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*Beyond Ohba's Conjecture: A bound on the choice number of  $k$ -chromatic graphs with  $n$  vertices.*

Let  $G$  be an  $n$ -vertex graph, and let  $\text{ch}(G)$  denote the choice number of  $G$  (also called “list chromatic number” or “choosability”). Noel, Reed, and Wu proved Ohba’s conjecture that  $\text{ch}(G) = \chi(G)$  when  $n \leq 2\chi(G) + 1$ . We extend their result to a general upper bound for all graphs:  $\text{ch}(G) \leq \max\{\chi(G), \lceil (n + \chi(G) - 1)/3 \rceil\}$ . Our bound is sharp for  $n \leq 3\chi(G)$  using examples provided by Ohba, and it improves the best-known upper bound for  $\text{ch}(K_{4,\dots,4})$ . (Received September 16, 2013)