

## Covering Polynomial of $K_{1,n} \times P_2$

*Helen Sheeba M*

Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Pioneer Kumarasamy College, Nagercoil.

(Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli)

Mail: [hsheeba67@gmail.com](mailto:hsheeba67@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT:

The vertex cover polynomial of a graph  $G$  of order  $n$  has been already introduced in [3].

It is defined as the polynomial,  $C(G, x) = \sum_{i=\beta(G)}^{|V(G)|} c(G, i)x^i$ , where

$C(G, i)$  is the number of vertex covering sets of  $G$  of size  $i$  and  $\beta(G)$  is the covering number of  $G$ . In this paper we have established a general formula for finding the vertex Cover Polynomial to the product of  $P_2$  with the complete graph  $K_n$  (ie  $G = K_{1,n} \times P_2$ ). The coefficient of the polynomial satisfies some identities. Also we have proved that the coefficient of the vertex cover, polynomial  $C(G, x)$  is log-Concave.

**Key words:** Vertex covering set, Vertex covering number, Vertex cover polynomial.

### Introduction: 1

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a simple graph. For any vertex  $v \in V$ , the open neighborhood of  $v \in V$  is the set  $N(v) = \{u \in V / uv \in E\}$  and the closed neighbourhood of  $v$  is the set  $N[v] = N(v) \cup \{v\}$ . For a set  $S \subset V$ , the open neighbourhood of  $S$  is  $N(S) = \bigcup_{v \in S} N(v)$  and the closed

neighbourhood of  $S$  is  $N[S] = N(S) \cup S$ . A set  $S \subset V$  is a vertex covering of  $G$  if every edge  $uv \in E$  is adjacent to at least one vertex in  $S$ . The vertex covering number  $\beta(G)$  is the minimum cardinality of the vertex covering sets in  $G$ . A vertex covering set with cardinality  $\beta(G)$  is called a  $\beta$ - set. let  $c(G, i)$  be the family of vertex covering sets of  $G$  with cardinality  $i$  and let  $C(G, i) = |C(G, i)|$ , the polynomial,  $C(G, x) = \sum_{i=\beta(G)}^{|V(G)|} c(G, i)x^i$  is defined as

the vertex cover polynomial of  $G$ . In [3], many properties of the vertex cover polynomials have been studied.

### Definition: 1.1

A graph  $G$  is an ordered triple  $(V(G), E(G), \psi_G)$  consisting of a nonempty set  $V(G)$  of vertices, a set  $E(G)$ , disjoint from  $V(G)$ , of edges, and an incidence function  $\psi_G$  that associates with each edge of  $G$  an unordered pair of (not necessarily distinct) vertices of  $G$ .

If  $e$  is an edge and  $u$  and  $v$  are vertices such that  $\psi_G(e) = uv$ , then  $e$  is said to join  $u$  and  $v$ ; the vertices  $u$  and  $v$  are called the end of  $e$ .

**Definition: 1.2**

The degree of a vertex  $v$  in  $G$  is the number of edges incident on it.

A graph  $G$  is said to be  $k$ -regular if all its vertices are of degree  $k$ .

Every pair of its vertices are adjacent in  $G$ , is said to be complete, the complete graph on 'n' vertices is denoted by  $K_n$ .

**Definition: 1.3**

Let  $C(G, i)$  be the family of all vertex covering sets of  $G$  with cardinality  $i$  and let

$c(G, i) = |C(G, i)|$ . The vertex cover polynomial of  $G$  is defined as

$$C(G, x) = \sum_{i=\beta(G)}^{|\nu(G)|} c(G, i) x^i.$$

**Theorem: 1**

Let  $G = K_{1,n} \times P_2$  be any graph of order  $2(n + 1)$ , then

$$C(G, x) = \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n+1-j} \{(n + 1)C_i\} \{n - (i - 1)\}C_j \right] x^{n+1+j}$$

Proof:

Given  $K_{1,n}$  be any complete bipartite graph of order  $(1, n)$  and  $P_2$  is a complete graph of order 2. Let  $G = K_{1,n} \times P_2$  then

$$V(G) = \{u_i, v_i / 0 \leq i \leq n\} \text{ with } d(u_0) = d(v_0) = n + 1$$

$$\text{and } d(u_i) = d(v_i) = 2 \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq n.$$

$$\text{Clearly } N(u_0) = \{v_0, u_i / 1 \leq i \leq n\}; N(v_0) = \{u_0, v_i / 1 \leq i \leq n\};$$

$$N(u_i) = \{u_0, v_i\} \text{ and } N(v_i) = \{v_0, u_i\} \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq n$$

Choose  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are the sub sets of  $V(G)$  Such that

$$S_1 = \{u_i / 0 \leq i \leq n\} \text{ and } S_2 = \{v_i / 0 \leq i \leq n\}$$

Since every  $u_i v_i \in E(G)$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$  either  $u_i$  or  $v_i \in V(G)$  is an element in any covering set of  $G$ . In similar  $u_0 v_0 \in E(G)$ . Hence either  $u_0$  or  $v_0$  belongs to all covering set of  $G$ . Therefore, the covering sets with minimum cardinality of  $G$  is  $n + 1$ .

That is

$$C(G, n + 1) = \{ S_1; \{S_1 - \{u_i\} \cup \{v_i\} / 0 \leq i \leq n\}; \{S_1 - \{u_i, u_j\} \cup \{v_i, v_j\} / 0 \leq i, j \leq n \text{ and } i \neq j\};$$

$$\{S_1 - \{u_i, u_j, u_k\} \cup \{v_i, v_j, v_k\} / 0 \leq i, j, k \text{ and } i \neq j \neq k\}; \dots;$$

$$\{S_2 - \{v_i, v_j, v_k\} \cup \{u_i, u_j, u_k\} / 0 \leq i, j, k \text{ and } i \neq j \neq k\};$$

$$\{S_2 - \{v_i, v_j\} \cup \{u_i, u_j\} / 0 \leq i, j \leq n \text{ and } i \neq j\}; ; \{S_2 - \{v_i\} \cup \{u_i\} / 0 \leq i \leq n\}; S_2\}$$

$$|S_1| = |S_2| = n + 1$$

Clearly,  $|S_1 - \{u_i\} \cup \{v_i\} / 0 \leq i \leq n| = (n + 1)$

$$|S_1 - \{u_i, u_j\} \cup \{v_i, v_j\} / 0 \leq i, j \leq n| = (n + 1)C_2$$

$$|S_1 - \{u_i, u_j, u_k\} \cup \{v_i, v_j, v_k\} / 0 \leq i \leq n| = (n + 1)C_3$$

.....

In similar,

$$|S_2 - \{v_i\} \cup \{u_i\} / 0 \leq i \leq n| = (n + 1)C_n \text{ and}$$

$$|S_2| = (n + 1)C_{n+1}$$

Hence,  $c(G, n + 1)$

$$= 1 + (n + 1)C_1 + (n + 1)C_2 + \dots + (n + 1)C_n$$

Therefore,  $c(G, n + 1) = 2^{n+1}$

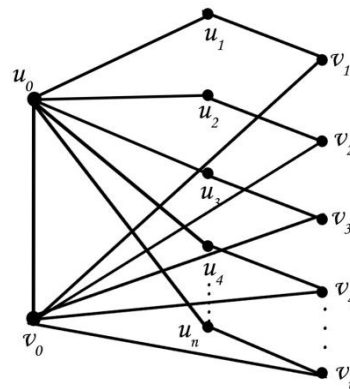


Figure:1

Covering sets with cardinality  $n + 2$  are

$$C(G, n + 2) =$$

$\{\text{elements of } S_1 \text{ with any one elements of } S_2\}; \{S_1 - \{u_i\} \cup \{v_i, v_j\} / 0 \leq i, j \leq n \text{ and } i \neq j\}$

$\left\{ \text{removal of any two elements } (u_i, u_j) \text{ from } S_1 \text{ and the corresponding pair } (v_i, v_j) \right.$   
 $\left. \text{together with another elements } v_k \in S_2 / 0 \leq i, j, k \leq n \text{ and } i \neq j \neq k \right\}$

$\{S_1 - \{\text{any three elements } u_i, u_j, u_k\} \cup \{v_i, v_j, v_k, v_l\} / 0 \leq i, j, k, l \leq n \text{ and } i \neq j \neq k \neq l\};$

.....

$\{S_2 - \{v_i\} \cup \{u_i, u_j\} / 0 \leq i, j, \leq n \text{ and } i \neq j\}; \{S_2 \cup \{u_i\} / 0 \leq i \leq n\}; \}$

Hence, the number of covering sets of  $G$  with cardinality  $n + 2$  is

$$|C(G, n + 2)| = \{(n + 1)C_0\}\{(n + 1)C_1\} + \{(n + 1)C_1\}\{nC_1\} + \{(n + 1)C_2\}\{(n - 1)C_1\} \\ + \{(n + 1)C_3\}\{(n - 2)C_2\} \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \{(n + 1)C_{n-1}\}\{[n - (n - 2)]C_1\} \\ + \{(n + 1)C_n\}\{[n - (n - 1)]C_1\}$$

$$\Rightarrow |C(G, n + 2)| = \sum_{i=0}^n \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_1$$

Covering sets of  $G$  with cardinality  $n + 3$  are

$$C(G, n + 3) = \{ \text{elements of } S_1 \text{ with any two elements of } S_2; \\ \{S_1 - \{u_i\} \cup \{v_i, v_j, v_k\} / 0 \leq i, j, k \leq n \text{ and } v_i, v_j, v_k \text{ are distinct}\} \\ \{S_1 - \{u_i, u_j\} \cup \{v_i, v_j, v_k, v_l\} / 0 \leq i, j, k, l \leq n \text{ and } i \neq j \neq k \neq l\} \}$$

In similar,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{removal of any three elements from } S_1 \text{ with the corresponding three elements of } S_2 \text{ and} \\ \text{any two more elements among the remaining } (n - 2) \text{ elements of } S_2 \text{ which are} \\ \text{not already selected} \end{array} \right\};$$

$$\dots ; \quad \{S_2 - \{v_i, v_j\} \cup \{u_i, u_j, u_k, u_l\} / 0 \leq i, j, k, l \leq n \text{ and } i \neq j \neq k \neq l\};$$

$$\{S_2 - \{v_i\} \cup \{u_i, u_j, u_k\} / 0 \leq i, j, k \leq n \text{ and } i \neq j \neq k\}; \{S_2 \cup \{u_i\} / 0 \leq i \leq n\}$$

Therefore,

$$c(G, n + 3) = \{(n + 1)C_0\}\{(n + 1)C_2\} + \{(n + 1)C_1\}nC_2 + \{(n + 1)C_2\}(n - 1)C_2 \\ + \{(n + 1)C_3\}\{(n - 2)C_2\} + \dots + \{(n + 1)C_{n-2}\} \cdot \{n - (n - 3)\}C_2 \\ + \{(n + 1)C_{n-2}\}\{n - (n - 2)\}C_2$$

$$\text{Hence, } c(G, n + 3) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_2$$

$$\text{In similar, } C(G, n + 4) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_3$$

Proceeding this way covering sets with cardinality  $2n$  are

$$C(G, 2n) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{The elements of } S_1 \text{ with any } (n - 1) \text{ elements of } S_2; \{S_1 - \{u_i\} \\ \cup \{v_i\} \text{ with any } (n - 1) \text{ elements of } S_2 \text{ other than } \{v_i\}\}; \{S_1 - \{u_i, u_j\} \\ \cup S_2 \} \end{array} \right\}$$

Therefore,

$$c(G, 2n) = \{(n + 1)C_0\}\{(n + 1)C_{n-1}\} + \{(n + 1)C_1\}\{nC_{n-1}\} + \{(n + 1)C_2\}\{(n - 1)C_{n-1}\}$$

That is  $c(G, 2n) = \sum_{i=0}^2 \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_{n-1}$

Covering sets with cardinality  $2n + 1$  are the elements of  $V(G)$  except any one element

That is  $C(G, 2n + 1) = \{S_1 \cup S_2 - \{u_i\} / 0 \leq i \leq n\}; \{S_1 \cup S_2 - \{v_i\} / 0 \leq i \leq n\}$

That is  $c(G, 2n + 1) = (n + 1)C_1 + (n + 1)C_1$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^1 \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_n$$

Finally the only covering set of  $G$  with cardinality of  $2n + 2$  in the elements of  $V(G)$

ie  $C(G, 2n + 2) = S_1 \cup S_2 \Rightarrow C(G, 2n + 2) = 1$

Hence, the covering set polynomial of  $G$  is

$$\begin{aligned} C(G, x) = & \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_0 \right] x^{n+1} + \\ & \left[ \sum_{i=0}^n \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_1 \right] x^{n+2} + \\ & \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_2 \right] x^{n+3} + \\ & \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_3 \right] x^{n+4} + \\ & \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n-(n-2)} \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_{n-1} \right] x^{2n} + \\ & \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n-(n-1)} \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_n \right] x^{2n+1} + \\ & \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n-n} \{(n + 1)C_i\}\{n - (i - 1)\}C_{n+1} \right] x^{2n} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$C(G, x) = \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n+1-j} \{(n+1)C_i\}\{n-(i-1)\}C_j \right] x^{n+1+j}$$

Hence the Proof.

**Theorem: 2**

The coefficient of the cover polynomial of the graph  $G = K_{1,n} \times P_2$  satisfies the property of log-concave.

Proof:

By theorem:1

$$C(G, x) = \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{n+i-j} \{(n+1)C_i\}\{n-(i-1)\}C_j \right] x^{n+1-j}$$

Hence,

$$a_0 = \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \{(n+1)C_i\}\{(n-(i-1))C_0\}; \quad a_1 = \sum_{i=0}^n \{(n+1)C_i\}\{(n-(i-1))C_1\}$$

$$a_2 = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \{(n+1)C_i\}\{(n-(i-1))C_2\}; \quad a_3 = \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \{(n+1)C_i\}\{(n-(i-1))C_3\}$$

.....

$$a_{n-1} = \sum_{i=0}^2 \{(n+1)C_i\}\{(n-(i-1))C_{n-1}\}; \quad a_n = \sum_{i=0}^1 \{(n+1)C_i\}\{(n-(i-1))C_n\}$$

$$a_{n+1} = \sum_{i=0}^0 \{(n+1)C_i\}\{(n-(i-1))C_{n+1}\}$$

Clearly, every  $a_i^2 \geq a_{i-1} \cdot a_{i+1}$  for all  $0 < i < n$ . Hence, coefficient of  $C(G, x)$  satisfies the property of log-concave.

Results:

$C(G, x)$  is a covering polynomial of  $G$  where

$G = K_{1,n} \times P_2$  then

$$(i) c(G, n+1) = 2^{n+1}$$

(ii)  $c(G, 2n + 2) = C(G, 2n) + 2[C(G, 2n + 1)]$

(iii)  $c(G, 2n) = 2n(n + 1)$

(iv)  $c(G, 2n + 1) = 2n + 2.$

The coefficient of the covering polynomial of  $G = K_{1,n} \times P_2$  where  $3 \leq n \leq 8$  is given as below.

G	$c(G, 4)$	$c(G, 5)$	$c(G, 6)$	$c(G, 7)$	$c(G, 8)$	$c(G, 9)$	$c(G, 10)$	$c(G, 11)$	$c(G, 12)$	$c(G, 13)$	$c(G, 14)$	$c(G, 15)$	$c(G, 16)$	$c(G, 17)$	$c(G, 18)$
$K_{1,3} \times P_2$	16	32	24	8	1										
$K_{1,4} \times P_2$		32	80	80	40	10	1								
$K_{1,5} \times P_2$			64	192	246	160	60	12	1						
$K_{1,6} \times P_2$				128	448	672	560	280	84	14	1				
$K_{1,7} \times P_2$					256	1024	1792	1792	1120	448	112	16	1		
$K_{1,8} \times P_2$						512	2304	5608	5376	4032	2013	672	144	18	1

**References:**

[1] Alikhani. S and Peng. Y.H. *Introduction to Domination Polynomial of a Graph.*  
Ar.Xiv : 09052241 v1 [math.co] 14 May 2009.

[2] Alikhani. S and Peng. Y.H. *Domination Sets and Domination polynomials of cycles.* *Global Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2008.

[3] Dong. F.M, Hendy M.D, Teo K.L. Little. C.H.C. *The vertex – cover polynomial of a graph,* *Discrete Mathematics* 250 (2002) 71 – 78.

[4] Douglas B. West, *Introduction to Graph Theory.*

[5] Frucht. R and Harary. F, *Corona of two graphs, A equations.*  
*Math.4 (1970) 322-324.*

[6] Gary Chartrand and Ping Zhang ; *Introduction to Graph Theory.*

[7] A. Vijayan , B. Stephen John, "On Vertex-Cover Polynomials on some standard Graphs" *Global Journal of Mathematical Sciences: Theory and Practical's*, 2012, ISSN No. 0974 – 3200, Volume 4, Number 2, pp 177-193.

[8] A. Vijayan , B. Stephen John "On the Coefficient of Vertex-Cover Polynomials of

*Paths” International Journal of Mathematical Sciences and Applications, 2012, ISSN*

*No. 2230 – 9888, Volume 2, Number 2, pp 509-516.*

- [9] A. Vijayan , B. Stephen John “ *On the Coefficients of Vertex-Cover Polynomials of Cycles“Advantages and Applications in Discrete Mathematics, 2012, Volume 10, Number 1, 2012, pp 23-38.*