

Tits alternatives for graph products

Ashot Minasyan
(Joint work with Yago Antolín)

University of Southampton

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Background and motivation

Theorem (J. Tits, 1972)

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Recall: a group G is **large** if there is a finite index subgroup $K \leq G$ s.t. K maps onto $\mathbb{F}_2$.

Various forms of Tits Alternative

Definition

Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a class of gps. A gp. G satisfies the **Tits Alternative rel. to $\mathcal{C}$** if for any f.g. sbgp. $H \leq G$ either $H \in \mathcal{C}$ or H contains a copy of $\mathbb{F}_2$.

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The thm. of Noskov-Vinberg implies that Coxeter gps. satisfy the Strong Tits Alternative rel. to $\mathcal{C}_{vab}$.

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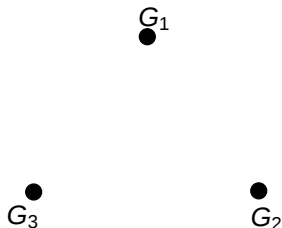


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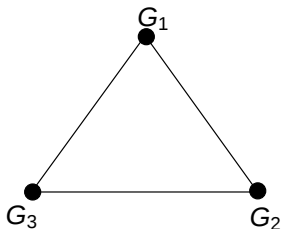


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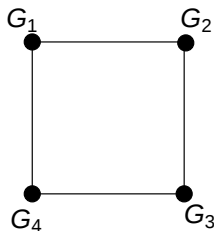


Figure : $\Gamma\mathfrak{G} \cong (G_1 * G_3) \times (G_2 * G_4)$

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Special subgroups

If $A \subseteq V\Gamma$ and Γ_A is the full subgraph of Γ spanned by A then $\mathfrak{G}_A := \{G_v \mid v \in A\}$ generates a **special subgroup** G_A of $G = \Gamma\mathfrak{G}$ which is naturally isomorphic to $\Gamma_A\mathfrak{G}_A$.

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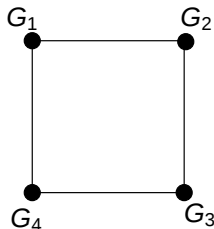


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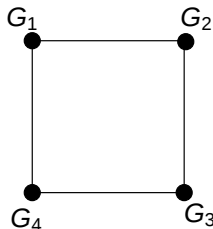


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There is a **natural retraction** $\rho_A : G = \Gamma\mathfrak{G} \rightarrow G_A$ defined by

$$\rho_A(g) = \begin{cases} g & \text{if } g \in G_u \text{ for some } u \in A \\ 1 & \text{if } g \in G_v \text{ for some } v \in V\Gamma \setminus A \end{cases}$$

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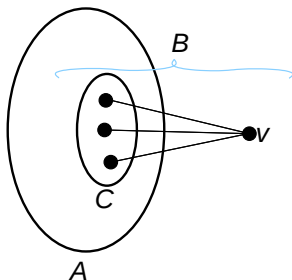
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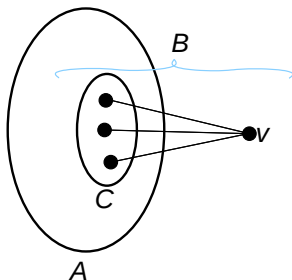
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then

$$G = G_A *_{G_C} G_B \text{ and } G_B \cong G_C \times G_v.$$

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Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a class of gps. with (P0)–(P4). Then a graph product $G = \Gamma \circledast$ satisfies the Tits Alternative rel. to $\mathcal{C}$ iff each G_v , $v \in V\Gamma$, satisfies this alternative.

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Evidently the conditions (P0)–(P4) are necessary.

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Corollary

If all vertex gps. are linear then $G = \Gamma \mathfrak{O}$ satisfies the Tits Alternative rel. to $\mathcal{C}_{\text{vsol}}$.

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(P5) is necessary, b/c if $L \neq \{1\}$ has no proper f.i. sbgps., then $L * L$ cannot be large.

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Corollary

Suppose $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_{\text{sol}-m}$ for some $m \geq 2$ or $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_{\text{vsol}-n}$ for some $n \geq 1$. Let G be a graph product of gps. from $\mathcal{C}$. Then any f.g. sbgp. of G either belongs to $\mathcal{C}$ or is large.

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Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a class of gps. A gp. G satisfies the **Strongest Tits Alternative rel. to $\mathcal{C}$** if for any f.g. sbgp. $H \leq G$ either $H \in \mathcal{C}$ or H maps onto $\mathbb{F}_2$.

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Observe that if $L * L$ maps onto $\mathbb{F}_2$ then L must have an epimorphism onto $\mathbb{Z}$.

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Combining with a result of Lyndon-Schützenberger we also get

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If G is a RAAG and $a, b, c \in G$ satisfy $a^m b^n = c^p$, for $m, n, p \geq 2$, then a, b, c pairwise commute.

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Thus we can suppose that

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Note: If Γ is irreducible and $|V\Gamma| \geq 2$, then $\exists v \in V\Gamma$ s.t. for $A := V\Gamma \setminus \{v\}$, Γ_A is also irreducible.

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where F is free, and $H_i \leq g_i G_A g_i^{-1}$ or $H_i \leq g_i G_B g_i^{-1}$ for some $g_i \in G$.

Idea of the proof: final step

$$(3) \quad H \cap gG_Cg^{-1} = \{1\} \quad \forall g \in G.$$

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Since each H_i maps onto $\mathbb{Z}$ (follows from (P6)), we deduce that H maps onto $\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{F}_2$. □