

MULTICOLORING OF GRAPHS TO SECURE A SECRET

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ABSTRACT. Vertex coloring and multicoloring of graphs are a well known subject in graph theory, as well as their applications. In vertex multicoloring, each vertex is assigned some subset of a given set of colors. Here we propose a new kind of vertex multicoloring, motivated by the situation of sharing a secret and securing it from the actions of some number of attackers. We name the multicoloring a highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring, where a is the number of the attackers, and k the number of colors. For small values a we determine what is the minimal number of vertices a graph must have in order to allow such a coloring, and what is the minimal number of colors needed.

1. INTRODUCTION

Graph coloring is one of the best known areas of graph theory. From the Four Color Problem to various applications in scheduling, frequency allocations and Sudoku, many mathematicians have used different types of graph colorings to model and solve real-life situations and problems. Vertex coloring (edge coloring) is a function which assigns one color to each of the graph vertices (edges). A proper vertex coloring of a graph is such coloring that two adjacent vertices do not have the same color. Most often analyzed problem in graph coloring is: What is the minimal number of colors needed so that a graph admits a proper coloring? There have been extensive surveys of different graph colorings [8–10].

Interesting variations of graph colorings are list colorings and multicolorings. In list coloring, each vertex is given a list of colors, and the coloring function then assigns to each vertex one color from its list. The vertices need not have the same lists. Analogous to vertex list coloring, an edge list coloring can be defined. The applications for list coloring are for example in frequency allocation. If we need to establish a wireless network of radios and each radio

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has its limited set of frequencies we can model this problem with list coloring. These colorings have been proposed and studied in [5] and a survey of problems and results, as well as a list of useful references can be found in [1].

A little less known are graph multicolorings. Vertex multicolorings are generalizations of ordinary vertex colorings in which a function assigns to each vertex a set of colors instead of one color. A proper multicoloring, just as the proper coloring, means that adjacent vertices cannot have the same color, so the sets of colors of adjacent vertices are disjoint. As in the ordinary colorings, the main problem in multicoloring is to minimize the number of colors used, but other problems and objectives have also been explored [2, 4, 6, 11]. One example of application of vertex multicoloring is in scheduling dependent jobs on multiple machines, where every machine must do several jobs simultaneously [7].

So although similar, list coloring and multicoloring are different in a way that in list coloring every vertex has a list of allowed colors but only one color must be chosen to color it, and in multicoloring every vertex is colored with one or more colors at the same time. These two variations of graph coloring are used to model different situations and problems. The difference is illustrated in Figure 1. The graph on the left is properly list colored with 2 colors where every vertex color is chosen from the list of allowed colors, and the graph on the right is multicolored and every vertex receives the set of 2 colors. Multicoloring is proper because the sets of colors of adjacent vertices are disjoint.

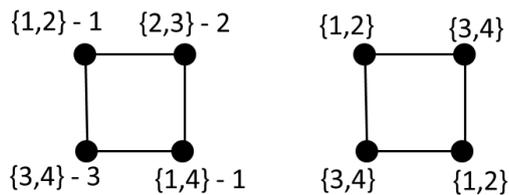


FIGURE 1. List coloring and multicoloring of graph C_4

In this paper we define a new type of vertex multicoloring, motivated by a problem of securing a secret. The idea is to safeguard a secret (a message or an information) by dividing it into parts and distributing those parts amongst the participants of some group. The model assumes a number of participants is corrupted and the number of parts and the distribution is determined in a way so that some subset of the participants can reconstruct the secret after the attack of the corrupted parties. In our paper, these parts of the secret are modeled by colors so determining the minimal number of parts and their distribution is the problem of finding a minimal number of colors and the exact coloring function.

Let $a \in \mathbb{N}$. We will say that a coloring is a -resistant vertex multicoloring if the following holds: If we remove any a vertices, and their neighbors, from the graph, in the remaining graph there exists a component in which all the colors are present. a -resistant vertex multicoloring is called highly a -resistant vertex multicoloring if any a vertices do not have all the colors.

These types of coloring are motivated by the following situation: Some organization has planted a group of sleepers (spies that live normal life until they are called to perform some mission). Their mission is a secret, divided into parts and distributed among them. Each sleeper can have some or none of the parts. Further, each of the sleepers knows only some of his colleagues. These sleepers can be represented as a graph in which edges connect pairs of sleepers that know each other. The mission can be implemented if there is a connected component of this graph that has all the parts. The assumption is that there are a adversary's agents planted in the sleepers group and if there is an adversary agent among the sleepers, he will betray all the sleepers he knows and give his parts of the secret to the adversary.

So each part is represented by a color and if a graph admits a highly a -resistant vertex multicoloring then the conditions are fulfilled and this graph is resistant to a adversary agents behaving in the described way.

We will first formulate the problem mathematically and then analyze the minimal number of colors for highly a -resistant vertex multicoloring for some fixed a , namely for 1, 2, 3 and 4. We determine what is the minimal number of vertices a graph must have in order to have a highly a -resistant vertex multicoloring, for a fixed a , and what is the minimal number of colors needed for coloring of such a graph. For each case we propose an example of a highly a -resistant vertex multicolored graph. We do not ask that highly a -resistant vertex multicoloring is proper. However we will see that the given conditions imply that the coloring with minimal number of colors will indeed be proper.

2. FORMULATING THE PROBLEM

Let us formulate this problem in a mathematical way.

Standardly, as in [3], we denote $G = (V, E)$, where G is a graph with the set of vertices $V = V(G)$, $|V(G)| = v(G)$, and the set of edges $E = E(G)$. Let $u \in V$ and $A \subseteq V$. We denote:

$$\begin{aligned} N(u) &= N_G(u), \text{ the set of neighbors of } u \text{ in } G; \\ M(u) &= M_G(u) = N(u) \cup \{u\}; \\ N(A) &= N_G(A) = \bigcup_{u \in A} N_G(u); \\ M(A) &= M_G(A) = \bigcup_{u \in A} M_G(u). \end{aligned}$$

Further, with $G \setminus A$ we denote a graph obtained from G by deletion of the vertices in A and their incident edges. If H_1 and H_2 are graphs, with $G = H_1 \cup H_2$ we denote a graph where $V(G) = V(H_1) \cup V(H_2)$ and $E(G) = E(H_1) \cup E(H_2)$. For any set T , with $\mathcal{P}(T)$ we denote the partitive set of T .

Vertex k -multicoloring of graph G is a function

$$\kappa : V(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\{1, \dots, k\}),$$

where each vertex is colored with some subset of the set of k colors.

Let $a \in \mathbb{N}$. Vertex k -multicoloring of a graph G is called *a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring* if the following holds: For each $A \subseteq V(G)$ with a vertices, there is a component H of the graph $G \setminus M_G(A)$ such that

$$\bigcup_{u \in V(H)} \kappa(u) = \{1, \dots, k\}.$$

An a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring is called *highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring* if for each $A \subseteq V(G)$ with a vertices it holds that

$$\bigcup_{u \in A} \kappa(u) \neq \{1, \dots, k\}.$$

In other words, vertex k -multicoloring is a -resistant, for some $a \in \mathbb{N}$, if for each subset $A \subseteq V(G)$ with a vertices, there exists a component H of the graph $G \setminus M_G(A)$ such that all k colors are present in H . In this case we will sometimes say that H *has all k colors*. If, in addition to that it holds that none $A \subseteq V(G)$ with a vertices has all the colors, we will say that the multicoloring is highly a -resistant.

We will denote by a -*HR* the condition that $\bigcup_{u \in A} \kappa(u) \neq \{1, \dots, k\}$, for each $A \subseteq V(G)$ with a vertices. So the multicoloring is highly a -resistant if it is a -resistant and the a -*HR* condition holds.

It is easily seen that the following holds:

- i) For some graph G and the multicoloring of its vertices the a -*HR* condition may hold for some $a \in \mathbb{N}$ but the multicoloring may not be a -resistant.
- ii) If a vertex k -multicoloring is not a -resistant, for some $a \in \mathbb{N}$, than it is not b -resistant, for each $b \in \mathbb{N}, a \leq b$.
- iii) If $k \leq a$ the a -*HR* condition cannot hold for any graph G and any k -multicoloring of its vertices.
- iv) If for some $a \in \mathbb{N}$ the a -*HR* condition holds for κ in some graph G , then it also holds for any subgraph of G .

3. RESULTS

THEOREM 3.1. *Let G be a graph with n vertices, $a, k \in \mathbb{N}$, and κ a highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring of G . It holds:*

1) *There exists a graph with $n+1$ vertices that admits a highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring.*

2) *There exists a highly a -resistant vertex $k+1$ -multicoloring κ' of G .*

PROOF. Let G be a graph with n vertices, $a, k \in \mathbb{N}$, and κ a highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring of G .

1) Let G' be defined as $G' = (V', E')$, $V' = V(G) \cup \{u\}$, $E' = E(G)$, and κ' a vertex k -multicoloring of G' such that $\kappa'|_{V' \setminus \{u\}} = \kappa$, $\kappa'(u) = \emptyset$. It is easy to see that κ' is highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring of G' .

2) Let κ' be a vertex $(k+1)$ -multicoloring of G such that $\kappa'(u) = \kappa(u) \cup \{k+1\}$, for each $u \in V(G)$. It is easy to see that κ' is highly a -resistant vertex $(k+1)$ -multicoloring. \square

Theorem 3.1 implies that if we determine that a highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring does not exist for any graph with n vertices, for given $n, a, k \in \mathbb{N}$, then such coloring does not exist for any graph with less than n vertices. Also, if for some $n, a, k \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists a graph with n vertices that admits a highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring, then we can multicolor vertices of G with more than k colors and it will also be highly a -resistant. This compels us to search for a minimal number k of colors, for which, for given a , there exist $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that a graph with n vertices admits a highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring, and n is the smallest such number.

Let us denote by $K(a, n)$ a minimal number of colors such that there exists a graph G with n vertices and a highly a -resistant vertex multicoloring of G with $K(a, n)$ colors.

If, for some a and n a graph with n vertices that admits a highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring does not exist for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we will say that $K(a, n) = \infty$.

THEOREM 3.2. *It holds*

$$K(1, n) = \begin{cases} \infty, & n \leq 3; \\ 2, & n \geq 4. \end{cases}$$

PROOF. First, let us prove that a graph with 3 vertices does not admit a highly 1-resistant vertex k -multicoloring, for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Suppose to the contrary that there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$, a graph G with 3 vertices and a multicoloring of vertices of G with k colors that is highly 1-resistant. Let us denote $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$. It is easy to see that the claim holds if $E(G)$ is empty, so let us assume $E(G)$ is non-empty. Without the loss of generality let us assume $v_1 v_2 \in E(G)$. If $A = \{v_1\}$ then in order for κ to be 1-resistant it must hold $\kappa(v_3) = \{1, \dots, k\}$, but then it is obviously not highly 1-resistant. A graph with

4 vertices with a highly 1-resistant vertex 2-multicoloring is given in Figure 2.



FIGURE 2. A graph with 4 vertices with a highly 1-resistant vertex 2-multicoloring

Now the claim follows from Theorem 3.1. \square

THEOREM 3.3. *It holds*

$$K(2, n) = \begin{cases} \infty, & n \leq 8; \\ 3, & n \geq 9. \end{cases}$$

PROOF. First, let us prove that a graph with 8 vertices does not admit a highly 2-resistant vertex k -multicoloring, for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Suppose to the contrary, that there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$, a graph G with 8 vertices and a multicoloring of vertices of G with k colors that is highly 2-resistant. Note that in order for 2-*HR* condition to hold, for each $u, v \subseteq V(G)$, $\kappa(u) \cup \kappa(v) \neq \{1, \dots, k\}$, that is, no two vertices have all the colors. Hence, there is a component with at least three vertices in G . Therefore, there is a vertex of degree at least two, let us denote it by v_1 . Let us observe the graph $G_1 = G \setminus M(v_1)$ that has at most 5 vertices. If G_1 has no component with more than 2 vertices, then the multicoloring is not 2-resistant because components with at most 2 vertices don't have all the colors. Otherwise, there is a vertex of degree at least 2 in G_1 , let us denote it by v_2 . Then the graph $G_2 = G_1 \setminus M(v_2)$ has at most two vertices, and again, the multicoloring cannot be 2-resistant and highly 2-resistant. Hence, indeed $K(2, n) = \infty$. The fact that $K(2, n) = 3$ for $n \geq 9$ follows from Theorem 3.1 and Figure 3.

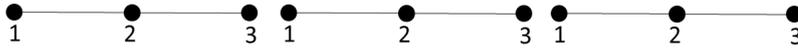


FIGURE 3. A graph with 9 vertices with a highly 2-resistant vertex 3-multicoloring

This proves the theorem. \square

Let us prove two auxiliary lemmas.

LEMMA 3.4. *Let G be a graph with at most 7 vertices, different from cycle C_7 , $k \in \mathbb{N}$, and $\kappa : V(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\{1, \dots, k\})$ a vertex k -multicoloring. Then one of the following holds:*

- (i) *The 3-HR condition does not hold for κ and G ;*
- (ii) *κ is not 1-resistant vertex k -multicoloring of G .*

PROOF. If there is a vertex v of degree at least 3 in G , then $G \setminus M(v)$ has at most three vertices. If $\bigcup_{u \in G \setminus M(v)} \kappa(u) = \{1, \dots, k\}$ then (i) holds, and if

$\bigcup_{u \in G \setminus M(v)} \kappa(u) \neq \{1, \dots, k\}$ then (ii) holds.

Let us assume $\Delta(G) \leq 2$. If G is connected, then G is a path. Let v be a central vertex (or one of two central vertices) of this path. Note that each component of $G \setminus M(v)$ has at most two vertices. But then again, as above, (i) or (ii) holds. Therefore, let us assume that G is not connected. As for each component with less than 4 vertices (i) or (ii) holds, let us observe the largest component H , and assume that it has at least 4 vertices. Note that it has at most 6 vertices and a vertex w of degree at least 2. But then $G \setminus M(w)$ has at most 3 vertices, so again (i) or (ii) holds. \square

LEMMA 3.5. *Let $\kappa : V(C_7) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\{1, \dots, 6\})$ be a vertex 6-multicoloring. Then one of the following holds:*

- (i) *The 3-HR condition does not hold for κ and C_7 ;*
- (ii) *κ is not 1-resistant vertex 6-multicoloring of C_7 .*

PROOF. Let us suppose (i) does not hold and let us denote the vertices in the cycle by w_0, \dots, w_6 so that $w_i w_{i+1} \in E$ for $i \in \{0, \dots, 5\}$ and $w_6 w_0 \in E$. Let $W_i = \{w_i, w_{i+1}, w_{i+2}\}$ where summation is taken modulo 7. Note that because (i) does not hold, each set W_i has to not have at least one color, that is $\bigcup_{u \in W_i} \kappa(u) \neq \{1, \dots, 6\}$, for each $i \in \{1, \dots, 6\}$. Since there are 7 sets and 6 colors, there are two sets W_i and W_j that miss the same color, but then there are at least four consecutive vertices that are missing the same color. Let us denote them by $x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}, x_{i+3}$. Now if we observe $C_7 \setminus M(x_{i+5}) = \{x_i, x_{i+1}, x_{i+2}, x_{i+3}\}$, we see that (ii) holds. \square

Now, we can prove:

THEOREM 3.6. *It holds*

$$K(3, n) = \begin{cases} \infty, & n \leq 13; \\ 7, & n = 14, 15; \\ 4, & n \geq 16. \end{cases}$$

PROOF. First, let us prove that $K(3, n) = \infty$, for each $n \leq 13$, that is that a graph with $n \leq 13$ vertices cannot have a highly 3-resistant vertex k -multicoloring, for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Suppose to the contrary, that there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$, a graph G with 13 vertices and a multicoloring of vertices of G with k colors that is highly 3-resistant. Note that κ is not highly 3-resistant in components with at most three vertices, hence we may restrict our attention to the components with at most four vertices. There are at most three such components. Let us distinguish three cases.

1) There are three components with at least 4 vertices.

Note that each of these components has at most 5 vertices, so the claim follows from Lemma 3.4.

2) There are exactly two components with at least 4 vertices.

Let H_1 be the smaller of these components (it has at most 6 vertices). If for H_1 and κ the 3-*HR* condition does not hold then κ is not highly 3-resistant, which is a contradiction, so from Lemma 3.4 it follows that κ is not 1-resistant in H_1 . Component H_2 has at most 9 vertices and H_2 has a vertex w of degree at least 2. Note that $H_2 \setminus M(w)$ has at most 6 vertices. Again from Lemma 3.4 it follows that κ in $H_2 \setminus M(w)$ is not 1-resistant. Hence, κ in G is not 3-resistant, which is a contradiction.

3) There is exactly one component H with at least 4 vertices.

First, suppose that $\Delta(H) \leq 2$, i.e. that it is either a cycle or a path. Note that in both cases there are three vertices $A = \{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$ such that no component of $H \setminus M(A)$ has more than 3 vertices, but then κ is obviously not highly 3-resistant. Hence, there is a vertex w of degree at least 3. Graph $G \setminus M(w)$ has at most 9 vertices, and we can follow the same conclusions as in the case 2).

Hence indeed, $K(3, n) = \infty$ for $n \leq 13$.

Now, let us prove that $K(3, n) = 7$ for $p = 14, 15$. First, let us prove that a graph with 15 vertices does not admit a highly 3-resistant vertex 6-multicoloring. Suppose to the contrary, and let G be a graph with 15 vertices and κ a highly 3-resistant vertex 6-multicoloring. Again, note that for components with at most three vertices the 3-*HR* condition does not hold, so we may restrict our attention to the components with at least four vertices. There are at most three such components. Let us distinguish three cases.

a) There are three components with at least 4 vertices.

If at least one of the components is C_7 the claim follows from Lemmas 3.4 and 3.5, and if that is not the case, the claim follows from Lemma 3.4.

b) There are exactly two components with at least 4 vertices.

The larger component (say H_2) has at most 11 vertices. If it is a cycle or a path, then there are two vertices w_2, w_3 such that no component of

$H_2 \setminus M(\{w_2, w_3\})$ has more than 3 vertices. Let w_1 be the vertex with the highest degree in the second largest component H_1 .

If we observe the vertices w_1, w_2, w_3 , we see that no component of $G \setminus M(\{w_1, w_2, w_3\})$ has all the colors or the 3-*HR* condition wouldn't hold. But then G is not 3-resistant. Therefore, H_2 is neither a cycle nor a path, hence $\Delta(H_2) \geq 3$. Hence, there is a vertex w_2 such that $H_2 \setminus M(w_2)$ has at most 7 vertices. As 3-*HR* condition must hold for $H_2 \setminus M(w_2)$, from Lemmas 3.4 and 3.5, it follows that κ is not 1-resistant in $H_2 \setminus M(w_2)$. Let us denote by w_3 the vertex such that $H_2 \setminus M(w_2) \setminus M(w_3)$ does not have a component with all the colors, and let w_1 be the vertex with the highest degree in the second largest component H_1 . Now, no component of $G \setminus M(\{w_1, w_2, w_3\})$ has all the colors and the contradiction is obtained.

c) There is exactly one component H_1 with at least 4 vertices.

If this component is either a cycle or a path, there is a set of three vertices $A = \{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$ such that no component of $H_1 \setminus M(A)$ has more than 2 vertices, so κ is obviously not highly 3-resistant. Therefore, we may assume that there is a vertex w_1 in H_1 of degree at least 3. Hence, $H_1 \setminus M(w_1)$ has at most 11 vertices. If $H_1 \setminus M(w_1)$ is either a cycle or a path, then there are vertices w_2 and w_3 such that $(H_1 \setminus M(w_1)) \setminus M(\{w_2, w_3\})$ has no component with more than 3 vertices, but then again either κ is not 3-resistant in G or the 3-*HR* condition does not hold. Hence, we may conclude that $H_1 \setminus M(w_1)$ has a vertex w_2 of degree at least 3. Now the graph $(H_1 \setminus M(w_1)) \setminus M(w_2) = H_1 \setminus M(\{w_1, w_2\})$ has at most 7 vertices. Since 3-*HR* condition must hold for $H_1 \setminus M(\{w_1, w_2\})$, from Lemmas 3.4 and 3.5 it follows that $H_1 \setminus M(\{w_1, w_2\})$ is not 1-resistant. But then κ is not highly 3-resistant in H_1 , and therefore also not in G .

Hence indeed, for a graph with 15 vertices a highly 3-resistant vertex 6-multicoloring does not exist. From Theorem 3.1 it follows that this is also true for graphs with 14 vertices.

In order to prove that $K(3, n) = 7$, where $n = 14, 15$, it is sufficient to prove that $K(3, 14) = 7$. Let us present the graph G with 14 vertices and a highly 3-resistant vertex 7-multicoloring of G . Let G be a union of two cycles of length 7 in which the vertices are denoted $v_0^j, v_1^j, \dots, v_6^j$, $j = 1, 2$, and let $\{1, \dots, 7\}$ be the set of colors. Let vertex v_i^j have the set of colors $\{i, i + 3\}$, $i = 1, \dots, 7$, where all operations are modulo 7. Note that no three vertices can have all the colors, because there are 7 colors and every vertex has just two of them. Let A be the set of any 3 vertices in G . Without the loss of generality we may assume that there is at most one vertex from A in the cycle $v_0^1, v_1^1, \dots, v_6^1$. Hence, there is a path of 4 vertices $v_l^1, v_{l+1}^1, v_{l+2}^1, v_{l+3}^1$ in the component of $G \setminus M(A)$. Note that these 4 vertices have all the keys. This realization is given in Figure 4. This completes the proof that $K(3, n) = 7$ for $n = 14, 15$.

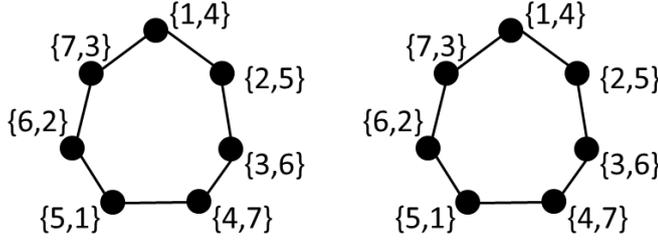


FIGURE 4. A graph G with 14 vertices and a highly 3-resistant vertex 7-multicoloring of G

Finally, it holds that a graph with n vertices does not admit a highly 3-resistant vertex 3-multicoloring for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, as commented at the beginning. It remains to show that a graph with 16 vertices exists that admits a highly 3-resistant vertex 4-multicoloring. This is shown in Figure 5. \square

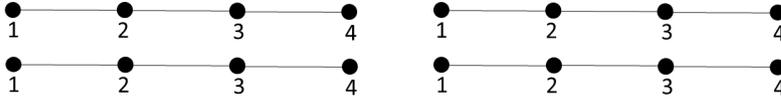


FIGURE 5. A graph with 16 vertices and a highly 3-resistant vertex 4-multicoloring

Let us prove an auxiliary Lemma:

LEMMA 3.7. *Let G be a graph with at most 8 vertices, different from C_8 , and let $\kappa : V(G) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$ be a vertex k -multicoloring. Then one of the following holds:*

- i) The 4-HR condition does not hold for κ and G ;*
- ii) κ is not 1-resistant vertex k -multicoloring of G .*

PROOF. Suppose to the contrary, let G be a graph with at most 8 vertices and $\kappa : V(G) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, k\}$ be a vertex k -multicoloring of G such that κ is 1-resistant and the 4-HR condition holds. It follows that no component with at most 4 vertices has all the colors. Let us observe the largest component, H_1 . If H_1 is a path with at most 8 vertices, or a cycle with at most 7 vertices, it can be easily seen that there is a vertex v_0 such that no component of $H_1 \setminus M(v_0)$ has more than 4 vertices. If some component of $H_1 \setminus M(v_0)$ has all the colors, then the 4-HR does not hold, and if not, then H_1 is not 1-resistant and therefore nor is G . Hence, we may assume that H_1 has a vertex

w of degree at least 3. Then, $H_1 \setminus M(w)$ has at most 4 vertices and the claim follows as before. \square

THEOREM 3.8. $K(4, n) = \infty$ for $n \leq 20$.

PROOF. Suppose to the contrary, that there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$, a graph G with 20 vertices and a multicoloring of vertices of G with k colors that is highly 4-resistant. Let us distinguish two cases, depending on the maximal degree of G .

1) $\Delta(G) \leq 2$.

In this case, G is a union of components that are paths and cycles. Note that 4-*HR* implies that no component with at most 4 vertices can have all the colors. Hence, we restrict our attention to the components with at least 5 vertices. Let us distinguish four subcases.

1.1) There are four components with at least 5 vertices.

Note that each of these components has exactly 5 vertices. Let us denote these components by H_1, \dots, H_4 and let $w_i \in H_i$, $i = 1, \dots, 4$, be arbitrary vertices. Note that graph $G \setminus M(\{w_1, \dots, w_4\})$ has no component with at least 5 vertices, but then κ cannot be 4-resistant and highly 4-resistant in G .

1.2) There are exactly three components with at least 5 vertices.

Let us denote these components by H_1, H_2 and H_3 in such a way that $v(H_1) \leq v(H_2) \leq v(H_3)$. It follows $v(H_1), v(H_2) \leq 7$. As 4-*HR* condition holds for κ and G , Lemma 3.7 implies that H_1 and H_2 are not 1-resistant, that is, there are vertices $w_1 \in V(H_1)$ and $w_2 \in V(H_2)$ such that $H_i \setminus M(w_i)$, $i = 1, 2$, does not have all the colors. Further, note that $v(H_3) \leq 10$. Hence, there are two vertices w_3 and w_4 such that each component of $H_3 \setminus M(\{w_3, w_4\})$ has at most two vertices. Therefore, no component of $G \setminus M(\{w_1, \dots, w_4\})$ can have all the colors.

1.3) There are exactly two components with at least 5 vertices.

Let us denote these components by H_1 and H_2 in such a way that $v(H_1) \leq v(H_2)$. If $v(H_1), v(H_2) \leq 14$ then there are four vertices $w_1, w_2 \in V(H_1)$ and $w_3, w_4 \in V(H_2)$ such that no component of $H_1 \setminus M(\{w_1, w_2\})$ has more than 4 vertices and that no component of $H_2 \setminus M(\{w_3, w_4\})$ has more than 4 vertices, so the claim follows as before. If $v(H_1) = 5$ and $v(H_2) = 15$, the proof goes analogously, except that we observe $w_1 \in V(H_1)$ and $w_2, w_3, w_4 \in V(H_2)$.

1.4) There is exactly one component with at least 5 vertices.

It can be easily seen that 4 vertices, w_1, \dots, w_4 , can be found, such that no component of $G \setminus M(\{w_1, \dots, w_4\})$ has more than 4 vertices which leads to a contradiction.

This completes the proof of case 1).

2) $\Delta(G) \geq 3$.

Let v_1 be a vertex in G such that $d(v_1) = \Delta(G)$. Note that $G_2 = G \setminus M(v_1)$ has at most 16 vertices. Let us distinguish three subcases.

2.1) $\Delta(G_2) \leq 2$ and G_2 is not isomorphic to $C_8 \cup C_8$.

As before, we observe only components with at least 5 vertices. We distinguish four subcases.

2.1.1) If there are three components H_1, H_2 and H_3 , then each of them has at most 6 vertices, and from Lemma 3.7 it follows that neither of them is 1-resistant, that is, there are vertices $w_i \in V(H_i)$ such that no component of $H_i \setminus M(w_i)$ has all the colors which leads to contradiction with G being highly 4-resistant.

2.1.2) If there are two components H_1 and H_2 , such that $v(H_1) \leq v(H_2)$ and $v(H_1) \leq 7$, then again Lemma 3.7 implies that there is a vertex $w_1 \in V(H_1)$ such that no component $H_1 \setminus M(w_1)$ has all the colors. Also, there are two vertices w_2 and w_3 such that no component of $H_2 \setminus M(\{w_2, w_3\})$ has more than

$$\left\lceil \frac{11 - 2 \cdot 3}{2} \right\rceil = 3$$

vertices. This again leads to a contradiction.

2.1.3) If there are two components H_1 and H_2 such that $v(H_1) = v(H_2)$, then at least one of them (say H_1) is not a cycle, but a path. Hence, there is a vertex $w_1 \in V(H_1)$ such that no component of $H_1 \setminus M(w_1)$ has more than

$$\left\lceil \frac{8 - 3}{2} \right\rceil = 3$$

vertices, and there are vertices $w_2, w_3 \in V(H_2)$ such that no component of $H_2 \setminus M(\{w_2, w_3\})$ has more than

$$\left\lceil \frac{8 - 2 \cdot 3}{2} \right\rceil = 1$$

vertex. This leads to a contradiction.

2.1.4) If there is only one component with more than 4 vertices, then there are three vertices w_1, w_2, w_3 such that each component of $G_2 \setminus M(\{w_1, w_2, w_3\})$ has at most

$$\left\lceil \frac{16 - 3 \cdot 3}{3} \right\rceil = 3$$

vertices, which leads to a contradiction.

2.2) $\Delta(G_2) \geq 3$.

Let v_2 be a vertex in G_2 such that $d(v_2) = \Delta(G_2)$.

Note that $G_3 = G_2 \setminus M(v_2)$ has at most 12 vertices. Let us distinguish two subcases.

2.2.1) $\Delta(G_3) \leq 2$.

Note that G_3 has at most two components with at least 5 vertices. If G_3 has only one component with at least 5 vertices, then there are two vertices w_3 and w_4 such that $G_3 \setminus M(\{w_3, w_4\})$ has no more than

$$\left\lceil \frac{12 - 3 \cdot 2}{2} \right\rceil = 3$$

vertices, which leads to a contradiction. If there are two components H_1 and H_2 with at least 5 vertices, then each of them has at most 7 vertices so from Lemma 3.7 it follows that there is a vertex w_3 such that no component of $H_1 \setminus M(w_3)$ has all the colors, and there is a vertex w_4 such that no component of $H_2 \setminus M(w_4)$ has all the colors, which also leads to a contradiction.

2.2.2) There is a vertex w_3 of degree at least 3 such that $G_3 \setminus M(w_3)$ is not isomorphic to C_8 .

Note that the graph $G_4 = G_3 \setminus M(w_3)$ has at most 8 vertices. From Lemma 3.7 it follows that there is a vertex w_4 such that no component of $G_4 \setminus M(w_4)$ has all the colors, which leads to contradiction.

2.2.3) For each vertex w_3 of degree at least 3 it holds that $G_3 \setminus M(w_3)$ is isomorphic to C_8 .

Let us denote the vertices of $G_3 \setminus M(w_3)$ by u_1, u_2, \dots, u_8 , so that $u_i u_{i+1} \in E$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, 8\}$ and $u_8 u_1 \in E$ and let us denote neighbors of w_3 by x_1, x_2, x_3 . If there is no edge between some u_i and some x_i then $G \setminus M(\{w_1, w_2, u_1, u_4\})$ does not have a component with more than 4 vertices and that would lead to a contradiction. Hence, without the loss of generality, we may assume that $x_1 u_1 \in E(G)$. Hence, u_1 is a vertex of degree at least 3. Therefore, $G_3 \setminus M(u_1)$ is isomorphic to C_8 . Without the loss of generality, we may assume that $u_7 x_2, u_3 x_3 \in E(G_3)$ (other option, that $u_7 x_3$ and $u_3 x_2$ are edges in G_3 is analogous). Hence, the edges of G_3 are

$$\{u_i u_{i+1} : i = 1, \dots, 7\} \cup \{u_8 u_1\} \cup \{w_3 x_i : i = 1, 2, 3\} \cup \{u_1 x_1, u_7 x_2, u_3 x_3\},$$

but then u_7 has the degree 3 and $G_3 \setminus M(u_7)$ is not isomorphic to C_8 , which is a contradiction.

2.3) G_2 is isomorphic to $C_8 \cup C_8$.

Let us denote by $u_1^j, u_2^j, \dots, u_8^j$, $j = 1, 2$ vertices of these two cycles in order of their appearance and let us denote any 3 neighbors of w_1 in G by x_1, x_2, x_3 . If there is no edge between some x_p and some u_i^j , $p = 1, 2, 3$, $j = 1, 2$, $i = 1, \dots, 8$, then $G \setminus M(\{u_1^1, u_4^1, u_2^2, u_4^2\})$ has no component with at least 5 vertices which leads to a contradiction. Hence, let us assume, without the loss of generality, that $x_1 u_1^1 \in E(G)$. Then u_1^1 has the degree 3. If $G \setminus M(u_1^1)$ is not isomorphic to $C_8 + C_8$, then one of the previous cases holds. If $G \setminus M(u_1^1)$ is isomorphic to $C_8 \cup C_8$, then we may assume (similarly as above), without the loss of generality, that $u_7^1 x_2, u_3^1 x_3 \in E(G)$, but then it can be shown that $G \setminus M(u_7^1)$ is not isomorphic to $C_8 \cup C_8$. For $G \setminus M(u_7^1)$ one of the previous cases holds.

This completes the proof of the Theorem. \square

In order to determine $K(4, 21)$ we need the following Lemmas.

LEMMA 3.9. *Let $\kappa : V(C_8) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, 9\}$ be a vertex 9-multicoloring. Then one of the following holds:*

i) *The 4-HR condition does not hold for κ and C_8 ;*

ii) κ is not 1-resistant vertex 9-multicoloring of C_8 .

PROOF. Suppose to the contrary, that neither (i) nor (ii) holds. It means that $\kappa : V(C_8) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, 9\}$ is a 1-resistant multicoloring for which the 4-*HR* condition holds. Let us denote vertices of this cycle by u_1, \dots, u_8 so that $u_i u_{i+1} \in E$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, 7\}$ and $u_8 u_1 \in E$. Note that each four consecutive vertices $u_p, u_{p+1}, u_{p+2}, u_{p+3}$ don't have all the colors, because of the 4-*HR*. Let us denote by k_p one of the colors that they don't have. Note that u_{p-1} must have the color k_p , because otherwise no vertex in $C_8 \setminus M(u_{p-3})$ would have color k_p , and κ wouldn't be 1-resistant. Analogously note that u_{p+4} must have the color k_p .

Further, let us prove that $p \neq q$ implies $k_p \neq k_q$. Suppose to the contrary. Then it holds that no vertex in $\{u_q, \dots, u_{q+3}\}$ has the color $k_p = k_q$ and both vertices in $\{u_{p-1}, u_{p+4}\}$ have this color, but $\{u_q, \dots, u_{q+3}\} \cap \{u_{p-1}, u_{p+3}\} \neq \emptyset$ so that is a contradiction with the number of vertices. Hence, without the loss of generality, we may assume that $k_p = p$. Therefore, $\kappa(u_1) \cup \kappa(u_3) \cup \kappa(u_5) \cup \kappa(u_7) \supseteq \{1, \dots, 8\}$ and $\kappa(u_2) \cup \kappa(u_4) \cup \kappa(u_6) \cup \kappa(u_8) \supseteq \{1, \dots, 8\}$. Hence, no matter which vertex has the color 9, there will be four vertices that have all the colors which is contradiction with 4-*HR*. \square

LEMMA 3.10. *Let G be a graph with at most 8 vertices and let $\kappa : V(G) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, 9\}$ be a vertex 9-multicoloring. One of the following holds:*

- i) *The 4-*HR* condition does not hold for κ and G ;*
- ii) *κ is not 1-resistant vertex 9-multicoloring of G .*

PROOF. The claim follows from Lemmas 3.7 and 3.9. \square

LEMMA 3.11. *Let G be a graph with at most 12 vertices and let $\kappa : V(G) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, 9\}$ be a vertex 9-multicoloring. One of the following holds:*

- i) *The 4-*HR* condition does not hold for κ and G ;*
- ii) *κ is not 2-resistant vertex 9-multicoloring of G .*

PROOF. Suppose to the contrary. If there is a vertex x_1 of degree at least 3, then $G_2 = G \setminus M(x_1)$ has at most 8 vertices and from Lemma 3.10 it follows that there is a vertex x_2 such that no component of $G_2 \setminus M(x_2) = G \setminus M(\{x_1, x_2\})$ has all the colors, and κ is not 2-resistant, which is a contradiction. Hence, $\Delta(G) \leq 2$. Note that no component with at most 4 vertices can have all the colors, hence we observe only components with 5 or more vertices. If there are two components H_1 and H_2 with at least 5 vertices, then Lemma 3.7 implies that there are vertices $x_i \in H_i$ such that no component of $H_i \setminus M(x_i)$, $i = 1, 2$, has all the colors, which leads to a contradiction. If there is only one component H with at least 5 vertices, then there are vertices $x_1, x_2 \in H$ such that no component of $H \setminus M(\{x_1, x_2\})$ has more than

$$\left\lceil \frac{12 - 2 \cdot 3}{2} \right\rceil = 3$$

vertices, which also leads to a contradiction. \square

LEMMA 3.12. *Let G be a graph with at most 16 vertices and let $\kappa : V(G) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, 9\}$ be a vertex 9-multicoloring. One of the following holds:*

- i) The 4- HR condition does not hold for κ and G ;*
- ii) κ is not 3-resistant vertex 9-multicoloring of G .*

PROOF. Suppose to the contrary. If there is a vertex x_1 of degree at least 3, then $G_2 = G \setminus M(x_1)$ has at most 12 vertices and from Lemma 3.10, it follows that there are vertices x_2 and x_3 such that no component of $G_2 \setminus M(\{x_2, x_3\}) = G \setminus M(\{x_1, x_2, x_3\})$ has all the colors, which is a contradiction. Hence, $\Delta(G) \leq 2$. Note that no component with at most 4 vertices can have all the colors, hence we observe only components with 5 or more vertices. If there are three components H_1, H_2 and H_3 with at least 5 vertices each, then Lemma 3.10 implies that there are vertices $x_i \in H_i$ such that no component of $H_i \setminus M(x_i)$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, has all the colors, which leads to a contradiction. Suppose that there are exactly two components H_1 and H_2 , with at least 5 vertices each. Without the loss of generality, we may assume that $v(H_1) \leq v(H_2)$. Note that H_1 has at most 8 vertices, and hence Lemma 3.10 implies that there is a vertex $x_1 \in V(H_1)$ such that no component of $H_1 \setminus M(x_1)$ has all the colors. H_2 has at most 11 vertices, and Lemma 3.11 implies that there are vertices $x_2, x_3 \in V(H_2)$ such that no component of $H_2 \setminus M(\{x_2, x_3\})$ has all the colors. If there is only one component, H , with at least 5 vertices, then there are vertices $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in V(H)$ such that no component of $H \setminus (\{x_1, x_2, x_3\})$ has more than

$$\left\lceil \frac{16 - 3 \cdot 3}{3} \right\rceil = 3$$

vertices, which also leads to a contradiction. \square

THEOREM 3.13. $K(4, 21) = 10$.

PROOF. First, let us show that there exists a graph G with 21 vertices and a highly 4-resistant vertex 10-multicoloring κ of G . Let G be a graph that has three components; two cycles H_1 and H_2 with 8 vertices and a path H_3 with 5 vertices. Let vertices of cycle H_i be denoted by v_1^i, \dots, v_8^i , $i = 1, 2$, and let vertices of H_3 be denoted by v_1^3, \dots, v_5^3 , with the adjacency defined as in previous proofs. For $i = 1, 2, 3$ let function κ be defined by

$$\kappa(v_j^i) = \begin{cases} \{j, j + 3, 9\}, & j \text{ odd;} \\ \{j, j + 3, 10\}, & j \text{ even,} \end{cases}$$

where summation is given modulo 8. This way every vertex has two colors in $\{1, \dots, 8\}$. This multicoloring is represented in Figure 6.

Let us prove that 4- HR holds for this G and κ . Suppose to the contrary, that there is a set $A \subseteq V(G)$ of 4 vertices that has all 10 colors. Without the loss of generality we may assume that all the vertices in A are vertices

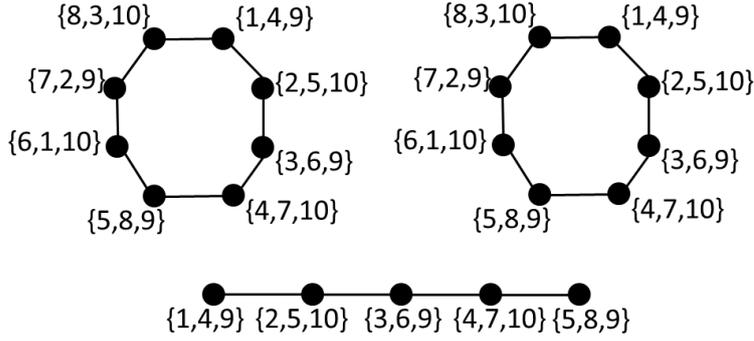


FIGURE 6. A graph G with 21 vertices and a highly 4-resistant vertex 10-multicoloring

in H_1 , since κ does not depend on the component. Each vertex has 2 colors in $\{1, \dots, 8\}$, hence all these colors must be different. Let us distinguish three cases.

1) There are two vertices in A on distance 3.

They both have the same color in $\{1, \dots, 8\}$ which is a contradiction.

2) There are no two vertices on distance 3 in A , but there are two vertices on the distance 1.

Without the loss of generality, we may assume that these vertices are v_1^1 and v_2^1 . Hence, $v_4^1, v_5^1, v_6^1, v_7^1 \notin A$. Therefore, $v_3^1, v_8^1 \in A$, but this is a contradiction, because these two vertices are on the distance 3.

3) All vertices in A are on even distances.

In this case, either none of the vertices has the color 9 or none of them has the color 10. In both cases contradiction is obtained.

So 4- HR holds for defined κ and G . In order to prove κ is highly 4-resistant it remains to prove it is 4-resistant.

Suppose to the contrary, that there is a set A of 4-vertices such that $G \setminus M(A)$ has no component with all the colors. It is easy to see that at least one of the vertices in A is in H_3 . Hence, there are at most 3 vertices in A in $H_1 \cup H_2$. Without the loss of generality, we may assume that there is at most one vertex in A in H_1 and let us denote it by w . It can be easily seen that $H_1 \setminus M(w)$ has all the colors which is a contradiction. Hence indeed a graph G with 21 vertices and a highly 4-resistant vertex 10-multicoloring exists.

It remains to prove that a highly 4-resistant vertex 9-multicoloring does not exist for any graph with 21 vertices. Suppose to the contrary, that there is a graph G with 21 vertices and a highly 4-resistant multicoloring κ of vertices of G with 9 colors. Let us distinguish 5 cases.

a) G has at least one component with at most 4 vertices.

This component, H_1 , does not have all the colors, hence we observe $G \setminus H_1$. Now contradiction follows from Theorem 3.8.

b) G is not connected, but all the components have at least 5 vertices.

Note that there are at most 4 components. If there are 4 components H_i , $i = 1, \dots, 4$ then none of these components has more than 6 vertices and hence from Lemma 3.10 and 4- HR it follows that there is a vertex $w_i \in H_i$ for each $i = 1, \dots, 4$, such that no component of $H_i \setminus M(w_i)$ has all the colors, which leads to a contradiction.

If there are three components, H_1, H_2 and H_3 , then at least two of them (say H_1 and H_2) have at most 7 vertices each and the largest of them (say H_3) has at most 11 vertices. From 4- HR and Lemma 3.10 it follows that there are vertices $w_i \in V(H_i)$ such that no component of $H_i \setminus M(w_i)$, $i = 1, 2$, has all the colors; and from Lemma 3.11 and 4- HR it follows that there are vertices $w_3, w_4 \in V(H_3)$ such that no component of $H_3 \setminus M(\{w_3, w_4\})$ has all the colors.

If there are two components, the contradiction is obtained analogously.

c) G is connected and $\Delta(G) \leq 2$.

In this case G is either a cycle or a path. In each case there are four vertices w_1, \dots, w_4 such that no component of $G \setminus M(\{w_1, \dots, w_4\})$ has more than

$$\left\lceil \frac{21 - 3 \cdot 4}{4} \right\rceil = 3$$

vertices and this leads to a contradiction.

d) G is connected and $\Delta(G) \geq 4$.

Let w_1 be a vertex of degree at least 4. Then, graph $G \setminus M(w_1)$ has at most 16 vertices and from 4- HR and Lemma 3.12 it follows that there are vertices $w_2, w_3, w_4 \in V(G \setminus M(w_1))$ such that no component of $G \setminus M(\{w_1, \dots, w_4\})$ has all the colors which is a contradiction.

e) G is connected and $\Delta(G) = 3$.

Let us distinguish 4 subcases.

e.1) There is a vertex w_1 such that $d_G(w_1) = 3$, $G \setminus M(w_1)$ is disconnected and it has a component with at most 4 vertices.

Let us denote by H_1 the component with at most 4 vertices. Obviously H_1 does not have all the colors. Note that $G \setminus (M(w_1) \cup V(H_1))$ has at most 16 vertices. Now contradiction follows from Lemma 3.12.

e.2) There is a vertex w_1 such that $d_G(w_1) = 3$, $G \setminus M(w_1)$ is disconnected and each component has at least 5 vertices.

Since $G \setminus M(w_1)$ has at most 17 vertices, there are at most three components. If there are 3 components H_1, H_2 and H_3 , then no component has more than 7 vertices and therefore from Lemma 3.10 and 4- HR it follows that there are vertices $w_{i+1} \in V(H_i)$ such that no component of $H_i \setminus M(w_{i+1})$ has all the colors, which leads to a contradiction.

If there are two components, H_1 and H_2 , then, the smaller component (say H_1) has at most 8 vertices and the larger component has at most 12 vertices. Now contradiction follows from Lemma 3.10 and Lemma 3.11.

e.3) There is a vertex w_1 such that $d_G(w_1) = 3$, graph $G \setminus M(w_1)$ is connected and $\Delta(G \setminus M(w_1)) = 2$.

Note that $G \setminus M(w_1)$ is either a cycle or a path. In each case there are vertices $w_2, w_3, w_4 \in V(G \setminus M(w_1))$ such that no component of

$$[G \setminus M(w_1)] \setminus M(\{w_2, w_3, w_4\})$$

has more than

$$\left\lceil \frac{17 - 3 \cdot 3}{3} \right\rceil = 2$$

vertices, and this leads to a contradiction.

e.4) For each vertex w_1 such that $d_G(w_1) = 3$, graph $G \setminus M(w_1)$ is connected and $\Delta(G \setminus M(w_1)) = 3$.

Let us denote $G_2 = G \setminus M(w_1)$ and let us note that it has 17 vertices. We distinguish four subcases.

e.4.1) There is a vertex w_2 such that $d_{G_2}(w_2) = 3$, $G_2 \setminus M(w_2)$ is disconnected and it has a component with at most 4 vertices.

Let H_1 be a component that has at most 4 vertices. It does not have all the colors. Graph $G_2 \setminus (M(w_2) \cup H_1)$ has at most 12 vertices. Hence, from Lemma 3.11 there are vertices $w_3, w_4 \in V(G_2 \setminus (M(w_2) \cup H_1))$ such that no component of $[G_2 \setminus (M(w_2) \cup H_1)] \setminus M(\{w_3, w_4\})$ has all the colors, which leads to a contradiction.

e.4.2) There is a vertex w_2 such that $d_{G_2}(w_2) = 3$, $G_2 \setminus M(w_2)$ is disconnected and each of its components has at least 5 vertices.

Note that $G_2 \setminus M(w_2)$ has 13 vertices, hence it has 2 components and each component has at most 8 vertices. 4-*HR* and Lemma 3.10 imply that there are vertices $w_{i+2} \in V(H_i)$, $i = 1, 2$, such that no component of $H_i \setminus M(w_{i+2})$ has all the colors. This leads to a contradiction.

e.4.3) There is a vertex w_2 such that $d_{G_2}(w_2) = 3$, $G_2 \setminus M(w_2)$ is connected and $\Delta(G_2 \setminus M(w_2)) = 2$.

In this case, $G_2 \setminus M(w_2)$ is a cycle or a path. In each case there are vertices w_3, w_4 such that $[G_2 \setminus M(w_2)] \setminus M(\{w_3, w_4\})$ has at most

$$\left\lceil \frac{13 - 2 \cdot 3}{2} \right\rceil = 4$$

vertices, which leads to a contradiction.

e.4.4) For each vertex w_2 such that $d_{G_2}(w_2) = 3$, graph $G_2 \setminus M(w_2)$ is connected and $\Delta(G_2 \setminus M(w_2)) = 3$.

Let us denote $G_3 = G_2 \setminus M(w_2)$ and let us note that G_3 has 13 vertices. We distinguish two subcases.

e.4.4.1) There is a vertex w_3 such that $d_{G_3}(w_3) = 3$ and $G_3 \setminus M(w_3)$ is not connected.

Note that $G_3 \setminus M(w_3)$ has 9 vertices. Hence, each component, except possibly the largest one, has at most 4 vertices and therefore it cannot have all the colors. The largest component, H , has at most 8 vertices. Hence, the contradiction follows from Lemma 3.7.

e.4.4.2) For each vertex w_3 such that $d_{G_3}(w_3) = 3$, graph $G_3 \setminus M(w_3)$ is connected.

Let us denote $G_4 = G_3 \setminus M(w_3)$ and let us note that G_4 has 9 vertices. We distinguish 5 subcases.

e.4.4.2.1) $\delta(G) = 1$.

Let v_1 be a vertex of degree 1 and let v_2 be its only neighbor. Note that $d_G(v_2) \geq 2$. If $d_G(v_2) = 2$ let v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k be a path such that $d(v_1), \dots, d(v_{k-1}) < 3$ and $d(v_k) = 3$. Let us denote $w_1 = v_k$. Then $G \setminus M(w_1)$ is disconnected which is a contradiction with the assumptions of this subcase. Hence, let us assume that $d_G(v_2) = 3$ and let us denote $N_G(v_2) = \{v_1, p_1, q_1\}$. If either one of vertices p_1 or q_1 has the degree 3 (say p_1), then $G \setminus M(p_1)$ is not connected which is in contradiction with the assumptions of this case. Hence, let p_1, \dots, p_k ($p_2 \neq v_2$) be a path such that $d(p_1), \dots, d(p_{k-1}) < 3$ and $d(p_k) = 3$. Let us denote $w_1 = p_k$. If $v_2 \in N_G(w_1)$ or $q_1 \in N_G(w_1)$, graph $G_2 = G \setminus M(w_1)$ is disconnected which is a contradiction. Note that $d_{G_2}(v_2) = 2$. Let $v_1, v_2, q_1, q_2, \dots, q_l$ be a path such that $d_{G_2}(q_2), \dots, d_{G_2}(q_{l-1}) < 3$ and $d_{G_2}(q_l) = 3$. We denote $w_2 = q_l$. Graph $G_2 \setminus M(w_2)$ is disconnected which is in contradiction with the assumptions of this case.

e.4.4.2.2) $\delta(G) \geq 2$ and there are two adjacent vertices of degree 2.

Let us assume that there are two adjacent vertices v_1 and v_2 of degree 2. Let v_1, \dots, v_k be a path such that $d_G(v_1), \dots, d_G(v_{k-1}) < 3$ and $d_G(v_k) = 3$. Let us distinguish 3 subcases.

e.4.4.2.2.1) $v_1 v_k \notin E(G)$.

Let us denote $w_1 = v_k$ and $G_2 = G \setminus M(w_1)$. Note that $d_{G_2}(v_{k-2}) = 1$. Now, we can proceed analogously as in the subcase e.4.4.2.1 just observing G_2 instead of G_1 .

e.4.4.2.2.2) $v_1 v_k \in E(G)$.

If $k \neq 3$ let us choose $w_1 = v_k$. Note that $G \setminus M(w_1)$ is disconnected which is a contradiction with the assumptions of this case. Hence, $k = 3$. Let us denote $N_G(v_3) = \{v_1, v_2, p_1\}$. If $d_G(p_1) = 3$, then the choice $w_1 = p_1$ implies that $G \setminus M(w_1)$ is disconnected, which is a contradiction. Suppose otherwise and let p_1, p_2, \dots, p_l be a walk such that $d_G(p_1), \dots, d_G(p_{l-1}) < 3$ and $d_G(p_l) = 3$. Then, the choice $w_1 = p_l$ implies that $G \setminus M(w_1)$ is disconnected, which is a contradiction.

e.4.4.2.3) $\delta(G) \geq 2$ and there are two adjacent vertices of degree 3.

Let us distinguish two subcases.

e.4.4.2.3.1) $\delta(G) \geq 2$ and there is a vertex v_2 of degree 3 that is adjacent to at least one vertex of degree 3 and at least one vertex of degree 2.

Let us denote the adjacent vertex of degree 2 by v_1 and vertex of degree 3 by v_3 . Let us distinguish two subcases:

e.4.4.2.3.1.1) $v_1v_3 \notin E(G)$.

Let us choose $w_1 = v_3$ and denote $G_2 = G \setminus M(w_1)$. Note that $d_{G_2}(v_1) = 1$. Now we can proceed analogously as in the subcase e.4.4.2.1 just observing G_2 instead of G_1 .

e.4.4.2.3.1.1.2) $v_1v_3 \in E(G)$.

Let $N(v_2) = \{v_1, v_3, p_1\}$. If $d_G(p_1) = 3$, then we choose $w_1 = p_1$ and observe $G_2 = G \setminus M(p_1)$. If $p_1v_3 \in E(G)$, then G_2 is disconnected which is a contradiction. In the opposite case $d_{G_2}(v_1) = 1$ and we can proceed analogously as in the subcase e.4.4.2.1 just observing G_2 instead of G_1 .

e.4.4.2.3.2) $\delta(G) \geq 2$ and there is no vertex v_2 of degree 3 that is adjacent to at least one vertex of degree 3 and at least one vertex of degree 2.

Let us partition vertices of G in three classes: class A of vertices of degree 3 that are adjacent to at least one vertex of degree 2, class B of vertices of degree 3 that are not adjacent to any vertex of degree 2, and class C of vertices of degree 2. Note that no two vertices in class A are adjacent and that no vertex in A is adjacent to any vertex in B . Hence, we may assume that only adjacent vertices of degree 3 are in B . Therefore, B is non-empty and none of its vertices are adjacent to any vertex in A or C . Since G is connected, it must hold that A and C are empty, but then the graph has 21 vertex of degree 3, which is in contradiction with handshaking Lemma which says that the number of vertices of odd degree in a graph is even.

e.4.4.2.4) $\delta(G) \geq 2$, G is bipartite graph with vertices of degree 2 in one partition and vertices of degree 3 in the other partition.

Let n_i , $i = 2, 3$, be the number of vertices of degree i . It must hold $2n_2 = 3n_3$ and $n_2 + n_3 = 21$. Solving this, we get $n_2 = 63/5$ which is obviously a contradiction.

All the cases are analyzed and the Theorem is proved. \square

CONCLUSIONS

We proposed a type of vertex multicoloring that could be used to model a securing of a secret situation. The multicoloring is named highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring, for $a, k \in \mathbb{N}$, and for given $a = 1, 2, 3, 4$, we have analyzed what is the minimal number of vertices a graph must have in order to admit a highly a -resistant vertex k -multicoloring and what is the minimal number of colors for which the coloring is achieved. Further work includes determining minimal numbers of vertices and colors for larger number a or changing the conditions of this multicoloring, motivated by different situations, resulting in new multicolorings and exploring their properties.

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Čuvanje tajni pomoću višestrukog bojanja vrhova grafa

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SAŽETAK. Bojanja i višestruka bojanja grafova, kao i njihove primjene, spadaju u dobro poznata područja teorije grafova. Kod višestrukog bojanja vrhova svakom vrhu je pridružen neki skup boja. U ovom radu predlažemo novo višestruko bojanje vrhova, motivirani potrebom za čuvanjem tajne od nekog broja napadača, dijeleći je na dijelove i distribuirajući te dijelove vrhovima grafa. Predloženo bojanje nosi naziv jako a -sigurno vršno k -višestruko bojanje, gdje je a broj napadača, a k broj boja. Za male vrijednosti parametra a analiziramo minimalni broj vrhova u grafu koji dopušta ovakvo bojanje te minimalni broj potrebnih boja.

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