

# On construction of fuzzy chromatic number of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs

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**Abstract.** We use the notion of fuzzy chromatic number (FCN) of fuzzy graphs based on fuzzy independent vertex sets introduced in 2015. Let  $\tilde{G}_1$  be a path fuzzy graph and  $\tilde{G}_2$  be any fuzzy graphs where their vertex sets are disjoint. Let  $\tilde{G} = \tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  be a cartesian product of  $\tilde{G}_1$  and  $\tilde{G}_2$ . In this paper, we construct formula for FCN of  $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  and verify connection between maximum of FCN of both fuzzy graphs and FCN of their cartesian product. Also, we create an algorithm to determine FCN of the cartesian product according to the properties obtained. The last two statements show novelties of the present work. Evaluation of the algorithm is presented in the experimental results.

**Keywords:** Fuzzy chromatic number, cartesian product, path, fuzzy graph, algorithm

## 1. Introduction

A graph was used to model many real problems where vertices represent objects and edges represent connection between two objects on a network ([1, 2, 5, 11]). In real world, connection between two objects is uncertain. For example, a conflict between two traffic movements in traffic networks is an indeterminate phenomenon. Also, signal interferences between two transmitters in telecommunication networks are imprecise phenomena. Therefore, we need another type of graph that can model these phenomena. This is one of the reasons why fuzzy graph is needed. The research on fuzzy graph has developed rapidly. Recently, Poulik and Ghorai [20] have proposed

detour  $g$ -interior nodes and detour  $g$ -boundary nodes in bipolar fuzzy graph with applications. Further, they also have investigated certain indices of graphs in bipolar fuzzy environment [21]. In [22], Poulik and Ghorai have established an updated version of definition and theorem in bipolar fuzzy graphs and demonstrated some numerical examples. Furthermore, Sahoo et al. [24] provided certain types of edge irregular intuitionistic fuzzy graphs. Also, they discussed covering and paired domination in intuitionistic fuzzy graphs in [25].

Kaufmann initiated a fuzzy graph with fuzzy edge set in 1973 [26]. Whereas, Rosenfeld introduced a fuzzy graph where fuzziness appears in both vertex and edge sets [26]. After that, many concepts in fuzzy graphs were generalized, such as dominating set, clique, and independent vertex set. For more concepts in fuzzy graphs, readers may refer to [4, 16], and [17]. Further, the concept of coloring of fuzzy

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graph was introduced by several researchers ([3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19]). However, some of the methods of fuzzy graph coloring still involved crisp chromatic number.

Papers related to generalization of chromatic number can be found in [3, 4, 12, 19], and [27]. Munoz et al. [19] provided fuzzy chromatic number (FCN) of fuzzy graphs based on  $\alpha$ -cut graphs coloring. Meanwhile, Bershtein and Bozhenuk ([3, 4]) defined FCN by means of maximal independent vertex sets. Keshavarz [12] gave an FCN of fuzzy graphs through incompatibility degrees of adjacent vertices. In 2015, we established FCN of fuzzy graphs based on fuzzy independent vertex sets [27] which is different to the works in [3, 4 and 19]. We also initiated a concept of an uncertain chromatic number by means of uncertainty theory in [28]. Recently, we have constructed FCN of join and union of fuzzy graphs ([29, 30]). In 2019, we have constructed FCN of cartesian product of path and complete fuzzy graphs and designed an algorithm ([31, 32]).

Cartesian product of fuzzy graphs has been used to model real problems, such as in the product of DNA structure [18], in computer science, geometry, algebra, number theory [23], also in combinatorial bayesian optimization [8]. Therefore, we are interested in investigating some problems related to cartesian product of fuzzy graphs. The problem to find FCN of cartesian product of any two fuzzy graphs has not been solved until now. Also, properties of FCN of the cartesian product have not been verified. We are interested to investigate FCN of the cartesian product of fuzzy graphs because the FCN is more suitable to handle indeterminate phenomena in real problems. Furthermore, the result in [32] is a general algorithm to find FCN of cartesian product of any fuzzy graphs based on FCN algorithm in [30] and the cartesian product concept. In other words, an algorithm to find FCN of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs which is constructed based on the properties of FCN has not been created. In order to complete the work in [31] and [32], the aims of this research are to construct FCN of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs, to investigate properties of the FCN, to develop an algorithm based on the properties obtained, and to verify ranking between FCN of the cartesian product  $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  and FCN of  $\tilde{G}_1$  and  $\tilde{G}_2$  based on the concept of ranking between discrete fuzzy numbers.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 discusses basic theories needed to solve the problems. Construction of FCN of cartesian product of path and

other fuzzy graphs is presented in Section 3. Moreover, an algorithm to determine FCN of the cartesian product is described in Section 3. Finally, conclusions are given in Section 4.

## 2. Theoretical background

In this section, we recall some basic concepts in fuzzy sets, fuzzy numbers, and fuzzy graphs which are needed to solve the problems.

Let  $X$  be a universal set (nonempty). A set

$$\{(x, \mu_{\tilde{B}}(x)) | x \in X\}$$

is called a fuzzy set  $\tilde{B}$  on  $X$  with a membership function  $\mu_{\tilde{B}} : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  [34]. We then call the classical sets as crisp sets. In this paper, we use the concepts of support, height,  $\alpha$ -cut of fuzzy sets, and fuzzy numbers as in [15]. Further, the concept of discrete fuzzy number is cited from [6] and [33].

Given two discrete fuzzy numbers  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{B}$ . Let  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ . The  $\alpha$ -cut sets of  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{B}$  are  $A^\alpha = \{x_1^\alpha, \dots, x_m^\alpha\}$  and  $B^\alpha = \{y_1^\alpha, \dots, y_n^\alpha\}$ , respectively. The supports of  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{B}$  are symbolized as  $S(A)$  and  $S(B)$ , respectively. The sets  $S(A) \vee S(B) = \{z | \max\{\min S(A), \min S(B)\} \leq z \leq \max\{\max S(A), \max S(B)\}\}$ . It was defined in [6] that  $P^\alpha = \{z \in S(A) \vee S(B) | \max\{x_1^\alpha, y_1^\alpha\} \leq z \leq \max\{x_m^\alpha, y_n^\alpha\}\}$ . The maximum of discrete fuzzy numbers  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{B}$  is defined as follows [7]:  $\max\{\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}\} = \{(z, \mu_{\max\{\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}\}}(z))\}$  with

$$\mu_{\max\{\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}\}}(z) = \sup\{\alpha \in [0, 1] | z \in P^\alpha\}.$$

Further, the set

$S(A) \wedge S(B) = \{z | \min\{\min S(A), \min S(B)\} \leq z \leq \min\{\max S(A), \max S(B)\}\}$ . Given  $Q^\alpha = \{z \in S(A) \wedge S(B) | \min\{x_1^\alpha, y_1^\alpha\} \leq z \leq \min\{x_m^\alpha, y_n^\alpha\}\}$ . The minimum of  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{B}$  is as follows [7]:  $\min\{\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}\} = \{(z, \mu_{\min\{\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}\}}(z))\}$  with

$$\mu_{\min\{\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}\}}(z) = \sup\{\alpha \in [0, 1] | z \in Q^\alpha\}.$$

For any discrete fuzzy numbers  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\tilde{B}$ ,  $\tilde{B} \succeq \tilde{A} \Leftrightarrow \max\{\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}\} = \tilde{B}$ . Otherwise,  $\tilde{B} \leq \tilde{A}$  if and only if  $\max\{\tilde{A}, \tilde{B}\} = \tilde{A}$  [7].

Given fuzzy graph  $\tilde{G}_1(V_1, \tilde{E}_1)$  where  $V_1$  is a vertex set and  $\tilde{E}_1$  is a fuzzy edge set with the membership function  $\mu_{\tilde{E}_1} : V_1 \times V_1 \rightarrow [0, 1]$ . We call  $\tilde{G}_1$  as a fuzzy subgraph of  $\tilde{G}(V, \tilde{E})$  if  $V_1 \subseteq V$  and  $\tilde{E}_1 \subseteq \tilde{E}$ .

Given fuzzy graphs  $\tilde{G}_1(V_1, \tilde{E}_1)$  and  $\tilde{G}_2(V_2, \tilde{E}_2)$  where  $V_1 \cap V_2 = \emptyset$ , and  $\tilde{E}_1, \tilde{E}_2$  have membership functions  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$ , respectively. A

cartesian product  $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  is a graph consisting of a vertex set  $V = V_1 \times V_2$  and an edge set  $\tilde{E}$  defined as  $\{(x, y_1)(x, y_2) | x \in V_1; y_1 y_2 \in \tilde{E}_2\} \cup \{(x_1, y)(x_2, y) | y \in V_2; x_1 x_2 \in \tilde{E}_1\}$ , with membership functions  $\mu_{\tilde{E}}((x, y_1)(x, y_2)) = \mu_2(y_1 y_2)$ , and  $\mu_{\tilde{E}}((x_1, y)(x_2, y)) = \mu_1(x_1 x_2)$ .

Cioban [9] proposed a method to color fuzzy graphs which is based on a value  $\delta$ . Given  $\delta \in [0, 1]$ . A fuzzy independent vertex set (FIVS)  $\mathcal{I}nd \subseteq V$  is a subset of  $V$  that satisfies  $\mu(x, y) \leq \delta, \forall x, y \in \mathcal{I}nd$ . It is also denoted as  $\mathcal{I}nd^\delta$ . The  $k$ -coloring of  $\tilde{G}$  is defined through partitioning vertex set  $V$  into  $\delta$ -FIVS  $\{\mathcal{I}nd_1^\delta, \mathcal{I}nd_2^\delta, \dots, \mathcal{I}nd_k^\delta\}$  such that  $\mathcal{I}nd_i^\delta \cap \mathcal{I}nd_j^\delta = \emptyset, \forall i \neq j$  and  $\mathcal{I}nd_1^\delta \cup \mathcal{I}nd_2^\delta \dots \cup \mathcal{I}nd_k^\delta = V$ . The  $\delta$ -chromatic number of  $\tilde{G}$  is the minimum  $k$  needed in the  $k$ -coloring, symbolized as  $\chi^\delta(\tilde{G})$ . Furthermore, the concept of fuzzy chromatic number (FCN) was given in [27]. The FCN of fuzzy graph  $\tilde{G}(V, \tilde{E})$  with  $n$  vertices is a fuzzy set  $\tilde{\chi}(\tilde{G}) = \{(k, L_{\tilde{\chi}}(k)) | k = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$  with

$$L_{\tilde{\chi}}(k) = \max\{1 - \delta | \delta \in [0, 1], \chi^\delta(\tilde{G}) = k\}. \quad (1)$$

The value  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(k)$  in (1) denotes a membership degree of  $k$  in  $\tilde{\chi}$ .

### 3. Construction FCN of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs and its algorithm

In this section, we discuss properties and algorithm of FCN of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs. The properties are shown on two theorems. First theorem depicts construction of FCN of the cartesian product. On the second theorem, we give ranking between FCN of the two fuzzy graphs and their cartesian product. Following Theorem 1, we establish an algorithm (Table 2) in determining FCN of the cartesian product.

#### 3.1. Properties of FCN of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs

**Theorem 1.** Given path fuzzy graph  $\tilde{G}_1(V_1, \tilde{E}_1)$  and any fuzzy graphs  $\tilde{G}_2(V_2, \tilde{E}_2)$  with FCN  $\tilde{\chi}_1$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_2$ , respectively. Let  $|V_1| = n_1$  and  $|V_2| = n_2$ . If  $\tilde{G}$  is the cartesian product  $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$ , then FCN of  $\tilde{G}$  is  $\tilde{\chi}(\tilde{G}) = \{(k, L_{\tilde{\chi}}(k))\}$ , where

$$L_{\tilde{\chi}}(k) = \begin{cases} \min\{L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(k), L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(k)\}, & \text{if } 1 \leq k < k'; \\ k' = \min\{1 \leq n' \leq n_2, L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(n') = 1\}; & \\ 1, & \text{if } k' \leq k \leq n_1 \times n_2. \end{cases}$$

**Proof.** Let  $V_1 = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n_1}\}$  and  $V_2 = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n_2}\}$ . Since  $\tilde{G}_1$  is a path fuzzy graph, membership degree of edge  $\mu(u_i u_{i+1}) > 0$  for each edge  $(u_i u_{i+1}, \mu(u_i u_{i+1}) \in (\tilde{E}_1)_1)$  with  $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$ . Hence, FCN of  $\tilde{G}_1$  is

$$\tilde{\chi}_1(\tilde{G}_1) = \{(1, L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(1)), (2, 1), (3, 1), \dots, (n_1, 1)\}. \quad (2)$$

We prove the theorem through mathematical induction on  $k$ .

- For  $k = 1$ : let  $\delta \in [0, 1]$ . Let  $\mu_{max1} = \max\{\mu(u_i u_j) | u_i, u_j \in V_1\}$  and  $\mu_{max2} = \max\{\mu(v_i v_j) | v_i, v_j \in V_2\}$ . It is obvious that  $L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(1) = 1 - \mu_{max1}$  and  $L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(1) = 1 - \mu_{max2}$ . Let  $\delta_{max} = \max\{\mu_{max1}, \mu_{max2}\}$ . Based on Equation (1),  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(1) = \max\{1 - \delta | \chi^\delta(\tilde{G}) = 1\} = 1 - \delta_{max} = \min\{L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(1), L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(1)\}$  and the theorem is true for  $k = 1$ .
- Further, we assume that the theorem is fulfilled when  $k = r$  ( $1 < r < k'$ ) with  $k' = \min\{1 \leq n' \leq n_2, L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(n') = 1\}$ . It means that  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(r) = \min\{L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(r), L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(r)\}$ . We will proof the theorem for  $k = r + 1$ .
- If  $\tilde{G}_2$  is a cycle fuzzy graph with even number of vertices, then FCN of the cartesian product  $\tilde{G}$  has the number  $r = 2$  with the degree  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(r) = 1 = \min\{L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(r), L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(r)\}$ . Otherwise, it is impossible that  $r = 2$  in  $\tilde{\chi}(\tilde{G})$  has  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(r) = 1$ . According to Equation (2), we have:

$$L_{\tilde{\chi}}(r) = L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(r) = \min\{L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(r), L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(r)\}$$

Further, based on Equation (1):

$$L_{\tilde{\chi}}(r) = \max\{1 - \delta | \chi^\delta(\tilde{G}) = r\} = L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(r).$$

To find the value  $\delta$  such that  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(r) = L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(r)$ , we verify all clique fuzzy subgraphs of  $\tilde{G}_2$  with orders  $r + 1$ , namely  $Q_{r+1}^1, Q_{r+1}^2, \dots, Q_{r+1}^{m'}$ . Let

$$\delta_r = \max\{\min\{\mu_2(Q_{r+1}^1)\}, \min\{\mu_2(Q_{r+1}^2)\}, \dots, \min\{\mu_2(Q_{r+1}^{m'})\}\}.$$

It is obvious that  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(r) = L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(r) = 1 - \delta_r$ . By using the same way, we verify clique fuzzy subgraphs of  $\tilde{G}_2$  with orders  $r + 2$  to find  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(r + 1)$ . Let  $Q_{r+2}^1, Q_{r+2}^2, \dots, Q_{r+2}^{l'}$  be

clique fuzzy subgraphs of  $\tilde{G}_2$  with orders  $r + 2$  that contain cliques  $Q_{r+1}^1, Q_{r+1}^2, \dots, Q_{r+1}^{m'}$  with  $l < m'$ . Set

$$\delta_{r+1} = \max\{\min\{\mu_2(Q_{r+2}^1)\}, \min\{\mu_2(Q_{r+2}^2)\}, \dots, \min\{\mu_2(Q_{r+2}^{l'})\}\}.$$

It is clear that  $L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(r + 1) = 1 - \delta_{r+1}$ . Since  $\tilde{G}_1$  is path fuzzy graph,  $L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(r + 1) = 1$  for  $r > 1$ . Therefore,

$$L_{\tilde{\chi}}(r + 1) = 1 - \delta_{r+1} = \min\{1, 1 - \delta_{r+1}\} = \min\{L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(r + 1), L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(r + 1)\}$$

and the proof is complete. ■

**Theorem 2.** Given path fuzzy graph  $\tilde{G}_1(V_1, \tilde{E}_1)$  and any fuzzy graph  $\tilde{G}_2(V_2, \tilde{E}_2)$  with FCN  $\tilde{\chi}_1$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_2$ , respectively. Let  $n_1$  be the number of vertices in  $\tilde{G}_1$  and  $n_2$  be the number of vertices in  $\tilde{G}_2$ . If FCN of the cartesian product  $\tilde{G} = \tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  is  $\tilde{\chi} = \{(k, L_{\tilde{\chi}}(k))\}$ , then

$$\tilde{\chi} \succeq \max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}. \tag{3}$$

**Proof.** We know that  $\tilde{G}_1$  is a path fuzzy graph. Hence, FCN of  $\tilde{G}_1$  is shown in Equation (2). Whereas,  $\tilde{\chi}_2(\tilde{G}_2) = \{(k, L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(k))\}$ . We verify maximum of  $\tilde{\chi}, \tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2$  based on the concept of maximum of discrete fuzzy numbers through  $\alpha$ -cut sets as in [7]. Given  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , the  $\alpha$ -cut sets of  $\tilde{\chi}_1$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_2$  are  $\chi_1^\alpha = \{l_1^\alpha, \dots, l_m^\alpha\}$  and  $\chi_2^\alpha = \{k_1^\alpha, \dots, k_n^\alpha\}$ , respectively.

The supports of  $\tilde{\chi}_1$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_2$  are presented as  $S(\chi_1)$  and  $S(\chi_2)$ , respectively. We provide the set

$$\begin{aligned} S(\chi_1) \vee S(\chi_2) &= \{z \mid \max\{\min S(\chi_1), \min S(\chi_2)\} \leq \\ & z \leq \max\{\max S(\chi_1), \max S(\chi_2)\}\} \\ &= \{1, 2, 3, \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\}. \end{aligned}$$

In one hand, we can check the inequality (3) by comparing the maximum of  $\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}$  and  $\tilde{\chi}$  as follows:

Let  $P^\alpha = \{z \in S(\chi_1) \vee S(\chi_2) \mid \max\{l_1^\alpha, k_1^\alpha\} \leq z \leq \max\{l_m^\alpha, k_n^\alpha\}\}$ . Let  $\alpha_{\min}^k = \min\{L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(k), L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(k)\}$  for  $k \geq 1$ . It is visible that

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_1^{\alpha_{\min}^1} &= \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n_1\}; \\ \chi_1^{\alpha_{\min}^2} &= \{2, 3, \dots, n_1\}; \dots; \\ \chi_1^1 &= \{k \in \tilde{\chi}_1 \mid L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(k) = 1\} = \{l', \dots, n_1\}, \\ l' &= \min\{1 \leq k \leq n_1 \mid L_{\tilde{\chi}_1}(k) = 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_2^{\alpha_{\min}^1} &= \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n_2\}; \\ \chi_2^{\alpha_{\min}^2} &= \{2, 3, \dots, n_2\}; \dots; \\ \chi_2^1 &= \{k', \dots, n_2\}, \\ k' &= \min\{1 \leq k \leq n_2 \mid L_{\tilde{\chi}_2}(k) = 1\}. \end{aligned}$$

Based on Equation (2), we get  $l' = 2 \leq k'$ . It means that  $\max\{l', k'\} = k'$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} P^{\alpha_{\min}^1} &= \{1, 2, 3, \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\}; \\ P^{\alpha_{\min}^2} &= \{2, 3, \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\}; \\ P^{\alpha_{\min}^3} &= \{3, \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\}; \dots; \\ P^1 &= \{k', \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\} = \{(1, \alpha_{\min}^1), (2, \alpha_{\min}^2), (3, \alpha_{\min}^3), \dots, (k', 1), \dots, (\max\{n_1, n_2\}, 1)\}.$$

In addition, FCN of the cartesian product  $\tilde{G}$  can be obtained through Theorem 1 as follows:

$$\tilde{\chi} = \{(1, \alpha_{\min}^1), (2, \alpha_{\min}^2), (3, \alpha_{\min}^3), \dots, (k', 1), \dots, (n_1 \times n_2, 1)\}.$$

Further, we compare  $\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}$  and  $\tilde{\chi}$ . We obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} P^{\alpha_{\min}^1} &= \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n_1 \times n_2\}; \\ P^{\alpha_{\min}^2} &= \{2, 3, \dots, n_1 \times n_2\}; \\ P^{\alpha_{\min}^3} &= \{3, \dots, n_1 \times n_2\}; \dots; \\ P^1 &= \{k', \dots, n_1 \times n_2\}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \max\{\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}, \tilde{\chi}\} &= \{(1, \alpha_{\min}^1), (2, \alpha_{\min}^2), (3, \alpha_{\min}^3), \dots, (k', 1), \dots, \\ & (n_1 \times n_2, 1)\} = \tilde{\chi}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\tilde{\chi} \succeq \max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}$ .

In other hand, we can prove the inequality (3) by comparing the minimum of  $\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}$  and  $\tilde{\chi}$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} S(\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}) \wedge S(\chi) &= \{z \mid \min\{\min S(\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}), \min S(\chi)\} \leq z \leq \\ & \min\{\max S(\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}), \max S(\chi)\}\} \\ &= \{1, 2, 3, \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\}. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that  $S(\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}) = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\}$  and  $S(\chi) = \{1, 2, \dots, n_1 \times n_2\}$ .

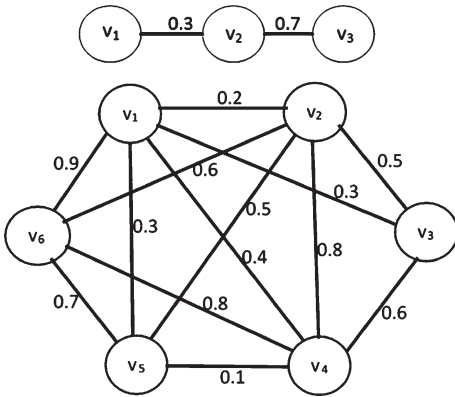


Fig. 1. Path fuzzy graph  $\tilde{G}_1$  and fuzzy graph  $\tilde{G}_2$ .

Let  $Q^\alpha = \{z \in S(\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}) \wedge S(\chi) \mid \min\{l^\alpha, k^\alpha\} \leq z \leq \min\{l_m^\alpha, k_n^\alpha\}\}$ . By the same way, we get

$$Q^{\alpha^1_{\min}} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\};$$

$$Q^{\alpha^2_{\min}} = \{2, 3, \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\};$$

$$Q^{\alpha^3_{\min}} = \{3, \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\}; \dots;$$

$$Q^1 = \{k', \dots, \max\{n_1, n_2\}\}.$$

Thus,  
 $\min\{\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}, \chi\}$   
 $= \{(1, \alpha^1_{\min}), (2, \alpha^2_{\min}), (3, \alpha^3_{\min}), \dots, (k', 1),$   
 $\dots, (\max\{n_1, n_2\}, 1)\}$   
 $= \max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}$

We also have  $\tilde{\chi} \geq \max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}$  and the theorem is proved. ■

Furthermore, a remark related to Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 is given as follows.

**Remark 1.** Given  $\tilde{G}_1, \tilde{G}_2$  with the underlying crisp graphs  $G_1^*, G_2^*$ , respectively and their chromatic numbers are  $\chi_1^*, \chi_2^*$ . When the degree  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(k) = 0$  for  $1 \leq k < \max\{\chi_1^*, \chi_2^*\}$  and  $L_{\tilde{\chi}}(k) = 1$  for  $k = \max\{\chi_1^*, \chi_2^*\}$ , then FCN of the cartesian product  $\tilde{\chi}(\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2)$  becomes chromatic number of the cartesian product of crisp graphs  $\chi^*(G_1^* \square G_2^*)$ . In other words, the equality  $\chi = \max\{\chi_1^*, \chi_2^*\}$  is fulfilled in the chromatic number of cartesian product of crisp graphs, but we only get the inequality in the FCN of the cartesian product.

An illustration of Theorem 1 is given in Example 1.

**Example 1.** Given two fuzzy graphs  $\tilde{G}_1(V_1, \tilde{E}_1)$  and  $\tilde{G}_2(V_2, \tilde{E}_2)$  in Fig. 1 and the cartesian product is shown in Fig. 2.

FCN of fuzzy graphs  $\tilde{G}_1$  and  $\tilde{G}_2$  are shown in Table 1 (column 3 of rows 1 and 2). Meanwhile, FCN of the cartesian product that determined through Theorem 1 is also presented in Table 1 (column 3 of row 3).

Further, we compare FCN  $\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2$ , and  $\tilde{\chi}$  by using ranking of discrete fuzzy numbers through  $\alpha$ -cut which is proved in Theorem 2. Based on Table 1:

$$\alpha^1_{\min} = 0.1, \alpha^2_{\min} = 0.4, \alpha^3_{\min} = 0.8, \alpha^4_{\min} = 0.9,$$

$$\alpha^1_{\min} = 1. \text{ Further,}$$

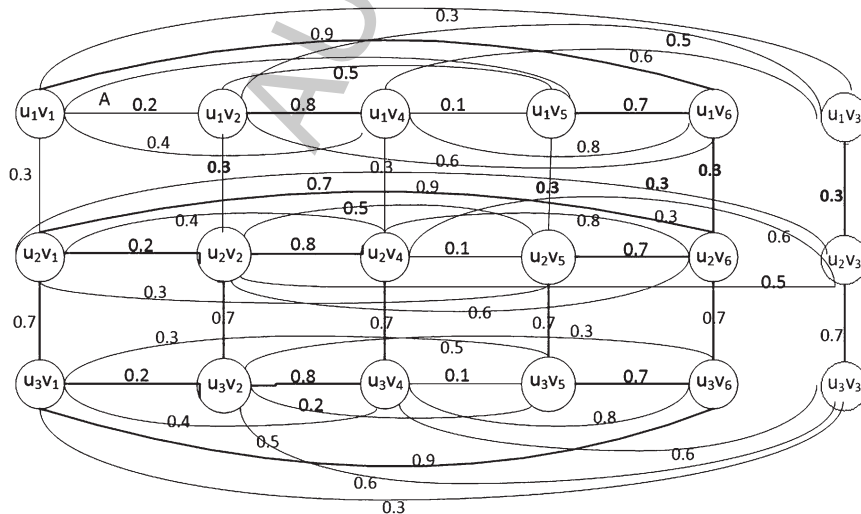


Fig. 2. The cartesian product  $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  of fuzzy graphs in Fig. 1.

Table 1  
FCN of  $\tilde{G}_1$ ,  $\tilde{G}_2$ , and the cartesian product  $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  of fuzzy graphs in Fig. 1

No.	Fuzzy graph	FCN
1	$\tilde{G}_1$	$\tilde{\chi}_1(\tilde{G}_1) = \{(1, 0.3), (2, 1), (3, 1)\}$
2	$\tilde{G}_2$	$\tilde{\chi}_2(\tilde{G}_2) = \{(1, 0.1), (2, 0.4), (3, 0.8), (4, 0.9), (5, 1), (6, 1)\}$
3	$\tilde{G} = \tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$	$\tilde{\chi}(\tilde{G}) = \{(1, 0.1), (2, 0.4), (3, 0.8), (4, 0.9), (5, 1), (6, 1), (7, 1), \dots, (18, 1)\}$ .

$$S(\tilde{\chi}_1) \vee S(\tilde{\chi}_2) = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 6\},$$

$$P^{0.1} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}; P^{0.3} = \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\};$$

$$P^{0.4} = \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}; P^{0.8} = \{3, 4, 5, 6\};$$

$$P^{0.9} = \{4, 5, 6\}; P^1 = \{5, 6\}.$$

Therefore,  $\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\} = \{(1, 0.1), (2, 0.4), (3, 0.8), (4, 0.9), (5, 1), (6, 1)\} = \tilde{\chi}_2$ .

Moreover, we compare  $\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}$  and  $\tilde{\chi}$  as follows:

$$S(\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}) \vee S(\tilde{\chi}) = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 18\}.$$

$$P^{0.1} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 18\}; P^{0.3} = \{2, 3, \dots, 18\};$$

$$P^{0.4} = \{2, 3, \dots, 18\}; P^{0.8} = \{3, 4, \dots, 18\};$$

$$P^{0.9} = \{4, 5, \dots, 18\}; P^1 = \{5, 6, \dots, 18\}.$$

We get  $\max\{\max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}, \tilde{\chi}\} = \{(1, 0.1), (2, 0.4), (3, 0.8), (4, 0.9), (5, 1), (6, 1), (7, 1), \dots, (18, 1)\} = \tilde{\chi}$ . Thus,  $\tilde{\chi} \succeq \max\{\tilde{\chi}_1, \tilde{\chi}_2\}$ .

We can also get FCN of the cartesian product  $\tilde{\chi}(\tilde{G})$  in Table 1 (row 3, column 3) by using an algorithm discussed in Section 3.2.

### 3.2. A proposed algorithm to find FCN of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs

An algorithm to find FCN of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs is designed as shown in Table 2. Step 1 until Step 6 (in Table 2) are inputting vertices and edges of fuzzy graphs  $\tilde{G}_1$ ,  $\tilde{G}_2$  and  $\tilde{G} = \tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$ . Steps 7–8 are finding fuzzy chromatic number of  $\tilde{G}_1$ ,  $\tilde{G}_2$  by using FCN function in Matlab [30]. Furthermore, Step 9 until Step 16 are calculating degrees of  $k$  in FCN of the cartesian product  $\tilde{\chi} = \{(k, L_{\tilde{\chi}}(k))\}$  based on Theorem 1. Finally, Step 17 and Step 18 are to print the FCN.

The algorithm has been evaluated on many cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs. In

Table 2  
Algorithm to find FCN of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs

Steps	Commands	
1	Input $E1, \mu1$	%edges in $\tilde{G}_1$ and its membership function
2	Input $E2, \mu2$	%edges in $\tilde{G}_2$ and its membership function
3	$V_1 = \text{unique}(E1); V_2 = \text{unique}(E2)$	% define vertex sets of $\tilde{G}_1$ and $\tilde{G}_2$
4	set $n1 = \text{numel}(V_1)$	% cardinality of $V_1$
5	set $n2 = \text{numel}(V_2)$	% cardinality of $V_2$
6	set $n = n1.n2$	% cardinality of $V_1 \times V_2$
7	set $[k1 L1] = \text{FCN}(E1, \mu1)$	%find FCN of $\tilde{G}_1$
8	set $[k2 L2] = \text{FCN}(E2, \mu2)$	%find FCN of $\tilde{G}_2$
9	set $L(1) = \min(L1(1), L2(1))$	% calculate degree of $k = 1$ in FCN $\tilde{\chi}$
10	if $k' = \min k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n_2\}$	% calculate degree of $k > 1$ in FCN $\tilde{\chi}$
11	for $j=1$ to $k' - 1$	
12	$L(j) = \min(L1(j), L2(j))$	
13	end	
14	else	
15	$L(j) = 1$	
16	end	
17	set $k = 1 : n$	
18	Print $\tilde{\chi} = [k L]$	% display FCN of $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$

the next section, we present one of the experimental results related to the algorithm.

### 3.3. Experimental results

Let us consider path fuzzy graph  $\tilde{G}_1$ , fuzzy graph  $\tilde{G}_2$  in Fig. 1, and the cartesian product  $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  is depicted in Fig. 2. FCN of  $\tilde{G}_1$ ,  $\tilde{G}_2$ , and FCN of the cartesian product  $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  are presented in Table 1. Whereas, the cartesian product obtained by computation using algorithm in [32] is presented in Fig. 3. FCN of the cartesian product in Table 1 (row 3) which is obtained from the proposed algorithm and the algorithm in [32] are displayed in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively.

Representation of FCN of  $\tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  in Fig. 2 by using the proposed algorithm is given in Fig. 4. The algorithm is evaluated using Matlab R2016a. The average running time for finding FCN of the cartesian product through the proposed algorithm is 0.80978 seconds (Fig. 4). When we determine FCN of the cartesian product by means of general algorithm in [32], we get average running time 48.5936 seconds as shown in Fig. 5. The inputs to be proceed in the proposed algorithm are the edge sets  $E_1^*, E_2^*$  with

Fuzzy_Cartesian_P3_G2			Edge			Weight
Edge		Weight				
1	6	0.9	1	2	0.2	
1	5	0.3	2	3	0.5	
1	4	0.4	3	4	0.6	
1	3	0.3	4	5	0.1	
2	6	0.6	5	6	0.7	
2	5	0.5	7	8	0.2	
2	4	0.8	8	9	0.5	
4	6	0.8	9	10	0.6	
7	12	0.9	10	11	0.1	
7	11	0.3	11	12	0.7	
7	10	0.4	13	14	0.2	
7	9	0.3	14	15	0.5	
8	12	0.6	15	16	0.6	
8	11	0.5	16	17	0.1	
8	10	0.8	17	18	0.7	
10	12	0.8	1	7	0.3	
13	18	0.9	2	8	0.3	
13	17	0.3	3	9	0.3	
13	16	0.4	4	10	0.3	
13	15	0.3	5	11	0.3	
14	18	0.6	6	12	0.3	
14	17	0.5	7	13	0.7	
14	16	0.8	8	14	0.7	
16	18	0.8	9	15	0.7	
			10	16	0.7	
			11	17	0.7	
			12	18	0.7	

Fig. 3. The cartesian product  $\tilde{G} = \tilde{G}_1 \square \tilde{G}_2$  in Fig. 2 represented by Matlab.

```

FCN_Cartesian_G1G2 =
    1    0.1
    2    0.4
    3    0.8
    4    0.9
    5     1
    6     1
    7     1
    8     1
    9     1
   10     1
   11     1
   12     1
   13     1
   14     1
   15     1
   16     1
   17     1
   18     1
Elapsed time is 48.593646 seconds.
    
```

Fig. 5. Output of finding FCN of the cartesian product in Fig. 2 by the general algorithm in [32].

the cardinality  $m_1, m_2$ , respectively, and the sets of degree of membership of edges  $\mu_1, \mu_2$ . Whilst, the edge set to be proceed in the previous algorithm [32] has the cardinality  $m_1 \times |V_2| + m_2 \times |V_1|$ . Therefore, the size of inputs in the proposed algorithm (in Table 2) is smaller than the size of inputs in the previous algorithm [32]. Finally, the proposed algorithm always give less average running time compared with the general algorithm in [32].

FCN_G1 =		FCN_Cartesian_G1G2 =	
k1	L_k1	k3	L_k3
1	0.3	1	0.1
2	1	2	0.4
3	1	3	0.8
		4	0.9
		5	1
		6	1
		7	1
		8	1
		9	1
		10	1
		11	1
		12	1
		13	1
		14	1
		15	1
		16	1
		17	1
		18	1

Elapsed time is 0.809787 seconds

Fig. 4. Output of finding FCN of the cartesian product in Fig. 2 by the proposed algorithm.

#### 4. Conclusions

We have constructed fuzzy chromatic number (FCN) of cartesian product of path and other fuzzy graphs in a theorem. Also, we have compared FCN of both fuzzy graphs and their cartesian product through the maximum concept of discrete fuzzy numbers. We show lower bound of FCN of the cartesian product in a theorem. Further, we have given the algorithm of constructing FCN of the cartesian product and the evaluation of the algorithm is shown in the experimental results. In upcoming research, we will construct FCN of cartesian product of any two fuzzy graph, examine the properties on it, design an algorithm, and verify complexity of the algorithm. Also, we will investigate FCN of strong product of fuzzy graphs, verify properties of the FCN, create an algorithm to find it, and show it complexity.

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