## $P_n^3$ is a Graceful Graph \*

YAN Qian-tai<sup>1</sup>, ZHANG Zhong-fu<sup>2,3</sup>

- (1. Dept. of Math., Anyang Teachers College, Henan 455002, China;
- 2. Dept. of Computer, Lanzhou Teacher College, Gansu 730070, China;
- 3. Dept. of Math., Northwest Normal University, Lanzhou 730070, China)

**Abstract**: Let G(V, E) be a simple graph and  $G^k$  be a k-power graph defined by  $V(G^k) = V(G), E(G^k) = E(G) \cup \{uv | d(u, v) = k\}$  for natural number k. In this paper, it is proved that  $P_n^3$  is a graceful graph.

Key words: graph  $P_n^3$ ; graceful labelling; graceful graph.

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## 1. Introduction

The graceful of graph has been widely studied since G.Kingd proposed the conjecture "all trees are graceful" in 1960's. A series of results on graceful of special graphs were obtained. In this paper, the graceful of a class graph is given.

**Definition 1** Let G(V, E) be a simple graph with n vertices and m edges. A mapping  $f:V(G) \to \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m\}$ , f is called a graceful labelling of graph G with a graceful graph G, if is satisfies

1 f be an injection;

 $2 \max\{f(v)|v \in V\} = m;$ 

 $3 \ f(uv) = |f(u) - f(v)|, e = uv \in E;$ 

4  $\{f(uv)|uv \in E\} = \{1, 2, \dots, m\}.$ 

**Definition 2** Let G(V, E) be a simple graph and k be a natural number,  $V(G^k) = V(G), E(G^k) = E(G) \cup \{uv | d(u, v) = k\}$ , that is iff the distance is k between two vertices of G, an edge is added.  $G^k$  is called k-power graph of G.

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Let  $P_n$  be a path of order n.

**Theorem 1** When  $n = 4, 5, P_n^3$  is graceful.

The theorem is obviously true.

**Theorem 2** For  $n \geq 6$ ,  $P_n^3$  is graceful.

**Proof** Now to prove the theorem by six cases.

Case 1. When n = 6k.

A labelling mapping f of  $P_n^3$  is given as follows.

$$f(v_{6i}) = 7i, f(v_{6i+}) = 7i + 2, f(v_{6i+4}) = 7i + 5,$$

$$f(v_{6i+1}) = 12k - 5i - 4, f(v_{6i+3}) = 12k - 5i - 5, f(v_{6i+5}) = 12k - 5i - 6,$$

where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k - 1$ . Now f is going to be proved a graceful labelling.

- (1) According to the labelling above, labels of even vertices arrange from small to large, the maximum is 7k-2; labels of odd vertices arrange from large to small, the minimum is 7k-1; then f is an injection.
- (2)  $\max\{f(v)|v\in v\}=f(v_1)=12k-4=|E(P_n^3)|.$
- (3) For  $i \neq j$ ,

$$|f(v_i) - f(v_{i+1})| \neq |f(v_j) - f(v_{j+1})|; |f(v_i) - f(v_{i+3})| \neq |f(v_j) - f(v_{j+3})|; |f(v_i) - f(v_{i+1})| \neq |f(v_i) - f(v_{i+3})|.$$

and moreover

$$\max\{f(uv)|uv\in E\} = \max\{|f(v_i)-f(v_{i+1})|,|f(v_i)-f(v_{i+3})|\} = f(v_{6k-1})-f(v_{6k-2}) = 1$$

As the labels of all edges are  $\{1, 2, \dots, 12k - 4\}$ , f is a graceful labelling of  $P_n^3$ .

**Case 2.** When n = 6k + 1.

A labelling mapping f of  $P_n^3$  is given as follows

$$f(v_{6i}) = 7i, f(v_{6i+2}) = 7i + 2, f(v_{6i+4}) = 7i + 5,$$

$$f(v_{6i+1}) = 12k - 5i - 2, f(v_{6i+3}) = 12k - 5i - 3, f(v_{6i+5}) = 12k - 5i - 4,$$

where  $i=0,1,2,\cdots,k-1$ . It is similar to lemma 2 to be proved f is a graceful labelling.

Case 3. When n = 6k + 2.

A labelling mapping f of  $P_n^3$  is given as follows

$$f(v_0) = 0, f(v_1) = 12k, f(v_3) = 12k - 1,$$
  
 $f(v_{6i+2}) = 7i + 2, f(v_{6i+4}) = 7i + 4, f(v_{6i+6}) = 7i + 6,$ 

$$f(v_{6i+5}) = 12k - 5i - 4, f(v_{6i+7}) = 12k - 5i - 5,$$

where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ;  $f(v_{6i+9}) = 12k-5i-6$ , where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k-2$ . It is similar to lemma 2 to be prove f is a graceful labelling.

Case 4. When n = 6k + 3.

A labelling mapping f of  $P_n^3$  is given as follows

$$f(v_0) = 0, f(v_1) = 12k + 2, f(v_2) = 2,$$

$$f(v_{6i+4}) = 7i + 5, f(v_{6i+6}) = 7i + 8, f(v_{6i+8}) = 7i + 10,$$

 $f(v_{6i+3}) = 12k - 5i + 1$ ,  $f(v_{6i+5}) = 12k - 5i$ ,  $f(v_{6i+7}) = 12k - 5i - 1$ , where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ . It is similar to Lemma 2 to be proved f is a graceful labelling.

Case 5. When n = 6k + 4.

A labelling mapping f of  $P_n^3$  is given as follows

$$f(v_0) = 0, f(v_1) = 12k + 4, f(v_3) = 12k + 3,$$

 $f(v_{6i+2}) = 7i + 2$ , where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k$ ;  $f(v_{6i+4}) = 7i + 4$ ,  $f(v_{6i+6}) = 7i + 6$ ,  $f(v_{6i+5}) = 12k - 5i + 2$ ,  $f(v_{6i+7}) = 12k - 5i + 1$ ,  $f(v_{6i+9}) = 12k - 5i$ , where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k - 1$ . It is similar to lemma 2 to be proved f is a graceful labelling.

Case 6. When n = 6k + 4.

A labelling mapping f of  $P_n^3$  is given as follows

$$f(v_0) = 0, f(v_1) = 12k + 6, f(v_3) = 12k + 5,$$

 $f(v_{6i+2}) = 7i + 2$ ,  $f(v_{6i+4}) = 7i + 4$ , where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k$ ;  $f(v_{6i+6}) = 7i + 6$ ,  $f(v_{6i+5}) = 12k - 5i + 4$ ,  $f(v_{6i+7}) = 12k - 5i + 3$ ,  $f(v_{6i+9}) = 12k - 5i + 2$ , where  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k - 1$ . It is similar to lemma 2 to be proved f is a graceful labelling.

This completes the proof.

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## 关于 $P_n^3$ 的优美性

严谦泰1、张忠辅2,3

- (1. 安阳师范学院数学系,河南 安阳 455002; 2. 兰州师范专科学院计算机系,甘肃 兰州 730070;
  - 3. 西北师范大学数学系, 甘肃 兰州 730070)

摘 要: 设 G(V, E) 是一个简单图,对自然数 k, 当  $V(G^k) = V(G), E(G^k) = E(G) \cup \{uv|d(u,v)=k\}$ , 则称图  $G^k$  为 k- 次方图. 本文证明了图  $P_n^a$  的优美性.

**关键词**:  $P_n^3$  图; 优美标号; 优美图.