

BOUNDARY CHROMATIC NUMBER IN GRAPHS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we introduce and investigate new graph parameters based on boundary relationships among vertices. In a finite, simple, connected and undirected graph G , consider any two vertices u and v . A vertex v is a boundary vertex of u if the distance from u to v is greater than or equal to the distance from u to the neighbor of v . A Partition $\Pi = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k\}$ is called a boundary independent partition of G if each V_i ($1 \leq i \leq k$) is independent and for any two vertices $u, v \in V_i$, either u is a boundary vertex of v or v is a boundary vertex of u . The minimum cardinality of a boundary independent partition of $V(G)$ is called the boundary chromatic number of G and it is denoted by $\chi_b(G)$. A subset S of $V(G)$ is called a boundary chromatic preserving $bdom$ -set of G if S is a $bdom$ -set of G and $\chi_b(S) = \chi_b(G)$. The minimum (maximum) cardinality of a minimal boundary chromatic preserving $bdom$ -set of G is called the boundary chromatic preserving boundary domination number of G (upper boundary chromatic preserving boundary domination number of G) and it is denoted by $\gamma_{bchpb}(G)$. ($\Gamma_{bchpb}(G)$). In this paper, we introduce and study the boundary chromatic number and boundary Chromatic preserving boundary domination number in graphs. .

2010 MATHEMATICS SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION 05C12,05C15,05C69 .

KEYWORDS AND PHRASES. Boundary vertex, Boundary chromatic number, Boundary chromatic preserving boundary domination number.

Submission Date: 18 February 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

For the following basic definitions, refer [1–4]. Let G be a non trivial connected graph. The distance $d(u, v)$ between two vertices u and v of G is the length of a shortest $u - v$ path in G . A $u - v$ path of length $d(u, v)$ is called a $u - v$ geodesic, that is, it is a shortest path connecting the vertices u and v in a graph G . Let u be a vertex in G . A vertex v is an eccentric vertex of u if $d(u, v)$ is denoted by $e(u)$, if v is at maximum distance from u in G . In this case, a vertex x is an eccentric vertex of G if x is an eccentric vertex of some vertex of G . In this case, a vertex x is an ecc - vertex of G if x is an ecc - vertex of some vertex of G . Therefore, if v is an ecc - vertex of u and w is a neighbour of v , then $d(u, w) \leq d(u, v)$. A vertex v is a boundary vertex of u if $d(u, w) < d(u, v)$ for all $w \in N(v)$. Further results, refer [5–7].

In this paper, the first section deals with the concept of boundary chromatic partition in graphs is discussed in the second section. In the second

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section, boundary domination (*bdom*) with respect to the vertex exchange is studied. Boundary chromatic preserving boundary *dom*-set is discussed.

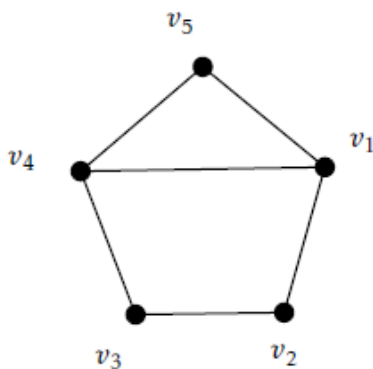
2. BOUNDARY CHROMATIC PARTITION IN GRAPHS

Definition 2.1. Suppose G represents the simple connected graph. Let $\Pi = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k\}$ be an independent partition of $V(G)$. Given any two vertices $u, v \in V_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq k$) one of the vertices u or v ; serves as a boundary vertex form the other. Then Π is called a boundary independent partition of $V(G)$.

Remark 2.2. A partition in which every element is a singleton is clearly a boundary independent partition of $V(G)$.

Definition 2.3. The minimum cardinality of a boundary independent partition of $V(G)$ is called the boundary chromatic number of G and it is denoted by $\chi_b(G)$.

Example 2.1. Let $G =$



In the above graph $G, \Pi = \{\{v_1, v_3\}, \{v_2, v_4\}, \{v_5\}\}$ and $\chi_b(G) = 3$.

Remark 2.4. Provided that G is a connected graph and u is a full degree vertex, then every vertex of G different from u is a boundary vertex of u .

Theorem 2.5. Let G be a connected graph. $\chi_b(G) = n$ if and only if $G = K_n$.

Proof. If $G = K_n$ then $\chi_b(G) = n$.

Conversely, let $\chi_b(G) = n$. Suppose $G \neq K_n$. Then there exist vertices u and v such that u and v are not adjacent. Suppose w is an eccentric vertex of u . Since $d(u, v) \geq 2$, $d(u, w) \geq 2$. Therefore $\Pi = \{\{u, v\}, \{x_i\}\}$, where x_i is an element of $V(G) - \{u, v\}$, $1 \leq i \leq n-2$. Π is a boundary independent partition of G . Therefore, $\chi_b(G) \leq n-1$, which is a contradiction. Hence $G = K_n$. \square

Remark 2.6. A graph G is complete if and only if any two vertices of G are boundary vertices of each others.

Proposition 2.1.

(i) If $G = K_n - e$ then $\chi_b(G) = n-1$. (ii) If $V(G) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ and u_1 is not adjacent with exactly two vertices say u_i and u_j and the vertices $V(G) - \{u_1, u_i\}$ and $V(G) - \{u_1, u_j\}$ form a cliques, then $\chi_b(G) = n-1$. Conversely, if $\chi_b(G) = n-1$ then G is one of the types mentioned in (i) or (ii).

Proof. Let the hypothesis hold. Then $\{\{u_1 u_i\}, \{u_2\}, \dots, \{u_j\}, \dots, \{u_n\}\}$ is a boundary independent partition. Therefore, $\chi_b(G) = n - 1$. Since $(n - 2)$ vertices from a clique, $\chi_b(G) \geq n - 2$. Hence $\chi_b(G) = n - 1$. Suppose $\chi_b(G) = n - 1$. Suppose G is not one of the types mentioned in (i) and (ii). Then there exist two edges $u_i u_j$ and $u_r u_s$ such that i, j, r, s are different then $\chi_b(G) \leq n - 2$, a contradiction therefore G is of type (i) or (ii). \square

Proposition 2.2. For any graph G , $\chi_b(K_n \circ K_1) = n$.

Proof. Let $V(K_n \circ K_1) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, u'_1, u'_2, \dots, u'_n\}$ where u'_i is the pendent attached with u_i . let $\Pi = \{\{u_1, u'_2, u'_3, \dots, u'_n\}, \{u_2, u'_1\}, \{u_3\}, \dots, \{u_n\}\}$ is a boundary independent partition. Therefore $\chi_b(K_n \circ K_1) \leq n$. Since $\chi_b(K_n \circ K_1)$ contains a clique of order n , $\chi_b(K_n \circ K_1) \geq n$. But $\chi_b(K_n \circ K_1) \geq \chi(K_n \circ K_1) \geq n$. Therefore $\chi_b(K_n \circ K_1) = n$. \square

Definition 2.7. Let G be the graph obtained from K_m by attaching a_i pendent vertices at u_i Where $V(K_m) = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$. G is denoted by $K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)$.

Proposition 2.3. For any graph G , $\chi_b(K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)) = m$.

Proof. π is a boundary independent partition of $K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)$. Therefore, $\chi_b(K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)) \leq m$. Since $K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)$ contains a clique of order m , $\chi_b(K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)) \geq m$.

But $\chi_b(K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)) \geq \chi(K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)) \geq m$.

Therefore, $\chi_b(K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)) = m$. \square

Proposition 2.4. $\chi_b(G)$ for some known classes of graphs:

- (1) $\chi_b(K_{1,n}) = 2, \quad \forall n \geq 1$.
- (2) $\chi_b(K_n) = n$.
- (3) $\chi_b(K_{m,n}) = 2, \quad \forall m, n$.
- (4) $\chi_b(P_n) = n - 2$.
- (5) $\chi_b(C_n) = \begin{cases} \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil, & \text{if } n \geq 4 \\ 3 & \text{if } n = 3 \end{cases}$
- (6) $\chi_b(W_n) = \begin{cases} 2\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor + 1, & \text{if } n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3} \\ 2\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor + 2, & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$
- (7) $\chi_b(D_{r,s}) = 2, \forall r, s \geq 0$.
- (8) $\chi_b(P) = 4$, where P is the Petersen graph

Theorem 2.8. Let G be a connected graph with $\text{diam}(G) = 2$ then $\chi_b(G) = 2$ if and only if G is bipartite.

Proof. Let G be a partite graph with $\text{diam}(G) = 2$. Let $\Pi = \{V_1, V_2\}$ be such that V_1 and V_2 are independent. Let $u, v \in V_i (1 \leq i \leq 2)$. Let $w \in N(u)$. Since $\text{diam}(G) = 2$ and u and v are independent, $d(u, v) = 2$. $d(w, v) \leq 2$, since $\text{diam}(G) = 2$. Therefore, u is a boundary of v . Also v is a boundary of u . Therefore, $\chi_b(G) = 2$. The converse is obvious. \square

Theorem 2.9. Let G be a connected graph. Then $\chi_b(G) = 2$ if and only if G is bipartite with bi-partition V_1, V_2 and for any two vertices $u, v \in V_i (1 \leq i \leq 2)$, $d(u, v) \geq d(w, v)$ for any $w \in N(v)$.

Proof. Obvious. \square

Definition 2.10. A subset S of G is called an independent boundary set of G if S is independent and for any $u, v \in S$, either u is a boundary vertex of v or v is a boundary vertex of u . The maximum cardinality of an independent boundary set of G is denoted by $\beta_{ib}(G)$.

Theorem 2.11. For any graph G , $\frac{n}{\beta_{ib}(G)} \leq \chi_b(G) \leq n - \beta_{ib}(G) + 1$.

Proof. Let $\chi_b(G) = k$. Let $\Pi = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_k\}$ be a boundary, independent partition of G . Then $n = \sum_{i=1}^k |V_i| \leq k\beta_{ib}(G)$ (Since $|V_i| \leq \beta_{ib}(G)$.) Therefore, $\frac{n}{\beta_{ib}(G)} \leq k = \chi_b(G)$. Let S be a maximum independent boundary set of G . Consider $H = \langle V - S \rangle$. Let $\chi_b(H) \leq \chi_b(G) - 1$. Let $\Pi = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_t\}$ where $\chi_b(H) = t$ be a boundary, independent partition of H . Then $t \leq \chi_b(G) - 1$. That is, $t \leq \chi_b(G) - 2$. Let $\Pi' = \{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_t, S\}$. Then Π' is a boundary, independent partition of G . Therefore, $\chi_b(G) \leq t + 1 \leq \chi_b(G) - 2 + 1 = \chi_b(G) - 1$, a contradiction. Therefore, $\chi_b(H) \geq \chi_b(G) - 1$. Since H has $n - \beta_{ib}(G)$ vertices, $\chi_b(H) \leq n - \beta_{ib}(G)$. Therefore, $\chi_b(G) - 1 \leq \chi_b(H) \leq n - \beta_{ib}(G)$. Hence $\chi_b(G) \leq n - \beta_{ib}(G) + 1$. \square

Conjecture: $\chi_b(G) \leq 1 + \max\{\Delta_{ab}(H)\}$, where H is an induced subgraph of G .

3. BOUNDARY CHROMATIC PRESERVING $bdom$ -SET IN GRAPHS

Definition 3.1. A subset S of $V(G)$ is termed as boundary chromatic preserving set of G if $\chi_b(\langle S \rangle) = \chi_b(G)$. The smallest possible size of a boundary chromatic preserving set of G is symbolized by $bcpn(G)$ (boundary chromatic preserving number of G).

Definition 3.2. Let $R \subseteq V(G)$. Then R is called a boundary chromatic preserving $bdom$ -set of G if R is a $bdom$ -set of G and $\chi_b(\langle R \rangle) = \chi_b(G)$. The smallest (largest) size of a minimal boundary chromatic preserving $bdom$ -set of G is called the boundary chromatic preserving boundary domination number of G (upper boundary chromatic preserving $bdom$ -number of G) and it is denoted by $\gamma_{bchpb}(G)$. ($\Gamma_{bchpb}(G)$).

Proposition 3.1.

$\gamma_{bchpb}(G)$ for some known graphs:

- (1) $\gamma_{bchpb}(K_{1,n}) = 2, \forall n \geq 1$.
- (2) $\gamma_{bchpb}(K_n) = n$.
- (3) $\gamma_{bchpb}(K_{m,n}) = 2, \forall m, n$.
- (4) $\gamma_{bchpb}(P_n) = n - 2, \forall n \geq 4, 2$ if $n = 2, 3$.
- (5) $\gamma_{bchpb}(C_n) = \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil, \forall n \geq 4, 3$ if $n = 3$.
- (6) $\gamma_{bchpb}(W_n) = \begin{cases} 4, & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ 3, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$
- (7) $\gamma_{bchpb}(D_{r,s}) = 2, \forall r, s \geq 0$.
- (8) $\gamma_{bchpb}(P) = 4$, Where P is the Petersen graph.
- (9) $\gamma_{bchpb}(K_m(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)) = m$

Remark 3.3. For any graph G , the following holds:

- (1) $bcpn(G) \leq \gamma_{bchpb}(G)$.
- (2) Boundary chromatic preserving bdom-set exists in any graph. Since $V(G)$ is a trivial boundary chromatic preserving bdom-set.
- (3) If S is a $\gamma_{bchpb}(G)$ set of G then each vertex in $V - S$ is not adjacent with atleast one vertex of S . For : Suppose there exists u in $V - S$ such that u is adjacent with every vertex of S . Then $\chi_b(G) > \chi_b(\langle S \rangle)$, a contradiction.

Proposition 3.2. A boundary chromatic preserving bdom-set of a graph is a dominating set of \bar{G} .

Proof. Let S be a boundary chromatic preserving bdom-set of G . Then for any vertex u in $V - S$ there exist a vertex $v \in S$ such that v is not adjacent with u . Therefore v is adjacent with u in \bar{G} . Therefore, S is a dominating set of \bar{G} . □

Remark 3.4. (i) $\gamma(\bar{G}) \leq \gamma_{bchpb}(G)$.

(ii) If S is a boundary chromatic preserving bdom-set of G which is also dominating then S is a global dom-set of G . Hence $\gamma_g(G) \leq \gamma_{bchpb}^d(G)$.

Example 3.1. Consider $G = K_{m,n}$. Let V_1, V_2 be the partite sets of G . Let $u \in V_1$ and $v \in V_2$. Then $S = \{u, v\}$ is a boundary chromatic preserving bdom-set which is also dominating. Therefore, $\gamma_{bchpb}^d(K_{m,n}) = 2, \gamma_g(G) = 2, \gamma(G) = 2, \gamma(\bar{G}) = 2$.

Proposition 3.3. For a χ_b - critical graph, V is the only boundary chromatic preserving bdom-set of G .

Proof. If G is a χ_b - critical graph (that is, $\chi_b(G - u) < \chi_b(G)$ for any u in $V(G)$) then for any minimum bdom-set D of G, SD is a proper subset of G and hence $\chi_b(\langle S \rangle) < \chi_b(G)$. Therefore, $\chi_{bchpb}(G) = |V(G)|$. □

Proposition 3.4. In the case of a connected graph G , it follows that $\chi_{bchpb}(G) = p - q$ is necessary and sufficient condition for $G = K_1$.

Proof. If $G = K_1$ then $p = 1, q = 0$. Therefore, $p - q = 1. \gamma_{bchpb}(k_1) = 1 = p - q$. Conversely, suppose $\gamma_{bchpb}(G) = p - q$. Since $\gamma_{bchpb}(G) \geq 1, p - q \geq 1$. As G is connected, $q \geq p - 1$. Therefore $q = p - 1$. That is, G is k_1 . □

Definition 3.5. Let $v \in V(G)$. The boundary degree of v in G is the number of vertices u such that v is a boundary of u , and it is denoted by $deg_b(v)$. Also $N_b(v) = \{u \in V(G) : v \text{ is a boundary of } u\}$.

Proposition 3.5. Let S be a χ_b - preserving bdom-set of G . Then $|V - S| = \sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u)$ if and only if $G = p.K_1, p \geq 1$.

Proof. Suppose $G = pk_1, p \geq 1$ then $S = V$. and $deg_b(u) = 0$ for every $u \in S$, $|V - S| = 0$. Since $S = V. \sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u) = 0$. Hence $|V - SD| = \sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u)$.

Conversely, suppose $|V - S| = \sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u) = k$ (say).

Claim: $k = 0$. Suppose $k \geq 1$.

Case (i): G is connected. Since $k \geq 1, q \geq 1$. Therefore $\chi_b(G) \geq \chi(G) \geq 2$. Let $V - S = \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k\}$. Since S is a bdom-set, each u_i is boundary dominated by some vertex of S and hence contributes atleast one to the boundary degree of D . Since $\chi_b(\langle S \rangle) \geq 2$, in a boundary chromatic partition

of S , there exists atleast two independent sets, where in each set any two vertices are such that one is the boundary for another or vice versa. Hence in S , there exists two vertices say u_1, u_2 and another two vertices u_3, u_4 such that u_1 is a boundary vertex of u_2 or vice versa and u_3 is a boundary vertex of u_4 or vice versa. Hence these vertices contribute to $N_b(S)$. Therefore $\sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u) \geq k+2$, a contradiction, since $\sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u) = k$. Therefore $k = 0$.

Case (ii): Suppose G is disconnected.

Subcase (i): G is totally disconnected. Therefore $S = V$ and hence $V - S$ is empty. Therefore $|V - S| = 0$. Therefore $k = 0$.

Subcase (ii): G is not totally disconnected. Therefore, G has a non-trivial component. This non-trivial component contributes atleast 1 to $\sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u)$. That is, $k \geq 1$. Using case (i), we get a contradiction. Therefore $k = 0$. Hence the claim. Therefore $|V - D| = 0$ therefore $D = V$ and $\sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u) = 0$. Therefore, $deg(u) = 0$ for every $u \in D$. Therefore G is totally disconnected. Hence, $G = pK_1$. \square

Corollary 3.6. For any non-trivial connected graph with a boundary chromatic Preserving boundary dominating set D ,

$$\sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u) \geq |V - S| + 2.$$

Proof. Suppose G is χ_b - critical. Then $V = D$. Therefore $|V - S| = 0$. Since $\langle\langle V \rangle\rangle$ is connected and non-trivial, there exists two vertices u, v such that u_1 is a boundary vertex of u and v_1 is a boundary vertex of v . Therefore, $\sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u) \geq 2$. Suppose G is not χ_b - critical. Since G is non-trivial, $\chi(G) \geq 2$. Therefore, $\chi_b(G) \geq 2$. Using case (i) of previous theorem, $\sum_{u \in S} deg_b(u) = |V - D|$. \square

Proposition 3.6. For any graph $G, \lfloor \frac{p}{(1+\Delta_b(G))} \rfloor \leq \gamma_{bchpb}(G)$ and equality holds if and only if $G = pK_1, p \geq 1$.

Proof. In any graph $G, \lfloor \frac{p}{(1+\Delta_b(G))} \rfloor \leq \gamma_b(G) \leq \gamma_{bchpb}(G)$. Therefore, $\lfloor \frac{p}{(1+\Delta_b(G))} \rfloor \leq \gamma_{bchpb}(G)$. Suppose $\lfloor \frac{p}{(1+\Delta_b(G))} \rfloor = \gamma_{bchpb}(G) = k$. (say)

Case(i): G is connected. Let S be a $\gamma_{bchpb}(G)$ set of G . If $k \geq 2$, then G has atleast two vertices. By corollary $\sum_{u \in D} deg(u) \geq |V - S| + 2$. Therefore, $|V - S| \leq \sum_{u \in D} deg(u) - 2$. Therefore, $|V - D| < \sum_{u \in S} deg(u)$. That is, $p - k < \sum_{u \in D} deg_b(u)$. Therefore, $p - k < k \cdot \Delta_b(G)$. Therefore, $p < k + k \cdot \Delta_b(G)$. $p < k(1 + \Delta_b(G))$. Hence $\frac{p}{(1+\Delta_b(G))} < k$. Therefore, $\lfloor \frac{p}{(1+\Delta_b(G))} \rfloor < k$. But by the hypothesis $\lfloor \frac{p}{(1+\Delta_b(G))} \rfloor = k$, a contradiction. Therefore $k = 1$. That is, $\gamma_{bchpb}(G) = 1$. Since D is χ_b presering, $\chi_b(G) = \chi_b(\langle\langle S \rangle\rangle) = 1$. Therefore, G is disconnected unless $p = 1$. Since G is connected, $G = K_1 = 1$. $K_1 = p \cdot K_1$, since $p = 1$.

Case (ii): G is disconnected. Suppose G is totally disconnected. $\gamma_{bchpb}(G) = |V(G)| = p \cdot \Delta_b(G) = 0$. Therefore, $\lfloor \frac{p}{(1+\Delta_b(G))} \rfloor = p = \gamma_{bchpb}(G)$. Suppose G is not totally disconnected. Then G has atleast one non trivial component. By proceeding as in case (i), a contradiction arises. Therefore, $G = pK_1$. \square

Proposition 3.7. *A boundary dominating boundary chromatic preserving set S is minimal if and only if for each $u \in S$, any of the following holds.*

- (i) $\chi_b(\langle S - \{u\} \rangle) < \chi_b(G)$.
- (ii) $S - \{u\}$ is not a *bdom*-set of G .

Proof. Boundary dominating boundary chromatic preserving property is super hereditary. Let S be a boundary dominating boundary chromatic preserving set of G . Let T be a super set of S . Then T is boundary dominating, since for any vertex u in $V - T$, $u \in V - S$ and hence there exists $v \in S$ such that v boundary dominates u . Since $S \subseteq T$, $v \in T$ and hence v boundary dominates u in $V - T$. Since S is boundary chromatic preserving, $\chi_b(\langle S \rangle) = \chi_b(G)$. Since $S \subseteq T \subseteq G$, $\chi_b(\langle S \rangle) \leq \chi_b(\langle T \rangle) \leq \chi_b(G)$. But $\chi_b(\langle S \rangle) = \chi_b(G)$. Therefore, $\chi_b(T) = \chi_b(G)$. Therefore T is boundary chromatic preserving set of G . Since boundary dominating boundary chromatic preserving property is super hereditary, a boundary dominating boundary chromatic preserving set S is minimal if and only if it is 1-minimal. That is, S is minimal iff $S - \{u\}$ is not a boundary dominating boundary chromatic preserving set of G for every $u \in S$. Suppose S is minimal. Let $u \in S$. Then $S - \{u\}$ is not a boundary dominating boundary chromatic preserving set of G . Therefore $S - \{u\}$ is not a *bdom*-set or $S - \{u\}$ is not a boundary chromatic preserving set or both. That is, $\langle S - \{u\} \rangle$ is not a *bdom*-set $\chi_b(\langle S - \{u\} \rangle) < \chi_b(G)$.

Conversely, suppose for any $u \in S$, condition (i) holds. $\chi_b(\langle S - \{u\} \rangle) < \chi_b(G)$. That is, $S - \{u\}$ is not a boundary chromatic preserving set. If condition (ii) holds then $\langle S - \{u\} \rangle$ is not a *bdom*-set. Therefore, S is a minimal boundary dominating boundary chromatic preserving set of G . \square

CONCLUSION

In this work, we defined boundary chromatic partition set as well as boundary chromatic preserving *bdom*-set in the non trivial connected graphs. There is a structural dependency between $\chi_b(G)$ and $\gamma_{bchpb}(G)$. While they measure different aspects (partitioning vs domination), they intersect conceptually through how coloring constraints are preserved in boundary-dominating subsets. In practice, understanding one can help constrain or estimate the other.

FUTURE WORK

The future work is to Exploring how $\chi_b(G)$ relates to classical chromatic number $\chi(G)$, domination number $\gamma(G)$, and other variants like total domination or independent domination could help unify boundary-based concepts within broader graph theory.

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