



# Characterisations of Game-perfect Graphs and Digraphs

Dominique Andres (joint work with: Edwin Lock)

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1.

## Game-perfect undirected graphs



## The graph colouring game

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**Goal of the breaker:** Bob wants to prevent her from doing so.



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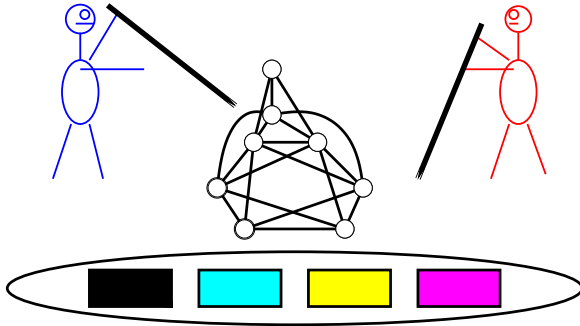
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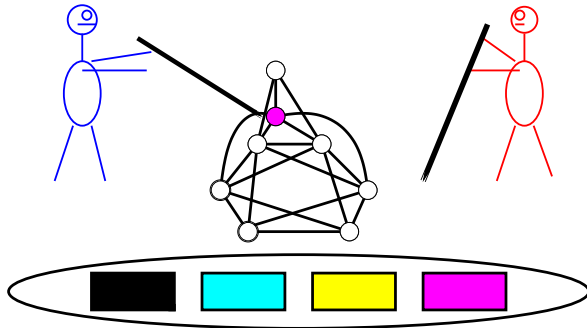


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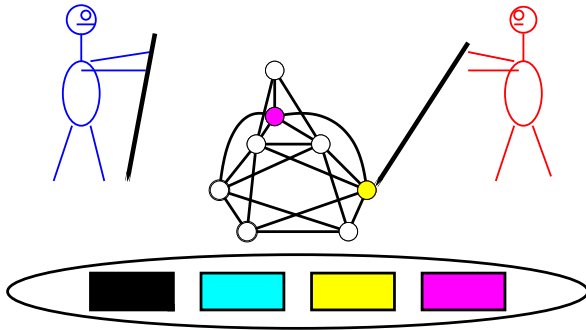




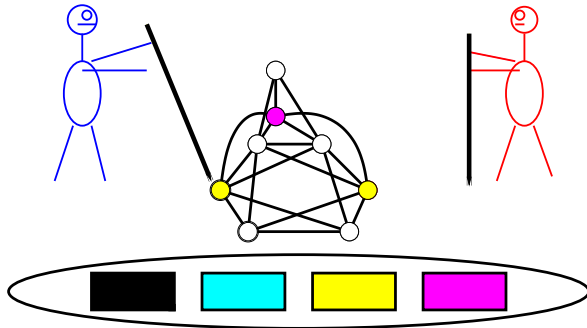
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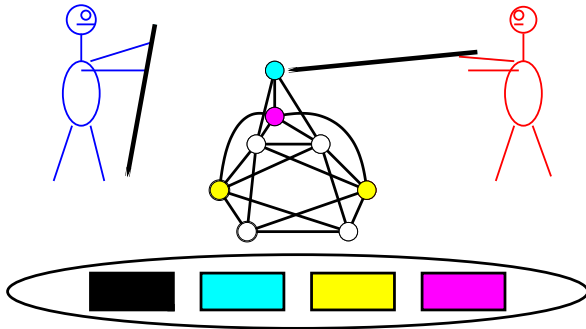
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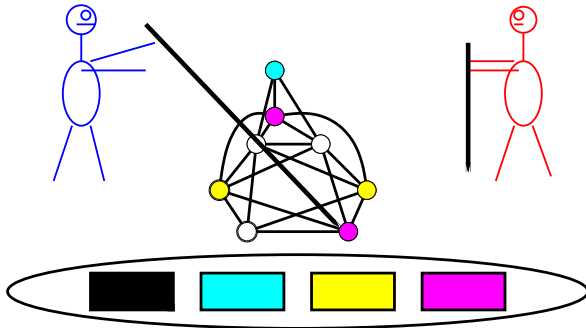
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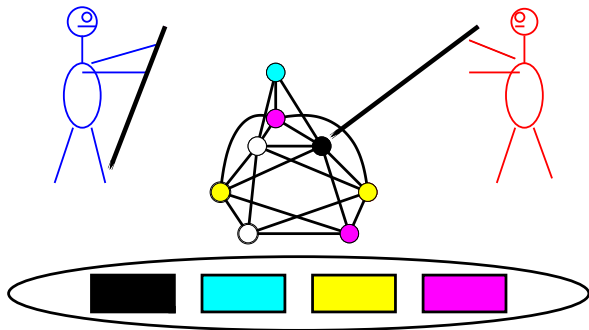
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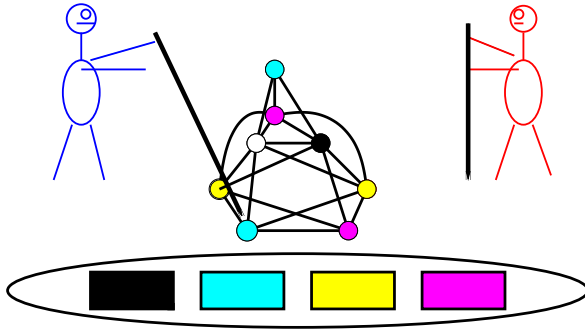
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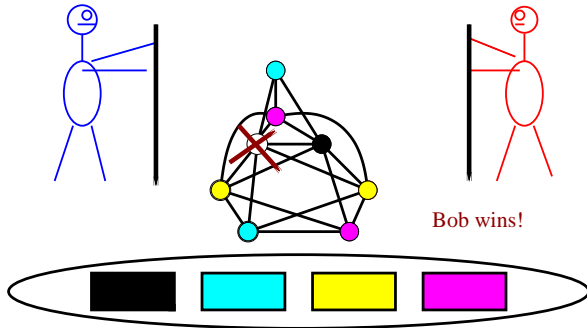
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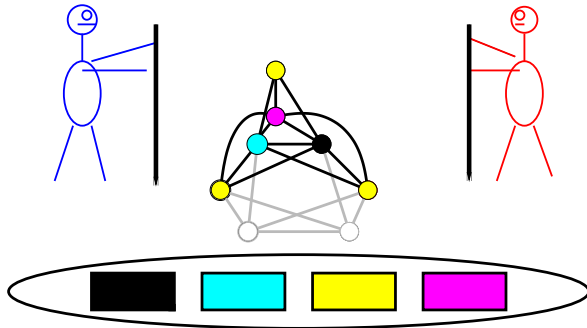


## Alice and Bob play the game ...





## Alice and Bob play the game ... Alice has no chance!



## 6 types of games

|                            | Alice begins  | Bob begins    |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Alice may pass             | game $[A, A]$ | game $[B, A]$ |
| missing a turn not allowed | game $[A, -]$ | game $[B, -]$ |
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game  $[B, -]$

**Alice wins!**  $\chi_{[B, -]}(P_4) = 2$



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A graph  $G$  is **game-perfect** (or  **$g$ -perfect** or  **$[X, Y]$ -perfect**) if, for any induced subgraph  $H$  of  $G$ ,

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**Remark.** Game-perfect graphs are special cases of **perfect** graphs.



## 6 classes of game-perfect graphs

$[B, B]$ -perfect graphs: structural characterisation A. 2012

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$[B, A]$ -perfect graphs: open problem (no characterisation known)

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## What does such a characterisation look like?

### Theorem

Let  $G$  be a graph.

- (i)  $G$  is **game-perfect** if and only if
- (ii)  $G$  does **not contain** any of the **forbidden structures**  $F_j$  (left).

This is the case if and only if

- (iii)  $G$  **belongs to** one of the structural **types**  $E_i$  (right).

**forbidden induced** subgraphs:

$F_1, \dots, F_n$

**allowed** structures:

$E_1, \dots, E_m$



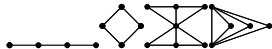
## What does such a characterisation look like? **game** $[B, B]$

### Theorem (A. 2012)

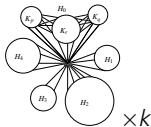
Let  $G$  be a graph.

- (i)  $G$  is  $[B, B]$ -perfect if and only if
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**4 forbidden induced** subgraphs:



**1 allowed** structure:





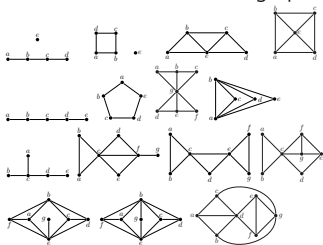
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Theorem (with Edwin Lock 2016+)

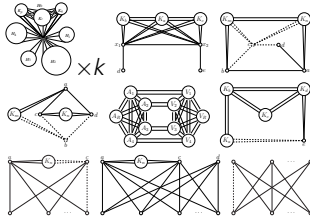
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**15 forbidden induced subgraphs:**



**9 allowed structures:**



## Sketch of proof technique:

(i)  $\implies$  (ii): Prove: Bob wins on any forbidden configuration  $F_j$ .



## Sketch of proof technique:

(i) $\implies$ (ii): Prove: **Bob wins on any forbidden** configuration  $F_j$ .

(ii) $\implies$ (iii): Structural characterisation of graphs not containing any  $F_j$  (this is the hard part of the proofs!)



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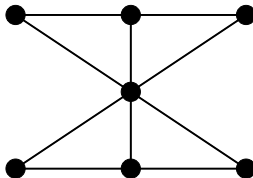
(ii) $\implies$ (iii): **Structural characterisation** of graphs not containing any  $F_j$  (this is the hard part of the proofs!)

(iii) $\implies$ (i): Prove:

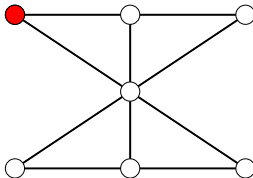
1. **Alice wins on any allowed** structure  $E_i$
2. Every **substructure of an allowed** structure  $E_i$  is again an **allowed** structure  $E_{i_0}$



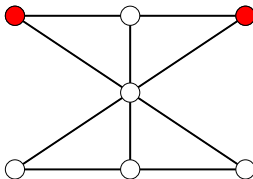
## Example for (i) $\implies$ (ii): Bob wins on "double fan"



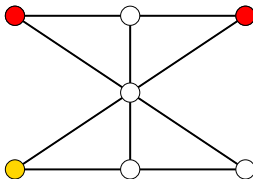
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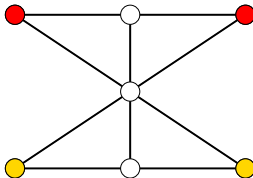


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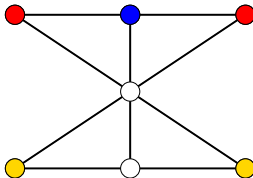




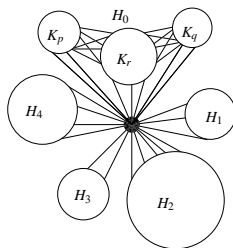
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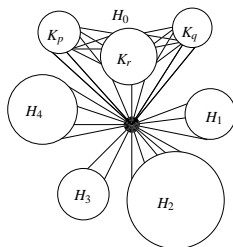


## Example for (i) $\implies$ (ii): Bob wins on "double fan"



## Example for (iii) $\implies$ (i): Alice wins on "ear animal"



**Example for (iii)  $\implies$  (i): Alice wins on “ear animal”**

Main goal is that the “ears” contain the same colours unless the second ear is fully coloured.  
And Alice should colour the central vertex as fast as possible.



## Idea of proof of (ii) $\implies$ (iii): Structural characterisation

Structure of (nontrivial)  
 $[B, B]$ -perfect graphs  
(A. 2012):

Structure of (connected)  
 $[B, -]$ -perfect graphs  
(with Edwin Lock 2016+):



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$\longrightarrow$  dominating vertex exists

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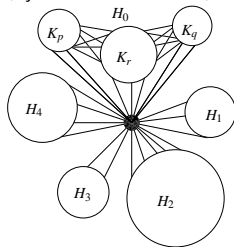


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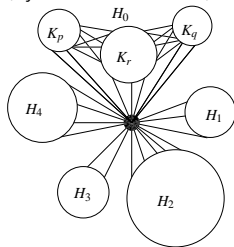


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inner structure simple  
(1 page of case distinctions)

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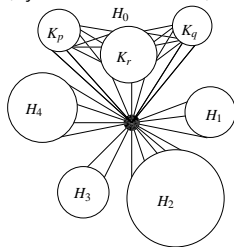
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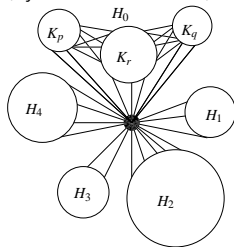


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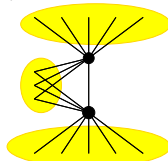


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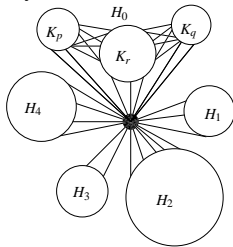


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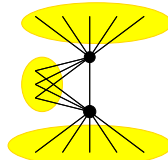


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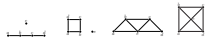
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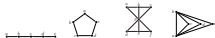
$\longrightarrow$  inner structure simple  
 $\longrightarrow$  examine structure of adjacencies between the three parts  
 (20 pages of case distinctions)



## Forbidden induced subgraphs for game-perfectness



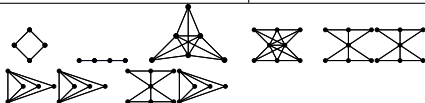
$[B, A]$   
?



$[A, A]$   
?



Lock (2016)  $[B, -]$



A. (2012)  $[B, B]$

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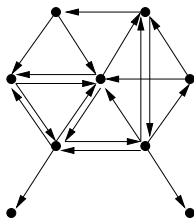


2.

## Digraphs



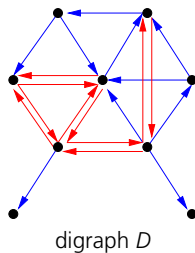
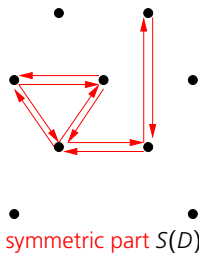
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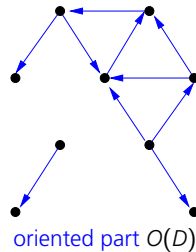
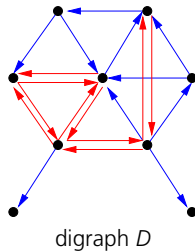
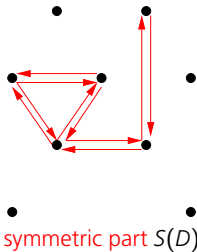
digraph  $D$



# Digraphs



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## Dichromatic number, symmetric cliques, perfect digraphs

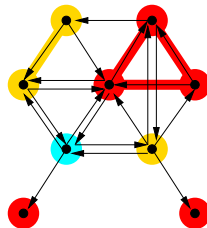
The **dichromatic number**  $\chi(D)$  of a digraph  $D$  is the **smallest number** of **induced acyclic subdigraphs** of  $D$  that **cover the vertices of  $D$** . [Neumann-Lara 1982]



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→ **no monochromatic directed cycles!**



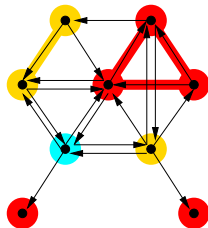
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A **symmetric clique** is a **complete** digraph (without loops) identical to its symmetric part.

$\omega(D)$  = size of largest symmetric clique.



## Dichromatic number, symmetric cliques, perfect digraphs

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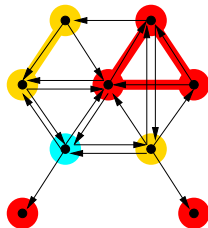
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A **symmetric clique** is a **complete** digraph (without loops) identical to its symmetric part.

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A digraph  $D$  is **perfect** if,  
for any induced subdigraph  $H$  of  $D$ ,

$$\omega(H) = \chi(H).$$

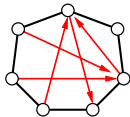


## A generalization of the Strong Perfect Graph Theorem

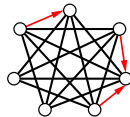
Theorem (A.&Hochstättler(2015))

A *digraph* is *perfect* if and only if it does *not contain induced subdigraphs* of the following *types*:

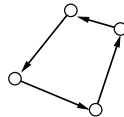
- (1) *filled odd holes*: i.e.  $D$  with  $S(D)$  is *odd hole* resp.
- (2) *filled odd antiholes*: i.e.  $D$  with  $S(D)$  is *odd antihole* resp.
- (3) *directed cycles* of length  $\geq 3$ .



type (1)



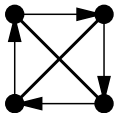
type (2)



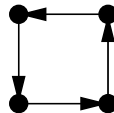
type (3)



## Perfectness is non-closed by taking complements



perfect



non perfect

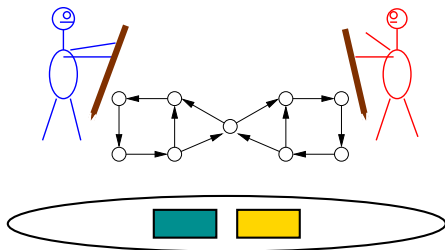


## 2. a)

# Weakly game-perfect digraphs



## Weak digraph colouring games [Yang&Zhu(2010)]

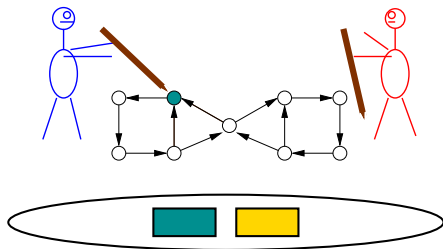


Alice and Bob alternately colour uncoloured vertices of  $D$  with a colour from the set  $C$ , such that they do **not create monochromatic directed cycles**.  
Alice wins if every vertex is coloured.





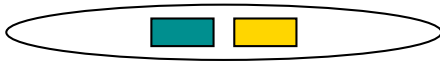
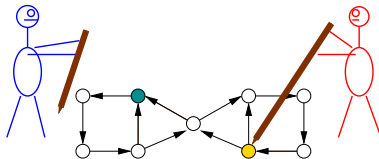
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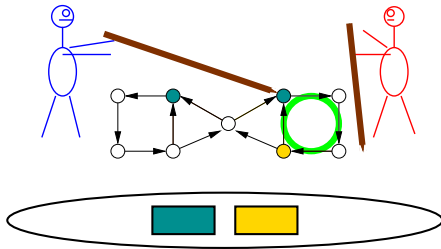
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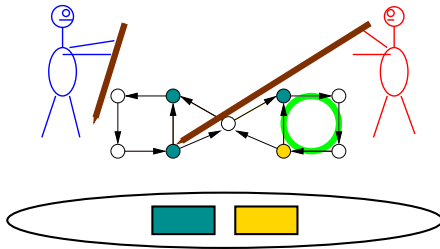
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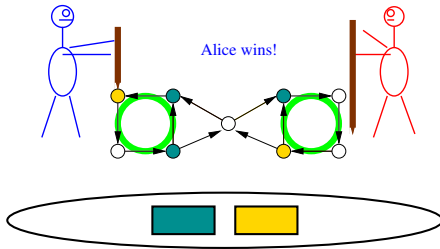
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## Weak digraph colouring games [Yang&Zhu(2010)]



Alice and Bob alternately colour uncoloured vertices of  $D$  with a colour from the set  $C$ , such that they do **not create monochromatic directed cycles**.  
 Alice wins if every vertex is coloured.



## Weakly game-perfect digraphs

### Definition (weak game chromatic number)

The **weak game chromatic number**  $\chi_{wg}(D)$  of a digraph  $D$  is the **smallest number of colours** so that **Alice** has a **winning** strategy for the weak colouring game played on  $D$ .

### Definition (weakly game-perfect digraph)


A digraph  $D$  is **weakly game-perfect** (or **wg-perfect**) if, for any induced subdigraph  $H$  of  $D$ ,

$$\omega(H) = \chi_{wg}(H).$$



## Characterisation of weakly game-perfect digraphs

### Lemma

If  $D$  does *not contain* an *induced cycle*  $\vec{C}_n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , then every directed cycle has a (symmetric) edge  as a *chord*.

### Theorem


For a weak game  $wg$  and the associated undirected game  $g$ , a digraph  $D$  is *wg-perfect* if and only if

1. its *symmetric part*  $S(D)$  is a *g-perfect graph* and
2.  $D$  does *not contain* any *directed cycle*  $\vec{C}_n$  with  $n \geq 3$  as an *induced subdigraph*.



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If 2. is *not true*:  $D$  is *not perfect*, thus  $D$  is not *wg-perfect*.





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If 2. is *true* but 1. is *not true*, i.e.  $S(D)$  is *non-g-perfect*.

$\Rightarrow \exists$  subdigraph  $H$ , so that *Bob wins* on  $S(H)$ .

He uses the *same strategy* for the play on  $H$ .

Whenever he would close a *monochromatic* directed *cycle*, by Lemma this cycle would be monochromatic edge or have a monochromatic edge as a chord, *contradicting* the fact that he has a strategy for  $S(H)$ .  $\Rightarrow D$  is not *wg-perfect*.



## Characterisation of weakly game-perfect digraphs

### Lemma

If  $D$  does *not contain* an *induced cycle*  $\vec{C}_n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , then every directed cycle has a (symmetric) edge  $\longleftrightarrow$  as a chord.

### Theorem

For a weak game  $wg$  and the associated undirected game  $g$ , a digraph  $D$  is *wg-perfect* if and only if

1. its *symmetric part*  $S(D)$  is a *g-perfect graph* and
2.  $D$  does *not contain* any *directed cycle*  $\vec{C}_n$  with  $n \geq 3$  as an *induced subdigraph*.

If 1. and 2. are true: Let  $H$  be induced subdigraph of  $D$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Alice has *winning* strategy on  $S(H)$ .

She *uses* the *same strategy* for the play on  $H$ .

*Whenever she would close* a *monochromatic* directed *cycle*, by Lemma this cycle would be monochromatic edge or have a monochromatic edge as a chord, *contradicting* the fact that she has a strategy for  $S(H)$ .  $\Rightarrow$   $D$  is *wg-perfect*.

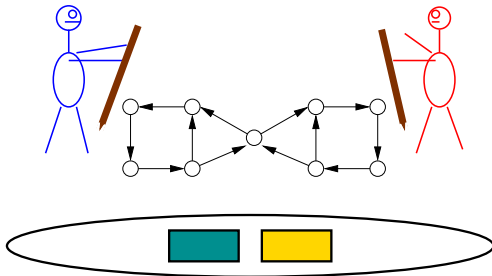


## 2. b)

# Strongly game-perfect digraphs



## Strong digraph colouring games



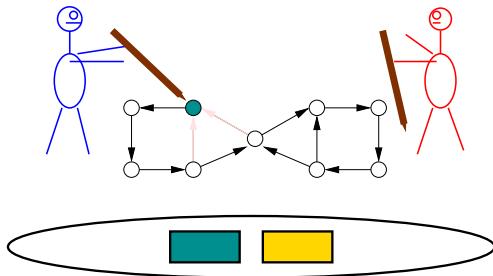
Alice and Bob alternately colour uncoloured vertices of  $D$  with a colour from the set  $C$ , which is **different from** colours of its **in-neighbours**.

Alice wins if every vertex is coloured.

Bob wins if a vertex is surrounded by all colours.



## Strong digraph colouring games



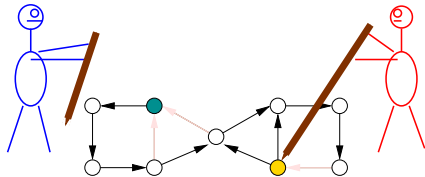
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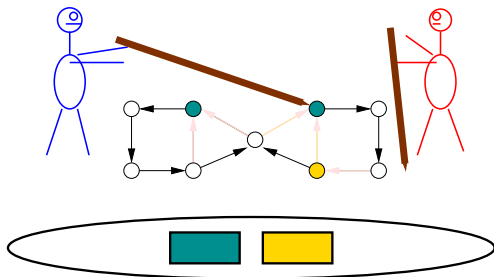
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## Strong digraph colouring games



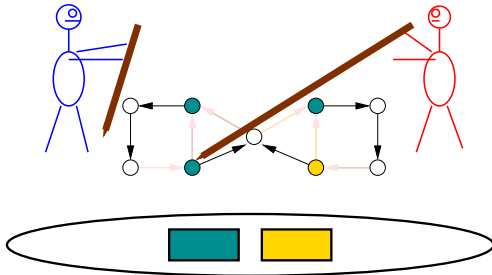
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## Strong digraph colouring games



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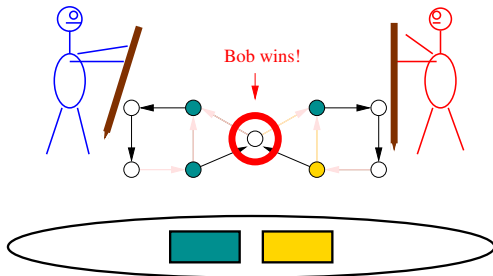
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## Strong digraph colouring games



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## Strongly game-perfect digraphs

### Definition (game chromatic number)

The (strong) game chromatic number  $\chi_g(D)$  of a digraph  $D$  is the smallest number of colours so that Alice has a winning strategy for the strong colouring game played on  $D$ .

### Definition (strongly game-perfect digraph)

A digraph  $D$  is (strongly) game-perfect (or  $g$ -perfect) if, for any induced subdigraph  $H$  of  $D$ ,

$$\omega(H) = \chi_g(H).$$

[6 types of games]



## Trivial if Bob begins: No additional structures



## Trivial if Bob begins: No additional structures



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A single arc is not  $[B, *]$ -perfect.



## Trivial if Bob begins: No additional structures



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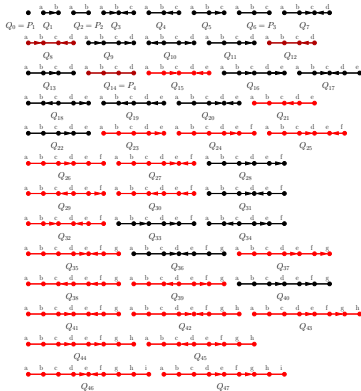
### Theorem

For the *games*, where *Bob begins*, the class of *game-perfect digraphs* is equal to its subclass the class of game-perfect *undirected graphs*.

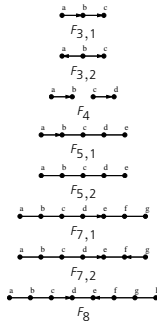


# Nontrivial if Alice begins: game $[A, A]$ on paths

The 48  $[A, A]$ -perfect paths  
 (red: non  $[A, -]$ /non  $[A, B]$ -perfect)

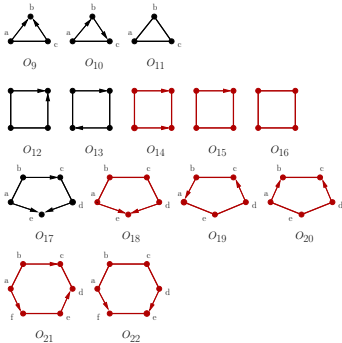


All minimal forbidden paths  
 for the game  $[A, A]$

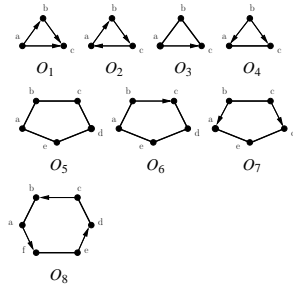


## ...if Alice begins: game $[A, A]$ on cycles

The 14  $[A, A]$ -perfect cycles  
 (red: non  $[A, -]$ /non  $[A, B]$ -perfect)



Forbidden cycles  
 for the game  $[A, A]$



### Observation

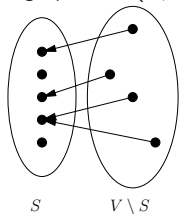
Let  $C$  be a cycle with  $n \geq 7$  vertices.  
 Then  $C$  is not game-perfect.





## Kernels in digraphs

A **kernel**  $S$  of digraph  $D = (V, A)$ :

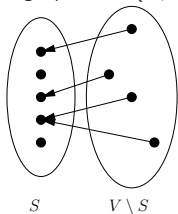


$S$  **independent** and **absorbing**



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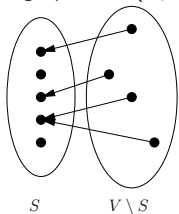
Theorem (A.&Hochstättler(2015))

The *complement* of a *perfect digraph* has a *kernel*.



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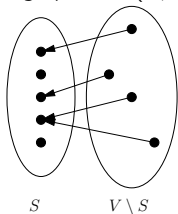
Theorem

$[A, -]$ -perfect digraphs are the complement of a perfect digraph.



## Kernels in digraphs

A **kernel**  $S$  of digraph  $D = (V, A)$ :



$S$  **independent** and **absorbing**

Theorem (A.&Hochstättler(2015))

The *complement* of a *perfect digraph* has a *kernel*.

Theorem

$[A, -]$ -*perfect digraphs* are the complement of a *perfect digraph*.

Corollary

$[A, -]$ -*perfect digraphs* have a *kernel*.



## Kernels in $[A, A]$ -perfect digraphs

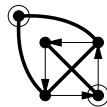
We can show similarly

### Theorem

Every  $[A, A]$ -perfect digraph  $D$  that does not contain the complement of a directed cycle  $\vec{C}_4$  has a kernel.



(a)



(b)

$[A, A]$ -perfect digraphs: (a) does not have a kernel (b) has a kernel

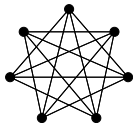
### Open Question

Characterise the  $[A, A]$ -perfect digraphs that contain a  $\vec{C}_4^c$ : which of them have a kernel?



## The remaining undirected cases

$[B, A]$ - resp.  $[A, A]$ -perfect graphs cannot be described by a finite list of minimal forbidden configurations, since every odd antihole is a minimal forbidden configuration.



### Open Question

*Characterize  $[B, A]$ - and  $[A, A]$ -perfect undirected graphs.*



## On characterizing game-perfect digraphs

For the games, where Alice begins, we have the following open problems.

Problem

*Characterize (strongly) game-perfect superorientations of trees.*



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Problem

*Characterize (strongly) game-perfect superorientations of trees.*

Problem

*Characterize (strongly) game-perfect digraphs by a complete list of forbidden configurations.*





# Complexity

## Open Question

What is the *complexity* of the *(di)graph colouring games*?



# Thank you

Thank you for your attention.



# Open Questions on Game-perfect Graphs and Digraphs

\*

Stephan Dominique Andres

`dominique.andres@fernuni-hagen.de`



**FernUniversität in Hagen**

Games and Graphs Workshop, 23–25 October 2017

- 1 Finiteness of the set of minimal forbidden trees
- 2 Equivalence of  $[A, -]$ - and  $[A, B]$ -perfectness
- 3 Characterization of  $\chi$ -col-perfect graphs

## Question 1: Finitely many minimal forbidden trees?

A digraph  $D$  is  $[A, A]$ -perfect if, for any induced subdigraph, the symmetric clique number equals the game chromatic number for the game where Alice may have the first move and missing a turn is allowed for Alice.

### Conjecture

*The number of minimal forbidden semiorientations of trees concerning  $[A, A]$ -perfect digraphs is finite.*

- there are infinitely many forbidden configurations: e.g. all odd antiholes
- digraphs with diameter  $\geq 9$  are not  $[A, A]$ -perfect
- there are infinitely many  $[A, A]$ -perfect semiorientations of trees: e.g. all in-stars

## Question 2: The 5-classes-conjecture

A digraph  $D$  is  $[A, -]$ -perfect ( $[A, B]$ -perfect) if, for any induced subdigraph, the symmetric clique number equals the game chromatic number for the game where Alice may have the first move and missing a turn is not allowed (allowed for Bob).

### Conjecture

*For any digraph  $D$ ,*

$$D \text{ is } [A, -]\text{-perfect} \iff D \text{ is } [A, B]\text{-perfect.}$$

- “ $\iff$ ” is true, trivially
- true for undirected graphs
- true for semiorientations of cycles resp. forests of paths

## Question 3: Characterize $\chi$ -col-perfect graphs

A graph  $G$  is  $\chi$ -col-perfect if, for any induced subgraph, the game chromatic number equals the game colouring number.

A graph  $G$  is col-perfect if, for any induced subgraph, the clique number equals the game colouring number.

A graph  $G$  is game-perfect if, for any induced subgraph, the game chromatic number equals the clique number.

### Problem

*Characterize the class of  $\chi$ -col-perfect graphs.*

- col-perfectness has been characterized for every game
- game-perfectness has been characterized partially (for 4 out of 6 games)
- col-perfect = game-perfect  $\cap$   $\chi$ -col-perfect