# CHORDAL CIRCULANT GRAPHS AND INDUCED MATCHING NUMBER 

FRANCESCO ROMEO


#### Abstract

Let $G=C_{n}(S)$ be a circulant graph on $n$ vertices. In this paper we characterize chordal circulant graphs and then we compute $\nu(G)$, the induced matching number of $G$. These latter are useful in bounding the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of the edge ring of $G$.


## Introduction

Let $G$ be a finite simple graph with vertex set $V(G)$ and edge set $E(G)$. Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a cycle of $G$. An edge $\{v, w\}$ in $E(G) \backslash E(\mathcal{C})$ with $v, w$ in $V(\mathcal{C})$ is a chord of $\mathcal{C}$. A graph $G$ is said to be chordal if every cycle has a chord. We recall that a circulant graph is defined as follows. Let $S \subseteq T:=$ $\left\{1,2, \ldots,\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor\right\}$. The circulant graph $G:=C_{n}(S)$ is a simple graph with $V(G)=\mathbb{Z}_{n}=\{0, \ldots, n-1\}$ and $E(G):=\left\{\{i, j\}| | j-\left.i\right|_{n} \in S\right\}$ where $|k|_{n}=\min \{|k|, n-|k|\}$. Given $i, j \in V(G)$ we call labelling distance the number $|i-j|_{n}$. By abuse of notation we write $C_{n}\left(a_{1}, a_{2}, \ldots, a_{s}\right)$ instead of $C_{n}\left(\left\{a_{1}, a_{2}, \ldots, a_{s}\right\}\right)$.
Circulant graphs have been studied under combinatorial ([2, 3]) and algebraic ( 7 ) points of view. In the former, the authors studied some families of circulants, i.e. the $d$-th powers of a cycle, namely the circulants $C_{n}(1,2, \ldots, d)$ (that we will analyse in Section 3) and their complements . In the latter, the author studied some properties of the edge ideal of circulants. Let $R=K\left[x_{0}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right]$ be the polynomial ring on $n$ variables over a field $K$. The edge ideal of $G$, denoted by $I(G)$, is the ideal of $R$ generated by all square-free monomials $x_{i} x_{j}$ such that $\{i, j\} \in E(G)$. The quotient ring $R / I(G)$ is called edge ring of $G$. Some algebraic properties and invariants of $R / I(G)$ can be derived from combinatorial properties of $G$. Chordality and the induced matching number have been used to give bounds on the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of $R / I(G)$ (see Section (1).

In Section 2 we prove that a circulant graph is chordal if and only if it is either complete or a disjoint union of complete graphs.
In Section 3 we give an explicit formula for the induced matching number of a circulant graph $C_{n}(S)$ depending on the cardinality and the structure of the set $S$. Moreover, by using Macaulay2, we compare the CastelnuovoMumford regularity of $R / I(G)$ with $\nu(G)$, the lower bound of Theorem 1.3 ,
when $G$ is the $d$-th power of a cycle and $n$ is less than or equal to 15 . We report the result in Table 1.

## 1. Preliminaries

In this section we recall some concepts and notation that we will use later on in this article.

We recall that the circulant graph $C_{n}\left(1,2, \ldots,\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor\right)$ is the complete graph $K_{n}$. Moreover, we compute the number of components of a circulant graph with the following
Lemma 1.1. Let $S=\left\{a_{1}, \ldots, a_{r}\right\}$ be a subset of $T$ and let $G=C_{n}(S)$ be a circulant graph. Then $G$ has $\operatorname{gcd}\left(n, a_{1}, \ldots, a_{r}\right)$ disjoint components. In particular, $G$ is connected if and only if $\operatorname{gcd}\left(n, a_{1}, \ldots, a_{r}\right)=1$.

For a proof see [1]. From Lemma 1.1 it follows that if $n=d k$, then the disjoint components of $C_{n}\left(a_{1} d, a_{2} d, \ldots, a_{s} d\right)$ are $d$ copies of the circulant graph $C_{k}\left(a_{1}, a_{2}, \ldots, a_{s}\right)$.

Let $G$ be a graph. A collection $C$ of edges in $G$ is called an induced matching of $G$ if the edges of $C$ are pairwise disjoint and the graph having $C$ has edge set is an induced subgraph of $G$. The maximum size of an induced matching of $G$ is called induced matching number of $G$ and we denote it by $\nu(G)$.

Let $\mathbb{F}$ be the minimal free resolution of $R / I(G)$. Then

$$
\mathbb{F}: 0 \rightarrow F_{p} \rightarrow F_{p-1} \rightarrow \ldots \rightarrow F_{0} \rightarrow R / I(G) \rightarrow 0
$$

where $F_{i}=\underset{j}{\bigoplus} R(-j)^{\beta_{i, j}}$. The $\beta_{i, j}$ are called the Betti numbers of $\mathbb{F}$. The Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of $R / I(G)$, denoted by reg $R / I(G)$ is defined as

$$
\operatorname{reg} R / I(G)=\max \left\{j-i: \beta_{i, j}\right\}
$$

Let $G$ be a graph. The complement graph $\bar{G}$ of $G$ is the graph whose vertex set is $V(G)$ and whose edges are the non-edges of $G$. We conclude the section by stating some known results relating chordality and induced matching number to the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity. The first one is due to Fröberg ([6, Theorem 1])

Theorem 1.2. Let $G$ be a graph. Then $\operatorname{reg} R / I(G) \leq 1$ if and only if $\bar{G}$ is chordal.

The second one is due to Katzman ([5, Lemma 2.2]).
Theorem 1.3. For any graph $G$, we have reg $R / I(G) \geq \nu(G)$.
When $G$ is the circulant graph $C_{n}(1)$, namely the cycle on $n$ vertices, we have the following result due to Jacques (4]).

Theorem 1.4. Let $C_{n}$ be the $n$-cycle and let $I=I\left(C_{n}\right)$ be its edge ideal. Let $\nu=\left\lfloor\frac{n}{3}\right\rfloor$ denote the induced matching of $C_{n}$. Then

$$
\operatorname{reg} R / I=\left\{\begin{array}{lll}
\nu & \text { if } n \equiv 0,1 & (\bmod 3) \\
\nu+1 & \text { if } n \equiv 2 & (\bmod 3)
\end{array}\right.
$$

## 2. Chordality of circulants

The aim of this section is to prove the following
Theorem 2.1. Let $G$ be a circulant graph. Then $G$ is chordal if and only there exists $d \geq 1$ such that $n=d m$ and $G=C_{n}\left(d, 2 d, \ldots,\left\lfloor\frac{m}{2}\right\rfloor d\right)$.

The $\Leftarrow)$ implication is trivial. If $d=1, G$ is the complete graph $K_{n}$, while if $d>1$, then $G$ is the disjoint union of $d$ complete graphs $K_{m}$.

To prove $\Rightarrow$ ) implication we need some preliminary results.
Lemma 2.2. Let $G=C_{n}(S)$ be a circulant graph. Let us assume that there exists $a \in S$ with $k=\operatorname{ord}(a) \geq 4$ such that

$$
\left\{a, 2 a, \ldots,\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor a\right\} \nsubseteq S
$$

Then $G$ is not chordal.
Proof. Since $k \geq 4$, then $\{a\} \subset\left\{a, 2 a, \ldots,\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor a\right\}$. If $\left\{a, 2 a, \ldots,\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor a\right\} \nsubseteq S$ then we have two cases:
$(1 S)\{a, 2 a, \ldots, r a,(r+t) a\} \subseteq S$ and $(r+1) a, \ldots,(r+t-1) a \notin S$, with $r \geq 1$ and $t \geq 2$
$(2 S)\{a, 2 a, \ldots, r a\} \subseteq S$ and $(r+1) a, \ldots,\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor a \notin S$, with $1 \leq r<\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor$.
(1S) We want to find a non-chordal cycle of $G$. We consider the edges $\{0,(r+t) a\},\{0, a\},\{a,(r+1) a\}$ (see Figure 1 ). If $(r+1) a$ is adjacent to $(r+t) a$, then we found a non-chordal cycle of $G$. Otherwise, we


Figure 1. Some edges of a non-chordal cycle of $G$.
apply the division algorithm to $r+t$ and $r+1$, that is

$$
r+t=(r+1) q+s \quad 0 \leq s \leq r .
$$

From the vertex $(r+1) a$ we alternately add $a$ and $r a$ to get the multiples of $(r+1) a$, until $q(r+1) a$. If $s=0$, then we get $(r+t) a$, otherwise $0<s \leq r$ and $s a \in S$ so we join $q(r+1) a$ and $(r+t) a$. The above cycle has length greater than or equal to 4 because the vertices $0, a,(r+1) a,(r+t) a$ are different. Furthermore, it is nonchordal because by construction any pair of non-adjacent vertices in the cycle has labelling distance in $\{(r+1) a, \ldots,(r+t-1) a\}$.
$(2 S)$ As in (S1), we want to construct a non-chordal cycle of $G$. We write $k=\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor+\left\lceil\frac{k}{2}\right\rceil$ and $\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor=q r+t$ with $0 \leq t \leq r-1$. Now we write $\left\lceil\frac{k}{2}\right\rceil=q r+s$, where

$$
s= \begin{cases}t & \text { if } k \text { even } \\ t+1 & \text { if } k \text { odd }\end{cases}
$$

Then we take the cycle on vertices

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\{0, r a, 2 r a, \ldots, q r a,\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor a,\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2} a\right\rfloor+r a,\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2} a\right\rfloor, \ldots\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor+q r a\right\} . \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Since $r<\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor$, then $q \geq 1$ and in the case $q=1, s>0$. That is, the cycle on vertices (2.1) has length at least 4 and it is not chordal because by construction any pair of non-adjacent vertices in the cycle has labelling distance in $\left\{(r+1) a, \ldots,\left\lfloor\frac{k}{2}\right\rfloor a\right\}$. In any case $G$ is not chordal and the assertion follows.

An immediate consequence of the previous Lemma is
Corollary 2.3. Let $G=C_{n}(S)$ be a circulant graph. If there exists $a \in S$ with $k=\operatorname{ord}(a) \geq 4$ such that $\operatorname{gcd}(a, n) \notin S$, then $G$ is not chordal.

Lemma 2.4. Let $G=C_{n}(S)$ be a circulant graph. If $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{r} \in S$ and $\operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{1}, \ldots, a_{r}\right) \notin S$ then $G$ is not chordal.

Proof. We proceed by induction on $r$.
Let $r=2$ and let $a_{1}, a_{2} \in S$ be such that $c=\operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{1}, a_{2}\right) \notin S$. We consider

$$
a=\operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{1}, n\right), b=\operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{2}, n\right), d=\operatorname{gcd}(a, b) .
$$

From Corollary 2.3, we have that if one between $a, b$ does not belong to $S$, then $G$ is not chordal. Hence $a, b \in S$. We have that $d$ divides $c$ and we distinguish two cases. If $d \in S$, since $c=t d \notin S$ for some $t$, then by Lemma 2.2 $G$ is not chordal. Therefore, from now on we suppose $d \notin S$. Since $a$ and $b$ divide $n$, then $\operatorname{lcm}(a, b)=\frac{a b}{d}$ divides $n$. We want to find a non-chordal cycle of $G$ having length 4 . Let $r a+s b=d(\bmod n)$ be a

Bézout identity of $a$ and $b$. From Lemma 2.2, if one between $r a$ and $s b$ is not in $S$, then $G$ is not chordal. Hence, let us assume $r a, s b \in S$. Now we consider the cycle

$$
\{0, r a, r a+s b=d, s b\}
$$

Since $d \notin S$, then the edge $\{0, d\} \notin E(G)$. We distinguish two cases about $r a-s b$. If $r a-s b \notin S$, then the assertion follows.
If $r a-s b \in S$ we set

$$
k d=\operatorname{gcd}(r a-s b, n) \Rightarrow k=\operatorname{gcd}\left(r\left(\frac{a}{d}\right)+s\left(\frac{b}{d}\right), \frac{n}{d}\right)
$$

If $k d$ is not in $S$, then from Corollary $2.3 G$ is not chordal. Hence, we consider $k d \in S$. Since $\operatorname{gcd}\left(\frac{a}{d}, \frac{b}{d}\right)=1$, then $\operatorname{gcd}\left(k, \frac{a}{d}\right)=\operatorname{gcd}\left(k, \frac{b}{d}\right)=1$, and

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{gcd}\left(k, \frac{a b}{d^{2}}\right)=1 \Rightarrow \operatorname{gcd}\left(k d, \frac{a b}{d}\right)=d \tag{2.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Hence lcm $\left(k d, \frac{a b}{d}\right)=k \frac{a b}{d}$ divides $n$. We distinguish two cases. If $k=1$, we obtain the contradiction $d \in S$, arising from the assumption $r a-s b \in S$. If $k \neq 1, k$ is a new proper divisor of $n$. We set $a^{\prime}=k d$ and $b^{\prime}=\frac{a b}{d}$, we apply the steps above and we find a $k^{\prime}$ so that $k^{\prime} \frac{a^{\prime} b^{\prime}}{d}$ divides $n$, and so on. By applying the steps above to $a^{\prime}$ and $b^{\prime}$ a finite number of times, we could either find a $k^{\prime}$ equal to 1 or we could get new proper divisors of $n$, that are finite in number. We want to study the case $n=\frac{a^{\prime} b^{\prime}}{d}$. Let

$$
v a^{\prime}+z b^{\prime}=d
$$

be a Bézout identity, we assume $v a^{\prime}-z b^{\prime} \in S$, and we set

$$
h d=\operatorname{gcd}\left(v a^{\prime}+z b^{\prime}, n\right)
$$

We have that $h \frac{a^{\prime} b^{\prime}}{d}=h n$ divides $n$, that is $h n=n$ and $h=1$. It implies $d \in S$, that is a contradiction arising from the assumption $v a^{\prime}-z b^{\prime} \in S$. Hence $v a^{\prime}-z b^{\prime} \notin S$ and $\left\{0, v a^{\prime}, d, z b^{\prime}\right\}$ is a non-chordal cycle of $G$. It ends the induction basis. For the inductive step, we suppose the statement true for $r-1$ and we prove it for $r$. We have to prove that if $\operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{1}, \ldots, a_{r}\right) \notin S$ then $G$ is not chordal. By inductive hypothesis if $\operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{1}, \ldots, a_{r-1}\right) \notin S$ then $G$ will be not chordal. Hence we assume $b=\operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{1}, \ldots, a_{r-1}\right) \in S$. By applying the inductive basis to $a_{r}$ and $b$, we obtain that $G$ is not chordal.

Now we are able to complete the proof of Theorem 2.1.
Proof of Theorem 2.1. $\Rightarrow$ ). Under the hypothesis that $G$ is chordal, we also assume that $G$ is connected and we prove that $d=1$, that is $G=K_{n}$. By contradiction assume that the graph is not complete, namely $G=$ $C_{n}\left(a_{1}, \ldots, a_{s}\right)$ with $s<\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor$. From Lemma 1.1, $G$ is connected if and
only if $\operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{1}, \ldots, a_{s}, n\right)=1$. Let $b=\operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{1}, \ldots, a_{s}\right)$.
If $b \notin S$, then from Lemma $2.4 G$ is not chordal. If $b \in S$, we have $1=\operatorname{gcd}\left(n, a_{1}, \ldots, a_{s}\right)=\operatorname{gcd}\left(n, \operatorname{gcd}\left(a_{1}, \ldots, a_{s}\right)\right)=\operatorname{gcd}(n, b)$. If $1 \notin S$, then from Lemma 2.4, $G$ is not chordal. Then $1 \in S$ and from Lemma 2.2 the graph $G$ is not chordal, that is a contradiction. If $G$ is not connected, then it has $a=\operatorname{gcd}(n, S)$ distinct components, each of $m=\operatorname{ord}(a)$ vertices. By Lemma $2.2, S=\left\{a, 2 a, \ldots,\left\lfloor\frac{m}{2}\right\rfloor a\right\}$ and each component is the complete graph $K_{m}$.

Example 2.5. Here we present three examples of non-chordal circulant graphs $C_{n}(S)$.
(1) Take $n=15$ and $S=\{2,3,4,7\}$. If we take $a=2$, then $\operatorname{ord}(a)=15$ and $2 a=4,3 a=6, n-4 a=7$, and $n-6 a=3$. Hence, we are in case (1S) of Lemma 2.2 with $S=\{a, 2 a, 4 a, 6 a\}$. We observe that the cycle on vertices

$$
\{0, a, 3 a, 4 a\}=\{0,2,6,8\}
$$

is not chordal because $6 \notin S$.


Figure 2. $C_{15}(2,3,4,7)$
(2) Take $n=10, S=\{3,4\}$ and $a=3$. We have ord $(a)=10$. Moreover $n-2 a=4$, hence this is the case (2S) of Lemma 2.2 with $S=\{a, 2 a\}$. We have $\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor=\left\lceil\frac{n}{2}\right\rceil=5$, and

$$
5=q r+t=2 \cdot 2+1 .
$$

Hence, we take the cycle on vertices

$$
\{0,2 a, 4 a, 5 a, 7 a, 9 a\}=\{0,6,2,5,1,7\}
$$



Figure 3. $C_{10}(3,4)$


Figure 4. $C_{30}(2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,12,14,15)$
it is not chordal because 1,2 and 5 do not belong to $S$.
(3) We take $n=30$ and $S=\{2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,12,14,15\}$. We observe that $\operatorname{gcd}(5,2)=1 \notin S$, hence we are in the case of Lemma
2.4 with $a_{1}=a=5$ and $a_{2}=b=2$. We observe that $\operatorname{ord}(a)=$ $6, \operatorname{ord}(b)=15$ and $2 a=10,3 a=15, b, 2 b, \ldots, 7 b \in S$. We take $a$ Bezóut identity of $a$ and $b$

$$
1=r a+s b=5 \cdot 1-2 \cdot 2 .
$$

We take the cycle on vertices $\{0,5,1,-4\}$. The quantity $r a-s b=$ $5+4=9$ belongs to $S$ and $k=\operatorname{gcd}(9,30)=3$, while $\operatorname{gcd}(k, a b)=$ $\operatorname{gcd}(3,10)=1$ and $n=a b k=30$. Hence we write

$$
1=v a b+s k=10-3 \cdot 3
$$

and we take the cycle on vertices $\{0,10,1,-9\}$. The quantity $10+$ $9=19$ does not belong to $S$, hence the cycle above is not chordal.
In Figures 2[3] 4 we plot the graphs of the examples, highlighting the nonchordal cycles.

## 3. Induced Matching Number of Circulant Graphs

In this section we compute the induced matching number for any circulant graph $C_{n}(S)$. Then we plot a table representing the behaviour of reg $R / I(G)$ with respect to the lower bound described in Theorem 1.3 , when $G$ is the $d$-th power of the cycle, namely $G=C_{n}(1,2, \ldots, d)$. For the computation we used Macaulay2.
Definition 3.1. Let $G$ be a graph with edge set $E(G)$. We say that two edges $e, e^{\prime}$ are adjacent if $e \cap e^{\prime}=v$ and $v \in V(G)$. We say that $e, e^{\prime}$ are 2-adjacent if there exist $v \in e$ and $u \in e^{\prime}$ such that $\{u, v\} \in E(G)$.

From Definition 3.1, an induced matching of $G$ is a subset of $E(G)$ where the edges are not pairwise adjacent or 2 -adjacent. Then we have the following

Theorem 3.2. Let $G=C_{n}(S)$ be a connected circulant graph, let $s=|S|$ and let $r=\min S$. Then $\nu(G)=\left\lfloor\frac{|E(G)|}{t}\right\rfloor$ where

$$
t= \begin{cases}s^{2}+(|A|+1) s & \text { if } \frac{n}{2} \notin S \\ s^{2}+(|A|+1) s-2 & \text { if } \frac{n}{2} \in S,\end{cases}
$$

with

$$
A=\{r+a: a \in S \quad \text { and } r+a \in V(G) \backslash S\} .
$$

If $G$ has $d=\operatorname{gcd}(n, S)$ components, then $\nu(G)=d \cdot \nu\left(C_{n / d}\left(S^{\prime}\right)\right)$, where $S^{\prime}=\{s / d: s \in S\}$.
Proof. To explain the idea of proof, we first study the simple case. It is well known that the cycle $C_{n}$ has $\nu$ equals to $\left\lfloor\frac{n}{3}\right\rfloor$. It happens because, by fixing an orientation, to get the induced matching we partition the $n$ edges of the cycle in sets of 3 adjacent edges, one in the matching, one not in the
induced matching because adjacent to the first one and another one not in the induced matching because 2 -adjacent to the first one. We observe that $A=\{2\}$ and the formula $t=1+(1+1) \cdot 1=3$ holds in this case. Hence the cardinality of the maximum induced matching is equal to the number of the sets above,

$$
\nu(G)=\left\lfloor\frac{n}{3}\right\rfloor .
$$

The example shows that $\nu(G)$ corresponds to the number of sets consisting in one edge in the matching and the adjacent or 2 -adjacent edges to that one. So we have only to count the edges.
We assume that $s=|S|, r=\min S$ and $S=\left\{a_{0}=r, a_{1}, \ldots, a_{s-1}\right\}$, we assume that the edge $e=\{0, r\}$ is in the induced matching, and let $E^{\prime}$ be the set containing $e$ and the edges adjacent or 2-adjacent to $e$. The edges adjacent to $e$ are $\left\{0, a_{i}\right\} i=1, \ldots, s-1$ and $\left\{r, b_{i}=r+a_{i}\right\}$ for $i=0, \ldots, s-1$. The above edges are all distinct. The edges 2 -adjacent to $e$ are $\left\{a_{j}, a_{j}+a_{i}\right\}$ for $j \in\{1, \ldots, s-1\}, i \in\{0, \ldots, s-1\}$ and $\left\{b_{j}, b_{j}+a_{i}\right\}$ for $i, j \in\{0, \ldots, s-1\}$. The edges above may not be all distinct. In fact, it can happen that some $b_{j}$ coincides with some $a_{k}$, in that case $\left\{b_{j}, b_{j}+a_{i}\right\}=$ $\left\{a_{k}, a_{k}+a_{i}\right\}$ for any $i \in\{0, \ldots, s-1\}$. Then, we only consider $\left\{b_{j}, b_{j}+a_{i}\right\}$ for $i \in\{0, \ldots, s-1\}$ when $b_{j} \in A$. To sum up, in the set $E^{\prime}$ we find:
a) The $s$ edges $\left\{0, a_{i}\right\}$ for $i \in\{0, \ldots, s-1\}$;
b) The $s^{2}$ edges $\left\{a_{j}, a_{j}+a_{i}\right\}$ for $i, j \in\{0, \ldots, s-1\}$;
c) The $s \cdot|A|$ edges $\left\{b, b+a_{i}\right\}$ for $i \in\{0, \ldots, s-1\}$ and $b \in A$.

If $a_{s-1}=\frac{n}{2}$, then $b_{s-1}=r+a_{s-1} \in A$ and the edges $\left\{a_{s-1}, a_{s-1}+a_{s-1}=0\right\}$ of point b) and $\left\{b_{s-1}, b_{s-1}+a_{s-1}=r\right\}$ of point c) are already counted. The assertion follows.

For the case disconnected, let $d=\operatorname{gcd}(n, S)$ be the number of disjoint connected components of the graph G. Since the components are disjoint, it turns out that $\nu(G)$ is $d$ times the induced matching number of one component. That component is $C_{n / d}\left(S^{\prime}\right)$ where $S^{\prime}=\{s / d: s \in S\}$, hence the assertion follows.

The formula in Theorem 3.2 can be written in a compact way when $G$ is the $d$-th power of a cycle. We set $C_{n}^{d}=C_{n}(\{1,2, \ldots, d\})$.

Corollary 3.3. Let $C_{n}^{d}$ be the $d$-th power of a cycle and $d<\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor$. Then

$$
\nu(G)=\left\lfloor\frac{n}{d+2}\right\rfloor .
$$

Proof. We want to apply Proposition 3.2, with $s=d$ and $|E(G)|=n d$. We have $r=1$ and $A=\{d+1\}$. Hence it follows that $t=d^{2}+d+d \cdot 1=$ $d^{2}+2 d=d(d+2)$, that is

$$
\nu(G)=\left\lfloor\frac{n d}{d(d+2)}\right\rfloor=\left\lfloor\frac{n}{d+2}\right\rfloor .
$$

In Table 1, we compare the values of $\operatorname{reg} R / I\left(C_{n}^{d}\right)$ for $n \leq 15$ and $1 \leq$ $d \leq\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor$. We highlight that the regularity of $R / I(G)$ is strictly greater than $\nu(G)$ in two different cases:
(1) when $G=C_{n}$ and $n \equiv 2(\bmod 3)$.
(2) when $G=C_{n}^{\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor-1}$ and $n$ is odd.

The two anomalous cases were expected: in case (1), we know from Theo$\operatorname{rem} 1.4$ that reg $R / I(G)=\nu+1$; in case $(2), \nu(G)=1$ while $\bar{G}=C_{n}\left(\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor\right)$ that is a cycle and hence it is not chordal; hence from Theorem 1.2 we know that $\operatorname{reg} R / I(G)=2$.

In general, it seems that apart from cases (1) and (2), the CastelnuovoMumford regularity of the $d$-th power of a cycle grips the bound of $\nu(G)$.

| $G$ | $\nu(G)$ | $\operatorname{reg} R / I(G)$ | $G$ | $\nu(G)$ | $\operatorname{reg} R / I(G)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| $C_{6}(\{1\})$ | 2 | 2 | $C_{12}(\{1,2,3\})$ | 2 | 2 |
| $C_{6}(\{1,2\})$ | 1 | 1 | $C_{12}(\{1,2,3,4\})$ | 2 | 2 |
| $C_{7}(\{1\})$ | 2 | 2 | $C_{12}(\{1,2,3,4,5\})$ | 1 | 1 |
| $C_{7}(\{1,2\})$ | 1 | 2 | $C_{13}(\{1\})$ | 4 | 4 |
| $C_{8}(\{1\})$ | 2 | 3 | $C_{13}(\{1,2\})$ | 3 | 3 |
| $C_{8}(\{1,2\})$ | 2 | 2 | $C_{13}(\{1,2,3\})$ | 2 | 2 |
| $C_{8}(\{1,2,3\})$ | 1 | 1 | $C_{13}(\{1,2,3,4\})$ | 2 | 2 |
| $C_{9}(\{1\})$ | 3 | 3 | $C_{13}(\{1,2,3,4,5\})$ | 1 | 2 |
| $C_{9}(\{1,2\})$ | 2 | 2 | $C_{14}(\{1\})$ | 4 | 5 |
| $C_{9}(\{1,2,3\})$ | 1 | 2 | $C_{14}(\{1,2\})$ | 3 | 3 |
| $C_{10}(\{1\})$ | 3 | 3 | $C_{14}(\{1,2,3\})$ | 2 | 2 |
| $C_{10}(\{1,2\})$ | 2 | 2 | $C_{14}(\{1,2,3,4\})$ | 2 | 2 |
| $C_{10}(\{1,2,3\})$ | 2 | 2 | $C_{14}(\{1,2,3,4,5\})$ | 2 | 2 |
| $C_{10}(\{1,2,3,4\})$ | 1 | 1 | $C_{14}(\{1,2,3,4,5,6\})$ | 1 | 1 |
| $C_{11}(\{1\})$ | 3 | 4 | $C_{15}(\{1\})$ | 5 | 5 |
| $C_{11}(\{1,2\})$ | 2 | 2 | $C_{15}(\{1,2\})$ | 3 | 3 |
| $C_{11}(\{1,2,3\})$ | 2 | 2 | $C_{15}(\{1,2,3\})$ | 3 | 3 |
| $C_{11}(\{1,2,3,4\})$ | 1 | 2 | $C_{15}(\{1,2,3,4\})$ | 2 | 2 |
| $C_{12}(\{1\})$ | 4 | 4 | $C_{15}(\{1,2,3,4,5\})$ | 2 | 2 |
| $C_{12}(\{1,2\})$ | 3 | 3 | $C_{15}(\{1,2,3,4,5,6\})$ | 1 | 2 |

TABLE 1. The behavior of $\operatorname{reg} R / I(G)$ with respect to $\nu(G)$ for $G=C_{n}^{d}$.

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Department of Mathematics, University of Trento, via Sommarive, 14, 38123 Povo (Trento), Italy

