

On ρ -labeling up to ten vertex-disjoint C_{4x+1}

E. Butzen, S. I. El-Zanati*, H. Jordon,
A. Modica, R. Schrishuhn

4520 Mathematics Department
Illinois State University

Normal, Illinois 61790-4520, U.S.A.

E-mail of corresponding author: saad@ilstu.edu

Abstract

Let G be a graph of size n with vertex set $V(G)$ and edge set $E(G)$. A ρ -labeling of G is a one-to-one function $f : V(G) \rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, 2n\}$ such that $\{|f(u) - f(v)| : \{u, v\} \in E(G)\} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$, where for each $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ either $x_i = i$ or $x_i = 2n + 1 - i$. Such a labeling of G yields a cyclic G -decomposition of K_{2n+1} . It is conjectured by El-Zanati and Vanden Eynden that every 2-regular graph G admits a ρ -labeling. We show that the union of up to ten vertex-disjoint C_{4x+1} admits a ρ -labeling.

1 Introduction

If a and b are integers we denote $\{a, a+1, \dots, b\}$ by $[a, b]$ (if $a > b$, $[a, b] = \emptyset$). Let \mathbb{N} denote the set of nonnegative integers and \mathbb{Z}_n the group of integers modulo n . For a graph G , let $V(G)$ and $E(G)$ denote the vertex set of G and the edge set of G , respectively. The *order* and the *size* of a graph G are $|V(G)|$ and $|E(G)|$, respectively.

Let $V(K_k) = \mathbb{Z}_k$ and let G be a subgraph of K_k . By *clicking* G , we mean applying the isomorphism $i \rightarrow i + 1$ to $V(G)$. Let H and G be graphs such that G is a subgraph of H . A G -decomposition of H is a set

*Research supported by National Science Foundation Grant No. 0633335

$\Gamma = \{G_1, G_2, \dots, G_t\}$ of pairwise disjoint subgraphs of H each of which is isomorphic to G and such that $E(H) = \bigcup_{i=1}^t E(G_i)$. If H is K_k , a G -decomposition Γ of H is *cyclic* if clicking is a permutation of Γ . If G is a graph and r is a positive integer, rG denotes the vertex-disjoint union of r copies of G .

For any graph G , a one-to-one function $f : V(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is called a *labeling* (or a *valuation*) of G . In [20], Rosa introduced a hierarchy of labelings. We add a few items to this hierarchy. Let G be a graph with n edges and no isolated vertices and let f be a labeling of G . Let $f(V(G)) = \{f(u) : u \in V(G)\}$. Define a function $\bar{f} : E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^+$ by $\bar{f}(e) = |f(u) - f(v)|$, where $e = \{u, v\} \in E(G)$. Let $\bar{E}(G) = \{\bar{f}(e) : e \in E(G)\}$. Consider the following conditions:

$$(\ell 1) \quad f(V(G)) \subseteq [0, 2n],$$

$$(\ell 2) \quad f(V(G)) \subseteq [0, n],$$

$$(\ell 3) \quad \bar{E}(G) = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}, \text{ where for each } i \in [1, n] \text{ either } x_i = i \text{ or } x_i = 2n + 1 - i,$$

$$(\ell 4) \quad \bar{E}(G) = [1, n].$$

If in addition G is bipartite with bipartition $\{A, B\}$ of $V(G)$ (with every edge in G having one endvertex in A and the other in B) such that

$$(\ell 5) \quad \text{for each } \{a, b\} \in E(G) \text{ with } a \in A \text{ and } b \in B, \text{ we have } f(a) < f(b),$$

$$(\ell 6) \quad \text{there exists an integer } \lambda \text{ (called the } \textit{boundary value} \text{ of } f) \text{ such that } f(a) \leq \lambda \text{ for all } a \in A \text{ and } f(b) > \lambda \text{ for all } b \in B.$$

Then a labeling satisfying the conditions:

$$(\ell 1), (\ell 3) \text{ is called a } \rho\text{-labeling};$$

$$(\ell 1), (\ell 4) \text{ is called a } \sigma\text{-labeling};$$

$$(\ell 2), (\ell 4) \text{ is called a } \beta\text{-labeling}.$$

A β -labeling is necessarily a σ -labeling which in turn is a ρ -labeling. If G is bipartite and a ρ , σ or β -labeling of G also satisfies $(\ell 5)$, then the labeling is *ordered* and is denoted by ρ^+ , σ^+ or β^+ , respectively. If in addition $(\ell 6)$ is satisfied, the labeling is *uniformly-ordered* and is denoted by ρ^{++} , σ^{++} or β^{++} , respectively.

A β -labeling is better known as a *graceful* labeling and a uniformly-ordered β -labeling is an α -labeling as introduced in [20].

Labelings are critical to the study of cyclic graph decompositions as seen in the following two results from [20] and [13], respectively.

Theorem 1 *Let G be a graph with n edges. There exists a cyclic G -decomposition of K_{2n+1} if and only if G has a ρ -labeling.*

Theorem 2 *Let G be a graph with n edges that has a ρ^+ -labeling. Then there exists a cyclic G -decomposition of K_{2nx+1} for all positive integers x .*

If G with n edges is not bipartite, then the best that could be obtained until recently (see [12]) from a Rosa-type labeling was a cyclic G -decomposition of K_{2n+1} . A non-bipartite graph G is *almost-bipartite* if G contains an edge e whose removal renders the remaining graph bipartite (for example, odd cycles are almost-bipartite). In [6], Blinco et al. introduced a variation of a ρ -labeling of an almost-bipartite graph G of size n that yields cyclic G -decompositions of K_{2nt+1} . They called this labeling a γ -labeling.

Let G be a graph with n edges and h a labeling of the vertices of G . We call h a γ -labeling of G if the following conditions hold.

- g1 The function h is a ρ -labeling of G .
- g2 The graph G is tripartite with vertex tripartition A, B, C with $C = \{c\}$ and $\hat{b} \in B$ such that $\{\hat{b}, c\}$ is the unique edge joining an element of B to c .
- g3 If $\{a, v\}$ is an edge of G with $a \in A$, then $h(a) < h(v)$.
- g4 We have $|h(c) - h(\hat{b})| = n$.

Note that if a graph G has a γ -labeling, then it is almost-bipartite as defined earlier. In this case, removing the edge $\{c, \hat{b}\}$ from G produces a bipartite graph. See Figure 1 for γ -labelings of C_5 and of C_9 .

Let G be a graph with n edges and Eulerian components and let h be a σ -labeling of G . It is well-known (see [3]) that we must have $n \equiv 0$ or $3 \pmod{4}$. Moreover, if such a G is bipartite, then $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$. We shall refer to this restriction as the *parity condition*. There are no such restrictions on $|E(G)|$ if h is a ρ -labeling.

Theorem 3 (Parity Condition) *If a graph G with Eulerian components and n edges has a σ -labeling, then $n \equiv 0$ or $3 \pmod{4}$. If such a G is bipartite, then $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$.*

In [20], Rosa presented α - and β -labelings of C_{4m} and of C_{4m+3} , respectively. It is also known that both C_{4m+1} and C_{4m+2} admit ρ -labelings. It was shown in [13] that there exists a ρ^+ -labeling of C_{4m+2} , for all positive integers m . It can be easily checked that this labeling is actually a ρ^{++} -labeling.

In this manuscript, we will focus on labelings of 2-regular graphs (i.e., the vertex-disjoint union of cycles). If a 2-regular graph G is bipartite, then it is known that G admits a σ^+ -labeling if the parity condition is satisfied (see [13]) and a ρ^{++} -labeling otherwise (see [5]). A 2-regular graph G need not admit a β -labeling even if the parity condition is satisfied. For example, it is shown in [17] that rC_3 does not admit a β -labeling for all $r > 1$ and rC_5 does not admit a β -labeling for all $r \geq 1$. Moreover, it is known that $C_3 \cup C_3 \cup C_5$ is the smallest 2-regular graph that satisfies the parity condition, yet fails to have a β -labeling (see [2]). It is thus reasonable to focus on labelings that are less restrictive than β -labelings when studying 2-regular graphs.

Here, we shall show that for $r \leq 10$ and $x \geq 1$, the 2-regular graph rC_{4x+1} has a ρ -labeling. These results are already known if $r \leq 4$ (see [10]). Our results provide further evidence in support of a conjecture of El-Zanati and Vanden Eynden that every 2-regular graph admits a ρ -labeling.

2 Summary of Some of the Known Results

As stated in the previous section, the following is known for cycles (see [19], [20] and [13]).

Theorem 4 *Let $m \geq 3$ be an integer. Then C_m admits an α -labeling if $m \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, a ρ -labeling if $m \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, a ρ^{++} -labeling if $m \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, and a β -labeling if $m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$.*

For 2-regular graphs with two components, we have the following important result from Abrham and Kotzig [2].

Theorem 5 *Let $m \geq 3$ and $n \geq 3$ be integers. Then the graph $C_m \cup C_n$ has a β -labeling if and only if $m+n \equiv 0$ or $3 \pmod{4}$. Moreover, $C_m \cup C_n$ has an α -labeling if and only if both m and n are even and $m+n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$.*

If the parity condition is not satisfied, then we have the following from [5] and [11].

Theorem 6 *Let $m \geq 3$ and $n \geq 3$ be integers such that $m + n \equiv 1$ or $2 \pmod{4}$. Then $C_m \cup C_n$ has a ρ^{++} -labeling if both m and n are even and a ρ -labeling otherwise.*

For 2-regular graphs with more than two components, the following is known. In [17], Kotzig shows that if $r > 1$, then rC_3 does not admit a β -labeling. Similarly, he shows that rC_5 does not admit a β -labeling for any r . In [18], Kotzig shows that $3C_{4k+1}$ admits a β -labeling for all $k \geq 2$. From results in [9], it can be shown that rC_3 admits a ρ -labeling for all $r \geq 1$. The ρ -labeling in [9] can be modified to produce a σ -labeling of rC_3 when the parity condition is satisfied. In [14], Eshghi shows that $C_{2m} \cup C_{2n} \cup C_{2k}$ has an α -labeling for all m, n , and $k \geq 2$ with $m+n+k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ except when $m = n = k = 2$. In [1], Abrham and Kotzig show that rC_4 has an α -labeling for all positive integers $r \neq 3$. In [10], it is shown that $3C_m$ and $4C_m$ admit σ -labelings if the parity condition is satisfied and ρ -labelings otherwise. An additional result follows by combining results from [13] and from [5].

Theorem 7 *Let G be a 2-regular bipartite graph of order n . Then G has a σ^+ -labeling if $n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ and a ρ^{++} -labeling if $n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$.*

Finally we note that in [8], it is shown that every 2-regular almost-bipartite graph $G \neq C_3 \cup (kC_4)$, $k \in \{0, 1\}$, has a γ -labeling.

3 Main results

Let $V(C_{4x+1}) = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{4x+1}\}$ and $E(C_{4x+1}) = \{\{v_i, v_{i+1}\} : 1 \leq i \leq 4x\} \cup \{v_{4x+1}, v_1\}$. Let $A = \{v_{2i-1} : 1 \leq i \leq 2x\}$, $B = \{v_{2i} : 1 \leq i \leq 2x\}$, and $C = \{v_{4x+1}\}$. Let $\hat{b} = v_{4x}$ and let $c = v_{4x+1}$. Thus A, B, C is a vertex tripartition of C_{4x+1} with a unique edge e joining $\hat{b} = v_{4x} \in B$ to the sole vertex $c = v_{4x+1} \in C$. In [6], it is shown (though described differently) that the following function f defines a γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} .

$$f(v_i) = \begin{cases} \frac{i-1}{2} & \text{if } i \leq 4x-1 \text{ is odd} \\ 4x - \frac{i-2}{2} & \text{if } i \leq 2x-2 \text{ is even} \\ 4x - \frac{i}{2} & \text{if } i \geq 2x \text{ is even} \\ 6x + 1 & \text{if } i = 4x + 1 \end{cases}$$

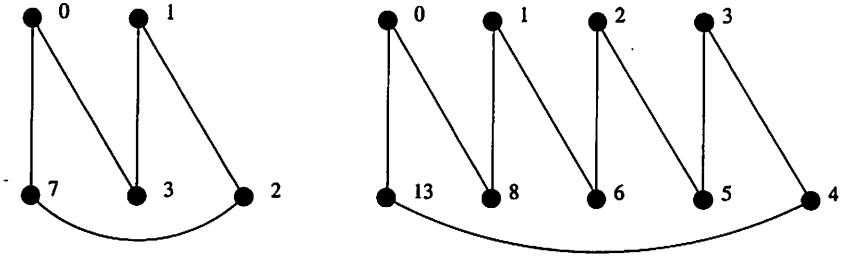


Figure 1: Examples of γ -labelings of C_5 and C_9 .

See Figure 1 for γ -labelings of C_5 and of C_9 .

As stated earlier, the following is proved in [6].

Theorem 8 *Let G be a graph with n edges having a γ -labeling. Then G divides K_{2nt+1} cyclically for all positive integers t .*

We illustrate how Theorem 8 works. For the actual proof, we direct the reader to [6]. Let G have n edges and let h be a γ -labeling for G , with A , B , C , c , and \hat{b} as in the above definition. Let B_1, B_2, \dots, B_t be t vertex-disjoint copies of B , and let c_1, c_2, \dots, c_t be t new vertices. The vertex in B_i corresponding to $b \in B$ will be called b_i . Let $B^* = \bigcup_1^t B_i$ and $C^* = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_t\}$. We define a new graph G^* with vertex set $A \cup B^* \cup C^*$ and edges $\{a, v_i\}$, $1 \leq i \leq t$, whenever $a \in A$ and $\{a, v\}$ is an edge of G , and $\{\hat{b}_i, c_i\}$, $1 \leq i \leq t$. Clearly G^* has nt edges and G divides G^* . Define a labeling h^* on G^* by

$$h^*(v) = \begin{cases} h(v) & v \in A, \\ h(b) + (i-1)2n & v = b_i \in B_i, \\ h(c) + (t-i)2n & v = c_i. \end{cases}$$

It can be shown that the labeling h^* is a ρ -labeling of G^* and thus the result follows by Theorem 1.

Figure 2 shows a γ -labeling of C_5 and the C_5 -decomposition of G^* which can be used to obtain a cyclic C_5 -decomposition of K_{31} .

For $1 \leq i \leq t$, let G_i be the subgraph of G^* induced by the vertex set $V(G_i) = A \cup B_i \cup \{c_i\}$. Thus $\Delta = \{G_1, G_2, \dots, G_t\}$ is a G -decomposition of G^* . If G is C_{4x+1} and if $t \leq 10$, we will obtain a ρ -labeling of tC_{4x+1} by modifying the labelings of G_1, G_2, \dots, G_t as to make the new G_i 's vertex-disjoint.

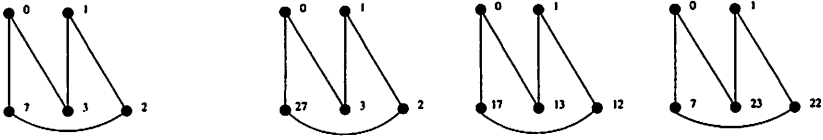


Figure 2: (a) A γ -labeling of C_5 . (b) Three C_5 's used for a cyclic decomposition of K_{31} .

Theorem 9 *If $t \leq 10$, then tC_{4x+1} admits a ρ -labeling.*

Proof. We will modify the labelings of G_1, G_2, \dots, G_t from the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} to obtain the desired results.

Case 1 $t = 1$.

By definition, the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} is a ρ -labeling.

Case 2 $t = 2$.

From the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} , the labels for G_1 and G_2 are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$14x + 3$
G_2	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [10x + 2, 12x + 2]$	$6x + 1$

We will keep the labels in G_1 as is and add $4x + 2$ to every label in G_2 . The new labels are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$14x + 3$
G_2	$[4x + 2, 6x + 1]$	$\subset [14x + 4, 16x + 4]$	$10x + 3$

It is easy to see that the labels of G_1 and G_2 are disjoint.

Case 3 $t = 3$.

From the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} , the labels for G_1, G_2 , and G_3 are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$22x + 5$
G_2	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [10x + 2, 12x + 2]$	$14x + 3$
G_3	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [18x + 4, 20x + 4]$	$6x + 1$

We will keep the labels in G_1 as is, add $4x + 2$ to every label in G_3 , and add $6x + 2$ to every label in G_2 . The new labels are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A -set	Labels of B -set	Label of c -vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$22x + 5$
G_2	$[6x + 2, 8x + 1]$	$\subset [16x + 4, 18x + 4]$	$20x + 5$
G_3	$[4x + 2, 6x + 1]$	$\subset [22x + 6, 24x + 6]$	$10x + 3$

It is easy to see that the labels of G_1 , G_2 and G_3 are disjoint.

Case 4 $t = 4$.

From the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} , the labels for G_1, \dots, G_4 are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A -set	Labels of B -set	Label of c -vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$30x + 7$
G_2	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [10x + 2, 12x + 2]$	$22x + 5$
G_3	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [18x + 4, 20x + 4]$	$14x + 3$
G_4	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [26x + 6, 28x + 6]$	$6x + 1$

We will keep the labels in G_1 as is, add $4x + 2$ to every label in G_4 , add $6x + 2$ to every label in G_2 , and add $8x + 2$ to every label in G_3 . The new labels are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A -set	Labels of B -set	Label of c -vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$30x + 7$
G_2	$[6x + 2, 8x + 1]$	$\subset [16x + 4, 18x + 4]$	$28x + 7$
G_3	$[8x + 2, 10x + 1]$	$\subset [26x + 6, 28x + 6]$	$22x + 5$
G_4	$[4x + 2, 6x + 1]$	$\subset [30x + 8, 32x + 8]$	$10x + 3$

It is easy to see that the labels of G_1, \dots, G_4 are disjoint.

Case 5 $t = 5$.

From the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} , the labels for G_1, \dots, G_5 are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A -set	Labels of B -set	Label of c -vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$38x + 9$
G_2	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [10x + 2, 12x + 2]$	$30x + 7$
G_3	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [18x + 4, 20x + 4]$	$22x + 5$
G_4	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [26x + 6, 28x + 6]$	$14x + 3$
G_5	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [34x + 8, 36x + 8]$	$6x + 1$

We will keep the labels in G_1 as is, add $4x + 2$ to every label in G_5 , add $6x + 2$ to every label in G_2 , and add $8x + 2$ to every label in G_4 , and add $10x + 4$ to every label in G_3 . The new labels are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A -set	Labels of B -set	Label of c -vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$38x + 9$
G_2	$[6x + 2, 8x + 1]$	$\subset [16x + 4, 18x + 4]$	$36x + 9$
G_3	$[10x + 4, 12x + 3]$	$\subset [28x + 8, 30x + 8]$	$32x + 9$
G_4	$[8x + 2, 10x + 1]$	$\subset [34x + 8, 36x + 8]$	$22x + 5$
G_5	$[4x + 2, 6x + 1]$	$\subset [38x + 10, 40x + 10]$	$10x + 3$

It is easy to see that the labels of G_1, \dots, G_5 are disjoint.

Case 6 $t = 6$.

From the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} , the labels for G_1, \dots, G_6 are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A -set	Labels of B -set	Label of c -vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$46x + 11$
G_2	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [10x + 2, 12x + 2]$	$38x + 9$
G_3	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [18x + 4, 20x + 4]$	$30x + 7$
G_4	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [26x + 6, 28x + 6]$	$22x + 5$
G_5	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [34x + 8, 36x + 8]$	$14x + 3$
G_6	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [42x + 10, 44x + 10]$	$6x + 1$

We will keep the labels in G_1 as is, add $4x + 2$ to every label in G_6 , add $6x + 2$ to every label in G_2 , and add $8x + 2$ to every label in G_5 , and add $10x + 4$ to every label in G_3 , and add $12x + 4$ to every label in G_4 . The new labels are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A -set	Labels of B -set	Label of c -vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$46x + 11$
G_2	$[6x + 2, 8x + 1]$	$\subset [16x + 4, 18x + 4]$	$44x + 11$
G_3	$[10x + 4, 12x + 3]$	$\subset [28x + 8, 30x + 8]$	$40x + 11$
G_4	$[12x + 4, 14x + 3]$	$\subset [38x + 10, 40x + 10]$	$34x + 9$
G_5	$[8x + 2, 10x + 1]$	$\subset [42x + 10, 44x + 10]$	$22x + 5$
G_6	$[4x + 2, 6x + 1]$	$\subset [46x + 12, 48x + 12]$	$10x + 3$

It is easy to see that the labels of G_1, \dots, G_6 are disjoint.

Case 7 $t = 7$.

From the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} , the labels for G_1, \dots, G_7 are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$54x + 13$
G_2	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [10x + 2, 12x + 2]$	$46x + 11$
G_3	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [18x + 4, 20x + 4]$	$38x + 9$
G_4	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [26x + 6, 28x + 6]$	$30x + 7$
G_5	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [34x + 8, 36x + 8]$	$22x + 5$
G_6	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [42x + 10, 44x + 10]$	$14x + 3$
G_7	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [50x + 12, 52x + 12]$	$6x + 1$

We will keep the labels in G_1 as is, add $4x + 2$ to every label in G_7 , add $6x + 2$ to every label in G_2 , and add $8x + 2$ to every label in G_6 , and add $10x + 4$ to every label in G_3 , and add $12x + 4$ to every label in G_5 , and add $14x + 4$ to every label in G_4 . The new labels are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$54x + 13$
G_2	$[6x + 2, 8x + 1]$	$\subset [16x + 4, 18x + 4]$	$52x + 13$
G_3	$[10x + 4, 12x + 3]$	$\subset [28x + 8, 30x + 8]$	$48x + 13$
G_4	$[14x + 4, 16x + 3]$	$\subset [40x + 10, 42x + 10]$	$44x + 11$
G_5	$[12x + 4, 14x + 3]$	$\subset [46x + 12, 48x + 12]$	$34x + 9$
G_6	$[8x + 2, 10x + 1]$	$\subset [50x + 12, 52x + 12]$	$22x + 5$
G_7	$[4x + 2, 6x + 1]$	$\subset [54x + 14, 56x + 14]$	$10x + 3$

It is easy to see that the labels of G_1, \dots, G_7 are disjoint.

Case 8 $t = 8$.

From the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} , the labels for G_1, \dots, G_8 are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$62x + 15$
G_2	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [10x + 2, 12x + 2]$	$54x + 13$
G_3	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [18x + 4, 20x + 4]$	$46x + 11$
G_4	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [26x + 6, 28x + 6]$	$38x + 9$
G_5	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [34x + 8, 36x + 8]$	$30x + 7$
G_6	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [42x + 10, 44x + 10]$	$22x + 5$
G_7	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [50x + 12, 52x + 12]$	$14x + 3$
G_8	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [58x + 14, 60x + 14]$	$6x + 1$

We will keep the labels in G_1 as is, add $4x + 2$ to every label in G_8 , add $6x + 2$ to every label in G_2 , add $8x + 2$ to every label in G_7 , add $10x + 4$ to every label in G_3 , add $12x + 4$ to every label in G_6 , add $14x + 4$ to every

label in G_4 , and add $18x + 6$ to every label in G_5 . The new labels are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$62x + 15$
G_2	$[6x + 2, 8x + 1]$	$\subset [16x + 4, 18x + 4]$	$60x + 15$
G_3	$[10x + 4, 12x + 3]$	$\subset [28x + 8, 30x + 8]$	$56x + 15$
G_4	$[14x + 4, 16x + 3]$	$\subset [40x + 10, 42x + 10]$	$52x + 13$
G_5	$[18x + 6, 20x + 5]$	$\subset [52x + 14, 54x + 14]$	$48x + 13$
G_6	$[12x + 4, 14x + 3]$	$\subset [54x + 14, 56x + 14]$	$34x + 9$
G_7	$[8x + 2, 10x + 1]$	$\subset [58x + 14, 60x + 14]$	$22x + 5$
G_8	$[4x + 2, 6x + 1]$	$\subset [62x + 16, 64x + 16]$	$10x + 3$

In this case, if $x > 1$, then the label $54x + 14$ appears on two vertices. It is the label of the vertex corresponding to v_2 in G_5 and it is the label of the vertex corresponding to v_{4x} in G_6 . In G_5 , the two vertices adjacent to v_2 are v_1 with label $18x + 6$ and v_3 with label $18x + 7$. Thus the edge $\{v_1, v_2\}$ has label $36x + 8$, which corresponds to length $28x + 9$ (in K_{64x+17}), while the edge $\{v_2, v_3\}$ has label $36x + 7$, which in turn corresponds to length $28x + 10$. Thus if we re-label v_2 in G_5 with $46x + 16$, we preserve the two edge lengths and use a label that has not been used on any vertices. This would make the labels of G_1, \dots, G_8 disjoint.

Case 9 $t = 9$.

From the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} , the labels for G_1, \dots, G_9 are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$70x + 17$
G_2	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [10x + 2, 12x + 2]$	$62x + 15$
G_3	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [18x + 4, 20x + 4]$	$54x + 13$
G_4	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [26x + 6, 28x + 6]$	$46x + 11$
G_5	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [34x + 8, 36x + 8]$	$38x + 9$
G_6	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [42x + 10, 44x + 10]$	$30x + 7$
G_7	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [50x + 12, 52x + 12]$	$22x + 5$
G_8	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [58x + 14, 60x + 14]$	$14x + 3$
G_9	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [66x + 16, 68x + 16]$	$6x + 1$

We will keep the labels in G_1 as is, add $4x + 2$ to every label in G_9 , add $6x + 2$ to every label in G_2 , add $8x + 2$ to every label in G_8 , add $10x + 4$ to every label in G_3 , add $12x + 4$ to every label in G_7 , add $14x + 4$ to every label in G_4 , add $18x + 6$ to every label in G_6 , and add $20x + 6$ to every label in G_5 . The new labels are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A -set	Labels of B -set	Label of c -vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$70x + 17$
G_2	$[6x + 2, 8x + 1]$	$\subset [16x + 4, 18x + 4]$	$68x + 17$
G_3	$[10x + 4, 12x + 3]$	$\subset [28x + 8, 30x + 8]$	$64x + 17$
G_4	$[14x + 4, 16x + 3]$	$\subset [40x + 10, 42x + 10]$	$60x + 15$
G_5	$[20x + 6, 22x + 5]$	$\subset [54x + 14, 56x + 14]$	$58x + 15$
G_6	$[18x + 6, 20x + 5]$	$\subset [60x + 16, 62x + 16]$	$48x + 13$
G_7	$[12x + 4, 14x + 3]$	$\subset [62x + 16, 64x + 16]$	$34x + 9$
G_8	$[8x + 2, 10x + 1]$	$\subset [66x + 16, 68x + 16]$	$22x + 5$
G_9	$[4x + 2, 6x + 1]$	$\subset [70x + 18, 72x + 18]$	$10x + 3$

In this case, two vertex labels can appear twice. First, $22x + 5$ will be the label of v_{4x-1} in G_5 and it will also be the label of v_{4x+1} in G_8 . Similarly, if $x > 1$, then $62x + 16$ is the label of v_2 in G_6 and it is also the label of v_{4x} in G_7 . First we note that the two neighbors of v_2 in G_6 are v_1 with label $18x + 6$ and v_3 with label $18x + 7$. Thus $\{v_1, v_2\}$ has label $44x + 10$ and hence length $28x + 9$, and $\{v_2, v_3\}$ has label $44x + 9$ and hence length $28x + 10$. If we re-label v_2 with $46x + 16$, which is a label that has not been used, the $\{v_1, v_2\}$ would have length $28x + 10$ and $\{v_2, v_3\}$ would have length $28x + 9$. This would eliminate the repeated vertex label $62x + 16$ from G_6 while preserving the edge-lengths.

Similarly, we note that the two neighbors of v_{4x+1} in G_8 are v_1 with label $8x + 2$ and v_{4x} with label $66x + 16$. Thus $\{v_{4x+1}, v_1\}$ has label $14x + 3$ which is also its length, and $\{v_{4x+1}, v_{4x}\}$ has label $44x + 11$ and hence length $28x + 8$. If we re-label v_{4x+1} with $52x + 13$, which is a label that has not been used, then $\{v_{4x+1}, v_1\}$ would have length $28x + 8$ and $\{v_{4x+1}, v_{4x}\}$ would have length $14x + 3$. It is easy to see that the labels of G_1, \dots, G_9 are now disjoint.

Case 10 $t = 10$.

From the γ -labeling of C_{4x+1} , the labels for G_1, \dots, G_{10} are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$78x + 19$
G_2	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [10x + 2, 12x + 2]$	$70x + 17$
G_3	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [18x + 4, 20x + 4]$	$62x + 15$
G_4	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [26x + 6, 28x + 6]$	$54x + 13$
G_5	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [34x + 8, 36x + 8]$	$46x + 11$
G_6	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [42x + 10, 44x + 10]$	$38x + 9$
G_7	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [50x + 12, 52x + 12]$	$30x + 7$
G_8	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [58x + 14, 60x + 14]$	$22x + 5$
G_9	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [66x + 16, 68x + 16]$	$14x + 3$
G_{10}	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [74x + 18, 76x + 18]$	$6x + 1$

We will keep the labels in G_1 as is, add $4x + 2$ to every label in G_{10} , add $6x + 2$ to every label in G_2 , add $8x + 2$ to every label in G_9 , add $10x + 4$ to every label in G_3 , add $12x + 4$ to every label in G_8 , add $14x + 4$ to every label in G_4 , add $18x + 6$ to every label in G_7 , add $20x + 6$ to every label in G_5 , and add $22x + 6$ to every label in G_6 . The new labels are as follows.

Graph	Labels of A-set	Labels of B-set	Label of c-vertex
G_1	$[0, 2x - 1]$	$\subset [2x, 4x]$	$78x + 19$
G_2	$[6x + 2, 8x + 1]$	$\subset [16x + 4, 18x + 4]$	$76x + 19$
G_3	$[10x + 4, 12x + 3]$	$\subset [28x + 8, 30x + 8]$	$72x + 19$
G_4	$[14x + 4, 16x + 3]$	$\subset [40x + 10, 42x + 10]$	$68x + 17$
G_5	$[20x + 6, 22x + 5]$	$\subset [54x + 14, 56x + 14]$	$66x + 17$
G_6	$[22x + 6, 24x + 5]$	$\subset [64x + 16, 66x + 16]$	$60x + 15$
G_7	$[18x + 6, 20x + 5]$	$\subset [68x + 18, 70x + 18]$	$48x + 13$
G_8	$[12x + 4, 14x + 3]$	$\subset [70x + 18, 72x + 18]$	$34x + 9$
G_9	$[8x + 2, 10x + 1]$	$\subset [74x + 18, 76x + 18]$	$22x + 5$
G_{10}	$[4x + 2, 6x + 1]$	$\subset [78x + 20, 80x + 20]$	$10x + 3$

As in the previous case, two vertex labels can appear twice. First, $22x + 5$ will be the label of v_{4x-1} in G_5 and it will also be the label of v_{4x+1} in G_9 . Similarly, if $x > 1$, then $70x + 18$ is the label of v_2 in G_7 and it is also the label of v_{4x} in G_8 . First we note that the two neighbors of v_2 in G_7 are v_1 with label $18x + 6$ and v_3 with label $18x + 7$. Thus $\{v_1, v_2\}$ has label $52x + 12$ and hence length $28x + 9$, and $\{v_2, v_3\}$ has label $52x + 11$ and hence length $28x + 10$. If we re-label v_2 (in G_7) with $46x + 16$, which is a label that has not been used, then $\{v_1, v_2\}$ would have length $28x + 10$ and $\{v_2, v_3\}$ would have length $28x + 9$. This would eliminate the repeated vertex label $70x + 18$ from G_7 while preserving the edge-lengths.

Eliminating the repeated label $22x + 5$ will be slightly more challenging. Note that the two neighbors of v_{4x+1} in G_9 are v_1 with label $8x + 2$ and

v_{4x} with label $74x + 18$. Thus $\{v_{4x+1}, v_1\}$ has label $14x + 3$ which is also its length, and $\{v_{4x+1}, v_{4x}\}$ has label $52x + 13$ which corresponds to length $28x + 8$. First, we re-label v_{4x+1} in G_9 with $60x + 15$. Thus $\{v_{4x+1}, v_1\}$ would now have label $52x + 13$, which is length $28x + 8$, and $\{v_{4x+1}, v_{4x}\}$ would have label $14x + 3$, which is its new length. Unfortunately, $60x + 15$ is also the label of v_{4x+1} in G_6 . The two neighbors of v_{4x+1} in G_6 are v_1 with the label $22x + 6$ and v_{4x} with the label $64x + 16$. Here we re-label v_{4x+1} with $26x + 7$ (which has not been used). This induces the label $4x + 1$ on the edge $\{v_{4x+1}, v_1\}$ and the label $38x + 9$ on $\{v_{4x+1}, v_{4x}\}$. Thus the labels on the two edges are simply switched. The labels of G_1, \dots, G_{10} are now disjoint. \square

Using Theorems 1 and 9, we get the following.

Corollary 10 *Let $G = tC_{4x+1}$ where $t \leq 10$ and let $n = (4x + 1)t$. Then there exists a cyclic G -decomposition of K_{2n+1} .*

4 Concluding Remarks

Unfortunately, the approach used in the proof of Theorem 9 will not yield additional ρ -labelings of tC_{4x+1} for $t > 10$ (as can be seen in the complications in the proof of case 10 above). Moreover, this approach does not work with any of the currently known γ -labelings of cycles of the length $4x + 3$ to produce ρ -labelings of tC_{4x+3} . It is clear that a different approach will be necessary to produce additional results of this type. Nonetheless, we note that our results here, along with results from [3], [9] and [16] among others, provide further evidence in support of the following conjecture of El-Zanati and Vanden Eynden.

Conjecture 11 *Every 2-regular graph has a ρ -labeling.*

5 Acknowledgements

This work is supported by National Science Foundation Grant No. 0633335: *A Model Teacher-Scholar Program in Secondary Mathematics*. The research was completed while the first, fourth, and fifth author were enrolled in an undergraduate research program at Illinois State University.

References

- [1] J. Abrham and A. Kotzig, All 2-regular graphs consisting of 4-cycles are graceful, *Discrete Math.* **135** (1994), 1–14.
- [2] J. Abrham and A. Kotzig, Graceful valuations of 2-regular graphs with two components, *Discrete Math.* **150** (1996), 3–15.
- [3] A. Aguado and S.I. El-Zanati, On σ -labeling the union of three cycles, *J. Comb. Math. Comb. Comput.* **64** (2008), 33–48.
- [4] A. Aguado, S.I. El-Zanati, H. Hake, J. Stob, and H. Yayla, On ρ -labeling the union of three cycles, *Australas. J. Combin.* **37** (2007), 155–170.
- [5] A. Blinco and S.I. El-Zanati, A note on the cyclic decomposition of complete graphs into bipartite graphs, *Bull. Inst. Combin. Appl.* **40** (2004), 77–82.
- [6] A. Blinco, S.I. El-Zanati, and C. Vanden Eynden, On the cyclic decomposition of complete graphs into almost-bipartite graphs, *Discrete Math.* **284** (2004), 71–81.
- [7] J. Bosák, *Decompositions of Graphs*, Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, Dordrecht, 1990.
- [8] R.C. Bunge, S.I. El-Zanati, and C. Vanden Eynden, On γ -labelings of almost-bipartite graphs, in preparation.
- [9] J.H. Dinitz and P. Rodney, Disjoint difference families with block size 3, *Util. Math.* **52** (1997), 153–160.
- [10] D. Donovan, S.I. El-Zanati, C. Vanden Eynden, and S. Sutinuntopas, Labelings of unions of up to four uniform cycles, *Australas. J. Combin.* **29** (2004), 323–336.
- [11] J. Dumouchel and S.I. El-Zanati, On labeling the union of two cycles, *J. Comb. Math. Comb. Comput.* **53** (2005), 3–11.
- [12] S.I. El-Zanati and C. Vanden Eynden, On Rosa-type labelings and cyclic graph decompositions, *Mathematica Slovaca*, to appear.
- [13] S.I. El-Zanati, C. Vanden Eynden and N. Punnim, On the cyclic decomposition of complete graphs into bipartite graphs, *Australas. J. Combin.* **24** (2001), 209–219.

- [14] K. Eshghi, The existence and construction of α -valuations of 2-regular graphs with 3 components, Ph.D. Thesis, Industrial Engineering Dept., University of Toronto, 1997.
- [15] J.A. Gallian, A dynamic survey of graph labeling, *Electron. J. Combin.*, Dynamic Survey 6, 148 pp.
- [16] H. Hevia and S. Ruiz, Decompositions of complete graphs into caterpillars, *Rev. Mat. Apl.* **9** (1987), 55–62.
- [17] A. Kotzig, β -valuations of quadratic graphs with isomorphic components, *Util. Math.*, **7** (1975), 263–279.
- [18] A. Kotzig, Recent results and open problems in graceful graphs, *Congress. Numer.* **44** (1984), 197–219.
- [19] A. Rosa, On the cyclic decomposition of the complete graph into polygons with odd number of edges, *Časopis Pěst. Mat.* **91** (1966), 53–63.
- [20] A. Rosa, On certain valuations of the vertices of a graph, in: *Théorie des graphes, journées internationales d'études, Rome 1966* (Dunod, Paris, 1967), 349–355.