Discussiones Mathematicae
Graph Theory 41 (2021) 513–530
doi:10.7151/dmgt.2206

THE VERTEX-RAINBOW CONNECTION NUMBER OF SOME GRAPH OPERATIONS

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Abstract

A path in an edge-colored (respectively vertex-colored) graph G is *rainbow* (respectively *vertex-rainbow*) if no two edges (respectively internal vertices) of the path are colored the same. An edge-colored (respectively vertex-colored) graph G is *rainbow connected* (respectively *vertex-rainbow connected*) if every two distinct vertices are connected by a rainbow (respectively vertex-rainbow) path. The *rainbow connection number* $rc(G)$ (respectively *vertex-rainbow connection number* $rvc(G)$) of G is the smallest number of colors that are needed in order to make G rainbow connected (respectively vertex-rainbow connected). In this paper, we show that for a connected graph G and any edge $e = xy \in E(G)$, $rvc(G) \leq rvc(G-e) \leq rvc(G) + d_{G-e}(x,y) - 1$ if $G-e$ is connected. For any two connected, non-trivial graphs G and H, $rad(G\Box H) - 1 \leq rvc(G\Box H) \leq 2rad(G\Box H)$, where $G\Box H$ is the Cartesian product of G and H. For any two non-trivial graphs G and H such that G is connected, $rvc(G \circ H) = 1$ if $diam(G \circ H) \leq 2$, $rad(G) - 1 \leq rvc(G \circ H) \leq 2rad(G)$ if $diam(G) > 2$, where $G \circ H$ is the lexicographic product of G and H. For the line graph $L(G)$ of a graph G we show that $rvc(L(G)) \leq rc(G)$, which is the first known nontrivial inequality between the rainbow connection number and vertex-rainbow connection number. Moreover, the bounds reported are tight or tight up to additive constants.

Keywords: rainbow connection number, vertex-rainbow connection number, Cartesian product, lexicographic product, line graph.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: 05C15, 05C40, 05C76.

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Received 4 July 2018
Revised 22 January 2019
Accepted 22 January 2019