Painting Squares with Δ^2 -1 shades

Daniel W. Cranston Virginia Commonwealth University dcranston@vcu.edu

Joint with Landon Rabern Slides available on my webpage

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Wegner's (Very General) Conjecture [1977]: If \mathcal{G}_k is the class of all graphs with $\Delta \leq k$, then for all $k \geq 3$, $d \geq 1$

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Borodin–Kostochka Conjecture [1977]: If $\Delta(G) \ge 9$ and $\omega(G) \le \Delta(G) - 1$, then $\chi(G) \le \Delta(G) - 1$. • Our result implies B–K conj. for G^2 when G has girth > 9.

Def: A graph G is d_1 -choosable if it has an L-coloring whenever |L(v)| = d(v) - 1 for all $v \in V(G)$.

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Where to find d_1 -choosable subgraph?

Proof Outline
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How do we prove that $(cycle + pendant edge)^2$ is d_1 -choosable?

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Lemma If \vec{D}_n is the square of C_n , with all edges oriented clockwise, then $|EE(\vec{D}_n)| - |EO(\vec{D}_n)|$ only depends on $n \pmod{3}$.

A Gallery of d_1 -choosable graphs

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(a) EE=30, EO=28



(b) EE=108, EO=107



(c) EE=88, EO=87



(d) EE=512, EO=515





(e) EE=751, EO=750 (f) EE=1097, EO=1096

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▶ Where is one? Shortest cycle in *G* + few pendant edges.

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If G is connected and not Petersen, Hoffman–Singleton, or a Moore graph with $\Delta = 57$, then $\chi_{\rho}(G^2) \leq \Delta^2 - 1$.

Why do we care? Relevant to multiple conjectures.

- Solves conjecture of Cranston–Kim, even for paintability.
- Verifies Wegner's Conjecture for d = 2 and $k \in \{4, 5\}$.
- ▶ Verifies Borodin–Kostoch Conj. for G^2 when girth(G) ≥ 9.

Key idea: G^2 can't contain induced d_1 -paintable subgraph.

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- How? Parity reversing bijections pair up most of *EE* and *EO*.