

Preface

Professor Cameron was a plenary speaker at the INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMBINATORICS, LINEAR ALGEBRA, AND GRAPH COLORING which was held at IPM in August of 2003. After the conference he stayed an extra week at the Institute. During those 15 days, Peter committed himself to a variety of activities (some exotic and some routine ones), from presenting talks at the workshop, writing papers with IPM researchers, talking to students, singing some of the Beatles' songs, playing guitar, citing poetry, hiking, and you name it! He was so popular (very characteristics of him, of course), that I often heard whispers of "IF HE COMES BACK!". Before he leaves Iran I asked Peter for a future revisit. To my total surprise, he told me that he will be on a sabbatical leave in the Spring Session of 2004 and he may be able to come back for one month. Anyway, the visit was materialized and Peter came back in April of 2004. This time his visit was a real blessing for all of us over here.

During his stay, Peter presented a short course and prepared great lecture notes. He worked with three different groups of researchers and completed a number of papers. He gave an interview to a student body which lasted over 4 hours. He travelled from the north to the south of Iran and gave beautiful talks everywhere he went. His enthusiastic energy seemed endless despite his admission, in the last day of his stay, that he felt a bit exhausted.

Peter, undoubtedly, is a scholar in the most classical sense. On behalf of all researchers at IPM, I would like to express my deepest appreciations to Peter and thank him wholeheartedly. We all miss him very much here at the Institute for studies in theoretical Physics and Mathematics, IPM. Enjoy Peter's Lecture Notes.

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