

# On Computing Edge-Magic Graphs and $Q(a)$ Balance Edge-Magic Graphs

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**Abstract** If  $G$  is a  $(p,q)$ -graph in which the edges are labeled  $1,2,3,\dots,q$  so that the vertex sums are constant, mod  $p$ , then  $G$  is called an **Edge-Magic graph** (in short, **EM graph**). A  $(p,q)$ -graph  $G$  in which the edges are labeled by  $Q(a)$  so that the vertex sums mod  $p$  is a constant, is called a  **$Q(a)$  Balance Edge-Magic graph** (in short,  **$Q(a)$ -BEM graph**), where for  $a \geq 1$ , we denote

$$Q(a)=\begin{cases} \{\pm a \dots, \pm(a-1+q/2)\}, & \text{if } q \text{ is even,} \\ \{0, \pm a, \dots, \pm(a-1+(q-1)/2)\}, & \text{if } q \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Our purpose of this paper is to show that the theory of EM graphs and the theory of  $Q(a)$ -BEM graphs are unrelated. Particularly, we investigate that some graphs are both EM and  $Q(a)$ -BEM graphs; Some  $Q(a)$ -BEM graphs which are not EM; Infinitely many Non- $Q(a)$ -BEM graphs which are not EM. Several conjectures are proposed. Finally, we show that both the EM graph problem and  $Q(a)$ -BEM graph problem are NP-hard.

**Keywords:** Edge-magic,  $Q(a)$  balance edge-magic, Strong BEM, NP hard.

**1. Introduction.** All graphs in this paper are connected (multi-) graphs without loops.

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $G$  be a  $(p,q)$ -graph in which the edges are labeled  $1, 2, \dots, q$ . The vertex sum for a vertex  $v$  is the sum of the labels of the incident edges at  $v$ . If the vertex sums are constant, mod  $p$ , then  $G$  is called an **Edge-Magic graph** (for simplicity we denote **EM graph**).

The concept of EM graphs was introduced by the Lee, Seah and Tan [5].

**Lemma 1.1.** A necessary condition for a  $(p,q)$ -graph to be Edge Magic is  $q(q+1) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ .

**Example 1.** Table 1 shows that a  $3 \times 3$  matrix, all its row sum, column, and diagonal sum are 15. We could construct a graph  $G_1 = K(3,3)$  with 6 vertices and 9 edges that is EM with constant sum 15,  $\text{mod } 6 = 3$ . ( See Figure 1. ) Note that this  $(6,9)$ -graph satisfies the necessary condition  $9(9+1) \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ .

2	7	6
9	5	1
4	3	8

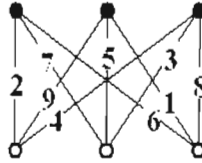
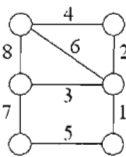


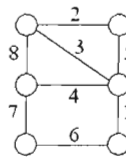
Table 1.

Figure 1.  $G_1$ .

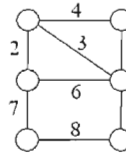
**Example 2.** Figure 2 shows a graph  $G_2$  with 6 vertices and 8 edges that is EM with different constant sums.



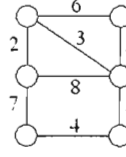
$c = 0 \pmod{6}$



$c = 1 \pmod{6}$



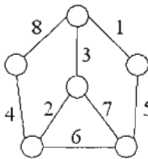
$c = 3 \pmod{6}$



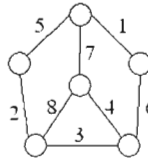
$c = 5 \pmod{6}$

Figure 2.  $G_2$ .

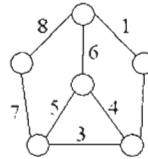
**Example 3.** Figure 3 shows another graph  $G_3$  with 6 vertices and 8 edges that is EM with different constant sums.



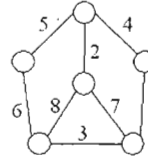
$c = 0 \pmod{6}$



$c = 1 \pmod{6}$



$c = 3 \pmod{6}$



$c = 5 \pmod{6}$

Figure 3.  $G_3$ .

**Example 4.** Figure 4 shows another graph  $G_4$  with 6 vertices and 9 edges that is EM with different constant sums.

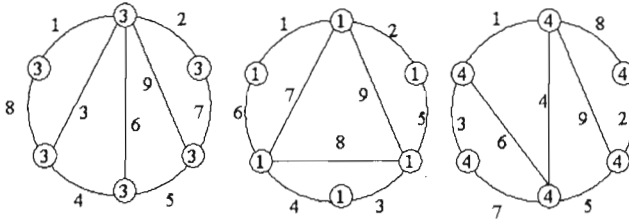


Figure 4.  $G_4$ .

**Remark 1.1.** However, there are infinitely many connected graphs such as trees and cycles that satisfy the necessary condition but they are not EM.

**Definition 1.2.** A  $(p,q)$ -graph  $G$  in which the edges are labeled by  $Q(a)$  so that the vertex sums mod  $p$  is a constant, is called  **$Q(a)$ -Balance Edge-Magic** ( in short,  **$Q(a)$ -BEM**), where For  $a \geq 1$ , we denote

$$Q(a) = \begin{cases} \{\pm a, \dots, \pm(a-1+q/2)\}, & \text{if } q \text{ is even,} \\ \{0, \pm a, \dots, \pm(a-1+(q-1)/2)\}, & \text{if } q \text{ is odd.} \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

**Example 5. ( $Q(1)$ -BEM)** The following  $(3,9)$ -multigraph graph  $G_5$  is  $Q(1)$ -BEM.

**Remark 1.2.**  $G_5$  is EM since we could partition the edge labels into three group sets:  $\{2, 4, 9\}$ ,  $\{1, 6, 8\}$ , and  $\{3, 5, 7\}$ , so that the vertex sums are 30, mod 3 = 0.

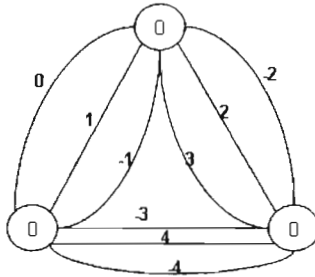


Figure 5.  $G_5$ .

**Example 6. ( $Q(1)$ -BEM)** The following  $(4,5)$ -graph  $G_6$  is  $Q(1)$ -BEM. Two different  $Q(1)$ -BEM labelings with sum 1 and 3 shown in Figure 6(A) and 6(B), respectively.

**Remark 1.3.**  $G_6$  is not EM.

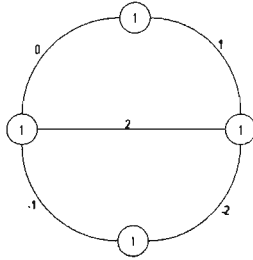


Figure 6(A).  $G_6$ .

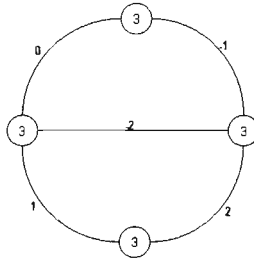


Figure 6(B).  $G_6$ .

**Example 7. (Q(1)-BEM, Q(2)-BEM)** The following graph  $G_7$  is Q(1)-BEM, Q(2)-BEM.

**Remark 1.4.**  $G_7$  is also EM.

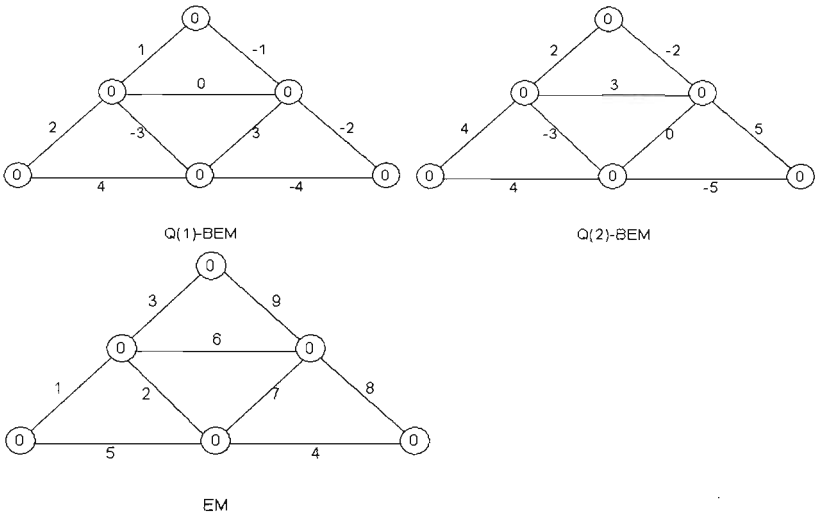


Figure 7.  $G_7$ .

**Example 8. (Q(1)-BEM, Q(2)-BEM)** The following graph  $G_8$  is Q(1)-BEM and Q(2)-BEM.

**Remark 1.5.**  $G_8$  is not EM.

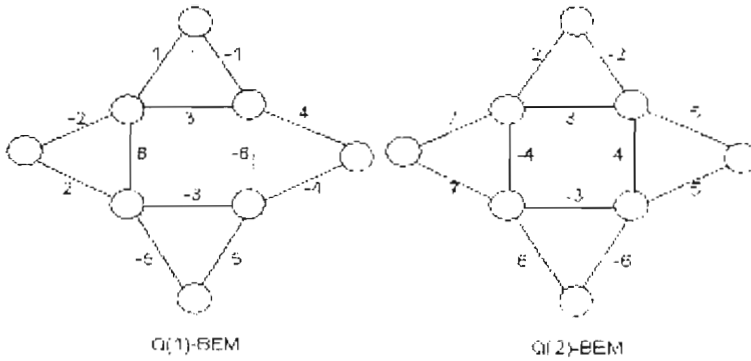


Figure 8.  $G_8$ .

**Example 9.** The following two (6,7)-graphs are  $Q(a)$ -BEM graphs for  $a = 6x + 5$ , where  $x = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . Figure 9(A), 9(B) shows the  $Q(a)$ -BEM labelings for these two graphs,  $G_{9A}$ , and  $G_{9B}$ , respectively.

**Remark 1.6.**  $G_{9A}$ ,  $G_{9B}$  are not EM graphs.

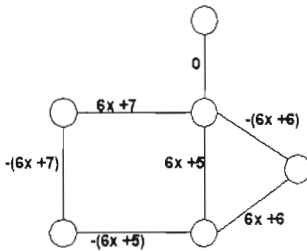


Figure 9(A).  $G_{9A}$

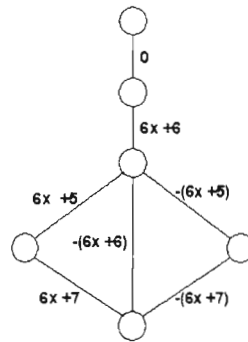


Figure 9(B).  $G_{9B}$

**Definition 1.3.** A graph  $G$  is **strong BEM** if it is  $Q(a)$ -BEM for all  $a \geq 1$ .

By the Definition of  $Q(a)$ -BEM, we have the following result:

**Theorem 1.2.** If a regular  $(p, q)$ -graph is  $Q(a)$ -BEM then it is  $Q(kp+a)$ -BEM for all  $k \geq 1$ .

**Corollary 1.3.** If a  $(p, q)$ -graph is  $Q(a)$ -BEM for  $a = 1, 2, \dots, p-1$  then it is strong BEM.

**Theorem 1.3.** The complete graph  $G_{10} = K_5$  is EM and it is strong BEM.

**Proof:** We first show that  $G_{10}$  is EM.

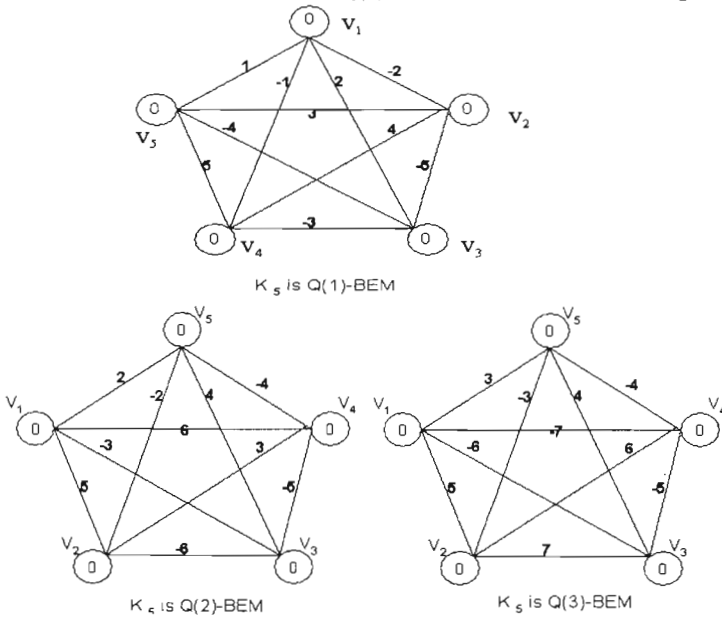
Suppose we let the vertices in  $G_{10} = K_5$  be  $v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5$  in clockwise order.

Then the following labeling matrix in Table 2, it shows that  $G_{10} = K_5$  is EM. !

	$v_1$	$v_2$	$v_3$	$v_4$	$v_5$
$v_1$		1	7	9	5
$v_2$	1		2	6	8
$v_3$	7	2		3	10
$v_4$	9	6	3		4
$v_5$	5	8	10	4	

**Table 2.**  $G_{10} = K_5$  is EM.

It suffices to show that  $G_{10} = K_5$  is  $Q(a)$ -BEM for  $a=1,2,3,4,5$  in Figure 10. !



**Figure 10.**  $G_{10} = K_5$  is strong BEM.

## 2. The theory of EM graphs and the theory of $Q(a)$ -BEM graphs are unrelated

Our purpose of this paper is to show that the theory of EM graphs and the theory of  $Q(a)$ -BEM graphs are unrelated. Particularly, we investigate that some

graphs are both EM and Q(a)-BEM graphs; Some Q(a)-BEM graphs which are not EM; Infinitely many Non-Q(a)-BEM graphs which are not EM.

**(2A) Some graphs are both EM and Q(a)-BEM**

Note that Graphs  $G_1, G_5, G_7, G_{13}$  shown in Examples 1, 5, 7 are both EM and Q(a)-BEM.

**Theorem 2.1.** The complete bipartite graph  $G_1 = K(3,3)$  is EM and Q(1)-BEM. **Proof.** (See also Example 1, and Table 3(A),  $G_1 = K(3,3)$  is EM).

Note that  $G_1 = K(3,3)$  has 6 vertices and 9 edges. Suppose the vertices on the top, from left to right, be  $u_1, u_2, u_3$  and the vertices on the bottom, from left to right, be  $v_1, v_2, v_3$ . We provide a labeling matrix in Table 3(A) for  $G_1$ , we see that it is EM. Another labeling matrix in Table 3(B) for  $G_1$ , it shows that  $G_1$  is Q(1)-BEM. !

	$v_1$	$v_2$	$v_3$
$u_1$	2	3	7
$u_2$	4	5	9
$u_3$	6	10	8

**Table 3(A).**

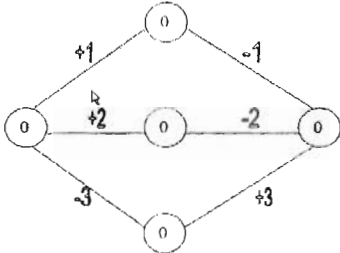
	$v_1$	$v_2$	$v_3$
$u_1$	-4	-3	1
$u_2$	-2	-1	3
$u_3$	0	4	2

**Table 3(B).**

**(2B) Some Q(a)-BEM graphs which are not EM**

Note that Graphs  $G_6, G_8, G_{9A}, G_{9B}, G_{10}, G_{11}, G_{12}$  shown in Examples 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 are Q(a)-BEM, but not EM.

**Example 11.** Figure 11 shows a graph  $G_{11}$  with 5 vertices and 6 edges that is not EM; however, it is Q(1)-BEM; but, it is neither Q(2) BEM, nor Q(3)-BEM.



**Figure 11.**  $G_{11}$ .

For  $n > 3$ , the *wheel* on  $n$  vertices,  $W_n$  is a graph with  $n$  vertices  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ ,  $x_1$  having degree  $n-1$  and all the other vertices having degree 3. The vertex  $x_1$  is adjacent to all the other vertices, and for  $i=2, \dots, n-1$ ,  $x_i$  is adjacent to  $x_{i+1}$ , and  $x_{n-1}$  is adjacent to  $x_2$ . The edges of a wheel which include the hub are called spokes. In a wheel graph, the hub has degree  $n-1$ , and other vertices have degree 3. See Figure 12 for  $W_4, W_5, W_6, W_7$ .

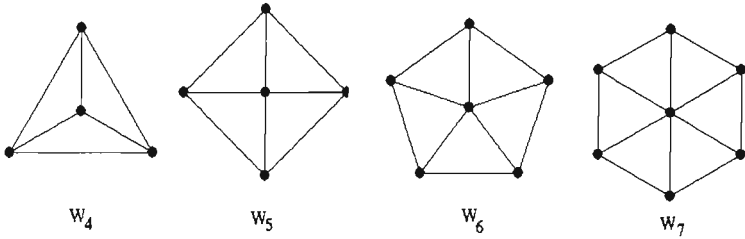


Figure 12.  $G_{12}$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** All wheels are not EM.

**Proof.** Note that  $p(W_n) = n$  and  $q(W_n) = 2n-2$ . It is clear that  $q(q+1) \bmod n \neq 0$ . Thus,  $W_n$  is not EM. !

S. M. Lee, et al [10] showed the following  $Q(a)$ -BEM results for wheels.

**Theorem 2.3.** The wheel  $W_4$  is  $Q(a)$ -BEM if and only if  $a \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .

**Theorem 2.4.** The wheel  $W_6$  is  $Q(a)$ -BEM if and only if  $a \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{6}$ .

**Theorem 2.5** The wheel  $W_5, W_7, W_8$  are strong BEM.

**Theorem 2.6** The wheel  $W_9$  is  $Q(a)$ -BEM if and only if  $a \equiv 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$ .

**(2C) Infinitely many Non- $Q(a)$ -BEM graphs which are not EM**

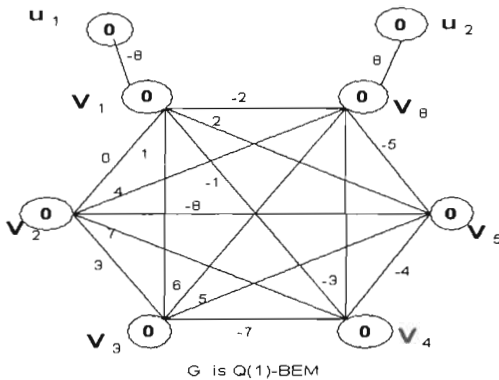
**Theorem 2.7 [10].** A necessary condition for a  $(p, q)$ - graph with two degree one vertices  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ , to be **Non- $Q(a)$ -BEM** for any  $a > 1$  is

$$\lceil (q/2) \rceil < p.$$

**Corollary 2.8.** All trees except  $P_2$  are not  $Q(a)$ -BEM for all  $a > 1$ .

**Remark 2.1.** By Theorem 1.1 and 2.7, we see that there are Infinitely many Non- $Q(a)$ -BEM graphs, which are also not EM.

**Remark 2.2.** There following  $(8, 17)$ -graph which does not has  $\lfloor q/2 \rfloor < p$ , however it is  $Q(1)$ -BEM and it is not EM.



**Figure 13.**  $G_{13}$ .

We have investigated that some graphs are both EM and Q(a)-BEM graphs; some Q(a)-BEM graphs which are not EM; some non-Q(a)-BEM graphs. Therefore, in conclusion, we claim that the theory of EM graphs and the theory of Q(a)-BEM graphs are unrelated.

Note that there are more complete results on EM, Q(a)-BEM graphs are provided in [10]. We listed results for the complete graphs and complete bipartite graphs for the completeness of our discussions.

**Theorem 2.9.** The complete graph  $K_n$  is Q(a)-BEM for  $a = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ , for  $n=5, 6, 7, 8$ . Thus,  $K_n$  is strong BEM, for  $n=5, 6, 7, 8$ .

**Theorem 2.10.** A complete bipartite graph  $K(2,m)$  is EM if and only if  $m=4$  or 10; Also, it is Q(1)-BEM for all odd  $m$  integers.

**Remark 2.3.**  $K(2,m)$  is not Q(1)-BEM for  $m = 2,6$ . But it is Q(1)-BEM for  $m = 4,8$ .

**Theorem 2.11.** The complete bipartite graphs  $K(2,4), K(3,4)$  are strong-BEM.

**Theorem 2.12.** The complete bipartite graphs  $K(2,8), K(3,3)$  are Q(1)-BEM.

### 3. Some Conjectures

We propose the following conjectures for further research.

**Conjecture 3.1.** The complete graph  $K_n$  is strong BEM for  $n \geq 9$ .

**Conjecture 3.2.** The wheel  $W_n$  is strong BEM for  $n \geq 10$ .

#### 4. The EM Graph Problem and Q(a)-BEM Graph Problem are NP-hard.

Finding the EM and Q(a)-BEM labelings of graphs are related to solving system of linear Diophantine equations. In general, it is difficult to find an EM labeling or a Q(a)-BEM labeling of a graph. For the following, we show that both the EM graph problem and Q(a)-BEM graph problem are NP-hard.

##### Theorem 4.1.

Edge-Magic Graph Labeling Problem is NP-hard.

**Proof.** First, we formulate *the Edge-Magic Graph Labeling Problem* as follows.

**INSTANCE:** Given Graph  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $|V| = p, |E| = q$ , weights  $w(v) \in Z^+$  be vertex sum for each  $v \in V$  and  $l(e) \in \{1, 2, \dots, q\} \in Z^+$  for

each  $e \in E$ , positive integer  $K = \sum_{i=1}^q i = \frac{q(1+q)}{2}$  (i.e., the maximum vertex sums)

and  $J = \sum_{i=1}^p i = \sum (1 + 2 + \dots + p)$ .

**QUESTION:** Is there a partition of  $V$  into disjoint  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_p$  such that  $w(v) = k + pm \leq K$ , for  $v \in V_i, 1 \leq i \leq p$ , where  $m, 0 \leq k \leq p-1$  are integers such that  $\sum_{e \in E} l(e) \leq J$ ?

In [16, p209], we know that *the Graph Partitioning Problem* is NP-Complete (See Appendix.). By the above formulation, we could perform *Polynomial Transformation* from the Graph Partitioning problem into the Edge-Magic Graph Labeling Problem. Thus, the Edge-Magic Graph Labeling Problem is NP-hard. "

##### Theorem 4.2.

Q(a)-Balanced Edge-Magic Graph Labeling Problem is NP-hard.

**Proof.** Recall that a  $(p, q)$ -graph  $G$  in which the edges are labeled by  $Q(a)$  so that the vertex sums mod  $p$  is a constant, is a called *Q(a)-BEM graph*, where for  $a \geq 1$ , we denote  $Q(a)$  in (1.1), that is,

$$Q(a) = \begin{cases} \{\pm a, \dots, \pm(a-1+q/2)\}, & \text{if } q \text{ is even,} \\ \{0, \pm a, \dots, \pm(a-1+(q-1)/2)\}, & \text{if } q \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

First, we observe that the  $Q(a)$  labels include both positive and negative integers. Note that we say that the integers ***a and b are congruent modulo m*** if only if there is an integer  $k$  such that  $a = b + km$ , where  $m$  is a positive integer. Therefore, for a negative integer  $-a$ , we could find a positive integer  $a'$  such that ***a' and -a are congruent modulo p*** if only if there is an integer  $k$  such that  $a' = (-a) + kp$ , where  $k$  is an integer. In this way, we could construct a set  $Q'(a)$  from  $Q(a)$ , where  $Q'(a)$  contains only positive labels, and each label in  $Q'(a)$ , is congruent modulo  $p$  with a corresponding label in  $Q(a)$ .

Now we formulate ***the Q(a)-Balanced Edge-Magic Graph Labeling Problem*** as follows.

**INSTANCE:** Given Graph  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $|V| = p, |E| = q$ , weights  $w(v) \in Z^+$  be vertex sum for each  $v \in V$  and  $l(e) \in Q'(a) \subset Z^+$  for each  $e \in E$ , positive integers  $K' = \sum_{x \in Q'(a)} x$ , (i.e., the maximum vertex sums) and  $J = \sum_{x \in Q'(a)} x$ .

**QUESTION:** Is there a partition of  $V$  into disjoint  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_p$  such that  $w(v) = k + pm \leq K'$ , for  $v \in V_i, 1 \leq i \leq p$ , where  $m, 0 \leq k \leq p-1$  are integers such that  $\sum_{e \in E} l(e) \leq J$ ?

By the above formulation, we could perform ***Polynomial Transformation*** from the Graph Partitioning Problem, which is NP-Complete shown in [16, p209], into the  $Q(a)$ -Balanced Edge-Magic Graph Labeling Problem. Thus, the  $Q(a)$ -Balanced Edge-Magic Graph Labeling Problem is NP-hard. "

## Appendix

**A NP-COMPLETE PROBLEM - GRAPH PARTITIONING** [16, p209]

**INSTANCE:** Graph  $G = (V, E)$ , weights  $w(v) \in Z^+$ , for each  $v \in V$  and  $l(e) \in Z^+$  for each  $e \in E$ , positive integers  $K$  and  $J$ .

**QUESTION:** Is there a partition of  $V$  into disjoint  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_m$  such that  $\sum_{v \in V_i} w(v) \leq K$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and such that if  $E' \subseteq E$  is the set of edges that have

their two end points in two different sets  $V_i$  then

$$\sum_{e \in E'} l(e) \leq J ?$$

**Comment:** Remains NP-complete for fixed  $K \geq 3$  even if all vertex and edges weights are 1. Can be solved in polynomial time for  $K=2$  by matching.

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