ISMA BOUCHEMAKH¹

On the dual König property of the order-interval hypergraph of a new class of poset

ABSTRACT. Let P be a finite poset. We consider the hypergraph $\mathcal{H}(P)$ whose vertices are the elements of P and whose edges are the maximal intervals of P. It is known that $\mathcal{H}(P)$ has the König and dual König properties for the class of series-parallel posets. Here we introduce a new class which contains series-parallel posets and for which the dual König property is satisfied. For the class of N-free posets, again a generalization of series-parallel posets, we give a counterexample to see that the König property is not satisfied.

1 Introduction

Let P be a finite poset. A subset I of P of the form $I = \{v \in P : p \leq v \leq q\}$ (denoted [p,q]) is called an interval. It is maximal if p (resp. q) is a minimal (resp. maximal) element of P. Denote by $\mathcal{I}(P)$ the family of maximal intervals of P. The hypergraph $\mathcal{H}(P) = (P,\mathcal{I}(P))$, briefly denoted $\mathcal{H} = (P,\mathcal{I})$, whose vertices are the elements of P and whose edges are the maximal intervals of P is said to be the order-interval hypergraph of P. The line-graph $L(\mathcal{H})$ of \mathcal{H} is a graph whose vertices are points e_1, \ldots, e_m representing the edges I_1, \ldots, I_m of \mathcal{H} , the vertices e_i, e_j being adjacent iff $I_i \cap I_j \neq \emptyset$. The dual \mathcal{H}^* of the order-interval hypergraph \mathcal{H} is a hypergraph whose vertices e_1, \ldots, e_m correspond to intervals of P and whose edges are $X_i = \{e_j : x_i \in I_j\}$.

Let α, ν, τ and ρ be the independence, matching, edge-covering and vertex-covering number of a hypergraph \mathcal{H} , respectively. \mathcal{H} has the König property if $\nu(\mathcal{H}) = \tau(\mathcal{H})$ and it has the dual König property if $\nu(\mathcal{H}^*) = \tau(\mathcal{H}^*)$, i.e $\alpha(\mathcal{H}) = \rho(\mathcal{H})$ since $\alpha(\mathcal{H}) = \nu(\mathcal{H}^*)$ and $\rho(\mathcal{H}) = \tau(\mathcal{H}^*)$. This class of hypergraphs has been studied intensively in the past and one finds interesting results from an algorithmic point of view as well as min-max relations [2]-[6], [9].

¹This work is partially supported by a grant of the DAAD

I. Bouchemakh

A poset P is said to be a series-parallel poset, if it can be constructed from singletons using only two operations: disjoint sum and linear sum. It may be characterized by the fact that it does not contain the poset N of Figure 3 as an induced subposet [13], [14].

Let P be a finite poset. The graph $G_P = (P, E_P)$, with $xy \in E_P$ if x < y or y < x is the comparability graph of the poset P. G = (V, E) is a comparability graph if there is a poset P such that $G \sim G_P$.

It is known that the cographs, i.e. graphs without an induced path of length 4, are comparability graphs of series-parallel posets [7]. The cographs belong to the class of distance-hereditary graphs, which has been studied in graph theory [7]. A possible definition of a distance-hereditary graph is as follows: G is a distance-hereditary graph iff G has no induced gem, house, hole (cycle of length at least 4) and domino (see Figure 1).

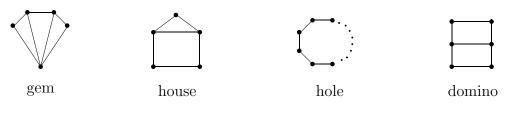


Figure 1

We investigate a class of posets that contains the series-parallel posets and whose members have comparability graphs which are distance-hereditary graphs or generalizations of them.

A poset P is in the class \mathcal{Q} (resp. \mathcal{Q}') if it has no induced subposet isomorphic to P_1 , P_2 , P_3 (resp. P_1 , P_2 , P_3 , P_4) of Figure 2 and their duals, where P_3 has n vertices, $n \geq 6$. Obviously the class \mathcal{Q}' is included in \mathcal{Q} . We prove that if P is in \mathcal{Q} , then $\mathcal{H}(P)$ has the dual König property.

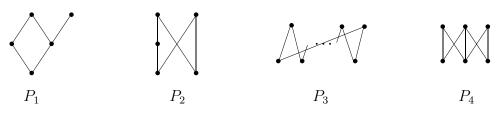


Figure 2

We characterize the comparability graphs of the class of posets in Q' in terms of four forbidden subgraphs.

Proposition 1 Let G be the comparability graph of the poset P. Then G contains no induced gem, house, domino and even hole if and only if $P \in \mathcal{Q}'$.

Proof: We prove this result in four steps.

Step 1. The graph G contains no induced gem if and only if P contains neither P_1 nor P_1^* as an induced subposet. Indeed, assume that P has an induced P_1 (resp. P_1^*) and let x, y, z, t, u be the elements of P_1 such that x < y < z > t > x and t < u (resp. t > u). We immediately deduce a gem with edges xy, xz, xt, xu, yz, zt and tu (resp. zy, zx, zt, zu, yx, xt and tu) of G. Conversely, suppose that the graph G has an induced gem whose edges are xy, xz, xt, xu, yz, zt and tu. The subgraph of G induced by $\{x,y,z\}$ (resp. $\{x,z,t\}$) is a triangle, hence x,y,z (resp. x,z,t) form a chain of F. As $yt \notin F$, we obtain only six possibilities: z < y < x > t > z or x < y < z > t > x or y,t < z < x or t,y < x < z or x < z < y,t or z < x < y,t. In virtue of the existence of the triangle induced by $\{x,u,t\}$, we infer that the first case gives z < y < x > t > u,z, the second z > y > x < t < z,u, the third t < u < x > z > t,y, the fifth t > u > x < z < y,t, without another comparability relation, and the fourth and sixth lead to a contradiction. Hence, we have obtained in each case either P_1 or P_1^* .

Step 2. The graph G contains no induced house if and only if P contains no P_2 as an induced subposet. Indeed, assume that P has an induced P_2 and let x, y, z, t, u be the elements of P_2 such that x < y < z > t < u > x. We immediately deduce a house with edges xy, yz, xz, zt, tu and ux of G. Conversely, suppose that G has an induced house whose edges are xy, yz, xz, zt, tu and ux. Since $xy \in E$, the elements x and y are comparable. First, assume that x < y. As $yz \in E$, we have y < z or z < y. In fact z < y leads to a contradiction. To see this, note that if z < y holds, then z < x < y or x < z < y. In the first case, from $ux \in E$, we deduce u > x, i.e. u > z, or u < x, i.e. u < y, both impossible since uz and uy are not edges of uz. In the second case, uz is impossible. From uz is impossible since uz and uz are not edges of uz and uz are not edges of uz and uz are not edges of uz. Hence uz and uz are not edges of uz and uz are not edges of uz are not edges of

Step 3. It is easy to see that G contains no induced even hole if and only if P does not contain a P_3 as an induced subposet.

Step 4. The graph G contains no induced domino if and only if P contains no P_4 as an induced subposet. Indeed, assume that P has an induced P_4 and let x, y, z, t, u, v be elements of P_4 such that x < t, u and y < t, u, v and z < u, v. We immediately deduce a domino with edges xt, ty, yv, vz, zu, ux and uy of G. Conversely, suppose that G has an induced domino

whose edges are xt, ty, yv, vz, zu, ux and uy. Hence, ux, uy, $uz \in E$ and xy, yz, $xz \notin E$ lead to x, y, z < u or u < x, y, z with $x \parallel y$, $y \parallel z$ and $x \parallel z$. We consider only the first possibility because the other may be settled by duality. From $yt \in E$ (resp. $yv \in E$) and $ut \notin E$ (resp. $uv \notin E$), we obtain y < t (resp. y < v). For the remaining edges xt and zv, we have only the possibilities x < t and z < v. Obviously, there are no other comparability relations between these elements.

By Proposition 1, the comparability graph of a poset in Q' is a distance-hereditary graph, because the comparability graph of any poset cannot contain an odd hole: Each transitive orientation of an odd hole contains two consecutive arcs xy and yz which imply the chord xz.

In order to prove the dual König property of $\mathcal{H}(P)$ when P is in the class \mathcal{Q} , let us introduce two observations. We recall that the vertices of the line-graph $L(\mathcal{H}^*(P))$ are the points of P and two vertices are adjacent iff they belong to the same interval of P.

Observation 1 Assume that P has no induced subposet isomorphic to P_1 and P_1^* . Let $u, v, w \in P$ with $u \parallel v$. If there exist two intervals I and I' such that $u, v \in I$ and $v, w \in I'$, then $u \in I'$.

Proof: Let I = [p, q] and I' = [p', q']. If $u \notin I'$, then $u \not< q'$ or $p' \not< u$. In the first case, the poset induced by $\{p, u, v, q, q'\}$ and P_1 are isomorphic. In the second case, the poset induced by $\{p, p', u, v, q\}$ and P_1^* are isomorphic, both impossible.

By Observation 1, one can say that the existence of two edges uv and vw of the line-graph $L(\mathcal{H}^*(P))$ with the above mentioned properties enables us to affirm that uw is an edge, too.

Observation 2 Assume that P has no induced subposet isomorphic to P_1 , P_1^* and P_3 . Let the 'zig zag' $u_1 < u_2 > u_3 < \cdots > u_{i-1} < u_i$, be given by i elements of P, linking u_1 to u_i , where i is even, $i \ge 6$. If u_1 and u_i belong to the same interval of P, then there exists at least another comparability relation between u_1, \ldots, u_i , different from $u_1 < u_i$ and $u_i < u_1$.

Proof: If $u_1 > u_i$, then $u_1 > u_{i-1}$. If $u_1 \parallel u_i$, then from Observation 1, $u_i, u_2 \in I_1$, where I_1 is the interval containing u_1 and u_2 . If $u_1 < u_i$, then there exists at least another comparability relation between u_1, \ldots, u_i , different from $u_1 < u_i$ and $u_i < u_1$, because otherwise the poset induced by $\{u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_i\}$ and P_3 would be isomorphic.

Theorem 1 Let $\mathcal{H}(P)$ be the order-interval hypergraph of a poset P of the class \mathcal{Q} . Then the line-graph $L(\mathcal{H}^*(P))$ is perfect.

Proof: It is enough to verify that the line-graph $L(\mathcal{H}^*(P))$ is a Meyniel graph, i.e. each cycle of odd length at least 5 has at least two chords. Meyniel [11] proved the perfectness of Meyniel graphs.

Let $C = (a_1, ..., a_k)$ be a cycle of odd length $k, k \geq 5$. Let us denote by $I_i = [p_i, q_i]$ the interval of P containing both a_i and a_{i+1} and by I = [p, q] the interval of P containing both a_1 and a_k .

- Case 1. $a_1 \parallel a_2$. From Observation 1, we have $a_1 a_3 \in I_2$ and $a_2 a_k \in I$.
- Case 2. $a_1 < a_2$. We distinguish three subcases:
- Case 2.1. $a_2 \parallel a_3$. From Observation 1, we have $a_1, a_3 \in I_1$ and $a_2, a_4 \in I_3$.
- Case 2.2. $a_2 < a_3$. We immediately deduce the existence of the chord a_1a_3 of C. Let us determine another chord.
- Case 2.2.1. $a_3 < a_4$ or $a_3 \parallel a_4$. Then a_2a_4 is a chord of \mathcal{C} . Indeed, $a_3 < a_4$ implies $a_2 < a_4$ and from Observation 1, $a_3 \parallel a_4$ leads to $a_2, a_4 \in I_2$.
- Case 2.2.2. $a_3 > a_4$. Then a_3a_5 is a chord of \mathcal{C} if $a_4 > a_5$ or $a_4 \parallel a_5$. Indeed, $a_4 > a_5$ implies $a_3 > a_5$ and from Observation 1, $a_4 \parallel a_5$ leads to $a_3, a_5 \in I_3$.

Now let $a_4 < a_5$. In the case k = 5, we have three possibilities: If $a_1 > a_5$ or $a_1 \parallel a_5$, then a_2a_5 is a chord of \mathcal{C} . Indeed, $a_1 > a_5$ implies $a_2 > a_5$ and from Observation 1, $a_1 \parallel a_5$ leads to $a_2, a_5 \in I_1$. If $a_1 < a_5$, then we must have another comparability relation between the elements a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5 , i.e. the existence of a new chord, because otherwise the poset induced by $\{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5\}$ and P_2 would be isomorphic. In the case k > 5, consider the 'zig zag' $a_1 < a_3 > a_4 < a_5 > \cdots > a_{i-1} < a_i$ linking a_1 to a_i where i is a maximum odd integer, $5 \le i \le k$. If i = k, i.e a_1, a_i are in the same interval of P, we use Observation 2 to affirm the existence of the second chord. If i < k, we have again three possibilities:

If $a_{i+1} > a_i$ or $a_{i+1} \parallel a_i$, then $a_{i-1}a_{i+1}$ is a chord of \mathcal{C} . Indeed, $a_i < a_{i+1}$ implies $a_{i+1} > a_{i-1}$ and from Observation 1, $a_i \parallel a_{i+1}$ leads to $a_{i-1}, a_{i+1} \in I_{i-1}$. If $a_{i+1} < a_i$, the cases $a_{i+1} > a_{i+2}$ and $a_{i+1} \parallel a_{i+2}$ give a new chord $a_i a_{i+2}$ since $a_{i+2} < a_{i+1}$ implies $a_{i+2} < a_i$ and from Observation 1, $a_{i+1} \parallel a_{i+2}$ implies $a_i, a_{i+2} \in I_i$.

- Case 2.3. $a_2 > a_3$. We distinguish three subcases:
- Case 2.3.1. $a_3 \parallel a_4$. From Observation 1, $a_2, a_4 \in I_2$ and $a_3a_5 \in I_4$.
- Case 2.3.2. $a_3 > a_4$. Then a_2a_4 is a chord of \mathcal{C} since $a_4 < a_3 < a_2$. Now, if $a_4 > a_5$ or $a_4 \parallel a_5$, we deduce the chord a_3a_5 since $a_4 > a_5$ implies $a_3 > a_5$ and from Observation 1, $a_4 \parallel a_5$ implies $a_3, a_5 \in I_3$. If $a_4 < a_5$, then the corresponding part of this case in Case 2.2.2. remains valid here by considering the 'zig zag' $a_1 < a_2 > a_4 < a_5 > \cdots > a_{i-1} < a_i$.
- Case 2.3.3. $a_3 < a_4$. If $a_4 < a_5$, then $a_3 < a_5$, i.e. a_3a_5 is a chord of \mathcal{C} . For obtaining the second chord, we continue as in Case 2.2.2 (from the same situation $a_4 < a_5$). Here the 'zig zag' is $a_1 < a_2 > a_3 < a_5 > a_6 < \cdots > a_{i-1} < a_i$. If $a_4 \parallel a_5$, then from Observation 1, we have on the one hand $a_3, a_5 \in I_3$. On the other hand $a_1, a_4 \in I$ if k = 5 and $a_4, a_6 \in I_5$

otherwise. If $a_4 > a_5$ and k = 5, then either $a_5 < a_1$ (resp. $a_1 < a_5$) or $a_1 \parallel a_5$. If $a_5 < a_1$ (resp. $a_1 < a_5$), not only $a_5 < a_2$ (resp. $a_1 < a_4$), i.e. a_2a_5 (resp. a_1a_4) is a chord of \mathcal{C} but again, it must exist another comparability relation between elements a_1, \ldots, a_5 because otherwise, the poset induced by these elements and P_2 would be isomorphic. If $a_1 \parallel a_5$, we have by Observation 1, $a_2, a_5 \in I_1$ and $a_1, a_4 \in I_4$, hence a_2a_5 and a_1a_4 are chords of \mathcal{C} .

If $a_4 > a_5$ and k > 5, consider the 'zig zag' $a_1 < a_2 > a_3 < \cdots < a_{i-1} > a_i$, where i is a maximum odd integer, $5 \le i < k$.

If i = k, we have either, $a_1 > a_i$ (resp. $a_1 < a_i$) or $a_1 \parallel a_i$. If $a_1 > a_i$ (resp. $a_1 < a_i$), $a_2 a_i$ (resp. $a_1 a_{i-1}$) is a chord of C. Moreover there exists another comparability relation between elements a_2, \ldots, a_i (resp. a_1, \ldots, a_{i-1}) because otherwise the poset induced by these elements and P_3 would be isomorphic. If $a_1 \parallel a_i$, by Observation 1, $a_1, a_{i-1} \in I_{i-1}$ and $a_2, a_i \in I_1$. If i < k, we have three subcases:

Case 2.3.3.1. $a_{i+1} \parallel a_i$. Then from Observation 1, $a_{i-1}, a_{i+1} \in I_{i-1}$ and $a_i, a_{i+2} \in I_{i+1}$.

Case 2.3.3.2. $a_{i+1} < a_i$. We immediately deduce $a_{i+1} < a_{i-1}$, i.e. the chord $a_{i-1}a_{i+1}$ of C.

If $a_{i+1} > a_{i+2}$, then $a_i a_{i+2}$ is a chord of \mathcal{C} . If $a_{i+1} \parallel a_{i+2}$, then from Observation 1, $a_i a_{i+2} \in I_i$. If $a_{i+1} < a_{i+2}$, we continue as in Case 2.2.2. with the zig zag' $a_1 < a_2 > \cdots < a_{i-1} > a_{i+1} < a_{i+2}$.

Case 2.3.3.3. $a_{i+1} > a_i$. If $a_{i+1} < a_{i+2}$, then $a_i < a_{i+2}$ and hence $a_i a_{i+2}$ is a chord of \mathcal{C} . In the case k = i+2, we have either $a_1 < a_{i+2}$ which leads to the existence of another comparability relation between the elements $a_1, \ldots, a_i, a_{i+2}$, i.e. a new chord, since otherwise the poset induced by these elements and P_3 would be isomorphic, or $a_1 > a_{i+2}$ or $a_1 \parallel a_{i+2}$. These last possibilities give the chord $a_1 a_{i+1}$ of \mathcal{C} because $a_{i+2} < a_1$ implies $a_{i+1} < a_1$ and from Observation 1, $a_1 \parallel a_{i+2}$ implies $a_1, a_{i+1} \in I_{i+1}$.

In the case i+2 < k, we consider the 'zig zag' $a_1 < a_2 > \cdots < a_{i-1} > a_i < a_{i+2}$ and we continue as in Case 2.2.2. by substituting the elements $a_3, \ldots, a_{i-2}, a_{i-1}, a_i$ by $a_2, \ldots, a_{i-1}, a_i, a_{i+2}$, respectively.

If $a_{i+1} \parallel a_{i+2}$, then from Observation 1, $a_i, a_{i+2} \in I_i$ and $a_1, a_{i+1} \in I$ (resp. $a_{i+1}, a_{i+3} \in I_{i+2}$) if k = i + 2 (resp. k > i + 2).

Case 3. $a_2 < a_1$. By duality, this case is similar to Case 2.

Finally, we have obtained in each case at least two chords of \mathcal{C} and the proof is complete. \square

Let $\mathcal{H} = (E_1, \dots, E_m)$ be a hypergraph. We say that \mathcal{H} has the *Helly property* or is a *Helly hypergraph* if every intersecting family of \mathcal{H} is a star, i.e. for $J \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$, $E_i \cap E_j \neq \emptyset$, for $i, j \in J$, implies $\bigcap_{j \in J} E_j \neq \emptyset$. A good characterization of a Helly hypergraph, due to Berge and Duchet [1], is given by the following property:

For any three vertices a_1, a_2, a_3 the family of edges containing at least two of the vertices a_i

has a non-empty intersection.

Theorem 2 Let $\mathcal{H}(P)$ be the order-interval hypergraph of a poset P which has no induced subposet isomorphic to P_1 and P_1^* . Then $\mathcal{H}^*(P)$ is a Helly hypergraph.

Proof: In the class of order-interval hypergraphs of posets, $\mathcal{H}^*(P)$ is a Helly hypergraph if and only if $\mathcal{H}(P)$ is a Helly hypergraph [5]. Consequently, we can verify this property for the hypergraph $\mathcal{H}(P)$.

Let $\mathcal{I} = \{I_1, \ldots, I_m\}$ be the family of maximal intervals of P. We suppose that there exist three vertices a_1, a_2, a_3 of P such that $\bigcap_{j \in J} I_j = \emptyset$ where $J = \{j : |I_j \cap \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}| \geq 2\}$. Hence, $|J| \geq 3$ and there exists three edges, say w.l.o.g $I_1 = [p_1, q_1], I_2 = [p_2, q_2], I_3 = [p_3, q_3]$, such that:

$$a_2, a_3 \in I_1$$
 and $a_1 \notin I_1$
 $a_1, a_3 \in I_2$ and $a_2 \notin I_2$
 $a_1, a_2 \in I_3$ and $a_3 \notin I_3$

From Observation 1, we have $a_1 \in I_1$ if $a_1 \parallel a_2$, and $a_2 \in I_2$ if $a_1 < a_2$ and $a_2 \parallel a_3$. If $a_1 < a_2$ and $a_2 < a_3$, we have immediately $a_2 \in I_2$. Again, we obtain $a_3 \in I_3$, if $a_1 < a_2$ and $a_3 < a_2$. Indeed, we must have $a_1 \parallel a_3$ because $a_1 < a_3$ (resp. $a_3 < a_1$) implies $a_3 < a_1 < a_2 < a_3$ (resp. $a_1 < a_3 < a_1 < a_2 < a_3$), i.e. $a_3 \in I_3$ (resp. $a_1 \in I_1$). Moreover, $a_1 \in I_3$ because otherwise $a_1 \in I_3$ of $a_1 \in I_3$ consequently, the poset induced by $a_1 \in I_3$ and $a_2 \in I_3$ are isomorphic. By duality, the remaining case, namely $a_2 < a_1$, leads to a contradiction as well.

A hypergraph \mathcal{H} is said to be normal if every partial hypergraph \mathcal{H}' has the coloured edge property, i.e. it is possible to colour the edges of \mathcal{H}' with $\Delta(\mathcal{H}')$ colours, where $\Delta(\mathcal{H}')$ represents the maximum degree of \mathcal{H}' . Several sufficient conditions exist for a hypergraph to have the König property [1]. One of them is its normality. A hypergraph \mathcal{H} is normal iff it satisfies the Helly property and the line-graph $L(\mathcal{H})$ is a perfect graph. This characterization enables us to derive the following corollary.

Corollary 3 Let $\mathcal{H}(P)$ be the order-interval hypergraph of a poset P of the class Q. Then every subhypergraph of $\mathcal{H}(P)$ has the dual König property.

Proof: By Theorem 1 and Theorem 2, $\mathcal{H}^*(P)$ is normal and consequently every partial hypergraph is again normal. As the dual of a partial hypergraph of $\mathcal{H}^*(P)$ is a subhypergraph of $\mathcal{H}(P)$, we deduce that every subhypergraph of $\mathcal{H}(P)$ has the dual König property.

2 N-free posets

Another natural and interesting generalization of series-parallel posets is the class of N-free poset. A poset is called N-free iff its Hasse-diagram does not contain the N from

26 I. Bouchemakh

Figure 3 as an induced subgraph [12], i.e. if there do not exist vertices v_1, \ldots, v_4 such that $v_1 \prec v_3 \succ v_2 \prec v_4$ and $v_1 \parallel v_4$.

There is a characterization of series-parallel posets within the class of N-free posets [8]. It states that a poset P is a series-parallel iff P is N-free and does not contain the poset N' of Figure 3 as an induced subposet.



Figure 3

Unfortunately, if the poset P is N-free, the König property is not satisfied in general. The poset of Figure 4, gives a counterexample since $\nu(\mathcal{H}(P_1)) = 1$ and $\tau(\mathcal{H}(P_1)) = 2$. Moreover, $\mathcal{H}^*(P)$ is not normal. To see this, consider the poset P_2 of Figure 4. The line-graph $L(\mathcal{H}^*(P))$ contains an induced odd cycle C_5 given by the vertices $\{2, 3, 4, 12, 13\}$ and hence $L(\mathcal{H}^*(P))$ is not perfect.

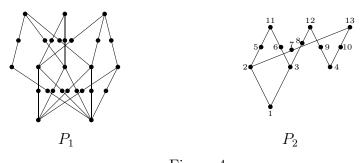


Figure 4

References

- [1] Berge, C.: Hypergraphs. North-Holland, Amsterdam, Tokyo (1989)
- [2] Bouchemakh, I., and Engel, K.: Interval stability and interval covering property in finite posets. Order 9, 163-175 (1992)
- [3] Bouchemakh, I., and Engel, K.: (1992) The order-interval hypergraph of a finite poset and the König property. Discrete Math. 170, 51-61 (1997)
- [4] **Bouchemakh**, **I.**: On the chromatic number of order-interval hypergraphs. Rostock. Math. Kolloq. **54**, 81-89 (2000)

- [5] Bouchemakh, I.: On the König and dual König properties of the order-interval hypergraphs of series-parallel posets. Rostock. Math. Kolloq. **56**, 3-8 (2002)
- [6] **Bouchemakh**, I.: On the k-independence number in the Boolean lattice. To appear in Rev. Maghreb. Math.
- [7] Brandstädt, A., Bang Le, V., and Spinrad, J.P.: Graph Classes: A Survey. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Philadelphia (1999)
- [8] **Duffin, R.J.**: Topology of series-parallel networks. J. Math. Analysis Appl. 10, 303-318 (1965)
- [9] **Engel, K.**: Interval packing and covering in the Boolean lattice. Comb. Probab. Comput. 5, No.4, 373-384 (1996)
- [10] Kaerkes, R., and Möring, R. H.: Vorlesungen über Ordnungen und Netzplantheorie. Schriften zur Informatik und Angewandten Mathematik 45, RWTH Aachen (1978)
- [11] Meyniel, H.: The graphs whose odd cycles have at least two chords. In Topics on Perfect Graphs, C. Berge, V. Chvátal, eds., Ann. Discrete Math. 21, 115-119 (1984)
- [12] **Rival, I.**: Optimal linear extensions by interchanging chains. Proc. Amer. Soc. **89**, 387-394 (1982)
- [13] **Summer, D. P.**: Graphs indecomposable with respect to the X-join. Discrete Math. **6**, 281-298 (1973)
- [14] Valdes, J., Tarjan, R. E., and Lawler, E. L.: The recognition of series-parallel digraphs. Siam J. Computing 11, 298-313 (1982)

received: July 15, 2004

Author:

Isma Bouchemakh U.S.T.H.B., Faculté de Mathématiques Département de Recherche Opérationnelle B.P. 32 El-Alia, Bab-Ezzouar Alger, Algérie