IRREDUCIBLE NO-HOLE $L(2,1)$-COLORING OF EDGE-MULTIPLICITY-PATHS-REPLACEMENT GRAPH

Nibedita Mandal and Pratima Panigrahi

Department of Mathematics
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India

e-mail: nibedita.mandal.iitkgp@gmail.com
pratima@maths.iitkgp.ernet.in

Abstract

An $L(2,1)$-coloring (or labeling) of a simple connected graph $G$ is a mapping $f : V(G) \to Z^+ \cup \{0\}$ such that $|f(u) - f(v)| \geq 2$ for all edges $uv$ of $G$, and $|f(u) - f(v)| \geq 1$ if $u$ and $v$ are at distance two in $G$. The span of an $L(2,1)$-coloring $f$, denoted by $\text{span}(f)$, of $G$ is $\max\{f(v) : v \in V(G)\}$. The span of $G$, denoted by $\lambda(G)$, is the minimum span of all possible $L(2,1)$-colorings of $G$. For an $L(2,1)$-coloring $f$ of a graph $G$ with span $k$, an integer $l$ is a hole in $f$ if $l \in (0, k)$ and there is no vertex $v$ in $G$ such that $f(v) = l$. An $L(2,1)$-coloring is a no-hole coloring if there is no hole in it, and is an irreducible coloring if color of none of the vertices in the graph can be decreased and yield another $L(2,1)$-coloring of the same graph. An irreducible no-hole coloring, in short inh-coloring, of $G$ is an $L(2,1)$-coloring of $G$ which is both irreducible and no-hole. For an inh-colorable graph $G$, the inh-span of $G$, denoted by $\lambda_{inh}(G)$, is defined as $\lambda_{inh}(G) = \min\{\text{span}(f) : f$ is an inh-coloring of $G\}$. Given a function $h : E(G) \to \mathbb{N} - \{1\}$, and a positive integer $r \geq 2$, the edge-multiplicity-paths-replacement graph $G(rP_h)$ of $G$ is the graph obtained by replacing every edge $uv$ of $G$ with $r$ paths of length $h(uv)$ each. In this paper we show that $G(rP_h)$ is inh-colorable except possibly the cases $h(e) \geq 2$ with equality for at least one but not for all edges $e$ and (i) $\Delta(G) = 2$, $r = 2$ or (ii) $\Delta(G) \geq 3$, $2 \leq r \leq 4$. We find the exact value of $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h))$ in several cases and give upper bounds of the same in the remaining. Moreover, we find the value of $\lambda(G(rP_h))$ in most of the cases which were left by Lü and Sun in [L(2,1)-labelings of the edge-multiplicity-paths-replacement of a graph, J. Comb. Optim. 31 (2016) 396–404].

Keywords: $L(2,1)$-coloring, no-hole coloring, irreducible coloring, subdivision graph, edge-multiplicity-paths-replacement graph.

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1. Introduction

The channel assignment problem is to assign frequencies to a given group of radio transmitters so that interfering transmitters are assigned frequencies with at least a minimum allowed separation. Griggs and Yeh [4] mentioned that in 1988, Roberts (in a private communication to Griggs) proposed the problem of efficiently assigning radio channels to transmitters at several locations, using nonnegative integers to represent channels, so that close locations receive different channels, and channels for very close locations are at least two apart. Motivated by this problem, Griggs and Yeh [4] proposed the $L(2,1)$-coloring problem of a graph as follows. The $L(2,1)$-coloring of a simple connected graph $G$ is a vertex coloring (or labeling) $f : V(G) \to \mathbb{Z}^+ \cup \{0\}$ such that $|f(u) - f(v)| \geq 2$ for all edges $uv$ of $G$, and $|f(u) - f(v)| \geq 1$ if $d(u, v) = 2$, where $d(u, v)$ is the distance between vertices $u$ and $v$ in $G$. The span of an $L(2,1)$-coloring $f$ of a graph $G$, denoted by $\text{span}(f)$, is equal to $\max\{f(v) : v \in V(G)\}$. The span of a graph $G$, denoted by $\lambda(G)$, is equal to $\min\{\text{span}(f) : f \text{ is an } L(2,1)\text{-coloring of } G\}$. An $L(2,1)$-coloring whose span is equal to the span of the graph is called a span coloring.

Throughout the paper we consider simple connected graphs only. The maximum degree of a graph $G$ is denoted by $\Delta(G)$ or simply $\Delta$ if no confusion arises. Now we state a result by Chang and Lu [2] which will be used in the sequel.

**Proposition 1** (Proposition 1, [2]). For any graph $G$, $\lambda(G) \geq \Delta + 1$. Further, if $\lambda(G) = \Delta + 1$, then in any span coloring of $G$ the maximum degree vertices must be colored with 0 (or $\Delta + 1$) and its neighbors must be colored with $2 + i$ (or $i$), $i = 0, 1, \ldots, \Delta - 1$.

Fishburn and Roberts [3] introduced no-hole coloring of graphs. For a graph $G$ and an $L(2,1)$-coloring $f$ of it with span $k$, an integer $l$ is called a hole in $f$, if $l \in (0, k)$ and there is no vertex $v$ in $G$ such that $f(v) = l$. An $L(2,1)$-coloring of a graph is a no-hole coloring if there is no hole in it. Since frequencies are typically used in a block, one may want to use all available frequencies in that block. This is assured by a no-hole coloring. An $L(2,1)$-coloring $f$ of a graph $G$ is called reducible if there exists another $L(2,1)$-coloring $g$ of $G$ such that $g(u) \leq f(u)$ for all vertices $u \in V(G)$ and there exists a vertex $v \in V(G)$ such that $g(v) < f(v)$. An $L(2,1)$-coloring is irreducible if it is not reducible. An irreducible no-hole coloring is referred as inh-coloring and a graph is called inh-colorable if there exists an inh-coloring of it. For an inh-colorable graph $G$ the lower inh-span or simply inh-span of $G$, denoted by $\lambda_{inh}(G)$, is defined as $\lambda_{inh}(G) = \min\{\text{span}(f) : f \text{ is an } \text{inh}\text{-coloring of } G\}$. Laskar and Villalpando [10] introduced inh-coloring and studied some properties of it. Further, they obtained upper and lower bounds of inh-span of unicyclic graphs and triangular lattices.
Laskar et al. [9] proved that every tree $T$ different from a star is inh-colorable with $\lambda_{inh}(T) = \lambda(T)$. Jacob et al. [7] studied irreducible no-hole coloring of bi-partite graphs and Cartesian product of graphs.

Given a graph $G$ and a function $h : E(G) \to \mathbb{N} - \{1\}$ the $h$-subdivision of $G$, denoted by $G_{(h)}$, is the graph obtained from $G$ by replacing each edge $uv$ in $G$ with a path of length $h(uv)$. If $h(e) = c$ for all $e \in E(G)$, then we refer $G_{(h)}$ as $G_{(c)}$. Further, if $r \geq 2$ is an integer, the edge-multiplicity-paths-replacement graph $G(rP_h)$ of $G$ is obtained by replacing every edge $uv$ of $G$ with $r$ paths of length $h(uv)$ each. In particular, if $h(e) = c$ for all edges $e \in E(G)$, we denote $G(rP_h)$ simply by $G(rP_c)$. The vertices of $G$ in $G_{(h)}$ or $G(rP_h)$ are called nodes.

Throughout the paper we follow some notations as given below.

**Notation 2.** For any graph $G$ we take $h$ as a function from $E(G)$ to $\mathbb{N} - \{1\}$. The path of length $k$ in $G_{(h)}$ which replaces the edge $uv$ in $G$ is denoted by $ux_1^u x_2^u \cdots x_k^u v$. The $r$ paths of length $k$ each in $G(rP_h)$ which replace the edge $uv$ in $G$ are denoted by $P_h^i = ux_1^{iu} x_2^{iu} \cdots x_k^{iu} v$, $1 \leq i \leq r$.

The $L(2,1)$-colorings of $G_{(2)}$, for any graph $G$, are studied by Whittlesey et al. [15], and Havet and Yu [5, 6]. The $L(2,1)$-colorings of subdivisions of graphs are studied by Lü [11], Karst et al. [8] and Chang et al. [1]. Moreover, Mandal and Panigrahi [13] have studied inh-coloring of subdivision graphs. An $L(2,1)$-coloring $f$ of $G_{(h)}$ is said to be a $\lambda$-perfect labeling if $f(u) = 0$ for all nodes $u$ and span($f$) = $\Delta(G) + 1$ [1]. We state the following proposition by Chang et al. [1] which will be used in the sequel.

**Proposition 3 (Theorem 12, [1]).** If $G$ is a graph with $\Delta(G) \geq 4$, then $G_{(3)}$ has a $\lambda$-perfect labeling.

Lü and Sun [12] studied the $L(2,1)$-coloring of the edge-multiplicity-paths-replacement graph $G(rP_c)$ of a graph $G$. The main results of them are given in Table 1. They found the exact value of $\lambda(G(rP_c))$ in the following cases: $\Delta(G) \leq 2; c \geq 3, \Delta(G) \geq 4$ is even; and $c \geq 5, \Delta(G) \geq 3$ is odd. For the remaining cases they gave upper bounds to $\lambda(G(rP_c))$. From Proposition 1 we get the following result.

**Proposition 4.** $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) \geq \lambda(G(rP_h)) \geq r\Delta(G) + 1$ where $h(e) \geq 2$ for all $e$.

In this paper we show that for any graph $G$ with $h(e) \geq 3$ and $r \geq 2$, $G(rP_h)$ is inh-colorable and for $\Delta(G) \geq 2$, $G(rP_2)$ is inh-colorable. We also prove that if $G$ is a graph with $\Delta(G) \geq 2$, $h(e) \geq 2$ for all $e \in E(G)$ and $h(e) = 2$ for at least one $e$ but not for all, and $r \geq 2$, then $G(rP_h)$ is inh-colorable except possibly the following cases: $\Delta(G) = 2, r = 2$; and $\Delta(G) \geq 3, 2 \leq r \leq 4$. We find the exact value of inh-span of some edge-multiplicity-paths-replacement graphs and
for the remaining we give upper bounds to the same. Moreover, we determine
the span of \( G(rP_c) \) in most of the cases which were not obtained by Lü and Sun
[12]. An important point to be noted is that Lü and Sun [12] have considered
the graphs \( G(rP_c) \) only, that is, all the edges of \( G \) are replaced by paths of the
same lengths. We have considered the graphs \( G(rP_h) \), where different edges of \( G \)
may be replaced by paths of different lengths. The main results of the paper are
given in Tables 2 and 3.

2. Inh-Colorability of Graphs \( G(rP_h) \) with \( \Delta(G) = 1 \)

We first consider the case \( \Delta(G) = 1 \), and so here the graph \( G \) is obviously \( P_2 \).
In this case we take \( r \geq 3 \) because for \( r = 2 \), \( P_2(rP_h) \) is a cycle. We also take
\( h(e) \geq 3 \) because \( P_2(rP_2) \), \( r \geq 2 \), is a complete bipartite graph, which is not
inh-colorable [3].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( G )</th>
<th>( c )</th>
<th>( r )</th>
<th>( \lambda(G(rP_c)) )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 5 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( r\Delta(G) + 1 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) \geq 4 ) and ( \Delta(G) ) is even</td>
<td>( 3, 4 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( r\Delta(G) + 1 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) \geq 3 ) and ( \Delta(G) ) is odd</td>
<td>( 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( r\Delta(G) + r + 1 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( r\chi'(G) + \chi(G) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( r\Delta(G) + 1 + \Delta(G) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any graph ( G )</td>
<td>( 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( \lambda(G) + 2r )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) = 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 1 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( P_n ) with ( 3 \leq n \leq 4 )</td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 1 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( P_n ) with ( n \geq 5 )</td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 2 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( C_n ) with even ( n )</td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 2 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( C_n ) with ( n \geq 5 ) and ( n ) is odd</td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 6 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 3r - 2 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 4 )</td>
<td>( 3r - 2 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( C_3 )</td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 6 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 3r - 1 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( P_2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 4 )</td>
<td>( r + 1 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( \geq 7 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 4 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( 3 \leq c \leq 6 )</td>
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<td>( 5 )</td>
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<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 4 )</td>
<td>( 4 )</td>
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<tr>
<td>( 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( r + 2 )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Results in [12] on \( \lambda(G(rP_c)) \).
Table 2. Results of the paper on $\lambda(G(rP_h))$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$\Delta(G)$</th>
<th>$h(e)$</th>
<th>$r$</th>
<th>$\lambda(G(rP_h))$</th>
<th>Theorem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta(G) = 3$</td>
<td>$h(e) = 3$ for all $e$</td>
<td>$\geq 2$</td>
<td>$3r + 1$</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta(G) \geq 4$ and $\Delta(G)$ is odd</td>
<td>$h(e) = 3$ for all $e$</td>
<td>$\geq 2$</td>
<td>$r\Delta + 1$</td>
<td>Corollary 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta(G) \geq 4$</td>
<td>$h(e) \geq 3$ with $h(e) &gt; 3$ for at least one edge</td>
<td>$\geq 2$</td>
<td>$r\Delta + 1$</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theorem 5.** For $r \geq 3$, $\lambda_{inh}(P_2(rP_3)) = r + 2$.

*Proof.* Let $P_2 = uv$. We give an $(2,1)$-coloring $f$ to $P_2(rP_3)$ as follows. If $r = 3$ then $f(u) = 4$, $f(v) = 5$, $f \left( x_{uv}^{11} \right) = 0$, $f \left( x_{uv}^{21} \right) = 2$, $f \left( x_{uv}^{31} \right) = 1$, $f \left( x_{uv}^{12} \right) = 2$, $f \left( x_{uv}^{22} \right) = 0$, and $f \left( x_{uv}^{32} \right) = 3$. If $r \geq 4$ then $f(u) = 0$, $f(v) = r + 2$, $f \left( x_{uv}^{11} \right) = i + 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$, $f \left( x_{uv}^{12} \right) = r$, and $f \left( x_{uv}^{22} \right) = i - 1$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$. We check that $f$ is an inh-coloring of $P_2(rP_3)$. Thus $\lambda_{inh}(P_2(rP_3)) \leq r + 2$.

Now we prove that $\lambda_{inh}(P_2(rP_3)) \geq r + 2$. We know that $\lambda(P_2(rP_3)) = r + 1$ [12]. Suppose $\lambda_{inh}(P_2(rP_3)) = r + 1$ and $g$ is an inh-coloring of $P_2(rP_3)$ with span $r + 1$. If both the nodes are colored with 0 then 1 is a hole, and if both the nodes are colored with $r + 1$ then $r$ is a hole. Hence one node, say $u$, is colored with 0 and the other node, say $v$, is colored with $r + 1$. Then for some $i$, $1 \leq i \leq r$, $g \left( x_{uv}^{i1} \right) = r + 1$. This is a contradiction since $d \left( x_{uv}^{i1}, v \right) = 2$. Thus $\lambda_{inh}(P_2(rP_3)) \geq r + 2$ and we get $\lambda_{inh}(P_2(rP_3)) = r + 2$. 

In the next three theorems we show that inh-span of $P_2(rP_k)$, $k \geq 4$, $r \geq 3$, coincides with its span as computed by Lü and Sun [12].

**Theorem 6.** For $k \geq 4$, $\lambda_{inh}(P_2(4P_k)) = 5$.

*Proof.* Let $P_2 = uv$. We first take $k \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$. We give an $(2,1)$-coloring $f_1$ to $P_2(4P_k)$ as follows: $f_1(u) = f_1(v) = 0$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{11} \right) = 2$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{12} \right) = 5$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{13} \right) = 3$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{14} \right) = 0$, 5 or 3 according as $j \equiv 1, 2$ or 0 (mod 3) for $4 \leq j \leq k - 1$; $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{21} \right) = 3$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{22} \right) = 5$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{23} \right) = 2$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{24} \right) = 0$, 4 or 2 according as $j \equiv 1, 2$ or 0 (mod 3) for $4 \leq j \leq k - 1$; $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{31} \right) = 4$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{32} \right) = 1$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{33} \right) = 5$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{34} \right) = 0$, 2 or 5 according as $j \equiv 1, 2$ or 0 (mod 3) for $4 \leq j \leq k - 1$; $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{41} \right) = 5$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{42} \right) = 1$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{43} \right) = 4$, $f_1 \left( x_{uv}^{44} \right) = 0$, 2 or 4 according as $j \equiv 1, 2$ or 0 (mod 3) for $4 \leq j \leq k - 1$. It can be checked that $f_1$ is an $(2,1)$-coloring. We reduce $f_1$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring $f'_1$. In the coloring $f'_1$, $u$ is
colored with 0, its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, 4, 5, and \( x_{uv}^3 \) is colored with 1. Hence \( f_1^f \) is an inh-coloring with span 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( \Delta(G) )</th>
<th>( h(e) )</th>
<th>( r )</th>
<th>( \lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) )</th>
<th>Theorem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) = 1 ), i.e., ( G = P_2 )</td>
<td>( h(e) = 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( r + 2 )</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) = 2 ), i.e., ( G = P_m ) or ( C_m, m \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( h(e) = 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 3r + 3 )</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( P_m, 3 \leq m \leq 4 )</td>
<td>( h(e) = 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 1 )</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( P_m, m \geq 5 )</td>
<td>( h(e) = 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 2 )</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( C_3 )</td>
<td>( h(e) = 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 2 )</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( C_m ), ( m ) even</td>
<td>( h(e) = 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 3 )</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( C_m ), ( m ) odd</td>
<td>( h(e) = 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 3r + 2 )</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>( C_m ), ( m \geq 4 )</td>
<td>( h(e) = 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 3r + 3 )</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) = 3 )</td>
<td>( h(e) = 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 1 )</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( h(e) = 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 2r + 1 )</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( h(e) = 3 ) with ( h(e) &gt; 3 ) for at least one edge</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( 3r + 2 )</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( h(e) = 2 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( \chi(G) + r\chi'(G) + 3 ) if ( G ) is a bipartite graph other than a tree ( \chi(G) + r\chi'(G) ), otherwise</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( h(e) = 2 ) with ( h(e) &gt; 2 ) for at least one edge but not for all</td>
<td>( \geq 3 )</td>
<td>( 2r\Delta - r + 5 )</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta(G) \geq 4 )</td>
<td>( h(e) = 3 )</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( r\Delta + 2 ) ( r\Delta + 1 ) (with some conditions)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( h(e) \geq 3 ) with ( h(e) &gt; 3 ) for at least one edge</td>
<td>( \geq 2 )</td>
<td>( r\Delta + 1 )</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Results of the paper on \( \lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) \).

Let \( k \equiv 2 \) (mod 3). We give an \( L(2, 1) \)-coloring \( f_2 \) to \( P_2(4P_k) \) as follows: \( f_2(u) = f_2(v) = 0 \); \( f_2(x_{uv}^{11}) = 2 \), \( f_2(x_{uv}^{12}) = 5 \), \( f_2(x_{uv}^{13}) = 1 \), \( f_2(x_{uv}^{14}) = 3 \),
\begin{align*}
f_2(x_{uv}^1) &= 0, 5 \text{ or } 3 \text{ according as } j \equiv 2, 0 \text{ or } 1 \pmod{3} \text{ for } 5 \leq j \leq k - 1; \\
f_2(x_{uv}^2) &= 3, f_2(x_{uv}^3) = 1, f_2(x_{uv}^4) = 5, f_2(x_{uv}^5) = 2, f_2\left(x_{uv}^6\right) = 0, 4 \text{ or } 2 \\
\text{according as } j \equiv 2, 0 \text{ or } 1 \pmod{3} \text{ for } 5 \leq j \leq k - 1; f_2(x_{uv}^7) = 4, f_2(x_{uv}^8) = 1, \\
f_2(x_{uv}^9) &= 3, f_2(x_{uv}^{10}) = 5, f_2\left(x_{uv}^{11}\right) = 0, 2 \text{ or } 5 \text{ according as } j \equiv 2, 0 \text{ or } 1 \pmod{3} \text{ for } 5 \leq j \leq k - 1; \\
f_2(x_{uv}^{12}) &= 3, f_2(x_{uv}^{13}) = 1, f_2(x_{uv}^{14}) = 4, f_2(x_{uv}^{15}) = 2, f_2(x_{uv}^{16}) = 5, f_2\left(x_{uv}^{17}\right) = 0, 2 \text{ or } 4 \\
\text{according as } j \equiv 0, 1 \text{ or } 2 \pmod{3} \text{ for } 6 \leq j \leq k - 1; \\
f_2(x_{uv}^{18}) &= 2, f_2(x_{uv}^{19}) = 4, f_2(x_{uv}^{20}) = 1, f_2(x_{uv}^{21}) = 3, f_2\left(x_{uv}^{22}\right) = 0, 5 \text{ or } 3 \\
\text{according as } j \equiv 0, 1 \text{ or } 2 \pmod{3} \text{ for } 6 \leq j \leq k - 1. \\
\end{align*}

Let \( k \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \). We give an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( f_3 \) to \( P_2(4P_k) \) as follows:

\[ f_3(u) = f_3(v) = 0; f_3(x_{uv}^1) = 2, f_3(x_{uv}^{12}) = 3, f_3(x_{uv}^{14}) = 1, f_3(x_{uv}^{15}) = 4, f_3\left(x_{uv}^{16}\right) = 0, 2 \text{ or } 4 \text{ according as } j \equiv 0, 1 \text{ or } 2 \pmod{3} \text{ for } 6 \leq j \leq k - 1; f_3(x_{uv}^{21}) = 3, f_3\left(x_{uv}^{22}\right) = 0, 2 \text{ or } 4 \text{ according as } j \equiv 0, 1 \text{ or } 2 \pmod{3} \text{ for } 6 \leq j \leq k - 1; f_3(x_{uv}^{41}) = 3, f_3\left(x_{uv}^{42}\right) = 0, 2 \text{ or } 4 \text{ according as } j \equiv 0, 1 \text{ or } 2 \pmod{3} \text{ for } 6 \leq j \leq k - 1. \\
\]  

In the theorem below we find the exact value of inh-span of \( P_2(rP_k) \) for \( r = 3 \) and \( k \geq 4 \).

**Theorem 7.** The value of \( \lambda_{inh}(P_2(3P_k)) = 5 \) for \( 4 \leq k \leq 6 \), and \( 4 \) for \( k \geq 7 \).

**Proof.** Let \( P_2 = uv \). From the proof of Theorem 6 we see that for \( 4 \leq k \leq 6 \), \( P_2(3P_k) \) can be given an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( g \) with span 5 such that \( g(u) = 0, g\left(x_{uv}^{21}\right) = 1 \) and the neighbors of \( u \) are colored with 2, 3 and 4. We reduce \( g \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring \( g' \). Then \( g'(u) = 0, g'(x_{uv}^{21}) = 1, \) and \( g' \) assigns colors 2, 3 and 4 to neighbors of \( u \). Since span \( g' \leq 5 \), \( g' \) is an inh-coloring. Then for \( 4 \leq k \leq 6 \), \( \lambda_{inh}(P_2(3P_k)) = 5 \) because \( \lambda(P_2(3P_k)) = 5 \) \cite{12} for the same values of \( k \).

For \( k \geq 7 \), Lü and Sun \cite{12} have given an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( f \) to \( P_2(3P_k) \) with span 4 such that \( f(u) = 0, f\left(x_{uv}^{21}\right) = 3 \), and the other neighbors of \( u \) are colored.
with 2 and 4. We reduce \( f \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring \( f' \). Then \( f'(u) = 0 \), \( f'(x_{uv}^2) = 3 \), and \( f' \) assigns colors 2 and 4 to the other neighbors of \( u \). Since \( \text{span}(f') = 4 \), \( f'(x_{uv}^2) = 1 \). Thus \( f' \) is an inh-coloring with span 4. Since \( \lambda(P_2(3P_k)) = 4 \) for \( k \geq 7 \) [12], we conclude that \( \lambda_{inh}(P_2(3P_k)) = 4 \) for the same values of \( k \).

**Theorem 8.** For \( r \geq 5 \) and \( k \geq 4 \), \( \lambda_{inh}(P_2(rp_k)) = r + 1 \).

**Proof.** Let the nodes of \( P_2(rp_k) \) be \( u \) and \( v \). Lü and Sun [12] have given an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( f \) to \( P_2(rp_k) \) in which \( f(u) = f(v) = 0 \), and for \( 1 \leq i \leq r \), \( f(x_{uv}^i) = i + 1 \) and \( f(x_{uv}^{i+1}) = i \mod r + 2 \). We recolor the vertices \( x_{uv}^j \) for \( 2 \leq j \leq k - 2 \), and get the coloring \( g \) as below: for \( k \equiv 1 \mod 3 \), \( g(x_{uv}^2) = 1 \), \( g(x_{uv}^3) = 4 \), \( g(x_{uv}^4) = 0, 2 \), or 4 according as \( j \equiv 1, 2 \), or 0 \( \mod 3 \), \( 4 \leq j \leq k - 2 \); for \( k \equiv 2 \mod 3 \), \( g(x_{uv}^2) = 5 \), \( g(x_{uv}^3) = 1 \), \( g(x_{uv}^4) = 4 \), \( g(x_{uv}^5) = 0, 2 \), or 4 according as \( j \equiv 2, 0 \), or \( 1 \mod 3 \), \( 5 \leq j \leq k - 2 \); for \( k \equiv 0 \mod 3 \), \( g(x_{uv}^2) = 1 \), \( g(x_{uv}^3) = 5 \), \( g(x_{uv}^4) = 2 \), \( g(x_{uv}^5) = 4 \), \( g(x_{uv}^6) = 0, 2 \), or 4 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1 \), or 2 \( \mod 3 \), \( 6 \leq j \leq k - 2 \). We reduce \( g \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring, say \( g' \). In the coloring \( g' \), \( u \) is colored with 0, its neighbors are colored with 2,3,4, \( r+1 \) and either \( x_{uv}^2 \) or \( x_{uv}^3 \) is colored with 1. Hence \( g' \) is an inh-coloring with span \( r + 1 \). Since \( \lambda(P_2(rp_k)) = r + 1 \) [12] we get the result.

3. **Inh-Colorability of Graphs** \( G(rp_h) \) **With** \( \Delta(G) = 2 \)

In our next few results we need the following greedy algorithm.

**Algorithm 9** (Greedy coloring). Let \( G \) be a graph whose few vertices might have been colored before. Then

1. Order the vertices of the given graph as \( u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_n \) such that all colored vertices (if any) appear at the beginning of the list.
2. Let \( u_1 \) be the first uncolored vertex that appears in the list.
3. Color \( u_i \) with the smallest possible color \( k \) such that no lower indexed neighbor of \( u_i \) in the list is colored with \( k - 1 \), \( k \) or \( k + 1 \) and no lower indexed vertex at distance two from \( u_i \) is colored with \( k \).
4. If all the vertices of the graph have received color then stop; otherwise set \( i = i + 1 \) and go to 3.

The theorem below is obviously true.

**Theorem 10.** Algorithm 9 gives an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring of \( G \) if and only if the pre-colored vertices of \( G \) satisfy constraints of \( L(2,1) \)-coloring in the graph \( G \).
Now we consider the case $\Delta(G) = 2$. We note that simple connected graphs with $\Delta(G) = 2$ are paths $P_m$ and cycles $C_m$ only, $m \geq 3$. In Theorems 11 and 13 we show respectively that the inh-span of $P_m(rP_2)$ and $P_m(rP_3)$ coincide with their span which was computed by Lü and Sun [12].

**Theorem 11.** Let $r \geq 2$ and $m \geq 3$. Then

$$
\lambda_{\text{inh}}(P_m(rP_2)) = \begin{cases} 
2r + 1 & \text{for } 3 \leq m \leq 4, \\
2r + 2 & \text{for } m \geq 5.
\end{cases}
$$

**Proof.** Lü and Sun [12] proved that $\lambda(P_3(rP_2)) = 2r + 1$. Let $P_3 = u_1u_2u_3$. We give an $L(2,1)$-coloring $f_1$ to $P_3(rP_2)$ as below: $f_1(u_1) = 1$, $f_1(u_2) = 0$, $f_1(u_3) = r + 3$, $f_1(x_{u_1u_2}^i) = r + 1 + i$ and $f_1(x_{u_2u_3}^i) = i + 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$. We check that $f_1$ is an inh-coloring. Thus $\lambda_{\text{inh}}(P_3(rP_2)) = 2r + 1$.

Lü and Sun [12] proved that $\lambda(P_4(rP_2)) = 2r + 1$. Let $P_4 = u_1u_2u_3u_4$. We give an $L(2,1)$-coloring $f_2$ to $P_4(rP_2)$ as below: $f_2(u_1) = 1$, $f_2(u_2) = 0$, $f_2(u_3) = 2r + 1$, $f_2(u_4) = 3$; $f_2(x_{u_1u_2}^1) = r + 1 + i$, $f_2(x_{u_2u_3}^1) = i + 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$; $f_2(x_{u_3u_4}^1) = 0$, $f_2(x_{u_3u_4}^2) = 1$, and $f_2(x_{u_3u_4}^i) = r + i - 1$ for $3 \leq i \leq r$. We check that $f_2$ is an inh-coloring and thus $\lambda_{\text{inh}}(P_4(rP_2)) = 2r + 1$.

Lü and Sun [12] proved that for $m \geq 5$, $\lambda(P_m(rP_2)) = 2r + 2$. Let $P_m = u_1u_2 \cdots u_m$. We give an $L(2,1)$-coloring $f_3$ to $P_m(rP_2)$ as below: $f_3(u_1) = 2r + 1$, $f_3(u_k) = 0$ if $k$ is even, $f_3(u_k) = 1$ if $k > 1$ and $k$ is odd, $f_3(x_{u_1u_2}^1) = 2$, $f_3(x_{u_1u_2}^i) = 2i - 1$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$, and we color the remaining paths of length $r$ as $0, (2i + 2), 1, (2i + 1), 0$, where $i = 1, 2, \ldots, r$. We check that $f_3$ is an inh-coloring and thus for $m \geq 5$, $\lambda_{\text{inh}}(P_m(rP_2)) = 2r + 2$. □

**Theorem 12.** If $m \geq 3$, $r \geq 3$, and $h(e) \geq 2$ with equality for at least one $e$ but not for all, then $P_m(rP_h)$ is inh-colorable and $\lambda_{\text{inh}}(P_m(rP_h)) \leq 3r + 3$.

**Proof.** Let $P_m$ be the path $u_1u_2 \cdots u_m$. Let $E_1 = \{uv : uv \in E(P_m), h(uv) > 2\}$ and $E_2 = E(P_m) - E_1$. Without loss of generality we assume that $E_2$ has an element other than $u_{m-1}u_m$. We first give a coloring $f$ to the nodes $u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_m$ in $P_m(rP_h)$ with the colors $0$ and $1$ such that $L(2,1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied. We choose an arbitrary edge $u_ku_{k+1}$ in $E_1$. If $f(u_k) = 0$, then we rename $f$ as $f'$, otherwise we define $f'(u_p) = 1 - f(u_p)$ for $1 \leq p \leq m$. We reduce the colors of the colored vertices until color of no vertex can be reduced further and get the coloring $g$. There is a vertex colored with $0$, a vertex colored with $1$, and the maximum color used till now is $1$. We color the vertex $x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{i}$ greedily. Then $g(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{i}) = 2$. We color the vertices $x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{i}, 2 \leq i \leq r$, greedily in any order. Let $S_1 = \{x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{i} : p \neq k, u_py_{p+1} \in E_1, 1 \leq i \leq r\}$. We color the vertices in $S_1$ greedily in any order. The maximum color used till now is at most $r + 2$. Let $S_2 = \{x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{i} : u_py_{p+1} \in E_2, 1 \leq i \leq r\}$. Then we color the vertices in $S_2$ greedily in any order. No hole is created so far and the maximum color used is at least
2r + 1 and at the most 3r + 2. Let \( E_3 = \{ uv : uv \in E(G), h(uv) > 3 \} \). For each edge \( u_j u_{j+1} \) in \( E_3 \) we color the vertices \( x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{12}, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{13}, \ldots, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{1h(u_j u_{j+1})-2}, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{22}, \ldots, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{2h(u_j u_{j+1})-2} \) greedily in the list-ordered order. When such a vertex \( w \) is colored it has one colored neighbor and at most two colored vertices at distance two. Hence \( g(w) \leq 5 \). We color the remaining vertices greedily. When such a vertex \( w' \) is colored it has two colored neighbors and at most 2r colored vertices at distance two. Hence \( g(w') \leq 2r + 6 \leq 3r + 3 \).

Since \( 5 < 2r + 1 \) and \( r + 2 < 2r + 1 \) no hole is created. Thus \( g \) is an inh-coloring of \( P_m(rP_3) \) with span at most 3r + 3.

**Theorem 13.** For \( m \geq 3 \) and \( r \geq 2 \), \( \lambda_{inh}(P_m(rP_3)) \geq 2r + 1 \).

**Proof.** Let \( P_m = u_1 u_2 \cdots u_m \). We consider two cases depending on values of \( r \).

**Case 1.** In this case we take \( r = 2 \). We give the following \( L(2, 1) \)-coloring \( f_1 \) to \( P_m(rP_3) \): for \( 1 \leq k \leq m-1 \), \( f_1(u_k) = 0 \); for \( 1 \leq k \leq m-2 \), \( f_1(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{12}) = 4 \), \( f_1(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{21}) = 3 \), \( f_1(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{13}) = 2 \), \( f_1(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{22}) = 1 \). For each \( 1 \leq k \leq m \), \( f_1(u_m) = 5 \). It can be checked that \( f_1 \) is an \( L(2, 1) \)-coloring of \( P_m(rP_3) \). We reduce \( f_1 \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring, say \( f_1' \). Since \( f_1(x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{22}) = 1 \), \( f_1(u_{m-1}) = 0 \), and \( d(x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{22}) = 2 \), the color of \( x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{22} \) cannot be reduced and so \( f_1'(x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{22}) = 1 \). Now \( f_1'(u_2) = 0 \) and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, 4 and 5. Thus \( f_1' \) is an inh-coloring of \( P_m(2P_3) \) with span 5.

**Case 2.** In this case we take \( r \geq 3 \). Here Lii and Sun [12] have given the following \( L(2, 1) \)-coloring \( f_2 \) to \( P_m(rP_3) \): \( f_2(u_k) = 0 \) for \( 1 \leq k \leq m \) and \( f_2(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{12}) = 2i \) and \( f_2(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{22}) = 2i \) (mod 2r) + 3 for \( 1 \leq k \leq m-1 \), \( 1 \leq i \leq r \). We note that \( f_2(x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{(r-1)2}) = 2r + 1 \). We recolor the vertices \( x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{(r-1)2} \) and \( u_m \) with colors 1 and 2r + 1, respectively, and get the coloring \( f_2' \). No vertex adjacent to \( x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{(r-1)2} \) has got the color 0 or 2. No vertex adjacent to \( u_m \) has received color 2r or 2r + 1 and no vertex at distance two from \( u_m \) has got the color 2r + 1. Thus \( f_2' \) is an \( L(2, 1) \)-coloring. We reduce \( f_2' \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring, say \( f_2'' \). Since \( f_2''(x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{(r-1)2}) = 1 \), \( f_2''(u_m-1) = 0 \), and \( d(x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{(r-1)2}) = 2 \), we get \( f_2''(x_{u_{m-1} u_m}^{(r-1)2}) = 1 \). Since \( f_2''(u_2) = 0 \) and neighbors of \( u_2 \) are colored with 2, 3, \ldots, 2r + 1, \( f_2'' \) is an inh-coloring of \( P_m(rP_3) \) with span 2r + 1.

Thus \( \lambda_{inh}(P_m(rP_3)) \leq 2r + 1 \). Since \( \lambda(P_m(rP_3)) = 2r + 1 \) [12], we get \( \lambda_{inh}(P_m(rP_3)) = 2r + 1 \).
The theorem below says that inh-span of $C_3(rP_3)$ is exactly one more than its span [12].

**Theorem 14.** For $r \geq 2$, $\lambda_{inh}(C_3(rP_3)) = 2r + 2$.

**Proof.** Let $C_3 = u_1 u_2 u_3 u_1$. We first prove that $\lambda_{inh}(C_3(rP_3)) \leq 2r + 2$. For this we consider two cases depending on values of $r$.

**Case 1.** In this case we take $r = 2$. Lü and Sun [12] have given the following $L(2,1)$-coloring $f_1$ to $C_3(rP_3)$: $f_1(u_k) = 0$ for $1 \leq k \leq 3$; $f_1(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{1}) = 2$, $f_1(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{2}) = 3$; $f_1(x_{u_{k+1} u_{k+2}}^{1}) = 5$ for $k = 1, 2$; $f_1(x_{u_1 u_1}^{1}) = 2$, $f_1(x_{u_1 u_1}^{2}) = 4$, $f_1(x_{u_3 u_1}^{1}) = 3$ and $f_1(x_{u_3 u_3}^{2}) = 5$. We recolor the vertices $u_2$ and $x_{u_1 u_2}^{2}$ with colors 6 and 1 respectively and get the coloring $g_1$. Since no vertex adjacent to $u_2$ has got the color 5 and no vertex adjacent to $x_{u_1 u_2}^{2}$ has received color 0 or 2, $g_1$ is an $L(2,1)$-coloring. If $g_1$ is not an irreducible coloring, then we reduce it until we arrive at an irreducible coloring, say $g_1'$. Since $g_1(x_{u_1 u_2}^{2}) = 1$, $g_1(u_1) = 0$ and $d(x_{u_1 u_2}^{2}, u_1) = 2$, we get $g_1'(x_{u_1 u_2}^{2}) = 1$. Since the vertex $u_1$ is colored with 0, its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, 4, 5 and the vertex $u_2$ is colored with 6, $g_1'$ is an inh-coloring with span 6. Hence $\lambda_{inh}(C_3(rP_3)) \leq 2r + 2$ for $r = 2$.

**Case 2.** In this case we take $r \geq 3$. Lü and Sun [12] have given the following $L(2,1)$-coloring $f_2$ to $C_3(rP_3)$: $f_2(u_k) = 0$ for $1 \leq k \leq 3$; and for $1 \leq i \leq r,k = 1, 2$, $f_2(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{i}) = 2i$, $f_2(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{i+1}) = 2i \pmod{2r} + 3$, $f_2(x_{u_3 u_1}^{i}) = 2i$ and $f_2(x_{u_4 u_1}^{i}) = 2i \pmod{2r} + 3$. We note that $f_2(x_{u_1 u_2}^{r-1}) = 2r + 1$. We recolor the vertices $u_2$ and $x_{u_1 u_2}^{(r-1)2}$ with colors $2r + 2$ and 1, respectively, and get the coloring $g_2$. Since no vertex adjacent to $u_2$ is colored with $2r + 1$ and no vertex adjacent to $x_{u_1 u_2}^{(r-1)2}$ is colored with 0 or 2, $g_2$ is an $L(2,1)$-coloring. If $g_2$ is not an irreducible coloring, then we reduce it until we get an irreducible coloring, say $g_2'$. Since $g_2(x_{u_1 u_2}^{(r-1)2}) = 1, g_2(u_1) = 0$ and $d(x_{u_1 u_2}^{(r-1)2}, u_1) = 2$, we get $g_2'(x_{u_1 u_2}^{(r-1)2}) = 1$. The vertex $u_1$ is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, . . . , $2r + 1$ and $g_2'(u_2) = 2r + 2$. Thus $g_2'$ is an inh-coloring with span $2r + 2$. Hence $\lambda_{inh}(C_3(rP_3)) \leq 2r + 2$ for $r \geq 3$.

Now we prove that $\lambda_{inh}(C_3(rP_3)) \geq 2r + 2$. From Proposition 4, $\lambda_{inh}(C_3(rP_3)) \geq 2r + 1$. Suppose $\lambda_{inh}(C_3(rP_3)) = 2r + 1$ and $g_3$ is an inh-coloring of $C_3(rP_3)$. From Proposition 1 the vertices $u_1, u_2, u_3$ are colored with 0 or $2r + 1$. If all the vertices $u_1, u_2$ and $u_3$ are colored with 0, then no vertex in $C_3(rP_3)$ will be colored with 1. Hence at least one of $u_1, u_2, u_3$ is colored with $2r + 1$. Similarly, at least one of $u_1, u_2, u_3$ is colored with 0. If two nodes, say $u_1, u_2$, receive the color 0 then $u_3$ receives the color $2r + 1$. Now from Proposition 1, a neighbor of $u_3$ in $C_3(rP_3)$, say $v$, is colored with 0. Since $v$ is at distance two from $u_1$ or $u_2$,
this is a contradiction. We also get a contradiction if two nodes are colored with 2r + 1. Thus \( \lambda_{inh}(C_3(rP_3)) \geq 2r + 2 \) and we get \( \lambda_{inh}(C_3(rP_3)) = 2r + 2 \). ■

In the following theorem we show that \( C_m(rP_2) \) is inh-colorable and give an upper bound to its inh-span.

**Theorem 15.** For \( r \geq 2 \), we have \( \lambda_{inh}(C_m(rP_2)) \leq \begin{cases} 2r + 3 & \text{if } m \text{ is even}, \\ 3r + 2 & \text{if } m \text{ is odd}. \end{cases} \)

**Proof.** Let \( C_m = u_1 u_2 \cdots u_m u_1 \). For even \( m \), we give an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( f_1 \) to \( C_m(rP_2) \) as below: \( f_1(u_k) = 0 \) for odd \( k \); \( f_1(u_k) = 1 \) if \( k \neq m \) and \( k \) is even; \( f_1(u_m) = 2r + 3; f_1(x_i u_{uk+1}) = 2i + 1 \) for \( 1 \leq k \leq m - 1, 1 \leq i \leq r \) and \( k \) odd; \( f_1(x_i u_{uk+1}) = 2i + 2 \) for \( 1 \leq k \leq m - 2, 1 \leq i \leq r \) and \( k \) even; and \( f_1(x_i u_{uk+1}) = 2i \) for \( 1 \leq i \leq r \). We check that \( f_1 \) is an inh-coloring and thus \( \lambda_{inh}(C_m(rP_2)) \leq 2r + 3 \) for \( m \) even. For odd \( m \), we give an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( f_2 \) to \( C_m(rP_2) \) as below: \( f_2(u_k) = 0 \) for odd \( k \), \( k \neq m \); \( f_2(u_k) = 1 \) if \( k \) is even; \( f_2(u_m) = 2; f_2(x_i u_{uk+1}) = 2i + 1 \) for odd \( k \) and \( 1 \leq i \leq r \); \( f_2(x_i u_{uk+1}) = 2i + 2 \) for even \( k \) and \( 1 \leq i \leq r \), and \( f_2(x_i u_{uk+1}) = 2r + 2 + i \) for \( 1 \leq i \leq r \). We check that \( f_2 \) is an inh-coloring and thus \( \lambda_{inh}(C_m(rP_2)) \leq 3r + 2 \) for odd \( m \). ■

**Theorem 16.** If \( m \geq 3, r \geq 3, \) and \( h(e) \geq 2 \) with equality for at least one edge \( e \) but not for all, then \( C_m(rP_h) \) is inh-colorable and \( \lambda_{inh}(C_m(rP_h)) \leq 3r + 3 \).

**Proof.** Let \( C_m \) be the cycle \( u_1 u_2 \cdots u_m u_1 \). Let \( E_1 = \{ uv : uv \in E(C_m), h(uv) > 2 \} \) and \( E_2 = E(C_m) - E_1 \). For our convenience we call the edge \( u_m u_1 \) as \( u_m u_{m+1} \). We first give a coloring \( f \) to the nodes \( u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_m \) in \( C_m(rP_h) \) using the colors 0 and 1 only such that \( L(2,1) \)-coloring constraints are satisfied. This is possible since \( h(e) > 2 \) for at least one edge \( e \) of \( C_m \). We choose an arbitrary edge \( u_k u_{k+1} \) in \( E_1 \). If \( f(u_k) = 0 \), then we rename \( f \) as \( f' \), otherwise we define \( f'(u_p) = 1 - f(u_p) \) for \( 1 \leq p \leq m \). We reduce the colors of the colored vertices until color of no vertex can be reduced further and get the coloring \( g \). There is a vertex colored with 0, a vertex colored with 1, and the maximum color used till now is 1. We color the vertex \( x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{1} \) greedily. Then \( g \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{1} \right) = 2 \). We color the vertices \( x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{i} \) for \( 2 \leq i \leq r \), greedily in any order.

Let \( S_1 = \{ x_{u_p u_{p+1}}^{i} : p \in [1, k - 1] \cup [k + 1, m], u_p u_{p+1} \in E_1, 1 \leq i \leq r \} \). We color the vertices in \( S_1 \) greedily in any order. The maximum color used till now is at most \( r + 2 \). Let \( S_2 = \{ x_{u_p u_{p+1}}^{i} : p \in [1, m], u_p u_{p+1} \in E_2, 1 \leq i \leq r \} \). Then we color the vertices in \( S_2 \) greedily in any order. No hole is created till now and the maximum color used is at least \( 2r + 1 \) and at the most \( 3r + 2 \). Let \( E_3 = \{ uv : uv \in E(G), h(uv) > 3 \} \). For each edge \( u_j u_{j+1} \) in \( E_3 \) we color the vertices \( x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{1}, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{11}, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{11}, \ldots, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{11}, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{2}, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{2}, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{2}, \ldots, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{2}, x_{u_j u_{j+1}}^{2} \).
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$x_{u_{i_{j+1}}}^{r_{b_{u_{i_{j+1}}}^{-2}}}$ greedily in the listed order. When such a vertex $w$ is colored it has one colored neighbor and at most two colored vertices at distance two. Hence $g(w) \leq 5$. We color the remaining vertices greedily. When such a vertex $w'$ is colored it is adjacent to two colored vertices and there are at most $2r$ vertices at distance two from it. Hence $g(w') \leq 2r + 6 \leq 3r + 3$. Since $5 < 2r + 1$ and $r + 2 < 2r + 1$, no hole is created. Thus $g$ is an inh-coloring of $C_m(rP_h)$ with span at most $3r + 3$.

The theorem below gives an upper bound to inh-span of $C_m(2P_3)$, $m \geq 4$, which is one more than the exact value of its span [12].

**Theorem 17.** For $m \geq 4$, $\lambda_{inh}(C_m(2P_3)) \leq 6$.

**Proof.** Let $C_m = u_1u_2 \cdots u_{m}u_1$. For $m \geq 4$, Lü and Sun [12] have given the following $L(2,1)$-coloring $f$ to $C_m(2P_3)$: $f(u_k) = 0$ for $1 \leq k \leq m$; $f\left(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^1\right) = 2$, $f\left(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{21}\right) = 4$, $f\left(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{22}\right) = 3$, $f\left(x_{u_k u_{k+1}}^{23}\right) = 5$ for $1 \leq k \leq m - 1$; and $f(x_{u_{m}u_{1}}^{1}) = 2$, $f(x_{u_{m}u_{1}}^{2}) = 4$, $f(x_{u_{m}u_{1}}^{3}) = 3$ and $f(x_{u_{m}u_{1}}^{4}) = 5$. We recolor the vertices $u_2$ and $x_{u_{1}u_{2}}^{2}$ with colors 6 and 1, respectively and get the coloring $g$. Since no vertex adjacent to $u_2$ has got the color 5 and no vertex adjacent to $x_{u_{1}u_{2}}^{2}$ has received the color 0 or 2, $g$ is an $L(2,1)$-coloring. If $g$ is not an irreducible coloring we reduce it until we arrive at an irreducible coloring, say $g'$. Since $g\left(x_{u_{1}u_{2}}^{2}\right) = 1$, $g(u_1) = 0$ and $d(x_{u_{1}u_{2}}^{2}, u_1) = 2$, we get $g'(x_{u_{1}u_{2}}^{2}) = 1$. The vertex $u_1$ is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, 4 and 5. Thus $g'$ is an inh-coloring with span 6 and hence $\lambda_{inh}(C_m(2P_3)) \leq 6$ for $m \geq 4$.

In the next theorem we show that inh-span of $C_m(rP_3)$ is equal to its span [12] for $m \geq 4$ and $r \geq 3$.

**Theorem 18.** For $m \geq 4$ and $r \geq 3$, $\lambda_{inh}(C_m(rP_3)) = 2r + 1$.

**Proof.** Let $C_m = u_1u_2 \cdots u_{m}u_1$. We give an $L(2,1)$-coloring $f$ to $C_m(rP_3)$ as follows: $f(u_1) = f(u_2) = 2r + 1$ and $f(u_k) = 0$ for $3 \leq k \leq m$; $f\left(x_{u_1 u_2}^{1}\right) = 0$ and $f\left(x_{u_1 u_2}^{2}\right) = i$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$; $f\left(x_{u_1 u_2}^{3}\right) = r + i$ for $1 \leq i \leq r - 1$ and $f\left(x_{u_1 u_2}^{4}\right) = 0$; $f\left(x_{u_2 u_3}^{1}\right) = i$ and $f\left(x_{u_2 u_3}^{2}\right) = r + i$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$; $f\left(x_{u_3 u_4}^{1}\right) = 2r + 1$ and $f\left(x_{u_3 u_4}^{2}\right) = i$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$; $f\left(x_{u_3 u_4}^{3}\right) = r + i + 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$; $f\left(x_{u_3 u_4}^{4}\right) = i + 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$; $f\left(x_{u_{m}u_{1}}^{1}\right) = i + 1$ and $f\left(x_{u_{m}u_{1}}^{2}\right) = r + i + 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$ and $4 \leq k \leq m - 1$; $f\left(x_{u_{m}u_{1}}^{3}\right) = i + 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$; $f\left(x_{u_{m}u_{1}}^{4}\right) = r + i$ for $1 \leq i \leq r - 1$; and $f\left(x_{u_{m}u_{1}}^{5}\right) = 1$.

Now we check that $f$ is an $L(2,1)$-coloring. We note that either a node is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, ..., $2r + 1$ or a node is colored with $2r + 1$ and its neighbors are colored with 0, 1, ..., $2r - 1$. In the coloring $f$, if a node is colored with 0 (respectively $2r + 1$), no vertex at distance
two from it is colored with 0 (respectively 2r + 1). Now \( |f(x_{u_1u_2}^{1}) - f(x_{u_1u_2}^{2})| = r + 1 \) and \( |f(x_{u_1u_2}^{1}) - f(x_{u_3u_4}^{2})| = r \) for \( 2 \leq i \leq r \), \( |f(x_{u_1u_2}^{1}) - f(x_{u_3u_4}^{1})| = r - 1 \) and \( |f(x_{u_1u_2}^{1}) - f(x_{u_3u_4}^{2})| = r + 1 \) for \( 2 \leq i \leq r \) where \( |f(x_{u_1u_2}^{1}) - f(x_{u_3u_4}^{2})| = r \) for \( 1 \leq i \leq r \) and \( 4 \leq k \leq m - 1 \), \( |f(x_{u_1u_2}^{1}) - f(x_{u_3u_4}^{2})| = r - 1 \) for \( 1 \leq i \leq r - 1 \) and \( |f(x_{u_1u_2}^{1}) - f(x_{u_3u_4}^{2})| = r \). Thus \( |f(x_{u_1u_2}^{1}) - f(x_{u_3u_4}^{2})| \geq 2 \) for every edge \( uv \) of \( C_m \) and \( 1 \leq i \leq r \). Hence \( f \) is an \( L(2, 1) \)-coloring. In \( C_m(rP_3) \) every vertex is either a maximum degree vertex or adjacent to a maximum degree vertex. We have \( \text{span}(f) = 2r + 1 \) and maximum degree of \( C_m(rP_3) = 2r \). Thus \( f \) is an irreducible coloring. Since \( f(x_{u_1u_2}^{1}) = 1, u_3 \) is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, ... , 2r + 1, and \( f \) is an \( \text{inh}\)-coloring with span \( 2r + 1 \), we get \( \lambda_{\text{inh}}(C_m(rP_3)) \leq 2r + 1 \). Since \( \lambda(C_m(rP_3)) = 2r + 1 \) \([12]\), we get \( \lambda_{\text{inh}}(C_m(rP_3)) = 2r + 1 \).

If \( G \) is any graph with \( \Delta = 2 \) and \( h : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1, 2\} \) with \( h(e) > 3 \) for at least one \( e \), then the next theorem gives span as well as \( \text{inh}\)-span of \( G(rP_h) \), and shows that both the spans are equal.

**Theorem 19.** For any graph \( G \) with \( \Delta = 2, r \geq 2, \) and \( h(e) \geq 3 \) with strict inequality for at least one \( e \), \( \lambda_{\text{inh}}(G(rP_h)) = \lambda(G(rP_h)) = 2r + 1. \)

**Proof.** Here \( G \) is either a path \( P_m = u_1u_2 \cdots u_m \) or cycle \( C_m = u_1u_2 \cdots u_mu_1, m \geq 3 \). For our convenience we call the edge \( u_mu_1 \) as \( u_{m+1} \). We give an \( L(2, 1) \)-coloring to \( G(rP_h) \) in three cases depending on values of \( r \). In all these cases, \( u_ku_{k+1} \) is an arbitrary edge of \( G \).

**Case 1.** In this case we take \( r = 2 \). We give an \( L(2, 1) \)-coloring \( g_1 \) to \( G(rP_h) \) as follows: \( g_1(u) = 0 \) for all nodes \( u \) of \( G(rP_h) \); if \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) = 3 \), then \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 2, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 4, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 5, \) and \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 3; \) if \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) = 6 \), then \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 2, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 5, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 3, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 1, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 4, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 5, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 3, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 0, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 5, \) and \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 3; \) for \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) \geq 4, h(u_ku_{k+1}) \neq 6 \) if \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) \equiv 0 \) (mod 4) then \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 0, 2, 5 \) or 3 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4) and \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 0, 5, 1 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4); if \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) \equiv 1 \) (mod 4) then \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 2, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 5, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 1, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 3 \) and for \( j \geq 5, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 0, 2, 5 \) or 3 according as \( j \equiv 1, 2, 3 \) or 0 (mod 4), \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 5, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 3, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 1, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 4 \) and for \( j \geq 5, g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 0, 5, 1 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 1, 2, 3 \) or 0 (mod 4); if \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) \equiv 2 \) (mod 4), then \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 0, 2, 5 \) or 3 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4) and \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 0, 5, 1 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4); if \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) \equiv 3 \) (mod 4), then \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 0, 2, 5 \) or 3 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4) and \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 0, 5, 1 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4); if \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) \equiv 4 \) (mod 4), then \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 0, 2, 5 \) or 3 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4) and \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 0, 5, 1 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4); if \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) \equiv 5 \) (mod 4), then \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 0, 2, 5 \) or 3 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4) and \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 0, 5, 1 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4); if \( h(u_ku_{k+1}) \equiv 6 \) (mod 4), then \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{1}) = 0, 2, 5 \) or 3 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4) and \( g_1(x_{u_ku_{k+1}}^{2}) = 0, 5, 1 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1, 2 \) or 3 (mod 4).
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2, \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 4 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 5 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 3 \)

and for \( j \geq 6 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0, 2, 5 \) or 3 according as \( j \equiv 2, 3, 0 \) or 1 (mod 4), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 5 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 3 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 2 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 4 \) and for \( j \geq 6 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0, 5, 1 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 2, 3, 0 \) or 1 (mod 4); if \( h(u_k u_{k+1}) \equiv 3 \) (mod 4), then \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 2 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 5 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 3 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 5 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 3 \) and for \( j \geq 7 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0, 2, 5 \) or 3 according as \( j \equiv 3, 0, 1 \) or 2 (mod 4), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 5 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 1 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 4 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 2 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 4 \) and for \( j \geq 7 \), \( g_1 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0, 5, 1 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 3, 0, 1 \) or 2 (mod 4).

For every edge \( uv \) in \( G \) the \( L(2,1) \)-coloring constraints are satisfied within the paths \( P_i \) for \( 1 \leq i \leq 2 \) and colors assigned to neighbors of a node are different. Hence \( g_1 \) is an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring with span 5. Now we reduce \( g_1 \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring, say \( g_1' \). We prove that \( g_1' \) is a no-hole coloring. From the way \( g_1 \) is defined there is at least one vertex \( w \) colored with 1 and lying at distance two from a vertex colored with 0 in \( g_1 \). Hence \( g_1'(w) = 1 \). A vertex in \( G(rP_h) \) with degree 4 is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, 4, 5. Thus \( g_1' \) is an inh-coloring with span 5.

Case 2. In this case we take \( r = 3 \). Now we give an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( g_2 \) to \( G(rP_h) \) as follows: \( g_2(u) = 0 \) for all nodes \( u \) of \( G(rP_h) \); if \( h(u_k u_{k+1}) = 3 \) then \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = i + 1 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = i + 4 \) for \( 1 \leq i \leq 3 \); if \( h(u_k u_{k+1}) \equiv 1 \) (mod 3), then \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 2 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 7 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 5 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 3 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 1 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 6 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 4 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 1 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 7 \), for \( 1 \leq i \leq 3 \) and \( j \geq 4 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0 \), \( i + 1 \) or \( i + 4 \) according as \( j \equiv 1, 2 \) or 0 (mod 3); if \( h(u_k u_{k+1}) \equiv 2 \) (mod 3) then \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 2 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 7 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 1 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 5 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 3 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 1 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 4 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 6 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 4 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 1 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 3 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 7 \), for \( 1 \leq i \leq 3 \) and \( j \geq 4 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0 \), \( i + 1 \) or \( i + 4 \) according as \( j \equiv 2, 0 \) or 1 (mod 3); if \( h(u_k u_{k+1}) \geq 6 \) and \( h(u_k u_{k+1}) \equiv 0 \) (mod 3), then \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 2 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 5 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 0 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 2 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 5 \), \( g_2 \left( x_{u_k u_{k+1}} \right) = 3 \).
$g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 1$, $g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 4$, $g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 2$, $g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 6$, $g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 4$, $g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 1$, $g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 3$, $g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 5$, $g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 7$, and $g_2 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = 0, i + 1$ or $i + 4$ according as $j \equiv 0, 1$ or $2 \pmod{3}$, where $1 \leq i \leq 3$ and $j \geq 6$.

For every edge $uv$ in $G$ the $L(2, 1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied within the paths $P_h^i$ for $1 \leq i \leq 3$ and colors assigned to neighbors of a node are different. Hence $g_2$ is an $L(2, 1)$-coloring with span 7. Now we reduce $g_2$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring, say $g_2'$. We prove that $g_2'$ is a no-hole coloring. From the way $g_2$ is defined there is at least one vertex $w'$ colored with 1 and lying at distance two from a vertex colored with 0 in $g_2$. Hence $g_2'(w') = 1$. A vertex in $G(rP_h)$ with degree 6 is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Thus $g_2'$ is an inh-coloring with span 7.

**Case 3.** In this case we take $r \geq 4$. We give an $L(2, 1)$-coloring $g_2$ to $G(rP_h)$ as follows: $g_2(u) = 0$ for all nodes $u$ of $G(rP_h)$; $g_3 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = i + 1$ and $g_3 \left( x_{u_k}^{i+1} \right) = r + i + 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$. $L(2, 1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied for the colored vertices so far. We take an edge $u'v'$ of $G$ such that $h(u'v') > 3$ and assign $g_3 \left( x_{u'v'}^{2} \right) = 1$. Since no vertex adjacent to $x_{u'v'}^{2}$ is colored with color 0 or 2, $L(2, 1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied for the colored vertices. The maximum color used till now is $2r + 1$. We color the remaining vertices greedily. If $z$ is such a vertex then it has two neighbors and there are two vertices at distance two apart from it. Hence $g_3(z) \leq 8$. Thus span($g_3$) = $2r + 1$ because $r \geq 4$. Now we reduce $g_3$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring, say $g_3'$. A vertex in $G(rP_h)$ with degree $2r$ is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, . . . , $2r + 1$. Since $g_3 \left( x_{u'v'}^{2} \right) = 1$, $g_3(u') = 0$ and $d \left( x_{u'v'}^{2}, u' \right) = 2$, we get $g_3' \left( x_{u'v'}^{2} \right) = 1$. Hence $g_3'$ is an inh-coloring with span $2r + 1$.

Combining all these cases we conclude that $G(rP_h)$ is inh-colorable and $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) \leq 2r + 1$. Thus from Proposition 4 we get $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) = \lambda(G(rP_h)) = 2r + 1$.

**4. INH-COLORABILITY OF GRAPHS G(rP_h) WITH Δ(G) ≥ 3**

In this section we first consider the case $Δ(G) = 3$. In Theorem 20 below we find the exact value of span of $G(rP_3)$, $r \geq 2$, which were not computed by Lü and Sun [12]. Moreover, this value of $\lambda(G(rP_3))$ agrees with $\lambda(G(3))$ for $r = 1$, computed by Chang et al. [1], for some graphs $G$.

**Theorem 20.** If $G$ is a graph with $Δ(G) = 3$, then for $r \geq 2$, $\lambda(G(rP_3)) = 3r + 1$.
Proof. We first consider the graph $G(3)$. Let $S = V(G(3)) - V(G)$. Since every vertex in $S$ is at distance two apart from at most two other vertices in $S$, we can give a coloring $f$ to vertices in $S$ using colors $0$, $1$ and $2$ only such that vertices at distance two in $G(3)$ have different colors.

Now we give an $L(2,1)$-coloring $g$ to $G(rP_3)$. We assign $g(u) = 0$ for all $u \in V(G)$. For every edge $uv$ of $G$ we assign colors to the vertices $x_{uv}^i$, $1 \leq i \leq r$, as below: if $f(x_{uv}^i) = f(x_{uv}^2) = 0$ then $g(x_{uv}^i) = 3i - 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$, $g(x_{uv}^1) = 3r - 1$ and $g(x_{uv}^2) = 3i - 4$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$; if $f(x_{uv}^1) = f(x_{uv}^2) = 1$ then $g(x_{uv}^1) = 3i$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$, $g(x_{uv}^2) = 3r$ and $g(x_{uv}^1) = 3i - 3$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$; if $f(x_{uv}^1) = f(x_{uv}^2) = 2$, then $g(x_{uv}^1) = 3i + 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$, $g(x_{uv}^2) = 3r + 1$ and $g(x_{uv}^1) = 3i - 2$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$; if $f(x_{uv}^1) = 0$ and $f(x_{uv}^2) = 1$, then $g(x_{uv}^1) = 3i - 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$, $g(x_{uv}^2) = 3r + 1$ and $g(x_{uv}^1) = 3i - 2$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$; if $f(x_{uv}^1) = 0$ and $f(x_{uv}^2) = 2$, then $g(x_{uv}^1) = 3i - 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$, $g(x_{uv}^2) = 3r + 1$ and $g(x_{uv}^1) = 3i - 2$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$.

For any edge $uv$ of $G$ and for $1 \leq i \leq r$, $|g(x_{uv}^i) - g(x_{uv}^2)| \geq 2$. Colors of the vertices of $G(rP_3)$ adjacent to a node are distinct. Colors of the nodes are 0 and colors of the other vertices are greater than or equal to 2. Hence $g$ is an $L(2,1)$-coloring with span $3r + 1$. Thus $\lambda(G(rP_3)) \leq 3r + 1$. Now from Proposition 4 we get $\lambda(G(rP_3)) = 3r + 1$.

The theorem below gives an upper bound to inh-span of $G(rP_3)$, $r \geq 2$. We note that this bound agrees with the upper bound of $\lambda_{inh}(G(3))$ given by Mandal and Panigrahi [13] for $r = 1$.

Theorem 21. If $G$ is a graph with $\Delta(G) = 3$, then for $r \geq 2$, $G(rP_3)$ is inh-colorable and $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_3)) \leq 3r + 2$.

Proof. We consider the same $L(2,1)$-coloring $g$ of $G(rP_3)$ as given in the proof of Theorem 20. Note that $g$ has a hole only at 1. Also note that colors of neighbors of a vertex colored with 2 lies in the set $\{0, 4, 3r - 1, 3r\}$. Let $u$ be a vertex in $G$ with $deg(u) = 3$ if $G$ is a regular graph and $deg(u) \neq 3$ otherwise. From the way $g$ is defined, we get that $u$ is adjacent to a vertex in $G(rP_3)$ that is colored with 2, 3 or $3r + 1$. We consider three cases depending on colors of neighbors of $u$.

Case 1. Here $u$ is adjacent to a vertex colored with $3r + 1$. Let $g(x_{u_1}^i) = 3r + 1$. Then $g(x_{u_2}^i) \not= 2$. We give an another $L(2,1)$-coloring $g_1$ to $G(rP_3)$ as follows: $g_1(y) = g(y)$ if $y \not= u$, $x_{u_1}^i$ and $g_1(x_{u_1}^i) = 1$. Since $x_{u_1}^i$ is adjacent to $u$ and $x_{u_2}^i$ only, and the vertex $x_{u_1}^i$ receives the color 1, the $L(2,1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied so far. We color the vertex $u$ with the least available color such that $L(2,1)$ coloring constraints are satisfied. Since $u$ is not adjacent to any vertex colored with $3r + 1$ in $g_1$, $g_1(u) \leq 3r + 2$. Now we reduce $g_1$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring $g_1$. Then span($g_1^i) \leq 3r + 2$. Since
$g_1(x_{1v_1}^i) = 1$, $g_1(v_1) = 0$ and $d(x_{1v_1}^i, v_1) = 2$, color of $x_{1v_1}^i$ cannot be reduced, and so $g_1'(x_{1v_1}^i) = 1$. There is a vertex of degree $3r$ in $G(rP_3)$ colored with $0$ and its neighbors are colored with $2, 3, \ldots, 3r + 1$. Hence $g_1'$ is an inh-coloring.

**Case 2.** Here $u$ is not adjacent to any vertex colored with $3r + 1$ and adjacent to a vertex colored with $2$. Let $g(x_{1v_2}^i) = 2$. Then $g(x_{1v_2}^i) \neq 2$. We give another $L(2, 1)$-coloring $g_2$ to $G(rP_3)$ as follows: $g_2(y) = g(y)$ if $y \neq u, x_{uv_2}^i$ and $g_2(x_{uv_2}^i) = 1$. Since $x_{uv_2}^i$ is adjacent to $u$ and $x_{uv_2}^i$ only, and the vertex $x_{uv_2}^i$ is colored with $1$, the $L(2, 1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied so far. Then we color the vertex $u$ with the least available color such that $L(2, 1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied. Since $u$ is not adjacent to any vertex colored with $3r + 1$, $g_2(u) \leq 3r + 2$. Now we reduce $g_2$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring $g_2'$. Then span($g_2'$) $\leq 3r + 2$. Since $g_2'(x_{uv_2}^i) = 1$, $g_2'(v_2) = 0$ and $d(x_{uv_2}^i, v_2) = 2$, color of $x_{uv_2}^i$ cannot be reduced, and so $g_2'(x_{uv_2}^i) = 1$. There is a vertex of degree $3r$ in $G(rP_3)$ colored with $0$ and its neighbors are colored with $2, 3, \ldots, 3r + 1$. Hence $g_2'$ is an inh-coloring.

**Case 3.** In this case, $u$ is not adjacent to any vertex colored with $3r + 1$ or $2$. Then $u$ is adjacent to a vertex colored with $3$. Let $g(x_{1v_3}^i) = 3$. Then $g(x_{1v_3}^i) \neq 2$. We give another $L(2, 1)$-coloring $g_3$ to $G(rP_3)$ as follows: $g_3(y) = g(y)$ if $y \neq u, x_{uv_3}^i$ and $g_3(x_{uv_3}^i) = 1$. Since $x_{uv_3}^i$ is adjacent to $u$ and $x_{uv_3}^i$ only, and the vertex $x_{uv_3}^i$ is colored with $1$, the $L(2, 1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied so far. Then we color the vertex $u$ with the least available color such that $L(2, 1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied. Since $u$ is not adjacent to any vertex colored with $3r + 1$, $g_3(u) \leq 3r + 2$. Now we reduce $g_3$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring $g_3'$. Then span($g_3'$) $\leq 3r + 2$. Since $g_3'(x_{uv_3}^i) = 1$, $g_3'(v_3) = 0$ and $d(x_{uv_3}^i, v_3) = 2$, color of $x_{uv_3}^i$ cannot be reduced, and so $g_3'(x_{uv_3}^i) = 1$. There is a vertex of degree $3r$ in $G(rP_3)$ colored with $0$ and its neighbors are colored with $2, 3, \ldots, 3r + 1$. Hence $g_3'$ is an inh-coloring.

Combining all these cases we get that $G(rP_3)$ is inh-colorable and $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_3)) \leq 3r + 2$.

In Theorem 22 below we find span as well as inh-span of $G(rP_h)$, where $r \geq 2$ and $h(e) \geq 3$ with strict inequality for at least one $e$. Moreover, here we settle the case $h(e) = 4$, for all $e$, which was left by Lü and Sun [12].

**Theorem 22.** If $G$ is a graph with $\Delta(G) = 3$, $r \geq 2$ and $h(e) \geq 3$ with strict inequality for at least one $e$, then $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) = \lambda(G(rP_h)) = 3r + 1$.

**Proof.** We choose an edge $u'v'$ in $G$ such that $h(u'v') > 3$. We first consider the graph $G_{(3)}$. Let $S = V(G_{(3)}) - V(G)$. Since every vertex in $S$ is at distance two from at most two other vertices in $S$, we can give a coloring $f$ to $S$ using the colors $0, 1$ and $2$ only such that vertices at distance two get different colors and $f(x_{u'v'}^1) = f(x_{u'v'}^2) = 1$. Then we give an $L(2, 1)$-coloring $g$ to $G(rP_3)$ following
the same method of coloring in the proof of Theorem 20. Now we consider two cases depending on values of $r$.

**Case 1.** In this case we take $r = 2$. We give a coloring $g_1$ to $G(rP_k)$ as below. For any edge $uv$ of $G$ and for $i = 1, 2$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = g (x_{uv}^i)$ and $g_1 (x_{uv}^{ih(uv)−1}) = g (x_{uv}^{i2})$. To color the remaining vertices we have the following subcases depending on values of $g_1 (x_{uv}^i)$ and $g_1 (x_{uv}^{ih(uv)−1})$ for $i = 1, 2$ and an arbitrary edge $uv$ in $G$.

**Subcase 1.** $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 2$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{ih(uv)−1}) = 5$. Then $g_1$ assigns colors to the remaining vertices as follows. If $h(uv) \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 2$ or $5$ according as $j \equiv 0, 1$ or $2 \pmod{3}$. If $h(uv) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 2$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i2}) = 7$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i3}) = 5$, and for $j \geq 4$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 2$ or $5$ according as $j \equiv 1, 2$ or $0 \pmod{3}$. If $h(uv) \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 2$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i2}) = 7$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i3}) = 3$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i4}) = 5$, and for $j \geq 5$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 2$ or $5$ according as $j \equiv 2, 0$ or $1 \pmod{3}$.

**Subcase 2.** $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 2$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{ih(uv)−1}) = 6$. Then $g_1$ assigns colors to the remaining vertices as follows. If $h(uv) \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 2$ or $6$ according as $j \equiv 0, 1$ or $2 \pmod{3}$. If $h(uv) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 2$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i2}) = 4$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i3}) = 6$, and for $j \geq 4$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 2$ or $6$ according as $j \equiv 1, 2$ or $0 \pmod{3}$. If $h(uv) \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 2$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i2}) = 4$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i3}) = 1$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i4}) = 6$, and for $j \geq 5$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 2$ or $6$ according as $j \equiv 2, 0$ or $1 \pmod{3}$.

**Subcase 3.** $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 3$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{ih(uv)−1}) = 5$. Then $g_1$ assigns colors to the remaining vertices as follows. If $h(uv) \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 3$ or $5$ according as $j \equiv 0, 1$ or $2 \pmod{3}$. If $h(uv) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 3$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i2}) = 1$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i3}) = 5$, and for $j \geq 4$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 3$ or $5$ according as $j \equiv 1, 2$ or $0 \pmod{3}$. If $h(uv) \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 3$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i2}) = 1$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i3}) = 7$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i4}) = 5$, and for $j \geq 5$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 3$ or $5$ according as $j \equiv 2, 0$ or $1 \pmod{3}$.

**Subcase 4.** $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 2$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{ih(uv)−1}) = 4$. Then $g_1$ assigns colors to the remaining vertices as follows. If $h(uv) \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 2$ or $4$ according as $j \equiv 0, 1$ or $2 \pmod{3}$. If $h(uv) \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, then $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 2$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i2}) = 6$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^{i3}) = 4$, and for $j \geq 4$, $g_1 (x_{uv}^i) = 0, 2$ or $4$ according as
j ≡ 1, 2 or 0 (mod 3). If h(uv) ≡ 2 (mod 3) then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 2, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 6, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^4) = 4, \) and for \( j \geq 5, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 2 \) or 4 according as \( j \equiv 2, 0 \) or 1 (mod 3).

Subcase 5. \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 5, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^{h(uv)-1}) = 7. \) Then \( g_1 \) assigns colors to the remaining vertices as follows. If \( h(uv) \equiv 0 \) (mod 3) then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 0, 5 \) or 7 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1 \) or 2 (mod 3). If \( h(uv) \equiv 1 \) (mod 3) then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 5, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 7, \) and for \( j \geq 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 5 \) or 7 according as \( j \equiv 1, 2 \) or 0 (mod 3). If \( h(uv) \equiv 2 \) (mod 3), \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 5, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 3, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^4) = 7, \) and for \( j \geq 5, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 5 \) or 7 according as \( j \equiv 2, 0 \) or 1 (mod 3).

Subcase 6. \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 3, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^{h(uv)-1}) = 6. \) Then \( g_1 \) assigns colors to the remaining vertices as follows. If \( h(uv) \equiv 0 \) (mod 3) and \( h(uv) \geq 6 \) then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 3, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^4) = 2, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^5) = 6, \) and for \( j \geq 6, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 3 \) or 6 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1 \) or 2 (mod 3). If \( h(uv) \equiv 1 \) (mod 3), then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 3, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 6, \) and for \( j \geq 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 3 \) or 6 according as \( j \equiv 1, 2 \) or 0 (mod 3). If \( h(uv) \equiv 2 \) (mod 3), then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 3, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^4) = 6, \) and for \( j \geq 5, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 3 \) or 6 according as \( j \equiv 2, 0 \) or 1 (mod 3).

Subcase 7. \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 3, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^{h(uv)-1}) = 7. \) Then \( g_1 \) assigns colors to the remaining vertices as follows. If \( h(uv) \equiv 0 \) (mod 3) then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 0, 3 \) or 7 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1 \) or 2 (mod 3). If \( h(uv) \equiv 1 \) (mod 3) then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 3, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 7, \) and for \( j \geq 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 3 \) or 7 according as \( j \equiv 1, 2 \) or 0 (mod 3). If \( h(uv) \equiv 2 \) (mod 3) then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 3, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^4) = 7, \) and for \( j \geq 5, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 3 \) or 7 according as \( j \equiv 2, 0 \) or 1 (mod 3).

Subcase 8. \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^{h(uv)-1}) = 6. \) Then \( g_1 \) assigns colors to the remaining vertices as follows. If \( h(uv) \equiv 0 \) (mod 3) then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 0, 4 \) or 6 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1 \) or 2 (mod 3). If \( h(uv) \equiv 1 \) (mod 3), then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 6, \) and for \( j \geq 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 4 \) or 6 according as \( j \equiv 1, 2 \) or 0 (mod 3). If \( h(uv) \equiv 2 \) (mod 3) then \( g_1(x_{uv}^i) = 4, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^2) = 1, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^3) = 3, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^4) = 6, \) and for \( j \geq 5, \) \( g_1(x_{uv}^j) = 0, 4 \) or 6 according as
Subcase 9. \( g_1 \left( x_{uv}^i \right) = 4, \quad g_1 \left( x_{uv}^{j_{h(uv)}-1} \right) = 7 \). Then \( g_1 \) assigns colors to the remaining vertices as follows. If \( h(uv) \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \) then \( g_1 \left( x_{uv}^i \right) = 0, 4 \) or 7 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1 \) or 2 \pmod{3}. If \( h(uv) \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \) then \( g_1 \left( x_{uv}^i \right) = 4, \quad g_1 \left( x_{uv}^i_{uv} \right) = 1, \quad g_1 \left( x_{uv}^{i+1} \right) = 7 \), and for \( j \geq 4, \quad g_1 \left( x_{uv}^i \right) = 0, 4 \) or 7 according as \( j \equiv 1, 2 \) or 0 \pmod{3}. If \( h(uv) \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \) then \( g_1 \left( x_{uv}^i \right) = 4, \quad g_1 \left( x_{uv}^i_{uv} \right) = 1, \quad g_1 \left( x_{uv}^{i+1} \right) = 3, \quad g_1 \left( x_{uv}^{i+2} \right) = 7 \), and for \( j \geq 5, \quad g_1 \left( x_{uv}^i \right) = 0, 4 \) or 7 according as \( j \equiv 0, 1 \) \pmod{3}.

Note that the colors of the vertices \( x_{uv}^{i+1} \) and \( x_{uv}^{j_{h(uv)}-1} \) remain unchanged. We reduce \( g_1 \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring \( g'_1 \). Now we prove that \( g'_1 \) is a no hole coloring. Since \( f \left( x_{w}^{i+1} \right) = f \left( x_{w}^{i+2} \right) = 1 \) we get \( g_1 \left( x_{w}^{i+1} \right) = 3 \) and \( g_1 \left( x_{w}^{j_{h(uv)}-1} \right) = 6 \). Thus \( g_1 \left( x_{w}^{i+1} \right) = 1 \). Since \( g_1 \left( u' \right) = 0 \) and \( d \left( x_{w}^{i+1}, u' \right) = 2 \), color of the vertex \( x_{w}^{i+1} \) cannot be reduced and so \( g_1 \left( x_{w}^{i+1} \right) = 1 \). A maximum degree vertex is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Hence \( g'_1 \) is an inh-coloring with span 7.

Case 2. In this case we take \( r \geq 3 \). We give a coloring \( g_2 \) to \( G(rP_h) \) as below. For any edge \( uv \) of \( G \), \( g_2 \left( x_{uv}^1 \right) = g \left( x_{uv}^{j_{h(uv)}-1} \right) = g(x_{uv}^2, 1 \leq i \leq r). \) Since \( g_2 \left( x_{uv}^1 \right) = 3 \) and \( g_2 \left( x_{uv}^{j_{h(uv)}-1} \right) = 3r \) we take \( g_2 \left( x_{uv}^1 \right) = 1. \) Then we color the remaining vertices greedily in any order. If \( w \) is such a vertex, then it has two neighbors and there are two vertices at distance two from it. Hence \( g_2(w) \leq 8 \). Since \( r \geq 3 \), we get \( 3r + 1 > 8 \). Thus span \( (g_2) = 3r + 1. \) We reduce \( g_2 \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring \( g'_2 \). Now we prove that \( g'_2 \) is a no hole coloring. Since \( g_2 \left( x_{uv}^{i+1} \right) = 1, \quad g_2(u') = 0 \) and \( d \left( x_{uv}^{i+1}, u' \right) = 2 \), color of the vertex \( x_{uv}^{i+1} \) cannot be reduced and so \( g'_2 \left( x_{uv}^{i+1} \right) = 1 \). A maximum degree vertex is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, 3, . . . , \( 3r \), with \( 3r + 1 \). Hence \( g'_2 \) is an inh-coloring with span \( 3r + 1. \)

From these two cases we conclude that \( G(rP_h) \) is inh-colorable and \( \lambda(G(rP_h)) \leq \lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) \leq 3r + 1. \) Thus from Proposition 4 we get \( \lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) = \lambda(G(rP_h)) = 3r + 1. \)

We state the following lemma by Mandal and Panigrahi [13] which will be used in our next few results.

**Lemma 23** [13]. Let \( f \) be an irreducible coloring of a graph \( G \). Then no two consecutive numbers can be holes in \( f \). Further, if \( l \) is a hole in \( f \) then every vertex colored with \( l + 1 \) is adjacent to a vertex colored with \( l - 1 \).
Now we consider graphs $G$ with $\Delta(G) \geq 3$. The theorem below gives upper bound to $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_2))$ which agrees with the upper bound of $\lambda_{inh}(G(2))$ given by Mandal and Panigrahi [13], for $r = 1$. If $G$ is either a tree or a non-bipartite graph then the bound agrees with the upper bound of $\lambda(G(rP_2))$ given by Lü and Sun [12].

**Theorem 24.** Let $G$ be a graph with $\Delta(G) \geq 3$. Then for $r \geq 2$, $G(rP_2)$ is inh-colorable and

$$\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_2)) \leq \begin{cases} 
\chi(G) + r\chi'(G) + 3 & \text{if } G \text{ is a bipartite graph other than a tree,} \\
\chi(G) + r\chi'(G) & \text{otherwise,} 
\end{cases}$$

where $\chi(G)$ and $\chi'(G)$ are respectively the chromatic number and edge chromatic number of $G$.

**Proof.** Let $G$ be a bipartite graph other than a tree. Now let $f'_1$ be an edge coloring of $G$ starting with color 1 and ending with $\chi'(G)$. Mandal and Panigrahi [13] have given an inh-coloring $f_1$ to $G(2)$. We describe the coloring $f_1$ below.

Let $y$ be a vertex in $G$ of degree at least 3 and $y_1,y_2,y_3$ be its neighbors with degree of $y_1$ greater than or equal to 2. Let $y_{11}$ be a neighbor of $y_1$ different from $y$. We give an $L(2,1)$-coloring $c_1$ to $G(2)$ as below. $c_1(y) = 1$, $c_1(y_i) = 0$ and $c_1(x^1_{yi}) = i + 2$ for $i = 1,2,3$, $c_1(x^1_{y_1y_{11}}) = 2$ and $c_1(y_{11}) = 4$. We color all the uncolored vertices in $V(G)$ with the colors 0 and 1 so that $L(2,1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied in $G(2)$ and any vertex in $V(G)$ colored with 1 is at distance 2 in $G(2)$ from a vertex colored with 0. We color the remaining uncolored vertices of $G(2)$ with the colors 6, 7, ..., $\chi'(G) + 5$ such that $L(2,1)$-coloring constraints are satisfied. We reduce $c_1$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring $f_1$. Mandal and Panigrahi [13] have proved that $f_1$ is an inh-coloring of $G(2)$ with span less than or equal to $\chi(G) + \chi'(G) + 3$ and greater than or equal to 4 such that color of each node is less than or equal to 4.

Let $\text{span}(f_1) = \lambda_1$. Let $S_1 = V(G) \cup \{x^1_{uv} : uv \in E(G)\}$ and $S'_1 = V(G(rP_2)) - S_1$. We give an $L(2,1)$-coloring $g_1$ to $G(rP_2)$ as below: $g_1(u) = f_1(u)$ for all $u \in V(G)$, $g_1(x^1_{uv}) = f_1(x^1_{uv})$ for all edges $uv$ of $G$, and we assign $g_1(x^1_{uv}) = \chi(G) + \chi'(G) + 3 + (i - 2)\chi'(G) + f'_1(uv)$ for $2 \leq i \leq r$. Then all the vertices adjacent to a node have different colors. Since colors of nodes are less than 5 and colors of vertices in $S'_1$ are greater than 5, $g_1$ is an $L(2,1)$-coloring. We reduce $g_1$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring $g'_1$. In this process color of vertices in $S'_1$ are only reduced. We prove that $g'_1$ is a no-hole coloring. Let $l$ be a hole in $g'_1$. Then $l \geq \lambda_1 + 1 \geq 6$. From Lemma 23, a vertex colored with $l + 1$ is adjacent to a vertex colored with $l - 1$. A vertex colored with $l + 1$ lies in $S'_1$ and it is adjacent to vertices in $V(G)$ only. Hence $l - 1 \leq 4$. This is a contradiction. Hence $g'_1$ is an inh-coloring with $\text{span}(g'_1) \leq \chi(G) + r\chi'(G) + 3$ and $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_2)) \leq \chi(G) + r\chi'(G) + 3$. 

Next let \( G \) be a tree. We take a leaf \( s \) of \( G \). Let \( t \) be the vertex adjacent to \( s \). We give an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( g_2 \) to \( G(rP_2) \) as below. We color the vertex \( t \) with color 0. We color the vertices \( x_{ts}^1, x_{ts}^2, \ldots, x_{ts}^r \) and \( s \) with colors \( 2, 3, \ldots, r + 1 \) and \( r + 3 \) respectively. We order the uncolored nodes of \( G(rP_2) \) in increasing order of their distances from \( t \) and color them greedily. We note that colors 0 and 1 are only used by these nodes. We order the remaining vertices of \( G(rP_2) \) in increasing order of their distance from \( t \) and color them greedily. When such a vertex \( w \) is colored it is adjacent to two vertices colored with 0 and 1 and there are at most \( r\Delta - 1 \) colored vertices at distance two from it. Thus \( g_2(w) \leq r\Delta + 2 \) and so \( g_2(g) \leq r\Delta + 2 \). Now \( g_2 \) is an irreducible coloring and the only possible hole is \( r + 2 \). But a neighbor of \( t \) is colored with \( r + 2 \). Thus \( g_2 \) is an inh-coloring. Since \( r\Delta + 2 = \chi(G) + r\chi'(G) \), we get \( \lambda_{inh}(G(rP_2)) \leq \chi(G) + r\chi'(G) \).

Finally, let \( G \) be not a bipartite graph. Now let \( f_3 \) be an edge coloring of \( G \) starting with color 1 and ending with \( \chi'(G) \). Mandal and Panigrahi [13] have given an inh-coloring \( f_3 \) to \( G(2) \). We describe the coloring \( f_3 \) below.

Let \( c \) be a proper coloring of \( G \) which uses \( \chi(G) \) colors starting from 1 such that color of no vertex can be reduced. There is at least one vertex colored with 1 and adjacent to at least one vertex of every other color class. Let \( z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_{\chi(G) - 1} \) be vertices adjacent to \( z \) and colored with \( 2, 3, \ldots, \chi(G) \), respectively. From \( c \) we construct an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( c_3 \) of \( G(2) \) as below. \( c_3(u) = c(u) - 1 \) if \( u \in V(G) \) and \( c_3(x_{zz_1}^1) = 3 \). If \( \chi(G) = 3 \) we do not assign color to \( x_{zz_2}^1 \) now. If \( \chi(G) > 3 \) then \( c_3(x_{zz_2}^1) = 4 \). If \( \chi(G) = 4 \) we do not assign color to \( x_{zz_3}^1 \) now. If \( \chi(G) > 4 \) then for \( 3 \leq i \leq \chi(G) - 2 \), \( c_3(x_{zz_i}^1) = i + 2 \) and \( c_3(x_{zz_{\chi(G) - 1}}^1) = 2 \).

For any uncolored vertex \( z' \) in \( G(2) \) we define \( c_3(z') = \chi(G) + f'(e_{z'}) \), where \( e_{z'} \) is the edge of \( G \) that is subdivided by \( z \). If \( c_3 \) is not irreducible we reduce \( c_3 \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring \( f_3 \). Mandal and Panigrahi [13] have proved that \( f_3 \) is an inh-coloring of \( G(2) \) with span less than or equal to \( \chi(G) + \chi'(G) \) and greater than \( \chi(G) - 1 \) such that color of each node is less than or equal to \( \chi(G) - 1 \).

Let \( \text{span}(f_3) = \lambda_3 \). Let \( S_3 = V(G) \cup \{x_{uv}^1 : uv \in E(G)\} \) and \( S'_3 = V(G(rP_2)) - S_3 \). We give an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring \( g_3 \) to \( G(rP_2) \) as below: \( g_3(u) = f_3(u) \) for all \( u \in V(G) \), \( g_3(x_{uv}^1) = f_3(x_{uv}^1) \) for all edges \( uv \) of \( G \), \( g_3(x_{uv}^i) = \chi(G) + (i - 1)\chi'(G) + f_3(uv) \) for \( 2 \leq i \leq r \). Then \( g_3 \) is an \( L(2,1) \)-coloring because all the vertices adjacent to a node have different colors, all nodes have colors less than \( \chi(G) \), and colors of vertices in \( S'_3 \) are greater than \( \chi(G) \). We reduce \( g_3 \) until we arrive at an irreducible coloring \( g_3' \). In this process color of vertices in \( S'_3 \) are only reduced. We prove that \( g_3' \) is a no-hole coloring. If \( l \) is a hole in \( g_3' \), then \( l \geq \lambda_3 + 1 \geq \chi(G) + 1 \). From Lemma 23, a vertex colored with \( l + 1 \) is adjacent to a vertex colored with \( l - 1 \). A vertex colored with \( l + 1 \) lies in \( S'_3 \) and is adjacent to vertices in \( V(G) \) only. Hence \( l - 1 \leq \chi(G) - 1 \). This is
a contradiction. Hence $g'_3$ is an inh-coloring with $\text{span}(g'_3) \leq \chi(G) + r\chi'(G)$ and 
$\lambda_{\text{inh}}(G(rP_2)) \leq \chi(G) + r\chi'(G)$.

**Theorem 25.** Let $G$ be a graph with $\Delta(G) \geq 3$, $h(e) \geq 2$, and $h(e) = 2$ for at least one $e$ but not for all. Then for $r \geq 5$, $G(rP_h)$ is inh-colorable and $\lambda_{\text{inh}}(G(rP_h)) \leq 2r\Delta - r + 5$.

**Proof.** Let $uv$ be an edge in $G$ with $h(uv) > 2$ and $\text{deg}(u) \geq \text{deg}(v)$. We give a coloring $f$ to vertices in $G(rP_h)$ as below: $f(u) = f(v) = 0$, and uncolored nodes of $G(rP_h)$ are colored greedily using Algorithm 9 in any order. Let $c$ be the maximum color used by $f$ till now. When a node is colored it has no colored neighbor and there are most $\Delta$ colored vertices at distance two from it. Also there exist at least two nodes distance two apart from each other. Hence $1 \leq c \leq \Delta$. We color the vertex $x^i_{u^i}$ greedily and get $f(x^i_{u^i}) = 2$. If $c = 1$ then the maximum color used till now is 2 and no hole is created. If $c > 1$ then there is a vertex $y_1$ in $V(G)$ colored with $c - 1$. Since the coloring is obtained greedily, $y_1$ is at distance two from at least $c - 1$ vertices in $V(G)$, say, $z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_{c-1}$ colored with $0, 1, \ldots, c - 2$, respectively. We color the vertices $x^i_{y_1z_1}, x^i_{y_1z_2}, \ldots, x^i_{y_1z_{c-1}}$ greedily in the order they are listed. Then the colors $c - 2, c - 1, c, f(x^i_{y_1z_1}), f(x^i_{y_1z_2}), \ldots, f(x^i_{y_1z_{c-2}}), f(x^i_{y_1z_{c-1}})$ are all distinct and one of them is $c + 1$. Therefore, $c + 1$ is not a hole. Hence the maximum color used till now is at least $c + 1$ and no hole is created. Let $V_1 = \{x^i_{u^i} : h(u^iv^j) = 2, 1 \leq i \leq r\}$. We color the vertices in $V_1$ greedily in any order. No hole is created till now. We color the vertices $x^i_{u^i}$, $2 \leq i \leq r$, greedily in any order. We choose a maximum degree vertex $v$ of $G$, where $w \neq v$. This is possible since $\text{deg}(u) \geq \text{deg}(v)$. We color the uncolored vertices adjacent to $w$ greedily in any order. No hole is created till now and the maximum color used so far is at least $r\Delta + 1$, since $w$ is a maximum degree vertex. Let $V_2 = \{x^i_{u^i1} : h(u^i1) > 2\} \cup \{x^i_{u^i2} : h(u^i1) > 2, x^i_{u^i1} \notin V_2\}$ and $V_3 = \{x^i_{u^i1} : x^i_{u^i1} \in V_2, 1 \leq i \leq r\}$. We color the uncolored vertices in $V_3$ greedily in any order. Let $c_1$ be the maximum color used by vertices in $V_3$. No hole is created till now. Let $V_4 = \{x^i_{u^i1} : f(x^i_{u^i1}) = c_1, x^i_{u^i1} \in V_3\}$ and $V_5 = \{x^i_{u^i1} : f(x^i_{u^i1}) = c_1, x^i_{u^i1} \in V_3\}$. We color the vertices in $V_4$ greedily in any order. When a vertex $x^i_{u^i1}$ in $V_4$ is colored it can use any color other than $f(v^j_3), f(v^3) \pm 1, f(x^i_{u^i3})$, $f(x^i_{u^i3})$, and the colors of at most $r\Delta - r$ colored vertices of $v_3$. Hence $f(x^i_{u^i1}) \leq r\Delta - r + 7 \leq r\Delta + 2$. No hole is created since $c_1 \geq r\Delta + 1$. We color the remaining vertices in $V_5$ greedily in any order. No hole is created so far. Finally, we color all the remaining vertices greedily in any order. Let $x^i_{u^i4}$ be such a vertex. Number of vertices adjacent to $x^i_{u^i4}$ is 2 and
number of vertices at distance two from \(x_{u_iv_j}^{i_j}\) is also 2. Thus color of \(x_{u_iv_j}^{i_j}\) is at most 8. Hence \(f\) is an inh-coloring of \(G(rP_h)\) and \(G(rP_h)\) is inh-colorable.

We prove that \(\text{span}(f) \leq 2r\Delta - r + 5\). Color of a node is less than \(\Delta + 1\). Let \(x_{u_5v_5}^{i_5}\) be a vertex such that \(h(u_5v_5) = 2\). Then \(u_5\) and \(v_5\) have at most \(r\) neighbors each, of which \(r\) neighbors are common. Thus \(u_5\) and \(v_5\) have at most \(2r\Delta - r\) neighbors in total. Hence number of vertices adjacent to \(x_{u_5v_5}^{i_5}\) is 2 and number of vertices at distance two from it is at most \(2r\Delta - r - 1\). Thus color of \(x_{u_5v_5}^{i_5}\) is at most \(2r\Delta - r + 5\). Let \(x_{u_6v_6}^{i_6}\) be a vertex such that \(h(u_6v_6) > 2\). Number of vertices adjacent to \(x_{u_6v_6}^{i_6}\) is 2 and number of vertices at distance two from it is at most \(r\). Thus color of \(x_{u_6v_6}^{i_6}\) is at most \(r\Delta + 6\). Let \(x_{u_7v_7}^{i_7}\) be a vertex not adjacent to \(u_7\) or \(v_7\). Number of vertices adjacent to \(x_{u_7v_7}^{i_7}\) is 2 and number of vertices at distance two from \(x_{u_7v_7}^{i_7}\) is 2. Thus color of \(x_{u_7v_7}^{i_7}\) is at most 8. Therefore \(\text{span}(f) \leq 2r\Delta - r + 5\) and hence the result follows.

Finally, we consider graphs having maximum degree at least 4. In the theorem below we obtain an upper bound of \(\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_3))\), \(r \geq 2\), which agrees with the upper bound of \(\lambda_{inh}(G(3))\) given by Mandal and Panigrahi [13], for \(r = 1\). Moreover, we find the exact value of \(\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_3))\) if \(\Delta(G)\) is at least four times the minimum degree of \(G\).

**Theorem 26.** If \(G\) is a graph with \(\Delta \geq 4\), then for \(r \geq 2\), \(G(rP_3)\) is inh-colorable and \(\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_3)) \leq r\Delta + 2\). Further, if \(\Delta \geq 4\delta\) then \(\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_3)) = r\Delta + 1\), where \(\delta\) is the minimum degree in \(G\).

**Proof.** Let \(G_1\) be the subgraph of \(G(rP_3)\) induced on the vertex set \(V(G) \cup \{x_{uw}^{i_j} : j \in \{1, 2\}, uv \in E(G)\}\). Then \(G_1\) is isomorphic to \(G(3)\). According to Proposition 3 we get a \(\lambda\)-perfect labeling \(f\) of \(G_1\). We note that 1 is the only hole in \(f\) because nodes are colored with 0, vertices adjacent to a maximum degree vertex are colored with 2, \(\ldots\), \(\Delta + 1\) and every vertex is either a node or adjacent to a node. Now we use \(f\) to construct an \(L(2,1)\)-coloring \(g\) of \(G(rP_3)\) with span \(r\Delta + 1\) as below: \(g(w) = f(w)\) if \(w \in V(G_1)\), for all edges \(uv \in G\), \(2 \leq i \leq r\) and \(1 \leq j \leq 2\), \(g(x_{uw}^{i_j}) = g(x_{uw}^{i_1}) + (i - 1)\Delta\). We check that \(g\) is an \(L(2,1)\)-coloring with span \(r\Delta + 1\) and having a hole at 1. A maximum degree vertex in \(G(rP_3)\) is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with 2, \(\ldots\), \(r\Delta + 1\). Thus 1 is the only hole in \(g\). Let \(u'\) be a minimum degree vertex of \(G\). Let \(y\) be a vertex having the maximum color among the neighbors of \(u'\) in \(G(rP_3)\). Then \(y = x_{u'v'}^{i'j}\) for some neighbor \(v'\) of \(u'\) in \(G\). Thus \((r - 1)\Delta + 2 \leq g(x_{u'v'}^{i'j}) \leq r\Delta + 1\) and \((r - 1)\Delta + 2 \leq g(x_{u'v'}^{i'j}) \leq r\Delta + 1\). We give another \(L(2,1)\)-coloring \(g'\) to \(G(rP_3)\) where \(g'(z) = g(z)\) if \(z \neq u', x_{u'v'}^{i'j}\) and \(g'(x_{u'v'}^{i'j}) = 1\). Since no vertex adjacent to \(x_{u'v'}^{i'j}\) is colored with 0 or 2, \(L(2,1)\)-coloring constraints are satisfied. Next, \(u'\) is colored with the least available color such that \(L(2,1)\)-coloring constraints are satisfied by \(g'\). Since no vertex adjacent to \(u'\) is colored with \(r\Delta + 1\), \(g'(u') \leq r\Delta + 2\).
and thus $\text{span}(g') \leq r\Delta + 2$. Again, the number of vertices adjacent to $u'$ is $r\delta$ and the number of vertices at distance two from $u'$ is also $r\delta$. Hence the number of colors not available for $u'$ is at most $4r\delta$ and so $g'(u') \leq 4r\delta$. Therefore, if $\Delta \geq 4\delta$ then $g'(u') \leq r\Delta + 1$ and so $\text{span}(g') = r\Delta + 1$. Now we reduce $g'$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring $g''$. Since $g'\left(x^i_{uv}\right) = 1$, $g'(v') = 0$ and $d\left(x^i_{uv}, v'\right) = 2$, color of $x^i_{uv}$ cannot be reduced and so $g''\left(x^i_{uv}\right) = 1$. There is a maximum degree vertex in $G(rP_3)$ colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with $2, 3, \ldots, r\Delta + 1$ by $g''$. Thus $g''$ is an inh-coloring of $G(rP_3)$ and $\lambda_{\text{inh}}(G(rP_3)) \leq r\Delta + 2$. Further, by Proposition 4 if $\Delta \geq 4\delta$ then $\lambda_{\text{inh}}(G(rP_3)) = r\Delta + 1$. ■

Lü and Sun [12] have found the exact value of $\lambda(G(rP_3))$, $r \geq 2$, when $\Delta(G)$ is even. In the corollary below we find the same when $\Delta(G)$ is odd.

**Corollary 27.** If $G$ is a graph with $\Delta(G) \geq 5$, $\Delta(G)$ odd, then for $r \geq 2$, $\lambda(G(rP_3)) = r\Delta + 1$.

**Proof.** In the proof of Theorem 26 we have given an $L(2, 1)$-coloring $g$ to $G(rP_3)$ with span $r\Delta + 1$. Thus from Proposition 4 we get $\lambda(G(rP_3)) = r\Delta + 1$. ■

In Theorem 28 below we find the exact value of span and inh-span of $G(rP_3)$ (with some restrictions on $h$) which coincide with span and inh-span of $G(h_e)$, for $r = 1$, given by Chang et al. [1] and Mandal and Panigrahi [13], respectively. In particular, for $\Delta(G)$ odd we get the exact value of $\lambda(G(rP_3))$ which was not found by Lü and Sun [12].

**Theorem 28.** If $G$ is a graph with $\Delta(G) \geq 4$, $r \geq 2$, and $h(e) \geq 3$ with strict inequality for at least one $e$, then $\lambda_{\text{inh}}(G(rP_h)) = \lambda(G(rP_h)) = r\Delta + 1$.

**Proof.** Here we consider the same $L(2, 1)$-coloring $g$ of $G(rP_3)$ that appears in the proof of Theorem 26. Note that span of $g$ is $r\Delta + 1$ and $g$ assigns color 0 to all nodes. Let $u'v'$ be an edge in $G$ such that $h(u'v') > 3$. Then we give an $L(2, 1)$-coloring $g'$ to $G(rP_h)$ as below. For any edge $uv$ in $G$ and for $1 \leq i \leq r$, $g'(x^i_{uv}) = g\left(x^i_{uv}\right)$, $g'\left(x^i_{h(uv)}\right) = g\left(x^i_{h(uv)}\right)$, and $g'\left(x^2_{u'v'}\right) = 1$ (this is possible since $g'\left(x^2_{u'v'}\right) > \Delta + 1$ and $g'\left(x^2_{h(u'v')}\right) > \Delta + 1$). We color the remaining vertices greedily in any order applying Algorithm 9. When such a vertex $w$ is colored it is adjacent to two vertices and there are two vertices at distance two from it. Hence $g'(w) \leq 8$. Since $r \geq 2$ and $\Delta \geq 4$, $g'(w) \leq r\Delta + 1$. Thus span($g'$) = $r\Delta + 1$. Now we reduce $g'$ until we arrive at an irreducible coloring $g''$. We prove that $g''$ is a no-hole coloring. Since $g'\left(x^2_{u'v'}\right) = 1$, $g'(u') = 0$ and $d\left(x^2_{u'v'}, u'\right) = 1$, the color of $x^2_{u'v'}$ cannot be reduced and thus $g''\left(x^2_{u'v'}\right) = 1$. A maximum degree vertex is colored with 0 and its neighbors are colored with $2, 3, \ldots, r\Delta + 1$ by $g''$. Hence $g''$ is an inh-coloring with span $r\Delta + 1$. ■
Thus $\lambda(G(rP_h)) \leq \lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) \leq r\Delta + 1$. Now from Proposition 4 we get $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h)) = \lambda(G(rP_h)) = r\Delta + 1$.

5. **Concluding Remarks**

In this paper we show that for any graph $G$ with $h(e) \geq 3$ and $r \geq 2$, $G(rP_h)$ is inh-colorable and for $\Delta(G) \geq 2$, $G(rP_2)$ is inh-colorable. We also prove that if $G$ is a graph with $\Delta(G) \geq 2$, $h(e) \geq 2$ for all $e$ in $E(G)$ and $h(e) = 2$ for at least one $e$ but not for all, and $r \geq 2$, then $G(rP_h)$ is inh-colorable except possibly the following cases: $\Delta(G) = 2$, $r = 2$; and $\Delta(G) \geq 3$, $2 \leq r \leq 4$. We have found the exact value of $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h))$ in several cases and given upper bounds in the remaining. However, some of the upper bounds given in the paper may not be sharp. So the following problems remain open.

1. Is $G(2P_h)$ inh-colorable for any $G$ with $\Delta = 2$, $h(e) \geq 2$ for all edges and equality for at least one but not for all?
2. Is $G(rP_h)$ inh-colorable for any graph $G$ with $\Delta \geq 3$, $h(e) \geq 2$ for all edges and equality for at least one but not for all, and $2 \leq r \leq 4$?
3. Can the upper bound of $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h))$, when $\Delta(G) = 2$, $r \geq 2$ and $h(e) \geq 2$ with equality for at least one $e$ but not for all (Theorems 12 and 16) be improved?
4. Can the upper bound of $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_h))$, when $\Delta(G) \geq 3$, $r \geq 5$ and $h(e) \geq 2$ with equality for at least one $e$ but not for all (Theorem 25) be improved?
5. Whether $\lambda_{inh}(G(rP_3)) = r\Delta + 1$, for every graph $G$ with $\Delta \geq 3$ and $r \geq 2$ (Theorems 21 and 26)?
6. Is the upper bound 6 for $\lambda_{inh}(C_m(2P_3))$, $m \geq 4$ (Theorem 17) sharp?
7. Can the upper bound for $\lambda_{inh}(C_m(rP_2))$ given in Theorem 15 be improved?

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