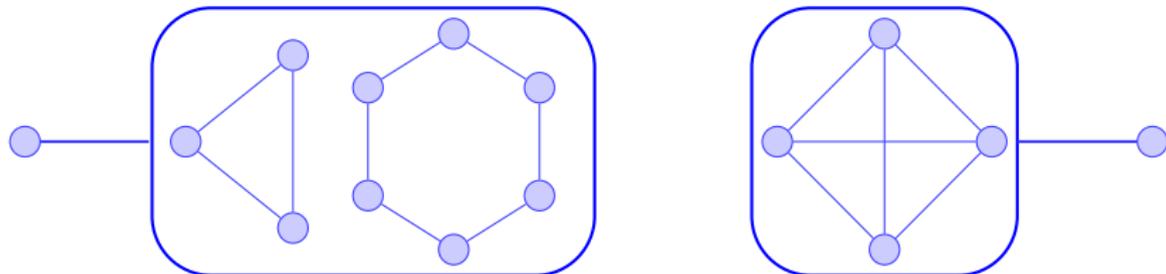


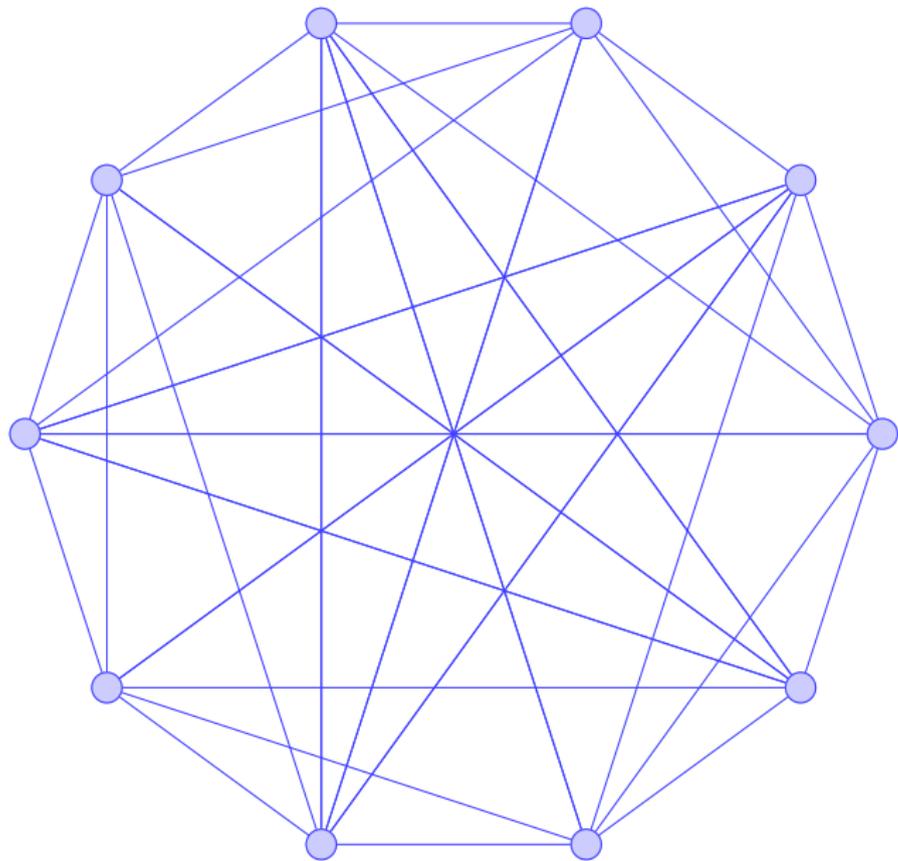
# The coherent closure of a Neumaier graph

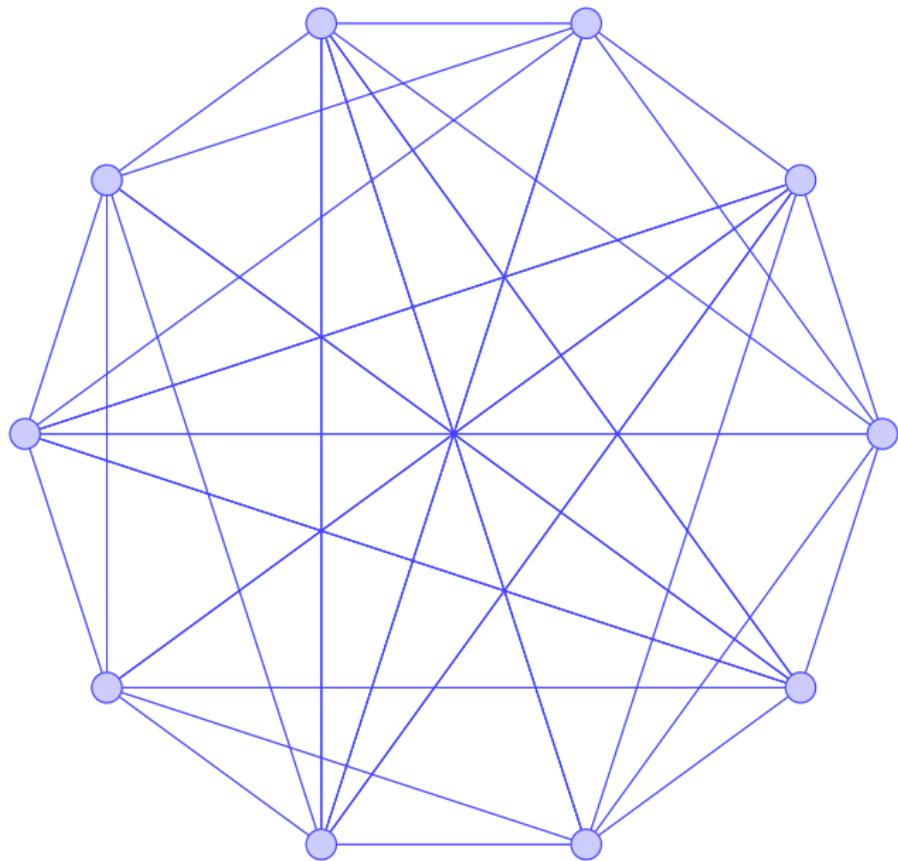
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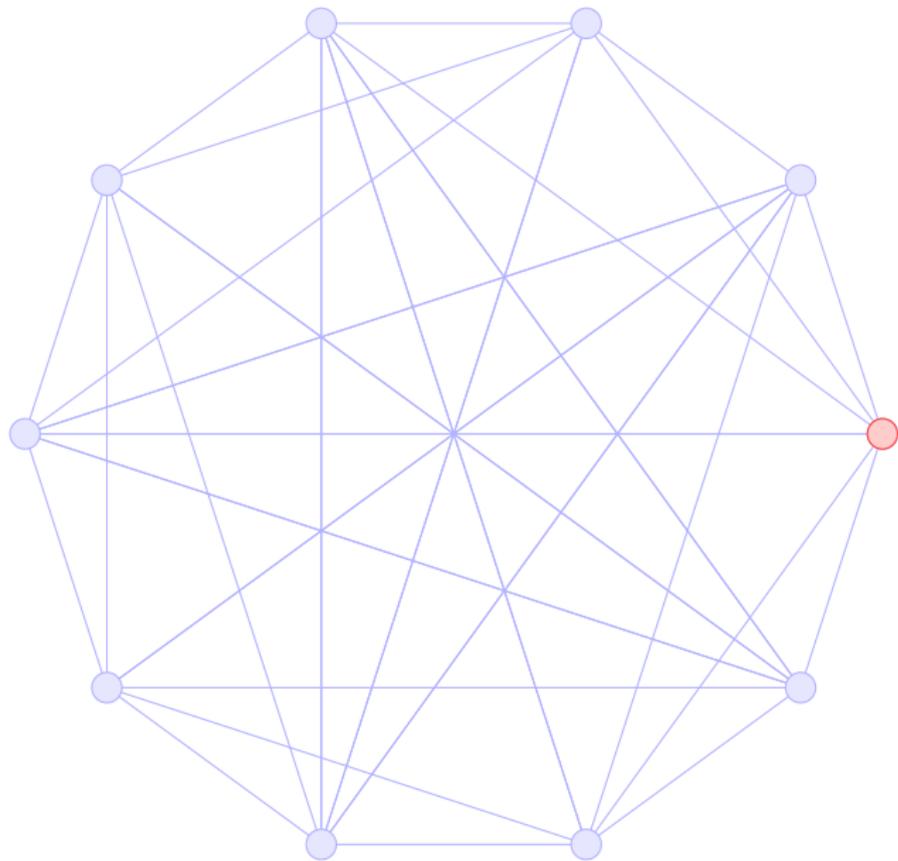
Nanyang Technological University  
Singapore

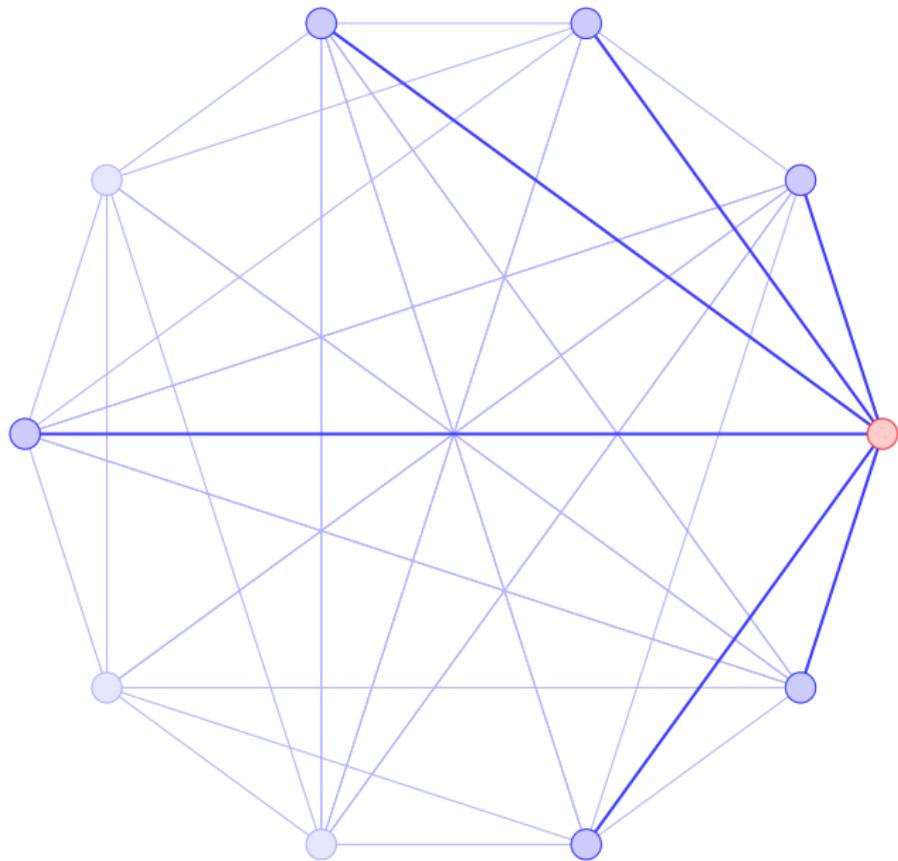
23rd June 2025

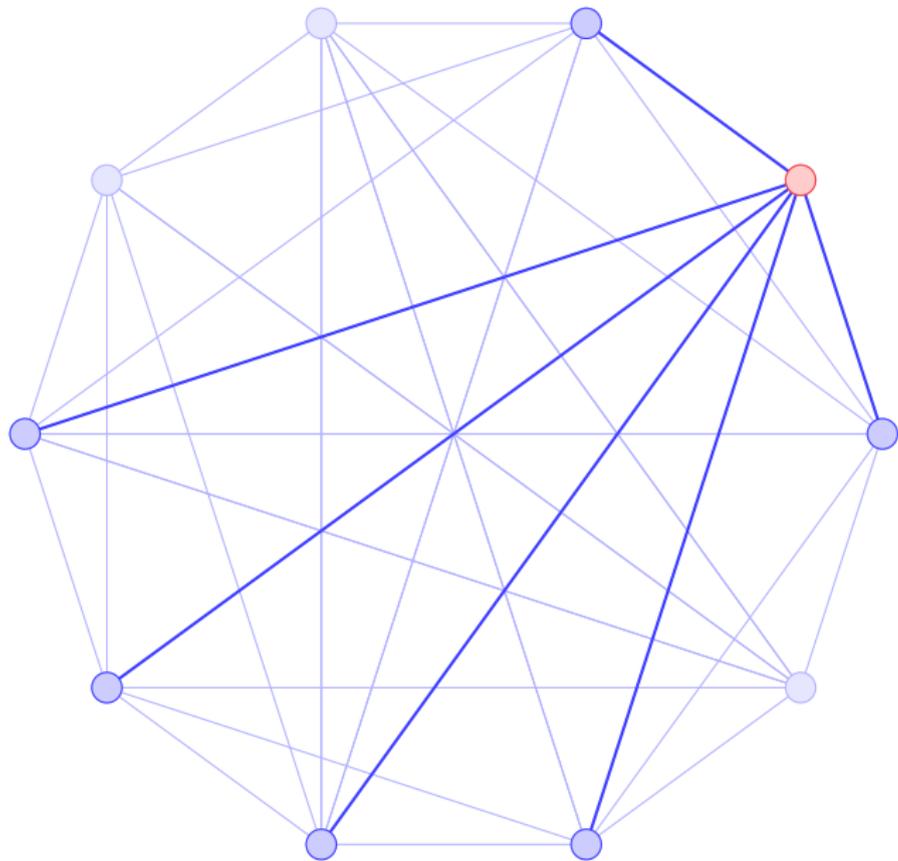


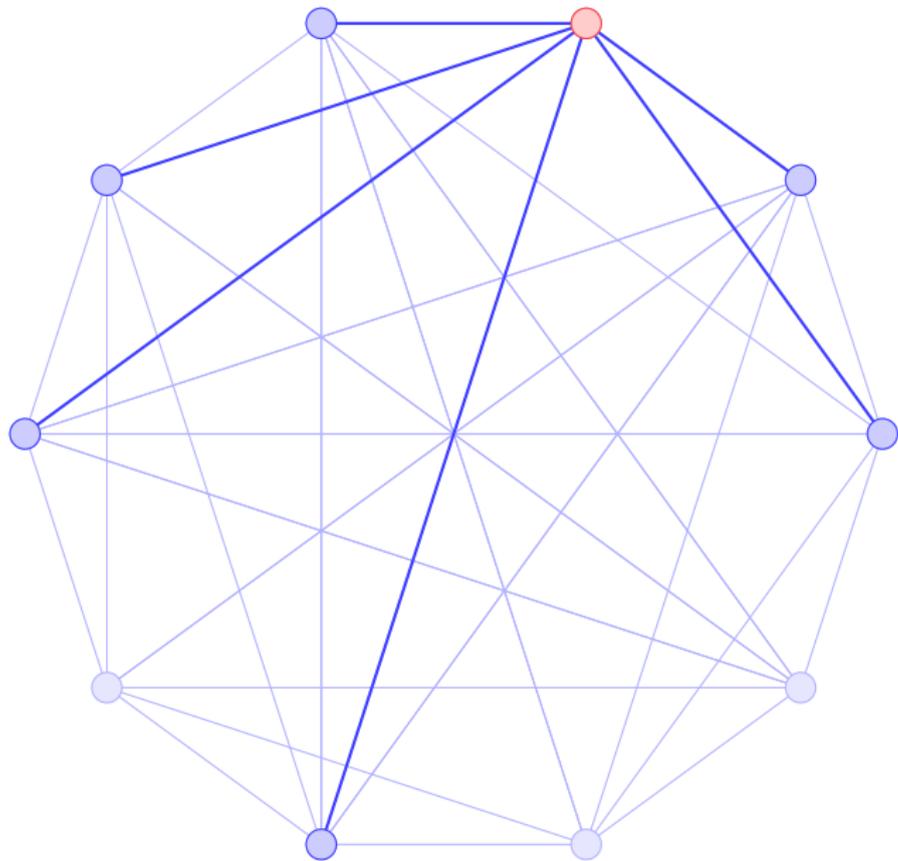


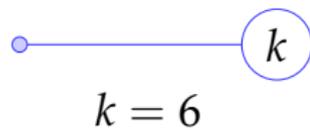
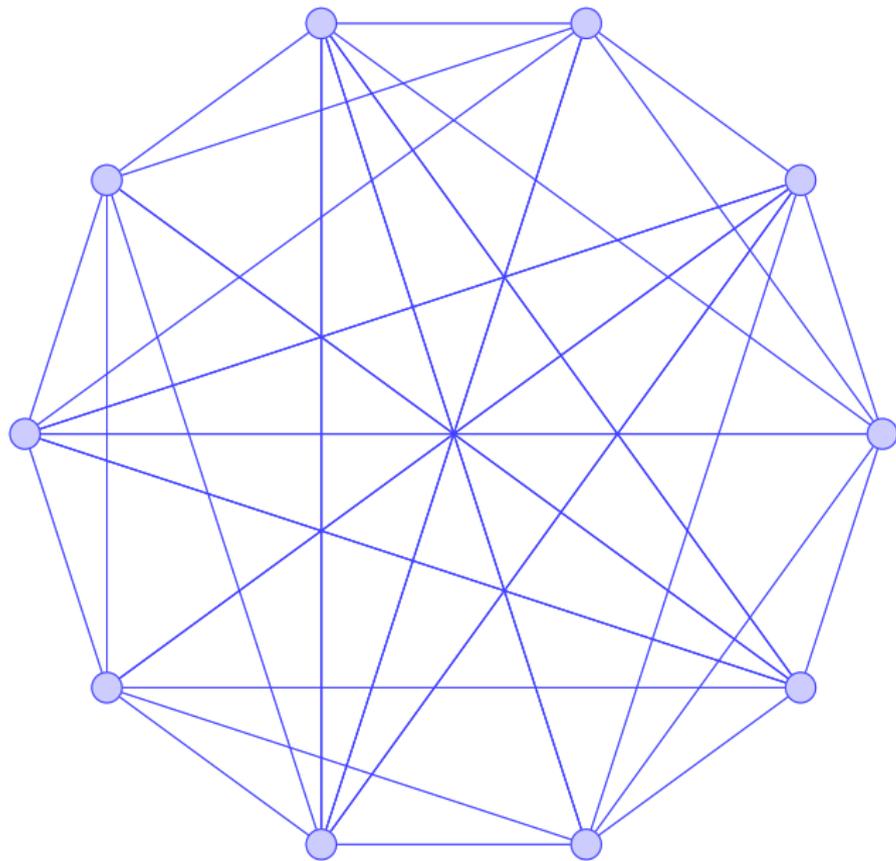


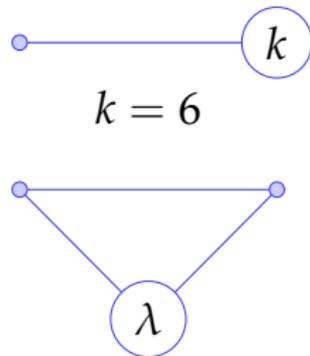
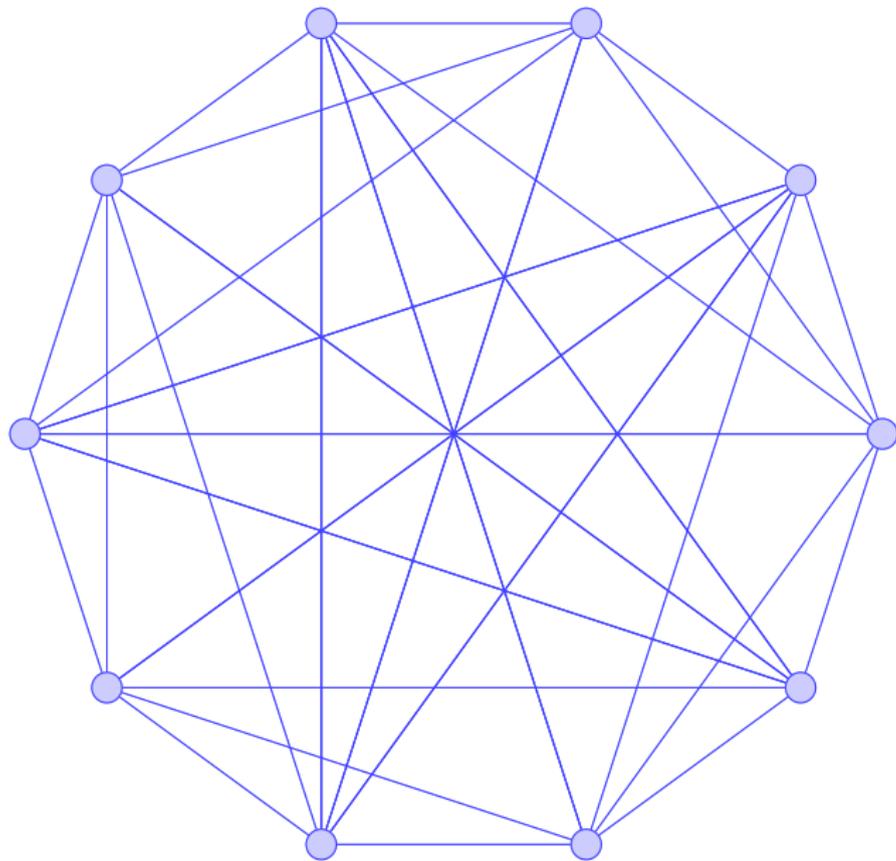


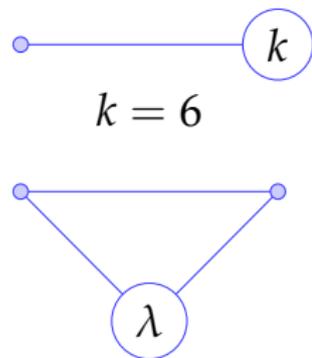
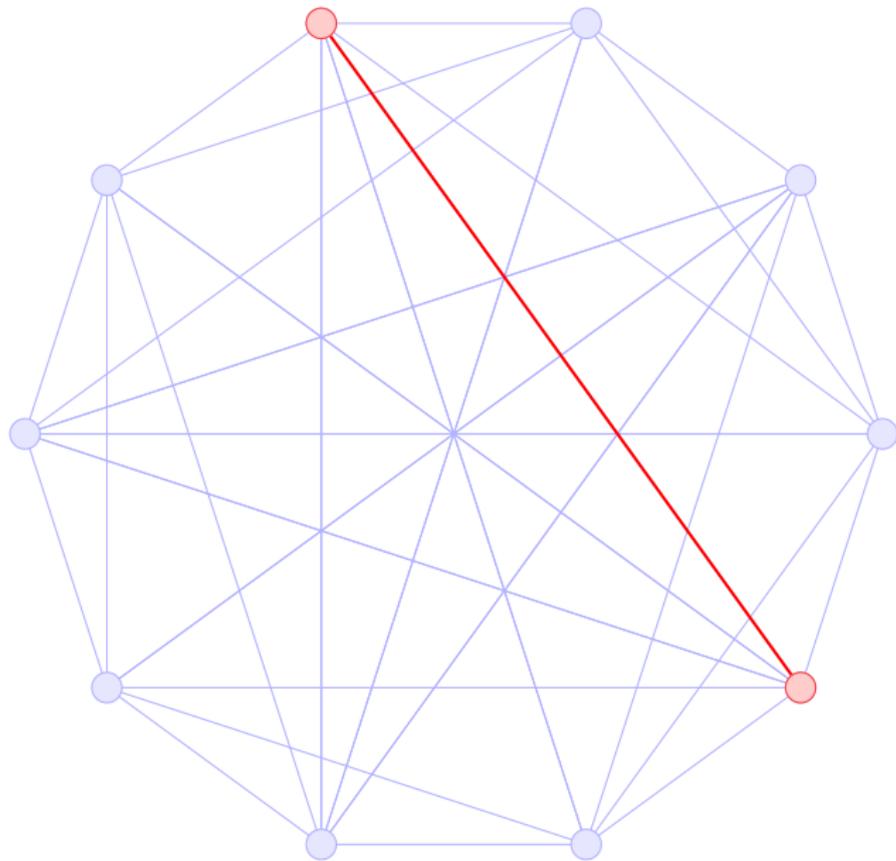


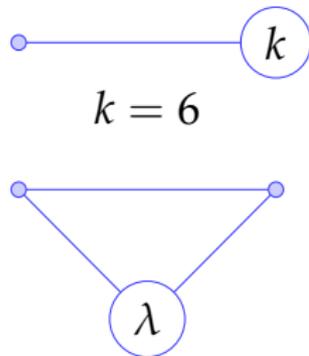
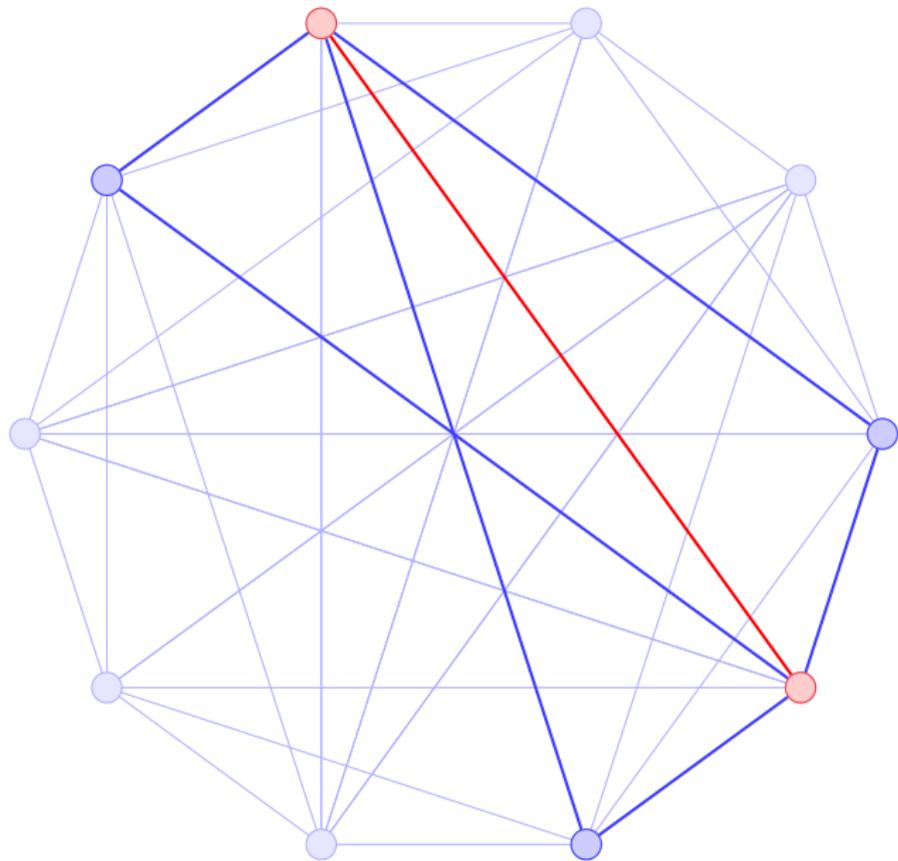


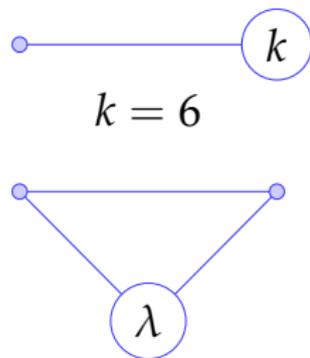
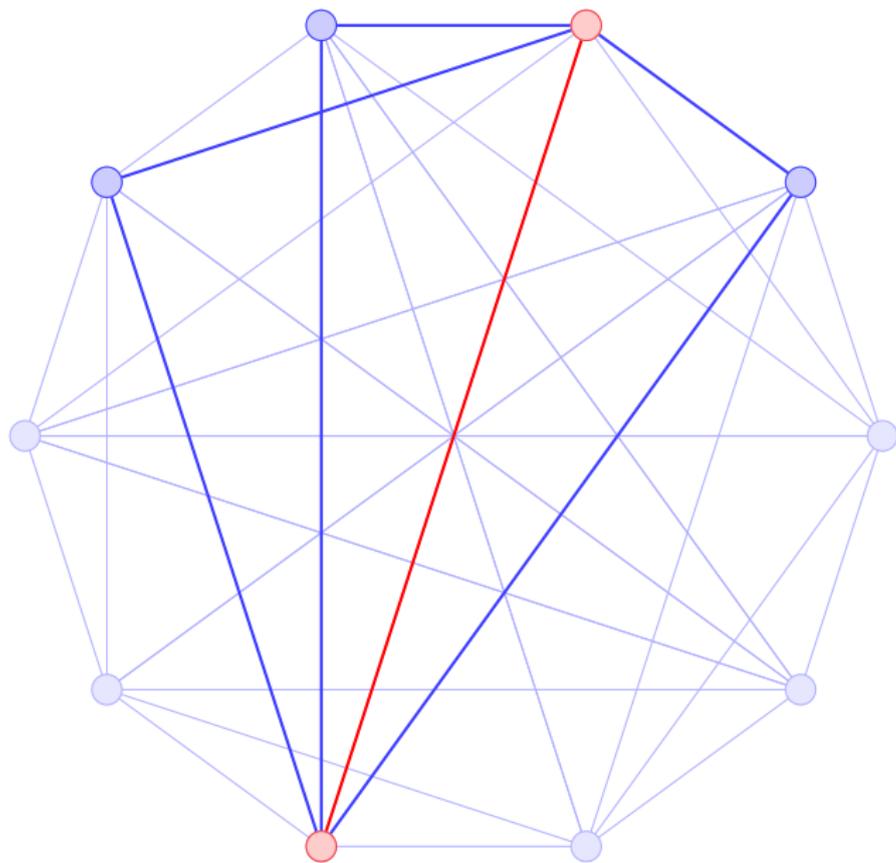


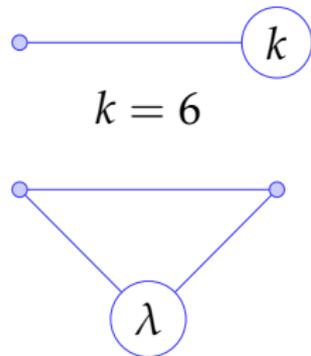
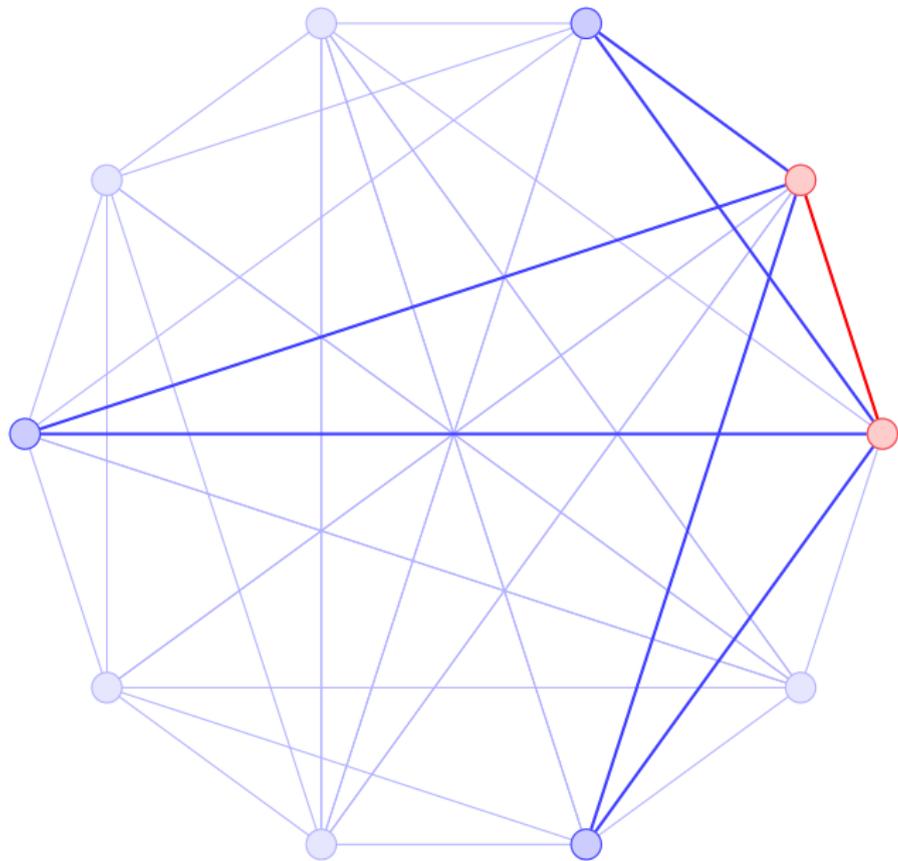


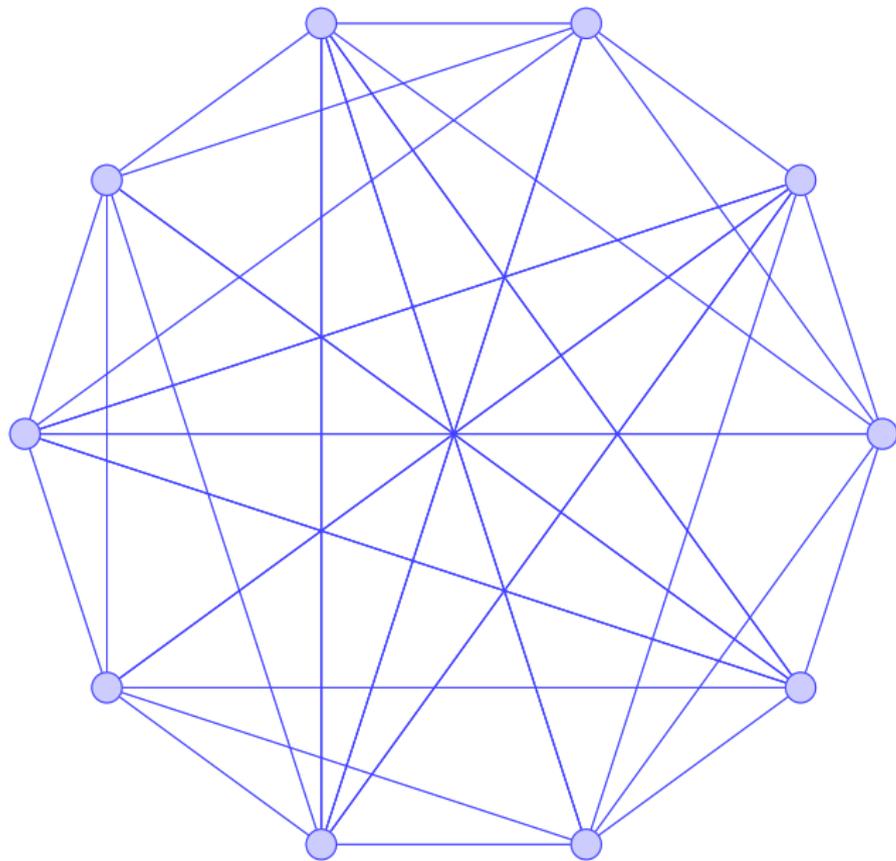




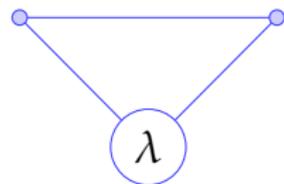




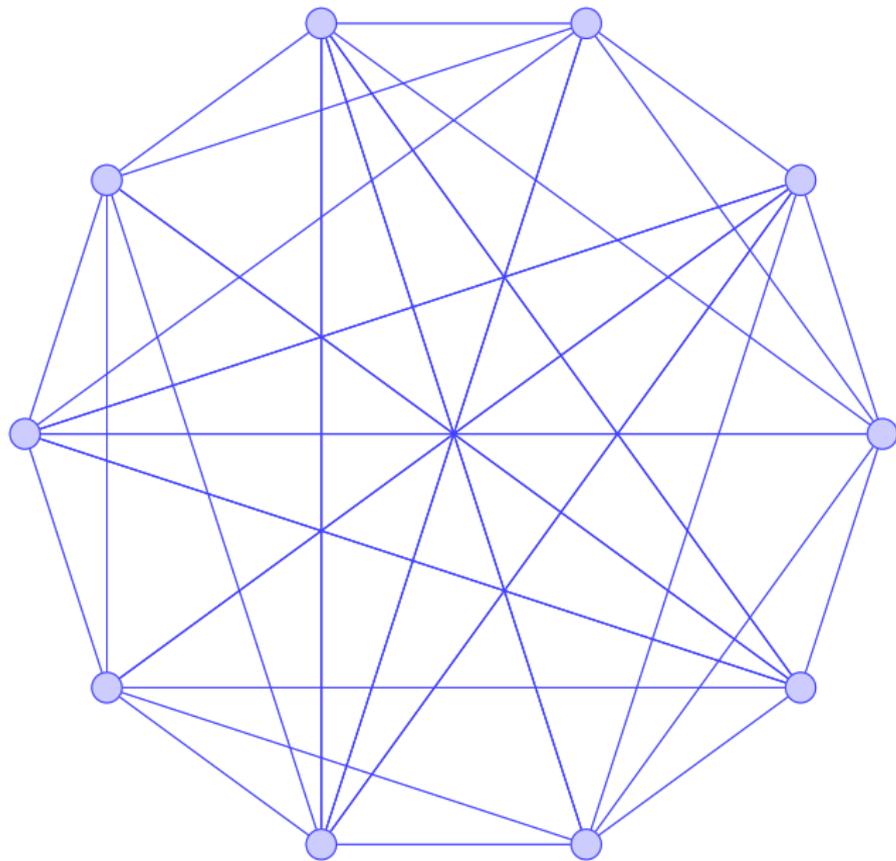




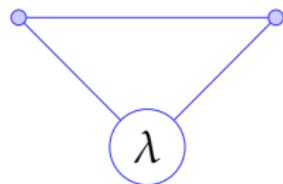
$$k = 6$$



$$\lambda = 3$$

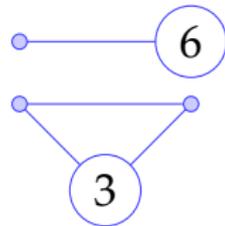
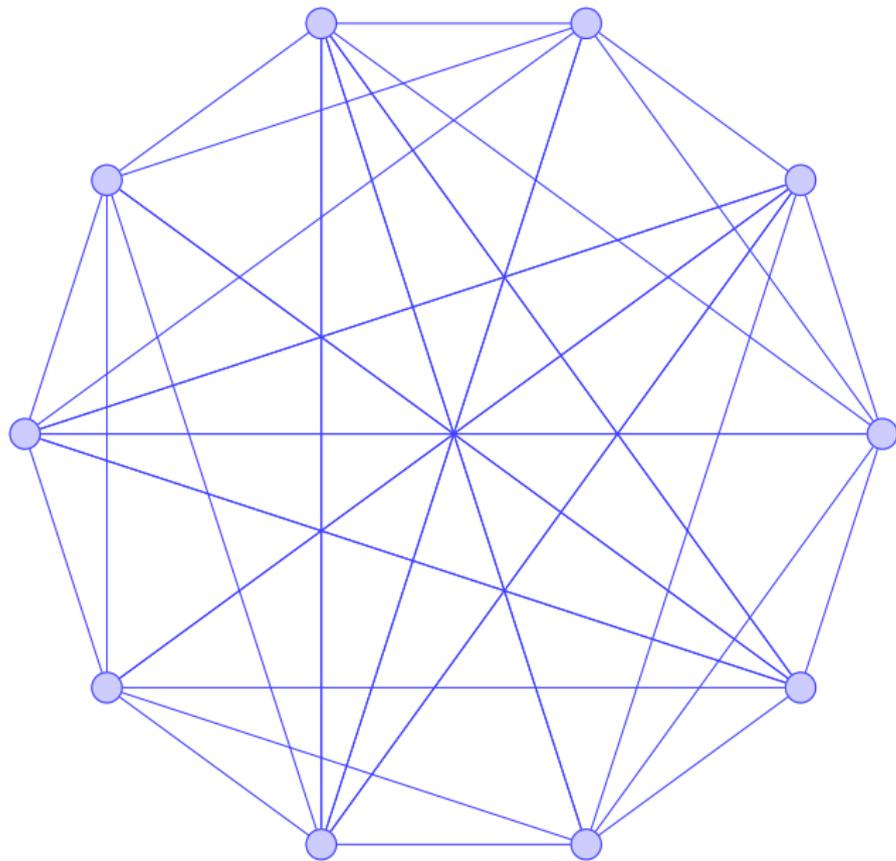


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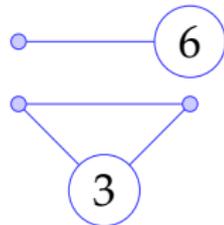
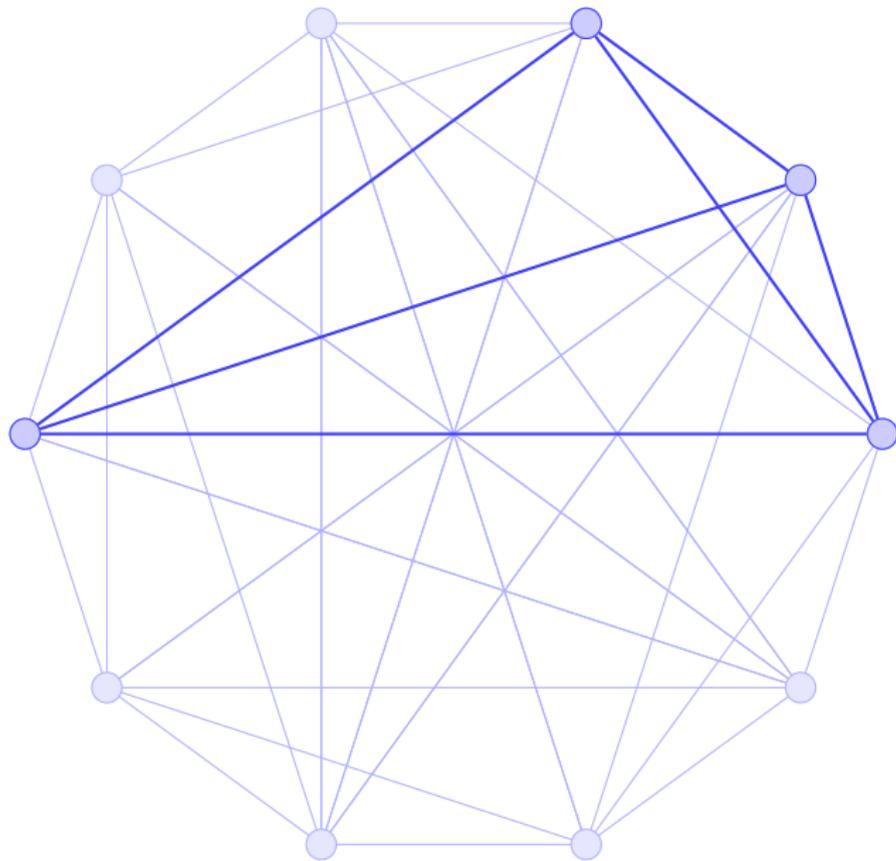


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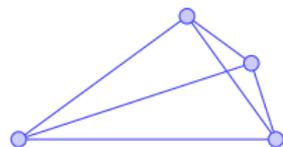
**edge-regular**  
 $\text{erg}(10, 6, 3)$



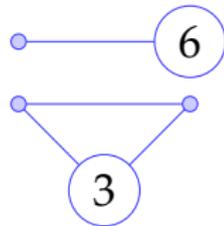
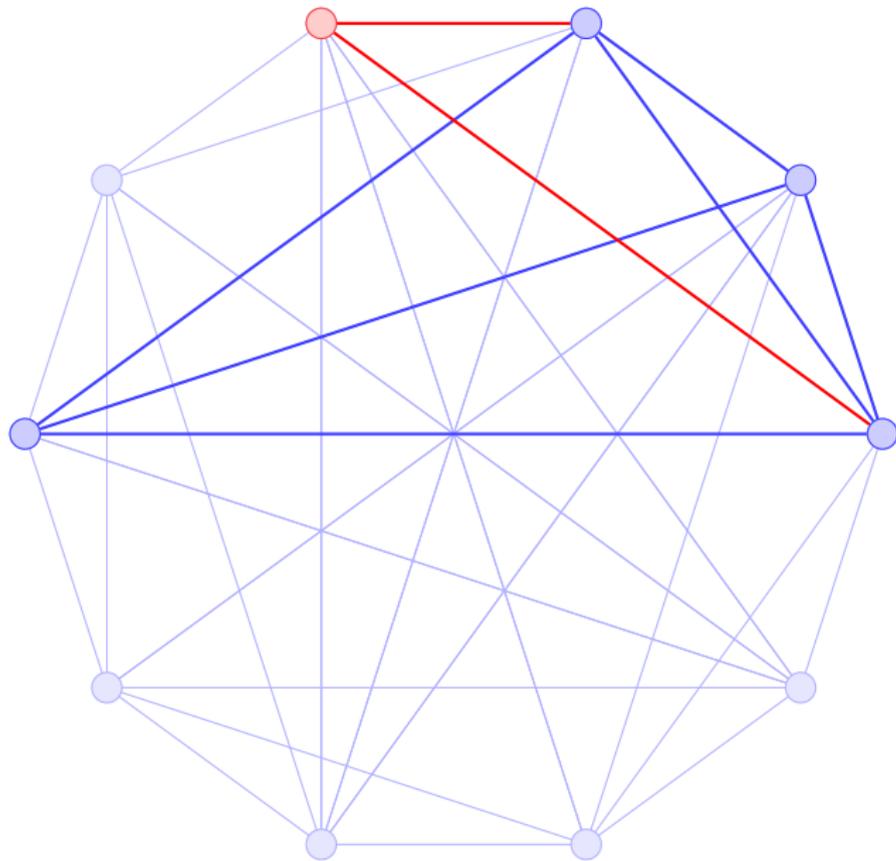
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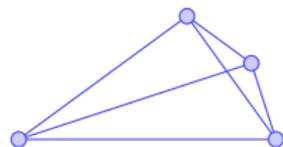
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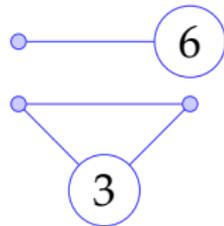
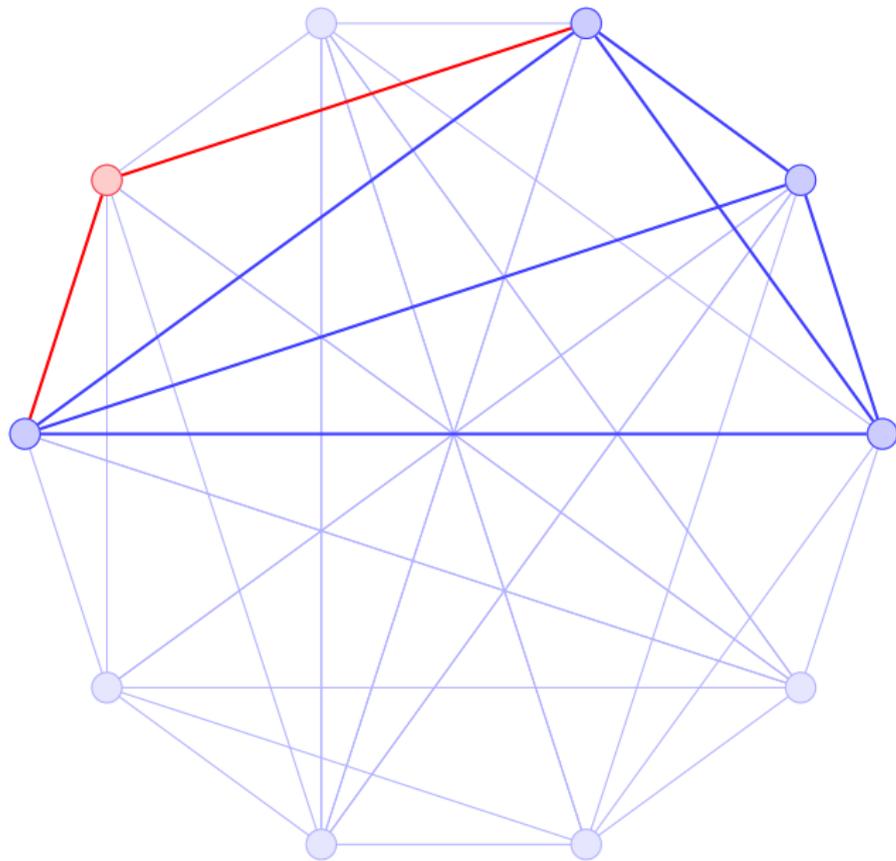
clique  
of order 4



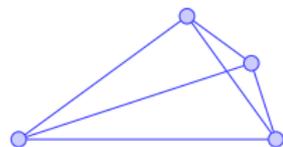
edge-regular  
 $\text{erg}(10, 6, 3)$



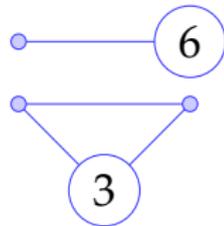
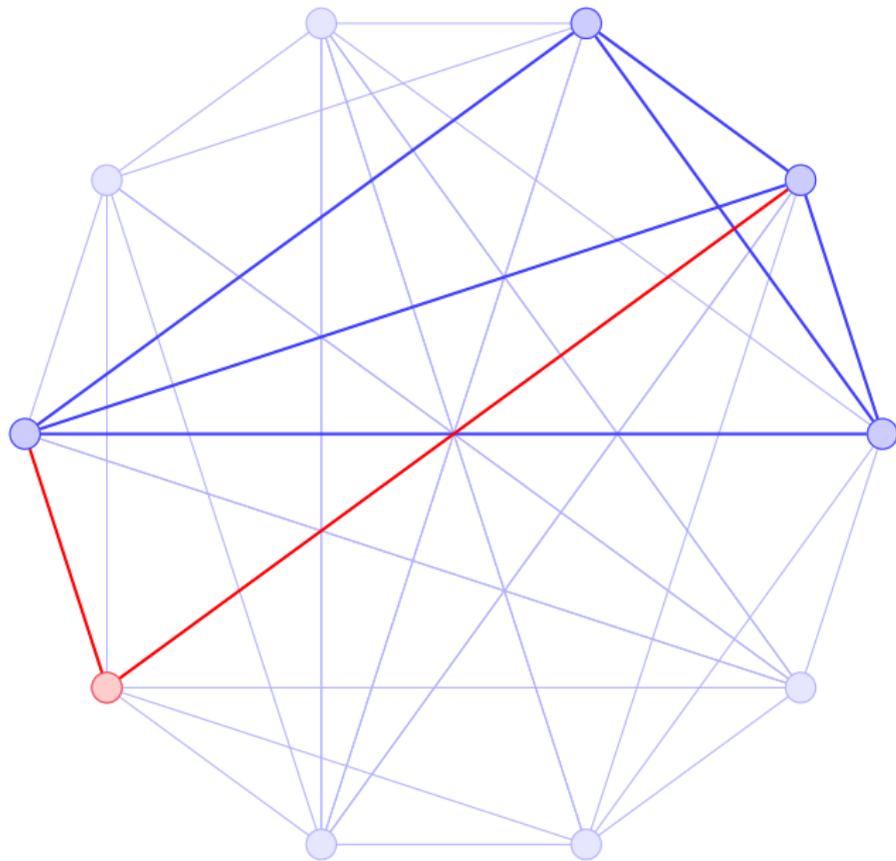
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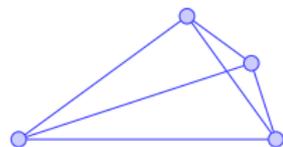
edge-regular  
 $\text{erg}(10, 6, 3)$



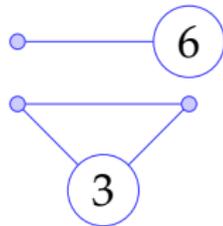
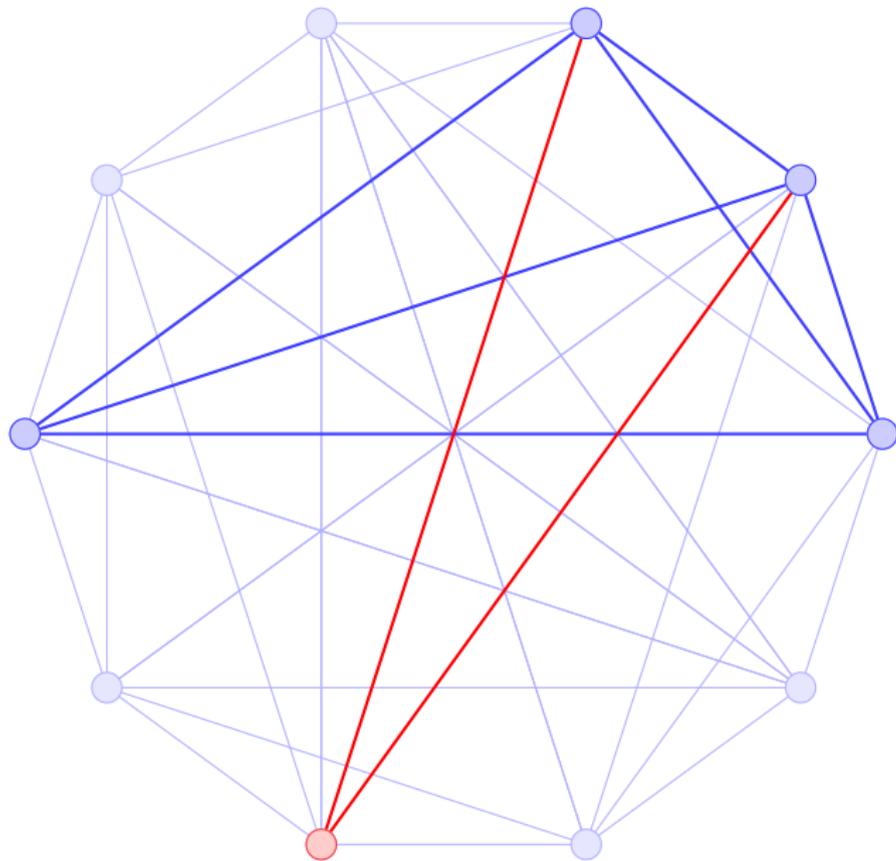
**clique**  
of order 4



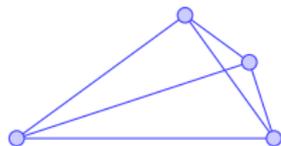
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 $\text{erg}(10, 6, 3)$



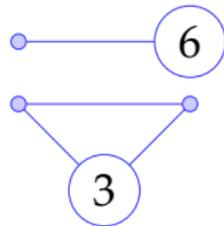
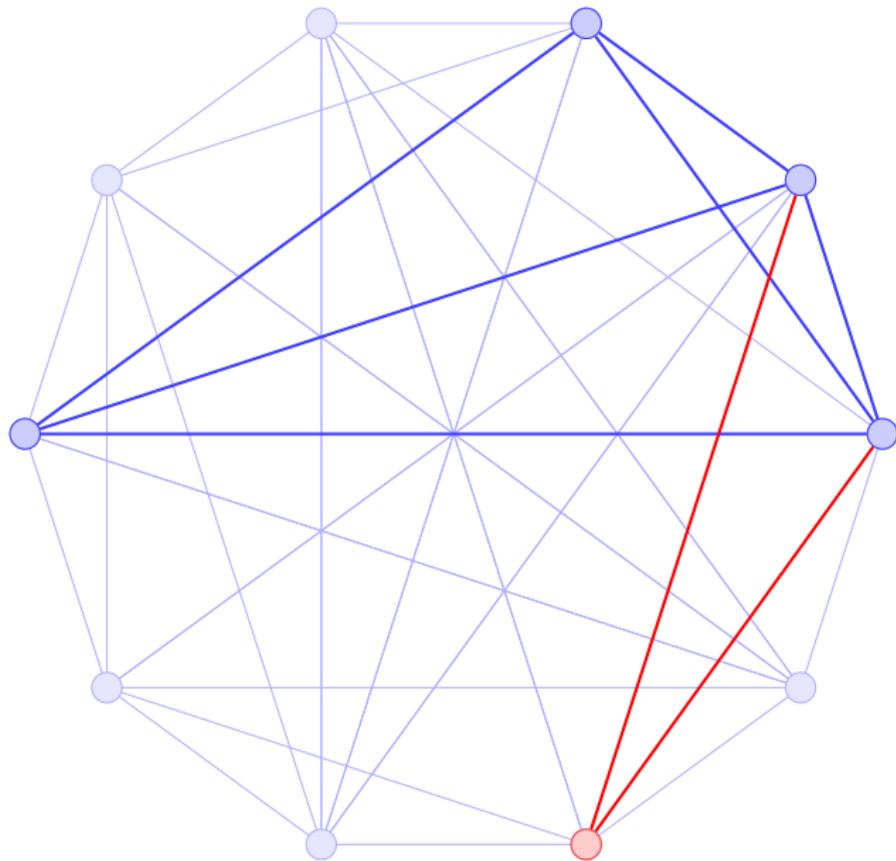
clique  
of order 4



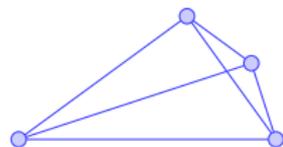
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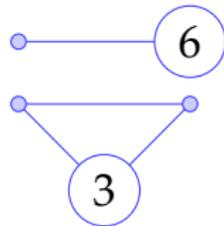
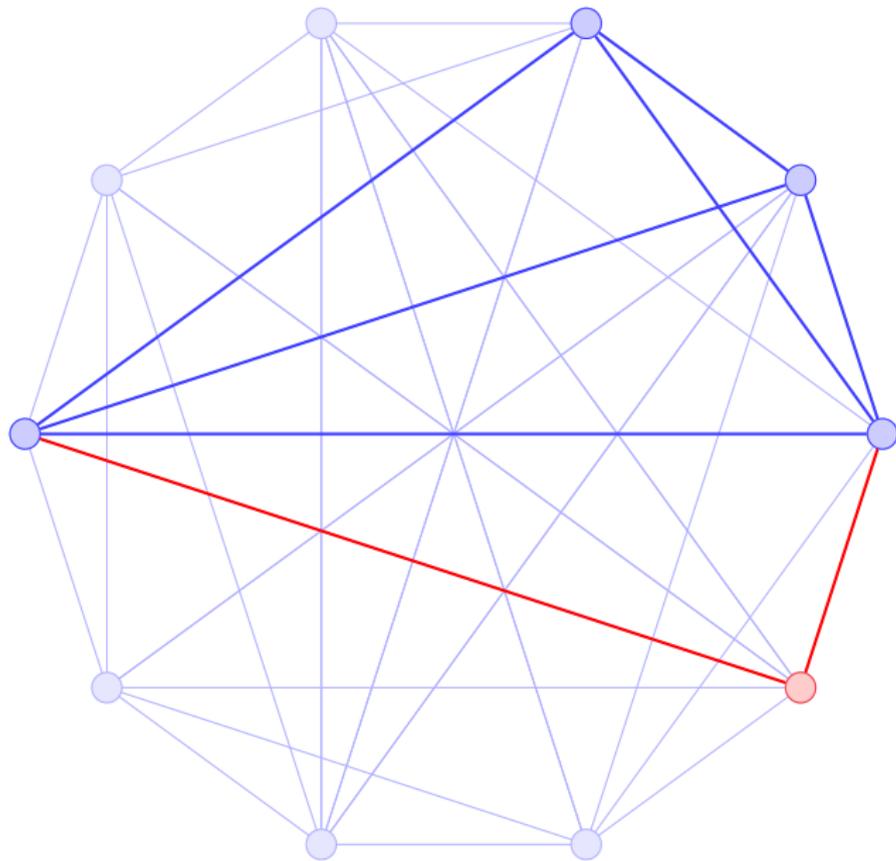
clique  
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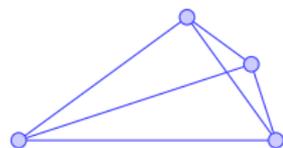
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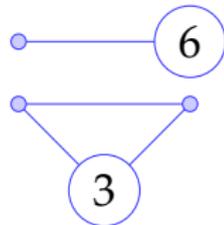
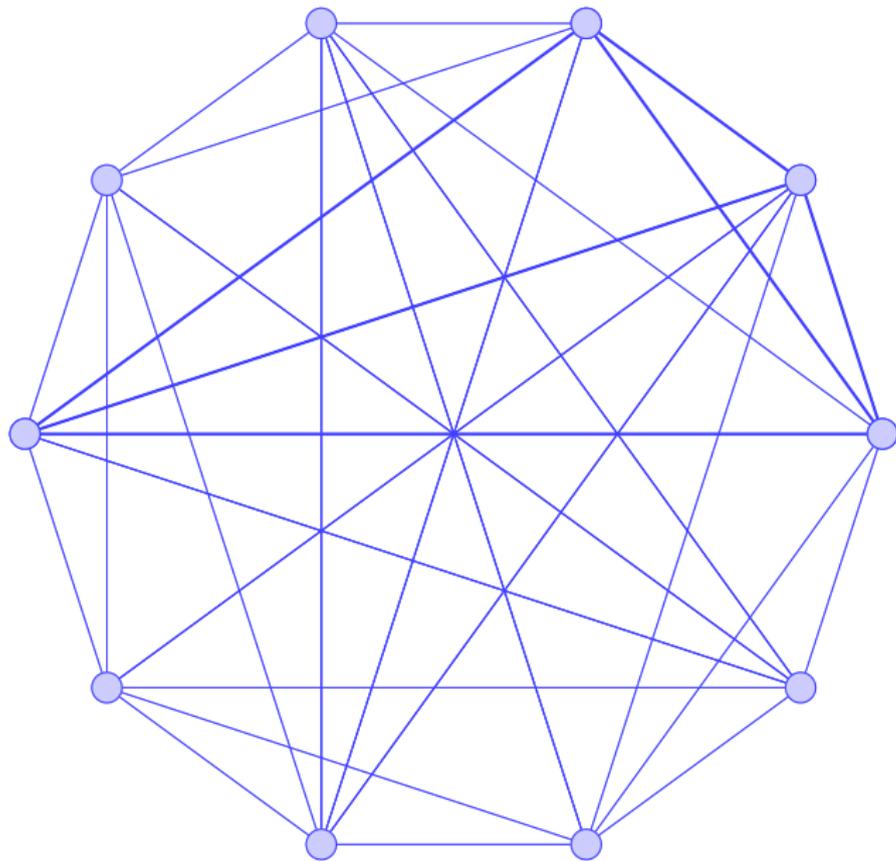
clique  
of order 4



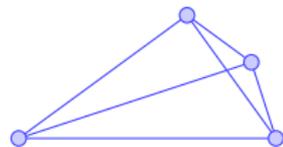
edge-regular  
 $\text{erg}(10, 6, 3)$



clique  
of order 4



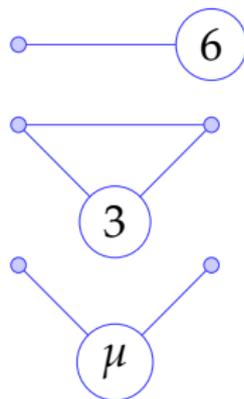
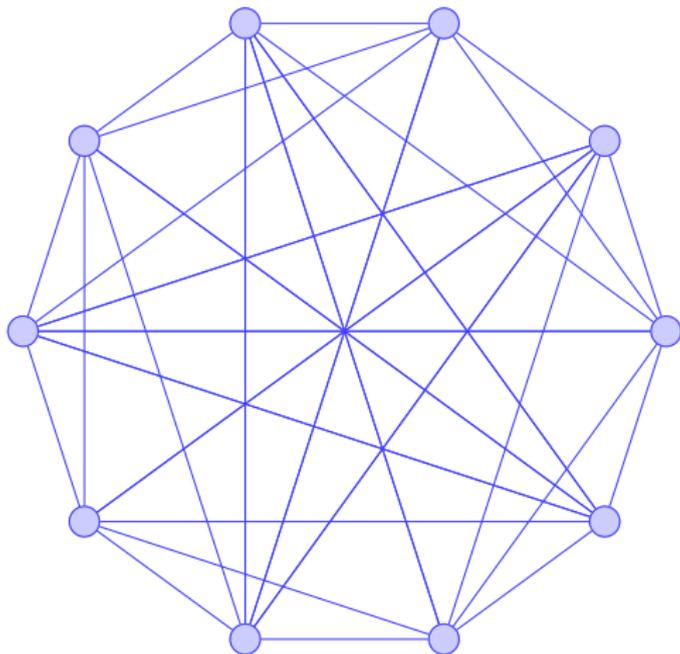
edge-regular  
 $\text{erg}(10, 6, 3)$



**2-regular clique**  
of order 4

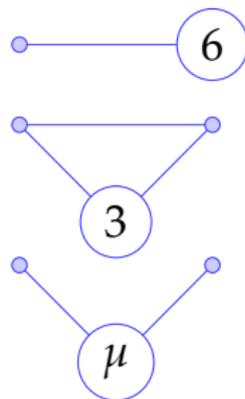
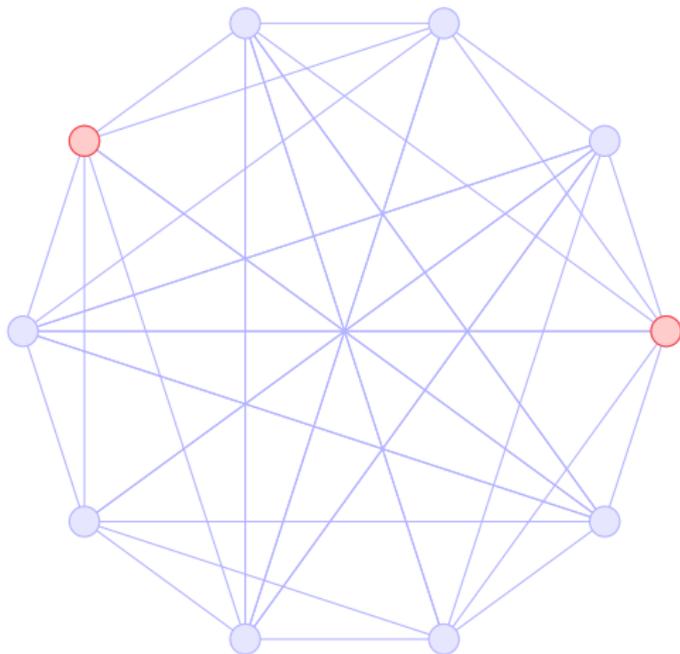
## Question (Neumaier 1981):

Must an edge-regular graph with a regular clique be strongly regular?



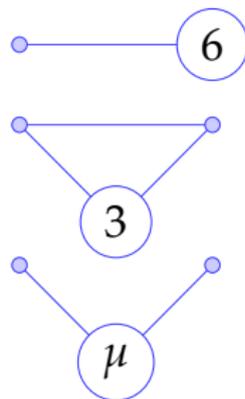
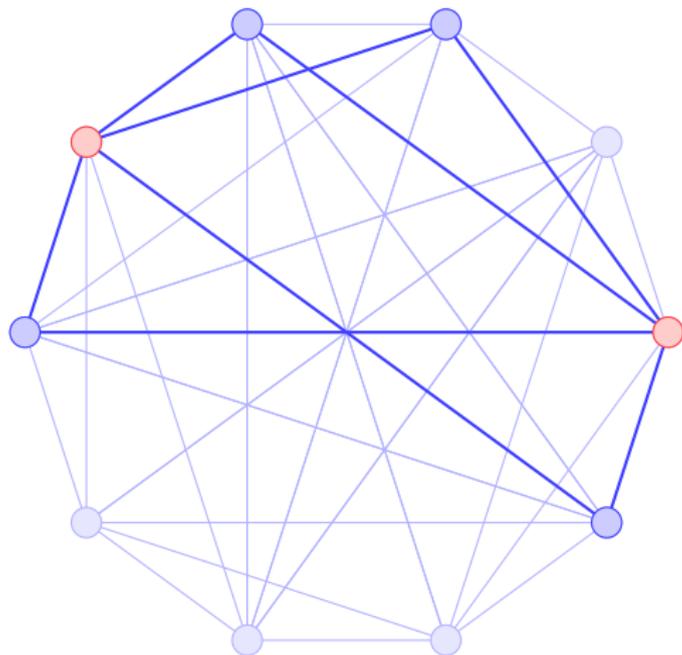
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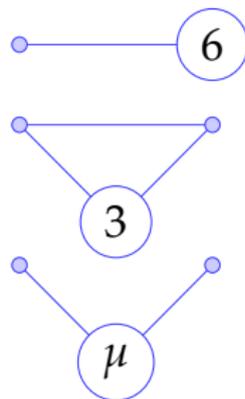
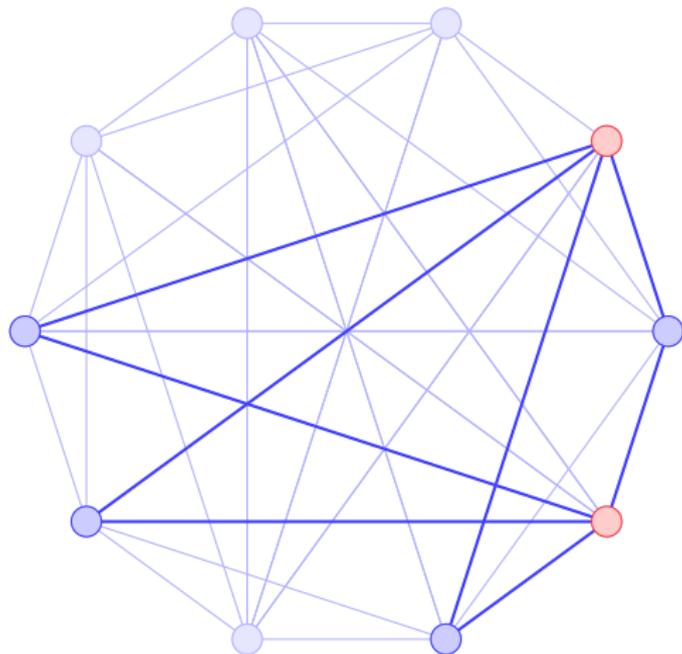
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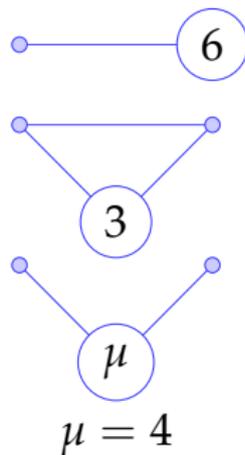
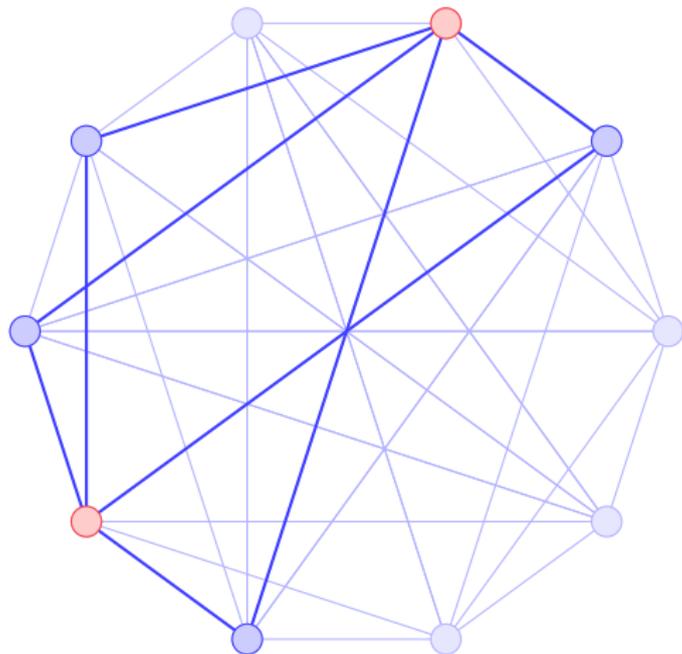
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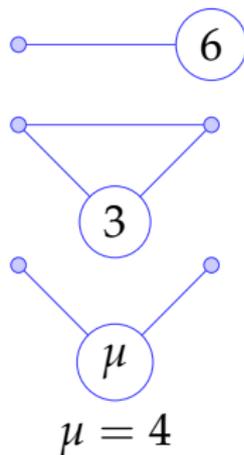
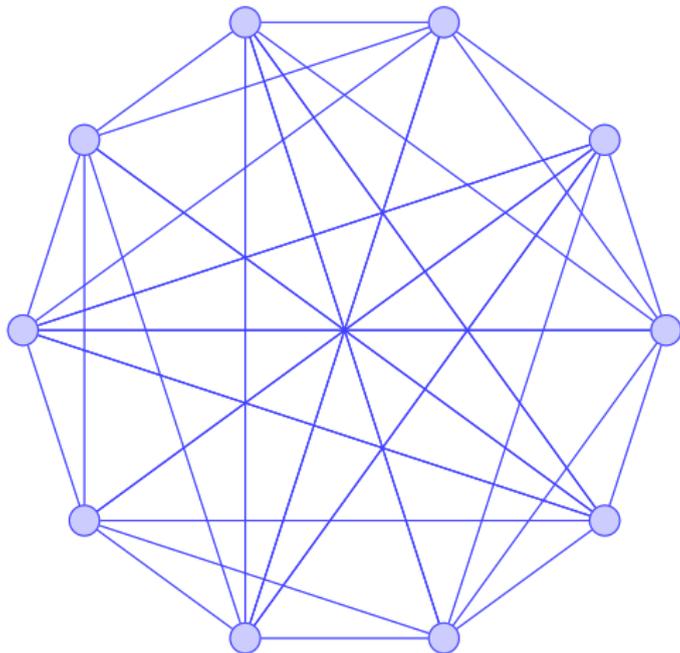
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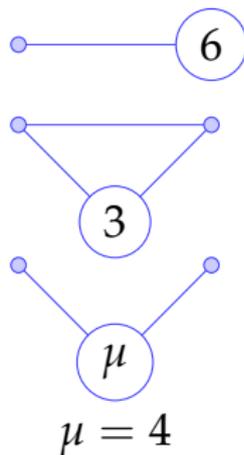
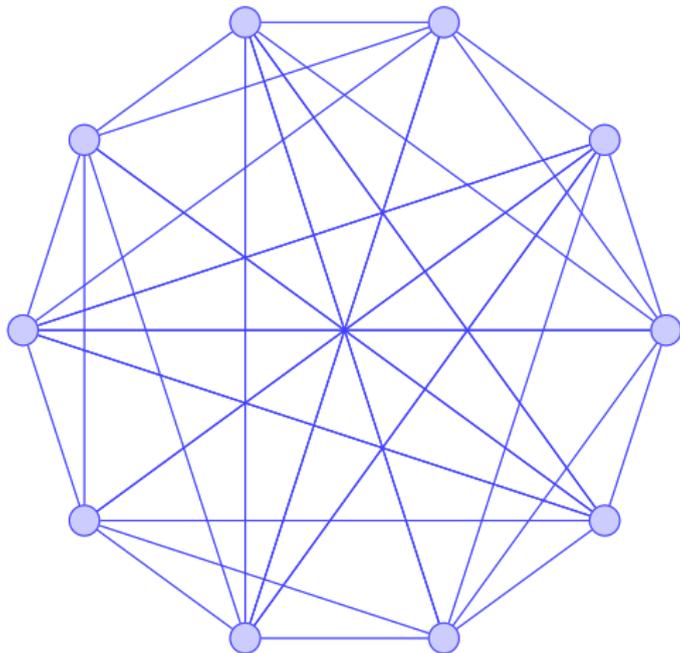
Must an edge-regular graph with a regular clique be strongly regular?



**strongly regular**  
 $\text{srg}(10, 6, 3, 4)$

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**Question (Neumaier 1981):**

Must an edge-regular graph with a regular clique be strongly regular?

**Answer (GG and Koolen 2018):**

No.

## Question (Neumaier 1981):

Must an edge-regular graph with a regular clique be strongly regular?

## Answer (GG and Koolen 2018):

No.

```
Graph
Vertex Neighbours
1      8 9 14 15 18 19 22 24 27 ;
2      8 9 10 16 19 20 23 25 28 ;
3      9 10 11 17 20 21 22 24 26 ;
4      10 11 12 15 18 21 23 25 27 ;
5      11 12 13 15 16 19 24 26 28 ;
6      12 13 14 16 17 20 22 25 27 ;
7      8 13 14 17 18 21 23 26 28 ;
8      1 2 7 15 17 20 22 25 26 ;
9      1 2 3 16 18 21 23 26 27 ;
10     2 3 4 15 17 19 24 27 28 ;
11     3 4 5 16 18 20 22 25 28 ;
12     4 5 6 17 19 21 22 23 26 ;
13     5 6 7 15 18 20 23 24 27 ;
14     1 6 7 16 19 21 24 25 28 ;
15     1 4 5 8 10 13 22 23 28 ;
16     2 5 6 9 11 14 22 23 24 ;
17     3 6 7 8 10 12 23 24 25 ;
18     1 4 7 9 11 13 24 25 26 ;
19     1 2 5 10 12 14 25 26 27 ;
20     2 3 6 8 11 13 26 27 28 ;
21     3 4 7 9 12 14 22 27 28 ;
22     1 3 6 8 11 12 15 16 21 ;
23     2 4 7 9 12 13 15 16 17 ;
24     1 3 5 10 13 14 16 17 18 ;
25     2 4 6 8 11 14 17 18 19 ;
26     3 5 7 8 9 12 18 19 20 ;
27     1 4 6 9 10 13 19 20 21 ;
28     2 5 7 10 11 14 15 20 21 ;
```

## Cayley graphs

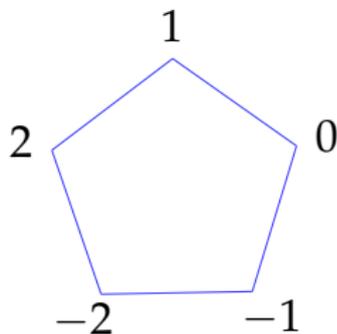
- ▶ Let  $G$  be an (additive) group and  $S \subseteq G$  a generating subset, i.e.,  $G = \langle S \rangle$ .
- ▶ The **Cayley graph**  $\text{Cay}(G, S)$  has vertex set  $G$  and arc set

$$\{(g, g + s) : g \in G \text{ and } s \in S\}.$$

### Example

$$\Gamma = \text{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}_5, S)$$

$$\text{Generating set } S = \{-1, 1\}$$



## An example

►  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, S)$

Generating set  $S$

$$(01, 0) \quad (01, \pm 1)$$

$$(10, 0) \quad (10, \pm 2)$$

$$(11, 0) \quad (11, \pm 3)$$

## An example

- ▶  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, S)$
- ▶  $\Gamma$  is **edge-regular**  $(28, 9, 2)$ :

### Generating set $S$

$(01, 0)$	$(01, \pm 1)$
$(10, 0)$	$(10, \pm 2)$
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## An example

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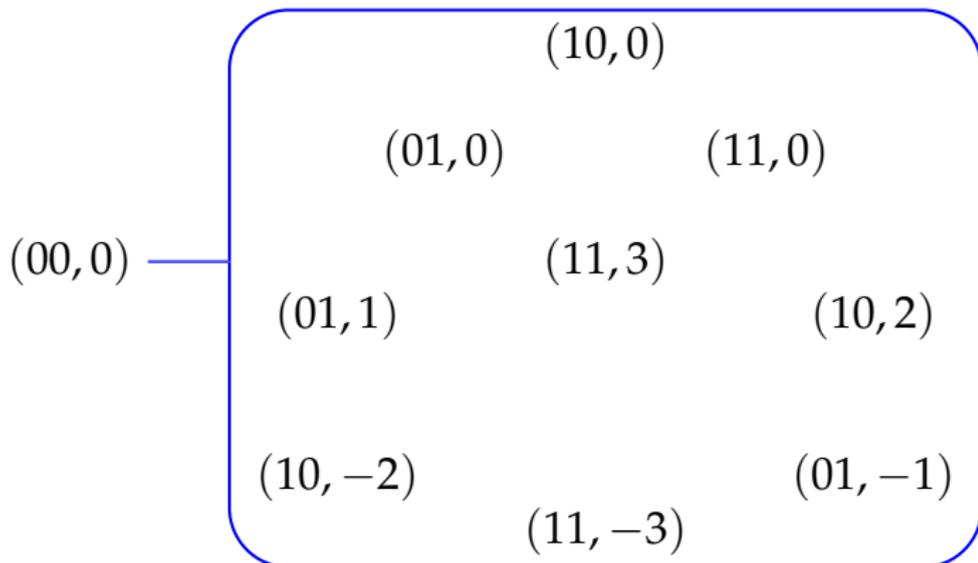
$(00, 0)$

## An example

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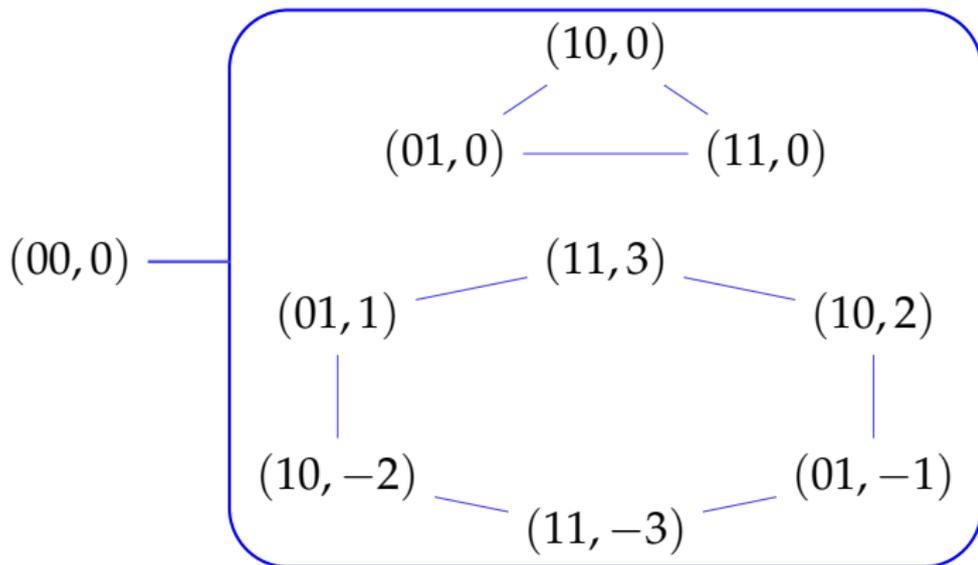


## An example

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## An example

- ▶  $\Gamma = \text{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, S)$
- ▶  $\Gamma$  is edge-regular  $(28, 9, 2)$ ;
- ▶  $\Gamma$  has a **1-regular 4-clique**:

### Generating set $S$

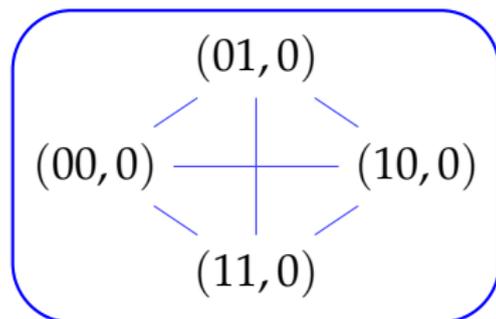
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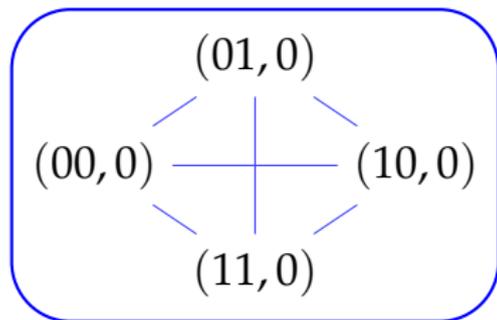


## An example

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- ▶  $\Gamma$  is edge-regular  $(28, 9, 2)$ ;
- ▶  $\Gamma$  has a **1-regular 4-clique**:

### Generating set $S$

$(01, 0)$	$(01, \pm 1)$
$(10, 0)$	$(10, \pm 2)$
$(11, 0)$	$(11, \pm 3)$



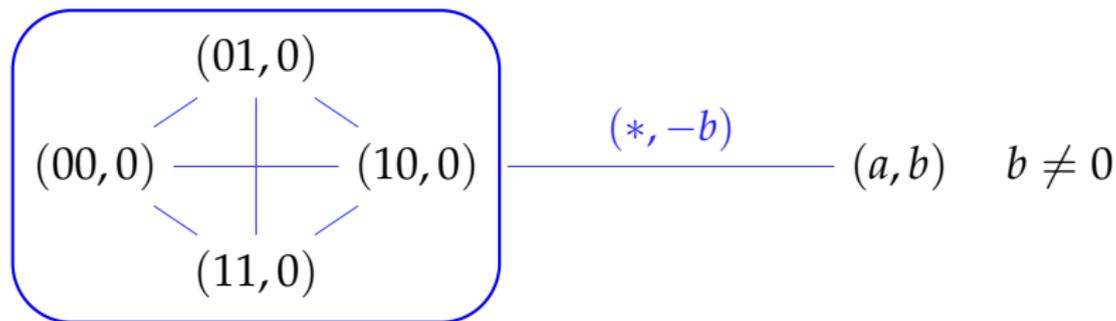
$$(a, b) \quad b \neq 0$$

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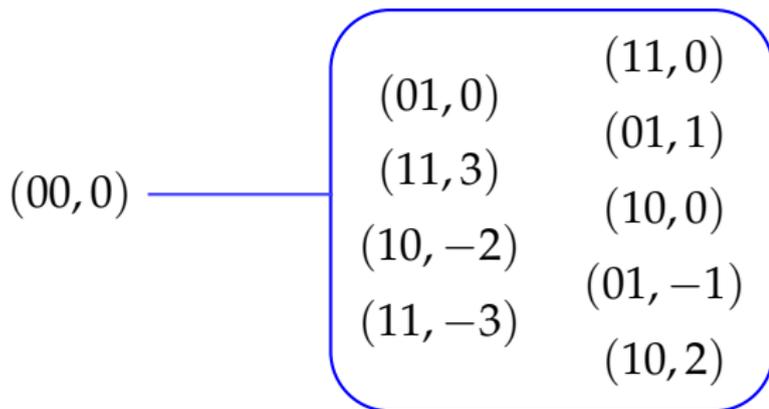
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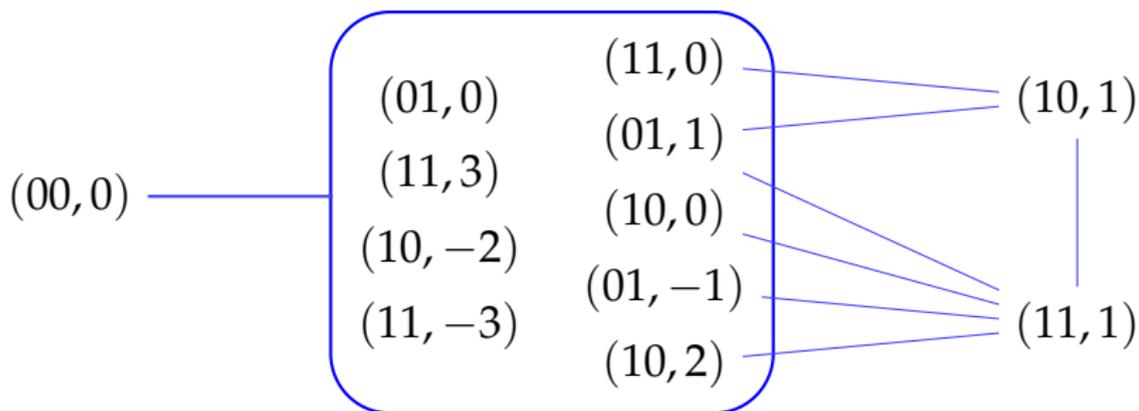


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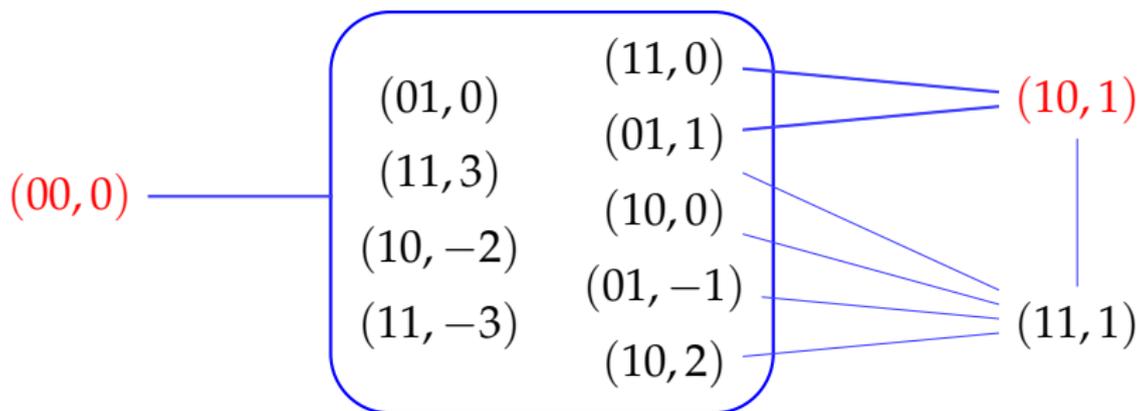


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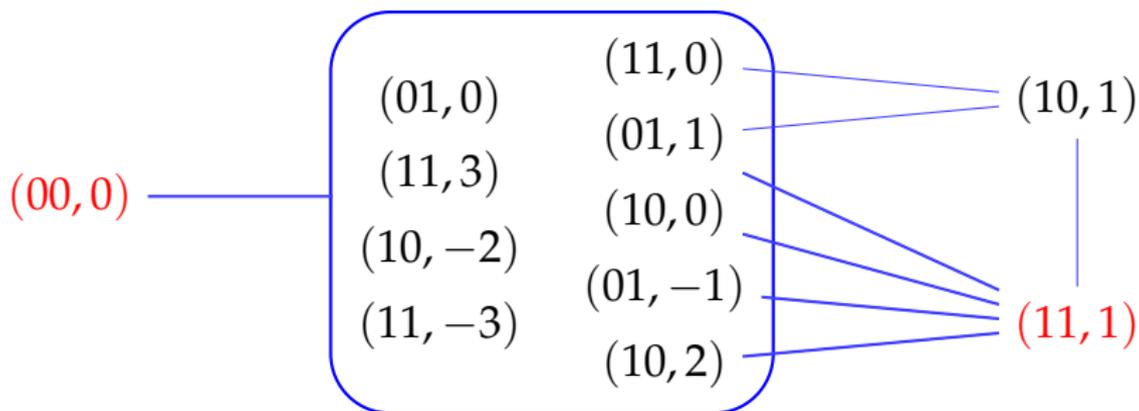


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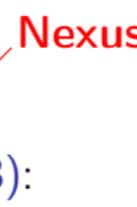
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## Neumaier graphs

- ▶ A non-complete edge-regular graph with a regular clique is called a **Neumaier graph**.
- ▶ A Neumaier graph  $\Gamma$  has parameters  $(v, k, \lambda; e, s)$ .
  - ▶  $\Gamma$  is an  $\text{erg}(v, k, \lambda)$ .
  - ▶  $\Gamma$  has an  $e$ -regular clique  $K_s$ . } Every  $K_s \subset \Gamma$  is  $e$ -regular;  
we call  $e$  the **nexus** of  $\Gamma$ .
- ▶ Many strongly regular graphs are Neumaier graphs.
  - ▶ block graph of orthogonal arrays
  - ▶ line graphs of complete graphs
- ▶ Evans, Goryainov, and Panasenکو (2019):  
Smallest non-strongly-regular Neumaier graph has parameters  $(16, 9, 4; 2, 4)$ .

## More constructions (not strongly regular)

- ▶ Evans-Goryainov-Panasenko (2019):  
infinite families; parameters:  
 $(2^{2n}, (2^{n-1} + 1)(2^n - 1), 2(2^{n-2} + 1)(2^{n-1} - 1); 2^{n-1}, 2^n)$ .
  - ▶ Evans-Goryainov-Konstantinova-Mednykh (2021):  
infinite families, with parameters:  $(*, *, *, 1, *)$
  - ▶ Abiad-Castryck-De Boeck-Koolen-Zeijlemaker (2023):  
infinite families, with parameters:  $(*, *, *, 1, *)$
- 

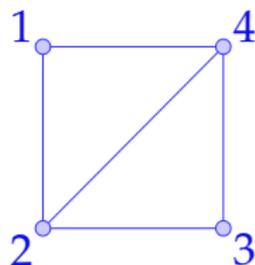
### Questions:

- ▶ Evans-Goryainov-Panasenko (2019):  
Must the nexus be a power of 2?
- ▶ Which Neumaier graphs are *closest* to being SRGs?

# Weisfeiler-Leman Stabilization

[Klin and Gyürki 2015]

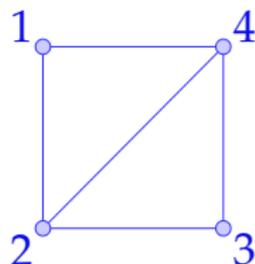
$$M_1 = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c & b \\ b & a & b & b \\ c & b & a & b \\ b & b & b & a \end{bmatrix}$$



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$$M_1^2 = \begin{bmatrix} a^2 + 2b^2 + c^2 & ab + ba + b^2 + cb & ac + 2b^2 + ca & ab + ba + b^2 + cb \\ ab + ba + b^2 + bc & a^2 + 3b^2 & ab + ba + b^2 + bc & ab + ba + 2b^2 \\ ac + 2b^2 + ca & ab + ba + b^2 + cb & a^2 + 2b^2 + c^2 & ab + ba + b^2 + cb \\ ab + ba + b^2 + bc & ab + ba + 2b^2 & ab + ba + b^2 + bc & a^2 + 3b^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

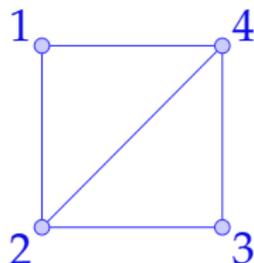




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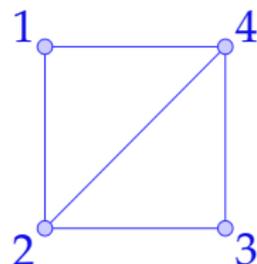
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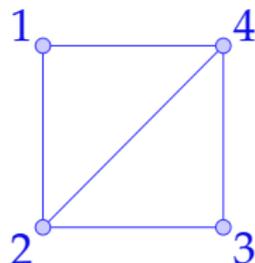
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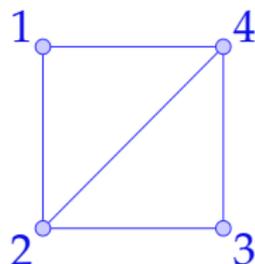
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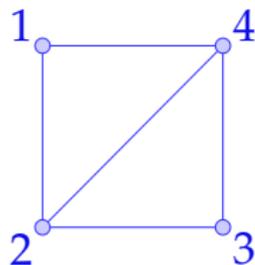
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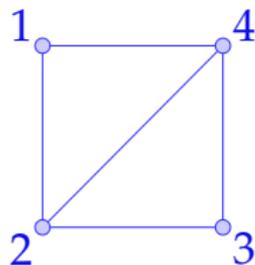
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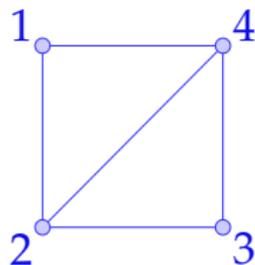
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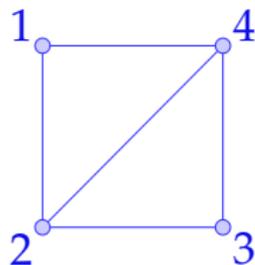
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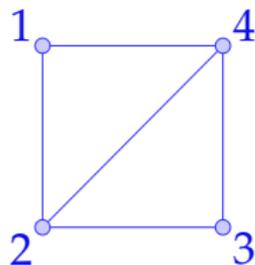
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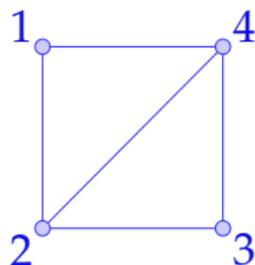
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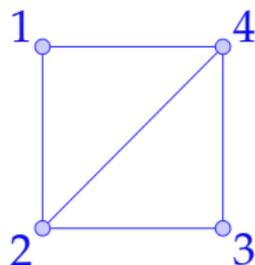
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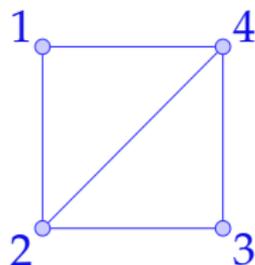
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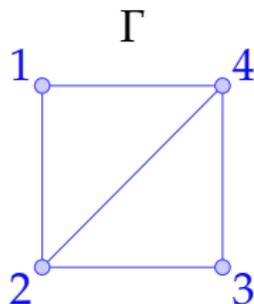


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# Coherent closure

$$\mathcal{W}(\Gamma) = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{a} & \boxed{b} & \boxed{c} & \boxed{b} \\ \boxed{d} & \boxed{e} & \boxed{d} & \boxed{f} \\ \boxed{c} & \boxed{b} & \boxed{a} & \boxed{b} \\ \boxed{d} & \boxed{f} & \boxed{d} & \boxed{e} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \boxed{a} & \boxed{b} & \boxed{c} & \boxed{d} & \boxed{e} & \boxed{f} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

$$\mathcal{W}(\Gamma) = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle$$

We call  $\mathcal{W}(\Gamma)$  the **coherent closure** of  $\Gamma$ .

We say “ $\Gamma$  has **coherent rank 6**” (aka WL-rank).

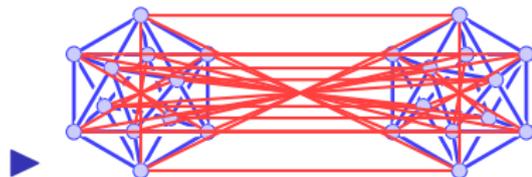
# Coherent rank of a Neumaier graph

Let  $\Gamma$  be a Neumaier graph.

- ▶  $\text{rk } \mathcal{W}(\Gamma) = 3$  iff  $\Gamma$  is strongly regular;
- ▶  $\text{rk } \mathcal{W}(\Gamma) \neq 4$ ;
- ▶  $\text{rk } \mathcal{W}(\Gamma) \neq 5$ ?; ← **Open Problem!**
- ▶  $\geq 6$  otherwise.

## Neumaier graphs with coherent rank 6:

- ▶  $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, \{(01,0), (10,0), (11,0), (01, \pm 1), (10, \pm 2), (11, \pm 3)\})$



## Neumaier graphs with coherent rank 6

$$\text{Let } \Gamma = \text{Cay} \left( \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (01, 0), (10, 0), (11, 0), \\ (01, \pm 1), (10, \pm 2), (11, \pm 3) \end{array} \right\} \right)$$

Then  $\mathcal{W}(\Gamma) = \langle I, A(7K_4), A(4K_7), A(\Delta_1), A(\Delta_2), A(\Delta_3) \rangle$ , where  $\Delta_1 \cong \Delta_2 \cong \Delta_3 \cong \text{Cay}(\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, \{(01, \pm 1), (10, \pm 2), (11, \pm 3)\})$ .

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### Problem:

Do there exist *more* Neumaier graphs  $\Gamma$  s.t.

$$\mathcal{W}(\Gamma) = \langle I, A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4, A_5 \rangle \text{ and } A(\Gamma) = A_1 + A_2?$$

## Neumaier graphs with coherent rank 6

$$\text{Let } \Gamma = \text{Cay} \left( \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_7, \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (01,0), (10,0), (11,0), \\ (01,\pm 1), (10,\pm 2), (11,\pm 3) \end{array} \right\} \right)$$

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### Problem:

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### Theorem. (cf. Abiad et al. 2021):

Suppose  $\Gamma$  is a Neumaier graph with *commutative*  $\mathcal{W}(\Gamma) = \langle I, A_1, \dots, A_r \rangle$  and  $A(\Gamma) \in \{A_1, \dots, A_r\}$ .

Then  $\Gamma$  is strongly regular.

# **NEW!** construction (coherent rank 6)

$q_1$  and  $q_2$ : prime powers congruent to 1 modulo 3.

$\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$ : primitive elements of  $\text{GF}(q_1)$  and  $\text{GF}(q_2)$ .

$$S := \left\{ (\alpha_1^i, 0) : 0 \leq i \leq q_1 - 2 \right\} \cup \left\{ (\alpha_1^{i_1}, \alpha_2^{i_2}) : i_1 \equiv i_2 \pmod{3} \right\}$$

**Theorem. (GG and Tan 2025+):**

$\text{Cay}(\text{GF}(q_1) \times \text{GF}(q_2), S)$  is Neumaier iff

$$4(2q_1 - q_2) = a(q_1)a(q_2) \pm 27b(q_1)b(q_2)$$

For prime power  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ ,  $a(q)$  and  $b(q)$  are defined as

$$4q = a(q)^2 + 27b(q)^2 \quad \text{and} \quad a(q) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}.$$

$\mathcal{W}(\Gamma) = \langle I, A(q_2 K_{q_1}), A(q_1 K_{q_2}), A(\Delta_1), A(\Delta_2), A(\Delta_3) \rangle$ , where  $\Delta_i \cong \text{Cay}(\text{GF}(q_1) \times \text{GF}(q_2), \left\{ (\alpha_1^{i_1}, \alpha_2^{i_2}) : i_1 \equiv i_2 \pmod{3} \right\})$ .



# (infinite?) construction

$$4q = a(q)^2 + 27b(q)^2 \text{ and } a(q) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}.$$

**Theorem. (GG and Tan 2025+):**  
Cay  $(GF(q_1) \times GF(q_2), S)$  is Neumaier iff

$$4(2q_1 - q_2) = a(q_1)a(q_2) \pm 27b(q_1)b(q_2)$$

Parameters:  $(q_1q_2, \frac{(q_1-1)(q_2+2)}{3}, q_1 - 2 + \frac{(q_1-4)(q_2-1)}{9}; \frac{q_1-1}{3}, q_1)$

$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_1$	$q_2$
$2^2$	7	13	$2^4$	61	97	163	211
$2^2$	13	19	67	97	241	$13^2$	313
7	$2^4$	31	43	109	433	193	769
7	19	37	73	139	331	199	787
13	$7^2$	$7^2$	193	151	163	223	811

Nexus

## Neumaier graphs with coherent rank 6

Let  $\Gamma$  be an  $a$ -antipodal distance-regular graph of diameter 3 with distance matrices  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ , and  $A_3$ .

- ▶ Set  $t = (a_1 + 2)/a$ .
- ▶  $\Gamma^\dagger :=$  graph whose adjacency matrix is
$$I_t \otimes (A_1 + A_3) + (J_t - I_t) \otimes (I + A_3).$$

**Theorem. (GG and Koolen 2018):**  
 $\Gamma^\dagger$  is a Neumaier graph.

**Theorem. (GG and Tan 2025+):**

$$\mathcal{W}(\Gamma^\dagger) = \left\langle \begin{array}{c} I, I_t \otimes A_1, I_t \otimes A_2, I_t \otimes A_3, \\ (J_t - I_t) \otimes (I + A_3), (J_t - I_t) \otimes (A_1 + A_2) \end{array} \right\rangle$$

# Thank you for your attention

## Happy Birthday, Paul

### Further reading:

G.R.W. Greaves and Z.K. Tan, *Neumaier graphs from cyclotomy with small coherent rank*, arXiv:2504.12026.

G.R.W. Greaves and J.H. Koolen, *Another construction of edge-regular graphs with regular cliques*, *Discrete Math.* **88** (2019), pp. 2818–2820.

G.R.W. Greaves and J.H. Koolen, *Edge-regular graphs with regular cliques*, *European J. Combin.* **71** (2018), pp. 194–201.