# Pivot and Loop Complementation on Graphs and Set Systems 

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- Many applications: Transforming Euler circuits in 4-regular graphs (Kotzig, 1968), Quantum Computing, Interlace Polynomial.
- Simple graphs considered.


## Curious Result for Simple Graphs

## Theorem (Bouchet,1988)

Let $G$ be a simple graph with edge $\{u, v\}$. We have $G * u * v * u=G * v * u * v$.

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- Define, in this case, $* u * v * u$ to be edge complementation (involution),
- A goal: Understand nature of this equality (and obtain others like it).


## Local Complementation for Graphs with Loops



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- Original motivation: Gene Assembly in Ciliates (Computational Biology)


## Loop Complementation



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- Loop complementation on vertex $p$ : if $p$ has a loop, then remove the loop, and if $p$ has no loop, then add a loop.
- A main function: Bridge gap between

1) local complementation on simple graphs, and
2) local complementation on graphs.

## Adjacency Matrix


$p$
$q$
$r$
$s$$\left(\begin{array}{llll}p & q & r & s \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0\end{array}\right)$

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- Now: consider local complementation as a special case of a general matrix operation.


## The Bigger Picture: Principal Pivot Transform

## Definition

Let $A$ be a $V \times V$-matrix (over an arbitrary field), and let $X \subseteq V$ with $A[X]$ is nonsingular. If $A=\left(\begin{array}{l|l}P & Q \\ \hline R & S\end{array}\right)$ with $P=A[X]$, then the pivot of $A$ on $X$ is

$$
A * X=\left(\begin{array}{c|c}
P^{-1} & -P^{-1} Q \\
\hline R P^{-1} & S-R P^{-1} Q
\end{array}\right) .
$$

The pivot is the partial (component-wise) inverse:

$$
\begin{equation*}
A\binom{x_{1}}{x_{2}}=\binom{y_{1}}{y_{2}} \text { iff } A * X\binom{y_{1}}{x_{2}}=\binom{x_{1}}{y_{2}} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the vectors $x_{1}$ and $y_{1}$ correspond to the elements of $X$. Relation (1) forms alternative definition of pivot.

## Properties of Pivot

- If $A$ is skew-symmetric, then $A * X$ is too. Hence if $G$ is a graph, then $G * X$ is too.
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- For graph $G, G *\{u\}$ is local complementation, and $G *\{u, v\}$ is edge complementation!! Although observed by Geelen, 1997, (and by Bouchet for edge complementation) this observation is almost unknown.
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## Theorem (Tucker, 1960)

Let $A$ be a $V \times V$-matrix, and let $X \subseteq V$ be such that $A[X]$ is nonsingular. Then, for $Y \subseteq V$, $\operatorname{det}(A * X)[Y]=\operatorname{det} A[X \oplus Y] / \operatorname{det} A[X]$.

- $(A * X)[Y]$ is nonsingular iff $A[X \oplus Y]$ is nonsingular.


## Set Systems

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- Let, for graph $G, \mathcal{M}_{G}=\left(V, D_{G}\right)$ be the set system with $D_{G}=\{X \subseteq V \mid \operatorname{det} G[X]=1\}$ (computed over $\mathbb{F}_{2}$ ).


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- $\mathcal{M}_{G}$ is known to be a $\Delta$-matroid. (We will not use this property here.)


## Set Systems Example



- $V=\{p, q, r, s\}$. For example, $\{p, r\} \in \mathcal{M}_{G}$ as

$$
G[\{p, r\}]=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
1 & 1 \\
1 & 0
\end{array}\right) \text { is nonsingular over } \mathbb{F}_{2}
$$

## Set Systems Example


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- Define, for $X \subseteq V$, the pivot $M * X=(V, D * X)$, where $D * X=\{Y \oplus X \mid Y \in D\}$.


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- Define, for $X \subseteq V$, the pivot $M * X=(V, D * X)$, where $D * X=\{Y \oplus X \mid Y \in D\}$.
- By determinant formula: $\mathcal{M}_{G * X}=\mathcal{M}_{G} * X$ (if $X \in \mathcal{M}_{G}$ ). Explicit: Exclusive-or $\oplus$ "simulates" pivot *.


## Set Systems Example



- $V=\{p, q, r, s\}$. Indeed $\mathcal{M}_{G * p}=\mathcal{M}_{G} * p$.


## Loop Complementation on Set Systems

- Let $M=(V, D)$ be a set system.
- Define, for $u \in V$, loop complementation of $M$ on $u$, as $M+u=\left(V, D^{\prime}\right)$, where $D^{\prime}=D \oplus\{X \cup\{u\} \mid X \in D, u \notin X\}$.


## Theorem

Let $G$ be a graph and $u \in V$. Then $\mathcal{M}_{G+u}=\mathcal{M}_{G}+u$.

Loop Complementation on Set Systems Example


$$
\begin{aligned}
& V=\{p, q, r, s\} \\
& \mathcal{M}_{G}+p=\mathcal{M}_{G} \oplus\{\{p\},\{p, q\},\{p, r, s\},\{p, q, r, s\}\} \\
& \text { Indeed, } \mathcal{M}_{G+p}=\mathcal{M}_{G}+p
\end{aligned}
$$

## Interplay Loop Complementation and Pivot

## Theorem (Commutation on different elements)

Let $M$ be a set system and $u, v \in V$ with $u \neq v$. Then $M * u * v=M * v * u, M+u+v=M+v+u$, and $M+u * v=M * v+u$.

Proof is by considering both pivot and loop complementation as special cases of a more general operation (called vertex flip), and proving that vertex flips commute on different elements.

## Theorem ( $S_{3}$ on single elements)

Let $M$ be a set system and $u \in V$. Then $M * u+u * u=M+u * u+u$.

Proof is by showing that $+u$ and $* u$ generate the group $S_{3}$ of permutations on three elements.

## Interplay Loop Complementation and Pivot for Graphs

- Define for $X=\left\{u_{1}, \ldots, u_{n}\right\}, M+X=M+u_{1} \cdots+u_{n}$ (in any order). Similarly for $M * X$.
- We have: 1) $\left[S_{3}\right] M+X * X+X=M * X+X * X$, and 2) [commutative] for $Y \cap X=\emptyset, M+X * Y=M * Y+X$.


## Interplay Loop Complementation and Pivot for Graphs

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- We have: 1) $\left[S_{3}\right] M+X * X+X=M * X+X * X$, and 2) [commutative] for $Y \cap X=\emptyset, M+X * Y=M * Y+X$.
- Identities must hold for graphs as well. However, $G * X$ is only defined when $X \in \mathcal{M}_{G}$.
- For graph $G, G+X * X+X=G * X+X * X$ when both sides are defined. Turns out: right-hand side defined, implies left-hand side defined.


## Consequences for Simple Graphs

Remember:

## Theorem (Bouchet,1988)

Let $G$ be a simple graph with edge $\{u, v\}$. We have
$G * u * v * u=G * v * u * v$.

- In this case, $* u * v * u$ is edge complementation (for simple graphs)


## Theorem

Let $F$ be a graph with edge $\{u, v\}$ with no loops for $u$ and $v$. We have

$$
F *\{u, v\}=F+u * u+u * v * u+u=F+v * v+v * u * v+v
$$

- So "modulo loops", " $F *\{u, v\}=F * u * v * u=F * v * u * v$ ". Hence alternative proof of result for simple graphs.


## Proof

## Theorem

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$$
F *\{u, v\}=F+u * u+u * v * u+u=F+v * v+v * u * v+v
$$

## Proof.

$\mathcal{M}_{F} *\{u, v\}+u * u * v+u * u+u=\mathcal{M}_{F} * u * v+u * u * v+u * u+u=$ $\mathcal{M}_{F} * u+u * u+u * u+u * v * v=\mathcal{M}_{F}$. Both sides are applicable by the figure.


## New Results for Simple Graphs

## Theorem

Let $G$ be a simple graph, and let $u, v, w \in V(G)$ be such that the subgraph of $G$ induced by $\{u, v, w\}$ is a complete graph. Then $G(*\{u\} *\{v\} *\{w\})^{2}=G *\{v\}$.

## Theorem

Let $G$ be a simple graph, and let $\varphi$ be a sequence of local complementation operations applicable to $G$. Then $G \varphi \approx G+X * Y$ for some $X, Y \subseteq V$ with $X \subseteq Y$.

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- Nature of classic result $G * u * v * u=G * v * u * v$ for simple graphs explained.


## Discussion

- Interplay pivot and loop complementation is $S_{3}$ on identical vertices.
- Bridges gap between simple graphs and graphs with loops.
- Nature of classic result $G * u * v * u=G * v * u * v$ for simple graphs explained.
- Characterization of sequences of local complementation on simple graphs.


## Discussion

- Interplay pivot and loop complementation is $S_{3}$ on identical vertices.
- Bridges gap between simple graphs and graphs with loops.
- Nature of classic result $G * u * v * u=G * v * u * v$ for simple graphs explained.
- Characterization of sequences of local complementation on simple graphs.
- Framework setting is set systems in general.

