



# Edge-fault-tolerant edge-bipancyclicity of hypercubes <sup>☆</sup>

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## Abstract

In this paper, we consider the problem embedding a cycle into the hypercube  $Q_n$  with existence of faulty edges and show that for any edge subset  $F$  of  $Q_n$  with  $|F| \leq n - 1$  every edge of  $Q_n - F$  lies on a cycle of every even length from 6 to  $2^n$  inclusive provided  $n \geq 4$  and all edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex. This result improves some known results.

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## 1. Introduction

To find a cycle of given length in graph  $G$  is a cycle embedding problem, and to find cycles of all length from 3 to  $|V(G)|$  is a pancyclic problem. The cycle embedding problem is investigated in a lot of interconnection networks [4,5,9,10,12,15]. In general, a graph is of pancyclicity if it contains cycles of all length [2]. The pancyclicity is an important property to determine if a topology of network is suitable for an application where mapping cycles of any length into the topology of network is required. The concept of pancyclicity has been extended to vertex-pancyclicity [6] and edge-pancyclicity [1]. A graph is vertex-pancyclic if every

vertex lies on a cycle of every length from 3 to  $|V(G)|$ ; and edge-pancyclic if every edge lies on a cycle of every length from 3 to  $|V(G)|$ . It is clear that if a graph  $G$  is edge-pancyclic then it is vertex-pancyclic certainly. Bipancyclicity is essentially a restriction of the concept of pancyclicity to bipartite graphs whose cycles are necessarily of even length. A graph  $G$  is edge-bipancyclic if every edge lies on a cycle of every even length from 4 to  $|V(G)|$  [13]. A graph  $G$  is  $k$ -edge-fault-tolerant Hamiltonian (edge-pancyclic) if the resulting graph by deleting any  $k$  edges from  $G$  is Hamiltonian (edge-pancyclic).

The fault-tolerant Hamiltonicity and pancyclicity of many networks are investigated, for example, Hsieh and Chen [7] for Möbius cubes, and Hsieh et al. [8] for arrangement graphs. In this paper we consider edge-bipancyclicity of hypercubes with faulty edges. Fault-tolerant properties are critical to the performance eval-

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uation of the network topology. As a topology for an interconnection network of a multiprocessor system, the hypercube  $Q_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) is a widely used and well-known interconnection model since it possesses many attractive properties [14,17]. Saad and Schultz [14] proved that  $Q_n$  is bipancyclic. Leu and Kuo [10], Litifi et al. [12] and Sen et al. [15], independently, proved that  $Q_n$  is  $(n - 2)$ -edge-fault-tolerant Hamiltonian. Sengupta [16] proved that  $Q_n$  is  $(n - 1)$ -edge-fault-tolerant Hamiltonian if  $n \geq 4$  and all the faulty edges are not incident with the same vertex. Recently, Li et al. [11] have further showed that  $Q_n$  is  $(n - 2)$ -edge-fault-tolerant edge-bipancyclic. In this paper, we obtain the following result.

**Theorem.** *For any subset  $F$  of  $E(Q_n)$  with  $|F| \leq n - 1$ , every edge of  $Q_n - F$  lies on a cycle of every even length from 6 to  $2^n$  inclusive provided  $n \geq 4$  and all edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex.*

Obviously, a cycle of length  $2^n$  in  $Q_n - F$  is a Hamilton cycle, which is the result of Sengupta. If  $|F| \leq n - 2$  then all edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex since  $Q_n$  is  $n$ -regular, which implies that our theorem holds. Also, any edge  $e$  in  $Q_n$  lies on exactly  $n - 1$  cycles of length four. If  $|F| \leq n - 2$  then every edge in  $Q_n - F$  must lie on a cycle of length four. Thus, our result implies the result of Li et al.

The proof of theorem is in Section 3. In Section 2, some lemmas are given.

## 2. Some lemmas

We follow [3] or [18] for graph-theoretical terminology and notation not denned here. A graph  $G = (V, E)$  always means a simple and connected graph, where  $V = V(G)$  is the vertex-set and  $E = E(G)$  is the edge-set of  $G$ . A  $uv$ -path is a sequence of adjacent vertices, written as  $\langle v_0, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m \rangle$ , in which  $u = v_0$ ,  $v = v_m$  and all the vertices  $v_0, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m$  are distinct except possibly  $v_0 = v_m$ . The length of a path  $P$  is the number of edges in  $P$ . A cycle is a path with at least three vertices such that the first vertex is the same as the last one. A cycle is called a Hamiltonian cycle if it contains all vertices of  $G$  and a  $uv$ -path is called a Hamiltonian path if it contains all vertices of  $G$ .

An  $n$ -dimensional binary hypercube  $Q_n$  is a graph with  $2^n$  vertices, each vertex denoted by an  $n$ -bit binary string  $u = u_n u_{n-1} \dots u_2 u_1$ . Two vertices are adjacent if and only if their strings differ exactly in one bit position. It has been proved that  $Q_n$  is a vertex and edge transitive bipartite graph (see, for example, [17]).

By the definition, for any  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,  $Q_n$  can be expressed as  $Q_n = L_k \odot R_k$ , where  $L_k$  and  $R_k$  are the two  $(n - 1)$ -subcubes of  $Q_n$  induced by the vertices with the  $k$  bit position is 0 and 1, respectively. We call edges between  $L_k$  and  $R_k$  to be  $k$ -dimensional, which form a perfect matching of  $Q_n$ . Clearly, for any edge  $e$  of  $Q_n$ , there is some  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that  $e$  is  $k$ -dimensional. Use  $u_L$  and  $u_R$  to denote two vertices in  $L_k$  and  $R_k$ , respectively, linked by the  $k$ -dimensional edge  $u_L u_R$  in  $Q_n$ .

For a subset  $F$  of  $E(Q_n)$  and any  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , we always express  $Q_n$  as  $Q_n = L_k \odot R_k$ , and let  $F_L = F \cap E(L_k)$ ,  $F_R = F \cap E(R_k)$  and  $F_k = F \setminus (F_L \cup F_R)$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *For any subset  $F$  of  $E(Q_n)$  and any given  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , if  $|F| = n - 1$  with  $n \geq 4$  and all edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex, then there is  $k \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i\}$  such that  $|F_L| \leq n - 2$  and  $|F_R| \leq n - 2$ . Moreover, if  $|F_L| = n - 2$  (or  $|F_R| = n - 2$ ) with  $n \geq 5$ , then all these  $n - 2$  edges in  $F_L$  (or  $F_R$ ) are not incident with the same vertex.*

**Proof.** For a given  $i$ , let  $N_i = \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i\}$ . We first choose  $j \in N_i$  such that  $|F_j|$  is as large as possible. If  $|F_j| \geq 2$ , then  $|F_L| \leq n - 3$  and  $|F_R| \leq n - 3$ . Let  $k = j$  and we are done.

If  $|F_j| = 1$ , then  $F$  contains at most one edge of every dimension in  $N_i$ . Let  $I = \{t: |F_t| = 1, t \in N_i\}$ . Choose  $k \in I$  such that the only edge  $f_k \in F_k$  is adjacent other edges in  $F$  as many as possible. So the former part in the lemma holds clearly. If  $|F_L| = n - 2$  (or  $|F_R| = n - 2$ ) and all edges in  $F_L$  are incident with the same vertex, say  $x$ , then  $f_k$  is not incident with  $x$  by the hypothesis of  $F$ , which contradicts to the choice of  $k$  for  $n \geq 5$ . Therefore, if  $|F_L| = n - 2$  with  $n \geq 5$ , then all edges in  $F_L$  are not incident with the same vertex.

If  $|F_j| = 0$ , then  $F = F_i$ . Let  $uv$  and  $xy$  be two distinct edges in  $F_i$  and let  $u = u_n \dots u_i \dots u_1$  and  $x = x_n \dots x_i \dots x_1$ . Then  $v = u_n \dots u_{i+1} \bar{u}_i u_{i-1} \dots u_1$  and  $y = x_n \dots x_{i+1} \bar{x}_i x_{i-1} \dots x_1$ . Since  $uv \neq xy$  and  $F = F_i$ , there exists some  $k \in N_i$  such that  $u_k \neq x_k$ .

Without loss of generality, suppose that  $uv$  is in  $L_k$ . Then  $xy$  in  $R_k$  and so  $|F_L| \leq n - 2$  and  $|F_R| \leq n - 2$ . Also since  $F = F_i$ , any two distinct edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex and so  $k$  is required. The lemma follows.  $\square$

When we express  $Q_n$  as  $Q_n = L_k \odot R_k$ , for an edge  $e_L = u_L v_L$  in  $L_k$ , there is an corresponding edge in  $R_k$ , denoted by  $e_R = u_R v_R$ . Similarly, for a path  $P$  or a cycle  $C$  in  $L_k$ , we denote the corresponding path or cycle in  $R_k$  by  $P'$  or  $C'$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *Any two edges in  $Q_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) are included in a Hamiltonian cycle.*

**Proof.** We prove the lemma by induction on  $n \geq 2$ . Obviously, the lemma is true for  $n = 2$ . Assume that the lemma is true for every  $k$  with  $2 \leq k < n$ . Let  $e$  and  $e'$  be two edges in  $Q_n$  and express  $Q_n = L_k \odot R_k$  such that none of  $e$  and  $e'$  is  $k$ -dimensional. Without loss of generality, we may assume  $e \in L_k$ . Furthermore, we can suppose that  $e'$  is in  $L_k$ , otherwise consider  $e'_L$  instead of  $e'$ . By the induction hypothesis, there exists a Hamiltonian cycle  $C$  containing  $e$  and  $e'$  in  $L_k$ . Let  $u_L v_L$  be an edge on  $C$  different from  $e$  and  $e'$ . The corresponding  $C'$  is a Hamiltonian cycle in  $R_k$  containing  $u_R v_R$ ,  $e_R$  and  $e'_R$ . Let  $P = C - u_L v_L$  and  $P' = C' - u_R v_R$ . Then  $P + u_L v_L + P' + v_R v_L$  is a Hamiltonian cycle in  $Q_n$  containing  $e$  and  $e'$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.** *For any edge  $uv$  of  $Q_n$ , there is a Hamiltonian cycle  $C$  such that it contains  $uv$  and two neighbors of  $\{u, v\}$  on  $C$  are adjacent in  $Q_n$ .*

**Proof.** We proof the lemma by induction on  $n \geq 2$ . Obviously, the lemma is true for  $n = 2$ . Assume that the lemma is true for all  $2 \leq k < n$  and denote  $Q_n = L_k \odot R_k$  such that  $uv$  is not  $k$ -dimensional edge. Without loss of generality, we may assume  $uv \in L_k$ . By the induction hypothesis, there exists a Hamiltonian cycle  $C$  such that it contains  $uv$  and two neighbors  $\{w_L, z_L\}$  of  $\{u, v\}$  on  $C$  are adjacent in  $L_k$ , where  $w_L$  is a neighbor of  $u$  and  $z_L$  is a neighbor of  $v$  on  $C$ . Since the length of  $C$  is not less than 4, there exists an edge  $x_L y_L$  on  $C$  such that  $\{x_L, y_L\} \cap \{u, v\} = \emptyset$ . Let  $P = C - x_L y_L$ . The corresponding  $P'$  is an  $x_R y_R$ -Hamiltonian path in  $R_k$ . Thus,  $P + y_L y_R + P' + x_R x_L$  is a desired Hamiltonian cycle in  $Q_n$ .  $\square$

Usually, we use  $P_l$  and  $C_l$  to denote the path and cycle of length  $l$ , respectively.

**Lemma 2.4** (Li et al. [11]).  *$Q_3$  is 1-edge-fault-tolerant edge-bipancyclic.*

**Lemma 2.5.** *Every edge of  $Q_4 - F$  lies on a cycle of every even length from 6 to 16 inclusive for any  $F \subset E(Q_4)$  with  $|F| = 3$  provided all edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex.*

**Proof.** Let  $F$  be a subset of  $E(Q_4)$  with  $|F| = 3$  and suppose that all edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex. Let  $e$  be an edge in  $Q_4 - F$  and suppose that  $e$  is  $i$ -dimensional for some  $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . By Lemma 2.1 we can choose  $k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \setminus \{i\}$  and express  $Q_4 = L_k \odot R_k$  such that  $|F_L| \leq 2$  and  $|F_R| \leq 2$ . Let  $l$  be any even integer with  $6 \leq l \leq 16$ . To prove the lemma, we need to construct a cycle of length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ . Since  $k \neq i$ , without loss of generality, we may assume that  $e \in L_k$ . There are four cases.

*Case 1.*  $|F_L| \leq 1$  and  $|F_R| \leq 1$ .

Since  $|F_L| \leq 1$ , by Lemma 2.4, the edge  $e$  lies on a cycle of even length  $l$  in  $L_k - F_L$ , with  $4 \leq l \leq 8$ . In particular, we use  $C_8$  to denote such a cycle of length 8.

We now assume  $10 \leq l \leq 16$ . Since  $|E(C_8 - e)| = 8 - 1 > 2|F|$ , there is an edge  $u_L v_L$  on  $C_8 - e$  such that  $\{u_L u_R, v_L v_R, u_R v_R\} \cap F = \emptyset$ . Let  $P_7 = C_8 - u_L v_L$ . Then  $P_7 + u_L u_R + u_R v_R + v_R v_L$  is a cycle of length 10 in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ . Assume  $l \geq 12$  below. Since  $|F_R| \leq 1$ , by Lemma 2.4, the edge  $u_R v_R$  lies on a cycle  $C'_{l-8}$  of even length  $l - 8$  in  $R_k - F_R$ . Let  $P'_{l-9} = C'_{l-8} - u_R v_R$ . Then  $P_7 + v_L v_R + P'_{l-9} + u_R u_L$  is a cycle of even length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ .

*Case 2.*  $|F_L| = 2$  and  $|F_R| \leq 1$ .

Since  $|F_L| = 2$ ,  $|F_k \cup F_R| = 1$  and all edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex, there is an edge  $u_L v_L \in F_L$  such that  $\{u_L u_R, v_L v_R, u_R v_R\} \cap F = \emptyset$ . By Lemma 2.4,  $e$  lies on a cycle  $C_{l_0}$  of even length  $l_0$  in  $L_k - (F_L - u_L v_L)$  for  $4 \leq l_0 \leq 8$ .

Suppose that  $6 \leq l \leq 8$ . If  $u_L v_L \notin C_l$ , then the cycle  $C_l$  is required. If  $u_L v_L \in C_l$  and  $u_L v_L \in C_{l-2}$ , let  $P_{l-3} = C_{l-2} - u_L v_L$ . Then  $P_{l-3} + u_L u_R + v_L v_R + u_R v_R$  is a cycle of length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ . If  $u_L v_L \in C_l$  and  $u_L v_L \notin C_{l-2}$ , choose an edge  $x_L y_L \in C_{l-2} - e$  such that  $\{x_L x_R, y_L y_R, x_R x_R\} \cap F = \emptyset$  for

$|F_k \cup F_R| = 1$ . Let  $P_{l-3} = C_{l-2} - x_L y_L$ , then  $P_{l-3} + x_L x_R + x_R y_R + y_R y_L$  is a cycle of length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ .

Suppose that  $10 \leq l \leq 16$ .

If  $u_L v_L \in C_8$ , let  $P_7 = C_8 - u_L v_L$ . Then  $P_7 + u_L u_R + v_L v_R + u_R v_R$  is a cycle of length 10 in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ . Assume  $l \geq 12$  below. Since  $|F_R| \leq 1$ , by Lemma 2.4, there is a cycle  $C'_{l-8}$  of length  $l - 8$  in  $R_k$  containing  $u_R v_R$ . Let  $P'_{l-9} = C'_{l-8} - u_R v_R$ . Then  $P_7 + u_L u_R + P'_{l-9} + v_R v_L$  is a cycle of length  $l$  with in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ .

If  $u_L v_L \notin C_8$ , choose an edge  $x_L y_L \in C_8 - e$  such that  $\{x_L x_R, y_L y_R, x_R y_R\} \cap F = \emptyset$  for  $|F_k \cup F_R| = 1$ . Let  $P_7 = C_8 - x_L y_L$ . Then  $P_7 + x_L x_R + x_R y_R + y_R y_L$  is a cycle of length 10 in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ . Assume  $l \geq 12$  below. Since  $|F_R| \leq 1$ , by Lemma 2.4, let  $C'_{l-8}$  be a cycle of even length  $l - 8$  in  $R_k$  containing  $x_R y_R$  and  $P'_{l-9} = C'_{l-8} - x_R y_R$ . Then  $P_7 + x_L x_R + P'_{l-9} + y_R y_L$  is a cycle of even length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ .

Case 3.  $|F_L| = 0$  and  $|F_R| = 2$ .

By Lemma 2.4, the edge  $e$  lies on a cycle of even length  $l$  with  $4 \leq l \leq 8$  in  $L_k$ . In particular, we use  $C_8$  to denote such a cycle of length 8. Since  $|E(C_8 - e)| = 8 - 1 > 2|F|$ , we can choose an edge  $x_L y_L$  on  $C_8 - e$  such that  $\{x_L x_R, y_L y_R, x_R y_R\} \cap F = \emptyset$ . Let  $P_7 = C_8 - x_L y_L$ . Then  $P_7 + x_L x_R + x_R y_R + y_R y_L$  is a cycle of length 10 in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ . Next, we suppose that  $12 \leq l \leq 16$ .

Since  $|F_R| = 2$ ,  $|F_k| = 1$  and all edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex, there is an edge  $u_R v_R \in F_R$  such that  $\{u_L u_R, v_L v_R, u_L v_L\} \cap F = \emptyset$ .

Suppose that  $e \neq u_L v_L$ . By Lemma 2.2, there is a cycle  $C_8$  of length 8 containing  $e$  and  $u_L v_L$  in  $L_k$ . Let  $P_7 = C_8 - u_L v_L$ . By Lemma 2.4, the edge  $u_R v_R$  lies on a cycle  $C'_{l-8}$  of even length  $l - 8$  in  $R_k - (F_R - u_R v_R)$  and let  $P'_{l-9} = C'_{l-8} - u_R v_R$ . Then  $P_7 + u_L u_R + P'_{l-9} + v_R v_L$  a cycle of length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ .

Suppose that  $e = u_L v_L$ . By Lemma 2.3, there is a cycle  $C_8 = u_L v_L + v_L v'_L + v'_L v''_L + P_3 + u''_L u'_L + u'_L u_L$  of length 8 in  $L_k$  such that  $u'_L v'_L \in E(L_k)$ . For  $|F_k| = 1$ , we assume that  $\{v'_L v'_R, v''_L v''_R\} \cap F_k = \emptyset$  (or  $\{u'_L u'_R, u''_L u''_R\} \cap F_k = \emptyset$ ). By Lemma 2.4, there is a cycle  $C'_{l-8}$  of even length  $l - 8$  in  $R_k - (F_R - u_R v_R) + v'_R v''_R$  containing  $v'_R v''_R$ , where the edge  $v'_R v''_R$  is added only if  $v'_R v''_R \in F_R$ . If  $u_R v_R \notin C'_{l-8}$ , let  $P'_{l-9} = C'_{l-8} - v'_R v''_R$ . Then we get a cycle  $C_l = u_L v_L + v_L v'_L + v'_L v''_L +$

$P'_{l-9} + v''_R v''_L + P_3 + u''_L u'_L + u'_L u_L$  of length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ . If  $u_R v_R \in C'_{l-8}$ , we may write  $C'_{l-8}$  as  $u_R v_R + P'_r + v'_R v''_R + P'_s$  (or  $u_R v_R + P'_r + v''_R v'_R + P'_s$ ) with  $r + s = l - 10$ . Then we get a cycle  $C_l = u_L v_L + v_L v_R + P'_r + v'_R v'_L + v'_L u'_L + u'_L u''_L + P_3 + v''_L v''_R + P'_s + u_R u_L$  (or  $u_L v_L + v_L v_R + P'_r + v''_R v'_L + P_3 + u''_L u'_L + u'_L v'_L + v'_L v'_R + P'_s + u_R u_L$ ) of length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ .

Case 4.  $|F_L| = 1$  and  $|F_R| = 2$ .

Since  $|F_L| = 1$ , by Lemma 2.4,  $e$  lies on a cycle  $C_4$  of length four. By the choice of  $k$  in the proof of Lemma 2.1, we deduce  $F = F_i$  from  $|F_k| = 0$  and  $|F_k| \geq |F_j|$  for all  $j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \setminus \{i\}$ . Express  $Q_n = L_i \odot R_i$ , then  $|F_R| = |F_L| = 0$ . Let  $e = x_L x_R$  and  $C_4 = e + x_L y_L + y_L y_R + y_R x_R$ .

Suppose that  $6 \leq l \leq 10$ . By Lemma 2.4, there is a cycle  $C_{l-2}$  of length  $l - 2$  in  $L_i$  containing  $x_L y_L$ . Let  $P_{l-3} = C_{l-2} - x_L y_L$ . Then  $P_{l-3} + e + x_R y_R + y_R y_L$  is a cycle of length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ . In particular, let  $P_7 = C_8 - x_L y_L$ .

Suppose that  $12 \leq l \leq 16$ . By Lemma 2.4, there is a cycle  $C'_{l-8}$  of length  $l - 8$  in  $R_i$  containing  $x_R y_R$ . Let  $P'_{l-9} = C'_{l-8} - x_R y_R$ . Then  $P_7 + e + P'_{l-9} + y_R y_L$  is a cycle of length  $l$  in  $Q_4 - F$  containing  $e$ .

The lemma is proved.  $\square$

### 3. Proof of theorem

We prove the theorem stated in Introduction by induction on  $n \geq 4$ . By Lemma 2.5, the theorem is true for  $n = 4$ . Suppose that the theorem is true for every  $m$  with  $4 \leq m < n$ . Let  $F$  be a subset of  $E(Q_n)$  with  $|F| = n - 1$  and suppose that all edges in  $F$  are not incident with the same vertex. Let  $e$  be an  $i$ -dimensional edge in  $Q_n - F$  for some  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . By Lemma 2.1 we can choose  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i\}$  and express  $Q_n = L_k \odot R_k$  such that  $|F_L| \leq n - 2$  and  $|F_R| \leq n - 2$ . Moreover, if the equality hold, then all these  $n - 2$  edges in either  $L_k$  or  $R_k$  are not incident with the same vertex.

Without loss of generality, assume  $e \in L_k$  and let  $l$  be any even integer with  $6 \leq l \leq 2^n$ . To prove the theorem, we only need to construct a cycle of length  $l$  in  $Q_n - F$  containing  $e$ .

If  $6 \leq l \leq 2^{n-1}$  then, since  $|F_L| \leq n - 2$  and by the induction hypothesis,  $e$  lies on a cycle of even length  $l$  in  $L_k - F_L$ .

In particular, let  $C_{2^{n-1}}$  and  $C_{2^{n-1}-2}$  denote such a cycle of length  $2^{n-1}$  and  $2^{n-1} - 2$ , respectively. Since  $|E(C_{2^{n-1}} - e)| = 2^{n-1} - 1 > 2(n-1) = 2|F|$  for  $n \geq 5$ , there is an edge  $u_L v_L$  on  $C_{2^{n-1}}$  such that  $u_L v_L \neq e$  and  $\{u_L u_R, v_L v_R, u_R v_R\} \cap F = \emptyset$ . Let  $P_{2^{n-1}-1} = C_{2^{n-1}} - u_L v_L$ . Since  $|E(C_{2^{n-1}-2} - e)| = 2^{n-1} - 2 - 1 > 2(n-1) = 2|F|$  for  $n \geq 5$ , there is an edge  $x_L y_L$  on  $C_{2^{n-1}-2}$  such that  $x_L y_L \neq e$  and  $\{x_L x_R, y_L y_R, x_R y_R\} \cap F = \emptyset$ . Let  $P_{2^{n-1}-3} = C_{2^{n-1}-2} - x_L y_L$ .

If  $l = 2^{n-1} + 2$ , then  $P_{2^{n-1}-1} + u_L u_R + u_R v_R + v_R v_L$  is a cycle of length  $l$  in  $Q_n - F$  containing  $e$ .

If  $l = 2^{n-1} + 4$  then, since  $|F_R| \leq n - 2$  and by the induction hypothesis,  $x_R y_R$  lies on a cycle  $C'_6$  of length 6 in  $R_k - F_R$ . Let  $P'_5 = C'_6 - x_R y_R$ . Then  $P_{2^{n-1}-3} + x_L x_R + P'_5 + y_R y_L$  is a cycle of even length  $l$  in  $Q_n - F$  containing  $e$ .

If  $2^{n-1} + 6 \leq l \leq 2^n$  then, since  $|F_R| \leq n - 2$  and by the induction hypothesis,  $u_R v_R$  lies on a cycle  $C'_{l-2^{n-1}}$  of even length  $l - 2^{n-1}$  in  $R_k - F_R$ . Let  $P'_{l-2^{n-1}-1} = C'_{l-2^{n-1}} - u_R v_R$ . Then  $P_{2^{n-1}-1} + u_L u_R + P'_{l-2^{n-1}-1} + v_R v_L$  is a cycle of even length  $l$  in  $Q_n - F$  containing  $e$ .

The theorem is proved.

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