



Colourings of graphs by labellings

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Abstract

In this paper we give a survey on several types of colourings of elements of graphs by different types of labellings.

Keywords: irregularity strength, total vertex (edge) irregularity strength, irregular colouring, proper colouring.

1 Introduction

All graphs considered in this paper are simple and finite. We use the standard graph theory terminology. For notions not defined in this paper see the book

¹ This work was supported by the Slovak Science and Technology Assistance Agency under the contract No. APVV-15-0116 and Slovak VEGA grant 1/0368/16

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[10] of Bondy and Murty.

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph with vertex set V and edge set E . If $G = (V, E, F)$ is plane, then F denotes the set of faces of G . The set $V \cup E$ and the set $V \cup E \cup F$ is the set of *elements* of G . Let $X \in \{V, E\}$. For each element $x \in X$, let $S(x)$ be a nonempty subset of the set of elements of G and $\mathcal{S} = \{S(x) | x \in X\} = \{S(x)\}$. For positive integer k we consider a *labelling* of $\bigcup_{x \in X} S(x)$; this is a mapping l from $\bigcup_{x \in X} S(x)$ into the set of integers $\{1, \dots, k\}$.

Furthermore, we define the corresponding colouring c by $c(y)$ and $c(y) = \sum_{x \in S(y)} l(x)$ for $y \in X$. The colouring c is called *irregular* if $c(u) \neq c(v)$ for any two distinct elements u and v of X , and is called *proper*, if $c(u) \neq c(v)$ for any two adjacent elements u and v of G , unless $S(u) = S(v)$.

Moreover, for a vertex colouring and fixed \mathcal{S} , let $\chi_i(G, \mathcal{S})$ and $\chi_p(G, \mathcal{S})$ be the minimum k such that there exists a corresponding irregular colouring and the corresponding proper colouring, respectively.

Note that $\chi_i(G, \{\{v\}\}) = |V|$ and $\chi_p(G, \{\{v\}\}) = \chi(G)$, where $\chi(G)$ is the chromatic number of G , see [22].

Analogously, for an edge colouring and fixed \mathcal{S} , let $\chi'_i(G, \mathcal{S})$ and $\chi'_p(G, \mathcal{S})$ be the minimum k such that there exists a corresponding irregular colouring and the corresponding proper colouring, respectively. Note that $\chi'_i(G, \{\{e\}\}) = |E|$ and $\chi'_p(G, \{\{e\}\}) = \chi'(G)$, where $\chi'(G)$ is the chromatic index of G .

2 Colourings by edge labellings

Let $N_E(v)$ denote the set of edges incident with $v \in V$. In 1988 Chartrand et al. [13] initiated a study of the parameter $\chi_i(G, \{N_E(v)\})$, which is called the *irregularity strength* of a graph G having no component K_2 and at most one K_1 .

Aigner and Triesch [3] proved that $\chi_i(G, \{N_E(v)\}) \leq p-1$ if G is connected graph of order p , $G \neq K_3$, and $\chi_i(G, \{N_E(v)\}) \leq p+1$ otherwise. Nierhoff [28] showed that this parameter is at most $p-1$ for all graphs distinct from K_3 . The bound is tight e.g. for stars. For very nice surveys on this parameter see Lehel [26], a contribution by Frieze, Gould, Karoński, and Pfender [17], and a recent paper by Cuckler and Lazebnik [14]. Valuable contribution to this topic have been done by Przybyło [30,31].

Karoński, Łuczak, and Thomason posed the following well known and popular 1-2-3-conjecture:

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