

Hamiltonicity of the Complete Double Vertex Graph of some Join Graphs

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Abstract

The complete double vertex graph $M_2(G)$ of G is defined as the graph whose vertices are the 2-multisubsets of $V(G)$, and two of such vertices are adjacent in $M_2(G)$ if their symmetric difference (as multisets) is a pair of adjacent vertices in G . In this paper we exhibit an infinite family of graphs G (containing Hamiltonian and non-Hamiltonian graphs) for which $M_2(G)$ are Hamiltonian.

1 Introduction

Throughout this paper, G is a simple graph of order $n \geq 2$. The *complete double vertex graph* $M_2(G)$ of G is the graph whose vertices are all the 2-multisubsets of $V(G)$ where two vertices are adjacent whenever their symmetric difference (as multisubsets) is a pair of adjacent vertices in G . See an example in Figure 1. This class of graphs can be seen as a generalization of the 2-token graph $F_2(G)$ of G , where the vertex set consists of all the 2-subsets of $V(G)$ and the adjacencies are defined in a similar

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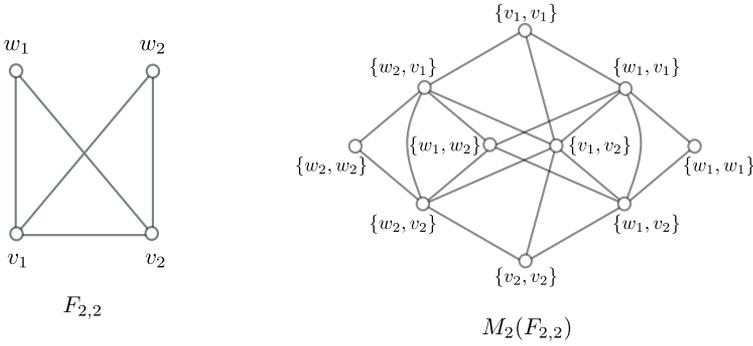


Figure 1: Graph $F_{2,2}$ and its complete double vertex graph $M_2(F_{2,2})$.

way. It is easy to show that G and $F_2(G)$ are isomorphic to a subgraph of $M_2(G)$.

The 2-token graph is, indeed, a particular case of the k -token graphs. For a graph G of order n and an integer k with $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$, the k -token graph $F_k(G)$ of G is the graph whose vertices are the k -subsets of $V(G)$, where two of such k -subsets are adjacent if their symmetric difference is a pair of adjacent vertices in G .

The properties of token graphs have been studied since 1991 by various authors and with different names, see, e.g., [1, 2, 3, 5, 9] and, in recent years, the study of its combinatorial properties and its connection with problems in other areas such as Coding Theory and Physics has increased, see, e.g., [4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15]. However, there are only few papers about complete double vertex graphs, which were implicitly introduced by Chartrand et al. [7]. As far as we know, the only parameters of complete double vertex graphs that have been studied are: connectivity, regularity, planarity, chromatic number, Hamiltonicity and Eulerianicity. These parameters were studied by Jacob, Goddard and Laskar [13] in 2007.

In this note we are interested in the Hamiltonicity of complete double vertex graphs. Jacob, Goddard and Laskar [13] showed that the Hamiltonicity of G does not necessarily imply the Hamiltonicity of $M_2(G)$, for example if $n = 4$ or $n \geq 6$, then $M_2(C_n)$ is not Hamiltonian. However, the

authors also showed that if G' is the graph obtained from C_n by adding an edge between two vertices at distance two, then $M_2(G')$ is Hamiltonian. To our knowledge, these are the only known results about the Hamiltonicity problem in this class of graphs.

In order to formulate our main result we need the following definitions. Given two disjoint graphs G and H , the *join graph* $G+H$ of G and H is the graph whose vertex set is $V(G) \cup V(H)$ and its edge set is $E(G) \cup E(H) \cup \{xy : x \in G \text{ and } y \in H\}$. The *generalized fan graph*, $F_{m,n}$, or simply the *fan graph*, is the join graph $F_{m,n} = E_m + P_n$, where E_m denotes the empty graph on m vertices ($E_m = \overline{K_m}$) and P_n denotes the path graph on n vertices. In Figure 1 we show $F_{2,2}$.

The authors of this article studied the Hamiltonicity of k -token graphs of fan graphs $F_{1,n}$ [16]. In this note, we continue with this line of research but for the case of the complete double vertex graph of the generalized fan graphs $F_{m,n}$, for $m \geq 1$. Our main result is the following.

Theorem 1. The complete double vertex graph of $F_{m,n}$ is Hamiltonian if and only if $n \geq 2$ and $1 \leq m \leq 2(n-1)$.

A direct consequence of Theorem 1 is the following result.

Corollary 2. Let G_1 and G_2 be two graphs of order $m \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2$, respectively, such that G_2 has a Hamiltonian path. Let $G = G_1 + G_2$. If $m \leq 2(n-1)$ then $M_2(G)$ is Hamiltonian.

Observe that Corollary 2 provides an infinite family of non-Hamiltonian graphs whose complete double vertex graphs are Hamiltonian.

2 Proof of Theorem 1

We introduce the following notation. Let $V(P_n) := \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ and $V(E_m) := \{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$, so $V(F_{m,n}) = \{v_1, \dots, v_n, w_1, \dots, w_m\}$. For a path $T = a_1 a_2 \dots a_{l-1} a_l$, we will use \overleftarrow{T} to denote the reverse path $a_l a_{l-1} \dots a_2 a_1$. As usual, for a positive integer r let $[r] := \{1, 2, \dots, r\}$.

If $n = 1$ and $m \geq 1$, then $\deg(\{w_i, w_i\}) = 1$ for any $i \in [m]$, which implies that $M_2(F_{m,n})$ is not Hamiltonian, so we assume that $n \geq 2$.

The proof is by construction. We distinguish four cases: either $m = 1$, $m = 2(n - 1)$, $1 < m < 2(n - 1)$ or $m > 2(n - 1)$.

• **Case $m = 1$**

For $1 \leq i \leq n$ let

$$T_i := \{v_i, w_1\}\{v_i, v_i\}\{v_i, v_{i+1}\}\{v_i, v_{i+2}\} \dots \{v_i, v_n\}.$$

Note the following

- (a) T_i is a path in $M_2(F_{m,n})$, where $T_n = \{v_n, w_1\}\{v_n, v_n\}$;
- (b) for any $i \in [n - 1]$ the final vertex of T_i is adjacent to the initial vertex of \overleftarrow{T}_{i+1} , so the paths T_i and \overleftarrow{T}_{i+1} can be concatenated as $T_i\overleftarrow{T}_{i+1}$;
- (c) for any $i \in [n - 1]$ the final vertex of \overleftarrow{T}_i is adjacent to the initial vertex of T_{i+1} , so the paths \overleftarrow{T}_i and T_{i+1} can be concatenated as $\overleftarrow{T}_iT_{i+1}$.

Let

$$C := \begin{cases} T_1 \overleftarrow{T}_2 T_3 \overleftarrow{T}_4 \dots T_{n-1} \overleftarrow{T}_n \{w_1, w_1\} & \text{if } n \text{ is even,} \\ \overleftarrow{T}_1 \{w_1, w_1\} T_2 \overleftarrow{T}_3 T_4 \dots T_{n-1} \overleftarrow{T}_n & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

We claim that C is a Hamiltonian cycle in $M_2(F_{m,n})$. Suppose that n is even. Statements (b) and (c) together imply that the concatenation $T_1 \overleftarrow{T}_2 T_3 \overleftarrow{T}_4 \dots T_{n-1} \overleftarrow{T}_n$ produces a walk in $M_2(F_{m,n})$. Now, since $\{v_n, w_1\}$ (the final vertex of \overleftarrow{T}_n) is adjacent to $\{w_1, w_1\}$, and $\{w_1, w_1\}$ is adjacent to $\{v_1, w_1\}$ (the initial vertex of T_1), it follows that C is a closed walk in $M_2(F_{m,n})$. Finally, note that $\{V(T_1), \dots, V(T_n), \{\{w_1, w_1\}\}\}$ is a partition of the vertex set of $M_2(F_{m,n})$. Therefore, C is a Hamiltonian cycle. By similar arguments, when n is odd we have that C is a Hamiltonian cycle in $M_2(F_{m,n})$, as claimed.

Let us note here that $\{v_n, w_1\}$ and $\{v_n, v_n\}$ are adjacent in C (these two vertices correspond to the vertices of \overleftarrow{T}_n). This observation will be useful in the following two cases.

• **Case $m = 2(n - 1)$.**

Let C be the cycle defined in the previous case, depending on the parity of n . Let

$$P_1 := \{v_n, w_1\} \xrightarrow{C} \{v_n, v_n\}$$

be the path obtained from C by deleting the edge between $\{v_n, w_1\}$ and $\{v_n, v_n\}$. For $1 < i \leq n - 1$ let

$$P_i = \{w_i, v_n\}\{w_i, w_i\}\{w_i, v_{n-1}\}\{w_i, w_1\}\{w_i, v_{n-2}\}\{w_i, w_{i+(n-2)}\} \\ \{w_i, v_{n-3}\}\{w_i, w_{i+(n-3)}\} \dots \{w_i, v_2\}\{w_i, w_{i+2}\}\{w_i, v_1\}\{w_i, w_{i+1}\}. \quad (1)$$

Note that after the vertex $\{w_i, w_1\}$, the vertices of P_i follow the pattern $\{w_i, v_j\}\{w_i, w_{i+j}\}$, from $j = n - 2$ to 1.

For $n \leq i \leq m$ let

$$P_i = \{w_i, v_n\}\{w_i, w_i\}\{w_i, v_{n-1}\}\{w_i, w_{i+(n-1)}\}\{w_i, v_{n-2}\} \\ \{w_i, w_{i+(n-2)}\} \dots \{w_i, v_2\}\{w_i, w_{i+2}\}\{w_i, v_1\}\{w_i, w_{i+1}\}, \quad (2)$$

where the sums are taken mod m and with the convention that $m \pmod{m} = m$. In this case, after $\{w_i, w_i\}$, the vertices in P_i follow the pattern $\{w_i, v_j\}\{w_i, w_{i+j}\}$, from $j = n - 1$ to 1. We claim that

$$P := P_1 P_2 \dots P_m \{v_n, w_1\}$$

is a Hamiltonian cycle in $M_2(F_{m,n})$.

Note the following

1. the final vertex of P_1 is $\{v_n, v_n\}$ while the initial vertex of P_2 is $\{w_2, v_n\}$, and these two vertices are adjacent in $M_2(F_{m,n})$;
2. for $1 < i < 2(n - 1)$, the final vertex of P_i is $\{w_i, w_{i+1}\}$ while the initial vertex of P_{i+1} is $\{w_{i+1}, v_n\}$, and also these two vertices are adjacent in $M_2(F_{m,n})$;

3. the final vertex of P_m is $\{w_m, w_1\}$ while the initial vertex of P_1 is $\{v_n, w_1\}$, and these two vertices are adjacent in $M_2(F_{m,n})$.

These three observations together imply that P is a closed walk in $M_2(F_{m,n})$. Now we show that $\{V(P_1), \dots, V(P_m)\}$ is a partition of $V(M_2(F_{m,n}))$. Notice that any vertex in $V(F_{m,n})$ satisfies exactly one of the following conditions:

- The vertices of type $\{v_i, v_j\}$ belong to P_1 for any $i, j \in [n]$.
- The vertices of type $\{w_i, v_j\}$ belong to P_i for any $i \in [m]$ and $j \in [n]$.
- The vertices of type $\{w_i, w_i\}$ belong to P_i for any $i \in [m]$.
- Let $H := \{\{w_i, w_j\} \in V(M_2(F_{m,n})): i, j \in [m], i \neq j\}$. Note that

$$|H| = \binom{m}{2} = \frac{m(m-1)}{2} = (n-1)(m-1),$$

and furthermore, $|V(P_\ell) \cap H| = n-1$ for each $\ell \in \{2, \dots, m\}$. Moreover, for a vertex $\{w_i, w_j\}$, with $i, j \in [m]$ and $i < j$, we claim that

$$\{w_i, w_j\} \in \begin{cases} P_j & \text{if } i = 1; \\ P_i & \text{if } i > 1 \text{ and } |j - i| \leq n - 2; \\ P_j & \text{if } i > 1 \text{ and } |j - i| > n - 2. \end{cases}$$

First suppose $i = 1$. If $1 < j \leq n-1$, then Equation (1) implies that $\{w_1, w_j\} \in P_j$, and if $n \leq j \leq m$, then $w_1 \in \{w_{j+1}, w_{j+2}, \dots, w_{j+(n-1)}\}$ and hence Equation (2) implies that $\{w_1, w_j\} \in P_j$. Suppose now that $i > 1$. If $j - i \leq n - 2$, then $w_j \in \{w_{i+1}, w_{i+2}, \dots, w_{i+(n-2)}\}$, and so by Equation (1) it follows that $\{w_i, w_j\} \in P_i$. If $j - i > n - 2$ then $w_i \in \{w_{j+1}, w_{j+2}, \dots, w_{j+(n-1)}\}$, and so by Equation (2) we have that $\{w_i, w_j\} \in P_j$.

Thus, P is a Hamiltonian cycle in $M_2(F_{m,n})$.

• **Case $1 < m < 2(n - 1)$.**

We consider again the paths P_1, \dots, P_m defined in the previous case with a slight modification:

- $P'_1 = P_1$;
- for $i \in \{2, \dots, m - 1\}$, let P'_i be the path obtained from P_i by deleting the vertices of type $\{w_i, w_j\}$, for each $j > m$;
- let P'_m be the path obtained from P_m by first interchanging $\{w_m, w_{m+1}\}$ and $\{w_m, w_1\}$ from their current positions in P_m , and then deleting the vertices of type $\{w_m, w_j\}$, for every $j > m$.

We have that P'_1, \dots, P'_m are, indeed, disjoint paths in $M_2(F_{m,n})$, and that P'_i has the same initial and final vertices as P_i for $i \neq m$, so the concatenation

$$P' := P'_1 \dots P'_m \{v_n, w_1\}$$

corresponds to a cycle in $M_2(F_{m,n})$. It is an easy exercise to show that P' is, in fact, a Hamiltonian cycle of $M_2(F_{m,n})$.

• **Case $m > 2(n - 1)$.**

In this case we show that $M_2(F_{m,n})$ is not Hamiltonian by using the following result stated in West's book [17].

Proposition (Prop. 7.2.3, [17]). If G has a Hamiltonian cycle, then for each nonempty set $S \subseteq V(G)$, the graph $G - S$ has at most $|S|$ connected components.

So, for our purpose, we are going to exhibit a subset $S \subset V(M_2(F_{m,n}))$ such that the graph $M_2(F_{m,n}) - S$ has at most $|S|$ connected components. Let

$$S := \{\{w_i, v_j\} \in V(M_2(F_{m,n})) : i \in [m] \text{ and } j \in [n]\},$$

$$T := \{\{w_i, w_j\} \in V(M_2(F_{m,n})) : i, j \in [m]\},$$

$$R := \{\{v_i, v_j\} \in V(M_2(F_{m,n})) : i, j \in [n]\}.$$

The set $\{S, T, R\}$ is a partition of $V(M_2(F_{m,n}))$. Since any vertex in T has its neighbors in S , the subgraph induced by T in $M_2(F_{m,n}) - S$ is isomorphic to $\overline{K_{\binom{m+1}{2}}}$. On the other hand, the subgraph induced by R is a component of $M_2(F_{m,n}) - S$. Since $|S| = mn$, $|T| = \binom{m+1}{2}$ and $m > 2(n-1)$, we have that the number of connected components of $M_2(F_{m,n}) - S$ is

$$|T| + 1 = \binom{m+1}{2} + 1 > mn = |S|.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

3 Open problems

There is a natural generalization of the complete double vertex graphs: Let G be a simple graph of n vertices and let k be an integer with $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$. The k -multiset graph $M_k(G)$ of G is the graph whose vertices are the k -multisubsets of $V(G)$, with two vertices being adjacent in $M_k(G)$ if their symmetric difference (as multisets) is a pair of adjacent vertices in G . This generalization gives rise to several open problems.

Open problem 1. To establish whether or not the Hamiltonicity of G implies the Hamiltonicity of $M_k(G)$ for $k > 2$.

In this paper we provided an infinite family of non-Hamiltonian graphs with Hamiltonian complete double vertex graphs. A natural open problem is to study if this result can be generalized.

Open problem 2. Given an integer $k > 2$, to establish whether or not there exist non-Hamiltonian graphs with Hamiltonian k -multiset graphs.

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