

**Helsinki University of Technology**  
**Laboratory for Theoretical Computer Science**  
Pekka Orponen (tel. 5246)

**T-79.5201 Discrete Structures (4 cr)**  
**Exam 21 Dec 2007, 1–4 p.m.**

Write down on each answer sheet:

- Your name, department, and student number
- The text: “T-79.5201 Discrete Structures 21.12.2007”
- The total number of answer sheets you are submitting for grading

*Note:* You can write down your answers in either Finnish, Swedish, or English.

**USE OF LECTURE NOTES, SOLUTIONS TO TUTORIAL PROBLEMS, AND ANY HANDBOOK OF MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS PERMITTED. PROGRAMMABLE AND SYMBOLIC ALGEBRA CALCULATORS FORBIDDEN.**

1. Prove that the graph property “ $G$  has minimal degree at least  $d$ ” (i.e.  $G$  contains a vertex of degree at least  $d$ ) has a threshold function for any fixed  $d \geq 1$ , and compute it. 7p.
2. Recall that an *independent set* in a graph  $G = (V, E)$  is a set of vertices  $U \subseteq V$  no two of which are neighbours, i.e. if  $u, v \in U$ , then  $\{u, v\} \notin E$ . Show that if  $G$  is a graph on the vertex set  $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , such that the degree of vertex  $i$  is  $d_i$ , then  $G$  contains an independent set of size at least

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{d_i + 1}.$$

(*Hint:* Consider a random permutation  $\sigma$  of the vertices, and make up a rule for including a vertex  $i$  into the independent set  $U$ , based on its relative position in  $\sigma$ .) 8p.

3. Assume that  $n$  pairs of users need to communicate using edge-disjoint paths on a given network. Each pair  $i = 1, \dots, n$  can choose a path from a collection  $F_i$  of  $m$  paths. Prove that it is always possible to choose the desired  $n$  edge-disjoint communication paths, provided that for any two path sets  $F_i$  and  $F_j$ , no path in  $F_i$  intersects (shares edges with) more than  $k = m/8n$  paths in  $F_j$ . (*Hint:* Consider the probability space defined by each pair of users  $i$  choosing a communication path uniformly at random from the respective set  $F_i$ , and the family of “bad” events  $E_{ij}$  of two chosen paths intersecting.) 7p.
4. Design an efficient deterministic algorithm for actually *finding* an independent set satisfying the size lower bound given in problem 2, from a given input graph  $G$ . 8p.

*Total 30p.*