

## THE ZERO-DIVISOR GRAPHS OF $\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n$ AND $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  be the ring of integers and let  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  be the ring of integers modulo  $n$ . Let  $\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n$  be the idealization of  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$  and let  $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$  be either  $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$  or  $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[[X]]$ . In this article, we study the zero-divisor graphs of  $\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n$  and  $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$ . More precisely, we completely characterize the diameter and the girth of the zero-divisor graphs of  $\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n$  and  $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$ . We also calculate the chromatic number of the zero-divisor graphs of  $\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n$  and  $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$ .

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### 1. Introduction

**1.1. Preliminaries.** In order to help the reader's better understanding, this subsection is devoted to review some preliminaries.

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity and let  $M$  be a unitary  $R$ -module. Then the *idealization* of  $M$  in  $R$  (or *trivial extension* of  $R$  by  $M$ ) is a commutative ring

$$R(+)M := \{(r, m) \mid r \in R \text{ and } m \in M\}$$

under the usual addition and the multiplication defined as  $(r_1, m_1)(r_2, m_2) = (r_1r_2, r_1m_2 + r_2m_1)$  for all  $(r_1, m_1), (r_2, m_2) \in R(+)M$ . It is obvious that  $(1, 0)$  is the identity of  $R(+)M$ . For more on the idealization, the readers can refer to [4, 8].

Let  $G$  be an (undirected) graph. Recall that  $G$  is *connected* if there is a path between any two distinct vertices of  $G$ . The graph  $G$  is said to be *complete* if any two distinct vertices are adjacent. The complete graph with  $n$  vertices is denoted by  $K_n$ . The graph  $G$  is called a *null graph* (or *edgeless graph*) if  $G$  has no edges, and we denote by  $\overline{K}_n$  the null graph with  $n$  vertices. An *independent*

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*set* (or *stable set*) in  $G$  is a set of pairwise nonadjacent vertices. The graph  $G$  is a *bipartite graph* if the vertex set of  $G$  is the union of two disjoint independent sets. In this case, the disjoint independent sets are called the *partite sets* of  $G$ . The graph  $G$  is a *complete bipartite graph* if  $G$  is a bipartite graph such that two distinct vertices are adjacent if and only if they belong to different partite sets. If one of the partite sets of a complete bipartite graph  $G$  is a singleton set, then we call  $G$  a *star graph*. We denote the complete bipartite graph by  $K_{m,n}$ , where  $m$  and  $n$  are the cardinal numbers of the partite sets. We also denote the star graph by  $K_{1,n}$ . For vertices  $a$  and  $b$  in  $G$ ,  $d(a, b)$  denotes the length of the shortest path from  $a$  to  $b$ . If there is no such path, then  $d(a, b)$  is defined to be  $\infty$ ; and  $d(a, a)$  is defined to be zero. The *diameter* of  $G$ , denoted by  $\text{diam}(G)$ , is the supremum of  $\{d(a, b) \mid a \text{ and } b \text{ are vertices of } G\}$ . The *girth* of  $G$ , denoted by  $g(G)$ , is defined as the length of the shortest cycle in  $G$ . If  $G$  contains no cycles, then  $g(G)$  is defined to be  $\infty$ . A subgraph  $H$  of  $G$  is an *induced subgraph* of  $G$  if two vertices of  $H$  are adjacent in  $H$  if and only if they are adjacent in  $G$ . The *chromatic number* of  $G$ , denoted by  $\chi(G)$ , is the minimum number of colors needed to color the vertices of  $G$  so that no two adjacent vertices share the same color. A *clique*  $C$  in  $G$  is a subset of the vertex set of  $G$  such that the induced subgraph of  $G$  by  $C$  is a complete graph. A *maximal clique* in  $G$  is a clique that cannot be extended by including one more adjacent vertex. For more on graph theory, the readers can refer to [14].

**1.2. The zero-divisor graph of a commutative ring.** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity and let  $Z(R)$  be the set of nonzero zero-divisors of  $R$ . The *zero-divisor graph* of  $R$ , denoted by  $\Gamma(R)$ , is the simple graph with vertex set  $Z(R)$ , and for distinct  $a, b \in Z(R)$ ,  $a$  and  $b$  are adjacent if and only if  $ab = 0$ . Clearly,  $\Gamma(R)$  is the null graph if and only if  $R$  is an integral domain.

In [6], Beck first introduced the concept of the zero-divisor graphs of commutative rings and in [3], Anderson and Naseer continued to study Beck's investigation. In their papers, all elements of  $R$  are vertices of the zero-divisor graph and the authors were mainly interested in colorings. In [2], Anderson and Livingston gave the present definition of  $\Gamma(R)$  in order to emphasize the study of the interplay between graph-theoretic properties of  $\Gamma(R)$  and ring-theoretic properties of  $R$ . Later, in [5], Axtell and Stickles studied the zero-divisor graph of idealizations. It was shown that  $\Gamma(R)$  is connected with  $\text{diam}(\Gamma(R)) \leq 3$  [2, Theorem 2.3]; and  $g(\Gamma(R)) \leq 4$  [11, (1.4)].

For more on the zero-divisor graph of a commutative ring, the readers can refer to a survey article [1].

Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  be the ring of integers and let  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  be the ring of integers modulo  $n$ . For a commutative ring  $R$ ,  $R[X]$  denotes either the polynomial ring  $R[X]$  or the power series ring  $R[[X]]$ . In [12, 13], the authors studied some properties of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  and  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}[X])$ . In fact, they completely characterized the diameter and the girth of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  and  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}[X])$ . Also, they calculated the chromatic number of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  and  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}[X])$ . The aim of this paper is to study some properties of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  and

$\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ . In Section 2, we completely characterize the diameter and the girth of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . We also calculate the chromatic number of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . In Section 3, we calculate the diameter and the girth of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ . We also calculate the chromatic number of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ .

Note that if  $n = 1$ , then  $\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_1$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$ ; so  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_1)$  is the null graph. Therefore  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_1)[X])$  is also the null graph (cf. [10, Theorem 2] and [7, Theorem 5]). Hence in this paper, we only consider the case that  $n \geq 2$ . Finally, we mention that all figures are drawn by using website <http://graphonline.ru/en/>.

### 2. The zero-divisor graph of $\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n$

We start this section with the characterization of  $Z(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  be distinct primes,  $s_1, \dots, s_r$  positive integers and  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$ . Then  $Z(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) = \{(0, \alpha) \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}\} \cup \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^r \{(p_i k, \alpha) \mid k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\} \text{ and } \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_n\} \right)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $(0, \alpha)$  be a nonzero element of  $\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n$ . Then  $(0, \alpha)(n, 0) = (0, 0)$ ; so  $(0, \alpha) \in Z(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . Let  $k$  be a nonzero integer and let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ . Then for any  $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ ,  $(p_i k, \alpha) \left(0, \frac{n}{p_i}\right) = (0, 0)$ ; so  $(p_i k, \alpha) \in Z(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . For the reverse containment, let  $(a, \alpha) \in Z(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . Then  $(a, \alpha)(b, \beta) = (0, 0)$  for some  $(b, \beta) \in Z(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ ; so  $ab = 0$  and  $a\beta + b\alpha \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ . If  $a = 0$ , then  $\alpha \not\equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ ; so we have nothing to prove. Suppose that  $a \neq 0$ . Then  $b = 0$ ; so  $\beta \not\equiv 0 \pmod{n}$  and  $a\beta \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ . Therefore we can find an index  $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$  such that  $a$  is divisible by  $p_i$ . Hence  $(a, \alpha) = (p_i k, \alpha)$  for some nonzero integer  $k$ . Thus  $Z(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) = \{(0, \alpha) \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}\} \cup \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^r \{(p_i k, \alpha) \mid k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\} \text{ and } \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_n\} \right)$ . □

Let  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$  for some distinct primes  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  and some positive integers  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ . From now on, let  $A_n$  denote the set  $\{(0, \alpha) \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}\}$  and let  $B_n$  stand for the set  $\bigcup_{i=1}^r \{(p_i k, \alpha) \mid k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\} \text{ and } \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_n\}$ . It is obvious that  $A_n \cap B_n = \emptyset$ ; so by Lemma 2.1,  $Z(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is the disjoint union of  $A_n$  and  $B_n$ .

**Remark 2.2.** Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer.

(1) Let  $(0, \alpha), (0, \beta) \in A_n$ . Then  $(0, \alpha)(0, \beta) = (0, 0)$ ; so the induced subgraph by  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  by the set  $A_n$  is the complete graph  $K_{n-1}$ .

(2) Write  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$  for some distinct primes  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  and some positive integers  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ . Let  $(p_i k_1, \alpha_1), (p_j k_2, \alpha_2) \in B_n$ . Then  $(p_i k_1, \alpha_1)(p_j k_2, \alpha_2) \neq$

$(0, 0)$ ; so the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  induced by the set  $B_n$  is the countably infinite null graph  $\overline{K}_\infty$ .

**Corollary 2.3.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer. Then the following assertions hold.*

- (1)  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is never a complete graph.
- (2)  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a star graph if and only if  $n = 2$ .

*Proof.* (1) The result is an immediate consequence of Remark 2.2(2).

(2) Suppose that  $n = 2$ . Then  $A_2 = \{(0, 1)\}$  and  $B_2 = \{(2k, \alpha) \mid k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\} \text{ and } \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_2\}$ . Let  $(2k_1, \alpha_1), (2k_2, \alpha_2)$  be two distinct elements of  $B_2$ . Then  $(2k_1, \alpha_1) - (0, 1) - (2k_2, \alpha_2)$  is a path in  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_2)$ ; so by Remark 2.2(2),  $d((2k_1, \alpha_1), (2k_2, \alpha_2)) = 2$ . Thus  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_2)$  is the star graph  $K_{1, \infty}$ .

For the converse, suppose that  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a star graph. Then by Remark 2.2(2), there exists an element  $(0, \alpha) \in A_n$  such that  $(0, \alpha)(b, \beta) = (0, 0)$  for all  $(b, \beta) \in \mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus \{(0, \alpha)\}$ . Note that the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  induced by the set  $\mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus \{(0, \alpha)\}$  is the null graph  $\overline{K}_\infty$ . If  $n \geq 3$ , then there exists an element  $(0, \gamma) \in \mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus \{(0, \alpha)\}$ . Note that  $(n, 0) \in B_n$  with  $(0, \gamma)(n, 0) = (0, 0)$ . This is a contradiction. Thus  $n = 2$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.4.** Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer. Suppose that  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a bipartite graph. Then by Remark 2.2,  $n = 2$  and the partite sets of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_2)$  is  $A_2$  and  $B_2$ . Thus  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a (complete) bipartite graph if and only if  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a star graph, if and only if  $n = 2$ .

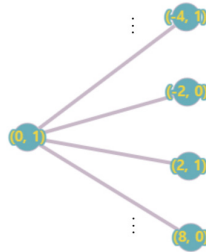


FIGURE 1. The star graph:  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_2)$

We now give the characterization of the diameters of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer. Then the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $\text{diam}(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)) = 2$  if (and only if)  $n = p^s$  for some prime  $p$  and some integer  $s \geq 1$ .
- (2)  $\text{diam}(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)) = 3$  if (and only if)  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$  for some distinct primes  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  ( $r \geq 2$ ) and some positive integers  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ .

*Proof.* (1) Suppose that  $n = p$  for some prime  $p$ . If  $p = 2$ , then by Corollary 2.3(2),  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_2)$  is a star graph; so  $\text{diam}(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_2)) = 2$ . If  $p \geq 3$ , let  $(0, \alpha) \in$

$A_p$  and let  $(pk_1, \beta_1), (pk_2, \beta_2)$  be distinct elements of  $B_p$ . Then  $(0, \alpha)(pk_1, \beta_1) = (0, 0) = (0, \alpha)(pk_2, \beta_2)$ ; so by Remark 2.2(2),  $d((pk_1, \beta_1), (pk_2, \beta_2)) = 2$ . Note that by Remark 2.2(1), the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_p)$  induced by the set  $A_p$  is the complete graph  $K_{p-1}$ . Hence  $\text{diam}(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_p)) = 2$ .

We next suppose that  $n = p^s$  for some prime  $p$  and some integer  $s \geq 2$ . Then by Remark 2.2(1), the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_{p^s})$  induced by the set  $A_{p^s}$  is the complete graph  $K_{p^s-1}$ . Let  $(pk_1, \alpha_1), (pk_2, \alpha_2)$  be distinct elements in  $B_{p^s}$ . Then  $(pk_1, \alpha_1)(0, p^{s-1}) = (0, 0) = (pk_2, \alpha_2)(0, p^{s-1})$ ; so by Remark 2.2(2),  $d((pk_1, \alpha_1), (pk_2, \alpha_2)) = 2$ . Also, by Remark 2.2(1),  $d((0, \beta), (pk_1, \alpha_1)) \leq 2$  for all  $(0, \beta) \in A_{p^s}$ . Hence  $\text{diam}(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_{p^s})) = 2$ .

(2) Suppose that  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$  for some distinct primes  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  ( $r \geq 2$ ) and some positive integers  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ . Let  $(p_i, 0), (p_j, 0) \in B_n$  with  $i \neq j$ . Then by Remark 2.2(2) and [2, Theorem 2.3],  $2 \leq d((p_i, 0), (p_j, 0)) \leq 3$ . Suppose to the contrary that there exists an element  $(a, \alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus \{(p_i, 0), (p_j, 0)\}$  such that  $(p_i, 0) - (a, \alpha) - (p_j, 0)$  is a path in  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . Then by Remark 2.2(2),  $(a, \alpha) \in A_n$ ; so  $a = 0$  and  $\alpha \not\equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ . Now,  $p_i\alpha \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$  and  $p_j\alpha \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ ; so  $\alpha$  is a multiple of both  $\frac{n}{p_i}$  and  $\frac{n}{p_j}$ . Therefore  $\alpha$  is divisible by  $n$ . This is absurd. Hence  $d((p_i, 0), (p_j, 0)) = 3$ . Thus  $\text{diam}(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)) = 3$ .  $\square$

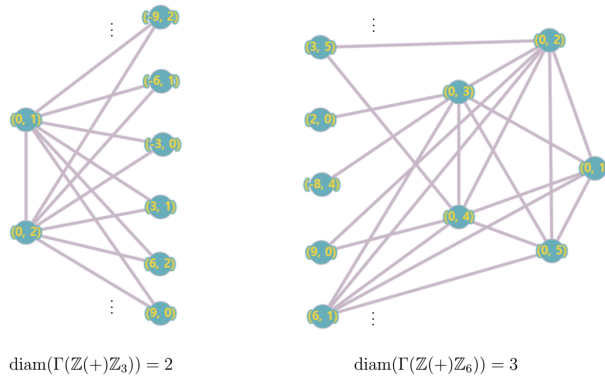


FIGURE 2. The diameter of some zero-divisor graphs

Next, we study the girth of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ .

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer. Then the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $g(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)) = 3$  if (and only if)  $n \geq 3$ .
- (2)  $g(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)) = \infty$  if (and only if)  $n = 2$ .

*Proof.* (1) Let  $n \geq 3$  be an integer. Note that  $(0, 1) - (0, 2) - (n, 1) - (0, 1)$  is a cycle of length 3 in  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . Thus  $g(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)) = 3$ .

(2) Note that  $A_2 = \{(0, 1)\}$ . If there exists a cycle in  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_2)$ , then we can find two distinct elements  $(2k_1, \alpha_1), (2k_2, \alpha_2) \in B_2$  such that  $(2k_1, \alpha_1)$  and

$(2k_2, \alpha_2)$  are adjacent. However, this is impossible because of Remark 2.2(2). Hence  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_2)$  has no cycles. Thus  $g(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_2)) = \infty$ .  $\square$

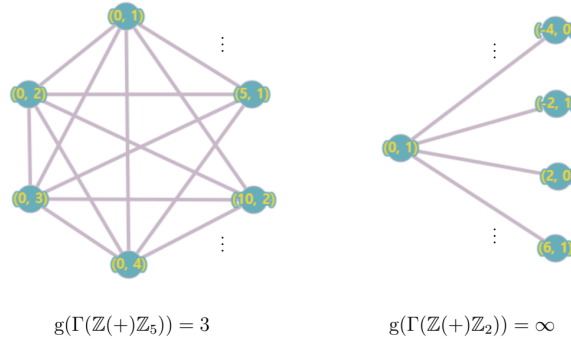


FIGURE 3. The girth of some zero-divisor graphs

The final study in this section is to calculate the chromatic number of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . To do this, we need the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.7.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer and let  $C = A_n \cup \{(n, 0)\}$ . Then  $C$  is a maximal clique of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ .*

*Proof.* Note that the product of any two distinct elements of  $C$  is  $(0, 0)$ ; so  $C$  is a clique of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . Suppose to the contrary that there exists an element  $(a, \alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus C$  such that  $(a, \alpha)(b, \beta) = (0, 0)$  for all  $(b, \beta) \in C$ . Then  $(a, \alpha)(n, 0) = (0, 0)$ . Therefore  $a = 0$ , which implies that  $\alpha \not\equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ . Hence  $(a, \alpha) \in C$ . This is a contradiction to the choice of  $(a, \alpha)$ . Thus  $C$  is a maximal clique of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.8.** *If  $n \geq 2$  is an integer, then  $\chi(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)) = n$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $C = A_n \cup \{(n, 0)\}$ . Then by Lemma 2.7,  $C$  is a maximal clique of  $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . For each  $i \in \{1, \dots, n - 1\}$ , let  $\bar{i}$  be the color of  $(0, i)$  and let  $\bar{n}$  be the color of  $(n, 0)$ . Note that  $\mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus C$  is a nonempty set. Let  $(a, \alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus C$ . Then by Lemma 2.7, there exists an element  $(b, \beta) \in C$  such that  $(a, \alpha)$  and  $(b, \beta)$  are not adjacent. In this case, we color  $(a, \alpha)$  with the color of  $(b, \beta)$ . Note that by Lemma 2.1,  $\mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus C \subsetneq B_n$ ; so by Remark 2.2(2), any two vertices in  $\mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus C$  are not adjacent. Thus  $\chi(\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)) = n$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.9.** Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer and let  $C = A_n \cup \{(n, 0)\}$ . Take any element  $(a, \alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n) \setminus C$ . Then  $(a, \alpha) \in B_n$ ; so by Remark 2.2(2),  $(a, \alpha)$  and  $(n, 0)$  are not adjacent. Hence we can always color  $(a, \alpha)$  with  $\bar{n}$  in the proof of Theorem 2.8.

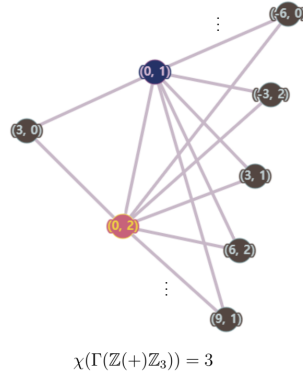


FIGURE 4. The coloring of some zero-divisor graphs

### 3. The zero-divisor graph of $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity,  $R[X]$  the polynomial ring over  $R$  and  $R[[X]]$  the power series ring over  $R$ . Let  $R[X]$  denote either the polynomial ring or the power series ring. Recall that  $R$  is a *Noetherian ring* if it satisfies the ascending chain condition on ideals of  $R$  (or equivalently, every ideal of  $R$  is finitely generated.) In order to study the zero-divisor graph of  $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$ , we need the following lemma which is well known as McCoy's theorem.

**Lemma 3.1.** ([10, Theorem 2] and [7, Theorem 5]) *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity. Then the following assertions hold.*

- (1) *If  $f \in Z(R[X])$ , then there exists a nonzero element  $r \in R$  such that  $rf = 0$ .*
- (2) *If  $R$  is a Noetherian ring and  $f \in Z(R[[X]])$ , then there exists a nonzero element  $r \in R$  such that  $rf = 0$ .*

At this time, we should note that  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a Noetherian ring and for any integer  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module; so  $\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n$  is a Noetherian ring [4, Theorem 4.8] (or [9, Corollary 3.9]).

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  be distinct primes,  $s_1, \dots, s_r$  positive integers and  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$ . Then  $Z((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]) = \left\{ \sum_{m \geq 0} (0, b_m)X^m \mid b_m \neq 0 \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N}_0 \right\} \cup \left( \bigcup_{\ell=1}^r \left\{ \sum_{m \geq 0} (p_\ell k_m, b_m)X^m \mid k_m \neq 0 \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N}_0 \text{ and } b_m \in \mathbb{Z}_n \right\} \right)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $f = \sum_{m \geq 0} (0, b_m)X^m$  be a nonzero element of  $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$ . Then  $(n, 0)f = (0, 0)$ ; so  $f \in Z((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ . Fix an index  $\ell \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ , and let

$g = \sum_{m \geq 0} (p_\ell k_m, b_m)X^m$  be an element of  $(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]$ , where  $k_m \neq 0$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Then  $(0, \frac{n}{p_\ell})g = (0, 0)$ ; so  $g \in Z((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ .

For the reverse containment, let  $f = \sum_{m \geq 0} (a_m, b_m)X^m \in Z((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ . If  $a_m = 0$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , then the proof is done; so we next suppose that  $a_m \neq 0$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Now, by Lemma 3.1, there exists an element  $(r, s) \in Z(\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)$  such that  $(r, s)f = (0, 0)$ ; so  $(r, s)(a_m, b_m) = (0, 0)$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Therefore  $r = 0$  and  $a_m s \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Since  $s \not\equiv 0 \pmod{n}$ , we can find an index  $\ell \in \{1, \dots, r\}$  such that  $s$  is not divisible by  $p_\ell^{s_\ell}$ ; so  $a_m$  is divisible by  $p_\ell$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Hence  $f = \sum_{m \geq 0} (p_\ell k_m, b_m)X^m$ , where  $k_m \neq 0$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Thus  $Z((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]) = \left\{ \sum_{m \geq 0} (0, b_m)X^m \mid b_m \neq 0 \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N}_0 \right\} \cup \left( \bigcup_{\ell=1}^r \left\{ \sum_{m \geq 0} (p_\ell k_m, b_m)X^m \mid k_m \neq 0 \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N}_0 \text{ and } b_m \in \mathbb{Z}_n \right\} \right)$ .  $\square$

Let  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$  for some distinct primes  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  and some positive integers  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ . From now on, let  $C_n = \left\{ \sum_{m \geq 0} (0, b_m)X^m \mid b_m \neq 0 \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N}_0 \right\}$  and let  $D_n = \bigcup_{\ell=1}^r \left\{ \sum_{m \geq 0} (p_\ell k_m, b_m)X^m \mid k_m \neq 0 \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N}_0 \text{ and } b_m \in \mathbb{Z}_n \right\}$ . It is obvious that  $C_n \cap D_n = \emptyset$ ; so by Lemma 3.2,  $Z((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  is the disjoint union of  $C_n$  and  $D_n$ .

**Remark 3.3.** Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer.

(1) Let  $\sum_{m \geq 0} (0, a_m)X^m$  and  $\sum_{m \geq 0} (0, b_m)X^m$  be two elements of  $C_n$ . Then  $\left( \sum_{m \geq 0} (0, a_m)X^m \right) \left( \sum_{m \geq 0} (0, b_m)X^m \right) = (0, 0)$ . Thus the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  by the set  $C_n$  is the complete graph  $K_\infty$ . In fact, the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  by the set  $C_n$  is the countably infinite complete graph. Also, note that  $|C_n| = c$  in  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ , where  $c$  is the cardinality of the set of real numbers. Hence the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  by the set  $C_n$  is the uncountably infinite complete graph.

(2) Write  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$  for some distinct primes  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  and some positive integers  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ . Let  $\sum_{m \geq 0} (p_i k_m, d_m)X^m, \sum_{m \geq 0} (p_j h_m, e_m)X^m \in D_n$ . Then  $\left( \sum_{m \geq 0} (p_i k_m, d_m)X^m \right) \left( \sum_{m \geq 0} (p_j h_m, e_m)X^m \right) \neq (0, 0)$ . Hence the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  by the set  $D_n$  is the infinite null graph  $\overline{K}_\infty$ . More precisely,  $|D_n| = \aleph_0$  in  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  and  $|D_n| = c$  in  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ ; so



the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  (resp.,  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[[X]])$ ) by the set  $D_n$  is the countably (resp., uncountably) infinite null graph.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer. Then the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $\text{diam}(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) = 2$  if (and only if)  $n = p^s$  for some prime  $p$  and some integer  $s \geq 1$ .
- (2)  $\text{diam}(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) = 3$  if (and only if)  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$  for some distinct primes  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  ( $r \geq 2$ ) and some positive integers  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ .

*Proof.* (1) Suppose that  $n = p^s$  for some prime  $p$  and some integer  $s \geq 1$ . Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two distinct elements of  $Z((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ . If  $f, g \in C_n$ , then  $f$  and  $g$  are adjacent by Remark 3.3(1). Suppose that at least one of  $f$  and  $g$  belongs to  $D_n$ . Then  $f - (0, p^{s-1}) - g$  is a path in  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ ; so  $d(f, g) \leq 2$ . Hence  $\text{diam}(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) \leq 2$ . Note that by Remark 3.3(2),  $\text{diam}(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) \geq 2$ . Thus  $\text{diam}(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) = 2$ .

(2) Suppose that  $n = p_1^{s_1} \cdots p_r^{s_r}$  for some distinct primes  $p_1, \dots, p_r$  ( $r \geq 2$ ) and some positive integers  $s_1, \dots, s_r$ . Let  $(p_i, 0), (p_j, 0) \in D_n$  with  $i \neq j$ . Then by Remark 3.3(2),  $d((p_i, 0), (p_j, 0)) \geq 2$ . Suppose to the contrary that there exists an element  $f = \sum_{m \geq 0} (a_m, b_m)X^m \in Z((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X]) \setminus \{(p_i, 0), (p_j, 0)\}$  such that  $(p_i, 0)f = (0, 0) = (p_j, 0)f$ . Then by Remark 3.3(2),  $f \in C_n$ ; so for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ,  $a_m = 0$ ,  $p_i b_m \equiv 0 \equiv p_j b_m \pmod{n}$ . Therefore  $b_m$  is a multiple of both  $\frac{n}{p_i}$  and  $\frac{n}{p_j}$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , which implies that  $b_m \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . This is absurd. Hence  $d((p_i, 0), (p_j, 0)) \geq 3$ . Thus  $\text{diam}(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) = 3$  [2, Theorem 2.3].  $\square$

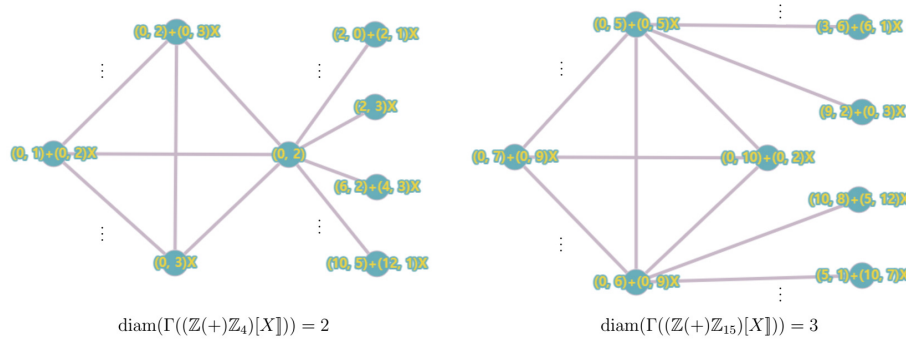


FIGURE 5. The diameter of some zero-divisor graphs

The girth of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  can be easily characterized as follows:

**Theorem 3.5.** *For any integer  $n \geq 2$ ,  $g(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) = 3$ .*

*Proof.* Fix an integer  $n \geq 2$ . Note that  $(0, 1) - (0, 1)X - (0, 1)X^2 - (0, 1)$  is a cycle of length 3 in  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ . Thus  $g(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) = 3$ .  $\square$

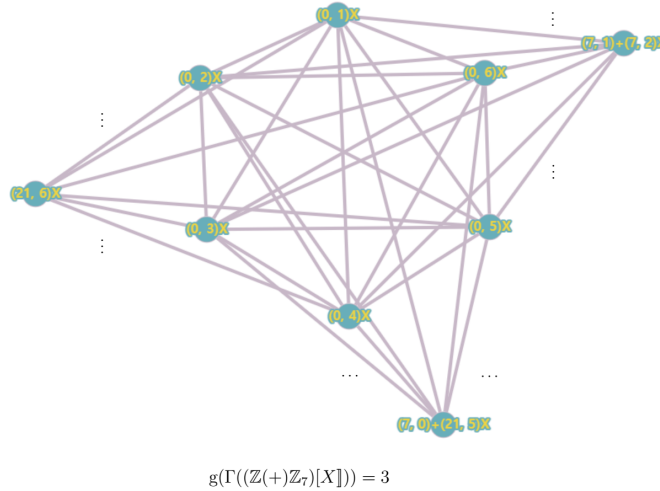


FIGURE 6. The girth of some zero-divisor graphs

**Lemma 3.6.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer and let  $C = C_n \cup \{(n, 0)\}$ . Then  $C$  is a maximal clique of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ .*

*Proof.* Note that any two distinct elements of  $C$  are adjacent; so  $C$  is a clique of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ . Suppose to the contrary that there exists an element  $f = \sum_{m \geq 0} (a_m, b_m)X^m \in Z((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[X]) \setminus C$  such that  $f$  is adjacent to all elements in  $C$ . Then  $(n, 0)f = (0, 0)$ ; so  $a_m = 0$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . Hence  $f = \sum_{m \geq 0} (0, b_m)X^m \in C$ . This is a contradiction to the choice of  $f$ . Thus  $C$  is a maximal clique of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.7.** *For an integer  $n \geq 2$ , the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $\chi(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) = \aleph_0$ .
- (2)  $\chi(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[[X]])) = c$ .

*Proof.* (1) Let  $C$  be a maximal clique of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  as in Lemma 3.6. Then by Remark 3.3(1) and Lemma 3.6, the chromatic number of the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[X])$  by the set  $C$  is  $\aleph_0$ . Let  $\bar{n}$  be the color of  $(n, 0)$  and take any element  $f = \sum_{i=0}^m (a_i, b_i)X^i \in Z((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[X]) \setminus C$ . Then  $f \in D_n$  by the paragraph just after Lemma 3.2; so by Remark 3.3(2),  $f$  and  $(n, 0)$  are not adjacent. Hence we color  $f$  with  $\bar{n}$ . Thus  $\chi(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[X])) = \aleph_0$ .

(2) Let  $C$  be a maximal clique of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[[X]])$  as in Lemma 3.6. Then by Remark 3.3(1) and Lemma 3.6, the chromatic number of the induced subgraph of  $\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+) \mathbb{Z}_n)[[X]])$  by the set  $C$  is  $c$ . Let  $\bar{n}$  be the color of  $(n, 0)$  and choose

any element  $f = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (a_i, b_i)X^i \in \mathbb{Z}((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[[X]]) \setminus C$ . Then  $f \in D_n$  by the paragraph after Lemma 3.2; so by Remark 3.3(2),  $f$  and  $(n, 0)$  are not adjacent. Hence we color  $f$  with  $\bar{n}$ . Thus  $\chi(\Gamma((\mathbb{Z}(+)\mathbb{Z}_n)[[X]])) = c$ .  $\square$

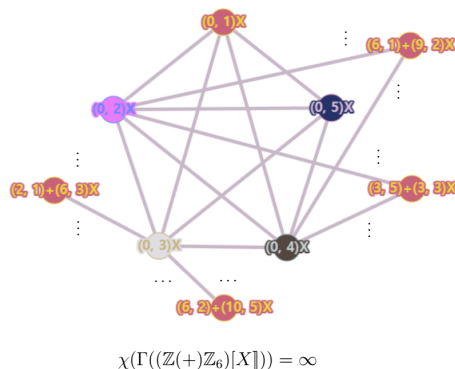


FIGURE 7. The coloring of some zero-divisor graphs

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