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# Total resolving number of edge cycle graphs

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## ABSTRACT

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a simple connected graph. An ordered subset  $W$  of  $V$  is said to be a resolving set of  $G$  if every vertex is uniquely determined by its vector of distances to the vertices in  $W$ . The minimum cardinality of a resolving set is called the resolving number of  $G$  and is denoted by  $r(G)$ . Total resolving number is the minimum cardinality taken over all resolving sets in which  $\langle W \rangle$  has no isolates and it is denoted by  $tr(G)$ . In this paper, we determine the exact values of total resolving number of  $K_{1,n-1}(C_k)$ ,  $B_{s,t}(C_k)$ ,  $C_n(C_k)$ ,  $P_n(C_k)$  and  $K_n(C_k)$ . Also, we obtain bounds for the total resolving number of  $G(C_k)$  when  $G$  is an arbitrary graph and characterize the extremal graphs.

## KEYWORDS

Resolving number; total resolving number; edge cycle graph

## SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Primary 05C12;  
Secondary 05C35

## 1. Introduction

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a finite, simple, connected and undirected graph. The *degree* of a vertex  $v$  in a graph  $G$  is the number of edges incident with  $v$  and it is denoted by  $d(v)$ . The maximum degree in a graph  $G$  is denoted by  $\Delta(G)$  and the minimum degree is denoted by  $\delta(G)$ . The *distance*  $d(u, v)$  between two vertices  $u$  and  $v$  in  $G$  is the length of a shortest  $u$ - $v$  path in  $G$ . The maximum value of distance between vertices of  $G$  is called its *diameter*. Let  $P_n$  denote any *path* on  $n$  vertices,  $C_n$  denote any *cycle* on  $n$  vertices and  $K_n$  denote any *complete graph* on  $n$  vertices. A complete bipartite graph is denoted by  $K_{s,t}$ .  $K_{1,n-1}$  is called a *star*. A tree containing exactly two vertices that are not end vertices is called a *bistar* and it is denoted by  $B_{s,t}$ . The *join*  $G + H$  consists of  $G \cup H$  and all edges joining a vertex of  $G$  and a vertex of  $H$ . Let  $P$  denote the set of all pendent edges of  $G$  and  $|P| = p$ . Vertices which are adjacent to pendent vertices are called *support vertices*.

A graph  $H$  is called a subgraph of a graph  $G$  if  $V(H) \subseteq V(G)$  and  $E(H) \subseteq E(G)$ . A subgraph  $F$  of a graph  $G$  is called an *induced subgraph*  $\langle F \rangle$  of  $G$  if whenever  $u$  and  $v$  are vertices of  $F$  and  $uv$  is an edge of  $G$ , then  $uv$  is an edge of  $F$  as well. For a non empty set  $X$  of edges, the subgraph  $\langle X \rangle$  induced by  $X$  has edge set  $X$  and consists of all vertices that are incident with at least one edge in  $X$ . This subgraph is called an *edge induced subgraph* of  $G$ . A set of edges in a graph is *independent* if no two edges in the set are adjacent. The *edge independence number*  $\beta_1(G)$  of a graph  $G$  is the maximum cardinality taken over all maximal independent set of edges.

If  $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_k\} \subseteq V(G)$  is an ordered set, then the ordered  $k$ -tuple  $(d(v, w_1), d(v, w_2), \dots, d(v, w_k))$  is called the representation of  $v$  with respect to  $W$  and it is denoted

by  $r(v|W)$ . Since the representation for each  $w_i \in W$  contains exactly one 0 in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  position, all the vertices of  $W$  have distinct representations.  $W$  is called a *resolving set* for  $G$  if all the vertices of  $V \setminus W$  also have distinct representations. The minimum cardinality of a resolving set is called the *resolving number* of  $G$  and it is denoted by  $r(G)$ .

In 1975, Slater [5] introduced these ideas and used *locating set* for what we have called resolving set. He referred to the cardinality of a minimum resolving set in  $G$  as its *location number*. In 1976, Harary and Melter [1] discovered these concepts independently as well but used the term *metric dimension* rather than location number. In 2003, Ping Zhang and Varaporn Saenpholphat [6, 7] studied *connected resolving number* and in 2015, we introduced and studied *total resolving number* in [3]. In this paper, we use the term *resolving number* to maintain uniformity in the current literature.

If  $W$  is a resolving set and the induced subgraph  $\langle W \rangle$  has no isolates, then  $W$  is called a *total resolving set* of  $G$ . The minimum cardinality taken over all total resolving sets of  $G$  is called the *total resolving number* of  $G$  and is denoted by  $tr(G)$ . We introduced edge cycle graph in [2] and studied the resolving number of edge cycle graph  $G(C_k)$  and we studied the total resolving number of edge cycle graph  $G(C_3)$  in [4].

In this paper, we investigate the total resolving number of the edge cycle graph  $G(C_k)$ ,  $k \geq 4$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** [3] Let  $\{w_1, w_2\} \subset V(G)$  be a total resolving set in  $G$ . Then the degrees of  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  are at most 3.

**Lemma 1.2.** [3] For  $n \geq 3$ ,  $tr(P_n) = 2$  and  $tr(C_n) = 2$ .

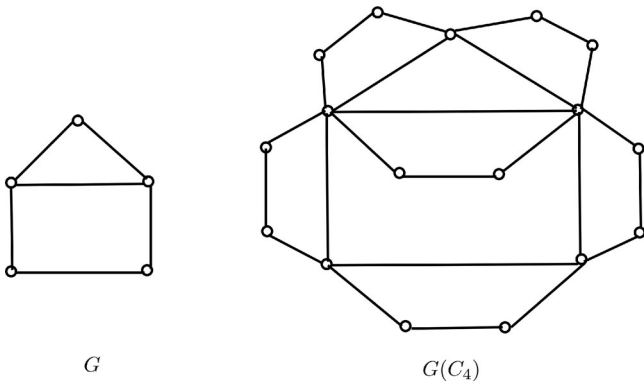


Figure 1. A graph  $G$  and its edge cycle graph.

**Observation 1.3.** [3] For any graph  $G$ ,  $2 \leq tr(G) \leq n - 1$ .

**Theorem 1.4.** [3] For  $n \geq 3$ ,  $tr(G) = n - 1$  if and only if  $G = K_n$  or  $K_{1,n-1}$ .

**Definition 1.5.** A block of  $G$  containing exactly one cut vertex of  $G$  is called an end block of  $G$ .

**Lemma 1.6.** [2] Let  $G$  be a 1-connected graph with  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ . Then every resolving set contains at least one non cut vertex of each end block.

**Definition 1.7.** A cycle  $C_r$  is called an end cycle if  $C_r$  contains exactly one vertex of degree at least 3.

**Notation 1.8.** Let  $e_c$  denote the number of end cycles of the graph  $G$ .

**Lemma 1.9.** Let  $G$  be a graph with  $e_c \geq 1$  and each end cycle of size at least 4. Then  $tr(G) \geq 2e_c$ .

*Proof.* Let  $W$  be a total resolving set of  $G$ . Let  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{e_c}$  be the end cycles of  $G$ . By Lemma 1.6,  $W \cap (V(C_i) \setminus \{v\}) \neq \emptyset$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq e_c$ . Let  $v$  be the common vertex of some end cycles  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r$ . If  $v \notin W$ , then clearly,  $W \cap (V(C_i) \setminus \{v\}) \geq 2$ , for each  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . If  $v \in W$ , then we claim that  $|W \cap X| \geq 2r$ , where  $X = \cup_{i=1}^r V(C_i)$ . Suppose  $|W \cap X| \leq 2r - 1$ . Clearly, exactly two neighbors of  $v$  in  $V(C_1) \cup V(C_2)$  belongs to  $W$ . Without loss of generality, let  $v_1, v_2 \in W$ . Then  $r(v_3|W) = r(v_4|W)$ , which is a contradiction. Thus  $|W \cap X| \geq 2r$ . Consequently,  $tr(G) \geq 2e_c$ .  $\square$

## 2. Resolving number of edge cycle graphs $G(C_k)$ , $k \geq 4$

The following results are proved in [2].

**Definition 2.1.** An edge cycle graph of a graph  $G$  is the graph  $G(C_k)$  formed from one copy of  $G$  and  $|E(G)|$  copies of  $P_k$ , where the ends of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  edge are identified with the ends of  $i^{\text{th}}$  copy of  $P_k$ . A graph  $G$  and its edge cycle graph  $G(C_k)$  are shown in Figure 1.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $v$  be a vertex of degree  $r$  in  $G$  and  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_r$  be edges incident with  $v$  and  $C_i$  be the edge cycle

of  $e_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . Then every resolving set of  $G(C_k)$  contains at least one vertex of degree 2 from  $C_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$  with at most one exception.

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $e$  be an edge of degree  $s$  and  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{s-2}$  be the edges adjacent to  $e$  in  $G$ . If any resolving set  $W$  of  $G(C_k)$  does not contain any internal vertex of the edge cycle of  $e$ , then  $W$  contains at least one internal vertex from each edge cycle of  $e_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s - 2$ .

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $E_1 = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_t\}$  be a subset of edges of  $G$  and  $W$  be a resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ . If  $W$  does not contain any internal vertex of edge cycle of  $e_i$ , then  $E_1$  is independent.

**Lemma 2.5.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ . Then  $r(G(C_k)) \geq m - \beta_1(G)$ .

**Lemma 2.6.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta(G) = 1$ . Then  $r(G(C_k)) \geq m - \beta_1(G \setminus P)$ .

**Theorem 2.7.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 5$  and size  $m$ . If  $k$  is odd and  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ , then  $r(G(C_k)) = m - \beta_1(G)$ .

**Theorem 2.8.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 5$ , size  $m$  and  $\delta(G) = 1$ . If  $k$  is odd, then  $r(G(C_k)) = m - \beta_1(G \setminus P)$ .

## 3. Total resolving number of $G(C_k)$ , $k \geq 4$ .

In this section, we determine the exact values of total resolving number of  $K_{1,n-1}(C_k)$ ,  $B_{s,t}(C_k)$ ,  $C_n(C_k)$ ,  $P_n(C_k)$  and  $K_n(C_k)$ .

**Definition 3.1.** A vertex cover in a graph  $G$  is a set of vertices that covers all edges of  $G$ . The minimum cardinality taken over all minimal vertex covers of  $G$  is the vertex covering number  $\alpha(G)$  of  $G$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 4$  and size  $m$ . Let  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_r$  be the collection of all maximum edge independent sets of  $G$  and  $G_i = \langle G \setminus M_i \rangle$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . If  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ , then  $tr(G(C_k)) \geq m - \beta_1(G) + t$ , where  $t = \min\{\alpha(G_1), \alpha(G_2), \dots, \alpha(G_r)\}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $Y = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_t\}$  be the minimum vertex covering of  $G_i$  for some  $i$  and  $W_1$  be any total resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ . By Theorem 2.5,  $r(G(C_k)) \geq m - \beta_1(G)$ . Let  $W'$  be a minimum resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ . Using Lemmas 2.2, 2.3 and 2.5,  $\langle W' \rangle$  is  $\bar{K}_{m-\beta_1(G)}$ . Thus  $|W_1| \geq m - \beta_1(G) + |Y| = m - \beta_1(G) + t$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 4$ , size  $m$  and  $\delta(G) = 1$ . Let  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_r$  be the collection of all maximum edge independent sets of  $G$  and  $G_i = \langle G \setminus (M_i \cup P) \rangle$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . Then  $tr(G(C_k)) \geq m - \beta_1(G \setminus P) + t + p$ , where  $t = \min\{\alpha(G_1), \alpha(G_2), \dots, \alpha(G_r)\}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $Y = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_t\}$  be the minimum vertex covering of  $G_i$  for some  $i$  and  $W_1$  be any total resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ . By Lemma 2.6,  $r(G(C_k)) \geq m - \beta_1(G \setminus P)$ . Let  $W'$  be a minimum resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ . Using Lemmas 1.6, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.6,  $\langle W' \rangle$

is  $\bar{K}_{m-\beta_1(G \setminus P)}$ . Thus  $|W_1| \geq m - \beta_1(G \setminus P) + |Y| + |P| = m - \beta_1(G \setminus P) + t + p$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.4.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 3$ , size  $m$  and  $k \geq 4$ . If  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ , then  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \beta_1(G)]$ .

*Proof.* Let  $E(G) = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$ . Let  $\beta_1(G) = s$  and  $M = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_s\}$  be the maximum edge independent set of  $G$ . Let  $C_i$  be the edge cycle of  $e_i$ . Let  $V(C_i) = \{v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{ik}\}$  and  $e_i = v_{i1}v_{ik}$ . If  $n = 3$ , then we can easily verify that  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 4$ . So we may assume that  $n \geq 4$ . By Theorem 2.7, if  $k$  is odd, then  $r(G(C_k)) \leq m - \beta_1(G)$ . Therefore, if  $k$  is odd, then  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2r(G(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \beta_1(G)]$ . Now we claim that if  $k$  is even, then  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \beta_1(G)]$ . Let  $W = \{v_{\frac{k}{2}}, v_{i(\frac{k}{2}+1)} / s+1 \leq i \leq m\}$ . We claim that  $W$  is a resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ . Let  $x, y$  be two distinct vertices of  $V(G(C_k)) \setminus W$ . We consider the following two cases.

**Case 1:**  $x \in V(C_i)$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq s$ .

Without loss of generality, let  $x \in V(C_1)$ . Then  $x$  lies on either  $v_{11}-v_{1\frac{k}{2}}$  path or  $v_{1(\frac{k}{2}+1)}-v_{1k}$  path. Without loss of generality, let  $x$  lie on  $v_{11}-v_{1\frac{k}{2}}$  path. Since  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ , there exist two distinct edges  $e_r, e_{r'} \in E(G) \setminus \{e_1\}$  such that  $e_r$  is incident with  $v_1$  and  $e_{r'}$  is incident with  $v_2$ . Since  $e_1 \in M$ , by Lemma 2.3,  $e_r, e_{r'} \notin M$ . Without loss of generality, let  $e_r = e_m$  and  $e_{r'} = e_{m-1}$ . Let  $S = \{v_{m\frac{k}{2}}, v_{m(\frac{k}{2}+1)}, v_{(m-1)\frac{k}{2}}, v_{(m-1)(\frac{k}{2}+1)}\}$ . If  $y \in V(C_1 \cup C_{m-1} \cup C_m)$ , then  $r(x|S) \neq r(y|S)$ . It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . So we assume that  $y \in V(C_i)$  for some  $2 \leq i \leq m-2$ . If  $d(x, s) \neq d(y, s)$  for some  $s \in S$ , then  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . So we may assume that  $d(x, s) = d(y, s)$  for all  $s \in S$ . Therefore  $y-v_{m\frac{k}{2}}$  path and  $y-v_{m(\frac{k}{2}+1)}$  path passes through  $v_{11}$  and  $y-v_{(m-1)\frac{k}{2}}$  path and  $y-v_{(m-1)(\frac{k}{2}+1)}$  path passes through  $v_{11}$  and  $v_{1k}$ .

If  $y \in V(C_i)$  for some  $s+1 \leq i \leq m-2$ , then without loss of generality, let  $y \in V(C_{m-2})$ . Thus either  $d(x, v_{(m-2)\frac{k}{2}}) > d(y, v_{(m-2)\frac{k}{2}})$  or  $d(x, v_{(m-2)(\frac{k}{2}+1)}) > d(y, v_{(m-2)(\frac{k}{2}+1)})$ . If  $y \in V(C_i)$  for some  $2 \leq i \leq s$ , then without loss of generality, let  $y \in V(C_2)$ . Since  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ , there exist two distinct edges  $e_t, e_{t'} \in E(G) \setminus \{e_1, e_2\}$  such that  $e_t$  is incident with  $v_{21}$  and  $e_{t'}$  is incident with  $v_{2k}$ . Since  $e_1 \in M$ , by Lemma 2.3,  $e_t, e_{t'} \notin M$ . If either  $e_t \neq e_m$  or  $e_{t'} \neq e_{m-1}$ , then without loss of generality, let  $e_t \neq e_m$ . Let  $e_t = e_{m-2}$  and  $v_{(m-2)1} = v_{11}$ . Then  $d(x, v_{(m-2)\frac{k}{2}}) > d(y, v_{(m-2)\frac{k}{2}})$ . If  $e_t = e_m, e_{t'} = e_{m-1}$ , then  $r(x|S) = r(y|S)$ . It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ .

**Case 2:**  $x \notin V(C_i)$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq s$ .

Then without loss of generality, let  $x \in V(C_m)$ . Let  $X = \{v_{m\frac{k}{2}}, v_{m(\frac{k}{2}+1)}\}$ . If  $y \in V(C_m)$ , then  $r(x|X) \neq r(y|X)$ . It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . So we may assume that  $x \notin V(C_m)$ . If  $d(x, v_{m\frac{k}{2}}) \neq d(y, v_{m\frac{k}{2}})$ , then  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . So we may assume that  $d(x, v_{m\frac{k}{2}}) = d(y, v_{m\frac{k}{2}})$ . Therefore  $x = v_{mk}$  and  $y$  is the neighbor of  $v_{m1}$ . Thus  $d(x, v_{m(\frac{k}{2}+1)}) = d(y, v_{m(\frac{k}{2}+1)}) - 2$ . It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ .

Hence  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \beta_1(G)]$ .  $\square$

**Open problem 3.5.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 3$ , size  $m$ ,  $k \geq 4$ . If  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ , then characterize  $G$  for which  $tr(G(C_k)) = 2[m - \beta_1(G)]$ .

**Theorem 3.6.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 3$ , size  $m$ . If  $\delta(G) = 1$ , then  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \beta_1(G \setminus P)]$ .

*Proof.* Let  $V(G) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ ,  $E(G) = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$ . Let  $\beta_1(G \setminus P) = s$ . Let  $M = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_s\}$  be the maximum edge independent set of  $G \setminus P$  and  $P = \{e_{s+1}, e_{s+2}, \dots, e_{s+p}\}$ . Let  $C_i$  be the edge cycle of  $e_i$  and  $V(C_i) = \{v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{ik}\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . Let  $e_i = v_{i1}v_{ik}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . If  $n = 3$ , then we can easily verify that  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 4$ . So we may assume that  $n \geq 4$ . By Theorem 2.8, if  $k$  is odd, then  $r(G(C_k)) \leq m - \beta_1(G \setminus P)$ . Therefore  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2r(G(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \beta_1(G \setminus P)]$ . Now we claim that if  $k$  is even, then  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \beta_1(G \setminus P)]$ .

Let  $W_i = \{v_{\frac{k}{2}}, v_{\frac{k}{2}+1}\}$ ,  $s+1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $W = \bigcup_{i=s+1}^m W_i$ . We claim that  $W$  is a resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ . Let  $x, y$  be two distinct vertices of  $V(G(C_k)) \setminus W$ .

If  $x, y \in V(C_i)$  for some  $s+1 \leq i \leq s+p$ , then without loss of generality, let  $x, y \in V(C_{s+1})$ . Let  $d(v_{(s+1)1}) = 2$  in  $G(C_k)$ . If  $d(x, v_{(s+1)\frac{k}{2}}) \neq d(y, v_{(s+1)\frac{k}{2}})$ , then  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . So we may assume that  $d(x, v_{(s+1)\frac{k}{2}}) = d(y, v_{(s+1)\frac{k}{2}})$ . Then  $x$  lies on  $v_{(s+1)\frac{k}{2}}-v_{(s+1)1}$  path and  $y$  lies on  $v_{(s+1)\frac{k}{2}}-v_{(s+1)k}$  path. Therefore  $d(x, w) = d(y, w) + 1$  for all  $w \in W \setminus \{v_{(s+1)\frac{k}{2}}\}$ . It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . If  $x \in V(C_{s+1})$ ,  $y \notin V(C_{s+1})$ , then  $d(x, v_{(s+1)\frac{k}{2}}) < d(y, v_{(s+1)\frac{k}{2}})$ . It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . If  $x, y \notin V(C_i)$  for all  $s+1 \leq i \leq s+p$ , then the proof is similar to Case 1 and Case 2 of Theorem 3.4. Thus  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \beta_1(G \setminus P)]$ .  $\square$

**Open problem 3.7.** Let  $G$  be a graph order of  $n \geq 3$ , size  $m$  and  $\delta(G) = 1$ . Then characterize  $G$  for which  $tr(G(C_k)) = 2[m - \beta_1(G \setminus P)]$ .

**Theorem 3.8.** For  $n \geq 2$ ,  $tr(K_{1,n-1}(C_k)) = 2(n-1)$ .

*Proof.* By Theorem 3.6,  $tr(K_{1,n-1}(C_k)) \leq 2(n-1)$  and by Lemma 1.9,

$$tr(K_{1,n-1}(C_k)) \geq 2(n-1). \text{ Hence } tr(K_{1,n-1}(C_k)) = 2(n-1). \quad \square$$

**Theorem 3.9.** For  $s, t \geq 1$ ,  $tr(B_{s,t}(C_k)) = 2(s+t)$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 1.9,  $tr(B_{s,t}(C_k)) \geq 2(s+t)$  and by Theorem 3.6,

$$tr(B_{s,t}(C_k)) \leq 2(s+t). \quad \square$$

**Theorem 3.10.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $\delta(G) = 1$ . Then  $tr(G(C_k)) = 2p$  if and only if  $G$  is either a star or bistar.

*Proof.* Let  $tr(G(C_k)) = 2p$  and  $W$  be a total resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ . Let  $E(G) = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$ ,  $P = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_p\}$  be the



set of pendent edges of  $G$  and  $C_i$  be the edge cycle of  $e_i$ . Let  $V(C_i) = \{v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{ik}\}$  and  $V(A_i) = \{v_{i2}, v_{i3}, \dots, v_{i(k-1)}\}$ . By proof of Lemma 1.9,  $|W \cap (\cup_{i=1}^p V(C_i))| \geq 2p$ . Therefore  $W \cap V(A_i) = \emptyset$  for all  $p+1 \leq i \leq m$ . Let  $E_1 = \{e_{p+1}, e_{p+2}, \dots, e_m\}$ . By Theorem 2.4,  $E_1$  is independent, which is a contradiction to  $G(C_k) \setminus \cup_{i=1}^p V(C_i)$  is connected and hence  $|E_1| \leq 1$ . If  $|E_1| = 0$ , then  $G \cong K_{1, n-1}$ . If  $|E_1| = 1$ , then  $G \cong B_{s,t}$ .

The proof of the converse part follows from Theorems 3.8 and 3.9.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.11.** For  $n \geq 3$ ,

$$tr(C_n(C_k)) = \begin{cases} n+1 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd and } k \geq 6 \text{ or } n=3 \\ n & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $V(C_n) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and

$$E(C_n) = \{v_i v_{i+1} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n-1\} \cup \{v_n v_1\}.$$

Let  $M = \{e_1 = v_1 v_2, e_2 = v_3 v_4, e_3 = v_5 v_6, \dots, e_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} = v_{n-2} v_{n-1}\}$  and  $e_n = v_n v_1, e_{n-1} = v_{n-1} v_n, e_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1} = v_2 v_3, e_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 2} = v_4 v_5, \dots, e_{n-2} = v_{n-3} v_{n-2}$ . Let  $W$  be a total resolving set of  $C_n(C_k)$  and  $A_i$  be the edge cycle of  $e_i$ . Let  $V(A_i) = \{v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{ik}\}$ ,  $v_{i1} v_{ik} = e_i$ . If  $n$  is even, then the proof follows from Theorems 3.2 and 3.4. So we may assume that  $n$  is odd. If  $n=3$ , then we can easily verify that  $tr(C_n(C_k)) = 4$ . So we may assume that  $n \geq 5$ . We consider the following two cases.

**Case 1:**  $k=4$  or  $5$ .

Let  $v_n = v_{(n-1)k} = v_{n1}$ ,  $v_{11} = v_1$ ,  $v_{n1} = v_n$ ,  $v_{(n-1)1} = v_{n-1}$  and  $v_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor 1} = v_{n-2}$ . Let  $W_i = \{v_{i2}, v_{i3}, \dots, v_{i(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n-2\}$ ,  $W' = \cup_{i=\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1}^{n-2} W_i$  and  $W'' = \{v_{(n-1)(k-1)}, v_{n1}, v_{n2}\}$  and  $W = W' \cup W''$ . We claim that  $W$  is a resolving set of  $C_n(C_k)$ . Let  $x, y$  be two distinct vertices of  $V(C_n(C_k)) \setminus W$ . Let  $B = V(A_1 \cup A_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \cup A_{n-1} \cup A_n)$ . If either  $x, y \in V(C_n(C_k)) \setminus B$  or  $x \in V(C_n(C_k)) \setminus B$  and  $y \in B$ , then  $r(x|W') \neq r(y|W')$ . It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . So we may assume that  $x, y \in B$ . If  $d(x, w) \neq d(y, w)$  for some  $w \in W'$ , then  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . So we may assume that  $d(x, w) = d(y, w)$  for all  $w \in W'$ . Therefore either  $x = v_{n(k-1)}$  and  $y = v_{12}$  or  $x = v_{(n-1)2}$  and  $y = v_{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor (k-1)}$ . Without loss of generality, let  $x = v_{n(k-1)}$  and  $y = v_{12}$  or  $x = v_{(n-1)2}$ . Then  $d(y, v_{n2}) = 3$  and  $d(x, v_{n2}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k=4 \\ 2 & \text{if } k=5. \end{cases}$  It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . Thus  $W$  is a resolving set of  $C_n(C_k)$  and hence  $tr(C_n(C_k)) \leq n$ . By Theorem 3.2,  $tr(C_n(C_k)) \geq n$  and hence  $tr(C_n(C_k)) = n$ .

**Case 2:**  $k \geq 6$ .

By Theorem 3.2,  $tr(C_n(C_k)) \geq n$ . But we claim that  $tr(C_n(C_k)) \geq n+1$ . Suppose  $tr(C_n(C_k)) = n$ . Since  $W$  is a total resolving set,  $\langle W \rangle$  contain at most  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  components. Then  $W \cap \left( \{v_{i2}, v_{i3}, \dots, v_{i(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor)}\} \cup \{v_{j2}, v_{j3}, \dots, v_{j(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor)}\} \right) = \emptyset$  since some  $A_i$  and  $A_j$  meet the common vertex  $v$ . Let  $v_{i1} = v_{j1} = v$  and  $v_{i1} v_{ik} = e_i, v_{j1} v_{jk} = e_j$ . Then  $r(v_{i2}|W) = r(v_{j2}|W)$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $tr(C_n(C_k)) \geq n+1$ . By

**Theorem 3.4**,  $tr(C_n(C_k)) \leq 2[n - \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor] = n+1$  and hence  $tr(C_n(C_k)) = n+1$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.12.** For  $n \geq 3$ ,

$$tr(P_n(C_k)) = \begin{cases} n+1 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd and } k \geq 6 \text{ or } n=3 \\ n & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $V(P_n) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and

$$E(P_n) = \{v_i v_{i+1} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n-1\}.$$

Let  $M = \{e_1 = v_2 v_3, e_2 = v_4 v_5, \dots, e_{\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor} = v_{n-3} v_{n-2}\}$ ,  $e_{n-2} = v_{n-2} v_{n-1}, e_{n-1} = v_{n-1} v_n$ . Let  $W$  be a total resolving set of  $P_n(C_k)$  and  $C_i$  be the edge cycle of  $e_i$ . Let  $V(C_i) = \{v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{ik}\}$ ,  $v_{i1} v_{ik} = e_i$ . If  $n$  is even, then the proof follows from Theorems 3.3 and 3.6. So we may assume that  $n$  is odd. If  $n=3$ , then we can easily verify that  $tr(P_n(C_k)) = 4$ . So we may assume that  $n \geq 5$ . We consider the following two cases.

**Case 1:**  $k=4$  or  $5$ .

Let  $v_{(n-2)1} = v_{n-2}$ ,  $v_{(n-1)1} = v_{n-1}$  and  $v_{\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor 1} = v_{n-3}$ . Let  $W_i = \{v_{i2}, v_{i3}, \dots, v_{i(\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor + 1)} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n-3\}$ ,  $W' = \cup_{i=\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor + 1}^{n-3} W_i$  and  $W'' = \{v_{(n-2)(k-1)}, v_{(n-1)1}, v_{(n-1)2}\}$  and  $W = W' \cup W''$ . We claim that  $W$  is a resolving set of  $P_n(C_k)$ . Let  $x, y$  be two distinct vertices of  $V(P_n(C_k)) \setminus W$ . Let  $B = V(C_{\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor} \cup C_{n-2} \cup C_{n-1})$ . If either  $x, y \in V(P_n(C_k)) \setminus B$  or  $x \in V(P_n(C_k)) \setminus B$  and  $y \in B$ , then  $r(x|W') \neq r(y|W')$ . It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . So we may assume that  $x, y \in B$ . If  $d(x, w) \neq d(y, w)$  for some  $w \in W'$ , then  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . So we may assume that  $d(x, w) = d(y, w)$  for all  $w \in W'$ . Therefore  $x = v_{\lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor (k-1)}$  and  $y = v_{(n-2)2}$ . Then  $d(x, v_{(n-2)(k-1)}) = 3$  and  $d(y, v_{(n-2)(k-1)}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k=4 \\ 2 & \text{if } k=5. \end{cases}$  It follows that  $r(x|W) \neq r(y|W)$ . Thus  $W$  is a resolving set of  $P_n(C_k)$  and hence  $tr(P_n(C_k)) \leq n$ . By Theorem 3.3,  $tr(P_n(C_k)) \geq n$  and hence  $tr(P_n(C_k)) = n$ .

**Case 2:**  $k \geq 6$ .

By Theorem 3.3,  $tr(P_n(C_k)) \geq n$ . But we claim that  $tr(P_n(C_k)) \geq n+1$ . Suppose  $tr(P_n(C_k)) = n$ . Since  $W$  is a total resolving set,  $\langle W \rangle$  contain at most  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  components. Then  $W \cap \left( \{v_{i2}, v_{i3}, \dots, v_{i(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor)}\} \cup \{v_{j2}, v_{j3}, \dots, v_{j(\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor)}\} \right) = \emptyset$  since some  $C_i$  and  $C_j$  meet the common vertex  $v$ . Let  $v_{i1} = v_{j1} = v$  and  $v_{i1} v_{ik} = e_i, v_{j1} v_{jk} = e_j$ . Then  $r(v_{i2}|W) = r(v_{j2}|W)$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $tr(P_n(C_k)) \geq n+1$ . By Theorem 3.6,  $tr(P_n(C_k)) \leq n+1$  and hence  $tr(P_n(C_k)) = n+1$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.13.** For  $n \geq 3$  and  $k \geq 6$ ,

$$tr(K_n(C_k)) = \begin{cases} n^2 - 2n & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ n^2 - 2n + 1 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $V(K_n) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and  $E(K_n) = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$ . Let  $C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots, C_m$  be the edge cycles of  $e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_m$  respectively. Let  $V(C_i) = \{v_{i1}, v_{i2}, \dots, v_{ik}\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . Let  $W$  be a total resolving set of  $K_n(C_k)$ . First we claim that

$tr(K_n(C_k)) \geq 2[m - \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor]$ . Suppose that  $tr(K_n(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor] - 1$ . Since  $K_n(C_k)$  contain  $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$  edge cycles,  $\langle W \rangle$  contain union of at most  $\lceil \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \rceil - \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor - 1$  components. Then  $W \cap \left( \{v_{i2}, v_{i3}, \dots, v_{i[\frac{n}{2}]} \} \cup \{v_{j2}, v_{j3}, \dots, v_{j[\frac{n}{2}]} \} \right) = \emptyset$  since  $C_i$  and  $C_j$  meet the common vertex and hence we have  $r(v_{i2}|W) = r(v_{j2}|W)$ , which is a contradiction. Thus  $tr(K_n(C_k)) \geq 2[m - \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor]$ . By Theorem 3.4,  $tr(K_n(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor]$  and hence  $tr(K_n(C_k)) = \begin{cases} n^2 - 2n & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ n^2 - 2n + 1 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$   $\square$

#### 4. General bounds and extremal graphs

In this section, we obtain bounds for the total resolving number of  $G(C_k)$  and characterize the extremal graphs.

**Theorem 4.1.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $k \geq 6$ . Then  $4 \leq tr(G(C_k)) \leq n^2 - 2n + 1$ .

*Proof.* Let  $W$  be a total resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ .

**Claim 1:**  $tr(G(C_k)) \geq 4$ .

If  $G$  is a tree, then  $G$  has at least two pendent edges. Therefore by Lemma 1.9,  $tr(G(C_k)) \geq 4$ . If  $G$  contains a cycle, then we claim that  $tr(G(C_k)) \geq 4$ . Suppose  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 3$ . Then  $\langle W \rangle$  is connected. Then  $W \cap \left( \{v_{i2}, v_{i3}, \dots, v_{i[\frac{n}{2}]} \} \cup \{v_{j2}, v_{j3}, \dots, v_{j[\frac{n}{2}]} \} \right) = \emptyset$  since some  $C_i$  and  $C_j$  meet the common vertex  $v$ . Let  $v_{i1} = v_{j1} = v$  and  $v_{i1}v_{ik} = e_i$ ,  $v_{j1}v_{jk} = e_j$ . Then  $r(v_{i2}|W) = r(v_{j2}|W)$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $tr(G(C_k)) \geq 4$ .

**Claim 2:**  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq n^2 - 2n + 1$ .

The upper bound depends on the number of edges and by Theorem 3.4,  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2[\frac{n(n-1)}{2} - \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor]$ . Thus

$$tr(G(C_k)) \leq \begin{cases} n^2 - 2n & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ n^2 - 2n + 1 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

$\square$

**Theorem 4.2.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $k \geq 6$ . Then  $tr(G(C_k)) = 4$  if and only if  $G \cong P_3, C_3, P_4$  or  $C_4$ .

*Proof.* Let  $tr(G(C_k)) = 4$  and  $W$  be a total resolving set of  $G(C_k)$ . If  $G$  is a tree, then  $G$  has at least two pendent edges. By Lemma 1.9,  $G$  has exactly two pendent edges. Therefore  $G \cong P_n$ . By Theorem 3.12,  $G \cong P_3$  or  $P_4$ .

If  $G$  contains a cycle, then we claim that  $n = 3$  or  $4$ . Suppose  $n \geq 5$ . Then  $m \geq 5$  and  $m \geq n$ . Let  $E(G) = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_m\}$  and  $M = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_s\}$  be the maximum edge independent set of  $G$ . Let  $C_i$  be the edge cycle of  $e_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . Since  $tr(G(C_k)) = 4$ ,  $\langle W \rangle$  is either connected or  $2K_2$ .

Then all the vertices of  $W$  belong to union of two edge cycles of  $G(C_k)$ . Without loss of generality, let  $W \subset (V(C_m) \cup V(C_{m-1}))$ . Then  $W \cap V(C_i) = \emptyset$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq m-2$ . Since  $m-2 > \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  and  $s \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ ,  $m-2 > s$ . Then we have  $W \cap (V(C_i) \cup V(C_j)) = \emptyset$  since some  $C_i$  and  $C_j$  meet the common vertex  $v$ . Let  $v_{i1} = v_{j1} = v$  and  $v_{i1}v_{ik} = e_i$ ,  $v_{j1}v_{jk} = e_j$ . Then  $r(v_{i2}|W) = r(v_{j2}|W)$ , which is a contradiction. Hence  $n = 3$  or  $4$ . If  $n = 3$ , then  $G \cong C_3$ . If  $n = 4$ , then  $G \cong C_4$  or  $K_1 + (K_2 \cup K_1)$  or  $K_4 - e$  or  $K_4$ . If  $G$  is  $K_1 + (K_2 \cup K_1)$  or  $K_4 - e$  or  $K_4$ , then we can easily verify that  $tr(G(C_k)) > 4$ , which is a contradiction and hence  $G \cong C_4$ .

Conversely, let  $G \cong P_3, C_3, P_4$  or  $C_4$ . Then by Theorems 3.11 and 3.12,  $tr(G(C_k)) = 4$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.3.** Let  $G$  be a graph of order  $n \geq 3$  and  $k \geq 6$ . Then  $tr(G(C_k)) = n^2 - 2n + 1$  if and only if  $n$  is odd and  $G \cong K_n$ .

*Proof.* Let  $tr(G(C_k)) = n^2 - 2n + 1$ . If  $n$  is even, by Theorem 3.6,  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq n^2 - 2n$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore  $n$  is odd. Now we claim that  $G \cong K_n$ . It is enough to prove that  $m = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$ . Suppose  $m < \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$ . If  $\delta(G) \geq 2$ , then by Theorem 3.4,  $tr(G(C_k)) \leq 2[m - \beta_1(G)]$ . Since  $m < \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$  and  $\beta_1(G) \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ ,  $tr(G(C_k)) < 2[\frac{n(n-1)}{2} - \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor] = n^2 - 2n - 1$ , which is a contradiction. If  $\delta(G) = 1$ , then we can similarly prove that  $tr(G(C_k)) < n^2 - 2n - 1$ . Hence  $G \cong K_n$ . Conversely, let  $G \cong K_n$ ,  $n$  is odd. Then by Theorem 3.13,  $tr(G(C_k)) = n^2 - 2n + 1$ .  $\square$

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