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The role of the Axiom of Choice in proper and distinguishing colourings

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Abstract

Call a colouring of a graph *distinguishing* if the only automorphism which preserves it is the identity. We investigate the role of the Axiom of Choice in the existence of certain proper or distinguishing colourings in both vertex and edge variants with special emphasis on locally finite connected graphs. We show that every locally finite connected graph has a distinguishing colouring with at most countable number of colours or every locally finite connected graph has a proper colouring with at most countable number of colours if and only if Kőnig's Lemma holds. This statement holds for both vertex and edge colourings. Furthermore, we show that it is not provable in ZF that such colourings exist even for every connected graph with maximum degree 3. We also formulate a few conditions about distinguishing and proper colourings which are equivalent to the Axiom of Choice.

Keywords: Proper colourings, distinguishing colourings, asymmetric colourings, infinite graphs, graph automorphisms, Axiom of Choice.

Math. Subj. Class. (2020): 05C15, 03E25, 05C25, 05C63

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Vloga aksioma izbire pri pravilnih in razlikovalnih barvanjih

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Povzetek

Barvanje grafa imenujmo *razlikovalno*, če je edini avtomorfizem, ki ga ohranja, identiteta. Raziskujemo vlogo, ki jo ima aksiom izbire pri obstoju določenih pravilnih ali razlikovalnih barvanj tako v točkovni kot tudi v povezavni različici, pri čemer se še posebej osredotočimo na lokalno končne povezane grafe. Pokažemo, da ima vsak lokalno končen povezan graf razlikovalno barvanje s kvečjemu števno mnogo barvami, oziroma da ima vsak lokalno končen povezan graf pravilno barvanje s kvečjemu števno mnogo barvami, če in samo če velja Königova lema. Ta trditev velja tako za barvanja vozlišč kot tudi za barvanja povezav. Nadalje, dokažemo, da v aksiomskem sistemu ZF (Zermelo-Fraenkel) ni mogoče dokazati, da takšna barvanja obstajajo, in to velja celo za vsak povezan graf z maksimalno stopnjo 3. Formuliramo tudi nekaj pogojev v zvezi z razlikovalnimi in pravilnimi barvanji, ki so ekvivalentni aksiomu izbire.

Ključne besede: Pravilna barvanja, razlikovalna barvanja, asimetrična barvanja, neskončni grafi, avtomorfizmi grafov, aksiom izbire.

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