

Fig A

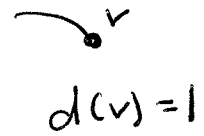
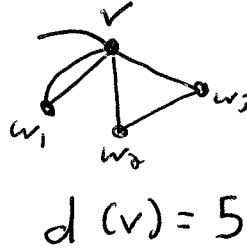
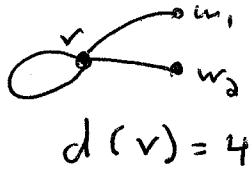


Fig B

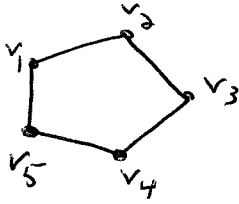
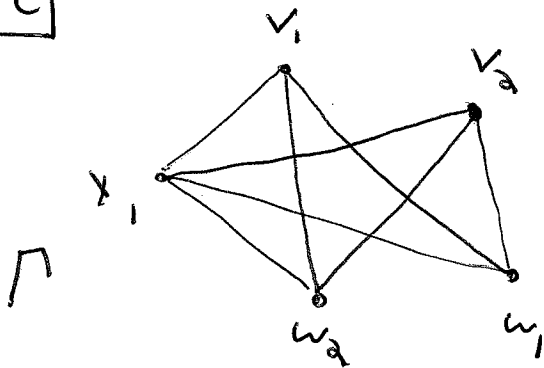
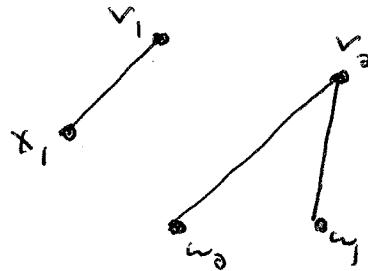


Fig C



a forest of Γ



a maximal forest of Γ

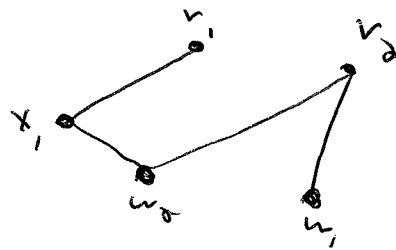
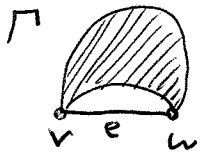


Fig D Contraction

For e a link



For e a loop

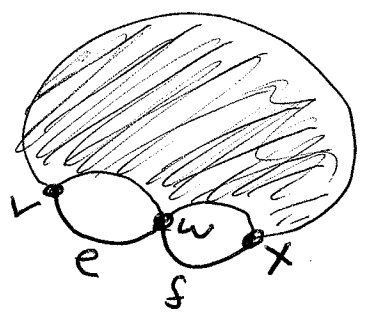


$\Gamma/e = \Gamma \setminus e$

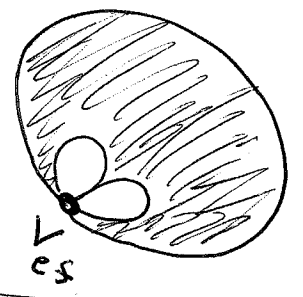


Fig E

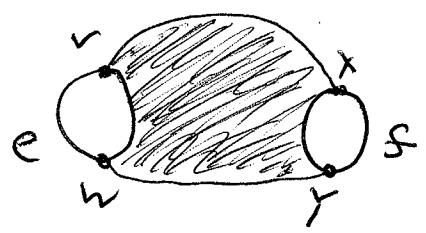
\sqcap



$\sqcap / e f$
or
 $\sqcap / \{e, f\}$



\sqcap



$\sqcap / e f$

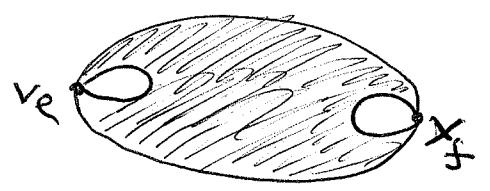
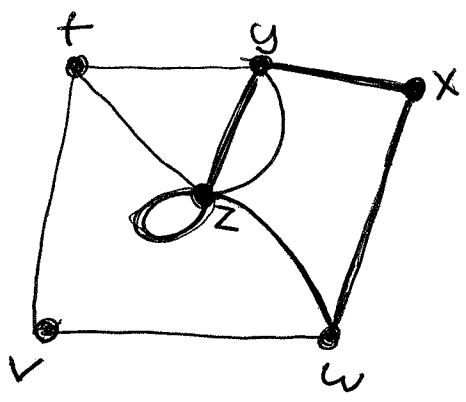


Fig F

\sqcap



S is the thick edges

$$\pi(s) = \{v, t, wxzy\}$$