

## Edge Labelings with a Condition at Distance Two

John P. Georges and David W. Mauro

Dept. of Mathematics, Trinity College, Hartford, CT USA, 06106

### ABSTRACT

For graph  $G$  with non-empty edge set, a  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling of  $G$  is an integer labeling of the edges such that adjacent edges receive labels that differ by at least  $j$ , and edges which are distance two apart receive labels that differ by at least  $k$ . The  $\lambda'_{j,k}$ -number of  $G$  is the minimum span over the  $(j, k)$ -edge labelings of  $G$ . By establishing the equivalence of the edge labelings of  $G$  to particular vertex labelings of  $G$  and the line graph of  $G$ , we explore the properties of  $\lambda'_{j,k}(G)$ . In particular, we obtain bounds on  $\lambda'_{j,k}(G)$ , and prove that the  $\Delta^2$  conjecture of Griggs and Yeh is true for graph  $H$  if  $H$  is the line graph of some graph  $G$ . We investigate the  $\lambda'_{1,1}$ -numbers and  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -numbers of common classes of graphs, including complete graphs, trees,  $n$ -cubes, and joins.

**1. Introduction.** In this paper, we introduce and consider the problem of labeling the edges of simple, loopless graph  $G = (V, E)$  with integers constrained by edge distance conditions. We say that two edges  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are adjacent (at distance one) if and only if there exists a vertex to which  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are incident. Two edges  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are at distance two if and only if they are not adjacent and there exists an edge to which  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are incident. We let  $d(x)$  (the degree of  $x$ ) denote the number of edges incident to  $x$  if  $x \in V$  or  $x \in E$ .

If  $G$  is a graph with non-empty edge set and if  $j$  and  $k$  are positive integers with  $j \geq k$ , then a  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling of  $G$  is a mapping  $L$  from  $E(G)$  into the integers such that

- :  $|L(e_2) - L(e_1)| \geq j$  if  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are adjacent in  $G$ , and
- :  $|L(e_2) - L(e_1)| \geq k$  if  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are at distance two in  $G$ .

Elements of the image of  $L$  are called *labels*, and the *span* of  $L$ ,  $s(L)$ , is the difference between the largest and smallest labels. The minimum span taken over all  $(j, k)$ -edge labelings of  $G$ , denoted  $\lambda'_{j,k}(G)$ , is called the  $\lambda'_{j,k}$ -number of  $G$ , and if  $L$  is a labeling with minimum span, then  $L$  is called a  $\lambda'_{j,k}$ -labeling of  $G$ . We shall assume with no loss of generality that the minimum label of  $(j, k)$ -edge labelings of  $G$  is 0.

The  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling problem defined above is analogous to the  $(j, k)$ -vertex labeling problem; i.e., the problem of labeling the vertices of a graph with a condition at distance two (called the  $L(j, k)$  vertex labeling

problem), on which there exists much literature ([1], [2], [5]-[13], [15]-[20]). The vertex labeling problem was first investigated in the case  $j = 2$  and  $k = 1$  by Griggs and Yeh [13]. There, they considered the  $\lambda_{2,1}$ -number (i.e. the minimum span over  $L(2, 1)$ -labelings) of certain classes of graphs such as paths, cycles, trees, and  $n$ -cubes. They also presented bounds on  $\lambda_{2,1}(G)$  in terms  $\Delta(G)$ ,  $\chi(G)$  and  $|V(G)|$ , and submitted the following:

**Conjecture 1.1.** For any graph  $H$  with  $\Delta(H) \geq 2$ ,  $\lambda_{2,1}(H) \leq \Delta^2(H)$ .

Two additional results from the literature on vertex labelings, useful in this paper, are found in [10] and [5], respectively.

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $G$  be a graph whose complement has path-covering number  $c$ . Then

- i:  $\lambda_{2,1}(G) \leq |V(G)|$  if  $c = 1$ .
- ii:  $\lambda_{2,1}(G) = |V(G)| + c - 2$  if  $c > 1$ . •

**Theorem 1.3.** For  $r \geq 2$ , let  $G$  be an  $r$ -regular graph. Then

- i:  $\lambda_{1,1}(G) \geq r$
- ii:  $\lambda_{2,1}(G) \geq r + 2$ . •

In Section 2 of this paper, we derive the  $\lambda'_{j,k}$ -numbers of paths, cycles and complete bipartite graphs by noting the equivalence between the  $\lambda'_{j,k}$ -number of  $G$  and the  $\lambda_{j,k}$ -number of  $L(G)$ , the line graph of  $G$ . We also introduce another useful correspondence between  $(j, k)$ -edge labelings of the edges of  $G$  and a particular type of vertex labeling, defined subsequently, in which the labels are sets. In Section 3, we produce bounds on the  $\lambda'_{1,1}$ -number and  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -number of arbitrary graph  $H$ , and show that if  $H = L(G)$  for some graph  $G$ , then  $H$  satisfies Conjecture 1.1. In Section 4, we investigate the  $\lambda'_{1,1}$ -numbers and  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -numbers of trees, complete graphs and regular graphs, and in Section 5 we similarly consider the  $n$ -cube. Finally, in Section 6, we investigate the  $\lambda'_{1,1}$ -numbers and  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -numbers of joins and  $t$ -point suspensions, deriving  $\lambda'_{1,1}$ -numbers and  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -numbers of the  $n$ -wheel  $W_n$  for  $n \geq 3$ .

**2. Preliminary Definitions and Results.** We begin with two definitions.

**Definition 2.1.** For positive integer  $p$ , a subset  $S$  of the set  $\mathcal{Z}$  of integers is said to be  $p$ -separated if and only if the absolute difference between any two distinct elements in  $S$  is at least  $p$ .

**Definition 2.2.** For graph  $G$ , a function  $f : V(G) \rightarrow 2^{\{0,1,2,3,\dots,m\}}$  is a

$(j, k)$ -set labeling of  $G$  with span  $m$  if and only if  $f$  has the following properties: for any  $v, w, w' \in V(G)$  such that  $w$  and  $w'$  are adjacent to  $v$ ,

- i:  $|f(v)| = d(v)$ ;
- ii:  $f(v)$  is  $j$ -separated;
- iii:  $|f(v) \cap f(w)| = 1$ ;
- iv: if  $x \in f(v)$  and  $y \in f(w)$ , then  $x = y$  or  $|x - y| \geq k$ ;
- v: if  $f(v) \cap f(w) = f(v) \cap f(w')$  then  $w = w'$ ;
- vi: for some  $v_1, v_2 \in V(G)$ ,  $0 \in f(v_1)$  and  $m \in f(v_2)$ .

The smallest  $m$  for which a  $(j, k)$ -set labeling of  $G$  exists is called the  $s\lambda_{j,k}$ -number of  $G$ , denoted  $s\lambda_{j,k}(G)$ . Any  $(j, k)$ -set labeling of  $G$  with span  $s\lambda_{j,k}(G)$ , is called an  $s\lambda_{j,k}$ -labeling of  $G$ . •

For arbitrary graph  $G$ , it is clear that a  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling of  $G$  with span  $m$  induces a  $(j, k)$ -set labeling  $f$  of  $G$  with span  $m$  by setting  $f(v)$  equal to the set of labels assigned to the edges incident to  $v$ . The converse is also true; a  $(j, k)$ -set labeling  $f$  of  $G$  with span  $m$  induces a  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling  $L$  of  $G$  with span  $m$  by setting  $L(\{w, v\})$  equal to the unique integer in  $f(w) \cap f(v)$ . Since an analogous relationship exists between a  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling with span  $m$  and a  $(j, k)$ -vertex labeling with span  $m$  of the line graph  $L(G)$ , we have the following.

**Proposition 2.3.** Let  $G$  be a graph with non-empty edge set. Then the following are equivalent:

- i: there is a  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling of  $G$  with span  $m$ ;
- ii: there is a  $(j, k)$ -vertex labeling of  $L(G)$  with span  $m$ ;
- iii: there is a  $(j, k)$ -set labeling of  $G$  with span  $m$ .

Consequently,  $\lambda'_{j,k}(G) = \lambda_{j,k}(L(G)) = s\lambda_{j,k}(G)$ . •

In Figure 2.1a, we illustrate a  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeling with span 6 of a graph  $G$  along with its induced  $(2, 1)$ -set labeling. In Figure 2.1b, we illustrate the corresponding  $(2, 1)$ -vertex labeling of  $L(G)$ .

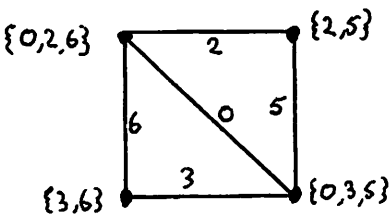


Figure 2.1a

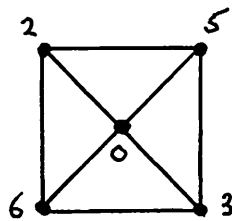


Figure 2.1b

(We may argue that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G) = 6$  as follows: noting that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G) = \lambda_{2,1}(L(G))$ , we observe that  $L(G)^c$  has order 5, size 2 and path covering number 3. By Theorem 1.2,  $\lambda_{2,1}(L(G)) = 6$ . More generally, since  $L(G)$  is a 1-point suspension of  $C_4$ , we may apply results in [9] (Theorem 5.8) which imply  $\lambda'_{j,k}(G) = \lambda_{j,k}(L(G)) = 2j + 2k$  for  $j \geq k$ .)

**Definition 2.4.** Let  $m \geq 0, d \geq 1$  and  $X = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, m\}$ . A collection  $\mathcal{C}$  of non-empty subsets of  $X$  is said to be  $(m, d)$ -feasible if and only if the following properties hold:

- (i) each element of  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $d$ -separated, and
  - (ii) for each  $A \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $x \in A$ , there exists  $B \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $A \cap B = \{x\}$ .
- 

**Theorem 2.5.** If  $G$  is a graph with  $(d, 1)$ -set labeling  $L$ , then  $L$  induces an  $(s(L), d)$ -feasible set. Furthermore, if  $\mathcal{C}$  is an  $(m, d)$ -feasible set, then there exists a (possibly infinite) graph  $G$  and a  $(d, 1)$ -set labeling with span at most  $m$  of  $G$  whose image is contained in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Proof:** The first assertion follows from the fact that the image of any  $(j, k)$ -set labeling  $L$  with span  $m$  is an  $(m, j)$ -feasible set by definitions 2.2 and 2.4. To prove the second assertion, it suffices to produce an algorithm which generates a (possibly infinite) tree  $T$  along with a  $(d, 1)$ -set labeling of  $T$  whose labels are taken from  $\mathcal{C}$ .

1. Select  $V_0 \in \mathcal{C}$ . Establish 0<sup>th</sup>-generation (root) vertex  $v_0$  with  $d(v_0) = |V_0|$ .
2. Assign  $V_0$  to  $v_0$  and assign distinct elements of  $V_0$  to the edges incident to  $v_0$ .
3. Assign to each first-generation vertex  $v_1^i$  (those incident to  $v_0$ ) an element  $V_1^i$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  which intersects  $V_0$  at exactly the label assigned to the edge  $\{v_0, v_1^i\}$ .
4. Establish  $|V_1^i| - 1$  unlabeled edges incident to  $v_1^i$ , and assign to those edges distinct values from  $V_1^i - (V_0 \cap V_1^i)$ . (The vertex  $v_1^i$  is a leaf if and only if  $|V_1^i| = 1$ .)
5. Assign to each second-generation vertex  $v_2^j$  with parent  $v_1^i$  an element  $V_2^j$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  which intersects  $V_1^i$  at exactly the label assigned to the edge  $\{v_2^j, v_1^i\}$ .
6. Continue this process. •

Let  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  be the infinite  $\Delta$ -regular tree. As a consequence of the algorithm described in the proof of Theorem 2.5, we have

**Corollary 2.6.** For  $\Delta \geq 2$ ,  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  has a  $(d, 1)$ -edge labeling of span at most  $m$  if and only if there exists an  $(m, d)$ -feasible set each of whose elements has cardinality  $\Delta$ . •

The  $\lambda_{j,k}$ -numbers of various graphs, which are themselves line graphs of other well-known graphs, have been studied in [9] and [12]. As a result, the  $\lambda'_{j,k}$ -numbers of paths, cycles and complete bipartite graphs easily follow from Proposition 2.3.

Theorem 2.7. [9] For  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\lambda'_{j,k}(P_n) = \lambda_{j,k}(L(P_n)) = \lambda_{j,k}(P_{n-1}) =$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 & \quad \text{if } n = 2 \\ j & \quad \text{if } n = 3 \\ j + k & \quad \text{if } n = 4 \text{ or } 5 \\ j + 2k & \quad \text{if } n \geq 6 \text{ and } \frac{j}{k} \geq 2 \\ 2j & \quad \text{if } n \geq 6 \text{ and } 1 \leq \frac{j}{k} < 2. \bullet \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 2.8. [9] For  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\lambda'_{j,k}(C_n) = \lambda_{j,k}(L(C_n)) = \lambda_{j,k}(C_n)$ , which equals

Case 1: For  $\frac{j}{k} \geq 2$

$$\begin{aligned} 2j & \quad \text{if } n \text{ is odd and } n \geq 3 \\ j + 2k & \quad \text{if } n = 0 \pmod{4} \\ 2j & \quad \text{if } n = 2 \pmod{4} \text{ and } \frac{j}{k} \leq 3 \\ j + 3k & \quad \text{if } n = 2 \pmod{4} \text{ and } \frac{j}{k} \geq 3 \end{aligned}$$

Case 2: For  $\frac{j}{k} \leq 2$

$$\begin{aligned} 2j & \quad \text{if } n = 0 \pmod{3} \\ 4k & \quad \text{if } n = 5 \\ j + 2k & \quad \text{otherwise } \bullet \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 2.9. [12] For integers  $2 \leq n \leq m$ ,  $\lambda'_{j,k}(K_{m,n}) = \lambda_{j,k}(L(K_{m,n})) = \lambda_{j,k}(K_n \times K_m) =$

$$\begin{aligned} (m-1)j + (n-1)k & \quad \text{if } n < m \text{ and } \frac{j}{k} > n \\ (mn-1)k & \quad \text{if } n < m \text{ and } \frac{j}{k} \leq n \\ (n-1)j + (2n-2)k & \quad \text{if } n = m \text{ and } \frac{j}{k} > n-1 \\ (n^2-1)k & \quad \text{if } n = m \text{ and } \frac{j}{k} \leq n-1 \bullet \end{aligned}$$

In the remainder of this paper, we will concentrate our attention on  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G)$  and  $\lambda'_{1,1}(G)$ .

**3. General Bounds on  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G)$  and  $\lambda'_{1,1}(G)$ .** Let  $G$  be a graph with  $1 \leq \delta \leq \Delta$  (where  $\delta(G)$  is the minimum vertex degree over  $V(G)$ .) The degree of edge  $\{u, v\}$  is the number of edges incident to  $\{u, v\}$ . Since  $G$  is assumed to be simple and loopless,  $d(\{u, v\}) = d(u) + d(v) - 2$ ; that is, the degree of the edge  $\{u, v\}$  is two fewer than the sum of the degrees of  $u$  and  $v$ . Let  $\Psi$  and  $\psi$  denote respectively the maximum and minimum edge

degree of  $G$ . It follows that  $2(\delta - 1) \leq \psi \leq (\delta + \Delta - 2) \leq \Psi \leq 2(\Delta - 1)$ .

We now obtain a general upper bound for  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G)$ . By Chang and Kuo [2], we note that for any graph  $H$ ,  $\lambda_{2,1}(H) \leq \Delta^2(H) + \Delta(H)$ . Thus,

$$\lambda'_{2,1}(G) = \lambda_{2,1}(L(G)) \leq \Psi^2 + \Psi = \Psi(\Psi + 1).$$

We improve this bound to  $\frac{\Psi^2}{2} + 3\Psi$  by applying the strategy in Griggs and Yeh's proof [13] of  $\lambda_{2,1}(H) \leq \Delta^2(H) + 2\Delta(H)$  to the adjacency structure of the edges of  $G$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** For graph  $G$  with maximum vertex degree  $\Delta$  and maximum edge degree  $\Psi$ ,

$$2(\Delta - 1) \leq \lambda'_{2,1}(G) \leq \Psi(\Delta + 2) \leq 2(\Delta - 1)(\Delta + 2).$$

Furthermore, if  $G$  is  $\Delta$ -regular, then  $2\Delta \leq \lambda'_{2,1}(G) \leq \frac{\Psi^2}{2} + 3\Psi$ .

**Proof:** To obtain the lower bound, we note that  $K_\Delta$  is a subgraph of  $L(G)$ , from which it follows that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G) \geq \lambda_{2,1}(K_\Delta) = 2(\Delta - 1)$ . If  $G$  is  $\Delta$ -regular, then  $L(G)$  is  $2(\Delta - 1)$ -regular, from which the lower bound follows by Theorem 1.3.

To obtain the upper bound, arbitrarily order the edges of  $G$ , and label them in a greedy way, starting with the smallest available integer. An edge  $e \in E(G)$  is adjacent to at most  $\Psi$  edges, and at distance two from at most  $\Psi(\Delta - 1)$  edges. So there are at most  $3\Psi + \Psi(\Delta - 1) = \Psi(\Delta + 2)$  integers not available for assignment to  $e$ , implying that  $e$  is labelable from among the first  $\Psi(\Delta + 2)$  non-negative integers. Hence  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G) \leq \Psi(\Delta + 2) \leq 2(\Delta - 1)(\Delta + 2)$  since  $\Psi \leq 2(\Delta - 1)$ , with equality if  $G$  is  $\Delta$ -regular. •

As pointed out, Griggs and Yeh [13] conjectured that for all graphs  $H$  with  $\Delta(H) \geq 2$ ,  $\lambda_{2,1}(H) \leq \Delta^2(H)$ . Theorem 3.1 implies the truth of the conjecture for a particular class of graphs.

**Corollary 3.2.** If  $H$  is a graph such that  $H = L(G)$  where  $\delta(G) \geq 4$ , then  $\lambda_{2,1}(H) \leq \Delta^2(H)$ .

**Proof:** Noting that  $\Delta(H) = \Psi(G) \geq \Delta(G) + \delta(G) - 2 \geq \Delta(G) + 2$ , we have  $\lambda_{2,1}(H) = \lambda'_{2,1}(G) \leq \Psi(G)(\Delta(G) + 2) \leq \Psi^2(G) = \Delta^2(H)$ . •

Since  $K_{1,\Psi}$  is a subgraph of  $L(G)$ , we easily modify the argument of Theorem 3.1 to obtain

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $G$  be a graph with  $\Delta \geq 1$ . Then  $\Psi \leq \lambda'_{1,1}(G) \leq \Psi\Delta \leq 2\Delta(\Delta - 1)$ . Furthermore, if  $G$  is  $\Delta$ -regular, then  $\Psi \leq \lambda'_{1,1}(G) \leq \frac{\Psi^2}{2} + \Psi$ . •

For  $\Delta$ -regular graph  $G$ ,  $\Delta \geq 3$ , we note that, in the next section, the lower bound of  $2\Delta$  for  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G)$  in Theorem 3.1 will be improved to  $2\Delta + 1$ .

**4. On the  $\lambda'_{1,1}$ -numbers and  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -numbers of Complete Graphs, Trees and Regular Graphs.** For  $n \geq 2$ , the edges of  $K_n$  are pairwise at most distance two apart. Thus,  $\binom{n}{2} - 1$  serves as a lower bound for both  $\lambda'_{1,1}(K_n)$  and  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_n)$ . It is clear that  $\lambda'_{1,1}(K_n) = \binom{n}{2} - 1$  since any bijection from  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, \binom{n}{2} - 1\}$  to  $E(K_n)$  is a  $(1, 1)$ -edge labeling.

**Theorem 4.1.** For  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_n) =$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 & \quad \text{if } n = 2 \\ 4 & \quad \text{if } n = 3 \\ 7 & \quad \text{if } n = 4 \\ \binom{n}{2} - 1 & \quad \text{if } n \geq 5 \end{aligned}$$

**Proof:** The cases  $n = 2$  and  $n = 3$  follow immediately from Theorems 2.7 and 2.8 since  $K_2$  and  $K_3$  are respectively  $P_2$  and  $C_3$ .

For  $n \geq 4$ , we observe that  $L(K_n)$  is a  $(2n - 4)$ -regular graph with order  $\binom{n}{2}$  and diameter two. As a result,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_n) \geq \binom{n}{2} - 1$ , and each  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -labeling of  $K_n$  is necessarily injective.

For  $n = 4$ , the complement of  $L(K_4)$  is 1-regular and has path covering number 3. By Theorem 1.2, it follows that  $\lambda_{2,1}(L(K_4)) = \lambda'_{2,1}(K_4) = 7$ .

For  $n = 5$ ,  $L(K_5)^c$  is isomorphic to the Petersen graph which has a Hamilton path. Thus,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_5) = 9$  by Theorem 1.2 and our established lower bound of  $\binom{5}{2} - 1$ .

In Figure 4.1 we exhibit a  $(2, 1)$ -set labeling of  $K_6$  with span 14 (inducing a  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeling with span 14), implying (by our lower bound of  $\binom{6}{2} - 1$ ) that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_6) = 14$ .

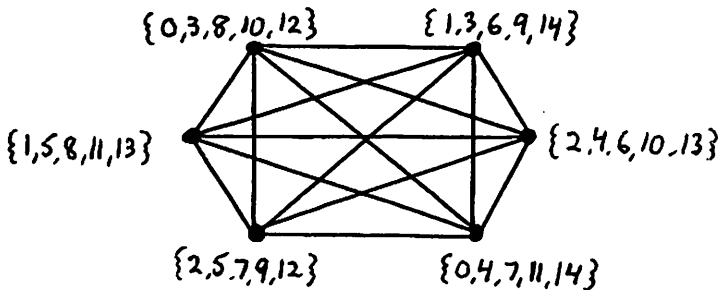


Figure 4.1

For  $n \geq 7$ , we observe that  $L(K_n)^c$  is  $m$ -regular where  $m = \binom{n}{2} - 1 - (2n - 4) = \frac{n^2 - 5n + 6}{2} \geq \frac{1}{2}(\binom{n}{2} - 1)$ . By Dirac's theorem on Hamilton paths [3],  $L(K_n)^c$  has a Hamilton path which, by Theorem 1.2 and our lower bound  $\binom{n}{2} - 1$ , implies that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_n) = \binom{n}{2} - 1$ . •

In Figures 4.2a and 4.2b, we give  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -labelings of  $K_4$  and  $K_5$ .

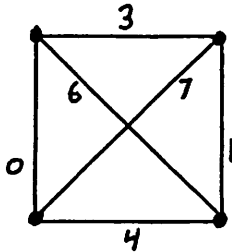


Figure 4.2a

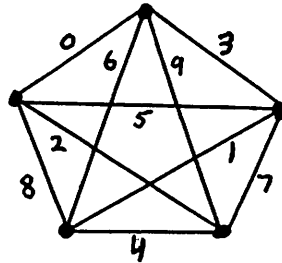


Figure 4.2b

We next turn our attention to the  $\lambda'_{1,1}$ -numbers and  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -numbers of trees. In the case of the latter, it will be convenient to consider the edge labeling properties of infinite trees with particular attention to  $T_\infty(\Delta)$ , the infinite  $\Delta$ -regular tree.

**Theorem 4.2.** Let  $T$  be a non-trivial tree. Then

- i:  $\lambda'_{1,1}(T) = \Psi$ , and
- ii:  $\lambda'_{1,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) = 2(\Delta - 1)$ .

**Proof:** By Theorem 3.3,  $\lambda'_{1,1}(T) \geq \Psi$ . It thus suffices to produce a  $(1, 1)$ -edge labeling  $L$  of  $T$  with span  $\Psi$ . We proceed by induction as follows: let  $e_0 \in E(T)$  have degree  $\Psi$ , and let  $L(e_0) = 0$ . Then we may distribute the labels  $1, 2, 3, \dots, \Psi$  over the  $\Psi$  first-generation edges adjacent to  $e_0$ . Now assume that labels from  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, \Psi\}$  have been assigned to the edges of  $T$  through the  $k^{\text{th}}$ -generation in accordance with the definition of  $(1, 1)$ -edge labelings. Let  $e = \{a, b\}$  be a  $k^{\text{th}}$ -generation edge where, with no loss of generality, the  $d(b)$  edges incident to  $b$  are labeled and the  $d(a) - 1$  edges incident to  $a$  of the  $(k + 1)^{\text{st}}$  generation are unlabeled. Consider the set  $C$  of the  $d(a) - 1$  unlabeled children of  $\{a, b\}$ . The labels unavailable for assignment to the edges in  $C$  are precisely the labels assigned to the edges incident to  $b$ . Thus, there are  $\Psi + 1 - d(b)$  labels available for assignment to the edges in  $C$ . However, we have seen that  $\Psi \geq d(b) + d(a) - 2$ , implying  $\Psi + 1 - d(b) \geq d(a) - 1$ . Hence,  $\lambda'_{1,1}(T) = \Psi$ .

To see that  $\lambda'_{1,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) = 2(\Delta - 1)$ , we merely note that the maximum edge degree in  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  is  $\Psi = 2(\Delta - 1)$ . •



We now turn to the  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -numbers of tree  $T$  with maximum degree  $\Delta$  and  $T_\infty(\Delta)$ . Since the case  $\Delta = 1, 2$  is addressed by Theorem 2.8, our main theorems are:

**Theorem 4.3.** Let  $T$  be a tree with maximum degree  $\Delta \geq 3$ . Then  $2\Delta + 2 \leq \lambda'_{2,1}(T) \leq \lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) \leq 2\Delta + 3$ .

**Theorem 4.4.**  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) =$

$$2\Delta + 1 \text{ if } \Delta = 3, 4$$

$$2\Delta + 2 \text{ if } \Delta = 5$$

$$2\Delta + 3 \text{ if } \Delta \geq 6$$

**Proof of Theorem 4.3:** Since  $K_{1,\Delta}$  is a subgraph of  $T$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_{1,\Delta}) = 2\Delta - 2$  is a lower bound for  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T)$ .

To show that  $2\Delta + 3$  is an upper bound, it suffices to produce a  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeling of  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  with span  $2\Delta + 3$ . To that end, let  $X_0 = \{0, 2, 4, \dots, 2\Delta + 2\}$  and  $X_1 = \{1, 3, 5, \dots, 2\Delta + 3\}$ . We note that  $|X_0| = |X_1| = \Delta + 2$ . Let  $\{u, v\}$  be the  $0^{\text{th}}$ -generation edge, to which we assign the label 0. Then each first-generation edge is incident to either  $u$  or  $v$ . Assign distinct labels to the  $\Delta - 1$  first-generation edges incident to  $u$  from the set  $X_0 - \{0\}$  and assign distinct labels to the  $\Delta - 1$  first-generation edges incident to  $v$  from  $X_1 - \{1\}$ . Now assume that, for  $1 \leq h \leq k$ , the  $h^{\text{th}}$ -generation edges descended from  $u$  are labeled entirely from  $X_{h+1 \bmod 2}$ . Without loss of generality, let  $e$  be a  $k^{\text{th}}$ -generation edge with label  $L(e) \in X_{k+1 \bmod 2}$  and let  $e'$  be the father of  $e$  with label  $L(e') \in X_{k \bmod 2}$ . We assign labels to the  $\Delta - 1$  children of  $e$  from the set  $W = X_{k+2 \bmod 2} - \{L(e) - 1, L(e) + 1, L(e')\}$ . Since  $|W| \geq \Delta - 1$ , such a labeling can be achieved. Since no two  $k + 1^{\text{st}}$ -generation edges (cousins) descended from  $u$  with distinct parents are within distance two, all of the  $k + 1^{\text{st}}$ -generation edges may be labeled in this manner. As similar argument may be used to label the edges descended from  $v$ . •

**Proof of Theorem 4.4:** We begin with an improvement of the lower bound given in Theorem 3.1.

**Lemma 4.5.** For  $\Delta \geq 3$ ,  $2\Delta + 1 \leq \lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta))$ .

**Proof:** The line graph of  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  is  $2\Delta - 2$ -regular, implying that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) \geq 2\Delta$  by Theorem 3.1. Suppose that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) = 2\Delta$ . We first show that for any  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -labeling  $L$  of  $T_\infty(\Delta)$ , there is an edge  $e_1$  such that  $L(e_1) = 1$ .

Let  $L$  be a  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -labeling of  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  and let  $e_0$  be an edge with  $L(e_0) = 0$ . Then the  $2\Delta - 2$  edges incident to  $e_0$  receive labels from  $\{2, 3, 4, \dots, 2\Delta\}$ , implying that at least one edge  $e$  incident to  $e_0$  receives a label from

$\{3, 4, 5, \dots, 2\Delta - 1\}$ . Hence, the  $2\Delta - 2$  edges incident to  $e$  receive distinct labels from the  $2\Delta - 2$  labels in  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, 2\Delta\} - \{L(e_1) - 1, L(e_1), L(e_1) + 1\}$ . Since this set has cardinality  $2\Delta - 2$  and contains 1, there is an edge  $e_1$  which receives that label.

Let  $e_1 = \{u, v\}$ . With no loss of generality, the edges incident to  $u$  receive labels  $3, 5, 7, \dots, 2\Delta - 1$  and the edges incident to  $v$  receive labels  $4, 6, 8, \dots, 2\Delta$ . Let  $\{v, v_1\}$  be the edge which receives label 4. Then the  $\Delta - 1$  remaining edges incident to  $v_1$  must receive labels  $0, 2$ , and the odd integers from  $7$  to  $2\Delta - 1$ . (If  $\Delta = 3$ , there are no such odd integers.) Let  $\{v_1, v_2\}$  be the edge which receives label 2. Then the remaining  $\Delta - 1$  edges incident to  $v_2$  must receive labels  $5, 6, 8, 10, \dots, 2\Delta$ , implying the contradiction that two adjacent edges receive consecutive labels 5 and 6. •

**Lemma 4.6.** Let  $\Delta \geq 2$  and let  $G$  be a  $\Delta$ -regular graph. Then every  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling  $L$  of  $G$  induces a  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling of  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  with span at most  $s(L)$ , implying  $\lambda'_{j,k}(G) \geq \lambda'_{j,k}(T_\infty(\Delta))$ .

*Proof:* Let  $L$  be a  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling of  $G$  with span  $s(L)$ . Then by Theorem 2.3,  $L$  induces a  $(j, k)$ -set labeling  $L^*$  of  $G$  with span  $s(L)$ . Let  $v_{n_0}$  be an arbitrarily selected vertex in  $V(G)$  and let the neighbors of  $v_{n_0}$  be  $v_{n_1}, v_{n_2}, \dots, v_{n_\Delta}$ . We assign the label  $L^*(v_{n_0})$  to the root  $w_0$  of  $T_\infty(\Delta)$ , and we assign the labels  $L^*(v_{n_1}), L^*(v_{n_2}), \dots, L^*(v_{n_\Delta})$  to the children  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_\Delta$  of  $w_0$ , respectively. The  $\Delta - 1$  children of  $w_i$  may then be assigned the labels of the neighbors of  $v_{n_i}$  which have not already been assigned to the parent of  $w_i$ . By induction, there exists a  $(j, k)$ -set labeling of  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  with span at most  $s(L)$  which, by Theorem 2.2, induces a  $(j, k)$ -edge labeling of  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  with span at most  $s(L)$ . Hence  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G) \geq \lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta))$ . •

By Lemma 4.6,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(3)) \leq \lambda'_{2,1}(K_4) = 7$ , and by Lemma 4.5,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(3)) \geq 7$ . Theorem 4.4 is thus proved in the case  $\Delta = 3$ . The case  $\Delta = 4$  is handled identically.

**Lemma 4.7.** For  $\Delta \geq 5$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) \geq 2\Delta + 2$ .

*Proof:* Suppose to the contrary that  $L$  is a  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeling with span  $2\Delta + 1$ . Then  $L$  assigns the label 4 or it does not.

Suppose  $L$  assigns the label 4 to the edge  $\{x, y\}$ . Let  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{\Delta-1}\}$  be the set of edges incident to  $x$  not labeled 4 under  $L$ , and similarly let  $Y = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{\Delta-1}\}$  be the set of edges incident to  $y$  not labeled 4 under  $L$ . Let  $B = \{0, 1, 2\}$  and  $C = \{6, 7, \dots, 2\Delta + 1\}$ . We first observe that  $X$  and  $Y$  contain at least one edge labeled from  $B$  since  $C$  does not contain a 2-separated subset of size  $\Delta - 1$ . We next show that  $X$  and  $Y$  cannot both contain exactly one edge with labels from  $B$ .

Suppose the contrary that  $X$  and  $Y$  contain exactly one edge labeled from  $B$ . Then  $X$  and  $Y$  have exactly  $\Delta - 2$  edges labeled from  $C$ . So, since the edges of  $X$  (resp.  $Y$ ) must have labels which differ pairwise by at least 2, the edges in  $Y$  must have labels which differ pairwise by at least 2, and the labels assigned to the edges in  $X$  and  $Y$  pairwise distinct, then with no loss of generality, the labels in  $C$  assigned to the edges of  $X$  must be  $6, 8, 10, \dots, 2\Delta$  and the labels in  $C$  assigned to the edges of  $Y$  must be  $7, 9, 11, \dots, 2\Delta + 1$ . Let  $\{y, w\}$  be the edge in  $Y$  which receives label  $2\Delta - 1$  under  $L$  and let  $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{\Delta-1}\}$  be the set of edges incident to  $W$  without label  $2\Delta - 1$ . Then the  $\Delta - 1$  labels of the edges in  $W$  must be in  $[0, 2\Delta - 4] - \{4\}$ , an impossibility due to the unavailability of  $\Delta - 1$  2-separated integers in that set. Thus, it follows from the distance conditions that, with no loss of generality, exactly 2 edges in  $X$  receive labels from  $B$  and exactly one edge in  $Y$  receives a label from  $B$ . Furthermore, the two edges in  $X$  which receive labels from  $B$  must be assigned 0 and 2 due to the adjacency of those edges. Let  $\{x, z\}$  be the edge on  $X$  which receives label 2 and let  $Z$  be the set of  $\Delta - 1$  edges incident to  $z$  not labeled 2. Then the edges of  $Z$  must receive 2-separated labels in  $\{5, 6, 7, \dots, 2\Delta + 1\}$ , and hence those labels must be  $5, 7, 9, \dots, 2\Delta + 1$ . Let  $\{z, u\}$  be the edge in  $Z$  with label  $2\Delta - 1$  and let  $U$  be the set of  $\Delta - 1$  edges incident to  $u$  not labeled  $2\Delta - 1$ . Then the edges in  $U$  must receive labels in  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, 2\Delta - 4\} - \{2, 5\}$ , an impossibility due to the unavailability of  $\Delta - 1$  2-separated integers in that set. Thus  $L$  assigns 4 to no edge, implying that  $L$  assigns  $2\Delta - 3$  to an edge since  $2\Delta + 1 - L$  is a  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeling.

We next show that  $L$  assigns 2 to no edge. Let  $e$  be an edge labeled 2 under  $L$ . Then  $2\Delta - 2$  edges incident to  $e$  must receive distinct labels from the  $2\Delta - 3$  integers in  $\{0\} \cap \{5, 6, 7, \dots, 2\Delta + 1\} - \{2\Delta - 3\}$ , an impossibility. Consequently,  $L$  assigns  $2\Delta - 1$  to no edge as well.

We have thus shown that  $L$  assigns labels from the set

$$R = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 2\Delta + 1\} - \{2, 4, 2\Delta - 3, 2\Delta - 1\}.$$

However, any edge  $e$  along with the  $2\Delta - 2$  edges to which  $e$  is adjacent require  $2\Delta - 1$  distinct labels. Since  $|R| = 2\Delta - 2$ ,  $L$  is not a  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeling. •

Now consider the claim  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) = 2\Delta + 2$  for  $\Delta = 5$ . By Lemma 4.7 and Corollary 2.6, it suffices to show the existence of a  $(12, 2)$ -feasibility set  $C$  in which every element in  $C$  has cardinality 5. But such a set is

$$\begin{aligned} & \{\{0, 2, 5, 8, 11\}, \{0, 3, 5, 8, 12\}, \{0, 3, 6, 8, 11\}, \{0, 3, 6, 9, 12\}, \{0, 4, 7, 9, 11\}, \\ & \{0, 4, 7, 10, 12\}, \{1, 3, 5, 7, 10\}, \{1, 3, 5, 8, 10\}, \{1, 3, 5, 9, 12\}, \{1, 3, 6, 8, 11\}, \\ & \{1, 3, 6, 9, 11\}, \{1, 4, 6, 8, 11\}, \{1, 4, 7, 9, 11\}, \{1, 5, 7, 10, 12\}, \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10\}, \\ & \{2, 4, 6, 8, 12\}, \{2, 4, 6, 10, 12\}, \{2, 4, 7, 9, 12\}, \{2, 4, 8, 10, 12\}, \end{aligned}$$

$\{2, 5, 7, 9, 11\}, \{3, 5, 7, 10, 12\}, \{4, 6, 8, 10, 12\}$ .

Hence, Theorem 4.4 is proved for  $\Delta = 5$ .

We next establish that for  $\Delta = 6$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(6)) > 2\Delta + 2 = 14$ . By Lemma 4.7,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(6)) \geq 14$ . If equality holds, then there exists a  $(14, 2)$ -feasible set  $\mathcal{C}$  each of whose elements has cardinality 6. We note that  $\mathcal{C}$  is a subset of the collection of all 2-separated 6-subsets of the set  $X = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, 14\}$ , of which there are  $\binom{10}{4} = 210$ . We also note, however, that many of the 2-separated 6-subsets of the set  $X$  fail to meet property 2 of Definition 2.4; for example, the reader can verify that there is no 2-separated 6-subset in  $X$  which intersects  $\{2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14\}$  at only the element 4. A computer search reveals that the maximal  $(14, 2)$ -feasible set  $\mathcal{C}$  is empty. This, along with Theorem 4.3 for  $\Delta = 6$ , proves  $15 = \lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) = 2\Delta + 3$ .

**Lemma 4.8.** For  $\Delta \geq 2$ , if  $T_\infty(\Delta + 1)$  has a  $(d, 1)$ -edge labeling of span  $m$ , then  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  has a  $(d, 1)$ -edge labeling of span at most  $m - d$ .

**Proof:** If  $T_\infty(\Delta + 1)$  has a  $(d, 1)$ -edge labeling of span  $m$ , then there exists an  $(m, d)$ -feasible set each of whose members has cardinality  $\Delta + 1$  by Corollary 2.6. Let  $\mathcal{C} = \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$  be such a set and consider the set  $\mathcal{C}' = \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n\}$  where  $B_i = A_i - \{m - d + 1, m - d + 2, \dots, m\}$ . Since the elements of  $A_i$  are  $d$ -separated, we note that  $|B_i| \geq |A_i| - 1 = \Delta$ , implying that  $\mathcal{C}'$  is a  $(y, d)$ -feasible set,  $y \leq m - d$ . By Corollary 2.6,  $\mathcal{C}'$  induces a  $(d, 1)$ -labeling of an infinite tree  $T$  each of whose vertices has degree at least  $\Delta$ . Since  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  is a subgraph of  $T$ , the result now follows. •

To complete the proof of Theorem 4.4, we note that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) \geq 2\Delta + 2$  for  $\Delta \geq 6$  by Lemma 4.7. If, for some  $\Delta_0 \geq 7$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta_0)) = 2\Delta_0 + 2$ , then by Lemma 4.8 and an inductive argument,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(6)) = 14$ , a contradiction of our demonstration that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(6)) = 15$ . Hence,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) \geq 2\Delta + 3$  for  $\Delta > 6$ . But Theorem 4.3 indicates that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta)) \leq 2\Delta + 3$ , concluding the proof. •

**5. On the  $\lambda'_{1,1}$  and  $\lambda'_{2,1}$  numbers of  $Q_n$ .** We denote the vertices of  $Q_n$  by  $n$ -tuples each of whose components is 0 or 1, and we note that  $|E(Q_n)| = n2^{n-1}$ . It is clear that  $\lambda'_{j,k}(Q_1) = 0$  for all  $j \geq k$ . Hence, we consider the case  $n \geq 2$ , proving the following two theorems:

**Theorem 5.1.** For  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\lambda'_{1,1}(Q_n) = 2n - 1$ .

**Theorem 5.2**

- i.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_2) = 4$
- ii.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_3) = 7$

- iii.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_4) = 10$
- iv.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_5) = 12$  or  $13$
- v.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_6) = 15$  or  $16$ .

Before the proofs, however, we make a few observations.

For  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ , let  $E_i$  denote the set of edges  $\{\vec{u}, \vec{v}\}$  such that  $\vec{u}$  and  $\vec{v}$  differ only in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  component. Also, for  $h = 0, 1$ , let  $E_i^h = \{\{\vec{u}, \vec{v}\} \in E_i \mid \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n v_j = h \pmod{2}\}$ . Then:

1. Each  $E_i$  is a perfect matching in  $Q_n$ ; hence,  $|E_i| = 2^{n-1}$  and no two edges in  $E_i$  are adjacent
2. The set  $\{E_0, E_1, \dots, E_{n-1}\}$  is a partition of  $E(Q_n)$ ;
3. The set  $\{E_i^0, E_i^1\}$  is a partition of  $E_i$ , and for fixed  $h$ ,  $|E_i^h| = 2^{n-2}$  and the edges in  $E_i^h$  are pairwise distance at least three apart
4. For  $n \geq 2$  and fixed  $i$ ,  $Q_n - E_i$  is isomorphic to the sum of two copies of  $Q_{n-1}$ .
5. For fixed  $h \in \{0, 1\}$  and fixed  $i$ , every edge in  $Q_n - E_i$  is adjacent to some edge in  $E_i^h$ .
6. For  $n \geq 2$ , if  $X \subseteq E(Q_n)$  with  $|X| = 2^{n-2}$  such that elements of  $X$  are pairwise distance at least three apart, then  $X = E_i^h$  for some fixed  $i, h$ .

Proof of Theorem 5.1: By Theorem 3.3,  $\lambda'_{1,1}(Q_n) \geq 2n - 2$ . Suppose  $L$  is a  $(1, 1)$ -edge labeling with span  $2n - 2$ . Then by the pigeon-hole principle, some fixed label  $l$  is assigned by  $L$  to  $x$  edges, where  $x \geq \lceil \frac{n2^{n-1}}{2n-1} \rceil \geq 2^{n-2} + 1$ . These edges are incident to  $2x \geq 2^{n-1} + 2$  distinct vertices. Since two of these vertices must be adjacent in  $Q_n$ , there exist two edges at distance two each of which receives label  $l$  under  $L$ , a contradiction. It thus suffices to demonstrate a  $(1, 1)$ -labeling with span  $2n - 1$ . To that end, let  $L$  be the edge labeling such that  $L(e) = 2i + h$  for  $e \in E_i^h$ . By Property 3, edges which receive the same label under  $L$  are at least distance three apart. It thus follows that  $L$  is a  $(1, 1)$ -edge labeling. •

Proof of Theorem 5.2. We begin by establishing that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(n)) \leq \lambda'_{2,1}(Q_n) \leq 3n - 2$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Since  $Q_n$  is  $n$ -regular, the lower bound follows from Lemma 4.6. The upper bound follows from the construction of an edge-labeling with span  $3n - 2$ . If  $L(e) = 3i + h$  for  $e \in E_i^h$ , then by Property 3, edges which receive the same label under  $L$  are at least distance three apart. Additionally, two edges which receive consecutive labels are necessarily in  $E_i$  for some fixed  $i$ , and are thus not adjacent by Property 1.

Now, since  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(2)) = 4$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(3)) = 7$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(4)) = 9$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(5)) = 12$ , and  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(6)) = 15$ , these bounds imply

- i.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_2) = 4$
- ii.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_3) = 7$
- iii.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_4) = 9$  or  $10$
- iv.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_5) = 12$  or  $13$
- v.  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_6) = 15$  or  $16$ .

We close the proof by showing that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_4) = 10$ . Assume there exists a  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeling  $L$  with span 9. Then the 32 edges of  $Q_4$  can be placed into 10 labeling classes  $M_0, M_1, \dots, M_9$  such that  $M_j$  contains precisely those edges labeled  $j$  under  $L$ . We observe that no 5 edges can receive the same label under  $L$ , for if such were the case, then  $Q_4$  would need to have at least  $7 \times 5 = 35$  edges. As a result, there must exist at least 2 labeling classes with order 4. We argue that

- a. if  $|M_j| = 4$  for some  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq 8$ , then  $|M_{j-1}| + |M_{j+1}| \leq 4$
- b. if there exist 3 labeling classes representing labels  $j$ ,  $j+1$  and  $j+2$  such that  $|M_j| = |M_{j+2}| = 4$ , then  $|M_{j+1}| = 0$ .
- c. no two labeling classes  $M_j$  and  $M_{j+1}$  representing consecutive labels can each have order 4.

To show *a*, we appeal to Properties 5 and 6 thus: for some  $i, h$ ,  $M_j = E_i^h$ . Since no edge in  $M_{j-1} \cup M_{j+1}$  is adjacent to any edge in  $M_j$ , then by Property 5,  $M_{j-1} \cup M_{j+1} \subseteq E_i - E_i^h$ , implying the result.

To show *b*, we suppose that  $M_{j+1} > 0$ . By Property 6,  $M_j = E_i^h$  and  $M_{j+2} = E_{i'}^{h'}$  for some  $i, h, i', h'$ . By Property 5,  $M_{j+1} \subseteq E_i - E_i^h$  and  $M_{j+1} \subseteq E_{i'} - E_{i'}^{h'}$ . Regardless of whether or not  $i = i'$ , we have that  $E_i - E_i^h$  and  $E_{i'} - E_{i'}^{h'}$  are disjoint, which implies  $M_{j+1} = \phi$ .

To show *c*, we first suppose  $|M_0| = |M_1| = 4$ . Since no edge in  $M_0$  is adjacent to any edge in  $M_1$ , we have by properties 3, 5, and 6 that  $M_0 = E_i^h$  and  $M_1 = E_i^{h'}$  for some  $i$ , implying  $M_0 \cup M_1 = E_i$ . From *b*, we have  $|M_2| = 0$ . Thus, the remaining edges in  $Q_4 - E_i$ , the sum of two disjoint copies of  $Q_3$  by Property 4, have labels in  $\{3, 4, 5, \dots, 9\}$ , implying that  $Q_3$  can be  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeled with span 6, a contradiction of the result  $\lambda'_{2,1}(Q_3) = 7$ . (A symmetric argument can be given if  $j = 8$ .) Now suppose  $1 \leq j \leq 7$ . Then arguing as above,  $|M_{j-1}| = |M_{j+2}| = 0$  by *a* (implying  $j > 0$  since  $|M_0| \neq 0$  and  $j < 7$  since  $|M_9| \neq 0$ .) Noting again that  $M_j \cup M_{j+1} = E_i$  for some  $i$ , we can label the edges of  $Q_4 - E_i$  with labels in  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, j-2\} \cup \{j+3, j+4, \dots, 9\}$ . We may thus produce a  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeling  $L'$  of  $Q_4 - E_i$  where

$$L'(e) = \begin{cases} L(e) & \text{if } L(e) \leq j - 2 \\ L(e) - 3 & \text{if } L(e) \geq j + 3 \end{cases}$$

But by property 4,  $L'$  is (2, 1)-edge labeling of  $Q_3$  with span 6, a contradiction.

We next show that for  $1 \leq j \leq 8$ ,  $|M_j| \leq 3$ . Suppose to the contrary that there exists  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq 8$ , such that  $|M_j| = 4$  and let  $j^*$  be the smallest such  $j$ . From  $a$ ,  $|M_{j^*-1}| + |M_{j^*}| + |M_{j^*+1}| \leq 8$ , which implies that at least 24 edges of  $Q_n$  have labels from the remaining 7 labeling classes. Therefore, at least 3 of the remaining 7 labeling classes have order 4, and hence there exists  $q$ ,  $j^* + 2 \leq q \leq 8$ , such that  $|M_q| = 4$ . If  $q \neq j^* + 2$ , then the labeling classes  $M_{j^*-1}, M_{j^*}, M_{j^*+1}, M_{q-1}, M_q, M_{q+1}$  are distinct and, by  $a$ , contain at most 16 edges. The remaining four labeling classes must each have order at exactly 4 (since, as noted, no 5 edges can receive the same label). This forces the existence of two labeling classes representing consecutive labels each with order 4, contradicting  $c$ . If, on the other hand,  $q = j^* + 2$ , then by  $b$ ,  $|M_{j^*+1}| = 0$ . Furthermore, from  $a$ , we observe that  $|M_{j^*-1}| \leq 3$  and  $|M_{j^*+3}| \leq 3$ . Hence the five labeling classes  $M_{j^*-1}, M_{j^*}, M_{j^*+1}, M_{j^*+2}$ , and  $M_{j^*+3}$  contain at most 14 edges, implying that the remaining 5 labeling classes contain at least 18 edges. At least three of these classes must have order 4, implying the existence of  $q'$ ,  $j^* + 4 \leq q' \leq 8$  such that  $|M_{q'}| = 4$ . By the preceding argument, this forces the existence of two labeling classes representing consecutive labels each with order 4, contradicting  $c$ .

Since  $1 \leq j \leq 8$ ,  $|M_j| \leq 3$ , it follows that  $|M_0| = |M_9| = 4$  and that for  $1 \leq j \leq 8$ ,  $|M_j| = 3$ . From Property 6,  $M_0 = E_i^h$  for some  $i, h$ , and since the edges in  $M_1$  are not adjacent to the edges in  $M_0$ , from Property 5 it follows that  $M_1 \subseteq E_i - E_i^h$ . But no edge labeled 2 can be among the 18 edges adjacent to the edges in  $M_1$ , nor can it be an edge among the 7 edges in  $M_0 \cup M_1$ . Hence, the remaining 7 edges in  $Q_n$  which may receive the label 2 are precisely the single edge in  $E_i - M_0 - M_1$  and its 6 adjacent edges. However, it is impossible to find three edges among this collection which are pairwise distance three apart, thus concluding the proof. •

**6. On the  $e\lambda_1^1$ -numbers and  $e\lambda_1^2$ -numbers of Joins.** Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be graphs with orders  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ . Recall that the join of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , denoted  $G_1 \vee G_2$ , is the graph whose vertex set is  $V(G_1) \cup V(G_2)$  and whose edge set is  $E(G_1) \cup E(G_2) \cup Z$ , where  $Z = \{\{u, v\} | u \in V(G_1) \text{ and } v \in V(G_2)\}$ .

**Theorem 6.1.**

i: if  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  have non-empty edge sets, then  $\lambda'_{1,1}(G_1 \vee G_2) = \lambda'_{1,1}(G_1) + \lambda'_{1,1}(G_2) + m_1 m_2 + 1$

ii: if (without loss of generality)  $E(G_1)$  is non-empty and  $E(G_2)$  is empty, then  $\lambda'_{1,1}(G_1 \vee G_2) = \lambda'_{1,1}(G_1) + m_1 m_2$

iii: if  $E(G_1)$  and  $E(G_2)$  are each empty, then  $\lambda'_{1,1}(G_1 \vee G_2) = \lambda'_{1,1}(K_{m_1, m_2}) = m_1 m_2 - 1$ .

Proof: i: We first show that  $\lambda'_{1,1}(G_1 \vee G_2) \leq \lambda'_{1,1}(G_1) + \lambda'_{1,1}(G_2) + m_1 m_2 + 1$ , and then show that no  $(1, 1)$ -edge labeling of  $G_1 \vee G_2$  has smaller span.

Let  $Z = \{z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{m_1 m_2}\}$  be the edges joining the vertices of  $G_1$  to the vertices of  $G_2$ , and for  $i = 1, 2$ , let  $L_i$  be a  $\lambda'_{1,1}$ -labeling of  $G_i$ . Noting that every edge in  $Z$  is at most distance two away from each edge in  $G_1 \vee G_2$ , and that every edge in  $G_1$  is exactly distance two away from each edge in  $G_2$ , we produce a  $(1, 1)$ -edge labeling  $L$  of  $G_1 \vee G_2$  as follows:  $L(e) =$

$$\begin{array}{ll} L_1(e) & \text{if } e \in E(G_1) \\ \lambda'_{1,1}(G_1) + L_2(e) + 1 & \text{if } e \in E(G_2) \\ \lambda'_{1,1}(G_1) + \lambda'_{1,1}(G_2) + 1 + p & \text{if } e = z_p. \end{array}$$

Now suppose that  $\lambda'_{1,1}(G_1 \vee G_2) \leq \lambda'_{1,1}(G_1) + \lambda'_{1,1}(G_2) + m_1 m_2$  and let  $L^*$  be a  $(1, 1)$ -edge labeling of  $G_1 \vee G_2$  with span at most  $\lambda'_{1,1}(G_1) + \lambda'_{1,1}(G_2) + m_1 m_2$ . For  $i = 1, 2$ , let  $X_i = \{x | L^*(e) = x, e \in G_i\}$  and let  $Y = \{y | L^*(e) = y, y \in Z\}$ . We observe that  $|X_i| \geq \lambda'_{1,1}(G_i) + 1$ , and that  $|Y| = m_1 m_2$ . So  $|X_1| + |X_2| + |Y| \geq \lambda'_{1,1}(G_1) + \lambda'_{1,1}(G_2) + m_1 m_2 + 2$ , which implies either  $X_1 \cap Y$  or  $X_2 \cap Y$  or  $X_1 \cap X_2$  is non-empty, contradicting the distance constraints.

Part ii is similar to part i, and part iii follows from Theorem 2.9. •

Recalling that a  $t$ -point suspension of  $G$  ( $t$ - $spn(G)$ ) is the join of  $G$  with the sum of  $t$  copies of  $K_1$ , we have the following:

Corollary 6.2.

i: for  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\lambda'_{1,1}(t\text{-}spn(P_n)) = \lambda_{1,1}(P_{n-1}) + tn$ .

ii: for  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\lambda'_{1,1}(t\text{-}spn(C_n)) = \lambda_{1,1}(C_n) + tn$ . •

For positive integers  $j > k$  and general graphs  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , arguments analogous to those used in Theorem 6.1 above yield

(1)  $\lambda'_{j,k}(G_1 \vee G_2) \leq \lambda'_{j,k}(G_1) + \lambda'_{j,k}(G_2) + \lambda'_{j,k}(K_{m_1, m_2}) + j + k$  if  $E(G_1)$  and  $E(G_2)$  are each non-empty;

(2)  $\lambda'_{j,k}(G_1 \vee G_2) \leq \lambda'_{j,k}(G_1) + \lambda'_{j,k}(K_{m_1, m_2}) + j$  if (without loss of generality)  $E(G_1)$  is non-empty and  $E(G_2)$  is empty;

(3)  $\lambda'_{j,k}(G_1 \vee G_2) = \lambda'_{j,k}(K_{m_1, m_2})$  if both  $E(G_1)$  and  $E(G_2)$  are empty.

We note that for  $j = 2$  and  $k = 1$ , the above bound in (1) is met when  $G_1 = G_2 = P_2$  (since the bound is 7 and  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_4) = 7$ ), but is not met



when  $G_1 = P_2$  and  $G_2 = C_3$  (since the bound is 12 and  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_5) = 9$ ). We also note a given graph  $G$  may have more than one representation as a join of graphs, in turn giving rise to distinct upper bounds on  $\lambda'_{2,1}(G)$ . For example,  $K_4$  also equals  $C_3 \vee K_1$ , which by (2) above implies  $\lambda'_{2,1}(K_4) \leq 11$ .

For the remainder of this section, we investigate the  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -number of the  $n$ -wheel  $W_n = C_n \vee K_1$ , for  $n \geq 3$ . Since  $K_{1,n}$  is a subgraph of  $W_n$ , we have from (2) above  $2n - 2 = \lambda'_{2,1}(K_{1,n}) \leq \lambda'_{2,1}(W_n) \leq \lambda'_{2,1}(C_n) + \lambda'_{2,1}(K_{1,n}) + 2 = 2n + 4$ . Below, we show  $\lambda'_{2,1}(W_n) = 2n - 2$  if and only if  $n \geq 6$ .

**Theorem 6.3.** For  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(W_n) =$

7	if $n = 3$ or 4.
9	if $n = 5$
$2n - 2$	if $n \geq 6$

**Proof:** If  $n = 3$ , then  $W_3 = K_4$ , and the result follows by Theorem 4.1.

Observing that  $W_4$  and  $W_5$  have edge diameter 2, we have that  $\lambda'_{2,1}(W_4) \geq 7$  and  $\lambda'_{2,1}(W_5) \geq 9$ . In Figures 6.1a,b, we provide (2,1)-edge labelings of  $W_4$  and  $W_5$  with these respective spans.

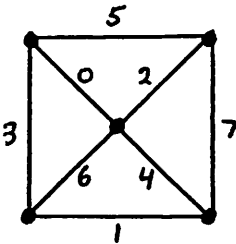


Figure 6.1a

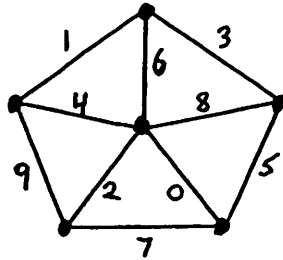


Figure 6.1b

Let  $n \geq 6$ . We denote the vertices of  $C_n$  by  $u_0, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}$  and the edge  $\{u_i, u_{i+1 \pmod n}\}$  by  $e_i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n - 1$ . Additionally, we denote the vertex of  $K_1$  by  $w$  and the spoke  $\{w, u_i\}$  by  $s_i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n - 1$ . We produce a (2,1)-edge labeling  $L$  of  $W_n$  which meets the lower bound of  $2n - 2$  as follows:  
 $L(e_i) =$

$2i + 1$	if $i = 0, 1, 2$
1	if $i = 3$
$2i - 1$	if $4 \leq i \leq n - 1$

Also,  $L(s_i) =$

$2n - 8$	if $i = 0$
$2n - 6$	if $i = 1$

0	if $i = 2$
$2n - 4$	if $i = 3$
$2n - 2$	if $i = 4$
$2i - 8$	if $5 \leq i \leq n - 1$

Although the reader can easily verify that  $L$  is a  $(2, 1)$ -edge labeling, we observe that the spokes of  $W_n$  are labeled with distinct even integers,  $L(e_0) = L(e_3) = 1$ , and all other edges along  $C_n$  are given distinct odd labels not equal to 1. For each spoke  $s_i$ ,  $L(s_i)$  differs from its incident edges in  $C_n$  by at least 3.

In Figure 6.2 below, we give an  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -edge labeling of  $W_6$ .

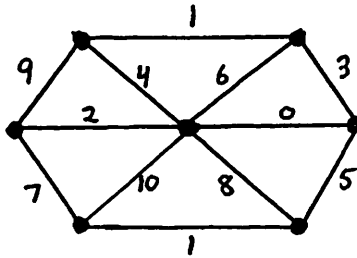


Figure 6.2

**7. Concluding Remarks.** Our results on  $T_\infty(\Delta)$  show that for any tree  $T$  with maximum degree  $\Delta$ ,  $\lambda'_{2,1}(T_\infty(\Delta))$  is in

- $S_1 = \{0\}$  if  $\Delta = 1$
- $S_2 = \{2, 3, 4\}$  if  $\Delta = 2$
- $S_3 = \{4, 5, 6, 7\}$  if  $\Delta = 3$
- $S_4 = \{6, 7, 8, 9\}$  if  $\Delta = 4$
- $S_5 = \{8, 9, 10, 11, 12\}$  if  $\Delta = 5$
- $S_\Delta = \{2\Delta - 2, 2\Delta - 1, \dots, 2\Delta + 3\}$  if  $\Delta \geq 6$

Thus, for  $\Delta \geq 2$ , the set  $\mathcal{T}_\Delta$ , the collection of all finite trees with maximum degree  $\Delta$ , can be classified according to their  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -number. It is clear that  $K_{1,\Delta}$  is the smallest possible tree in the class of trees with  $\lambda'_{2,1}$ -number equal to  $2\Delta - 2$ , and is the only tree in this class for  $\Delta = 2$  alone. We conjecture that for each  $s \in S_\Delta$ , the class of finite trees with  $\lambda'$ -number  $s$  is non-empty.

By Lemma 4.6,  $\lambda'_{j,k}(T_\infty(\Delta)) \leq \lambda'_{j,k}(G)$  where  $G$  is a  $\Delta$ -regular graph. For  $j = 2$  and  $k = 1$ , we have seen that  $K_3$  and  $K_4$  meet the lower bound for  $\Delta = 3$  and  $\Delta = 4$ . For  $j = k = 1$  and  $m \geq 2$ , the odd graph  $O_m$ , that is, the graph whose vertices are precisely the  $m - 1$ -subsets of  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, 2m - 2\}$  (see [4]) and whose edges join vertices which are disjoint, can be  $(1, 1)$ -set

labeled by assigning to vertex  $v$  the  $m$ -set  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, 2m - 2\} - v$ . Since  $\lambda'_{1,1}(O_m) \geq 2m - 2$  by Theorem 4.2, the odd graphs represent a class of graphs which attain the minimum  $(1, 1)$ -edge number.

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