

# SPLINES ON WHEEL GRAPHS OVER $\mathbb{Z} \bmod p^k\mathbb{Z}$

RadhaMadhavi Duggaraju<sup>1</sup> Dr.Lipika Mazumdar<sup>2</sup>

Navrachana University, Vadodara, 391410

E-mail: <sup>1</sup> [rmadhavi17@gmail.com](mailto:rmadhavi17@gmail.com) <sup>2</sup> [lipikam@nuv.ac.in](mailto:lipikam@nuv.ac.in)

**Abstract**—Given a graph  $G$  whose edges are labelled by ideals of a commutative ring  $R$ , a generalized spline is a labelling of each vertex by a commutative ring element so that adjacent vertices differ by an element of the ideal associated to the edge. These generalized splines form a sub ring of a product of copies of  $R$ . So they form a module over  $R$ , termed as generalised spline modules. The module of generalized splines contain a free sub module whose rank is the number of vertices in  $G$ . We find a generating set of flow-up classes for wheel graphs over the ring  $\mathbb{Z}/p^k\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $p$  is prime. Also we classify splines on cycles and wheel graphs over the ring  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  when  $m$  has few prime factors and find a generating set of flow up classes on these graphs over  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ .

## I. Introduction

In this paper we extend the work done by Nealy Bowden and Julianna Tymoczko on cycles [1] to classify splines on wheel graphs, find a minimum generating set of flow-up classes over  $\mathbb{Z}/p^k\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $p$  is a prime and classify splines on cycles over  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  if  $m$  has few prime factors

In various areas of mathematics, a smooth curve is created by piecing together polynomials so that at the point where two polynomials meet their derivatives upto certain order are equal. Mathematically a spline is a collection of polynomials on the faces of a polyhedral complex that agree (modulo power of a linear form) on the intersection of two faces ([5], [6], [7], [8], [9]).

Mathematicians chose the term splines to refer to the piecewise polynomial functions used to create smooth curves. Splines also have a rich history in Homological and Commutative Algebra as well as Geometry and Topology ([5], [8], [10]).

An integer generalized spline is a set of vertex labels on an edge-labeled graph that satisfy the condition that if two vertices are joined by an edge, the vertex labels are congruent modulo the edge label [Def.2.1] (Refer [2]).

The ring  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is a finite ring which is not an integral domain. Thus the generalised spline modules over  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  must have minimum generating sets -namely a generating set with smallest possible size. The structure theorem for finite abelian groups [4] shows that finite modules are generally not free, but the minimum generating sets function like bases except that each element  $b$  of the minimum generating set has a scalar  $c_b$  satisfying

$$c_b \cdot b = 0$$

Over  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  these minimum generating sets can be smaller than expected. Over a domain we know that the module of splines contain a free submodule of rank atleast the number of vertices [2], and over a principal ideal domain the module of splines is always free with rank the number of vertices. There are at most  $n$  elements in the minimum generating set for splines **mod**  $m$  on a graph with  $n$  vertices Theorem 4.1, [1]. The rank of the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module of splines is defined to be the number of elements of a minimum generating set.

## 2. Preliminaries

1.  $G$ : a graph, defined as a set of vertices  $V$  and edges  $E$ , assumed throughout to be finite with no multiple edges between vertices.
2.  $R$ : a commutative ring with identity 1.
3.  $I$ : the set of ideals in  $R$ .
4.  $\alpha$ : an edge-labelling function on  $G$  that assigns a nonzero element of  $I$  to each edge in  $E$ .
5.  $(G, \alpha)$ : an edge-labeled graph.
6.  $R_G$ : the ring of generalized splines on  $(G, \alpha)$ .
7.  $p$ : a generalized spline, satisfying the edge condition over the graph  $G$ .

**Definition 2.1 (Edge condition):** Let  $G(V, E)$  be a finite graph. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity. Let  $\alpha: E \rightarrow \{\text{ideals in } R\}$  be a function that labels the edges of  $G$  with ideals in  $R$ . The splines on  $G$  are elements  $f \in R^{|V|}$  such that for each edge  $\{uv\} \in E$ , we have:  $f_u - f_v \in (\alpha(uv))$

The collection of splines over the graph  $G$  with edge-labelling  $\alpha$  is denoted  $R_{G, \alpha}$  or just  $R_G$  if the edge-labelling is clear. In this

paper the base ring is the quotient ring  $R = \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ . Every ideal in  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is principal so we typically describe an edge-label ( $\mathbf{a}$ ) by the generator  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Remark 2.2:** We generally assume that the edges of our graphs are not labelled with 0 or with units. If the edge  $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2$  is labeled with a unit, it does not restrict the splines on the graph since  $\mathbf{v}_1 \equiv \mathbf{v}_2 \pmod{\mathbf{1}}$  is always true. If an edge  $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{v}_1\mathbf{v}_2$  is labelled zero it tells us that for every spline  $\mathbf{p}$  the values

$$\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{v}_1} = \mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{v}_2}.$$

The notion of flow-up splines, which generalizes the concept of a triangular generating set from linear algebra, is defined as follows:

**Definition 2.3(Flow-up splines):** Given a graph  $\mathbf{G}$  with an ordered set of vertices  $\mathbf{V} = (\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n)$  a flow-up spline for a vertex  $\mathbf{v}_i$  is a spline  $\mathbf{f}^i$  for which  $\mathbf{f}^i_{\mathbf{v}_k} = \mathbf{0}$ , whenever  $k < i$ .

Typically the order is chosen consistently with a direction on the edges of the graph.

**Definition 2.4 (constant flow up spline):** A constant flow up spline in  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  is a flow-up spline  $\mathbf{p}$  for which there exists an element  $\mathbf{n}_i \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\mathbf{p}_{\mathbf{v}_i} \in \{\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{n}_i\}$ , for each  $\mathbf{v}_i \in \mathbf{V}$ .

The graph we discuss most in this manuscript is the wheelgraph with  $\mathbf{n}+1$  vertices, which we label as shown in [Fig.1].

### 3. Splines over $\mathbb{Z}/p^k\mathbb{Z}$ .

In this section we use the following proposition 2.4 from [2], corollary 3.14 from [1], which are as follows:

**Proposition[2]:**  $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{G}}$  is a ring with unit  $\mathbf{1}$ , defined by  $\mathbf{1}_{\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{1}$  for each vertex  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}$ .

**Corollary[1]:** Let  $\mathbf{m}$  be an integer. Let  $\mathbf{G}$  be an edge-labelled graph and let  $\mathbf{G}^*$  be a graph obtained from  $\mathbf{G}$  by adding a vertex  $\mathbf{v}$  and some edges between  $\mathbf{v}$  and vertices in  $\mathbf{G}$ . Each spline on the expanded graph  $\mathbf{G}^*$  consists of the sum of a spline coming from  $\mathbf{G}$  and a spline supported exactly on the new vertex.

Here we construct an edge labelled wheel graph  $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{n}+1}$  from a cycle graph  $\mathbf{C}_n$  by adding one vertex  $\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{n}+1}$  in the interior of the cycle  $\mathbf{C}_n$  and corresponding  $\mathbf{n}$  edges between  $\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{n}+1}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  vertices of  $\mathbf{C}_n$ . This new vertex is adjacent to all the vertices of  $\mathbf{C}_n$ .

So in wheel graph the vertex labels  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n$  satisfy the edge conditions of  $\mathbf{C}_n$  and the vertex labels  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{n}+1}$  satisfy the edge conditions of  $\mathbf{l}_1, \mathbf{l}_2, \dots, \mathbf{l}_n, \mathbf{l}_{\mathbf{n}+1}, \mathbf{l}_{\mathbf{n}+2}, \dots, \mathbf{l}_{2\mathbf{n}}$ [Def2.1], where  $\mathbf{l}_i$ 's are shown in Fig1.

The following theorems 5.1[1], 5.2[1] and corollary 5.3[1] are used for proving our **Theorem 3.1**

**Theorem[1]:** Let  $\mathbf{p}$  be a prime number. If  $\mathbf{G}$  is an edge-labelled graph over  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ , with no edges labelled zero then every vertex-labelling over  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  is a spline on  $\mathbf{G}$ .

**Theorem[1]:** If  $\mathbf{G}$  is a connected graph such that every edge of  $\mathbf{G}$  is labelled with ( $\mathbf{a}$ ), where  $\mathbf{a}$  is an element of the ring  $\mathbf{R}$ , then a minimum generating set for  $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{G}}$  is

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{G}}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ 0 \\ a \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ 0 \\ a \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ a \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \begin{pmatrix} a \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

**Corollary[1]:** Let  $\mathbf{G}$  be a graph and  $\mathbf{p}$  a prime number. Then splines on  $\mathbf{G}$  over  $\mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z}$  are generated by the minimum generating set  $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{G}})$ .

Using the above results and Theorem 5.4 and corollary 5.5[1], we have shown that there exists a minimum generating set for wheel graphs over  $\mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z}$  for an arbitrary  $\mathbf{n}$ .

Extending these results on cycles to wheel graphs  $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{n}+1}$  whose edges are labelled by some powers of  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbf{R}$ , we have

**Theorem 3.1:** Let  $\mathbf{a}$  be a zero divisor in  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose all of the edges of  $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{n}+1}$  are labelled with powers of  $\mathbf{a}$ . Without loss of generality assume that  $\mathbf{a}^{k_1}$  is the minimal power in the set and that  $\mathbf{a}^{k_1}$  is the label on the edges  $\mathbf{l}_n, \mathbf{l}_{\mathbf{n}+1}, \mathbf{l}_{\mathbf{n}+2}, \dots, \mathbf{l}_{2\mathbf{n}}$ . So the set of edge labels is  $(\mathbf{a}^{k_1}, \mathbf{a}^{k_2}, \mathbf{a}^{k_3}, \dots, \mathbf{a}^{k_{2\mathbf{n}}})$ . Then the following set generates all splines on  $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{n}+1}$ .

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{n}+1}}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} l_1 \\ l_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ l_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} l_i \\ l_i \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ l_i \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \begin{pmatrix} l_{\mathbf{n}-1} \\ l_{\mathbf{n}-1} \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} l_n \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

**Proof:** We need to verify that every element in our generating set is a spline on  $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{n}+1}}$  and that every possible spline on  $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{n}+1}}$  can be written in terms of elements of our generating set.

The trivial spline is a spline by definition. Notice that every other element of  $\mathbf{B}$  is of the form  $(\mathbf{l}_i, \mathbf{l}_j, \dots, \mathbf{l}_i, \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{0})^T$ . The difference between any pair of adjacent vertices is  $\mathbf{0}$  around every edge except around the edges  $\mathbf{l}_i$  and  $\mathbf{l}_{2\mathbf{n}}$ . The spline

conditions are trivially satisfied for each pair of adjacent vertices that differ by  $\mathbf{0}$ . The difference over the other two edges is  $\mathbf{l}_i$ . Notice that  $\mathbf{l}_i$  divides itself and recall our convention that the  $n^{\text{th}}$ ,  $(n+1)^{\text{th}}$ , ...,  $(2n)^{\text{th}}$  edges are labelled with  $\mathbf{a}^{k\mathbf{l}}$  which divides all other edge-labels by assumption. Also  $\mathbf{l}_n$  divides all other edge-labels. Thus the spline conditions are satisfied at every edge.

Theorem 5.4[1] shows that every element  $\mathbf{f} \in \mathbf{R}_{W_{n+1}}$  can be written as a linear combination of the splines in  $\mathbf{B}$ .

Corollary 2.11[1] shows that this set is minimum, proving the claim.  $\square$

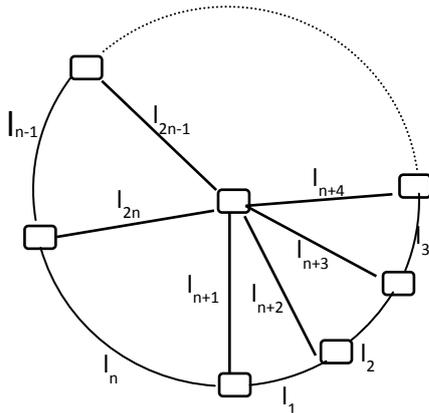


Fig 1: Wheel Graph

**Corollary 3.2:** Let  $W_{n+1}$  be the wheel graph on  $n+1$  vertices, let  $\mathbf{p}$  be a prime number and let  $\mathbf{k}$  be any positive integer. Then the splines on  $\mathbf{R}_{W_{n+1}}$  over  $\mathbf{Z}/\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{k}}\mathbf{Z}$  are generated by the minimum generating set  $\mathbf{B}$  in the above result.

**Proof:** The only possible edge labels over  $\mathbf{Z}/\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{k}}\mathbf{Z}$  are

$$\{(\mathbf{p}), (\mathbf{p}^2), (\mathbf{p}^3), \dots, (\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{k}-1})\}$$

By rotating the edge-labelled graph we can assume that the edge  $\mathbf{l}_n$  is labelled with the least power. This rotation induces an isomorphism on the ring of splines. Thus the above result gives a minimum generating set for  $\mathbf{R}_{W_{n+1}}$  over  $\mathbf{Z}/\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{k}}\mathbf{Z}$ .

**Example 3.3** We give a set of constant flow up splines for a  $W_5$  over  $\mathbf{Z}/2^5\mathbf{Z}$

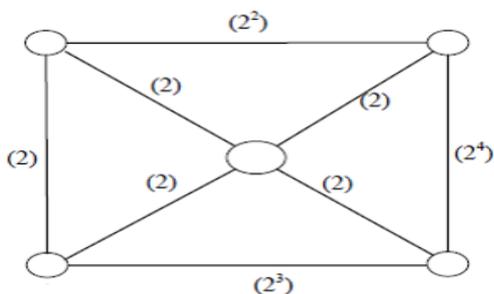


Fig 2: Wheel graph  $W_5$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{R}(W_5)) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2^3 \\ 2^3 \\ 2^3 \\ 2^3 \\ 2^3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2^4 \\ 2^4 \\ 2^4 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2^2 \\ 2^2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

#### 4. Splines on cycles over $\mathbf{Z}/\mathbf{m}\mathbf{Z}$

In this section, we construct flow-up bases for the generalised spline modules on cycles on  $C_n$ , over the ring  $\mathbf{Z}/\mathbf{m}\mathbf{Z}$ , for  $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{m}_2, \dots, \mathbf{m}_r$ , a prime factorization of  $\mathbf{m}$ .

**Theorem 4.1:** Let  $C_n$  be a cycle with  $n$  vertices, and  $\mathbf{R}$  be the ring  $\mathbf{Z}/\mathbf{m}\mathbf{Z}$ , where  $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{m}_1\mathbf{m}_2$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_1$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2$  are primes. Let the edges  $\mathbf{l}_i$  of  $C_n$  be labelled by either  $\mathbf{m}_1$  or  $\mathbf{m}_2$ , such that both  $\mathbf{m}_1$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2$  appear as edge labels at least once. Then the following set  $\mathbf{B}$  is a flow up generating set for the spline module  $\mathbf{R}_{C_n}$ .

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{R}(C_n)) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} l_{n-1}l_n \\ l_{n-2}l_{n-1} \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ l_2l_3 \\ l_1l_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} l_{n-1}l_n \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ l_3l_4 \\ l_2l_3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots, \begin{pmatrix} l_{n-1}l_n \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

**Proof:** First we note that each element in the set  $\mathbf{B}$  satisfies the edge conditions over the cycle  $C_n$ , and hence is a spline. Next, we want to show that every arbitrary spline  $\mathbf{f}$  in  $\mathbf{R}_{C_n}$  can be expressed as a linear combination of elements in  $\mathbf{B}$ . We use the method of induction for this, over the number of leading zeroes in  $\mathbf{f}$ . If  $\mathbf{f}$  has no leading zero, then  $\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{f}_{v_1}(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}, \dots, \mathbf{1})$  is a spline with one leading zero. Suppose,  $\mathbf{f}$  has  $\mathbf{i}$  leading zeroes. Then the restriction of  $\mathbf{f}$  over the vertex  $v_{i+1}$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{f}_{v_{i+1}}$  is a multiple of  $\mathbf{l}_i\mathbf{l}_{i+1}$ . Let  $\mathbf{c}_i = \mathbf{f}_{v_{i+1}}/\mathbf{l}_i\mathbf{l}_{i+1}$ . Then,  $\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{c}_i(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0}, \dots, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{l}_i\mathbf{l}_{i+1}, \mathbf{l}_{i+1}\mathbf{l}_{i+2}, \dots, \mathbf{l}_{n-1}\mathbf{l}_n)$  is a spline with  $\mathbf{i}+1$  leading zeroes.

Thus the set  $\mathbf{B}$  forms a generating set for  $\mathbf{R}_{C_n}$ .  $\square$

In the above case, i.e., when  $\mathbf{m}$  has only two prime factors the generating set  $\mathbf{B}$  may not be minimum. It will lose a rank whenever two adjacent edges of  $C_n$  are labelled with distinct primes  $\mathbf{m}_1$  and  $\mathbf{m}_2$ .

However, if  $\mathbf{m}$  has three or more prime factors and the edges of  $C_n$  are labelled such that each prime factor of  $\mathbf{m}$  appears at least once in the edge labelling of  $C_n$ , then the above set  $\mathbf{B}$  will be minimum.

**Example 4.2:** We give a set of flow- up splines for  $C_5$  over  $\mathbb{Z}/(2 \times 3 \times 5) \mathbb{Z}$ , which forms a generating set for  $\mathbf{R}_{C_5}$ .

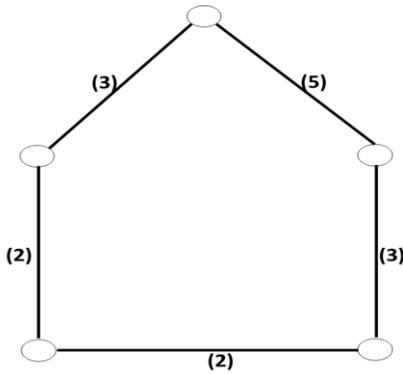


Fig 3: Cycle with 5 vertices

$$B(R(C_5)) = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \times 2 \\ 5 \times 3 \\ 3 \times 5 \\ 2 \times 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \times 2 \\ 5 \times 3 \\ 3 \times 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \times 2 \\ 5 \times 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \times 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array} \right]$$

**Remark 4.3:** We observe that when  $m$  has more than 2 prime factors, the generating set doesn't lose a rank since every vertex in cycles has only two edges.

### 5. Splines on wheel graphs over $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

In this section we extend the method used in the previous section to construct a minimum generating set for the wheel graph. As noted earlier, the wheel graph  $W_{n+1}$  is obtained from the cycle  $C_n$  by adding a vertex  $v_{n+1}$  to the set of vertices  $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$  and the edges  $\{l_{n+1}, l_{n+2}, \dots, l_{2n}\}$  to the set of edges  $\{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_n\}$  [Fig.1]. Then we have the following theorem:

**Theorem 5.1:** Let  $W_{n+1}$  be a wheel graph with  $n+1$  vertices and consider the quotient ring  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $m = m_1 m_2$ , where  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are primes. Label the edges of  $W_{n+1}$  in such a way that  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  appear at least once as edge labelling. Then the following set  $B$  is a generating set of the spline module  $\mathbf{R}_{W_{n+1}}$  over the base ring  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ .

$$B(R_{(W_{n+1})}) = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} l_{n+1} l_{n+2} \dots l_{2n} \\ l_{n-1} l_n l_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ l_2 l_3 l_{n+3} \\ l_1 l_2 l_{n+2} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} l_{n+1} l_{n+2} \dots l_{2n} \\ l_{n-1} l_n l_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ l_3 l_4 l_{n+4} \\ l_2 l_3 l_{n+3} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \dots \begin{pmatrix} l_{n+1} l_{n+2} \dots l_{2n} \\ l_{n-1} l_n l_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} l_{n+1} l_{n+2} \dots l_{2n} \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array} \right]$$

**Proof:** Since the wheel graph is obtained by adding a vertex and  $n$  edges to the cycle graph  $C_n$ , we want to show that the edge conditions are satisfied for the edges  $l_{n+1}, l_{n+2}, \dots, l_{2n}$ , by each spline in  $B$ .

Since the last vertex  $v_{n+1}$  is labelled with the element  $l_{n+1} l_{n+2} \dots l_{2n}$ , which is a product of the labelling on the edges which were added to  $C_n$  to get the wheel graph  $W_{n+1}$ , the difference of the vertex label on  $v_{n+1}$  with any vertex  $v_i$  will be a multiple of  $l_{n+1}$ . This immediately proves our claim that the edge conditions are satisfied.

Also, the above set generates any arbitrary spline  $f$  in  $\mathbf{R}_{W_{n+1}}$ , can be easily proved by inducting over the number of leading zeroes in the elements of  $B$ .  $\square$

We observe that when  $m = m_1 m_2$ , where  $m_1, m_2$  are primes, all splines on wheel graphs are trivial splines, whenever  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  both appear at least once as edge labels for the edges adjacent at each of its vertices.

**Example 5.2:** We give an example of wheel graph with 6 vertices over  $\mathbb{Z}/(2 \times 3)\mathbb{Z}$

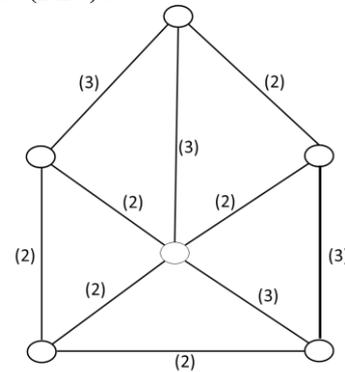


Fig 4: Wheel graph with 6 vertices

$$B(R_{(W_6)}) = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \times 3 \times 2 \times 3 \times 2 \\ 3 \times 2 \times 2 \\ 3 \times 3 \times 2 \\ 2 \times 2 \times 3 \\ 2 \times 3 \times 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \times 3 \times 2 \times 3 \times 2 \\ 3 \times 2 \times 2 \\ 3 \times 3 \times 2 \\ 2 \times 2 \times 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \times 3 \times 2 \times 3 \times 2 \\ 3 \times 2 \times 2 \\ 3 \times 3 \times 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \times 3 \times 2 \times 3 \times 2 \\ 3 \times 2 \times 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \times 3 \times 2 \times 3 \times 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array} \right]$$

In this example, if we take the vertex labels on each vertex  $\bmod (2 \times 3)$ , we see that each spline over the wheel graph will be a trivial spline.

However, if at some vertex of the above graph, if all edges meeting at a point are either labelled as only  $m_1$  or only  $m_2$ , then the generating set will have non trivial elements and hence the splines over the wheel graph will also be non trivial.

Using similar algorithm, we can construct a generating set over a wheel graph, when  $m$  has more number of prime factors. Here we completely characterise the situation, when the generating set of the ring  $R_{W_{n+1}}$ , will be minimum.

**Theorem 5.3:** Let  $W_{n+1}$  be a wheel graph, with vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{2n}$  and edges  $l_1, l_2, \dots, l_{2n}$  as in [Fig.1], and  $m = m_1 m_2 \dots m_r$ , where  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_r$  are primes, Let each edge of the wheel graph be labelled by the prime factors of  $m$ . Then, we can get the generating set  $B$  of flow up splines by taking the product of the edge labels meeting at a vertex, as the vertex label of the corresponding vertex as in Theorem 5.1. The above set will be minimum whenever the number of prime factors of  $m$  is greater than  $n$ , i.e., the number of vertices in the cycle graph  $C_n$ .

**Proof:** The proof follows from the fact that exactly three edges meet at a vertex lying in the cycle graph  $C_n$ , and the interior vertex  $v_{n+1}$  is adjacent to exactly  $n$  edges in the wheel graph  $W_{n+1}$ .  $\square$

Here we give some examples of wheel graphs when  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5$ ,  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7$  and  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7 \times 11$  over  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Example 5.4:** Wheel graph with 5 vertices when  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5$

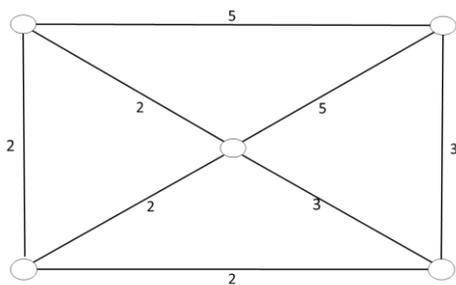


Fig 5: Wheel graph with 5 vertices

$$B(R_{W_5}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 2 \\ 1 & 5 \times 2 \times 2 & 5 \times 2 \times 2 & 5 \times 2 \times 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 \times 5 \times 5 & 3 \times 5 \times 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \times 3 \times 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

Generating set loses a rank when  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5$

**Example 5.5:** Wheel graph with 6 vertices  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5$

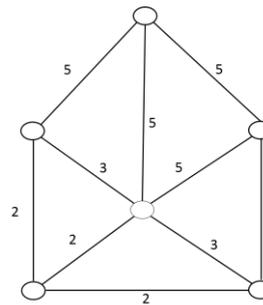


Fig 5: Wheel graph with 6 vertices

$$B(R_{W_6}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 5 \times 3 & 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 5 \times 3 & 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 5 \times 3 & 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 5 \times 3 & 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 5 \times 3 \\ 1 & 5 \times 3 \times 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 5 \times 5 \times 5 & 5 \times 5 \times 5 & 5 \times 5 \times 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 \times 5 \times 5 & 3 \times 5 \times 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \times 3 \times 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

Generating set loses a rank when  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5$

**Example 5.6:** Wheel graph with 5 vertices when  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7$

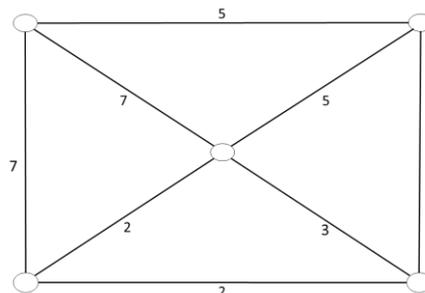


Fig 6: wheel graph with 5 vertices

$$B(R_{W_5}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7 \\ 1 & 5 \times 7 \times 2 & 5 \times 7 \times 2 & 5 \times 7 \times 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 \times 5 \times 5 & 3 \times 5 \times 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \times 3 \times 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

Generating set loses a rank when  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7$

**Example 5.7:** Here we give a Wheel graph with 5 vertices for  $m = 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7 \times 11$

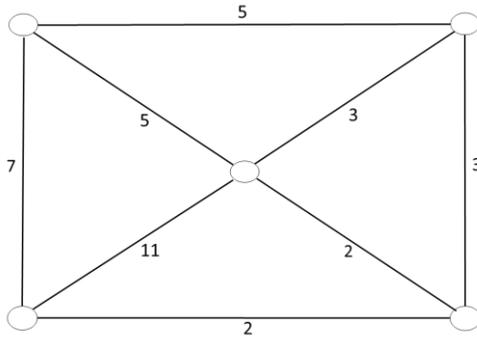


Fig 7: Wheel graph with 5 vertices

$$B(R_{W_5}) = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 11 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5 \\ 5 \times 5 \times 7 \\ 3 \times 3 \times 5 \\ 2 \times 2 \times 3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 11 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5 \\ 5 \times 5 \times 7 \\ 3 \times 3 \times 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 11 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5 \\ 5 \times 5 \times 7 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 11 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array} \right]$$

Generating set does not loose arank when  $\mathbf{m} = 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7 \times 11$

**Remark 5.7:** In wheel graphs when we exclude the central vertex, there are  $n-1$  vertices and we observe that if the number of prime factors in  $\mathbf{m}$  are greater than  $n-1$ , the splines on wheel graphs do not loose any rank over  $\mathbb{Z}/\mathbf{m}\mathbb{Z}$ .

## 6. Conclusions

We conclude our work with finding an algorithm for writing the generating set which acts as a basis for the generalised spline modules for cycle graphs, taking the base ring as the quotient ring of integers modulo  $\mathbf{m}$ , whenever  $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{m}_1 \mathbf{m}_2 \dots \mathbf{m}_r$ , where each  $\mathbf{m}_i$  is a prime. The method is extendable to a generating set for the wheel graphs which is viewed as a graph

extention to the cycle graph. Also, we noted that when the number of prime factors of  $\mathbf{m}$  exceeds the number of vertices in the underlying cycle graph, the generating set is minimum. However, it may loose rank whenever  $\mathbf{m}$  has fewer prime factors depending upon the labelling of the edges. This method is very systematic over the existing methods used in [1], and hence leads to a number of open questions as to whether it can be extended to other families of graphs as well as for base ring modulo powers of primes.

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