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Research Article

The 2-Pebbling Property of the Middle Graph of Fan Graphs

Yongsheng Ye, Fang Liu, and Caixia Shi

School of Mathematical Sciences, Huaibei Normal University, Huaibei, Anhui 235000, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Yongsheng Ye; yeysh66@163.com

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A pebbling move on a graph G consists of taking two pebbles off one vertex and placing one pebble on an adjacent vertex. The pebbling number of a connected graph G, denoted by $f(G)$, is the least n such that any distribution of n pebbles on G allows one pebble to be moved to any specified but arbitrary vertex by a sequence of pebbling moves. This paper determines the pebbling numbers and the 2-pebbling property of the middle graph of fan graphs.

1. Introduction

Pebbling on graphs was first introduced by Chung [1]. Consider a connected graph with a fixed number of pebbles distributed on its vertices. A pebbling move consists of the removal of two pebbles from a vertex and the placement of one of those pebbles on an adjacent vertex. The pebbling number of a vertex v in a graph G is the smallest number $f(G, v)$ with the property that from every placement of $f(G, v)$ pebbles on G, it is possible to move a pebble to v by a sequence of pebbling moves. The pebbling number of a graph G, denoted by $f(G)$, is the maximum of $f(G, v)$ over all the vertices of G.

In a graph G, if each vertex (except v) has at most one pebble, then no pebble can be moved to v. Also, if u is of distance d from v and at most $2^d - 1$ pebbles are placed on u (and none elsewhere), then no pebble can be moved from u to v. So it is clear that $f(G) \geq \max\{|V(G)|, 2^D\}$, where $|V(G)|$ is the number of vertices of G and D is the diameter of G.

Throughout this paper, let G be a simple connected graph with vertex set $V(G)$ and edge set $E(G)$. For a distribution of pebbles on G, denote by $p(H)$ and $p(v)$ the number of pebbles on a subgraph H of G and the number of pebbles on a vertex v of G, respectively. In addition, denote by $\widetilde{p}(H)$ and $\widetilde{p}(v)$ the number of pebbles on H and the number of pebbles on v after a specified sequence of pebbling moves, respectively. For $uv \in E(G)$, $u \xrightarrow{m} v$ refers to taking $2m$ pebbles off u and placing m pebbles on v. Denote by $\langle v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n \rangle$ the path with vertices $v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n$ in order.

We now introduce some definitions and give some lemmas, which will be used in subsequent proofs.

Definition 1. A fan graph, denoted by F_n, is a path P_{n-1} plus an extra vertex v_0 connected to all vertices of the path P_{n-1}, where $P_{n-1} = \langle v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_{n-1} \rangle$.

Definition 2. The middle graph $M(G)$ of a graph G is the graph obtained from G by inserting a new vertex into every edge of G and by joining by edges those pairs of these new vertices which lie on adjacent edges of G.

Now one creates the middle graph of F_n. Edges $v_1v_2, v_2v_3, \ldots, v_{(n-2)(n-1)}$ of F_n are the inserted new vertices $u_{12}, u_{23}, \ldots, u_{(n-2)(n-1)}$ in the sequence, and edges $v_0v_1, v_0v_2, \ldots, v_0v_{n-1}$ of F_n are the inserted new vertices $u_{01}, u_{02}, \ldots, u_{0(n-1)}$, respectively. By joining by edges those pairs of these inserted vertices which lie on adjacent edges of F_n, this obtains the middle graph of F_n (see Figure 1).

Definition 3. A transmitting subgraph is a path $\langle v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_k \rangle$ such that there are at least two pebbles on v_0, and after a sequence of pebbling moves, one can transmit a pebble from v_0 to v_k.

Lemma 4 (see [2]). *Let $P_{k+1} = \langle v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_k \rangle$. If*

$$p(v_0) + 2p(v_1) + \cdots + 2^i p(v_i) + \cdots + 2^{k-1} p(v_{k-1}) \geq 2^k, \tag{1}$$

then P_{k+1} is a transmitting subgraph.

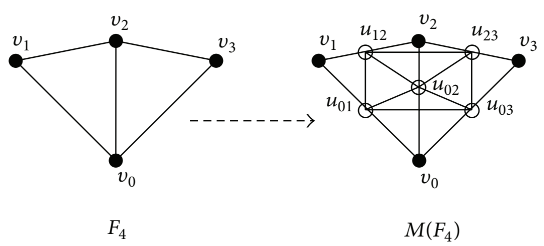

FIGURE 1: $M(F_4)$.

Definition 5. The t-pebbling number, $f_t(G)$, of a connected graph, G, is the smallest positive integer such that from every placement of $f_t(G)$ pebbles, t pebbles can be moved to a specified target vertex by a sequence of pebbling moves.

Lemma 6 (see [3]). *If K_n is the complete graph with n $(n \geq 2)$ vertices, then $f_t(K_n) = 2t + n - 2$.*

Lemma 7 (see [4]). *Consider $f(M(P_n)) = 2^n + n - 2$.*

Chung found the pebbling numbers of the n-cube Q^n, the complete graph K_n, and the path P_n (see [1]). The pebbling number of C_n was determined in [5]. In [6, 7], Ye et al. gave the number of squares of cycles. Feng and Kim proved that $f(F_n) = n$ and $f(W_n) = n$ (see [8]). Liu et al. determined the pebbling numbers of middle graphs of P_n, K_n, and $K_{1,n-1}$ (see [4]). In [9], Ye et al. proved that $f(M(C_{2n})) = 2^{n+1} + 2n - 2$ $(n \geq 2)$ and $f(M(C_{2n+1})) = \lfloor 2^{n+3}/3 \rfloor + 2n$, where $M(C_n)$ denotes the middle graph of C_n. Motivated by these works, we will determine the value of the pebbling number and the 2-property of middle graphs of F_n.

2. Pebbling Numbers of $M(F_n)$

In this section, we study the pebbling number of $M(F_n)$. Let $S = \{v_0, u_{01}, u_{02}, \ldots, u_{0(n-1)}\}$, and let $A = \{v_1, u_{12}, v_2, u_{23}, \ldots, v_{n-1}\}$. Obviously, the subgraph induced by S is a complete graph with n vertices. For $n = 3$, $M(F_3) \cong M(C_3)$. Hence we have the following theorem.

Theorem 8 (see [9]). *Consider $f(M(F_3)) = 7$.*

Lemma 9. *Let $f(M(F_{n-1})) = p$. If $p + 3$ pebbles are placed on $M(F_n)$, then one pebble can be moved to any specified vertex of S by a sequence of pebbling moves.*

Proof. Let v be our target vertex, and let $p(v) = 0$, where $v \in S$. We may assume that $v \neq u_{01}$ (after relabeling if necessary). Let $B = \{v_1, u_{12}, u_{01}\}$. If $p(B) \geq 5$, then $\widetilde{p}(u_{01}) \geq 2$ by Lemma 6, and we can move one pebble to v. If $p(B) = 4$, then $B \xrightarrow{1} u_{02}$. We delete v_1, u_{01}, and u_{12} to obtain the subgraph $M(F_{n-1})$ with p pebbles, thus we can move one pebble to v. If $p(B) \leq 3$, then we delete v_1, u_{01}, and u_{12} to obtain the subgraph $M(F_{n-1})$ with at least p pebbles and we are done. □

Theorem 10. *Consider $f(M(F_4)) = 11$.*

Proof. We place 7 pebbles on v_3 and one pebble on each vertex of the set $\{v_0, u_{02}, v_2\}$, other vertices have no pebble, then no pebble can be moved to v_1. So $p(M(F_4)) \geq 11$. We now place 11 pebbles on $M(F_4)$. We assume that v is our target vertex and $p(v) = 0$. Recall $S = \{v_0, u_{01}, u_{02}, u_{03}\}$ and $A = \{v_1, u_{12}, v_2, u_{23}, v_3\}$.

(1) Consider $v \in S$. By Theorem 8 and Lemma 9, we can move one pebble to v.

(2) Consider $v = v_1$ (or $v = v_3$). Let $A_1 = A - \{v_1\}$, let $A_2 = \{u_{12}, v_2\}$, and let $A_3 = A_1 - A_2$. If $p(S) = t$, then $p(A_1) = 11 - t$. Thus we can move at least $\lfloor (8 - t)/2 \rfloor$ pebbles from A_1 to S so that $\widetilde{p}(S) = \lfloor (8 + t)/2 \rfloor \geq 6$ for $t \geq 4$. By Lemma 6, $\widetilde{p}(u_{01}) = 2$ and we can move one pebble to v_1. If $t \leq 2$, then $p(A) \geq 9$. By Lemma 7, we can move one pebble to v_1. If $t = 3$, then at least one of u_{01} and u_{03} can obtain one pebble from every placement of 3 pebbles on S by a sequence of pebbling moves. If $p(A_3) \geq 7$, then $A_3 \xrightarrow{3} u_{03}$. So $\langle u_{03}, u_{01}, v_1 \rangle$ is a transmitting subgraph. If $4 \leq p(A_3) \leq 6$, then $2 \leq p(A_2) \leq 4$. By Lemma 6, $\widetilde{p}(u_{23}) \geq 2$ and $\widetilde{p}(u_{12}) \geq 1$. So $\langle u_{23}, u_{12}, v_1 \rangle$ is a transmitting subgraph. If $p(A_3) \leq 3$, then $p(A_2) \geq 5$. So $\langle v_2, u_{12}, v_1 \rangle$ is a transmitting subgraph.

(3) Consider $v = v_2$. If $p(S) \geq 4$ or $p(S) \leq 2$, then we are done with (2). If $p(S) = 3$, then $p(v_1) + p(u_{12}) \geq 4$ or $p(u_{23}) + p(v_3) \geq 4$. So $\langle v_1, u_{12}, v_2 \rangle$ or $\langle v_3, u_{23}, v_2 \rangle$ is a transmitting subgraph.

(4) Consider $v = u_{12}$ (or $v = u_{23}$). If $p(S) \geq 4$ or $p(S) \leq 2$, then we are done with (2). If $p(S) = 3$, then $p(v_1) + p(v_2) + p(u_{23}) + p(v_3) = 8$. Obviously, we are done if $p(v_1) \geq 2$ or $p(v_2) \geq 2$. Next suppose that $p(v_1) \leq 1$ and $p(v_2) \leq 1$. Thus $p(u_{23}) + p(v_3) \geq 6$. So $\langle v_3, u_{23}, u_{12} \rangle$ is a transmitting subgraph.

□

Theorem 11. *Consider $f(M(F_n)) = 3n - 1$ $(n \geq 4)$.*

Proof. We place 7 pebbles on v_{n-1} and one pebble on each vertex of $M(F_n)$ except $v_1, u_{01}, u_{12}, u_{(n-2)(n-1)}, u_{0(n-1)}$, and v_{n-1}. In this configuration of pebbles, we cannot move one pebble to v_1. So $f(M(F_n)) \geq 3n - 1$. Next, let us use induction on n to show that $f(M(F_n)) = 3n - 1$. For $n = 4$, our theorem is true by Theorem 10. Suppose that $f(M(F_k)) = 3k - 1$ if $k < n$. Now $3n - 1$ pebbles are placed arbitrarily on the vertices of $M(F_n)$. Suppose that v is our target vertex and $p(v) = 0$.

(1) Consider $v \in S$. By induction and Theorem 8, we can move one pebble to v.

(2) Consider $v = v_1$ (or $v = v_{n-1}$). Obviously, $p(u_{01}) \leq 1$. Otherwise, $p(u_{01}) > 1$. v_1 can obtain one pebble. Let $B_i = \{u_{i(i+1)}, u_{0(i+1)}, v_{i+1}\}$ $(1 \leq i \leq n - 2)$.

If $p(B_{n-2}) \leq 3$, then we delete B_{n-2} to obtain the subgraph $M(F_{n-1})$ with at least $3(n-1)-1$ pebbles. By induction, we can move one pebble to v_1. If $p(B_{n-2}) = 4$, then $B_{n-2} \xrightarrow{1} u_{0(n-2)}$. Thus we delete B_{n-2} to obtain the subgraph $M(F_{n-1})$ with $3(n - 1) - 1$ pebbles. By induction, we are done.

Next, suppose that $p(B_{n-2}) \geq 5$. By Lemma 6, $\widetilde{p}(u_{0(n-1)}) \geq 2$. If $p(u_{01}) = 1$, then $\langle u_{0(n-1)}, u_{01}, v_1 \rangle$ is a transmitting subgraph. If $p(v_0) \geq 2$, then $v_0 \xrightarrow{1} u_{01}$, and we are done. If there exists some B_i with $p(B_i) \geq 5$ $(i \neq n-2)$, then $B_i \xrightarrow{1} u_{01}$, and we are done. Thus we assume that $p(u_{01}) = 0$, $p(v_0) \leq 1$, and $p(B_i) \leq 4$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-3$.

Now, we consider B_i $(1 \leq i \leq n-3)$. Clearly, if $p(B_1) = 4$, then we are done. Suppose that there exists some B_j with $p(B_j) = 4$ $(j \neq 1)$. It is clear that if one of the three cases ((i) $p(u_{0j}) \geq 1$ $(u_{0j} \in B_{j-1})$, (ii) $p(B_{j-1}) \geq 3$, and (iii) $p(v_j) \geq 2$ $(v_j \in B_{j-1})$) happens, then we can move one pebble to v. Thus we assume that $p(B_i) = 4$ $(2 \leq i \leq n-3)$, $p(B_{i-1}) \leq 2$, $p(u_{0i}) = 0$, and $p(v_i) \leq 1$. If there are r sets $B_{i_1}, B_{i_2}, \ldots, B_{i_r}$ such that $p(B_{i_k}) = 4$ for $1 \leq k \leq r$, then $p(B_{i_k - 1}) \leq 2$ for $1 \leq k \leq r$. Let $N_1 = \{i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_r\}$, let $N_2 = \{i_1 - 1, i_2 - 1, \ldots, i_r - 1\}$, and let $N_3 = \{1, 2, \ldots, n-3\} - N_1 - N_2$. If $p(B_j) = 2$ for all $j \in N_2$ and $p(B_k) = 3$ for all $k \in N_3$, then $\widetilde{p}(u_{j(j+1)}) = 1$ and $\widetilde{p}(u_{k(k+1)}) = 1$. Recall that $p(B_i) = 4$ for all $i \in N_1$ and $p(B_{n-2}) \geq 5$. Then $\widetilde{p}(u_{i(i+1)}) = 1$ and $\widetilde{p}(u_{(n-2)(n-1)}) = 2$. Thus $\langle u_{(n-2)(n-1)}, u_{(n-3)(n-2)}, \ldots, u_{12}, v_1 \rangle$ is a transmitting subgraph. So there is at least some j in N_2 such that $p(B_j) \leq 1$ or at least some k in N_3 such that $p(B_k) \leq 2$. If there are two j' and j'' in N_2 such that $p(B_{j'}) \leq 1$ and $p(B_{j''}) \leq 1$ or two k' and k'' in N_3 such that $p(B_{k'}) \leq 2$ and $p(B_{k''}) \leq 2$ or some j in N_2 such that $p(B_j) \leq 1$ and some k in N_3 such that $p(B_k) \leq 2$, then $p(B_{n-2}) \geq 9$. By Lemma 6, $\widetilde{p}(u_{0(n-1)}) = 4$. Hence $\langle u_{0(n-1)}, u_{01}, v_1 \rangle$ is a transmitting subgraph.

Finally, there are two remaining cases, (i) there is only some j in N_2 such that $p(B_j) \leq 1$, and (ii) there is only some k in N_3 such that $p(B_k) \leq 2$. So $p(B_{n-2}) \geq 8$. If $p(u_{(n-2)(n-1)}) = 0$, then $\langle v_{n-1}, u_{0(n-1)}, u_{01}, v_1 \rangle$ is a transmitting subgraph. If $p(u_{(n-2)(n-1)}) \neq 0$, then, in B_{n-2}, $\widetilde{p}(u_{(n-2)(n-1)}) \geq 2$ and $\widetilde{p}(u_{0(n-1)}) \geq 2$. For (i), we have $\widetilde{p}(u_{i(i+1)}) \geq 1$ for $j+2 \leq i \leq n-3$. By the transmitting subgraph $\langle u_{(n-2)(n-1)}, u_{(n-3)(n-2)}, \ldots, u_{(j+1)(j+2)} \rangle$, $\widetilde{p}(B_{j+1}) = 5$ and we are done. Suppose that (ii) holds. If $p(B_k) = 2$, then we can move one pebble from $u_{0(n-1)}$ to $u_{0(k+1)}$ so that $p(B_k) = 3$, and we are done. If $p(B_k) \leq 1$, then $p(B_{n-2}) \geq 9$ and we are done.

(3) Consider $v = u_{12}$ (or $v = u_{(n-2)(n-1)}$). Obviously, $p(u_{01}) \leq 1$ and $p(v_i) \leq 1$ $(i = 1, 2)$. Otherwise, one pebble can be moved to u_{12}. The proof is similar to (2).

(4) Consider $v = v_i (2 \leq i \leq n-2)$ (or $v = u_{j(j+1)} (2 \leq j \leq n-3)$) and $p(v_i) = 0$. Let $B = \{v_1, u_{12}, u_{01}\}$, and let $B' = \{v_{n-1}, u_{(n-2)(n-1)}, u_{0(n-1)}\}$. If $p(B) \leq 3$, then delete B to obtain the subgraph $M(F_{n-1})$ with at least $3(n-1)-1$ pebbles. By induction, we can move one pebble to v. If $p(B) = 4$, then we can move one pebble from B to u_{02}, after deleting B to obtain the subgraph $M(F_{n-1})$ with $3(n-1)-1$ pebbles. Hence we assume that $p(B) \geq 5$. According to symmetry, $p(B') \geq 5$. Therefore we are done. □

3. The 2-Pebbling Property of $M(F_n)$

For a distribution of pebbles on G, let q be the number of vertices with at least one pebble. We say a graph G satisfies the 2-pebbling property if two pebbles can be moved to any specified vertex when the total starting number of pebbles is $2f(G) - q + 1$. Next we will discuss the 2-pebbling property of $M(F_n)$. For the convenience of statement, let $S = \{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n\}$, and let $A = \{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_{2n-3}\}$, where $x_1 = v_0$, $x_2 = u_{01}, \ldots, x_n = u_{0(n-1)}$, $y_1 = v_1$, and $y_2 = u_{12}, \ldots, y_{2n-3} = v_{n-1}$. In this section let $q = q_s + q_a$, where q_s and q_a are the number of vertices with at least one pebble in S and A, respectively.

Lemma 12. *Suppose that $p(M(F_n)) \geq 2(3n-1) - q$ and $q_a = 2n-4$. If $p(S) = q_s + t$ $(t = 0, 1, 2)$ and $p(y_r) = 0$ $(1 \leq r \leq 2n-3)$, then one can move 2 pebbles to y_r.*

Proof. Let $r = 2k-1$ (or $r = 2k$). Since $q_a = 2n-4$ and $p(S) = q_s + t$, so $p(A) \geq 4n + 2 - 2q_s - t$. Without loss of generality, there exists a positive integer j $(j > r)$ such that the corresponding vertex y_j with $p(y_j) \geq 2$ and $p(y_i) = 1$ for $r+1 \leq i \leq j-1$. Thus $y_j \xrightarrow{1} y_{j-1} \xrightarrow{1} \cdots \xrightarrow{1} y_r$. Using the remaining $4n + 2 - t - 2q_s - (j - r + 1)$ pebbles on vertices $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_{r-1}, y_j, y_{j+1}, \ldots, y_{2n-3}$, we can move at least $n + \lfloor (5-t)/2 \rfloor - q_s$ pebbles to S so that $\widetilde{p}(S) \geq n + \lfloor (5+t)/2 \rfloor$. By Lemma 6, $\widetilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 2$. So we can move one additional pebble from x_{k+1} to y_r so that $\widetilde{p}(y_r) = 2$. □

Lemma 13. *Suppose that $p(M(F_n)) = 2(3n-1) - q + 1$ and $q_a = 2n-5$. If $p(S) = q_s + t$ $(t = 0, 1)$ and $p(y_r) = 0$ $(1 \leq r \leq 2n-3)$, then one can move 2 pebbles to y_r.*

Proof. Let $r = 2k-1$ (or $r = 2k$). Since $q_a = 2n-5$, we see that there is only some vertex y_{i_0} $(i_0 \neq r)$ with $p(y_{i_0}) = 0$. Without loss of generality, there exists a positive integer j $(j > r)$ such that the corresponding vertex y_j with $p(y_j) \geq 2$ and $p(y_i) \leq 1$ for $r < i < j$. If $i_0 = 2k_0 - 1$ $(k_0 \neq k)$ or $i_0 \notin \{r+1, r+2, \ldots, j-1\}$, then we can move one pebble to y_r by the transmitting subgraph $\langle y_j, y_{j-2}, \ldots, y_{r+1}, y_r \rangle$ or $\langle y_j, y_{j-1}, y_{j-3}, \ldots, y_{r+1}, y_r \rangle$. Now using the remaining at least $4n + 4 - t - 2q_s - (j - r + 1)$ pebbles on the set $A_1 = \{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_{r-1}, y_j, y_j, \ldots, y_{2n-3}\}$, we can move $n + \lfloor (7-t)/2 \rfloor - q_s$ pebbles from the A_1 to S so that $\widetilde{p}(S) = n + \lfloor (7+t)/2 \rfloor$. By Lemma 6, $\widetilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 2$ and we can move one additional pebble from x_{k+1} to y_r so that $\widetilde{p}(y_r) = 2$.

Suppose that $i_0 = 2k_0$ $(k_0 \geq k)$ and $i_0 \in \{r+1, r+2, \ldots, j-1\}$. If $j = i_0 + 1$, then $y_j \xrightarrow{1} y_{i_0}$. Thus there must exist one vertex $y_{j'}$ $(j' \geq j)$ with $p(y_{j'}) \geq 2$ and $p(y_i) \leq 1$ for $r < i < j'$. Using the transmitting subgraph $\langle y_{j'}, y_{j'-2}, \ldots, y_{r+1}, y_r \rangle$ or $\langle y_{j'}, y_{j'-1}, y_{j'-3}, \ldots, y_{r+1}, y_r \rangle$, we can move one pebble to y_r. Now, using the remaining $4n + 4 - t - 2q_s - (j' - r + 2)$ pebbles on the set $\{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_{r-1}, y_{j'}, y_{j'+1}, \ldots, y_{2n-3}\}$, we can move $n + \lfloor (6-t)/2 \rfloor - q_s$ pebbles from the set $\{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_{r-1}, y_{j'}, y_{j'+1}, \ldots, y_{2n-3}\}$ to S so that $\widetilde{p}(S) \geq n + \lfloor (6+t)/2 \rfloor$. By Lemma 6, $\widetilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 2$ and we are done. Next, suppose that $j \geq i_0 + 2$.

(1) Consider $p(y_{2k}) = 1$. We divide into three subcases.

(1.1) Consider $p(x_{k+2}) = 0$. We delete vertices $y_r, y_{r+1}, \ldots, y_{2k_0}, x_{k+2}$ to obtain the subgraph with two sets $A_2 = A - \{y_r, y_{r+1}, \ldots, y_{2k_0}\}$ and $S_1 = S - \{x_{k+2}\}$, and $p(A_2) = 4n + 4 - 2q_s - t - (2k_0 - r - 1)$ and $p(S_1) = q_s + t$. Thus we can move $n + \lfloor (10-t)/2 \rfloor - q_s$ pebbles from A_2 to

S_1 so that $\tilde{p}(S_1) = n + \lfloor (10+t)/2 \rfloor$. By Lemma 6, $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 4$ and we can move two pebbles from x_{k+1} to y_r.

(1.2) Consider $p(x_{k+2}) = 1$. Suppose that $j = 2k'$ or $j = 2k'+1$ $(k' > k)$. Let $A_3 = \{y_{2k'}, y_{2k'+1}\}$. Obviously, $p(A_3) \geq 3$. If $p(A_3) \geq 5$, then

$$A_3 \xrightarrow{2} x_{k'+2} \xrightarrow{1} x_{k+2} \xrightarrow{1} y_{r+1} \xrightarrow{1} y_r. \tag{2}$$

We delete $y_r, y_{r+1}, \ldots, y_{2k_0}, x_{k+2}$ to obtain the subgraph with two sets A_2 and S_1. So $p(A_2) = 4n - 2q_s - t - (2k_0 - r - 1)$ and $\tilde{p}(S_1) = q_s - 1 + t$. We can move $n + \lfloor (6-t)/2 \rfloor - q_s$ pebbles from A_2 to S_1 so that $\tilde{p}(S_1) = n + \lfloor (4+t)/2 \rfloor$. By Lemma 6, $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 2$ and we are done. If $p(A_3) = 3, 4$ and $p(x_{k'+2}) \neq 0$, then

$$A_3 \xrightarrow{1} x_{k'+2} \xrightarrow{1} x_{k+2} \xrightarrow{1} y_{r+1} \xrightarrow{1} y_r. \tag{3}$$

We delete $y_r, y_{r+1}, \ldots, y_{2k_0}, x_{k+2}$ to obtain the subgraph with two sets A_2 and S_1. So $p(A_2) = 4n+2-2q_s-t-(2k_0-r-1)$ and $\tilde{p}(S_1) = q_s-2+t$. We can move $n+\lfloor (8-t)/2 \rfloor - q_s$ pebbles from A_2 to S_1 so that $\tilde{p}(S_1) = n+\lfloor (4+t)/2 \rfloor$. By Lemma 6, $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 2$ and we are done. If $p(A_3) = 3, 4$ and $p(x_{k'+2}) = 0$, then $A_3 \xrightarrow{1} x_{k'+1}$. We delete $y_r, y_{r+1}, \ldots, y_{2k_0}, y_{2k'}, y_{2k'+1}, x_{k'+2}$ to obtain the subgraph with two sets $A_4 = A_2 - A_3$ and $S_2 = S - \{x_{2k'+2}\}$. So $p(A_4) \geq 4n - 2q_s - t - (2k_0 - r - 1)$ and $\tilde{p}(S_2) = q_s + 1 + t$. We can move $n + \lfloor (8-t)/2 \rfloor - q_s$ pebbles from A_4 to S_2 so that $\tilde{p}(S_2) = n + \lfloor (10+t)/2 \rfloor$. By Lemma 6, $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 4$.

(1.3) Consider $p(x_{k+2}) = 2$ for $t = 1$. Thus $x_{k+2} \xrightarrow{1} y_{2k} \xrightarrow{1} y_r$. We delete $y_r, y_{r+1}, \ldots, y_{2k_0}, x_{k+2}$ to obtain the subgraph with two sets A_2 and S_1. So $p(A_2) = 4n+3-2q_s-(2k_0-r-1)$ and $\tilde{p}(S_1) = q_s - 1$. $n + 4 - q_s$ pebbles can be moved from A_2 to S_1 so that $\tilde{p}(S_1) = n + 3$. By Lemma 6, $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 3$. So we can move one additional pebble from x_{k+1} to y_r.

(2) Consider $p(y_{2k}) = 0$; that is, $k = k_0$. We divide into three subcases.

(2.1) Consider $p(x_{2k+2}) = 0$. We delete $y_r, y_{r+1}, y_{r+2}, x_{2k+2}$ to obtain the subgraph with two sets $A_5 = A - \{y_r, y_{r+1}, y_{r+2}\}$ and S_1. One has $p(A_5) = 4n + 3 - 2q_s - t$ and $p(S_1) = q_s + t$. We can move $n + \lfloor (10-t)/2 \rfloor - q_s$ pebbles from A_5 to S_1 so that $\tilde{p}(S_1) = n + \lfloor (10+t)/2 \rfloor$. By Lemma 6, $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 4$ and we can move two pebbles from x_{k+1} to y_r.

(2.2) Consider $p(x_{k+2}) = 1$. We have

$$y_j \xrightarrow{1} y_{j-1} \xrightarrow{1} \cdots \xrightarrow{1} y_{r+2} \xrightarrow{1} x_{k+2} \xrightarrow{1} x_{k+1}. \tag{4}$$

We delete vertices $y_r, y_{r+1}, \ldots, y_{j-1}, x_{k+2}$ to obtain the subgraph with two sets A_1 and S_1. So $p(A_1) = 4n + 4 - 2q_s - t - (j - r)$ and $\tilde{p}(S_1) = q_s + t - 1$ (except one moved pebble on x_{k+1}). We can move $n + \lfloor (8-t)/2 \rfloor - q_s$ pebbles from A_5 to S_1 so that $\tilde{p}(S_1) = n + \lfloor (6+t)/2 \rfloor$ (except one moved pebble on x_{k+1}). By Lemma 6, we can move 3 additional pebbles to x_{k+1} so that $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 4$.

(2.3) $p(x_{k+2}) = 2$ for $t = 1$. Thus $x_{k+2} \xrightarrow{1} x_{k+1}$. Deleting $y_r, y_{r+1}, y_{r+2}, x_{k+2}$ to obtain the subgraph with two sets A_5 and S_1. One has $p(A_5) = 4n+2-2q_s$ and $\tilde{p}(S_1) = q_s - 1$ (except one moved pebble on x_{k+1}). We can move $n + 4 - q_s$ pebbles from A_4 to S_1 so that $\tilde{p}(S_1) = n+3$ (except one moved pebble on x_{k+1}). By Lemma 6, we can move 3 additional pebbles to x_{k+1} so that $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 4$. □

Theorem 14. *$M(F_n)$ has the 2-pebbling property.*

Proof. Suppose that v is our target vertex. If $p(v) = 1$, then the number of pebbles on $M(F_n)$ except one pebble on v is $2(3n-1) + 1 - q - 1$ $(> 3n - 1)$. By Theorem 11, we can move one additional pebble to v so that $\tilde{p}(v) = 2$. Next we assume that $p(v) = 0$.

(1) Consider $v = x_r$ $(1 \leq r \leq n)$. If there exists some vertex x_i with $p(x_i) \geq 2$ $(i \neq r)$, then $x_i \xrightarrow{1} x_r$. Using the remaining $2(3n-1)+1-q-2 > 3n-1$ pebbles, we can move one additional pebble to x_r so that $\tilde{p}(x_r) = 2$. If $p(x_i) \leq 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$, then $p(A) = 2(3n-1) - q + 1 - q_s = 6n - 1 - q_a - 2q_s \geq 4n + 2 - 2q_s$. Thus we can move at least $n + 2 - q_s$ pebbles from A to S so that $\tilde{p}(S) = n + 2$. By Lemma 6, we can move two pebbles to x_r.

(2) Consider $v = y_r$ $(1 \leq r \leq 2n - 3)$. Let $r = 2k - 1$ (or $r = 2k$). If $p(x_{k+1}) \geq 2$, then we can put one pebble on y_r. After that, the remaining $2(3n-1) - q + 1 - 2$ $(> 3n - 1)$ pebbles on $M(F_n)$ suffice to put one additional pebble on y_r by Theorem 11. Next we assume $p(x_{k+1}) \leq 1$.

(2.1) Suppose that $p(x_{k+1}) = 1$. If there is some vertex x_i with $p(x_i) \geq 2$ $(i \neq k + 1)$, then $x_i \xrightarrow{1} x_{k+1} \xrightarrow{1} y_r$. The remaining $2(3n-1)-q+1-3$ $(> 3n-1)$ pebbles on $M(F_n)$ will suffice to put one additional pebble on y_r so that $\tilde{p}(y_r) = 2$. Next we assume that $p(x_i) \leq 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Obviously, $p(S) = q_s$ and $p(A) = 2(3n-1)-q+1-q_s = 6n-1-q_a-2q_s$. If $q_a \leq 2n-5$, then $p(A) \geq 4n+4-2q_s$. Thus we can move at least $n+5-q_s$ pebbles from A to S so that $\tilde{p}(S) = n+5$. By Lemma 6, we can move 3 additional pebbles to x_{k+1} so that $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 4$ and we are done. If $q_a = 2n - 4$, then, by Lemma 12, we are done.

(2.2) Suppose that $p(x_{k+1}) = 0$. If we can find some vertex x_i with $p(x_i) \geq 4$ or find two vertices x_j with $p(v_j) \geq 2$ and $x_{j'}$ with $p(x_{j'}) \geq 2$, then using 4 pebbles on x_i or two pebbles on x_j and two pebbles on $x_{j'}$ we can move one pebble to y_r. Then the remaining $2(3n-1)-q+1-4$ $(> 3n-1)$ pebbles on $M(F_n)$ will suffice to put one additional pebble to y_r so that $\tilde{p}(y_r) = 2$.

Consider only some vertex x_i with $2 \leq p(x_i) \leq 3$. If $p(x_i) = 3$, then $x_i \xrightarrow{1} x_{k+1}$, $\tilde{p}(S) = q_s$, and $p(A) = 2(3n-1) - q_s - q_a + 1 - (q_s + 2) = 6n - 3 - 2q_s - q_a$. When $q_a \leq 2n - 5$ and $p(A) \geq 4n + 2 - 2q_s$, we can move at least $n + 4 - q_s$ pebbles from A to S so that $\tilde{p}(S) \geq n + 4$ except for one pebble on x_{k+1}. By Lemma 6, we can put 3 additional pebbles on x_{k+1} so that $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 4$. When $q_a = 2n - 4$, we are done with Lemma 12. If $p(x_i) = 2$, then $x_i \xrightarrow{1} x_{k+1}$, $\tilde{p}(S) = q_s - 1$, and $p(A) = 2(3n-1) - q_s - q_a + 1 - (q_s + 1) = 6n - 2 - 2q_s - q_a$. When $q_a \leq 2n - 6$ and $p(A) \geq 4n + 4 - 2q_s$, we can move at least $n + 5 - q_s$ pebbles from A to S so that $\tilde{p}(S) \geq n + 4$ except for one pebble on x_{k+1}. By Lemma 6, we can put 3 additional pebbles on x_{k+1} so that $\tilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 4$. When $q_a = 2n - 4$ and $q_a = 2n - 5$, we are done with Lemmas 12 and 13.

Consider $p(x_i) \leq 1$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Obviously, $p(S) = q_s$ and $p(A) = 6n - 1 - q_a - 2q_s$. When $q_a \leq 2n - 6$

and $p(A) \geq 4n+5-2q_s$, we can move at least $n+6-q_s$ pebbles from A to S so that $\widetilde{p}(S) \geq n+6$. By Lemma 6, $\widetilde{p}(x_{k+1}) = 4$ and we are done. When $q_a = 2n-4$ and $q_a = 2n-5$, we are done with Lemmas 12 and 13. □

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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