

Efficient certifying algorithms for k -colouring subfamilies of P_5 -free graphs

Ben Cameron (he/him)




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Definitions

- P_n is the path on n vertices (P_3 : .
- $G + H$ denotes the disjoint union of graphs G and H .
- $\ell G = \underbrace{G + G + \dots + G}_\ell$ ($P_2 + 2P_1$: .
- Colouring here means proper colouring (adjacent vertices get different colours).
- A graph is H -free if it does not contain H as an **induced subgraph**.  is P_5 -free but not P_4 -free.

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- So assuming $P \neq NP$, if k -COLOURING can be solved in **polynomial-time** for H -free graphs, then every component of H must be a path.
- It remains **NP-complete** when restricted to P_6 -free graphs for all $k \geq 5$ (Huang 2016).

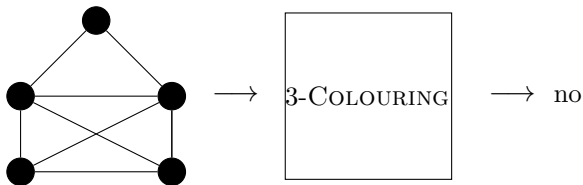
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- How can we verify a “no”?

- A graph G is k -critical if G is not $(k - 1)$ -colourable, but every proper induced subgraph of G is.

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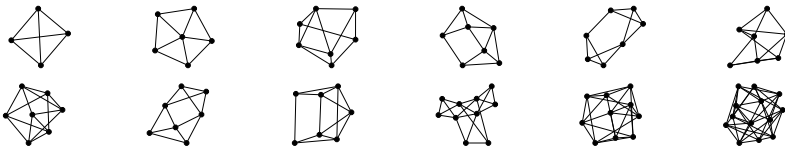
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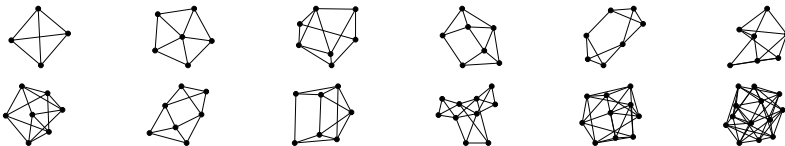
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Issue: For $k \geq 3$ there are **infinitely many** k -critical graphs.

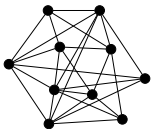
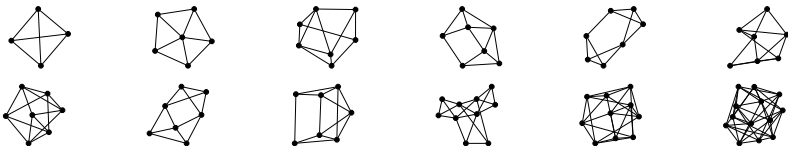
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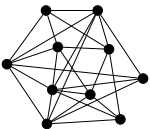
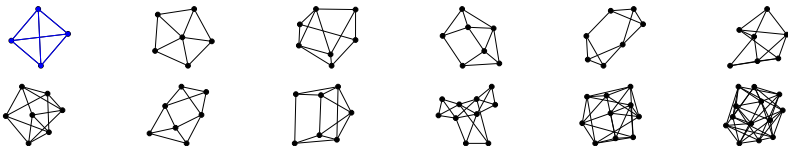
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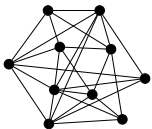
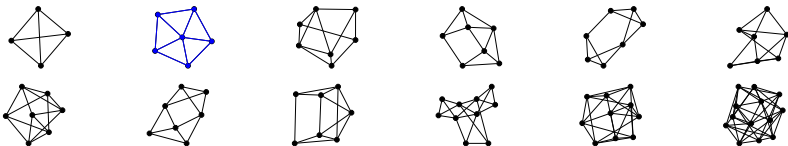
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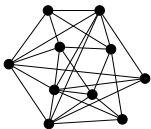
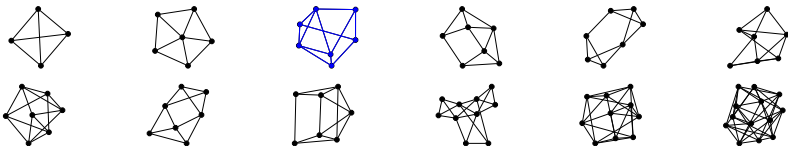
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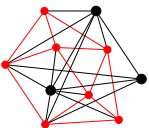
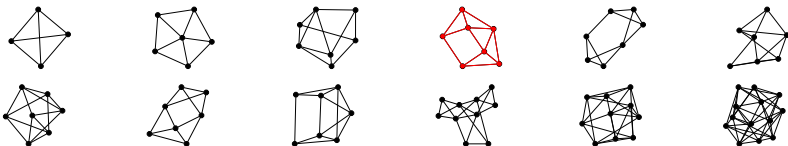
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Reasonable Question: Are there only finitely many k -critical P_5 -free graphs for all k ?

~~Question:~~ Are there only finitely many k -critical P_5 -free graphs for all k ? **NO!**

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Question: Are there only finitely many k -critical P_5 -free graphs for all k ? **NO!**

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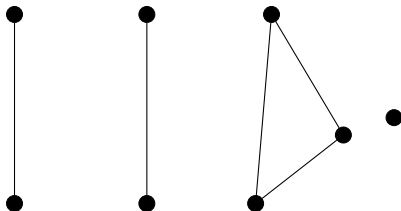
Question 1: For which graphs H are there **only finitely** many k -critical (P_5, H) -free graphs for all k ?

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Theorem (K. Cameron-Goedgebeur-Huang-Shi 2021): For H of order 4 and $k \geq 5$, there are **only finitely** many k -critical (P_5, H) -free graphs if and only if H is **NOT** $2P_2$ or $K_3 + P_1$.

(a) $2P_2$ (b) $K_3 + P_1$

Open Problem (K. Cameron-Goedgebeur-Huang-Shi 2021): For which graphs H of **order 5** are there only **finitely** many k -critical (P_5, H) -free graphs for all k ?

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Finite if H is any of the graphs below:


- banner
- $\overline{P_5}$
- $K_{2,3}$ or $K_{1,4}$
- $\overline{P_3 + P_2}$ or gem
- $P_2 + 3P_1$
- dart
- $P_3 + 2P_1$
- $K_{1,3} + P_1$ or $\overline{K_3 + 2P_1}$

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- banner (Brause-Geißer-Schiermeyer 2022)
- $K_{2,3}$ or $K_{1,4}$ (Kamiński-Pstrucha 2019)
- $P_2 + 3P_1$ (C.-Hoàng-Sawada 2022)
- $P_3 + 2P_1$ (Abuadas-C.-Hoàng-Sawada 2024)
- $\overline{P_5}$ (Dhaliwal-Hamel-Hoàng-Maffray-McConnel-Panait 2017)
- $\overline{P_3 + P_2}$ or gem (Cai-Goedgebeur-Huang 2023)
- dart (Xia-Jookan-Goedgebeur-Huang 2023)
- $K_{1,3} + P_1$ or $\overline{K_3 + 2P_1}$ (Xia-Jookan-Goedgebeur-Huang 2024)

Theorem (Chudnovsky-Karthick-Maceli-Maffray 2020): If G is a (P_5, gem) -free graph, then G is either perfect, in \mathcal{G}_i for some $i \in \{1, \dots, 10\}$, or $G \in \mathcal{H}$.

(gem = )



(a) G_1



(b) G_2



(c) G_3



(d) G_4



(e) G_5



(f) G_6



(g) G_7



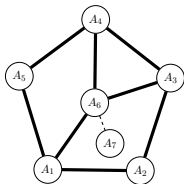
(h) G_8



(i) G_9



(j) G_{10}

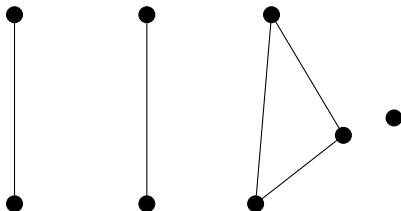


(k) Graphs in \mathcal{H}

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(a) $2P_2$

(b) $K_3 + P_1$

The Strong Perfect Graph Theorem

(Chudnovsky-Robertson-Seymour-Thomas 2006):

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Simple Observations:

- If G is k -critical and perfect, then $G = K_k$.
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Theorem (Hoàng-Moore-Recoskie-Sawada-Vatshelle 2015): There are only **finitely many** many 5-critical (P_5, C_5) -free graphs. (In fact, exactly 13)

Theorem (C.-Hoàng 2024): For all $q \geq 1$ and $k \geq 5$ there is a $(k + 1)$ -critical (P_5, C_5) -free graphs of order $qk + 1$ (**infinitely many**).

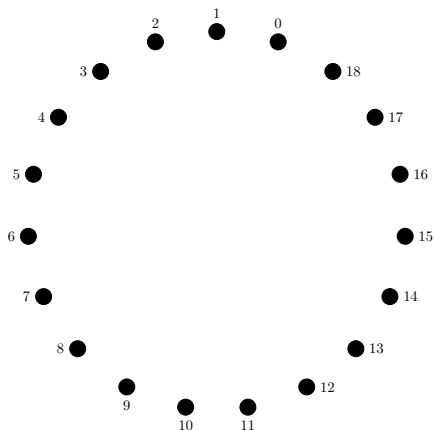


Figure: Constructing and colouring the 7-critical graph $G(3, 6)$.

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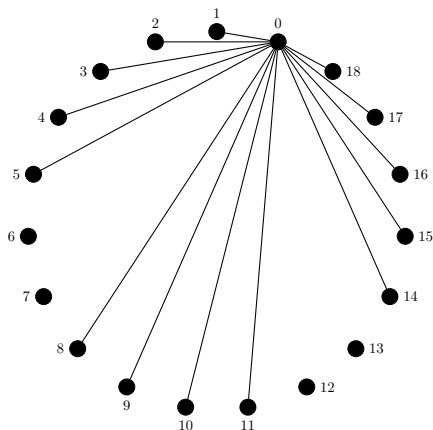


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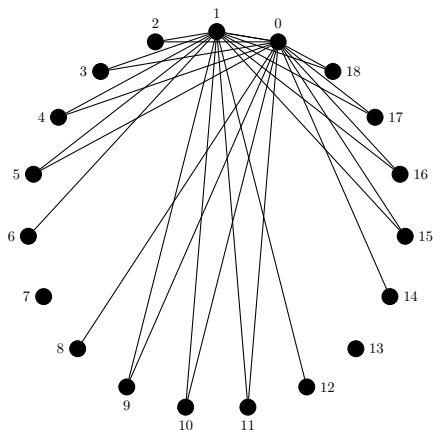


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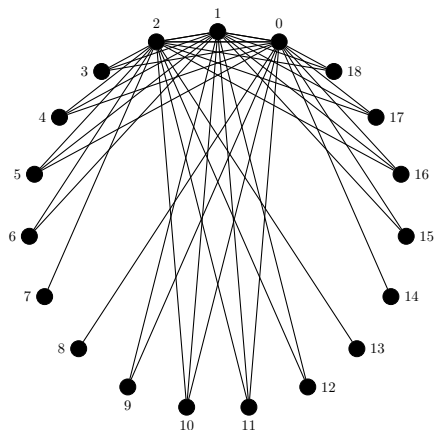


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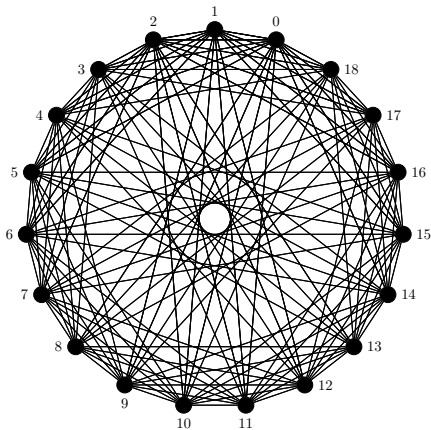


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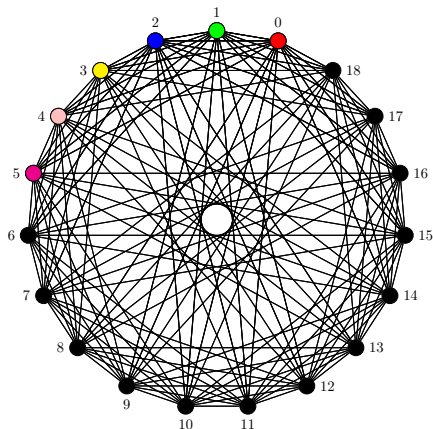


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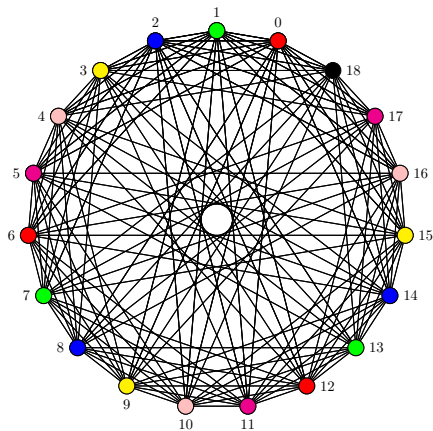


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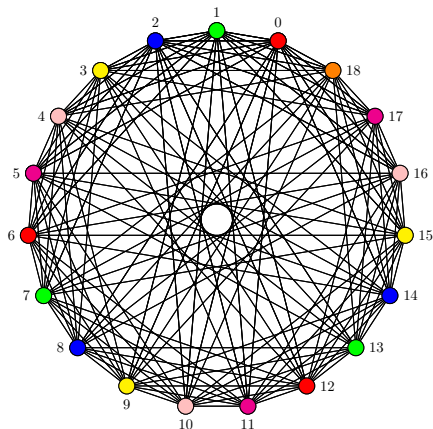


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They prove this by constructing an **infinite** family of k -critical $(2P_2, K_3 + P_1)$ -free graphs!



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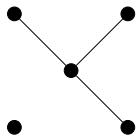
Theorem (C.-Hoàng 2024): There are **infinitely many** k -critical $(2P_2, K_3 + P_1, C_5)$ -free graphs for all $k \geq 6$.

Fact: Every known infinite family of k -critical P_5 -free graphs is actually $2P_2$ -free!

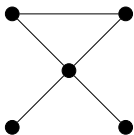
Question: Does the finiteness of k -critical (P_5, H) -free graphs always coincide with that of k -critical $(2P_2, H)$ -free graphs?

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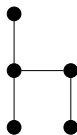
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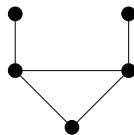
(a) *claw + P₁*



(b) *cricket*



(c) *chair*



(d) *bull*

Figure: Graphs of order 5 where the finiteness is unknown.



(a) $m = 3$.



(b)
 $m =$
4.

Figure: The general form of the (m, ℓ) -squid graphs for $m = 3, 4$.

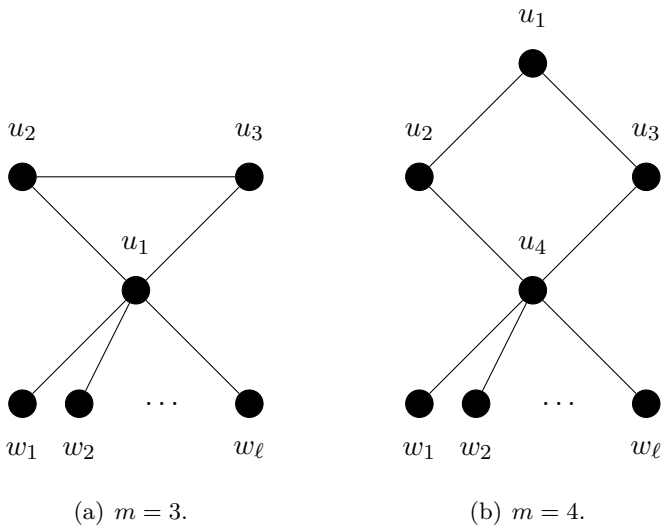
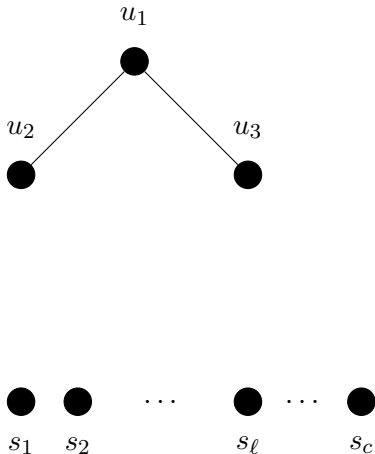


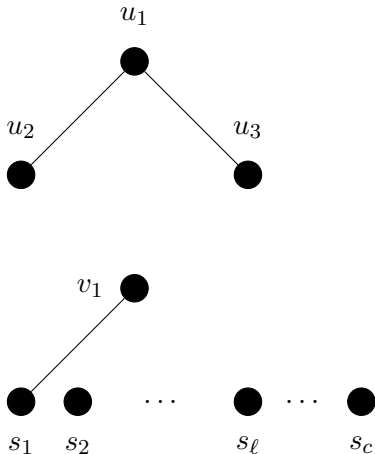
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Lemma (Adekanye-Bury-C.-Knodel 2024): Let $\ell, k \geq 1$ and $c = (\ell - 1)(k - 1) + 1$. If G is a k -critical $(2P_2, (4, \ell)$ -squid)-free graph, then G is $(P_3 + cP_1)$ -free.

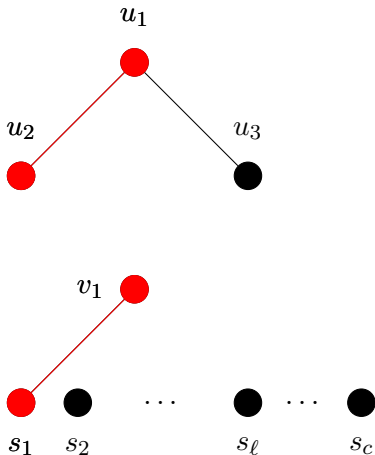
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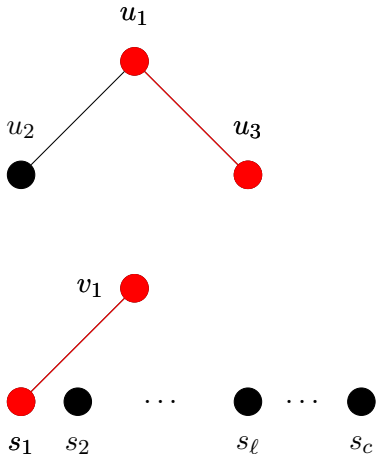
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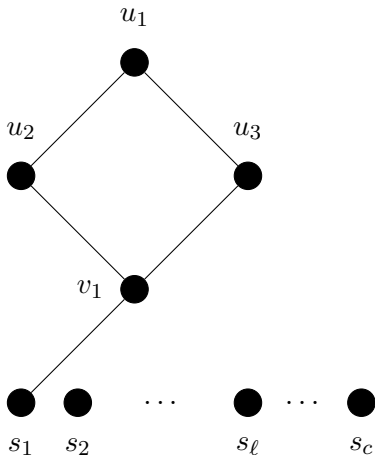
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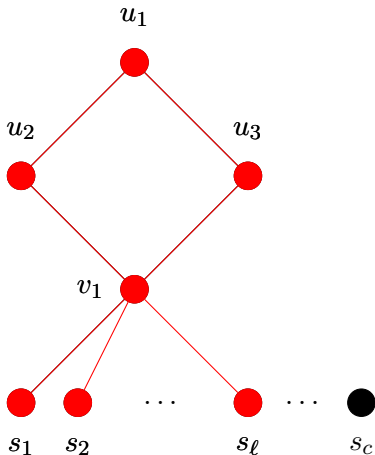
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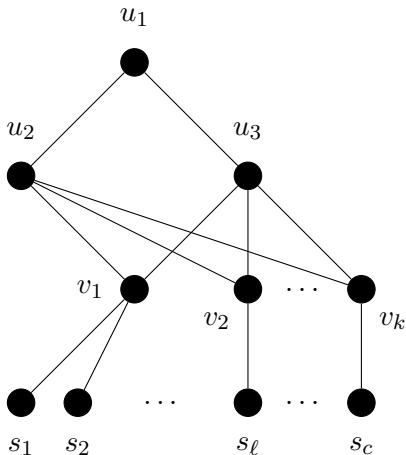
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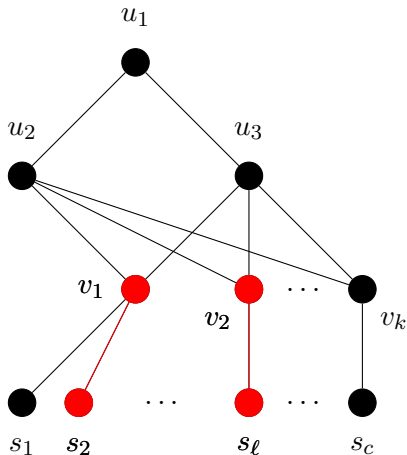
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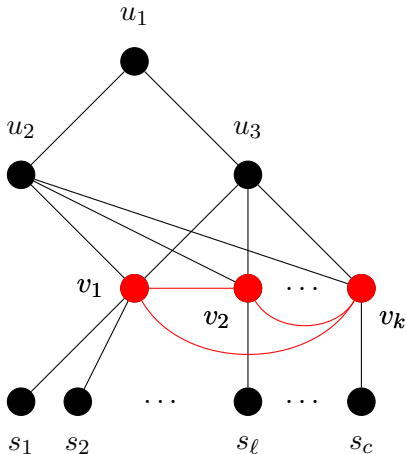
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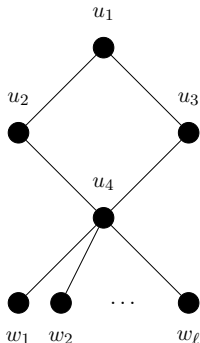


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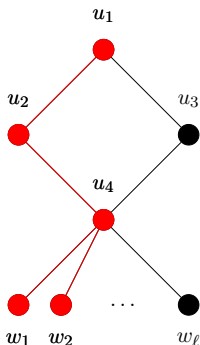


Figure: $(4, \ell)$ -squid contains an induced **chair**

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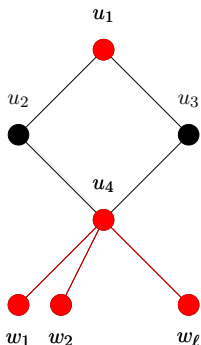
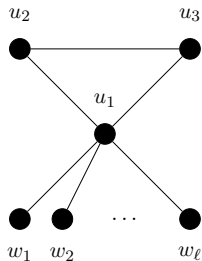
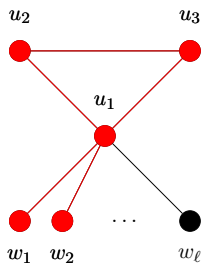


Figure: $(4, \ell)$ -squid contains an induced chair and claw + P_1 .

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Corollary (Adekanye-Bury-C.-Knodel 2024): There are only finitely many k -critical *cricket*-free graphs for all $k \geq 1$.

Lemma (Adekanye-Bury-C.-Knodel 2024): Every k -critical $(2P_2, \text{bull})$ -free graph is $(P_3 + P_1)$ -free.

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Figure: The *bull* graph.

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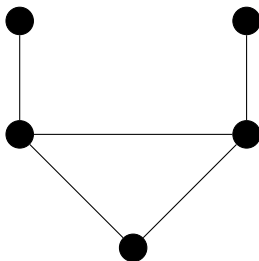


Figure: The *bull* graph.

n	4-critical	5-critical	6-critical	7-critical
4	1	0	0	0
5	0	1	0	0
6	1	0	1	0
7	2	1	0	1
8	0	2	1	0
9	0	11	2	1
10	0	0	12	2
11	0	0	126	12
12	0	0	0	128
13	0	0	0	3806
total	4	15	142	3947

Table: Number of k -critical $(2P_2, H)$ -free graphs of order n for $k \leq 7$ where H is $(4, 1)$ -squid or bull.

Question: Does the finiteness of k -critical (P_5, H) -free graphs always coincide with that of k -critical $(2P_2, H)$ -free graphs?

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When H is order 5, only **unknown** for following graphs:

- **co-gem**
- **chair** (known $k = 5$)
- **cricket**
- $C_4 + P_1$
- **bull** (known $k = 5$)
- $\overline{P_3 + 2P_1}$
- W_4
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Theorem (Beaton-C. 2024+): There are **only finitely many** k -critical $(P_5, P_3 + P_2, \text{co-gem})$ -free graphs for all k .

THANK YOU!

