

1.

The set of polynomials with integer coefficients can be injectively mapped to the set of finite length sequences of integers, which is a countable set. Therefore, the set of polynomials with integer coefficients is countable.

Each such polynomial p has a finite set of roots, say R_p . The set of well-behaved numbers is, by definition, given by $W = \text{union over all } p \text{ of } R_p$. Thus, W is the union of a countable collection of finite (and therefore, countable) sets. Therefore, W is countable.

2.

Solution 1

Define a set A as,

$A = \{ \{w_1, \dots, w_{\lfloor T/2 \rfloor}\} \mid w_1, \dots, w_{\lfloor T/2 \rfloor} \text{ are walks in } G \text{ such that the set of their endpoints are exactly the set } T \}$.

Since graph G is connected, A is a non-empty set.

Define the set B as,

$B = \{ \text{len}(w_1) + \dots + \text{len}(w_{\lfloor T/2 \rfloor}) \mid \{w_1, \dots, w_{\lfloor T/2 \rfloor}\} \text{ belongs to } A \}$.

Similarly, B is a non-empty subset of natural numbers.

By WOP, B has a minimum element say m . Let $W = \{ w_1, \dots, w_{\lfloor T/2 \rfloor} \}$ be the set of walks in A with total length m .

Claim: $w_1, \dots, w_{\lfloor T/2 \rfloor}$ all are paths in G and no two of them are conflicting.

Proof. Suppose w_c is not a path. Then $w_c = v_1, \dots, v_k$ such that $v_i = v_j$ for some $i < j$.

Now we can replace w_c by $w'_c = v_1, \dots, v_i, v_{j+1}, \dots, v_k$ in W to get another member W' of A . Clearly $\text{len}(w'_c) < \text{len}(w_c)$, so the total length of walks in W' is less than m , which is a contradiction.

Now suppose there exists a conflicting edge between two walks w_i and w_j and let that edge be (u, v) .

$w_i = a_1, a_2, \dots, u, v, \dots, a_p$; $w_j = b_1, b_2, \dots, b_l, u, v, b_{l+2}, \dots, b_q$.

Replace w_i and w_j by the walks $w'_i = a_1, a_2, \dots, u, b_l, \dots, b_2, b_1$ and

$w'_j = a_p, \dots, v, b_{l+2}, \dots, b_q$ to get another member W' of A . $\text{len}(w'_i) + \text{len}(w'_j) = \text{len}(w_i) + \text{len}(w_j) - 2$, so the total length of walks in W' is less than m , which is a contradiction.

Solution 2

Since the graph G is connected, it has a spanning tree, say H . Since the edges in H are a subset of G , if we prove the claim for H , it directly follows for the graph G .

So, we prove that there exists a non-conflicting transportation in a tree H for any subset T of vertices where $|T|$ is even.

Proof by induction of number of vertices in H ,

Base case: $|V| = 2$, then we can pick the single edge between these 2 vertices if $T=V$, and the empty set of paths if T is empty.

Induction Hypothesis: Assume there exists a non-conflicting transportation #vertices $< n$.

Inductive step: Consider a tree H with n vertices, and a subset T of vertices. Let a be a leaf node of this tree which is connected to vertex b .

Case 1: a does not belong to T . In this case we can simply remove a from the graph and get the result using IH.

Case 2: Both a, b belong to T . In this case we include the edge (a, b) to the transportation, remove the vertex a from graph and a, b from T . Now we can complete the argument using IH.

Case 3: a belongs to T , b does not belong to T . In this case we remove the vertex a from the graph, and replace a by b to T . From IH we get a non-conflicting transportation. Consider a path which has an end point as b , extend this path by appending edge (a, b) to it. This creates a non-conflicting transportation for original tree.