



# Chromatic uniqueness of a family of $K_4$ -homeomorphs

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#### Abstract

We discuss the chromaticity of one family of  $K_4$ -homeomorphs which has girth 7, and give sufficient and necessary condition for the graphs in the family to be chromatically unique.

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#### 1. Introduction

In this paper, we consider graphs which are simple. For such a graph G, let  $P(G; \lambda)$  denote the chromatic polynomial of G. Two graphs G and H are chromatically equivalent, denoted by  $G \sim H$ , if  $P(G; \lambda) = P(H; \lambda)$ . A graph G is chromatically unique if for any graph H such that  $H \sim G$ , we have  $H \cong G$ , i.e., H is isomorphic to G.

A  $K_4$ -homeomorph is a subdivision of the complete graph  $K_4$ . Such a homeomorph is denoted by  $K_4(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \eta)$  if the six edges of  $K_4$  are replaced by the six paths of length  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \eta$ , respectively, as shown in Fig. 1.

So far, the study of the chromaticity of  $K_4$ -homeomorphs with at least 2 paths of length 1 has been fulfilled (see [2,4,5,11]). Also the study of the chromaticity of  $K_4$ -homeomorphs which have girth 3, 4, 5 or 6 has been fulfilled. When referring to the chromaticity of  $K_4$ -homeomorphs which have girth 7, we know that only three types of  $K_4$ -homeomorphs which have girth 7 need to be solved, i.e.  $K_4(1,2,4,\delta,\varepsilon,\eta)$ ,  $K_4(3,2,2,\delta,\varepsilon,\eta)$  and  $K_4(1,3,3,\delta,\varepsilon,\eta)$ . Because the length of this paper will be too long and some details cannot be left out, we study one type of them, that is the chromaticity of  $K_4(1,3,3,\delta,\varepsilon,\eta)$  (as Fig. 2) in this paper. The chromaticity of the other two types will be given in other papers.

### 2. Auxiliary results

In this section we cite some known results used in what follows.

**Proposition 1.** Let G and H are chromatically equivalent. Then

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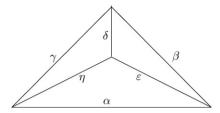


Fig. 1.  $K_4(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \eta)$ .

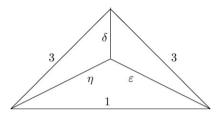


Fig. 2.  $K_4(1, 3, 3, \delta, \varepsilon, \eta)$ .

- (1) |V(G)| = |V(H)|, |E(G)| = |E(H)| (see [3]);
- (2) G and H have the same girth and same number of cycles with the length equal to their girth (see [10]);
- (3) If G is a  $K_4$ -homeomorph, then H is a  $K_4$ -homeomorph as well (see [1]);
- (4) If G and H are homeomorphic to  $K_4$ , then both the minimum values of parameters and the number of parameters equal to this minimum value of the graphs G and H coincide (see [9]).

**Proposition 2** (*Ren* [8]). Let  $G = K_4(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \eta)$  (see Fig. 1) when exactly three of  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \eta$  are the same. Then G is not chromatically unique if and only if G is isomorphic to  $K_4(s, s, s - 2, 1, 2, s)$  or  $K_4(s, s, s - 2, s, 2s - 2, 1, s)$  or  $K_4(t, t, 1, 2t, t + 2, t)$  or  $K_4(t, t, 1, 2t, t - 1, t)$  or  $K_4(t, t, 1, t, 2t, t + 1, t)$  or  $K_4(1, t, 1, t + 1, 3, 1)$  or  $K_4(1, 1, t, 2, t + 2, 1)$ , where  $s \ge 3$ ,  $t \ge 2$ .

**Proposition 3** (Peng [7]). Let  $K_4$ -homeomorphs  $K_4(1,3,3,\delta,\varepsilon,\eta)$  and  $K_4(3,2,2,\delta',\varepsilon',\eta')$  be chromatically equivalent, then  $K_4(1,3,3,\delta,\varepsilon,\eta)$  is isomorphic to  $K_4(3,2,2,\delta',\varepsilon',\eta')$ .

**Proposition 4** (Peng [6]). Let  $K_4$ -homeomorphs  $K_4(1,3,3,\delta,\epsilon,\eta)$  and  $K_4(1,3,3,\delta',\epsilon',\eta')$  be chromatically equivalent, then we have

$$K_4(1,3,3,a-1,a,a+3) \sim K_4(1,3,3,a+1,a-1,a+2).$$

#### 3. Main results

**Lemma.** If  $G \cong K_4(1,3,3,\delta,\varepsilon,\eta)$  and  $H \cong K_4(1,2,4,\delta',\varepsilon',\eta')$ , then we have

(1)  $P(G) = (-1)^{n+1} [r/(r-1)^2] [-r^{n+1} + 2 + 2r + Q(G)], \text{ where } Q(G) = -2r^3 - 2r^4 - r^\delta - r^\varepsilon - r^\eta - r^{\varepsilon+1} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6} + r^{\delta+\varepsilon+\eta}$ 

 $r = 1 - \lambda$ , n is the number of vertices of G.

(2)  $P(H) = (-1)^{m+1} [r/(r-1)^2] [-r^{m+1} + 2 + 2r + Q(H)], \text{ where } Q(H) = -r^2 - r^3 - r^4 - r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6} + r^{\delta'+\varepsilon'+\eta'}$ 

 $r = 1 - \lambda$ , m is the number of vertices of H.

(3) If P(G) = P(H), then Q(G) = Q(H).

**Proof.** (1) Let  $r = 1 - \lambda$ . From [9], we have the chromatic polynomial of  $K_4$ -homeomorph  $K_4(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \eta)$  as follows

$$P(K_4(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \eta)) = (-1)^{n+1} [r/(r-1)^2] [(r^2 + 3r + 2) - (r+1)(r^\alpha + r^\beta + r^\gamma + r^\delta + r^\varepsilon + r^\eta) + (r^{\alpha+\delta} + r^{\beta+\eta} + r^{\gamma+\varepsilon} + r^{\alpha+\beta+\varepsilon} + r^{\beta+\delta+\gamma} + r^{\alpha+\gamma+\eta} + r^{\delta+\varepsilon+\eta} - r^{n+1})].$$

Then

$$\begin{split} P(G) &= P(K_4(1,3,3,\delta,\varepsilon,\eta)) \\ &= (-1)^{n+1} [r/(r-1)^2] [(r^2+3r+2)-(r+1)(r^1+r^3+r^3+r^\delta+r^\varepsilon+r^\eta) \\ &+ (r^{\delta+1}+r^{\eta+3}+r^{\varepsilon+3}+r^{\varepsilon+4}+r^{\delta+6}+r^{\eta+4}+r^{\delta+\varepsilon+\eta}-r^{n+1})] \\ &= (-1)^{n+1} [r/(r-1)^2] [-r^{n+1}+2r+2-2r^3-2r^4-r^\delta-r^\varepsilon-r^\eta-r^{\varepsilon+1}-r^{\eta+1}+r^{\varepsilon+3}+r^{\eta+3}+r^{\varepsilon+4}+r^{\eta+4}+r^{\delta+6}+r^{\delta+\varepsilon+\eta}] \\ &= (-1)^{n+1} [r/(r-1)^2] [-r^{n+1}+2r+2+Q(G)] \end{split}$$

where

$$Q(G) = -2r^3 - 2r^4 - r^\delta - r^\varepsilon - r^\eta - r^{\varepsilon+1} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6} + r^{\delta+\varepsilon+\eta}.$$

- (2) We can handle this case in the same fashion as case (1), and get the result (2).
- (3) If P(G) = P(H), then it is easy to see that Q(G) = Q(H).  $\square$

**Theorem.**  $K_4$ -homeomorphs  $K_4(1,3,3,\delta,\varepsilon,\eta)$  (see Fig. 2) which has exactly 1 path of length 1 and has girth 7 is not chromatically unique if and only if it is  $K_4(1,3,3,a-1,a,a+3)$ ,  $K_4(1,3,3,a+1,a-1,a+2)$ ,  $K_4(1,3,3,2,b,b+2)$ ,  $K_4(1,3,3,2,4,7)$ ,  $K_4(1,3,3,2,5,8)$ ,  $K_4(1,3,3,5,2,5)$ , or  $K_4(1,3,3,5,2,6)$ , where a > 2,  $b \ge 2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G \cong K_4(1, 3, 3, \delta, \varepsilon, \eta)$  and  $\min\{\delta, \varepsilon, \eta\} \geq 2$ . If there is a graph H such that P(H) = P(G), then from Proposition 1, we know that H is a  $K_4$ -homeomorph  $K_4(\alpha', \beta', \gamma', \delta', \varepsilon', \eta')$  which has exactly 1 path of length 1, and the girth of H is 7. So H must be one of the following four types:

Type 1:

$$K_4(1, 2, \nu', 2, \varepsilon', 2)(\varepsilon' > 4, \nu' > 4)$$

Type 2:

$$K_4(3, 2, 2, \delta', \varepsilon', \eta')(\delta' + \varepsilon' \ge 5, \varepsilon' + \eta' \ge 4, \delta' + \eta' \ge 5)$$

Type 3:

$$K_4(1, 3, 3, \delta', \varepsilon', \eta')(\delta' + \varepsilon' > 4, \varepsilon' + \eta' > 6, \delta' + \eta' > 4)$$

Type 4:

$$K_4(1, 2, 4, \delta', \varepsilon', \eta')(\delta' + \varepsilon' > 5, \varepsilon' + \eta' > 6, \delta' + \eta' > 3).$$

We now solve the equation P(G) = P(H) to get all solutions.

If H has Type 1, then from Proposition 2, we know that H is chromatically unique. Since  $G \sim H$ , we have  $G \cong H$ . But it is obvious that G is not isomorphic to H. This is a contradiction.

If H has Type 2, then from Proposition 3, we know that G is isomorphic to H.

If H has Type 3, then from Proposition 4, we know that the solutions of the equation P(G) = P(H) are

$$K_4(1,3,3,a-1,a,a+3) \sim K_4(1,3,3,a+1,a-1,a+2)$$

where a > 2.

Suppose that H has Type 4, we solve the equation Q(G) = Q(H). From the Lemma, we have

$$\begin{split} Q(G) &= -2r^3 - 2r^4 - r^\delta - r^\varepsilon - r^\eta - r^{\varepsilon + 1} - r^{\eta + 1} + r^{\varepsilon + 3} + r^{\eta + 3} + r^{\varepsilon + 4} + r^{\eta + 4} + r^{\delta + 6} + r^{\delta + \varepsilon + \eta} \\ Q(H) &= -r^2 - r^3 - r^4 - r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon' + 1} - r^{\eta' + 1} + r^{\eta' + 2} + r^{\varepsilon' + 3} + r^{\varepsilon' + 4} + r^{\eta' + 5} \\ &\quad + r^{\delta' + 6} + r^{\delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'}. \end{split}$$

We denote the lowest remaining power by l.r.p. and the highest remaining power by h.r.p.. We can assume  $\min\{\delta', \varepsilon', \eta'\} \ge 2$ ,  $\varepsilon \le \eta$ , and we know that  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  (from Proposition 1). So we obtain the following after simplification:

$$Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^\delta - r^\varepsilon - r^\eta - r^{\varepsilon+1} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6}$$

$$Q(H): -r^2 - r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}$$

Comparing the l.r.p. in Q(G) with the l.r.p. in Q(H), we have min $\{\delta, \varepsilon\} = 2$ . There are two cases to be considered. Case A. If min $\{\delta, \varepsilon\} = \delta = 2$ , then we obtain the following after simplification:

$$\begin{split} &Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^\varepsilon - r^\eta - r^{\varepsilon + 1} - r^{\eta + 1} + r^{\varepsilon + 3} + r^{\eta + 3} + r^{\varepsilon + 4} + r^{\eta + 4} + r^8 \\ &Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon' + 1} - r^{\eta' + 1} + r^{\eta' + 2} + r^{\varepsilon' + 3} + r^{\varepsilon' + 4} + r^{\eta' + 5} + r^{\delta' + 6}. \end{split}$$

By considering the h.r.p. in Q(G), we have the h.r.p. in Q(G) is 8 or  $\eta + 4$ . There are two cases to be considered.

Case 1. If the h.r.p. in Q(G) is 8, from Q(G) = Q(H), we have  $\delta' + 6 \le 8$ . Since  $\delta' \ge 2$ , we get  $\delta' = 2$ . Comparing the l.r.p. in Q(G) with the l.r.p. in Q(H), we have  $\delta' = \varepsilon = 2$ . From  $\delta = 2$ ,  $\delta' = 2$  and  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$ , we get

$$\eta + 2 = \varepsilon' + \eta' \tag{1}$$

we obtain the following after simplification:

$$Q(G): -2r^3 - r^4 - r^{\eta} - r^{\eta+1} + r^5 + r^6 + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4}$$

$$Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5}$$

Consider  $-2r^3$  and  $-r^4$  in Q(G). Since Q(G) = Q(H), there are two terms in Q(H) which are equal to  $-r^3$  and there is one term in Q(H) which is equal to  $-r^4$ . So we have  $\varepsilon' = \eta' = 3$  or  $\varepsilon' = \eta' + 1 = 3$  or  $\varepsilon' + 1 = \eta' = 3$ .

If 
$$\varepsilon' = \eta' = 3$$
, from (1), we get  $\eta = 4$ . Thus,  $G \cong H$ .

If  $\varepsilon' = \eta' + 1 = 3$ , from (1), we get  $\eta = 3$ , then  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , a contradiction.

If  $\varepsilon' + 1 = \eta' = 3$ , from (1), we get  $\eta = 3$ , then  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , a contradiction.

Case 2. If the h.r.p. in Q(G) is  $\eta + 4$ , then

$$\eta + 4 > 8 
Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^{\varepsilon} - r^{\eta} - r^{\varepsilon+1} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^{\eta+4} + r^8 
Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}$$

By considering the h.r.p. in Q(H), we have the h.r.p. in Q(H) is  $\varepsilon' + 4$  or  $\eta' + 5$  or  $\delta' + 6$ . There are three cases to be considered.

Case 2.1. If the h.r.p. in Q(H) is  $\varepsilon' + 4$ , since the h.r.p. in Q(G) is  $\eta + 4$ , from Q(G) = Q(H), we have  $\eta + 4 = \varepsilon' + 4$ . From  $\delta = 2$  and  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$ , we get

$$\varepsilon + 2 = \delta' + \eta' \tag{3}$$

we obtain the following after simplification:

$$Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^{\varepsilon} - r^{\varepsilon+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^8$$

$$Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}.$$

Consider  $-r^3$  and  $-r^4$  in Q(G). It is due to Q(G)=Q(H) that there are terms in Q(H) which are equal to  $-r^3$  and  $-r^4$  respectively. So we have  $\delta'+\eta'=7$  (one of  $\delta'$ ,  $\eta'$  is equal to 3), or  $\delta'+\eta'+1=7$  (one of  $\delta'$ ,  $\eta'+1$  is equal to 3), or  $\eta'+\eta'+1=7$ .

By  $\varepsilon + 2 = \delta' + \eta'$  Eq. (3), It is easy to handle these cases in the same fashion as case 1, and we obtain  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , a contradiction.

Case 2.2. If the h.r.p. in Q(H) is  $\eta' + 5$ , we have

$$\begin{split} &Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^\varepsilon - r^\eta - r^{\varepsilon + 1} - r^{\eta + 1} + r^{\varepsilon + 3} + r^{\eta + 3} + r^{\varepsilon + 4} + r^{\eta + 4} + r^8 \\ &Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon' + 1} - r^{\eta' + 1} + r^{\eta' + 2} + r^{\varepsilon' + 3} + r^{\varepsilon' + 4} + r^{\eta' + 5} + r^{\delta' + 6} \end{split}$$

since the h.r.p. in Q(G) is  $\eta + 4$ , from Q(G) = Q(H), we have  $\eta + 4 = \eta' + 5$ , that is

$$\eta = \eta' + 1. \tag{4}$$

Since the case of  $\eta + 4 = \varepsilon' + 4$  has been discussed in Case 2.1, we can suppose  $\eta' + 5 \neq \varepsilon' + 4$ . Since the h.r.p. in Q(H) is  $\eta' + 5$ , we have  $\eta' + 5 > \varepsilon' + 4$  and  $\eta' + 5 \geq \delta' + 6$ , so

$$\eta' + 1 > \varepsilon' \tag{5}$$

$$\eta' \ge \delta' + 1 \tag{6}$$

after simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$Q(G): -r^{3} - r^{4} - r^{\varepsilon} - r^{\varepsilon+1} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^{8}$$

$$Q(H): -r^{5} - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\delta'+6}$$

Consider  $r^{\eta'+2}$  in Q(H). It is due to  $\eta'+1>\varepsilon'$  (from (5)) and  $\eta'\geq\delta'+1$  (from (6)) and  $\eta+4>8$  (from (2)) that  $r^{\eta'+2}$  cannot be cancelled by the negative terms in Q(H), so none of the negative terms in Q(H) is equal to the term  $-r^{\eta+1}$  in Q(G) (by noting  $\eta+1=\eta'+2$  (from (4)). So  $-r^{\eta+1}$  must be cancelled by the positive term in Q(G). Therefore,  $\eta+1$  must be equal to one of  $\varepsilon+3$ ,  $\varepsilon+4$ , 8 and  $\eta'+2$  must be equal to one of  $\varepsilon+3$ ,  $\varepsilon+4$ , 8. So  $\eta+1=\eta'+2=\varepsilon+3=8$  or  $\eta+1=\eta'+2=\varepsilon+4=8$ .

If  $\eta + 1 = \eta' + 2 = \varepsilon + 3 = 8$ , by  $\delta = 2$  and  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$ . It is easy to get  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , a contradiction.

If  $\eta + 1 = \eta' + 2 = \varepsilon + 4 = 8$ , since  $\delta = 2$  and  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$ , we have  $\delta' + \varepsilon' = 7$ . After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^4 + r^7 + r^{10}$$

$$Q(H): -r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^6 + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\delta'+6}.$$

Comparing the l.r.p. in Q(G) with the l.r.p. in Q(H), by  $\delta' + \varepsilon' = 7$ , we have  $\varepsilon' = 3$  and  $\delta' = 4$ . Thus we obtain the solution where G is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 3, 3, 2, 4, 7)$  and H is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 2, 4, 4, 3, 6)$ . That is

$$K_4(1,3,3,2,4,7) \sim K_4(1,2,4,4,3,6).$$

Case 2.3. If the h.r.p. in O(H) is  $\delta' + 6$ , we have

$$Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^{\varepsilon} - r^{\eta} - r^{\varepsilon+1} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^{\eta+4} + r^8$$

$$Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}$$

since the h.r.p. in Q(G) is  $\eta + 4$ , from Q(G) = Q(H), we have  $\eta + 4 = \delta' + 6$ , that is

$$\eta = \delta' + 2. \tag{7}$$

Since the case of  $\eta + 4 = \varepsilon' + 4$  and the case of  $\eta + 4 = \eta' + 5$  have been discussed in Case 2.1 and in Case 2.2 respectively, we can suppose  $\delta' + 6 \neq \varepsilon' + 4$  and  $\delta' + 6 \neq \eta' + 5$ . Since the h.r.p. in Q(H) is  $\delta' + 6$ , we have  $\delta' + 6 > \varepsilon' + 4$  and  $\delta' + 6 > \eta' + 5$ , so

$$\delta' + 2 > \varepsilon' \tag{8}$$

$$\delta' + 1 > \eta' \tag{9}$$

after simplifying O(G) and O(H), we have

$$\begin{split} &Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^{\varepsilon} - r^{\eta} - r^{\varepsilon+1} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^8 \\ &Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5}. \end{split}$$

Consider  $r^{\eta+3}$  in Q(G), it is due to  $\varepsilon \leq \eta$  that  $r^{\eta+3}$  can cancel none of the negative terms in Q(G). Thus,  $r^{\eta+3}$  must be equal to one of the terms in Q(H). Since  $\eta > \eta'$  and  $\eta > \varepsilon'$  (noting Eqs. (7)–(9)), we have  $r^{\eta+3} = r^{\varepsilon'+4}$  or  $r^{\eta+3} = r^{\eta'+5}$ .

Case 2.3.1. If  $r^{\eta+3} = r^{\varepsilon'+4}$ , then  $\eta = \varepsilon' + 1$ . Since  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  and  $\delta = 2$ , we have

$$\varepsilon + 3 = \delta' + \eta' \tag{10}$$

after simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$\begin{split} &Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^\varepsilon - r^{\varepsilon + 1} - r^{\eta + 1} + r^{\varepsilon + 3} + r^{\varepsilon + 4} + r^8 \\ &Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\eta' + 1} + r^{\eta' + 2} + r^{\varepsilon' + 3} + r^{\eta' + 5}. \end{split}$$

Consider  $-r^3$  in Q(G). Since  $-r^3$  can cancel none of the positive terms in Q(G),  $-r^3$  must be equal to one of the terms in Q(H). By  $\eta > 4$  (from (2)) and  $\eta = \varepsilon' + 1$ , we have  $\varepsilon' > 3$ . So  $-r^3 = -r^{\delta'}$  or  $-r^3 = -r^{\eta'}$  or  $-r^3 = -r^{\eta' + 1}$ .

If  $-r^3 = -r^{\delta'}$ , then  $\delta' = 3$ . From (10), we have  $\varepsilon = \eta'$ . From (7), we have  $\eta = 5$ . So from  $\eta = \varepsilon' + 1$ , we have  $\varepsilon' = 4$ . After simplifying, we have

$$Q(G) : -r^6 + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^8$$

$$Q(H): -r^5 + r^{\eta'+2} + r^7 + r^{\eta'+5}.$$

It is easy to see that  $\varepsilon = 3$  and  $\eta' = 3$ . Thus we obtain the solution where G is isomorphic to  $K_4(1,3,3,2,3,5)$  and H is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 2, 4, 3, 4, 3)$ . That is

$$K_4(1,3,3,2,3,5) \sim K_4(1,2,4,3,4,3).$$

If  $-r^3 = -r^{\eta'}$ , then  $\eta' = 3$ . From (10), we have  $\varepsilon = \delta'$ . From (7), we have  $\eta = \varepsilon + 2$ . So from  $\eta = \varepsilon' + 1$ , we have  $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon + 1$ . After simplifying, we have Q(G) = Q(H). Let  $\varepsilon = b$ . We obtain the solution where G is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 3, 3, 2, b, b + 2)$  and H is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 2, 4, b, b + 1, 3)$ . That is

$$K_4(1,3,3,2,b,b+2) \sim K_4(1,2,4,b,b+1,3).$$

If  $-r^3 = -r^{\eta'+1}$ , then  $\eta' = 2$ . From (10), we have  $\delta' = \varepsilon + 1$ . From (7), we have  $\eta = \varepsilon + 3$ . So from  $\eta = \varepsilon' + 1$ , we have  $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon + 2$ . After simplifying, we have

$$O(G): -r^4 - r^{\varepsilon} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^8$$

$$O(H): -r^2 - r^5 - r^{\varepsilon'} + r^4 + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^7$$
.

It is easy to say that  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , this a contradiction. Case 2.3.2. If  $r^{\eta+3} = r^{\eta'+5}$ , then  $\eta = \eta' + 2$ . Since  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  and  $\delta = 2$ , we have

$$\varepsilon + 4 = \delta' + \varepsilon' \tag{11}$$

after simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^{\varepsilon} - r^{\eta} - r^{\varepsilon+1} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^{\varepsilon+4} + r^8$$

$$Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4}.$$

Consider  $-r^3$  in Q(G). Since  $-r^3$  can cancel none of the terms in Q(G),  $-r^3$  must be equal to one of the terms in Q(H). Since  $\eta > 4$  (from (2)) and  $\eta = \eta' + 2$ , we have  $\eta' > 2$ . So we have  $-r^3 = -r^{\delta'} = -r^{\eta'}$  (by  $\eta = \eta' + 2$  and  $\eta = \delta' + 2$  (from (7)) or  $-r^3 = -r^{\epsilon'}$  or  $-r^3 = -r^{\epsilon'+1}$ .

If  $-r^3 = -r^{\delta'} = -r^{\eta'}$ , then  $\delta' = \eta' = 3$ . From (11), we have  $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon + 1$ . From (7), we have  $\eta = 5$ . After simplifying, we have

$$O(G): -r^{\varepsilon} - r^6 + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^8$$

$$O(H): -r^3 - r^{\varepsilon'+1} + r^5 + r^{\varepsilon'+4}$$
.

It is easy to see that  $\varepsilon = 3$  and  $\varepsilon' = 4$ . Thus we obtain the solution where G is isomorphic to  $K_4(1,3,3,2,3,5)$  and *H* is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 2, 4, 3, 4, 3)$ . That is

$$K_4(1,3,3,2,3,5) \sim K_4(1,2,4,3,4,3).$$

If  $-r^3 = -r^{\varepsilon'}$ , then  $\varepsilon' = 3$ . From (11), we have  $\delta' = \varepsilon + 1$ . From (7), we have  $\eta = \varepsilon + 3$ . So from  $\eta = \eta' + 2$ , we have  $\eta' = \varepsilon + 1$ . After simplifying, we have

$$Q(G): -r^{\varepsilon} + r^{8}$$

$$O(H): -r^5 - r^{\eta'} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^6 + r^7$$
.

It is easy to see that  $\varepsilon = 5$  and  $\eta' = 6$ . Thus we obtain the solution where G is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 3, 3, 2, 5, 8)$  and H is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 2, 4, 6, 3, 6)$ . That is

$$K_4(1,3,3,2,5,8) \sim K_4(1,2,4,6,3,6).$$

If  $-r^3 = -r^{\varepsilon'+1}$ , then  $\varepsilon' = 2$ . From (11), we have  $\delta' = \varepsilon + 2$ . From (7), we have  $\eta = \varepsilon + 4$ . So from  $\eta = \eta' + 2$ , we have  $\eta' = \varepsilon + 2$ . After simplifying, we have

$$Q(G): -r^4 - r^{\varepsilon} - r^{\varepsilon+1} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\varepsilon+3} + r^8$$

$$Q(H): -r^2 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^6$$

Comparing the l.r.p. in Q(G) with the l.r.p. in Q(H), we have  $\varepsilon = 2$ . So  $\delta' = 4$ ,  $\eta = 6$ ,  $\eta' = 4$ . It is easy to say that  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , this a contradiction.

Case B. If  $\min\{\delta, \varepsilon\} = \varepsilon = 2$ , then we obtain the following after simplification:

$$O(G): -2r^3 - r^4 - r^\delta - r^\eta - r^{\eta+1} + r^5 + r^6 + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6}$$

$$O(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}.$$

Consider  $-r^5$  in Q(H). There are two cases to be considered.

Case 1. If the term  $-r^5$  in Q(H) cannot be cancelled by the positive term in Q(H) (which implies  $\eta' + 2 \neq 5$  and  $\varepsilon' + 3 \neq 5$ ), then none of the terms in Q(H) is equal to the term  $r^5$  in Q(G). So, by Q(G) = Q(H), there are two terms in Q(G) which are equal to  $-r^5$ . Thus we have  $-r^\delta = -r^\eta = -r^5$  or  $-r^\delta = -r^{\eta+1} = -r^5$ .

Case 1.1. If  $-r^{\delta} = -r^{\eta} = -r^{5}$ , from  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  and  $\varepsilon = 2$ , we have  $\delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta' = 12$ . Then we obtain the following after simplification:

$$Q(G): -2r^3 - r^4 + r^8 + r^9 + r^{11}$$

$$O(H): -r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}.$$

Comparing the l.r.p. in Q(G) with the l.r.p. in Q(H), and by  $\eta' + 2 \neq 5$ , we have  $\delta' = \varepsilon' = 3$ . From  $\delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta' = 12$ , we get  $\eta' = 6$ . Thus we obtain the solution where G is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 3, 3, 5, 2, 5)$  and H is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 2, 4, 3, 3, 6)$ . That is

$$K_4(1,3,3,5,2,5) \sim K_4(1,2,4,3,3,6).$$

Case 1.2. If  $-r^{\delta} = -r^{\eta+1} = -r^5$ , from  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  and  $\varepsilon = 2$ , we have  $\delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta' = 11$ . Then we obtain the following after simplification:

$$Q(G): -2r^3 - 2r^4 + r^6 + r^7 + r^8 + r^{11}$$

$$O(H): -r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}$$

Comparing the l.r.p. in Q(G) with the l.r.p. in Q(H), and by  $\eta' + 2 \neq 5$ , we have  $\delta' = \varepsilon' = 3$ . From  $\delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta' = 11$ , we get  $\eta' = 5$ . Thus  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , a contradiction.

Case 2. If the term  $-r^5$  in Q(H) can be cancelled by the positive term in Q(H), then  $r^{\varepsilon'+3}$  or  $r^{\eta'+2}$  can cancel  $-r^5$  which implies  $\varepsilon'=2$  or  $\eta'=3$ .

$$Q(G): -2r^3 - r^4 - r^\delta - r^\eta - r^{\eta+1} + r^5 + r^6 + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6}$$

$$Q(H): -r^5 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}.$$

Case 2.1. If  $\varepsilon' = 2$ , then we obtain the following after simplification:

$$O(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^\delta - r^\eta - r^{\eta+1} + r^5 + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6}$$

$$O(H): -r^2 - r^{\delta'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}$$
.

Comparing the l.r.p. in Q(G) with the l.r.p. in Q(H), we have  $\delta = 2$  or  $\eta = 2$ .

Case 2.1.1. If  $\delta = 2$ , from  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  and  $\varepsilon = 2$  and  $\varepsilon' = 2$ , we have

$$\eta + 2 = \delta' + \eta'. \tag{12}$$

After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$Q(G): -r^3 - r^4 - r^{\eta} - r^{\eta+1} + r^5 + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4} + r^8$$

$$Q(H): -r^{\delta'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}.$$

Consider  $-r^3$  and  $-r^4$  in Q(G). It is due to Q(G)=Q(H) that one of  $-r^{\delta'}$ ,  $-r^{\eta'}$ ,  $-r^{\eta'+1}$  in Q(H) is equal to  $-r^3$  or  $-r^4$ . So we have  $\delta'+\eta'=7$  or  $\delta'+\eta'+1=7$  or  $\eta'+\eta'+1=7$ .

If  $\delta' + \eta' = 7$ , by  $\eta + 2 = \delta' + \eta'$  (Eq. (12)), we have  $\eta = 5$ , then  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , a contradiction.

If  $\delta' + \eta' + 1 = 7$ , by  $\eta + 2 = \delta' + \eta'$  (Eq. (12)), we have  $\eta = 4$ , then  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , a contradiction.

If  $\eta' + \eta' + 1 = 7$ , by  $\eta + 2 = \delta' + \eta'$  (Eq. (12)), we have  $\eta = \delta' + 1$ , then  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , a contradiction.

Case 2.1.2. If  $\eta = 2$ , from  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  and  $\varepsilon = 2$  and  $\varepsilon' = 2$ , we have

$$\delta + 2 = \delta' + \eta'. \tag{13}$$

After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$Q(G): -2r^3 - r^4 - r^\delta + 2r^5 + r^6 + r^{\delta+6}$$

$$O(H): -r^{\delta'} - r^{\eta'} - r^{\eta'+1} + r^{\eta'+2} + r^{\eta'+5} + r^{\delta'+6}$$

Consider  $-2r^3$  and  $-r^4$  in Q(G). Since Q(G) = Q(H), there are two terms in Q(H) which are equal to  $-r^3$  and there is one term in Q(H) which is equal to  $-r^4$ . So we have  $\delta' = \eta' = 3$ . From  $\delta + 2 = \delta' + \eta'$  Eq. (13), we have  $\delta = 4$ , then  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , a contradiction.

Case 2.2. If  $\eta' = 3$ , then we obtain the following after simplification:

$$Q(G): -r^3 - r^{\delta} - r^{\eta} - r^{\eta+1} + r^5 + r^6 + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6}$$

$$Q(H): -r^{\delta'} - r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^{\delta'+6} + r^8.$$

Consider  $-r^3$  in Q(G). It is due to Q(G) = Q(H) that  $-r^3 = -r^{\delta'}$  or  $-r^3 = -r^{\delta'}$  or  $-r^3 = -r^{\delta'}$ . So we have  $\delta' = 3$  or  $\delta' = 3$  or  $\delta' = 3$ .

Case 2.2.1. If  $\delta' = 3$ , from  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  and  $\varepsilon = 2$  and  $\eta' = 3$ , we have

$$\delta + \eta = \varepsilon' + 4. \tag{14}$$

After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$O(G): -r^{\delta} - r^{\eta} - r^{\eta+1} + r^5 + r^6 + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6}$$

$$O(H): -r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^8 + r^9.$$

Consider  $r^{\varepsilon'+4}$  in Q(H). It is due to Q(G)=Q(H) that  $r^{\varepsilon'+4}=r^{\eta+3}$  or  $r^{\varepsilon'+4}=r^{\eta+4}$  or  $r^{\varepsilon'+4}=r^{\delta+6}$  or  $r^{\varepsilon'+4}=r^{\delta}$ . If  $r^{\varepsilon'+4}=r^{\eta+3}$ , then  $\eta=\varepsilon'+1$ , from  $\delta+\eta=\varepsilon'+4$  (Eq. (14)), we have  $\delta=3$ . After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$Q(G): -r^3 - r^{\eta+1} + r^5 + r^6 + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4} + r^9$$

$$Q(H): -r^{\varepsilon'} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{\varepsilon'+4} + r^8 + r^9.$$

Comparing the l.r.p. in Q(G) with the l.r.p. in Q(H), we have  $\varepsilon' = 3$ . So  $\eta = 4$ . Thus,  $G \cong H$ .

If  $r^{\varepsilon'+4} = r^{\eta+4}$ , then  $\varepsilon' = \eta$ , from  $\delta + \eta = \varepsilon' + 4$  (Eq. (14)), we have  $\delta = 4$ . After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , this is a contradiction.

If  $r^{\varepsilon'+4} = r^{\delta+6}$ , from  $\delta + \eta = \varepsilon' + 4$  (Eq. (14)), we have  $\eta = 6$ . After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$Q(G): -r^{\delta} - r^{7} + r^{5} + r^{10}$$

$$Q(H): -r^{\varepsilon'} - r^{\varepsilon'+1} + r^{\varepsilon'+3} + r^{8}.$$

Consider the term  $-r^7$  in Q(G). We have  $-r^7 = -r^{\varepsilon'+1}$  or  $-r^7 = -r^{\varepsilon'}$ . If  $\varepsilon' = 6$ , then  $\delta = 4$ . Thus  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , this is a contradiction. If  $\varepsilon' = 7$ , then  $\delta = 5$ . Thus we obtain the solution where G is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 3, 3, 5, 2, 6)$  and H is isomorphic to  $K_4(1, 2, 4, 3, 7, 3)$ . That is

$$K_4(1,3,3,5,2,6) \sim K_4(1,2,4,3,7,3).$$

If  $r^{\varepsilon'+4} = r^6$ , then  $\varepsilon' = 2$ , from  $\delta + \eta = \varepsilon' + 4$  (Eq. (14)), we have  $\delta + \eta = 6$ . After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , this is a contradiction.

Case 2.2.2. If  $\varepsilon' = 3$ , from  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  and  $\varepsilon = 2$  and  $\eta' = 3$ , we have

$$\delta + \eta = \delta' + 4. \tag{15}$$

After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$Q(G): -r^{\delta} - r^{\eta} - r^{\eta+1} + r^5 + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6}$$

$$Q(H): -r^4 - r^{\delta'} + r^7 + r^8 + r^{\delta'+6}.$$

Consider the term  $-r^4$  in Q(H). We have  $-r^4 = -r^\delta$  or  $-r^4 = -r^\eta$  or  $-r^4 = -r^{\eta+1}$ .

If  $-r^4 = -r^\delta$ , then  $\delta = 4$ , from  $\delta + \eta = \delta' + 4$  (Eq. (15)), we have  $\eta = \delta'$ . After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have  $\eta = 4$  and  $\delta' = 4$ . Thus  $G \cong H$ .

If  $-r^4 = -r^\eta$ , then  $\eta = 4$ , from  $\delta + \eta = \delta' + 4$ , we have  $\delta = \delta'$ . Thus  $G \cong H$ .

If  $-r^4 = -r^{\eta+1}$ , then  $\eta = 3$ , from  $\delta + \eta = \delta' + 4$ , we have  $\delta = \delta' + 1$ . After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , this is a contradiction.

Case 2.2.3. If  $\varepsilon' = 2$ , from  $\delta + \varepsilon + \eta = \delta' + \varepsilon' + \eta'$  and  $\varepsilon = 2$  and  $\eta' = 3$ , we have

$$\delta + \eta = \delta' + 3. \tag{16}$$

After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have

$$Q(G): -r^{\delta} - r^{\eta} - r^{\eta+1} + r^{\eta+3} + r^{\eta+4} + r^{\delta+6}$$

$$Q(H): -r^2 - r^{\delta'} + r^8 + r^{\delta'+6}.$$

Consider the term  $-r^2$  in Q(H). We have  $-r^2 = -r^{\delta}$  or  $-r^2 = -r^{\eta}$ .

If  $-r^2 = -r^\delta$ , then  $\delta = 2$ , from  $\delta + \eta = \delta' + 3$  (Eq. (16)), we have  $\eta = \delta' + 1$ . After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , this is a contradiction.

If  $-r^2 = -r^\eta$ , then  $\eta = 2$ , from  $\delta + \eta = \delta' + 3$  (Eq. (16)), we have  $\delta = \delta' + 1$ . After simplifying Q(G) and Q(H), we have  $Q(G) \neq Q(H)$ , this is a contradiction.

So far, we have solved the equation P(G) = P(H) and got the solution as follows:

$$K_4(1,3,3,2,3,5) \sim K_4(1,2,4,3,4,3)$$

$$K_4(1,3,3,2,4,7) \sim K_4(1,2,4,4,3,6)$$

$$K_4(1,3,3,2,5,8) \sim K_4(1,2,4,6,3,6)$$

$$K_4(1,3,3,5,2,5) \sim K_4(1,2,4,3,3,6)$$

$$K_4(1,3,3,5,2,6) \sim K_4(1,2,4,3,7,3)$$

$$K_4(1,3,3,2,b,b+2) \sim K_4(1,2,4,b,b+1,3),$$

where b > 2.

The proof is completed.  $\Box$ 

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