

Chiral maps of arbitrary hyperbolic type with simple underlying group

Olivia Reade

The Open University

October 23, 2024

Orientably-regular maps

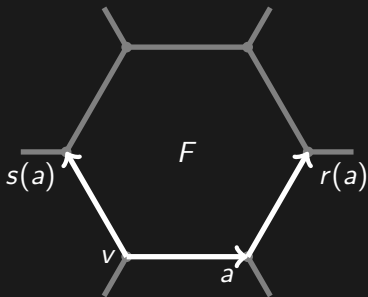


Figure: The action of r and s on the arc labelled a in an orientably-regular map $\mathcal{M}(G; r, s)$ of type $\{6, 3\}$

$$G = \langle r, s \mid r^m, s^n, (rs)^2, \dots \rangle.$$

Orientably-regular maps

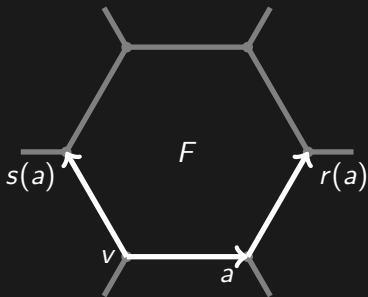


Figure: The action of r and s on the arc labelled a in an orientably-regular map $\mathcal{M}(G; r, s)$ of type $\{6, 3\}$

$$G = \langle r, s \mid r^m, s^n, (rs)^2, \dots \rangle.$$

An orientably-regular map is *reflexible* if and only if the map demonstrates reflective symmetry,

Orientably-regular maps

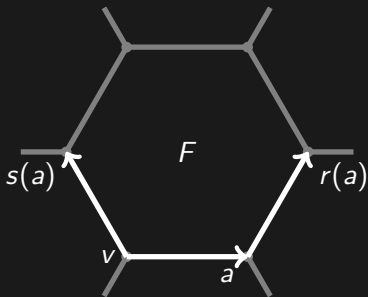


Figure: The action of r and s on the arc labelled a in an orientably-regular map $\mathcal{M}(G; r, s)$ of type $\{6, 3\}$

$$G = \langle r, s \mid r^m, s^n, (rs)^2, \dots \rangle.$$

An orientably-regular map is *reflexible* if and only if the map demonstrates reflective symmetry, that is if and only if there is an automorphism of the group G which inverts both generators,

Orientably-regular maps

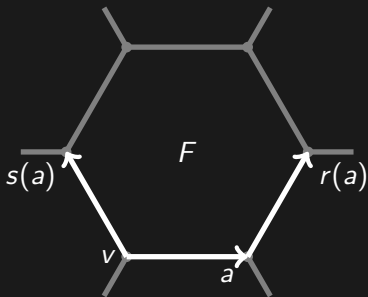


Figure: The action of r and s on the arc labelled a in an orientably-regular map $\mathcal{M}(G; r, s)$ of type $\{6, 3\}$

$$G = \langle r, s \mid r^m, s^n, (rs)^2, \dots \rangle.$$

An orientably-regular map is *reflexible* if and only if the map demonstrates reflective symmetry, that is if and only if there is an automorphism of the group G which inverts both generators, otherwise it is *chiral*.

Each chiral map has a chiral mate

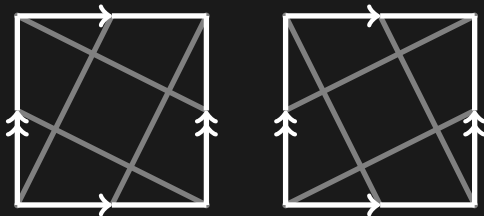


Figure: A chiral map of type $\{4, 4\}$ and its mate on the same torus with given orientation

What is the question? What do we know already?

Do chiral maps with simple G exist for any hyperbolic type?

What is the question? What do we know already?

Do chiral maps with simple G exist for any hyperbolic type?

Theorem (Conder, Hucíková, Nedela, Širáň)

There exists an orientably-regular but chiral map of type $\{m, n\}$ with automorphism group A_k or S_k for some k for every hyperbolic pair (m, n) .

What is the question? What do we know already?

Do chiral maps with simple G exist for any hyperbolic type?

Theorem (Conder, Hucíková, Nedela, Širáň)

There exists an orientably-regular but chiral map of type $\{m, n\}$ with automorphism group A_k or S_k for some k for every hyperbolic pair (m, n) .

Great news: we're done when both m and n are odd.

What is the question? What do we know already?

Do chiral maps with simple G exist for any hyperbolic type?

Theorem (Conder, Hucíková, Nedela, Širáň)

There exists an orientably-regular but chiral map of type $\{m, n\}$ with automorphism group A_k or S_k for some k for every hyperbolic pair (m, n) .

Great news: we're done when both m and n are odd.

Theorem (Bujalance, Conder, Costa)

For all but finitely many k , for each $m \geq 7$ there exists a chiral map \mathcal{M} of type $\{m, 3\}$ with $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{M}) = A_k$.

What is the question? What do we know already?

Do chiral maps with simple G exist for any hyperbolic type?

Theorem (Conder, Hucíková, Nedela, Širáň)

There exists an orientably-regular but chiral map of type $\{m, n\}$ with automorphism group A_k or S_k for some k for every hyperbolic pair (m, n) .

Great news: we're done when both m and n are odd.

Theorem (Bujalance, Conder, Costa)

For all but finitely many k , for each $m \geq 7$ there exists a chiral map \mathcal{M} of type $\{m, 3\}$ with $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{M}) = A_k$.

Also already known for when $n = 3$.

What if one or both parameters is even...?

What if one or both parameters is even...?

Up to duality... assume m is even.

What if one or both parameters is even...?

Up to duality... assume m is even.

We build permutation groups $\langle r, t \rangle$ or $\langle s, t \rangle$ (where $t = rs$ is an involution) hoping for simple groups... let's aim for alternating.

What if one or both parameters is even...?

Up to duality... assume m is even.

We build permutation groups $\langle r, t \rangle$ or $\langle s, t \rangle$ (where $t = rs$ is an involution) hoping for simple groups... let's aim for alternating.

Ideally we would use the elementary:

Theorem (Jordan)

Let G be a primitive permutation group of finite degree k , containing a cycle of prime length which fixes at least three points. Then $G \geq A_k$.

What if one or both parameters is even...?

Up to duality... assume m is even.

We build permutation groups $\langle r, t \rangle$ or $\langle s, t \rangle$ (where $t = rs$ is an involution) hoping for simple groups... let's aim for alternating. Ideally we would use the elementary:

Theorem (Jordan)

Let G be a primitive permutation group of finite degree k , containing a cycle of prime length which fixes at least three points. Then $G \geq A_k$.

... but sometimes we rely on:

Theorem (Jones)

Let G be a primitive permutation group of finite degree k , containing a cycle with f fixed points. Then $G \geq A_k$ if $f \geq 3$.

Lack of reflection in permutation diagram \Rightarrow *chiral*?!

Lemma

Let G be such that \mathcal{D} is a faithful permutation representation of $G = \langle s, t \mid s^n, t^2, (st)^m, \dots \rangle$ which is defined on k points. Further suppose that $\text{Aut}(G) \leq S_k$. Then if the following circumstances are satisfied, this implies that the map $\mathcal{M}(G; r, s)$ is chiral.

- There is a unique point ζ in \mathcal{D} which is fixed by $s^b t$ for some non-zero b , such that ζ is not fixed by t .
- There is an integer c such that ζs^c is fixed by t and $\zeta t s^{-c}$ is not.

Lack of reflection in permutation diagram \Rightarrow *chiral*?!

Lemma

Let G be such that \mathcal{D} is a faithful permutation representation of $G = \langle s, t \mid s^n, t^2, (st)^m, \dots \rangle$ which is defined on k points. Further suppose that $\text{Aut}(G) \leq S_k$. Then if the following circumstances are satisfied, this implies that the map $\mathcal{M}(G; r, s)$ is chiral.

- There is a unique point ζ in \mathcal{D} which is fixed by $s^b t$ for some non-zero b , such that ζ is not fixed by t .
- There is an integer c such that ζs^c is fixed by t and $\zeta t s^{-c}$ is not.

In practice: First check that the group is alternating, and then look to see if there is any reflective symmetry in the permutation diagram...

$m = 4$ and n is odd

Let $n = 4a + 4 + i \geq 9$ where $i \in \{-1, 1\}$ and $a \geq 1$.

Define $t := (\alpha, \alpha')(\beta, \beta') \prod_{j=1}^{2a} (j, j')$ and $s := s_i$ where

$s_{-1} := (1, 2, \dots, 2a - 1, 2a, \alpha, \alpha', \beta, 2a', 2a - 1', \dots, 2', 1')$ and

$s_1 := (1, 2, \dots, 2a - 1, 2a, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \alpha', 2a', 2a - 1', \dots, 2', 1', \delta)$.

$m = 4$ and n is odd

Let $n = 4a + 4 + i \geq 9$ where $i \in \{-1, 1\}$ and $a \geq 1$.

Define $t := (\alpha, \alpha')(\beta, \beta') \prod_{j=1}^{2a} (j, j')$ and $s := s_i$ where

$s_{-1} := (1, 2, \dots, 2a - 1, 2a, \alpha, \alpha', \beta, 2a', 2a - 1', \dots, 2', 1')$ and

$s_1 := (1, 2, \dots, 2a - 1, 2a, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \alpha', 2a', 2a - 1', \dots, 2', 1', \delta)$.

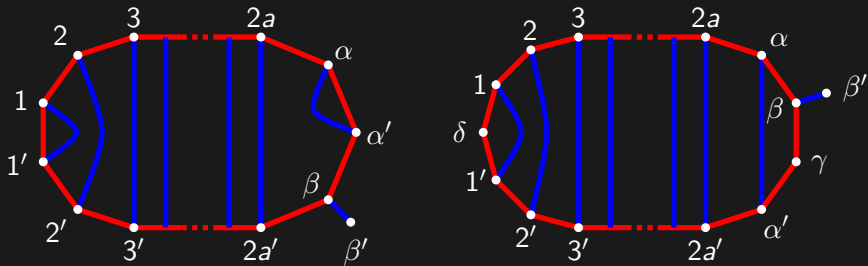
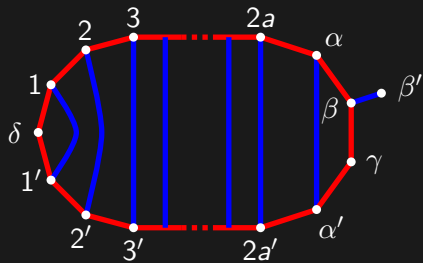
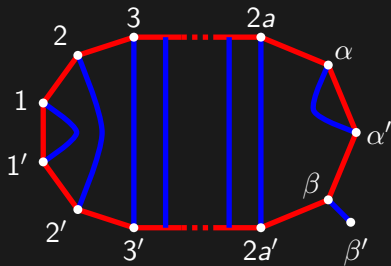


Figure: When $i = -1$ and $i = 1$ respectively

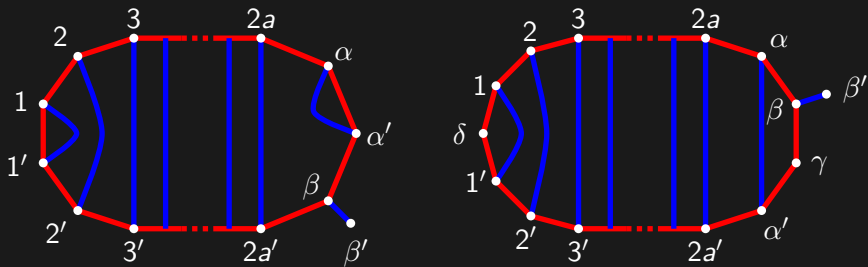
This yields chiral maps



Half a proof.

s and t are even permutations

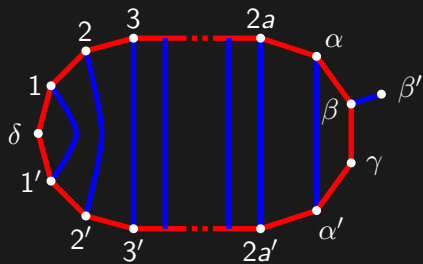
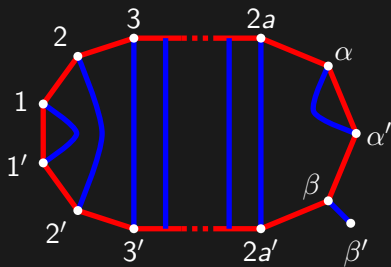
This yields chiral maps



Half a proof.

s and t are even permutations and have the expected orders n and 2 respectively.

This yields chiral maps

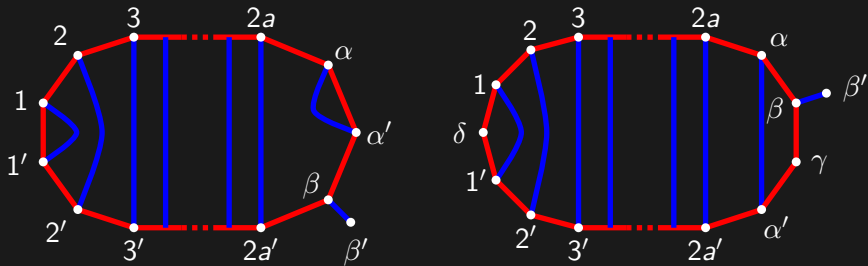


Half a proof.

s and t are even permutations and have the expected orders n and 2 respectively. Now

$$s_{-1}t =$$

This yields chiral maps



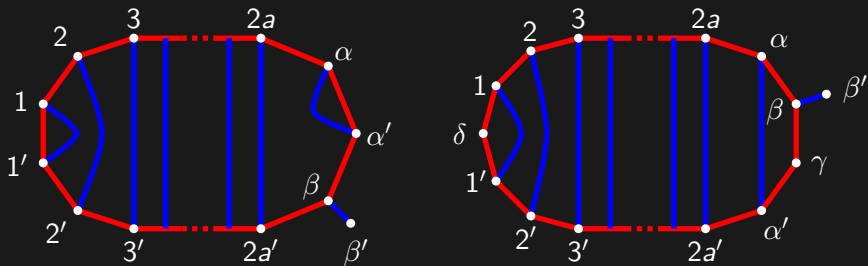
Half a proof.

s and t are even permutations and have the expected orders n and 2 respectively. Now

$s_{-1}t = (1, 2')(2, 3') \dots (2a - 1, 2a')(2a, \alpha', \beta', \beta)(1')(\alpha)$ while

$s_1t = (1, 2')(2, 3') \dots (2a - 1, 2a')(2a, \alpha')(\alpha, \beta', \beta, \gamma)(1', \delta)$

This yields chiral maps



Half a proof.

s and t are even permutations and have the expected orders n and 2 respectively. Now

$s_{-1}t = (1, 2')(2, 3') \dots (2a - 1, 2a')(2a, \alpha', \beta', \beta)(1')(\alpha)$ while

$s_1t = (1, 2')(2, 3') \dots (2a - 1, 2a')(2a, \alpha')(\alpha, \beta', \beta, \gamma)(1', \delta)$ and

both have order 4.

The other half.

When $i = -1$ the permutation $(s^3t)^2$ is

The other half.

When $i = -1$ the permutation $(s^3t)^2$ is a single 7-cycle: in particular when $i = -1$, $a \geq 2$ and the permutation is

$(\alpha, \beta', 2a - 2, 2a - 1, 2a, \beta, \alpha')$ which fixes $4a - 3$ points.

Now consider the permutation $(s^2t)^2$ when $i = 1$ which in every case is $(\alpha, 2a, \beta, \gamma, \beta')$, a 5-cycle fixing $4a + 1$ points.

The other half.

When $i = -1$ the permutation $(s^3t)^2$ is a single 7-cycle: in particular when $i = -1$, $a \geq 2$ and the permutation is $(\alpha, \beta', 2a - 2, 2a - 1, 2a, \beta, \alpha')$ which fixes $4a - 3$ points.

Now consider the permutation $(s^2t)^2$ when $i = 1$ which in every case is $(\alpha, 2a, \beta, \gamma, \beta')$, a 5-cycle fixing $4a + 1$ points.

Applying Jordan's Theorem using the above permutations, the cycles have enough fixed points, so G contains A_{n+1} . Since in each case the group is generated by even permutations, G must be the alternating group.

The other half.

When $i = -1$ the permutation $(s^3t)^2$ is a single 7-cycle: in particular when $i = -1$, $a \geq 2$ and the permutation is $(\alpha, \beta', 2a - 2, 2a - 1, 2a, \beta, \alpha')$ which fixes $4a - 3$ points.

Now consider the permutation $(s^2t)^2$ when $i = 1$ which in every case is $(\alpha, 2a, \beta, \gamma, \beta')$, a 5-cycle fixing $4a + 1$ points.

Applying Jordan's Theorem using the above permutations, the cycles have enough fixed points, so G contains A_{n+1} . Since in each case the group is generated by even permutations, G must be the alternating group.

Then inspection of the corresponding diagrams in Figure 3 will yield that the map is chiral by, respectively, a-very-similar-Lemma-to-the-other, and the Lemma with $b = 3$ and $c = 2$.



Collect families of woodlice...

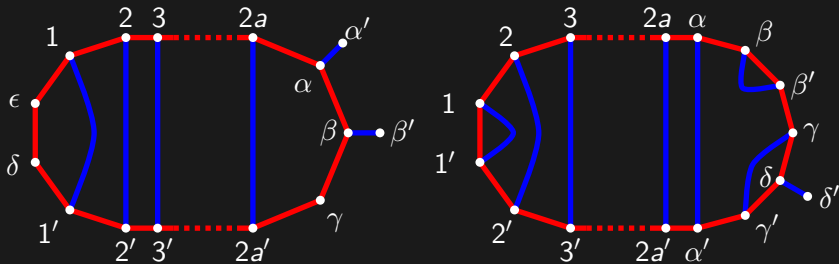


Figure: When $m = 6$

... and more ...

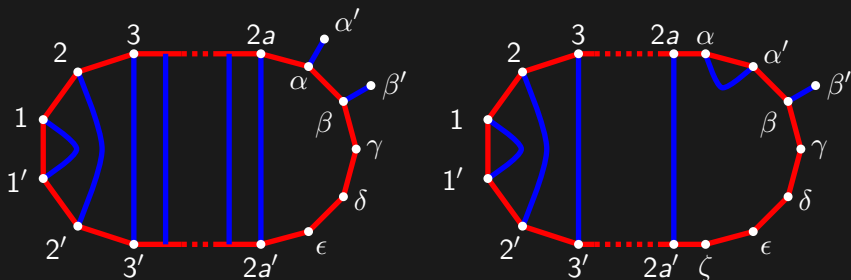


Figure: When $m = 8$

... and other creatures ...

For $m \geq 10$.

Let $n = m + 4a + i$ where $i \in \{1, -1\}$ and $a \geq 0$.

For $a \geq 1$ let $t_a := \prod_{j=1}^a (\alpha_j, \alpha'_j)(\beta_j, \beta'_j)$ and

$r_a := \prod_{j=1}^a (\alpha'_j, \beta_j)(\beta'_j, \alpha_{j+1})$, and when $a = 0$ we define t_a and r_a to be the identity. Let $t_i = (8, 9)$ when $i = -1$, and when $i = 1$ let

$t_i = (\alpha_{a+1}, \alpha'_{a+1})$. Define

$r := (1, 2, \dots, m-1, m).(1', \alpha_1).r_a$ and

$t := (1, 1')(2, 3)(4, 5)(6, 7).(m, m').t_a.t_i$.

... and other creatures ...

For $m \geq 10$.

Let $n = m + 4a + i$ where $i \in \{1, -1\}$ and $a \geq 0$.

For $a \geq 1$ let $t_a := \prod_{j=1}^a (\alpha_j, \alpha'_j)(\beta_j, \beta'_j)$ and

$r_a := \prod_{j=1}^a (\alpha'_j, \beta_j)(\beta'_j, \alpha_{j+1})$, and when $a = 0$ we define t_a and r_a to be the identity. Let $t_i = (8, 9)$ when $i = -1$, and when $i = 1$ let

$t_i = (\alpha_{a+1}, \alpha'_{a+1})$. Define

$r := (1, 2, \dots, m-1, m).(1', \alpha_1).r_a$ and

$t := (1, 1')(2, 3)(4, 5)(6, 7).(m, m').t_a.t_i$.

But what do they look like...?!

What if even $m > n$ odd?

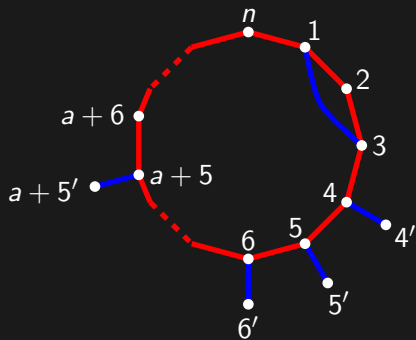


Figure: When odd $n \geq 7$

But m might be quite a lot bigger than $n...$

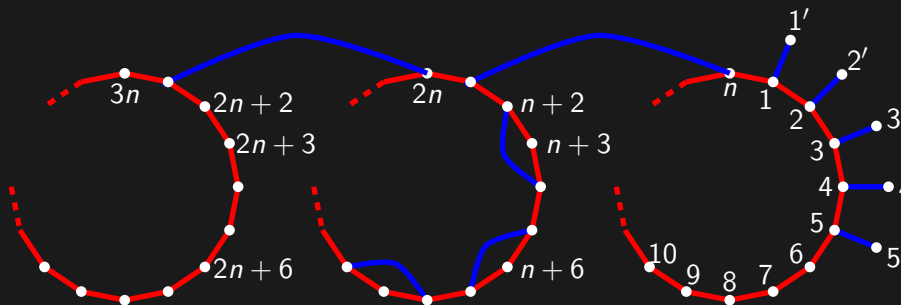


Figure: Example when $n \geq 11$

But m might be quite a lot bigger than $n...$

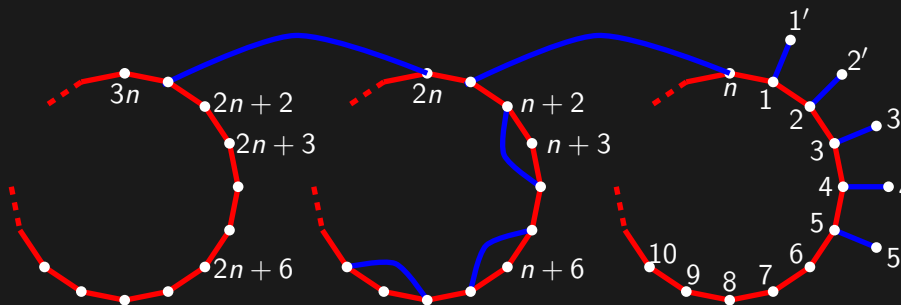


Figure: Example when $n \geq 11$

Note: s^2t has three fixed points and a long cycle, as does its conjugate $(s^2t)^{s^6}$. With only one fixed point in common, and since $\langle s^2t, (s^2t)^{s^6} \rangle$ acts transitively on all other points, we have that the stabiliser of the point labelled $n+2$ is transitive and so the group is primitive.

What if both m and n are even?

Expand the accommodation for more woodlouse families!

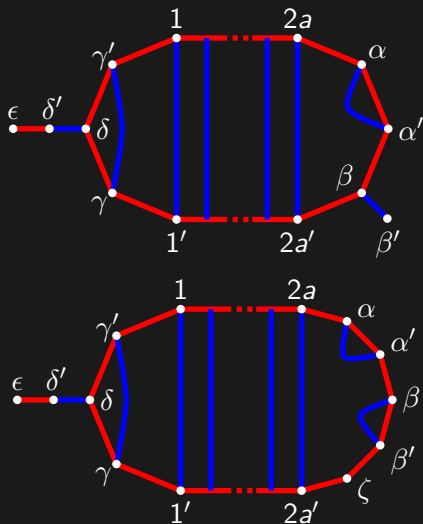


Figure: n even and $m = 4$

... and more...

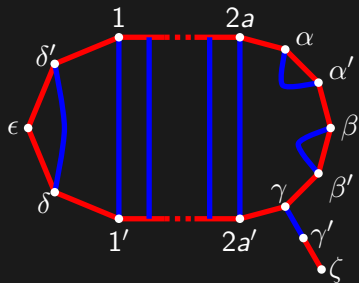
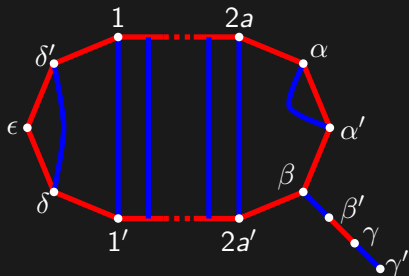
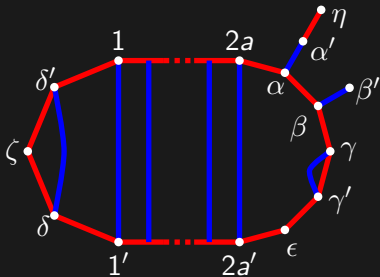
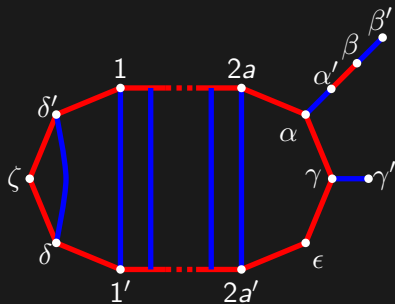


Figure: Both even and $m=6$

... and this completes the set of woodlice.



For $m \geq 10$.

Let $n = m + 4a + i$ where $i \in \{0, 2\}$ and $a \geq 0$.

When $m = n \equiv 0$ modulo 4 let $r = (1, 2, \dots, m-1, m)(1', \alpha, \beta, \gamma)$
and $t = (1, 1')(2, 3)(4, 5)(6, 8)$.

Otherwise let $r = (1, 2, \dots, m-1, m)(1', \alpha_1)r_a r_i$ and

$t = (1, 1')(2, 3)(4, 5)(6, 8)(m-1, m-1')(m, m')t_a$ where, for

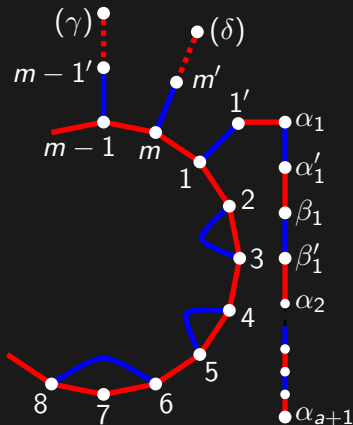
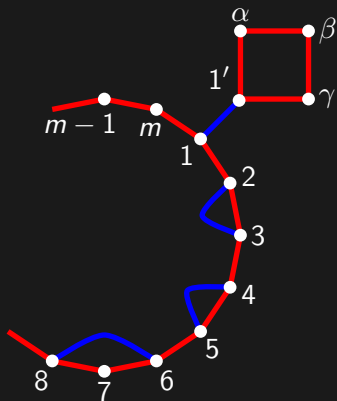
$a \geq 1$ define $t_a := \prod_{j=1}^a (\alpha_j, \alpha'_j)(\beta_j, \beta'_j)$ and

$r_a := \prod_{j=1}^a (\alpha'_j, \beta_j)(\beta'_j, \alpha_{j+1})$, and when $a = 0$ we define t_a and r_a

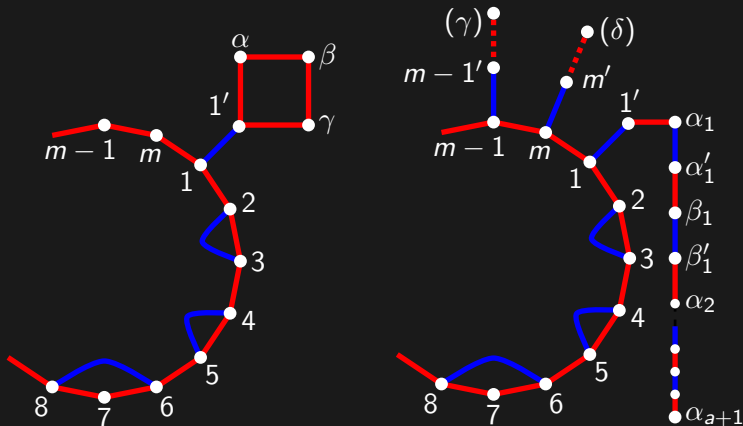
to be the identity. When $i = 0$ let r_i be the identity, otherwise let

$r_i = (m-1', \gamma)(m', \delta)$.

And this last pair of creatures will complete the proof*



And this last pair of creatures will complete the proof*



The permutation $(r^4 t)^2$ fixes every point labelled with a Greek letter.

* if you include the table of small cases

Type	s	t	G
$\{4, 5\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$	$(1, 3)(2, 6)$	A_6
$\{6, 5\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)(6, 7, 8, 9, 10)$	$(1, 6)(2, 4)(7, 8)(9, 10)$	A_{10}
$\{8, 5\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)(6, 7, 8, 9, 10)$	$(1, 6)(2, 4)$	A_{10}
$\{10, 5\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)(6, 7, 8, 9, 10)$	$(1, 6)(2, 4)(7, 11)(8, 12)$	A_{12}
$\{12, 5\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)(6, 7, 8, 9, 10)$	$(1, 6)(2, 4)(7, 11)(8, 12)(9, 13)(10, 14)$	A_{14}
$\{6, 6\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)(7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)$	$(1, 7)(2, 5)(6, 13)(8, 12)(9, 14)(10, 15)$	A_{15}
$\{4, 7\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)$	$(1, 5)(2, 3)(4, 9)(7, 8)$	A_9
$\{6, 7\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)(8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14)$	$(1, 3)(4, 6)(7, 8)(9, 13)(10, 15)(11, 16)$	A_{16}
$\{10, 7\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)(8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14)$	$(1, 8)(2, 4)(5, 6)(9, 10)$	A_{14}
$\{12, 7\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)(8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14)$	$(1, 8)(2, 3)(4, 5)(6, 15)(7, 16)(9, 17)(10, 12)(13, 14)$	A_{17}
$\{14, 7\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)(8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14)$	$(1, 8)(7, 9)(10, 15)(11, 16)$	A_{16}
$\{14, 9\}$	$(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)(10, 11, 12) := S_9$	$(1, 10)(2, 12)(3, 13)(4, 14)(5, 15)(6, 16)$	A_{16}
$\{16, 9\}$	$S_9(13, 17, 18)$	$(1, 10)(2, 12)(3, 13)(4, 14)(5, 15)(6, 16)$	A_{18}
$\{18, 9\}$	$S_9(13, 17, 18)(14, 19, 20)$	$(1, 10)(2, 12)(3, 13)(4, 14)(5, 15)(6, 16)$	A_{20}
$\{20, 9\}$	$S_9(13, 17, 18)(14, 19, 20)(15, 21, 22)$	$(1, 10)(2, 12)(3, 13)(4, 14)(5, 15)(6, 16)$	A_{22}

Table: Filling gaps - the missing types

* and trust me that the 'small' infinite cases work...

...which they do.

What just happened?

Theorem

Given a hyperbolic type $\{m, n\}$, there exists a chiral map of that type with alternating automorphism group A_k , for some degree k .