



# Exact 2-distance b-coloring of some classes of graphs

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## Abstract

Given a graph  $G$ , the exact distance- $p$  (or  $p$ -distance) graph  $G^{[ep]}$  has  $V(G)$  as its vertex set and two vertices are adjacent whenever the distance between them in  $G$  equals  $p$ . An exact 2-distance coloring of a graph  $G$  is a proper coloring of vertices of  $G$  such that any two vertices which are at distance exactly 2 receive distinct colors. An exact 2-distance chromatic number of  $G$  is the minimum  $k$  for which  $G$  admits an exact 2-distance coloring with  $k$  colors. A  $b$ -coloring of a graph  $G$  by  $k$  colors is a proper  $k$ -vertex coloring such that in each color class, there exists a vertex adjacent to at least one vertex in every other color class. In this paper we introduce a new coloring called exact 2-distance  $b$ -coloring. It is a  $b$ -coloring of  $G$  such that any two vertices at distance exactly 2 receive distinct colors and a graph  $G$  is called exact 2-distance  $b$ -colorable graph if it admits such a coloring. An exact 2-distance  $b$ -chromatic number  $\chi_{e2b}(G)$  of  $G$  is the largest integer  $k$  such that  $G$  has an exact 2-distance  $b$ -coloring with  $k$ -colors. If each color class contains a vertex that has a 2-neighbour in all other color classes, such a vertex is called an exact 2-distance color dominating vertex. Some results based on exact 2-distance  $b$ -coloring are obtained. Exact 2-distance  $b$ -chromatic number of some classes of graphs are obtained.

## Keywords

Exact 2-distance coloring ( $e2$ -coloring), exact 2-distance chromatic number ( $e2$ -number),  $b$ -coloring,  $b$ -chromatic number, exact 2-distance  $b$ -coloring ( $e2$ - $b$ -coloring), exact 2-distance  $b$ -chromatic number ( $e2$ - $b$ -number), exact 2-distance  $b$ -colorable graph ( $e2$ - $b$ -colorable graph), exact 2-distance color dominating vertex ( $e2$ - $b$ -cdv).

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## 1. Introduction

All graphs considered in this paper are finite, simple and undirected. For those terminologies not defined in this paper, the reader may refer to [[1]]. A proper  $k$ -coloring of a graph  $G$  is an assignment of  $k$ -colors to the vertices of  $G$  such that no two adjacent vertices are assigned the same color. The chromatic number  $\chi(G)$  is the minimum  $k$  for which  $G$  admits a proper  $k$ -coloring. Based on this proper coloring of vertices, various types of coloring were defined. The distance coloring was introduced by F. Kramer and H. Kramer [[4]], [[5]] in

1969. As the name suggests it is based on distance between two vertices. A 2-distance coloring of a graph  $G$  is an assignment of colors to the vertices of  $G$  such that every two vertices at distance at most 2 receive distinct colors. The 2-distance chromatic number of  $G$ , denoted  $\chi_2(G)$  is the smallest integer  $k$  for which  $G$  admits a 2-distance  $k$ -coloring. One should be careful while defining exact distance coloring. Since  $k$ -distance coloring is a coloring of  $G$  in which two vertices  $u, v$  receive distinct colors if  $d(u, v) \leq k$ , while in exact  $k$ -distance coloring  $u, v$  receive distinct colors if  $d(u, v) = k$ . Hence if  $ux_1x_2 \cdots x_{r-1}v$  is a  $u-v$  path, then in a  $k$ -distance coloring,  $r \leq k, r-1+2 \leq k$  (i.e.,  $r+1 \leq k$ ), each vertex receive distinct colors while in exact  $k$ -distance coloring, all the  $x_i$ 's may receive same color. If  $u$  and  $v$  are vertices such that  $d(u, v) = 2$ , then  $u$  is said to be a 2-neighbour of  $v$  and vice versa. The set of all 2-neighbours of  $u$  is denoted by  $N_2(u)$  and is called open 2-neighbourhood of  $u$  and  $N_2[u] = N_2(u) \cup \{u\}$  is called the closed 2-neighbourhood of  $u$ . In this paper, we consider only exact 2-distance coloring. Exact  $k$ -distance coloring of  $G$  can also be analyzed from the exact  $k$ -distance graph.

The concept of the exact  $p$ -distance (or distance- $p$ ) graph, where  $p$  is a positive integer, was introduced by Simi'c [[7]] in the 1980s and was recently rediscovered by Ne'set'ril and Ossona De Mendez[[6]]. If  $G$  is a graph, then the exact  $p$ -distance graph  $G^{[ep]}$  of  $G$  is the graph with  $V(G^{[ep]}) = V(G)$  and two vertices in  $G^{[ep]}$  are adjacent if and only if they are at distance exactly  $p$  in  $G$ . In particular, the exact 2-distance graph  $G^{[e2]}$  of  $G$  is the graph with  $V(G^{[e2]}) = V(G)$  and two vertices in  $G^{[e2]}$  are adjacent if and only if they are at distance exactly 2 in  $G$ . Note that  $G^{[e1]} = G$ . Clearly,  $\chi(G^{[e2]}) = \chi_{e2}(G)$ . The other coloring of interest is b-coloring. The concept of b-coloring was introduced by Irving and Manlove[[2]] in 1991. A b-coloring of  $G$  by  $k$ -colors is a proper  $k$ -coloring such that in each color class, there exists a vertex adjacent to at least one vertex in every other color class. Such a vertex is called a color dominating vertex. The b-chromatic number  $\chi_b(G)$  of  $G$  is the largest integer  $k$  such that  $G$  has a b-coloring by  $k$ -colors. The  $m$ -degree  $m(G)$  of a graph was defined as  $m(G) = \max\{i : 1 \leq i \leq |V(G)|, G \text{ has at least } i \text{ vertices of degree at least } i - 1\}$ . In this paper, we have defined a new coloring based on two types of coloring viz. (i) exact  $p$ -distance coloring and (ii) b-coloring. In this paper, an attempt is made to combine the concept of exact 2-distance coloring and b-coloring. Difficulty arose as b-coloring tries for maximum coloring and exact 2-distance for minimum coloring. Hence to support the definition exact 2-distance b-coloring or e2b-coloring, the terms color dominating vertex, b-spectrum and b-continuity which are the fundamental terminologies of b-coloring are redefined based on distance. Consequently chromatic parameter exact 2-distance b-chromatic number  $\chi_{e2b}(G)$  of  $G$  is introduced. Results are obtained for some well known classes of graphs.

## 2. Definitions and some prior results related to exact 2-distance coloring

In this section, graphs are constructed from given graph  $G$  based on exact distance between two vertices of  $G$ . Here, we discuss exact 2-distance coloring and exact 2-distance graph. We give the general definition first. In this section, the particular case i.e.,  $p = 2$  of exact  $p$ -distance coloring and the corresponding graphs are studied. Hence we give the definition for the particular case. Also 2-distance chromatic number of some well known graphs are given. Further exact 2-distance chromatic number of some graph families which are not studied earlier are discussed.

**Definition 2.1.** An exact  $p$ -distance coloring (or an  $ep$ -coloring) of a graph  $G$  is defined as a coloring of vertices of  $G$  which are at distance exactly  $p$  receive distinct colors.

An exact  $p$ -distance chromatic number (or an  $ep$ -number)  $\chi_{ep}(G)$  of  $G$  is the minimum  $k$  for which  $G$  admits an  $ep$ -coloring with  $k$ -colors.

**Definition 2.2.** An exact 2-distance coloring (or an  $e2$ -coloring) of a graph  $G$  is defined as a coloring of vertices of  $G$  which

are at distance exactly 2 receive distinct colors.

An exact 2-distance chromatic number (or an  $e2$ -number)  $\chi_{e2}(G)$  of  $G$  is the minimum  $k$  for which  $G$  admits an  $e2$ -coloring with  $k$ -colors.

i.e.,  $\chi_{e2}(G) = \min\{k : G \text{ has an } e2 \text{ coloring with } k \text{ colors}\}$ .

**Definition 2.3.** The color classes of an  $e2$ -coloring are called  $e2$ -color classes.

**Definition 2.4.** For a vertex  $u$ ,  $d_2(u)$  is called the  $d_2$ -degree of  $u$ .

**Example 2.5.**

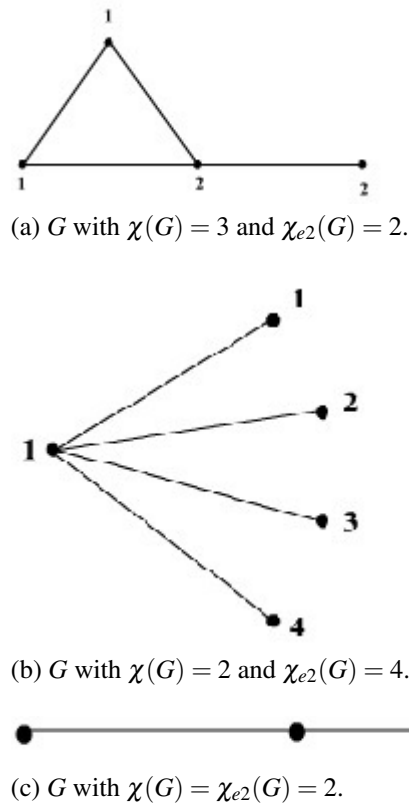


Figure 1

**Notation 2.6.** Let  $u$  be a vertex of a graph  $G$ . Then

- i)  $d_2(u) = |N_2(u)|$
- ii)  $\Delta_2(G) = \max\{d_2(u) : \forall u \in V(G)\}$ , where  $\Delta_2(G)$  the maximum degree with respect to 2-neighbours.
- iii)  $\delta_2(G) = \min\{d_2(u) : \forall u \in V(G)\}$ , where  $\delta_2(G)$  the minimum degree with respect to 2-neighbours.

**observation 2.7.** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a connected graph of order  $n \geq 3$ . Then the followings hold.

- (i) If  $u \in V$ , then  $d_2(u) \leq n - 1 - d(u)$ .
- (ii)  $d_2(u) \leq n - 2$ .



*Proof.* (i)  $d_2(u) = |N_2(u)| \leq |V(G)| - |N[u]| = n - (d(u) + 1)$

$$d_2(u) \leq n - 1 - d(u).$$

(ii) Since  $d(u) \geq 1, d_2(u) \leq n - 2$ .  $\square$

**observation 2.8** ([8]). *Let  $G$  be a bipartite graph, then  $G^{[e2]}$  is not connected.*

**observation 2.9** ([6], [7]). *For any graph  $G, \chi(G^{[e2]}) = \chi_{e2}(G)$*

**observation 2.10.** i) *An  $e2$ -coloring is not a proper vertex coloring. i.e., adjacent vertices may receive the same color.*

ii) *A given class of graphs need not to have unique  $\chi_{e2}$ .*

iii) *If  $H$  is any induced sub graph of  $G$ , then  $\chi_{e2}(H) \leq \chi_{e2}(G)$ .*

iv)  *$e2$ -color classes need not be independent.*

v) *For any incomplete graph of order at least 3,  $\chi_{e2}(G) \geq 2$ .*

*Proof.* i) By the definition of  $e2$ -coloring, adjacent vertices may receive the same color.

ii) Refer example 2.5, figure 1(b) and 1(c). Though  $K_{1,4}$  and  $P_3$  are bipartite graphs,  $\chi_{e2}(K_{1,4}) = 4$  and  $\chi_{e2}(P_3) = 2$ .

iii) Trivial.

iv) Follows from (i).

v) Since  $P_3$  is an induced sub graph of  $G$ , from (iii),  $\chi_{e2}(G) \geq 2$ .  $\square$

The following proposition gives exact bounds of  $\chi_{ek}$  for some standard graphs.

**Proposition 2.11** ([3]). i) *For  $n \geq 3, \chi_{ek}(P_n) = 2$ , for  $2 \leq k \leq n - 1$ .*

ii) *For  $n \geq 2, \chi_{e2}(K_{1,n}) = n$ .*

iii) *For  $n \geq 5, \chi_{e2}(W_n) = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ .*

iv) *For  $m \geq 1$  and  $n \geq 1, \chi_{e2}(K_{m,n}) = \max\{m, n\}$ .*

v) *For  $m \geq 1$  and  $n \geq 1, \chi_{ek}(B_{m,n}) = \begin{cases} \max\{m, n\} + 1, & \text{if } k = 2 \\ 2, & \text{if } k = 1 \text{ or } 3 \end{cases}$*

**Lemma 2.12.** *If  $G$  is a connected incomplete graph of order  $n \geq 3$ , then  $2 \leq \chi_{e2}(G) \leq n - 1$  and the bounds are sharp.*

*Proof.* Lower inequality follows from observation 2.10 (v). Let  $u$  be an arbitrary vertex of  $G$ . Since  $G$  is connected,  $u$  is adjacent to at least one vertex say  $v$ . Assign color 1 to  $u$  and  $v$ , and distinct  $n - 2$  colors to the remaining  $n - 2$  vertices. This give an  $e2$ -coloring of  $G$ . Hence the upper inequality follows. From observation 2.11,  $\chi_{e2}(P_4) = 2$  and  $\chi_{e2}(K_{1,n-1}) = n - 1$ . Hence, the bounds are sharp.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.13.** *If a graph  $G$  has a vertex  $u$  such that  $N(u)$  is independent, then  $\chi_{e2}(G) \geq d(u) \geq \delta$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $d(u) = r$ . Then  $N[u]$  induces  $K_{1,r}$ . From observation 2.10 (iii),  $\chi_{e2}(G) \geq \chi_{e2}(K_{1,r}) = r = d(u) \geq \delta$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.14.** *For  $n \geq 4$ ,*

$$\chi_{e2}(C_n) = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \\ 3, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $C_n$  be  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$ . Based on  $n$ , there are four cases to consider.

Let  $c : V(C_n) \rightarrow \{1, 2\}$  be a coloring defined as follows.

$$c(u_i) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ & i \equiv 2 \pmod{4} \\ 2, & \text{if } i \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \\ & i \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \end{cases}$$

From the above it is clear that any  $u_i$  and  $u_{i+1}$  receive distinct colors. Hence it is an  $e2$ -coloring of  $P_n$ . Since  $C_n, d(u_1, u_{n-1}) = d(u_2, u_n) = 2$ , it is enough to verify the colors for the pair of vertices  $u_1$  and  $u_{n-1}$ , and  $u_2$  and  $u_n$ . Clearly,  $c(u_1) = c(u_2) = 1$ .

**Case (i):**  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$

Since  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, n - 1 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Therefore,  $c(u_n) = c(u_{n-1}) = 2$ . As  $c(u_1) = c(u_2) = 1, c$  is an  $e2$ -coloring of  $C_n$ .

**Case (ii):**  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$

As in case (i), color  $C_n$  such that all  $u_i$ 's are colored except the vertex  $u_n$ . Since  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, n - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$  and  $n - 2 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Hence,  $c(u_{n-1}) = c(u_{n-2}) = 2$ . Thus  $u_1$  and  $u_{n-1}$  receive distinct colors. Since  $c(u_2) = 1$  and  $c(u_{n-2}) = 2, u_n$  cannot be assigned either the color 1 or the color 2. Assign color 3 to  $u_n$ . This gives a minimum  $e2$ -coloring of  $C_n$ .

**Case (iii):**  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$

Follow the same color scheme as in case (i) up to the vertex  $u_{n-2}$ . Since  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, n - 3 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and  $n - 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ . Hence,  $c(u_{n-3}) = c(u_{n-2}) = 2$ . Since  $c(u_1) = 1$  and  $d(u_{n-1}, u_1) = d(u_{n-1}, u_{n-3}) = 2, u_{n-1}$  can't be given either color 1 or 2. Hence  $\chi_{e2}(C_n) > 2$ . Now let  $c(u_{n-1}) = c(u_n) = 3$ . Then  $c$  is an  $e2$ -coloring.

**Case (iv):**  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$

Color up to the vertex  $u_{n-2}$ . Clearly  $n - 3 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$  and hence,  $c(u_{n-3}) = 2$ . Now  $d(u_{n-1}, u_1) = d(u_{n-1}, u_{n-3}) = 2$ . Since  $c(u_1) = 1, u_{n-1}$  can't be given the colors 1 as well as 2. Hence  $\chi_{e2}(C_n) > 2$ . Now let  $c(u_{n-1}) = c(u_n) = 3$ . Then  $c$  is an  $e2$ -coloring.  $\square$



### 3. Exact 2-distance b-coloring

In this section some definitions and results of an exact 2-distance b-coloring are discussed. Also exact 2-distance b-chromatic number of some graph families are obtained. Further exact 2-distance b-discontinuity properties of some graph families are discussed.

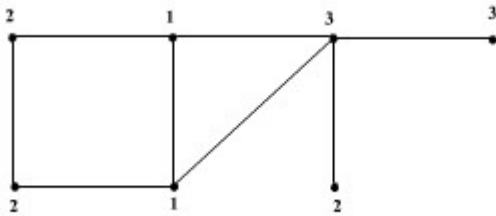
**Definition 3.1.** An exact 2-distance b-coloring (or an e2-b coloring) of a graph  $G$  is an e2-coloring of  $G$  such that each color class contains a vertex that has a 2-neighbour in all other color classes.

An exact 2-distance b-chromatic number (or an e2-b-number)  $\chi_{e2b}(G)$  of  $G$  is the largest integer  $k$  such that  $G$  has e2-b-coloring with  $k$ -colors.

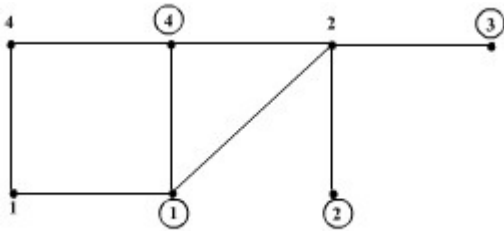
A vertex which has a 2-neighbour in all other classes is called an exact 2-distance color dominating vertex (or an e2-cdv). If  $u$  is an e2-cdv of color  $i$ , then it is called an e2- $i$ -cdv. The color classes of an e2-b-coloring is called e2-color classes.

**Definition 3.2.** The term  $m_2$  degree of  $m_2(G)$  of  $G$  is defined as the largest integer  $m$  such that  $G$  has at least  $m$  vertices having at least  $(m - 1)$  2-neighbours.

**Example 3.3.**



(a)  $\chi_{e2}(G) = 3$



(b)  $\chi_{e2b}(G) = 4$

**Figure 2**

**Proposition 3.4.** Any minimum e2-coloring of a graph is an e2-b-coloring.

*Proof.* Let  $G$  be a graph with  $\chi_{e2}(G) = l$ . Then there exists an e2-coloring say 'c' with  $l$  colors. Then its vertex set  $V$  can be partitioned into  $l$  color classes namely  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_l$ . Suppose  $c$  is not an e2-b-coloring. Then atleast one color class  $V_i$  does not have any e2-cdv. Therefore each  $u$  does not have any 2-neighbour in atleast some  $V_j, j \neq i$ . Put  $u$  is the respective  $V_j$ . Hence  $V_i$  becomes  $\emptyset$ . Therefore there exists an e2-coloring with  $l - 1$  colors, a contradiction.  $\square$

**Definition 3.5.** If for each integer  $k$  satisfying  $\chi_{e2}(G) \leq k \leq \chi_{e2b}(G)$ ,  $G$  has an e2b-coloring by  $k$ -colors, then  $G$  is said to be an exact 2-distance b-continuous (or e2-b-continuous) graph.

**Definition 3.6.** The exact 2-distance b-spectrum (or e2-b-spectrum)  $S_{e2b}(G)$  of  $G$  is defined by the set of all  $k$  such that  $G$  has an e2-b-coloring by  $k$ -colors. In other words,  $S_{e2b}(G) = \{k : G \text{ has an e2-b-coloring with } k\text{-colors}\}$ . Thus, if  $S_{e2b}(G)$  contains all the integers from  $\chi_{e2}(G)$  to  $\chi_{e2b}(G)$ , then  $G$  is e2-b-continuous.

**observation 3.7.** For a graph  $G$ ,

i)  $\chi_{e2}(G) \leq \chi_{e2b}(G) \leq m_2(G) \leq \Delta_2(G) + 1.$

ii) If  $\chi_{e2b}(G) = \chi_{e2}(G)$  or  $\chi_{e2b}(G) = \chi_{e2}(G) + 1$ , then  $G$  is e2-b-continuous.

**observation 3.8.** (i) For  $n \geq 3, m_2(P_n) = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } 3 \leq n \leq 6 \\ 3, & \text{if } n \geq 7 \end{cases}$

(ii) For  $n \geq 4, m_2(C_n) = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } n = 4 \\ 3, & \text{if } n \geq 5 \end{cases}$

(iii) For  $n \geq 2, m_2(K_{1,n}) = n.$

(iv) For  $m, n \geq 2, m_2(K_{m,n}) = \max\{m, n\}.$

(v) For  $n \geq 5, m_2(W_n) = n - 3$

(vi) For  $m \geq 1$  and  $n \geq 1, m_2(B_{m,n}) = \max\{m, n\} + 1$

**Proposition 3.9.** (i) For  $n \geq 2, \chi_{e2b}(K_{1,n}) = n.$

(ii) For  $m \geq 1$  and  $n \geq 1, \chi_{e2b}(K_{m,n}) = \max\{m, n\}.$

(iii) For  $m \geq 1$  and  $n \geq 1, \chi_{e2b}(B_{m,n}) = \max\{m, n\} + 1.$

*Proof.* (i) to (iii) follow from observations 3.7,3.8 and Proposition 2.11.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.10.** For  $n \geq 3,$

$$\chi_{e2b}(P_n) = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } 3 \leq n \leq 6 \\ 3, & \text{if } n \geq 7 \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* From proposition 2.11,  $\chi_{e2}(P_n) = 2$ , for all  $n \geq 3$ . Then there are two cases to consider.

**Case(i):**  $3 \leq n \leq 6$

From observations 3.7 (i) and 3.8 (i),  $\chi_{e2b}(P_n) = 2.$

**Case (ii):**  $n \geq 7$

From observations 3.7(i) and 3.8 (i),

$$2 \leq \chi_{e2b}(P_n) \leq 3 \tag{3.1}$$

There are at least three vertices namely,  $v_3, v_4, v_5$  having two 2-neighbours. Therefore these three vertices must receive three distinct colors namely 1, 2 and 3. Let  $c(v_3) = 1; c(v_4) = 2, c(v_5) = 3$ . Since  $d(v_3, v_1) = d(v_3, v_5) = 2$ , assign color 2 to the vertices  $v_1$  and  $v_7$ .



$\therefore v_3$  is  $e2$ -1-cdv and  $v_5$  is  $e2$ -3-cdv. Since  $d(v_3, v_2) = d(v_5, v_6) = 1$  assign 1 to  $v_2$  and 3 to  $v_6$ . Hence  $v_4$  is  $e2$ -2-cdv. For the remaining vertices  $v_i, i \geq 8$ .

$$c(v_i) = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } i \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \\ & i \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \\ 1, & \text{if } i \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ & i \equiv 2 \pmod{4} \end{cases}$$

Clearly, this coloring is an  $e2b$ -coloring by 3-colors. Therefore from (1),  $\chi_{e2b}(P_n) = 3$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.11.**  $P_n$  is  $e2b$ -continuous.

*Proof.* From observation 3.7(ii) and the above proposition 3.10,  $P_n$  is  $e2b$ -continuous.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.12.** For  $n \geq 4$ ,

$$\chi_{e2b}(C_n) = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } n = 4, 8 \\ 3, & \text{if } n \geq 5 \text{ and } n \neq 8 \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* There are 4 cases.

**Case(i):**  $n = 4$

From observation 3.7(i) and 3.8(iii),  $\chi_{e2b}(C_n) = 2$ .

**Case (ii):**  $n = 8$

By the similar argument as in case (i),  $2 \leq \chi_{e2b}(C_n) \leq 3, n = 8$ . Assign three distinct colors say 1, 2 and 3 to the vertices  $v_{i-2}, v_i$  and  $v_{i+2}, i = 3$  or 4 or 5 in any manner. Let  $c(v_1) = 1; c(v_3) = 2; c(v_5) = 3$ . Then  $v_3$  is  $e2$ -2-cdv. Since  $c(v_5) = 3; c(v_1) = 1, d(v_5, v_7) = 2$  and  $d(v_1, v_7) = 2$ , colors 1 or 3 cannot be assigned to the vertex  $v_7$ . Hence assign color 2 to  $v_7$ .

$\therefore v_1$  and  $v_5$  cannot be  $e2$ -1 cdv and  $e2$ -3 cdv. Since  $c(v_1) = 1, c(v_3) = 2, c(v_5) = 3$  and  $c(v_7) = 2$ , assign colors 1 or 3 to any two of the remaining vertices  $v_i, i = 2, 4, 6, 8$  which are not yet colored. Clearly,  $d(v_i, v_j) = 2$  or 4,  $i, j = 2, 4, 6, 8, i \neq j$ .

**Subcase(a):** Suppose  $d(v_i, v_j) = 2, i, j = 2, 4, 6, 8$  and  $i \neq j$ . Assign colors 1 and 3 to any two of these vertices say  $v_2$  and  $v_4$ . (ie), Let  $c(v_2) = 1; c(v_4) = 3$ . Then color 1 cannot be assigned to  $v_8$  and 3 cannot be assigned to  $v_6$ . To get  $e2$ -1 cdv and  $e2$ -3 cdv, color 2 should be given to both of the vertices  $v_6$  and  $v_8$ . But  $d(v_2, v_8) = 2$ . Therefore assign color 2 to one of the vertices, namely  $v_6$ . Hence  $v_4$  is  $e2$ -3 cdv. Clearly  $e2$ -1-cdv cannot be obtained.

**Subcase(b):** Suppose  $d(v_i, v_j) = 4, i, j = 2, 4, 6, 8$  and  $i \neq j$  proceed as in subcase (a).

$\chi_{e2b}(C_n) \neq 3, n = 8$ .

**Case (iii):**  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$

From proposition 2.13 and observations 3.7(i) and 3.8(iii),  $\chi_{e2b}(C_n) = 3$ .

**Case (iv):**  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$  and  $n \geq 12$ .

By similar argument as in case (i),  $2 \leq \chi_{e2b}(C_n) \leq 3$ . Assign colors 1, 2, 3 to the vertices  $v_i, i = 1$  to 12 in cyclic order. Since  $C_n$  contains  $P_7$  as an induced subgraph,  $C_n$  has  $e2$ -1-cdv,  $e2$ -2-cdv,  $e2$ -3-cdv.

For the remaining vertices, assign color 1, 1, 3, 3 in cyclic order. Since  $d(v_{n-1}, v_1) = d(v_n, v_2) = 2, 1 = c(v_1) \neq c(v_{n-1}) = 3$  and  $3 = c(v_n) \neq c(v_2) = 2$ , an  $e2$ -b-coloring by 3 colors is obtained.

$$\therefore \chi_{e2b}(C_n) = 3$$

$\square$

**Corollary 3.13.**  $C_n$  is  $e2b$ -continuous.

*Proof.* From observation 3.7(ii) and the above proposition 3.10,  $C_n$  is  $e2b$ -continuous.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.14.** For  $n \geq 5$

$$\chi_{e2b}(W_n) = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$$

*Proof.* From observation 3.7(i) and 3.8,  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \leq \chi_{e2b}(W_n) \leq n - 3$ .

The color schemes slightly varies according as  $n$  is even or odd. Suppose  $c$  is an  $e2$ -b-coloring.

**Case(i):**  $n$  is even

Let  $v$  be the central vertex and  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n-1}$  are the vertices of  $C_{n-i}, v_1, v_3, v_5, \dots, v_{n-3}$  are mutually at distance 2 and hence must receive distinct colors. Assign to them respectively the colors 1, 2, 3,  $\dots, \lfloor \frac{n-3}{2} \rfloor$ .

Suppose  $v_{n-1}$  is given a new color

$\lfloor \frac{n-3}{2} \rfloor + 1 = \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor = \frac{n}{2} = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ . Then this color cannot be given to any of the vertices  $v_2, v_4, \dots, v_{n-4}$ . But  $v_{n-2}$ . Since  $v_1$  need to have 2-neighbour of color  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  and  $v_{n-1}$  is not a 2-neighbour of  $v_1, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  should be given to  $v_{n-2}$ .

If  $v_2$  is given a new color, then this color cannot be assigned to  $v_4, v_6, \dots, v_{n-4}$ . Further no vertex other than  $v_1$  can receive color 1. Hence  $v_1$  is the only dominating vertex of color 1. But  $v_1$  cannot dominate the color  $c(v_2)$ , contradiction. Hence  $v_2$  cannot be assigned any new color.

By similar argument  $v_2, v_4, \dots, v_{n-4}$  cannot be assigned any new color. For the vertices  $v_{2i}, i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n-4}{2}$ , assign colors  $i + 1$  respectively. Also assign any one of these colors 1, 2,  $\dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  to the central vertex. Clearly the vertices  $v_1, v_3, \dots, v_{n-3}$  and  $v_{n-2}$  are  $e2$ -color dominating vertices of colors 1, 2, 3,  $\dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  respectively. Hence an  $e2$ -b-coloring by  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  colors.

$\therefore \chi_{e2b}(W_n) = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor, n$  is even.

**Case(ii):**  $n$  is odd.

$v_1, v_3, v_5, \dots, v_{n-2}$  are mutually at distance 2 and hence must receive distinct colors. Assign to them respectively the colors 1, 2, 3,  $\dots, \lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor$ . Suppose  $v_2$  is given a new color  $\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor + 1$ . This color cannot be given to the any one of the vertices  $v_4, v_6, \dots, v_{n-1}$ . Since  $v_1$  need to have 2-neighbour of color  $\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor + 1$ .  $\therefore v_1$  cannot dominate the color  $c(v_2)$ , a contradiction. Hence  $v_2$  cannot be assigned any new color.

By similar argument  $v_4, v_6, \dots, v_{n-2}$  cannot be assigned any new color. Therefore for the vertices,  $v_{2i}, i = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n-1}{2}$  assign colors  $i$  respectively.

Also assign any one of the colors 1, 2,  $\dots, \lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor$  to



u. Clearly,  $v_1, v_3, v_5, \dots, v_{n-2}$  are  $e_2$ -color dominating vertices of colors  $1, 2, \dots, \lceil \frac{n-2}{2} \rceil$ . Hence an  $e_2$ -b-coloring by  $\lceil \frac{n-2}{2} \rceil = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  colors is obtained.  $\square$

#### 4. Conclusion

In this paper, a new type of coloring called exact 2-distance b-coloring and its chromatic parameters were introduced. Some results based on exact 2-distance b-coloring were obtained. Also exact 2-distance b-chromatic number of some classes of graphs were obtained.

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