

## ON PARTITIONS OF HEREDITARY PROPERTIES OF GRAPHS

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### Abstract

In this paper a concept  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Ramsey Class of graphs is introduced, where  $\mathcal{Q}$  is a class of bipartite graphs. It is a generalization of well-known concept of Ramsey Class of graphs. Some  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Ramsey Classes of graphs are presented (Theorem 1 and 2). We proved that  $\mathcal{T}_2$ , the class of all outerplanar graphs, is not  $\mathcal{D}_1$ -Ramsey Class (Theorem 3). This results leads us to the concept of acyclic reducible bounds for a hereditary property  $\mathcal{P}$ . For  $\mathcal{T}_2$  we found two bounds (Theorem 4). An improvement, in some sense, of that in Theorem 5 is given.

**Keywords:** hereditary property, acyclic colouring, Ramsey class.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

We consider only finite undirected graphs without loops or multiple edges. For a graph  $G = (V, E)$  and  $U \subseteq V$ ,  $G[U]$  denotes the subgraph of  $G$  induced by vertices of  $U$ .

A  $k$ -colouring of a graph  $G$  is a mapping  $f$  from the set of vertices of  $G$  to the set of  $k$  colours such that adjacent vertices receive distinct colours. An *acyclic*  $k$ -colouring of a graph  $G$  is a  $k$ -colouring of  $G$  satisfying the subgraph

induced by every pair of colour classes has no cycle. The minimum  $k$  such that  $G$  has an acyclic  $k$ -colouring is called the *acyclic chromatic number* of  $G$ , denoted by  $\chi_a(G)$ .

Similarly, for a class  $\mathcal{P}$  of graphs, the *acyclic chromatic number* of  $\mathcal{P}$ , denoted by  $\chi_a(\mathcal{P})$ , is defined as the maximum  $\chi_a(G)$  over all graphs  $G \in \mathcal{P}$ .

This number has been studied extensively over past thirty years. Several authors have been able to determine  $\chi_a(\mathcal{P})$  for some classes  $\mathcal{P}$  of graphs such as graphs of maximum degree 3, considered by Grünbaum in [10] and of maximum degree 4, studied by Burstein in [7]. The acyclic chromatic number of planar graphs was found by Borodin in 1979, see [3] for details. Planar graphs with "large" girth, outerplanar and 1-planar graphs also were considered, see for instance [4, 5], etc.

In nineties Sopena *et al.*, have begun their studies on acyclic colourings of graphs with respect to hereditary properties of graphs. Namely, they have considered outerplanar, planar graphs and graphs with bounded degree, see [1, 2]. To precise this notion, we need some definitions. We follow [6].

Let  $\mathcal{I}$  denote the class of all finite simple graphs. A *property of graphs* is any nonempty class of graphs from  $\mathcal{I}$ , which is closed under isomorphisms. A property  $\mathcal{P}$  of graphs is called *hereditary* if it is closed under subgraphs, i.e., if  $H \subseteq G$  and  $G \in \mathcal{P}$  imply  $H \in \mathcal{P}$ . A property  $\mathcal{P}$  is called *additive* if for each graph  $G$  all of whose components have the property  $\mathcal{P}$  it follows that  $G \in \mathcal{P}$ , too. By  $\mathbb{L}^a$  we denote the set of all additive hereditary properties of graphs. We list some additive hereditary properties:

- $\mathcal{O} = \{G \in \mathcal{I} : E(G) = \emptyset\}$ ,
- $\mathcal{O}^k = \{G \in \mathcal{I} : \chi(G) \leq k\}$ ,
- $\mathcal{T}_2 =$  the class of all outerplanar graphs,
- $\mathcal{D}_1 =$  the class of all acyclic graphs.

A hereditary property  $\mathcal{P}$  can be uniquely determined by the set of *minimal forbidden subgraphs* which can be defined as follows:

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathcal{P}) = \{G \in \mathcal{I} : G \notin \mathcal{P}, \text{ but each proper subgraph } H \text{ of } G \text{ belongs to } \mathcal{P}\}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a family of graphs,  $\text{Forb}(\mathcal{F})$  is defined to be the property of all graphs having no subgraph isomorphic to any graph of  $\mathcal{F}$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{P} = \text{Forb}(\mathbf{F}(\mathcal{P}))$ .

Let  $\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, \dots, \mathcal{P}_k$  be hereditary properties of graphs. A  $(\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, \dots, \mathcal{P}_k)$ -colouring of a graph  $G$  is a mapping  $f$  from the set of vertices of  $G$  to a set of  $k$  colours such that for every colour  $i$ , the subgraph induced by the  $i$ -coloured vertices has property  $\mathcal{P}_i$ .

Suppose  $\mathcal{F}$  is a nonempty family of connected bipartite graphs, each with at least 2 vertices.

A  $(\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, \dots, \mathcal{P}_k)$ -colouring of a graph  $G$  is said to be  $\mathcal{F}$ -free if for every two distinct colours  $i$  and  $j$ , the subgraph induced by all the edges linking an  $i$ -coloured vertex and a  $j$ -coloured vertex does not contain a subgraph isomorphic to any graph  $F$  in  $\mathcal{F}$ . These  $\mathcal{F}$ -free  $(\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, \dots, \mathcal{P}_k)$ -colourings are a natural generalization of acyclic colourings if  $\mathcal{F} = \{C_{2p} : p \geq 2\}$ , star-forest colourings if  $\mathcal{F} = \{P_4\}$ , and so on.

We assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a minimal set of forbidden subgraphs for a property  $\mathcal{Q}$ , i.e.,  $\mathcal{F} = \mathbf{F}(\mathcal{Q})$ .

A property  $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}_1 \circ_{\mathcal{Q}} \mathcal{P}_2 \circ_{\mathcal{Q}} \dots \circ_{\mathcal{Q}} \mathcal{P}_n$  is defined as the set of all graphs having an  $\mathbf{F}(\mathcal{Q})$ -free  $(\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, \dots, \mathcal{P}_n)$ -colouring.

If  $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{D}_1$  then we use the notation  $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}_1 \odot \mathcal{P}_2 \odot \dots \odot \mathcal{P}_n$ .

A partition of  $V(G)$  generated by an  $\mathcal{F}$ -free  $(\mathcal{P}_1, \dots, \mathcal{P}_k)$ -colouring of  $G$  is called an  $\mathcal{F}$ -free  $(\mathcal{P}_1, \dots, \mathcal{P}_k)$ -partition. An  $\mathcal{F}$ -free  $(\mathcal{P}_1, \dots, \mathcal{P}_k)$ -colouring, where  $\mathcal{P}_i = \mathcal{I}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , will be called briefly an  $\mathcal{F}$ -free colouring. If  $\mathcal{F}$  consists of a single graph  $F$ , then it will be called an  $F$ -free colouring (partition) for short.

For definitions and notations not presented here, we refer to [6, 9].

## 2. RAMSEY CLASSES OF GRAPHS

A hereditary property  $\mathcal{P}$  is called a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Ramsey Class if for every  $G \in \mathcal{P}$  there is an  $H \in \mathcal{P}$  such that  $H \rightarrow_{\mathcal{Q}} G$ , i.e., for every  $\mathbf{F}(\mathcal{Q})$ -free bicolouring of  $H$  there is a monochromatic subgraph isomorphic to  $G$ .

It is easy to see that if  $\mathcal{P}$  is a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Ramsey Class and  $\mathcal{Q}' \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$ , then  $\mathcal{P}$  is a  $\mathcal{Q}'$ -Ramsey Class.

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $k \geq 2$ . Then  $\mathcal{O}^k$  is a  $\mathcal{D}_1$ -Ramsey Class.*

**Proof.** Let  $G \in \mathcal{O}^k$  and  $\alpha(G) = \alpha$ . It is easy to see that the graph  $H = K_{k \times (\alpha+2)}$ , the complete  $k$ -partite balanced (i.e., each colour class has the same cardinality  $\alpha + 2$ ) graph satisfies the requirements of Theorem. ■

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $F$  be a connected bipartite graph and  $\mathcal{Q} = \text{Forb}(F)$ . Then  $\mathcal{O}^k$  is a  $\mathcal{Q}$ -Ramsey Class for  $k \geq 2$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $F$  be a given connected bipartite graph and let  $F$  be a subgraph of  $K_{r,s}$  with  $r \leq s$ , and let  $G \in \mathcal{O}^k$ . Consider a graph  $H = K_{k \times n}$ , where

$n \geq s + \alpha(G) + 1$ . Suppose that  $\{X, Y\}$  is an  $F$ -free bipartition of  $H$ . It implies that one of sets  $X, Y$ , say  $X$ , has at most  $s$  elements in each colour class  $V_i$  of  $H$ . Similarly, each colour class  $V_i$  of  $H$  has at least  $\alpha(G)$  elements in  $Y$ , thus  $G$  is a subgraph of  $H[Y]$ . ■

Let  $k$  be a positive integer. A  $k$ -clique is a complete graph of order  $k$ . A  $k$ -tree is a graph defined inductively as follows: A  $k$ -clique is a  $k$ -tree. If  $G$  is a  $k$ -tree, and  $K$  is a subgraph of  $G$  isomorphic to a  $k$ -clique, then a graph obtained from  $G$  by adding a new vertex and joining it by new edges to all vertices of  $K$  is a  $k$ -tree. Any subgraph of a  $k$ -tree is a *partial  $k$ -tree*. The *tree-width* of a graph  $G$  is zero if  $G$  is edgeless; otherwise it is a smallest integer  $k$  such that  $G$  is a partial  $k$ -tree, and will be denoted by  $t_w(G)$ . Nontrivial forests have tree-width 1, while every graph has some tree-width.

Let us denote by

$$\mathcal{TW}_k = \{G \in \mathcal{I} : t_w(G) \leq k\}.$$

According to G. Ding, B. Oporowski, D.P. Sanders and D. Vertigan, see [8], we recall the notion of "large"  $k$ -trees.

Let  $k$  be a positive integer. We will define some classes of  $k$ -trees, each with a *level* function  $\lambda$  defined on its vertices. Let the level of a subgraph of a graph with a level function be the maximum level of its vertices. Let  $T(k, 0, 0)$  be the  $k$ -clique, and each of its vertices have level zero. Let  $l, r$  be non-negative integers. We will proceed by induction on  $l$ . The  $k$ -tree  $T(k, l, r)$  and its level function are obtained from  $k$ -tree  $T = T(k, l - 1, r)$  (or  $T = T(k, 0, 0)$  if  $l = 1$ ) and its level function by the following: For each  $k$ -clique  $K$  of  $T$  that has level  $l - 1$ , add  $r$  new vertices, join each of them to all vertices of  $K$ , and declare the new vertices to be at level  $l$ . For a new vertex  $v$  added, let  $K(v)$  denote this  $k$ -clique  $K$  of level  $l - 1$ .

**Proposition 2** [8]. *The graph  $T(k, l, r)$  is a  $k$ -tree and every  $k$ -tree is a subgraph of  $T(k, l, r)$ , for some  $l, r$ .*

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $k \geq 2$ . Then  $\mathcal{TW}_k$  is a  $\mathcal{D}_1$ -Ramsey Class.*

**Proof.** Let  $G \in \mathcal{TW}_k$ . By Proposition 2 it follows that  $G \subseteq T(k, l, r)$  for some integers  $l, r$ . Let  $H = T(k, p, s)$ ,  $s, p > 1$ . We claim that if  $p$  and  $s$  are large enough, then in every acyclic bicolouring  $f$  with a bipartition  $\{U_1, U_2\}$  of  $V(H)$ ,  $H[U_1] \supseteq T(k, l, r)$  or  $H[U_2] \supseteq T(k, l, r)$ .

Firstly, let us observe that if  $J$  is any  $k$ -clique in  $H$  then  $J$  has at least  $k - 1$  monochromatic vertices, say  $|V(J) \cap U_1| \geq k - 1$ , in any acyclic bicolouring  $f$  of  $H$ .

Secondly, if a  $k$ -clique  $J$  of level  $j < p$  has exactly one vertex in  $U_2$  then there is a monochromatic  $k$ -clique  $J'$  of the level  $j + 1$  with  $V(J') \subseteq U_1$ .

Since we choose  $p$  much larger than  $l$  therefore, without loss of generality, assume that  $k$ -clique  $K$  of the level zero is monochromatic, say  $V(K) \subseteq U_1$ .

Now let  $x$  be the vertex of level one in  $H$  and  $K(x) = K \subseteq U_1$ . If  $x \in U_2$  then  $y \in U_1$  for all vertices  $y \neq x$  of level one. Therefore all, except at most one,  $k$ -cliques of level one have vertices in  $U_1$ . Now, if we consider a vertex  $x'$  of level two, with  $K(x') \subseteq U_1$ , we get that all, except at most one,  $k$ -cliques of level two, having common vertices with  $K(x')$  have vertices in  $U_1$ , and so on. If  $s$  is large enough then  $T(k, l, r) \subseteq H[U_1]$ . ■

Now we consider the property  $\mathcal{T}_2$  which is a proper subclass of  $\mathcal{TW}_2$ . For  $\mathcal{T}_2$  we have the following results.

**Theorem 3.**  $\mathcal{T}_2$  is not a  $\mathcal{D}_1$ -Ramsey Class.

To prove Theorem 3 we need some notations and lemmas.

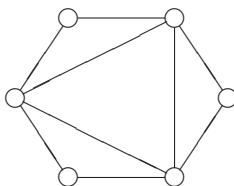
Let  $\mathcal{G} = \{A_l : A_l = T(2, l, 1), l > 0, A_0 = T(2, 0, 0)\}$ . It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{G}$  is a family of maximal outerplanar graphs with a level function and  $A_l \subset A_{l+1}$  for all  $l$ .

**Lemma 1.** If  $G \in \mathcal{T}_2$  then there is an integer  $k \geq 0$  such that  $G \subseteq A_k$ .

**Proof.** Clearly, it is enough to consider only maximal outerplanar graphs  $G$  with at least 3 vertices. The proof is by induction on the number of vertices of  $G$ . If  $|V(G)| = 3$  then  $G$  is isomorphic to  $A_1$ . Assume that for all maximal outerplanar graphs with less than  $n$  vertices,  $n \geq 3$ , the lemma is true. Consider a maximal outerplanar graph  $G$  with  $n$  vertices. Let  $x \in V(G)$  such that  $\deg_G(x) = 2$  and  $G' = G - x$ . Applying the induction hypothesis to  $G'$  we get  $A_k \in \mathcal{G}$  such that  $G' \subseteq A_k$ . If  $G \not\subseteq A_k$  then we construct a graph  $A_{k+1}$  from  $A_k$ . Since  $\deg_G x = 2$  it is clear that  $G \subseteq A_{k+1}$ . ■

**Lemma 2.**

$$\mathcal{T}_2 \subseteq \mathcal{O} \odot \text{Forb}(G_1).$$

Figure 1. Graph  $G_1$ 

**Proof.** From Lemma 1 it follows that it is enough to consider only graphs  $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_n, \dots$  from the family  $\mathcal{G}$ . The proof is by induction on  $n$ . Obviously, the lemma is true if  $n = 0, 1, 2$ . We consider the graph  $A_n$  and  $A_{n+1}$ , for  $n \geq 3$ , assuming that  $f$  is an acyclic colouring of  $A_n$ , with a bipartition  $\{U_1, U_2\}$  of  $V(A_n)$ , such that  $U_1$  (the set of red vertices) is independent and  $A_n[U_2]$  (the subgraph induced by blue vertices) has the property  $\mathcal{R} = \text{Forb}(G_1)$ . We use  $f$  to construct an acyclic colouring  $f'$  of  $A_{n+1}$ , with a bipartition  $\{U'_1, U'_2\}$  of  $V(A_{n+1})$ , such that  $U'_1$  (the set of red vertices) is independent and  $A_{n+1}[U'_2]$  (the subgraph induced by blue vertices) has the property  $\mathcal{R}$ . First, let  $f'(v) = f(v)$  for all vertices in  $A_{n+1}$  of level less than  $n + 1$ .

Let  $x, y$  be a pair of uncoloured vertices of the level  $n + 1$  in  $A_{n+1}$ . Let us assume, without loss of generality, that  $x$  is adjacent to  $a$  and  $b$ , and  $y$  is adjacent to  $b$  and  $c$  such that they form a triangle in  $A_n$ . It is clear that  $a, b, c$  have level less than  $n + 1$  and form a triangle in  $A_n$ , and  $f'$  has already coloured them.

To colour the vertices of the level  $n + 1$  we apply the following rules.

**Rule 1.** If one of the vertices  $a, b, c$  is red, then both  $x$  and  $y$  should be blue.

**Rule 2.** If  $a, b, c$  are blue, then  $x$  should be red and  $y$  should be blue.

From the construction of the graph  $A_{n+1}$  it follows that:

(1) If  $C$  is a cycle in  $A_{n+1}$  containing  $x$  (respectively  $y$ ), then  $C$  contains also either the path  $(x, b, y)$  or  $(x, b, c)$  (either the path  $(y, b, x)$  or  $(y, b, a)$  respectively);

(2) If  $G$  is a subgraph of  $A_{n+1}$  containing  $x$  (respectively  $y$ ), then  $G$  contains also  $a, b, c$  and  $y$  (respectively  $x$ ).

Colouring rules and (1) implies that the obtained colouring is acyclic.

Similarly, by the rules and (2) we see that blue vertices induce in  $A_{n+1}$  a graph with the property  $\mathcal{R}$  and red vertices are independent.

It is clear that if we apply these colouring rules to each such a pair of vertices of the level  $n + 1$ , we will obtain a required colouring of  $A_{k+1}$ . ■

Now we are ready to prove Theorem 3.

**Proof of Theorem 3.** We only need to find an outerplanar graph  $F$  such that for an arbitrary outerplanar graph  $H$  there is an acyclic bipartition  $\{U_1, U_2\}$  of  $V(H)$ , with  $U_1$  being independent and  $H[U_2] \not\subseteq F$ . Clearly, Lemma 2 yields the graph  $G_1$  (Figure 1), which satisfies the requirements of Theorem. ■

### 3. ACYCLIC REDUCIBLE BOUNDS

In this section we give some acyclic reducible bounds for the class of outerplanar graphs. We start with a few definitions.

An additive hereditary property  $\mathcal{R}$  is said to be *acyclic reducible* in  $\mathbb{L}^a$  if there are nontrivial additive hereditary properties  $\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2$  such that  $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{P}_1 \odot \mathcal{P}_2$  and *acyclic irreducible* in  $\mathbb{L}^a$ , otherwise.

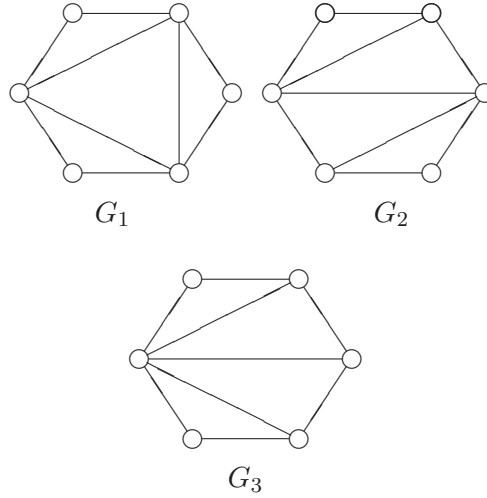
Obviously, the smallest acyclic reducible property in  $\mathbb{L}^a$  is the property  $\mathcal{O}^{(2)} = \mathcal{D}_1$ .

**Theorem 4.**

$$\mathcal{T}_2 \subseteq \mathcal{O} \odot \text{Forb}(G_1, G_2),$$

$$\mathcal{T}_2 \subseteq \mathcal{O} \odot \text{Forb}(G_1, G_3).$$

**Proof.** We will proof only the first inclusion, the second one can be proved similarly. As in the proof of Lemma 2, we use Lemma 1 to restrict our attention only to graphs  $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_n, \dots$  from  $\mathcal{G}$ . The proof is by induction on  $n$ . Obviously, it holds for  $n = 0, 1, 2$ . We consider the graph  $A_n$  and  $A_{n+1}$ , for  $n \geq 3$ , assuming that  $f$  is an acyclic colouring of  $A_n$ , with a bipartition  $\{U_1, U_2\}$  of  $V(A_n)$ , such that  $U_1$  (the set of red vertices) is independent and  $A_n[U_2]$  (the subgraph induced by blue vertices) has the property  $\mathcal{R} = \text{Forb}(G_1, G_2)$ . We use  $f$  to construct an acyclic colouring  $f'$  of  $A_{n+1}$ , with a bipartition  $\{U'_1, U'_2\}$  of  $V(A_{n+1})$ , such that  $U'_1$  (the set of red vertices) is independent and  $A_{n+1}[U'_2]$  (the subgraph induced by blue vertices) has the property  $\mathcal{R}$ . First, let  $f'(v) = f(v)$  for all vertices in  $A_{n+1}$  of level less than  $n + 1$ .

Figure 2. Graphs  $G_1$ ,  $G_2$  and  $G_3$ .

Let  $x, y$  be a pair of uncoloured vertices of the level  $n + 1$  in  $A_{n+1}$ . Let us assume that  $x$  is adjacent to  $a$  and  $b$ , and  $y$  is adjacent to  $b$  and  $c$  such that the vertices  $a, b, c$  form a triangle in  $A_n$  and are coloured.

Now we denote some vertices of  $A_n$ . Let  $e \neq b$  be a unique vertex adjacent to both  $a$  and  $c$ , let  $d$  be the vertex different from  $c$  adjacent to both  $a$  and  $e$  (it is a unique vertex in  $A_n$  with these properties), and let  $h$  be a vertex different from  $a$  adjacent to both  $c$  and  $e$  (it is only one such a vertex in  $A_n$ ).

It is clear that  $b$  has level  $n$ . The level of one from  $\{a, c\}$  is equal to  $n - 1$ , say  $c$ ; then the level of  $a$  is less than or equal to  $n - 2$ .

To colour the vertices of the level  $n + 1$  we apply the following rules.

**Rule 1.** If one of the vertices  $a, b, c$  is red, then both  $x$  and  $y$  should be blue.

**Rule 2.** If  $a, b, c$  are blue, then

- (a) if  $f'(e) = \text{red}$ , then  $f'(x) = f'(y) = \text{blue}$ .
- (b) if  $f'(e) = \text{blue}$ , then
  - (b<sub>1</sub>) if  $f'(d) = \text{red}$ , then  $f'(x) = \text{red}$  and  $f'(y) = \text{blue}$ ;
  - (b<sub>2</sub>) if  $f'(d) = \text{blue}$ , then  $f'(x) = \text{blue}$  and  $f'(y) = \text{red}$ .

(Notice that the case  $f'(d) = f'(h) = \text{blue}$  is impossible, in such case all

vertices  $\{a, b, c, e, d, h\}$  would be coloured blue and a graph induced by this set in  $A_n$  would be isomorphic to  $G_1$ .)

From the construction of the graph  $A_{n+1}$  it follows that:

(1) If  $C$  is a cycle in  $A_{n+1}$  containing  $x$  (respectively  $y$ ), then  $C$  contains also either the path  $(x, b, y)$  or  $(x, b, c)$  (either the path  $(y, b, x)$  or  $(y, b, a)$  respectively);

(2) If  $F$  is a subgraph of  $A_{n+1}$  isomorphic to  $G_1$ , containing  $x$  or  $y$ , then  $V(F) = \{x, y, a, b, c, e\}$ ;

(3) If  $F$  is a subgraph of  $A_{n+1}$  isomorphic to  $G_2$ , containing  $x$  (respectively  $y$ ), then  $V(F) = \{x, a, b, c, e, h\}$  (respectively  $V(F) = \{y, a, b, c, d, e\}$ ). Colouring rules and (1) implies that the obtained colouring is acyclic. From (2) and (3) we see that blue vertices induce in  $A_{n+1}$  a graph with the property  $\mathcal{R}$ . Red vertices are independent, which is clear from the colouring rules.

If we apply the colouring rules to each such a pair of vertices of level  $n + 1$ , then we obtain an acyclic colouring of  $A_{n+1}$ . ■

A maximal outerplanar graph  $G$  with at least 3 vertices is called a *2-path of order  $n = 2p$* , if  $G$  consist of two paths  $P_1 = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p)$ ,  $P_2 = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_p)$  and additional edges:  $x_i y_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, p$  and  $x_j y_{j+1}$  for  $j = 1, \dots, p - 1$ . For an odd  $n = 2p - 1$  a 2-path  $H$  is defined as  $H = G - x_p$ , where  $G$  is 2-path of even order.

A maximal outerplanar graph  $G$  with at least 3 vertices is called a *fan of order  $n$* , if  $G$  is obtained from a star  $K_{1, n-1}$  by joining all vertices of degree one by a path.

Additionally we assume that the graph  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  is a *trivial 2-path* and a *trivial fan*. For each  $n \leq 5$  there is exactly one (up to isomorphism) maximal outerplanar graph of order  $n$  which is a 2-path and a fan.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $G$  be a maximal outerplanar graph of order  $n \geq 3$ . Then*

- (a)  *$G$  is a fan if and only if neither  $G_1 \subseteq G$  nor  $G_2 \subseteq G$ .*
- (b)  *$G$  is a 2-path if and only if neither  $G_1 \subseteq G$  nor  $G_3 \subseteq G$ .*

**Proof.** (a) The fact that any fan contains neither  $G_1$  nor  $G_2$  follows immediately by the definition. For the converse, we employ induction on  $n$ , the order of  $G$ . Clearly, for  $n \leq 6$  it is true. Assume every graph with fewer than  $n \geq 7$  vertices is a fan, and suppose  $G$  has order  $n$  and does not contain a subgraph isomorphic to  $G_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Let  $x$  be the vertex of degree 2 in  $G$ . By the inductive hypothesis,  $G' = G - x$  is a fan of order  $n - 1 \geq 6$ . Let  $y$

be the unique vertex of maximum degree in  $G'$ . If  $x$  is not adjacent to  $y$  in  $G$ , then  $G$  contains  $G_1$  or  $G_2$ . If  $x$  is adjacent to  $y$  in  $G$ , then  $G$  is a fan.

(b) Again, it is easy to see that any 2-path contains neither  $G_1$  nor  $G_3$ . It follows immediately by the definition. For the converse, we use again induction on  $n$ . Clearly, for  $n \leq 6$  it is true. Let us assume that every graph with fewer than  $n \geq 7$  vertices is a 2-path, and suppose  $G$  has order  $n$  and does not contain a subgraph isomorphic to  $G_i$ ,  $i = 1, 3$ . It is easy to see, that if  $G$  has a vertex of degree greater than 4, then by the maximality of  $G$  we get that  $G$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $G_3$ . Hence we can assume that all vertices of  $G$  are of degree at most 4. Let  $x$  be the vertex of degree 2 in  $G$ . The graph  $G' = G - x$  is a maximal outerplanar graph with less than  $n$  vertices, then by the inductive hypothesis,  $G'$  is a 2-path. It is clear that  $G'$  has only four vertices of degree less than 4 and  $x$  has to be adjacent in  $G$  to exactly two of them. From maximality of  $G$  we get that  $x$  and its neighbours induce a triangle in  $G$  i.e.,  $G$  is a 2-path. ■

Let us recall that a *block* of a given graph  $G$  is defined to be a maximal connected subgraph of  $G$  without a cutvertex.

A *fan (2-path) tree* is a connected graph  $G$  every block of each is a fan (2-path).

Let us define the property  $\mathcal{FT}$  ( $\mathcal{PT}$ ) as the family of all fan (2-path) trees and their subgraphs. Each property is additive hereditary and a proper subfamily of all outerplanar graphs.

From the definition of  $\mathcal{FT}$  it follows that  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  do not belong to  $\mathcal{FT}$ . Similarly,  $G_1$  and  $G_3$  do not belong to  $\mathcal{PT}$ . It implies the following corollary.

**Corollary 1.**

$$\mathcal{FT} \subseteq \text{Forb}(G_1, G_2),$$

$$\mathcal{PT} \subseteq \text{Forb}(G_1, G_3).$$

Because of above Corollary, the next theorem gives a little better than in Theorem 4 two acyclic reducible bounds for outerplanar graphs.

**Theorem 5.**

$$\mathcal{T}_2 \subseteq \mathcal{O} \odot \mathcal{FT},$$

$$\mathcal{T}_2 \subseteq \mathcal{O} \odot \mathcal{PT}.$$

**Proof.** We will prove only the first bound, the second one can be proved similarly. By Lemma 1, it is enough to show that each graph of the family  $\mathcal{G}$  has the property  $\mathcal{O} \odot \mathcal{FT}$ . On the contrary, suppose that there is a graph  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  such that in every acyclic bipartition  $\{U_1, U_2\}$  of  $V(G)$ , with  $U_1$  being independent,  $G[U_2]$  has a subgraph isomorphic to a graph from  $\mathcal{T}_2 - \mathcal{FT}$ . Let  $F$  be its block which is not a fan. Since any maximal outerplanar graph of order  $\leq 5$  is a fan, thus  $F$  has order at least 6. Lemma 3 implies that  $F$  contains a subgraph isomorphic to  $G_1$  or to  $G_2$ . This fact contradicts Theorem 4. ■

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