

Construction of 4 sets to satisfy 3 rules

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Exercise 8

Construct three sets A, B, C and a set $E \subseteq A \times B \times C$ such that the following hold: 1) For every $(a, b, c) \in A \times B \times C$, E has a matching which saturates a, b, c ; 2) E has an $(A \cup B)$ -saturated matching, a $(B \cup C)$ -saturated matching, and an $(A \cup C)$ -saturated matching; 3) E does not have any $(A \cup B \cup C)$ -saturated matching.

Answer. Let me first give out the construction:

$$A = \{1, 0, 4, 7\}$$

$$B = \{2, 0, 4, 7\}$$

$$C = \{3, 0, 4, 7\}$$

$$E = \bigcup_{i=0}^5 \{e_i\}$$

$$e_0 = (1, 7, 4)$$

$$e_1 = (4, 2, 7)$$

$$e_2 = (7, 4, 3)$$

$$e_3 = (0, 7, 4)$$

$$e_4 = (4, 0, 7)$$

$$e_5 = (7, 4, 0)$$

First, we shall prove it satisfies 3). Assume there is such matching E' . Then e_0, e_1, e_2 must belong to E' because only they have the elements 1,2,3. Then we know $e_3 \notin E'$ because it's not disjoint with e_0 , and same as e_4, e_5 . Thus there is no element which can cover 0. So such E' doesn't exist.

Next, we shall prove it satisfies 2). For $A \cup B$, we just need to let $\{e_0, e_1, e_5\}$ be the matching. Because of symmetry, we can know there are also $(B \cup C)$ -saturated matching and $(C \cup A)$ -saturated matching.

Finally, we need to prove 1). If the a in the chosen (a, b, c) doesn't equal to 1, then we can just use the $(B \cup C)$ -saturated matching. Same way if $b \neq 2$ or $c \neq 3$. So we just need to concern $(1, 2, 3)$. To saturate this, we can use the matching $\{e_0, e_1, e_2\}$.

Hence, the construction is right. I thought for a long time and tried many constructions. This should be the most concise one.

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