Math 4370 Dr. Duval

COMBINATORICS Homework

Monday, April 16

Follow the separate general guidelines for Parts A,B,C. Be sure to include and label *all* four standard parts (a), (b), (c), (d) of Part A in what you hand in.

Graphs, trees, and forests

Introduction to Chapter 5, and Section 5.1 (pp. 255–260)

A: Reading questions. Due by 3pm, Wed., 18 Apr.

- 1. The introductory material to Chapter 5 (pp. 255–257) introduces many definitions (all the words and phrases in *italics*). To get acquainted (or re-acquainted) with these definitions, do the following: Draw two or three different graphs, each with about 5-10 vertices. Use these graphs to illustrate each definition. (For instance: To illustrate the idea of a *walk*, you would identify a walk in each of your graphs. Do your best to pick examples that will help illustrate the definition (for instance, a walk consisting of only a single edge fits the definition, but doesn't do a good job illustrating the idea). If you need more than two or three graphs to illustrate all the definitions, feel free to draw more graphs.
- 2. With each of your example graphs in the previous reading question, illustrate the result of Proposition 5.1. (This will be similar to Example 5.2.)
- 3. What does it mean for a graph to be **minimally connected**? Draw an example on a graph with 5-10 vertices, and show why it satisfies the definition of minimally connected. Does your graph have any cycles? How many vertices and edges does your graph have? Can you add a single edge, and make your graph no longer minimally connected? Can you remove a single edge, and make your graph no longer minimally connected?
- 4. What is the difference between a tree and a forest? Can you have a tree that is not a forest? Can you have a forest that is not a tree? Can a graph be both a forest and a tree? Can a graph be neither a forest nor a tree? Justify your answers with examples (for things that **are** possible, give an example) or proofs (for things that are **not** possible, explain why not).
- 5. Can you have a tree with no leaves? Justify your answer.
- B: Warmup exercises. For you to present in class. Due by the end of class Thu., 19 Apr.
 - 1. 5.12 Supplementary Exercise: 2.