

RAINBOW CONNECTION NUMBER OF GRAPHS WITH DIAMETER 3

HENGZHE LI, XUELIANG LI

AND

YUEFANG SUN

*Center for Combinatorics and LPMC-TJKLC
Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, China*

e-mail: lhz@htu.cn
lxl@nankai.edu.cn
bruceun@gmail.com

Abstract

A path in an edge-colored graph G is *rainbow* if no two edges of the path are colored the same. The *rainbow connection number* $rc(G)$ of G is the smallest integer k for which there exists a k -edge-coloring of G such that every pair of distinct vertices of G is connected by a rainbow path. Let $f(d)$ denote the minimum number such that $rc(G) \leq f(d)$ for each bridgeless graph G with diameter d . In this paper, we shall show that $7 \leq f(3) \leq 9$.

Keywords: edge-coloring, rainbow path, rainbow connection number, diameter.

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