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PANCYCLICITY WHEN EACH CYCLE CONTAINS k CHORDS

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Abstract

For integers $n \ge k \ge 2$, let c(n, k) be the minimum number of chords that must be added to a cycle of length n so that the resulting graph has the property that for every $l \in \{k, k + 1, ..., n\}$, there is a cycle of length l that contains exactly k of the added chords. Affif Chaouche, Rutherford, and Whitty introduced the function c(n, k). They showed that for every integer $k \ge 2$, $c(n, k) \ge \Omega_k(n^{1/k})$ and they asked if $n^{1/k}$ gives the correct order of magnitude of c(n, k) for $k \ge 2$. Our main theorem answers this question as we prove that for every integer $k \ge 2$, and for sufficiently large $n, c(n, k) \le k \lceil n^{1/k} \rceil + k^2$. This upper bound, together with the lower bound of Affif Chaouche *et al.*, shows that the order of magnitude of c(n, k) is $n^{1/k}$.

Keywords: pancyclicity, chords.

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