# Codes from the incidence matrix of the essential graph

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**Abstract.** Let *R* be a commutative ring and *M* be an *R*-module. The essential graph over *M*, denoted by EG(M), is defined as a graph associated to *M* with vertex set  $Z(M) \setminus \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$ , and a pair of distinct vertices *x* and *y* are adjacent if and only if  $\operatorname{Ann}_M(xy)$  is an essential submodule of *M*. In this paper, we investigate the linear codes with respect to the Hamming weight from incidence matrix of the essential graphs over *M*. If  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  be the ring of integer module *n*, then  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a linear code. Let  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  be distinct prime numbers. It is shown that if  $n = p_1p_2$ , then  $C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = [(p_1 - 1)(p_2 - 1), p_1 + p_2 - 2, \min\{p_1 - 1, p_2 - 1\}]_2$ . Moreover if  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2}$  with  $\alpha_i \ge 1$  for i = 1, 2, then  $C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = [|E|, |V| - 1, \min\{p_1 + 1, p_2 + 1\}]_2$ . **Keywords:** linear code, incidence matrix, essential graph. **MSC 2020:** 94B05, 05C50, 05C38.

### 1. Introduction

The study of graph theoretic methods and algebric graph structures over linear codes has attracted a lot of attention in last decades and leads many authors to study and explore their properties, for instance see [1, 5, 6]. Initially, the concept of the zero-divisor graph was studied by I. Beck in [4]. Also, the concept of the zero-divisor graph was studied with a different set of vertices by Anderson et.al

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in [2]. Let R be a commutative ring. The zero divisor graph of R, denoted by  $\Gamma(R)$ , is the graph with vertex set  $Z(R)^* = Z(R) \setminus \{0\}$  and two distinct vertices x and y are adjacent if and only if xy = 0. The essential graph of R is a variation of the zero-divisor graph that changed the edge condition, which was studied and introduced in [8]. The essential graph of R is an undirected simple graph, denoted by EG(R), with vertex set  $Z(R)^*$ , and two distinct vertices x and y are adjacent if and only if  $\operatorname{Ann}_R(xy)$  is an essential ideal of R. Recently, the concept of the essential graph and its related topics on modules over commutative rings are studied by many authors (see [10, 11]).

First, we recall some basic properties of coding theory and graph theory which will be used in the sequel. Let  $\Gamma(V, E)$  be a simple graph with the vertex set V or  $V(\Gamma)$  and the edge set E or  $E(\Gamma)$ . The order of  $\Gamma$  is |V| and the cardinality of the edge set denoted by |E|. A graph with no edge is called the null graph. For every  $u, v \in V$ , the distance between u and v is defined as the length of a shortest path from u to v and is denoted by d(u, v). We write  $u \sim v$  if d(u, v) = 1 and  $u \not\sim v$  otherwise. The degree of a vertex u, denoted by  $\deg(u)$ , is the number of edges incident to u. Also, u is called an end-vertex if  $\deg(u) = 1$ . The minimum and maximum degree of the vertices of  $\Gamma$  are denoted by  $\delta(\Gamma)$  and  $\Delta(\Gamma)$ , respectively. The graph is k-regular if all its vertices have degree k. Assume that u is a vertex of  $\Gamma$ . The open neighborhood of u is defined as  $N(u) = \{v \in V(\Gamma) : d(u, v) = 1\}$  and the closed neighborhood of u is  $N[u] = N(u) \cup \{u\}$ . The graph is connected if there is a path between any two distinct vertices. The diameter of  $\Gamma$  is diam $(\Gamma) = \sup\{d(x, y) | x, y \in V(\Gamma)\},\$ where d(x, y) is the length of shortest path between x and y. The girth of  $\Gamma$ , denoted by  $\operatorname{gr}(\Gamma)$ , is the length of a shortest cycle contained in the graph; otherwise  $\operatorname{gr}(\Gamma) = \infty$ . A complete graph is a graph in which each pair of vertices is connected by an edge and a complete graph with n vertices is denoted by  $K_n$ . A graph  $\Gamma$  is called bipartite if its vertex set can be partitioned into two parts  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  such that every edge has one end in  $V_1$  and one in  $V_2$ . A complete bipartite graph is a bipartite graph  $K_{m,n}$  which consist of an independent set of m vertices of  $V_1$  completely joined to an independent set of n vertices  $V_2$ . A graph H is a subgraph of  $\Gamma$  whose vertex set and edge set are subsets of those of  $\Gamma$ . A dominating set of  $\Gamma$  is a subset D of  $V(\Gamma)$  such that every vertex in  $V(\Gamma) \setminus D$  is adjacent to some vertex in D. The domination number  $\gamma(\Gamma)$  of  $\Gamma$  is the minimum cardinality of a dominating set.

The notation for designs and codes is as in [3]. An incidence structure  $\mathfrak{D} = (\mathfrak{P}, \mathfrak{B}, \mathfrak{J})$ , with point set  $\mathfrak{P}$ , block set  $\mathfrak{B}$  and incidence  $\mathfrak{J}$  is a  $t - (\nu, k, \lambda)$  design, if  $|\mathfrak{P}| = v$ , every block  $B \in \mathfrak{B}$  is incident with precisely k points, and every t distinct points are together incident with precisely  $\lambda$  blocks. The code  $C_F(\mathfrak{D})$  of the design  $\mathfrak{D}$  over the finite field F is the space spanned by the incidence vectors of the blocks over F. If  $\mathfrak{Q}$  is any subset of  $\mathfrak{P}$ , then we will denote the incidence vector of  $\mathfrak{Q}$  by  $n^{\mathfrak{Q}}$ , and if  $\mathfrak{Q} = \{P\}$  where  $P \in \mathfrak{P}$ , then we will write  $\nu^P$  instead of  $\nu^{\{P\}}$ . Thus,  $C_F(\mathfrak{D}) = \langle \nu^B | B \in \mathfrak{B} \rangle$ , and is a subspace of  $F^{\mathfrak{P}}$ , the full vector space of functions from  $\mathfrak{P}$  to F. For any  $w \in F^{\mathfrak{P}}$  and

 $P \in \mathfrak{P}, \omega(P)$  or  $\omega_P$  will denote the value of  $\omega$  at P. If  $F = \mathbb{F}_p$ , then we write  $C_p(\mathfrak{D})$  for  $C_F(\mathfrak{D})$ . We refer the reader to [1] for undefined terms and conditions.

An incidence matrix  $|V| \times |E|$  of  $\Gamma$  is matrix  $G = [g]_{ij}$  with  $g_{ij} = 1$  if the vertex  $u_i$  is on the edge  $e_j$  and  $g_{ij} = 0$ , otherwise. Let W and X be non-empty subsets of V with  $W \cap X = 0$  and let E(W, X) be a subset of Ewhich is included one end of W and other end of X. Set |E(W, X)| = q(W, X). An edge-cut of a connected graph  $\Gamma$ , denoted by  $\lambda_e(\Gamma)$ , is the set S with the property that  $\Gamma \setminus S = (V, E \setminus S)$  is disconnected. Also, the edge-connectivity of  $\Gamma$ , denoted by  $\lambda(\Gamma)$ , is the minimum cardinality of  $\lambda_e(\Gamma)$ . In the other words,  $\lambda(\Gamma) = \min_{\emptyset \neq W \subseteq V} q(W, V \setminus W)$ . Clearly, for any connected graph  $\Gamma$ , we have  $\lambda(\Gamma) \leq \delta(\Gamma)$ , where  $\delta(\Gamma)$  is the minimum degree of  $\Gamma$ . The graph  $\Gamma$  is said to be a supper- $\lambda$ , whenever  $\lambda(\Gamma) = \delta(\Gamma)$  and the only edge sets of cardinality  $\lambda(\Gamma)$ whose removal disconnected  $\Gamma$  are the set of edges incident with a vertex of degree  $\delta(\Gamma)$ .

Let  $\mathbb{F}_q$  be a finite field with cardinality q and let  $A = \{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}$  be an alphabet of order q. The elements of A are called symbols. A q-ary code C of length n and size |C| is a non empty subset of  $A^n$ , and any element of Cis called a codeword. A q-ary linear code C of length n is a subspace of the vector space  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . Let x and y be words of length n over an alphabet A. The Hamming distance from x to y, denoted by  $d_H(x, y)$ , is defined to be the number of places at which x and y differ. If  $x = x_1 \cdots x_n$  and  $y = y_1 \cdots y_n$ , then  $d_H(x, y) = d_H(x_1, y_1) + \cdots + d_H(x_n, y_n)$ , where  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  are words of length 1, and

$$d_H(x_i, y_i) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x_i \neq y_i \\ 0, & \text{if } x_i = y_i \end{cases}$$

Note that,  $d_H(x, y) = d_H(y, x)$ . The minimum Hamming distance of a code C, denoted by  $d_H(C)$ , is defined by  $d_H(C) = \min_{c_1, c_2 \in C} \{ d_H(c_1, c_2) | c_1 \neq c_2 \}$ . Let c be a codeword of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . The Hamming weight  $wt_H(c)$  is defined by

$$wt_H(c) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } c = 0\\ 1, & \text{if } c \neq 0 \end{cases}.$$

Let c be a word in  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$ . The Hamming weight of c, denoted by  $wt_H(c)$  (or simply wt(c)), is defined to be the number of non zero coordinates in c, that is wt(c) = d(c,0), where 0 is the zero vector. If  $c \in F_n^q$  with  $c = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n)$ , then  $wt(c) = \sum_{i=1}^n w(c_i)$ . For any two elements  $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ , we have  $d_H(x, y) = wt(x - y)$ . The minimum weight of a code C is the smallest among all weights of the non zero codewords of C. For every q-ary liner code C, we have  $d_H(C) = wt(C)$ . The support of a vector v, denoted by  $\operatorname{Supp}(v)$ , is the set of coordinate positions where the entry in v is non-zero. Obviously  $|\operatorname{Supp}(v)| = |wt(v)|$ . A generator matrix G for a linear code C is a matrix whose rows form a basis for C and  $C_p(G)$  is a code generated by the matrix G over a finite field  $F_q$  and dimension of the code  $C_q(G)$  is the rank of the matrix G over the field  $F_q$ . A parity-check

matrix for C is a generator matrix for  $C^{\perp}$  where  $C^{\perp} = \{v \in \mathbb{F}_q^n | uv = 0, \forall u \in C\}$ is the dual code of C. Here, all the codes are linear codes and the notation  $[n, k, d]_q$  will be used for a q-ary code C of length n, dimension k and minimum distance d over the field  $F_q$ . For more details we refer the reader to [7].

Let M be an R-module. The annihilator, the set of zero-divisors, the set of associated prime ideals and the minimal set of associated prime ideals of M are denoted by  $Z_R(M)$ ,  $\operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$ ,  $\operatorname{Ass}_R(M)$  and  $\operatorname{Min}\operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$ , respectively. Let M be an R-module. Then it is proved that  $Z_R(M) = \bigcup_{\mathfrak{p}\in\operatorname{Ass}(M)}\mathfrak{p}$ . The submodule N of M is called essential, if  $N \cap K \neq \{0\}$  for every non-zero submodule K of M. The radical of an ideal I over commutative ring R, denoted by r(I), is defined to be the set of all elements a of R with  $a^n \in I$  for some positive integer n. Then  $r(I) = \bigcap_{\mathfrak{p}\in\operatorname{Spec}(R)}\mathfrak{p}$ , see [9].

Throughout this paper all rings are commutative, all modules are unitary and all codes assumed to be linear codes. Here is a brief summary of the paper. In Theorem 2.2, for Noetherian *R*-module *M* with  $r(\operatorname{Ann}_R(M)) = \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$ , we show that  $C_2(EG(M)) = [|E|, |Z(M) \setminus \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)| - 1, \lambda(EG(M))]_2$ , if  $|\operatorname{Min}\operatorname{Ass}(M)| = 2$ . In Theorem 2.3, it is shown that  $C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = [(p_1 - 1)(p_2 - 1), p_1 + p_2 - 2, \min\{p_1 - 1, p_2 - 1\}]_2$ , whenever  $n = p_1 p_2$  where  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ are distinct prime numbers. Also, in Theorem 2.4, it is proved that if  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2}$ is an integer, where  $p_1, p_2$  are prime numbers,  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  are positive integers and  $\alpha_1 \geq 1$  and  $\alpha_2 \geq 1$ , then  $C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = [|E|, |V| - 1, \min\{p_1 + 1, p_2 + 1\}]_2$ .

### 2. Main results

Let R be a commutative ring and let M be an R-module. The essential graph of M, denoted by EG(M), is a graph with vertex set  $Z(M) \setminus \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$  and two distinct vertices  $x, y \in Z(M) \setminus \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$  are adjacent if and only if  $\operatorname{Ann}_M(xy)$ is an essential submodule of M, see [10].

The following theorem plays an important role in this paper, so we recall it.

**Theorem 2.1** ([5, Theorem 1]). Let  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  be a connected graph and G be a  $|V| \times |E|$  incidence matrix for  $\Gamma$ . Then the following statements hold:

- (i)  $C_2(G) = [|E|, |V| 1, \lambda(\Gamma)]_2$ .
- (ii) If  $\Gamma$  is super- $\lambda$ , then  $C_2(G) = [|E|, |V| 1, \delta(\Gamma)]_2$ , and the minimum words are the rows of G of weight  $\delta(\Gamma)$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** Let M be a Noetherian R-module with  $r(\operatorname{Ann}_R(M)) = \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$ . If  $|\operatorname{Min} \operatorname{Ass}(M)| = 2$ , then

$$C_2(EG(M)) = \left| |E|, |Z(M) \setminus \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)| - 1, \lambda(EG(M)) \right|_2$$

**Proof.** Assume that c is a non zero codeword in  $C_2(EG(M))$  and Min Ass $(M) = \{\mathfrak{p}_1, \mathfrak{p}_2\}$  where  $\mathfrak{p}_i = \operatorname{Ann}_R(m_i)$  with  $m_i \in M$  for i = 1, 2. Then we conclude that

 $c = \sum_{v \in Z(M) \setminus \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)} \mathfrak{p}_i EG_v$ , where  $EG_v$  is the row of EG(M) corresponding to the vertex v, by [5, Theorem 1]. Let e = uv be an edge of EG(M). Thus,  $EG_{u,e}$  and  $EG_{v,e}$  are incidence where  $EG_e$  is the column corresponding to the edge e. Set  $c_e = \mathfrak{p}_1 + \mathfrak{p}_2$ , where  $c_e$  is a summation of prime ideals  $\mathfrak{p}_1$  and  $\mathfrak{p}_2$ . We consider that  $\operatorname{Supp}(c) = \{e = uv | \mathfrak{p}_i \neq \mathfrak{p}_j, \text{ for all } \mathfrak{p}_i, \mathfrak{p}_j \in \operatorname{Min} \operatorname{Ass}(M)\}$ . Now, suppose that  $EG(M)_c$  is a graph with the set of edges  $E \setminus \text{Supp}(c)$ . Hence, if a, bare adjacent in  $EG(M)_c$ , then  $\mathfrak{p}_1 + \mathfrak{p}_2 = 0$  and so  $\mathfrak{p}_1 = \mathfrak{p}_2$  and  $|\operatorname{Min} \operatorname{Ass}(M)| = 1$ . Therefore, EG(M) is a null graph or it has only one vertex, by [10, Theorem 3.2]. Then  $EG(M)_c$  is a disconnected graph. Since otherwise, if  $EG(M)_c$  is a connected graph, then  $c = \mathfrak{p}_1 \sum EG_v = \mathfrak{p}_1(0) = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore,  $\operatorname{Supp}(c)$  is the set that contained edge connectivity and hence,  $wt(c) = |\operatorname{Supp}(c)| \geq \lambda(EG(M))$ . Now, we assume that  $\operatorname{Min} \operatorname{Ass}(M) = \{\mathfrak{p}_1, \mathfrak{p}_2\},\$ where  $\mathfrak{p}_i = \operatorname{Ann}_R(m_i)$  with  $m \in M$ , for i = 1, 2. Let  $u, v \in \mathfrak{p}_1 \setminus \{0\}$ . If u and v are adjacent, then  $\operatorname{Ann}_R(uv)$  is essential and so  $\operatorname{Ann}(uv) \cap Rm \neq 0$  for some  $m \in M$ . Then there exist  $r \in R$  such that  $0 \neq rm \in Ann(uv)$ . Thus,  $ruv \in \mathfrak{p}_2$ . Since  $\mathfrak{p}_1 \cap \mathfrak{p}_2 = r(\operatorname{Ann}_R(M)) = 0$ . Then  $u \in \mathfrak{p}_2$  or  $v \in \mathfrak{p}_2$  and so u = 0 or v = 0, which are contradiction. By similar argument it is shown that the previous result is satisfied for  $p_1$ . Therefore, the vertices of the graph are divided two parts. Assume that W and  $V \setminus W$  are two parts which included vertices of the graph with  $W \cap (V \setminus W) = \emptyset$ . Now, let  $S \subseteq E$  where S is the set of edge connectivity and  $\lambda(EG(M))$  is the minimum number. Assume that c is a non zero codeword of  $\lambda(EG(M))$ . Clearly, if  $uv \in W$  and so Ann(uv) is essential, then Ann(uv) is not essential in S. Now, it is enough to show that the edges of S are edge connectivity between two parts of the graph. Let  $u \in \mathfrak{p}_1 \setminus \{0\}$  and  $v \in \mathfrak{p}_2 \setminus \{0\}$ . Then  $uv \in \mathfrak{p}_1\mathfrak{p}_2 \subseteq \mathfrak{p}_1 \cap \mathfrak{p}_2 = 0$  and so uvM = 0, that is, each element of  $u \in \mathfrak{p}_1 \setminus \{0\}$  with element of  $v \in \mathfrak{p}_2 \setminus \{0\}$  are adjacent. So we assume that  $c = \sum_{v \in Q} EG_v = \sum_{v \in V} \mu_v EG_v$ , where if  $v \in W$ , then  $\mu_v = \mathfrak{p}_1$  and if  $v \in V \setminus W$ , then  $\mu_2 = \mathfrak{p}_2$ . Thus,  $uv \in \operatorname{Supp}(c)$  if and only if  $\mathfrak{p}_1 \neq \mathfrak{p}_2$  if and only if  $uv \in S$ . Hence,  $wt(c) = |Suup(c)| = |S| = \lambda(EG(M))$ . Therefore, the minimum Hamming weight of incidence matrix over the essential graph equals to the minimum cardinality of the edge connectivity  $\lambda(EG(M))$ . 

**Corollary 2.1.** Let M be a Noetherian R-module with  $r(\operatorname{Ann}_R(M)) = \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$ . If  $|\operatorname{Min} \operatorname{Ass}(M)| = 2$  and EG(M) is a super- $\lambda$ , then

$$C_2(EG(M)) = \left[ |E|, |Z(M) \setminus \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)| - 1, \delta(EG(M)) \right]_2.$$

**Proof.** It follows from Theorems 2.2 and [12, Theorem 2.4].

**Corollary 2.2.** Let M be a Noetherian R-module with  $r(\operatorname{Ann}_R(M)) \neq \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$ and let EG(M) be k-regular graph. Then  $C_2(EG(M))$  is a binary code with minimum weight k.

**Proof.** Assume that M is a Noetherian R-module with  $r(\operatorname{Ann}_R(M)) \neq \operatorname{Ann}_R(M)$ . Then  $diam(EG(M)) \leq 2$  and  $gr(EG(M)) \in \{3, \infty\}$ , by [10, Theorem 2.6]. Since

EG(M) is k-regular, it is a complete graph. Moreover, G is an incidence matrix  $n \times \frac{nk}{2}$ . Thus,  $C_2(EG(M))$  is a binary code with minimum weight k, by [5, Corollary 1].

**Example 2.1.** Consider the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_8$ . It is clear that  $\operatorname{Ass}(\mathbb{Z}_8) = \{2\mathbb{Z}_8\}$  and  $Z(\mathbb{Z}_8)^* = \operatorname{Nil}(\mathbb{Z}_8) = 2\mathbb{Z}_8$ . Thus,  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_8)$  is a complete graph with 3 vertices, see Figure 1. Moreover, the incidence matrix G is:

$$G = \begin{array}{c} v_1 = 2 \\ v_2 = 4 \\ v_3 = 6 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} e_2 & e_3 & e_1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}_{3 \times 3}$$

Hence the minimum weight is 2 and so  $C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_8))$  is a binary code.



Figure 1: The essential graph  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_8)$  with minimum weight 2.

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $n = p_1 p_2$ , where  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are distinct prime numbers. Let  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  be the ring of integers modulo n. Then  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a linear code and

$$C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = \lfloor (p_1 - 1)(p_2 - 1), p_1 + p_2 - 2, \min\{p_1 - 1, p_2 - 1\} \rfloor_2$$

**Proof.** Assume that  $n = p_1 p_2$ , where  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are distinct prime numbers. Then  $Z(\mathbb{Z}_n) = p_1 \mathbb{Z}_n \cup p_2 \mathbb{Z}_n$  and  $\operatorname{Nil}(\mathbb{Z}_n) = \{0\}$ . It is easy to see that  $|Z(\mathbb{Z}_n)^*| = p_1 + p_2 - 1$ . Then in view of [10, Theorem 3.7],  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a bipartite complete graph. We divided the vertices with two parts:

$$V_1 = \{\operatorname{Ann}(a) | \operatorname{Ann}(a) = p\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}, a = p_1k_i, p | q, (p_1, k_i) = 1, 1 \le i \le n\};$$
  
$$V_2 = \{\operatorname{Ann}(b) | \operatorname{Ann}(b) = p\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}, a = p_2s_i, p | q, (p_2, s_i) = 1, 1 \le i \le n\}.$$

Now, it is enough to find an incidence matrix of  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . Without loss of generality we may assume that  $p_1 < p_2$ . Then the incidence block matrix of  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is

where  $I_{p_2-1}$  is the  $(p_2 - 1) \times (p_2 - 1)$ ,  $1 = [1, 1, \dots, 1]_{1 \times (p_2-1)}$  and  $0 = [0, \dots, 0]_{1 \times (p_2-1)}$ . Therefore, by Theorem 2.2 and [12, Theorem 3.3], we get that  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a code with minimum distance  $\lambda(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n))$  and so we conclude that  $C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = [(p_1 - 1)(p_2 - 1), p_1 + p_2 - 2, \min\{p_1 - 1, p_2 - 1\}]_2$ .  $\Box$ 

**Example 2.2.** Consider the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_{15}$ . It is clear that  $\operatorname{Ass}(\mathbb{Z}_{15}) = \{3\mathbb{Z}_{15}, 5\mathbb{Z}_{15}\}$  and  $\operatorname{Nil}(\mathbb{Z}_{15}) = 3\mathbb{Z}_{15} \cap 5\mathbb{Z}_{15} = 0$ . In view of [10, Theorem 3.7] and [11, Theorem 2.3], we get that  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_{15}) = K_{2,4}$  is a complete bipartite graph with 6 vertices and  $D = \{3, 5\}$  is a dominating set for  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_{15})$ , see Figure 2. In this case



Figure 2: The essential graph  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_{15})$  with linear code  $[8, 4, 2]_2$ .

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 = 3 \\ v_2 = 6 \\ v_3 = 9 \\ v_4 = 12 \\ v_5 = 5 \\ v_6 = 10 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e_1 & e_3 & e_5 & e_7 & e_2 & e_4 & e_6 & e_8 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}_{6 \times 8}$$

is an incidence matrix for  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_{15})$ . Then the minimum distance of the code generated by the matrix G is 2 by [12, Theorem 3.3]. Therefore,  $C_2(\mathbb{Z}_{15}) = [8,4,2]_2$  by Theorem 2.3.

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2}$ , where  $p_1, p_2$  are prime numbers,  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  are positive integers and  $\alpha_1 \ge 1$  and  $\alpha_2 \ge 1$ . Then  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is a linear code and

$$C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = \left[ |E|, |V| - 1, \min\{p_1 + 1, p_2 + 1\} \right]_2.$$

**Proof.** Assume that  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2}$ , where  $p_i$  is prime number and  $\alpha_i$  is positive integer with  $\alpha_i \ge 1$ , for i = 1, 2. If  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 1$ , then it follows from Theorem 2.3. Without loss of generality we may assume that  $\alpha_1 \ge 2$ ,  $\alpha_2 \ge 1$  and  $p_1 < p_2$ . It is clear that  $Z(\mathbb{Z}_n) = p_1\mathbb{Z}_n \cup p_2\mathbb{Z}_n$ ,  $\operatorname{Ass}(\mathbb{Z}_n) = \{p_1\mathbb{Z}_n, p_2\mathbb{Z}_n\}$ ,

Nil $(\mathbb{Z}_n) = p_1 \mathbb{Z}_n \cap p_2 \mathbb{Z}_n$  and  $|Z(\mathbb{Z}_n)^*| = p_1^{\alpha_1 - 1} p_2^{\alpha_2 - 1} (p_1 + p_2 - 1) - 1$ . Now, we divided the vertices by the following subsets:

$$V_{1} = \{\operatorname{Ann}(a) | \operatorname{Ann}(a) = p\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}, a = k_{i}p_{1}^{\alpha_{1}}, p | q, (k_{i}, p) = 1, 1 \le i \le n\},\$$
  

$$V_{2} = \{\operatorname{Ann}(b) | \operatorname{Ann}(b) = p\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}, b = s_{i}p_{2}^{\alpha_{2}}, p | q, (s_{i}, p) = 1, 1 \le i \le n\},\$$
  

$$V_{3} = \{\operatorname{Ann}(c) | c = s_{i}p_{1}p_{2}, (p_{1}, p_{2}) = 1, 1 \le i \le n\}.$$

where  $|V_1| = p_1^{\alpha_1 - 1}(p_1 - 1)$ ,  $|V_2| = p_2^{\alpha_2 - 1}(p_2 - 1)$  and  $|V_3| = 1$ . Then all edges of the graph is  $|E| = |V_1||V_2| + |V_1||V_3| + |V_2||V_3|$ . In the other words,

$$|E| = \frac{(|V| - 1) - (|V|_2 - 1)}{2} - 1,$$

where |V| is the number of vertices. Since  $E(V_1)$  is adjacent with  $E(V_2)$  and  $E(V_3)$  is adjacent with others, we define the incidence matrix of  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  as follows:  $E(V_2) = E(V_2) = E(V_2)$ 

where I is a  $p_1^{\alpha_1} \times p_1^{\alpha_1}$  identity matrix and 0 is a zero block matrix  $p_1^{\alpha_1} \times p_2^{\alpha_2}$  in the first row. Also,  $1 = [1, 1, \dots, 1]_{1 \times p_1^{\alpha_1}}$  and  $0 = [0, \dots, 0]_{1 \times p_1^{\alpha_1}}$ , in other rows. In the last column, I is a  $p_2^{\alpha_2} \times p_2^{\alpha_2}$  identity matrix and  $1 = [1, 1, \dots, 1]_{1 \times p_2^{\alpha_2}}$ . Therefore, by Theorem 2.2 and [12, Theorem 3.3],  $C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = [n, k, d]_2$ , where  $n = |E(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n))|, k = |V(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n))| - 1$  and  $d = \lambda(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = \min_{1 \le i \le 2} \{p_i + 1\}$ .  $\Box$ 

**Example 2.3.** Consider the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_{12}$ . It is clear that  $Ass(\mathbb{Z}_{12}) = \{2\mathbb{Z}_{12}, 3\mathbb{Z}_{12}\},$  $Nil(\mathbb{Z}_{12}) = 2\mathbb{Z}_{12} \cap 3\mathbb{Z}_{12} = 6\mathbb{Z}_{12}$  and  $D = \{6\}$  is a dominating set for  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_{12})$ , see Figure 3. Then



Figure 3: The essential graph  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_{12})$  with linear code  $[14, 6, 3]_2$ .

is an incidence matrix of  $EG(\mathbb{Z}_{12})$ . Consequently, the minimum distance of the code generated by the matrix G is 3 by [12, Theorem 3.3]. Therefore,  $C_2(EG(\mathbb{Z}_n)) = [14, 6, 3]_2$  by Theorem 2.4.

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