

# The Pivot Property for $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$

Nishant Chandgotia

Tel Aviv University

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# Outline

- Homomorphism Spaces
- Pivot Property
- Dismantlable Graphs
- Complete Graphs
- Four-cycle Free Graphs and the Universal Cover
- Generalised Pivot Property

# Homomorphism Spaces

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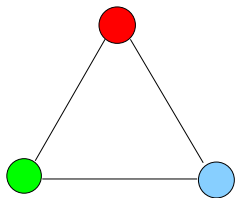
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**Examples:** (The 3-coloured chessboard)

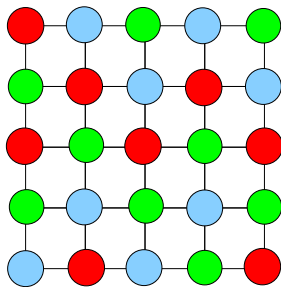
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Graph  $\mathcal{H}$



A Pattern

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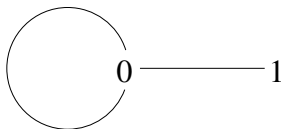
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**Examples:** (Hard square model)



Graph  $\mathcal{H}$

1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0	0

A Pattern

The pivot property

## The pivot property

- A pair of homomorphisms  $x^1, x^2$  in  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  is called a **pivot** if  $x^1, x^2$  differ at a single site.

## The pivot property

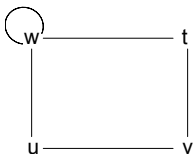
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- $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  is said to have **the pivot property** if for all  $x, y \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  which differ at most on finitely many sites, there exists a sequence of pivots starting from  $x$  and ending at  $y$ .

Question:

When does  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  have the pivot property?

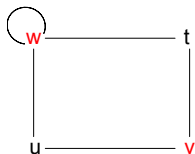
## Examples: Bipartite-Dismantlable Graphs

- $u \sim_{\mathcal{H}} v$  denotes  $(u, v)$  is an edge in  $\mathcal{H}$ .



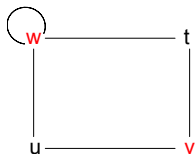
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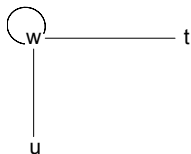
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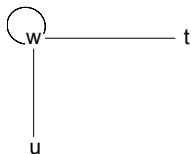
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Theorem (Brightwell and Winkler '00)

If  $\mathcal{H}$  **folds** into  $\mathcal{H} \setminus \{v\}$  then  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  has the pivot property if and only if  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H} \setminus \{v\})$  has the pivot property as well.

## Examples: Bipartite-Dismantlable Graphs

- If  $\mathcal{H}'$  is a single vertex with a self-loop or an edge then  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H}')$  has the pivot property.



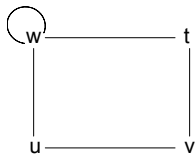
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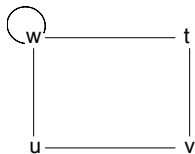
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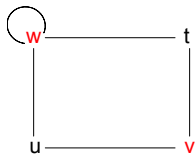
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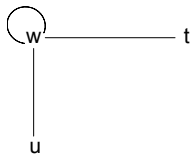
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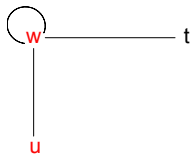
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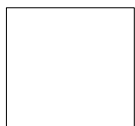
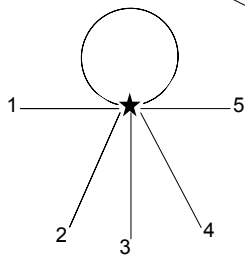
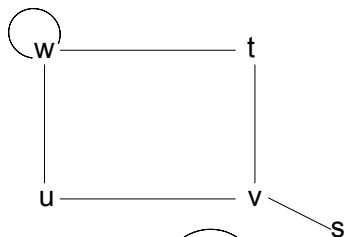


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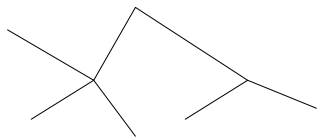
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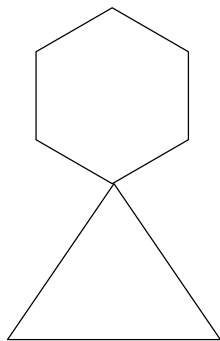
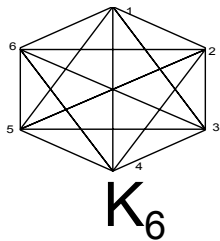
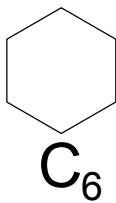
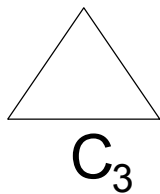


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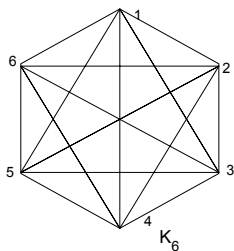
Trees

Examples: Not Bipartite-Dismantlable Graphs  $\mathcal{H}$  for which  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, \mathcal{H})$  has the pivot property



## Examples: Complete Graphs

There are graphs  $\mathcal{H}$  where no folding is possible but  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  still has the pivot property: Take  $\mathcal{H} = K_6$  and  $x \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_6)$ .

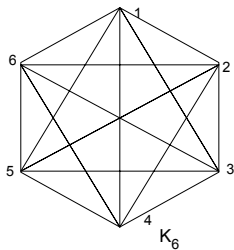


1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1
3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2
4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3
5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4
6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1

$x$

## Examples: Complete Graphs

- The symbol at every site can be switched to a different admissible symbol.



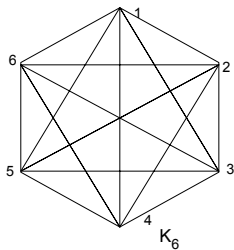
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2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1
3	2	1	6	5	4	3	2
4	3	2	1	6	5	4	3
5	4	3	2	1	6	5	4
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x



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- Replace every appearance of 6 by some other admissible symbol one site at a time.

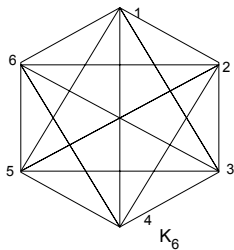


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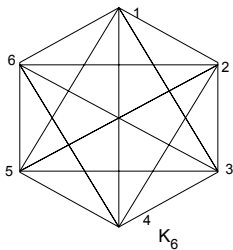


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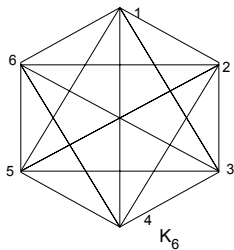


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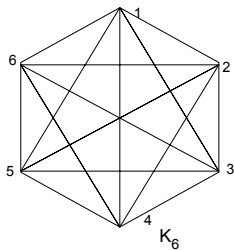


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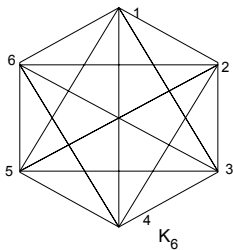


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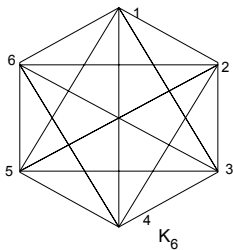


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x

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- The symbol at every site can be switched to a different admissible symbol.
- Replace every appearance of 6 by some other admissible symbol one site at a time.
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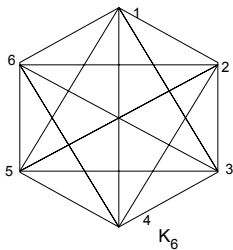


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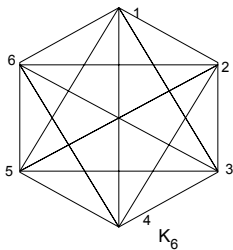
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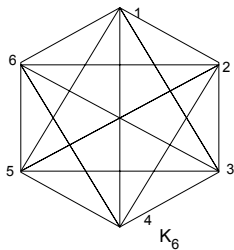


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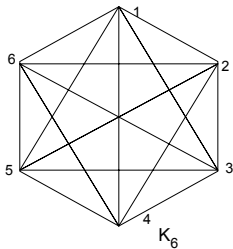


6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1
1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6
6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1
1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6
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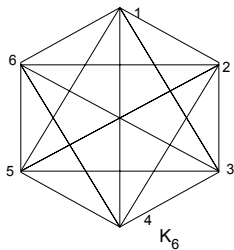


6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1
1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6
6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1
1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6
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- Now place 6 at every even position and finally 1 at every odd position to get a checkerboard pattern in 1's and 6's.
- We can do this for any configuration  $x \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_6)$ . Thus it has the pivot property.



6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1
1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6
6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1
1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6
6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1
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$x$

## Examples: Complete Graphs

This can be further generalised to prove

Theorem (Well known)

*$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, K_r)$  has the pivot property for all  $r \geq 2d + 2$ .*

## $n$ -cycles

- $C_n$  denotes the  $n$ -cycle with vertices  $0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$ .



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$C_5$



$C_{10}$

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The result was well known for  $n = 3$  and this was quite a simple generalisation.



$C_3$



$C_5$

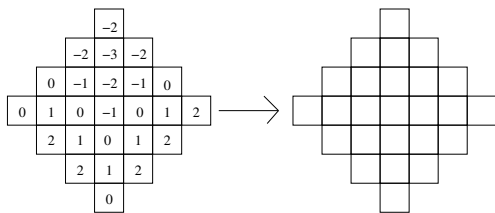


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# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, C_3)$ - the 3-coloured chessboard

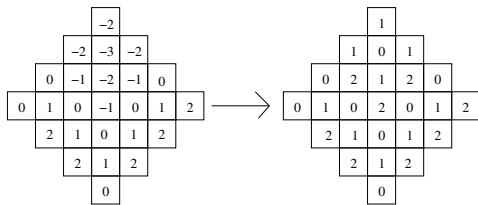
- A **height function** is an element of  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathbb{Z})$ .



Height Function

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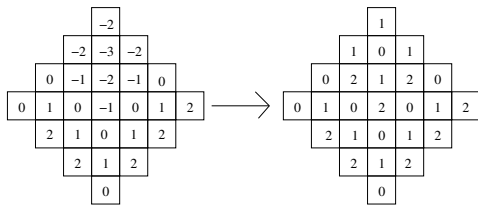


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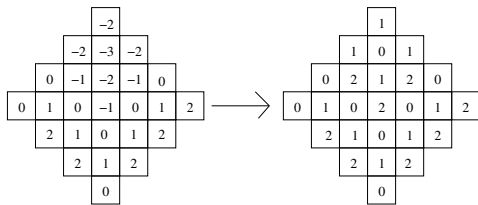


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- It is sufficient to prove the pivot property for  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathbb{Z})$ .

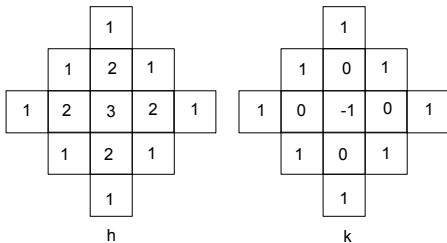


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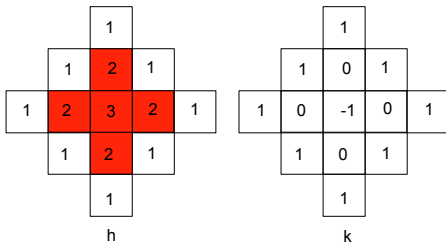
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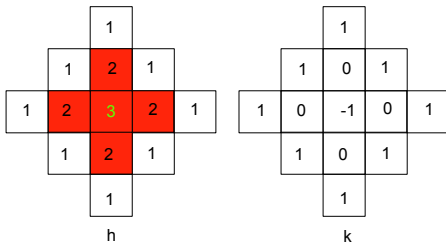
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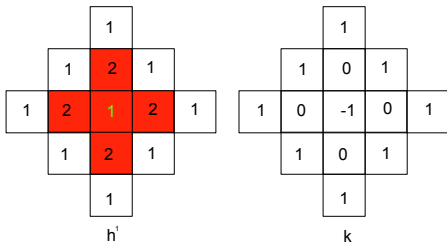
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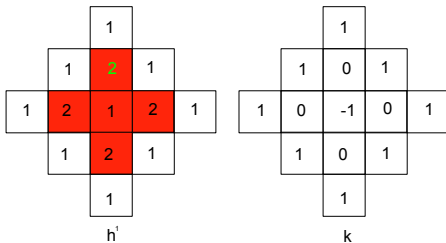
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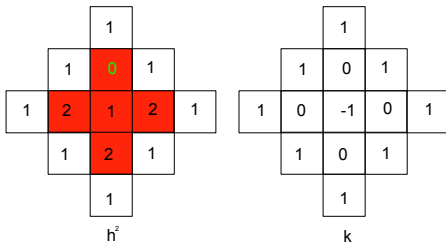
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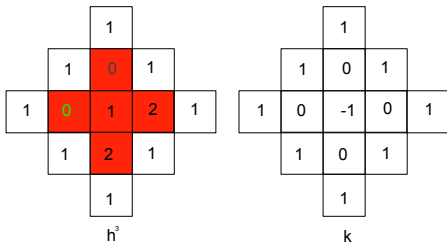
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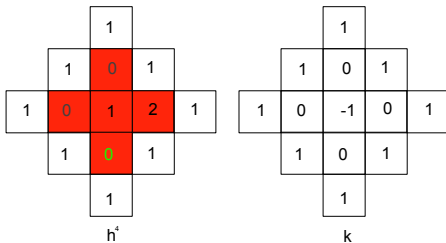
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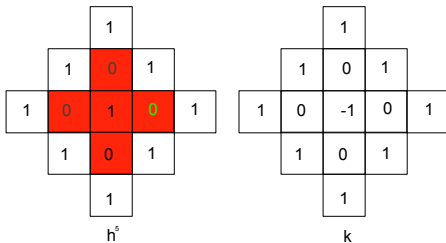
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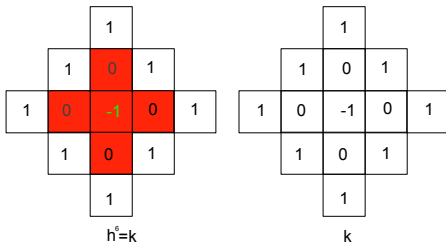
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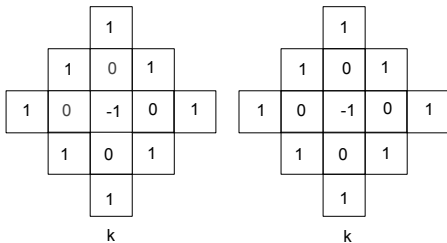
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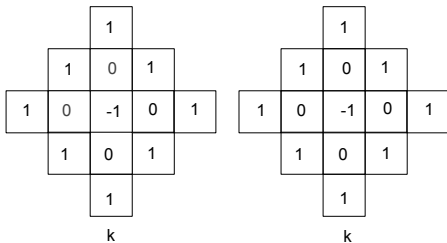
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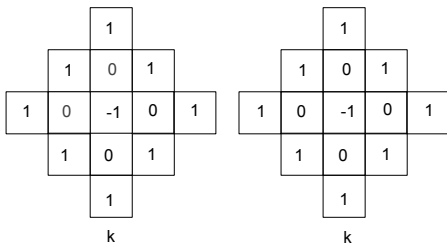
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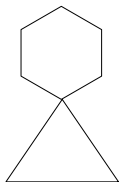


## Four-cycle free graphs

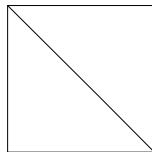
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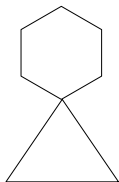
A four-cycle free graph



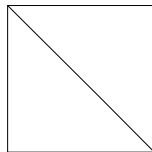
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What generalises height functions for four-cycle free graphs?

## Universal Covers

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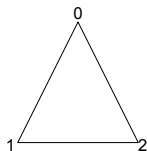


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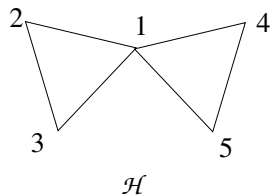
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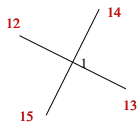
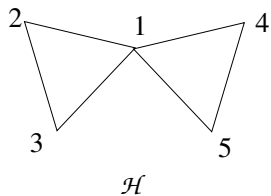


## Universal Covers: An Example



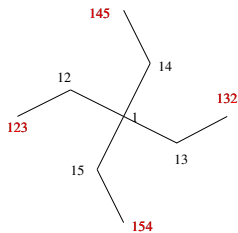
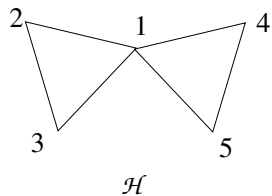
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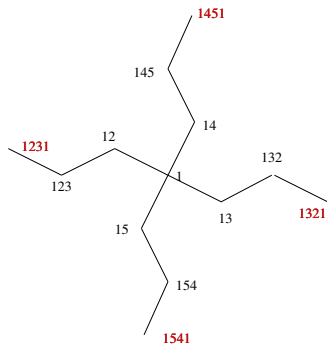
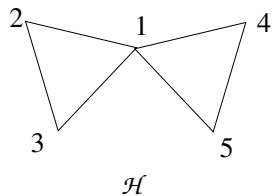
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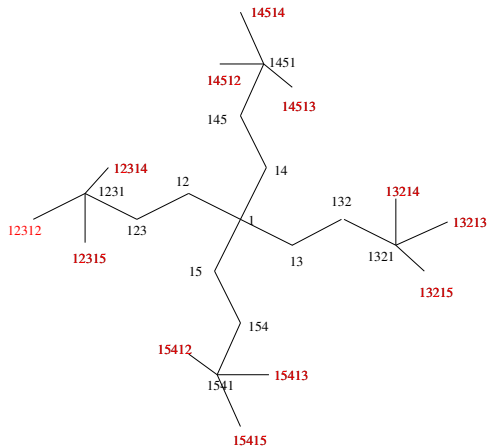
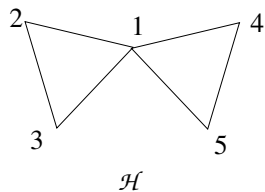
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# Universal Covers: An Example



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# Universal Covers: An Example



## Four-cycle free graphs

This can be used to prove

Theorem (Chandgotia '14)

*If  $\mathcal{H}$  is a four-cycle free graph then  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  has the pivot property.*



Are there homomorphism spaces which do not have the pivot property?

## The generalised pivot property

$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  does not have the pivot property.

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1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	1	2
5	1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	1
4	5	1	2	3

The symbols in the box can be interchanged; but no individual symbol can be changed.

## The generalised pivot property

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1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	1	2
5	1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	1
4	5	1	2	3

The symbols in the box can be interchanged; but no individual symbol can be changed. But it satisfies a more general property:

$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  has the **generalised pivot property** if there exists  $P \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$  finite such that for all  $x, y \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  which differ at finitely many sites there exists a sequence  $x = x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n = y \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  such that  $x^i, x^{i+1}$  differ only on some translate of  $P$ .

# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Let  $x, y \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  differ exactly on  $F \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$  where  $F$  is finite.

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5	1	3	4	2
4	3	5	1	3
3	2	1	5	4

**x**

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

**y**

# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Let  $x, y \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  differ exactly on  $F \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$  where  $F$  is finite.

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5	1	3	4	2
4	3	5	1	3
3	2	1	5	4

**x**

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

**y**

## $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Let  $x, y \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  differ exactly on  $F \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$  where  $F$  is finite.
- Choose the southwest-most site  $\vec{i} \in F$ . We want to change  $x_{\vec{i}}$  to  $y_{\vec{i}}$ .

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5	1	3	4	2
4	3	5	1	3
3	2	1	5	4

**x**

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

**y**

## $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Let  $x, y \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  differ exactly on  $F \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$  where  $F$  is finite.
- Choose the southwest-most site  $\vec{i} \in F$ . We want to change  $x_{\vec{i}}$  to  $y_{\vec{i}}$ .
- Remove  $x_{\vec{i}}, x_{\vec{i}+\vec{e}_1}, x_{\vec{i}+\vec{e}_2}$ .

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5	1	3	4	2
4	3	5	1	3
3	2	1	5	4

$x$

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$y$



## $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Let  $x, y \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  differ exactly on  $F \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$  where  $F$  is finite.
- Choose the southwest-most site  $\vec{i} \in F$ . We want to change  $x_{\vec{i}}$  to  $y_{\vec{i}}$ .
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1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5		3	4	2
4			1	3
3	2	1	5	4

**x**

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

**y**

$Hom(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$ 

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5		3	4	2
4	5		1	3
3	2	1	5	4

**x**

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

**y**

# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.
- The sites  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_2$  are surrounded by four colours.

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5		3	4	2
4	5		1	3
3	2	1	5	4

x

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

y

# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.
- The sites  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_2$  are surrounded by four colours.
- We can always fill them in with a colour to get a valid configuration in  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$ .

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5	1	3	4	2
4	5	2	1	3
3	2	1	5	4

$x^1$

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$y$

# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.
- The sites  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_2$  are surrounded by four colours.
- We can always fill them in with a colour to get a valid configuration in  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$ .
- Iterate. This proves that  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  has the generalised pivot property for the shape  $P = \{\vec{0}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2\}$ .

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5	1	3	4	2
4	5	2	1	3
3	2	1	5	4

$x^1$

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$y$

# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.
- The sites  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_2$  are surrounded by four colours.
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1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5	1	2	4	2
4	5	3	1	3
3	2	1	5	4

$x^2$

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$y$

# $Hom(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.
- The sites  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_2$  are surrounded by four colours.
- We can always fill them in with a colour to get a valid configuration in  $Hom(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$ .
- Iterate. This proves that  $Hom(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  has the generalised pivot property for the shape  $P = \{\vec{0}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2\}$ .

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5	1	2	4	2
4	5	3	1	3
3	2	1	5	4

$x^1$

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$y$

# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.
- The sites  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_2$  are surrounded by four colours.
- We can always fill them in with a colour to get a valid configuration in  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$ .
- Iterate. This proves that  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  has the generalised pivot property for the shape  $P = \{\vec{0}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2\}$ .

1	2	3	4	5
2	3	1	2	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$x^3$

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$y$



# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.
- The sites  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_2$  are surrounded by four colours.
- We can always fill them in with a colour to get a valid configuration in  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$ .
- Iterate. This proves that  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  has the generalised pivot property for the shape  $P = \{\vec{0}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2\}$ .

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	2	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$x^4$

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$y$

# $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.
- The sites  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_2$  are surrounded by four colours.
- We can always fill them in with a colour to get a valid configuration in  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$ .
- Iterate. This proves that  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  has the generalised pivot property for the shape  $P = \{\vec{0}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2\}$ .

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$$x^5 = y$$

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$$y$$

## $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$

- Place  $y_i$  at the  $\vec{i}$  site.
- The sites  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_1$  and  $\vec{i} + \vec{e}_2$  are surrounded by four colours.
- We can always fill them in with a colour to get a valid configuration in  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$ .
- Iterate. This proves that  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  has the generalised pivot property for the shape  $P = \{\vec{0}, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2\}$ .

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$$\mathbf{x}^5 = \mathbf{y}$$

1	2	3	4	5
2	4	5	3	1
5	1	2	5	2
4	5	3	4	3
3	2	1	5	4

$$\mathbf{y}$$

## Single-site Fillability

- $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  is **single-site fillable** if for  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{2d} \in \mathcal{H}$  there exists  $v \in \mathcal{H}$  such that  $v_i \sim_{\mathcal{H}} v$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq 2d$ .

## Single-site Fillability

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Theorem (Briceño '14)

*If  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  is single-site fillable then it has the generalised pivot property.*

Summary:

$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  has the pivot property if:

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- $\mathcal{H}$  is bipartite-dismantlable. (Brightwell and Winkler '00)

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## Summary:

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- $\mathcal{H}$  is bipartite-dismantlable. (Brightwell and Winkler '00)
- $\mathcal{H} = K_r$  where  $K_r$  is the complete graph on  $r$  vertices and  $r \geq 2d + 2$ . (well-known)
- $\mathcal{H}$  is four-cycle free. (Chandgotia '14)

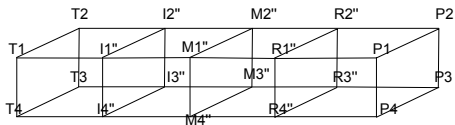
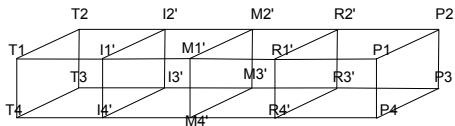
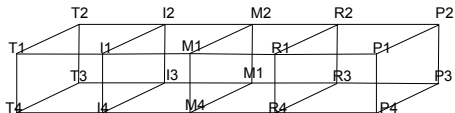
## Summary:

$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$  has the pivot property if:

- $\mathcal{H}$  is bipartite-dismantlable. (Brightwell and Winkler '00)
- $\mathcal{H} = K_r$  where  $K_r$  is the complete graph on  $r$  vertices and  $r \geq 2d + 2$ . (well-known)
- $\mathcal{H}$  is four-cycle free. (Chandgotia '14)
- $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_4)$ ,  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, K_5)$  do not have the pivot property but have the generalised pivot property (Briceño '14).

## Theorem (Austin '16)

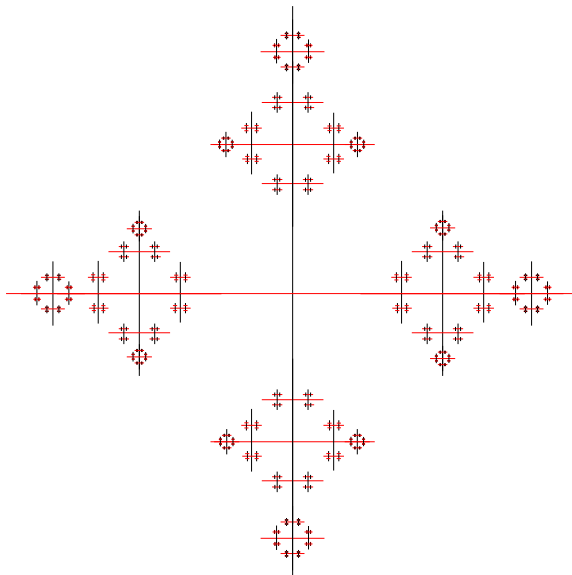
*There is a graph  $\mathcal{H}$  for which the space  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^2, \mathcal{H})$  does not have the generalised pivot property.*



**Question:** Is the pivot property/generalised pivot property decidable for  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mathcal{H})$ ?

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**Question:** How do we sample a random graph homomorphism in the absence of the generalised pivot property?



Thank You!