On (k, l)-radii of wheels

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Abstract

To determine the (k, l)-radius of a graph we have to find a set L of l vertices, such that the maximum k-distance of a set K, where |K| = k and $L \subseteq K$, attains the minimum value in a graph. This notion generalizes the radius, diameter and k-diameter. In this contribution the (k, l)-radius of the wheel W_n is determined for all possible values of parameters k and l.

1 Introduction

We consider connected, undirected graphs G of order n with the vertex set V(G). By distance between two vertices in G we mean the minimum length of a path connecting them. The eccentricity e(v) of v is the distance to a vertex farthest from v, $e(v) = \max_{u \in V(G)} (d(u, v))$. Then the radius r(G) of the graph G is the minimum eccentricity, $r(G) = \min_{v \in V(G)} (e(v))$, while the diameter diam(G) is the maximum eccentricity, diam(G) = $\max_{v \in V(G)} (e(v))$. More information related to basic distance concepts can be found in [2].

Definition 1 Let G be a graph on n vertices and let k be an integer, $k \leq n$. The distance of k vertices (k-distance), $d_k(v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_k)$, is the sum of distances between all pairs of vertices from $\{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_k\}$.

We remark that the *n*-distance is called the *transmission* of the graph (see [7]), while the maximum k-distance in a graph is known as a k-diameter (see [1]).

Definition 2 Let G be a connected graph with the vertex set V(G), |V(G)| = n, and let k, l be integers, $0 \le l \le k \le n$ and k > 0. The (k, l)-eccentricity of the set $L \subseteq V(G)$ of l vertices, $e_{k,l}(L)$, is the maximum distance of k vertices u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_k , such that $L \subseteq \{u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_k\}$. That is,

$$e_{k,l}(L) = \max_{K} \{ d_k(K); |K| = k, L \subseteq K \subseteq V(G) \}.$$

Observe that (2, 1)-eccentricity is the usual eccentricity of a vertex.

Definition 3 The (k, l)-radius, $\operatorname{rad}_{k,l}(G)$, is the minimum (k, l)-eccentricity in G,

$$\operatorname{rad}_{k,l}(G) = \min_{L}(e_{k,l}(L)) = \min_{L}(\max_{L \subseteq K \subseteq V(G)} d_k(K))$$

where |L| = l and |K| = k.

Thus the usual radius of a graph G equals its (2, 1)-radius, while the diameter is its (2, 0)-radius. Moreover, the k-diameter is the (k, 0)-radius in our notation.

Definition 4 Let k, l be integers, $1 \le l \le k \le n$, where |V(G)| = n. A set $C = \{u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_l\} \subseteq V(G)$ is a (k, l)-central set of the graph G if $e_{k,l}(C) = \operatorname{rad}_{k,l}(G)$.

The determination of the (3, l)-radius for some classes of graphs can be found in [4]. To find the (k, l)-radius for all values of k and l is not an easy task even for very simple classes of graphs. Up to now this problem has been succesfully solved only for complete graphs K_n (which is trivial, see [3]), the Petersen graph [6] and complete bipartite graphs K_{n_1,n_2} [5]. In this paper we present a complete solution for wheels W_n .

Definition 5 The wheel W_n is a graph on n vertices with the vertex set $V(W_n) = \{s, u_0, u_1, \ldots, u_{n-2}\}$ and with n-1 edges su_i , $0 \le i \le n-2$ and n-1 edges $u_iu_{(i+1) \mod (n-1)}$, $0 \le i \le n-2$.

In the following statements we assume $n \ge 5$, because for n < 5 the wheel W_n is a complete graph K_n for which $\operatorname{rad}_{k,l}(K_n) = k \cdot (k-1)/2$ for each $l \le k$ (see [3]).

Theorem 1 Let k, l and n be integers, $2 \le l \le k \le n$ and $n \ge 5$. Then for the (k, l)-radius of the wheel W_n we have:

1. If
$$k - l \leq \lfloor \frac{n - l - 1}{2} \rfloor$$
 then $rad_{k,l}(W_n) = k^2 - 2 \cdot k - l + 3$.
2. If $k - l > \lfloor \frac{n - l - 1}{2} \rfloor$ then $rad_{k,l}(W_n) = k^2 - 4 \cdot k + n + 2$.

Observe that if $k - l > \lfloor \frac{n-l-1}{2} \rfloor$ then the (k, l)-radius of a wheel does not depend on the parameter l.

The cases l = 1 and l = 0 are considered separately.

Assertion 1 Let k and n be integers, $1 \le k \le n$, $n \ge 5$. Then for the (k, 1)-radius of the wheel W_n the following hold:

- 1. If $k-2 \leq \lfloor \frac{n-3}{2} \rfloor$ then $\operatorname{rad}_{k,1}(W_n) = k^2 2 \cdot k + 1$.
- 2. If $k-2 > \lfloor \frac{n-3}{2} \rfloor$ then $\operatorname{rad}_{k,1}(W_n) = k^2 4 \cdot k + n + 2$.

Assertion 2 Let k and n be integers, $1 \le k \le n$, $n \ge 5$. Then for the (k, 0)-radius of the wheel W_n we have:

1. If $k \leq \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor$ then $\operatorname{rad}_{k,0}(W_n) = k^2 - k$. 2. If $n > k \geq \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor$ then $\operatorname{rad}_{k,0}(W_n) = k^2 - 3 \cdot k + n - 1$. 3. If k = n then $\operatorname{rad}_{k,0}(W_n) = n^2 - 3 \cdot n + 2$.

Proofs of Theorem 1 and Assertions 1 and 2 are postponed to the next section.

2 Proofs

Proof of Theorem 1. By the definition of a wheel, the vertex set $V(W_n)$ contains one vertex s of degree n-1 and n-1 vertices u_0, \ldots, u_{n-2} of degree 3. We have $d_2(u_i, s) = 1$ and $d_2(u_i, u_{(i+1) \mod (n-1)}) = 1$, for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, n-2$. Thus the mutual distance of two vertices is at most 2.

The proof is done in two steps:

- 1. We find a (k, l)-central set of W_n .
- 2. For the (k, l)-central set we determine the value of its eccentricity, i.e., the (k, l)-radius of W_n .

We prove that for l > 0 the *l*-set $L = \{s, u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{l-2}\}$ is the (k, l)-central set of W_n . We do not say that it is the only (k, l)-central set.

At first we prove that there is a (k, l)-central set containing the vertex s. Suppose that there is a (k, l)-central set L' such that $s \notin L'$. Let $u_i \in L'$. Denote $L = L' \setminus \{u_i\} \cup \{s\}$. We show that $e_{k,l}(L) \leq e_{k,l}(L')$. Let K be a set, $L \subset K$, on which $d_k(K)$ attains its maximum. If $u_i \in K$ then $L' \subseteq K$, so that

$$e_{k,l}(L') \ge d_k(K) = e_{k,l}(L).$$

On the other hand if $u_i \notin K$, then

$$e_{k,l}(L') \ge d_k(K \setminus \{s\} \cup \{u_i\}) \ge d_k(K) = e_{k,l}(L).$$

Hence there is a (k, l)-central set containing s.

Now we prove that if $L = \{s, u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{l-2}\}$, then for any *l*-set $L' = \{s, u_{i_0}, u_{i_1}, \dots, u_{i_{l-2}}\} \subset V(W_n)$, the following holds:

$$e_{k,l}(L) \le e_{k,l}(L'). \tag{1}$$

To determine $e_{k,l}(L)$ $(e_{k,l}(L'))$ we find the set U (U') of (k-l) vertices such that $d_k(L \cup U)$ $(d_k(L' \cup U'))$ has the maximum possible value. It means we find a set of (k-l) vertices such that $L \cup U$ $(L' \cup U')$ contains the minimum possible number of pairs of adjacent vertices (p.a.v.). In what follows the number of p.a.v. does not involve pairs containing the vertex s.

Using the term "p.a.v." inequality (1) can be rewritten as

$$|p.a.v. of (L \cup U)| \ge |p.a.v. of (L' \cup U')|.$$

By the construction of the set L there are (l-2) p.a.v. in L and all vertices of $W_n \setminus L$ are on a path P_{n-l} on n-l vertices (recall that $|V(W_n)| = n$ and |L| = l).

Let p' denote the number of p.a.v. in the set L'. As $p' \leq l-2$, vertices of $W_n \setminus L'$ are on (l - p' - 1) paths. Sorting the paths of $W_n \setminus L'$ according to their lengths we get

$$n - l = (l - p' - 1) + d_2 + 3 \cdot d_4 + \dots + (n_e - 1) \cdot d_{n_e} + 2 \cdot d_3 + 4 \cdot d_5 + \dots + (n_o - 1) \cdot d_{n_o},$$
(2)

where d_i is the number of paths P_i in $W_n \setminus L'$ and n_e (n_o) is the maximum order of a path in $W_n \setminus L'$ on an even (odd) number of vertices. Let x_e (x_o) denote the total number of these paths of even (odd) order. Then $x_e = d_2 + d_4 + \cdots + d_{n_e}$, $x_o = d_1 + d_3 + \cdots + d_{n_o}$ and

$$x_e + x_o = l - p' - 1. (3)$$

Now we define a set M(M') of maximum cardinality, such that $M \subset V(W_n) \setminus L$ $(M' \subset V(W_n) \setminus L')$ and the vertices of M(M') are mutually nonadjacent and are adjacent to no vertex of $L \setminus \{s\}$ $(L' \setminus \{s\})$. Vertices of such sets do not increase the number of p.a.v..

At first we determine the maximum possible cardinality of the set M'. Consider the set $M'_q = M' \cap V(P_q)$, where P_q is one of the paths of $W_n \setminus L'$. Since M'_q is an independent set of vertices of a path, obtained from P_q by deleting the terminal vertices, we have

$$|M_q'| = \frac{q-1}{2} \tag{4}$$

if q is odd and

$$|M_q'| = \frac{q-2}{2} \tag{5}$$

if q is even. The set M' is a union of M'_q determined for each of l-1-p' paths in $W_n \setminus L'$. Analogously, the maximum possible cardinality of the set M is $|M| = \frac{n-l-2}{2}$ if n-l is even and $|M| = \frac{n-l-1}{2}$ otherwise.

By the construction of sets M and M', the vertices $V(W_n) \setminus (L \cup M)$ $(V(W_n) \setminus (L' \cup M'))$ induce paths of lengths 1 or 2. Furthermore, the number of paths P_2 in $W_n \setminus (L' \cup M')$ equals the number of even paths in $W_n \setminus L'$. If n - l is even then vertices of $V(W_n) \setminus (L \cup M)$ induce $\frac{n-l-2}{2}$ paths P_1 and one path P_2 . If n - l is odd then there are $\frac{n-l+1}{2}$ paths P_1 in $V(W_n) \setminus (L \cup M)$.

Our requirement that $d_k(U \cup L)$ $(d_k(U' \cup L'))$ is maximum implies that, depending on the value of k - l, the following hold:

- 1. If $k l \leq |M|$ then $U \subseteq M$, analogously if $k l \leq |M'|$ then $U' \subseteq M'$.
- 2. If k l > |M| then $M \subset U$ (if k l > |M'| we have $M' \subset U'$). It means that, besides vertices of M(M'), U(U') contains also vertices increasing the number of p.a.v. by 1 (vertices of paths P_2) or by 2 (vertices of paths P_1).

Now we focus on these cases in detail. As $|M'| \leq |M|$ and $p' \leq l-2$, the case

$$k-l \le |M'|$$

is trivial because then $U' \subseteq M'$ $(U \subseteq M)$ and the number of p.a.v. in $(L' \cup U')$ is p'. The number of p.a.v. in $(L \cup U)$ remains l-2, so that $e_{k,l}(L) \leq e_{k,l}(L')$ as we require.

Now we consider the other case, namely

$$k-l > |M'|.$$

Then the set U' contains also vertices increasing the number of p.a.v..

In what follows we use a set U'_0 which has the following properties:

- 1. $M' \subset U'_0$.
- 2. The set $L' \cup U'_0$ attains the maximum possible distance.
- 3. In $L' \cup U'_0$ the number of p.a.v. is l-2 (as in the set L) or l-1 (a special case explained below).

To prove (1) these situations have to be solved:

- 1. $|M'| < k l < |U'_0|$. Then $U' \subset U'_0$ and the number of p.a.v. in $L' \cup U'$ is at most l 2, which implies (1).
- 2. $k l \ge |U'_0|$. Then $|U'_0| \le |U'|$. In the following part we show that $|U'_0| = |M|$ which means that we have $|U'_0|$ vertices in $V(W_n) \setminus L$ that do not increase the number of p.a.v.. Furthermore, we show that remaining vertices are on the

paths of order 1 and at most one path of order 2. As vertices of $V(W_n) \setminus (L' \cup U'_0)$ induce paths of the same types, adding of vertices to form U' (from the set U'_0) and U causes the same increasing of the number of p.a.v.. These imply $e_{k,l}(L) = e_{k,l}(L')$, which is a special case of (1).

Since in the set L' there are p' p.a.v., to form the set U'_0 we must increase the number of p.a.v. by l - 2 - p'. We have to consider the following cases:

(a)

$$l-2-p' \le x_e,$$

which means that l - 2 - p' is less than or equal to the number of even paths in $W_n \setminus L'$.

Then the set U'_0 involves, besides vertices of M', only vertices from paths P_2 . As each vertex from P_2 increases the number of p.a.v. by 1 we have $|U'_0| = |M'| + l - 2 - p'$. The number of paths P_2 in $W_n \setminus (L' \cup U'_0)$ is $x_e - (l - 2 - p')$. This means that if $x_e = l - 2 - p'$ then there remains no path P_2 . Else $x_e > l - 2 - p'$ and using equality $x_e + x_o = l - 1 - p'$, see (3), we have

$$l - 2 - p' < x_e \le l - 1 - p'_e$$

which implies that $x_e - (l - 2 - p') = 1$.

Now we focus on the set L. We know that vertices of $W_n \setminus L$ are on the path P_{n-l} . We show that in $V(W_n) \setminus L$ there are more than $2 \cdot (|M'| + l - 2 - p')$ vertices, which means that there are |M'| + l - 2 - p' vertices which do not increase the number of p.a.v.. Let U_0 denote the hypothetical set of these vertices. Then $|U_0| = |U'_0|$. Suppose that vertices of $V(W_n) \setminus (L \cup U_0)$ induce paths P_1 and one path P_z . Our aim is to show that $1 \le z \le 2$. By equalities (2), (4) and (5) we have

$$z = n - l - 2 \cdot |M'| - 2 \cdot (l - 2 - p') =$$

$$\underbrace{l-1-p'+d_2+3\cdot d_4+\dots+(n_e-1)\cdot d_{n_e}+2\cdot d_3+4\cdot d_5+\dots+(n_o-1)\cdot d_{n_o}}_{n-l, see (2)}$$

$$-2\cdot \underbrace{(d_4+2\cdot d_6+\dots+\frac{n_e-2}{2}\cdot d_{n_e}+d_3+2\cdot d_5+\dots+\frac{n_o-1}{2}\cdot d_{n_o})}_{|M'|, see (4) and (5)}$$

$$=l-1-p'+\underbrace{d_2+d_4+\dots+d_{n_e}}_{x_e}-2\cdot (l-2-p')=x_e+p'-l+3. (6)$$

By equalities $x_e + x_o = l - 1 - p'$ and $l - 2 - p' \le x_e$ the following holds.

$$l - 2 - p' \le x_e \le (l - 2 - p') + 1$$

Then

$$1 \le x_e - (l - 2 - p') + 1 = x_e + p' - l + 3 = z \le 2.$$

Specially, if $x_e = l - 2 - p'$ then $z = x_e + p' - l + 3 = 1$ and if $l - 2 - p' < x_e$ then $1 < z = x_e + p' - l + 3 \le 2$ which implies $z = x_e + p' - l + 3 = 2$. Hence $|M| = |U_0| = |U'_0|$, and all vertices in $W_n \setminus (L \cup U_0)$ and $W_n \setminus (L' \cup U'_0)$ are on paths of order 1 (if $x_e = l - 2 - p'$) or on paths of order 1 and one path of order 2 ($x_e > l - 2 - p'$). Then any other adding of vertices to U'_0 and U_0 implies the same increasing of the number of p.a.v. in $L' \cup U'_0$ and $L \cup U_0$, as we require.

(b) Otherwise

$$l - 2 - p' > x_e$$

and two types of situation must be solved. We proceed similarly as in the previous case:

i. $(l-2-p'-x_e)$ is even. Then $|U'_0| = |M'| + x_e + (\frac{l-2-p'-x_e}{2})$. (Recall that |M'| is the number of vertices that do not increase the number of p.a.v., x_e is the number of vertices that increase the number of p.a.v. by 1 and $\frac{l-2-p'-x_e}{2}$ vertices increase it by 2.) Setting U_0 so that $|U_0| = |U'_0|$, the equality

$$z = n - l - 2 \cdot |M'| - 2 \cdot x_e - 2 \cdot \frac{l - 2 - p' - x_e}{2}$$

= $\underbrace{l - 1 - p' + x_e}_{see \ also \ (6)} - 2 \cdot x_e - (l - 2 - p' - x_e)$
= 1

implies that $|M| = |U_0|$ and all vertices of $W_n \setminus (L \cup U_0)$ are on paths P_1 as we require.

ii. $(l-2-p'-x_e)$ is odd. Then $\frac{l-2-p'-x_e}{2}$ is not an integer. This is the case when we cannot construct the set U'_0 such that in $L' \cup U'_0$ there are l-2 p.a.v. (see the definition of the set U'_0). Let us stop the construction of U'_0 at the moment when the number of p.a.v. in $L' \cup U'_0$ is l-3. Then $|U'_0| = |M'| + x_e + (\frac{l-2-p'-x_e-1}{2})$. So for $|U_0| = |U'_0|$ all vertices of $W_n \setminus (L \cup U_0)$ are on paths P_1 and one path P_z , where

$$z = n - l - 2 \cdot |M'| - 2 \cdot x_e - 2 \cdot \frac{l - 2 - p' - x_e - 1}{2} =$$

= $\underbrace{l - 1 - p' + x_e}_{\text{see also (6)}} - 2 \cdot x_e - (l - 2 - p' - x_e - 1) = 2.$

It means that in $W_n \setminus (L \cup U_0)$ there exists a path P_2 . On the other hand all vertices of $W_n \setminus (L' \cup U'_0)$ are on paths P_1 . So if we add a next vertex to the sets U'_0 and U_0 , there will be l-1 p.a.v. in $L' \cup U'_0$ and l-1 p.a.v. in $L \cup U_0$, as we require.

We determined the (k, l)-central set L; now it remains to find the (k, l)-radius, rad_{k,l}(W_n). To do this we have to use k - l vertices at maximum k-distance from the (k, l)-central set $L = \{s, u_0, u_1, \ldots, u_{l-2}\}$. As above let U denote the set of k - lvertices on which $d_k(L \cup U)$ attains its maximum.

1. Suppose that $k-l \leq \lfloor \frac{n-l-1}{2} \rfloor$. Then the vertices in U are mutually nonadjacent; they are at distance 1 from s and at distance 2 from other vertices of the (k, l)central set. Then

$$\operatorname{rad}_{k,l}(W_n) = d_k(L \cup U) = \underbrace{l^2 - 3 \cdot l + 3}_{d_l(L)} + \underbrace{(k-l)}_{\substack{\text{distance of } s \\ \text{to vertices of } U}} + \underbrace{\binom{k-l}{2} \cdot 2}_{\substack{(k-l)-\text{distance of } U}} + \underbrace{(l-1) \cdot (k-l) \cdot 2}_{\substack{\text{from vertices of } U \\ \text{to those of } L \setminus \{s\}}} = k^2 - 2 \cdot k - l + 3.$$

2. Otherwise $k - l > \lfloor \frac{n-l-1}{2} \rfloor$. Then the set U contains $\lfloor \frac{n-l-1}{2} \rfloor$ vertices from $V(W_n \setminus L)$ that do not increase the number of p.a.v. in $d_k(L \cup U)$ and k - l - l $\lfloor \frac{n-l-1}{2} \rfloor$ vertices that increase it. The pattern of these vertices was explained above. Since

$$\underbrace{n-l}_{|W_n\setminus L|} - \lfloor \frac{n-l-1}{2} \rfloor \cdot 2$$

attains only the value 1 (if n - l is odd) or 2 (if n - l is even) it follows that besides $\lfloor \frac{n-l-1}{2} \rfloor$ vertices that do not increase the number of p.a.v., U contains also one vertex that increases the number of p.a.v. by 2 or 1, respectively, and $k-l-\lfloor \frac{n-l-1}{2} \rfloor -1$ vertices that increase the number of p.a.v. by 2.

Thus we have

$$\operatorname{rad}_{k,l}(W_n) = \underbrace{k^2 - 2 \cdot k - l + 3}_{d_k(L \cup U) \text{ if no vertex of } U}_{increases \text{ the number of } p.a.v.}$$

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$$-\left[\underbrace{\lfloor\frac{n-l}{2}\rceil - \lfloor\frac{n-l}{2}\rfloor + 1}_{one \ vertex \ that \ increases} + 2 \cdot \underbrace{(k-l-\lfloor\frac{n-l-1}{2}\rfloor - 1)}_{increase \ the \ number \ of \ p.a.v. \ by \ 1 \ or \ 2} + 2 \cdot \underbrace{(k-l-\lfloor\frac{n-l-1}{2}\rfloor - 1)}_{increase \ the \ number \ of \ p.a.v. \ by \ 2}\right]$$
$$= k^2 - 4 \cdot k + l + 4 + 2 \cdot \lfloor\frac{n-l-1}{2}\rfloor - \lceil\frac{n-l}{2}\rceil + \lfloor\frac{n-l}{2}\rfloor.$$

Since

$$2 \cdot \lfloor \frac{n-l-1}{2} \rfloor - \lceil \frac{n-l}{2} \rceil + \lfloor \frac{n-l}{2} \rfloor = n-l-2$$

for odd n - l as well as for even n - l, the previous equality can be simplified to

$$\operatorname{rad}_{k,l}(W_n) = k^2 - 4 \cdot k + n + 2. \square$$

Proof of Assertion 1. Let l = 1. Analogously as above it can be shown that there is a (k, 1)-central set containing the vertex s. For k = 1 we have $\operatorname{rad}_{1,1}(W_n) = 0$.

Now let k > 1. By the construction used in the proof of Theorem 1, one (k, 2)-central set contains the vertex s and u_0 . As all $u_0, u_1, \ldots, u_{n-2}$ belong to the same orbit of $\operatorname{out}(W_n)$, to determine the (k, 1)-radius we can choose the first vertex of the set U arbitrarily (recall that $U \subset V(W_n \setminus \{s\})$. Hence, suppose that this vertex is u_0 . Then the set U_1 of k - 1 vertices, such that $d_k(\{s\} \cup U_1)$ has the maximum possible value, coincides with the set $u_0 \cup U_2$ ($|U_2| = k - 2$), for which $d_k(\{s, u_0\} \cup U_2)$ has the maximum possible value. I.e., $\operatorname{rad}_{k,1}(W_n) = \operatorname{rad}_{k,2}(W_n)$. The rest follows from Theorem 1. \Box

Proof of Assertion 2. If k = n then the (n, 0)-radius is the transmission of the graph and by Theorem 1 $\operatorname{rad}_{n,0}(W_n) = n^2 - 3 \cdot n + 2$. Now we consider k < n. Then the set K on which $\operatorname{rad}_{k,0}(W_n)$ is attained does not contain the vertex s. Thus $\operatorname{rad}_{k,0}(W_n) = \operatorname{rad}_{k+1,1}(W_n) - k$. Hence, by Assertion 1 we have:

- 1. If $k \leq \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor$ then $\operatorname{rad}_{k,0}(W_n) = (k+1)^2 - 2 \cdot (k+1) + 1 - k = k^2 - k.$
- 2. If $n > k \ge \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor$ then

 $\operatorname{rad}_{k,0}(W_n) = (k+1)^2 - 4 \cdot (k+1) + n + 2 - k = k^2 - 3 \cdot k + n - 1.$

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