

6) In this exercise we want to show that the automorphism group  $A$  of the Petersen graph  $P$  is isomorphic to  $S_5$ .

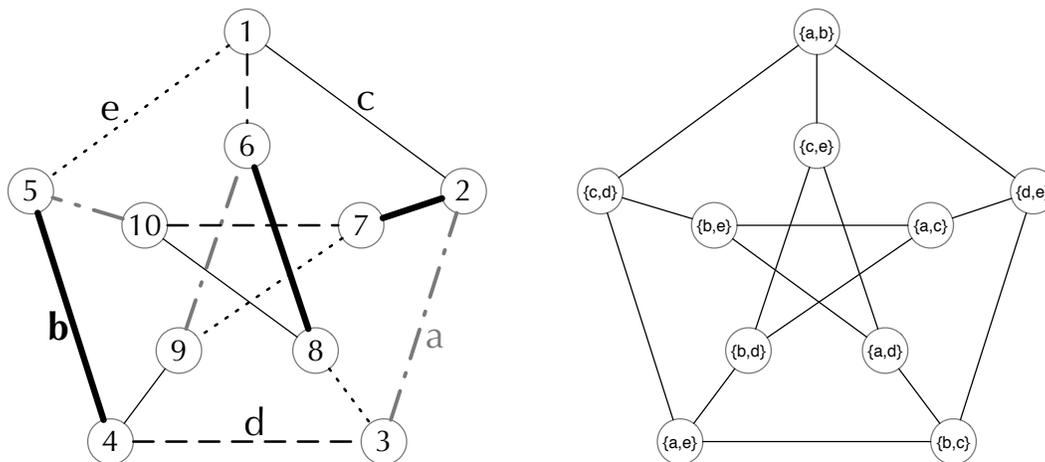
a) The figure below, left depicts five subsets of edges, labelled by  $a, \dots, e$ . Show that any automorphism of  $P$  must permute these sets. (**Hint:** Find a characterization of the sets that does not rely on the picture, e.g. how you can find the two other edges if one edge is given.)

Thus we have a homomorphism  $\phi: A \rightarrow S_5$ .

b) The right figure depicts a characterization of  $P$  as vertices labelled with the  $\binom{5}{2}$  two-element subsets of  $\{a, b, c, d, e\}$ , sets being connected if and only they are disjoint. Show that this yields a homomorphism  $\psi: S_5 \rightarrow A$ .

c) Show that  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are mutually inverse, that is that  $A \cong S_5$ .

We note that the characterization from b) provides a nice way of writing down automorphisms of  $P$ .



7) Let  $G$  be a group with generating set  $A$ . Show that  $G$  acts on the (vertices of) the Cayley graph  $\text{Cay}_A(G)$  by  $g: v \mapsto g^{-1}v$ , and that this action is compatible with arrows and their labelling.

8) Consider  $G = S_3 \times S_3$  as an intransitive permutation group on 6 points and let  $H = G \cap A_6$  the subgroup of even permutations. What is  $|H|$ ? Show that  $H$  has two orbits of size 3, but is not a direct product of the images of its actions on these two orbits.

9) Let  $G$  be transitive on  $\Omega$  and  $N \triangleleft G$ . Show that the orbits of  $N$  on  $\Omega$  form a block system for  $G$ . Conclude that a nontrivial normal subgroup of a primitive group must act transitively.

10) (Continuation of problem 5). Let  $R$  be the group of rotational symmetries of an icosahedron and  $S \geq R$  the group of rotational and reflective symmetries. (We know already that  $|R| = 60$  and  $|S| = 120$ .) The shading of faces in the illustration indicates five possible ways to embed a tetrahedron (with corners on the middle points of faces) into an icosahedron.

- Show that  $R$  acts transitively on these five embedded tetrahedra (the corresponding faces thus form blocks in a block system), and that there thus is a homomorphism  $\varphi: R \rightarrow S_5$ .
- Show that the image  $\varphi(R)$  consists only of even permutations and conclude that  $R \cong A_5$ .
- Show that the permutation

$$s = (1, 20)(2, 12)(3, 17)(4, 16)(5, 19)(6, 14)(7, 13)(8, 18)(9, 15)(10, 11)$$

represents a reflection of the icosahedron, and thus  $s \in S \setminus R$ .

- Show that  $s$  commutes with the rotational generator  $p_1, p_2$ , and conclude that  $S \cong 2 \times A_5$ .

