ASBG-Colourings of Trees

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An Alternating Signed Bipartite Graph (ASBG) is a graphical representation of Alternating Sign Matrices introduced by Richard Brualdi et al [1].

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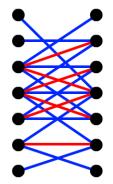
A bipartite graph G is an ASBG if it is balanced and each edge of G is coloured blue or red such that there is an *allowable ordering* of the vertices in each part of the bipartition.

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An ordering of the vertices is allowable if the vertices of each part can be embedded in that order on two parallel lines in the plane such that the edges incident with each vertex alternate in colour (beginning and ending with blue) in that embedding.

Alternating Signed Bipartite Graphs



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- *G* must be bipartite and balanced;
- Each vertex of *G* must have odd degree. This is because each vertex of *G*^{*c*} must have blue degree one higher than red degree.

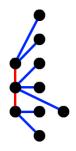
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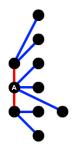
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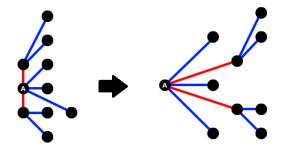
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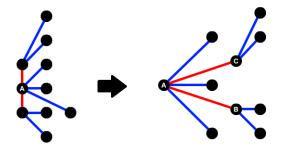
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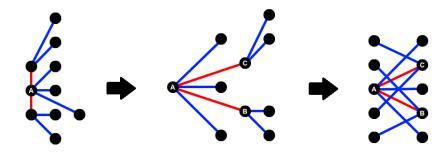
We call a colouring of a graph that satisfies the above conditions a *feasible colouring*.











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Theorem: A tree T is ASBG-colourable if and only if leaf-twig configurations can be removed until the trivial ASBG remains.



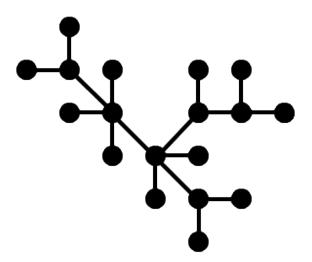
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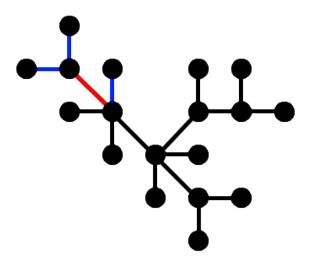
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The unique colouring of leaf-twig configurations also tells us what the ASBG-colouring of T is.

Corollary: If a tree T has an ASBG-colouring c, then c is the unique ASBG-colouring of T.

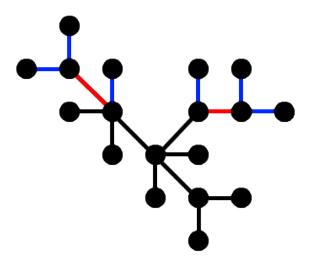


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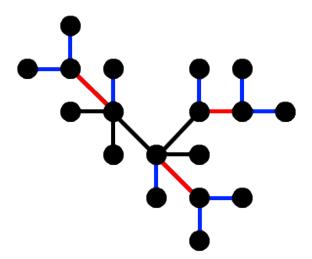


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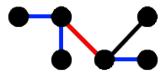
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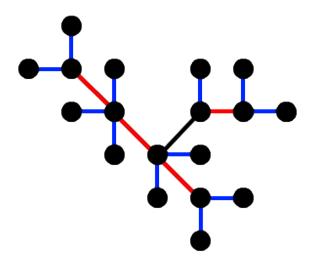
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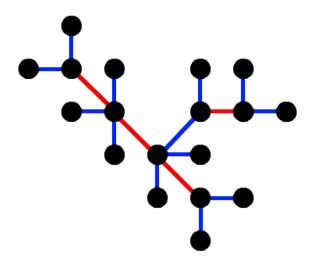
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Richard A. Brualdi, Kathleen P. Kiernan, Seth A. Meyer, Michael W. Schroeder, Patterns of Alternating Sign Matrices, Department of Mathematics University of Wisconsin, 2011