

THE EXISTENCE OF $P_{\geq 3}$ -FACTOR COVERED GRAPHS

SIZHONG ZHOU, JIANCHENG WU

School of Mathematics and Physics
Jiangsu University of Science and Technology
Mengxi Road 2, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu 212003, P.R. China

e-mail: zsz_cumt@163.com
wjch78@sina.com

AND

TAO ZHANG

School of Economic and Management
Jiangsu University of Science and Technology
Mengxi Road 2, Zhenjiang, Jiangsu 212003, P.R. China

e-mail: 1040744613@qq.com

Abstract

A spanning subgraph F of a graph G is called a $P_{\geq 3}$ -factor of G if every component of F is a path of order at least 3. A graph G is called a $P_{\geq 3}$ -factor covered graph if G has a $P_{\geq 3}$ -factor including e for any $e \in E(G)$. In this paper, we obtain three sufficient conditions for graphs to be $P_{\geq 3}$ -factor covered graphs. Furthermore, it is shown that the results are sharp.

Keywords: $P_{\geq 3}$ -factor, $P_{\geq 3}$ -factor covered graph, toughness, isolated toughness, regular graph.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: 05C70, 05C38.

REFERENCES

- [1] J. Akiyama, D. Avis and H. Era, *On a $\{1, 2\}$ -factor of a graph*, TRU Math. **16** (1980) 97–102.
- [2] J. Akiyama and M. Kano, *Factors and Factorizations of Graphs (Lecture Notes in Mathematics, 2013, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Germany, 2011)*.
- [3] C. Bazgan, A.H. Benhamdine, H. Li and M. Woźniak, *Partitioning vertices of 1-tough graph into paths*, Theoret. Comput. Sci. **263** (2001) 255–261.
doi:10.1016/S0304-3975(00)00247-4

- [4] J.A. Bondy and U.S.R. Murty, *Graph Theory with Applications* (GTM-244, Berlin, Springer, 2008).
- [5] V. Chvátal, *Tough graphs and Hamiltonian Circuits*, *Discrete Math.* **5** (1973) 215–228.
doi:10.1016/0012-365X(73)90138-6
- [6] Y. Egawa, S. Fujita and K. Ota, *$K_{1,3}$ -factors in graphs*, *Discrete Math.* **308** (2008) 5965–5973.
doi:10.1016/j.disc.2007.11.013
- [7] W. Gao and W. Wang, *Toughness and fractional critical deleted graph*, *Util. Math.* **98** (2015) 295–310.
- [8] A. Kaneko, *A necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of a path factor every component of which is a path of length at least two*, *J. Combin. Theory Ser. B* **88** (2003) 195–218.
doi:10.1016/S0095-8956(03)00027-3
- [9] M. Kano, G.Y. Katona and Z. Király, *Packing paths of length at least two*, *Discrete Math.* **283** (2004) 129–135.
doi:10.1016/j.disc.2004.01.016
- [10] M. Kano, H. Lu and Q. Yu, *Component factors with large components in graphs*, *Appl. Math. Lett.* **23** (2010) 385–389.
doi:10.1016/j.aml.2009.11.003
- [11] M. Kouider and S. Ouatiki, *Sufficient condition for the existence of an even $[a, b]$ -factor in graph*, *Graphs Combin.* **29** (2013) 1051–1057.
doi:10.1007/s00373-012-1168-9
- [12] M. Kano and A. Saito, *Star-factors with large components*, *Discrete Math.* **312** (2012) 2005–2008.
doi:10.1016/j.disc.2012.03.017
- [13] G. Liu and L. Zhang, *Toughness and the existence of fractional k -factors of graphs*, *Discrete Math.* **308** (2008) 1741–1748.
doi:10.1016/j.disc.2006.09.048
- [14] J. Yang, Y. Ma and G. Liu, *Fractional (g, f) -factors in graphs*, *Appl. Math. J. Chinese Univ. Ser. A* **16** (2001) 385–390.
- [15] S. Zhou, *A new neighborhood condition for graphs to be fractional (k, m) -deleted graphs*, *Appl. Math. Lett.* **25** (2012) 509–513.
doi:10.1016/j.aml.2011.09.048
- [16] S. Zhou, *Independence number, connectivity and (a, b, k) -critical graphs*, *Discrete Math.* **309** (2009) 4144–4148.
doi:10.1016/j.disc.2008.12.013
- [17] S. Zhou and Q. Bian, *Subdigraphs with orthogonal factorizations of digraphs (II)*, *European J. Combin.* **36** (2014) 198–205.
doi:10.1016/j.ejc.2013.06.042

- [18] Y. Zhang, G. Yan and M. Kano, *Star-like factors with large components*, J. Oper. Res. Soc. China **3** (2015) 81–88.
doi:10.1007/s40305-014-0066-7
- [19] H. Zhang and S. Zhou, *Characterizations for $P_{\geq 2}$ -factor and $P_{\geq 3}$ -factor covered graphs*, Discrete Math. **309** (2009) 2067–2076.
doi:10.1016/j.disc.2008.04.022

Received 27 October 2015

Revised 27 August 2016

Accepted 27 August 2016