

# Natural splittings of independence complexes

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## Definition

- $G$  — undirected, simple graph
- $\text{Ind}(G)$  — *independence complex* of  $G$ 
  - vertices:  $V(G)$
  - faces  $\equiv$  independent (stable) sets in  $G$

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$$\text{Ind}(\bullet \text{---} \bullet) = \bullet \quad \bullet = S^0$$

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$$\text{Ind}(P_4) = \text{Ind}(\bullet \text{---} \bullet \text{---} \bullet \text{---} \bullet) = \bullet \text{---} \bullet \text{---} \bullet \text{---} \bullet \overset{\curvearrowright}{\sim} *$$

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independence complexes

$\equiv$

flag complexes

$\equiv$

clique complexes

$$\text{Cl}(G) = \text{Ind}(\overline{G})$$

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$$\text{Ind}(H_1 \sqcup H_2) = \text{Ind}(H_1) * \text{Ind}(H_2)$$

In particular, if  $G$  has an isolated vertex then

$$\text{Ind}(G) \simeq *$$

Also:

$$\text{Ind}(\bullet \text{---} \bullet \sqcup G) = S^0 * \text{Ind}(G) = \Sigma \text{Ind}(G).$$

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Functoriality:

- $G - e \hookrightarrow G$  induces an inclusion

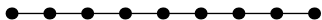
$$\text{Ind}(G) \hookrightarrow \text{Ind}(G - e)$$

- $H \subset G$  — *induced* subgraph inclusion induces

$$\text{Ind}(H) \hookrightarrow \text{Ind}(G)$$

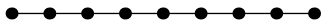
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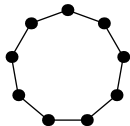


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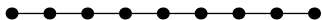
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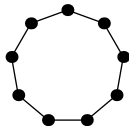
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[Kozlov'99]

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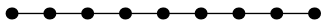
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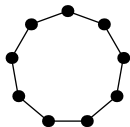
$$\Sigma \text{Ind}(P_{n-(2r+1)}^r)$$

[Engström'09]

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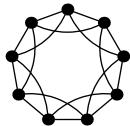


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[Engström'09]



$$\text{Ind}(C_n^r) \simeq ???$$

# Two cofibre sequences

$G$  — graph,  $v$  — vertex,  $e$  — edge

$$\mathrm{Ind}(G \setminus N[v]) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Ind}(G \setminus v) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Ind}(G) \rightarrow \Sigma \mathrm{Ind}(G \setminus N[v]) \rightarrow \cdots$$

$$\Sigma \mathrm{Ind}(G \setminus N[e]) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Ind}(G) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Ind}(G - e) \rightarrow \Sigma^2 \mathrm{Ind}(G \setminus N[e]) \rightarrow \cdots$$

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Proof of (2).

$$\mathrm{Ind}(G - e) = \mathrm{Ind}(G) \bigcup_{\mathrm{Ind}(e \sqcup (G \setminus N[e]))} e * \mathrm{Ind}(G \setminus N[e])$$

# Consequences: $\text{Ind}(G)$ vs. $\text{Ind}(G \setminus v)$

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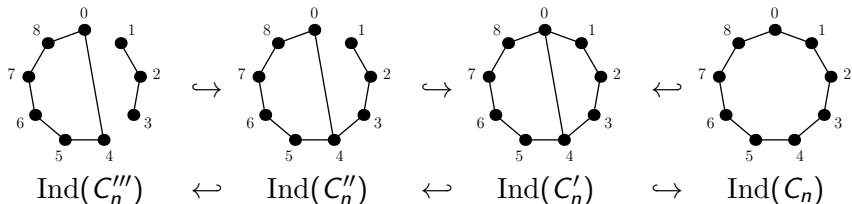
$$\text{Ind}(G - e) \simeq \text{Ind}(G) \vee \Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(G \setminus N[e])$$

*e.g. when  $e$  belongs to an induced  $P_4$  'away from'  $G \setminus N[e]$ .*

A 'natural' proof of  $\text{Ind}(C_n) \simeq \Sigma \text{Ind}(C_{n-3})$ .

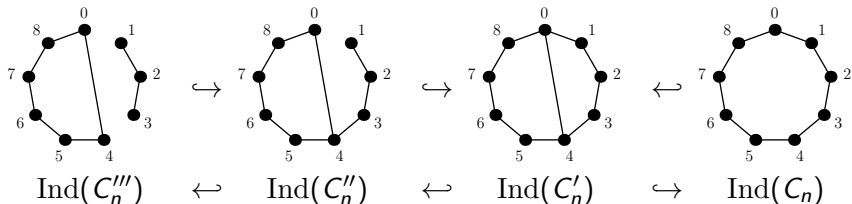
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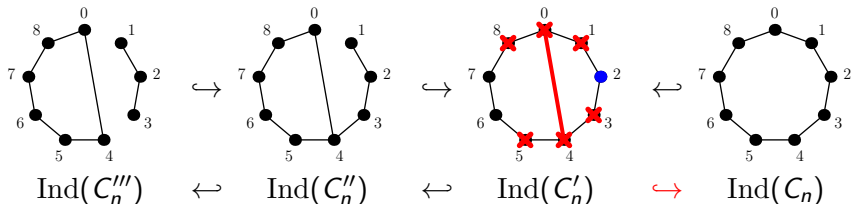
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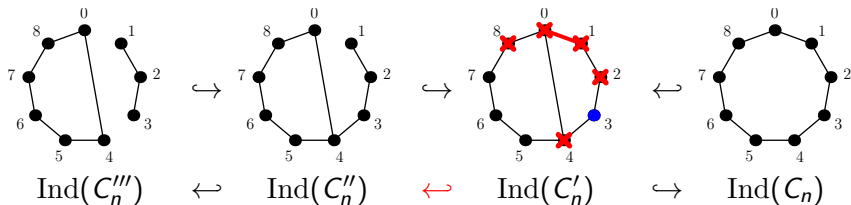
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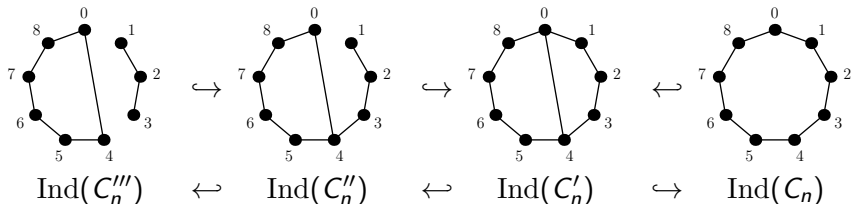
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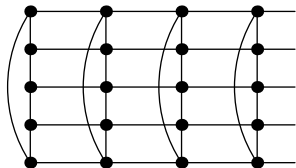
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- each induced map is a homotopy equivalence because  $\text{Ind}(G \setminus M[e])$  has an **isolated vertex**
- $\text{Ind}(C'''_n) \simeq \text{Ind}(C_{n-3}) * S^0 = \Sigma \text{Ind}(C_{n-3})$ .

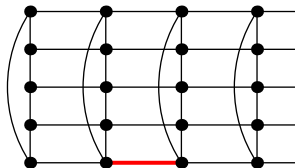
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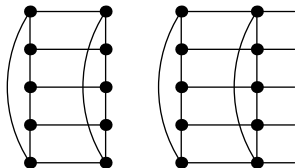
The edge  $e$  can be removed





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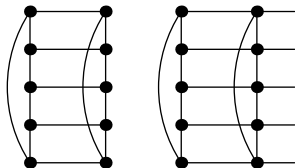
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Theorem (A.)

$$\text{Ind}(P_m \times C_7) \simeq S^5 * \text{Ind}(P_{m-4} \times C_7)$$

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where

$$X_{n,r} \simeq \Sigma^3 \bigvee_{i=4r+6}^{6r+3} \bigvee^{k_i} \text{Ind}(P_{n-i}^r)$$

and

$$k_i = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(i - 4r - 5)(i - 2r - 2) & \text{for } i \leq 5r + 4, \\ \frac{1}{2}(6r + 4 - i)(i - 2r - 1) & \text{for } i \geq 5r + 5. \end{cases}$$

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For example

$$\text{Ind}(C_n) \simeq \Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(C_{n-6})$$

$$\text{Ind}(C_n^2) \simeq \Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(C_{n-9}^2) \vee \bigvee^4 \Sigma^3 \text{Ind}(P_{n-14}^2) \vee \bigvee^5 \Sigma^3 \text{Ind}(P_{n-15}^2)$$

We will extend  $C_n^r$  to a graph with more edges

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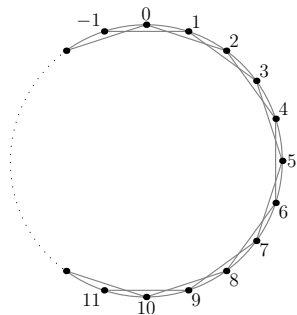


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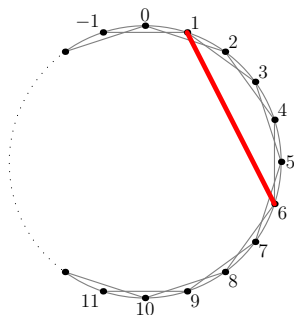
+ every single edge addition splits . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ind}(C_n^r) &\simeq \text{Ind}(C_n^r \cup \{e_1\}) \vee X_1 \\ &\simeq \text{Ind}(C_n^r \cup \{e_1, e_2\}) \vee X_1 \vee X_2 \\ &\dots \\ &\simeq \Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(C_{n-(3r+3)}^r) \vee X_{n,r} \end{aligned}$$

# Pictorial proof when $r = 2$ — splittings



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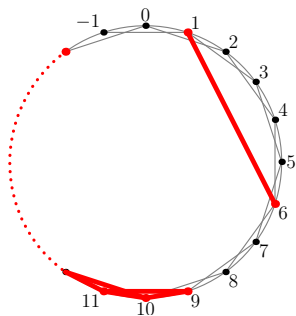
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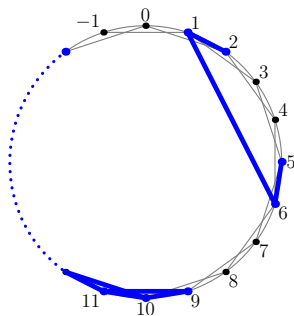
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But there is a factorization

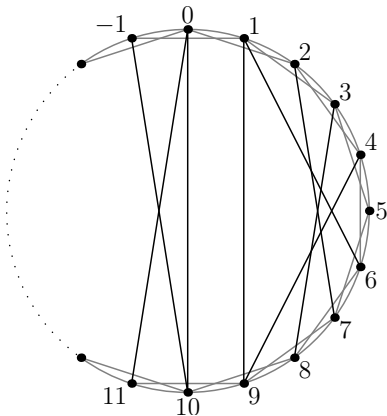
$$\text{Ind}(e \sqcup (G \setminus N[e])) \hookrightarrow \text{Ind}(P_4 \sqcup (G \setminus N[e])) \hookrightarrow \text{Ind}(G \cup e)$$

through a contractible space, so

$$\text{Ind}(G) \simeq \text{Ind}(G \cup e) \vee \Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(G \setminus N[e])$$

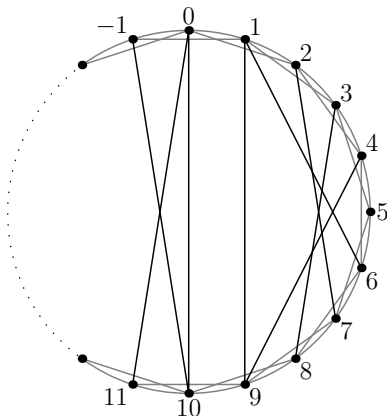
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Similar arguments are used to add edges until we get the graph:



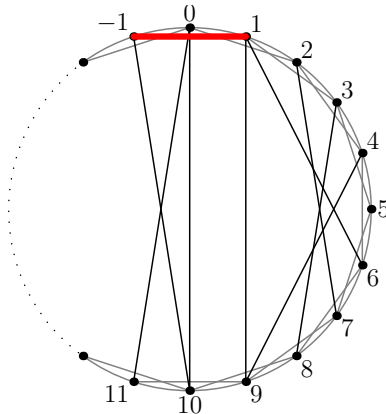
# Pictorial proof when $r = 2$ — modeling $\Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(C_{n-9}^2)$

We just need to find  $\text{Ind}()$  of the graph



# Pictorial proof when $r = 2$ — modeling $\Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(C_{n-9}^2)$

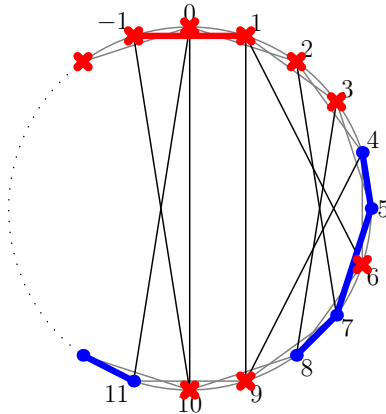
We just need to find  $\text{Ind}()$  of the graph



The **edge e** can be removed

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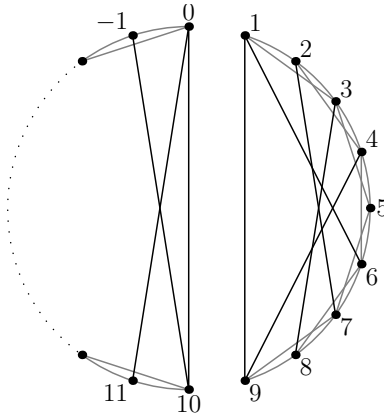
We just need to find  $\text{Ind}()$  of the graph



The **edge**  $e$  can be removed, because  $\text{Ind}(G \setminus N[e]) \simeq *$ .

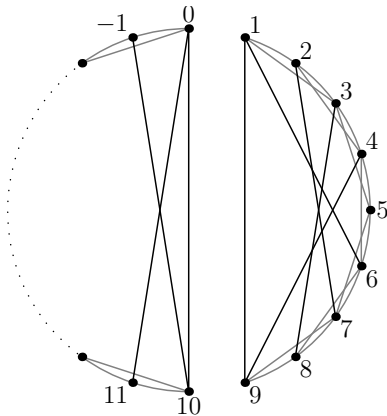
# Pictorial proof when $r = 2$ — modeling $\Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(C_{n-9}^2)$

Repeating such removals we are left with



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Repeating such removals we are left with

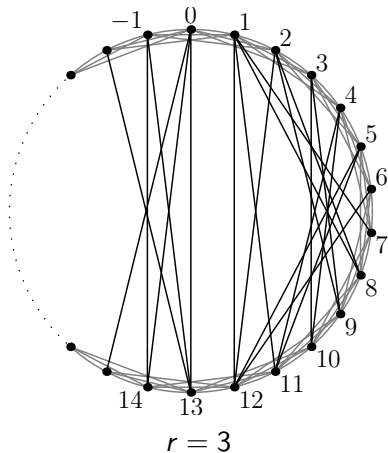
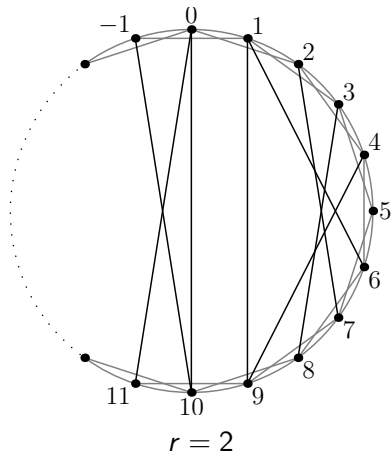


$\text{Ind}(C_{n-9}^2)$

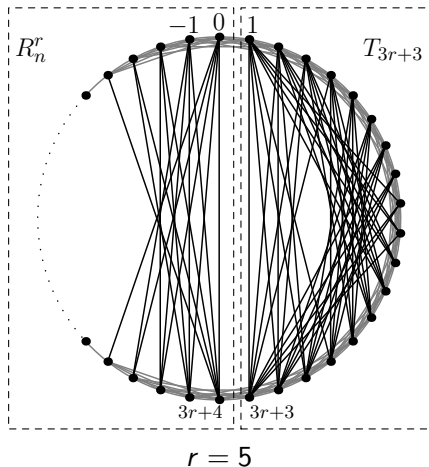
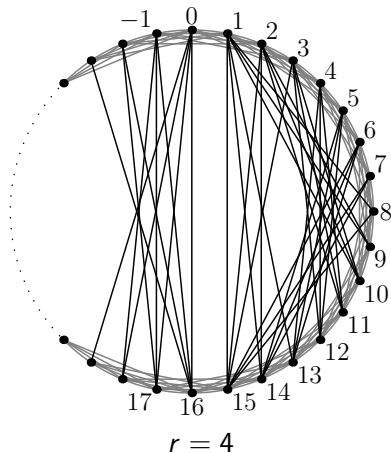
\*

$S^1$ .

# Models for $\Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(C_{n-(3r+3)}^r)$



# Models for $\Sigma^2 \text{Ind}(C_{n-(3r+3)}^r)$



Other methods of calculating the homotopy type of  $\text{Ind}(C_n^r)$  were proposed by

- Damiano Testa, *private comm.*
- Duško Jojić, *Shellability of complexes of directed trees*, [arxiv/1109.4475](https://arxiv.org/abs/1109.4475)

and this one is

- M.A., *Splittings of independence complexes and the powers of cycles*, [arxiv/1106.6250](https://arxiv.org/abs/1106.6250)

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Thank you!