

Perfect 3-colorings of cubic graphs of order 8

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Abstract. Perfect coloring is a generalization of the notion of completely regular codes, given by Delsarte. A perfect m -coloring of a graph G with m colors is a partition of the vertex set of G into m parts A_1, \dots, A_m such that, for all $i, j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$, every vertex of A_i is adjacent to the same number of vertices, namely, a_{ij} vertices, of A_j . The matrix $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j \in \{1, \dots, m\}}$ is called the parameter matrix. We study the perfect 3-colorings (also known as the equitable partitions into three parts) of the cubic graphs of order 8. In particular, we classify all the realizable parameter matrices of perfect 3-colorings for the cubic graphs of order 8.

Key Words: perfect coloring, parameter matrices, Cubic graph, equitable partition

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Introduction

The concept of a perfect m -coloring plays an important role in graph theory, algebraic combinatorics, and coding theory (completely regular codes). There is another term for this concept in the literature as “equitable partition” (see [11]).

The existence of completely regular codes in graphs is a historical problem in mathematics. Completely regular codes are a generalization of perfect codes. In 1973, Delsarte conjectured the non-existence of nontrivial perfect codes in Johnson graphs. We are looking for a positive answer to find the conjecture Delsarte for each cubic graphs of order 8. Therefore, some effort has been done on enumerating the parameter matrices of some Johnson graphs, including $J(6, 3)$, $J(7, 3)$, $J(8, 3)$, $J(8, 4)$, and $J(v, 3)$ (v odd) (see [4, 5, 9]).

Fon-Der-Flass enumerated the parameter matrices (perfect 2-colorings) of n -dimensional hypercube Q_n for $n < 24$. He also obtained some constructions and a necessary condition for the existence of perfect 2-colorings of the n -dimensional cube with a given parameter matrix (see [6, 7, 8]).

In this paper all graphs are finite, undirected, simple and connected. Let $G = (V, E)$ be an undirected graph. Two vertices $u, v \in V(G)$ are adjacent if there exists an edge $e = \{u, v\} \in E(G)$ to which they are both incident. The adjacent will be shown $u \leftrightarrow v$.

A cubic graph is a 3-regular graph. In [12], it is shown that the number of connected cubic graphs with 8 vertices is 5. Each graph is described by a drawing as shown in Figure 1.

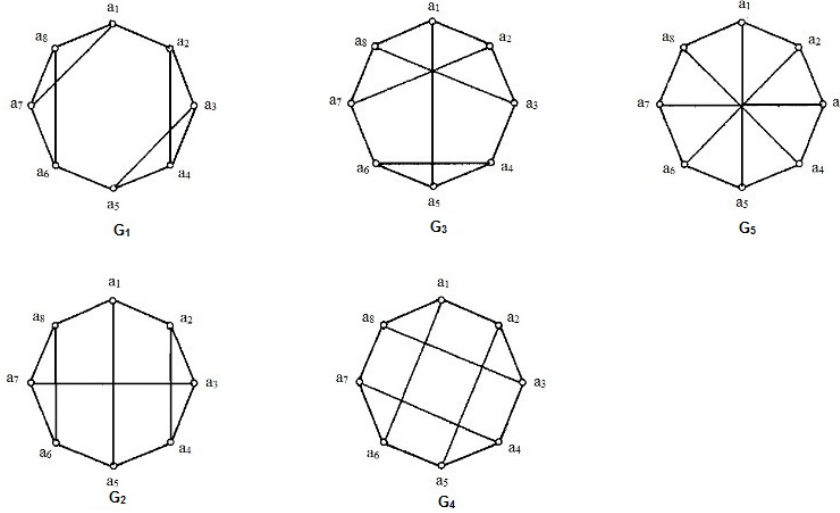


Figure 1: Connected cubic graphs of order 8

Definition 1 For a graph G and an integer m , a mapping $T : V(G) \rightarrow \{1, \dots, m\}$ is called a perfect m -coloring with matrix $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j \in \{1, \dots, m\}}$ if it is surjective, and for all i, j , for every vertex of color i , the number of its neighbors of color j is equal to a_{ij} . The matrix A is called the parameter matrix of a perfect coloring. In the case $m = 3$, we use three colors: white, black and red. The sets of white, black and red vertices are denoted by W, B and R , respectively. In this paper, we generally show a parameter matrix by

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}.$$

Remark 1 In this paper, we consider all perfect 3-colorings, up to renaming the colors; i.e. we identify the perfect 3-coloring with the matrices:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & c & b \\ g & i & h \\ d & f & e \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} e & d & f \\ b & a & c \\ h & g & i \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} e & f & d \\ h & i & g \\ b & c & a \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} i & h & g \\ f & e & d \\ c & b & a \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} i & g & h \\ c & a & b \\ f & d & e \end{bmatrix},$$

obtained by switching the colors with the original coloring.

1 Preliminaries and Analysis

In this section, we present some results concerning necessary conditions for the existence of perfect 3-colorings of connected graph of order 8 with a given parameter matrix A .

The simplest necessary condition for the existence of perfect 3-colorings of

a cubic connected graph with the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$ is:

$$a + b + c = d + e + f = g + h + i = 3.$$

Also, it is clear that we cannot have $b = c = 0$, $d = f = 0$, or $g = h = 0$, since the graph is connected. In addition, $b = 0$, $c = 0$, $f = 0$ if $d = 0$, $g = 0$, $h = 0$, respectively.

The number θ is called an eigenvalue of a graph G , if θ is an eigenvalue of the adjacency matrix of this graph. The number λ is called an eigenvalue of a perfect coloring T into three colors with the matrix A , if λ is an eigenvalue of A . The following theorem demonstrates the connection between the introduced notions.

Theorem 1 ([1]) *If T is a perfect coloring of a graph G in m colors, then any eigenvalue of T is an eigenvalue of G .*

The next theorem can be useful to find the eigenvalues of a parameter matrix.

Theorem 2 *Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$ be a parameter matrix of a k -regular graph.*

Then the eigenvalues of A are

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{\text{tr}(A) - k}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{\text{tr}(A) - k}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{\det(A)}{k}}, \quad \lambda_3 = k.$$

Proof. By using the condition $a + b + c = d + e + f = g + h + i = k$, it is clear that one of the eigenvalues is k . Therefore $\det(A) = k\lambda_1\lambda_2$. From $\lambda_2 = \text{tr}(A) - \lambda_1 - k$, we get

$$\det(A) = k\lambda_1(\text{tr}(A) - \lambda_1 - k) = -k\lambda_1^2 + k(\text{tr}(A) - k)\lambda_1.$$

By solving the equation $\lambda^2 + (k - \text{tr}(A))\lambda + \frac{\det(A)}{k} = 0$, we obtain

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{\text{tr}(A) - k}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{\text{tr}(A) - k}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{\det(A)}{k}}.$$

□

The eigenvalues of the all cubic graphs of order 8 are stated in the next theorem.

Theorem 3 ([12]) *The distinct eigenvalues of the graph G_1 are the numbers $3, \sqrt{5}, -1, -\sqrt{5}$. The distinct eigenvalues of the graph G_2 are the numbers $\sqrt{3}, 1, 1 - \sqrt{2}, -1, -\sqrt{3}, -3 + \sqrt{2}$. The distinct eigenvalues of the graph G_3 are the numbers $3, 1.5616, 0.618, 0, -1.618, -2.5616$. The distinct eigenvalues of the graph G_4 are the numbers $3, 1, -1, 3$. The distinct eigenvalues of the graph G_5 are the numbers $3, 1, 1 - \sqrt{2}, -1, -2, -3 + \sqrt{2}$.*

The next proposition gives a formula for calculating the number of white, black and red vertices, in a perfect 3-coloring.

Proposition 1 ([3]) *Let T be a perfect 3-coloring of a graph G with the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$.*

1. *If $b, c, f \neq 0$, then*

$$|W| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{b}{d} + 1 + \frac{c}{g}}, |B| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{d}{b} + 1 + \frac{f}{h}}, |R| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{h}{f} + 1 + \frac{g}{c}}.$$

2. *If $b = 0$, then*

$$|W| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{c}{g} + 1 + \frac{ch}{fg}}, |B| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{f}{h} + 1 + \frac{fg}{ch}}, |R| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{h}{f} + 1 + \frac{g}{c}}.$$

3. *If $c = 0$, then*

$$|W| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{b}{d} + 1 + \frac{bf}{dh}}, |B| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{d}{b} + 1 + \frac{f}{h}}, |R| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{h}{f} + 1 + \frac{dh}{bf}}.$$

4. *If $f = 0$, then*

$$|W| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{b}{d} + 1 + \frac{c}{g}}, |B| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{d}{b} + 1 + \frac{cd}{bg}}, |R| = \frac{|V(G)|}{\frac{g}{c} + 1 + \frac{bg}{cd}}.$$

In this section, without loss of generality, we may assume $|W| \leq |B| \leq |R|$.

Lemma 1 *Let G be a cubic connected graph of order 8. Then G has no perfect 3-coloring T with the matrix that $|W| = 1$.*

Proof. Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{bmatrix}$ be a parameter matrix with $|W| = 1$. Consider the white vertex. It is clear that none of its adjacent vertices are white; i.e. $a = 0$. Therefore, we have two cases below.

- (1) The adjacent vertices of the white vertex are the same color.
 If they are black, then $b = 3$ and $c = 0$. From $c = 0$, we get $g = 0$. Also, since the graph is connected, $f, h \neq 0$. Hence, we obtain the following matrices:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

If the adjacent vertices of the white vertex are red, then $c = 3$, $b = 0$. From $b = 0$, we get $d = 0$. Also, since the graph is connected, $f, h \neq 0$. Hence, we obtain the following matrices:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Finally, by using Remark 1 and the fact that $|W| \leq |B| \leq |R|$, it is obvious that there are only six matrices in (1), as shown $A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4, A_5, A_6$.

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, A_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$A_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, A_6 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- (2) The adjacent vertices of the white vertex are different colors. It immediately gives that $b, c \neq 0$. Also, it can be seen that $d = g = 1$. An easy computation, as in (1), shows that there are only five matrices that can be a parameter matrix in this case, as shown A_7, A_8, A_9, A_{10} ,

A_{11} .

$$A_7 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, A_8 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, A_9 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, A_{10} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$A_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

By using the Proposition 1, it can be seen that no matrix can be a parameter.

□

We now present two lemmas which can be useful to reach our goal.

Lemma 2 *Let G be a cubic connected graph of order 8. If T is a perfect 3-coloring with the matrix A , and $|W| = |B| = 2$, $|R| = 4$, then A should be one of the following matrices:*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof. First, suppose that $b, c \neq 0$. As $|W| = 2$, by Proposition 1, it follows that $\frac{b}{d} + \frac{c}{g} = 3$. From $b + c \leq 3$, we have $b = 2, c = g = d = 1$, or $c = 2, b = g = d = 1$. If $b = 2, c = g = d = 1$, we get a contradiction of $|B| = 2$. If $c = 2, b = d = g = 1$, then we conclude from $|B| = 2$ and $|R| = 4$ that

$$h = 1, f = 2. \text{ Therefore } A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Second, suppose that $b = 0$ and, in consequence, $d = 0$. As $|R| = 4$, by Proposition 1, it follows that $\frac{g}{c} + \frac{h}{f} = 1$. Therefore, $c = f = 2, g = h = 1$, or $c = f = 3, h = 2, g = 1$, or $c = f = 3, g = 2, h = 1$. If $c = f = 2, g = h = 1$,

then $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. In the other two cases, we get a contradiction of $|B| = 2$.

Third, suppose that $c = 0$ and, in consequence, $g = 0$. As $|B| = 2$, by Proposition 1, it follows that $\frac{d}{b} + \frac{f}{h} = 3$. Therefore $d = 2, b = f = h = 1$, or $f = 2, b = h = d = 1$. If $d = 2, b = f = h = 1$, then we get a contradiction

of $|R| = 4$. If $f = 2, b = h = d = 1$, then $A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Finally, note that the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ is the same as the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ up to renaming the colors, by Remark 1. \square

Lemma 3 *Let G be a cubic connected graph of order 8. If T is a perfect 3-coloring with the matrix A , and $|W| = 2$, $|B| = |R| = 3$, then A should be the following matrix:*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof. First, suppose that $b, c \neq 0$. As $|W| = 2$, by Proposition 1, it follows that $\frac{b}{d} + \frac{c}{g} = 3$. From $b + c \leq 3$, we get $b = 2, c = g = d = 1$, or $c = 2, b = g = d = 1$. If $b = 2, c = g = d = 1$, we get a contradiction of $|B| = 3$. If $c = 2, b = d = g = 1$, then from Proposition 1, we have $f = 2, h = 3$, which is a contradiction of $g + h \leq 3$.

Second, suppose that $b = 0$ and, in consequence, $d = 0$. As $|R| = 3$, by Proposition 1, it follows that $\frac{g}{c} + \frac{h}{f} = \frac{5}{3}$. Therefore, $c = 3, g = 2, h = f = 1$, or $f = 3, h = 2, c = g = 1$. If $c = 3, g = 2, h = f = 1$, then $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. In the other case, we get a contradiction of $|W| = 2$.

Third, suppose that $c = 0$ and, in consequence, $g = 0$. As $|B| = 3$, by Proposition 1, it follows that $\frac{d}{b} + \frac{f}{h} = \frac{5}{3}$. Therefore $h = 3, f = 2, b = d = 1$, or $b = 3, d = 2, f = h = 1$. If $h = 3, f = 2, b = d = 1$, then we get a contradiction of $|W| = 2$. If $b = 3, d = 2, f = h = 1$, then $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Finally, note that the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is the same as the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ up to renaming the colors, by Remark 1. \square

By using the Lemmas 1, 2 and 3, it can be seen that only the following matrices:

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}, A_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix},$$

can be parameter ones.

2 Perfect 3-colorings of cubic graphs with 8 vertices

In this section we enumerate the parameter matrices of all perfect 3-colorings of cubic graphs with 8 vertices. As it has been shown in section 3, only matrices A_1 , A_2 , A_3 and A_4 can be parameter matrices. With consideration of cubic graphs eigenvalues and using Theorems 1, 2 and 3, it can be seen that the connected cubic graphs with 8 vertices can have a perfect 3-coloring with the matrices A_1 , A_2 and A_3 which is represented by table 1.

graphs	matrix A_1	matrix A_2	matrix A_3
G_1	✓	✓	×
G_2	✓	✓	×
G_3	×	×	✓
G_4	✓	✓	×
G_5	✓	✓	×

Table 1

Theorem 4 *There are no perfect 3-colorings with the matrix A_1 for the graph G_5 .*

Proof. Contrary to our claim, suppose that T is a perfect 3-coloring with the matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ for the graph G_5 . Without restriction of generality, suppose that $T(a_1) = 1$. Therefore, again without restriction of generality, suppose that $T(a_2) = T(a_8) = 3$ and $T(a_5) = 2$. From $T(a_5) = 2$, we can easily see that $T(a_4) = T(a_6) = 3$. Therefore $T(a_4) = 2$, which is a contradiction with third row of the matrix A_1 . \square

Theorem 5 *The parameter matrices of cubic graphs of order 8 are listed in the following table.*

graphs	matrix A_1	matrix A_2	matrix A_3
G_1	✓	✓	×
G_2	✓	✓	×
G_3	×	×	✓
G_4	✓	✓	×
G_5	×	✓	×

Table 2

Proof. As it has been shown in the table 1, only the matrices A_1 , A_2 and A_3 can be parameter matrices. Hence, from Theorem 4, it suffices to show that there are perfect 3-colorings with the matrices in the table 2. The graph G_1 has perfect 3-colorings with the matrices A_1 and A_2 . Consider two mappings T_1 and T_2 as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T_1(a_2) &= T_1(a_6) = 1, T_1(a_4) = T_1(a_8) = 2, \\ T_1(a_1) &= T_1(a_3) = T_1(a_5) = T_1(a_7) = 3. \\ T_2(a_1) &= T_2(a_2) = 1, T_2(a_5) = T_2(a_6) = 2, \\ T_2(a_3) &= T_2(a_4) = T_2(a_7) = T_2(a_8) = 3. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that T_1 and T_2 are perfect 3-colorings with the matrices A_1 and A_2 , respectively.

The graph G_2 has perfect 3-colorings with the matrices A_1 and A_2 . Consider two mappings T_1 and T_2 as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T_1(a_1) &= T_1(a_3) = 1, T_1(a_5) = T_1(a_7) = 2, \\ T_1(a_2) &= T_1(a_4) = T_1(a_6) = T_1(a_8) = 3, \\ T_2(a_1) &= T_2(a_5) = 1, T_2(a_3) = T_2(a_7) = 2, \\ T_2(a_2) &= T_2(a_4) = T_2(a_6) = T_2(a_8) = 3. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that T_1 and T_2 are perfect 3-coloring with the matrices A_1 and A_2 , respectively.

The graph G_3 has perfect 3-colorings with the matrix A_3 . Consider a mapping T_1 as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T_1(a_2) &= T_1(a_8) = 1, T_1(a_1) = T_1(a_3) = T_1(a_7) = 2, \\ T_1(a_4) &= T_1(a_5) = T_1(a_6) = 3. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that T_1 is a perfect 3-colorings with the matrices A_3 .

The graph G_4 has perfect 3-colorings with the matrices A_1 and A_2 . Consider two mappings T_1 and T_2 as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T_1(a_2) &= T_1(a_7) = 1, T_1(a_5) = T_1(a_8) = 2, \\ T_1(a_1) &= T_1(a_3) = T_1(a_4) = T_1(a_6) = 3. \\ T_2(a_2) &= T_2(a_5) = 1, T_2(a_7) = T_2(a_8) = 2, \\ T_2(a_1) &= T_2(a_3) = T_2(a_4) = T_2(a_6) = 3. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that T_1 and T_2 are perfect 3-colorings with the matrices A_1 and A_2 , respectively.

The graph G_5 has perfect 3-colorings with the matrix A_3 . Consider a mapping T_1 as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} T_1(a_4) = T_1(a_8) = 1, T_1(a_2) = T_1(a_6) = 2, \\ T_1(a_1) = T_1(a_3) = T_1(a_5) = T_1(a_7) = 3. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that T_1 is a perfect 3-colorings with the matrices A_3 .
□

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