

# Path-liftable digraph homomorphisms and non-liftable indices

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## Digraphs and digraph homomorphisms

A **digraph** is a quadruple  $(V, E, i, t)$ :

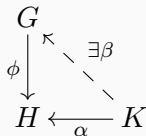
- vertex set  $V$ ; arc set  $E$ ;
- initial operator  $i : E \rightarrow V$ ; terminal operator  $t : E \rightarrow V$ .

A **digraph homomorphism** from a digraph  $G$  to a digraph  $H$  is a pair of maps  $\phi = (\phi_0, \phi_1)$  such that the following diagrams commute.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_G & \xrightarrow{i_G} & V_G \\ \phi_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow \phi_0 \\ E_H & \xrightarrow{i_H} & V_H \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} E_G & \xrightarrow{t_G} & V_G \\ \phi_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow \phi_0 \\ E_H & \xrightarrow{t_H} & V_H \end{array}$$

# Liftings

A digraph homomorphism  $\phi \in \text{hom}(G, H)$  is  **$K$ -liftable** if for every  $\alpha \in \text{hom}(K, H)$  there exists  $\beta \in \text{hom}(K, G)$  such that  $\alpha = \phi \circ \beta$ .



## Path-liftable property

$P_k$  denotes the directed path digraph of length  $k$ .



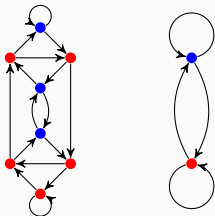
A digraph homomorphism is **path-liftable** if it is  $P_k$ -liftable for every  $k$ . A homomorphism in  $\text{hom}(P_k, G)$  is called a  **$k$ -walk** of  $G$ .

$\dots \Rightarrow P_2$ -liftable  $\Rightarrow P_1$ -liftable.

If  $\phi$  is not path-liftable, the **non-liftable index** of  $\phi$  is

$\delta(\phi) :=$  the length of shortest walk in  $H$  without any lifting

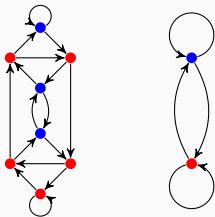
# An example



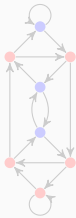
A non-liftable 8-walk



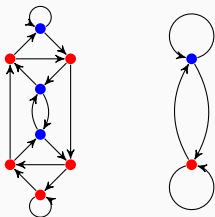
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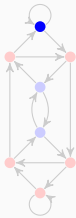
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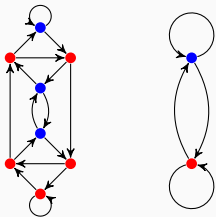
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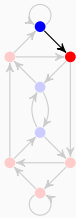
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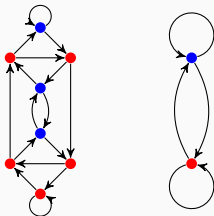


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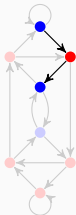




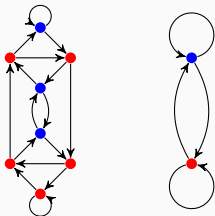
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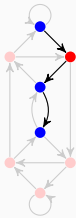
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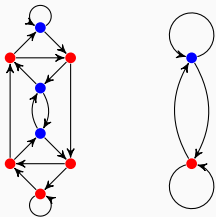
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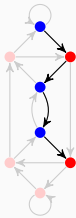
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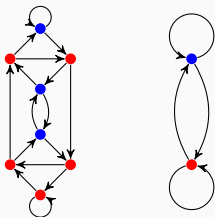
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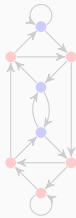
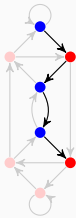
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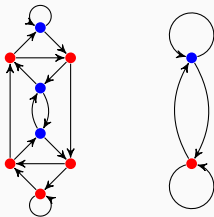
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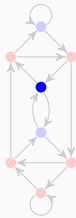
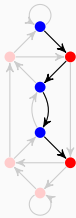
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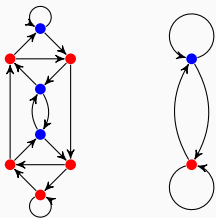
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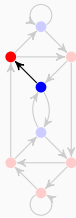
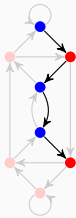
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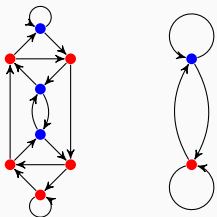
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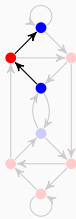
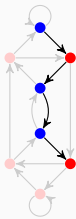
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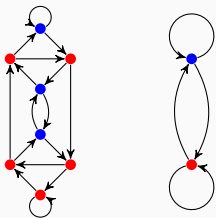
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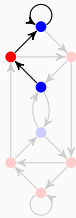
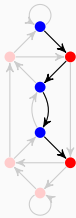
A non-liftable 8-walk



# An example

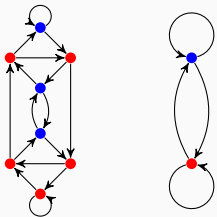


A non-liftable 8-walk

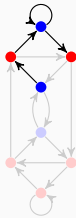
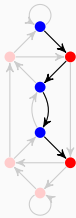




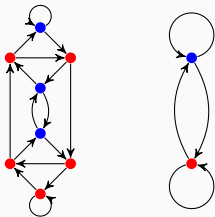
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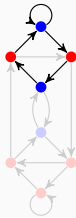
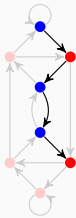
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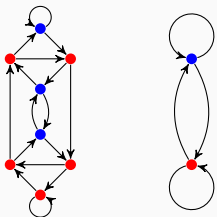
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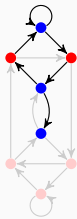
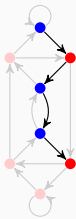
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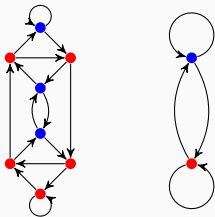
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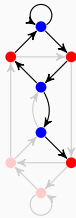
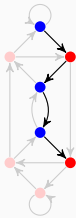
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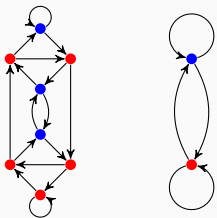
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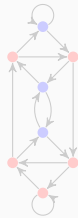
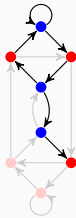
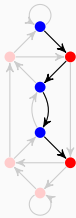
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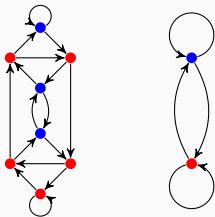
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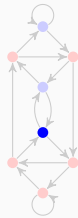
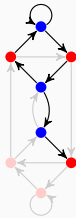
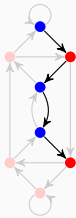
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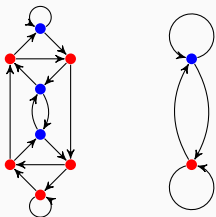
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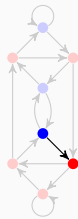
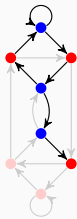
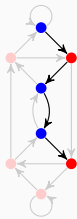
A non-liftable 8-walk



# An example



A non-liftable 8-walk



## Outline

### Question

*For given strongly connected digraphs  $G, H$  and  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ , how to determine whether  $\phi$  is path-liftable or not?*

### Question

*Can we bound  $\delta(\phi)$  by the size of  $G$  and  $H$ ?*

We will consider the two questions in the following case:

- general case;
- isentropic case,  $\lambda_G = \lambda_H$ ;
- $G$  and  $H$  are De Bruijn / Kautz digraphs.



## A upper bound of non-liftable indices

For  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ ,

$$\delta(\phi) \leq 2^{|V_G|} - 1.$$

Proof.

- Pick a shortest non-liftable walk  $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k)$  in  $H$ .
- $\mathcal{R}_0 := \phi_0^{-1}(i(e_1))$
- $\mathcal{R}_i := \{\text{the terminal vertices of liftings of } (e_1, \dots, e_i)\}$
- If  $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_j$  and  $i < j$ , then the walk  $(e_1, \dots, e_i, e_{j+1}, \dots, e_k)$  is also a non-liftable walk.
- $\mathcal{R}_0, \mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_k$  are distinct subsets of  $V_G$ . Thus  $\delta(\phi) = k \leq 2^{|V_G|} - 1$ .

□

This bound is tight.

## Reverse lexicographical order

Let  $\mathbb{B}$  be the Boolean semiring. Let  $\prec$  be the **reverse lexicographical order** on  $\mathbb{B}^n$  which is defined by  $x \prec y$  if  $x(i) > y(i)$  for the minimum  $i$  where  $x(i) \neq y(i)$ .

### Example

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

## Construction

For  $k \in [n]$ , define

$$A_k = \begin{matrix} & [k-1] & \{k\} & [k+1, n] \\ \begin{matrix} [k-1] \\ \{k\} \\ [k+1, n] \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & J \\ J & J & J \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}.$$

Let  $\mathbb{B}^n = \{\pi_i : i \in [2^n]\}$  such that  $\pi_i \preceq \pi_j$  if  $i \preceq j$ . One can check that

$$A_k \pi_i \begin{cases} \preceq \pi_i & \text{if } k \neq p, \\ = \pi_{i+1} & \text{if } k = p. \end{cases}$$

Then  $\mathbf{0} \in \langle A_k : k \in [n] \rangle$  and any product of  $2^n - 2$  elements in  $\{A_k : k \in [n]\}$  is not  $\mathbf{0}$ .

## Construction, cont'd

Construct  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  as follow.

- Let  $H$  be the digraph such that  $V_H = \{1\}$  and  $E_H = [n]$ .
- Let  $G$  be the digraph such that
  - $V_G = [n]$ ;
  - $E_G = \{(i, j, k) : A_k(i, j) = 1\}$ ;
  - initial operator is defined by  $i_G((i, j, k)) = i$ ;
  - terminal operator is defined by  $t_G((i, j, k)) = j$ .
- Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  be the homomorphism such that  $\phi_1((i, j, k)) = k$ .
- For a walk  $(e_1, \dots, e_k)$  in  $H$ ,

$$\# \text{ liftings of } (e_1, \dots, e_k) = \# 1 \text{ in } A_{e_1} A_{e_2} \cdots A_{e_k}.$$

- Then  $\delta(\phi) = 2^n - 1 = 2^{|V_G|} - 1$ .

## A dichotomy

Let  $H$  be a fixed strongly connected digraph.

### Question

*Input a digraph  $G$  and  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ . What is the complexity to determine whether  $\phi$  is path-liftable or not?*

If  $H$  is a cycle, it is easy ( $G$  has non-trivial strongly connected components  $\Leftrightarrow \phi$  is path-liftable).

### Theorem (Wu, Z.)

*If  $H$  is not a cycle, then the determine problem is NP-complete.*

- A reduction from 3-SAT problem. **blackboard**

## 3-CNF formula

Three operators on Boolean semi-field.

$x$	0	1
$\bar{x}$	1	0

Table: Negation

$\wedge$	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1

Table: Conjunction

$\vee$	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	1

Table: Disjunction

Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be Boolean variables. A **literal** is either a variable or the negation of a variable. A **clause** is the disjunction of three literals. A **3-CNF** formula is the conjunction of clauses.

### Example

$$(x_1 \vee x_2 \vee \bar{x}_3) \wedge (\bar{x}_1 \vee \bar{x}_2 \vee x_4)$$

## 3-SAT problem

For given a 3-CNF formula  $\mathcal{F}$ , the **3-SAT problem** is whether or not an assignment of the variables that make  $\mathcal{F} = 1$ .

Theorem (Cook, 1971)

*3-SAT problem is NP-complete.*

## Spectral radius

Let  $G$  and  $H$  be digraphs.

- $\lambda_G$ : the spectral radius of the adjacency matrix of  $G$ .
- Note that

$$\lambda_G = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{k} \log \left( \left| \text{hom}(P_k, G) \right| \right).$$

- Thus, if  $\lambda_G < \lambda_H$ , there is no path-liftable homomorphism from  $G$  to  $H$ .
- What is the phenomenon when  $\lambda_G = \lambda_H$ ?



# Diamonds

Let  $\phi \in \text{hom}(G, H)$  and  $\gamma, \gamma' \in \text{hom}(P_k, G)$ . We call  $(\gamma, \gamma')$  a **diamond** of  $\phi$  if

- distinct :  $\gamma \neq \gamma'$ ;
- same image:  $\phi \circ \gamma = \phi \circ \gamma'$ ;
- same initial vertex:  $i(\gamma) = i(\gamma')$ ;
- same terminal vertex:  $t(\gamma) = t(\gamma')$ .

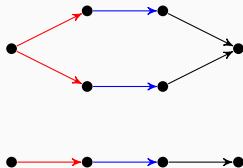


Figure: a diamond

## A cubic-time algorithm

### Theorem (Well known in symbolic dynamic)

Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two strongly connected digraphs and  $\phi \in \text{hom}(G, H)$ , then any two of the following expressions implies the other one.

- (1)  $\lambda_G = \lambda_H$ .
- (2)  $\phi$  is path-liftable.
- (3)  $\phi$  has no diamond.

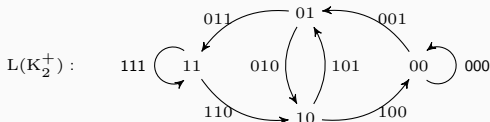
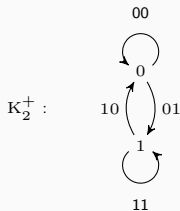
### Theorem (Even<sup>1</sup>,1965)

There is an algorithm to determine whether a homomorphism  $\phi \in \text{hom}(G, H)$  has a diamond or not in time  $O(|V_G|^3)$

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<sup>1</sup>S. Even. "On Information Lossless Automata of Finite Order". In: IEEE Transactions on Electronic Computers EC-14.4 (1965), pp. 561–569.

# De Bruijn and Kautz digraphs



- $K_n^+$ :  $n$ -vertex complete digraph with loops.
- **$d$ -dimension De Bruijn digraph**  $B(n, d)$ : the  $(d - 1)$ -th line digraph of  $K_n^+$ .
- $K_n$ :  $n$ -vertex complete digraph without loops.
- **$d$ -dimension Kautz digraph**  $K(n, d)$ : the  $(d - 1)$ -th line digraph of  $K_n$ .

## Motivation

### Definition (Tvrđik, Harbane and Heydemann<sup>2</sup>, 1998)

Let  $d$  be an integer,  $d \geq 2$ . Let  $\diamond$  be a binary operation on  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  such that for any  $y_1, \dots, y_{d-1} \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ , the set of  $d - 1$  equations

$$x_i \diamond x_{i+1} = y_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq d - 1$$

for unknowns  $x_1, \dots, x_d$  has exactly  $n$  distinct solutions such that  $x_i \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ . Then it is said that the operation  $\diamond$  satisfies Property  $(P_d)$ .

Their problem is to find all binary operations on  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  satisfying Property  $(P_d)$  for all  $d$ .

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<sup>2</sup>Pavel Tvrđik, Rabah Harbane, and Marie-Claude Heydemann. “Uniform homomorphisms of de Bruijn and Kautz networks”. In: [Discrete Appl. Math.](#) 83.1-3 (1998), pp. 279–301.

## Example

$\diamond$	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	5	5	5	1	1	1
1	4	4	4	2	2	2
2	0	0	0	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	2	2	2
4	4	4	4	0	0	0
5	1	1	1	5	5	5

Table: An operation satisfies Property ( $P_d$ ) for all  $d$ .

## From operations to digraph homomorphisms

Let  $\diamond$  be a binary operation on  $\mathbb{Z}_n$

- $\diamond$  is corresponding to the digraph homomorphism  $\phi : B(n, 2) \rightarrow B(n, 1)$  such that  $\phi_0(a, b) = a \diamond b$ .
- One can show that  $\diamond$  satisfies Property  $(P_d)$  for all  $d$  if and only if  $\phi$  is path-liftable.
- Tvrdik, Harbane and Heydemann also consider a variant definition which is corresponding to the digraph homomorphism from  $K(n, 2)$  to  $K(n, 1)$ .

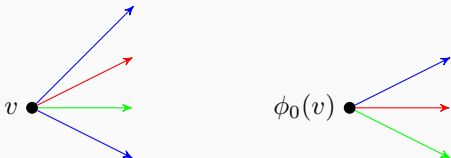
## Right-covering (Left-covering) homomorphism

- $\phi \in \text{hom}(G, H)$
- for  $v \in V_G$ , define  $G^+(v) = \{e \in E_G : i(e) = v\}$ .

$\phi$  is called **right-covering** if  $\phi_1$  is surjective from  $G^+(v)$  to  $H^+(\phi_0(v))$  for all  $v \in V_G$ .

By symmetry, we define **left-covering** homomorphisms.

We call  $\phi$  a **one-sided covering** if it is either a right-covering or a left-covering or both.



One-sided covering is always path-liftable.

## Conjecture (Tvrdik, Harbane, Heydemann, 1998)

Let  $n$  be a prime and let  $\phi \in \text{hom}(B(n, 2), B(n, 1))$  and  $\psi \in \text{hom}(K(n + 1, 2), K(n + 1, 1))$ .

- If  $\phi$  is path-liftable, then  $\phi$  is one-sided covering.
- If  $\psi$  is path-liftable, then  $\psi$  is one-sided covering.
- If  $\psi$  is not path-liftable, then  $\delta(\psi) \leq 3$ .

## Theorem (Wu, Z.)

Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two  $k$ -regular strongly connected digraphs. If  $\frac{|V_G|}{|V_H|}$  is a prime number, then  $\phi$  is path-liftable iff it is a one-sided covering.

- Define three positive integer parameters  $M(\phi)$ ,  $R(\phi)$  and  $L(\phi)$ .
- $L(\phi)M(\phi)R(\phi) = \frac{|V_G|}{|V_H|} = \text{a prime}$ .
- Either  $L(\phi)$  or  $R(\phi)$  equals 1. Thus  $\phi$  is a one-sided covering.



# Degree

- Let  $G, H$  be two strongly connected  $k$ -regular digraphs.
- A bi-infinite walk  $\tau \in \text{hom}(P_\infty, G)$  is **doubly transitive** if for every finite walk  $\gamma$  in  $G$ , it occurs in  $\tau$  infinite many times in both directions.

$$\tau = \dots *** \gamma *** * \gamma * * * * * \gamma * * * * * \dots$$

- $\phi \in \text{hom}(G, H)$

## Lemma

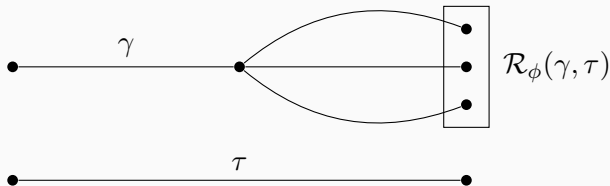
There exists a positive integer  $M(\phi)$  such that  $M(\phi) = |\{\alpha \in X_G : \phi \circ \alpha = \tau\}|$  for all doubly transitive walk  $\tau$ .

We call the number  $M(\phi)$  the **degree** of  $\phi$ .

## Welch indices

Let  $G$  and  $H$  be two strongly connected  $k$ -regular digraphs. Let  $\phi \in \text{hom}(G, H)$  be path-liftable homomorphism. For a finite walk  $\gamma$  in  $G$  and a finite walk  $\tau$  in  $H$ , define the  **$\phi$ -compatible right extension** of  $(\gamma, \tau)$  to be

$$\mathcal{R}_\phi(\gamma, \tau) \doteq \{t(\gamma\gamma') : \phi \circ (\gamma\gamma') = \tau\}.$$



Define  $R_\phi(\gamma) = \max_\tau \{|\mathcal{R}_\phi(\gamma, \tau)|\}$  and  $L_\phi(\gamma) = \max_\tau \{|\mathcal{L}_\phi(\gamma, \tau)|\}$

## Welch indices, cont'd

- [Hedlund<sup>3</sup>, 1969] There exists integer  $R(\phi)$  and  $L(\phi)$  such that  $R_\phi(\gamma) = R(\phi)$  and  $L_\phi(\gamma) = L(\phi)$  for all  $\gamma$ .
- [Hedlund, 1969]  $L(\phi)M(\phi)R(\phi) = \frac{|V_G|}{|V_H|}$ .
- In Hedlund's paper,  $G = B(n, k)$  and  $H = B(n, k')$ . The proof is also valid for  $k$ -regular case.

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<sup>3</sup>G. A. Hedlund. "Endomorphisms and automorphisms of the shift dynamical system". In: [Math. Systems Theory](#) 3 (1969), pp. 320–375.