

# Covering Graph for Diagram Groups from Semigroup Presentation

$$S = \langle a, b : a = b \rangle$$

**Kalthom Mahmood Alaswad**

School of Mathematical Science, Faculty of Science and Technology  
Al-jabal El-gharbi University, Libya  
Kaltho76@yahoo.com

**Abd Ghafur Bin Ahmad**

School of Mathematical Science, Faculty of Science and Technology  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Malaysia  
ghafur@ukm.my

## Abstract

The aim of this paper is to determine all connected 2 –complex graphs  $\Gamma_i$  that obtained from semigroup presentation  $S = \langle a, b : a = b \rangle$ . Then we prove that  $\Gamma_{i+1}$  is the covering space (covering graphs) for  $\Gamma_i$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Keywords:** semigroup, semigroup presentation, mapping of 2 –complex, covering graph, diagram group

## Introduction

In this section we explain briefly about semigroup presentation and diagram groups which are useful for our purpose. Let  $S = \langle X : r \rangle$  be a semigroup presentation, where  $X$  is a set of generator where elements of relations in  $r$  is of the form  $R_\varepsilon = R_{-\varepsilon}$  ( $R_{\pm\varepsilon}$  are reduced positive words on  $X$ ). We may construct the diagram group  $D(S, W)$  where  $W$  is a positive word on  $X$  as described for example in Ahmad, (2003) and Guba and Sapir (1997) and Kilibarda (1997).

A 2 –complex is a graph  $(V, E, i, \tau, -1)$  with a set  $r$  of 2 –cells and a mapping which maps each 2 –cells from  $r$  to a closed path on this graph which is called the defining path of this 2 –cell. For any semigroup presentation  $S$ , we may obtain a

2-complex  $K(S)$ . Vertices of  $K(S)$  are all positive words on  $X^*$  while edges are atomic pictures labeled by  $A = (u, m \rightarrow n, v)$  where  $u, v$  are words on  $X^*$  and  $(m = n) \in r$ . The 2-cell of  $K(S)$  are 5-tuples of the form  $(u, m_1 \rightarrow n_1, v, m_2 \rightarrow n_2, w)$  where  $u, v, w \in X^*$  and  $(m_i = n_i) \in r$ .

Such a 2-cell has the following defining specific path:

$$(um_1v, m_2 \rightarrow n_2, w)(u, m_1 \rightarrow n_1, vn_2w)(un_1v, m_2 \rightarrow n_2, w)^{-1}(u, m_1 \rightarrow n_1, vm_2w)^{-1}.$$

It is easy to see that 2-cell correspond to independent applications of the relations from  $r$ . See Guba and Sapir (1997) for details. Diagram groups are considered from geometrical objects called semigroup diagrams. These diagrams are drawn and considered as 2-complex graphs. A particular group can be developed from a given graph. This group is called a diagram group.

This paper determines all the connected 2-complex graphs  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \dots, \Gamma_n$  from semigroup presentation  $S = \langle a, b : a = b \rangle$ . We prove that  $\Gamma_{i+1}$  is the covering graph of  $\Gamma_i$ , for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ .

In next section we explain briefly about words, graphs, semigroup presentations, atomic pictures, pictures and diagram groups which are useful for our purpose.

## 2 Basic Definitions

**Definition 2.1** Let  $S = \langle X : r \rangle$  be a semigroup presentation a word  $W$  on  $X$  is defined to be of the form  $x_1^{\varepsilon_1} x_2^{\varepsilon_2} \dots x_n^{\varepsilon_n}$  such that  $n \geq 0, x_i \in X, \varepsilon = \pm 1$ . Two positive words are equivalent if one can be obtained from the other using a finite number of elementary operations. The equivalent class containing the word  $W$  will be denoted by  $[W]$ . The product of two words  $U$  and  $V$  is defined by writing the word  $U$  and then followed by the word  $V$ , we denote this product as  $UV$ .

**Theorem 2.2** The algebraic system  $\{[\alpha] : \gamma \text{ is a path}\}$  with binary operation  $[\alpha].[\beta] = [\alpha\beta]$ . The identity of this semigroup is  $[1]$ , while the inverse  $[\alpha]^{-1} = [\alpha^{-1}]$ . This semigroup is known as the free group on  $X$ . [2]

**Definition 2.3** A graph  $\Gamma$  consists of five pair  $(V, E, i, \tau, -1)$  where  $V$  and  $E$  are two disjoint finite sets. Set  $V$  is known as the set of vertices while  $E$  as the set of edges. Symbols  $i, \tau, -1$  are functions  $i : E \rightarrow V, \tau : E \rightarrow V, -1 : V \rightarrow V$  such that  $i(e) = \tau(e^{-1}), \tau(e) = i(e^{-1}), e \neq e^{-1}, e \in E$ . The function  $i$  and  $\tau$  are known as the initial and the terminal functions respectively. A graph  $\Gamma$  is connected if given any two vertices in  $\Gamma$ , there is a path joining them. A path  $\gamma$  in the graph  $\Gamma$  is of the form  $e_1^{\varepsilon_1} e_2^{\varepsilon_2} \dots e_n^{\varepsilon_n}, n \geq 0, e_i \in E, \varepsilon = \pm 1$  such that  $\tau(e_i^{\varepsilon_i}) = i(e_{i+1}^{\varepsilon_{i+1}})$ . The path  $\gamma$  is closed if  $i(\gamma) = \tau(\gamma)$ . Let  $\gamma$  and  $\beta$  be two paths in the graph  $\Gamma$ . If  $\tau(\gamma) = i(\beta)$  then the product of  $\gamma$  with  $\beta$  is defined by tracing of  $\gamma$  then followed by  $\beta$ , denoted by  $\gamma\beta$ . Two paths  $\gamma$  and  $\beta$  are equivalent if  $\gamma$  can be obtained from  $\beta$  by using a finite number of elementary operations.

**Definition 2.4** A 2-complex  $K$  is a pair  $\langle \Gamma : r \rangle$  where  $\Gamma$  is a graph and  $r$  is a set of closed paths in  $\Gamma$ . This 2-complex is finite if  $\Gamma$  is finite and is connected if  $\Gamma$  is connected. The equivalent class containing the path  $\gamma$  will be denoted by  $[\gamma]$ .

**Theorem 2.5** Let  $K$  be a connected 2-complex and fix a vertex  $v$ . The algebraic system  $\pi_1(K, v) = \{ [\gamma] : i(\gamma) = \tau(\gamma) = v \}$  with binary operation  $[\gamma] \cdot [\beta] = [\gamma\beta]$  forms a group called the first fundamental group with base point  $v$  where  $\gamma, \beta$  are closed paths in  $\Gamma$ . Since the fundamental group of a connected 2-complex graph is independent of chosen vertex, we simply write  $\pi_1(K)$ . [2]

**Definition 2.6** Let  $S = \langle X : r \rangle$  be a semigroup presentation. An atomic picture  $A$  over  $S$  is of the form

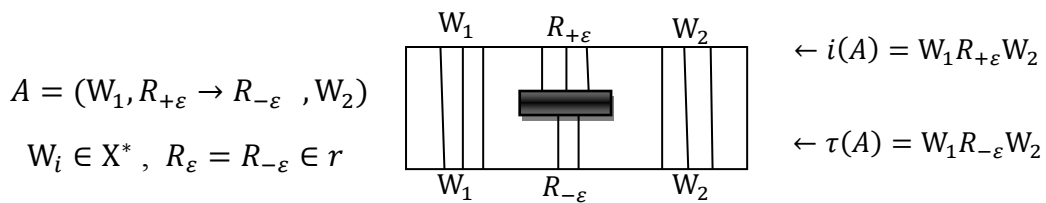


Figure 1 Atomic picture over  $S$

**Definition 2.7** A picture  $P$  over a semigroup presentation  $S$  is a collection of atomic pictures  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  such that  $\tau(A_i) = i(A_{i+1}), i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ .

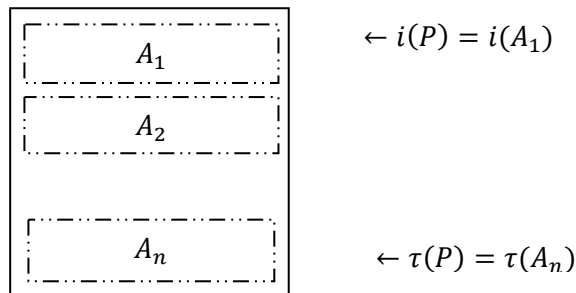


Figure 2 A picture over  $S$

**Definition 2.8** Let  $\Gamma_1 = (V_1, E_1, i, \tau, -1)$  and  $\Gamma_2 = (V_2, E_2, i, \tau, -1)$  be 2-complex graphs. A mapping  $\Omega : \Gamma_1 \rightarrow \Gamma_2$  is a function from  $V_1 \cup E_1 \rightarrow V_2 \cup E_2$  sending vertices to vertices such that  $\Omega(V_1) \subseteq V_2$ , edges to edges such that  $\Omega(E_1) \subseteq E_2$  and respecting incidences and inversions

$$\Omega(i(e)) = i(\Omega(e)) \quad , \quad \Omega(\tau(e)) = \tau(\Omega(e)) \quad , \quad \Omega(e^{-1}) = (\Omega(e))^{-1}.$$

Star of a vertex  $v$  is denoted by  $\text{star}(v) = \{e : e \in E, i(e) = v\}$ . The number of edges in  $\text{star}(v)$  is called the valence (or degree) of  $v$  denoted by  $d(v)$ .

The mapping  $\Omega : \Gamma_1 \rightarrow \Gamma_2$  is locally injective if it is injective on stars, that is  $\Omega :_{\text{star}_{v_1}} \text{star}(v_1) \rightarrow \text{star}(\Omega(v_1))$  is injective for each  $v_1 \in V_1$ . Similarly we may define locally surjective and locally bijective.

Let  $\Omega : \Gamma_1 \rightarrow \Gamma_2$  be a mapping of 2-complex graphs. If  $v$  is a vertex of  $\Gamma$  such that  $\Omega(\tilde{v}) = v$ , then  $\tilde{v}$  is said to be lie over  $v$ . Let  $\alpha$  be a path in  $\Gamma$  with  $i(\alpha) = v$  and suppose  $\tilde{v}$  lies over  $v$ . A path  $\tilde{\alpha}$  in  $\tilde{\Gamma}$  is said to be a lift of  $\alpha$  at  $\tilde{v}$  if  $\Omega(\tilde{\alpha}) = \alpha$ .

**Definition 2.9** If  $\Omega : \tilde{\Gamma} \rightarrow \Gamma$  is a locally bijective map and  $\tilde{\Gamma}, \Gamma$  are connected 2-complex graphs, then  $\tilde{\Gamma}$  is called a covering graph (covering space) of  $\Gamma$ . The mapping  $\Omega$  is called the covering map (covering projection).

**Theorem 2.10** Let  $\Omega : \tilde{\Gamma} \rightarrow \Gamma$  be a mapping of 2-complex graphs. Then the following are equivalent:

- i) The map  $\Omega$  is locally injective.
- ii) For each path  $\alpha$  in  $\Gamma$ , if  $\tilde{v}$  lies over  $i(\alpha)$ , then  $\alpha$  has at most one lift at  $\tilde{v}$ . [2]

**Theorem 2.11** Let  $\Omega : \tilde{\Gamma} \rightarrow \Gamma$  be a mapping of 2-complex graphs. Then the following are equivalent:

- i) The map  $\Omega$  is locally surjective.
- ii) For each path  $\alpha$  in  $\Gamma$ , if  $\tilde{v}$  lies over  $i(\alpha)$ , then  $\alpha$  has at least one lift at  $\tilde{v}$ . [2]

### 3 Main results

In this section we obtain the covering graph for all connected 2-complex graphs that obtained from semigroup presentation  $S = \langle a, b : a = b \rangle$ .

Let  $S = \langle a, b : a = b \rangle$  be a semigroup presentation. In order to construct the Squire complex  $K(S)$  to obtain the diagram group of  $S$ . If  $L(W) = 1$  where  $W$  is a positive word on  $S$ , then we have two possibilities vertices  $a, b$ . So the connected 2-complex graph  $\Gamma_1$  is given by the Figure 3.

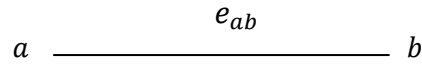


Figure 3 The connected 2-complex graph  $\Gamma_1$

Note that when  $L(W) = 1$ , we get 2-vertices and 1-edge in  $\Gamma_1$ .  
 If  $L(W) = 2$ . In this case there are  $2^2$  possibilities vertices in the connected 2-complex graph  $\Gamma_2$  :

$$a^2 = aa, ab, ba \text{ and } b^2 = bb.$$

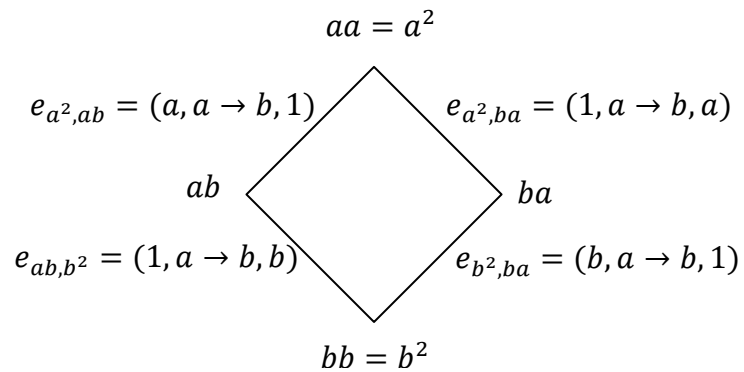


Figure 4 The connected 2-complex graph  $\Gamma_2$

When  $L(W) = 3$  we make two copies of  $\Gamma_2$  with respect to  $L(W) = 2$ . So the  $\Gamma_3$  in this case looks like the Figure 5.

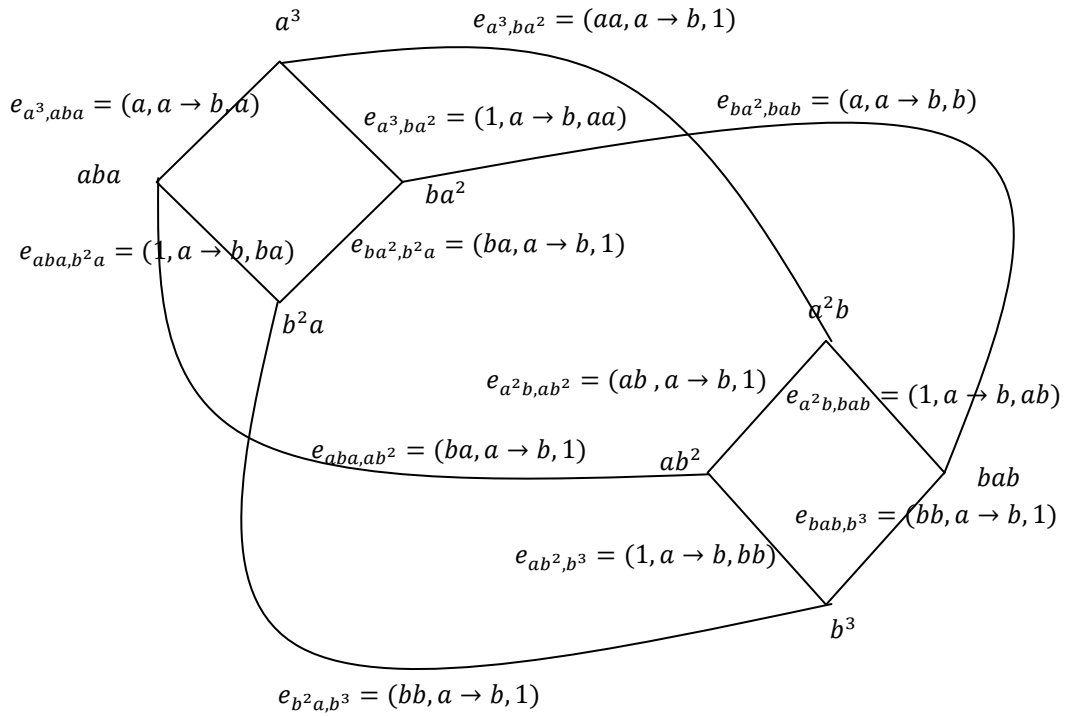


Figure 5 The connected 2-complex graph  $\Gamma_3$

Note that  $\Gamma_3$  is two copies of  $\Gamma_2$  and each vertex in each copy are joined together respectively. Similarly, with two copies of  $\Gamma_3$ , we may obtain  $\Gamma_4$ . Repeat similar procedures for  $\Gamma_5$  and so on.

**Corollary 3.1**  $\Gamma_n$  is a connected 2 –complex graph contains  $2^n$  vertices.

**Corollary 3.2**  $\Gamma_{n+1}$  is two copies of  $\Gamma_n$ . Thus if there is  $e_n$  edges in  $\Gamma_n$  then the number of edges in  $\Gamma_{n+1}$  is  $2e_n$  plus all edges between squares in  $\Gamma_{n+1}$ , which is  $2^n$ .

**Corollary 3.3** Vertices  $u$  and  $v$  are connected if and only if  $l(u) = l(v)$ .

**Lemma 3.4** Vertices of  $\Gamma_n$  are all words of length  $n$ .

**Lemma 3.5** Valance of  $a^n, b^n$  are  $n$ . The valance of  $a^l b^m$  are  $2n$ .

**Lemma 3.6 :** Let  $S = \langle a, b : a = b \rangle$  be a semigroup presentation, then the 2 –complex graph of  $D(S, W)$  is  $\Gamma = \cup \Gamma_i$  where  $\Gamma_i$  is a connected 2 –complex graph contains all vertices of length  $i$ .

**Theorem 3.7**  $\Gamma_{i+1}$  is the covering graph for  $\Gamma_i$ , for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Proof.** By induction we will prove this theorem. Since we already draw  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3$  so we have to draw  $\Gamma_i$  and  $\Gamma_{i+1}$ .  
If  $L(W) = k$ .

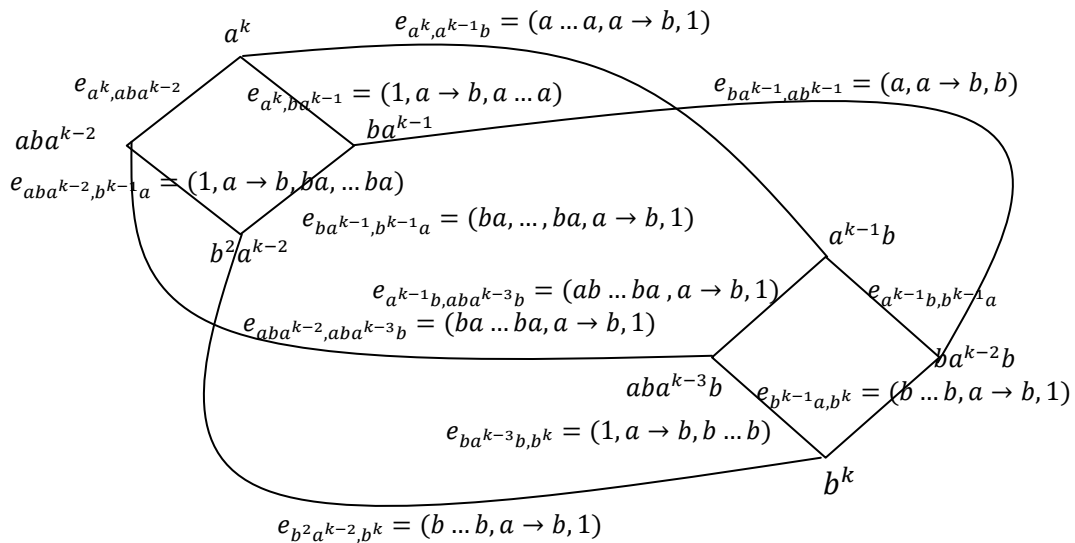


Figure 6 The connected 2-complex graph  $\Gamma_k$

Finally, for  $L(W) = k + 1$ . In fact  $\Gamma_{k+1}$  is just two copies of  $\Gamma_k$ .

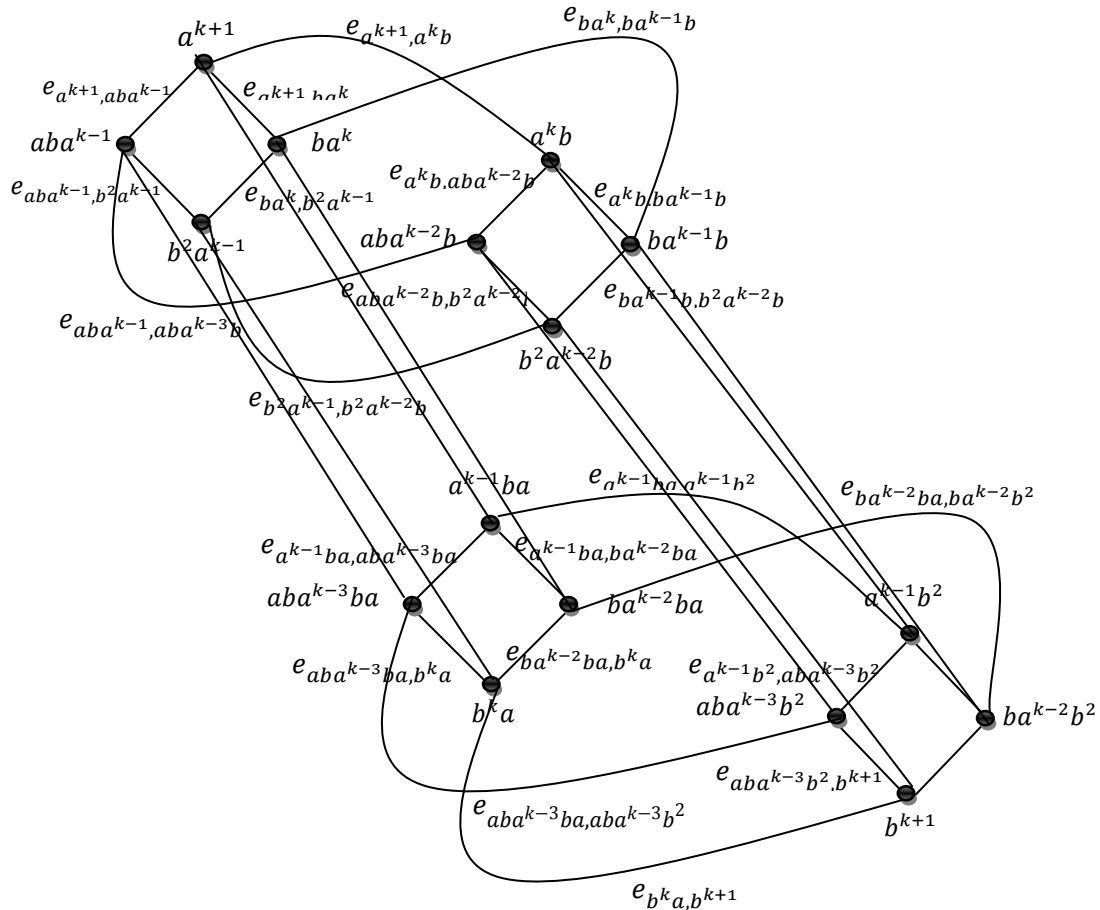


Figure 7 The connected 2-complex graph  $\Gamma_{k+1}$

We will prove that  $\Gamma_{i+1}$  is the covering graph of  $\Gamma_i$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  by induction. For  $i = 1$ . Our claim is to prove  $\Gamma_2$  is the covering graph for  $\Gamma_1$ . To prove this theorem we will use theorem (2.10) and theorem (2.11).  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are connected 2 –complex graphs since if we take any two vertices in these 2 –complex graphs, we can see there is a path joining them. Let  $\Omega : \Gamma_2 \rightarrow \Gamma_1$  defined by  $\Omega(a^2) = a$ ,  $\Omega(ba) = b$ ,  $\Omega(ab) = a$  and  $\Omega(b^2) = b$ .  $\Omega(e_{a^2,ba}) = e_{ab}$ ,  $\Omega(e_{ab,b^2}) = e_{ab}$ ,  $\Omega(e_{a^2,ab}) = \phi$  and  $\Omega(e_{b^2,ba}) = \phi$ . We will prove that  $\Omega$  is locally bijective. Choose  $a^2$  a vertex of  $\Gamma_2$  and let



$e_{a^2,ab}, e_{a^2,ba} \in \text{star}(a^2)$  and suppose  $\Omega(e_{a^2,ab}) = \Omega(e_{a^2,ba}) = e_{ab}$ . Then regarding  $e_{ab}$  as a path of length 1, we know that  $e_{a^2,ab}$  and  $e_{a^2,ba}$  are lifts of  $e_{ab}$  at  $a^2$ . Hence by theorem (2.10)  $e_{a^2,ab} = e_{a^2,ba}$  that is  $\Omega$  is locally injective. Now choose  $a^2$  be any vertex of  $\Gamma_2$  and  $e_{ab} \in \text{star}(a)$ . Regarding  $e_{ab}$  as a path of length 1, then by theorem (2.11) there exists at least one lift of this path at  $a^2$ . Such a lift is just an edge in  $\text{star}(a^2)$ . Hence there is  $e_{a^2,ba} \in \text{star}(a^2)$  such that  $\Omega(e_{a^2,ba}) = e_{ab}$ . So  $\Omega_{a^2} : \text{star}(a^2) \rightarrow \text{star}(a)$  is a locally surjective, and hence  $\Omega$  is a locally bijective. Therefore  $\Gamma_2$  is the covering graph for  $\Gamma_1$ . Thus our first claim is true.

For  $i = k - 1$ . Assume  $\Gamma_k$  is the covering graph for  $\Gamma_{k-1}$ .

Now for  $i = k$ . Our claim is to prove that  $\Gamma_{k+1}$  is the covering graph for  $\Gamma_k$ .  $\Gamma_k$  and  $\Gamma_{k+1}$  are connected 2-complex graphs since if we take any two vertices in these 2-complex graphs, we can see there is a path joining them. So it remains to prove  $\Gamma_{k+1}$  is the covering graph for  $\Gamma_k$ . To prove that let  $\Omega : \Gamma_{k+1} \rightarrow \Gamma_k$  defined by  $\Omega(wx) = w$ , where  $w$  is a word on  $a, b$  of length  $k$ ,  $x \in \{a, b\}$ .

$$\Omega(e_{w_1x_1, w_2x_2}) = e_{w_1, w_2}.$$

Choose  $a^{k+1}$  a vertex of  $\Gamma_{k+1}$ ,  $\Omega(a^{k+1}) = a^k$  and let  $e_{a^{k+1}, aba^{k-1}}, e_{a^{k+1}, a^{k-1}ba} \in \text{star}(a^{k+1})$  such that  $\Omega(e_{a^{k+1}, aba^{k-1}}) = \Omega(e_{a^{k+1}, a^{k-1}ba}) = e_{a^k, a^{k-1}b}$ . Then regarding  $e_{a^k, a^{k-1}b}$  as a path of length 1, we know that  $e_{a^{k+1}, aba^{k-1}}, e_{a^{k+1}, a^{k-1}ba}$  are lifts of  $e_{a^k, a^{k-1}b}$  at  $a^{k+1}$ . Hence by theorem (2.10)  $e_{a^{k+1}, aba^{k-1}} = e_{a^{k+1}, a^{k-1}ba}$ . That is  $\Omega$  is a locally injective. Now choose  $a^{k+1}$  a vertex of  $\Gamma_{k+1}$ , and let  $e_{a^k, aba^{k-2}} \in \text{star}(a^k)$ . Regarding  $e_{a^k, aba^{k-2}}$  as a path of length 1, so by theorem (2.11) there exists at least one lift of this path at  $a^{k+1}$ . Such a lift is just an edge in  $\text{star}(a^{k+1})$ . Hence there is  $e_{a^{k+1}, aba^{k-1}} \in \text{star}(a^{k+1})$  such that  $\Omega(e_{a^{k+1}, aba^{k-1}}) = e_{a^k, aba^{k-2}}$ . So  $\Omega_{a^{k+1}} : \text{star}(a^{k+1}) \rightarrow \text{star}(a^k)$  is locally surjective, and hence  $\Omega$  is a locally bijective. Therefore  $\Gamma_{k+1}$  is the covering graph for  $\Gamma_k$ . The theorem is proved. ■

## References

- [1] A.G. Ahmad, Triviality problem for diagram groups. Jour. of Inst. of Maths & Vomp. Sc. 16(2003), 105-107.
- [2] J.J. Rotman, An Introduction to the theory of groups. Forth edition. New York : Springer-Verlag. 1994, 377-383.
- [3] V. Guba, & M. Sapir, Diagram Groups, Mem. Amer. Maths. Soc., 130, 1997, viii+117pp.

[4] V. Guba, & M. Sapir, Azhantseva G.N, V., Metrics on Diagram Groups and Uniform Embeddings in a Hilbert space, *Commentarii Mathematici Helvetici*, 4(2006), 911-929.

[5] V. Kilibarda, On the Algebra of Semigroup Diagrams, *Int. J. of Alg. & Comp.*, 7(1997), 313-318.

**Received: October, 2011**