

Iterated Jump Graphs

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Cover Page Footnote

We would like to explicitly express gratitude to the WXML (Washington Experimental Mathematics Lab) at the University of Washington. This program brought us together with our outstanding mentors, Bennet Goeckner and Rowan Rowlands, with Rowan supplying the excellent images in Figure 5, Figure 6, and Figure 7. They provided extensive support in both pursuing our work and writing this paper, offering feedback, proofreading, and more. Their efforts were not only in providing us with necessary or interesting background information but also in pushing us to do more, especially with their shared excitement as we reported progress. Our work here certainly would not have happened without them.

Iterated Jump Graphs

By *Fran Herr* and *Legrand Jones II*

Abstract. The jump graph $J(G)$ of a simple graph G has vertices which represent edges in G where two vertices in $J(G)$ are adjacent if and only if the corresponding edges in G do not share an endpoint. In this paper, we examine sequences of graphs generated by iterating the jump graph operation and characterize the behavior of this sequence for all initial graphs. We build on work by Chartrand et al. who showed that a handful of jump graph sequences terminate and two sequences converge. We extend these results by showing that there are no non-trivial repeating sequences of jump graphs. All diverging jump graph sequences grow without bound while accumulating certain subgraphs.

1 Introduction

Over the course of this paper, we will be studying sequences of graphs generated by the jump graph operation. Given a simple graph G , its jump graph $J(G)$ has vertices that represent edges of G ; two vertices in $J(G)$ are connected by an edge if and only if the corresponding edges of G are not incident. For readers familiar with graph theory, $J(G)$ is the complement of the line graph $L(G)$. In this paper, we completely characterize the end behavior of any graph under iteration of the jump graph operation.

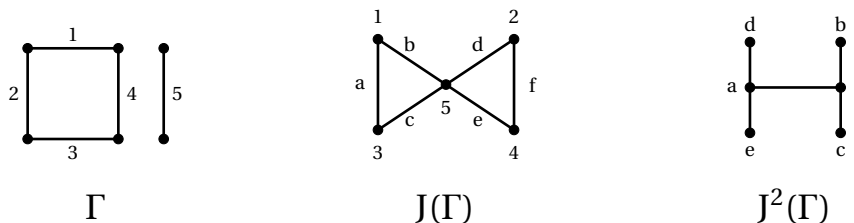


Figure 1: A graph Γ and its first and second jump graphs.

This work builds on content from “Subgraph distances in graphs defined by edge transfers” by Chartrand et al. (1997) [3]. The authors of this paper also consider sequences of graphs $\{J^k(G)\}$ generated by iterating the jump graph operation. A graph sequence $\{G_k\}$ *converges* if there is some index K and graph G such that $G_k \cong G$ for all

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$k \geq K$. A sequence *terminates* if it is finite and a sequence *diverges* if it does not converge or terminate. Theorem 4 in the paper by Chartrand et al. [3] determines which graphs have iterated jump graph sequences that converge; this follows from work by Aigner (1969) [1]. Chartrand et al. also classify all graphs which have a terminating iterated jump graph sequence in their Theorem 7. To do this, they use subdivisions and vertex splittings of graphs to state and prove Lemma 5. These tools are analogous to our *snipped subgraph* in Definition 2.9 and Lemma 2.13 of this paper. We extend the investigation by Chartrand et al. [3] by asking about the quality of diverging sequences of iterated jump graphs. Are there repeating sequences of jump graphs? Can the graphs in $\{J^k(G)\}$ stay “small” as $k \rightarrow \infty$? Our results stated in Theorem 5.1, Theorem 5.4, Theorem 5.5 give an answer to these questions and do not appear in the paper by Chartrand et al. [3].

In Section 2, we define iterated jump graphs, d -value, and snipped subgraphs. We then give some immediate results about these objects. Section 3 lists all graphs with terminating jump graph sequences, making a “tree” of graphs related by the jump graph operation (Figure 7 on page 10). Graphs with non-terminating jump graph sequences are covered in Section 4. We present C_5 and the net graph as fundamental to our study (see Figure 8 on page 11), introduce some useful tools for casework, and examine all connected graphs based on diameter. In Section 5, our work culminates in some truly fascinating results. In particular, we see that there is no graph except for C_5 or the net graph which gives itself for *some* iterated jump graph. That is, no diverging sequence of iterated jump graphs repeats itself. We also show that for all diverging sequences $\{J^k(G)\}$, the number of edges in $J^k(G)$ grows without bound.

2 Preliminaries

A graph G is *simple* if any two vertices are connected by at most one edge and there are no edges from a single vertex to itself. An *isolated vertex* is not the endpoint of any edge. Throughout the paper, we assume that all graphs are simple, finite, and nonempty unless explicitly stated. Prior to performing the jump graph operation, we will often consider two graphs equivalent if they differ by only isolated vertices since these have no effect on $J(G)$. We denote the vertex set of a graph G by $V(G)$ and the number of vertices by $|V(G)|$; we denote the edge set by $E(G)$ and the number of edges by $|E(G)|$. For all terms not defined here, see a standard graph theory textbook such as that by West (1996) [7].

Definition 2.1. The *jump graph* $J(G)$ of a graph G has vertices given by the edges of G (i.e. $V(J(G)) = E(G)$). For two vertices u and v of $J(G)$, the edge $\{u, v\}$ is in $E(J(G))$ if and only if edges u and v are not incident in G .

Remark 2.2. This notion is closely related to that of the matching complex; see, e.g., Chapter 11 in Jonsson’s *Simplicial complexes of graphs* (2008) [4] and Wachs’ 2003 article [6]. Given a graph G , a *matching* is a set of edges such that no two edges in the set are

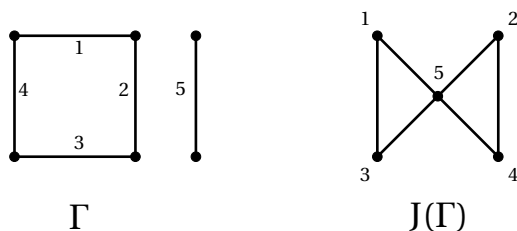


Figure 2: A graph Γ and its jump graph $J(\Gamma)$. Vertices in $J(\Gamma)$ are connected iff the corresponding edges in Γ do *not* share an endpoint.

incident. The *matching complex* of G is the set of all matchings in G . Note that the jump graph contains only the matchings of cardinality at most two. In this way, the jump graph is a particular subset of the matching complex, known as its 1-skeleton. Furthermore, a set of edges in G forms a matching if and only if the corresponding vertices in $J(G)$ form a clique, a subset of vertices such that all two have an edge between them. Thus the jump graph encodes all of the same information as the matching complex. We came across the ideas for this paper through studying matching complexes; the project was rather far along when we discovered the paper by Chartrand et al. (1997) [3] and the study of jump graphs. Despite the direct connection between matching complexes and jump graphs, we do not know of any other sources relating the two. We wonder if there are results from the study of matching complexes which could be applied to jump graphs, or vice versa.

Consider the connection between the jump graph and the well-studied *line graph* $L(G)$. Vertices of the line graph represent edges in G , and these vertices are connected with an edge if and only if the corresponding edges are incident. With this definition, we see that $J(G)$ is the the complement of $L(G)$. The line graph has been an important tool for approaching our study of jump graphs. We will use this observation in Section 4.

With the above definition of the jump graph, there are a few immediate results we can state about subgraphs and induced subgraphs. A subgraph H of G is *induced* if there are no two vertices in H which are connected in G but not in H .

Lemma 2.3. *If H is a subgraph of G , then $J(H)$ is an induced subgraph of $J(G)$.*

Proof. Let H be a subgraph of G . Every edge in H is also an edge in G so $V(J(H)) \subseteq V(J(G))$. If there are two edges e_1, e_2 in H which are non-incident in H then they are also non-incident in G , and so $E(J(H)) \subseteq E(J(G))$. Together these imply $J(H) \subseteq J(G)$. Furthermore if there are two edges e_1, e_2 in H which are non-incident in G , then they must be non-incident in H . Thus $J(H)$ must be an induced subgraph of $J(G)$. \square

Lemma 2.3 allows us to carry subgraphs forward under the jump graph operation. To go in the backwards direction, given some graph G , we want to identify a graph G^* such that $J(G^*) \cong G$. After doing small examples, one observes that C_3 (a cycle on

three vertices) and S_3 (a star with three pendants) have the same jump graph: three isolated vertices. This shows that there is not always a unique choice for G^* . Because of the connection between jump graphs and line graphs, we can apply Whitney's Graph Isomorphism Theorem which says, in effect, that C_3 and S_3 are the only examples of a graph with a non-unique line graph (and therefore jump graph as well).

Lemma 2.4. *If H and G are connected graphs, $J(G) \neq J(C_3)$, $J(H) \neq J(C_3)$, and $J(H)$ is an induced subgraph of $J(G)$ then H is a subgraph of G .*

Proof. Suppose $J(H)$ is an induced subgraph of $J(G)$. Then, since $J(G)^c = L(G)$, we know that $L(H)$ is an induced subgraph of $L(G)$. Because we assume that $J(H) \neq J(C_3)$, we know that $L(H) \neq L(C_3)$. Hence, by Whitney's Graph Isomorphism Theorem (1932) [8], H is uniquely determined. By the same logic, since $J(G) \neq J(C_3)$ then G is uniquely determined as well. Then H must be a subgraph of G . \square

Notice that Lemma 2.4 is a partial converse of Lemma 2.3. We can expand Lemma 2.4 to include some disconnected graphs with more conditions, but this is not relevant to the bulk of the paper. This "backwards jump graph" operation is used only in Section 3 as we construct Figure 7. Now, we turn attention towards the main object of study: *iterated jump graphs*.

Definition 2.5. Let G be a graph and define $J^0(G) = G$. For $k \geq 1$, the k^{th} jump graph, denoted $J^k(G)$, is the jump graph of $J^{k-1}(G)$.

Our goal is to study the behavior of the sequence $\{J^k(G)\}$. Of particular interest is determining whether a given graph dissipates in the following sense.

Definition 2.6. A graph G *dissipates* if there is some $k \geq 0$ such that $J^k(G) = \emptyset$. The *dissipation number*, denoted $d(G)$, is the smallest $k \geq 0$ such that $J^k(G) = \emptyset$. If there is no such k , then $d(G) = \infty$.

Remark 2.7. A graph G dissipates if and only if the sequence $\{J^k(G)\}$ terminates. The dissipation number of G is the length of the sequence $\{J^k(G)\}$ where we do not include \emptyset .

For examples of dissipation, see Figure 7 on page 10. The reader can find the graph Γ from Figure 2 in the lower left-hand corner. By counting the arrows between Γ and the empty set, we see that $d(\Gamma) = 7$.

If $d(G) < \infty$, we will sometimes say that G is d -finite. Otherwise, we will say that G is d -infinite. In studying the behavior of $J^k(G)$, we will see that the following two notions play an integral part.

Definition 2.8. Suppose we have a graph G with vertex set $V(G) = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ and edge set $E(G)$. A *quotient graph* Q of G is defined in the following way. Take some partition of

$V(G)$ and then apply the equivalence relation created by this partition, letting $[v_i]$ denote such an equivalence class. The vertex set and edge set of Q are defined below.

$$V(Q) = \{[v_i] : v_i \in V(G)\} \quad E(Q) = \{[v_i], [v_j] : \{v_i, v_j\} \in E(G), [v_i] \neq [v_j]\}$$

Note that, by construction, Q will not have any double edges or loops. In a qualitative way, a quotient graph is obtained by gluing vertices together and then deleting double edges and loops.



Figure 3: A graph G and a quotient Q of G . The different colors and shapes of vertices represent the partition of $V(G)$.

Definition 2.9. A *snipped subgraph* of a graph G is a quotient graph of a subgraph of G .

Example 2.10. Figure 4 shows an example of a graph G and three of its snipped subgraphs. The subgraph of G of which H_i is a quotient can be identified by the edge labels. Observe that H_1 is a subgraph of G but H_2 and H_3 are nontrivial quotients of a subgraph of G .

Remark 2.11. In particular, any subgraph of G is also a snipped subgraph of G . This means G is a snipped subgraph of itself.

We have defined a snipped subgraph by starting with G , taking a subgraph, and gluing together some of the vertices. This direction is helpful for understanding the definition, but the motivation is more clear if we conceptualize the snipped subgraph in another way. Suppose H is a snipped subgraph of G . Split apart the quotiented vertices of H and overlay it on top of G . Notice that the vertex-splitting action preserves disconnections among edges in H . Looking back at the example in Figure 4, we notice that in H_1 , edges 1 and 6 are non-incident and they are still non-incident in G . However, in graph H_2 , edges 1 and 6 are incident, but these edges are non-incident in G .

Edges in $J(H)$ correspond to disconnections between edges in H . In this way, we know edges in $J(H)$ will be preserved under “snipping” of H . This property allows us to state the result in Lemma 2.13.

Lemma 2.12. *Suppose that H is a quotient graph of G . Then there exists some subgraph $G' \subseteq G$ such that $|E(G')| = |E(H)|$ and H is a quotient graph of G'*

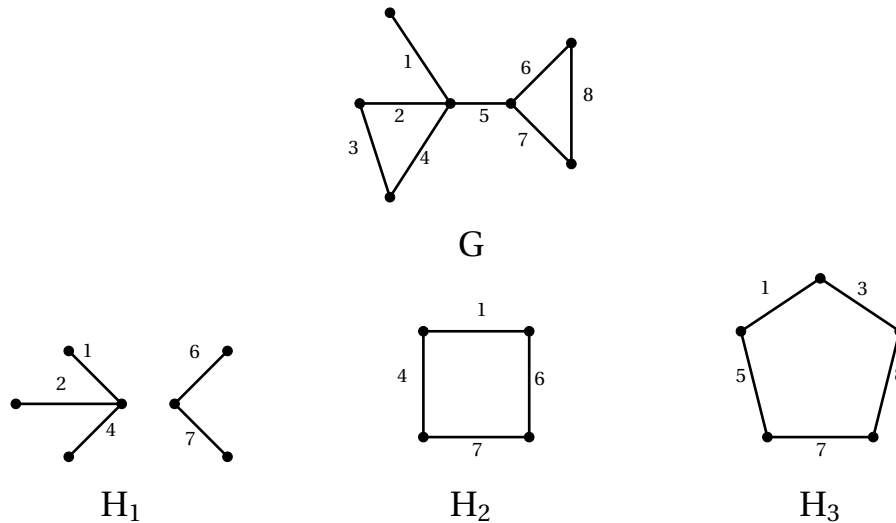


Figure 4: Graphs H_1 , H_2 , and H_3 are snipped subgraphs of G

The proof of this lemma amounts to choosing an edge $\{v, u\}$ in G for each edge $\{[v], [u]\}$ in H such that, as the notation suggests, $\{v, u\}$ is mapped to $\{[v], [u]\}$ under the quotient identifications.

Lemma 2.13. *If H is a snipped subgraph of G , then $J(H)$ is a subgraph of $J(G)$.*

Proof. Since H is a quotient of a subgraph of G , there is some subgraph $G' \subseteq G$ such that H is a quotient graph of G' and $|E(G')| = |E(H)|$ by Lemma 2.12. We will show that $J(H)$ is a subgraph of $J(G')$; then by Lemma 2.4, $J(G') \subseteq J(G)$ so we have $J(H) \subseteq J(G)$. To do this, we will find a graph homomorphism from $J(H)$ to $J(G')$: an injective map $\varphi: V(J(H)) \rightarrow V(J(G'))$ such that

$$\text{if } \{x, y\} \in E(J(H)), \text{ then } \{\varphi(x), \varphi(y)\} \in E(J(G')). \quad (1)$$

For a vertex $v \in V(G')$ let $[v]$ be its equivalence class given by the quotient, that is, its image under the quotient map from G' to H . Let $q: E(G') \rightarrow E(H)$ be the quotient map such that $q(\{u, v\}) = \{[u], [v]\}$. This map is surjective by the definition of a quotient graph. An edge $\{[u], [v]\}$ exists in $E(H)$ if and only if there is some $u' \in [u]$ and $v' \in [v]$ such that $\{v', u'\} \in E(G')$. We also note that $E(G')$ and $E(H)$ are finite sets with the same cardinality so the map q must also be injective. Hence, we can define an inverse function $\varphi := q^{-1}: E(H) \rightarrow E(G')$. For each edge $\{x, y\} \in E(H)$, there is a unique choice of $\{u, v\} \in E(G')$ such that $[u] = x$ and $[v] = y$.

Next, by definition of jump graphs, $E(H) = V(J(H))$ and $E(G') = V(J(G'))$. This means that φ is a bijection from $V(J(H))$ to $V(J(G'))$.

Lastly, we show that φ satisfies the edge condition (1). Let an edge $\{u, v\}$ in G' be denoted by uv and let an edge $\{[u], [v]\}$ in H' be denoted by $[u][v]$. Suppose that

$\{[u][v], [a][b]\}$ is an edge in $J(H)$. Then $[u][v]$ and $[a][b]$ are non-incident edges in H so the endpoints $[u]$, $[v]$, $[a]$, and $[b]$ are all distinct in H . Without loss of generality, let

$$\varphi([u][v]) = uv \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi([a][b]) = ab.$$

The endpoints u , v , a , and b must all be distinct in G' since their images under q are distinct in H . Thus, edges uv and ab are not incident in G' and so $\{uv, ab\}$ is an edge of $J(G')$.

Hence, we see that φ is an injective graph homomorphism and so $J(H)$ is a subgraph of $J(G')$. And since $J(G') \subseteq J(G)$ by Lemma 2.4, we also conclude that $J(H) \subseteq J(G)$. \square

Consider Lemmas 2.3 and 2.13 side by side. Lemma 2.3 implies the existence of a certain *induced* subgraph of $J(G)$ while Lemma 2.13 implies the existence of a certain subgraph of $J(G)$. Because every subgraph is also itself a *snipped* subgraph, the set of subgraphs of G is contained in the set of snipped subgraphs of G . Hence, it is easier to satisfy the assumptions of Lemma 2.13 than those of Lemma 2.3. Recognizing also that induced subgraphs are of no particular use to this problem, Lemma 2.13 will be our primary tool as we continue in our discussion.

Proposition 2.14. *If H is a snipped subgraph of G , then $d(H) \leq d(G)$.*

Proof. First, consider if $d(G) = \infty$. Then, trivially we have $d(H) \leq d(G) = \infty$.

Now, consider when $d(G)$ is finite and let $d(G) = d_0$. If $d_0 = 0$ then $G = \emptyset$ and the result is immediate because \emptyset is the only snipped subgraph of \emptyset . Thus, let d_0 be at least 1. Applying Lemma 2.13 iteratively,

$$J^k(H) \subseteq J^k(G)$$

for all $k \geq 1$. Now, let $k = d_0$ and the above statement becomes

$$J^{d_0}(H) \subseteq J^{d_0}(G) = \emptyset.$$

And so we have $J^{d_0}(H) = \emptyset$ and it follows that

$$d(H) \leq d_0 = d(G). \quad \square$$

Corollary 2.15. *If H is a snipped subgraph of G and $d(H) = \infty$, then $d(G) = \infty$.*

Corollary 2.15 reveals our primary use of snipped subgraphs. When presented with a graph G , we can look for any snipped subgraph H which we know to have $d(H) = \infty$. If we can find such a graph then we know that $d(G) = \infty$ as well. This makes it much simpler to determine if a given graph will dissipate or not. We will see Corollary 2.15 become very relevant in Section 4.

Remark 2.16. Chartrand et al. (1997) [3] use vertex splitting and subdivisions of graphs to serve the same purpose as our snipped subgraph. These tools are applied when they state and prove their Lemma 5 which is equivalent to our Corollary 2.15. We found the concept of the snipped subgraph useful because it combines both vertex splitting and graph subdivisions into one tool, getting at the crux of when we see $J(H)$ appear as a subgraph of $J(G)$.

3 Graphs with finite d value

There are relatively few graphs with a finite d value. If G is d -finite then $J^k(G)$ is also d -finite for all k and $J^{d(G)}(G) = \emptyset$. Using these observations, we can build a tree of all d -finite graphs by “working backwards” from the empty set. To start, $J^k(G) = \emptyset$ if and only if $J^{k-1}(G)$ is the empty set or a set of isolated vertices. Considering this latter possibility, we can find all the options for $J^{k-2}(G)$. We continue doing this “backwards jump graph operation” until we are left with some $J^{k-n}(G)$ which cannot be the jump graph of any graph. To know when this point is reached, we use Beineke’s characterization of line graphs from “Characterizations of derived graphs” (1970) [2].

In this 1970 paper, Beineke showed that a graph is a line graph for another graph if and only if it does not have one of the nine induced subgraphs in Figure 5 [2]. Recall that the line graph is the complement of the jump graph. This implies that if some graph G is the jump graph of another graph G^* (i.e. $G = J(G^*)$) then G^c must not have any of Beineke’s nine forbidden induced subgraphs. Equivalently, G must not have the complement of any forbidden graph as an induced subgraph. These complements are shown in Figure 6.

The tree of graphs made through this process is shown in Figure 7. Infinite families of graphs are blocked in grey and isolated vertices are not explicitly drawn where they may appear. For example, see that the graphs C_4 and C_4 with a diagonal edge (in the lower third of the figure) lead to the same graph in Figure 7. We ignore isolated vertices because they have no effect on $J(G)$. Induced subgraphs from Figure 6 are highlighted in red.

While we only outline an idea for a proof here, Figure 7 does contain all d -finite graphs as shown rigorously by Chartrand et al. (1997) [3]. The reader can look at Theorem 7 in [3] if they would like to see the list in Figure 7 catalogued in rigor.

4 Graphs with infinite d value

In this section, we turn to graphs with infinite d value. In some sense, Figure 7 already gives a characterization of d -infinite graphs— if G does not appear in Figure 7, then $d(G) = \infty$. However, there are more detailed questions we can ask about d -infinite graphs. In particular: what is the end behavior of the sequence $\{J^k(G)\}$? Is there a graph

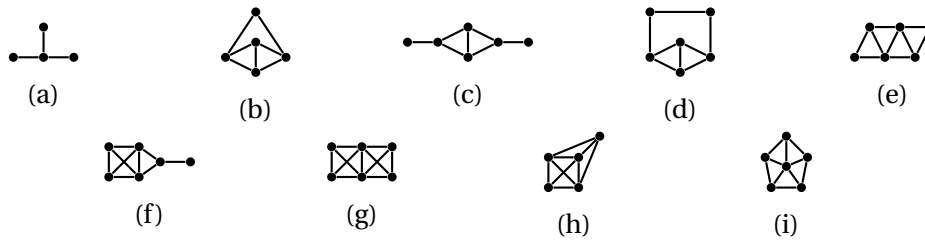


Figure 5: The nine graph which Beineke’s theorem says cannot be an induced subgraph of any line graph.

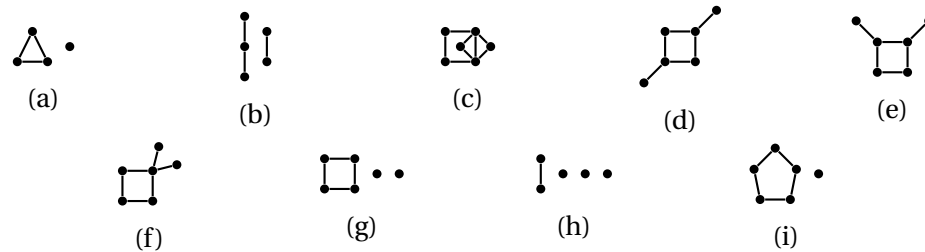


Figure 6: Complements of the nine graphs from Figure 5; equivalently, the graphs which cannot occur as induced subgraphs of any jump graph.

which satisfies $J^k(G) = G$ for some $k \geq 1$? In the following section, we will begin to answer these questions. This investigation extends beyond the results by Chartrand et al. (1997) [3] by asking about the quality of divergence for diverging jump graph sequences.

4.1 Two Special Graphs

As we have discussed earlier, the line graph $L(G)$ and the jump graph $J(G)$ are complements. This follows directly from the definition of each. Knowing this, we can apply the following result due to Aigner in “Graphs whose complement and line graph are isomorphic” (1969) [1]. The graphs C_5 and the net graph are shown in Figure 8.

Theorem 4.1 ([1]). *The only graphs satisfying $L(G)^c = G$ are C_5 and the net graph N .*

Applying this to iterated jump graphs, we have the following consequence.

Corollary 4.2. *If G is a graph, then $J^k(G) = G$ for all $k \geq 0$ if and only if G is C_5 or N .*

Remark 4.3. This is a rephrasing of Theorem 4 by Chartrand et al. (1997) [3].

In particular, we observe that C_5 and N are both d -infinite. If G has C_5 as a subgraph, then for every $k \geq 1$ we know $J^k(C_5) = C_5$ is a subgraph of $J^k(G)$ by Lemma 2.3 and the analogous statement is true for the net graph N . Given this, we can talk about *accumulation*.

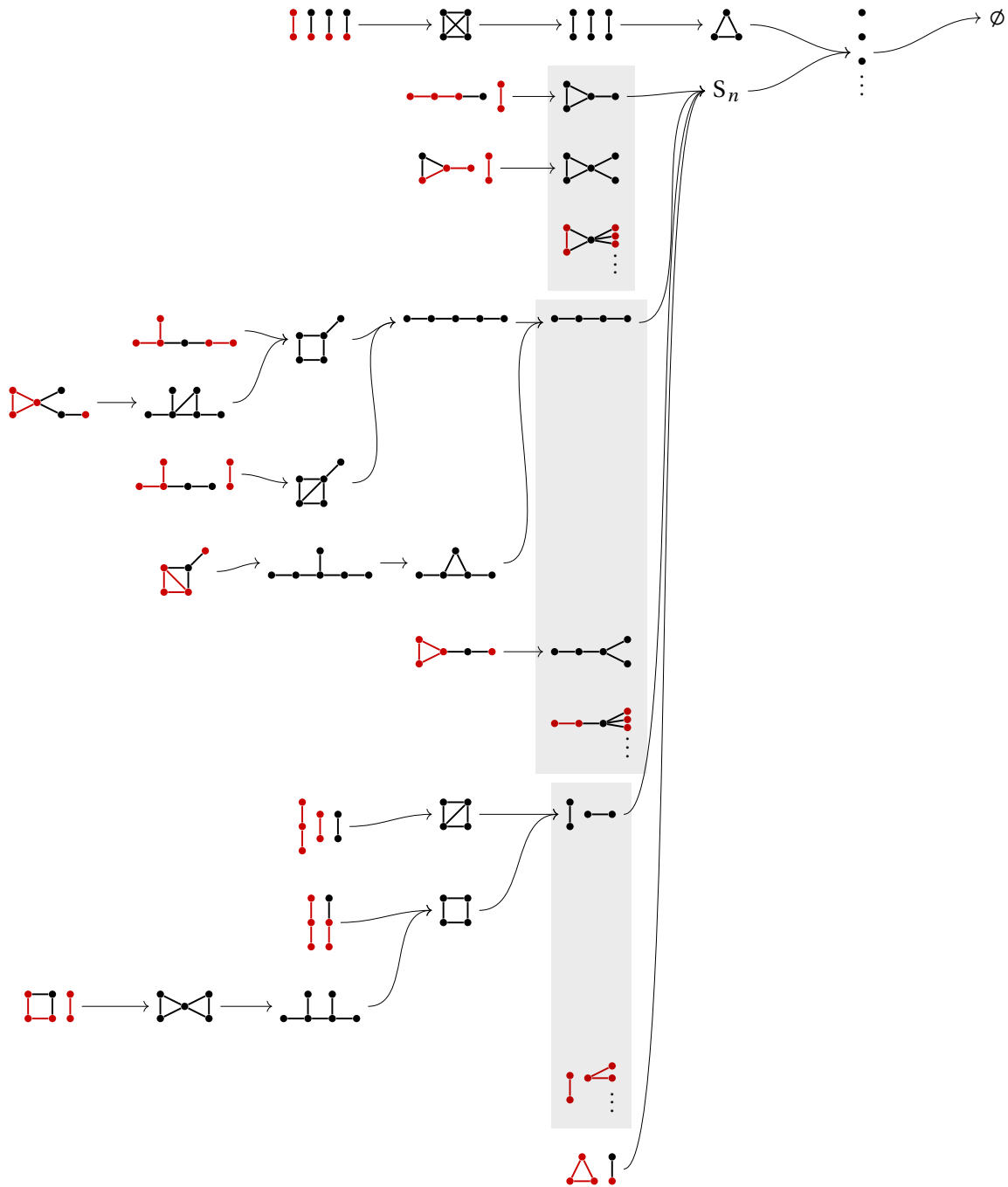


Figure 7: All graphs that dissipate. The arrows represent performing the jump graph operation. Isolated vertices are not drawn where they may appear. The d value of a given graph is found by counting the number of arrows from that graph to the empty set. Whenever a graph contains a forbidden induced subgraph from Figure 6, one such subgraph is highlighted in red.

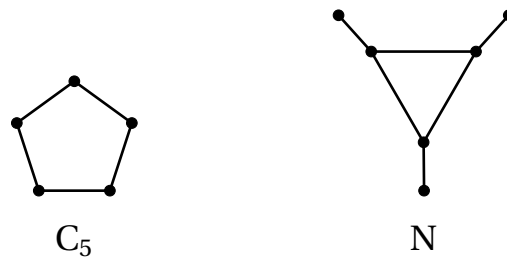


Figure 8: C_5 and the net graph N . These are the only graphs such that $G = J(G)$.

Definition 4.4. A graph G *accumulates* C_5 (resp. N) if there is some k such that $C_5 \subseteq J^k(G)$ (resp. $N \subseteq J^k(G)$).

Like with any d -infinite graph, if G has C_5 or N as a snapped subgraph, then it will have infinite d value by Proposition 2.14. The surprising result is that the converse turns out to be true. If $d(G) = \infty$, then G will accumulate C_5 or N . In the following two subsections, we will focus on proving this fact which will be completed in Theorem 5.1.

4.2 Some Useful Graphs

The proofs in Section 4.3 involve a decent amount of casework. In order to make this more manageable, we will introduce some useful graphs in addition to C_5 and N . Each of the following graphs has an infinite d value and accumulates C_5 . While performing casework in the next section, we can look for C_5 , N , or one of these other useful graphs as a snapped subgraph. If a graph G has one of these, then we know $d(G) = \infty$ and G accumulates C_5 or N .

By Corollary 2.15 and Lemma 2.13, if H is a snapped subgraph of G and $d(H) = \infty$, then $d(G) = \infty$ and $J(H) \subseteq J(G)$. We use this fact to show the following graphs have infinite d value and accumulate C_5 .

First, we have $K_{2,3}$ in Figure 9. The jump graph of $K_{2,3}$ has C_5 as a snapped subgraph. We conclude $d(K_{2,3}) = \infty$ and $K_{2,3}$ accumulates C_5 .



Figure 9: The graph $K_{2,3}$ and its jump graph.

Next, we have the **Bug Graph** in Figure 10. The jump graph of the Bug Graph has $K_{2,3}$ as a snapped subgraph. We conclude the Bug Graph has $d(G) = \infty$ and accumulates C_5 .



Figure 10: The Bug Graph and its jump graph.

Next, we have the **Stickman Graph** in Figure 11. The jump graph of the Stickman has $K_{2,3}$ as a subgraph. We conclude the Stickman has $d(G) = \infty$ and accumulates C_5 .



Figure 11: The Stickman Graph and its jump graph.

Lastly, we have the **Pendulum Graph** in Figure 12. The jump graph of the Pendulum has $K_{2,3}$ as a snipped subgraph. We conclude the Pendulum has $d(G) = \infty$ and accumulates C_5 .



Figure 12: The Pendulum Graph and its jump graph.

Remark 4.5. All of the names for the above graphs (except for $K_{2,3}$) are original. Some of the graphs have been given different names in other contexts, but we decided to use our own because of their memorable—and entertaining—nature. Of particular note is that the Bug Graph is sometimes called R because from a certain orientation it looks like the letter R.

4.3 Diameter and d -infinite graphs

In order to show that every graph with infinite d value accumulates C_5 or N , we will split all graphs into cases based on diameter. The *diameter* of a graph G is the length of the

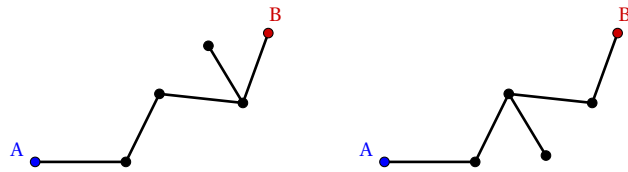


Figure 13: Graphs with five edges and diameter 4.

longest shortest path between any pair of vertices of G . The diameter of a disconnected graph is defined to be infinite.

Lemma 4.6. *If a connected graph G has a diameter of 5 or more then G is d -infinite and accumulates C_5 .*

Proof. If G has a diameter of at least 5 then there is some path in G of length 5. Thus, we have C_5 as a snipped subgraph so $d(G) = \infty$ by Proposition 2.14 and $C_5 \subseteq J(G)$ by Lemma 2.13. \square

Lemma 4.7. *Suppose G has a diameter of 4. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) G is d -infinite,
- (ii) G accumulates C_5 or N , and
- (iii) G has 6 or more edges.

Proof. Let P be a longest shortest path in G with a length of 4 and let P have endpoints A and B .

If G only has 4 edges, then $G = P$. In this case $d(G)$ is finite (see Figure 7). If G has 5 edges, then it must be one of the graphs in Figure 13, up to isomorphism, because of the diameter constraint. Both these graphs have finite d value, as they appear in Figure 7.

Now, let us consider when G has 6 or more edges. Then G has a connected subgraph consisting of P and two other edges. First, suppose that one of these edges has either A or B as an endpoint. This edge cannot have another endpoint in P . If it did, then we would contradict the assumption that P is a shortest path from A to B . Therefore, this additional edge and P form a path of length 5 in G , so C_5 is a snipped subgraph of G . This implies $d(G) = \infty$ and G accumulates C_5 .

Thus, we turn our attention to the possibilities where neither additional edge is adjacent to A or B . There are two cases: only one of two edges is adjacent to a vertex in P , or both edges are.

In this first case, we immediately have C_5 as a snipped subgraph given by the path P and the disjoint edge. One subgraph of this case is shown in Figure 14, with the snipped C_5 in bold. So in this case, G has an infinite d value and accumulates C_5 .

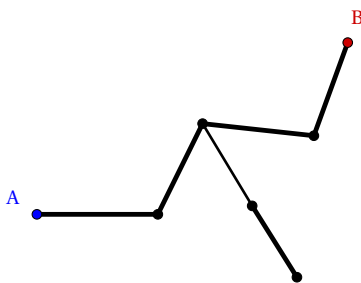


Figure 14: If G has two additional edges connected to P and only one is adjacent to a vertex in P , then G will have C_5 as a snipped subgraph.

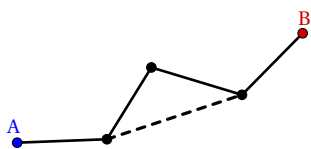


Figure 15: Adding the dashed edge above would shorten the distance from A to B .

Now, we address the second case: suppose that each additional edge has an endpoint which lies in P . The possibilities are restricted by the assumption that P is a shortest path between A and B . Adding the edges cannot create an alternative path from A to B that has a length less than 4. For instance, we cannot add an edge to P like the dashed edge in Figure 15.

There are two ways to add the additional edges so that they form a cycle in G , and there are four ways to add two edges that do not form a cycle; all options are shown in Figure 16. This can be confirmed by any exhaustive list of small graphs such as that in *Field guide to simple graphs* by Steinbach (1990) [5].

We claim that each of these graphs has an infinite d value and accumulates C_5 or N . First, graph (a) has P_5 as a subgraph and hence C_5 as a snipped subgraph. Next, both (b) and (d) have $K_{2,3}$ as a snipped subgraph. In (b) this can be seen by identifying vertices A and B . In (d), identify A and B with each other and v_1 and v_2 with each other. Graphs (c) and (f) both have the Bug as a snipped subgraph which can be seen by identifying vertices A and B . Lastly, graph (e) has the net graph N as a snipped subgraph. To see this, identify the vertices labeled v_1 and v_2 with each other.

Thus, if G has a diameter of 4 and at least 6 edges, it will have an infinite d value and accumulate C_5 or N . All graphs with diameter 4 and fewer than 6 edges will dissipate and therefore never accumulate C_5 or N . We have then shown the equivalence of the statements. \square

Lemma 4.8. *Suppose G has a diameter of 3. If $d(G) = \infty$, then it will accumulate C_5 or N . Furthermore, if G has at least 7 edges, then $d(G) = \infty$ with the single exception of the family in Figure 17.*

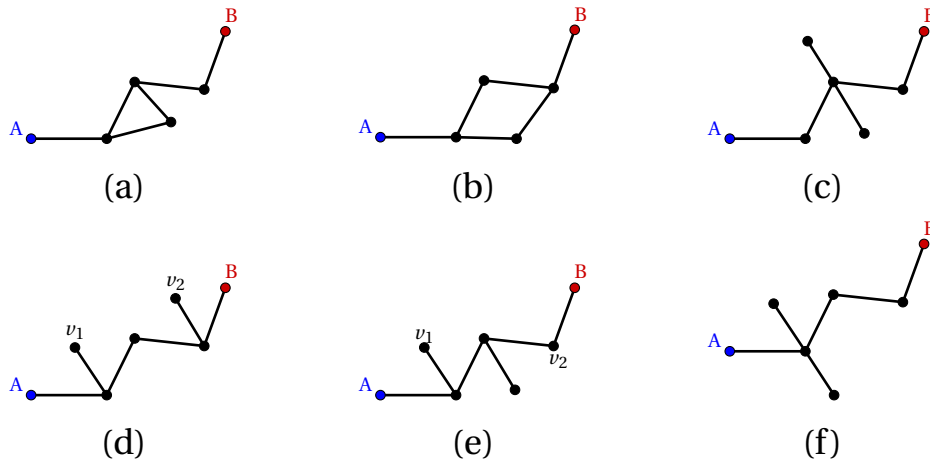


Figure 16: There are six ways to add two edges to P such that both are adjacent to a vertex in P which is not A or B and so that P remains a shortest path from A to B .

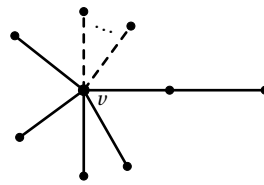


Figure 17: The only family graphs with diameter 3, at least 7 edges, and finite d -value. Any number of additional pendants can be added off vertex v .

Proof. Throughout this proof, whenever we say that a graph has finite d value “by explicit calculation,” one can look back to Figure 7 to find the relevant calculation.

Let P be a shortest path in G with length 3 and endpoints A and B . If G has 3 edges, then $G = P$. This graph has a finite d value by explicit calculation. If G has 4 edges, then it must be the graph in Figure 18, up to isomorphism. This graph also has finite d value by explicit calculation.

If G has 5 edges, then it can be one of five possible graphs shown in Figure 19. One can see that these are all the graphs with diameter 3 and 5 edges by referencing a list of small graphs such as that by Steinbach (1990) [5]. Each graph in Figure 19 has finite d value as shown by explicit calculation.



Figure 18: The only graph with diameter 3 and 4 edges.

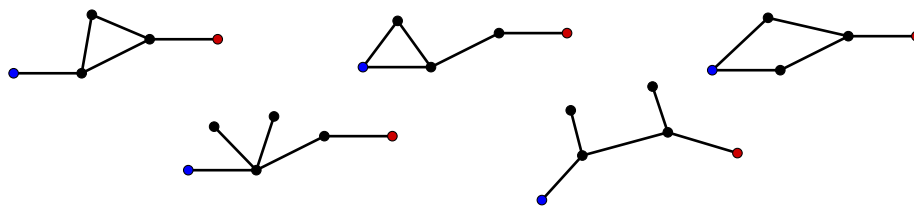


Figure 19: All graphs with diameter 3 and 5 edges.

Now, let us consider the graphs with diameter 3 and exactly 6 edges. The possibilities, up to isomorphism, are shown in Figure 20 which can be confirmed by referencing Steinbach (1990) [5].

Graphs (a) through (d) in Figure 20 have a finite d value which can be seen by explicit calculation. Graphs (e) through (k) each have infinite d value and accumulate C_5 or N : (e) is the Stickman, (f) is the Bug Graph, (g) is the Pendulum, (h) has P_5 as a subgraph, (i) is the net graph N , (j) has C_5 as a subgraph, and (k) has P_5 as a subgraph. Therefore, if G has 6 edges then it either has finite d value, or $d(G) = \infty$ and G accumulates C_5 or N .

Now, suppose that G has diameter 3 and 7 or more edges. Then G must have a connected subgraph containing 6 edges: P and 3 additional edges. If this subgraph has a diameter of 5 or greater, then it will contain C_5 as a snapped subgraph. This means $d(G) = \infty$ and G accumulates C_5 . If this subgraph has diameter 4, then by Lemma 4.7 we conclude that this subgraph—and consequently G —will have an infinite d value and accumulate C_5 or N . If this subgraph has diameter 3, then it must be one of the eleven graphs shown in Figure 20. The subgraph cannot have diameter less than 3 because we are assuming that P is a shortest path between A and B .

If the subgraph of G is isomorphic to graphs (e) through (k) in Figure 20, we have already shown that it is d -infinite and accumulates C_5 or N , so by Lemmas 2.15 and 2.3, $d(G) = \infty$ and G accumulates C_5 or N . Now, we will show that if G *strictly* contains any of the graphs (a) through (d), it will have $d = \infty$ and accumulate C_5 or N , except if G is part of the family shown in Figure 17.

Before beginning the casework, we make two observations.

1. Consider the graph (a) as shown in Figure 20 and notice that each of the white vertices are identical under graph automorphism. Thus, without loss of generality, we will consider additions to graph (a) involving v_1 as a representative for all cases involving one white vertex since all other white vertices will follow the same logic as v_1 .
2. Now consider two graphs formed by adding an edge to graph (a): in the first, connect any non-adjacent vertices v_i and v_j with an edge; in the second, add a pendant edge to v_i . The second graph has the first graph as a snapped subgraph. Because of this fact, we need not consider adding pendant edges to the graph

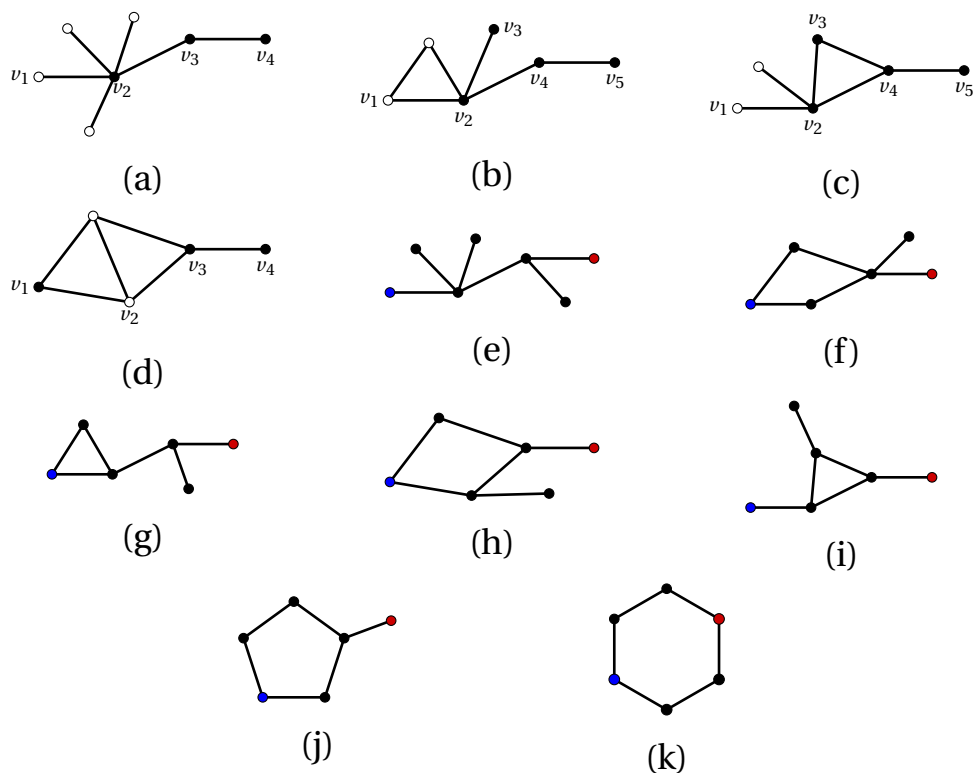


Figure 20: All graphs with a diameter of 3 and 6 edges. Graphs (a) - (d) have finite d value while graphs (e) - (k) have infinite d value.

unless there is a vertex which cannot be connected to any other vertex in the graph.

As we now examine graphs (a) through (d) from Figure 20 separately, we will apply these two observations in the casework for each graph.

First, we look at graph (a). Adding an edge between v_1 and v_4 will give the Bug as a subgraph, and adding an edge between v_1 and v_3 gives the Stickman as a subgraph. If we add an edge between two white vertices, we again acquire the Bug as a snipped subgraph. Adding an edge between v_2 and v_4 gives a graph with finite d value, but with diameter 2. This means that G must strictly contain this graph and fall into another case. Finally, we consider adding a pendant to v_2 . This graph has finite d value and is part of the one exceptional family in Figure 17. So if G contains (a) as a strict subgraph and is not part of the family given in Figure 17, then $d(G) = \infty$ and G accumulates C_5 .

Next, we consider graph (b). Adding an edge between v_1 and v_3 or v_1 and v_4 gives a path of length 5. An additional edge between v_1 and v_5 gives C_5 as a subgraph. Adding an edge between v_2 and v_5 results in the Bowtie Graph with a pendant off the center vertex. The jump graph of this graph has the Stickman as a subgraph (see graph (viii) and its jump graph in Figure 21). If we add an edge from v_3 to v_4 , we have a path of length 5. Finally, an edge between v_3 and v_5 results in a graph with the Bug as a subgraph. Thus, if G contains graph (b) as a strict subgraph, it will have infinite d value and accumulate C_5 .

Now we consider ways that G can have graph (c) as a strict subgraph. Adding an edge between two white vertices will give a path of length 5, and adding an edge between v_1 and v_3 also gives a path of length 5. If we connect v_1 and v_4 with an edge, we have $K_{2,3}$ as a snipped subgraph. Connecting v_1 and v_5 with an edge gives C_5 as a subgraph. Lastly, if we add an edge between v_2 and v_5 or v_3 and v_5 we have the Bug as a subgraph. This tells us that if G contains graph (c) as a strict subgraph, it will be d -infinite and accumulate C_5 .

Lastly, we check the graph (d) case. If we add an edge between v_1 and v_3 , the resulting graph is K_4 with a pendant edge off one vertex. The jump graph of this graph has $K_{2,3}$ as a snipped subgraph. Connecting v_1 and v_4 with an edge gives $K_{2,3}$ as a subgraph. Finally, if we add an edge between v_2 and v_4 , we have C_5 as a subgraph. Hence, any G with graph (d) as a strict subgraph will have $d(G) = \infty$ and accumulate C_5 .

This concludes the proof for the diameter 3 case. If G strictly contains any of graphs (a) through (d) and G is not part of the family given in Figure 17, then it will have infinite d value and accumulate C_5 . \square

Lemma 4.9. *Suppose G has a diameter of 2. If $d(G) = \infty$, then G will accumulate C_5 . Furthermore, if $d(G)$ is finite then G is one of the graphs in Figure 21.*

Proof. We begin by pointing the reader to Figure 7 to check that all graphs in Figure 21 have finite d value.

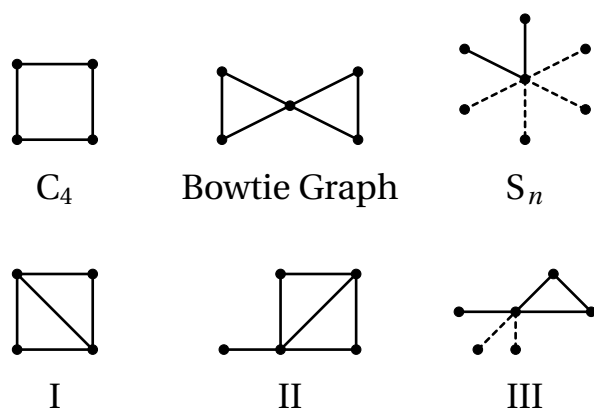


Figure 21: All graphs and families of graphs with a diameter of 2 which dissipate.

If G has no cycles then it must be a star graph. All star graphs have a finite d value, namely $d(S_n) = 2$. The family of star graphs is listed in Figure 21.

If G has a cycle C_n with $n \geq 5$, then G will have C_5 as a snipped subgraph. By applying Lemma 2.13, we know that $d(G) = \infty$ and G will accumulate C_5 .

Now suppose that G has C_4 as a subgraph. If $G = C_4$, then it has finite d value and is listed in Figure 21. If $C_4 \subseteq G$ and G has exactly 5 edges then G must be graph I in Figure 21 due to the diameter constraint, so again G has finite d value.

We then suppose that $C_4 \subseteq G$ and G has exactly 6 edges. All options for G are found by considering ways to add two edges to C_4 while maintaining a diameter of 2. We find that G is one of graphs (i), (ii), or (iii) in Figure 22. Graph (i) has finite d value and appears in Figure 21 as graph II. Graph (ii) has C_5 as a subgraph and graph (iii) is $K_{2,3}$ so both of these graphs have infinite d value and accumulate C_5 .

Next suppose that $C_4 \subseteq G$ and G has exactly 7 edges. If G has graph (ii) or graph (iii) as a subgraph, then it will have infinite d value and accumulate C_5 . We consider all the ways to add three edges to C_4 without obtaining one of these subgraphs. There are two possibilities for G : graph (iv) and graph (v) in Figure 22. The jump graph of (iv) has $K_{2,3}$ as a snipped subgraph so (iv) has infinite d value and accumulates C_5 . Graph (v) has the Bug as a subgraph so (v) also has infinite d value and accumulates C_5 .

Finally, suppose that $C_4 \subseteq G$ and G has 8 or more edges. We consider all the ways to add four edges to C_4 while maintaining a diameter of 2. Any way we do this, we acquire one of graphs (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v) as a subgraph. Thus, G will have infinite d value and accumulate C_5 .

Next, we assume that G has C_3 as a subgraph and no C_4 . Note that $\text{diam}(C_3) = 1 \neq 2$ so G must strictly contain C_3 . This implies G has graph (vii) in Figure 23 as a subgraph. We consider what additions we can make to (vii) which preserve a diameter of 2 and do not create a cycle of length 4 or more. With these conditions, we are limited to adding pendant edges to vertex v or adding an edge between the leaf vertices of two pendants to

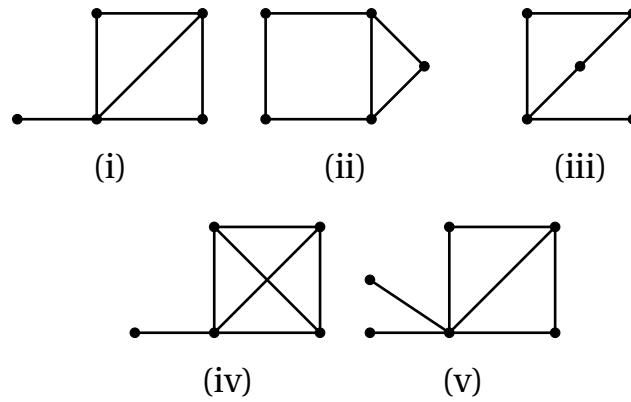


Figure 22: Graphs appearing in the C_4 casework of the proof of Lemma 4.9.

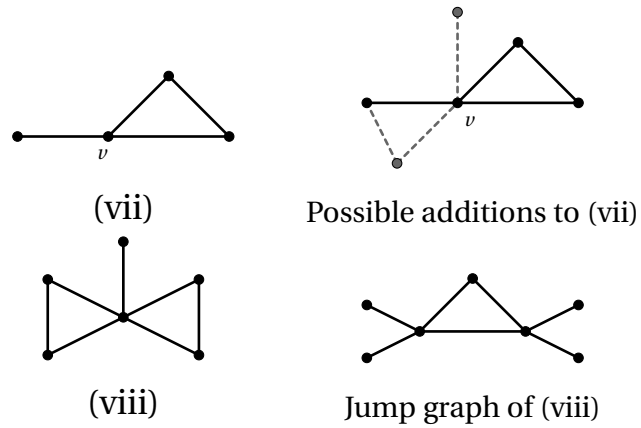


Figure 23: Graphs appearing in the C_3 casework of the proof of Lemma 4.9.

create another C_3 . These additions are shown in Figure 23. If no additional C_3 's are made, then G is in family III in Figure 21 and it dissipates. If one additional C_3 is made and there are no pendant edges, then G is the Bowtie Graph in Figure 21. In all other cases, G must have graph (viii) in Figure 23 as a subgraph. The jump graph of (iii) contains the Stickman as a subgraph so it has infinite d value and accumulates C_5 . Hence, in this case G also has $d(G) = \infty$ and accumulates C_5 . \square

5 Culminating Results

In Subsection 4.3, we showed that every connected d -infinite graph of diameter 2 or more will accumulate C_5 or N . In the following theorem, we will bring Lemmas 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, and 4.9 together to show that every d -infinite graph accumulates C_5 or N .

Theorem 5.1 (Accumulation Theorem). *A graph G is d -infinite if and only if G accumulates C_5 or N .*

Proof. First, suppose that G accumulates C_5 or N . Then there is some $k \geq 1$ such that $J^k(G)$ contains C_5 or N as a subgraph. It follows directly from Corollary 2.15 that $d(J^k(G)) = \infty$ and consequently, $d(G) = \infty$.

Next, assume that G is d -infinite. We claim that it must accumulate C_5 or N . Suppose first that G is connected. If G has a diameter of 2 or more, then by Lemmas 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, and 4.9, it will accumulate C_5 or N . If $\text{diam}(G) = 1$, then $G = K_n$ for some n . For $n < 5$, we know $d(K_n)$ is finite as can be checked through explicit calculation (see Figure 7). For $n \geq 5$, we observe that K_n has C_5 as a subgraph. Thus, if G has diameter 1 and $d(G) = \infty$, it must have C_5 as a subgraph. Therefore, if G is a connected graph and $d(G) = \infty$, then G accumulates C_5 or N .

Now suppose G is not a connected graph so it has at least two connected components. We will assume G has no isolated vertices, implying that each component contains an edge. Let the connected components of G be $\{H_i\}_{i=1}^n$, such that $H_i \cap H_j = \emptyset$ if $i \neq j$ and $\bigcup_{i=1}^n H_i = G$. We show that $J(G)$ is a connected graph.

Let e_1 and e_2 be vertices in $J(G)$ and we find a path from e_1 to e_2 in $J(G)$. Suppose first that the edges e_1 and e_2 are in different components in G such that $e_1 \in H_i$ and $e_2 \in H_j$ for $i \neq j$. Then, e_1 and e_2 are non-incident in G so the edge $\{e_1, e_2\}$ exists in $J(G)$ and this forms a path of length 1 from e_1 to e_2 . Next, suppose that the edges e_1 and e_2 are both in H_k for some k . Let H_j be another component ($j \neq k$) and let e_j be an edge in H_j . Then e_j is non-incident to both e_1 and e_2 so the edges $\{e_1, e_j\}$ and $\{e_j, e_2\}$ are in $J(G)$. These edges form a path of length 2 from vertex e_1 to vertex e_2 in $J(G)$. Therefore, $J(G)$ is a connected graph. By the argument above, $J(G)$ must accumulate C_5 or N so G does as well. \square

Now that we know every d -infinite graph accumulates C_5 or N , we can ask about the end behavior of the sequence $\{J^k(G)\}$ for a given graph G . We know that if G is C_5 or N ,

then the number of edges in $J^k(G)$ will stay constant as $k \rightarrow \infty$. But what happens for a d -infinite graph which is not C_5 or N ? Is there such a G where the number of edges in $J^k(G)$ is constant? Or is there some G where $J^K(G) = G$ for $K > 1$, resulting in a cycle of iterated jump graphs? As it turns out, the answer to both these questions is “no”. Every d -infinite graph which is not C_5 or N will grow without bound under the jump graph operation. We will spend the rest of this paper proving this fascinating result.

Lemma 5.2. *Suppose G has C_5 or the net graph N as a strict subgraph, then $|E(J^k(G))| \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.*

Proof. First, suppose that G has C_5 as a strict subgraph. We claim that the number of edges in $J^k(G)$ cannot decrease. Notice that every edge in G must be non-incident to at least one edge in the C_5 . Hence, for each edge in G , we add at least 1 to the edge count in $J(G)$. Therefore, $|E(G)| \leq |E(J(G))|$. If G has C_5 as a strict subgraph, $J(G)$ will as well and so we apply this logic iteratively to conclude $|E(J^k(G))| \leq |E(J^{k+1}(G))|$ for all $k \geq 1$. To show that $|E(J^k(G))| \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, we start by observing that if G has C_5 as a strict subgraph, then G must have the graph Γ depicted in Figure 24 as a snipped subgraph.

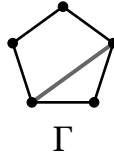


Figure 24: If G has C_5 as a strict subgraph, it has Γ as a snipped subgraph.

Applying Lemma 2.13 iteratively, we can conclude that $J^k(\Gamma) \subseteq J^k(G)$ for all $k \geq 1$. We will show that $|E(J^k(\Gamma))| \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, and then this must also be true for G .

To do this, we will prove that for all $k \geq 1$,

$$J^k(\Gamma) \subseteq J^{k+1}(\Gamma) \tag{2}$$

and

$$|E(J^{k+1}(\Gamma))| \geq |E(J^k(\Gamma))| + 2. \tag{3}$$

We proceed by induction. The first and second jump graphs of Γ are shown in Figure 25; these establish (2) and (3) for $k = 1$.

Now assume that (2) and (3) hold for k and we show they also hold for $k + 1$. Because $J^k(\Gamma) \subseteq J^{k+1}(\Gamma)$, we apply Lemma 2.13 to conclude that $J^{k+1}(\Gamma) \subseteq J^{k+2}(\Gamma)$ and this establishes that (2) holds for $k + 1$. Let H be a subgraph of $J^{k+1}(\Gamma)$ that is isomorphic to $J^k(\Gamma)$ and let E' be the set of all edges in $J^{k+1}(\Gamma)$ which are not in H . As in the discussion in the first paragraph of this proof, every edge in E' must add at least 1 to the total edge count of $J^{k+2}(\Gamma)$. Because equation (3) holds for k , we know $|E'| \geq 2$ and this gives

$$|E(J^{k+2}(\Gamma))| \geq |E(J(H))| + |E'| = |E(J^k(\Gamma))| + |E'| = |E(J^k(\Gamma))| + 2$$

which establishes (3) for $k + 1$. By induction, we conclude that (2) and (3) are true for all $k \geq 1$. Since the number of edges in the k^{th} jump graph of Γ is a strictly increasing sequence of natural numbers for $k \geq 1$, it must be unbounded. Hence, $|E(J^k(\Gamma))| \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

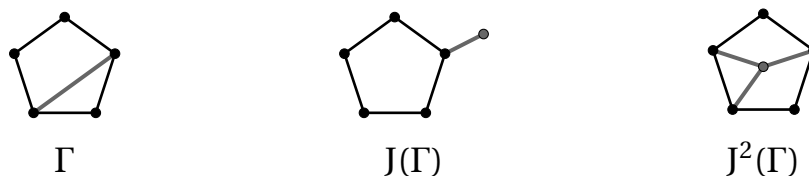


Figure 25: Graph Γ and its first and second jump graphs.

In the other case, suppose that G has N as a strict subgraph and consider the number of edges in $J(G)$. We know $|E(J(G))| \geq 6$ because $N \subseteq J(G)$. Now let $E' \subseteq E(G)$ be the set of edges in G which are not in the subgraph N . Every edge $e \in E'$ must be non-incident to at least two edges in $N \subseteq G$ because of the structure of N . Hence, every $e \in E'$ will add at least 2 to the total edge count of $J(G)$. This observation, and the fact that $|E(G)| = |E'| + 6$, means that

$$|E(J(G))| \geq 2|E'| + |E(N)| = 2|E'| + 6 = |E'| + |E(G)|.$$

If G has N as a *strict* subgraph, then $|E'| \geq 1$ and so we have $|E(J(G))| \geq |E(G)| + 1$. Then notice that $J(G)$ must also have N as a strict subgraph and we apply this logic again. Following this reasoning iteratively, we have $|E(J^{k+1}(G))| \geq |E(J^k(G))| + 1$ for all $k \geq 1$. The number of edges in $J^k(G)$ is then a strictly increasing sequence of natural numbers, implying that it must be unbounded. Hence, we have $|E(J^k(G))| \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. \square

Corollary 5.3. *If G has C_5 or the net graph N as a snipped subgraph and $G \neq C_5$, $G \neq N$, then $|E(J^k(G))| \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.*

Proof. If G has C_5 as a snipped subgraph, then $J(G)$ will have C_5 as a subgraph by Lemma 2.13. Assuming that G differs from C_5 by more than isolated vertices, we know that $J(G) \neq J(C_5) = C_5$. Hence, we conclude that $J(G)$ has C_5 as a strict subgraph. Applying Lemma 5.2, we come to the desired conclusion. The same argument can be applied to N . \square

Theorem 5.4 (Exploding Graph Theorem). *If G has infinite d value and G is not C_5 or the net graph N , then $|E(J^k(G))| \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.*

Proof. Suppose that G is a graph and $d(G) = \infty$. Then, by the Accumulation Theorem (5.1), we know that G accumulates C_5 or the net graph N . Since G is not either of these graphs, there must be some k such that $J^k(G)$ has C_5 or N as a strict subgraph. Hence, by Lemma 5.2, we know that $|E(J^k(G))| \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. \square

Theorem 5.5. *For any non-empty graph G , the following are equivalent.*

(i) $J(G) = G$.

(ii) $J^k(G) = G$ for some k .

(iii) G is C_5 or N .

Proof. The implication (i) \Rightarrow (ii) is immediate and we have already discussed the implication (iii) \Rightarrow (i). Hence, we only need to show that (ii) implies (iii). Note that if (ii) is true, then we know $J^{nk}(G) = G$ for all positive integers n .

Suppose that $J^{k_0}(G) = G$ for some positive integer k_0 . If there is some d such that $J^d(G) = \emptyset$, then we can find a positive integer n such that $d \leq nk_0$. This means that $J^{nk_0}(G) = \emptyset$ but also $J^{nk_0}(G) = G$ by assumption, providing a contradiction. Hence, we know that $d(G) = \infty$. The Accumulation Theorem (5.1) implies that G will accumulate C_5 or N . Suppose that G accumulates C_5 or N as a strict subgraph. By Lemma 5.2, we see that the number of edges must increase without bound as we continue taking jump graphs. This produces a contradiction because $J^{nk_0}(G) = G$ for any positive integer n so the sequence $\{|E(J^k(G))|\}$ must be repeating and therefore bounded. Hence, G does not have C_5 or N as a strict subgraph but still accumulates one of the two graphs. This implies that $G = C_5$ or $G = N$. \square

Corollary 5.6. *If a graph G is not C_5 or the net graph N , then there is no $k \geq 1$ such that $J^k(G) = G$.*

The above is an immediate corollary of Theorem 5.5.

Acknowledgements

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