

Entering Examination (Ph.D program) for Discrete Mathematics  
Department of Mathematics, National Taiwan University (June 2006)

1. (20 %) A family of subsets is called an *intersection family* if every two subsets in it intersect. Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be an intersection family of subsets of an  $n$ -set  $X$ . Prove that there is an intersection family  $\mathcal{F}'$  of subsets of  $X$  such that  $\mathcal{F}' \supseteq \mathcal{F}$  and  $|\mathcal{F}'| = 2^{n-1}$ .
2. (20 %) Let  $G$  be the graph whose vertex set is the set of all  $n$ -tuples with elements in  $\{0, 1\}$ , and  $x$  is adjacent to  $y$  if  $x$  and  $y$  differ in exactly  $k$  positions, where  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . Determine the number of components of  $G$ . Justify your answer.
3. (20 %) Two people play a game on a graph  $G$ , alternately choosing distinct vertices. Player 1 starts by choosing any vertex. Each subsequent choice must be adjacent to the preceding choice (of the other player). Thus together they follow a path. The last player able to move wins. Prove that the second player has a winning strategy if  $G$  has a perfect matching, and otherwise the first player has a winning strategy.
4. (20 %) For any ordering  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  of the vertex set of a graph  $G$ , let  $\chi(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$  denote the number of colors needed if a greedy coloring algorithm is applied using the ordering  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$ . Define

$$S(G) = \{\chi(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n) : v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \text{ is an ordering of the vertex set of } G\},$$

$\chi_{\max}(G)$  is the maximum number in  $S(G)$  and  $\chi_{\min}(G)$  is the minimum. Let  $\Delta(G)$  be the maximum degree of a vertex in  $G$ .

- (1) Prove that  $\chi(G) = \chi_{\min}(G) \leq \chi_{\max}(G) \leq \Delta(G) + 1$ .
  - (2) Prove that if  $G$  is  $P_4$ -free then  $\chi_{\min}(G) = \chi_{\max}(G)$ .
  - (3) For any fixed  $k$ , is there any tree  $T$  such that  $\chi_{\max}(G) - \chi_{\min}(G) \geq k$ ?
5. (20 %) Let  $S^n$  denote the set of all  $n$ -tuples with entries in the set  $S = \{0, 1, *\}$ . For any  $a, b \in S^n$ , let  $d_S(a, b) = \sum_{i=1}^n d(a_i, b_i)$ , where  $d(0, 1) = d(1, 0) = 1$  and all other  $d(a_i, b_i) = 0$ . The *squashed-cube dimension* of a graph  $G$ , denoted by  $\text{qdim}(G)$ , is defined to be the minimum  $n$  such that there is a function  $f: V(G) \rightarrow S^n$  with the property that  $d_G(x, y) = d_S(f(x), f(y))$  for any two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  in  $G$ .
- (1) Prove that  $\text{qdim}(G)$  is finite for any connected graph  $G$ .
  - (2) Determine  $\text{qdim}(P_n)$  for any  $n$ -path  $P_n$ . Justify your answer.
  - (3) Determine  $\text{qdim}(K_{3,3})$  for the complete bipartite graph  $K_{3,3}$ . Justify your answer.
  - (4) Determine  $\text{qdim}(K_n)$  for any complete graph  $K_n$ . Justify your answer.