# Reducing the height of independent spanning trees in chordal rings 

Jinn-Shyong Yang ${ }^{1,3} \quad$ Yue-Li Wang ${ }^{1, *} \quad$ Shyue-Ming Tang ${ }^{2}$<br>${ }^{1}$ Department of Information Management, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.<br>${ }^{2}$ Department of Psychology,Fu-Hsing-Kang College, Taipei, Taiwan , Republic of China.<br>${ }^{3}$ Department of Information Management, National Taipei College of Business, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC


#### Abstract

This paper is concerned with a particular family of regular 4 -connected graphs, called chordal rings. Chordal rings are a variation of ring networks. By adding extra two links (or chords) at each vertex in a ring network, the reliability and fault-tolerance of the network are enhanced. Two spanning trees on a graph are said to be independent if they are rooted at the same vertex, say $r$, and for each vertex $v \neq r$, the two paths from $r$ to $v$, one path in each tree, are internally disjoint. A set of spanning trees on a given graph is said to be independent if they are pairwise independent. In 1999, Y. Iwasaki et al. proposed a linear time algorithm to find four independent spanning trees on a chordal ring. In this paper, we shall give new algorithms to generate four independent spanning trees with reduced height in each tree.


Keyword: chordal rings, interconnection networks, fault-tolerant broadcasting, independent spanning trees, internally disjoint path.

## 1 Introduction

Chordal rings are a variation of ring networks. By adding extra two links (or chords) at each vertex in a ring network, the reliability and fault-tolerance of

[^0]the network are enhanced $[1,3,7,8]$. A number of problems on chordal rings (or called distributed loop networks) have been studied in the past two decades, including the diameter problem [1], the shortest paths problem [4], the routing and fault-tolerant routing problem [11, 12, 13, 14]. A chordal ring $C R(N, d)$ is a graph with its vertex set $V=\{0,1, \ldots, N-1\}$ and edge set $E=\left\{(u, v)[v-u]_{N}=1\right.$ or $\left.d\right\}$, where $[x]_{N}$ denotes $x$ modulo $N$. To ensure every vertex has four adjacent vertices, we assume that $d$ is less than $N / 2$. An example of chordal ring for $N=14$ and $d=4$ is shown in Figure 1.


Figure 1: $C R(14,4)$ chordal rings.

Two paths in a graph are internally disjoint if they have no common vertex except the two end vertices. A spanning tree of a graph $G$ is a subgraph
of $G$ that contains all vertices in G and forms a tree. Two spanning trees of $G$ are said to be independent if they are rooted at the same vertex, say $r$, and for each vertex $v \neq r$, the two paths from $r$ to $v$, one path in each tree, are internally disjoint. A set of spanning trees of a graph is independent if they are pairwise independent. For example, a set of four independent spanning trees of $C R(14,4)$ is shown in Figure 2.


Figure 2: A set of independent spanning trees on $C R(14,4)$.

The study of finding independent spanning trees has applications on fault-tolerant broadcasting protocol [2, 9]. The fault tolerance can be achieved by sending $k$ copies of a message along $k$ independent spanning trees rooted at the source node. If the source node is faultless, this scheme can tolerate up to $k-1$ faulty nodes.

In [9], Itai and Rodeh gave a linear time algorithm for finding two independent spanning trees rooted at an arbitrary vertex in a biconnected graph. In [5], Cheriyan and Maheshwari showed that, for any 3connected graph $G=(V, E)$ and for any vertex $r$ in $G$, three independent spanning trees rooted at $r$ can be found in $O(|V||E|)$ time. In [15], Zehavi and Itai conjectured that any $k$-connected graph has $k$ independent spanning trees rooted at an arbitrary vertex $r$. Recently, Curran presented an $O\left(|V|^{3}\right)$ time algorithm for finding four independent spanning trees
rooted at any given vertex in a 4 -connected graph [6]. This result has contribution to Zehavi and Itai's conjecture. However, the conjecture is still open for arbitrary $k$-connected graphs with $k \geq 5$. Although chordal rings discussed here are all 4 -connected, efficient algorithms for solving the independent spanning trees problem in chordal rings are still valuable.

In [10], Iwasaki et al. gave a linear time algorithm to solve the independent spanning trees problem in a chordal ring. In Figure 2, based on their algorithm, four spanning trees $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ rooted at vertex 0 in $C R(14,4)$ are constructed. Following the definition of independent spanning trees, for every vertex $v \neq 0$, the four paths from 0 to $v$ in $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ are internally disjoint (or vertex-disjoint).

Let $d_{G}(u, v)$ denote the distance between vertices $u$ and $v$ in $G$. The height of a spanning tree $T$ rooted at vertex $r$, denoted by $\operatorname{height}(T)$, is the maximum distance of the paths from $r$ to any other vertex in $T$, i.e., $\operatorname{height}(T)=\max \left\{d_{T}(r, v) \mid v \neq r\right\}$. For example, the heights of independent spanning trees $T_{i}$ ( $i=1,2,3,4$ ) shown in Figure 2 are all five. In this paper, we focus our efforts on the height of independent spanning trees. Obviously, the performance of a broadcasting protocol can be improved by reducing the height of a spanning tree rooted at the source node. We shall design new algorithms to generate four independent spanning trees with reduced height in each tree.

The remaining part of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, a linear time algorithm is proposed to generate height-reduced independent spanning trees rooted at one vertex in a chordal ring. In Section 3, we solve the problem for a special class of chordal rings, i.e., $C R(N, d)$ where $[N]_{d}=0$. In Section 4, we prove the correctness of our algorithms. Section 5 contains our concluding remarks.

## 2 A New Algorithm for Generating Independent Spanning Trees

Chordal rings are vertex-symmetric [7]. Without loss of generality, we simply consider independent spanning trees rooted at vertex 0 of a chordal ring. Let $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ denote the four spanning trees. Since the four adjacent vertices of vertex v in $C R(N, d)$ are $[v+1]_{N},[v-1]_{N},[v+d]_{N}$ and $[v-d]_{N}$, vertices $1, d, N-1$ and $N-d$ can be assigned as the only child of the root in $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$, respectively. The first algorithm we proposed can generate four independent spanning trees rooted at vertex 0 in $C R(N, d)$, where $2 \leq d<N / 2$. The algorithm contains three phases. At the first phase, we generate

## Procedure Gen_T1 $(N, d)$ <br> begin

1. Calculate the span_column.

Let node $=d \times\lfloor(N-(d-1)) / d\rfloor-1$.
Let span_column $=[\text { node }-N]_{d}$.
If span_column $<d-1$ then do_move $=$ True
2. For $i=1$ to $d-1$ do

Set parent of vertex $i$ to $i-1$.
3. For $i=1$ to $d-1$ do If $i>\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$ then
Set parent of vertex $[i-d]_{N}$ to $[i-d]_{N}-1$.
Else // $i \leq\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$
Set parent of vertex $[i-d]_{N}$ to $i$.
4. For $i=1$ to $d-1$ do

Let $x=i$.
While $x \leq N-2 d$ do
If $(d-i)>$ span_column then
If do_move $=$ True and $[N-(x+d)]_{d}=0$
and $\lfloor(N-(x+d)) / d\rfloor \leq\lfloor N / 2 d\rfloor$
Set parent of vertex $x+d$ to $x+d+1$.

## Else

Set parent of vertex $x+d$ to $x$.
Else $/ /(d-i) \leq$ span_columnd
Set parent of vertex $x+d$ to $x+2 d$.
Let $x=x+d$.
5. For $i=1$ to $\lfloor(N-d) / d\rfloor$ do

Let $x=i \times d$.
If do_move $=$ True and $i \leq\lfloor N / 2 d\rfloor$ then
Set parent of vertex $x$ to $x+1$.
Else
Set parent of vertex $x$ to $x-1$.
end.
$T_{1}$ using Procedure Gen_T1. Then, we generate $T_{2}$ using Procedure Gen_T2. We generate $T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ from $T_{1}$ and $T_{2}$ directly by replacing the label of each non-root vertex $v$ with $N-v$.

Then, we describe our algorithm for generating four independent spanning trees rooted at vertex 0 in $C R(N, d)$.

## Algorithm IST_CR

Input : $C R(N, d)$
Output: $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$
begin

1. Call Procedure Gen_T1 $(N, d)$.
2. Call Procedure Gen_T2 $(N, d)$.
3. Generate $T_{3}$ from $T_{1}$ by replacing the label of each non-root vertex $v$ in $T_{1}$ with $N-v$.
4. Generate $T_{4}$ from $T_{2}$ by replacing the label of each non-root vertex $v$ in $T_{2}$ with $N-v$.
end.

## Procedure Gen_T2( $N, d$ ) <br> begin

1. Calculate the span_column. Let node $=d \times\lfloor(N-(d-1)) / d\rfloor-1$. Let span_column $=[\text { node }-N]_{d}$. If span_column $<d-1$ then do_move $=$ True
2. For $i=1$ to $\lfloor(N-d) / d\rfloor$ do Let $x=i \times d$. Set parent of vertex $x$ to $x-d$.
3. For $i=d$ to $N-d-1$ and $[i+1]_{d} \neq 0$ do If $d-[i-1]_{d}>$ span_column then If do_move $=$ True and $[N-(i+1)]_{d}=0$ and $\lfloor(N-(i+1)) / d\rfloor \leq\lfloor N / 2 d\rfloor$
Set parent of vertex $i+1$ to $i+1-d$. Else

Set parent of vertex $i+1$ to $i$. Else // d-[i-1] $\leq$ span_column
Set parent of vertex $i+1$ to $i+2$. Let $x=x+d$.
4. For $i=1$ to $d-1$ do If $i \leq\lfloor(d-1) / 2\rfloor$ then
Set parent of vertex $i$ to $i+d$.
Else // $i>\lfloor(d-1) / 2\rfloor$
Set parent of vertex $i$ to $i+1$.
5. For $i=1$ to $d-1$ do If $i>\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$ then
Set parent of vertex $[i-d]_{N}$ to $i$.
Else // $i \leq\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$
Set parent of vertex $[i-d]_{N}$ to
$[i-d]_{N}-d$.
end.

For example, we generate $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ on $C R(14,4)$ as shown in Figure 3. Notice that the height of each tree in Figure 3 is reduced from five to four by comparing with the corresponding tree in Figure 2. Constructing the four independent spanning trees also takes linear time, as did in [10].

We are now at a position to compare the results of our algorithms with Iwasaki's algorithms. Using Iwasaki's algorithms, the height of each spanning tree can be expressed by a simple formula, i.e., $\operatorname{height}\left(T_{i}\right)=d+\lfloor(N-2 d) / d\rfloor$, where $i=$ $1,2,3,4$. Taking a look at our algorithm, in procedures Gen_T1 $(N, d)$ and Gen_T2 $(N, d)$, variable span_column plays an important role to determine the height of independent spanning trees generated by Algorithm IST_CR. For the sake of conciseness, we omit the detail analysis. In case of span_column = $\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$, the height of independent spanning trees is


Figure 3: $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ on $C R(14,4)$.
$d-\lfloor d / 2\rfloor+\lfloor(N-2 d) / d\rfloor+1$. In the best situation $(\lfloor N / 2 d\rfloor>1)$, the heights of $T_{1}$ and $T_{3}$ can be further reduced to $d-\lfloor d / 2\rfloor+\lfloor(N-2 d) / d\rfloor$. In the worst case, the height of independent spanning trees can not be reduced any more by using our algorithms. For example, the height of independent spanning trees on $C R(14,2)$ is $2+\lfloor(14-2 \times 2) / 2\rfloor=7$ by using Iwasaki's algorithms. This height can not be reduced. Consequently, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 1 Algorithm IST_CR can reduce the height of independent spanning trees in $R C(N, d)$ to an extent of $\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$ by comparing with Iwasaki's algorithms.

## 3 Another Algorithm for Constructing Independent Spanning Trees

In this section, we propose another algorithm to generate independent spanning trees for a special class of chordal rings. That is, this algorithm is designed for chordal rings $C R(N, d)$ where $N$ is dividable by $d$ (i.e., $[N]_{d}=0$ ) and $d>2$. For this class of chordal rings, Algorithm IST_CR does not help in independent spanning trees problem. We give the algorithm as follows.

Then, we describe our algorithm for generating four independent spanning trees rooted at vertex 0 in $C R(N, d)$. Clearly, constructing the four independent spanning trees also takes linear time.

```
Procedure Div_T1 \((N, d)\left(d>2,[N]_{d}=0\right.\). \()\)
begin
1. For \(i=1\) to \(d-1\) do
        Set parent of vertex \(i\) to \(i-1\).
2. For \(i=1\) to \(d-1\) do
        Let \(x=i\).
        While \(x \leq N-d\) do
            Case 1: \(i<\lfloor d / 2\rfloor\)
                If \(x / d<N / 2 d\) then
                    Set parent of vertex \(x+d\) to \(x\).
                Else
                    Set parent of vertex \(x+d\) to \([x+2 d]_{N}\).
        Case 2: \(i=\lfloor d / 2\rfloor\)
            If \(x / d<N / 2 d\) then
                    Set parent of vertex \(x+d\) to \(x\).
                Else
                    If \([d]_{2} \neq 0\) or \([x+2 d]_{N}<d\)
                            Set parent of vertex \(x+d\) to \([x+2 d]_{N}\).
                    Else
                        Set parent of vertex \(x+d\) to \([x+d-1]_{N}\).
                Case 3: \(i>\lfloor d / 2\rfloor\)
            Set parent of vertex \(x+d\) to \(x+d-1\).
            Let \(x=x+d\).
3. For \(i=1\) to \((N / d-1)\) do
        Let \(x=i \times d\).
        Set parent of vertex \(x\) to \(x+1\).
end.
```


## Algorithm DIV_CR

Input: $C R(N, d)\left(d>2,[N]_{d}=0\right.$.
Output: $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$

## begin

1. Call Procedure Div_T1 $(N, d)$.
2. Call Procedure Div_T2 $(N, d)$.
3. Generate $T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ using the same method as steps 3 and 4 of Algorithm IST_CR.
end.
For example, we generate $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ on $C R(35,5)$ as shown in Figure 4. The heights of $T_{1}$ and $T_{3}$ in Figure 4 are both 7, while the heights of $T_{2}$ and $T_{4}$ are both 8. Notice that the height of independent spanning trees constructed by Iwasaki's algorithm is 10. The result of Algorithm IST_CR is also 10.

Using Procedure Div_T1, the height of the spanning tree can be expressed by a simple formula, i.e., $d-1+\lfloor N / 2 d\rfloor$. That is, $\operatorname{height}\left(T_{1}\right)=\operatorname{height}\left(T_{3}\right)=d-$ $1+\lfloor N / 2 d\rfloor$. Meanwhile, the height of the spanning tree generated by procedure $\mathbf{D i v} \_\mathbf{T 2}$ is $N / d-$ $1+\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$. That is, height $\left(T_{2}\right)=\operatorname{height}\left(T_{4}\right)=N / d-$ $1+\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$. By comparing with Iwasaki's algorithms, the reduced height of each spanning tree is either $d+\lfloor(N-2 d) / d\rfloor-(d-1+\lfloor N / 2 d\rfloor)=\lfloor(N / d-1) / 2\rfloor$

## Procedure Div_T2 $(N, d)\left(d>2,[N]_{d}=0\right.$. $)$

## begin

1. For $i=1$ to $(N / d-1)$ do

Let $x=i \times d$.
Set parent of vertex $x$ to $x-d$.
2. For $i=1$ to $N / d-1$ do

Let $x=i \times d$.
If $i \leq\lfloor(N / d-1) / 2\rfloor$ then
For $j=1$ to $\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$ do
Set parent of vertex $x+j$ to $x+j-1$.
For $j=1$ to $\lfloor(d-1) / 2\rfloor$ do
Set parent of vertex $x-j$ to $x-j+1$.
Else $/ / i>\lfloor(N / d-1) / 2\rfloor$
For $j=1$ to $\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$ do
If $i=\lfloor(N / d) / 2\rfloor$ and $[N / d]_{2}=0$ then
Set parent of vertex $x+j$ to $x+j-1$. Else

Set parent of vertex $x+j$ to $x+j-d$.
For $j=1$ to $\lfloor(d-1) / 2\rfloor$ do Set parent of vertex $x-j$ to $x-j-d$.
3. For $i=1$ to $\lfloor(d-1) / 2\rfloor$ do

Set parent of vertex $i$ to $i+d$.
Set parent of vertex $N-i$ to $[N-i+d]_{N}$.
If $[d]_{2}=0$ then
The parent of vertex $d / 2$ to $d / 2+1$.
end.
or $d+\lfloor(N-2 d) / d\rfloor-(N / d-1+\lfloor d / 2\rfloor)=\lfloor(d-1) / 2\rfloor$. As a result, we have Theorem 2.

Theorem 2 Algorithm DIV_CR can reduce the height of independent spanning trees in $R C(N, d)$ by an amount of $\lfloor(N / d-1) / 2\rfloor$ (in $T_{1}$ and $T_{3}$ ) or $\lfloor(d-1) / 2\rfloor$ (in $T_{2}$ and $T_{4}$ ) by comparing with Iwasaki's algorithms.

## 4 Correctness of the algorithms

In this section, we shall concisely prove that $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ generated by both Algorithms IST_CR and DIV_CR are independent spanning trees rooted at 0 in $C R(N, d)$.

Lemma $3 T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ generated by both Algorithms IST_CR and DIV_CR are spanning trees of $C R(N, d)$.

Proof. By analyzing the steps of Algorithms IST_CR and DIV_CR, $T_{i}(\mathrm{i}=1,2,3,4)$ consists of $N$ vertices and $N-1$ edges. Meanwhile, $T_{i}$ is connected. Therefore, $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ are four spanning trees of $C R(N, d)$.


Figure 4: $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ on $C R(35,5)$.

To prove that $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ are pairwise independent, we define the ancestor set of a vertex $v$ in $T_{i}$ ( $i=1,2,3,4$ ), denoted by ancestor $(v, i)$, as the vertex set of the path from root vertex 0 to the parent vertex of $v$ in $T_{i}$. By the definition of independent spanning trees, we figure out that $T_{i}$ and $T_{j}(i \neq j)$ are independent if and only if for every vertex $v$ in $C R(N, d), v \neq 0$, ancestor $(v, i) \bigcap$ ancestor $(v, j)=0$. This property is the main idea in proving the following lemma.

Lemma $4 T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ generated by both Algorithms IST_CR and DIV_CR are mutually independent.

Proof. By analyzing the ancestor set of every vertex $v(v \neq 0)$ with respect to the four spanning trees generated by IST_CR orDIV_CR, we can prove that ancestor $(v, 1) \bigcap$ ancestor $(v, 2)$
$\bigcap$ ancestor $(v, 3) \bigcap$ ancestor $(v, 4)=0$. That is, $T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}$ and $T_{4}$ are mutually independent.

We summarize Lemmas 3 and 4 as Theorem 5.

Theorem 5 Algorithm IST_CR and Algorithm DIV_CR can correctly generate four independent spanning trees rooted at vertex 0 in $C R(N, d)$.

## 5 Concluding remarks

In this paper, we present two algorithms for constructing four independent spanning trees rooted at an arbitrary vertex in a chordal ring. By comparing with Iwasaki's algorithms, Algorithm IST_CR can reduce the height of each spanning tree to an extent of $\lfloor d / 2\rfloor$, while Algorithm DIV_CR can reduce the height of each spanning tree by an amount of $\lfloor(N / d-1) / 2\rfloor$ (in $T_{1}$ and $T_{3}$ ) or $\lfloor(d-1) / 2\rfloor$ (in $T_{2}$ and $T_{4}$ ). To provide a clear comparison, we aggregate the results of programming efforts as shown in Table 1. We use two criteria in Table 1, total height $(T H)$ and total path length (TPL). The former is the summation of $\operatorname{height}\left(T_{i}\right)(i=1,2,3,4)$, the latter is the summation of path length in each tree.

Table 1: Comparison of different algorithms.

|  |  | Iwasaki |  | IST_CR |  | DIV_CR |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| N | d | $T H$ | $T P L$ | $T H$ | $T P L$ | $T H$ | $T P L$ |
| 7 | 2 | 12 | 52 | 12 | 52 | N/A | N/A |
| 32 | 5 | 36 | 608 | 30 | 520 | N/A | N/A |
| 31 | 7 | 36 | 588 | 28 | 480 | N/A | N/A |
| 9 | 3 | 16 | 80 | 14 | 78 | 12 | 76 |
| 30 | 5 | 36 | 556 | 34 | 532 | 28 | 468 |
| 35 | 5 | 40 | 716 | 38 | 688 | 30 | 594 |
| 36 | 6 | 40 | 740 | 38 | 708 | 32 | 614 |
| 48 | 8 | 48 | 1180 | 46 | 1120 | 38 | 958 |
| 99 | 11 | 72 | 3604 | 70 | 3454 | 54 | 2834 |

## References

[1] Bruce W. Arden, Hikyu Lee, Analysis of chordal ring network, IEEE Transactions on Computers, Vol. C-30, No. 4, April 1981, pp. 291-295.
[2] F. Bao, Y. Igarashi, S.R. Ohring, Reliable broadcasting in product networks, IEICE Technical Report COMP, 95(18), 1995, pp. 57-66.
[3] J.-C.Bermond, F. Comellas, D. F. Hsu, Distributed loop computer networks: A survey, Journal of Parallel and Distributed Computing, Vol. 24, 1995, pp. 2-10.
[4] Nimmagadda Chalamaiah, Badrinath Ramamurthy, Finding shortest paths in distributed loop networks, Information Processing Letters, Vol. 67, 1998, pp. 157-161.
[5] J. Cheriyan, S. N. Maheshwari, Finding nonseparating induced cycles and independent spanning trees in 3-connected graphs, Journal of Algorithms 9, 1988, pp. 507-537.
[6] S. Curran, Independent Trees in 4-connected graphs, Doctoral thesis at School of Mathematics, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2003.
[7] D.-Z. Du, D. F. Hsu, Qiao Li, Junming Xu,A combinational problem related to distributed loop networks, Networks, Vol. 20, 1990, pp. 173180.
[8] Paul Erdos, Frank D. Hsu,Distributed loop network with minimum transmission delay, Theoretical Computer Science, Vol. 100, 1992, pp. 223241.
[9] A. Itai, M. Rodeh,The multi-tree approach to reliability in distributed networks, Information and Computation 79, 1988, pp. 43-59.
[10] Yukihiro Iwasaki, Yuka Kajiwara, Koji Obokata, Yoshihide Igarashi, Idependent spanning trees of chordal rings, Information Processing Letters 69, 1999, pp. 155-160.
[11] Krishnendu Mukhopadhyaya, Bhabani P. Sinha, Fault-tolerant routing in distributed loop networks, IEEE Transactions on Computers, Vol. 44, No. 12, 1995, pp. 1452-1456.
[12] L.Narayanan, J. Opatrny, Compact routing on chordal rings of degree 4, Algorithmica, Vol. 23, 1999, pp. 72-96.
[13] Behrooz Parhami, Ding-Ming Kwai, Periodically regular chordal rings, IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems, Vol. 10, No. 6, 1999, pp. 658-672.
[14] Guy W. Zimmerman, Acdol-Hossein Esfahanian, Chordal rings as fault-tolerant loops, Discrete Applied Mathematics, Vol. 37/38, 1992, pp. 563573.
[15] A. Zehavi, A. Itai, Three tree-paths, Journal of Graph Theory 13, 1989, pp. 175-188.


[^0]:    *All correspondence should be addressed to Professor Yue-Li Wang, Department of Information Management, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, 43, Section 4, Kee-Lung Road, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China (Phone: 886-02-7376768, Fax: 886-02-7376777, Email: ylwang@cs.ntust.edu.tw).

