

Strong Kernel in Certain Oriented Networks

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Abstract

A kernel in a directed graph $D(V, E)$ is a set S of vertices of D such that no two vertices in S are adjacent and for every vertex u in $V \setminus S$ there is a vertex v in S , such that (u, v) is an arc of D . The problem of existence of a kernel itself is *NP*-complete for a general digraph. But in this paper we solve the strong kernel problem of certain oriented networks in polynomial time.

1 Introduction

The concept of kernel is widespread and appears in diverse fields such as logic, computational complexity, artificial intelligence, graph theory, game theory, combinatorics and coding theory [3, 4]. Efficient routing among a set of mobile hosts is one of the most important functions in ad hoc wireless networks. Dominating-set-based routing to networks with unidirectional links is proposed in [1, 14]. A few years ago a new interest for these studies arose due to their applications in finite model theory. Indeed variants of kernel are the best properties to provide counter examples of 0 – 1 laws in fragments of monadic second order logic [13].

A kernel [8] in a directed graph $D(V, E)$ is a set S of vertices of D such that no two vertices in S are adjacent and for every vertex u in $V \setminus S$ there is a vertex v in S , such that (u, v) is an arc of D . The minimum cardinality of all possible kernels in a directed graph D is denoted by $\kappa(D)$ and is called the kernel number. The concept of kernels in digraphs was introduced in different ways [15]. Von Neumann and Morgenstern [21] were the first to introduce kernels when describing winning positions in 2 person games. They proved that any directed acyclic graph has a unique kernel. Not every digraph has a kernel and if a digraph has a kernel, this kernel is not necessarily unique. For example, the directed 3-cycle (with vertices x, y, z and arcs $(x, y), (y, z), (z, x)$) has no kernel. All odd length directed cycles and most tournaments have no kernels [3, 4]. If D is finite, the decision problem of the existence of a kernel is *NP*-complete for a general digraph [7, 16, 20] and for a planar digraph with indegrees ≤ 2 , outdegrees ≤ 2 and degrees ≤ 3 [9]. Finding kernels in special classes of digraphs seems to be an open field of study. It has been shown [5] that the kernel problem is solvable in polynomial time for locally semicomplete digraphs, in which the out-neighbours (in-neighbours) of every vertex are adjacent. Kernels in some classes of planar digraphs were investigated in [6]. It is further known that a finite digraph all of whose cycles have even length has a kernel [18], and that the question of the

number of kernels is *NP*-complete even for this restricted class of digraphs [19]. It is somehow related to finding a maximum clique in graphs [11, 12], which is known to be difficult for random dense graphs. This sufficient condition for a digraph to have a kernel has been generalized by several authors [4, 5].

In this paper we view the kernel problem from a different perspective. In the literature, only the existence of kernel of a digraph G and its applications are extensively studied. Our aim in this paper is to investigate all strong orientations of a graph G and to determine the strong kernel number of G . This number is different from the independent domination number γ_i for undirected graphs where γ_i is the cardinality of a minimum independent dominating set [2]. For the graph in Figure 1 (a) $\Gamma = \{3, 4\}$ is an independent dominating set. Thus $\gamma_i = 2$ where as it is easy to verify that the kernel number is 3.

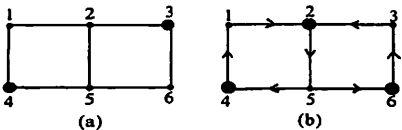


Figure 1: (a) $\gamma_i = 2$; (b): Kernel number = 3

2 Kernel in Oriented Graphs

An orientation of an undirected graph G is an assignment of exactly one direction to each of the edges of G . There are $2^{|E|}$ orientations for G . An orientation O of an undirected graph G is said to be strong if for any two vertices x, y of $G(O)$, there are both (x, y) -path and (y, x) -path in $G(O)$ [22].

Let G be an undirected graph. Let $O_x(G)$ denote all possible orientations of a graph G and $O_s(G)$ denote the set of all strong orientations of G . For an orientation $O \in O_x$, let $G(O)$ denote the directed graph with orientation O and whose underlying graph is G . The kernel number of $G(O)$ is denoted by $\kappa(G(O))$. For convenience we write as $\kappa(O)$.

Definition 2.1[8]: A kernel in a directed graph $D(V, E)$ is a set S of vertices of D such that no two vertices in S are adjacent and for every vertex u in $V \setminus S$ there is a vertex v in S , such that (u, v) is an arc of D . The minimum cardinality of all possible kernels in a directed graph D is called the kernel number and is denoted by $\kappa(D)$.

Definition 2.2: The kernel number κ_x of G is defined as $\kappa_x(G) = \min\{\kappa(O): O \in O_x(G)\}$ where $\kappa(O) = \min\{|K|, K \text{ is a kernel of } G(O)\}$.

Definition 2.3: The strong kernel number κ_s of G is defined as $\kappa_s(G) = \min\{\kappa(O): O \in O_s(G)\}$ where $\kappa(O) = \min\{|K|, K \text{ is a kernel of } G(O)\}$.

The strong kernel problem: The strong kernel problem of an undirected graph G is to find a kernel K of $G(O)$ for some strong orientation O of G such that $|K| = \kappa_s$.

An optimal lower bound for $\kappa_s(G)$ when G is a regular graph has been obtained in [17] and it is the key result used throughout this paper.

Theorem 2.1[17]: Let G be an r -regular graph on n vertices. Then $\kappa_s \geq \lceil n/r \rceil$.

3 Strong Kernel in Oriented Mobius Ladder M_n

In this section we determine the strong kernel number of Mobius Ladder M_n .

Definition 3.1[10]: The Mobius Ladder M_n is the graph obtained from the ladder $P_n \times P_2$ by joining the opposite end points of the two copies of P_n .

Remark 3.1: For convenience, we label the vertices of one copy of P_n as $1, 2, \dots, n$ and the other copy of P_n as $n+1, n+2, \dots, 2n$. $|V| = 2n$. See Figure 2.

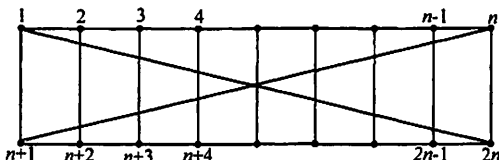


Figure 2: Mobius Ladder M_n

Lemma 3.1: Let G be the Mobius Ladder M_n . Let the cycle $C = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1, n, 2n, 2n-1, \dots, n+2, n+1, 1$ be oriented in the clockwise direction. All the other edges are oriented arbitrarily. Then G is strongly connected.

Proof: For $u, v \in V(G)$, $1 \leq u, v \leq 2n$, we claim that G is strongly connected. Since C is oriented in the clockwise direction, there exist directed paths from u to v and v to u . Thus G is strongly connected.

Theorem 3.1: Let G be M_n , $n \geq 4$. For $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, $\kappa_s = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$.

Proof: Consider an orientation O of G satisfying the following condition.

1. Orient the cycle C in the clockwise direction.

2. Let $K = \left\{ 2, 5, 8, 11, \dots, 3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor - 1 \right\} \cup \left\{ n, n+3, n+6, \dots, n+3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor \right\}$

By Lemma 3.1, the orientation O is a strong orientation of G . Since G is strongly connected, there is at least one incoming and one outgoing edge at every vertex of K . Thus to prove that K is a kernel, it is enough to prove that K is independent. Two vertices r and s of G are adjacent if and only if

(i) $|r - s| = 1$, $(r, s) \in (i, i+1)$, $1 \leq i \leq 2n-1$

(ii) $|r - s| = 2n-1$, $(r, s) \in (1, 2n)$

(iii) $|r - s| = n$, $(r, s) \in (i, n+i)$, $1 \leq i \leq n$

Choose any two vertices from K . Suppose we choose $u = 3i - 1$ and $v = n + 3j$,

$1 \leq i \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$, $0 \leq j \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$. Since $|(n + 3j) - (3i - 1)| = |n + 3(j - i) + 1| \neq n$, u and v are not adjacent.

We next claim that $|K| = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$. We verify the claim when K is as in 2. Since $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, $n = 3k + 1$ for some k .

Let $K = K_1 \cup K_2$ where $K_1 = \left\{ 2, 5, 8, 11, \dots, 3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor - 1 \right\}$ and

$K_2 = \left\{ n, n+3, n+6, \dots, n+3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor \right\}$. The cardinality of K_1 is $\left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$.

Similarly $|K_2| = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$. See Figure 3.

Hence $|K| = |K_1| + |K_2| = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor = \left\lfloor \frac{2n}{3} \right\rfloor$.

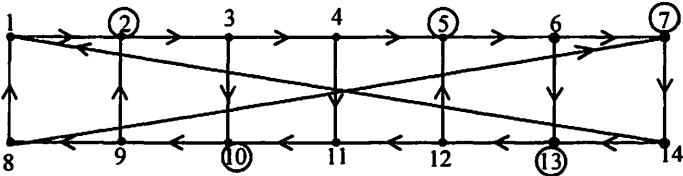


Figure 3: Encircled vertices form a kernel

Theorem 3.2: Let G be M_n , $n \geq 4$. For $n \not\equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, there exist a kernel K of M_n such that $|K| = \kappa_s(M_n) + 1 = \left\lfloor \frac{2n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1$.

Proof: Let M_n be oriented as in Lemma 3.1. Since G is strongly connected regular graph, by theorem 2.1, $\kappa_s \geq \left\lfloor \frac{2n}{3} \right\rfloor$.

Case 1: $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$

The independent set $K = \{1, 4, 7, \dots, n-2\} \cup \{n+2, n+5, n+8, \dots, 2n-1\} \cup \{n\}$

forms a kernel for M_n . Thus $|K| = \frac{n}{3} + \frac{n}{3} + 1 = \frac{2n}{3} + 1$.

Case 2: $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$

The independent set $K = \left\{ 2, 5, 8, 11, \dots, 3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor - 1 \right\} \cup \{n-1, n+1, 2n\}$

$\cup \left\{ n+3, n+6, \dots, n+3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor \right\}$ forms a kernel for M_n . Thus $|K| = \left\lfloor \frac{2n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1$.

The proofs for both the cases are similar to that of Theorem 3.1.

4 Strong Kernel in Oriented Circular Ladder $CL(n)$

In this section we determine the strong kernel number of Circular Ladder $CL(n)$.

Definition 4.1[10]: A circular ladder $CL(n)$ is the union of an outer cycle $\Gamma_0 = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, u_1\}$ and an inner cycle $\Gamma_1 = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, v_1\}$ with additional edges $(u_i, v_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ called spokes.

Remark 4.1: For convenience u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n are represented by $1, 2, \dots, n$ and v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n by $n+1, n+2, \dots, 2n$ respectively. For $1 \leq i, j \leq n$, we call the oriented spoke $(i, n+i)$, an inward spoke and the oriented spoke $(n+j, j)$ an outward spoke. See Figure 4.

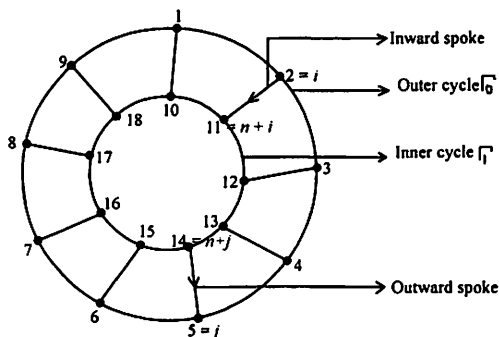


Figure 4: $CL(9)$, $(2, 11)$ and $(14, 5)$ represent inward spoke and outward spoke respectively

Lemma 4.1[10]: Let G be the circular ladder $CL(n)$, $n \geq 4$ with an inward spoke and an outward spoke. Let the outer cycle Γ_0 and the inner cycle Γ_1 be oriented in the clockwise and anticlockwise direction respectively. All other spokes are oriented arbitrarily. Then G is strongly connected.

Theorem 4.1: Let G be $CL(n)$, $n \geq 4$. For $n \not\equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, $\kappa_s = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$.

Proof: Consider an orientation O of G satisfying the following condition.

1. Orient the outer cycle Γ_0 and the inner cycle Γ_1 in the clockwise and anticlockwise direction respectively.

2.(a) Let $K = \{1, 4, 7, \dots, n-2\} \cup \{n+2, n+5, n+8, \dots, 2n-1\}$ when $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$.

(b) Let $K = \{1, 4, 7, \dots, n-1\} \cup \{n+2, n+5, n+8, \dots, 2n\}$ when $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$.

By Lemma 4.1, the orientation O is a strong orientation of G . Since G is strongly connected, there is at least one incoming and one outgoing edge at every vertex of K . Thus to prove that K is a kernel, it is enough to prove that K is independent. Two vertices r and s of G are adjacent if and only if

(i) $|r-s| = 1, 1 \leq r, s \leq n, n+1 \leq r, s \leq 2n$

(ii) $|r-s| = n-1, (r, s) \in (n, 1) \& (2n, n+1)$

(iii) $|r-s| = n, (r, s) \in (i, n+i), 1 \leq i \leq n$

Choose any two vertices, one vertex on the outer cycle Γ_0 and another vertex on the inner cycle Γ_1 . Suppose we choose $u = 3i - 2$ and $v = n + 3j - 1$, $1 \leq i, j \leq \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil$ when $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$. Since $|(n + 3j - 1) - (3i - 2)| = |n + 3(j - i) + 1| \neq n$, u and v are not adjacent. Similar arguments hold for the case 2(a). See Figure 5.

We next claim that $|K| = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$. We verify the claim when K is as in 2(b). Since $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$, $n = 3k + 2$ for some k . Let $K = K_1 \cup K_2$ where $K_1 = \{1, 4, 7, \dots, n - 1\}$ and $K_2 = \{n + 2, n + 5, n + 8, \dots, 2n\}$.

The cardinality of K_1 is given by $|K_1| = \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil$. Similarly, the cardinality of K_2 is given by $|K_2| = \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil$. Hence $|K| = |K_1| + |K_2| = \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil + \left\lceil \frac{n}{3} \right\rceil = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$.

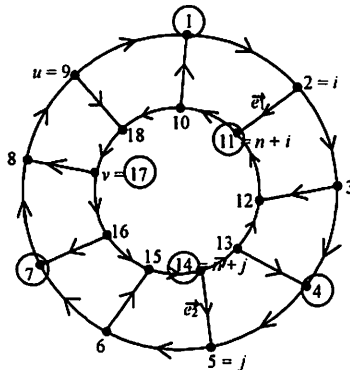


Figure 5: Encircled vertices form a kernel in $CL(9)$

Theorem 4.2: Let G be $CL(n)$, $n \geq 4$. For $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, there exist a kernel K of $CL(n)$ such that $|K| = \kappa_s(CL(n)) + 1 = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil + 1$.

Proof: Let $CL(n)$ be oriented as in Lemma 4.1. Since G is strongly connected regular graph, by theorem 2.1, $\kappa_s \geq \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil$.

The independent set $K = \{1, 4, 7, \dots, n - 3\} \cup \{n + 2, n + 5, n + 8, \dots, 2n - 2\} \cup \{n - 1, 2n\}$ forms a kernel for $CL(n)$. Thus $|K| = \left\lceil \frac{2n}{3} \right\rceil + 1$.

The proof is similar to that of Theorem 4.1.

5 Strong Kernel in Oriented Chordal Graphs $CH(n)$

In this section we obtain the strong kernel number of chordal graphs $CH(n)$.

Definition 5.1: A chordal graph $CH(n)$, $n \geq 2$ is a graph with the vertex set $V(CH(n)) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ and $E(CH(n)) = \{(v_i, v_{i+1}), 1 \leq i \leq n-1\} \cup \{(v_1, v_n)\} \cup \{(v_i, v_{n-i+1}), 1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2}\}$, n being an even integer. We name the parallel edges as chords. See Figure 6.

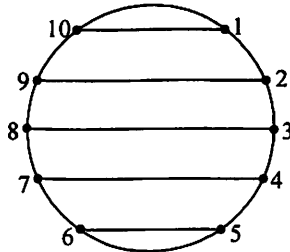


Figure 6: Chordal Graph CH_{10}

Lemma 5.1: Let G be $CH(n)$, $n \geq 2$. Let the cycle $C = 1, 2, \dots, n-1, n, 1$ in G on n vertices be oriented in the clockwise direction. The chords are oriented arbitrarily. Then G is strongly connected.

Proof: For $u, v \in V$, we claim that G is strongly connected. Since C is oriented in the clockwise direction, our claim is true.

Theorem 5.1: Let G be $CH(n)$, $n \geq 2$. Then $k_s = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$.

Proof: Consider an orientation O of G satisfying the following condition.

1. Orient the cycle C in the clockwise direction.

2(a). Let $K = \{3, 6, 9, \dots, n\}$ when $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$.

(b). Let $K = \left\{2, 5, 8, 11, \dots, 3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor - 1\right\} \cup \{n\}$ when $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$

(c). Let $K = \{1\} \cup \left\{4, 7, 10, \dots, 3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1\right\}$ when $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$

By Lemma 5.1, the orientation O is a strong orientation of G . Conditions 2(a), (b) and (c) imply that there are at least two incoming edges and one outgoing edge at every vertex of K . Thus to prove that K is a kernel, it is enough to prove that K is independent. Two vertices r and s of G are adjacent if and only if

(i) $|r-s| = 1$, $1 \leq r, s \leq n$

(ii) $|r-s| = n-2i+1$, $(r, s) \in (i, n-i+1)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n}{2}$

(iii) $|r-s| = n-1$, $(r, s) \in (n, 1)$

Choose any two vertices from K . Suppose we choose $u = 3i - 1$ and $v = 3j - 1$, $i \neq j$, $1 \leq i, j \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$, when $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$. Clearly no two vertices are adjacent to each other. Similar arguments hold in the remaining cases. See Figure 7.

We next claim that $|K| = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$. We verify the claim when K is as in 2(b). Since $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, $n = 3k + 1$ for some k . Let $K = K_1 \cup K_2$ where $K_1 = \left\{ 2, 5, 8, \dots, 3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor - 1 \right\}$ and $K_2 = \{n\}$.

The cardinality of K_1 is given by $3 \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor - 1 = 2 + 3(|K_1| - 1) = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$. Similarly $|K_2| =$

1. Hence $|K| = |K_1| + |K_2| = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor + 1 = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \right\rfloor$.

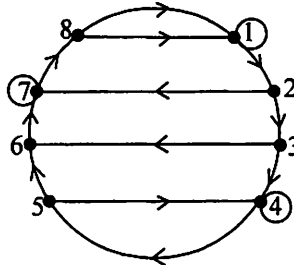


Figure 7: Encircled vertices form a kernel

6 Strong Kernel in Oriented tH - Graph

Definition 6.1: A tH - graph is a graph with vertex set $\{(i, j) : 1 \leq i \leq 3, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$ and edge set $\{((i, j), (i, j + 1)), i = 1 \text{ and } 3\} \cup \{(2, j), (2, j + 1) : j \text{ odd}, 1 \leq j \leq n - 1\} \cup \{(1, 1), (1, n), (3, 1), (3, n)\} \cup \{(i, j), (i + 1, j), i = 1 \text{ and } 2, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$ and is denoted by $H_n(t)$ where t denotes the number of copies of H .

Remark 6.1: For convenience $(1, 1), (1, 2), \dots, (1, n)$ are represented by $1, 2, \dots, n$; $(2, 1), (2, 2), \dots, (2, n)$ are represented by $n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n$ and $(3, 1), (3, 2), \dots, (3, n)$ are represented by $2n + 1, 2n + 2, \dots, 3n$. The number of vertices of tH - graph is $3n$.

Lemma 6.1: Let G be $H_n(t)$, $t \geq 2$. Let the cycles $1, 2, \dots, n, 2n, 3n, 3n - 1, \dots, 2n + 1, n + 1$ and $2i - 1, 2i, n + 2i, 2n + 2i, 2n + 2i - 1, n + 2i - 1, 2i - 1, 1 \leq i \leq n/2$, of $H_n(t)$ on $3n$ vertices be oriented in the clockwise direction. All the remaining edges are oriented arbitrarily. Then G is strongly connected.

Proof: For $u, v \in V$, we claim that G is strongly connected. Since cycles of $H_n(t)$ are oriented in the clockwise direction, our claim is true.

Theorem 6.1: Let G be the tH -Graph on $3n$ vertices. Then $k_s = n$.

Proof: Consider an orientation O of G satisfying the following condition.

1. Orient the cycles $1, 2, \dots, n, 2n, 3n, 3n-1, \dots, 2n+1, n+1$ and $2i-1, 2i, n+2i, 2n+2i, 2n+2i-1, n+2i-1, 2i-1, 1 \leq i \leq n/2$, in the clockwise direction.
2. Let $K = \{1, 3, 5, \dots, n-1\} \cup \{2n+2, 2n+4, 2n+6, \dots, 3n\}$.

By Lemma 6.1, the orientation O is a strong orientation of G . Since G is strongly connected, there is at least one incoming and one outgoing edge at every vertex of K . Thus to prove that K is a kernel, it is enough to prove that K is independent. Two vertices r and s of G are adjacent if and only if

- (i) $|r-s| = 1, 1 \leq r, s \leq n, 2n+1 \leq r, s \leq 3n, (r, s) \in (n+2i-1, n+2i), 1 \leq i \leq n/2$
- (ii) $|r-s| = n-1, (r, s) \in (n, 1) \text{ \& } (3n, 2n+1)$
- (iii) $|r-s| = n, (r, s) \in (i, n+i) \text{ \& } (n+i, 2n+i) 1 \leq i \leq n$

Choose any two vertices. Suppose we choose $u = 2i-1$ and $v = 2n+2j, 1 \leq i, j \leq n/2$. Since $|(2n+2j)-(2i-1)| \neq n, u$ and v are not adjacent. See Figure 8.

We next claim that $|K| = n$. We verify the claim when K is as in 2. Let $K = K_1 \cup K_2$ where $K_1 = \{1, 3, 5, \dots, n-1\}$ and $K_2 = \{2n+2, 2n+4, 2n+6, \dots, 3n\}$. The cardinality of K_1 is given by $|K_1| = \frac{n}{2}$. Similarly, the cardinality of K_2

is given by $|K_2| = \frac{n}{2}$. Hence $|K| = |K_1| + |K_2| = \frac{n}{2} + \frac{n}{2} = n$.

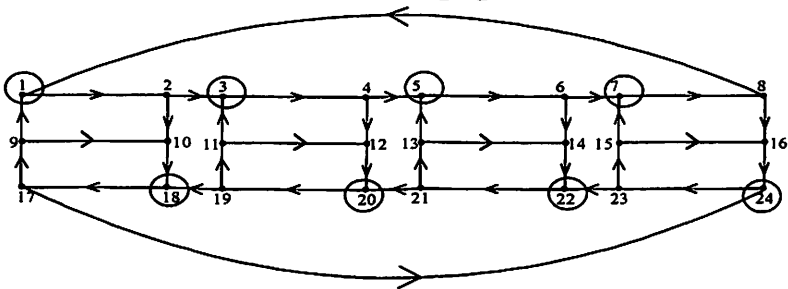


Figure 7: Encircled vertices form a kernel.

Theorem 6.2: The strong kernel problem is polynomially solvable for certain oriented networks such as Mobius Ladder, Circular Ladder, Chordal graphs and tH -graph.

7 Conclusion

In this paper we have determined the strong kernel number for oriented Mobius Ladder $M(n)$, Circular Ladder $CL(n)$, chordal graphs $CH(n)$ and tH -graph $H_n(t)$. And also proved that the strong kernel problem is polynomially solvable for $M(n)$, $CL(n)$, $CH(n)$ and $H_n(t)$. It would be interesting to characterize regular graphs for which the kernel problem is polynomially solvable.

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