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## Universal $H$ -colourable graphs

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### Abstract

Rado constructed a (simple) denumerable graph  $R$  with the positive integers as vertex set with the following edges: For given  $m$  and  $n$  with  $m < n$ ,  $m$  is adjacent to  $n$  if  $n$  has a 1 in the  $m$ 'th position of its binary expansion. It is well known that  $R$  is a universal graph in the set  $\mathcal{I}_c$  of all countable graphs (since every graph in  $\mathcal{I}_c$  is isomorphic to an induced subgraph of  $R$ ) and that it is a homogeneous graph (since every isomorphism between two finite induced subgraphs of  $R$  extends to an automorphism of  $R$ ).

In this paper we construct a graph  $U(H)$  which is  $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$ , the induced-hereditary hom-property of  $H$ -colourable graphs consisting of all (countable) graphs which have a homomorphism into a given (countable) graph  $H$ . If  $H$  is the (finite) complete graph  $K_k$ , then  $\rightarrow H_c$  is the property of  $k$ -colourable graphs. The universal graph  $U(H)$  is characterised by showing that it is, up to isomorphism, the unique denumerable,  $H$ -universal graph in  $\rightarrow H_c$  which is  $H$ -homogeneous in  $\rightarrow H_c$ . The graphs  $H$  for which  $U(H) \cong R$  are also characterised.

With small changes to the definitions, our results translate effortlessly to hold for digraphs too. Another slight adaptation of our work yields related results for  $(k, l)$ -split graphs.

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## 1 Introduction

All graphs considered here are simple, undirected (except later only in Corollaries 1 and 2), unlabelled and have countable vertex sets. When the vertex set is taken to be the set, or some subset, of the positive integers  $\mathbf{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ , number-theoretic properties of the integers may be employed in constructions and proofs. Otherwise, the vertex set of a graph may be indexed by  $\mathbf{N}$  or one of its subsets.

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a class of countable graphs. Following [6], we define a graph  $U$  to be a **universal graph for  $\mathcal{P}$**  if every graph in  $\mathcal{P}$  is (isomorphic to) an induced subgraph of  $U$ ; it is a **universal graph in  $\mathcal{P}$**  if  $U \in \mathcal{P}$  too. We shall often have occasion to refer to two graphs which are isomorphic; in that case we shall refer to (any) one of them as a **clone** of the other. For any graph property  $\mathcal{P}$  (i.e., an isomorphically closed class of graphs) we use the symbols  $\mathcal{P}_c, \mathcal{P}_d, \mathcal{P}_f$  to denote, respectively, the classes of countable, denumerable, and finite graphs of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Rado [11] constructed the denumerable graph  $R$  on  $\mathbf{N}$  with the following edges: For given  $m$  and  $n$  with  $m < n$ ,  $m$  is adjacent to  $n$  in  $R$  (i.e., we have an edge  $mn$  in  $R$ ) if  $n$  has a 1 in the  $m$ 'th position of its binary expansion. It is well known that  $R$  is a universal graph in the set  $\mathcal{I}_c$  of all countable graphs (since  $R \in \mathcal{I}_c$  and every graph in  $\mathcal{I}_c$  is isomorphic to an induced subgraph of  $R$ ). Some known constructions of clones of this graph, together with many new constructions, are discussed in [2]. Important properties of  $R$  (sometimes called the “random graph”) are discussed in [4].

A **homomorphism** from a graph  $G$  to a graph  $H$  is an edge-preserving map from the vertex set  $V(G)$  of  $G$  into the vertex set  $V(H)$  of  $H$ . If such a map exists, we say that  $G$  is **homomorphic to  $H$**  and we write  $G \rightarrow H$ . Given any (countable) graph  $H$ , the **hom-property**  $\rightarrow H_c$  is the class of  **$H$ -colourable graphs**, i.e., it consists of all (countable) graphs which have a homomorphism into the given graph  $H$ . In symbols:  $\rightarrow H_c = \{G \mid G \in \mathcal{I}_c, G \rightarrow H\}$ . Using the terminology of [1], we note that every hom-property is an additive, induced-hereditary graph property. In [10] the authors describe the construction of a universal graph in the hom-property  $\rightarrow H_c$  for any given finite graph  $H$ . Our aim in this paper is to construct and characterise a graph  $U(H)$  which is universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$  for any countable graph  $H$ . If  $H$  is the (finite) complete graph  $K_k$ , then  $\rightarrow H_c$  is the property of  $k$ -colourable graphs denoted (following [1]) by  $\mathcal{O}_c^k$ , while  $(\rightarrow K_{\aleph_0})_c = \mathcal{I}_c$ . We also characterise those graphs  $H$  for which  $U(H) \cong R$ .

A slight adaptation of our work yields related results for  $(k, l)$ -split graphs.

## 2 Constructing universal $H$ -colourable graphs

Throughout this section,  $H$  is any graph with vertex set  $\{w_1, w_2, \dots\}$  (in the denumerable case) or  $\{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k\}$  (in the finite case). We introduce the notation  $V(H) = \{w_1, w_2, \dots \triangleleft w_k \triangleright\}$  to cover both cases at once. We are going to construct a graph  $U(H)$ , universal in the property  $\rightarrow H_c$ , and then investigate its properties in sections 3 and 4.

Let  $p_1, p_2, \dots$  be any enumeration of the denumerable set of prime numbers. For any integer  $n \geq 2$  there is a unique sequence  $n_1, n_2, \dots$  for which  $n = \prod_{i \geq 1} p_i^{n_i}$ . Here each power  $n_i$  is a non-negative integer, and at least one (but only finitely many)  $n_i \geq 1$ .

First we define countably many pairwise disjoint denumerable proper subsets  $\mathbf{N}_1, \mathbf{N}_2, \dots$  of  $\mathbf{N}' = \{2, 3, \dots\}$  by specifying  $\mathbf{N}_j$ ,  $1 \leq j$ , to be the set of all integers  $n \geq 2$  for which the power of any prime in its prime factorization is either 0 or  $j$ :

$$\mathbf{N}_j := \{n \in \mathbf{N}' \mid \text{every } n_i \in \{0, j\}\}.$$

We now define the graph  $U(H)$ , co-determined by  $H$ , as follows: The vertex set of  $U(H)$  is

$$V(U(H)) := \mathbf{N}_1 \cup \mathbf{N}_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup \mathbf{N}_k \triangleright.$$

In  $U(H)$  there are no edges between vertices from the same  $\mathbf{N}_j$ . If  $m \in \mathbf{N}_h$  and  $n \in \mathbf{N}_j$ ,  $h \neq j$ , then there is an edge in  $U(H)$  between  $m$  and  $n$  if and only if

- (i) there is an edge in  $H$  between  $w_h$  and  $w_j$ ;
- (ii)  $m < n$ ; and
- (iii)  $n_m = j$ .

For a graph  $G$  we now want to define the notion “ $G$  is  $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$ ” – where this is stronger than “ $G$  is universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$ ” – and then prove that the  $U(H)$  that we have just defined is  $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$ . We need some preliminary definitions.

Consider two graphs  $F, G \in \rightarrow H_c$  and two homomorphisms  $\lambda : F \rightarrow H$  and  $\zeta : G \rightarrow H$ , together with a third homomorphism  $\nu : F \rightarrow G$ . Then we say that  $\nu$  is  **$(\lambda, \zeta)$ -respecting** when, for every  $w_j \in V(H)$ ,  $\nu(\lambda^{-1}(w_j)) \subseteq \zeta^{-1}(w_j)$ . A graph  $G \in \rightarrow H_c$  is now called  **$H$ -universal in**

$\rightarrow H_c$  if there exists a *surjective* homomorphism ( $H$ -colouring)  $\zeta : G \rightarrow H$  such that for every  $F \in \rightarrow H_c$  and every  $\lambda : F \rightarrow H$  there exists a  $(\lambda, \zeta)$ -respecting isomorphic embedding  $\nu : F \rightarrow G$ , i.e.,  $\nu : F \cong G[\nu(V(F))]$ . This is a stronger property than universality in  $\rightarrow H_c$ , which requires only isomorphic embeddings into  $G$ . It says that there is some surjective  $H$ -colouring  $\zeta$  of  $G$  such that for every  $H$ -colouring  $\lambda$  of any  $F \in \rightarrow H_c$  there exists an isomorphic embedding  $\nu$  of  $F$  into  $G$  which preserves the colours (elements of  $V(H)$ ) assigned by  $\lambda$  to the vertices of  $F$ : for every  $v \in V(F)$ ,  $\zeta(\nu(v)) = \lambda(v)$ . We say then that  $G$  is  $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$  with respect to  $\zeta$ .

**Theorem 1** *For any countable graph  $H$  the graph  $U(H)$  is  $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$ .*

**Proof:**

By the construction of  $U(H)$  it is clear that  $U(H) \in \rightarrow H_c$ , since  $n \mapsto w_j$  for every  $n \in \mathbf{N}_j$  induces a homomorphism  $\mu : U(H) \rightarrow H$ , which is even a surjection. In the sequel we shall call this  $\mu$  the *canonical* homomorphism from  $U(H)$  onto  $H$ , or the *canonical  $H$ -colouring* of  $U(H)$ . Note that, for every  $j$ ,  $\mu^{-1}(w_j) = \mathbf{N}_j$ . We shall establish  $H$ -universality of  $U(H)$  in  $\rightarrow H_c$  with respect to  $\mu$ .

Let  $F$  with  $V(F) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, \langle v_\ell \rangle\}$  be any countable graph for which  $F \rightarrow H$ , indeed, let  $\lambda$  be a homomorphism from  $F$  into  $H$ . We recursively construct an injection  $\nu : V(F) \rightarrow V(U(H))$  such that  $\nu(V(F))$  induces a subgraph of  $U(H)$  which, under  $\nu$ , is isomorphic to  $F$ . By its construction,  $\nu$  will be  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -respecting.

We begin by defining subsets  $V_j$  of  $V(F)$  by  $V_j := \lambda^{-1}(w_j)$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq k$ , and note that  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_k$  is a partition of  $V(F)$ . (For some indices  $j$ ,  $V_j$  may be empty, since  $\lambda$  need not be surjective onto  $H$ .) Furthermore, since  $\lambda$  is a homomorphism from  $F$  into the (simple) graph  $H$ , there is no edge in  $F$  between any two vertices from the same  $V_j$ . Note also that, for every edge  $uv$  of  $F$ ,  $\lambda(u)\lambda(v)$  is an edge of  $H$ .

We now define  $\nu$  by recursion on the indices  $1, 2, \dots, \langle \ell \rangle$  of the vertices of  $F$ . Let us suppose that  $v_1 \in V_s$ ; then we can choose  $\nu(v_1)$  to be any element of  $\mathbf{N}_s$ . Next assume that  $\nu(v_1), \nu(v_2), \dots, \nu(v_{p-1})$  have already been specified so that for every  $q$  and  $r$  with  $1 \leq q, r \leq p-1$

- if  $q \neq r$ , then  $\nu(v_q) \neq \nu(v_r)$ ;
- if  $v_q \in V_j$ , then  $\nu(v_q) \in \mathbf{N}_j$ ; and
- $F[\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{p-1}\}] \cong U(H)[\{\nu(v_1), \nu(v_2), \dots, \nu(v_{p-1})\}]$  under  $\nu[\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{p-1}\}]$ .

Note that, for every  $q$  and  $r$  with  $1 \leq q, r \leq p-1$ , an edge  $v_q v_r$  of  $F$  corresponds to an edge  $\nu(v_q)\nu(v_r)$  of  $U(H)$  and an edge  $\lambda(v_q)\lambda(v_r)$  of  $H$ , and that  $\mu(\nu(v_q)) = \lambda(v_q)$ .

Now we consider  $v_p$  to decide on  $\nu(v_p)$ . Suppose that  $v_p \in V_t$ . We shall construct (by specifying its prime factorization) an  $n \in \mathbf{N}_t$  which is a suitable choice for  $\nu(v_p)$ . Let  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$  be the subset of  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{p-1}\}$  of those vertices which are adjacent to  $v_p$  in  $F$ , (none of them is with  $v_p$  in  $V_t$ , of course). Now, in the prime factorization of  $n$ , the primes with indices  $\nu(u_1), \nu(u_2), \dots, \nu(u_m)$  all occur to the power  $t$ , and so does one extra prime with a value so large as to ensure that  $n$  is larger than each of  $\nu(u_1), \nu(u_2), \dots, \nu(u_m)$ ; all other primes have power zero in the factorization of  $n$ . Then, by specifying  $\nu(v_p) = n$ , we have that  $\nu$  establishes the isomorphism  $F[\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}] \cong U(H)[\{\nu(v_1), \nu(v_2), \dots, \nu(v_p)\}]$ . Thus a  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -respecting isomorphism  $\nu$  from  $F$  onto an induced subgraph of  $U(H)$  (i.e.,  $\lambda = \mu \circ \nu$ ) is constructed in countably many recursive steps.  $\square$

Let us here digress for a moment and devote some thought to the case when  $H$  is a directed graph and, correspondingly, consider  $H$ -colourings of directed graphs, i.e., homomorphisms into  $H$  which not only preserve edges, but also the directions of those edges. The obvious way for the directions of the edges of  $H$  to induce directions on the edges of  $U(H)$  is as follows: where we say (in the definition of  $U(H)$ ) that “there is an edge in  $U(H)$  between  $m$  and  $n$  if and only if (i) there is an edge in  $H$  between  $w_h$  and  $w_j$ ; . . . ; (iii) . . .”, we just add “and the direction of the edge between  $m$  and  $n$  corresponds to the direction of the edge between

$w_h$  and  $w_j$  in  $H$ ".

In this way  $U(H)$  becomes directed (" $H$ -directed", if you like). Similarly, the directions of the edges on  $H$  determine unambiguously the direction of every single edge of *any*  $H$ -colourable graph – irrespective of the choice of a particular  $H$ -colouring of that graph. Colour  $F$  by  $\lambda : F \rightarrow H$  and consider an edge in  $F$  between vertices  $v_q$  and  $v_r$ . If in  $H$  the edge  $(\lambda(v_q), \lambda(v_r))$  is directed from  $\lambda(v_q)$  to  $\lambda(v_r)$ , then  $(v_q, v_r) \in E(F)$  is directed from  $v_q$  to  $v_r$ , since  $\lambda$  preserves directions. And then any other  $H$ -colouring  $\lambda' : F \rightarrow H$  would of course yield  $(\lambda'(v_q), \lambda'(v_r))$ , directed from  $\lambda'(v_q)$  to  $\lambda'(v_r)$  in  $H$ . So there is no possibility whatsoever for any edge in  $F$  to be directed in the opposite direction to the one consistent with an arbitrary  $H$ -colouring of  $F$ .

The definitions of " $\rightarrow H_c$ " and " $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$ " when  $H$  is directed are also obvious. Thus the proof of Theorem 1 can be rewritten for the directed case with minimal changes. To the crucial "an edge  $v_q v_r$  of  $F$  corresponds to an edge  $\nu(v_q)\nu(v_r)$  of  $U(H)$  and an edge  $\lambda(v_q)\lambda(v_r)$  of  $H$ ", we can then add "with corresponding directions". To summarise, we obtain

**Corollary 1** *For any countable digraph  $H$  the digraph  $U(H)$  is  $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$ .*

### 3 Two characterisations of $U(H)$

The Rado graph  $R$ , universal in  $\mathcal{I}_c$ , has interesting properties, some of which characterise it [4]. It is, up to isomorphism, the unique countable graph with the "extension property". It is also characterised by being universal in  $\mathcal{I}_c$  and "homogeneous". (These properties are defined in the sequel.) The relative simplicity of these properties relates to the extreme symmetry of the structure of  $R$ .  $H$ -colouring complicates issues somewhat for  $U(H)$ . We have, however, already relativised the notion of universality in Section 2 and shall now do so for the extension property and homogeneity to incorporate  $H$ -colourings. This will facilitate characterisations of  $U(H)$  analogous to those of  $R$ .

Suppose, again throughout this section, that  $V(H) = \{w_1, w_2, \dots \triangleleft w_k \triangleright\}$  is the vertex set of a countable graph  $H$ .

Consider any  $G \in \rightarrow H_c$  and let  $\lambda : G \rightarrow H$  be a surjective homomorphism with  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup V_k \triangleright$  of  $V(G)$  the partition associated with it, i.e., for every  $j$ ,  $V_j = \lambda^{-1}(w_j)$ . Then  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup V_k \triangleright$  is called the  **$\lambda$ -induced partition** of  $V(G)$ . Note that every  $G[V_j]$  is edgeless.

We say that a countable graph  $G$  **has the  $H$ -extension property** if there exists a surjective homomorphism  $\lambda : G \rightarrow H$  such that, with respect to the  $\lambda$ -induced partition  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup V_k \triangleright$  of  $V(G)$ , for every possible choice of all of the following:

- (i) any index  $j$  with  $1 \leq j \triangleleft \leq k \triangleright$ ;
  - (ii) any finite subset  $Z_j$  of  $V_j$ ;
  - (iii) any finite subset  $Q$  of the set of indices  $\{1, 2, \dots \triangleleft k \triangleright\}$  such that, for every  $h \in Q$ ,  $w_h w_j \in E(H)$ ;
  - (iv) any two finite disjoint subsets  $X_h$  and  $Y_h$  of  $V_h$  for each  $h \in Q$ ,
- the following holds: there exists a vertex in  $V_j$  which is not in  $Z_j$  and which is adjacent in  $G$  to every vertex in every  $X_h$  and to no vertex in any  $Y_h$ .

If the graph  $G$  has this property, we also say that  $G$  has the  $H$ -extension property *with respect to  $\lambda$* .

Consider a graph  $G \in \rightarrow H_c$  and the partition  $V(G) = V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup V_k \triangleright$  induced by a homomorphism  $\lambda : G \rightarrow H$ . Let  $\alpha : C \rightarrow D$  be any isomorphism between two induced subgraphs  $C$  and  $D$  of  $G$ . Then we say that  $\alpha$  is  **$\lambda$ -isochromatic** if, for every  $j$ ,  $\alpha(V(C) \cap V_j) \subseteq V_j$ . We also say that such a graph  $G$  is  **$\lambda$ -homogeneous** if every  $\lambda$ -isochromatic isomorphism  $\alpha$  between two finite induced subgraphs of  $G$  extends to a  $\lambda$ -isochromatic automorphism  $\alpha^+$  of  $G$ . Note

that, for every  $j$ ,  $\alpha^+|_{V_j}$  is then a permutation of  $V_j$ . When  $G \in \rightarrow H_c$  is  $\lambda$ -homogeneous for some *surjective*  $\lambda : G \rightarrow H$ , then we say that  $G$  is  **$H$ -homogeneous in  $\rightarrow H_c$  with respect to  $\lambda$** . This is in general a property different from homogeneity (as defined in [8]), which requires the extendability to an *ordinary* automorphism of *any* isomorphism between two finite induced subgraphs. (It is known that every homogeneous graph belongs to one of only three types, one of which is “clone of  $R$ ” [9].)

**Theorem 2** *Let  $G$  be any denumerable graph. Then the following three conditions on  $G$  are equivalent:*

- (a)  $G$  is a clone of  $U(H)$
- (b)  $G$  has the  $H$ -extension property
- (c) There exists a surjective  $H$ -colouring of  $G$  with respect to which  $G$  is both  $H$ -universal and  $H$ -homogeneous in  $\rightarrow H_c$ .

**Proof:**

**(a) implies (b):** Since an isomorphism preserves all graph theoretical properties, it suffices to prove that  $U(H)$  has the properties ascribed to  $G$  in (b).

We shall prove that  $U(H)$  has the  $H$ -extension property with respect to the partition  $\mathbf{N}_1 \cup \mathbf{N}_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup \mathbf{N}_k \triangleright$  of  $V(U(H))$  which is induced by the canonical surjective homomorphism  $\mu : U(H) \rightarrow H$  defined by  $n \mapsto w_j$  for every  $n \in \mathbf{N}_j$ .

Consider for any index  $j$  with  $1 \leq j \triangleleft \leq k \triangleright$  any finite subset  $Z_j$  of  $\mathbf{N}_j$ , a finite  $Q \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots \triangleleft k \triangleright\}$  with  $w_h w_j \in E(H)$  for every  $h \in Q$ , and any two finite disjoint subsets  $X_h$  and  $Y_h$  of  $V_h$  for each  $h \in Q$ . Construct  $n \in \mathbf{N}_j$  by having in its prime factorization a factor  $p_u^j$  for every  $u$  in any  $X_h$ ; a factor  $p_u^0 = 1$  for every  $u$  in any  $Y_h$ ; a factor  $p^j$  for some prime  $p$  large enough to ensure that  $n$  is larger than all the numbers in  $Z_j \cup \cup \{X_h \cup Y_h \mid h \in Q\}$ ; and all other factors  $p_r^0 = 1$ .

It is easy to see that this vertex  $n$  has the required properties to ensure that  $U(H)$  has the  $H$ -extension property with respect to  $\mu$ .

**(b) implies (a):** Assume that  $G$  has the  $H$ -extension property with respect to the surjective homomorphism  $\lambda : G \rightarrow H$  with concomitant  $\lambda$ -induced partition  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup V_k \triangleright$  of  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots\}$ . For  $V(U(H)) := \mathbf{N}_1 \cup \mathbf{N}_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup \mathbf{N}_k \triangleright$  we consider any enumeration  $V(U(H)) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots\}$ . By a construction going back and forth between  $G$  and  $U(H)$ , recursive on both the indices of  $v_1, v_2, \dots$  as well as those of  $u_1, u_2, \dots$ , we shall now build an isomorphism  $\alpha : G \rightarrow U(H)$  with the property that, for every  $j$ ,  $\alpha|_{V_j}$  is a bijection from  $V_j$  to  $\mathbf{N}_j$ , i.e.,  $\alpha$  is  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -respecting.

Suppose  $v_1 \in V_i$ . Define  $\alpha(v_1)$  to be any element of  $\mathbf{N}_i$ . Let  $u_r$  be the vertex of  $U(H)$  with smallest index  $r$  such that  $u_r \notin \{\alpha(v_1)\}$ , and suppose that  $u_r \in \mathbf{N}_j$ . Now define the finite subset  $Z_j := V_j \cap \{v_1\}$  of  $V_j$ ,  $Q = \{i\}$  if  $w_i w_j \in E(H)$  and  $Q = \emptyset$  otherwise, and, for each  $h \in Q$ , two finite disjoint subsets  $X_h$  and  $Y_h$  of  $V_h$  as follows:

$$X_h := \{x \in V_h \mid \alpha(x) \in \{\alpha(v_1)\} \text{ and } \alpha(x)u_r \in E(U(H))\};$$

$$Y_h := \{y \in V_h \mid \alpha(y) \in \{\alpha(v_1)\} \text{ and } \alpha(y)u_r \notin E(U(H))\}.$$

(An explanatory remark: By writing, say  $\alpha(x)$ , we of course mean “ $\alpha$  has already been defined on  $x$  at this stage and . . . ”.)

Employing the  $H$ -extension property of  $G$  with respect to  $\lambda$ , we now have a vertex, say  $v_s$ , in  $V_j$  which is not in  $Z_j$ , i.e.,  $v_s \notin \{v_1\}$ , and  $v_s$  is adjacent in  $G$  to  $v_1$  if and only if  $\alpha(v_1)$  is adjacent in  $U(H)$  to  $u_r$ . By defining  $\alpha(v_s) = u_r$ , we have that

- $v_1 \in V_i$  and  $\alpha(v_1) \in \mathbf{N}_i$ ;  $v_s \in V_j$  and  $\alpha(v_s) \in \mathbf{N}_j$ ; and

- $v_1 v_s \in E(G)$  if and only if  $\alpha(v_1)\alpha(v_s) \in E(U(H))$ ; so
- $G[\{v_1, v_s\}] \cong U(H)[\{\alpha(v_1), \alpha(v_s)\}]$  under  $\alpha \mid \{v_1, v_s\}$ .

The next step in the back and forth construction of  $\alpha$  has to start again in  $G$  with vertex  $v_t$ , say, with lowest index  $t$  of those outside  $\{v_1, v_s\}$ . But let us rather describe the recursive step in general, distinguishing the two cases, starting from either vertex  $v_t \in V(G)$  with smallest index  $t$  of some sort, or starting from vertex  $u_r \in V(U(H))$  with smallest index  $r$  of some sort. In both cases the starting situation before the recursive step is the same:

$I$  is a finite subset of the index set  $\{1, 2, \dots\}$  of  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots\}$ , and  $V_I = \{v_i \in V(G) \mid i \in I\}$ . For each  $i \in I$  we have now already defined  $\alpha(v_i) \in V(U(H))$ , with, for each  $j$ , elements of  $V_j$  mapping into  $\mathbf{N}_j$  and  $G[V_I] \cong U(H)[\alpha(V_I)]$  under  $\alpha \mid V_I$ .

**Case 1**, starting from  $v_t \in V(G)$ : Let  $v_t \in V(G)$  be the vertex with the lowest index of all those outside  $V_I$ . We need to define  $\alpha(v_t) \in V(U(H))$ . Suppose  $v_t \in V_\ell$ ; we want  $\alpha(v_t) \in \mathbf{N}_\ell$ . Define the finite subset  $Z_\ell := \mathbf{N}_\ell \cap \alpha(V_I)$  of  $\mathbf{N}_\ell$ . Suppose that  $\alpha(V_I) \subseteq \mathbf{N}_{j_1} \cup \mathbf{N}_{j_2} \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{N}_{j_a}$ , and define  $Q = \{h \in \{j_1, j_2, \dots, j_a\} \mid w_h w_\ell \in E(H)\}$ . Now define, for every  $h \in Q$ , two finite disjoint subsets  $X_h$  and  $Y_h$  of  $\mathbf{N}_h$  as follows:

$$X_h := \{x \in \mathbf{N}_h \mid \text{for some } i \in I, x = \alpha(v_i) \text{ and } v_i v_t \in E(G)\};$$

$$Y_h := \{y \in \mathbf{N}_h \mid \text{for some } i \in I, y = \alpha(v_i), \text{ but } v_i v_t \notin E(G)\}.$$

By the  $H$ -extension property of  $U(H)$  with respect to  $\mu$ , there exists a vertex, say  $u_s \in \mathbf{N}_\ell$ , which is not in  $\alpha(V_I)$ , which is adjacent in  $U(H)$  to every  $\alpha(v_i)$ ,  $i \in I$ , for which  $v_i v_t \in E(G)$ , while  $u_s$  is adjacent in  $U(H)$  to no  $\alpha(v_i)$  for which  $v_i v_t \notin E(G)$ . By defining  $\alpha(v_t) = u_s$ , we now have extended  $\alpha$  to establish  $G[V_I \cup \{v_t\}] \cong U(H)[\alpha(V_I) \cup \{u_s\}]$ .

**Case 2**, starting from  $u_r \in V(U(H))$ : Let  $u_r$  be that vertex of  $U(H)$  with the least index  $r$  among those vertices not already in  $\alpha(V_I)$ . Suppose that  $u_r \in \mathbf{N}_j$ . We need to find a  $v_s \in V_j$  suitable for defining  $\alpha(v_s) = u_r$ . Define the finite subset  $Z_j := V_j \cap V_I$  of  $V_j$ . Suppose that  $V_I \subseteq V_{g_1} \cup V_{g_2} \cup \dots \cup V_{g_b}$ , and define  $Q = \{h \in \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_b\} \mid w_h w_j \in E(H)\}$ . Now define, for each  $h \in Q$ , the finite disjoint subsets  $X_h$  and  $Y_h$  of  $V_h$  as follows:

$$X_h := \{x \in V_h \mid x \in V_I \text{ and } \alpha(x)u_r \in E(U(H))\};$$

$$Y_h := \{y \in V_h \mid y \in V_I \text{ and } \alpha(y)u_r \notin E(U(H))\}.$$

Employing the  $H$ -extension property of  $G$  with respect to  $\lambda$ , we have a vertex, say  $v_s \in V_j \setminus V_I$ , which is adjacent in  $G$  to every  $v_i$ ,  $i \in I$ , for which  $\alpha(v_i)$  is adjacent in  $U(H)$  to  $u_r$  and to no  $v_i$  for which  $\alpha(v_i)$  is not adjacent in  $U(H)$  to  $u_r$ . By defining  $\alpha(v_s) = u_r$  we extend  $\alpha$  to ensure that  $G[V_I \cup \{v_s\}] \cong U(H)[\alpha(V_I) \cup \{u_r\}]$ .

By alternating the two cases in a back and forth manner through denumerably many recursive steps we construct the isomorphism  $\alpha : G \cong U(H)$ .

**(b) implies (c):** Suppose  $G$  satisfies (b) with respect to the surjective homomorphism  $\zeta : G \rightarrow H$ . Suppose (again) that  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots\}$ , with  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup V_k \triangleright$  the partition of  $V(G)$  induced by  $\zeta$ .

To demonstrate  $H$ -universality of  $G$  in  $\rightarrow H_c$  with respect to  $\zeta$ , let  $C$  be any graph in  $\rightarrow H_c$  and suppose  $V(C) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots \triangleleft u_\ell \triangleright\}$  with  $U_1 \cup U_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup U_k \triangleright$  the induced partition of its vertex set with respect to a homomorphism  $\lambda : C \rightarrow H$ . By recursion on the indices of the vertices of  $C$  we now construct a  $(\lambda, \zeta)$ -respecting embedding  $\alpha : C \rightarrow G$  of  $C$  into  $G$ .

If  $u_1 \in U_i$ , let  $\alpha(u_1)$  be any element of  $V_i$ . Next suppose that  $r$  is the least index of a vertex of  $C$  for which  $\alpha(u_r)$  has not yet been defined and suppose that  $u_r \in U_j$ . Let  $R = \{\alpha(u_1), \alpha(u_2), \dots, \alpha(u_{r-1})\}$  and suppose that  $R \subseteq V_{g_1} \cup V_{g_2} \cup \dots \cup V_{g_q}$ . Now define the finite

subset  $Z_j := V_j \cap R$  of  $V_j$ ,  $Q := \{h \in \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_q\} \mid w_h w_j \in E(H)\}$ , and, for each  $h \in Q$ , two finite disjoint subsets  $X_h$  and  $Y_h$  of  $V_h \cap R$  as follows:

$$X_h := \{x \in V_h \cap R \mid \alpha^{-1}(x)u_r \in E(C)\} \text{ and } Y_h := \{y \in V_h \cap R \mid \alpha^{-1}(y)u_r \notin E(C)\}.$$

Employing the  $H$ -extension property of  $G$  with respect to  $\zeta$ , we have a vertex, say  $v_s \in V_j$ , which is not in  $Z_j$  and which is, for every  $h \in Q$ , adjacent in  $G$  to every  $x \in X_h$  and not adjacent in  $G$  to any  $y \in Y_h$ . By defining  $\alpha(u_r) = v_s$  we extend  $\alpha$  and ensure in the process that  $C[\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_r\}] \cong G[\{\alpha(u_1), \alpha(u_2), \dots, \alpha(u_r)\}]$ . Thus a  $(\lambda, \zeta)$ -respecting isomorphism from  $C$  onto an induced subgraph of  $G$  is constructed in countably many recursive steps. So  $G$  is  $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$  with respect to  $\zeta$ .

Next we prove that  $G$  is  $H$ -homogeneous in  $\rightarrow H_c$  with respect to the *same*  $\zeta$  with respect to which it is  $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$ . Consider any two isomorphic finite induced subgraphs  $C$  and  $D$  of  $G$  with a  $\zeta$ -isochromatic isomorphism  $\alpha$  from  $C$  onto  $D$ . We prove that  $\alpha$  can be extended to a  $\zeta$ -isochromatic automorphism  $\alpha^+$  of  $G$  by a recursive construction on the indices of the vertices in  $V(G)$ . Hence suppose that  $V$  is a finite subset of  $V(G)$  containing  $V(C)$ , and that a  $\zeta$ -isochromatic isomorphism  $\alpha^+$ , which extends  $\alpha$ , has already been defined from  $V$  into  $V(G)$ :  $\alpha^+ : G[V] \cong G[\alpha^+(V)]$ . Let  $r$  be the least index of a vertex of  $G$  for which  $v_r \notin V$ ; we want to define  $\alpha^+(v_r)$ .

Suppose that, with respect to the  $\zeta$ -induced partition of  $V(G)$ ,  $v_r \in V_j$ . Define  $Z_j := \alpha^+(V) \cap V_j$ . Suppose  $\alpha^+(V) \subseteq V_{g_1} \cup V_{g_2} \cup \dots \cup V_{g_q}$  and let  $Q := \{h \in \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_q\} \mid w_h w_j \in E(H)\}$ . For every  $h \in Q$ , define

$$X_h := \{\alpha^+(x) \in V_h \mid x \in V \cap V_h \text{ and } xv_r \in E(G)\};$$

$$Y_h := \{\alpha^+(y) \in V_h \mid y \in V \cap V_h \text{ and } yv_r \notin E(G)\}.$$

By the  $H$ -extension property with respect to the  $\zeta$ -induced partition of  $V(G)$ , there exists a vertex  $z \in V_j$  which is not in  $\alpha^+(V)$  and which is adjacent to every vertex  $\alpha^+(x)$  in  $\alpha^+(V)$  for which  $x$  is adjacent to  $v_r$  in  $G$  and to no vertex  $\alpha^+(y)$  in  $\alpha^+(V)$  for which  $y$  is not adjacent to  $v_r$  in  $G$ . Hence, by defining  $\alpha^+(v_r) = z$ , we have extended  $\alpha^+$  to a  $\zeta$ -isochromatic isomorphism on  $V \cup \{v_r\}$  into  $G$ .

By symmetry (between  $C$  and  $D$ ), the same proof can now be used to extend it starting with  $V(D) \cup \{z\}$ . Hence, in denumerably many such recursive back and forth steps, a  $\zeta$ -isochromatic automorphism of  $G$  which extends  $\alpha$  is built, establishing the  $H$ -homogeneity of  $G$  with respect to  $\zeta$ .

**(c) implies (b):** Suppose  $G$  is  $H$ -universal in  $\rightarrow H_c$  and  $H$ -homogeneous in  $\rightarrow H_c$ , both with respect to the same surjective homomorphism  $\zeta : G \rightarrow H$  and corresponding partition

$$V(G) = V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup V_k \triangleright$$

in which each  $V_j = \zeta^{-1}(w_j)$ . With respect to this  $\zeta$ -induced partition we show that  $G$  has the  $H$ -extension property. Pick a finite subset  $Z_j$  of  $V_j$ , a finite set  $Q$  of indices  $h \in \{1, 2, \dots, \triangleleft k \triangleright\}$  for which  $w_h w_j \in E(H)$ , and, for each  $h \in Q$ , two finite disjoint subsets  $X_h$  and  $Y_h$  of  $V_h$ .

First we construct a finite graph  $A$  (considered as if outside  $G$ ) from the subgraph  $F = G[Z_j \cup \bigcup\{X_h \cup Y_h \mid h \in Q\}]$  of  $G$  by adding to  $F$  a vertex  $m \notin V(G)$  and, for each  $q \in \bigcup\{X_h \mid h \in Q\}$  an edge between  $m$  and  $q$ . From the partitioning

$$V(A) = \bigcup\{(X_h \cup Y_h) \mid h \in Q\} \cup (\{m\} \cup Z_j)$$

it is clear that  $A \in \rightarrow H_c$ : This is ensured by the homomorphism  $\lambda : A \rightarrow H$  which, for  $h \in Q$ , maps each element of  $X_h \cup Y_h$  to  $w_h$ , and each element of  $\{m\} \cup Z_j$  to  $w_j$ .

By the  $H$ -universality of  $G$  in  $\rightarrow H_c$  with respect to  $\zeta$ , the graph  $A$  can  $(\lambda, \zeta)$ -respectingly be isomorphically embedded into  $G$  by, say,  $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$ , where  $B = \alpha(A)$  is an induced subgraph of  $G$ . Suppose  $\alpha(m) = n \in V_j$ . (That  $\alpha(m) \in V_j$  follows from the fact that  $\zeta(\alpha(m)) = \lambda(m) = w_j$ .) It is clear that the subgraph  $F$  of  $G$  and the subgraph  $B - n$  of  $G$  are  $\zeta$ -isochromatically isomorphic. By the  $H$ -homogeneity of  $G$  in  $\rightarrow H_c$  with respect to  $\zeta$ , this isomorphism can be extended to a  $\zeta$ -isochromatic automorphism  $\beta$  of  $G$ . Clearly the vertex  $\beta^{-1}(n)$ , corresponding to  $n$ , has the properties required to ensure that  $G$  has the  $H$ -extension property with respect to the  $\zeta$ -induced partition of  $V(G)$  with which we started.  $\square$

Properties of  $R$ , universality, extension, and homogeneity, have now been  $H$ -“relativised”.  $R$  is also self-complementary, i.e., isomorphic to its complement. Does  $U(H)$  have what we could call its “ $H$ -complement” to which it is isomorphic? The answer is “yes”.

We shall now define a graph  $U^*(H)$ , which will turn out to be a clone of  $U(H)$ . Its vertex set is the same as that of  $U(H)$ :

$$V(U^*(H)) := \mathbf{N}_1 \cup \mathbf{N}_2 \cup \dots \triangleleft \cup \mathbf{N}_k \triangleright .$$

In  $U^*(H)$  there are no edges between vertices from the same  $\mathbf{N}_j$ . If  $m \in \mathbf{N}_h$  and  $n \in \mathbf{N}_j$ ,  $h \neq j$ , and  $w_h w_j \notin E(H)$ , then there is no edge in  $U^*(H)$  between  $m$  and  $n$ . If, however,  $w_h w_j \in E(H)$ , then  $mn \in E(U^*(H))$  if and only if  $mn \notin E(U(H))$ :

$$E(U^*(H)) := \{mn \mid \mu(m)\mu(n) \in E(H) \text{ but } mn \notin E(U(H))\}.$$

**Theorem 3**  $U^*(H) \cong U(H)$ .

**Proof:**

By Theorem 2 it is sufficient to prove that  $U^*(H)$  has the  $H$ -extension property. The same function  $\mu : V(U^*(H)) \rightarrow V(H)$  that we had before as the canonical  $\mu : U(H) \rightarrow H$  is also a surjective  $H$ -colouring of  $U^*(H)$ , inducing the same partition of  $V(U^*(H))$  into  $\mathbf{N}_j$ 's. We show that  $U^*(H)$  has the  $H$ -extension property with respect to this  $\mu$ .

Choose a  $j$ ; a finite subset  $Z_j$  of  $\mathbf{N}_j$ ; a finite set  $Q$  of indices  $h$  such that  $w_h w_j \in E(H)$ ; and, for each  $h \in Q$ , two finite disjoint subsets  $X_h^*$  and  $Y_h^*$  of  $\mathbf{N}_h$ . Now define, for each  $h \in Q$ ,  $X_h = Y_h^*$  and  $Y_h = X_h^*$ . By the  $H$ -extension property of  $U(H)$  there is a vertex  $z \in \mathbf{N}_j \setminus Z_j$  which is adjacent in  $U(H)$  to every vertex in every  $X_h$  and to no vertex in any  $Y_h$ . By the definition of  $E(U^*(H))$ ,  $z$  is adjacent in  $U^*(H)$  to every vertex in every  $X_h^*$  and to no vertex in any  $Y_h^*$ . Hence  $U^*(H)$  has the  $H$ -extension property with respect to  $\mu$ , and so is a clone of  $U(H)$ .  $\square$

At the end of Section 1 in Corollary 1 we formulated how, with apt small changes to definitions, the  $H$ -universality of  $U(H)$  in  $\rightarrow H_c$  (as established in Theorem 1) holds also in the case of digraphs. Similarly now, modulo slight adaptations of the definitions of the “ $H$ -extension property” and being “ $H$ -homogeneous in  $\rightarrow H_c$ ”, no major conceptual struggle is required to see the truth of

**Corollary 2** *Given the obvious definitions of the concepts involved, Theorems 2 and 3 hold for digraphs too.*

## 4 Special cases: $H \cong K_k$ , and $U(H) \cong R$

We now investigate the special case of the definitions and results of the previous two sections if we choose  $H = K_k$ . Note that the existence of a homomorphism  $\lambda : G \rightarrow K_k$  is equivalent to the existence of a partition  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_k$  of the vertex set  $V(G)$  into subsets inducing edgeless subgraphs of  $G$ , i.e., the existence of a (classical)  $k$ -colouring of  $G$ . Hence the hom-property  $\rightarrow (K_k)_c$  is the property of countable  $k$ -colourable graphs.

Taking these remarks into account, the concepts defined above simplify to:

- $G$  is  $K_k$ -universal in  $\rightarrow(K_k)_c$  if there is a  $k$ -colouring  $\zeta$  of  $G$  which uses all  $k$  colours, such that for every  $k$ -colourable graph  $F$  (in  $\rightarrow(K_k)_c$ ) and every  $K_k$ -colouring  $\lambda : F \rightarrow K_k$  there is a  $(\lambda, \zeta)$ -respecting isomorphic embedding  $\nu : F \rightarrow G$ ; hence for every  $k$ -colouring  $\lambda : V(F) \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  of  $F$  the  $k$ -colouring  $\zeta : V(G) \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  of  $G$  is such that the isomorphism  $\nu$  respects the colours assigned to vertices, i.e., if a vertex  $x$  of  $F$  is assigned the colour  $j$  by  $\lambda$ , then the vertex  $\nu(x)$  of  $G$  is assigned the same colour  $j$  by  $\zeta$ .
- In this strong sense of universality,  $U(K_k)$  is  $K_k$ -universal in  $\mathcal{O}_c^k$  by Theorem 1.

We can also simplify the characterisation of  $U(H)$  when taking  $H = K_k$ . Again we start with the simplified definitions:

- Consider (again) a  $k$ -colourable graph  $G$  and consider any  $k$ -colouring  $\lambda : G \rightarrow K_k$  of it with  $V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_k$  its colour classes. Let  $\alpha : C \rightarrow D$  be any isomorphism between induced subgraphs  $C$  and  $D$  of  $G$ . Then  $\alpha$  is  $\lambda$ -isochromatic if it preserves the colours assigned to the vertices of  $C$ . Furthermore,  $G$  is  $\lambda$ -homogeneous if every  $\lambda$ -isochromatic isomorphism between finite induced subgraphs  $C$  and  $D$  of  $G$  extends to a  $\lambda$ -isochromatic automorphism of  $G$ . Furthermore, a  $k$ -colourable graph  $G \in \mathcal{O}_c^k$  is  $K_k$ -homogeneous in  $\mathcal{O}_c^k$  if it is  $\lambda$ -homogeneous for some surjective  $k$ -colouring  $\lambda : G \rightarrow K_k$ .
- These concepts can now be used to characterise the clones of  $U(K_k)$  by simply formulating a special case of Theorem 2.

The concept of a universal graph in  $\mathcal{O}_c^k$  is revisited in the next section where a second construction of such a graph is given.

We now turn our attention to the special case  $H = K_{\aleph_0}$ . In this case, it is immediate to see that  $U(H)$  is universal in  $\mathcal{I}_c$  since  $(\rightarrow K_{\aleph_0})_c = \mathcal{I}_c$ . Indeed, we shall see that  $U(H)$  is a clone of the Rado graph  $R$ , the classical universal graph in  $\mathcal{I}_c$ . Hence our construction of  $U(H)$ , using the prime factorizations of positive integers, supplements the many constructions of  $R$  discussed in [2].

Our result uses the fact that the Rado graph is characterised by the (classical) extension property (for which see [4]): A graph  $G$  is said to have the **extension property** if for every two finite disjoint sets of vertices  $X$  and  $Y$  of  $G$  there is a vertex of  $G$  outside  $X \cup Y$  which is adjacent in  $G$  to every vertex of  $X$  and to no vertex of  $Y$ . Furthermore, a graph  $G$  is here said to have the **weak extension property** if for every finite set of vertices  $X$  of  $G$  there is a vertex of  $G$  outside  $X$  which is adjacent in  $G$  to every vertex of  $X$ .

**Theorem 4** *The graph  $U(H)$  has the extension property (i.e.,  $U(H) \cong R$ ) if and only if  $H$  has the weak extension property.*

**Proof:**

$\Rightarrow$ : Suppose  $U(H)$  has the extension property. Let  $X = \{w_{i_1}, w_{i_2}, \dots, w_{i_p}\}$  be any finite subset of  $V(H)$ . Pick a finite set  $X' = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p\}$  of vertices in  $V(U(H))$  with  $u_j \in \mathbf{N}_{i_j}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq p$  – and  $Y' = \emptyset$  if you insist. By the extension property of  $U(H)$  there is a vertex  $u \in V(U(H))$ , say  $u \in \mathbf{N}_\ell$ , with  $u_j u \in E(U(H))$  for every  $j$ . By the definition of adjacency in  $U(H)$ ,  $\mathbf{N}_\ell \neq \mathbf{N}_j$  for every  $j$ . Since the canonical  $\mu : U(H) \rightarrow H$  preserves adjacency, it follows that  $w_{i_j} w_\ell \in E(H)$  for every  $j$ , establishing the weak extension property of  $H$ .

$\Leftarrow$ : Suppose  $H$  has the weak extension property. Let  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\}$  and  $Y = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_q\}$  be any two finite disjoint subsets of  $V(U(H))$ . Assume that  $X \subseteq \mathbf{N}_{i_1} \cup \mathbf{N}_{i_2} \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{N}_{i_p}$  where the sets in this union need not all be different. Consider the finite set  $\{w_{i_1}, w_{i_2}, \dots, w_{i_p}\} \subseteq V(H)$  (not necessarily all different vertices). By the weak extension property of  $H$ , there is a vertex  $w_\ell \in V(H)$  with  $w_{i_j} w_\ell \in E(H)$  for every  $j$ . By specifying its prime factorization, we define a vertex  $n \in \mathbf{N}_\ell$  of  $U(H)$  which is adjacent in  $U(H)$  to every element of  $X$  and to no element of  $Y$ :

- $n_m = \ell$  if  $m \in X$ ;

- $n_s = \ell$  for some  $s \notin Y$  for which the associated prime  $p_s$  is larger than every element in  $X \cup Y$ ;  
and
- $n_t = 0$  for each other  $t$ , including any  $t \in Y$ .

This  $n$  has the properties required for the extension property of  $U(H)$ .  $\square$

We note that, while  $U(H)$  is always  $H$ -homogeneous in  $\rightarrow H_c$  (Theorem 2), when  $U(H)$  has the extension property it also has the different property of being homogeneous, like its clone  $R$ .

Since  $K_{\aleph_0}$  obviously has the weak extension property, we immediately have that  $U(K_{\aleph_0}) \cong R$ . Clearly,  $K_{\aleph_0}$  does not have the extension property. We conclude this section with an example of a non-complete (denumerable) graph  $G$  which also has the weak extension property but not the extension property: Let  $V(G)$  be the set of all finite subsets of  $\mathbf{N}$  and let  $AB \in E(G)$  if and only if  $A$  and  $B$  are different comparable subsets of  $\mathbf{N}$ , i.e., subsets satisfying  $A \subset B$  or  $B \subset A$ . The weak extension property easily follows by considering the union of finitely many finite sets (together with an extra element, if needed); it is the vertex with the required properties. The fact that  $G$  does not have the extension property follows by considering, for  $X$  any singleton  $\{F\}$  consisting of any finite set  $F$  with at least two elements and for  $Y$  the finite set of its proper subsets  $\{H \mid H \subset F\}$ . Clearly, every (finite) subset of  $\mathbf{N}$  comparable to  $F$  is then comparable to some element of  $Y$ .

## 5 Another universal graph in $k$ -colourable countable graphs

A graph  $G$  is called  **$k$ -colourable** ( $k \geq 1$ ) if its vertex set can be partitioned into  $k$  subsets such that every edge has its endpoints in two of these (different) sets. The graph property of countable  $k$ -colourable graphs is  $\mathcal{O}_c^k = \{G \mid G \text{ is a countable } k\text{-colourable graph}\}$ ; it is also an induced-hereditary graph property (of finite character, by the Compactness Theorem – see [5]). The existence of a universal graph in  $\mathcal{O}_c^k$  is already guaranteed by the results of [10] (and reassured by Theorem 1 since  $\mathcal{O}_c^k = (\rightarrow K_k)_c$ ).

Every positive integer  $n$  has a unique  **$(k+1)$ -ary expansion** with entries from  $\{0, 1, \dots, k\}$ , i.e., a (finite) power series  $n = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i(k+1)^i$  with  $k \geq 1$  and  $0 \leq n_i \leq k$ . We shall refer to  $n_{i-1}$  ( $i \geq 1$ ) as the **entry in the  $i$ 'th position** of the expansion. We use this fact to define  $k$  denumerable, pairwise disjoint, proper subsets  $\mathbf{M}_1, \mathbf{M}_2, \dots, \mathbf{M}_k$  of  $\mathbf{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ :  $\mathbf{M}_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq k$ ) is the set of all those positive integers whose  $(k+1)$ -ary expansion has all entries from only  $\{0, i\}$ . We now define a graph  $U_k$  as follows: The vertex set of  $U_k$  is

$$V(U_k) := \mathbf{M}_1 \cup \mathbf{M}_2 \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{M}_k.$$

In  $U_k$  there are no edges between vertices from the same  $\mathbf{M}_\ell$ . If  $m \in \mathbf{M}_i$  and  $n \in \mathbf{M}_j$  ( $i \neq j$ ), then there is an edge in  $U_k$  between  $m$  and  $n$  if and only if  $m < n$  and  $n$  has the entry  $j$  in position number  $m$  of its  $(k+1)$ -ary expansion:  $n_{m-1} = j$ . For this graph we shall now prove universality in the set  $\mathcal{O}_c^k$ .

**Theorem 5** *For any positive integer  $k$  the graph  $U_k$  is universal in  $\mathcal{O}_c^k$ .*

**Proof:**

By the construction of  $U_k$ , it is clear that  $U_k \in \mathcal{O}_c^k$ , in fact  $U_k \in \mathcal{O}_d^k$ .

Let  $G$  with  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots\}$  be any countable  $k$ -colourable graph. We recursively construct an injection  $\alpha : V(G) \rightarrow V(U_k)$  such that  $\alpha(V(G))$  induces a subgraph of  $U_k$  which, under  $\alpha$ , is isomorphic to  $G$ . Since  $G$  is  $k$ -colourable, there is a partition  $V(G) = V_1 \cup V_2 \cup \dots \cup V_k$  such that  $G$  has no edge between any two vertices from the same  $V_\ell$ . Suppose  $v_1 \in V_i$  and let  $\alpha(v_1)$  be any element of  $\mathbf{M}_i$ . Next assume that  $\alpha(v_1), \alpha(v_2), \dots, \alpha(v_{p-1})$  have already been specified so that  $G[\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{p-1}\}] \cong U_k[\{\alpha(v_1), \alpha(v_2), \dots, \alpha(v_{p-1})\}]$ . Suppose that  $v_p \in V_j$ .

We shall construct an  $n \in \mathbf{M}_j$  which is a suitable choice for  $\alpha(v_p)$  by prescribing its  $(k+1)$ -ary expansion. Let  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_\ell\}$  be the subset of  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{p-1}\}$  of those vertices which are adjacent to  $v_p$  in  $G$ , (none of them is with  $v_p$  in  $V_j$ , of course). Now the  $(k+1)$ -ary expansion of  $n$  has entry  $j$  in the positions with numbers  $\{\alpha(u_1), \alpha(u_2), \dots, \alpha(u_\ell)\}$ , as well as in one position with a number so large as to ensure that  $n$  is larger than each of  $\alpha(u_1), \alpha(u_2), \dots, \alpha(u_\ell)$  – and entry 0 in all other positions. It is clear that by specifying  $\alpha(v_p) = n$  we have that  $G[\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_p\}] \cong U_k[\{\alpha(v_1), \alpha(v_2), \dots, \alpha(v_p)\}]$ . Thus an isomorphism from  $G$  onto an induced subgraph of  $U_k$  is constructed in countably many steps.  $\square$

If you now wonder whether  $U_k$  is even  $K_k$ -universal in  $\mathcal{O}_c^k$ , the answer is “yes”, as will be seen in Theorem 6. Note that both constructions we provide of universal graphs in  $\mathcal{O}_c^k$ , namely  $U(K_k)$  in Section 2 and  $U_k$  above, have the desirable properties of what is called an A-type universal graph in [3].

We now proceed to show that the graph  $U_k$  also has, like  $U(K_k)$ , the  $K_k$ -extension property with respect to the surjective homomorphism  $\zeta : U_k \rightarrow K_k$  which maps every vertex in  $\mathbf{M}_j$  to the vertex  $j$  of  $K_k$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq k$ .

**Lemma 1** *The graph  $U_k$  has the  $K_k$ -extension property with respect to  $\zeta$ .*

**Proof:**

Let  $\mathbf{M}_1 \cup \mathbf{M}_2 \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{M}_k$  be the partition of  $V(U_k)$  induced by  $\zeta$ . Pick a  $j$ , a finite subset  $Z_j$  of  $\mathbf{M}_j$ , any subset  $Q$  of  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\} \setminus \{j\}$ , and, for every  $h \in Q$ , two finite disjoint subsets  $X_h$  and  $Y_h$  of  $\mathbf{M}_h$ . We define  $v \in \mathbf{M}_j$  through its  $(k+1)$ -ary expansion by putting an entry  $j$  in every position  $u$  for which  $u \in \bigcup\{X_h \mid h \in Q\}$  and in some position which is larger than all of the numbers in  $Z_j \cup \bigcup\{(X_h \cup Y_h) \mid h \in Q\}$  and a 0 in every position  $u$  for which  $u \in \bigcup\{Y_h \mid h \in Q\}$ ; the remaining positions can be filled with 0’s and (finitely many)  $j$ ’s at will. It is easy to see that this vertex  $v$  has the required properties.  $\square$

From Lemma 1, together with Theorem 2, it now follows that  $U_k$  and  $U(K_k)$ , although constructed differently, are clones of each other, and hence share the same graph theoretical properties. From Theorem 2 we then have as a special case

**Theorem 6** *Let  $G$  be any denumerable graph. Then the following four conditions on  $G$  are equivalent:*

- (a)  *$G$  is a clone of  $U_k$*
- (b)  *$G$  is a clone of  $U(K_k)$*
- (c)  *$G$  has the  $K_k$ -extension property*
- (d) *There exists a surjective  $K_k$ -colouring of  $G$  with respect to which  $G$  is both  $K_k$ -universal and  $K_k$ -homogeneous in  $\rightarrow(K_k)_c$ .*

## 6 Split graphs

In logic, a contradiction and a tautology harbour no employable information: no possibility, or every possibility, is allowed. Somewhat analogously, in graph theory, an edgeless graph and a complete graph have similarly inane internal structure. This has the effect that if in  $U_{k+l}$  we replace  $l$  of the edgeless induced subgraphs by complete subgraphs, we easily obtain another universal graph. We now describe this briefly.

Following [7], a graph  $G$  is called a  $(k, l)$ -**split graph** ( $k \geq 0$ ,  $l \geq 0$  and  $k + l \geq 2$ ) if its vertex set can be partitioned into  $k + l$  (possibly empty) subsets

$$V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k, V_{k+1}, V_{k+2}, \dots, V_{k+l}$$

such that each induced subgraph  $G[V_i]$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$  is edgeless, while each induced subgraph  $G[V_j]$ ,  $j = k + 1, k + 2, \dots, k + l$  is a complete subgraph of  $G$ . The graph property of countable  $(k, l)$ -split graphs is denoted by  $\mathcal{S}_c^{k,l} = \{G \mid G \text{ is a countable } (k, l)\text{-split graph}\}$ ; it is also an induced-hereditary graph property. Note that the  $(k, 0)$ -split graphs are exactly the  $k$ -colourable graphs, i.e.,  $\mathcal{S}_c^{k,0} = \mathcal{O}_c^k$ .

We now define the graph  $U_{k,l}$  with the following adaptation of our previous graph  $U_{k+l}$ . It has vertex set

$$V(U_{k,l}) = V(U_{k+l}) = \mathbf{M}_1 \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{M}_k \cup \mathbf{M}_{k+1} \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{M}_{k+l}$$

but now with no edges between vertices from the same  $\mathbf{M}_i$  when  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ; and all possible edges between vertices from the same  $\mathbf{M}_j$  when  $k + 1 \leq j \leq k + l$ . Edges between vertices from  $\mathbf{M}_g$  and  $\mathbf{M}_h$  ( $g \neq h$ ) are exactly as in  $U_{k+l}$ . Then the proof of Theorem 5 can be rewritten with slight adaptations to yield

**Theorem 7** *For any integers  $k$  and  $l$ , where  $k \geq 0, l \geq 0$  and  $k + l \geq 2$ , the graph  $U_{k,l}$  is universal in  $\mathcal{S}_c^{k,l}$ .*

We have not (yet) been able to prove or disprove that  $U_{k,k}$  is self-complementary, but formulate the open

**Conjecture 1**  $U_{k,k} \cong \overline{U_{k,k}}$ .

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