

The modular product and existential closure II

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Abstract

In this article we study the modular graph product, \diamond , that is known to preserve the property of being 3-existentially closed (i.e., 3-e.c.). We produce new families of 3-e.c. graphs $G\diamond H$ such that neither G nor H is required to be 3-e.c. Assuming that G is weakly 3-existentially closed with certain adjacency properties, we find the sufficient conditions on the adjacency properties of H such that $G\diamond H$ is 3-e.c. The graph G can have as few as four vertices, and it is settled in this article that H can have as few as 24 vertices. These altogether present an improvement in comparison to when at least one of G or H were required to be 3-e.c.

1 Introduction

A graph G with vertex set $V(G)$ is said to be n -existentially closed, or n -e.c., if for each $S \subset V(G)$ with $|S| = n$ and each subset T of S , there exists some vertex $x \in V(G) \setminus S$ that is adjacent to each vertex in T but to none of the vertices in $S \setminus T$. Although the property is straightforward to define, it is not easy to find n -e.c. graphs. Since the property was introduced in 1963 [11], only a handful of classes of finite graphs have been shown to be n -e.c. for arbitrary (but fixed) values of n . The countably infinite random graph is known to be n -e.c. for every positive integer n [11].

Sufficiently large Paley graphs were the first families that were discovered to contain n -e.c. members for every n [6]. Since then, the search for n -e.c. graphs has led to a few families of such graphs. Cameron and Stark [9] have presented a family of strongly regular n -e.c. graphs. Also, Hadamard matrices and combinatorial structures such as affine planes, resolvable designs, Steiner triple systems, balanced

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incomplete block designs, and infinite combinatorial designs have been used to construct n -e.c. graphs [4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 17].

Even for $n = 3$, it is not easy to find explicit examples of n -e.c. graphs. Every 3-e.c. graph has at least 24 vertices and examples of 3-e.c. graphs of order 28 have been found [7, 14]. New 3-e.c. graphs of order $16m^2$ were constructed from Hadamard matrices of order $4m$ with odd $m > 1$ [8]. Baker et al. presented new 3-e.c. graphs arising from affine planes [3]. Most recently, another construction of 3-e.c. graphs of order at least p^d for prime $p \geq 7$ and $d \geq 5$ was presented [19]. Also, the only two Steiner triple systems with 3-e.c. block intersection graphs were identified [10, 13].

Binary graph operations can be used to construct more examples of 3-e.c. graphs. Bonato and Cameron examined several common binary graph operations to see which operations preserve the n -e.c. property for $n \geq 1$. Although a few of the operations are 2-e.c. preserving, only the symmetric difference of two 3-e.c. graphs is a 3-e.c. graph [7]. Baker et al. subsequently introduced another graph construction which is 3-e.c. preserving [3].

In [18], the operation introduced in [3] was formulated as the non-commutative modular graph product denoted by \diamond , and the necessary and sufficient conditions were found for the graph $G \diamond H$ to be 3-e.c., given that H is a 3-e.c. graph. This operation then was used to construct new classes of 3-e.c. graphs of the form $G \diamond H$ when G is not necessarily 3-e.c. and can have as few as four vertices. In this present article, we will use the modular graph product as described in [18] to construct new 3-e.c. graphs such that none of the graphs G and H used to construct the 3-e.c. graph $G \diamond H$ is necessarily 3-e.c. Assuming that G is a weakly 3-existentially closed graph with prescribed adjacency properties, we find exactly what adjacencies are required for H such that $G \diamond H$ is 3-e.c.; such graphs are called pseudo 3-existentially closed. The graph G can have as few as four vertices and H can be as small as $18 \leq |V(H)| \leq 24$.

2 Terminology and Preliminary Results

We will use the same terminology as was used in [18] which we review briefly here. We define the modular product of two graphs G and H , $G \diamond H$, to be the graph with vertex set $V(G) \times V(H)$ in which two vertices (x, u) and (y, v) are adjacent if

- (a) $xy \in E(G)$ and $uv \in E(H)$, or
- (b) $xy \notin E(G)$ and $uv \notin E(H)$.

Unless stated otherwise, we shall assume that G has a loop at each vertex. When describing $G \diamond H$, for each vertex $x \in V(G)$ let H_x be the subgraph of $G \diamond H$ that is isomorphic to H and consists of all vertices (x, u) where $u \in V(H)$. Since the vertices of H_x can be considered to be indexed by $x \in V(G)$, we will use u_x to denote the vertex (x, u) . Two vertices $u_x \in H_x$ and $v_y \in H_y$ will be said to be congruent if $u = v$; otherwise they are incongruent.

Baker et al. showed that the modular product produces a 3-e.c. graph if applied on two 3-existentially closed graphs.

Theorem 2.1 [3] *If the graphs G and H are both 3-e.c., then the graph $G \diamond H$ is also 3-e.c.*

For a graph G , given a set $S \subset V(G)$ and a subset T of S , we say a vertex $x \in V(G) \setminus S$ is a T -solution with respect to S if x is adjacent to every vertex in T and to none in $S \setminus T$. The graph G is then n -e.c. if for any n -set $S \subset V(G)$ there is a T -solution for each $T \in P(S)$ where $P(S)$ denotes the power set of S .

A graph G is said to be weakly n -existentially closed, or n -w.e.c., if for any n -set $S \subset V(G)$ and any $T \subseteq S$, there exists a vertex in $V(G)$ that is adjacent to each vertex in T and to no vertex in $S \setminus T$, or there exists a vertex in $V(G)$ that is adjacent to each vertex in $S \setminus T$ and to no vertex in T [18]. The following characterisation theorem enables the construction of new families of 3-e.c. graphs using the modular product applied on a 3-e.c. graph and a 3-w.e.c. graph:

Theorem 2.2 [18] *Let G be a graph with $|V(G)| \geq 4$ and with loops at every vertex of $V(G)$ and let H be a 3-e.c. graph. The graph G is 3-w.e.c. if and only if $G \diamond H$ is 3-e.c.*

For a graph G and a vertex $x \in V(G)$ we define $N(x) = \{y \in V(G) \mid xy \in E(G)\}$ and $N[x] = N(x) \cup \{x\}$, and for a set X of vertices we let $N(X) = \bigcup_{x \in X} N(x)$, $N'(X) = \bigcap_{x \in X} N(x)$, $N[X] = \bigcup_{x \in X} N[x]$, and $N'[X] = \bigcap_{x \in X} N[x]$. It is clear that if G has a loop at each vertex, then $N[x] = N(x)$. To avoid confusion, we may use N_G to show that the neighbourhood is in graph G . By $G[X]$ we mean the subgraph of G induced by the set $X \subset V(G)$. With these notations, a graph G is 3-w.e.c. if for every 3-subset $A \subset V(G)$, the following hold:

- (1) $N'[A] \neq \emptyset$ or $V(G) \setminus N[A] \neq \emptyset$, and
- (2) for every vertex $t \in A$, $N[t] \setminus N[A \setminus \{t\}] \neq \emptyset$ or $N'[A \setminus \{t\}] \setminus N[t] \neq \emptyset$.

In the next section, we apply the modular product to produce a 3-e.c. graph while none of the graphs in the operation is necessarily 3-e.c.; one of the graphs is 3-w.e.c.

3 New Families of 3-existentially Closed Graphs

We begin this section by introducing some new terminology. We call a graph H pseudo n -existentially closed, or n -p.e.c., if for any n -subset $Y \subset V(H)$ the following hold:

- Ⓐ $V(H) \setminus N[Y] \neq \emptyset$,
- Ⓑ $N'(Y) \neq \emptyset$, and
- Ⓒ for every vertex $r \in Y$, $N(r) \setminus N[Y \setminus \{r\}] \neq \emptyset$.

In this article we focus on the 3-p.e.c. property. Note that the notation p.e.c. has previously been used by Andrzejczak and Gordinowicz to denote a concept called perturbed existential closure [2].

Lemma 3.1 *If H is a 3-p.e.c. graph, then H has no isolated and no universal vertices.*

Proof Let $u \in V(H)$. By \textcircled{A} there is a vertex non-adjacent to u and by \textcircled{B} there is a vertex adjacent to u . ■

The following theorem ensures that we can construct a 3-e.c. graph by applying the modular product on a 3-w.e.c. graph and a 3-p.e.c. graph.

Theorem 3.1 *For two graphs G and H , $G \diamond H$ is 3-e.c. if H is a 3-p.e.c. graph and G is a 3-w.e.c. graph such that for each set of three vertices $X = \{x, y, z\} \subset V(G)$:*

- $\textcircled{1}$ $N'[X] \neq \emptyset$, and
- $\textcircled{2}$ for every vertex $t \in X$, $N'[X \setminus \{t\}] \setminus N[t] \neq \emptyset$.

Proof Note that neither G nor H have an isolated or a universal vertex. To show that $G \diamond H$ is 3-e.c., for an arbitrary 3-set $S = \{u_x, v_y, w_z\} \subset V(G \diamond H)$ we find a T -solution for each $T \in P(S)$. Let $X = \{x, y, z\} \subset V(G)$ and $Y = \{u, v, w\} \subset V(H)$; hence $1 \leq |X|, |Y| \leq 3$. We consider the three possible values of $|X|$ in separate cases. When considering $|X| \in \{2, 3\}$, there are two scenarios: either S includes some congruent vertices, or the vertices of S are all incongruent.

Case 1. If $|X| = 1$, say $X = \{x\}$, by \textcircled{A} if $r \in V(H) \setminus N[Y]$, then r_x is an \emptyset -solution and by \textcircled{B} if $r \in N'(Y)$, then r_x is an S -solution. Let $a \in V(G)$ be a vertex non-adjacent to x . By \textcircled{C} if $s \in N(u) \setminus N[Y \setminus \{u\}]$, then s_x is a $\{u_x\}$ -solution and s_a is a $\{v_x, w_x\}$ -solution. Similarly we can find T -solutions for $T \in \{\{v_x\}, \{u_x, w_x\}, \{w_x\}, \{u_x, v_x\}\}$.

Case 2. Suppose that $|X| = 2$ and $S = \{u_x, v_y, w_y\}$.

Case 2.a. First assume that the vertices of S are incongruent. For $T \in \{\emptyset, S\}$, by $\textcircled{1}$ if $a \in N'[X]$, then by \textcircled{A} if $s \in V(H) \setminus N[Y]$, then s_a is an \emptyset -solution, and by \textcircled{B} if $s \in N'(Y)$, then s_a an S -solution. By \textcircled{C} , if $s \in N(u) \setminus N[\{v, w\}]$ then s_a is a $\{u_x\}$ -solution, and if $s \in N(v) \setminus N[\{u, w\}]$ then s_a is a $\{v_y\}$ -solution, and if $s \in N(w) \setminus N[\{u, v\}]$ then s_a is a $\{w_y\}$ -solution. Also, by $\textcircled{2}$ if $a \in N[y] \setminus N[x]$ and if by \textcircled{C} $s \in N(v) \setminus N[\{u, w\}]$, then s_a is a $\{u_x, v_y\}$ -solution. Similarly we can find a $\{u_x, w_y\}$ -solution. To find a $\{v_y, w_y\}$ -solution, note that by $\textcircled{2}$ if $a \in N'[x] \setminus N[y]$ and by \textcircled{A} if $s \in V(H) \setminus N[Y]$, then s_a is such a solution.

Case 2.b. If $S = \{u_x, u_y, w_y\}$ such that u_x and u_y are congruent, then similar to the Case 2.a. we can find a T -solution for $T \in \{\emptyset, S\}$. By $\textcircled{2}$ if $a \in N[x] \setminus N[y]$, then by \textcircled{A} if $s \in V(H) \setminus N[Y]$, then s_a is a $\{u_y, w_y\}$ -solution and by \textcircled{B} if $s \in N'(Y)$, then s_a is a $\{u_x\}$ -solution. Also, by \textcircled{C} if $s \in N(u) \setminus N[w]$, then s_a is a $\{u_x, w_y\}$ -solution. By \textcircled{C} if $s \in N(w) \setminus N[u]$, then s_a is a $\{u_y\}$ -solution. Also, by $\textcircled{1}$ if $a \in N'[X]$ and

by \textcircled{C} if $s \in N(u) \setminus N[w]$, then s_a is a $\{u_x, u_y\}$ -solution, and if $s \in N(w) \setminus N[u]$ by \textcircled{C} , then s_a is a $\{w_y\}$ -solution.

Case 3. Suppose that $|X| = 3$ and $S = \{u_x, v_y, w_z\}$ consists of three vertices (possibly congruent) of $G \diamond H$. By $\textcircled{1}$ and $\textcircled{2}$, let $a, b \in V(G)$ be two vertices such that $a \in N'[X]$ and $b \in N'[\{y, z\}] \setminus N[x]$. By \textcircled{A} if $s \in V(H) \setminus N[Y]$, then s_a is an \emptyset -solution, and by \textcircled{B} if $s \in N'(Y)$, then s_a is an S -solution. By \textcircled{A} if $s \in V(H) \setminus N[Y]$, then s_b is a $\{u_x\}$ -solution and by \textcircled{B} if $s \in N'(Y)$ then s_b is a $\{v_y, w_z\}$ -solution. By a similar argument we can find T -solutions for $T \in \{\{v_y\}, \{u_x, w_z\}, \{w_z\}, \{u_x, v_y\}\}$.

Since $s \notin Y$, the proposed solutions are in $V(G \diamond H) \setminus S$, and so $G \diamond H$ is proved to be 3-e.c. \blacksquare

Remark. If H is a graph that satisfies \textcircled{A} , \textcircled{B} and \textcircled{C} , then its complement \overline{H} is a graph for which for any 3-set Y of vertices, \textcircled{A} and \textcircled{B} are satisfied and also “for every $r \in Y$, $N'_{\overline{H}}(Y \setminus \{r\}) \setminus N_{\overline{H}}[r] \neq \emptyset$ ”. Since $\overline{G \diamond H} = G \diamond \overline{H}$, then Theorem 3.1 still holds if we replace \textcircled{C} by \textcircled{C}' below.

\textcircled{C}' for every vertex $r \in Y$, $N'_{\overline{H}}(Y \setminus \{r\}) \setminus N[r] \neq \emptyset$.

Remark. Note that C_4 satisfies $\textcircled{1}$ and $\textcircled{2}$. So, it remains to find a graph satisfying properties \textcircled{A} , \textcircled{B} and \textcircled{C} ; such a graph has at least eight vertices.

4 Minimum Order Pseudo 3-existentially Closed Graphs

In this section we will find a lower bound on the minimum order of a 3-p.e.c. graph H . A graph G is said to have property $P(m, n, k)$, $G \in \mathcal{G}(m, n, k)$, if for any set of $m + n$ distinct vertices there are at least k vertices each of which is adjacent to m first vertices but not adjacent to any of the latter n vertices [1]. For example $C_\ell \in \mathcal{G}(1, 1, 1)$ for any $\ell \geq 5$. Exoo and Harary studied the class of $\mathcal{G}(1, n, 1)$ and established that the Petersen graph is the smallest member of $\mathcal{G}(1, 2, 1)$ and any other graph in $\mathcal{G}(1, 2, 1)$ has at least 12 vertices [12]. Obviously, a 3-p.e.c. graph H is contained in $\mathcal{G}(1, 2, 1)$ and it is easy to see that the Petersen graph is not 3-p.e.c. As a result, any graph that is 3-p.e.c. must have at least 12 vertices.

For an arbitrary vertex $u \in V(H)$, we let $N_u = H[N(u)]$ and $N'_u = H[N^c(u)]$ where $N^c(u) = V(H) \setminus N[u]$. Theorems 4.1 and 4.2 below give lower bounds on $|V(N_u)|$ and $|V(N'_u)|$ which will give a lower bound on the order of a 3-p.e.c. graph. First we start with N_u .

Lemma 4.1 *Let H be a 3-p.e.c. graph and $u \in V(H)$. The graph $N_u = H[N(u)]$ is connected and for every pair of vertices v and w of N_u there are two additional vertices $p, q \in V(N_u)$ such that:*

(I) p is adjacent to both v and w , and

(II) q is adjacent to neither v nor w .

Proof Consider the 3-set $S = \{u, v, w\}$ in H . By \mathbb{B} , there is a vertex p adjacent to all the vertices in S ($p \in V(N_u)$), and by \mathbb{C} , there is vertex q that is adjacent to u and is not adjacent to v or w ($q \in V(N_u)$). In order to show that N_u is connected, note that every two vertices of N_u are adjacent, or by (I) there is a path of length two that connects them. ■

Corollary 4.1 *If G is a graph such that $|V(G)| \geq 4$ and for any pair of vertices $v, w \in V(G)$ there are two additional vertices $p, q \in V(G)$ such that the adjacency properties (I) and (II) hold, then:*

- (i) G is of diameter at most two (and so connected),
- (ii) G has no universal vertices,
- (iii) every vertex and edge of G is contained on some triangle,
- (iv) \overline{G} is a graph such that for any pair of vertices $v, w \in V(\overline{G})$ there are two additional vertices p and q such that the adjacency properties (I) and (II) hold.
- (v) if $x \in V(G)$, then $|N(x)| \geq 2$ and $|N^c(x)| \geq 2$ (hence $|V(G)| \geq 5$), and

Lemma 4.2 *If G is a graph such that for any pair of vertices $v, w \in V(G)$ there are two additional vertices p and q such that the adjacency properties (I) and (II) hold, then $\delta(G) \geq 3$ and $\Delta(G) \leq |V(G)| - 4$.*

Proof (By contradiction.) Let $x \in V(G)$ with $\deg_G(x) = 2$. The vertex x is on some triangle; say xyz . Since $|V(G)| \geq 5$, we have $|V(G) \setminus \{x, y, z\}| \geq 2$. The distance between x and each vertex in $V(G) \setminus \{x, y, z\}$ is two. Hence, one of y or z , say y , is adjacent to at least $\lceil \frac{|V(G)|-3}{2} \rceil$ of the vertices in $V(G) \setminus \{x, y, z\}$ and z is adjacent to the rest of the vertices in $V(G) \setminus \{x, y, z\}$ (in other words $V(G) \setminus \{x, y, z\} \subset N(y) \cup N(z)$). This means that there is no vertex that is adjacent to neither y nor z which is a contradiction and therefore $\delta(G) \geq 3$.

Now we prove that $\Delta(G) \leq |V(G)| - 4$. For $x \in V(G)$, by Corollary 4.1 (iv) we have $\deg_{\overline{G}}(x) \geq 3$. Knowing that $\deg_G(x) + \deg_{\overline{G}}(x) = |V(G)| - 1$, we conclude that $\deg_G(x) \leq |V(G)| - 4$. ■

Corollary 4.2 *If G is a graph such that for any pair of vertices $v, w \in V(G)$ there are two additional vertices p and q such that the adjacency properties (I) and (II) hold, then $|V(G)| \geq 7$.*

Now we are ready to get the following theorem:

Theorem 4.1 *If G is the smallest graph that for any pair of vertices $v, w \in V(G)$ there are two additional vertices p and q such that the adjacency properties (I) and (II) hold, then $|V(G)| = 9$.*

Proof Every 2-e.c. graph has at least nine vertices (the Paley graph on nine vertices is, up to isomorphism, the smallest 2-e.c. graph [7]), and it satisfies the conditions of the theorem. So $7 \leq |V(G)| \leq 9$ by Corollary 4.2. Now we exclude the cases $|V(G)| \in \{7, 8\}$.

Case $|V(G)| = 7$: Let $x \in V(G)$. By Lemma 4.2, $\deg_G(x) = 3$ and G is 3-regular. This is a contradiction as the number of odd vertices must be even.

Case $|V(G)| = 8$: Let $x \in V(G)$. By Lemma 4.2, $\deg_G(x) \in \{3, 4\}$, and so G is 3-regular, 4-regular or has vertices of both degrees 3 and 4. We first show that G cannot be regular.

Suppose that G is 3-regular. Let $x \in V(G)$ and assume that $N(x) = \{y, z, t\}$. Since there is a vertex that is adjacent to both x and y , there is a vertex adjacent to both x and z , and there is a vertex adjacent to both x and t , the only possibility is that without loss of generality, we assume that $\{yz, yt\} \subset E(G)$. Since G is 3-regular, $N(y) = \{x, z, t\}$. Now, $|V(G) \setminus \{x, y, z, t\}| = 4$ and $d_G(x, i) = 2$ for each $i \in V(G) \setminus \{x, y, z, t\}$ by Corollary 4.1 (i). This implies that $\deg_G(z) \geq 4$ or $\deg_G(t) \geq 4$. This is a contradiction as G is supposed to be 3-regular. Since G cannot be 3-regular, G cannot be 4-regular either (by Corollary 4.1 (iv)).

Now we show that G cannot be a graph having vertices of both degrees 3 and 4. To the contrary, assume that G has vertices of degrees 3 and 4, and let a be a vertex of degree 3 and $N(a) = \{b, c, d\}$. By Corollary 4.1 (iii), the edge ab is on some triangle, without loss of generality, say abc . Similarly, the edge ad is also on some triangle, say adc (without loss of generality). By (II), there is a vertex adjacent to neither b nor c . This must be a fifth vertex e . Since there is a path of length two that joins e to a , e must be adjacent to d . Now since the edge ed is on a triangle and e is not adjacent to any of a, b or c , this must be def for a sixth vertex f . The vertex d now has the maximum possible degree 4. Letting g be the seventh vertex, we must have that g is adjacent to b or c to have a path of length two to a .

As the first case, assume that g is adjacent to c . By (II), there is a vertex adjacent to neither c nor e ; this must be the last vertex h . Since d and c both have the maximum possible degree 4, we must have that h is adjacent to b in order to get the path of length two to a guaranteed by (I). Now note that h is not adjacent to any of a, c, d or e . As h has degree (at least) three, it must be adjacent to b, f and g . But now there is no vertex adjacent to neither d nor h , contradicting (II).

The only other case is when g is adjacent to b . By (II), there is a vertex adjacent to neither b nor e . This must be the last vertex h which must now be adjacent to c to get a path of length two to a . Now, as h is not adjacent to any of a, b, d or e , it must be adjacent to c, f and g as it has degree at least 3. Now there is no vertex which is adjacent to neither d nor g , contradicting (II).

So, the smallest graph satisfying (I) and (II) has nine vertices. ■

By Lemma 4.1 and Theorem 4.1, it follows that:

Corollary 4.3 $|V(N_u)| \geq 9$.

Now we proceed to find a lower bound on the order of the graph N'_u .

Lemma 4.3 *If G is a 3-p.e.c. graph and $u \in V(G)$, then $N'_u = H[N^c(u)]$ has the property that for each pair of vertices $v, w \in V(N'_u)$, there are three more vertices $p, q, r \in V(N'_u)$ such that:*

(I') p is adjacent to v and not adjacent to w ,

(II') q is adjacent to w and not adjacent to v ,

(III') r is adjacent to neither v nor w .

Proof Similar to the proof of Lemma 4.1. ■

Corollary 4.4 *If G is a graph such that for any pair of vertices v and w there are three vertices p, q and r such that (I'), (II') and (III') hold, then:*

(i') G has no isolated or universal vertices,

(ii') if $u \in V(G)$, then $|N(u)| \geq 2$ and $|N^c(u)| \geq 3$ (hence $|V(G)| \geq 6$).

Theorem 4.2 *If G is the smallest graph such that for any pair of vertices v and w there are three vertices p, q and r such that (I'), (II') and (III') hold, then $|V(G)| = 7$.*

Proof By Corollary 4.4 (ii'), $|V(G)| \geq 6$ and if $|V(G)| = 6$, then G is 2-regular and hence $G \in \{C_6, C_3 \cup C_3\}$. But, none of these graphs satisfy properties (I'), (II') and (III'). It can be easily seen that C_7 is a graph in which for any pair of vertices v and w there are three vertices p, q and r such that (I'), (II') and (III') hold. ■

By Lemma 4.3 and Theorem 4.2, it follows that:

Corollary 4.5 $|V(N'_u)| \geq 7$.

Corollary 4.6 *A 3-p.e.c. graph has at least 18 vertices.*

Proof Suppose H is a 3-p.e.c. graph and $u \in V(H)$. By Corollaries 4.3 and 4.5, $|N(u)| \geq 9$ and $|N^c(u)| \geq 7$. So, $|V(H)| \geq 17$. Consider a 3-p.e.c. graph H on 17 vertices. Since $|N(u)| = 9$ and $|N^c(u)| = 7$, H must be a 9-regular graph on 17 vertices which is impossible. So, $|V(H)| \geq 18$. ■

Note that any 3-e.c. graph is also 3-p.e.c., and observe that the smallest 3-e.c. graph has between 24 and 28 vertices [7, 14]. The graph in Figure 1 is a 3-p.e.c. graph on 24 vertices which is found by a computer search among the strongly regular graphs with at least 18 and at most 27 vertices; the adjacency list of this graph is given in Appendix A. Consequently, the smallest 3-p.e.c. graph has order between 18 and 24.

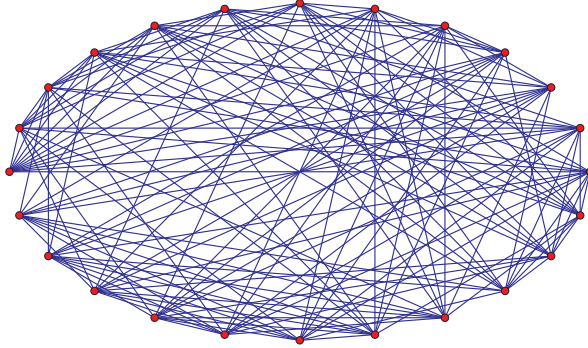


Figure 1: An example of a 3-p.e.c. graph on 24 vertices.

5 Discussion

In the statement of Theorem 3.1, we have considered a special class of 3-w.e.c. graphs, i.e., those that satisfy the conditions of the statement of the theorem. One may consider the other classes of 3-w.e.c. graphs G and determine the sufficient adjacency properties of H such that $G \diamond H$ is 3-e.c.

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Appendix: Adjacency List of a 3-p.e.c. Graph

Here is the adjacency list of the 3-p.e.c. graph presented in Figure 1.

- 1 : 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
- 2 : 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 22, 23, 24
- 3 : 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 17, 22, 23, 24
- 4 : 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24
- 5 : 1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
- 6 : 1, 2, 3, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23
- 7 : 1, 2, 3, 9, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24
- 8 : 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22
- 9 : 1, 2, 4, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23

10 : 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24
 11 : 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 24
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