

We explore the structure of the cycle space of the graphs – most notably questions about nowhere-zero flows and cycle double covers. We touch several facets of this field. First we show that there are edge 2-connected graphs which distinguish \mathbb{Z}_2^2 - and \mathbb{Z}_4 -connectivity (group connectivity which is a strengthening of nowhere-zero flows).

Then we examine a conjecture of Matt DeVos which asserts existence of group flows given existence of a graph homomorphism between suitable Cayley graphs. We introduce a strengthening of this conjecture called strong homomorphism property (SHP for short) which allows splitting vertices (and hence a reduction to cubic graphs). We conjecture that SHP holds for every graph and the smallest group in which the graph has a nowhere-zero flow and we prove that both SHP and the original conjecture imply existence of cycle double covers with few cycles.

The question we discuss the most is counting objects on graphs – especially counting circuit double covers. We show an almost exponential lower bound for graphs on surfaces with nice embeddings and we also show that this bound does not apply to Flower snarks. Then we show quite precise bound for flower snarks and we also improve the lower bound for planar graphs to an exponential one. Along the way we build a framework for counting objects called linear representations which might be of independent interest. We conclude with description of voltage graphs and how to use them to find a new infinite family of snarks.