ON THE HAMILTONIAN NUMBER OF A PLANE GRAPH

THOMAS M. LEWIS

Department of Mathematics
Furman University
Greenville, SC 29613, USA

e-mail: tom.lewis@furman.edu

Abstract

The Hamiltonian number of a connected graph is the minimum of the lengths of the closed spanning walks in the graph. In 1968, Grinberg published a necessary condition for the existence of a Hamiltonian cycle in a plane graph, formulated in terms of the degrees of its faces. We show how Grinberg’s theorem can be adapted to provide a lower bound on the Hamiltonian number of a plane graph.

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1. Introduction

A walk in a graph $G$ is a sequence $v_0, e_1, v_1, \ldots, v_{k-1}, e_k, v_k$ of vertices $v_i$ and edges $e_i$ of $G$ such that, for each $i \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$, the edge $e_i$ has endpoints $v_{i-1}$ and $v_i$; the length of a walk is the number of its edges. The walk is closed if $v_k = v_0$ and spanning if each vertex of $G$ appears at least once in the sequence. In a closed walk and for $j \in \{1, \ldots, k - 1\}$, the vertex $v_j$ is a repeat if $v_j = v_i$ for some $i \in \{0, \ldots, j - 1\}$. Thus the number of repeats in a closed spanning walk in $G$ is the difference between the length of the walk and the order of $G$. For ease of notation, whenever $G$ is simple, we will denote a walk in $G$ by a sequence of adjacent vertices of $G$, since the intervening edges can be inferred.

A Hamiltonian cycle in a graph is a closed spanning walk that visits each vertex exactly once; a graph is called Hamiltonian provided that it contains a Hamiltonian cycle. While not every graph is Hamiltonian, every connected graph contains a closed spanning walk. A Hamiltonian walk is a closed spanning walk
of minimum length. The Hamiltonian number of a connected graph $G$, denoted by $h(G)$, is the length of a Hamiltonian walk in $G$. Thus the Hamiltonian number of a graph can be thought of as a measure of how far the graph deviates from being Hamiltonian.

In 1968, Grinberg [11] published a necessary condition for the existence of a Hamiltonian cycle in a planar graph, formulated in terms of the degrees of its faces. The main goal of this paper is to show how Grinberg’s theorem can be adapted to provide a lower bound on the Hamiltonian number of a plane graph. Before we state this theorem, we will place our work in context.

In general, determining the Hamiltonian number of a graph is difficult, but for a connected graph $G$ of order $n$, the bounds $n \leq h(G) \leq 2(n - 1)$ are easily obtained. A Hamiltonian walk in $G$ must visit each vertex, which gives the lower bound. On the other hand, a pre-order, closed spanning walk in a spanning tree of $G$ has length $2(n - 1)$, yielding the upper bound. Over the years, much of the research on the Hamiltonian number has advanced along two fronts: developing tighter bounds for the Hamiltonian number in terms of natural graph parameters, or evaluating the Hamiltonian numbers of some special graphs or families of graphs.

Goodman and Hedetniemi [9] initiated the study of the Hamiltonian number of a graph. They proved, among other things, properties of Hamiltonian walks, upper and lower-bounds for the Hamiltonian number of a graph, and a formula for the Hamiltonian number of a complete $n$-partite graph. Their most accessible result is this: let $G$ be a $k$-connected graph on $n$ vertices with diameter $d$, then $h(G) \leq 2(n - 1) - \lfloor k/2 \rfloor (2d - 2)$, which improves the elementary upper bound.

Soon after the publication of the seminal paper of Goodman and Hedetniemi, Bermond [3] published a theorem on the Hamiltonian number problem inspired by Ore’s theorem. Ore’s theorem gives a sufficient condition for a graph to be Hamiltonian in terms of the sums of the degrees of non-adjacent vertices; see, for example, Theorem 6.6 of [7]. Bermond showed the following: let $G$ be a graph of order $n$ and let $c \leq n$; if $\deg(v) + \deg(w) \geq c$ for every pair of non-adjacent vertices $v$ and $w$ in $V(G)$, then $h(G) \leq 2n - c$.

Chartrand, Thomas, Zhang, and Saengpholphat [8] introduced an alternative approach to the Hamiltonian number. Let $G$ be a connected graph of order $n$. Given vertices $u$ and $v$, let $d(u, v)$ denote the length of a shortest path from $u$ to $v$. A cyclic ordering of the vertices of $G$ is a permutation $s : v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n, v_{n+1}$ of $V(G)$, where $v_{n+1} = v_1$. Given a cyclic ordering $s$, let $d(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} d(v_i, v_{i+1})$. The set $H(G) = \{d(s) : s$ is a cyclic ordering of $V(G)\}$ is called the Hamiltonian spectrum of $G$. Chartrand and his colleagues showed that $h(G) = \min H(G)$. This paper contains two other notable results: first, that a connected graph $G$ of order $n$ satisfies $h(G) \leq 2(n - 1)$ with equality if and only if $G$ is a tree; second, that for each integer $n \geq 3$, every integer in the interval $[n, 2(n - 1)]$ is

Various authors have studied the Hamiltonian number of special graphs and families of graphs. Punnim and Thaithae [19, 17] studied the Hamiltonian numbers of cubic graphs. A graph of order $n$ with Hamiltonian number $n + 1$ is called almost Hamiltonian. Punnim, Saenpholphat, and Thaithae [16] characterized the almost Hamiltonian cubic graphs and the almost Hamiltonian generalized Petersen graphs. Asano, Nishizeki, and Watanabe [2, 14] established a simple upper bound for the Hamiltonian number of a maximal planar graph of order $n \geq 3$ and created an algorithm for finding closed spanning walks in a graph with length close to its Hamiltonian number. Chang et al. [5] studied the Hamiltonian numbers of Möbius double-loop networks. The Hamiltonian number problem has a variety of cognates: Vacek [20, 21] analyzed open Hamiltonian walks; Araya and Wiener [1, 22] investigated hypohamiltonian graphs; Goodman, Hedetniemi, and Slater [10] studied the Hamiltonian completion problem; Chang and Tong [6] considered the Hamiltonian numbers of strongly connected digraphs; and, Okamoto, Zhang, and Saenpholphat [18, 15] studied the upper traceable numbers of graphs.

2. The Grinberg Number of a Plane Graph

The boundary of a face (region) of a plane graph is the subgraph induced by the edges adjacent to that face, and a boundary walk is a closed walk containing each of these edges. The degree of a face is the minimum length of a boundary walk. We will denote the degree of the face $F$ by $\deg(F)$. Two faces of a plane graph are said to be adjacent if they share at least one common boundary edge. A vertex (or an edge) is said to be incident to a face if it lies on the boundary of the face.

Let $G$ be a plane graph and let its faces (including its exterior face) be labeled $F_1, \ldots, F_N$. Let $\mathcal{G}(G)$ be the set of all nonnegative sums of the form

$$
\sum_{i=1}^N \varepsilon_i \left( \deg(F_i) - 2 \right)
$$

where $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \ldots, \varepsilon_N) \in \{-1, +1\}^N$, and let $\text{gr}(G) = \min \mathcal{G}(G)$. We will call $\mathcal{G}(G)$ the Grinberg set of $G$ and $\text{gr}(G)$ the Grinberg number of $G$. To get a sense of this, consider the graphs pictured in Figure 1. The graph $G_1$ has 1 face of degree 18 and 5 faces of degree 6; thus, $\mathcal{G}(G_1) = \{4, 12, 20, 28, 36\}$, and $\text{gr}(G_1) = 4$. The graph $G_2$ has 1 face of degree 7 and 3 faces of degree 3; thus, $\mathcal{G}(G_2) = \{2, 4, 6, 8\}$ and $\text{gr}(G_2) = 2$. Finally, the graph $G_3$ has 3 faces of degree 6 and 2 faces of degree 4; thus, $\mathcal{G}(G_3) = \{0, 4, 8, 12, 16\}$ and $\text{gr}(G_3) = 0$. 


Figure 1. For these graphs, $G(G_1) = \{4, 12, 20, 28, 36\}$, $G(G_2) = \{2, 4, 6, 8\}$, and $G(G_3) = \{0, 4, 8, 12, 16\}$; hence, $gr(G_1) = 4$, $gr(G_2) = 2$, and $gr(G_3) = 0$.

Given a graph $G$ of order $n$, let $rep(G)$ denote the number of repeats in a Hamiltonian walk in $G$, that is, $rep(G) = h(G) - n$. For a plane graph $G$, Grinberg’s theorem can be restated as follows: if $rep(G) = 0$, then $gr(G) = 0$; see [11]. Our main result can be seen as a natural extension of Grinberg’s theorem.

**Theorem 1.** Let $G$ be a plane graph. Then, for some $\gamma \in G(G)$ and nonnegative integer $k$,

$$\text{(2)} \quad rep(G) = \frac{\gamma}{2} + 2k.$$

In particular,

$$\text{(3)} \quad rep(G) \geq \frac{\text{gr}(G)}{2}.$$

**Proof.** Our proof is an adaptation of the customary proof of Grinberg’s theorem; see, for example, Theorem 18.2 of [4]. Hereafter let $V = \{v_1, \ldots, v_n\}$ denote the vertex set of $G$ and let $\sigma$ be a closed spanning walk in $G$.

The walk $\sigma$ in $G$ induces a natural multigraph on $V$. Let $G_\sigma$ have vertex set $V$. For each pair of vertices $v_i$ and $v_j$ in $V$, let there be as many edges in $G_\sigma$ between $v_i$ and $v_j$ as there are occurrences of the edge $v_iv_j$ in $\sigma$. We will call $G_\sigma$ the reduction of $G$ relative to $\sigma$. The graph $G_\sigma$ is planar, Eulerian, and the number of edges in $G_\sigma$ is equal to the length of $\sigma$.

Since $G_\sigma$ is Eulerian, its dual graph is bipartite. Accordingly, we will label each face of $G_\sigma$ with $+$ or $-$ sign as follows: the unbounded face is marked $+$; thereafter, if a face of $G_\sigma$ is adjacent to (shares an edge with) a $+$ region, then it is marked $-$, and if a face of $G_\sigma$ is adjacent to a $-$ region, then it is marked $+$. An example of a plane graph and its reduction relative to a closed spanning walk is presented in Figure 2.

There is a simple relationship between the number of faces of $G_\sigma$ and the number of repeats in $\sigma$. For each $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, let $m_i$ count the number of times
vertex $v_i$ is a repeat in the walk $\sigma$, that is, $m_i = (\deg_{G_\sigma} v_i)/2 - 1$. Let $\Phi$ count the number of faces of $G_\sigma$. We claim that

$$\Phi = 2 + \sum_{i=1}^n m_i.$$  

Since the degree of the vertex $v_i$ in $G_\sigma$ is $2m_i + 2$, the number of edges in $G_\sigma$ is $\sum_{i=1}^n (m_i + 1)$. By the Euler characteristic formula, $n - \sum_{i=1}^n (m_i + 1) + \Phi = 2$, which yields equation (4).

Our argument now moves into a second phase, culminating in a simple formula relating the degrees of the positively and negatively signed faces of $G_\sigma$. Let $\ell_+$ denote the number of positively signed faces of $G_\sigma$ and label these faces by $\{A^+_i : 1 \leq i \leq \ell_+\}$. Let $\ell_-$ and $\{A^-_i : 1 \leq i \leq \ell_-\}$ be defined likewise for the negatively signed faces of $G_\sigma$. Since each edge of $G_\sigma$ is adjacent to a positively and a negatively signed face, it follows that $\sum_{i=1}^{\ell_+} \deg(A^+_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell_-} \deg(A^-_i)$. Let $\Delta = \ell_- - \ell_+$. Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\ell_+} (\deg(A^+_i) - 2) - \sum_{i=1}^{\ell_-} (\deg(A^-_i) - 2) = 2\Delta.$$  

We will modify this formula to incorporate the faces of $G$. Let the faces of $G$ be labeled $\{F_i : 1 \leq i \leq N\}$. Each face of $G$ is contained by a unique face of $G_\sigma$. For each $i \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$, let $\varepsilon_i$ be sign of the face of $G_\sigma$ that contains $F_i$. We will show that

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \varepsilon_i (\deg(F_i) - 2) = 2\Delta.$$
To verify this claim, we will follow Grinberg’s strategy: we will add to $G_{\sigma}$, one at a time, those edges of $G$ that were not traversed by $\sigma$. Such an edge must split a face of $G_{\sigma}$ into two sub-faces, each with the same sign as the parent face. For the sake of argument, let us say that a face labeled $A_i^+$ is divided by an edge of $G$ into two sub-faces, labeled $A_{i_1}^+$ and $A_{i_2}^+$. Since the two sub-faces share exactly one edge, we have

$$\deg(A_i^+) - 2 = (\deg(A_{i_1}^+) - 2) + (\deg(A_{i_2}^+) - 2).$$

Hence we can substitute $(\deg(A_{i_1}^+) - 2) + (\deg(A_{i_2}^+) - 2)$ for $\deg(A_i^+) - 2$ in equation (5) and retain equality. We continue this process until all of these edges have been added. We have almost arrived at equation (6). The only difference corresponds to those faces of $G_{\sigma}$ that were created because an edge was traversed more than once by $\sigma$. Such a face has only two edges and thus contributes 0 to the sum. In this way, we have transformed equation (5) into equation (6).

Our proof is nearly complete. For simplicity, let $\nu = \ell^- - 1$, $\pi = \ell^+ - 1$, and $\rho = \sum_{i=1}^{n} m_i$, the number of repeats in $\sigma$. Recalling equation (4), it follows that $\pi + \nu = \rho$. According to equation (6) and the definition of the Grinberg set, there exists $\gamma \in \mathcal{G}(G)$ such that $|\pi - \nu| = \gamma/2$. Solving this system of equations, we find $\rho = \gamma/2 + 2 \min\{\nu, \pi\}$. This result applies to a Hamiltonian walk, which yields equation (2). The inequality (3) follows from this, since $\text{gr}(G)/2$ is the smallest element of $\mathcal{G}(G)$.

3. Some Observations and Applications

Different planar embeddings of a graph may produce different Grinberg sets and Grinberg numbers. For example, for each positive integer $m$, let $B_m = P_{2m+1} \circ K_2$, the corona product of a path graph $P_{2m+1}$ and a complete graph $K_2$. Two planar embeddings of $B_1$ are pictured in Figure 3, labeled $B_{1,O}$ (outerplanar) and $B_{1,C}$ (concentric). Observe that $\mathcal{G}(B_{1,O}) = \{8, 10, 12, 14\}$ and $\text{gr}(B_{1,O}) = 8$, while $\mathcal{G}(B_{1,C}) = \{0, 2, 10, 12, 14\}$ and $\text{gr}(B_{1,C}) = 0$.

![Figure 3. An outerplanar and a concentric embedding of the graph $B_1$.](image)

This same family of graphs demonstrates that the difference between the
left and right-hand sides of inequality (3) can be arbitrarily large. Observe that
\( \text{gr}(B_{m,C}) = 0 \). However, since \( \text{gr}(B_{m,O}) = 8m \), \( \text{rep}(B_{m,C}) = \text{rep}(B_{m,O}) \geq 4m \).

As a consequence of inequality (3), if a plane graph \( G \) possesses a closed spanning walk with \( \text{gr}(G)/2 \) repeats, then \( \text{rep}(G) = \text{gr}(G)/2 \). This is the case for the graphs \( G_1 \) and \( G_2 \) pictured in Figure 1, which satisfy \( \text{gr}(G_1) = 4 \) and \( \text{gr}(G_2) = 2 \). It is easy to find a closed spanning walk in \( G_1 \) with 2 repeats; thus, \( \text{rep}(G_1) = 2 \). Likewise, it is easy to find a closed spanning walk in \( G_2 \) with 1 repeat; thus, \( \text{rep}(G_2) = 1 \).

Whenever inequality (3) is strict, some additional work is required to determine \( \text{rep}(G) \), and equation (2) can be helpful in this undertaking. The graph \( G_3 \) pictured in Figure 1 has Grinberg set \( \{0, 4, 8, 12, 16\} \). Thus, according to equation (2), \( \text{rep}(G_3) \) must be a nonnegative even integer. Since \( G_3 - \{a, b\} \) has three components, \( G_3 \) is not Hamiltonian; thus, \( \text{rep}(G_3) \geq 2 \). It is easy, however, to find a closed spanning walk with 2 repeats; thus, \( \text{rep}(G_3) = 2 \).

Our next theorem can be used in conjunction with equation (2) to determine the number of repeats in a Hamiltonian walk. Let \( \sigma \) be a closed spanning walk in a plane graph \( G \). Relative to \( \sigma \), an edge of \( G \) is even provided that \( \sigma \) crosses it an even number of times; an edge of \( G \) is odd if it is not even. A vertex of \( G \) is enveloped if it has degree two and its incident edges are even.

**Theorem 2.** Let \( \sigma \) be a closed spanning walk in a simple plane graph \( G \). Then the number of repeats in \( \sigma \) must be at least the number of enveloped vertices.

**Proof.** Let us assume that \( G \) has at least one enveloped vertex relative to \( \sigma \) and let \( \{x_1, \ldots, x_k\} \) be the list of its enveloped vertices. Let \( a \) and \( b \) denote the vertices of \( G \) that are adjacent to \( x_1 \). Let \( G_1 \) be the plane graph obtained by deleting \( x_1 \) and inserting the edge \( ab \). This process is known as smoothing out or smoothing away the vertex \( x_1 \). The closed spanning walk \( \sigma \) in \( G \) naturally generates a closed spanning walk \( \sigma_1 \) in \( G_1 \). First, in the listing of the vertices of \( G \) by \( \sigma \), replace (one at a time) all occurrences of the string \( a, x_1, a \) with \( a \) and all occurrences of the string \( b, x_1, b \) with \( b \). Next, replace all occurrences of the string \( a, x_1, b \) with \( a, b \) and all occurrences of the string \( b, x_1, a \) with \( b, a \).

We claim that \( \sigma \) has at least one more repeat of vertices than \( \sigma_1 \). Since \( \sigma \) is a spanning walk, the vertex \( x_1 \) must occur at least once in \( \sigma \) and it must be preceded by \( a \) or \( b \) and followed by \( a \) or \( b \). If \( a, x_1, a \) occurs in \( \sigma \), then this repeat of \( a \) does not occur in \( \sigma_1 \). If \( b, x_1, b \) occurs in \( \sigma \), then this repeat of \( b \) does not occur in \( \sigma_1 \). If either \( a, x_1, b \) or \( b, x_1, a \) occurs in \( \sigma \), then, since the edge \( ax_1 \) is crossed an even number of times, this repeat of \( x_1 \) does not occur in \( \sigma_1 \). This process can be continued, one enveloped vertex at a time, until all of the enveloped vertices are smoothed out, resulting in a closed spanning walk \( \sigma_k \) in the graph \( G_k \). The walk \( \sigma_k \) has at least \( k \) fewer repeats than \( \sigma \), proving our result.

Here is an application of Theorem 2. The graph \( H \) pictured in Figure 4
Figure 4. Although the graph $H$ has Grinberg number 6, a Hamiltonian walk in $H$ must have at least 5 repeats. A closed spanning walk with 5 repeats is pictured to the right.

has 8 interior faces of degree 8 and an exterior face of degree 20; thus, $\mathcal{G}(H) = \{6, 18, 30, 42, 54, 66\}$. According to equation (2), there exists a nonnegative integer $k$ such that $\text{rep}(H) = 3 + 2k$. If a closed spanning walk $\sigma$ in $H$ corresponds to a Grinberg number of 6, then $\sigma$ partitions the faces of $H$ so that face $F_9$ must have the same sign as either two or three of the octagonal faces and the remaining faces must have the opposite sign. In all cases, Theorem 2 demonstrates that more than three repeats must occur. For example, if $F_9$, $F_6$, and $F_5$ have the same sign and the remaining faces have the opposite sign, then there are 5 enveloped vertices, shown as the filled vertices in Figure 4. The same argument holds in each of the remaining cases. On the other hand, a closed spanning walk with 5 repeats can be readily found; see Figure 4. Thus, $\text{rep}(H) = 5$.

The Grinberg number of plane graph can be easily calculated if one of its faces has large degree.

**Theorem 3.** Let $G$ be a plane graph of order $n$ and let $F$ be one of its faces. If $\deg(F) \geq n$, then $\text{gr}(G) = 2(\deg(F) - n)$.

**Proof.** Let $e$ and $f$ denote the number of edges and faces of $G$. Let $F_1, \ldots, F_f$ denote the faces of $G$ with $F = F_1$. We will show that the sum in equation (1) is minimized for a particular choice of signs. Since the sum of the face degrees of $G$ is two times the number of its edges,

$$
\left(\deg(F_1) - 2\right) - \sum_{i=2}^{f} \left(\deg(F_i) - 2\right) = 2\left(\deg(F) - 2\right) - \sum_{i=1}^{f} \left(\deg(F_i) - 2\right) \\
= 2\left(\deg(F) - n\right) + 2\left(f - e + n - 2\right) \\
= 2\left(\deg(F) - n\right).
$$

Since $2\left(\deg(F) - n\right) \geq 0$, it follows that $\text{gr}(G) = 2\left(\deg(F) - n\right)$, as was to be shown.
The graph $G_2$ pictured in Figure 1 has 6 vertices and the degree of its exterior face is 7; thus, according to Theorem 3, $\text{gr}(G_1) = 2$. A tree has a single face, and the degree of this face is twice the number of its edges. According to Theorem 3, the Grinberg number of a tree of order $n$, $n \geq 2$, is $2(n - 2)$.

4. SOME REMARKS ON PLANE ALMOST HAMILTONIAN GRAPHS

As noted in the introduction, a graph of order $n$ with Hamiltonian number $n + 1$ is called almost Hamiltonian. For example, the graph $G_2$ pictured in Figure 1 is almost Hamiltonian. One consequence of Theorem 1 is that the Grinberg number of a plane almost Hamiltonian graph must be 0 or 2; our next theorem states that, in either case, 2 must be in its Grinberg set.

**Theorem 4.** Let the graph $G$ be planar and almost Hamiltonian. Then the Grinberg set of any planar embedding of $G$ must contain 2.

**Proof.** Let $\hat{G}$ be an embedding of $G$ in the plane. A Hamiltonian walk in $\hat{G}$ contains one repeat; thus, according to equation (2), there exists a Grinberg number $\gamma \in \mathcal{G}(\hat{G})$ and a nonnegative integer $k$ such that $1 = \gamma/2 + 2k$. It follows that $\gamma = 2$, as was to be shown.

It would be interesting to identify some distinguishing characteristics of plane almost Hamiltonian graphs that produce a Grinberg number of 2. Our next two theorems offer two such characteristics.

**Theorem 5.** Let $\alpha$ and $\beta$ be positive integers with $\gcd(\alpha, \beta) \geq 2$. Let $G$ be a plane graph such that the degree of each face is in the set \{\(\alpha k + \beta + 2 : k \geq 0, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}\}. If $G$ is almost Hamiltonian, then $\text{gr}(G) = 2$.

**Proof.** Let the faces of $G$ be labeled $F_1, \ldots, F_N$. Let us assume, to the contrary, that $\text{gr}(G) \neq 2$. Then, by Theorem 4, $\{0, 2\} \subset \mathcal{G}(G)$. It follows that there are choices of signs $(\varepsilon_1, \ldots, \varepsilon_N) \in \{-1, 1\}^N$ and $(\delta_1, \ldots, \delta_N) \in \{-1, 1\}^N$ such that

$$1 = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( \frac{\varepsilon_i - \delta_i}{2} \right) (\deg(F_i) - 2).$$

Because of the condition on the degrees of the faces of $G$, this equation can be expressed as $\alpha p + \beta q = 1$ for some integers $p$ and $q$, which contradicts the assumption that $\gcd(\alpha, \beta) \geq 2$. Thus $\text{gr}(G) = 2$, as was to be shown.

For $\alpha = \beta = 2$, our theorem asserts that any plane almost Hamiltonian graph whose face degrees are in the set \{\(2k + 4 : k \in \mathbb{Z}, k \geq 0\}\} must have Grinberg number 2. For each integer $m \geq 1$, the grid graph $P_{2m+1} \square P_{2m+1}$ is such a graph.
Theorem 6. Let \( G \) be a plane almost Hamiltonian graph for which all of its vertices belong to the outer face of the drawing. Then \( gr(G) = 2 \).

Proof. Let \( F \) be the exterior face of \( G \). Since \( G \) is not Hamiltonian, \( \deg(F) > n \). By Theorem 3, \( gr(G) = 2(\deg(F) - n) \geq 2 \). However, since \( G \) is almost Hamiltonian, \( gr(G) \leq 2 \); thus, \( gr(G) = 2 \), as was to be shown.

The graph \( G_2 \) pictured in Figure 1 is an example of such a graph.

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