

# Harmonious Coloring of Middle Graph of Quadrilateral Snake Graphs

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**Abstract:** The harmonious coloring is the kind of proper vertex coloring in which each edge has different color pair and the smallest number of colors required for such coloring is called harmonious chromatic number and it is denoted by  $\chi_H(G)$ . In this article, we study about the harmonious coloring and obtain the harmonious chromatic number of the middle graph of quadrilateral and alternate quadrilateral snake graphs.

**Keywords:** harmonious coloring, harmonious chromatic number, middle graph, quadrilateral snake graphs and alternate quadrilateral snake graphs

## 1 Introduction

The harmonious coloring [6,7,9,18,19] is the kind of proper vertex coloring in which each edge of a graph  $G$  has different color pair that is no two edges share the same color pair. The harmonious chromatic number  $\chi_H(G)$ , is the smallest number of colors required for harmonious coloring. The middle graph of a given graph  $G$  is formed by subdividing each edge exactly once and connecting these newly obtained vertices of adjacent edges of  $G$ . A quadrilateral snake graph  $Q_n$  is obtained from a path  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  by joining  $u_i$  and  $u_{i+1}$  to new vertices  $v_i$  and  $w_i$  respectively and adding edges  $v_i w_i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$  such that every edge of a path is replaced by a cycle  $C_4$ . We take the following definitions from [1, 3,4,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17]: quadrilateral snake graph, double quadrilateral snake graph, triple quadrilateral snake graph, alternate quadrilateral snake graph, double alternate quadrilateral snake graph and triple alternate quadrilateral snake graph. In this paper we obtain the harmonious chromatic number of middle graph of these above mentioned snake graphs as well as  $k$ -quadrilateral snake graph (consist of  $k$  quadrilateral snake graphs with a common path) and  $k$ -alternate quadrilateral snake graph (consist of  $k$  alternate quadrilateral snake graphs alternatively with a common path). The harmonious coloring has variety of application in communication

networks like transportation networks, computer networks, airway network system, satellite navigation system, radio navigation system etc.

## 2 Definitions

**Definition 1.** A quadrilateral snake  $Q_n$  is obtained from a path  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  by joining  $u_i$  and  $u_{i+1}$  to new vertices  $v_i$  and  $w_i$  respectively and adding edges  $v_i w_i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$ . That is every edge of a path is replaced by a cycle  $C_4$ .

**Definition 2.** A double quadrilateral snake  $D(Q_n)$  consists of two quadrilateral snakes that have a common path. That is, a double quadrilateral snake is obtained from a path  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  by joining  $u_i$  and  $u_{i+1}$  to a new vertex  $v_i, x_i$  and  $w_i, y_i$  and then joining  $v_i$  and  $w_i, x_i$  and  $y_i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$ .

**Definition 3.** A triple quadrilateral snake  $T(Q_n)$  is obtained from a path  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  by joining  $u_i$  and  $u_{i+1}$  to a new vertex  $v_i, x_i, p_i$  and  $w_i, y_i, q_i$  and then joining  $v_i$  and  $w_i, x_i$  and  $y_i, p_i$  and  $q_i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$ .

**Definition 4.** A alternate quadrilateral snake  $AQ_n$  is obtained from a path  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  by joining  $u_i$  and  $u_{i+1}$  (alternatively) to new vertices  $v_i$  and  $w_i$  respectively and

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adding edges  $v_i w_i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$ . That is every alternate edge of a path is replaced by a cycle  $C_4$ .

**Definition 5.** A double alternate quadrilateral snake  $D(Q_n)$  is obtained from a path  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  by joining  $u_i$  and  $u_{i+1}$  (alternatively) to new vertices  $v_i, x_i$  and  $w_i, y_i$  respectively and then joining  $v_i$  and  $w_i, x_i$  and  $y_i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$ .

**Definition 6.** A triple alternate quadrilateral snake  $T(Q_n)$  is obtained from a path  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  by joining  $u_i$  and  $u_{i+1}$  (alternatively) to new vertices  $v_i, x_i, p_i$  and  $w_i, y_i, q_i$  respectively and then joining  $v_i$  and  $w_i, x_i$  and  $y_i, p_i$  and  $q_i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$ .

Throughout the paper we consider  $n$  as the number of vertices of the path  $P_n$ .

### 3 Harmonious Chromatic Number of $M(Q_n)$ , $M(DQ_n)$ , $M(TQ_n)$ and $M(kQ_n)$

**Theorem 3.1.** For the middle graph of quadrilateral snake graph  $Q_n$ , the harmonious chromatic number,  $\chi_H(M(Q_n)) = 5n - 2, n \geq 2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $Q_n$  as the quadrilateral snake graph and  $P_n$  as the path graph with  $n$  vertices  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$ . For obtaining middle graph, we subdivide each edge  $u_i u_{i+1}$  of  $Q_n$  by the vertices  $e_i, e'_i, e''_i$  and  $e'''_i$   $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$  of  $Q_n$  in the middle graph of  $Q_n$ , therefore  $V(M(Q_n)) = \{u_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup \{v_i, w_i, x_i, y_i, e_i, e'_i, e''_i, e'''_i : 1 \leq i \leq n-1\}$ . Now coloring the vertices of  $M(Q_n)$  as follows: define  $c : V(M(Q_n)) \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 5n-2\}$  where  $n \geq 2$  by  $c(e_i) = 2i-1$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$ ,  $c(e'''_i) = 2i$ ,  $c(e'_i) = 2n-2+i$ ,  $c(e_i) = 3n-3+i$ ,  $c(v_i) = 4n-3$ ,  $c(w_i) = 4n-2$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$  and  $c(u_i) = 4n-2+i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n)$ . **Claim 1:**  $c$  is proper; from above each

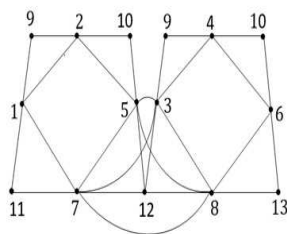


Fig. 1:  $M(Q_3)$  with harmonious coloring,  $\chi_H(M(Q_3)) = 13$ .

$c(e_i), c(e'_i), c(e''_i), c(e'''_i)$  and its neighbors are assigned by different colors that is  $c(e_i) \neq c(e'_i) \neq c(e''_i) \neq c(e'''_i)$ , although  $c(v_i) = c(v_{i+1})$  and  $c(w_i) = c(w_{i+1})$ , but these vertices are at least at a distance 2. Therefore, it is proper. **Claim 2:**  $c$  is harmonious; it is obvious that no two edges

share the same color pair and the same colored vertices are at least at a distance 3. Therefore, it is harmonious.

**Claim 3:**  $c$  is minimum; all the vertices are colored by  $5n-2$  colors, if we repeat (assign) any color on any vertex from these  $5n-2$  colors, color pairs will be repeated which leads to contradict the harmonious coloring, therefore it is minimum. Hence  $\chi_H(M(Q_n)) = 5n-2$ . Fig. 1 shows the middle graph of  $Q_n$  with harmonious coloring.

**Theorem 3.2.** For the middle graph of double quadrilateral snake graph  $DQ_n$ , the harmonious chromatic number,  $\chi_H(M(DQ_n)) = 8n-5, n \geq 2$

**Proof.** Let  $TQ_n$  as the double quadrilateral snake graph and  $P_n$  as the path graph with  $n$  vertices  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$ . Now we obtain the middle graph as discussed in Theorem 1, therefore  $V(M(DQ_n)) = \{u_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup \{v_i, w_i, x_i, y_i, e'_i, e''_i, e_i, l'_i, l''_i, m'_i, m''_i : 1 \leq i \leq n-1\}$ . Now coloring the vertices of  $M(DQ_n)$  as follows: define  $c : V(M(DQ_n)) \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 8n-5\}$  where  $n \geq 2$  by  $c(l'_i) = 2i-1$ ,  $c(l''_i) = 2i$ ,  $c(m'_i) = 2n-3+2i$ ,  $c(m''_i) = 2n-2+2i$ ,  $c(e_i) = 4n-4+i$ ,  $c(e'_i) = 5n-5+i$ ,  $c(e''_i) = 6n-6+i$ ,  $c(v_i) = 7n-6 = c(x_i), c(w_i) = 7n-5 = c(y_i)$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$  and  $c(u_i) = 7n-5+i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n)$ . To prove  $c$  is harmonious and minimum, it can be proved as described in Theorem 3.1. Fig. 2 shows the harmonious coloring for  $M(DQ_3)$ .

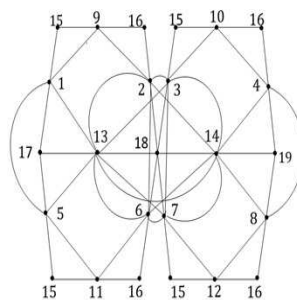


Fig. 2:  $M(DQ_3)$  with harmonious coloring,  $\chi_H(M(DQ_3)) = 19$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** For the middle graph of triple quadrilateral snake graph  $TQ_n$ , the harmonious chromatic number,  $\chi_H(M(TQ_n)) = 11n-8, n \geq 2$ .

**Proof.** Let  $TQ_n$  as the triple quadrilateral snake graph and  $P_n$  as the path graph with  $n$  vertices  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$ . Now we obtain the middle graph as discussed in Theorem 1, therefore  $V(M(TQ_n)) = \{u_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup \{v_i, w_i, x_i, y_i, p_i, q_i, e_i, e'_i, e''_i, e'''_i, l'_i, l''_i, m'_i, m''_i, z'_i, z''_i : 1 \leq i \leq n-1\}$ . Now coloring the vertices of  $M(TQ_n)$  as follows: define  $c : V(M(TQ_n)) \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 11n-8\}$  where  $n \geq 2$  by  $c(l'_i) = 2i-1$ ,  $c(l''_i) = 2i$ ,  $c(m'_i) = 2n+2i-3$ ,  $c(m''_i) = 2n-2+2i$ ,  $c(z'_i) = 4n+2i-5$ ,  $c(z''_i) = 4n-4+2i$ ,

$c(e_i) = 6n - 6 + i$ ,  $c(e'_i) = 7n - 7 + i$ ,  $c(e''_i) = 8n - 8 + i$ ,  $c(e'''_i) = 9n - 9 + i$ ,  $c(v_i) = c(x_i) = c(p_i) = 10n - 9$ ,  $c(w_i) = c(y_i) = c(q_i) = 10n - 8$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$  and  $c(u_i) = 10n - 8 + i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n)$ . To prove  $c$  is harmonious and minimum, it can be proved as described in Theorem 1. Fig. 3 shows the harmonious coloring for  $M(TQ_3)$ .

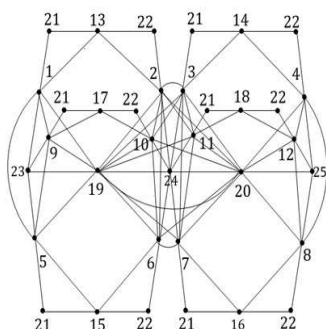


Fig. 3:  $M(TQ_3)$  with harmonious coloring,  $\chi_H(M(TQ_3)) = 25$ .

#### 4 Harmonious Chromatic Number of Middle Graph of $k$ -Quadrilateral Snake Graph

**Theorem 4.1.** For the middle graph of  $k$ -quadrilateral snake graph  $kQ_n$ , the harmonious chromatic number,  $\chi_H(M(kQ_n)) = (3k+2)n - (3k-1)$ ,  $n \geq 2$ .

**Proof.** From theorems 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, it is easy to conclude that the harmonious chromatic number of middle graph of  $k$ -quadrilateral snake graph is  $(3k+2)n - (3k-1)$ .

#### 5 Harmonious Chromatic Number of $M(AQ_n)$ , $M(DAQ_n)$ , $M(TAQ_n)$ and $M(kAQ_n)$

**Theorem 5.1.** For middle graph of alternate quadrilateral snake graph  $AQ_n$ , the harmonious chromatic number,  $\chi_H(M(AQ_n)) = \frac{7n}{2} + 1$ ,  $n$  is even and  $\geq 4$ .

**Proof.** Let  $AQ_n$  as the alternate quadrilateral snake graph and  $P_n$  as the path graph with  $n$  vertices  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$ . Now we obtain the middle graph as discussed in Theorem 1, therefore  $V(M(AQ_n)) = \{u_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup \{v_i, w_i, x_i, y_i, e'_i, e''_i, l'_i, l''_i, m'_i, m''_i : (1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2})\} \cup \{e_i : (1 \leq i \leq n-1)\}$ . Now coloring the vertices of  $M(AQ_n)$  as follows: define  $c : V(M(AQ_n)) \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, \dots, \frac{7n}{2} + 1\}$  where  $n \geq 4$  by  $c(l'_i) = 2i - 1$ ,  $c(l''_i) = 2i$ ,  $c(e_i) = \frac{3n}{2} + i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$ ,  $c(u_i) = \frac{5n}{2} - 1 + i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n)$ ,  $c(e'_i) = n + i$ ,  $c(v_i) = \frac{7n}{2}$ ,  $c(w_i) = \frac{7n}{2} + 1$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2})$ . To prove  $c$  is harmonious and minimum, proceed theorem

3.1. Fig. 4 shows the middle graph of  $AQ_n$  with harmonious coloring.

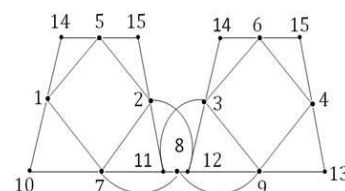


Fig. 4:  $M(AQ_4)$  with harmonious coloring,  $\chi_H(M(AQ_4)) = 15$ .

**Theorem 5.2.** For the middle graph of double alternate quadrilateral snake graph  $D(AQ_n)$ , the harmonious chromatic number,  $\chi_H M(D(AQ_n)) = 5n + 1$ ,  $n$  is even and  $\geq 4$ .

**Proof.** Let  $D(AQ_n)$  as the double alternate quadrilateral snake graph and  $P_n$  as the path graph with  $n$  vertices  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$ . Now we obtain the middle graph as discussed in Theorem 1, therefore  $V(M(D(AQ_n))) = \{u_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup \{v_i, w_i, x_i, y_i, e'_i, e''_i, l'_i, l''_i, m'_i, m''_i : (1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2})\} \cup \{e_i : (1 \leq i \leq n-1)\}$ . Now coloring the vertices of  $M(D(AQ_n))$  as follows: define  $c : V(M(D(AQ_n))) \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 5n + 1\}$  where  $n \geq 4$  by  $c(l'_i) = 2i - 1$ ,  $c(l''_i) = 2i$ ,  $c(m'_i) = n + 2i - 1$ ,  $c(m''_i) = n + 2i$ ,  $c(e'_i) = 4n - 1 + i$ ,  $c(e''_i) = \frac{9n}{2} - 1 + i$ ,  $c(v_i) = c(x_i) = 5n$ ,  $c(w_i) = c(y_i) = 5n + 1$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2})$ ,  $c(e_i) = 2n + i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n-1)$  and  $c(u_i) = 3n - 1 + i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n)$ . To prove  $c$  is harmonious and minimum, proceed Theorem 3.1. Fig. 5 shows the middle graph of  $D(AQ_4)$  with harmonious coloring.

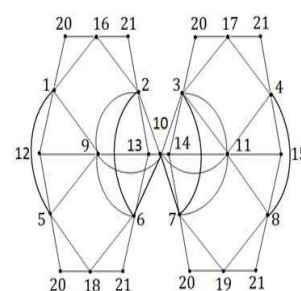
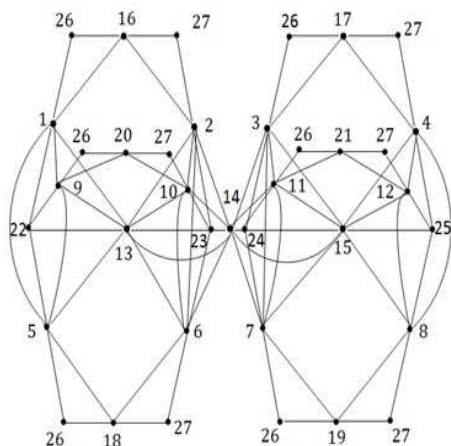


Fig. 5:  $M(DAQ_4)$  with harmonious coloring,  $\chi_H(M(DAQ_4)) = 21$ .

**Theorem 5.3.** For the middle graph of triple alternate quadrilateral snake graph  $T(AQ_n)$ , the harmonious chromatic number,  $\chi_H(M(T(AQ_n))) = \frac{13n}{2} + 1$ ,  $n$  is even and  $\geq 4$ .

**Proof.** Let  $T(AQ_n)$  as the triple alternate quadrilateral snake graph and  $P_n$  as the path graph with  $n$  vertices

$u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$ . Now we obtain the middle graph as discussed in Theorem 3.1, therefore  $V(M(T(AQ_n))) = \{u_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup \{v_i, w_i, x_i, y_i, p_i, q_i, e_i, e'_i, e''_i, e'''_i, l_i, l'_i, l''_i, m_i, m'_i, m''_i : (1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2})\}$ . Now coloring the vertices of  $M(T(AQ_n))$  as follows: define  $c : V(M(T(AQ_n))) \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, \dots, \frac{13n}{2} + 1\}$  where  $n \geq 4$  by  $c(l'_i) = 2i - 1$ ,  $c(l''_i) = 2i$ ,  $c(m'_i) = n + 2i - 1$ ,  $c(m''_i) = n + 2i$ ,  $c(l_i) = 2n + 2i - 1$ ,  $c(m_i) = 2n + 2i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2})$ .  $c(e'_i) = 3n + i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n - 1)$ ,  $c(e''_i) = 4n + i - 1$ ,  $c(e_i) = \frac{9n}{2} - 1 + i$ ,  $c(e'_i) = 5n - 1 + i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2})$ .  $c(u_i) = \frac{11n}{2} - 1 + i$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq n)$  and  $c(v_i) = c(x_i) = c(p_i) = \frac{13n}{2}$ ,  $c(w_i) = c(y_i) = c(q_i) = \frac{13n}{2} + 1$  for  $(1 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2})$ . To prove  $c$  is harmonious and minimum, it can be proved as described in Theorem 3.1. Fig. 6 shows the middle graph of  $T(AQ_4)$  with harmonious coloring.



**Fig. 6:**  $M(T(AQ_4))$  with harmonious coloring,  $\chi_H(M(T(AQ_4))) = 27$ .

## 6 Harmonious Chromatic Number of Middle Graph of $k$ -Alternate Quadrilateral Snake Graph

**Theorem 6.1.** For the middle graph of  $k$ -alternate quadrilateral snake graph  $kAQ_n$ , the harmonious chromatic number,  $\chi_H(M(kAQ_n)) = (\frac{3k}{2} + 2)n + 1$ ,  $n \geq 4$ . **Proof.** From theorems 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 it is easy to conclude that the harmonious chromatic number of middle graph of  $k$ -quadrilateral snake graph is  $(\frac{3k}{2} + 2)n + 1$ .

## 7 Conclusion

In this paper we obtained the harmonious chromatic number of the middle graph of quadrilateral and alternate

quadrilateral snake graphs, that is  $\chi_H M(Q_n) = 5n - 4$ ,  $\chi_H M(DQ_n) = 8n - 7$ ,  $\chi_H M(TQ_n) = 11n - 10$ ,  $\chi_H M(kQ_n) = (3k + 2)n - (3k + 1)$ ,  $\chi_H M(AQ_n) = \frac{7n}{2} - 1$ ,  $\chi_H M(D(AQ_n)) = 5n - 1$ ,  $\chi_H M(T(AQ_n)) = \frac{13n}{2} - 1$ .  $\chi_H M(T(AQ_n)) = (\frac{3k}{2} + 2)n - 1$ .

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