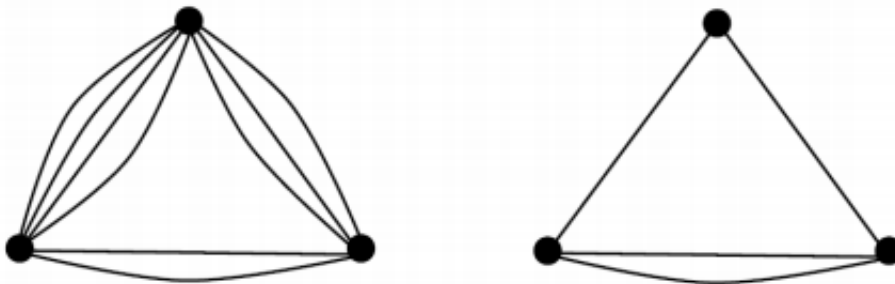


Assignment 3

Question 1

Graph NIM. The game is played on a 3-vertex graph, and between each pair of vertices is any number of edges; there are no loops. Suppose the players are named A and B, and it is decided that A makes the first move. Each move includes two steps: (1) choose a vertex, (2) choose any nonzero number of the edges incident to that vertex (and only to that vertex) to delete and delete them. The winner of the game is the player who removes the final edge(s).

Example: The figure on the left below shows a possible starting game. The one on the right is the result of a first move. In this first move player A chose the vertex at the top, and removed five edges incident to it, leaving one edge from each lower vertex to the top vertex.



Confirm or deny, with proof, whether player A (the first player) can always win if she employs a particular strategy for each move. Note that this strategy must be independent of B's strategy, and there may be a constraint on the initial state of the graph on which the game is played.

Claim: There exists a strategy that will ensure the victory of player A as long as player A always goes first.

Proof: Let's define a new board where vertex A is the top most point, vertex B is the left most point, and vertex C is the right most point. See the final page of this packet and refer to the question 1 figure to describe that will be played below.

Now let's create a new game board with a random number of vertices that is greater than 2 and none of the edge counts can be equal to another edge count to provide our constraint, also in order to guarantee victory,

Player 1 must always go first. For this example let's say there are 55 edges between point A and B, 22 edges between point A and C, and 10 edges between points C and B. The strategy for player A to guarantee a win should go as follows: For each of player A's moves, player A needs to choose a vertex that will reduce the number of edges that will make all of the edges between each available vertice equal to the lowest number of edges between 2 vertices. For example in the game board I have created, each edge would be equal to 10 after player first A's move. Regardless of what player B does with it's turn player A will have another turn, let's create a random move by player B where point A was chosen to remove edges, let's say after player B's move the game board goes as follows, the edge count between vertex A and B is equal to 5, the edge count between point A and C is equal to 2, and the edge count between point B and C is equal to 10. For player A's next move, player A must pick the vertex that will make all edges between 2 vertices equal to the lowest number of edges between 2 vertices, therefore player A must choose point B and make all edges between any 2 vertices equal to 2. If we follow this pattern this proves that whatever player B chooses at this point will result in one at least one more viable move before player B is forced to make a move that guarantees a move for player A to make that will claim ensure its victory.

Question 2

Please prove that in every flock, if a chicken is pecked, then it is pecked by a queen.

Claim: If a chicken is pecked, it was pecked by a queen.

Proof: Let's say that a flock is represented by $F = (C, \rightarrow)$ where C is a chicken and \rightarrow is a peck. If you refer to the question 2 figure on the final page of this packet, we will define a simple flock that will show a generic chicken relationship. On the image provided I have defined the queen chicken in this flock and let's call this chicken C_1 and let's let all other chickens $C_i \in F$, by observation we know that C_1 has some sort of relationship with all other C_i , either $C_1 \rightarrow C_i$ or $C_i \rightarrow C_1$. After observing the provided image we notice that we can apply a theorem, In any flock there is a queen. We can show this theorem if we let q be equivalent to a queen and $q \in C$ such that for every x (x being the smaller circled subset) $\in C\{q\}$ either $q \rightarrow x$ or $(x \rightarrow)$ there is a $y = C\{q, x\}$ (y being the subset of the whole flock) such that $q \rightarrow y$ and $y \rightarrow x$. If we analyze this theorem we can conclude that in any flock if a chicken is pecked it was pecked by a queen because of the relationship in the whole flock of $x \rightarrow C_1 \rightarrow y$.

Question 3

- Please prove that is impossible for all chickens to be a queens with exactly 4 chickens.

Claim: It is impossible for all chickens to be a queens with exactly 4 chickens.

Proof: If you observe the figure under question 3 figure on the final page of the packet you will see that for any

variation of 4 chickens and their pecking orders. It is impossible for all chickens to be queens, and here's why. On my image I have depicted every possibility of 4 chickens and the pecking possibilities via the score of a chicken. The score of a chicken is reflected on the amount of times it gets pecked by all other chickens, limiting one peck from a chicken. Using this score, we see that they all add to 6. This guarantees that we have seen the maximum number of pecks for a flock of 4 chickens.

A queen is defined by: For a single chicken let's say chicken A, chicken A is a queen if this chicken pecks all other chickens either directly or if chicken A pecks another chicken (let's say chicken B) If chicken B pecks another chicken (let's say chicken D) that chicken D must be reached within 2 pecks from chicken A let's call this an indirect peck. For chicken A to be a queen all other chickens must be pecked using either a direct peck, or an indirect peck. If all chickens are pecked, chicken A is a queen.

Applying the pecking order used above, I prove it is impossible for all 4 chickens to be queens by showing every possibility of pecking orders.