

NDMI012: Combinatorics and Graph Theory 2

Lecture #5

Graphs on surfaces

Irena Penev

March 15, 2022

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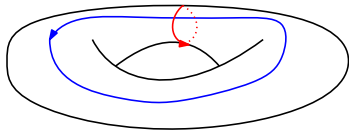
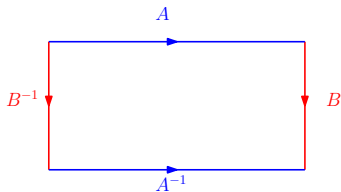
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 - “compact” means that that the surface admits a triangulation with finitely many triangles;
 - “connected” means that there is just one piece.
- The sphere and the torus are surfaces.
- However, the plane is not a surface (because it is not compact).
- A closed disk is not a surface, either, since it has a boundary.

- In what follows, we consider two surfaces to be the “same” if they are “homeomorphic,” that is, if there is a bijection f between them such that both f and f^{-1} are continuous.

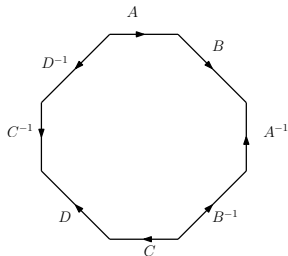
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- So, if we can obtain one surface from the other by “stretching,” then the two surfaces are the same.
- Thus, a tetrahedron is simply a sphere for our purposes, but a torus is not a sphere.

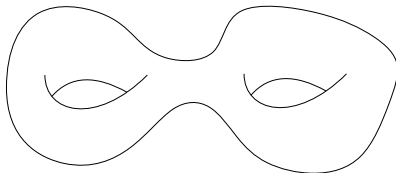
- A torus can be represented by a rectangle (symbolically represented by the string $ABA^{-1}B^{-1}$).



- If we identify corresponding edges in the octagon $ABA^{-1}B^{-1}CDC^{-1}D^{-1}$ below, then we get a double torus (also called the “connected sum of two tori”).



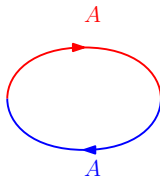
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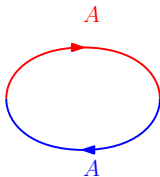
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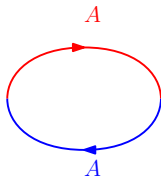


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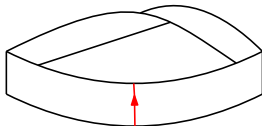
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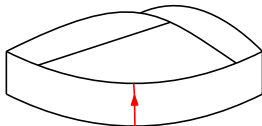


- Unlike the torus, the projective plane cannot be embedded in \mathbb{R}^3 .
- Still, there is a geometric interpretation (on the next slide).

- Take a rectangle shown below on the left (think of it as a piece of paper), twist it, and identify the two vertical edges (as shown by the arrows). The result (on the bottom right) is called the *Möbius strip*.

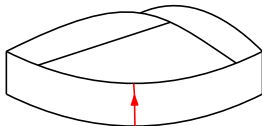


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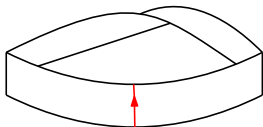


- Note that the boundary of the Möbius strip consists of just one circle, and the Möbius strip has just one “side.”

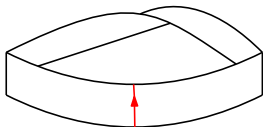
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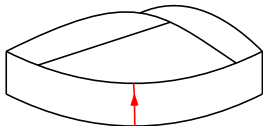
- Note that the boundary of the Möbius strip consists of just one circle, and the Möbius strip has just one “side.”
- Now, take a sphere, cut out a small disk from it, and then glue the Möbius strip along the boundary obtained by removing the disk.
- The result is the projective plane (the circle of the Möbius strip corresponds to the edge A from our AA representation of the projective plane).



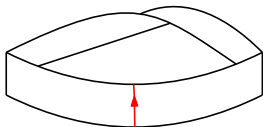
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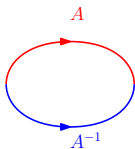
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- If the bug keeps going forward, it will eventually come back to the same place (and facing in the same direction), but with left and right reversed.



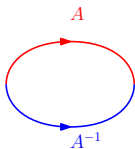
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- Intuitively, imagine a two-dimensional bug on the surface of the Möbius strip (which is part of the projective plane).
- If the bug keeps going forward, it will eventually come back to the same place (and facing in the same direction), but with left and right reversed.
- This sort of thing is impossible on “orientable” surfaces such as the sphere or the torus (or double torus, triple torus, etc.).

- Now, any $2n$ -gon, with edges labeled A_1, \dots, A_n (in any order), with each letter appearing exactly twice on the $2n$ -gon, either in the form A (for clockwise direction) or A^{-1} (for counterclockwise direction) can be transformed into a surface via gluing using the rules described above.

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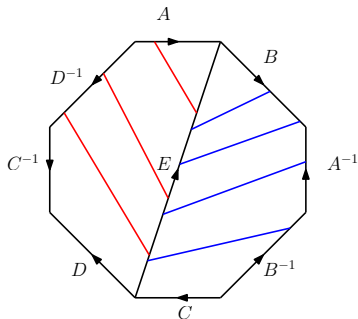


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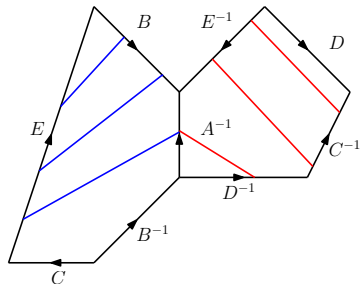


- Some labellings are equivalent (next two slides).

- For example, the two octagons below obviously “encode” the same surface (i.e. after gluing, we get the same surface, in this case, the double torus).

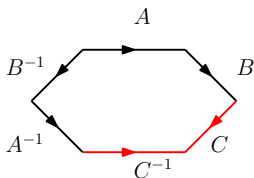


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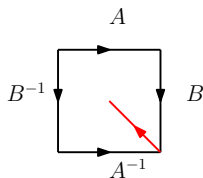


$$BE^{-1}DC^{-1}D^{-1}B^{-1}CE$$

- Sometimes, we have “unnecessary” letters/edges in our polygon, as the picture below shows. Both polygons represent a torus.



$$ABCC^{-1}A^{-1}B^{-1}$$



$$ABA^{-1}B^{-1}$$

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Every surface has a polygonal representation of one of the following forms:

- AA^{-1} ;
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Proof. Omitted.

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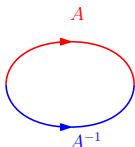
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- As a matter of fact, each surface has infinitely many polygonal representations (because we can always add AA^{-1} , thus creating a bigger polygon, without changing the surface).
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- AA^{-1} represents the sphere.



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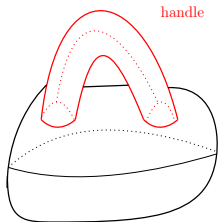
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- This type of torus can be obtained from a sphere by adding k “handles” to a sphere.



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 - So, $(A_1A_1)(A_2A_2)\dots(A_kA_k)$ is the surface obtained from the sphere by adding k crosscaps.

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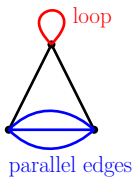
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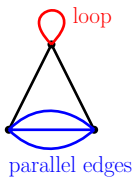
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 - The *genus* of a connected sum of k real projective planes is k .

- A “multigraph” is a graph that may possibly have loops and parallel edges.



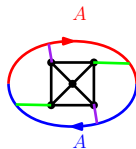
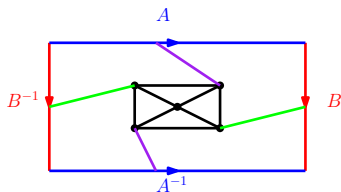
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- Just as we can draw graphs (and multigraphs) on a sphere, we can draw them on any other surface.

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- For instance, below is a drawing of K_5 on the torus (left) and on the projective plane (right). (Note how the green edge and the purple edge “wrap around” the rectangle.)



Euler polyhedral formula

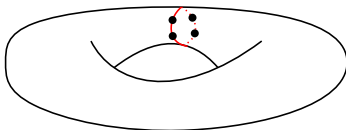
Let G be any connected planar multigraph. Then for any drawing of G on the sphere (without edge crossings), we have that

$$V - E + F = 2,$$

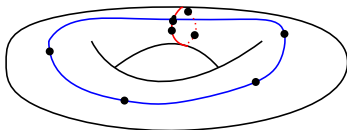
where V is the number of vertices, E the number of edges, and F the number of faces of the drawing.

Proof. Discrete Math.

- A *net* on a surface is a multigraph drawing on that surface (with no edge crossings) in which every face is homeomorphic to an open disk.

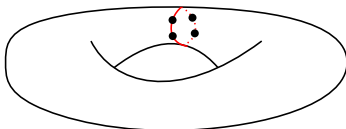


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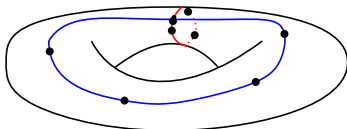


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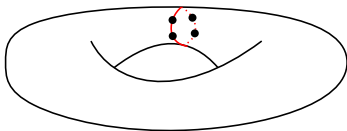
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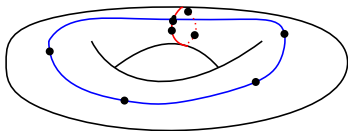
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- Note that the net (or rather, the multigraph whose drawing it is) must be connected.
- Our next goal is to generalize the Euler polyhedral formula for surfaces of arbitrary genus.

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 - This is because both V and E increase by ℓ , and F remains unchanged.

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 - Here, we are using the fact that each face is homeomorphic to a disk, and so adding an edge between two existing vertices necessarily “splits” an existing face into two).

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Let G be a net on an (orientable or non-orientable) surface S of genus k . Let V be the number of vertices, E the number of edges, and F the number of faces of this net. Then:

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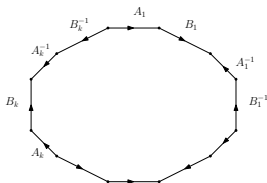
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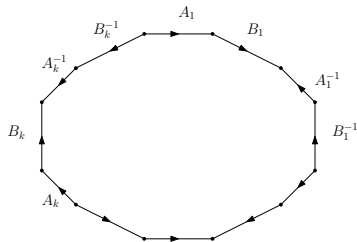
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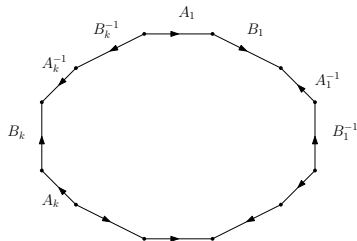
Proof. (a) Assume that S is orientable. If $k = 0$, then S is the sphere, and we are done by the Euler polyhedral formula. So, we may assume that $k \geq 1$. Then S is the connected sum of k tori, and it has a polygonal representation $(A_1 B_1 A_1^{-1} B_1^{-1}) \dots (A_k B_k A_k^{-1} B_k^{-1})$.



Proof (continued). Reminder: S is the connected sum of k tori, represented by $(A_1 B_1 A_1^{-1} B_1^{-1}) \dots (A_k B_k A_k^{-1} B_k^{-1})$. WTS $V - E + F = 2 - 2k$.

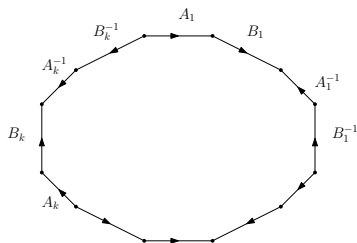


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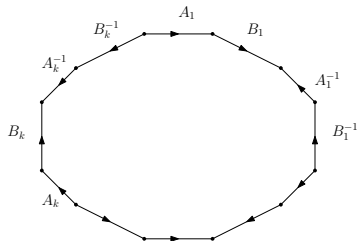
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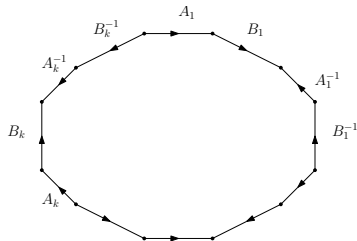
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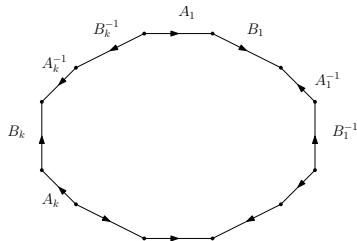
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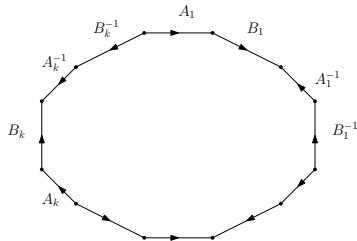
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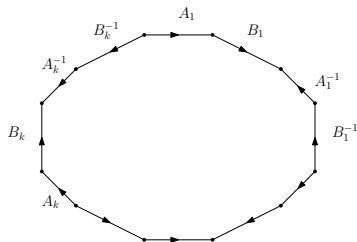
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Now, our net G on the surface S can be “translated” into a plane drawing in the natural way: we simply place our polygon in the plane.

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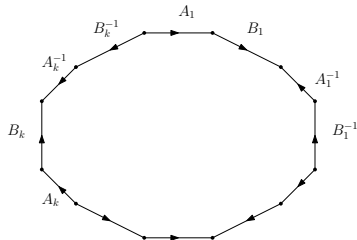
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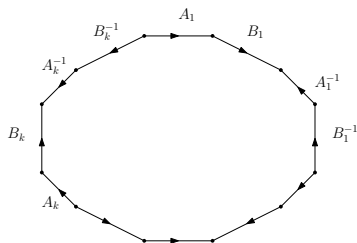
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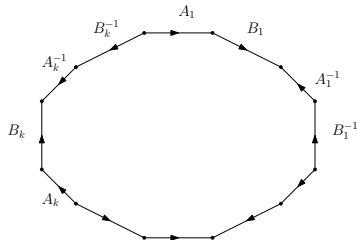
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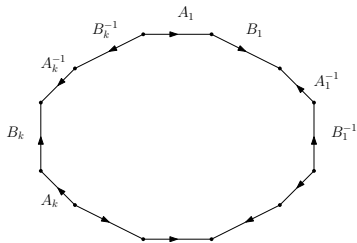
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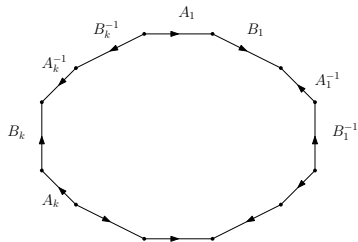


So, the plane drawing has

$4k + 2V_p + (V - 1 - V_p) = V + V_p + 4k - 1$ vertices,

$2E_p + (E - E_p) = E + E_p$ edges, and $F + 1$ faces (because of the exterior face).

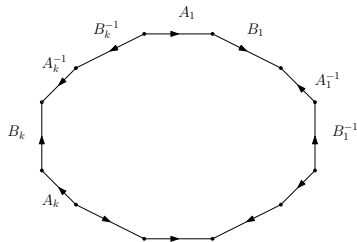
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$$(V + V_p + 4k - 1) - (E + E_p) + (F + 1) = 2,$$

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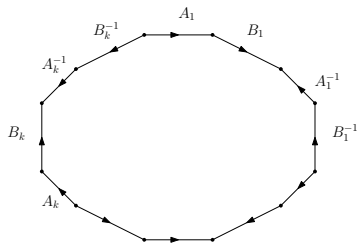


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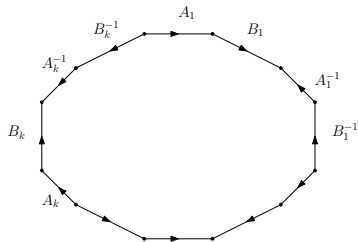


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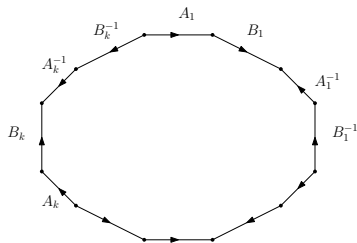


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Let G be a net on an (orientable or non-orientable) surface S of genus k . Let V be the number of vertices, E the number of edges, and F the number of faces of this net. Then:

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Proof (continued). We have now proven (a).

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Proof (continued). We have now proven (a).

(b) Assume that S is non-orientable; then S is the connected sum of k projective planes. Let $(A_1A_1) \dots (A_kA_k)$ be the polygonal representation of the surface S . The proof is now almost identical to that of part (a), except that we have a $2k$ -gon, rather than a $4k$ -gon, and so the computation yields $V - E + F = 2 - k$.

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Corollary 2.2

Let G be a multigraph drawing (with no edge crossings) on a surface S of genus k .^a Let V be the number of vertices, E the number of edges, and F the number of faces of this net. Then:

- (a) if S is orientable, then $V - E + F \geq 2 - 2k$;
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^aNote: G need not be a net, that is, it is possible that not all faces are homeomorphic to disks.

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Proof. We keep adding edges to G (without creating edge crossings) until we obtain a net. (Note that this may possibly decrease the value of $V - E + F$, but it cannot increase it.) The result is a net, and so the result follows from Theorem 2.1.

Definition

The *Euler characteristic* of a surface S , denoted by $ec(S)$, is the number $V - E + F$, where V , E , and F are, respectively, the number of vertices, edges, and faces of some net on S .

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 - So, the Euler characteristic of the sphere is 2, and the Euler characteristic of the torus is 0. The Euler characteristic of the projective plane is 1.
- Corollary 2.2 implies that if G is a multigraph drawing on a surface S , then $V - E + F \geq ec(S)$, where V , E , and F are the number of vertices, edges, and faces of the drawing.

Corollary 2.3

Let G be a (simple) graph on at least two edges, drawn on an (orientable or non-orientable) surface S (without edge crossings). Then $|E(G)| \leq 3|V(G)| - 3\text{ec}(S)$. Consequently, the average degree of G is at most $6 - \frac{6\text{ec}(S)}{|V(G)|}$.

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Corollary 2.3

Let G be a (simple) graph on at least two edges, drawn on an (orientable or non-orientable) surface S of genus k (without edge crossings). Then $|E(G)| \leq 3|V(G)| + 3k - 6$. Consequently, the average degree of G is at most $6 + \frac{6(k-2)}{|V(G)|}$.

Proof (continued). Reminder: $|E(G)| \leq 3|V(G)| - 3\text{ec}(S)$.

Corollary 2.3

Let G be a (simple) graph on at least two edges, drawn on an (orientable or non-orientable) surface S of genus k (without edge crossings). Then $|E(G)| \leq 3|V(G)| + 3k - 6$. Consequently, the average degree of G is at most $6 + \frac{6(k-2)}{|V(G)|}$.

Proof (continued). Reminder: $|E(G)| \leq 3|V(G)| - 3\text{ec}(S)$.

Finally, since the average degree of G is $\frac{2|E(G)|}{|V(G)|}$, the inequality above immediately implies that the average degree of G is at most $6 - \frac{6\text{ec}(S)}{|V(G)|}$.

Definition

For an integer $c \leq 2$, we define the *Heawood number* as follows:

$$H(c) := \left\lfloor \frac{7 + \sqrt{49 - 24c}}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

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From now on, WMA S is not a sphere, so that $c \leq 1$.

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Since $H(c) > 0$, the above is equivalent to

$$H(c)^2 - 5H(c) + 6(c - 1) \leq 0.$$

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By solving the corresponding quadratic equation, we now get that

$$\frac{5-\sqrt{49-24c}}{2} \leq H(c) \leq \frac{5+\sqrt{49-24c}}{2}.$$

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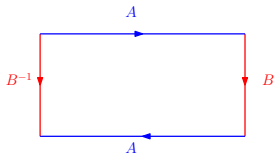
$$\frac{5-\sqrt{49-24c}}{2} \leq H(c) \leq \frac{5+\sqrt{49-24c}}{2}.$$

But from the definition of $H(c)$, we have that

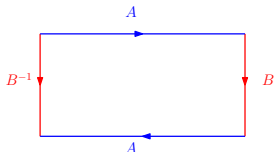
$$H(c) = \left\lfloor \frac{7+\sqrt{49-24c}}{2} \right\rfloor > \frac{7+\sqrt{49-24c}}{2} - 1 = \frac{5+\sqrt{49-24c}}{2},$$

a contradiction.

- The *Klein bottle* is the surface with polygonal representation $AABB$ or $ABAB^{-1}$.

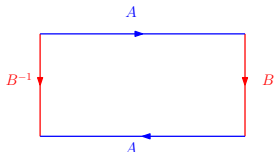


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Theorem 3.2 [Ringel and Youngs]

If S is a surface other than the Klein bottle, then the complete graph $K_{H(\text{ec}(S))}$ can be drawn on S (without edge crossings).

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- Recall that the Euler characteristic of the Klein bottle is 0, and note that $H(0) = 7$.
- However, as we shall see, the maximum chromatic number of the Klein bottle is 6 (see Theorem 3.4).

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K_6 can be drawn on the Klein bottle (without edge crossings), but K_7 cannot.

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Let G be a connected graph that is neither a complete graph nor an odd cycle. Then $\chi(G) \leq \Delta(G)$.

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