

# On endotype of bipartite graphs<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** A characterization of E-H-unretractive bipartite graphs is given. Base on this, it is proved that there is no bipartite graph with endotype  $1 \pmod 4$ .

**Keywords:** Endomorphism monoid; unretractivity; bipartite graph; endotype.

**Classification:** AMS 05C25 / CLC O157.5

## 1. Introduction and preliminaries

The monoid of endomorphisms of a graph has been the object of researches in the theory of semigroups for quite some time (cf.[1,2]). The graphs for which different endomorphism classes coincide (i.e. various unretractivities) is one of the main themes in this line, and as justification for the investigation one takes the rich algebra structure which is put on a graph by its endomorphism classes and the numerous questions connected with them (cf.[3]). Among open questions raised in [3] are: Do there exist graphs of endotype 9 and 25? What are conditions on a graph  $G$  for various unretractivities of  $G$ ? A general answer to these questions seems to be difficult (c.f. [4]). Undoubtedly bipartite graphs constitute one of the most important families of graphs. In this paper bipartite graphs with E-H- unretractivity are explicitly presented, and furthermore it is proved that there is no bipartite graph with endotype  $1 \pmod 4$ .

We consider only finite undirected graphs without loops and multiple edges. If  $G$  is a graph, we denote by  $V(G)$  (or simply  $G$ ) and  $E(G)$  its vertex set and edge set respectively. By  $K_n$  we denote a complete graph with  $n$  vertices and by  $C_n$  a cycle with  $n$  vertices. It is well known that a graph is bipartite if and only if it does not contain any  $C_n$  where  $n$  is an odd number, and therefore trees constitute a special class of bipartite graphs. An empty graph with  $n$  vertices is denoted by  $\overline{K}_n$ . The distance of the vertices  $a$  and  $b$  in  $G$  is denoted by  $d_G(a, b)$ . The diameter of a connected graph  $G (\neq K_1)$  is denoted by  $diam(G)$  and define  $diam(K_1) = 0$ . A subgraph  $H$  of  $G$  is called *isometric* if for any  $x, y \in H$ ,  $d_H(x, y) = d_G(x, y)$ . The length of the shortest cycle (if it exists) of a graph  $G$  is called the *girth* of  $G$ , denoted by  $gir(G)$ . We use  $nG$  to represent a graph composed of  $n$  graphs each of

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which is isomorphic to a connected graph  $G$ . A complete bipartite graph  $G(V_1 \cup V_2, E)$  with  $|V_1| = m \geq 1$  and  $|V_2| = n \geq 1$  is denoted by  $K_{m,n}$ . A graph  $K_{1,n}$  is also called a *star*. Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be graphs with disjoint vertex sets. The *union* of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , denoted by  $G_1 \cup G_2$ , is a graph such that  $V(G_1 \cup G_2) = V(G_1) \cup V(G_2)$  and  $E(G_1 \cup G_2) = E(G_1) \cup E(G_2)$ . A component  $K_1$  is also called an *isolated* vertex of  $G$ . For a vertex  $a \in G$ , let  $N(a) = \{x \in G \mid \{x, a\} \in E(G)\}$  (the *neighborhood* of  $a$  in  $G$ ), and  $|N(a)|$  is called the *degree* of  $a$  in  $G$ , denoted by  $\text{deg}_G(a)$  or simply  $\text{deg}(a)$  if it is clear which graph  $G$  is referred to. The usual concepts such as connected graph, complete bipartite graph, complete graph, empty graph, path, cycle etc., which are not defined in this paper, can be found in [5].

The following definitions of various types of endomorphisms are mainly based on [3]. If  $G$  and  $H$  are graphs, then a mapping  $f : V(G) \rightarrow V(H)$  is called a *homomorphism* (or *morphism*) from  $G$  to  $H$  if  $\{a, b\} \in E(G)$  implies that  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(H)$  for any  $a, b \in G$ . Moreover, if  $f$  is bijective and its inverse mapping is also a homomorphism (from  $H$  to  $G$ ), then  $f$  is called an *isomorphism* from  $G$  to  $H$ . An *endomorphism* of  $G$  is a homomorphism from  $G$  to itself. An endomorphism is called a *strong endomorphism* if  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(G)$  implies that  $\{a, b\} \in E(G)$  for any  $a, b \in G$ . A bijective endomorphism of a graph  $G$  is called an *automorphism* of  $G$ . Evidently, an automorphism of a graph  $G$  is an isomorphism from  $G$  to itself. Let  $f$  be an endomorphism of graph  $G$  and let  $a \in G$ . Denote  $f^{-1}(a) := \{x \in G \mid f(x) = a\}$ . An endomorphism  $f$  is called a *half-strong endomorphism* if  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(G)$  implies that there exist  $c \in f^{-1}(f(a))$  and  $d \in f^{-1}(f(b))$  such that  $\{c, d\} \in E(G)$ . An endomorphism  $f$  is called a *locally strong endomorphism* if  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(G)$  implies that for any  $c \in f^{-1}(f(a))$ , there exists  $d \in f^{-1}(f(b))$  such that  $\{c, d\} \in E(G)$ . An endomorphism  $f$  is called a *quasi-strong endomorphism* if  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(G)$  implies that there exists  $c \in f^{-1}(f(a))$  such that for any  $d \in f^{-1}(f(b))$ ,  $\{c, d\} \in E(G)$ , where  $a, b, c, d \in G$ .

By  $\text{End}(G)$ ,  $\text{hEnd}(G)$ ,  $\text{lEnd}(G)$ ,  $\text{qEnd}(G)$ ,  $\text{sEnd}(G)$  and  $\text{Aut}(G)$  we denote the set of endomorphisms, half strong endomorphisms, locally strong endomorphisms, quasi-strong endomorphisms, strong endomorphisms and automorphisms of the graph  $G$ , respectively. Obviously,  $\text{End}(G) \supseteq \text{hEnd}(G) \supseteq \text{lEnd}(G) \supseteq \text{qEnd}(G) \supseteq \text{sEnd}(G) \supseteq \text{Aut}(G)$ . It is well-known that  $\text{End}(G)$  and  $\text{sEnd}(G)$  are monoids (a *monoid* is a semigroup with an identity element) and that  $\text{Aut}(G)$  is a group with respect to the composition of mappings, while  $\text{hEnd}(G)$ ,  $\text{lEnd}(G)$  and  $\text{qEnd}(G)$  are not monoids in-general. The coincidence of these endomorphism classes gives rise to various unretractivities of a graph. In particular, a graph  $G$  is called *E-H-unretractive* (respectively, *E-S-unretractive* and *E-A-unretractive* etc.) if  $\text{End}(G) = \text{hEnd}(G)$  (respectively,  $\text{End}(G) = \text{sEnd}(G)$  and  $\text{End}(G) =$

$Aut(G)$  etc.) If graph  $G$  is E-A-unretractive, we also call it simply *unretractive*. In [1] E-S-unretractivity, E-A-unretractivity and S-A-unretractivity of a graph are studied. In [6] E-A-unretractivity and S-A-unretractivity of joins and lexicographic products of graphs are characterized. Relationships among endomorphism classes of trees are explored in [7].

Let  $f \in End(G)$ . A subgraph of  $G$  is called the *endomorphmic image* of  $G$  under  $f$ , denoted by  $I_f$ , if  $V(I_f) = f(G)$ , and  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(I_f)$  if and only if there exist  $c \in f^{-1}(f(a))$  and  $d \in f^{-1}(f(b))$  such that  $\{c, d\} \in E(G)$ , where  $a, b, c, d \in V(G)$  (cf.[8] for the reasonableness of this definition). An element  $a$  of a semigroup  $S$  is called an *idempotent* if  $a^2 = a$  (cf. [9]). The set of idempotents of  $End(G)$  is denoted by  $Idpt(G)$ . Each  $f \in Idpt(G)$  is also called a *retraction* of  $G$ . If  $f$  is a retraction of graph  $G$ , the subgraph induced by  $f(G)(= \{f(x)|x \in G\})$  (i.e. the induced subgraph with vertex set  $f(G)$ ) is called a *retract* of  $G$  (cf.[6,10,11]).

**Proposition 1.1.**

- (1) [1, Example 1.2] *The cycles with odd lengths are unretractive.*
- (2) [7, Propositions 2.1 and 3.1] *Any tree is E-H-unretractive.*

**Proposition 1.2.** [12, Remark 1.3] *Let  $f \in End(G)$  for a graph  $G$  and let  $a, b \in G$ .*

- (1) *If  $G$  is connected, then  $I_f$  is connected;*
- (2)  $d_{I_f}(f(a), f(b)) \leq d_G(a, b)$ .

**Proposition 1.3.**

(1) [11, Theorem 5] *Every isometric tree  $T(\neq K_1)$  in a bipartite graph  $G$  is a retract of  $G$ , i.e. there exists  $f \in Idpt(G)$  such that  $T$  is a subgraph of  $G$  induced by  $f(G)$ .*

(2) [3, Proposition 2.2] *Idempotent endomorphisms of graph  $G$  are elements of  $hEnd(G)$ .*

(3) [13, Lemma 2.1(1)] *Let  $G$  be a graph and let  $f \in End(G)$ . Then  $f \in hEnd(G)$  if and only if  $I_f$  is an induced subgraph of  $G$ .*

**Proposition 1.4.** *Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph and let  $P$  be a path in  $G$ . If  $P$  is a geodesic, there exists  $f \in Idpt(G)$  such that  $I_f = P$ .*

**Proof.** Obviously,  $P$  is an isometric tree in  $G$ , and so by Proposition 1.3(1), there exists  $f \in Idpt(G)$  such that  $P$  is the subgraph induced by  $f(G)$ . By Proposition 1.3(2)  $f \in hEnd(G)$ , and so by Proposition 1.3(3)  $I_f$  is an induced subgraph of  $G$ . Hence  $I_f = P$ .  $\square$

## 2. E-H-unretractive bipartite graphs

In this section, we will explicitly characterize bipartite graphs with E-H-unretractivity (Theorem 2.10). First, we consider connected bipartite graphs.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $G$  be a connected bipartite graph with cycles. If  $\text{diam}(G) \leq \text{gir}(G) - 2$ ,  $G$  is E-H-unretractive.*

**Proof.** Assume  $G$  is not E-H-unretractive. Then there exists  $f \in \text{End}(G) \setminus \text{hEnd}(G)$ . Thus there exist  $a, b \in G$  such that  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(G)$ , whereas  $\{x, y\} \notin E(G)$  for any  $x \in f^{-1}(f(a))$  and any  $y \in f^{-1}(f(b))$ , and so by the definition of the image of an endomorphism,  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \notin E(I_f)$ . Since  $G$  is connected, by Proposition 1.2(1)  $I_f$  is connected, and so in  $I_f$  there is a geodesic  $P$  connecting  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  with length  $d_{I_f}(f(a), f(b))$ . Therefore  $P \cup \{f(a), f(b)\}$  is a cycle in  $G$  with length  $d_{I_f}(f(a), f(b)) + 1$ . Then  $\text{gir}(G) \leq d_{I_f}(f(a), f(b)) + 1$ . Furthermore,  $\text{gir}(G) \leq d_G(a, b) + 1 \leq \text{diam}(G) + 1$  by Proposition 1.2(2), which contradicts  $\text{diam}(G) \leq \text{gir}(G) - 2$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $G$  be a graph, and let  $f \in \text{Idpt}(G)$ . Then for any  $a \in I_f$ ,  $f(a) = a$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $a \in I_f$  and  $f^2 = f$ , there exists  $x \in G$  such that  $f(x) = a$  and so  $f(a) = f(f(x)) = f(x) = a$ .  $\square$

The next theorem characterizes connected bipartite graphs with E-H-unretractivity.

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $G$  be a connected bipartite graph. Then  $G$  is E-H-unretractive if and only if  $G$  is a tree or  $\text{diam}(G) \leq \text{gir}(G) - 2$ .*

**Proof.** Sufficiency is by Proposition 1.1(2) and Lemma 2.1.

Necessity. Now suppose  $G$  is not a tree and  $\text{diam}(G) \geq \text{gir}(G) - 1$ . Let  $\text{gir}(G) = n (= 4, 6, 8, \dots)$  and let  $\text{diam}(G) = d$ . So  $d \geq n - 1$  and there exists a geodesic  $P$  in  $G$  with length  $d$ , denoted by  $P = a_1 a_2 \dots a_{d+1}$ . By Proposition 1.4 there exists  $f \in \text{Idpt}(G)$  such that  $I_f = P$ . Let  $C_n = b_1 b_2 \dots b_n$  be a cycle in  $G$  with length  $n (= \text{gir}(G))$ . Now we define a mapping  $g$  as the composition of two morphisms, one is  $f$  and the other maps  $P$  to  $C_n$  by the rules  $a_i \mapsto b_i$  (for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ),  $a_i \mapsto b_{n-1}$  (for  $i$  odd and  $i \geq n + 1$ ), and  $a_i \mapsto b_n$  otherwise. Clearly,  $g \in \text{End}(G)$ . If  $g \in \text{hEnd}(G)$ ,

the edge  $\{b_1, b_n\}$  is the image of  $g$ , say  $g(\{x, y\}) = \{b_1, b_n\}$ , with  $g(x) = b_1$  and  $g(y) = b_n$ . Then  $f(\{x, y\}) = \{a_1, a_j\}$ , with  $j \in \{n + 2, n + 4, \dots\}$ , contradicting the fact that  $P$  is a geodesic.  $\square$

In particular, we see immediately the following:

**Corollary 2.4.** *All cycles are E-H-unretractive.*

**Proof.** Notice all cycles with odd lengths are unretractive (Proposition 1.1(1)) and all cycles  $C_{2m}$  ( $m \geq 2$ ) satisfy the condition in Theorem 2.3, i.e.  $\text{diam}(C_{2m}) = m \leq m + (m - 2) = 2m - 2 = \text{gir}(C_{2m}) - 2$ . The result follows immediately.  $\square$

Now, we consider E-H-unretractivity of non-connected bipartite graphs. First, we list several lemmas as follows:

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph with  $n(\geq 2)$  components.*

- (1) *If each component is  $K_1$ , i.e.  $G = \overline{K}_n$ , then  $G$  is E-H-unretractive;*
- (2) *If each component of  $G$  is  $K_2$  or  $K_{1,m}$  ( $m \geq 2$ ) (i.e. a star), then  $G$  is E-H-unretractive.*

**Proof.** (1) By the definition of a half-strong endomorphism,  $G$  is trivially E-H-unretractive.

(2) Suppose  $f \in \text{End}(G)$ . Let  $a, b \in G$  such that  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(G)$ . As  $G$  has no isolated vertices, there exist  $x, y \in G$  with  $\{a, x\} \in E(G)$  and  $\{b, y\} \in E(G)$ . So  $\{f(a), f(x)\} \in E(G)$  and  $\{f(b), f(y)\} \in E(G)$ . If the edge  $\{f(a), f(b)\}$  is exactly a component  $K_2$  of  $G$ , then  $f(x) = f(b)$ , i.e. there exist  $x \in f^{-1}(f(b))$  and  $a \in f^{-1}(f(a))$  such that  $\{a, x\} \in E(G)$ . If  $\{f(a), f(b)\}$  belongs to a component  $K_{1,m}$  where  $m \geq 2$ , then clearly either  $\text{deg}(f(a)) = 1$  and  $\text{deg}(f(b)) = m$  or  $\text{deg}(f(b)) = 1$  and  $\text{deg}(f(a)) = m$ . In the former situation, we have  $f(x) = f(b)$ , i.e. there exist  $x \in f^{-1}(f(b))$  and  $a \in f^{-1}(f(a))$  such that  $\{a, x\} \in E(G)$ . In the latter situation, we have  $f(y) = f(a)$ , i.e. there exist  $y \in f^{-1}(f(a))$  and  $b \in f^{-1}(f(b))$  such that  $\{b, y\} \in E(G)$ . Hence  $f \in \text{hEnd}(G)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.6.** *Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph with  $n(\geq 2)$  components. If exactly one component is  $K_1$  while any of the other components is  $K_2$ , then  $G$  is E-H-unretractive.*

**Proof.** Suppose  $f \in \text{End}(G)$ . Let  $a, b \in G$  such that  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(G)$ . Clearly at least one vertex of  $a$  and  $b$ , say  $a$ , is not an isolated

vertex of  $G$ . Then there exists  $c \in G$  such that  $\{a, c\}$  is a component  $K_2$  of  $G$ , and so  $\{f(a), f(c)\}$  is also a component  $K_2$  of  $G$ . Thus  $f(b) = f(c)$ , i.e. there exist  $a \in f^{-1}(f(a))$  and  $c \in f^{-1}(f(b))$  such that  $\{a, c\} \in E(G)$ , which implies  $f \in h\text{End}(G)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph with  $n(\geq 2)$  components. If exactly one component is  $K_2$  while any of the other components is  $K_1$ , then  $G$  is  $E$ - $H$ -unretractive.*

**Proof.** Suppose  $f \in \text{End}(G)$ . Let  $a, b \in G$  such that  $\{f(a), f(b)\} \in E(G)$ . Let  $\{u, v\}$  be the unique component  $K_2$  of  $G$ . Thus  $\{f(a), f(b)\} = \{u, v\}$ , say,  $f(a) = u$  and  $f(b) = v$ . So  $u \in f^{-1}(f(a))$  and  $v \in f^{-1}(f(b))$  such that  $\{u, v\} \in E(G)$ , which implies  $f \in h\text{End}(G)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8.** *Suppose  $G$  is a non-connected bipartite graph with isolated vertices. If there exists a component  $G_i$  in  $G$  such that  $\text{diam}(G_i) \geq 2$  or  $G = mK_2 \cup nK_1$  where  $m \geq 2, n \geq 2$ , then  $\text{End}(G) \neq h\text{End}(G)$ .*

**Proof.** Firstly, suppose there exists a component being  $K_1 = \{a\}$  and a component  $G_1$  with  $\text{diam}(G_1) \geq 2$ . Then there exist  $u, u_1, u_2 \in G$  such that the path  $P = uu_1u_2$  is a geodesic of  $G$ . By Proposition 1.4, there exists  $f \in \text{Idpt}(G \setminus \{a\})$  such that  $I_f = u_1u_2$ . Now define a mapping  $g$  by the rules  $g = f$  on  $G \setminus \{a\}$  and  $g(a) = u$ . It is routine to check that  $g \in \text{End}(G) \setminus h\text{End}(G)$ .

Secondly, suppose  $G$  is a union of  $n(\geq 2)$  isolated vertices, say,  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ , and  $m(\geq 2)$  components  $K_2$ s, say,  $\{x_1, y_1\}, \{x_2, y_2\}, \dots, \{x_m, y_m\}$ . Define a mapping  $g$  from  $V(G)$  to itself by the following rule:

$$g(x_i) = x_1 \text{ and } g(y_i) = y_1 \text{ for any } i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\};$$

$$g(a_1) = x_2 \text{ and } g(a_j) = y_2 \text{ for any } j \in \{2, 3, \dots, n\}.$$

It is easy to check  $g \in \text{End}(G)$ . Notice  $\{g(a_1), g(a_2)\} = \{x_2, y_2\} \in E(G)$ . However, since  $g^{-1}(g(a_1)) = g^{-1}(x_2) = \{a_1\}$  and  $g^{-1}(g(a_2)) = g^{-1}(y_2) = \{a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n\}$ , so for any  $s \in g^{-1}(g(a_1))$  and any  $t \in g^{-1}(g(a_2))$ ,  $\{s, t\} \notin E(G)$ . Thus  $g \notin h\text{End}(G)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.9.** *Suppose  $G$  is a non-connected bipartite graph without isolated vertices. Then  $\text{End}(G) \neq h\text{End}(G)$  if some component of  $G$  has a path of length 3.*

**Proof.** Let  $u_1u_2u_3u_4$  be a path of length 3 in  $G$  and let  $G$  be the union of two disjoint graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ . Define  $f$  as follows: it maps  $G_1$  to  $u_1u_2$  (with one bipartition class of  $G_1$  mapped to  $u_1$  and the other to  $u_2$ ), and

it maps  $G_2$  to  $u_3u_4$  (with one bipartition class of  $G_2$  mapped to  $u_3$  and the other to  $u_4$ ). Clearly,  $f \in \text{End}(G)$ , and since no edge is mapped onto  $\{u_2, u_3\}$ ,  $f \notin \text{hEnd}(G)$ .  $\square$

Note that for a connected bipartite graph  $G$ ,  $\text{diam}(G) = 0$  if and only if  $G = K_1$ ;  $\text{diam}(G) = 1$  if and only if  $G = K_2$ ;  $\text{diam}(G) = 2$  if and only if  $G = K_{m,n}$  with  $\max\{m, n\} \geq 2$ . Now we characterize E-H-unretractive bipartite graphs in the following theorem, and the proof should be clear by all the foregoing.

**Theorem 2.10.** *Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph with  $n(\geq 1)$  components. Then  $G$  is E-H-unretractive if and only if  $G$  belongs to one of the following cases:*

- (1)  $G$  is a tree;
- (2)  $n = 1$  and  $\text{diam}(G) \leq \text{gir}(G) - 2$ ;
- (3)  $n \geq 2$  and each component is  $K_1$ , i.e.  $G = \overline{K}_n$ ;
- (4)  $n \geq 2$ , and each component is  $K_2$  or  $K_{1,m}(m \geq 2)$  (i.e. a star);
- (5)  $n \geq 2$ , and exactly one component is  $K_1$  while any of the other components is  $K_2$ ;
- (6)  $n \geq 2$ , and exactly one component is  $K_2$  while any of the other components is  $K_1$ .

### 3. No bipartite graphs with endotype 1 mod 4.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph. If there exists a component  $G_1$  of  $G$  such that  $\text{diam}(G_1) \geq 3$ , then  $\text{hEnd}(G) \neq \text{lEnd}(G)$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $\text{diam}(G_1) \geq 3$ , there exists a geodesic  $P = a_1a_2a_3a_4$  in  $G_1$ . By Proposition 1.4, there exists  $f \in \text{Idpt}(G)$  such that  $I_f = P$ . Define a mapping  $g$  as the composition of two morphisms, one is  $f$  and the other maps  $P$  to itself by the rule  $a_i \mapsto a_i (i = 1, 2, 3)$  and  $a_4 \mapsto a_2$ . Note  $f$  is half strong (Proposition 1.3(2)). Evidently,  $g \in \text{hEnd}(G)$ .

We now show  $g \notin \text{lEnd}(G)$ . Note  $\{g(a_1), g(a_4)\} = \{a_1, a_2\} \in E(G)$ . Suppose there exists  $x \in g^{-1}(g(a_1))$  such that  $\{x, a_4\} \in E(G)$ . Then by Lemma 2.2  $\{a_1, a_4\} = \{f(a_1), f(a_4)\} = \{f(x), f(a_4)\} \in E(G)$ , contradicting the fact  $P = a_1a_2a_3a_4$  is a geodesic.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $G$  be a non-connected graph but  $G \neq \overline{K}_n (n \geq 2)$ . If  $G$  contains isolated vertices,  $\text{hEnd}(G) \neq \text{lEnd}(G)$ .*

**Proof.** Without loss of generality, let  $G_1, G_2, \dots, G_n (n \geq 2)$  be  $n$  components of  $G$  such that  $G_1 = K_1 = \{c\}$  and there exist  $a, b \in G_2$  with  $\{a, b\} \in E(G_2) (\subseteq E(G))$ . Let  $f$  be a mapping from  $V(G)$  to itself such that  $f(c) = a$  and  $f(x) = x$  for any  $x \in G \setminus \{c\}$ . Clearly  $f \in hEnd(G)$  with  $\{f(c), f(b)\} = \{a, b\} \in E(G)$ . Since  $c \in f^{-1}(f(c))$  and  $f^{-1}(f(b)) = \{b\}$  with  $\{c, b\} \notin E(G)$ ,  $f \notin lEnd(G)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $G$  be a non-connected bipartite graph. If each component of  $G$  is  $K_2$  or  $K_{m,n} (max\{m, n\} \geq 2)$  and  $G \neq sK_2 (s \geq 2)$ , then  $hEnd(G) \neq lEnd(G)$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $G = G_1 \cup H$  such that  $G_1 = K_{m,n}$  with  $max\{m, n\} \geq 2$ . Then  $diam(G_1) = 2$  and so we may let  $P = a_1 a_2 a_3$  be a geodesic of  $G_1$ . Then by Proposition 1.4, there exists  $f \in Idpt(G_1)$  such that  $I_f = P$ . Let  $e = \{u, v\} \in E(H)$ . Then there exists  $g \in Idpt(H)$  such that  $I_g = e$ . Define a mapping  $h$  from  $V(G)$  to itself by the following rule:  $h(x) = f(x)$  if  $x \in G_1$ ;  $h(x) = a_2$  if  $x \in g^{-1}(u)$ ;  $h(x) = a_3$  if  $x \in g^{-1}(v)$ . It is easy to see that  $h \in hEnd(G)$ . We now show that  $h \notin lEnd(G)$ . Since  $g \in Idpt(H)$  and  $u \in I_g$ , by Lemma 2.2,  $g(u) = u$  and so  $h(u) = a_2$ . Then  $\{h(a_1), h(u)\} = \{a_1, a_2\} \in E(G)$ . Note  $u \in h^{-1}(h(u)) \cap V(H)$  and  $h^{-1}(h(a_1)) = h^{-1}(a_1) \subseteq V(G_1)$ . So  $\{u, x\} \notin E(G)$  for any  $x \in h^{-1}(h(a_1))$ , which implies  $h \notin lEnd(G)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph. Then*

- (1)  $hEnd(G) = lEnd(G)$  if and only if  $End(G) = lEnd(G)$ ;
- (2)  $hEnd(G) = qEnd(G)$  if and only if  $End(G) = qEnd(G)$ ;
- (3)  $hEnd(G) = sEnd(G)$  if and only if  $End(G) = sEnd(G)$ ;
- (4)  $hEnd(G) = Aut(G)$  if and only if  $End(G) = Aut(G)$ .

**Proof.** Sufficiency is obvious for all four cases, and we only need to prove necessity for each case.

(1) Let  $hEnd(G) = lEnd(G)$ . By Lemmas 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3,  $G = K_{m,n} (max\{m, n\} \geq 2)$  or  $G = nK_2 (n \geq 2)$  or  $G = \overline{K_n} (n \geq 1)$ . Then by Theorem 2.10,  $hEnd(G) = End(G)$  and so  $End(G) = lEnd(G)$ .

(2) Since  $hEnd(G) = qEnd(G)$ ,  $hEnd(G) = lEnd(G)$ , and so by (1)  $End(G) = lEnd(G)$ . Hence  $End(G) = hEnd(G)$  and furthermore  $End(G) = qEnd(G)$ .

(3) Since  $hEnd(G) = sEnd(G)$ ,  $hEnd(G) = lEnd(G)$ , and so by (1)  $End(G) = lEnd(G)$ . Hence  $End(G) = hEnd(G)$  and furthermore  $End(G) = sEnd(G)$ .

(4) Since  $hEnd(G) = Aut(G)$ ,  $hEnd(G) = lEnd(G)$ , and so by (1)



$End(G) = lEnd(G)$ . Hence  $End(G) = hEnd(G)$  and furthermore  $End(G) = Aut(G)$ .  $\square$

The next corollary follows directly from the above theorem.

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph. The equality  $hEnd(G) = End(G)$  follows from any of the following equalities: (1)  $hEnd(G) = lEnd(G)$ ; (2)  $hEnd(G) = qEnd(G)$ ; (3)  $hEnd(G) = sEnd(G)$ ; (4)  $hEnd(G) = Aut(G)$ .*

We now quote the definitions of endospetrum and endotype of a graph  $G$  in [3] as follows:

$Endospec(G) = (|End(G)|, |hEnd(G)|, |lEnd(G)|, |qEnd(G)|, |sEnd(G)|, |Aut(G)|)$  and call this 6-tuple the *endospetrum* of  $G$ , and a 5-tuple  $(s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4, s_5)$  is associated with the above sequence where  $s_i = 1$  stands for " $\neq$ " while  $s_i = 0$  stands for " $=$ ", e.g.  $s_1 = 1$  stands for  $|End(G)| \neq |hEnd(G)|$ . The integer  $\sum_{i=1}^5 s_i 2^{i-1}$  is called *endotype* of  $G$  and is denoted as  $endotype(G)$ . Thus, in principle for any graph there are 32 possible endotypes: from 0 to 31.

In [3, P56] a question was raised: Do there exist graphs of endotypes 9 and 25? Now by Corollary 3.5 we can easily check a bipartite graph with  $s_1 = 1$  while  $s_2 = 0$  is non-existent. Thus we have the following theorem, which can partly answer this question.

**Theorem 3.6.** *There is no bipartite graph with endotype 1 mod 4.*

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