

On Proportional 2-Choosability of Graphs with a Bounded Palette

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Joint work with Jeffrey Mudrock, Robert Piechota, and Tim Wagstrom

Classical Coloring

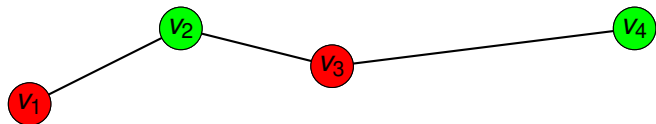
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- Note that the color classes are independent sets.



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 $\lfloor |V(G)|/k \rfloor \leq |f^{-1}(c)| \leq \lceil |V(G)|/k \rceil$ for each color c .

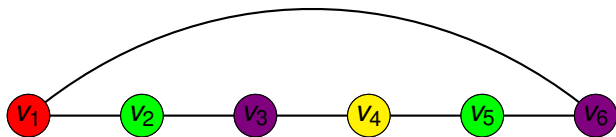


Figure: For $G = C_6$ above, we have: $|V(G)| = 6$, $k = 4$,
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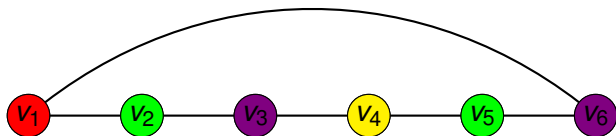


Figure: For $G = C_6$ above, we have: $|V(G)| = 6$, $k = 4$,
 $\lfloor |V(G)|/k \rfloor = 1$, and $\lceil |V(G)|/k \rceil = 2$.

- Intuitively, no color is overused or underused.

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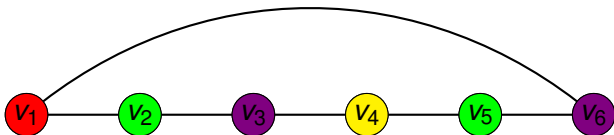


Figure: Each garbage collection route is assigned a day in which to run.

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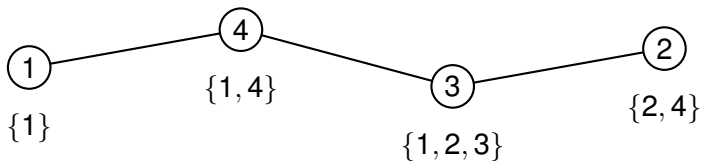


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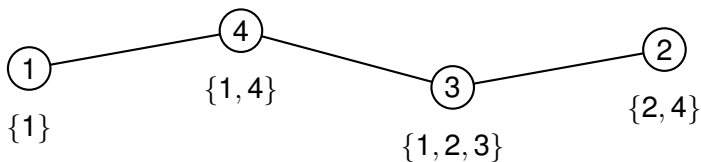


Figure: The palette of the list assignment for the copy of P_4 above is $\mathcal{L} = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

- A **proper L -coloring** of G is a proper coloring f of G such that $f(v) \in L(v)$ for each $v \in V(G)$.

List Coloring Terminology

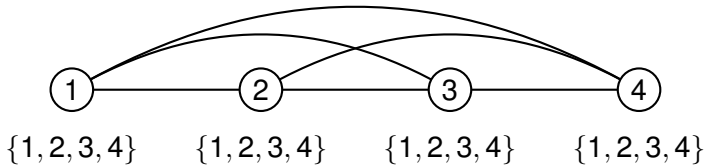
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- For example, the complete graph K_n is n -choosable.

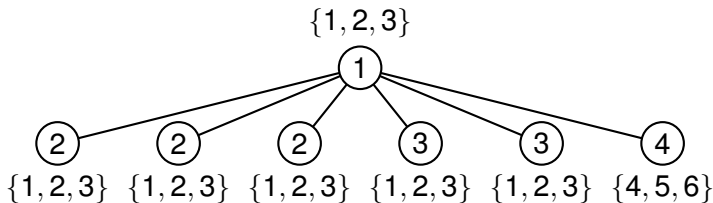


Equitable List Coloring

- In 2003, Kostochka, Pelsmayer, and West introduced a list analogue of equitable coloring called *equitable choosability*.

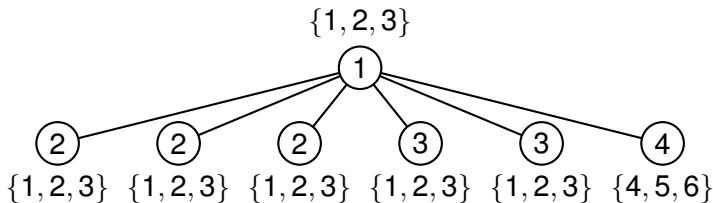
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- Unlike equitable coloring, our only concern in equitable choosability is not overusing any color.

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- For a k -assignment L , a **proportional L -coloring** for a graph G is a proper L -coloring for G such that $\lceil \eta(c)/k \rceil \leq |f^{-1}(c)| \leq \lceil \eta(c)/k \rceil$ for each color $c \in \mathcal{L}$.

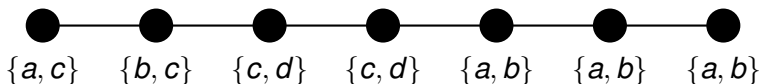


Figure: $\eta(a) = \eta(b) = \eta(c) = 4$ and $\eta(d) = 2$, so we must use a , b , and c exactly twice each and d exactly once.

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- One application is assigning referee crews for an elimination-style basketball tournament, given that no crew may referee two games in a row.

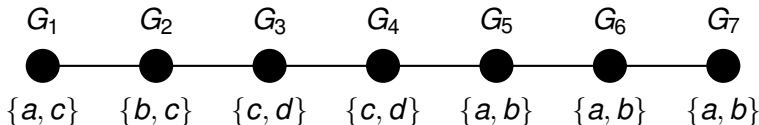


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- Notice that these properties do not hold for equitable coloring and equitable list coloring.

Bounded Palette

- If $|L(v)| = k$ for each $v \in V(G)$ and $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \{1, \dots, \ell\}$, then we say L is a (k, ℓ) -**assignment** for G .

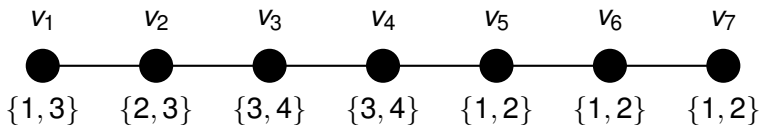


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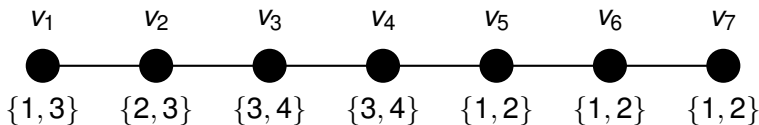


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- We say G is **proportionally** (k, ℓ) -**choosable** if G is proportionally L -colorable whenever L is a (k, ℓ) -assignment for G .

Starting Point

Proposition (Mudrock, Piechota, S., and Wagstrom (2019))

For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, G is proportionally (k, k) -choosable if and only if G is equitably k -colorable.

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Proposition (Mudrock, Piechota, S., and Wagstrom (2019))

G is proportionally $(2, 2)$ -choosable if and only if G is a bipartite graph with a bipartition X, Y satisfying $||X| - |Y|| \leq 1$.

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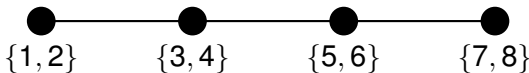
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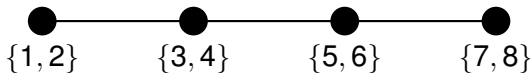


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- Notice that if $i \geq 2$ and \mathcal{G}_i is the set of graphs that are proportionally $(2, i)$ -choosable, then $\mathcal{G}_2 \supseteq \mathcal{G}_3 \supseteq \mathcal{G}_4 \supseteq \dots$

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Theorem (Mudrock, Piechota, S., and Wagstrom (2019))

A connected graph G is proportionally $(2, 3)$ -choosable if and only if $G = P_n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

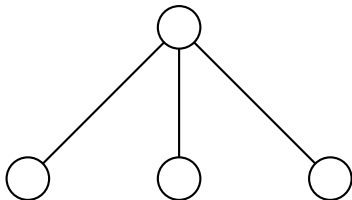
A First Result

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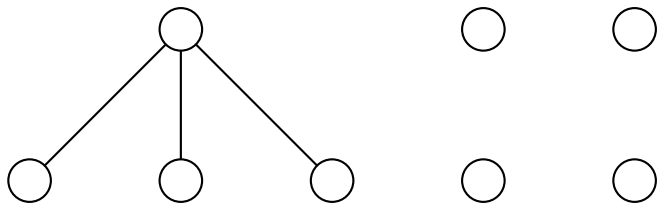
If G contains a copy of $K_{1,3}$ as a subgraph, then G is not proportionally $(2, 3)$ -choosable. Consequently, if a graph G is proportionally $(2, \ell)$ -choosable for some $\ell \geq 3$, then $\Delta(G) \leq 2$.

Proof Idea

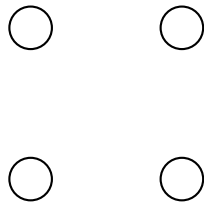
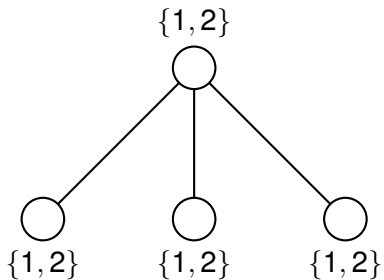
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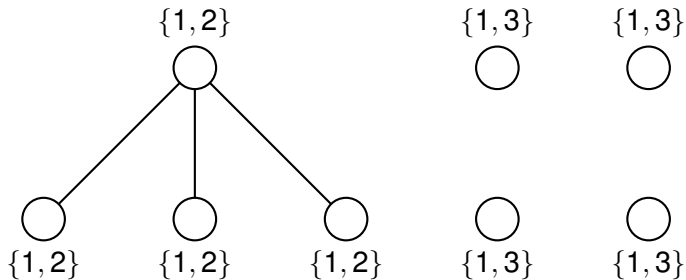
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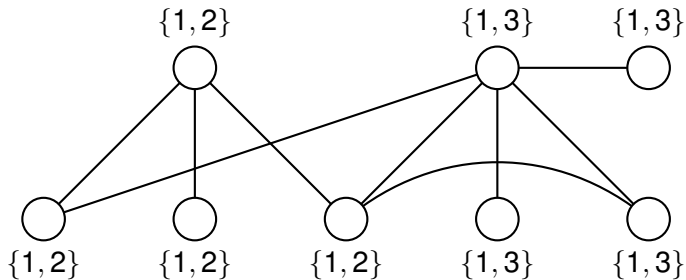
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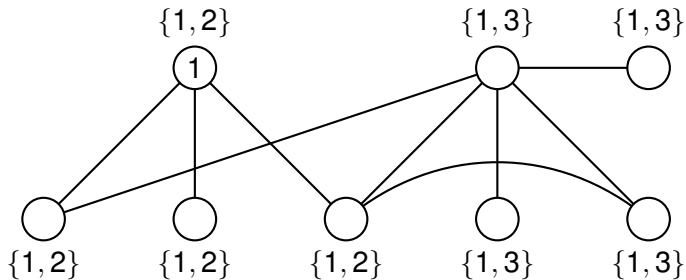
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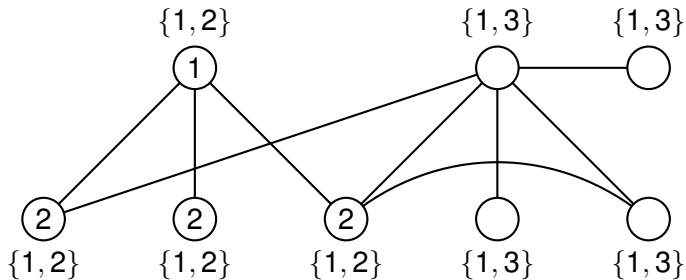
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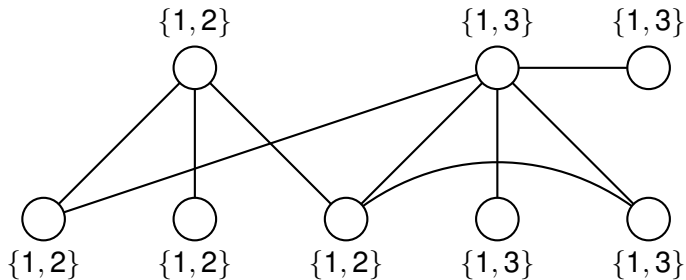
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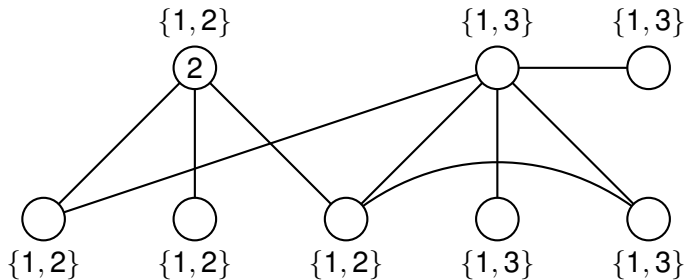
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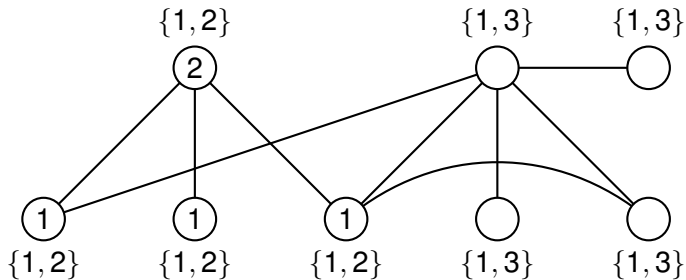
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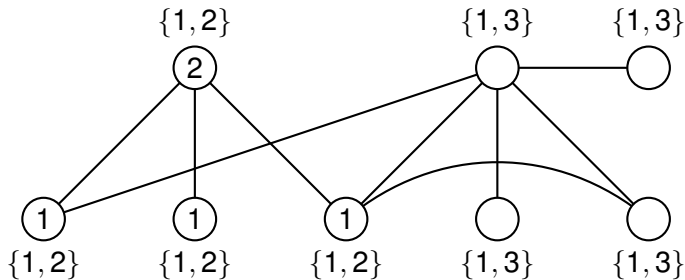
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- Thus, a graph which contains $K_{1,3}$ is not proportionally $(2, 3)$ -choosable.

Conclusions

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- From this result, we know that if a connected graph G is proportionally $(2, \ell)$ -choosable for $\ell \geq 3$, then G is either a path or a cycle.

Proposition (Mudrock, Piechota, S., and Wagstrom (2019))

If $G = C_n$ for some $n \geq 3$, then G is not proportionally $(2, 3)$ -choosable.

Further Results

Proposition (Mudrock, Piechota, S., and Wagstrom (2019))

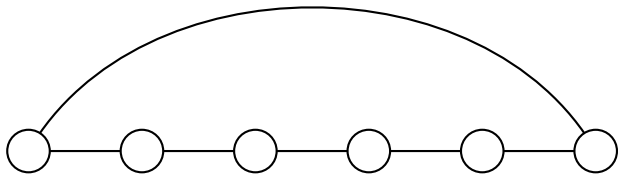
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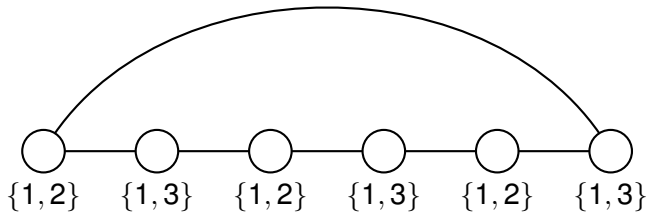
If a graph contains a cycle, then it is not proportionally $(2, \ell)$ -choosable for each $\ell \geq 4$.

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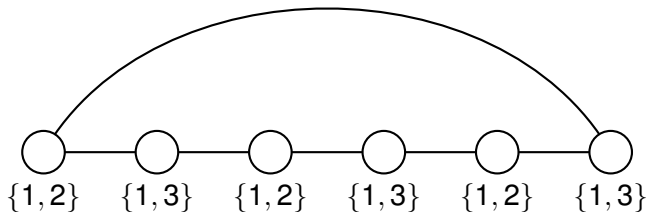
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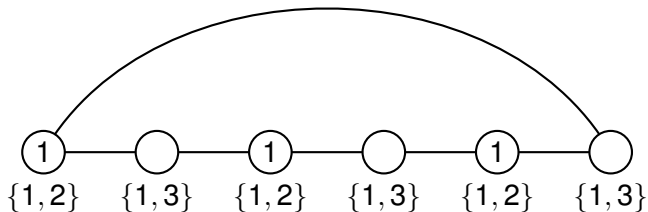


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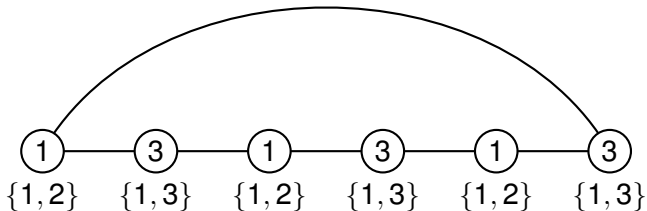
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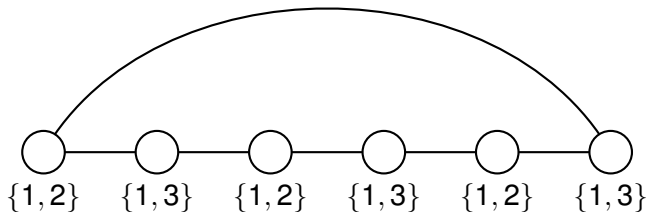
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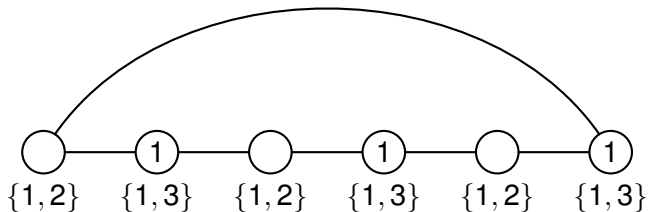
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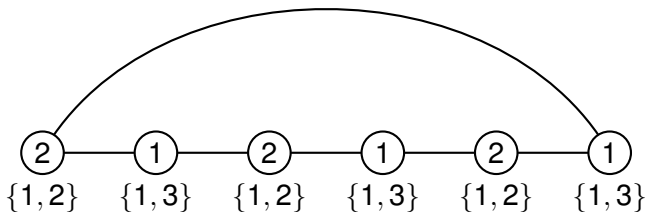
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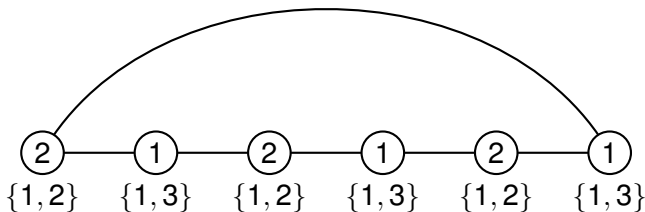
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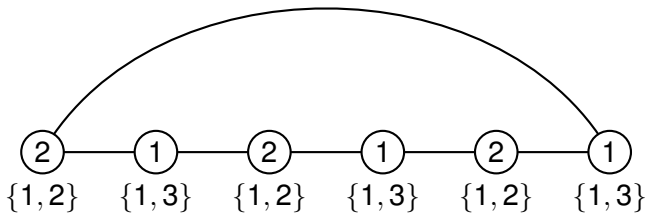
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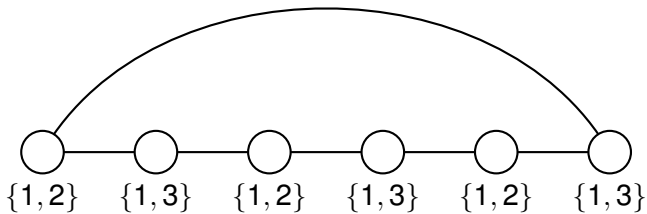


- Notice that $\eta(1) = 6$; thus, we must use 1 exactly three times.
- This implies that 2 is either underused or overused, so G is not proportionally L -colorable.

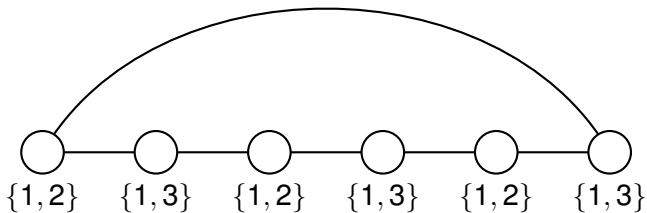
Proof Idea



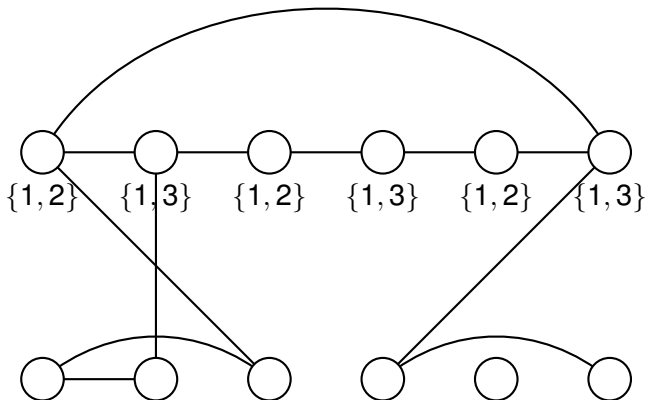
Proof Idea



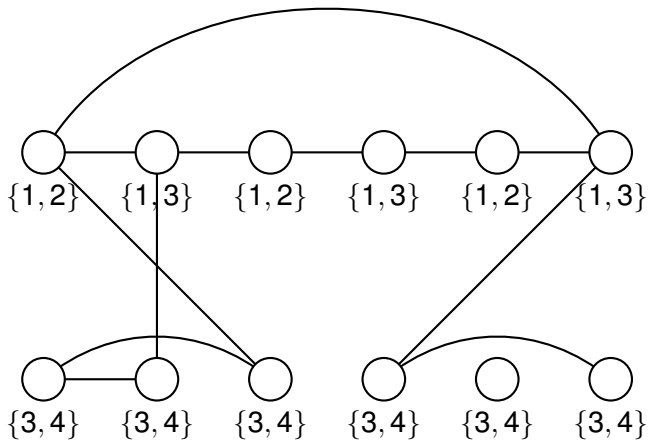
Proof Idea



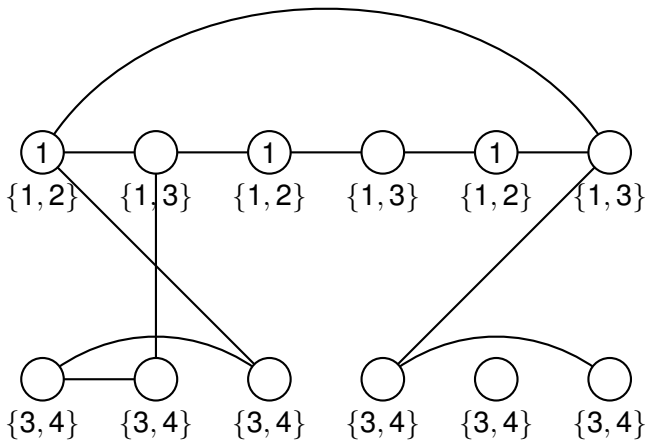
Proof Idea



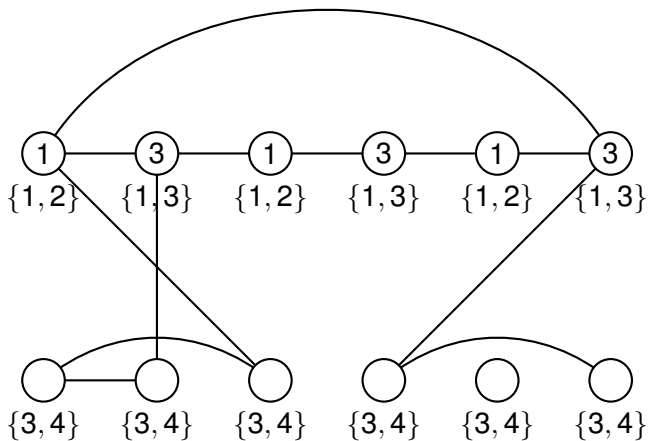
Proof Idea



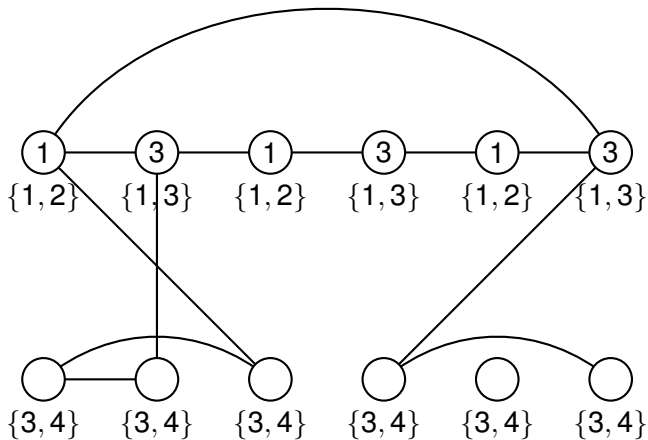
Proof Idea



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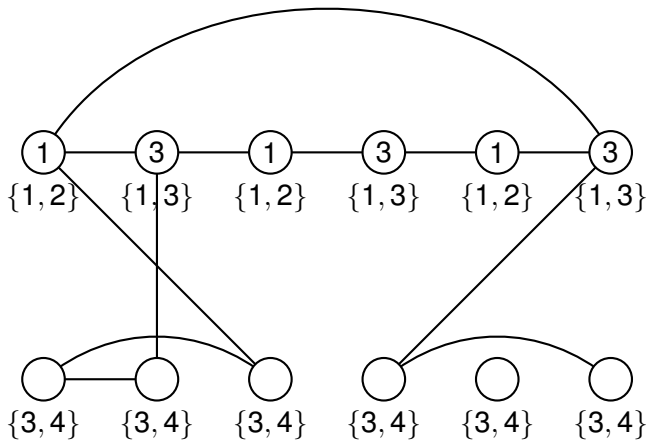


Proof Idea

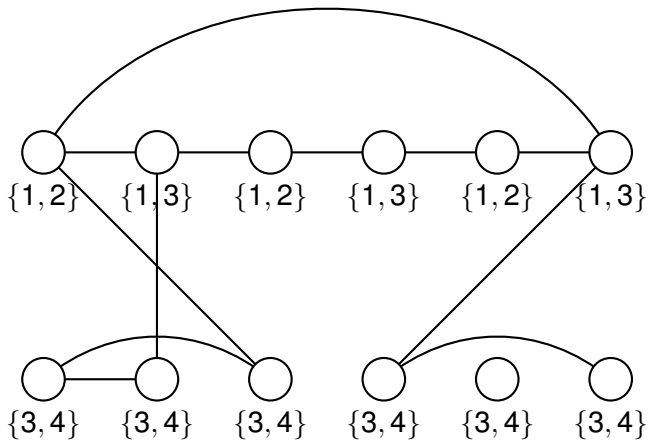


- Notice that the color 2 is underused.

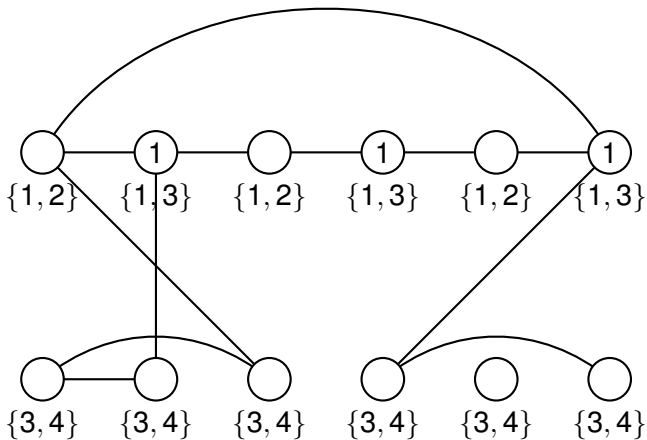
Proof Idea



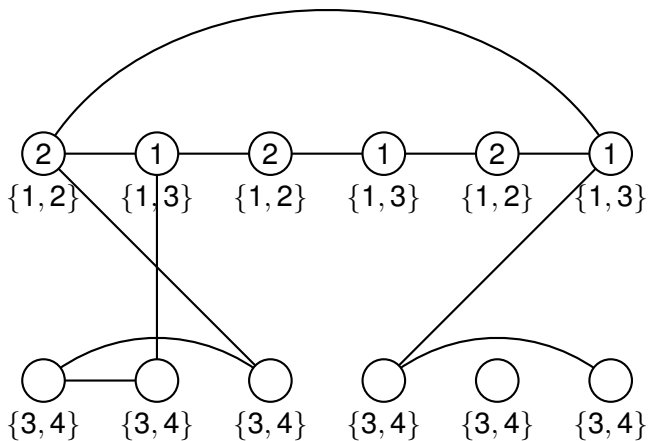
Proof Idea



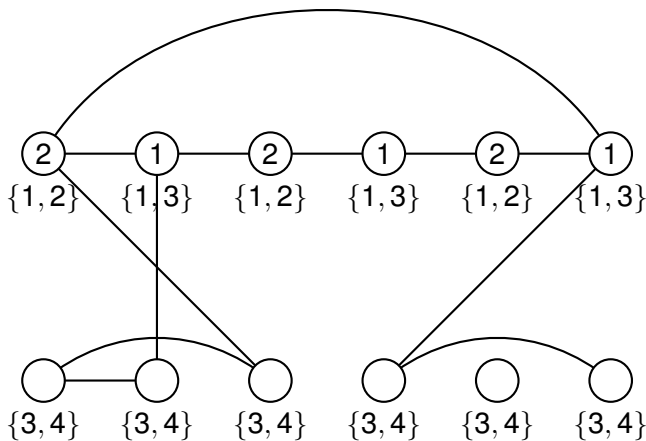
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- Here, 2 is overused; thus, any graph that contains C_n is not proportionally $(2, 4)$ -choosable.

Conclusions

Proposition (Mudrock, Piechota, S., and Wagstrom (2019))

If $G = C_n$ for some $n \geq 3$, then G is not proportionally $(2, 3)$ -choosable.

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If a graph contains a cycle, then it is not proportionally $(2, \ell)$ -choosable for each $\ell \geq 4$.

- The first result implies that if a connected graph G is proportionally $(2, \ell)$ -choosable for $\ell \geq 3$, then $G = P_n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

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Suppose $n \in \mathbb{N}$. If $G = P_n$, then G is proportionally $(2, 3)$ -choosable.

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- From this result, we can obtain our second characterization.

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Theorem (Mudrock, Piechota, S., and Wagstrom (2019))

A connected graph G is proportionally $(2, 3)$ -choosable if and only if $G = P_n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Another Result

Proposition (Mudrock, Piechota, S., and Wagstrom (2019))

If a graph contains $P_3 + P_3$, then it is not proportionally $(2, \ell)$ -choosable for each $\ell \geq 5$.

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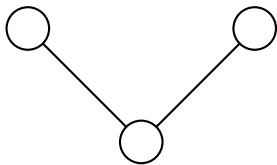
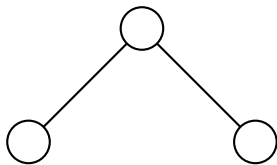
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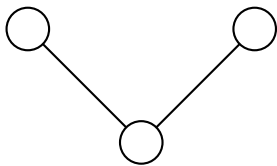
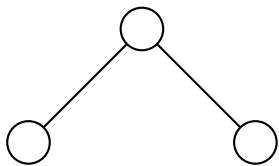
P_n is not proportionally $(2, 4)$ -choosable for $n = 6$ and for each $n \geq 8$.

Proof Idea

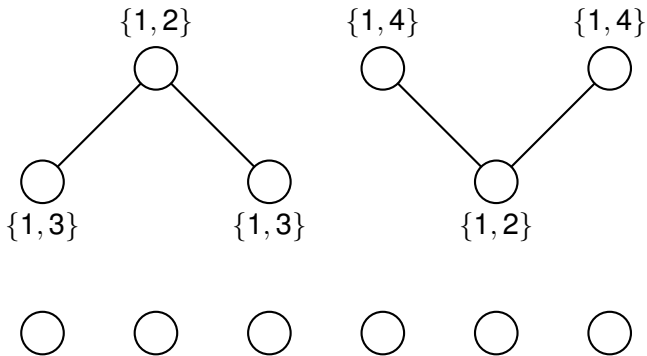
Proof Idea



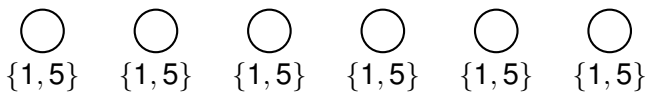
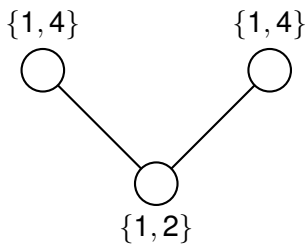
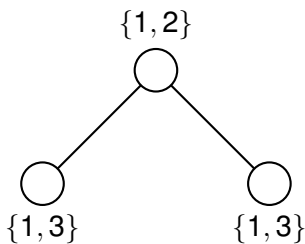
Proof Idea



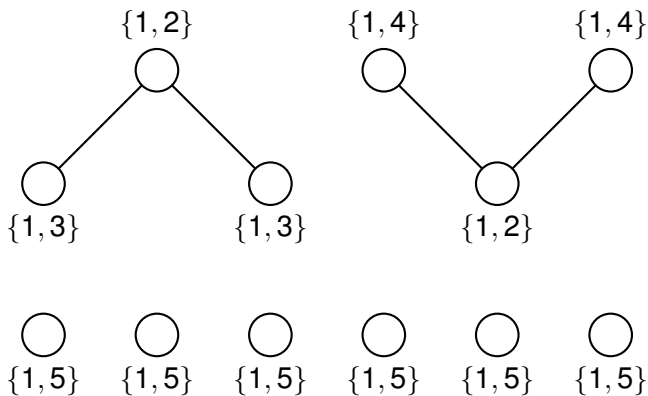
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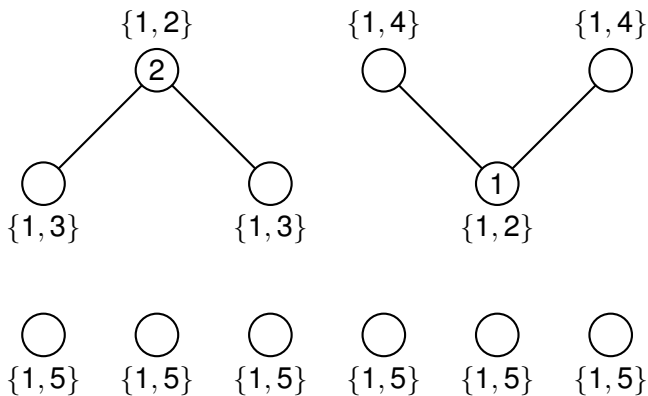


Proof Idea



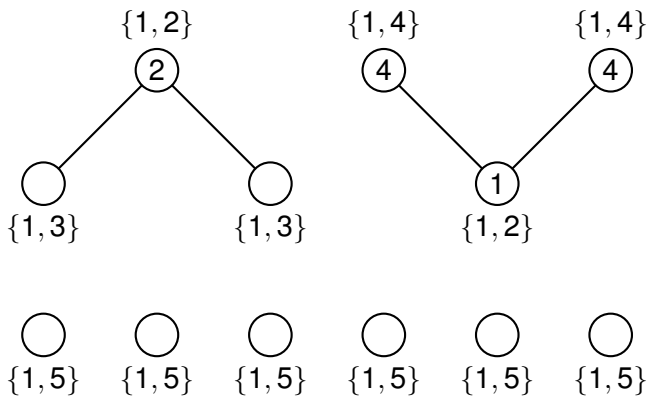
- Notice that $\eta(2) = 2$, so we must use 2 exactly once.

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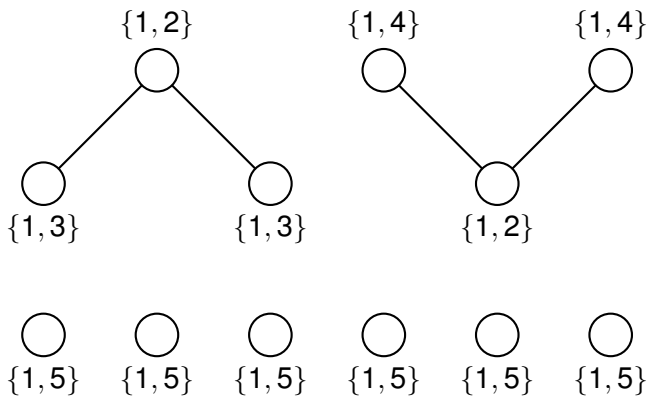
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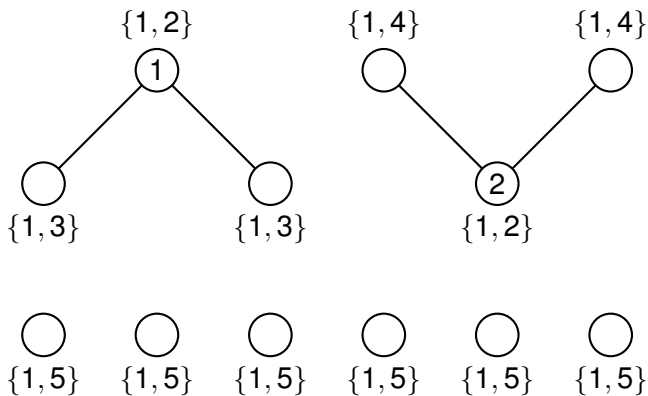
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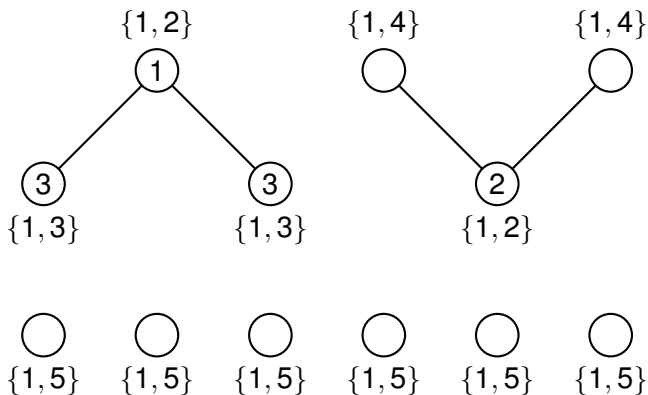
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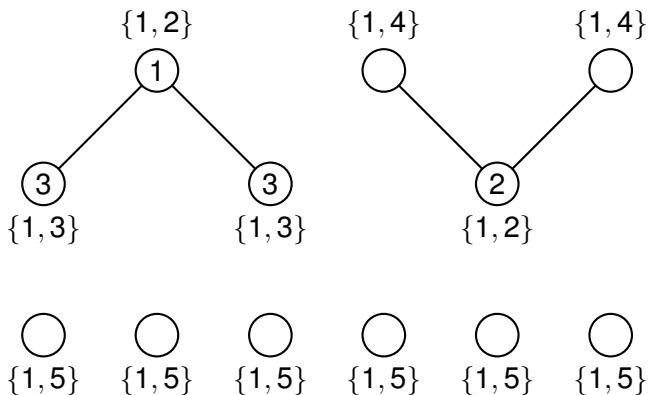
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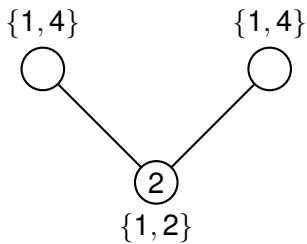
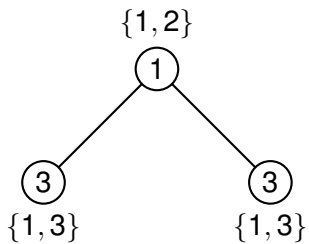
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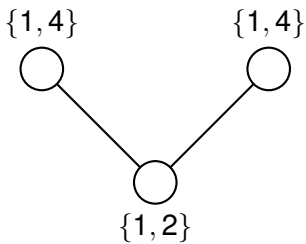
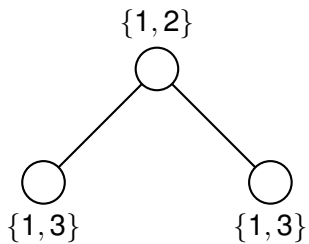


- Notice that $\eta(2) = 2$, so we must use 2 exactly once.
- Thus, any graph that contains $P_3 + P_3$ is not proportionally $(2, 5)$ -choosable.

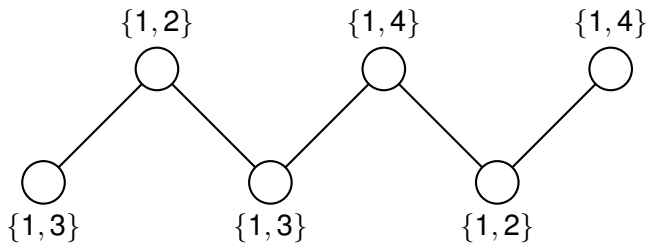
Proof Idea



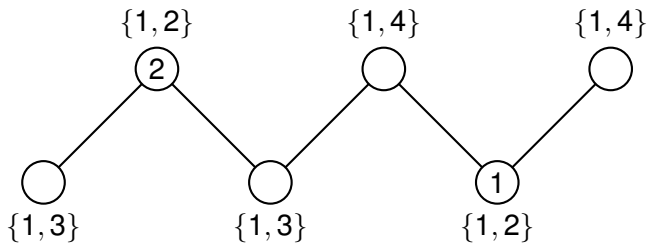
Proof Idea



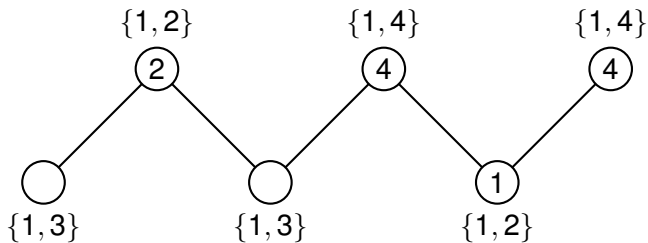
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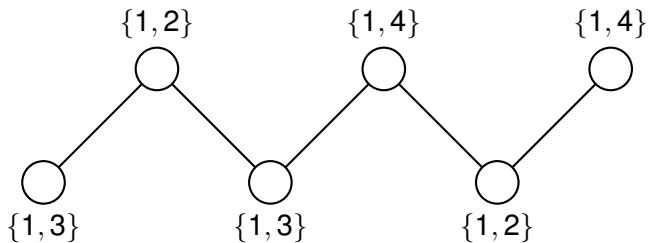
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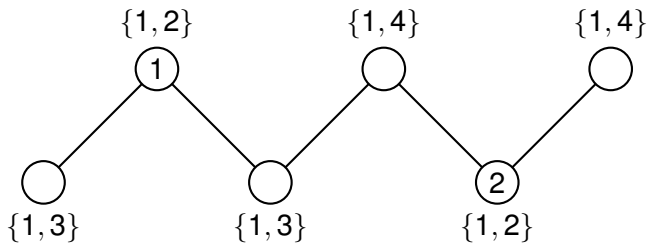
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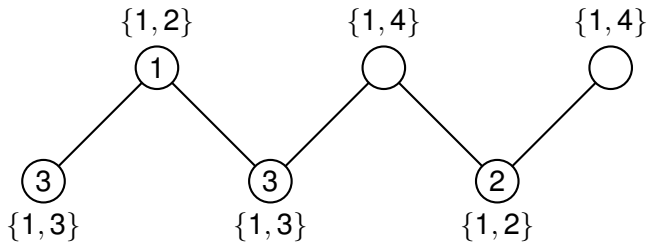
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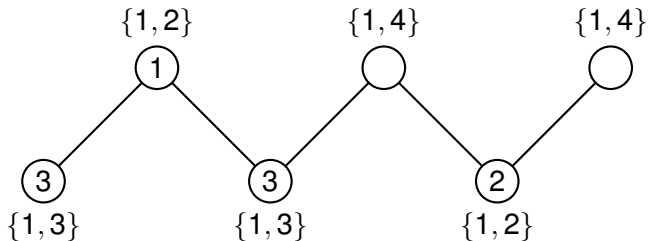
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- Thus, P_6 is not proportionally $(2, 4)$ -choosable.

Conclusions

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If G is not proportionally $(2, \ell)$ -choosable where $\ell \geq 2$, then $G + P_2$ is not proportionally $(2, \ell)$ -choosable.

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G is proportionally 2-choosable if and only if G is a linear forest such that the largest component of G has at most five vertices and all other components of G have two or fewer vertices.

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- For now, we've used a computer-assisted proof to show that P_7 is proportionally $(2, 4)$ -choosable.

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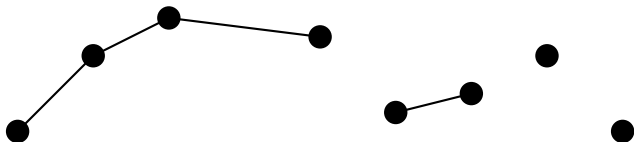
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- This implies that if a graph contains P_6 , then it is not proportionally $(2, 5)$ -choosable.
- Also, no two components may contain P_3 .

Conclusions

Theorem (Mudrock, Piechota, S., and Wagstrom (2019))

For each $\ell \geq 5$, a graph G is proportionally $(2, \ell)$ -choosable if and only if G is a linear forest such that the largest component of G has at most 5 vertices and all other components of G have at most 2 vertices.



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- Another possible area of research is the proportional choosability of graphs with a bounded palette for lists of size other than two.

Thank You!

- Questions?