Discussiones Mathematicae Graph Theory 38 (2018) 397–404 doi:10.7151/dmgt.2009

A NOTE ON THE RAMSEY NUMBER OF EVEN WHEELS VERSUS STARS

Sh. Haghi and H.R. Maimani

Mathematics Section, Department of Basic Sciences Shahid Rajaee Teacher Training University P.O. BOX 16783-163, Tehran, Iran

School of Mathematics Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM) P.O. BOX 19395-5746, Tehran, Iran

e-mail: sh.haghi@yahoo.com

Abstract

For two graphs G_1 and G_2 , the Ramsey number $R(G_1, G_2)$ is the smallest integer N, such that for any graph on N vertices, either G contains G_1 or \overline{G} contains G_2 . Let S_n be a star of order n and W_m be a wheel of order m + 1. In this paper, we will show $R(W_n, S_n) \leq 5n/2 - 1$, where $n \geq 6$ is even. Also, by using this theorem, we conclude that $R(W_n, S_n) = 5n/2 - 2$ or 5n/2 - 1, for $n \geq 6$ and even. Finally, we prove that for sufficiently large even n we have $R(W_n, S_n) = 5n/2 - 2$.

Keywords: Ramsey number, star, wheel, weakly pancyclic.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: 05C55, 05D10.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Let G = (V, E) denote a finite simple graph on the vertex set V and the edge set E. For the terms undefined here you can see [2]. The subgraph of G induced by $S \subseteq V$, G[S], is a graph with vertex set S and two vertices of S are adjacent in G[S] if and only if they are adjacent in G. The complement of a graph G is denoted by \overline{G} . For a vertex $v \in V(G)$, we denote the set of all neighbors of v by $N_G(v)$ (or N(v)). The degree of a vertex v in a graph G, denoted by $deg_G(v)$ (or deg(v)), is the size of the set N(v). The minimum degree, maximum degree and clique number of G are denoted by $\delta(G)$, $\Delta(G)$ and $\omega(G)$, respectively. The girth of graph G, g(G), is the length of shortest cycle. Also, the circumference of graph G is the length of longest cycle in G and is denoted by c(G). A graph G of order n is called Hamiltonian, pancyclic and weakly pancyclic if it contains C_n , cycles of every length between 3 and n, and cycles of every length l with $g(G) \leq l \leq c(G)$, respectively. We say that G is a *join* graph if G is the complete union of two graphs $G_1 = (V_1, E_1)$ and $G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$. In other words, $V = V_1 \cup V_2$ and $E = E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \{uv : u \in V_1, v \in V_2\}$. If G is the join graph of G_1 and G_2 , we shall write $G = G_1 + G_2$. A wheel W_m is a graph on m + 1 vertices obtained from C_m by adding one vertex which is called the *hub* and joining each vertex of C_m to the hub with the edges called the *rim* of the wheel. In other words, $W_m = C_m + K_1$. A star S_n is the complete bipartite graph $K_{1,n-1}$.

For two graphs G_1 and G_2 , the Ramsey number $R(G_1, G_2)$ is the smallest positive integer N such that for every graph G on N vertices, G contains G_1 as a subgraph or the complement of G contains G_2 as a subgraph. Chvátal and Harary in [4] proved the following lower bound for Ramsey numbers:

$$R(G, H) \ge (\chi(G) - 1) \cdot (l(H) - 1) + 1,$$

where l(H) is the number of vertices in the largest connected component of H and $\chi(G)$ is the chromatic number of G.

In this note, we consider the Ramsey number for stars versus wheels. The Harary lower bound for $R(W_m, S_n)$ is 3n - 2 or 2n - 1, where m is odd or even, respectively. There are many results about this Ramsey number when m is odd. Chen *et al.* in the year 2004 proved that if $m \leq n+1$ and m is odd, then $R(W_m, S_n) = 3n - 2$ which is the Harary lower bound (see [3]). Also, one year later, Hasmawati *et al.* extended this bound for m. They showed that $R(W_m, S_n) = 3n - 2$, for the case $m \leq 2n - 3$ in [8]. But, one can see in [7], if $n \geq 2$ and $m \geq 2n - 2$, then $R(W_m, S_n) = n + m - 1$, where m is odd.

Also, one can find many results about $R(W_m, S_n)$ when m is even. Surahmat and Baskoro in [12] verified this Ramsey number for the case m = 4 in 2001. They proved that $R(W_4, S_n) = 2n - 1$ if $n \ge 3$ and odd, and $R(W_4, S_n) = 2n + 1$ if $n \ge 4$ and even. Korolova in [9] found a lower bound which improved the Harary lower bound. In fact Korolova proved that $R(W_m, S_n) \ge 2n + 1$ for all $n \ge m \ge 6$ and m even. Also, Chen *et al.* in [3] showed that this lower bound is sharp for m = 6. In other words, they proved that $R(W_6, S_n) = 2n + 1$. It was proved in [14] that $R(W_8, S_n) = 2n + 2$ for $n \ge 6$ and even in the year 2008. Also, one year later, the exact value of $R(W_8, S_n)$ for odd n was determined. In fact, it was shown in [13] that $R(W_8, S_n) = 2n + 1$ for $n \ge 5$ and odd in the year 2009.

Li and Schiermeyer in [10] indicated two following theorems in which they obtained a new lower bound and showed that for some cases this bound is sharp. **Theorem 1** [10]. If $6 \le m \le 2n - 4$ and m is even, then

 $R(W_m, S_n) \ge \begin{cases} 2n + m/2 - 3 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd and } m/2 \text{ is even,} \\ 2n + m/2 - 2 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Theorem 2 [10]. If $n + 1 \le m \le 2n - 4$ and m is even, then

 $R(W_m, S_n) = \begin{cases} 2n + m/2 - 3 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd and } m/2 \text{ is even,} \\ 2n + m/2 - 2 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

But for some cases, $R(W_m, S_n)$, where *m* is even, is still open. One of these cases is when m = n. It was shown in [9] that $R(W_n, S_n) \leq 3n - 3$ when *n* is even. In this paper, we will improve this upper bound and prove the following.

Theorem 3. $R(W_n, S_n) \leq 5n/2 - 1$, where $n \geq 6$ is even.

Finally, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 4. For sufficiently large even n we have $R(W_n, S_n) \leq 5n/2 - 2$.

2. Preliminary Lemmas and Theorems

To prove Theorem 3, we need some theorems and lemmas.

Lemma 5 (Brandt *et al.* [1]). Every non-bipartite graph G of order n with $\delta(G) \ge (n+2)/3$ is weakly pancyclic with g(G) = 3 or g(G) = 4.

Lemma 6 (Dirac [5]). Let G be a 2-connected graph of order $n \ge 3$ with $\delta(G) = \delta$. Then $c(G) \ge \min\{2\delta, n\}$.

Theorem 7 (Faudree and Schelp [6], Rosta [11]).

$$R(C_n, C_m) = \begin{cases} 2n-1 & \text{for } 3 \le m \le n, \ m \ odd \ (n,m) \ne (3,3), \\ n+m/2-1 & \text{for } 4 \le m \le n, \ m, n \ even \ (n,m) \ne (4,4), \\ \max\{n+m/2-1, 2m-1\} & \text{for } 4 \le m < n, \ m \ even \ and \ n \ odd. \end{cases}$$

Lemma 8 [2]. Let G be a bipartite graph of order n (n even) with bipartition (X, Y) and |X| = |Y| = n/2. If for all distinct nonadjacent vertices $u \in X$ and $v \in Y$, we have deg(u) + deg(v) > n/2, then G is Hamiltonian.

3. Proof of Theorem 3

From now on, let G be a graph of order N = 5n/2 - 1, where $n \ge 6$ and n is even, such that neither G contains W_n nor its complement, \overline{G} , contains S_n . Also,

for every vertex $t \in V(G)$ consider $H_t = G[N(t)]$ and $\overline{H_t} = \overline{G}[N(t)]$. Since \overline{G} has no S_n , $\deg_{\overline{G}}(v) \leq n-2$, for each vertex $v \in V(G)$. Thus, $\delta(G) \geq 3n/2$. In the middle of the proof, we sometimes interrupt it and have some lemmas.

Let $v_0 \in V(G)$ be an arbitrary vertex. There exists a $k \in \{0, 1, 2, ..., n-2\}$ such that $deg_G(v_0) = 3n/2 + k$, since $\delta(G) \geq 3n/2$. Thus, the order of $H_{v_0} = G[N(v_0)]$ is 3n/2 + k. By the second part of Theorem 7, we have $|V(H_{v_0})| = 3n/2 + k \geq R(C_n, C_s)$, where s = 2l, and l is an integer such that $4 \leq 2l \leq n + k + 1$. (Note that in Theorem 3 we have $n \geq 6$, so the case (n, s) = (4, 4) does not occur for $R(C_n, C_s)$ in Theorem 7). Thus, either H_{v_0} contains C_n or \overline{H}_{v_0} contains C_s . But if H_{v_0} contains C_n , then G contains W_n , which is a contradiction. Hence we have the following corollary.

Corollary 9. Let $v \in V(G)$ and k be an element in the set $\{0, 1, \ldots, n-2\}$ such that $|V(H_v)| = 3n/2 + k$. Then \overline{H}_v contains C_{2l} for all integers l such that $4 \leq 2l \leq n+k+1$.

Proposition 10. $\omega(\overline{G}) \leq n-2 \text{ and } \omega(G) \leq n-1.$

Proof. It is clear that $\omega(\overline{G}) \leq n-1$, since $\Delta(\overline{G}) \leq n-2$. Suppose $\omega(\overline{G}) = n-1$ and $T = \{v_1, \ldots, v_{n-1}\}$ is a clique in \overline{G} . For any $v \in V - T$, $N_{\overline{G}}(v) \cap T = \emptyset$, otherwise $\overline{G}[T \cup \{v\}]$ contains S_n . Now consider $v \in V - T$ and let k be an element in the set $\{0, 1, \ldots, n-2\}$ such that $|V(H_v)| = 3n/2 + k$. Since $N_{\overline{G}}(v) \cap T = \emptyset$, the set $V(H_v)$ contains the set T. It means that $\overline{G}[T]$ is a connected component of \overline{H}_v in the graph \overline{G} . On the other hand, by Corollary 9, \overline{H}_v contains a cycle C of length 2l, where $l = \lfloor (n + k + 1)/2 \rfloor$. Note that $C \notin T$, since 2l > n - 1. Thus, $C \subseteq \overline{H}_v - T$. But $\overline{H}_v - T$ has n/2 + k + 1 vertices, which is less than 2l, a contradiction. Hence $\omega(\overline{G}) \leq n-2$. For the second part, assume to the contrary, G contains K_n and $H = G[V - K_n]$. Then $|N_G(v) \cap K_n| \geq 2$ for all $v \in V(H)$, otherwise $deg_{\overline{G}}(v) \geq n-1$, which is a contradiction. If $|N_G(v) \cap K_n| = 2$ for all $v \in V(H)$, then $H = K_{3n/2-1}$, since $\delta(G) \geq 3n/2$. But $K_{3n/2-1}$ contains W_n , a contradiction. So, there is a vertex $u \in V(H)$ such that $|N_G(u) \cap K_n| \geq 3$. But $\{u\} \cup K_n$ contains W_n , which is a contradiction. Thus $\omega(G) \leq n-1$.

We can divide the proof into some cases and subcases.

Case 1. There is a vertex $v \in V(G)$ for which H_v is bipartite. Let H_v be a bipartite graph, with bipartition (X_v, Y_v) , of order 3n/2 + k such that $k \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n-2\}$. Without loss of generality, suppose that $|X_v| \leq |Y_v|$. Thus, by Proposition 10, we have $n/2 + k + 2 \leq |X_v| \leq 3n/4 + k/2$ and $3n/4 + k/2 \leq |Y_v| \leq n-2$.

Let $|X_v| = n/2 + s$, where s is an integer such that $k + 2 \le s \le n/4 + k/2$. Then $|Y_v| = n + k - s$. Since $\Delta(\overline{G}) \le n - 2$ and $|V(H_v)| = 3n/2 + k$, we conclude $\delta(H_v) \ge n/2 + k + 1$. Let X'_v and Y'_v be obtained from X_v and Y_v by deleting s and n/2 + k - s arbitrary vertices, respectively, and let $H'_v = (X'_v, Y'_v)$. Thus, $|X'_v| = |Y'_v| = n/2$ and $\delta(X'_v) \ge s + 1$ and $\delta(Y'_v) \ge n/2 + k + 1 - s$ in H'_v . Hence for each two vertices $u_1 \in X'_v$ and $u_2 \in Y'_v$, we have $deg(u_1) + deg(u_2) \ge n/2 + k + 2$ and by Lemma 8, H'_v contains C_n . It means that G contains W_n , which is a contradiction.



Figure 1. The disjoint sets X_t , Y_t , X_u and X_v .

Case 2. For every vertex $t \in V(G)$, H_t is non-bipartite.

Subcase 2.1. Suppose H_t is disconnected for all $t \in V(G)$. Let $t \in V(G)$ be an arbitrary vertex and $|V(H_t)| = 3n/2 + k$, where $k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-2\}$. We show that H_t has exactly two connected components. Suppose to the contrary, H_1 , H_2 and H_3 are three connected components of H_t . Since $\delta(H_t) \geq n/2 + k + 1$, we conclude $\delta(H_i) \ge n/2 + k + 1$ for i = 1, 2, 3. Hence $|V(H_i)| > 3n/2 + k$, which is a contradiction. Now, let X_t , Y_t be the set of vertices of two components of H_t . Assume that $|X_t| \leq |Y_t|$. We choose two adjacent vertices u and v in Y_t , since $\delta(H_t) \ge n/2 + k + 1$. Let $|V(H_u)| = 3n/2 + k'$ and $|V(H_v)| = 3n/2 + k''$, where $k', k'' \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-2\}$. Also, let X_u, Y_u and X_v, Y_v be the sets of vertices of two components of H_u and H_v , respectively. Since H_t and H_u are disconnected, X_u or Y_u is disjoint from X_t and Y_t . To see this, with no loss of generality, suppose that v is contained in Y_u . Thus, $t \in Y_u$ and hence $X_u \cap Y_t = X_u \cap X_t = \emptyset$. Similarly, X_v or Y_v , say X_v , is disjoint from X_t and Y_t . Thus, we have $Y_t \cap X_u = Y_t \cap X_v = X_t \cap X_u = X_t \cap X_v = \emptyset$. Also, $X_u \cap X_v = \emptyset$; otherwise if $l \in X_u \cap X_v$, then l is adjacent to both u and v. But $u \in Y_v$ implies that $l \in Y_v$. It means, $X_v \cap Y_v \neq \emptyset$ which is a contradiction (see Figure 1). Thus, $X_u \cap X_v = \emptyset$. Hence $|V(G)| \ge |V(H_t)| + |X_u| + |X_v|$ which means $|V(G)| \ge (3n/2 + k) + (n/2 + k' + 2) + (n/2 + k'' + 2) > 5n/2 - 1$, which is a contradiction.

Subcase 2.2. Suppose H_t is connected for some $t \in V(G)$. Assume that there exists a vertex $u \in V(G)$ for which H_u is 2-connected and $|V(H_u)| = 3n/2 + k$ for some $k \in \{0, 1, 2, ..., n-2\}$. Thus, $\delta(H_u) \ge n/2 + k + 1 \ge (3n/2 + k + 2)/3$

and by Lemma 5, H_u is weakly pancyclic with $g(H_u) = 3$ or $g(H_u) = 4$. Also, by Lemma 6, $c(H_u) \ge \min\{2\delta(H_u), 3n/2 + k\}$. Hence $c(H_u) \ge n$ which implies that H_u contains C_n , a contradiction.

Now, assume each connected H_t contains a cut-vertex. Let u be a cutvertex of H_t and $|V(H_t)| = 3n/2 + k$. We show that $H_t - u$ has exactly two connected components. Suppose to the contrary, H_1 , H_2 and H_3 are three connected components of $H_t - u$. Since $\delta(H_t) \ge n/2 + k + 1$, $\delta(H_i) \ge n/2 + k$ for i = 1, 2, 3. Hence $|V(H_t)| > 3n/2 + k$, which is a contradiction. Now, let s_1 be a cut-vertex of H_t and X_t , Y_t be the sets of vertices of two components of $H_t - s_1$. Assume that $|X_t| \leq |Y_t|$. We choose two adjacent vertices u and v in Y_t , since $\delta(H_t) \geq n/2 + k + 1$. With no loss of generality, suppose that v is contained in Y_u and u is contained in Y_v . Thus, $t \in Y_u \cap Y_v$. Let s_2 and s_3 be the cut-vertices of H_u and H_v , respectively (if any of these cut-vertices did not exist, for instance s_1 , then the corresponding subgraph, H_t , is disconnected and the procedure is the same as in Subcase 2.1) and $|V(H_u)| = 3n/2 + k'$ and $|V(H_v)| = 3n/2 + k''$, where $k', k'' \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-2\}$. Also, let X_u, Y_u and X_v , Y_v be the sets of vertices of two components of $H_u - s_2$ and $H_v - s_3$, respectively. Since $H_t - s_1$, $H_u - s_2$ and $H_v - s_3$ are disconnected, with the same statement of Subcase 2.1 and without loss of generality, we have $Y_t \cap X_u = Y_t \cap X_v =$ $X_t \cap X_u = X_t \cap X_v = X_u \cap X_v = \emptyset$ (see Figure 1). Hence by the fact that $s_1 \notin X_u \cup X_v$ (since otherwise, if for instance $s_1 \in X_u$, then $t \in X_u$ but $t \in Y_u$, a contradiction) we have $|V(G)| \ge |V(H_t - s_1)| + |X_u| + |X_v| + |\{s_1\}|$ which means $|V(G)| \ge (3n/2 + k - 1) + (n/2 + k' + 1) + (n/2 + k'' + 1) + 1 > 5n/2 - 1$, which is a contradiction, and this completes the proof.

Now, by Theorems 1 and 3, the following corollary is obvious.

Corollary 11. For $n \ge 6$ and even, we have $R(W_n, S_n) = 5n/2 - 2$ or 5n/2 - 1.

4. Proof of Theorem 4

We say *n* is sufficiently large if there is a graph *G* of order *n* such that $\delta(G) \ge n/4 + 250$. In this section, we prove that for sufficiently large even *n* we have $R(W_n, S_n) = 5n/2 - 2$. In order to prove this, we use following lemma.

Lemma 12 [1]. If G is a 2-connected non-bipartite graph of sufficiently large order n with $\delta(G) > 2n/7$, then G is weakly pancyclic.

Let G be a graph of order N = 5n/2 - 2, where n is sufficiently large and even such that neither G contains W_n nor its complement, \overline{G} , contains S_n . We define H_t for each $t \in V(G)$ similarly as in the proof of Theorem 3. Since \overline{G} has no S_n , $\delta(G) \ge 3n/2 - 1$. Let $v_0 \in V(G)$ be an arbitrary vertex. There exists a $k \in \{-1, 0, 1, \ldots, n-3\}$ such that $deg_G(v_0) = 3n/2 + k$, since $\delta(G) \ge 3n/2 - 1$. (Here, k is the element of the set $\{-1, 0, 1, \ldots, n-3\}$. This is the only difference of this proof with the proof of Theorem 3). It is easy to check that Corollary 9 and Proposition 10 are true here.

We can divide the proof into some cases and subcases.

Case 1. There is a vertex $v \in V(G)$ for which H_v is bipartite. Let H_v be a bipartite graph with bipartition (X_v, Y_v) of order 3n/2 + k such that $k \in \{-1, 0, 1, \ldots, n-3\}$. The sketch of the proof is the same as in Case 1 of the proof of Theorem 3.

Case 2. For every vertex $t \in V(G)$, H_t is non-bipartite.

Subcase 2.1. Suppose H_t is disconnected for all $t \in V(G)$. In Subcase 2.1 of Theorem 3, let k, k' and k'' be in the set $\{-1, 0, \ldots, n-3\}$. The rest of the proof is the same. Finally, we obtain $|V(G)| \ge (3n/2 + k) + (n/2 + k' + 2) + (n/2 + k'' + 2) > 5n/2 - 2$, which is a contradiction.

Subcase 2.2. Suppose H_t is connected for some $t \in V(G)$. Assume that there exists a vertex $u \in V(G)$ for which H_u is 2-connected and $|V(H_u)| = 3n/2 + k$ for some $k \in \{-1, 0, 1, \ldots, n-3\}$. Thus, $\delta(H_u) \ge n/2 + k + 1 > 2(3n/2 + k)/7$ and by Lemma 12, H_u is weakly pancyclic. Also, by Lemma 6, $c(H_u) \ge \min\{2\delta(H_u), 3n/2 + k\}$. Hence $c(H_u) \ge n$ which implies that H_u contains C_n , a contradiction.

Now, assume each connected H_t contains a cut-vertex. In Subcase 2.2 of Theorem 3, let k, k' and k'' be in the set $\{-1, 0, \ldots, n-3\}$. The rest of the proof is the same. Finally, we obtain $|V(G)| \ge (3n/2 + k - 1) + (n/2 + k' + 1) + (n/2 + k'' + 1) + 1 > 5n/2 - 2$, which is a contradiction, and this completes the proof.

Now, by Theorems 1 and 4, the following corollary is obvious.

Corollary 13. For sufficiently large even n, we have $R(W_n, S_n) = 5n/2 - 2$.

Acknowledgement

We thank the reviewers for their thorough review and highly appreciate comments and suggestions, which significantly contributed to improving the quality of the publication.

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Received 14 June 2016 Revised 1 December 2016 Accepted 1 December 2016