

# Necessary and Sufficient Condition for Adjoint Uniqueness of the Graph $(\bigcup_{i \in A} P_i) \cup (\bigcup_{j \in B} U_j)$

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**Abstract** For a graph  $G$ , let  $h(G; x) = h(G)$  and  $[G]_h$  denote the adjoint polynomial and the adjoint equivalence class of  $G$ , respectively. In this paper, a new application of  $[G]_h$  is given. Making use of  $[G]_h$ , we give a necessary and sufficient condition for adjoint uniqueness of the graph  $H$  such that  $H \neq G$ , where  $H = (\bigcup_{i \in A} P_i) \cup (\bigcup_{j \in B} U_j)$ ,  $A \subseteq A' = \{1, 2, 3, 5\} \cup \{2n | n \in N, n \geq 3\}$ ,  $B \subseteq B' = \{7, 2n | n \in N, n \geq 5\}$  and  $G = aP_1 \cup a_0P_2 \cup a_1P_3 \cup a_2P_5 \cup (\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_{2i})$ .

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## 1. Introduction

All the graphs considered here are simple and finite. Undefined notation and terminology can be found in [1]. For a graph  $G$ , let  $\overline{G}$ ,  $V(G)$ ,  $E(G)$ ,  $p(G)$  and  $q(G)$ , respectively, be the complement, vertex set, edge set, order and size of  $G$ . An ideal subgraph  $G_0$  of graph  $G$  is a spanning subgraph of  $G$  such that every component of  $G_0$  is a complete graph<sup>[2]</sup>. The adjoint polynomial of  $G$  is defined as follows

**Definition 1.1**<sup>[2]</sup> Let  $G$  be a graph with  $p$  vertices and  $q$  edges. The polynomial

$$h(G; x) = \sum_{i=0}^p b_i(G) x^{p-i}$$

is called the adjoint polynomial of  $G$ , where  $b_i(G)$  is the number of ideal subgraphs with  $p - i$  components.

From Definition 1.1, it is not difficult to get that  $b_1(G) = q(G)$ <sup>[2]</sup>. Thus  $q(G) = p(H)$  and  $p(G) = p(H)$  if  $h(G; x) = h(H; x)$ .

Two graphs  $G$  and  $H$  are said to be adjointly equivalent, denoted by  $G \stackrel{h}{\sim} H$ , if  $h(G; x) = h(H; x)$ . Clearly, “ $\stackrel{h}{\sim}$ ” is an equivalence relation on the family of all graphs. Let  $[G]_h = \{H \stackrel{h}{\sim} G\}$ .

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$G\}$ . A graph  $G$  is adjointly unique if  $h(H; x) = h(G; x)$  implies that  $G \cong H$ . It has been well-known that  $\overline{G}$  is chromatically unique if and only if  $G$  is adjointly unique<sup>[2]</sup>.

**Definition 1.2**<sup>[2]</sup> Let  $G$  be a graph and  $h_1(G; x)$  the polynomial with a nonzero constant term such that  $h(G; x) = x^{\alpha(G)} h_1(G; x)$ . If  $h_1(G; x)$  is an irreducible polynomial over the rational number field, then  $G$  is called irreducible graph.

For convenience, we simply denote  $h(G; x)$  by  $h(G)$  and  $h_1(G; x)$  by  $h_1(G)$ , respectively. Let  $\beta(G)$  denote the minimum real root of  $h(G)$ . For two graphs  $G$  and  $H$ ,  $G \cup H$  denotes the disjoint union of  $G$  and  $H$ , and  $mH$  stands for the disjoint union of  $m$  copies.

Now we define some classes of graphs, which will be used throughout the paper.

(1)  $C_n$  (resp.  $P_n$ ) denotes the cycle (resp. the path) of order  $n$ , and write  $\mathcal{C} = \{C_n | n \geq 3\}$ ,  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n | n \geq 2\}$ .

(2)  $D_n$  ( $n \geq 4$ ) denotes the graph obtained from  $C_3$  and  $P_{n-2}$  by identifying a vertex  $C_3$  with an end-vertex of  $P_{n-2}$ .

(3)  $T_{l_1, l_2, l_3}$  denotes a tree with a vertex  $v$  of degree 3 such that  $T_{l_1, l_2, l_3} - v = P_{l_1} \cup P_{l_2} \cup P_{l_3}$ , and write  $\mathcal{T}_1 = \{T_{1,1,n} | n \geq 1\}$ .

(4) Let  $P_{n-2}$  be the path with vertex sequence  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-2}$ .  $U_n$  denotes the graph obtained from  $P_{n-2}$  by adding pendant edges at vertices  $x_2$  and  $x_{n-3}$ , and write  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_n | n \geq 6\}$ .

(5)  $K_n$  denotes the complete graph with order  $n$  and  $K_4^- = K_4 - e$ , where  $e \in E(K_4)$ .

(6) Let  $C_4(P_2)$  be the graph obtained from  $C_4$  and  $P_2$  by identifying a vertex of  $C_4$  with an end-vertex of  $P_2$ , and let  $K_{1,n-1}$  be the star with order  $n$ .

(7)  $C_3(P_2, P_2)$  denotes the graph obtained from  $C_3$  by adding a pendant edge at any two vertices of  $C_3$ , respectively.

By the adjoint equivalence class  $[G]_h$  of a graph  $G$ , the necessary and sufficient condition for adjoint uniqueness of  $G$  can be determined. In this paper, a new application of  $[G]_h$  is given. Making use of  $[G]_h$ , we establish a necessary and sufficient condition for adjoint uniqueness of the graph  $H$  such that  $H \neq G$ , where  $H = (\bigcup_{i \in A} P_i) \cup (\bigcup_{j \in B} U_j)$ ,  $A \subseteq A' = \{1, 2, 3, 5\} \cup \{2n | n \in N, n \geq 3\}$ ,  $B \subseteq B' = \{7, 2n | n \in N, n \geq 5\}$  and  $G = aP_1 \cup a_0P_2 \cup a_1P_3 \cup a_2P_5 \cup (\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_i P_{2i})$ .

## 2. Basic lemmas

**Lemma 2.1**<sup>[2]</sup> Let  $G$  be a graph with  $k$  components  $G_1, G_2, \dots, G_k$ . Then

$$h(G) = \prod_{i=1}^k h(G_i).$$

For an edge  $e = v_1 v_2$  of a graph  $G$ , the graph  $G * e$  is defined as follows: The vertex set of  $G * e$  is  $(V(G) - \{v_1, v_2\}) \cup \{v\}$  ( $v \notin G$ ), and the edge set of  $G * e$  is  $\{e' | e' \in E(G), e' \text{ is not incident with } v_1 \text{ or } v_2\} \cup \{uv | u \in N_G(v_1) \cap N_G(v_2)\}$ , where  $N_G(v)$  is the set of vertices of  $G$  which are adjacent to  $v$ .

**Lemma 2.2**<sup>[4]</sup> Let  $G$  be a graph with  $e \in E(G)$ . Then

$$h(G; x) = h(G - e; x) + h(G * e; x),$$

where  $G - e$  denotes the graph obtained by deleting the edge  $e$  from  $G$ .

**Lemma 2.3**<sup>[5]</sup> Let  $G$  be a connected graph. Then

(1)  $\beta(G) = -4$  if and only if

$$G \in \mathcal{G}_1 = \{T_{1,2,5}, T_{2,2,2}, T_{1,3,3}, K_{1,4}, C_4(P_2), C_3(P_2, P_2), K_4^-, D_8\} \cup \mathcal{U}.$$

(2)  $\beta(G) > -4$  if and only if

$$G \in \mathcal{G}_2 = \{P_1, T_{1,2,i} (2 \leq i \leq 4), D_i (4 \leq i \leq 7)\} \cup \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{T}_1.$$

(3)  $\beta(G) \geq -3$  if and only if

$$G \in \mathcal{G}_3 = \{P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, P_5, C_3, T_{1,1,1}\}.$$

**Lemma 2.4** (1)<sup>[2]</sup>  $h(P_{2n+1}) = h(P_n \bigcup C_{n+1})$ , where  $n \geq 3$ .

(2)<sup>[5]</sup>  $h(U_n) = x^3(x+4)h(P_{n-4})$ ,  $h(U_6) = h(2K_1 \bigcup K_4^-)$ ,  $h(U_8) = h(C_3 \bigcup K_{1,4})$ ,  $h(U_9) = h(K_1 \bigcup K_{1,3} \bigcup K_4^-)$ , and  $h(U_{2m+1}) = h(U_{m+2} \bigcup C_{m-1})$ , where  $m \geq 5$ .

(3)  $h(P_1 \bigcup U_m) = h(K_{1,4} \bigcup P_{m-4})$ , where  $m \geq 6$ .

(4) For  $n \geq 2$ ,  $m \geq 6$  and  $m \neq n+4$ ,  $h(P_n \bigcup U_m) = h(U_{n+4} \bigcup P_{m-4})$ .

**Proof of (3)** We have, from (2) of the lemma, that

$$h(P_1 \bigcup U_m) = x^4(x+4)h(P_{m-4}) = h(K_{1,4} \bigcup P_{m-4}).$$

**Proof of (4)** It follows, from (2) of the lemma, that

$$h(P_n \bigcup U_m) = (x^4(x+4)h(P_{m-4}))h(P_n) = (x^4(x+4)h(P_n))h(P_{m-4}) = h(U_{n+4} \bigcup P_{m-4}).$$

**Lemma 2.5** (1)<sup>[6]</sup> For  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\beta(P_n) > \beta(P_{n+1}) > \beta(C_{n+1}) > \beta(C_{n+2})$ .

(2)<sup>[5]</sup>  $\beta(C_4) = \beta(D_4) = \beta(P_7)$ ,  $\beta(T(1, 2, 2)) = \beta(D_5) = \beta(P_{11})$ ,  $\beta(T(1, 2, 3)) = \beta(D_6) = \beta(P_{17})$ ,  $\beta(T(1, 2, 4)) = \beta(D_7) = \beta(P_{29})$ .

(3)<sup>[2,5]</sup> For  $m \geq 4$  and  $l \geq 1$ ,  $(h_1(C_m), h_1(P_{2l})) = 1$  and  $\beta(P_{2m-1}) = \beta(C_m) = \beta(T_{1,1,m-2})$ .

### 3. The chromaticity of graphs

**Lemma 3.1** Let  $G = aP_1 \bigcup a_0P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup a_2P_5$ , where  $a$  and  $a_i$  ( $i = 0, 1, 2$ ) are nonnegative integers. Then

$$[G]_h = \mathcal{G}_4 = \{(a-r)P_1 \bigcup (a_0+r)P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup (a_2-r)P_5 \bigcup rT_{1,1,1} | 0 \leq r \leq \min\{a, a_2\}\}.$$

**Proof** Obviously,  $\mathcal{G}_4 \subseteq [G]_h$ . Now, we need only prove  $[G]_h \subseteq \mathcal{G}_4$ .

Let an any graph  $H \in [G]_h$  and  $H = \bigcup_i H_i$ . Then  $h(H) = h(G)$ . By (3) of Lemma 2.3, we have that  $H_i \in \mathcal{G}_3$ . By Lemma 2.2 and calculation, it follows that

$$h_1(P_4) = h_1(C_3) = x^2 + 3x + 1, \quad h_1(P_5) = h_1(P_2)h_1(T_{1,1,1}) = (x+1)(x+3),$$

$$h_1(P_3) = x+2, \quad h_1(C_3) \not\parallel h_1(P_i) \quad (i = 2, 3, 5) \text{ and } h_1(C_3) \not\parallel h_1(T(1, 1, 1)).$$

This implies  $h_1(C_3) \not\parallel h_1(G)$ . Simultaneously,  $h_1(C_3) \not\parallel h_1(H)$ . Hence  $H$  contains no  $C_3$  and  $P_4$  as

its components. Without loss of generality, let

$$H = bP_1 \bigcup b_0P_2 \bigcup b_1P_3 \bigcup b_2P_5 \bigcup sT_{1,1,1}.$$

Comparing the common factors  $x + 3$ ,  $x + 2$  and  $x + 1$  of  $h(H)$  with those of  $h(G)$ , we have  $b_2 + s = a_2$ ,  $b_1 = a_1$  and  $b_0 + b_2 = a_0 + a_2$ , respectively. So  $b_2 = a_2 - s$  and  $b_0 = a_0 + s$ . Hence

$$H = bP_1 \bigcup (a_0 + s)P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup (a_2 - s)P_5 \bigcup sT_{1,1,1} \text{ and } 0 \leq s \leq a_2.$$

Note that  $h^s(P_2)h^s(T_{1,1,1}) = h^s(P_1)h^s(P_5)$ . Then we eliminate the common factors of  $h(H)$  and  $h(G)$ . So, we obtain  $b + s = a$ , that is,  $b = a - s$  and  $0 \leq s \leq a$ . Thus

$$H = (a - s)P_1 \bigcup (a_0 + s)P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup (a_2 - s)P_5 \bigcup sT_{1,1,1} \text{ and } 0 \leq s \leq \{a, a_2\},$$

which imply  $H \in \mathcal{G}_4$  and  $[G]_h \subseteq \mathcal{G}_4$ . This completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.1** Let  $G = aP_1 \bigcup a_0P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup a_2P_5 \bigcup (\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_{2i})$ , where  $a$  and  $a_i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq n$ ) are nonnegative integers. Then

$$[G]_h = \mathcal{G}_5 = \{(a - r)P_1 \bigcup (a_0 + r)P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup (a_2 - r)P_5 \bigcup rT_{1,1,1} \bigcup (\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_{2i}) \mid 0 \leq r \leq \min\{a, a_2\}\}.$$

**Proof** Obviously,  $\mathcal{G}_5 \subseteq [G]_h$ , so we should prove  $[G]_h \subseteq \mathcal{G}_5$ .

Let an any graph  $H \in [G]_h$  and  $H = \bigcup_{k \in A} H_k$ , where  $H_k$  is a connected graph. From  $h(H) = h(G)$  and (2) of Lemma 2.3, we have  $H_k \in \mathcal{G}_2$ . If  $a_i = 0$  for  $3 \leq i \leq n$ , from Lemma 3.1, we know that the theorem holds.

If  $a_{i_0} \neq 0$  for some  $i_0 \in [3, n]$ , from (1) of Lemma 2.5, it follows that  $\beta(G) = \beta(P_{2i_0})$ . By (2) and (3) of Lemma 2.5, we obtain that

$$H_k \in \{P_i, P_{2l}, C_3, T_{1,1,1} \mid 1 \leq i \leq 5, l \geq 3\}.$$

So there exists a number  $k \in A$  such that  $\beta(H_k) = \beta(H) = \beta(G) = \beta(P_{2i_0})$  and  $H_k \cong P_{2i_0}$ . Eliminating the common factor  $h(P_{2i_0})$  of  $h(H)$  and  $h(G)$  and repeating the above process until  $P_{2i} \not\subseteq G$  for  $3 \leq i \leq n$ , we have that

$$\bigcup_{i \in A_1} H_k \cong \bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_{2i} \text{ and } G' = aP_1 \bigcup a_0P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup a_2P_5. \quad (3.1)$$

Let  $H' = \bigcup_{i \in A - A_1} H_k$ . Eliminating the common factor  $h(\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_{2i})$  of  $h(H)$  and  $h(G)$ , we have  $h(H') = h(G')$ , that is,  $H' \in [G']_h$ . From (3.1) and Lemma 3.1, it follows that

$$H = (a - r)P_1 \bigcup (a_0 + r)P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup (a_2 - r)P_5 \bigcup rT_{1,1,1} \bigcup (\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_i), 0 \leq r \leq \min\{a, a_2\}.$$

Hence  $H \in \mathcal{G}_5$ , that is,  $[G]_h \subseteq \mathcal{G}_5$ . This completes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.1** Let  $G \in \{aP_1 \bigcup a_0P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup (\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_{2i}), a_0P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup a_2P_5 \bigcup (\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_{2i})\}$ , where  $a$  and  $a_i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq n$ ) are nonnegative integers. Then  $G$  is adjoint uniqueness.

**Lemma 3.2** Let  $H = \bigcup_{k=1}^s H_k$  and  $G = a_0P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup a_2P_5 \bigcup (\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_{2i})$ . If  $h_1(H) = h_1(G)$ , then  $\alpha(H) \geq \alpha(G)$ . Furthermore,

- (1) If  $\alpha(H) = \alpha(G)$ , then  $H \cong G$  and  $s = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i$ .  
 (2) If  $\alpha(H) > \alpha(G)$ , then  $H \cong (a-r)P_1 \bigcup (a_0+r)P_2 \bigcup a_1P_3 \bigcup (a_2-r)P_5 \bigcup rT_{1,1,1} \bigcup (\bigcup_{i=3}^n a_iP_{2i})$   
 and  $s = a + \sum_{i=0}^n a_i$ , where  $a = \alpha(H) - \alpha(G)$  and  $0 \leq r \leq \min\{a_1, a_2\}$ .

**Proof** Suppose that  $\alpha(H) < \alpha(G)$ . From  $h_1(H) = h_1(G)$  and  $\alpha(G) - \alpha(H) = b$ , we have that  $x^b h(H) = h(G)$ , that is,  $h(bP_1 \bigcup H) = h(G)$ . By Corollary 3.1, we obtain that  $bP_1 \bigcup H \cong G$  which is a contradiction. Hence  $\alpha(H) \geq \alpha(G)$ .

(1) If  $\alpha(H) = \alpha(G)$ , then  $h(H) = h(G)$ . By Corollary 3.1, it follows that  $H \cong G$  and  $s = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i$ .

(2) If  $\alpha(H) > \alpha(G)$ , from  $h_1(H) = h_1(G)$  and  $\alpha(H) - \alpha(G) = a$ , we have  $h(H) = h(aP_1 \bigcup G)$ . From Theorem 3.1, we get that the result holds.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3**<sup>[5]</sup>  $\bigcup_{n \in A} U_n$  is adjointly unique for  $A = \{7, 2n | n \in N, n \geq 5\}$ , where  $N$  is the set of positive integers.

**Theorem 3.2** Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 5\} \bigcup \{2n | n \in N, n \geq 3\}$  and  $B = \{7, 2n | n \in N, n \geq 5\}$ . Let  $G = (\bigcup_{i \in A_1} P_i) \bigcup (\bigcup_{j \in B_1} U_j)$ , where  $A_1 \subseteq A$ ,  $B_1 \subseteq B$  and  $N$  is the set of positive integers. Then  $G$  is adjointly unique if and only if

- (1)  $A = \emptyset$ .  
 (2)  $A = \{1, 3, 2b | b \geq 1, b \neq 2\}$  and  $B = \emptyset$ .  
 (3)  $A = \{3, 5, 2b | b \geq 1, b \neq 2\}$  and  $B = \emptyset$ .  
 (4)  $A = \{3, 5, 2b | b \geq 1, b \neq 2\}$  and  $B = \{j | j = i + 4, i \in A \setminus \{2, 5\}\}$ .

**Proof** The necessity of the theorem follows from Lemma 2.4. Now, we prove the sufficiency of the theorem.

- (1) If  $A = \emptyset$ , then  $A_1 = \emptyset$ . From Lemma 3.3, we obtain that the result holds.  
 (2) and (3) From Corollary 3.1, we obtain that the results hold.  
 (4) Suppose that any graph  $H = \bigcup_{k=1}^s H_k$  satisfies  $h(H) = h(G)$ . It follows, from Lemma 2.1, that

$$\prod_{k \in S} h(H_k) = \prod_{i \in A_1} h(P_i) \prod_{j \in B_1} h(U_j). \quad (3.2)$$

By Lemma 2.3, we have  $H_k \in \mathcal{G}_1 \bigcup \mathcal{G}_2$ .

By Lemma 2.2 and calculation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} h_1(T(2, 2, 2)) &= h_1^2(P_2)h_1(K_{1,4}). \\ h_1(T(1, 3, 3)) &= h_1(P_2)h_1(P_3)h_1(K_{1,4}), \\ h_1(D_8) &= h_1(T(1, 2, 5)) = h_1(P_2)h_1(P_4)h_1(K_{1,4}), \\ h_1(C_3(P_2, P_2)) &= h_1(C_4(P_2)) = h_1(K_4^-) = h_1(P_2)h_1(K_{1,4}). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $h_1(K_{1,4}) = x + 4$ , eliminating all the factors  $x + 4$  and  $x$  in the two sides of (3.2), we obtain, from Lemma 2.4 and  $j = i + 4$ , that

$$\prod_{k \in S_1} h_1(H'_k) = \prod_{i \in A_1} h_1(P_i) \prod_{j \in B_2} h_1(P_{j-4}) = \prod_{i \in S_2} h_1(P_i) \quad \text{and} \quad |S_1| \leq |S|, \quad (3.3)$$

where  $S_2 = \{3, 5, 2l | l \geq 1, l \neq 2\}$ ,  $|S_2| = |A_1| + |B_1|$  and  $H'_k \in \{T(1, 2, i) (2 \leq i \leq 4), D_i (4 \leq i \leq 7)\} \cup \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{T}_1$ . Obviously,  $H'_k \neq P_1$  for  $k \in S_1$ . From Lemma 3.2, it follows that

$$\sum_{k \in S_1} \alpha(H_k) \geq \sum_{i \in S_2} \alpha(P_i). \quad (3.4)$$

**Claim.**  $\bigcup_{k \in S_1} H'_k \cong \bigcup_{i \in S_2} P_i$ .

To prove the claim, we distinguish the following two cases from (3.4):

**Case 1**  $\sum_{k \in S_1} \alpha(H_k) = \sum_{i \in S_2} \alpha(P_i)$ . By (3.3), we have  $\prod_{k \in S_1} h(H'_k) = \prod_{i \in S_2} h(P_i)$ . From Corollary 3.1, we get that the claim holds.

**Case 2**  $\sum_{k \in S_1} \alpha(H_k) > \sum_{i \in S_2} \alpha(P_i)$ . Without loss of generality, let

$$\bigcup_{i \in S_2} P_i = a_0 P_2 \bigcup a_1 P_3 \bigcup a_2 P_5 \bigcup \left( \bigcup_{i=3}^n a_i P_{2i} \right),$$

where  $|S_2| = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i$ . Set  $\sum_{k \in S_1} \alpha(H_k) - \sum_{i \in S_2} \alpha(P_i) = a > 0$ . From (3.3), it follows that

$$h\left(\bigcup_{k \in S_1} H'_k\right) = h\left(a P_1 \bigcup \left(\bigcup_{i \in S_2} P_{2i}\right)\right).$$

By Lemma 3.2 and  $H'_k \neq P_1$ , we have that

$$\bigcup_{k \in S_1} H'_k \cong \bigcup (a_0 + r) P_2 \bigcup a_1 P_3 \bigcup (a_2 - r) P_5 \bigcup r T_{1,1,1} \bigcup \left( \bigcup_{i=3}^n a_i P_{2i} \right),$$

$$a = r \text{ and } |S_1| = a + \sum_{i=0}^n a_i. \quad (3.5)$$

Hence  $H_k \in \{K_{1,4}, P_1\} \cup \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{U}$ . Obviously, for each component  $H_k$ , we get that  $q(H_k) - p(H_k) = -1$  for  $1 \leq k \leq |S|$ . Hence  $q(H) - p(H) = -|S|$ . Since  $q(G) - p(G) = -|A| - |B| = -\sum_{i=0}^n a_i$  and  $q(H) - p(H) = q(G) - p(G)$ , we have

$$|S| = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i. \quad (3.6)$$

From (3.3), (3.5) and (3.6), it follows that  $a = 0$ , which contradicts  $a > 0$ . This completes the proof of the claim.  $\square$

By Claim and the above analysis, we have

$$H_k \in \{P_1, K_{1,4}\} \cup \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{U} \text{ and } |S| = |S_1| = |A_1| + |B_1|.$$

By  $|S| = |S_1|$ , we have  $H_k \notin \{P_1, K_{1,4}\}$ . Hence  $H_k \in \mathcal{P} \cup \mathcal{U}$ . Since  $H$  must have exactly  $|B_1|$  components  $H_j$  such that  $\beta(H_j) = -4$  for  $1 \leq j \leq |B_1|$ , we have

$$\bigcup_{k \in S_3} H_k \cong \bigcup_{j \in B_1} U_j, \text{ where } |S_3| = |B_1|. \quad (3.7)$$

From (3.2) and (3.7), it follows that

$$\prod_{k \in S \setminus S_3} h(H_k) = \prod_{i \in A_1} h(P_i), \quad h\left(\bigcup_{k \in S \setminus S_3} H_k\right) = h\left(\bigcup_{i \in A_1} P_i\right).$$

We obtain, from Corollary 3.1, that

$$\bigcup_{k \in S - S_3} H_k \cong \bigcup_{i \in A_1} P_i. \quad (3.8)$$

By (3.7) and (3.8), it is easy to get that

$$\bigcup_{k \in S} H_k \cong (\bigcup_{i \in A_1} P_i) \bigcup (\bigcup_{j \in B_1} U_j), \quad H \cong G.$$

This completes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2** Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3, 5\} \cup \{2n | n \in N, n \geq 3\}$  and  $B = \{7, 2n | n \in N, n \geq 5\}$ . Let  $G = (\bigcup_{i \in A_1} P_i) \bigcup (\bigcup_{j \in B_1} U_j)$ , where  $A_1 \subseteq A$ ,  $B_1 \subseteq B$  and  $N$  is the set of positive integers. Then  $\overline{G}$  is chromatically unique if and only if

- (1)  $A = \emptyset$ .
- (2)  $A = \{1, 3, 2b | b \geq 1, b \neq 2\}$  and  $B = \emptyset$ .
- (3)  $A = \{3, 5, 2b | b \geq 1, b \neq 2\}$  and  $B = \emptyset$ .
- (4)  $A = \{3, 5, 2b | b \geq 1, b \neq 2\}$  and  $B = \{j | j = i + 4, i \in A \setminus \{2, 5\}\}$ .

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