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Note

Graham's pebbling conjecture on product of thorn graphs of complete graphs

Zhiping Wang [a], Yutang Zou [b], Haiying Liu [c], Zhongtuo Wang [d]

[a] Department of Mathematics, Dalian Maritime University, 116026, Dalian, PR China
[b] College of Traffic and Logistics Engineering, 116026, Dalian, PR China
[c] Department of Foundational Education, Yantai Nanshan University, 265713, Yantai, PR China
[d] School of Management, Dalian University of Technology, 116024, Dalian, PR China

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ABSTRACT

The pebbling number of a graph G, $f(G)$, is the least n such that, no matter how n pebbles are placed on the vertices of G, we can move a pebble to any vertex by a sequence of pebbling moves, each move taking two pebbles off one vertex and placing one on an adjacent vertex. Let $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$ be positive integers and G be such a graph, $V(G) = n$. The thorn graph of the graph G, with parameters $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$, is obtained by attaching p_i new vertices of degree 1 to the vertex u_i of the graph G, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. Graham conjectured that for any connected graphs G and H, $f(G \times H) \le f(G)f(H)$. We show that Graham's conjecture holds true for a thorn graph of the complete graph with every $p_i > 1$ $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$ by a graph with the two-pebbling property. As a corollary, Graham's conjecture holds when G and H are the thorn graphs of the complete graphs with every $p_i > 1$ $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$.

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1. Introduction

Pebbling in graphs was first studied by Chung [1]. Consider a connected graph with a fixed number of pebbles which are nonnegative integer weights distributed on the vertices. A pebbling move consists of taking two pebbles off one vertex and placing one pebble on an adjacent vertex. Chung defined the pebbling number of a vertex v in a graph G as the smallest number $f(G, v)$ such that from every placement of $f(G, v)$ pebbles, it is possible to move a pebble to v by a sequence of pebbling moves. Then the pebbling number of a graph G, denoted by $f(G)$, is the maximum $f(G, v)$ over all the vertices v in G. The t-pebbling number of a vertex v in a graph G is the smallest number $f_t(G, v)$ with the property that from every placement of $f_t(G, v)$ pebbles on G, it is possible to move t pebbles to v by a sequence of pebbling moves.

There are some known results regarding $f(G)$ (see Refs. [1–7]). If one pebble is placed on each vertex other than the vertex v, then no pebble can be moved to v. Also, if ω is at distance d from v, and $2^d - 1$ pebbles are placed on ω, then no pebble can be moved to v. So it is clear that $f(G) \ge \max(|V(G)|, 2^D)$ [1], where $|V(G)|$ is the number of vertices of the graph G and D is the diameter of the graph G. Furthermore, we know from [1] that $f(K_n) = n$, where K_n is the complete graph on n vertices, and $f(P_n) = 2^{n-1}$, where P_n is the path on n vertices. Given a configuration of pebbles placed on G, let q be the number of vertices with at least one pebble, and let r be the number of vertices with an odd number of pebbles. We say that G satisfies the two-pebbling property (respectively, weak or odd two-pebbling property), if it is possible to move two pebbles to any specified target vertex when the total starting number of pebbles is $2f(G) - q + 1$ (respectively, $2f(G) - r + 1$). Note that any graph which satisfies the two-pebbling property also satisfies the weak or odd two-pebbling property.

E-mail address: wangzhiping5006@tom.com (Z. Wang).

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This paper explores the pebbling number of the Cartesian product of the thorn graph of the complete graph with every $p_i > 1$ $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$. The idea for a Cartesian product comes from a conjecture of Graham [1]. This conjecture states that for any graphs G and H, $f(G \times H) \leq f(G)f(H)$. There are a few results that verify Graham's conjecture, among them, the conjecture holds for a tree by a tree [2], a cycle by a cycle [3], and a complete graph by a graph with the two-pebbling property [1] and a complete bipartite graph by a graph with the two-pebbling property [4], a fan graph by a fan graph and a wheel graph by a wheel graph [5]. In this paper, we show that Graham's conjecture holds for a thorn graph of the complete graph with every $p_i > 1$ $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$ by a graph with the two-pebbling property.

Definition 1.1 (*[8]*). Let $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$ be positive integers and G be such a graph, $V(G) = n$. The thorn of the graph G, with parameters $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$, is obtained by attaching p_i new vertices of degree 1 to the vertex u_i of the graph G $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$.

The thorn graph of the graph G will be denoted by G^* or by G^* $(p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n)$, if the respective parameters need to be specified. In this paper, we will consider the thorn graph with every $p_i > 1$ $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$.

Definition 1.2 (*[9]*). Given a configuration of pebbles placed on G, a transmitting subgraph of G is a path $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$ such that there are at least two pebbles on x_1 and at least one pebble on each of the other vertices in the path, possibly except x_n. In this case, we can transmit a pebble from x_1 to x_n.

Throughout this paper G will denote a simple connected graph with vertex set $V(G)$ and edge set $E(G)$. For any vertex v of a graph G, $p(v)$ refers to the number of pebbles on v.

2. Pebbling of K_n^*

Definition 2.1 (*[7]*). Let T be a tree with a specified vertex v. T can be viewed as a directed tree denoted by $\overrightarrow{T_v}$ with edges directed toward a specified vertex, also called the root. A path-partition $P = \{\overrightarrow{P_1}, \ldots, \overrightarrow{P_r}\}$ is a set of nonoverlapping directed paths, the union of which is $\overrightarrow{T_v}$. Throughout this paper, unless stated otherwise, we will always assume that $|E(\overrightarrow{P_i})| > |E(\overrightarrow{P_j})|$ whenever $i \leq j$. A path-partition $P = \{\overrightarrow{P_1}, \ldots, \overrightarrow{P_r}\}$ is said to majorize another (say $Q = \{\overrightarrow{P'_1}, \ldots, \overrightarrow{P'_r}\}$) if the non-increasing sequence of its path size majorizes that of the other. That is, if $a_i = |E(\overrightarrow{P_i})|$ and $b_j = |E(\overrightarrow{P'_j})|$, then $(a_1, \ldots, a_r) > (b_1, \ldots, b_t)$ if and only if $a_i > b_i$ where $i = min\{j : a_j \neq b_j\}$. A path-partition of a tree T is said to be maximum if it majorizes all other path-partitions.

Theorem 2.2 (*[1]*). *The pebbling number $f_k(t, v)$ for a vertex v in a tree T is $k2^{a_1} + 2^{a_2} + \cdots + 2^{a_t} - t + 1$ where $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_t$ is the sequence of the path (i.e., the number of edges in the path) in a maximum path-partition of $\overrightarrow{T_v}$.*

Lemma 2.3. *Suppose M_n is a graph which satisfies the following properties:* (1) *the subgraph which consists of $v_1, \ldots, v_n, v_{n+1}$ is a K_{n+1},* (2) *v_r is adjacent to u_{rj} $(r \neq j; j = 1, \ldots, p_r)$. If the number of pebbles on M_n except v_i is at least $2n+4t-3+\Sigma p_j - p_i$, then t pebbles can be moved to v_i.*

Proof. Give the following distribution of $2n + 4t - 4 + \Sigma p_j - p_i$ pebbles on M_n: $p(u_{11}) = 4t - 1$, $p(u_{j1}) = 3$ $(j = 2, \ldots, i-1, i+1, \ldots, n+1)$, $p(u_{rj}) = 1$ $(r = 1, \ldots, i-1, i+1, \ldots, n+1; j = 2, \ldots, p_r)$, then t pebbles can not be moved to v_i. Thus if we can move t pebbles to v_i, then f_t $(M_n, v_i) > 2n+4t-4+\Sigma p_j - p_i$. If we remove all edges between v_{j_1} $(j_1 \neq i)$ and v_{j_2} $(j_2 \neq i)$, then the remaining graph is a tree T. By Theorem 2.2, we know that $f_t(T, v_i) = 2n + 4t - 3 + \Sigma p_j - p_i$. Since (T, v_i) is a spanning subgraph of (M_n, v_i), $f_t(M_n, v_i) \leq f_t(T, v_i)$. Then $f_t(M_n, v_i) \leq 2n + 4t - 3 + \Sigma p_j - p_i$. Hence $f_t(M_n, v_i) = 2n + 4t - 3 + \Sigma p_j - p_i$. □

Theorem 2.4. *Let K_n^* be the thorn graph of K_n with $n \geq 2$ vertices. Then*

$$f(K_n^*) = 2(n + 1) + \Sigma p_j.$$

Proof. Label the vertices of K_n by $v_1, \ldots, v_n$. Let the vertex v_i of the graph K_n attach to u_{ij} $(j = 1, \ldots, p_i)$. The graph which is composed of these vertices is K_n^*. Consider the following distribution of $2n + 1 + \Sigma p_j$ pebbles on K_n^*: $p(u_{11}) = 7$, $p(u_{1j}) = 1$ $(j = 2, \ldots, p_1)$, $p(u_{i1}) = 3$ $(i = 2, \ldots, n-1)$, $p(u_{ij}) = 1$ $(i = 2, \ldots, n-1, j = 2, \ldots, p_i)$, $p(u_{nj}) = 1$ $(j = 2, \ldots, p_n)$. Then no pebble can be moved to u_{n1}. So $f(K_n^*) > 2n + 1 + \Sigma p_j$. Now let us consider any distribution of $2(n + 1) + \Sigma p_j$ pebbles on K_n^*. There are only two types of possible target vertices.

Case 1. Suppose that the target vertex is v_i, where $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. If $p(u_{ij}) \geq 2$ for some j, then we can move one pebble from u_{ij} to v_i. We may assume that $p(u_{ij}) < 2$ for all j. When these vertices $u_{i1}, \ldots, u_{ip_i}$ and their edges are removed, the remaining graph is M_{n-1}. The number of pebbles on M_{n-1} is at least $2(n + 1) + \Sigma p_j - p_i$. Since $2(n + 1) + \Sigma p_j - p_i > 2(n - 1) + 4 \times 1 - 3 + \Sigma p_j - p_i$, by Lemma 2.3, one pebble can be moved to v_i.

Case 2. Suppose that the target vertex is u_{ij}, where $i = 1, \ldots, n$ and $j = 1, \ldots, p_i$. If $p(v_i) \geq 2$, then we can move one pebble from v_i to u_{ij}. Assuming that $p(v_i) < 2$, we may consider the following two subcases.

(2.1) If $p(v_i) = 1$, then we consider the following two sub-subcases.

(2.1.1) If there exists at least one vertex u_{ij_1} $(j_1 \neq j)$ with $p(u_{ij_1}) \geq 2$, then $\{u_{ij_1}, v_i, u_{ij}\}$ forms a transmitting subgraph.

(2.1.2) If $p(u_{ir}) < 2$ for all r $(r \neq j)$, as in the proof of case 1, by Lemma 2.3, one pebble can be moved to v_i. So we can move one pebble from v_i to u_{ij}.

(2.2) If $p(v_i) = 0$, and if there exist at least two vertices u_{ij_1} $(j_1 \neq j)$, u_{ij_2} $(j_2 \neq j)$ with $p(u_{ij_1}) \geq 2$, $p(u_{ij_2}) \geq 2$ among these vertices $u_{i1}, \dots, u_{ip_i}$, then we move one pebble from u_{ij_1} to v_i. So $\{u_{ij_2}, v_i, u_{ij}\}$ forms a transmitting subgraph. Otherwise, we consider the following three sub-subcases.

(2.2.1) If $p(u_{ij_1}) \geq 4$ for only j_1 $(j_1 \neq j)$ and $p(u_{ir}) < 2$ for all r $(r \neq j_1, j)$, then $\{u_{ij_1}, v_i, u_{ij}\}$ forms a transmitting subgraph.

(2.2.2) If $2 \leq p(u_{ij_1}) < 4$ for only j_1 $(j_1 \neq j)$ and $p(u_{ir}) < 2$ for all r $(r \neq j_1, j)$, then we can move one pebble from u_{ij_1} to v_i. as in the proof of case 1, by Lemma 2.3, one pebble can be moved to v_i. So $\{v_i, u_{ij}\}$ forms a transmitting subgraph.

(2.2.3) If $p(u_{ir}) < 2$ for all r $(r \neq j)$, as in the proof of case 1, by Lemma 2.3, two pebbles can be moved to v_i. So $\{v_i, u_{ij}\}$ forms a transmitting subgraph. Hence $f(K_n^*) = 2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j$. □

Theorem 2.5. *Let K_n^* be the thorn graph of the complete graph K_n. Then K_n^* satisfies the two-pebbling property.*

Proof. Let p be the number of pebbles on the thorn graph K_n^*, q be the number of the vertices with at least one pebble and $p + q = 2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1$. Clearly, K_n^* is a tree when $n = 1$ or $n = 2$. From Ref. [1], we know that a tree satisfies the two-pebbling property. We may assume that $n \geq 3$. Then we consider the following two types of possible target vertices.

Case 1. Suppose that the target vertex is v_i, where $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Without loss of generality, we assume that the target vertex is v_1. If $p(v_1) = 1$, then the number of pebbles on all the vertices except v_1 is $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - 1 > 2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j$ (since $q \leq n + \Sigma p_j$). Since $f(K_n^*) = 2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j$, we can put one more pebble on v_1 using $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - 1$ pebbles. If $p(v_1) = 0$, then we consider the following two subcases.

(1.1) Suppose that $p(u_{1j}) \geq 2$ for some u_{1j}. Then we can move one pebble from u_{1j} to v_1. Using the remaining $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - 2$ pebbles, we can move another pebble to v_1.

(1.2) Suppose that $p(u_{1j}) < 2$ for all u_{1j}. As in the proof of case 1 of Theorem 2.4, by Lemma 2.3, we can move two pebbles to v_1.

Case 2. Suppose that the target vertex is u_{ij}, where $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $j = 1, 2, \dots, p_i$. Without loss of generality, we assume the target vertex is u_{11}. If $p(u_{11}) = 1$, then the number of pebbles on all the vertices except u_{11} is $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - 1 > 2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j$ (since $q \leq n + \Sigma p_j$). Since $f(K_n^*) = 2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j$, we can put one more pebble on u_{11} using $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - 1$ pebbles. If $p(u_{11}) = 0$, then we consider the following three subcases.

(2.1) If $p(v_1) \geq 2$, then we can move one pebble from v_1 to u_{11}. Using the remaining $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - 2$ pebbles, we can move another pebble to u_{11}.

(2.2) If $p(v_1) = 1$, and if there is at least one vertex u_{1j_1} $(j_1 \neq 1)$ with $p(u_{1j_1}) \geq 2$, then $\{u_{1j_1}, v_1, u_{11}\}$ forms a transmitting subgraph. Using the $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - 3$ pebbles, we can move another pebble to u_{11}. If $p(u_{1r}) < 2$ for all r $(r \neq j)$, as in the proof of case 1 of Theorem 2.4, by Lemma 2.3, we move another three pebbles to v_1. So we move two pebbles from v_1 to u_{11}.

(2.3) If $p(v_1) = 0$, and if there are at least two vertices $u_{1j_1}, u_{1j_2} (j_1, j_2 \neq 1)$ with $p(u_{1j_1}) \geq 2, p(u_{1j_2}) \geq 2$, then we can move one pebble from u_{1j_2} to v_1. Then $\{u_{1j_1}, v_1, u_{11}\}$ forms a transmitting subgraph. Using the remaining $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - 4$ pebbles, we can move another pebble to u_{11}. If there is only one vertex u_{1j_1} $(j_1 \neq 1)$ with $p(u_{1j_1}) \geq 4$ and $p(u_{1j}) < 2$ for all j $(j \neq 1, j_1)$, then we can move two pebbles from u_{1j_1} to v_1. So $\{v_1, u_{11}\}$ forms a transmitting subgraph. Using the remaining $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - 4$ pebbles, we can move another pebble to u_{11}. If there is only one vertex u_{1j_1} $(j_1 \neq 1)$ with $3 \geq p(u_{1j_1}) \geq 2$ and for all j $(j \neq 1, j_1)$, then we can move one pebble from u_{1j_1} to v_1. And if we delete these vertices $u_{11}, u_{12}, \dots, u_{1p_1}$, then the remaining graph is M_{n-1}. The number of pebbles on M_{n-1} except v_1 is at least $2[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j] + 1 - q - (p_1 + 1)$. Since $q \leq n + \Sigma p_j - 2$, $f(K_n^*) = 2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j$, then $2[2(n+1) + (\Sigma p_j)] + 1 - q - (p_1 + 1) \geq 3n + 6 + \Sigma p_j - p_1 > 2(n-1) + 4 \times 3 + \Sigma p_j - p_1$. By Lemma 2.3, we move another three pebbles to v_1. So we move two pebbles from v_1 to u_{11}. We may assume that $p(u_{1j_1}) < 2$ for all j $(j \neq 1)$. As in the proof of case 1 of Theorem 2.4, by Lemma 2.3, we move four pebbles to v_1. So we move two pebbles from v_1 to u_{11}. □

3. Cartesian product

Let G and H be two graphs, the (Cartesian) product of G and H, denoted by $G \times H$, is the graph whose vertex set is the Cartesian product

$$V(G \times H) = V(G) \times V(H) = \{(x, y) : x \in V(G), y \in V(H)\}$$

and two vertices (x, y) and (x', y') are adjacent if and only if $x = x'$ and $\{y, y'\} \in E(H)$, or $\{x, x'\} \in E(G)$ and $y = y'$. We can depict $G \times H$ pictorially by drawing a copy of H at every vertex of G and connecting each vertex in one copy of H to the corresponding vertex in an adjacent copy of H. We write $\{x\} \times H$ (respectively, $G \times \{y\}$) for the subgraph of vertices whose projection onto $V(G)$ is the vertex x (respectively, whose projection onto $V(H)$ is y). If the vertices of G are labeled by x_i, then for any distribution of pebbles on $G \times H$, we write p_i for the number of pebbles on $\{x_i\} \times H$, q_i for the number of occupied vertices of $\{x_i\} \times H$ and r_i for the number of vertices of $\{x_i\} \times H$ with an odd number of pebbles.

The following conjecture, by Ronald Graham, suggests a constraint on the pebbling number of the product of two graphs.

Conjecture (*Graham*). *The pebbling number of $G \times H$ satisfies*

$$f(G \times H) \le f(G)f(H).$$

Lemma 3.1 ([3]). *Let $\{x_i, x_j\}$ be an edge in G. Suppose that in $G \times H$, we have p_i pebbles on $\{x_i\} \times H$, and r_i of these vertices have an odd number of pebbles. If $r_i \le k \le p_i$, and if k and p_i have the same parity, then k pebbles can be retained on $\{x_i\} \times H$, while transferring $\frac{p_i-k}{2}$ pebbles on to $\{x_j\} \times H$. If k and p_i have opposite parity, we must leave $k+1$ pebbles on $\{x_i\} \times H$, so we can only transfer $\frac{p_i-(k+1)}{2}$ pebbles onto $\{x_j\} \times H$. In particular, we can always transfer $\frac{p_i-r_i}{2}$ pebbles on to $\{x_j\} \times H$, since p_i and r_i have the same parity. In all these cases, the number of vertices of $\{x_i\} \times H$ with an odd number of pebbles is unchanged by these transfers.*

Lemma 3.2 ([2]). *Let $q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_n$ be the non-increasing sequence of path lengths of a maximum path partition $Q = \{Q_1, \ldots, Q_m\}$ of a tree T. Then*

$$f(T) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} 2^{q_i}\right) - m + 1.$$

Lemma 3.3 ([2]). *If T is a tree, and G satisfies the odd two-pebbling property, then $f((T, G), (x, y)) \le f(T, x)f(G)$ for every vertex v in G.*

4. Pebbling $K_n^* \times K_m^*$

In this section, we show that Graham's conjecture holds for the product of the thorn graph of the complete graph and a graph with the two-pebbling property.

Theorem 4.1. *If G satisfies the two-pebbling property, then*

$$f(K_n^* \times G) \le f(K_n^*)f(G).$$

Proof. Label the vertices of K_n by $v_1, \ldots, v_n$, and let the new vertex that attaches to the vertex v_i of the graph be u_{ij} ($i = 1, 2, \ldots, n, j = 1, \ldots, p_i$). The graph which is composed of these vertices is K_n^*. Let G_{ij} denote the subgraph $\{u_{ij}\} \times G \subsetneq K_n^* \times G$, and H_i denote the subgraph $\{v_i\} \times G \subsetneq K_n^* \times G$. Let m_{ij} denote the number of pebbles on the vertices of G_{ij}, and n_i denote the number of pebbles on the vertices of H_i. Let r_{ij} denote the number of vertices in G_{ij} which have an odd number of pebbles, and t_i denote the number of vertices in H_i which have an odd number of pebbles. Take any arrangement of $[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j]f(G)$ pebbles on the vertices of $K_n^* \times G$.

First we assume that the target vertex is (v_i, y) for some y, where $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that the vertex is (v_1, y). Let $K_n^* - \{u_{11}, \ldots, u_{1p_1}, u_{21}, \ldots, u_{2p_2}, \ldots, u_{n1}, u_{n2}, \ldots, u_{np_n}\} = K_n$. From ref [1], we know that $f(K_n \times G, (v_1, y)) = f(K_n \times G) \le nf(G)$. Since $r_{ij} \le |V(G)| \le f(G)$, $\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{p_i} m_{ij} \le [2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j]f(G)$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{p_i}(m_{ij} + r_{ij}) &= \sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{p_i} m_{ij} + \sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{p_i} r_{ij}\\ &\le [2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j]f(G) + \Sigma p_j f(G)\\ &= [2(n+1) + 2\Sigma p_j]f(G).\end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.1, we apply pebbling moves to all the vertices in $G_{11}, \ldots, G_{1p_1}, G_{21}, \ldots, G_{2p_2}, \ldots, G_{n1}, \ldots, G_{np_n}$ and we can move at least $\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{p_i}(\frac{m_{ij}-r_{ij}}{2})$ pebbles from $G_{11}, \ldots, G_{1p_1}, G_{21}, \ldots, G_{2p_2}, \ldots, G_{n1}, \ldots, G_{np_n}$ to the vertices of $K_n \times G$. Therefore, in $K_n \times G$, we have at least altogether

$$\begin{aligned}[2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j]f(G) - \sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{p_i} m_{ij} + \sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{p_i}\left(\frac{m_{ij}-r_{ij}}{2}\right) &= [2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j]f(G) - \sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{p_i}\left(\frac{m_{ij}+r_{ij}}{2}\right)\\ &\ge [2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j]f(G) - (n+1+\Sigma p_j)f(G)\\ &= (n+1)f(G)\end{aligned}$$

pebbles. Since $f(K_n \times G, (v_1, y)) \le (n+1)f(G)$, then we can move one pebble to (v_1, y).

Next we assume that the target vertex is (u_{ij}, y) for some y, where $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$ and $j = 1, 2, \ldots, p_i$. Without loss of generality, we assume that the target vertex is (u_{11}, y). If we delete all edges between the vertex v_i ($i = 2, \ldots, n$) and v_j ($j = 2, \ldots, n$) in the graph K_n^*, we get a tree T. By Lemma 3.2, we know that $f(T, u_{11}) = 2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j$. By Lemma 3.3, we know that $f(T \times G, (u_{11}, y)) \le f(T, u_{11})f(G)$. From ref [1], we know that if G' is a spanning subgraph of G, then $f(G) \le f(G')$. Since T is a spanning subgraph of K_n^*, then $T \times G$ is a spanning subgraph of $K_n^* \times G$. So $f(K_n^* \times G, (u_{11}, y)) \le f(T \times G, (u_{11}, y))$, and consequently $f(K_n^* \times G, (u_{11}, y)) \le [2(n+1) + \Sigma p_j]f(G)$. One pebble can be moved to (u_{11}, y). A thorn graph of a complete graph satisfies the two-pebbling property. The following corollary is obvious. □

Corollary 4.2.

$$f(K_n^* \times K_m^*) \leq \left[2(n+1) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i\right]\left[2(m+1) + \sum_{j=1}^{m} p_j\right], \quad n > 1, m > 1.$$

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