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Ko-Wei Lih* (makwlih@sinica.edu.tw), P. O. Box 23-216 Taipei, Taipei City, 10699, Taiwan,
and **Daphne Der-Fen Liu** (dliu@calstatela.edu). *On the strong chromatic index of cubic
Halin graphs.*

A strong edge coloring of a graph G is an assignment of colors to the edges of G such that two distinct edges are colored differently if they are incident to a common edge or share an endpoint. The strong chromatic index of a graph G , denoted $s\chi'(G)$, is the minimum number of colors needed for a strong edge coloring of G . A Halin graph G is a plane graph constructed from a tree T without vertices of degree two by connecting all leaves through a cycle C . If a cubic Halin graph G is different from two particular graphs Ne_2 and Ne_4 , then we prove $s\chi'(G) \leq 7$. This solves a conjecture proposed in W. C. Shiu, W. K. Tam, The strong chromatic index of complete cubic Halin graphs, Appl. Math. Lett. 22 (2009) 754–758. (Received August 12, 2011)