

# A kind of conditional vertex connectivity of recursive circulants\*

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**Abstract** A vertex subset  $F$  is a  $R_k$ -vertex-cut of a connected graph  $G$  if  $G - F$  is disconnected and every vertex in  $G - F$  has at least  $k$  good neighbors in  $G - F$ . The cardinality of the minimum  $R_k$ -vertex-cut of  $G$  is the  $R_k$ -connectivity of  $G$ , denoted by  $\kappa^k(G)$ . This parameter measures a kind of conditional fault tolerance of networks. In this paper, we determine  $R_1$ -connectivity and  $R_2$ -connectivity of recursive circulant graphs  $G(2^m, 2)$ .

**Keywords:** Interconnection networks; Cayley graphs; Conditional connectivity; Recursive circulants

## 1 Introduction

For graph-theoretical terminologies and notations not given here, we follow Bondy [1]. In a network, traditional connectivity is an important measure since it can correctly reflect the fault tolerance of network systems with few processors. However, it always underestimates the resilience of large networks. There is a discrepancy because the occurrence of events which would disrupt a large network after a few processor or link failures

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is highly unlikely. To overcome such shortcoming, Latifi et al [7] defined  $R_h$ -connectivity [5] as follows. A vertex subset  $F$  is a  $R_k$ -vertex-cut of a connected graph  $G$  if  $G - F$  is disconnected and every vertex in  $G - F$  has at least  $k$  good neighbors in  $G - F$ . The cardinality of the minimum  $R_k$ -vertex-cut of  $G$  is the  $R_k$ -connectivity of  $G$ , denoted by  $\kappa^k(G)$ . Park and Chwa [11] proposed an interconnection structure for multi-computer networks as follows.

**Definition 1.** The recursive circulant  $G(N, d)$  has vertex set  $V = \{0, 1, \dots, N - 1\}$ , and edge set  $E = \{(v, w) \mid v \in V, w \in V \text{ there exists } i, 0 \leq i \leq \lceil \log_d N \rceil - 1, \text{ such that } v + d^i \equiv w \pmod{N}\}$ .

**Definition 2.** For a group  $X$ , let  $S$  be a subset of  $X$  such that  $1_X \notin S$  and  $S^{-1} = S$ , the Cayley graph  $\text{Cay}(X, S)$  is a graph with vertex set  $X$  and edge set  $\{(g, sg) \mid g \in X, s \in S\}$ .

The hypercube is a well known model for computer networks which has been attracted many attentions in the past four decades, for example [2, 3] and [6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19]. An  $n$ -dimensional hypercube is an undirected graph  $Q_n = (V, E)$  with  $|V| = 2^n$  and  $|E| = n2^{n-1}$ . Each vertex can be represented by an  $n$ -bit binary string. There is an edge between two vertices whenever their binary string representation differs in exactly one bit position.

Combining Definition 1 with Definition 2, it can be seen that  $G(N, d) \cong \text{Cay}(Z_N, \{\pm d^0, \pm d^1, \dots, \pm d^{\lceil \log_d N \rceil}\})$ . Thus,  $G(N, d)$  is vertex symmetric. By the definition of the hypercube, we have  $G(2^m, 2)$  is a supergraph of  $Q_m$ , see [8, 18] for the studies of embedding a graph in recursive circulants. Three simple examples of recursive circulants are given in Fig.1.

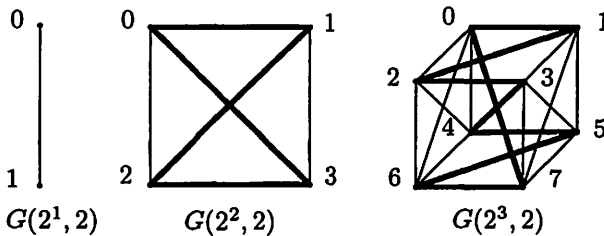


Fig.1. Examples of recursive circulants

In particular,  $G(2^m, 2)$  has many advantages over the  $m$ -dimensional hypercube, see Table.1. It can be seen that if a hypercube and recursive

circulant  $G(2^m, 2)$  have the same number of vertices, the recursive circulant  $G(2^m, 2)$  has higher connectivity which increases the fault tolerance, smaller diameter which reduces the transmission delay, etc., see [7, 11] for the details.

Graph	Dimension	Vertices	Degree	Diameter	Connectivity
$Q_m$	$m$	$2^m$	$m$	$m$	$m$
$G(2^m, 2)$	$m$	$2^m$	$2m - 1$	$\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor$	$2m - 1$

Table.1

There are many results on the  $R_h$ -connectivity of hypercubes, see [7, 9, 13, 15] for examples. Park and Chwa [11] shown that the connectivity of  $G(2^m, 2)$   $\kappa(G(2^m, 2))$  equals its regular degree  $2m - 1$ . In this note, we determine the  $R_h$ -connectivity of  $G(2^m, 2)$  for  $h = 1, 2$ .

## 2 preliminaries

For the graphs  $G(cd^m, d)$ , we always assume  $m \geq 1$ . Park and Chwa shown in [11] that recursive circulant  $G(N, d)$  has a recursive structure when  $N = cd^m, 1 \leq c < d$  as follows.

**Property 1.** *Let  $V_i$  be a subset of vertices in  $G(cd^m, d)$  such that  $V_i = \{v \mid v \equiv i \pmod{d}\}, m \geq 1, 0 \leq i < d$ . The subgraph of  $G(cd^m, d)$  induced by each  $V_i$  is isomorphic to  $G(cd^{m-1}, d)$ .*

$G(cd^m, d), m \geq 1$ , can be defined recursively on  $d$  copies of  $G(cd^{m-1}, d)$  as follows. Let  $G_i(V_i, E_i), 0 \leq i < d$ , be a copy of  $G(cd^{m-1}, d)$ . We assume that  $V_i = \{v_0^i, v_1^i, \dots, v_{cd^{m-1}-1}^i\}$  and relabel  $v_j^i$  by  $jd + i$ . Thus  $V(G(cd^m, d)) = \bigcup_{0 \leq i < d} V_i$ , and  $E(G(cd^m, d)) = \bigcup_{0 \leq i < d} E_i \cup X$ , where  $X = \{(v, w) \mid v - w \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{cd^m}\}$ . Furthermore, the edges of  $X$  form a hamiltonian cycle of  $G(cd^{m-1}, d)$ , see [11] for the details. The construction of  $G(2^3, 2)$  on two copies of  $G(2^2, 2)$  is shown in Fig.1.

For an edge  $e = (x, y)$  of  $G(2^m, 2)$ , if  $x - y \equiv \pm 2^i \pmod{2^m}$ , we say  $e$  has label  $i$ . For  $G(2^m, 2)$ , let  $V_i = \{v \mid v \equiv i \pmod{2}\}, i = 0, 1$ . By the Property 1,  $G(2^m, 2)[V_i]$  is isomorphic to  $G(2^{m-1}, 2)$ . For notational convenience, we use  $X$  to denote the hamiltonian cycle of  $G(2^m, 2)$  consisting of the edge set  $\{(x, y) \mid x - y \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{2^m}\}$ , use  $G_i(2^m, 2)$  to

denote  $G(2^m, 2)[V_i]$  and assume that  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are two perfect matching of  $G(2^m, 2)$  such that  $X = M_1 \cup M_2$ . Let  $S$  be a vertex set of  $G_i(2^m, 2)$ . We use  $N_G(x)$  to denote the neighborhood of the vertex  $x$  in  $G$ ,  $N_G(S)$  to denote the set  $\bigcup_{x \in S} N_G(x) \setminus S$ ,  $N_{M_i}(S)$  to denote the set of the vertex adjacent to a vertex of  $S$  by some edge of  $M_i$ . If no confusion, the subscripts of  $N_G(x)$  and  $N_G(S)$  are always omitted in the following.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $H$  be a triangle in  $G(2^m, 2)$ . Then there are two edges of  $H$  having the same label  $l$ , and another edge has label  $l + 1$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $V(H) = \{x, y, z\}$  with  $x < y < z$ , and  $(x, y)$ ,  $(y, z)$  and  $(x, z)$  have label  $i, j$  and  $k$ , respectively. Since  $H$  is a triangle, we have

$$x + 2^i + 2^j \equiv x + 2^k \pmod{2^m}$$

Notice that  $i, j, k$  are less than  $m$ , we have

$$\begin{cases} i = j \\ k = i + 1 = j + 1. \end{cases}$$

Thus, there are two edges of  $H$  having the same label  $l$ , and another edge has label  $l + 1$ .  $\square$

Let  $(x, y)$  be an edge of  $G(2^m, 2)$  with label  $i$ . Without loss of generality we can assume  $y = x + 2^i$ , then we can see that all the common neighbors of  $x$  and  $y$  are  $y + 2^i, x - 2^i, x + 2^{i-1}$  if  $1 \leq i \leq m - 2$ . By an argument similar to above and Lemma 2.1, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.2.** *If  $(x, y) \in E(G(2^m, 2))$  has label  $i$ , then*

$$|N(x) \cap N(y)| = \begin{cases} 2, & i = 0 \text{ or } i = m - 1, \\ 3, & 1 \leq i \leq m - 2. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 2.3.** *Suppose  $x, y$  are two distinct nonadjacent vertices of  $G(2^m, 2)$ . Then  $|N(x) \cap N(y)| \leq 4$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x, y$  be two distinct nonadjacent vertices of  $G(2^m, 2)$ . Note that  $G(2^m, 2)$  is vertex symmetry, without loss of generality we can assume  $x = 0$ . Assume  $y = 2^i + 2^j$ . By the definition of  $G(2^m, 2)$ , we can see that all the common neighbors of  $x$  and  $y$  are  $2^i, 2^j$  and  $-2^k, -2^l$  if  $k, l$  exist, where  $k, l$  are two integers such that  $-2^k - 2^l \equiv 2^i + 2^j \pmod{2^m}$ . Note that  $i, j, k, l \leq m - 1$ , we have  $|N(x) \cap N(y)| \leq 4$ .  $\square$

In particular, it is not difficult to see that  $|N(x) \cap N(y)| = 4$  if and only if  $x - y \equiv \pm(2^{m-2} + 2^{m-3}) \pmod{2^m}$ . For example, the common neighborhood of 0 and  $2^{m-2} + 2^{m-3}$  is  $\{2^{m-3}, 2^{m-2}, -2^{m-1}, -2^{m-3}\}$ .

**Observation 1.** Let  $(x, y) \in E(G(2^4, 2))$ . Then  $N(\{x, y\})$  is a  $R_1$ -vertex-cut of  $G(2^4, 2)$  (see Fig.2).

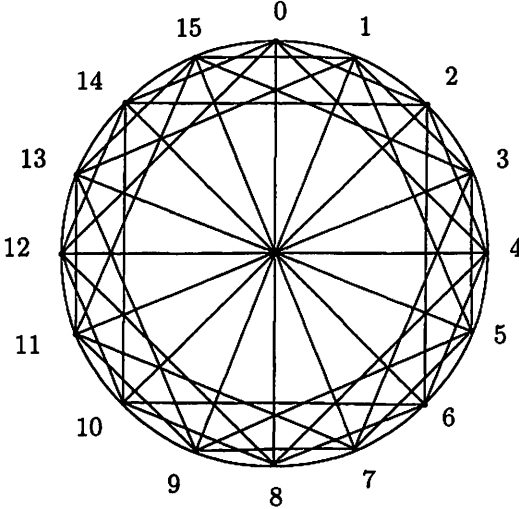


Fig.2  $G(2^4, 2)$

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $(x, y) \in E(G(2^m, 2))$ . Then  $N(\{x, y\})$  is a  $R_1$ -vertex-cut of  $G(2^m, 2)$ . Furthermore,  $\kappa^1(G(2^m, 2)) \leq 4m - 7$ .

*Proof.* By induction on  $m$ . Let  $(x, y) \in E(G(2^m, 2))$  with label  $i$ . If  $m = 4$ , then the result holds by Observation 1. Suppose  $m \geq 5$  in the following. We shall show that  $V(G(2^m, 2)) - N(\{x, y\})$  contains no isolated vertex.

**Case 1.**  $i = 0$ .

In this case,  $(x, y)$  is an edge between  $G_0(2^m, 2)$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2)$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that  $x \in V_0, y \in V_1$ . It is sufficient to show that each vertex  $z \in V(G(2^m, 2)) - N(\{x, y\}) \cup \{x, y\}$  has a neighbor in  $V(G(2^m, 2)) - N(\{x, y\}) \cup \{x, y\}$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that  $z \in V(G_0(2^m, 2))$ . By Lemma 2.3,  $x$  and  $z$  have at most 4 common neighbors, and note that  $|N_{G_0(2^m, 2)}(z)| = 2(m-1) - 1 = 2m - 3 \geq 7$  for  $m \geq 5$ , thus there exists a neighbor of  $z$  in  $V(G_0(2^m, 2)) - N(\{x, y\}) \cup \{x, y\}$ .

**Case 2.**  $1 \leq i \leq m - 1$ .

In this case, we have either  $(x, y) \in E(G_0(2^m, 2))$  or  $(x, y) \in E(G_1(2^m, 2))$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that  $(x, y) \in E(G_0(2^m, 2))$ . Note that  $|N(\{x, y\}) \cap V(G_1(2^m, 2))| \leq 4$  and  $\kappa(G_1(2^m, 2)) = 2(m - 1) - 1 = 2m - 3 \geq 7$  for  $m \geq 5$ . Hence  $G_1(2^m, 2) - N(\{x, y\})$  is connected, that is, there exists no isolated vertex in  $G_1(2^m, 2) - N(\{x, y\})$ . By induction hypothesis,  $N_{G_0(2^m, 2)}(\{x, y\})$  is a  $R_1$ -vertex-cut of  $G_0(2^m, 2)$ , that is, there exists no isolated vertex in  $G_0(2^m, 2) - N(\{x, y\})$ . Thus,  $N(\{x, y\})$  is a  $R_1$ -vertex-cut of  $G(2^m, 2)$ .

Note that if  $(x, y) \in E(G(2^m, 2))$  has label  $i, 1 \leq i \leq m - 2$ , then  $|N(x) \cap N(y)| = 3$  by Corollary 2.2. Thus,  $\kappa^1(G(2^m, 2)) \leq |N(x)| + |N(y)| - |\{x, y\}| - |N(x) \cap N(y)| = 2(2m - 1) - 2 - 3 = 4m - 7$ .  $\square$

By an argument similar to above, we have the following results.

**Observation 2.** For any triangle  $H$  of  $G(2^5, 2)$ ,  $N(H)$  is a  $R_2$ -vertex-cut of  $G(2^5, 2)$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** For any triangle  $H$  of  $G(2^m, 2), m \geq 5$ ,  $N(H)$  is a  $R_2$ -vertex-cut of  $G(2^m, 2)$ . Furthermore,  $\kappa^2(G(2^m, 2)) \leq 6m - 15$ .

### 3 Main result

**Theorem 3.1.**  $\kappa^1(G(2^m, 2)) = 4m - 7$  for  $m \geq 4$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.4,  $\kappa^1(G(2^m, 2)) \leq 4m - 7$ . Now we show that  $\kappa^1(G(2^m, 2)) \geq 4m - 7$ .

Suppose by the way of contradiction that  $\kappa^1(G(2^m, 2)) \leq 4m - 8$ . Let  $F$  be a minimum  $R_1$ -vertex-cut, then  $|F| \leq 4m - 8$ . Denote by  $F_i$  the vertex set  $F \cap V(G_i(2^m, 2))$  in the following arguments. Note that  $\kappa(G_0(2^m, 2)) = \kappa(G_0(2^m, 2)) = 2(m - 1) - 1$ , we have at least one of  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  is connected.

**Case 1.**  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  are both connected.

We claim that  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  is connected to  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$ . Note that  $|N_{M_1}(G_0(2^m, 2)) \cap V(G_1(2^m, 2))| = 2^{m-1}$ ,  $|F| = 4m - 8$  and  $2^{m-1} \geq 4m - 8$  for  $m \geq 4$ . If  $m \geq 5$ , then the above inequality is strict, that is, there exists  $x \in G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0, y \in G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  such that  $(x, y) \in M_1$ .

That is,  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  is connected to  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$ . On the other hand, if  $m = 4$ , then the above inequality becomes equality, but clearly there exists  $x \in G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0, y \in G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  such that  $(x, y) \in M_2$ . That is,  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  is connects to  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$ .

**Case 2.** One of  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  is disconnected.

Without loss of generality, we assume that  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  is disconnected and has  $r$  components,  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_r, r \geq 2$ . Since  $F$  is a  $R_1$ -vertex-cut, there exists a nontrivial component  $H_j$  of  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  such that it is disconnected to  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$ . Take  $(x, y) \in E(H_j)$  and assume that  $(x, y)$  has label  $i$ . Let  $S_1 = (N_{G_0(2^m, 2)}(\{x, y\})) \cap F$ ,  $S_2 = (N_{G_0(2^m, 2)}(\{x, y\})) \setminus F$  and  $S_3 = N_{G_1(2^m, 2)}(x) \cup N_{G_1(2^m, 2)}(y)$ , see Fig.3. Clearly,  $S_3 \in F_1$ . By the definition of  $G(2^m, 2)$ , it is not difficult to see that  $S_2$  has at least  $|S_2|$  neighbors in  $G_1(2^m, 2)$  which are not in  $S_3$ . Thus  $|F| \geq |S_1| + |S_2| + |S_3| \geq 4m - 7 > 4m - 8$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

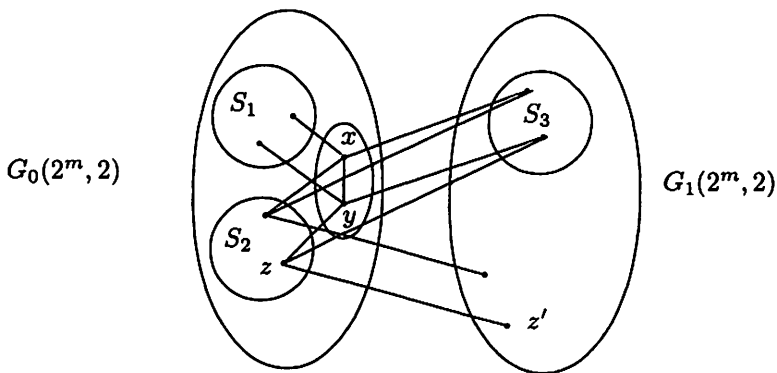


Fig.3

**Theorem 3.2.**  $\kappa^2(G(2^m, 2)) = 6m - 15$  for  $m \geq 5$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.5,  $\kappa^2(G(2^m, 2)) \leq 6m - 15$ . Now we show that  $\kappa^2(G(2^m, 2)) \geq 6m - 15$ . Suppose by the way of contradiction that  $\kappa^2(G(2^m, 2)) \leq$

$6m - 16$ . Let  $F$  be a minimum  $R_1$ -vertex-cut, then  $|F| \leq 6m - 16$ . Denote by  $F_i$  the vertex set  $F \cap V(G_i(2^m, 2))$  in the following argument. We denote the number of all isolated vertices contained in  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  by  $k$ . Clearly,  $k < 3$ .

**Case 1.**  $k = 0$ .

If  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  are connected. This case can be proved by a similar argument of Case 1 of Theorem 2.4.

If one of  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  is disconnected. Without loss of generality, we assume that  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  is disconnected and has  $r$  components,  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_r$ . Note that  $F$  is a  $R_2$ -vertex-cut, then there exists a component  $H_i$  with  $\delta(H_i) \geq 2$  such that  $H_i$  is disconnected to  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$ . Take a path  $P_3$  of  $H_i$  with three vertices, similar to Case 2 of Theorem 3.1, we can complete the proof of this case.

If  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  are disconnected. Since there exists no isolated vertex in  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$ ,  $F_0, F_1$  are both  $R_1$ -vertex-cuts of  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$ , respectively. Note that  $|F_0| \geq \kappa^1(G_0(2^m, 2))$ ,  $|F_1| \geq \kappa^1(G_1(2^m, 2))$ , and  $\kappa^1(G_0(2^m, 2)) = \kappa^1(G_1(2^m, 2)) = 4(m - 1) - 7 = 4m - 11$  we have  $|F| = |F_0| + |F_1| \geq 8m - 22 > 6m - 16$  for  $m \geq 5$ , a contradiction.

**Case 2.**  $k = 1$ .

Without loss of generality, We assume that  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  contains an isolated vertex.

If  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  is disconnected. Note that  $F_0$  is a vertex cut of  $G_0(2^m, 2)$  and  $F_1$  is a  $R_1$ -vertex-cut of  $G_1(2^m, 2)$ , we have  $|F| = |F_0| + |F_1| \geq 2(m - 1) - 1 + 4(m - 1) - 7 = 6m - 14 > 6m - 16$ , a contradiction.

If  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$  is connected. Thus, there exists a component  $H$  of  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F_0$  with  $\delta(H) \geq 2$  such that  $H$  is disconnected to  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F_1$ . Take a path  $P_3$  in  $H$ , similar to Case 2 of Theorem 3.1, we can complete the proof of this case.

**Case 3.**  $k = 2$ .

Let  $x, y$  be the two isolated vertices of  $G(2^m, 2) - F$ . If  $x, y$  are both in  $G_0(2^m, 2)$  or  $G_1(2^m, 2)$ . We can prove this case by an argument similar to case 2.



With loss of generality, we next assume  $x \in G_0(2^m, 2)$  and  $y \in G_1(2^m, 2)$ . Let  $F' = F \cup \{x\}$ . Denote by  $F'_i$  the vertex set  $F' \cap V(G_i(2^m, 2))$ . If  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F'_0$  is disconnected, then  $F'_0$  is a  $R_1$ -vertex-cut of  $G_0(2^m, 2)$ . Hence,  $|F| = |F'| - 1 = |F'_0| + |F'_1| - 1 \geq 4(m-1) - 7 + 2(m-1) - 1 - 1 = 6m - 15 > 6m - 16$ , a contradiction. If  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F'_0$  is connected. Similarly, let  $F'' = F \cup \{y\}$ , we have  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F''_1$  is connected. Assume that  $G_0(2^m, 2) - F'_0 = B_0$  and  $G_1(2^m, 2) - F''_1 = B_1$ . Note that  $|N_{G_1(2^m, 2)}(B_0)| \geq |B_0| + 1$ ,  $|N_{G_0(2^m, 2)}(B_1)| \geq |B_1| + 1$ , if  $B_0$  is disconnected to  $B_1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |F| &= |F_0| + |F_1| \geq |N_{G_0(2^m, 2)}(B_1)| - 1 + |N_{G_1(2^m, 2)}(B_0)| - 1 \\ &\geq |B_1| + |B_0| \geq 2^m - |F| - 2 = 2^m - 2 - |F| \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $2|F| \geq 2^m - 2$ , this is impossible for  $m \geq 5$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

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