

# Vertex-Distinguishing E-Total Colorings of Complete Bipartite Graphs with One Part Having Five Vertices

Xiang'en CHEN, Shiling LI

**Abstract**—Suppose  $G$  is a simple graph. If  $f$  is a mapping from  $V(G) \cup E(G)$  to  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  such that  $f(e), f(u), f(v)$  are distinct for each edge  $e = uv$  of  $G$ , then  $f$  is called an E-total coloring of  $G$  using  $k$  colors ( $k$ -E-total coloring of  $G$ , in brief). For an E-total coloring  $f$  of a graph  $G$  and any vertex  $x$  of  $G$ , we denote the set

$$\{f(x)\} \cup \{f(e) | e \in E(G) \text{ and } e \text{ is incident with } x\}$$

by  $C(x)$  and refer to it as the color set of  $x$  under  $f$ . If  $C(u) \neq C(v)$  for any two different vertices  $u$  and  $v$  of  $V(G)$ , then we say that  $f$  is a vertex-distinguishing E-total coloring of  $G$  or a VDET coloring of  $G$  for short. Let

$$\chi_{vt}^e(G) = \{k | G \text{ has a VDET coloring using } k \text{ colors}\}.$$

Then the positive integer  $\chi_{vt}^e(G)$  is called the VDET chromatic number of  $G$ . The VDET coloring of complete bipartite graph  $K_{5,n}$  is discussed in this paper and the VDET chromatic number of  $K_{5,n}$  has been obtained.

**Index Terms**—graph; complete bipartite graphs; E-total coloring; vertex-distinguishing E-total coloring; vertex-distinguishing E-total chromatic number

## I. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

COLORING problem in graph theory research has important theoretical significance and applications. In this paper we will discuss a kind of coloring: vertex-distinguishing E-total coloring of graphs. All graphs considered in this paper are simple, finite and undirected.

For a total coloring (proper or not)  $f$  of  $G$  and a vertex  $x$  of  $G$ , let

$$\{f(x)\} \cup \{f(e) | e \in E(G) \text{ and } e \text{ is incident with } x\}.$$

Note that  $C(x)$  is not a multiset. We refer to  $C(x)$  as the color set of  $x$  under  $f$ .

For a proper total coloring, if  $C(u) \neq C(v)$  for any two distinct vertices  $u$  and  $v$ , then the coloring is called a vertex-distinguishing (proper) total coloring, or a VDT coloring of  $G$  for short.

$$\chi_{vt}(G) = \{k | G \text{ has a VDT coloring using } k \text{ colors}\}.$$

Then the positive integer  $\chi_{vt}(G)$  is called the VDT chromatic number of  $G$ . The vertex distinguishing (proper) total colorings of graphs are introduced and studied in [8]. The

VDT chromatic number of complete graph, star, complete bipartite graph, wheel, fan, path and cycle are determined in [8] and a conjecture was proposed in [8]:  $\chi_{vt}(G) = \mu(G)$  or  $\mu(G)+1$ , where  $\mu(G)$  denote the minimum positive integer  $k$  such that  $\binom{k}{i+1}$  is not less than  $n_i$  ( $\delta(G) \leq i \leq \Delta(G)$ ). We denote the number of vertices of degree  $i$  in  $G$  by  $n_i(G)$  or  $n_i$  simply. In [2], the vertex-distinguishing total coloring of  $n$ -cube were discussed. In [3], the relations of VDT chromatic numbers between a subgraph and its supergraph had been studied. When  $p$  is even,  $p \geq 4$  and  $q \geq 3$ , the VDT chromatic numbers of complete  $p$ -partite graphs with each part of cardinality  $q$  had been obtained in [7].

If  $f$  is a mapping from  $V(G) \cup E(G)$  to  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  such that  $f(e), f(u), f(v)$  are distinct for each edge  $e = uv$  of  $G$ , then  $f$  is called an E-total coloring of  $G$  using  $k$  colors ( $k$ -E-total coloring of  $G$ , in brief). For an E-total coloring  $f$  of a graph  $G$  and any vertex  $x$  of  $G$ , we denote the set

$$\{f(x)\} \cup \{f(e) | e \in E(G) \text{ and } e \text{ is incident with } x\}$$

by  $C(x)$  and refer to it as the color set of  $x$  under  $f$ . If  $C(u) \neq C(v)$  for any two different vertices  $u$  and  $v$  of  $V(G)$ , then we say that  $f$  is a vertex-distinguishing E-total coloring of  $G$  or a VDET coloring of  $G$  for short. Let

$$\chi_{vt}^e(G) = \{k | G \text{ has a VDET coloring using } k \text{ colors}\}.$$

Then the positive integer  $\chi_{vt}^e(G)$  is called the VDET chromatic number of  $G$ .

The VDET colorings of complete graph, complete bipartite graph  $K_{2,n}$ , star, wheel, fan, path and cycle were discussed in [5]. The VDET chromatic numbers of  $mC_3$  and  $mC_4$  are obtained in [6]. The VDET coloring of complete bipartite graph  $K_{5,n}$  is discussed in this paper and the VDET chromatic number of  $K_{5,n}$  has been obtained.

A parameter was introduced in [5]:  $\eta(G) = \min\{l : \binom{l}{2} + \binom{l}{3} + \dots + \binom{l}{i+1} \geq n_\delta + n_{\delta+1} + \dots + n_i, 1 \leq \delta \leq i \leq \Delta\}$ ,  $n_i$  denote the number of vertices with degree  $i$ ,  $\delta \leq i \leq \Delta$ . At the end of the paper [5], a conjecture was proposed.

**Conjecture 1** ([5]) For a graph  $G$  with no isolated vertices and chromatic number at most 5, we have  $\chi_{vt}^e(G) = \eta(G)$  or  $\eta(G) + 1$ .

In this paper, we will consider the VDET coloring of complete bipartite graph  $K_{5,n}$  and confirm Conjecture 1 for  $K_{5,n}$ .

For not necessarily proper total colorings which are adjacent vertex distinguishing, we can see [4]. For other notations and terminologies we can refer to [1].

Let  $X = \{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, u_5\}$ ,  $Y = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_n\}$ ,  $V(K_{5,n}) = X \cup Y$  and  $E(K_{5,n}) = \{u_i v_j : 1 \leq i \leq 5, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$ .

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Xiang'en CHEN is a professor of College of Mathematics and Statistics, Northwest Normal University, Lanzhou 730070, P R China (chenxe@nwnu.edu.cn, xiangenchen@163.com).

Shiling LI is a teacher of School of intelligent engineering and intelligent manufacturing, Hunan University of Technology and Business, Changsha 410205, P R China (lishilingjw@163.com).

**Global description of the main results:** Let  $M_5, M_6, M_7, M_8, M_9$  and  $M_k$  denote the integer intervals  $[5, 11], [12, 39], [40, 100], [101, 220], [221, 437]$  and  $[(\binom{k-1}{2}) + (\binom{k-1}{3}) + (\binom{k-1}{4}) + (\binom{k-1}{5}) + (\binom{k-1}{6}) - 2(k-1), (\binom{k}{2}) + (\binom{k}{3}) + (\binom{k}{4}) + (\binom{k}{5}) + (\binom{k}{6}) - 2k - 1]$ , where  $k \geq 10$ . We will prove the result "If  $n \in M_s$  with  $s \geq 5$ , then  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) = s$ " by giving six theorems in Section 2.

II. BASIC IDEAS OF THE PROOFS OF THE THEOREMS IN SECTION III

In order to prove that the VDET chromatic number of a graph  $K_{5,n}$  is  $l$  ( for  $l \in \{5, 6, 7, 8, 9, k\}$  ) in each theorems, we have done two jobs as follows:

1. We need to prove that  $K_{5,n}$  doesn't have  $(l - 1)$ -VDET coloring by contradiction. Assume that  $K_{5,n}$  has a  $(l - 1)$ -VDET coloring using colors  $1, 2, \dots, l - 1$ , we will consider five cases when the number of different colors of five vertices in  $X$  is  $1, 2, 3, 4$  and  $5$  successively. Then we can find the subsets of  $\{1, 2, \dots, l - 1\}$  which may become the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . According to the definition of VDET coloring and the colors of vertices in  $X$ , we only need to consider some special subsets and finally we can obtain contradictions.

2. We can prove that  $K_{5,n}$  has an  $l$ -VDET coloring. In the 2-subsets, 3-subsets,  $\dots, (l - 1)$ -subsets and  $l$ -subsets of  $\{1, 2, \dots, l\}$ , we may select  $n + 5$  subsets appropriately, and let these  $n + 5$  subsets correspond to the vertices in  $X \cup Y$ , such that the different vertices corresponded to different subsets. Then we will find an E-total coloring  $f$  of  $K_{5,n}$ , under this E-total coloring, the color set of every vertex is the subset corresponded to this vertex in advance. So we can obtain that the coloring  $f$  is vertex distinguishing. Namely,  $f$  is an  $l$ -VDET coloring of  $K_{5,n}$ .

Suppose  $p_s$  is the maximum number in  $M_s$ , i.e.,  $p_s = \max M_s, s \geq 5$ .

In order to construct required coloring, we can give a 5-VDET coloring  $f_{11}$  of  $K_{5,11}$  firstly. Then based on the  $(s - 1)$ -VDET coloring  $f_{p_{s-1}}$  of  $K_{5,p_{s-1}}$  for every  $s \in \{6, 7, \dots\}$ , we increase a new color  $s$ , and give required coloring of  $p_s - p_{s-1}$  new degree five vertices and their incident edges. So we can obtain an  $s$ -VDET coloring  $f_{p_s}$  of  $K_{5,p_s}$ .

When we have constructed an  $s$ -VDET coloring  $f_{p_s}$  of  $K_{5,p_s}$  for each  $s \geq 5$ , we delete some vertices in  $Y$  and their incident edges gradually, then we can obtain an  $s$ -VDET coloring of  $K_{5,n}$  when  $n \in M_s \setminus \{p_s\}$ .

This process should be carried out recursively.

III. MAIN RESULTS

**Theorem 1.** If  $5 \leq n \leq 11$ , then  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) = 5$ .

**Proof.** We only need to prove that  $K_{5,n}$  has no 4-VDET coloring, in the same time, we will give a 5-VDET coloring of  $K_{5,n}$ .

Assume that  $K_{5,n}$  has a 4-VDET coloring  $f$  using colors  $1, 2, 3$  and  $4$ . There are three cases to consider.

**Case 1**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive the same color under  $f$ . We may suppose that  $f(u_i) = 1, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . So none of the  $C(v_j)$  include color 1 and each  $C(v_j)$  is one of  $\{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$ . When  $5 \leq n \leq 11$ , we can obtain a contradiction, since four subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$ .

**Case 2**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive two different colors, say 1 and 2, under  $f$ . Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2$ . So each  $C(v_j)$  is one of  $\{3, 4\}, \{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . We can obtain a contradiction since 6 subsets can not distinguish  $n (7 \leq n \leq 11)$  vertices in  $Y$ .

When  $n = 5, 6$ . From one subset in  $\{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}\}$ , say  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ , must be the color set of some vertex in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$ , and when  $n = 5$ , each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 2\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 4\}$ . This is a contradiction. When  $n = 6$ , each  $C(u_i)$  is equal to  $\{1, 2\}$ . This is also a contradiction.

**Case 3**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive three different colors, say 1, 2 and 3, under  $f$ . Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3$ , and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . So the color set of each  $v_j$  is one of  $\{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . This is a contradiction since 4 subsets can not distinguish  $n (5 \leq n \leq 11)$  vertices in  $Y$ .

Hence  $K_{5,n}$  does not have a 4-VDET coloring and  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) \geq 5$  when  $5 \leq n \leq 11$ . We will give a 5-VDET coloring  $f_n$  of  $K_{5,n}$ .

Let  $f_n = (a_1b_1c_1d_1e_1g_1, a_2b_2c_2d_2e_2g_2, \dots, a_nb_nc_nd_ne_ng_n, 2b_1b_2 \dots b_n, 1c_1c_2 \dots c_n, 1d_1d_2 \dots d_n, 2e_1e_2 \dots e_n, 2g_1g_2 \dots g_n)$ , where " $a_jb_jc_jd_je_jg_j$ " (composed with six ordered colors  $a_j, b_j, c_j, d_j, e_j$  and  $g_j$ ) represents the colors of the vertex  $v_j$  and its incident edges: the color of  $v_j$  is  $a_j$ , the colors of  $u_1v_j, u_2v_j, u_3v_j, u_4v_j, u_5v_j$  are  $b_j, c_j, d_j, e_j, g_j$ , respectively. And the colors of  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, u_5$  are 2, 1, 1, 2, 2 respectively.

Next we will give a 5-VDET coloring  $f_n$  of  $K_{5,n}$ .

$f_{11} = (344444, 533333, 533331, 533233, 435355, 544444, 544441, 544244, 533231, 544241, 344441, 243333444344, 143335444344, 143323442224, 243335444344, 243135414111)$

Based on  $K_{5,11}$  and its coloring  $f_{11}$ , if we delete the vertex whose color set is  $\{1, 3, 4\}$ , then we obtain  $K_{5,10}$  and its 5-VDET coloring  $f_{10}$ . Based on  $K_{5,10}$  and its coloring  $f_{10}$ , if we delete  $i$  vertices, where  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , whose color sets are in  $\{\{1, 2, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 5\}, \{2, 4, 5\}, \{1, 4, 5\}, \{4, 5\}\}$ , then we obtain  $K_{5,10-i}$  and its 5-VDET coloring  $f_{10-i}$ .

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

**Theorem 2.** If  $12 \leq n \leq 39$ , then  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) = 6$ .

**Proof.** Assume that  $K_{5,n}$  has a 5-VDET coloring  $f$ . There are four cases we need to consider.

**Case 1**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive the same color under  $f$ . We may suppose that  $f(u_i) = 1, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , so none of the  $C(v_j)$  include color 1 and each  $C(u_i)$  is in  $A = \{\{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{2, 5\}, \{3, 4\}, \{3, 5\}, \{4, 5\}, \{2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}, \{2, 4, 5\}, \{3, 4, 5\}, \{2, 3, 4, 5\}\}$ . We can obtain a contradiction since 11 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $12 \leq n \leq 39$ .

**Case 2**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive two different colors under  $f$ . We may assume that  $f(u_i) \in \{1, 2\}, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2$ . So the number of the subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{5}{2} + \binom{5}{3} + \binom{5}{4} + \binom{5}{5} - 7 = 19$ . A contradiction may arise since 19 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $20 \leq n \leq 39$ .

Let  $B_1 = \{\{3, 4\}, \{3, 5\}, \{4, 5\}\}$ ,  
 $B_2 = \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}\}$ ,

$B_3 = \{\{1, 3, 4\}, \{1, 3, 5\}, \{1, 4, 5\}, \{2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}, \{2, 4, 5\}, \{3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{1, 2, 3, 5\}, \{1, 3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 4, 5\}, \{2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}\}$ .

◇ If one set in  $B_1$  and one set in  $B_2$ , say  $\{3, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ , are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we may obtain that  $\{1, 2, 3\} \subseteq C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$  or  $\{1, 2, 4\} \subseteq C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , without loss of generality, we may assume that  $\{1, 2, 3\} \subseteq C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . Then each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{1, 2, 3, 5\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . This is a contradiction. So we need to consider the following subcases.

**2.1**  $n = 16$ .

◇ If  $\{3, 4\}, \{3, 5\}$  and  $\{4, 5\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is equal to  $\{1, 2\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If  $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 5\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least two common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5\}$ , say 3 and 4. So each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . This is a contradiction.

**2.2**  $n = 15$ . There exist four subsets in  $B_1 \cup B_2 \cup B_3$  which are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ .

◇  $\{3, 4\}, \{3, 5\}$  and  $\{4, 5\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From one set in  $B_2$  is a color set of some vertex in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$ . So there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇  $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 5\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From one set in  $B_1$  is a color set of some vertex in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains one common color. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**2.3**  $n = 14$ . There exist five subsets in  $B_1 \cup B_2 \cup B_3$  which are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ .

◇ Two subsets in  $B_1$  and three subsets in  $B_2$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From one set in  $B_1$  is a color set of some vertex in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains one common color. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ Two subsets in  $B_2$  and three subsets in  $B_1$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From one set in  $B_2$  is a color set of some vertex in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If  $\{3, 4\}, \{3, 5\}, \{4, 5\}$  and two subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then from  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  is a color set of some vertex in  $Y$ , we can know that  $\{1, 2\} \subseteq C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , and there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇  $\{\{1, 2, i\} | i = 3, 4, 5\}$  and two subsets in  $B_3$  are not the sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

**2.4**  $n = 13$ . There exist six subsets in  $B_1 \cup B_2 \cup B_3$  which are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ .

◇ If one subset in  $B_1$ , three subsets in  $B_2$  and two subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color, say 3. So some

sets  $C(u_i)$  contain  $\{1, 3\}$ , and others contain  $\{2, 3\}$ . If two subsets, say  $\{1, 4, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 4, 5\}$ , are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . This is a contradiction since three subsets are not distinguish 5 vertices in  $X$ ; If two subsets, which contain  $\{1, 3\}$  or  $\{2, 3\}$ , are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then from  $\{1, 4, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 4, 5\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 3, 5\}, \{2, 3, 5\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 5\}$  or each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ There exist exactly one subset in  $B_3$  is not a color set of vertex in  $Y$ , we can know that only one subset in  $B_1 \cup B_2$  is a color set of vertex in  $Y$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one subset in  $B_2$ , three subsets in  $B_1$  and two subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then  $\{1, 2\} \subseteq C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , and there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ All subsets in  $B_1 \cup B_2$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From  $\{1, 4, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 4, 5\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that there exist at least two sets  $C(u_i)$  contain  $\{1, 2\}$ , and others contain  $\{1, 5\}, \{1, 4\}, \{2, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 4\}$ . Because not all vertices in  $Y$  contain color 4 or 5, so each  $u_i$  is not a 2-subset. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 5\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If three subsets in  $B_1$  and three subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then  $\{1, 2\} \subseteq C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , and there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If three subsets in  $B_2$  and three subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least two common colors, say 3 and 4. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ , and there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**2.5**  $n = 12$ . There exist seven subsets in  $B_1 \cup B_2 \cup B_3$  which are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ .

◇ If one subset in  $B_1$ , say  $\{4, 5\}$ , three subsets in  $B_2$  and three subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color, say 3. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3\}$  or  $\{2, 3\}$ . If  $\{1, 4, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 4, 5\}$  is not the color set of vertex in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction easily since there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . So  $\{1, 4, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 4, 5\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , and we may suppose that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . So there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is also a contradiction.

◇ If three subsets in  $B_1$ , one subset in  $B_2$  and three subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$  and each  $C(u_i)$  is not  $\{1, 2\}$  since there exist 5 subsets in  $B_3$  do not contain color 1, and 5 subsets in  $B_3$  do not contain color 2. So there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ One subset in  $B_3$ , say  $\{1, 4, 5\}$ , and all subsets in  $B_1 \cup B_2$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From  $\{1, 3, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 3, 5\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that there exist at least two sets  $C(u_i)$  contain  $\{1, 2\}$ , and all sets contain color 3 or 5. By using the same method, each  $C(u_i)$  is not a 2-subset. So there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If two subsets in  $B_1$ , say  $\{3, 5\}$  and  $\{4, 5\}$ , three subsets in  $B_2$  and two subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains one common color, say 3. Since there exist three subsets in  $B_3$  which not contain color 3, we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is not a 2-subset. So  $|C(u_i) \cup C(v_j)| = |B_3 \cup \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{3, 5\}, \{4, 5\}\}| = 16$ . This is a contradiction since 16 subsets can not distinguish  $5 + n = 17$  vertices in  $X \cup Y$ .

◇ If three subsets in  $B_1$ , two subsets in  $B_2$ , say  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 4\}$ , and two subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$ . Since 5 subsets in  $B_3$  do not contain color 2, and 5 subsets in  $B_3$  do not contain color 1, we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  is not a 2-subset. So  $|C(u_i) \cup C(v_j)| = |B_3 \cup \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}\}| = 15$ . This is a contradiction since 15 subsets can not distinguish  $5 + n = 17$  vertices in  $X \cup Y$ .

◇ If three subsets in  $B_1$  and four subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$ . From the above discussion, each  $C(u_i)$  is not a 2-subset and there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If three subsets in  $B_2$  and four subsets in  $B_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least two common colors, say 3 and 4. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**Case 3**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive three different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, and 3. Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3$ , and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . So the number of the subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{5}{2} + \binom{5}{3} + \binom{5}{4} + \binom{5}{5} - 10 = 16$ . A contradiction may arise since 19 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $17 \leq n \leq 39$ .

Let  $C_1 = \{\{4, 5\}\}$ ,  $C_2 = \{\{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{1, 3, 5\}, \{2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}\}$ ,  $C_3 = \{\{1, 4, 5\}, \{2, 4, 5\}, \{3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{1, 2, 3, 5\}, \{1, 3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 4, 5\}, \{2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}\}$ .

◇ If one subset in  $\{\{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}\}$ , one subset in  $\{\{1, 3, 4\}, \{1, 3, 5\}\}$  and one subset in  $\{\{2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . So each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{1, 2, 3, 5\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . This is a contradiction since 4 subsets can not distinguish 5 vertices in  $X$ .

**3.1**  $n = 14$ . There exist two subsets in  $C_1 \cup C_2 \cup C_3$  which are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ .

◇ If  $\{4, 5\}$  and one subset in  $C_2 \cup C_3$  (or one subset in  $C_3$ ) are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph. If two sets in  $C_2$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , say  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 5\}$ , then from  $\{4, 5\}$  is a color set of vertex in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{3, 5\}$  or each  $C(u_i)$

contains  $\{3, 4\}$ , we may suppose that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{3, 4\}$ . So the color sets of  $\{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, u_5\}$  contain  $\{3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  is  $\{3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . This is also a contradiction.

**3.2**  $n = 13$ . There exist three subsets in  $C_1 \cup C_2 \cup C_3$  which are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ .

◇ Three subsets in  $C_2$ , say  $\{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}$  and  $\{1, 3, 4\}$ , are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . Since  $\{4, 5\}, \{1, 3, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 3, 4\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , and we may assume that some  $v_j$  has color 5, we can know that the color sets of  $\{u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, u_5\}$  contain  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain a contradiction.

◇  $\{4, 5\}$  and two subsets in  $C_2$ , say  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 5\}$ , are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From the above discussion, we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  contains color 3. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ One set in  $C_3$  and two subsets in  $C_2$ , say  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 5\}$ , are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From  $\{4, 5\}, \{1, 3, 4\}$  and  $\{2, 3, 4\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , and we may suppose that some  $v_j$  has color 5. We can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{3, 4\}$ , from the above discussion, we can also obtain a contradiction.

**3.3**  $n = 12$ . There exist four subsets in  $C_1 \cup C_2 \cup C_3$  which are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ .

◇ Four subsets in  $C_2$ , say  $\{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}, \{1, 3, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 3, 5\}$ , are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From  $\{4, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 3, 4\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , and we may suppose that some  $v_j$  has color 5. We can know that at least two sets  $C(u_i)$  contain  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that there exist at least two sets  $C(u_i)$  which are equal to the color set of some vertex  $v_j$ . This is a contradiction.

◇  $\{4, 5\}$  and three subsets in  $C_2$ , say  $\{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}$  and  $\{1, 3, 4\}$ , are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From  $\{1, 3, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 3, 4\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3\}$  or  $\{2, 3\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $\{1, 3, 4\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ One subset in  $C_3$  and three subsets in  $C_2$ , say  $\{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}$  and  $\{1, 3, 4\}$ , are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From the above discussion, we can obtain that there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ Two subsets in  $C_2$ , say  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 5\}$ , and two subsets in  $C_3$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From  $\{4, 5\}, \{1, 3, 4\}$  and  $\{2, 3, 4\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , and we may suppose that some  $v_j$  has color 5, we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇  $\{4, 5\}$ , one subset in  $C_3$  and two subsets in  $C_2$ , say  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 5\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . By using the same method, we can obtain that there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of

TABLE I  
COLORING METHODS

the color set of $v_j$	the colors of $v_j$ and $u_i v_j (i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$
$\{a, k\}$	$a; k, k, k, k, k$
$\{1, 2, k\}$	$k; 1, 2, 2, 1, 1$
$\{a, b, k\}$	$a; k, b, k, k, k$
$\{1, b, k\}$	$b; k, k, k, 1, 1$
$\{2, b, k\}$	$b; k, 2, k, k, k$
$\{a, b, c, k\}$	$a; k, b, c, k, k$
$\{1, b, c, k\}$	$b; k, c, k, 1, 1$
$\{1, 2, c, k\}$	$c; 1, 2, 2, 1, k$
$\{2, b, c, k\}$	$b; c, 2, k, k, k$
$\{a, b, c, d, k\}$	$a; k, b, c, d, k$
$\{1, b, c, d, k\}$	$b; k, c, d, 1, k$
$\{2, b, c, d, k\}$	$b; c, 2, d, k, k$
$\{1, 2, c, d, k\}$	$c; 1, 2, d, 1, k$
$\{a, b, c, d, e, k\}$	$a; k, b, c, d, e$
$\{1, b, c, d, e, k\}$	$b; k, c, d, 1, e$
$\{2, b, c, d, e, k\}$	$b; c, 2, d, e, k$
$\{1, 2, c, d, e, k\}$	$c; 1, d, 2, e, k$

vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**Case 4**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive four different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, 3 and 4. Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  is not a 2-subset, and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . So the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{5}{3} + \binom{5}{4} + \binom{5}{5} - 5 = 11$ . A contradiction may arise since 11 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $12 \leq n \leq 39$ .

Hence  $K_{5,n}$  does not have a 5-VDET coloring and  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) \geq 6$  when  $12 \leq n \leq 39$ .

Based on  $K_{5,11}$  and its coloring  $f_{11}$ , we can give a 6-VDET coloring  $f_n$  of  $K_{5,n}$  ( $12 \leq n \leq 39$ ). In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , subsets  $\{2, 3, 4, 6\}, \{1, 3, 4, 5, 6\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}, \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  are not the color sets of any vertices in  $Y$ . So  $f_n = f_{11} + (3666666, 344244, 345451, 344241, 345245, 345241, \dots)$ . We can by coloring other vertices  $v_j$  and its incident edges ( $18 \leq j \leq 39$ ) according to the method given in Table I (the second column in Table I shows that the colors of  $v_j; u_1 v_j, u_2 v_j, u_3 v_j, u_4 v_j, u_5 v_j$ ), in the same time, the colors of  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  are 2, 1, 1, 2 and 2 respectively. Finally we can obtain the 6-VDET coloring  $f_n$  ( $12 \leq n \leq 39$ ) of  $K_{5,n}$ .

The proof of Theorem 2 is completed.

**Theorem 3.** If  $40 \leq n \leq 100$ , then  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) = 7$ .

**Proof.** Assume that  $K_{5,n}$  has a 6-VDET coloring  $f$ . There are five cases we need to consider.

**Case 1**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive the same color under  $f$ . We may suppose that  $f(u_i) = 1, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , so none of the  $C(v_j)$  include color 1 and the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{5}{2} + \binom{5}{3} + \binom{5}{4} + \binom{5}{5} = 26$ . A contradiction may arise since 26 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $40 \leq n \leq 100$ .

**Case 2**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive two different colors under  $f$ . We may assume that  $f(u_i) \in \{1, 2\}, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . Then the color sets  $C(v_j)$  do not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2$ . So the number of the subsets of

$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{6}{2} + \binom{6}{3} + \binom{6}{4} + \binom{6}{5} + \binom{6}{6} - 9 = 48$ . A contradiction may arise since 48 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $49 \leq n \leq 100$ .

If four subsets in  $\{\{3, 4\}, \{3, 5\}, \{3, 6\}, \{4, 5\}, \{4, 6\}, \{5, 6\}\}$  and one subset in  $\{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}, \{1, 2, 6\}\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least four common colors, say 1, 2, 3 and 4. So each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . This is a contradiction. So we only need to consider the following subcases.

Let  $A = \{\{3, 4\}, \{3, 5\}, \{3, 6\}, \{4, 5\}, \{4, 6\}, \{5, 6\}, \{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}, \{1, 2, 6\}\}$ . We denoted the set, which contains all 48 subsets except  $A$ , as  $S$ .

**2.1**  $n = 45$ .

If three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 1, 2 and 3. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is equal to  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . This is a contradiction.

**2.2**  $n = 44$ .

Four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From all 2-subsets in  $A$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3, 4 and 5. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . This is a contradiction.

If four 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3. So  $\{1, 2, 3\} \subset C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . This is a contradiction.

If one 3-subset and three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

If one subset in  $S$  and three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3. So  $\{1, 2, 3\} \subset C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that there exist at most one subset which may become the color set of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**2.3**  $n = 43$ .

If five 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3. So  $\{1, 2, 3\} \subset C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . This is a contradiction.

Two 3-subset and three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . This discussion is similar to the last paragraph.

If one 3-subset and four 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can also obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

One subset in  $S$  and four 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From the above discussion, we may assume that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . Then there exist at most one subset which may become the color set of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one subset in  $S$  and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3, 4 and 5. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ , and there exist at most one subset which may become the color set of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ One 2-subset and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From the above discussion, we may assume that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . This is also a contradiction.

◇ If two subsets in  $S$  and three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 1, 2 and 3. So there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one subset in  $S$ , one 3-subset and three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

**2.4  $n = 42$ .**

◇ If six 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is equal to  $\{1, 2\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one 3-subset and five 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 1, 2 and 3. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is equal to  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one subset in  $S$  and five 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

◇ If one subset in  $S$ , one 2-subset and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least two common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3 and 4. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that there exist at most one subset which may become the color set of vertex in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one subset in  $S$ , one 3-subset and four 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 1, 2 and 3. So there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one subset in  $S$ , two 3-subsets and three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

◇ Two subsets in  $S$ , one 3-subset and three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From the above discussion, we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 1, 2 and 3. So there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If three 3-subsets and three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 1, 2 and 3. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is equal to  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If two 3-subsets and four 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

◇ Three subsets in  $S$  and three 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the

color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From the above discussion, there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If two 2-subsets and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least two common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3 and 4. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If two subsets in  $S$  and four 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 1, 2 and 3. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If two subsets in  $S$  and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3, 4 and 5. So each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one 2-subset and one 3-subset in  $A$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , and there exist at most three subsets in  $S$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors and there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**2.5  $n = 41$ .**

◇ One subset in  $S$  and six 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  is a color set of vertex in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one 3-subset, say  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ , and six 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$ , and each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 2\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If two subsets in  $S$ , one 2-subset and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least two common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3 and 4. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one subset in  $S$ , two 2-subsets and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

◇ If three 2-subsets and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3\}$  or  $\{2, 3\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If three 2-subsets and four subsets in  $S$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 1, 2 and 3. So there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If three subsets in  $S$  and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at

least three common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3, 4 and 5. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**2.6**  $n = 40$ .

◇ If one subset in  $S$ , one 3-subset and six 2-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2\}$  and there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one 2-subset and four 3-subsets in  $A$  and three subsets in  $S$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least two common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3 and 4. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If two 2-subsets and four 3-subsets in  $A$  and two subsets in  $S$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

◇ If three 2-subsets and one 3-subset in  $A$  and four subsets in  $S$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . From  $\{1, 4, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 4, 5\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 5\}$ . So there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If three 2-subsets in  $A$  and five subsets in  $S$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

◇ If one subset in  $S$ , three 2-subset and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3\}$  or  $\{2, 3\}$ . But there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If four 2-subsets in  $S$  and four subsets in  $S$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  and there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If four 3-subsets in  $S$  and four subsets in  $S$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3, 4 and 5. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If four 2-subsets and four 3-subsets in  $A$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3\}$  or  $\{2, 3\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 3\}$ ,  $\{2, 3\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . This is a contradiction.

**Case 3**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive three different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2 and 3. Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . So the number of the subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  which may become the color sets of the

vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{6}{2} + \binom{6}{3} + \binom{6}{4} + \binom{6}{5} + \binom{6}{6} - 13 = 44$ . A contradiction may arise since 44 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $45 \leq n \leq 100$ .

◇ If one subset in  $\{\{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}, \{1, 2, 6\}\}$ , one subset in  $\{\{1, 3, 4\}, \{1, 3, 5\}, \{1, 3, 6\}\}$ , one subset in  $\{\{2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}, \{2, 3, 6\}\}$  and one subset in  $\{\{4, 5\}, \{4, 6\}, \{5, 6\}\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least four common colors in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 1, 2, 3 and 4. So each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . This is a contradiction.

When  $n = 41, 40$ .

◇ If  $\{4, 5\}, \{4, 6\}$  and  $\{5, 6\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we may assume that each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

◇  $\{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 2, 5\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 6\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From one subset in  $\{\{1, 3, 4\}, \{1, 3, 5\}, \{1, 3, 6\}\}$ , one subset in  $\{\{2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}, \{2, 3, 6\}\}$  and one subset in  $\{\{4, 5\}, \{4, 6\}, \{5, 6\}\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least two common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , say 3 and 4. So each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If  $\{1, 3, 4\}, \{1, 3, 5\}$  and  $\{1, 3, 6\}$  (or  $\{2, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}$  and  $\{2, 3, 6\}$ ) are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to the last paragraph.

**Case 4**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive four different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, 3 and 4. Then the color sets  $C(v_j)$  do not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . So the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{6}{2} + \binom{6}{3} + \binom{6}{4} + \binom{6}{5} + \binom{6}{6} - 19 = 38$ . A contradiction may arise since 38 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $40 \leq n \leq 100$ .

**Case 5**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive five different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Then each color set  $C(v_j)$  is not a 2-subset and the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{6-1}{2} + \binom{6-1}{3} + \binom{6-1}{4} + \binom{6-1}{5} = 26$ . A contradiction may arise since 26 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $40 \leq n \leq 100$ .

Hence  $K_{5,n}$  does not have a 6-VDET coloring and  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) \geq 7$  when  $40 \leq n \leq 100$ .

Based on  $K_{5,39}$  and its coloring  $f_{39}$ , we can give a 7-VDET coloring  $f_n$  of  $K_{5,n}$  ( $40 \leq n \leq 100$ ). In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , subsets  $\{1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7\}, \{1, 2, 5, 6, 7\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7\}$  are not the color sets of any vertices in  $Y$ . So  $f_n = f_{39} + (377777, 542116, 532116, 522116, 432116, 542631, \dots)$ . We can by coloring other vertices  $v_j$  and its incident edges ( $46 \leq j \leq 100$ ) according to the method given in Table 1 (in which we let  $k = 7$ ). Finally we can obtain the 7-VDET coloring  $f_n$  ( $40 \leq n \leq 100$ ) of  $K_{5,n}$ .

The proof of Theorem 3 is completed.

**Theorem 4.** If  $101 \leq n \leq 220$ , then  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) = 8$ .

**Proof.** Assume that  $K_{5,n}$  has a 7-VDET coloring  $f$ . There are five cases we need to consider.

**Case 1**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive the same color under

$f$ . We may suppose that  $f(u_i) = 1, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , so none of the  $C(v_j)$  include color 1 and the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{6}{2} + \binom{6}{3} + \binom{6}{4} + \binom{6}{5} + \binom{6}{6} = 57$ . A contradiction may arise since 57 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $101 \leq n \leq 220$ .

**Case 2**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive two different colors under  $f$ . We may assume that  $f(u_i) \in \{1, 2\}, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . Then each color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2$ . So the number of the subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{7}{2} + \binom{7}{3} + \binom{7}{4} + \binom{7}{5} + \binom{7}{6} - 11 = 108$ . A contradiction may arise since 108 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $109 \leq n \leq 220$ .

We denoted the set, which contains the 108 subsets except all 2-subsets in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ , as  $D$ .

◇ There exist at least eight 2-subsets in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and one subset in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . We can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ , say 3, 4 and 5. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  and each  $C(u_i)$  is one of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}, \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If one 2-subset in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and one subset in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , and there exist at most three subsets in  $D$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least one common color in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ , say 3. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  and there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

Next, we only need to consider the following subcases:

When  $n = 103$  and all the subsets in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least four common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ , say 3, 4, 5 and 6. In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ . This is a contradiction.

When  $n = 102$ , we have the following two subcases.

◇ If one 2-subset in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and all the subsets in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ , say 3, 4 and 5. From the above discussion, we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ All subsets in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and one subset in  $D$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . From the above discussion, there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

When  $n = 101$ , we have the following three subcases.

◇ One subset in  $D$ , one 2-subset in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and five subsets in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ . Then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ , say 3, 4 and 5. From the above discussion, we can obtain that each  $C(u_i)$  is either  $\{1, 3, 4, 5\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . This is a contradiction.

◇ If two 2-subsets in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and five subsets in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then we can obtain a contradiction similar to last

paragraph.

◇ If three 2-subsets in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and four subsets in  $D$  are not the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , then each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least two common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ , say 3 and 4. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 3, 4\}$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**Case 3**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive three different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2 and 3. Then each color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . So the number of the subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{7}{2} + \binom{7}{3} + \binom{7}{4} + \binom{7}{5} + \binom{7}{6} - 16 = 103$ . A contradiction may arise since 103 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $104 \leq n \leq 220$ .

Since one subset in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$ , one subset in  $\{\{1, 3, i\} : i = 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and one subset in  $\{\{2, 3, i\} : i = 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that  $\{1, 2, 3\} \subset C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . But there exist at most two subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**Case 4**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive four different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, 3 and 4. Then each color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . So the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{7}{2} + \binom{7}{3} + \binom{7}{4} + \binom{7}{5} + \binom{7}{6} - 23 = 96$ . A contradiction may arise since 96 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $101 \leq n \leq 220$ .

**Case 5**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive five different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not 3-subset, 4-subset and 5-subset in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . So the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{7}{2} + \binom{7}{3} + \binom{7}{4} + \binom{7}{5} + \binom{7}{6} - 36 = 83$ . A contradiction may arise since 83 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $101 \leq n \leq 220$ .

Hence  $K_{5,n}$  does not have a 7-VDET coloring and  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) \geq 8$  when  $101 \leq n \leq 220$ .

Based on  $K_{5,100}$  and its coloring  $f_{100}$ , we can give a 8-VDET coloring  $f_n$  of  $K_{5,n}$  ( $101 \leq n \leq 220$ ). In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ ,  $\{1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  is not the color set of any vertex in  $Y$ . So  $f_n = f_{100} + (388888, 542671, 532671, 562711, 432671, \dots)$ . We can by coloring other vertices  $v_j$  and its incident edges ( $106 \leq j \leq 220$ ) according to the method given in Table 1 (in which we let  $k = 8$ ). Finally we can obtain the 8-VDET coloring  $f_n$  ( $101 \leq n \leq 220$ ) of  $K_{5,n}$ .

The proof of Theorem 4 is completed.

**Theorem 5.** If  $221 \leq n \leq 437$ , then  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) = 9$ .

**Proof.** Assume that  $K_{5,n}$  has a 8-VDET coloring  $f$ . There are five cases we need to consider.

**Case 1**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive the same color under  $f$ . We may suppose that  $f(u_i) = 1, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , so none of the  $C(v_j)$  include color 1 and the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{7}{2} + \binom{7}{3} + \binom{7}{4} + \binom{7}{5} + \binom{7}{6} = 119$ . A contradiction may arise since 119 subsets can not distinguish



$n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $221 \leq n \leq 437$ .

**Case 2**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive two different colors under  $f$ . We may assume that  $f(u_i) \in \{1, 2\}, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2$ . So the number of the subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{8}{2} + \binom{8}{3} + \binom{8}{4} + \binom{8}{5} + \binom{8}{6} - 13 = 225$ . A contradiction may arise since 225 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $226 \leq n \leq 437$ .

Since there exist at least 10 2-subsets in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  and one subset in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least three common colors in  $\{3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$ , say 3, 4 and 5. So each  $C(u_i)$  contains  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . When  $n = 225, 224, 223, 222, 221$ , we can obtain a contradiction since there exist at most four subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ .

**Case 3**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive three different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2 and 3. Then each color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . So the number of the subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{8}{2} + \binom{8}{3} + \binom{8}{4} + \binom{8}{5} + \binom{8}{6} - 19 = 219$ . A contradiction may arise since 219 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $221 \leq n \leq 437$ .

**Case 4**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive four different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, 3 and 4. Then each color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . So the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{8}{2} + \binom{8}{3} + \binom{8}{4} + \binom{8}{5} + \binom{8}{6} - 27 = 211$ . A contradiction may arise since 211 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $221 \leq n \leq 437$ .

**Case 5**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive five different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not 3-subset, 4-subset or 5-subset in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . So the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{8}{2} + \binom{8}{3} + \binom{8}{4} + \binom{8}{5} + \binom{8}{6} - 41 = 197$ . A contradiction may arise since 197 subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$  when  $221 \leq n \leq 437$ .

Hence  $K_{5,n}$  does not have a 8-VDET coloring and  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) \geq 9$  when  $221 \leq n \leq 437$ .

Based on  $K_{5,220}$  and its coloring  $f_{220}$ , we can give a 9-VDET coloring  $f_n$  of  $K_{5,n}$  ( $221 \leq n \leq 437$ ).  $f_n = f_{220} + (399999, 526781, \dots)$ . We can by coloring other vertices  $v_j$  and its incident edges ( $223 \leq j \leq 437$ ) according to the method given in Table 1 (in which we let  $k = 9$ ). Finally we can obtain the 9-VDET coloring  $f_n$  ( $221 \leq n \leq 437$ ) of  $K_{5,n}$ .

The proof of Theorem 5 is completed.

**Theorem 6.** If  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 2(k-1) \leq n \leq \binom{k}{2} + \binom{k}{3} + \binom{k}{4} + \binom{k}{5} + \binom{k}{6} - 2k - 1, k \geq 10$ , then  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{4,n}) = k$ .

**Proof.** Firstly, we prove that  $K_{5,n}$  does not have a  $(k-1)$ -VDET coloring. Assume that  $K_{5,n}$  has a  $(k-1)$ -VDET coloring  $f$ . There are five cases to consider.

**Case 1**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive the same color under  $f$ . We may suppose that  $f(u_i) = 1, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , so none

of the  $C(v_j)$  include color 1 and the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, \dots, k-1\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{k-2}{2} + \binom{k-2}{3} + \binom{k-2}{4} + \binom{k-2}{5} + \binom{k-2}{6} < \binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 2(k-1) \leq n$ , since the  $\binom{k-2}{2} + \binom{k-2}{3} + \binom{k-2}{4} + \binom{k-2}{5} + \binom{k-2}{6}$  subsets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices of degree 5. This is a contradiction.

**Case 2**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive two different colors under  $f$ . We may assume that  $f(u_i) \in \{1, 2\}, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . Each  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2$ . The total number of the subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, k-1\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 2k + 5$ . When  $n \geq \binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} - 2k + 6$ , we can obtain a contradiction since  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 2k + 5$  sets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices in  $Y$ .

Since there exist at least  $\sum_{i=1}^{k-4} i - 5$  2-subsets in  $\{3, 4, \dots, k-1\}$  and one subset in  $\{\{1, 2, i\} : i = 3, 4, \dots, k-1\}$  are the color sets of vertices in  $Y$ , we can know that each  $C(u_i)$  contains at least  $k-6$  common colors in  $\{3, 4, \dots, k-1\}$ , say  $3, 4, \dots, k-5$  and  $k-4$ . So  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, k-4\} \subset C(u_i), i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ . In order to distinguish each  $u_i$  with vertices in  $Y$ , there exist at most three subsets which may become the color sets of vertices in  $X$ . This is a contradiction.

**Case 3**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive three different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2 and 3. Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}$ . The total number of the subsets of  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, k-1\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 3k + 8$ . Note that  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 3k + 8 < \binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 2(k-1) \leq n$  when  $k \geq 10$ . So we can obtain a contradiction since  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 3k + 8$  sets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices of degree 5.

**Case 4**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive four different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, 3 and 4. Then each color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not  $\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . So the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, \dots, k-1\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 4k + 9$ . As  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 4k + 9 < \binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 2(k-1) \leq n$ . Thus the  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 4k + 9$  sets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices of degree 5. This is a contradiction.

**Case 5**  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_5$  receive five different colors under  $f$ , say 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Then the color set  $C(v_j)$  does not include color  $i$  when  $|C(v_j)| = 2, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$  and each  $C(v_j)$  is not 3-subset, 4-subset or 5-subset in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . So the number of the subsets in  $\{1, 2, \dots, k-1\}$  which may become the color sets of the vertices in  $Y$  is  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 5k + 4$ . As  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 5k + 4 < \binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 2(k-1) \leq n$ . Thus the  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 5k + 4$  sets can not distinguish  $n$  vertices of degree 5. This is a contradiction.

Next, we will give a  $k$ -VDET coloring of  $K_{5,n}$  recursively.

In the following, we let  $s = \binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 2(k-1)$ ,  $t = \binom{k}{2} + \binom{k}{3} + \binom{k}{4} + \binom{k}{5} + \binom{k}{6} - 2k - 1$ . Note that  $s$  and  $t$  depend on  $k$ .

When  $k \geq 10$ , suppose  $(k-1)$ -VDET coloring  $f_{s-1}$  of  $K_{5,s-1}$  has been constructed. Based on  $K_{5,s-1}$  and its  $(k-1)$ -VDET coloring  $f_{s-1}$ , we will give  $K_{5,t}$  and its  $k$ -VDET coloring  $f_t$  by coloring each vertex  $v_j$  and its incident edges ( $s \leq j \leq t$ ). We arrange all 2-subsets, 3-subsets, 4-subsets, 5-subsets and 6-subsets of  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  which contain  $k$ , except for  $\{1, k\}$  and  $\{2, k\}$ , into a sequence  $P_k$ . Then  $P_k$  has  $\binom{k-1}{1} + \binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} - 2$  terms. Let the terms in  $P_k$  be corresponded to vertices  $v_s, v_{s+1}, \dots, v_t$ . Then based on  $f_{s-1}$  using colors  $1, 2, \dots, k-1$ , we can obtain  $k$ -VDET coloring  $f_t$  by coloring vertex  $v_j$  and its incident edges ( $s \leq j \leq t$ ) according to the method given in Table 1. Of course, we can obtain  $K_{5,n}$  and its  $k$ -VDET coloring  $f_n$  when  $s \leq n < t$ .

Thus  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) = k$  when  $\binom{k-1}{2} + \binom{k-1}{3} + \binom{k-1}{4} + \binom{k-1}{5} + \binom{k-1}{6} - 2(k-1) \leq n \leq \binom{k}{2} + \binom{k}{3} + \binom{k}{4} + \binom{k}{5} + \binom{k}{6} - 2k - 1$ ,  $k \geq 10$ .

The proof of Theorem 6 is completed.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

By simple computation, we have

$$\eta(K_{5,5}) = \eta(K_{5,6}) = 4;$$

$$\eta(K_{5,n}) = l, \quad 2^{l-1} - l - 4 \leq n \leq 2^l - (l+1) - 5, l \geq 5.$$

From the six Theorems in Section 2, we know that

1. If  $n = 5, 6$ , or  $11 \leq n \leq 21$ , or  $40 \leq n \leq 52$ , or  $101 \leq n \leq 115$ , or  $221 \leq n \leq 242$ , or  $\binom{l-1}{2} + \binom{l-1}{3} + \binom{l-1}{4} + \binom{l-1}{5} + \binom{l-1}{6} - 2(l-1) \leq n \leq 2^{l-1} - l - 5$ ,  $l \geq 10$ , then  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) = \eta(K_{5,n}) + 1$ .

2. If  $7 \leq n \leq 10$ , or  $22 \leq n \leq 39$ , or  $53 \leq n \leq 100$ , or  $116 \leq n \leq 220$ , or  $2^{l-1} - l - 4 \leq n \leq \binom{l}{2} + \binom{l}{3} + \binom{l}{4} + \binom{l}{5} + \binom{l}{6} - 2l - 1$ ,  $l \geq 10$ , then  $\chi_{vt}^e(K_{5,n}) = \eta(K_{5,n})$ .

Thus Conjecture 1 is right for  $K_{5,n}$ .

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