ON PICARD GROUPS AND JACOBIANS OF DIRECTED GRAPHS

JAIUNG JUN, YOUNGSU KIM, AND MATTHEW PISANO

ABSTRACT. The Picard group of an undirected graph is a finitely generated abelian group, and the Jacobian is the torsion subgroup of the Picard group. These groups can be computed by using the Smith normal form of the Laplacian matrix of the graph or by using chip-firing games associated with the graph. One may consider its generalization to directed graphs based on the Laplacian matrix. We compute Picard groups and Jacobians for several classes of directed trees, cycles, wheel, and multipartite graphs.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we compute Picard groups and Jacobians for several classes of directed graphs, including undirected graphs as directed graphs having all bi-directional edges. Our results are based on the explicit description of Smith normal forms of Laplacian matrices, and our proofs utilize the properties of both graphs and algebra, including classical theorems such as Cramer's rule. Smith normal forms arise naturally in several area of mathematics. For instance, when computing homology groups of simplicial complexes and the structure theorem of a finitely generated abelian group¹. Further, Stanley introduces Smith normal form and its applications in combinatorics in [9].

For an undirected graph² G, one may define the Picard group and Jacobian of G by using a combinatorial game, called a *chip-firing game*, played on the graph G. The game can be completely described by the Laplacian matrix L_G , and this allows one to alternately define the Picard group and the Jacobian of G from L_G without referring the game. In this paper, we use Laplacian matrices of directed graphs to define their Picard groups and Jacobians (Definitions 2.1 and 2.5).

We first introduce the chip-firing game for undirected graphs. Consider an undirected graph G. To play a chip-firing game, one starts by placing chips (possibly negative as "debt") at each vertex of G. At each turn, a vertex borrows or lends chips from or to all its adjacent vertices simultaneously. One wins the game if one can reach at a chip configuration such that every vertex is debt-free after finitely many turns.

Whether one can win a game or not depends on the initial chip configuration. For instance, if the total number of chips is negative, then such a game is not winnable since borrowing and lending moves preserve the total number of chips. It is natural to ask whether one can determine a given chip configuration is winnable or not. In some cases, one can determine a winning chip configuration by using *divisor theory on graphs* by a result of by Baker and Norine [1, Theorem 1.9].

The chip-firing game can be studied algebraically as follows. One can write any chip configuration on a graph *G* as an element of the free abelian group generated by the set of vertices V(G) of *G*. The collection of all configurations is denoted by Div(G). An element of Div(G) is called a *divisor*, and a divisor *D* is *effective* if it is of the form $D = \sum_{v \in V(G)} a_v v$, where $a_v \ge 0$. Divisors *D* and *D'* in Div(G)are *equivalent* if *D'* can be obtained from *D* in a finite sequence of borrowing and lending moves. Under this correspondence, a chip configuration is winnable if and only if its corresponding divisor

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¹Or its generalization to the structure theorem of a finitely generated modules over a principal ideal domain

²All graphs are assumed to be finite. We allow multiple edges, but no loops.

D is equivalent to an effective divisor. This equivalence is in fact an congruence relation and defines a group

$$\operatorname{Pic}(G) := \operatorname{Div}(G) / \sim, \tag{1}$$

called the *Picard group* of *G*. The torsion subgroup of Pic(G), denoted by Jac(G), is called the *Jacobian* of *G*.³

For an undirected graph *G* with the vertices $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_n\}$, one defines an $n \times n$ matrix L_G , called the *Laplacian matrix* of *G*, as follows.

$$(L_G)_{ij} = \begin{cases} \text{degree of } v_i & \text{if } i = j; \\ -(\text{\# of edges between } v_i \text{ and } v_j) & \text{if } i \neq j, \end{cases}$$

where $(L_G)_{ij}$ denotes the (i, j)th entry of the matrix L_G , and the degree of a vertex v is the number of edges incident to v. For more details and background, refer to [3, Section 2.1]. We note that for directed graphs, one can define L_G by using out-degrees (Definition 2.1).

One can use the Laplacian matrix L_G to compute Pic(G) of a graph G in eq. (1): Any chip configuration corresponds to a vector $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^{V(G)}$. The chip configuration \mathbf{v}' obtained by a lending move (resp. borrowing move) at a vertex v_i from \mathbf{v} corresponds to the following computations in $\mathbb{Z}^{V(G)}$.

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{v} - L_G^T e_i \quad (\text{resp. } \mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{v} + L_G^T e_i), \tag{2}$$

where e_i denotes the *i*th standard (column) basis of $\mathbb{Z}^{V(G)}$ and the superscript T denotes the transpose of a matrix. Under this setting, the matrix L_G^T corresponds to a linear map $\mathbb{Z}^{V(G)} \to \mathbb{Z}^{V(G)}$, and one has the following isomorphisms.

$$\operatorname{Pic}(G) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \operatorname{Jac}(G) \text{ and } \operatorname{Pic}(G) \cong \operatorname{coker}(L_G^T).$$
 (3)

See [3, Proposition 1.20, pp 17-18] for the isomorphisms in eq. (3). Eq. (2) allows one to extend the game to an arbitrary $n \times n$ integer matrix, replacing the role of L_G , and this direction of study was conducted under the name of *Avalanche-finite* matrices in [8, Section 6].

The *abelian sandpile model* is another combinatorial game on graphs. The rule is similar to the chip-firing game. A noticeable difference is that for the abelian sandpile model, each vertex should maintain a nonnegative number of chips throughout the game. The game stops when one can no longer fire chips. See [3, Section 6] for details and [6] for its generalizations for directed graphs.

In this paper, we define the *Picard group* for a *directed* graph *G* by using the second isomorphism in eq. (3), and the *Jacobian* of *G* the torsion subgroup of the Picard group, see Definition 2.5. Our definition generalizes the definition for undirected graphs, but we no longer have the isomorphism $Pic(G) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times Jac(G)$ in general. That is, the rank of Pic(G) need not be 1.

There has been a body of work devoted to the study of Picard groups and Jacobians for undirected graphs. Though their extensions to directed graphs may diverge depending on one's purpose, most generalizations agree for the class of a directed graphs having a *global sink* (or a vertex that can play the role of a "sink") ⁴, see [6, Remark 2.12]. Several subclasses of our results satisfies this global sink condition. Such a tight interplay between combinatorics and algebra was the one of the key motivations of our research.

Our study focuses on the understanding both the free and torsion part of Picard groups. In particular, how these groups vary in families and how they compare to the Picard groups and Jacobians of their underlying directed graphs. Below we summarize our main results.

Wagner in [11, Corollary 3.5] proved that the rank of the Picard group of a directed graph is the number of terminal strong components. We prove that the Picard group of a directed tree is torsion free. By combining these results, we have the following theorem.

³Depending on the literature, Jac(G) is also called as a critical group or a sandpile group. See [1, Section 5.6].

⁴Here the word "sink" means that a vertex of a directed graph that can be reached from any other vertex. In some books such as [5, pp 201], this is the definition of a (global) sink.

Theorem (Theorem 3.2). *The Picard group of any directed tree is free, and its rank is determined by the number of terminal strong component.*

The Picard group of the undirected cycle graph C_n is $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_n$ [4, Corollary 4]. We prove that for any k such that $1 \le k \le n$, there exists a directed cycle graph on *n*-vertices whose Picard group is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_k$.

Theorem (Theorem 4.1). Let $n \ge 3$ and C_n be a cycle graph with n vertices. For any $1 \le k \le n$, there exists an orientation of C_n such that $\text{Pic}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \text{Jac}(C_n)$, where $\text{Jac}(C_n) = \mathbb{Z}_k$.

In addition, we provide a way to determine the Picard group of a directed cycle graph having a global sink based on an invariant of the graph, see Lemma 4.20.

Biggs determined the Jacobian of undirected wheel graphs in [2, Theorem 9.2]. Consider the three classes of wheel graphs denoted by W_n, W'_n , and W''_n . The rims of all three classes have bi-directional edges.⁵ All the edges to the spokes in W_n, W'_n , and W''_n , are bi-directions, pointed to the axle, and pointed away from the axle, respectively. See Example 5.2 for pictorial examples. Biggs' result corresponds to the class W_n .

Theorem (Propositions 5.3 and 5.4). With the above notations, we have the following.

(1) The Laplacian matrices of W_n and W'_n are row equivalent. In particular, one has

$$\operatorname{Pic}(W_n) \cong \operatorname{Pic}(W'_n).$$

(2) One has

$$\operatorname{Pic}(W_n'') \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{n-1} \times \mathbb{Z}_{n-1} & \text{if } n \text{ is even;} \\ \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{(n-1)/2} \times \mathbb{Z}_{2(n-1)} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

It is interesting to note that the key arguments in item (2) use Cramer's rule. Indeed, we solve a certain quadratic equation whose solutions correspond to the minors of a matrix in question, and this explains the even and odd pattern, see Lemma 5.5.

Our last result is on certain multipartite directed graphs, named single-flow directed multipartite graphs. A *single-flow directed multipartite graph* is a multipartite directed graph, where edges are directed to a single direction such as the forward propagation of a neural network. In the case where a single-flow directed multipartite graph has two or three layers, we provide a complete description of their Picard groups in terms of the number of vertices in each layer (Proposition 6.3 and Theorem 6.6).

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we review basic definitions and properties. In Sections 3–6, we prove the results on tree, cycle, wheel and multipartite directed graphs listed above, respectively.

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2. PRELIMINARIES

For a graph G, we use V(G) and E(G) to denote the vertex set and edge set of the graph G, respectively, and V(G) is non-empty and finite. In the sequel, we treat undirected graphs as directed graphs having bi-directional edges. To emphasize this, we use the term *arrow* for directed edges of directed graphs. Thus, an undirected graph is a directed graph with all its arrows are bi-directional.

⁵In our notation the subscript n denotes the number of vertices of a directed wheel graph.

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For a graph *G*, an arrow e_{vw} between vertices *v* and *w* of *G* can be one-directional or bi-directional. We use the notation of $e_{\overline{vw}}$ for the arrow from *v* to *w* and $e_{\overline{vw}}$ for a bi-directional arrow. For a vertex set $V(G) = \{v_1, \ldots, v_n\}$, we also use $\{1, \ldots, n\}$ to denote the same vertex set.

For a matrix M, we use the notation of $M = (m_{ij})$, where m_{ij} denotes the (i, j)th entry of M. The bold symbols $\mathbf{1}_k$ and $\mathbf{0}_k$ denote the row matrix of size k consisting of 1's and 0's, respectively. We also use $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{0}$ if the size is clear from context. Lastly, the symbols $\mathbf{0}_{k\times k}$ and $\mathbf{1}_{k\times k}$ denote the zero matrix and the matrix consisting of 1's of size $k \times k$.

Definition 2.1 (Laplacian matrix). For a directed graph *G* with vertex set $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, ..., v_n\}$, the *Laplacian matrix* of *G*, denoted by $L_G = (l_{ij})$, is an $n \times n$ matrix whose (i, j)th entry is defined by

$$l_{ij} = \begin{cases} \text{the number of outgoing arrows of } v_i & \text{if } i = j, \\ -(\text{the number of arrows from } v_i \text{ to } v_j) & \text{if } i \neq j. \end{cases}$$

Remark 2.2. For a directed graph G, the Laplacian L_G equals $D_G - A_G$, where D_G is the (out-)degree matrix and A_G is the adjacency matrix of G. Note that for directed graphs, we only record the outgoing arrows in D_G and A_G .

Definition 2.3 (Sink [6, pp 3]). A vertex of a direct graph G is called a *sink* if it does not have any outgoing arrows (including bi-directional arrows). That is, the out-degree of the vertex is zero. We say a sink v is *global* (or a *global sink*) if there exists a directed path from any vertex, which is not v, of G to v.

We note that if a directed graph has a global sink, then it is the unique sink of the directed graph.

Let *G* be a directed graph. The *underlying undirected graph* or simply *underlying graph* is the graph \overline{G} having the same vertex set as *G* and for v_i and v_j of \overline{G} , there exist a bi-directional arrow between v_i and v_i if and only if there exists an arrow between v_i and v_i (regardless of the direction). By the *orientation* of a graph, we mean the edge (or arrow) set of the graph.

Example 2.4. The graphs below have the same underlying undirected graph with different orientations.

$T = \left(\begin{array}{c} 1\\ \uparrow\\ 2 \leftrightarrow 3 \leftrightarrow 4\\ \uparrow\\ 5\end{array}\right)$	$T' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \downarrow \\ 2 \rightarrow 3 \leftarrow 4 \\ \uparrow \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$	$T'' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \uparrow \\ 2 \leftarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \\ \downarrow \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$
$L_T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$L_T'' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0$

Definition 2.5 (Picard group and Jacobian). Let G be a directed graph. The *Picard group* Pic(G) is the cokernel of L_G^T up to isomorphism. The *Jacobian* Jac(G) of G is the torsion subgroup of Pic(G).

Remark 2.6. Since the Picard group is the cokernel of the map L_G^T : $\mathbb{Z}^{|V(G)|} \to \mathbb{Z}^{|V(G)|}$, it is a finitely generated abelian group. This in turn implies that Jacobian is also finitely generated.

Definition 2.7. We say *m* by *n* matrices *M* and *N* are *equivalent* if there exist invertible matrices *P* of size *m* and *Q* of size *n* such that M = PNQ.

Definition 2.8 (Smith normal form). Suppose $M \in Mat_{n \times n}(R)$, where *R* is a commutative ring. The Smith normal form of *M*, denoted by $SNF(M) = (d_{ij})$, is an *n* by *n* diagonal matrices with entries in *R* such that

(1) SNF(*M*) is equivalent to *M*, (2) $d_{ii}|d_{i+1,i+1}$ for i = 1, ..., n-1, and (3) $d_{ij} = 0$ if $i \neq j$.

Remark 2.9. The Smith normal form of a matrix is unique up to associates if exists. The existence of the Smith normal form of a matrix M depends on M and the ring R. Though M need not have a Smith normal form in general, Smith normal forms exist for all matrices over a principal ideal domain, for instance, \mathbb{Z} . Thus, one can compute the Picard group of a graph G, by computing the Smith normal form of L_G^T .

There exists an algorithm to compute the Smith normal form of a matrix over a principal ideal domain. The following theorem is an ideal theoretic characterization of the Smith normal form, and we use this fact several times in this note. For $M \in M_{m \times n}(R)$, $I_k(M)$ denotes the ideal generated by $k \times k$ minors of M, where $I_k(M) = 0$ if $k > \min\{m, n\}$ and $I_k = \langle 1 \rangle$ if $k \leq 0$.

Theorem 2.10 (cf. [9, Theorem 2.4]). Let *R* be a principal ideal domain, $M \in Mat_{n \times n}(R)$, and $SNF(M) = (d_{ij})$. Then we have the following.

- (1) For $1 \leq k \leq n$, $I_k(M) = \langle d_{11} \cdots d_{kk} \rangle$ and
- (2) $SNF(M) = SNF(M^T)$.

Proof. Item (1) is in [9, Theorem 2.4], and item (2) follows from item (1) since $I_k(M) = I_k(M^T)$ for any matrix M.

By this theorem, when determining Picard groups we use L_G instead of L_G^T . The following remark is straightforward but useful for reducing the size of a matrix.

Remark 2.11. Suppose *M* and *N* are matrices such that $N = \begin{bmatrix} M & * \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{bmatrix}$ or $\begin{bmatrix} M & 0 \\ * & \pm 1 \end{bmatrix}$, where * denotes arbitrary entries. For any k, $I_k(M) = I_{k+1}(N)$, and the cokernels of *M* and *N* are isomorphic.

Example 2.12. Let T, T', and T'' be as in Example 2.4. Their the Smith normal forms are the following matrices.

$$\operatorname{SNF}(L_T) = \operatorname{SNF}(L_{T'}) = \begin{bmatrix} I_4 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 and $\operatorname{SNF}(L_{T''}) = \begin{bmatrix} I_1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \mathbf{0}_{4 \times 4} \end{bmatrix}$.

In particular, $\operatorname{Pic}(T) \cong \operatorname{Pic}(T') \cong \mathbb{Z}$ and $\operatorname{Pic}(T'') \cong \mathbb{Z}^4$.

Theorem 2.13. Let G be a directed graph. Then $L_G \cdot \mathbf{1}^T = \mathbf{0}$.

Remark 2.14. In addition, if G is connected and undirected, then we have

- (1) L_G is symmetric and $\mathbf{1}^T \cdot L_G = \mathbf{0}$ ([4, Theorem 1]),
- (2) $\operatorname{rk} L_G = |V(G)| 1$ (cf. eq. (3)), and
- (3) $|\operatorname{Jac}(G)|$ is the number of spanning trees ([3, Proposition 2.37 and Remark 2.38]).

3. PICARD GROUPS AND JACOBIANS OF DIRECTED TREES

In this section, we show that the Picard group of any directed tree is torsion free⁷ (Theorem 3.2), and it allows one to determine the Picard group (Corollary 3.6), thanks to a result of Wagner (Theorem 3.5).

Lemma 3.1. Let G be a directed graph. Suppose that G' is the directed graph having the following vertex set and edge set:

$$V(G') = V(G) \sqcup \{w\} and E(G') = E(V) \sqcup \{\alpha\},\$$

⁷A torsion free finitely generated abelian group is free.

where α is either an arrow from w to some v in E(V) or a bi-directional arrow. Then we have

$$\operatorname{Pic}(G) \cong \operatorname{Pic}(G').$$

Proof. Let |V(G)| = n. We label the vertices of G as v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n . First, suppose $\alpha = e_{\overrightarrow{wv}}$. Let $L_G = (l_{ij})$ (resp. $L_{G'}$) be the Laplacian matrix of G (resp. G'). Then the matrix $L_{G'}$ is of the following form.

$$L_{G'} = \begin{bmatrix} l_{11} & l_{12} & \cdots & l_{1n} & 0\\ l_{21} & l_{22} & \cdots & l_{2n} & 0\\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots\\ \hline \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & l_{nn} & 0\\ \hline 0 & 0 & \cdots & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$
(4)

Thus, $L_{G'}$ is of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} L_G & 0 \\ * & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

and one has $Pic(G) \cong Pic(G')$ by Remark 2.11.

Next, suppose $\alpha = e_{\overline{w}\overline{v}}$. Then we obtain the following Laplacian matrix for G'.

$$L_{G'} = \begin{bmatrix} l_{11} & l_{12} & \cdots & l_{1n} & 0\\ l_{21} & l_{22} & \cdots & l_{2n} & 0\\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots\\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & l_{nn} + 1 & -1\\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$
(5)

After adding the last row to the second last row, the matrix in eq. (5) becomes the matrix in eq. (4). Therefore, one has $Pic(G) \cong Pic(G')$, and this completes the proof.

For undirected trees T, one has $Pic(T) \cong \mathbb{Z}$. This directly follows from the matrix-tree theorem ([3, Theorem 9.3]). However, for directed trees, the rank of Pic(T) can be arbitrarily large depending the number of terminal strong components (Definition 3.3) of T. We show that Picard groups are torsion free in both cases.

Theorem 3.2. Any directed tree graph T has a torsion-free Picard group. That is Jac(T) = 0.

Proof. We use induction on the number of vertices. The base case consists of a single vertex with the empty edge set, and one has $Pic(T) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ and Jac(T) = 0.

Suppose T has n vertices. Choose a leaf vertex⁸ v and let T_{del} be the tree graph obtained by deleting the vertex v and all the arrows incident to v. If the out-degree of v is 1, then by Lemma 3.1, we have

$$\operatorname{Pic}(T) \cong \operatorname{Pic}(T_{del})$$
 and $\operatorname{Jac}(T) \cong \operatorname{Jac}(T_{del})$.

By the induction hypothesis, we have $Jac(T_{del}) = 0$, and hence Jac(T) = 0.

Now, assume that the out-degree of v is 0. Let w be the vertex incident to v and $e_{\vec{wv}}$ the arrow from w to v. By labeling w and v to be the last two vertices, we have the following Laplacian matrix.

$$L_T = \begin{bmatrix} l_{11} & l_{12} & \cdots & l_{1,n-1} & 0\\ l_{21} & l_{22} & \cdots & l_{2,n-1} & 0\\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots\\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & l_{n-1,n-1} + 1 & -1\\ \hline 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

⁸By a leaf vertex we mean a leaf vertex of the underlying undirected graph of T.

By subtracting a suitable multiple of the last column of L_T from the rest, one sees that L_T is equivalent to the left matrix below which in turn is equivalent to L below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} l_{11} & l_{12} & \cdots & l_{1,n-1} & 0 \\ l_{21} & l_{22} & \cdots & l_{2,n-1} & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & -1 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \sim L = \begin{bmatrix} l_{11} & l_{12} & \cdots & l_{1,n-1} & 0 \\ l_{21} & l_{22} & \cdots & l_{2,n-1} & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & -1 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \cdots & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Notice that *L* is the Laplacian matrix of a directed tree graph *T'* which may or may not be connected.⁹ Suppose first that *T'* is not connected. The Picard group and Jacobian of *T'* are the direct sums of the Picard groups and Jacobians of its connected component. Since the connected components of *T'* are also directed trees, by the induction hypothesis we are done. Suppose *T'* is connected. Let T'_{del} denote the graph obtained by deleting the vertex *v* from *T'* and its adjacent arrow. Then *T'* is obtained by attaching a bi-directional arrow to T'_{del} . By induction and Lemma 3.1

$$\operatorname{Pic}(T') \cong \operatorname{Pic}(T'_{del})$$
 and $\operatorname{Jac}(T') \cong \operatorname{Jac}(T'_{del}) = 0$.

Now the result follows as *L* is the Laplacian matrix of T' and is equivalent to L_T . This completes the proof.

Definition 3.3 (Terminal strong component). Let *G* be a directed graph.

- (1) A strong component C of G is a non-empty subgraph of G such that for any pair of vertices v_i and v_j of C, there exist directed paths from v_i to v_j and from v_i to v_i , respectively.
- (2) A strong component *C* of *G* is called *terminal* if there is no arrow from any vertex *v* of *C* to another vertex in $V_G \setminus V_C$.
- (3) G is said to be *strongly connected* if G itself is a strong component.
- **Example 3.4.** (1) In each of the directed graphs below, the red subgraphs denote their strong terminal components.



(2) For graphs in Example 2.4, the terminal strong components are the subgraphs whose vertex sets are V(T), {3}, and {{1}, {2}, {4}, {5}}, respectively.

Theorem 3.5 ([11, Corollary 3.5]). For any directed graph G, the rank of Pic(G) is the number of terminal strong components of G.

Combining the result of D. Wagner and Theorem 3.2, we have a characterization of the Picard group of a directed tree.

Corollary 3.6. Let *T* be a directed tree and *r* the number of terminal strong components of *T*. Then the Picard group of *T* is free of rank *r*.

In the next two examples, we demonstrate that adding a vertex and an arrow may change the rank of the Picard group.

Example 3.7. The directed tree *T*

$$T = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ & \swarrow & \downarrow & \uparrow \\ & 4 \leftrightarrow 5 \to 6 \end{array}\right)$$

⁹We mean that the underlying graph $\overline{T'}$ may or may not be connected.

has $\operatorname{Pic}(T) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$ and $\operatorname{Jac}(T) = 0$.

Example 3.8. We add vertex v_7 and an arrow to the directed tree *T* in Example 3.7 in two different ways. For *T'*, the rank of the Picard group increases by 1. This can be seen from direction calculations or by observing that *T'* has one more terminal strong component than *T*. For *T''*, the rank stays the same by Lemma 3.1 or by counting the number of terminal strong components. In all cases, their Picard groups are free.

$$T' = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \swarrow & \downarrow & \updownarrow \\ 7 & \overleftarrow{\alpha} & 4 \leftrightarrow 5 \to 6 \end{array}\right) \qquad T'' = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \rightthreetimes & \downarrow & \updownarrow \\ 7 & \overleftarrow{\beta} & 4 \leftrightarrow 5 \to 6 \end{array}\right).$$

4. PICARD GROUPS OF CYCLE GRAPHS

By a *directed cycle graph*, we mean a directed graph whose underlying undirected group is a cycle graph. Let C_n denote an arbitrary directed cycle graph with *n*-vertices. In this section, we prove a few theorems on Picard groups of directed cycle graphs C_n . When C_n^{un} is undirected, $\text{Pic}(C_n^{un}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_n$ ([4, Corollary 4]). We first show that for any *n* and *k* such that $1 \le k \le n$, there exists a directed cycle graph C_n whose Jacobian is \mathbb{Z}_k (Theorem 4.1). Note that $\mathbb{Z}_1 = \{0\}$. As an application, we identity a subclass for which there is a combinatorial invariant that determines their Jacobians while keeping the rank of the Picard group to be 1 (Theorem 4.21). Throughout this section, we assume that $n \ge 3$ for C_n .

Theorem 4.1. For each *n* and *k* such that $1 \le k \le n$, there exists a directed cycle graph C_n whose Picard group is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z} \times \text{Jac}(C_n)$, where $\text{Jac}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}_k$.

Indeed, we prove Theorem 4.1 by induction as follows: Let \sum_n be the set of all cycle graphs with *n*-vertices and C_n^{un} the underlying undirected graph of C_n . We construct a map

$$\Phi\colon \sum_{n} \to \sum_{n+1} \tag{6}$$

such that if $C_n \neq C_n^{un}$, then

$$\operatorname{Pic}(C_n) \cong \operatorname{Pic}(\Phi(C_n)).$$
 (7)

With this map and Example 4.2 (as a base case), to complete the proof by induction, one needs to find cycle graphs with n + 1 vertices having \mathbb{Z}_n and \mathbb{Z}_{n+1} , respectively. The cycle graph C_{n+1}^{un} has $\text{Pic}(C_{n+1}^{un}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{n+1}$, and we construct C_{n+1} having $\text{Pic}(C_{n+1}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_n$ in Lemma 4.5. Based on the statements, in Subsection 4.1, we show how to determine the Picard group and Jacobian of a directed cycle graph having a global sink.

The following example serve as the base case.

Example 4.2. With the following orientations of C_3

$$G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \longrightarrow & \bullet \\ \uparrow & \swarrow & \bullet \\ \bullet & & \end{pmatrix} \quad G_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \longleftarrow & \bullet \\ \uparrow & \swarrow & \bullet \\ \bullet & & \end{pmatrix} \quad G_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \bullet & \longleftrightarrow & \bullet \\ \uparrow & \swarrow & \bullet \\ \bullet & & & \end{pmatrix},$$

we have $Jac(G_1) = 0$, $Jac(G_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$, and $Jac(G_3) \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$. In all three cases, the rank of the Picard group is 1. This proves the case n = 3 for Theorem 4.1.

Recall that we use e_{ij} and e_{ij} to denote one-directional and bi-directional arrows from a vertex v_i to a vertex v_j , respectively. We also use e_{ij} to denote e_{ij} if the order of vertices provides a better presentation.¹⁰

Let C_n be a directed cycle graph with $V(G) = \{v_1, \ldots, v_n\}$. If C_n has a sink, then we may relabel the vertices of C_n such that v_n is the sink vertex with directed arrows $e_{n-1,n}$ and $e_{n,1}$. Let C'_{n+1} be the directed cycle graph whose vertex and edge sets are given as follows:

$$V(C'_{n+1}) = V(C_n) \sqcup \{v_{n+1}\} \text{ and } E(C'_{n+1}) = E(C_n) \setminus \{e_{\overrightarrow{n,1}}\} \sqcup \{e_{\overrightarrow{n,n+1}}, e_{\overrightarrow{n+1,1}}\}.$$
(8)

Pictorially, we have the following

$$C_n = \left(\cdots \quad v_{n-1} \to v_n \leftarrow v_1 \quad \cdots \right) \Longrightarrow C'_{n+1} = \left(\cdots \quad v_{n-1} \to v_n \to v_{n+1} \leftarrow v_1 \quad \cdots \right).$$

In this case, we call C'_{n+1} a *degree zero extension* of C_n .

Suppose now that C_n has a vertex of (out-)degree 1. We may relabel the vertices of C_n such that the vertex v_n is of degree 1 and C_n has directed arrows $e_{\overrightarrow{n-1,n}}$ and $e_{\overrightarrow{n,1}}$ or that C_n has directed arrows $e_{\overrightarrow{n-1,n}}$ and $e_{\overrightarrow{n,1}}$. In both cases, we write C''_{n+1} for the directed cycle graph whose edge set is given as follows.

$$V(C_{n+1}'') = V(C_n) \sqcup \{v_{n+1}\} \text{ and } E(C_{n+1}'') = \begin{cases} E(C_n) \setminus \{e_{\overrightarrow{n,1}}\} \sqcup \{e_{\overrightarrow{n,n+1}}, e_{\overrightarrow{n+1,1}}\} \text{ or} \\ E(C_n) \setminus \{e_{\overrightarrow{n,1}}\} \sqcup \{e_{\overrightarrow{n,n+1}}, e_{\overrightarrow{n+1,1}}\}. \end{cases}$$
(9)

Pictorially, we have the following

$$C_n = \left(\cdots \quad v_{n-1} \to v_n \to v_1 \quad \cdots \right) \Longrightarrow C''_{n+1} = \left(\cdots \quad v_{n-1} \to v_n \to v_{n+1} \to v_1 \quad \cdots \right) \text{ or }$$

$$C_n = \left(\cdots \quad v_{n-1} \to v_n \leftrightarrow v_1 \quad \cdots \right) \Longrightarrow C''_{n+1} = \left(\cdots \quad v_{n-1} \to v_n \to v_{n+1} \leftrightarrow v_1 \quad \cdots \right).$$

In this case, we call C''_{n+1} a *degree one extension* of C_n .

Since a graph may have multiple vertices having degree 0 or 1 simultaneously, a single cycle graph C_n may have both types of extensions, and these extensions depend on the choice of a vertex. However, we will show in Lemma 4.4 that Picard groups are stable under these extensions, i.e.,

$$\operatorname{Pic}(C_n) \cong \operatorname{Pic}(C'_{n+1})$$
 and $\operatorname{Pic}(C_n) \cong \operatorname{Pic}(C''_{n+1})$

Example 4.3. Here are examples of degree 0 and 1 extensions of C_5 graphs.

$$C_{5} = \begin{pmatrix} & & 5 & & \\ & 4 & & 1 \\ & & 3 & \leftrightarrow 2 \end{pmatrix} \implies C_{6}' = \begin{pmatrix} & 5 & \to 6 \\ & 4 & & 1 \\ & & 3 & \leftrightarrow 2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$C_{5} = \begin{pmatrix} & & 5 & & \\ & 4 & & 1 \\ & & 3 & \leftrightarrow 2 \end{pmatrix} \implies C_{6}'' = \begin{pmatrix} & 5 & \to 6 \\ & 4 & & 1 \\ & & 3 & \leftrightarrow 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Lemma 4.4. Let C_n be a directed cycle graph. Suppose that not every arrow of C_n is bi-directional. Then C_n has a vertex v of degree 0 or 1. Furthermore, the Picard group does not change under degree extensions at v, i.e., $\operatorname{Pic}(C_n) \cong \operatorname{Pic}(C'_{n+1})$ and $\operatorname{Pic}(C_n) \cong \operatorname{Pic}(C''_{n+1})$.

¹⁰We view a bi-directional arrow e_{ij} as a single arrow. Some authors view e_{ij} as a union of two one-directional arrows. In our work, our proofs use induction on the number of vertices. This difference does not cause any issue and we believe that our choice was more suitable for our statements.

Proof. Suppose that C_n is a directed cycle graph such that not all arrows of C_n are bi-directional. Let $V(C_n) = \{v_1, \ldots, v_n\}$ and $D_{C_n} = (d_{ij})$ be the vertex set and the degree matrix of C_n , respectively. Since not every arrow is bi-directional, there exists *i* such that $d_{ii} = 0$ or 1. We may assume i = n so that the adjacent vertices are v_{n-1} and v_1 .

Suppose that $d_{nn} = 0$. In this case, the Laplacian matrix of C_n is of the following form.

$$L_{C_n} = egin{bmatrix} l+1 & -l & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 \ dots & dots & dots & \cdots & dots & dots \ 0 & \cdots & 0 & -k & k+1 & -1 \ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

where $l, k \in \{0, 1\}$. Then we have the following Laplacian matrix $L_{C'_{n+1}}$ for C'_{n+1} .

$$L_{C'_{n+1}} = \begin{bmatrix} l+1 & -l & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & -k & k+1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let r_1, \ldots, r_{n+1} and c_1, \ldots, c_{n+1} denotes the rows and columns of $L_{C'_{n+1}}$, respectively. After replacing r_1 with $r_1 - r_n$, replacing c_n with $c_n + c_{n+1}$, and switching r_n and r_{n+1} in sequence, we obtain the following matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} l+1 & -l & 0 & \cdots & -1 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & -k & k+1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \underline{L_{C_n} \mid \mathbf{0}} \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now, the claim follows from Remark 2.11.

Suppose $d_{nn} = 1$. First, we consider the case where the vertex v_n has an outgoing arrow to v_1 . Thus, we have the following Laplacian matrices for C_n and C''_{n+1} , respectively.

$$L_{C_n} = \begin{bmatrix} l & -l & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & -k & k+1 & -1 \\ -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_{C''_{n+1}} = \begin{bmatrix} l & -l & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & -k & k+1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
(10)

where $l, k \in \{0, 1\}$. Let r_1, \ldots, r_{n+1} and c_1, \ldots, c_{n+1} denote the rows and columns of $L_{C''_{n+1}}$, respectively. By switching r_{n+1} and r_n , replacing r_n with $r_n + r_{n+1}$, and replacing c_n with $c_n + c_{n+1}$ in sequence, we have the following matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} l & -l & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & -k & k+1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} L_{C_n} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Again, our claim follows from Remark 2.11.

Finally, we assume that there exists a bi-directional arrow between the vertices v_n and v_1 . In this case by adding the last row of the Laplacian matrices L_{C_n} and $L_{C''_n}$ to the first one, we have the Laplacian matrices as in eq. (10). This completes the proof.

Lemma 4.5. Let C_n be a directed cycle graph with the following edge set.

$$E(C_n) = \{e_{\overrightarrow{n1}}, e_{\overrightarrow{12}}, e_{\overrightarrow{23}}\} \cup \{e_{\overrightarrow{ij}} \mid i \neq j \text{ and } \{i, j\} \not\subseteq \{n, 1, 2, 3\}\}.$$
(11)

Pictorially, we have

$$C_n = \left(\cdots \ v_n \to v_1 \leftarrow v_2 \leftarrow v_3 \ \cdots \right)$$

and all other arrows are bi-directional. Then we have

$$\operatorname{Pic}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{n-1}$$
 and $\operatorname{Jac}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{n-1}$.

Proof. The Laplacian matrix of C_n is of the following form.

$$L_{C_n} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let r_1, \ldots, r_n and c_1, \ldots, c_n denote the rows and columns of L_{C_n} , respectively. Replace r_n with $r_n - r_2$ and then c_2 with $c_2 + c_1$. Further, switch r_1 and r_2 . As a result, we obtain the following matrix.

Now, it follows from Remark 4.6 below, one can observe that M_n is equivalent to the following matrix:

$$M'_{n} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & L \end{bmatrix}$$

where the $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ bottom right submatrix denoted by *L* is the Laplacian matrix of C_{n-1}^{un} , a directed cycle graph corresponding the undirected cycle graph on (n-1)-vertices. In particular, $\operatorname{Pic}(C_{n-1}^{un}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{n-1} \times \mathbb{Z}$. Now, the statement follows from Remark 2.11.

Remark 4.6. The Laplacian of the undirected cycle graph C_n is of the form

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since $[1 \cdots 1]L = 0$ by Remark 2.14, the first row is a \mathbb{Z} -linear combination of the next (n-1) rows. This justifies the last equivalence in the proof above.

Remark 4.7. We note that when n = 3, C_n in Lemma 4.5 corresponds to G_2 in Example 4.2.

Proof of Theorem 4.1. We induct on the number of vertices. The base case is when n = 3 which is Example 4.2. Suppose that the statement holds for n. For n + 1 and for $1 \le k \le n - 1$, by the induction hypothesis on C_n , there exists a directed cycle graph C_n having $\text{Pic}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_k$. Furthermore, not all arrows of C_n are bi-directional; if so, then $\text{Jac}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$. Therefore, by Lemma 4.4, there exists a directed cycle C_{n+1} which is a degree extension of C_n so that $\text{Pic}(C_{n+1}) \cong \text{Pic}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_k$.

By Lemma 4.5, there exists a directed cycle graph C_{n+1} whose Picard group is $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_n$, and C_{n+1}^{un} , corresponding to the undirected cycle graph, has $\text{Pic}(C_{n+1}^{un}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{n+1}$. This completes the proof.

For any given $n \ge 3$, let $\Gamma(n)$ denote the set of all Picard groups of C_n . Indeed, the proof shows that $\Gamma(n) \subset \Gamma(n+1)$. It would be interesting to study the numbers associated to $\Gamma(n), \Gamma(n+1)$, and $\Gamma(n+1) \setminus \Gamma(n)$ as *n* grows infinity.

Question 4.8. What are the members of $\Gamma(n)$? Is there a pattern that depends on *n* only? What about the case for their Jacobians?

4.1. **Cycle graphs having a global sink.** In this subsection, we present an application of our results on directed cycle graphs having a global sink. We show that these graphs have a rank one Picard group and their Jacobian is determined by the number of bi-directional arrows in a certain position (Theorem 4.21). We first prove the statement for a special case (Theorem 4.12).

Definition 4.9. Let C_n be a directed cycle graph.

- (1) By a *path* of C_n , we mean a connected subgraph of C_n in which all arrows are oriented in a single direction. We do not allow any bi-directional arrows in a path.
- (2) By a C_n with two opposite paths, we mean a directed cycle graphs C_n which has exactly two paths sharing a sink, i.e., C_n has two paths $P_1 = (v_i \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow v_j)$ and $P_2 = (v_\ell \leftarrow \cdots \leftarrow v_k)$ such that $v_j = v_\ell$, and all the other arrows not in P_1 and P_2 are bi-directional.

Example 4.10. The following is an example of C_5 with two opposite paths.

$$C_5 = \left(\begin{array}{ccc} & 1 \\ 5 & & 2 \\ & & & \checkmark \\ 4 & & & 3 \end{array}\right)$$

We have the following two paths.

$$P_1 = \left(5 \longrightarrow 4 \right), \qquad P_2 = \left(4 \leftarrow 3 \leftarrow 2 \leftarrow 1 \right).$$

Remark 4.11. Any C_n with two opposite paths has a global sink. Therefore, for these graphs the notions of different chip firing games agree, see [6, Remark 2.12].

Theorem 4.12. Let C_n be a directed cycle graph with two opposite paths. Then we have

$$\operatorname{Pic}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{k+2}$$
 and $\operatorname{Jac}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{k+2}$.

Here, k denotes the number of bi-directional arrows in C_n .

Example 4.13. Consider the following orientations of C_5 with two paths. The counter-clockwise path is in red and the clockwise path is in blue. The bi-directional arrows are shown in black.



Then we have $Jac(C_5) \cong \mathbb{Z}_3$, $Jac(G_1) \cong \mathbb{Z}_4$, $Jac(G_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_5$, and $Jac(G_3) = \mathbb{Z}_2$, where C_5 is the graph in Example 4.10. All these graphs have rank 1 Picard groups.

Lemma 4.14 will be useful for the proof of Theorem 4.12.

Lemma 4.14. For $n \ge 2$, let M_n denote the $n \times n$ matrix whose diagonal entries are 2 and subdiagonals are -1, i.e.,

$$M_n = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (12)

Then one has $det(M_n) = n + 1$.

Proof. We use induction on the size of M_n . When n = 2, we have

$$M_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

whose determinant is 3.

Suppose the statement is true for all $k \le n-1$. To compute det (M_n) , we use the Laplace expansion along the first row. Thus, one has

$$\det(M_n) = 2\det(M_{n-1}) + \det(N),$$

where *N* is the following $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ matrix.

$$N = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \hline 0 & M_{n-2} & \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (13)

In particular, $det(N) = -det(M_{n-2})$ (cf. by Remark 2.11), and hence by the induction hypothesis, we have

$$\det(M_n) = 2\det(M_{n-1}) + \det(N) = 2((n-1)+1) + (-1)((n-2)+1) = n+1.$$

Remark 4.15. Note that the $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ minor of M_n after deleting the first row and last column is $(-1)^{n-1}$. Hence the Smith normal form of M_n is

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_{n-1} & 0 \\ 0 & n+1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Lemma 4.16. Let C_n be a directed cycle graph and $V(C_n) = \{v_1, \ldots, v_n\}$. Suppose that the vertex v_1 does not have any outgoing arrows, and all other vertices have two outgoing arrows. Then we have $Pic(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times Jac(C_n)$, where $Jac(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$.

Proof. The Laplacian matrix of C_n is the matrix following.

$$L_{C_n} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{vmatrix}.$$
(14)

By Remark 2.13, L_{C_n} is equivalent to the following matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & M_{n-1} \\ 13 \end{bmatrix},$$
(15)

where M_{n-1} is the matrix in Lemma 4.14. Thus, by Remark 4.15, we have

$$\operatorname{Pic}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_n \text{ and } \operatorname{Jac}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}_n.$$

Proof of Theorem 4.12. The graph C_n has a global sink. Recall k denotes the number of bi-directional arrows. We induct on n. When n = 3, G_2 in Example 4.2 verifies the case of k = 0. For C_3 with two opposite paths having one bi-directional arrow, its Laplacian matrix and its Smith normal form are the following.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

This proves the base case.

Suppose the statement holds true for two opposite paths directed cycle graphs on n-1 vertices. For the directed cycle graphs C_n on n vertices, if k = n-2, then we are done by Lemma 4.16. If k < n-2, our C_n can be obtained as a degree 0 extension of a C_{n-1} with two opposite paths. Both C_n and C_{n-1} are with two opposite paths having the same number of bi-directional arrows. Thus, by Lemma 4.4 and induction, we have $Pic(C_n) \cong Pic(C_{n-1}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_{k+2}$. This completes the proof. \Box

Lemma 4.17 is easy to prove but key to the proof of Theorem 4.21. It is in the same vein as Lemma 3.1.

Lemma 4.17. Let G be a directed graph having and v, w vertices of G. Suppose $e_{\overrightarrow{vw}}$ is in E(G), and the (out-)degree of v is 1. Let G' be a directed graph such that

$$V(G') = V(G) \text{ and } E(G') = E(G) \setminus \{e_{\overrightarrow{vw}}\} \cup \{e_{\overrightarrow{vw}}\}.$$

Then L_G and $L_{G'}$ are row equivalent. Thus, they have the same Picard group and Jacobian.

Proof. Without loss of generality, assume v, w be the first two vertices. Then their Laplacians only differ in the second row. The row equivalence now follows by subtracting the first row of L_G to the second.

Example 4.18. Consider the following directed graph.



Then, we have $Pic(G) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$. Change α to an one-directional arrow to obtain the following graph:



Then, we have $\operatorname{Pic}(G') \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$.

Definition 4.19. By a *double chain graph*, we mean a directed graph *G* whose underlying graph is a linear (or path) graph such that for the vertex set $\{v_0, \ldots, v_{k+1}\}$ of *G*, the edge set is defined as follows.

$$E(G) = \{ e_{\overleftarrow{0,1}}, e_{\overleftarrow{1,2}}, \dots, e_{\overleftarrow{k-1,k}}, e_{\overrightarrow{k,k+1}} \}$$

Pictorially, G is the graph

$$G = \left(v_0 \leftarrow v_1 \leftrightarrow v_2 \leftrightarrow \cdots \leftrightarrow v_{k-1} \leftrightarrow v_k \rightarrow v_{k+1} \right).$$

In this case, we say G is a double chain of *length k*.

Lemma 4.20. Let C_n be a directed cycle graph. If C_n has a global sink, then there exists at most one double chain subgraph contained in C_n .

Proof. Suppose C_n has more than one double chain subgraphs. Choose distinct double chain subgraphs and label them as G and G'. Let $V(G) = \{v_0, \ldots, v_{k+1}\}$ and $V(G') = \{w_0, \ldots, w_{l+1}\}$. Further, let v denote the global sink vertex. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $v_{k+1} \le v \le w_0$ in the vertex order of C_n . Then there does not exist a directed path from w_{l+1} to the global sink vertex v. If there is a directed path P from w_{l+1} to v, then $w_l \notin P$. This implies that G is a subgraph of P. In particular, v_0 and v_1 are in P. Since the there is no arrow from v_0 to v_1 , v_1 cannot be in P. This is a contradiction.

By Lemma 4.20, a directed cycle graph C_n having a global sink, we can say *the* length of the double chain of C_n . This length determines the Picard group and Jacobian of such C_n .

Theorem 4.21. Let C_n be a directed cycle graph with a global sink. Suppose k is the length of the double chain subgraph contained in C_n . Then one has

$$\operatorname{Pic}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \operatorname{Jac}(C_n)$$
 and $\operatorname{Jac}(C_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{k+2}$.

Proof. Let C_n be a directed cycle graph with a global sink. We claim that there exists another directed cycle graph C'_n such that C'_n is with two opposite paths having the same double chain subgraph and the Laplacian of C'_n is (row)-equivalent to the Laplacian of C_n . Once we have shown the claim, the proof will follow from Theorem 4.12. By Lemma 4.17, we know that the following replacement of an arrow keeps the Laplacian matrix up to row equivalence.

$$\left(v_{i-1} \rightarrow v_i \leftrightarrow v_{i+1} \right) \rightarrow \left(v_{i-1} \rightarrow v_i \rightarrow v_{i+1} \right).$$

By inductively applying this procedure to all bi-directional arrows that are not part of the double chain, we will arrive to the desired C'_n . This completes the proof.

5. PICARD GROUPS OF DIRECTED WHEEL GRAPHS

In this section, we use the following notation for directed wheel graphs and determine their Picard groups.

Definition 5.1 (Wheel graph). By the directed wheel graph W_n , we mean a directed graph obtained by connecting a single universal vertex to all vertices of a cycle graph C_{n-1} whose arrows are bidirectional arrows. This is the graph corresponding to the undirected wheel graph.

- (1) By W'_n , we mean a directed wheel graph such that the arrows of the rim are bi-directional and all its spoke arrows point to the axle.
- (2) By W_n'' , we mean a directed wheel graph such that the arrows of the rim are bi-directional and all its spoke arrows point away from the axle.

Note that W'_n and W''_n have the same underlying undirected graph W_n .

Example 5.2. Here are examples demonstrating our definitions.



Proposition 5.3. Let L_{W_n} (resp. $L_{W'_n}$) be the Laplacian matrix of W_n (resp. W'_n). Then L_{W_n} and $L_{W'_n}$ are row equivalent. In particular, one has $Pic(W_n) \cong Pic(W'_n)$.

Proof. We use the labeling convention that v_1 is the axle and the vertices on the rim are v_2, \ldots, v_n . The Laplacian matrices are as follows:

	n-1	-1	-1					-1		0	0	0					0	
	-1	3	-1	0	•••	•••	0	-1		-1	3	-1	0	•••	•••	0	-1	
	-1	-1	3	-1	•••		0	0		-1	-1	3	-1	• • •	• • •	0	0	
-	-1	0	-1	3	-1		0	0	-	-1	0	-1	3	-1		0	0	
$L_{W_n} =$	-1	0	0	-1	3	-1		0	$L_{W'_n} =$	-1	0	0	-1	3	-1		0	.
	-1	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷		-1	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	
	-1	0	0	0	•••	-1	3	-1		-1	0	0	0	•••	-1	3	-1	
	-1	-1	0	0		0	-1	3		-1	-1	0	0		0	-1	3	

Since $\mathbf{1}_{\mathbf{n}} \cdot L_{w_n} = 0$ (Remark 2.14), $L_{W'_n}$ is obtained from L_{W_n} by adding all other rows from the first row. This completes the proof.

Proposition 5.4. The Smith normal form of the Laplacian of W_n'' is of the following form.

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_{n-3} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } (a,b) = \begin{cases} (n-1,n-1) & \text{if } n \text{ is even;} \\ (\frac{n-1}{2},2(n-1)) & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. We use the labeling convention that v_1 is the axle and the vertices on the rim are v_2, \ldots, v_n . Then we have the following Laplacian matrix $L_{W''_n}$ of W''_n .

	n-1	-1	-1					-1]
	0	2	-1	0	•••	•••	0	-1	
	0	-1	2	-1	•••	•••	0	0	
	0	0	-1	2	-1	•••	0	0	
$L_{W_n''} =$	0	0	0	-1	2	-1	•••	0	
	0	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	
	0	0	0	0	•••	-1	2	-1	
	0	-1	0	0	•••	0	-1	2	

Let r_1, \ldots, r_n and c_1, \ldots, c_n denote the rows and columns of $L_{W''_n}$. First, $I_{n-3}(L_{W''_n}) = \langle 1 \rangle$. This follows by taking the $(n-3) \times (n-3)$ minor after deleting r_1, r_2, r_n and c_1, c_{n-1}, c_n . By Theorem 2.13, we have det $(L_{W''_n}) = 0$. Hence, by Theorem 2.10, it suffices to show that

$$I_{n-1}(L_{W_n''}) = \langle (n-1)^2 \rangle \text{ and } I_{n-2}(L_{W_n''}) = \begin{cases} \langle n-1 \rangle & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ \langle (n-1)/2 \rangle & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Now, we reduce the Laplacian matrix $L_{W''_n}$. By replacing c_1 with $c_1 + \cdots + c_n$, multiplying -1 to r_1 , and then replacing r_n with $r_2 + \cdots + r_n$, we obtain the following matrix.

0	1	1	•••	•••	•••		1
0	2	-1	0	•••	•••	0	-1
0	-1	2	-1	•••	•••	0	0
0	0	-1	2	-1	•••	0	0
0	0	0	-1	2	-1	•••	0
0	:	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷	÷
0	0	0	0		-1	2	-1
0	0	0	0		0	0	0

By abuse of notation, we use c_1, \ldots, c_n to denote the columns of the matrix in eq. (16). After replacing c_n with $c_2 + \cdots + c_n$, we obtain the following matrix.

Since the first column and the last row are zero, to compute the Smith normal form of $L_{W''_n}$, it suffices to find the Smith normal form of the (n-1) by (n-1) matrix N.

$$N := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1}_{n-2} & n-1 \\ \hline M_{n-2} & \mathbf{0}_{n-1}^T \end{bmatrix},$$

where M_{n-2} is the matrix eq. (12) in Lemma 4.14. Note that $det(M_{n-2}) = n - 1$ and this shows that

$$I_{n-1}(L_{W_n''}) = I_{n-1}(N) = \langle \det(N) \rangle = \langle (n-1)^2 \rangle.$$

To compute the (n-2) minors, first note that if the last column is a part of a minor, then it is divisible by (n-1). Since det $(M_{n-2}) = (n-1) \in I_{n-2}(N)$, we only need to consider the (n-2) minors of the first (n-2) columns of N. In other words, $I_{n-2}(L_{W''_n})$ is generated by (n-1) and the (n-2)determinants of the matrix which is obtained from M_{n-2} by replacing the *i*th row by $\mathbf{1}_{n-2}$.

Note that M_{n-2} is symmetric. By Cramer's rule, these (n-2) minors are the entries of the solution matrix **x** of the following matrix equation (up to sign):

$$M_{n-2}\mathbf{x} = \det(M_{n-2}) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{n-2}^T.$$
(18)

By Lemma 5.5, the greatest common divisor of the solutions to eq. (18) is (n-1) if *n* is even and (n-1)/2 if *n* is odd. This completes the proof.

Lemma 5.5. Consider the matrix equation

$$M_n \mathbf{x} = (n+1) \mathbf{1}_{\mathbf{n}}^T$$

where M_n is as in Lemma 4.14. Let x_k denote the k^{th} entry of **x**. Then $x_k = ak^2 + bk$, where

$$a = -\frac{(n+1)}{2}, \quad b = \frac{(n+1)^2}{2}.$$

Furthermore, $gcd(x_1,...,x_n)$ is (n+1) if n is even and (n+1)/2 if n is odd.

Proof. Note that det $(M_n) = n + 1$ by Lemma 4.14. Consider a sequence $f(k) = f_k = ak^2 + bk$. For any k, we have

$$-f_{k-1} + 2f_k - f_{k+1} = -2a.$$

First, we set a = -(n+1)/2. In addition, the equations $2x_1 - x_2 = n+1$ and $-x_{n-1} + 2x_n = n+1$ are equivalent to the conditions $f_0 = f_{n+1} = 0$. These conditions imply $b = (n+1)^2/2$ since 0, -b/a are the roots of f(k).

We compute the gcd of f_1, \ldots, f_n . First, we claim that $gcd(f_1, \ldots, f_n) = gcd(f_1, n+1)$. Since $gcd(f_1, \ldots, f_n)$ divides $2f_1 - f_2 = n + 1$, it suffices to show that $gcd(f_1, n + 1)$ divides f_2, \ldots, f_n . This follows by induction since for k = 2, ..., n, we have

$$f_k = 2f_{k-1} - f_{k-2} - (n+1).$$

Here we use the fact that $f_0 = 0$ for the base case of the induction. Moreover, since

$$f_1 = -(n+1)/2 + (n+1)^2/2 = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

is an integer, the expressions $f_k = -2f_{k-1} + f_{k-2}$ also prove that f_1, \ldots, f_n are integers.

Finally, we show that $gcd(f_1, n+1)$ is n+1 when n is even and (n+1)/2 when n is odd. Recall $f_1 = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$. If n is even, then n+1 divides f_1 . Thus, $gcd(f_1, n+1) = n+1$. If n is odd, then

$$\gcd(f_1, n+1) = \gcd(\frac{n+1}{2} \cdot n, n+1) = \gcd(\frac{n+1}{2}, n+1) = \frac{n+1}{2}$$

The second last equality follows from the fact that $\frac{n+1}{2}$ is an integer and for integers $a, b, c, \gcd(ab, c) =$ gcd(a,c) if b,c are relatively prime. Thus, $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 & \cdots & f_n \end{bmatrix}^T$ is a solution having the asserted gcd. This completes the proof.

6. ON CERTAIN DIRECTED MULTIPARTITE GRAPHS

In this section, we study Picard groups of a class of directed multipartite graphs. We call members of this class as single-flow directed multipartite graphs. The structure of the graphs that we investigate are designed to resemble artificial neural networks. Our results provides patterns in for Perceptron style model with two layers (Proposition 6.3) and a Hidden Layer model with three layers (Theorem 6.6). Thus, Question 6.7 can be though of as an attempt to understand the "deep" neural networks.

Definition 6.1. By a single-flow directed multipartite graph (G, \mathscr{P}) , we mean a directed graph G together with a partition \mathscr{P} of the vertex set $V(G) = V_1(G) \sqcup \cdots \sqcup V_t(G)$ satisfying the following conditions.

- (1) There is no empty partition. That is, $|V_i(G)| > 0$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, t\}$.
- (2) For any $i \in \{1, ..., t\}$ and $u, v \in V_i(G)$, there is no arrow between u and v,
- (3) For any $i \in \{1, \dots, t-1\}$, $u \in V_i(G)$, and $v \in V_{i+1}(G)$, there exists an arrow $e_{\overrightarrow{uv}}$.

For a single-flow directed multipartite graph (G, \mathscr{P}) , we call t the number of layers of (G, \mathscr{P}) .

The Picard group of a undirected multipartite graph is determined in [7].

Example 6.2. When a = 2 and b = 3, we have the following:



Then we have

Hence $\operatorname{Pic}(G) \cong \mathbb{Z}^3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$.

Proposition 6.3. Let (G, \mathscr{P}) be a single-flow directed multipartite graph with two layers. Let $|V_1(G)| = a$ and $|V_2(G)| = b$. Then we have

$$\operatorname{Pic}(G) \cong \mathbb{Z}^b \times \mathbb{Z}_b^{a-1}.$$

Proof. The Laplacian matrix of G is the following form.

$$L_G = \begin{bmatrix} bI_a & -\mathbf{1}_{a \times b} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}.$$

By subtracting the (a + 1)th column from the columns right to it, L_G is equivalent to the following matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} bI_a & -\mathbf{1}_a^T & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that $I_k(L_G) = I_k(L_{sub})$, where $L_{sub} = \begin{bmatrix} bI_a & \mathbf{1}_a^T \end{bmatrix}$. Thus, it suffices to study L_{sub} . Let c_1, \ldots, c_{a+1} denote the columns of L_{sub} . Replace c_1 with $-(c_2 + \cdots + c_a) + bc_{a+1}$ and then switch the first and the last columns. One has the following equivalences of L_{sub} .

$\begin{bmatrix} b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$	0		•••	0	1]	[0	0	•••	•••	0	1]		[1	0	•••	•••	0	[0	
0	b	0	•••	0	1		0	b	0	•••	0	1		1	b	0	•••	•••	0	
0	0	•••	0	0	1	\sim	0	0	•••	0	0	1	\sim	1	0	•••	0	•••	0	(19)
1:	÷	÷	·.	÷	:		÷	÷	÷	·.	÷	:		1:	÷	÷	·.	÷	:	
[0	•••	0	0	b	1	L	0	•••	0	0	b	1		L1	•••	0	0	b	0	

By subtracting the first row from all other rows, we have the following matrix.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & bI_{a-1} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Now, the result follows from the Smith normal form of L_G .

$$SNF(L_G) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & bI_{a-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Remark 6.4. Let (G, \mathscr{P}) be a single-flow directed multipartite graph with *t* layers and $|V_i(G)| = a_i$. Then the Laplacian matrix L_G is of the following block matrix form

Γ	$a_2I_{a_1}$	$-1_{a_1 \times a_2}$	0	0		0]
	0	$a_{3}I_{a_{2}}$	$-1_{a_2 \times a_3}$	•••	0	0	
	:	÷	·	·	:	÷	
	:	:	÷	·	·	÷	
ľ	0	0		0	$a_t I_{a_{t-1}}$	$-1_{a_{t-1} \times a_t}$	
Ľ	0	0		0	0	0	

where the (i, j)th block is of size $a_i \times a_j$.

From this one can deduce that the rank of the Picard group of *G* is a_t .¹¹ This follows since the number of non-zero rows is $r := a_1 + \cdots + a_{t-1}$ and the determinant of the principal $r \times r$ minors is $a_2^{a_1} \cdots a_t^{a_{t-1}} \neq 0$. Here the principal minor of size *k* of a matrix *M* is the minor of the first *k* rows and columns. We note that this minor is not equal to $|\operatorname{Jac}(G)|$ in general, see Lemma 6.5.

Lemma 6.5. Let (G, \mathscr{P}) be a single-flow directed multipartite graph with three layers, and let $|V_1(G)| = a$, $|V_2(G)| = b$, and $|V_3(G)| = c$. Then $|\operatorname{Jac}(G)| = b^a \cdot c^{b-1}$.

Proof. We have the following Laplacian matrix of G.

$$L_G = \begin{bmatrix} bI_a & -\mathbf{1}_{a \times b} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & cI_b & -\mathbf{1}_{b \times c} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since the rank of L_G is a + b, it suffices to show that $I_{a+b}(L_G) = \langle b^a \cdot c^{b-1} \rangle$. First observe that

$$I_{a+b}(L_G) = I_{a+b} \left(\begin{bmatrix} bI_a & -\mathbf{1}_{a \times b} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & cI_b & | \mathbf{1}_b^T \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

We apply the modifications in eq. (19) to the second row block of L_G . Note that in this case we also need to keep track of the (1,2) and (1,3) sub-blocks.

$$\begin{bmatrix} bI_a & -\mathbf{1}_{a \times b} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & cI_b & \mathbf{1}_b^T \end{bmatrix} \sim \begin{bmatrix} bI_a & N & b \cdot \mathbf{1}_a^T \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & N' & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix},$$

where N and N' are the following matrices.

$$N = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0}_a^T & | -\mathbf{1}_{a \times (b-1)} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } N' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & cI_{b-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that the last column is the sum of the first *a* columns. Therefore, $I_{a+b}(L) = \langle \det(bI_a) \cdot \det(N') \rangle = \langle b^a \cdot c^{b-1} \rangle$ and $|\operatorname{Jac}(G)| = b^a \cdot c^{b-1}$.

Indeed, one can further reduce to a simpler case by reducing the block matrix

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} bI_a & N \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & N' \end{bmatrix},$$

and it will provide a way to determine the Smith normal form of L_G .

Since the (1,1)-entry of N' is 1, $I_{k+1}(L) = I_k(L')$, where L' is the matrix obtained by deleting the row and column of containing the (1,1) entry of N'. That is,

$$L' = \begin{bmatrix} bI_a & -\mathbf{1}_{a \times (b-1)} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & cI_{b-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

If b = 1, then by Lemma 6.5, $|\operatorname{Jac}(G)| = 0$. This implies that the non-zero diagonal entries of $\operatorname{SNF}(L_G)$ consists of 1's. In the rest, we assume that b > 1, so the expression I_{b-2} is valid. Let r_1, \ldots, r_{a+b-1} and c_1, \ldots, c_{a+b-1} denote the rows and columns of L'. By subtracting r_a from each of r_1, \ldots, r_{a-1} and

¹¹One can also see in this case that each vertex in $V_t(G)$ is a terminal strong component. Hence, this directly follows from Theorem 3.5.

by subtracting c_{a+1} from each of $c_{a+2}, \ldots, c_{a+b-1}$, we have

$$L' \sim \begin{bmatrix} b & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -b & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & b & \cdots & 0 & -b & \vdots & \cdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & b & -b & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & b & -1 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & c & -c & -c & \cdots & -c \\ \vdots & \cdots & \cdots & \vdots & 0 & c & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & c & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & c \end{bmatrix}$$

Further column and row operations will reduce to the case of having bI_a for the (1,1)-block and cI_{b-1} for the (2,2)-block, respectively. Last reduction is done on the sub-block $\begin{bmatrix} b & -1 \\ 0 & c \end{bmatrix}$ by replacing it with its Smith normal form $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & bc \end{bmatrix}$. Therefore, L' is equivalent to the following matrix

$$L'' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & bc & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & bI_{a-1} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & cI_{b-2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence L_G is equivalent to the following matrix

$$L_G \sim L'_G = \begin{bmatrix} I_2 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & bc & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & bI_{a-1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & cI_{b-2} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

Though L'_G is a diagonal matrix, it is not in its Smith normal form in general. However, since L'_G is a diagonal matrix, we can determine the cokernel of L_G from L'_G . That is,

$$\operatorname{coker} L_G \cong \operatorname{Pic}(G) \cong \mathbb{Z}_{bc} \times \mathbb{Z}_b^{a-1} \times \mathbb{Z}_c^{b-2} \times \mathbb{Z}^c.$$

$$(20)$$

This determines the Picard group of *G*. We note that by the well-known correspondence between the elementary divisors and invariant factors of a finitely generated abelian group, one can deduce the Smith normal form of L_G from eq. (20). Another method is direct though it is essentially the same as the correspondence. Note that the Smith normal form of the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} b & 0 \\ 0 & c \end{bmatrix}$ is $\begin{bmatrix} \gcd(b,c) & 0 \\ 0 & \operatorname{lcm}(b,c) \end{bmatrix}$, where gcd and lcm denotes the greatest common divisor and the least common multiple. Therefore, the non-zero diagonal entries of the Smith normal form of L_G consists of $1, \gcd(b, c), \operatorname{lcm}(b, c), b, c$, and *bc*. It is clear that $1 | \gcd(b,c) | b, c | \operatorname{lcm}(b,c) | bc$. Recall if b = 1, then the non-zero diagonal entries of 1's. In eq. (21), we write $g = \gcd(b,c)$ and $l = \operatorname{lcm}(b,c)$, and let the exponential notation $a^{[b]}$ denote $\underbrace{a, \ldots, a}_{b-\operatorname{times}}$. With this notation, the non-zero diagonal entries of the

Smith normal form of L_G follow the following pattern.

$$\begin{split} &1^{[a+b]} & \text{if } b = 1, \\ &1^{[2]}, g^{[(b-2)]}, b^{[a-b+1]}, l^{[(b-2)]}, bc & \text{if } a-1 \geq b-2 \geq 0, \text{ and} \\ &1^{[2]}, g^{[(a-1)]}, c^{[b-a-1]}, l^{[(a-1)]}, bc & \text{if } a-1 \leq b-2. \end{split}$$

Thus, we have proved the following theorem.

Theorem 6.6. Let (G, \mathscr{P}) be a single-flow directed multipartite graph with three layers, and let $|V_1(G)| = a$, $|V_2(G)| = b$, and $|V_3(G)| = c$. Then the Picard group of G is isomorphic to

$$\mathbb{Z}^c \times \operatorname{Jac}(G),$$

where

$$\operatorname{Jac}(G) \cong \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } b = 1, \\ \mathbb{Z}_g^{b-2} \times \mathbb{Z}_b^{a-b+1} \times \mathbb{Z}_l^{b-2} \times \mathbb{Z}_{bc} & \text{if } a \ge b-1 \text{ and } b \ge 2, \\ \mathbb{Z}_g^{a-1} \times \mathbb{Z}_c^{b-a-1} \times \mathbb{Z}_l^{a-1} \times \mathbb{Z}_{bc} & \text{if } a \le b-1. \end{cases}$$

Here, g and l denote the greatest common divisor and the least common multiple of b and c, respectively.

The structure of the graphs that we investigate are designed to resemble artificial neural networks.

Question 6.7. Let (G, \mathscr{P}) be a single-flow directed multipartite graph with *t* layers. What is the Smith normal form of the Laplacian matrix L_G of *G*? That is, what is their Picard groups?

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ, NY 12561, USA *Email address*: junj@newpaltz.edu

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN BERNARDINO, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407

Email address: youngsu.kim@csusb.edu

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, NY 12561, USA *Email address*: pisanm2@rpi.edu