

# Product Cordial Labeling Of Product Graphs

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**Abstract:** Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a graph. A binary vertex labeling  $f: V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  of a graph  $G$  with induced edge labeling  $f^*: E(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  defined by  $f^*(e=uv) = f(u)f(v)$  is said to be product cordial if  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| \leq 1$  and  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \leq 1$  where  $v_f(i)$  and  $e_f(i)$  represents the number of vertices and edges labeled  $i$  for  $i = 0, 1$ . A graph  $G$  is product cordial if it admits a product cordial labeling. In this paper, we analyse some special and product graphs for the existence of product cordial labeling.

**Keywords:** Product cordial labeling, Cartesian product, Weak product.

**AMS Subject classification:** 05C78

## I INTRODUCTION

Let  $G = (V(G), E(G))$  be a finite, undirected simple graph. A graph labeling [3] is an assignment of values to the vertices of the graph satisfying certain conditions. A **binary vertex labeling** of  $G$  is simply a function  $f: V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ . Here,  $f(v)$  is said to be the label of  $v$ . Let the **induced edge labeling**  $f^*: E(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  be defined by  $f^*(e=uv) = |f(u) - f(v)|$ . Let  $v_f(i)$  and  $e_f(i)$  be the number of vertices and edges labeled  $i$  for  $i = 0, 1$ . A binary vertex labeling is called a **cordial labeling** of  $G$  if  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| \leq 1$  and  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \leq 1$ . A graph  $G$  is cordial if it admits a cordial labeling. The concept of cordial labeling was introduced by I.Cahit[2]. A binary vertex labeling of a graph  $G$  with induced edge labeling  $f^*: E(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  defined by  $f^*(e=uv) = f(u)f(v)$  is called a **product cordial labeling** if  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| \leq 1$  and  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \leq 1$  where  $v_f(i)$  and  $e_f(i)$  are as earlier. A graph  $G$  is product cordial if it admits a product cordial labeling[6]. **Ladder graph**  $L_n$ [7] is a planar undirected graph with  $2n$  vertices and  $3n-2$  edges which is actually the Cartesian product of  $P_2$  and  $P_n$ . **Ladder rung graph**  $LR_n$ [7] is the graph union of  $n$  copies of  $P_2$ . Let  $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$  and  $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$  be two graphs. The **middle graph**

$M(G)$  [5] of a graph  $G$  is the graph whose vertex set is  $V(G) \cup E(G)$  and in which two vertices are adjacent if and only if either they are adjacent edges of  $G$  or one is vertex of  $G$  and the other is an edge incident with it. The **cartesian product** [1] of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  denoted by  $G_1 \times G_2$  has  $V = V_1 \times V_2$  as its vertex set  $E = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2) / u_1 = u_2 \text{ and } v_1 v_2 \in E_2 \\ \text{or } v_1 = v_2 \text{ and } u_1 u_2 \in E_1 \end{array} \right\}$ . The **weak (or kronecker) product** [4] of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  denoted by  $G_1 \odot G_2$  has  $V = V_1 \times V_2$  as its vertex set and  $E = \{ (u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2) / (u_1, u_2) \in E_1 \text{ and } (v_1, v_2) \in E_2 \}$  as its edge set. In this paper, we analyse some special and product graphs for the existence of product cordial labeling.

**1.1 Theorem:**[6]  $P_n$  is product cordial.

## II PRODUCT CORDIAL LABELING OF SOME SPECIAL GRAPHS

**2.1 Theorem:**  $LR_n$  is product cordial.

**Proof:**  $LR_n \cong nP_2$

Let  $V(LR_n) = \{u_i, v_i / i = 1, \dots, n\}$  where  $u_i, v_i$  are the end vertices of  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $P_2$ .

Now, label  $n$  vertices with 0 and  $n$  vertices with 1 as in figure 2.1

Therefore,  $v_f(0) = v_f(1) = n$ .

Thus,  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (1)$

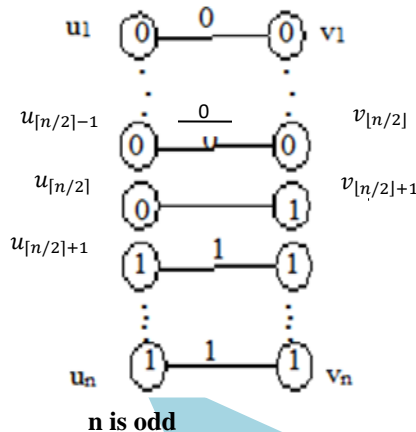
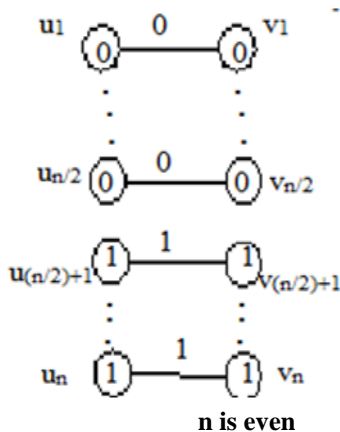


Figure 2.1

**Case i) n is odd**

Here,  $f: V(LR_n) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is defined by

$$f(u_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \text{ and}$$

$$f(v_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases}$$

Correspondingly, the edges of  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  copies of  $P_2$  get the label 1 and the edges of  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  copies of  $P_2$  get the label 0.

Therefore,  $e_f(0) = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  and  $e_f(1) = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ .

Thus,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor - \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (2)$

By (1) and (2),  $LR_n$  is product cordial.

**Case ii) n is even**

Here,  $f: V(LR_n) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is defined by

$$f(u_i) = f(v_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq (n/2) \\ 1 & \text{if } (n/2) + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases}$$

Correspondingly, the edges of  $(n/2)$  copies of  $P_2$  get the label 0 and the edges of  $(n/2)$  copies of  $P_2$  get the label 1.

Therefore,  $e_f(0) = e_f(1) = (n/2)$ .

Thus,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| = e_f(0) - e_f(1) = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (3)$

By (1) and (3),  $LR_n$  is product cordial.

**2.2 Theorem:**  $L_n$  is product cordial iff  $n = 1$ .

**Proof:**  $L_n$  has  $2n$  vertices. Let  $V(L_n) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  with  $u_i, v_i$  representing the corresponding column elements.

Now, label  $n$  vertices with 0 and  $n$  vertices with 1 as in figure 2.2

Therefore,  $v_f(0) = v_f(1) = n$ . Thus,  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (1)$

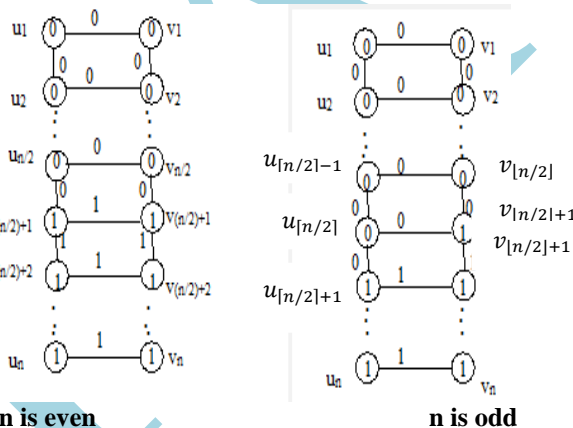


Figure 2.2

**Case i) n is odd**

When  $n = 1$ ,  $L_n \cong P_2$ .

By 1.1,  $L_n(n=1)$  is product cordial.

Let  $n = 2k + 1$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Let  $f$  be a vertex labeling satisfying (1).

Equation (2) defines one such  $f$  which gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$

$$f(u_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \text{ and}$$

$$f(v_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \rightarrow (2)$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq n + k - 2$  and  $soe_f(0) \geq (3n - 2) - (n + k - 2) = 2n - k$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Thus, } |e_f(0) - e_f(1)| &= e_f(0) - e_f(1) \\ &\geq |2n - k - (n + k - 2)| \\ &= |n - 2k + 2| \\ &= |2k + 1 - 2k + 2| = 3. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Since  $f$  assigns maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ , there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $L_n$  when  $n$  is odd.

**Case ii) n is even**

Let  $n = 2k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Let  $f$  be a vertex labeling satisfying (1).

Equation (3) defines one such  $f$  which gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$

$$f(u_i) = f(v_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq (n/2) \\ 1 & \text{if } (\frac{n}{2}) + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \rightarrow (3)$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq n+k-2$  and so  $e_f(0) \geq (3n-2) - (n+k-2) = 2n-k$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Thus, } |e_f(0) - e_f(1)| &= e_f(0) - e_f(1) \\ &\geq |2n-k - (n+k-2)| \\ &= |n-2k+2| \\ &= |2k-2k+2| = 2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Hence, as in case (i), there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $L_n$  when  $n$  is even.

By cases (i) & (ii),  $L_n$  is product cordial iff  $n = 1$ .

**2.3 Theorem:**  $M(C_n)$  is not product cordial.

**Proof:**  $M(C_n)$  has  $2n$  vertices.

Let  $V(M(C_n)) = \{v_i, u_i / i=1, \dots, n\}$  where  $V(C_n) = \{v_i / i=1, \dots, n\}$  and  $E(C_n) = \{u_i / i=1, \dots, n\}$

Correspondingly,  $E(M(C_n)) = \{u_i, u_{i+1} / i=1, \dots, n-1\}$

$\cup \{u_n, u_1\} \cup \{v_i, u_i, v_i, u_{i+1} / i=1, \dots, n-1\} \cup \{v_n, u_n, v_n, u_1\}$

The following figure 2.3 represents  $M(C_n)$  for general  $n$ .

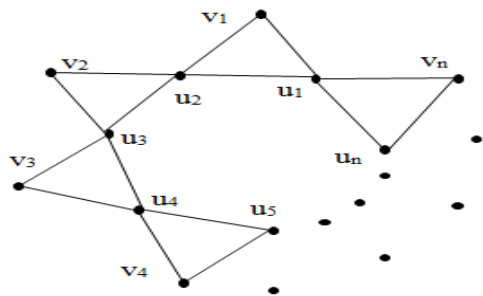


Figure 2.3

Now, label  $n$  vertices with 0 and  $n$  vertices with 1, so that  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| \leq 1 \rightarrow (1)$

**Case i)**  $n$  is odd

Let  $n = 2k+1, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Equation (2) defines a vertex labeling  $f$  satisfying (1) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f(u_i) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ 0 & \text{if } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \text{ and} \\ f(v_i) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ 0 & \text{if } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \rightarrow (2) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq n+k-1$  and so  $e_f(0) \geq (3n) - (n+k-1) = 2n-k+1$ .

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |e_f(0) - e_f(1)| &\geq 2n-k+1 - (n+k-1) \\ &= n-2k+2 = 2k+1-2k+2 \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Since  $f$  assigns maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ , there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $M(C_n)$  when  $n$  is odd.

**Case ii)**  $n$  is even

Let  $n = 2k, k = 2, 3, \dots$

Equation (3) defines a vertex labeling  $f$  satisfying (1) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

$$f(u_i) = f(v_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq (\frac{n}{2}) \\ 1 & \text{if } (\frac{n}{2}) + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \rightarrow (3)$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq n+k-2$  and so

$$e_f(0) \geq (3n) - (n+k-2) = 2n-k+2.$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |e_f(0) - e_f(1)| &\geq 2n-k+2 - (n+k-2) \\ &= n+4-2k \\ &= 2k+4-2k = 4. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Hence, as in case (i), there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $M(C_n)$  when  $n$  is even.

By cases (i) & (ii),  $M(C_n)$  is not product cordial.

## II PRODUCT CORDIAL LABELING OF CARTESIAN PRODUCT GRAPHS

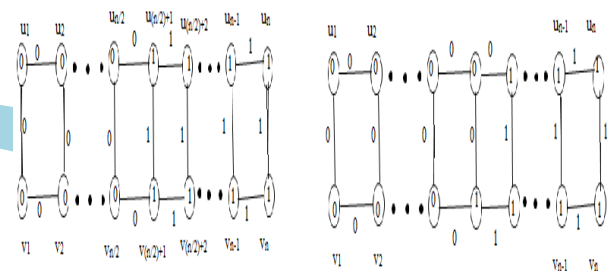
We restate the definition of **Cartesian Product**[4] as follows: Let  $G_1 = (U, E)$  and  $G_2 = (V, E')$  be two graphs. Let  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  and  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m\}$ . The Cartesian product of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is the graph  $G_1 \times G_2$  with vertex set  $W = U \times V$  and edge set  $E'' = \{(u_i, v_j), (u_k, v_s) / u_i = u_k \text{ and } v_j \text{ is adjacent to } v_s \text{ or } v_j = v_s \text{ and } u_i \text{ is adjacent to } u_k\}$ .

**3.1 Theorem:**  $P_2 \times P_n$  is product cordial iff  $n=1$ .

**Proof:**  $P_2 \times P_n$  has  $2n$  vertices.

$P_2 \times P_n$  looks as in figure 3.1

Let  $V(P_2 \times P_n) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  with  $u_i, v_i$  representing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> row elements respectively.



**n is even**

**n is odd**

Figure 3.1

Now, label  $n$  vertices with 0 and  $n$  vertices with 1, so that  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (1)$

**Case i)**  $n$  is odd

When  $n=1, P_2 \times P_n \cong P_2$

By 1.1,  $P_2 \times P_n$  is product cordial

Let  $n = 2k+1, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Equation (2) defines a vertex labeling  $f$  satisfying (1) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f(u_i) &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \text{ and} \\ f(v_i) &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \rightarrow (2) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq n+k-2$  and so

$$\begin{aligned} e_f(0) &\geq (3n-2) - (n+k-2) \\ &= 3n-n-2-k+2 = 2n-k. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \geq 2n - k - (n + k - 2) = 2k + 1 - 2k + 2 = 3$$

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Since f assigns maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ , there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $P_2 \times P_n$  when n is odd.

**Case ii) n is even**

Let  $n = 2k, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Equation (3) defines a vertex labeling f satisfying (1) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

$$f(u_i) = f(v_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \\ 1 & \text{if } \left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \rightarrow (3)$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq n + k - 2$  and so

$$e_f(0) \geq (3n - 2) - (n + k - 2) = 3n - n - 2 - k + 2 = 2n - k.$$

Thus,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \geq 2n - k - (n + k - 2) = 2k - 2k + 2 = 2$ .

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Hence, as in case (i), there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $P_2 \times P_n$  when n is even. By cases (i) & (ii),  $P_2 \times P_n$  is product cordial iff  $n = 1$ .

**3.2 Theorem:**  $P_3 \times P_n$  is product cordial iff  $n = 1$ .

**Proof:**  $P_3 \times P_n$  has  $3n$  vertices.

$P_3 \times P_n$  looks as in figure 3.2

Let  $V(P_3 \times P_n) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$  with  $u_i, v_i, w_i$  representing the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> row elements respectively.

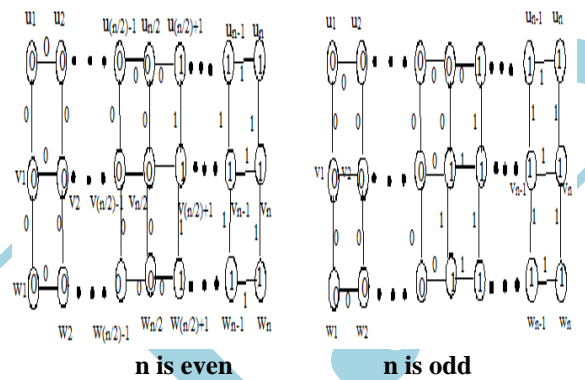


Figure 3.2

**Case i) n is odd**

When  $n = 1, P_3 \times P_n \cong P_3$

By 1.1,  $P_3 \times P_n$  is product cordial

Let  $n = 2k + 1, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Now, label  $\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor$  vertices with 0 and  $\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor$  vertices with 1, so that  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 1 \rightarrow (1)$

Equation (2) defines a vertex labeling f satisfying (1) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

$$f(u_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \text{ and } f(v_i) = f(w_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \rightarrow (2)$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq 2n + k - 2$  and  $e_f(0) \geq (5n - 3) - (2n + k - 2) = 3n - k - 1$ .

$$\text{Thus, } |e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \geq 3n - k - 1 - (2n + k + 2) = n - 2k + 1 = 2k + 1 - 2k + 1 = 2$$

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Since f assigns maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ , there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $P_3 \times P_n$  when n is odd.

**Case ii) n is even**

Let  $n = 2k, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Now, label  $3n/2$  vertices with 0 and  $3n/2$  vertices with 1, so that  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (3)$

Equation (4) defines a vertex labeling f satisfying (1) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

$$f(u_i) = f(v_i) = f(w_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \\ 1 & \text{if } \left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \rightarrow (4)$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq n + 3k - 3$  and so

$$e_f(0) \geq (5n - 3) - (n + 3k - 3) = 5n - n - 3 - 3k + 3 = 4n - 3k$$

Thus,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \geq 4n - 3k - (n + 3k - 3) = 3n - 3 - 6k = 3(2k) - 3 - 6k = 3$ .

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Hence, as in case (i), there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $P_3 \times P_n$  when n is even.

By cases (i) & (ii),  $P_3 \times P_n$  is product cordial iff  $n = 1$ .

**3.3 Theorem:**  $C_3 \times C_n$  is not product cordial.

**Proof:**  $C_3 \times C_n$  has  $3n$  vertices.

$C_3 \times C_n$  looks as in figure 3.3

Let

$V(C_3 \times C_n) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$  with  $u_i, v_i, w_i$  representing the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> row elements respectively.

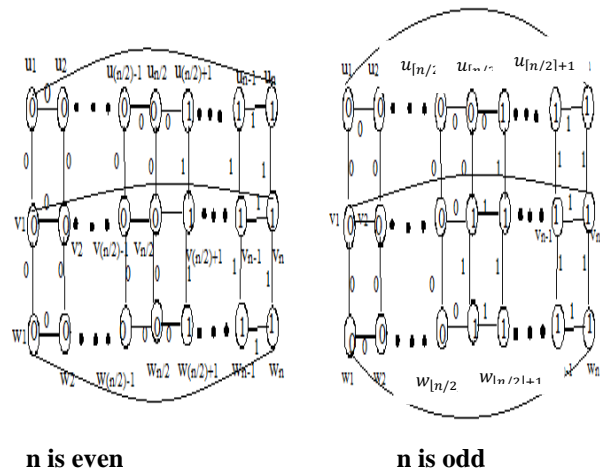


Figure 3.3

**Case i) n is odd**

Let  $n = 2k + 1, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Now, label  $\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor$  vertices with 0 and  $\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor$  vertices with 1, so that  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 1$ .

Equation (2) defines a vertex labeling f satisfying (1) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

$$f(u_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \text{ and}$$

$$f(v_i) = f(w_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \\ 1 & \text{if } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases}$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq 2n + k - 2$  and  $e_f(0) \geq (5n) - (2n + k - 2) = 3n - k + 2$ .

Thus,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \geq 3n - k + 2 - (2n + k - 2)$

$$= n - 2k + 4$$

$$= 2k + 1 - 2k + 4 = 5$$

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Since  $f$  assigns maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ , there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $C_3 \times C_n$  when  $n$  is odd.

**Case ii)  $n$  is even**

Let  $n = 2k, k = 2, 3, \dots$

Now, label  $3n/2$  vertices with 0 and  $3n/2$  vertices with 1, so that

$$|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 0 < 1.$$

Equation (4) defines a vertex labeling  $f$  satisfying (3) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

$$f(u_i) = f(v_i) = f(w_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq \left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \\ 1 & \text{if } \left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + 1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \rightarrow (4)$$

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq n + 3k - 3$  and so

$$e_f(0) \geq (5n) - (n + 3k - 3) = 4n - 3k + 3.$$

Thus,

$$|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \geq 4n - 3k + 3(n + 3k - 3)$$

$$= 3n + 6 - 6k = 3(2k) + 6 - 6k$$

$$= 6.$$

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$

Hence, as in case (i), there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $C_3 \times C_n$  when  $n$  is even.

By cases (i) & (ii),  $C_3 \times C_n$  is not product cordial.

### III PRODUCT CORDIAL LABELING OF WEAK PRODUCT GRAPHS

We restate the definition of **Weak(or Kronecker) Product**[4] as follows: Let  $G_1 = (U, E)$  and  $G_2 = (V, E')$  be two graphs. Let  $U = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  and  $V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m\}$ . The weak product of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is the graph  $G_1 \odot G_2$  with vertex set  $W = U \times V$  and edge set  $E'' = \{(u_i, v_j), (u_k, v_s)\} / u_i$  is adjacent to  $u_k$  and  $v_j$  is adjacent to  $v_s$ .

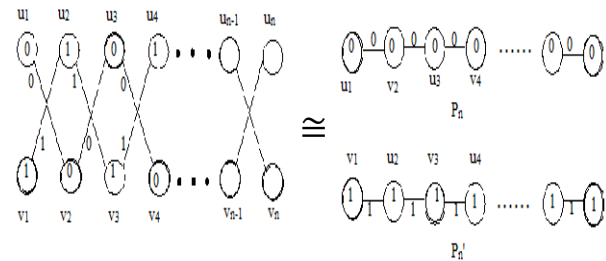
**4.1 Theorem:**  $P_2 \odot P_n$  is product cordial.

**Proof:**  $P_2 \odot P_n$  has  $2n$  vertices.

Let  $V(P_2) = \{u, v\}$  and  $V(P_n) = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$ . Then,  $V(P_2 \odot P_n) = \{(u, w_i), (v, w_i) / i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Now, name the vertices  $(u, w_i)$  as  $u_i$  and  $(v, w_i)$  as  $v_i$  as in figure 4.1

Therefore,  $V(P_2 \odot P_n) = \{u_i, v_i / i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$

Here,  $f: V(P_2 \odot P_n) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is defined by

$$f(u_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases}, \quad f(v_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$


**Figure 4.1**

From figure 4.1,  $P_2 \odot P_n$  is the union of two disjoint paths of length  $n$ , i.e.,  $P_2 \odot P_n = P_n \cup P_n'$ .

Now, label  $n$  vertices of  $P_n$  with 0 and label  $n$  vertices of  $P_n'$  with 1, so that

$$|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (2)$$

Correspondingly,  $e_f(0) = e_f(1) = n - 1$ .

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (2)$

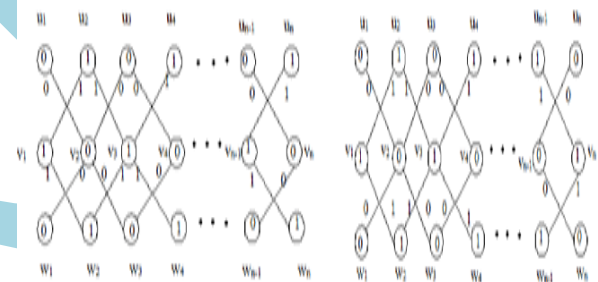
By (1) and (2),  $P_2 \odot P_n$  is product cordial.

**4.2 Theorem:**  $P_3 \odot P_n$  is product cordial.

**Proof:**  $P_3 \odot P_n$  has  $3n$  vertices.

$P_3 \odot P_n$  looks as in figure 4.2

Let  $V(P_3 \odot P_n) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n\}$  with  $u_i, v_i, w_i$  representing the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> row elements respectively.



**$n$  is even**

**$n$  is odd**

**Figure 4.2**

Here,  $f: V(P_3 \odot P_n) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is defined by

$$f(u_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases}, \quad f(v_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{and } f(w_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

**Case i)  $n$  is odd**

Now,  $v_f(0) = \lfloor \frac{3n}{2} \rfloor$  and  $v_f(1) = \lfloor \frac{3n}{2} \rfloor$  so that

$$|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 1 \rightarrow (1)$$

Correspondingly, all the edges incident with  $u_i, w_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n-1$  get the label 1.

From figure 4.2, it is clear that two edges are incident with  $u_i, w_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n-1$ .

$$\text{Therefore, } e_f(1) = 2 \left\{ (2+2+\dots+\frac{n-1}{2} \text{ times}) \right\}$$

$$= 2 \left\{ 2 \left( \frac{n-1}{2} \right) \right\} = 2(n-1) = 2n - 2.$$

$$\text{Further, } e_f(0) = q - e_f(1) = (4n-4) - (2n-2)$$

$$= 2n - 2.$$

Thus,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (2)$

By (1) and (2),  $P_3 \odot P_n$  is product cordial.



**Case ii) n is even**

Now,  $v_f(0) = 3n/2$  and  $v_f(1) = 3n/2$  so that  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (3)$

Correspondingly, all the edges incident with  $u_i, w_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n$  get the label 1.

From figure 4.2, it is clear that two edges are incident with  $u_i, w_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n-2$  and exactly one edge with  $u_n$  and  $w_n$  and these edges are all independent.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, } e_f(1) &= 2\{(2+2+\dots+\frac{n-2}{2}\text{times}) + 1\} \\ &= 2\{2(\frac{n-2}{2}) + 1\} = 2(n-2) + 2 \\ &= 2n - 2. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Further, } e_f(0) &= q - e_f(1) = (4n-4) - (2n-2) \\ &= 2n - 2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (4)$

By (3) and (4),  $P_3 \odot P_n$  is product cordial.

**4.3 Theorem:**  $P_4 \odot P_n$  is product cordial.

**Proof:**  $P_4 \odot P_n$  has  $4n$  vertices.

$P_4 \odot P_n$  looks as in figure 4.3

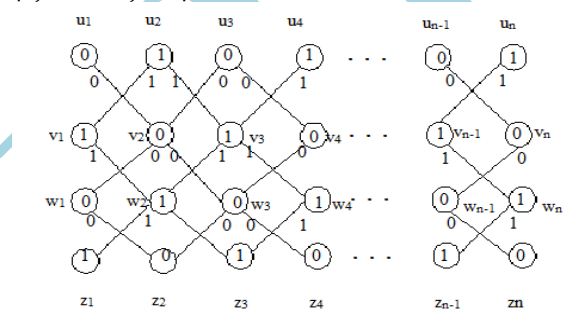
Let  $V(P_4 \odot P_n) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n, z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n\}$  with  $u_i, v_i, w_i, z_i$  representing the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> row elements respectively.

Here,  $f: V(P_4 \odot P_n) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is defined by

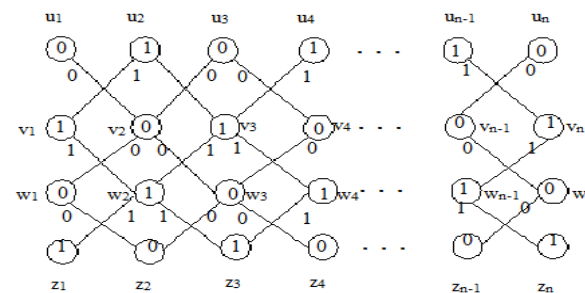
$$\begin{aligned} f(u_i) &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases}, \\ f(v_i) &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \end{cases}, \\ f(w_i) &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases} \text{ and} \\ f(z_i) &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

For any  $n$ , we can label  $2n$  vertices with 0 and  $2n$  vertices with 1, so that

$$|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (1)$$



**n is even**



**n is odd**

**Figure 4.3**

**Case i) n is odd**

Correspondingly, the edges incident with  $u_i, w_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n-1$  get the label 1.

From figure 4.3, it is clear that two edges are incident with  $u_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n-1$  and four edges incident with  $w_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n-1$ . Further, these edges are all distinct.

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} e_f(1) &= \{(2+2+\dots+\frac{n-1}{2}\text{times}) + (4+4+\dots+\frac{n-1}{2}\text{times})\} \\ &= 2(\frac{n-1}{2}) + 4(\frac{n-1}{2}) = (n-1) + 2(n-1) \\ &= 3n - 3. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Further, } e_f(0) &= q - e_f(1) \\ &= (6n-6) - (3n-3) = 3n - 3. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (2)$

By (1) and (2),  $P_4 \odot P_n$  is product cordial.

**Case ii) n is even**

Correspondingly, all the edges incident with  $u_i, w_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n$  get the label 1.

From figure 4.3, it is clear that two edges are incident with  $u_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n-2$ .

Four edges incident with  $w_i$  for  $i = 2, 4, \dots, n-2$  and two edges incident with  $w_n$  and one edge is incident with  $u_n$ . Further, these edges are all distinct.

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} e_f(1) &= (2+2+\dots+\frac{n-2}{2}\text{times}) + (4+4+\dots+\frac{n-2}{2}\text{times}) + 2 + 1 \\ &= 2(\frac{n-2}{2}) + 4(\frac{n-2}{2}) + 3 = (n-2) + 2(n-2) = 3n - 3. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Further, } e_f(0) = q - e_f(1) = (6n-6) - (3n-3) = 3n - 3.$$

Hence,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (3)$

By (1) and (3),  $P_4 \odot P_n$  is product cordial.

**4.4 Theorem:**  $C_3 \odot C_n$  is not product cordial for  $n \geq 3$ .

**Proof:** Let  $V(C_3) = \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$  &  $V(C_n) = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n\}$

Then,  $V(C_3 \odot C_n) = \{(a_1, b_j), (a_2, b_j), (a_3, b_j) / j=1, \dots, n\}$

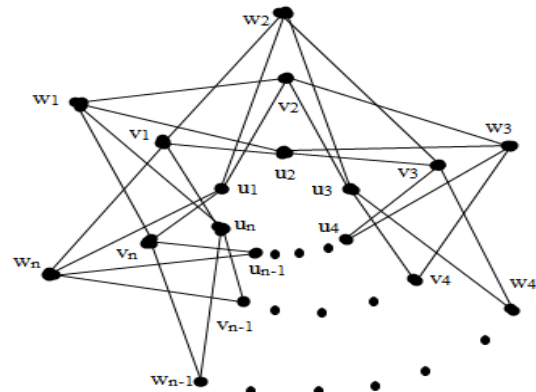
Label the vertices  $(a_1, b_j), (a_2, b_j)$  and  $(a_3, b_j)$  with  $u_j, v_j, w_j$  for  $j=1, \dots, n$  respectively.

Therefore,  $V(C_3 \odot C_n) = \{u_i, v_i, w_i / i=1, \dots, n\}$ .

Correspondingly,

$$\begin{aligned} E(C_3 \odot C_n) &= \{u_i v_{i+1}, u_i w_{i+1} / i=1, \dots, n-1\} \cup \{u_n v_1, u_n w_1\} \\ &\cup \{u_i v_{i-1}, u_i w_{i-1} / i=2, \dots, n\} \cup \{u_1 v_n, u_1 w_n\} \\ &\cup \{v_i w_{i+1}, w_i v_{i+1} / i=1, \dots, n-1\} \cup \{v_1 w_n, v_n w_1\}. \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $|V(C_3 \odot C_n)| = 3n$  and  $|E(C_3 \odot C_n)| = 6n$ .



**Figure 4.4.**  $C_3 \odot C_n$

Define:  $V(C_3 \odot C_n) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is

by  $f(u_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases}$  and

$$f(v_i) = f(w_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \\ 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \end{cases} \rightarrow (1)$$

**Case i)**  $n (\geq 3)$  is odd

Now, label  $\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor$  vertices with 1 and  $\lfloor 3n/2 \rfloor$  vertices with 0, so that  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 1 \rightarrow (2)$

Equation (1) defines a function  $f$  satisfying (1) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

By the above labeling,  $u_2, u_4, \dots, u_{n-1}$  get the label 1. Corresponding to each of these  $u_i$ 's 4 edges get the label 1 and are distinct.

Also, the vertices  $v_1, v_3, v_5, \dots, v_n$  &  $w_1, w_3, w_5, \dots, w_n$  get the label 1. Corresponding to these vertices there are exactly two edges  $v_n w_1$  &  $v_1 w_n$  get label 1.

All other edges get the label 0.

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n 4 + 2$  where the summation runs over for even  $i$ .

$$\begin{aligned} &= \binom{n}{2} \times 4 + 2 = 2n. \\ &= \left(\frac{n-1}{2} \times 4\right) + 2 = 2n - 2 + 2 = 2n. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $e_f(0) \geq (6n) - (2n) = 4n$ .

Thus,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \geq |4n - 2n| = 2n > 1$ .

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Since  $f$  assigns maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ , there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $C_3 \odot C_n$  when  $n$  is odd.

**Case ii)**  $n (\geq 4)$  is even

Now, label  $3n/2$  vertices with 0 and  $3n/2$  vertices with 1, so that  $|v_f(0) - v_f(1)| = 0 < 1 \rightarrow (3)$

Equation (1) defines a function  $f$  satisfying (1) & gives maximum value for  $e_f(1)$ .

By the above labeling,  $u_2, u_4, \dots, u_n$  get the label 1. Corresponding to each of these  $u_i$ 's 4 edges get the label 1 and are distinct.

Also, the vertices  $v_1, v_3, v_5, \dots, v_{n-1}$  &  $w_1, w_3, w_5, \dots, w_{n-1}$  get the label 1. Corresponding to these vertices there are no edges  $v_n w_1$  &  $v_1 w_n$  get label 1. All other edges get the label 0.

Therefore,  $e_f(1) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n 4$   
 $= \binom{n}{2} \times 4 = 2n$ .

Therefore,  $e_f(0) \geq (6n) - (2n) = 4n$ .

Thus,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \geq |4n - 2n| = 2n > 1$ .

Therefore,  $|e_f(0) - e_f(1)| \not\leq 1$ .

Hence, as in case (i), there is no other function which is a product cordial labeling of  $C_3 \odot C_n$  when  $n$  is even.

By cases (i) & (ii),  $C_3 \odot C_n$  is not product cordial.

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