

# Graph Colorings Via The Borsuk-Ulam Theorem

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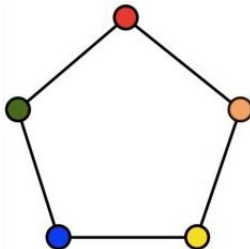
October 29, 2014



# CHROMATIC NUMBER

## Chromatic number

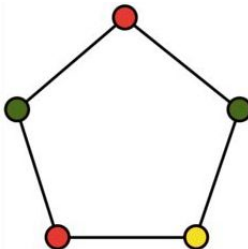
The **chromatic number**  $\chi(G)$  of a graph  $G$  is the **smallest number** of colors needed to color the vertices of  $G$  so that **no two adjacent** vertices share the same color.



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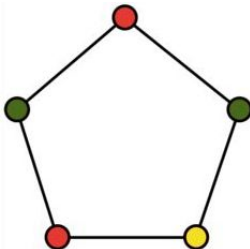
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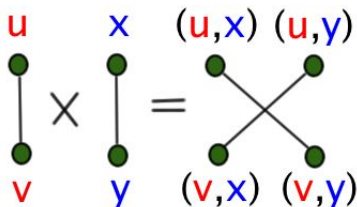
## Chromatic number

It is **NP-hard** to compute the chromatic number of a graph!

# HEDETNIEMI'S CONJECTURE, 1966

## The Categorical Product

Let  $G$  and  $G'$  be two **graphs**. Their **categorical product**  $G \times G'$  is the graph whose vertex set is  $V(G) \times V(G')$  and whose edge set is  $E(G \times G') = \{ \{(u, u'), (v, v')\} : \{u, v\} \in E(G), \{u', v'\} \in E(G') \}$ .



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One can see that  $\chi(G \times G') \leq \min\{\chi(G), \chi(G')\}$ .



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## Zhu's Conjecture, 1992

For any two **hypergraphs**  $H$  and  $H'$ ,  $\chi(H \times H') = \min\{\chi(H), \chi(H')\}$ .

## Question

How is it possible to distinguish two distinct topological spaces?





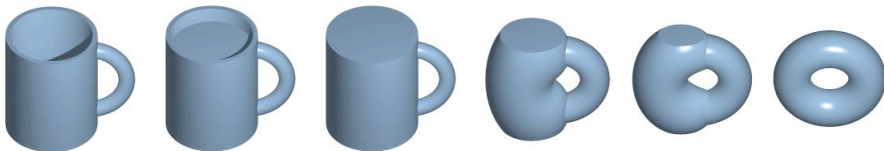
# TOPOLOGICAL SPACES

## Question

How is it possible to distinguish two distinct topological spaces?

## A Traditional Joke!

What is a **topologist**? Someone who cannot distinguish between a **doughnut** and a **coffee cup**.



# ANTIPODAL POINTS

## Definition

Set  $S^n = \{x : x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}, \|x\| = 1\}$ .

## Question

Is there a continuous mapping from  $S^n$  to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ? YES!



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# BORSUK-ULAM THEOREM

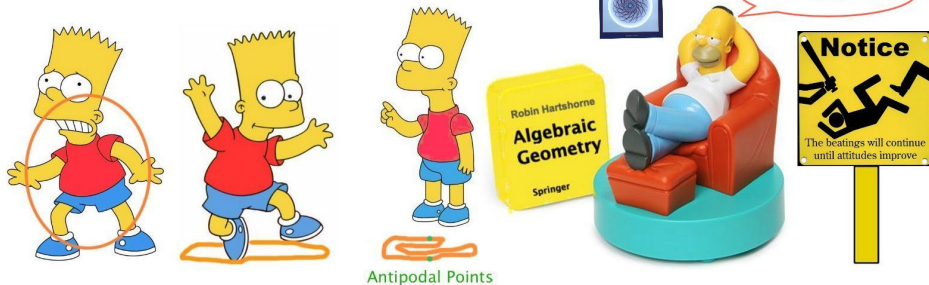
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Course: Algebraic Topology



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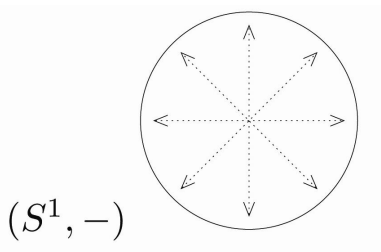


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- $(Y, \omega)$  free:  $\omega$  has **no fixed point**.
- $Z_2$ -map  $f : (X, \nu) \longrightarrow (Y, \omega)$ :
- $f$  is continuous and  $f(\nu(x)) = \omega(f(x))$ :
- The **images** of two **antipodal points** should be **antipodal**:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\ \nu \downarrow & & \downarrow \omega \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \end{array}$$



## Theorem

(*Borsuk-Ulam Theorem*) For every  $n \geq 0$ , the following statements are equivalent, and true:

- For every continuous mapping  $f : S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  there exists a point  $x \in S^n$  with  $f(x) = f(-x)$ .



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- For any covering  $U_1, \dots, U_{n+1}$  of the sphere  $S^n$  by  $n + 1$  open sets (resp. closed sets), there is at least one set containing a pair of antipodal points.



- Ham Sandwich Theorem
- Team-Splitting
- Consensus-Halving Problem (Cake Problem)
- Level of Rings ( $-1 = a_1^2 + \cdots + a_n^2$ )
- Graph Colorings
- Necklace Theorem



# NECKLACE THEOREM

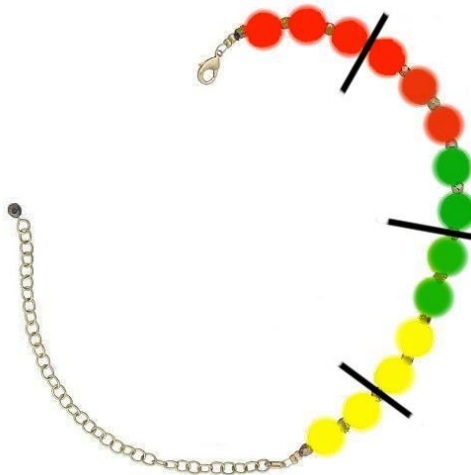
- **Necklace Theorem.** Every (open) necklace with  $d$  kinds of stones, an **even** number of each kind, can be divided between two thieves using no more than  $d$  cuts.





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- Theorem. Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be  $Z_2$  space.
  - ① If  $X \xrightarrow{Z_2} Y$ , then  $ind_{Z_2}(X) \leq ind_{Z_2}(Y)$ .
  - ② In other words,  $ind_{Z_2}(X) > ind_{Z_2}(Y)$ , then  $X \not\xrightarrow{Z_2} Y$ .

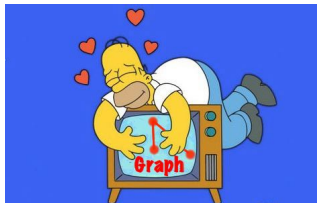


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- The  $Z_2$ -coindex of  $(X, \nu)$ :  $Coind_{Z_2}(X) := \max\{n : S^n \xrightarrow{Z_2} X\}$ .
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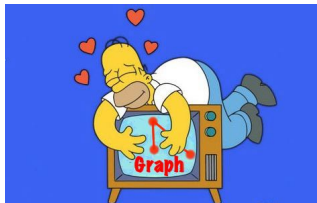
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Various **simplicial complexes** can be assigned to a graph  $G$  such as **box complexes**  $B(G)$  and  $B_0(G)$ .



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## Lower Bounds for Chromatic Number

$$\chi(G) \geq \text{ind}(B(G)) + 2 \geq \text{ind}(B_0(G)) + 1 \geq \text{coind}(B_0(G)) + 1 \geq \text{coind}(B(G)) + 2$$



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## Theorem (D. Kozlov, 2005)

For any two graphs  $G$  and  $G'$ ,

$$\chi(G \times G') \geq \text{Coind}(B(G \times G')) + 2 \geq \min\{\text{Coind}(B(G)), \text{Coind}(B(G'))\} + 2.$$

# TUCKER'S LEMMA

## Definition

Let  $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ ,  $Y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \{-1, 0, +1\}^n$ . Set  $X^+ = \{i \in [n] : x_i = +1\}$  and  $X^- = \{i \in [n] : x_i = -1\}$ . By  $X \preceq Y$ , we mean  $X^+ \subseteq Y^+$  and  $X^- \subseteq Y^-$ .





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## Tucker's Lemma, 1946

Let  $\lambda : \{-1, 0, +1\}^n \setminus \{(0, \dots, 0)\} \rightarrow \{\pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm(n-1)\}$ . Also, assume that for any  $X \in \{-1, 0, +1\}^n \setminus \{(0, \dots, 0)\}$ , we have  $\lambda(-X) = -\lambda(X)$ . Then there exist two vectors  $X, Y \in \{-1, 0, +1\}^n \setminus \{(0, \dots, 0)\}$  such that  $X \preceq Y$  and also  $\lambda(X) = -\lambda(Y)$ .



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$Z_p$ -Tucker Lemma (G.M. Ziegler, 2002)



# GENERALIZATION OF THE BORSUK-ULAM THEOREM

## Tucker-Ky Fan's Lemma, 1952

Let  $\lambda : \{-1, 0, +1\}^n \setminus \{(0, \dots, 0)\} \longrightarrow \{\pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm m\}$ . If

1. for any  $X \in \{-1, 0, +1\}^n \setminus \{(0, \dots, 0)\}$ , we have  $\lambda(-X) = -\lambda(X)$ ,
2. no two vectors  $X$  and  $Y$  are such that  $X \preceq Y$  and  $\lambda(X) = -\lambda(Y)$ ,

then there are  $n$  signed sets  $X_1 \preceq X_2 \preceq \dots \preceq X_n$  such that

$\{\lambda(X_1), \dots, \lambda(X_n)\} = \{+c_1, -c_2, \dots, (-1)^{n-1}c_n\}$ , where

$1 \leq c_1 < \dots < c_n \leq m$ . In particular,  $m \geq n$ .

## Ky Fan's Lemma, 1952

If  $m$  open (closed) subsets  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_m$  of the  $d$ -sphere  $S^d$  cover  $S^d$  and if no one of them contain a pair of antipodal points, then there exist  $d+2$  indices  $l_1, l_2, \dots, l_{d+2}$ , such that  $1 \leq l_1 < l_2 < \dots < l_{d+2} \leq m$  and  $F_{l_1} \cap -F_{l_2} \cap \dots \cap (-1)^{d+1}F_{l_{d+2}} \neq \emptyset$ .

# APPLICATIONS IN GRAPH COLORINGS

- Chromatic Number
- Circular Chromatic Number
- Local Chromatic Number
- Semi-Matching Chromatic Number







# KNESER REPRESENTATION

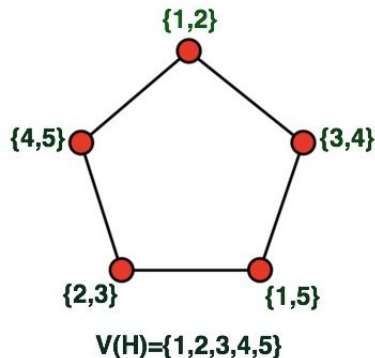
For a **hypergraph**  $H$ , consider the graph  $KG(H)$  whose vertex set is  $E(H)$  and whose edge set consists of all **disjoint pairs**. For instance, if

$$V(H) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\},$$

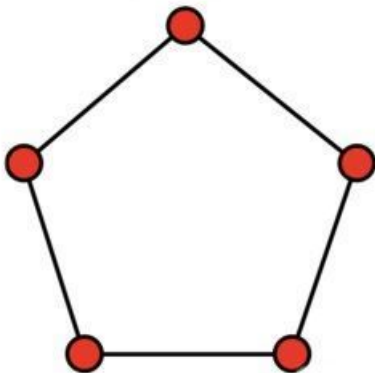
$$E(H) = \{\{1, 2\}, \{3, 4\}, \{1, 5\}, \{2, 3\}, \{4, 5\}\},$$

then

$$KG(H) = C_5.$$

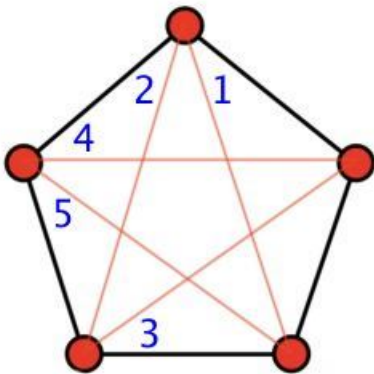


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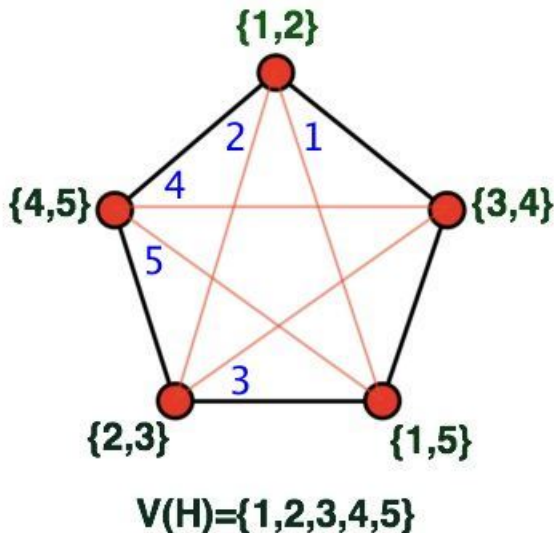




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# ALTERNATIC NUMBER

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1 2 3 4 5



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|          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| <b>+</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>+</b> |



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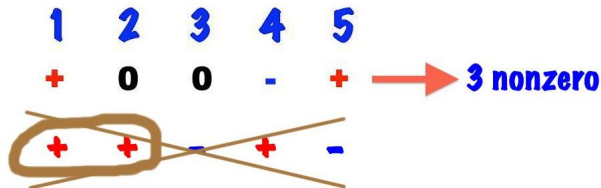
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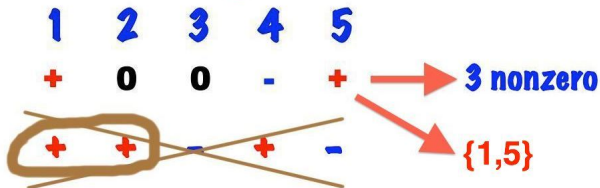




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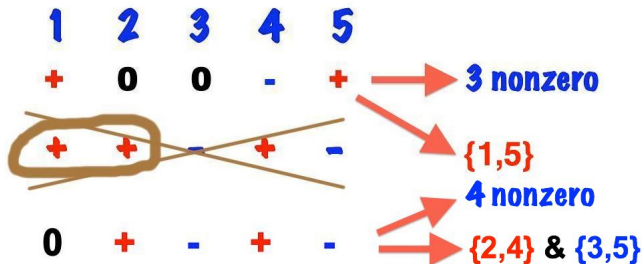
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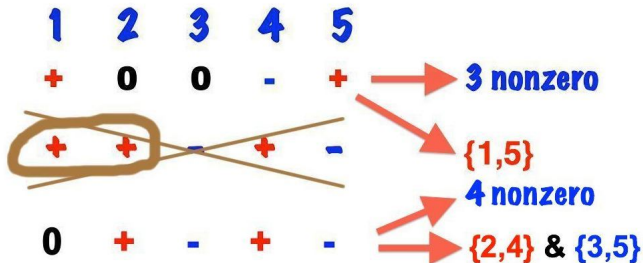
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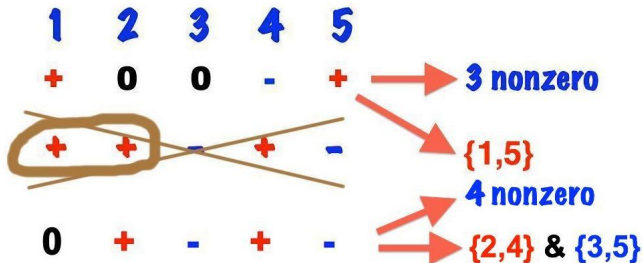
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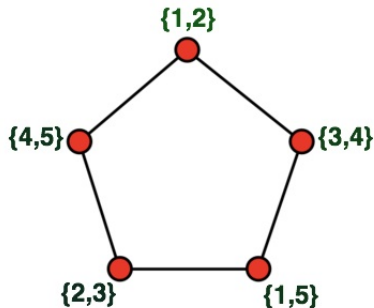


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$$|V(H)| - \text{Alt}(H)$$

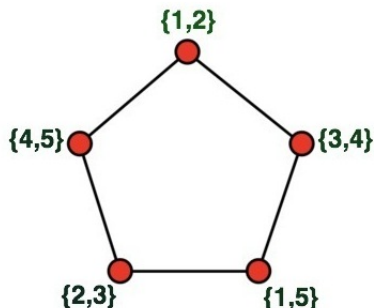


# THE ALTERNATING NUMBER OF FIVE CYCLE



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$$1 < 2 < 3 < 4 < 5$$

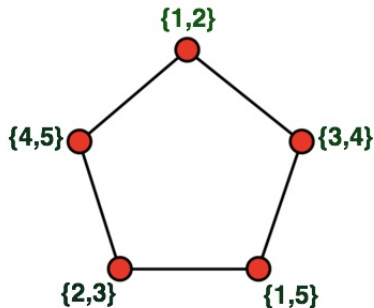


$$V(F) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, a, b, c, d, e\}$$

$$1 < a < 2 < b < 3 < c < 4 < d < 5 < e$$

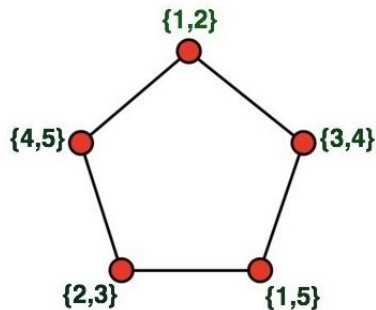


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$$V(H) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

$$1 < 2 < 3 < 4 < 5$$



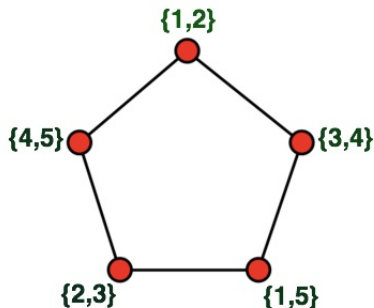
$$V(F) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, a, b, c, d, e\}$$

$$1 < a < 2 < b < 3 < c < 4 < d < 5 < e$$

+ - +

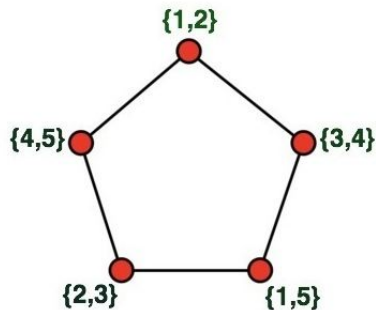


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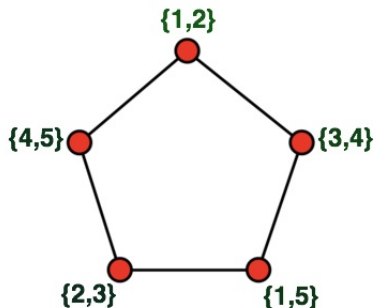


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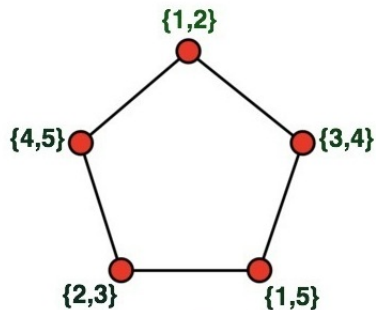


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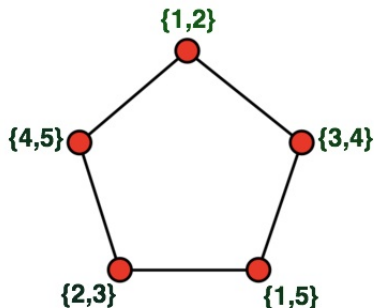
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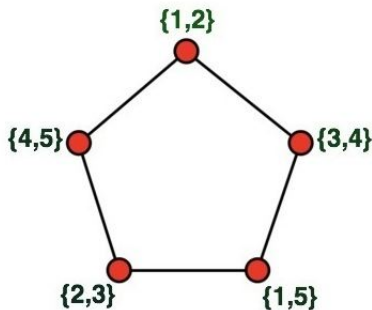


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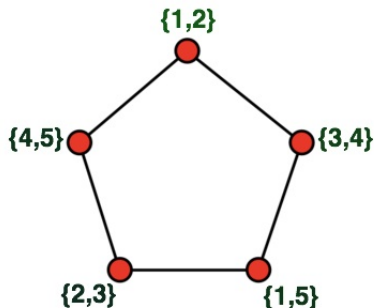
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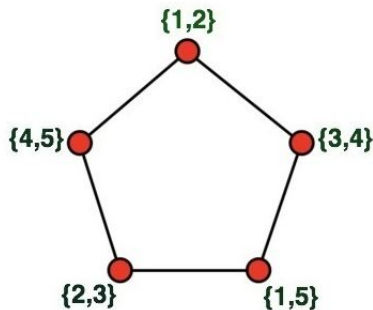


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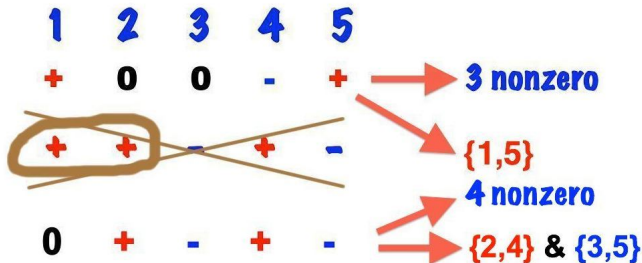
$$+ - 0 + - + 0 - + -$$



# STRONG ALTERNATIC NUMBER

$$V(H)=\{1,2,3,4,5\}$$

$$E(H)=\{\{1,2\},\{3,4\},\{1,5\},\{2,3\},\{4,5\}\}$$



SAlt(H) = The number of **nonzero elements** of a longest alternating subsequence which **does not** contain a **positive & negative hyperedge**

$$|V(H)| - \text{SAlt}(H) + 1$$



## Definition

The **altermatic number**  $\zeta(G)$  and the **strong altermatic number**  $\zeta_s(G)$  of a graph  $G$  are defined, respectively, as follows:

$$\zeta(G) = \max_H \{ |V(H)| - \text{Alt}(H) : \text{KG}(H) \text{ and } G \text{ are isomorphic} \}.$$

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For any graph  $G$ , we have

$$\chi(G) \geq \zeta(G),$$

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## Definition

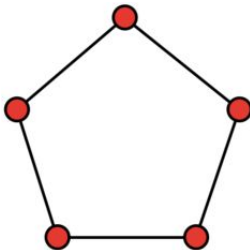
Let  $G$  be a graph and  $\mathcal{H}$  be a family of graphs. By  $KG(G, \mathcal{H})$ , we denote the general Kneser graph whose vertex set is the set of all subgraphs of  $G$  isomorphic to some member of  $\mathcal{H}$  and in which two vertices are adjacent if the corresponding subgraphs are edge-disjoint.



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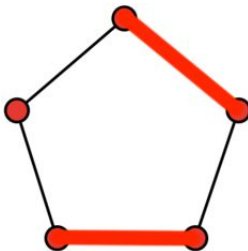




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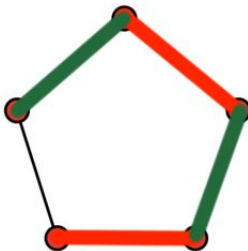
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$$KG(C_5, 2K_2) = C_5$$



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## A Representation For Some Graphs

- 1 Kneser Graphs:  $\text{KG}(nK_2, rK_2)$ , where  $nK_2$  is a matching of size  $n$ .
- 2  $\chi(\text{KG}(nK_2, rK_2)) = n - 2r + 2$  (Lovász, 1978)



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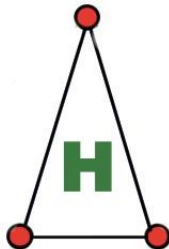
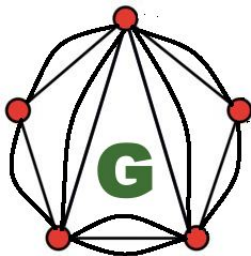
## Theorem (M. Alishahi and H.H., 2013-2014)

If  $rK_2$  is a matching of size  $r$  and  $G$  is a sufficiently large dense graph or special sparse graph, then  $\chi(\text{KG}(G, rK_2)) = |E(G)| - \text{ex}(G, rK_2)$ .

# GENERAL KNESER GRAPHS

Theorem (M. Alishahi and H.H., 2013)

If  $G$  is a **multigraph** such that the **multiplicity** of each edge is at least 2 and  $H$  is a **simple graph**, then  $\chi(KG(G, H)) = |E(G)| - \text{ex}(G, H)$ .



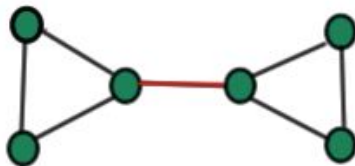
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If  $G$  is a **sufficiently large dense graph** and  $\mathcal{T}_n$  is the family of the **spanning trees** of  $G$ , then  $\chi(\text{KG}(G, \mathcal{T}_n)) = |\text{MinimumCUT}(G)|$ .



$$|\text{MinimumCUT}(G)| = 1$$



# HEDETNIEMI'S CONJECTURE

Consider two graphs  $G$  and  $G'$ .

Theorem (M. Alishahi and H.H., 2014)

$$\chi(G \times G') \geq \zeta_s(G \times G') \geq \min\{\zeta_s(G), \zeta_s(G')\}.$$





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# SEMI-MATCHING COLORING

## Definition:

A **semi-matching coloring** of a graph  $G$  is a **proper coloring**  $c : V(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that for any **two consecutive colors**, the edges joining the colors form a **matching**. The **minimum positive integer**  $t$  for which there exists a **semi-matching coloring**  $c : V(G) \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, t\}$  is called the **semi-matching chromatic number** of  $G$  and denoted by  $\chi_m(G)$ .



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For any positive integers  $n$  and  $r$ , with  $n \geq 2r \geq 4$ , we have  
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## Theorem (H.H., 2011)

Let  $n$  and  $r$  be positive integers, where  $n \geq 2r \geq 4$ . If  $n \leq \frac{8}{3}r$ , then  
$$\chi_m(KG(nK_2, rK_2)) = 2\chi(KG(nK_2, rK_2)) - 2 = 2n - 4r + 2.$$

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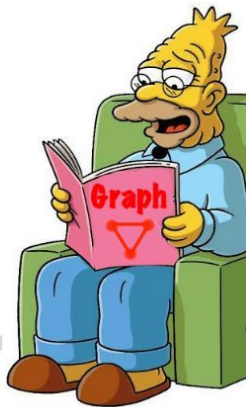


# Thank You!

I would like to show my greatest appreciation to **Professor Carsten Thomassen**. Although, I can't thank him enough for his tremendous support and help.







# QUESTIONS?!

