

# On vertex irregular total labelings\*

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## Abstract

A vertex irregular total labeling  $\sigma$  of a graph  $G$  is a labeling of vertices and edges of  $G$  with labels from the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  in such a way that for any two different vertices  $x$  and  $y$  their weights  $wt(x)$  and  $wt(y)$  are distinct. The weight  $wt(x)$  of a vertex  $x$  in  $G$  is the sum of its label and the labels of all edges incident with a given vertex  $x$ . The minimum  $k$  for which the graph  $G$  has a vertex irregular total labeling is called the *total vertex irregularity strength* of  $G$ . In this paper, we study the total vertex irregularity strength for two families of graphs, namely Jahangir graphs and circulant graphs.

*Keywords* : vertex irregular total labeling, total vertex irregularity strength, Jahangir graph, circulant graph.

## 1 Introduction

As a standard notation, assume that  $G = G(V, E)$  is a finite, simple and undirected graph with  $p$  vertices and  $q$  edges. A labeling of a graph is any mapping that sends some set of graph elements to a set of numbers

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(usually positive integers). If the domain is the vertex-set or the edge-set, the labelings are called respectively vertex-labelings or edge-labelings. If the domain is  $V \cup E$  then we call the labeling a total labeling. In many cases it is interesting to consider the sum of all labels associated with a graph element. This will be called the *weight* of element.

Chartrand *et al.* in [4] introduced edge-labelings of a graph  $G$  with positive integers such that the sum of the labels of edges incident with a vertex is different for all the vertices in  $G$ . Such labelings were called *irregular assignments*. What is the minimum value of the largest label over all such irregular assignments? This parameter of a graph  $G$  is well known as the *irregularity strength* of the graph  $G$ ,  $s(G)$ .

The irregularity strength  $s(G)$  can be interpreted as the smallest integer  $k$  for which  $G$  can be turned into a multigraph  $G'$  by replacing each edge by a set of at most  $k$  parallel edges, such that the degrees of the vertices in  $G'$  are all different.

Finding the irregularity strength of a graph seems to be hard even for simple graphs, see [3, 5, 6, 8, 9].

Motivated by this research and by total labelings mentioned in a book of Wallis [13], Bača *et al.* in [1] recently defined a vertex irregular total labelings of graphs. For a simple graph  $G = (V, E)$  with vertex set  $V$  and edge set  $E$ , a labeling  $\sigma : V \cup E \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  is called *total  $k$ -labeling*. The associated vertex weight of a vertex  $x \in V(G)$  under a total  $k$ -labeling  $\sigma$  is defined as

$$wt(x) = \sigma(x) + \sum_{y \in N(x)} \sigma(xy),$$

where  $N(x)$  is the set of neighbors of  $x$ . A total  $k$ -labeling  $\sigma$  is defined to be a *vertex irregular total labeling* of a graph  $G$  if for every two different vertices  $x$  and  $y$  of  $G$ ,

$$wt(x) \neq wt(y).$$

The minimum  $k$  for which a graph  $G$  has a vertex irregular total  $k$ -labeling is called the *total vertex irregularity strength* of  $G$ ,  $tvs(G)$ .

It is easy to see that irregularity strength  $s(G)$  of a graph  $G$  is defined only for graphs containing at most one isolated vertex and no connected component of order 2. On the other hand, the total vertex irregularity strength  $tvs(G)$  is defined for every graph  $G$ .

If an edge labeling  $\zeta : E \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, s(G)\}$  provide the irregularity strength  $s(G)$ , then we extend this labeling to total labeling  $\sigma$  in such a way

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma(xy) &= \zeta(xy) && \text{for every } xy \in E(G), \\ \sigma(x) &= 1 && \text{for every } x \in V(G).\end{aligned}$$

Thus, the total labeling  $\sigma$  is a vertex irregular total labeling and for graphs with no component of order  $\leq 2$  is  $tvs(G) \leq s(G)$ .

Nierhoff [11] proved that for all graphs  $G$  with no component of order at most 2 and  $G \neq K_3$ , the irregularity strength  $s(G) \leq p - 1$ . From this result it follows that

$$tvs(G) \leq p - 1. \tag{1}$$

In this paper, we study properties of the vertex irregular total labelings and determine a value of the total vertex irregularity strength for Jahangir graphs and circulant graphs.

## 2 Known Results

The following theorem proved in [1], establishes lower and upper bound for the total vertex irregularity strength of a  $(p, q)$ -graph.

**Theorem 1** [1] *Let  $G$  be a  $(p, q)$ -graph with minimum degree  $\delta = \delta(G)$  and maximum degree  $\Delta = \Delta(G)$ . Then*

$$\left\lceil \frac{p + \delta}{\Delta + 1} \right\rceil \leq tvs(G) \leq p + \Delta - 2\delta + 1. \tag{2}$$

If  $G$  is an  $r$ -regular  $(p, q)$ -graph then from Theorem 1 it follows:

$$\left\lceil \frac{p + r}{r + 1} \right\rceil \leq tvs(G) \leq p - r + 1.$$

For a regular hamiltonian  $(p, q)$ -graph  $G$ , it was showed in [1] that  $tvs(G) \leq \lceil \frac{p+2}{3} \rceil$ . Thus for cycle  $C_p$  we have that  $tvs(C_p) = \lceil \frac{p+2}{3} \rceil$ .

In [1] is determined an exact value of the total vertex irregularity strength for the complete graph of order  $p$  ( $tvs(K_p) = 2$ ), for the prism  $D_n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , ( $tvs(D_n) = \lceil \frac{2n+3}{4} \rceil$ ) and the star  $K_{1,n}$  with  $n$  pendant vertices ( $tvs(K_{1,n}) = \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$ ).

### 3 Main Results

In this part, we study the parameter  $tvs$  for two families of graphs i.e. Jahangir graphs and circulant graphs.

The Jahangir graph  $J_{n,m}$ ,  $n \geq 3$ ,  $m \geq 1$ , consists of a cycle  $C_{nm}$  and one additional vertex which is adjacent to  $n$  vertices of  $C_{nm}$  at distance  $m$  to each other on  $C_{nm}$ . The Jahangir graph was introduced by Tomescu in [12]. The Jahangir graph  $J_{n,2}$  is also known as the *gear graph*, see Ma and Feng [10], and also Gallian [7], page 7. For  $m = 1$ , the Jahangir graph is wheel  $W_n$ . It was shown in [14] that  $tvs(W_n) = \lceil \frac{n+3}{4} \rceil$ .

**Lemma 1** *Let  $J_{n,m}$ ,  $n \geq 3$ ,  $m \geq 2$ , be the Jahangir graph. Then*

$$\max \left\{ \left\lceil \frac{n(m-1)+2}{3} \right\rceil, \left\lceil \frac{nm+2}{4} \right\rceil, \left\lceil \frac{nm+3}{n+1} \right\rceil \right\} \leq tvs(J_{n,m}) \leq nm.$$

**Proof.** The Jahangir graph  $J_{n,m}$  has  $n$  vertices of degree 3,  $n(m-1)$  vertices of degree 2 and one vertex of degree  $n$ . The upper bound of  $tvs$  follows from (1). To prove the lower bound consider the weights of the vertices. The smallest weight among all vertices of  $J_{n,m}$  is at least 3, so the largest weight of vertex of degree 2 is at least  $n(m-1)+2$ . Since the weight of any vertex of degree 2 is the sum of three positive integers, so at least one label is at least  $\left\lceil \frac{n(m-1)+2}{3} \right\rceil$ .

The largest value among the weights of vertices of degree 2 and 3 is at least  $nm+2$  and this weight is the sum of at most four integers. Hence the largest label contributing to this weight must be at least  $\left\lceil \frac{nm+2}{4} \right\rceil$ .

If we consider all vertices of the Jahangir graph  $J_{n,m}$  then the lower bound  $\left\lceil \frac{nm+3}{n+1} \right\rceil$  follows from (2).

This gives  $\max \left\{ \left\lceil \frac{n(m-1)+2}{3} \right\rceil, \left\lceil \frac{nm+2}{4} \right\rceil, \left\lceil \frac{nm+3}{n+1} \right\rceil \right\} \leq tvs(J_{n,m})$  and we are done.  $\square$

**Lemma 2**  $tvs(J_{3,2}) = 3$ .

**Proof.** From Lemma 1 it follows that  $tvs(J_{3,2}) \geq \max\{\lceil \frac{5}{3} \rceil, 2, \lceil \frac{9}{4} \rceil\} = 3$ . For the converse, we define a suitable vertex irregular total labeling by Figure 1.

$\square$

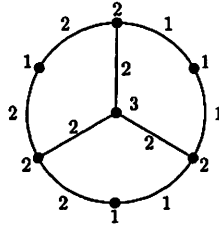


Figure 1: Jahangir graph  $J_{3,2}$ .

**Theorem 2** For  $n \geq 4$ ,  $tvs(J_{n,2}) = \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$ .

**Proof.** According to Lemma 1, we have that  $tvs(J_{n,2}) \geq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$ . Put  $k = \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$ . It is enough to describe a suitable vertex irregular total  $k$ -labeling. Let  $v$  be the central vertex of degree  $n$  and  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  be the vertices of degree 2 and  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  be the vertices of degree 3. Let  $E(J_{n,2}) = \{u_i v_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup \{u_i u_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq n-1\} \cup \{v v_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\} \cup \{v_n u_1\}$  be the edge set of  $J_{n,2}$ .

We define a labeling  $\sigma : V(J_{n,2}) \cup E(J_{n,2}) \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  in the following way

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(v_n u_1) &= 1, \quad \sigma(v) = k, \\ \sigma(u_i v_i) &= \begin{cases} i & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq k \\ n+2-i & \text{for } k+1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \\ \sigma(v_i u_{i+1}) &= \begin{cases} i & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq k-1 \\ k & \text{for } i=k \text{ if } n \text{ is odd} \\ n+1-k & \text{for } i=k \text{ if } n \text{ is even} \\ n+1-i & \text{for } k+1 \leq i \leq n-1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

For  $1 \leq i \leq n$  we put

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(u_i) &= 1, \quad \sigma(v_i) = k, \\ \sigma(v v_i) &= \begin{cases} k & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ k-1 & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

The weights of vertices of  $J_{n,2}$  are as follows:

$$wt(u_i) = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{for } i = 1 \\ 2i & \text{for } 2 \leq i \leq k \\ 2(n+2-i) + 1 & \text{for } k+1 \leq i \leq n \end{cases}$$

$$wt(v) = \begin{cases} k(n+1) - n & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ k(n+1) & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

If  $n$  is even then

$$wt(v_i) = \begin{cases} 2(k+i) - 1 & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq k-1 \\ 2(n+1+k-i) & \text{for } k \leq i \leq n. \end{cases}$$

If  $n$  is odd then

$$wt(v_i) = \begin{cases} 2(k+i) & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq k \\ 2(n+1+k-i) + 1 & \text{for } k+1 \leq i \leq n. \end{cases}$$

The weights of vertices  $u_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , successively attain values  $3, 4, \dots, n+2$  and the weights of vertices  $v_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , receive distinct values from  $n+3$  up to  $2n+2$ .

Thus the labeling  $\sigma$  is the desired vertex irregular total  $k$ -labeling.  $\square$

For  $n \geq 3$  and  $m \geq 3$   $\left\lceil \frac{n(m-1)+2}{3} \right\rceil \geq \left\lceil \frac{nm+3}{n+1} \right\rceil$ , and for  $n \geq 4$  and  $m \geq 3$   $\left\lceil \frac{nm+2}{4} \right\rceil > \left\lceil \frac{nm+3}{n+1} \right\rceil$ . Thus we believe that the following conjecture is true.

**Conjecture 1** Let  $J_{n,m}$  be a Jahangir graph for  $n \geq 3$ ,  $m \geq 3$ . Then

$$tvs(J_{n,m}) = \max \left\{ \left\lceil \frac{n(m-1)+2}{3} \right\rceil, \left\lceil \frac{nm+2}{4} \right\rceil \right\}.$$

The total vertex irregularity strengths for cycle  $C_p$  and complete graph  $K_p$  are known. Our aim is to study the parameter  $tvs$  for circulant graphs. The circulant graphs are an important class of graphs, which can be used in the design of local area networks [2]. Let  $n, m$  and  $a_1, \dots, a_m$  be positive integers,  $1 \leq a_i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  and  $a_i \neq a_j$  for all  $1 \leq i < j \leq m$ . An undirected graph with the set of vertices  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  and the set of edges  $E = \{v_i v_{i+a_j} : 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m\}$ , the indices being taken modulo  $n$ , is called a *circulant graph* and it is denoted by  $C_n(a_1, \dots, a_m)$ . The numbers  $a_1, \dots, a_m$  are called the generators and we say that the edge  $v_i v_{i+a_j}$  is of type  $a_j$ .

It is easy to see that the circulant graph  $C_n(a_1, \dots, a_m)$  is a regular graph of degree  $r$ , where

$$r = \begin{cases} 2m - 1 & \text{if } \frac{n}{2} \in \{a_1, \dots, a_m\} \\ 2m & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

From Theorem 1, it follows that for  $r$ -regular circulant graph

$$C_n(a_1, \dots, a_m), n \geq 3, 1 \leq a_i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor,$$

$$\left\lceil \frac{n+r}{r+1} \right\rceil \leq tvs(C_n(a_1, \dots, a_m)) \leq n-r+1.$$

The following theorem gives the exact value of the total vertex irregularity strength for circulant graphs  $C_n(1, 2)$ .

**Theorem 3** For the circulant graph  $C_n(1, 2)$ ,  $n \geq 5$ , we have

$$tvs(C_n(1, 2)) = \left\lceil \frac{n+4}{5} \right\rceil.$$

**Proof.** According to Theorem 1 we have  $tvs(C_n(1, 2)) \geq \lceil \frac{n+4}{5} \rceil$ . In order to show the converse inequality, it only remains to describe a vertex irregular total  $\lceil \frac{n+4}{5} \rceil$ -labeling. Let us distinguish four cases:

*Case 1.*  $n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{5}$

Define the function  $\psi_1$  as follows:

For  $1 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$  put

$$\psi_1(v_i) = \begin{cases} 1 + 2\lfloor \frac{i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } i \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{5} \\ 2 + 2\lfloor \frac{i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } i \equiv 3, 4 \pmod{5} \\ \frac{2i}{5} & \text{if } i \equiv 0 \pmod{5} \end{cases}$$

$$\psi_1(v_i v_{i+2}) = \begin{cases} 1 + 2\lfloor \frac{i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } i \equiv 1 \pmod{5} \\ 2 + 2\lfloor \frac{i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } i \equiv 2, 3, 4 \pmod{5} \\ 1 + \frac{2i}{5} & \text{if } i \equiv 0 \pmod{5} \end{cases}$$

$$\psi_1(v_i v_{i+1}) = \begin{cases} 1 + 2\lfloor \frac{i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } i \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{5} \\ 2 + 2\lfloor \frac{i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } i \equiv 3, 4 \pmod{5} \\ 1 + \frac{2i}{5} & \text{if } i \equiv 0 \pmod{5}. \end{cases}$$

For  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n-1$  put

$$\psi_1(v_i) = \begin{cases} 2 + 2\lfloor \frac{n-i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } n-i \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{5} \\ 3 + 2\lfloor \frac{n-i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } n-i \equiv 3, 4 \pmod{5} \\ 1 + 2\frac{n-i}{5} & \text{if } n-i \equiv 0 \pmod{5} \end{cases}$$

$$\psi_1(v_i v_{i+1}) = \begin{cases} 2 + 2\lfloor \frac{n-i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } n-i \equiv 1, 2, 3 \pmod{5} \\ 3 + 2\lfloor \frac{n-i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } n-i \equiv 4 \pmod{5} \\ 1 + 2\frac{n-i}{5} & \text{if } n-i \equiv 0 \pmod{5}. \end{cases}$$

For  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1 \leq i \leq n-2$  put

$$\psi_1(v_i v_{i+2}) = \begin{cases} 1 + 2\lfloor \frac{n-i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } n-i \equiv 1 \pmod{5} \\ 2 + 2\lfloor \frac{n-i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } n-i \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{5} \\ 3 + 2\lfloor \frac{n-i}{5} \rfloor & \text{if } n-i \equiv 4 \pmod{5} \\ 1 + 2\frac{n-i}{5} & \text{if } n-i \equiv 0 \pmod{5}. \end{cases}$$

Moreover put

$$\psi_1(v_n) = \psi_1(v_n v_1) = \psi_1(v_{n-1} v_1) = \psi_1(v_n v_2) = 1.$$

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} wt(v_i) &= \psi_1(v_i) + \psi_1(v_i v_{i+1}) + \psi_1(v_{i-1} v_i) + \psi_1(v_i v_{i+2}) + \psi_1(v_{i-2} v_i) \\ &= \begin{cases} 5 & \text{for } i = 1 \\ 2 + 2i & \text{for } 2 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1 \\ 2n + 7 - 2i & \text{for } \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 2 \leq i \leq n \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

with indices taken modulo  $n$ .

The function  $\psi_1$  is a map from  $V(C_n(1, 2)) \cup E(C_n(1, 2))$  into  $\{1, 2, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n+4}{5} \rfloor\}$  and the weights of the vertices under the labeling  $\psi_1$  constitute the set  $\{5, 6, \dots, n+4\}$ .

*Case 2.*  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$

Define the function  $\psi_2 : V(C_n(1, 2)) \cup E(C_n(1, 2)) \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n+4}{5} \rfloor\}$  such that:

$$\psi_2(v_i) = \begin{cases} \psi_1(v_i) & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \\ \lfloor \frac{n+4}{5} \rfloor & \text{for } i = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1 \\ \psi_1(v_i) & \text{for } \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 2 \leq i \leq n-1 \\ 1 & \text{for } i = n \end{cases}$$

$$\psi_2(v_i v_{i+1}) = \psi_1(v_i v_{i+1}) \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1$$



$$\begin{aligned}\psi_2(v_i v_{i+2}) &= \psi_1(v_i v_{i+2}) \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n-2 \\ \psi_2(v_n v_1) &= \psi_2(v_{n-1} v_1) = \psi_2(v_n v_2) = 1.\end{aligned}$$

One can see that the weights of vertices under the function  $\psi_2$  receive distinct labels from the set  $\{5, 6, \dots, n+4\}$  and that  $\psi_2$  is vertex irregular total labeling having the required property.

*Case 3.  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$*

Define the function  $\psi_3 : V(C_n(1, 2)) \cup E(C_n(1, 2)) \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, \lceil \frac{n+4}{5} \rceil\}$  in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_3(v_i) &= \psi_2(v_i) \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n \\ \psi_3(v_i v_{i+1}) &= \begin{cases} \psi_1(v_i v_{i+1}) & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil - 1 \\ \lceil \frac{n+4}{5} \rceil & \text{for } i = \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil \\ \psi_1(v_i v_{i+1}) & \text{for } \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \end{cases} \\ \psi_3(v_i v_{i+2}) &= \psi_1(v_i v_{i+2}) \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n-2 \\ \psi_3(v_n v_1) &= \psi_3(v_{n-1} v_1) = \psi_3(v_n v_2) = 1.\end{aligned}$$

*Case 4.  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$*

Define the function  $\psi_4 : V(C_n(1, 2)) \cup E(C_n(1, 2)) \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, \lceil \frac{n+4}{5} \rceil\}$  as follow:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_4(v_i v_{i+1}) &= \psi_1(v_i v_{i+1}) \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \\ \psi_4(v_i v_{i+2}) &= \psi_1(v_i v_{i+2}) \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n-2 \\ \psi_4(v_n v_1) &= \psi_4(v_{n-1} v_1) = \psi_4(v_n v_2) = 1.\end{aligned}$$

If  $n \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$  we put

$$\psi_4(v_i) = \begin{cases} \psi_1(v_i) & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil - 1 \\ \lceil \frac{n+4}{5} \rceil & \text{for } i = \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil \\ \psi_1(v_i) & \text{for } \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \\ 1 & \text{for } i = n. \end{cases}$$

If  $n \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$  we put

$$\psi_4(v_i) = \begin{cases} \psi_1(v_i) & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 1 \\ \lceil \frac{n+4}{5} \rceil & \text{for } i = \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2 \\ \psi_1(v_i) & \text{for } \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 3 \leq i \leq n-1 \\ 1 & \text{for } i = n. \end{cases}$$

For the labelings  $\psi_3$  and  $\psi_4$ , we use a similar observation applied in *Case 1* that the weights of vertices successively attain values  $5, 6, \dots, n+4$ . Thus the labelings  $\psi_3$  and  $\psi_4$  are the desired vertex irregular total  $\lceil \frac{n+4}{5} \rceil$ -labelings.

□

Although we have not yet found the general formulas for vertex irregular total labeling of circulant graph  $C_n(a_1, \dots, a_m)$ ,  $n \geq 3$ ,  $1 \leq a_i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ , that will determine the lower bound in Theorem 1 as exact value of the parameter  $tvs$ , the result from Theorem 3 leads us to suggest the following

**Conjecture 2** *Let  $C_n(a_1, \dots, a_m)$  be a circulant graph of degree  $r \geq 5$ ,  $n \geq 6$  and  $1 \leq a_i \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ . Then*

$$tvs(C_n(a_1, \dots, a_m)) = \left\lceil \frac{n+r}{1+r} \right\rceil.$$

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