# **One Modulo Three Mean Labeling of Graphs**

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Received July 31, 2014; Revised August 25, 2014; Accepted August 28, 2014

**Abstract** In this paper, we introduce a new labeling called one modulo three mean labeling. A graph G is said to be one modulo three mean graph if there is an injective function  $\phi$  from the vertex set of G to the set  $\{a \mid 0 \le a \le 3q-2 \text{ and either } a \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \text{ or } a \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \}$  where q is the number of edges of G and  $\phi$  induces a bijection  $\phi^*$  from the

edge set of G to  $\{a \mid 1 \le a \le 3q - 2 \text{ and } a \equiv l(mod 3)\}$  given by  $\phi^*(uv) = \left\lceil \frac{\phi(u) + \phi(v)}{2} \right\rceil$  and the function  $\phi$  is called

one modulo three mean labeling of G. Furthermore, we prove that some standard graphs are one modulo three mean graphs.

Keywords: one modulo three mean labeling, one modulo three mean graph

**Cite This Article:** P. Jeyanthi, and A. Maheswari, "One Modulo Three Mean Labeling of Graphs." *American Journal of Applied Mathematics and Statistics*, vol. 2, no. 5 (2014): 302-306. doi: 10.12691/ajams-2-5-2.

### **1. Introduction and Definitions**

All graphs considered here are simple, finite, connected and undirected. We follow the basic notations and terminologies of graph theory as in [1].Given a graph *G*, the symbols V (G) and E (G) denote the vertex set and the edge set of the graph G, respectively. Let G = G(p, q) be a graph with p = |V(G)| vertices and q = |E(G)| edges. A graph labeling is an assignment of integers to the vertices or edges or both, subject to certain conditions. There are several types of graph labeling and a detailed survey is available in [2].

V. Swaminathan and C.Sekar introduced the concept of one modulo three graceful labeling in [5]. S.Somasundram and R.Ponraj introduced mean labeling of graphs in [3] and further studied in [4]. Motivated by the work of these authors we introduce a new type of labeling known as one modulo three mean labeling and prove that some standard graphs are one modulo three mean graphs. We use the following definitions in the subsequent sections.

**Definition 1.1:** A comb graph is a graph obtained by joining a single pendant edge (vertex with degree one) to each vertex of a path.

**Definition 1.2:** A caterpillar is a tree with the property that the removal of its end vertices (vertices with degree one) leaves a path.

**Definition 1.3:** Bistar  $B_{m,n}$  is a graph obtained from  $K_2$  by joining m pendant edges to one end of  $K_2$  and *n* pendant edges to the other end of  $K_2$ . The edge of  $K_2$  is called the central edge of  $B_{m,n}$  and the vertices of  $K_2$  are called the central vertices of  $B_{m,n}$ .

**Definition 1.4:** Let T be a tree with at least four vertices. Let  $u_0$  and  $v_0$  be the two adjacent vertices of T and let u and v be the leaves of T with the property that the length of the  $u_0$ -u path is equal to the length of  $v_0$ -v path. If the edge  $u_0v_0$  is deleted from T and u and v are joined by an edge uv, then such a transformation of T is called an elementary parallel transformation (or an ept) and the edge  $u_0v_0$  is called transformable edge. If by applying a sequence of ept's, T can be reduced to a path, then T is called a T<sub>p</sub>-tree (transformed tree) and such a sequence regarded as a composition of mappings (ept's) denoted by P, is called a parallel transformation of T. The path, the image of T under P is denoted as P(T).

For any integer n,  $\lceil n \rceil$  denotes the smallest integer not less than n.

#### 2. One Modulo Three Mean Labeling

**Definition 2.1:** A graph *G* is said to be one modulo three mean graph if there is an injective function  $\phi$  from the vertex set of *G* to the set  $\{a \mid 0 \le a \le 3q - 2 \text{ and either } a \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \text{ or } a \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \}$  where *q* is the number of edges of *G* and  $\phi$  induces a bijection  $\phi$  \* from the edge set of *G* to  $\{a \mid 1 \le a \le 3q - 2 \text{ and } a \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \}$  given by  $\phi$ \*(uv) =  $\left\lceil \frac{\phi(u) + \phi(v)}{2} \right\rceil$  and the function  $\phi$  is called one

modulo three mean labeling of G.

**Remark:** If G is a one modulo three mean graph with more than two edges then 0, 1, 3(q-1) and 3q-2 must be the vertex labels.

**Theorem 2.2:** Let *G* be a one modulo three mean graph with one modulo three mean labeling  $\phi$ . Let *t* be the number of edges whose one vertex label is even and the other label is odd then  $\sum_{v \in V(G)} d(v) \phi(v) + t = q(3q-1)$ 

where d(v) denotes the degree of a vertex v.

**Proof:** Since  $\phi$  is one modulo three mean labeling of G, we have  $\phi^*(xy) = \left\lceil \frac{\phi(x) + \phi(y)}{2} \right\rceil$ . Now  $\sum_{v \in V(G)} d(v)\phi(v) = 2\left(\sum_{xy \in E(G)} \phi^*(xy) - \frac{t}{2}\right) =$ 

 $2\{1+4+7+...+(3q-2)\}-t = q(3q-1)-t$ Hence,  $\sum_{v \in V(G)} d(v)\phi(v) + t = q(3q-1)$ .

As an illustration, we consider the cycle graph  $C_5 = v_1 v_2 v_3 v_4 v_5 v_1$ 



Define  $\phi: V(C_5) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13\}$  by  $\phi(v_1)$ = 0,  $\phi(v_2) = 1$ ,  $\phi(v_3) = 7$ ,  $\phi(v_4) = 12$ ,  $\phi(v_5) = 13$ . Clearly  $\phi$  is one modulo three mean labeling. Here t=4.

Now

$$d(v_1)\phi(v_1) + d(v_2)\phi(v_2) + d(v_3)\phi(v_3) + d(v_4)\phi(v_4) + d(v_5)\phi(v_5) + t = 2(0) + 2(1) + 2(7) + 2(12) + 2(13) + 4 = 70 = q(3q - 1).$$

**Theorem 2.3:** Let G be a one modulo three mean graph containing a cycle  $C_3$ =uvwu. If  $\phi$  is an one modulo three

mean labeling of G then  $\begin{cases} \phi(u), \phi(v), \phi(w) \\ \neq \{3x+1, 3x+6y+1, 3x+6y\} \end{cases}$ and

 $\{\phi(u), \phi(v), \phi(w)\} \neq \{3x, 3x+1, 3x+6y+1\}$  for any *x*, *y*.

$$\{\phi(u),\phi(v),\phi(w)\}$$

**Proof:** Suppose 
$$\frac{\{\phi(u), \phi(v), \phi(w)\}}{\{3x+1, 3x+6y+1, 3x+6y\}}$$
. Assume

 $\phi(u) = 3x+1, \phi(v) = 3x+6y+1, \phi(w) = 3x+6y$  then the edges *u v* and *u w* get the same label 3x+3y+1 which is not possible.

Suppose  $\{\phi(u), \phi(v), \phi(w)\} = \{3x, 3x+1, 3x+6y+2\}$ .

Assume  $\phi(u) = 3x$ ,  $\phi(v) = 3x+1$ ,  $\phi(w) = 3x+6y+1$  then the edges *u w* and *v w* get the same label 3x+3y+1 which is not possible.

**Theorem 2.4:** Let G be a one modulo three mean graph then (i) 3x and 3x+4 cannot be the labels of the adjacent vertices and (ii) 3x+1 and 3(x+1) cannot be the labels of the adjacent vertices (iii) 3x and 3y cannot be the labels of the adjacent vertices and (iv) 3x+1 and 3x+4 cannot be the labels of adjacent vertices.

**Proof:** (i) Suppose that *uv* is an edge of G with  $\phi(u) = 3x$ and  $\phi(v) = 3x+4$  then the induced edge label of uv is 3x+2. This is a contradiction to the fact that the edge labels are congruent to one modulo three. Therefore, 3x and 3x+4cannot be the labels of the adjacent vertices.

(ii) Suppose that uv is an edge of G with  $\phi(u) = 3x+1$ and  $\phi(v) = 3x+3$  then the induced edge label of uv is 3x+2. This is a contradiction to the fact that the edge labels are congruent to one modulo three. Therefore, 3x+1and 3(x+1) cannot be the labels of the adjacent vertices.

On the same line, we can prove (iii) and (iv).

# 3. One Modulo Three Mean Labeling of Some Trees

**Theorem 3.1:** The path  $P_n$  is a one modulo three mean graph if *n* is even.

**Proof:** Let V (P<sub>n</sub>) =  $\{u_1, u_2, ..., u_n\}$  and E(P<sub>n</sub>)=  $\{e_i = (u_i, u_{i+1}): 1 \le i \le n-1\}$ . Define the vertex labeling  $\phi$ : V (P<sub>n</sub>)→ {0,1,3,4,...,3*n*−6,3*n*−5} by  $\phi(u_{2i-1}) = 6(i-1)$ ,  $l \le i \le \frac{n}{2}$  and  $\phi(u_{2i}) = 6(i-1)+1$ ,  $l \le i \le \frac{n}{2}$ , then the induced edge labels are  $1, 4, 7, \dots, 3n-5$ . Hence  $\phi$  is a one modulo three mean labeling of  $P_n$ . Therefore,  $P_n(n \text{ is even})$ is a one modulo three mean graph.

An example for one modulo three mean labeling of the graph  $P_8$  is given in Figure 1.



**Theorem 3.2:** The star graph  $K_{l,n}$  is a one modulo three mean graph if and only if n = 1.

**Proof:** If n = 1, the star graph  $K_{1,1}$  is a path  $P_2$ . Hence  $K_{1,1}$ is a one modulo three mean graph.

Conversely assume that  $n \ge 2$ . Suppose  $K_{l, n}$  is a one modulo three mean graph with one modulo three mean labeling  $\phi$ . Let  $(V_1, V_2)$  be the bipartition of  $K_{l, n}$  with  $V_1 = \{u\}$  and  $V_2 = \{u_1, u_2, ..., u_n\}$ . To get the edge label 1, we must have 0 and 1 as the labels of the adjacent vertices. Therefore, either  $\phi(u)=0$  or  $\phi(u)=1$ . In both the cases there is no edge with the label 3n-2. This contradiction proves that  $K_{l,n}$  is not a one modulo three mean graph for  $n \ge 2$ .

**Theorem 3.3:** The caterpillar G obtained by attaching npendant edges to each vertex of the path  $P_m$  is a one modulo three mean graph if  $m \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ .

**Proof:** Let G be a caterpillar obtained from the path  $P_m$  $=u_1, u_2, ..., u_m$  by attaching *n* pendant edges to each of its vertices. Let  $u_{ij}$ ,  $1 \le j \le n$  be the vertices attached to the vertex  $u_i$ ,  $1 \le i \le m$  of  $P_m$  then G is isomorphic to  $P_m \odot nK_1$ and it has m(n+1) vertices and m(n+1)-1 edges.

Define 
$$\phi: V(G) \rightarrow \begin{cases} 0, 1, 3, 4, \dots, 3m(n+1) - 6, \\ 3m(n+1) - 5 \end{cases}$$
 as follows:  
For  $1 \le i \le m, \ 1 \le j \le n$   
$$(3(i-1)(n+1)+1 \quad if \ i is odd$$

$$\phi(u_i) = \begin{cases} 3(i-1)(n+1) + 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 3(i-2)(n+1) + 6n & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

$$\phi(u_{ij}) = \begin{cases} 6(j-1) + 3(n+1)(i-1) & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ 6j+1+3(n+1)(i-2) & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

then the induced edge labels are 1, 4, 7, ..., 3m(n+1)-5. Hence,  $\phi$  is one modulo three mean labeling. Therefore, the caterpillar *G* obtained by attaching *n* pendant edges to each vertex of the path  $P_m$  is a one modulo three mean graph.

An example for one modulo three mean labeling of the graph  $P_4 \odot 4K_1$  is given in Figure 2.



**Corollary 3.4:** The comb graph and the Bistar  $B_{n,n}$  are one modulo three mean graphs.

**Theorem 3.5:** The bistar  $B_{m,n}$ , is a one modulo three mean graph if and only if m = n.

**Proof:** If m = n, by Corollary 3.4  $B_{m,n}$  is a one modulo three mean graph. Conversely assume that  $B_{m,n}$  is a one modulo three mean graph with  $m \neq n$ . Without loss of generality, assume that m > n. Let the vertex set  $V(B_{m,n})$  $= \{u, v, u_i, v_j; 1 \le i \le m, 1 \le j \le n\}$  and the edge set  $E(B_{m,n})$  $= \{uv, uu_i, vv_j; 1 \le i \le m, 1 \le j \le n\}$ . Clearly  $B_{m,n}$  has m+n+2vertices and q = m+n+1 edges. Let  $\phi$  be the one modulo

three mean labeling of  $B_{m,n}$ . First, we prove that  $\phi(u) \neq 3q-2$  and  $\phi(u) \neq 3q-3$ . Suppose that either  $\phi(u) = 3q-2$  or  $\phi(u) = 3q-3$ . 3q-2 = 3m+3n+1 > 6n+1. Therefore,  $\frac{3q-2}{2} > 3n+1$  and  $\frac{3q-3}{2} > 3n$ . Hence, the labels of the edges  $u \ u_i \ (1 \le i \le m)$  and uv are greater than 3n+1. But the set  $\{3n+4, 3n+7, ..., 3n+3m+1\}$  contains only m elements, whereas the edges  $u \ u_i \ (1 \le i \le m)$  and uv are m+1 in number. Hence,  $\phi(u) \neq 3q-2$  and  $\phi(u) \neq 3q-3$ .

Next, we prove that  $\phi(v) \neq 3q-2$  and  $\phi(v) \neq 3q-3$ . Suppose that either  $\phi(v) = 3q-2$  or  $\phi(v) = 3q-3$ . Since q > 2 there is an edge with label 1. Hence, either  $\phi(u) = 0$  or  $\phi(u_i) = 0$  for some *i*.

If  $\phi(u) = 0$  then the labels of the edges  $u \ u_i \ (1 \le i \le m)$ , uv are less than or equal to  $\left\lceil \frac{3q-2}{2} \right\rceil$ . Since m > n, m+1 >

 $\left\lceil \frac{3q-1}{2} \right\rceil$ . Therefore, the number of elements in the set  $\left\{ 1, 4, 7, \dots, \left\lceil \frac{3q-2}{2} \right\rceil \right\}$  is less than m+1whereas the edges

 $u u_i$   $(1 \le i \le m)$  and uv are m+1 in number. Hence,  $\phi(v) \ne 3q-2$  and  $\phi(v) \ne 3q-3$ .

If  $\phi(u_i) = 0$  for some *i* then  $\phi(u)$  must be 1. Hence, the labels of the edges  $u \ u_i$   $(1 \le i \le m)$  and uv are less than or equal to  $\left\lceil \frac{3q-1}{2} \right\rceil$ . But the number of elements in the set  $\left\{1, 4, 7, ..., \left\lceil \frac{3q-1}{2} \right\rceil\right\}$  is less than m+1 whereas the edges  $u \ u_i$   $(1 \le i \le m)$  and uv are m+1 in number. Hence,

 $\phi(v) \neq 3q-2$  and  $\phi(v) \neq 3q-3$ . Also 3q-2 or 3q-3 cannot be the label for any of the vertices  $u_i, 1 \le i \le m$  since otherwise 3q-2 or 3q-3 will be the label for *u*. Similarly 3q-2 or 3q-3 cannot be the label

for any of the vertices  $v_j, 1 \le j \le n$ . Therefore, 3q-2 is not a label for any vertex. Hence,  $B_{m,n}, m > n$  is not a one modulo three mean graph.

**Theorem 3.6:** A  $T_p$ -tree with even number of vertices is a one modulo three mean graph.

**Proof:** Let *T* be a  $T_p$ -tree with |V(T)| = n where n is even. By the definition of a transformed tree there exists parallel transformation *P* of *T* such that P(T) is a path. For the path P(T) we have (i)V(P(T)) = V(T) (ii) $E(P(T)) = (E(T) \setminus E_d)$  $\cup E_p$  where  $E_d$  is the set of edges deleted from *T* and  $E_p$  is the set of edges newly added through the sequence P = $(P_1, P_2,..., P_k)$  of the epts *P* used to arrive the path P(T). Clearly  $E_d$  and  $E_p$  have the same number of edges. Denote the vertices of P(T) successively as  $v_1, v_2, ..., v_n$  starting from one pendant vertex of P(T) right up to the other.

Define  $\phi: V(P(T)) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 3, 4, ..., 3(q-1), 3q-2\}$  by

$$\phi(v_i) = \begin{cases} 3(i-1) & \text{if i is odd} \\ 3(i-2)+1 & \text{if i is even} \end{cases}$$

for  $1 \le i \le n$ . Clearly  $\phi$  is one modulo three mean labeling of the path P(T).

Let  $v_i v_j$  be an edge of *T* for some indices *i* and *j*,  $1 \le i \le n$  and let  $P_1$  be the ept that deletes this edge and adds the edge  $v_{i+t}v_{j-t}$  where t is the distance from  $v_i$  to  $v_{i+t}$  and also the distance from  $v_j$  to  $v_{j-t}$ . Let *P* be a parallel transformation of T that contains  $P_1$  as one of the constituent epts. Since  $v_{i+t}v_{j-t}$  is an edge of the path P(T), it follows that i + t + 1 = j - t which implies j = i + 2t + 1. The induced label of the edge  $v_i v_j$  is given by,

$$\phi^{*}(v_{i}v_{j}) = \phi^{*}(v_{i}v_{i+2t+1})$$

$$= \phi(v_{i}) + \phi(v_{i+2t+1})$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{3(i-2)+1}{2} + \frac{3(i+2t)}{2} & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \\ \frac{3(i-1)}{2} + \frac{3(i+2t-1)+1}{2} & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

$$= 3i + 3t - 2$$

$$\phi^{*}(v_{i+t}v_{j-t}) = \phi^{*}(v_{i+t}v_{i+t+1})$$

$$= \phi(v_{i+t}) + \phi(v_{i+t+1})$$

$$=\begin{cases} \frac{3(i+t-2)+1}{2} + \frac{3(i+t)}{2} & \text{if } i \text{ is even and } t \text{ is even} \\ \frac{3(i+t-1)}{2} + \frac{3(i+t-1)+1}{2} & \text{if } i \text{ is even and } t \text{ is odd} \\ \frac{3(i+t-1)}{2} + \frac{3(i+t-1)+1}{2} & \text{if } i \text{ is odd and } t \text{ is even} \\ \frac{3(i+t-2)+1}{2} + \frac{3(i+t)}{2} & \text{if } i \text{ is odd and } t \text{ is odd} \\ = 3i+3t-2\end{cases}$$

Hence, we have  $\phi^*(v_i v_j) = \phi^*(v_{i+t}v_{j-t})$  and therefore  $\phi$  is one modulo three mean labeling of the T<sub>p</sub> -tree T.

An example for one modulo three mean labeling of a  $T_p$ -tree with 18 vertices is given in Figure 3.



# 4. One Modulo Three Mean Labeling of Cycle Related Graphs

In this section, we prove that some cycle related graphs are one modulo three mean graphs.

**Theorem 4.1:** Cycle  $C_n$  is a one modulo three mean graph if  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

**Proof:** Let n = 4k+1. Let  $v_1, v_2, ..., v_n$  be the vertices of  $C_n$ . Define  $\phi: V(C_n) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 3, 4, ..., 3(n-1), 3n-2\}$  by

$$\phi(v_{2i-1}) = \begin{cases} 6(i-1) & \text{if } 1 \le i \le k \\ 6(i-1)+1 & \text{if } k+1 \le i \le 2k+1 \end{cases},$$
$$\phi(v_{2i}) = \begin{cases} 6(i-1)+1 & \text{if } 1 \le i \le k \\ 6i & \text{if } k+1 \le i \le 2k \end{cases}.$$

The induced edge labels of the cycle  $C_n$  are 1,4,7,...,3n-2. Hence,  $C_n$  is a one modulo three mean graph if  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

An example for one modulo three mean labeling of the graph  $C_{13}$  is given in Figure 4.





**Theorem 4.2:** The ladder graph  $L_n = P_n \times P_2$  is a one modulo three mean graph if n is odd.

**Proof:** Let the vertex set of  $L_n$  be  $\{u_1, u_2, ..., u_n, v_1, v_2, ..., v_n\}$  and the edge set of  $L_n$  be  $\{u_i u_{i+1} / 1 \le i \le n-1\} \cup \{v_i v_{i+1} / 1 \le i \le n-1\} \cup \{u_i v_i / 1 \le i \le n\}$ . Clearly  $L_n$  has 2n vertices and 3n-2 edges.

Define  $\phi$  :  $V(C_n) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 3, 4, ..., 9n - 9, 9n - 8\}$  by  $\phi$  $(u_1)=0, \phi(u_n)=9(n-1), \phi(u_{2i})=18i-11$ 

if 
$$1 \le i \le \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor$$
,  $\phi(u_{2i+1}) = 18i + 6$  if  $1 \le i \le \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor - 1$  and  $\phi(v_1) = 1$ ,  $\phi(v_2) = 9n - 8$ ,  $\phi(v_2) = 6(3i - 1)$ 

if 
$$1 \le i \le \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor, \phi(v_{2i+1}) = 18i-5$$
 if  $1 \le i \le \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor - 1$ . Hence,

the induced edge labels of  $L_n$  are 1,4,7,...,9n-8 then  $\phi$  is one modulo three mean labeling. Hence,  $L_n$  is a one modulo three mean graph.

An example for one modulo three mean labeling of the graph  $L_7$  is given in Figure 5.



If  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are two graphs then  $G_1 \times G_2$  is the Cartesian product of [1]  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ . **Theorem 4.3:** The graph  $K_1 \times K_2$  is a one module three

**Theorem 4.3:** The graph  $K_{1,n} \times K_2$  is a one modulo three mean graph if n is even

**Proof:** Let the vertices of  $K_{1,n} \times K_2$  be  $\{u, v, u_1, u_2, ..., u_n, v_1, v_2, ..., v_n\}$  and edges are  $\{u, v\} \cup \{u_i v_i / 1 \le i \le n\} \cup \{uu_i / 1 \le i \le n\} \cup \{vv_i / 1 \le i \le n\}$ . Clearly  $K_{1,n} \times K_2$  has 2n+2 vertices and 3n+1 edges. Define  $\phi$ :  $V(K_{1,n} \times K_2) \rightarrow \{0,1,3,4,...,9n,9n+1\}$  by  $\phi$  (u)=0,  $\phi$  (v)=9n+1,  $\phi$  ( $u_{n+1-i}$ )=12i - 5 if  $1 \le i \le \frac{n}{2}$ ,  $\phi$  ( $u_i$ )=12i - 11 if  $1 \le i \le \frac{n}{2}$  and  $\phi$  ( $v_{n+1-i}$ )=9n - 6(i-1) if  $1 \le i \le \frac{n}{2}$ ,  $\phi$  ( $v_i$ )=6n - 6(i-1) if  $1 \le i \le \frac{n}{2}$ . The induced edge labels of  $K_{1,n} \times K_2$ 

graph. An example for one modulo three mean labeling of the graph  $K_{1,4} \times K_2$  is given in Figure 6.



**Theorem 4.4:** The complete graph  $K_n$  is a one modulo three mean graph if and only if  $n \le 2$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $K_n$  is a one modulo three mean graph. To get the edge label 3q-2, we must have 3q-2 and 3q-3 as the vertex labels. Let u and v be the vertices whose labels are 3q-2 and 3q-3 respectively. Again, to get the edge label 1, we must have 0 and 1 as the vertex labels. Let w and z be the vertices whose labels are 0 and 1 respectively then the edges uw, vz receive the same induced label  $\lceil 3q - 2 \rceil$ 

 $\left\lceil \frac{3q-2}{2} \right\rceil$  which should not happen. Hence  $K_n$  is not a one

modulo three mean graph for n >3. If n = 2, the complete graph  $K_2$  is a path  $P_2$ , which is a one modulo three mean graph.

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