#### CYCLIC PATH COVERS IN ZERO DIVISOR GRAPH

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#### **ABSTRACT**

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let R be a commutative ring and let Z(R) be its set of zero-divisors. We associate a graph  $\Gamma(R)$  to R with vertices  $Z(R)^* = Z(R) - \{0\}$ , the set of non-zero zero divisors of R and for distinct  $x, y \in Z(R)^*$ , the vertices x and y are adjacent if and only if xy = 0 [1, 2, 5, 6]. Throughout this paper, Consider the commutative ring R as  $z_n$  and zero divisor graph  $\Gamma(R)$  as  $\Gamma(z_n)$ . In this paper we are about to decompose [3, 4, 7, 8]. the zero divisor graph into paths and cycles whose sum of the vertices in the cycle are equal. Problems of this type are not only interesting in their own right, but also have potential applications in communication and switching networks. Sometimes it is desirable to decompose a communication or switching network into parts of certain specified types.

**Definition 1.1:** A graph G is decomposable into  $H_1$ ;  $H_2$ ; ...;  $H_k$  if G has subgraphs  $H_1$ ;  $H_2$ ; ...;  $H_k$  such that

- 1. each edge of G belongs to one of the  $H_i$ 's for some i = 1; 2; ...; k; and
- 2. If  $i \neq j$ , then  $H_i$  and  $H_i$  have no edges in common.

**Definition 1.2:** Let G and H be two graphs. A graph G is decomposable into H's if each of the  $H_i$ 's in the definition above is isomorphic to H.

### 2. DECOMPOSITION OF ZERO DIVISOR GRAPH

**Theorem 2.1:** For any p > 3,  $\Gamma(z_{3p})$  can be decomposed into  $(p-1)/2c_4$ .

**Proof:** The proof is based on induction over p.

Case-(i): When p = 5,

The vertex set of  $\Gamma(z_{15}) = \{3,5,6,9,10,12\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{15}))| = 6$ . Let u = 3 and v = 6 then 15 does not divide uv. Then there is no path between u and v. Similarly, any two vertices which are multiple of 3 are non adjacent.

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Let x=5 and y=15 then 15 divides both ux and ux. Clearly, ux and uy are adjacent. Then  $V(\Gamma(z_{15}))$  can be partitioned into two parts  $v_1=\{5,10\}$ . and  $v_2=\{3,6,9,12\}$ . Clearly,  $\Gamma(z_{15})$  can be decomposed into two  $c_4$ . That is,  $\{3,5,12,10,3\}$  and  $\{9,5,6,10,9\}$ . Since, 5,10 are the common points in both the cycles. This cycle is chosen in such a way that the total value of each cycle is =3+5+12+10=30=2(15)=2(3p). Hence the number of  $c_4=2=(5-1)/2=(p-1)/2$ .

### Case-(ii): When p = 7,

The vertex set of  $\Gamma(z_{21})=\{3,6,7,9,12,14,15,18\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{21}))|=8$ . Let u=3 and v=12 then 21 does not divide v. Clearly, uv are non adjacent. Let u=18, x=7 and y=14, then 21 divides both ux and uy. That is 7, 14 are adjacent to all the remaining vertices. Then  $V(\Gamma(z_{21}))$  can be partitioned into two parts  $v_1=\{7,14\}$  an  $v_2=\{3,6,9,12,15,18\}$ . Clearly,  $\Gamma(z_{21})$  can be decomposed into three  $c_4$ . That is cycles are  $\{3,7,18,14,3\}$ ,  $\{6,7,15,14,6\}$  and  $\{9,7,12,14,9\}$ . Since, 7, 14 are the common points in all the cycles and these cycles are chosen in such a way that the total value of each cycle is 3+7+18+14=42=2(21)=2(3p). The number of  $c_4=3=(7-1)/2=(p-1)/2$ . Hence,  $\Gamma(z_{21})$  can be decomposed into  $(p-1)/2c_4$ , where p=7.

### Case-(iii): when p > 7,

In general,  $\Gamma(z_{3p}) = \{3, 6, ..., 3 \ p-1 \ , p, 2p \}$ . that is  $|V(\Gamma((z_{3p}))| = p+1$ . Using the above two cases  $\Gamma(z_{3p})$  can be decomposed into  $(p-1)/2c_4$ . then the number of  $c_4$ . in  $k_{2,p-1}$  is  $(p-1)/2c_4$ .

**Theorem 2.2:** For any p > 5, then  $\Gamma(z_{5p})$  can be decomposed into  $(p-1)/2c_8$  or  $(p-1)c_4$ .

**Proof:** The proof is based on induction over p.

#### Case-(i): When p = 7,

The vertex set of  $\Gamma$   $z_{35}=5,7,10,14,15,20,21,25,28,30$  . That is V  $\Gamma$   $z_{35}=10$ . Let u=5 and v=20 then 35 does not divide 100. Clearly u and v are non - adjacent. Let u=10 and X=7,14,21,28 then 35 divides ux for all  $x \in X$ . Clearly u are adjacent. Then V  $\Gamma$   $z_{35}=$  can be partitioned into two parts  $V_1=7,14,21,28$  and  $V_2=\{5,10,15,20,25,30\}$ . Clearly,  $\Gamma$   $Z_{35}=$  is  $Z_{40}=$  is  $Z_{40}=$  and this  $Z_{40}=$  into  $Z_{$ 

## Case-(ii): When p = 11.

The vertex set of  $\Gamma(z_{55}) = \{5, 10, 15..., 50, 11, ..., 44\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{35}))| = 14$ . Let u = 5 and v = 30 then 55 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 und v = 15 and v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. Then v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. Then v = 15 does not divide 150. That is, v = 15 does not divide 150. That

### Case-(iii): When p > 11

In general,  $\Gamma(z_{5p}) = \{5, 10, \dots, 5(p-1), p, 2p, 3p, 4p\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{5p}))| = p+3$ . Using the above two cases the  $V(\Gamma(z_{5p}))$  can be partitioned into two parts  $V_1 = \{p, 2p, 3p, 4p\}$  and  $V_2 = \{5, 10, \dots, 5(p-1)\}$ . Clearly,  $\Gamma(z_{5p})$  is  $k_{4,p-1}$  with the common points  $\{p, 2p, 3p, 4p\}$  which is adjacent to all the remaing vertices. Then the number of cycles in  $k_{4,p-1}$  is (p-1)/2  $c_8$  or  $(p-1)c_4$ .

**Theorem 2.3:** For any p > 7,  $\Gamma(z_{7p})$  can be decomposed into  $(3(p-1)/2)c_4$  or  $(p-1)c_6$ 

**Proof:** The proof is based on induction over p.

## Case-(i): When p = 11,

The vertex set of  $\Gamma(z_77) = \{7,14,21,...,70,11,...,66\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma z_{77})| = 16$ . Let u=7 and v=35 then 77 does not divide 245. Clearly u and v are nonadjacent. Let u=21 and v=31,22,33,44,55,66 then 77 divides u for all v and v are adjacent. Then v are adjacent into two parts v and this v and v are adjacent into fifteen v and v are adjacent. Then v are adjacent into two parts v and this v and v and v are adjacent into fifteen v and v are adjacent. Then v are adjacent. Then v are v and v are adjacent. Then v are v and v and this v and this v and this v and this v and v are adjacent into fifteen v and v are v and v and v and v and v are v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v and v are v and v and v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v and v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v are v and v and v and v and v are v and v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v and v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v are v and v and v and v and v are v and v and v and v and v are v and v and v and v and v are v and v and v and v and v and v and v are v and v and v and v and v

## Case-(ii): When p = 13.

That is,  $\{7, 13, 84, 78, 7\}$ ,  $\{14,13,77,78,7\}$ ,  $\{21,13,70,78,21\}$ ,  $\{28,13,63,78,28\}$ ,  $\{35,13,56,78,35\}$ ,  $\{42, 13, 49, 78, 42\}$ ,  $\{7, 26, 84, 65, 7\}$ ,  $\{14,26,77,65,7\}$ ,  $\{21,26,70,65,21\}$ ,  $\{28,26,63,65,28\}$ ,  $\{35,26,56,65,35\}$ ,  $\{42, 26, 49, 65, 42\}$ ,  $\{7, 39, 84, 52, 7\}$ ,  $\{14,32,77,52,7\}$ ,  $\{21,39,70,52,21\}$ ,  $\{28,39,63,52,28\}$ ,  $\{35,39,56,52,35\}$ ,  $\{42, 39, 49, 52, 42\}$ . Clearly,  $V_1$  are the common vertices in the cycles and these cycles are chosen in such a way that the total value of each cycle is = 7 + 13 + 84 + 78 = 185 = 2(91) = 2(7p). Then number of  $c_4 = 18 = 3(13 - 1)/2 = 3(p - 1)/2$  or  $k_{4,12}$  can be decomposed into  $12c_6$ , That is,  $\{7,13,84,78,7,26,84,65,7\}$ ,  $\{14,13,77,78,7,26,77,65,7\}$ ,  $\{21,13,70,78,21,26,70,65,21\}$ ,  $\{28,13,63,78,28,26,63,65,28\}$ ,  $\{35,13,56,78,35,39,56,52,35\}$ ,  $\{42,13,49,78,42,39,49,52,42\}$ . Then the number of  $c_6$  is 12 = 13 - 1 = p - 1 Therefore,  $\Gamma(z_{91})$  can be decomposed into  $(3(p - 1)/2)c_4$  or  $(p - 1)c_6$ 

### Case-(iii): When p > 13.

In general,  $\Gamma(z_{7p}) = \{7, 14, \dots, 7(p-1), p, 2p, \dots, 6p\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{7p})| = p+5$ . Using the above two cases the  $\Gamma(z_{7p})$  can be partitioned into two parts  $V_1 = \{p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 6p\}$  and  $V_2 = \{77, 14, \dots, 7(p-1)\}$ . Clearly,  $\Gamma(z_{7p})$  is  $k_{6,p-1}$  with the common points  $\{p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 6p\}$  which is adjacent to all the remaining vertices. Then the number of cycles in  $k_{6,p-1}$  is  $(3(p-1)/2)c_4$  or  $(p-1)c_6$ 

**Theorem 2.4:** FOR any distinct prime p and q,  $\Gamma(z_{pq})$  can be decomposable into (q-1) Cp-1, where q > p.

**Proof:** The vertex set of  $\Gamma(z_{pq})$  is  $\{p, 2p, 3p, ... (p-1)p, q, 2q, ... (p-1)q\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{pq}))| = p + q - 2$ . Using the above theorem  $\Gamma(z_{pq})$  is  $k_{p-1,q-1}$  for p > 3, with the common points  $\{q, 2q, ... (p-1)q\}$  which is adjacent to all the remaining vertices. Therefore the number of cycles in  $k_{p-1,q-1}$  is  $(q-1)c_{p-1}$ .

**Theorem 2.5:** For any prime p > 4,  $\Gamma(z_{4p})$  can be decomposable into  $k_{1,2(p-1)}$  and  $k_{2,p-1}$  or  $(p-1)/2c_4$ .

**Proof:** The proof is based on induction over p.

#### Case-(i): When p = 5,

The vertex set of  $\Gamma(z_{20}) = \{2, 4, 6, ...18, 5, 10, 15\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{20}))| = 11$ . Let u = 4 and v = 10 then 20 divides uv. Clearly u and v are adjacent. Let  $X = \{5, 15\}$  and v = 10 then 20 divides vxfor all  $x \in X$ . Clearly ux are non-adjacent. Then first  $\Gamma(z_{20})$  is decomposed into  $k_{1,8}$ . Consider u = 4 and v = 5 then 20 divides uv. That is u and v are adjacent. Then the remaining vertices can be partitioned into two parts  $V_1 = \{4, 8, 12, 16\}$  and  $V_2 = \{5, 15\}$  which are adjacent to each other. Secondly,  $\Gamma(z_{20})$  is further decomposed into  $k_{2,4}$ . Futher it can be decomposed into two cycles of  $c_4$ , that is  $\{4, 5, 16, 15, 4\}$  and  $\{8, 5, 12, 15, 8\}$ . These cycles are chosen in such a way that the total value of each cycle is 40 = 2(20) = 2(5p). Finally, this implies  $\Gamma(z_{20})$  can be completely decomposed into  $k_{1,8}$  and  $k_{2,4}$  or  $2c_4$ .

#### Case-(ii): When p = 7.

The vertex set of  $\Gamma(z_{28}) = \{2, 4, 6, ...26, 7, 14, 21\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{28})| = 15$  Let u = 6 and v = 14 then 28 divides uv. Clearly u and v are adjacent. Let  $X = \{7, 21\}$  and v = 14 then 24 divides vx. Clearly ux are non-adjacent for all  $x \in X$ . Then first  $\Gamma(z_{28})$  is decomposed into  $k_{1,12}$ . Consider u = 8 and v = 7 then 24 divides uv. That is u and v are adjacent. Then the remaining vertices can be partitioned into two parts  $V_1 = \{4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24\}$  and  $V_2 = \{7, 21\}$  which are adjacent to each other. Secondly,  $\Gamma(z_{28})$  is further decomposed into  $k_{2,6}$  which is further decomposed into three cycles of  $c_4$ , that is  $\{4, 7, 24, 14, 4\}$ ,  $\{8, 7, 20, 14, 8\}$  and  $\{12, 7, 16, 14, 12\}$ . These cycles are chosen in such a way that the total value of each cycle is 56 = 2(28) = 2(4p). Finally, this implies  $\Gamma(z_{28})$  can be completely decomposed into  $k_{1,12}$  and  $k_{2,6}$  or  $3c_4$ .

#### Case-(iii): When p > 7.

In general,  $V((z_{4p})) = \{2, 4, 6...2(p-1), p, 2p, 3p\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{4p}))| = 2p+1$ . Using the above cases  $\Gamma(z_{4p})$  can be decomposed into  $k_{1,2(p-1)}$  and  $k_{2,p-1}$  which can be further decomposed into (p-1)/2 cycles of length 4 that is (p-1)/2 c<sub>4</sub>.

**Theorem 2.6:** For any prime p > 6,  $\Gamma(z_{6p})$  can be decomposed into  $k_{1,3(p-1)}, k_{2,p-1}$  and  $k_{2,2(p-1)}$  or 3(p-1)/2  $c_4$ .

**Proof:** The proof is based on induction over p.

## Case-(i): When p = 7.

The vertex set of  $\Gamma(z_{42}) = \{2, 3, 4, ...40, 7, 14, 21, 28, 30\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{42})| = 29$  Let u = 21 and let X be the set consisting of multiple of 2 other than multiple of 3. Then ux is divided by the 42. That is ux is adjacent. Then,  $\Gamma(z_{42})$  is first decomposed into  $k_{1,20}$  From the remaining vertices consider the set  $V_1 = \{14, 28\}$  and  $V_2 = \{3,9,...,39,6,12,...36\}$ . Clearly any vertex of  $V_1$  is adjacent to any vertex of  $V_2$ . Then,  $\Gamma(z_{42})$  is decomposed into  $k_{2,12}$ . Further it can be decomposed into six cycles of  $c_4$ . That is  $\{14,3,28,39,14\}$ ,  $\{14,9,28,33,14\}$ ,  $\{14,15,28,27,14\}$ ,  $\{14,6,28,36,14\}$ ,  $\{14,12,28,30,14\}$ ,  $\{14,18,28,24,14\}$ . These cycles are chosen in such a way that the sum of the vertices is 98. Finally the remaining vertices can be partitioned into  $V_3 = \{7,35\}$  and  $V_4 = \{6,12,...36\}$ . Clearly any vertex of  $V_3$  is adjacent to any vertex of  $V_4$ . Then,  $\Gamma(z_{42})$  is decomposed into  $k_{2,6}$ . Further it can be decomposed into three cycles of  $c_4$ . That is  $\{7,6,35,36,7\}$ ,  $\{7,12,35,30,7\}$ ,  $\{7,18,35,24,7\}$ . These vertices is chosen in such a way that the sum of the vertices is 91. Finally, this implies  $\Gamma(z_{42})$  can be completely decomposed into  $k_{1,20}$ ,  $6c_4$  and  $3c_4$ . That is  $k_{1,20}$ ,  $9c_4$ .

## Case-(ii): When p = 11.

### Case-(iii): When p > 11.

In general,  $V\left((z_{6p})\right)=\{2,4,6...2(3p-1),3,6...3(2p-1),p,2p,3p,4p,5p\}$ . That is  $|V(\Gamma(z_{4p})|=4p+1$ . Using the above cases  $\Gamma(z_{6p})$  can be decomposed into  $k_{1,3p-1}$   $k_{2,2(p-1)}$  and  $k_{2,p-1}$  which can be further decomposed into (p-1)/2 cycles and (p-1) cycles of length 4 that is  $\frac{p-1}{2}+p-1$  of  $c_4$ . That is 3(p-1)/2  $c_4$ .

**Theorem 2.7:** For any prime p,  $\Gamma$   $z_{p^2}$  is not decomposable into Hamilton cycles.

**Proof:** The vertex set of  $\Gamma$   $z_{p^2}$  is  $\{p, 2p, 3p, ... (p-1)p\}$ . Clearly p is adjacent to all the vertices in V ( $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$ ). Also note that any two vertices in  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  is adjacent and hence  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  is a complete graph. Clearly each vertices of  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  has degree p-2. Let q be the number of edges of  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  then q=(p-1)(p-2)/2. Suppose  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  is decomposable into Hamilton cycles  $C_{p-1}$ . Since each  $C_{p-1}$  has p-1 edges. So the number of such cycles in the decomposition must be q(p-1)=(p-1)(p-2)/2(p-1)=(p-2)/2=p/2-1, which is not an integer for any prime p. Hence this is impossible so  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  is not decomposable into Hamilton cycles.

**Theorem 2.8:** For any prime p > 2,  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  is decomposable into (p-1)/2 Hamilton paths  $P_{p-1}$ 

**Proof:** Using the above theorem,  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  is a complete graph, where p is any prime and  $|V(\Gamma(z_{p^2}))| = p - 1$ . Since, for any  $n \ge 1$ ,  $k_{2n+1}$  is decomposable into Hamilton cycles. Consider  $\Gamma(z_{7^2})$ , the vertices set of  $\Gamma(z_{7^2})$ , is  $\{7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42\}$  that is  $\{p, 2p, 3p, ... (p-1)p\}$  where p = 7. Label the vertices  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6$  and form the Hamilton path as follows

Path 1:  $x_1$ ,  $x_5$ ,  $x_3$ ,  $x_6$ ,  $x_4$ ,  $x_2$  (P<sub>6</sub>)

Path 2:  $x_3$ ,  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_6$ ,  $x_5$ ,  $x_4$  (P<sub>6</sub>)

Path 3:  $x_6$ ,  $x_1$ ,  $x_4$ ,  $x_3$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_5$  (P<sub>6</sub>)

Hence  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  is decomposable into (p-1)/2 Hamilton path  $P_{p-1}$ 

For example in  $\Gamma(z_{5^2})$ , the number of vertices are  $\{5, 10, 15, 20\}$ .

For p = 5, p - 1/2 = 5 - 1/2 = 4/2 = 2 Hamilton path P<sub>4</sub>

#### 3. CONCLUSION

In the zero divisor graph  $\Gamma$   $z_n$  where n is any positive integer, the number of cycles of  $c_4$  that has been decomposed for n=3p,4p,5p,6p,7p forms an inequality  $o(D(\Gamma(z_{3p}))) \leq o(D(\Gamma(z_{4p}))) < o(D(\Gamma(z_{5p}))) < o(D(\Gamma(z_{5p}))) < o(D(\Gamma(z_{6p}))) \leq o(D(\Gamma(z_{7p})))$  where  $o(D(\Gamma(z_{n})))$  is known as the number of cycles of  $c_4$ , while the complete graph  $\Gamma(z_{p^2})$  is only decomposable into Hamilton path  $P_{p-1}$  but not has Hamilton cycles.

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