



# Color class dominating sets in ladder and grid graphs

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## Abstract

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph. A color class dominating set of  $G$  is a proper coloring  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $G$  with the extra property that every color class in  $\mathcal{C}$  is dominated by a vertex in  $G$ . A color class dominating set is said to be a minimal color class dominating set if no proper subset of  $\mathcal{C}$  is a color class dominating set of  $G$ . The color class domination number of  $G$  is the minimum cardinality taken over all minimal color class dominating sets of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_{\chi}(G)$ . In this paper, we obtain  $\gamma_{\chi}(G)$  for Ladder graph and Grid graph.

## Keywords

Chromatic number, domination number, color class dominating set, color class domination number.

## AMS Subject Classification

05C15, 05C69.

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## 1. Introduction

All graphs considered in this paper are finite, undirected graphs and we follow standard definitions of graph theory as found in [3].

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph of order  $p$ . The open neighborhood of a vertex  $v \in V(G)$  is  $N(v) = \{u \in V(G) / uv \in E(G)\} \dots$  The closed neighborhood of  $v$  is  $N[v] = N(v) \cup \{v\}$ . For a set  $S \subseteq V$ , the open neighborhood  $N(S)$  is defined to be  $\bigcup_{v \in S} N(v)$ , and the closed neighborhood of  $S$  is  $N[S] = N(S) \cup S$ .

A subset  $S$  of  $V$  is called a dominating set if every vertex in  $V - S$  is adjacent to some vertex in  $S$ . A dominating set is minimal dominating set if no proper subset of  $S$  is a dominating set of  $G$ . The domination number  $\gamma(G)$  is the minimum cardinality taken over all minimal dominating sets of  $G$ . A  $\gamma$ -set is any minimal dominating set with cardinality  $\gamma$ .

A proper coloring of  $G$  is an assignment of colors to the vertices of  $G$ , such that adjacent vertices have different colors.

The smallest number of colors for which there exists a proper coloring of  $G$  is called chromatic number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\chi(G)$ . A color class dominating set of  $G$  is a proper coloring  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $G$  with the extra property that every color classes in  $\mathcal{C}$  is dominated by a vertex in  $G$ . A color class dominating set is said to be a minimal color class dominating set if no proper subset of  $C$  is a color class dominating set of  $G$ . The color class domination number of  $G$  is the minimum cardinality taken over all minimal color class dominating sets of  $G$  and is denoted by  $\gamma_{\chi}(G)$ . This concept was introduced by A. Vijayalekshmi et al [2].

A cartesian product of two subgraphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is the graph  $G_1 \times G_2$  such that its vertex set is

$$V(G_1 \times G_2) = \{(x, y) / x \in V(G_1), y \in V(G_2)\}$$

and the edge set is  $E(G_1 \times G_2) = \{((x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2)) / x_1 = y_1 \text{ and } (x_2, y_2) \in E(G_2) \text{ or } x_2 = y_2 \text{ and } (x_1, y_1) \in E(G_1)\}$ . The ladder graph is defined by  $L_{2n} = P_2 \times P_n$ , where  $P_n$  is a path graph with  $n$  vertices. A two dimensional grid graph  $G_m^n$  is the Cartesian product of path graphs  $P_m$  and  $P_n$ .

## 2. Main Results

**Theorem 2.1.** *The ladder graph  $L_p$  has  $\gamma_{\chi}(L_p) = \lfloor \frac{p}{3} \rfloor + r$  if  $p \equiv r \pmod{3}$  where  $r = 0, 1, 2$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $L_p = L_{2n} = P_2 \times P_n$  and let

$$V(L_p) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n+1}, \dots, u_{2n}\}$$

with  $\deg(u_i) = 2$  for  $i = 1, n, (n + 1), 2n$  and  $\deg(u_j) = 3$  for all  $j \neq i$ . We take  $N(u_i) = \{u_{i-1}, u_{i+1}, u_{i+n}\}$  for  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n - 1$  and  $N(u_j) = \{u_{j-1}, u_{j+1}, u_{j-n}\}$  for  $j = (n + 2), (n + 3), \dots, (2n - 1)$ . We consider three cases.

**Case (1).**  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ .

Decompose  $L_p$  into  $\frac{p}{3}$  copies of  $L_6$ . Assign new colors, say,  $2i = 1, 2i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq \frac{p}{3}$ ) to the vertices  $N(u_i)$  for  $i = 2, 5, \dots, (n - 1)$  and  $i = (n + 2), (n + 5), \dots, (2n - 1)$ . We get a  $\gamma_\chi$ -coloring of  $L_p$ . Thus  $\gamma_\chi(L_p) = \frac{p}{3}$ .

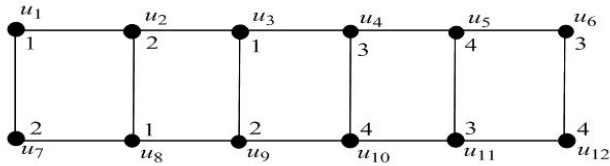


Figure- 1.

$$\gamma_\chi(L_{12}) = \left\lfloor \frac{12}{3} \right\rfloor + 0 = 4$$

**Case (2).**  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

In this case  $L_p$  is obtained by  $L_{p-4}$  followed by  $L_4$ . Since  $p - 4 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and by case (1),  $\gamma_\chi(L_{p-4}) = \frac{p-4}{3}$ . Assign two new colors, say,  $\left(\frac{p-4}{3}\right) + 1$  and  $\left(\frac{p-4}{3}\right) + 2$  to the vertices  $\{u_{n-1}, u_{2n}\}$  and  $\{u_n, u_{2n-1}\}$  respectively, we get a  $\gamma_\chi$ -coloring of  $L_p$ . So  $\gamma_\chi(L_p) = \gamma_\chi(L_{p-4}) + 2 = \frac{p-4}{3} + 2 = \frac{p+2}{3} = \left\lfloor \frac{p}{3} \right\rfloor + 1$

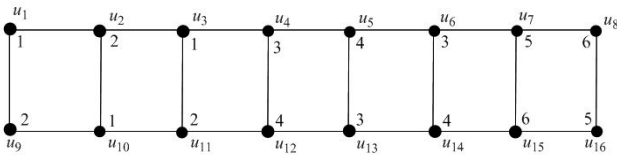


Figure- 2.

$$\gamma_\chi(L_{16}) = \left\lfloor \frac{16}{3} \right\rfloor + 1 = 6$$

**Case (3).**  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .

In this case  $L_p$  is obtained by  $L_{p-2}$  followed by  $L_2$ . Since  $p - 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and by case (1),  $\gamma_\chi(L_{p-2}) = \frac{p-2}{3}$ . Assign two new colors, say,  $\frac{p-2}{3} + 1$  and  $\frac{p-2}{3} + 2$  to the vertices  $\{u_n\}$  and  $\{u_{2n}\}$  respectively, we get a  $\gamma_\chi$ -coloring of  $L_p$ . So  $\gamma_\chi(L_p) = \gamma_\chi(L_{p-2}) + 2 = \frac{p-2}{3} + 2 = \frac{p+4}{3} = \left\lfloor \frac{p}{3} \right\rfloor + 2$ .

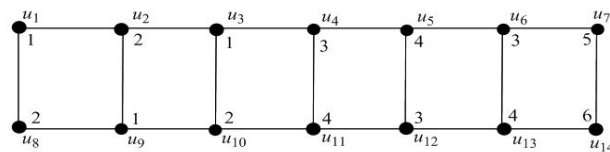


Figure- 3.

$$\gamma_\chi(L_{14}) = \left\lfloor \frac{14}{3} \right\rfloor + 1 = 6$$

□

**Theorem 2.2.** The Grid graph  $G_m^n = P_m \times P_n$  has  $\gamma_\chi(G_m^n) = \left\lfloor \frac{mn}{3} \right\rfloor + r$  if  $mn \equiv r \pmod{3}$  where  $r = 0, 1, 2$ .

*Proof.* Let  $G_m^n = P_m \times P_n$  and

$$V(G_m^n) = \{v_j^i / 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n\}.$$

We consider three cases.

**Case (1).**  $mn \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ .

We have two subcases.

**Subcase (1.1).**  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ .

Decompose  $G_m^n$  into  $\frac{n}{3}$  copies of  $G_m^3$ . Assign  $m - 2$  distinct colors, say,  $1, 3, 4, \dots, m - 1$  to the vertices  $\{v_1^i, v_3^i, v_2^{i+1}\}$  for  $i = 1, 3, 4, \dots, n - 1$  and assign colors 2 and  $m$  to the vertices  $\{v_2^1, v_1^2, v_3^2, v_2^3\}$  and  $\{v_1^n, v_3^n\}$  respectively, we get a  $\gamma_\chi$ -coloring of  $G_m^3$ . Similarly assign  $m$  distinct colors, say,  $m + 1, m + 2, \dots, 2m$  to the identical vertices of second copy of  $G_m^3$  and so on. So  $\gamma_\chi(G_m^n) = \frac{n}{3} \times m = \frac{mn}{3}$ .

**Subcase (1.2).**  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

In this case,  $G_m^n$  is obtained by  $G_m^{n-4}$  followed by  $G_m^4$ . Since  $n - 4 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , by subcase(1.1),  $\gamma_\chi(G_m^n) = \gamma_\chi(G_m^{n-4}) \times \gamma_\chi(G_m^4) = \frac{m(n-4)}{3} + 2\gamma_\chi(L_{2m}) = \frac{m(n-4)}{3} + 2 \times \left(\frac{2m}{3}\right) = \frac{mn}{3}$ .

**Subcase (1.3).**  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .

In this case,  $G_m^n$  is obtained by  $G_m^{n-2}$  followed by  $G_m^2$ . Since  $n - 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , by subcase (1.1),  $\gamma_\chi(G_m^n) = \gamma_\chi(G_m^{n-2}) \times \gamma_\chi(G_m^2) = \frac{m(n-2)}{3} + \gamma_\chi(L_{2m}) = \frac{m(n-2)}{3} + \left(\frac{2m}{3}\right) = \frac{mn}{3}$ .

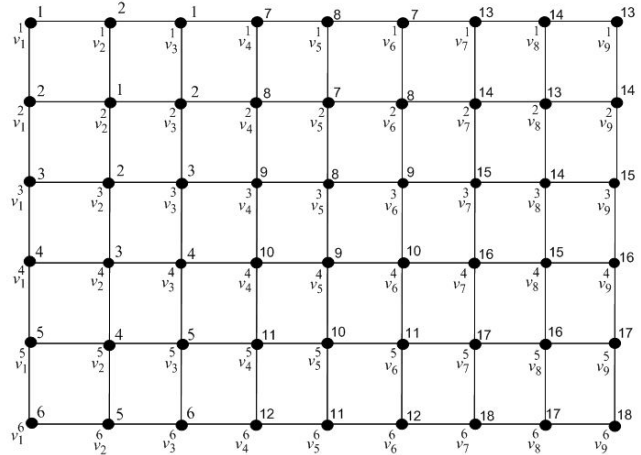


Figure- 4.

$$\gamma_\chi(G_9^9) = \left\lfloor \frac{9 \times 9}{3} \right\rfloor + 0 = 18$$

**Case (2).**  $mn \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

We have two subcases.

**Subcase (2.1).**  $m \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

In this case  $G_m^n$  is obtained by  $G_m^{n-4}$  followed by  $G_m^4$ . Since  $G_m^4 \cong 2(L_{2n})$ , in the  $\gamma_\chi$ -coloring of first copy of  $L_{2n}$  two unique vertices  $\{v_{m-3}^n\}$  and  $\{v_{m-1}^n\}$  have two distinct colors,



say,  $\lfloor \frac{mn}{3} \rfloor$  and  $\lfloor \frac{mn}{3} \rfloor + 1$  respectively. In the  $\gamma_\chi$ -coloring of second copy of  $L_{2n}$ , the same unique colors say,  $\lfloor \frac{mn}{3} \rfloor$  and  $\lfloor \frac{mn}{3} \rfloor + 1$  are assigned to the identical vertices, say,  $\{v_{m-2}^n\}$  and  $\{v_m^n\}$  respectively. So  $\gamma_\chi(G_m^4) = 2 \lfloor \frac{2(n-1)}{3} \rfloor + 2$ . Thus

$$\gamma_\chi(G_m^n) = \lfloor \frac{(m-4)n}{3} \rfloor + 2 \lfloor \frac{2(n-1)}{3} \rfloor + 2 = \lfloor \frac{mn}{3} \rfloor + 1.$$

**Subcase (2.2).**  $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .

Since  $n-2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  by subcase (1.2),  $\gamma_\chi(G_m^n) = \gamma_\chi(G_m^{n-2}) \times$

$$\gamma_\chi(G_m^2) = \frac{m(n-2)}{3} + \lfloor \frac{2m}{3} \rfloor + 1 = \frac{mn}{3} + 1.$$

**Subcase (3.1).**  $m \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .

In this case  $G_m^n$  is obtained by  $G_m^{n-2}$  followed by  $G_m^2$ . Since  $n-2 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  by subcase (1.2)  $\gamma_\chi(G_m^n) = \gamma_\chi(G_m^{n-2}) \times \gamma_\chi(G_m^2) = \frac{m(n-2)}{3} + \lfloor \frac{2m}{3} \rfloor + 2 = \frac{mn}{3} + 2$ .

**Subcase (3.2).**  $m \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . Interchanging  $m$  and  $n$  in subcase (3.1)  $\gamma_\chi(G_m^n) = \frac{(m-2)n}{3} + \lfloor \frac{2n}{3} \rfloor + 2 = \frac{mn}{3} + 2$ .

$$\gamma_\chi(G_8^7) = \lfloor \frac{8 \times 7}{3} \rfloor + 2 = 20$$

□

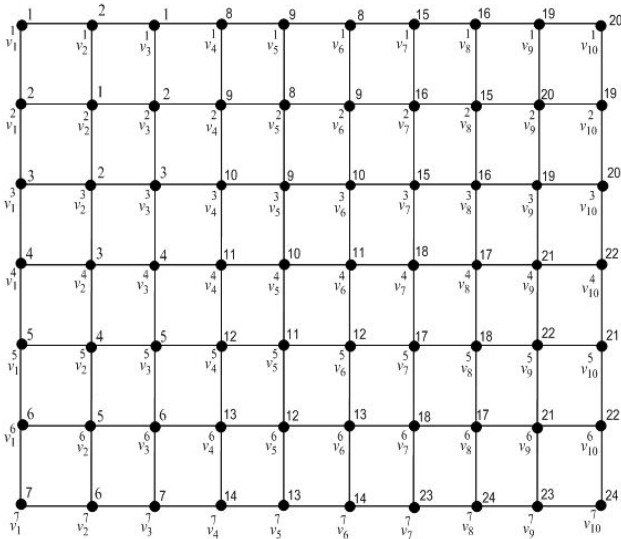


Figure- 5.

$$\gamma_\chi(G_{10}^7) = \lfloor \frac{10 \times 7}{3} \rfloor + 1 = 24$$

**Case (3).**  $mn \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .

We have two subcases.

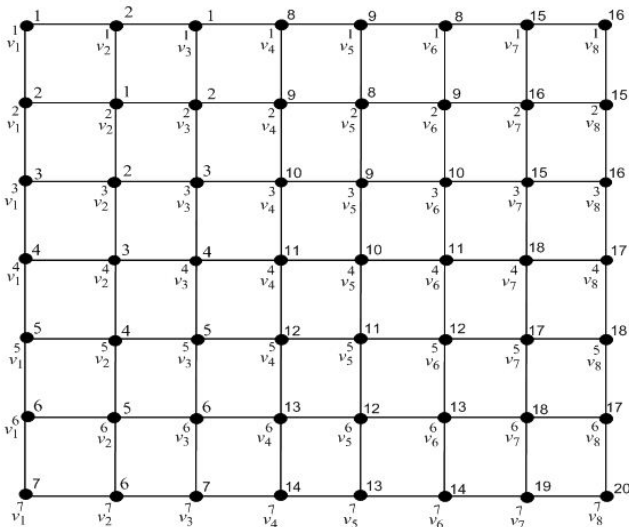


Figure- 6.

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