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\mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs

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Abstract

Let H and D be two digraphs; D without loops or multiple arcs. An H -coloring of D is a function $\rho : A(D) \rightarrow V(H)$. We say that D is an (H, ρ) -colored digraph. For an arc (x, y) of D , we say that $\rho(x, y)$ is the color of (x, y) over the H -coloring ρ .

A directed path (x_1, \dots, x_n) in D is an (H, ρ) -path if $(\rho(x_1, x_2), \dots, \rho(x_{n-1}, x_n))$ is a directed walk in H . An (H, ρ) -kernel in an (H, ρ) -colored digraph is a subset of vertices of D , say S , such that for every pair of different vertices in S there is no (H, ρ) -path between them and every vertex outside S can reach S by an (H, ρ) -path. A digraph D is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph if D has an (H, ρ) -kernel for every digraph H and every H -coloring ρ of D . In this paper we show that \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs cannot be characterized by means of certain forbidden subdigraphs. Also we will show \mathcal{H} -panchromaticity of some classes of digraphs and we show that \mathcal{H} -panchromaticity can be hereditary in some operations of digraphs.

Keywords: Kernel; Coloring; Panchromatic; H-kernel

1. Introduction

For general concepts and notation we refer the reader to [1]. A walk (path) considered in this paper always means a *directed walk* (*directed path*). If D is a digraph, a *block* of D is a maximal induced subdigraph of D whose underlying graph is 2-connected. A vertex set $S \subseteq V(D)$ is *path-independent* if there is no two different vertices in S joined by a path. If U and V are disjoint subsets of vertices of D , denote by $A[U; V]$ the set $\{(x, z) \in A(D) : x \in U, z \in V\}$. The complement of a digraph H (not necessarily without loops), denoted by \overline{H} , is the digraph whose vertex set is $V(H)$ and arc set is $(V(H) \times V(H)) \setminus A(H)$. We observe that either H or \overline{H} may contain loops. If D_1 and D_2 are (not necessarily vertex disjoint) digraphs, the *union of D_1 and D_2* , denoted by $D_1 \cup D_2$, is the digraph with vertex set $V(D_1) \cup V(D_2)$ and arc set $A(D_1) \cup A(D_2)$. If $\{D_i : i \in \{1, \dots, n\}\}$ is a family of (not necessarily pairwise vertex disjoint) digraphs, the *union of such digraphs*, denoted by $\cup_{i=1}^n D_i$, is the digraph whose set of vertices is $\cup_{i=1}^n V(D_i)$ and arc set $\cup_{i=1}^n A(D_i)$. If G is a digraph with vertex set $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ and $\mathcal{D} = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$ is a family of pairwise vertex disjoint digraphs, the *composition of*

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\mathcal{D} over G , denoted by $G[D_1, \dots, D_n]$ or simply $G[\mathcal{D}]$, is the digraph whose vertex set is $\cup_{i=1}^n V(D_i)$ and arc set $\{(x, z) : x \in V(D_i), z \in V(D_j) \text{ and } (v_i, v_j) \in A(G)\} \cup (\cup_{i=1}^n A(D_i))$. If G is a path of order 2, say $G = (v_1, v_2)$, and $\mathcal{D} = \{D_1, D_2\}$, we denote by $D_1 + D_2$ the composition $G[\mathcal{D}]$. If D and G are digraphs, we say that D is an extension of G if $D = G[\mathcal{D}]$ for some family \mathcal{D} of digraphs such that every digraph in \mathcal{D} has no arcs.

A subset S of vertices of D is a kernel of D if S is both independent, that is, there is no arc between two distinct vertices in S , and absorbent, that is, every vertex not in S has at least one out-neighbor in S . The concept of kernel was introduced by von Neumann and Morgenstern in [2]. It is not difficult to see that some digraphs such as odd cycles have no kernels. Several sufficient conditions for the existence of a kernel have been proved. The following lemma is a well known result of existence of kernels.

Lemma 1.1 ([2–4]). *Let D be a digraph. If D satisfies one of the following conditions, then it has a kernel.*

- (i) D is a transitive digraph.
- (ii) D is an acyclic digraph.
- (iii) D is an even cycle.

An m -coloring of a digraph D is a function $\rho : A(D) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, m\}$. We say that D is m -colored if the arcs of D are colored with the set $\{1, \dots, m\}$. Let D be a ρ -colored digraph. A path (x_1, \dots, x_n) in D is a ρ -monochromatic path if $\rho(x_i, x_{i+1}) = \rho(x_{i+1}, x_{i+2})$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n - 2\}$. A set $S \subseteq V(D)$ is said to be a ρ -monochromatic kernel if for every two different vertices S there is no ρ -monochromatic path between them (i.e. S is ρ -independent) and every vertex not in S reaches a vertex in S by a ρ -monochromatic path (i.e. S is ρ -absorbent).

A digraph D is panchromatic if D contains a ρ -kernel for every m -coloring ρ of D . The concept of panchromatic digraphs was introduced by Galeana-Sánchez and Strausz in [5] and some kinds of operations that preserve panchromaticity were studied by Galeana-Sánchez and Toledo in [6]. An easy proof shows that:

Lemma 1.2. *Every panchromatic digraph has a kernel.*

Proof. Let us suppose that D has size q . Let $\rho : A(D) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, q\}$ be a q -coloration of D such that $\rho(e) \neq \rho(a)$ whenever $e \neq a$. Since D is panchromatic, then D has a ρ -kernel, say S . It is straightforward to see that S is a kernel of D . \square

Let H and D be two digraphs; D without loops or multiple arcs. An H -coloring of D is a function $\rho : A(D) \rightarrow V(H)$. We say that D is an (H, ρ) -colored digraph, or simply H -colored if ρ is understood. For an arc (x, y) of D , we say that $\rho(x, y)$ is the color of (x, y) over the H -coloring ρ . A directed walk (respectively directed path) (x_1, \dots, x_n) in D is an (H, ρ) -walk (respectively (H, ρ) -path), or simply H -walk (H -path) if ρ is understood, if $(\rho(x_1, x_2), \dots, \rho(x_{n-1}, x_n))$ is a walk in H . If $\{u, v\} \subseteq V(D)$, an uv - (H, ρ) -path (uv - (H, ρ) -walk) or simply uv - H -path (uv - H -walk) if ρ is understood, is an H -path (H -walk) whose initial vertex is u and final vertex is v . An (H, ρ) -colored digraph D is an (H, ρ) -digraph, or similarly an H -digraph, if every path in D is an (H, ρ) -path.

A subset S of vertices of D is an (H, ρ) -independent set, or simply H -independent if ρ is understood, if no two vertices of S are connected by an (H, ρ) -path. We say that S is an (H, ρ) -absorbent set, or simply H -absorbent if ρ is understood, if every vertex outside S can reach some vertex in S by an (H, ρ) -path. We say that S is an (H, ρ) -kernel, or similarly an H -kernel, if S is both (H, ρ) -independent and (H, ρ) -absorbent.

Lemma 1.3. *Let D be an H -colored digraph. If D is an \overline{H} -digraph, then D contains an H -kernel if and only if D contains a kernel.*

Proof. Notice that if D is an \overline{H} -digraph then a path in D is an H -path if and only if it has length 1.

For the sufficiency of Lemma 1.3, if S is an H -kernel of D , then S is both H -absorbent and H -independent, and we conclude that S is a kernel.

For the necessity, let S be a kernel of D . Clearly S is H -absorbent. On the other hand, if there is an uv - H -path for some $\{u, v\} \subseteq S$, we conclude that $(u, v) \in A(D)$ which is no possible since S is an independent set, so S is H -independent. Therefore S is an H -kernel. \square

If ρ is an H -coloring of D and $T = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is a path in D , we say that T is a maximal \overline{H} -path if T is an \overline{H} -path not contained properly in another \overline{H} -path. It is straightforward to see the following observation.

Observation 1.4. Every \overline{H} -path is contained in some maximal \overline{H} -path and subpaths of \overline{H} -paths are \overline{H} -paths.

Let D be an (H, ρ) -colored digraph. The (H, ρ) -closure of D , denoted by $\mathcal{C}_H^\rho(D)$, is the digraph whose vertex set is $V(D)$ and whose arc set is $\{(u, v) : \text{there exists an } uv - (H, \rho) \text{- path in } D\}$. It is not difficult to see that the following simple result holds.

Observation 1.5. An (H, ρ) -colored digraph D has an (H, ρ) -kernel if and only if $\mathcal{C}_H^\rho(D)$ has a kernel.

The concept of H -path was introduced by Linked and Sands in [7] and was later used by Arpin and Linek [8] to work on three classes of digraphs: \mathcal{B}_3 , the class of all digraphs H such that any H -colored multidigraph D has an H -kernel by walks, that is, a set S of vertices that is both H -independent by walks (i.e., no two vertices in S are joined by an H -walk) and H -absorbent by walks (i.e., every vertex not in S can reach some vertex in S by an H -walk). The class \mathcal{B}_2 which contains all digraphs H such that every H -colored multidigraph has an independent set of vertices that is H -absorbent by walks, and the class \mathcal{B}_1 of all digraphs H such that any H -colored tournament has a single vertex that is H -absorbent by walks.

In [7] Arpin and Linek proved that $\mathcal{B}_3 \subsetneq \mathcal{B}_2 \subsetneq \mathcal{B}_1$. Also they gave a characterization of \mathcal{B}_2 and made inroads in the classification of \mathcal{B}_3 and \mathcal{B}_1 . Galeana-Sánchez and Strausz [9] continue the research of Arpin and Linek in order to characterize those digraphs in \mathcal{B}_3 . The class \mathcal{B}_1 remains unclassified.

In the same spirit of the definitions given by Arpin and Linek [8], Delgado-Escalante and Galeana-Sánchez [10] defined a new class of digraphs $\widehat{\mathcal{B}}_3$ of all digraphs H such that any H -colored digraph has an H -kernel. Such digraphs remain unclassified.

In a similar way we will define a new class of digraphs. For a digraph D , we say that D is \mathcal{H} -pan-chromatic (\mathcal{H} -panchromatic by walks) if D has an (H, ρ) -kernel (respectively an (H, ρ) -kernel by walks) for every digraph H and every H -coloring ρ of D . In this paper we show that such digraphs cannot be characterized by means of forbidden subdigraphs. So, it is of interest to find some large classes of digraphs that are \mathcal{H} -panchromatic and operations that preserve \mathcal{H} -panchromaticity. In particular we show that transitive digraphs and acyclic digraphs are \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. In the same way, we will characterize quasi-transitive digraphs and tournaments which are \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.

In the last section we will show that some operations on digraphs, such as the union of (non necessarily vertex disjoint) digraphs and the composition of digraphs, preserve \mathcal{H} -panchromaticity.

2. \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs

Lemma 2.1. Every \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph is panchromatic. In particular, every \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph has a kernel.

Proof. Consider $\rho : V(D) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, m\}$ an arbitrary m -coloring of D and let H_1 be the digraph with vertex set $\{1, \dots, m\}$ and arc set $\{(n, n) : n \in \{1, \dots, m\}\}$. Clearly ρ is an H_1 -coloring of D and since D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic then D has an (H_1, ρ) -kernel, say S . It is not difficult to see that S is a ρ -monochromatic kernel, concluding that D is panchromatic. On the other hand, it follows from Lemma 1.2 that every \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph has a kernel. \square

Theorem 2.2. An H -colored cycle C has an H -kernel if and only if C is not an \overline{H} -cycle of odd length.

Proof. The sufficiency of Theorem 2.2 follows from Lemma 1.3 and the fact that each odd cycle has no kernel.

For the converse, let $C = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, x_1)$ be an (H, ρ) -colored cycle that is not an \overline{H} -cycle of odd length (subscripts are taken modulo n). Notice that if C is an H -cycle, then each vertex of C is an H -kernel. So we will assume that C is not an H -cycle.

If C is an \overline{H} -cycle then by assumption C is not an odd cycle. In that case C has a kernel and by Lemma 1.3 we conclude that C has an H -kernel.

Now we can assume that C is not an \overline{H} -cycle. Consider the following cases.

Case 1. C contains a spanning \overline{H} -path.

Suppose (w.l.o.g.) that $T = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is a spanning \overline{H} -path.

Since C is not a \overline{H} -cycle, then $(\rho(x_{n-1}, x_n), \rho(x_n, x_1)) \in A(H)$ or $(\rho(x_n, x_1), \rho(x_1, x_2)) \in A(H)$. We consider the following subcases.

Subcase 1.1 n is even.

If both arcs $(\rho(x_{n-1}, x_n), \rho(x_n, x_1))$ and $(\rho(x_n, x_1), \rho(x_1, x_2))$ belong to H , then $S = \{x_k : k \in \{1, \dots, n - 1\} \text{ with } k \text{ even}\}$ is an H -kernel.

If $(\rho(x_{n-1}, x_n), \rho(x_n, x_1)) \notin A(H)$, then $S = \{x_k : k \in \{1, \dots, n\} \text{ with } k \text{ odd}\}$ is an H -kernel.

If $(\rho(x_n, x_1), \rho(x_1, x_2)) \notin A(H)$ then $S = \{x_k : k \in \{1, \dots, n\} \text{ with } k \text{ even}\}$ is an H -kernel.

Subcase 1.2 n is odd.

If both arcs $(\rho(x_{n-1}, x_n), \rho(x_n, x_1))$ and $(\rho(x_n, x_1), \rho(x_1, x_2))$ belong to H , then $S = \{x_k : k \in \{1, \dots, n - 1\} \text{ with } k \text{ odd}\}$ is an H -kernel.

If $(\rho(x_n, x_1), \rho(x_1, x_2)) \notin A(H)$, then $S = \{x_k : k \in \{1, \dots, n - 1\} \text{ with } k \text{ odd}\}$ is an H -kernel.

If $(\rho(x_{n-1}, x_n), \rho(x_n, x_1)) \notin A(H)$, then $S = \{x_k : k \in \{1, \dots, n\} \text{ with } k \text{ even}\}$ is an H -kernel.

Case 2. C contains no spanning \overline{H} -path.

Consider the family \mathcal{T} of maximal \overline{H} -paths of C . Since C is not an H -cycle, \mathcal{T} is a nonempty family and by **Observation 1.4** every \overline{H} -path is contained in some member of the family \mathcal{T} . Suppose (w.l.o.g reordering the vertices of C) that $\mathcal{T} = \{T_1, \dots, T_k\}$, $T_i = (x_{\alpha_i}, x_{\alpha_i+1}, \dots, x_{\beta_i})$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, $\beta_i \leq \alpha_{i+1}$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, k - 1\}$ and $\beta_k = n$.

- **Claim 1.** For every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, if $T'_i = x_{\beta_i} C x_{\alpha_{i+1}}$ is nontrivial, then T'_i is an H -path of C . (subscripts are taken modulo k).

If there exists $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ such that $T'_i = x_{\beta_i} C x_{\alpha_{i+1}}$ is not an H -path of C , then there exists $l \in \{\beta_i, \dots, \alpha_{i+1} - 2\}$ such that $(\rho(x_l, x_{l+1}), \rho(x_{l+1}, x_{l+2})) \notin A(H)$. In that case, by **Observation 1.4** we conclude that there exists $j \in \{1, \dots, k\} \setminus \{i, i + 1\}$ such that T_j contains (x_l, x_{l+1}) and (x_{l+1}, x_{l+2}) which is not possible by the ordering of \mathcal{T} .

- **Claim 2.** For every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, $T''_i = x_{\beta_{i-1}} C x_{\alpha_{i+1}+1}$ is an H -path of C .

Since T_i is a maximal \overline{H} -path, then $x_{\alpha_i} C x_{\beta_i+1}$ is not in \mathcal{T} . In that case, since C has no spanning \overline{H} -paths, then $x_{\alpha_i} C x_{\beta_i+1}$ is a path that is not an \overline{H} -path, concluding that

$$(\rho(x_{\beta_{i-1}}, x_{\beta_i}), \rho(x_{\beta_i}, x_{\beta_i+1})) \in A(H).$$

A similar proof shows that $(\rho(x_{\alpha_{i+1}-1}, x_{\alpha_{i+1}}), \rho(x_{\alpha_{i+1}}, x_{\alpha_{i+1}+1})) \in A(H)$.

If $x_{\beta_i} = x_{\alpha_{i+1}}$ then the claim holds. On the other hand, if $x_{\beta_i} \neq x_{\alpha_{i+1}}$ then by claim 1 we have that $x_{\beta_i} C x_{\alpha_{i+1}}$ is an H -path. Therefore, $T''_i = x_{\beta_{i-1}} C x_{\alpha_{i+1}+1}$ is an H -path.

For every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, we define t_i as the maximum natural number such that $\beta_i - 2t_i \geq \alpha_i$. Consider $S_i = \{x_{\beta_i-2}, x_{\beta_i-4}, \dots, x_{\beta_i-2t_i}\}$ and let

$$S = \bigcup_{i=1}^k S_i.$$

We claim that S is an H -kernel of C .

We will show that S is an H -absorbent set in C . Consider any vertex x_m in $V(C) \setminus S$. Suppose that x_m does not belong to a member of \mathcal{T} , in that case, let $j = \min\{i \in \{1, \dots, k\} : m \leq \alpha_i\}$. According to Claim 1, there exists an $x_m x_{\alpha_j+1} - H$ -path. So, x_m is H -absorbed by both x_{α_j} and x_{α_j+1} . Notice that either $x_{\alpha_j} \in S$ or $x_{\alpha_j+1} \in S$. Hence x_m is H -absorbed by S .

Now we suppose that $x \in V(T_i)$ for some $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and consider the following cases. If $m \leq \beta_i - 2$, then x_m is H -absorbed by x_{m+1} . Now we suppose that $m \in \{\beta_i, \beta_i - 1\}$. According to Claim 2, there exists an $x_{\beta_{i-1}} x_{\alpha_{i+1}+1} - H$ -path. It is straightforward to see that $\{x_{\beta_{i-1}}, x_{\beta_i}\}$ is H -absorbed by both $x_{\alpha_{i+1}}$ and $x_{\alpha_{i+1}+1}$. Notice that either $x_{\alpha_{i+1}} \in S$ or $x_{\alpha_{i+1}+1} \in S$. Hence, x_m is H -absorbed by S . Therefore, S is an H -absorbent set in C .

In order to prove that S is H -independent notice that by definition of S_i , if $x_r \in S$, then (x_r, x_{r+1}, x_{r+2}) is a subpath of some member in \mathcal{T} , so (x_r, x_{r+1}, x_{r+2}) is not an H -path. In that case, for every pair of vertices x_r and x_r in S , there is no $x_r x_s - H$ -path in C . Therefore, S is an H -independent set in C .

By the above, we conclude that S is an H –kernel of C . \square

Corollary 2.3. *Every even cycle is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proposition 2.4. *Every acyclic digraph is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proof. Let D be an acyclic (H, ρ) –colored digraph. We assert that $\mathcal{C}_H^\rho(D)$ is an acyclic digraph. Otherwise, suppose that $\mathcal{C}_H^\rho(D)$ has a cycle (x_1, \dots, x_n, x_1) . By definition, for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ there exists an $x_i x_{i+1} - (H, \rho)$ –path in D , say T_i . Clearly, the concatenation of such paths is a closed walk in D , which contains a cycle, a contradiction. Hence, $\mathcal{C}_H^\rho(D)$ is an acyclic digraph. By Lemma 1.1 it follows that $\mathcal{C}_H^\rho(D)$ has a kernel and by Observation 1.5 D has an (H, ρ) –kernel. Therefore D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. \square

Corollary 2.5. *If D is an asymmetric digraph such that every block of D is a transitive digraph, then D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proof. First, proceeding by contradiction, we will prove that D is an acyclic digraph. Suppose that C is a cycle in D , then C is contained in some block of D , say B . By assumption, B is a transitive digraph, concluding that C contains a symmetric arc, which is not possible. Therefore, D is an acyclic digraph and by Proposition 2.4 it follows that D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. \square

Let D be a digraph and S be a subset of vertices of D . We say that S is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set if S is an (H, ρ) –kernel of D for every digraph H and every H –coloring ρ of D . A digraph D is weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic if D contains an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set.

Lemma 2.6. *A subset S of vertices of a digraph D is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set if and only if S is both absorbent and path-independent.*

Proof. Suppose that S is both absorbent and path-independent. Let H be an arbitrary digraph and ρ an H –coloring of D . Clearly S is (H, ρ) –absorbent and since S is path-independent then S is (H, ρ) –independent, concluding that S is an (H, ρ) –kernel of D . Therefore, S is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set.

Now suppose that S is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set. Consider H_1 a digraph with vertex set $\{c_1\}$ and no arcs and let ρ_1 be an H_1 –coloring of D . Notice that the only (H_1, ρ_1) –paths are the arcs of D . Since S is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set, then S is an (H_1, ρ_1) –kernel, particularly S is an (H_1, ρ_1) –absorbent set, which implies that S is an absorbent set.

On the other hand, consider H_2 the digraph with vertex set $\{c_2\}$ and arc set $\{(c_2, c_2)\}$ and let ρ_2 be an H_2 –coloring of D . Notice that every path in D is an (H_2, ρ_2) –path. Since S is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set, then S is an (H_2, ρ_2) –kernel, particularly S is an (H_2, ρ_2) –independent set, which implies that S is path-independent. \square

Observation 2.7. *Every weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

The converse of Observation 2.7 is not true. An even cycle C of order at least 4 is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic, nevertheless every absorbent set in C contains at least two vertices. In that case, since C is strongly connected, the only path-independent sets are the single sets which are not absorbent sets, concluding that C is not a weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph.

Theorem 2.8. *Every transitive digraph is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proof. We will show that every transitive digraph is weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. According to Lemma 1.1 every transitive digraph D has a kernel S . Clearly S is an absorbent set. On the other hand, if there exists an uv –path for some vertices u and v in S , then $(u, v) \in A(D)$, which is not possible, concluding that S is path-independent. By Lemma 2.6 S is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set. Hence D is weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic and by Observation 2.7, D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. \square

The following lemma will be a useful result to characterize quasi-transitive digraphs that are \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.

Lemma 2.9 ([1]). *Let D be a quasi-transitive digraph. If there exists an uv –path for some vertices u and v in $V(D)$, then either u and v are adjacent or there exist vertices w and z such that (u, w) , (w, z) , (z, v) , (z, u) and (v, w) are all arcs of D .*

Theorem 2.10. *A quasi-transitive digraph is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic if and only if it has a kernel.*

Proof. The sufficiency of **Theorem 2.10** follows from **Lemma 2.1**.

For the converse, we will show that every quasi-transitive digraph that contains a kernel is weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. Suppose that S is a kernel of D . Clearly S is an absorbent set. On the other hand, suppose that there exists an uv –path for some vertices u and v in S . According to **Lemma 2.9** there exist vertices w and z such that (u, w) , (w, z) , (z, v) , (z, u) and (v, w) are all arcs of D . Clearly $w \notin S$. In that case there exists a vertex $x \in S$ such that $(w, x) \in A(D)$. Notice that $x \neq v$, otherwise u and v must be adjacent, which is not possible. So, $x \neq v$ and it follows that x and v must be adjacent, a contradiction. Therefore, S is a path-independent set. By **Lemma 2.6** S is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set, concluding that D is weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic and by **Observation 2.7** D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. \square

Theorem 2.11. *A tournament is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic if and only if it has a kernel.*

Proof. The sufficiency of **Theorem 2.11** follows from **Lemma 2.1**.

For the converse, notice that a kernel S of T consists of a single vertex. In that case, S is both absorbent and path-independent, concluding that S is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set. Therefore, T is weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic and by **Observation 2.7** T is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. \square

Lemma 2.12. *Every digraph of order p with a vertex of in-degree $p - 1$ is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proof. If D is a digraph of order p with a vertex x of in-degree $p - 1$, then $\{x\}$ is both absorbent and path-independent, concluding that $\{x\}$ is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set. Therefore, D is weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic and by **Observation 2.7** D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. \square

Corollary 2.13. *For any digraph D there exists an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph D' containing D as an induced subdigraph.*

Proof. Let D be any digraph and consider D' obtained from D by adding a new vertex x and joining every vertex from $V(D)$ toward x . Clearly D is an induced subdigraph of D' and by **Lemma 2.12** D' is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. \square

Notice that **Corollary 2.13** implies that \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs cannot be characterized by forbidden induced subdigraphs.

Proposition 2.14. *Let D be an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph. If D_0 is an induced subdigraph of D such that $A[V(D_0); V(D) \setminus V(D_0)] = \emptyset$, then D_0 is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proof. Let D be an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph and D_0 an induced digraph of D such that $A[V(D_0); V(D) \setminus V(D_0)] = \emptyset$. Notice that every path in D with initial vertex in D_0 must be entirely contained in D_0 , otherwise, $A[V(D_0); V(D) \setminus V(D_0)] \neq \emptyset$.

Consider an arbitrary digraph H_0 and ρ_0 an H_0 –coloring of D_0 . We define H obtained from H_0 by adding an isolated vertex c . Define $\rho : A(D) \rightarrow V(H)$ as follows:

$$\rho(e) = \begin{cases} \rho_0(e) & \text{if } e \in A(D_0). \\ c & \text{In another case.} \end{cases}$$

Notice that every (H, ρ) –path in D contained in D_0 is an (H_0, ρ_0) –path in D_0 . Since ρ is an H –coloring of D , then D has an (H, ρ) –kernel, say K . We claim that $K_0 = K \cap V(D_0)$ is an (H_0, ρ_0) –kernel of D_0 . Consider $v \in V(D_0) \setminus K_0$. Clearly $v \notin K$, so there exists an vx – (H, ρ) –path in D , say T , where $x \in K$. As $v \in V(D_0)$ it

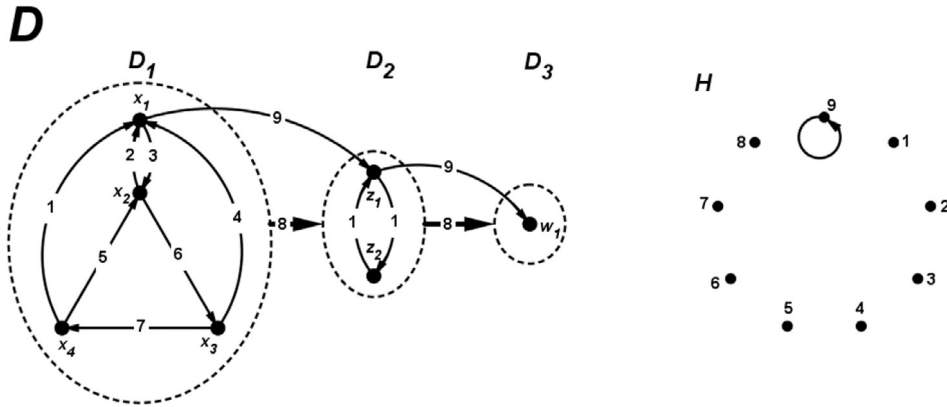


Fig. 2.1. A digraph D and an H -coloring of D without H -kernel.

follows that T is contained in D_0 concluding T is an $vx - (H_0, \rho_0)$ -path in D_0 , where $x \in K_0$. Hence, K_0 is an (H_0, ρ_0) -absorbent set in D_0 .

On the other hand, we will show by contradiction that K_0 is an (H_0, ρ_0) -independent set in D_0 . Assume that T is an $uv - (H_0, \rho_0)$ -path in D_0 , where $\{u, v\} \subseteq K_0$. It is straightforward to see that T is an $uv - (H, \rho)$ -path, which is no possible since K is (H, ρ) -independent. Therefore, D_0 has an (H, ρ) -kernel, concluding that D_0 is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph. \square

Corollary 2.15. Every terminal strongly component of an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.

Corollary 2.16. Let D be an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph. If D_1, \dots, D_n are the initial strongly components of D and $V(D) \neq \cup_{i=1}^n V(D_i)$, then $D \setminus (\cup_{i=1}^n V(D_i))$ is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph.

Converse of Corollaries 2.15 and 2.16 is not true. Consider the digraph $D = P_3[D_1, D_2, D_3]$ shown in Fig. 2.1. Notice that by Lemma 2.12 D_1, D_2 and D_3 are \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs. On the other hand, we claim that D is not \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.

Consider the H -coloring ρ defined as follows: every two different arcs in D_1 have different color, every two arcs in D_2 have the same color, every arc from $V(D_1)$ toward $V(D_2)$ has color 8 and every arc from $V(D_2)$ toward $V(D_3)$ has color 8, unless $\rho(x_1, z_1) = \rho(z_1, w_1) = 9$.

Proceeding by contradiction we will prove that D contains no H -kernel. Suppose that S is an H -kernel of D . Clearly $w_1 \in S$, so $(V(D_2) \cup \{x_1\}) \cap S = \emptyset$. Now consider the following cases about the vertex x_3 .

Case 1. $x_3 \notin S$.

In this case x_3 must be H -absorbed by some vertex in S , say z . Since there is no $x_3w_1 - H$ -path and $V(D_2) \cap S = \emptyset$, then $z \in V(D_1)$, so $z = x_4$. That implies that $x_2 \notin S$. Notice that the only vertices that x_2 can reach by an H -path are the vertices in $V(D_2)$, x_1 and x_3 in which no one of them belongs to S , concluding that x_2 is not H -absorbed by S , a contradiction.

Case 2. $x_3 \in S$.

In this case we have that $x_4 \notin S$. Notice that the only vertices that x_4 can reach by an H -path are the vertices in $V(D_2)$, x_1 and x_2 . That implies that $x_2 \in S$ which is no possible since $x_3 \in S$.

We conclude that D has no H -kernel. Particularly, D is not an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph.

On the other hand, notice that the strongly connected components of D are D_1, D_2 and D_3 which are \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs. It follows that a digraph whose strongly components are \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs is not necessarily an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph. Particularly, converse of Corollary 2.15 is not true.

On the other hand, notice that by Lemma 2.12 we have that $D(V(D_2) \cup V(D_3))$ is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. So, $D \setminus V(D_1)$ is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph but D is not. Hence, converse of Corollary 2.16 is not true.

3. \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs and operations on digraphs

Lemma 3.1. *Let D_1 and D_2 be two \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs. If every vertex in $V(D_1) \cap V(D_2)$ has out-degree 0 in $D_1 \cup D_2$, then $D_1 \cup D_2$ is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proof. Notice that every path in $D = D_1 \cup D_2$, say T , satisfies either $V(T) \subseteq V(D_1)$ or $V(T) \subseteq V(D_2)$. Otherwise, if there exists a path $T = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ such that $V(T) \cap (V(D_1) \setminus V(D_2)) \neq \emptyset$ and $V(T) \cap (V(D_2) \setminus V(D_1)) \neq \emptyset$ then there exists a vertex $x_i \in V(D_1) \cap V(D_2)$ with out-degree at least one, which is no possible.

Suppose that D is H -colored for some digraph H . Since D_1 is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic, then D_1 has an H -kernel, say K_1 . In the same way, D_2 has an H -kernel, say K_2 . We claim that $K = K_1 \cup K_2$ is an H -kernel of D .

It is straightforward to see that K is an H -absorbent set in D . It only remains to show that K is an H -independent set. Suppose that u and v are vertices in K such that there exists an $uv - H$ -path in D , say T . It follows that T is contained either in D_1 or D_2 . Suppose (w.l.o.g) that T is contained in D_1 . So, T is an $uv - H$ -path in D_1 where u and v belongs to K_1 , which is no possible. Hence, K is an H -independent set, concluding that K is an H -kernel in D . Therefore $D_1 \cup D_2$ is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph. \square

By applying an inductive argument we get the following proposition.

Proposition 3.2. *Let $\mathcal{D} = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$ be a family of \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs and let $D = \cup_{i=1}^n D_i$. If $\delta_D^+(x) = 0$ for every vertex $x \in V(D_i) \cap V(D_j)$ with $\{i, j\} \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $i \neq j$, then D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Lemma 3.3. *Let D_1 and D_2 be two \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs. If every vertex in $V(D_1) \cap V(D_2)$ has in-degree 0 in $D_1 \cup D_2$, then $D_1 \cup D_2$ is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proof. Notice that every path in $D = D_1 \cup D_2$, say T , satisfies either $V(T) \subseteq V(D_1)$ or $V(T) \subseteq V(D_2)$. Otherwise, if there exists a path $T = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ such that $V(T) \cap (V(D_1) \setminus V(D_2)) \neq \emptyset$ and $V(T) \cap (V(D_2) \setminus V(D_1)) \neq \emptyset$ then there exists a vertex $x_i \in V(D_1) \cap V(D_2)$ with in-degree at least one, which is no possible.

Suppose that D is H -colored for some digraph H . Since D_1 is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic, then D_1 has an H -kernel, say K_1 . In the same way, D_2 has an H -kernel, say K_2 . We claim that $K = [(K_1 \cup K_2) \setminus (V(D_1) \cap V(D_2))] \cup (K_1 \cap K_2)$ is an H -kernel of D .

We will prove that K is H -absorbent in D . Let $x \in V(D) \setminus K$ and suppose (w.l.o.g.) that $x \in V(D_1)$. Consider the following cases.

Case 1 $x \notin V(D_2)$.

In this case we have that $x \notin K_1$. So, there exists a vertex $u \in K_1$ such that there exists an $xu - H$ -path in D_1 . Clearly u has in-degree at least 1, so $u \notin V(D_1) \cap V(D_2)$, concluding that $u \in K$. Hence, x is H -absorbed by K in D .

Case 2 $x \in V(D_2)$.

If $x \notin K_2$, then there exists a vertex $v \in K_2$ such that there exists an $xv - H$ -path. Clearly v has in-degree at least 1, so $v \notin V(D_1) \cap V(D_2)$, concluding that $v \in K$. Hence x is H -absorbed by K in D .

If $x \in K_2$ we have that $x \notin K_1$, otherwise $x \in K$. It follows that there exists an $xu - H$ -path in D_1 for some vertex $u \in K_1$. Clearly u has in-degree at least 1, so $u \notin V(D_1) \cap V(D_2)$, concluding that $u \in K$. Hence x is H -absorbed by K in D .

Now we will prove that K is H -independent. Proceeding by contradiction suppose that there exist u and v in K such that there is an $uv - H$ -path in D , say T . It follows that T is contained either in D_1 or D_2 . We can assume that T is contained in D_1 . So, T is an $uv - H$ -path in D_1 with u and v in K_1 , which is no possible since K_1 is an H -independent set in D_1 .

By the above, K is an H -independent set in D , concluding that K is an H -kernel in D . Therefore, $D_1 \cup D_2$ is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph. \square

By applying an inductive argument we get the following proposition.

Proposition 3.4. *Let $\mathcal{D} = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$ be a family of \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs and let $D = \cup_{i=1}^n D_i$. If $\delta_D^-(x) = 0$ for every vertex $x \in V(D_i) \cap V(D_j)$ with $\{i, j\} \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $i \neq j$, then D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proposition 3.5. *Let G be a weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph without symmetric arcs and vertex set $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$. Suppose that N is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic set of G and let $J = \{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} : v_i \in N\}$. If $\mathcal{D} = \{D_1, \dots, D_n\}$ is a family of pairwise vertex disjoint digraphs such that D_j is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph for every $j \in J$, then $G[\mathcal{D}]$ is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Proof. Suppose that $D = G[\mathcal{D}]$ is an H -colored digraph and for every $j \in J$ consider an H -kernel of D_j , say K_j . We claim that $K = \cup_{j \in J} K_j$ is an H -kernel in D .

In order to prove that K is an H -absorbent set, consider a vertex $u \in V(D) \setminus K$. If $u \in V(D_j)$ for some $j \in J$, then there exists an $ux - H$ -path in D_j for some $x \in K_j$, concluding that u is H -absorbed by K in D . Now suppose that $u \in V(D_k)$ for some $k \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus J$. Since N is an absorbent set of G , then $(v_k, v_j) \in A(G)$ for some $j \in J$. So, if $x \in K_j$, we have that $(u, x) \in A(D)$, which implies that u is H -absorbed by K . Hence, K is an H -absorbent set in D .

Proceeding by contradiction we will prove that K is an H -independent set in D . Suppose that there exists an $uv - H$ -path in D for some pair of different vertices u and v in K . We may assume that $u \in K_i$ and $v \in K_j$ for some $i \in J$ and $j \in J$. Since there exists an uv -path in D , we have that there exists an $v_i v_j$ -path in G . In view of the fact that N is a path-independent set in G , we conclude that $i = j$.

Clearly T is not contained in D_i , otherwise K_i is not an H -independent set in D_i . It follows that v_i has an out-neighbor in G , say v . Clearly $v \notin N$, which implies that v is absorbed by some vertex in N , say z . Since N is path-independent, we have that $z = v_i$, so (v_i, v) is a symmetric arc in G , which is not possible by assumption. Hence, K is an H -independent set in D . Therefore, K is an H -kernel in D , concluding that D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. \square

Proposition 3.5 cannot be generalized to composition over \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs. Notice that the digraph shown in Fig. 2.1 is not \mathcal{H} -panchromatic. Nevertheless D is the composition of \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs over an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph.

Corollary 3.6. *Composition of \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraphs over an asymmetric weakly \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Corollary 3.7. *If D_1 and D_2 are two vertex disjoint digraphs and D_2 is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic, then $D_1 + D_2$ is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.*

Lemma 3.8. *Let D be an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks. If u and v are vertices in D such that $N^+(u) = N^+(v)$ and $N^-(u) = N^-(v)$, then $D \setminus \{u\}$ is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic by walks.*

Proof. Suppose that ρ is an H -coloring of $D_0 = D \setminus \{u\}$ and consider the H -coloring ρ' of D defined as follows:

$$\rho'(e) = \begin{cases} \rho(e) & \text{if } e \in A(D_0). \\ \rho(x, v) & \text{if } e = (x, u) \text{ for some } x \in N^-(u) \\ \rho(v, x) & \text{if } e = (u, x) \text{ for some } x \in N^+(u) \end{cases}$$

Clearly ρ' is an H -coloring of D . Notice that every (H, ρ') -walk in D which does not contain u is an (H, ρ) -walk in D_0 .

Since D is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks, then D contains an (H, ρ') -kernel by walks, say S . Consider the following cases:

- **Case 1.** $u \notin S$.

In this case we claim that S is an (H, ρ) -kernel by walks of D_0 . In order to prove that S is an (H, ρ) -absorbent set by walks in D_0 , consider a vertex $x \in V(D_0) \setminus S$. It follows that there exists an $xz - (H, \rho')$ -walk in D , say $T = (x = x_0, \dots, x_n = z)$, for some $z \in S$. If $u \notin V(T)$ then T is an $xz - (H, \rho)$ -walk in D_0 . Now we suppose that $u = x_r$ for some $r \in \{1, \dots, n - 1\}$. Since $N^-(u) = N^-(v)$ and $N^+(u) = N^+(v)$, then $T' = (x = x_0, \dots, x_{r-1}, v, x_{r+1}, \dots, x_n = z)$ is an xz -walk in D_0 . Moreover, since $\rho(x_{r-1}, v) = \rho'(x_{r-1}, u)$ and $\rho(v, x_{r+1}) = \rho'(u, x_{r+1})$ then T' is an $xz - (H, \rho)$ -walk in D_0 , concluding that S is an (H, ρ) -absorbent set by walks in D_0 .

On the other hand, suppose that S is not an (H, ρ) -independent set by walks in D_0 , so, there exists an $xz - (H, \rho)$ -walk in D_0 , say T , for some $\{x, z\} \subseteq S$. It is straightforward to see that T is an $xz - (H, \rho')$ -walk in D , which is not possible. Therefore, S is an (H, ρ) -kernel by walks of D_0 .

- Case 2. $u \in S$.

In this case we claim that $S' = (S \setminus \{u\}) \cup \{v\}$ is an (H, ρ) -kernel by walks of D_0 . First we will show that S' is an (H, ρ) -absorbent set by walks. Let x_0 be a vertex in $V(D_0) \setminus S'$. Since S is an (H, ρ') -absorbent set by walks in D , there exists an $x_0z - (H, \rho')$ -walk in D , say $T = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n = z)$, for some $z \in S$. If $z \neq u$ then T is an $x_0z - (H, \rho)$ -walk in D_0 . Now we assume that $z = u$. Since $N^-(u) = N^-(v)$ then $(x_{n-1}, v) \in A(D_0)$, which implies that $T' = (x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}, v)$ is an x_0v -walk in D_0 . Moreover, since $\rho(x_{n-1}, v) = \rho'(x_{n-1}, u)$ then T' is an $x_0v - (H, \rho)$ -walk in D_0 . Hence, S' is an (H, ρ) -absorbent set by walks in D_0 .

On the other hand, suppose that S' is not an (H, ρ) -independent set by walks in D_0 . So, there exists an $xz - (H, \rho)$ -walk in D_0 , say $P = (x = x_0, \dots, x_n = z)$, for some $\{x, z\} \subseteq S'$. Notice that P is an $xz - (H, \rho')$ -walk in D , it follows that either $x = v$ or $z = v$, otherwise S is not an (H, ρ') -independent set by walks. If $x = v$ then by assumption $x_1 \in N^+(u)$ and $\rho'(u, x_1) = \rho(v, x_1)$ concluding that $P' = (u, x_1, \dots, x_n = z)$ is an $uz - (H, \rho')$ -walk in D_0 which is not possible. In the same way, if $z = v$ an analogous proof shows that S is not an (H, ρ') -independent set by walks in D_0 , which is not possible. It follows that S' is an (H, ρ) -independent set by walks in D_0 .

Therefore, S' is an (H, ρ) -kernel by walks in D_0 , which implies that D_0 is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks. \square

Proposition 3.9. *Let D be an extension of some digraph D_0 . If D is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks, then D_0 is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks.*

Proof. We will show that Proposition 3.9 holds by induction on the order of D .

If D is an extension of D_0 such that D is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic and $|V(D)| = |V(D_0)|$ then D is isomorphic to D_0 , concluding that D_0 is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic by walks.

Now we assume that if D' is an extension of D_0 such that D' is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks and $|V(D_0)| \leq |V(D')| = n$, then D_0 is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks.

For the inductive step suppose that D is an extension of D_0 such that D is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks and $|V(D_0)| \leq |V(D)| = n + 1$. By assumption, $D = D_0[V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k]$ where V_i is an independent set for every $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. We can assume that $|V(D_0)| \neq |V(D)|$, so there exists $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ such that $|V_i| \geq 2$. Consider u and v two different vertices in V_i . Clearly $N_D^+(u) = N_D^+(v)$ and $N_D^-(u) = N_D^-(v)$ and by Lemma 3.8 we conclude that $D' = D \setminus \{u\}$ is an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks. On the other hand, notice that $D' = D_0[V_1, \dots, V_i \setminus \{u\}, \dots, V_k]$ and by induction hypothesis we conclude that D_0 is \mathcal{H} -panchromatic by walks. \square

Converse of Proposition 3.9 is not true. Galeana-Sánchez and Toledo [6] proved that the digraph D shown in Fig. 3.2 is not panchromatic. We claim that D contains no H -kernel by walks with the H -coloration shown in Fig. 3.2.

Suppose that D contains an H -kernel by walks, say S . Notice that a path T is an H -path if and only if T is monochromatic. If $x_1 \in S$, then $v_1 \notin S$ and $v_2 \notin S$ since (v_1, u_2, x_1) is a $v_1x_1 - H$ -path and (v_2, u_1, x_1) is a $v_2x_1 - H$ -path. Hence, neither w_1 and w_2 are H -absorbed by walks by S , which is not possible. Therefore, $x_1 \notin S$.

An analogous proof shows that $x_2 \notin S$. So, we have that either $w_1 \in S$ or $w_2 \in S$. If $w_1 \in S$ we conclude that $u_1 \notin S$, since (w_1, v_1, u_1) is an $w_1u_1 - H$ -path. It follows that u_1 is not H -absorbed by S , which is not possible. That implies that $w_1 \notin S$ concluding that $w_2 \in S$. An analogous proof shows that u_1 is not H -absorbed by S , a contradiction. Therefore, D has no H -kernel by walks.

Notice that D is an extension of C_4 . In particular, from Corollary 2.3 D is an extension of an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph, showing that an extension of an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph is not necessarily \mathcal{H} -panchromatic.

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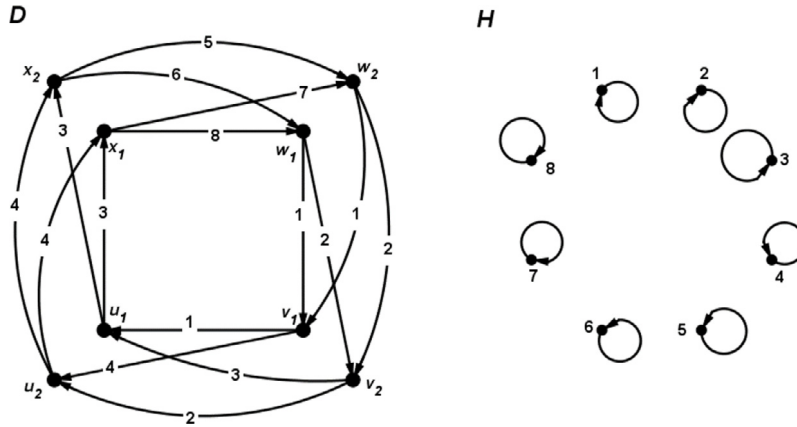


Fig. 3.2. An extension of an \mathcal{H} -panchromatic digraph by walks that is not \mathcal{H} -panchromatic by walks.

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