

Unexpected relations of cobordism categories with another subjects

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The sequence 1, 2, 5, 15, 51, 187, 715, 2795, 11051, 43947, ...
with the form:

$$g(n) = \frac{(2^n + 1)(2^{n-1} + 1)}{3}.$$

This sequence have the number [A007581](#) in the webpage



The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences and

have the following interpretations:

- (1) The density of a language with four letters.
- (2) The dimension of the universal embedding of the dual polar space.
- (3) The number of isomorphy classes of regular fourfold covering of a graph L with Betti number $n = \beta(L)$ and with voltage group $\mathbb{F}_2 \times \mathbb{F}_2$.
- (4) The rank of the fundamental group of the classifying space of the \mathbb{F}_2^n -cobordism category in dimension $1+1$.

Languages

Consider the following game: We form words ($a = a_1 a_2 \cdots a_m$) made with letters $a_i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ satisfying the property

$$0 < a_i \leq \max_{j < i} \{a_j\} + 1$$

Thus $a_1 = 1$ and we are not going to write it. Let L^n be the set of words of length n . For $n = 1$ there are two words 1 and 2, for $n = 2$ the words are 11, 12, 21, 22, 23, while for $n = 3$ we have 15 words

111	112	121	122	123
211	212	213	221	222
223	231	232	233	234.

The density of a language with four letters in degree n is the number of elements of L^n . Nelma Moreira and Rogério Reis consider partition of a set of n elements in subsets.

For $n = 2$,

Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6	Case 7
11 21	12 23	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset	22

For $n = 3$,

Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6	Case 7
111 121 211 221 231	112 123 213 223 234	212	222	232	\emptyset	122 233

For $n = 4$,

Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6	Case 7
1111	1112	2112	2122	2132	2342	1122
1121	1123	2312	2322	2332	2343	1233
1211	1213	1212	1222	1232		2133
1221	1223	2212	2222	2232		2233
1231	1234	2313	2323	2333		
2111	2113					
2121	2123					
2131	2134					
2211	2213					
2221	2223					
2231	2234					
2311	2314					
2321	2324					
2331	2334					
2341	2344					

Let $L^n(j)$ the words in L^n of the case $j \in \{1, \dots, 7\}$ and we denote by $L^n(1, 2) = L^n - (L^n(1) \cup L^n(2))$, we have bijections:

1. $A_1 : L^{n-1} \longrightarrow L^n(1), A_2 : L^{n-1} \longrightarrow L^n(2).$
2. $A_j : L^{n-1}(1, 2) \longrightarrow L^n(j) \ (j = 3, 4, 5).$
3. $A_6 : L^{n-1}(1, 2) \longrightarrow (L^n(6) \cup L^n(7)) - \{11 \cdots 122\},$

$$a = a' a_{n-1} \mapsto \begin{cases} a' 4 a_{n-1} \in L^n(6) & \text{if } a' \text{ has a } 3 \\ a' 33 \in L^n(7) & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Thus $|L^n(1)| = |L^n(2)| = g(n-1)$, $|L^n(j)| = g(n-1) - 2g(n-2)$ ($j = 3, 4, 5$) and $|L^n(6)| + |L^n(7)| = g(n-1) - 2g(n-2) + 1$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} |L^n| &= 2g(n-1) + 4(g(n-1) - 2g(n-2)) + 1 = \\ &= 6g(n-1) - 8g(n-2) + 1 \\ &= \frac{(2^n + 1)(2^{n-1} + 1)}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Dual polar space

Let $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L})$ be a partial linear vector space (\mathcal{P} points and \mathcal{L} lines). Hence they satisfy:

- ▶ any line is at least incident with two points, and
- ▶ any pair of distinct points is incident with at most one line.

We assume that every line contain exactly three different points.

An *embedding* of \mathcal{G} in an \mathbb{F}_2 -vector space E is a function $\theta : \mathcal{P} \longrightarrow E$ such that:

- ▶ E is spanned by the image of θ , i.e. $E = \langle \mathcal{P}^\theta \rangle$; and
- ▶ for every line $\{p, q, r\} \in \mathcal{L}$, the vectors $p^\theta, q^\theta, r^\theta$ form a projective line in E , i.e. $p^\theta + q^\theta + r^\theta = 0$.

The *universal embedding* satisfies

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P} & \longrightarrow & U(\mathcal{G}) \\ & \searrow \theta & \vdots \\ & & E \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{"largest"} \\ \\ \forall \theta : \mathcal{P} \longrightarrow E \end{array}$$

The $Sp_{2n}(2)$ dual polar space is the partial linear space $\mathcal{G}_n = (\mathcal{P}_n, \mathcal{L}_n)$ constructed from a $2n$ -dimensional nondegenerate symplectic space over \mathbb{F}_2 with:

- ▶ $\mathcal{P}_n = \{ \text{the maximal totally isotropic subspaces} \},$
- ▶ $\mathcal{L}_n = \{ \text{the totally isotropic subspaces of dimension } n-1 \},$
- ▶ the incidence is given by inclusion.

This is a partial linear space with lines with exactly three points since:

- ▶ every maximal totally isotropic subspace has dimension n , and
- ▶ every totally isotropic subspace of dimension $n - 1$ is contained in exactly three maximal totally isotropic subspaces.

The dimension of the universal embedding of the dual polar space is the dimension of $U(\mathcal{G}_n)$. A. E. Brouwer produce an embedding of \mathcal{G}_n of dimension exactly $g(n) = (2^n + 1)(2^{n-1} + 1)/3$. Thus

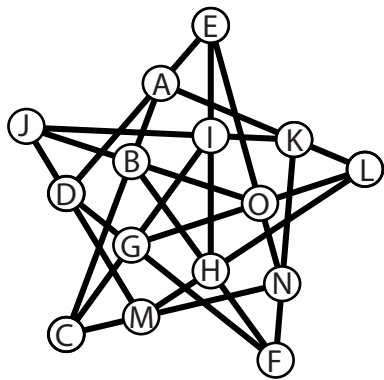
$$\dim U(\mathcal{G}_n) \geq g(n).$$

The Brouwer's conjecture state the equality $\dim U(\mathcal{G}_n) = g(n)$, so in order to prove this conjecture, it suffice to show that $U(\mathcal{G}_n)$ is spanned by $g(n)$ vectors. For $n = 1$, $\mathcal{P}_1 = \{10, 01, 11\}$ and $\mathcal{L}_1 = \{0\}$. Hence $\dim U(\mathcal{G}_1) = 2$.

For $n = 2$, \mathcal{P}_2 is

$$\begin{array}{lll} A \begin{pmatrix} 0001 \\ 0010 \end{pmatrix} & B \begin{pmatrix} 0001 \\ 1000 \end{pmatrix} & C \begin{pmatrix} 0001 \\ 1010 \end{pmatrix} \\ D \begin{pmatrix} 0010 \\ 0100 \end{pmatrix} & E \begin{pmatrix} 0010 \\ 0101 \end{pmatrix} & \\ F \begin{pmatrix} 0100 \\ 1000 \end{pmatrix} & G \begin{pmatrix} 0100 \\ 1010 \end{pmatrix} & H \begin{pmatrix} 0101 \\ 1000 \end{pmatrix} \\ I \begin{pmatrix} 0101 \\ 1010 \end{pmatrix} & J \begin{pmatrix} 0110 \\ 1001 \end{pmatrix} & \\ K \begin{pmatrix} 0011 \\ 1100 \end{pmatrix} & L \begin{pmatrix} 0011 \\ 1101 \end{pmatrix} & M \begin{pmatrix} 0110 \\ 1011 \end{pmatrix} \\ N \begin{pmatrix} 0111 \\ 1011 \end{pmatrix} & O \begin{pmatrix} 0111 \\ 1001 \end{pmatrix} & \end{array}$$

They form the *Cremona-Richmond* configuration



A-B-C

A-K-L

D-A-E

D-G-F

E-I-H

J-D-M

E-O-N

B-H-F

J-B-O

C-G-I

C-M-N

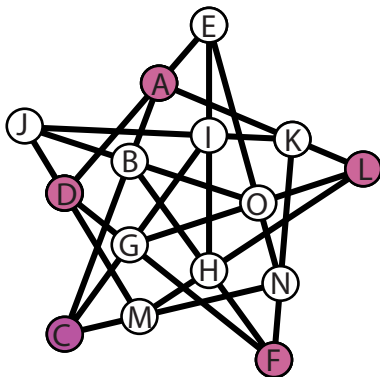
F-N-K

M-H-L

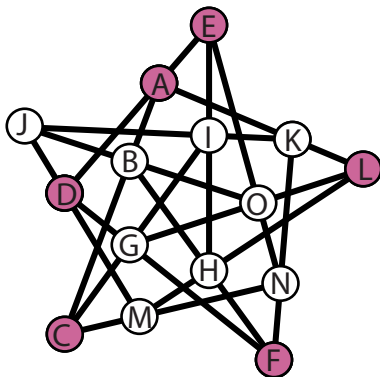
G-O-L

J-I-K

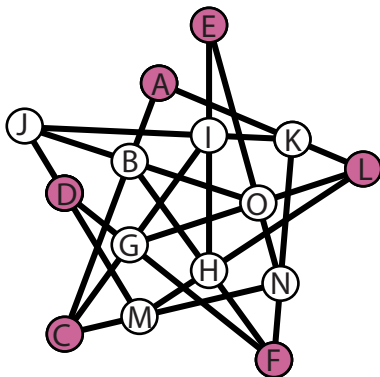
$$\dim U(\mathcal{G}_2) = 5$$



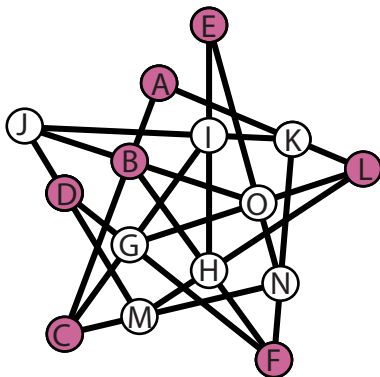
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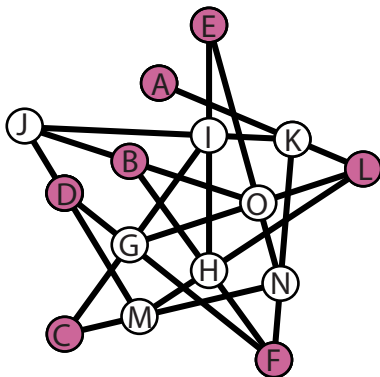
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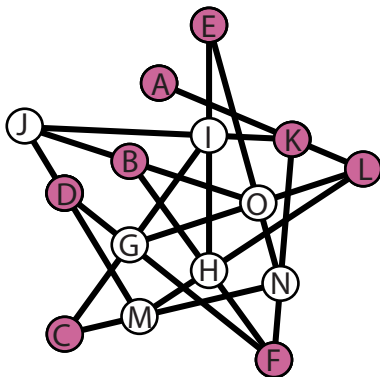
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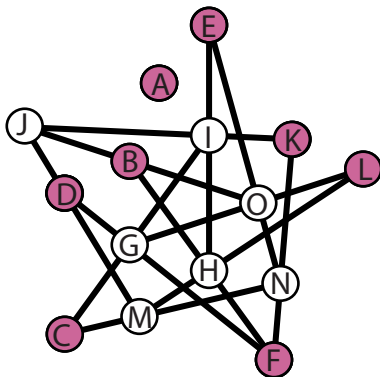
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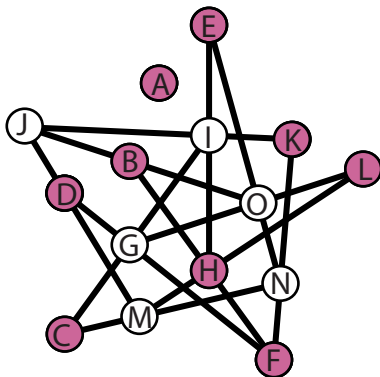
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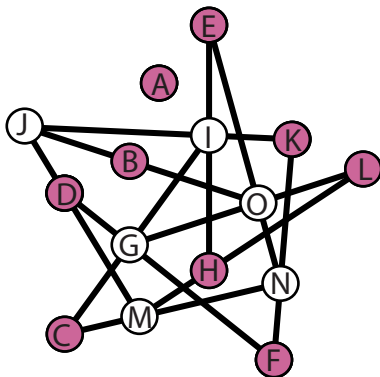
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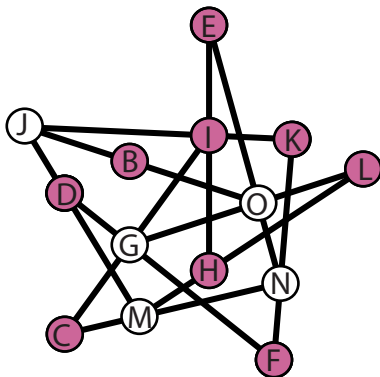
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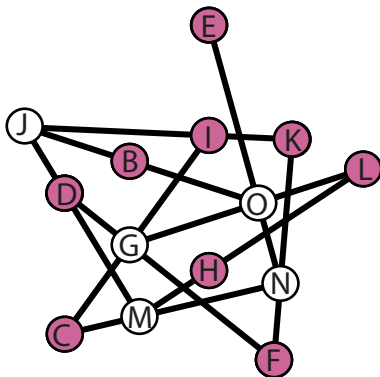
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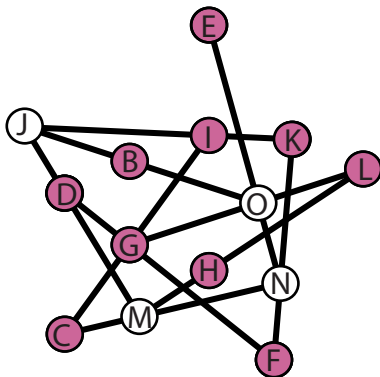
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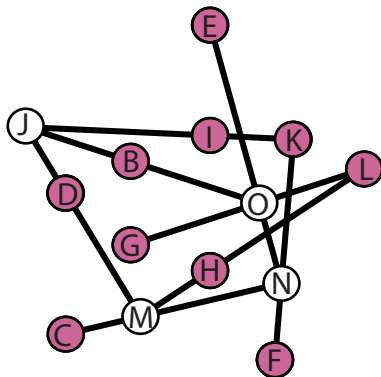
$$\dim U(\mathcal{G}_2) = 5$$



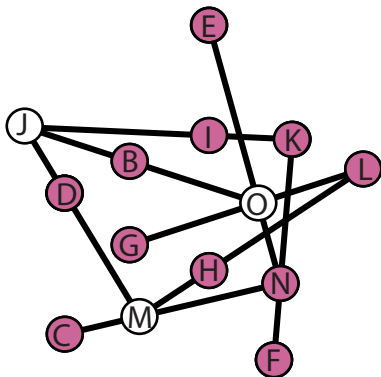
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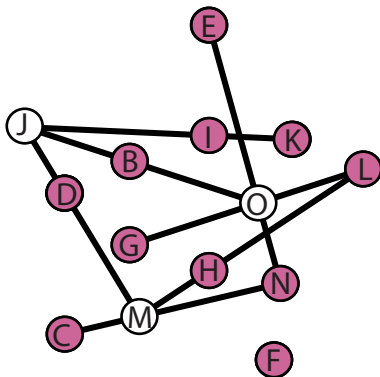
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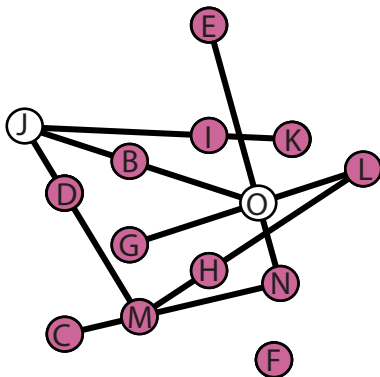
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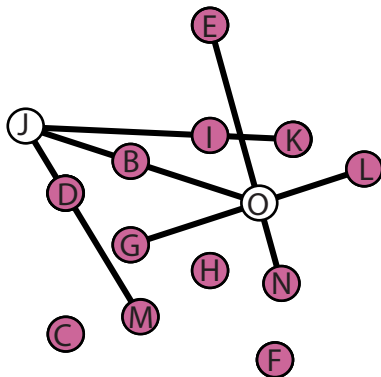
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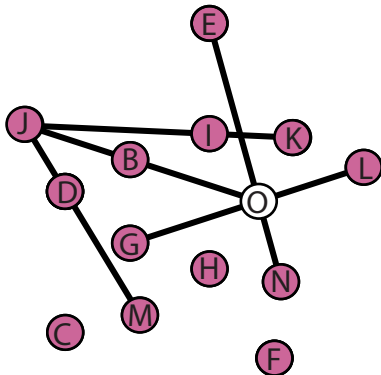
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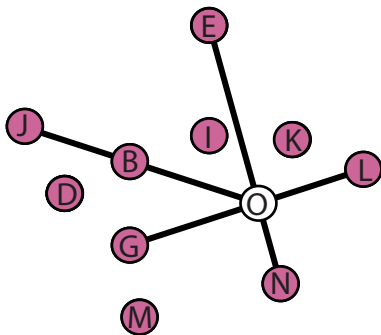
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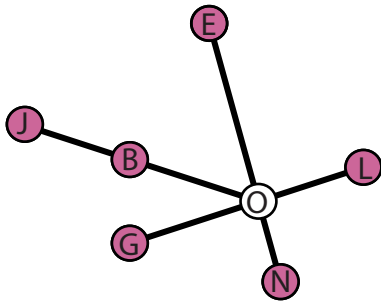
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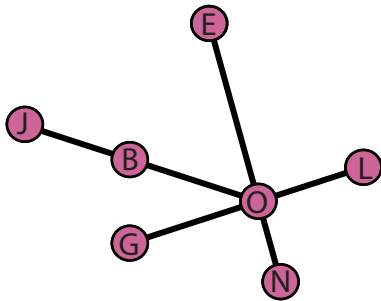
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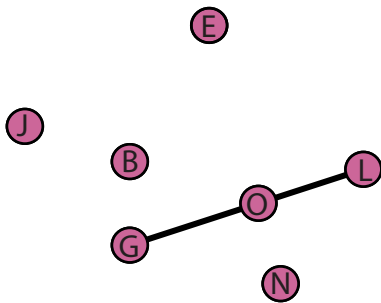
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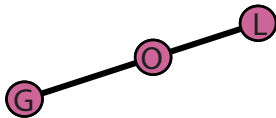
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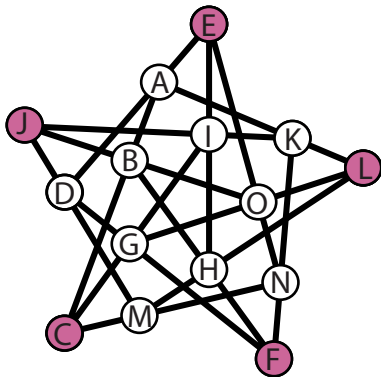
G

O

L

$$\dim U(\mathcal{G}_2) = 5$$

Counterexample



To find a set of generators, for $n \geq 3$, this could be a difficult problem. The number of maximal isotropic spaces is given by the formula

$$(2^n + 1)(2^{n-1} + 1) \cdots (2^2 + 1)(2 + 1) = 3, 15, 135, 2295, \dots$$

Paul Li proposes a strategy:

Let Γ the collinearity graph of \mathcal{G}_n . Fix a vertex $x_0 \in \Gamma$ and let Γ_k ($0 \leq k \leq n$) denote the set of vertices at distance k from x_0 .

Then $y \in \Gamma_k$ if and only if $\dim(y \cap x_0) = n - k$. The geometry of \mathcal{G}_n has the following properties:

- ▶ every line of \mathcal{G}_n contains two elements from Γ_k and one from Γ_{k-1} , for some $1 \leq k \leq n$;
- ▶ every point $y \in \Gamma_{k-1}$ is adjacent to at least a point in Γ_k , for $1 \leq k \leq n$.

Therefore we have a filtration

$$0 \leq \langle \Gamma_0^\theta \rangle \leq \cdots \leq \langle \Gamma_n^\theta \rangle = U(\mathcal{G}_n),$$

We say that two elements $p, q \in \Gamma_k$ are connected if $p \cap x_0 = q \cap x_0$, where $x_0 \in \Gamma$ is the fixed point. Therefore, the connected components of Γ_k correspond to the $n - k$ -subspaces of x_0 .

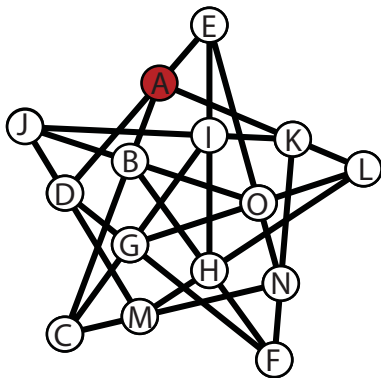
Since Γ_0 , Γ_1 , and Γ_n , respectively have 1, $2^n - 1$, and 1 connected components, we obtain

$$\dim U(\mathcal{G}_n) \leq 1 + (2^n - 1) + \sum_{k=1}^{n-2} \dim \frac{\langle \Gamma_{k+1}^\theta \rangle}{\langle \Gamma_k^\theta \rangle} + 1.$$

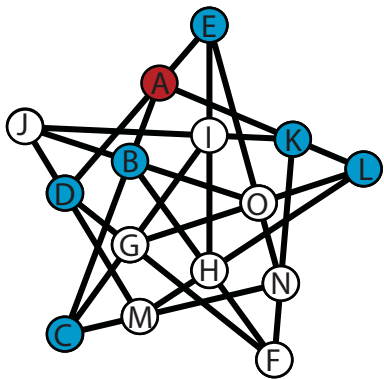
Theorem

For the universal embedding $U(\mathcal{G}_n)$. There exists a subset \mathcal{N}^n of subspaces of x_0 , such that for a subset $T^n \subset \mathcal{P}_n$ with the map $y \in T \mapsto y \cap x_0$ a bijection restricted to \mathcal{N}^n . Therefore, the set T^n is a basis for $U(\mathcal{G}_n)$.

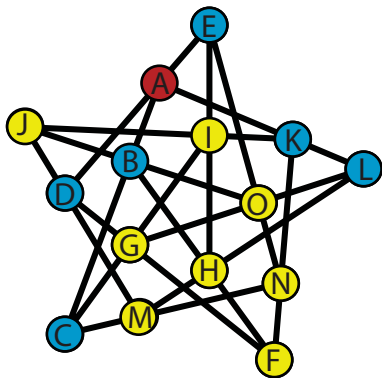
For example for $n = 2$ we take $x_0 = A$



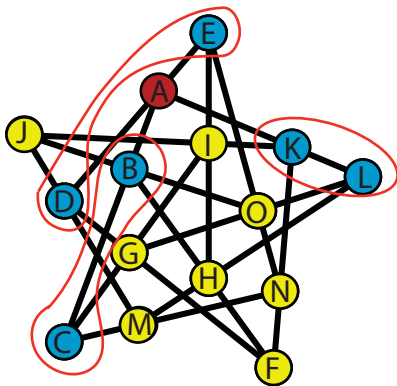
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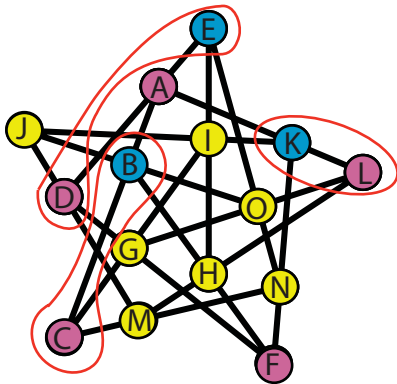
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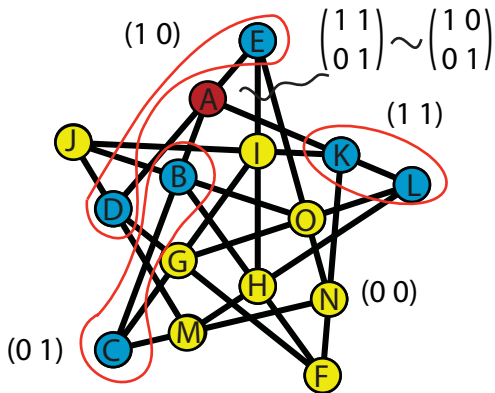
Properties of \mathcal{N}^n :

- ▶ the cardinality is exactly the number $g(n) = (2^n + 1)(2^{n-1} + 1)/3$;
- ▶ the set is participated in seven families which are denoted $\mathcal{N}^n(i)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, 7$;
- ▶ there are bijections $E_j : \mathcal{N}^n(j) \longrightarrow \mathcal{N}^{n-1}$ for $j = 1, 2$;
- ▶ there are bijections $E_j : \mathcal{N}^n(j) \longrightarrow \mathcal{N}^{n-1}(1, 2)$ for $j = 3, 4, 5$;
- ▶ there is a bijection $E_6 : (\mathcal{N}^n(6) \cup \mathcal{N}^n(7)) - \langle 00 \dots 011 \rangle \longrightarrow \mathcal{N}^{n-1}(1, 2)$;
- ▶ inductively we can define bijections with the languages where

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{N}^n(i) & \xrightarrow{F_n} & L^n(i) \\
 E_i \downarrow & & \uparrow A_i \\
 \mathcal{N}^{n-1} & \xrightarrow{F_{n-1}} & L^{n-1}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{N}^n(j) & \xrightarrow{F_n} & L^n(j) \\
 E_j \downarrow & & \uparrow A_j \\
 \mathcal{N}^{n-1}(1, 2) & \xrightarrow{F_{n-1}} & L^{n-1}(1, 2)
 \end{array}$$

for $i = 1, 2, j = 3, 4, 5$ and similarly for the case 6 with $\langle 00 \dots 011 \rangle \longmapsto 11 \dots 122$.

Case 1	Case 2	Case 3, 4, 5, 6	Case 7
11 (00)	12 (01)	\emptyset	22 (11)
21 (10)	23 $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$		



Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 7
111 (000)	112 (001)	212 (101)	222 $\begin{pmatrix} 110 \\ 011 \end{pmatrix}$	232 $\begin{pmatrix} 101 \\ 010 \end{pmatrix}$	122 (011)
121 (010)	123 $\begin{pmatrix} 010 \\ 001 \end{pmatrix}$				233 $\begin{pmatrix} 100 \\ 011 \end{pmatrix}$
211 (100)	213 $\begin{pmatrix} 100 \\ 001 \end{pmatrix}$				
221 (110)	223 $\begin{pmatrix} 110 \\ 001 \end{pmatrix}$				
231 $\begin{pmatrix} 110 \\ 010 \end{pmatrix}$	234 $\begin{pmatrix} 110 \\ 010 \\ 001 \end{pmatrix}$				

Coverings of graphs

We take $L = (V(L), D(L))$ a (directed) graph where $V(L)$ are the vertices and $D(L)$ the edges.

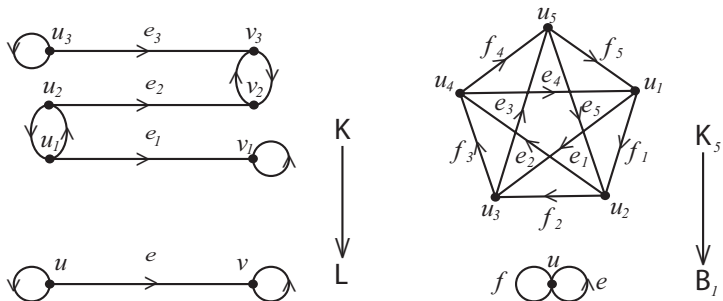
A covering of L ,

$$K \longrightarrow L$$

is a surjection $p : V(K) \longrightarrow V(L)$ such that

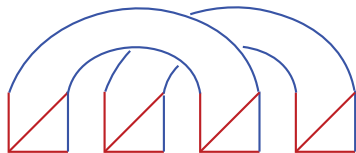
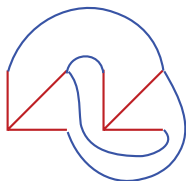
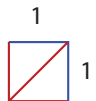
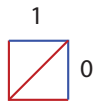
$p|_{N(\tilde{v})} : N(\tilde{v}) \longrightarrow N(v)$ is a bijection for all v and $\tilde{v} \in p^{-1}(v)$.

Where $N(v)$ is the neighborhood of v , i.e. the set of vertices adjacent to v .

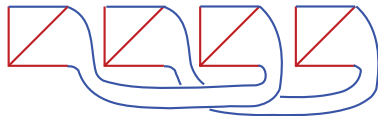


- ▶ K is an n -fold covering of L if the projection is n to 1;
- ▶ a covering $p : K \rightarrow L$ is regular if there is a group G which acts free and transitively over K , i.e. there is monomorphism of groups $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(K)$ and the quotient K/G is isomorphic to L ;
- ▶ two covering graphs $p_1 : K_1 \rightarrow L$ and $p_2 : K_2 \rightarrow L$ are isomorphic if there is a graph isomorphism $\Phi : K_1 \rightarrow K_2$ such that $p_1 = p_2\Phi$.
- ▶ every regular covering of a graph L can be constructed through a voltage map $\phi : D(L) \rightarrow G$ with G a finite group called the voltage group (Gross and Tucker);
- ▶ A voltage map has a graph associated, called the voltage graph, which we denote by $L \times_\phi G$ and which vertex set is $V(L) \times G$ and an edge joins a vertex (u, g) to $(v, \phi(uv)g)$.

0 1

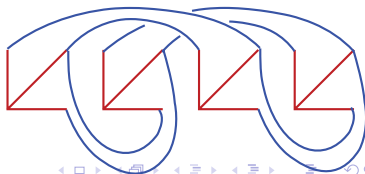
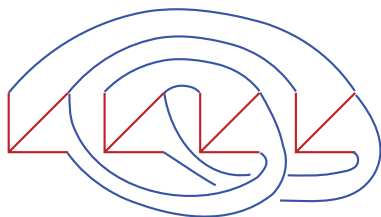


NO ISO



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(243)



Theorem

Let G be an abelian group. Any two n -fold voltage coverings $L \times_{\phi} G$ and $L \times_{\psi} G$ are isomorphic if and only if there exists a permutation f in S_n such that

$$\psi(uv) = f(v)(\phi(uv) + g) - f(u)(g).$$

From here we suppose $G = \mathbb{F}_p^r$ the r -dimensional vector space over the field \mathbb{F}_p , where p is a prime number. Let $\text{Isom}(L, \mathbb{F}_p^r)$ be the set of isomorphism regular graph covering with voltage group \mathbb{F}_p^r . Now we show the isomorphism

$$\text{Isom}(L, \mathbb{F}_p^r) \cong (\mathbb{F}_p^r)^{\beta(L)} / \text{GL}_r(\mathbb{F}_p).$$

where $\beta(L) = |D(L)| - |V(L)| + 1$ is the Betti number of L and $\text{GL}_r(\mathbb{F}_p)$ is the general linear group.

- ϕ a voltage map, fix vertex u_0 , a spanning tree T . We replace by

$$\phi(P_w) = \sum_{xy \in P_w} \phi(xy), \quad \phi_T(uv) = \phi(P_u) + \phi(uv) - \phi(P_v),$$

$$f(v)(g) = g - \phi(P_v), \quad \phi_T(uv) = f(v)(g + \phi(uv)) - f(u)(g).$$

P_u the unique path in T from u_0 to u . $\phi_T \equiv 0$ on T .

- ϕ_1, ϕ_2 voltage maps with isomorphic voltage graphs and $\phi_1 \equiv \phi_2 \equiv 0$ on T .

$$f(a\phi_1(u_1v_1) + b\phi_1(u_2v_2)) = a\phi_2(u_1v_1) + b\phi_2(u_2v_2) + f(0),$$

for $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus there exists $A \in \text{Gl}(2, \mathbb{Z})$ with

$f(g) = Ag + f(0)$ for $g \in \mathbb{F}_p^r$. Therefore, $\phi_2(uv) = A\phi_1(uv)$.

- The isomorphism follows since the cotree T^* of the spanning tree has $\beta(L)$ edges.
- For $p = r = 2$ we have the initial sequence 2ce.

The number of isomorphism classes of regular coverings of a graph L with voltage group \mathbb{F}_2^2 .

(0,0) (0,1) (1,0) (1,1)

(0,0)



(0,0)



(1,0)



(0,0)



(0,0)



(1,0)



(1,0)



(1,0)



(1,1)



(1,0)



Cobordism category

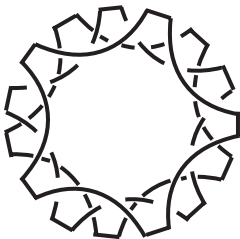
A *category* is a collection of objects and morphisms. Example: the category of sets and functions, the category of topological spaces and continuous functions, the category of smooth manifolds and smooth maps, etc.

The *cobordism category*. Its objects are finite disjoint unions of circles. A *cobordism* between two objects Σ_1 and Σ_2 is an oriented surface M whose boundary is the disjoint union $\partial M = \Sigma_1 \sqcup \bar{\Sigma}_2$.

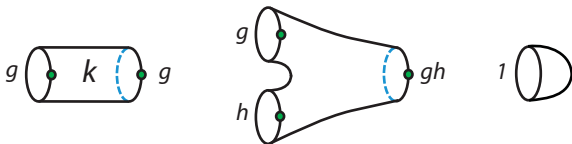
We consider two cobordisms as equal if there exists a diffeomorphism between them which is the identity in the boundary. The equivalence classes of the cobordisms are the morphisms of the cobordism category.



Let G a finite abelian group of order $|G| = n$. The G -cobordism category has objects finite sequences (g_1, \dots, g_m) of elements in G . Each $g \in G$ defines an n -fold covering of the unit circle by taking the product $G \times [0, 1]$ up to the identification $(h, 0) \sim (h + g, 1)$, for every $h \in G$. For $G = \mathbb{Z}_{15}$ and $g = 3$, we have a 15-fold covering of the circle whose total space is the disjoint union of three circles, see the following figure



For (g_1, \dots, g_m) and (h_1, \dots, h_l) objects, consider cobordisms between the total spaces of the n -fold coverings. Every such cobordism comes with a free action of the group G . We identify two G -cobordisms if there exists a diffeomorphism between them which commutes with the action and which is the identity in the boundary. The equivalence classes of the G -cobordisms obtained by this identification are the morphisms of the G -cobordism category. They are generated by elementary components



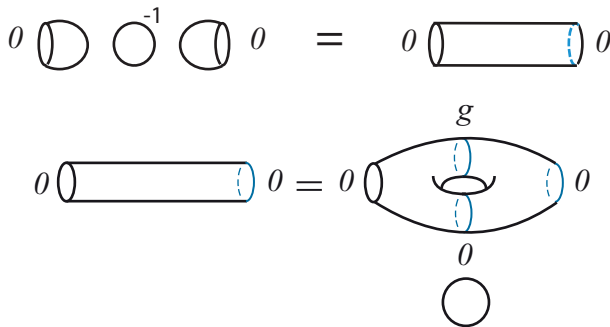
We denote by Cob^G the G -cobordism category.

For \mathcal{C} a small category we denote by $\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]$ the groupoid obtained by formally adjoint the inverses of all arrows. For example $\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{N}[\mathbb{N}^{-1}]$ and $\mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}^{-1}]$. For \mathcal{C} , we associate a topological space called *the classifying space* $B\mathcal{C}$. For example $B\mathbb{Z} \simeq S^1 \simeq B\mathbb{N}$.

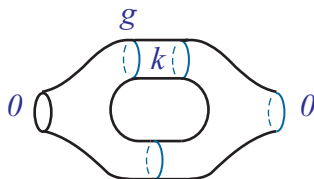
Theorem (Quillen)

The fundamental group $\pi_1(B\mathcal{C}, x)$ is canonical isomorphic with $\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]_x$ for x and object of \mathcal{C} .

There are two properties in the G -cobordism category which let us to find the fundamental group of its classifying space

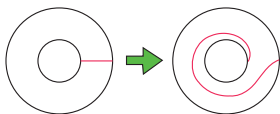


For $G = 0$ the assignment *genus – spheres* gives the isomorphism $\pi_1(B \operatorname{Cob}^0) = \mathbb{Z}$, so the rank is 1. For an arbitrary finite abelian group, the group $\pi_1(B \operatorname{Cob}^G)$ is *generated* by elements of the form



up to the identification given by the diffeomorphism of the torus, which are generated essentially by two which give the identifications $(g, k) \sim (g, g + k)$ and $(g, k) \sim (k, -g)$. Thus the rank of the fundamental group of the classifying space of the G -cobordism category is given by the cardinality of the quotient of $G \times G$ under the action of $\operatorname{Sl}_2(\mathbb{F}_2)$.

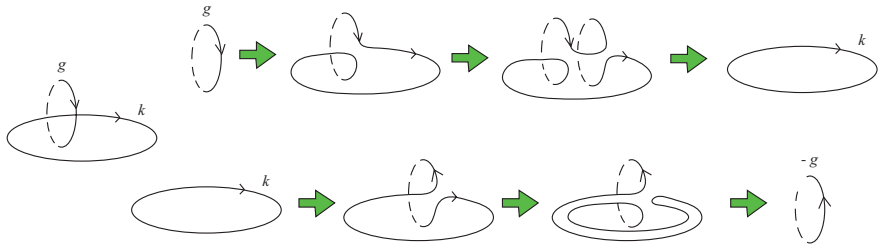
$$(g, k) \sim (g, g + k)$$



Dehn twist

$$(e^{i\theta}, t) \mapsto (e^{i(\theta+2\pi t)}, t)$$

$$(g, k) \sim (k, -g)$$



Resume

- ▶ We establish a relation between languages and subvector spaces which give a set of representatives of the dual polar space by bijections

$$F_n : \mathcal{N}^n \longrightarrow L^n$$

where both sets have cardinality $g(n) = (2^n + 1)(2^{n-1} + 1)/3$.

- ▶ We prove that the number of isomorphism of regular coverings of a graph with Betti number n with voltage group \mathbb{F}_p^r is given by

$$k(r, p, n) := |\text{Isom}(L, \mathbb{F}_p^r)| = |(\mathbb{F}_p^r)^n / \text{Gl}_r(\mathbb{F}_p)|$$

and the rank of the \mathbb{F}_p^n -cobordism category is the cardinality of the quotient

$$m(p, n) := |(\mathbb{F}_p^2)^n / \text{Sl}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)|$$

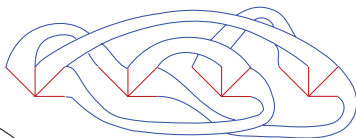
Thus

$$k(2, p, n) \leq m(p, n).$$

Languages

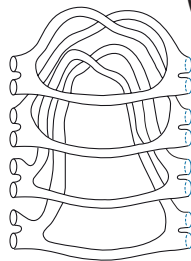
Fourcoverings

234



$$\begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 11 \\ 01 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 110 \\ 010 \\ 001 \end{pmatrix}$$



Dual polar space

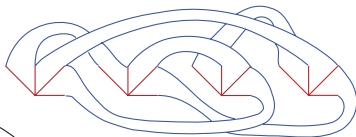
Cobordism

Languages

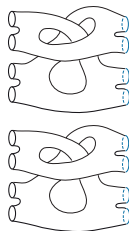
234

$$\begin{pmatrix} 110 \\ 010 \\ 001 \end{pmatrix}$$

Fourcoverings



$$\begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 11 \\ 01 \end{pmatrix}$$



Dual polar space

Cobordism

