

# Cooperative colouring

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Let  $\mathcal{G} = (G_1, \dots, G_k)$  be a collection of graphs on the same vertex set  $V$ . A *cooperative colouring* of  $\mathcal{G}$  is a family of subsets  $I_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$  of  $V$  such that  $I_i$  is stable in  $G_i$  and  $\bigcup_{i=1}^k I_i = V$ . According to a result of Haxell on independent system of representatives, if  $k \geq 2\Delta(\mathcal{G})$  with  $\Delta(\mathcal{G}) = \max \Delta(G_i)$  then there is a cooperative colouring of  $\mathcal{G}$ . Aharoni, Haxell and Holzman conjectured that if  $k \geq \Delta(\mathcal{G}) + 2$  then there is a cooperative colouring of  $\mathcal{G}$ . This would be tight as Holzman showed a collection  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $k$  graphs of maximum degree at most  $k - 1$  without cooperative colouring. This conjecture is trivally true if  $\Delta(\mathcal{G}) + 1$  of the  $G_i$  are the same. It is not difficult to see that it also holds if  $\Delta(\mathcal{G})$  of them are the same. The next step would be to show that it holds if  $\Delta(\mathcal{G}) - 1$  of the  $G_i$  are the same. In particular, if these  $\Delta(\mathcal{G}) - 1$  graphs are union of cliques one need to show the following. If  $G_1, G_2$  and  $G_3$  are three graphs of degree at most  $k$  on the same vertex set  $V$  and  $(V_1, \dots, V_m)$  is a partition of  $V$  such that  $|V_i| = k + 1$  for every  $1 \leq i \leq m$  then there exists  $I_1, I_2$  and  $I_3$  three independent sets of  $G_1, G_2$  and  $G_3$  respectively such that  $|(I_1 \cup I_2 \cup I_3) \cap V_i| \geq 2$  for every  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .