

Tutte uniqueness of locally grid graphs *

D. Garijo A. Márquez M.P. Revuelta

Abstract

A graph is said to be locally grid if the structure around each of its vertices is a 3×3 grid. As a follow up of the research initiated in [4] and [3] we prove that most locally grid graphs are uniquely determined by their Tutte polynomial.

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1 Introduction

Given a graph G , the Tutte polynomial of G is a two-variable polynomial $T(G; x, y)$, which contains considerable information on G [1]. A graph G is said to be *Tutte unique* if $T(G; x, y) = T(H; x, y)$ implies $G \cong H$ for every other graph H . In Section 2 we prove that, locally grid graphs are Tutte unique.

Given a fixed graph H , a connected graph G is said to be locally H if for every vertex x the subgraph induced on the set of neighbors of x is isomorphic to H . For example, if P is the Petersen graph, then there are three locally P graphs [2]. The locally grid condition is slightly different since it involves not only a vertex and its neighbors, but also four vertices at distance two. From now on, all graphs considered have no isolated vertices.

We first recall some definitions and results about locally grid graphs from [4].

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Let $N(x)$ be the set of neighbors of a vertex x . We say that a 4-regular connected graph G is a *locally grid graph* if for each vertex x there exists an ordering x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 of $N(x)$ and four different vertices y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4 , such that, taking the indices modulo 4,

$$\begin{aligned} N(x_i) \cap N(x_{i+1}) &= \{x, y_i\} \\ N(x_i) \cap N(x_{i+2}) &= \{x\} \end{aligned}$$

and there are no more adjacencies among $\{x, x_1, \dots, x_4, y_1, \dots, y_4\}$ than those required by these conditions (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Locally Grid Structure

Locally grid graphs are simple, two-connected, triangle-free, and each vertex belongs to exactly four cycles of length 4.

Let $H = P_p \times P_q$ be the $p \times q$ grid, where P_l is a path with l vertices. Label the vertices of H with the elements of the abelian group $\mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}_q$ in the natural way. Vertices of degree four already have the locally grid property, hence we have to add edges between vertices of degree two and three in order to obtain a locally grid graph. A complete classification of locally grid graphs is given in [4], and they fall into the following families. In all the Figures, the vertices of the graph are represented by dots and two points with the same label correspond to points that are identified in the surface.

The Torus $T_{p,q}^\delta$ with $p \geq 5$, $0 \leq \delta \leq p/2$, $\delta + q \geq 5$ if $q \geq 4$, $\delta + q \geq 6$ if $q = 2, 3$ or $4 \leq \delta < p/2$ with $\delta \neq p/3, p/4$ if $q = 1$. (Figure 2a)

$$\begin{aligned} E(T_{p,q}^\delta) &= E(H) \cup \{(i, 0), (i + \delta, q - 1)\}, 0 \leq i \leq p - 1\} \\ &\cup \{(0, j), (p - 1, j)\}, 0 \leq j \leq q - 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

For $\delta = 0$ we obtain the toroidal grid $C_p \times C_q$, in this case we will write $T_{p,q}$. We can assume that $\delta \leq p/2$.

The Klein Bottle $K_{p,q}^1$ with $p \geq 5$, p odd, $q \geq 5$. (Figure 2b)

$$\begin{aligned} E(K_{p,q}^1) &= E(H) \cup \{(j, 0), (p - j - 1, q - 1)\}, 0 \leq j \leq p - 1\} \\ &\cup \{(0, j), (p - 1, j)\}, 0 \leq j \leq q - 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

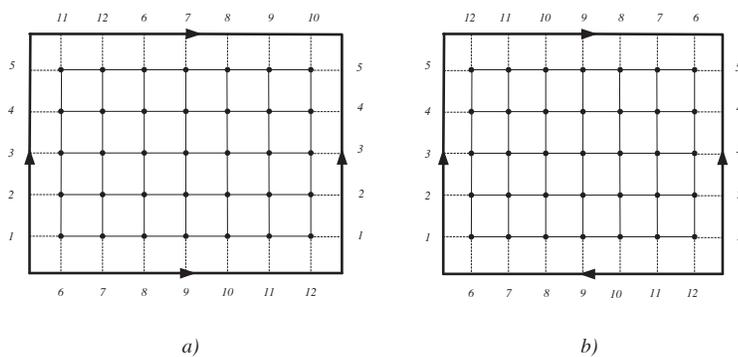


Figure 2: a) $T_{7,5}^2$ b) $K_{7,5}^1$

The Klein Bottle $K_{p,q}^0$ with $p \geq 6$, p even, $q \geq 4$ (Figure 3a).

$$E(K_{p,q}^0) = E(H) \cup \{(j, 0), (p - j - 1, q - 1)\}, 0 \leq j \leq p - 1\} \\ \cup \{(0, j), (p - 1, j)\}, 0 \leq j \leq q - 1\}.$$

The Klein Bottle $K_{p,q}^2$ with $p \geq 6$, p even, $q \geq 5$ (Figure 3b).

$$E(K_{p,q}^2) = E(H) \cup \{(j, 0), (p - j, q - 1)\}, 0 \leq j \leq p - 1\} \\ \cup \{(0, j), (p - 1, j)\}, 0 \leq j \leq q - 1\}.$$

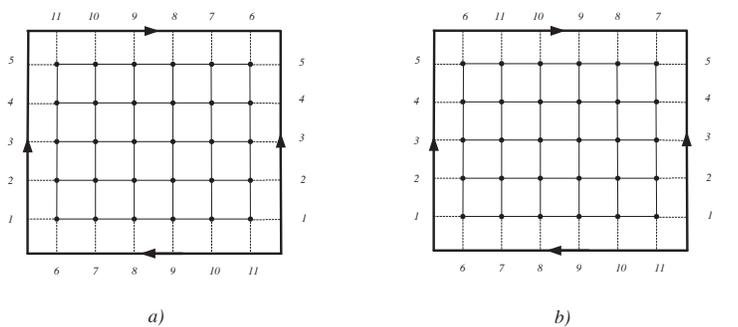


Figure 3: a) $K_{6,5}^0$ b) $K_{6,5}^2$

The graphs $S_{p,q}$ with $p \geq 3$ and $q \geq 6$. (Figure 4). If $p \leq q$

$$\begin{aligned}
E(S_{p,q}) &= E(H) \cup \{(j, 0), (p - j, q - p + j)\}, 0 \leq j \leq p - 1 \\
&\cup \{(0, i), (i, q - 1)\}, 0 \leq i \leq p - 1 \\
&\cup \{(0, i), (p - 1, i - p)\}, p \leq i \leq q - 1.
\end{aligned}$$

If $q \leq p$

$$\begin{aligned}
E(S_{p,q}) &= E(H) \cup \{(j, 0), (0, q - 1 - j)\}, 0 \leq j \leq q - 1 \\
&\cup \{(p - 1 - i, q - 1), (p - 1, i)\}, 0 \leq i \leq q - 1 \\
&\cup \{(i, q - 1), (i + q, 0)\}, 0 \leq i \leq p - q - 1.
\end{aligned}$$

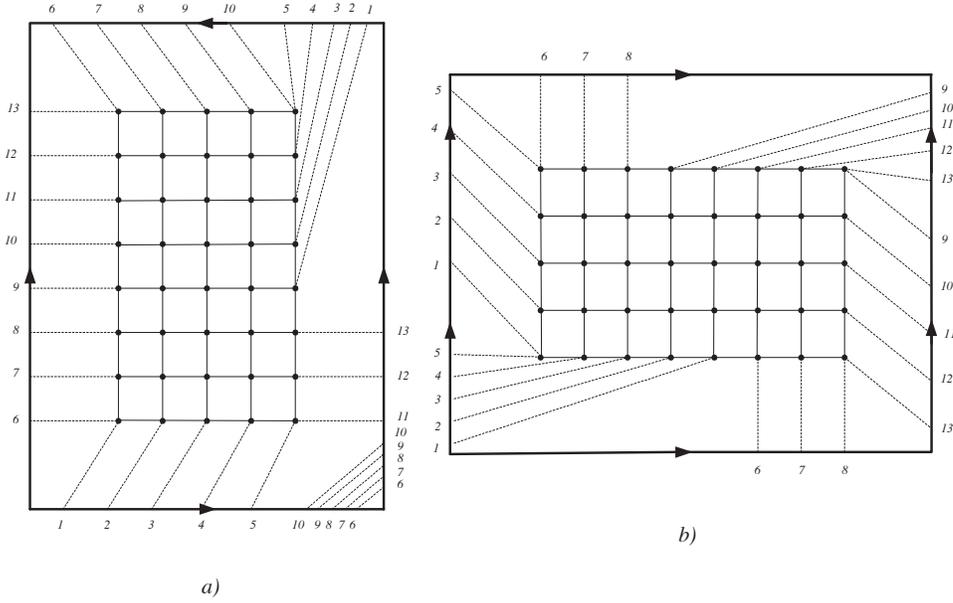


Figure 4: a) $S_{5,8}$ b) $S_{8,5}$

Theorem 1.1 [4] *If G is a locally grid graph with N vertices, then exactly one of the following holds:*

a) $G \cong T_{p,q}^\delta$ with $pq = N$, $p \geq 5$, $\delta \leq p/2$ and $\delta + q \geq 5$ if $q \geq 4$ or $\delta + q \geq 6$ if $q = 2, 3$ or $4 \leq \delta < p/2$, $\delta \neq p/3, p/4$ if $q = 1$.

b) $G \cong K_{p,q}^i$ with $pq = N$, $p \geq 5$, $i \equiv p \pmod{2}$ for $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ and $q \geq 4 + \lceil i/2 \rceil$.

c) $G \cong S_{p,q}$ with $pq = N$, $p \geq 3$ and $q \geq 6$.

2 Tutte Uniqueness

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph with vertex set V and edge set E . The *rank* of a subset $A \subseteq E$ is defined by $r(A) = |A| - k(A)$, where $k(A)$ is the number of connected components of the spanning subgraph (V, A) . The rank-size generating polynomial is defined as:

$$R(G; x, y) = \sum_{A \subseteq E} x^{r(A)} y^{|A|}$$

The coefficient of $x^i y^j$ in $R(G; x, y)$ is the number of spanning subgraphs in G with rank i and j edges. This polynomial contains exactly the same information about G as the Tutte polynomial, which is given by:

$$T(G; x, y) = \sum_{A \subseteq E} (x-1)^{r(E)-r(A)} (y-1)^{|A|-r(A)}$$

hence, the Tutte polynomial tells us for every i and j the number of edge-sets in G with rank i and size j . This fact is going to be essential in order to prove the Tutte uniqueness of locally grid graphs. Given a locally grid graph G , we show that for every locally grid graph H different from G and with $|V(G)| = |V(H)|$ there is at least one coefficient of the rank-size generating polynomial in which both graphs differ.

Let S be the surface in which a locally grid graph G is embedded, that is, S is a torus or a Klein bottle [4]. Given two cycles C and C' of G , we say that C is *locally homotopic* to C' if there exists a cycle of length four, say H , with $C \cap H$ connected and C' is obtained from C by replacing $C - (C \cap H)$ with $H - (C \cap H)$. A *homotopy* is a sequence of local homotopies. A cycle of G is called *essential* if it is not homotopic to a cycle of length four.

Let l_G be the minimum length of an essential cycle of G . Note that l_G is invariant under isomorphism. The number of essential cycles of length l_G contributes to the coefficient a_{l_G-1, l_G} of $R(G; x, y)$, which counts the number of edge sets with rank $l_G - 1$ and size l_G .

In order to show the Tutte uniqueness of locally grid graphs we are going to use the following results proved in [4]:

Lemma 2.1 [4] *Given two graphs G and G' , if G is locally grid and $T(G; x, y) = T(G'; x, y)$ then G' is locally grid.*

Lemma 2.2 [4] *Let G, G' be a pair of locally grid graphs with pq vertices then: a) $l_G \neq l_{G'}$ implies $T(G; x, y) \neq T(G'; x, y)$.
b) If $l_G = l_{G'}$ but G and G' do not have the same number of shortest essential cycles, then $T(G; x, y) \neq T(G'; x, y)$.*

The process we are going to follow is to pairwise compare all the graphs given in the classification theorem of locally grid graphs. In those cases for which the minimum length of essential cycles or the number of cycles of this minimum length are different we have that both graphs are not Tutte equivalent, thus the relevance of the following result.

Lemma 2.3 *If G is a locally grid graph with pq vertices, then the length l_G of the shortest essential cycles and the number of these cycles are given in the following table:*

G	l_G	number of essential cycles
$T_{p,q}$	$\min\{p, q\}$	q if $p < q$
		$2p$ if $p = q$
		p if $p > q$
$T_{p,q}^\delta$	$\min\{p, q + \delta\}$	q if $p < q + \delta$
		$q + p \binom{q + \delta - 1}{\delta}$ if $p = q + \delta$
		$p \binom{q + \delta - 1}{\delta}$ if $p > q + \delta$
$K_{p,q}^0$	$\min\{p, q + 1\}$	q if $p < q + 1$
		$5q$ if $p = q + 1$
		$4q$ if $p > q + 1$
$K_{p,q}^1$	$\min\{p, q\}$	q if $p < q$
		$q + 1$ if $p = q$
		1 if $p > q$
$K_{p,q}^2$	$\min\{p, q\}$	q if $p < q$
		$q + 2$ if $p = q$
		2 if $p > q$
$S_{p,q}$	$\min\{2p, q\}$	$2p \sum_{j=0}^{p-1} \binom{q-1}{j}$ if $p \leq q \leq 2p$
		$q(q-p) \binom{2p-1}{p}$ if $2p \leq q$
		2^q if $q \leq p$

Proof: The cases $T_{p,q}$, $T_{p,q}^\delta$ and $K_{p,q}^i$ are proved in [4], where it is also shown that $l_{S_{p,q}} = \min(2p, q)$ and that if $q \leq p$ the number of shortest essential cycles is 2^q . Hence, we are only left with two cases in which we are given lower bounds on the number of essential cycles of length $l_{S_{p,q}}$. We are interested in calculating the exact number.

Locally grid graphs with pq vertices are constructed by adding edges to the $p \times q$ grid. These edges are called *exterior* edges. Essential cycles of shortest length are obtained by joining the two ends of an exterior edge by a path contained in the grid $p \times q$. In $S_{p,q}$ we distinguish two cases.

Case 1 If $2p \leq q$, every exterior edge of the form $\{(0, i), (p-1, i-p)\}$ determines $\binom{2p-1}{p}$ essential cycles of length $2p$. We have $q-p$ edges of this kind and each of them can use up to q different vertices, therefore the number of essential cycles of length $2p$ is $q(q-p) \binom{2p-1}{p}$.

Case 2 If $p \leq q \leq 2p$, $\{(0, i), (i, q-1)\}$ and $\{(i, 0), (p-1, q-p+i)\}$ with $0 \leq i \leq p-1$ generate $\binom{q}{i}$ essential cycles of length q . These edges can use up to p different vertices, hence the number of essential cycles of length q is $2p \sum_{j=0}^{p-1} \binom{q-1}{j}$. \square

Theorem 2.4 *Let $p, q \geq 6$ verify the following conditions:*

- a) $p \binom{q+\delta-1}{\delta} \neq 2^n$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- b) $pq \neq p'q'$ for all $p', q' \geq 6$ with $p = q + \delta = q' + \delta' < p'$ and $q + p \binom{p-1}{\delta} = p' \binom{p-1}{\delta'}$.

Then $T_{p,q}^\delta$ is Tutte unique for all $\delta \leq p/2$.

Proof: Let $p, q \geq 6$ and G be a graph with $T(G; x, y) = T(T_{p,q}^\delta; x, y)$. By Lemma 2.1, G is a locally grid graph, hence G has to be isomorphic to exactly one of the following graphs: $T_{p',q'}$, $T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}$, $K_{p',q'}^i$, $S_{p',q'}$. We prove that G is isomorphic to $T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}$ with $p = p'$, $q = q'$ and $\delta = \delta'$ assuming that G is isomorphic to each one of the previous graphs and obtaining a contradiction in all the cases except in the aforementioned case. In [4] $T_{p,q}$ was shown to be Tutte unique, thus we can consider $\delta > 0$ and G not isomorphic to $T_{p',q'}$.

Case 1 Suppose $G \cong K_{p',q'}^0$. By Lemma 2.2, $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = l_{K_{p',q'}^0}$ and the number of shortest essential cycles has to be the same in both graphs.

Case 1.1 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = p'$ with $p < q + \delta$ and $p' < q' + 1$.

As a result of Lemma 2.2, $p = p'$ and $q = q'$. Our aim is to prove that the number of edge sets with rank q and size $q + 1$ is different for each graph. This would lead to a contradiction since this number is the coefficient of $x^q y^{q+1}$ in the rank-size generating polynomial.

If $T_{p,q}^\delta$ has k essential cycles of length q ($\delta > 1$) or $k + pq$ ($\delta = 1$), then $K_{p,q}^0$ would have $k + 4q$ such cycles. Therefore if we can show that there exists a bijection between edge sets with rank q and size $q + 1$ that are not essential cycles, we would have proved what we want.

For every r with $0 \leq r \leq q - 2$ denote by E_r the set $\{((i, r), (i, r + 1)); 0 \leq i \leq p - 1\}$. Let A be an edge set that is not an essential cycle with rank q and size $q + 1$ in $T_{p,q}^\delta$. Define $s(A)$ as $\min\{r \in [0, q - 2]; A \cap E_r = \emptyset\}$. If $A \subset E(T_{p,q}^\delta)$ the minimum always exists. For every r with $0 \leq r \leq q - 2$ we define the bijection, φ_r between $\{A \subseteq E(T_{p,q}^\delta) | r(A) = q, |A| = q + 1, s(A) = r\}$ and $\{A \subseteq E(K_{p,q}^0) | r(A) = q, |A| = q + 1, s(A) = r\}$ as follows:

If $A \subset E(T_{p,q}^\delta)$, $\varphi_r(A) = \cup\{\psi(((i, j), (i', j'))); ((i, j), (i', j')) \in A\}$ where

$$\psi((h, k)) = \begin{cases} (h, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } j' = q - 1, j = 0 \\ (h, k) & \text{if } j, j' \in [0, r] \\ (\widehat{h}, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } r + 1 \leq j, j' \leq q - 1 \end{cases}$$

with $h = (i, j)$, $k = (i', j')$, $\widehat{h} = (p - 1 - i + \delta, j)$ and $\widehat{k} = (p - 1 - i' + \delta, j')$.

Case 1.2 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = p' = q' + 1$ with $p < q + \delta$ or $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = q + \delta < p$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = p'$ with $p' < q' + 1$.

The contradiction in these two cases is produced due to the equality of shortest essential cycles, number of these cycles and number of vertices on each graph.

Case 1.3 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = q' + 1$ with $p < q + \delta$ and $q' + 1 < p'$.

To obtain a contradiction, we are going to prove that there are more edge-sets with rank $q' + 2$ and size $q' + 3$ in $T_{p,q}^\delta$ than in $K_{p,q}^0$. Basically, we are going to follow the same procedure that was developed in [4]. The previous sets can be classified into three groups:

1.- Normal edge-sets (they are edge-sets that do not contain any essential cycle).

2.- Sets containing an essential cycle of length $q' + 1$ and two other edges (Figure 5a).

3.- Essential cycles of length $q' + 3$ (Figures 5b and 6).

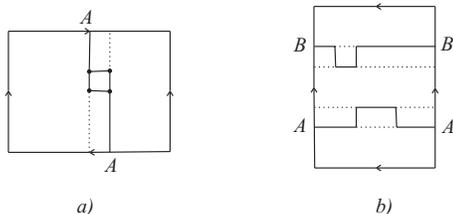


Figure 5: a) A set of edges in $K_{p',q'}^0$ containing an essential cycle of length $q' + 1$ and two other edges. b) Essential cycles of length $q' + 3$ in $T_{p,q}^\delta$.



Figure 6: Essential cycles of length $q' + 3$ in $K_{p',q'}^0$.

(1) By Corollary 16 of [4] we know that $T_{p,q}^\delta$ and $K_{p',q'}^0$ have the same number of normal edge-sets with rank $q' + 2$ and size $q' + 3$ that do not contain a cycle of length four. We are going to prove that the number of normal edge-sets with rank $q' + 2$ and size $q' + 3$ containing a cycle of length four is greater in $T_{p,q}^\delta$ than in $K_{p',q'}^0$.

Again by Corollary 16 of [4], the number of edge-sets with rank $q' + 1$ and size $q' + 2$ containing a cycle of length four is the same in both graphs, call it $s_{q'+1}$. Add one edge to each of these sets in order to obtain a set with rank $q' + 2$ and size $q' + 3$. This set can be one of the following types depending on which edge we are adding:

- (a) A normal edge set with rank $q' + 2$.
- (b) A normal edge set containing two non essential cycles and having rank $q' + 1$.
- (c) An edge set containing an essential cycle of length $q' + 1$ and a non essential cycle of length four.

Let $A(G)$, $B(G)$ and $C(G)$ (where G is either $T_{p,q}^\delta$ or $K_{p',q'}^0$), the number of edge-sets in G that belong to the groups A, B and C respec-

tively. We recall the following equality from [4]:

$$s_{q'+1}(2pq - q' - 2) = A(G)(q' - 1) + \sum_{B \in B(G)} (q' + 3 - \delta(B)) + C(G)(q' - 1)$$

where $\delta(B)$ is the number of edges of B which do not belong to any cycle of length four in B . Since $C(T_{p,q}^\delta) = 0$ and $C(K_{p',q'}^0) \neq 0$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} & A(T_{p,q}^\delta)(q' - 1) + \sum_{B \in B(T_{p,q}^\delta)} (q' + 3 - \delta(B)) = \\ & A(K_{p',q'}^0)(q' - 1) + \sum_{B \in B(K_{p',q'}^0)} (q' + 3 - \delta(B)) + C(K_{p',q'}^0)(q' - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Applying Corollary 16 several times we get that:

$$\sum_{B \in B(T_{p,q}^\delta)} (q' + 3 - \delta(B)) = \sum_{B \in B(K_{p',q'}^0)} (q' + 3 - \delta(B))$$

hence

$$A(T_{p,q}^\delta)(q' - 1) = A(K_{p',q'}^0)(q' - 1) + C(K_{p',q'}^0)(q' - 1).$$

(2) In $T_{p,q}^\delta$, every essential cycle of length $q' + 1$ plus two edges has rank $q' + 2$, but in $K_{p',q'}^0$ there are essential cycles for which if we add two edges we obtain sets with rank $q' + 1$. By hypothesis, both graphs have the same number of shortest essential cycles therefore the number of edge-sets in this case is greater in $T_{p,q}^\delta$ than in $K_{p',q'}^0$.

(3) For every essential cycle of length $p = q' + 1$ in $T_{p,q}^\delta$ we have $2 \binom{p}{2}$ ways of adding two edges in order to obtain a new essential cycle, hence in $T_{p,q}^\delta$ there are $2q \binom{p}{2}$ essential cycles of length $q' + 3$.

In [4] it is proved that in $K_{p',q'}^0$ there are $4q' \binom{q'}{2} + 4 \binom{q'+2}{3}$ essential cycles of length $q' + 3$. Since $p = q' + 1$ and $q = 4q'$, the number of essential cycles of length $q' + 3$ is greater in $T_{p,q}^\delta$ than in $K_{p',q'}^0$.

Case 1.4 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p = q + \delta$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = p'$ with $q' + 1 > p'$.

Suppose $p = q + \delta = p'$ then $q = q'$, hence $\delta < 1$. We get a contradiction because $\delta \geq 1$.

Case 1.5 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p = q + \delta$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = p' = q' + 1$.

If the length of the shortest essential cycles and the number of these cycles coincide in both graphs, we would have $p = p'$, $q = q'$, $\delta = 1$ and $q + pq = 5q'$ therefore $p = 4$.

Case 1.6 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p = q + \delta$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = q' + 1$ with $p' > q' + 1$.

$$q' + 1 = p = q + \delta \Rightarrow 4q' = q + p \binom{q'}{\delta},$$

$$p > 4, q' = \binom{q'}{q' - 1} < \binom{q'}{\delta} \Rightarrow 4q' < p \binom{q'}{\delta}.$$

Case 1.7 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = q + \delta < p$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = p' = q' + 1$.

$$q' + 1 = p' = q + \delta \quad \text{and} \quad 5q' = p \binom{q + \delta - 1}{\delta}.$$

If $\delta = 1$ then $q = q'$, $p = p' = q + \delta < p$ hence $\delta > 1$.

$p > 5$ and

$$\binom{q + \delta - 1}{\delta} = \binom{q'}{\delta} > q' \Rightarrow 5q' < p \binom{q + \delta - 1}{\delta}.$$

Case 1.8 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = q + \delta < p$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = q' + 1 < p'$.

Now, $q' + 1 = q + \delta$, so we can assume that $\delta > 1$ because if $\delta = 1$, then $q = q'$, $p = p'$ and the number of shortest essential cycles would not be the same in both graphs. The contradiction in this case is similar to the one obtained in the previous case because $4q' = p \binom{q'}{\delta}$.

After these eight cases we can conclude that $T_{p,q}^\delta$ is not isomorphic to $K_{p,q}^0$.

Case 2 Suppose G isomorphic to $T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}$.

Case 2.1 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p$, $l_{T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}} = p'$ with $p < q + \delta$ and $p' < q' + \delta'$.

As a result of Lemma 2.2, $p = p'$ and $q = q'$. Suppose $\delta' < \delta$, as in case 1.1 our purpose is to prove that the number of edge sets with rank $q + \delta' - 1$ and size $q + \delta'$ is different in each graph. If $T_{p,q}^\delta$ has x essential cycles of length $q + \delta'$, $T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}$ has $x + p \binom{q + \delta' - 1}{\delta'}$, therefore if we show that there exists a bijection between the edge sets of non essential cycles with rank $q + \delta' - 1$ and size $q + \delta'$, we would have proved what we

want. For every r with $0 \leq r \leq q - 2$ we define the following bijection, φ_r between $\{A \subseteq E(T_{p,q}^{\delta'}) \mid r(A) = q + \delta' - 1, |A| = q + \delta', s(A) = r\}$ and $\{A \subseteq E(T_{p,q}^{\delta}) \mid r(A) = q + \delta' - 1, |A| = q + \delta', s(A) = r\}$.

If $A \subset E(T_{p,q}^{\delta'})$, $\varphi_r(A) = \cup\{\psi(((i, j), (i', j'))); ((i, j), (i', j')) \in A\}$ where

$$\psi((h, k)) = \begin{cases} (\widehat{h}, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } j' = q - 1, j = 0 \\ (h, k) & \text{if } j, j' \in [0, r] \\ (\widehat{h}, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } r + 1 \leq j, j' \leq q - 1 \end{cases}$$

with $h = (i, j)$, $k = (i', j')$, $\widehat{h} = (i + \delta - \delta', j)$ and $\widehat{k} = (i' + \delta - \delta', j')$.

Case 2.2 $l_{T_{p,q}^{\delta}} = p$, $l_{T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}} = p' = q' + \delta'$ with $p < q + \delta$.

Suppose $T(T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}; x, y) = T(T_{p,q}^{\delta}; x, y)$ then $p = p'$ and $q = q' + p' \binom{q' + \delta' - 1}{\delta'}$. Since $pq = p'q'$ we obtain $q = q'$, a contradiction.

Case 2.3 $l_{T_{p,q}^{\delta}} = p$, $l_{T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}} = q' + \delta'$ with $p < q + \delta$ and $q' + \delta' < p'$.

$$\begin{aligned} q' + \delta' = p &\Rightarrow q = p' \binom{p - 1}{\delta'} \\ pq = p'q' &\Rightarrow p \binom{q' + \delta' - 1}{\delta'} = q' = p - \delta' \end{aligned}$$

$\delta' < p - 1$ then $p \binom{q' + \delta' - 1}{\delta'} > p$. This contradiction was obtained by having assumed that both graphs have the same Tutte polynomial.

Because of hypothesis 2, we have that the case $l_{T_{p,q}^{\delta}} = p = q + \delta$, $l_{T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}} = q' + \delta'$ with $q' + \delta' < p'$ cannot occur.

With an analogous process to the one followed in case 1.3 we prove that the number of edge-sets with rank $q' + \delta' + 1$ and size $q' + \delta' + 2$ are different in $T_{p,q}^{\delta}$ and $T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}$. Therefore, $l_{T_{p,q}^{\delta}} = q + \delta$, $l_{T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}} = q' + \delta' < p'$ is not possible.

The rest of the cases are analogous to the previous ones, hence just one case can occur, namely, $l_{T_{p,q}^{\delta}} = p = q + \delta$, $l_{T_{p',q'}^{\delta'}} = p' = q' + \delta'$, which implies $p = p'$, $q = q'$ and $\delta = \delta'$.

Case 3 Suppose $G \simeq K_{p',q'}^1$, then $T(T_{p,q}^{\delta}; x, y) = T(K_{p',q'}^1; x, y)$. Because of Lemma 2.3, we cannot have $p' > q'$.

Case 3.1 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p < q + \delta$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^1} = p' < q'$.

As in case 1.1 we have to obtain a bijection to prove that the number of edge-sets with rank $q - 1$ and size q are different in each graph.

If $A \subset A(T_{p,q}^\delta)$, $\varphi_r(A) = \cup\{\psi(((i, j), (i', j'))); ((i, j), (i', j')) \in A\}$ where

$$\psi((h, k)) = \begin{cases} (h, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } j' = q - 1, j = 0 \\ (h, k) & \text{if } j, j' \in [0, r] \\ (\widehat{h}, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } r + 1 \leq j, j' \leq q - 1 \end{cases}$$

with $h = (i, j)$, $k = (i', j')$, $\widehat{h} = (p - 1 - i + \delta, j)$ and $\widehat{k} = (p - 1 - i' + \delta, j')$. The rest of the cases cannot occur because the length of shortest essential cycles, the number of these cycles and the number of vertices do not coincide. We omit the proof for the sake of brevity.

The case $G \simeq K_{p',q'}^2$ is similar to the previous ones, hence we just specify the bijection in the case $p = p' < q'$ and $q = q'$:

If $A \subset A(T_{p,q}^\delta)$, $\varphi_r(A) = \cup\{\psi(((i, j), (i', j'))); ((i, j), (i', j')) \in A\}$ where

$$\psi((h, k)) = \begin{cases} (h, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } j' = q - 1, j = 0 \\ (h, k) & \text{if } j, j' \in [0, r] \\ (\widehat{h}, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } r + 1 \leq j, j' \leq q - 1 \end{cases}$$

with $h = (i, j)$, $k = (i', j')$, $\widehat{h} = (p - i + \delta, j)$ and $\widehat{k} = (p - i' + \delta, j')$.

Case 4 Finally, we are going to assume that $G \simeq S_{p',q'}$. For the cases for which $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p < q + \delta$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = 2p' \leq q'$ or $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p = q + \delta$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $q' \leq p'$ we have that the length of shortest essential cycles, the number of these cycles and the number of vertices in both graphs, cannot coincide. Therefore we obtain a contradiction, since G and $S_{p',q'}$ do not have the same Tutte polynomial.

By hypothesis 1 we cannot have $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = q + \delta < p$, $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $q' \leq p'$.

Case 4.1 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p < q + \delta$, $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $p' \leq q' \leq 2p'$.

Given that $p = q'$, $q = p'$ and the equality of the number of shortest essential cycles $q \geq 2^{q'-1}$ we arrive to a contradiction, because: $p' \geq 2^{q'-1} \geq 2^{p'-1} \Rightarrow 2p' \geq 2^{p'}$.

Case 4.2 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p < q + \delta$, $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $q' \leq p'$

Using the same ideas as in case 1.3 we prove that the number of edge-sets with rank $q' + 1$ and size $q' + 2$ is greater in $T_{p,q}^\delta$ than in $S_{p',q'}$. For the sake of brevity we only give a sketch of the proof. These sets

are classified into three groups: normal edge-sets, sets containing an essential cycle of length q' and two other edges and essential cycles of length $q' + 2$. We prove that $T_{p,q}^\delta$ has more edge sets of each type than $S_{p',q'}$. The ideas are similar to case 1.3, so we just mention the last type. In $T_{p,q}^\delta$ we have $2 \binom{p}{2}$ ways of adding two edges in order to get a new essential cycle, hence there are $2q \binom{p}{2}$ essential cycles of length $q' + 2$. In $S_{p',q'}$ (Figure 7) there are exterior edges to which we can add two edges in $\binom{q'}{2} + \binom{q'-1}{2}$ different ways. Since $p = q'$ we have more essential cycles of length $q' + 2$ in $T_{p,q}^\delta$ than in $S_{p',q'}$.

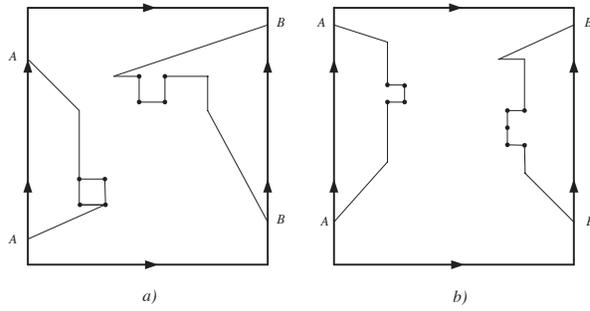


Figure 7: a) Edge sets in $S_{p',q'}$ with $p' \geq q'$ containing an essential cycle of length q' and two other edges. b) Essential cycles of length $q' + 2$ in $S_{p',q'}$.

Case 4.3 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p = q + \delta$, $l_{S_{p',q'}} = 2p'$ with $q' \geq 2p'$.

Given that $2p' = p = q + \delta$, we have $q' = 2q$. We will obtain a contradiction by assuming we have equality for the number of shortest essential cycles in both graphs. In this case and in the next ones we are going to use the following property: $\binom{2p'-1}{n} < \binom{2p'-1}{m}$ if $n < m \leq [(2p'-1)/2] = p'-1$.

If $q + p \binom{q + \delta - 1}{\delta} = q'(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'}$ then

$$q'(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} = q + p \binom{2p' - 1}{\delta} < q + p \binom{2p' - 1}{p' - 1} = q + p \binom{2p' - 1}{p'}$$

$$< q + q' \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} < q' \left(1 + \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} \right) < q'(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'}.$$

Case 4.4 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = p = q + \delta$, $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $p' \leq q' \leq 2p'$.
 $q' = p = q + \delta$ then $p' = q$. Suppose

$$q + p \binom{q + \delta - 1}{\delta} = 2p' \sum_{j=0}^{p'-1} \binom{q' - 1}{j}.$$

$\delta \leq p/2 = q'/2 \leq p' = q$. If $\delta < q \leq p' - 1$ then:

$$\begin{aligned} q + p \binom{q + \delta - 1}{\delta} &= q + p \binom{q' - 1}{\delta} = p' + q' \binom{q' - 1}{\delta} \\ &< q' \left(1 + \binom{q' - 1}{\delta} \right) \leq 2p' \left(1 + \binom{q' - 1}{\delta} \right) < 2p' \sum_{j=0}^{p'-1} \binom{q' - 1}{j}. \end{aligned}$$

If $\delta = q$, $\binom{q' - 1}{\delta} \leq \binom{q' - 1}{q - 1}$ because $[(q' - 1)/2] = q - 1$. The difference between this case and the previous one is that the last bound is obtained as follows:

$$2p' \left(1 + \binom{q' - 1}{\delta} \right) \leq 2p' \left(1 + \binom{q' - 1}{q - 1} \right) < 2p' \sum_{j=0}^{p'-1} \binom{q' - 1}{j}.$$

Case 4.5 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = q + \delta < p$, $l_{S_{p',q'}} = 2p'$ with $2p' \leq q'$.

$$2p' = q + \delta \quad \text{and} \quad q'(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} = p \binom{2p' - 1}{\delta}.$$

Since $[(2p' - 1)/2] = p' - 1$, $\binom{2p' - 1}{\delta} \leq \binom{2p' - 1}{p'}$,

$$\begin{aligned} q'(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} &\geq (2p'q' - p'q') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} \\ &\geq pq \binom{2p' - 1}{\delta} > p \binom{2p' - 1}{\delta}. \end{aligned}$$

Case 4.6 $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = q + \delta < p$, $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $p' \leq q' \leq 2p'$.

$$q' = q + \delta \quad \text{and} \quad p \binom{q + \delta - 1}{\delta} = 2p' \sum_{j=0}^{p'-1} \binom{q' - 1}{j}.$$

We will get a contradiction if we prove that

$$\binom{q' - 1}{\delta} < 2 \sum_{j=0}^{p'-1} \binom{q' - 1}{j}.$$

$$q' \leq 2p' \Rightarrow [(q' - 1)/2] \leq p' - 1$$

then

$$\exists j_0 \in [0, p' - 1], \binom{q' - 1}{[(q' - 1)/2]} \binom{q' - 1}{j_0}$$

$$\binom{q' - 1}{\delta} \leq \binom{q' - 1}{[(q' - 1)/2]} < 2 \sum_{j=0}^{p'-1} \binom{q' - 1}{j}. \quad \square$$

Theorem 2.5 $K_{p,q}^0$ is Tutte unique for all $p, q \geq 6$.

Proof: Let $p, q \geq 6$ and G a graph with $T(G; x, y) = T(K_{p,q}^0; x, y)$. Due to Lemma 2.1 and Theorem 2.4, G has to be isomorphic to exactly one of the following graphs: $K_{p',q'}^i, S_{p',q'}$. We are going to prove that G is isomorphic to $K_{p',q'}^0$ with $p = p', q = q'$.

Suppose G isomorphic to $K_{p',q'}^0$ then $l_{T_{p,q}^\delta} = l_{K_{p',q'}^0}$ and the number of shortest essential cycles has to be the same in both graphs. We just have to study the case in which $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = p < q + 1$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = q' + 1$ with $p' > q' + 1$. This is so because, if $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = q + 1 < p$ and $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = p'$ with $p' < q' + 1$ the reasoning would be analogous and in these cases it is easy to verify that the number of vertices and the length of shortest essential cycles can not coincide in both graphs.

If $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = p < q + 1$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^0} = q' + 1$ with $p' > q' + 1$ we can show that the number of edge-sets with rank $q' + 2$ and size $q' + 3$ is different in $K_{p,q}^0$ and $K_{p',q'}^0$. We omit the proof because it uses the same arguments as those in case 1.3.

Suppose $G \cong K_{p',q'}^1$. Since p is even and p' odd, all the cases in which the length of shortest essential cycles in $K_{p,q}^0$ is p and in $K_{p',q'}^1$ is p' are proved. By Lemma 2.3 we know that the number of shortest essential cycles in $K_{p,q}^0$ is always bigger than one, hence we obtain a contradiction in all those cases in which the number of shortest essential cycles in $K_{p',q'}^1$ is one. Therefore we just have to study two cases: $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = q + 1 < p$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^1} = p' < q'$ and $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = q + 1 < p$, $l_{K_{p',q'}^1} = p' = q'$. In the first

case we obtain a contradiction by proving that the number of edge-sets with rank $p' + 1$ and size $p' + 2$ is different in each graph (following the same reasoning as in case 1.3 of Theorem 2.4). In the second case we show that if $p' = q' = q + 1$, $pq = p'q'$, p are even and p' is odd it must then be the case that q' is even. By Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3, $T(K_{p,q}^0; x, y) \neq T(K_{p',q'}^2; x, y)$ if $p' > q'$, therefore G is not isomorphic to $K_{p',q'}^2$. Following the same reasoning as in case 1.1 of Theorem 2.4 we show that it cannot be that $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = p < q + 1$ and $l_{K_{p',q'}^2} = p' < q'$.

We just specify the bijection between $\{A \subseteq E(K_{p,q}^0) | r(A) = q, |A| = q + 1, s(A) = r\}$ and $\{A \subseteq E(K_{p',q'}^2) | r(A) = q, |A| = q + 1, s(A) = r\}$.

If $A \subset A(K_{p,q}^0)$, $\varphi_r(A) = \cup\{\psi(((i, j), (i', j'))); ((i, j), (i', j')) \in A\}$ where

$$\psi((h, k)) = \begin{cases} (\widehat{h}, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } j' = q - 1, j = 0 \\ (h, k) & \text{if } j, j' \in [0, r] \\ (\widehat{h}, \widehat{k}) & \text{if } r + 1 \leq j, j' \leq q - 1 \end{cases}$$

with $h = (i, j)$, $k = (i', j')$, $\widehat{h} = (i + 1, j)$ and $\widehat{k} = (i' + 1, j')$.

On the other hand, we prove (as in case 1.3 of Theorem 2.4) that if $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = q + 1 < p$ and $l_{K_{p',q'}^2} = p' < q'$ the number of edge-sets of rank $p' + 1$ and size $p' + 2$ is different for each graph.

The other four cases obtained by considering the possible combinations of the lengths of shortest essential cycles in $K_{p,q}^0$ and $K_{p',q'}^2$, are not possible since the length of shortest essential cycles, the number of these cycles and the number of vertices cannot coincide in both graphs.

Finally, suppose $G \simeq S_{p',q'}$.

Case 1 If $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = p < q + 1$, $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $p' \leq q' \leq 2p'$ we obtain a contradiction as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} p < q + 1 &\Rightarrow p' \leq q' < p' + 1 \Rightarrow p' = q' \Rightarrow p = q = p' = q'. \\ q &\geq 2^{q'-1} = 2^{q-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Case 2 $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = p < q + 1$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q' \leq p'$.

As we did in case 1.3 of Theorem 2.4 we show that there are different number of edge-sets with rank $q' + 1$ and size $q' + 2$ in $K_{p,q}^0$ and $S_{p',q'}$, hence these graphs do not have the same Tutte polynomial.

Case 3 $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = p = q + 1$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = 2p' \leq q'$.

$2p' = p = q + 1$ then $q' = 2q$. Since $5q = q'(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'}$ we will obtain a contradiction if we prove that $5q < q'(q' - p')$.

$$q'(q' - p') = 2q(2q - (p/2)) = 4q^2 - pq = 4q^2 - q(q + 1) = q(3q - 1) > q5$$

Case 4 $l_{K_{p,q}^0} = q + 1 < p$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = 2p' \leq q'$.

$$2p' = q + 1. \quad 4q = q'(p' - q') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} \geq 2p'^2 \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} > 8p' > 8p' - 4 = 4(2p' - 1) = 4q.$$

Similarly as in the comparisons between $K_{p,q}^0$ and $K_{p',q'}^2$, the rest of the cases cannot occur because the length of shortest essential cycles, the number of these cycles and the number of vertices do not coincide in both graphs given that $q \geq 6$. \square

Theorem 2.6 *The graph $K_{p,q}^1$ is Tutte unique for all $p, q \geq 6$.*

Proof: The argument of this proof is basically the same as those followed in Theorems 2.4 and 2.5. Because of the Tutte uniqueness of $T_{p,q}^\delta$ and $K_{p,q}^0$ we only have to prove that $T(G; x, y) \neq T(K_{p,q}^1; x, y)$ with $G \in \{K_{p',q'}^1$ (except if $p = p'$ and $q = q'$), $K_{p',q'}^2, S_{p',q'}\}$. In every case we are going to suppose that $T(G; x, y) = T(K_{p,q}^1; x, y)$ and we will obtain a contradiction.

Case 1 If $G \simeq K_{p',q'}^1$ it is easy to prove that the length of shortest essential cycles, the number of these cycles and the number of vertices only coincide if $p = p'$ and $q = q'$.

Case 2 If $G \simeq K_{p',q'}^2$, by Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3 we get a contradiction in all those cases for which the number of shortest essential cycles in $K_{p,q}^1$ is one or the number of shortest essential cycles in $K_{p',q'}^2$ is two. In the other cases a contradiction is reached because p is odd and p' is even.

Case 3 If $G \simeq S_{p',q'}$ we can consider $p \leq q$ because if $p > q$ the number of shortest essential cycles in $K_{p,q}^1$ is one and $p, q \geq 6$.

If $l_{K_{p,q}^1} = p < q$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = 2p' \leq q'$ or $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $p' \leq q' \leq 2p'$, by Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3 it is easy to obtain a contradiction. The same is true if $l_{K_{p,q}^1} = p = q$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $q' \leq p'$ or $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $p' \leq q' \leq 2p'$.

If $l_{K_{p,q}^1} = p < q$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q' \leq p'$ we prove (as in previous cases) that there are different number of edge-sets with rank $q' + 1$ and

size $q' + 2$ in both graphs, hence they can not have the same Tutte polynomial.

If $l_{K_{p,q}^1} = p = q$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = 2p' \leq q'$, $2p' = p = q$ then $q' = 2q$ therefore

$$q + 1 = q'(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} = 2q(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} > q + 1. \quad \square$$

Theorem 2.7 *The graph $K_{p,q}^2$ is Tutte unique for $p, q \geq 6$.*

Proof: Due to Theorems 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 we have to prove that $T(G; x, y) \neq T(K_{p,q}^2; x, y)$ with $G \in \{K_{p',q'}^2$ (except if $p = p'$ and $q = q'$), $S_{p',q'}\}$ and $pq = p'q'$.

By Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3, $T(K_{p',q'}^2; x, y) \neq T(K_{p,q}^2; x, y)$ if $p \neq p'$ and $q \neq q'$ because the length of shortest essential cycles, the number of these cycles and the number of vertices only coincide if $p = p'$ and $q = q'$.

If $G \simeq S_{p',q'}$ we can assume that $p \leq q$ otherwise if $q < p$, $K_{p,q}^2$ has two shortest essential cycles and by Lemma 2.2 we obtain a contradiction.

Case 1 If $l_{K_{p,q}^2} = p < q$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q' \leq p'$ we prove as in previous cases that the number of edge-sets with rank $q' + 1$ and size $q' + 2$ is different in both graphs. Hence these two graphs cannot have the same Tutte polynomial, therefore we get a contradiction and G can not be isomorphic to $S_{p',q'}$.

Case 2 If $l_{K_{p,q}^2} = p = q$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = 2p' \leq q'$ then $2p' = p = q$ and $q' = 2q$ hence

$$q + 2 = q'(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} = 2q(q' - p') \binom{2p' - 1}{p'} > q + 2.$$

In the other four cases we obtain a contradiction because the length of shortest essential cycles, the number of these cycles and the number of vertices cannot coincide in both graphs. \square

Theorem 2.8 *The graph $S_{p,q}$ is Tutte unique for $p, q \geq 6$ and $2^q \neq p' \binom{q' + \delta - 1}{\delta}$ for all p', q' with $p'q' = pq$ and $\delta > 0$.*

Proof: Suppose that $S_{p,q}$ is not Tutte unique. Then, by Theorems 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 and Lemma 2.2 $S_{p,q}$ is isomorphic to $S_{p',q'}$ with $p' \neq p$, $q' \neq q$ and $pq = p'q'$.

Case 1 If $l_{S_{p,q}} = 2p \leq q$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q'$ with $p' \leq q' \leq 2p'$, by Lemma 2.2 $q' = 2p$ and $q = 2p'$ then:

$$\begin{aligned} q(q-p) \binom{2p-1}{p} &= 2p'(2p' - (q'/2)) \binom{q'-1}{q'/2} \\ &> (2p' - (q'/2)) \binom{q'-1}{q'/2} \geq (2p' - p') \binom{q'-1}{q'/2} \\ &= p' \binom{q'-1}{q'/2} > \sum_{j=0}^{p'-1} \binom{q'-1}{j}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the number of shortest essential cycles is different in each graph and by Lemma 2.2 we have that $S_{p,q}$ is not isomorphic to $S_{p',q'}$.

Case 2 If $l_{S_{p,q}} = 2p \leq q$ and $l_{S_{p',q'}} = q' \leq p'$ then $2p = q'$ and $q = 2p'$.

$$\begin{aligned} 2q' = 2^{2p} &= 2 \sum_{j=0}^{2p-1} \binom{2p-1}{j} < 2 \cdot 2p \binom{2p-1}{p} \\ &\leq q \binom{2p-1}{p} < q(q-p) \binom{2p-1}{p}. \end{aligned}$$

We obtain a contradiction to the assumption that the number of shortest essential cycles is equal in both graphs.

The other three cases are analogous to the previous ones. \square

3 Concluding Remarks

We have shown that locally grid graphs are Tutte unique for $p, q \geq 6$, but our techniques do not apply to $p = 3, 4, 5$. An interesting open problem is to prove that the number $p' \binom{q' + \delta - 1}{\delta}$ is not a power of two. This would give a more general result about the Tutte uniqueness of $T_{p,q}^\delta$ and $S_{p,q}$.

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D. Garijo
Department of Applied Math.,
University of Sevilla,
Avenida Reina Mercedes S/N,
Sevilla C. P. 41012, España.
dgarijo@us.es

A. Márquez
Department of Applied Math.,
University of Sevilla,
Avenida Reina Mercedes S/N,
Sevilla C. P. 41012, España
almar@us.es

M. P. Revuelta
Department of Applied Math.,
University of Sevilla,
Avenida Reina Mercedes S/N,
Sevilla C. P. 41012, España
pastora@us.es

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