

Research Article

A Note on the Adversary Degree Associated Reconstruction Number of Graphs

S. Monikandan,¹ S. Sundar Raj,² C. Jayasekaran,³ and A. P. Santhakumaran⁴

¹ Department of Mathematics, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli 627 012, India

² Department of Mathematics, Vivekananda College, Agasteeswaram 629 701, India

³ Department of Mathematics, Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil 629 003, India

⁴ Department of Mathematics, Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, Hindustan University, Chennai 103, India

Correspondence should be addressed to S. Monikandan; monikandans@gmail.com

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A vertex-deleted subgraph of a graph G is called a *card* of G . A card of G with which the degree of the deleted vertex is also given is called a *degree associated card* (or *dacard*) of G . The *degree associated reconstruction number* $drn(G)$ of a graph G is the size of the smallest collection of dacards of G that uniquely determines G . The *adversary degree associated reconstruction number of a graph* G , $adrn(G)$, is the minimum number k such that every collection of k dacards of G that uniquely determines G . In this paper, we show that $adrn$ of wheels and complete bipartite graphs on at least 4 vertices is 2 or 3.

1. Introduction

All graphs considered are simple, finite, and undirected. We will mostly follow the standard graph theoretic terminology of [1]. A *vertex-deleted subgraph* or *card* $G - v$ of a graph G is the unlabeled graph obtained from G by deleting the vertex v and all edges incident with v . The ordered pair $(d(v), G - v)$ is called a *degree associated card* or *dacard* of the graph G where $d(v)$ is the degree of v in G . The *deck* (*dadeck*) of a graph G is its collection of cards (dacards). *Ulam's Conjecture* [2], also called *Reconstruction Conjecture* (RC), asserts that every graph on at least three vertices is determined uniquely (up to isomorphism) by its deck. Graphs that obey RC are called *reconstructible*.

For a reconstructible graph G , Harary and Plantholt [3] have defined the *reconstruction number* $rn(G)$ to be the size of the smallest subcollection of the deck of G which is not contained in the deck of any other graph H ; $H \not\cong G$. Myrvold [4] referred to this number as *ally-reconstruction number* of G . Myrvold [5] also studied *adversary reconstruction number* of G which is the smallest k such that no subcollection of the deck of G of size k is contained in the deck of any other graph H ; $H \not\cong G$.

An extension of RC to digraphs, the *Digraph Reconstruction Conjecture*, was disproved when Stockmeyer exhibited [6] several infinite families of counter-examples. In view of this, Ramachandran [7] studied the degree (degree triple) associated reconstruction of graphs (digraphs). For a vertex v of a digraph, the ordered triple (r, s, t) is called the *degree triple* of v where r , s , and t are, respectively, the number of unpaired outarcs, unpaired inarcs, and symmetric pairs of arcs incident with v . A graph (digraph) is called degree associated reconstructible if it can be determined uniquely from its dadeck. For a degree associated reconstructible graph (digraph) G , the *degree (degree triple) associated reconstruction number*, $drn(G)$, of G is the size of the smallest subcollection of the dadeck of G which is not contained in the dadeck of any other graph (digraph) H ; $H \not\cong G$. Barrus and West [8] have shown that $drn(G) = 2$ for all caterpillars except stars and one 6-vertex example, and that $drn(G) \geq 3$ for all vertex-transitive graphs G (not complete or edgeless).

The following weakening of the reconstruction problem has also been considered by Harary and Plantholt [3]. A graph G , in a given class of graphs \mathcal{C} , is called class-reconstructible if whenever $H \in \mathcal{C}$ has the same deck as G , then $G \cong H$. If a graph is degree associated reconstructible then it is

class-reconstructible, and vice-versa, where the class is the class of graphs with a given number m of edges.

In this paper, we study the parameter *adversary degree associated reconstruction number* $adrn(G)$ of a graph G . For a reconstructible graph G from its dadeck, $adrn(G)$ is the minimum number k such that every collection of k dacards of G is not contained in the dadeck of any other graph H ; $H \not\cong G$. From their definitions, it is clear that $drn(G) \leq adrn(G)$ for any graph G ; the equality holds for vertex-transitive graphs (where all the dacards are necessarily identical). In this paper, we show that $adrn$ is 2 or 3 for wheels and complete bipartite graphs on at least 4 vertices.

2. $adrn$ of Standard Graphs

Since $drn(G)$ and $adrn(G)$ are exactly equal for any vertex-transitive graph G , the next theorem follows from [7].

Theorem 1. (i) $adrn(K_n) = 1$.
 (ii) $adrn(K_{n,n}) = 3$ for $n > 1$.
 (iii) $adrn(C_n) = 3$ for $n \geq 4$, where C_n is a cycle on n vertices.

It is clear, from the definition of $adrn$, that $adrn(K_n) = adrn(\overline{K_n}) = 1$. In fact, it is true that the $adrn$ of the complement of a graph is equal to the $adrn$ of the graph.

Lemma 2. For any graph G , $adrn(\overline{G}) = adrn(G) \geq drn(G)$.

Proof. The latter inequality follows immediately from the definitions of drn and $adrn$. To prove the first equality, let G be a graph of order n ; let $adrn(G) = s$. Then, there exists a graph $H (\not\cong G)$ such that G and H have $s - 1$ dacards in common. If (d_i, G_i) is a dacard of G , then $(n - 1 - d_i, \overline{G}_i)$ is a dacard of \overline{G} and vice-versa. The graph $\overline{H} (\not\cong \overline{G})$ has therefore $s - 1$ dacards in common with those of \overline{G} . Consequently, we have $adrn(\overline{G}) \geq s$.

On the other hand, if $adrn(\overline{G}) > s$, then there exists a graph $T (\not\cong \overline{G})$ such that T has s dacards of \overline{G} . It follows that the graph $\overline{T} (\not\cong G)$ has s dacards of G . Therefore, $adrn(G) > s$, giving a contradiction. Hence, $adrn(\overline{G}) = s = adrn(G)$. \square

An *extension* of a dacard $(d(v), G - v)$ of G is a graph obtained from the dacard by adding a new vertex x and joining it with $d(v)$ vertices of the dacard, and it is denoted by $H(d(v), G - v)$ (or simply by H). Throughout this paper, H and x are used in the sense of this definition.

For a graph G , to prove $adrn(G) = k$, we proceed as follows.

- (i) First, find the dadeck of G .
- (ii) Determine next all possible extensions of every dacard of G .
- (iii) Finally, show that every extension other than G has at most $k - 1$ dacards in common with those of G , and that at least one extension has precisely $k - 1$ dacards in common with those of G .

A vertex of degree m is called an m -vertex. We call a neighbour of degree r of a vertex v by an r -neighbour of v . The union $G \cup H$ of graphs G and H is the graph with vertex set $V(G) \cup V(H)$ and edge set $E(G) \cup E(H)$. The join $G + H$ of disjoint graphs G and H is the graph obtained from $G \cup H$ by joining each vertex of G to each vertex of H .

Remark 3. Note that if a dacard of a graph G is vertex-transitive and the degree associated with the dacard is one or else the degree associated with the dacard equals the number of vertices in the dacard, then the dacard has a unique extension (up to isomorphism), and, hence, $drn(G) = 1$.

Since the wheel W_n on $n (\geq 4)$ vertices has an $(n - 1)$ -vertex, the dacard (obtained by deleting the $(n - 1)$ -vertex of W_n) has a unique extension, and so $drn(W_n) = 1$ by Remark 3. We now show that $adrn(W_n) = 3$ for $n > 4$.

Theorem 4. If W_n is a wheel on $n (\geq 4)$ vertices, then

$$adrn(W_n) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = 4, \\ 3, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Proof. The dadeck of $W_n = K_1 + C_{n-1}$ consists of one copy of the dacard $(n - 1, C_{n-1})$ and $n - 1$ copies of the dacard $(3, K_1 + P_{n-2})$, where v is a vertex of C_{n-1} . Let $H(3, K_1 + P_{n-2})$ be an extension of the dacard $(3, K_1 + P_{n-2})$. We consider four cases depending on the value of n .

Case 1. $n = 4$. Now, all the four dacards are isomorphic and they are $(3, C_3)$. Since it has a unique extension, it follows that $adrn(W_4) = 1$.

Case 2. $n = 5$. In the dacard $(3, K_1 + P_3)$, there are two 2-vertices and two 3-vertices. If we join the newly added vertex x to the two 2-vertices and a 3-vertex, then the extension H is isomorphic to W_n . Therefore, we join the newly added vertex x to a 2-vertex and the two 3-vertices. The extension H so has one 2-vertex, two 3-vertices, and two 4-vertices (Figure 1). The dacard of the extension H corresponding to each of the two 3-vertices is $(3, K_1 + P_3)$. The extension H has thus only two dacards in common to those of W_n , and, hence, $adrn(W_5) = 3$.

Case 3. $n = 6$. In the dacard $(3, K_1 + P_4)$, there are exactly two 2-vertices, one 4-vertex, and two 3-vertices.

Case 3.1. Join x to none of the two 2-vertices.

The extension H has one vertex of degree 3, two vertices of degree 2, two vertices of degree 4, and one vertex of degree 5 (Figure 2). The dacard corresponding to the 3-vertex of the extension H is clearly in common with that of W_n . The dacard of H obtained by deleting the 5-vertex has endvertices, and, hence, it is not a dacard of W_n . The extension H has thus only one dacard in common with that of W_n .

Case 3.2. Join x to one 2-vertex and two 3-vertices.

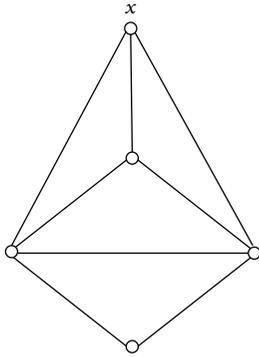


FIGURE 1: The extension H in Case 2.

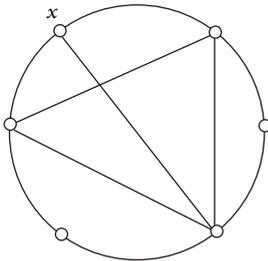


FIGURE 2: The extension H in Case 3.1.

The extension H has two vertices of degree 3, one vertex of degree 2, and three vertices of degree 4. The dacard corresponding to each of the two 3-vertices is a dacard of W_n . The extension H has thus only two dacards in common with those of W_n .

Case 3.3. Join x to one 2-vertex (say y), one 3-vertex (say z), and the unique 4-vertex.

Case 3.3.1. Vertices y and z are nonadjacent.

In H , y is a 3-vertex and z is a 4-vertex. The dacards of H corresponding to x and the 3-vertex other than y are dacards of W_n . The dacard corresponding to y of H is not a dacard of W_n , since the subgraph of H obtained by deleting y has three 2-vertices. The dacard corresponding to the 5-vertex of H is not a dacard of W_n . The extension H has thus only two dacards in common with those of W_n .

Case 3.3.2. Vertices y and z are adjacent.

The dacards corresponding to the 3-vertices x and y in H are dacards of W_n . The dacard corresponding to the other 3-vertex is not a dacard of W_n , since the 3-vertex is adjacent to a 2-vertex in H . Also in H , the 5-vertex is adjacent to a 2-vertex, and so the dacard corresponding to the 5-vertex is not a dacard of W_n . The extension H has thus only two dacards in common with those of W_n .

Case 3.4. Join x to two 2-vertices and a 3-vertex or 4-vertex (say y).

If y is the 4-vertex, then H is isomorphic to W_n . Otherwise, H has four 3-vertices and two 4-vertices. The dacards of H corresponding to x and the 3-vertex z not adjacent to y are

dacards of W_n . But the dacard obtained from H by deleting a 3-vertex other than x and z has no 4-vertex, and so it is not a dacard of W_n . Thus, H has only two dacards in common with those of W_n .

Case 4. $n \geq 7$. The dacard $(3, K_1 + P_{n-2})$ has two vertices of degree 2, $n - 4$ (≥ 3) vertices of degree 3, and one vertex of degree $n - 2$ (≥ 5). If the newly added vertex x is not joined to the $(n - 2)$ -vertex, then the extension H cannot have more than one dacard in common with that of W_n . If x is joined to the $(n - 2)$ -vertex and the two 2-vertices, then H is isomorphic to W_n . Therefore, it is enough to consider the case in which x is joined to the $(n - 2)$ -vertex and not joined to at least one 2-vertex.

Case 4.1. Join x to the $(n - 2)$ -vertex, one 2-vertex, and one 3-vertex.

The extension H has one 2-vertex, $n - 3$ vertices of degree 3, one vertex of degree 4, and one vertex of degree $n - 1$. The dacard $(3, K_1 + P_{n-2})$ cannot have a vertex of degree 4. Therefore, only dacards corresponding to the 3-neighbours of the 4-vertex in H can be isomorphic to the dacard $(3, K_1 + P_{n-2})$.

If the 4-vertex is adjacent to the 2-vertex in H , then there are two 3-vertices adjacent to the 4-vertex. The extension H therefore can have at most two dacards in common with those of W_n , and the dacard, corresponding to each of the two 3-vertices adjacent to the 4-vertex, is a dacard of W_n . Otherwise, the 3-neighbour closest to the 2-vertex yields a dacard with a cut vertex, while no dacard of W_n has a cut vertex.

Case 4.2. Join x to the $(n - 2)$ -vertex and two 3-vertices.

The extension H has two vertices of degree 2, $n - 5$ (≥ 2) vertices of degree 3, two vertices of degree 4, and one vertex of degree $n - 1$. The dacard $(3, K_1 + P_{n-2})$ cannot have a vertex of degree 4. Therefore, only dacards corresponding to the 3-vertices which are common neighbours of the two 4-vertices can be isomorphic to the dacard $(3, K_1 + P_{n-2})$. In the extension H , there are at most two 3-vertices which are the common neighbours of the two 4-vertices. Thus, the extension H has at most two dacards in common with those of W_n , which completes the proof. \square

From Remark 3, it follows that $drn(K_{1,n}) = 1$. But $adrn(K_{1,n})$ can be greater than one for $n \geq 3$ by the next theorem.

Theorem 5. For $n \geq 1$

$$adrn(K_{1,n}) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n \leq 2, \\ 3, & \text{if } n = 3, \\ 2, & \text{if } n > 3. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Proof. The dadeck of $K_{1,n}$ consists of one copy of (n, \overline{K}_n) and n copies of $(1, K_{1,n-1})$. The extension $H(n, \overline{K}_n)$ is clearly isomorphic to $K_{1,n}$. Consider the extension $H(1, K_{1,n-1})$. If we join the newly added vertex x to the $(n - 1)$ -vertex of the dacard $(1, K_{1,n-1})$, then the extension H is isomorphic

to $K_{1,n}$. We join therefore the vertex x to any one of the endvertices of the dacard. For $n = 2$, the extension H is isomorphic to $K_{1,n}$, and, hence, $adrn(K_{1,2}) = 1$. For $n = 3$, the extension H is isomorphic to P_4 . The dadeck of P_4 consists of 2 copies of $K_{1,2}$ and 2 copies of $K_1 \cup K_2$. The extension H therefore has exactly two dacards in common with those of $K_{1,n}$ and $adrn(K_{1,3}) = 3$. Now, let us assume that $n \geq 4$. Then, in the extension H , there is exactly one 2-vertex which is adjacent to the newly added endvertex and a unique $(n - 1)$ -vertex. Since there is no 2-vertex in $K_{1,n-1}$ for $n \geq 4$, only the dacard corresponding to the 1-neighbour of the 2-vertex in the extension H can be a dacard of $K_{1,n}$. Hence, $adrn(K_{1,n}) = 2$. \square

Ramachandran [7] proved that $drn(K_{m,n}) = 2$ for $2 \leq m < n$. We shall show that $adrn$ of $K_{m,n}$ is not always two.

Theorem 6. For $2 \leq m < n$,

$$adrn(K_{m,n}) = \begin{cases} 3, & \text{if } m = n - 2, \\ 2, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Proof. The dadeck of $K_{m,n}$ consists of m copies of $(n, K_{m-1,n})$ and n copies of $(m, K_{m,n-1})$. To get an extension H having at least one dacard in common with that of $K_{m,n}$, augment the dacard $(n, K_{m-1,n})$ or $(m, K_{m,n-1})$ by adding a new vertex x and joining it to precisely n or m vertices, respectively, in the dacard.

Case 1. Augmenting the dacard $(n, K_{m-1,n})$.

Let (A, B) be the bipartition of the dacard $K_{m-1,n}$, where $|A| = m - 1$. Then, if we join x to every vertex of B , then $H \cong K_{m,n}$. We join x therefore to at least one vertex of A . If we join x to all the $m - 1$ vertices of A , then no vertex other than x can have degree n in H . The extension H therefore has only one dacard isomorphic to $(n, K_{m-1,n})$. In this extension, the vertices have degrees $m - 1, m, n$, and $n + 1$ only. The degrees of the vertices in the dacard corresponding to an m -vertex of the extension H are $m - 1, m, n - 1$ and n where $m - 1 < m \leq n - 1 < n$. The dacard $(m, K_{m,n-1})$ is therefore not a dacard of the extension H . Thus, H has only one dacard in common with that of $K_{m,n}$. If at least one vertex of A is not joined to x , then in H , there are vertices of degrees $m - 1, m, n$, and $n + 1$. This extension clearly has a dacard $(n, K_{m-1,n})$ (dacard corresponding to the vertex x). The degrees of the vertices in the dacard corresponding to an n -vertex other than x of H are $m - 2, m - 1, n$, and $n + 1$. Therefore, H has only one dacard isomorphic to $(n, K_{m-1,n})$. The degrees of the vertices in the dacard corresponding to an m -vertex of H are $m - 1, m, n - 1$, and n where $m - 1 < m \leq n - 1 < n$. Hence, this extension H has only one dacard in common with that of $K_{m,n}$.

Case 2. Augmenting the dacard $(m, K_{m,n-1})$.

Let (A, B) be the bipartition of the dacard $K_{m,n-1}$, where A is the set of m vertices. If we join x to every vertex of A , then the extension H is isomorphic to $K_{m,n}$. We join x therefore to at least one vertex of B .

Case 2.1. Join x to no vertex of A .

If $n = m + 1$, then the extension H is isomorphic to $K_{m,n}$. If $n = m + 2$, then the extension H has two dacards isomorphic to $(m, K_{m,n-1})$, and, hence, it has only two dacards in common with those of $K_{m,n}$. So, we take that $n > m + 2$. Now, the extension H has vertices of degrees $m, m + 1$ and $n - 1$ only. Clearly, this extension H has a dacard $(m, K_{m,n-1})$ corresponding to the m -vertex x . The removal of any other m -vertex from this extension would give a dacard with vertices of degrees $m, m + 1$, and $n - 2$ only, and, hence, this dacard would not be isomorphic to $K_{m,n-1}$. Thus, H has only one dacard isomorphic to $(m, K_{m,n-1})$, and this is the only dacard in common with that of $K_{m,n}$.

Case 2.2. Join x to at least one vertex of A .

Case 2.2.1. Join x to exactly one vertex (say y) of A and exactly one vertex (say z) of B .

In this case, $m = 2$ and the extension H contains exactly one triangle, say xyz . The dacard of the extension H corresponding to the vertex x is clearly $(m, K_{m,n-1})$. The extension H may have two more dacards (corresponding to the vertices y and z) in common with those of $K_{m,n}$, since no dacard of $K_{m,n}$ contains a triangle. In the extension H , there exists at least one m -vertex in B other than x . Fix one such vertex and let it be u . The m -vertex u in the dacard obtained by deleting the vertex z from H is not adjacent to the $(m - 1)$ -vertex x . The dacard of H corresponding to the vertex z is therefore not isomorphic to $(n, K_{m-1,n})$ (this verification is needed only for the case when $m + 1 = n$). If we remove the vertex y from the extension H , then the $(m - 1)$ -vertex u in the resulting dacard is not adjacent to the m -vertex z , and, hence, the dacard of H corresponding to the vertex y is not isomorphic to $(m, K_{m,n-1})$. The extension H has thus only one dacard in common with that of $K_{m,n}$.

Case 2.2.2. Join x to exactly one vertex (say y) of A and at least two vertices of B .

The extension H has at least two triangles. Clearly, the dacard of H corresponding to the vertex x is $(m, K_{m,n-1})$. The extension H may have one more dacard (corresponding to the vertex y) in common with that of $K_{m,n}$. In H , there exists at least one $(n - 1)$ -vertex in A . Fix one such vertex and let it be z . Then, the $(n - 1)$ -vertex z in the dacard of H obtained by deleting the vertex y is not adjacent to the $(m - 1)$ -vertex x , where $m \neq n$. The dacard of H (corresponding to the vertex y) is therefore not isomorphic to $(n, K_{m-1,n})$. The extension H has thus only one dacard in common with that of $K_{m,n}$.

Case 2.2.3. Join x to at least two vertices of A and exactly one vertex (say y) of B .

The extension H has at least two triangles. Clearly, the dacard of H corresponding to the vertex x is $(m, K_{m,n-1})$. The extension H may have one more dacard (corresponding to the vertex y) in common with that of $K_{m,n}$. In H , there exists at least one $(n - 1)$ -vertex of A . Fix one such vertex and let it be z . The $(n - 1)$ -vertex z in the dacard of H , obtained by deleting the vertex y , is then not adjacent to the $(m - 1)$ -vertex

TABLE 1: drn and $adrn$ of graphs G .

| G | m, n | $drn(G)$ | $adrn(G)$ |
|-----------|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| K_n | | 1 | 1 |
| $K_{n,n}$ | $n > 1$ | 3 | 3 |
| C_n | $n \geq 4$ | 3 | 3 |
| W_n | $n = 4$ | 1 | 1 |
| W_n | $n > 4$ | 1 | 3 |
| $K_{1,n}$ | $n \leq 2$ | 1 | 1 |
| $K_{1,n}$ | $n = 3$ | 1 | 3 |
| $K_{1,n}$ | $n > 3$ | 1 | 2 |
| $K_{m,n}$ | $2 \leq m < n \neq m + 2$ | 2 | 2 |
| $K_{m,n}$ | $2 \leq m, n = m + 2$ | 2 | 3 |

x , where $m \neq n$. The dacard of H (corresponding to the vertex y) is therefore not isomorphic to $(n, K_{m-1,n})$. The extension H has thus only one dacard in common with that of $K_{m,n}$.

Case 2.2.4. Join x to at least two vertices of A and at least two vertices of B .

Deleting x from H would give a dacard isomorphic to $(m, K_{m,n-1})$. The deletion of any vertex other than x from H will give a dacard containing a triangle. The extension H has thus only one dacard isomorphic to $(m, K_{m,n-1})$, and this is the only dacard in common with that of $K_{m,n}$, which completes the proof of Theorem 6. \square

3. Concluding Remarks

It is clear, from their definitions, that $drn(G) \leq \min\{rn(G), adrn(G)\}$. But $rn(G)$ and $adrn(G)$ are not comparable in general. For instance, it is proved [9] that $adrn(P_4) = 3$ and $adrn(P_5) = 4$. Therefore, $adrn(P_4) < rn(P_4) = 4$ and $adrn(P_5) > rn(P_5) = 3$. However, $adrn(K_{1,3}) = rn(K_{1,3}) = 3$.

We summarize our results on the $adrn$ and the corresponding results on the drn in Table 1.

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