The property of \(k\)-colourable graphs is uniquely decomposable

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Abstract

An additive hereditary graph property is a class of simple graphs which is closed under unions, subgraphs and isomorphisms. If \(\mathcal{P}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{P}_n\) are graph properties, then a \((\mathcal{P}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{P}_n)\)-decomposition of a graph \(G\) is a partition \(E_1, \ldots, E_n\) of \(E(G)\) such that \(G[E_i]\), the subgraph of \(G\) induced by \(E_i\), is in \(\mathcal{P}_i\), for \(i = 1, \ldots, n\). The sum of the properties \(\mathcal{P}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{P}_n\) is the property
\[
\mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{P}_n = \{ G \in \mathcal{I} : G \text{ has a } (\mathcal{P}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{P}_n)\text{-decomposition} \}.
\]
A property \(\mathcal{P}\) is said to be decomposable if there exist non-trivial additive hereditary properties \(\mathcal{P}_1\) and \(\mathcal{P}_2\) such that \(\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \mathcal{P}_2\). A property is uniquely decomposable if, apart from the order of the factors, it can be written as a sum of indecomposable properties in only one way. We show that not all properties are uniquely decomposable; however, the property of \(k\)-colourable graphs \(\mathcal{O}_k\) is a uniquely decomposable property.

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1. Introduction

For any undefined basic graph theoretical concepts the reader is referred to [3]. The class of all finite simple graphs is denoted by \( \mathcal{I} \). A graph property is a non-empty isomorphism-closed subclass of \( \mathcal{I} \). Notation and terminology of concepts related to graph properties are taken from [1] and of concepts related to products of graphs are taken from [5].

The fact that \( H \) is a subgraph of \( G \) is denoted by \( H \subseteq G \) and \( H \leq G \) means that \( H \) is an induced subgraph of \( G \). The disjoint union of two graphs \( G \) and \( H \) is denoted by \( G \cup H \). A property \( P \) is called hereditary if \( G \in P \) and \( H \subseteq G \) implies \( H \in P \); \( P \) is called induced-hereditary if \( G \in P \) and \( H \leq G \) implies \( H \in P \); \( P \) is called additive if \( G \cup H \in P \) whenever \( G \in P \) and \( H \in P \).

Example 1.1. Some well-known additive hereditary properties are given in the list below.

\[
\mathcal{O} = \{G \in \mathcal{I} : E(G) = \emptyset\}
\]

\[
\mathcal{S}_k = \{G \in \mathcal{I} : \text{the maximum degree of } G \text{ is at most } k\}
\]

\[
\mathcal{I}_k = \{G \in \mathcal{I} : G \text{ does not contain } K_{k+2}\}
\]

The properties \( \mathcal{I} \) and \( \mathcal{O} \) are defined to be the trivial properties and an edgeless graph is called a trivial graph. We use the phrase \( G \) has property \( P \) to denote the fact that \( G \in P \).

2. Decomposability

Let \( \mathcal{P}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{P}_n \) be graph properties. A \((\mathcal{P}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{P}_n)\)-decomposition of a graph \( G \) is a partition \( E_1, \ldots, E_n \) of \( E(G) \) such that \( G[E_i] \), the subgraph of \( G \) induced by \( E_i \), has property \( \mathcal{P}_i \), for \( i = 1, \ldots, n \). (In this context it is convenient to regard the empty set \( \emptyset \) as a set inducing a subgraph with every property \( \mathcal{P} \).) We denote by \( \mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{P}_n \) the property \( \{G \in \mathcal{I} : G \text{ has a } (\mathcal{P}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{P}_n)\text{-decomposition}\} \). It is easy to see that if \( \mathcal{P}_i \) is additive and (induced-)hereditary for every \( i \), then \( \mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{P}_n \) is also additive and (induced-)hereditary.

If \( \mathcal{K} \) is a set of properties and \( \mathcal{P} \in \mathcal{K} \) then \( \mathcal{P} \) is said to be decomposable in \( \mathcal{K} \) if there exist non-trivial properties \( \mathcal{P}_1 \) and \( \mathcal{P}_2 \) in \( \mathcal{K} \) such that \( \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \mathcal{P}_2 \);
otherwise \( P \) is said to be indecomposable in \( K \). We usually use for \( K \) the lattice \( L^a \) of all additive hereditary properties of graphs or the lattice \( L^≤ \) of all additive induced-hereditary graph properties—see [1] for more details on these lattices.

The property \( P \circ Q \) is the vertex-analogue of \( P \oplus Q \). For the sake of completeness we give the necessary definitions: For given properties \( P_1, \ldots, P_n \), a vertex \((P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_n)\)-partition of a graph \( G \) is a partition \( V_1, \ldots, V_n \) of \( V(G) \) such that for each \( i = 1, \ldots, n \) the induced subgraph \( G[V_i] \) has property \( P_i \). The product \( P_1 \circ \cdots \circ P_n \) of the properties \( P_1, \ldots, P_n \) is now defined as the set of all graphs having a vertex \((P_1, \ldots, P_n)\)-partition. Each \( P_i \) is called a factor of this product. If \( P_1 = \cdots = P_n = P \), then we write \( P^n = P_1 \circ \cdots \circ P_n \). As an example we note that \( \mathcal{O}^k \) denotes the class of all \( k \)-colourable graphs.

A property \( R \) is reducible if there are properties \( P \) and \( Q \) such that \( R = P \circ Q \); otherwise it is irreducible. This paper is motivated by the following unique factorisation theorem [6] (see also [7]).

**Theorem 2.1.** Every reducible property \( P \neq I \) in \( L^≤ \) is uniquely factorisable into irreducible factors in \( L^≤ \) (up to the order of the factors).

The following result shows that there is no corresponding result for decompositions of properties.

**Theorem 2.2.** Let \( \mathcal{P}_1 = \{ G \in \mathcal{I} : \text{Every component of } G \text{ is either a triangle or triangle-free} \} \). Then \( \mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \mathcal{S}_1 = \mathcal{I}_1 \oplus \mathcal{S}_1 \) from which it follows that \( \mathcal{I}_1 \oplus \mathcal{S}_1 \) is not uniquely decomposable.

**Proof.** For the non-trivial inclusion, let \( G \in \mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \mathcal{S}_1 \) and let \( E_1, E_2 \) be a \((\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{S}_1)\)-decomposition of \( E(G) \). Let \( E' \) consist of exactly one edge from each component of \( G[E_1] \) isomorphic to \( K_3 \) and let \( E'' = \{ e \in E_2 : e \text{ is adjacent to an edge of } E' \} \). Let \( E'_1 = (E_1 \setminus E') \cup E'' \) and \( E'_2 = (E_2 \setminus E'') \cup E' \). Clearly \( G[E'_3] \in \mathcal{S}_1 \). Also, \( G[E'_1] \in \mathcal{I}_1 \) since it is obtained from the triangle-free graph \( F = G[E_1 \setminus E'] \) by adding a set of disjoint edges \( E'' \) such that every edge in \( E'' \) has its vertices in different components of \( F \).

A similar argument shows that the above example is but a special case of the following: For all positive integers \( k \) and \( m \) such that \( k \leq m \), \( \mathcal{S}_k \oplus \mathcal{I}_m = \mathcal{S}_k \oplus \mathcal{P}_m \) where \( \mathcal{P}_m = \{ G \in \mathcal{I} : \text{Every component of } G \text{ is either a } K_{m+2} \text{ or } K_{m+2} \text{-free} \} \).
3. The unique decomposability of $\mathcal{O}^k$

In order to prove that $\mathcal{O}^k$ is uniquely decomposable in $L_\leq$, we need a few results on homomorphism properties.

A homomorphism of a graph $G$ to a graph $H$ is a function $f$ from $V(G)$ into $V(H)$ such that if $uv \in E(G)$ then $f(u)f(v) \in E(H)$; if such a function exists, we write $G \rightarrow H$. For a given graph $H$ we denote by $\rightarrow H$ the (additive hereditary) property \{ $G \in \mathcal{I} : G \rightarrow H$ \}. $\rightarrow H$ is called a hom property.

The disjunction of two graphs $G$ and $H$, denoted by $G \lor H$, is the graph with vertex set $V(G) \times V(H) = \{(g, h) : g \in V(G) \text{ and } h \in V(H)\}$ and edge set $\{(g_1, h_1)(g_2, h_2) : g_1g_2 \in E(G) \text{ or } h_1h_2 \in E(H)\}$.

Using the standard notation $\overline{H}$ for the complement of a graph $H$ we write $G[n]$ for $G \lor \overline{K_n}$ and call $G[n]$ a multiplication of $G$.

Some basic properties of the disjunction, multiplications and homomorphism properties are given below.

**Lemma 3.1.** For all graphs $G$, $H$ and $F$ and positive integers $k$ and $n$:

1. $G \lor H = H \lor G$.
2. $(G \lor H) \lor F = G \lor (H \lor F)$.
3. $G \rightarrow H$ iff $G \subseteq H[k]$ for some $k$.
4. $\rightarrow G = \rightarrow H$ iff $G \rightarrow H$ and $H \rightarrow G$.
5. $\rightarrow H = \rightarrow H[k]$.
6. $\mathcal{O}^k = \rightarrow K_k$. □

**Theorem 3.2.** Let $G$ and $H$ be graphs. Then $\rightarrow G \lor \rightarrow H = \rightarrow (G \lor H)$.

**Proof.** First we show that $G \lor G' \rightarrow G \rightarrow G'$ for all $G'$. An appropriate ($\rightarrow$ $G$, $\rightarrow G'$)-decomposition $E_1, E_2$ of $G \lor G'$ is given by letting $(u_1, v_1)(u_2, v_2) \in E_1$ iff $u_1u_2 \in E(G)$.

In order to prove now that $\rightarrow (G \lor H) \subseteq \rightarrow G \rightarrow H$ we suppose that $K \in \rightarrow (G \lor H)$. Then, by Lemma 3.1(3), $K \subseteq (G \lor H)[k]$ for some $k$. But, by the definition of $G[k]$ and Lemma 3.1(2), $(G \lor H)[k] = (G \lor H) \lor \overline{K_k} = G \lor (H \lor \overline{K_k}) = G \lor (H[k])$. Therefore, with $G' = H[k]$, it follows that $K \in \rightarrow G \lor \rightarrow H[k] = \rightarrow G \rightarrow H$, using Lemma 3.1(5).

Now suppose that $F \in \rightarrow G \rightarrow H$ and let $E_1, E_2$ be a ($\rightarrow G$, $\rightarrow H$)-decomposition of $F$. Then there exist homomorphisms $g : (V(F), E_1) \rightarrow G$ and $h : (V(F), E_2) \rightarrow H$. Now define $f : F \rightarrow G \lor H$ by $f(v) = (g(v), h(v))$ for all $v \in V(F)$. In order to show that $f$ is a homomorphism, let $uv \in E(F)$. Then $f(u)f(v) = (g(u), h(u))(g(v), h(v))$. If $uv \in E_1$ then $g(u)g(v) \in E(G)$ hence $f(u)f(v) \in E(G \lor H)$. Similarly, if $uv \in E_2$ then $f(u)f(v) \in E(G \lor H)$. Therefore $f$ is a homomorphism, proving that $F \in \rightarrow (G \lor H)$. □
Corollary 3.3. For all positive integers $a$ and $b$, $O^{ab} = O^a \oplus O^b$.

Proof. $O^{ab} = \rightarrow K_{ab} = \rightarrow (K_a \vee K_b) = \rightarrow K_a \oplus \rightarrow K_b = O^a \oplus O^b$. \hfill \square

For graphs $G$ and $H$ we define the lexicographic product $H \circ G$ of $G$ and $H$ to be the graph with vertex set $V(H) \times V(G)$ and edge set $\{(u_1, v_1)(u_2, v_2) : u_1 = u_2$ and $v_1v_2 \in E(G)$ or $u_1u_2 \in E(H)\}$. We let $H \circ \mathcal{P}$ be the class of all subgraphs of graphs of the form $H \circ G, G \in \mathcal{P}$.

The edges of the lexicographic product $H \circ G$ of two graphs $H$ and $G$ take the following two forms:
- For a given vertex $u_1 \in V(H)$, the edges of the form $(u_1, v_1)(u_1, v_2)$ with $v_1v_2 \in E(G)$; these we call edges of type $u_1$.
- For a given edge $u_1u_2 \in E(H)$, the edges of the form $(u_1, v_1)(u_2, v_2)$ with $v_1, v_2 \in V(G)$; these we call edges of type $u_1u_2$.

A colouring of the edge set $E(F)$ of a subgraph $F$ of $H \circ G$ is called good if, for each $u_1 \in V(H)$, all the edges of type $u_1$ have the same colour and, for each $u_1u_2 \in E(H)$, all the edges of type $u_1u_2$ have the same colour. (For different vertices (edges) of $H$, the colours of the edges of the type associated with these vertices (edges respectively) need not be the same.)

Next we consider two graphs $F \subseteq H \circ G$ and $F' \subseteq H \circ G'$. If there is an isomorphism $f : V(F) \rightarrow V(F')$ of $F$ onto $F'$ such that, for all $(u, v) \in V(F)$, $f(u, v) \in \{u\} \times V(G')$, then we say that $f$ is position-sensitive and we write $F \cong_{ps} F'$.

With $F$ and $F'$ as in the previous paragraph (but not necessarily isomorphic), we write $F' \rightarrow^g F$ if for every 2-colouring of $E(F')$ there is an induced subgraph $K \subseteq F'$ such that the inherited colouring of $E(K)$ is a good colouring and $F \cong_{ps} K$. $F' \rightarrow^g F$ means that, with respect to any 2-edge colouring of $F'$, there is a well-coloured position-sensitive copy of $F$ in $F'$.

A property $\mathcal{P} \in \mathbb{L}_{\leq}^a$ is called $H$-Ramsey if for every $F \in H \circ \mathcal{P}$ there is an $F' \in H \circ \mathcal{P}$ such that $F' \rightarrow^g F$; if $H = K_2$ it is called a bipartite Ramsey property. The well-known Bipartite Ramsey Lemma (see for instance Lemma 9.3.3 of [4]) states that the property $\mathcal{O}$ is bipartite Ramsey.
Lemma 3.4. Let $P$ be a bipartite Ramsey property and let $H$ be any graph. Then $P$ is $H$-Ramsey.

Proof. We imitate the partite construction due to Nešetřil and Rödl in [8] where the special case with $P = \emptyset$ (and $H = K_n$) is proved. We first prove the following statement: For any $e = u_1u_2 \in E(H)$ and $G \in H \circ P$ there is a $G' \in H \circ P$ such that $G' \rightarrow^c G$, where we mean by this notation that for any 2-colouring of $E(G')$ there is a $K \leq G'$ such that $G \cong_p K$ and all type $u_1u_2$ edges have the same colour, all type $u_1$ edges have the same colour, and all type $u_2$ edges have the same colour in the 2-colouring $K$ inherits from $G'$.

We construct $G'$ as follows: For $i = 1, 2$, let $V_i = \{(u, v) \in V(G) : u = u_i\}$. Let $B \in K_2 \circ P$ be the subgraph of $G$ induced by $V_1 \cup V_2$. Since $P$ is bipartite Ramsey, there exists a $B' \in K_2 \circ P$ such that $B' \rightarrow^g B$. For every induced subgraph $B''$ of $B'$ such that $B'' \cong_p B$ we add a copy of $G - E(B)$ to $B'$ and we identify the vertices corresponding to vertices of $V_1 \cup V_2$ with the corresponding vertices of $B''$. It is easy to see that $G'$ has the required properties.

Now let $E(H) = \{e_1, \ldots, e_m\}$. For any $G \in P$, we repeat the above construction to obtain graphs $G_1, \ldots, G_m$ such that $G_m \rightarrow^{e_m} G_{m-1} \rightarrow^{e_{m-1}} G_{m-2} \rightarrow^{e_{m-2}} \cdots \rightarrow^{e_2} G_1 \rightarrow^{e_1} G$ from which it follows that $G_m \rightarrow^g G$. $\square$

In our next result we use the notation $H = H_1 \uplus H_2$ to denote that $V(H) = V(H_1) = V(H_2)$ and $E(H) = E(H_1) \cup E(H_2)$, with $E(H_1) \cap E(H_2) = \emptyset$.

Theorem 3.5. Let $H \subseteq P \uplus Q$, $P, Q \in L_2^\infty$. Then there exist graphs $H_1$ and $H_2$ such that $H \subseteq H_1 \uplus H_2$ with $H_1 \subseteq P$, $H_2 \subseteq Q$ and $H = H_1 \uplus H_2$.

Proof. Let $G$ be any graph in $\rightarrow H$. Then $G \subseteq H[k] = H \circ K_k$ for some $k$. By Lemma 3.4 (with $P = \emptyset$), there exists a graph $G' \subseteq H \circ K_k$, for some $\ell$, such that $G' \rightarrow^g G$. Then $G' \rightarrow H$, so that $G' \in P \uplus Q$. Consider therefore any $(P, Q)$-colouring $c$ of $E(G')$. By the Lemma there is a $K$ such that $c$ restricted to $E(K)$ is a good colouring of $K$ and $K \cong_p G$. Therefore every $G \in \rightarrow H$ has a good $(P, Q)$-colouring, if we regard $G$ as a subgraph of $H \circ K_k$ for some $k$.

Any such good colouring induces a colouring of $E(H)$ in a natural way. Since there are finitely many colourings of $E(H)$ there is a colouring $c' = E_1, E_2$ of $E(H)$ such that every graph $G \in H$ has a good $(P, Q)$-colouring that induces $c'$. (Otherwise we could find a disjoint union of finitely many graphs $G_1 \rightarrow H$ with no good $(P, Q)$-colouring.) Set $H_1 = (V(H), E_1)$ and $H_2 = (V(H), E_2)$. Clearly, $H \subseteq H_1 \uplus H_2$ and since $H_1 \uplus H_2$ is a hom-property by Theorem 3.2, it follows that $H \subseteq H_1 \uplus H_2$.

By the choice of $c'$, $H_1 \subseteq P$ and $H_2 \subseteq Q$, and we clearly have $H = H_1 \uplus H_2$. $\square$

Corollary 3.6. For any graph $H$, if $H$ is decomposable in $L_2^\infty$ then $H$ is decomposable in $\text{HOM} = \{\rightarrow H : H \in \mathcal{I}\}$. $\square$
The next result is useful in the proof of our main result. Here we use the
following standard notation: \( \omega(G) \) is the clique number of a graph \( G \), \( \chi(G) \) is the chromatic number of \( G \) and \( \alpha(G) \) is the independence number of \( G \).

**Lemma 3.7.** Let \( G \) and \( H \) be graphs. Then

1. \( \omega(G \lor H) \leq \omega(G)\chi(H) \leq \chi(G \lor H) \).
2. \( \alpha(G \lor H) = \alpha(G)\alpha(H) \).
3. \( \rightarrow H = \mathcal{O}^k \) iff \( \omega(H) = \chi(H) = k \).

**Proof.**

1. In order to prove the first inequality, let \( K \) be a complete subgraph of \( G \lor H \) and let \( F \) be any edgeless induced subgraph of \( H \). Then \( |V(K) \cap (V(G) \times V(F))| \leq \omega(G) \) since \( G \lor F = G[d] \) with \( d = |V(F)| \), and \( \omega(G[d]) = \omega(G) \). Since \( V(H) \) can be partitioned into \( \chi(H) \) independent sets it follows that

\[
|V(K)| \leq \omega(G)\chi(H).
\]

For the second inequality we take any complete subgraph \( K \) of \( G \) of order \( \omega(G) \). Then \( \chi(K \lor H) = \omega(G)\chi(H) \) and \( K \lor H \subseteq G \lor H \).

2. If \( K = \{ (g_1, h_1), \ldots, (g_k, h_k) \} \) is an independent subset of \( V(G \lor H) \) then \( K_G = \{ g_1, \ldots, g_k \} \) and \( K_H = \{ h_1, \ldots, h_k \} \) are independent subsets of \( V(G) \) and \( V(H) \), respectively. Then \( |K| \leq |K_G \times K_H| = |K_G||K_H| \leq \alpha(G)\alpha(H) \).

Also, if \( K_1 \) and \( K_2 \) are independent subsets of \( G \) and \( H \), respectively, then \( K_1 \times K_2 \) is an independent subset of \( G \lor H \), hence \( \alpha(G \lor H) = \alpha(G)\alpha(H) \).

3. If \( \rightarrow H = \mathcal{O}^k \) then \( k \leq \omega(H) \leq \chi(H) \leq k \). If \( \omega(H) = \chi(H) = k \) then \( H \rightarrow K_k \rightarrow H \) hence \( \rightarrow H = \mathcal{O}^k \) by Lemma 3.1. \( \square \)

**Theorem 3.8.** Let \( p_1, \ldots, p_n \) be prime numbers and let \( k = p_1 \cdots p_n \). Then the property \( \mathcal{O}^k \) has the unique decomposition \( \mathcal{O}^l_p \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{O}^{l_p} \) in \( \mathbb{L}_d^2 \).

**Proof.** Let \( k \) be any positive integer. We show that if \( \mathcal{O}^k = \mathcal{P} \oplus \mathcal{Q} \), with \( \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q} \in \mathbb{L}_d^2 \), then there exists an integer \( a \) such that \( \mathcal{P} = \mathcal{O}^a \). Then, if \( \mathcal{O}^k = \mathcal{P}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{P}_m \) with \( \mathcal{P}_i \) indecomposable for every \( i \), it follows that for every \( i \), \( \mathcal{P}_i = \mathcal{O}^{q_i} \) for some \( q_i \). Since \( \mathcal{P}_i \) is indecomposable \( q_i \) must be prime by Corollary 3.3. The result then follows from the unique factorisation of integers and Corollary 3.3.

Suppose therefore that \( \mathcal{O}^k = \mathcal{P} \oplus \mathcal{Q} \), with \( \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q} \in \mathbb{L}_d^2 \). Since \( \mathcal{O}^k = \rightarrow K_k \) we have, by Theorem 3.5 and Theorem 3.2, that there exist \( H_1 \) and \( H_2 \) such that \( \mathcal{O}^k = \rightarrow (H_1 \lor H_2) \), \( \rightarrow H_1 \subseteq \mathcal{P} \), \( \rightarrow H_2 \subseteq \mathcal{Q} \) and \( H_1 \uplus H_2 = K_k \). First we show that \( \rightarrow H_1 = \mathcal{O}^a \) for some \( a \). By Lemma 3.7 we must show that \( \omega(H_1) = \chi(H_1) \). By the same lemma we have that \( k = \omega(H_1 \lor H_2) \leq \omega(H_2)\chi(H_1) \leq \chi(H_1 \lor H_2) = k \), hence \( k = \omega(H_2)\chi(H_1) \). Also, since \( H_1 \uplus H_2 = K_k \), we have that \( \overline{H_1} = H_2 \) so that \( \omega(H_1) = \alpha(H_2) \) and \( \omega(H_2) = \alpha(H_1) \). Now, \( k = \chi(H_1 \lor H_2) \geq \frac{|V(H_1 \lor H_2)|}{\alpha(H_1)\alpha(H_2)} \).

\[
\frac{|V(H_1)|}{\alpha(H_1)} \frac{|V(H_2)|}{\alpha(H_2)} = \frac{k^2}{\omega(H_1)\omega(H_2)} = \frac{k}{\omega(H_2)} = \frac{k}{\omega(H_1)} \chi(H_1),
\]

from which it follows that \( \omega(H_1) = \chi(H_1) \).

Similarly, \( \rightarrow H_2 = \mathcal{O}^b \) for some \( b \). Since \( \mathcal{O}^k = \rightarrow H_1 \oplus \rightarrow H_2 \) it follows that \( k = ab \). Suppose now that \( \mathcal{O}^a \subseteq \mathcal{P} \) and let \( G \in \mathcal{P} \) be such that \( \chi(G) > a \).
Then the graph $F = G \lor K_b$ has chromatic number greater than $ab = k$ but $F \in \mathcal{P} \oplus \mathcal{Q}$, a contradiction. Therefore $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{O}^a$. \hfill \Box

4. Conclusion

It would be of interest to characterise those properties which are uniquely decomposable in $\mathbb{L}^a$ (or $\mathbb{L}_c^e$). In particular, it is easy to see that for every product of properties $\mathcal{P}^k$ we have $\mathcal{P}^k = \mathcal{P} \oplus \mathcal{O}^k$, and hence $\mathcal{P} \oplus \mathcal{O}^{p_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{O}^{p_n}$ if $k = p_1 \cdots p_n$, and the following question arises: For which indecomposable $\mathcal{P}$ is this the unique decomposition of $\mathcal{P}^k$ into indecomposable properties?

We can construct a hom property $\rightarrow H$ which does not have a unique decomposition into indecomposable properties, even if we restrict the properties to hom properties. Our proof relies on the fact that the complementary graph $\overline{H}$ is disconnected. We do not know if there is such a graph $H$ with a connected complement.

References


