

ON THE VERTEX-DISTINGUISHING EDGE COLORING OF  
JOIN GRAPH WITH STAR AND COMPLETE  
BALANCED BIPARTITE GRAPH

Pengxiang Qiu<sup>1 §</sup>, Zhongfu Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Liang Bian<sup>3</sup>  
Huiying Qiang<sup>4</sup>, Fugang Chao<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>College of Mathematics Physics and Software Engineering

Lanzhou Jiaotong University

Lanzhou, 730070, P.R. CHINA

<sup>1</sup>e-mail: qpx0304@yahoo.com.cn

**Abstract:** This paper deals with the vertex-distinguishing edge coloring of join graph with star and complete balanced bipartite graph.

**AMS Subject Classification:** 05C15, 68R10, 94C15

**Key Words:** star, complete balanced bipartite graph, vertex-distinguishing edge coloring, vertex-distinguishing edge chromatic number

## 1. Introduction

Graph theory is a sort of models which can be applied in various science fields such as computer science, physics, biology, chemistry, strategy, etc. Graph coloring is one of the chief topics in graph research. The four-color conjecture is firstly brought up in vertex coloring, which develops the research work in graph theory. Later on, based on many theoretical and practical problems, numbers of mathematical experts began to study vertex coloring, edge coloring, total coloring, list coloring, etc.

This paper deals with the vertex-distinguishing edge coloring of join graph with star and complete balanced bipartite graph.

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Received: February 18, 2006

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<sup>§</sup>Correspondence author

**Definition 1.1.** (see [1]-[4], [6])  $G$  is a sample graph,  $f$  is a proper edge coloring of  $G$ , for any vertices  $u, v \in G(V)$ , suppose  $C(u) \neq C(v)$ , where  $C(u) = \{f(uw) | uw \in E(G)\}$ , then  $f$  is called a  $k$ -vertex-distinguishing edge-coloring of  $G$ , and which is abbreviated  $k$ -VDEC of  $G$ , and  $\chi'_{vd}(G) = \min\{k \mid G \text{ has a } k\text{-VDEC}\}$  is called the  $k$ -vertex-distinguishing edge-chromatic number of  $G$ .

$C(u)$  in Definition 1.1 is called the color set of vertex  $u$  and  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\} \setminus C(u)$  is denoted by  $\overline{C}(u)$ .

**Definition 1.2.** (see [1]-[4])  $G$  is a sample graph,  $n_i$  denotes the number of vertex which has  $i$  degrees,  $\delta, \Delta$  denote minimum, maximum degree of  $G$  respectively, then

$$\mu(G) = \max\{\min\{\lambda \mid \binom{\lambda}{i} \geq n_i\}, \delta \leq i \leq \Delta\}$$

is called combinatorial degree of  $G$ .

**Conjecture 1.1.** (see [1]-[4]) Let  $G$  be a connected graph with  $|V(G)| \geq 3$ , then:

$$\mu(G) \leq \chi'_{vd}(G) \leq \mu(G) + 1.$$

**Definition 1.3.** (see [4]-[7]) Suppose  $G$  and  $H$  are two simple graphs of which vertices and edges are disconnected,

$$\begin{aligned} V(G \vee H) &= V(G) \cup V(H), E(G \vee H) \\ &= E(G) \cup E(H) \cup \{uv \mid u \in V(G), v \in V(H)\}, \end{aligned}$$

then  $G \vee H$  is called join-graph of  $G$  and  $H$ .

In this paper, we studied the conjecture of  $S_m \vee K_{n,n}$ . For others terminologies we refer to reference [5].

## 2. Main Results

From Definition 1.2, it is easy to obtain the following lemmas.

**Lemma 2.1.**  $G$  is a graph without isolated edge and one isolated vertex at most,  $\chi'_{vd}(G) \geq \mu(G)$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** If  $m \geq 1, n \geq 2$ , we have

$$\mu(S_m \vee K_{n,n}) = \begin{cases} 4, & m = n = 1; \\ m + 3, & m > n = 1; \\ 2n + 2, & n > m = 1. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 2.3.** For complete graph  $K_n$  with order  $n \geq 3$ , we have

$$\chi'_{vd}(K_n) = \begin{cases} n, & n \equiv 1(\text{mod } 2); \\ n + 1, & n \equiv 0(\text{mod } 2). \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 2.1.** For star  $S_m$  with order  $m + 1$  and complete balanced bipartite graph  $K_{n,n}$ , when  $m = 0$ , then:

$$\chi'_{vd}(S_0 \vee K_{n,n}) = \begin{cases} 3, & n = 1; \\ 2n, & n \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $V(S_0) = \{w\}, V(K_{n,n}) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\} \cup \{v_{n+1}, v_{n+2}, \dots, v_{2n}\}$

Case 1. When  $n = 1$ , we have  $S_0 \vee K_{1,1} = K_3$ , from Lemma 2.3, obviously,  $\chi'_{vd}(S_0 \vee K_{1,1}) = 3$ .

Case 2. When  $n \geq 2$ , we can work out:

$$\mu(S_0 \vee K_{n,n}) = \max\{\min\{\lambda \mid \binom{\lambda}{2n} \geq 1\}, \min\{\lambda \mid \binom{\lambda}{n+1} \geq 2n\}\} = 2n.$$

So, we need only to prove that  $S_0 \vee K_{n,n}$  has a  $2n - VDEC$ .

Suppose  $C = \{1, 2, \dots, 2n - 1, 0\}, \overline{C}(u) = C \setminus C(u)$ , let  $f$  be:  $f(wv_i) = i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2n - 1$ );  $f(wv_{2n}) = 0$ ;  $f(v_i v_j) = i + j - n$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1; j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n$ );  $f(v_n v_j) = j - n - 1$  ( $j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n$ ).

Such that,  $\overline{C}(w) = \phi$ ;  $C(v_i) = \{i, i + 1, \dots, i + n\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$ );  $C(v_n) = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ;  $C(v_i) = \{i - n - 1, i - n + 1, i - n + 2, \dots, i\}$  ( $i = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n - 1$ );  $C(v_{2n}) = \{n - 1, n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n - 1, 0\}$ .

Obviously,  $\forall u, v \in V(S_0 \vee K_{n,n})$ , if  $u \neq v$ , we have  $C(u) \neq C(v)$ . So,  $f$  is a  $2n - VDEC$  of  $S_0 \vee K_{n,n}$ .

From all of above, Theorem 2.1 is true. □

**Theorem 2.2.** For star  $S_m$  with order  $m + 1$  and complete balanced bipartite graph  $K_{n,n}$ , when  $m \geq 1, n = 1$ , then

$$\chi'_{vd}(S_m \vee K_{1,1}) = \begin{cases} 5, & m = 1; \\ m + 3, & m \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $V(S_m) = \{w\} \cup \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}, V(K_{1,1}) = \{v_1\} \cup \{v_2\}$ .

Case 1. When  $m = 1$ ,  $S_1 \vee K_{1,1} = K_4$ , from Lemma 2.3,  $\chi'_{vd}(S_1 \vee K_{1,1}) = 5$ .

Case 2. When  $m \geq 2$ , we can work out:

$$\mu(S_m \vee K_{1,1}) = \max\{\min\{\lambda | \binom{\lambda}{m+2} \geq 3\}, \min\{\lambda | \binom{\lambda}{3} \geq m\}\} = m + 3.$$

So, we need only to prove that  $S_m \vee K_{1,1}$  has a  $(m + 3) - VDEC$ .

Suppose  $C = \{1, 2, \dots, m + 2, 0\}$ ,  $\overline{C}(u) = C \setminus C(u)$ , Let  $f$  be:

$$f(wu_i) = i - 1 \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, m); f(wv_1) = m; f(wv_2) = m + 1; f(u_iv_j) = i + j - 1 \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1; j = 1, 2); f(u_mv_1) = m + 1; f(u_mv_2) = 0; f(v_1v_2) = m + 2.$$

Such that,  $\overline{C}(w) = \{m + 2\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_1) = \{0\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_2) = \{1\}$ ;  $C(u_i) = \{i - 1, i, i + 1\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1$ );  $C(u_m) = \{0, m - 1, m + 1\}$ .

Obviously,  $\forall u, v \in V(S_m \vee K_{1,1})$ , if  $u \neq v$ , we have  $C(u) \neq C(v)$ . So,  $f$  is a  $(m + 3) - VDEC$  of  $S_m \vee K_{1,1}$ .

From all of above, Theorem 2.2 is true. □

**Theorem 2.3.** For star  $S_m$  with order  $m + 1$  and complete balanced bipartite graph  $K_{n,n}$ , when  $m = 1, n \geq 2$ , then  $\chi'_{vd}(S_1 \vee K_{n,n}) = 2n + 2$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $V(S_1) = \{w\} \cup \{u_1\}$ ,  $V(K_{n,n}) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\} \cup \{v_{n+1}, v_{n+2}, \dots, v_{2n}\}$ . We can work out:

$$\mu(S_1 \vee K_{n,n}) = \max\{\min\{\lambda | \binom{\lambda}{2n+1} \geq 2\},$$

$$\min\{\lambda | \binom{\lambda}{n+2} \geq 2n\}\} = 2n + 2.$$

So, we need only to prove that  $S_1 \vee K_{n,n}$  has a  $(2n + 2) - VDEC$ .

Case 1. When  $n = 2$ , we need only to prove that  $S_1 \vee K_{2,2}$  has a  $6 - VDEC$ .

Let  $f$  be:

$$f(wv_i) = i \quad (i = 1, 2, 3, 4); f(u_1v_i) = i + 1 \quad (i = 1, 2, 3, 4);$$

$$f(wu_1) = 0; f(v_1v_3) = 5; f(v_1v_4) = 0; f(v_2v_3) = 0; f(v_2v_4) = 1.$$

Such that,  $\overline{C}(w) = \{5\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(u_1) = \{1\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_1) = \{3, 4\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_2) = \{4, 5\}$ ;

$$\overline{C}(v_3) = \{1, 2\}; \overline{C}(v_4) = \{2, 3\}.$$

Obviously,  $f$  is a  $6 - VDEC$  of  $S_1 \vee K_{2,2}$ , the conclusion is true.

Case 2. When  $n \geq 3$ , let  $f$  be:

$$f(wv_i) = i \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, 2n); f(u_1v_i) = i + 1 \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, 2n); f(wu_1) = 0;$$

$$f(v_iv_j) = i + j - n + 1 \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 2; j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n);$$

$$f(v_iv_j) = j + 2 \quad (i = n - 1; j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n); f(v_iv_j) = j + 4 \quad (i = n; j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n).$$

Such that,  $\overline{C}(w) = \{2n + 1\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(u_1) = \{1\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{i + n + 2, i + n + 3, \dots, i + 2n + 1\}$  in take mod  $(2n + 2)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 2$ );  $\overline{C}(v_{n-1}) = \{n +$

$1, n + 2, 2n + 3, 2n + 4, \dots, 3n\}$  in take mod $(2n + 2)$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_n) = \{n + 2, n + 3, n + 4, 2n + 5, \dots, 3n + 1\}$  in take mod $(2n + 2)$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{i + 3, i + 5, i + 6, \dots, i + n + 3\}$  in take mod $(2n + 2)$  ( $i = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n$ ).

Obviously,  $\forall u, v \in V(S_1 \vee K_{n,n})$ , if  $u \neq v$ , we have  $C(u) \neq C(v)$

So  $f$  is a  $(2n + 2) - VDEC$  of  $S_1 \vee K_{n,n}$ .

From all of above, Theorem 2.3 is true.

**Theorem 2.4.** For star  $S_m$  with order  $m + 1$  and complete balanced bipartite graph  $K_{n,n}$ , when  $m \geq 3, n \geq 2$ , then  $\chi'_{vd}(S_m \vee K_{n,n}) = m + 2n$ .

*Proof.* Suppose

$$V(S_m) = \{w\} \cup \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\},$$

$$V(K_{n,n}) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\} \cup \{v_{n+1}, v_{n+2}, \dots, v_{2n}\}.$$

We can work out:

$$\mu(S_m \vee K_{n,n}) = \max\{\min\{\lambda \binom{\lambda}{m+2n} \geq 1\}, \min\{\lambda \binom{\lambda}{2n+1} \geq m\},$$

$$\min\{\lambda \binom{\lambda}{m+n+1} \geq 2n\}\} = m + 2n.$$

So we need only to prove  $S_m \vee K_{n,n}$  has a  $(m + 2n) - VDEC$ .

*Case 1.* When  $m > n \geq 2$ ,

*Case 1.1.* When  $m = 3, n = 2$ , we need only to prove  $S_3 \vee K_{2,2}$  has a  $7 - VDEC$

Suppose  $C = \{1, 2, \dots, 7\}$ ,  $\overline{C}(u) = C \setminus C(u)$ , let  $f$  be:

$f(wu_i) = i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ );  $f(wv_i) = i + 3$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ );  $f(u_1v_1) = 5$ ;  $f(u_1v_2) = 6$ ;  $f(u_1v_3) = 7$ ;  $f(u_1v_4) = 3$ ;  $f(u_2v_1) = 1$ ;  $f(u_2v_2) = 3$ ;  $f(u_2v_3) = 4$ ;  $f(u_2v_4) = 5$ ;  $f(u_3v_1) = 2$ ;  $f(u_3v_2) = 7$ ;  $f(u_3v_3) = 5$ ;  $f(u_3v_4) = 4$ ;  $f(v_1v_3) = 3$ ;  $f(v_1v_4) = 6$ ;  $f(v_2v_3) = 1$ ;  $f(v_2v_4) = 2$ .

Such that,  $\overline{C}(w) = \phi$ ;  $\overline{C}(u_1) = \{2, 4\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(u_2) = \{6, 7\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(u_3) = \{1, 6\}$ ,  $\overline{C}(v_1) = \{7\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_2) = \{4\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_3) = \{2\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_4) = \{1\}$ .

Obviously,  $f$  is a  $7 - VDEC$  of  $S_3 \vee K_{2,2}$ , the conclusion is true.

*Case 1.2.* When  $m - n = 1, m > 3$ , we need only to prove  $S_{n+1} \vee K_{n,n}$  has a  $(3n + 1) - VDEC$ , suppose  $C = \{1, 2, \dots, 3n, 0\}$ ,  $\overline{C}(u) = C \setminus C(u)$ , let  $f$  be:

$f(wv_i) = i - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2n$ );  $f(wu_i) = 2n + i - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n + 1$ );  $f(u_i v_j) = 2n + i + j - 1 \pmod{3n + 1}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n; j = 1, 2, \dots, 2n$ );  $f(v_i v_j) = i + j - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n; j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n$ );  $f(u_{n+1} v_j) = n + j - 1$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ );  $f(u_{n+1} v_j) = n + j$  ( $j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n - 1$ );  $f(u_{n+1} v_{2n}) = 0$ .

Such that,  $\overline{C}(w) = \phi$ ;  $\overline{C}(u_i) = \{i + n - 1, i + n, \dots, i + 2n - 2\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ );  $\overline{C}(u_{n+1}) = \{1, 2, \dots, n - 1, 2n\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{i, i + 1, \dots, i + n - 2\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ );  $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{n + i + 1, n + i + 2, \dots, 2n + i - 1\}$  in take mod  $(3n + 1)$  ( $i = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n - 1$ );  $\overline{C}(v_{2n}) = \{1, 2, \dots, n - 2, 3n\}$ .

Obviously,  $\forall u, v \in V(S_{n+1} \vee K_{n,n})$ , if  $u \neq v$ , we have  $C(u) \neq C(v)$

So  $f$  is a  $(3n + 1) - VDEC$  of  $S_{n+1} \vee K_{n,n}$ , the conclusion is true.

Case 1.3. When  $m - n \geq 2$ , suppose  $C = \{1, 2, \dots, m + 2n - 1, 0\}$ ,  $\overline{C}(u) = C \setminus C(u)$ , let  $f$  be:

$f(wv_i) = i - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2n$ );  $f(wu_i) = 2n + i - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ );  $f(u_i v_j) = 2n + i + j - 1 \pmod{m + 2n}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1$ ;  $j = 1, 2, \dots, 2n$ );  $f(u_m v_j) = n + j - 1$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ );  $f(u_m v_j) = n + j$  ( $j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n$ );  $f(v_i v_j) = i + j - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ;  $j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n$ ).

Such that:  $\overline{C}(w) = \phi$ ;  $\overline{C}(u_i) = \{i + 2n - m, i + 2n - m + 1, \dots, i + 2n - 2\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1$ );  $C(u_m) = \{n, n + 1, \dots, 2n - 1, 2n + 1, 2n + 2, \dots, 3n, m + 2n - 1\}$ ;  $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{i, i + 1, \dots, i + n - 2\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ );  $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{n + i + 1, n + i + 2, \dots, 2n + i - 1\}$  in take mod  $(m + 2n)$  ( $i = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n$ ).

Obviously,  $\forall u, v \in V(S_m \vee K_{n,n})$ , if  $u \neq v$ , we have  $C(u) \neq C(v)$

So  $f$  is a  $(m + 2n) - VDEC$  of  $S_m \vee K_{n,n}$ , the conclusion is true.

Case 2. When  $m = n \geq 3$ , we can work out:

$$\begin{aligned} &\mu(S_m \vee K_{m,m}) \\ &= \max\{\min\{\lambda \mid \binom{\lambda}{3m} \geq 1\}, \min\{\lambda \mid \binom{\lambda}{2m+1} \geq 3m\}\} = 3m. \end{aligned}$$

So we need only to prove  $S_m \vee K_{m,m}$  has a  $3m - VDEC$ .

Suppose  $V(S_m) = \{w\} \cup \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$ ,  $V(K_{m,m}) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m\} \cup \{v_{m+1}, v_{m+2}, \dots, v_{2m}\}$ ,  $C = \{1, 2, \dots, 3m - 1, 0\}$ ,  $\overline{C}(u) = C \setminus C(u)$ , let  $f$  be:

$f(wv_i) = i - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2m$ );  $f(wu_i) = 2m + i - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ );  $f(v_i v_j) = i + j - 1$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ;  $j = m + 1, m + 2, \dots, 2m$ );  $f(u_i v_j) = 2m + i + j - 1 \pmod{3m}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1$ ;  $j = 1, 2, \dots, 2m$ );  $f(u_m v_j) = m + j - 1$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$ );  $f(u_m v_j) = j - m - 1$  ( $j = m + 1, m + 2, \dots, 2m$ ).

Such that:  $\overline{C}(w) = \phi$ ;  $C(u_i) = \{i + m, i + m + 1, \dots, i + 2m - 2\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ );  $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{i, i + 1, \dots, m + i - 2\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ );  $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{m + i, m + i + 1, \dots, 2m + i - 2\}$  in take mod  $(3m)$  ( $i = m + 1, m + 2, \dots, 2m$ ).

Obviously,  $\forall u, v \in V(S_m \vee K_{m,m})$ , if  $u \neq v$ , we have  $C(u) \neq C(v)$

So  $f$  is a  $3m - VDEC$  of  $S_m \vee K_{m,m}$ , the conclusion is true.

Case 3. When  $n > m \geq 3$ ,

suppose  $C = \{1, 2, \dots, m + 2n - 1, 0\}$ ,  $\overline{C}(u) = C \setminus C(u)$ , let  $f$  be:

$f(wv_i) = i - 1 \ (i = 1, 2, \dots, 2n); f(wu_i) = 2n + i - 1 \ (i = 1, 2, \dots, m);$   
 $f(u_iv_j) = 2n + i + j - 1 \pmod{m + 2n} \ (i = 1, 2, \dots, m - 1; j = 1, 2, \dots, 2n) ;$   
 $f(u_mv_j) = n + j - 1 \ (j = 1, 2, \dots, n); f(u_nv_j) = j - n - 1 \ (j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n);$   
 $f(v_iv_j) = i + j - 1 \ (i = 1, 2, \dots, n; j = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n).$

Such that:  $\overline{C}(w) = \phi; C(u_i) = \{2n - m + i, 2n - m + i + 1, \dots, i + 2n - 2\} \ (i = 1, 2, \dots, m);$   
 $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{i, i + 1, \dots, n + i - 2\} \ (i = 1, 2, \dots, n).$   
 $\overline{C}(v_i) = \{i - n, i - n + 1, n + i, n + i + 1, \dots, 2n + i - 4\} \ \text{in take mod}(m + 2n) \ (i = n + 1, n + 2, \dots, 2n).$

Obviously,  $\forall u, v \in V(S_m \vee K_{m,m}),$  if  $u \neq v,$  we have  $C(u) \neq C(v)$

So  $f$  is a  $(m + 2n) - VDEC$  of  $S_m \vee K_{n,n},$  the conclusion is true.

From all of above, Theorem 2.4 is true.

### Acknowledgments

This research is supported by NSFC of P.R. China (No. 40301037).

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