

Adjoinable maps for graphs

MILOSLAV ŠTĚPÁN

SSAOS2026

JOINT W/

JAKOB FÜHRER

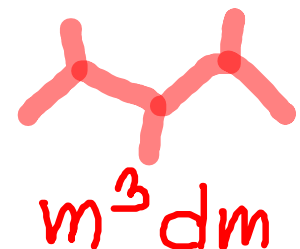
JOHANNES KEPLER

MÁRIA ŠIMKOVÁ

MASARYK UNIVERSITY

JKU

FWF



Plan:

1. MOTIVATION
2. ELEMENTARY EXAMPLES
3. OBSERVATIONS
4. CYCLES & PATHS
5. OPEN QUESTIONS

DEFINITION)

GIVEN GRAPHS $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$, $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$

A FUNCTION $f: V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ IS **ADJOINTABLE**

IF THERE IS $g: V_2 \rightarrow V_1$

SUCH THAT:

$$f(v_1)v_2 \in E_2 \iff v_1 g(v_2) \in E_1$$

FOR ALL $v_1 \in V_1, v_2 \in V_2$

I DENOTE **$f: G_1 \rightarrow G_2$**

Plan:

1. MOTIVATION
2. FIRST EXAMPLES
3. OBSERVATIONS
4. CYCLES & PATHS
5. OPEN QUESTIONS

LET $(\mathcal{H}, \langle -, - \rangle), (\mathcal{K}, \langle -, - \rangle)$ BE HILBERT SPACES.
TAKE A PAIR OF LINEAR MAPS

$$\mathcal{H} \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{f} \end{matrix} \mathcal{K}$$

SATISFYING $\langle f u, v \rangle = \langle u, g v \rangle$
FOR ALL $u \in \mathcal{H}, v \in \mathcal{K}$

CONSIDER GRAPHS $(\mathcal{H}, \perp), (\mathcal{K}, \perp)$
 ADJOINTABLE MAPS

$$(\mathcal{H}, \perp) \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{f} \end{matrix} (\mathcal{K}, \perp)$$



[PV25], [FF13]

GIVEN GRAPHS $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$, $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$
A FUNCTION $f: V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ IS ADJOINTABLE
IF THERE IS $g: V_2 \rightarrow V_1$
SUCH THAT:
$$f(v_1)v_2 \in E_2 \iff v_1g(v_2) \in E_1$$

- f, g BIJECTIVE, THE PAIR (f, g^{-1})
IS AN ISOTOPY OF [Zelinka72]

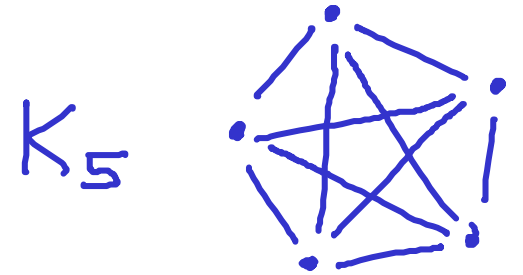
ALSO CALLED A TF-AUTOMORPHISM
[LMS11]

- f BIJECTIVE SELF-ADJOINT
IN [HIK11]

Plan:

1. MOTIVATION
2. FIRST EXAMPLES
3. OBSERVATIONS
4. CYCLES & PATHS
5. OPEN QUESTIONS

DENOTE BY K_m THE COMPLETE GRAPH
ON VERTICES $\{0, \dots, m-1\}$



PROPOSITION $K_m \xrightleftharpoons[\ell]{g} K_m$

ADJOINT **IFF** $m = m$ & $\ell = g^{-1}$

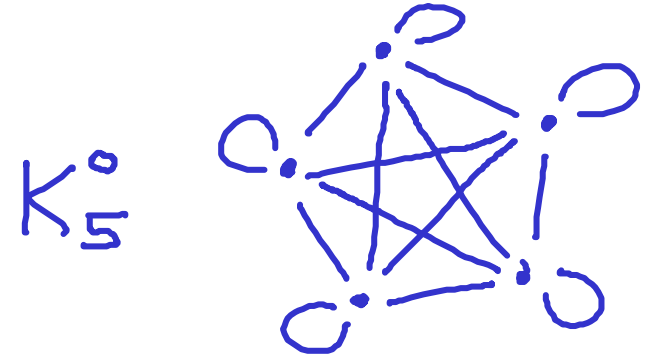
PROOF:

$$\ell(x) \neq y \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad x \neq g(y)$$

$$\text{I.E.} \quad \ell(x) = y \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad x = g(y)$$

PUT $x := g(y)$, GET $\ell(g(y)) = y$. □

DENOTE BY K_m° THE COMPLETE GRAPH
WITH LOOPS



PROPOSITION ANY TWO FUNCTIONS

$$K_m^\circ \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{f} \end{matrix} K_m^\circ \text{ ARE ADJOINT.}$$

GIVEN GRAPH $G = (V, E)$ AND $v \in V$,

DENOTE $N(v) := \{x \in V \mid vx \in E\}$

PROPOSITION $f: (V_1, E_1) \rightarrow (V_2, E_2)$

IS ADJOINTABLE IFF

FOR ALL $y \in V_2$ THERE IS $x_y \in V_1$
S.T. $f^{-1}(N(y)) = N(x_y)$

// PREIMAGE OF A NEIGHBORHOOD
IS A NEIGHBORHOOD //

EXAMPLE THE UNIQUE FUNCTION

$f: G \rightarrow K_1$ IS ADJOINTABLE

IFF G ADMITS AN ISOLATED VERTEX

$$f^{-1}(N(*)) = \emptyset \stackrel{?}{=} N(x) \quad \text{FOR } x \in V$$

DEFINITION) A PERFECT CODE IN
 $G = (V, E)$ IS A SUBSET $S \subseteq V$ S.T.

$\forall x \in V \quad \exists! a \in S$ SUCH THAT
 $x \in N(a) \cup \{a\}$

PROPOSITION LET G BE A GRAPH.
PERFECT CODES $\equiv$ ADJOINTABLE
IN G MAPS $K_n \rightarrow \overline{G}$

COMPLEMENT
OF G



Plan:

1. MOTIVATION
2. FIRST EXAMPLES
3. OBSERVATIONS
4. CYCLES & PATHS
5. OPEN QUESTIONS

DEFINITION) A GRAPH HOMOMORPHISM

$$\mathcal{R} : (V_1, E_1) \longrightarrow (V_2, E_2)$$

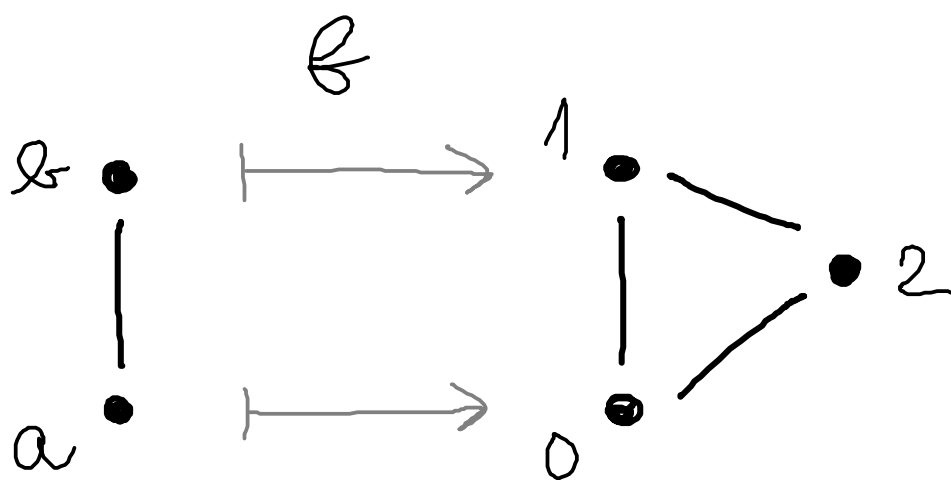
A FUNCTION $\mathcal{R} : V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ SATISFYING

$$v_1 v_2 \in E_1 \Rightarrow \mathcal{R}(v_1) \mathcal{R}(v_2) \in E_2$$



GRAPH HOMOMORPHISM

$\nRightarrow$ ADJOINTABLE



$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(N(2)) &= f^{-1}(\{0, 1\}) \\ &= \{a, b\} \end{aligned}$$

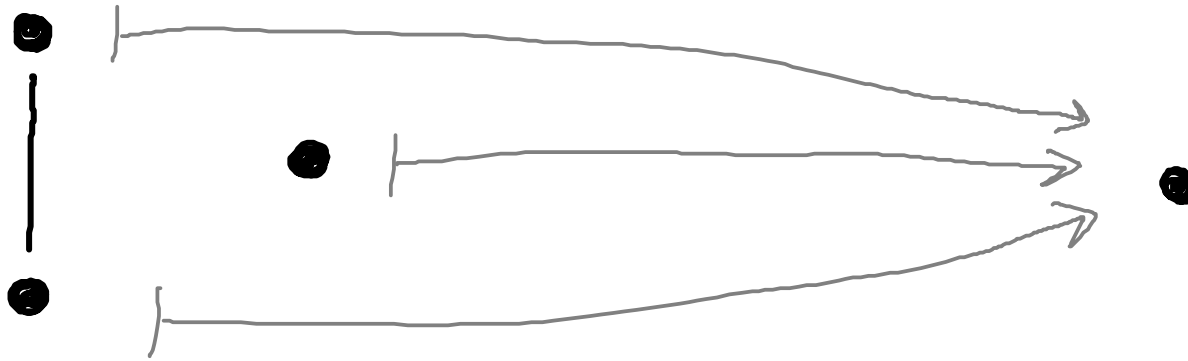
$$\neq N(a)$$

$$\neq N(b)$$



ADJOINTABLE ~~$\Rightarrow$~~

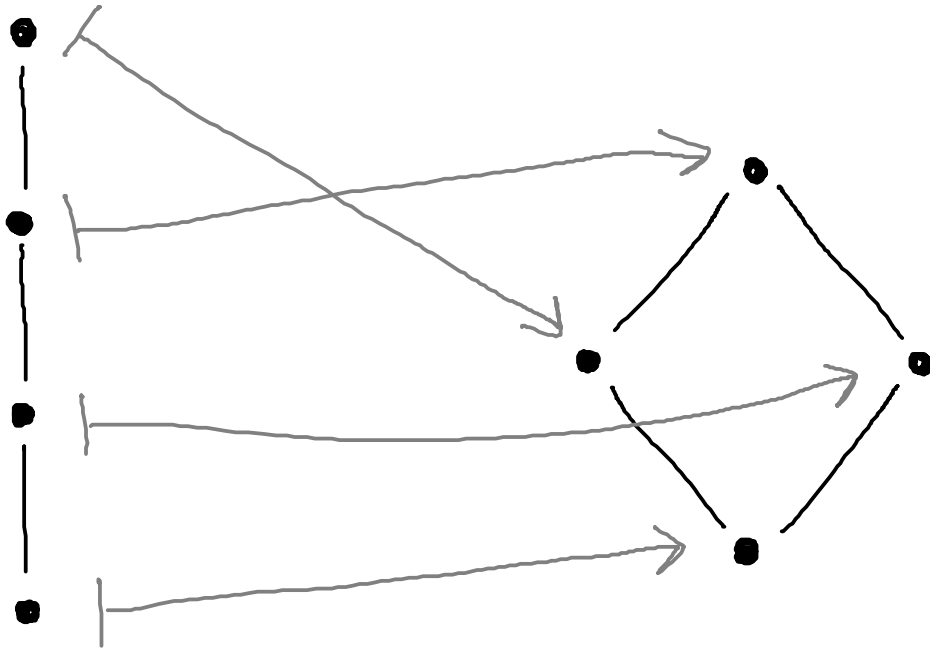
GRAPH HOMOMORPHISM

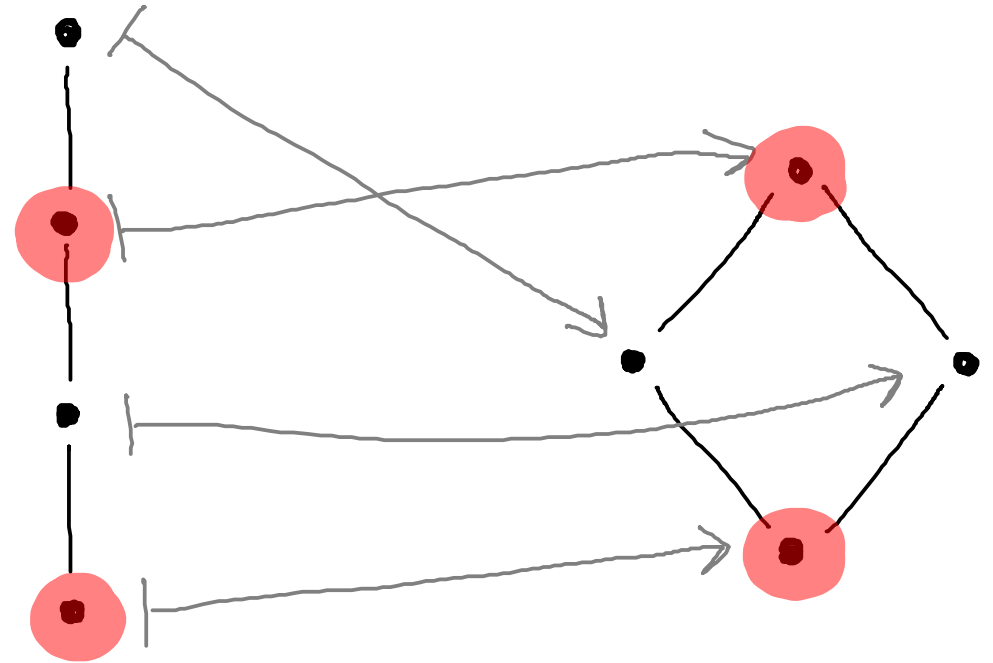
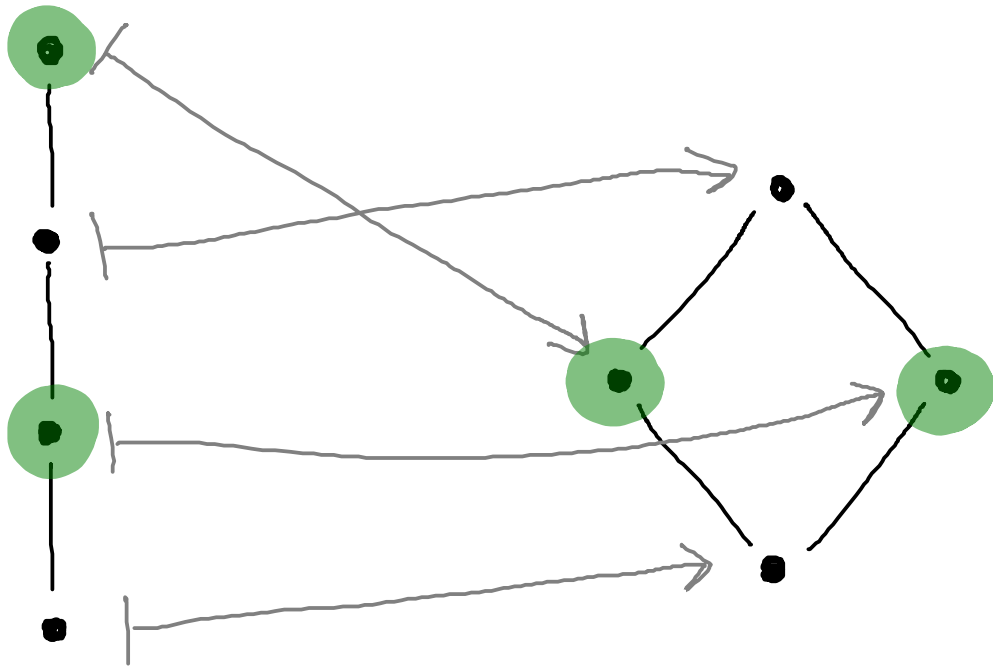




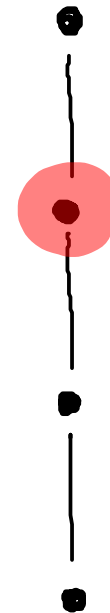
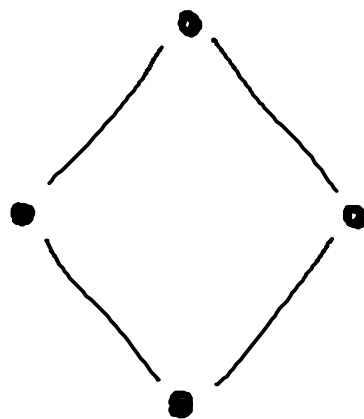
$f : G \rightarrow G'$ ADJOINTABLE
BIJECTION

~~$\Rightarrow$~~ f^{-1} ADJOINTABLE





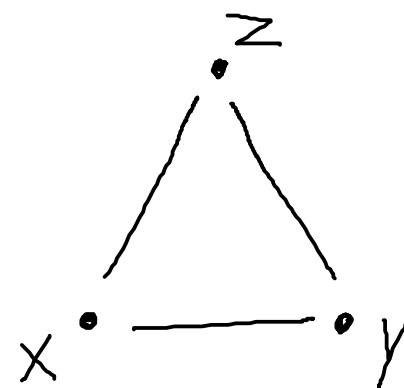
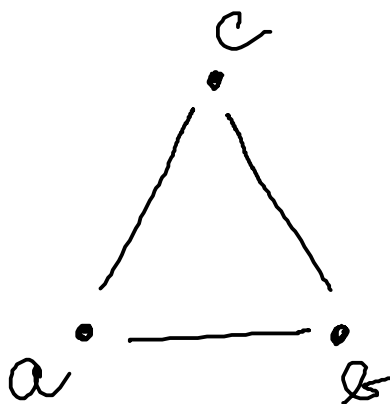
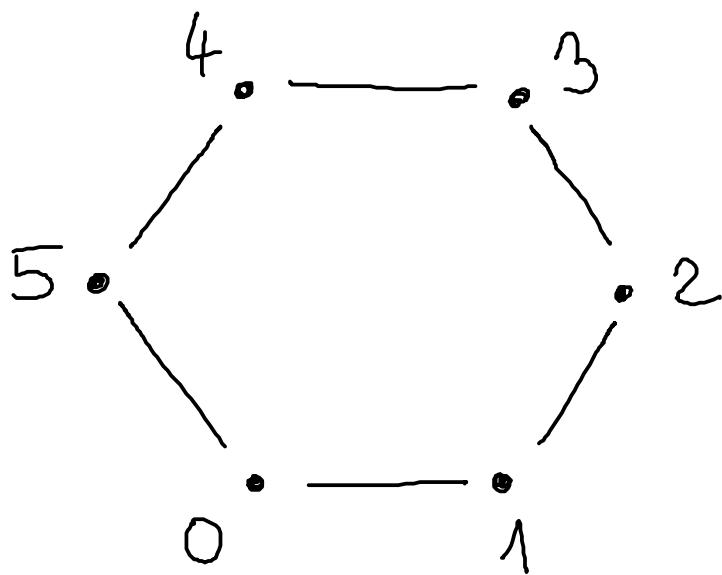
BUT THERE IS NO ADJOINTABLE
BIJECTION





CAN THERE BE
ADJOINTABLE BIJECTIONS

$G \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{g} \\ \xrightarrow{f} \end{matrix} G'$ WHEN $G \not\cong G'$? YES:

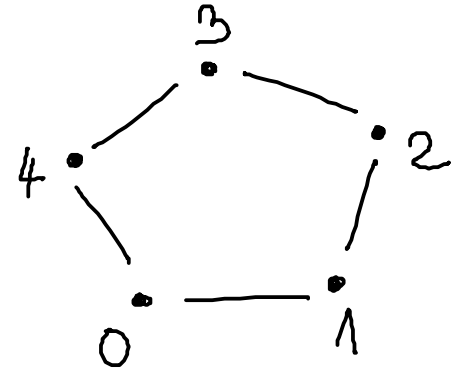


ALSO SEE [LMS11]

Plan:

1. MOTIVATION
2. FIRST EXAMPLES
3. OBSERVATIONS
4. CYCLES & PATHS
5. OPEN QUESTIONS

DENOTE BY C_m THE CYCLE GRAPH
ON VERTICES $\{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$

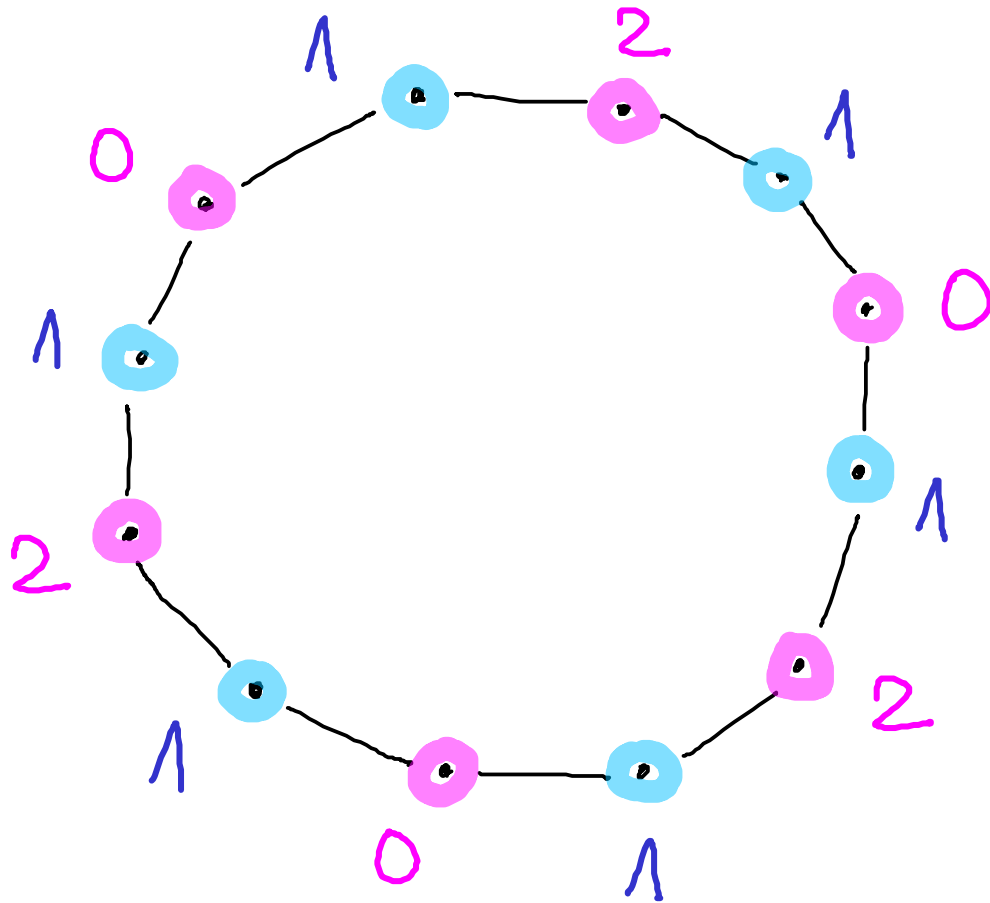


THEOREM LET $m \geq 5$.

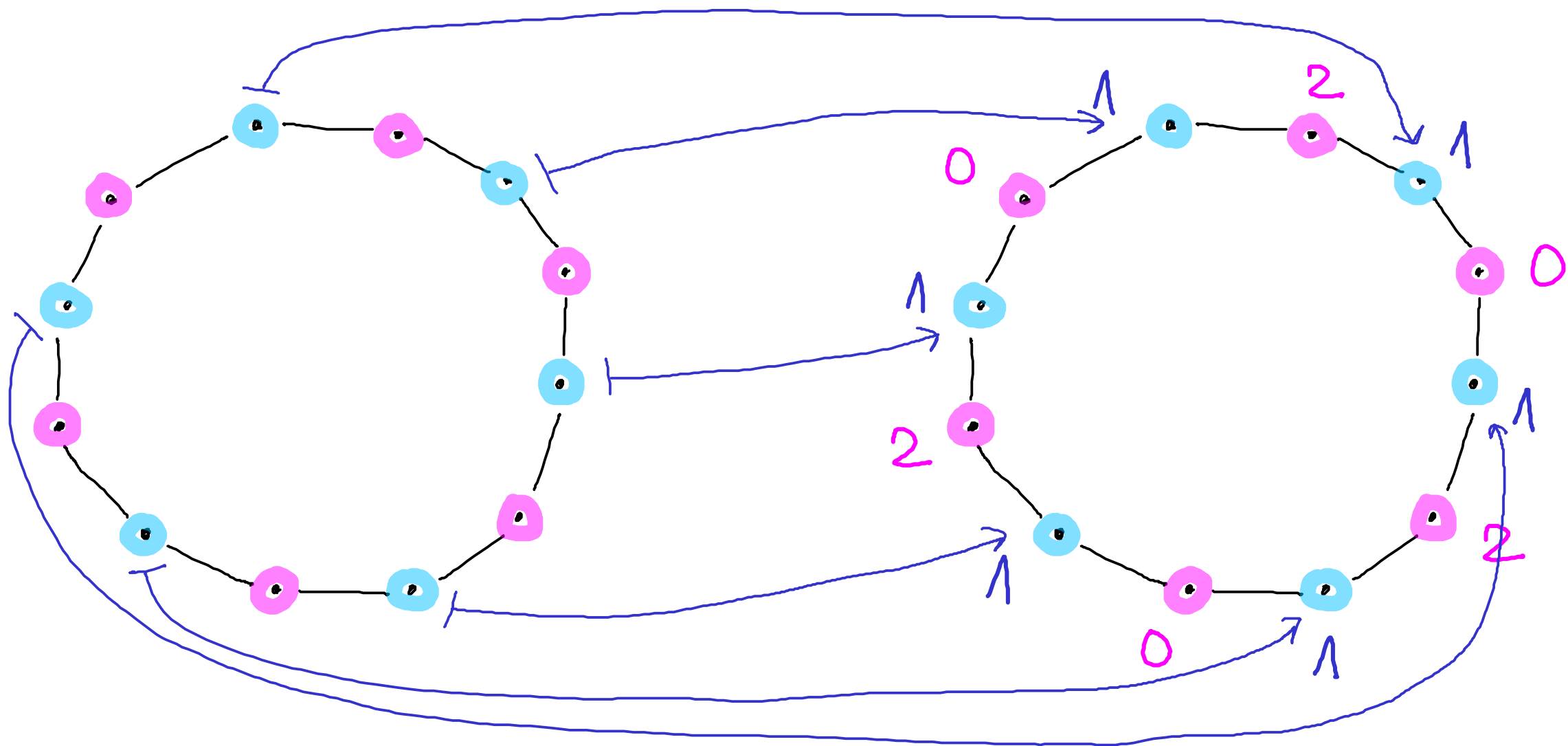
THE NUMBER OF ADJOINTABLE
MAPS $C_m \rightarrow C_m$ IS:

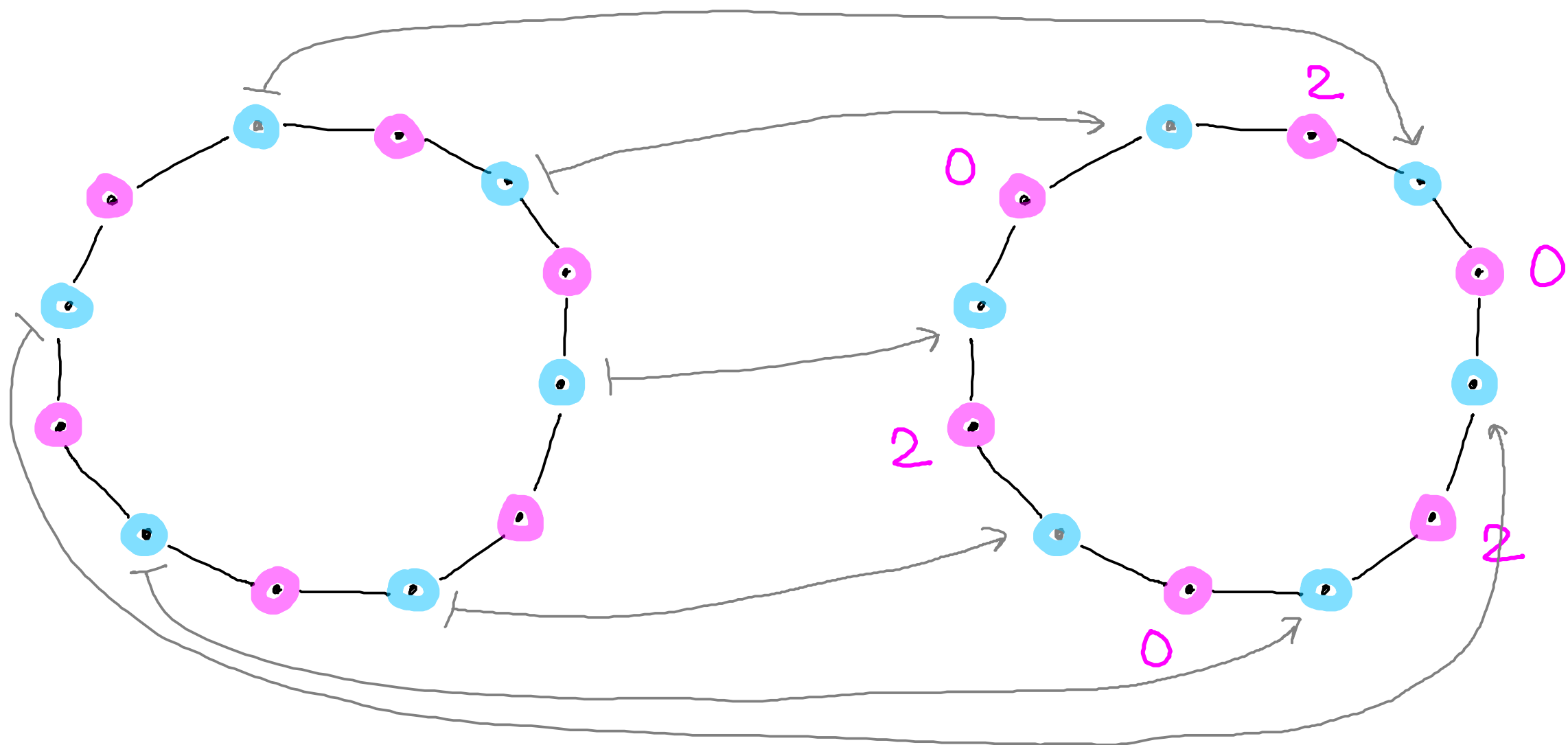
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 2m & \text{WHEN } m \text{ IS ODD} \\ 2m^2 & \text{WHEN } m \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, m \geq 6 \\ 2m^2 + 16m \left(\frac{m}{4}\right)! + 16 \left(\frac{m}{2}\right)! & \text{WHEN } m \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, m \geq 8 \end{array} \right.$$

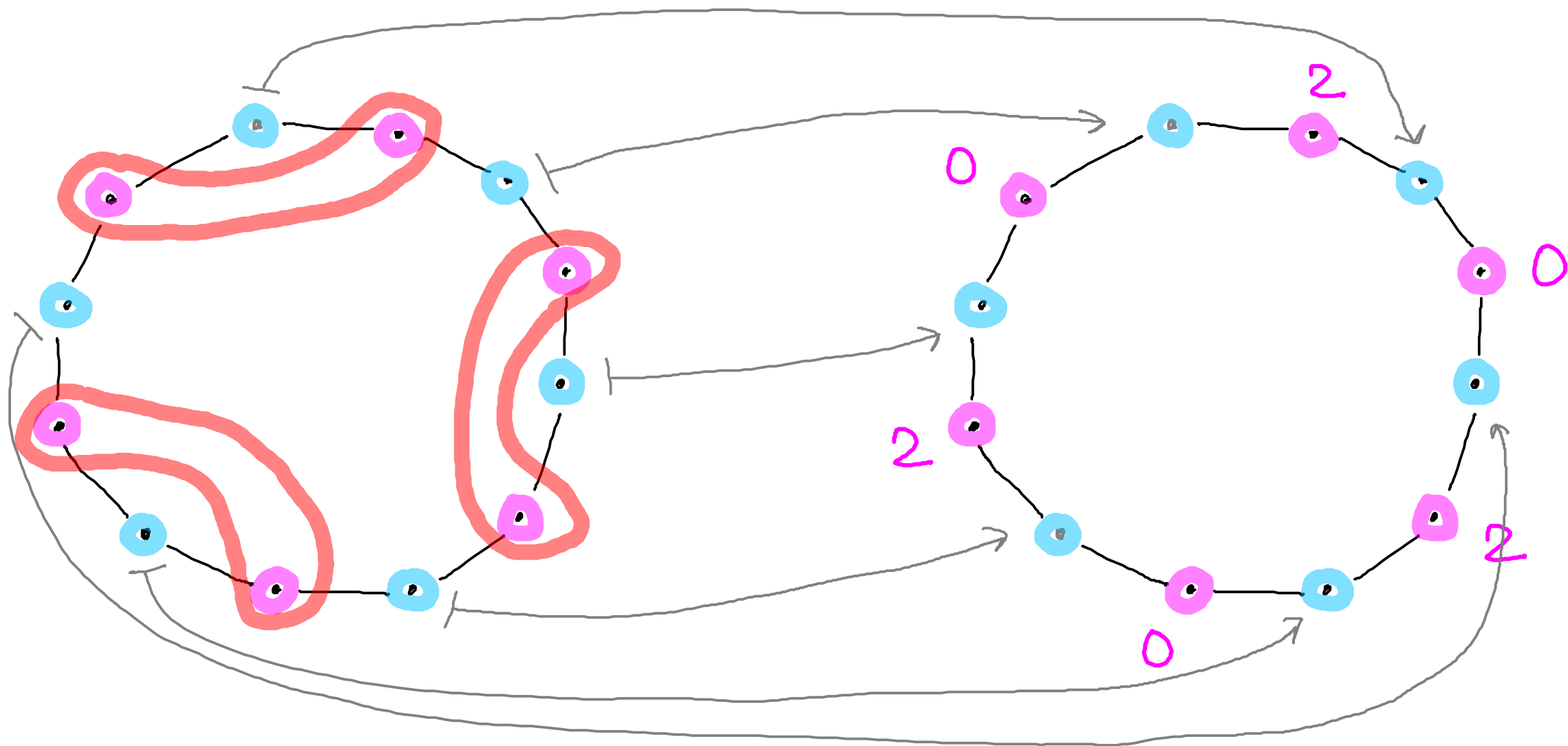
INTUITION: $n = 12$

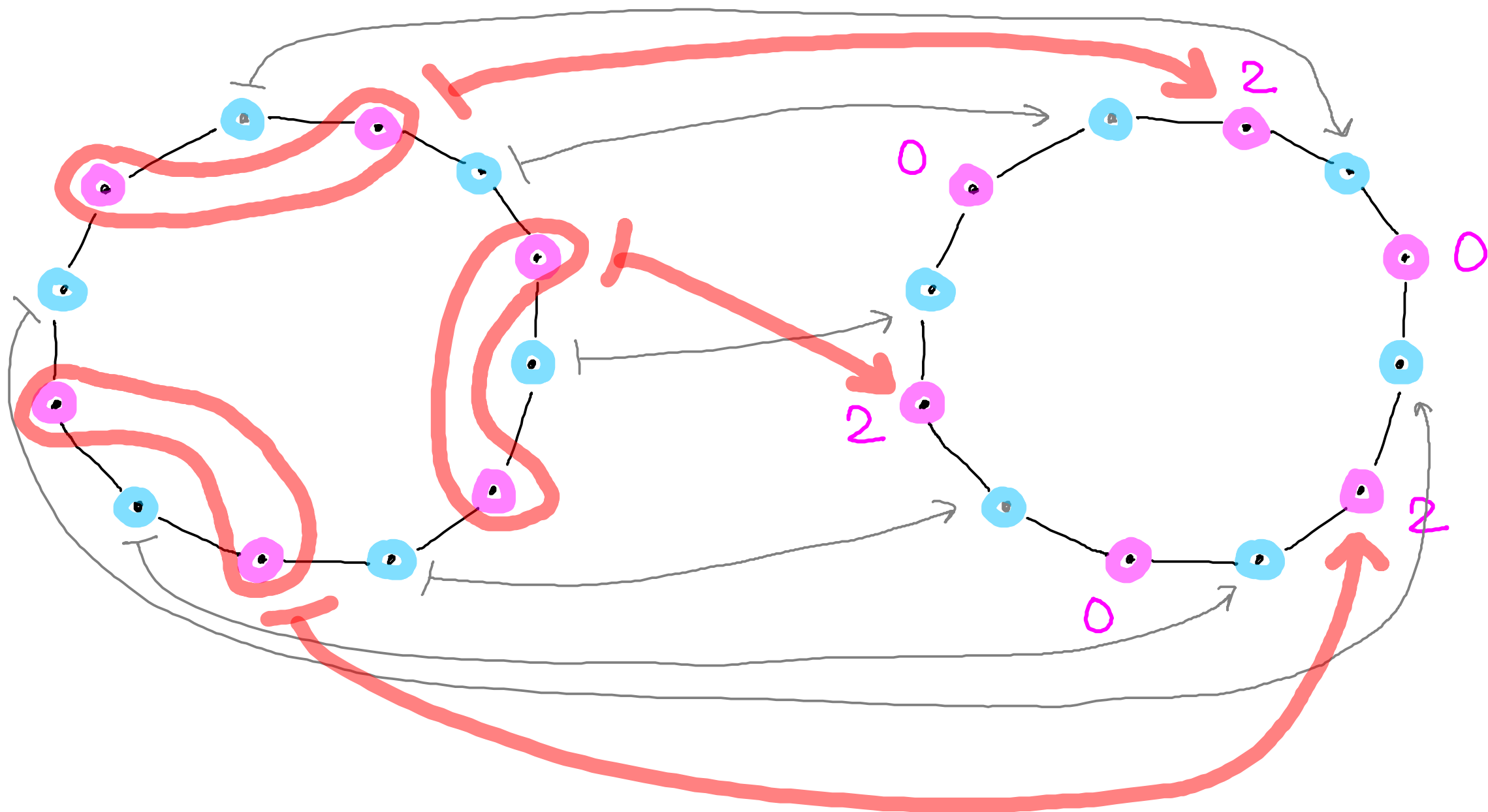


- TAKE ODD AND EVEN VERTICES.
- EACH COLOR HAS PATTERN 111...
OR 2020...









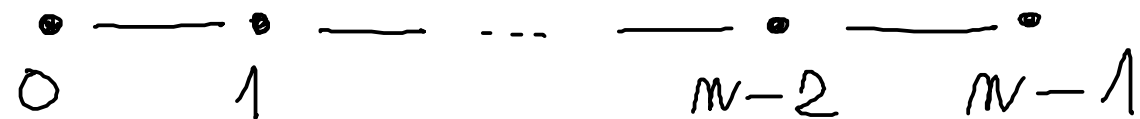
THEOREM [MK08]

THE NUMBER OF GRAPH
HOMOMORPHISMS $C_m \rightarrow C_m$

$$\text{IS } \begin{cases} 4m + 2 & \text{WHEN } m \text{ IS ODD} \\ 2m \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \binom{2m}{m} \right) & \text{WHEN } m \text{ IS EVEN} \end{cases}$$

→ $m \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ ADJOINTABLES
GROW MUCH FASTER

DENOTE BY P_m THE PATH
ON VERTICES $\{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$

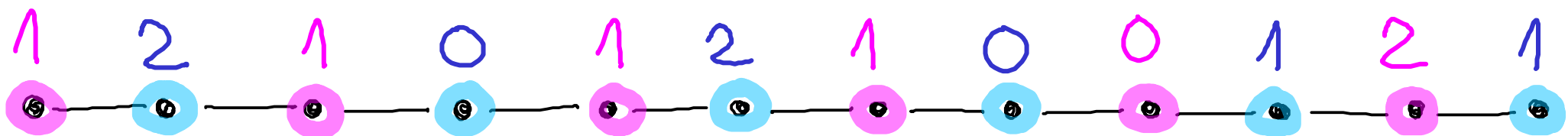


CALCULATING $f: P_m \rightarrow P_m \dots$

$m \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$: ONLY PATTERN IS 111...

$m \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$: BLUE PATTERN $(20)^x 1^y$
PINK PATTERN $1^a (02)^b$

FOR SOME $x, y, a, b \geq 0$



OPEN PROBLEMS

- [Cameron26] SHOWS VARIOUS GRAPHS ASSOCIATED TO GROUPS ETC.
WHAT ARE ADJOINTABLES THERE (?)
- FOR WHAT CLASSES OF GRAPHS:
 - (1) ADJOINTABLES $\equiv$ GRAPH HOMOMORPHISMS
 - (2) $\bowtie$ BIJ ADJOINTABLE
 $\Rightarrow \bowtie^{-1}$ ADJOINTABLE (?)
- IS THE PROBLEM OF "ADJ-ISOMORPHISM"
P OR NP (?)

References:

[Cameron26]

Cameron, Peter J.

"Graphs on Algebras."

Talk presented at Arbeitstagung Allgemeine Algebra 108, TU Wien, Vienna, 6-8 February 2026. Slides available online.

[FF13]

Faure, Claude-Alain, and Alfred Frölicher.

Modern projective geometry.

Springer Science & Business Media, 2013.

[HIK11]

Hammack, Richard, Wilfried Imrich, and Sandi Klavžar.

Handbook of product graphs. CRC press, 2011.

[LMS11]

Lauri, Josef, Russell Mizzi, and Raffaele Scapellato.

"Two-fold automorphisms of graphs."

Australasian Journal of Combinatorics 49 (2011): 165-176.

[MK09]

Michels, Martin A., and Ulrich Knauer.

"The congruence classes of paths and cycles."

Discrete mathematics 309.17 (2009): 5352-5359.



[Pratt99]

Pratt, Vaughan.

"Chu spaces."

School on Category Theory and Applications (Coimbra, 1999) 21 (1999): 39-100.

[PV25]

Paseka, Jan, and Thomas Vetterlein.

"Categories of orthosets and adjointable maps."

International Journal of Theoretical Physics 64.6 (2025): 164.

[Zelinka72]

Zelinka, Bohdan.

"Isotopy of digraphs."

Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal 22.3 (1972): 353-360.

Thank you!