5 or W_7 as an induced subgraph.*

Triangulations of grid-covered cylinder graphs

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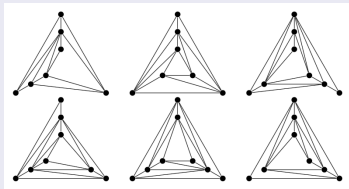
Semi-transitive orientation involved in the proof



Triangulations of grid-covered cylinder graphs

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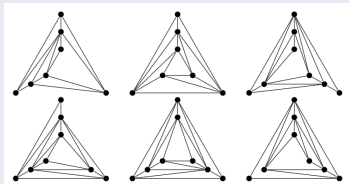
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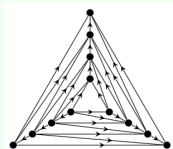
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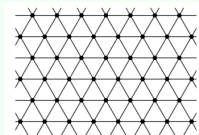


Semi-transitive orientation involved in the proof



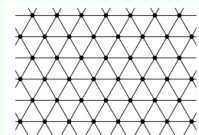
Subdivisions of triangular grid graphs

The infinite graph T^∞



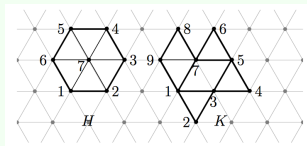
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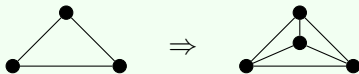
Triangular grid graph

A **triangular grid graph** is a **subgraph** of T^∞ , which is formed by all edges bounding **finitely** many cells. Note that a triangular grid graph does **not** have to be an **induced subgraph** of T^∞ .



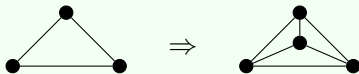
Subdivisions of triangular grid graphs

Subdivision of a cell



Subdivisions of triangular grid graphs

Subdivision of a cell

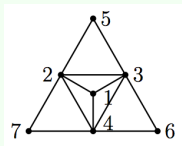


Interior and exterior cells

An edge of a triangular grid graph G shared with a cell in T^∞ that does not belong to G is a **boundary edge**. A cell in G that is incident to at **least one** boundary edge is a **boundary cell**. A **non-boundary** cell in G is an **interior cell**.

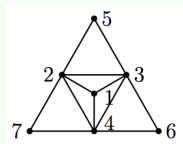
Subdivisions of triangular grid graphs

Minimal non-word-representable subdivision of a triangular grid graph



Subdivisions of triangular grid graphs

Minimal non-word-representable subdivision of a triangular grid graph

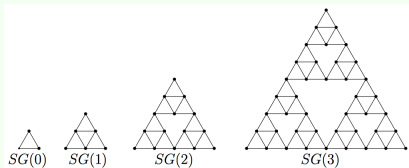


Theorem (Chen, SK, Sun; 2016)

A subdivision of a triangular grid graph G is word-representable **iff** it has **no** induced subgraph isomorphic to **the graph above**, that is, if G has **no** subdivided *interior cell*.

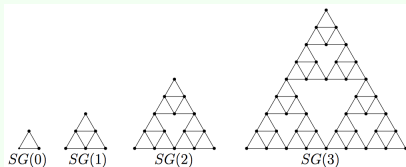
Subdivisions of triangular grid graphs

2-dimensional Sierpiński gasket graph $SG(n)$

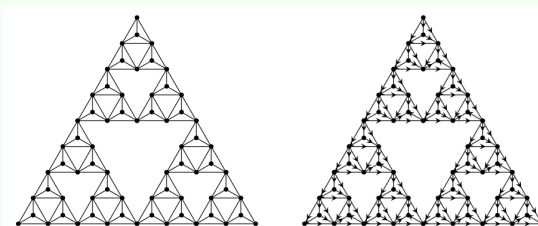


Subdivisions of triangular grid graphs

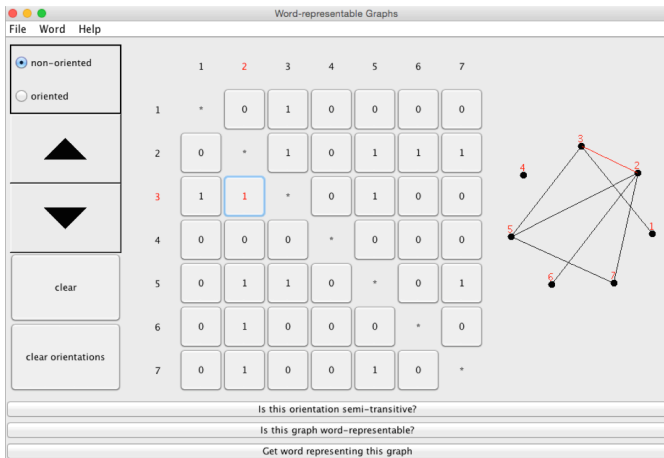
2-dimensional Sierpiński gasket graph $SG(n)$



A semi-transitive orientation of $SG(3)$



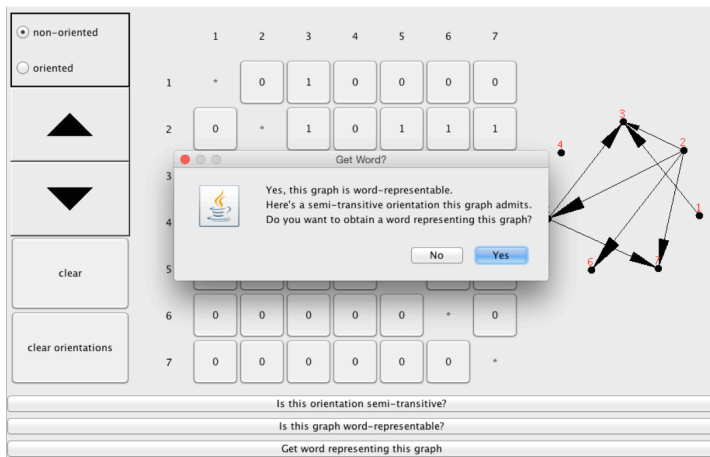
Software by Marc Glen to study word-representable graphs



Available at

<https://personal.cis.strath.ac.uk/sergey.kitaev/word-representable-graphs.html>

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Open problems

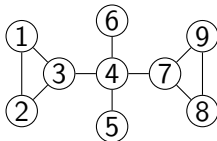
The software should be of **great help** in tackling the problems below.

- Which graphs in **your favourite class of graphs** are word-representable?
- Characterize (non-)word-representable **planar** graphs.
- Characterize word-representable **near-triangulations** (containing K_4).
- Describe graphs representable by words avoiding a **pattern** τ of length ≥ 4 .
- Is it true that out of all **bipartite graphs**, **crown graphs** require **longest** word-representants?
- Are there any graphs whose representation requires **more** than $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ copies of each letter?
- Is the **line graph** of a non-word-representable graph **always** non-word-representable?
- Characterize word-representable graphs in terms of **forbidden subgraphs**.
- Translate a known to you problem from **graphs** to **words** representing these graphs, and find an **efficient algorithm** to solve the **obtained problem**, and thus the **original problem**.

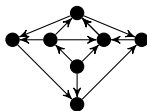
[The last two problems are of fundamental importance!]

Exercises for this afternoon

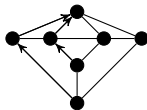
- ① Represent the following graph using **two** copies of **each** letter:



- ② The graph below contains **lots of shortcuts**. How many can you see?



- ③ Use a branching process to show that the partial orientation below **cannot** be extended to a **semi-transitive orientation**:



Thank you for your attention!