

Neighborhood hypergraphs of digraphs]Neighborhood hypergraphs of digraphs  
and some matrix permutation problems <sup>1</sup>

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# RUTCOR RESEARCH REPORT

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**Abstract.** Given a digraph  $D$ , the set of all pairs  $(N^-(v), N^+(v))$  constitutes the neighborhood dihypergraph  $\mathcal{N}(D)$  of  $D$ . The Digraph Realization Problem asks whether a given dihypergraph  $H$  coincides with  $\mathcal{N}(D)$  for some digraph  $D$ . This problem was introduced by Aigner and Triesch [2] as a natural generalization of the Open Neighborhood Realization Problem for undirected graphs, which is known to be NP-complete.

We show that the Digraph Realization Problem remains NP-complete for orgraphs (orientations of undirected graphs). As a corollary, we show that the Matrix Skew-Symmetrization Problem for square  $\{0, 1, -1\}$  matrices  $(a_{ij} = -a_{ji})$  is NP-complete. This result can be compared with the known fact that the Matrix Symmetrization Problem for square  $0 - 1$  matrices  $(a_{ij} = a_{ji})$  is NP-complete.

Extending a negative result of Fomin, Kratochvíl, Lokshtanov, Mancini, and Telle [15] we show that the Digraph Realization Problem remains NP-complete for almost all hereditary classes of digraphs defined by a unique minimal forbidden subdigraph.

Finally, we consider the Matrix Complementation Problem for rectangular  $0 - 1$  matrices, and prove that it is polynomial-time equivalent to graph isomorphism. A related known result is that the Matrix Transposability Problem is polynomial-time equivalent to graph isomorphism.

## 2000 Mathematics Subject Classification:

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05C85 (Graph algorithms).

Neighborhood hypergraphs of digraphs and orgraphs, Graph Isomorphism Problem, matrix symmetrization, matrix complementation, symmetrizability, skew-symmetrizability, involutory automorphisms

# 1 Introduction

Let  $D = (V, A)$  be a digraph without loops and multiple arcs. For a vertex  $v \in V$ , we denote

$$N^-(v) = \{u \in V : (u, v) \in A\},$$

the *in-neighborhood* of  $v$ , and

$$N^+(v) = \{w \in V : (v, w) \in A\},$$

the *out-neighborhood* of  $v$ . Suppose that we know all pairs  $(N^-(v), N^+(v))$ , is it possible to restore the digraph? To formalize the problem, let us define a *directed hypergraph*, or shortly *dihypergraph*, as an ordered pair  $(V, A) = H$  consisting of a finite set  $V$ , the *vertex-set* of  $H$ , and a finite multi-set of hyperarcs, a *hyperarc*  $a \in A$  being an ordered pair  $(a^-, a^+) = a$  of some subsets  $a^-$  and  $a^+$  of  $V$ . It is possible that  $a^- = \emptyset$  or  $a^+ = \emptyset$  or  $a^- = a^+$ . Also note that  $a^-$  and  $a^+$  are not necessarily disjoint.

**Definition 1.** *The neighborhood dihypergraph of a digraph  $D$ ,  $\mathcal{N}(D)$ , has  $V(D)$  as its vertex-set, and  $A(\mathcal{N}(D)) = \{(N^-(v), N^+(v)) : v \in V(D)\}$ .*

An obvious property of  $\mathcal{N}(D)$  is that the number of vertices is the same as the number of hyperarcs. The following problem was proposed by Aigner and Triesch [2].

## Decision Problem 1 (Digraph Realization Problem).

Instance: *A directed hypergraph  $H$ .*

Question: *Does  $H = \mathcal{N}(D)$  hold for some digraph  $D$ ?*

This problem generalizes the *Open Neighborhood Realization Problem* for undirected graphs: given a hypergraph  $H$  (with possible multiple hyperedges), the problem is asking to find a graph  $G$  for which  $H$  is the hypergraph of open neighborhoods  $\mathcal{N}^{\text{op}}(G)$ , of vertices of  $G$ , that is  $V(H) = V(G)$  and  $E(H) = \{N(v) : v \in V(G)\}$ . Here  $N(v) = \{w \in V(G) : vw \in E(G)\}$  is the *neighborhood* of a vertex  $v$  of  $G$ . The Open Neighborhood Realization Problem was proposed by Sós [21] under the name the Star System Problem, and it is also attributed to G. Sabidussi by Babai [4]. Also, Babai [4] noticed that the problem is at least as hard as graph isomorphism. Boros, Gurvich, and Zverovich [8] survey different equivalent formulations of the problem.

The *Closed Neighborhood Realization Problem* is defined in a similar way, using the *closed neighborhoods*  $N[v] = \{v\} \cup N(v)$  of vertices. Also, one can consider a hypergraph  $\mathcal{N}(G)$  of open and closed neighborhoods of  $G$ , that is, for each vertex  $v$  either  $N(v)$  or  $N[v]$  is a hyperedge of  $\mathcal{N}(G)$ . The *Neighborhood Realization Problem* is to decide whether a given hypergraph  $H$  is  $\mathcal{N}(G)$  for some graph  $G$ .

**Theorem 1 (Lalonde [16, 17]).** *The Open Neighborhood Realization Problem, the Closed Neighborhood Realization Problem, and the Neighborhood Realization Problem are NP-complete.*

An undirected graph  $G$  can be viewed as a digraph on  $V(G)$  if we replace every edge  $uv \in E(G)$  by the corresponding pair  $(u, v), (v, u)$  of opposite arcs.

**Corollary 1 (Aigner and Triesch [2]).** *The Digraph Realization Problem is NP-complete.*

Theorem 1 has an interesting interpretation. A square matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  is *symmetric* if  $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . A square matrix  $A$  is *symmetrizable* if it is possible to permute rows of  $A$  in such a way that the resulting matrix is symmetric. The Neighborhood Realization Problem is equivalent to the *Matrix Symmetrization Problem*: Is a given square 0–1 matrix is symmetrizable? If we additionally require that all entries in the main diagonal are 0s (respectively, 1s), then we obtain a problem which is equivalent to the Open (respectively, Closed) Neighborhood Realization Problem. The three symmetrization problems are NP-complete.

We show that the Digraph Realization Problem remains NP-complete for orgraphs (orientations of undirected graphs) and for almost all hereditary classes of digraphs defined by a unique minimal forbidden subdigraph. As a corollary, we show that the Matrix Skew-Symmetrization Problem for square  $\{0, 1, -1\}$  matrices is NP-complete. The problem is to bring a matrix to skew form ( $a_{ij} = -a_{ji}$ ) using permutations of rows. Then we consider the Matrix Complementation Problem for rectangular 0–1 matrices: to construct the complementary matrix (defined by  $\bar{a}_{ij} = 1 - a_{ji}$ ) using row and column permutations. We prove that it is polynomial-time equivalent to graph isomorphism.

## 2 Representations

It is convenient to represent hypergraphs as bipartite graphs. and as their adjacency matrices. A *bigraph*  $B = (X, Y, E)$  is defined as a bipartite graph on vertex-set  $V = X \cup Y$  with a fixed order  $(X, Y)$  of its parts. Here  $X \cap Y = \emptyset$  and  $E \subseteq X \times Y$ . To a bigraph  $B = (X, Y, E)$  we can associate its *X-Y-adjacency* matrix  $A(B) = (a_{ij}) \in \{0, 1\}^{X \times Y}$  defined by  $a_{ij} = 1$  if and only if  $(i, j) \in E$ . Conversely, any 0–1 matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  can be viewed as the X-Y adjacency matrix  $A = A(B)$  of a corresponding bigraph  $B = (X, Y, E)$ , where  $X$  is the set of row indices of  $A$ ,  $Y$  is the set of column indices of  $A$ , and  $(i, j) \in E$  if and only if  $a_{ij} = 1$ , see an example in Figure 1.

Now we consider similar representations of a dihypergraph  $H$ . Let us define a *directed bigraph*  $B = (X, Y, A)$  as a bipartite digraph on vertex-set  $X \cup Y$  with a fixed order  $(X, Y)$  of its parts, i.e., where  $X \cap Y = \emptyset$  and  $A \subseteq (X \times Y) \cup (Y \times X)$ .

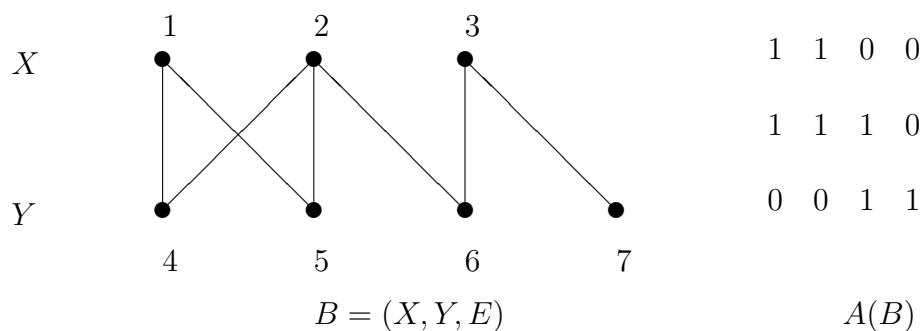


Figure 1: A bigraph  $B = (X, Y, E)$  and its adjacency matrix  $A(B)$ .

**Definition 2.** Given a dihypergraph  $H$ , we construct a directed bigraph  $B_H$  as follows. For every vertex  $v$  of  $H$ , we introduce a vertex in  $X$ , which is also called  $v$ . For every hyperarc  $a = (a^-, a^+)$ , we introduce a vertex  $a \in Y$ . Whenever  $v \in a^-$ , there is the arc  $(v, a)$  in  $B_H$ . Whenever  $v \in a^+$ , there is the arc  $(a, v)$  in  $B_H$ .

As an example, consider the neighborhood dihypergraph  $H = (V, A)$  of the digraph  $D$  shown in Figure 2:  $V = \{u, v, w, x\}$ ,  $A = \{a_u, a_v, a_w, a_x\}$ , where  $a_u = (\{v\}, \emptyset)$ ,  $a_v = (\{w\}, \{u, w\})$ ,  $a_w = (\{v, x\}, \{v\})$ , and  $a_x = (\emptyset, \{w\})$ .

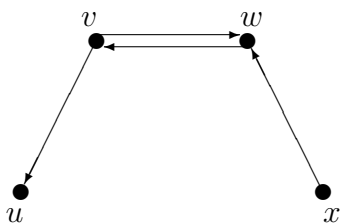
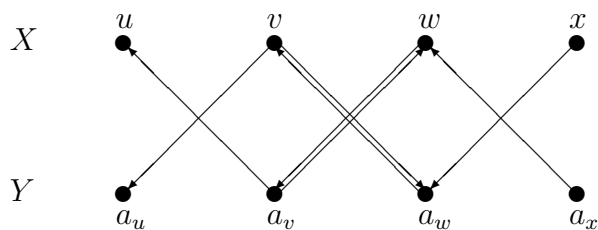


Figure 2: A digraph  $D$ .

The directed bigraph  $B_H$  of  $H$  is shown in Figure 3.

Consider a directed bigraph  $B = (X, Y, A)$  and an automorphism  $\alpha : (X \cup Y) \rightarrow (X \cup Y)$  of the underlying bipartite digraph  $B$ , that is for which  $(i, j) \in A$  if and only if  $(\alpha(i), \alpha(j)) \in A$ . The automorphism  $\alpha$  is *involutory* if  $\alpha(i) = j$  implies  $\alpha(j) = i$ , that is  $\alpha^2$  is identity, and it

Figure 3: The directed bigraph  $B_H$  of  $H$ .

is called *switching* if  $\alpha(X) = Y$  and  $\alpha(Y) = X$ . The Digraph Realization Problem for a directed hypergraph  $H$  can be equivalently formulated in terms of  $B_H$ : Does  $B_H$  admit an involutory switching automorphism  $\alpha$  such that  $x$  and  $\alpha(x)$  are non-adjacent for all  $x \in X$ ?

To a directed bigraph  $B = (X, Y, A)$  we can associate its  $X$ - $Y$ -adjacency matrix  $A(B) = (a_{ij}) \in \{0, 1, -1, \pm 1\}^{X \times Y}$  defined by

- $a_{ij} = 0$  if and only if  $i \in X, j \in Y, (i, j) \notin A$  and  $(j, i) \notin A$ ,
- $a_{ij} = 1$  if and only if  $i \in X, j \in Y, (i, j) \in A$  and  $(j, i) \notin A$ ,
- $a_{ij} = -1$  if and only if  $i \in X, j \in Y, (j, i) \in A$  and  $(i, j) \notin A$ ,
- $a_{ij} = \pm 1$  if and only if  $i \in X, j \in Y, (i, j) \in A$  and  $(j, i) \in A$ .

We have

$$A(B_H) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & \pm 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \pm 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

for the directed bigraph  $B_H$  of Figure 3.

### 3 Orgraph realizations and skew symmetrization

An *orgraph* is an orientation of an undirected graph. In other words, an orgraph is a digraph having no pairs of opposite arcs. Here we consider Decision Problem 1 for orgraphs – the Orgraph Realization Problem.

**Theorem 2.** *The Orgraph Realization Problem is NP-complete.*

*Proof.* We construct a polynomial-time reduction from the Neighborhood Realization Problem, which is NP-complete by Theorem 1. Let  $H$  be an instance to the problem represented as a bigraph  $B = (X, Y, E)$ . In terms of  $B$ , the problem is to recognize whether  $B$  has an involutory automorphism  $\alpha$  (that is  $\alpha^2$  is identical) which switches the parts ( $\alpha(X) = Y$ ). Without loss of generality, we may assume that all vertex degrees in  $B$  are at least three. To satisfy this assumption we can add  $i \leq 3$  new vertices into each part, making them adjacent to all vertices in the opposite part.

Now we transform  $B$  into a directed bigraph  $B' = (X', Y', A)$  by replacing every edge  $e = xy \in E$ , where  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$ , by a directed 6-cycle

$$C^e = (x = x_1^e, y_1^e, x_2^e, y = y_2^e, x_3^e, y_3^e), \quad (1)$$

and put the vertices  $x_i^e$  and  $y_i^e$  into the parts  $X'$  and  $Y'$  of  $B'$ , respectively, see Figure 4 for an illustration.

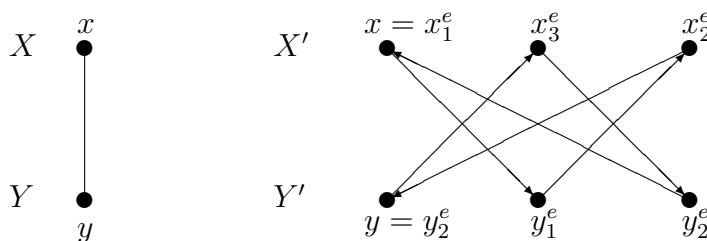


Figure 4: The construction of a directed bigraph  $B' = (X', Y', A)$ .

The directed bigraph  $B'$  represents a dihypergraph  $H'$  which is considered as an instance to the Orgraph Realization Problem. In terms of  $B'$ , the problem is to recognize whether  $B'$  has an involutory automorphism  $\alpha'$  which switches the parts  $X$  and  $Y'$ , and such that  $x'$  and  $\alpha'(x')$  are always non-adjacent, where  $x' \in X'$ .

Suppose that  $B$  admits an involutory automorphism  $\alpha$  that switches the parts  $X$  and  $Y$ . If some vertices  $x \in X$  and  $y = \alpha(x) \in Y$  are adjacent, then we define  $\alpha'(x) = y$ ,  $\alpha'(x_2^e) = y_3^e$

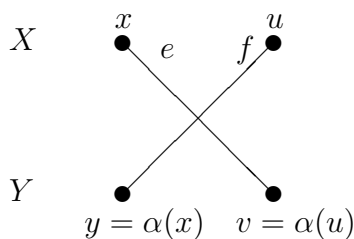


Figure 5: The edges  $e = xv$  and  $f = uy$  of  $B$ .

and  $\alpha'(x_3^a) = y_1^a$ , see the correspondence in Figure 4. Now consider two edges  $e = xv$  and  $f = uy$  of  $B$  such that  $y = \alpha(x) \neq v = \alpha(u)$ , as it is shown in Figure 5.

The vertices

$$x = x_1^e, y_1^e, x_2^e, v = y_2^e, x_3^e, y_3^e$$

of the directed cycle  $C^e$  will be mapped by  $\alpha'$  to the vertices

$$y = y_2^f, x_3^f, y_3^f, u = x_1^f, y_1^f, x_2^f$$

of the directed cycle  $C^f$ , respectively, as it is shown in Figure 6. It is easy to see that  $\alpha'$  is an involutory automorphism of  $B'$  that switches  $X'$  and  $Y'$ . Also,  $x'$  and  $\alpha'(x')$  are non-adjacent for all  $x' \in X'$ .

Conversely, let  $\alpha'$  be an involutory automorphism of  $B'$  switching  $X'$  and  $Y'$ , and such that  $x'$  and  $\alpha'(x')$  are non-adjacent for all  $x' \in X'$ . The degree assumption implies that  $\alpha'$  pairs the vertices of  $X$  with the vertices of  $Y$ . Thus,  $\alpha'$  induces an involutory bijection  $\alpha$  on  $B$  that switches  $X$  and  $Y$ . Finally,  $\alpha$  is an automorphism of  $B$ . Indeed, let  $y = \alpha(x)$  and  $v = \alpha(u)$  for some distinct vertices  $x, u \in X$ . Suppose that  $e = xv$  is an edge of  $B$ . It is easy to see that the directed 6-cycle  $C^e$  can be mapped by  $\alpha'$  to another directed 6-cycle as in Figure 6 only. It shows that  $u$  and  $y$  must be adjacent.  $\square$

A square matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  is called *skew* if  $a_{ij} = -a_{ji}$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . In other words,  $A = -A^T$ , where  $A^T$  is the transpose of  $A$ . Clearly, all entries on the main diagonal must be zeroes. A square matrix  $A$  is *skew-symmetrizable* if it is possible to obtain a skew matrix permuting rows of  $A$ .

### Decision Problem 2 (Skew-Symmetrization Problem).

Instance: A square  $\{0, 1, -1\}$  matrix  $A$ .

Question: Is  $A$  a skew-symmetrizable matrix?

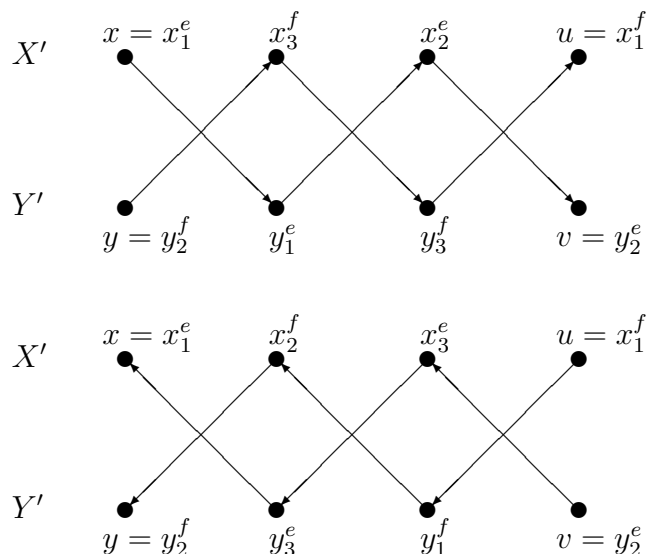


Figure 6: The automorphism  $\alpha'$ .

The Orgraph Realization Problem is essentially the same as the Skew-Symmetrization Problem. Let a dihypergraph  $H$  be an instance to the Orgraph Realization Problem. We may assume that  $|V(H)| = |A(H)|$ . The directed bigraph  $B$  of  $H$  does not have pairs of opposite arcs (otherwise  $H$  has no orgraph realizations). The  $\{0, 1, -1\}$  adjacency matrix of  $B$  is skew-symmetrizable if and only if  $H = \mathcal{N}(D)$  for some orgraph  $D$ .

**Corollary 2.** *The Matrix Skew-Symmetrization Problem is NP-complete.*

It is interesting to study the Matrix Skew-Symmetrization Problem within hereditary classes of orgraphs, in particular for  $D$ -free orgraphs.

## 4 Skew transposability

Here we consider the following problem which is related to skew symmetrizability. A square matrix  $A$  is *skew-transposable* if  $A \rightarrow -A^T$ , where  $A^T$  is the transpose of  $A$ .

**Decision Problem 3 (Skew Transposability Problem).**

Instance: *A square  $\{0, 1, -1\}$  matrix  $A$ .*

Question: *Is  $A$  a skew-transposable matrix?*

Here is a relation between the two problems.

**Proposition 1.** *Every skew-symmetrizable matrix  $A$  is skew-transposable.*

*Proof.* By the definition of skew-symmetrizable, there exists a permutation matrix  $P$  such that  $PA$  is skew-symmetric, that is  $PA = -(PA)^T = -A^T P^T$ . To show that  $A \rightarrow -A^T$ , we apply  $P$  to the columns of  $PA$ :  $PAP = -A^T P^T P = -A^T$ , meaning that  $A$  skew-transposable.  $\square$

If we represent a square  $\{0, 1, -1\}$  matrix  $A$  as a directed bigraph  $B = (X, Y, A)$ , then the matrix  $-A^T$  produces the *reversed* directed bigraph  $B' = (Y, X, A)$ . For example, let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We have

$$-A^T = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The corresponding directed bigraphs  $B$  and  $B'$  are shown in Figure 7.

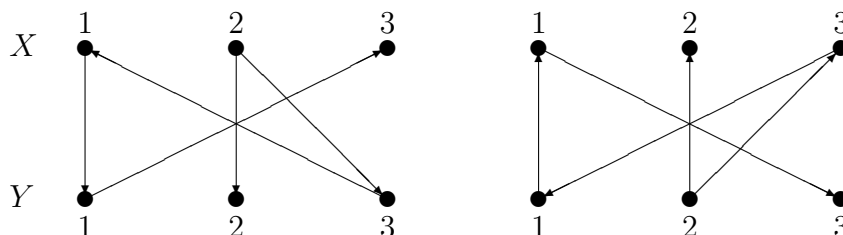


Figure 7: The directed bigraphs  $B$  and  $B'$ .

Now we clarify the complexity of Decision Problem 3.

**Proposition 2.** *The Skew Transposability Problem is polynomial-time equivalent to graph isomorphism.*

*Proof.* The Skew Transposability Problem is equivalent to checking whether  $B$  and  $B'$  are isomorphic, which is a particular case of graph isomorphism. Conversely, suppose we want to check isomorphism of graphs  $G$  and  $H$ . We represent  $G$  as a directed bigraph  $B_G = (X_G, Y_G, A_G)$ , where  $X_G = V(G)$ ,  $Y_G = E(G)$ , and every edge  $e = uv \in E(G)$  produces two arcs  $(u, e)$  and  $(v, e)$  in  $B$ . A similar bigraph  $B_H = (X_H, Y_H, A_H)$  is defined for  $H$ , and  $B'_H = (Y'_H, X'_H, A'_H)$  is obtained by reversing of  $B_H$ . Let  $B$  be disjoint union of  $B_G$  and  $B'_H$ . Accordingly,  $B'$  is disjoint union of  $B'_G$  and  $B_H$ . Assuming that both  $G$  and  $H$  do not have isolated vertices,  $G$  and  $H$  are isomorphic if and only if  $B$  and  $B'$  are.  $\square$

## 5 Digraph realizations within hereditary classes

Fomin, Kratochvíl, Lokshtanov, Mancini, and Telle [15] studied the Open Neighborhood Realization Problem within hereditary classes.

**Definition 3.** Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be hereditary class of graphs. A  $\mathcal{P}$ -realization of a hypergraph  $H$  is a graph  $G \in \mathcal{P}$  such that  $\mathcal{N}(G) = H$ . If  $\mathcal{P}$  is defined by a unique minimal forbidden induced subgraph  $H$ , then a  $\mathcal{P}$ -realization is called an  $H$ -free realization of  $H$ .

Definition 3 is extended to digraphs in a straightforward way.

A *star-like graph* consists of  $k \geq 1$  paths  $Q_i = (u_0, u_{i1}, u_{i2}, \dots, u_{id_i})$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , having a common vertex  $u_0$ . Here  $d_i \geq 0$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . An example of a star-like graph with  $k = 3$ ,  $d_1 = 3$ ,  $d_2 = 4$ , and  $d_3 = 2$  is shown in Figure 8.

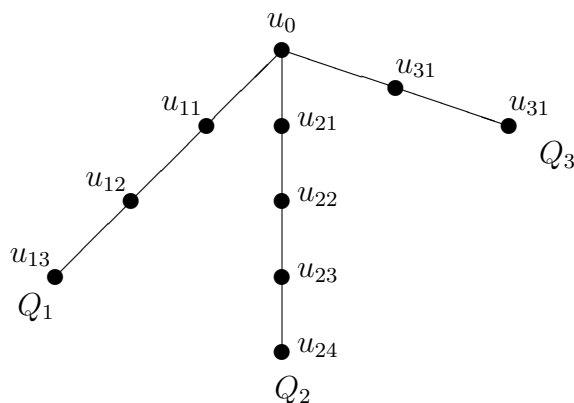


Figure 8: An example of a star-like graph.

If every connected component of a graph  $G$  is star-like, then  $G$  is called an *S-graph*. Fomin, Kratochvíl, Lokshtanov, Mancini, and Telle [15] proved the following result in the complementary form (for closed neighborhood hypergraphs).

**Theorem 3.** If  $H$  is not an *S-graph*, then it is NP-hard to decide whether a given hypergraph has an  $H$ -free realization.

Theorem 3 can be easily extended to  $\mathcal{P}$ -realizations, where  $\mathcal{P}$  is a hereditary class with a finite set  $Z(\mathcal{P})$  of minimal forbidden induced subgraphs.

**Theorem 4.** If  $Z(\mathcal{P})$  is a finite set and it does not contain an *S-graph*, then it is NP-hard to decide whether a given hypergraph has a  $\mathcal{P}$ -realization.

If  $H$  is an  $S$ -graph, then complexity of the  $H$ -free realization problem is unknown, except the following polynomial-time solvable cases:  $H \in \{\overline{P_1}, \overline{P_2}, \overline{P_3}, \overline{P_4}, \overline{C_3}, \overline{C_4}\}$ , where  $P_k$  and  $C_k$  are the path and the cycle with  $k$  vertices, and  $\overline{G}$  is the complement of  $G$ , see Fomin, Kratochvíl, Lokshtanov, Mancini, and Telle [15].

We are going to extend Theorem 3 and Theorem 4 to digraphs.

A *star-like digraph of type 1* is obtained from a star-like graph  $G$  if we replace every edge  $uv \in E(G)$  by the corresponding pair  $(u, v), (v, u)$  of opposite arcs. A *star-like digraph of type 2* consists of  $k \geq 1$  directed paths

$$Q_i = (u_0, u_{i1}, u_{i2}, \dots, u_{id_i}),$$

$i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , having a common vertex  $u_0$ , and of  $l \geq 0$  directed paths

$$R_j = (v_{j1}, v_{j2}, \dots, v_{je_j}, u_0),$$

$j = 1, 2, \dots, l$ , having a common vertex  $u_0$ . Here  $d_i \geq 0$  and  $e_j \geq 0$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . An example of a star-like graph with  $k = 3, d_1 = 3, d_2 = 4, d_3 = 2, l = 2, e_1 = 3$  and  $e_2 = 2$  is shown in Figure 9.

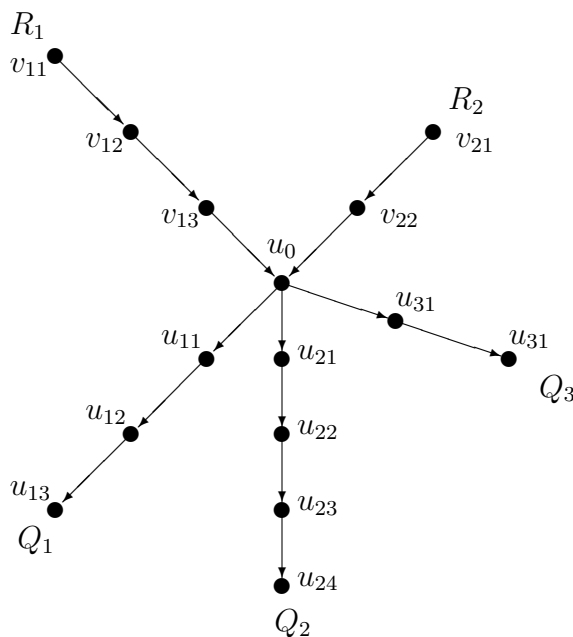


Figure 9: An example of a star-like digraph of type 2.

If every weakly connected component of a digraph  $D$  is a star-like digraph of type  $i$ , then  $D$  is called an  $S_i$ -digraph,  $i = 1, 2$ .

**Theorem 5.** *If a digraph  $D$  has at least one arc, then it is NP-hard to decide whether a given dihypergraph  $H$  has a  $D$ -free realization.*

*Proof.* First we apply Theorem 3 to a *symmetric* dihypergraph  $H$ , that is  $a^- = a^+$  for every hyperarc  $(a^-, a^+)$  of  $H$ .

**Property 1.** *If  $D$  is not an  $S_1$ -digraph, then it is NP-hard to decide whether a symmetric dihypergraph  $H$  has an  $D$ -free realization.*

*Proof.* A digraph is *symmetric* if  $(u, v)$  is an arc if and only if  $(v, u)$  is an arc. Essentially, a symmetric digraph is an undirected graph. Clearly, every realization of a symmetric dihypergraph is a symmetric digraph, and Theorem 3 implies the result, since  $D$  is not an  $S_1$ -digraph.  $\square$

Now we consider  $S_2$ -digraphs.

**Property 2.** *If  $D$  is not an  $S_2$ -digraph, then it is NP-hard to decide whether a given directed hypergraph has an  $D$ -free realization.*

*Proof.* We modify the proof of Theorem 2 in the following way. Instead of a directed 6-cycle  $C^e$  for an edge  $e = xy$  as in (1), we introduce  $(4t + 2)$ -cycle  $C^e$

$$C^e = (x = x_1^e, y_1^e, x_2^e, y_2^e, \dots, x_t^e, y = y_t^e, \dots, x_{2t+1}^e, y_{2t+1}^e) \quad (2)$$

for a fixed  $t \geq 1$ . The resulting dihypergraph and directed bigraph are denoted by  $H'$  and  $B'$ , respectively. We shall specify  $t$  so that every realization of  $H'$  does not contain the forbidden induced subdigraph  $D$ . Let  $t_1$  be the minimum length of a cycle (not necessarily directed) in  $D$ . If  $D$  is acyclic then  $t_1 = \infty$ . A *knot vertex* of  $D$  is a vertex  $u$  such that either

- $|N^-(u)| + |N^+(u)| \geq 3$ , or
- $|N^-(u)| = 2$ , or
- $|N^+(u)| = 2$ .

Let  $t_2$  be the minimum length of a path (not necessarily directed) in  $D$  that connects two knot vertices in  $D$ . If  $D$  does not have such paths, then  $t_2 = \infty$ . At least one of  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  is finite, since  $D$  is not an  $S_2$ -digraph. It is sufficient to take  $t = \min\{t_1, t_2\}$ .  $\square$

Property 1 and Property 2 show that the problem is NP-hard unless  $D$  is both an  $S_1$ -digraph and an  $S_2$ -digraph. But it is possible only if  $D$  does not have arcs.  $\square$

Let  $O_n$  be an arcless digraph of order  $n$ .

**Open Problem 1.** *How hard is to decide whether a given directed hypergraph has an  $O_n$ -free realization,  $n \geq 3$ ?*

For  $n \leq 2$ , the problem is trivially polynomial-time solvable.

## 6 Matrix complementation

Here we consider another interesting problem related to 0 – 1 matrices. Let  $A = (a_{ij})$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix with  $a_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  and  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . The *complement* of  $A$  is the matrix  $\bar{A} = (\bar{a}_{ij})$  defined by:  $\bar{a}_{ij} = -a_{ij}$  for all  $i$  and  $j$ . We write  $A \rightarrow B$  if a matrix  $A$  can be transformed to a matrix  $B$  with row and column permutations.

### Decision Problem 4 (Matrix Complementation Problem).

Instance:  $A$  0 – 1 matrix  $A$ .

Question: Does  $A \rightarrow \bar{A}$  hold?

As an example, consider the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Permuting row 1 and row 2, we obtain

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now, permutation of column 2 and column 3 gives

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \bar{A},$$

therefore  $A \rightarrow \bar{A}$ .

We show that the Matrix Complementation Problem is polynomial-time equivalent to graph isomorphism. One can mention a related result of McCarthy and McKay [20] which says that the problem  $A \rightarrow A^T$ , where  $A$  is a square 0 – 1 matrix  $A$  and  $A^T$  is the transpose of  $A$ , is also polynomial-time equivalent to graph isomorphism.

An obvious necessary condition for  $A \rightarrow \bar{A}$  is that  $A_0 = A_1$ , where  $A_k$  denotes the total number of entries  $a_{ij} = k$  in  $A$ . However, this condition is not sufficient. For example, it is impossible to get  $\bar{A}$  from the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $A_0 = A_1 = 6$ . Indeed, permuting columns of  $A$ , one can obtain the following six matrices:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and, unlike  $\bar{A}$ , no one of them has two rows (011). Thus,  $A \rightarrow \bar{A}$  does not hold. The *Graph Isomorphism Problem* is well-known: Are two given graphs isomorphic?

**Theorem 6.** *The Matrix Complementation Problem and the Graph Isomorphism Problem are polynomial-time equivalent.*

*Proof.* First we represent  $A$  and  $\bar{A}$  as bigraphs  $B = (X, Y, E)$  and  $B' = (X', Y', E')$ , respectively. The bigraphs  $B$  and  $B'$  are *isomorphic* if there are bijections  $\alpha : X \leftrightarrow X'$  and  $\beta : Y \leftrightarrow Y'$  such that  $(i, j) \in E$  if and only if  $(\alpha(i), \beta(j)) \in E'$ . The corresponding recognition problem is called *Bigraph Isomorphism*.

**Fact 1.**  *$A \rightarrow \bar{A}$  holds if and only if the bigraphs  $B$  and  $B'$  are isomorphic.*

*Proof.* Indeed, a permutation  $\alpha$  of rows and a permutation  $\beta$  of columns is nothing but an isomorphism of corresponding bigraphs.  $\square$

The *bi-complement* of  $B$  is the bigraph  $\bar{B} = (X, Y, \bar{E})$ , where

$$\bar{E} = \{xy : x \in X, y \in Y, xy \notin E\}.$$

Clearly,  $B'$  is isomorphic to  $\bar{B}$ . A bigraph is *self-bi-complementary* if  $B$  and  $\bar{B}$  are isomorphic, see Bhawe and Raghunathan [6]. In this terminology, Fact 1 says that  $A \rightarrow \bar{A}$  holds if and only if  $B$  is a self-bi-complementary bigraph. Recognition of self-bi-complementary bigraphs is a particular case of the Bigraph Isomorphism Problem, therefore the Matrix Complementation Problem is not harder than graph isomorphism.

**Fact 2.** *The Graph Isomorphism Problem is polynomial-time reducible to recognition of self-bi-complementary bigraphs.*

*Proof.* Let  $G$  and  $H$  be an instance to the Graph Isomorphism Problem. Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $|V(G)| = |V(H)| = n$ ,  $|E(G)| = |E(H)| = m$  (otherwise  $G$  and  $H$  are not isomorphic) and both  $G$  and  $H$  do not have isolated vertices (otherwise we add a dominating vertex to each of them obtaining an equivalent instance).

We subdivide every edge of  $G$  and  $H$  with a new vertex, and denote the resulting graphs by  $G'$  and  $H'$ , respectively.  $G'$  can be considered as a bigraph having  $V(G)$  as its  $X$ -part (old vertices) and the set of  $|E(G)|$  new vertices as its  $Y$ -part. Similar situation takes place for  $H'$ . Now we use the graphs  $G'$  and  $H'$  to construct a bigraph  $B = (X, Y, E)$  such that  $G \cong H$  if and only if  $B$  is self-bi-complementary. For that, we take disjoint copies of  $G'$  and  $\bar{H}'$  [the bi-complement of  $H'$ ], and introduce all edges between the  $X$ -part of  $G'$  and the  $Y$ -part of  $\bar{H}'$ . Figure 10 illustrates the construction.

The bi-complement  $\bar{B}$  of  $B$  is shown in Figure 11, where  $\bar{G}'$  and  $H'$  are the bi-complements of  $G'$  and  $H'$ , respectively, and all edges between the  $X$ -part  $H'$  of and the  $Y$ -part of  $\bar{G}'$  are included.

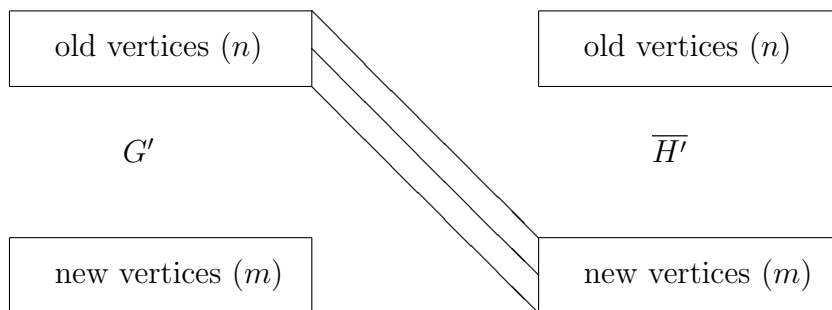


Figure 10: The construction of  $B$ .

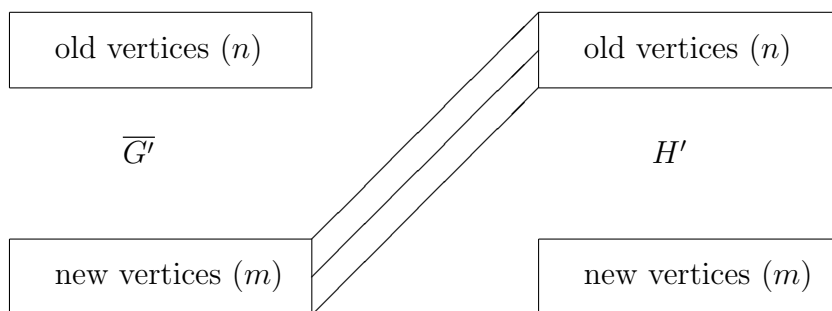


Figure 11: The bi-complement  $\bar{B}$  of  $B$ .

If we have an isomorphism  $\phi : V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$ , then we can obviously extend  $\phi$  to isomorphisms of  $G'$  and  $H'$ , and  $\bar{H}'$  and  $\bar{G}'$ . In turn, they induce an isomorphism of the bigraphs  $B$  and  $\bar{B}$ .

Conversely, let  $\alpha, \beta$  be an isomorphism of  $B$  and  $\bar{B}$ . The assumptions imply that  $\deg_B u \geq m + 1 > \deg_{\bar{B}} v$  for all old vertices  $u, v$  of  $G'$ . It shows that  $\alpha$  transforms the old vertices of  $G'$  to the old vertices of  $H'$ . Similarly,  $\deg_B u = 2 < n + 2 \leq \deg_{\bar{B}} v$  for all new vertices  $u, v$  of  $G'$ . Hence  $\beta$  transforms the new vertices of  $G'$  to the new vertices of  $H'$ . As a result, we obtain an isomorphism of  $G'$  and  $H'$  which induces an isomorphism of  $G$  and  $H$ .  $\square$

Now the result follows from Fact 1 and Fact 2.  $\square$

Fact 2 is similar to a known result of Colbourn and Colbourn [14, 12] that recognizing whether a graph is self-complementary is polynomially equivalent to the graph isomorphism problem. The Matrix Complementation Problem can be viewed as a particular case of the following *Matrix Negation Problem* (if we replace 0 by  $-1$ ): Given a matrix  $A$  over a set of integers, whether  $A \rightarrow -A$ . It is not hard to show that the Matrix Negation Problem is polynomial-time equivalent to graph isomorphism.

## 7 Tournament realizations and anti-symmetrization

A *tournament* is an orientation of a complete undirected graph. Decision Problem 1 for tournaments is trivial. However, Aigner and Triesch [2] proposed an interesting variant of the problem. Given a digraph  $D$ , define the (+)-neighborhood hypergraph,  $H = \mathcal{N}^+(D)$ , by  $V(H) = V(D)$  and  $E(H) = \{N^+(u) : u \in V(D)\}$ .

### Decision Problem 5 (Digraph (+)-Realization Problem).

Instance: A hypergraph  $H$ .

Question: Does  $H = \mathcal{N}^+(D)$  hold for some digraph  $D$ ?

This problem is simple in general: Aigner and Triesch [2] noted that it is equivalent to finding a perfect matching in a bipartite graph. But they were unable to solve Decision Problem 5 for tournaments.

We represent a hypergraph  $H$  as an (undirected) bigraph  $B = (X, Y, E)$ . The problem is to find an involutory switching automorphism  $\alpha$  such that  $x$  and  $\alpha(x)$  are always non-adjacent, and  $x \in X$  is adjacent to  $\alpha(x') \in Y$  if and only if the vertices  $x' \in X$  and  $\alpha(x) \in Y$  are non-adjacent. Illustrations for the oriented triple and the transitive triple are given in Figure 12 and Figure 13, respectively.

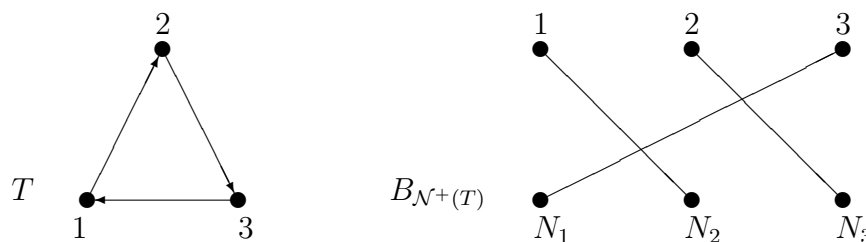


Figure 12: An illustration for the oriented triple.

To a bigraph  $B = (X, Y, E)$  we can associate its  $X$ - $Y$ -adjacency matrix  $A(B) = (a_{ij}) \in \{0, 1\}^{X \times Y}$  defined by  $a_{ij} = 1$  if and only if  $(i, j) \in E$ . Conversely, any 0–1 matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  can be viewed as the  $X$ - $Y$  adjacency matrix  $A = A(B)$  of a corresponding bigraph  $B = (X, Y, E)$ , where  $X$  is the set of row indices of  $A$ ,  $Y$  is the set of column indices of  $A$ , and  $(i, j) \in E$  if and only if  $a_{ij} = 1$ . Here are the adjacency matrices of the bigraphs of Figure 12

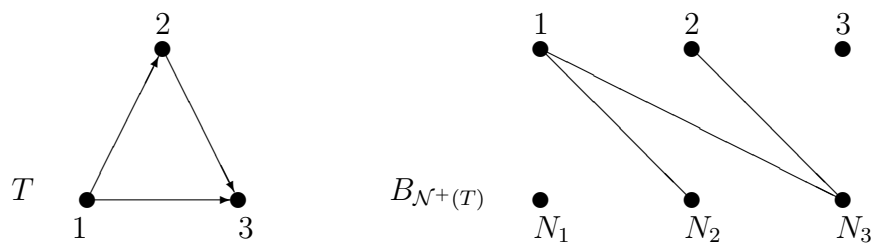


Figure 13: An illustration for the transitive triple.

and Figure 13, respectively:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} .$$

Now we reformulate the problem in terms of square 0 – 1 matrices as follows. Does a given 0 – 1 square matrix  $A$  admits a permutation of rows such that the resulting matrix  $B$  has the properties:

**(all-0 diagonal)**  $b_{ii} = 0$  for all  $i$ , and

**(anti-symmetry)**  $b_{ij} \neq b_{ji}$  for all  $i \neq j$ ?

It is called the *Matrix Anti-Symmetrization Problem*.

**Conjecture 1.** *The Matrix Anti-Symmetrization Problem is NP-hard.*

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