1092-05-145 **Gexin Yu*** (gyu@wm.edu), Department of Mathematics, College of William and Mary, Williambsurg, VA 23185. *Strong edge-colorings for k-degenerate graphs.* Preliminary report.

We prove that the strong chromatic index for each k-degenerate graph with maximum degree Δ is at most $(4k-2)\Delta - k(2k-1)+1$. This confirms a conjecture of Chang and Narayanan. (Received August 06, 2013)