

## Square graceful graphs

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### Abstract

A  $(p, q)$  graph  $G(V, E)$  is said to be a square graceful graph if there exists an injection  $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, q^2\}$  such that the induced mapping  $f_p : E(G) \rightarrow \{1, 4, 9, \dots, q^2\}$  defined by  $f_p(uv) = |f(u) - f(v)|$  is a bijection. The function  $f$  is called a square labeling of  $G$ . In this paper, we prove that the star  $K_{1,n}$ , bistar  $B_{m,n}$ , the graph obtained by the subdivision of the edges of the star  $K_{1,n}$ , the graph obtained by the subdivision of the central edge of the bistar  $B_{m,n}$ , the generalised crown  $C_3 \Theta K_{1,n}$ , graph  $P_m \Theta nK_1$  ( $n \geq 2$ ), the comb  $P_n \Theta K_1$ , graph  $(P_m, S_n)$ ,  $(3, t)$  kite graph ( $t \geq 2$ ) and the path  $P_n$  are square graceful graphs.

**Keywords:** Square graceful graph, square graceful labeling.

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## 1 Introduction

Throughout this paper, by a graph we mean a finite, undirected, simple graph  $G(V, E)$  with  $p$  vertices and  $q$  edges. A detailed survey of graph labeling can be found in [2]. There are different types of graceful labelings like odd graceful labeling, even graceful labeling and skolem - graceful labeling to various classes of graphs. In this paper, we introduce a new graceful labeling called square graceful labeling. We use the following definitions in the subsequent section.

**Definition 1.1.** A  $(p, q)$  graph  $G(V, E)$  is said to be a square graceful graph if there exists an injection  $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, q^2\}$  such that the induced mapping  $f_p : E(G) \rightarrow \{1, 4, 9, \dots, q^2\}$  defined by  $f_p(uv) = |f(u) - f(v)|$  is a bijection. The function  $f$  is called a square labeling of  $G$ .

**Definition 1.2.**[5] The corona  $G_1 \odot G_2$  of two graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is defined as the graph  $G$  obtained by taking one copy of  $G_1$ (which has  $p$  vertices) and  $p$  copies of  $G_2$  and then joining the  $i^{\text{th}}$  vertex of  $G_1$  to every vertex in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $G_2$ .

**Definition 1.3.** [5] A complete bipartite graph  $K_{1,n}$  is called a star and it has  $n+1$  vertices and  $n$  edges.

**Definition 1.4.** [5] The bistar graph  $B_{m,n}$  is the graph obtained from a copy of star  $K_{1,m}$  and a copy of star  $K_{1,n}$  by joining the vertices of maximum degree by an edge.

**Definition 1.5.** [3] The graph  $(P_m, S_n)$  is obtained from  $m$  copies of the star graph  $S_n$  and the path  $P_m : \{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$  by joining  $u_j$  with the center of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $S_n$  by means of an edge, for  $1 \leq j \leq m$ .

**Definition 1.6.** [1] A subdivision of a graph  $G$  is a graph that can be obtained from  $G$  by a sequence of edge subdivisions.

**Definition 1.7.** [4] An  $(n, t)$ -kite graph ,consists of a cycle of length  $n$  with a  $t$ -edge path (the tail) attached to one vertex.

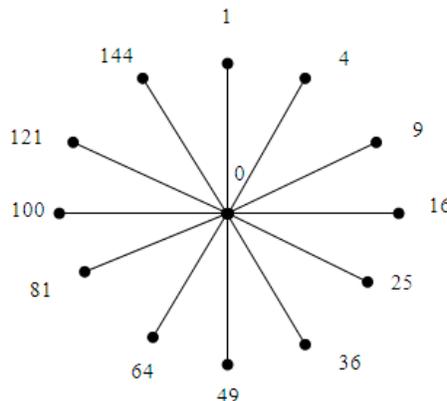
In this paper, we prove that the star  $K_{1,n}$ , bistar  $B_{m,n}$ , the graph obtained by the subdivision of the edges of the star  $K_{1,n}$ , the graph obtained by the subdivision of the central edge of the bistar  $B_{m,n}$ , the generalised crown  $C_3 \odot K_{1,n}$ , graph  $P_m \odot nK_1$  ( $n \geq 2$ ), the comb  $P_n \odot K_1$ , graph  $(P_m, S_n)$ ,  $(3, t)$  kite graph ( $t \geq 2$ ) and the path  $P_n$  are square graceful graphs.

## 2 Main Results

**Theorem 2.1.** The star  $K_{1,n}$  is square graceful for all  $n$ .

**Proof:** Let  $V(K_{1,n}) = \{u_i / 1 \leq i \leq n+1\}$ . Let  $E(K_{1,n}) = \{u_{n+1}u_i / 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ . Define an injection  $f : V(K_{1,n}) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, n^2\}$  by  $f(u_i) = i^2$  if  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and  $f(u_{n+1}) = 0$ . Then  $f$  induces a bijection  $f_p : E(K_{1,n}) \rightarrow \{1, 4, 9, \dots, n^2\}$ .

**Example 2.2.** A square graceful labeling of star  $K_{1,12}$  is shown in Figure 1.

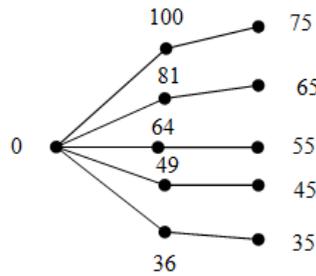


**Figure 1:** A square graceful labeling of star  $K_{1,12}$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** The graph obtained by the subdivision of the edges of the star  $K_{1,n}$  is a square graceful graph.

**Proof:** Let  $G$  be the graph obtained by the subdivision of the edges of the star  $K_{1,n}$ . Let  $V(G) = \{v, u_i, w_i / 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  and  $E(G) = \{vw_i, w_iu_i / 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ . Define an injection  $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, 4n^2\}$  by  $f(w_i) = (2n + 1 - i)^2$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $f(u_i) = n(3n + 2 - 2i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $f(v) = 0$ . Then,  $f$  induces a bijection  $f_p : E(G) \rightarrow \{1, 4, 9, \dots, 4n^2\}$  and hence the subdivision of the edges of the star  $K_{1,n}$  is a square graceful graph. ■

**Example 2.4.** A square graceful labeling of the graph obtained by the subdivision of the edges of the star  $K_{1,5}$  is shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2:** A square graceful labeling of the graph obtained by the subdivision of the edges of the star  $K_{1,5}$

**Theorem 2.5.** Every bistar  $B_{m,n}$  is a square graceful graph.

**Proof:** Let  $B_{m,n}$  be the bistar graph with  $m + n + 2$  vertices. Let  $V(B_{m,n}) = \{u_i, v_j / 1 \leq i \leq m + 1, 1 \leq j \leq n + 1\}$  and  $E(B_{m,n}) = \{u_i u_{m+1}, v_j v_{n+1}, u_{m+1} v_{n+1} / 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$ .

**Case (i):**  $m > n$ .

Define an injection  $f : V(B_{m,n}) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, (m + n + 1)^2\}$  by

$$f(u_i) = (m + n + 2 - i)^2 \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq m; f(u_{m+1}) = 0;$$

$$f(v_j) = (n + 2 - j)^2 + 1 \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq n; f(v_{n+1}) = 1.$$

**Case (ii):**  $m < n$ .

Define an injection  $f : V(B_{m,n}) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, (m + n + 1)^2\}$  by

$$f(u_i) = (m + 2 - i)^2 \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq m; f(u_{m+1}) = 1,$$

$$f(v_j) = (m + n + 2 - j)^2 + 1 \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq n; f(v_{n+1}) = 0.$$

**Case (iii):**  $m = n$ .

Define an injection  $f : V(B_{n,n}) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, (2n + 1)^2\}$  by

$$f(u_{n+1}) = 0; f(u_i) = (2n + 2 - i)^2 \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq n;$$

$$f(v_j) = (n + 2 - j)^2 + 1 \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq n; f(v_{n+1}) = 1.$$

In all the above three cases,  $f$  induces a bijection  $f_p : E(B_{m,n}) \rightarrow \{1,4,9,\dots,(m+n+1)^2\}$ . ■

**Theorem 2.6.** The graph obtained by the subdivision of the central edge of the bistar  $B_{m,n}$  is a square graph.

**Proof:** Let  $G$  be the graph obtained by the subdivision of the central edge of the bistar  $B_{m,n}$ .

Let  $V(G) = \{w, u_i, v_j / 1 \leq i \leq m+1, 1 \leq j \leq n+1\}$ . Then  $E(G) = \{u_i u_{m+1}, v_j v_{n+1}, w u_{m+1}, w v_{n+1} / 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$ .

**Case (i):**  $m > n$ .

Define an injection  $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0,1,2,3,\dots,(m+n+2)^2\}$  by

$$f(u_{m+1}) = (m+n+2)^2, f(v_{n+1}) = (m+n+1)^2; f(w) = 0;$$

$$f(u_i) = (2m+2n+3-i)(1-i) \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq m; f(v_j) = (2m+2n+2-j)j \text{ if } m+1 \leq j \leq m+n.$$

**Case (ii):**  $m < n$ .

Define an injection  $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0,1,2,3,\dots,(m+n+2)^2\}$  by

$$f(u_{m+1}) = (m+n+1)^2; f(v_{n+1}) = (m+n+2)^2; f(w) = 0;$$

$$f(u_i) = (2m+2n+2-i)i \text{ if } n+1 \leq i \leq m+n; f(v_j) = (2m+2n+3-j)(2+j) \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq m.$$

**Case (iii):**  $m = n$ .

Define an injection  $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0,1,2,3,\dots,(2n+2)^2\}$  by

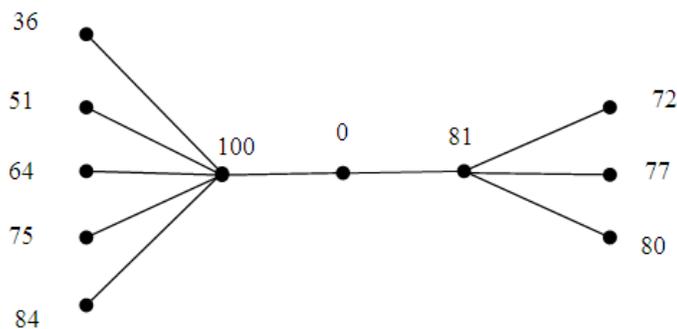
$$f(u_{n+1}) = (2n+2)^2; f(v_{n+1}) = (2n+1)^2; f(w) = 0;$$

$$f(u_i) = 2(4n+3-2i)i \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq n;$$

$$f(v_j) = (4n+3-2j)(2j-1) \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq n.$$

In all the above three cases,  $f$  induces a bijection  $f_p : E(G) \rightarrow \{1,4,9,\dots,(m+n+2)^2\}$ . ■

**Example 2.7.** A square graceful labeling of bistar  $B_{5,3}$  is shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3:** A square graceful labeling of  $B_{5,3}$ .

**Theorem 2.8.** The generalised crown  $C_3 \odot K_{1,n}$  is a square graceful graph.

**Proof:** Let  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, u_{i_1}, u_{i_2}, \dots, u_{i_n}\}$  be the vertices of  $C_3 \Theta K_{1,n}$ . Here  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  are the vertices of  $C_3$  and  $u_{i_1}, u_{i_2}, \dots, u_{i_n}$  are the vertices of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $K_{1,n}$  adjacent to  $v_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and the size of the graph is  $q = 3n + 3$ .

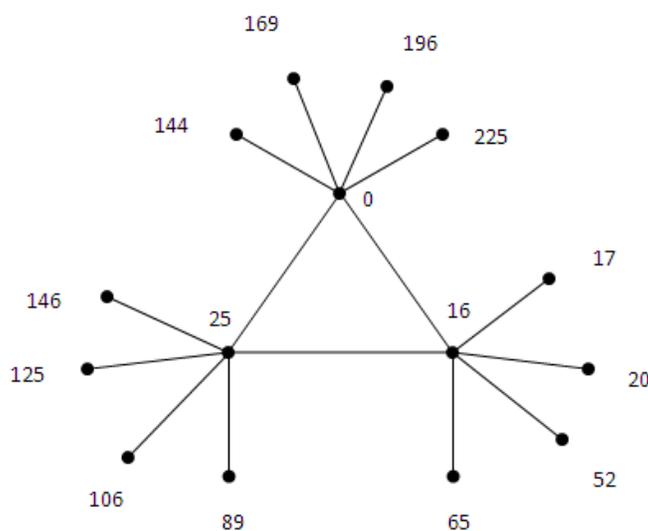
Define an injection  $f : V(C_3 \Theta K_{1,n}) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, (3n + 3)^2\}$  by

$$f(v_1) = 0 ; f(v_2) = 25 ; f(v_3) = 16 ; f(u_{i_j}) = (3n + 4 - j)^2 \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq n ;$$

$$f(u_{2_j}) = (2n + 4 - j)^2 + 25 \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq n ; f(u_{3_j}) = (n + 4 - j)^2 + 16 \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq n - 2 ; f(u_{3_{(n-1)}}) = 20$$

and  $f(u_{3_n}) = 17$ . Then  $f$  induces a bijection  $f_p : E(C_3 \Theta K_{1,n}) \rightarrow \{1, 4, 9, \dots, (3n + 3)^2\}$  and hence the generalised crown  $C_3 \Theta K_{1,n}$  is a square graceful graph. ■

**Example 2.9.** A square graceful labeling of  $C_3 \Theta K_{1,4}$  is shown in Figure 4.



**Figure 4:** A square graceful labeling of  $C_3 \Theta K_{1,4}$

**Theorem 2.10.** The graph  $P_m \Theta nK_1$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) is a square graceful graph.

**Proof:** Let  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m\}$  be the vertices of path  $P_m$  and  $\{v_{1_j}, v_{2_j}, \dots, v_{n_j}\}$  be the  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of the null graph  $nK_1$ . Then  $\{v_{1_j}, v_{2_j}, \dots, v_{n_j}\}$  are the  $n$  pendent vertices adjacent to the vertex  $u_j$  of  $P_m$  for  $1 \leq j \leq m$ .

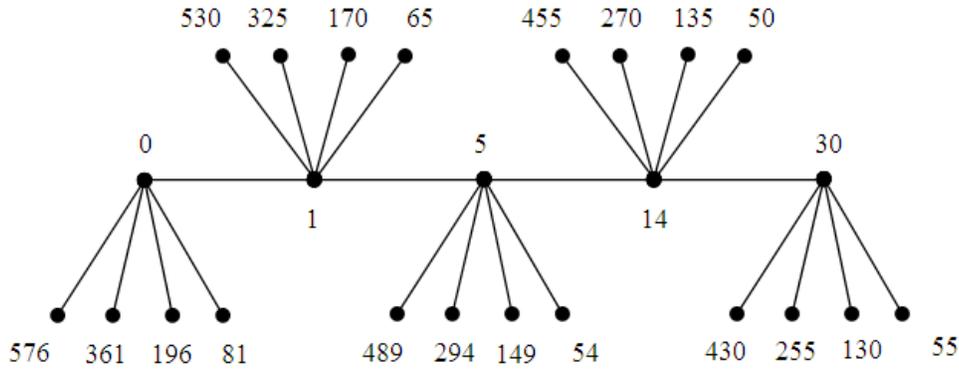
Define an injection  $f : V(P_m \Theta nK_1) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, (mn + m - 1)^2\}$  by

$$f(u_j) = \frac{j(j-1)(2j-1)}{6} \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq m ;$$

$$f(v_{i_j}) = (q - (i - 1)m - j + 1)^2 + \frac{j(j-1)(2j-1)}{6} \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m .$$

Then,  $f$  induces a bijection  $f_p : E(P_m \odot nK_1) \rightarrow \{1, 4, 9, \dots, (mn + m - 1)^2\}$ . Hence,  $P_m \odot nK_1$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) is a square graceful graph. ■

**Example 2.11.** A square graceful labeling of  $P_5 \odot 4K_1$  is shown in Figure 5.



**Figure 5:** A square graceful labeling of  $P_5 \odot 4K_1$ .

**Corollary 2.12.** The comb  $P_n \odot K_1$  is a square graceful graph.

**Proof:** Let  $P_n \odot K_1$  be the comb graph with  $2n$  vertices. Let  $V(P_n \odot K_1) = \{u_i, v_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  and  $E(P_n \odot K_1) = \{u_i u_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq n - 1 ; u_i v_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ .

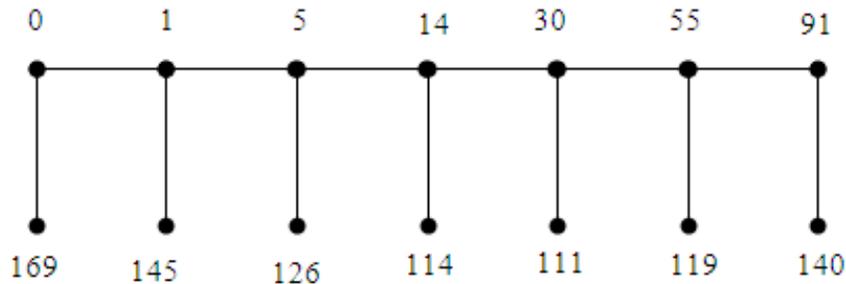
Define an injection  $f : V(P_n \odot K_1) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, (2n - 1)^2\}$  by

$$f(u_i) = \frac{i(i-1)(2i-1)}{6} \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq n;$$

$$f(v_i) = \frac{i(i-1)(2i-1)}{6} + (q-i+1)^2 \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq n.$$

Then  $f$  induces a bijection  $f_p : E(P_n \odot K_1) \rightarrow \{1, 4, 9, \dots, (2n - 1)^2\}$ . Hence, the comb  $P_n \odot K_1$  is a square graceful graph. ■

**Example 2.13.** A square graceful labeling of  $P_7 \odot K_1$  is shown in Figure 6.



**Figure 6:** A square graceful labeling of  $P_7 \odot K_1$ .

**Theorem 2.14.** The graph  $(P_n, S_m)$  is a square graceful graph.

**Proof:** Let  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$  be the vertices of path  $P_n$  and  $\{v_{0_j}, v_{1_j}, v_{2_j}, \dots, v_{m_j}\}$  be the vertices of  $j^{\text{th}}$  copy  $P_m$  for  $1 \leq j \leq n$ .

$$\text{Then } E((P_n, S_m)) = \begin{cases} u_i u_{i+1} & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \\ u_i v_{0_i} & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq n \\ v_{0_j} v_{i_j} & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n \end{cases}$$

Define an injection  $f: V((P_n, S_m)) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, (mn + 2n - 1)^2\}$  by

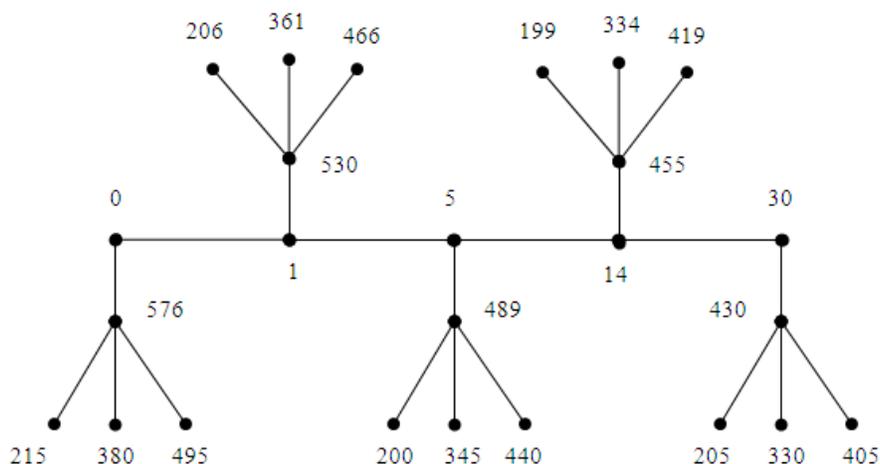
$$f(u_i) = \frac{i(i-1)(2i-1)}{6} \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq n;$$

$$(f(v_{0_j})) = (q - j + 1)^2 + \frac{j(j-1)(2j-1)}{6} \text{ if } 1 \leq j \leq n;$$

$$f(v_{i_j}) = (2q - ni - 2j + 2)(ni) + \frac{j(j-1)(2j-1)}{6} \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n.$$

Then,  $f$  induces a bijection  $f_p: E(P_n, S_m) \rightarrow \{1, 4, 9, \dots, (mn + 2n - 1)^2\}$  and hence  $(P_n, S_m)$  is square graceful. ■

**Example 2.15.** A square graceful labeling of  $(P_5, S_3)$  is shown in Figure 7.



**Figure 7:** A square graceful labeling of  $(P_5, S_3)$ .

**Theorem 2.16.**  $(3, t)$  kite graph is square graceful for  $t \geq 2$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  be the three vertices of a cycle  $C_3$  and  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_t\}$  be the  $t$  vertices of the tail with  $v_1$  adjacent to  $u_1$ . Therefore, the size of  $G$  is  $q = 3 + t$ . We prove the theorem in two cases.

**Case (i):**  $t = 2$ .

Define a bijection  $f: V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, (3 + t)^2\}$  as follows.

$$f(v_1) = 0, f(v_2) = 16, f(v_3) = 25, f(u_1) = 4 \text{ and } f(u_2) = 3.$$

**Case (ii):**  $t > 2$ .

Define a bijection  $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0,1,2,3,\dots,(3+t)^2\}$  as follows.

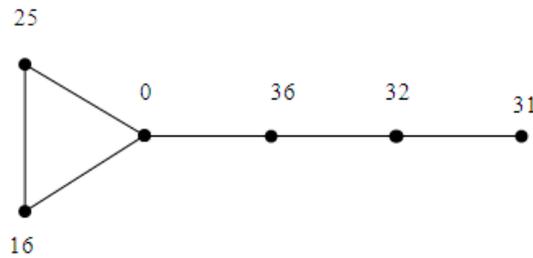
$$f(u_i) = \sum_{j=1}^i (-1)^{i+1} [q-j+1]^2 \text{ if } 1 \leq i \leq q-5;$$

$$f(u_{t-1}) = \sum_{j=1}^{q-5} (-1)^{j+1} [q-j+1]^2 - 4;$$

$$f(u_t) = \sum_{j=1}^{q-5} (-1)^{j+1} [q-j+1]^2 - 5; f(v_1) = 0, f(v_2) = 16, f(v_3) = 25.$$

In both the cases  $f$  induces a bijection  $f_p : E(G) \rightarrow \{1,4,9,\dots,(3+t)^2\}$  and hence  $(3,t)$  kite graph is square graceful for  $t \geq 2$ . ■

**Example 2.17.** A square graceful labeling of  $(3,3)$  kite is shown in Figure 8.



**Figure 8:** A square graceful labeling of  $(3,3)$  kite.

**Theorem 2.18.** Every path  $P_n$  is a square graceful graph.

**Proof:** Let  $P_n$  be a path graph with  $n$  vertices  $\{u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n\}$ . Let  $E(P_n) = \{u_i u_{i+1} / 1 \leq i \leq n-1\}$ .

Define an injection  $f : V(P_n) \rightarrow \{0,1,2,3,\dots,(n-1)^2\}$  by

$$f(u_1) = 0 \text{ and } f(u_{i+1}) = \sum_{j=1}^i (-1)^{j+1} (n-j)^2 \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1. \text{ Then } f \text{ induces a bijection}$$

$f_p : E(P_n) \rightarrow \{1,4,9,\dots,(n-1)^2\}$ . Hence, every path  $P_n$  is a square graceful graph. ■

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