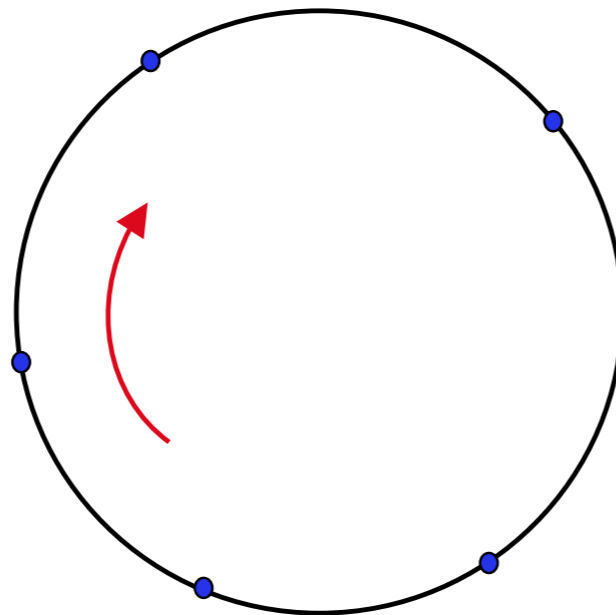


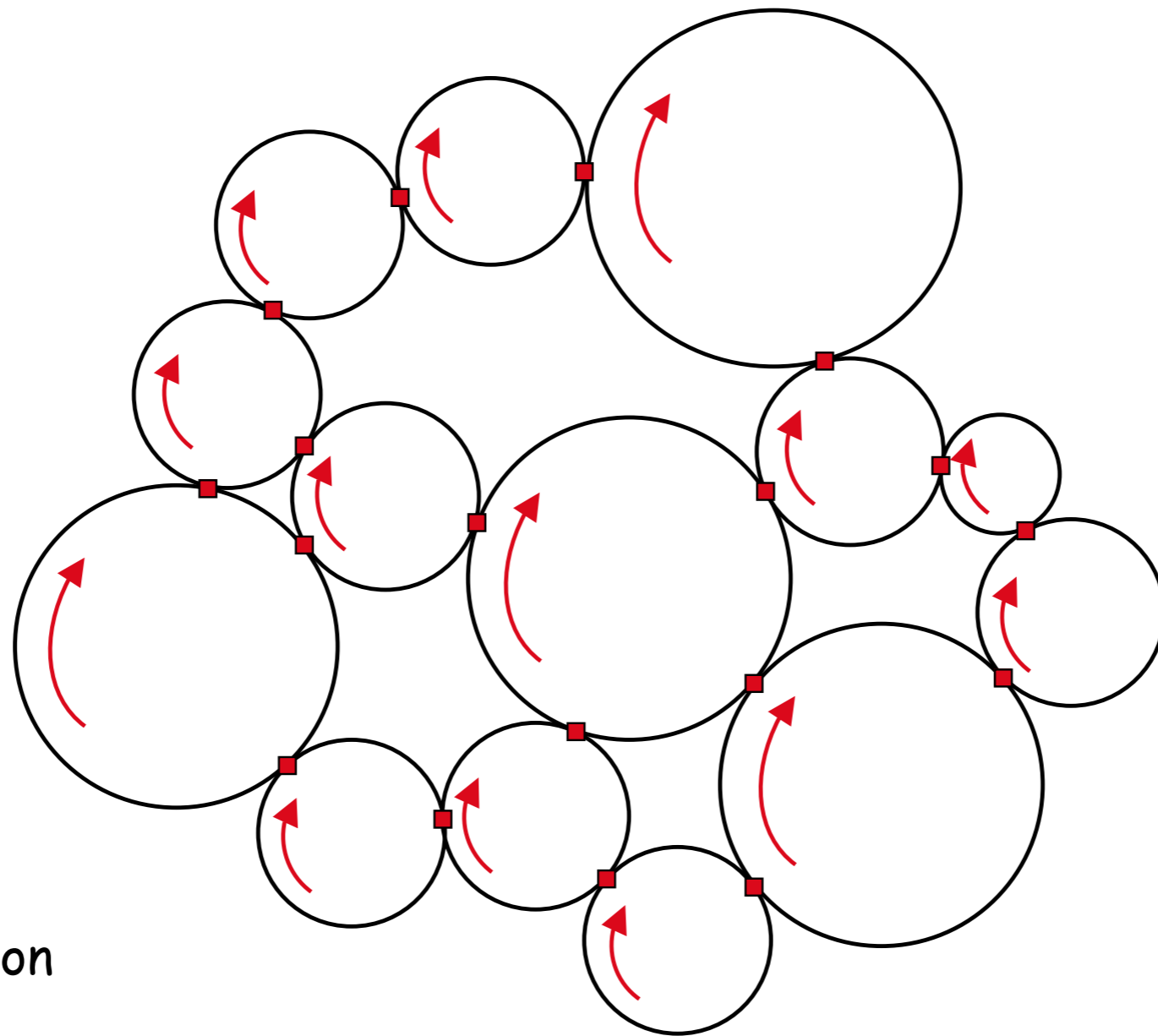
Finding your way in a graph

Finding your way in a graph



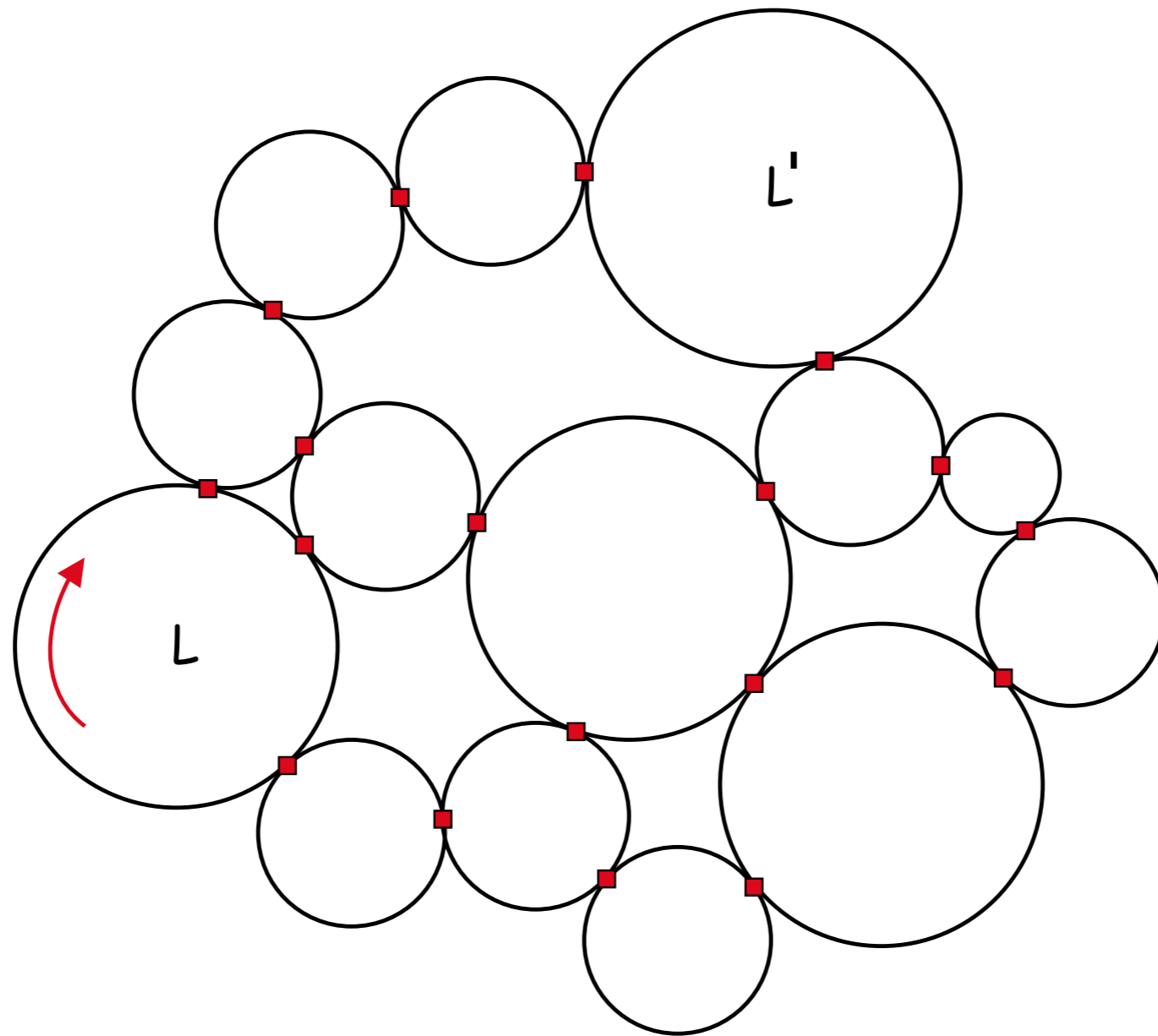
● = station

One loop

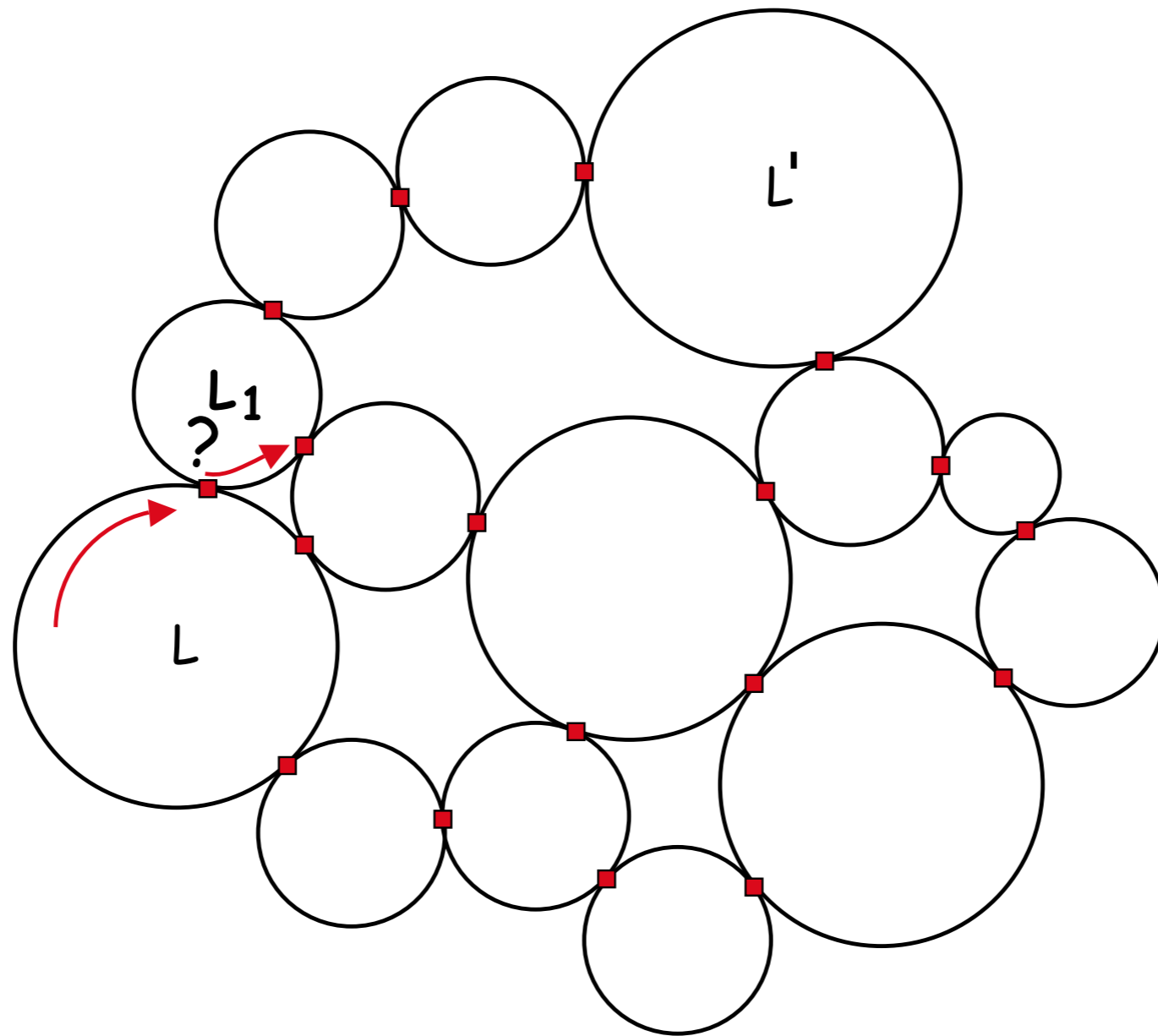


■ = junction

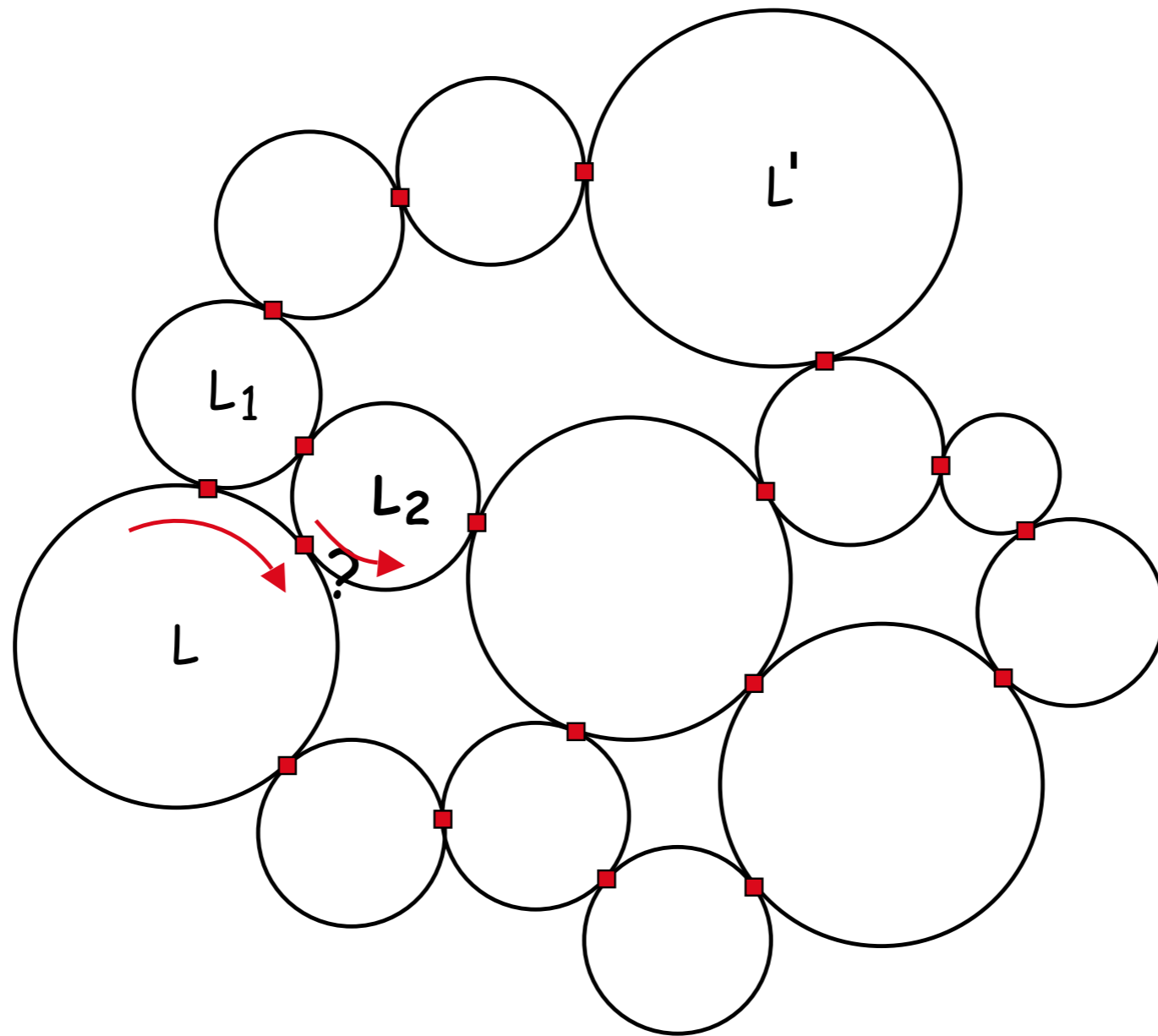
A system of interconnected loops



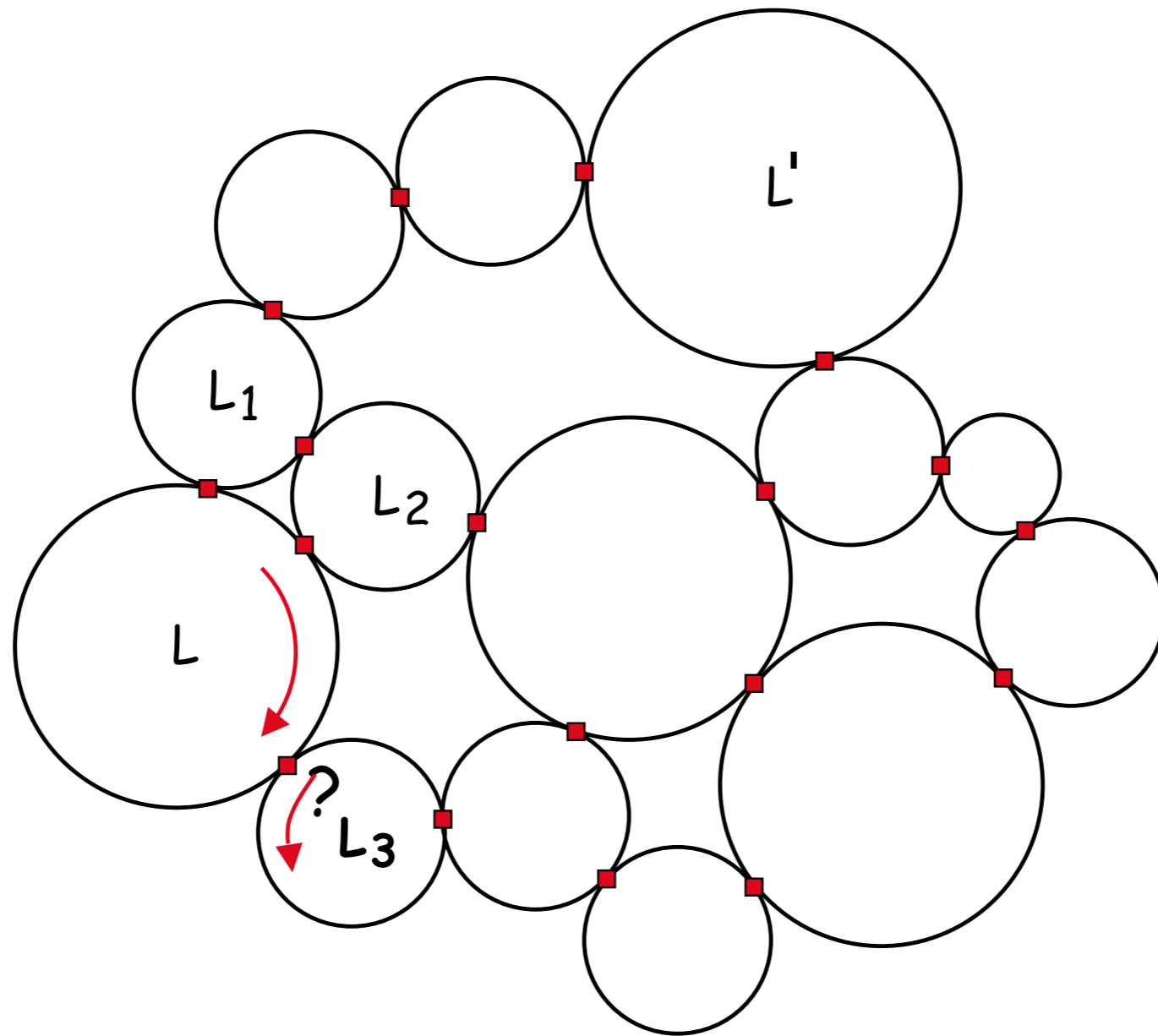
What is the best way to go from L to L' ?



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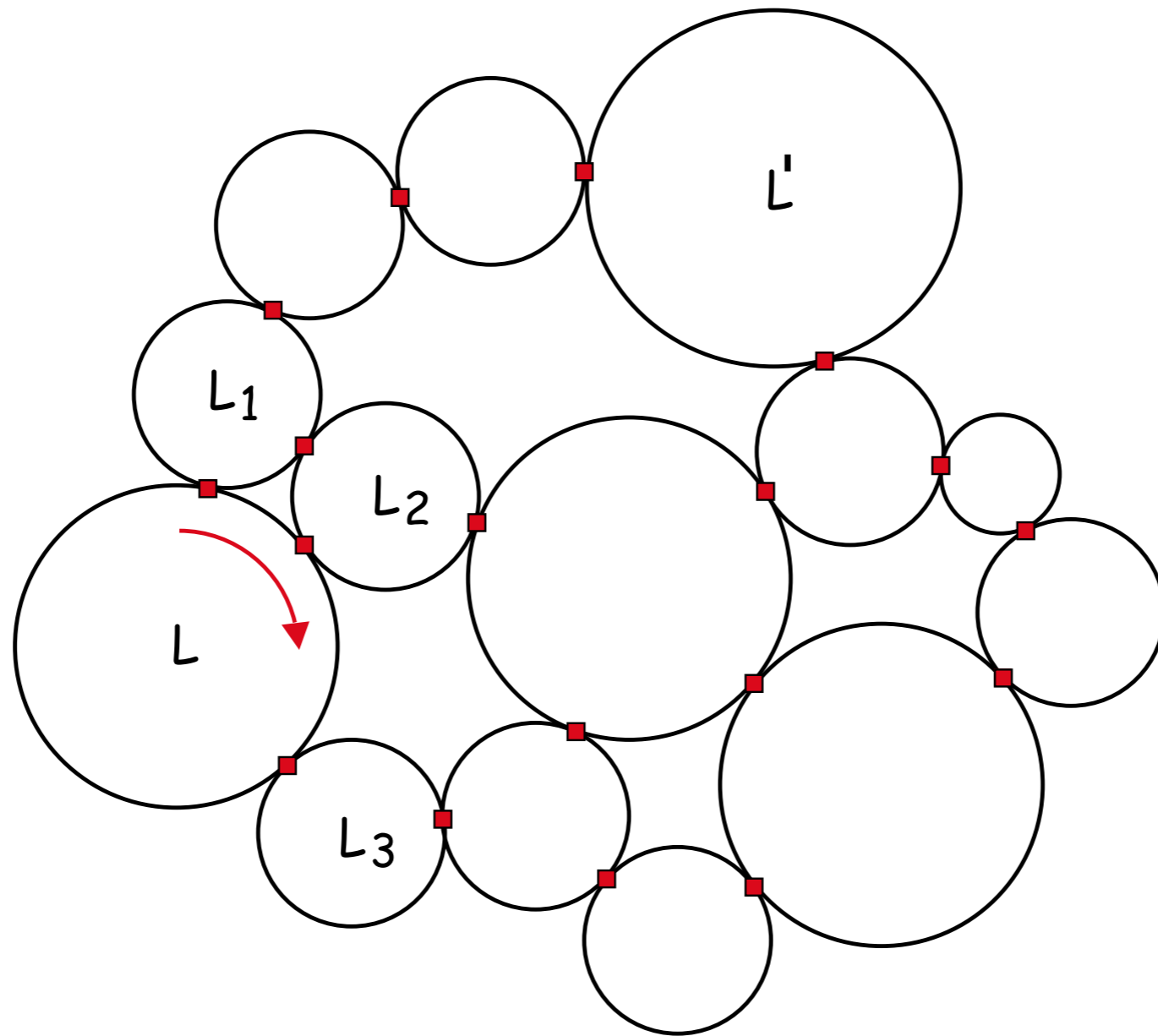
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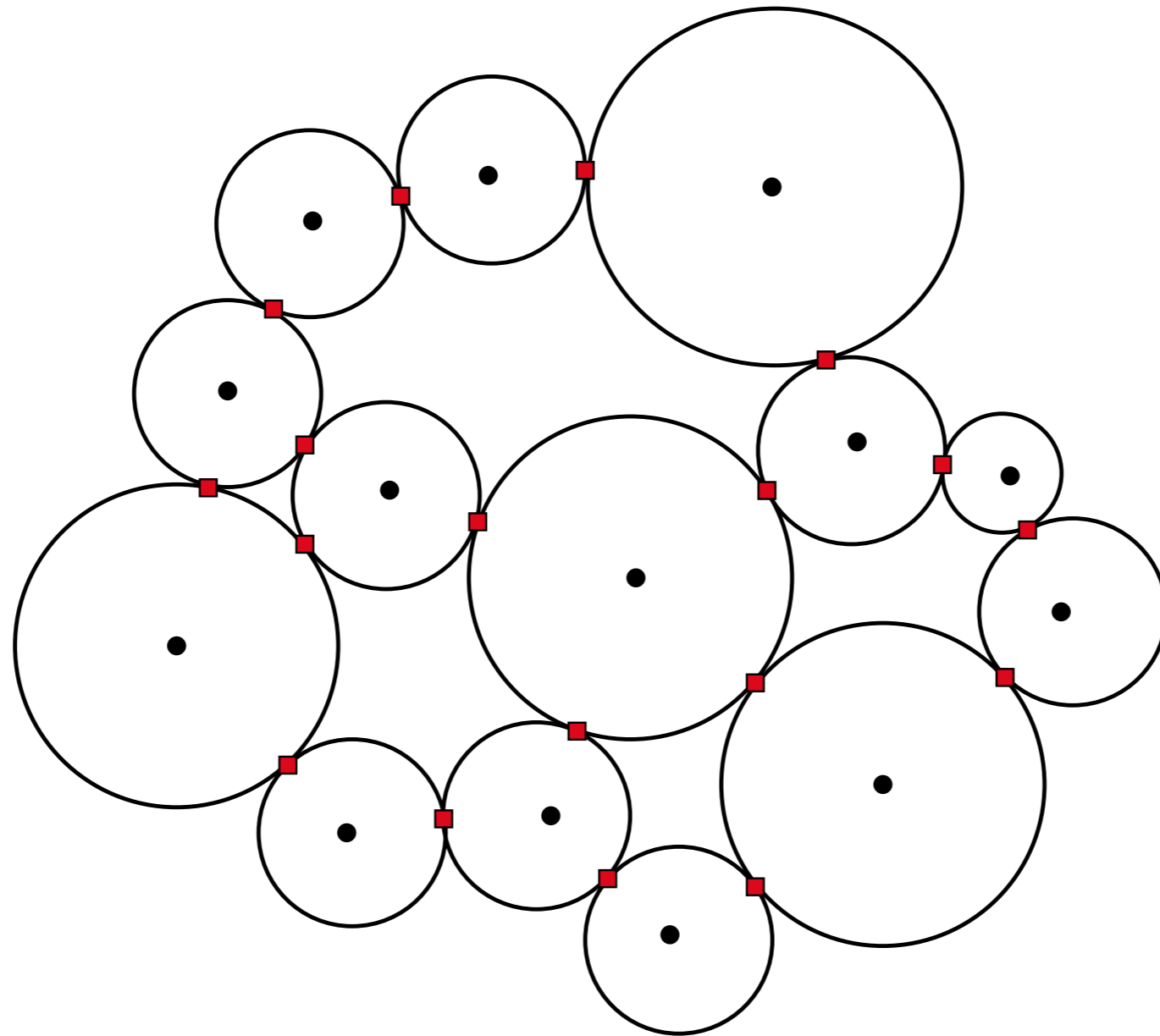
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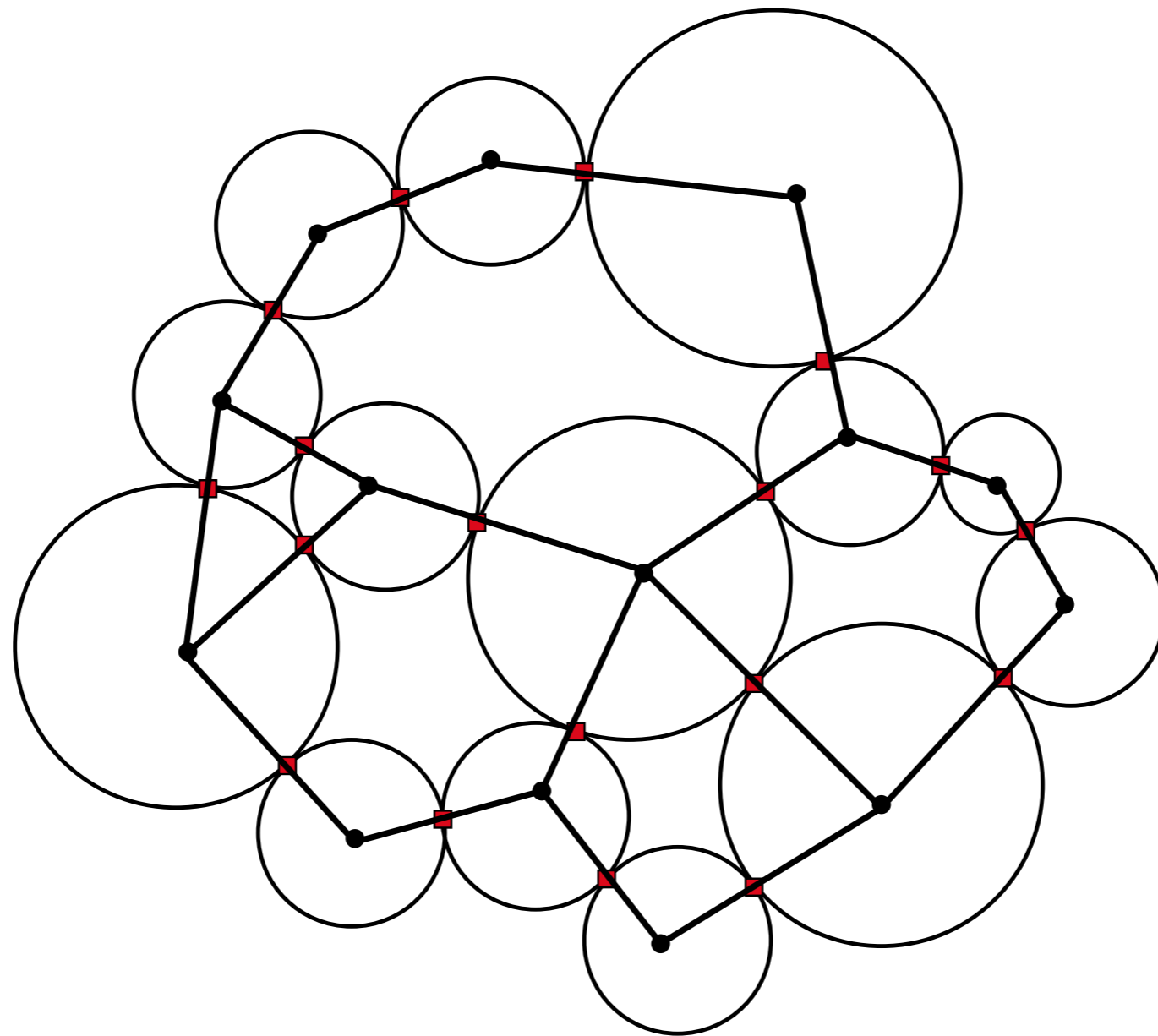
Loop switching was a precursor to what is now called **packet switching**.



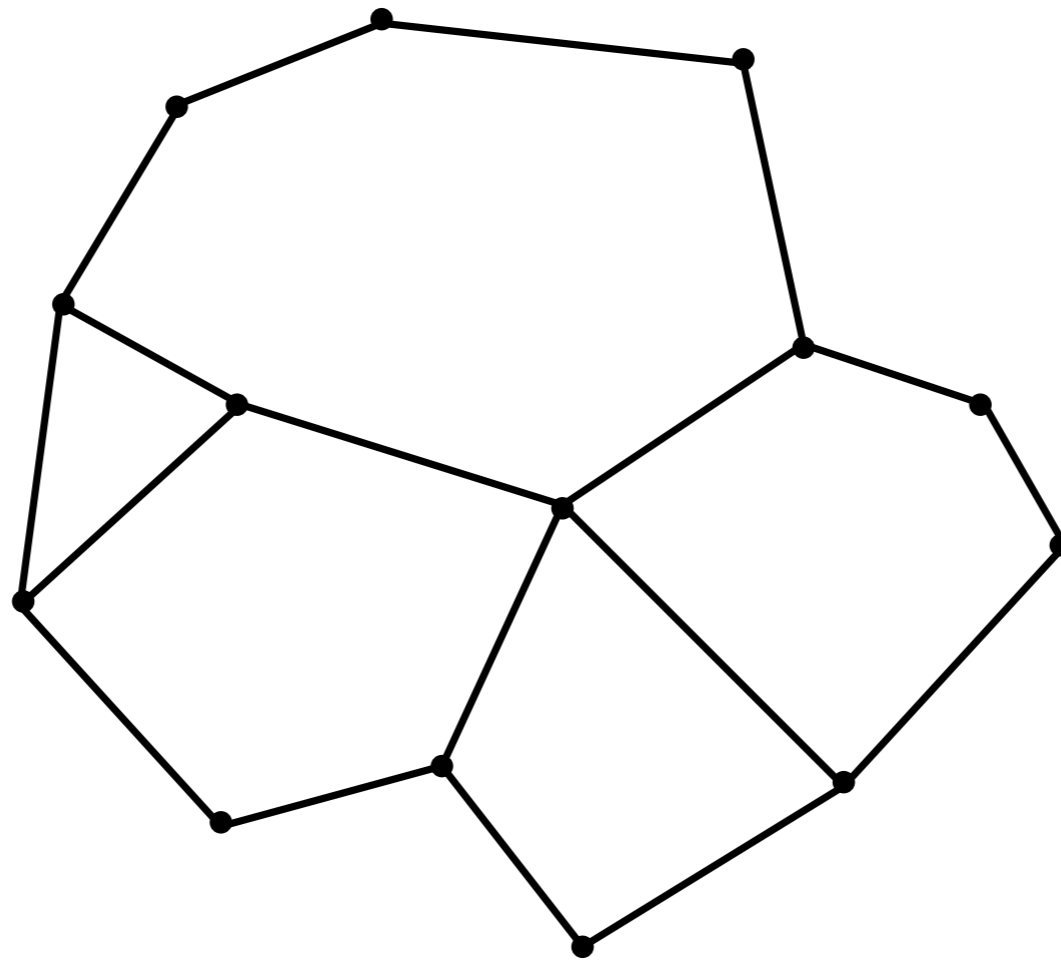
A system of interconnected loops



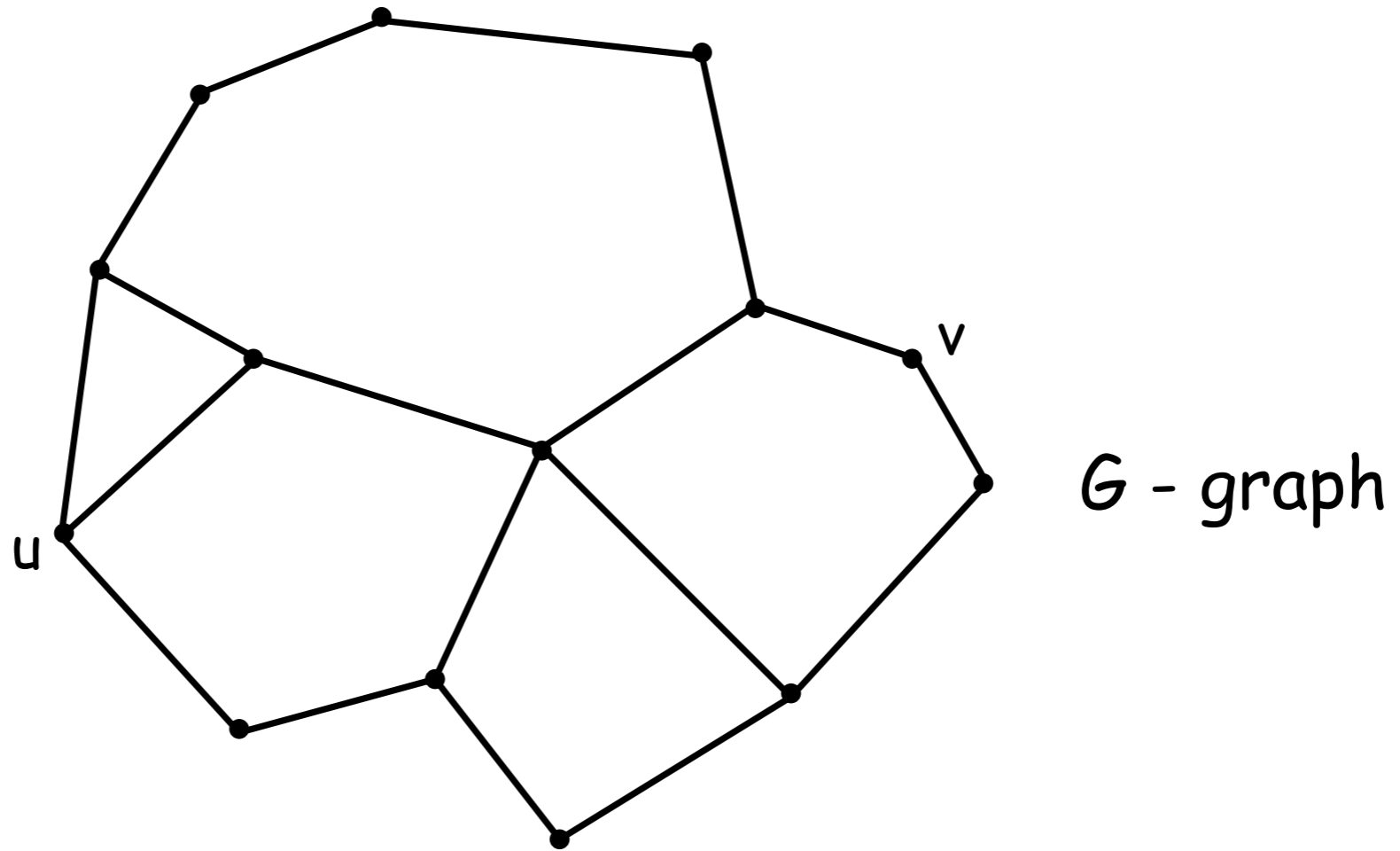
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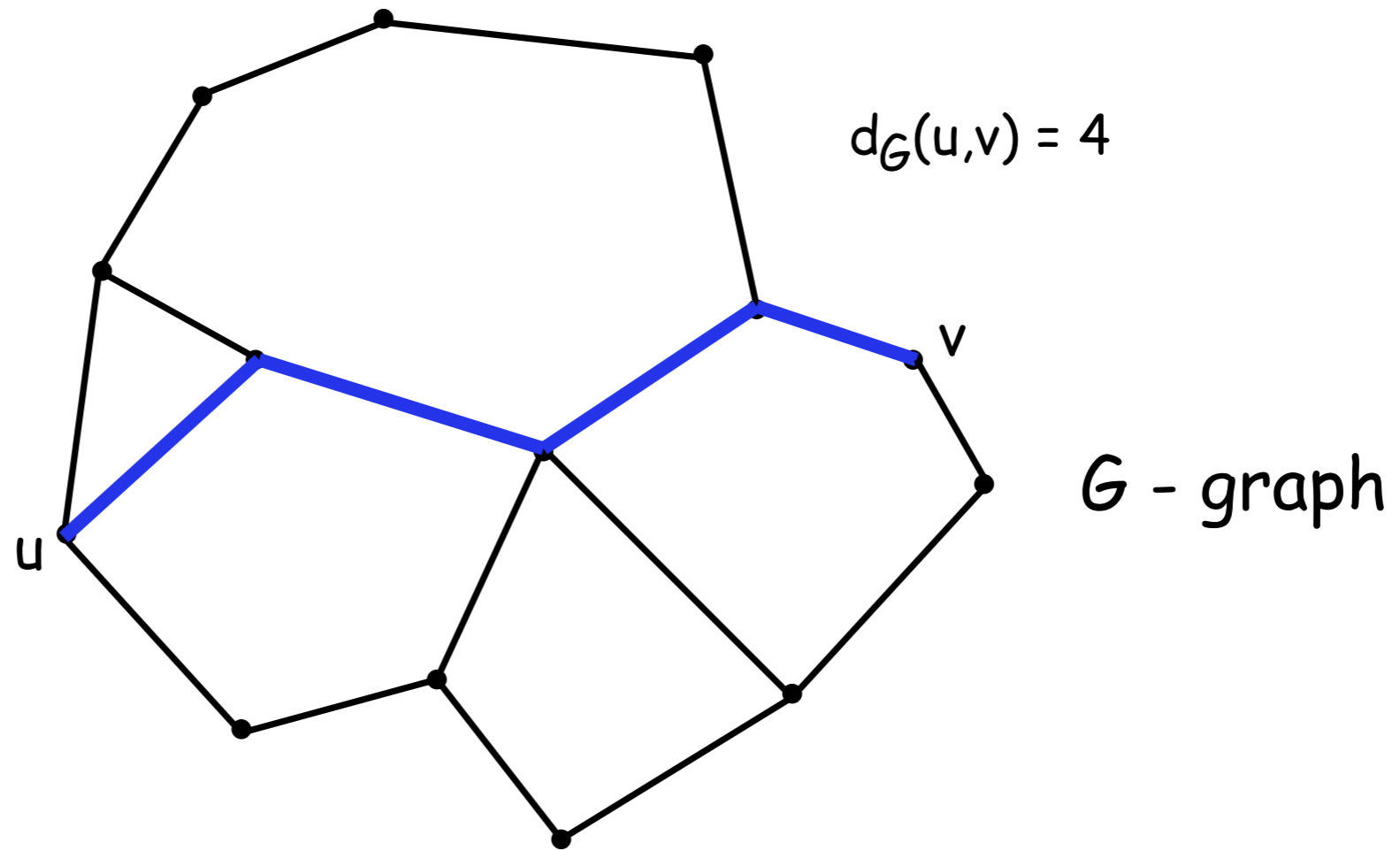
A system of interconnected loops
and the corresponding **graph G**



G - graph



The **distance** $d_G(u,v)$ between u and v is defined to be the **minimum number of edges** in any path joining u and v .



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The **Hamming distance** between two binary n -tuples is defined to be the number of positions in which they differ.

Denote Hamming distance by d_H .

For example, if $s = (1,0,0,1,0,1,1,1,0)$ and $t = (0,0,1,1,0,0,1,0,1)$ then $d_H(s,t) = 5$.

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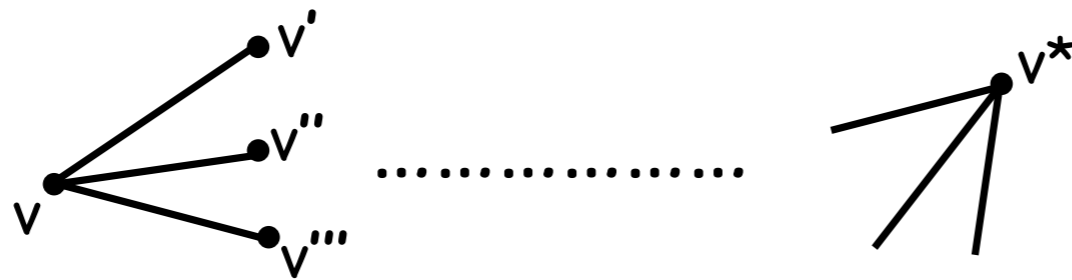
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Richard Hamming
1915-1998

Routing messages in G

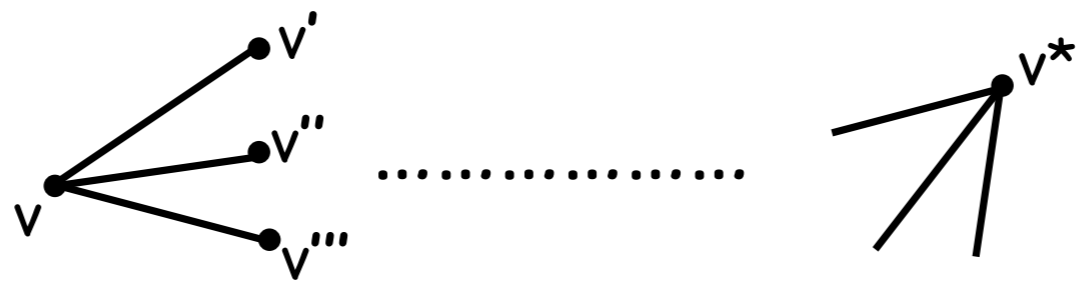


If we are currently at v and our final destination is v^* then we go to v' provided that v' is **closer** to v^* than v is, i.e.,

$$d_G(v', v^*) < d_G(v, v^*)$$

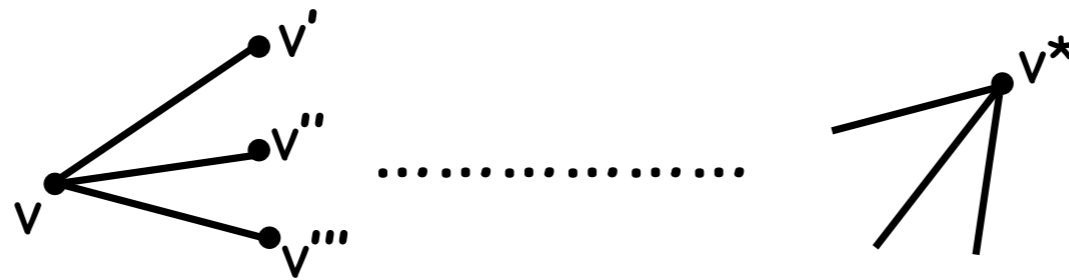
Hamming distance routing

Assign to each vertex v of G , a suitable binary N -tuple $A(v)$, called its **address**.



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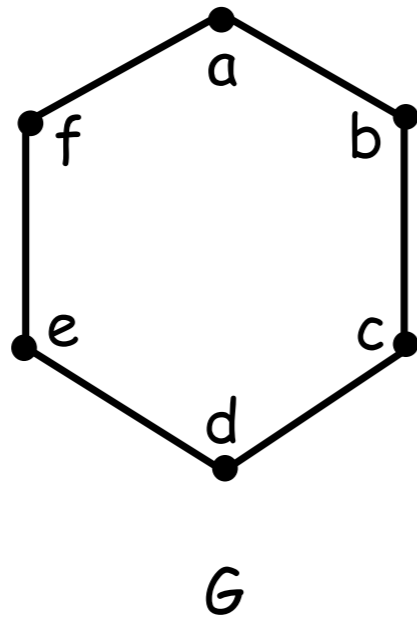


If we are currently at v and our final destination is v^* then we go to v' provided that

$$d_H(A(v'), A(v^*)) < d_H(A(v), A(v^*))$$

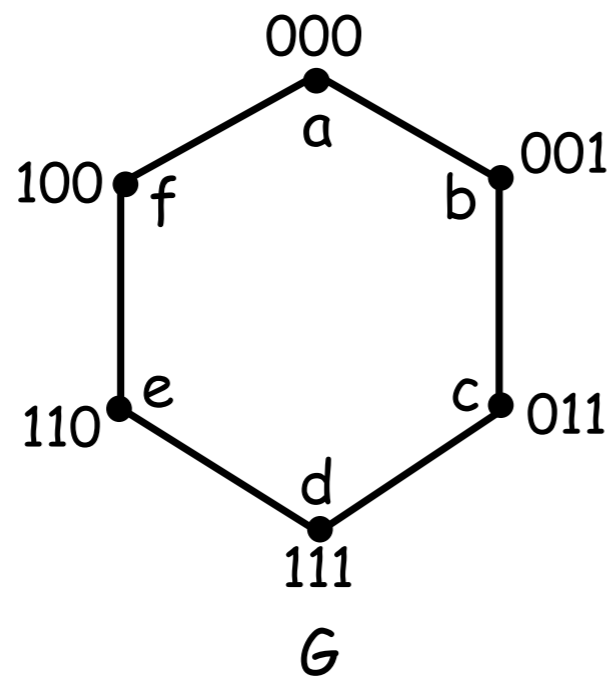
Of course, this only works if the Hamming distances between addresses accurately reflects the actual graph distances in G .

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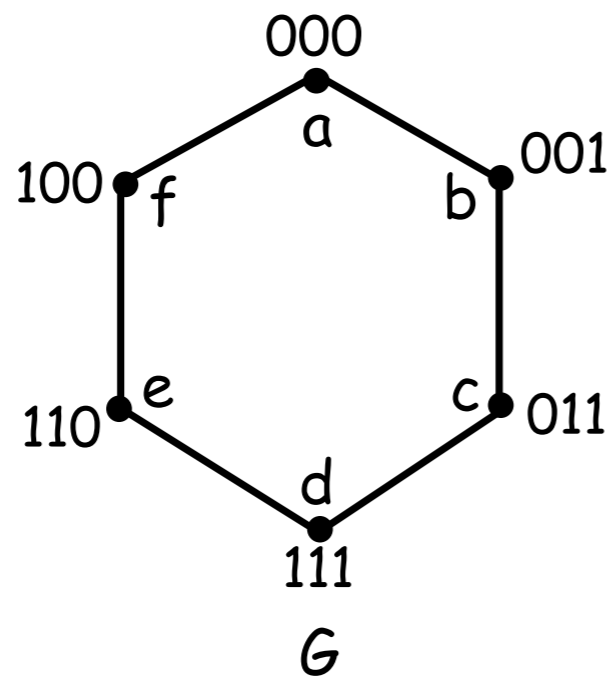
For example:



$$d_G(a,c) = 2 = d_H(000,011)$$

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For example:



$$d_G(a,c) = 2 = d_H(000,011)$$

$$d_G(e,b) = 3 = d_H(110,001), \text{ etc.}$$

An assignment $v \mapsto A(v)$ of binary N-tuples to the vertices of G is called a **valid addressing** of G (of length N) provided we have:

$$d_G(u,v) = d_H(A(u), A(v))$$

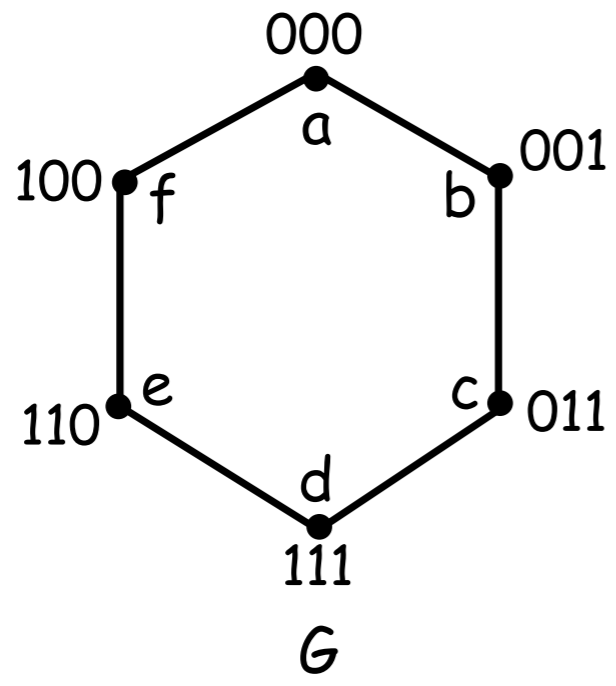
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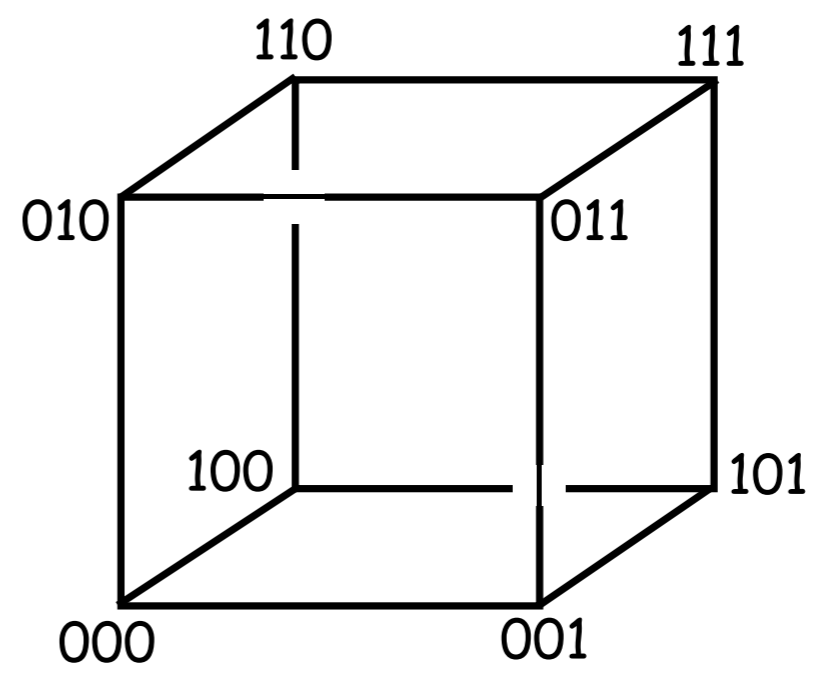
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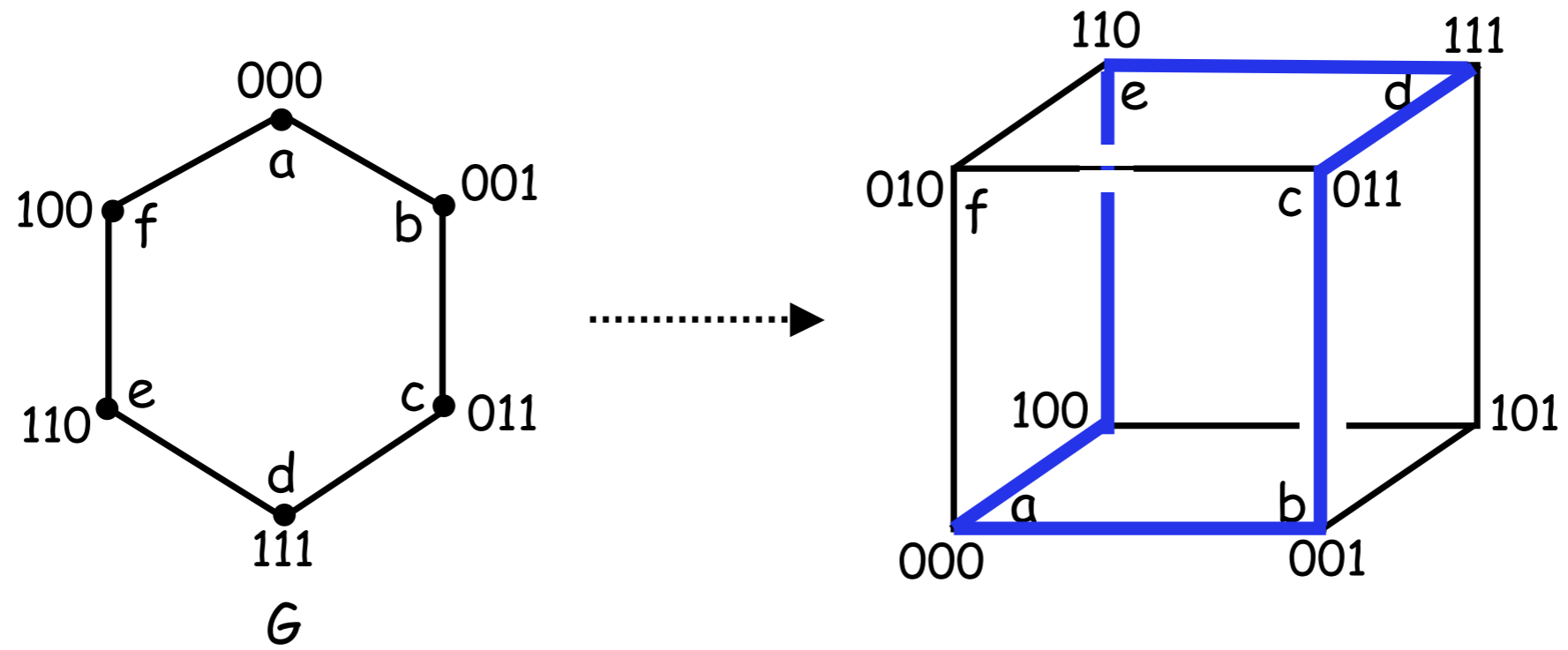
Note that a valid addressing of G is actually an **isometric embedding** of G into an N-cube!

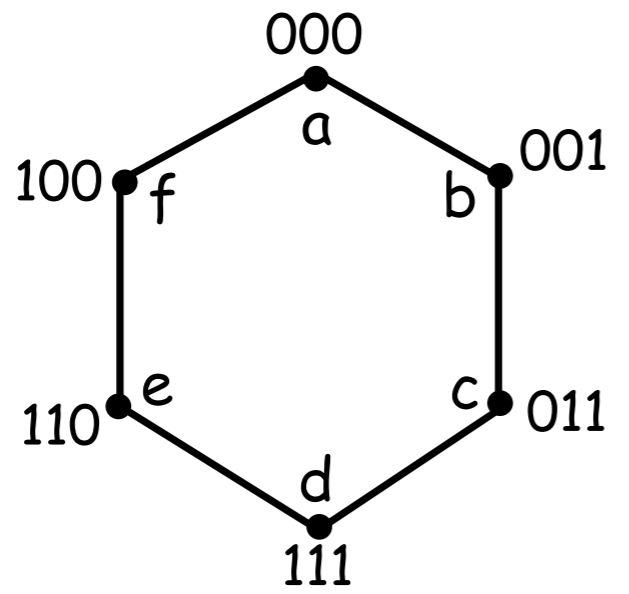


G

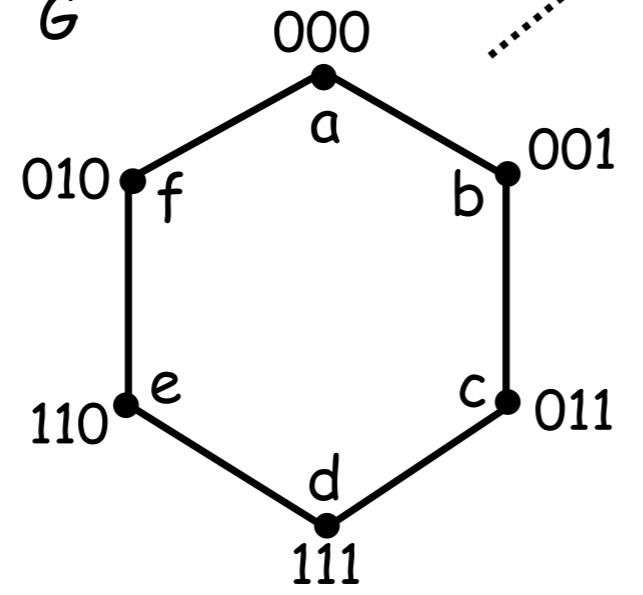


A valid addressing of G .

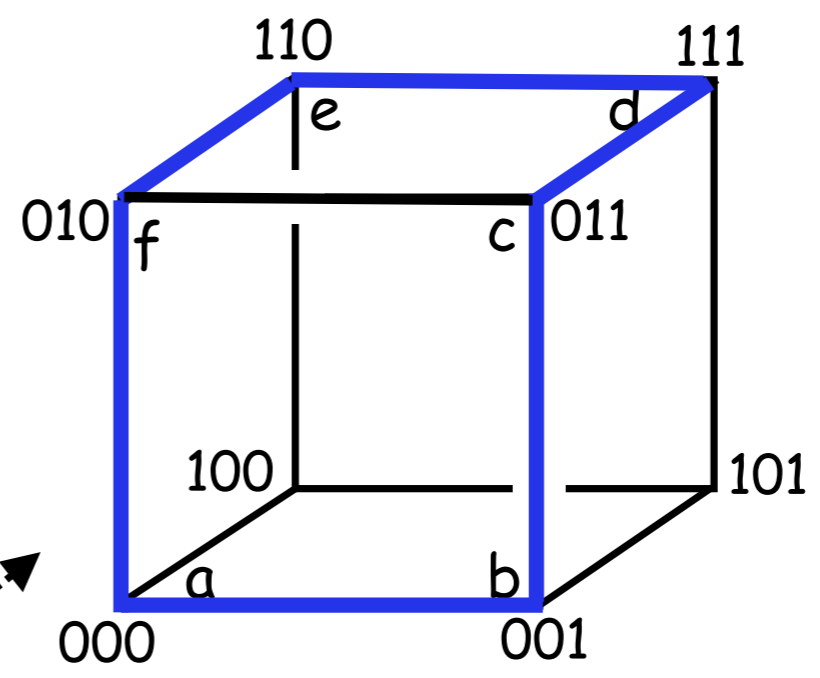
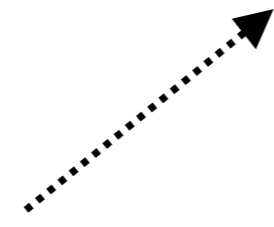




G

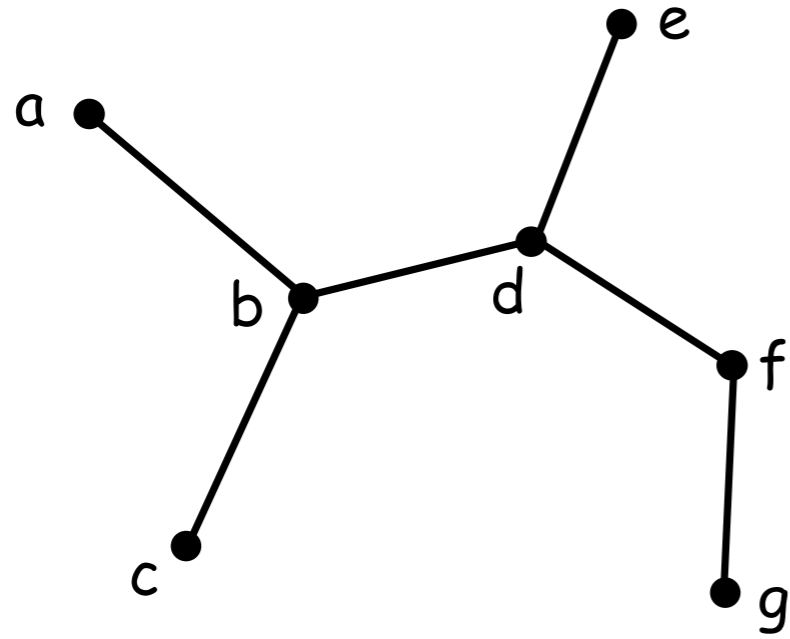


G



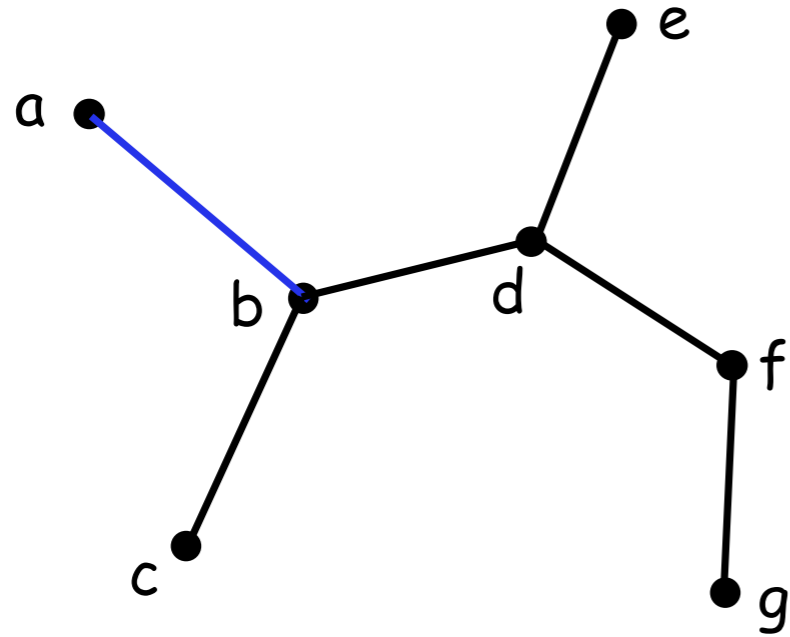
An **invalid** addressing

Trees



A tree T

Trees



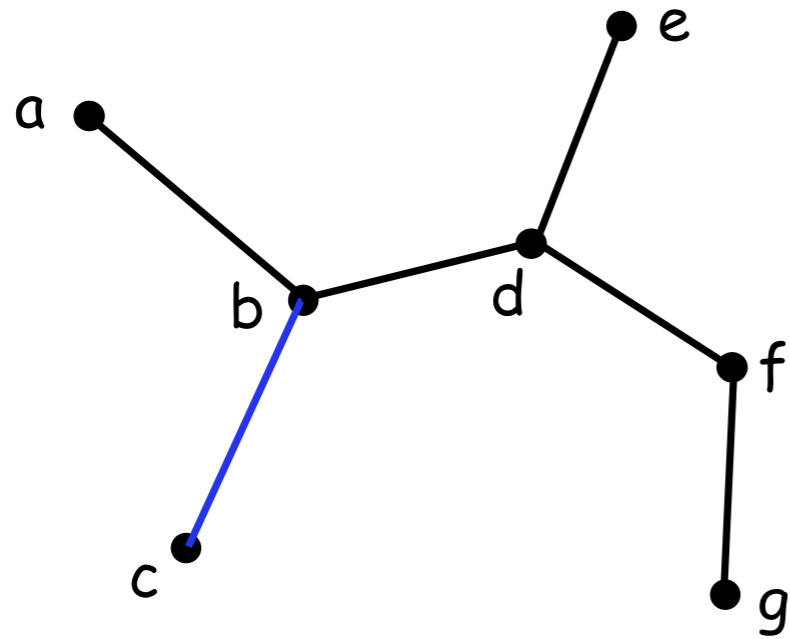
a - 0

b - 1

So far, so good!

A tree T

Trees



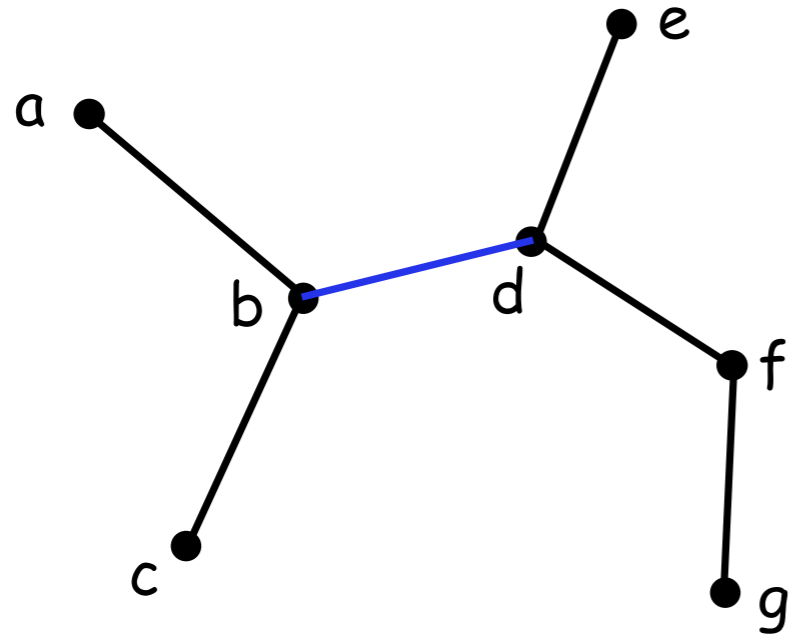
a - 00

b - 10

c - 11

A tree T

Trees



a - 000

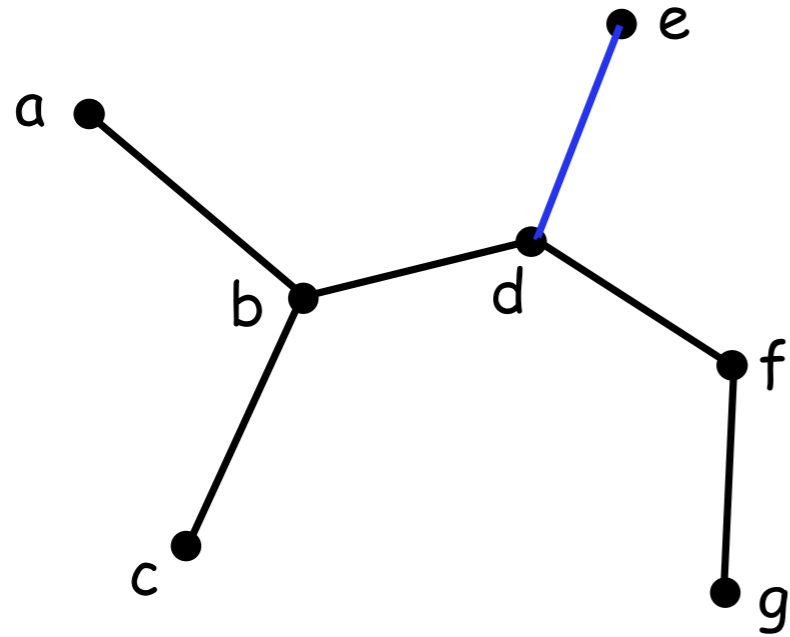
b - 100

c - 110

d - 101

A tree T

Trees



a - 0000

b - 1000

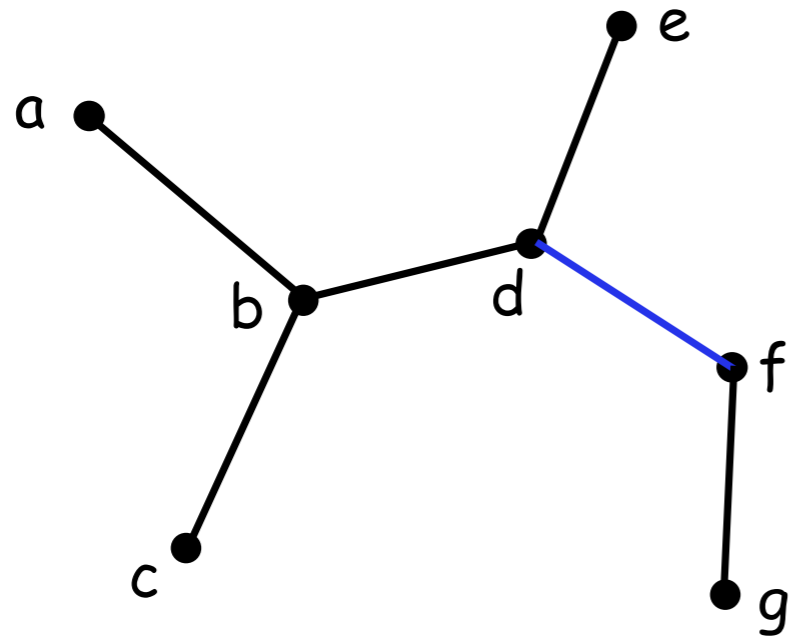
c - 1100

d - 1010

e - 1011

A tree T

Trees



a - 00000

b - 10000

c - 11000

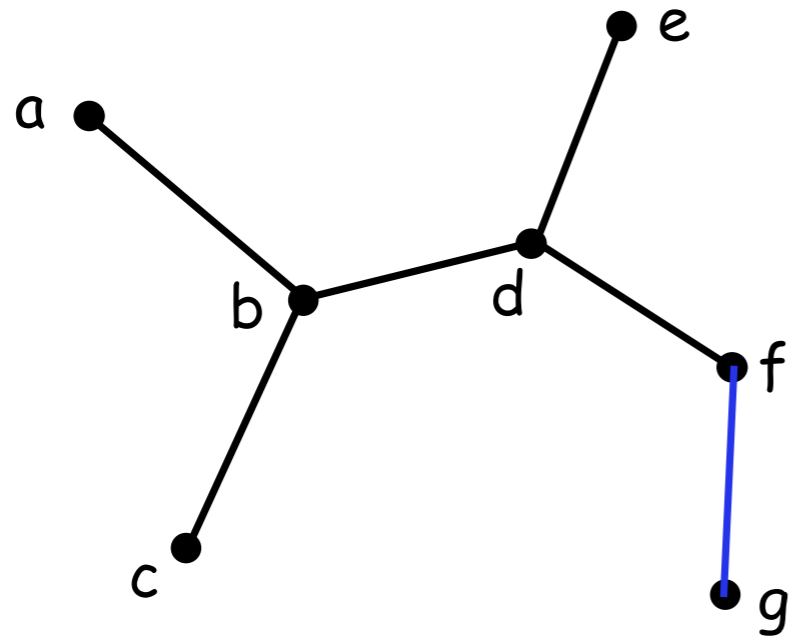
d - 10100

e - 10110

f - 10101

A tree T

Trees



A tree T

a - 000000

b - 100000

c - 110000

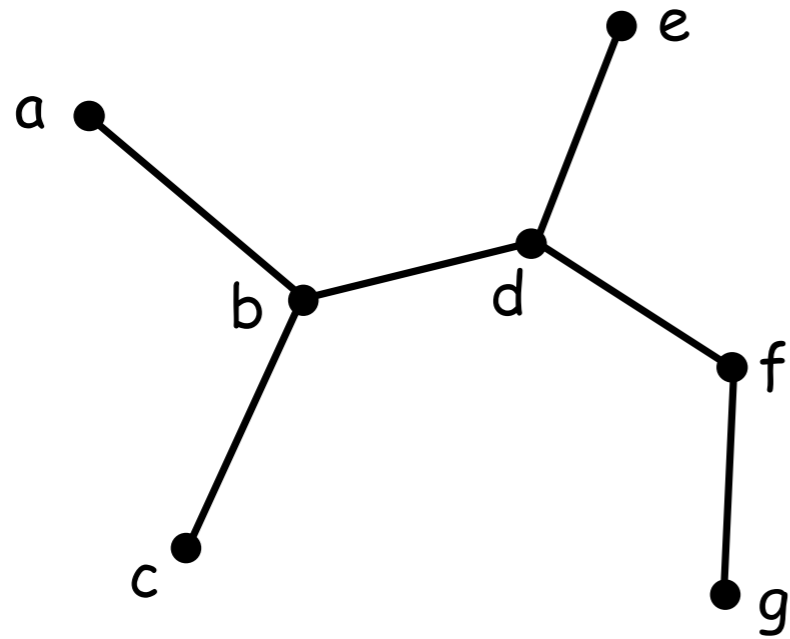
d - 101000

e - 101100

f - 101010

g - 101011

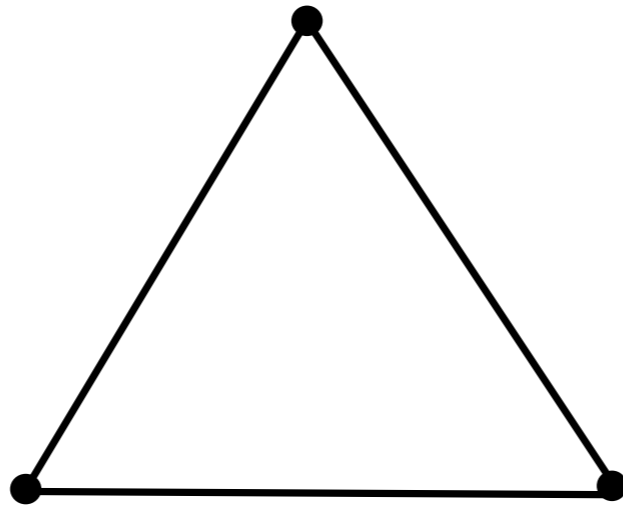
Trees



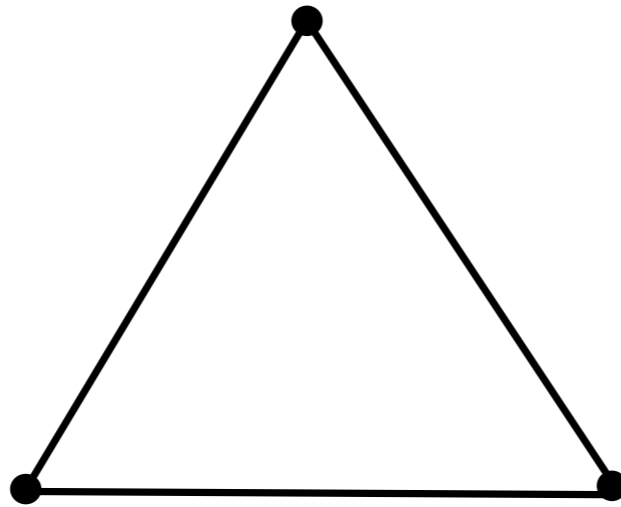
A tree T

a - 000000
b - 100000
c - 110000
d - 101000
e - 101100
f - 101010
g - 101011

A valid addressing of T

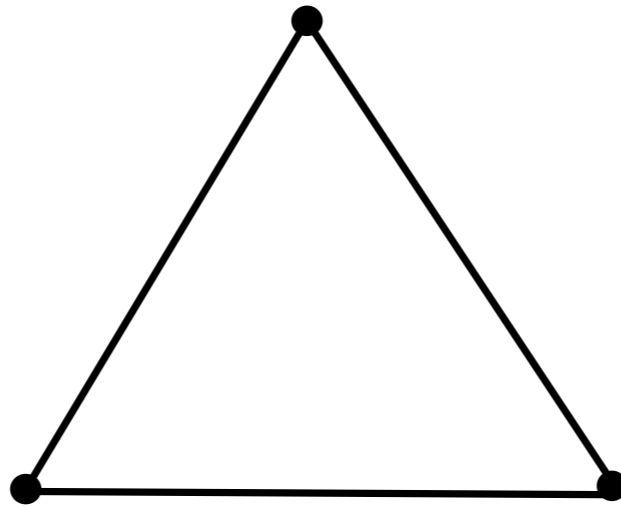


What about a triangle ? ?



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Introduce a new symbol $*$, and define $d_H(0,*) = d_H(1,*) = 0$.

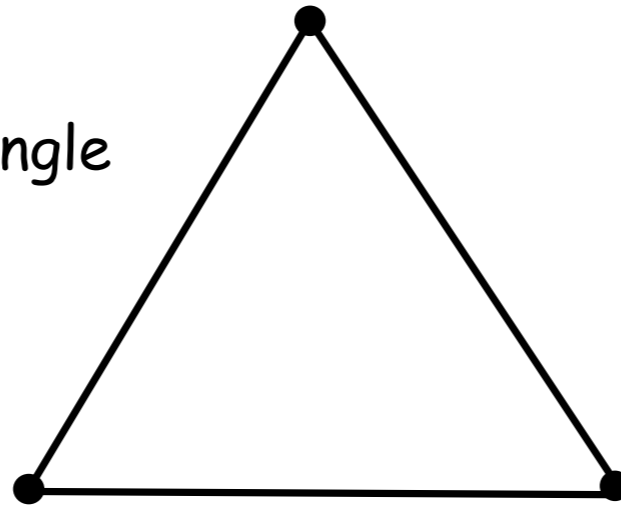


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For example, $d_H(0 \color{red}1 * 0 * \color{red}1 0 1, * \color{red}0 1 * * \color{red}0 1 1) = 3$

Now we can address a triangle

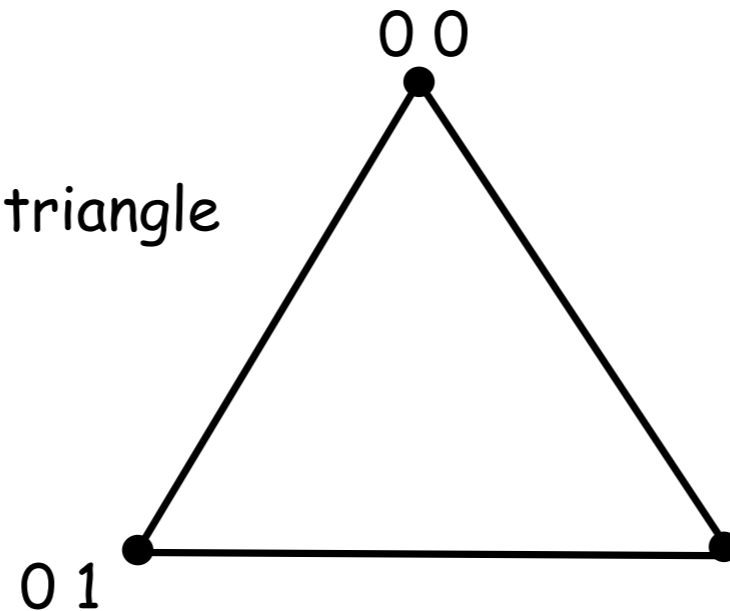


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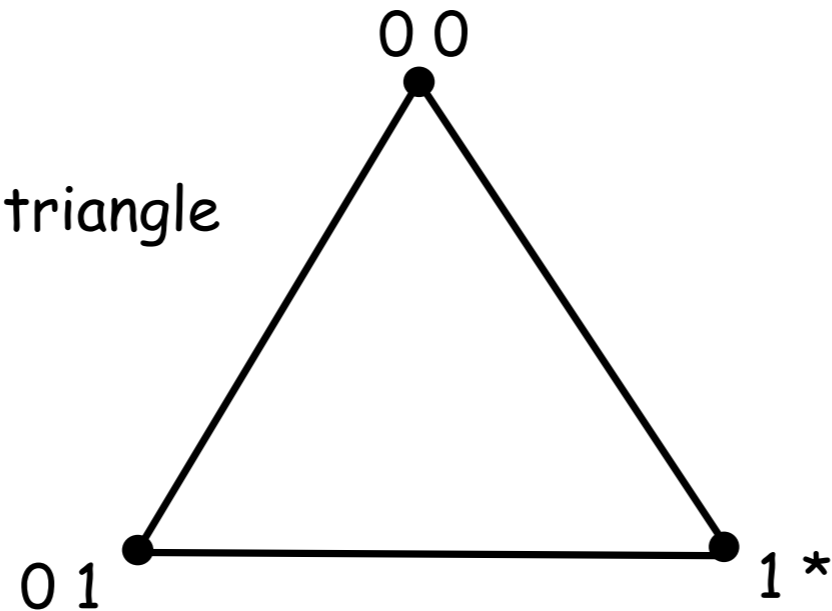


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A valid **extended** addressing of G is an assignment $A(v)$ to each vertex v in G an N -tuple of 0, 1, and *'s so that for all vertices u and v in G ,

$$d_G(u,v) = d_H(A(u),A(v))$$

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Theorem: Valid **extended** addresses exist for every graph G .

Proof:

$$A(v_1) = \underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{d_G(v_1, v_2)}$$

$$A(v_2) = 1 \dots 1$$

Proof:

$$\begin{array}{l} A(v_1) = \underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{d_G(v_1, v_2)} \underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{d_G(v_1, v_3)} \\ A(v_2) = 1 \dots 1 \ * \dots \ * \\ A(v_3) = \ * \dots \ * \ 1 \dots 1 \end{array}$$

Proof:

$$\begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{c} d_G(v_1, v_2) \quad d_G(v_1, v_3) \\ \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}} \quad \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}} \\ 0 \dots 0 \quad 0 \dots 0 \end{array} \dots \begin{array}{c} d_G(v_i, v_j) \\ \underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}} \\ * \quad * \end{array} \dots \\ A(v_1) = 0 \dots 0 \quad 0 \dots 0 \dots * \quad * \dots \\ A(v_2) = 1 \dots 1 \quad * \quad * \dots * \quad * \dots \\ A(v_3) = * \quad * \quad 1 \dots 1 \dots * \quad * \dots \\ \vdots \\ A(v_i) = * \quad * \quad * \quad * \dots 0 \quad 0 \dots \\ \vdots \\ A(v_j) = * \quad * \quad * \quad * \dots 1 \quad 1 \dots \\ \vdots \end{array}$$

Unfortunately, the length of the addresses maybe very long by using this method!

Define $N(G)$ to be the **least** N such that a valid (extended) addressing of G of length N exists.

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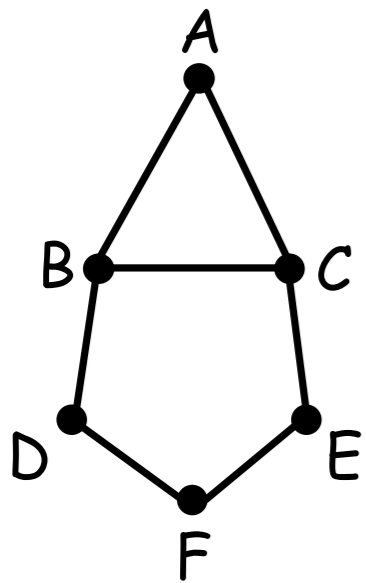
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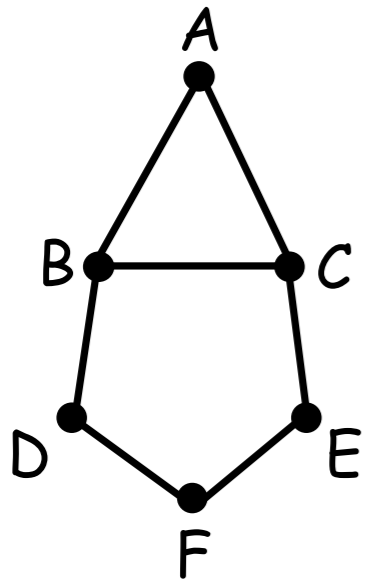
~~Conjecture:~~ If G has n vertices th
Theorem (Peter Winkler - \$100)





	A	B	C	D	E	F
A	0	1	1	2	2	3
B	1	0	1	1	2	2
C	1	1	0	2	1	2
D	2	1	2	0	2	1
E	2	2	1	2	0	1
F	3	2	2	1	1	0

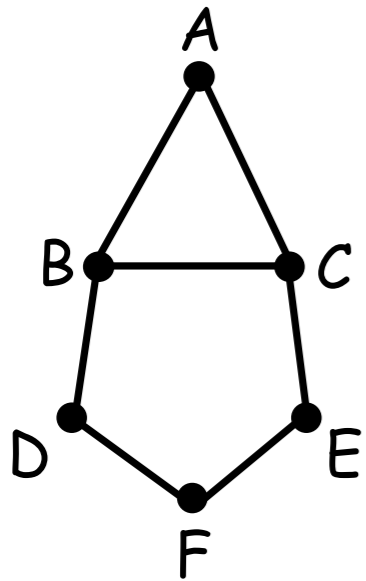
Distance matrix $D(G) = (d_{ij})$



vertex	-	address
A	-	00000
B	-	1*00*
C	-	0100*
D	-	1*1*0
E	-	0101*
F	-	**111

	A	B	C	D	E	F
A	0	1	1	2	2	3
B	1	0	1	1	2	2
C	1	1	0	2	1	2
D	2	1	2	0	2	1
E	2	2	1	2	0	1
F	3	2	2	1	1	0

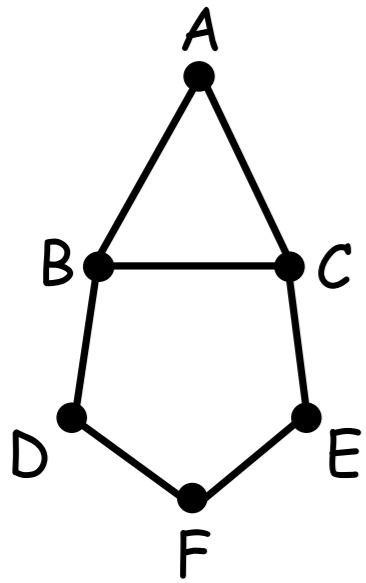
Distance matrix $D(G) = (d_{ij})$



vertex	-	address
A	-	0 0 0 0 0
B	-	1 * 0 0 *
C	-	0 1 0 0 *
D	-	1 * 1 * 0
E	-	0 1 0 1 *
F	-	* * 1 1 1

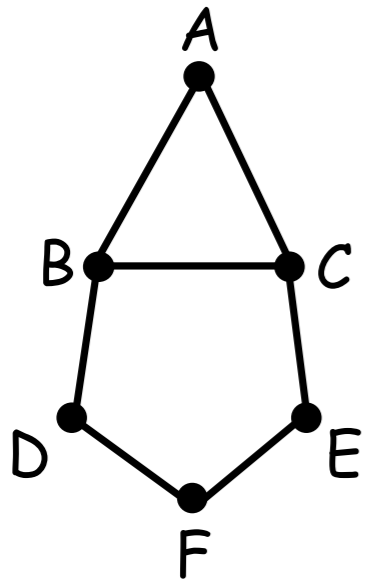
	A	B	C	D	E	F
A	0	1	1	2	2	3
B	1	0	1	1	2	2
C	1	1	0	2	1	2
D	2	1	2	0	2	1
E	2	2	1	2	0	1
F	3	2	2	1	1	0

Distance matrix $D(G) = (d_{ij})$



vertex	-	address
A	-	00000
B	-	1*00*
C	-	0100*
D	-	1*1*0
E	-	0101*
F	-	* * 1 1 1

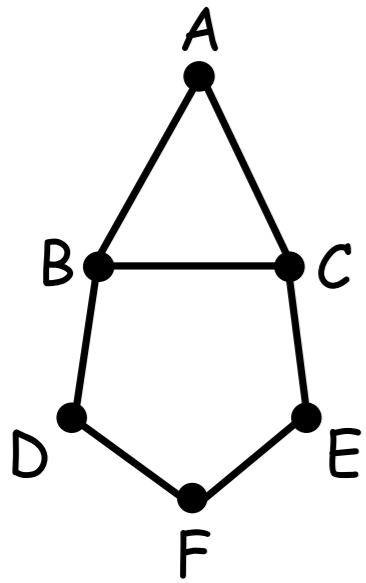
	A	B	C	D	E	F
A		1		1		
B						
C		1		1		
D						
E		1		1		
F						



vertex	-	address
A	-	00000
B	-	1*00*
C	-	0100*
D	-	1*1*0
E	-	0101*
F	-	* * 1 1 1

	A	B	C	D	E	F
A		1		1		
B						
C		1		1		
D						
E		1		1		
F						

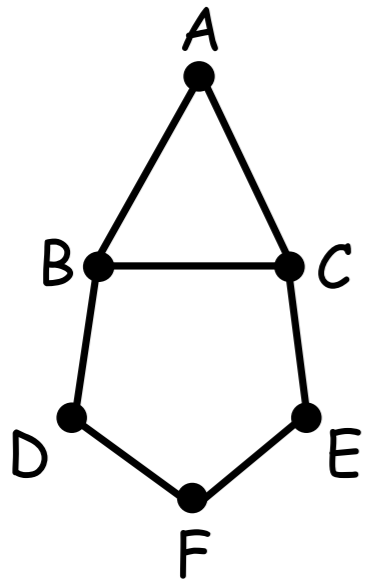
ACE x BD



vertex	-	address
A	-	00000
B	-	1*00*
C	-	0100*
D	-	1*1*0
E	-	0101*
F	-	* * 1 1 1

	A	B	C	D	E	F
A						
B	1		1		1	
C						
D	1		1		1	
E						
F						

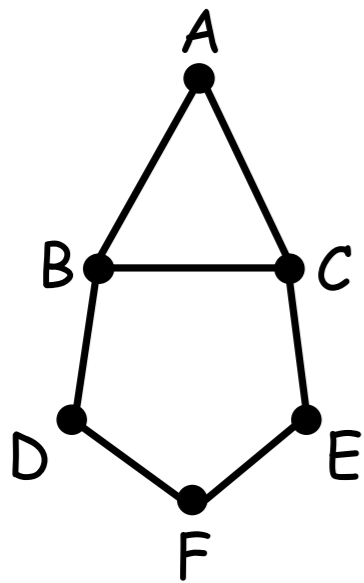
$$ACE \times BD = BD \times ACE$$



vertex	-	address
A	-	00000
B	-	1*00*
C	-	0100*
D	-	1*1*0
E	-	0101*
F	-	* * 1 1 1

	A	B	C	D	E	F
A			1		1	
B						
C						
D						
E						
F						

A x C E



vertex	-	address
A	-	00000
B	-	1*00*
C	-	0100*
D	-	1*1*0
E	-	0101*
F	-	**111

	A	B	C	D	E	F
A	0	1	1	2	2	3
B	1	0	1	1	2	2
C	1	1	0	2	1	2
D	2	1	2	0	2	1
E	2	2	1	2	0	1
F	3	2	2	1	1	0

column	contribution
1	ACE x BD
2	A x CE
3	ABCE x DF
4	ABC x EF
5	AD x F

$$Q(G) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} d_{ij} x_i x_j = (x_1 + x_3 + x_5)(x_2 + x_4)$$

Distance matrix $D(G) = (d_{ij})$

$$+ x_1(x_3 + x_5)$$

$$+ (x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_5)(x_4 + x_6)$$

$$+ (x_1 + x_2 + x_3)(x_5 + x_6)$$

$$+ (x_1 + x_4)x_6$$

A valid extended addressing of G using N -tuples corresponds exactly to a decomposition of $Q(G) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} d_{ij} x_i x_j$ into a sum of N terms of form $(x_{i_1} + x_{i_2} + \dots + x_{i_r})(x_{j_1} + x_{j_2} + \dots + x_{j_s})$.

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However, since $AB = \frac{1}{4}[(A + B)^2 - (A - B)^2]$

then

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q(G) &= \sum_{N \text{ terms}} (x_{i_1} + x_{i_2} + \dots + x_{i_r})(x_{j_1} + x_{j_2} + \dots + x_{j_s}) \\
 &= \sum_N \frac{1}{4} [(x_{i_1} + \dots + x_{i_r} + x_{j_1} + \dots + x_{j_s})^2 - (x_{i_1} + \dots + x_{i_r} - x_{j_1} - \dots - x_{j_s})^2]
 \end{aligned}$$

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 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $Q(G)$ is congruent to a quadratic form which has N **positive** squares and N **negative** squares.

Hence, by *Sylvester's law of inertia*,

$N \geq n_+(G)$ = number of positive eigenvalues of $D(G)$;

and

$N \geq n_-(G)$ = number of negative eigenvalues of $D(G)$;

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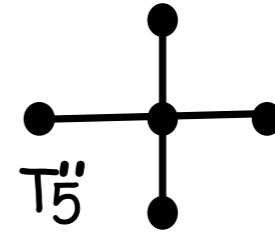
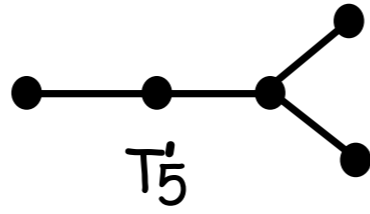
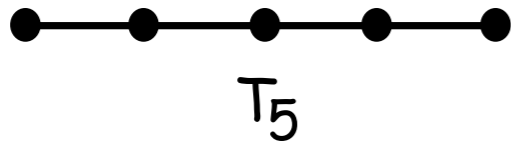
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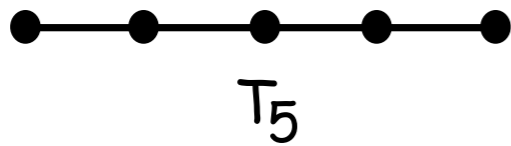
$$N(G) \geq \max\{n_+(G), n_-(G)\}$$

Question: How close to the truth is this bound?

T_n - a tree with n vertices

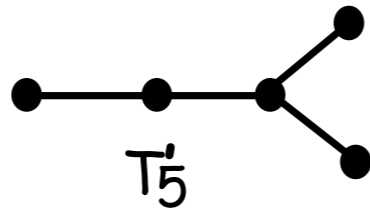


T_n - a tree with n vertices



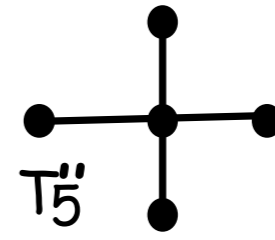
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$D(T_5)$



$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

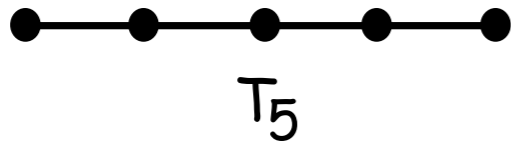
$D(T'_5)$



$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$D(T''_5)$

T_n - a tree with n vertices

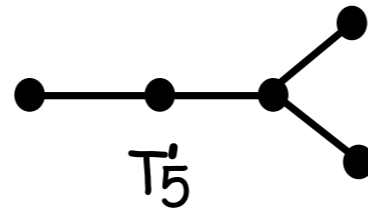


$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$D(T_5)$

$$n_+ = 1$$

$$n_- = 4$$

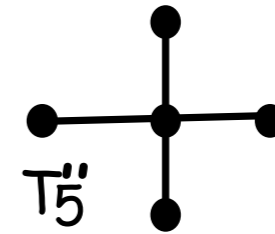


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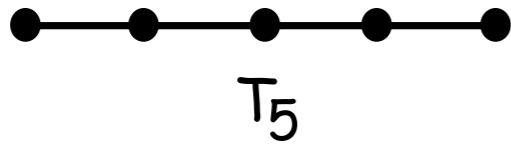
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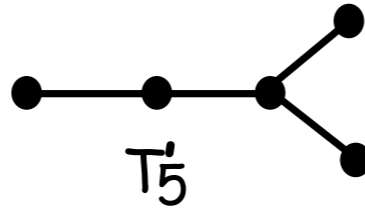
$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$D(T_5)$$

$$n_+ = 1$$

$$n_- = 4$$

$$\det D(T_5) = 32$$

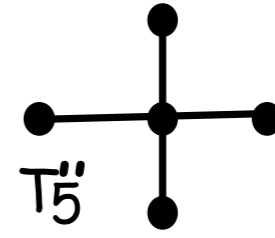


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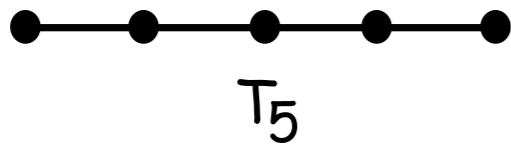
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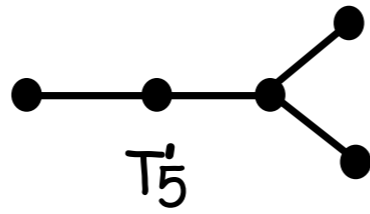
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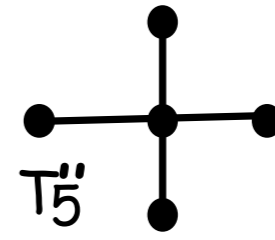
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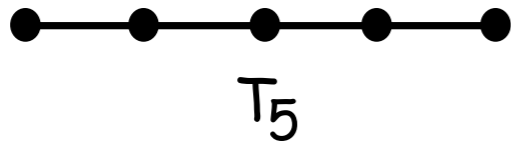
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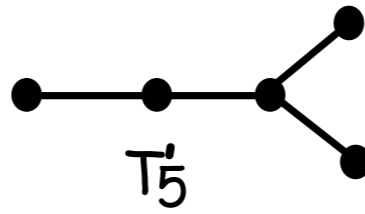
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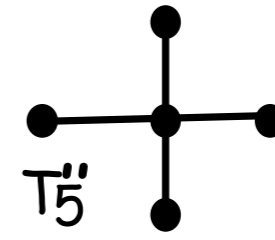
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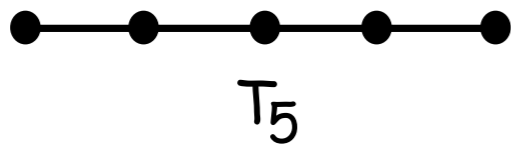
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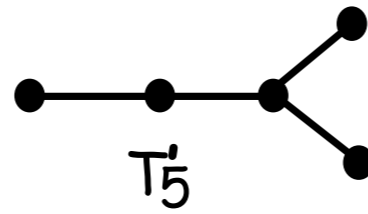
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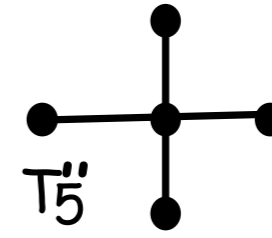
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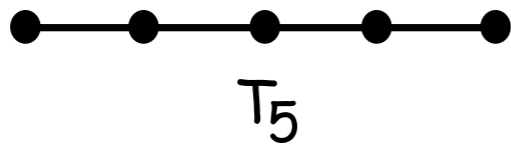
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A coincidence ?

T_n - a tree with n vertices



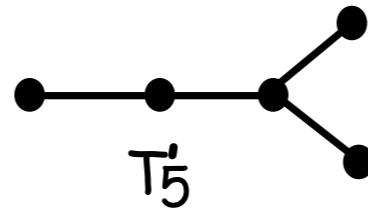
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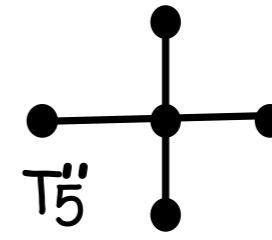
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A coincidence ?

(or an example of the **law of small numbers**?)

If T_n is a tree with n vertices then

$$\det D(T_n) = (-1)^{n-1} (n-1) 2^{n-2}$$

independent of the structure of the tree.

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This implies $n_+(T_n) = 1, n_-(T_n) = n - 1$

and so,

$$N(T_n) = n - 1$$

for any tree T_n tree with n vertices.

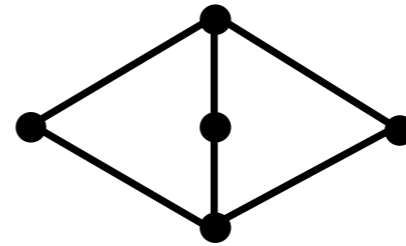
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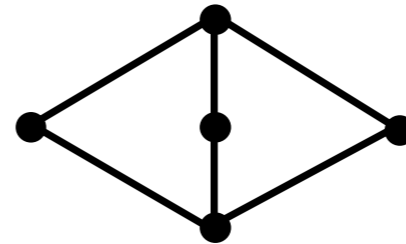


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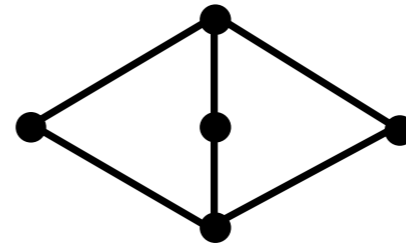
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(It is between $s+t-2$ and $s+t-1$).

Why is $n_+(G)$ so small in general?

What does $\det D(G)$ mean?

For example, $\det D(T_n) = (-1)^{n-1} (n-1) 2^{n-2}$ for any tree T_n .

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In general, one could look at the **characteristic polynomial** of $D(G)$, i.e., $\det (D(G) - xI)$ (where I denotes the n by n identity matrix).

The constant term is just $\det D(G)$.

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What do the other coefficients of $\det (D(G) - xI)$ mean?

For $G = T_n$, we understand them (Graham/Lovász).

For example, the coefficient of x is

$$4 \#(\text{---}) + 2 \#(\text{---}) + 4 \#(\text{---}) - 4$$

Which graphs have valid addressings which use only 0's and 1's (i.e., no *'s)?

That is, which graphs can be isometrically embedded in an N-cube?

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Theorem (Djoković)

G can be isometrically embedded into an N-cube if and only if for every edge $\{u,v\}$ of G , the set of vertices $S(u)$ which are closer to u than to v is closed under taking shortest paths, i.e., all shortest paths between any two vertices in $S(u)$ stay within $S(u)$.

What about addressing **directed** graphs?

Again, we use N-tuples of 0's, 1's and *'s. Now, however, we modify the "Hamming distance" between two N-tuples so that

$d_{H^*}(a,b) = 1$ if and only if $a=0$ and $b=1$ (so that $d_{H^*}(1,0) = 0$).

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Theorem (Chung, Graham, Winkler)

Any **strongly connected** directed graph has a valid addressing



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Define $N^*(G)$ to be the least N for which a valid addressing of the directed graph G exists.

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Theorem If G has n vertices then $N^*(G) \leq \frac{3}{4}n^2 + o(n^2)$.

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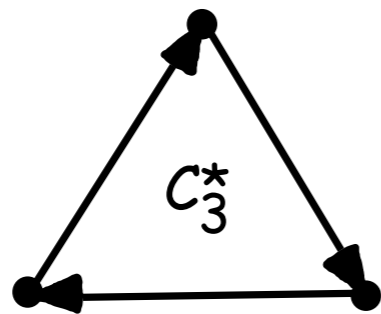
Theorem If G has n vertices then $N^*(G) \leq \frac{3}{4}n^2 + o(n^2)$.

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What is the right constant here??

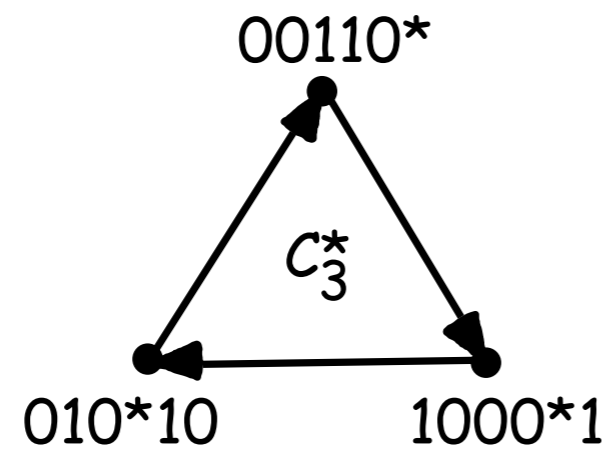
The simplest strongly connected directed graph C_n^*

(a directed cycle on n vertices)



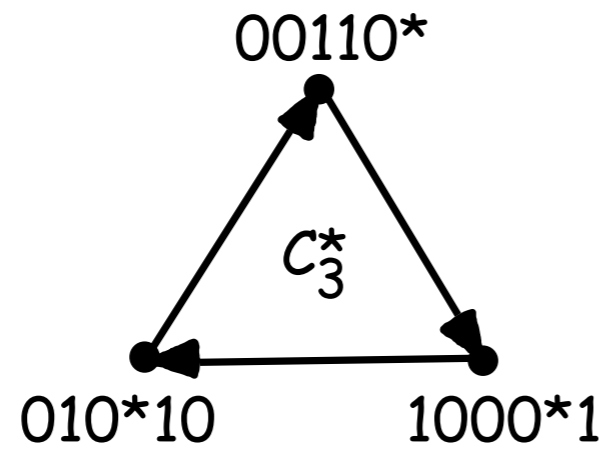
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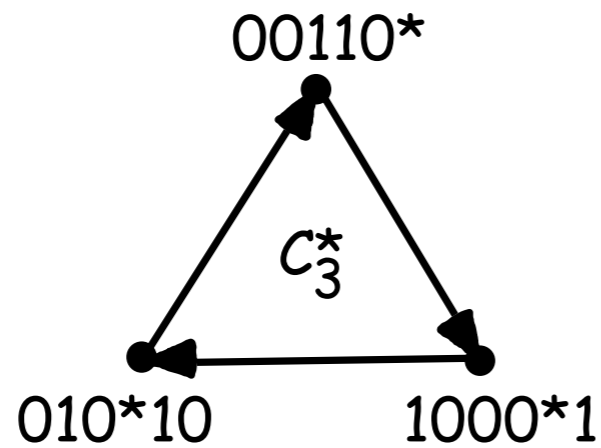
(a directed cycle on n vertices)



$$N^*(C_3^*) \leq 6$$

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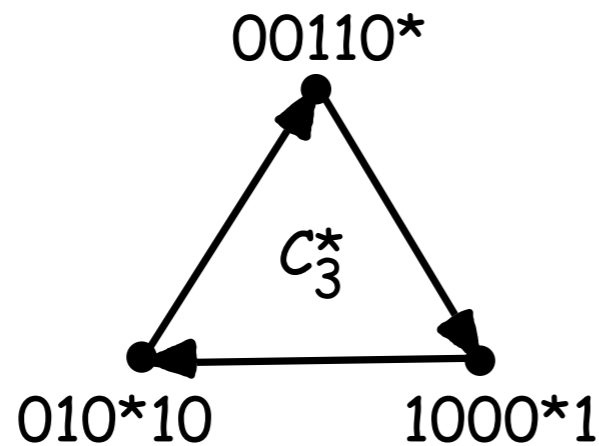
$$N^*(C_3^*) \leq 6$$

There exists positive constants c and c' such that

$$cn^{\frac{3}{2}} < N^*(C_n^*) < c'n^{\frac{5}{3}}(\log n)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

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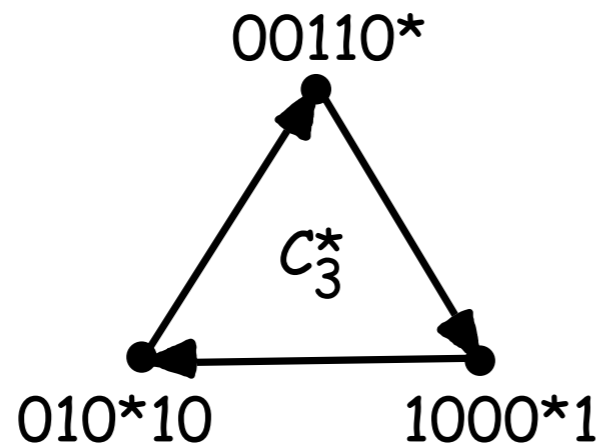
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(\$100) Determine the correct exponent of n .

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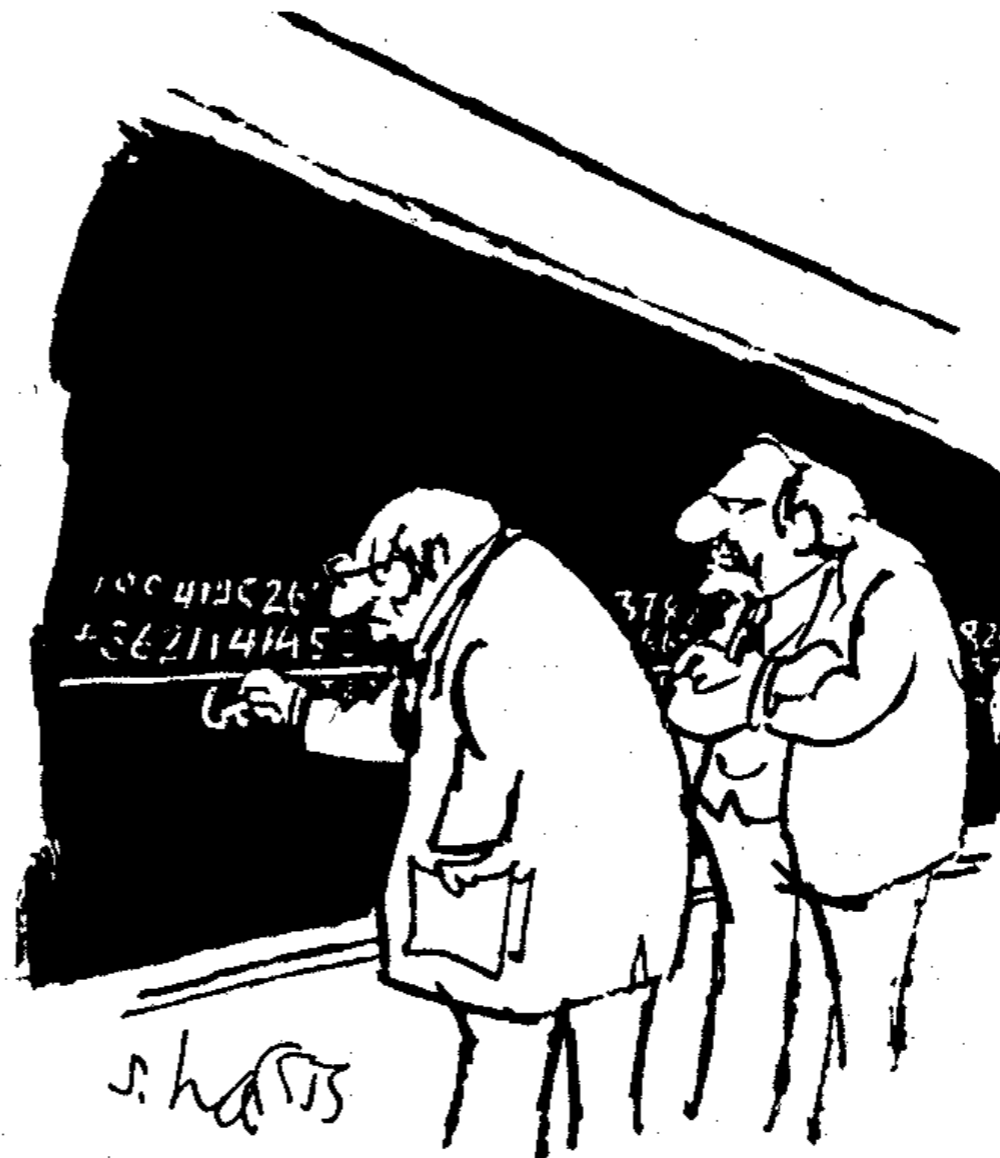
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(\$100) Determine the correct exponent of n .

Clearly, there is **lots** more to be done!



"Adding two numbers which probably have never been added before is *not* considered a mathematical breakthrough."

CENTER 1121 - MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS RESEARCH



DEPT. 11210

DEPT. 11211
MATHEMATICS OF PHYSICS AND NETWORKS DEPARTMENT



DEPT. 11214
STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



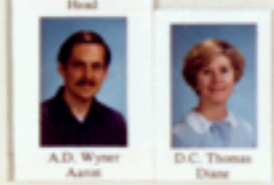
DEPT. 11215
STATISTICAL MODELS AND METHODS RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



DEPT. 11216
MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTING RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

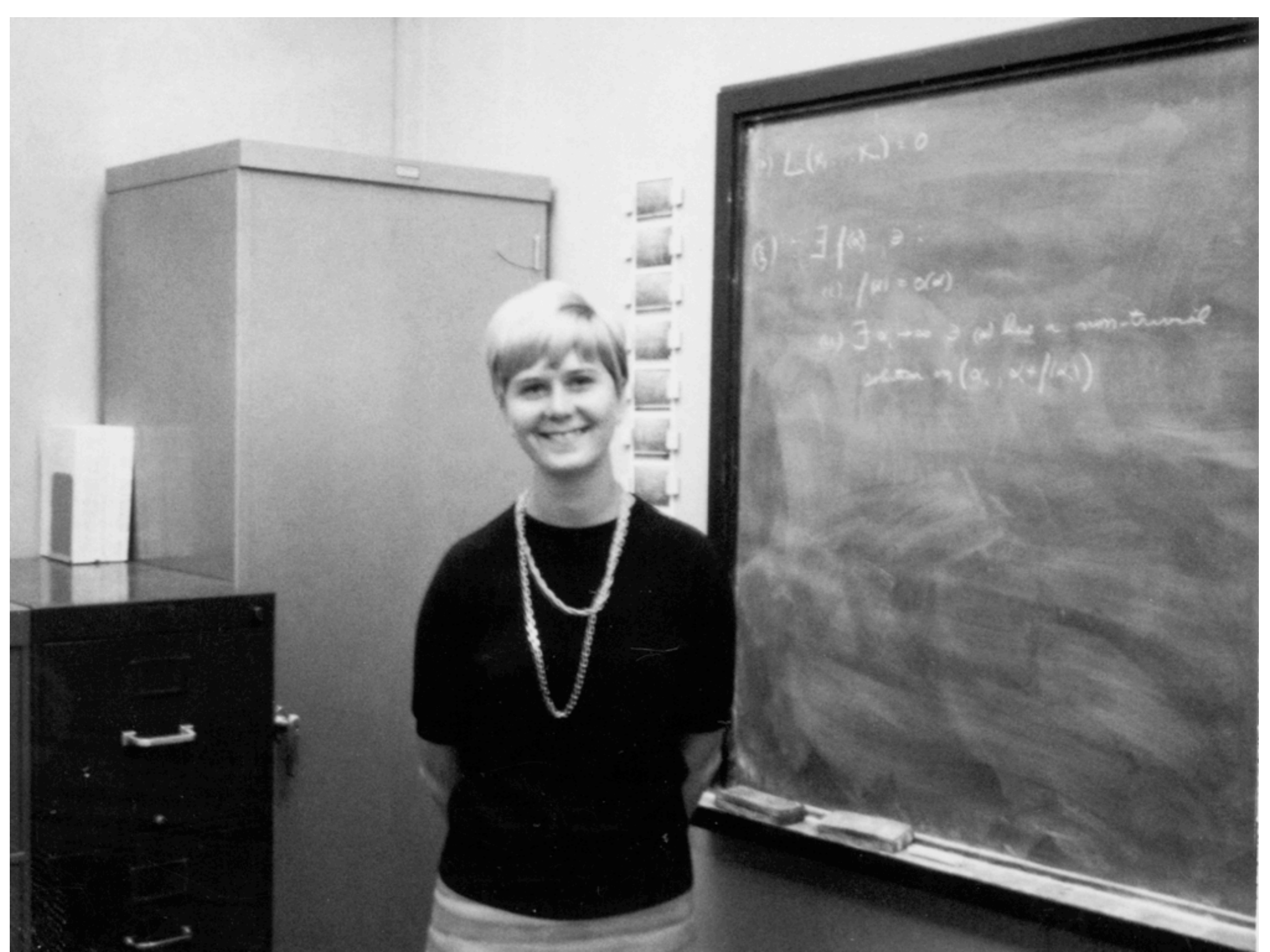


DEPT. 11217
COMMUNICATIONS ANALYSIS RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



DEPT. 11218
MATHEMATICAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT





1) $L(x, \lambda) = 0$

(2) $E/\mathbb{R} \ni$

(i) $f(x) = 0(x)$

(ii) $\exists \alpha \rightarrow \infty \ni \alpha$ has a non-trivial solution in $(\alpha, \alpha + f(x))$

Really LARGE numbers

Really LARGE numbers

41

Super-base-2 expansion

$$4 = 2^5 + 2^3 + 1$$
$$(32 + 8 + 1)$$

Super-base-2 expansion

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First step: Replace each 2 by 3, subtract 1, and write the result in a super-base-3 expansion;

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$$\mathbb{B}, 4 \rightarrow 3^{3^3+1} + 3^{3+1} + 1 - 1$$

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$$\begin{aligned} 3^{3^3+1} + 3^{3+1} &\rightarrow 4^{4^4+1} + 4^{4+1} - 1 \\ &= 4^{4^4+1} + 3 \cdot 4^4 + 3 \cdot 4^3 + 3 \cdot 4^2 + 3 \cdot 4 + 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$4^{4^{4+1}} + 3 \cdot 4^4 + 3 \cdot 4^3 + 3 \cdot 4^2 + 3 \cdot 4 + 3$$

$$= \begin{array}{l} 5363123171977038839829609999282338450991746328236957/ \\ 35108942457748870561202941879072074971926676137107601/ \\ 27432745944203415015531247786279785734596024337407 \end{array}$$

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$$= \begin{array}{l} 5363123171977038839829609999282338450991746328236957/ \\ 35108942457748870561202941879072074971926676137107601/ \\ 27432745944203415015531247786279785734596024337407 \end{array}$$

The general step: Replace the current super-base b by $b+1$, subtract 1, and then express the new number in a super-base- $(b+1)$ expansion.

For example, the next step for us would be

$$4^{4^{4+1}} + 3 \cdot 4^4 + 3 \cdot 4^3 + 3 \cdot 4^2 + 3 \cdot 4 + 3$$

$$\rightarrow 5^{5^{5+1}} + 3 \cdot 5^5 + 3 \cdot 5^3 + 3 \cdot 5^2 + 3 \cdot 5 + 2$$

$$5^{5^5+1} + 3 \cdot 5^5 + 3 \cdot 5^3 + 3 \cdot 5^2 + 3 \cdot 5 + 2 =$$

95550629897273876017820227985198229959904052449504716856975639462326026512130
79015060296932598699251327932200778972311176796063943369034861442050734579933
01043980948378597850919640830169023805612987766813050500741325561706573884126
20574654722358848264137814259836875719767877123954660960332094150589358456127
62105350253545323371914354257249751282930972307715917556899245668458899640637
16920215774618427763391798187051052665773015676862662874318454579889345164133
22959149190761514346828643684571132406564587188106816286516082264148974343128
81226811090088366124702838214096800393603569185361776527231780769732005926742
46896359757297252754116374610802924456455472594979974343099771573833469006518
58808179629723987308211002544253973490224356660256658036956711527009943628501
91649006230250985067336985879545136947469619086578934984229498973905340214112
18046891973167632711407852151416221192757541158245483642856085854061616395240
90863416375505637339115870549294434185426100035586674612695666115037807359021
45037638388966761531003091430062276271215305034474027232923524103254913321596
80480194368129255373537170318143488288351349629324976778988159086951275445665
61164737196517197808066416703641583174912907261343100215389954234405190209368
41624004519367981064598168012915603908368368712666614396484536027452978107034
44412995622290921189798931738242157836880461812545185755899470712131135110033
14324343393435509149043640128034655097464041541252209921239839602945440855616
35961507277914583733975987152740132023234270013669969303992972329807508762934
82905723784255020784343865451856241267671919642698799374729248525019112506244
64200091329502812564309381496902220367007117353102789265266251745909479485359
96528310942564815937508717679801411005191058080242725605196566561281661303832
18118344148425104419748071415242369556995834811324974281842617356436647398340
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49834377526252197109116095678611527033357686687124271822831891022850827296609
07702677419680712533224929270165373323427094507406717385732515751897708788931
14058882929384708404541025467

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Goodstein's Theorem:

For **every** integer n , if we apply the preceding process starting with the super-base-2 expansion of n , we must eventually reach 0.

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No one has ever computed $G(5)$ exactly.

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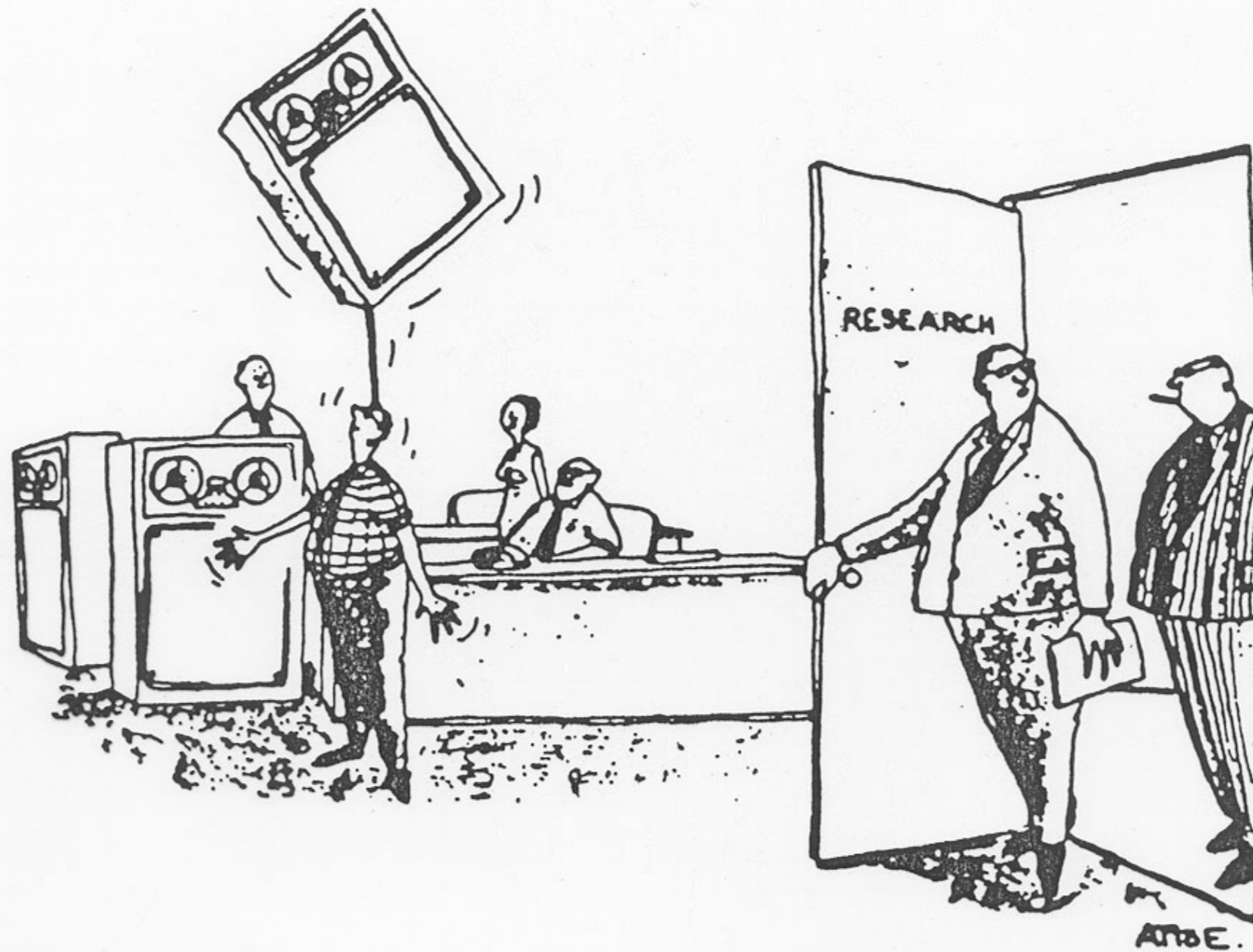


J. Morris

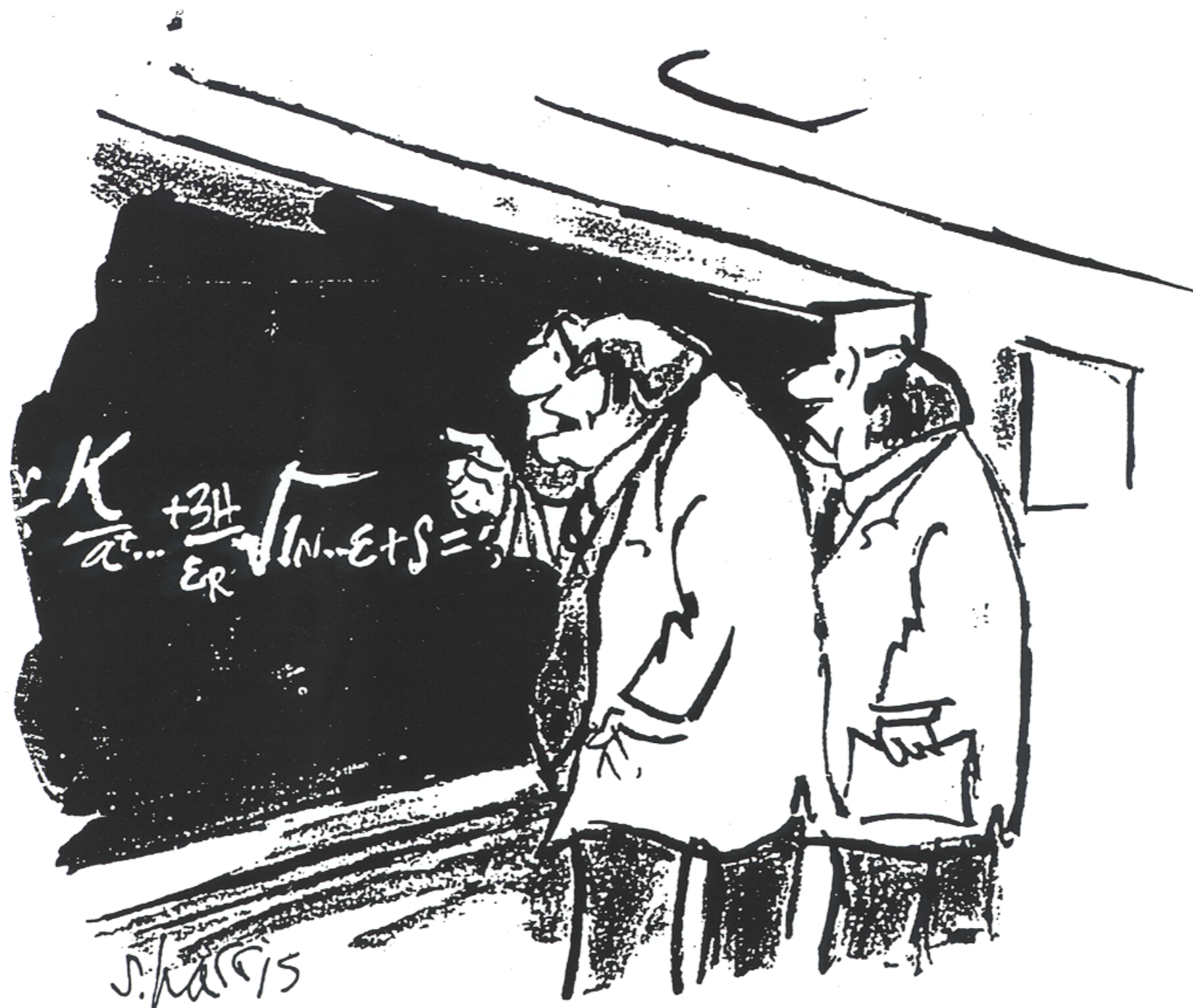
THE CARDINALS



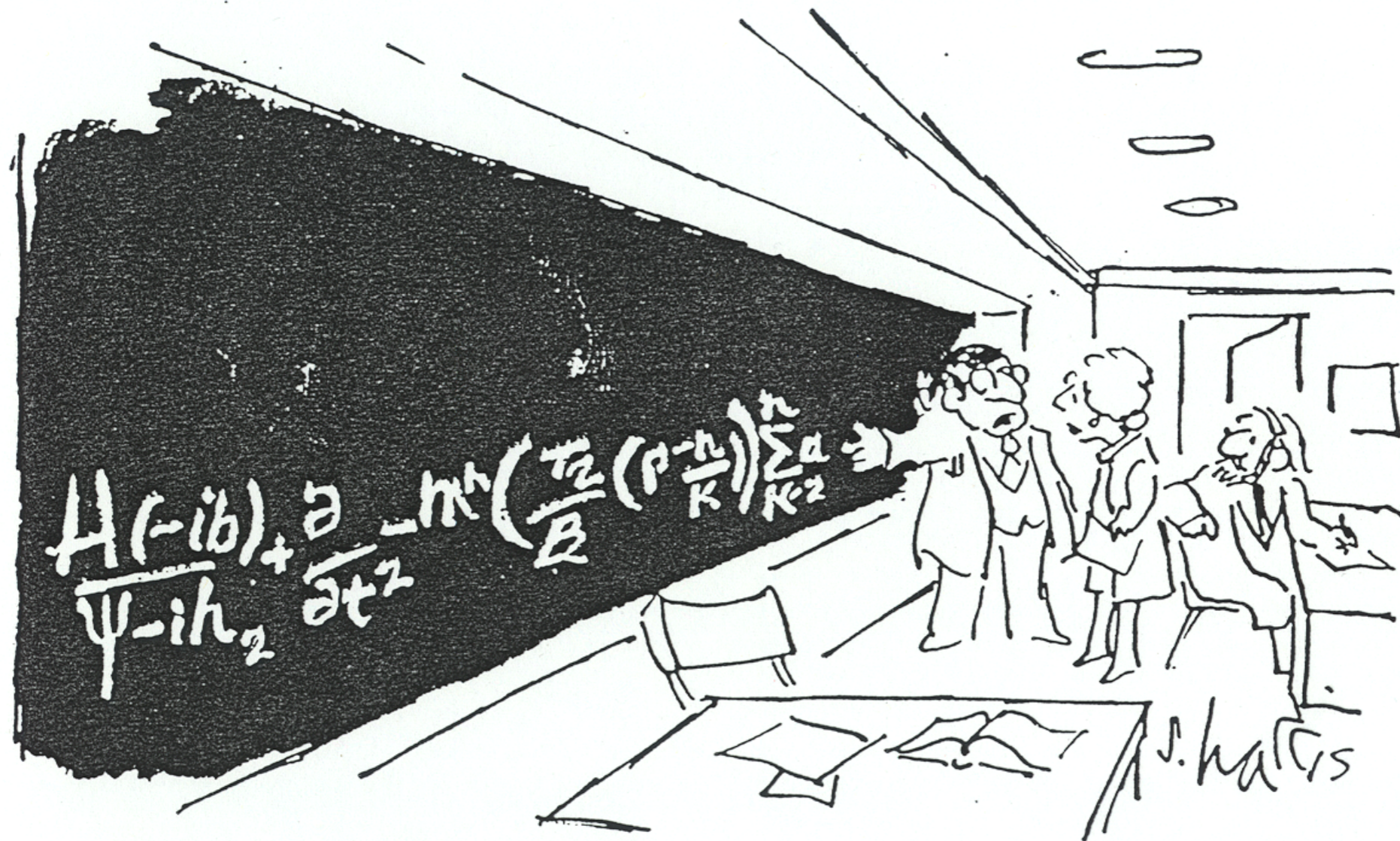
THE ORDINALS



I hear they are doing some amazing things with computers these days.

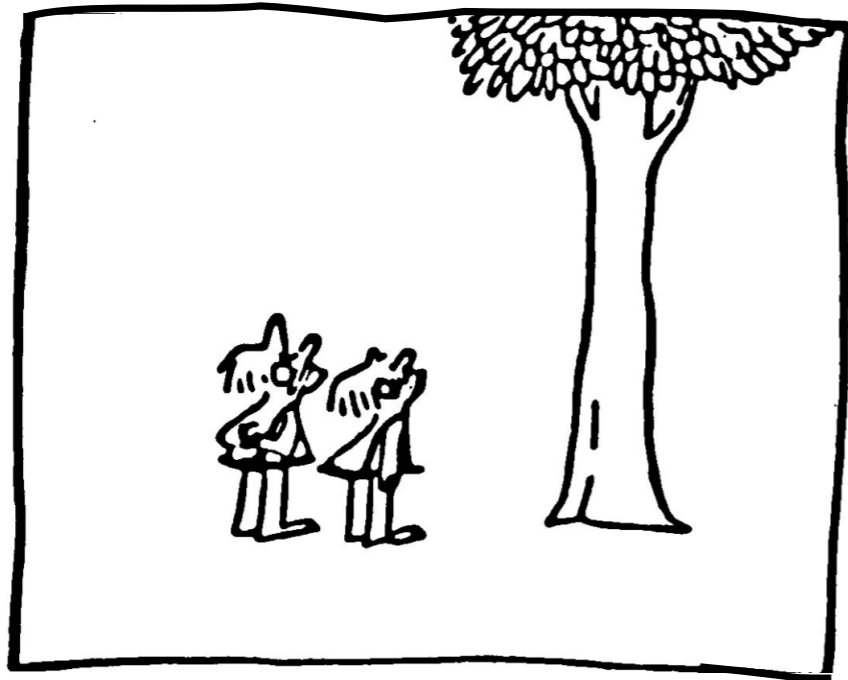


"Very creative. Very imaginative. Logic.....*that's* what's missing."



"But this *is* the simplified version for the general public."





Example: $G = K_n$, the complete graph on n vertices.

$$D(K_n) = \begin{pmatrix} 0, 1, 1, \dots, 1 \\ 1, 0, 1, \dots, 1 \\ 1, 1, 0, \dots, 1 \\ \dots \\ 1, 1, 1, \dots, 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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If r is an n th root of unity then

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$$\text{But } (r + r^2 + r^3 + \dots + r^{n-1}) = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } r^n = 1, r \neq 1 \\ n-1 & \text{if } r = 1 \end{cases}$$

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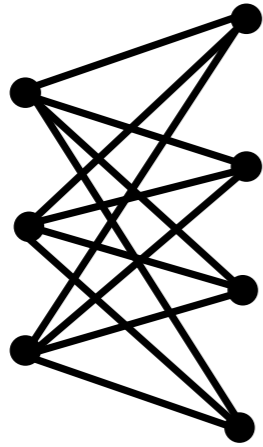
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Consequently, $N(K) = n-1$



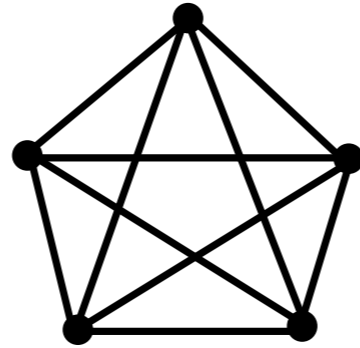
$K_{3,4}$ - complete bipartite graph

$$N(K_n) = n-1$$

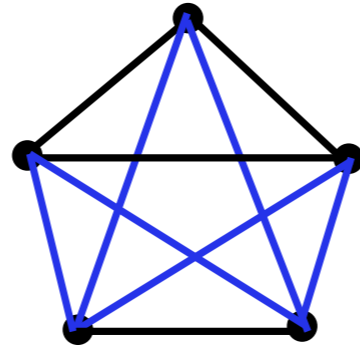
Equivalent statement: K_n cannot be decomposed into fewer than $n-1$ complete bipartite edge-disjoint subgraphs

(since each term $(x_{i_1} + x_{i_2} + \dots + x_{i_r})(x_{j_1} + x_{j_2} + \dots + x_{j_s})$ in the sum corresponds to a complete bipartite subgraph $K_{r,s}$).

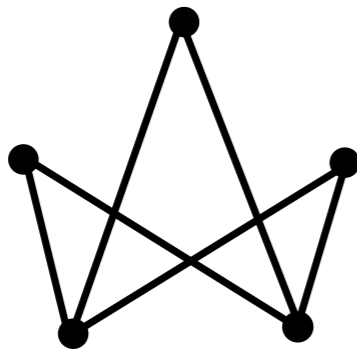
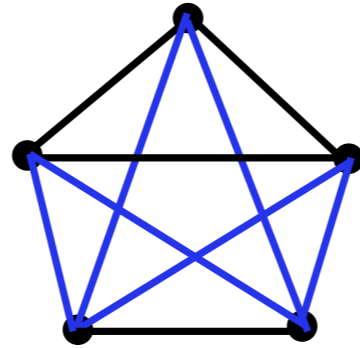
For example, K_5



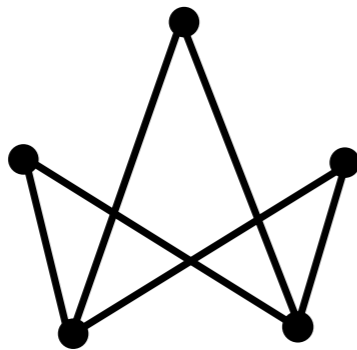
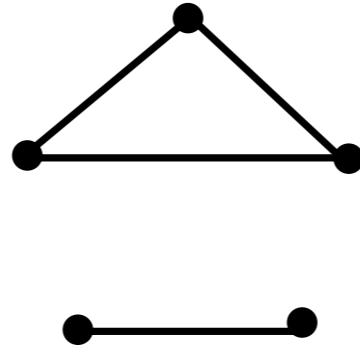
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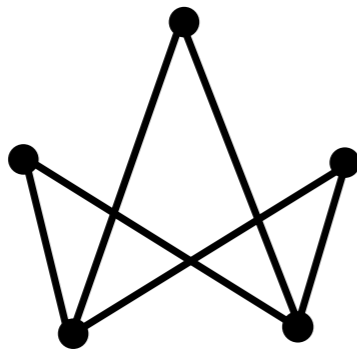
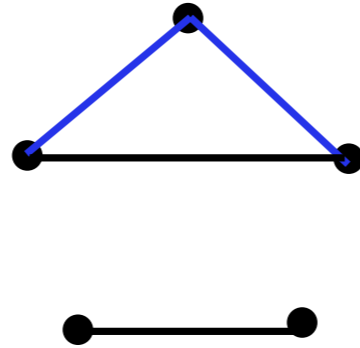
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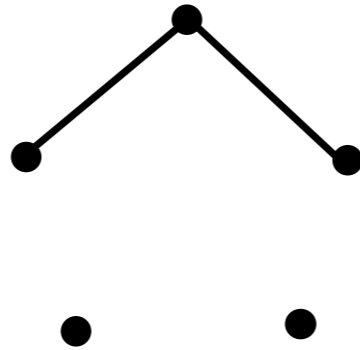
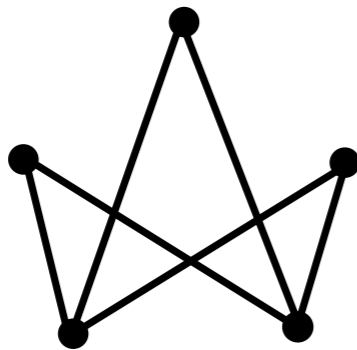
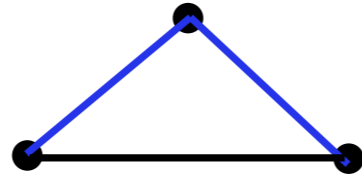
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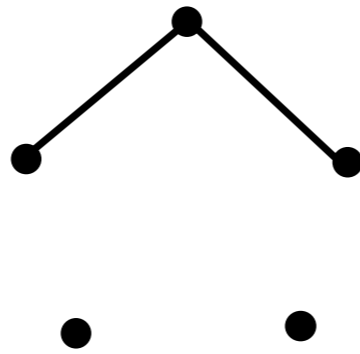
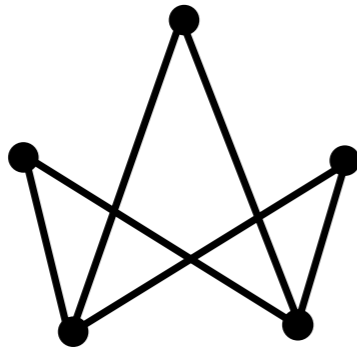
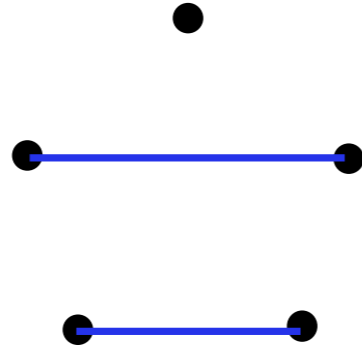
For example, K_5

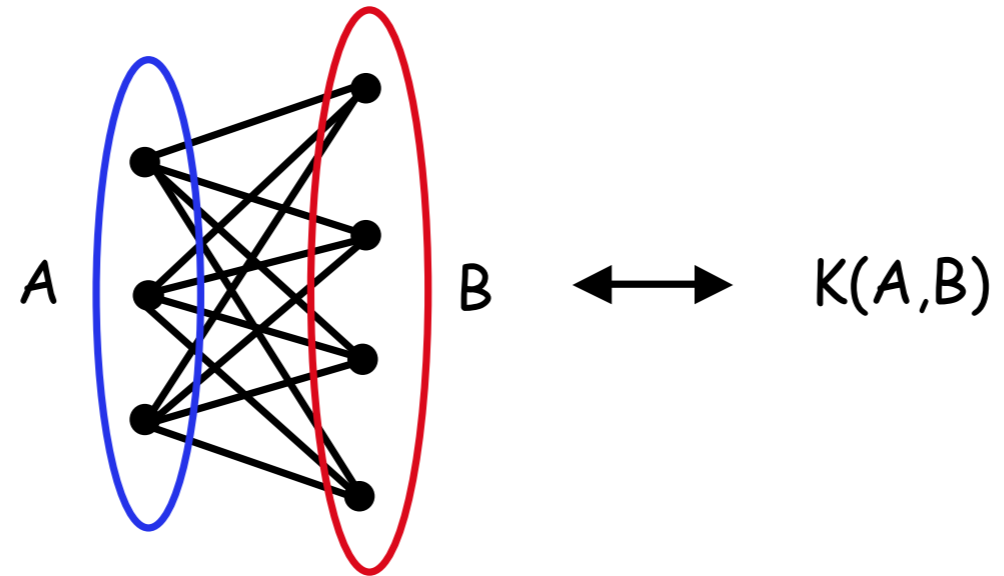


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complete bipartite graph on vertex sets A and B

K_n cannot be decomposed into **fewer** than $n-1$ complete bipartite edge-disjoint subgraphs

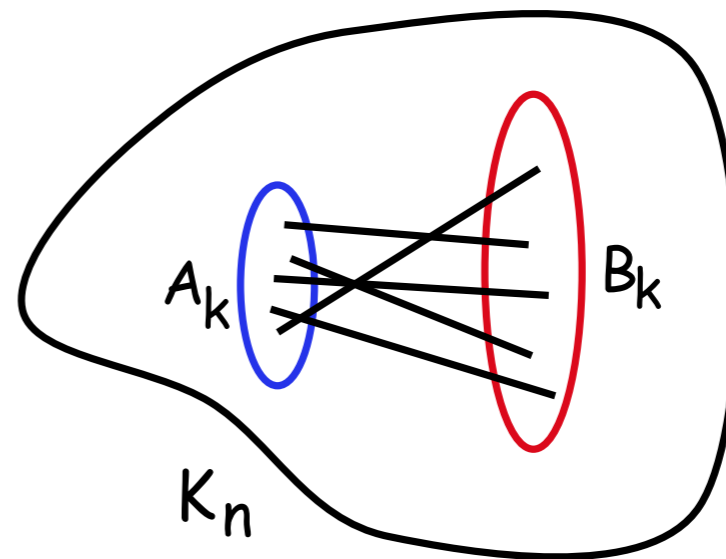
In other words,

$$K_n = \sum_{k=1}^t K(A_k, B_k) \implies t \geq n-1$$

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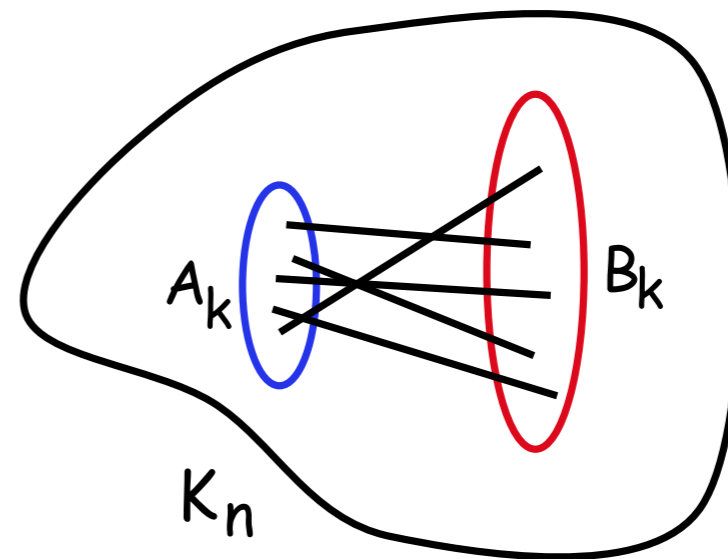


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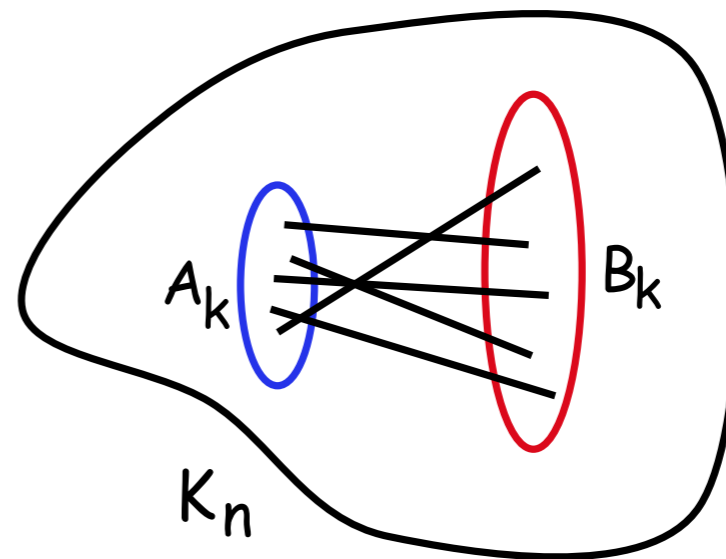
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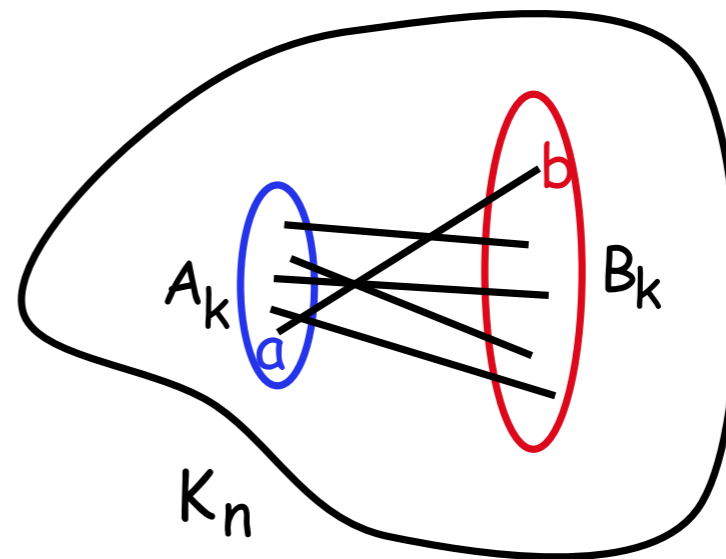
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$$\sum_{i < j} x_i x_j = \sum_{k=1}^{t+1} \left(\sum_{a \in A_k} x_a \right) \left(\sum_{b \in B_k} x_b \right)$$

Consider the system of $t+1$ homogeneous linear equations in the n variables x_i :

$$(\#) \quad \sum_{a \in A_k} x_a = 0, \quad 1 \leq k \leq t, \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k=1}^n x_k = 0$$

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$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^2 = 0 = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + 2 \sum_{i < j} x_i x_j$$

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(A red arrow points from the term $\left(\sum_{a \in A_k} x_a \right) \left(\sum_{b \in B_k} x_b \right)$ to a red "= 0" above it.)

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Therefore, $x_i = 0$ for all i .

Thus, the number of equations must be at least as large as the number of variables, i.e., $t + 1 \geq n$, as claimed. ■