The integer-magic spectra and null sets of the Cartesian product of trees

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Abstract

Let A be a non-trivial, finitely-generated abelian group and $A^* = A \setminus \{0\}$. A graph is A-magic if there exists an edge labeling f using elements of A^* which induces a constant vertex labeling of the graph. Such a labeling f is called an A-magic labeling and the constant value of the induced vertex labeling is called the A-magic value. The integer-magic spectrum of a graph G is the set

 $IM(G) = \{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid G \text{ is } \mathbb{Z}_k\text{-magic}\},\$

where \mathbb{N} is the set of natural numbers. The null set of G is the set of integers $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that G has a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling with magic value 0. In this paper, we determine the integer-magic spectra and null sets of the Cartesian product of two trees.

1 Introduction

All concepts and notation not explicitly defined in this paper can be found in [2]. Let G = (V, E) be a connected simple graph. For any non-trivial, finitely generated

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abelian group A (written additively), let $A^* = A \setminus \{0\}$. A mapping $f : E \to A^*$ is called an *edge labeling* of G. Any such edge labeling induces a vertex labeling $f^+: V \to A$, defined by $f^+(v) = \sum_{uv \in E} f(uv)$. If there exists an edge labeling f whose induced mapping on V is a constant map, we say that f is an A-magic labeling of G and that G is an A-magic graph. The corresponding constant is called an Amagic value. The integer-magic spectrum of a graph G is the set $\mathrm{IM}(G) = \{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid G \text{ is } \mathbb{Z}_k\text{-magic}\}$, where \mathbb{N} is the set of natural numbers. Here, \mathbb{Z}_1 is understood to be the set of integers. Generally speaking, it is quite difficult to determine the integer-magic spectrum of a graph. Note that the integer-magic spectrum of a graph is not to be confused with the set of achievable magic values.

Group-magic graphs were studied in [7, 9, 15, 16, 26] and \mathbb{Z}_k -magic graphs were investigated in [4, 6, 8, 10-14, 17-22, 27, 28]. \mathbb{Z} -magic graphs were considered by Stanley [29, 30], where he pointed out that the theory of magic labelings could be studied in the general context of linear homogeneous diophantine equations. They were also considered in [1, 23].

Within the mathematical literature, various definitions of magic graphs have been introduced. The original concept of an A-magic graph is due to J. Sedlacek [24, 25], who defined it to be a graph with real-valued edge labeling such that (i) distinct edges have distinct nonnegative labels, and (ii) the sum of the labels of the edges incident to a particular vertex is the same for all vertices. Previously, Kotzig and Rosa [5] had introduced yet another definition of a magic graph. Over the years, there has been considerable interest in graph labeling problems. The interested reader is directed to Wallis' [31] monograph on magic graphs and to Gallian's [3] excellent dynamic survey of graph labelings.

2 Cartesian product of a tree with a path

Some work on group-magic labelings of trees and their related graphs appear within the literature [11–14,17,21,22]. With regards to Cartesian products, Low and Lee [15] showed the following: If G and H are \mathbb{Z}_k -magic, then $G \times H$ is \mathbb{Z}_k -magic. In this section, we study the group-magicness of the Cartesian product of trees with paths.

With the purpose of constructing large classes of \mathbb{Z}_k -magic graphs, Salehi [19,20] introduced the concept of a null set of a graph. The *null set* of a graph G, denoted by N(G), is the set of integers $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that G has a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling with magic value 0. Hence, $N(G) \subseteq \text{IM}(G)$.

It is easy to see that a graph G is \mathbb{Z}_2 -magic if and only if the degrees of the vertices are of the same parity. Moreover, $2 \in N(G)$ if and only if the degree of each vertex of G is even.

Let G be a graph of order s and P_t be the path of order t. Let $V(G) = \{g_1, \ldots, g_s\}$ and $V(P_t) = \{p_1, \ldots, p_t\}$. Consider the Cartesian product graph $G \times P_t$. For a fixed i, the subgraph induced by $\{(g_i, p_j) \mid 1 \leq j \leq t\}$ is called a *vertical path* (or more precisely, the g_i -path). For a fixed j, the subgraph induced by $\{(g_i, p_j) \mid 1 \leq i \leq s\}$ is called a *horizontal graph* (or more precisely, the *j*-th graph). **Remark 2.1.** For $P_2 \times P_2 \cong C_4$, we label the edges (clockwise) 1, -1, 1 and -1. Thus, $N(P_2 \times P_2) = \mathbb{N} = \mathrm{IM}(P_2 \times P_2)$.

Lemma 2.1. Let $s \ge 2$ and $t \ge 3$. Then, $N(P_s \times P_t) = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} = \mathrm{IM}(P_s \times P_t)$.

Proof: Since $P_s \times P_t$ contains vertices of even and odd degrees, it is not \mathbb{Z}_2 -magic. Let $P_s = g_1 \cdots g_s$. Label the vertical g_1 -path and g_s -path by 1 and the other vertical g_j -paths (if any) by 2, where $2 \le j \le s - 1$; label the horizontal 1-st and t-th paths by -1 and the other horizontal paths by -2. This yields a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling with magic value 0, for $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\}$.

For $s \ge 3$, $t \ge 2$ and $1 \le r \le s$, let B(r; s, t) be the graph obtained from $P_s \times P_t$ by deleting all edges of the r-th vertical path. Note that $B(r; s, t) \cong B(s-r+1; s, t)$.

Remark 2.2. Observe that $B(2; 3, 2) \cong C_6$. In this case, we label the edges (clockwise) 1, -1, 1, -1, 1 and -1. Thus, $N(B(2; 3, 2)) = \mathbb{N} = IM(B(2; 3, 2))$.

Lemma 2.2. Let $s \ge 3$, $t \ge 2$ and $2 \le r \le s - 1$. If $(s,t) \ne (3,2)$, then $N(B(r;s,t)) = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} = \mathrm{IM}(B(r;s,t))$.

Proof: Clearly, B(r; s, t) is not \mathbb{Z}_2 -magic. To obtain a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling for B(r; s, t) with magic value 0 (for $k \neq 2$), we perform the following steps:

- 1. Label $P_s \times P_t$ using the labeling found in the proof of Lemma 2.1.
- 2. Delete the edges of the r-th vertical path.
- 3. Multiply all edge labels that are to the left (or right) of the (former) r-th vertical path by -1.

Example 2.1. Here are some labelings (see Figure 1) which illustrate the proofs of Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 for $P_5 \times P_3$, B(2; 5, 3) and B(3; 5, 3), respectively:



Definition 2.1. Let T be a tree, $u \in V(T)$ and $\deg(u) \ge 3$. We say that u has the 2-pendant paths property to mean the following:

- There exists two paths $uv_1v_2\cdots v_a$ and $uw_1w_2\cdots w_b$.
- T is the edge-disjoint union of $[T (\{v_i \mid 1 \le i \le a\} \cup \{w_j \mid 1 \le j \le b\})]$ and path $w_b \cdots w_1 u v_1 \cdots v_a$, through identification of vertex u.

Lemma 2.3. Let T be a tree which is not a path. Then, there exists a vertex $u \in V(T)$ which has the 2-pendant paths property.

Proof: View T as a rooted tree. Since T is not a path, there is a vertex u furthest away from the root, where $\deg(u) \ge 3$. Then, there are at least two subtrees of u which are paths. Hence, u has the 2-pendant paths property.

Lemma 2.4. Let $s \ge 2$. If T_s is a tree of order s, then $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} \subseteq N(T_s \times P_2) \subseteq IM(T_s \times P_2)$.

Proof: For s = 2, the claim holds by Remark 2.1. Now, let $s \ge 3$. Using mathematical induction, we assume that the claim holds for any tree of order less than s, where $s \geq 3$. Now consider T_s , a tree of order s. If $T_s = P_s$, then we are done by Lemma 2.1. Suppose that T_s is not a path. Then by Lemma 2.3, there exists a vertex u of T_s which has the 2-pendant paths property. Let $uv_1 \cdots v_a$ and $uw_1 \cdots w_b$ be two such pendant paths. Let $T = T_s - (\{v_i \mid 1 \le i \le a\} \cup \{w_j \mid 1 \le j \le b\})$ and $G = T \times P_2$. Let P be the path $w_b \cdots w_1 u v_1 \cdots v_a$, which is isomorphic to P_{a+b+1} . Let B be the graph obtained from $P \times P_2$ by deleting the edges of the (b+1)-st vertical path. Here, B is isomorphic to B(b+1; a+b+1, 2). Now, G and B are edge-disjoint and $T_s \times P_2 = G \cup B$, (via identification of the copies of u in G with the vertices of the edge-deleted (b+1)-st vertical path in B). By the inductive hypothesis and Lemma 2.2 (or Remark 2.2, if $B \cong B(2;3,2) \cong C_6$), we know that G and B have \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labelings with magic value 0, for $k \neq 2$. Combining these two \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labelings, we get the required \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling of $T_s \times P_2$, for $k \neq 2$. Hence by mathematical induction, the claim is established.

Theorem 2.5. Let $s \ge 2$ and $t \ge 3$. If T_s is a tree of order s, then $N(T_s \times P_t) = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} = \mathrm{IM}(T_s \times P_t)$.

Proof: Since $T_s \times P_t$ contains vertices of even and odd degrees, it is not \mathbb{Z}_2 -magic. From Lemma 2.1, the claim holds when s = 2 or s = 3. Using mathematical induction, we assume that the claim holds for any tree of order less than s, where $s \ge 4$. Now consider T_s , a tree of order s. If $T_s = P_s$, then we are done by Lemma 2.1. Suppose that T_s is not a path. Then by Lemma 2.3, there exists a vertex u of T_s which has the 2-pendant paths property. Let $uv_1 \cdots v_a$ and $uw_1 \cdots w_b$ be two such pendant paths. Let $T = T_s - (\{v_i \mid 1 \le i \le a\} \cup \{w_j \mid 1 \le j \le b\})$ and $G = T \times P_t$. Let P be the path $w_b \cdots w_1 uv_1 \cdots v_a$, which is isomorphic to P_{a+b+1} . Let B be the graph obtained from $P \times P_t$ by deleting the edges of the (b + 1)-st vertical path. Here, B is isomorphic to B(b+1; a+b+1, t). Now, G and B are edge-disjoint and $T_s \times P_t = G \cup B$, (via identification of the copies of u in G with the vertices of the edge-deleted (b + 1)-st vertical path in B). By the inductive hypothesis and Lemma 2.2, we know that G and B have \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labelings with magic value 0, for $k \neq 2$. Combining these two \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labelings, we get the required \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling of $T_s \times P_t$, for $k \neq 2$. Hence by mathematical induction, the claim is established. \Box

Example 2.2. Here are \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labelings (see Figure 2), where $k \neq 2$ for $T_5 \times P_3$ and $T_7 \times P_3$, respectively:



Figure 2

Example 2.3. Note that $K_{1,3} \times P_2$ is an Eulerian graph with an even number of edges. Traveling along an Eulerian circuit of $K_{1,3} \times P_2$, we can label the edges $1, -1, 1, -1, \ldots, 1, -1$. This is \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling with magic value 0, for $k \in \mathbb{N}$. See Figure 3.



Figure 3

3 Cartesian product of two trees

Suppose T is a tree and $t \ge 3$. Let $B_T(r;t)$ be the graph obtained from $T \times P_t$ by deleting all the edges of the r-th horizontal tree, where $2 \le r \le t - 1$.

Lemma 3.1. Let T be a tree of order at least 3, $t \ge 4$ and $2 \le r \le t - 1$. Then, $N(B_T(r;t)) = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} = \mathrm{IM}(B_T(r;t)).$

Proof: Since $B_T(r;t)$ contains vertices of even and odd degrees, it is not \mathbb{Z}_2 -magic. To obtain a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling for $B_T(r;t)$ with magic value 0 (for $k \neq 2$), we perform the following steps:

1. Label $T \times P_t$, as described in the proof of Theorem 2.5.

- 2. Delete the edges of the *r*-th horizontal tree.
- 3. Multiply all edge labels that are above (or below) the (former) r-th horizontal tree by -1.

This gives us a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling of $B_T(r;t)$ with magic value 0, for $k \neq 2$.

Remark 3.1. Suppose that T is a tree of order at least 3 and t = 3. Then the procedure described in the proof of Lemma 3.1 yields $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} \subseteq N(B_T(2;3)) \subseteq \mathrm{IM}(B_T(2;3))$. If T has no vertex of even degree, $B_T(2;3)$ has no vertices of odd degree. In this case, labeling all of the edges of $B_T(2;3)$ with 1 gives a \mathbb{Z}_2 -magic labeling with magic value 0. Thus, $N(B_T(2;3)) = \mathbb{N} = \mathrm{IM}(B_T(2;3))$. On the other hand, if T has a vertex of even degree, then $B_T(2;3)$ has vertices of even and odd degrees and hence, is not \mathbb{Z}_2 -magic. In this case, $N(B_T(2;3)) = \mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} = \mathrm{IM}(B_T(2;3))$.

Example 3.1. Here are some labelings which illustrate Remark 3.1. The integermagic spectrum of $B_{T_5}(2;3)$ is $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\}$. See Figure 4. Now, let $T = K_{1,3}$. Then, the integer-magic spectrum of $B_T(2;3)$ is \mathbb{N} .



Figure 4

Theorem 3.2. Let $s, t \ge 2$. If T_s and T_t are trees of order s and t, respectively, then $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} \subseteq N(T_s \times T_t) \subseteq \mathrm{IM}(T_s \times T_t)$.

Proof: Let $s \ge 2$. When t = 2, the claim holds by Lemma 2.4. When t = 3, the claim holds by Theorem 2.5. Using mathematical induction, we assume the claim holds for any tree of order less than t, where $t \ge 4$. Now consider T_t , a tree of order t. If $T_t = P_t$, then we are done by Theorem 2.5. Suppose that T_t is not a path. Then by Lemma 2.3, there exists a vertex u of T_t which has the 2-pendant paths property. Let $uv_1 \cdots v_a$ and $uw_1 \cdots w_b$ be two such pendant paths. Let $T = T_t - (\{v_i \mid 1 \le i \le a\} \cup \{w_j \mid 1 \le j \le b\})$ and $G = T_s \times T$. Let P be the path $w_b \cdots w_1 uv_1 \cdots v_a$ which is isomorphic to P_{a+b+1} . Let B be the graph obtained from $T_s \times P$ by deleting the edges of the (b+1)-st horizontal tree. Here, B is isomorphic to $B_{T_s}(b+1;t)$. Now, G and B are edge-disjoint and $T_s \times T_t = G \cup B$. By the inductive hypothesis and Lemma 3.1, we know that G and B have \mathbb{Z}_k -magic

labelings with magic-value 0, for $k \neq 2$. Combining these two \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labelings, we get the required \mathbb{Z}_k -magic of $T_s \times T_t$, for $k \neq 2$. Hence by mathematical induction, the claim is established.

Remark 3.2. Theorem 3.2 establishes the entire integer-magic spectra and null sets of the Cartesian product of two trees, for all $k \neq 2$. To determine if 2 is contained in the integer-magic spectrum or null set of $T_s \times T_t$, one merely examines the parities of the degrees of the vertices in $T_s \times T_t$.

Example 3.2. Here is a construction of a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling with magic value 0 of $K_{1,3} \times K_{1,3}$, using the ideas in the proofs of the above results.

- (1) From the proof of Lemma 2.1, we obtain labelings of $P_2 \times P_3$ and $P_3 \times P_3$.
- (2) Perform the steps described in the proof of Lemma 2.2 on $P_3 \times P_3$ to get a labeling of B(3;2,3).
- (3) From the proof of Theorem 2.5, we obtain a labeling of $K_{1,3} \times P_3$.
- (4) From the proof of Lemma 3.1, we get a labeling of $B_{K_{1,3}}(2;3)$.
- (5) Combining the labeling of $K_{1,3} \times P_2$ obtained in Example 2.3, we get a labeling of $K_{1,3} \times K_{1,3}$.

All labelings obtained above are magic with magic value 0. Here are the resulting labelings (see Figure 5). Clearly, this is a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling of $K_{1,3} \times K_{1,3}$ with magic value 0, for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Theorem 3.3. Let $s_i \geq 2$, for $1 \leq i \leq 2r$ and T_{s_i} be a tree of order s_i . Then, $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} \subseteq \mathrm{IM}(T_{s_1} \times T_{s_2} \times T_{s_3} \times T_{s_4} \cdots \times T_{s_{2r-1}} \times T_{s_{2r}}).$

Proof: In [15], it was shown that the Cartesian product of two \mathbb{Z}_k -magic graphs is \mathbb{Z}_k -magic. This, along with Theorem 3.2, establishes our claim.

4 Miscellany

The main focus of this paper has been to determine the entire integer-magic spectra and null sets of $T_s \times T_t$. This section contains various miscellaneous results which the authors encountered along the way.

We first note that \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labelings can be obtained for $P_s \times P_t$ with any number of deleted vertical paths, excluding the 1-st and s-th vertical paths. This is accomplished by repeatedly using the procedure described in the proof of Lemma 2.2. Thus, we have the following theorem:

Theorem 4.1. Let $s \ge 3$, $t \ge 2$ and $G = P_s \times P_t$ with some deleted vertical paths (excluding the 1-st and s-th vertical paths). Then, $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} \subseteq N(G) \subseteq \mathrm{IM}(G)$.



Figure 5

Example 4.1. Here is a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling (see Figure 6) with magic value 0 ($k \neq 2$) of $P_5 \times P_3$ with its 2-nd and the 4-th vertical paths deleted. This was obtained by using the procedure described in the proof of Lemma 2.2 twice.



One can also obtain \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labelings for $T_s \times P_t$ (where T_s is a tree of order s) with any number of deleted horizontal trees, excluding the 1-st and t-th horizontal

trees. This is accomplished by repeatedly using the procedure described in the proof of Lemma 3.1. Thus, we have the following theorem:

Theorem 4.2. Let $s \ge 3$, $t \ge 4$ and $G = T_s \times P_t$ with some deleted horizontal trees (excluding the 1-st and t-th horizontal trees). Then, $\mathbb{N} \setminus \{2\} \subseteq N(G) \subseteq \mathrm{IM}(G)$.

Theorem 4.3. Suppose that $2 \le r \le s-1$ and $t \ge 2$. Let path $P_s = u_1 \cdots u_s$ and B(r; s, t) be the graph obtained from $P_s \times P_t$ by deleting all edges of the r-th vertical path. Furthermore, suppose that $G \times P_t$ has a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling with magic value 0, for $k \ne 2$. Let H be the one point union of G and P_s by identifying a vertex of G with the vertex $u_r \in V(P_s)$. Then, $H \times P_t$ has a \mathbb{Z}_k -magic labeling with magic value 0.

Proof: Note that $H \times P_t \cong (G \times P_t) \cup B(r; s, t)$. The claim follows immediately from this.

To determine if $H \times P_t$ (in Theorem 4.3) has a \mathbb{Z}_2 -magic labeling, one merely examines the parities of the degrees of the vertices.

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