If $\Delta\colon = |z| < 1 \subset \mathbb{C}$ denotes the unit disc, Hartogs' classical extension lemma states that any holomorphic function on a connected neighborhood of the set $\mathcal{H} = \big(\partial\Delta \times \bar{\Delta}\big) \cup \big(\bar{\Delta} \times \{0\}\big)$ extends holomorphically to a neighborhood of the whole bidisc $\bar{\Delta} \times \bar{\Delta}$.
About ten years ago E. M. Čhirka showed that this result also holds even if the disc $\bar{\Delta} \times \{0\}$ is replace by the graph of a merely continuous function $\varphi\colon \bar{\Delta} \to \Delta$. An obvious necessary condition for a compact set $K \subset \bar{\Delta} \times \bar{\Delta}$ to have the Hartogs extension property is that its rational hull equals the closed bidisc $\bar{\Delta} \times \bar{\Delta}$ and he then asked whether such compact sets containing the solid torus $\partial\Delta \times \bar{\Delta}$ do enjoy the extension property.
In this talk we will digress around Chirka's question and present some positive/negative results.